

Phoenix Version 1.3

von

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BLACK

Darkness. The sound of little mechanics wakes ADAM. He's a 32 year old man with brown hair, athletic built, fit.

INT. BEDROOM DAY

He opens his eyes. Lying in a large bed, there's a small robot standing on the sheets. It's self made, crude but lovable. His eyes don't match. In his tiny fist he holds a flower.

ROBOT

Iiiii loooove youuuu.

Adam looks up. In a chair beside the bed his wife EVELYN is sitting, chewing on a lollipop and grinning ear to ear. She's a pretty, very frail looking woman with long auburn hair. There's a radio control in her hand, as you'd use for a toy car.

EVELYN

I built it last night. Couldn't sleep.

ADAM

The headaches?

She averts her gaze while he looks at her. They've had this discussion before.

EVELYN

I'll go see someone. Tomorrow. Promise.

She crosses her fingers. Adam smiles and picks up the robot.

ADAM

What shall we name it?

Eve puts away the remote and jumps into bed, snuggling with Adam.

EVELYN

Mmmmm Amy.

ADAM

Ugly girl.

In playful aggression, Eve pins her husband down, pushing her finger in his chest.

(CONTINUED)

EVELYN

Hey! She's your daughter, too.

Adam puts his strong hands around her waist, stroking her lower back gently.

ADAM

Then I shall love her like my wife.
Forever...

EVELYN

...and ever...

ADAM

... and ever.

They kiss, tenderly. Evelyne squeals in pleasure and pulls the sheets over their heads.

BLACK SCREEN

CRYO POD INT. DAY

Suddenly, sirens go off. Adam sits up in the dim light, drawing a deep breath and coughing, all wet. Desoriented, his hands touch cold metal. He sees cables and tubes attached to his body. Panic creeps up on him, he's breathing heavily but keeps the panic down. His eyes dart, his hands search for a lever. The siren goes on.

Adam's fear turns to anger. He tries to force his way out of the steel coffin, banging on the walls.

ADAM

Hey. Hey!

The sound of decompression. The lid opens, letting in blinding white light. Adam shields his eyes.

CONTROL ROOM

Adam's a bit older now, sitting in a metal sarcophagus. Emergency lights rotate.

BETTY

(o.s.)

I'm sorry, dear, I'm so sorry.
There, there...

Suddenly, the siren stops, replaced by calming elevator music. The lights also change, turning into a pleasing hue.

(CONTINUED)

Adam blinks and looks about. He's in the waking room, a small medical bay. The beige walls seem comforting and clean. Opposite there's an elderly woman, BETTY (72), with silver hair and a pink knitted cardigan, looking somewhat out of place. She smiles warmly at Adam.

BETTY

Better?

ADAM

What happened?

BETTY

Nothing dear, don't you worry. You have been sleeping for a long time, so sorry I had to wake you up.

ADAM

And who are you?

BETTY

I am Betty. I am the caretaker. I took care of you while you were asleep.

ADAM

I want to see my wife.

Betty's eyes suddenly turn blank and her face freezes. Adam registers with mild horror: she's a cyborg.

Suddenly, Betty's eyes and smile are back.

BETTY

Evelyn. Of course, dear!

Adam attempts to crawl out of the sarcophagus.

ADAM

How long have we been-

His muscles have degenerated and the floor is wet. He slips and falls, naked, ripping tubes from his body.

Betty comes to his help.

BETTY

Oh dear. Be careful, you are very weak. Wait, I'll take care of you.

CORRIDOR

Adam is sitting in a wheelchair pushed by Betty. He's wearing a one piece suit, grey with marked black areas, oval in shape, over the major muscles.

The corridors are less calming than the waking room. Old and worn out, plates are missing from the ceiling and walls, showing naked concrete, cables.

BETTY

First I'll make you a nice big breakfast, you'll be a new man after that.

ADAM

My whole body's tingling.

BETTY

That'll be the electric pads in your suit, dear. They'll revive your muscles in no time at all.

ADAM

Why did you wake me?

BETTY

All in good time, dear. All in good time.

