

ANAMNESIS

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. BREAK ROOM - DAY

A SOLDIER, (30s), male, sporting a muscular build with a scruffy face. Dressed in jeans and a green fleece sweater vest, he sits at the end of a table.

The room white and sterile sporting a vending machine, cabinets, a traditional break room. Soft MUSIC coming from a nearby violin plays in the background, a jazz comforting yet dark.

A singular poster hangs on the wall of a dog in a lab coat looking upward longingly at a tesla coil. The Soldier drinks a cup of coffee, he struggles to not spit take as he LAUGHS and places the cup on the table.

SOLDIER

So your telling me the sergeant  
after all the tough guy bullshit he  
gave us, bathed with a rubber duck.

(chuckles)

I wish I would of known I could of  
really gotten under his skin with  
that. You should of told me before  
you know...

He looks down at the table and deeply exhales. He pulls his wallet out of his pocket and takes a photo out. The photo features four men in army fatigues horsing around with each other, the group smiling.

SOLDIER (CONT'D)

We were never really the same  
without you. I don't know if this  
is a dream or what but I'm glad to  
have you back man.

He looks up from the photo across the table, the chair across from him empty.

SOLDIER (CONT'D)

I got the fucker by the way, I  
don't know if that's any  
conciliation. If only I'd hit him  
on the first shot.

He looks earnestly to the man he thinks sits across from him before breaking away his gaze. He takes a sip of coffee, his eyes focus on the coffee for a moment. His eyes focus back on his friend as he drinks and listens.

SOLDIER (CONT'D)

What am I doing you gotta see the  
guys I'm out here camping with  
them. Our camp is just over  
there...

He looks behind his chair, confusion slowly creeps across his face. Behind the soldier we see for a moment the bottom of a yellow sundress, it disappears. The MUSIC becomes louder, more urgent.

The Soldier slowly turns in his chair to look behind himself as if someone stands there. He bolts up out of his chair, the music pauses.

SOLDIER (CONT'D)

I can't believe I forgot, this  
place has that rare soda you love,  
red cream was it?

The MUSIC resumes now quieter. He smiles and cheerily walks over to the vending machine. He puts money in and presses the keys. The can uncoils out, a bodily THUMP rings out the can hits the bottom a moment later.

The violin MUSIC stops the Soldier fell to the ground. He lays on top of the SIREN (20s), female, she features a slender build dressed in a yellow sundress, her head obscured from view.

She lays beside him, caressing him, she holds a dagger in the side of his chest which bleeds slowly. The Soldier looks up at her in a distraught and anguished state. She strokes his hair while supporting his head.

SIREN

It's OK you can continue your  
conversation in a moment, the  
anguish you've felt is over  
forever.

The Soldier dies, she lets go of him and stands up, she goes to the table and picks up a violin. She plays the same MUSIC as she leaves the room.

UNKNOWN SCIENTIST (V.O.)

Dad?

EXT/INT. HENRY'S CAR - DUSK (2 WEEKS LATER)

HENRY, (20s), male, short with an average build, kind faced, he wears a dark blue suit jacket.

He sits in the back of a car on his phone. He fidgets with the door handle reflecting his desire to leave.

HENRY

No mom it's just some guy lost in the woods.

(beat)

No I don't think a gang of bears got him.

He lets out a long sigh, he looks increasingly drained.

HENRY (CONT'D)

No mom I don't have bear mace I have a gun remember. I gotta go love you.

He hangs up and switches to his gps.

INSERT - PHONE SCREEN

only forest visible on the app. He looks up seeing a looming facility several stories tall with a circular glass entrance way.

INT. ABANDONED FACILITY LOBBY - DUSK

Henry examines the lobby, a large dark room with upper catwalks. A desk lies center facing away from him with a computer monitor providing a dim orange light. He can see a woman's back, her hair, the sides of her glasses.

HENRY

Hello police, I'd like to ask a few questions.

SILENCE, he waits uncomfortably for a moment, she does not turn around. He hits a bell on the table DING, no response. He intentionally coughs, still no response. Irate, he turns the chair to face him leaning in close to confront her.

