

The Killing Dream

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

The room is bathed in a pulsating blue light. MUSIC with a heavy, sensual beat carries out a rhythm matching that of the light.

FEMALE LAUGHTER O.S. comes from a huge oversized bed.

THREE WOMEN -- are giving their full sexual attention to one man, JEREMIAH BENSON, naked, balding, overweight.

The kissing and fondling begin to reach a heightened sense of anxiousness, for Jeremiah. And then suddenly...

A CACKLE escapes from the mouth of one of the women.

Jeremiah opens his eyes and watches horrified as the women slowly become demons from hell.

A tail sprouts from the backside of one. Skin becomes scaly. Another crawls with maggots. The other becomes covered in fungus and running sores.

The blue light turns yellow, then red as the music becomes more hideous, filling every chamber of the large room.

Jeremiah tries to run, but his body gets caught in the sheets.

Tentacles wrap around him, strangling him.

Talons rake down his body, drawing a heavy trickle of blood.

As Jeremiah SCREAMS a tentacle wraps around his throat.

He tries to SCREAM once more but a tentacle tightens, then a clawed hand, and another. His body convulses violently.

INT. BEDROOM - JEREMIAH'S APARTMENT - SAME TIME

Jeremiah convulses in a SexNet virtual reality chair. His body encased in a body glove-like suit built into the chair, wires running from it to the chair, and wires from the chair running to control box.

He wears SexNet virtually reality goggles wired into the suit that also covers his head.

The equipment bangs around with the convulsions of Jeremiah's body.

A soft, sexy FEMALE VOICE from a nearby monitor...

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)
Warning. Heart rate is now at danger
level. Disconnect engaged.

A message flashes on a small monitor below the encoder,
"DISCONNECT OVERRIDE."

Jeremiah's body jerks violently one more time, then he's dead.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Please call 9-1-1. Please call...

The voice is cut-off replaced by...

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
SexNET wishes you a happy and
pleasant sexual experience.

FROM OUTSIDE Jeremiah's apartment window, it's snowing hard.

EXT. JEREMIAH'S APARTMENT - NIGHT - SAME TIME

An unmarked police cruiser drives by the apartment building. A couple walks by laughing, wearing the same SexNet virtual reality goggles Benson was wearing.

INSIDE THE CAR

TWO VICE COPS watch the electronic blips on a monitor.

VICE COP #2
Looks like everyone's keepin' their
horny hands to themselves.

VICE COP #1
Let's get somethin' to eat. Maybe
things'll heat up later.

ON THE CAR as it drives up the street.

INT. NEMO MARKONIN'S APARTMENT - NEXT DAY

In a sparsely furnished corner of the main room, NEMO MARKONIN (40s) in worn workout gear, throws punches at an old boxing punching bag. Patsy Cline singing "I FALL TO PIECES" plays in the background.

Nemo is intense, focused, physically hardened.

His apartment is dated, a throw back to the late 20th century.

A brief CHIME interrupts his workout. It repeats. Nemo stops hitting the bag, breathing heavy.

NEMO

Answer.

The face of POLICE CAPTAIN "GUS" DELGADO (50s - Hispanic) appears on a videophone on the wall in front of Nemo.

DELGADO

Markonin. We got a stiff, over near Fifth Avenue. Check it out on your way in.

NEMO

Give me ten minutes.

DELGADO

Sure...

(beat)

Thought you were getting rid of that old bag.

NEMO

Never. Still has some punch to it.

DELGADO

Someday, Markonin, you should join this part of the 21st Century.

NEMO

The last one was better.

Nemo disconnects the call, then hits the bag once real hard.

MINUTES LATER

Nemo's in street clothes - black slacks, white shirt, old trench coat. As he holsters his gun, he stops in front of a door in his apartment and opens it.

We SEE a bedroom from his POV. Propped up in the middle of the bed is a picture of Nemo's dead wife - Victoria -- beautiful, dark haired, big warm smile.

Nemo stares at the picture.

NEMO (cont'd)

See ya, tonight, babe.

EXT. STREET - NEW YORK - 2045 - DAY

The snow falls over a mid-21st century version of the city. Everything's clean, sterile.

Moving sidewalks are full of people dressed nearly identical.

Their clothes match those seen displayed in some of the windows by holographic models.

No one touches each other.

A giant "SEXNET" 3-D sign flashes three stories above the street.

We stay on a DERELICT wearing SexNet virtual reality goggles as he walks aimlessly on the sidewalk.

From his POV we see through his goggles -- a naked couple, in full sexual embrace, are superimposed over the cityscape.

The Derelict wanders off the street into an oncoming car - a late 2010s Mustang. It's out of place with the sleek, electric, self-driving cars and trucks around it. It comes to an immediate stop, barely missing the guy.

The Derelict YELLS something incomprehensible at the car. Then wanders off, readjusting his goggles.

INSIDE CAR

NEMO

Goddamn sex addicts.

People use the stall in traffic to make a break across the street. Nemo inches his way through the sea of humanity. From his car A/V system we hear the disc jockey...

DJ (O.S.)

Hey, you're listening to W-O-L-D,
The oldies station. All the hits you
remember from last week will be
comin' right back at...

Nemo pulls out a disk and shoves it in the player, interrupting the DJs banter. Patsy Cline singing "Sweet Dreams of You."

Nemo drives on and from the car we see...

Animated billboards for the SexNet chairs and suits.

Clinics for birth screening and counseling.

An antique store with remnants of the 20th Century displayed.

On the street we HEAR an ongoing monologue from the female voice of SexNET...

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)
 ...for only dollars a day you can
 enjoy any fantasy, any time
 with anyone. SexNET...the safe
 and legal way to just say yes.

EXT. JEREMIAH'S APARTMENT BUILDING - FIFTH AVENUE

Nemo pulls up in front of a black high rise. He parks behind the police cruisers already on the scene.

As he steps out of his car, he puts a portable neon "detective" hologram on the roof.

TWO uniformed cops greet him. The shield on one of their helmets rises automatically as Nemo flashes his 3-D badge.

NEMO
 You guys enjoying the weather?

COP #1
 Yeah, nothin' like the worst storm in
 years to put hair on your balls.

Both cops laugh. Not Nemo.

NEMO (CONT'D)
 Which floor?

COP #1
 Thirty-two. All the way up.

Nemo continues toward the building.

COP #2
 Hey, Markonin, bunch of us are
 pluggin' in for the '97 SuperBowl.
 How 'bout it?

NEMO
 No, thanks. I prefer the real thing.

INT. HALL - OUTSIDE JEREMIAH'S APARTMENT - FEW MINUTES LATER

Nemo steps off the elevator into the lobby. Four uniformed cops stand guard outside a door.

He shows his badge and is waved into the apartment.

INSIDE APARTMENT

Jeremiah Benson's body still lies in his SexNet chair. The goggles are off. No one's bothered to close his eyes.

The coroner takes skin and other samples while a police photographer takes pictures with a small handheld device.

DETECTIVE DAVE HARROLD, a slightly out of shape 30-something greets him. He wears an Emo version of a zoot suit from the 1940s - black on black stipe, oversized shoulder pads.

HARROLD

Hey, Markonin.

NEMO

Detective Harrold.

Nemo glances at him, noticing his clothes.

NEMO (CONT'D)

Some outfit.

HARROLD

Hey ya' gotta stay current. Better to identify with the people.

(looks Nemo over)

Unlike some of us who've been wearin' the same thing since birth.

NEMO

I know what I like.

HARROLD

Yeah, so'd this guy. Check it out. Blows a gasket humpin' with his machine here. How many times ya' seen that?

NEMO

You'd be surprised.

HARROLD

Well, least he died happy.

Nemo gives the body a look, checking out his eyes.

NEMO

(to Coroner)

Any idea what caused the marks?

ANGLE ON BENSON'S TEMPLES

There are burn marks on either side where the goggles would have touched his temples.

BACK TO SCENE

CORONER

Not yet. But his brain pan looks like noodle soup.

Nemo studies the marks a moment longer. Then he closes Jeremiah's eyes.

NEMO

(to Harrold)

Who was he?

HARROLD

Some guy named Benson, Jeremiah.
A retired government research grunt.

NEMO

How many government research grunts
you know live like this?

HARROLD

I know. I know. I'll look into it.

NEMO

Maybe the real thing killed him.

HARROLD

Not a chance. Crazy fucker had
this thing set on a level six M.O. I
mean mine doesn't even go past four.
Must be one of their new models.

NEMO

Vice monitoring anywhere near here?

HARROLD

You kiddin'? If those guys worked
as often as they ate, we'd have
the whole city up on sex charges.

NEMO

Maybe they were working, but their
endorphin monitors weren't.

HARROLD

Come on, Markonin, just 'cuz you
don't trust machines, doesn't mean
no one else does.

NEMO

Maybe Mr. Benson here shouldn't have.

Nemo looks over the SexNet chair, clearly not comfortable touching it.

NEMO (CONT'D)

He record his little fantasy?

HARROLD

Playback unit wasn't working. The disc is down at the lab though.

(beat))

Ya' know I knew this guy set his on five once. Crazy fucker had latent m.o.'s for a week.

NEMO

Like I always say...

HARROLD

...yeah, yeah. Too much of anything isn't good for you.

They're interrupted by an older woman's voice from the hall.

OLD WOMAN (O.S.)

I don't care. Mr. Benson was my tenant. I have a right to come in.

Nemo goes to the door of the apartment.

NEMO

What's the problem?

Cop #1 from downstairs has an OLD WOMAN in her early 80s by the arm.

COP #1

She manages the place. Says she knew the victim.

OLD WOMAN

I heard a lot of noise last night. Mr. Benson was not a noisy man. It just seemed...

She sees Jeremiah's body, and does a sharp intake of breath.

Nemo takes her gently by the arm and guides her back out of the room.

NEMO

Why don't you come with me, Ma'am.

(MORE)

NEMO (cont'd)
We can talk at my office.
(to Harrold)
Do a background on Benson. And
check this stuff. See if any of
it's hot or been tampered with.

HARROLD
Come on, Markonin. I was gonna plug
myself into Channel Six tonight
and let Delilah have her way with me.

NEMO
She'll be there tomorrow.

He turns to the Old Woman, who stands staring at Benson.

OLD WOMAN
I didn't know he was dead.

Nemo guides her out the door.

NEMO
Maybe you can help us find out why.

INT. CENTRAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS - LATER

It's clean, white, sterile looking. Several detectives work
at their respective desks.

Nemo walks in leading the Old Woman. A few cops acknowledge
him as he walks by. When he reaches his desk, he pulls out a
chair.

NEMO
Here 'ya go. Now you just tell
me what you can about Mr. Benson.

The Old Woman sits down as Nemo turns on his computer -- a
clear bubble-like monitor.

OLD WOMAN
You know they didn't have those
chair things when I was young.
You could touch each other then.

NEMO
It was a lot different wasn't it?

OLD WOMAN
Yes, yes it was. So many changes.
You know I had my own baby.

NEMO

Least there's people like you who still remember what that's like.

OLD WOMAN

Yes. Not like today where they all come from test tubes. I suppose it's for the best though. What with the sexual diseases and all.

Their conversation is interrupted by...

SEMI-NAKED MAN (O.S.)

You got your show. Give me the rest of my clothes!

A SEMI-NAKED WOMAN AND MAN are brought in by FOUR UNIFORMED COPS with "VICE Squad" printed on the sleeves of their all-white uniforms.

UNIFORMED VICE #1

Come on ya' pervs. Cold air'll cool you two down.

They lead the two past Nemo and the Old Woman.

UNIFORMED VICE #1 (CONT'D)

Hey, Nemo.

NEMO

What's up?

UNIFORMED VICE #1

Caught Mr. and Mrs. Horny here in full body contact and insertion.

NEMO

Those scanners you guys swear by work after all.

UNIFORMED VICE #1

Most the time. But a nosy neighbor tipped us off on this one.

NAKED WOMAN

We got a right.

UNIFORMED VICE #1

Sex is against the law. You friggin' sexual libertarians ain't gonna change it.

NEMO

Give 'em their clothes.

UNIFORMED VICE #1
Hey, they know the routine.

NEMO
Give 'em their clothes! This isn't a
peep show.

The Vice Cop glares, then slowly hands the clothes to the
Man and Woman.

SEMI-NAKED WOMAN
(to Nemo)
Thank you.

VICE #1
Come on, you can put 'em on in
interrogation.

He shoves her ahead of him, and the rest of the Vice Cops
follow, pushing the Man along. Harrold comes toward them
from another direction. As he passes them...

HARROLD
Hey, good thing this isn't illegal...
(he makes a jerk-off
motion with his
hand)
...or we'd all be arrested.

This brings a laugh in the office.

OLD WOMAN
(shaking her head)
It wasn't always like this.

Before Nemo can reply, DELGADO sticks his head out of a side
door.

DELGADO
Markonin, I need to talk to you.

NEMO
I'm workin' the Benson case.

DELGADO
This is about the Benson case.

Nemo looks at him then back at the Old Woman.

NEMO
(to Old Woman)
Sit tight. I'll be right back.

INT. DELGADO'S OFFICE

Nemo enters, closes the door behind him. Delgado stands at his desk.

NEMO

This better be good. I've got a witness that may not be around much longer.

DELGADO

You might not have to worry about it. Detective Markonin, Johnathan Banner, SexNET P.R.

JOHNATHAN BANNER, a 40ish fop of a man steps out of a corner of the room and extends his hand. Everything about him is slick to his expensive banded collar suit coat.

BANNER

Detective.

Nemo extends his hand just enough to have two inches of air between his and Banner's. They bow, then drop their hands back to their sides.

Nemo looks out the Captain's window into the main room where he can see the Old Woman sitting.

NEMO

(to Banner)

Must be serious if you guys show.

BANNER

The death or injury of one of our customers is always serious.

NEMO

All three billion of them?

BANNER

We had several units stolen last month. We think Mr. Benson got one that had been tampered with.

NEMO

Ok. We'll start checking the black market angle.

Banner looks at Delgado, then to Nemo.

BANNER

We're handling it ourselves.

NEMO

It's a homicide. And if you don't mind, I'll handle it.

BANNER

We think the cause of death was an equipment malfunction.

Nemo's attention is now fully on Banner.

NEMO

Just how often do people have their brains fried while getting off in your chairs?

BANNER

Never. That's why we'd just as soon handle this ourselves.

NEMO

I bet.

DELGADO

There's no case. Now tell your witness to go home.

Nemo doesn't move.

NEMO

Captain?

BANNER

Detective Markonin, SexNET has supplied everyone's sexual and entertainment fantasies for nearly ten years... Without a problem. There's no case. Trust me.

NEMO

Let's see what my witness has to say.

He leaves Delgado's office abruptly.

DELGADO

Markonin?

DETECTIVE'S ROOM

Nemo is back in the room, looks for the Old Woman.

NEMO (CONT'D)

Anyone seen the old woman that was here?

DETECTIVE #1
Yeah, she headed out the door.

Nemo runs out the room.

EXT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS -SAME TIME

Nemo runs out the front door. He spots the Old Woman walking slowly up the street. She doesn't see the electric motorcycle coming around a corner as she crosses the street.

She's hit as Nemo watches, unable to do anything.

As the crowd flocks to see what happened,...

NEMO
Shit. Some things never change.

The voice of SexNET on the street...

