

BUILDING A BETTER BOY

An original screenplay

by

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WGAw Registered

EXT. CIA HEADQUARTERS - ESTABLISHING

A swooping overhead shot of the foreboding compound. An insistent drumbeat pummels our ears.

SUPER A TITLE: CIA HEADQUARTERS: LANGLEY, VIRGINIA

INT. CIA HQ HALLWAY - DAY

DR. JAMES HARTLEY, an ambitious scientist, hustles to keep up with COLONEL RAYMOND MCFEE, a pit bull of a bureaucrat.

MCFEE

I just got off the phone with the President.

HARTLEY

Was he...upset?

MCFEE

A three billion dollar weapon is missing, Dr. Hartley. He's *tickled*.

They pass an interrogation room where two agents wrestle an uncooperative suspect to the ground.

MCFEE (CONT'D)

The good news is we have the conspirators in custody. It's only a matter of time before we extract the location of the prototype.

HARTLEY

If you could give me a minute alone with them--

MCFEE

Absolutely not--

HARTLEY

Please Colonel. This was my project. Five years of my life.

They reach the LAST INTERROGATION ROOM. McFee sighs.

MCFEE

You can sit in -- but not a word. As far as I'm concerned, the most dangerous terrorists in America are behind that door.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - MINUTES LATER

Hartley stands against the wall, arms crossed, along with two armed agents.

McFee's in interrogation mode now. He glares across a table at the UNSEEN SUSPECTS.

MCFEE

Let's start from the beginning.
How did you breach the network?

No answer from the mysterious culprits.

MCFEE (CONT'D)

Look. If you refuse to talk, it's
only going to make it worse.

After a moment of rustling, A PAPER AIRPLANE flies back at McFee, nailing him in the forehead.

Hartley can't take any more. He pushes past McFee, shouting into camera at the bad guys.

HARTLEY

You think this is a joke?! You
stole classified military
technology. That's *treason*.
You're going to be locked away in a
country whose name you can't
pronounce. And I can guarantee
that you are not going to
Homecoming.

REVERSE ANGLE TO REVEAL: KATRINA and GABRIELLE. High school sophomores.

Gabby has a hippie nerd vibe -- Birkenstocks and a tie-dye T-shirt featuring Einstein sticking out his tongue. Kat's horn-rimmed glasses exude emo angst. She whimpers--

KAT

But... But *Dad!!*

HARTLEY

Don't start with me, Katrina. I
want you to stay in this room and
think about what you've done!

Hartley SLAMS his fist on the table as we smash cut to--

EXT. GLEN HILLS HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING - TO ESTABLISH

A perfectly normal public high school in suburban D.C. Kids pile out of buses, dragging themselves to first period.

KAT AND GABBY step off the bus with the rest of the underclassmen herd. They chat excitedly, and nothing we see suggests the high stakes drama we've just witnessed.

CLACK ACROSS ANOTHER TITLE: TWO DAYS EARLIER

Kat tells a story with a star-struck, dreamy look.

KAT

It was amazing. On, like, an epic scale. He looked into my eyes, and there was this total connection.

We FLASH into a DREAM SEQUENCE. Over SULTRY MUSIC, Kat stares across a candle-lit table at

JADEN. He's a good-looking senior. Effortlessly cool. When his mop of hair falls over his blue eyes, he is quite possibly the cutest guy in the history of ever.

JADEN

What would I do without you.

Kat bats her eyes in idyllic soft focus.

KAT

Aw, Jaden. You're *sweet*.

JADEN

I was lost, and you saved me.

A NEEDLE SCRATCH as Gabby shoves Kat back to reality.

GABBY

It's not love, dude. It's pre-calculus.

FLASH BACK TO KAT'S MEMORY, revealing that there are math textbooks on the table. Kat does Jaden's homework for him.

JADEN

I don't know what I'd do without you. I was lost, and you saved me.

BACK TO KAT AND GABBY again.

KAT

No, no. He totally wants me...

GABBY

--to do his problem sets. No offense, but... there's no way.

Two students pass by. Kat makes a point of saying hello.

KAT

Hey Janice. Hey Andrew.

The other kids ignore Kat, walking faster to avoid a conversation. Kat holds up her phone.

KAT (CONT'D)

So -- about Jaden. I was thinking I should definitely friend him.

GABBY

He's a Senior. It's proper etiquette to let him friend you.

KAT

We're 15 and 17. In primitive cultures we could be married.

GABBY

This is a primitive culture. And you don't handle rejection well. Remember student council elections in eighth grade?

KAT

Oh, that was so rigged.

Another group of kids pass. They are speaking Spanish.

KAT (CONT'D)

Ola comrades! Que tal?

The Spanish kids also ignore her. Kat returns to her phone.

KAT (CONT'D)

As Julius Caesar once said, "Non dubitant." Do not hesitate.

Jaden's Facebook page is loaded up. Kat pushes the "Send Friend Request" button with a mini-squeal.

GABBY

You know Caesar got stabbed, right?

KAT

Yes. But to this day, we enjoy the salad that bears his name.

INT. A.P. CALCULUS CLASS - DAY

MR. FRAGNER, a droll man in an ugly sweater, hands out quizzes.

Except for Kat and Gabby, it's a class full of seniors. And they all hate them for wrecking the bell curve.

MR. FRAGNER

The quiz covers chapters four and five. You may begin now.

The students flip their quizzes over and begin scribbling. We pan up to the clock over the door: it's 2:00pm.

The clock FAST FORWARDS - a little - to 2:08pm.

Mr. Fragner looks up to see Kat and Gabby standing in front of him, smiling brightly.

GABBY

We're um...done.

MR. FRAGNER

Why don't you go back and check your work?

Gabby's eyes wander skyward. She takes a two-second beat to check all her work -- *in her head*.

GABBY

Yep. Still done.

KAT

If there's extra credit for finishing first, I finished first, but if there's no extra credit then don't worry about it.

GABBY

Mister Fragner, since it's eighth period, may we go outside? Vitamin D is essential for healthy skin.

Fragner hands them hall passes. As Kat and Gabby leave, a kid whispers under his breath.

STUDENT

Dorks.

The rest of the class bursts into STIFLED LAUGHTER.

EXT. GLEN HILLS HIGH SCHOOL - SAME

Kat and Gabrielle walk down the front steps.

GABBY
He said "dorks."

KAT
He distinctly said *sporks*. It's
the world's most versatile utensil.

Kat is smiling ear to ear. Nearly hopping.

GABBY
Do you have to pee or something?