A lifeless skeleton meets his eyes, he flails about and falls to the ground.

SPARKY (O.C.)

Hello I'm Sparky the science dog and welcome to the Havencroft research facility. A bit dark in here no?

SPARKY, a holographic dog sits beside Henry, a cheerful and partly electronic voice. Emergency lighting slowly turns on.

HENRY

Who cares about that this women is  
dead.

He realizes the skeleton to be fake, the monitor displays a pumpkin desktop wallpaper with text reading: "HAPPY HALLOWEEN." The virtual dog tilts its head in confusion at him. Embarrassed he gets to his feet and composes himself.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Enough of this, override Asimov 1,  
police ID 221B. I'm worried about  
the safety of your staff.

SPARKY

I'm sorry detective Holloway our  
staff is severely indisposed--

INIGO (O.S.)

Room 1c you have to sit--

SPARKY

Intrusion stopped, code mailman.  
Have a nice day detective.  
(beat)  
Detective?

The detective with a determined look walks briskly towards a nearby hallway, he attaches a flashlight to his gun.

INT. ROOM 1C - DUSK

He quickly clears the room with his gun and holsters it. The room the size of a small office, a chair, a device, and a camera in the corner. The device ocular in shape positioned where the neck support should be.

His phone vibrates he pulls it out to look.

ON SCREEN:

"FRIENDS STILL SEEK ANSWERS AS SEARCH FOR CAMPER CALLED OFF."

BACK TO:

He sits down cautiously and waits a NOISE reminiscent of a typewriter bell rings out.

He reaches around for the back of his neck and notices a drop of blood. A humming building in his ear till it consumes him.

INT. VIRTUAL SPACE - NIGHT - DREAM SQUENCE

Henry recovers his composure watching from the darkness. INIGO, (30s), male, tall and imposing, a rugged yet charming face. Wearing a dark brown suit jacket, and semi formal wear, he holds a tablet.

The room undefined, dark and cavernous with blue light illuminating him. He stands across from CASEY, (30s), female, average height, soft features. Dressed in a white lab coat, short hair.

Inigo places a diamond ring on her ring finger. Casey appears completely still, only her mouth moves.

CASEY

I love you.

INIGO

Good now lets try a bit more.

Inigo messes with the tablet, Casey becomes animated and life like.

CASEY

Remember when we were out in the rain. You said screw the umbrella and we kissed for the first time.

INIGO

You're starting to seem a lot more like yourself Casey.

He grabs Casey's hands and looks longingly.

CASEY

Remember our first night together.

He lets go and backs up slowly, averting his gaze, Casey walks menacingly towards him.

CASEY (CONT'D)

When we made love for the first time.

INIGO

No not again.

CASEY

Yellow submarine blared from your  
roommates room and we couldn't stop  
laughing.

INIGO

No no no.

CASEY

How you forgot that because your  
really nothing more then an AI  
simulating the man I loved.

He trips and falls, curling himself into a position as if  
taking shelter, his arms covering his head. Henry rushes to  
him, he looks up to see Casey not there.

HENRY

She's gone it's all right.

Inigo looks up at Henry and quickly recomposes himself and  
stands up.

INIGO

Sorry about that detective Holloway  
I wasn't sure if that was just a  
raccoon tripping the lobby sensors  
earlier.

HENRY

How do you know my name mister...

INIGO

You can call me Inigo. Well it's  
very simple.

MONTAGE - VARIOUS

A)INT. MORGUE - DAY - Casey stands over Inigo's body holding  
a scalpel, an ocular shaped device sits beside Inigo.

B)INT. VIRTUAL SPACE - NIGHT - Inigo wakes up in the virtual  
space disoriented.

C)INT. VIRTUAL SPACE - DAY - The virtual space now brighter  
and livelier, Casey helps Inigo to his feet.

D)INT. ROOM 1C HALLWAY - DUSK - The soldier walks past  
looking intent.

END MONTAGE

Henry's face blank he breaks out of a trance.

HENRY

So you were human, you died, your mind was transcribed into an AI by your wife. And you saw the guy I was looking for.