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)
...have a safe and pleasant
experience.

EXT. FIELD - DAY - SUMMER - (VIRTUAL REALITY)

A young woman is running through the field, clad in a sheer white dress. Her bare breasts clearly seen through the material.

A young man is on a horse behind her. Shirtless, dressed in a loin cloth. Long, dark hair flies out behind him.

The woman laughs, and screams slightly as the man jumps from the horse and comes near her.

She tries to dodge him, but he grabs her arm and pulls her to him.

The young woman pushes his head down between her legs, then falls to the ground.

She pulls his head up to her, and opens her eyes. She faces the HEAD OF SATAN. She screams and tries to struggle away.

His tail wraps around her legs. Two goat legs replace the man's human ones. Fangs protrude, and eyes appear all about his body.

The woman screams louder as the head of Satan goes to her neck, mouth open wide.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - WINTER - DAY - (REALITY)

BETH MONTGOMERY, a mid-40s, slightly overweight woman runs through the park dressed in a SexNet virtual reality body suit and goggles.

From the receiver on the goggles comes the female voice...

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)
Warning, adrenalin count is above
normal. You have ten seconds to
automatic disconnect.

Beth'S body falls to the ground in a spastic twitch, beating away her imaginary attacker. Then stops. Dead.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S. CONT'D)
Thank you for tuning into SexNET,
the safe way to just say yes.

INT. DARK ROOM - SAME TIME

The place is full of computer equipment. The glow from various screens and buttons creating the only light in the room.

A SOLITARY FIGURE sits in front of a large bubble terminal. It's unclear whether it's a man or a woman. All we see are the goggles on the person's face and a wire running from an electrode on either side of the person's neck to the computer.

Beth Montgomery's face, frozen in a horrible scream, fills the computer bubble and is reflected in the person's goggles.

SOLITARY FIGURE
So much for safe sex, Beth. Two down,
more to go.

INT. VIRTUAL REALITY STRIP JOINT - NIGHT - (VIRTUAL REALITY)

Harrold sits by himself with a drink. Six women, all in various stages of undress, dance to a techno-rock beat.

Harrold cheers the girls on.

The scene is suddenly interrupted with a flash of static.

HARROLD
Hey, what's the...

REALITY

Harrold sits in a big dark room at a very utilitarian bar, the music still going.

There are no naked women,...just a bunch of hooting, hollering clothed men and women all wearing SexNet goggles... and Nemo holding Harrold's pair in his hand.

NEMO

Let's go, we got work to do.

HARROLD

Jesus, Nemo, you really know how to ruin a guy's fun.

Nemo turns to leave and tosses the goggles at Harrold.

INT. NEMO'S CAR - LATER

Nemo drives in silence. Patsy Cline sings "Crazy."

HARROLD

How can you listen to that old shit?

NEMO

Because nobody else does.

HARROLD

It puts me to sleep.

Nemo doesn't respond. Harrold fidgets.

HARROLD (CONT'D)

Speaking of sleep. You know what I dreamt last night....

NEMO

Should I pretend to be interested.

HARROLD

You might like this.

(beat)

Me and this gorgeous blonde were screwin' each others sexual lights out. Not a fucking care in the world. No Article 86. No Sex Police. Just me and her. Real skin, real sex.

NEMO

You and everyone else.

HARROLD

Yeah, well least you got to know what the real thing was like. I was just startin' to think about it when the government pulled the plug and SexNET came along.

NEMO

So much for fantasies, huh.

HARROLD

How 'bout it, Nemo. Even when it was illegal, I bet you and your old lady still did it. Didn't you?

Nemo slams on his brakes. Cars behind him are forced to stop. HORNS start honking.

An automated male voice comes from the street.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

Please keep your car moving.

NEMO

Talk about my wife that way again and I'll make sure you're back on the streets. You understand?

HARROLD

Yeah, yeah I understand. Sorry.

Then turns his attention back to the car.

NEMO

Ever.

Outside the male voice is heard once more.

VOICE (O.S.)

You have fifteen seconds to move your car or it will be towed.

INT. MORGUE - LATER

A pathologist is performing an automated autopsy on a body as Nemo and Harrold walk in. Harrold looks away as the mechanical arm makes its first cut. Nemo looks on, unflinching.

The Pathologist notices them and shuts down the equipment.

NEMO

Hey, Doc.

PATHOLOGIST

Markonin. I see you brought your friend with the weak stomach and sick mind.

HARROLD

At your service.

NEMO

Whaddaya got?

The Pathologist walks away from the table and heads toward a wall of drawers.

PATHOLOGIST

Really interesting this one. No marks, no history of heart or brain disease. No S-T-Ds.

A drawer opens automatically revealing a body covered by a thin sheath of plastic.

PATHOLOGIST (CONT'D)

And, voila, Beth Montgomery's dead.

He pulls back the plastic to reveal Beth Montgomery. Harrold grimaces a little at the sight.

NEMO

Freeze to death?

PATHOLOGIST

No. She died before the temperature got to her. Take a look...

He points out two burn marks, one on either side of her temple where the SexNet goggles would have touched.

PATHOLOGIST (CONT'D)

Appears to be electrical burns. Her brain was totally gelled. Massive cerebral hemorrhage.

HARROLD

Like Jeremiah Benson.

NEMO

What was she wearing?

The Pathologist reaches over to a table and hands him a SexNet suit and goggles. Nemo takes it hesitantly and examines it.

NEMO (CONT'D)

Portable unit.

PATHOLOGIST

One of the new ones, too. My kids want one so they can play war tag.

NEMO

This thing kill her?

PATHOLOGIST

They're supposed to be fool proof.

NEMO

You do an autopsy on Benson yet?

PATHOLOGIST

Didn't get a chance. His body was cremated already.

NEMO

Why?

PATHOLOGIST

He had a latent S-T-D. You know the rules.

HARROLD

Hey. The old guy had his unit cranked too high and it triggered some S-T-D shit in his brain. The chick probably got water on her base plate runnin' around out in the snow, and whammy.

Nemo hands him the portable suit.

NEMO

I don't think so. Two people died using this shit. Get this to the lab before SexNet comes for it.

(to Pathologist)

Give me a call if you find anything else.

The Pathologist nods and returns to work. Nemo heads for the door.

HARROLD

Now where you going?

NEMO

Tell Delgado we got a case.

HARROLD
You don't give up do you?

NEMO
I let everyone else.

INT. SHOOTING GALLERY - POLICE HEADQUARTERS - DAY - LATER
(VIRTUAL REALITY)

DELGADO is running down a street after a man dressed in black.

The two of them exchange shots.

Delgado follows and finds himself face to face with the guy and a gun.

The gun goes off with a SNAP of electricity. Delgado's dead.

The image goes fuzzy then disappears.

SAME SCENE - REALITY

We're in the shooting gallery of police headquarters. It's strangely quiet except for an occasional yell.

Nemo's in front of Delgado as he's taking off his goggles.

NEMO
Missed again?

DELGADO
Yeah, I can't seem to get past level six. You ever try this?

NEMO
Level Ten. I don't think the bad guys care.

DELGADO
Good point.

They walk through the gallery. Cops are lined up at various positions -- goggles on, guns drawn, pointing into the air.

DELGADO (cont'd)
You really think there's a case?

NEMO
Two people having their brains fried during cyber sex isn't just a coincidence.

DELGADO

What do you got on the victims?

NEMO

Standard stuff. Both parents dead.
Both single. No reproduction
clearance.

DELGADO

The equipment?

NEMO

Stolen. All the ID markers were
erased.

DELGADO

Maybe Banner's right. The suits were
tampered with.

NEMO

Why? Why not just sell them and
forget about it? There's probably
thousands of black market units out
there. Why'd these two people bite
it?

DELGADO

You got a hunch on this one?

NEMO

There is one thing.

DELGADO

Go on.

NEMO

Both were government researchers.
Maybe they worked on the same
project. Someone didn't want them
talking about it. Maybe Banner knows
something.

DELGADO

I don't need you playing cowboy on
this. Right now it's still a
corporate thing.

NEMO

Well, there's something about this
'corporate thing' that doesn't smell
right.

DELGADO
If you're talking to Banner, I'm
going with you.

NEMO
Is that necessary.

DELGADO
For now.

EXT. SEXNET HEADQUARTERS - LATER

An unmarked police cruiser approaches a group of buildings: two are rounded domes, between them stands a tall phallic-like tower.

On either side of the front gate are statues of two naked couples fully entwined, snake-like, with a globe hovering above them -- the SexNET logo.

The police cruiser stops at the entrance. A hologram of a beautiful woman appears by the car. She leans forward.

WOMAN
Good morning, gentlemen. Badges
please.

Delgado and Nemo hold up their badges as the hologram scans them.

DELGADO
(to Nemo under his
breath)
You never see women like this on the
street.

NEMO
Women like this don't exist.

WOMAN
Thank you. You may proceed.

Delgado noses the cruiser through the entrance gates.

INT. LOBBY - SEXNET HEADQUARTERS - FEW MINUTES LATER

Nemo and Delgado walk through an opulently furnished lobby. A museum of entertainment since the dawn of man.

NEMO
I thought I was the only one who hung
on to old shit.

DELGADO

Difference is yours is pretty much worthless.

NEMO

Not to me.

ROBERT - a mechanical robot greets them. He's a human-like head on a mechanical body.

ROBERT

Captain Delgado. Detective Markonin. Follow me, please.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - SEXNET HEADQUARTERS - FEW MINUTES LATER

Nemo and Delgado are ushered into a huge room by Robert.

ROBERT

Please have a seat. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Banner will be right with you.

Robert leaves Nemo and Delgado at one end of a large conference table. The room is decorated with nude paintings, and sex toys.

NEMO

Mr. Johnson?

DELGADO

Head of SexNET. Never met him, but I've heard he's a strange one.

One end of the conference room lights up and a wall gl

ides away to reveal Banner standing at one side of a desk. MR. JOHNSON, a 50-ish, plain featured man in an expensive suit like Banners, sits behind the desk.

Banner steps forward. Mr. Johnson stays seated.

BANNER

Gentlemen. This is Mr. Johnson, head of the company.

Mr. Johnson nods to both.

BANNER (cont'd)

Gentlemen, I assume this is about the death of Ms. Montgomery. A very unfortunate incident, Mr. Johnson and I were just discussing.

NEMO

Good, because we thought it was time to start treating this like a crime instead of a P-R problem.

DELGADO

With our cooperation of course.

Banner looks to Mr. Johnson who gives no perceptible sign he's considering this. Then he turns and faces a wall screen.

BANNER

Send Ms. Vanderpool in please.

(to Nemo)

Actually we couldn't agree more. But we'd like our cybercom security expert to give you some help.

NEMO

I don't think...

GAIL VANDERPOOL (late 30s) enters. Tall, attractive. She moves confidently, used to being the center of attention -- good and bad.

BANNER

Gail Vanderpool...Captain Delgado.

Gail extends her hand to Delgado, they almost touch hands as they bow. She reaches toward Nemo's.

GAIL

And Detective Markonin. Don't worry, I won't make you look stupid.

Nemo ignores the comment and the extended hand.

NEMO

You've been back there waiting to make an entrance?

GAIL

I...

BANNER

We think it's time to be proactive.

Nemo goes past Gail to Banner.

NEMO

You want to be proactive? Then shut down the whole friggin' network until we find out what we're dealing with.

MR. JOHNSON

You have no idea what that would mean to the three billion people who rely on us.

NEMO

Yeah, your billings would go down. And innocent people wouldn't be dead.

BANNER

It's taken ten years and more money than you can count to make sure we could entertain the world anyway it wants. Two dead people aren't going to change that now.

NEMO

Then I hope for the sake of the three billion others that this isn't something that will keep them from getting off tonight or wake up tomorrow.

GAIL

Detective Markonin, I think we need to take a step back first. Why don't I give you the tour? Show you how this all works. We can talk about it on the way.

She heads toward the door and waits for Nemo and Delgado to join.

OFF BANNER and MR. JOHNSON watching them go.

IN THE HALL

Gail is forced to walk faster to keep up with Nemo's pace. Delgado is right behind them.

GAIL

You always in such a hurry.

NEMO

Only when people are dying.

GAIL

And how do you stop that? Round up the usual suspects, beat them senseless, then ask questions?

NEMO

I usually just beat them. They're not much good senseless.

GAIL
You're a bit of a cowboy aren't you?

NEMO
I have my own way of doing things.

They stop at a door marked "RESEARCH."

DELGADO
(to Nemo)
You said you'd keep it together.

NEMO
(to Delgado)
After you.

INT. SEXNET RESEARCH - SAME TIME

They enter a large room with various work stations -- all with different mock-ups of virtual sex chairs.

KRIS, an androgynous looking young woman in a white lab coat, inspects a chair and makes notations on an electronic notepad.

Gail, brings Nemo and Delgado to her station.

GAIL
Kris, these are police detectives. They're investigating the problem we had with two of our units. Kris has been checking the units for any problems.

NEMO
Does Kris here know the "problem" was death?

Kris looks to Gail, then to Nemo.

KRIS
Um, yes, I heard. It's...awful.

Nemo motions to the chair.

NEMO
This the kind that killed Benson?

KRIS
Well, the same model. This one's safe. I...just checked it myself.
(beat)
You can sit in it. If you like.

NEMO

No, thanks. Not my type.

DELGADO

Maybe we should move on.

NEMO

Not yet. How easy would it be to mess with one of these? Make it do whatever it's done so far?

GAIL

Someone would have to know this equipment very well.

NEMO

A disgruntled SexNET employee maybe?

GAIL

Maybe. But I doubt it.

NEMO

But it's a possibility?

GAIL

Anything's a possibility, detective, but not a probability.

NEMO

You run a full level diagnostic on these things?

GAIL

Yes. I'm surprised you know enough to ask.

NEMO

I saw it on an old TV show as a kid. Sounded like the thing to ask.

From a side door, Robert the robot comes up.

ROBERT

Ms. Vanderpool.

GAIL

I think we're done here. Robert will show you out.

ROBERT

Please follow me.

NEMO

Just like that?

GAIL

Oh, we'll see each other again. Now,
if you excuse me.

EXT. SEXNET HEADQUARTERS - FEW MINUTES LATER

Delgado and Nemo walk to their car.

DELGADO

Jesus, Nemo. I can't let you work
this case if you don't put some shit
behind you.

Nemo stops, bringing them both to an abrupt halt.

NEMO

Victoria died thanks to that AI shit
they push on people in there.

DELGADO

It's been three years, Nemo. You
gotta let go of it.

NEMO

Three-and-half, Gus. It's been three-
and-a-half.

INT. NEMO'S APARTMENT - NIGHT - LATER

Nemo enters the apartment. He hesitates at the bedroom door.
Then opens it.

The picture of Victoria stares back at him.

He goes to the night stand by the bed and opens the drawer.
An older pair of goggles stare back at him. He closes the
drawer abruptly, shutting the goggles out of sight.

He lies down on the bed, hits a nearby button. An old love
ballad from the 1950s fills the room. He stares at
Victoria's picture and closes his eyes.

EXT. CITY - EARLY EVENING (DREAM)

VICTORIA MARKONIN is at the wheel of s self-driving car.
She's watching the traffic - cars and pedestrians. She's
listening to he same song Nemo is listening to.

