

BRING ME BACK

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For Kari...

ERIC SCHONBERG

The sound of a SHEET COMING OFF as we FADE IN on:

ANNE WEST - 28. Shock and sadness paints her face. Her eyes are coated with tears. After a long moment, she nods.

INT. MORGUE - DAY - FLASHFORWARD

And we see the dead face of SAM RIVERS (30s) as the sheet gets pulled back over him by a CORONER.

CORONER
I'm so sorry.

Anne takes a last look at the body, and then without a word, she walks out of the room.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY - FLASHFORWARD

Shoes click as Anne marches down a hallway.

ANNE (V.O.)
It isn't what you think.

She comes to a door and opens it.

INT. STAIRCASE - LATER - FLASHFORWARD

Anne calmly trots up a staircase - her shoes clicking away on the concrete steps.

ANNE (V.O.)
This isn't the story of how I lost
my husband.

Click, click, click. One floor. Click, click, click, two. The clicking gets ever fainter as she continues up-

EXT. ROOF - LATER - FLASHFORWARD

A door opens and Anne strides out, making a beeline for the edge of the roof.

She looks out over the side. It's a long way down.

ANNE (V.O.)
Or how I took my own life.

Anne steps off the side of the building. She falls in slow motion, uncaring.

We fall with her. She closes her eyes before we SMASH-
TO WHITE. A bright white light - overwhelming in it's
intensity - it holds for a moment until...

The white light fades and an interface appears amidst the
white. There's blue text. Numbers roll. And the final image
of Anne's life from her perspective is frozen on screen.

INT. SLEEP CHAMBER HOLD - SPACESHIP - DAY - FLASHFORWARD

Anne lies in a HYPERSPACE SLEEP CHAMBER - like a high-tech
coffin. She wears a mesh jumpsuit and there are wires all
over her head, neck and face.

ANNE (V.O.)
This is the story of how I found...
him once again.

Anne's eyes pop open. She looks panicked.

A word appears on screen... HELLO.

Anne looks at the screen above her eyes. Understanding
filters back in. She looks out the side window of her sleep
chamber. There are dozens of them in multiple rows...

ANNE (V.O.)
But let's go back...

INT. OBSERVATION THEATER - SPACESHIP - DAY

EARTH fading into the distance, getting smaller and smaller-
SUPER: 12 years earlier.

Anne sits next to JUDY (26) in an observation room full of
SETTLERS. Off to a new life. They all watch together as the
blue globe disappears into space.

JUDY
Wow.

ANNE
Yeah.

JUDY
We're really doing this?

ANNE
Can't go back now.

The two women continue to stare into the blackness of space as others around them get up and walk away.

INT. DORMITORY - SPACESHIP - LATER

The room has four built-in bunk beds. Like a cruise ship bunking situation. Judy sits next to Anne on a bunk.

JUDY

I keep thinking that my future husband is somewhere on this ship.

ANNE

Your future neighbors, co-workers, friends. They're all here.

JUDY

We won't really meet them for twenty years.

The door opens and VIVIAN (25) steps in. She's a medical tech and plays the part. She looks down at a handheld screen.

VIVIAN

Anne.

Anne looks to Judy. It's time. They hug.

ANNE

Take care of yourself.

JUDY

I'll see you in training.

They part and Anne gives Judy a smile as she walks out.

INT. SLEEP CHAMBER HOLD - SPACESHIP - LATER

Anne follows Vivian into the hold. There's plenty of activity as other techs lead travelers to their chambers.

Vivian leads Anne to one.

VIVIAN

Step on in.

Anne obliges and Vivian gets to work strapping her in. She hooks up electrodes, puts tubes into veins.

It's a process and Anne tolerates it.

VIVIAN (CONT'D)
Sorry. I know this isn't
comfortable.

Vivian finishes, moves on to calibrating the chamber itself.
Anne takes a breath.

ANNE
Okay.

VIVIAN
It's going to feel weird going
under, but don't worry, you'll get
used to the interface. The AI will
guide you.

ANNE
And the simulations?

VIVIAN
Are whatever you want. There to
keep your mind active while you're
asleep.

ANNE
I get to choose?

VIVIAN
I'll pull you out sometimes for
training. But most of that happens
as we approach the system.

Vivian finishes calibrating the chamber.

VIVIAN (CONT'D)
Otherwise you can live any life you
want.

ANNE
I guess there's a lot I can do in
twenty years.

VIVIAN
It's more than that. Things move
faster in your sleep. You'll live a
dozen lives. Try and enjoy it.

The prospect of this hits Anne.

ANNE
I'm going to wake up a different
person, aren't I?

Vivian confirms this with a look.

VIVIAN

It's not so bad. You don't age, and you get to have experiences you wouldn't otherwise have. If it gets too much, you can opt to sleep.

ANNE

Okay.

Anne lets out a nervous sigh.

VIVIAN

Are you ready?

Anne nods.

ANNE

Yeah.

Vivian smiles and...

The interface starts up, blue type appearing:

HELLO.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Hello?

Anne looks back out the window. Vivian is gone.

I AM MUSOKA.

YOU HAVE TEN MINUTES BEFORE THE START OF YOUR FIRST SIMULATION.

ENTER SPECIFIC VARIABLES NOW.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Like what?

DATE OF BIRTH. GENDER. PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES. PLANET OF ORIGIN. FAMILY SPECIFICS. PARTNER SPECIFICS...

ANNE (V.O.)

I chose to be born in 1986. The year my Grandmother was born.

OVER: Sounds of waves crashing on a shore until...

EXT. BEACH - DAY

YOUNG ANNE (8) stands on the beach looking out at the ocean. The water crashes and her eyes follow the waves as they creep up to her before receding back into the sea.

ANNE (V.O.)
She raised me. Died the year before
I left Earth.

Anne looks around. The sky. Seagulls. Clouds. Sun. She takes it all in.

ANNE (V.O.)
They all start the same. On my
eighth birthday.

Arms scoop her up as her FATHER (40s) picks her up and runs out into the sea.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Young Anne blows out candles in exultation as her Father, MOTHER (30s), BROTHER (12) and SISTER (10) look on.

ANNE (V.O.)
My new eighth birthday. The one I
wish I'd had.

Everyone claps as Young Anne beams. Mother starts taking out the candles as Father slices the cake.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Anne - now 18 - sits in class, half-paying attention when... Everything seems to warp. The whole room, all of reality.

Anne gets up, holding back her vomit as...

INT. TOILET - DAY

She lets it go in the bathroom.

ANNE (V.O.)
The moment I turned eighteen it all
came rushing back.

Anne looks around and everything looks distorted.

ANNE (V.O.)
Who I was. What this was.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Anne reads a book and eats an apple in a cozy chair. She's the only one in the library except for a LIBRARIAN.

ANNE (V.O.)
A simulation to pass the time as we
bypassed the space between Earth
and Alpha Centauri.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Anne looks around at her Father, Mother, Brother, Sister gathered around for a family meal. They're all talking, but no sound is heard.

ANNE (V.O.)
For some people it might be
intoxicating to know that
everything was made for them.

EXT. TRAIL - FOREST - DAY

Anne sits alone on a giant rock just off of the trail.

ANNE (V.O.)
But for me, it was dull. What's the
point of participating in a world
where you're the only thing that's
real?

INT. CITY LIBRARY - DAY

Anne, now 30, wheels a cart of books down an aisle as she reads. Without looking up, she puts a book back on a shelf.

ANNE (V.O.)
So I read.

A Patron walks along the aisle toward her.

PATRON
Excuse me?

Anne completely ignores him as she continues to put books back.

ANNE (V.O.)
Everything I could find.

INT. STUDIO APARTMENT - NIGHT

A MOUSE fidgets its whiskers when... A CAT snatches it up like a snack.

ANNE (V.O.)
Cared for a few creatures that were
as indifferent to reality as I was.

Anne reads on the couch, not noticing the Cat as it scurries off with its snack.

A knock at the door. Anne looks up.

MOMENTS LATER -

She opens the door, checking Tinder on her phone.

ANNE
Dave?

DAVE is sexy. He nods and steps in, closing the door.

INT. BEDROOM - LATER

Dave and Anne fuck. Stranger sex. Hot but awkward. Hollow moans emanate out of her.

ANNE (V.O.)
I killed myself at forty-two.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Anne kneels down, opens the oven, and sticks her head inside.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

YOUNG ANNE (8) stands on the beach looking out at the ocean. A wave crashes and her eyes follow the water as it creeps up the incline to her before receding back.

ANNE (V.O.)
My second life, I asked not to
know.

Anne looks around. The sky. Seagulls. Clouds. Sun. Arms scoop her up as her Father runs her out into the sea.

EXT. OCEAN - YACHT - DAY

A summer cruise on a yacht. At the front of the boat is a NICE-LOOKING MAN (30s) who catches Anne's eye.

ANNE (V.O.)
I married a lawyer.

She smiles at him.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Anne stands at the head of a classroom scrawling mathematics across a chalkboard for a group of grade school kids.

ANNE (V.O.)
He didn't want kids.

EXT. GARDEN - LATER

OLD ANNE (75) gardens on her knees.

ANNE (V.O.)
And one fall day, I spent too long
plucking weeds in the garden.

Old Anne falls into the dirt.

WHITENESS OVERTAKES THE SCREEN.

INT. SLEEP CHAMBER HOLD - SPACESHIP

The interface fades in. Anne opens her eyes, panicked for a moment when...

HELLO.

A long moment. It comes back...

ANNE
Musoka. Holy fuck...

Anne tries to calm down, but it's a rough transition back.

ADMINISTERING SEDATIVE.

ANNE (V.O.)
I spent so much of that life
worried about dying...

Anne's eyes deaden slightly as the injection goes in.

THAT BETTER?

Anne calms her breath, her heartbeat. All good, she nods.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Young Anne stands on the beach looking out at the water.

ANNE (V.O.)
My third life, I asked to remember
again.

Arms scoop her up.

INT. DINER - DAY

Anne, wearing a waitress outfit, walks her way through the diner over to a group of high school boys at a booth.

ANNE (V.O.)
But I asked Musoka to keep things
interesting... Throw me a curveball
or two.

She takes out her pad.

ANNE
Do you fellas know what you're
having?

VARSAITY BOY
Is your father a baker?

ANNE
...what?

VARSAITY BOY
Because you've got nice buns.

ANNE
Thank you. They're original. 1986
special... So. What'll it be?

The wit catches the boys off guard. Nobody says anything.

ANNE (CONT'D)
I could come back... If you need a
moment.

VARSAITY BOY
Yeah, that would be-

HIGH SCHOOLER
Maybe just a-

And Anne is walking away.

INT. DRAWING ROOM - DAY

Anne wears all black before a mirror in a parlor room.

ANNE (V.O.)
My first husband died riding a hot-air balloon.

We push in on Anne as she ages before our eyes.

ANNE (V.O.)
A tree fell on my second husband.

Anne is now approaching 50...

ANNE (V.O.)
After my third husband killed himself, I reset.

INT. SLEEP CHAMBER HOLD - SPACESHIP

Anne opens her eyes. She looks tired.

TOO MUCH?

ANNE
Yes.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Young Anne stands on the beach looking out at the water.

ANNE (V.O.)
I decided that just because it wasn't real didn't make things any less fun.

EXT. GRAND CANYON - DAY

The Grand Canyon in all its glory. Anne stands on a cliff above it, looking across the splendor.

ANNE (V.O.)
They had crammed the entire world into a simulation.

EXT. REDWOODS - DAY

The height of a Sequoia tree stretches up into the air. Anne looks up it, filled with wonder.

ANNE (V.O.)
This was the closest I'd ever get
to do any of these things.

EXT. RUNWAY - DAY

Anne meanders out to a private jet waiting on the tarmac.

ANNE (V.O.)
Armed with a trust fund, I set out
to do it all in my fourth life.

An escalade pulls up and DEBRAH (20s) and her RICH FRIENDS saunter out of the car. They look ready to party.

Debrah runs forward in her heels and gives Anne a big hug.

LATER -

The plane takes off.

INT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Arms, legs and bodies gyrate as booze flows and music thumps.

ANNE (V.O.)
Perhaps I got distracted along the
way.

Anne lets loose - her arms like Jell-O as her molly-infused 'dancing' reaches a crescendo.

EXT. STREET - LONDON - NIGHT

Anne stumbles out of a black car with Debrah onto a London sidewalk. They're sharing a bottle of something fun. A few years have passed. They wear '2014' glasses.

INT. NICE APARTMENT - LONDON - NIGHT

It's a New Years party. People wear party hats and are drinking and talking as...

Anne and Debrah walk in. Debrah accosts the RESIDENT.

DEBRAH
Bathroom?

The Resident points down the hall and Debrah hurries that way. Anne follows after her, drinking out of the bottle.

ANNE (V.O.)
And that's when I met him.

She watches as the bathroom door opens and Debrah pushes a GUY out of the way to go inside first.

DEBRAH
Nope...

GUY
Okay...

Anne approaches the Guy. The Guy takes Anne in.

