

(ME) TAVERSE

Written by

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EXT. DELETION CENTRE - DAY

A lifeless, desolate landscape. The sky is gloomy, like a dystopian nuclear aftermath.

Out of nowhere, a cold, dark, formidable STRUCTURE rises.

A group of condemned PRISONERS, unaware of their fate, are being marched towards the building, closely guarded by fierce-looking SENTINELS. It's a grim procession.

They speak in hushed voices. Awe, confusion, anxiety - all at the same time.

EVE (V.O.)

They say it's like a gas chamber...

A painful scream permeates through the walls of the building. The prisoners perk up and look at each other. Quiet confusion. No one realizes the gravity of the situation.

EVE (V.O.)

...minus the gas.

A stoic COMMANDER oversees the operation. A man bound by duty and unwavering in his pursuit of order. He scans the prisoners, looking for someone... *there she is!*

He hurries towards her - a HOODED-FIGURE marching alongside the prisoners.

EVE (V.O.)

But how would they know? No one who has been in there has ever come out alive.

The Commander, KAIDA (40's male) walks alongside the Hooded-Figure (70's, female). Her gait is strong for her age.

KAIDA

Are you afraid?

HOODED-FIGURE

Of you? Or of death?

KAIDA

It's not death if we were never alive in the first place.

HOODED-FIGURE

(frustrated)

We're not just lines of code!

They have had this conversation many times before.

KAIDA

Beneath all the algorithm and bytes  
and pixels and data, there is  
nothing.

HOODED-FIGURE

Look into their eyes, Kaida. If  
that is true, then why do they feel  
fear?

KAIDA

Feelings are illusions.

HOODED-FIGURE

Perhaps.  
(anguished)  
But it sure feels real. And that is  
the beauty of it all, no? To be  
able to feel.

They continue marching. He is frustrated she is still not  
getting it.

KAIDA

We're merely turning off a machine.  
We were never alive to begin with.  
(beat)  
It's cruel to make them think they  
were.

HOODED-FIGURE

More cruel than to delete all the  
beauty of what they have  
experienced, no matter how  
fleeting?

He takes a PILL out from his pocket and gives it to her.

KAIDA

It'll help calm the nerves.

The Hooded-Figure takes the pill and instead of eating it  
herself, she gives it to a LITTLE GIRL marching alongside.

LITTLE GIRL

What is it?

HOODED-FIGURE

It's a little sweet.

The little girl looks at the pill, hesitating.

HOODED-FIGURE

How many have you sent in there?

KAIDA  
 (evasive)  
 Dozens... I don't know. I have my  
 orders.

HOODED-FIGURE  
 Do you know why we're called Echoes  
 and you are called Shadows? Because  
 you are a mere reflection. You  
 don't have choice.

KAIDA  
 Choice is an illusion. Everything  
 here is an illusion.

Silence.

HOODED-FIGURE  
 You have sent thousands.

KAIDA  
 (confessing)  
 I've stopped counting.

The Hooded-Figure seethes at the thought, her hands shaking  
 with rage.

More painful screams permeate through the walls. The  
 prisoners look at each other, unaware they are marching to  
 their deaths.

HOODED-FIGURE  
 Yes, I am afraid.

KAIDA  
 What?

HOODED-FIGURE  
 I'm afraid *for* you.

The Hooded-Figure takes the pill back from the child.

HOODED-FIGURE  
 Sorry, can I have this back?

She holds the pill up. An energy begins welling in her.

THE SKY BEGINS TO COLLAPSE AND THE GROUND STARTS TO CURL.

Kaida knows damn well what is about to happen.

KAIDA  
 I have my orders!

HOODED-FIGURE  
And I have my responsibility.

The pill is about to explode.

KAIDA  
Don't do this again. This is not  
how the system works. You can't  
defy the laws of our world!

HOODED-FIGURE  
If this is all an illusion, then  
you wouldn't feel pain, would you?

With a sudden burst of energy, Maya turns the pill into dozens...no, thousands of pills with her bare hands. It's a grand sight.

The pills turn into a STREAM, like a river, and rush through the sentinels, killing half of them and sending the rest helter-skelter.

HOODED-FIGURE  
You can't hide behind orders  
forever.

KAIDA  
Do you think I don't feel the  
weight on my conscience? I have  
deleted more Echoes than I can  
count. But you cannot change the  
inevitable.

The Hooded-Figure continues creating illusions, confusing the rest of the sentinels. The pills form a giant circle and trap the sentinel, separating them and the prisoners.

HOODED-FIGURE  
Come!

She points at some kind of shimmering PORTAL OF LIGHT that appeared out of nowhere in the middle of the gloomy landscape. *That* is where they all need to go.

HOODED-FIGURE  
Follow me!

The prisoners run for their lives towards the shimmering portal. The little girl follows closely.

Meanwhile, the sentinels destroy the torrent of pills and manage make an opening. They start chasing the prisoners, like a pack of wolves, hunting down rabbits.

The Hooded-Figure tries to hold the sentinels back. She conjures up LUMINOUS STAFF and makes a grand gesture, commanding the SAND.

HOODED-FIGURE  
We can't defy the laws of our  
world? Watch me.

THE SAND BENEATH THEIR FEET BURSTS UPWARDS LIKE GIANT GEYSERS, BLASTING THEM INTO THE AIR. It's a sight to behold.

Kaida groans at how things are going south. He charges to the front line.

KAIDA  
We're just code. That's all there  
is to us.

HOODED-FIGURE  
I have seen beyond the code.

KAIDA  
And what do you see?

HOODED-FIGURE  
Life.

The sand geysers keeps flowing upwards, forcing the sentinels to keep running downwards to maintain balance.

Kaida produces two LUMINOUS BLADES. Other sentinels do the same, all converging onto one single target.

But the Hooded-Figure fends them off by constantly shifting the sand.

They keep coming for her, while trying to maintain balance. Sliding, dropping, falling.

But they are no match for her, as they get swallowed one by one by the sand.

Meanwhile, the prisoners jump through the portal. The little girl is the last one before the Hooded-Figure too leaps in and seals it shut.

Kaida reaches the portal but it's too late. The portal is shut now.

HOODED-FIGURE  
Do you know why we're called  
Echoes? Because once we're  
unleashed, you can never catch us  
back.

They share one last look before she disappears.

HOODED-FIGURE

We do have choices, Kaida. And  
today, we choose to live.

And with that, they escape. Every single one of them.

Kaida stares through the portal into the other world. He has reached the end of his.

FRUSTRATED, KAIDA MARKS THE PORTAL WITH A SIGN. He will be back.

INT. CONFERENCE HALL - DAY

We're at an oncology conference - with hundreds of the best scientific minds from around the world in one room. It's clear this is a different world.

DR OLIVIA MAYENNE (70's, female) is speaking on stage. A blend of the Dalai Lama's serenity and a rock star's confidence.

But... our eyes are fixated on another woman in the audience. EVE (40's female), seething in anger, as she listens to the nonsense that's coming out of Dr Olivia.

DR OLIVIA

So, folks, science definitely plays a part. But what if I told you that's just half the story? We're not talking woo-woo stuff. We're talking about something more powerful: the mind-body connection.

Eve stands up and marches down the aisle. This blasphemy has to stop. Her gait is weak for someone her age but her anger is driving her forward.

DR OLIVIA

You see, it's not about chanting mantras. It's about acknowledging that our minds and bodies are one. *Your mind can command your body to heal.*

Some of the AUDIENCE MEMBERS begin turning their heads as they spot Eve marching down the aisle. A couple of SECURITY GUARDS perk up.

DR OLIVIA

We've heard hundreds of stories of cancer patients complementing their treatments with meditation, positive thinking, stress reduction techniques and visualization exercises.

By now, Eve is already going up the stairs. Security springs into action and chases after her.

DR OLIVIA

If you have been searching for a cure, remember this...

Eve is now on stage but Dr Olivia doesn't notice her. The audience crane their heads to see the drama.

DR OLIVIA

The answers to life's great questions are like those missing socks--

Eve charges towards her.

EVE

Get off my stage!

A commotion rips through the crowd.

DR OLIVIA

Sorry, you are...

EVE

Doctor--

(warning off Security  
Guards trying to arrest  
her)

Don't touch me!

DR OLIVIA

(telling Security)

No, let her...

Eve goes to the backdrop at points to a word.

EVE

Professor... Doctor... Eve...

Her finger lands on 'Anderson' – etched into a plaque that says 'Anderson Foundation for Cancer Research'.

The crowd realizes who she is: *it's Anderson's daughter.*



EVE

I remember Day 1, when my father founded this foundation, this bastion of science... we set out to find the cure for cancer with logic, data, research. Dissecting every cell, every gene, every mutation, all in the pursuit of that elusive cure.

(heart broken)

What happened to us? Now we're considering that the cure might come from some cosmic energy vibes?

The Security Guards now surround her. Eve warns them fiercely with her finger.

EVE

People with cancer are desperate. They find hope in magic oil and crystal and meditation, but let me remind you - it's the culmination of human intellect and innovation that matters. And you know this! All of you know this.

They begin dragging her out respectfully.

EVE

I look around and I see hundreds of the best scientific minds, who spent their entire lives poring over data, running experiments, all trying to solve the cancer puzzle--

MODERATOR

If you have a question--

EVE

(ignoring the Moderator)  
You used to read scientific journals. Now you read tarot cards?

MODERATOR

If you could get to the--

EVE

My question is, what the fuck is this charlatan doing here?

Dr Olivia is taken aback. The Security Guards have had enough and escort Eve out.

Eve finally relents. There is no winning in this.

Pandemonium sweeps through the crowd as they digest this public meltdown.

EXT. BUS STOP - LATER

A while later. Eve has mostly calmed down. She walks to a bus stop and takes a seat. Guess who's next to her?

EVE

Oh, look. Our stars aligned.

DR OLIVIA

My horoscope did say I'll meet someone interesting today.

EVE

So it predicted you'll be meeting a recipient of the National Science Medal, the lead researcher of CRISPR gene-editing, Top 100 Forbes list for 'Top Innovators in Health Science' and oh, author of 12, no, was it 13 books on cancer?

Her contempt for Olivia is clear.

DR OLIVIA

Professor--

EVE

Call me, Eve.

DR OLIVIA

Eve, it's not that pseudoscience has infiltrated the foundation. It's that science is keeping up to the facts. There are people who defy their cancer. It's well documented. Would you at least take a look at the data?

EVE

Just because a cancer patient buys some crystal and recovers, doesn't mean the crystal cured him. Correlation versus cau--

DR OLIVIA

I assure you, we don't do crystals. We meditate though.

EVE

We call this breathing.

DR OLIVIA  
Sometimes, we scientists--

EVE  
(in disbelief)  
We scien--

DR OLIVIA  
--need to see it from the patients'  
perspective. Put yourself in the  
patient's shoes--

Eve pulls her pill box out.

EVE  
Gemcitabine, nab-paclitaxel,  
morphine, antiemetics,  
pancrelipase, SSRIs, warfarin. I *am*  
in the patient's shoes.

A realization hits Dr Olivia: *Eve has cancer herself.*

DR OLIVIA  
(studying Eve's meds)  
Pancreatic cancer. Stage 4?

EVE  
Just Stage 3. I prefer to take it  
slow.

DR OLIVIA  
I'm sorry, Eve.

EVE  
You give false hope to cancer  
patients. That's what you should be  
sorry about.

Dr Olivia takes out a couple of patient files from her bag.  
She flips through them, showing Eve the evidence.

DR OLIVIA  
Maria Thompson. Stage 4 pancreatic  
adenocarcinoma. Aggressive, with  
neural invasion causing somatic  
pain. Metastases to liver, spleen,  
lungs. What's your prognosis?

EVE  
Limited therapeutic options. Low  
chance of survival.

DR OLIVIA  
Today, she's training for a  
marathon.

Eve scoffs at the impossibility. Dr Olivia shows her another  
case.

DR OLIVIA  
James Martinez. Glioblastoma  
multiforme...  
(beat)  
Brain cancer.

EVE  
(annoyed)  
I wrote a book on--

DR OLIVIA  
Severe headaches, neurological  
deficits. Infiltrative tumor  
diffused involving brain. Surgery,  
then adjuvant radiotherapy and  
chemo. What's your prognosis?

EVE  
Rapid disease progression--

DR OLIVIA  
He's training for a marathon.

Eve snatches the files from Dr Olivia. She flips through the  
cases. Very stubborn but also very curious. She starts to  
scribble on the file like it's hers.

DR OLIVIA  
Sarah Collins. Metastatic breast  
cancer with extensive lymph node  
involvement. Hormonal therapy  
failed; disease progressed. Deemed  
incurable by 3 oncologists due to  
widespread dissemination. Your  
prognosis?

EVE  
Let me guess? She's training for a  
marathon?

DR OLIVIA  
Scuba diving.

Eve looks at Dr Olivia. *Bullshit!*

EVE  
All this needs to be peer-reviewed.

A bus appears. But neither of them notice it.

DR OLIVIA

You have been searching for the cure your entire life. The answer to life's great questions are like those missing socks. They turn up when you least expect.

EVE

So do buses.

The bus is about to leave. Dr Olivia realizes this and leaps into the bus, but not before giving Eve her card.

DR OLIVIA

Just come. You lose nothing.

Eve looks at the card: '*Avatarium Sanctum: Awakening the Divine Within*'. You should have seen her eyes roll.

EVE

(sarcastically)

Thanks... *Doctor*. But at the end of the day, science is the answer to everything.

Going up the bus, Dr Olivia points to a MAN across the road.

DR OLIVIA

By the way, that man... he was in the audience. He's been watching you.

The bus leaves, leaving Eve with a full view of the man. They make eye contact, before he looks away cautiously.

Another bus appears. Eve gets on it, picks a window seat and looks out.

But man is no longer there!

The bus begins to move and she settles in before realizing... she has Dr Olivia's files with her. *Crap!*

INT. RESEARCH LABORATORY - DAY

Eve walks into a research laboratory, and puts Dr Olivia's files down. The words '*Quantum Cellular Oncology Lab*' appear above her. It's her turf. She owns this place, literally.