OUT OF NOWHERE, a MAN with SexNet googles wanders toward her
car. She swerves to miss and hits an oncoming truck. Too
late to get out of its way.

INT. NEMO'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Nemo sits up suddenly, disoriented. Looking at Victoria's picture brings him back to reality.

NEMO

Shit.

He gets up, straightens himself up, heads to the door.

NEMO (cont'd)

(to the picture.)

Sorry, babe. I gotta go. Bad guys to catch.

EXT. STREET - OUTSIDE APARTMENT - CITY - NIGHT

Nemo is in his car watching an apartment building in a rundown part of the city.

Sex addicts walk down the street with their goggles on.

A couple with goggles do a dance on the sidewalk without touching each other.

An unmarked police car cruises by, an endorphin monitor on the roof in plain sight.

The female voice of SexNET over the sounds of the city.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

SexNET, the safe, legal way to say
yes to your fantasies.

Nemo puts on a pair of latex gloves and gets out of the car.

INT. R.T.'S APARTMENT - SAME TIME

VIRTUAL REALITY

An athletically built BLACK MAN and a gorgeous BLACK WOMAN are having sex. The Black Man moans as the Black Woman runs her finger nails down and deep into his back...

REALITY

R.T. (late 30s), a small skinny, black man, lies in a brand new SexNet chair, the only piece of furniture in his rundown apartment.

R.T.

Oh, baby, ...not so hard.

A KNOCK on a door, followed by...

NEMO (O.S.)
Open up, R.T. It's a customer.

R.T. sits up so fast the goggles yank away from his head.

R.T.
(to himself)
Customer my ass.
(beat)
Yeah, just a minute.

Another KNOCK.

NEMO (O.S.)
Come on, I ain't got all day.

R.T. tries to disentangle himself from the chair.

R.T.
Yeah, yeah, hold 'yer fuckin' balls,
man.

He finally gets himself out of the chair and is out the window, just as...

IN THE HALL

Nemo hears the CLATTERING FROM INSIDE, hesitates, then breaks the door in.

INSIDE THE APARTMENT

He sees the open window, then runs back out into the hall.

EXT. STREET - OUTSIDE R.T. 'S APARTMENT - SAME TIME

Nemo runs out of the building and sees R.T. round a corner.

They run...past the SEX ADDICTS sharing ViR goggles...

...a HOMELESS MAN with a pair of goggles, one lens missing...

...a WOMAN without any apparatus talking to herself.

Nemo catches up and tackles R.T. from behind in the middle of the street.

They land between two cars, the one in the rear just barely stopping an inch from R.T.'s head.

NEMO
Where you runnin', R.T.?

R.T.
Just gettin' some exercise, man.

The drivers of both cars get out to look. Nemo notices.

NEMO
Get back in your cars!

The drivers back off. Nemo shoves R.T.'s head closer to the wheel of the forward car.

NEMO (CONT'D)
I thought we were friends.

R.T.
We will be, soon as you let go 'a my head!

NEMO
Get up!

R.T. doesn't move at first then Nemo yanks him to his feet. He leads him across the street, and into an alley.

NEMO (CONT'D)
Now how 'bout tellin' me what's up?

R.T. notices the gloves on Nemo's hands.

R.T.
You don't need those things, man. I'm clean.

NEMO
Maybe I'm not. Now talk to me.

R.T. fidgets.

R.T.
It's quiet, man. Too quiet. I can hear myself think. I hate that.

NEMO
Yeah, you never were much of a thinker. You're also a shitty liar?

R.T. hesitates, looking around, nervous like.

R.T.
There's some scarey shit going down. I can feel it. All right.

NEMO

What kind scarey shit?

R.T.

People man. That's what?

NEMO

What people?

R.T.

I don't know. Big fuckers. In suits. Hasslin' me.

NEMO

Why? You had some problems with merchandise lately?

R.T.

I'm a businessman. I can't afford bad merch.

NEMO

Well, I got two dead bodies 'cuz of bad merchandise. You know anything about that?

R.T.

No, man, I don't know nothin'.

Nemo shoves him hard up against the wall of the closest building.

R.T. (cont'd)

I swear it on my fat daddy's grave.

Nemo loosens his grip.

R.T. (cont'd)

I'll tell you this, man. I ain't had shit to sell in weeks. Goggles. Suits. You name it. I can't get it.

NEMO

Why?

R.T.

Fuckin' sexual libboes, man. I hear they're gettin' organized. Then what's R.T. gonna do. Sell government drugs? No fuckin' way.

NEMO

That's what you hear? From the "big fuckers in suits?"

R.T.

Yeah. Then they tried to get me to tell them who my customers are.

NEMO

And?

R.T.

You know how it is out here. Nobody's got a name. You just a face. And if you got money, you just a face with money.

Nemo backs off.

NEMO

These big fuckers - just faces with money?

R.T.

No man, they ain't buyin'. Tryin' to keep me from sellin'! Fuckin' up the la-zay fair economics.

NEMO

You seeing them again?

R.T.

Hope not. I like breathin'.

NEMO

Who's the last person you sold anything too?

R.T.

Some crazy fucker named Leary.

NEMO

Leary. What's his deal?

R.T.

Former pimp...when you could do that?

NEMO

That how you knew him?

R.T.

Shit, man. Why you always hangin' on to the past? That's back in the then.

Nemo gives R.T. a good once over.

NEMO

When's the last time you ate?

R.T.
Three days. Maybe four...

Nemo pulls out a plastic card and hands it to R.T.

NEMO
Here. Get yourself some food. None of
that packaged shit. The real thing.

R.T. takes it tentatively at first, looking around, then
stuffs it in a pocket.

R.T.
Thanks, man. That it?

NEMO
For now. Those big fuckers, Leary,
anybody come around again.

R.T.
Call you. Faster'n you can say R. T.

R.T. tips his finger to his head and is off.

Across the street, TWO MEN sit in a car watching him as Nemo
walks to his car, gets in and drives away.

INT. R.T.'S APARTMENT - FEW MINUTES LATER

R.T. comes in and heads right to his Sexnet chair.

R.T.
All right, now where was I?

As he starts to get into the chair, the Two Men who were
watching Nemo move out of the shadows of the room.

BIG MAN #1
Hey, R.T.

R.T.
Oh, shit.

BIG MAN #1
No, shit.

BIG MAN #2
We-e-e're ba-a-a-ck.

R.T. backs toward a nearby window.

Big Man #1 heads toward him and stops at the Sexnet chair.

BIG MAN #1

Nice chair.

R.T.

It's yours, man. All yours. It's all I got.

BIG MAN #1

Nah, we told 'ya. We don't want 'yer stuff. We just want you to keep 'yer fucking mouth shut and stop sellin' it for awhile.

R.T

I can do that, man. Really, I can.

BIG MAN #1

Saw you with the cop. We want to make sure.

He pulls out a stun gun and shoots R.T. between the eyes.

A bolt of electricity arcs into R.T. His body falls backwards. His hand grasping the card Nemo gave him.

Big Man #2 gives his body a kick. Satisfied, he leans down, takes the card out of R.T.'s hand.

He pulls an old fashioned lighter out of his pocket, lights it on and throws it into the room. It immediately goes up in flames, and the Two Men head out the door.

CLOSE ON R.T.'s eyes, their reflection leaving the room.

EXT. BLUE HOUSE BAR - NIGHT - LATER

A neon light flashes "BLUE HOUSE BAR" in rhythm to a heavy techno beat coming from inside.

Couples walk in together careful not to touch -- men with women, women with women and men with men.

CLOSE ON a sign on a wall near the entrance that says: "ARTICLE 86 PROHIBITS SEXUAL OR PHYSICAL CONTACT OF ANY KIND. MAXIMUM SENTENCE IS LIFE IMPRISONMENT." Below the sign is the SexNET logo.

The female voice of SexNET welcomes them...

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

Come share a fantasy with a friend...

INT. BLUE HOUSE BAR

The place is awash in a blue pulsating light.

Bodies dance and grind without touching to a hypnotic techno-beat. Everyone wears SexNet goggles.

INTERCUT VIRTUAL REALITY

The same bodies are nude or partially so, engaged in an orgiastic frenzy of dance and sex.

REALITY

Some couples sit at tables, drinking, their goggles lying off to the side.

There's some surreptitious fondling going on, in the shadows, and under the tables.

INTERCUT VICE MONITORING STATION IN THE BAR

TWO VICE COPS sit watching video monitors of what's happening on the bar floor. Other body function monitors have a dozen or more electronic spikes running across them.

BAR VICE COP #1

Christ, I hate this. How the hell can we monitor endorphin levels, adrenalin counts and alpha waves on this many people?

BAR VICE COP #2

Stop worrying, this stuff will start screaming if anyone tries the real thing.

BAR VICE COP #1

What about that shit?

He points at a monitor.

ANGLE ON THE MONITOR

A couple at a table are touching without kissing.

BACK TO SCENE

BAR VICE COP #2

They get out of hand, we call in the cavalry. Meanwhile, sit back and watch.

BACK TO VIRTUAL REALITY

The dance floor light slowly becomes red, and the music takes on an urgency that wasn't there before.

Several of the dancers begin to change into monsters and hellish creatures.

ON VICE COPS

The monitors with the spikes start to go nuts. A low level ALARM BUZZER goes off.

BAR VICE COP #1
What the hell's going on in there?

Vice Cop #2 is at one of the monitors. The images are all warped and out of focus.

BAR VICE COP #2
I don't know. I can't tell!

Then the video monitors go black.

BAR VICE COP #1
Jesus. Call control. Tell them
to get a wagon down there. Now!

BACK TO SCENE - REALITY

Panic are panicked. They try to take off their SexNet goggles but can't.

VIRTUAL REALITY

The monsters begin to attack, clawing, strangling, ripping at those around them.

BACK TO SCENE

Some people try to run for the door but can't get out.

Others turn and strike back at each other -- clawing, strangling, and ripping out of survival.

The entire place is chaos and mayhem.

INT. ROOM - SAME TIME

It's the same dimly lit place we saw earlier. The same androgynous Solitary Figure sits at the computer bubble terminal; electrodes running from their neck to the terminal.

The frozen screaming faces of the dancers at the Blue House are reflected in the Sexnet goggles on the person's face.

CLOSE ON the person's mouth with a tight smile.

SOLITARY FIGURE

I just gave a whole new meaning to group sex.

INT. CAFE - EARLY MORNING - NEXT DAY

Nemo sits at a small booth eating breakfast. Nothing fancy or automated here. And mostly old timers at the booths and tables.

GAIL (O.S.)

This your idea of low tech dining?

He looks up at Gail looking over him.

NEMO

The service is real. So's the food.

The old-timers stare at her. She's not the normal clientele.

GAIL

And you don't have to worry about any tech kind of thing getting in between you and what's on the plate.

NEMO

That your idea of a compliment?

GAIL

No. Sorry.

She slides in opposite him.

NEMO

How'd you know where to find me?

GAIL

You want cybercom or honesty?

NEMO

Try honesty. We don't get much these days.

GAIL

I talked to the Captain late yesterday.

NEMO

What else he tell you that you didn't need to know? Like I have a low EQ.

GAIL

You're a lousy communicator. A widower... And a technophobe.

NEMO

Delgado tell you that last bit or you figured it out all by yourself?

GAIL

I thought I should know who I was partnering with.

NEMO

We're not dating, we're working together.

GAIL

You always have this chip on your shoulder?

NEMO

Yeah, it keeps my back straight.

(beat)

You think I shouldn't be on this case?

GAIL

Tell you what, you give me the benefit of the doubt...and I'll do the same.

NEMO

Fair.

(beat)

So, what's your cybercom expertise come up with so far?

GAIL

You were right. The two victims were research scientists...and they worked on the same project.

NEMO

What kind of project?

GAIL

Sexually transmitted diseases. They worked with a university group called S one.

NEMO

I thought those groups had been disbanded four or five years ago.

GAIL

They were. Apparently theirs was the last to go.

NEMO

Anyone else at the university still around from that one?

GAIL

A guy named George Lakewood.

She pauses before going on.

NEMO

Well?

GAIL

I don't think he's going to do us much good. He's doing life at one of the sex penal colonies.

NEMO

Really. This gets more interesting as we go. Anyone else who can tell us about this S one project?

GAIL

Dr. Fallow. He's a bio-surgeon. His department had the grant. He's still at the university but went on to other projects when funding dried up for S one.

(beat)

What about you, cowboy, you found out anything?

NEMO

Sexual libertarians poking around the black market.

GAIL

The neo-right wing hippies?

NEMO

I think it's more than that. Those guys don't hire goons.

(beat)

Tell me something, what brought you to SexNet?

GAIL

You mean, what's a nice girl like me doing in a place like that.

NEMO

I don't know if you're nice or not. Just curious.

GAIL

Well, I didn't start there. I got hired from a small tech firm. I was always good with tech and problem solving. Now I get to do both.

NEMO

For the biggest fucking - literally - company on earth.

GAIL

Literally.

(beat)

What about you? Did you play cops and robbers as a kid? Dad was a cop?

NEMO

I wanted to catch bad guys.

GAIL

That seems overly simple.

NEMO

It's not.

(beat)

Most people think it's black and white. Good guys and bad guys.

GAIL

And you don't.

NEMO

You like numbers, right?

Gail nods, waiting for him to go on.

NEMO (cont'd)

Well there are three kinds of bad guys. The ones who just do stupid things and it catches up to them. That's like eight-five percent of the ones out there. Then there's the ten percent who are bad because they don't know any better or have a bone to pick.

GAIL
Nature versus nurture.

NEMO
Sure. If you want.

GAIL
And the third? The other five percent?

NEMO
Pure, fucking evil.

GAIL
What are we dealing with here?

NEMO
Too soon to tell.

Nemo's video phone CHIMES. Delgado appears in the monitor.

DELGADO
Markonin, we got a mess at the Blue House. Meet me there.
(beat)
And Markonin... your street guy, R.T.? When's the last time you saw him?

NEMO
Last night, why?

DELGADO
He's dead. Apartment was torched.

NEMO
Shit.

DELGADO
He give you anything?

NEMO
Maybe.
(beat)
See you at the Blue House.

His hologram disappears just as quickly.

NEMO (cont'd)
You drive?

GAIL
Yes.

NEMO
 Good, I'll eat.

He folds his toast over an egg making a sandwich and is out the door with it in his hand.

EXT. BLUE HOUSE - DAY- LATER

A light snow falls as bodies are being hauled out on stretchers. Blood everywhere.

A small crowd of onlookers is gathered behind the holographic crime scene boundary.

Nemo and Gail pull up in her car.

He gets out, surveys the crowd of onlookers, and walks toward the front entrance of the building without waiting for Gail to catch up.

Delgado comes out of the front door of the building as Nemo meets him.

DELGADO
 Helluva way to start the day.

NEMO
 How many?

DELGADO
 Twelve...so far.

NEMO
 (looking around)
 No media vultures?

DELGADO
 Banner got to them already.

Gail catches up on cue.

NEMO
 (to Gail)
 So much for power of the press.

A WOUNDED MAN is carried past. His bloody face stares back, hollow-eyed.

Nemo stops the paramedics.

NEMO (CONT'D)
 Can I talk to him a minute?

PARAMEDIC

Two minutes.

Nemo looks at his face. CLOSE ON the burn marks at his temples.

NEMO

Hey. You doin' all right?

The man looks away.

