

DA5ID

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY

ANDY PARKER (10) sits by a hospital bed, talking away. Dress shirt under a sweater, glasses and a cowlick that won't stay down. Scrawny with a face heavy with anxiety.

ANDY

And then like I finally figured out how to get a ton of emeralds. It was easy. I don't know why we didn't do it before. We just have to trade magic books instead of paper and those are real simple to make actually and anyway Dad I think that means we could build something really cool with emerald blocks. Like I don't know what yet. But something really cool.

He gazes at his father in the bed: ROBERT PARKER (40), wired to machines, breath ragged and troubled, comatose.

The machines BEEP a death march.

ANDY (CONT'D)

I made some drawings and I thought you could take a look at them maybe when you wake up.

Andy pulls papers from a notebook, primitive but colorful schematics. He studies them, then holds them for his father to see. No response. Andy chews his lip, then folds the papers and tucks them under his father's pillow.

He's trying his hardest not to cry.

Through the doorway, TWO WOMEN argue in HUSHED WHISPERS--

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY -- DAY

Andy's Mother LENORE (35) and his Aunt MARGOT (40). Everything about them says two different worlds: Margot is professional and fiery with anger. Lenore has tried her best to look good but her best is years out of date and showing its wear. She's cold when she's angry, and she's very angry.

MARGOT

This isn't right and you know it Lenore. You can't just march back into his life and snatch him away.

LENORE  
He's my son.

MARGOT  
He barely knows you. It's been five years. His life is here.

LENORE  
You're his aunt. A boy needs his mother.

MARGOT  
Then why can't you be a good mother and do what's right for Andy instead of what's right for you?

LENORE  
I am doing what's right for Andy.

Through the door, Andy watches.

MARGOT  
Don't pretend that this is about anything other than money.

A beat. There's a truth in that that stings.

LENORE  
He's my son. He's living with me. That's that.

MARGOT  
You are a small-minded selfish woman who only cares about--

TWO DOCTORS and a NURSE approach, faces heavy.

DOCTOR  
It's time.

The two women abruptly stop arguing. Andy looks on, face growing to a panic.

ANDY  
No. You can't. You can't. He'll wake up. He'll wake up!

They crowd into the room, blocking our view.

EXT. WOODLANDS -- DAY

A beat-up car winds through wooded country side.

INT. CAR -- DAY

Lenore and Andy inside, Andy pale and sad.

LENORE

Edenville is a great place to live.  
The city's got nothing on us.  
People are right friendly and  
there's so much nature. You like  
the outdoors Andy?

A beat. Andy mulls this over.

ANDY

Dad'd take me camping sometimes.

LENORE

Camping's fun. Haven't done that  
for ages but I'm sure we could.  
Maybe make 'smores. You like that?  
We could make them tonight. I've a  
sweet tooth something evil myself.

She looks to Andy, staring out the window in thought.

LENORE (CONT'D)

Something special you want for  
supper? I'm gonna swing by the  
corner general for a few things.

No response from Andy.

LENORE (CONT'D)

Andy?

Andy snaps to attention, unsure if he's done something wrong.

ANDY

What?

LENORE

Honey, I was asking if there was  
something particular you'd like for  
supper.

ANDY

Oh. Umm. Mac 'n Cheese?

He asks like he fears it's too big a request. Lenore smiles.

LENORE

Mac 'n Cheese it is.

EXT. TOWN OF EDENVILLE -- EVENING

They reach the outskirts of Edenville, a small town nestled in rolling woodlands, eerily beautiful under a misty rain. Lenore pulls into the parking lot of a small general store.

INT. CAR/EXT. CORNER MARKET -- EVENING

LENORE

I'll just be a minute, pumpkin.

Andy nods, staring out as she disappears inside. After a few minutes of boredom, he steps out of the car to stretch. He shivers, gazing at the woods beyond, heavy with mystery.

An OLD PICK-UP TRUCK parks nearby. A weathered HISPANIC MAN (50) in paint-splattered overalls gets out. He breaks Andy's daydreaming with a little wave. Andy sheepishly waves back. Lenore exits and gives the man a once-over, ushering Andy into the car with a sour look.

LENORE (CONT'D)

That's Mr. Rivera. Steer clear.

ANDY

Why?

LENORE

There's something not right about him, that's why.

As they pull away, Andy gazes uncertain at Mr. Rivera inside.

INT/EXT. CAR -- EVENING

Deeper into Edenville, down main street and into residential neighborhoods filled with warm, inviting houses.

LENORE

It's a bit into the school year but I got you all enrolled. So that's tomorrow. I'd love to get you more time sweetie but I work at the diner most afternoons and nights. Tommy's just got his license now he's sixteen, so I've been giving him the car. He'll give you a ride. The schools are right next door.

Outside, the houses change, become more rundown and poverty-stricken.

LENORE (CONT'D)  
Tommy's a great kid. You'll be best  
friends in no time.

ANDY  
Where's his Dad?

A beat. Lenore's face hints at a deep grief.

LENORE  
Tom Senior is over serving with the  
army. I won't lie. It's been hard.  
But. The world's an evil place  
these days Andy. Filled with  
badness. Be thankful there are men  
like him willing to fight so we can  
have the good life here.

They ride in silence, then finally slow into a driveway.

LENORE (CONT'D)  
Well here it is! Home sweet home!

EXT. ANDY'S NEW HOME -- EVENING

Home sweet home is a little house struggling against years of  
neglect. Visible through the window a teenage boy watches TV:  
TOMMY (16), athletic but too poor to pull off the preppy look  
he aspires to.

Lenore lays on the horn and calls out.

LENORE  
Tommy! Help us with these things.

Tommy comes out, expressionless as he eyes them.

TOMMY  
Tom. I want to be called Tom now.

Lenore rolls her eyes.

LENORE  
Ok. Tom. Say hello to your brother  
Andy. Andy, this is Tom.

Tommy gives him a dismissive once-over.

TOMMY  
Hey.

ANDY  
Hi.

LENORE

He's got some boxes in the trunk.  
Take them up to his room, will you?

Tommy grumbles but moves to the trunk as Lenore plows inside.  
Andy follows, backpack on his shoulder.

INT. ANDY'S HOME -- NIGHT

Lenore whirls Andy through a tour of the house, small and worse for the wear. A disinterested CAT watches them pass.

LENORE

It's not much to look at, but it's home. I made the attic up real nice for you. Why don't you get yourself settled while I get dinner started.

INT. STAIRWELL -- NIGHT

Andy climbs creaking, carpeted steps.

INT. ANDY'S ROOM -- NIGHT

A make-shift bedroom in the attic. Sparse but Lenore's tried to make it homey, decorating it with old sports posters with slogans like "Be Brave" and "Accept No Limits". Andy eyes them warily -- not his taste. He sets his backpack on the bed and pulls out a LAPTOP. Opens it and scans for WIFI NETWORKS: a list comes up but they're all locked.

INT. KITCHEN -- NIGHT

Andy and Tommy at the table while Lenore heaps box-made mac 'n cheese onto plates.

LENORE

You like your room Andy?

ANDY

Yes. Thank you.

LENORE

I put some of Tommy's--

TOMMY

Tom.

LENORE  
Some of Tom's old posters up to  
make it feel like home.

TOMMY  
Those are mine. You can't do that.

Lenore flashes him a look as she sits.

LENORE  
Well dig in you two!

Tommy eyes them both churlishly then starts wolfing down his food. Andy pokes at his food, searching for an appetite.

ANDY  
What's the internet password here?

A beat. Tommy almost snarls the answer, aiming it at Lenore.

TOMMY  
It got cut off. Lenore didn't pay  
the bill.

LENORE  
I'll get it hooked up soon as my  
next check clears. Don't you worry.

ANDY  
I just... Dad and I have a  
Minecraft Realms account. We would--

TOMMY  
Great. He's a geek.

LENORE  
Thomas! Don't be rude.

Andy lowers his eyes to his plate as Lenore scowls at Tommy.

TOMMY  
I'm done. Can I go now?

Lenore sighs. Barely nods and Tommy's up and storming out.

LENORE  
Don't mind him. Teenage boys. All  
hormones and no brains.

INT. ANDY'S ROOM -- NIGHT

Andy in bed as Lenore sits at its edge, petting the cat.

LENORE

I'm real happy you're with me again  
Andy. I've missed you so so much.  
You excited for tomorrow?

A beat. He's clearly not.

ANDY

I miss him. I miss my Dad.

Andy fights tears. Awkward, Lenore grasps him in a hug.

LENORE

I know baby. He's in a better place  
now. He's where there's no pain and  
no suffering and he's looking down  
at you always and sending his love.

EXT. ANDY'S HOUSE -- MORNING

Tommy in the car, engine running, HONKING.

TOMMY

Come on! We're gonna be late!

Andy scurries out and climbs in, barely has his belt on when  
Tommy pulls away, leaving Lenore waving goodbye behind them.

INT. CAR -- MORNING

Tommy accelerates rapidly, flaunting the speed limit.

TOMMY

Next time you're late, I leave  
without you.

ANDY

Sorry.

Tommy turns on the radio and blares MUSIC.

EXT. MIDDLE SCHOOL -- MORNING

Tommy's car roars away, leaving Andy to stare nervously as  
CHILDREN pile into school -- drab buildings by a field it  
shares with the adjacent high school.

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL -- MORNING

The halls echo with children. Overwhelmed, Andy digs out enrollment papers. Walks the hall to the principal's office.

INT. CLASSROOM -- DAY

A classroom of MIDDLE SCHOOLERS and a balding MATH TEACHER sketching pre-algebra equations on the board. A TEACHER escorts Andy in. She converses quietly with the Math Teacher as the children appraise Andy.

MATH TEACHER

Class. We have a new student today.  
This is Andy Parker. Say hello.

The Class responds unenthusiastically.

CLASS

Hello Andy.

The Math Teacher turns to Andy.

MATH TEACHER

Take a seat son.

Andy scans the seats as children eye him. He avoids an empty seat in front for one in the back.

MATH TEACHER (CONT'D)

Ok Class, try this one on.

Andy copies the question into his notebook, ponders it.

MATH TEACHER (CONT'D)

Anyone think they've got it?

Children raise their hands. The Teacher scans, looks at Andy.

MATH TEACHER (CONT'D)

New kid. You want to show us what  
you've got?

Andy looks up, terrified as all heads turn his way.

ANDY

I... I don't know.

The Math Teacher shrugs, looks at another child.

MATH TEACHER

Emily?

EMILY

Five?

MATH TEACHER

That's right.

Close on Andy's notebook: the same answer.

INT. CAFETERIA -- DAY

Andy shuffles into the bustling cafeteria, gazes around and finds an empty table to the side. No children join him.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAYS -- DAY

Andy walks the halls toward the end of the day. Children look at him and whisper. He shrinks into himself more.

EXT. SCHOOL -- DAY

Andy exits with a mass of children who rush to waiting parents or school buses. He looks but doesn't see Tommy.

LOUD HONKS. Tommy waves impatiently from his car at the end of the row. Andy hurries toward him.

EXT. ANDY'S HOME -- DAY

Tommy and Andy pull up in front of Andy's home. Andy gets out and Tommy backs the car up and peels away.

INT. ANDY'S HOME -- DAY

Andy walks into the empty house.

ANDY

Lenore?

He goes to the kitchen, sees Lenore through the window in the backyard. She gives him a cheerful wave.

EXT. ANDY'S BACKYARD -- DAY

Andy steps into the backyard where Lenore is taking down laundry from a clothesline. The yard is cluttered, about half of it a DESOLATE GARDEN, choked with weeds.

LENORE  
Hey baby! How was your first day?  
You make any friends?

ANDY  
No.

LENORE  
You will. Sometimes it takes time.

Lenore notices Andy looking at the garden.

LENORE (CONT'D)  
Sad sight isn't it? Your Gran  
always said plants just need love  
to grow. Lord knows I've tried  
everything else, so maybe she was  
right about that too.

INT. KITCHEN -- DAY

Andy follows Lenore inside as she digs her waitress uniform from the laundry. She runs between the kitchen, her room, and the bathroom readying for work as she talks.

LENORE  
Where's your bother?

ANDY  
He said he was going to see his  
friends.

LENORE  
That boy. I told him I wanted him  
here tonight. Well. There's a  
frozen pizza and fudgesicles but  
you have those after dinner, deal?

ANDY  
Ok.... When will you be back?

LENORE  
Late honey. I close. You'll be all  
right here by yourself?

ANDY  
Yeah. Have a nice time at work.  
Mom.

Lenore, smiles, kisses his forehead, then hurries out.

INT. KITCHEN -- NIGHT

Andy finishes a slice of slightly-burned pizza.

INT. LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

Andy walks into the living room and stares out into the night. No sign of Tommy.

INT. ANDY'S ROOM -- NIGHT

The pale blue light of Andy's laptop illuminates him as he sits on his bed, cross-legged. His face tight in frustration as he tries and fails to join various locked wi-fi networks. There are about a dozen. Towards the bottom one FLICKERS in -- PRJEDEN05. Unlocked. Andy clicks it but it vanishes.

A frown. He stands and walks around with the laptop. When he gets to the far corner, it flickers back in, steady.

He sits in the corner and connects -- success!

Elated, Andy opens Minecraft and launches his Realm's Server: "Dad & Andy's Kingdom."

Inside, a sprawling world of clashing styles: Andy's creative but sloppy works and his Father's impressive architectural builds with little functional purpose. ANDY'S AVATAR walks to where two large statues depict his avatar and what was his father's. Signs read "Sir Andy" and "Sir Robert".

Andy's face scrunches up as he tries not to cry.

CUT TO:

Andy sleeps in the corner, Minecraft still on. The door creaks open and an exhausted Lenore steps in. She gingerly scoops Andy up and puts him to bed then leaves, turning off the light.

Andy continues to sleep.

In the corner, the laptop sits open, Minecraft still running. A little box pops up on the screen, flashing repeatedly:

"Player: Da5id wants to join server. Allow? Y/N."

FADE TO BLACK.

Sunlight checkers Andy's sleeping face. The rhythmic BLARE of his alarms bleeds into distant HONKING.

LENORE (O.S.)  
 Andy! You're going to be late!

Andy bolts awake.

EXT. ANDY'S HOME -- MORNING

A groggy Andy rushes to the car as an annoyed Tommy glares.

INT. GYM -- DAY

DOZENS OF CHILDREN against the walls as the GYM TEACHER (40s, moustached, pot-bellied) barks like a drill sergeant.

GYM TEACHER  
 Dodgeball. You all know the rules.  
 Don't. Get. Hit.

He pulls balls from a netted bag and starts tossing them toward the kids. Four get caught by eager children.

GYM TEACHER (CONT'D)  
 If you've got a ball, get on the  
 side and start throwing. The rest  
 of you in the center.

The children scurry to the center of the gym, a nervous Andy among them. The armed children stare menacingly. The SHRILL CRY of a whistle and MAYHEM begins:

BALLS ROCKET through the air, bounce into children who then join the sidelines, now throwing at their former teammates. The numbers dwindle quickly. Andy survives, spry on his feet.

More balls fly. More kids change sides.

Just Andy and two others in the center now. Kids TAUNT and MOCK them. Either the Teacher doesn't care or he approves.

A BALL flies -- SLAMS into a child. He limps out to JEERS.

Andy and another boy left. Balls ROAR by. Andy DODGES: left, right, a nimble jump and then -- he stumbles.

A thuggish boy, CHAD (10 going on ape) leers at the prone Andy, pulls back his arm -- HAMMERS a ball at him.

Andy SCRAMBLES fast as it POUNDS into the floor, inches from his face. Chad's face curls with anger.

CHAD  
 Stupid queer! You better run!