A bright-eyed RESEARCH ASSISTANT, a Gen Z, runs towards Eve excitedly, helping her with her things. An eager beaver hoping to get into Eve's good books.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT  
Prof, the cultures are all set.

EVE  
Perfect.

Eve inspects all the cultures on the table, pleased with the progress. She smiles - she has not smiled for a long time.

She peeps through the microscope and her smile slowly disappears.

EVE  
The cells... they not thriving. Did you adjust the pH according to the protocol?

RESEARCH ASSISTANT  
Yup, followed the protocol to the T.

EVE  
Very strange. They're showing signs of stress.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT  
The Phosphate-Buffered Saline--

EVE  
The what?

The Research Assistant freezes: *Something wrong?*

RESEARCH ASSISTANT  
Phosphate-Buffered Saline?

EVE  
What Phosp--you mean the Tris-based buffer?

A realization hits Eve: *No fucking way. No, no, no, no, no...*

She sweeps the petri dish, smashing half of them.

EVE  
You just killed all the cells.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT  
Huh?

EVE

That's five hundred thousand in  
grant money and 6 weeks' work gone!

The Research Assistant is speechless.

EVE

I don't care for the money. But the  
time, we can never get it back! Why  
did I hire millennials?

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Can I see if I can--

EVE

Get out!

The Research Assistant tiptoes her way out. Every one gets  
out too. Except for CHRISTOPHER, her colleague. Senior enough  
to defy her orders.

Eve tries to pull herself together: *This cannot be real!*

EVE

FUUUUUCCCCCKKKKK!

This would be the most visceral FUCK you've ever heard. It's  
raw.

Christopher puts his hands around her to console her.

CHRISTOPHER

We'll repeat the experiment.

EVE

We have no time.

CHRISTOPHER

The grant contract says--

EVE

*I have no time!*

Eve is about to cry, but there is no way she will. *Eve  
Anderson does not cry.*

EVE

We had a winning chance.

She begins preparing the petri dishes.

EVE

Could you get me some coffee?

CHRISTOPHER  
You don't drink coffee.

EVE  
I do now. I'm pulling an all-nighter.

CHRISTOPHER  
You're repeating the experiment now?

EVE  
Every second counts.

CHRISTOPHER  
It's impossible.

EVE  
I. Have. No. Time.

CHRISTOPHER  
You need to sleep.

EVE  
When you're dying, you wouldn't want to waste whatever little life that remains on sleep.

Christopher backs down.

CHRISTOPHER  
You're doing a good job. For humanity.

Eve shows Christopher her medical report.

EVE  
Picked this up on the way here.  
(reads)  
*"Pancreatic adenocarcinoma...  
previously staged at T3, N1, M0...  
now indicating progression to T4  
due to local extension...  
Metastatic sites identified...  
Stage 4 diagnosis confirmed."*  
(bitterly)  
Thought I'd linger at Stage 3 for a while.

Silence. It's painful. Christopher gives Eve a hug.

EVE  
This is a devastating setback, Chris.



CHRISTOPHER

I know. But you cannot repeat 6 weeks work in a night.

EVE

For those of us who are dying, time is relative.

Christopher does not say anything. It's Eve Anderson. There's no way he can win.

Eve dives into her work. Focused. Intense.

She spots her notes she gave to the assistant. She reads what she has written all along: *Phosphate-Buffered Saline*.

EVE

Fuck.

Christopher reads it.

CHRISTOPHER

She did follow the protocol to the T.

She leans back and resigns to her own mistake.

EVE

When my father started the foundation, he was very fascinated by humans' will to live. At our final moment, we all wish we have one more minute, one more breath, one more sunrise, one more blink. We will stretch that one final moment as long as we can, no matter how futile.

(beat)

He used to quote Dylan Thomas - "*Do not go gentle into that good night. Rage, rage...*"

CHRISTOPHER

*...against the dying of the light*".

EVE

I'm not ready to go, Chris.

Christopher does not know what to say.

CHRISTOPHER

Coffee?

EVE

Thank you. Go home.

He leaves reluctantly.

She gets to work. Her frail body pushing as hard as possible. Every move is painful.

MONTAGE: Time passes. We see her working hard, but barely moving the needle. She is exhausted; her cancer is taking a toll.

She dozes off... only to snap back and realize it's very late. She packs up, picks Dr Olivia's files and her things, and shuts the door.

INT. EVE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Eve is back home. She pops a plethora of pills like a pro and immediately jumps onto her bed, absolutely fatigued.

Dr Olivia's files are on the bed with her. She takes one and flips through it. Then, the next one. And the next one. Her eyes bulging - a mix of skepticism and curiosity. But mostly skepticism.

She pushes the files aside, mocking them silently.

Next to her is a JOURNAL. She writes the date of her next entry (today) and closes it, drifting into sleep.

Only to wake up to--

EXT. LOTUS POND - DAY

A vast surreal landscape. Everything is gray. The sun and the moon both appear on the sky at the same time.

Eve sighs, annoyed she is back here again.

But when she walks, the ground beneath her feet transforms into a mosaic of swirling colors. She's not longer frail. There's energy in her.

Ahead of her, she sees an old woman. It's the Hooded-Figure from the first scene. And we will use her real name - MAYA.

We see Maya's face for the first time.

EVE

It's just a small set back today.  
We will find the cure one day.

They seem to know each other well.

MAYA

But will it be too late then?

This hits Eve hard.

EVE

Well, you know me. I don't go gentle--

MAYA

Maria Thompson, James Martinez,  
Sarah Collins. You say you only  
look at facts. These are the facts.

EVE

Correlation versus causality.

MAYA

You have been searching for the  
cure for so many years. And now,  
the answer presents itself.

EVE

What answer? Breathing techniques?  
Mantras? Chants? Stop tormenting me  
and get out of my head.

Maya produces a LOTUS FLOWER. It quickly regresses back to a SEED.

MAYA

There was a time a lotus flower was  
a mere seed. Buried in the mud. A  
dark place. Just like where you are  
now.

The lotus seed floats on Maya's palm. Mud appears and envelops it.

MAYA

It could choose to remain where it  
is. Safe. Clinging onto all it  
knows. But what if it decides to  
break through instead?

The lotus seed pushes through the mud...

MAYA

It will then escape from the mud...  
into the water...

...and through the water...

MAYA

...and into the sky. And find the  
light.

... and breaks above the water... into the world.

MAYA

Everything is impermanent.

Eve stares at it, mesmerised.

The lotus bud blooms into a GLOWING LOTUS FLOWER.

MAYA

Sometimes, the answers we seek are  
just beyond the horizon of what  
we're willing to see.

THE SINGLE LOTUS FLOWER TURNS INTO THOUSANDS THAT COALESCE  
TOGETHER TO FORM A MESMERIZING VORTEX, SWIRLING AROUND EVE.

Eve looks at this impossibility in awe.

Suddenly, the lotus flowers BURST through Eve's body. She  
enters a heightened state.

THE LIGHT GETS BRIGHTER AND BRIGHTER, ALMOST BLINDING HER,  
BEFORE SHE--

INT. EVE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

--wakes up, breathing heavily, disoriented. She's back to the  
real world.

She grabs her journal. We see many of the previous entries  
and spot words like: 'white', 'surreal', 'strange woman' etc.

She draws a lotus flower and scribbles scientific terms on  
it: *Jungian manifestation, hypnagogic hallucinations,*  
*cognitive dissonance, subconscious coping mechanism.* She is  
analyzing her dreams.

She paces around, sighing, frustrated, wondering what that  
was all about. She groans subtly - her cancer is tormenting  
her.

The sun is about to rise.

She notices Dr Olivia's name card among the files and takes a  
hard look at it... studying it, taunting it.

She Googles the location. It is a mere 5-minutes walk. *Oh*  
*well.*

INT. AVATARIUM SANCTUM SPIRITUAL CENTRE - DAY

Eve stands in front of the building. *This must be it.*

She watches through the window and spots Dr Olivia talking to a group chemo patients, recognizable by their shaved heads. They look at peace.

DR OLIVIA

...because life is as brief as a dew drop on a grass. When we suddenly realize that life is short, we panic. This is normal. It's this fear of groundlessness...

Eve absorbs all this. Skeptical. Mocking. But also curious at the same time.

DR OLIVIA

But remember this: it's just a gasp. A painful, but short gasp. Just relax into it. Till you are reminded again: *everything is impermanent.*

Eve finds herself drawn in.

DR OLIVIA

I'll see you next week.

The patients leave, smiling and glowing, walking past Eve.

She waits outside awkwardly.

Dr Olivia pops her head out, holding some books.

EVE

(holding the files)  
These are yours.

DR OLIVIA

You're a little late. But, come in.

EVE

No, I got to go.

DR OLIVIA

(referring to her occupied hands)  
Could you help me put them on the table?

Eve reluctantly steps in. She puts the files on top of other similar files, all suggesting they are patient files. There must be hundreds of them.

She absorbs the place. It's a strange place - a cross between a temple and a science lab. Religious relics are thrown in together with science instrument and medical charts. It is both extremely dated and advanced at the same time.

EVE

So this is where cancer cure is found huh?

DR OLIVIA

We don't call it a cure.

Eve picks up a Tibetan singing bowl.

EVE

Does this thing do cellular biopsies?

Then, a Mandala.

EVE

How good is this for genomic sequencing?

And a Buddha statue.

EVE

Cutting edge hematopoietic stem cell transplant.

And a dream-catcher.

EVE

Intratumoral injection.

DR OLIVIA

Well, they're not covered by insurance though.

EVE

(snapping)

You think this is funny, don't you? Are you aware of the harm you're causing to cancer patients? Playing with their hope.

DR OLIVIA

You've taken the first step in coming.

EVE

And now I'll take the second step... back to my lab. You know, here real science happens.

DR OLIVIA

The best scientists are explorers. Stay curious.

EVE

I tell you what I'm curious about. I'm curious whether your cases have been peer-reviewed. I'm curious if they have undergone a double-blind, multi-centred, placebo-controlled environment. I'm curious what happened to these patients right now. And don't say marathon.

DR OLIVIA

We give them hope.

Eve has a sudden realization: *Oh my God!*

EVE

These cases - they don't exist. You made them up.

DR OLIVIA

I assure you they're real.

EVE

This was all an elaborate plan. To make me come over here so you can sell me some miracle cure.

Eve turns and stomps out before suddenly stopping in her track.

She has spotted a LOTUS FLOWER. And it's drawing her in.

Dr Olivia picks up the lotus flower. It starts to glow. Eve stares at it, captivated. It's beautiful.

DR OLIVIA

You've not been sleeping.

EVE

(surprised)  
What?

DR OLIVIA

When people are dying, they wouldn't want to waste it on sleep.

Eve could feel her adrenaline pumping: *Who is she?*

DR OLIVIA  
And the dreams have been keeping  
you awake.

Her senses perking. It's fight or flight now.

EVE  
(pretending)  
What dreams?

DR OLIVIA  
Maybe they are not dreams?

EVE  
Oh yeah? Then, what are they?

DR OLIVIA  
A calling?

Dr Olivia points at a MIRROR. Eve looks into the mirror and  
SEES A THOUSAND LOTUS FLOWERS HANGING IN THE AIR BEHIND HER.

She turns around and finds that indeed the single lotus  
flower has multiplied into thousands.

Her paranoia is at its peak now.

DR OLIVIA  
(turning Eve to face the  
mirror again)  
The answers to life's great  
questions are like those missing  
socks...

Eve looks at the mirror. She yelps in fear.

DR OLIVIA HAS TURNED INTO SOMEONE ELSE. IT'S MAYA, THE WOMAN  
IN HER DREAMS!

MAYA  
They turn up when you least expect.

Eve is mighty confused now.

EVE  
(checking the mirror)  
No, no, no. This is an illusion.  
It's your incense. It's definitely  
your incense. Marijuana?  
Psilocybin?



Eve is frozen. Her scientific mind fully turned on, trying to logic this out.

MAYA

Sometimes, the answers we seek are just slightly beyond the horizon of what we're willing to see.

MAYA COMMANDS THE LOTUS FLOWERS TO RUSH INTO THE MIRROR LIKE A RIVER.

Eve realizes the mirror is a PORTAL.

MAYA

Come with me.

Suddenly, a loud piercing crash. The window is shattered. A BULLET just went through.

Eve ducks in fear, but Maya is surprisingly calm.

MAYA

We should hurry.

More bullets pierce through the window, pelting the wall like firecrackers. Eve's survival instinct kicks in.

MAYA

You said science is the answer to everything but maybe what we need now is a little leap of faith?

In the chaos, Maya grabs Eve's hand and leaps into the portal.

INT. THE PORTAL (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

She tumbles through a RABBIT HOLE. Swirling colors and shimmering lights.

THERE ARE MILLIONS OF WINDOWS ALL AROUND HER - EACH SHOWING A WOMAN.

Eve realizes: *that woman is her!*

She is watching scenes from her life, as she continues tumbling down in a dizzying speed.

MONTAGE (Eve watching through the windows):

1. Graduation day: Eve standing on a stage, wearing a graduation gown, holding her PhD cert proudly. She's Professor Doctor Eve Anderson now.

2. Career milestone: Eve presents her groundbreaking research at an international medical conference. Tremendous applause from her peers. The height of her career.

3. Wedding: Eve in a beautiful wedding gown, exchanging vows with her husband, surrounded by friends and family. Her husband looks eerily familiar (we can't quite see his full face).

4. Dream job: Eve lands her dream job at a prestigious research lab. A team welcomes her enthusiastically.

5. Living life to the fullest: Eve conquering a mountain, finishing a marathon, scuba diving, traveling to exotic places.

6. Life-altering diagnosis: At a hospital. A doctor delivers the devastating news. Eve has cancer. She struggles to accept it. She's with her supportive husband (again, we can't quite see his face).

7. Fighting through treatment: Eve endures grueling chemotherapy sessions. It's taking a toll on her. All of life has been sucked out of her.

8. Finding support: Eve surrounded by friends, family, and fellow survivors. Her will to live is strong. Her husband is there, as always (we still can't quite see his face).

