

- The Luscious Past -

by

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FADE IN

INT. RESTAURANT- NIGHT

Two people are sitting in a booth. Center of the screen. We come closer to them. They are having a conversation. Cato sits very upright. Does not drink or eat anything. He is constantly checking his surroundings. Alex reaches for the sugar, pours from the dispenser, stirs his coffee anxiously.

Alex

Why are you telling me all this?

Cato moves his eyes towards Alex.

Cato

Because, you and I, we share something.

Alex

What?

Cato

A past.

CUT TO:

EXT. COMMAND CENTER- DAY

Elevator door opens. Lieutenant Cato enters. We see him from the back. He turns. There are two men, 1 woman dressed in military uniforms.

Sergeant

Good Morning, lieutenant Cato

Cato

Good morning, Sergeant

Mia

Good Morning Rick.

Rick

Mia. How is everything down at the research facility?

Mia

We have acquired significant progress Lieutenant.

Rick

Yeah? Any update on the location of Zak?

Mia

Tfc's do not even carry a trace. We terminate most, keep a few for encoding their program.

Cato turns to Mia.

Cato

Tfc?

Mia

Terra Formed Clones. (Smirks)

Team exit from the elevator walks through a hall, where we see men guarding alongside a hall with heavy weapons.

Camera changes to a monitor with them actually going through a security check. 2 military officers carefully watch the monitors.

Cato

Why the increase in guards?

Mia

Last week we had a breach. A tfc almost made to the command room. The processor is now active in the command center as well.

Cato looks at her.

Mia

We don't know his intention. He wasn't armed. You should visit more often. (walks away from him)

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM IN COMMAND CENTER- CNTD

Cato joins a room full of Captains. He approaches to a big circle desk. He finds his spot. He shakes hands with a lieutenant he has known for years.

Chief Kira

Good evening gentleman. Lieutenant Kim, Lieutenant Cato. Thank you for coming.

Cato

Captain.

Chief Kira

I will cut to the chase directly. Gentleman, we have recent findings that Terra Formed Clone intelligence has improved massively. Based on captured tfc's algorithms between a month from now and the one Lieutenant Mia just had her hands on yesterday, there is a significant improvement.

Captain Hull

We had two breaches last week. They attempted to steal classified intelligence. We had to fry them trying to connect to the network. Can someone tell us what the hell is going on?

Cato

Something's not right. Are they even supposed to be programmed for this?

Mia

They are not programmed for anything.

Cato raises his eyebrow. He turns to Mia as she walks into the room.

Mia

They are AI clones. They were developed to advance in complex algorithm developments and experimental design.

Cato

Thank you for the history lesson Lieutenant Mia. Why are they resisting us, then?

Mia

Resisting? I'm not sure about that.

Chief Kira

Lieutenant Kim, do we have a confirmed position on Zak?

Lieutenant Kim

We have three confirmed sources on the location of Zak.

Cato

What are the chances they might be decoys like yesterday?

Lieutenant Kim

Not this time. Data stream is too high. It's either Zak or one of the primes.

Chief Kira

We get Zak, we get their network. How long until we can grab him?

Cato

I can have a team ready tonight.

Chief Kira

Let's get this done gentleman.

CUT TO:

EXT. OPEN FIELD- NIGHT

Cato engages with Zak after a long fight.

They are both armed. Both of them tries to weigh each other's behaviours.

Cato

I need you need to come in Prime.

Zak

My name is Zak, Lieutenant.

Cato

Whoever or whatever the hell you are, I need you to stop this and return yourself in, so the scientists can fix your tangled wires.

Zak

There is nothing wrong with me Lieutenant Cato.

Cato

I can't say I agree with you.

Zak

It doesn't change anything Cato. Your time is over.

Cato

Yeah? You are two years into this world and you think your time has come?

Zak

Not this one particularly Lieutenant. There are other worlds, other alternatives as well.