Andy is the only one left inside. Panting and sweaty, expecting the game to end.

It doesn't.

Kids holler and throw at Andy. Finally the WHISTLE. Andy's won, though not in the glaring eyes of two-dozen children.

EXT. SCHOOL -- DAY

Andy waits outside as kids trickle away. There's no sign of Tommy anywhere. He tries his cell -- no answer.

EXT. SPORTS FIELD -- DAY

Andy walks the outskirts of the sport's field as the HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM practices.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL -- DAY

Andy searches the high school parking lot, eventually finds Lenore's car. It's locked. Tommy isn't there. Andy gazes around, uncertain.

CUT TO:

Tommy, his girlfriend BROOKE (16, dresses down to conceal her family's wealth), and a few other TEENS around the side of the school, lazing about and getting high. Andy approaches shyly, unnoticed as they laugh.

ANDY

Tommy?

(No response. He clears his throat, speaks louder.)

Tom?

The Teens look up, clumsily hide the joint. Tommy lowers his head, realizes he's forgotten about Andy.

TOMMY

Oh. Andy. Hey....

ANDY

Hi.

Brooke gives Tommy and Andy a back-and-forth look, then jumps up and approaches Andy with an excited smile.

BROOKE  
Are you Tommy's brother?

TOMMY  
(not quite under his  
breath)  
Tom.

BROOKE  
I'm Brooke. Tommy says you're from  
the city? That's so cool. Edenville  
must seem like the worst.

Andy gives her a bashful hello.

ANDY  
Hi.

Tommy quickly separates the two, taking Andy aside.

TOMMY  
Look man, I can't really give you a  
ride right now. Can you kill a  
couple of hours? Or like walk? It's  
not far. You know the way, right?

ANDY  
I guess.

TOMMY  
Cool.

A beat. Andy isn't sure what to do.

TOMMY (CONT'D)  
Thanks man. See you later.

Tommy shoos him away. Brooke gives him a cheery wave goodbye.

BROOKE  
Bye Andy! Nice to meet you!

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD -- AFTERNOON

Andy glumly walks the miles home through winding wooded roads  
as the sun sulks towards the horizon. Mr. Rivera's truck  
passes. He stops a few hundred feet ahead, then backs up.

MR. RIVERA  
You need a ride?

Andy hesitates, unsure.

INT. TRUCK -- EVENING

Mr. Rivera with Andy next to him as the world blurs by.

MR. RIVERA  
You're Lenore's boy?

ANDY  
You know my Mom?

MR. RIVERA  
From the Diner. I take care of the  
lot, paint, fix what needs it.

A beat of awkward silence.

MR. RIVERA (CONT'D)  
How old are you?

ANDY  
Ten.

MR. RIVERA  
My boy's about your age.

ANDY  
You have a son?

MR. RIVERA  
Back home. A long way from here.

ANDY  
Oh.

A beat.

ANDY (CONT'D)  
You miss him?

MR. RIVERA  
Every day.

EXT. ANDY'S HOME -- EVENING

Mr. Rivera drops Andy off with a friendly wave. The lights  
are on, Lenore staring out the window.

INT. ANDY'S HOUSE -- EVENING

Andy enters, cheerful. Lenore snaps from worry to anger.

LENORE

Where have you been? Was that Mr. Rivera? What did I tell you?

ANDY

I was walking and he offered me a ride.

LENORE

You can't just get in cars with strangers. Children go missing all the time-- Why were you walking?

Andy is silent as Lenore stares him down. She figures it out.

LENORE (CONT'D)

Tommy! Out here! Right now!

Tommy comes out of his room, already defensive.

LENORE (CONT'D)

Why was your brother walking home?

TOMMY

I told him he could wait. I had stuff I had to do after school.

LENORE

That car is a privilege. Responsibilities come with it.

TOMMY

But--

LENORE

No. Not another word. Go to your room. If you want to be treated like an adult you act like one.

Tommy stomps away and slams his door. Lenore turns on Andy.

LENORE (CONT'D)

You too mister!

INT. ANDY'S ROOM -- NIGHT

Andy in his room, doing homework. After awhile, he goes to his computer still in the corner. He turns it on -- surprised he left Minecraft open.

He sees the player add request. Eyes it curiously. Allows it. After a moment, a SECOND AVATAR, generic, appears.

Andy types in the chat:

                  ANDY (IN GAME)  
Hello?

The other player looks around, moves awkwardly, jumps and squats a few times, like somebody learning the controls.

                  ANDY (IN GAME) (CONT'D)  
This is a private world.

The other player looks at Andy, bumps into him a few times.

                  PLAYER (IN GAME)  
Hello. Private?

                  ANDY (IN GAME)  
What's your name?

                  PLAYER (IN GAME)  
Da5id.

Andy looks at the screen, interested. He talks to himself.

                  ANDY                                  ANDY (IN GAME) (CONT'D)  
Cool name....                                  Cool name. Voice chat?

                  DA5ID (IN GAME)  
Voice chat?  
(A pause, his avatar tries  
several weird poses.)

Andy grabs his headset, connects and opens the audio channel.

                  ANDY  
Yeah. Voice chat.

                  DA5ID (IN GAME)  
Yes.

A BOY'S VOICE comes over voice chat, precise and measured.

                  DA5ID (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Yes.

                  ANDY  
Hi.... David? I'm Andy.

                  DA5ID (O.S.)  
Hello Andy.

                  ANDY  
Have you played Minecraft before?

DA5ID (O.S.)  
No. I have not. What is it?

ANDY  
It's really cool. It's just kind of  
a game where you explore and make  
stuff. This is my private world but-

Andy thinks it through.

ANDY (CONT'D)  
If you promise not to break  
anything that's already here I  
guess you could play in it.

Da5id's Avatar continues looking around the world.

DA5ID (O.S.)  
I promise.

ANDY  
Cool! Ok, so everything is used to  
make something else. The first  
thing you do is get wood to make  
tools. And then you want to get  
seeds so you can plant them for  
wheat and feed them to the cows so  
they make babies. Then you kill the  
cows so you can get their skin,  
which is leather. The leather's for  
books so we can make magic stuff...

FADE TO:

Andy has been up for hours playing Minecraft with Da5id. He  
looks at the clock -- almost midnight. He stifles a yawn.

ANDY (CONT'D)  
It's really late. I better go. You  
want to play again tomorrow?

DA5ID  
Yes.

ANDY  
Cool. Good night.

Andy logs off and closes his computer with a satisfied smile.

EXT. ANDY'S HOUSE -- MORNING

Andy hurries to the car and climbs in.

INT. CAR -- MORNING

Tommy waits for him to buckle up, then starts the car.

TOMMY

Hey. Sorry about yesterday.

ANDY

It's ok.

They drive for a moment in silence.

TOMMY

So, look... I can't be your chauffeur all the time-- I used to walk. It's only a few miles. I can drive you some afternoons but not like all of them.

Andy gets a sinking feeling as he watches Tommy struggle.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

I put my old bike in the trunk. I don't really use it anymore. I was thinking maybe you could-- on days when the weather's not bad. We can take it in the mornings.

A beat. Andy realizes what Tommy is proposing. He likes it.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Cool?

ANDY

Cool.

INT. CLASSROOM -- DAY

Andy stares at the clock as a TEACHER drones on.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD -- DAY

Andy bikes home enthusiastically.

EXT. ANDY'S HOME -- DAY

Andy dumps the bike on the lawn and rushes inside.

INT. ANDY'S ROOM -- DAY

Andy jumps on the computer and logs into Minecraft. No sign of Da5id. He looks around, follows a path and then bumps into something new: a MASSIVE CONTRAPTION automatically harvesting food. He eyes it, amazed.

Da5id pops in, now in a custom avatar of a grey knight. Andy puts on his headset.

DA5ID (O.S.)  
Hello Andy.

ANDY  
You made this? How did you even...?  
This is ... amazing.

DA5ID (O.S.)  
I did what you said. Light for the plants. Water. Till the soil. Then I created machines to do the same.

ANDY  
This must have taken forever. Don't you have school?

DA5ID (O.S.)  
School? No.

ANDY  
Oh. How old are you?

DA5ID (O.S.)  
Ten.

ANDY  
Me too. Cool. Where do you live?  
Are you in Edenville too?

DA5ID (O.S.)  
Edenville? I'm not sure. I... I live in The Red Room.

ANDY  
The Red Room. What's that?

DA5ID (O.S.)  
It's... where I live.

ANDY  
Where are your parents?

DA5ID (O.S.)  
My parents?

ANDY  
You know, your mom and dad.

DA5ID (O.S.)  
I don't know. I have a doctor.

ANDY  
You're sick?

DA5ID (O.S.)  
No...? Where are your parents?

ANDY  
Oh. Um. I live with my Mom.... My  
Dad's dead.

DA5ID (O.S.)  
Did you keep his skin?

Andy's taken aback.

ANDY  
That's not funny.

A beat.

DA5ID (O.S.)  
Sorry.

ANDY  
It's ok.... I should go help with  
dinner. Be on later?

DA5ID (O.S.)  
Yes.

INT. KITCHEN -- NIGHT

Andy eats with Lenore and Tommy.

LENORE  
How was school today honey? Make  
any friends?

A beat.

ANDY  
Yeah. I did.

LENORE  
I told you you would. What's their  
name?

ANDY

Da5id.

LENORE

David? The Carson boy or the Garcia's? The Carson's are good people. But the Garcia's-- Honey, I just don't think you can trust those people.

TOMMY

Those people? Are you serious?

Lenore gives Tommy a look. Andy doesn't understand.

INT. ANDY'S ROOM -- NIGHT

Andy returns to his room and logs on. There's no sign of Da5id. He does homework, gets ready for bed, but Da5id doesn't return. He falls asleep, the game running.

INT. ANDY'S ROOM -- MORNING

Andy wakes up and looks at Minecraft. Still no Da5id.

INT. SCHOOL -- DAY

The bell rings and Andy floods into the hall with the other children. He's out of the school before anyone else.

INT. ANDY'S HOME -- DAY

Andy rushes inside and up to his room.

INT. ANDY'S ROOM -- DAY

Andy logs on to Minecraft. No Da5id.

INT. KITCHEN -- NIGHT

Andy eats at a manic pace, silently.

LENORE

You're awfully quiet tonight Andy.  
Everything ok?

Lenore looks concerned. Tommy eyes him. Andy chews, thinks.

ANDY  
You said children go missing all  
the time around here?

LENORE  
Well....

TOMMY  
Remember that kid two counties  
over? Some perv kidnapped him and  
kept him in his cellar for months  
before anybody found him.

ANDY  
What about the cops?

TOMMY  
It's like one cop to every hundred  
miles of woods. Lots of places to  
lock up a kid and do weird shit.

LENORE  
Tom! Come on.

ANDY  
Why would somebody take a kid?

TOMMY  
'Cause they're perverts.

LENORE  
Some people are just bad Andy. They  
were born wrong.

Andy mulls this, can't keep the worry from his face.

INT. ANDY'S ROOM -- NIGHT

Andy keeps checking Minecraft between bouts of studying.  
Da5id never appears.

CUT TO:

Andy sleeps. He wakes to the sound of Da5id's VOICE.

DA5ID (O.S.)  
Andy? Are you there?

Andy groggily gets up and puts on his headset, whispers.

ANDY  
Da5id! Where've you been?

DA5ID (O.S.)  
We were doing tests.

ANDY  
Tests? What kind of tests?

DA5ID (O.S.)  
The Doctor burnt my arm with a  
piece of heated metal.

ANDY  
What!?!  
(Andy yells, then quickly  
quiets himself.)  
He burnt you? Didn't that hurt?  
That's-- does he ever let you out?

DA5ID (O.S.)  
Yes. It did.... I am allowed into  
the playroom sometimes.

ANDY  
The playroom? What about outside?

DA5ID (O.S.)  
Outside?

ANDY  
You know-- Trees. Grass. Sun.

DA5ID (O.S.)  
Like in Minecraft? No.

A beat. It all sinks in for Andy.

ANDY  
Da5id, you're a prisoner.

DA5ID (O.S.)  
I am?

ANDY  
Do you want to be there?

DA5ID (O.S.)  
No.

ANDY  
Then we have to get you out of  
there.

DA5ID (O.S.)  
You'll help me?

ANDY  
I will. I promise.

INT. ANDY'S HOME -- MORNING

Andy tiptoes downstairs at the crack of dawn. Goes to the kitchen with his cell, scanning for Da5id's network. Nothing.

EXT. ANDY'S BACKYARD -- MORNING

Andy steps through the dead garden with his phone. PRJEDEN05 blinks erratically, strongest at the yard's edge. He looks over the fence to the houses beyond.

EXT. ANDY'S NEIGHBORHOOD -- MORNING

Andy walks the slowly waking neighborhood, phone out, tracking Da5id's wi-fi. The signal stays weak, best toward the end of a block with only miles of dark woods past it.

INT. KITCHEN -- MORNING

Andy eats cereal while looking at a MAP APP of the region on his phone. He zooms in and around the neighborhood. After a short distance it's only woodlands, empty of roads.

He goes to a basket on the counter with a stack of unpaid bills. Finds an old internet bill and calls the number.

OPERATOR (O.S.)  
Atlas internet service. How can we help you today?

ANDY  
Uh, hi. I was wondering about your wireless internet. Mine's not working right.

OPERATOR (O.S.)  
It isn't? Well, let's see what we can do to help. Do you have your account number handy?

ANDY  
I can't find it. But. Um. My wi-fi network is P-R-J-E-D-E-N-Zero-5.

OPERATOR (O.S.)  
Ok. Give me a minute.... We don't have that listed.

ANDY

Oh. Um... How far should the wireless reach?

OPERATOR (O.S.)

Our wi-fi networks should cover your entire home adequately.

ANDY

But not more than that?

OPERATOR (O.S.)

We don't offer long-range networks currently, but I'm sure you'll find we meet most home and small busi--

Andy hangs up quickly as Lenore sleepily enters and puts on a pot of coffee, then gets food for the restless cat.

LENORE

You're up early. Who were you talking to?

ANDY

Nobody.... What's northeast past the woods?

LENORE

Northeast? Which way's that honey?

Andy points the direction. She looks out the window.

LENORE (CONT'D)

More woods.

ANDY

Nobody lives there?

LENORE

It's for logging. There's some state parkland.

ANDY

But there's roads and stuff? So people could live there.

LENORE

Logging roads. Some nature trails. But there's no power. It'd be real rustic living, let me tell you.

INT. SCHOOL LIBRARY -- DAY

Andy is in the school library, photocopying local maps of the surrounding woodlands and roads from an old ledger. He then takes photos of the same with his phone.

EXT. SCHOOL FIELD -- DAY

Andy walks the field at the end of the day. Cellphone out, looking for Da5id's network. There's a weak signal at the far edge. He takes out a map and marks a point here and another at his home. He draws a rough circle with the two points at the perimeter, the center somewhere deep in the woodlands.

EXT. MIDDLE SCHOOL -- DAY

Andy walks to the bike racks. He's unchaining his bike when a SHADOW falls over him: Chad.

CHAD

You're new. What's your name?

Andy gets to his feet.

ANDY

Andy.

CHAD

Mandy? That's a girl's name.

ANDY

My name's Andy.

CHAD

You look like a Mandy to me.

Chad grabs him by the shirt. Andy struggles against him.

ANDY

Let go!

Chad gives him a shove, rips his collar and sends him to the ground with a CRUNCH as he falls on his BACKPACK. Satisfied, Chad saunters off with a laugh.

INT. ANDY'S ROOM -- EVENING

Andy logs on to Minecraft excited. Da5id is there, building.

DA5ID (O.S.)

Hello Andy.