KAT
Pee *happiness* maybe.
(holding up her phone)
Check it out.

GABBY
No way. Jaden texted you?

KAT
He didn't accept the friend
request. He *texted me*. Much more
personal. The speed of the
response bodes very well.

Gabby reads the message aloud.

GABBY
"Hey Kat. Meet me at football
field after practis," with an S.
"I have an important Q to ask
letter U. C U Lader with a D,
Jaden." Wow. Even auto-correct
can't help this kid.

KAT
He wants to ask me to Homecoming.
I can feel it.

Kat walks with purpose. Gabby hurries to keep up.

GABBY
What do you mean feel it? Like the
way you get gassy when you eat
broccoli?

EXT. GLEN HILLS HIGH'S FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Varsity football practice is in full swing.

COACH VOSS barks commands as the football players crisscross the field. He has the kind of intensity that you find in high school gym teachers, serial killers, and Gary Busey.

COACH

It's all about one word, men!
Focus! Heart! Defense! Tenacity!

Kat and Gabby climb into the bleachers. Kat's gaze is locked on JADEN. He's the team's star quarterback.

GABBY

This is so ill-advised.

KAT

When Jaden comes over, act normal.
Like, don't say anything smart.

Two of the football players get in a shoving match, which devolves into a wrestling match on the ground.

GABBY

Ugh. If that's acting normal,
unsubscribe me.

Jaden jogs over to get a cup of Gatorade. Despite his alpha-hottie status, he's a surprisingly decent kid.

KAT

Hey Jaden! Hi!

JADEN

Oh. Hey.

KAT

Looking good out there.

GABBY

Absolutely. You are a winner, sir.

JADEN

What are you guys doing here?
Shouldn't you be in class?

KAT

We blew that off. Blew it off
emphatically.

GABBY

We finished early.

Kat kicks Gabby under the stands.

KAT

Did you... want to talk to me?

JADEN

Totally. But I gotta get back out there. Can you hang?

KAT

Sure! We love to hang out.

GABBY

We're really great at it.

Jaden puts his helmet back on and returns to the field. Kat is almost hyperventilating.

KAT

Oh. Magoo. He is so *into* me.

NEVAEH (ne-VAY-uh) BARNES, Jaden's girlfriend, approaches with the cheerleading squad. She's blonde, black-hearted and beautiful. A future reality TV star.

She looks at Kat and Gabby with distaste.

NEVAEH

What's this? A meeting of the young lesbians club? This is a closed practice.

KAT

We were invited to be here.

GABBY

Yeah. So why don't you go yell some letters in unison.

NEVEAH

Easy, honey badger. Katrina, do you honestly think that Jaden would ask you to homecoming?

Kat looks up, blindsided. Nevaeh holds up an iPhone.

NEVAEH

He forgot his phone at my house last night. We hung out for three hours in my rec room, *unsupervised*.

GABBY

Gross.

NEVAEH

I'm not going to go into everything that happened, because I'm a lay-day. But here's the headline: he asked moi to Homecoming. Which is what everyone knew would happen, except the school geniuses.

The cheer team snickers. Kat wants to die. Gabby glares at Neveah.

GABBY

Why do people even like you?

NEVEAH

She tried to friend my boyfriend.

KAT

I wasn't trying to--

NEVAEH

I know a crush when I smell one. So back off, Math Club.

The whistle blows to end practice. Jaden jogs to the sidelines.

Nevaeh kisses Jaden on the cheek and hands him his phone.

NEVAEH (CONT'D)

Here you go, honey.

JADEN

Thanks. Oh Kat -- what I wanted to ask you was, um, can you e-mail me the Chapter Three solutions?

Kat nods, trying to hide how crushed she is.

JADEN (CONT'D)

You saved me again.

The words hit Kat like daggers. Jaden runs off to the locker room with the rest of the team.

NEVEAH

That will be all now, girls.

Kat starts walking away, defeated. But Gabby turns defiantly, and calls after Neveah--

GABBY

Have fun at Homecoming. Kat's date's going to be way hotter.

NEVAEH

Whatever.

KAT

(hushed)

Gabs. What are you *doing*.

GABBY

I got this.

(back at Neveah)

I'm serious. Kat's boyfriend?
Total hotburger. His name's
Albert, he's a Senior. He shreds
on a skateboard. And he volunteers
with animals. Orphan animals.

The other cheerleaders let out an immediate "awwww."

NEVAEH

She's lying.

GABBY

He lives in Alaska.

NEVAEH

Where he *skateboards*.

GABBY

You've heard of the X games? He's
in the Y games. He uses glaciers
for half pipes, and people are
like, "Why?"

There's a tiny hint of worry on Neveah's face. But she waves
it off, and lines up to start a cheer routine.

NEVAEH

I'll be sure to tell everyone about
this big romance of yours. We're
all holding our breath!

EXT. STUDENT PARKING LOT - MINUTES LATER

Kat and Gabby walk to the parking lot. Passing students are
already checking their phones, laughing and cat-calling.

PASSING STUDENT

Hey Kat? Where's your boyfriend?!

The group of Spanish exchange students walk by and whistle.

SPANISH STUDENT

Donde es tu amor, eh? Ay yai yai!

KAT
Great. Now I'm a loser and a liar.

GABBY
Relax. I have a plan.

BART (O.S.)
Ahoy ladies. Need a ride?

KAT
Oh joy - my brother. Now the
nightmare is complete.

A 1982 lime green Cadillac El Dorado, a boat of a vehicle,
rolls up next to them.

At the wheel, Kat's brother BART. He's a year older, all
gangly limbs and awkward energy. Until he's old enough to go
to Comic Con, social life might be tough for this kid.

BART
The new ride! Pretty sick, right?

GABBY
I think your muffler is killing
dolphins as we speak.

Gabby and Kat climb in.

Bart's car rolls away, REVEALING the bumper sticker: "They
call it WarCRAFT because it takes SKILL."

INT. BART'S CAR - DAY

They Might Be Giants plays on the radio. Gabby fiddles with
the dashboard as Bart pats the steering wheel with pride.

KAT
This thing smells like B.O. and
grandparents.

BART
And freedom. Forty hours a week
bagging groceries and I am mo-bile.

Kat points to the dashboard.

KAT
That's a cassette player. It means
you have to listen to all the songs
in the same order...every time.

BART

Whatever - I'm not the one who just got owned by Neveah Barnes. It's already blowing up on Twitter.

KAT

Yeah? Well your face is blowing up on Zitter.

GABBY

Would you two call a truce?! Like I said - I have a plan.