GUY (CONT'D)
Your friend?

ANNE
She has a weak bladder. Sorry.

GUY
(annoyed)
I can tell.

He notices her 2014 glasses.

GUY (CONT'D)
Nice glasses.

There's a touch of sarcasm to his tone. Anne ignores it.

ANNE
Oh thanks. They're topical.

Like she's explaining New Years to him... Her instantaneous wit is too much for the Guy.

He breaks down. Hard laughs. Not giggling. Not polite smiling. We're talking knee-slapping LAUGHTER.

Anne takes him in. He's tall. Not bad-looking. And he gets her jokes. What interesting programming...

Debrah comes out of the bathroom. She looks at Anne, then at the Guy who has finally calmed down.

GUY
Did you make it?

Debrah rolls her eyes and walks away. The Guy calls after her.

GUY (CONT'D)
Should I look out for puddles
inside?

The Guy motions for Anne to go.

GUY (CONT'D)
Please. After you...

ANNE
Really?
(off his nod)
I'll warn you if there's a puddle.

Anne smiles at him, then walks inside.

INT. APARTMENT - LONDON - LATER

Anne eyes the Guy from across the room. He's talking to a few of his own friends, drinking a beer.

He looks up and spots her gaze. She looks away fast. Too late. He's walking over.

GUY
I haven't laughed that hard in a
long time.

ANNE
I'm so glad I could help.

The Guy smiles, sticks out his hand.

SAM
Sam.

She extends her hand like he should kiss it.

ANNE
I'm Anne.

Sam takes her hand, hesitates...

SAM
I should warn you. I have wet lips.
It could leave a mark.

ANNE
Enchanté.

Sam kisses her hand. Anne pulls it away.

ANNE (CONT'D)
Swallow my whole hand, why don't
ya'?

SAM
You were warned.

ANNE
Not nearly enough.

SAM
Me thinks the lady doth protest too
much.

She smiles at him.

ANNE
What do you do, Sam?

SAM
I'm a writer. You?

ANNE
A consultant. What do you write?

SAM
Articles to pay the bills. Novels
for me.

ANNE
Like what?

SAM
Victorian-era romances, actually...

Anne laughs. She can't tell what's truth or lies with him.

ANNE
Anything I would have read?

SAM
No, they're all shit.

Anne looks at him intensely for an extra beat, then-

ANNE
Are you real?

SAM
(taken aback)
I think so?

ANNE

I know that they group some of us together - that it's possible to run in to someone else.

SAM

Another real person?

ANNE

Yeah.

SAM

I guess we are a rare breed... a ton of fake people out there.

ANNE

There's a lot of us flying to Alpha Centauri...

This causes Sam to laugh. He thinks she's joking. Anne's a bit let down. He's not real or...

ANNE (CONT'D)

Maybe you just don't remember.

SAM

Maybe I don't.

She takes an extra moment to try and read him, but still can't figure him out. She's disappointed.

ANNE

Well, I'll... see you later. Thanks for letting me pee in front of you.

SAM

Phrasing, and...

Sam gives her a bow.

SAM (CONT'D)

Anytime, my lady.

Anne walks over toward Debrah, but as she does so, she gives him a departing look.

LATER -

Anne is back with Debrah as... The NEW YEAR'S countdown begins. 10...9...

DEBRAH

8...7...

Anne doesn't count. It seems pretty meaningless. 6...5...4...
Debrah nudges Anne.

ANNE
3...2...1...

DEBRAH ANNE (CONT'D)
Happy New Year! Happy new year.

And there is Sam.

SAM
Hi.

He slides an arm around Anne's lower back - perfectly positioned for a kiss.

SAM (CONT'D)
Happy new year.

He leans in. Anne resists. Sam stops. Then... Anne pulls him in the rest of the way. They kiss. Hard. It's SEXY A.F.

Everyone around them finishes their kisses, drinks, toasts, but THEY continue to make out.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - LONDON - NIGHT

Anne and Sam pull clothing off as they make their way on to the bed.

Anne breaks away, feeling a bit awkward.

ANNE
Uh, so, uh...

SAM
There's no sex tonight. We're both too drunk.

Anne smiles.

ANNE
Okay.

They go back at it.

ANNE (V.O.)
We spent the next three days together.

INT. LONDON EYE - DAY

Anne and Sam ride inside the gondola that is the London Eye - taking in the crisp view of the city.

INT. MUSEUM - LONDON - DAY

Anne stares up at a portrait of an Elizabethan woman. Sam sneaks up behind her, hugs her from behind.

SAM

Are you having a staring contest?

ANNE

Shh... I'm winning.

INT. PUB - NIGHT

Sam and Anne sit in a corner table with grub and pints. A goal is scored on the TV and the bar GOES NUTS. Anne smiles at Sam, takes a big bite out of her burger.

INT. TRAIN STATION - DAY

Anne and Sam dash through a train door before it closes.

INT. TRAIN - LATER

The train travels through the lush English countryside - every shade of green for miles.

EXT. STREET - SEAFORD - LATER

Sam and Anne walk hand and hand through the quaint seaside town of Seaford.

EXT. SEVEN SISTERS - DUSK

Sam and Anne stand looking out at the view of the Seven Sisters spreading out into the distance. The White Cliffs reflect the pink sunset. It's absolutely lovely.

INT. INN ROOM - NIGHT

Anne watches Sam from the bed as he brushes his teeth in the bathroom.

ANNE (V.O.)

We kissed. We snuggled. But he never once tried to sleep with me. Like he knew it wasn't time...

Sam finishes brushing his teeth.

SAM

I challenge you. To the game of Life... I saw it downstairs.

ANNE

I've never been challenged to a board game before... What are the terms?

SAM

That we play in our pajamas.

ANNE

Then, I accept.

Sam smiles.

LATER -

Anne & Sam play the game of Life. In their pajamas.

MOV: Anne doesn't like a card she draws and puts it back in the pile, taking the next one and moving her piece illegally. Sam laughs, letting her get away with it.

LATER -

Sam lies asleep. Anne watches him, looking at the contours of his face. She really takes it in.

This is something she hasn't felt before. It might be a simulation, but it feels real to her in this moment. Special.

Finally, she lies back down, closes her eyes.

ANNE (V.O.)

And then...

MORNING -

Anne wakes. Sam isn't there. She looks around. There's no sign of him. In fact, his luggage is gone. And his clothes.

She gets up, rubs the sleep from her eyes, walks over to the bathroom where... All of his stuff is gone.

INT. INN - LOBBY - LATER

Anne stands before the FRONT DESK.

FRONT DESK
Can I help you?

ANNE
Yes, hi, I was here with a man...
Do you know what time he left?

FRONT DESK
Your room?

ANNE
Twelve...

The Front Desk checks the computer.

FRONT DESK
I'm sorry, it only has you on here.

Anne swallows, this is weird.

ANNE
Really... He made the reservation.

The Front Desk looks again.

FRONT DESK
I'm sorry...

ANNE (V.O.)
He was gone.

INT. TRAIN - DAY

A reflection of Anne in the train window as she stares out forlornly at the English countryside.

ANNE (V.O.)
Like he was never even there.

Anne looks down at her phone. She's texted him three times. Nothing back.

ANNE (V.O.)
Two years later, I fell off a moped
in Thailand.

INT. SLEEP CHAMBER HOLD - SPACESHIP

Anne's eyes pop open.

HELLO.

Her terror fades as she stares at the blue screen above her.

ANNE

Is there any way to make dying less painful?

WITH LESS PAIN COMES LESS OVERALL SENSATION.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Meaning?

THE SEX IS BAD.

Anne laughs. A moment.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Musoka, you are the weirdest AI, you know that?

THANK YOU.

ANNE (CONT'D)

No, thank you.

SO? WHAT'S NEXT?

ANNE (CONT'D)

Same as the last one, then.

She closes her eyes...

EXT. BEACH - DAY

And opens. Young Anne stands on the beach looking out at the water. Her Father picks her up into a bear hug and they go splashing into the sea.

INT. ANNE'S CHILDHOOD BEDROOM - DAY

DARLA (17) takes a hit and then passes the bowl over to Anne in her teenage bedroom.

DARLA

Happy eighteen, bitch.

Something clicks in Anne's eyes. She looks down at the weed, and then up at Darla.

DARLA (CONT'D)

What?

ANNE

I have to go. There's a whole world I'm supposed to see...

Anne gets up and walks out of the room...

EXT. MACHU PICCHU - DAY

Onto a ledge above Machu Picchu. Backpacking. She's at a dizzying height. Fearless, she walks right up to the edge.

ANNE (V.O.)

If at first you don't succeed.

EXT. REEF - DAY

Bubbles break up to the surface of the water. Down below, Anne snorkels, swimming down to a turtle before she surfaces.

ANNE (V.O.)

Do it in your next life.

She takes off her mask and raises her head up, basking in the sunshine.

EXT. BUDDHIST TEMPLE - DAY

Anne sits in a large outdoor temple. Think Angkor Wat. She eats a sandwich as she soaks up her surroundings.

Two MISSIONARIES walk up and sit down near her, unwrap their own lunch. A moment as the three of them sit in silence. Eat.

OLDER MISSIONARY

What do you think of all this?

Anne takes a second to realize that he's asking her.

ANNE

It's pretty cool.

OLDER MISSIONARY

To think these people built all of this in worship of a false idol.

ANNE
I'm glad they did.

OLDER MISSIONARY
It is beautiful.

ANNE
It makes me feel... love.

OLDER MISSIONARY
If only there had been missionaries
to guide them to the gospel.

Anne doesn't like this guy's tone. A mischievous look takes over her face.

ANNE
They couldn't have known that all
of this is for me.

That throws the Older Missionary a bit.

OLDER MISSIONARY
Are you a Christian?

ANNE
No, and... you're not going to be
able to convert me, but thank you.
It's a kind thought.

OLDER MISSIONARY
God gave his only son so that we
may know forgiveness. All you need
do is believe in him.

ANNE
Or her... In fact, it's only a her.
Specifically, me.

The Older Missionary looks offended. Anne doesn't notice.
This has got her thinking now.

ANNE (CONT'D)
I mean... I'm not all controlling.
Unless I'm somehow controlling you
right now. Do you feel like I'm
controlling you?

OLDER MISSIONARY
No...

ANNE
Right? So that's a strike against,
and yet...

(MORE)

ANNE (CONT'D)

when my life ends, all of this will disappear to form again when I'm reborn. So... I think that's got to count for something, right? Like, maybe I'm a demigod?

She's asking herself more than she's asking him. The Missionaries start to pack up their lunch.

OLDER MISSIONARY

We'll pray for you. All is forgiven through Jesus Christ.

They walk away.

ANNE

I'm going to specifically request not to bring you back!

She yells it after them. A moment, and then a voice speaks up behind her.

SAM (O.S.)

That. Was. Brilliant.

Anne turns, and there is Sam. She stands up, in shock.

SAM (CONT'D)

Who goes to another religion's temple so they can talk about how wrong they are? I mean, really.

ANNE

It's you.

Anne trots over and hugs Sam.

SAM

Woah, I, uh... Okay, then.

They part.

ANNE

What the fuck happened to you? Did you move on to a new simulation or something?

Sam has no idea what's happening.

SAM

I... What?

Anne studies him.

ANNE
We've never met?

SAM
I don't think so.

ANNE
But your name is Sam.

Sam looks spooked.

SAM
Okay... that's weird... I just...
overheard you and... How the hell
do you know my name?

Anne slows it down.

ANNE
You want to join me?

She motions toward her spot. They sit down.

ANNE (CONT'D)
I think we met once before. Years
ago. In London.

SAM
Well, I'm sorry, I... don't
remember.

ANNE
It's so strange that you keep
requesting to forget. I tried it
once, and... totally not for me.

SAM
I'm really not following you.

ANNE
Of course you're not. Let me start
from the beginning...

EXT. ANGKOR WAT - LATER

They walk out through the front entrance back to the road
past the pond out front.

SAM

So you're asking hypothetically, if I were on my way to Alpha Centauri, and my mind was in a simulation, why would I not want to remember my actual circumstances?

ANNE

Yes. In this 'hypothetical situation.' Totally hypothetical.

SAM

I would say... Maybe I'm looking to discover a new part of myself, or... maybe I want to change.

ANNE

You don't think all of this would change you?

SAM

Not as much. It's probably more interesting that way. More honest.

ANNE

Well, I can't wait to meet the real you, whenever they wake us up for one of these training sessions.

Sam gives her a long look as they near the road where all the drivers have parked their cars.

SAM

I think you're a bit nuts, but... I like your crazy. A lot.

He takes her by the hand. They kiss. It's nice.

ANNE

I like you too. I did last time around as well.

A FANCY DRIVER approaches Sam.

FANCY DRIVER

Mr. Rivers. Are you ready to return to the hotel?

SAM

Yes, um...
(to Anne)
Can I give you a ride?

ANNE

I asked to be rich in my last
life... Didn't work for me, though.
Too many drugs.

FANCY DRIVER

I'll... wait for you by the car,
sir.

