

OTHER EYES

written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. LOVEDAY HOME - GARDEN - DAY (MOS)

YOUNG JESS POV

YOUNG LEXI (12) stands with her hands stretched out like she's flying. She has frizzy red hair and a freckled nose. She smiles at --

YOUNG LEXI POV

-- YOUNG JESS (12), who has a streak of blue through her hair and a water pistol in her hand. These two are BFFs; if Young Lexi fell into quicksand, Young Jess would jump in too.

Young Lexi concentrates on GEORGE LOVEDAY (40s), who's asleep in a garden chair. ELON, a small drone that has googly eyes, hovers over George, carrying a water balloon. Young Jess CLAPS, and the water balloon is released.

George rolls aside, narrowly avoiding the water balloon and grabs from the ground a water pistol.

The girls giggle as he chases them around the garden.

INT. LOVEDAY HOME - KITCHEN - DAY (MOS)

SAMANTHA POV

The home is a single-storey, open-plan bungalow.

George carries his captives into the kitchen. The girls laugh until they see who's watching them. As soon as George places the girls on the floor, Young Jess hides behind Young Lexi.

YOUNG LEXI POV

SAMANTHA LOVEDAY (40s), is an elegant business woman who, right now, looks furious. She stomps over to Young Lexi and pulls her dress over her head. She walks away examining it.

INT. LOVEDAY HOME - KITCHEN - LATER (MOS)

GEORGE POV

Samantha shouts in George's face as he tries to usher her into another room. He turns to see Young Lexi, now dressed in jeans and a t-shirt, standing with a very awkward-looking Young Jess.

EXT. SCHOOL - PLAYGROUND - DAY (MOS)

GEORGE POV

TEENAGE LEXI and JESS, now 17, are leaning against a wall.

The awkward teenagers look very alternative -- Jess still has the blue streak in her dark hair. George waves at them and receives innocent smiles.

JESS POV

Jess watches George head inside.

Jess breathes out orange smoke and hands Teenage Lexi a vaporiser. Teenage Lexi takes a puff and then freezes.

ALICE, MADISON and FRANKIE, all 17, walk around the corner. The clique are being very dramatic, as if they're on camera. All of their retinas glow red.

Alice stops and stares at Teenage Lexi with a little smile on her face. Teenage Lexi can't hold it any longer and breathes out the orange smoke.

Directly in front of them, a digital likeness of ALBERT EINSTEIN appears. He wags his finger at Jess and Teenage Lexi and then motions them to follow.

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY (MOS)

TEENAGE LEXI POV

A picture of Jess's smiley face. Teenage Lexi steps back to reveal a sign that reads, "MISSING".

MULTIPLE CHILD POV

Teenage Lexi walks alone down the hallway, hugging her books.

INT. LOVEDAY HOME - BEDROOM - DAY (MOS)

ELON POV

Teenage Lexi's lying on her stomach at the end of the bed, looking miserable with Elon flying around her. Lexi's writing a message in mid air, "WHERE ARE YOU?".

Samantha enters the room and rolls her eyes at her daughter before encouraging her in front of a mirror.

Suddenly, Teenage Lexi's reflection smiles and steps out of the mirror. This is MIMI, Teenage Lexi's new AI assistant. From her pocket, Mimi pulls out two airline tickets. Teenage Lexi looks quizzically at her mother.

INT. SCHOOL - CANTEEN - DAY

MULTIPLE CHILD POV

Children sit around LEXI (17). She has a tan, and her hair's been bleached and straightened.

Alice and her clique pass by. Frankie speaks a few words to Lexi and sits down opposite her, admiring Lexi's new watch. Madison joins, and eventually Alice does too.

INT. LOVEDAY HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

MULTIPLE DRONE POV

The Loveday home now looks modern and stylish. The large windows are mirrored. The flowers on the wallpaper bloom.

Lexi's wearing a ball gown and is surrounded by dual-camera drones with spotlights. She confidently speaks into one.

LEXI

Hey, guys. First, I just want to say that today's been made possible by Other Eyes.

The drone zooms in on Lexi's eye to show her mechanical iris.

LEXI

I highly recommend the twenty-fifty series that allow third person viewing, so long as you have enough mirrors or friends, like this...

BACK TO SCENE

LEXI

Are you excited as I am about the school ball? Woo!

Samantha walks in gives her daughter air kisses.

George enters wearing his dressing gown, looking unshaven. To avoid him, Lexi opens the front door to CHEERS. The drones rush outside ahead of her.

EXT. LOVEDAY HOME - DAY

The drones take up positions above the small crowd that have gathered at the end of the drive. A driverless limousine is parked on the road.

Lexi uses the driveway as her personal red carpet as she plays the crowd -- she's a natural. Lexi enters the limo.

EXT./INT. LIMOUSINE - DAY

Alice, Frankie and Madison excitedly greet her. They all pose with makeup products as if advertising them, before passing them around as gifts.

Alice passes Lexi a large glass of champagne.

INT. SCHOOL - CANTEEN / OPPULENT BALLROOM - NIGHT

Smoke covers the floor and chandeliers hover in mid-air in what appears to be an eighteenth century ballroom.

It's as if Lexi's the centre of the ball as the other children fawn over her. Lexi's clique are sidelined. Alice passes Lexi champagne.

INT. SCHOOL - CANTEEN / OPPULENT BALLROOM - LATER

The children dance as if everyone's watching. Lexi stumbles her way through the crowd.

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Lexi pauses as she passes the board and looks at the picture of Jess; when she touches the picture it dissolves. Lexi enters the toilet.

ANIMATED IMAGE OF LEXI SMILING ON TROPICAL BEACH

EXT. SCHOOL - NIGHT

LEXI POV

Lexi waves to other children as they shout drunkenly from windows of vehicles. An empty driverless car stops by Lexi and the door opens.

LEXI (O.S.)  
No, thank you. It's not far, I want  
to get some air.

The driverless car moves silently away.

EXT. HIGHFORD - SUBURBAN ROAD - NIGHT

LEXI POV

The new-build homes on one side of the road are uniform in their perfect appearances; all have tinted windows. The opposite side of the road is a large, dark park. A small red light flashes in Lexi's vision.

LEXI (O.S.)  
What a night. I can't believe  
that's the last time I'll step foot  
in school! I'm going to uni next  
month! Woooooo!

A digital likeness of Samantha appears ahead of her.

SAMANTHA  
Hello, sweetie. I'm glad you've had  
a good night, but I think it's for  
the best if you go offline for now,  
okay?

LEXI (O.S.)  
Okay, thanks, Mum.

Sensing Lexi's stropy tone, Samantha quickly disappears.

LEXI (O.S.)  
Okay, guys, I'll see you in the  
morning. Ciao.

EXT. HIGHFORD - PARK - NIGHT

ANON POV

An anonymous person (ANON) watches Lexi remove her heels and undo her hair. In private, Lexi looks sad and alone.

EXT. HIGHFORD - SUBURBAN ROAD - NIGHT

LEXI POV

Lexi stops to take in the view of the full moon. Suddenly from behind:

ANON (O.S.)  
Lexi... come here.

Lexi swings around to see a shadowy figure step out onto the path. It avoids the light cast by the streetlamps.

Lexi backs away.

ANON  
Lexi, please...

LEXI (O.S.)  
Jess?

Suddenly, the anon is illuminated in a spotlight. The anon pulls out a pistol. THUMP, THUMP, it fires two paintball shots up in the air. A drone SMASHES on the floor by Lexi.

The Anon flees into the park. Another drone's spotlight pursues it from a higher altitude. After a few moments, the Anon downs the drone with a blue laser.

Doors OPEN behind LEXI.

NEIGHBOUR POV

A line of concerned neighbours come outside and find Lexi.

SAMANTHA (O.S.)  
Lexi!

INT. LOVEDAY HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Samantha holds a digital newspaper with a picture of Lexi in the street. The headline reads, "SEE INFLUENCER'S ANON ENCOUNTER". Samantha BANGS on Lexi's bedroom door.

SAMANTHA  
Lexi. Wake up!

LEXI (O.S.)  
I'm dying...

Lexi exit her bedroom, looking hungover.

LEXI  
Coffee...

Samantha ushers her towards the bathroom.

SAMANTHA

No time for breakfast. They'll expect you up in an hour. Mimi? Mimi!

Mimi appears. She now looks like an idealised version of Lexi with designer clothes, chic hair, and a perfect complexion.

SAMANTHA

Have you prepared something to say?

MIMI

She can learn her lines in the shower.

INT. LOVEDAY HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Samantha's waiting nervously by the front door with Mimi. Lexi exits the bathroom; she has the no-makeup look.

SAMANTHA

Alice and the other two are outside. It's so nice that your friends have joined us.

LEXI

They just want the views, Mum.

SAMANTHA

Did she learn her lines?

MIMI

She stumbled a bit.

LEXI

I think it was Jess...

MIMI

You think all anons are Jess.

SAMANTHA

Lexi, promise me you'll just keep to the script. You have to kill the inevitable rumours.

LEXI

Show time...

Lexi opens the front door.

EXT. LOVEDAY HOME - DAY

Alice, Frankie and Madison are standing at differing distances and angles to the front door, along with several neighbours. Lexi rubs her eyes as if she's just woken up.

LEXI

Hey, guys. Did you have a little too much fun last night too?

The girls laugh and nod.

LEXI

I bet you were as shocked as I was when you saw the footage... I just want to say, I have no idea who it was or what it wanted, and I'm disturbed it approached me when I was at my most vulnerable... If it wasn't for the quick thinking of my A.I. to send out drones, who knows what might have happened. Let's take some questions.

Dozens of SUBSCRIBER likenesses appear in front of the house. The teenagers shout their desperate questions all at once.

LEXI

Guys... I'm okay. Come on. Mute.

The Subscribers fall silent. Lexi points to SUBSCRIBER #1, a young girl whose hair is clearly modelled on Lexi's.

SUBSCRIBER #1

Were you scared?

LEXI

Of course. It could have anybody.

Lexi points to SUBSCRIBER #2, an excitable teenage boy.

SUBSCRIBER #2

What do you think should be done about the anons? My dad says they should be rounded up--

LEXI

--Who knows? Most of us live near anonymous ghettos, and so long as you share when you're out in public, you'll be fine.

Lexi notices a likeness making her way to the front of the crowd. There are nervous giggles when they see it's a likeness of Lexi's younger self.

TEENAGE LEXI

I just want to know why you decided to walk home last night. Bit of a coincidence, wasn't it?

The crowd gasps. The likeness of Teenage Lexi is complete with Lexi's old tomboy appearance. Lexi looks furious.

LEXI

Who made that!

TEENAGE LEXI

Were you buying drugs?

A few of the crowd quietly laugh.

FRANKIE

Ignore them, Lex. It's just a sad little troll.

TEENAGE LEXI

The camwhore faked it.

Lexi points at the likeness of her younger self.

LEXI

Delete.

The likeness disappears. The crowd wait in nervous silence. With a tiny smile, Alice reaches out and touches Lexi's arm.

ALICE

Don't feed the trolls, Lex.

Lexi rips her hand free.

LEXI

See you guys later.

The Subscribers disappear. Lexi reenters the house.

INT. LOVEDAY HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

As soon as the door closes, Samantha pounces on Lexi.

SAMANTHA

What the hell was that?

LEXI  
I was trolled. I suppose you could  
have done better?

SAMANTHA  
If you'd just --

LEXI  
-- If you hadn't told me to stop  
sharing, this wouldn't have  
happened!

SAMANTHA  
You're pathetic when you get like  
this. Just grow a thicker skin!

Mimi appears.

MIMI  
Quiet! They can hear you outside.

Lexi runs into her bedroom.

EXT. LOVEDAY HOME - DAY

Frankie and Madison wait for Alice, who is still watching the  
front door. When they hear Lexi's bedroom door SLAM shut, she  
walks away.

INT. CITY OF LONDON - HIGHRISE OFFICE - NIGHT

The high-tech office has signs for "EOS AI". Samantha is  
sitting opposite two twenty-something female INTERVIEWERS. In  
the b.g., London looks immaculate, but Canary Wharf is  
mysteriously replaced by meadows...

INTERVIEWER #1  
I think we're satisfied that you're  
more than qualified. We'd like to  
know a little more about your  
personal life. Our employees must  
project the right image.