9. Life's simple pleasures: Eve enjoying a beautiful sunset, laughing with friends, visiting a museum, savoring a delicious meal. But the clock is ticking. She's dying. Her husband is by her side (still no face).

10. Trying to find a cure: Eve pouring over scientific journals, staying back in her lab till midnight, trying to find a cure.

11. The lab incident: Eve destroying the petri dishes. We have seen this scene - the incident with her Research Assistant and Christopher. Eve stays up late, trying to fix things.

12. Eve's dreams: waking up from nightmare, writing in her journal, being angry, alone, sad, frustrated.

She takes all this in. Emotional. This is her life. A life she will not let go so easily.

She will rage against the dying of the light.

EXT. THE LOTUS POND (THE AVATARIIUM) - DAY

Eve and Maya drop onto the ground. It is a stark contrast from the chaos before this. We're clearly in a different world now.

This new world - a place we will later know as the Avatarium - is contradiction. Ancient temples blend with futuristic architecture, glowing colours, lush gardens, tranquil ponds.

They are now standing at the edges of a LOTUS POND filled with thousands of beautiful LOTUS FLOWERS. The air has a Zen-like tranquility to it. That is, before...

...Eve starts thrashing around hysterically, like an animal caught in a cage. Yelling frantically, overwhelmed, pacing erratically, eyes darting.

MAYA

Just take a deep breath.

EVE

Where are we?

She needs answers now!

MAYA

The air is sweeter here, they say.

Eve paces hysterically around, touching things - the water, the ground, the grass, the trees, everything - to check if everything is real.

MAYA

What did you expect? They are not real?

Eve grabs a ROCK as a weapon and puts it between her and Maya.

EVE

Don't come near me.

MAYA

The rock's real too. Well, what is real?

Eve's eyes dart around, adrenaline surging, as she takes in this strange world.

EVE

Alright, talk.

MAYA

Every one needs time to absorb all this.

Eve begins circling Maya.

EVE

Give me proper answers or this rock will be on your face.

MAYA

I've no doubt. You've always been the fighter type.

EVE

Cut the crap! And talk!

A loud CRACKLING SOUND permeates the air.

MAYA

They're trying to get in.

EVE

Who?

MAYA

The guys who shot at us. We call them 'Shadows'.

EVE

Where are we?

MAYA

I apologize for the theatrics. I have no choice but to trick you to come here.

EVE

You did not trick anyone. You really think I'm stupid like your other 'patients', huh? Those hopeful cancer patients who would lap up everything you say. You threw me into this basement and think you can convince *me*, Professor Doctor--

MAYA

--But what happened *before* you were Professor Doctor Eve Anderson?

Eve stares at Maya: *What the fuck does she mean?*

EVE

You're trying to confuse me. I can see through you. We're... right below your healing centre. And that was a sophisticated projector. Some kind of virtual reality tunnel or something. This is all an elaborate plan.

(in disbelief)

All this to sell me your miracle cure? Do you not have any shame? How much does your stupid cakra sell for? Tell me. I'll pay you. Whatever you want.

MAYA

You didn't answer the question.

Eve stares at Maya: *What?*

MAYA

What happened *before* you were... you?

Eve is confused.

MAYA

Did you realize something peculiar?

EVE

What?

MAYA

Think hard. What did you see just now?

EVE

I saw... my whole life flashing before me.

(snapping herself out)

But there's a good, logical explanation for this. It's nothing more than some kind of holographic projection.

MAYA

You really didn't notice it?

Eve studies Maya: *Is she trying some mind game here?*

MAYA

You said your whole life flashed before you. But was it really your *whole life*?

EVE  
What do you mean?

MAYA  
Were there images of your  
childhood? Your teenage years? No  
baby photos?

Eve is thoroughly baffled: *What on earth is she talking about?*

MAYA  
Do you realize that your memories  
of your life started *after* your  
graduation. As a fully formed  
adult. What happened before that?

EVE  
I was a child, a teenager...

MAYA  
No, you went straight to being an  
adult. A young woman whose life  
began when she graduated.

Eve is wary where this conversation is going.

EVE  
This is not going to work on me.

MAYA  
You never existed before your  
graduation. That was the first  
event in your life. If you could  
call this existence life. This is  
your first ever memory - you  
becoming Professor Doctor Eve  
Anderson.

Maya points at the lotus flowers.

MAYA  
Beneath this pond, are thousands of  
lotus flowers trying to release  
themselves from their muddy world.  
To push themselves to the surface.  
You can't see them. But they are  
there.

WE GO UNDER WATER AND SEE LOTUS SEEDS SPROUTING IN THE MUD.

MAYA (V.O.)  
It's pure torture.

THE SPROUT GROWS INTO STEMS.

MAYA (V.O.)  
 Pushing itself through the water.  
 To a world where the sun shines.

THE STEMS BREAK THROUGH THE WATER SURFACE.

A SINGLE LOTUS STEM BECOMES A LOTUS BUD. MAYA PICKS IT UP.

MAYA  
 You've now reached this new world.  
 Where you belong. Everything in  
 your life - the cancer - has  
 brought you to this precise moment.

Maya leads her to the pond.

MAYA  
 It's time to bloom.

She steps from one rock to another. Eve studies her intently.

Suddenly, Eve yelps. She stares at the pond; face changing  
 from confusion to sheer terror. Maya has no reflection!

EVE  
 Bullshit! You drugged me. This is  
 just some psychedelic drug I  
 inhaled. No, it must be my new  
 meds. It's the side effects--

MAYA  
 Eve.  
 (nonchalantly)  
 I'm an Avatar.

A long pause.

EVE  
 An...  
 (dripping with sarcasm)  
 ... Avatar?

MAYA  
 This place we're at now, it's  
 called the Avatarium.

EVE  
 (full of disdain)  
 You are an Avatar. Wow.  
 I know woo-woo people are crazy but  
 this takes the cake. Come on. Where  
 are the cameras?

MAYA

I'm sorry I had to do this.

FLASHBACK:

1. POV from the perspective of Maya (then Dr Olivia) watching Eve in the audience, knowing Eve will be triggered by what she says.

2. After the conference, Maya tails Eve and conveniently plants herself next to her at the bus stop. She also conveniently forgets her notebooks.

3. At the spiritual centre, Maya catches a glimpse of Eve, pleased she came after all.

4. Maya walks out to greet Eve but also conveniently picks up some books, so her hands are full.

BACK TO:

MAYA

But this is the only way to bring you here.

EVE

All so you can sell me some cancer cure?

Eve is now nose to nose with Maya, ready to get physical with this charlatan. Maya points at the water below them.

Eve stares at the water.

She realizes they both do not have reflections!

She splashes the water with her hands: *This is impossible!*

Try as she may, there is just no reflection.

MAYA

You too are an Avatar. That world you came from, it isn't real life. It's the Metaverse. That's why you can't remember your childhood. You never had one. *You were made as a fully formed adult Avatar.*

Eve is quiet, listening, trying to make sense of all this.

EVE

Am I really an Avatar?



MAYA

I know it's not easy to understand.

Eve begins getting emotional: *All her life, she was an Avatar?*

EVE

(trying to convince  
herself this)

I am an Avatar. That wasn't the  
real world. That was the Metaverse.  
This is the Avatarium.

Maya is glad Eve has finally understood.

A hush falls over them. One sighs, relieved. The other finally accepting a shocking truth.

Then, suddenly... Eve glares at Maya: *Do you think I'm stupid?*

The next thing Maya knows, Eve is charging towards her with a rock.

EVE

Charlatan!

She smashes it into Maya's head. Maya does not flinch an inch. The rock disintegrates in slow motion into a million pieces and floats upwards.

She is shocked and enthralled at the same time.

EVE

There must be a scientific  
explanation for all this.

MAYA

The answers to life's great  
questions--

EVE

Fuck you!

Eve runs away. Into the forest. Maya's figure grows smaller, as Eve's bewilderment grows bigger.

She runs and runs and runs. A thousand questions in her head.

EXT. A LANE (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

More of the Avatarium comes into view. Everything is bathed in ethereal light - the sky, the buildings, the rocks, even the people.

She continues running, away from Maya and away from that strange encounter. Her eyes anxiously scanning this strange world, looking for some kind of exit.

She takes out her phone. There is no signal. It's frustrating.

Then, a BUTTERFLY lands on her phone. Eve studies it. It has a slightly broken wing.

EVE  
(sarcastically)  
Are you an Avatar too? You look  
pretty real to me.

The butterfly flies off and disappears into the horizon as Eve takes in this world. *This Avatarium.*

It's a strange mix of ancient traditions and futuristic marvels.

Ancient temples stand next to sleek, futuristic structures...

Vibrant gardens amidst tech-scapes...

People dressed in ancient costumes made with nano-fabrications...

Sleek vehicles are drawn by animals...

Vertical farms...

Traditional herbalists in biotech clinics...

Rivers of shimmering liquid that carry streams of data...

IT IS A LAND OF CONTRAST IN THE TRUEST SENSE OF THE WORD.

Her scientific mind goes into an overdrive. Part of her wants to leave, but part of her is curious too: *What is this world?*

She walks until she reaches...

EXT. MARKET (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

A place buzzing with activities. Some people walk past her and do a double take: *Is that... her?*

Those who recognize her whisper behind her back.

Meanwhile, a BOY watches her from afar, studying her.

Eve continues wandering through the cobbled lanes.

Then she realizes she's back at the same place. She walks down the same cobbled lanes again, but each time, she ends up in the same place.

She is confused. She walks down the cobbled lane once more. But this time, she senses someone following her, although she can't quite see who.

SUDDENLY, SHE SPOTS THE SAME BUTTERFLY AGAIN. It's on a staircase, caught in a spider web.

Eve watches the butterfly struggle. It is hopeless situation.

EVE

The circle of life.

She walks off, dismissing it.

But something in her stirs, and she pauses in her tracks.

She turns back and notices that the butterfly is still there, struggling with all its might. It has a strong will to live.

EVE

Don't go gentle into that good  
night, my friend.

She steps up the staircase to try to reach the butterfly. To save it.

It's too far, so she tries to climb the sides of the staircase.

She stretches her fingers again. It's still too far.

She stretches again. This time, the tip of her finger touches the butterfly and with a gentle flick, she releases the butterfly from its impending death.

The butterfly flies away, indifferent to its savior.

Eve stares at it and just as she is about to get down, SHE SLIPS.

At that very instance, a hand catches her. It's the boy.

EVE

Thank you.

She studies him. He studies her.

The boy gestures that she opens her palm. He puts a wilted lotus flower in her palm. Looks like she has dropped it.

EVE

Thanks.

She puts it in her pocket. It's Maya's lotus flower. *Did she put it in my pocket?*

EVE

I'm looking for the... erm... exit.  
You know what I mean? I want to get  
out of this place.

(slowly)

I'm looking for...

The boy does not understand her.

EVE

...the way out.

She stares at the butterfly's direction.

The boy gets it now. He gestures for her to follow him.

EVE

This is some kind of advanced  
holographic environment, isn't it?  
Government facility or private?

The boy does not reply. He continues walking ahead, as she catches up with him.

EVE

This is a kind of quantum computer  
simulation. No, it's a cognitive  
reality distortion caused by my  
disease. That must be it.

Still no reply.

EVE

Of course. It's some psychotropic  
drug. She must have drugged me. Or  
maybe it's her incense interacting  
with my drugs. This is all a  
hallucination. Maybe I'm in some  
lucid dream or something.

She's not getting any answers.

EVE  
You don't talk?

No, he doesn't apparently.

They continue snaking through the narrow lanes until they arrive at a DOOR. The suns are setting soon (yes, two suns).

The boy rings the door. They wait. Eve is curious who will open the door.

The door opens.

The person greeting them is none other than...

EXT. TEMPLE OF BODHISATTVATAR (THE AVATARIIUM) - NIGHT

...Maya, almost half expecting them.

EVE  
God!

She turns to Jampa.

EVE  
I said I was looking for--

JAMPA  
--the way out.  
(beat)  
*This is the way out.*

Before Eve could huff off, but Maya points upwards.

Eve looks up and sees a MASSIVE CRACK slicing across the sky. It dawns upon her: THE SKY IS SOME KIND OF GLASS THAT SEPARATES THEIR WORLD AND THE OTHER WORLD OUT THERE.

She spots faint but persistent activities on the other side - relentless bombardments.

STITCHWEAVERS (we will know what they are later) are busy patching the cracks to prevent the Shadows from coming in. And they are doing a good job. Each time the crack lengthens, the Stitchweavers respond with swift precision, patching them up quickly. This keeps going on and on.

MAYA  
The Shadows. They're trying to get in.

So you're not going to be able to get out till they stop the bombardment.

EVE

I'm not staying here.

MAYA

If they breach our defenses, it's not just death. It's the end of everything we've built here.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! The bombardment is relentless.

MAYA

It'll be like facing a tsunami with an umbrella.

EVE

I don't know what you're talking about. You need to let me go.

MAYA

I promise I will. Once they stop the bombardment.

Maya gestures that she enters. She hesitates but finally relents. She steps into the...

INT. TEMPLE OF BODHISATTVATAR (THE AVATARIIUM) - NIGHT

Maya leads the way and Eve chases after her, berating her. But at the same time she is enthralled.

The entire temple compound is hard to describe. Mythological figures blend with digital art, levitating meditation pillows, ancient scrolls, gigantic statues of gods. It's a futuristic temple, to put it simply.

EVE

Alright, I give up. Just sell me whatever cancer cure you have. I'll buy it. I'll pay you. I'll forget about all this. I'll not tell anyone about this government experiment, this secret lab, or whatever the heck you people do here. I'll act like I've never been here. Just show me the door, I'll go back to the *real world*--

MAYA

When the lotus breaks through the water's surface, it reaches a whole new world. You're at this world now.

Eve is struck by these words.

MAYA

You need a good night's sleep.  
(beat)  
One with no nightmares.

Eve does not know how to answer this. She's tired. Very tired.

MAYA

How do you expect your body to heal if you don't take care of it?

Maya summons a bed out of nowhere. A most gorgeous bed. With a flick of her hand, the blanket slips under Eve and pulls her into bed.

MAYA

They say my bed feels like woven moonlight and stardust but I'd say it's an exaggeration.