NEMO (CONT'D)

Yeah. I know you probably don't want to talk about it.

(beat)

What happened in there?

WOUNDED MAN

(throaty whisper)

I didn't touch anybody. I swear it.

NEMO

It's all right. Just tell me what you saw.

WOUNDED MAN

Blood. Everywhere. And these monsters. Everyone monsters.

NEMO

Monsters?

WOUNDED MAN

It was real. I saw it. I saw it!

His body grows tense, his eyes go wide, he stiffens up...and dies.

Nemo closes the man's eyes. He motions for the paramedics to come over.

Gail joins him as they watch them take the body away.

DELGADO

This is gettin' uglier by the day.

NEMO

(to Gail)

Still think SexNET should stay on line?

GAIL

We don't know enough yet.

He motions to the devastated bodies around him.

NEMO
Look around you. Reality's a bitch,
isn't it?

GAIL
I can handle it.

NEMO
We'll see.

Gail's PHONE CHIMES. She looks at the text.

GAIL
It's Banner. He said they found
something.

NEMO
(to Delgado)
Hey, Boss. We need to head back to
SexNet.

DELGADO
Great. We go together. Meet you
there.

INT. SEXNET CONTROL CENTER - LATER

Nemo, Banner, and Gail walk through a cavernous room filled with more sophisticated versions of the computer bubble monitors at the police station.

In the middle of the room is a 30-foot monitor with bubbles of liquid of various colors and sizes floating inside.

Banner is there to meet them.

NEMO
So what did you find?

BANNER
Nothing definitive, but we think
we've identified a virus.

NEMO
A computer virus killed these people?
How the hell'd it get in your system?

BANNER
We aren't sure yet.

Kris is at one of the monitors. She smiles shyly at Nemo who returns it just to be friendly.

NEMO
(pointing at the
monitor)
Is that it?

What looks like a small, sickly green blob floats within her monitor among the other colored bubbles of information.

KRIS
Yes...it is.

NEMO
Why not just zap it, or erase it or something?

BANNER
Kris, show the detective what happens when we try to "zap" it.

Kris manipulates a control and another blob of liquid moves toward the green one.

As it reaches it, the green one morphs into a small monster that quickly envelopes the other blob, then sets off a high pitched wolf-like howl.

NEMO
Jesus Christ. If it does that in there, what's it do to people?

BANNER
We aren't sure but it may create a feedback loop of some sort. Triggered by a highly excited state of brain activity.

GAIL
Electro-chemical conduction.

NEMO
Like I said, what's it do?

GAIL
You've never used SexNET have you?

NEMO
I told you, it's not my type.

GAIL

When you're in our system, what you see, hear, smell, and touch is what you get. And the more excited you get, the more exciting the experience. This virus appears to feed that excitement back on itself...

NEMO

...and short circuits your brain.

GAIL

Apparently.

NEMO

Then why the bloody mess this morning? Those people attacked each other while their brains were being fried.

BANNER

We're taking a look at the disc from Benson's unit and anything we can find from the Blue House.

NEMO

Why not just shut the whole thing down until you do?

GAIL

You shut down the system, then we have no way of finding out more about it.

NEMO

It's a goddamn machine. Just turn it off.

GAIL

It's not that simple. This virus is to our system what an illness is to a person. We shut the system down and we have no way of knowing anything about it, or where it will spread next. If it goes untreated, we've got a plague on our hands.

(beat)

You find out who started it. We'll find out how to stop it.

NEMO

Fine. But you better take another look in your own backyard 'cuz it

(MORE)

NEMO (cont'd)
 looks to me like whoever "infected"
 your system knows a helluva lot
 about it.

Nemo starts to leave.

BANNER
 And what will you be doing in the
 meantime, Detective?

NEMO
 Me? I've got pimps, felons and former
 professors to talk to. If they don't
 know anything, I might get a good
 laugh for the day.
 (to Delgado)
 Get her back to her car. I've got
 work to do.

GAIL
 I should go.

NEMO
 I don't think so. This one's my call.

Nemo heads for the door.

INT. NEMO'S CAR - DAY - LATER

Nemo drives on an abandoned looking, slush-clogged highway.
 Harrold's with him.

HARROLD
 So what's this pair 'a legs from
 SexNET like?

NEMO
 You're worst nightmare. A reformed
 nymphomaniac in search of the truth.

HARROLD
 Jesus. Sounds like my kinda woman.

NEMO
 Depends on your taste doesn't it?
 (beat)
 Anything on that suit Beth Montgomery
 was wearing?

HARROLD
 Came back clean. She's had it for
 about a year.

NEMO
Expensive suit for a retired
government researcher.

HARROLD
Maybe she saved up?

NEMO
What about this guy? Leary.

HARROLD
You already knew about the pimp part.
Supplied hookers to people who
couldn't afford SexNet when it first
went on line. Like R.T. told you,
he's leading one of the sexual
liberation fronts.

NEMO
Prostitution to politics. Sounds
like a step down. How come he's
not in one of the sex pens?

HARROLD
He never touched anyone.

They pull into the slush filled yard of a small farm - white
barn and old-fashioned house.

HARROLD (CONT'D)
Looks like someplace you'd live,
Markonin.

NEMO
Communes aren't my idea of home.

INT./EXT. FARM HOUSE - SAME TIME

LEARY, a tall, wiry man watches the car pull into the yard
from a second story window.

A CAT sits in the window sill, watching.

Behind him, several people are working on a SexNet chair
connected to a bunch of monitors. Leary turns quickly away
from the window.

LEARY
Looks like cops. Let's go!

A door slides open on a nearby wall and everyone starts
scrambling through it into the attic.

OUTSIDE

Nemo and Harrold walk up to the door of the house and knock. There's no answer. Nemo tries the door. It's unlocked.

NEMO

Cover the back.

Harrold waddles off around the house, gun drawn. Nemo draws his and enters the house.

INSIDE HOUSE

The inside is a retro 1960s hang-out. A sign on a wall has giant SexNET logo with a giant slash through it. One more says "Peace + Love = War"

Nemo checks out different rooms. No one in sight. Then he HEARS A SOUND coming from one.

He moves cautiously toward the sound coming from behind a stack of boxes. He kicks one aside, gun ready.

The CAT that was in the window sill jumps out.

Nemo nearly fires but checks himself. The cat runs quickly out of the room.

Nemo takes a breath then notices a book that has fallen to the floor off the boxes. He picks it up.

CLOSE ON THE BOOK

The cover - "An Anarchist's Guide to Computer Terrorism."

BACK TO SCENE

Nemo puts the book down and continues his search.

ON HARROLD in another part of the home.

He goes up a back stairway.

He's on the second floor, and he checks the first room he comes to. He opens the door quickly, gun drawn.

It's the bathroom. An empty toilet stares back at him.

He backs off, and heads down the hall. There's another door. This one's closed, too.

He opens it slowly.

From his POV we begin to see a SexNet chair. As the door opens all the way we see that it's partially disassembled. It's the room where Leary and the others were.

As Harrold enters the room...

HARROLD
(under his breath)
Sonuvabitch.

FROM HIS POV monitors are on and hooked to various parts of the chair.

He lowers his gun as he takes this in.

HARROLD (CONT'D)
Hey, Mar...

Before he can finish it, there's a gun at his head. Leary is at the other end of it.

LEARY
Don't even think about it.
Now give me that gun, or I'll...

Nemo's behind him, his gun at Leary's head.

NEMO
...blow your head off.

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - LATER

Nemo leads Leary through the main room. Harrold's right behind him.

HARROLD
I'm tellin' ya'. I would've had him.

NEMO
With what? Pieces of your brain.

LEARY
You can't do this to me. I didn't know you were cops. You were trespassin'. This is a stand your ground state.

NEMO
Yeah, well you did a shitty job of standing.

He pushes Leary through a door marked "Interrogation."

NEMO (cont'd)
Now have a seat.

Before Nemo goes into the room, Gail joins him.

GAIL
Looks like you found a suspect.
And he's in one piece.

LEARY
Who's she?

NEMO
You're worst nightmare. SexNET.
(to Gail)
How'd you know?

GAIL
Delgado. He's being collaborative.

NEMO
It's an act. You can go home now.

GAIL
I think I'll stay.

LEARY
Shit. Greedy bourgeois bastards.

GAIL
If that's the way he's going to be
about it, mind if I sit in?

Nemo considers this a moment, then motions for her to lead the way.

NEMO
After you.

LEARY
I want to see my attorney.

NEMO
Pretend she's your attorney.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - SAME TIME

Nemo shoves Leary into a chair. The only other piece of furniture in the room is a table pushed up against the wall.

Harrold and Gail enter and stand off to the side. Nemo paces around Leary.

NEMO

What's your story, Leary? I heard from an old friend you and your sex freedom fighters are going to take down SexNet. That why you have one of their chairs at that piece of stand your ground shit you call home?

LEARY

Fuck you. Fuck the cops. Fuck it all.

NEMO

That what it says in your book here?

He picks a copy off the table and tosses it at Leary. It lands heavy in his lap.

NEMO (CONT'D)

...fuck you?

(beat)

Maybe you ought to be reading Ms. Manners instead.

LEARY

Why? You guys plan on making reading illegal, too.

NEMO

Answer some questions or I'll make sure you go to the penal colony where you can read all you want.

LEARY

Fuck you.

NEMO

We'll get to that. First, tell me about what you bought from R.T.

LEARY

Who?

NEMO

Wiry guy knew you from your pimp days. He said you sold him a chair. Maybe like the one back at your place.

LEARY

So I bought a chair. You can't send me for that.

NEMO

If you got two goons with a penchant
for murder and arson, I can.

LEARY

I don't know what you're talking
about.

Nemo shoves Leary's head into the table.

NEMO

Maybe R.T.s charred body says
otherwise!

LEARY

R.T.s dead? Jesus! Let me up!

GAIL

Can I try?...As his attorney.

Nemo looks at her then eases up on and let's go of Leary's
head.

NEMO

First time for everything.

Gail comes up to Leary, a hint of seduction.

LEARY

This is an act isn't it? You fuckers
are settin' me up. Bad cop/good cop
shit.

GAIL

It's no act, Leary. Here's the deal.
Do you know what I do at SexNet?

LEARY

I don't give a shit.

GAIL

Well, maybe you should.
(beat)

We have a record of every single
thing every single person fantasizes
about once they get on the network -
no matter what.

Leary starts to squirm.

LEARY

Yeah, so?

GAIL

So, we can also make stuff up if we want. Put in search terms like child porn, maybe animal sex into a person's profile. You don't have those things in your profile, do you?

LEARY

That's illegal, man. That's all ill-fuckin-legal.

GAIL

And what were you doin', Leary? Something illegal maybe? Like corporate sabotage? Overthrowing the government? Killing people?

LEARY

Hey, you fuckers gotta answer to cops, too, just like the rest of us.

GAIL

What do you care? You're a revolutionary. You were a pimp. You must've had sex with some of your girls. Maybe even the underage ones.

LEARY

Never, man. I never touched any of 'em.

GAIL

So you say, but maybe we need to check your profile.

LEARY

Aw, shit, man. You can't do that.
(to Nemo)
Detective?!

NEMO

Funny, I'm not hearing any of this.
(to Harrold)
You hearing any of this?

HARROLD

Not a word.

LEARY

All right. All right!

Leary's lost all the bluster and edge he came in with.

NEMO

Talk to me. What the hell are you up to?

LEARY

The revolution, man. We're gonna eighty six article eighty six. And all the fuckers that made it this way.

NEMO

What about the black market SexNet shit at your place? That book?

LEARY

Ok. Ok. RT sold me the chair. But I don't know about any goons. I liked RT. We had each others back when we needed it.

NEMO

Why the chair?

LEARY

We're tryin' to figure out how to fuck them up. When we do the whole thing's gonna come down. And there's gonna be the biggest fuckin' love party like you ever saw.

NEMO

You don't know shit about computers do you?

LEARY

We can turn 'em on. We can turn 'em off. We'll get there.

NEMO

Shit.

LEARY

You know George Lakewood could've saved us a lot of fuckin' trouble.

NEMO

What do you know about him?

LEARY

Gave a big speech at a libertarian gathering once. About how this project, S-something or other, was gonna let everyone touch each other again. Man, everybody thought he was
(MORE)

LEARY (cont'd)
God that night.

NEMO
Whaddaya think happened to him?

LEARY
Heard he stepped over the line.
If you know what I mean.

NEMO
Yeah, I think I do.
(to Harrold)
Get him outta here.

Harrold leads Leary to the door. Leary stops and faces Gail.

LEARY
(to Gail)
You had me goin' there.

GAIL
Did I?

LEARY
Oh, shit.

HARROLD
Come on, perv. Court's gonna have a
field day with you.

NEMO
(to Gail)
Looks like we're paying Mr. Lakewood
a visit.

INT. OUTSIDE INTERROGATION ROOM - SAME TIME

Nemo follows Leary out as he's led away by Harrold in cuffs.

Delgado joins them.

DELGADO
I saw the whole thing. You going to
see Lakewood?

NEMO
Yep. Next stop.

DELGADO
I already called ahead. They're
expecting you. Just watch yourself.
You put some people in there wouldn't
mind taking you out if they could.

NEMO

You baby sitting me now?

DELGADO

Just looking out for both of you.

NEMO

Both of us?

DELGADO

Yeah, she's going with you.

INT. NEMO'S CAR - LATER

Nemo and Gail drive through the country on another slush-filled highway.

GAIL

Do they really put everyone together.
Infected or not?

NEMO

Yeah. Anything to do with sex gets
you life inside. Pretty lousy way
to live, isn't it?

GAIL

You're a cop. Isn't that the way you
want it?

NEMO

No. sometimes that's not the way I
want it.

EXT. U.S. SEX PENAL COLONY 124 - LATER

The penal colony is walled, barb-wired, and fixed with laser sensors, cameras and other security devices.

Two guards man the single gated entrance. A sign at the gate says "U.S.SEX PENAL COLONY 124."

Nemo pulls up to the gate, and a guard steps up to the car.

GUARD

I-D, please.

Nemo and Gail hand theirs over.

GUARD (CONT'D)

Stay in your vehicle while it's
(MORE)

GUARD (CONT'D)
being scanned.

As he walks away a scanner goes over the car, top and bottom.

INSIDE THE GUARD HOUSE

Three men watch over video surveillance of every aspect of the area.

The FULL CONTENTS OF THE CAR can be seen on a monitor.

BACK TO SCENE

Nemo's attention goes to a sign at the gate.

CLOSE ON SIGN "You are required by law to wear personal protective EQUIPMENT within the confines of this facility."

The Guard comes out with their I-D's and two white bundles.

GUARD
There's protective gear for both of you.

Nemo takes the white bundles and hands one to Gail.

GUARD (CONT'D)
Lakewood's at the Rec Center. We'll have you under surveillance if anything happens.

GAIL
(to Nemo)
If anything happens...

NEMO
You're the one who wanted to come along.

EXT. REC CENTER

Nemo pulls the car up beside a dilapidated metal quonset hut.

He and Gail get out of the car. She pulls out a face mask and holds it up.

GAIL
Think this is necessary?

NEMO
I wouldn't take any chances.

He takes a gun out of from under the seat and puts it into a side holster.

GAIL

How'd you get that past the gate?

NEMO

Too much metal in these old cars.
Hard for them to tell what's what.