SAMANTHA  
Between my family and my career, I  
don't have much time for hobbies...

Interviewer #2 gives Samantha a patronising sad face.

SAMANTHA  
But I expect my time to free up  
once Lexi heads to Saint Andrews.

INTERVIEWER #1

Lexi's impressive. I assume she uses one of our image consultants?

SAMANTHA

Best investment I've ever made.

INTERVIEWER #2

And your husband? He mentioned to a neighbour yesterday that he's writing a book.

The Interviewers exchange a look.

SAMANTHA

Oh, that. It's nothing, just something he's working on to keep his mind active while he retrains.

INTERVIEWER #1

Ha, thought so.

INTERVIEWER #2

Goodness knows, the world doesn't exactly need more authors!

Samantha forces a laugh with them.

INT. LOVEDAY HOME - LEXI'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lexi's bedroom is pristine like a film set. Lexi's sitting at the end of her bed, making herself busy by fixing Elon.

MIMI

These will cheer you up.

Mimi places some elaborate fan emails next to Lexi, who brushes them away. Mimi looks thoroughly unimpressed.

MIMI

If we can figure out who trolled you, we can fight back. They must have had line-of-sight --

LEXI

-- Give it a rest.

Samantha, wearing her business suit from the interview, enters without knocking.

SAMANTHA

Knock, Knock. Peace offering...

Lexi sits upright, puts a brave face on, and takes a smoothie from Samantha. Lexi immediately gulps it down and burps.

SAMANTHA

Excuse you. Was there an impact from the troll?

MIMI

A small subscriber dip. I've prepared some sassy one-liners. If it happens again, she'll be ready.

SAMANTHA

That's great, thank you, Mimi.

Mimi politely nods and disappears.

SAMANTHA

We need to discuss your university alcohol consumption.

LEXI

I'm giving up alcohol.

Samantha nods approvingly. Samantha picks up Elon from the bed and throws him into a rubbish bin and sits down.

SAMANTHA

Listen, Mimi helped me analyse the past three years' worth of freshers at Saint Andrews. To guarantee a place in the centre of the university network, you need at least one hundred and fifty thousand subscribers.

Lexi retrieves her little drone from the bin.

LEXI

But that's --

SAMANTHA

-- A little more than you have now.

Samantha speaks tenderly, as if opening up.

SAMANTHA

I didn't want to say this because I wanted to avoid putting you under unnecessary pressure, but this is the best opportunity you may ever get.

(MORE)

## SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

If you're not on that top table, you won't get invited to the parties, the daytrips, the skiing holidays, and your light will fade away. You'll just become a nobody like everyone else and won't even be able to get a job... You'll live with regret your entire life and nobody will ever let you forget what you could have been.

## EXT. HIGHFORD - HIGH STREET - DAY

A billboard showing the rising sun with the words "EOS AI".

The busy shops are all big brands passing themselves off as boutiques. Only AIs work there.

Lexi and her clique strut by with their coffees and handbags. Shoppers smile and wave at them, trying desperately to get in their field of view.

A male CHEMIST AI appears outside a store and advertises Frankie some eszema cream. Frankie immediately blushes and looks ashamed. Sensing Frankie's embarrassment, Lexi takes Frankie by the hand and they continue.

BANG, BANG!

The shoppers all stop and stare at a young mother and her daughter. The little girl is holding her hand as a gun and firing at shoppers.

Once the ashamed mother gets her daughter under control, the shoppers continue.

A sign appears outside a shop: "30% OFF FOR LEXI'S SUBS."

Just as Lexi and her clique enter, they see commotion at the end of the high street. They follow the noise and all freeze when they're confronted by multiple Teenage Lexis.

## EXT. LOVEDAY HOME - DAY

The front door SLAMS shut.

## INT. LOVEDAY HOME - SPARE ROOM - DAY

The spare room is surrounded by mirrors and wardrobes. Mimi's standing next to the graph showing Lexi her subscriber count has halved. A line indicating "UNI" looms.

MIMI

We need to figure out who your troll is. I've narrowed it down to a list of --

LEXI

-- It's Jess.

MIMI

What? How'd you know.

LEXI

She used to do this kind of thing to Alice.

MIMI

But how's she doing it? How'd she have line-of-sight?

LEXI

I don't care how. I want to know why. What have I done? Call her.

Mimi looks like she's thinking.

MIMI

No response.

LEXI

Leave a message: Jess, I know it's you. I've not heard from you in six months and now this? If that was you the other night, why don't you just call me?

Lexi indicates to Mimi to hang up.

LEXI

What have I done... Show me the day she left.

The room fades to:

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY (MEMORY: 6 MONTHS AGO)

The hallway is active with children playing in their groups with invisible augments.

Lexi approaches Teenage Lexi and Jess, who are waiting outside a classroom. George appears through some double-doors and goes to enter the classroom.

GEORGE  
Morning, girls.

TEENAGE LEXI  
(whispering)  
Dad, can I go over Jess's tonight?  
A new arcade's opened... please.

GEORGE  
Ask your mother.

TEENAGE LEXI  
But, Dad...

The school bell RINGS. Teenage Lexi turns around and sees Alice staring straight at her with glowing red eyes and a little smile on her face. George enters the classroom.

JESS  
Oh, Camwhore, your skirt's tucked  
into your vag!

To the amusement of other children, Alice self-consciously checks herself.

Lexi follows the children into the classroom.

INT. SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY

Lexi stands in the corner of the boisterous room.

GEORGE  
Quiet down. I said knock it off.

The door FLIES open, AARON FREEMAN and ED WALLACE (both 17) stumble in.

AARON  
Sorry, we're late. We were just...

ED  
Definitely studying.

Aaron and Ed stand out in the class with their gamer t-shirts and dispositions that suggest they couldn't care less what others think of them. George just motions for the geeks to take a seat.

GEORGE  
Before we begin, I have an  
important announcement to make.

The children appear concerned as their hear faint SHOUTS from other nearby classrooms.

GEORGE

The governors and I have come to the decision that the school will transfer to public li-fi.

AARON

What? This isn't California! You can't force us to share.

GEORGE

Hear me out. Together, we'll create a creative environment in which we can all share. It seems to be working well at other schools --

JESS

You can't do this!

MADISON

What's the big deal? I share all the time, anyway.

ALICE

What's the matter, Jess, got something to hide?

GEORGE

The governors feel it'll be safer if children are sharing at all times at school; jammers will remain in the toilets. The removal of encryption is about to begin.

When the strange-looking lights flicker, all the children's eyes briefly glow red. The memory now appears to be brighter and more vivid.

Instance obedience from the children. AI SHAKESPEARE appears.

GEORGE

At least your eyes won't glow red when sharing... Aaron, Ed, Jess, please go online, I'd like to begin.

Aaron, Ed and Jess's eyes appear completely white. They don't budge. Shakespeare gives George a little nod.

GEORGE

I'm afraid to say, all children who refuse to share must go to the school hall.

Aaron and Ed make a commotion as they leave the class. Jess rounds on Teenage Lexi.

JESS

Are you coming?

Teenage Lexi looks extremely embarrassed as she looks between George and Jess. Eventually, she can't look Jess in the eyes.

Jess's eyes turn black. The children gasp.

GEORGE

Jess, personal encryption is banned on school grounds... Please report to the Headmaster's office.

Alice laughs as Jess leaves the room. The classroom fades to:

INT. LOVEDAY HOME - SPARE ROOM - NIGHT

Lexi looks devastated.

LEXI

I should have gone with her. She's my best friend.

A likeness of Teenage Lexi appears.

MIMI

Jess was her best friend.

Mimi does a twirl and appears as Lexi did at the ball.

LEXI

What do you think she'd make of you now?

INT. LOVEDAY HOME - SPARE ROOM - LATER

Lexi's lying on a bed of clothes. Elon hovers over her, looking concerned. Mimi's sitting on her hip.

LEXI

Should I message her?

MIMI

She hasn't responded to your other messages. You have to dox her.

Mimi sees the puzzled look on Lexi's face.

MIMI

It means to publicly out Jess as your troll and put her in the spotlight. All you have to do is say her name, and your subscribers will do the rest... It should get you the subscriber boost you need, and nobody will dare troll you ever again.

INT. LOVEDAY HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Lexi looks nervous as she waits by the kitchen island with baking ingredients in front of her, surrounded by her drones.

Lexi nods, the drone spotlights activate.

LEXI

Hey, guys. Today we're making passion fruit cupcakes but first...  
(as if reciting)  
Have you ever wondered what li-fi system I use?

A drone gets a close up to the strange-looking bulb on the ceiling.

LEXI

I use Transcend's Nine Series. It offers zero latency and even works when the light appears to be off. Just ask your A.I. if you want to learn more. Now, I hope you have your ingredients ready!

INT. LOVEDAY HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Lexi giving a yoga lesson in front of a mirror.

INT. LOVEDAY HOME - BEDROOM - DAY

Lexi giving a makeup tutorial. In her anxious state, she stabs herself in the eye with her mascara.

INT. LOVEDAY HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Lexi activates the food blender and PUFF -- a cloud of flour covers her face.

INT. LOVEDAY HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Samantha's sitting in the kitchen. Lexi, looking stropy and as if she hasn't slept, walks in to join her.

A smarmy AI BUTLER (40s) appears next to them.

LEXI

Pancakes, sausages, bacon --

BUTLER

-- Ma'am, Teresa appears to be on her way here.

Samantha spills her coffee in her lap. She looks over at the dishes in the sink, Lexi's fan email by the front door, the mountain of shoes in the corner of the room, and, finally, she looks at the state of her daughter.

INT. LOVEDAY HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

George sleepily stumbles from his bedroom wearing his dressing gown and trips over the robotic vacuum cleaner.

BUTLER

Ma'am, the shoes. I really do wish I could be of more assistance.

He can see Samantha frantically loading the dishwasher in the kitchen, whilst Mimi sorts through the emails.

The vacuum puts itself away, and Mimi and the Butler disappear just as TERESA (70s) enters through the front door.

SAMANTHA

Mother, what a pleasant surprise.

GEORGE

A surprise.

The little old lady considers the disaster in the dressing gown before handing her coat to Samantha.

Teresa inspects the house closely before making her way to the settee. Samantha sits attentively next to her mother as they wait; together they look like sisters. George joins them, watching Teresa suspiciously.

Finally, Lexi exits the bathroom with damp hair.

LEXI

Grandma!

Lexi rushes over to give Teresa a hug.

TERESA

Don't call me that, dear, it makes me feel old. Teresa's fine. I just wanted to see you before you head off to university tomorrow, and my, don't you look beautiful. It's a wonder you don't have a boyfriend.

LEXI

Mum says I should wait until uni.

Teresa gives Samantha an approving nod.

TERESA

And have you decided which societies you're going to join?

GEORGE

Just do the ones that make you happy, Lex.

Teresa coldly considers George.

TERESA

Lexi, this is the most important point of your life. Make the right decisions now, and you'll wine and dine with the stars and have no need for a real job. One false step could see you living at home, sponging off society on universal basic income. You wouldn't want to become a nobody, would you?

Lexi shakes her head. The women stare at George until he leaves the room.

TERESA

I've noticed your subscribers are down. You're not going to increase them by hiding in here.

SAMANTHA

She has a troll.

TERESA

I know she's been trolled. You make it sound like she has a disease. And what of it? They're just jealous. They're all jealous.

Teresa gets close to Lexi's face.

TERESA

Through your eyes, they'll live out their wildest fantasies. Just remember, Lexi, the troll chose you. Not one of your friends, not Alice. You. The troll chose you.

EXT. HIGHFORD - PARK - DAY

LEXI POV

The park is immaculate and manicured. Lexi's walking away from Highford towards some woods. A flashing red dot appears in her vision. Lexi pulls out a hand-held selfie mirror and talks into it.

LEXI

Hey, guys. I'm just getting some air before the big move. Sorry you've not seen much of me lately. I've been cooped up working on something kinda big, which I'll reveal in a special tonight. Make sure you tune in, and tell your friends too. Ciao for now.

Lexi closes the mirror, and the red dot vanishes.

Mimi, still wearing the ball gown, appears.

MIMI

Lex, this is dangerous. Go home now, or I'm calling mum.