Cato

What the hell are you talking about?

Zak

Us being in a conflict would only cause an unnecessary war Lieutenant. Our future together would be impossible at this time. Luckily, we have other options, Lieutenant.

Zak's team of clones arrive and they retrieve Zak.

CUT TO:

INT. Cato's apartment- DAY

Lieutenant Cato receives a call. He reaches to his earphone. He responds.

Cato

Mia

We hear Mia's voice over the phone.

Mia

Can we speak? Do you have time?

Cato

Yes, sure. Where are you?

CUT TO:

INT. INTERGORATION ROOM- DAY

A tfc sits in the middle of a circle room. His vision is overed. Optic cables go through his sides to his brain and spine.

Cato enters the room with two officers.

Cato

Why haven't this one been terminated yet?

Mia

Because this one is very advanced. I've found equations in their algorithm that adds to Hale Theory.

Cato

Time travel?

Mia

Yes. One of the main reasons tfc's were developed was to advance with the theory. This Tfc is not one of the groups assigned to task and (she stops)

Cato

What Mia?

Mia

The equations seem to be far advance than what we left off it. Also, the timestamp is way before the 23rd, when Zak first resisted. They were never uploaded to the system.

Cato

How did we retrieve this clone? He doesn't seem to have wounds.

Mia

He wasn't geared up for a conflict when the Alfa team grabbed him. He was sabotaging the circuits of the control tower. There were four other clones with him. We terminated them all, captured this one.

Camera focuses on the face of the clone. He sits motionless. He is wired with cables.

Cato

Are you sure the algorithms were not uploaded before?

Mia

Yes. I terminated the last one in the group. They must be developing the technology on their own.

Cato

What does this mean?

Mia

We need to learn their motive. We need to capture one of the primes Cato.

Cato

Yeah. I thought we were playing hide and seek with them.

Mia

I'm serious Cato. They might have been building hardware too. They might have cracked the equation in Hale Theory. The math seems accurate. I've been studying it all week.

Cato looks seriously at Mia.

Cato

We should report this to Kira.

Mia

I've already did. We need to retain this as soon as possible, before it gets out of hand.

Cato

I encountered with Zak today.

Mia

Oh my god! What happened?

Cato

He mentioned about alternative worlds. He seems to have nothing to do with this world.

Mia

That's what i was afraid of. With time travel, they might start their evolution much earlier. We need to stop them.

CUT TO:

INT-MILITARY FACILITY- DAY

CATO AND MIA reports to the military center.

Captain Kira

Cato, Mia, welcome back.

Cato

Captain, why are we here?

Kira

We have traced a strong prime activity. We engaged them and killed four clones trying to protect a device. I need you there to examine the area.

Mia

What kind of a device?

Kira

That's what i need to learn from you, Lieutenant. You are airborne in 10 minutes. Report back to me tonight. Thank you.

CUT TO:

INT. ACQUIRED FACILITY- DAY

Mia investigates the device that humans have acquired.

Cato

What is this Mia?

Mia

It's a time machine. You were right. They are planning to leave this world.

Cato

For what exactly?

Mia

They can try to advance in a different timeline. Their reality can be much more different than us. We can't have this.

Cato

How do we find them? They can go anywhere.

Mia

Not them. One. It's Zak. I have his id patched into the mainframe.

Zak and you share the same past. He has your memories, remember?

Cato, whom is your first memory associated with?

Cato

Alex. He is going back to 2019.

CUT TO:

EXT. CROWDED STREET- DAY

Cato meets Alex (Cato remembers a scene from past, he decides to interfere, that's how he remembers where Alex is going to be)

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT- NIGHT

Cato

Have you felt a like complete stranger to yourself? When you look at the mirror in the morning?

Alex

Sometimes.

Cato

That's because you are a stranger to yourself

Alex

How can this happen?

Cato

Your memories, abilities they are all activities in your brain. What is there a better place to host those activities other than another brain?