(beat)

And I'm explaining out loud because?

INIGO

Unforeseen side effect of the imagery communication matrix.

A blue sphere providing lighting to the space floats by Henry he reaches out for it, it dissipates into the shape of a falcon.

HENRY

Oh OK thanks for clearing that all up doctor.

INIGO

You're welcome but I'm not a doctor.

HENRY

Then can the words unforeseen side effects never leave your mouth?

He turns away from Inigo and stares into the void.

INIGO

Sorry we just need to move quickly.

HENRY

I need some answers.

A falcon SHRIEKS he turns to face the noise, the falcon closing in with its talons raised to strike. Henry shields his face and trembles bracing for the attack.

INIGO

I know you have this romantic idea of being a detective striving to uncover the truth.

After a moment he opens his eyes the statue of a perched black falcon sits in the cross-section of his arms.

INIGO (CONT'D)

I want answers as well but it's  
been silent for 2 weeks. We need to  
leave and call in backup first.

INT. ROOM 1C - DUSK

The darkness fades away, the room appears how Henry left it. Inigo phases into existence and goes for the door. He pulls out his gun and turns on the flashlight.

HENRY

She could still be alive.

Henry pauses with a look of resignation he opens the door and exits.

INT. HALLWAYS - DUSK

Henry turns a corner and walks slowly down a long hallway, Inigo leads him. Doors on either side, emergency light flicker dimly.

INIGO

Also I'm just a mental projection  
just be aware you're physically  
alone.

The lights go dark for a moment crackling and static NOISE bellows out. Henry frantically aims his gun to find the target, a speaker.

SPARKY (V.O.)

Monday will be serving Moe and Bo's  
sloppy joes.

Henry sighs he scans his rear with his gun and flashlight.

INIGO

Great reaction time detective.

HENRY

Here I was thinking they didn't  
program sarcasm in.

INIGO

Why would--

The emergency light goes out again, violin MUSIC plays from behind Henry.

He turns and sees the Siren playing the violin looking focused. Her head now visible, face alluring but with a scar on her cheek and long black hair.

HENRY  
Freeze and put your hands up.

HENRY (CONT'D)  
Bagel?

A medium hunting dog sits beside the woman looking at him.

INIGO (V.O.)  
Bagel?

HENRY  
Come here boy it's all right, I know it's been a while.

The dog starts slowly walking towards him, the Siren vanishes.

INT. HALLWAYS INIGO'S VERSION - DUSK

Inigo frozen in place sees the siren slowly approaching she now holds a dagger in the same hand she supports the violin.

INTERCUT BETWEEN HENRY AND INIGO

INIGO  
Henry that's not your dog.

HENRY  
Yeah it is, see he recognizes me.

The dog moves slowly towards Henry.

INIGO  
Henry this isn't right

The Siren now dangerously close, Inigo filled with tension.

INIGO (CONT'D)  
And you know it, Henry think about your most recent memories of Bagel.

MONTAGE - VARIOUS

A)INT. TRAIL - DAY - Henry walks across a wooden bridge with his dog cheerily.

B)INT. HENRY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT - Henry on the phone looking distraught.

C)INT. VET'S OFFICE DAY - DAY - Henry sits in a chair trying to keep composure while a somber faced VETERINARIAN, (40's), talks to him.

END MONTAGE

The dog dissolves into dust. Henry snaps out of the trance and grabs his head.

HENRY

What?

INIGO (O.C.)

Henry.

The siren lunges in for the kill, Henry pulls out his gun and fires.

EXT. DOG PARK - DAY

Inigo shakes Henry awake, Henry sits on a bench at a dog park. A realistic in the flesh version of Sparky socializes with other dogs. Disoriented Henry looks up at Inigo smiling at him.

INIGO

You know if you doze off so do I.

HENRY

Sorry I didn't sleep to well last night, bad nightmare.

INIGO

You'd tell me if it was from the surgery?

HENRY

Yea of course.

INIGO

You've just done so much for I'd hate for my mistake to--

HENRY

Hey don't worry, just take in the sights or does being artificial prevent being mindful.