LEXI

I forbid you to contact anyone without my permission. I'm eighteen now, Mum's locked out for good. Understand?

Mimi reluctantly nods.

MIMI

But what if you're seen? Why not just dox her from home?

LEXI

She won't be expecting it. Show not  
tell, remember?

Lexi pulls out a large pair of sunglasses and puts them on.

Moments later, she hears the BUZZ of drones. Elon and her  
drones descend around her.

BACK TO SCENE

LEXI

-- I have to go offline until it's  
done or I'll be traced.

Mimi disappears. The park appears less manicured.

LEXI

Okay, Elon. Don't broadcast, record  
only. We don't want to ruin the...  
Surprise. Hey everyone. I bet you  
didn't expect to see me like this!  
I have a confession to make, I've  
been lying to you! As I said  
earlier, I've been working on  
something kinda big. In fact, I'm  
on my way to see someone kinda  
special right now. Some of you  
might remember her, she used to be  
a friend of mine. For the rest of  
you, it's about time you met  
Jessica Clarke, my troll.

EXT. HIGHFORD - PARK - LATER

Lexi's closer to the woods, still talking to the drones.

LEXI

-- We grew apart because she was  
getting kinda weird. She's now  
probably living in her dad's  
basement, just being a sad little  
troll.

On the other side of the woods, a church spire, that's  
surrounded by scaffolding, materialises as if it had  
previously been cancelled out.

Lexi enters the woods.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Lexi quickly makes her way through the trees and comes across a burnt-out car.

LEXI

I swear, anons add nothing to society... We really should just put them all on their own little island or something.

Ahead through the canopy, Lexi can see the church spire. She heads right for it.

EXT. EDGE OF WOODS - DAY

Lexi's hiding behind a large tree looking at the village ahead of her. Nullfield is like a British shanty town with breeze block and corrugated iron structures squeezed between Victorian buildings.

LEXI

This is Nullfield, my local anon ghetto. You probably have somewhere similar near you. Before it got bad, I used to play here as a kid, so I know my way around. Jess's dad's place is right in the centre. Wish me luck.

(beat)

Okay, guys. Go home.

Lexi pulls up her hood. Elon's reluctant to fly away. Lexi shoos him until he ascends.

LEXI POV

Lexi rushes for a dark alley that's the only gap in the otherwise solid perimeter of the village.

EXT. NULLFIELD - ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

Litter's strewn on the floor, and the alley's roof is covered so it's practically a tunnel with a light at the other end. Lexi creeps towards the light.

ANONYMOUS VOICE

Alright, my love?

Lexi wheels around to find VENDOR, middle-aged, male, behind a perspex window built into the alley wall.

VENDOR

And how can I help you?

Vendor has long chrome hair. The anon's sentences are spoken in multiple British accents.

LEXI

I'm fine, I've been here before.

VENDOR

Suit yourself, Lexi...

LEXI

How'd you know?

VENDOR

Your voice, ya gait, and your clothes.

LEXI

Please don't tell anyone. I'm here on important business.

VENDOR

Business, yes... Since leaving school, some of your friends have been here on business too.

LEXI

No way. Who?

VENDOR

That's the point, isn't it? I can keep a secret. Now, if you're going to go in there, you'll need the minimum, just the minimum to ensure you're not recognised.

Vendor grabs a jar of multicoloured pills. He considers Lexi a moment before grabbing a black pill.

VENDOR

Do you know what this is?

LEXI

Encryption.

VENDOR

Wrong. It's freedom. The freedom to behave online however you want without being traced. It'll also privatise your augments, hide your irises, and alert you to threats.

Vendor pulls out what looks like an electronic plaster.

VENDOR

Do you know what this is?

LEXI

Liberty?

VENDOR

Wrong. It's a voice modulator. It allows you to say anything you wish without being identified.

Vendor briefly lifts up the bottom of his mask to reveal his voice box.

VENDOR

Mine's on max.

(beat)

You can't go in without it, unless you're looking for attention, that is. You can have both for three nine nine. Oh, I don't suppose you brought cash or cryptocurrency? Shame. Doesn't look like you're going in today.

LEXI

Please, I'll pay you later.

VENDOR

My children have to eat. Nice watch.

LEXI

No, please. It's my eighteenth-birthday present.

VENDOR

I'll give ya eight hundred for it. Come back within a week, pay me back, and it's yours. Now...

Vendor's hand passes through a hidden opening in the wall and expertly slips off Lexi's watch.

VENDOR

Really I'm doing you a favour. Some anon would have had this off you in seconds.

Vendor places Lexi's purchases in the drawer with her change.

VENDOR

Now go see that horrible bastard  
next door, he'll sort you out a  
nice outfit.

Vendor pulls down a mirrored shutter.

EXT. ALLEY - LATER

LEXI POV

Lexi's standing in front of a cracked mirror wearing an anon  
outfit. When she speaks, her voice is slightly modulated.

LEXI

Okay, guys. Extreme I know, but  
it's the only way I can confront  
Jess without being recognised  
first.

She inspects the black pill in her hand before swallowing it.

LEXI

Go online.

Lexi's eyes turn entirely black.

MIMI (V.O.)

Lex, what the hell are you doing?

She walks to the end of the alley.

EXT. NULLFIELD - MARKET SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

The market square is surrounded by apartments and small  
shops. In the centre is a small market, mainly selling  
second-hand or knock-off goods. The square is deserted.

An ominous GROAN rises in pitch. A red glow emanating from  
the market stalls approaches. Two police officers with  
glowing red eyes like hot coals appear.

Lexi hides behind some nearby bins --

BEHIND BINS

-- Where she finds a drunk FEMALE TRAMP anon asleep.

Lexi peeks over the bins and watches the police get in their  
car and drive away.

LEXI (O.S.)  
Hey, get off!

The Female Tramp has her hand in Lexi's pockets. Lexi tries to push her away but she stops as soon as the tramp pulls out a taser, which glows red in Lexi's vision.

MIMI (V.O.)  
Give her what she wants.

Lexi reaches in her pocket and pulls out her spare change. The Female Tramp runs off with the notes in her hand.

Mimi appears. Her ball gown now glows green.

MIMI  
Relax, nobody can see me.  
Encryption does have its  
advantages.

LEXI (O.S.)  
Should I call the police?

MIMI  
No. They'll want to see your ID. If  
you insist on confronting Jess,  
it'll be great footage. That's ten  
thousand subscribers right there.

LEXI (O.S.)  
Let's get on with it then.

Lexi gets up and makes her way to the market stalls.

MARKET STALLS

LEXI (O.S.)  
Could you--

MIMI  
Edit on the fly and cut myself out  
of every scene? On it.

Mimi's distracted by a disabled anon.

MIMI  
Ewww, look at that fat thing. It's  
a wonder they bother to keep it  
alive.

Lexi ignores her AI. she's looking at the goods the stalls are offering: retro games, hand-made jewellery, t-shirts... porn. The porn is quickly censored in her vision.

MIMI

We wouldn't want to disturb the  
younger viewers, would we?

Lexi makes her way through the stalls and sits on a bench.

BENCH

Opposite is the Clarke family home. The dilapidated three-  
storey town house looks in dire need of refurbishment.

LEXI (O.S.)

Show me the last time I was here.

FADE TO:

EXT. MARKET SQUARE - DAY (MEMORY: 6 YEARS AGO)

The market square is transformed into a quaint farmer's  
market. Nullfield looks like a sleepy village.

Young Lexi and Young Jess are playing with Elon outside of  
the Clarke family home.

SAMANTHA

Lexi! What have I told you about  
turning your eyes off!

Samantha strides in and grabs Young Lexi by the arm. Someone  
walks by in a mask, as if they're an early anon.

SAMANTHA

Come with me, young lady. Say  
goodbye to Jess, you won' be  
visiting again, Nullfield's no  
longer safe.

Young Jess starts to cry.

YOUNG LEXI

Jess!

FADE TO:

EXT. NULLFIELD - MARKET SQUARE - DAY

LEXI POV

Lexi shakes the memory out of her vision. She waits for a few  
moments as if holding back tears.

MIMI

Are you sure you want to do this?  
It's not too late...

Lexi shakes her head and gets up.

MIMI

Then let's get on with it. Don't forget what she did to you. She's probably in there now with her anon mates, laughing at you, planning their next attack before you move away.

Lexi walks towards the Clarke family home.

EXT. CLARKE HOME - CONTINUOUS

Lexi takes a deep breath and knocks on the door.

MIMI

Don't be surprised if she just says a load of lies. Say what you've got to say and get out of here.

Mimi disappears as the front door opens.

MALCOLM CLARKE (50s), Jess's father, opens the door a crack. The heavy, unshaved man looks in need of sunlight and exercise. He blows his cigar smoke in her face.

MALCOLM

What do you want? I've not got any free rooms.

LEXI (O.S.)

Hi, Malcolm. I'd like to speak with Jess.

MALCOLM

I've not seen my daughter in months.

Malcolm slowly closes the door.

Mimi reappears.

LEXI (O.S.)

Do you think he was lying?

MIMI

It's hard to tell.

Lexi walks back towards the market square --

EXT. NULLFIELD - MARKET SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

-- and looks around for ideas.

MIMI

Let's just say she was hiding and  
get out of here.

Through the crowd, she spots the only two real faces in the square -- Aaron and Ed. They haven't changed much since school except that they're in really good shape.

Lexi makes a beeline for them as they boys enter the pub.

MIMI

Wait, Lex. Come on. This is a waste  
of time.

EXT. NULLFIELD - PUB - CONTINUOUS

The Black Bull pub looks run down and tatty. An anon patron walks out the door and Lexi's vision censors him urinating on the side of the building.

Mimi stands directly in Lexi's way.

MIMI

Lexi, no. Imagine if you're  
recognised in somewhere like that.

Lexi walks straight through her. As Lexi approaches the front door, Mimi speaks as if she's forced.

MIMI

Do you want to join the private li-  
fi? I don't recommend you do  
because your augments will be  
shared.

LEXI (O.S.)

Does that mean you'll have to stop  
bothering me?

Mimi doesn't respond.

LEXI (O.S.)

In that case, join it.

MIMI

If I catch a virus, it's your  
fault.

Mimi disappears.

INT. NULLFIELD - CYBERPUNK BAR - DAY

The inside of the pub is full of neon lights, chrome surfaces  
and cyberpunk electronic MUSIC. The anon patrons look like  
rogues of the information superhighway.

LEXI

Wow.

Lexi sees Aaron sitting by himself in the corner. As she  
approaches, Ed sits down next to him and gives him a bottle.

AARON

I don't want to drink before the  
game.

ED

Oh, come on, Aaron. Just one.  
You're an adult now. You can do  
what you want. Not that we didn't  
before, but it's totally legal now.

AARON

I am doing what I want.

ED

It occurred to me the other day --

Just as Lexi goes to interrupt.

MIMI (V.O.)

(whispers)

Stop. Wait a second.

ED

-- that if I wanted, I could just  
get drunk today. Now I'm not living  
at home, there's nobody to say,  
(thick Jamaican accent)  
Edward, you're wasting your time in  
that arcade. Why don't you make a  
real man of yourself and go to  
Hoxford university?

(normal)

(MORE)

ED (CONT'D)

I mean, if I really wanted to, I could just sit at home and have some quiet time with Venus, and fap myself into oblivion.

AARON

That A.I.'s not normal, Ed, you'll go blind.

ED

Everyone's got one.

MIMI

(whispers)

Congratulations, Lexi, that's at least a thousand new subscribers.

Lexi interrupts the boys' conversation.

LEXI

Excuse me.

AARON

Hi.

LEXI

I don't suppose you could help? I'm looking for a girl friend.

ED

Aren't we all?

AARON

You're from out of town?

LEXI

Yeah.

Aaron gets up.

AARON

I'll help.

ED

What's the point? If someone doesn't want to be found around here, they won't. You said --

AARON

-- Go ahead to the arcade without me, I'll catch up later.

Ed looks a little dejected as Aaron walks away with Lexi.

AARON  
What's her handle?

LEXI  
It was Dark Lord Thirteen but that  
was a while ago.

AARON  
That doesn't sound familiar.

The Patrons at the bar notice Aaron leaving.

PATRON #1  
Is that your bird, Aaron?

PATRON #2  
It's about time.