INT. THE HARTLEY HOME - DAY

Kat's house is pure suburban McMansion. Her mom PEGGY sits at the kitchen table on her computer, grading college papers.

PEGGY

How was school, girls?

KAT

Rote memorization. Ritual shaming. The usual.

PEGGY

There are TV dinners in the freezer - go to town. You guys want to grade some Shakespeare essays?

KAT

Sounds raucous, but we'll pass.

GABBY

I'm going to build Kat a boyfriend.

Peggy doesn't look up from her Powerbook.

PEGGY

Okay. Have fun.

INT. KAT'S ROOM - EVENING

Gabby and Kat plop on the bed. Kat's room is covered with posters of her heroes: Einstein, Steve Jobs, Ken Jennings (the Jeopardy über-champ) and Walter from Breaking Bad.

GABBY

Let me ask you a question. Do we settle for second best in school?

KAT

Duh. No.

GABBY

Okay. So why do we settle for boys that want to date cheer leading demon spawn?

KAT

Easy for you to say. Didn't you meet a boy at computer camp?

GABBY

It was a fling while I was teaching him java code. But we're talking about you.

KAT

Don't bother. I'm hopeless.

Gabby stands up - delivering a kind of manifesto.

GABBY

As my hero computer genius Alan Kay once said, "I don't predict the future... I invent it." Why can't we invent you a boyfriend?

Kat considers the idea. Her interest is piqued.

KAT

I think you better sleep over.

GABBY

Let me ask my mom.

Gabby sends a text and waits two and a half seconds.

GABBY (CONT'D)

Okay. I can.

INT. KAT'S ROOM - LATER

Gabby sits at Kat's computer, furiously typing code. Kat looks on, feasting on a Stoeffer's frozen dinner.

GABBY

We'll start with a SMS bot that can auto-generate text messages. If we create a unique voice he can even leave you messages.

KAT

Is this dishonest and gross?

GABBY

Yes. But it's better than letting Nevaeh win.

KAT

Start a Facebook profile.

Gabby drags images of hot guys off the internet. Abercrombie and Fitch models -- Justins Bieber and Timberlake -- Ryans Gosling and Lochte -- and the entirety of One Direction.

GABBY

We can make him look like anything. We'll build him to order, like a Mini-Cooper or a foot-long sub.

The pictures are pulled together into a Photoshop file. Gabby melds them, morphs them, shaping a single boy's face.

GABBY (CONT'D)

Black hair?

KAT

Nah--Brown. With blue eyes.

GABBY

Meow-zers.

KAT

He'll be super cute, obviously. But he doesn't know it...

KAT AND GABBY

Which makes him even cuter!

They swoon at the thought. Gabby's clicking furiously with the mouse. She's getting into it now.

GABBY

He should be like, super polite.

KAT

Yeah. Like almost British.

GABBY

He'll be sensitive. He'll pay attention. He'll be brave and strong without being a meathead.

LINES OF CODE fill the monitor as Gabby's fingers FLY over the keyboard. She has the wild look of a scientist in mid-creation. Kat grabs Gabby's arm.

KAT

Gabs. This is like the sweetest thing anyone's ever done for me.

GABBY

Hey. Friends don't let friends date losers.
(with a final keytap)
Here we go. Prepare yourself for Albert, Version 1.0.

Gabby and Kat lean in, and then there's a computer DING, and they jump back in SHOCK.

ON SCREEN: "ALBERT 1.0" is a MESS:

His image is badly pixillated mash-up of cute boy parts, with mismatched eyes and a creepy oversized head.

He's the Frankenstein of avis, and he croaks out a metallic, monotone voice.

ALBERT 1.0

I -- luff -- you -- Katrina.

Even his pronunciation is off: the way he says "Katrina" rhymes with a certain part of female anatomy.

KAT

Eww!

GABBY

This graphics processor sucks. And why is your internet so slow?

Kat looks at the ceiling with disgust.

INT. UPSTAIRS IN BART'S ROOM - SAME

Bart sits in front of a preposterously large flat screen TV. He's got a headset on and he's playing CALL OF DUTY.

BART

I'll take the guy on the upper right. You flank left.

OTHER PLAYERS shout orders and taunts at each other.

ON SCREEN: Bart's soldier sneaks up on another team's player and shoots him in the back.

BART (CONT'D)
Yes! Eat your own entrails!

KAT
(poking her head in)
Bart, can you stop Bogarting the bandwidth?

BART
I'm in the middle of a war here.

ON SCREEN, Bart's soldier gets gutted with a bayonet.

BART (CONT'D)
Aghh! Same team! Same team!
And... I'm dead.

INT. HALLWAY AT THE BOTTOM OF THE STAIRS - SAME

Kat rejoins Gabby, shaking her head in frustration.

KAT
No dice.

GABBY
So are we done for the night?

KAT
My dad has a wiMax line in his office. He'd kill me if he caught us in there. If he catches us.

INT. OUTSIDE KAT'S DAD'S OFFICE - LATE NIGHT

Down the hall in the kitchen, we can see that Peggy has fallen asleep grading papers.

Kat and Gabby approach a foreboding mahogany door. It is secured with the kind of keypad LOCK they use on bank vaults. Kat punches in numbers: the door opens with a WHOOSH.

GABBY
Your mom's birthday?

KAT
Anniversary.

GABBY
Aww. Cute.

INT. HARTLEY'S OFFICE - SAME

It's packed with the highest of high tech computer equipment.
Kat flips a switch and the giant computer hums to life.

GABBY

Dual quad-core platinum alloy
procks. This rig is sick.

KAT

My dad got it from his new company.
He's working on another video game.
It's all, top secret or whatever.

GABBY

That's so cool.

KAT

Gabby, it's my dad. I mean, what
tech company works on a project for
five years without releasing it?

EXT. THE PENTAGON - DAY

The headquarters of the Department of Defense.

A TITLE CLACKS ACROSS: THE PENTAGON.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - SAME

High ranking generals and military analysts are assembled
around a conference table.

DR. HARTLEY stands at the front of the room.

HARTLEY

Gentlemen, I give you the X-17
Prototype, the world's first Covert
Robotic Operative.

A POWER POINT PRESENTATION lights up behind him, displaying
blueprints of an intricate ROBOTIC ASSEMBLY LINE.

HARTLEY (CONT'D)

Cutting-edge intelligence.
Complete genetic design.

Colonel McFee stands at Hartley's side, projecting
confidence.

MCFEE

These prototype soldiers will be specifically fabricated for each mission. They will generate their own movement and thought and can be fluent in any language.

