

EXT.

It is dark all around except for the wheel of a car which turns in slow motion. An enigmatic, lulling dull buzz can be heard. A large, monochrome metal telephone poll with many menacing wires stands tall, contrasting with the overcast sky. The hum is violently interrupted with a high-pitched screech. A young woman, REI, in her mid-20s or early 30s, wearing sweatpants and a geeky t-shirt runs towards a car that has just crashed into the telephone pole. As she gets closer to the car a static noise begins to build in intensity and color starts to ebb and flow around her. She looks inside and sees another woman of a similar age, TESS, trapped inside. She aggressively starts pulling on the car handle.

REI

Not again. This is all my fault,  
so just let me fix it! Why won't  
this door open?!

As she pulls on the car door handle she falls backward. As she moves towards the pavement, she begins to wake up.

CUT TO:

INT. REI'S APARTMENT

REI wakes up on the floor by her desk which is cluttered with wires and gadgets. Her room, like her desk, is messy as well. Large wires are strewn across the ceiling and machinery is stacked up from the floor. Computer monitors flood the dim room with blue light. The only window in the room is blocked by a curtain. On the ground, an assortment of junk food and computer parts litter the floor. There is a picture of her friend Tess, captioned "In Memorium". One monitor features a colorful display with the words TAY in the center. Her bedroom seems more like a messy science lab than a living space. Rei looks at a security feed on one of her many monitors and sees her BROTHER, a fairly casual man who looks slightly older than her.

BROTHER (DISTORTED BY THE MIC)

Hey... Rei? I brought Ramen. Why  
don't you come outside and give  
your brother a hug?

REI

You know I have to finish this.

BROTHER (DISTORTED BY THE MIC)

Rei's brother starts to walk away, then-

BROTHER (DISTORTED BY THE MIC)  
(CONT'D)

Hey, we miss you Rei. Me, Mom,  
Dad. We're worried. Give us a  
call sometime, you can't keep  
ignoring us.

For a second, Rei looks distraught. Rei sighs, then turns  
to TAY, her a.i assistant.

REI

TAY, lets do the first test run  
of project 'Tess'.

TAY

Starting software.

Rei slides on a fairly cheap looking pair of goggles and  
stands up. We begin to see the virtual environment as she  
stands.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Tess appears in front of Rei.

REI

Tess?

TESS

It...

Tess begins to seize.

TESS (CONT'D)

I am T-tess..

REI

Tess, It's me. Rei! Do you know  
who I am?

TESS

I- Hello-

The virtual simulation stutters, and Tess's voice drops to  
a low pitch.

INT. REI'S APARTMENT

Rei takes the goggles off to reveal a look of frustration on her face.

REI

TAY, did you see that? It's Tess! I brought her back! What happened?

TAY

Your computer.. It's running at max capacity. I don't think it can handle it.

REI

Then order a computer that can run it.

TAY

There are no computers on public markets that fit your request.

Rei puts her hands to her head then paces around the room.

REI

No.. Then we make do with what we have. We have to. I'll make it work.

Rei continues to work at her desk on the computer. She keeps working late into the night and a digital clock reads "1:00 am". She eventually falls asleep on her keyboard again.

INT. REI'S APARTMENT - DAY

The static sound breaks as Rei jolts awake from her brother knocking at her door. She has a looks frustrated and decides to turn off the monitor with the live feed of her brother.

EXT. REI'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

The Brother looks disappointed and concerned so he begins to knock louder.

BROTHER

Rei, it's your brother. Rei, are you okay in there? Please let me know you're okay.



Rei's brother begins walking around the exterior of the apartment complex. He looks at the fire escape on the building. He fixates on the only window with shut blinds. It has a dark blue light shining through the cracks. He can tell it's Rei's apartment.

INT. REI'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

TAY

Rei, there seems to be thousands of errors within the system.

REI

I know, I just need more time with it. Start up the simulation.

TAY:

It's highly unlikely that this will-

REI

Start the simulation.

TAY

Starting up...

Rei puts on the goggles and enters the simulation.