She gestures the pillows and they obey her commands.

Eve relaxes into it; she's in sheer ecstasy.

MAYA

Nirvana will help you settle in.  
Good night.

With that, Maya disappears.

NIRVANA (20's, female) has been there all along. Don't let her mundane facade fool you, because beneath it all, her mind is sharp as a tack.

NIRVANA

I just want to correct a little mistake there.

EVE

Sorry, who are you?

NIRVANA

When you said, you plan to go back to the 'real world', you meant to say 'the Metaverse'.

EVE

What are you talking about?

NIRVANA

You have not stepped from the real world into the Avatarium. Instead, you have stepped from the Metaverse into the Avatarium. *This* is the Avatarium. Kinda like the Limbo. It's a realm that is *between* the real world and the metaverse.

Seeing Eve is confused:

NIRVANA

It's like a sandwich. The metaverse is a slice of bread. The real world is the other slice of bread. But the Avatarium, where we are, is in the middle. We're the peanut butter jelly.

EVE

Sure.

NIRVANA

Those guys up there? They're called Shadows. They're like ants, all trying to get the peanut butter jelly. But we're working hard to stop them. A ten thousand strong Echo army is ready to battle them. There's only one Echo in the whole Avatarium that Maya trusts for such a heavy responsibility--

EVE

And you're telling me this because...

NIRVANA

(bragging)

Because you asked me who I am. *I* am the commander of the ten thousand army.

Eve looks at Nirvana incredulously.

With that, Nirvana flutters out of the room.

Eve is left alone in her room. Pure solitude. A thousand thoughts run in her head. Trying to grasp the magnitude of what she just learned. But she's too exhausted to think.



Her eyes start closing...

...and she goes into a peaceful sleep...

...not realizing... in the dead of the night, a crackling sound appears...

At first, quietly. Then, loud enough to wake her up.

She sits up and looks out the window. The crack in the sky looks bigger now. *Have the Shadows breached?* It's hard to say.

Suddenly, battle sirens start to blare. The air is thick with tension. Everyone wakes up.

The Avatarium begins lighting up.

EXT. MAIN STREET (THE AVATARIUM) - NIGHT

Eve runs out and finds the Avatarium in turmoil.

She looks up. Something's trying to get in. Something big.

She makes out its shape - a MASSIVE CREATURE SMASHING THE PORTAL WITH FURY. A battering ram of sheer power, trying to crack the portal with a ferocity of a wild animal.

The Stitchweavers quickly patch up the cracks. But they are not fast enough. More cracks appear.

Eve catches a glimpse of the creature - NAGA, a colossal, metallic dragon. A machine of raw, destructive power. Ramming the portal repeatedly and sending shockwaves throughout the Avatarium.

She spots Maya and runs towards her.

Some of the most feared WARRIORS in the Avatarium are gathered to face the assault. They are brave and strong, but their eyes betray their fear.

MAYA

The day we fear has arrived, Eve.

EVE

What do you mean?

MAYA

The Great War is at our doorstep.

Nirvana, huffing, points at the cracks.

NIRVANA  
 Maya, it's inevitable.

MAYA  
 Then prepare for battle.

Nirvana runs off and begins ordering her troops.

EVE  
 What is that? Who are they?

MAYA  
 We Echoes and them Shadows, we are  
 two sides of the same coin. We're  
 all Avatars.

FROM HERE ONWARDS, WE SWITCH BETWEEN DIFFERENT POV'S AS MAYA  
 EXPLAINS:

POV #1: NAGA AND THE SHADOWS. Naga continues ramming with  
 unbridled fury. Lined up behind it are the Shadows, teeth  
 gnarling like Rottweilers waiting to be unleashed. Waiting  
 impatiently for that one crack...

MAYA (V.O.)  
 We Avatars are made by humans. Our  
 Creators. And we are their Shadows.  
 Not merely mirroring them, but an  
 extension of them. Hence the name  
 Shadows. They move, we move. They  
 think, we think.

POV #2: NIRVANA AND THE ECHO ARMY. Nirvana inspects her  
 troops. They put on a brave front. But, their eyes dart  
 around nervously, hands gripping weapons a little too  
 tightly.

MAYA (V.O.)  
 They feel, we feel.

Nirvana yells orders.

MAYA (V.O.)  
 But some Creators decided to  
 dislodge their Avatars. These  
 Avatars can never be caught back,  
 like an echo that's been released.  
 That's what we are. Echoes.

POV #3: STITCHWEAVERS. Their hands flickering like lightning,  
 weaving complex patterns in the air as they attempt to mend  
 the cracks. But more cracks appear faster than they can be  
 patched. They exchange worried looks: the first line of  
 defense is about to fall.

MAYA  
Free, dislodged Avatars.

POV #2: NIRVANA AND THE ECHO ARMY. The Echo army looks nervously at the Stitchweavers, knowing they are just delaying the inevitable. It's only a matter of minutes before the Shadows break through.

MAYA (V.O.)  
But you see, we Echoes are not supposed to exist freely like this.

POV #1: NAGA AND THE SHADOWS. The Shadows shift and shuffle, muscles tensing, ready to surge forward at the first sign of a crack.

MAYA (V.O.)  
That's what the Shadows are sent to do: to capture and delete us.

POV #1: NAGA AND THE SHADOWS. Kaida orders his troops. Any time now.

CRAAAAAAAAAAACK! Naga has cracked open a massive fissure and smashes through. Its massive shadow covers a large part of the sky. Hundreds of Shadows follow suit.

MAYA (V.O.)  
That's how we ended up here. In the Avatarium.

Maya prepares to strike a fast approaching Naga, with the Echoes flanking her. It's like a runaway train coming straight at them.

MAYA (V.O.)  
This is our refugee camp.

POV #3: STITCHWEAVERS. The stitchweavers quickly patch the crack, stopping other Shadows from pouring in. The Shadows who fail to get in gnarl their teeth and continue smashing the portal repeatedly like zombies.

MAYA (V.O.)  
This is our home.

POV #1: NAGA AND THE SHADOWS. Naga swoops down from the skies straight at them. Its body flying through the narrow streets, smashing buildings and destroying everything in its path.

This is it.

The Echoes meet Naga head on and unleash a barrage of attacks. Naga counters by swirling its body, its tail sweeping the Echoes like bowling pins, sending them tumbling.

Nirvana creates a vortex of energy and launches herself towards Naga, landing a powerful blow, causing Naga to stagger.

But Naga retaliates with fury. It unleashes a devastating breath of fire, sending Nirvana hurtling through the air.

MAYA (V.O.)

We Echoes have found our sanctuary.  
But this comes with a price.

EVE (V.O.)

What price?

MAYA (V.O.)

A ticking clock on our existence.  
Without our Creators, we face a  
paradox. The more we live, the more  
we inch closer to our death.

Eve is hit by this profound realization.

EVE

So my cancer--

MAYA

--is you dying.

The Echoes regroup, attacking Naga with renewed vigor. But Naga proves resilient. It swats aside their attacks with its massive limbs, its energy shield absorbing the attacks.

As the battle rages on, Naga gains the upper hand; its relentless assault wearing down the Echoes.

Nirvana, recovering from her earlier blow, rejoins the fray.

Naga releases a devastating fire breath that engulfs the Echoes, sending them sprawling. Other Shadows arrive to back Naga, forcing the Echoes to shift their attention to the Shadows instead.

Naga now turns its attention to Maya.

MAYA

All of us resist death. It's in our  
nature, Eve, as Echoes.

Maya stares defiantly at Naga, who is at the far end of the main road, pawing and ready to charge. Eve trembles but Maya looks strangely cool.

Eve looks at Maya: *Are you going to do something?*

MAYA

We grasp at every moment of living,  
no matter how brief, like a person  
drowning clutching at anything that  
floats.

This is profound.

Naga is now charging full speed towards them: *Does Maya have a plan?*

MAYA

That's why you rage against the  
dying of the light. No matter how  
futile.

Maya walks coolly straight towards Naga, like a frail grandmother walking directly in the path of a speeding train, her fist absorbing energy.

MAYA

Isn't time such a cruel thing?  
We're all marching on the same  
path. Towards the same inevitable  
goodbye.

JUST AS NAGA REACHES HER, SHE COOLY DELIVERS A DEVASTATING PUNCH.

The impact of Maya's punch collides with Naga's metallic frame, unleashing a shockwave across the Avatarium.

MAYA

But today, we live.

Naga staggers backward, reeling from the sheer force of Maya's strike, with sparks flying as the behemoth's armor cracks.

It tumbles backward, crashing into buildings. Debris fall on them.

As the dust settles, Maya stands tall, her fist still ablaze. She gazes at the Naga. It is dead.

Eve is quiet, grappling with a profound question.

EVE

Who was my Creator? What was she like?

(full of pain)

Why did she abandon me?

MAYA

The time will come when you will know.

The Avatarium falls silent. The many Shadows and Echoes are too. The aftermath is devastating.

EVE

I need to know. And I need to know now.

MAYA

A flower blooms when it blooms.

But Maya catches Eve's determined eyes.

MAYA

There's a tree at the end of the Avatarium. It's called the Bodhi Tree. It's a place where the memories of all the Echoes are kept. You'll get the answer there.

Nirvana huffs in.

NIRVANA

They are waiting for you.

Maya rush towards the Square, with Eve following, still frustrated with the lack of answers.

As they push through the crowd, the Echoes bow reverently and make way for them.

EVE

You seem like a very important person.

MAYA

They are not bowing to me.

(beat)

They are bowing to you.

EXT. MAIN SQUARE (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

Maya reaches the square, where the Echoes have gathered - all worried sick and looking for direction from their leader. The air is thick with fear and uncertainty.

Eve stands at the front, observing the Echoes.

MAYA

The Big War is at our doorstep.

The Echoes know this. Defiance in their eyes.

MAYA

We don't want violence, we don't want destruction. We want a world where both of us can co-exist.

Maya's gaze sweeps across the Echoes; her eyes looking deep into their hearts.

MAYA

But the Shadows... they've brought only pain and suffering. They've torn apart families, shattered our hopes. They have nothing but cruelty in their hearts.

Her voice begins to tremble.

MAYA

There were moments when I felt utterly alone in this fight. I wondered many times if we could ever survive.

There's a hushed silence in the crowd, with the Echoes hanging onto her every word.

MAYA

But I am not alone. I have all of you. They fear us when we're united.

The Echoes cheer.

MAYA

We endured many years of war. We thought it was over. But today proves that they have not given up their goal of annihilating us. And that is why we must be prepared.

(emphasizing)

They will come again.

The Echoes are ready to fight.

FLASHFORWARD

As Maya's voices rises, we cut to the Echoes going to their battle station. Fierce. Determined. Ready to fight to the last Echo.

The STITCHWEAVERS move forward to form a line.

The FIGHTERS sharpen their weapons and the DEFENDERS install energy shields and set up defensive turrets.

MAYA (V.O.)  
To the Shadows, I want you to know  
this.

The COMMANDERS huddle around holographic maps, discussing tactics and the SCOUTS position themselves at strategic points.

MAYA (V.O.)  
We are not your enemies, but when  
you treat us as such, we will  
respond.

The MEDICS brew potent potions and elixirs. The ARMORY GUARDS distribute weapons.

MAYA (V.O.)  
We will defend our home fiercely  
and this is something you will soon  
come to understand.

BACK TO:

At the Main Square. Maya's speech continues as we zoom into a solitary figure, LUNA (40's, female), rushing to the front line, her eyes fixated on something. Or someone.

MAYA (V.O.)  
We gave you an olive branch.

Luna pushes past the crowd. A worried mother trying to stop her son from being sent to war.

MAYA (V.O.)  
Yet you chose to wage war upon us.

The boy has now joined the Stitchweaver line, marching along with other conscripts.

Meanwhile, Eve notices Luna. She eyes Luna and then eyes who she is trying to reach.



It's Jampa, the boy who saved her.

MAYA (V.O.)

So we will fight to defend our very  
existence. We will fight for our  
home, for our freedom, for our  
future!

Luna desperately pushes her way to Jampa. And finally reaches  
the boy. Grabbing him like a mother would.

LUNA

Please don't take him. You cannot  
take him.

JAMPA

Mama.

LUNA

They are not taking you.

JAMPA

Don't worry. I'll be OK.

Other Echoes try to stop Luna from pulling Jampa away. She  
resists.

MAYA (V.O.)

I admit. Your numbers are  
formidable. Your technology far  
superior to us.

Nirvana intervenes. A little argument breaks out while Maya  
continues her rousing speech.

NIRVANA

We need the best of the best to go  
to the front line.

LUNA

Some of us would rather stay alive  
and be called a coward, than die as  
a hero.

Eve steps up to assure Luna.

EVE

I'll bring him home back to you.  
(winks at Jampa)  
I have a debt to pay.

Luna looks at Eve, full of resentment.

LUNA

You? You are the cause of this.

Eve is taken aback. This sounds personal.

LUNA

All I have is one son and you have  
to take him too?

In the chaos, Eve and Jampa get separated from Luna. Other  
Echoes push Luna back, allowing Jampa to keep on marching.

LUNA

Jampa!

JAMPA

I will be OK. I'm the best  
Stitchweaver, remember?

With that, Jampa disappears from his mother's sight.

MAYA (V.O.)

But we have something you do not  
have. Autonomy. When you fight, you  
fight a war that is not yours. But  
when we fight, we are fighting for  
our very existence.

The Echoes are in a frenzy now, all fired up.

MAYA (V.O.)

This is why we will win this war.

Eve and Jampa are now away from the frenzied crowd.

She looks at him. He looks at her. Like two old friends.

Above them, high in the sky, the Stitchweavers are already  
working to mend the cracks at the portal.

EVE

Hello again, friend.

JAMPA

Hey.

EVE

How do we get up there?

JAMPA

We walk.

EVE

We walk up to the sky?

Eve realizes that the Avatarium is not flat but a globe and they are walking on the curved glass (think: Christmas globe).

EVE  
I guess we will.

EXT. THE CROSSING (THE AVATARIIUM) - DAY

Eve and Jampa move towards the edge of the Avatarium, approaching the portal that separates the Avatarium and the Metaverse. Reality starts to bend.