A four star general named FORMAN peers at the diagram.

GENERAL FORMAN

What's the power source?

HARTLEY

A combination of solar polymers in the skin and a friction-powered generator in the hip turbine.

The generals nod, impressed. McFee makes a closing pitch.

MCFEE

We're ready to begin as soon as the Joint Chiefs give the say-so. This could be the new American soldier.

The analysts nod. Only General Forman looks skeptical.

GENERAL FORMAN

I didn't think the old model was so bad. What are the safeguards? What if this thing falls into the wrong hands?

MCFEE

The fail-safes are iron clad, sir.

DR. HARTLEY

If there is ever the slightest hint of a malfunction, the prototype has a remote over-ride that can be controlled by a single mission commander.

That seems to satisfy the general and he stands up.

GENERAL FORMAN

I'll report back to the Joint Chiefs and let you know their decision.

HARTLEY

Excuse me General, but-- How long will that take, exactly?

GENERAL FORMAN
 Could be a day. Could be a year.

Hartley pales. A year? The general laughs.

GENERAL FORMAN (CONT'D)
 Patience, Doctor Hartley. You work
 for the government now.

The review team walks out. Hartley looks discouraged, but Colonel McFee has fire in his eyes.

MCFEE
 That was great. I haven't seen
 them that excited since I previewed
 the G-12 tank.
 (smiling at the memory)
 The way that thing could blow a
 hole through a building was a thing
 of beauty.

Dr. Hartley nods, supportive but vaguely frightened.

EXT. THE PENTAGON - MINUTES LATER

McFee and Hartley walk out the front door of the Pentagon,
 shaking hands on a successful presentation.

Over an ominous drumbeat, we REVEAL that they are being
 watched through a high powered TELESCOPE.

Voices confer in RUSSIAN ACCENTS over walkie-talkies.

RUSSIAN VOICE (ON WALKIE)
 They're leaving.

The scope sight magnifies, ZOOMING IN on Dr. Hartley.

2ND RUSSIAN VOICE (ON WALKIE)
 Thank you for your brilliant
 creation, Doctor. We only steal
 from the best.

INT. HARTLEY'S OFFICE - SAME

We begin on a CLOSE UP OF HARTLEY - a FRAMED PHOTO on a
 bookshelf.

He's posing with his family: PEGGY, BART AND KAT.

PULL BACK FARTHER TO REVEAL GABBY AND KAT, sitting at
 Hartley's desk. Gabby types furiously.

GABBY

The security on this software is nuts. It's protected by like twenty encryptions.

KAT

My dad's paranoid. I can't even get clearance for a wonder bra.

GABBY

I didn't say I couldn't break it.

With a single key tap, the screen changes to read

"CHARACTER DESIGN INTERFACE. TOP SECRET ACCESS ONLY."

KAT

Nice, dude!

Gabby shrugs, *yeah, I'm awesome*, and plugs in a USB drive and uploads their fake Albert profile page to the system.

The processor WHIRS, and an entire human GENOME SEQUENCE begins to assemble on the screen in front of Kat and Gabby.

GABBY

Whoa. It's doing something with our data. It's creating some kind of virtual DNA.

They stare at the computer screen for a second. Gabby's entranced - Kat chews a twizzler, looking impatient.

GABBY (CONT'D)

Remember that old Matthew Broderick movie where they hacked into what they thought was a video game and almost blew up the world?

KAT

Focus, Gabs. We're building me a boyfriend. This is important.

The system spins for a few seconds, and suddenly, there's a response: DATA ACCEPTED. BEGIN PROTOTYPE CREATION.

The screen fills with plain yellow text.

KAT (CONT'D)

Look at that interface. No wonder they haven't released this game.

GABBY
It wants more data. Look at this:
"Enter Geopolitical Affinity."

KAT
I don't know. Griffindor?

GABBY
(typing)
United States of America... What is
his "Project home base"?

KAT
The high school, I guess.

Gabby nods and types, then reads the next prompt.

GABBY
Who is the project commander?

KAT
Um...Me.

GABBY
Mission?

KAT
Taking me to Homecoming.

A screen comes up with the heading "CAPABILITIES" across the top. There are categories like "Intelligence," "Maturity" and "Sensitivity," on a scale from 1 to 100.

Kat grabs the mouse and moves every slider up to 100.

KAT (CONT'D)
Go big or go home, I always say.

Gabby clicks the enter key, and they sit and wait while the hard drive spins.

INT. THE ROBOTICS LAB - THE PENTAGON - NIGHT

The massive computer servers start to HUM.

INT. KAT'S HOUSE - SAME

Kat and Gabby stare expectantly at the monitor. There's a "DING" from the computer. Kat and Gabby look at each other.

GABBY
Here we go. Albert 2.0.

The screen goes blank, and suddenly

THE NEW ALBERT appears on screen.

This is a serious upgrade. He's gorgeous. Albert peers out from the monitor, all dreamy confidence, and smiles.

ALBERT

What's up.

Kat and Gabby stare for a moment, trying not to drool.

GABBY

Wow. He's in HD.

KAT

Yeah. H-D-*licious*.

ALBERT

I'm Albert Hart. Senior. I live in Glacier Falls, Alaska. I was first in my class and a champion snow-boarder. This scar on my arm is from the--

KAT AND GABBY

Time I had to fight a polar bear.

ALBERT

I didn't kill him, though, I--

KAT AND GABBY

Donated him to a local zoo.

Kat grabs Gabby's arm, excited.

KAT

We are so gonna win the science fair.

But Albert's not done. He focuses on Kat, flirting.

ALBERT

Your eyes are really pretty.

KAT

I'm sorry-- What? Me?

ALBERT

And your smile. It gives you these cute little dimples. Maybe we could, you know, hang out sometime.

KAT

Um. Okay.

ITUNES appears in a window on the computer monitor.

ALBERT

I made you a mix. Do you like
Usher?

An R&B JAM starts to play through the speakers. Kat
stammers. No one's ever talked to her like this.

KAT

Could you, uh... give us a sec?

Kat pulls Gabby across the room.

GABBY

The code is working. He must have
latched on to you through facial
recognition.

KAT

I'm latching on too. I haven't
seen anything that pretty on a
screen since the first Lord of the
Rings.

(she sneaks another look)
But what do I say to him?

GABBY

He's your simulated ideal
boyfriend. So...Simulate!

KAT

(Blushing)
Gabby!

GABBY

I'll leave you guys alone. Talk to
him. But don't overheat his
processor if you know what I mean!

(she stops on her way out)
Seriously, don't overheat it.