KITCHEN

A somewhat futuristic canteen for about 20 people. Almost as comfy as the medbay, but with signs of decay. A big machine in the corner, with pictures of pizza promises "Scan-a-Pan, the original 3D Printed Pizza!".

The room is decorated with posters of kittens and modern movies. One says "Gone with the Wind" coming 2072. The picture is an obvious remake of the original, with a burning space station in the background instead of Atlanta. Another is "Romeo & Juliet", showing the lovers about to kiss. Left is a metal android, with ROM-30 written on his temple, right an amazing redhead. Fierce looking battledroids and warlike humans frame the couple.

Several small monitors are set in the walls, silently showing endless advertisement for "Phoenix Cryotech Inc.". The film shows happy clients holding memory cubes, idealised cryo-proceedings and mood pictures of tides turning, clouds forming, stars moving. Among the clients is an elderly couple holding hands, obviously looking forward to the adventure.

(CONTINUED)

Adam is eating scrambled eggs, wolfing them down. Betty enjoys the view.

BETTY

Is it good?

Adam looks at her. Then he forces an unconvincing smile.

ADAM

Delicious.

BETTY

You don't like androids, do you?

ADAM

Never met one. Don't take it personally.

BETTY

Oh, I wouldn't. You'll grow to love me, I am sure. Would you like apple pie for dessert?

ADAM

(smiles)

Affirmative.

Betty smiles back and pats his hand, then she gets up and moves to the counter.

Adam looks at the monitors: the elderly couple, memory cubes in their hands, interspersed with writings: DISEASE. DISABILITY. AGING. And Phoenix' slogan: "Death is not the End".

Adam grabs a piece of paper and starts folding it.

ADAM

So where is Evelyn, Betty?

BETTY

She's safe and sound, honey, don't you worry about.

ADAM

With all due respect, Betty, don't tell me how to feel. You're nothing but a pretty advanced iPod to me.

Betty stops her workings and looks at him.

BETTY
That was hurtful.

ADAM
Where's. My. Wife.

Betty's eyes turn white again. Like a navigational system re-calibrating.

BETTY
Evelyn Lieber, current location:
Pod 4-2-0-4, Sickbay. Medical
status...

Adam looks at her. Betty's smile returns.

BETTY
Cured.

ADAM
The tumor...

BETTY
Gone.

Adam is visibly relieved.

ADAM
They said it was inoperable.

BETTY
Those doctors have been long gone,
too, dear.

ADAM
When will I see her?

The PING of a microwave sounds out.

BETTY
After you finished your plate.

She puts a delicious hot pie in front of him.

ADAM
You're relentless, aren't you?

BETTY
Eat up, honey.

She pats his cheek and sits. While Adam tastes the pie, Betty inspects the paper bird he made.

BETTY
That's pretty.

Adam enjoys his pie.

ADAM
Made them for Evelyne all the time.
Snuck them in her purse and
pockets.

BETTY
So she'd think of you?

Adam nods.

BETTY
Please tell me about you two. You
were an engineer?

ADAM
She was. She's the smart one. I'm
just a firefighter.

Betty holds up the origami bird.

BETTY
Will you make one for me?

ADAM
Maybe, Betty. If you are a good
girl.

They smile at each other.

Suddenly, lights are flashing and the siren goes off again.

ADAM
What's this?

BETTY
(sighs)
This is why I woke you up.

CONTROL ROOM

Adam is standing beside Betty, at a giant panel full of
lights and buttons and touchscreens she handles expertly.
Adam's eyes dart, confused. He doesn't know what to do.

BETTY
I'm afraid we have a saboteur.

(CONTINUED)

COMPUTER

Security breach in sector 4,
security breach in sector 4.

BETTY

Oh my. Would you pull up the map,
honey?

ADAM

I- really don't...

BETTY

Oh, of course, dear.

She reaches over and slides a button. A virtual map of the complex appears, showing the security breach.

Suddenly, a high tone rings out. It's so loud that Adam cringes, covering his ears. Betty stands unfazed.

Suddenly, a human voice crackles through the intercom. It sounds wheezy, sick and hateful.

STEINER

(o.s.)

Betty. You dirty little witch. I'll
ram a fork into your empty eyes,
I'll pull you apart and burn you to
scrap. You took everything from me,
and now it's my turn. Say goodbye
to your frozen pets, Betty. I'll
make you watch them die.