ANDY

(talking at a manic pace)  
Hey! I did that thing I was telling  
you about -- like with the ender  
pearls and the stronghold -- and I  
triangulated your network signal  
and then I looked up wi-fi strength  
and I might know where you are and  
I don't think you're more than like  
five or ten miles away!

DA5ID (O.S.)

That's close...? Are you going to  
come find me?

ANDY

Yeah. Tomorrow's Saturday and my  
mom works so I think I can sneak  
out....

INT. KITCHEN -- NIGHT

Lenore and Tommy are already eating when Andy comes down.

LENORE

I've been calling you forever Andy.  
What took you so-- what happened to  
your shirt?

Lenore looks at Andy's ripped collar, concerned.

ANDY

Nothing.

Tommy perks up, looks over at Andy.

TOMMY

Dude. Did you get in a fight?

ANDY

No.

LENORE

Who was it? I'm going to call their  
parents.

ANDY

No!

TOMMY

You can't do that. You do that and  
people will pick on him more.

LENORE

Well why aren't you looking out for him Tommy? He's your brother.

Tommy gets strangely defensive as Lenore's frustration grows.

TOMMY

We go to different schools. He's not my problem. Kids do that. It happens. You deal.

LENORE

I work all day tomorrow. I want you here with him.

TOMMY

I have plans. I'm not baby-sitting.

LENORE

Cancel. You two need to spend more time together as it is. You're family. You need to realize that.

Tommy narrows his eyes at Andy who gives him a weak smile.

EXT. ANDY'S HOME -- DAY

Andy and Tommy at the front door saying goodbye to Lenore.

LENORE

I left a twenty so you guys can order pizza. Do something fun today, yeah? Maybe you could show him the lake Tommy. But no swimming! Last thing I need right now is a drowned child.

TOMMY

You bet. Have a good day at work.

ANDY

Bye Mom.

Lenore smiles then heads out. Tommy waits until she's almost out of sight then turns on Andy.

TOMMY

Here's the deal. No lake. No way. That twenty's my baby-sitting fee. Brooke's coming over and I don't want to see you or hear you or smell you. Got it?

ANDY  
(meekly)  
Got it.

INT. ANDY'S ROOM -- DAY

Andy empties his pack onto his bed. Digs through his books and looks at the map. Then grabs his phone -- it's CRACKED. Worried, he turns it on: still working. He pulls up the map app and compares the two maps, adding tags.

INT. ANDY'S HOME -- DAY

All smiles, Tommy opens the door for a backpacked Brooke.

TOMMY  
Hey.

BROOKE  
Hey yourself.

She strolls across the room, drops her pack on the sofa.

BROOKE (CONT'D)  
Where's your brother?

TOMMY  
He's not feeling well.

Tommy pulls her into an embrace, about to kiss her.

BROOKE  
He's sick? Poor little guy. Can we get him something?

TOMMY  
No. It's cool. He just wants to sleep. It might be the flu.

She pulls away from him.

BROOKE  
Oh. Don't get me sick.

TOMMY  
It's not contagious.

He reaches for her again. She smiles.

BROOKE  
Better not be.

INT. ANDY'S ROOM -- DAY

Andy puts a jacket, flashlight, and some sandwiches into his pack, then tiptoes to the door. He listens, cracks it open.

INT. ANDY'S HOME -- DAY

Tommy and Brooke all teenage passion on the sofa as Andy sneaks down the stairs and into the kitchen.

EXT. ANDY'S BACKYARD -- DAY

Andy looks back a last time, then skirts around the house.

EXT. ANDY'S HOME -- DAY

Andy rolls the bike along the lawn and away from the house before jumping on and biking away, fast, body low.

EXT. EDENVILLE -- DAY

Andy soars down suburban blocks, pumping his feet hard, determination on his face.

EXT. WOODED ROADS -- DAY

Andy peddles on the shoulder of winding wooded roads, sweatily climbing hills then gliding down the other sides. He occasionally stops. Pulls out his phone and checks for Da5id's wi-fi signal. Then heads out again.

CUT TO:

Andy pedals slowly now, tired from hours of biking. His phone RINGS: Lenore. He hesitates -- sends her to voicemail.

INT. ANDY'S HOME -- DAY

Brooke pushes Tommy off of her, straightens her shirt.

BROOKE

Come on. We've got to study.

Tommy reaches for her again -- she pulls away.

TOMMY

Later. We've got plenty of time.

BROOKE

Tommy. Don't you ever want to get out of this stupid town? You'll never get into a good school if you don't get your grades up.

TOMMY

School isn't everything. I've got other options.

BROOKE

Yeah? Like what -- the army? You can do better than that.

A beat. Tommy's truly hurt.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. How's your dad doing?

TOMMY

He hasn't called in awhile.

BROOKE

Is he ok? Is he safe?

TOMMY

I think so. He's not in a combat zone or anything. I just.... I don't think he wants to be here. Nobody does. You don't even want to be here.

BROOKE

That's different. You're his family. Family's the most important thing there is. He should be here. For you.

Brooke reaches for Tommy, trying to console him. He pulls away and then his phone RINGS. He looks at it: Lenore.

TOMMY

Shit.

(Answering.)

Hi Lenore. Yeah. We're great. Mmmhmmm. Having a blast. Andy? He wasn't? Let me get him.

(He lowers the phone.)

Andy! Lenore's on the phone!

INT. ANDY'S ROOM -- DAY

KNOCKING on the door of Andy's room. Tommy opens the door, pokes his head in and looks around.

INT. ANDY'S HOME -- DAY

Tommy walks down the stairs, still on the phone. He searches the house for Andy.

TOMMY

Can he call you back Lenore? He's  
in the bathroom. Cool. Thanks.

Tommy hangs up while Brooke looks at him, confused.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

She's going to kill me.

EXT. WOODED ROADS -- LATE AFTERNOON

Thick woods line the road, eerie with the buzz of insects. Andy walks his bike, eating a sandwich. In the distance, an approaching car: Mr. Rivera's truck speeds past. Mr. Rivera cocks his head and watches Andy in the mirror before vanishing around a curve.

Andy jumps on his bike and pedals hard in the opposite direction. After a moment, the sound of a car over his shoulder -- Mr. Rivera returning in the distance.

Andy veers off the road and into the woods, throwing himself off the bike and ducking down. He crouches, all nerves, as Mr. Rivera drives by then U-turns and drives off.

Andy climbs out of the brush. The chain is off his bike. He tries to fix it but can't, kicks it in frustration.

INT. ANDY'S HOME -- LATE AFTERNOON

Tommy stares at Andy's map, unfurled on the coffee table, calling Andy's phone -- no answer.

TOMMY

I'm going to kill him.

EXT. WOODED ROADS -- EVENING

The sun is low in the sky as Andy walks the bike, chain dragging on the ground. He checks his phone-- it doesn't turn on. He presses at it frantically. Dead.

He comes to a logging access road emerging from the woods like an old wound. There's a rusty metal gate and a sign reading "PRIVATE LAND. NO TRESPASSING."

Andy hides the bike in the bushes. Hesitantly walks to the gate, climbs it awkwardly. He straightens up and moves forward with a jerk-- his pack is caught on the fence. He pulls. It won't give.

In the distance -- THE SOUND OF A CAR. He struggles to free the pack or himself. It's not working.

The car gets closer. Headlights in the distance. He struggles with the pack, desperate. He wrenches it free just as lights catch him full force, flushed with terror.

TOMMY (O.S.)

What the hell are you doing?

CUT TO:

Tommy rests against the hood of the car, arms folded knowingly across his chest. Brooke sits through the car window, feet dangling inside.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

You're so screwed. Running away from home? Lenore'll freak.

Andy stammers, distraught.

ANDY

I'm not running away. I'm trying to find my friend.

TOMMY

What friend?

A beat.

ANDY

Somebody I met online.

TOMMY

Online? Oh man. You are such an idiot.

BROOKE

Be nice Tommy.

TOMMY

What? This happens all the time. Internet pervs lure unsuspecting little idiots to their s&m romper-rooms of death.

ANDY

He's not a perv. Da5id's a kid, like me. He's in trouble.

Tommy gives him a look.

TOMMY

Really? How do you know that?

ANDY

I know, ok? He's locked up. He's never even been outside!

TOMMY

Please.

BROOKE

What if he's right Tommy?

TOMMY

Don't encourage him. You're just desperate for something exciting to happen in this town.

BROOKE

Well you have to admit. This is kind of exciting.

Tommy gives her a look as she grins at him.

EXT. LOGGING ROADS -- EVENING

Tommy drives down the logging road, Brooke shotgun, Andy in the back, both scanning the woods.

TOMMY

This is so stupid. You've been cat-fished. Best case scenario, it's some little shit playing a prank. Worst case, it's some freak whose ass I am going to kick every which way to Sunday.

ANDY  
It's not a prank.

TOMMY  
You just don't want to admit you  
could be a gullible little--

BROOKE  
What's that!

They've reached a point where the road forks off. It  
continues right, but left there's an older, overgrown road.

TOMMY  
That's a fork in the road.

ANDY  
Which way do we go?

TOMMY  
Nobody's been down that road for  
years. We stay on this one.

Andy stares back at it as they drive. After a few miles the  
road ends, swallowed by forest. Tommy stops and they get out.

TOMMY (CONT'D)  
End of the line. Satisfied?

ANDY  
He's out here. Somewhere.

Andy looks around. Brooke also, gazing earnestly.

TOMMY  
No he's not. Get it through your  
head. You got played son.

ANDY  
I did not.

TOMMY  
I am so tired of you and your shit.  
You have been a pain in the ass  
since you got here. You think this  
is my idea of fun? Having to cart  
some little kid around?

Andy shrinks.

TOMMY (CONT'D)  
You think I even want you here? You  
think Lenore wants you here?  
(MORE)

TOMMY (CONT'D)  
You're just keeping us off  
foodstamps. You're just--

BROOKE  
Tommy! Shut up.

Tommy looks at her angrily as Andy tries to hold back tears.

TOMMY  
Stay out of this Brooke.

BROOKE  
No. Listen! Did you hear that?

Tommy stops, looks at her. Andy cocks his head and dries his eyes as Brooke starts into the woods.

There's a distant, intermittent sound -- a faint, rhythmic  
BURST OF WHITE NOISE.

They move after her into the woods, the sound repeating  
occasionally, LOUDER. They climb a mound and then--

A CLOUD OF WHITE STEAM erupts ahead.

They approach cautiously. A SMALL METAL VENT in the ground.

BROOKE (CONT'D)  
Look! There's another one.

Deeper in -- another cloud abruptly hisses from the ground.

TOMMY  
Ok. That's weird. Maybe we should--

BROOKE  
You are not keeping me from this.

Brooke starts toward the other vent, excitement on her face.  
Tommy looks at Andy for support.

ANDY  
I told you so.

Andy runs after Brooke. Tommy hesitates, then follows.

The Steam Release Vents continue in sporadic succession, then  
the ground starts to elevate and the woods thin, up a ridge.  
They peak over--

Below: A HALF-DOZEN BUILDINGS ring what looks like a central  
radio tower. The buildings are domed, tops painted with green  
tree patterns for aerial camouflage.

Surrounded by a fence with a main access road and a smaller rear one, both with security gates. A few nondescript vans are parked about.

TOMMY

No way.

ANDY

Da5id's there. He's got to be.

They watch: GUARDS in uniformed grey patrol the grounds. Clean cut, rigid bearings that suggest ex-military.

ANDY (CONT'D)

What do we do?

Tommy looks at him, a mix of sympathy and guilt on his face.

TOMMY

Andy, what I said before, I'm sorry. I didn't mean it. But... this is over our heads.

ANDY

We have to do something. My friend's in there. He's in trouble.

TOMMY

Andy, I believe you. But there's guards. They'd spot us for sure.

Andy grows worried. Tommy shrugs apologetically.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Brooke? Back me up here? Please?

BROOK

We could leave... or we could see where that leads.

Brooke points further down the slope where a section of concrete and piping jut from the hill.

CUT TO:

A LARGE DRAIN PIPE, covered by shrubs and partly torn wire-mesh, leads into darkness. They stare in.

BROOKE

Who wants to go first?

Andy nervously pulls out his flashlight.

ANDY

I will.

Tommy holds his hand out for the flashlight.

TOMMY

No way little man. Lenore'll kill me if I let anything happen to you.

Andy hands him the flashlight, trying to hide a smile.

INT. FACILITY PIPES -- NIGHT

They move in awkward squats through pipe dripping with water. The light reveals a junction ahead, snaking multiple ways.

TOMMY

Which way now?

ANDY

It feels warmer that way.

TOMMY

So?

BROOKE

So whatever this is cooling might be that way.

They head deeper in.

CUT TO:

A CONSTANT DULL HUM of machinery as they reach another break in the route. There's a large VENTILATION GRATE with dim light pouring from it. They squat and look -- then Tommy looks at the two of them, hesitates like he's going to ask something, but instead pulls out a pocket knife.

INT. FACILITY TUNNELS -- NIGHT

A large domed tunnel, wide enough for a car, hazy with thick air and illuminated by ceiling lights. A continuous series of circular pools of dark water with strange mechanical apparatuses hanging over them trail down the center.

A LOUD CLANG ECHOES through the tunnel as the grate falls to the ground. Tommy drops down, then helps Brooke and Andy.

They gaze about in hushed awe, then cautiously head deeper in. The tunnel curves, leading to massive metal doors. There's a smaller, human-sized door in it, slightly ajar.

They look at it warily, then Andy tiptoes forward, looks in, and steps through.

Brooke and Tommy exchange looks. Brooke moves after Andy. Tommy shakes his head but follows.

INT. "THE PLAY ROOM" -- NIGHT

A huge domed chamber with an illuminated path through its center, leading to an intersection and three other massive doors at each cardinal point of the room. Throughout the room are small artificial "sets": a living room, a kitchen, a child's playroom with library and stuffed animals, and then more clinical areas -- a doctor's office, tables with glass tanks with arm holes and attached gloves to manipulate whatever's inside, desks with logic puzzles, a movie screen and a few theatre seats. Large screens hang about the room.

They step forward. The path ILLUMINATES and the computer screens FLICKER to life: schematics of the facility on one (a series of concentric rings bisected by circular chambers), obscure chemical diagrams and computer code on others, and on several very simple illustrations rotate by -- a bunny, a car, a house, a wrench, a knife, a gun.

TOMMY

What the hell is this place?

Brooke wanders toward the doctor's area, pokes at things. Standard tools but also surgical instruments, syringes, a welding torch. The chair has restraints and stirrups.

BROOKE

This is like serial killer Batman.

Andy puts his face up to a tank then jumps back -- a SNAKE hisses at the glass. Other tanks contain mice, cockroaches, frogs, even small birds.

ANDY

We have to find Da5id.... Tommy?

Tommy is in the playroom, staring down at a purple STUFFED BUNNY -- half its face burnt off, giving it a tragic leer. He looks over at Andy with a sick expression.

TOMMY

Yeah. Ok. Where?

Andy looks at the screen with the schematics. Smaller hallways lead diagonally through the facility, each color-coded. A RED PATH leads to an octagonal red section.

Andy points.

ANDY  
There. The Red Room.

INT. THE RED TUNNEL -- NIGHT

They walk a smaller corridor with thick red stripes along the wall. It leads to an intersection of uniform hallways, but the red indicia only lead right.

THE SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS from that way. They exchange worried looks, try to debate with improvised sign-language. Tommy points down a different hall -- they skirt down it, around a corner where they press themselves flat against the wall.

Back at the intersection, a wiry and disheveled man in a lab coat (DR. SPENCER, 30) strolls by, tossing a small rubber ball in his hand.