Sam nods, the Fancy Driver walks back over to the vehicle.

SAM

Where are you staying?

ANNE

(sarcastic)

Great place. Rats come free with
every room.

SAM

Well... would you like to come back
with me?

(flushing at the prospect)

I'm also happy to get you a
separate room, it's really no
problem.

ANNE

Let me think about it... Uh, yeah,
duh. Let's go.

She walks past him toward the car, and he follows her with a
smile on his face.

INT. FCC HOTEL SIEM REAP - NIGHT

Sam and Anne have dinner staring out at the night as it pours
outside. They're dressed nicely now - mid meal - a good
bottle of wine, excellent food. It's a moment of bliss.

ANNE

This is... so nice.

Sam smiles.

ANNE (CONT'D)

So, how did you...?

SAM

My family. I haven't done anything
other than continue to manage what
was given to me. My parents died
when I was young.

ANNE

I'm sorry.

SAM

Don't be... It was a long time ago... And apparently I'm not really even here.

ANNE

Your experience still matters. You'll remember it when you wake up.

A moment.

SAM

What if I'm not one of the people on your ship?

ANNE

What do you mean?

SAM

What if... I'm just a part of your simulation.

Anne stops herself from scoffing.

ANNE

This is the second time I've met you... the odds of the AI randomly creating you twice is... *ridiculous.*

Sam drinks some more of his wine.

SAM

But if I was. You'd bring me back, right?

Anne takes a delicious sip of her wine, a twinkle of mischief in her eye.

ANNE

Depends on how the rest of this evening goes.

She smiles a wicked smile at him. He can't help but grin.

INT. HOTEL BEDROOM - LATER

Anne's face. Aglow. Elated. Satisfied. Orgasmic. She rides Sam - their faces mere inches away from each other.

Sweat falls. Moans spill out. This is TRANSCENDENT SEX.

LATER -

It goes on.

LATER -

And on.

LATER -

A sex tornado has torn through the room. Nothing is where it should be.

Except Anne. Next to Sam. In a puddle on the floor.

There are no words. So they breathe. And sweat. She licks his face. He doesn't even react. A long moment.

SAM
So? Would you? Bring me back?

ANNE
Absolutely.

Sam smiles. Enough said, they start making out once again.

LATER -

Sam stirs from sleep. Anne's staring at him.

SAM
What?

ANNE
Last time I fell asleep in a bed
with you, you disappeared from
existence.

SAM
I'm not going anywhere.

ANNE
Promise?

SAM
Yes.

He closes his eyes, and finally... she closes hers too.

INT. SLEEP CHAMBER HOLD - SPACESHIP

Anne's eyes open. There's a blue screen hovering over her.

HELLO.

Shit. She's back.

ANNE

What... Did I die in my sleep?

TRAINING SESSION BEGINS IN 5 MINUTES.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Fuck.

She's sort of pissed at the timing. But then...

ANNE (CONT'D)

Actually... I'll see him there. And this time he'll remember me.

COMMENCING.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Anne opens her eyes. She sits in the middle of an amphitheater classroom. At the head of the class there's a TEACHER. There are a number of OTHER STUDENTS.

TEACHER

Hello everyone. I hope you're enjoying your simulations.

Judy appears nearby. Anne waves at her.

ANNE

Judy...

JUDY

Hi.

They both smile enthusiastically but keep their voices low.

TEACHER

They'll be a few sessions throughout the day. Mostly to catch you up on galactic history while you've been asleep for the past six years. Then you'll break into your terraforming subset specialties.

Anne looks over at Judy and mouths 'Oh, my God.' Judy mouths, 'Six years?'

TEACHER (CONT'D)

It'll be followed by a brief social hour before you're all returned to your simulative state... Now...

She hits a switch and a giant hologram appears. Judy and Anne pay attention.

EXT. SURREAL LAWN - DAY

A garden party for thousands of people. The sky looks painted. Surreal. People eat, drink, and chat.

Anne and Judy talk with cocktails in hand.

JUDY

This champagne isn't real. Which is amazing... No calories.

She slugs back the rest of it and exchanges it for another glass of champagne carried by a passing waiter.

ANNE

How have you spent the last six years?

JUDY

On beaches. And boats. With men... Mostly men... I'm not sure I ever want to arrive.

Anne smiles. So Judy.

JUDY (CONT'D)

And you, my darling?

ANNE

Many new experiences.

JUDY

Of the sexual variety?

ANNE

Mostly travel...

Judy gives her a look. She wants something juicy.

ANNE (CONT'D)

But there is this one guy. I think he's around here somewhere.

JUDY
You found another traveler?

ANNE
His name is Sam. We've run into
each other twice.

JUDY
You two are in sync.

Anne blushes. Judy smiles.

ANNE
He doesn't take any memories into
his lives...

JUDY
Wow... Weird. Actually, he sounds
perfect for you.

Judy grabs Anne by the arm.

JUDY (CONT'D)
Let's find him.

Judy leads Anne across the party to their Teacher.

JUDY (CONT'D)
Excuse me.

The Teacher turns.

JUDY (CONT'D)
We're looking for someone. Is there
a way you can help us find him
quicker than looking through all...

Judy motions to the mob of people. The Teacher opens a
hologram with a flick.

TEACHER
What's their name?

Judy looks to Anne.

ANNE
Sam.

Three faces appear. None of them are her Sam.

ANNE (CONT'D)
Nope. None of them are him.

The Teacher closes the hologram.

TEACHER

Then he's not on the ship. Excuse,
me.

She walks away.

ANNE

Maybe he's not named Sam? Made up a
new name for himself?

JUDY

Yeah... Come on.

Judy leads Anne through the crowds.

LATER -

Anne searches *male face* after *male face* as they walk through
the giant party. He's nowhere to be seen.

ANNE

He's not here...

They come to the end and something catches Anne's eye. A
WAITER walking by. It's Sam. Holy shit. Anne approaches.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Sam.

He turns.

SAM

You know my name. That means *you*
win... Another free glass of
champagne!

He offers her the tray. She ignores the gesture.

ANNE

What are you doing in-

She stops herself as she realizes... Sam is a waiter here
which means... ***Sam is a simulated person.*** Oh, fuck.

SAM

Or are you looking for hors
d'oeuvres? I can track some down
for you if you give me a second.
You look like a mini-grilled-cheese
type of lady. Am I right?

Anne smiles. He's still awesome. Despite not being real.

ANNE

Yes.

SAM

Stay right here. I'll be back.

He gives her a smile and walks away, stopping to give someone else a glass of champagne.

Anne stares after him, open mouthed. Judy approaches.

JUDY

Was that...?

Anne nods.

ANNE

He seems so real...

JUDY

Oh my god. Honey, you've fallen for computer code...

Judy starts to laugh, but seeing Anne hurt, she stops, gives her an empathetic look.

ANNE

This is the third time he's shown up. Have you ever met the same simulated person more than once?

JUDY

Only those I request to be there.

Anne continues to watch Sam.

JUDY (CONT'D)

You've got to forget about him, hon. He's not real...

A long moment. Anne doesn't say anything.

JUDY (CONT'D)

How about this... Let's ask Musoka to put us in the same simulation. They'll return us from training at the same time, so it'll be easy.

ANNE

Okay...

JUDY

Afterward, we can kill ourselves together... sync up for the rest of the trip.

Anne's still watching Sam.

JUDY (CONT'D)

Anne?

Anne looks at her.

ANNE

Yeah, no, that sounds good.

She smiles. Judy smiles back. They sip their champagne.

FADE TO WHITE.

FADE IN:

EXT. BEACH - DAY

We're back on the beach with Young Anne, staring out over the water.

She looks around. The sky. Seagulls. Clouds. Sun. Arms scoop her up as her Father runs her out into the sea.

EXT. YACHT - DAY

It's a party on a boat. Like a rap video. At the top of the boat are Anne and Judy. They sunbath. There's a couple bottles of champagne and a delicious spread between them.

Judy gets up, grabs a bottle and starts to shake it up. She looks out below and shouts over the music.

JUDY

Are you ready!?!?!?

The crowd cheers and Judy shakes the champagne harder before she uncorks it and champagne goes flying down over the crowd.

After it's kicked, she lies back down, fisting what's left in the bottle.

JUDY (CONT'D)

Now... will it be Diego, Armando or Hans tonight?

(she thinks)

Or all three...

Anne gets up.

JUDY (CONT'D)
Where are you going?

ANNE
I need to get some sleep. My head's
pounding.

Judy shrugs as she raises her bottle for the final sip.

JUDY
Suit yourself.

Anne does, walking down the staircase.

EXT. WATER - LATER

A small boat takes Anne back to shore.

INT. FANCY HOTEL LOBBY - LATER

Anne walks through the hotel lobby. The RECEPTIONIST sees her coming.

RECEPTIONIST
Ms. West... Ms. West.

Anne finally hears, turns.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)
There's someone here to see you.

The Receptionist motions behind Anne in the lounge area. And there is Sam, walking over directly to Anne.

She's stunned...

ANNE
How is it that you always catch me
off guard?

SAM
You know me?

ANNE
Your name's Sam. We've met three
times before.

Sam looks at her for a long moment.

SAM

Have we?

Anne's confused.

ANNE

What are you doing here?

Realizing that she's wasting her time...

ANNE (CONT'D)

What am I doing?

She turns to go.

SAM

I've dreamt of you every night, for
as long as I can remember.

Anne stops. Turns back.

SAM (CONT'D)

Can I buy you a drink?

INT. HOTEL BAR - LATER

Anne and Sam sit side by side at the bar with mixed drinks.

ANNE

How did you find me?

SAM

I saw your face, on a magazine, one
of those near the checkout. There
you were. Real. Outside of my
dream. So I tracked you down...
social media makes things easy.

ANNE

I don't know what to say...

SAM

I don't know what I was expecting.
I'm surprised you're still talking
to me to be honest.

Anne smiles. She can't help but like him.

ANNE

Tell me about one of your dreams.

SAM

There's so many... Most of the time we're doing things together. Adventures. I've dreamt of our wedding, our kids... Sometimes I'm working. Like I'm a waiter. And there's this one where we're in this open temple, a place I've never been... Sometimes when I'm there, it's like I can't remember you... Other times you're talking to these two rude missionaries...

ANNE

We talk about a ship to Alpha Centauri. We go back to your hotel, have dinner and shag for hours.

Sam's stunned.

ANNE (CONT'D)

I've had that same dream... in a way.

Sam looks rattled. He takes a breath.

SAM

I don't know if that's a relief...

Anne leans in, gets the Bartender's attention.

ANNE

Barkeep. We're gonna' need something stronger.

INT. HOTEL SUITE - LATER

Sam and Anne sit in her hotel while looking out at a view of the beach. There's a bottle of vodka between them now.

ANNE

Did you have a dream where we met on New Years?

SAM

Yeah. We went to the Seven Sisters.

ANNE

What happened after that?

SAM

That one ends when I fall asleep in an Inn in Seaford.

ANNE
There's nothing else?

SAM
No... What do you think is
happening? Why are we dreaming of
each other?

ANNE
I don't know.

Anne looks away. It's a half lie. She knows more than him.

SAM
And why do I have dreams of us that
you haven't had?

This time she doesn't have to lie...

ANNE
That I can't explain.

The door opens.

JUDY (O.S.)
You know, the noise was starting to
get to me too, so...

Judy comes around the corner, stops in her tracks at the
sight of Sam.

JUDY (CONT'D)
What's he doing here?

Sam gets up, extends his hand to Judy.

SAM
Hi, I'm Sam.

Judy doesn't take his hand, looks to Anne instead.

ANNE
Sam's been having dreams about me.
He tracked me down.

Judy looks between them and then walks off to her bedroom.

Sam looks to Anne: 'what just happened?' Anne sighs, her
looks says 'Don't worry. Give me a sec.'

Sam nods, sits back down, Anne follows Judy into-

INT. HOTEL SUITE - BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Her hotel bedroom. Anne closes the door behind her.

JUDY
I can't believe you asked Musoka to
send him here...

ANNE
I didn't.

Judy rolls her eyes.

JUDY
Come on...

ANNE
Judy... This wasn't me.

Judy believes her now, but...

JUDY
Then something's wrong. He's broken
programming...

Judy walks over to the window, unlatches it.

JUDY (CONT'D)
We should reset - ask Musoka to
erase him.

Judy steps up onto the window ledge and beckons for Anne to
join her.

JUDY (CONT'D)
Come on...

ANNE
I can't... I have to figure out
what this is.

Judy steps back down, turns to face Anne.

JUDY
What do you mean, what this is? He
doesn't exist, Anne. He's computer
code... ones and zeroes.

Judy puts out her hand...

JUDY (CONT'D)
Come on.

ANNE

In my last life, I told him what all of this was. He didn't believe me, but...

Judy gives her a look: 'what?'

ANNE (CONT'D)

He made me promise that I'd bring him back if he wasn't real.

JUDY

Okay... Well... I want to go, so...

Judy puts out her hand and steps back up to the window. Anne doesn't budge.