EXT. HALLWAY - SAME

Gabby sneaks outside the office and gingerly closes the door.
She smiles, proud of herself for helping Kat.

BART (O.S.)

Busted.

Gabby turns to find BART leaning in the shadows.

GABBY

Gah! Lurk much?

BART

You're trespassing in my dad's office. That is a major offense. This is going to get ugly. And by ugly, I mean awesome.

INT. KITCHEN - MINUTES LATER

Bart loads peanut butter, banana and a chocolate bar onto two pieces of bread, and closes it in the panini maker.

GABBY

What would it take to get you to keep your mouth shut?

BART

You can't afford it.

GABBY

I could re-code your Call of Duty character so you never die. Like a Zombie. Or Madonna.

BART

And miss a chance to sell Kat down the river? Please.

GABBY

There's got to be something.

BART

Homecoming. You and me.

GABBY

Unthinkable.

BART

Expand your mind.

GABBY

I've got a boyfriend. From computer camp.

BART

That's unfortunate. Because that's my dad's car pulling in.

Gabby turns: indeed, a pair of headlights have turned up the drive. She panics and turns to Bart.

GABBY

Just the dance. No pictures or any of that crap. And if you bring a corsage I will punch you.

They shake on it. She scurries back down the hall as

DR. HARTLEY enters. He's exhausted - but heading for his office. Bart scrambles to block his way.

BART

Dad! Hi! How was work?

HARTLEY

Fine, thanks.

BART

Take a load off. I've been thinking, we should hang out more.

HARTLEY

How much money do you want? Is twenty enough?

INT. HARTLEY'S OFFICE - SAME

Kat stands in the center of the room, her face lit up by the computer monitor's LCD glow.

Albert's love mix plays. Kat takes cautious steps towards the monitor, closer to Albert's pixilated face.

ALBERT

You're so pretty.

KAT

Gabby programmed you to say that.

ALBERT

That doesn't mean I'm lying.

KAT

So cheesy. And so effective!

Kat leans closer, Albert's image lighting up her face.

ALBERT

Do you have a boyfriend?

KAT

No. I guess I just haven't found the right... model.

Kat moves even closer, taking the monitor in both hands, pulling Albert close.

GABBY opens the door, peeking in just as--

Kat plants a KISS on the collection of LCD pixels that are Albert's lips.

A SPARK OF STATIC ELECTRICITY jumps out from the screen, knocking Kat back.

ALBERT'S IMAGE shimmers, jumps, and DISAPPEARS. A message flashes across the screen:

FABRICATION SEQUENCE ENGAGED

Then - with a ZAP and a POP - the computer CRASHES and the screen goes black.

Gabby runs over and taps the keyboard. Nothing.

GABBY

Uh oh. The circuits are fried.

Kat's flat on her back, staring at the ceiling in a reverie.

KAT

I know. I'm like...Whoa.

INT. HARTLEY KITCHEN - SAME

Bart pours a couple of sodas over ice.

BART

It's girls, Dad. I need to know.
How do their minds work?

HARTLEY

Have you checked Wikipedia?

BART

You and mom have such...passion.

ANGLE ON PEGGY, slumped over in her robe at the dining room table. SNORING.

BART (CONT'D)

I bet in high school you macked
with tons of females, or as you
generation calls them, "sweet
little chickadees."

Bart opens a drawer next to the silverware. It's full of ibuprofen, band aids... and LIQUID ALLERGY MEDICINE. The label says "Night time Drowsy Formula." Bart covertly pours the red goop into Hartley's drink as he talks.

HARTLEY

I wasn't exactly Don Juan. Women are the last great mystery. After carbon-neutral fuel, of course.

BART

Well. It doesn't take a genius to know what women want. But I figure...it can't hurt to ask one.
(offering a glass)
Diet cherry soda?

TIME JUMP TO:

HARTLEY, PASSED OUT

In an armchair in the living room. Bart snaps next to his ear. He's out cold.

BART (CONT'D)

Pleasant dreams, pop.

Bart removes the empty glass of Sleepytime Cola from the side table, strolls past the dining room where his mom is still asleep, and walks down the hall to Hartley's office.

BART (CONT'D)

Coast is clear. Let me in.

GABBY (O.S.)

Okay. But don't be mad.

Gabby opens the door. Bart walks inside, aghast:

His father's super-computer has been CRACKED OPEN and is lying in pieces all over the floor.

GABBY (CONT'D)

We had a bit of a problem.

Kat's still lying on the floor, love-drunk and giggling.

KAT

Uh oh. Big brother is watching us.

Her iPhone rings. She checks the caller ID, and amazingly, it says "ALBERT."

KAT (CONT'D)
 Hello?
 (looking at Gabby)
 Gabby. It's him.

Gabby and Kat hop up and down. They're excited that the invention works - but to Bart they just look boy crazy.

KAT (CONT'D)
 Sorry... I have to take this.

Kat sneaks outside, cuddling the phone. Bart turns to Gabby.

BART
 Seriously?!

EXT. THE HARTLEY HOUSE - NIGHT

Kat stands in the moonlight, shivering against the cold.

KAT
 I can't believe you're really calling me.

ALBERT
 I feel like we have a connection.

KAT
 Me too. It's the internet.

ALBERT
 This probably sounds cheesy, but I've never felt this way before.

KAT
 I believe you.

The front door of the house opens. It's PEGGY. She smirks at Kat, sleepy and slightly annoyed.

PEGGY
 Katrina Hartley. It's late.

KAT
 Sorry Mom. It's -- a boy.

Peggy looks surprised. And pleased. She softens.

PEGGY
 You're lucky your father is asleep.
One minute.

Peggy shuts the door again.

KAT
I should go.

ALBERT
I just wanted to hear your voice
again. Good night.

KAT
Good night Albert.

Kat hangs up the phone, actually melting a little. Then she catches herself--

KAT (CONT'D)
Omigod Kat, you are pathetic. He's
not a boy - he's an app!

INT. HARTLEY'S OFFICE - SAME

Bart and Gabby are trying to un-fry the computer when Kat returns.

KAT
Gabs. He's amazing. Unreal. I'm
sweating.

GABBY
Awww! I'm so happy for you.

KAT
You made it happen. Huggers!

Kat and Gabby hug. Bart points at the computer.

BART
Hold on. All this was for a guy?

KAT
Trust me - he's not just any guy.

BART
Okay, now I'm really gonna puke.

KAT
Here's the thing though. We have
to go to school tomorrow.

Bart points at the disassembled computer.

BART
Are you nuts? What about all this?