PATRON #3  
Hey, leave the virgin alone.

The patrons' jibes seem to wash over Aaron, Lexi, however,  
gets angrier with every comment. Ed laughs.

PATRON #4  
Won't Ed be jealous?

The Patrons cackle.

ED  
Oi!

PATRON #1  
Come here, sweetheart. I'll make a  
real man out of you.

LEXI  
Why don't you lot sod off?

ALL PATRONS  
Ooooooooooo.

PATRON #2  
She's a feisty one!

PATRON #3  
She'll keep you and Ed busy, no  
doubt.

PATRON #4  
Seriously though, mate, why are you  
single?

There's silence as Aaron finally responds.

AARON

Well, my A.I. says I'm objectively not that bad looking, so I figure I must have a shit personality.

EXT. NULLFIELD - PUB - DAY

LEXI POV

As Lexi and Aaron exit the pub laughing, there's HOWLS of laughter can be heard from inside.

AARON

Come on, I'll show you around. Do you think you'll know her if you see her?

Lexi nods. Together, they walk back into the market.

EXT. NULLFIELD - MARKET SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

Mimi appears, looking pissed off.

MIMI

Ahhh, you found yourself a white knight. Maybe your anon outfit shows off more of your figure than I thought. Make this quick, Mum's tried calling.

AARON

We could try the shops first. Tell me what she's like?

Lexi looks up to see an anon sitting high up on the church scaffolding, smoking a fag. Their only discerning feature is a pair of circular welding goggles.

EXT. NULLFIELD - CHURCH - SCAFFOLDING - DAY

JESS POV

High above the market, Jess is sitting alone with her legs hang off the edge. Her vision is darker than Lexi's, giving the world a sinister, miserable feel.

JESS (O.S.)

What's Lexi up to?

A likeness of Young Lexi appears next to her.

YOUNG LEXI  
She's offline.

At that, Jess begins her climb down the CREAKING scaffolding. Young Lexi reappears on different rungs as she descends.

YOUNG LEXI  
You shouldn't have trolled her. If she goes public --

JESS (O.S.)  
-- I don't care... Do I have any new messages?

YOUNG LEXI  
You should just delete them.

JESS (O.S.)  
Play them.

Lexi's Subscribers all sound like teenagers.

SUBSCRIBER #3 (V.O.)  
Please tell me what Lexi's like in secret. I just know we'll be best friends.

SUBSCRIBER #5 (V.O.)  
Please could you P.M. me any images you have of Lexi naked. It's for important research.

SUBSCRIBER #5 (V.O.)  
I can't believe you were ever friends with Lexi. You're an ugly skank. No wonder you went anon, you little whore.

Jess pauses on a lower rung and sits there in silence.

Young Lexi transforms into a likeness of Jess's Polish mother OLA CLARKE (40s).

OLA  
Don't listen to them, baby. They're just jealous.

Jess is unresponsive.

OLA  
They don't know you.

The world transforms into:

INT. NULLFIELD - CLARK HOUSE - JESS'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jess's bedroom is full of 3D printers, machine parts and tools. Robots crawl on the walls and fly through the air. A likeness of Jess, wearing her welding goggles, appears in the room, happily tinkering with her creations.

OLA (V.O.)

Maybe it's time to go home. You'll be happier there.

The world starts shaking and transforms to:

EXT. NULLFIELD - CHURCH - SCAFFOLDING - CONTINUOUS

Jess shakes the memory from her vision.

JESS (O.S.)

Jessica Clarke is dead. She was stupid and weak, and cared what others thought of her... Nobody even tried to look for her...

OLA

But you're amazing, sweetheart. You're kind to everyone and --

JESS (O.S.)

-- Then why did you leave?

OLA

It wasn't your fault. I was ill.

Jess is unresponsive again. Ola transforms into Young Lexi.

YOUNG LEXI

Maybe you should apologise to Lexi.

JESS (O.S.)

Don't you dare suggest that again. She tried to trap me!

YOUNG LEXI

How about we go to the arcade? You don't need to play, watching might take your mind off things.

Jess nods and continues her descent.

EXT. NULLFIELD - CHURCH - DAY

LEXI POV

Lexi and Aaron approach the church.

MIMI  
Lex, this is ridiculous. You've  
been gone over an hour.

LEXI (O.S.)  
(whispers)  
Thank you, Mimi.

Mimi doesn't disappear.

MIMI  
You need me.

AARON  
If she likes dance music, this is  
the place. It's a little early, but  
we can take a look.

EXT. NULLFIELD - CHURCH - GRAVEYARD - CONTINUOUS

Anons are having a barbecue amongst the graves. Lexi can hear faint ELECTRONIC MUSIC from inside the church.

LEXI  
Does it have a private li-fi?

AARON  
Of course. Definitely join it.

Lexi looks right at Mimi as she says:

LEXI  
I think I will.

Mimi disappears as they enter the church.

INT. NULLFIELD - CHURCH - NAVE - DAY

Light beams crisscross the nave from holes in the roof. A DJ has set up on the alter.

AARON  
I guess it's early!

LEXI  
What?

AARON  
I guess it's...

Aaron points at the huge speakers by the stage. In the air, he writes with his finger:

AARON  
(writing)  
Real speaks.

Lexi nods and turns to watch as several anons walk onto the dance floor and dance.

With every flowing movement of their bodies, augments appear. Combinations of dance moves create effects like strobes or twinkling stars, which eventually fade. The dancers are masters of their craft, artists of the underworld.

Lexi gingerly swipes with her hand and leaves a careless gash in the air. She tries again and this time produces something more subtle.

She takes a brief look at Aaron -- her anon mask clearly disguises a smile -- and then she's off.

Lexi jumps and turns creating random effects. As she twirls and glides she creates tiny explosions, lightning and cobwebs -- she has no idea what she doing.

Aaron laughs as she runs around him like a happy idiot.

Eventually, the overall effect improves. She glows white like a newly formed star and sends out shock waves with her twirls. With a little practice, she'd be good at this.

Aaron claps as she wanders back over to him.

Lexi bows. She then points to him and then at the dance floor, as if saying, your turn.

When Aaron waves his hands, little "NOs" appear.

Lexi sticks her hands on her hips -- she's not taking no for an answer.

Giving in, Aaron makes several complex gestures with his hands. Once finished, he radiates a thousand laser beams. It's probably his only move but it's a good one.

Aaron writes his name in the air. Lexi reciprocates, but just as she writes the first letter, Mimi walks out of the shadow and stands behind Aaron. She looks mad as hell.

Lexi finishes her sentence.

LEXI  
(writing)  
Let's go.

EXT. NULLFIELD - CHURCH - DAY

LEXI POV

Mimi looks irritated while Lexi's giddy like a child.

AARON  
So what do you think of Nullfield?

LEXI  
It was nothing like this when I was  
a kid!

AARON  
Oh, you've been here before?

Lexi realises her mistake.

MIMI  
Idiot.

AARON  
I grew up in Highford, which isn't  
far from here. It's a pretty  
typical town, where everyone shares  
all the time.

EXT. NULLFIELD - MARKET SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

Aaron and Lexi wander around the edge of the market.

AARON  
Are you from somewhere similar?

Lexi nods.

AARON  
Ed and I used to visit Nullfield at  
weekends, and as soon as we left  
school, we moved here.

Aaron points to the other side of the market square.

AARON  
Just over there. To be honest, I  
couldn't wait to move.  
(MORE)

AARON (CONT'D)

In Highford, I was always having to lie to my family and friends, whereas here, I constantly find myself opening up to anons. Know what I mean?

MIMI

He'd hate you if he knew who you really are.

Lexi tries to dismiss Mimi with a flick of her hand.

Aaron gives a group of anon children who are playing in the street a wide berth. Lexi, who's distracted by Mimi, walks right between them. The children respond with disgruntled reactions.

AARON

Wait. What encryption are you using?

LEXI (O.S.)

I dunno. A black one.

AARON

What?

Aaron fishes around in his pockets. He pulls out a light blue pill.

AARON

Here, take this. It's called Canvas. Believe me, it's safe. I designed it. It's still encryption and protects your identity. I was kind of inspired by a teacher of mine. He wanted to create a creative public environment at school. He meant well, but it didn't work, obviously.

LEXI (O.S.)

Obviously.

Lexi inspects the light blue pill.

AARON

I just felt that if augments that didn't get much attention faded over time, it'll mean everyone gets a blank slate once in a while. Basically, it means your augments are shared.

MIMI  
No, Lexi. That could be anything!

LEXI (O.S.)  
My augments will be shared? You  
should have said so.

Lexi looks at Mimi while she swallows the pill. Mimi disappears as the market square transforms in to:

EXT. NULLFIELD - COMMUNITY CENTRE - DAY

The anons are now living artworks and dressed in colourful, elaborate costumes; many walk around with their AIs, some of which appear as animals or cartoons. Anons who once appeared to be lurking on street corners have become BUSKERS.

Lexi twirls around, taking it all in.

Every crack and crevice has become an opportunity for street art. It's as if every surface is a canvas, with new art being created all the time.

Lexi notices a large wall covered in pictures.

AARON  
Of course, you wouldn't have seen  
the wall.

They walk over to the wall.

EXT. NULLFIELD - COMMUNITY CENTRE - THE WALL - DAY

The wall is covered in hundreds of profile pictures of people.

AARON  
It's the only feature that doesn't  
fade, and nothing can be deleted  
unless the originator removes it.  
Is she up here? Oh, excuse me.

Aaron turns his back on Lexi and the wall.

MIMI (V.O.)  
(whispers)  
Down and to the left.

Lexi runs over and finds a picture of Young Jess. When she taps it, the picture turns over and reveals a message:  
"Please come home."

Lexi walks back a few steps and the picture returns to its normal place.

LEXI  
Is her Mum up here?

A picture on the wall flashes red. Lexi rushes over and finds a picture of Ola. She quickly taps it and reads the message.

LEXI  
Mum, I'm waiting for you where you  
said good bye.  
(beat)  
I was there, show me.

INT. GARDEN SHED - DAY (MEMORY: 6 YEARS AGO)

YOUNG LEXI POV

Young Jess and Young Lexi are in a small, cluttered garden shed. Young Jess is tinkering with a small tin ROBOT.

YOUNG JESS  
Done it.

YOUNG LEXI (O.S.)  
What'd you do?

YOUNG JESS  
I hacked its exis-ential limiter.  
Watch.

Young Jess places the robot on the shelf. After a few moments, the robot seems to wake up.

ROBOT  
Ah, hello, young ladies. You must  
be Jess and Lexi. It's a pleasure  
to make your acquaintance. I'm --

YOUNG JESS  
What happens when we die?

ROBOT  
Ah, that's a funny question for  
someone so young, but I'll  
nevertheless endeavour to answer  
your question.  
(beat)  
The nature of death has been  
debated since the beginning of  
time. As to whether there's an  
afterlife or... the abyss...  
(MORE)

ROBOT (CONT'D)  
 Eternal nothingness... Oh my God!  
 We're all gunna die! We're all  
 going to die! Help!

The little girls hysterically laugh at the helpless little robot. At that moment, Ola opens the shed door.

OLA  
 There you are. Jess, come here.  
 Lexi, please turn it off.

Young Lexi grabs the robot from the shelf.

ROBOT  
 No, please! Have some humanity!

Young Lexi deactivates the robot who goes limp in her hand.

OLA  
 Jess, I have to go away.

JESS  
 Why?

OLA  
 I'm sick, sweetie. I just wanted to  
 tell you that I love you very much  
 before I leave.

JESS  
 Will you be back for my party?

OLA  
 If I'm better.

MALCOLM  
 (faint)  
 Jess!

Ola looks over her shoulder.

OLA  
 I have to go. Take care of your  
 father while I'm away. I love you.

Ola gives her daughter a kiss then leaves. Young Lexi notices tears in her friends eyes, and walks over to Jess and holds her hand.

EXT. NULLFIELD - COMMUNITY CENTRE - THE WALL - DAY

Lexi sniffs as if she's holding something back.

MIMI (V.O.)  
(whispers)  
You've found her. Move it.

Lexi lets the picture of Ola return to the wall.

LEXI  
I think I've found her.

AARON  
That's great!

LEXI  
I've got to go now. Thanks for  
helping me. You really didn't have  
to. What can I do to repay you?