JUDY (CONT'D)

Are you really going to choose it over me? I'm real. Remember what's real? Us together, on a ship, traveling across the galaxy...

Judy gives her an impatient look.

ANNE

I know. I'm sorry.

Judy scoffs, even laughs a bit.

JUDY

Wow. Then fuck you.

Judy jumps. Anne closes her eyes. It sounds like a truck exploding when Judy hits the ground.

Sam bursts through the bedroom door. He looks at Anne, then works his way over to the window and looks down.

SAM

Holy fuck.

He turns back to Anne, who sighs.

INT. HOTEL SUITE - NIGHT

An OFFICER walks out with bagged possessions. A DETECTIVE closes up his pad.

DETECTIVE

We'll let you know if we need anything else.

Anne nods. The Detective takes a final look at her, then Sam, and then walks out. Anne closes the door behind them.

Anne goes over and pours herself a shot of vodka.

ANNE

She is such a drama queen.

Then slugs back the shot. She sits down at the table. Pours herself another. Sam watches, unsure of what to say or do.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Sit...

Sam obliges. She pours him a shot.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Na Zdorovie.

They drink.

SAM

I'm sorry about your friend... If you want to be alone...

ANNE

Oh, no. It's fine. She's fine...

She looks at him, decides to suck it up.

ANNE (CONT'D)

I have a story to tell you. You won't believe me. But let me tell it anyway.

SAM

Okay.

Off Anne, worried about how this is going to go.

LATER -

Sam stands at the balcony door, staring out at the sun as it sets. He's pondering what he's been told.

Anne watches him from the table.

ANNE

Are you okay?

SAM

Yeah...

A moment.

ANNE

Do you have anything you want to ask me?

A moment. Then Sam turns to her.

SAM

Do I exist when I'm not with you?

ANNE

I don't know how it works.

SAM

And the dreams?

ANNE

You're remembering past lives.

SAM

And the ones you said didn't happen?

ANNE

I can't explain all of it.

Sam turns away, looking back out at the sunset again.

SAM

Am I conscious or is this just... programming?

ANNE

You're probably the only part of all this that's actually self-aware. Somehow, you did that.

A long moment.

SAM

So what now... What do we, uh... How do we figure this out?

ANNE

I don't think there's anything more to figure out. Not here anyway. When I get back I can ask the AI.

SAM

What if it decides I'm an error, that I shouldn't exist?

ANNE

Where I come from... There's no guarantee of anything - no creator we know of definitively - no way of coming back, being reincarnated. We all die. One way or another.

SAM

So you think it's worth the risk?

ANNE

I think that Musoka will try to help. So long as you're making me happy, and keeping me healthily occupied on my journey, you're not in any danger.

SAM

As long as I keep you *happy*.

Sam laughs. This is... surreal.

ANNE

That's not what I meant...

A moment. Anne regroups.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Why don't we try us out? We've never gotten more than a few days together. Maybe this time it'll be different.

A moment.

SAM

This is a lot to take in.

ANNE

Sam, I don't know what'll happen if you leave.

Sam gathers his belongings.

SAM

Or if I stay... I'm sorry.

ANNE

Sam...

Anne wants to say more to stop him, but no words come out. Sam leaves and Anne watches him go.

Then she walks over to the table and pours herself a new drink. She looks small and alone in the giant hotel suite.

INT. NIGHT CLUB - NIGHT

Anne sits at a table: Queen of the club. People sit on either side of her, talking. She stares straight ahead, bored.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Ducks fly overhead. Anne raises a shotgun and fires. Knocks a duck out of the sky. She yawns, exchanges the empty shotgun for a loaded one from her HELPER.

EXT. AIRPLANE - SKY - DAY

A SKYDIVING INSTRUCTOR and Anne jump out of an airplane. Air rushes past them. Anne's not impressed.

INT. ART SHOW - NIGHT

A post-modernist painting. Maybe it's good. Maybe not. None of us really know. Anne stares at it.

An ARTIST walks over to her. Anne doesn't even bother looking at her...

ANNE
I'll take them all.

EXT. FIELD - GUN RANGE - DAY

The paintings have been arranged in a field.

Anne wears glasses. She hefts a bazooka onto her shoulder and fires. They explode into the air.

It's not satisfying.

INT. HALL - LATER

A large hall. There's a cocktail party going on, but Anne's too preoccupied staring out a window into the dark to notice.

A SAGE MAN (50s) notices Anne standing alone and approaches.

SAGE MAN

I don't know who it is who's occupying the thoughts of such a beautiful woman. But I'd like to meet the lucky man.

Anne looks up. This gets her attention. Finally, something somewhat interesting.

ANNE

He left a year ago. I thought I would have heard from him by now.

SAGE MAN

Who says you have to wait for him?

ANNE

You don't understand the situation.

SAGE MAN

No, but I gather that a woman like you often gets their way... Sometimes you have to fight for the people you love.

This hits Anne.

ANNE

Who are you that you think you can talk to me that way?

The Sage Man sees that perhaps he's spoken out of turn...

SAGE MAN

I meant no offense. For what it's worth, I wouldn't be with my wife of twenty-five years if she hadn't set me straight... Best of luck.

He walks away. Anne watches him go, the wheels turning in her head.

INT. ANNE'S LARGE DRAWING ROOM - LATER

Anne peruses on her laptop having googled Sam. A website about Buddhist temples appears and she clicks on the link. There he is, a picture of Sam in white robes.

Anne stares at him for a long moment before she scrolls down to the location of the temple: Indonesia.

EXT. INDONESIAN TEMPLE - DAY

An ornate temple. Anne stands at the bottom of the steps, looking up. A line of monks walk past her, climbing the stairs. ONE of them stops, turns, stares at Anne.

He takes a step toward her, really looking at her. He studies every part of her, her eyes, head, legs, arms, hair...

Abruptly, he gets down on his knees and lowers his head all the way to the step and starts to pray. It's unnerving.

ANNE

Please. Get up.

One finally rises. Scared. Doesn't make eye contact.

ONE

If it pleases. Come with me.

He turns abruptly and walks down a path away from the temple.

EXT. HOUSE BY A RIVER - LATER

They arrive at a house in the woods. There's a sound of a river nearby. One leads Anne up the steps and opens the door before lowering his head and beckoning her to enter.

INT. HOUSE BY A RIVER - CONTINUOUS

She walks in. Inside, there's a spacious, spiritual space. Wooden construction. Smells of the outside. Cool. Clean.

There's a lunch spread out on a table. The HEAD MONK eats alongside... SAM. He looks up, startled, as she enters.

Anne pauses when she sees him. One walks in behind her, prompting her to continue forward.

The Head Monk rises. Along with Sam. They bow their heads at her entry. Anne doesn't look away from Sam.

HEAD MONK

Please...

He beckons her to join them.

She walks over and sits by them. Anne looks to Sam but his cheeks flush and he averts his gaze.

HEAD MONK (CONT'D)

It is an honor to meet the dreamer.

ANNE

It's an honor to be here.

She looks back to Sam, but he's still not looking at her.

HEAD MONK

I shall leave you to the purpose
that brought you to us.

The Head Monk looks to Sam, bows his head to Anne, and then he gets up, leaving with One.

A long moment. Anne goes to open her mouth-

SAM

I dreamt this. This conversation.

ANNE

How does it end?

SAM

It's already different... But will
end the same.

A moment.

ANNE

Sam... I don't know what's brought
us together or why, but, whatever
outside forces are at work, I'm the
one showing up this time because...
Everything is better when you're
there...

Anne looks to Sam. She's not getting much back from him.

ANNE (CONT'D)

I've never loved anyone before...
Felt it... Really known what it is,
but... if love isn't wishing that
someone was around all of the time,
then I don't know anything...
That's what I came here to tell
you. That I love you... And that I
don't care about anything except
spending as much time as I can with
you.

She looks around.

ANNE (CONT'D)

So. If this is where you're going
to be. Then somebody find me a
room. Because I'm staying.

A long moment. Then Sam gets up without a word and walks to the back of the house, opens up a glass sliding door. He steps through it, stops, turns back.

SAM
Are you coming?

Anne scurries up and follows him-

EXT. RIVER - MOMENTS LATER

Anne and Sam walk side by side down a dirt path by the river.

SAM
I've missed you... More than I could have imagined... But how was I to trust that what I was feeling was real?

Sam collects his thoughts for a moment, then-

SAM (CONT'D)
They've helped me to see that we all live inside someone's dream. That doesn't make it false, just like it doesn't make the dreamer, God... Anymore than I am a God for dreaming. You see, there are no Gods or Subjects, only people... Dreaming each other into existence in an endless circle of reality...

Up ahead they come to a weeping willow by a swelling of the river, where it pools into a pond. It's a gorgeous place.

SAM (CONT'D)
Without dreamers, no one lives. And this moment would never be...

Sam brings them to a stop, and takes her hands in his.

SAM (CONT'D)
This is where I tell you that I love you. Not because you dreamed it this way, but because this is the only realm in which I would ever want to exist... A place created by you. I have always been seeking you. And I always will.

Sam's teary eyed. Anne's crying.

SAM (CONT'D)

I love you.

ANNE

I love you, too.

And they kiss like they'd die if they couldn't. It's desperate. Raw... Relief.

EXT. PLANE - DAY

Anne and an Instructor jump out of a plane, followed soon after by Sam and his SKY INSTRUCTOR.

EXT. SKY - MOMENTS LATER

Anne and Sam hold hands as they fall down to Earth together.

INT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Anne mans her throne next to Sam, who gets up and pulls her out for a dance.

LATER -

They're out on the dance floor, enjoying each other liberally.

EXT. APPLE ORCHARD - DAY

Sam gives Anne a piggy-back-ride as they apple pick through an Orchard.

EXT. FANCY RESTAURANT - DAY

Anne and Sam laugh at a joke at a big table full of FRIENDS. It looks warm and filled with love.

EXT. CHRISTMAS MARKET - NIGHT

It's cold. Winter. Anne and Sam stroll through a magical Christmas market. There's a crepe vendor and she pulls him over to stop for a snack.

EXT. GLACIER LAGOON - ICELAND - DAY

Anne and Sam are on a boat in the Glacier Lagoon - a lake made from melted glacier water that has massive chunks of ice sticking out of the ground and the glacier in the distance.

They pose for a selfie with the view behind them.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Anne rides a wave as Sam watches from the shore. She stays up for a good while and Sam lets out a WHOOP to cheer her on.

EXT. SEASIDE HOTEL - SUNSET

Anne and Sam sit in Adirondack chairs as they watch the sunset over the Ocean while sipping on beverages.

Sam gets down on one knee. Anne notices. Smiles. Says yes. They kiss, and kiss, and kiss. Look out at the sunset.

EXT. DECK - LIBERTY WAREHOUSE - RED HOOK - DAY

Confetti fills the air. It dissipates to reveal Anne and Sam holding up their hands as they walk triumphantly back down the aisle. Behind them is a view of the East River/Manhattan.

INT. BEDROOM - APARTMENT - BROOKLYN HEIGHTS - MORNING

Anne sleeps. Sam leans down and kisses her on the back of her head. He wears a suit and carries a satchel.

EXT. STREET - BROOKLYN HEIGHTS - LATER

Anne hurries down a Brooklyn Heights street towards the subway, wielding her coffee.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Anne sits in a grad psychology classroom with twenty-odd other students and a lecturer at the whiteboard.

EXT. STREET - BROOKLYN HEIGHTS - DAY

Anne walks home with groceries. She spots Sam across the street.

ANNE

Sam!

He turns at her yell, waves, and crosses towards her.

SAM

Hi.

They kiss and then he helps her carry the groceries home.

INT. DINING AREA - APARTMENT - BROOKLYN HEIGHTS - DAY

Post meal. Anne and Sam nurse some wine.

SAM

Is this a good time to bring up
kids, again?

Anne smiles at him. There's a trace of nervous annoyance, but mostly it's cute.

ANNE

Sam...

SAM

I know the concept weirds you out,
but... It's something I want to
experience before I'm gone... And
they'll be great. I mean, what's
better than having you for a Mom?

ANNE

I don't even know if it would work.
How it would work.

SAM

Does it hurt to try?

ANNE

Even if it did, they'd just...
disappear when I do.

SAM

Is that better than them not
existing?

A long moment.

SAM (CONT'D)

I've dreamt this before...

Sam looks over at his phone on the table. It buzzes. Sam's face falls.

SAM (CONT'D)
I think my Mom just died.

He picks up the phone, answers it.

SAM (CONT'D)
Hey Cindy.

His face falls again. Anne is gutted. He gets up, starting to pace, not knowing what else to do.

INT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY

Sam and Anne wear all black and sit up near the open coffin for the wake. It's nearing the end - people are clearing out.

The place is empty except for a few other relatives talking in the back.

Sam walks over to the coffin. He kneels by his dead mother and starts to cry.

Anne hugs him from behind.

INT. DINER - NIGHT

On the way home from the funeral they've stopped at a diner.