The intercom crackles and dies. Adam is mortified.

BETTY

And he seemed to be such a nice
man...

ADAM

Who IS that guy?

BETTY

Oh dear, Dr. Gerald Steiner. I woke
him up last week, but I'm afraid he
had a mental breakdown.

ADAM

He's not serious, is he? Can he
harm Evelyn?

While Betty speaks, Adam moves out of sight, seeing sth. of interest.

(CONTINUED)

BETTY

I'm afraid he could, honey. If he shut down the power stationwide, she-

Glass breaks. Betty turns: Adam has broken the security glass and taken out the fire axe beside the door.

He feels comfortable with his trusted instrument. His face shows resolve.

ADAM

Track him down. Lock him in. I'll do the rest.

BETTY

Of course, dear, thank you so much. Now, let me just override his...

She pulls off her left index finger, revealing a USB port. As she plugs it into the console, she suddenly goes stiff, eyes wide, mouth open. The monitors go crazy, warning lights flash. A graph showing some kind of uploading in process.

ADAM

Betty?

Adam tries to disconnect her, but a violent electric shock makes him jump back. He regains control, looks at the oscillating map on the screen. Then he runs through the door.

CORRIDOR

Adam is running, axe in hand. Lights flash and distant alarms sound. The surroundings grow uglier, worn out, dirty.

Turning a corner, Adam stops. Standing in the middle of the dark, derelict hallway is a tall man, STEINER. He's a 50 year old guy with black bushy hair, wearing the same suit as Adam.

A panel has been pried away, revealing power lines behind it. An improvised connector runs from a thick cable to a small blinking memory box Steiner's holding. He doesn't move.

Adam only sees Steiner's right side.

He moves closer, a bit out of breath.

(CONTINUED)

ADAM

Whoever you are, whatever you're
doing... stop it. Now.

Steiner slowly turns his head. Horrible burn scars cover the whole left side of his body.

STEINER

(deep, gravely)

No.

For a second, the men look at each other, both resolved to save their loved ones. Then Adam swings the axe at Steiner's head.

Steiner ducks, letting the cube go. The axe is buried in the wall. The cube's fall is stopped by the thin cable. Hanging precariously above the ground, the too short cable is almost ripped out. Steiner sees it, horrified. But it's still blinking, streaming its content into the network.

Steiner stumbles backwards, fumbling in his pockets, while Adam pries the axe loose.

ADAM

You will disconnect this thing
right now, understand?

STEINER

No.

ADAM

Then I will.

Adam brings down the axe on the cube, shattering it. The lights die.

STEINER

NO!!!

Adam holds up the axe, expecting an attack, but Steiner runs to the broken cube, desperately trying to find all the pieces.

STEINER

I'm sorry, I'm so so sorry,
honey...

Adam is puzzled, unsure what to do. Suddenly, Steiner stops dead. With his back turned, he says something, while his left hand creeps into his pocket.

(CONTINUED)

STEINER
You killed her.

ADAM
What?

STEINER
YOU KILLED HER!

Steiner turns and pulls out a device like a modified remote control. As he presses it, Adam's suit is electrified, causing him to shake and drop the axe.

Adam collapses on the floor, while Steiner slowly stands up, walks to the axe, he picks it up.

Adam looks up into Steiner's burned face. His eyes are crazy.

STEINER
(whispers)
You killed her.

BETTY
(o.s.)
Adam? Adam?

Steiner lets go of the axe, as he hears Betty's voice. With a loud CLUNK it lands on the floor.

BETTY
(o.s.)
Honey, are you there?

Endless fear creeps into Steiner's face as he looks down the corridor. He turns and runs, grabbing as much of the broken cube as possible.

From the floor, Adam watches him flee, even more confused than before.

CONTROL ROOM

Adam sits in a chair while Betty tends to his wounds. Underneath the suit, the overloading electric patches have left oval burn marks on his skin.

ADAM
What did he mean, I killed her?

(CONTINUED)

BETTY

His daughter died last week. As I said, he's crazy.

ADAM

He was scared of you.