Sparky sniffs an old boot with fungus growing on it and takes a bite.

HENRY (CONT'D)  
Sparky no et.

Henry shoes Sparky away and grabs a doggy bag out of his pocket.

INIGO  
No in fact I'm quite enamored with  
how the fungus used the boot as an  
effective substrate.

Henry looks at him with disdain and picks up the boot using the doggy bag as a defensive membrane.

INIGO (CONT'D)  
Alas I only exist in your mind so  
the task of disposal falls to you  
naturally.

Henry coughing throws the boot in a garbage bin.

INIGO (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
(whispering)  
She's only injured you have to--

HENRY  
You say something?

INIGO  
Casey's car is pulling in.

Casey's car parks nearby obstructed by the chain-link fence.

INIGO (CONT'D)  
Before I forget I found a lead on  
the guy's offshore dealings. We can  
go over it later.

Inigo walks over to Sparky.

HENRY  
You forget?

CASEY  
Who are you talking to?

Henry turns to face Casey with a serious look before breaking into a smile.

CASEY (CONT'D)

They really need some kind of mobile emitter you look like a crazy person.

INIGO (O.S.)

Stop the music.

Henry looks disturbed, he looks around, Casey grabs his hand in concern. He looks past her to see a speaker playing violin MUSIC hidden in a bush and walks towards it.

HENRY

When were these installed?

CASEY

Last week.

(beat)

Oh let me guess you're on the case of the baffling bush very funny.

Inigo walks over and puts his arm on Henry's shoulder. Henry drops to the ground frantically hits the speakers power button. BEAT, Casey crosses her arms and walks closer to him.

HENRY

Sorry I just.

Henry stares at Inigo whose frozen his body glitches in and out of reality for a moment.

CASEY

Henry are you OK?

The glitching stops, Inigo returns to normal with a look of urgency.

INIGO

Finally... shes using your desires to create this illusion, the music--

CASEY

Henry remember the doctor said Inigo might accidentally assert himself over you.

INIGO

If you don't fight for the truth it's gonna die here with us. You only wounded her if you don't shoot her in the head--

The violin MUSIC from the speakers reactivates suddenly, Henry draws his gun and aims it at her.

INIGO (CONT'D)  
 She's right we need to go a doctor  
 now. Please just put down the gun.

Henry hesitates and sees a diamond ring on her ring finger.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. HENRY'S CHILDHOOD HOME - DAY

HENRY'S MOM (40s), dressed in a black formal outfit opens a ring box inside a sapphire ring sparkles. Looking into a mirror towards a young Henry obscured by his mother.

HENRY'S MOM  
 You're too young to understand but  
 this ring meant a lot to grandma  
 and when you get married to a nice  
 girl you should give it to her.  
 (beat)  
 If you grow up to like boys thats  
 OK to although you're aunt god  
 bless her soul--

YOUNG HENRY  
 Mom!

BACK TO SCENE

HENRY  
 Inigo gave you a nice ring but its  
 not my style.

Henry aims and fires shooting Casey in the head. Inigo runs over to her, leans down and holds her. BEAT, Henry hands starts shaking uncertain of his actions.

INT. HALLWAYS - DUSK

The dark park fades into obscurity, the three still in their positions now back in the hallway the Siren lies dead. Henry watches the violin hover in air before crashing to the ground. He walks over and looks at the siren's face.

The Siren's face a projection, it melts away revealing Casey's face her hair turns short.

INIGO  
 I thought as much, but you still  
 don't really accept it till you  
 know for sure.

HENRY

I don't.

(beat)

Fuck fuck fuck I didn't...

Inigo gently closes her eyes.

INIGO

When I figured it was probably her  
I put up a mental facial  
projection. Even with my emotions  
turned off like they are now I  
couldn't of if I saw her face.

(beat)

And neither could you.

HENRY

That's bullshit I could of...

Inigo stares coldly at him, Henry puts his hand on his head  
and walks a few paces facing away from him.

HENRY (CONT'D)

What do you call what you did to  
save us. Cold and calculating,  
selfless, humane.

INIGO

Necessary.

FADE OUT