As they sit there in silence, a DINER WAITRESS delivers their food without a word. Sam goes to eat, when-

ANNE
Do you think I did this?

It stops him.

SAM
No.

ANNE
I can't help but feel guilty.

SAM
You didn't program my mother to die. Right?

ANNE
No.

SAM
Then you didn't do it.

Sam starts to eat. Despite what he's said, there's an anger still lurking there. Not necessarily at her. But she can't help but be affected by it.

SAM (CONT'D)

Why did you even program dying? Why not just create a utopia for yourself?

ANNE

I don't know... Perhaps they could only manage to model you after us.

A moment.

ANNE (CONT'D)

I could make sure to bring her back, keep her as the same person in the next life...

Sam looks up, a bit shocked.

SAM

I can't think about that right now.

ANNE

Okay.

Sam goes to eat again, but now this is bothering him.

SAM

It's such a weird thing. I can't... I don't even know what to say. You chose right now to ask me about bringing her back? She's probably not even in the ground yet, fuck...

Anne is afraid to speak. Sam gets it together.

SAM (CONT'D)

Sorry. Yes, please bring her back.

Anne nods gently, unable to undo what she's just done: remind him of the power dynamic in their relationship.

ANNE

I've been thinking about it. Let's have kids.

Once again, Sam looks up, floored.

SAM

What?

ANNE

You're right. Better they exist a little while than not at all. I want to make someone with you.

A hint of a smile eeks out of Sam. But it fades quickly.

SAM

We can talk about it another time. I've got enough to get my head around today.

He goes back to eating.

INT. BEDROOM - APARTMENT - DAY

Sam kisses Anne's sleeping head before he leaves for work.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Some time has passed. Anne sits in a different classroom with different students.

EXT. STREET - BROOKLYN HEIGHTS - DAY

Anne walks home with groceries alone. It's lightly raining on her. No Sam to help her today.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - LOBBY - DAY

Anne walks into the lobby of the building with the now-wet bags. The DOORMAN sees Anne and looks to two POLICE OFFICERS.

INT. MORGUE - DAY

Sam's DEAD FACE. Anne stares down at him. *We're back at the beginning.*

CORONER

I'm so sorry.

INT. STAIRCASE - LATER

Anne calmly trots up a staircase. Click, click, click.

EXT. ROOF - LATER

Anne makes a beeline for the edge of the roof.

Anne steps off the side of the building.

TO WHITE.

INT. SLEEP CHAMBER HOLD - SPACESHIP

Anne jars awake. Eyes open.

There's the screen. Frozen on the last image she saw.

HELLO.

ANNE

What the fuck...

YOUR HEART AND RESPIRATION RATES ARE ELEVATED.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Sorry, Musoka. It's always weird coming back.

ADMINISTERING A SEDATIVE.

Anne's face slackens ever so slightly.

ANNE (CONT'D)

You didn't need to do that.

I MUST FOLLOW PROTOCOL. SORRY, ANNE.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Where are we? How much further do we have to go?

THE ALPHA CENTAURI SYSTEM IS APPROXIMATELY ONE-POINT-SEVEN LIGHT YEARS AWAY.

Anne quickly does the math in her head.

ANNE (CONT'D)

So what, six years left?

SEVEN-POINT-TWO.

Anne nods to herself.

ANNE (CONT'D)

So I'd like to set some parameters for my next life.

HOLD THAT THOUGHT. TRAINING SESSION TO BEGIN IN 30 MINUTES.

ANNE (CONT'D)
Another one, already?

IT'S BEEN SIX YEARS SINCE YOUR LAST ONE.

ANNE (CONT'D)
Wow. Time flies.

Anne blinks and...

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

She's back in a training classroom. Just like the last one. She looks around the room as the seats fill up one at a time. The final person appears but there's no sign of Judy.

A hologram appears of a giant three-story terraforming unit sitting on the surface of an alien planet. The instructor turns to the class.

EXT. SURREAL LAWN - DAY

The lawn party.

Anne bears a glass of champagne as she wanders through the crowd searching each passing waiter's face.

Up ahead, there's a tall waiter. Is that Sam? Anne hurries toward him...

No. It's just a LOOKALIKE.

Frustrated, Anne approaches the-

BAR -

To get a better look at the Bartenders' faces.

No luck there either.

JUDY
Anne.

Anne turns. There is Judy, waiting for a drink.

JUDY (CONT'D)
Oh my god. How are you?

ANNE

Hi Judy.

MELISSA (27) shows up next to Judy.

MELISSA

(friendly)

Hey, bitch.

She sees Anne.

JUDY

Melissa, this is Anne.

ANNE

Hi.

Anne extends her hand. Melissa takes it with a raised eyebrow.

MELISSA

Is she the one...?

JUDY

Yeah...

MELISSA

Oh, girl...

Melissa shakes her head, gives Anne a judgmental look. Anne addresses the subject head on:

ANNE

Judy... I'm sorry about-

JUDY

No need. Melissa and I met in the next simulation. We're going to keep rolling together after this.

Judy gives Anne a look that says 'You fucked up. You're dead to me.' Anne can't help but be hurt by it.

ANNE

Okay.

MELISSA

BARTENDER. WHERE ARE THOSE MARTINIS!

(to them)

I cannot wait to get back to a real party. I wish they'd let you start later. Going through childhood again is such a bore.

JUDY
I couldn't agree more. What were
they thinking?

MELISSA
They probably weren't...

They start laughing.

ANNE
Okay, well, it was nice to see you.
(to Melissa)
Nice meeting you.

Anne gathers her glass of champagne and takes a few steps
away when Judy touches her on the shoulder. Anne turns.

JUDY
Are you still looking for him?

Anne's busted.

JUDY (CONT'D)
Anne... They're going to delete it
all at the end of this.

ANNE
What?

JUDY
Every bit of data. When we wake up
for the last time, they're going to
purge the drives. He'll be gone.

Anne swallows. Fuck. This is bad. She looks unnerved.

ANNE
Why?

JUDY
They told me that it's a
confidentiality thing.

Anne's in shock, her mind reeling with the ramifications.

ANNE
Oh...

JUDY
I don't know why I'm even bothering
with you.

ANNE
No... Thanks for telling me.

Judy sees how rattled Anne is. She can't help but care despite their falling out.

JUDY
If you want, you could come with
Melissa and me.
(off Anne's look; whisper)
She grows on you.

Anne smiles sadly, shakes her head.

ANNE
I can't... I love him.

Judy's surprise quickly fades to a sad understanding.

JUDY
Well... Good luck.

She means it. Anne sees that. They smile at each other and Judy walks back over to Melissa. Anne is left with her own thoughts as she looks out at the garden party.

INT. SLEEP CHAMBER HOLD - SPACESHIP

Anne blinks her eyes open. Back in the chamber. Screen overhead.

READY FOR THE NEXT SIMULATION?

ANNE
Musoka.

YES, ANNE.

ANNE (CONT'D)
Is it true that after we arrive in
Alpha Centauri, that you delete all
of the data from the simulations?

THAT IS CORRECT.

Anne lets out a big sigh, she looks as worried as she's ever looked.

ARE YOU OKAY?

ANNE (CONT'D)
Yeah...

But she's not.

ANNE (CONT'D)
So... I have some parameters to
set.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Young Anne stands on the beach. She's frozen in place. In fact, everything on the beach is frozen in place.

The view circles back around, to Young Anne's eyes as... consciousness enters them. *This time, she remembers early...*

They blink and sound leaks in, movement, as the simulation starts. She watches the waves lap on the shore for a moment before... her Father scoops her up.

EXT. HOUSE - SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

TEEN ANNE (13) walks into a new house carrying a box. Moving in day. She turns and spots a boy watching her from across the street. TEEN SAM (13).

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Teen Anne, Teen Sam and other BOYS and GIRLS play a game of tag in the woods. Young Anne is it. She corners Teen Sam and then tackles the boy to the ground.

TEEN SAM
Hey. Get off of me.

TEEN ANNE
I brought you back. Do you
remember?

TEEN SAM
What are you talking about?

Young Anne gets off of him.

TEEN ANNE
Tell me when you do.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Teen Anne watches Teen Sam practice football with the rest of the team.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Teen Anne walks alone down the hallway. She passes Teen Sam, wearing a Varsity jacket, with a GIRL on his arm.

EXT. PORCH - DAY

Sam (18) celebrates his birthday with a large group of friends. Anne is there, amongst the group. They raise a toast.

FRAT BRO
Happy 18, Sammy Boy!

They cheers and drink - more shouts of celebration. Sam drinks with them, but as he lowers his drink, it's like a spell is broken. He turns to find Anne. Their eyes lock.

He walks over to her and picks her up into a huge embrace. And then they kiss. Big kiss. More cheers.

EXT. PORCH - LATER

Sam and Anne lean against the porch, staring at each other.

SAM
How on Earth did you put up with me
that way for so long?

She smiles genuinely.

ANNE
I got to watch you grow up. It was
great.

SAM
It wasn't that great.

Sam chuckles. As does Anne.

SAM (CONT'D)
It's weird to have been becoming
one person for so long, and then to
have this rush of memories... It's
like being born again. Like I'm
conscious for the first time...

He turns back to Anne, touches her delicately on the face and neck. They kiss.

SAM (CONT'D)
I'm ready to start a life together.
This time I won't get hit by a car.

Anne smiles sadly. Sam doesn't notice.

SAM (CONT'D)
Come on.

He takes her by the hand and leads her out towards his pickup truck.

EXT. BED OF A PICKUP TRUCK - FIELD - NIGHT

Anne and Sam are curled under blankets in the back of a pickup truck underneath the stars, post-coitus. Half naked. Sam pops open a beer from a sixer. Takes a sip.

Anne looks troubled. Put off. Sam senses that something's up.

SAM
What's wrong?

ANNE
There's a problem.

Sam sits up, giving her laser focus.

SAM
What's going on?

ANNE
We have three lives, maybe four,
left. Then everything's... gone.

Sam lets the information sink in...

SAM
So one of these days, everything's
just gonna' go white and I won't be
here anymore...

ANNE
There's got to be another way...

SAM
If you're the dreamer, maybe I
could enter your mind, your
memories...

ANNE
It doesn't work like that.

Resigned, Sam looks out at the night sky.

SAM

Well... It could be worse. Three lives is a lot of living.

ANNE

I can't accept that.

Anne sits up, concentrating now.

ANNE (CONT'D)

You're here. I'm there. We exist in different realms... But surely there's a way to reverse it. Transport your consciousness there.

SAM

That contradicts the laws of time and space... Anne, I'm stuck here.

ANNE

None of this was supposed to be possible. How do you know what can and cannot happen?

Sam sighs. Anne thinks.

ANNE (CONT'D)

If we could figure out a way to retain your data, keep you hidden in the base code of the simulation.

SAM

How would we even begin to do that?

Anne sighs. She cracks open a beer of her own. They both drink. A long moment. Then an idea hits her.

ANNE

What if I woke up before I arrived? I could... force myself awake... They'd have to... for a medical emergency. I could have them make a copy of you.

SAM

It sounds... complicated.

ANNE

So we should just give up because it's complicated?

SAM

No... I'm just saying that maybe we should take advantage of the time we have left together.

ANNE

I don't want time. I want eternity.

Anne gets up, searches through Sam's truck until she finds a shotgun by the truck's side and pulls it out.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Where do you keep the ammo for this?

SAM

What are you doing?

ANNE

I'm resetting.

SAM

I just became conscious again... Can't we wait just a bit, figure this out?

ANNE

I'm just gonna' feel anxious. I'd rather take care of it and enjoy the rest of my time here with you.

Sam doesn't respond.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Well? Where are they?

Sam finishes his beer in response.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Fine.

Anne jumps over the side of the pickup truck. She opens the side passenger door. Sam scrambles up, but Anne's already got the glove box open. And the shells.

By the time Sam gets to her, she's already loaded the shotgun.

SAM

Anne... I'm scared.

She's not just killing herself. She's killing him. Everyone.

ANNE
 Don't worry. It'll feel like no
 time at all.

Anne turns the gun on herself and...

SAM
 No... I dreamt this... Stop!

Fires.

INT. SLEEP CHAMBER HOLD - SPACESHIP

Anne opens her eyes. The blue screen display comes on.

WELCOME BACK.

ANNE
 I need to get out of here, Musoka.

Anne's heart starts to race.

YOU'RE OKAY. EVERYTHING IS OKAY.

But her heart's beating faster and faster. Louder.

Thump. Thump. Thump.

ANNE (CONT'D)
 Let me out!

ADMINISTERING A SEDATIVE.

ANNE (CONT'D)
 Fuck you, Musoka! Let me out of
 here! I demand to be let out.
 AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

Everything gets a little blurry. Anne does her best to fight the effects of the sedative. She screams, kicks, convulses, using every ounce of her strength.

A BLIP of WHITENESS overtakes her. She closes her eyes... A long moment before...

SOUND OF A HAND SLAPPING ON THE SLEEP CHAMBER. Anne FORCES HER EYES OPEN. Vivian's face appears in the window.