BETTY

Why would he? I did everything to make him happy. This might hurt a little, dear...

ADAM

Ou!

She puts a band aid over the burn mark. Adam looks at her.

ADAM

I'm sorry I was so harsh to you before. I've never been... good with machines.

BETTY

Oh don't beat yourself up, honey. I'm so glad you saved me. He was overwriting my core programming. I was almost... deleted.

She shudders.

ADAM

Just patch me up and I'll hunt him down. After our little encounter, he might go after Evelyn.

BETTY

Tell me about you two. How did you meet?

ADAM

When her doctoral thesis exploded. That was the first time I carried her over a doorstep.

BETTY

That is wonderful, dear.

ADAM

She will love you, Betty. Evelyn adores machines. Had to, working in robotics. I bet you dollar and dime that some of her research went into you.

(CONTINUED)

Betty's smile brightens.

BETTY
So she's my mother?

ADAM
In a way.

COMPUTER
All personnel: power failure in
sector 1. Power failure in sector
1.

Adam stands up, looking at the screens.

ADAM
What's in sector 1?

BETTY
Oh, dear, you won't like this.

Adam clenches his teeth.

ADAM
Sick Bay.

CORRIDOR

Adam is running down the corridor, the fire axe in his hand. Having ditched the suit, he's wearing a t-shirt and boxer shorts.

Betty has trouble keeping up.

BETTY
Not so fast, dear.

ADAM
Are there cameras in sick bay?
Communication?

BETTY
He shut down the power. Nothing can
reach inside, dear, I'm sorry.

AIR LOCK

They have reached a massive airlock. Adam is inspecting it.

(CONTINUED)

ADAM

How long can Evelyn survive without
life support?

Betty's eyes turn white again.

BETTY

36 minutes.

ADAM

Here we go!

Adam rams the axe inbetween the sliding doors and pries them open.

AIR LOCK

They enter a narrow room with two doors. Formerly white and clinical, the far side is heavily damaged. Burn marks are visible and part of the second door has been deformed by someone fighting for his life, leaving less-burned spaces, roughly the size of a man.

ADAM

Was there a fire?

BETTY

An automatic security feature. If a
contagious client was to escape...

ADAM

Got it.

They reach the second door. Adam puts the axe into the breach and uses it as a lever, grunting from the hard work.

BETTY

Very good, dear, that's very...

Suddenly, sparks fly and the sound of ricocheting metal fills the air. Adam catches a bloody streak below his eye, while Betty, standing motionless behind him, gets a projectile right in her face: it's a long nail.

Adam pulls the axe out of the door, which closes. a few more shots are fired, then the attack ceases on the other side.

Betty pulls the nail out of her face and drops it on the floor.

(CONTINUED)

ADAM
He's fucking ARMED?

BETTY
Language, dear. It's just a
nailgun, the engineers used them
all the time. Here, let me tend to
your...

He pushes her hand away.

ADAM
Screw that. Is there another way
in?

AIR DUCTS

A determined Adam is moving his body through the narrow steel rectangles. He inches forward, holding a reinforced tray like a small shield in his hands. He's lying on a skateboard-like apparatus, to move faster through the ducts. The axe is tied to his back with string.

AIR VENT

Looking carefully through the metal mesh shielding the duct, Adam sees the cryochamber. It's a majestic structure, built into a large cavern. Stalagtites have formed overhead, grown to an enormous size. Six pods are close by, sitting to the left, a little more advanced than the one he woke up in. Apart from two, their lids are all open. Beside the second pod, Steiner is kneeling, his back to Adam. The yellow nailgun is resting by his side.

Adam moves quickly, tying the piece of string to the mesh and pushing it out silently.

SICK BAY

The heavy mesh tumbles down, its fall stopped by the string, inches above the ground.

AIR DUCTS

Adam sweats, holding the string, looking if Steiner saw him. He didn't. Adam ties the string to an old screw in the duct.

SICK BAY

Like a ninja, Adam lowers himself to the ground, his naked feet first.

To his left, the cave opens to an enormous size: hundreds of pods are stacked there, all open. Adam doesn't see them. He's focused on the saboteur.