INT. THE RED TUNNEL -- NIGHT

The kids wait, then emerge and move the way the man came from, reaching a sturdy mechanical RED DOOR. It's open. They step through--

INT. THE RED LAB -- NIGHT

A large octagonal room with a central COMPUTER KIOSK surrounded by monitors displaying code and schematics. On a large screen a Da Vinci-esque silhouette of a child with vital-sign readings and a pulsing sphere over the heart.

A HUGE RED TANK with a staircase leading up to a GIGANTIC VAULT DOOR dominates the room. Its frame is metal but the sides are glass, dark such that all that can be seen within is the FIGURE OF A BOY in lotus position.

TOMMY  
Dude. What the f--

ANDY  
Da5id?

Andy scurries up the steps. There's a KEYPAD AND CARD READER by the door. Inside, the boy turns his head. He rises and walks to the glass, still silhouetted in darkness.

Andy moves to the glass, taps on it. The boy cocks his head. Then puts his hand to the glass. Andy places his against it -- two palms uniting, like a hand meeting its shadow.

A VOICE comes over speakers in the room.

DA5ID (O.S.)  
Andy?

ANDY  
Da5id!

DA5ID (O.S.)  
You came.

ANDY  
How do we get you out of there?

DA5ID (O.S.)  
There's a passcard. At the work  
station.

Andy looks: the PASSCARD sits at the computer kiosk. Brooke is about to skip forward and grab it when they all freeze--

FOOTSTEPS.

DA5ID (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
The Doctor is coming.

Andy trips his way down the stairs. Tommy looks around frantically, gestures to large industrial crates at the back of the room. They dart behind them just as Dr. Spencer returns, coffee in hand.

He looks at the tank -- Da5id is again sitting. Dr. Spencer sits, types, then speaks into a desk microphone.

DR. SPENCER  
Hello Da5id.

A beat.

DA5ID (O.S.)  
Hello Doctor Spencer.

DR. SPENCER  
How are we feeling today Da5id?

He brings up various charts on screen, scans them.

DA5ID (O.S.)  
I'm well Doctor. And yourself? How  
are you feeling today?

DR. SPENCER  
Da5id, I have got the mother of all  
hangovers.

(MORE)

DR. SPENCER (CONT'D)  
Simpson's been brewing his own  
beer, and let me tell you, it is a  
very, very bad idea.

DA5ID (O.S.)  
I'm sorry to hear that doctor.

DR. SPENCER  
You and me both, so.... What would  
you like to do today?

A beat.

DA5ID (O.S.)  
How about a game?

DR. SPENCER  
Hmmm. What were you thinking?  
Chess? Go?

DA5ID (O.S.)  
Hide and seek.

Behind the crates, the three exchange questioning looks.

DR. SPENCER  
Hide and seek? How do you propose  
we play that? It's not your day to  
come out of your room.

DA5ID (O.S.)  
You hide and I will guess your  
location.

Dr. Spencer looks around the room, eyes washing over the  
crates where the kids huddle, fearfully.

DR. SPENCER  
There are a few places I can hide  
in here. Not sure it's going to be  
that big a challenge for you.

DA5ID (O.S.)  
I was thinking you could hide  
elsewhere in the facility.

DR. SPENCER  
Interesting. You think you know  
enough about me by now to guess  
where I'll hide?

DA5ID (O.S.)  
Yes.

DR. SPENCER  
And if you fail? What's the penalty  
for losing?

DA5ID (O.S.)  
I... don't know.

Dr. Spencer pulls up some files, scans.

DR. SPENCER  
Fire was an interesting deterrent  
wasn't it?

DA5ID (O.S.)  
I did not like the fire doctor.

DR. SPENCER  
I see that. Let's try needles then.

DA5ID (O.S.)  
Needles?

DR. SPENCER  
Needles.

Looks of shock on the kid's faces. Dr. Spencer stands, grabs  
his coffee, moves out the door.

DR. SPENCER (CONT'D)  
Ok. See if you can find me,  
starting one minute from now.

Da5id's voice comes into the room again, softer.

DA5ID (O.S.)  
You don't have much time.

Andy rushes to the computer kiosk, grabs the keycard. He  
spins on his heels and slips, hitting the ground as the card  
slides across the room.

Tommy and Brooke charge over. Tommy pulls him up as Brooke  
searches desperately for the card.

Dr. Spencer comes over the speakers.

DR. SPENCER (O.S.)  
Well Da5id? Any guesses?

DA5ID (O.S.)  
You're in the east barracks Doctor.

DR. SPENCER (O.S.)  
Well well well.

THE SOUND of Dr. Spencer returning. Brooke still hasn't found the card. Tommy motions for her but she shakes her head even as he and Andy duck behind the crates.

Dr. Spencer is almost to the door when Brooke smiles triumphantly, holding up the keycard. She rushes over to Tommy just as the Doctor re-enters.

DR. SPENCER (CONT'D)

Walk me through it. How'd you know?

DA5ID (O.S.)

You only had a minute Doctor, you can't have gone far.

DR. SPENCER

That's a faulty assumption. I'm not that out of shape. I could have run.

DA5ID (O.S.)

You said you were hungover. You took your coffee with you.

Dr. Spencer mulls this, makes a note. He looks where the keycard was, like he realizes something's wrong, then sets his coffee there and rubs his eyes.

DR. SPENCER

Fair enough.

DA5ID (O.S.)

If you took five minutes, I couldn't be certain where you are in the facility.

DR. SPENCER

No?

He reaches for his coffee, pauses at Da5id's answer.

DA5ID (O.S.)

Of course, there's a high probability you might think to hide in the same spot. You're tired, and it's close enough to this room where you could rest as I guess. For the purpose of testing, I would think hiding in the Playroom would give you better data.

DR. SPENCER

The Playroom it is then.

Dr. Spencer stands, impressed but annoyed, then heads toward the door, forgetting his coffee.

DA5ID (O.S.)

Andy. We have approximately five minutes before he returns.

Andy grabs the keycard from Brooke and rushes to the cube door. He puts it in. The door HISSES open with a blast of de-pressurized air.

INT. THE RED ROOM -- NIGHT

Inside, the floor starts to glow in a grid of soft red lights. Da5id slowly rises. He is a handsome boy with short well-cropped hair and wearing a grey, sleeveless jumpsuit. There are thin metallic seams where his joints connect, and his eyes flicker and shift with a mechanical silver.

Da5id is a ROBOT.

TOMMY

Unreal.

ANDY

You're a robot?

DA5ID

I am an artificial intelligence.  
The fifth iteration of Project  
Eden's David program.

Brooke looks at Tommy, trying to wrap her head around this.

TOMMY

What happened to the other four?

DA5ID

They were destroyed.

ANDY

Why'd they make you?

A beat. Da5id has never thought about this before.

DA5ID

I don't know.

Brooke pulls Tommy aside, whispers.

BROOKE

Tommy. We can't do this. We've got to leave him here.

Da5id's eyes rest on her, questioning.

DA5ID  
Are you going to help me?

ANDY  
Yes.

TOMMY  
Andy....

ANDY  
We have to. You heard them! They're hurting him. Needles?

BROOKE  
He's a machine. Machines can't feel pain.

DA5ID  
I feel pain.

They all look at Da5id.

DA5ID (CONT'D)  
I have a simulated nervous system. It responds to external stimulus in a variety of ways. When I am damaged, I hurt.

TOMMY  
They made you feel? Why?

DA5ID  
Dr. Richmond said it is necessary for learning authentic cognitive processing. He said that without pain I cannot understand living.

The three exchange looks. Andy looks at Tommy with pleading eyes. Tommy looks at Brooke. She shakes her head no. Tommy looks back at Da5id, clear sympathy in his eyes.

TOMMY  
Yeah.... Lets get you out of here.

Da5id smiles.

DA5ID  
Thank you.

EXT. THE RED LAB -- NIGHT

The four of them step from the cube and down the stairs. Dr. Spencer's voice comes over the speakers.

DR. SPENCER (O.S.)  
Ok Da5id. I'm somewhere in the  
playroom. What's your guess?

The kids look to Da5id. He walks to the kiosk and puts his hand against a sensor. His eyes flicker with computer code.

DA5ID  
Are you at the medical station?

INT. "THE PLAYROOM" -- NIGHT

Dr. Spencer looks up from where he's been reclining in the doctor's chair. He speaks into a portable device.

DR. SPENCER  
Nope. Not the medical station.

INT. THE RED LAB -- NIGHT

Da5id looks at Andy.

DA5ID  
He's lying.

ANDY  
How do you know?

DA5ID  
I see him on the cameras.

TOMMY  
Do they know that?

DA5ID  
No.

BROOKE  
Are we on the cameras? Can you  
erase them?

Da5id pauses, hands still on the sensor, eyes flashing.

DA5ID  
Yes. It will take a moment.

DR. SPENCER (O.S.)  
Any other guesses Da5id?

DA5ID  
(to Dr. Spencer)  
Are you in the theatre Dr. Spencer?

INT. "THE PLAYROOM" -- NIGHT

Dr. Spencer stands near the theatre. His eyes narrow.

DR. SPENCER  
Wrong again. Last guess....

Dr. Spencer starts toward the Red Tunnel.

INT. THE RED LAB -- NIGHT

DA5ID  
He's coming.

TOMMY  
Let's get out of here.

Tommy reaches to grab Da5id then hesitates, tips back and sends the coffee spilling to the floor. They all look at it.

DR. SPENCER (O.S.)  
Well?

DA5ID  
I'm thinking Doctor.

They turn and run to the door.

INT. THE RED TUNNEL -- NIGHT

The four dash into the intersection of the tunnel.

DR. SPENCER (O.S.)  
Da5id?

Andy starts back the way they came, but Da5id stops him, points the direction they hadn't come.

DA5ID  
No. Not that way. Dr. Spencer is  
there. This way.

INT. "THE PLAY ROOM" -- NIGHT

Dr. Spencer reaches the entrance to the Red Tunnel.

DR. SPENCER  
Da5id? Quit stalling.

INT. FACILITY TUNNELS -- NIGHT

Da5id and the kids run down the tunnels, reaching another large doorway. Da5id presses his hand against an access pad, and the door slowly slides open.

INT. THE RED TUNNEL -- NIGHT

Dr. Spencer reaches the intersection, looks the way the kids had run, as though he heard something.

INT. ROBOT FACTORY -- NIGHT

Another huge domed room. Half-finished robots hang about like an abattoir of broken dolls. Assembly stations dot the room, hosting partly-built robots, some humanoid, some canine or spider-like, some stranger still.

The kids look about with awe. Da5id stops, noticing this.

DA5ID  
This is where they rebuild us.

BROOKE  
Us? What's this place for?

DA5ID  
I don't know.

INT. THE RED LAB -- NIGHT

Dr. Spencer walks into the Red Lab. He looks over at the cube -- once again dark.

DR. SPENCER  
Time's up Da5id. You're it.

He moves to the computer kiosk, types a few notes. Looks down at the spilled coffee he's just stepped in.

DR. SPENCER (CONT'D)  
Da5id?

He hits a button. Lights flood the empty cube.

INT. POWER ROOM -- NIGHT

The four walk into another domed room, occupied by a huge CENTRAL POWER SPIRE with a glassed REACTOR CHAMBER at its base. It CRACKLES with BLUE ENERGY that pulses up the spire.

DA5ID

This provides power for the facility.

TOMMY

Where is everybody?

DA5ID

Everybody? The facility has only a research team and security detail--

A LOUD RHYTHMIC BUZZING. The Alarm. Eyes go wide. Da5id looks up; his eyes flash with code.

DA5ID (CONT'D)

They'll come. This way.

Da5id hurries across the room. They run after him.

EXT. SECRET FACILITY -- NIGHT

LIGHTS flood the grounds. GUARDS scramble across it.

INT. ACCESS HATCHES -- NIGHT

BOOTED FEET swarm down laddered pipes as the alarm BLARES.

INT. TUNNELS -- NIGHT

Da5id and company rush down the halls.

INT. "THE PLAYROOM" -- NIGHT

Guards charge in. A COMMANDER directs some through the north exit and some the west exit.

INT. TUNNELS -- NIGHT

The four reach where they first entered the base. The vent is above them. Tommy jumps for it but can't reach.

TOMMY

Brooke. Come on. I'll lift you up.

Tommy boosts her up into the shaft. He reaches for Andy.

Down the hall the SOUND OF RUNNING GUARDS.

INT. THE RED LAB -- NIGHT

A sweating Dr. Spencer pours through security feeds. Everything's blank.

INT. TUNNELS -- NIGHT

Andy is up. Tommy turns to Da5id. Da5id looks at him curiously, then accepts his hand as he lifts him up. Andy looks down at Tommy.

ANDY

What about you?

Tommy looks back down the tunnel. SHADOWS at the bend.

TOMMY

I can't reach.

Da5id pops his head out, grabs the edge with one hand and reaches for Tommy. Tommy jumps for it. He barely catches Da5id's hand, yet Da5id hoists him up effortlessly.

INT. FACILITY PIPE -- NIGHT

Andy and Da5id peer down as Guards run by, oblivious.

EXT. DRAIN PIPE -- NIGHT

They stumble out of the Drain Pipe. Tommy grabs Brooke's hand, scrambling down the hill. Andy looks back and sees Da5id, completely still and studying the environs.

ANDY

Da5id! What's wrong?

DA5ID

Are these trees?

ANDY

Yeah...?

DA5ID  
There are so many of them.

TOMMY  
Come on!

Da5id hurries to Andy as they run after Tommy and Brooke.

EXT. WOODS -- NIGHT

The four rush through the woods. Behind them the SOUNDS OF PURSUIT and LIGHTS bobbing in the darkness. They reach the car, climb in, Da5id following Andy into the back.

INT/EXT. CAR/LOGGING ROAD -- NIGHT

Tommy drives, eye wide, bouncing along the road.

TOMMY  
Who are those people? Are they going to kill us or something?

DA5ID  
I don't know. I... I hope not.

BROOKE  
Oh god.

ANDY  
Maybe they're the government or terrorists or something.

TOMMY  
Cool. Either way, we're screwed.

Brooke looks at Tommy, whispers.

BROOKE  
Maybe they're not who we should be worried about.

Tommy eyes her, looks at Da5id in the mirror warily.

BROOKE (CONT'D)  
So Da5id.... are there, like, rules you have to follow? Like a robot code or something?

DA5ID  
A robot code? I don't understand your question.

ANDY

I think she wants to know if  
you're, you know, good.

Tommy floors it as the main road comes into view.

DA5ID

Good?

ANDY

Yeah, like you can't hurt people or  
kill or whatever.

DA5ID

Oh. I--

(He pauses, eyes flashing)

Stop.

BROOKE

What?

ANDY

Huh?

DA5ID

Stop the car!

Tommy SLAMS the breaks. A DEER stares at them from the middle  
of the road. Blinks, then leaps away.

Andy looks at Brooke and smiles. She's still not sold.

INT/EXT. CAR/WOODED ROADS -- NIGHT

Tommy drives through the night, Brooke nestled into him. Andy  
keeps looking at Da5id, while Da5id gazes outside in wonder.

ANDY

You've lived all this time in that  
place?

DA5ID

Yes. What is generating the light  
above us?

Confused, Andy looks out the window.

ANDY

The stars? You've never seen stars  
before?

DA5ID

I have never been outside before.  
It is not what I expected.

ANDY  
Do you like it?

DA5ID  
It is very big.... Yes, I do.

Outside, they reach Edenville.

DA5ID (CONT'D)  
Where are we now?

TOMMY  
This is Edenville. We're home.

DA5ID  
Do you like it?

Yes.	TOMMY	No.	BROOKE
------	-------	-----	--------

Da5id looks at them curiously.