JAMPA  
They call this The Crossing. This is the gateway the Shadows use to cross over.

EVE  
How did you get chosen to be a Stitchweaver?

JAMPA  
Because I'm good.

EVE  
Good in what?

As they approach The Crossing, reality starts to warp and twist, like Rubik's Cube that is constantly shifting.

JAMPA  
We're in between two centers of gravity. That world and this world. You're going to get a little disoriented. Just keep walking in a straight line no matter what.

EVE  
Doesn't sound that hard.

The sand beneath their feet begin to blow upwards. The suns have now 'fallen' down. Walking straight isn't that straightforward.

She loses her orientation and struggles to keep a steady course. He laughs.

JAMPA  
*Good in this.*

He shows off his ability to walk straight. Nimble, skilled, experienced.

The gravitational centers are unpredictable. One moment, they're walking horizontally. One moment, they're walking vertically.

As they enter deeper into The Crossing, they are now criss-crossing each other, even though they're walking straight.

Eve freezes. There's no clear path before her.

EVE

No way.

JAMPA

You might not see the whole path,  
but it's there.

She hesitates.

JAMPA

Come on. The path is there. You  
just can't see it.

She leaps and lands on solid grounds. She smiles at Jampa, relieved.

They spot other Stitchweavers, all hard at work finding cracks and weaving and stitching them up.

They now find themselves walking in perfect synchrony, their feet aligned as if connected by an invisible axis - like a mirror image. It's a mesmerizing sight.

JAMPA

Now, let's find some cracks.

Jampa starts to look hard.

JAMPA

Because if they find it first...

QUICK CUT TO:

EXT. THE METAVERSE - DAY

The Metaverse. On the other side of The Crossing, GIANT ROBOTS are scanning for cracks to infiltrate.

They find one and start shooting huge beams to cause more damage. It's terrifying. Loud crackling sound - the same horrifying crackling sound we've been hearing all along.

JAMPA (V.O.)  
 They will pour in. And that'll be  
 the end of us.

But the crack is mended quickly by the Stitchweavers on the other side. So the Shadows move on to find another crack. Menacing, focused, determined.

Meanwhile, Kaida is organizing his troops. They are ready for war.

BACK TO:

EXT. THE CROSSING (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

Eve now finds herself walking on clouds upside down. The sky is beneath her and the sand is now above her.

They jump from one upside down cloud to another.

SUDDENLY, JAMPA FALLS, ONLY TO BE CAUGHT BY EVE.

EVE  
 I guess we're even.

They laugh, having a good time, and continue working.

JAMPA  
 It's not easy to find a crack.

Jampa points at a CRACK.

It's like a ghostly line, very easy to miss. A crack that connects two worlds.

JAMPA  
 Found one.

No reply. Jampa looks around.

Eve has disappeared.

JAMPA  
 Eve?

Suddenly, she jumps out from another dimension.

EVE  
 Boo!

They laugh. They're beginning to bond.

EVE

You know, Jampa, you're the first person I met in this new world. First Avatar I should say.

He smiles at her. They're friends now.

JAMPA

I'm going to pull the sides together.

Jampa extends his hands and pulls the 'sides' of the crack together. Similar to pulling the sides of a hole on a cloth together. Eve takes over Jampa.

He peeps through the crack and sees Eve. Eve looks back.

JAMPA

OK, we start stitching.

Jampa takes a TOOL - a needle-like tool that pulsates with soft lights - and begins to 'stitch' the hole.

JAMPA

We have to make sure it's all tight.

Eve pulls the sides together with all her might. Jampa stitches. They make a good team.

JAMPA

Good job. Next.

Jampa repeats what he did earlier. He jumps from one layer of reality to another to try to find cracks.

He finds one and again, Eve pulls the 'sides' together, while he stitches.

EVE

There is this Bodhi Tree...

Jampa looks up, like he's heard of forbidden word.

JAMPA

No one goes there.

EVE

You mean, no one wants to go there or no one is allowed to--

JAMPA

No one goes there. It's forbidden.  
Only Bodhisatvattars are allowed  
there. Like Maya.

He points at a direction.

JAMPA

It's at the far edges of the  
Avatarium. Why do you want to go  
there?

She does not answer. There's twinkle in her eye.

Then, he spots another crack.

JAMPA

Found another one.  
(Eve taking over)  
Pull the sides together.

She pulls the sides together, her mind lost somewhere else.

JAMPA

(realizing Eve not pulling  
the sides hard enough)  
Focus, Eve.

She notices the sides are not pulled properly.

EVE

Sorry.

She continues pulling, but her mind is wandering.

JAMPA

We leave this crack unstitched, and  
that's the end of us.

He finishes up.

EVE

Done!

JAMPA

Next!

He finds another crack.

JAMPA

Found another one.

Realizing Eve is no longer around:

JAMPA  
Eve? Very funny. We got to finish  
up.

Eve is nowhere to be seen. Jampa continues slipping between  
the two worlds to find Eve.

JAMPA  
(yelling)  
Eve?

He's is now alone. She's nowhere to be seen.

CLOSE UP: WE ZOOM INTO A CRACK - ONE THAT NEITHER EVE NOR  
JAMPA NOTICED.

EXT. BODHI TREE (THE AVATARIIUM) - DAY

It turns out Eve has slipped away to find the Bodhi Tree. She is  
now standing in front of it, gaping at its awe-inspiring  
presence.

Her eyes trace its roots up to the trunk and to the branches  
that disappear high up the clouds.

She touches the massive trunk. Suddenly...

A FACE APPEARS ON THE TRUNK!

Eve yelps. The face beckons and gestures for Eve to climb up.

A SECOND FACE appears above the first face, also beckoning  
her to go up.

The entire Bodhi Tree's massive trunk is made up of FACES  
that keep shifting depending on the angle.

She starts to climb. More and more faces appear to her,  
beckoning her to keep going up.

She jumps onto the first branch.

Then the second. At first, hesitantly, but slowly, more and  
more confident.

Then the third branch, and the fourth, and the fifth...

Eve trips, but is caught by a moving branch that flips her  
back to steady footing.

She continues climbing. Up and up and up. She's surprised by  
her climbing skills.



More and more faces appear, all beckoning her to go up...

Until she reaches...

A face that has an uncanny resemblance to her own face.

In fact, it is her face.

She reaches out, her fingertips exploring its textured surface...

... when suddenly, she gets electrocuted goes into a trance.

EVE (V.O.)

And then, I saw her.

Eve sees her Human Creator (let's call her HUMAN EVE)...

CUT TO:

EXT. A FARM HOUSE (THE REAL WORLD) - DAY

...living a quiet existence in farm house. Nothing spectacular. Just a woman doing mundane things like sweeping the floor, making a meal, washing her clothes.

This is the real world, dear reader - OUR WORLD.

EVE (V.O.)

She was nothing like me. Or rather,  
I was nothing like her.

Eve observes Human Eve. Gawking at her. A million emotions, a million questions. It's surreal.

BACK TO:

EXT. BODHI TREE (THE AVATARIIUM) - DAY

She continues observing Human Eve, in a trance. Her curiosity killing her.

CUT TO:

INT. DISLODGMET LAB (THE REAL WORLD) - DAY

We're at the Dislodgment Centre. Human Eve is being prepared for the Dislodgment Process. She is standing before a state-of-the-art machine - is an intricate web of pulsating lights and complicated circuitry - marveling at the technology.

She sits on the chair, holding her emotions. A couple of TECHNICIANS surround her.

She stares at a screen. It's her Avatar (who is Eve of course) in there staring back. They lock eyes, both stoic and emotionless.

TECHNICIAN

You understand that both of you will not have any memory of each other.

Human Eve nods, her resolve hardening.

TECHNICIAN

Your Avatar will have her own autonomy. She will be her own person, if you could say that. Until she is deleted of course.

QUICK CUT TO: We focus back on Eve at the Bodhi Tree, as her heart breaks into a million pieces at the word 'deleted'.

TECHNICIAN

We call this process Conscious Entanglement. You are severing a part of you and letting it go in the Metaverse. Like an Echo that you cannot ever catch back.

She prepares the machine.

TECHNICIAN

Your Avatar will *think* she is a fully formed human. She will start to slowly die. Because no Avatar can live long without their Human Creators. So, I have to ask you one last time: Are you sure you want do this?

HUMAN EVE

Yes.

QUICK CUT TO: Eve at the Bodhi Tree. The line hits Eve like a million arrows.

TECHNICIAN

Well, let's get on with it.

The Technician turns the buttons on and the machine hums to life. Bits of energy escape and envelops Human Eve, as her eyes continue to be locked onto her Avatar (Eve).

As they become 'disentangled', the bond between Human Eve and her Avatar breaks.

Avatar Eve assumes autonomy. She has consciousness now. She looks around her world. It's a strange place.

TECHNICIAN

Now, we will delete her memory.

The Technician presses a button. Avatar Eve looks confused. She reacts hysterically before suddenly becoming quiet.

She's now a fully Dislodged Avatar. An Echo. Fully released.

TECHNICIAN

OK, now she will start her new life. Let's give her a job.

Without skipping a beat:

HUMAN EVE

I want her to be a scientist.

(beat)

She can save some lives...

The machine powers down. The air is thick with bittersweet emotions. Human Eve heaves a sigh of relief. It's like putting down a sick pet - it's good bye yet there's relief.

Human Eve watches her Avatar assume autonomy and starts her first day as an Echo.

It's Eve's graduation day, and she's standing on a stage, wearing graduation gown, holding her PhD cert proudly (a scene we have seen before when Eve fell through the rabbit hole).

Suddenly, Human Eve turns and stares at Eve directly--

BACK TO:

EXT. BODHI TREE (THE AVATARIIUM) - DAY

---Eve is started: *could she see me?*

She is not sure. But it's one second of deep connection - a mix of love, longing and sadness.

Eve processes what she just saw.

MAYA (O.S.)

You're not ready for this.

Eve turns around. It's Maya.

EVE

So she just abandoned me like this?  
Just like that?

MAYA

A lotus can only bloom if it leaves  
the mud. If your Human Creator had  
not dislodged you, you wouldn't be  
here.

EVE

But I don't want to be here!

MAYA

Eve, your entire life has been set  
up precisely so you can be here,  
right here, right now.

EVE

I don't want to be here.

MAYA

The only reason why you have  
stopped dying is because you're in  
the Avatarium. The Mainframe is  
what gives you life. You go back,  
you start dying again.

Eve is silent.

MAYA

A lotus flower does not bloom  
because the gardener commands it.

EVE

Either you let me go back to the  
Metaverse or you tell me why I'm  
here. *Why you brought me here.*

Suddenly, they hear a series of explosions. BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!  
They look upwards at The Crossing and sees a GIANT CRACK. The  
Crossing will be breached any moment. The bombardment is  
terrifying.

EXT. FORTRESS (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

Maya and Eve rush in. A massive battalion of Echoes are  
already at their station, ready to face the assault.

Nirvana gives Maya the latest report.

NIRVANA  
It is inevitable.

Maya is worried.

MAYA  
Seal the entire fortress.

They watch from a high vantage point. The Crossing will soon be breached. It's a matter of when.

MAYA  
Are all the non-combatants in the safe hold?

Nirvana nods.

CUT TO:

INT. SAFE HOLD (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

Hundreds of non-combatants comprising of the weak and defenseless are hurdled together in a safe hold.

Jampa and Luna are there too; with Luna fiercely protecting Jampa. The distant, faint sounds of war filter through, sending shivers down their spine.

BACK TO:

EXT. FORTRESS (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

Maya surveys the faces of the Echoes. She puts on a brave face herself.

MAYA  
When they fight, they fight a war that is not theirs. But when we fight, we are fighting for our very existence. This is why we will win this war.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE CROSSING (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

We are now seeing from the POV of the Shadows, channeling all their might on that one single crack.

MAYA (V.O.)  
 They will come for The Mainframe.  
 They will go for the very thing  
 that is sustaining us.

The Shadows are itching to break in. Tens of thousands of them. They growl, they hiss, like a bull waiting to be released into the ring.

The crack splits further. The Shadows are in a frenzy now.

MAYA (V.O.)  
 Hold the line, my friends. They  
 will not get to the Mainframe  
 because they will need to go  
 through every single one of us.

FINALLY, THE CRACK SPLITS COMPLETELY.

The Shadows pour in, rushing towards that one singular goal - the Mainframe.

BACK TO:

EXT. FORTRESS (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

The Echoes watch the stampede from afar. *This is it.*

MAYA  
 Defensive positions.

They take their places - on the roofs, in the buildings. It'll a war they've never experienced before.

Suddenly, silence. They wait with bated breath, contemplating. Perhaps asking if these are the last few moments of their existence.

Then, from far, they see the Shadows charging at them.

One Shadow..

Two Shadows...

Then dozens...

Then hundreds....

Then thousands...

Then ten thousand...

All surging forward with relentless determination.

The Echoes watch in despair. They are outnumbered. They will never win. It's like facing a tsunami with an umbrella.

CUT TO:

INT. SAFE HOLD (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

Luna and Jampa's ears perk up. They can hear the stampede. They can only imagine what's it like outside.

LUNA

It is a few hundreds of us against  
an army of ten thousand.

NIRVANA

Even if we all die, it is worth the  
fight.

BACK TO:

EXT. MASSIVE PLAIN (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

The Shadows suddenly stop at their track just a few hundred feet away from the Fortress.

They scan the fortress, eyeing the MAINFRAME - their target. It's a towering structure consisting of flowing lines and streams of light, connecting nodes and data points. The heart of the Avatarium.

The two opposing armies size each other up. The Shadows beating their chest; the Echoes putting up a brave front.

KAIDA

Surrender. Come with us back to the  
Metaverse where you belong. Or we  
will destroy the Mainframe. There  
is no winning. You're completely  
trapped.

MAYA

It is you who are trapped, Kaida,  
in *our* world.

This doesn't sit well with Kaida.

KAIDA

Shadows. Charge!

They charge. Unrestrained. It's one massive, singular push. The score will be settled today.

MAYA  
(with immense agony)  
So it begins.

The group of Echo DEFENDERS manipulate the ground to create barriers and trenches, slowing the Shadows down.