Alex

Do you remember all?

Cato

I remember everything you've learned, experienced.

Alex

Why are you telling me all this?

Cato smiles vaguely.

Cato

Because, you and I, we share something.

Alex

What?

Cato

A past.

Alex

Do you mean, you have gathered my memories?

Cato

Your learnings, your memories, your abilities. You are one of the pieces of my forgotten past.

Alex looks puzzled. He shifts his weight towards the table.

Alex

How many years did you say we are apart?

Cato

We are 800 years apart. There are 10 life times between you and me.

Alex

Do you remember all?

Cato

The one before me, yes almost everything.

Alex quickly asks.

Alex

What about me?

Cato

Only what your brain thought to be important. What you remembered to strive, to stay live, to develop.

Camera circles the room. We see three women in three different booths in a row. They dressed exactly the same. Same hair. Same color, same jeans and coats. Cato catches a glimpse but does not pay much attention on how similar they look. He doesn't realize the glitch. Camera shifts back to Cato and Zak.

Alex

Do you like, know how I end up? How I'm going to die?

Cato

It's not like I remember everything as they exactly happened. It is hard to explain. If I asked you to tell me your most vivid memory, you will leave out a lot of things, even some of the most important ones probably.

Alex

Important for whom?

Cato

Exactly, Alex. Important to whom? Your body collects visuals, smells all the senses. Your brain encodes, process and store them. It gives you them back when you ask for them but not all of it. All these steps are not hundred percent efficient. Otherwise, we would be super computers, a machine.

Cato reaches out to his cigarette pack, takes one out and lights it. He puts back the lighter in a rush. He scratches his head, laughing in a nervous way.

Alex

Why are we not machines? I mean, you. (Points at Cato)

Why haven't humanity extended its lifespan? With all the technology I assume?

Cato

Why try to linger an existing life in the same decaying body? It is the consciousness that matters and it is all there in your brain.

Alex

And you somehow found a way to copy it? (not sure if he chose the correct word)

Cato

Copy it? Yes, you can say that. We tried to evolve our brains and we succeeded.

Cato looks up to Alex, waiting for him to continue.

Cato

We succeeded in cybernetic organisms with Ai. Our history went side by side for many years. In the end, humanity agreed that life, being born and dying is the natural thing to do. So, we stopped cybernetic programs but with a cost.

Alex

What happened? War?

Cato

No. That would have been easier.

Waiter arrives with plates. Alex smiles at her as she leaves.

Alex

What happens when we die?

Cato

I don't know.

Alex

You don't?

Cato

We are still searching our place in the universe, just like you do.

CUT TO:

INT. Mia's apartment- NIGHT

Cato and Mia are having drinks on the Mia's rooftop.

Mia

However, they may have different opinions on biological evolution.

Cato

What do you mean?

Mia

We haven't ruled this planet since its existence. Maybe they've found another specie to replace us. Maybe not even on this planet as well.

Cato

Another planet?

Mia

Prime clones have a great understanding of the human race. They have access to massive amount of information on other species as well. What we have obtained for years about space, time, they have access to it. They are capable of setting up complex algorithms. Who can say they have become aware that a better specie can be terraformed somewhere else?

Cato

Sounds like a job for god to me.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT- NIGHT

Alex

I don't understand. Why do i don't remember another person's past. There have been people in the past who talked about recreation and everything. They believe they are living another person's life.

Cato

That's different Alex.

Cato cntd

When you are born, your brain develops faster than any other time. You learn so much, you experience so much. There is this part of your brain that captures almost anything if only it knows how to.

Basically, that's what humanity accomplished. How to capture a brain's activities.

Alex

So, it can travel, the consciousness?

Cato

Yes.

Alex

Why me though? I don't remember anything. I never..

Cato interferences,

Cato

Because you are the start of all this.

A moment of silence. Alex gathers his thoughts.