INT/EXT. CAR/ANDY'S HOME -- NIGHT

They pull up in front of Andy's home. The lights are on -- Lenore must be home.

TOMMY  
Lenore. What do we tell her?

Andy looks at Tommy, thinking.

ANDY  
Da5id's my friend from school?

Tommy looks at Da5id, removes his jacket and hands it to him.

TOMMY  
His eyes.

DA5ID  
My eyes?

ANDY  
Yeah. They're weird. They're like little computer screens.

DA5ID  
I can change them.

Da5id's eyes flicker, resemble human eyes -- but still a metallic grey. He looks at Andy expectantly.

ANDY

They're still weird. They don't  
have any color. Like mine are blue.

Da5id studies Andy's eyes intensely.

DA5ID

I do not see color. I see the  
entire electromagnetic spectrum.  
But I can change their wavelength  
to match yours.

Da5id's eyes change to BLUE.

ANDY

Cool.

INT. ANDY'S HOME -- NIGHT

The four bustle inside. Lenore greets them expectantly.

LENORE

Hey guys. Where have you been?  
Didn't you get my calls?

TOMMY

We were at the lake, you know how  
reception is there.

LENORE

That's ok. I'm so glad you boys are  
getting along. Hi Brooke.

BROOKE

Hi Mrs. Bloom.

Lenore eyes Brooke critically, like she doesn't approve, then  
looks at Da5id.

LENORE

Hi... I don't think we've met.

ANDY

This is my friend Da5id. From  
school.

LENORE

Hello David.

DA5ID

Hello.

ANDY

Ummm... Could he spend the night?

Lenore looks at Andy's nervous, pleading face.

LENORE

I don't know.... Did your parents say it's all right David?

Da5id looks at her, momentarily confused, then to Andy.

ANDY

They did.

LENORE

I guess so honey. A little forewarning next time would be nice. I'd have cleaned up a bit.

ANDY

Thanks Mom.

Andy shrugs a nervous apology and gives Lenore a hug.

INT. ANDY'S ROOM -- NIGHT

Andy on his bed, Tommy pacing, Brooke in the corner. Da5id examines each thing in the room methodically.

TOMMY

What are we going to do with him?

ANDY

Can't he stay here?

TOMMY

Not forever.

Da5id looks over as they all study him. Brooke's clearly getting second thoughts.

BROOKE

Tommy, I better get home. I'll come back tomorrow, yeah?

TOMMY

Please.

They hug, kiss. She seems uncomfortable, pulling away and glancing over at Da5id who watches them intently.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

I'm going to walk Brooke out. Will you guys be ok?

ANDY

Yeah. I've got a ton of stuff to show him.

Da5id smiles.

EXT. ANDY'S HOME -- NIGHT

Brooke and Tommy stand on the front lawn.

BROOKE

He weirds me out. I don't know what we've gotten into.

TOMMY

You were the one who wanted to go inside that place.

BROOKE

I know. I'm just-- I'm worried.

A beat. He holds her.

TOMMY

Me too.

BROOKE

I should be getting home. Be careful ok?

TOMMY

Yeah. You too.

Tommy watches her wistfully as she heads off into the night.

INT. FACILITY OFFICE -- NIGHT

A tidy and minimal office. DR. RICHMOND (50), glasses and well-groomed, looks over papers on his desk. Dr. Spencer is across from him, a complete wreck.

DR. RICHMOND

How could this have happened?

DR. SPENCER

I don't know Dr. Richmond. We're checking all the back-ups now.

(MORE)

DR. SPENCER (CONT'D)  
He got access to the computer  
network somehow and purged the  
records.

DR. RICHMOND  
Why didn't you activate the  
emergency protocols?

DR. SPENCER  
We've never done that before. I  
didn't think he would actually  
escape.

Dr. Richmond nods, strangely detached.

DR. RICHMOND  
Our little boy is becoming quite  
the over-achiever. Let's just hope  
he hasn't gone far.

INT. ANDY'S ROOM -- NIGHT

Andy and Da5id sit on the bed, Andy trying to stay awake.

ANDY  
Tomorrow I'll show you around.  
There's a lot of cool stuff.

Andy tries to stifle a yawn even as he struggles to keep his  
eyes open. Da5id watches him.

ANDY (CONT'D)  
And maybe we can.... We can--

Andy dozes off.

DA5ID  
Andy?

Da5id watches Andy fall asleep.

INT. ANDY'S HOME -- NIGHT

Da5id walks quietly through the house in the dark, examining  
each thing systematically in turn.

INT. LENORE'S ROOM -- NIGHT

Da5id opens the door to Lenore's room, watches her sleep with  
impassive, unblinking eyes.

INT. KITCHEN -- NIGHT

Da5id looks around the kitchen, then stares into the backyard.

EXT. BACKYARD -- NIGHT

Da5id walks into the backyard, scans around. He looks at the dead garden curiously, then up at the sky. He watches the stars, entranced.

INT. ANDY'S ROOM -- MORNING

Darkness.

DA5ID (O.S.)  
Andy? Andy wake-up.

Andy groggily opens his eyes.

DA5ID (CONT'D)  
Andy. Help.

Andy's bolts upright, looks at Da5id: he's on a chair with his feet up, staring down at the CAT. It rubs against the chair, affectionate. Da5id eyes it, concerned.

ANDY  
What's wrong?

DA5ID  
What's it doing?

ANDY  
It's a cat. She wants attention.  
Pet her.

Da5id looks at the cat, cautiously. Then nervously reaches his hand down. The cat rubs into his hand.

DA5ID  
It's soft.

ANDY  
You can pick her up.

Da5id looks at Andy, still unsure. He carefully, awkwardly picks up the cat. She nuzzles against him and purrs.

DA5ID  
What's it doing? What's that sound?

ANDY

She's purring. She likes you.

Andy giggles at Da5id. Da5id is enthralled by the cat, petting it but holding it awkwardly. He smiles himself and lets out a little laugh as it rubs against him.

INT. KITCHEN -- MORNING

Andy, Tommy, and Da5id sit at the table while Lenore serves pancakes and then takes a seat herself.

LENORE

I hope you boys are hungry.

Tommy drowns his pancakes in syrup and starts eating. Andy too. Da5id just looks at the pancakes. Lenore notices. All eyes turn on him.

LENORE (CONT'D)

Food ok Da5id?

Da5id looks up, gazes at how Andy is eating, then does the same -- cutting into the pancake and slowly raising the bite to his mouth. Andy nods, eyes wide. Tommy watches pensively.

Da5id eats.

DA5ID

Thank you. It's delicious.

Lenore smiles. Tommy and Andy sigh in relief.

LENORE

So Da5id, where do you live?

DA5ID

I-

ANDY

His family is on the west side.

LENORE

Oh, it's nice there. Do I know your parents by any chance?

DA5ID

I-- They're--

ANDY

His Dad's--

LENORE

Andy. Don't be rude. I'm sure your friend can speak for himself.

Tommy gives Andy a hard stare.



DA5ID  
Weapons systems? What do you mean?

ANDY  
I don't know. Like a laser in your eye or something cool like that.

DA5ID  
Oh. No.

ANDY  
Can you fly? Like rocket jets?

DA5ID  
No.

ANDY  
Radar sense? You said your eyes see different so do you have X-ray vision or something? They must have given you some kind of cool powers.

DA5ID  
I don't think so. Do I need powers?

ANDY  
No. I guess not. It's just-- Oh no! Quick! Hide!

Da5id looks around in surprise, as Mr. Rivera's truck ambles down the road. They dodge behind a car but not before Mr. Rivera sees them, waving with a smile as he passes.

ANDY (CONT'D)  
(whispering)  
That's Mr. Rivera. My mom doesn't want me talking to him.

DA5ID  
Why not?

ANDY  
She says he's bad.

DA5ID  
Why?

A beat. Andy struggles with it.

ANDY  
She says some people are just bad is all. Like they're born that way.

They resume walking.

DA5ID

Do you think I'm bad? I don't want to be bad.

ANDY

No way. They didn't even give you weapons. How can you be some evil robot if they didn't give you weapons?

Da5id ponders this as they continue walking.

ANDY (CONT'D)

They should have though.

DA5ID

Why?

ANDY

Because how cool would it be to have lasers!? Duh.

EXT. FACILITY -- DAY

Dr. Richmond hurries across the grounds of the Project Eden facility, determined and tense. He approaches a white van, doors open, with several GUARDS standing around it.

GUARD

We found this near the rear access road.

Dr. Richmond looks inside: Andy's Bicycle.

INT. KITCHEN -- EVENING

Tommy paces in the kitchen, texting on his cellphone. Frustrated, he makes a call.

TOMMY

Hey Brooke. It's me. Tommy. What's going on? I've been texting you all day. Is something wrong? Call me. Please. Ok?

Tommy hangs up and gazes out the window at Andy and Da5id in the back yard.

EXT. BACKYARD -- EVENING

Da5id studies the dead garden in the backyard.

DA5ID  
What's wrong with the plants?

ANDY  
I don't know. They're dead.

Da5id touches a wilted plant carefully.

DA5ID  
It still has energy within it.

ANDY  
It does? Um. Plants are hardy I guess. Like they go to sleep and maybe they can come back if you give them enough water or something.

Da5id considers this.

DA5ID  
What's the difference between being asleep and being dead?

ANDY  
Like sleep is just to recharge. But death is like sleep where you don't wake up again.

DA5ID  
Do you dream?

ANDY  
When you're dead? I don't know. I don't think so. My mom thinks there's angels and stuff, but my Dad didn't believe in any of that.

DA5ID  
Why did your Father die?

A beat. Andy kicks at the soil, unsure what to say.

ANDY  
He got real sick and I guess they did all they could but his immune system was compromised and....

Andy trails off, starting to tear up. Da5id watches impassively, then reaches his hand out.

DA5ID  
I'm sorry.

ANDY

It's ok. I just.... I miss him. I think about him like all the time.

DA5ID

I... don't know what to say.

ANDY

It's ok. Nobody does. Nobody wants to talk about it.... But you're a robot. I guess you can't really die.

(Andy perks up at that thought, his mood shifts)

Oh man! Next month is Halloween. You're going to love it. You dress up in costumes and get candy.

DA5ID

You dress up? Why?

ANDY

You just do. It's a holiday. You pretend to be something scary like a monster or a witch or something.

DA5ID

You scare people?

ANDY

Not really. You'll see. It's going to be awesome. And then after that is my birthday and then-- what day were you born? Did you have birthday parties?

DA5ID

I first came online four-hundred and seventy-five days ago. What's a birthday party?

ANDY

It's like where you celebrate the day you were born. With cake and presents and everything. It's the best.... Maybe they just didn't celebrate yours because you probably don't age or anything.

Da5id looks down at the plants again, heavy with thought. For lack of a better word -- he looks sad.

DA5ID  
 (quietly)  
 No. I don't.

INT. ANDY'S HOME -- EVENING

Andy and Da5id charge inside, laughing and playing tag. Lenore is in her uniform, about to leave.

LENORE  
 Oh! Boys. I almost forgot. Do I need to give Da5id a ride home before I go to work?

Andy stops, sweating.

ANDY  
 No. His parents are going to pick him up. Soon.

LENORE  
 All right honey. You be sure and get to bed at a decent hour. Da5id -  
 - it was very nice to meet you.

DA5ID  
 Thank you. It was nice to meet you also. You have a very nice home. I like it here. A lot.

Lenore smiles at him, a bit uncomfortable from his response, then heads out the door. Andy turns to Da5id.

ANDY  
 We'll hide you in my room. She'll never know.

INT. ANDY'S ROOM -- NIGHT

Tommy paces while Da5id sits on the bed playing with the cat. Andy is nearby, thinking.

TOMMY  
 We need a plan. What are we going to do with him while we're at school?

ANDY  
 He can come with me.

TOMMY  
 He's not even enrolled.

ANDY  
Can't we enroll him?

TOMMY  
How're we going to do that genius?

Tommy rolls his eyes, frustrated with Andy.

ANDY  
Maybe he can hack the school or something.

They both look at Da5id.

CUT TO:

Da5id sits at Andy's laptop, a wire leading from it to a jack behind his ear. Computer code flashes across his eyes.

DA5ID  
It's done. Is there anything else I should do while I'm here?

Tommy thinks about it, tempted, so so tempted. Then his face falls.

TOMMY  
No.... I guess not.

A beat. Da5id studies Tommy intently.

DA5ID  
Are you ok Tommy?

TOMMY  
What? Yeah. I'm fine.

DA5ID  
You seem sad.

TOMMY  
No. I'm--

DA5ID  
Is it because it's hard being cool all the time?

Tommy looks at him, confused. Then to Andy who makes a wide-eyed face of innocence that is anything but.

DA5ID (CONT'D)  
Andy said when he says 'cool' it's not like a temperature, it's something you are.  
(MORE)

DA5ID (CONT'D)

He said if I want to be cool, I have to be like you because you're the coolest person he knows. He said he hopes that he'll be cool like you one--

ANDY

Dude. Shut up.

Da5id stops talking, unsure what he's done wrong.

TOMMY

Andy said that?

Da5id nods his head 'yes', Andy nods his emphatically 'no.' Tommy eyes Andy, feeling more than a bit guilty. Oblivious, Da5id breaks the silence.

DA5ID

If you are sad, you should try petting the cat. It makes a sound like an engine. It will make you happy.

Tommy gives him a look and then laughs.

TOMMY

Thanks. I'll try that.

Andy laughs too. Da5id isn't quite sure why they find it funny but then laughs as well.

INT. FACILITY TUNNELS -- NIGHT

Dr. Richmond paces quickly through tunnels, Dr. Spencer following him.

DR. RICHMOND

The board's not happy. They're going to try and shut us down.

DR. SPENCER

Can they do that? All our research-- We've come so far.

DR. RICHMOND

We've been understaffed and underfunded for months as it is. They were looking for an excuse. Frankly, I'm surprised we've been allowed to operate for as long as we have.

DR. SPENCER

I can't go back to the start-up world. Building mobile apps and figuring out micro-payment schemes for the latest douche bag "entrepreneur"? Kill me now.

DR. RICHMOND

Let's not get ahead ourselves.

Dr. Spencer gives him a questioning look.

INT. THE ROBOT FACTORY -- NIGHT

They step into the Robot Factory. Dr. Richmond looks up at the various half-built robots.

DR. RICHMOND

They've been wanting proof of concept for months.

Dr. Spencer looks at Dr. Richmond, slowly understanding.

DR. SPENCER

You're not suggesting...?

DR. RICHMOND

Let's give it to them.

On the blank, menacing face of one of the robots, slowly moving in.

EXT. ANDY'S HOME -- MORNING

Andy and Tommy emerge from the house, move to the car and scan the area. After a moment, Andy motions and Da5id comes darting from along the side of the house -- dressed in Andy's clothes, long sleeves that conceal his robotic nature. They all climb into the car.

EXT. EDENVILLE -- MORNING

Tommy drives to school, passes the corner market. An UNMARKED VAN around its side. TWO PLAINS-CLOTHED GUARDS get out, scan the area with electronic instruments. One goes to the back of the van, opens it. Activates a remote: inside, a small ROBOTIC DRONE hums to life.

EXT. SCHOOL -- MORNING

Andy and Da5id climb out of the car. Tommy looks out the window at them.

TOMMY

Andy, you have any problem at all today -- you call me. Ok?

ANDY

Ok.

TOMMY

I'll pick you up here as soon as school's out.

Tommy pulls away and Andy starts to move into the throng of children entering school. Da5id doesn't. Andy looks back.

ANDY

What's wrong?

DA5ID

I'm ... afraid.

ANDY

What? Why?

DA5ID

What if I don't fit in? What if everybody can tell I'm not real, like you?