Silently, he moves closer to Steiner, shield and axe in hand (non-lethal side up front). Just 5 m between them.

DETAIL

The string holding the heavy mesh is frail and starts to unwind.

SICK BAY

Adam is close to Steiner's back now and sees who's in the pod: a little brown haired girl, Steiner's daughter KATYA (5).

Adam hesitates.

Suddenly, the mesh drops to the floor. The sound alarms the mourning Steiner.

Gripping the nailgun, Steiner turns and starts shooting.

Adam pulls up the shield, catching nails aimed at his head. Others pierce his arm and torso. Adam swings the axe blindly, hitting another open pod.

Steiner crashes into him, hitting him with the large nailgun. Adam falls, losing the axe. The weapon slides across the floor. Adam looks at Steiner who lifts the nailgun. He pulls the trigger - it's jammed!

Adam scuttles for the axe, but with one movement, Steiner repairs his weapon. A shot rings out. Adam stops in his tracks, forcing himself not to scream.

A large nail has pinned his bare foot to the ground. Adam can't reach the axe.

Steiner squats beside him.

STEINER

Did she send you? That artificial
bitch?

(CONTINUED)

ADAM

Why are you doing this?

STEINER

She killed my daughter. She killed
Katya.

ADAM

Why would she do that?

STEINER

(shouts)

Because birds fly and trees grow!

He laughs. A sad, mad laugh. Steiner gets up and stands
above his daughter.

ADAM

Look... I'm sorry for your loss.
But you have to snap out of this...

STEINER

Do you have children?

ADAM

No. And I never will, if you don't
restore the power.

STEINER

I promised I'd always be there...

The main doors suddenly slide open, revealing Betty pushing
them easily.

Steiner turns around, looking at Adam.

STEINER

Never try to leave her. Never try
to leave.

Steiner puts the nailgun to his head and pulls the trigger.

Adam averts his eyes.

BETTY

I'm sorry, dear. I'm so sorry.

Betty squats beside him, reaching for the nail in his foot.

Betty pulls his foot loose. Adam almost screams.

Propping himself up, Adam stands with Betty's help. Adam
looks at the lifeless body of Steiner. Then to Katya's pod.

(CONTINUED)

BETTY
She didn't survive reanimation. It
broke his heart.

ADAM
(brooding)
Where's my wife?

CUT TO:

Adam kneels beside his wife's pod, her beautiful sleeping
face behind the glass. he strokes the cold surface.

BETTY
Let me see your foot, dear. It
might be badly injured.

ADAM
Can she be reanimated?

BETTY
You really shouldn't wake her,
dear. First you should get well.

ADAM
(screaming in her face)
CAN - SHE BE - REANIMATED???

Betty's eyes turn white.

BETTY
Yes. I'll start the process. If you
let me take care of you.

ADAM
Do it.

CUT TO:

The pod glows, pulsing warmly. Adam sits beside it on a
stool, worried and full of anticipation. Betty is bandaging
his left arm where a nail hit, humming and enjoying herself.

Adam sees one of the black cubes linked to the pod,
blinking.

ADAM
Betty? What are those?

BETTY
Hm? Oh, just our back up, dear.
Before deep freeze, the engineers
copied what they could from the
clients.

(CONTINUED)

ADAM

Like, memories?

BETTY

Yes, and even personality traits.
If - god forbid - brain damage
should occur...

COMPUTER

Process finished.

Adam jumps to his feet, forgetting Betty. The pod opens and EVELYN wakes up, coughing. Like Adam before, she's connected to all kinds of tubes.

Adam runs to her side and embraces her. She's confused and surprised. As she recognises her husband, she hugs him back.

A moment they remain like this, eyes closed, enjoying their togetherness after an eternity apart.

EVELYN

It's been so long...

ADAM

I told you I'd wait.

EVELYN

Forever.

ADAM

And ever.

EVELYN

And ever.

They look at each other and share a sweet, sensual kiss. Then Adams rips away the tubes and lifts her out of the pod, carrying her to the airlock.

Betty looks on, a confused smile on her face. She looks back at the giant chamber: of the thousands of pods, ALL are empty now, their lids open.

A sadness seems to creep into her smile.