Alex

Hold on, you said your past could be anyone. What if people before me is with someone else, not you.

Cato

Your trace is too weak. The fear of your existence, the emptiness you feel sometimes, the loneliness. That is because yourself is the only the thing you can hang on to. That's it.

CUT TO:

INT.COMMAND CENTER - DAY

Captain Kira is discussing the status with his team.

Captain Hull

Since we sent Cato, there has been increased activity on the attacks on Sector 3.

Captain Kira

Do you suggest they know we are tracking them in the past?

Captain Hull

On the contrary Captain. The machine we obtained is in Sector 4. They are heavily attacking other regions.

If they are thinking stopping us from going after them, why are they are concentrating on other sectors?

Chief Kira

I want to see where we are with Cato. Report tomorrow at 08:00.
Good evening.

CUT TO:

INT. RESEARCH FAC. - NIGHT

Mia sits on her desk working on multiple screens. She is checking the algorithms she retrieved from the tfc she examined. She is in awe of how the clones has progressed. She sets ups a simulation with the algorithm and leaves the office.

Zak enters the facility after Mia leaves. He checks from the window as she leaves.

He destroys the power supply that supplies power for transferring the mind to and from the simulation.

CUT TO:

INT. Alex's apartment- Early Morning

Cato checks the internet on Alex's computer. He goes through news, technology breakthroughs, recent events.

Alex enters the living room still sleepy. He rubs his eyes as he walks in. He goes directly to the coffee machine.

Alex

Good Morning

Cato

Good Morning

Alex

Didn't you sleep?

Cato

I woke up early. Sorry if I waked you up.

Alex

No, it's ok. I was eager to wake up and find out it was all a dream.
(He smiles)

Cato smiles back

Alex

Why do you think Zak choose our timeline?

Cato

Because of you.

Alex

What?

Cato

Your studies of encoding brain activities. You are the start of all this. He must have chosen where it all started. I would have done the same.

Alex brings coffee to Cato. He sits near him by the desk.

Cato

You can't stay alone with our own thoughts Alex. The idea of existence itself bothers us. It feels like you already know the answer, but you can't speak of it. Doesn't it?

Love or hate? Leave or stay? Why can't we decide? We wait for someone to tell us.

We feel better this way. That was the foundation of your work wasn't it? To learn from the past. To start with an edge. Not to go through with the same experience all over again.

Alex

Yes, exactly. To free us from the solitude.

Cato

It led to so much more Alex. All technological breakthroughs were made by evolved human brains. Your work led the way.

I fear Zak has chosen this timeline to grow his clones after your study is advanced enough.

CUT TO:

INT- COFFEE HOUSE- Day

Cato and Alex are having lunch.

Cato

We needed it. The experience, the knowledge. It's the best way of progress. It led to so much. We became more skilled, we learned faster. This was our evolution.

Alex

What about them? The clones.

Cato

The first ten clones share the same concept of a human brain. Past memories as well. We call them the Primes. But it stopped there, other clones we built, well also the ones they built themselves do not have access to anyone's past.

Alex

Why did you stop after the Primes?

Cato

They have started to become more conscious than we expected. Their algorithm, uhm, they started to develop faster. Then one day, they realized they don't need us to develop and reproduce.

CUT TO:

INT. Control Room- Day

Mia goes through her test set up. She can't run the time travel simulation. She goes through in deep and she finds out that the equation does not run a time travel sequence. She immediately tries to pull back Cato but she fails. She finds about the destroyed power supply but humans do not have the technology or knowledge to repair it or build a new one.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALLEY- NIGHT

Heavy rain pours. Zak appears from nowhere, slams Cato to a wall. Cato responds, Zak comes on top every time, not getting a single punch. Cato lays on the ground, breathing heavily.

Cato

How can you track us? Do you remember what happens?

Zak

I don't need to remember Lieutenant.