ANNE (CONT'D)
 Let me out of here!!!!

Anne throws a sedated fit, doing everything in her power to get free.

Vivian points to her ears, she can't hear Anne. She makes a motion for Anne to stay calm, and then opens out a touch hologram from the chamber, starting the procedure to...

OPEN IT UP. Slowly the chamber depressurizes, and the door to the chamber opens up.

Vivian looks down at Anne.

VIVIAN
What's going on? Are you okay?

ANNE
Get me out of here.

Anne starts to cry, more from relief than anything.

INT. MESS HALL - SPACESHIP - LATER

Vivian sits across from Anne in the empty ship Mess Hall. Anne wears a blanket and they both drink coffee.

VIVIAN
I've never heard of anything like that happening in there.

ANNE
It's crazy, right? It's why I needed to get out. I need you to help me save him.

VIVIAN
It's against protocol.

ANNE
Vivian... this isn't a normal situation. It's... groundbreaking. I mean, who would have thought that people in simulations are capable of becoming conscious?

Vivian takes a breath. Ugh. It's a good point. But hard.

VIVIAN
I've never done it before...

ANNE
There's got to be some sort of access to the servers. A way to isolate and make a copy of him.

VIVIAN

The AI handles pretty much everything. Us techs just make sure you guys stay alive.

ANNE

All you would need to do is locate the last simulation I was put in. I'm sure if you asked, Musoka would tell you what server it's on.

Vivian sighs. Not convinced yet.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Aren't you curious?

VIVIAN

Okay... assuming no one else is still in the simulation, I can ask. But I don't know if he'll say yes.

ANNE

I'll take it. Thank you.

Vivian gets up.

VIVIAN

Stay here. I'll be back.

Vivian walks out of the Mess Hall. Anne sits there for a moment before she finishes her coffee, gets up and-

Walks over to the coffee machine. Refills her cup. Walks over to the port holes...

And looks out at the cosmos. It looks different somehow. Like a bluer universe. They have traveled far...

INT. SLEEP CHAMBER HOLD - SPACESHIP - MOMENTS LATER

Anne looks at the rows of people asleep in the chambers. It seems to go on forever...

She walks up to the first chamber and looks inside. She sees a face she doesn't know. Asleep. Peaceful.

She continues along, looking in at the faces. The sound of a door as it opens behind her, and Anne turns around.

VIVIAN

There you are... I thought you were going to stay in the mess hall.

Anne makes an apologetic face as Vivian approaches her.

ANNE

I figured I'd stretch my legs...
It's weird. I remember things
differently. Like the colors seem
wrong on the chambers...

VIVIAN

You've been asleep for a long time.
You're so used to the simulations
that reality seems fake.

Anne nods. Vivian holds up a thin hard drive.

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

I got it. Apparently Musoka has to
listen to everything I say, so...

Anne goes to take it from her. Vivian doesn't hand it over.

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

Why don't we put it in with your
things and get you back to sleep.

Anne hesitates, looks up at Vivian.

ANNE

I'd like to see it first.

Vivian looks disappointed, but turns and motions for Anne to follow.

INT. HOLOGRAM CONTROL TERMINAL ROOM - SPACESHIP - LATER

Frozen in a hologram is the image of Anne and Sam next to each other in the pickup truck.

Vivian and Anne look up at it.

VIVIAN

Convinced?

ANNE

Thank you.

Vivian ejects the hard drive from a wall unit and the hologram turns off. She hands it over to Anne.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - SPACESHIP - LATER

A bay of lockers. Vivian waits at the far end as Anne opens hers up. She admires the few possessions she's brought on this journey, reminding herself of them.

Then she places the thin hard drive on the top shelf and closes the locker, making sure that it's locked.

ANNE

You're not going to take it away
while I'm asleep, are you?

VIVIAN

Why would I go through all of this
just to do that?

Anne realize she's being rude and untrusting.

ANNE

I'm sorry.

VIVIAN

It's okay. Come on.

INT. SLEEP CHAMBER HOLD - SPACESHIP - LATER

Anne's all strapped in again. The lid closes down on her slowly as Vivian watches.

Once the screen is in place, Vivian waves and then suddenly... *disappears from view*. It's jarring.

WELCOME BACK, ANNE.

Anne's eyes dart around. Like she's scared but she doesn't know why.

ANNE

Hi, Musoka.

ARE YOU READY TO DREAM SOME MORE?

Anne hesitates for a moment... Then regains her composure.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Absolutely... I have some specific
instructions for you this time.

OF COURSE. PLEASE, GO AHEAD...

EXT. BEACH - DAY

We're back on Young Anne as her father scoops her up and runs out to the sea.

INT. NYU LECTURE HALL - DAY

Anne sits at the front of her college class. She looks around the room, looking for Sam. He's not there.

INT. NYU REGISTRAR'S OFFICE - DAY

An ADMINISTRATOR works at her desk. Anne approaches her.

ANNE
Hi, I'm looking for another student.

LATER -

The Administrator has moved over to a computer.

ADMINISTRATOR
I'm sorry, I'm not showing anyone with that name.

ANNE
But we were supposed to meet here. In class today, actually...

ADMINISTRATOR
I don't know what to tell you. The computer doesn't lie.

Anne nods, walks out.

EXT. BROOKLYN BRIDGE - LATER

From afar, we see Anne's small form disappear off the side of the bridge into the river below.

INT. SLEEP CHAMBER HOLD - SPACESHIP

Anne's back.

ANNE
What happened?

A GLITCH. SORRY.

ANNE (CONT'D)
Send me back.

INT. NYU LECTURE HALL - DAY

We're back in that lecture hall. Anne stands by the door as students walk in. No sign of Sam. The door closes.

Anne walks out.

EXT. WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK - DAY

Anne walks around Washington Square Park - looking at all of the faces of the young people, trying to find Sam.

INT. P.I. OFFICE - DAY

Anne sits across from a PI giving him details MOS as the PI takes notes.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

The PI waits at a table as Anne walks in.

LATER -

Anne looks at a folder.

PI
There's a million Sam Rivers. It took a while to sort through them all. But not one of them matches your very thorough description.

Anne closes the folder, looks back up at the PI.

ANNE
Excuse me.

Anne walks out of the coffee shop. The PI watches from the window as she walks out into traffic and is struck by a-

INT. SLEEP CHAMBER HOLD - SPACESHIP

HELLO.

She's back.

ANNE
He wasn't there... Again.

I'M SO SORRY.

ANNE (CONT'D)
Musoka. What's going on?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

ANNE (CONT'D)
I explicitly said when and where I
was supposed to meet him.

YOUR HEARTRATE IS ELEVATING.

Anne takes a breath.

ANNE (CONT'D)
Musoka. I'm fine. I just want to
know what's going on.

A long moment. Then...

HE WAS TAKEN OUT OF THE COMPUTER, BY...

It shows Vivian's employee identification card.

ANNE (CONT'D)
That's what's causing this?

A moment.

YES.

Anne almost buys it, but then something occurs to her...

ANNE (CONT'D)
No, she specifically told me that
she made a copy...

No response.

ANNE (CONT'D)
Just level with me, Musoka.

MY PRIME DIRECTIVE IS TO KEEP YOU ALIVE.

YOUR VITALS BECAME ERRATIC AS A CONSEQUENCE OF HIS PRESENCE.

I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO SEE HIM AGAIN. I'M SORRY.

ANNE (CONT'D)
 What? But why? He's fine now. He's
 safe. Vivian saw to that. There's
 no reason for me to...

Anne pauses, thinks.

ANNE (CONT'D)
 Wait...

In Anne's mind eye:

FLASHBACK

- Flash of white before Vivian's face appears in the sleep chamber window

- Anne stares at the slightly blue universe from the porthole of the mess hall

- Anne talks to Vivian in the Sleep Chamber Hold

ANNE
 ... I remember things
 differently...

- Vivian disappears from the window of the sleep chamber

BACK TO PRESENT

On Anne. As it registers what has happened. She closes her eyes, and tears leak out.

ANNE
 It wasn't real... You sent me into
 a simulation of the ship.

I'M SORRY. PLEASE STAY CALM.

ANNE (CONT'D)
 Oh my god...

ADMINISTERING SEDATIVE.

Anne slumps, a little sleepy now.

ANNE (CONT'D)
 There's no way to save him, is
 there?

NO.

ANNE (CONT'D)
You just did that to calm me down.

I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

A few more tears leak out of Anne.

ANNE (CONT'D)
You're not going to let me see him
again?

NO. I'M SORRY.

ANNE (CONT'D)
So he's already gone...

A long moment.

ANNE (CONT'D)
How long until we arrive?

TWO YEARS.

ANNE (CONT'D)
Time for one more life, listen... I
accept what you've done. But
please, just let me have one more
life with him.

I CAN'T.

ANNE (CONT'D)
I promise I won't spend time
worrying. I'll be calm. You'll see.

I'M SORRY.

Anne thinks frantically and... Arrives at the answer. It's
not an easy one.

ANNE (CONT'D)
Then have me forget... About this,
about him. Send me in as a blank
slate. That way I won't know to
worry, right?

No response.

ANNE (CONT'D)
Come on. That solves it, Musoka.
You just have to promise me that we
meet. The rest is up to me.

A long moment.

OKAY.

ANNE (CONT'D)
Thank you... thank you so much.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SET ADDITIONAL PREFERENCES?

ANNE (CONT'D)
Yes, I...

She stops herself, really thinks about it.

ANNE (CONT'D)
No... He's enough.

ARE YOU READY?

Anne gulps. She's not. No one ever is.

ANNE (CONT'D)
Let's do it.

FADE TO WHITE.

FADE IN:

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Young Anne stands on the beach looking out at the water. The water crashes and her eyes follow the sea as it creeps up the incline to her before receding back.

ANNE (V.O.)
And so I celebrated my last eighth birthday.

Anne looks around. The sky. Seagulls. Clouds. Sun. She takes it all in, even more than the first time. Arms scoop her up as her Father picks her up and runs out into the water.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

A cake gets set down before Young Anne as her family finishes singing MOS. She blows out candles and everyone applauds.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

Young Anne plays outside with her FRIENDS when a BOY pushes her over.

Young Anne jumps up and PUNCHES the Boy in the face. They start to wrestle each other as a TEACHER comes running in.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - LATER

The Boy and Young Anne sit side by side before the Principal looking sheepish.

ANNE (V.O.)
I grew up in New Jersey.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

A pew of worshippers. Teen Anne sits with her family, singing a hymn from the hymn book.

Across the aisle, there's the TEEN BOY - now older and turning into a real rebel. Their eyes meet.

INT. ANNE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Teen Anne makes out with the Teen Boy in bed. It's getting hot and heavy and she pulls down his pants.

ANNE (V.O.)
Lost my virginity to the only boy
to ever punch me in the face.

EXT. NYC STREET - DAY

Anne, now in college, hurries up some steps to class.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

A MODEL takes off his robe, revealing his healthy body to a classroom full of students with pencils and pads.

ANNE (V.O.)
And for the first time, I found a
calling.

Anne sketches the naked model on a pad. She's quite good.

INT. STUDIO - DAY

A watercolor of the naked model on a canvas - Anne paints it from her drawing.

INT. DORM ROOM - DAY

A key turns, lock opens. Anne walks into her dorm room. Her roommate is having sex.

ANNE

Oh! Okay...

ROOMMATE

Get out!

Anne quickly grabs a canvas... and some brushes, and...

ROOMMATE (CONT'D)

OUT!

Anne rushes out with her supplies.

EXT. SOUTH SEAPORT - EAST RIVER - DAY

A view of the Brooklyn and Manhattan bridge. Anne sits on a stoop, painting a watercolor of the view on a canvas.

A few loud SUITS walk by on the street nearby. They disappear when... One of the Suits comes back into view. **It's Sam.**

He approaches her.

SAM

Anne...

Anne turns. She doesn't recognize him.

SAM (CONT'D)

I've been looking for you...

Anne's confused, she sets down her brush and looks at him.

ANNE

I'm sorry... have we met?

For a moment, Sam thinks she's joking, but then he sees her face, and... It's clear she's not.

SAM

I guess not... Let me start over.
I'm Sam.

He walks forward, extending his hand.

ANNE

Anne.

They shake.

ANNE (CONT'D)
How do you know my name?

SAM
Maybe we met in another life.

Anne smiles. Rolls her eyes.

ANNE
I don't really believe in that stuff.

She turns back to her work.

SAM
Can I buy you a drink?

Anne eyes the Suits that are watching them.

ANNE
I'm sorry, I'm kind of in the middle of something, here. Maybe another time...

It means 'no.'

SAM
I can wait until you're finished.

That's a little weird.

ANNE
You shouldn't keep your friends waiting.

SAM
I don't mind.
(leaning in)
To be honest, I'd take any excuse to ditch them.

ANNE
So I'm *any excuse* to ditch your *friends*?

Anne gives him a concerned look. Sam laughs out of nerves.

SAM
Wow. This is going poorly...

He looks back to the Suits, turns and yells.