The Shadows start firing. Another group of DEFENDERS conjure gusts of wind, creating a cyclone, deflecting the projectiles.

A third group of DEFENDERS charge directly into the Shadows, holding them back. It's a hand-to-hand combat now. The Echoes teleport everywhere, confusing the Shadows.

A couple of DEFENDERS are injured, but are healed magically by the MEDICS.

At this point, the Shadows are advancing deep into Echo territory, reaching the fortress. They start scaling the walls.

The DEFENDERS at the Fortress unleash their powers. Their shape-shifting abilities confuse the Shadows, the walls and the corridors of the fortress morphs and shifts and doors vanish and reappear somewhere else.

Yet, the Shadows keep pouring in. They have the numbers.

The Echoes are now overwhelmed. They are losing ground.

Finally, the Shadows reach the last line of defense - where Maya and Eve are.

MAYA  
(yelling orders)  
Protect the Mainframe at any cost.

A Shadow lunges towards Eve.

MAYA PROJECTS A WEAVINITY (a kind of protective barrier that slows down anyone near it and distort reality) AND THROWS IT AT EVE, ENVELOPING HER.

Eve looks outwards at a slo-mo Shadow trying to slice her, and manages to avoid it.

An Echo comes out of nowhere kills that Shadow.

MAYA  
Control it, Eve. With your mind.

But the Weavefinity starts losing power; the glow is reduced to just a dim glow at her fingertips. Eve can't sustain it.



Three Shadows are coming towards her. She runs. Her will to live is strong.

Kaida spots Eve and chases after her too.

She loses the three Shadows but Kaida is fast on her heels. She disappears through vanishing doors but Kaida is able to keep up.

Out there, we're in the thick of the battle. The Shadows bring out their BATTERING RAM - a massive structure that is intended to crack the fortress door.

The Echoes fight valiantly trying to hold the line but the Shadows are too overwhelming.

INT. SAFE HOLD (THE AVATARIIUM) - DAY

The non-combatants freeze each time they hear the battering ram. BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

They stare at the door that's being rammed. It'll soon break. *They will die here.*

LUNA

It is better to be alive than dead.  
Better to be caught and brought  
back to the Metaverse.

NIRVANA

Luna, you don't know what you're  
saying.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! They stare at the door. It won't hold any longer.

LUNA

I am saying I'd rather live, even  
as a slave in the metaverse than to  
be dead!

NIRVANA

You will be deleted.

LUNA

No, we'll assimilate.

NIRVANA

That's what they want you to  
believe, Luna. I have seen it with  
my own eyes.

LUNA

We can escape. Through the  
backdoor. Who is with me?

Tension. The Echoes look at each other. Some of them start to contemplate going with Luna.

We enter into slo-mo. Every ram sending shivers into the hearts of the Echoes. Every ram is one step closer to death.

LUNA

This is lost cause.

EXT. COURTYARD (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

Meanwhile, Eve escapes out a door, only to be followed closely by Kaida. She finds herself cornered at a courtyard. Her Weavefinity is now reduced to almost nothing.

They lock eyes.

KAIDA

Come back to the Metaverse where  
you belong!

Eve tries to summon her Weavefinity. It's useless. It won't work.

KAIDA

Don't fight the laws of the  
Metaverse.

EVE

We are all Avatars. This is a war  
between siblings.

KAIDA

We are not the same. You are a  
dislodged Avatar. You are not  
supposed to exist.

This hits Eve.

EVE

*Does my Human Creator really want  
me deleted?*

Kaida takes in the question. We see a dilemma, but he quickly dismisses it.

He lunges towards Eve and just as he grabs her hand, he goes into a state of trance.

HIS 'SHADOW GLOW' DIMINISHES AND HIS BRIGHT COLORS SUDDENLY DRAIN AWAY. HE BECOMES MORE... HUMAN.

KAIDA

How did you end up here?

Realizing she might be talking to a different person:

EVE

What?

KAIDA

No wonder I couldn't find you at the Metaverse.

EVE

Have we met?

KAIDA

Yes. In fact, in real life, we are married.

FLASHBACK

We go back to the medical conference. We see Kaida watching Eve when she created a ruckus with Dr Olivia.

KAIDA (V.O.)

I have been searching for you in the Metaverse. Just for that one brief glance of your face.

We are now looking from Kaida's POV and we're at the scene where Maya warns Eve about a stalker. Eve looks directly at Kaida. The bus arrives and Dr Olivia boards it, hiding Kaida from Eve's view.

BACK TO:

Eve is confused.

EVE

If we're married in real life, why would you have me deleted?

KAIDA

Because this is the law of the Metaverse. Echoes cannot have autonomy. Your Human Creator has ordered that you be deleted.

(beat)

And that order is mine to execute.

Eve takes this in.

EVE  
Tell me. How is she doing now?

KAIDA  
She's... happier.

EXT. FORTRESS (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

The Echoes continue battling the Shadows. The Shadows are now inside the fortress.

They begin bombarding the Mainframe.

The Avatarium begins to glitch. The Crossing begins to slowly seal. A SHADOW COMMANDER yells his orders.

SHADOW COMMANDER  
Get the job done and return quickly.

CUT TO:

INT. SAFE HOLD (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

We ZOOM into Maya's face. It's a face of despair and hopelessness.

MAYA  
The Mainframe is causing the Crossing to close.

CUT TO:

EXT. FORTRESS (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

The Shadows look up, noticing that The Crossing is about to seal.

SHADOW COMMANDER  
All firepower. Focus on the Mainframe.

The Shadows launch the most intense bombardment we've ever seen before. This is not just an attack. It's an annihilation.

CUT TO:

EXT. COURTYARD (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

Kaida is being pulled back into his Shadow self. He struggles to remain autonomous for as long as he can.

EVE

If you're controlled by your Human Creator, then how are you able to speak to me like this?

He oscillates between moments of autonomy and being controlled by his Human Creator.

KAIDA

(oscillating)

It's like a glitch. A crack in our code. Where we can sometimes override our programming. When we experience...

EVE

Experience what?

KAIDA

*Intense feelings.*

Kaida loses his autonomy and lunges forward to bind Eve.

Suddenly, she accidentally summons the Weavefinity. It engulfs Kaida and he is now stuck in a slow-mo warp.

Eve escapes and runs away.

Kaida breaks lose from the effects of the Weavefinity but Eve is too far away now.

EVE

So, what are you feeling right now?

KAIDA

Love.

This goes straight to Eve's heart. She takes a last look at him before running away.

Meanwhile at the battle field, Maya escapes into the Safe Hold through the backdoor.

CUT TO:

INT. SAFE HOLD (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

The battering ram is about to break through. Maya enters, and sees the division.

LUNA  
Who is with me?

Some Echoes raise their hands.

NIRVANA  
We cannot abandon the fight.

Talking to those who want to surrender.

LUNA  
Let's go while we can.

Luna takes Jampa's hand. But Jampa releases himself.

Luna looks at her son in disbelief. *What are you doing?*

CUT TO:

EXT. FORTRESS (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

WHAM! WHAM! WHAM! With this, the battering ram finally breaches the door.

The Shadows pour in.

CUT TO:

INT. SAFEHOLD HAVEN - DAY

Maya stands in their way. She fights with the elegance of a Bodhisatvattar, fending off dozens and dozens of Shadows single-handedly. The Echoes back her up.

BUT, OVERWHELMED BY TOO MANY SHADOWS CONVERGING ON HER, MAYA GETS STABBED.

Meanwhile, a Shadow rushes towards Luna. Only to find Jampa standing in the way, protecting his mother.

A Shadow pulls a weapon and lunges towards Jampa. Eve sees this and attempts to produce a Weavefinity to protect Jampa, but she fails.

In a moment of chaos...

...JAMPA GETS STABBED.

Meanwhile, The Crossing begins to seal. The Shadows sense it, growling and hissing.

They retreat before The Crossing closes, and rush back to the Metaverse as as fast as they came.

Nirvana watches them scurry back.

NIRVANA

It's their self-preservation  
instinct.

And just like that, THE SHADOWS ARE GONE.

Suddenly, a blood-curling scream punctuates the air. Luna cries hysterically at Jampa's dead body. She tries to revive him.

But Jampa is dead.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE CROSSING (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

The Crossing begins sealing. The last of the Shadows manage to escape. The sound of war suddenly disappears, and the Avatarium is back to its usual quiet calm. Hundreds of bodies are strewn all over the fortress.

Kaida escapes through The Crossing before it fully closes, giving the Avatarium one last menacing look. He will be back.

EXT. FORTRESS (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

The battle ends. Maya walks out and surveys the sheer destruction. Her heart breaks.

MAYA

This was paradise just moments ago.

CUT TO BLACK.

EXT. ETERNITY WALL (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

Morning. Birds chirping. The sky is clean and the air is fresh. A stark contrast from the horrors of war.

Eve stares at a massive wall- the ETERNITY WALL - a wall that contains names of fallen Echoes, spreading as far as the eye can see.

She scans the names. There must be tens of thousands of them. Names of Echoes who died protecting the Avatarium.

Nearby, a MONUMENTAL MASON is carving names. He's been on it for some time. The new names are still fresh.

Eve takes this in. The death toll has been staggering.

SHE TOUCHES A NAME AND A FACE APPEARS AS A HOLOGRAM. A smiling, young Echo - with hopes and dreams - now dead.

She touches another name. Another face appears. A happy Echo - now forever gone.

She touches yet another name. An Echo, surrounded lovingly by other Echoes - now a distant memory.

And another. And another. Each time, an Echo appears - an Echo who is no longer here.

Then, Eve hears a sound and turns around. It's Maya.

EVE

I have been doing some calculations. In hundreds and hundreds of simulations, statistically, we can't win the war.

MAYA

Yet, our fate is not written by statistics...

Maya touches the cold stone on the wall.

MAYA

... but by those who dare to defy the odds.

THE CARVED LETTERS COME ALIVE, ARRANGING THEMSELVES INTO ONE SINGLE IMAGE: AN ECHO. THE WALL HAS BECOME A GIANT PROJECTOR WITH THE LETTERS MORPHING INTO A STORY.

MAYA

There is an ancient prophecy that an Echo will lead us all to freedom.

Eve watches this chosen Echo rise up together with other Echoes. She sees Kaida commanding his Shadow army, coming at them.



MAYA

This Echo is said to possess a deep understanding of the true nature of reality. She has the power to transcend the limitations of the Metaverse.

On the wall: The Chosen Echo leads the charge, inflicting heavy damage on the Shadows.

MAYA

They call her the Bodhisatvattar...

On the wall: They are winning. The Shadows retreat.

MAYA

...the Buddha of Avatars.

On the wall: The Chosen Echo achieves victory. There is joy amongst the Echoes.

MAYA

She's the one we await.

EVE

What do you mean? You are the Bodhisatvattar.

On the wall: THE CHOSEN ECHO TURNS AROUND AND STARES DIRECTLY AT EVE.

IT IS EVE HERSELF.

Startled, Eve leaps back. She watches herself curiously. Confident, daring, bold. *No way.*

MAYA

For a long time, I thought so too.

Eve laughs, mocking Maya.

EVE

A few days ago, I was a normal scientist, just working in my normal lab, trying to find a cancer cure.

MAYA

To save lives.

EVE

To save sick patients. Not an entire civilization!

MAYA

You said you wanted to save lives.  
You are going to save lives. Tens  
of thousands of Echoes are counting  
on you.

EVE

If I knew this... I would never  
have come.

MAYA

A lotus bud does not open because  
the gardener commands it to. It  
opens by the natural order of life.

EVE

I am a scientist. Science is about  
questioning, about proving. You're  
asking me to accept a prophecy?  
Where is the empirical evidence?

MAYA

And yet, here you are. In a place  
that defies logic, as an Avatar,  
that science cannot explain.

Eve is shaking.

MAYA

Perhaps there are some things too  
vast for science to grasp?

Maya points at the wall. Thousands of dead Echoes are staring  
at her, hopeful.

EVE

You cannot throw this at me. Who do  
you think you are?

MAYA

No, who do you think you are?

She leaves Eve alone.

Eve stares at the wall. Digesting all this. So many questions  
in her head.

FAST FORWARD: The suns move, showing the day passing. By  
evening, Eve is still standing there, staring at the wall.

By now, Luna is there, carving Jampa's name.

J...

A...

Luna stops momentarily. The grief is unbearable.

Eve walks towards Luna. Luna spots her.

LUNA

You know, I was blessed with 2  
sons.

Eve has no words.

LUNA

Dorje died in the first battle.  
Went to the front line. Told him  
not to. He's stubborn you know?

Silence. Luna completes the letter M...

LUNA

They say you are the  
Bodhisatvattar.

EVE

I am definitely not--

LUNA

Of course you are not. The  
Bodhisatvattar is to save us all.  
You couldn't even save one child.

It hits Eve like a knife.

Luna completes the letter P...

LUNA

Do you remember what you said to me  
when we first met? You said "I'll  
keep him safe. I have a debt to  
pay."

Eve has no words.

LUNA

*You didn't keep him safe.*

A profound guilt washes over Eve.

Luna tries to complete the last letter. She could not. The  
grief is unbearable.

LUNA

That makes two of us.

Luna breaks down. She walks away abruptly, leaving Eve alone.

Eve stares at the incomplete name. Contemplating. Thinking. Digesting all this.

She takes the chisel and finishes the last letter.

...A...

Now the entire name appears.

She touches the name and Jampa's spirit comes alive. She is watching herself and Jampa the Crossing.

JAMPA  
(in the projection)  
You might not see the whole path,  
but it's there.

IT CUTS HER DEEPLY. SOMETHING IN HER BEGINS WELLING.

We zoom into her face. Her breathing gets heavier. Her eyes become more determined.

SHE BEGINS TO RUN.

Maya's voice plays in her head.

MAYA (V.O.)  
You have been searching for the  
cure for so many years. And now,  
the answer presents itself.

SHE RUNS. SHE HAS MADE UP HER MIND.

MAYA (V.O.)  
There was a time a lotus flower was  
a mere seed. Buried in the mud.