JACK (40s) a big convict works in the yard shoveling snow with some other convicts. He watches Nemo and Gail walk into the building.

INT. REC CENTER

The inside is a neo-60s coffee house. Strobe lights flicker dimly in the corners. A crystal mirror ball rotates haphazardly above the dance floor.

Couples sit together, touching each other freely. Others sit at tables kissing openly.

Some of the people appear emaciated. Others covered with small open sores.

As Nemo and Gail enter they pass an Article 86 sign like the one at the Blue House, but with a circle and slash mark through it. They stop to look over the place.

GAIL

(whispered)

This is just old-fashioned enough to suit you, Nemo.

NEMO

There you go with the compliments again.

The conversation buzz inside the room comes to a halt. All attention is on the READER, an androgynous, pale ghost of a man on the stage reciting a poem.

READER

...inside we die while outside the
machines jerk us off
and the government watches
and big business profits
and we touch each other no more...
except in our dreams.

Nemo and Gail stop in the room clad in their white protective gear and masks.

READER (CONT'D)

Machine dreams...
 umbilical cords of sex
 letting us feel
 what we cannot touch,
 except in an orgasm of electrodes
 and chips -- a nanosecond climax.
 Exploding in a dream...killing us
 Unmercifully, slowly,
 a nightmare incarnate
 Until we can feel no more.

SILENCE

NEMO

(to Gail)

Not what you thought, is it?

Before Gail can answer...

JACK (O.S.)

Hey. If it isn't our friendly
 neighborhood constable - Nemo
 Markonin.

Jack comes up to Nemo. In his face. Three other inmates join
 him, create a circle around Nemo and Gail.

JACK

I smell cop.
 (to Gail with a big
 whiff)
 And something even better.

NEMO

Hi, Jack. How's that hand?

Jack holds up a mangled left hand and sneers.

JACK

Peachy. Ya know, I didn't like cops
 then, I hate them even more now. They
 take things from people. Put 'em
 where they don't belong.

NEMO

Oh, this place deserves you.

JACK

Watch yourself Markonin. You're in
 our house now.

GEORGE (O.S.)

You lookin' for George Lakewood?

Nemo turns to see GEORGE LAKEWOOD, a sixty year old, sickly man standing by himself.

NEMO
You know where he is?

GEORGE
Follow me. And don't mind Jack.
He's just an angry young man.

He shuffles off without another word. Nemo shoves his way past Jack.

JACK
Careful. People get desperate when
there's nothin' to lose.

Jack backs off, the two of them staring each other down.

NEMO
(to Gail)
Don't mind him. He's an old friend.

George walks ahead then stops at a booth and sits. Nemo and Gail join him.

NEMO (CONT'D)
Why'd we stop here?

GEORGE
I'm George Lakewood. You wanted to
meet me. Who are you?

NEMO
Detective Markonin.

GAIL
Gail Vanderpool. SexNET.

GEORGE
I wouldn't brag about that in here.
(beat)
You know what they call this place?
(beat)
Horny Island.

He lets loose with a short, nervous, crazy laugh then changes expressions.

GEORGE (CONT'D)
Horny Island.
(beat)
You like poetry?

NEMO

Look, George, we need to ask you some questions.

GEORGE

I wrote that poem. The one he was reading when you came in.

(to Gail)

Did you like it?

GAIL

Very provocative.

George smiles, then scowls.

GEORGE

It's a piece a shit.

(to Nemo)

People don't think about us in here. What made you think about me?

NEMO

Some people you used to work with are dead.

GEORGE

What else is new?

NEMO

They died from a virus in SexNET.

GEORGE

Someone's made virtual sex deadly, too? Looks like people are going to have to stick with what's at hand.

Another nervous laugh from George.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Stick with what's at hand.

NEMO

You know anyone outside who could make a computer virus like that?

GEORGE

Tim. He could. He could do anything. Such a golden boy he was. He had everything...and they took it away.

GAIL

The virus has killed fourteen people so far.

GEORGE

Twenty-five died in here yesterday.
No one wants to know that.

(beat)

I don't belong out there now. I was
bad out there. So was Tim.

NEMO

You or Tim have anything to do with
the sexual libertarians?

GEORGE

(proud)

They wanted my project. They wanted
me and Tim and the others.

NEMO

What about the project, George?

George's expression changes to that of a scolded young boy.

GEORGE

It was "bad." Bad project. I
shouldn't have told anybody. I just
wanted people to touch each other
again. It was so cold out there. So
cold.

He hugs himself.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Is it still cold?

NEMO

Yeah, George, it's still pretty cold.
(to Gail)
Come on. I think he's had enough.

As they get up to leave. George reaches out and grabs Nemo's
arm. He leans forward conspiratorially, Nemo's face mask
comes precariously close to coming off.

GEORGE

They touch in here you know. No one
cares. 'Cuz we're all dying.

(beat)

I'm sorry. I just wanted everyone to
touch each other again.

Nemo takes George's hand away.

NEMO

Maybe someday you will.

George watches them both leave.

GEORGE

Come again.

This causes him to laugh once more.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Come again.

FROM ANOTHER PART OF THE ROOM, Jack watches Nemo and Gail go.

EXT. REC CENTER

As Nemo and Gail exit, they walk to their car, both pulling off their masks.

NEMO

So, Vanderpool, what's your cybercom expertise tell you about George?

GAIL

Think he's crazy?

NEMO

Maybe. Some of the old S-T-Ds used to make you that way...

GAIL

Maybe being in there made him that way.

NEMO

Yeah. Well, now we need to find this Tim. Maybe he can tell us more about this S one project.

INSIDE THE CAR

Just as they get in...

...Jack wraps a garotte around Nemo's throat. Gail YELLS.

JACK

I told you to watch yourself, Cop. People get desperate and I'm really fuckin' desperate.

Nemo tries grabbing his hands, but Jack tightens his hold. As he does he checks Nemo and finds his gun. He looks at it like he's never seen anything like it before.

JACK (CONT'D)

What the hell kinda gun is this?

NEMO

(choking)

The kind that'll kill ya.

JACK

What the hell's it shoot?

NEMO

Bullets. Big ones.

JACK

Well, lucky me. You know these things are dangerous in the wrong hands. Now start the fucking car. You're takin' me outta here.

MOMENTS LATER

Nemo's car pulls up to the Guard gate. The Guard comes out as they stop.

GUARD

Your protective gear please.

As he reaches in, Jack shoots him with Nemo's gun. Then immediately puts it to Nemo's head.

JACK

You're right. Big bullets. Step on it!

Nemo floors it. They crash the gate and careen out onto the highway as the other guards run out from the guard house.

INSIDE THE GUARD HOUSE

A series of WARNING BUZZERS go off. Nemo's car can be seen on a variety of video monitors as it races past.

A SURVEILLANCE GUARD punches up some buttons.

SURVEILLANCE GUARD

We have a Code 3 escape. Initiate termination maneuvers.

PENAL COLONY WALL

The laser guns mounted on the wall swing into action. As Nemo's car races past, they begin firing.

NEMO'S CAR

The car's bumper is hit and a fragment blows off.

INSIDE CAR

Nemo tries to maneuver away from and around the laser fire. The slush makes it hard to stay on track.

Mud and slush fly up all around the car when the guns miss.

GAIL

They're going to kill us!

JACK

Just shut the fuck up and drive!

NEMO'S CAR

Nemo pulls the car out of a tail spin and keeps it moving.

A few more laser rounds and they're soon out of range.

INSIDE CAR

Jack looks back as they drive free of the guns. He lets out a victorious war hoop.

JACK (cont'd)

Ye-e-e-e! Ha-a-a-a! Goddamn
I'm free!

NEMO

Not yet you're not. Look behind us.

Jack and Gail both look.

FROM THEIR POV we see two drone helicopters following them.

JACK

Fuck! Keep it on the road.
I'll take care of them.

He pulls himself half out of the car window. Takes aim at the copters and gets off a couple of shots. The copters return fire.

Nemo swerves to keep from getting hit.

Jack shoots again and a lucky shot knocks out part of the wing of a drone copter. It careens into the forest, bursting into flames.

JACK (CONT'D)

Keep it up, cop. I'm going to be a
free man yet.

He hangs out the window again. And starts to take aim.

Up ahead, Nemo sees an AUTONOMOUS GRAVEL TRUCK coming toward them.

Gail notices the truck.

GAIL
(to Nemo)
Oh, God! You're not.

NEMO
Watch me.

Jack takes a bead on the drone.

The DRONE ACTIVATES its air to surface missile...ready to blow Nemo, Gail and Jack to kingdom come.

The gravel truck keeps coming at them.

Nemo waits until the last moment as they near the truck, then swerves hard toward it.

NEMO (CONT'D)
Jack...

Jack hears his name and looks back toward the truck. He starts to YELL.

Jack hits the truck, flies out of the car and lands under the truck's wheels.

Nemo looks in his rear view mirror, and from his POV he sees Jack's body get crushed.

The missile from the drone hits the gravel truck sending it into flames.

NEMO (CONT'D)
...off.

Nemo pulls the car to a stop.

NEMO (CONT'D)
(to Gail)
You all right?

GAIL
Yeah, I...think so.
(beat)
Nemo, look!

She points out her window. More drones are coming.

NEMO

Shit!

He grabs his video phone. He tries it. It doesn't work. He hits it hard with his hand and it crackles life.

NEMO (CONT'D)

One-twenty-four hold your fire!
I repeat hold your fire!

The helicopters continue coming.

SURVEILLANCE GUARD (O.S.)

Video identification please.

Nemo hits a button and his video monitor flickers to life. The Surveillance Guard is now on screen.

NEMO

This is Detective Nemo Markonin.
Call off the calvary. We're fine.

SURVEILLANCE GUARD

The prisoner?

Nemo looks back at the burning hulk of wrecked truck.

NEMO

Terminated.

EXT./INT. NEMO'S CAR - NIGHT - LATER

Nemo and Gail drive slowly through an upscale part of the city. Empty streets. An occasional walker. No cars.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

Don't spend tonight alone. Let SexNET
give you a night to remember.

Nemo stops in front of a newer high rise. A patrol car sits out front.

As Gail starts to get out of Nemo's car, he stops her.

NEMO

You're gonna be all right. Looks like
Delgado got you some security.

GAIL

We're no closer than we were. Just
more leads.

NEMO

Welcome to my world. We'll tackle it
again in the morning.

She leaves the car and Nemo watches her go inside her
building.

As he drives off, he stops at the patrol car parked outside
her house. The car's window rolls down.

NEMO (cont'd)

(to the two cops
inside the patrol
car)

Keep a close watch. We're making the
bad guys nervous.

He doesn't wait for a response as he drives off.

The Two Men who killed R.T. sit in a car across the street.
As Nemo passes, they start their car and follow him.

INT. NEMO'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Nemo enters. An outdoor streetlight shines in the room.

He takes off his coat and jacket and opens the bedroom door.
Victoria's picture stares back at him.

He goes to the nightstand beside the bed and opens it. The
old pair of SexNet goggles stare up at him.

He picks them up. Holds them like a hot potato. Beads of
sweat break out on his forehead. His body tenses.

He takes out a small computer disc hidden in a recess under
a desk drawer and puts it in a player. Sweating and tense.

He forces the goggles on over his eyes, then turns on the
player and lays down beside the picture of his wife.

Patsy Cline sings "SWEET DREAMS OF YOU."

INSERT VIRTUAL REALITY

Nemo is with Victoria goofing around in a park on a sunny
day.

Then they're in his apartment, dancing and singing along to
Patsy Cline. And the strains of the song bring us to...

...their wedding day, as they kiss.

And the kiss becomes more sensual, as we see them making love.

NEMO
I love you, Victoria.

BACK TO SCENE

Nemo lies in bed. He mouths the words "I love you."

ON THE STREET

The Two Men who killed R.T. sit in their car watching Nemo on a video monitor.

BACK TO NEMO'S APARTMENT

He sits up and takes off the goggles.

NEMO (cont'd)
Fuck it.

He goes to the window of his apartment and opens the curtains.

As he opens the window, he SEES the car with the two men.

EXT. STREET - SAME TIME

Inside the car with the two men.

MAN #1
This guy's got it bad.

MAN #2
His old lady was a looker, man.

There's a knock on the window.

They look up and it's Nemo.

NEMO
You guys lost?

MAN #1
Shit. Get out of here!

As he tries to start the car, Nemo takes a crow bar and smashes a side window.

MAN #2
What the fuck!

NEMO

Get out of the car!

Man #2 panics. The car's not starting. The two men look out of the car and Nemo's disappeared.

MAN #1

What the hell? Start the fucking car and let's get out of here!

MAN #2

I'm trying.

The CAR DASH comes to life. As they gun it, there's a loud BANG.

CLOSE ON crow bar under a back tire with the sharp edge up, causing the tire to explode.

The car limps to a stop, it's not going anywhere.

Nemo comes back around, his gun drawn.

NEMO

Get out of the fucking car, now!

As the Two Men start to get out of the car, Man #1 tries to run.

Harrold steps from around a corner and trips the guy up.

He sprawls out on the ground. He tries to go for a gun, but Harrold takes him out with his stun gun. As he's cuffing him...

HARROLD

(to Nemo)

I was in the neighborhood. You good?

Nemo shoves Man#2 against the car and cuffs him.

NEMO

Yeah, thanks. Let's take these two in and see what they know.

MAN #2

We know you still like to get off with your wife!

Nemo hits him square in the face.

NEMO

You don't talk about my wife.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT - (VIRTUAL REALITY)

Banner sits on a bed. A gorgeous WOMAN dressed in lingerie sits with him. On the bed is a huge chessboard. From the number of pieces on his side, it's clear he's winning.

He moves a piece.

BANNER

Check mate.

WOMAN

You win...again.

Banner clears the pieces and the board from the bed with a swipe of his hand. The woman begins to take off her robe. But her face begins to distort. Her features meld into each other.

Banner watches, more amused than afraid.

INT. RESEARCH CENTER - SEXNET - REALITY

Banner lies in a SexNet chair. Kris sits at a monitor nearby.

BANNER

Is that the best you can do?

KRIS

Yes sir. I can't seem to duplicate the second level of the virus.

Banner's up out of the chair. He yanks the goggles off.

BANNER

Get Vanderpool. Maybe she can do something with this.

EXT. PEBBLE BEACH - DAY (VIRTUAL REALITY)

Delgado stands at the first hole at Pebble Beach. He lines up, hits the ball and it sails straight down the fairway.

He turns around and bows to Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus and Lee Trevino, all of them clapping.

NEMO (O.S.)

How was it?

REALITY -- DELGADO'S OFFICE

Delgado pulls off the goggles. Nemo's standing in his office

DELGADO

Hey, there's more to SexNET than sex
you know.

He looks at Nemo as if noticing him for the first time.

DELGADO (CONT'D)

Jesus, you look like hell.

NEMO

Rough night.

DELGADO

Those two goons you brought in give
you anything yet?

NEMO

Nothing. We ran a background.
Freelancers. Could be working for
anyone. If they're tied to whoever
hacked into SexNet, they're not
talking.

DELGADO

You were lucky yesterday. Lettin'
that crazy fucker take your gun
like that... Not like you.

NEMO

I know.

DELGADO

You making any headway?

NEMO

Everybody's dead, crazy, or
incompetent.

DELGADO

Sounds like an average day for you.