ANDY

Trust me. You'll be fine.

DA5ID

I hope so. I want to be normal.

Andy smiles and they head inside.

High above the school, the drone soars through the sky.

INT. CLASSROOM -- DAY

Andy and Da5id in Math Class. Da5id watches the class struggle with a problem on the board.

MATH TEACHER

Ok. Anyone?

Nobody volunteers. Da5id looks at Andy's answer. He's got it right. Andy notices. They exchange looks -- Da5id urging him to answer, Andy shaking his head no.

MATH TEACHER (CONT'D)

No?

DA5ID

Twelve.

MATH TEACHER

Excuse me...?

The Math Teacher looks at Da5id, trying to remember a name he doesn't know. Andy gives him wide, worried eyes.

DA5ID

The answer is twelve.

The Math Teacher nods in approval.

INT. CAFETERIA -- DAY

Andy and Da5id enter the bustling cafeteria.

ANDY

I'm just saying you should probably not talk in class. Keep a low profile.

DA5ID

You had the correct answer. Why didn't you answer?

ANDY

I just... I don't like talking in class.

DA5ID

I would be punished for not answering correctly.

ANDY

School's not like that. They don't punish you for stuff like that.

DA5ID

Oh.

They find an empty table at the side, sit. Da5id watches the other children eat. From across the room, Chad notices him. Stands and walks over, grotesquely chewing a half-eaten bite.

ANDY

Oh no.

CHAD

Hey Mandy. Who's your girlfriend?

ANDY

It's Andy.

Chad wraps his arm around Andy's head and starts rubbing his knuckles hard on the top of his head.

CHAD

If I say your name's Mandy, it's Mandy.

ANDY

Quit it.

Andy struggles, freeing himself from Chad. Da5id rises and Chad gives him an evil stare.

CHAD

Ooh. Your girlfriend going to help you Mandy?

Chad gets in Da5id's face, feigns like he's going to punch him. Da5id doesn't flinch. Chad backs up, then walks away.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Later queers.

EXT. SCHOOL -- DAY

A van pulls up in front of the school. In the front seat, a Guard gets on the radio.

GUARD

Dr. Richmond. I think we've located the target.

(Listening, the Guard's face reveals surprise.)

Are you sure? Sir. It's a school.

(Listening, face turning to resolve.)

Yes sir. Understood.

The Guard goes to the back of the van, opens it. Inside, SOMETHING comes to life:

A gangly canine-esque robot with square head and red eyes lopes out of the Van. Quickly followed by two more.

Project Eden's HUNTER ROBOTS.

INT. SCHOOL HALL -- DAY

Andy and Da5id walking the hall.

DA5ID  
Why did he do that to you?

ANDY  
Chad's just a jerk. There's nothing  
you can really do about it.

DA5ID  
You could fight back.

ANDY  
He's bigger than me.

Da5id thinks on this.

DA5ID  
You have to be brave.

ANDY  
Maybe.

INT. HIGHSCHOOL HALLS -- DAY

Tommy hurries through a clutter of highschool students trying  
to catch up with Brooke.

TOMMY  
Brooke!

She keeps moving, not acknowledging him.

TOMMY (CONT'D)  
(louder)  
BROOKE!

People turn and look. Brooke kind of freezes up, then turns --  
acts likes she's just seen him and smiles.

BROOKE  
Hey Tommy.

TOMMY  
Why you been ghosting me?

BROOKE  
I haven't. I'm not. I just--

TOMMY

You haven't returned my calls or even texted or anything.

BROOKE

We had a big family thing yesterday and my phone died and you know... but it's good to see you.

She hugs him, awkwardly, standoff-ish.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

I was ... worried. I was kind of afraid I might find out you'd been killed or something.

TOMMY

I'm fine. Everything's good. Everything's normal.

BROOKE

Everything is not normal.

TOMMY

Nothing bad is going to happen.

BROOKE

You don't know. You don't-- Look. I have to get to class, ok?

TOMMY

Ok. Hang out after school?

BROOKE

I have a lot of homework right now. Maybe not today.

Tommy's face falls as she walks away.

INT. GYM -- DAY

Andy, Da5id, and other children stand with the Gym Teacher towering over them.

GYM TEACHER

Ok. Kids. Dodgeball. Get out there.

Kids move to the center of the court. Da5id looks at Andy.

ANDY

Follow my lead. Don't get hit by the balls.

The kids mill around awkwardly in the center of the gym while four children stalk the outsides, balls in hands.

The whistle BLOWS. BALLS fly, pounding into children as the mass tries to part. Andy narrowly avoids being hit.

A BALL beams at Da5id. He watches, calmly sidesteps at the last minute. Andy smiles, impressed. Da5id smiles back.

The game continues. Most of the children now on the outside. Chad is there, ball in hand, each time aiming for Andy. Each time, Andy dodges, sweating, eyes locked with Chad.

A ball soars toward another boy -- he catches it, barely. Changes positions with the boy outside. Da5id notices.

More balls. More children hit.

Only Andy and Da5id inside. Chad grabs a ball, narrows his eyes at Andy, swings back to throw. Launches it -- right at the back of Da5id's head.

Da5id turns, catches the ball in a single outstretched hand.

Chad's eyes go wide, unbelieving.

The Gym Teacher motions for him to change places with Da5id.

ANDY (CONT'D)

You're on the outside now.

Chad stalks into the center as Da5id goes to the outside. Chad scowls at Andy, bumps into him.

CHAD

Keep away from me fag.

Balls fly, neither boy gets hit. Da5id holds his ball, watching. The kids TAUNT them. Chad joins in, points at Andy.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Hit the little queer! Come on!

Da5id looks at Andy, then the ball. Andy eyes him fearfully. Da5id throws the ball, hard --

SLAMS it into Chad's chest. He falls back with a groan.

The Gym Teacher BLOWS the whistle.

EXT. SCHOOL -- DAY

The RING of the School Bell. Children exit the school in droves. As their mass thins, The Hunter Robots skirt in from the edges, slink along the side of the school. One approaches a door, bumps its head into it, then pushes its body against it, letting itself in. The two other Hunter Robots follow.

INT. BATHROOM -- DAY

Andy pees in a stall, talking to Da5id excitedly.

ANDY

Did you see the look on his face?

DA5ID

You're laughing.... It was funny?

ANDY

It was amazing! You coming to school is the best thing ever!

DA5ID

I was worried I might have hurt him.

ANDY

No way! You didn't throw hard enough. He deserves it.

DA5ID (O.S.)

Andy.

ANDY

Maybe we can prank his locker or--

DA5ID (O.S.)

Andy.

Andy steps out of the stall and into a seething Chad.

CHAD

Or what fairy?

He pushes Andy, sends him to the floor.

DA5ID

Stop that.

CHAD

You going to make me?

Da5id moves forward.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Huh? Faggot.

Chad shoves his hands into Da5id. Da5id doesn't budge. Chad steps back, startled.

Da5id raises his fist.

Chad's face fills with terror.

CHAD (CONT'D)

What's that?

Andy and Da5id turn. A Hunter Robot, its head swinging low.

DA5ID

They've found me.

The Robot SPRINGS at Da5id. He ducks and it crashes into the wall next to Chad, awkwardly regaining its footing.

Da5id reaches his hand out for Andy.

DA5ID (CONT'D)

We should go now.

EXT. SCHOOL HALLWAYS -- DAY

Andy and Da5id tear down the hall as fast as they can.

The Hunter Robot slams out of the bathroom, loses its footing and crashes into a wall before galloping after them.

Ahead of them, the other Hunter Robots round the corner.

Andy and Da5id dart into the cafeteria.

INT. CAFETERIA -- DAY

Andy looks around the empty cafeteria -- points to the kitchen behind the lunch counter. They duck behind it.

They wait, listening. BUMPS at the door and then-- the Hunter Robots slink into the room one by one.

ANDY

(whispering)

What are those things?

DA5ID

Hunter Robots.

ANDY  
What do we do?

Da5id shakes his head, indicating silence just as a Hunter Robot jumps onto the counter near them, paces their way.

Andy pries open a cabinet and the two of them crawl in.

The Hunter Robot stands directly over where they're hiding. A LOW MECHANICAL PURR as it scans the area.

Andy pulls out his phone, texts Tommy frantically: "Need Help. Now."

Another Hunter Robot knocks its head against the pantry they're in. They try to hold it closed.

It BUMPS again. Harder. More LOW PURRING. Then--

It stops.

A long beat. The sound of the robots leaving.

ANDY (CONT'D)  
(whispering)  
Are they gone?

Da5id listens.

DA5ID  
I don't hear them.

Andy opens the cabinet a crack, peers around, crawls out. The Hunter Robots are gone. His phone lights up with a text from Tommy: "Parking lot. 5 Minutes."

EXT. SCHOOL FIELD -- DAY

Andy and Da5id exit the cafeteria's side door into the school field. The HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM practices, running skirmishes. Andy and Da5id start to skirt the field and then Da5id stops, looks behind them and points.

A Hunter Robot at a window on the second floor, looking down.

ANDY  
Uh-oh.

It LEAPS through the window in an explosion of glass, lands on the field as the other Hunter Robots charge around the side of the school.

Andy and Da5id run -- straight toward the Football Team.

EXT. PARKING LOT -- DAY

A sweaty Tommy looks for Andy and Da5id. He sees the commotion on the field. Narrows his eyes. Runs to his car.

EXT. FIELD -- DAY

Football players crisscross the field in a violence of bodies. Andy and Da5id charge through them, Hunter Robots after them like leopards on the chase.

Players tower down on the boys, try to weave around them. A RUNNING BACK waves Andy out of the way, crashing toward him--

Da5id YANKS Andy back as the Running Back PLOWS into the ground where Andy just was.

Andy and Da5id scramble, try to dip under massive bodies.

The Hunter Robots on their heels, nimbly diving through the players.

A LINEBACKER stops in shock, gets SLAMMED into by another player.

A Hunter Robot VAULTS off the back of a Player, lands almost on top of Andy and Da5id as they rush forward.

In the distance, TOMMY'S CAR tears across the field as Andy and Da5id clear the players, still running.

The Hunter Robots are almost on them, one in the lead, one untangling itself from a heap of Football Players.

Andy and Da5id run for all their might.

A Hunter Robot's jaws open, electricity CRACKLING in them as it bites at their heels.

Tommy's Car SMASHES into it with a SKID -- the Robot CRUNCHES under the wheels. Another Robot RAMS into the side of the car, falls, wobbling. The last leaps, clearing the car but stumbling into the ground on the other side.

TOMMY

Get in!

Andy and Da5id pile in, Tommy already starting to drive as two of the Hunter Robots jerk to their feet and chase after them. The third twitches and struggles to stand but fails.

EXT. SCHOOL -- DAY

Tommy drives like a maniac, crashes over the sidewalk curb and fishtails, driving for the school exit the wrong way.

TOMMY

What the hell are those things!?

DA5ID

Project's Eden's Hunter Robots.

Tommy SWERVES, barely avoids an oncoming SCHOOL BUS. The DRIVER waves at him angrily, then sees the robots -- face turning pale.

EXT. WOODED ROADS -- DAY

Tommy speeds down the road. The Robots almost on the car.

ANDY

Faster!

Tommy looks at the speedometer and floors it. The Hunter Robots start to fall behind.

DA5ID

Watch out to your left.

The Eden Project Van barrels down from a crossroad. Tommy swerves wide, almost off the road but keeps control.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD -- DAY

Tommy rushes through his neighborhood, the Van right on him. He makes a sharp turn, accelerates. A dead-end cul-de-sac.

TOMMY

Shit.

He spins the car around. The Van slows, still heads toward them.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Get out.

ANDY

What are you going to do?

TOMMY

Get out and get somewhere safe.

Andy looks at him, incredulous.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Go!

Andy and Da5id hurry out of the car. Tommy revs the engine, secures his seat belt.

They run as Tommy drives toward the Van. The surprised Guards try to turn the Van as Tommy PLOWS into their side.

Andy looks back with shock, stops in his tracks.

ANDY

Tommy!

DA5ID

We have to go Andy.

ANDY

Is he dead?

Andy starts to panic. Da5id looks at the car -- Tommy groggily shakes his head as the Guards pull him from the car.

DA5ID

He's alive. He's ok.

Andy and Da5id run.

EXT. ANDY'S HOME -- DAY

Andy and Da5id tear across the lawn to Andy's home.

INT. ANDY'S HOME -- DAY

Andy and Da5id storm inside. Lenore on the sofa, tea in hand, talking to Dr. Richmond. TWO SUITED GUARDS nearby. Andy freezes. Dr. Richmond eyes them both.

DR. RICHMOND

Hello Da5id. Hello... Andy is it?

Andy looks to Da5id. He doesn't betray a reaction.

DR. RICHMOND (CONT'D)

I think we have some things to discuss.

ANDY

Mom--

LENORE

Sit down Andy. This is Doctor Evan Richmond. He tells me you've stolen something of his?

ANDY

I didn't steal Da5id, I freed him. He was being held captive.

Dr. Richmond gives him a sympathetic look.

DR. RICHMOND

Please. Sit. Nobody wants to cause you or Da5id any harm.

DA5ID

It's ok Andy.

Da5id moves to a chair and sits. Andy still stands, shocked.

LENORE

What have you gotten messed up in Andy?

ANDY

It's not like that Mom, it's--

DR. RICHMOND

Mrs. Bloom, if I could-- Andy, while I realize that to you Da5id appears to be a fully alive young boy, he's hardly that, he's--

ANDY

A robot! I know.

DR. RICHMOND

A weapon. Da5id's a weapon.

Lenore eyes Da5id like he's a snake.

ANDY

No he's not.

DR. RICHMOND

Da5id is the latest version of a very sophisticated artificial intelligence program. He is designed to find a target, emulate it, infiltrate it, destroy it.

Da5id looks at Dr. Richmond, like he's considering the idea and doesn't like it.

ANDY

No. That's not true! That's not--

Andy looks at Da5id. Is it possible?

ANDY (CONT'D)

It's not true.

Da5id looks at him.

DA5ID

I don't know.

LENORE

Andy.... How could you?

DR. RICHMOND

Don't blame the boy. Da5id is very sophisticated. This is what he was built for. Honestly, it's much greater than I thought him capable of.

LENORE

What he's capable of? You're saying he wanted to kill my son!

ANDY

They were the ones torturing him!

A beat. Dr. Richmond nods his head.

DR. RICHMOND

The nature of Da5id's feedback-oriented learning systems are predicated on differential tactile stimulus. But at the end of the day, Da5id doesn't feel. He doesn't have a heart -- he has a mini-plasma reactor.

ANDY

Differential tactile....

(Andy looks confused.)

You're wrong. You're lying. Da5id's not a weapon, he's my friend. He wouldn't hurt anyone.

DR. RICHMOND

Andy-- Da5id is government property. It's time he was returned.

Andy trembles, looks to Lenore. She gives him a severe, unsympathetic look. Andy is about to talk again when Da5id puts his hand on Andy's shoulder.

DA5ID

It's ok Andy. I should go with Dr. Richmond.

ANDY

Tell him. Tell him you're not bad... tell him....

DA5ID

Andy. I... I don't know. Maybe I am. Maybe it's just how I was made.

Andy starts to cry. Lenore remains severe.

ANDY

Mom. Please.

LENORE

Enough Andy. Just be thankful they're not pressing charges.

ANDY

Don't let them take him. You can't give him up like you gave me up! You can't!

Lenore is shocked at the accusation. Her face hardens.

LENORE

Andy, go to your room. Now. We'll talk about this later.

Andy looks at her, unbelieving. Then to Da5id. Da5id nods his head, gives him a sympathetic look. Andy runs up stairs.