KITCHEN

Eve is wearing the electro-suit, pulled down to her waist, revealing a white top. She's munching on burned bacon, eggs and ashy toast - Adam's speciality. But she's happy as a sparrow.

(CONTINUED)

EVELYN

I can't believe we did it! This is SO great!

ADAM

I can't believe you talked me into it.

EVELYN

So what's the future like? Or should I say present? It's probably the present. Is the Arctic still there? Society? Starbuck's?

ADAM

I- don't know.

Evelyn is baffled.

EVELYN

What do you mean, you don't know?

ADAM

I forgot to check, alright? I've been kind of busy RESCUING you.

His face is inches away from hers. She swallows, then takes his head in her hands and kisses him.

EVELYN

GOD, I missed touching you! You smell so good.

ADAM

And you taste like bacon. Hmmm...

Adam kisses her again. Betty enters.

BETTY

Oh, I'm sorry, I just wanted to know if you want- you made her breakfast?

ADAM

Damned right, I did. Best burned bacon this side of Boston.

EVELYN

Betty, I have so many questions! Like, what's your core made of, do you have free will, what's your stance on Asimov's laws of robotics...

(CONTINUED)

ADAM

Slow down, honey. We have all the time in the world now.

She looks at Adam and kisses him.

ADAM

That'll be all, Betty. Thanks.

BETTY

Yes, dear.

Betty leaves the room.

EVELYN

So, when do we look what the *present's* like?

CONTROL ROOM

Adam and Eve are standing in front of the control panel, showing pictures of devastated landscapes, empty cities repossessed by nature. They are speechless.

EVELYN

Well. Hardly a surprise, is it?

ADAM

Nope.

EVELYN

Could we be the last ones left?

ADAM

Could be.

EVELYN

Wow.

She reaches out and touches his hand, without looking away from the monitors.

Suddenly she turns to him.

EVELYN

We should go out.

ADAM

Like a movie or...

She hits him in the shoulder.

(CONTINUED)

EVELYN

I'm serious. Explore. Find what's left. Restart civilisation.

ADAM

You never give up, do you?

She pushes her finger in his chest.

EVELYN

Never. Ever.

ADAM

And that is why I love you.

They kiss.

BETTY

(o.s.)

Oh, you really shouldn't.

They break up and see Betty standing there, holding a tray with three large mugs.

BETTY

It's much too dangerous, we should all stay right here, safe and sound.

Adam's moves to the panel, fumbling to find the right buttons.

ADAM

Forget it, Betty, if that little lady set her mind to something...

EVELYN

Betty...

Eve takes her hands, looks at her, feeling Betty's pain.

BETTY

(to Eve)

Is there nothing I could say to convince you?

ADAM

(at the screens)

Nope.

Betty turns to the tray, her back to the room. Her eyes go white.

(CONTINUED)

EVELYN
why don't you join us, Betty? Be
our cyborg chaperon?

ADAM
Mmmmm I don't like the sound of
that.

Eve smiles at her husband, as Betty turns, steaming mug in hand.

BETTY
Oh no, honey, I'm afraid I can't
leave the station. After all, I'm
the caretaker. Cup of choccalate?

Eve takes the mug and enjoys it, while Betty returns to the tray.

EVELYN
But- there's no one left to care
for. We are the last people on the
station, probably on Earth.

BETTY
Yes.

ADAM
Honey?

Evelyn sips.

EVELYN
You'd be without a purpose here,
wouldn't that bother you? I know it
would bother me.

ADAM
Sweetie, let her be.

BETTY
Thank you so much for your concern,
dear, but don't you worry. I'm
really good at keeping myself busy.

She smiles warmly at Eve. Suddenly, Eve squints her eyes, loses her balance. The mug hits the floor, spilling cocoa everywhere.

EVELYN
Adam?

Evelyn collapses before Adam can catch her, falling to the floor.

EVELYN

I'm not- I'm...

Betty still smiles warmly at her. Adam pulls his wife up in his arms.

ADAM

She's burning up! What's wrong with her?

Betty lifts a hand holding a small syringe.

BETTY

Probably the small pox strain in the chocolate, dear. She won't suffer much.

Adam looks at Betty.