NEMO

Not usually all at once.

(beat)

Here's what I do know. The first two
vics were retired government
researchers who could afford more
than an average pension. Then there's
this S one project that keeps coming
up. Even Gail can't find out much
about it.

DELGADO

You know Banner's this far from dragging in the feds. We either come up with something fast, or we're all be off this case.

NEMO

It's our jurisdiction. What's the big rush? I thought they had everything under control.

DELGADO

They're afraid all hell's gonna break loose if this virus spreads any further. Can you imagine if we had to deal with something else like that again?

(beat)

Billions of people... Christ, how'd we let 'em get this big?

His video phone rings. It's Gail.

GAIL

(on the phone)

Captain Delgado. We isolated some images off the tapes at the Blue House. Is Nemo there?

NEMO

Whaddaya got?

GAIL

I think you both better come and take a look for yourself.

As Nemo and Delgado leave Delgado's office, Harrold comes up.

HARROLD

Hey, those two goons we brought in?

NEMO

Yeah, they talk yet?

HARROLD

They're dead.

NEMO

Dead!

HARROLD

Yeah, they had some shit in their teeth.

(MORE)

HARROLD (cont'd)

Bit down hard when we took a break.
Came back. Boom. Both foaming at the
mouth. Stone cold dead.

NEMO

(to Delgado)

Well, damn. Hope Gail's got better
news.

INT. SEXNET CYBER CENTER - LATER

Nemo, Gail, and Kris are looking at one terminal. Banner
stands off to the side.

On the monitor is a latent image from the Blue House horror.
Several half-monster/half-human beings are in a frozen state
of attacking each other.

NEMO

Jesus Christ, that's what they saw?

GAIL

A couple of the victims had record
units on. Most of it was badly
scrambled, but Kris managed to get
this off of one of them.

NEMO

What about Benson?

GAIL

Just as bad.

Gail motions to Kris who pulls up the three demons from
Benson's virtual nightmare.

NEMO

The guy at the Blue House wasn't
kidding.

KRIS

It's what the virus does.

GAIL

When it creates the neural feedback
loop it feeds these images to your
brain. Once the loop is started,
there's no way to disconnect.
Eventually the brain hemorrhages...
and you die.

NEMO

Someone's figured a way to turn your fantasies into your worst nightmare.

BANNER

Not everyone's. So far the attacks appear to be selective.

NEMO

And how long before it's not so selective?

BANNER

We may have an answer to that.

GAIL

We were trying to find a way past the second level virus defense when this appeared.

She motions to Kris who pulls up another image. A human face appears on a separate monitor, morphing from man to woman to man in various colors shapes and sizes.

NEMO

What the hell is it?

KRIS

It's...a message... Embedded in the virus.

Kris hits a button and a computer-simulated, androgynous voice begins speaking.

VOICE (O.S.)

I am the beginning and the end. I took the lives of those who took mine. You have forty-eight hours before it's over...and everyone can touch again. S-1 was not a mistake.

The morphing head disappears and the green viral blobs are all that remain.

NEMO

(to Banner)

I think you better tell us what you know about S-1.

Banner hesitates.

BANNER

We helped finance it.

NEMO

You helped finance an S-T-D research project?

BANNER

It's no different than when oil companies gave grants for environmental clean-up or alternative energy.

(beat)

It's called being a good corporate citizen.

NEMO

I call it bull shit.

BANNER

Call it what you want, Markonin, but this reference to S-1 could be just a bluff, a red herring if you will to distract us from finding the real person responsible for the virus.

NEMO

It's come up before. The first two vics worked on that project. George Lakewood worked on that project. There had to be others who worked on it. Maybe had a grudge with how it got handled.

BANNER

There were probably several dozen who worked on that project. Everyone you just mentioned is locked up or dead.

NEMO

There's at least one other who isn't.

He turns to leave.

BANNER

Where are you going?

NEMO

To see a doctor about a virus.

BANNER

You have three hours.

NEMO

The message said forty-eight.

BANNER

You have three. We're meeting with the feds this evening. We have to at least take the threat seriously.

NEMO

Now you're taking it seriously?!

BANNER

Three hours.

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - DAY

DR. FALLOW (late 60s) walks hurriedly through a light snow, looking at an electronic device as he does.

Nemo steps in beside him.

NEMO

Dr. Fallow... I need to talk to you.

DR. FALLOW

I really don't have the time.

Nemo shows him his badge.

NEMO

Make the time.

Dr. Fallow stops short.

DR. FALLOW

Who are you? Really?

NEMO

Someone interested in S one.

INT. FALLOW'S OFFICE - FEW MINUTES LATER

Dr. Fallow sits nervously in his chair.

Nemo stands over him, nonchalantly looking through the massive amount of books and diplomas.

DR. FALLOW

George was determined to make everyone immune to any kind of sexually transmitted disease. When SexNet offered to fund his research, he thought he'd finally be able to make it a reality.

NEMO

Wouldn't be much of a reason then
to make sex illegal, would there?

DR. FALLOW

Yes, I see that now. Unfortunately,
we were all naive. We didn't realize
SexNet and big government didn't want
us to succeed. Whatever we developed
they could do with as they pleased.

NEMO

What happened?

DR. FALLOW

Unfortunately, George's ties to the
sexual libertarians clouded his
judgment. And was used against him.

(beat)

He, shall we say, got carried away
with one of his colleagues.

NEMO

Sexually speaking in other words?

DR. FALLOW

(nodding)

SexNet found out. Wouldn't look good
to be giving money to anyone engaged
in illegal sexual activity. The money
dried up and so did George's dream.

NEMO

Was it Tim? The colleague?

DR. FALLOW

Yes. Walden was his last name.
None of us knew George was gay. Which
made it even worse for him.

NEMO

Why did that matter?

Dr. Fallow stops shifting in his chair, looks directly at
Nemo.

DR. FALLOW

You of all people should know that
there is an element of society that
thinks homosexuality is what caused
the virus that led to the way we live
now!

NEMO

That's fair. How'd you find out?
About George and Tim?

DR. FALLOW

Someone sent us a disk of one of
their, shall we say, trysts. In
bloody living color. It was not AI.

NEMO

Who sent it?

DR. FALLOW

We never found out. Strange. We
thought there'd be black mail or
something.

NEMO

I'd say if it meant the end of
the project, you were black mailed.
(beat)
Do you still have the disk?

DR. FALLOW

No, it was burned in the fire.

NEMO

Fire?

DR. FALLOW

Very tragic. Tim killed himself. Set
fire to himself. His place. Body
burned beyond recognition. So
brilliant, though, but eccentric.

NEMO

How's that?

DR. FALLOW

He had himself surgically altered.

NEMO

A sex change?

DR. FALLOW

No, a neural enhancement.

NEMO

English, doctor.

DR. FALLOW (CONT'D)

He had electrodes implanted at the
base of his skull. A neural link.
Totally irreversible.

NEMO

What the hell for?

DR. FALLOW

It's a way to put yourself totally into cyberspace. Tim thought it would enhance his research abilities. Let him dive deeper into cyberspace.

NEMO

I thought they proved back in the 20s that wasn't possible.

DR. FALLOW

More research that was held back.

NEMO

Did you know Jeremiah Benson and Beth Montgomery?

DR. FALLOW

They were some of the dozens of people who worked on the project. They didn't stand out.

NEMO

How close did George get to making the serum?

DR. FALLOW

He didn't. He was arrested before he could test his results.

(beat)

Unfortunately, Tim destroyed all the data when he destroyed himself. Everyone else on the project couldn't find work on anything related to S-T-Ds. SexNet made sure of it.

NEMO

That was the last project wasn't it?

DR. FALLOW

Support for them dried up. The public feels safe with their machines. They're content to let the diseased be locked up. And the police can keep worrying about who's breaking the law.

NEMO

You agree with that?

DR. FALLOW
It's the status quo, Detective. You
learn to live with it.

NEMO
Until you can't.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - SEXNET HEADQUARTERS - LATER

Banner and Mr. Johnson are talking quietly as Gail enters.

GAIL
You wanted to see me.

BANNER
Yes, we have a situation we need to
discuss. A proposition, really.

GAIL
Go on.

BANNER
There's no easy way to put this.
(looks at Mr. Johnson
for support)

GAIL
Well, simple and direct works.

BANNER
We need you to go inside the network.

GAIL
Go inside the network. That's what we
are doing.

BANNER
No, I mean neural link.

GAIL
What? You want me to get neural link
implants.

BANNER
Gail, it's the only way. This virus
needs to be tackled from the inside.
If we don't kill it, it will kill us.

GAIL
By us, do you mean the company...or
more people.

MR. JOHNSON

They're one and the same.

GAIL

It's permanent.

BANNER

There are new procedures for reversing it.

GAIL

They're experimental.

BANNER

We don't have another choice.

GAIL

Do I have a choice?

BANNER

There's Kris, but she doesn't have the, shall we say, experience or fortitude.

GAIL

And I do?

(beat)

When?

BANNER

The operating room is being prepped now.

(beat)

You will, of course, be given whatever you need or want after.

Gail considers this.

GAIL

I want it on record now that if this fails, the network comes down until we get a handle on whatever this thing is.

BANNER

If you succeed, we won't have to.

GAIL

Yeah, if.

(beat)

Ok, let's get to it.

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - LATER

Harrold is at his computer as Nemo comes in.

NEMO
I need your help.

HARROLD
You got it, boss. Whaddaya need?

NEMO
We need to do a composite and that morph shit.

HARROLD
You mean the facial AI morph shit.

NEMO
Yeah, I need to see what someone might look like who got a sex change.

HARROLD
Got it. Who we lookin' for?

NEMO
Start with a guy named Tim Walden. Worked with George Lockwood at the university.

HARROLD
The crazy fucker you went to see the other day?

NEMO
Yeah, him.

HARROLD
All, right. Let's have a look.

Harrold punches some commands and his computer screen cycles through dozens of images until it stops on a group shot of George Lockwood, Dr. Fallow and TIM WALDEN, an early 30-something, non-descript male standing next to Lockwood.

HARROLD (cont'd)
There you go. That's him. Worked at the university up until two years ago.

(beat)
Markonin, he's dead.

NEMO
What if he's not? Let's see what he'd look like as a female.

HARROLD

Your call.

Harrold hits a couple of buttons and Walden's image is enlarged then morphs through a rapid series of male to female to male to female images until it stops.

NEMO

Shit.

HARROLD

What?

NEMO

I know who that is? Call Delgado.
Tell him I know who might be behind
this.

As he leaves, CLOSE on the computer screen to an image of KRIS.

INT. HALLWAY - NATIONAL COMMUNICATION OPERATIONS - EVENING

Nemo walks down the hall with Delgado.

DELGADO

And you think Tim Walden isn't dead?
He's out there somewhere laughing
his ass off at our expense?

NEMO

It's a hunch, all right. He had
every reason. He knows computers.
He even had some kind of neural
something surgery.

They reach the door to a conference room.

DELGADO (CONT'D)

You're prepared to tell Banner, and
the Head of National Com Ops about
this hunch?

NEMO

Work with me on this.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - SAME TIME

Banner and Mr. Johnson are seated near MR.CHEN, Head of National Communication Operations, who sits at the head of the table.

Nemo and Delgado find a chair.

Mr. Chen watches Nemo as he enters and sits down.

NEMO

(bows in his
direction)

Mr. Chen. What'd we miss?

BANNER

We were discussing the national
security implications of this virus.

NEMO

What national security? I thought
SexNET was the only network with the
virus.

MR.CHEN

For now. But the entire global
infonet could be threatened. If it
goes, business, government, the world
as we know could go with it.

NEMO

(to Banner)

And you guys run the global net?

BANNER

It isn't just about sex.

NEMO

(looking at Delgado)

It never was, was it?

MR. CHEN

As long as the virus stayed within
SexNet, the broader threat didn't
exist. But that doesn't seem to be
the case now.

NEMO

What if I told you I finally have a
suspect?

BANNER

Do share, detective? It's about time
we got something out of this.

NEMO

My hunch involves how SexNet shut
down the S-1 project. Still want to
hear it.

MR. CHEN

Please continue.

NEMO

You guys found out George Lockwood was having real sex with his research partner, a guy named Tim Walden. Rather than find a way to keep the project going, you shut it down to avoid the bad publicity. You paid off Benson and Montgomery to help make it go away. Then Walden gives you all a big fuck you, and offs himself. Or at least makes it look like he did. But I don't think he did. He went to too much trouble to get himself physically jacked into the network. I think he's still alive.

MR. JOHNSON

You think Walden's behind all of this?

NEMO

We ran a composite. Take a look at your monitor there. I had one of our detectives send this to you. Walden's got motive and means.

All eyes go to the biggest monitor in the room, filled with Kris' face.

BANNER

Walden is Kris?

NEMO

Yep. Right under your nose. She's been using your own network against you.

MR. CHEN

Banner. Mr. Johnson. Is this true?

BANNER

We've got it handled. Twelve hours from now, Gail will be jacked into the network to stop this once and for all.

NEMO

Jacked in? What the hell?

BANNER

She'll have electrodes implanted
(MORE)

BANNER (cont'd)
just below...

NEMO
...I know what the hell it is. That's
what Walden did. What's she going to
do once she's in there?

MR. JOHNSON
We believe that whoever left the
message... Kris...will show up while
she's inside.

NEMO
She's bait? And she's okay with this?

MR. CHEN
Millions of lives are at stake.

NEMO
(to Banner)
And you have to turn her into a
monster to get this done? Let me find
Kris first.

BANNER
Only children believe in monsters,
Markonin. The rest of us know there's
no such thing.

NEMO
Tell that to the people that virus
has killed so far.

BANNER
What are you going to do?

NEMO
Find Kris and stop her before you
kill Gail and who knows who else?

INT. DR. FALLOWS OFFICE - LATER

Fallow enters his office, distracted. As he takes off his
coat and scarf.

NEMO (O.S.)
Walden didn't die did he?

DR. FALLOW
Detective!

NEMO
Why are you lying for him?

DR. FALLOW
You must be mistaken. Walden is dead.

NEMO
Look at your phone.

Dr. Fallow hesitates, pulls out his phone.

NEMO (cont'd)
I sent you something.

CLOSE ON FALLOWS phone as the image of Kris comes up.

DR. FALLOW
I don't know this person.

NEMO
You're a shitty liar Dr. We ran a composite from Tim's face. There are only so many iterations it could come up with. None of them match someone who currently works at Sexnet.

DR. FALLOW
May I sit?

NEMO
Where is she?

DR. FALLOW
Getting ready.

NEMO
To bring SexNet down.

DR. FALLOW
Yes.

NEMO
Where?

DR. FALLOW
I don't know.

He grabs the doctor by the collar.

NEMO
You're lying!

DR. FALLOW
I'm not. I swear it.

NEMO
Someone will probably die today if
you're not telling the truth.

DR. FALLOW
My life is not that meaningful.

NEMO
No, but you're work is...was.

He lets the doctor go.

NEMO (cont'd)
I'll find her. And if you know how to
reach her, you tell her that.

Nemo leaves, and Dr. Fallow is on his phone.

DR. FALLOW
That detective knows.

CUT TO:

INT. COMPUTER ROOM - SAME TIME

It's the same computer room the Solitary Figure has been in.

DR. FALLOW (O.S.)
He put some pieces together.