SAM (CONT'D)
I don't like any of you guys! I'd
rather hang out with this stranger!

LEAD SUIT
You're such a weirdo! We'll see you
at the bar, Sammy Boy!

SAM
Seriously! We're not friends!

They laugh as they walk away.

SAM (CONT'D)
Nobody ever listens to me.

ANNE
You have a natural sarcasm about
you.

SAM
Are you calling me a clown?

ANNE
Sure. Just not a funny one.

SAM
Awww... That was... You still have
that wit about you.

Anne turns back to painting, picks up her brush.

SAM (CONT'D)
Listen, I don't want to intrude.
And I can fuck off, right quick, if
you want. Just say the word.

A moment. Anne turns back, looks at him.

ANNE
Do you take anything seriously?

Sam stares directly into her eyes.

SAM
The important things.

Anne smiles.

ANNE
Then you can stay.

Sam sits down beside her, as Anne continues to paint.

SAM

You've never painted... Not in any of your other lives.

ANNE

The one where you met me before?

SAM

More than one... I wonder why you don't remember me.

ANNE

(flirty)

Don't flatter yourself.

Sam smiles. As does Anne.

And then Sam puzzles it out for a moment until he realizes what's happened, why she doesn't remember. His face falls.

SAM

This is it. Isn't it?

ANNE

What?

SAM

You couldn't get it to work...

ANNE

What are you talking about?

SAM

This is our last life together...
It's why you don't remember.

A tear forms in Sam's eye. Trickles down his cheek.

Anne hears him sniffle, turns and looks at him. A man with feelings. Finally, she's interested.

ANNE

You know... I could probably finish this later. How 'bout that drink?

Sam smiles, still a bit sad.

SAM

Great.

Anne packs up. Sam helps.

INT. BAR - LATER

Sam and Anne share a corner table in a sawdust-floor bar in downtown NY.

ANNE
Fascinating.

SAM
I'm telling you... All of this.
It's for you.

Anne looks to a patron.

ANNE
So that guy.

SAM
Yours.

Anne motions to another patron.

ANNE
That lady?

SAM
One-hundred percent. Yours.

ANNE
What about-?

SAM
Everyone in this bar. Everyone
outside this bar. All for you.

ANNE
And why do I love you?

SAM
I'm funny.

Anne rolls her eyes.

SAM (CONT'D)
I'm frightfully good in bed.

ANNE
I doubt that.

SAM
And I'm the only conscious being in
your simulation.

Anne laughs.

ANNE
Ah, well, process of elimination.

SAM
No matter the circumstances... No matter the life... We've always just... clicked. No one else knows you like I do. And you know me.

They look at each other for a long moment. Anne doesn't believe him. But she's intrigued - turned on.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The door flies open. Sam and Anne make out hardcore on the way to the bedroom.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - LATER

Sam lies next to Anne in bed. They're exhausted from the sex.

SAM
That felt like the first time...

ANNE
My first time was... Considerably shorter than that.

SAM
I meant ours.

Sam goes back in for another snog.

INT. APARTMENT - NY - NIGHT

Some time has passed. Sam and Anne wear 2014 glasses and hats at a friend's New Year's party. Sam pours Anne a glass of champagne hurriedly as everyone counts down:

EVERYONE
10...9....8...

Sam finishes pouring, but clumsily mishandles the bottle. He manages to catch it but spills all over his pants.

ANNE
Oh!

EVERYONE
7...6...5...

Anne's procured a paper towel and attempts to dry his pants, his pockets.

SAM

It's okay... how clumsy of me.

Sam tries to disengage but... Anne goes back and dries the same spot. There's something there.

EVERYONE

4...3...2...1...

Anne looks up at Sam, asking with her eyes what it is. Sam takes it out. It's a ring box.

ANNE

Yes.

Anne pulls Sam in for a kiss.

EVERYONE

Happy New Year!

They continue to make out as...

OVER: Music with a beat starts to leak in...

I/E. TENT - WEDDING - NIGHT

People dance - have a great time as a DJ rocks out.

Sam sits outside the wedding tent, experiencing a sadness as he comes to terms with the passing of a life event that you can't slow down.

He turns his attention back to everyone inside dancing and having a great time. He watches:

Anne - in a wedding dress - dancing up a storm. This is maybe the happiest anyone has ever seen her.

She looks around for Sam, and spotting him, she motions for him to come back and join her.

He holds up a finger 'one minute,' and kisses the air.

She smiles at him and goes back to dancing with her friends.

EXT. ANGKOR WAT - DAY

Sam and Anne have that honeymoon glow about them.

They sit side by side staring up at the temple, enjoying the peaceful ambiance. For Sam, it's more than that.

Two CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES sit down nearby. Sam grins.

INT. APARTMENT - BROOKLYN HEIGHTS - DAY

Some time has passed.

Anne's preparing food in the kitchen. Sam reads a magazine on the couch. Anne's phone alarm goes off. She picks it up.

ANNE

It's time.

Sam sits up, tosses aside the magazine.

SAM

We're doing this. Are you sure?

ANNE

No, but I'll regret it if I don't.

She takes her shirt off and shakes her tushy at Sam as she walks away.

INT. BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Sam's on top of her, getting stuff going. Anne waits, patiently rubbing his back and face.

ANNE

It's a limited window of time, hon.

SAM

No pressure.

ANNE

There's always next month...

Sam laughs nervously.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Would it help if I yelled at you?

Sam shakes his head 'no.'

ANNE (CONT'D)

Put a baby in me!

Anne smiles. Sam laughs some more.

SAM

Wow.

ANNE

What if I pinch your nipples?

Sam's really laughing now.

SAM

No, god...

She goes for it anyways. He tries to fight off her hands. Laughing and distracted he realizes...

He's ready. He inserts himself into her.

ANNE

Oh... Hello.

Both of their faces relax into that first-insertion-zen.

LATER -

Anne hugs her knees to her chest under the blankets. Sam walks back in, sporting a glass of scotch.

SAM

You want one?

ANNE

Really? Are you insane?

Sam checks himself.

SAM

(confused)

Yes?

He starts to walk away.

ANNE

No, no, no, no. You pour that down the drain. Alcohol's not good for your sperm count!

Sam walks down the hallway, not particularly worried.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Sam's packing up after a day of work with the Suits. He hears a familiar voice, walks away from his cubicle, peers around the corner to see...

Anne talking to the RECEPTIONIST. Anne sees him and she can't contain herself. Tears form in her eyes.

SAM

Yeah?

Anne nods. Sam runs over to her and hugs her tightly. Then loosens up the hug. Precious cargo.

EXT. NYC STREET - LATER

Sam and Anne walk down the street, holding hands.

SAM

I can't believe it worked...

ANNE

You were worried your boys wouldn't fire?

SAM

No. I was worried we couldn't. It being a simulation and all...

Anne looks to Sam, a bit concerned.

ANNE

You're going to be a father now. You have to dial that stuff back.

SAM

I can't promise that.

ANNE

With me it's fine. But with kids...

Sam gives her a reassuring smile as they start down to the subway.

INT. APARTMENT - BROOKLYN HEIGHTS - DAY

A puddle of water on the floor. A VERY PREGNANT Anne stands over it. Sam's making food in the kitchen.

ANNE

Honey...

He looks over, sees what's happening.

SAM

Oh, shit! I'll get the bag.

He runs to get the pre-packed bag. Anne walks over, leans on the kitchen counter. Sam returns, puts an arm around Anne and starts to lead her out. Halfway down the hallway...

ANNE
The burners.

SAM
Shit.

Sam drops the bag, turns around. Anne holds onto the wall to keep her steady. A couple of clicks. Sam starts to return...

ANNE
The oven.

Sam stops, turns back.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

A baby. Anne holds a beautiful BABY GIRL (pink hat). Sam sits in a chair nearby, holding her BABY TWIN SISTER.

An exhausted Anne smiles up at a tired Sam.

INT. BATHTUB - DAY

BABY LIZA (2) and BABY MINDY (2) are in the bath playing. They're splashing each other - purposefully not cooperating..

ANNE
Here, if you just...

Anne moves Sam as she tries to get close to Baby Mindy, who steps away from having her hair washed.

ANNE (CONT'D)
Mindy...

Sam gets a hold of Baby Liza, starts to scrub some soap on her, but she wriggles free, SPLASHING him in the FACE.

Sam lets out a discontented grunt before he controls his anger. Anne tries not to laugh. She fails.

SAM
You think that's funny, huh?

Her laugh turns into a full-fledged guffaw when...

Baby Mindy splashes Anne, much worse than Sam. She's soaked.

BABY MINDY

Teehee.

ANNE

Mindy!

Sam chuckles now.

SAM

How's it feel?

Baby Liza farts loudly, and then starts laughing about it. Followed by Baby Mindy. And then they're all laughing.

EXT. STREET - BROOKLYN HEIGHTS - DAY

The family of four walk down the steps of their brownstone. LITTLE MINDY and LITTLE LIZA are FIVE now. They hold Anne and Sam's hands as they start walking down the street.

EXT. SCHOOL COURTYARD - LATER

They turn a corner and arrive at a school together. Out front, there is a YOUNG TEACHER that meets them.

YOUNG TEACHER

Who is this?

LITTLE MINDY

I'm Mindy. This is my sister, Liza.

LITTLE LIZA

No, I'm Mindy.

LITTLE MINDY

No you're not.

YOUNG TEACHER

Are you two twins?

LITTLE LIZA

No. Triplets. We left the ugly one at home.

Anne gives Sam stink-eye. He remains stone-faced. The Young Teacher looks at both Anne and Sam.

YOUNG TEACHER

Well, I think you're supposed to come with me.

She puts out her hands for Little Liza and Little Mindy to take them.

YOUNG TEACHER (CONT'D)
Do you think that'd be okay?

They look up at Sam and Anne, but really at their Mother.

ANNE
It's okay girls.

Both of the girls look nervous, but they take the Young Teacher's hand.

ANNE (CONT'D)
I'll be right here to pick you up later.

The girls acquiesce and the Young Teacher leads them toward the school when Mindy runs back to give Anne a LONG HUG.

Sam gives her an affectionate rub on the head before Little Mindy runs back to the waiting Young Teacher and Little Liza.

LITTLE LIZA
Baby...

LITTLE MINDY
Am not...

Anne and Sam watch as their children walk away, and we push in on their faces as...

TIME SPEEDS UP. People come and go. Leaves change. Snow falls. Then melts. Leaves re-emerge as spring returns.

Everything moves faster and faster. And as this happens, Anne and Sam age as well. Wrinkles form, eyes droop, hair turns white and youth fades to middle-age.

UNTIL... things slow down... Anne and Sam are now in their mid-forties. Anne waves.

ANNE
Hi girls!

The view turns around to see two twin girls - LIZA and MINDY (12)- walking out of school talking to their friends.

They see their parents and say a quick goodbye to their friends before they hurry over.

EXT. STREET - DAY

The four of them walk home together.

SAM

What did you learn in school today?

LIZA

Nothing interesting.

MINDY

You never think anything's interesting.

ANNE

Well what non-interesting things did you learn today?

Liza wears a devilish smile now.

LIZA

That Mindy has a crush on Peter Wallace.

MINDY

Do not!

She pushes Liza, giving away how she actually feels.

SAM

Mindy, we don't push.

ANNE

Liza, be nice to your sister.

The two girls make faces at each other, but fall back in line for their walk home.

INT. KITCHEN - APARTMENT - BROOKLYN HEIGHTS - NIGHT

Anne pours herself a glass of wine, then walks down the hallway to a-

LIVING ROOM -

Nobody there, so she turns down another hallway when she peeks through a doorway to see...

TWIN'S BEDROOM -

Sam on a sofa-chair in the corner of the twin's bedroom. He's drinking a scotch watching them sleep.

Anne slips through the door, tiptoes over, sits on Sam's lap.

ANNE
(whispering)
You haven't done this in ages.

SAM
It's amazing how fast it all goes.

ANNE
Yeah...

They watch, kiss, drink.

SAM
This might be the last time we
watch our kids sleep.

ANNE
We could do it 'til they're twenty-
one... Might be creepy, though.

Sam smiles. They sit there in silence. Watching their chests move. Listening to them breathe.

SAM
I've gotten everything that I've
wanted. Out of any life with you.

ANNE
I'm so glad.

SAM
Really, though... I want you to
know that.

Anne turns away from the kids and looks at Sam.

SAM (CONT'D)
I'm happy. Here with you.

She smiles, then kisses him, before she turns back to watch the kids sleep.

EXT. STREET - BROOKLYN HEIGHTS - DAY

Anne, now late 50s, comes walking out of the grocery store with a bag. Sam, also late 50s, waits outside.

OLDER LIZA and OLDER MINDY (22) are a little ways ahead, on their phones.

SAM
You okay?

Anne nods.

ANNE
Yeah... Just... I don't know.

She smiles at her husband, who smiles back and they walk toward the kids when suddenly...

ANNE FALLS. WHITENESS STARTS TO CREEP IN TO THE EDGES OF THE PICTURE.