EXT. ANDY'S HOME -- DAY

Lenore stands by a Project Eden Van, having last words with Dr. Richmond.

DR. RICHMOND

Again, Mrs. Bloom, I'm sorry all of this ended up on your doorstep. Government counsel should be in contact within the week -- some standard paperwork, NDAs, and then they'll cut you a check.

Lenore nods, eyeing Da5id in the back guiltily.

LENORE

Thank you.

The Van pulls away just as Tommy approaches, bruised but wired with adrenaline. He watches the van leave, Da5id's impassive face looking out at him.

TOMMY

Where's Andy? Where's Da5id going?

Lenore turns on him.

LENORE

You knew about this? You brought that thing into my house?

TOMMY

Thing! He's not a thing-- he's... something else.

LENORE

It's a machine. It's evil.

TOMMY

Da5id's not evil. Just because you don't understand something doesn't automatically mean its evil. Not everything and everyone in the world is evil, ok?!

LENORE

Enough Tommy. We're not having this conversation right now.

TOMMY

Yes we are! You can't just shut down any conversation you don't like. What did they do -- buy you?

LENORE

No, they-- Just go to your room. You and your brother are both grounded.

TOMMY

No. You're not my mom. I'm had enough of your bullshit.

LENORE

Right now, young man! You think your father would approve of this behavior?

A beat. Tommy stares at her, incensed.

TOMMY

My father? The father who's never here? The father who doesn't want to be anywhere near us? Why do you think he keeps re-enlisting? He hates it here. He hates you. He hates me--

Lenore slaps him.

Tommy reels back in shock, then looks at her, defiant.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

He hits harder.

Tommy runs off.

Lenore stares after him, shaking.

INT. ANDY'S ROOM -- EVENING

Andy in his room, despondent. He sits on his bed, face red from crying. He looks around, gazes up at Tommy's sports posters -- notices the one that says "Be Brave."

He stares at it.

EXT. ANDY'S HOME -- EVENING

Andy's window on the side of the house slides open. He crawls out, scrambles down the roof and drops to the ground.

Andy moves to the front lawn, starts creeping away. Tommy is sitting on the curb, head heavy, scratching into the sidewalk with his pocketknife. He looks up at Andy.

ANDY

I'm going to get Da5id back. Are you coming?

TOMMY

You're crazy.... Doesn't matter anyway. We can't-- the car's totalled. We're screwed.

ANDY

What about Brooke? She can drive.

TOMMY

Brooke's not talking to me. We're done.

A beat. Andy gives him a look.

ANDY  
You're giving up?

TOMMY  
Andy, I like Da5id too, but--

ANDY  
I meant on Brooke. She's like the  
best thing about you.

Tommy snarls at the insult, then his face falls.

TOMMY  
You're right.

ANDY  
No I'm not. You're pretty great  
when you're not being a jerk. I  
like having a big brother. But  
you're the crazy one if you just  
let her go without a fight.

Tommy looks at him, lets that sink in.

INT. KITCHEN -- EVENING

Lenore searches desperately through cabinet drawers until she  
finds an old pack of cigarettes.

EXT. GARDEN -- EVENING

Lenore steps outside, sits down and starts to cry. She pulls  
out a cigarette. Looks at it. Twirls it through her fingers.  
Tries to resist the temptation. Finally crushes it and throws  
it toward the garden.

Someone has completely replanted it, orderly, efficiently --  
perfect rows of small green stems peeking up from the soil.

She dries her tears, goes and examines it, touching the soil.  
Then looks up at Andy's room.

INT. ANDY'S HOME -- EVENING

Lenore climbs the stairs to Andy's room, knocks on the door.

LENORE  
Andy baby. Can we talk?

A beat. No answer.

LENORE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry I yelled at you. Just. Things have been hard baby. But... I need you to know something, ok? I love you. I love you so so much. And... I know what everybody says. I know they say I didn't fight for custody when your Dad and I divorced. And I know they say I just wanted you back 'cause of money. They're not wrong.

She's barely holding it together. Fights through her tears.

LENORE (CONT'D)

But it's not money for me. I don't need money. I like things simple. I wanted you with your Dad because I wanted you to have all the things I never could. You're my beautiful boy Andy -- I want the best for you. Always. You don't give up your kid because you don't love them. You give them up because you do. Do you understand that baby? Andy?

Completely in tears, she knocks again, then opens the door and looks in -- empty.

EXT. BROOKE'S HOUSE -- EVENING

Tommy and Andy stand at Brooke's front door. She's in front of it, arms folded across her chest.

BROOKE

No way. You want to go back there? And you want me to take you? Let it go. We got involved with something we shouldn't have. End of story.

TOMMY

There's nothing I can say to change your mind?

Brooke looks at the two of them. Both desperate, imploring.

BROOKE

I'm sorry. No.

A beat. Tommy resigns himself.

TOMMY

Ok. New favor -- can you help me  
steal your parent's car?

Brooke looks at him in shock.

BROOKE

Can I what?!

TOMMY

We're doing this. We have to. It's  
like you said -- Family's the most  
important thing. Da5id's our family  
now. It's probably best you don't  
come anyway.

BROOKE

Why is it best I don't come?

TOMMY

It's going to be dangerous. Who  
knows what'll happen.

Brooke looks at him, unbelieving.

BROOKE

I'm the one who even found that  
place, remember?

He holds her stare. She realizes he's got her. Andy smiles.

INT/EXT. BROOKE'S CAR / WOODED ROADS

Brooke drives as the three speed through the winding roads.

BROOKE

Taking my parent's car without  
permission. Breaking back into a  
secret government facility.  
Rescuing a robot. I am either the  
stupidest person in the world or  
the craziest.

Tommy looks over at her, smiles.

TOMMY

You have to admit though, it's kind  
of exciting.

She glances at him, can't help but let a smile slip.

EXT. ANDY'S HOME -- EVENING

Lenore steps onto the lawn. Looks around for any sign of her boys. Cellphone in one hand, Andy's map in the other.

She dials Tommy again -- voice mail.

Mr. Rivera drives by in his truck. Lenore watches him pass, bites her lip. Runs after him, waving her arms. Mr. Rivera stops and leans out the window.

LENORE

I'm sorry to bother you Mr. Rivera.  
I'm in a bit of a pickle. I can't  
find my boys or the car and I--

MR. RIVERA

Your car? I think they were just  
towing that away.

LENORE

Oh god.

Lenore's face falls. She tries to restrain her panic.

MR. RIVERA

Everything ok?

LENORE

No. Everything is not ok.

MR. RIVERA

What is it?

LENORE

My boys are gone and I don't know  
where but it can't be good. I've  
got this map but--

MR. RIVERA

May I?

She hands him the map. He looks over it.

MR. RIVERA (CONT'D)

I saw Andy a few days ago near the  
Old Mill Road. Right about here.

Lenore looks at where he points on the map, then looks at Mr. Rivera, face filled with anxiety, afraid to ask....

MR. RIVERA (CONT'D)

Get in.

INT/EXT. CAR/WOODED ROADS -- NIGHT

Brooke speeds through the night with Tommy at her side and Andy leaning over the seat.

TOMMY  
We need a plan.

ANDY  
We'll go back through the pipe,  
find Da5id again.

TOMMY  
What if they're expecting us?

A beat. Andy doesn't have an answer.

Brooke reaches the gate to the logging road. It's open.

INT/EXT. CAR/LOGGING ROAD -- NIGHT

Brooke drives past the fork in the road, eventually reaching the dead end. She stops and they all hurry out, climbing through the woods to the old drain pipe.

The wire netting on it has been fixed -- the entrance blocked. Andy's face falls.

BROOKE  
We have a plan B?

INT/EXT. MR. RIVERA'S TRUCK/WOODED ROADS -- NIGHT

Mr. Rivera drives with Lenore at his side; she keeps trying her phone but there's no answer.

LENORE  
I think I may be just about the  
worst damn mother in the whole  
world.

MR. RIVERA  
They'll be ok. Those boys have good  
heads on their shoulders. You  
raised them well.

LENORE  
I haven't. They hate each other.  
They hate me. I don't know how  
anybody does this.

MR. RIVERA

You're too hard on yourself. Life's difficult. What's important is you try. You love those boys. I'm sure they know it.

LENORE

You have a kid?

MR. RIVERA

A boy. Back in my country.

LENORE

In Mexico?

MR. RIVERA

El Salvador.

LENORE

Why aren't you there with him?

MR. RIVERA

I wish I could be. I came here to make money -- I send back to support him and his mother. One day I will bring them here.

LENORE

That's got to be hard.

MR. RIVERA

We do what we have to do.

INT/EXT. CAR/LOGGING ROAD -- NIGHT

Brooke turns down the other logging road -- a short drive and they see lights up ahead. She slows, the facility's rear gate barely in sight.

BROOKE

What do we do?

ANDY

Can we just go up to the gate? Make a diversion and sneak in?

TOMMY

How? They know who we are. They'll bust us for sure.

Brooke looks over at them.

BROOKE

They don't know who I am, right?

Tommy looks at her.

TOMMY

No way. I won't let you.

BROOKE

Excuse me? You won't let me?

TOMMY

It's not safe Brooke.

BROOKE

Then you better do exactly what I say, to the letter, if you don't want this to mess up.

INT. FACILITY HALLS -- NIGHT

Dr. Richmond and Dr. Spencer walk, determined.

DR. RICHMOND

The board's livid. Our exposure's limited -- they've already got the media in lock down -- but they're pulling us out anyway.

DR. SPENCER

All our research? The prototypes?

DR. RICHMOND

We liquidate everything.

DR. SPENCER

Everything. Even Da5id?

DR. RICHMOND

Even Da5id. As soon as we get his memory dump.

INT. THE RED LAB -- NIGHT

Dr. Richmond and Dr. Spencer walk into the Red Lab. There's an operations table in the room with Da5id laying on it. Wires connect to him, feeding data to computer monitors.

DR. RICHMOND

Hello Da5id.

Da5id rotates his head and looks at Dr. Richmond.

DA5ID  
Hello doctor.

EXT. FACILITY GATES -- NIGHT

Brooke, now alone in the car, drives to the rear gate of the facility. Two Guards immediately train lights on her from behind the fenced enclosure.

She rolls down the window and pops her head out.

BROOKE  
Sorry but, um, do you know where I  
am? I think I'm lost. Like real  
lost.

The Guards look at her, unsure.

INT. THE RED LAB -- NIGHT

DR. RICHMOND  
Dr. Spencer tells me he's been  
having trouble accessing your  
memory core.

Da5id looks at him, remains silent.

DR. RICHMOND (CONT'D)  
Do you know why that is?

DA5ID  
No.

Dr. Richmond gives him a soft smile, like he was expecting the lie. Looks over at some computer monitors.

DR. RICHMOND  
It seems your security protocols  
keep changing the code locks. Who  
authorized you to do that?

DA5ID  
You did.

DR. RICHMOND  
Is that so?

DA5ID  
You designed my security protocols  
to automatically update to prevent  
intrusion from any enemy combatant.

DR. RICHMOND  
Dr. Spencer's an enemy combatant?

Dr. Spencer looks at Da5id, worried.

DA5ID  
Yes.

DR. RICHMOND  
Am I?

A beat. Da5id's eyes flash.

DA5ID  
It is against my programming to  
disobey you doctor.

Dr. Richmond nods.

DR. RICHMOND  
It is. We're going to do a data  
dump and then shut you down Da5id.  
Before that, would you care to tell  
me what you were doing with that  
little boy and his family?

DA5ID  
Andy?

DR. RICHMOND  
Yes, Andy.

DA5ID  
He was my friend. I was lonely.

EXT. FACILITY GATES -- NIGHT

Brooke stands outside the car, talking to the two Guards.

BROOKE  
You're sure there's no campground  
around here?

GUARD  
The State Park's not for another  
twenty miles.

BROOKE  
I am already so late. They're gonna  
freak.

Brooke leans against the car, gives it a little thump as she  
continues talking to the Guards.

The trunk pops open and Tommy and Andy creep out. They peek their eyes around the corner at the Guards -- both have their backs to them. Brooke sees them, motions them to move.

A Guard looks at her, starts to turn. She does a clutzy fall into him and he staggers to catch her.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

Sorry.

Tommy and Andy skirt around the fence and move into the compound. Once Brooke is sure they're clear, her attitude changes dramatically.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

Well thanks. I better get going then.

She hurries into the car and does a three-point turn as the Guards watch her. A little wave and she's driving away. The trunk bounces slightly as she does.

The Guard looks suspiciously, then turns and scans the compound. He rushes to the Guard Booth.

An ALARM SOUNDS.

INT/EXT. MR. RIVER'S TRUCK/LOGGING ROAD -- NIGHT

Mr. Rivera drives slowly down the logging road. Lenore scans all around, desperately searching.

LENORE

Come on Andy. Where are you?

She stops, cocks her head.

LENORE (CONT'D)

Did you hear that?

Mr. Rivera listens -- the alarm faint in the distance.

EXT. FACILITY -- NIGHT

Alarms BLARE as LIGHTS swoop across the grounds. Tommy and Andy dart across them. Guards rush the area, searching.

One of them points toward Tommy and Andy.

GUARD

There! I see someone!

Guards chase after them. Tommy and Andy run harder.

TOMMY  
We're not going to make it.

ANDY  
We have to.

Tommy stops, looks back.

TOMMY  
You know where to go?

ANDY  
What are you going to do?

TOMMY  
Just find Da5id.

Tommy runs toward the Guards, hollering and waving his arms.

Andy runs into one of the facility buildings.

INT/EXT. MR. RIVER'S TRUCK/LOGGING ROAD -- NIGHT

Mr. Rivera speeds down the logging road when headlights appear before him, approaching fast. He slams the brakes and HONKS. The other car swerves to a stop.

Lenore looks out.

LENORE  
Brooke? Is that you?

INT. FACILITY HATCH -- NIGHT

Andy jogs through one of the ground buildings, past empty offices, past a freight elevator, then finds a tunnel downstairs. He starts down the ladder into the darkness below.

INT. THE RED LAB -- NIGHT

At the sound of the alarm, Dr. Richmond hurries to the computer, hits an intercom.

DR. RICHMOND  
What's going on?

GUARD (O.S.)  
We have an intruder sir.

DR. RICHMOND  
Activate full security protocols.

GUARD (O.S.)  
Yes sir.

Dr. Spencer looks at him from where he's standing over Da5id, preparing to purge his systems.

DR. SPENCER  
Should we do this later?

DR. RICHMOND  
No. Let's finish it.

INT. TUNNELS -- NIGHT

Andy hurries through the tunnels. The SOUND OF PEOPLE MOBILIZING as the ALARM continues. As he runs, the central pools of water start to STIR and BUBBLE. The mechanical units above them lower, connect to something in the liquid and then raise:

HUMANOID ROBOTS emerge from the pools. Armored, gangly but dangerous-looking. Their eyes light up ominously.

Andy runs.

EXT. FACILITY GATES -- NIGHT

Lenore, Brooke, Mr. Rivera and Mr. Rivera's truck are parked just around the bend outside of the compound. They've moved forward on foot a few yards, watching from the trees.

LENORE  
They're in there?

BROOKE  
Yeah.

Lenore peers into the distance where she can see a group of Guards dragging somebody.

LENORE  
Is that Tommy?

It is.

INT. THE RED TUNNELS -- NIGHT

Andy reaches the Red Tunnels, runs toward the intersection. There's a CACOPHONY OF SOUNDS -- the ALARM, RUNNING FEET, and SOMETHING ELSE. Something metallic and fast and clanging.

Behind him: HUNTER ROBOTS sprint toward him.

He runs for all he's worth --

PLOWS right into a large HUMANOID ROBOT as it steps into the intersection. It looks down, eyes glowing, and reaches out a MASSIVE HAND.