KAT

So maybe I get grounded until graduation. I don't know how long this will last. If Albert calls again, I want Neveah to be there.

BART

Girls are ridiculous.

KAT

Yes, we're aware.

Bart starts for the door--

GABBY

Bart - if you cover for us, our deal stands. Unless you don't want to go to Homecoming that badly.

Bart turns. He wants it pretty badly.

EXT. THE HARTLEY HOUSE - THE NEXT MORNING

Suburban tranquility. Birds chirp idyllic chirps.

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME

Hartley opens his eyes, groggy. He's still slumped in the recliner in his work clothes from the day before.

Kat and Gabby walk by quickly, dressed for school.

KAT

Hi Dad. Bye Dad.

Hartley sits up with a start. Peggy leans in the doorway with a mug of coffee.

PEGGY

Morning sleepyhead.

HARTLEY

I crashed hard. On the bright side, my allergies cleared up.

Hartley stands up, woozy, and wanders down the hall to his office. He yawns and punches the entry key code. It doesn't work. He punches it again, and frowns.

HARTLEY (CONT'D)

Hello. Is someone in there?

INT. HARTLEY'S LOCKED OFFICE - SAME

BART looks up in a panic. He's wearing goggles and holding a SOLDERING GUN over the computer's motherboard.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME

Hartley tries his key code, but it doesn't work. He's about to take action when

His CELL PHONE rings.

HARTLEY
Colonel McFee. Good morning.

INTERCUT WITH:

COLONEL MCFEE, RIDING IN THE BACK OF A HUMVEE

MCFEE
Hartley. I've been trying to reach you all night. What happened?

HARTLEY
I'm sorry. I'm not sure myself.

MCFEE
There's been...an incident. I need you in Washington pronto.

HARTLEY
I'll be there as soon as I can.

MCFEE
Yes. I made sure of that.

Outside Hartley's front window, we see

A BLACK HUMVEE screech to a stop in the circular driveway.

INT. HARTLEY'S OFFICE - SAME

Bart looks out the window, incredulous, as his dad climbs in the Humvee and it peels away.

EXT. SUBURBAN ROAD - MORNING

On a wooded suburban road, the Black Humvee barrels past a SCHOOL BUS.

INT. SCHOOL BUS - SAME

Inside the bus, Kat and Gabby are lost in conversation.

KAT

I can't believe you told Bart you'd go to homecoming with him.

GABBY

Only if we don't get caught. So there's no way it will happen.

The bus stops. As a boy gets on, he SMILES AT KAT:

FRIENDLY BOY

Hey Katrina.

KAT

Hey.

(she does a double take)

Wait-- did you say hi to me?

The boy keeps walking. But Kat notices that many other kids on the bus are smiling and waving.

KAT (CONT'D)

That's weird...

Gabby holds up her phone with a goofy GRIN.

GABBY

Omigosh. Kat.

A PICTURE OF ALBERT stares out from her phone screen.

GABBY (CONT'D)

I have a new friend request from Albert Banks. His profile says he's in a relationship with you.

Kat stares at the phone, then back up at Gabby.

KAT

Did you post this?

Gabby shakes her head no.

KAT (CONT'D)

Then who did.

Gabby shrugs. *I have no idea.*

EXT. GLEN HILLS HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Kat and Gabby climb off the bus. Amazingly, a few more kids smile and say hi to them. Gabby's checking her phone.

GABBY
He already has 96 friends.

KAT
How is this happening?

GABBY
The code must have gone viral.

KAT
Great. My boyfriend has a virus.

That's when they run smack dab into NEVAEH. She looks terrifyingly stunning as always.

KAT (CONT'D)
Neveah. What a pleasant surprise.

NEVEAH
Oh, I'm the shocked one. Your boyfriend Facebooked me. Talk about Gorgey McGorgeous! Don't I feel silly now.

This is the moment Kat wanted. But a bunch of other kids are starting to gather around, and she gets shy.

KAT
I should really get to class...

NEVEAH
No no. I owe you an apology.

KAT
Well. People make mistakes.

GABBY
Especially you.

Neveah fixes Kat with a knowing sneer.

NEVAEH
I didn't think you had it in you. I mean, to go home to your powerMacs and diddle yourself up a fake Facebook boyfriend? It's so obvious it's painful.

Kat looks like she's about to fold under the pressure and admit the whole thing.

KAT
You're -- wrong. Tell her Gabby.
Gabby?

At first, Kat's insulted that Gabby isn't telling Neveah off. Then she follows Gabby's slack-jawed gaze, as

A BEAUTIFUL RED FERRARI pulls up at the curb.

It's a vision in cherry red chrome, and its tinted windows reflect the sun.

Neveah and the other high schoolers stare in awe as

ALBERT emerges.

The dream boy. In the flesh. He walks right up to Kat.

ALBERT
Surprise!

KAT
Hi. Um...How are you here?

ALBERT
My dad got a job in DC. Ambassador
of Eskimo affairs.
(turning to Neveah)
Hey, if it isn't Facebook friend
82, Neveah. That's Heaven spelled
backwards, right?

All the other kids are checking out the Ferrari, kicking the tires. Kat pulls Gabby aside.

KAT
Uh...What. Is... Happening?

GABBY
I don't know. And I actually
understand how cold fusion works.
Maybe he's a hologram?

Kat decides to find out. She walks up to Albert and puts her arm around him, feeling his flesh as she hugs him.

KAT
I can't believe it's you. Your
arms. Your shoulders.

Kat's getting into the petting, moving her hands lower.

KAT (CONT'D)

Your abs...these awesome diagonal
crease where most people have
belly fat...

Gabby pulls Kat away. Neveah's friends are staring at her,
waiting for a quip or a snappy retort.

NEVEAH

I don't know what you guys are up
to. I don't get it.

GABBY

That's for sure.

The other kids laugh. Neveah fumes. Albert looks around.

ALBERT

Hey. Can anyone show me to the
registrar's office?

About ten girls shout "I can! I can!"

EXT. OUTSIDE WASHINGTON, DC - DAY

McFee's humvee speeds through the streets of DC.

INT. THE HUMVEE - SAME

Hartley sits in the back seat with Colonel McFee. A couple
of sour-faced men in black suits ride with them.

HARTLEY

Funny...I've never taken this route
to the Pentagon.

MCFEE

We're not going to the Pentagon.
As it happens, the CIA also has an
interest in our little project.

HARTLEY

Really? Since when?

MCFEE

Three years ago.