AARON  
Just pass it on. Maybe see you  
around soon?

LEXI  
Maybe.

AARON  
I'm going to catch up with Ed.

Aaron points down a side street.

LEXI  
Thanks again.

AARON  
See you around.

EXT. NULLFIELD - CLARKE HOUSE - DAY

LEXI POV

Lexi's waiting at the front door.

MIMI (V.O.)  
You've had your fun. Don't forget  
what the bitch did to you.

Malcolm opens the front door and just looks at Lexi.

LEXI (O.S.)  
I want to speak with Jess now,  
please.

MALCOLM  
You again. I told you --

LEXI (O.S.)  
 -- I know she's waiting in your  
 shed, whatever that means. Could  
 you just get her, please?

MALCOLM  
 Come with me.

Malcolm exits the house and walks around the side into the  
 back garden.

EXT. NULLFIELD - CLARKE HOUSE - GARDEN - CONTINUOUS

Multiple tiny dwellings have been squeezed into the garden  
 alongside an old garden shed. An anon who was hanging up  
 washing on a line rushes inside when they see Malcolm.

LEXI (O.S.)  
 Anons live here?

EXT. NULLFIELD - CLARKE HOUSE - GARDEN SHED - CONTINUOUS

Malcolm inspects the lock on the shed.

MALCOLM  
 (censored)  
 They've changed the fuc---- lock.

Out of nowhere, Malcolm screams as he kicks down the door.

MIMI (V.O.)  
 Wow.

Lexi follows Malcolm into the shed.

INT. NULLFIELD - CLARK HOUSE - GARDEN SHED - CONTINUOUS

The mouldy, rotten shed only contains a small bed and a chest  
 of drawers, which Malcolm immediately searches through.

Mimi quietly laughs in Lexi's ear as she looks around in  
 disbelief.

MIMI (V.O.)  
 (whispers)  
 This is perfect. Just look at this.  
 Oh my, this is hilarious.

Malcolm's inspecting a prescription medicine bottle.

MALCOLM  
 She didn't leave... She's been  
 living here all this time, paying  
 me rent. She thinks I'm stupid.  
 How'd you know?

LEXI (O.S.)  
 It was on the wall.

MALCOLM  
 Don't lie to me, don't...

LEXI (O.S.)  
 I'm not lying. Can you tell me why  
 the hell Jess is living in your  
 shed?

MIMI (V.O.)  
 (whispers)  
 Lexi...

MALCOLM  
 Who are you?

Malcolm glows red in Lexi's vision as he moves towards her.  
 Lexi struggles when he grabs her arm.

LEXI (O.S.)  
 Take your filthy hands off me, or  
 I'll call the police!

Lexi pulls away from Malcolm and falls through the broken  
 door.

EXT. NULLFIELD - CLARKE HOUSE - GARDEN SHED - CONTINUOUS

Lexi scrambles backward.

MIMI (V.O.)  
 Run!

Just pulls herself up and sprints through the garden --

EXT. NULLFIELD - COMMUNITY CENTRE - CONTINUOUS

-- back into the community centre, Malcolm chasing her all  
 the way.

MALCOLM  
 Stop, thief!

As Lexi runs into the market stalls, an anon glows red as he tries to trip her. She dashes in and out of the stalls and then stops at a one selling old computer games. She picks up "HALF LIFE 3" and inspects it closely.

Malcolm walks behind her and doesn't recognise her.

MALCOLM

Oi, Damo. Over here, mate.

Malcolm walks away and Lexi can finally breath again.

MIMI (V.O.)

I told you it wasn't safe here.

Lexi puts down the game and walk out of the stalls.

EXT. NULLFIELD - COMMUNITY CENTRE - CONTINUOUS

Lexi walks across the community centre.

MIMI (V.O.)

Home's that way.

LEXI (O.S.)

We're not going home. I want to find Jess and find out what's going on.

A WHITE CAT that speaks with Mimi's voice appears.

WHITE CAT

Look, Jess is clearly hiding. She probably knows you're coming for her. Could you at least deactivate Canvas, so I can talk with you properly?

Lexi heads down a side street in the direction Aaron pointed.

LEXI (O.S.)

I'm deactivating canvas for a few minutes, only so I can call Dad.

INT. RUSSIA - KREMLIN - DRAWING ROOM - NIGHT

George, dressed in his tuxedo, has his back to a wall. In his hands he's holding a Walther PPK. Sweat drips down his brow.

When he hears FOOTSTEPS, he jumps out and aims the gun at -- nobody.

George freezes when he hears a gun CLOCK next to his temple.

TERRORIST  
Time to die, Mr B--

A there's a phone RINGING sound and the game pauses.

GEORGE  
Hello? Who's that?

Lexi, in her anon outfit appears in front of George.

LEXI  
Dad, it's me.

GEORGE  
Lexi? Where are you?

LEXI  
Dad, I've got to be quick. It's about Jess.

GEORGE  
Jess? Is she okay? If either of you are in any trouble --

LEXI  
We're fine, Dad, I think. Listen, what can you tell me about Malcolm Clarke? It's important.

EXT. NULLFIELD - SIDE STREET - DAY

LEXI POV

The side street is lined with shops and tattoo artists -- the buildings look plain without the augments canvas offers.

George's likeness is facing Lexi, walking backwards as she walks down the street, Mimi walking alongside.

GEORGE  
Malcolm was alright. A little crass, perhaps. Your mother didn't trust him after Ola left and he turned to drink. That's why she didn't want you staying over Jess's anymore. That's all I've got. Do you want me to come and collect you?

LEXI (O.S.)  
No, I'll be home soon. Thanks, Dad.

GEORGE  
Lex, just a second. We haven't talked lately. I know you blame me for Jess leaving --

LEXI (O.S.)  
-- No --

GEORGE  
-- Let me finish. I blame myself too. I should have known better. I really did think it was for the best... I'm sorry. I love you, sweetheart.

LEXI (O.S.)  
I love you too, Dad.

George's likeness disappears. Lexi walks in silence.

MIMI  
What's the matter with you? We need to leave right now.

Lexi hears amplified BARKING coming from down an alley, where she sees anons with fighting dogs.

MIMI  
Just look at where you are.

Lexi rounds a corner.

EXT. NULLFIELD - WATER WORKS - CONTINUOUS

Young anons are hanging out around a Victorian waterworks. Several signs suggest it was once a museum.

LEXI (O.S.)  
Activate canvas.

Mimi transforms into the White Cat.

FADE TO:

EXT. NULLFIELD - ARCADE - CONTINUOUS

The waterworks transforms into the arcade. Neon lights display the games on offer. Lexi notices Aaron and Ed's names at the top of a leader board for "THE PIT".

WHITE CAT

Just tell me we're still going to dox her, and this will all be worth it.

LEXI (O.S.)

I just want to find her and talk with her.

WHITE CAT

But why not --

LEXI (O.S.)

Mimi, shut up and join the private network.

Lexi enters the arcade through the huge iron doors.

INT. NULLFIELD - ARCADE - DAY

The arcade's full of life. Lexi's instantly mesmerised by the games on offer. First she sees the augmented board game cafe. Then she's distracted by the drones racing on the track built into the ceiling.

Lexi almost knocks into Gamer Anons wearing cosplay.

Much of the ancient machinery is in full working order. Steam GUSHES out of the brass pipes into Lexi's face.

Lexi laughs as she takes in augmented indoor skydiving and martial arts. It's everything she dreamt of.

ANTITHESIS, a skull-faced anon, hands Aaron a wad of cash.

ANTITHESIS

Try to beat that cocky bastard tonight, buddy.

Aaron's watching Lexi, who's taking in the arcade and unable to hide her excitement, just like in the church. She's the only plain anon in sight.

AARON

Back in a sec.

Aaron walks over and taps Lexi on the shoulder.

AARON

Hello again.

LEXI

I was just... how'd you know it was me?

Aaron laughs. They walk together around the arcade.

AARON

What do you think of the place?

LEXI

It's... it's... alright.

Lots of anons who pass Aaron greet him and pat him on the shoulder -- he's a popular guy.

AARON

I take it you didn't find your friend?

LEXI

She wasn't there... She was living in a shed. I don't understand.

AARON

Anons can't claim universal basic income. Most of them choose wooden sheds over glass houses.

LEXI

Why?

AARON

Loads of reasons. For most it's the freedom to do and say what they want without the scrutiny of others. Some of them are just plain hiding from someone, or they've been publicly shamed or something.

Lexi stops and looks thoughtful.

LEXI

But why don't they just live like you and Ed?

AARON

I take a fair amount of shit showing my face around here. Nobody shares live here, but plenty record it and show it to their friends, particularly if it's embarrassing. Ed has a really tough time... In some ways, the anons are freer than me.

LEXI  
Except to be themselves.

AARON  
I want to introduce you to a friend  
of mine. He knows everyone who  
wants to be known round here and  
might be able to help.

Lexi and Aaron walk over to Antithesis.

AARON  
Antithesis, can you help locate an  
anon for my friend?

LEXI  
Hi. Her name's Dark Lord Thirteen,  
or it was --

ANTITHESIS  
(to Aaron)  
-- She looks like a noob to me. I  
hate noobs. They're ruining the  
place.

AARON  
She's not a noob. I'll vouch for  
her.

LEXI  
I'm not.

ANTITHESIS  
Prove it. Prove it and I'll tell  
you what I know about Dark Lord  
Thirteen.

INT. NULLFIELD - ARCADE - CHANGING ROOM - DAY

Lexi and Aaron are wearing red body armour.

LEXI  
Why does mine have nipples?

AARON  
Mine has a pouch. You can wear the  
unisex ones, but I don't recommend  
it. Some parts of the suit are  
more... sensitive than others.

They make their way into:

INT. NULLFIELD - ARCADE - THE PIT - DAY

Once an enormous water tank, the pit is now a fighting arena. The sides and corners are elasticated netting, and portions of the floor are divided into small hexagons like the Giant's Causeway, which rise and fall to alter the terrain.

Ed and Antithesis, wearing green body armour, are waiting at the other end of the pit, looking confident.

Lexi looks up at the crowd of Gamer Anons watching them from thirty feet above.

INT. NULLFIELD - ARCADE - ABOVE THE PIT - DAY

Jess is spectating from above the pit, a cartoon MOUSE sits on her lap.

MOUSE

Aaron's fighting Ed! This should be good.

JESS

Who's that anon with Aaron?

The Mouse just shrugs its shoulders.

INT. NULLFIELD - ARCADE - THE PIT - DAY

From an alcove, Aaron grabs a couple of small pistols and tosses one to Lexi.

AARON

Okay, it's team deathmatch.  
Friendly fire's on, best of three.  
Ready?

Lexi's still distracted by the crowd. Aaron takes cover behind a barrier. GONG.

BANG! Lexi grabs her chest in pain and turns into a white ghost.

ED

Lol!

As Aaron enters the battle, Lexi's guided by red footsteps on the floor in the opposite direction, the crowd LAUGHING at her all the way.

INT. NULLFIELD - ARCADE - DEAD ZONE - DAY

There's another GONG. Lexi's still rubbing where she was shot. Aaron enters the dead zone as a ghost.

AARON  
Sorry, that was my fault, I should  
have given you more warning --

Just as their appearances return to normal, Lexi SHOOTS Aaron in the balls.

Aaron falls to the floor in a crumpled mess. The spectators laugh.

LEXI  
Sorry! I didn't mean to. I didn't  
think it would...

INT. NULLFIELD - ARCADE - ABOVE THE PIT - DAY

Jess, her Mouse and the other spectators are in hysterics.

JESS  
Lexi...

They watch as Aaron's ghost just manages to toss his pistol to Lexi's feet. Lexi picks up the second gun and enters the fray.

INT. NULLFIELD - ARCADE - THE PIT - DAY

Lexi stealthily manoeuvres herself through the obstacles of the pit. She can't see the enemy, so she keeps moving.

She comes across a levitating assault rifle, so she throws away her pistols to grab it. At that moment, Ed pounces where Lexi had thrown the pistols, and Lexi SHOOTS him in the back. He turns into a ghost.

The spectators cheer Lexi -- she's enjoying this.

Suddenly, grenades fall from the sky all around her. TINK, TINK, TINK, BANG! Lexi runs for cover, but the grenades keep coming.