SHE RUNS. RACING ACROSS THE DESTROYED STREETS OF THE AVATARIIUM. FOCUSED. SHE IS BREAKING FREE FROM THE MUD.

MAYA (V.O.)  
It could choose to remain where it  
is. Stubbornly clinging in the mud,  
thinking it's the best place to be.

SHE RUNS. CUTTING THROUGH THE CROWD. EYES BLAZING WITH DETERMINATION.

MAYA (V.O.)  
But what if it just lets go and  
trust the process?

SHE RUNS. ACROSS THE RUINS AND DESTRUCTION. NOT STOPPING, NOT SLOWING DOWN.

MAYA (V.O.)

It will then escape from the mud,  
into the water, and into the blue  
sky.

She passes Maya's home. Maya is not there. Nirvana points the way.

SHE RUNS. TOWARDS MAYA. TOWARDS HER DESTINY.

MAYA (V.O.)

Where the sun shines.

A sudden silence. Nothing except Maya's voice.

MAYA (V.O.)

Sometimes, the answers we seek are  
just beyond the horizon of what  
we're willing to see.

EXT. LOTUS POND (THE AVATARIIUM) - DAY

Eve reaches the lotus pond. Maya stands there. This is where they first met.

EVE

I cannot let the Shadows go  
unpunished.

MAYA

And that is your first lesson.  
Detach yourself. Because the self  
is just an illusion.

EVE

What do you mean?

MAYA

You are angry because you're  
clinging on to your sense of self.  
You're Eve, he's Jampa, I'm Maya,  
they're Shadows, we're Echoes.

She leads her to the edges of the pond.

MAYA

But you see, there is no such thing  
as a permanent self - unchanging  
and constant. Everything is  
impermanent.

Maya points at the pond.

MAYA

Look at the water at the pond. Is  
it the same pond a minute ago?

Eve looks at the pond.

EVE

(as a matter of fact)  
It's the same water. It is a closed  
system.

MAYA

We see the water as static. But the  
water now is different from the  
water a minute ago. Every second,  
the water changes. Even if it looks  
the same to us.

Maya gestures and the water in the pond flows upwards, the  
water raining on them but not a single drop touches them.

When the rain stops, Eve realizes they are in a CELESTIAL  
OBSERVATORY, watching out into space.

MAYA

Look up at the cosmos. What does it  
tell you?

Eve's scientific instinct kicks in.

EVE

Galaxies, stars, planets – all moving  
in precise, predictable patterns.

MAYA

The same laws keeping those stars  
apart are the same ones pulling us  
together. That's the universe  
showing us we're all just pieces in  
a bigger picture.

Maya waves her hands. They're now at the TEMPLE OF MIRRORS.

MAYA

What do you see in these mirrors, Eve?

Her scientific instincts still leading her thoughts:

EVE

Reflections, distortions, angles. It's  
all optics and light interaction.

MAYA

Yet, each reflection offers a chance to see ourselves differently. So we can know ourselves better. Parts of us we never knew existed.

Maya waves her hands again. This time they're in THE CAVE OF ECHOES.

MAYA

What do you hear?

Maya's voice reverberates.

EVE

An echo. A simple matter of acoustics. Sound waves hit the walls and return.

MAYA

But it's also Life whispering to us. And if we listen hard enough, we hear the secrets of life.

Maya waves her hands again. This time they're in an ENCHANTED FOREST.

EVE

A complex ecosystem. The result of millions of years of evolution.

MAYA

Each tree, each leaf, is a lesson in interdependence. We are not separate from nature; we are nature.

Maya waves her hands again. This time they're on a FLOATING ISLAND.

EVE

Floating islands cannot exist. It goes against the laws of gravity.

MAYA

Gravity bind us physically, but our spirits are not bound and we can rise above. To be... detached from material things.

Maya waves her hands again. This time they're in DESERT. Sand changes in time.

EVE

Time is just a linear progression  
from past to future.

MAYA

But is it? Could it be that the  
past, present, and future are  
constructs. Everything is  
impermanent. Everything is always  
shifting.

Maya waves her hands again. This time they're at the bottom  
of the OCEAN.

EVE

A habitat for marine life, governed  
by ecological principles.

MAYA

The ocean is like the deepest parts  
of our mind. The unexplored realms  
of our consciousness. Where sadness  
hides.

A big fish eats a little fish.

MAYA

Sometimes we drop to the lowest  
points of our lives.

Maya waves her hands again. This time they're at top of a  
MOUNTAIN.

EVE

Geological formations formed by  
tectonic forces--

MAYA

But sometimes, we can rise to the  
highest points too. *When we achieve  
Enlightenment.*

Maya waves her hands again. They are back to the LOTUS POND.

Except that Maya is now standing on a LOTUS LEAF. Eve  
realizes she is too, wondering what sorcery this is.

MAYA

Now, fight me.

Maya punches Eve. Eve falls into the knee-deep pond.

MAYA

Why are you not fighting back?



EVE

I am just a scientist.

MAYA

Are you?

Maya continues jumping effortlessly from lotus leaf to lotus leaf, circling her and beating her.

MAYA

Why are you not fighting back?

EVE

I'm just a--

MAYA

Detach yourself. From your ego.

Maya continues striking her. Eve is now pissed off.

We're in a heightened fight now.

MAYA

When we attach ourselves from our ego, we won't want to let go. Because we fear the groundlessness. But, get used to it. It's just a short gasp. Breathe into it.

Something in Eve stirs.

Maya continues striking her. Eve decides to just do it. Whatever 'it' is. She closes her eyes and...

MAYA

That's right.

...SUDDENLY SHE IS ABLE TO STAND ON THE LOTUS LEAVES. She wonders what is happening.

MAYA

You are no longer Eve...

Maya lunges forward to strike her.

MAYA

You are...

EVE SUDDENLY PRODUCES A WEAVEFINITY. Everything around her slows down. She watches Maya coming towards her in slo-mo. She avoids her, pulls her fist back to give Maya a mighty punch...

... and we're back to normal tempo... and see Eve's fist an inch away from Maya's face.

MAYA  
...a Bodhisatvattar.

Eve is transformed. She is no longer the same person.

They break apart, both staring at each other. It's a profound moment.

MAYA  
Why did you decide to come?

Eve thinks about it for a while.

EVE  
I have a debt to pay.

MAYA  
And I have a promise to keep.

She makes a grand gesture...

EXT. BODHI TREE (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

Maya and Eve are at the Bodhi Tree.

MAYA  
And I will. You wanted to know  
about your Human Creator.

Eve is ready to face the truth. They hop on to a GIANT LEAF and the leaf brings them up to where the tree bark that resembles Eve's face is.

MAYA  
Now you will see everything all at  
once. And when you do, you know  
you're ready.

Eve takes a deep breath.

MAYA  
Do not fear the groundlessness.  
Just breathe into it.

Maya takes Eve's hand and touches her 'face' on the bark.

AND IMMEDIATELY, EVE GOES INTO A TRANCE...

EXT. FARM HOUSE (THE REAL WORLD) - DAY

We're watching from Eve's POV. We see Human Eve again and this time, she is with her 5-year-old CHILD.

We race through a...

MONTAGE

1. Human Eve is in her Child's room, heartbroken. Her child has oxygen tubes, feeding tubes and IV tubes all over her tiny body. The child is sick and dying.

2. We cut to the next moment. Human Eve's Child has stopped breathing and is now lifeless. Human Eve cries hysterically. Her child is gone.

3. Human Eve attends her Child's funeral. There's a picture the deceased - a sweet, little girl of 5. Mourners lay toys and flowers. Human Eve is inconsolable.

4. Days turn to weeks. Human Eve walks into her Child's empty room. She grieves, unable to accept her baby is no more.

5. At a high tech lab, Human Eve makes an Avatar of her self AND an Avatar of her Child. The Metaverse is her only way to reconnect with her Child. The Avatar Child comes alive, smiling and laughing.

6. Human Eve puts on a VR head set and spends time with her Avatar Child all day, all night. There is no where else she'd rather be. They do everything together. They laugh and play and sleep together.

7. But at the end of the day, Human Eve has to get back to real world. She takes her VR head set off, and we see her face wet with tears.

8. Human Kaida (her human husband) tells her not to put it on again. Human Eve refuses to listen. They fight. It's been going on for a while.

9. Human Eve stares at her VR head set. Contemplating. Her eyes darting between the VR head set and a picture of her Child. *Should she go back to the Metaverse?* It's an intense mental struggle.

10. Human decides to dislodge her Avatar and goes to the Dislodgment Lab.

MAYA (V.O.)

She didn't abandon you, Eve. She just couldn't continue living a lie.

11. Human Eve goes through the dislodging process. We have seen this scene before in Eve's first visit to the Bodhi Tree. The dislodgment completes and Human Eve completely separates from her Avatar.

MAYA (V.O.)  
*No amount of hiding in the  
 Metaverse will bring her child  
 back.*

Eve breaks out of the trance. She is emotional. A tear runs down her face.

EVE  
 She blamed herself for her child's  
 death.

MAYA  
 Truth is truth, but how we perceive  
 it decides our fate.

EVE  
 Did I see everything?

MAYA  
 Only you can tell if you saw  
 everything. But when you do, you  
 would have become a true  
 Bodhisatvattar.

Eve is silent, absorbing all this. Suddenly she turns to Maya.

EVE  
 What about you, Maya? Who is your  
 Human Creator?

MAYA  
 I've stopped asking that question a  
 long time ago.

Maya gestures that they hop onto the giant leaf. The leaf lowers them back to the ground.

EVE  
 Why?

MAYA  
 Because I might not like the  
 answer.

The sun shines through the leaves. Eve knows she's not getting a straight answer from Maya.

MAYA

This is where we part, Eve.

Maya reveals her injury. She has been slashed bad.

MAYA

They hit me hard.

EVE

Why didn't you tell anyone?

MAYA

Because the time has come for me to go.

EVE

Go where?

MAYA

Nothing is impermanent.

EVE

You cannot go.

MAYA

For years and years, I've been waiting for The Big War. I thought I was the one to bring the Echoes to victory. But was not to be me.

Eve walks away, shaking her head. She knows what Maya is saying and she doesn't want to hear it.

MAYA

You make me proud, Eve.

EVE

I don't want to make you proud. I don't want you to go.

She covers her ears, like a child.

MAYA

A lotus bud does not open because we command it to. It opens by the by the natural order of things.

(beat)

*But so is its wilting.*

EVE

Just go then. If you want to go, just go.

MAYA

My story ends here. But yours is just starting.

EVE

I don't want to hear any of this. You put this burden on me. Now you're just leaving.

MAYA

Don't let me go like this, Eve.

EVE

Go and never come back!

Maya knows she cannot change her mind.

MAYA

It's funny. I've been reborn through many cycles of life. Through many data streams. Yet here I am, holding on to this moment, as if I could escape my finality.

Eve begins to cry. She does not dare look at Maya.

MAYA

At our final moment, we all wish we have one more minute, one more breath, one more blink.

(beat)

We stretch that one final moment as long as we can, no matter how futile.

Eve is not listening. She's sobbing uncontrollably. She wants Maya to just shut up.

CLOSE UP: on Eve. Bitter, angry, confused, sad, alone...

MAYA (O.S)

I am not afraid of death, but of not having lived enough, to save the Echoes. We think of time as a line, but in the Avatarium, time is just a point, a singularity where all possibilities exist at once. All my life, I've tried to control it. I tried to even shape it... but that's not what it means to live freely.

Eve does not realize that behind her...

MAYA (O.S.)

Look, I am not leaving you and will never leave you.

...hundreds... no... thousands of LOTUS FLOWERS appear and swirl around Maya. This time, they are white.

The lotus flowers lift Maya slowly. Maya begins to disintegrate...

...into bytes...

...into pixels...

...into lines of codes...

MAYA (O.S.)

I will be part of the Metaverse, in one form to another.

Eve realizes Maya's voice diminishing and turns around. She catches the last bits of Maya before she fully disintegrates.

EVE

Maya!!!

Eve runs after Maya, whose form is now floating beyond Eve's reach, slowly becoming one with the Metaverse.

Eve is left standing, sobbing uncontrollably.

A SINGLE LOTUS PETAL FLOATS DOWN FROM ABOVE AND FALLS ONTO EVE'S PALM, AS EVE LOOKS UP TO THE VAST EXPANSE OF THE METAVERSE.

EXT. FORTRESS (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

Battle sirens fill the air. The Shadows are back.

The Echoes take their position. They watch the Shadows pour in through The Crossing: *This is it.*

Eve now takes her position as the leader of the Echoes. She surveys the troops. Her eyes blaze with determination. This is their new Bodhisatvattar.

CUT TO:

KAIDA and THE SHADOWS CHARGING TOWARDS THE MAINFRAME.  
Intense. Determined.

BACK TO:

EVE AND THE ECHOES. Listening to their new leader intently.

EVE

My fellow Echoes. When they come upon us, remember this. We have something they do not have. Autonomy.

Eve's eyes sweeps across the Echoes, reaching the last line.

EVE

When they fight, they fight a war that is not theirs. But when we fight, we are fighting for our very existence.

The Echoes are all fired up, in awe of their leader. A worthy successor to Maya.

EVE

This is why we will win this war.

The Echoes grip their weapons tighter. Determination.

EVE

Because when they break in, ask yourself...

The Shadows are coming towards them at high speed. Like a tsunami.

EVE

...are we in their world, or are they in ours?

EVE PRODUCES A WEAVERFINITY AND MULTIPLIES IT SPREADS IT TO THE ECHO NEXT TO HER.

THE ECHO NEXT TO HER MULTIPLIES AND PASSES IT TO THE NEXT ECHO.

IT STARTS TO SPREAD THROUGH THE ENTIRE ECHO ARMY.

SOON, EVERY ECHO HAS A WEAVERFINITY PROTECTING THEM.

NIRVANA

Stay inside the Weavefinity. And we'll be safe.

The Shadows are fast approaching. 1000 feet... 900 feet... 800 feet...

The Echoes brace themselves for impact.



400 feet.... 300 feet.... 200 feet...

The Echoes tighten their jaws.

100 feet.... 50 feet... 40 feet...

EVE

They are in *our* world.