EXT. CIA HEADQUARTERS - DAY

The security area around the entrance is a mess of broken glass and warning tape. No one's being allowed inside, but McFee, Hartley and the agents with them are waved in.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

A tough young female agent named JENKS intercepts McFee in the hall. Hartley struggles to keep up.

AGENT JENKS

We notified Washington PD. Gave them just physical description, nothing more.

MCFEE

Good. Keep it that way.

AGENT JENKS

Colonel, is there any chance you can tell me what's going on?

MCFEE

See for yourself.

McFee opens a door at the end of the hallway, revealing--

INT. A ROBOTIC ASSEMBLY LAB - SAME

A sprawling lab space. Technicians scurry in all directions.

A ROBOTIC ASSEMBLY APPARATUS looms in the center of the room.

Just like the one from Hartley's proposal. An assembly line of conveyors, capsules and robotic assembly arms.

HARTLEY

Wait--you already built it?

MCFEE

We followed your specifications exactly, with a few modifications for the CIA's needs.

Hartley's mind is blown. Two lab assistants named FRITZ and IVAN approach, a little star-struck.

FRITZ

We're big fans of your work, Dr. Hartley. It's been a true honor to make it a reality.

Hartley shakes their hands numbly.

MCFEE

What's the status on the X-17. Are we picking up any tracking signal?

IVAN

I'm afraid not, Colonel.

HARTLEY

You... assembled a prototype?

AGENT JENKS

(to McFee)

You didn't tell him?

INT. LAB SECURITY ROOM - SAME

McFee and Hartley stare at grainy security footage of a figure grabbing a lab coat and walking out of the CIA lab.

IVAN

It was late last night. The activation signal came in over the remote network.

FRITZ

We didn't think it was possible. But someone infiltrated the system, designed their own prototype remotely...and activated it.

Hartley stares out at the assembly machine.

HARTLEY

I can't believe it worked.

MCFEE

Worked? Your little invention walked out right past security. Agent Jenks - how could this have happened?

AGENT JENKS

He -- I mean, the prototype -- was coming from the classified area. Everyone assumed he had clearance.

HARTLEY

Do we have any record of his appearance? Or what he was deigned to do?

IVAN

The signal executed and destroyed
itself. Whoever did this was good.

HARTLEY

Are there any details about his
appearance? Anything remarkable?

Jenks pauses a moment. She chooses her words carefully.

AGENT JENKS

From the reports I've gotten. He
was distinctly... Adorable. Sir.

Off Hartley's reaction, we cut to--

EXT. THE FRONT STEPS OF GLEN HILLS HIGH - NOON

We start close on ALBERT. He is adorable. And he's holding
court with half a dozen of the school's fiercest skate punks.

ALBERT

I don't think of it as
snowboarding. I think of it as
forging a mystical connection to
the mountain. Entering the place
where your soul flies. It's a
sensation that the Inuit people
call *Teeenngg-eee-Yooookkk*.

The skaters nod. This dude has *lived*.

Albert grabs a spare board and heads down the front steps.
He hops onto a rail and slides down it with ease.

He executes a perfect landing, a sick Ollie air walk, and
then hops back onto a railing for another flight of stairs.

He lands goofy and rolls up next to Kat. He smiles and waves
at Kat, who's standing next to a star-struck FRESHMAN GIRL.

FRESHMAN GIRL

He is so amazing. He's like UHHHH.
'Cause he's like a boy-boy, but
he's also like, sweet. He's
emotionally ambidextrous.

Meanwhile, Gabby sits in the shade on her cell phone.

GABBY

So how's it going, MacGuyver?

INT. HARTLEY'S HOME OFFICE - SAME

Bart's still trying to put Humpty Supercomputer back together again. The floor is a mess of microchips.

BART
Complete fail.

GABBY
Well, school dances are overrated.

BART
I hope you appreciate that I am missing a Spanish quiz for you.

GABBY
Did you re-set the transceiver?

BART
Yes. Still dead.

GABBY
Did you switch the memory chip?

BART
No, but the memory card isn't--

GABBY
The refractory memory chip.

BART
(the light bulb goes on)
Ohhhhhhh.

GABBY
Call me when it's done.

BART
This boyfriend from camp. Is he a burly guy, would you say--?

As Gabby hangs up, she turns to see ALBERT, who is now holding court with a group of senior guys.

ALBERT
...And I said, hey, don't thank me for sparring with you. Thank you for being Pac-Man, the people's champion.

Albert shows a photo on his phone. He poses, post-workout, with a smiling MANNY PACQUIAO. The other guys trade awed looks. Albert is fast approaching legend status.

EXT. GYM CLASS - LATER THAT DAY

Jaden does PUSH-UPS. His partner calls out his reps.

JADEN'S GYM PARTNER
 Seventy three! Seventy four!
 (he flops down, exhausted)
 Nice. Beat my record by two.

We PAN DOWN the row. Everyone else is done except Albert.

Albert's partner counts off perfect reps.

ALBERT'S PARTNER
 Hundred sixty, Hundred sixty one,
 hundred sixty two, hundred--dude,
 slow down I can't count that fast--

Gabby and Kat, in the usual grotesque gym outfits, marvel at their own handiwork.

NEVEAH looks on with disgust.

COACH VOSS takes a closer look at Albert.

COACH VOSS
 Hey kid. You ever play football in
 Alaska?

ALBERT
 We only get twenty days of sunlight
 per school year. But I like to
 throw salmon into my dad's boat.

COACH VOSS
 Gleason. Go long.

A kid takes off running. Coach Voss flips Albert a football.

COACH VOSS (CONT'D)
 Try this fish on for size.

Albert spots the kid forty yards down field.

He cocks his arm, and we hear an almost robotic whir as it SNAPS forward. The football ZINGS through the air and

NAILS the kid in the chest, knocking him five yards back.

KAT AND GABBY watch from the sidelines. *Whoa.*

Jaden's amazed - and a little threatened. He's not Big Man on Campus anymore.

EXT. GLEN HILLS HIGH - END OF THE SCHOOL DAY

The last period bell rings, and students pile out of every exit door, Katrina and Gabby are among them.

Jaden spots them and runs to catch up.

JADEN
Hey -- Kat.

KAT
Oh, hey Jaden, what's up.

JADEN
You never e-mailed me those Chapter
Three answers.

KAT
Oh man - I totally spaced it!

The red Ferrari rolls up to the curb. Albert, donning aviator sunglasses, taps on the car's horn.

ALBERT
Who wants to hit the mall?

Kat lights up with a smile. Jaden looks worried.

JADEN
But - what am I supposed to do?

Kat shrugs.