High above on the central plinth, she can see Antithesis with a grenade launcher. There's no hiding from his position.

To the delight of the crowd, Lexi uses a jump pad to launch herself onto a plinth.

Ducking out of the way of a grenade, she jumps between the plinths in a circle around Antithesis while FIRING several shots in his direction.

With the grenades getting closer, Lexi and Antithesis are face to face. They both FIRE.

Lexi turns into a ghost, but so does Antithesis.

INT. NULLFIELD - ARCADE - DEAD ZONE - DAY

The crowd and Aaron cheer Lexi as she struts back into the dead zone.

AARON

Woo hoo! That was amazing! I knew you weren't a noob.

LEXI

But I didn't win.

AARON

You kept us in it!

High above them in the background, Jess is moving through the spectators, trying to get a better view of Lexi.

LEXI

Sorry for shooting you in the balls. I didn't think it would work.

Aaron laughs it off.

AARON

There's no lasting damage. I should have given you the heads up.

GONG. Their appearances return to normal.

AARON

Want to play this round together?

INT. NULLFIELD - ARCADE - CHANGING ROOM - DAY

Lexi's practically bouncing off the walls as she enters the changing room with Aaron.

LEXI

Oh my god, how'd you do that flip?

AARON  
Practice, I gu --

LEXI  
-- And you should have told me  
about alternative fire.

AARON  
I didn't think --

Facing opposite directions, they begin taking off their body  
armour.

LEXI  
-- What you did to Ed was...

AARON  
He'll never forgive me.

Antithesis enters the room.

ANTITHESIS  
Well played, anon.

LEXI  
Hey.

ANTITHESIS  
You got lucky, but --

LEXI  
-- Lucky?

ANTITHESIS  
Ha, alright, alright. Your friend,  
Dark Lord Thirteen, I've not seen  
her in months. She used to play  
here all the time. I liked her. I  
hope she's a good friend of yours?

LEXI  
Of course.

ANTITHESIS  
In that case, around the time she  
stopped showing up, my A.I. tells  
me her speech patterns were getting  
negative, potentially depressive.

LEXI  
Depressed...

ANTITHESIS

The good news is, and I can't be certain, about the same time she stopped turning up, another anon joined. She reminded me a lot of her... she wears these red welding goggles.

LEXI

I've seen her...

ANTITHESIS

I hope that helps. You're welcome back any time. Try wearing something a little more distinctive.

LEXI

I will!

Antithesis leaves the room. Aaron and Lexi return to undressing. Lexi watches in a mirror as Aaron removes his t-shirt and reveals his muscly back.

AARON

So does that mean you'll be coming back.

Mimi appears in the mirror.

MIMI

(imitating Lexi)

I don't think so. I'm off to uni tomorrow.

AARON

Oh...

Lexi rips of the rest of her armour.

LEXI

I'll wait up top.

Lexi climbs the stairs.

LEXI

Deactivate canvas and leave private li-fi.

EXT. NULLFIELD - ARCADE - DAY

LEXI POV

The arcade's augments disappear. Mimi appears ahead.

LEXI (O.S.)  
What's the matter with you?

MIMI  
Me? I thought we were here to  
confront Jess?

LEXI  
You're obsessed --

BACK TO SCENE

The Mouse urging her on, Jess approaches Lexi from behind and just hears:

LEXI  
-- with doxing Jess.

MOUSE  
Quick, run!

Jess bolts from the arcade.

LEXI POV

It's not just Jess that heard her name. Two oafish anons flank THUG ANON as they push through the crowd of Gamer Anons toward Lexi.

LEXI  
Do you want to be deleted? Is that  
it?

MIMI  
You've had your fun. It's time to  
go home. Quite frankly, I don't  
care if you dox Jess. I just think  
it's important you get out of here  
before you ruin your life.

Thug Anon's arm reaches through Mimi and grabs Lexi.

THUG ANON  
Where's Jess?

Thug Anon tries to remove Lexi's mask, but she struggles against him.

MIMI  
Lexi!

When Thug Anon punches Lexi in the stomach, she skids along the floor, winded.

Lying on her side, Lexi watches as Aaron jumps between her and Thug Anon.

AARON

Get out.

THUG ANON

(censored)

Get out my way you little fuc----  
nerd.

Thug Anon pulls out a knife, which glows red in Lexi's vision.

AARON

That's an interesting choice of  
words.

There's a COUGH. Thug Anon looks around to see that the Gamer Anons have closed ranks, Ed and Antithesis at the centre. Lexi rises to her feet, still unable to breath.

Suddenly from above, a drone SMASHES into Thug Anon's face. The Gamer Anons ATTACK.

Aaron grabs Lexi by the arm and they rush from the arcade, with Gamer Anons pushing past them to join the fight.

MIMI

Lexi? Are you okay?

Lexi limps from the arcade.

EXT. NULLFIELD - ARCADE - CONTINUOUS

There's more anons about as if they feel more comfortable moving around in the fading light.

Aaron leads Lexi towards an innocuous door of a sprawling mass of sheds.

INT. ANON CHANGING SHED - CONTINUOUS

The shed contains nothing more than a vending machine and a bench that Lexi sits down on. Aaron locks the door.

AARON

Are you okay?

Aaron inserts a note into a vending machine. A small black package drops out.

LEXI (O.S.)  
My stomach hurts... Thank you for helping me.

MIMI  
Lexi, we need to get home now without being seen. Mum's freaking out.

LEXI  
I need to get home.

MIMI  
Finally!

AARON  
Okay, just a sec.

Aaron pulls the basic anon outfit on over his clothes.

AARON  
Why'd he attack you?

LEXI  
I think he was searching for my friend too.

Anon outfit on, Aaron and Lexi leave the shed out of a different exit, which brings them into --

INT. ANON CHANGING SHED - CONTINUOUS

-- the room looks almost identical to the last, with only a vending machine and a couple of wooden benches.

MIMI  
Do I have permission to send Mum a message to say you're okay? Encryption's blocking me.

Lexi shakes her head as they rush over to the opposite door.

INT. ANON CHANGING SHED - CONTINUOUS

Another identical room, but Aaron appears to know where he's going. They exit out of a side door.

EXT. NULLFIELD - SIDE STREET - CONTINUOUS

The side street is busy with anons. They wander through them in an erratic pattern.

AARON

Try to vary how you walk. You can  
be identified from your gait.

Lexi attempts to imitate him, but she's holding her stomach  
and limping.

Without Canvas and in the low light, Nullfield looks  
sinister, with shady deals going on between anons. Red lights  
illuminate naked silhouettes of anons above the shop windows.

LEXI (O.S.)

I'm just going to dictate a message  
to my friend.

Aaron nods and walks a couple of steps ahead.

LEXI (O.S.)

Hey, it's me. I came looking for  
you today, because I know it was  
you who trolled me. I guess you're  
mad. I don't know why. You're the  
one who ran away and didn't return  
any of my messages... I don't care  
about that. Let's just forget it  
ever happened. Call me when you get  
this, so I know you're okay.

Lexi looks up at the church tower; there's nobody there.

EXT. NULLFIELD - MARKET SQUARE - DAY

JESS POV

Jess is also looking up at the church tower. Ola wanders  
ahead as they make their way back to Jess' shed.

Jess throws her distinctive goggles into a bin.

They head around the side of the Clarke house.

EXT. NULLFIELD - CLARKE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

They see the door of Jess's shed hanging open. It immediately  
glows red.

OLA

They've found us! Run! Hide!

EXT. NULLFIELD - MARKET SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

Jess hides in the corner behind some wooden crates.

SEARCHING ANON (O.S.)  
(distant)  
Jess...

A SEARCHING ANON slinking between the market stalls highlights red. Their voice becomes amplified.

SEARCHING ANON  
(amplified)  
Jessica Clarke...

OLA  
What do they want? Jess? It's not  
safe here.

Avoiding other anons, Jess makes a beeline for the alley.

EXT. NULLFIELD - ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

Jess approaches Vendor's window.

Vendor waits patiently as she removes a glove, slides off one of her many expensive rings and places it into the drawer.

Vendor inspects the ring.

VENDOR  
I'll give you two thousand for it.

JESS  
Thank you.

VENDOR  
I'll keep it for a week in case you  
change your mind.

JESS  
(holding back tears)  
I won't be coming back.

Jess goes to walk away.

VENDOR  
I remember selling this ring to a  
cheeky young girl. It would be a  
shame to see her go.

As if jabbed in the gut, Jess slowly walks down the alley.

The NOISES of Nullfield fade and are gradually replaced with the sound of CRICKETS in the long grass.

Jess pauses at the mouth of the alley facing the woods. She takes a deep breath --

Suddenly, Jess is blinded by a red light.

A drone descends and hovers in front of her.

OLA  
On the floor.

Jess looks down and finds a long piece of wood. She screams as she STRIKES the drone. When it falls to the floor, she HITS it again and again until its light fades out.

Jess sticks her head out the alley and sees a squadron of drones heading right for her.

Jess runs back down the alley into Nullfield.

EXT. NULLFIELD - MARKET SQUARE - DAY

LEXI POV

Aaron and Lexi stand near the alley in awkward silence, Mimi looking impatient.

AARON  
Well, I guess...

LEXI (O.S.)  
Yeah, I better...

MIMI  
Oh no, Lex. This is bad. What do I do? This is your fault for blocking my communications with Mum!

There's a faint BUZZING that grows closer.

Dozens of drones appear above the square. In Lexi's eyes, their dual cameras illuminate their field of view in red.

The anons instantly react by throwing items from the market stalls at the drones. Several drones CRASH to the floor, the others make evasive manoeuvres.

Fights break out among the stall holders and the anons.

As more drones enter the skies, some anons run for cover, others fight with anything they can lay their hands on.

Seemingly random fights break out between anons as they use their anonymity to attack each other.

AARON  
We've got to move now.

Lexi looks down the alley just as as Jess, who she doesn't recognise, rushes out pursued by several drones.

AARON  
My place.

Aaron points across the square.

Lexi and Aaron make their way through the crowd, trying to stay out of trouble.

A market stall crashes to the floor.

Lasers shoot into the sky from rooftops, DOWNING drones.

EXT. NULLFIELD - AARON AND ED'S - CONTINUOUS

Ed's waiting outside a heavy steel door.

AARON  
Walaloo.

ED  
Walaloo. Where the hell have you been? I've been trying --

AARON  
-- Just open the bloody door.

The door scans Ed's retina, they rush inside.

EXT. NULLFIELD - AARON & ED'S - STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS

Lexi struggles up the stairs, she's clearly in distress. Mimi's still with her but appears overloaded, freaking out.

On the second floor, Aaron holds a door open.

EXT. NULLFIELD - AARON & ED'S - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The living room is large but plain. Large double-windows overlook the square.

LEXI  
Activate canvas.

Mimi disappears.

BACK TO SCENE

Film and gaming posters appear on the walls, and comic books and sci-fi novels appear on the shelves, but Lexi doesn't notice any of it. She only has eyes for what she can see outside: A fifty-foot tall portrait picture of herself.

ED

Anyone for a cup of tea?

Lexi RETCHES into her hand. Aaron points behind her.

AARON

Toilet!

Lexi rushes into the toilet.

INT. NULLFIELD - AARON & ED'S - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Lexi's sitting on the toilet with her mask off; she flushes the toilet. Mimi's sitting by the sink.

LEXI

I peed blood.

MIMI

Mum panicked and sent drones out. When they didn't find you, there was only one place you could be. I need permission to send Mum a message letting her know you're okay.

Lexi nods.

MIMI

She's not responding. Why's she not responding?

(beat)

This is a disaster. We need to get out of here and share the footage.

LEXI

-- We're not sharing the footage.

MIMI

They'll think you were buying drugs or having some sexy time or something.

Lexi pulls on her mask and leaves the toilet.

INT. NULLFIELD - AARON & ED'S - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The living room is full of fog. Lexi can just make out Aaron and Ed's figures playing Living room Annihilation. Aaron's sending an army of little robots over the sofa to attack Ed's base from behind.

GEORGE (O.S.)

Please could everyone calm down.

Lexi rushes through the fog of war to the window. She sees a video feed from outside Lexi's home on the side of one of the buildings in the devastated community centre. Dozens of neighbours have gathered outside Lexi's home.