BETTY

Poor bunny.

Adam lunges at the old woman, but Betty is fast. Dropping the syringe on the floor, she counters his attack and pins him easily against a wall.

BETTY

I'm sorry, Adam. I'm so sorry.

Adam fights desperately to free himself. She pulls out Steiner's nailgun, pinning Adams hand to one of the consoles.

ADAM

No, no!

Betty nails Adam's right hand to the control board. Adam screams. Then she grabs his left hand and nails it to the wall.

Evelyn watches it all, lying helpless on the floor. Seeing the syringe that killed her on the floor, she reaches for it.

BETTY

There, dear, isn't this nice. You stay right where you are while I take care of poor Evelyn.

ADAM

Why, you fucking cyborg bitch. Why?

Betty stops.

BETTY

I am the caretaker. Birds fly.
Trees grow. I take care of those I
love.

Adam fights against the nails pinning him down while Betty lifts Eve easily from the ground.

EVELYN

Don't- don't...

BETTY

Shhh, darling, save your breath.
I'll make you chicken soup and tug
you in and then we'll watch TV
together. Wouldn't that be nice?

They leave the control room.

Adam fights furiously. Taking all his strength, he RIPS his left hand free from the wall. The pain is intense, but he remains conscious. He reaches for the fire axe.

CORRIDOR

Betty carries Evelyn down the corridor, chatting happily.

BETTY

...and then I'll make us ice cream,
do you like ice cream, dear? Of
course you do.

EVELYN

Betty... will I die?

BETTY

Yes, honey. I'm afraid there's no
cure for this stupid virus, but
don't you worry: it will be a long
and slow death, and I'll be there
for you every step of the way.

ADAM

(o.s.)

Betty!

Betty turns around, Evelyn still in her arms.

Adam attacks her with the axe, burying it deep in her skull.
Betty lets go of Evelyn, who falls to the ground.

Betty's body freezes in position, eyes white.

(CONTINUED)

Adam grabs his wife, helps her up with his bleeding hands, and together they stumble down the corridor.

Betty stands motionless, until suddenly her eyes become alive again.

BETTY

Well. That was uncalled for.

She reaches for the axe stuck in her face.

DIFFERENT CORRIDOR

Adam and Eve hurry towards sick bay.

EVELYN

I'm so dumb. I'm so so dumb.

ADAM

Shut up, silly. You're not dumb.
We'll get through this.

SICK BAY

Adam is trying to ready her pod for cryo sleep. Evelyn's sitting on the floor, leaning against the machine.

EVELYN

I took the apple. I just took that shiny apple, like I had never heard of Snow White...

The pod's lid is open. Adam crouches beside his wife.

ADAM

Honey, listen to me: it's all gonna be fine. I'll just put you to sleep again and then I'll deal with Betty and...

EVELYN

(cracking up into tears)
No! No, don't leave me please...

She touches his face. He holds her hands.

ADAM

I won't. I'll never leave you. We defied time and death and probability, and we're not stopping now.

(CONTINUED)

He leans forward for their last kiss, full of passion and the will to survive.

CUT TO:

Evelyn watches her husband as the lid slowly closes. He looks back at her, smiling reassuringly. He holds up his crossed fingers. Eve gives out a little laugh, silent behind the glass. Then the cryogenic blast freezes her features. Frost over her eyes.

Adam's smile dies. He looks at the airlocked doors, ready for his final battle.

CORRIDOR

Betty is on the move, calling for Adam. In her hand the fire axe. Her face split by an ugly scar, revealing metal underneath.

BETTY

Aaadaaaaam! Come here, please, this is not the time for hide and seek.

CUT TO:

BETTY

I'm really cross with you, young man. After all I have done for you.

CUT TO:

BETTY

You are a naughty little boy. I will have to punish you, you know?

Suddenly she stops. there's a little folded bird on the floor just outside the airlock, like the one Adam made earlier. Betty stoops to pick it up.

BETTY

For me, honey? Why, that's so nice of you. You're a real artist.

AIR LOCK

Betty picks up the bird, and looks into the air lock. Adam is standing at the other side, beside Eve's pod. His hands are behind his back.

(CONTINUED)

ADAM
I never liked machines.