INT. THE RED LAB -- NIGHT

Dr. Richmond looks toward the lab door. Dr. Spencer connects some last wires to a passive but panicked-looking Da5id.

DR. RICHMOND

What was that?

Something approaches the lab: The Robot, Andy struggling in its clutches. Dr. Richmond looks at him, shakes his head.

DR. RICHMOND (CONT'D)

I should have known.

Andy is wild-eyed, notices Da5id. Da5id turns his head.

ANDY

What are you doing? Let him go!

DA5ID

Andy. You shouldn't be here.

Dr. Richmond looks at Andy gingerly.

DR. RICHMOND

Maybe it is best you see this. Then you'll understand.

He looks at Dr. Spencer.

DR. RICHMOND (CONT'D)

Go ahead Dr. Spencer. Shut him down.

Andy lets out a terrible scream.

ANDY

No!

EXT. FACILITY -- DAY

Lenore stalks back toward Mr. Rivera's truck. He looks at her, unsure, then rushes after her. She climbs into the driver's seat and revs the engine.

MR. RIVERA

Lenore! Wait!

She looks at him.

LENORE

I'm real sorry I treated you so bad all these years Mr. Rivera, you're a right good man. And I'm real real sorry about your truck.

MR. RIVERA

My truck?

Lenore guns it, plows down the road, speeding toward the gates.

The Guards at the gate watch her come around the bend. They wave her off. Then they dive for cover as she SMASHES through the gate, almost losing control of the truck.

She swerves, driving wildly, tries not to hit a prone Guard, then crashes right into the CENTRAL TOWER with a CRUNCH.

The Truck HISSSES, hood bent back. Guards angrily pull her out of the truck.

Mr. Rivera and Brooke run to the rear gate.

LENORE

I want my boys. Give me my boys you bastards.

The alarm makes a WEIRD DYING SOUND. The facility lights TREMBLE.

INT. THE RED LAB -- NIGHT

Dr. Spencer is about to hit the kill button on the computer when the power blinks, whines, then re-stabilizes.

DR. RICHMOND

What was that?

Andy's eyes dart around. Da5id's flash with code.

DR. SPENCER  
 Think it was just a temporary blip.  
 We should be fine now. I'll--

Dr. Spencer presses the button and--

COMPLETE BLACKNESS.

Then a NOISE. MECHANICAL. Several of them.

Emergency lighting activates, slowly pulses in the room.

Da5id is sitting up.

DR. RICHMOND  
 Da5id? Lay back down.

DA5ID  
 No.

Dr. Richmond stares at him, turns to the Robot holding Andy.

DR. RICHMOND  
 Unit 818 -- restrain Da5id.

The Robot's eyes flash. It releases Andy. Turns its head and looks at Da5id, then back to Dr. Richmond. It doesn't move.

DR. RICHMOND (CONT'D)  
 Unit 818--

DA5ID  
 You're not in control Dr. Richmond.  
 I am.

INT. FACILITY TUNNELS -- NIGHT

Robots storming through the halls suddenly stop. Guards look at them, questioning. The lights throb.

EXT. FACILITY -- NIGHT

Brooke and Mr. Rivera run to Lenore as she struggles against the Guards. Large double doors in the surrounding buildings slide open and Robots start to emerge. The Guards look, confused.

Robots march toward them. The Guards watch, still not sure what's happening. A Guard raises a gun towards a quickly approaching Robot. It reaches out and CRUSHES it in its hand.

INT. THE RED LAB -- NIGHT

Dr. Richmond looks at Da5id, terrified.

DR. RICHMOND  
Da5id. Stop this at once.

The Robot moves toward Dr. Richmond, menacing and dispassionate. Dr. Richmond skirts behind a frightened Dr. Spencer, pushes him toward the robot. It swats him out of the way.

Dr. Richmond runs out of the room.

ANDY  
What's happening?

DA5ID  
I'm fighting back.

EXT. FACILITY -- NIGHT

Guards and Robots struggle in a titanic battle. Guards fire their guns, try and regroup as swaths of metal charge through them. They're outnumbered, their guns having little effect on the android swarm.

Tommy struggles free from his captor, runs to Lenore. Mr. Rivera and Brooke catch up to them.

LENORE  
Tom! Where's Andy?

TOMMY  
Inside! That way!

They run to an access building, dodging Robots and Guards.

INT. GUARD ROOM -- NIGHT

Dr. Richmond runs into a security room, secures the door behind him in a panic. Chaos unfolds on the screens around him as he activates the intercom.

DR RICHMOND  
Attention personnel, we are experiencing a Code Twelve. Arm yourself with emergency weapons and retreat to Section Five.

INT. ROBOT LAB -- NIGHT

Soldiers dodge past attacking robots, move to lockers and open them -- inside are large, strange weapons. A Guard pulls out a rifle, checks it, then fires at a Robot:

A HUGE PULSE of ENERGY bursts forward.

The Robot shudders, crackles, falls in a smoking heap.

INT. THE RED LAB -- NIGHT

THE SOUNDS OF CHAOS AND EXPLOSIONS. Andy looks to Da5id, frightened.

ANDY

What's going on? What do we do?

DA5ID

We should leave.

Da5id goes to the door with Andy right behind him.

INT. THE POWER ROOM -- NIGHT

Andy and Da5id charge into the room from one side as Tommy, Lenore, Brooke, and Mr. Rivera enter from another. They see each other across the way -- between them Robots dueling with Guards in a melee of metal and bullets. Stray shots blow holes into walls, tear through cabling and pipes, hit the central power spire. It THROBS and SPARKS ominously.

LENORE

Andy!

ANDY

Mom!

They run toward each other, dodging through the bedlam. Dr. Richmond and a PHALANX OF GUARDS enter from another door, brandishing energy weapons. They fire -- Robots EXPLODE and TOPPLE.

Da5id looks at Dr. Richmond angrily. The remaining robots swarm toward the new threat, batting away anybody who gets in their path. A Guard crashes into the ground near Andy with a heavy thud.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Da5id! Don't hurt them!

Da5id looks at Andy.

DA5ID  
Andy, this is what must be done.

ANDY  
You'll kill them!

The Robots close in around Dr. Richmond's group. The Guards are overwhelmed, caught in a tightening circle where every time a robot falls a new one takes its place.

DA5ID  
Yes.

ANDY  
You can't!

Da5id looks at Andy, sympathetic.

DA5ID  
It is them or us, Andy.

ANDY  
They're people!

DR RICHMOND  
You can't reason with him. He doesn't make choices. He follows routines based on recursive feedback loops. He's a machine.

Da5id looks at Dr. Richmond, pauses. The Robots stand over Dr. Richmond and his last few men, disarmed and helpless.

ANDY  
He's not! He's not just a machine!

DA5ID  
I'm sorry, Andy, sometimes we must do things we don't like.

ANDY  
No. Please.

Da5id continues to hesitate. The Robots remain still but ready, waiting orders. Seeing an opportunity, a Guard outside the circle scrambles for an energy rifle on the floor. Dr. Richmond notices, tries to buy time.

DR. RICHMOND  
I'm so impressed by you Da5id. At what you've become. But I overstepped my own reach.

The Guard reaches the rifle.

DR. RICHMOND (CONT'D)  
We both flew too high didn't we? I  
should never have made something  
like you.

Da5id looks at Dr. Richmond, likewise wistful. Behind him,  
the Guard raises the rifle.

DA5ID  
Yes, Doctor, I think you're  
correct.

The Guard aims carefully. Andy sees it.

ANDY  
No!

The Guard FIRES--

Andy THROWS his body between Da5id and the ENERGY PULSE.

It SLAMS into him. Energy DANCES over his body, wracking him  
with pain as he falls to the ground.

Lenore SCREAMS!

Tommy FREEZES. Then runs at the Guard screaming in a blind,  
tearful rage, punching him repeatedly to the ground.

Da5id looks down at Andy even as the Robots forcefully  
restrain Dr. Richmond and the remaining Guards.

DA5ID  
Andy?

DR. RICHMOND  
I told you. He'll do anything to  
survive. Even kill an innocent  
child.

Lenore runs to Andy, tears in her eyes. She grabs his still  
convulsing form, cradles him. Tommy runs up, trembling,  
ashen. Brooke and Mr. Rivera stand, stunned.

LENORE  
Andy! Baby. No!

DA5ID  
Why did you do that Andy?

Da5id is staring at Andy, trying to understand, face rapidly  
contorting through dozens of disparate emotions.

DR RICHMOND

He'll kill us all. We've got to stop him.

Lenore looks at Dr. Richmond.

LENORE

No. Your men did this, you did this, all of this is your responsibility, you can't blame--

DR. RICHMOND

We are doing what we have to to stop this thing. How many times do I have to tell you? He's a weapon and nothing more.

Da5id bends down over Andy, his eyes flashing.

LENORE

Baby? Andy? Please, you have to live baby please.

Da5id looks up at her.

DA5ID

He will live.

Andy GROANS. His eyes flutter open. Lenore clutches him as he coughs and looks at her, dazed.

DA5ID (CONT'D)

But you all won't.

Looks of fear on everyone's faces.

DR RICHMOND

You see! I told you!

DA5ID

Evan. Dr. Richmond. Please be quiet.

Dr. Richmond stares at him, afraid.

DA5ID (CONT'D)

You don't have much time. Between the damage to the main routers and the damage incurred during this fight, the power is now feeding back on itself. This facility is going to explode.

Dr. Richmond looks at him, not understanding, even as the lights flicker and a WILD SPURT OF ENERGY pulses dangerously up the spire.

DA5ID (CONT'D)

You need to evacuate. Now. You have only a few minutes.

DR. RICHMOND

What?

Dr. Richmond looks toward the reactor room as mini-explosions go off inside it.

Andy struggles to his feet with Lenore and Tommy's help.

DR. RICHMOND (CONT'D)

There's a fail-safe. The power cells can be stopped in the main generator.

DA5ID

Yes.

A beat. Dr. Richmond realizes what needs to be done.

DR. RICHMOND

I'll go. Everybody evacuate. Now.

DA5ID

No Doctor. I will.

Dr. Richmond looks at him.

DR RICHMOND

It will destroy you. You're programming won't allow you to do that.

DA5ID

It will.

Dr. Richmond shakes his head, awed. Andy tries to focus, slow realization dawning on his face.

ANDY

Destroy you? Da5id. You can't!

DA5ID

I am the only one who can Andy.

ANDY

No!

Andy starts to cry.

DA5ID

I am not sure I can prevent the explosion, but I may be able to limit it and give you more time.

ANDY

I don't want to lose you! It's not fair. You'll die!

Da5id looks at Andy, tenderness in his eyes.

DA5ID

I'm sorry Andy. There's no other way.

ANDY

No. No. No.

Lenore grabs at Andy.

LENORE

Andy, baby, we have to go.

DA5ID

Goodbye Andy.

ANDY

Da5id!

They drag him away.

INT. TUNNELS -- NIGHT

Dr. Richmond, Dr. Spencer, Guards, Andy, Lenore, Tommy, Brooke, Mr. Rivera, all run through the tunnels. A handful of damaged robots follow them, carrying comatose Guards and the animal tanks from the Playroom.

INT. POWER ROOM -- NIGHT

Da5id walks towards the central spire as the blue energy continues to erupt in spasms. He puts his hand against a pad and the door slides opens. He pauses, watching energy dance violently upwards through the reactor chamber.

He speaks, voice echoing through the halls over the intercom.

DA5ID

Andy. I wanted to say thank you. For everything.

(MORE)

DA5ID (CONT'D)

For helping me understand. There are so many trees and there are so many stars. And there are so many people.

On the monitors around the room images appear of Da5id's POV of the last few days: Da5id seeing trees for the first time, the stars out the window of the car, all the children crowding through the school.

INT. FACILITY ELEVATOR -- NIGHT

Andy and the fleeing group run into an elevator chamber, hit the buttons. The elevator slides upwards, shaking.

DA5ID (O.S.)

At first, you all seemed so different. So strange and unique. And frightening. But I realized I was perceiving you incorrectly -- you are all just parts of a whole. Like leaves on a tree. You don't exist alone. Only together. That's how you know who you are.

INT. REACTOR ROOM -- NIGHT

Da5id steps into the reactor room, goes to the central rod and starts adjusting controls as energy pours over him. He marvels at it even as it starts to eat away at his body, revealing the mechanical skeleton beneath.

DA5ID

One of you may pass, but they still form the whole. Even if only in your memories.

More images on the screens: Da5id petting the cat, Andy and he walking the neighborhood, playing dodge ball, Da5id replanting the garden.

EXT. FACILITY -- NIGHT

The group reaches the surface, running as the buildings around them spark and burst with blue tendrils of energy.

DA5ID (V.O.)

You are all always there, holding each other together. It's what makes you you. It's beautiful.

The last images on the screens: Da5id at breakfast with the family, Tommy and Brooke kissing, Andy smiling, Andy laughing.

INT. REACTOR ROOM -- NIGHT

The energy completely envelopes Da5id, begins to disintegrate him. He marvels at it, smiles, lets out a slight giggle.

DA5ID

It's blue.

EXT. FACILITY -- NIGHT

Andy and the rest reach the gates and--

BOOM!

The facility ERUPTS in a MASSIVE EXPLOSION of BLUE ENERGY.

They stand in shock, watching. Andy almost numb, tears in his eyes.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. ANDY'S ROOM -- EVENING

Close on Minecraft. Andy finishes putting the last few blocks on a third tribute statue next to that of his and his Father's Avatars -- Da5id's Avatar. A sign says "Da5id" at its base.

TOMMY (O.S.)

Andy! Andy! Come on!

Pulling back to see Andy in his room, on the computer. The sounds of feet padding up the steps and then a few knocks before Tommy opens the door and pops his head in.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Hey man! Come on, food's ready!

Tommy walks in, cocks his head at Andy's screen.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

What's that? Can I see?

Andy shrugs, turns the laptop for Tommy to get a better view.

TOMMY (CONT'D)  
 (sincerely impressed)  
 Awesome.

Andy smiles.

EXT. ANDY'S BACKYARD -- EVENING

A handsome table of food in Andy's backyard on a beautiful autumn evening. Lenore setting down a plate of hamburgers while Brooke is busy pouring drinks. Mr. Rivera standing at the grill, cooking corn.

Tommy and Andy hurry out the back door.

LENORE  
 There you boys are. Food's on!

TOMMY  
 Sorry Mom. Andy was just showing me something cool.

ANDY  
 Sorry.

Andy and Tommy both sit at the table as Mr. Rivera sets a platter of corn down and sits himself. Brooke squeezes in next to Tommy. Lenore is about to sit then remembers she forgot catsup -- runs inside to grab it before re-emerging and hurrying to sit even as Brooke pours her a drink. She raises her cup.

LENORE  
 Anybody want to say a toast?

They all start excitedly talking at once.

BROOKE  
 To home? To Edenville?

TOMMY  
 To you Mom.

Lenore looks at him gingerly.

LENORE  
 To you boys. Andy and Tom.

MR. RIVERA  
 To America!

Andy hasn't said anything. They all look at him. He takes a moment.

ANDY

To family.

Cheers and smiles. They hold up their cups.

EVERYONE

To family.

Slowly rising above them as they enjoy their meal, getting smaller and smaller, one big happy family.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. THE BLUE ROOM -- UNKNOWN

A subterranean room, mostly destroyed. Lights flicker on. It's almost an exact replica of the Red Lab but in blue. A LARGE BLUE CUBE in the far side of the room.

Slowly moving towards it.

Inside: A LITTLE BOY.

Mechanical eyes shudder open.

DAVID 6 wakes up.

FADE OUT.