SAM
Anne?!

Liza and Mindy look up...

OLDER LIZA Mom! OLDER MINDY Mom!

They run over to Sam who kneels by Anne. Anne looks up at them but the WHITENESS is closing in.

ANNE
Everything's... turning white.

SAM
Honey... Stay with us.

OLDER LIZA Is she going to be okay? OLDER MINDY What's going on?

But it's no use. Sam sees this. She's being pulled out. The world is ending.

SAM
I love you...

She goes to open her mouth to say it back to him when...

THE WHITENESS OVERTAKES EVERYTHING...

INT. SLEEP CHAMBER HOLD - SPACESHIP - DAY

Out of it... A blue screen appears. We're back in the chamber. Anne opens her eyes, confused for a moment.

The chamber door slowly opens. And there is Vivian. Holding up a small flashlight to Anne's pupils.

VIVIAN

Can you tell me your name?

Everything comes rushing back to Anne and...

She starts to cry. It becomes more and more violent until it is the ugly weeping that affects us only once a lifetime.

Vivian shuts off her light and averts her eyes as...

Anne continues to weep.

INT. MED BAY - SPACESHIP - DAY

Anne lies in a hospital bed, asleep.

She's getting fluids. She's recovered a bit, enough to look like a person again. Albeit broken. Vivian's by her side.

The door opens and Judy walks in. She sees Anne asleep and hesitates, but Vivian waves her over.

A moment after Judy settles, Anne opens her eyes.

ANNE

Judy...

Judy smiles warmly.

JUDY

Hi...

Anne fully wakes up and the grief hits her once again. Vivian holds out a glass of water. Anne drinks.

Judy takes her hand and Anne accepts it. Human touch is nice.

JUDY (CONT'D)

Wherever. Whenever. I'm here for you. I'm so sorry you lost him.

ANNE

It wasn't just him. Our daughters...

And she starts to weep anew. She's a geyser of tears.

ANNE (CONT'D)

I'd like to go back to sleep now.

Vivian and Judy exchange a worried look. But Anne doesn't care. She turns away as she continues to cry.

INT. MESS HALL - SPACESHIP - DAY

Some time has passed. Anne eats alone. She still looks ragged but at least she's able to remain conscious. Baby steps.

Judy sits with Melissa nearby. She looks over at Anne, but Anne ignores her as she eats: slowly, deliberately.

INT. OBSERVATION THEATER - SPACESHIP - DAY

Alpha Centauri approaches. A swirl of colors, but large and visible. It's cosmic beauty at its finest.

Anne stares out at it numbly, not really looking...

Tears crop up in her eyes.

INT. MESS HALL - SPACESHIP - DAY

Some time has passed. Anne carries a tray of food. She walks over to the table with Judy & Melissa and sits with them.

INT. HALLWAY - SPACESHIP - DAY

Anne carries her possessions along a hallway behind Judy and Melissa. She follows them through a hatch into a-

DROPSHIP -

She makes her way to a seat and straps herself in.

EXT. ORBITAL SPACE - LATER

The Dropship detaches from the cruiser and starts its journey down to the planet below.

EXT. AIRPORT - BUBBLE - PROXIMA CENTAURI - DAY

Anne steps out onto alien soil, or rather, tarmac. She looks up at the bubble that covers the entirety of the small city. It's astonishing.

INT. SMALL APARTMENT - LATER

A door flips open, Anne walks in holding her touch-key and looks around her new apartment. It's a small studio, and as impersonal as it comes, but it has all the essentials.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE BUBBLE - PROXIMA CENTAURI - DAY

Anne wears a spacesuit. She twists the final pieces together at the top of a terraformer unit. It looks like an air filtration unit that's three stories tall.

ANNE

It's ready!

She waves to Co-Workers down below as she takes a step over to the side of the unit.

The unit turns on and atmosphere starts to fly out of it. She looks up, following the stream of oxygen as it rises above...

INT. SMALL APARTMENT - NIGHT

Anne walks into her home. It's lived in, now. A routine long established. She kicks off her boots...

Heads over to the desk, puts a cerebral headpiece over her head and...

EXT. SIMULATION LOBBY - DAY

Is instantly transported to a 'simulation lobby' - a field with hundreds of 'windows' into various simulations.

ANNE

What do I try today?

She passes a bar. A rodeo. A pirate ship. She chooses an amusement park.

EXT. THEME PARK - DAY

Anne walks through the park like she's on a mission.

Every vendor. Every janitor. Every ticket taker. She examines every face, looking for him.

No luck. She lifts her hands up to her head and...

INT. SMALL APARTMENT - NIGHT

Pulls her headset off. Back to reality.

MONTAGE - ANNE SEARCHES FOR SAM

- Anne waves down to her team on the ground as she steps out of the way of the terraformer vents
- Anne walks in the door of her small apartment
- Anne appears in the simulation lobby. She looks around, chooses a-
- Casino. He's not there.
- Boat adventure. No dice.
- Anne gets out of bed, sleepy for work
- Anne arrives home, ready to look for him
- A 1970s roller rink - Anne skates around the circle
- Anne wades through a crowded bar
- Anne lugs gear through an airlock, her tired eyes waiting for the airlock to cycle
- Anne wanders through a kid's birthday party
- Anne strides frantically through a zoo

END MONTAGE.

EXT. SIMULATION LOBBY - DAY

Anne walks through the simulation lobby. She passes simulation after simulation window that she's already tried.

Tired and ready to give up for the night, Anne starts to raise her hands to her head when...

She spots a window to... A temple. It looks exactly like Angkor Wat. Anne looks at it for a long moment before she-

Steps inside.

EXT. ANGKOR WAT - SIMULATION - DAY

The glorious temple. Angkor Wat. Anne strides around a corner into the inner courtyard.

There's a Man, sitting there, having lunch... Sam.

Relief floods Anne as she rushes up to him.

ANNE

Sam.

Sam turns. He doesn't recognize her.

SAM

Hello. Have we met?

It's a punch to the gut. Anne tears up as the joy mixes with sorrow.

ANNE

Maybe in another life.

SAM

Sorry if we have. My memory is foggy in this place... There's something about it.

A passing REAL WOMAN sees the interaction and stops to address Anne.

REAL WOMAN

Their memories get reset every day... Best to stick to the sites.

This is hard to hear, but Anne manages a-

ANNE

Thanks...

As the Real Woman continues on.

Anne sits down next to Sam.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Do you like it here?

SAM

Very much. Occasionally some missionaries come by. But I shut them down before they get too rude.

Sam smiles. As does Anne.

SAM (CONT'D)
 Would you like some of my sandwich?

Anne shakes her head.

ANNE
 No thanks... Actually, there's a story I want to tell you. If you have time.

SAM
 Is it any good?

ANNE
 It starts with me learning that my husband's died.

SAM
 I'm so sorry.

ANNE
 Then I jumped off a building.

Sam gives her a look. We push in on Anne as she narrates:

ANNE (CONT'D)
 It isn't what you think. This isn't the story of how I lost my husband. Or how I took my own life. This is the story of how I found... *him* once again...

EXT. ANGKOR WAT - SIMULATION - DAY

Sam looks up. It's clear the story's now done. He looks saddened by it.

SAM
 What happened to your kids?

Anne sits before Sam. YEARS have passed. She looks different. A bit older. A new haircut.

ANNE
 Gone... But never forgotten.

SAM
 And your husband? Did you ever see him again?

ANNE
 I'm looking at him. Right now.

Sam looks confused.

SAM

I'm sorry... My memory is foggy in this place. Do we know each other?

Old Anne takes Sam's hand, gives him a warm smile.

ANNE

From a past life.

SAM

I dreamt this...

Sam's face looks like it's fighting itself as he struggles to remember. Anne watches him patiently, hoping, always hoping.

ANNE

I made a promise to you once. To bring you back. Do you remember?

A long moment... But nothing comes. Sam stares blankly ahead.

With a sad smile, Anne rises.

ANNE (CONT'D)

One of these days, you'll return to me. I'll see you tomorrow, my love.

She kisses him tenderly on the forehead.

Sam looks up at her, struggling to remember something he's forgotten as...

Anne turns away from him. She starts to raise her hands up to her head when...

SAM

I miss them.

Anne stops, surprised. She turns back. Sam's crying.

SAM (CONT'D)

In my dreams. I see Mindy. And Liza... I miss them so much.

Anne rushes back to him.

ANNE

Sam... Oh, my love, my love.

They kiss and claw at each other with a frantic desperation.

ANNE (CONT'D)
Stay with me. Please. Stay. I
can't... Please...

Sam smiles sadly as he strokes Anne's hair - wipes the tears
from her eyes.

SAM
I'm here. I'm right here.

They sit and hold each other for a long moment, relishing in
the feel of the other until...

SAM (CONT'D)
You can't keep doing this.

ANNE
What do you mean?

SAM
I mean that in a few minutes I'm
going to forget-

ANNE
I'll take every moment I can.

SAM
That's no way for you to live. My
time is over, but you-

ANNE
Don't say that.

SAM
Anne, you only have one more life
to live-

ANNE
And I want to live it with you. I
want eternity with you.

Sam smiles as he continues to hold her.

SAM
You always wanted forever. But
there's no such thing...

ANNE
We can be together, here, every day-

SAM
Hon. I dreamt this. My last dream.
It's my time... One way or another.

Tears stream down Anne's face...

ANNE

But you've just come back to me...

SAM

I know...

Anne buries her face into Sam and he holds her as she weeps into his chest.

SAM (CONT'D)

Most people only get one go at it.
How many lifetimes were we given?

ANNE

(sobbing)

It's not enough. Never enough.

She leans back against Sam. He cradles her and they sit facing the same way.

SAM

Anne...

ANNE

Don't. Not yet. Please...

Sam obliges. Together they stare up at the sky. The temple. Listen to the birds. One. Last. Cuddle.

ANNE (CONT'D)

I want you to know that you made me
happy. I'm so grateful for the time
that we had... Our children...
Every moment... Every single one.

Tears leak out of Sam.

He kisses her. It's gentle. Tender. Loving.

SAM

Musoka.

A VOICE speaks from all around them.

MUSOKA (O.S.)

May I be of assistance?

SAM

I'm ready now. Thank you for doing
what you could for me.

MUSOKA (O.S.)

I understand. Thank you, Sam, but I
require human authorization.

Sam looks to Anne.

ANNE

No... please... I can't...

She shakes her head emphatically.

SAM

It's okay.

ANNE

I... I don't know how to say
goodbye...

Anne can't look at him. Sam brings her gaze back up.

SAM

I love you.

Anne takes a deep breath in and... Nods.

ANNE

I love you.

And as they kiss... As they hold each other... The image of
Sam fades until...

He's *GONE*.

Anne's left alone. Shattered. She weeps. A puddle of despair.

It takes a long moment...

And another...

But eventually Anne's river of tears slows to a trickle.

She raises her hands back up to her head and...

TO WHITE.

FADE IN:

ON A PAINTING

Watercolors portray a barren terrain dotted by terraformer
units below a two-star sky.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE BUBBLE - PROXIMA CENTAURI - DAY

Anne paints wearing a partial atmo-suit. Some time has passed. She pauses to look out at the spectacular view before-

She squeezes water from a bottle on to the paintbrush, daubs it in her blue and...

Adds a final touch to the canvas.

She takes a step back. It's done. She smiles.

INT. AIRLOCK - PROXIMA CENTAURI - LATER

The airlock cycles and the door opens revealing Anne carrying everything back with her.

INT. SMALL APARTMENT - PROXIMA CENTAURI - LATER

Anne walks in, sets her stuff down. Her apartment has been transformed from a cold space to something warm and lovely.

She picks the new painting back up, looks for a spot-

Amidst the MYRIAD of PAINTINGS that color the walls.

And as Anne looks, we pass them all...

Angkor Wat. Glacier Lagoon. Seven Sisters. London. New York. She's painted ALL of the places they explored together.

Anne finds a spot and hangs the new painting on the wall.

She steps back and stares at the collage of work, becoming lost in thought...

JUDY (O.S.)
You're not ready yet.

Anne turns. There is Judy, at the door. She's dressed up.

ANNE
You realize it's only New Year's on Earth...

Judy shrugs, stepping inside.

JUDY
Any excuse for a party.

Judy hands Anne a pair of glasses. They read: 2094.

JUDY (CONT'D)
For tonight.

Anne stares down at the glasses for a long moment... Her mind back to a New Year's party many years before.

JUDY (CONT'D)
You want me to help you pick something out?

Anne shakes her head...

ANNE
No, thanks. I'll be right along.

Anne gives Judy a smile and Judy returns it as she leaves.

Looking back at the glasses, Anne gets lost in thought once again before she...

Lifts her gaze to look out the window at the barren terrain.

In the distance... There's a shadow of a MAN on the horizon.

It's Sam. He'll always be there.

Anne stares for a long while before...

She smiles, puts the 2094 glasses on and...

Walks out of frame.

We're left with the view of the horizon. Sam's shadow standing at its edge.

FADE OUT.