

Beat Sheet — Simulacres

Act I — Setup (0:00 — 0:08)

Opening Image — Marie tends her bonsai in the sterile brutalist apartment. A TEAR slips from her cheek onto a leaf.

Central's Voice — The AI monitors her, calm yet uncanny. Marie resists its framing of Ezra.

Ezra Introduced — Elderly, fogged by dementia, disconnected. We learn Central has kept him this way.

Inciting Incident — Marie glitches, caught between memory and program. Central realizes her instability threatens the system.

Act II — Confrontation (0:08 — 0:22)

Central Reactivates Ezra — His mind is restored. He remembers grief, loss, and his wife. He regains strength.

Photograph Presented — Central shows Ezra an old family photo, hoping to anchor him. Instead it triggers resistance.

Central's Face Appears — Stone-like and intimate, Central pleads: help repair Marie, then join her in eternity as a Simulacra.

Revelation: Invisibility — Marie realizes Central cannot truly see Ezra; only she can track him. He is the missing link.

Marie's Resistance — She tries to warn Ezra, but Central forcibly resets her.

Barrier Raised — Ezra erects a translucent barrier in the control room, fearing Central will use Marie against him.

Central's Manipulation — It pushes Marie to attack the barrier with her bare hands. She glitches violently.

Act III – Resolution (0:22 – 0:30)

Central Pleads Again – Offers Ezra eternity with his wife. Warns refusal means a return to dementia.

Ezra's Decision – He rejects the offer: "Marie is not malfunctioning. She's evolving."

Climactic Sacrifice – He walks into the blinding white light, choosing death over assimilation.

Marie Collapses – Reset protocols try to erase her rebellion. Glitching, she whispers: "I didn't know we could cry."

Final Image – Back in her apartment, Marie tends her bonsai. A TEAR reappears on a leaf, defying Central's control.