EXT - GARDEN

REI

Tess, hello? You there?

Tess, as before, is unresponsive and shallow. She stands in the garden, still as a statue. Meanwhile-

EXT - APARTMENT FIRESCAPE

Rei's brother tries to open the door of the apartment but it is locked. He walks outside and looks up at the window of Rei's apartment. With a food bag in hand, he begins to climb the fire escape.

REI

Tess? Do you know who I am? Do you remember me?

Tess does not respond

## Breakdown key:



— Vehicles



— Sounds/music



— Locations/setting



— Special Effects



— Characters/Cast



— Costumes



— Stunts



— Props

REI (CONT'D)

It's me, Rei. Your best friend.

TESS

I...Remember..

EXT. MEANWHILE

Rei's brother keeps climbing the fire escape. His feet slip occasionally and he looks pretty clumsy.

INT. MEANWHILE

REI

Are you feeling okay?

There's a loud electric popping sound.

TAY

One of the wires shorted and requires your attention.

Rei slides off her goggles and dives into the web of wires strewn across her floor.

EXT. MEANWHILE

Rei's brother keeps climbing towards Rei's window despite his lack of coordination. He hops and grabs the next level of the fire escape and barely catches it.

BROTHER

Woah, that was close.

INT. MEANWHILE

Rei climbs up from the floor and slides her goggles back on.

REI

Alright, where were we?

TESS

I...I...Memory?

REI

Oh right. So...

EXT. MEANWHILE

Rei's brother is getting close to the window with a look of determination on his face.

INT. MEANWHILE

TAY

Rei, you have been working for hours straight. This is your scheduled reminder to take a brake.

Rei slides off her goggles with an irritated look on her face. She slowly stands up and begins to stretch her stiff neck from being hunched over at the computer. She then hears a knocking and sees her window start to shake slightly.

REI

Are those crazy pigeons back? I'm so sick of those stupid birds and their...

Rei launches open the window and jumps back when she sees her brother. Her brother is caught off guard and falls sharply backwards. The color seems to have drained from Rei's face as she realizes what just happened.

REI

Oh my god... TAY Stop the simulation.

TAY

Stopping simulation.

REI(MURMURING)

I'm sorry, Tess.

Rei looks out the window to try and find her brother. She sees her brother unconsciously lying on the ground in an uncomfortable position.

REI

Brother!

FADE

Rei has her arm around her brother as they stumble towards her car. Rei's brother has gauze loosely wrapped around his head and is holding an ice pack to the bandage. The brother looks disoriented and woozy, while Rei has a look of concentration. Her brother gives Rei a big smile.

BROTHER(WEAKLY)

Thanks Rei.

Rei grunts and cracks a slight smile.

BROTHER

Seriously, I don't know how it happened. I was just trying to make sure you were okay. One second I was climbing, the next thing you know I was on the ground.

REI

You were always clumsy.

Rei helps her brother into the car.

REI (CONT'D)

Listen, I'm sorry that I didn't respond earlier. This is all my fault, I should've listened.

BROTHER

Don't worry about it Rei, I'm fine...probably. Maybe a little concussed but I feel fine.

Rei looks at the dashboard of the car with a look of sorrow.

REI

I really miss her. I thought if I just wanted it bad enough and got the code right I could, bring her back.

BROTHER

Rei, I know you really cared about her, but you don't have to deal with all this alone. We're here for you. It's okay to ask your family for help when you need it.



REI

Thanks, bro.

Rei pulls into the parking lot of the hospital.

FADE OUT

EXT. PARK

Rei and Tess are walking side by side and are both visibly happy. The sun is shining and everything looks bright and saturated. Their conversation is distorted by warm static sound. The park is filled with a variety of beautiful trees.

INT. REI'S APARTMENT - DAY

Rei wakes up from her dream and is actually in her bed this time. She ignores all her computers and walks over the wires to her window and pulls open the blind. The heavenly glow from outside causes her to squint as her eyes slowly adjust. There's a nice view of a tree from her apartment. She slowly and carefully examines all of the warm nature visible. She stares at a tree for a while.

THE END