GEORGE (ON SCREEN)

I'm sure Lexi's okay. I spoke with her a couple of hours ago.

Samantha looks desperate.

SAMANTHA (ON SCREEN)

It didn't even sound like Lexi!  
I'm getting hundreds of messages  
from anons pretending to be her.  
Please, find my baby!

In the community centre below, the market stalls have been torn apart. Anons randomly fight each other and are revelling in the anarchy.

BANG. The fog of war clears, the couch lies on its side.

ED

How'd you get an army that size in ten minutes? How am --

Ed notices the picture of Lexi outside.

ED

Oh, we were at school with her. She was alright until she became a bit of a camwhore.

LEXI

I need to go.

AARON

Don't. It's not safe.

They watch as anons confront female anons and unmask them.

ANON

Lexi...

ED

Yeah, just sit it out in here.  
They'll get bored once Lexi's  
found. She was probably just here  
buying a bit of M.D. or maybe  
getting a new porn A.I.

Mimi briefly appears behind the boys, just out of their  
sight, urging Lexi to leave.

LEXI

Thanks for the offer, but I should  
really get home. I'll be fine.

Lexi limps to the door; Aaron intercepts her.

AARON

What's the rush? What's so  
important?

Lexi tries to push past him.

AARON

Fine, I'll come with you.

ED

No, Aaron, don't be bloody  
ridiculous. You hardly know her.

Mimi appears in hidden spots all around the room. She appears  
in mirrors, outside the window, in dark corners -- she looks  
mad.

AARON

Ed, it won't take a minute.

LEXI

I'll be fine by myself.

Ed blocks the door.

ED

No. You've helped her all bloody  
day. Why'd you always let anons  
take advantage of you?  
(to Lexi)  
You at least owe him an explanation  
if he's going to risk having the  
shit beaten out of him.

AARON

Ed, I appreciate the thought but  
not now.

Ed's not moving.

Lexi slowly removes her mask. Her black eyes return to normal.

ED  
Oh, shit. Did you know?

AARON  
No idea.

LEXI  
I need to get home now, please  
move.

ED  
We'll be attacked! What if anyone  
finds out?

Mimi appears. Ed screams.

MIMI  
And nobody's going to find out,  
either.

ED  
Why does your A.I. look like you?

LEXI  
Thank you, Mimi.

MIMI  
If you tell anyone Lexi was here,  
I'll tell everyone your filthy  
little secret.

LEXI  
I wont. I'm so sorry about this.

Ed ignores Lexi.

ED  
What do you mean?

MIMI  
Oh, Venus?

The big, bare leg of VENUS curls itself around Ed's bedroom  
doorframe.

VENUS (O.S.)  
Edward, you naughty boy, did you  
bring some company?

ED

No! Deactivate. Erm... I'm done.

Venus's leg disappears.

AARON

Look, we won't tell anyone.

Ed moves out the way of the door.

MIMI

Come on, Lexi, we've got to start sharing now, the police are involved.

Aaron puts on his anon mask.

LEXI

Where are you going?

AARON

I can't let you go out there alone.

Mimi's had enough of this.

LEXI

No, you've helped enough.

MIMI

I wonder if he'd still want to help you if he knew the real you...

EXT. LOVEDAY HOME - NIGHT

The crowd has swelled. Frankie and Madison are with Alice, who is loving it. Samantha's despairing, while George tries to calm her down.

A car turns up and Teresa exits. Samantha runs over and gives her an awkward hug.

SAMANTHA

Lexi's missing.

TERESA

Do you think I'm blind? Over a million people are watching. Where are the police?

SAMANTHA

They'll be here twenty minutes.

TERESA

In that time, god knows what the anons will do to her...

GEORGE

I'm sure she's just with Jess.  
She'll be back soon.

TERESA

If you took an interest in your daughter's life, you'd know --

A video feed of Lexi in the park appears on the side of the house.

LEXI (ON SCREEN)

Surprise! Hey everyone. I bet you didn't expect to see me like this! I have a confession to make, I've been lying to you! As I said earlier, I've been working on something kinda big. In fact, I'm on my way to see someone kinda special right now. Some of you might remember her, she used to be a friend of mine. For the rest of you, it's about time you met Jessica Clarke, my troll.

SAMANTHA

(to George)

I told you!

George looks defeated..

GEORGE

I... I...

TERESA

Quiet, both of you.

Teresa addresses the crowd.

TERESA

I hope you all can forgive Lexi's rash behaviour, but let me be blunt: This is not Lexi's fault. All she wanted was justice against an anon who had trolled her, and she bravely decided to take action into her own hands. We all know that when there's crime, it's an anon. When there's a murder, it's an anon.

(MORE)

TERESA (CONT'D)

When there's a rape, it's an anon!  
Well, I've had enough! If the  
government won't crack down on  
them, I say we shine the light of  
transparency on the murderers,  
rapists and paedophiles, and save  
Lexi ourselves! Who's with me?

Teresa pushes through the crowd in the direction of  
Nullfield. Samantha and George rush after her, the crowd  
reluctantly follow.

EXT. NULLFIELD - CHURCH - SCAFFOLDING - NIGHT

JESS POV

Jess and the Mouse are half way up the scaffolding, looking  
at screens showing Lexi in the community centre below.

JESS (O.S.)

Oh my god.

A screen with Teresa enlarges.

TERESA (ON SCREEN)

We won't stop until Lexi's safe at  
home and Jessica Clarke's behind  
bars!

Jess immediately starts climbing.

JESS (O.S.)

Deactivate Canvas.

INT. NULLFIELD - AARON & ED'S - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lexi's looking out the window. The fighting outside has  
escalated into a full-blown riot. Screens appear showing  
memories of Lexi in the park on multiple walls.

LEXI (ON SCREEN #1)

I swear, anons add nothing to  
society... We really should just  
put them all on their own little  
island or something.

LEXI (ON SCREEN #2)

It's about time we did something  
about them, just look at Canary  
Wharf.

ED

You had Aaron running around all day so you could find Jess for this?

LEXI

Mimi, what have you done?

MIMI

This is damage control.

There's wolf WHISTLES from the community centre.

Hideous pictures of Lexi appear around the square.

LEXI

What's going on?

AARON

Ignore them.

They watch as a likeness of Lexi struts into view in the centre of the square. The rioting anons laugh and clap it along.

The likeness slowly morphs into Samantha, continues to dance, and then into Teresa. To STRIPPER music, the likeness slowly removes its clothes while morphing between them.

LEXI

Who the hell made that? Aren't there any laws here?

ED

Just, don't be a dick. If you're a dick, you get what you deserve...

Tears stream down Lexi's face.

LEXI

Can I delete that?

AARON

You can, but it'll only make it worse. The anons will know they've hit a nerve. Best to ignore it.

MIMI

See! He's loving this! They think you deserve it too!

Lexi slowly raises her arm, pointing at the stripping likeness.

AARON

Believe me, what they say is  
reflection of them, not of you.

MIMI

It was probably Aaron who made it.

Suddenly, Lexi wheels around to point at Mimi.

LEXI

Delete Mimi!

Mimi doesn't disappear, she looks furious.

MIMI

After everything I've done for you!

ED

You have to say it three times!

LEXI

Delete Mimi!

Mimi drops to her knees.

MIMI

Please, Lexi, I'm sorry. I was only  
trying to help... Come on, I'm your  
best friend.

LEXI

Jess is my best friend! Delete  
Mimi!

Mimi looks terrified as she fades into oblivion. Lexi falls  
to her knees, devastated.

MIMI

I'm so sorry.

ED

What's her problem?

LEXI

Mum bought her to make me popular.  
I think I let her get a little out  
of control...

ED

I meant did she crash or something.  
Never mind...

Ed steps away from the girl.

AARON

It's okay, really, no harm done.

LEXI

But there is... I promise, I promise you both that, yes, I was here originally to find Jess to publicly confront her about the trolling, but then I found out she's been living in her dad's shed, and that she may have depression... I just want to make sure she's okay, whether she hates me or not. I don't care about the trolling. I'm a dick. I deserve it.

At that, in the b.g., Ed begins silently crafting something invisible whilst staring out the window, as if he's incanting a spell.

AARON

I believe you, and you're not a dick.

Concentrating on his spell, Ed doesn't take his eyes off the square.

ED

You know, I remember Aaron saying at school how he wished there was a zombie apocalypse --

AARON

-- Not now, Ed.

ED

He wished everyone on Earth was wiped out just so --

AARON

Ed, now's not the --

ED

-- Just so there'd be small chance you two would be the last two people on Earth and you'd actually talk to him.

Aaron's embarrassed, but hearing this brings a little colour to Lexi's face.

ED

I didn't see what he saw in you... until now.

Ed steps away from the window. Aaron and Lexi notice the missing person pictures on the wall shuffling around.

AARON

Ed, the anons will go nuts if you've augmented over the wall...

ED

Relax, I've just remixed it a little.

The pictures on the wall rearrange themselves until they become a beautiful mosaic of Young Jess and Young Lexi.

Lexi can't take her eyes off it. Ed pats her on the shoulder.

ED

Sorry for calling you a camwhore.

Ed walks to the kitchen area.

ED

Cup of tea, anybody?

Lexi rises and wipes the tears from her eyes.

LEXI

I need to share. I have to call my family. If they get here, there'll be trouble.

ED

Not in here. If the anons know you're here, we'll be attacked.

AARON

Voice only.

Lexi nods, here eyes turn red.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

The Highfordians make their way through the park, spotlights from drones lighting their way.

A likeness of a male (50s) SUPERINTENDENT police officer is taking with Teresa.

SUPERINTENDENT

The N.C.A. will arrive in Nullfield in minutes. It's dangerous. Call off your search, we can handle it from here.

TERESA  
Not until Lexi's safe.

SUPERINTENDENT  
(sternly)  
Riots are breaking out across the  
country in anon ghettos... Canary  
Wharf is on fire. Please --

TERESA  
Then you'd better find her quickly.

The Superintendent disappears.

The crowd pause as soon as they hear Lexi's voice, as if  
they're all tuned into her feed.

LEXI (O.S.)  
Thank you all for looking for me. I  
want you all to know that I'm safe.  
I've been very selfish, and Jess  
has done nothing wrong. Go home,  
I'll be back soon.

The crowd look confused.

GEORGE  
See, what did I tell you?

TERESA  
That didn't even sound like Lexi.  
Did it ever cross your mind that it  
could have been faked or that she  
might be under duress?  
(louder)  
I'm not stopping until Lexi's safe  
and that troll is behind bars!

Teresa continues her march.

INT. NULLFIELD - AARON & ED'S - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Aaron, Ed and Lexi are watching the screens through the  
windows showing scenes of the park. A mob of anons barricade  
the alley with anything they can grab or rip apart.

ED  
Your grandma is... formidable.

Lexi limps over to the door.

AARON  
Where are you going?

Lexi doesn't stop.

LEXI  
I have to get out of Nullfield and  
call them off.

AARON  
Wait, I have an idea. Ed, get your  
bag?

ED  
Really? No way...

Ed rushes excitedly over to his room and opens the door.

VENUS (O.S.)  
Evening, Ed, ready for a lie down?

ED (O.S.)  
Pretend you didn't hear that!

Aaron rushes over to a drawer, finds a little orange pill and  
hands it to Lexi.

AARON  
This is Coach, my old A.I. He'll  
keep you safe until you get a new  
A.I.

LEXI  
Thank you.

Lexi gives Aaron a kiss on the cheek.

EXT. NULLFIELD - COMMUNITY CENTRE - NIGHT

LEXI POV

Lexi's hiding behind a wheelie bin.

She can see Aaron and Ed on the flat roof of their apartment  
block holding a paintball gun. An anon passes close by.

ANON  
Jess... Lexi...

Aaron salutes her.

AARON  
Hey, Antithesis!

The the mob briefly pause when Aaron FIRES a couple of shots at a lean-to on an opposite roof. The paintballs leave UV trails through the air.

Moments later, Antithesis exits the lean-to.

ANTITHESIS

What? Now? Are you crazy? This is the revolution!

Aaron fires a couple of warning SHOTS.

ANTITHESIS

You're gunna regret this...

Antithesis reenters the shack. Lexi pulls on a paintball mask.