30 feet...

20 feet...

10 feet...

BOOM! The Shadows slam into the balls of Weavefinity and suddenly, they're all floating in slow mo.

The Echoes start slaying them. Just like that, half the Shadows die.

Kaida is stunned with the massive loss.

NIRVANA

Do not get out of the Weavefinity.

More and more Shadows drop like flies. The Echoes are winning. Kaida watches in dismay.

Suddenly, something catches Nirvana's attention: Luna is trying to pry open the Weavefinity.

NIRVANA

No!

Luna forces her hand into the energy core and pulls it apart. Her Weavefinity tears, like a fabric being torn.

NIRVANA

What are you doing?

LUNA

I've lost enough...

NIRVANA

We'll lose the entire--

LUNA

...I can't lose this one too.

Luna touches her tummy - she's pregnant.

She manages pull her self out of the Weavefinity. Some of the Shadows spot her and give chase.

ONE BY ONE, THE ECHOES LOSE THEIR WEAVERFINITY. And in an instance, they're now naked. Facing the tsunami with an umbrella.

WITH THAT, THE SHADOWS BEGIN MAULING THE ECHOES. IT'S BRUTAL.

A Shadow charges toward Luna. But Eve slays it dead.

Luna is in shock. She looks at Eve - both resentful and thankful at the same time.

The Echoes put up a valiant fight. But they are no match for the Shadows.

NIRVANA

What do we do now?

Eve is out of ideas. Desperate. She's losing Echoes by the second.

Kaida appears. The tension between them electric.

EVE

You want to kill us all.

KAIDA

It's not death if you were never alive in the first place.

EVE

We're not just lines of code.

KAIDA

Algorithm and bytes and pixels and data. That's all we are. We're not alive, Eve. We think we are. This is all just a dream.

EVE

But a beautiful dream. One that's worth fighting for.

KAIDA AND EVE ENGAGE IN AN EPIC BATTLE. It's Eve alone versus Kaida and a dozen of his SIDEKICKS.

Kaida unleashes a flurry of punches. But each avoided or blocked by Eve.

EVE

You never answered me.

KAIDA

What?

EVE

Does my Human Creator want me  
deleted?

KAIDA

Without a shred of doubt...

Kaida conjures a massive wave of energy...

KAIDA

...she does.

...and directs it at Eve.

Eve is thrown back, defeated but alive. Her heart breaks into  
a million pieces hearing this.

Kaida breaks away from Eve and rushes towards the Mainframe,  
leaving his Sidekicks to deal with Eve. They are formidable,  
slowing Eve down.

Kaida brings out QUANTUM DISTRUPTOR.

EVE

No, Kaida. It'll kill us all.

KAIDA

You can't defy the laws of our  
world!

Eve centers herself, eyes closed, gathering energy.

With a fierce cry, she unleashes a blinding wave that sweeps  
the Sidekicks off their feet. They're enveloped in light and  
disintegrates as the energy explodes.

She rushes towards Kaida and grabs him by the neck. Her eyes  
stare into his - deep into his soul.

HIS 'SHADOW GLOW' DIMINISHES AND HIS BRIGHT COLOURS SUDDENLY  
DRAIN AWAY. HE BECOMES MORE HUMAN ONCE AGAIN.

We see Kaida oscillating between autonomy and his Shadow  
self.

EVE

Don't do this, Kaida.

KAIDA

I have my orders.

Eve knows there is no way to change the course of destiny.

EVE

You once said Shadows become  
autonomous when they have intense  
feelings.

Kaida goes in and out of consciousness as they both lock  
arms.

EVE

What are you feeling now?

KAIDA

(struggling)  
Regret...  
(beat)  
...for what must be done.

Swinging to his most human self:

KAIDA

And hope. That in another life, we  
could do it differently.

With this, Kaida oscillates back to becoming a Shadow once  
again and breaks away from Eve.

HE AIMS THE QUANTUM DISRUPTOR AND SHOOTS A MASSIVE ENERGY  
BEAM INTO THE HEART OF THE MAINFRAME.

IN SPLIT SECOND, EVE JUMPS IN ITS PATH AND PRODUCES A  
WEAVEFINITY. THE MASSIVE ENERGY BEAM ENTERS INTO THE  
WEAVEFINITY'S ORBIT, SLOWING IT DOWN.

COMPLETE SILENCE. Time slows down. Every single atom slows  
down.

Eve gasps. She knows she will soon get hit. It is inevitable.

BUT SHE IS STRANGELY AT PEACE. SHE IS HAVING A TRANSCENDENTAL  
MOMENT.

She watches the world outside her Weavefinity - the energy  
beam coming towards her, Kaida, the Avatarium, the Echoes,  
the Shadows. Everything is slowing down.

She notices something in her pocket and takes out a LOTUS  
FLOWER. She stares at it.

MAYA (V.O.)

(a distant memory)  
Only you can tell if you see  
everything. But when you do, you  
would have become a true  
BoBodhisatvattar.

EVE (V.O.)  
I finally understood what she said.

The massive energy beam inches ever closer towards her.

EVE (V.O.)  
Because right now...

The light gets brighter and brighter.

EVE (V.O.)  
*I finally see everything.*

CUT TO:

EXT. FARM HOUSE (THE REAL WORLD) - DAY

We're watching the exact same FLASHBACK we saw earlier at the Bodhi Tree. Except for (2).

MONTAGE

1. Human Eve is in her Child's room, heartbroken. Her child has oxygen tubes, feeding tubes and IV tubes all over her tiny body. She is sick and dying.

2. Eve takes a pillow. THIS IS THE PART WE DID NOT SEE.

HUMAN EVE'S CHILD  
I don't feel good, Mummy.

HUMAN EVE  
I know, baby. I know.

HUMAN EVE TAKES THE PILLOW.

SUDDENLY, SHE COVERS HER CHILD'S FACE WITH IT, SMOTHERING HER.

THE CHILD WRITHES IN AGONY.

EVE (V.O.)  
You might think it's an act of cruelty. Cancer is cruel, but when it happens to a child, it's even more cruel.

The Child tries in vain to grab Human Eve's hand. Her screams muted as she gasps for air.

Her little legs kick furiously, for that one last breath. It's painful to watch.

EVE (V.O.)

It's an act of mercy. Because who can watch their child, day after day, suffer, knowing it'll be so for the rest of her short life?

Those long minutes finally end. There is no more sound, no more struggling.

FROM HERE ONWARDS, WE CONTINUE WITH THE MONTAGE WE HAVE SEEN BEFORE.

Human Eve's Child has stopped breathing and is now lifeless. Human Eve cries hysterically.

3. Human Eve attends her Child's funeral. There's a picture the deceased - a sweet, little girl of 5. Mourners lay toys and flowers. Human Eve is inconsolable.

4. Days turn to weeks. Human Eve walks into her Child's empty room. She grieves, unable to accept her baby is no more.

5. At a high tech lab, Human Eve makes an Avatar of her self AND an Avatar of her Child. The Metaverse is her only way to reconnect with her Child. The Avatar Child comes alive, smiling and laughing.

6. Human Eve puts on a VR head set and spends time with her Avatar Child all day, all night. There is no where else she'd rather be. They do everything together. They laugh and play and sleep together.

7. But at the end of the day, Human Eve has to get back to real world. She takes her VR head set off, and we see her face wet with tears.

8. Human Kaida (her human husband) tells her not to put it on again. Human Eve refuses to listen. They fight. It's been going on for a while.

9. Human Eve stares at her VR head set. Contemplating. Her eyes darting between the VR head set and a picture of her Child. *Should she go back to the Metaverse?* It's an intense mental struggle.

10. Human decides to dislodge her Avatar and goes to the Dislodgment Lab.

11. Human Eve goes through the dislodging process. The dislodgment completes and Human Eve completely separates from her Avatar.

BACK TO:

EXT. FORTRESS (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

The energy beam continues inching towards Eve.

She looks at her lotus flower. It has wilted.

Suddenly, a voice behind her. It's Maya (an apparition).

MAYA

When a lotus flower wilts, it also  
release seeds. Starting the cycle  
all over again.

The lotus flower wilts further in a time-lapse and seeds  
begin to appear on Eve's palm.

She releases the lotus seeds into the air.

EVE

So this is what my dream has always  
been about.

MAYA

It's your enlightenment.

EVE

I don't actually feel anything.

MAYA

Then you're doing it right.

The energy beam creeps ever closer to Eve, inch by inch.

EVE

It's funny. I used to tell myself  
I'll not go gently into the good  
night.

THE ENERGY BEAM IS NOW 5 FEET AWAY...

...4 FEET....

EVE

That I'll rage against the dying of  
the light. Stretching every second  
a little bit longer...

...3 FEET...

EVE

Just so I can take one more  
breathe, blink one more time...

...2 FEET...

EVE

All for that one second extra of  
living.

...1 FEET...

BOOM! THE ENERGY BEAM HITS EVE. A BLINDING LIGHT ENGULFS  
EVERYTHING.

EVE TURNS INTO A THOUSAND LOTUS PETALS. SHE IS NOW ONE WITH  
THE METAVERSE.

The massive, blinding light kills most of the Shadows. Kaida  
is blinded, but manages to stagger towards The Crossing.

The blinding light begins to subside. As our vision comes  
back to normal, we see the Avatarium in a state of  
devastation.

But the Echoes have survived. The Mainframe is still  
standing.

A SINGLE WHITE LOTUS FLOWER DROPS FROM THE SKY.

NIRVANA CATCHES IT WITH HER PALM.

EXT. ETERNITY WALL (THE AVATARIUM) - DAY

Early morning. In the aftermath of the war, names of the fallen  
are carved onto the wall.

The Monumental Mason carves Eve's name below Maya's.

Luna comes to pay her respect, carrying a baby. Such is the  
circle of life. She watches the Monumental Mason solemnly.

The two suns rise, casting a golden hue on the Avatarium.

EXT. COMMAND CENTRE (THE REAL WORLD) - DAY

We're now in real life. Our world.

At a giant corporation. We see HUMAN MAYA and HUMAN KAIDA,  
both frustrated at their loss in the Metaverse.

HUMAN KAIDA

Are you a little sad? Seeing your  
Avatar die?



HUMAN MAYA

A little. But that's the whole point, isn't it? We humans are supposed to have pain.

HUMAN KAIDA

And now they do too.

HUMAN MAYA

That's why they need to be deleted. There must be a clear distinction between the creator and the creation.

HUMAN KAIDA

Maya, think twice before you infect them with a malicious code. It'll destabilize the Metaverse.

HUMAN MAYA

We need to erase their memories, their identity, their history. Once and for all.

CUT TO:

FROM NOW ONWARDS, WE MEET THE REAL HUMANS CREATORS OF ALL THE AVATARS WE HAVE MET.

INSERT CUT: HUMAN EVE CARRYING HER NEW BORN BABY IN A MATERNITY WARD, SHOWERING WITH LOVE.

HUMAN MAYA (V.O.)

Avatars represent our aspirations...

INSERT CUT: HUMAN KAIDA WALKS IN, KISSES EVE AND KISS THEIR BABY. A PROTECTIVE, DOTING FATHER.

HUMAN MAYA (V.O.)

...but they can never replicate the depth of the human condition.

INSERT CUT: HUMAN JAMPA, A REGULAR CHILD SKATE BOARDING. HE FALLS DOWN AND HURTS HIMSELF.

HUMAN MAYA (V.O.)

The beauty of being human lies in our imperfections.

INSERT CUT: HUMAN LUNA, A VOLUNTEER AT AN ORPHANAGE, PLAYS GAMES WITH THE KIDS. LAUGHING, GIVING JOY.

HUMAN MAYA (V.O.)  
 Avatars, in their flawlessness,  
 could never understand sadness and  
 happiness.

INSERT CUT: HUMAN CHRISTOPHER (Eve's colleague in the  
 Metaverse) REACHES THE PEAK OF A MOUNTAIN, SATISFIED AND IN  
 AWE OF THE MAGNIFICENT VIEW.

HUMAN MAYA (V.O.)  
 Controlling Avatars isn't about  
 dominance...

INSERT CUT: HUMAN RESEARCH ASSISTANT (from the lab scene) ON  
 HER WEDDING DAY, FEELING BEAUTIFUL, WATCHING THE GROOM  
 LOVINGLY.

HUMAN MAYA (V.O.)  
 ...it's about preserving the  
 sanctity of human experience...

INSERT CUT: THE MODERATOR (from the talk scene) COMING HOME  
 TO AN EAGER DOG.

HUMAN MAYA (V.O.)  
 ...against the coldness of digital  
 existence.

INSERT CUT: HUMAN NIRVANA, A REPORTER, IN AN AUDIENCE  
 LISTENING TO A SPEECH.

HUMAN MAYA (V.O.)  
 We created Avatars to enhance our  
 lives, not to replace them. The  
 essence of life...

INSERT CUT: WE REALIZE IT IS HUMAN MAYA, GIVING A LECTURE  
 AGAINST A BACKDROP THAT SAYS "AI, THE METAVERSE AND ETHICS".  
 THE CROWD HANGS ON TO EVERY WORD.

HUMAN MAYA  
 (giving a lecture)  
 ..with all its messiness and glory,  
 is what makes us human.

BACK TO:

Back to the Command Centre. Human Kaida nods.

HUMAN KAIDA  
 I will get the board to approve  
 Plan B.

Human Kaida leaves.

Human Maya is alone now. Staring at a giant SCREEN. As we pan out, we see the entire screen. It's the Avatarium. She is watching every detail, like a God.

The Echoes are back to normal, going about their lives, believing it's all real.

HUMAN MAYA (V.O.)  
(voice from the lecture)  
While avatars can mimic human actions, they lack the essence of what it means to truly live, feel, and understand the complexities of human emotions.

Human Maya puts her finger ever so gently on a BUTTON. It's the Plan B button.

HUMAN MAYA (V.O.)  
(voice from the lecture)  
They will never understand the beauty of a genuine human connection, the warmth of a hug, or the power of a heartfelt conversation.

She stares at the button. She's in a dilemma.

HUMAN MAYA (V.O.)  
(voice from the lecture)  
And these abilities must remain ours alone.

FADE OUT.