KRIS
He still needs to find me.

DR. FALLOW (O.S.)
I didn't tell him.

KRIS
Go to SexNet and wait. Just in case.

Fallow hangs up.

KRIS (cont'd)
(beat)
Come and get me, cowboy. I can't
wait.

INT. SEXNET CONTROL CENTER - LATER

Delgado and Banner stand at the computer terminal watching a
massive bubble in the middle of the room.

Earth, with major population centers illuminated, is projected in the main bubble.

Robert enters pushing a groggy Gail in a wheel chair.

BANNER
How do you feel?

Gail touches the electrodes just behind her ears.

GAIL
Ready to get it over with.

BANNER
Let's get started then.

Robert wheels her to a computer terminal. A TECHNICIAN sits where Kris would be.

BANNER (cont'd)
Where's Kris?

TECHNICIAN
She called in sick. I'm taking her place.

BANNER
Convenient. I guess Markonin was right. Guess we'll be seeing her shortly.
(to Gail)
You ready?

DELGADO
Markonin needs to know.

BANNER
What? That Kris isn't here? Go ahead and call him.

Delgado goes to a corner of the room, takes out his phone and watches as the the Technician starts to attach wires to Gail.

DELGADO
Nemo, you were right about Kris. If you haven't found her, you need to get over here. I'm leaving my phone connected...in case you pick this up.

The Tecnician sets a clock for ten minutes. Gail puts a pair of SexNET goggles in place, and the the Technician connects them to the electrodes at her neck.

BANNER
 (to Gail)
 You okay?

GAIL
 I'm fine. Like you said, now we know
 who we're looking for.

The Technician pushes a final button. Gail's body does a quick jolt then settles down.

ON THE LARGEST SCREEN IN THE ROOM as it goes black for a split second then a full-size image of Gail floats into view in cyberspace.

GAIL (cont'd)
 This is very strange. I feel so...
 removed.

Her voice comes out mechanical projected from her image in the large bubble. Not from herself in the chair.

BACK TO SCENE

DELGADO
 Now what?

BANNER
 She goes hunting.

Gail's body moves awkwardly in cyberspace. She reaches the largest green blob.

GAIL
 I'm looking for some kind of disarm
 code now.

TECHNICIAN
 Sir, we have an incoming signal.

BANNER
 Good. Start the trace.

ANGLE ON COMPUTER BUBBLE

A blinking red light moves rapidly across Earth.

BACK TO SCENE

The bubble goes black for a split-second. Then the constantly morphing IMAGE of a man to woman to man of various shapes and colors fills it.

Gail's body jumps in her chair then settles down. She keeps her eyes fixed on the bubble.

A monitor beside her gives constant vital signs...EEG, EKG, heart rate, pulse, adrenalin level...

BANNER (cont'd)
 (to Technician)
 Get both of them up there, now!

The Technician rolls his control ball and Gail and the Image are both floating in the bubble, surrounded by a pulsating liquid light.

The Image floats in the giant bubble while Gail remains tense, stationary.

IMAGE
 You're wasting your time. She'll end up like the others.

The bubble goes black briefly and then we see Jeremiah Benson being attacked by his demons...

...Beth Montgomery being ravaged by the Satanic figure...

...the people at the virtual reality orgy as hideous, murdering monsters.

GAIL
 (an audible whisper)
 I feel it in me.

BANNER
 My God.

DELGADO
 What's going on?

GAIL
 I'm...fine.

The Image comes back up in the bubble.

IMAGE
 You aren't afraid, are you, Gail?
 Let's have a look and see.

The Image disappears and Gail's body is hurled through cyberspace. Her body tumbles head long into a bottomless liquid chasm.

She CRIES OUT from her chair.

CLOSE ON the clock counting down.

BANNER

We still don't have a trace!

(to Technician)

What's taking you so fucking long?

TECHNICIAN

The signal's bouncing everywhere.

BANNER

Keep at it!

In the MAIN BUBBLE, Gail stops falling. And she turns into a semi-nude younger version of herself.

A young man on top of her, both moaning. Then the young man morphs into a monster.

The monster begins to tear at Gail.

CLOSE ON CLOCK -- ninety seconds left.

DELGADO

This is wrong. Unhook her!

BANNER

What the hell's going on with that trace!!?

TECHNICIAN

I almost got it!

He works like mad, trying to lock in the trace.

Gail moans in fear. All of her vital signs take sharp plunging dives and rises.

She leans back trying to get her breath and the scene changes to Nemo's apartment.

They're kissing each other.

DELGADO

Jesus Christ, what the...?

Almost on cue, Nemo, in the bubble begins to change becoming something more hideous. Horns. Red eyes. Giant teeth. He grabs at Gail who tries to run.

CLOSE ON CLOCK - Fifteen seconds.

Gail tries to fight it, her body shaking horribly.

TECHNICIAN

I think I got it. I got it. I...

An arc of electricity shoots through the ball and pins the Technician to his seat. His entire body lights up then goes limp.

CLOSE ON CLOCK - out of time.

Gail's vital signs start to plummet as she's overtaken in the bubble by the monster from hell.

The Image appears.

IMAGE

Remember, only sex kills.

The Image disappears and Gail's frozen look of terror fills the bubble.

Gail sits slightly slumped in her chair. All of her vital signs holding steady at a minimum level.

A steady BLIP from the computer banks break the silence. No one moves.

Delgado checks the Technician's pulse.

DELGADO

He's dead.

ANGLE ON THE TERMINAL

The red trace blip is locked in on a set of coordinates.

BACK TO SCENE

BANNER

Well he didn't die in vain. Looks like we got a trace after all.

Banner starts punching up some commands at the terminal.

They watch the screen as a three dimensional view of SexNET appears.

DELGADO

Goddamn. Look at that.

BANNER

It's here. Inside this building.

DELGADO

Where at?

BANNER
Basement control room.

DELGADO
Shut down all the elevators and exits
now.
(on his phone)
Markonin. You out there?

EXT SEXNET - HARROLD IN HIS CAR - SAME TIME

Harrold's out of his car watching the front gate of SexNET.
It's smoking and popping like the fourth of July.

HARROLD
It's Harrold. Markonin had me sit
tight.

DELGADO (O.S.)
Where are you?

HARROLD
Outside Sexnet. What happened in
there?

DELGADO (O.S.)
Why?

HARROLD
Whole place lit up like a Christmas
tree. Front gate is out.

DELGADO (O.S.)
Sit tight. And don't let anyone
out of that front gate without
following them!

HARROLD
Chief, Markonin's inside. He's headed
for the basement. We heard
everything.

DELGADO (O.S.)
Shit!

INT. SEXNET CONTROL CENTER - SAME TIME

Banner stares at the monitor and the blinking trace blip.

DELGADO
How many security guys you got?

BANNER

We don't. It's all automated.
(beat)
And it's all down.

Delgado looks back at Gail's frozen scream on the big monitor.

DELGADO

We were set up.

He heads for the nearest door.

BANNER

Where are you going?

DELGADO

To get to Markonin before that
"thing" does.

INT. BASEMENT - SEXNET - FEW MINUTES LATER

Nemo makes his way through the labyrinth. Gun drawn. He follows a HIGH-PITCHED WARNING SIGNAL.

He reaches a half-opened door and nudges it open with his gun.

FROM HIS POV we see a computer monitor with Gail's frozen face on it.

Nemo steps back away from the door...then kicks it open, gun up.

The room is empty except for the monitor.

From his POV we see the words on the screen flashing continuously: "Hello, Nemo."

There's a SUDDEN NOISE behind him. As he turns, a syringe plunges into his neck giving him just enough time to recognize who did it before he's unconscious.

KRIS

Yes, sweetheart, it's me.

INT. HARROLD'S CAR - FEW MINUTES LATER

He's trying to keep warm. A car racing out of the front gate gets his attention. He phones Delgado.

HARROLD
 Captain, a car just left. Headed
 north.

DELGADO (O.S.)
 Follow it. You lose it and it's your
 ass. Markonin's probably in there.

EXT. ROAD - SAME TIME

Harrold's car takes off after the one that just left SexNET.

INSIDE HARROLD'S CAR

Harrold tries hard to stay with the car ahead of him.

HARROLD
 You better not be dead up there,
 Markonin. You owe me one for this.

Suddenly the other car turns abruptly down a side road,
 stops and turns off its lights.

Harrold turns down the same road and barely misses ramming
 the stopped car from behind.

HARROLD (CONT'D)
 What the fuck...?

The car just sits there. It doesn't move and there's no
 movement from inside.

HARROLD (CONT'D)
 Fuck, Markonin, this better be worth
 it.

He pulls out his gun and gets out of the car. He crouches
 down behind the car door, his gun aimed at the other car.

HARROLD (CONT'D)
 Come out with your hands up!

There's a click behind him.

DR. FALLOW (O.S.)
 Or you'll what?

Before Harrold can turn to see him, Fallow fires and an
 electric arc sends Harrold's body into a spasm. Harrold's
 body falls to the ground, dead.

Fallow gets in his car and drives off.

INT. KRIS'S CYBERSPACE ROOM - LATER

Nemo's on a stretcher, strapped down, unable to move. He opens his eyes, squints against the bright light shining over him.

A head moves into view, but he can't make out who it is as his eyes try to adjust.

A hand pushes the light away and the head comes back into view...it's Kris.

She pats Nemo's shoulder and leaves her hand there for a moment.

KRIS

I think you'll live.

He notices the electrodes behind her ear.

KRIS (CONT'D)

Not what you expected am I?

NEMO

The shy thing threw me.

(beat)

Where are we?

KRIS

A friend's. SexNET was a good idea, though, don't you think. I mean who would've thought to look there.

NEMO

Especially if you're not who you say you are...Tim.

KRIS

I wasn't that happy as Tim anyway. The change did me good.

(beat)

You probably think I'm crazy, don't you?

NEMO

Pissed off maybe. But not crazy.

KRIS

Someone had to pay. For what they did to George. To me. To our dream.

She comes up close to him. Talking right in his ear.

KRIS (CONT'D)

Imagine what it would be like. To touch a woman without fear. To hold her sex in your hand...to have her hold yours.

Her hand's just above his crotch ...then she moves away from him. Nemo is strapped down and can't make a move.

KRIS (CONT'D)

But no sex allowed. The government decides who gets born...who doesn't. And SexNET gives us our pleasure.

She turns and faces him.

KRIS (CONT'D)

I'm not the bad guy, Detective Markonin. They are.

NEMO

What about Gail Vanderpool?

She walks up to him, her face to his.

KRIS

You like her?

NEMO

You've been watching me?

KRIS

The two guys you arrested thought they had something on you. Too bad they had to die before proving it.

(beat)

I like you...Nemo.

NEMO

Then let her go.

KRIS

And let you take her place? How gallant.

She steps away from him. Gestures around her to the equipment.

KRIS (CONT'D)

I built all this by hand you know. Spare parts here. Old technology there. Anything I could sneak in from the black market.

(MORE)

KRIS (CONT'D)

Hiding where no one cared to look
made it easier than I thought.

NEMO

And where would that be?

KRIS

Where it all started. The university
research lab.

NEMO

How'd you do Benson and Montgomery?

KRIS

Working at SexNet made it easy to
find them. The Blue House was just a
test. See if I could do a group
thing.

NEMO

Why all the trouble?

KRIS

Ever hear of the squeaky wheel?
I wanted mine to echo.

She's in his ear again, her hand caresses his face.

KRIS (CONT'D)

I was attracted to you the first
time I saw you, you know. A cowboy
in a world of dandies.

NEMO

You're not my type.

KRIS

I'm serious.

NEMO

So am I.

She suddenly grabs his crotch in a vice-like grip. Nemo's
face knots up in a grimace, but he fights back the urge to
yell.

KRIS

There's a first time for everything.

She lets go, walks across the room and pulls back a curtain.

Gail's frozen, screaming face stares back at them from a
giant bubble built into the wall.

KRIS (CONT'D)
Is she worth it?

NEMO
It's my job.

Kris looks at him a moment...

KRIS
Does that mean becoming part of what
you fear? Imagine what it would be
like for someone who hates, no, fears
technology to be invaded by it.

NEMO
Like I said...

KRIS
I could show you how to touch again.
I mean really touch.

NEMO
I already know how.

KRIS
Then I guess you'll have to show
me yourself.

She leaves, and he turns and faces Gail's frozen screaming
face on the largest monitor in the room.

OFF NEMO'S LOOK

INT. SEXNET CYBERSPACE CONTROL - LATER

Gail remains hooked to the machine and monitors. Delgado and
Banner are at an adjacent bank of controls. A blur of cops
and SexNET personnel work around them.

A Cop comes up to Delgado.

DELGADO
Any sign of Detective Harrold?

COP
We found him and his car about ten
miles from here. Side road. He's
dead, sir.

DELGADO
Dammit. And Markonin?

COP

Nothing.

DELGADO

All right. Get a command center set up where you found Harrold's car. I want an update as soon as anyone finds anything.

(to Banner)

You sure this feedback circuit's going to work?

BANNER

It's tuned to the biorhythms we got off the transmission. You can't alter those. Once Kris comes back, we'll get a fix...

(snaps his fingers)

...and we'll have her.

DELGADO

Markonin's missing, I've got a dead detective, and Vanderpool's an electronic vegetable. It better work!

BANNER

It will work. Trust me.

INT. KRIS'S CYBERSPACE ROOM - LATER

Nemo is coming to, still strapped down. Kris's face comes into focus above him.

KRIS

How's our little monster feel?

NEMO

Like hell.

She examines the electrodes attached to his now bald head. They aren't surgically implanted, but they aren't going anywhere.

KRIS

I would have preferred implants, but this will have to do.

(beat)

It's really not so bad once you get used to it. Is it Dr. Fallow?

Nemo tries to sit up. Fallow moves in beside Kris.

NEMO

Fallow?

DR. FALLOW

Who do you think did her operation?

NEMO

You lied to me.

DR. FALLOW

Only about not knowing where Kris was.

NEMO

And Benson and Montgomery.

DR.FALLOW

They took SexNet's money to shut up about the project. You figured that out. They deserved retribution.

KRIS

As you can see, he's just as pissed off as I am.

Nemo looks at Gail's face in the bubble.

NEMO

Let her go... Do what you want with me.

KRIS

Really, Nemo, I already made you that offer. Besides, now you can both be my squeaky wheel.

She starts to put googles on him. He struggles but he's helpless.

INT. SEXNET CYBERSPACE CENTER - NIGHT

Gail's frozen image in the bubble begins to liquefy, coming to life. Then suddenly fades away.

Gail's body relaxes, but she's still incoherent.

Her face disappears from the bubble and Kris as the Image replaces it.

IMAGE/KRIS

Intermission's over, ladies and gentlemen. On with the show.

Banner motions to a new Technician next to him.

BANNER
Get a lock on her!

The Technician starts working the computer furiously.

IMAGE/KRIS
Someone new has joined us.

INT. KRIS'S CYBERSPACE ROOM - SAME TIME

She turns to Nemo.

KRIS
You're in my world now, Nemo.

INT. SEXNET - SAME TIME

The Image waivers then moves to one side. Nemo's appears beside it, his face and body twisted in agony.

DELGADO
Jesus, Nemo!

IMAGE/KRIS
He's a little stage shy.

Delgado grabs hold of Banner.