BETTY
But we like you, dear. More than
you can imagine.

Betty moves into the Airlock. Adam pulls Steiner's nailgun from behind his back.

ADAM
Don't come any closer!

Betty stops.

BETTY
You don't think that will stop me,
do you?

She takes a further step.

ADAM
No. But this will.

He pulls up his right hand, showing the syringe. He puts its point to his right arm holding the nailgun. Betty stops dead.

ADAM
No cure, right?

BETTY
Please don't do that, honey.

ADAM
What will become of you when the
last human's gone?

Her eyes turn white, then return.

BETTY
I... don't know.

ADAM
And it scares you, right?

BETTY
My purpose is to care for you.
Without you... what am I?

Adam drops the syringe on the floor.

ADAM

That's the problem with you machines. You always follow protocol.

BETTY

(smiling)

We can't help ourselves, darling.

ADAM

Oh, I know, Betty. I know.

He steps into the Airlock. Suddenly, emergency lights rotate, a siren starts wailing. The massive doors slide shut.

COMPUTER

Virus detected, virus detected.

BETTY

You injected yourself already?

ADAM

Just before you arrived.

COMPUTER

Sixty seconds to emergency combustion.

BETTY

Oh dear. That was your plan? Fire won't do me much harm, honey. Your betrayal on the other hand... that really hurts.

Betty drops the axe and bird and RUNS towards Adam.

Adam shoots at Betty, but she's faster than she looks. With three steps, she's at his side, grabbing the gun with one hand and breaking his arm with the other.

Adam screams, going down.

BETTY

Let go, honey. Just let go.

ADAM

Fuck you.

BETTY

Language, dear.

(CONTINUED)

She twists the broken arm. Adam screams and collapses, letting go of the nailgun. Betty squats before him, stroking his hair.

BETTY

Don't you worry, honey, I won't let you die. I'll nurse you back to health, maybe freeze you a little, and we'll be together. Forever...

ADAM

(smiling through pain)
And ever...

BETTY

And ever.

She smiles happily. Then Betty rips the nailgun apart and turns to the door panel.

BETTY

Now let's go get Evelyn, shall we?

COMPUTER

Forty seconds to emergency combustion.

Betty punches in numbers, but a sound tells her her code is rejected. A second set of doors slides shut, fireproof and massive. She looks at Adam.

ADAM

Even I know how to change a password.

BETTY

(delighted)
And you said you were not good with machines!

Betty removes her finger and attempts to plug herself into the door panel.

COMPUTER

Thirty seconds to emergency combustion.

BETTY

Don't worry, dear, I'm not mad. I'll just override the lockdown and we'll forget about your stupid little plan, won't we?

(CONTINUED)

ADAM

That wasn't my plan, Betty.

She plugs herself in - and freezes. Betty's mouth opens in surprise, as she shakes and fidgets. Her eyes turn white.

ADAM

This is.

SICK BAY

Outside the airlock: Adam has used Steiner's improvised connector to plug his own memory cube into the door panel. It blinks as his personality is streamed into the android.

AIR LOCK

COMPUTER

Ten seconds to emergency
combustion. 9...8...7...6...5
...4...3...2...1...

Adam crawls toward the single paper bird. Propping himself against the wall, he holds it in his hand.

COMPUTER

Emergency combustion commencing...
now.

Adam blows on the bird. It lifts off into the air.

A large, constant fireblast rushes through the airlock, destroying all living tissue. The last of Adam's origami birds is picked up, lights up and crumbles to ash.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE TO:

SICK BAY

Eve's pod, pristine and calm. Much shinier than before. The camera glides along the machine while we hear Adam's voice.

ADAM

(o.s.)

I promised you something, honey, on our wedding day. That I'd be there for you. In sickness and health. On good days and bad. I'll wait for

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ADAM (cont'd)
you. I'll fight for you. I'll never
leave your side.

Eve's frozen face under the glass comes in sight. A single
flower on the pod. suddenly, a crude mechanical hand
appears, burned from a fire blast. I's holding a piece of
cloth, polishing the glass.

BLACK SCREEN.

ADAM
(o.s.)
I am the caretaker.

THE END