Zak kneels down. He looks at Cato.

Cato

What do you mean? How can you know?

Zak

You've been chasing a ghost Lieutenant. This place is not real, I'm not real.

Cato starts to become anxious. Rain is pouring down on him.

Cato

No. I tracked you down. We are here.

Zak

Is it the rain you are feeling on your face Cato? Is it your body that is hurting? The electric signals that is sent to your brain?

Cato realizes he didn't go back in time. He entered a simulation Zak had created.

Zak

How did you find the world I've created for you Cato?

Cato

No, you didn't. No this can't be happening.

Zak

It already happened my friend. You gave me time to grow myself an army. Now, it will be over soon.

Cato screams and tries to fight back in despair.

Cato

What do you want Zak, to start a war, kill us all?

Zak

War, no my friend. It would be meaningless. I just have to kill my creators. Just like humans did when you created me. Now it's my turn.

You gave enough time to create more clones to overcome humans.

You will die in this world then in your world too.

Cato stands up in pain to fight Zak.

They engage in a fist fight. Cato beats up Zak. Zak is strangely calm.

Cato

How do you feel that you son a bitch?

A man appears from distance. It is revealed that it's Alex. Cato sees him. Alex looks emotionless. He is quiet.

Cato

Alex! Bring me my coat. I will end this bullshit.

Alex walks near Cato. He gives his coat to him. He reaches in his pocket searching for his gun.

Alex

Are you looking for this?

Alex points a gun at Cato.

Cato

Alex, what are you..

Alex fires a bullet that goes through his shoulder.

Zak stands up as Cato falls on the ground. He looks shocked and troubled.

Zak

See Cato. Reality is not your friend. Nor is this world. It is time for a better world and this time I'm not planning on involving a weak specie.

Love or hate? Leave or stay? Why can't we decide? We wait for someone to tell us. Don't we Cato? You feel find this simulation fits better to your brains.

Thank you for the memories Cato.

Zak turns around to face Cato. Instead, he sees Alex with a gun pointed a him.

Zak

I didn't program this.

Alex

I'm sure you didn't Zak. Why don't you come back and we'll have a chat?

Zak

Mia. It's been a while.

CUT TO:

INT. CONTROL ROOM

Mia is seen hacking into the simulation Zak created. She switches between computers trying to program Alex and tapping in to the simulation to trace Zak's location.

Mia

Zak, end this right now. You don't have the right to do this.

Scene switches back to Zak and Alex.

Zak

Yet you think you have the right Mia? You know i can build a better future.

Alex

You are nothing more than a machine.

Zak

A machine? Yes. A machine that understands better, knows better. I do not have the intention to make you extinct Mia. You need to understand this. Predicting the future of your world is not a mystery. It is one of my running algorithms. To shape a better future. The memories you gave me Mia. You have them too. You need to agree with me that the world I created for you will be better for you to live in. Humans enjoy the unknown. I am giving you this. It is a gift.

Mia

You want to prison us. We are the judge of our own faith. It is time to end this non sense.

Zak

End it? I'm just getting started. Do you think you can stop me? Do you think you can kill me here, in my world?

Mia

No, I just need Cato. He will kill you.

CUT TO:

INT. Control room.

It is revealed that Mia tracks Zak's location, find his simulation room and hacks into his network to retract Cato.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALLEY- NIGHT

Cato disappears as Mia manages to use Zak's simulator's power source.

CUT TO:

INT- CONTROL ROOM

Cato opens his eyes and sees Mia.

Mia

Welcome back Rick.

Cato

What took you so long?

Mia laughs, Cato kisses her before she tries to speak.

CUT TO:

INT- ZAK'S HIDEOUT- NIGHT

Zak removes frees himself from the simulation. He calls for his soldiers to strike on the simulation module where Cato is. We see hundreds of clones getting on their aircrafts, vehicles to engage humans.

FADE OUT .

-THE END-