DELGADO
What do you plan on doing now,
Banner? They're both in there.

Banner grabs Delgado's arm and tosses it away.

BANNER
We found her once. We'll do it again!
(to Technician)
Get a lock on her!

INT. KRIS'S CYBERSPACE ROOM - SAME TIME

Nemo is strapped in his chair. SexNet goggles in place. Sweat running down his face. The electrodes attached by wires to a console.

IMAGE/KRIS
In less than two hours, this is what
the entire world will be in forsee
when they strap in.

The bubble nearly explodes as Nemo yells out, his mind hurtling into cyberspace.

(INTERCUT NEMO IN KRIS'S ROOM WITH SEXNET IMAGES)

Nemo reacts to what he sees as...

The bubble at SexNET fills with Nemo as a child...

His dad as a cop, becomes a one-eyed mutant.

His mother being raped by monsters.

Nemo at his wife's funeral... a grotesque hand coming out of a grave to pull him into it...

To his marriage...a calm in the storm.

Then Nemo and Victoria making love, sensually and slowly.

Then Victoria on a street, crashing head on into a truck. The accident magnified by the virus in the system.

INT. KRIS'S CYBERSPACE ROOM - SAME TIME

NEMO

Victoria!

ON SEXNET'S COMPUTER BUBBLE

Nemo stares from the accident at an image of Banner who becomes a laughing hyena.

Banner's image grabs Nemo and throws him at Gail's feet. Nemo stares up at her. Then the Image/Kris appears from behind Gail and shoves her toward Nemo.

IMAGE/KRIS

Take her.

They fall onto each other.

AT SEXNET CONTROL ROOM

Gail's body lunges forward then collapses.

ON COMPUTER BUBBLE

Gail CHANGES into a horrific snake with a human head.

ON THE TABLE

Gail screams out.

AT KRIS'S CYBERSPACE ROOM

Nemo fights, against the straps of the chair. He yells out...

NEMO

No-o-o-o-o!

ON THE COMPUTER BUBBLE

The Image/Kris laughs, shoves Gail's mutated body aside, and beckons to Nemo as it changes into Victoria.

IMAGE/KRIS

Come on, Nemo. It's all right.
No more bad monsters.

BANNER

(to Technician)
Dammit, let me do it!

He shoves the Technician aside and starts working the computer.

Clothes start to fall away from the Image/Kris as Victoria.

IMAGE/KRIS

I want you Nemo. All of you.

AT KRIS'S CYBERSPACE ROOM

Nemo fights against the restraints. Sweat and tears run together down his face.

AT SEXNET

Nemo's image begins to waiver in the giant bubble.

IMAGE/KRIS (cont'd)

You're mine now. Mind and soul.

Then Nemo's image changes, coming into focus. Growing larger.

NEMO

I'm not afraid.

For a brief second, Victoria's image seems to waiver, and then regains focus.

IMAGE/KRIS

You can't!

Banner hits one more key.

BANNER

There.

An electric arc passes through from Gail into the machine.

The Image as Victoria lets out an agonized scream. Her image and Nemo's fall into oblivion in the bubble.

INT. KRIS'S CYBERSPACE ROOM - SAME TIME

The arc travels through Nemo and magnifies as it jumps to Kris. The force blows her out of the chair, and fries Nemo's restraints.

An arc from the controls catches Dr. Fallow and electrocutes him where he stands.

More electric arcs.

Nemo picks himself up and goes to Kris.

She's half-conscious but still alive, connected into cyberspace. Her voice comes from the screen.

KRIS
(impressed)
You did that?

He looks up and her image is still on the screen, beaten, her body morphing haphazardly, but her face remains her own.

NEMO
No, they must've figured something out at SexNET. I've got to get you out of here.

He looks around her real body for a way to unhook her. Sparks fly all around them. She comes to as her face starts to fade from the screen.

KRIS
Get the serum instead.

NEMO
The serum? You have it?

KRIS
Banner hid it. He's had it all along. Thought this would get him to finally tell me where it is.
(beat)
Had to play a little first.

She struggles to reach up to touch his face.

KRIS (CONT'D)
The whole thing's going to blow.

NEMO
How long?

Her voice comes from her image on the screen.

KRIS
An hour, maybe less. SexNET'll all
be gone.
(beat))
It's up to you now, ...cowboy.

She grabs his hand.

KRIS (CONT'D)
We both have a reason to hate them,
Nemo. Remember, I'm not really the
bad guy.

She tightens her grip on his hand then lets go, and dies.

Her image on the screen completely disappears.

Nemo picks himself up and as flames engulf the room.

EXT. UNIVERSITY LAB - MINUTES LATER

Nemo stumbles out of the building. He sees Dr. Fallow's car
jumps in and tears out of the parking lot.

As he races toward the road, he sees Harrold's car and the
patrol cars around it.

He slows down, sees Harrold's dead body being loaded into an
ambulance.

NEMO
Shit. You didn't take that shot for
nothing.

INT. SEXNET CYBERSPACE CENTER - SAME TIME

Small electrical fires force people to look for an exit. The
bubble on the main monitor is filled with Kris's frozen
expression.

BANNER
We got her.

DELGADO

What about Markonin and Vanderpool?

Banner motions behind him. Gail is trying to pick herself up from the gurney.

BANNER

She looks like she made it. I'm sure he did, too.

He starts to leave. Delgado grabs his arm.

DELGADO

What makes you so goddamn sure?

BANNER

Trust me. Now I have to report to Mr. Johnson and establish some order here.

He's gone before Delgado can say more. Delgado helps Gail undo the goggles and wires.

GAIL

(groggy)

Where's Nemo?

DELGADO

I don't know. Right now, we need to get out of here.

She gets the goggles off and tries to stand.

GAIL

What about the virus?

DELGADO

Shit. We were too busy thinking about you and Nemo.

She pushes past him to a computer terminal and punches some keys.

The green viral blobs appear -- growing rapidly. Eating away at Kris's image.

GAIL

It's still there. Spreading through the whole system.

Another fire breaks out in the room.

DELGADO

So are these fires. Come on. Let's
get the hell out of here.

GAIL

We can't. We've got to shut the whole
thing down.

DELGADO

I thought you couldn't do that.

GAIL

We wouldn't do it. If we don't, the
global net will go with it.

DELGADO

You know this place better than
I do. Lead the way.

They head for the door, past the large bubble monitor where
the green globs have completely enveloped the last of Kris's
face.

IN THE HALL

Gail leans on Delgado. People are panicking around them.

GAIL

We've got to find a stairwell.
Get downstairs.

DELGADO

There isn't an easier way?

GAIL

Not with all these people.

EXT. SEXNET - LATER

Nemo races up to the gate in Fallow's car, drives past the
Female Hologram frozen in one place.

WOMAN

(continuous)

Good morning. Good morning.

Nemo stops hard, runs out of the car and tries the front
door of the building but a massive electrical arc around it
blocks his way.

He runs back to the car, guns it and batters through the
front entrance into the lobby.

INT. SEXNET HEADQUARTERS -- MINUTES LATER

The place is chaos. Hundreds of people trying to get out. Small fires and electrical shorts create obstacles.

Robert the robot is moving aimlessly, bumping into walls.

ROBERT
(continuous)
This way please. This way please.

Nemo sees Gail and Delgado going the opposite direction, but they enter a stairwell door and it closes before they see him.

He falls in with a group running down a hall. Grabs the man nearest him.

NEMO
Where's the nearest stairwell?

MAN
Two doors down. But it's already been evacuated.

Nemo heads back in the direction and enters the same stairwell Gail and Delgado did.

THIRD FLOOR HALLWAY

He comes out to a hallway full of flames and smoke. He sees Banner enter a doorway.

Nemo follows and stops in front of a room. CLOSE ON SIGN - Conference Room.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - SAME TIME

It's the same meeting room where Nemo first met Mr. Johnson. The room is dimly lit, no flames, lots of smoke...

BANNER (O.S.)
You survived.

Nemo turns to see Banner backing away from a safe in the smoke-filled room. He holds a brief case in his hand.

NEMO
Yeah, I tend to do that.

BANNER
You know what's in here don't you?

NEMO

Yeah, why didn't you destroy it? Why keep it?

BANNER

It's insurance against obsolescence. Imagine what would happen without the fear of disease. We'd return to the chaos we had before... World population would explode. Poverty and hunger would return.

(beat)

The world gets S-1 when I think it's ready.

NEMO

What about Mr. Johnson? He's your boss.

On cue, Mr. Johnson steps out from a side door.

BANNER

He's a robot. A little more advanced than Robert, but still a robot.

Mr. Johnson stands at attention, the emotionless stare fixed on his face.

BANNER (cont'd)

Part of our ongoing effort to give people the closest thing to reality possible...in everything.

NEMO

You think people will have sex with robots?

BANNER

Why not? They've screwed everything else.

(to Mr. Johnson)

Mr. Johnson take care of the detective will you.

As Banner leaves the room, Mr. Johnson moves quickly toward Nemo.

Nemo tries dodging him, but Mr. Johnson is faster than he looks.

Nemo tries hitting him but skin meets metal instead.

Mr. Johnson grabs Nemo and lifts him off the ground by his neck, shoving him against the wall.

Nemo gets his feet up underneath him and plants his knees in Mr. Johnson's chest. He pushes hard and breaks Mr. Johnson's grip.

CLOSE ON a nearby electrical outlet--with two finger-sized holes.

Mr. Johnson goes for Nemo's eyes with both fingers.

Nemo manages to shove them in the outlet.

Mr. Johnson falls back, lighting up like a Christmas Tree... short-circuiting himself...

...and more of the building.

INT. HALL OUTSIDE SEXNET CONFERENCE ROOM - SAME TIME

The lights in the hall flicker.

Nemo comes out of the Conference Room and sees Banner walking through a door. Nemo reaches the door just before everything goes black.

INT. CENTRAL PROCESSING - BASEMENT - SEXNET - SAME TIME

Gail works frantically at a large main frame computer, pulling plugs and the guts out of the unit.

Delgado's at the door watching for anything.

DELGADO

Can't you just shut the whole thing off!

GAIL

The virus will still be there when the power goes back on.

The lights flicker off and on.

DELGADO

Goddamn. Now what?

GAIL

Auxiliary power. I've got to hurry.

She sticks her hands back inside the CPU.

GAIL (CONT'D)

Just one more.

DELGADO

Hurry up!

She pulls wires and the main frame goes dead.

GAIL

There.

DELGADO

Let's get out of here.

As Delgado takes her hand and pulls her to the door...

An EXPLOSION propels them both out the room.

INT. STAIRWELL - SAME TIME

Nemo stands in near darkness. A small red light blinks above the door.

He follows the SOUND of FOOTSTEPS going up the stairs. The EXPLOSION from the basement knocks Nemo to his feet. He gets up and heads up the stairs.

EXT. TOP OF SEXNET BUILDING - MINUTES LATER

Nemo comes outside on top of one of the rounded buildings. A thin sheet of ice covers everything. Snow whips around, blown hard by the wind.

Banner walks toward an autonomous helicopter waiting on a landing pad. He holds the brief case in one hand. A remote control in the other.

He activates the remote control and the helicopter blades start rotating.

Nemo runs toward him before Banner sees him. Nemo grabs him from behind, arm around his neck, shoving him against the helicopter.

The helicopter moves a little with the force. leaving one rudder perched near the edge.

NEMO

The serum. Give it to me!

BANNER

They're not ready for it yet!

NEMO

Give it to me!

Banner is able to activate a control on the helicopter ... and its tail swings violently around, knocking Nemo clear of Banner.

Nemo slides down the dome, saves himself from falling over the edge, then runs toward Banner.

Banner sends the helicopter rotating wildly in circles, swinging the tail to try and get Nemo.

BANNER

Give it up, Markonin. There's no room for cowboys in this world anymore.

NEMO

There is as long as there are assholes like you.

Nemo rushes at Banner, knocking the remote control free. But Banner holds tight to the serum-filled case.

The helicopter stops, just short of going over the edge.

Nemo's on top of Banner. He hits him hard.

NEMO (cont'd)

You took my wife.

He hits him again.

NEMO (CONT'D)

You nearly killed Gail.

He hits him hard again.

NEMO (CONT'D)

You don't give a shit about anything but yourself.

One more time to emphasize each word.

NEMO (CONT'D)

And now...you're...finished.

Banner slumps, his face a bloody mess. Nemo grabs the case.

Nemo gets up and walks toward the stairs, catching his breath.

Behind him, Banner stands up, grabs the remote off the pad...and the helicopter swings around one more time.

BANNER
(breathing hard)
You're not the only one who won't
give up, Markonin.

Nemo turns and jumps out of the way just in time.

The helicopter tail strut catches Banner full in the chest.

He slides wildly down the dome of the building and falls
over the edge.

The helicopter follows.

ON THE GROUND

Banner lands face up impaled on a metal obelisk below.

The helicopter hits the ground and explodes.

The flames silhouette Banner's body.

ON THE ROOF

Nemo looks down at Banner impaled on the obelisk.

NEMO
Adios, mother fucker.

EXT. SEXNET - ON THE GROUND - MINUTES LATER

Gail and Delgado limp out of the building. Other people come
rushing out around them.

Delgado sees the burning helicopter and Banner's impaled
body.

DELGADO
Jesus.
(beat - pointing)
I'll be goddamn.

Gail looks where he's pointing and sees Nemo.

ON NEMO

Nemo makes his way through the people gathered around
Banner's body and the burning building to Gail and Delgado.

DELGADO (cont'd)
You look like hell.

NEMO
(motions toward
Banner's body)
Seems to be a thing these days.

DELGADO
(pointing to the
brief case)
The serum?

Nemo nods.

Delgado turns and starts barking orders to cops standing nearby.

DELGADO (cont'd)
Get these people out of here. Now! I
want everyone back by the road.

Nemo leads Gail by the hand away from the building.

ON THE CROWD

Cops are moving people away from the building.

ON NEMO AND GAIL

GAIL
Kris?

NEMO
Dead. What about the virus?

GAIL
I think we got it. We'll see.

ON SEXNET BUILDING

A VIOLENT EXPLOSION from inside rocks the compound. Both rounded buildings begin to collapse.

The tower in the middle starts to topple then collapses, burying Banner's impaled body.

ON GAIL AND NEMO

Gail turns to Nemo, notices the remains of the electrodes on his head. She reaches to touch them, but he pulls them off first. Their hands touch then grasp each other.

GAIL (cont'd)
What happens next?

He touches her face, the electrodes at her neck, then kisses her.

He looks at her, then at the others around him. He lifts the case still in his hand.

NEMO

You're right. We'll see.

He puts his arm around her shoulder and leads her away from the crowd.

As a couple of sex police move toward them, Delgado holds them back.

DELGADO

I don't think it matters anymore.

Nemo and Gail walk away from SexNET as it burns.

EXT. CITY - BIG SCREEN TV - ONE WEEK LATER

A crowd is gathered in the street, their attention on the large screens that once had SexNet images.

ANCHOR

The demise of SexNet seems to have at least one silver lining. A serum the international company was developing in secret is now being tested to determine its effectiveness in fighting all sexually transmitted diseases.

ON PEOPLE IN THE STREET

Shouting and cheering.

ON Nemo and Gail standing at the edge of the crowd.

GAIL

Now what, cowboy?

NEMO

Time to get back in the saddle.

FADE OUT:

THE END