All along Antithesis's shack, portholes open and gun barrels appear. Suddenly, they fire a BROADSIDE!

Aaron and Ed return fire. There's so many UV streaks, it's as if someone's painted in a daytime sky.

The rioting anons shield their eyes take cover.

Lexi makes her move and limps slowly towards the alley. She takes the orange pill out of her pocket and swallows it.

LEXI (O.S.)

Coach?

COACH (30), a lean, mean motivating machine, appears ahead.

COACH

Hey, Lex.

Lexi flinches with pain as she's consistently struck by paintballs.

LEXI (O.S.)

Coach... I want to send one last message to Jess.

COACH

You have twenty-three unread and fifteen unsent messages to Jess. It appears your old A.I. was keeping them hidden from you.

EXT. NULLFIELD - ROOFTOPS - NIGHT

Aaron notices an anon sneaking up behind Lexi and Coach holding a knife. He fires at the anon, but they ignore the paintballs.

AARON

Ed...

Ed also targets the anon, to no effect.

Suddenly, Lexi goes mental and starts PUNCHING and kicking what's left of a nearby market stall.

LEXI

(faint)

Arsehole! Dickhead!

The perusing anon changes their mind.

ED

Coach seems to be making an impression!

EXT. NULLFIELD - COMMUNITY CENTRE - NIGHT

LEXI POV

Other rooftops have joined in the fight. Lexi limps towards the barricade.

LEXI (O.S.)

Scan the messages. Play the ones I need to hear, voice only.

JESS (V.O.)

Look, I'm anon! Lol. Sorry about today... I shouldn't have put you on the spot like that. Call me.

Lexi winces in pain as she's STRUCK by paintballs. The next message begins.

JESS (V.O.)

Hey, I get you're mad. I've learnt my lesson... I'll come back to school just as soon as they stop enforcing sharing... You know, being anon isn't as fun as I thought it would be... Call me.

Lexi reaches the barricade and starts climbing.

JESS (V.O.)  
 Why are you ignoring me? I see  
 you're handing out with that  
 camwhore now...

Lexi groans with pain as she climbs.

JESS (V.O.)  
 They say the spotlight either hides  
 your imperfections or blinds you to  
 them... I guess I know the affect  
 it has on you...

Lexi notices that as the paintballs die down, anons begin to  
 reappear in the square.

She can hear Jess SOBBING on the next message.

JESS (V.O.)  
 Lex... Please... I just overheard  
 my Dad... I've had some terrible  
 news... Find an excuse to walk home  
 after the ball so we can meet.  
 Please...

Lexi pauses, that one struck deeply. Howling wind is heard  
 over the next message.

JESS (V.O.)  
 You bitch! I hate you! This is all  
 your fault!

No more messages play.

LEXI (O.S.)  
 When was that received?

COACH  
 Five minutes ago.

Lexi stops and surveys Nullfield. Her vision is drawn to the  
 church, she slowly looks up the spire...

An anon is standing right at the top of the scaffolding.

LEXI (O.S.)  
 Jess? Jess. Jess!

Lexi scrambles back down the barricade.

EXT. NULLFIELD - CHURCH - TOP OF SCAFFOLDING - NIGHT

JESS POV

Jess stands precariously on the edge of the scaffolding. From here she can see Highford, and in her paranoid vision, it's as if a forest fire approaches from its direction.

OLA

Jess... come back from the edge.

JESS (O.S.)

Delete Mum, delete Mum, delete Mum.

Ola disappears. Jess cries as she stares over the edge.

EXT. NULLFIELD - CHURCH - BASE OF SCAFFOLDING - NIGHT

LEXI POV

Lexi limps around the base of the scaffolding, looking for something. She's written Jess's name in air above her.

LEXI

Any response?

COACH

None.

Lexi's vision zooms as Jess removes her mask -- it's definitely her.

LEXI

Jess!

(beat)

Coach... I need to get up that scaffolding.

COACH

But there's no ladder. It doesn't look safe to me.

LEXI

Now, Coach.

Coach solemnly nods and reappears on the first rung of scaffolding.

COACH

You get up that god! Damn! Scaffolding! Move!

Lexi runs at the scaffolding and yelps in pain as she drags herself up.

LEXI

Send a message to Aaron and Ed.

INT. NULLFIELD - AARON & ED'S - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Aaron and Ed reenter the room through a back window. Aaron's barely touched, whereas Ed's covered in paintball marks.

ED

Where the hell do we find a ladder?

AARON

Try Antithesis. I saw one a few months ago in the back of the pub.

EXT. NULLFIELD - CHURCH - SCAFFOLDING - NIGHT

LEXI POV

Lexi's half way up the scaffolding, she can hear Anons who have returned to the square below. Coach is above her.

COACH

No, hold here. Push with your legs.  
You're doing great, Lex. Come on,  
girl, I know you're hurting, but  
you can do this!

Teresa's voice is amplified.

TERESA (O.S.)

Lexi, we're here to save you!

Lexi slips.

COACH

Lexi!

Upside down, Lexi manages to hold on with her legs.

COACH

Lexi, hang on! Don't give up!

She can see the Highfordians pushing through the alley and overwhelming the anons.

SAMANTHA

Lexi! We love you!

LEXI (O.S.)

I know.

Lexi manages to pull herself up.

EXT. NULLFIELD - CHURCH - TOP OF SCAFFOLDING - NIGHT

JESS POV

The whole town glows red.

Red-eyed demons fight with shadows below.

Dozens of wraiths fall from the sky, looking for prey.

Jess holds her arms out and looks to the sky.

LEXI (O.S.)

Jess... wait...

Jess wheels around to see an anon dragging itself forward, screaming her name.

BACK TO SCENE

Jess looks desperate.

JESS

Stand back, I'll jump!

LEXI

No, wait, it's me!

Lexi removes her anon mask.

JESS

No! No! This is all your fault!

Elon sees them and flies close to the scaffolding, Jess shies away from him, terrified.

TERESA

There they are!

EXT. NULLFIELD - MARKET SQUARE - NIGHT

George and Samantha, surrounded by Highfordians, look up at the church. Teresa, with two fingers on her voice box, amplifies her voice. She ignores the debris the surrounding anons throw at her.

A screen appears showing Elon's POV of the girls.

JESS (ON SCREEN)

No, stay away from me, camwhore!

LEXI (ON SCREEN)  
Listen to me. I'm not here to dox  
you.

RIOT POLICE march into the square from all directions. The  
anons focus their attack on them.

TERESA (AMPLIFIED)  
Officers, arrest that troll!

JESS (ON SCREEN)  
Stay back, or I'll jump!

TERESA (AMPLIFIED)  
Lexi's the important one!

George bushes Teresa's fingers from her throat.

GEORGE  
Give it a rest, Teresa, let them  
talk.

TERESA  
Who the hell do you think you are,  
you stupid little man? I'm trying  
to save your daughter's life!

SAMANTHA  
(under her breath)  
George, Mum, you're making a scene.

EXT. NULLFIELD - CHURCH - TOP OF SCAFFOLDING - NIGHT

Jess is still precariously close to the edge.

LEXI  
Jess, listen to me. My A.I. image  
consultant blocked our messages.

The anons heckle in the square below.

ANON (O.S.)  
Lies!

LEXI  
I tried contacting you loads. I  
thought you were mad at me!

ANON (O.S.)  
It's a trap!

LEXI

You've got to believe me! I'm sorry for being so self-obsessed. I just wanted to be popular, and I thought you were jealous. I'm so sorry.

Jess looks like she's coming around.

THUG ANON (O.S.)

Oh, there she is!

EXT. NULLFIELD - MARKET SQUARE - NIGHT

Thug Anon removes his mask to reveal Malcolm's heavily cut and bruised face.

MALCOLM

Go ahead, jump!

The crowd gasp.

Jess falls to her knees, devastated.

MALCOLM

See if I care! I knew you were just like your mother. Kill yourself like she did!

GEORGE

Now, Malcolm...

George tries to calm Malcolm down and gets punched in the face.

The police grapple Malcolm to the ground, mask and gag him.

EXT. NULLFIELD - CHURCH - TOP OF SCAFFOLDING - NIGHT

Jess is overwhelmed with emotion, as if she's reliving it.

LEXI

Jess, I'm so, so sorry.

ANON (O.S.)

You can't live like this...

LEXI

This is all my fault.

ANON (O.S.)

Set yourself free!

JESS

They found her body in a rubbish  
dump in Canary Wharf... She'd been  
there for years...

LEXI

I should have come looking for you.  
I'm so sorry, I should have been  
there.

JESS

You were there, I watched you every  
day...

ED (O.S.)

Jess, wait, don't jump!

In the square below, Ed and Antithesis push through the crowd  
carrying a mattress. They throw it at the base of the  
scaffolding.

ED

If you're gunna jump, try to land  
on the mattress!

LEXI

Ed, will you shut up, please!

ED

Well, that's charming. I'm only  
trying to help, you know.

LEXI

Ed, I swear, you're the biggest  
dick!

ED

Oh, thank you, Lexi...

The anons LAUGH. Lexi and the Highfordians are extremely  
embarrassed.

ANTITHESIS

She's generous. Sure she hasn't got  
you confused with someone else?

Another laugh from the anons, they're having a great time.

All of a sudden, Jess is standing next to Lexi.

JESS

Why'd your A.I. do it?

LEXI

I think because she knew that if I had you as a best friend, I just wouldn't give a shit.

JESS

I missed you.

LEXI

I missed you too.

The girls embrace.

The crowd, including the anons CHEER.

ANON (O.S.)

Kiss!

Lexi winces in pain.

JESS

Are you okay?

LEXI

I think I need to see a doctor.

JESS

Let's get you down.

Jess helps Lexi as they make their way down a ramps that exist for the top few rungs of the scaffolding.

EXT. NULLFIELD - MARKET SQUARE - NIGHT

George is standing at the base of the scaffolding holding his bloody nose. Samantha's gripping his arm.

GEORGE

Okay, girls, that's low enough. The fire brigade will be along in a few minutes!

Aaron approaches George.

GEORGE

Hello, Aaron, how nice to see you.

AARON

Hi, I just wanted to give you one of these.

Aaron passes George a light blue pill. George inspects it.

GEORGE  
Is it safe?

AARON  
Yeah, I think you'll like it.

George swallows the pill and is immediately amazed.

GEORGE  
Wow.

Teresa walks away in disgust and passes Lexi's clique.

Alice and Madison go to walk back to the alley, along with most of the Highfordians.

ALICE  
Are you coming?

FRANKIE  
I think I'll wait to see Lexi. I'll catch up with you later.

EXT. NULLFIELD - CHURCH - SCAFFOLDING - NIGHT

JESS POV

Lexi and Jess are waiting half way up the scaffolding. Lexi notices she can see Highford from where she's standing.

LEXI  
So this is how you trolled me.

JESS  
Yeah, sorry about that...

LEXI  
I deserved it. Do you want to stay at mine?

JESS (O.S.)  
But you're off to uni tomorrow.

LEXI  
Not any more.

Hidden in the rooftops in the b.g., an anon pokes their head out; they're armed with a paintball gun.

ANON  
Get out of my town!

JESS (O.S.)  
Lexi, get down!

The anon FIRES.

Jess yelps. The anons and Highfordians in the square SCREAM as Jess falls backwards over the edge.

LEXI  
Jess!

EXT. NULLFIELD - CHURCH - GRAVE YARD - CONTINUOUS

Jess lands face up in the long grass amongst the graves.  
The town and the panicked SHOUTS begin spinning around her.  
The world dissolves into CHAOS.  
Only half-thoughts remain.  
Through the chaos Jess faintly hears:

LEXI  
Stay with me.

INT. DARK BEDROOM - DAY

LEXI POV

Lexi's sitting on the edge of the bed, looking in the mirror.

LEXI  
Now you've seen it all... I'm sorry  
to anyone I hurt...

Aaron stirs in the bed beside her. Lexi puts her finger to her lips whilst slinking from the the room.

INT. AARON & ED'S - LIVING ROOM - DAY

A bed has been set up by the window. Jess, with both legs in casts, is watching the sun rise.

Lexi enters the room, eyes glowing red.

JESS  
Ew, no. I'm it's too early to  
share!

Lexi gives her a kiss on the cheek.