KAT
I don't know, maybe...study?

Kat climbs in next to Albert.

The Ferrari pulls away with the rumble of a jet engine, leaving Jaden behind.

INT. ALBERT'S FERRARI - DAY

Albert drives with the top down. Gabby and Kat sit in back.

ALBERT
Not bad for a first day.

GABBY
Okay, honestly Albert. How are you
real? I don't understand.

ALBERT

That's very complicated. And, honestly, super boring. That is such a cute shirt on you, Kat.

KAT

Thanks!

GABBY

Can we focus please?

KAT

Maybe my dad's working on a really cutting edge game.

GABBY

Avatar was cutting edge. This is nuts. Where did you get the car?

ALBERT

That's one of the bonuses of materializing out of thin air. You have perfect credit!

He fans out a colorful array of CREDIT CARDS.

GABBY

I don't know. I think we should go back and help Bart.

ALBERT

Look. I'm supposed to take Kat to Homecoming. If she's going to be my date, she has to look hot.

Kat turns to Gabby with a beaming, shameless shrug.

KAT

Can't argue with logic!

INT. BLOOMINGDALES - SAME

Albert and the girls walk up to the counter. There's a twenty-something SALESGIRL working behind the counter.

ALBERT

Hi there. We'd like to buy a few things for the Homecoming dance.

The salesgirl looks at Albert, then at Kat, and smiles.

SALESGIRL

How sweet. Buying an outfit for
your little sister.

Uh oh. Kat stares at the floor, pretty much wanting to die.

KAT

Let's go. Let's just go.

ALBERT

This is not my sister. She's my
girlfriend.

SALESGIRL

I'm so sorry.

ALBERT

Our love is like nothing that has
existed in the history of the
universe. We are writing a story
of passion across the stars.

SALESGIRL

I understand.

ALBERT

I don't think you do.

Albert climbs up on the counter. Kat's mortified--

KAT

Oh God.

SALESGIRL

Sir! Please don't do that, sir!

ALBERT

What I feel for Kat goes beyond
love. When all is said and done,
what do we live for? Glee reruns?
Mineral baths? Dark chocolate?

ALL THE WOMEN shopping in the vicinity turn to listen.

ALBERT (CONT'D)

No. We live for that moment of
magic. That moment when we find
another person who gets us. It's
like breathing for the first time.
Or a 3-D movie that doesn't suck.

Albert points at an OLD LADY who is shopping for nylons.

ALBERT (CONT'D)
You've had that moment, right?

OLD LADY
You betcha!

He turns to a woman pushing a DOUBLE STROLLER.

ALBERT
You've had it at least twice.
(back to the crowd)
We have to trust that miracles are possible. We have to believe it in our hearts.

Albert climbs down and reads the salesgirl's name tag.

ALBERT (CONT'D)
How about you...Carolyn?

SALESGIRL
No... The good ones are taken.

ALBERT
Say it. My moment will come.

SALESGIRL
My moment...will come.
(to Kat)
You're very lucky.

Kat nods a dazed "thank you." Albert grabs a PEN and starts scribbling furiously on a piece of paper.

ALBERT
Wonderful. Now we need to put an ensemble together for Kat, and we're short on time. So Carolyn, if you could be so kind, pull these items from the floor for us please.

Albert slides over the sheet of paper. It's a page of perfectly drawn BAR CODES. Mystified, the salesgirl grabs her bar code scanner and waves it over the page.

A LIST of ITEMS pop up on her screen.

SALESGIRL
Uh...Give me a minute.

Albert turns to Kat and Gabby with a grin.

ALBERT
This is fun.

INT. AROUND THE MALL MONTAGE - DAY

As MUSIC PLAYS OVER, the salesgirl brings a stack of boxes at the register. Albert hands over his credit card with a grin.

INT. MALL TATTOO PARLOR - DAY

A TATTOO ARTIST checks a picture of a heart with Kat's name in the middle, then prepares to work on Albert's shoulder.

The tattoo needle descends, but Albert's shoulder BENDS IT.

Kat and Gabby share a worried look. Albert motions over to a mini BLOW TORCH, used for soldering jewelry. The tattoo artist shrugs: *Alright buddy, it's your arm.*

INT. THE MALL FOYER - DAY

Neveah and Jaden walk through the mall with the other football players and cheerleaders.

NEVEAH

You can't let this Albert guy just stroll in and take over the school. You're the alpha dog. The pack look to you for leadership.

JADEN

What are you talking about?

NEVEAH

I learned it on the Dog Whisperer. It's science.

A pair of grade school kids stop Jaden to sign their Glen Hills football jerseys. Neveah smiles - then notices a crowd gathered across the way:

ALBERT sits at the PIANO in front of Nordstrom's, pounding out a tune, with Kat at his side. He finishes with a flourish and the crowd goes nuts.

EXT. WASHINGTON, DC - DAY - TO ESTABLISH

That we are cutting back to CIA Headquarters.

INT. CIA ROBOTICS LAB - DAY

McFee finds Hartley sitting in an empty lab in front of a security monitor. He watches grainy video of Albert emerging from the assembly machine, rewinding it again and again.

HARTLEY

A healthy boy...four arms, four legs. All his parts worked. And I never even got to see him...

Hartley's a little choked up. McFee eyes him, worried.

MCFEE

You will, Doctor. But right now you need to hold it together, because we've got some new intelligence, and it's not good.

INT. A CIA SITUATION ROOM - DAY

Other than McFee, Hartley, and the lab techs, the room is filled with agents in dark suits. It looks like a Mister Anderson From The Matrix convention.

MCFEE

We have 24 hours to handle this situation as a CIA matter before the Pentagon has to be notified.

HARTLEY

The army doesn't know? Aren't you guys supposed to share information?

The CIA agents chuckle. McFee explains--

MCFEE

Forgive him. He's a civilian.
(back to business)
Now, if we don't get the prototype back, this project will be shut down forever. But our problems go deeper than that. We have reason to believe Black Sigma is involved.

The screen behind McFee changes to a WORLD MAP. Several black Sigma symbols pop up in hot spots around the globe.

HARTLEY

Black Sigma?

MCFEE

That's not a heavy metal band. It's a terrorist group. There's no modern military weapon they haven't tried to steal. And they've set their sights on the X-17.

HARTLEY

Are you saying these terrorists
have my prototype?

Ivan the lab tech pipes up.

IVAN

All we know is that they disabled
the network firewall. They opened
a door - someone walked through it.

AGENT JENKS

But wouldn't they have needed an
entry point? They need design
terminals that only we have.

MCFEE

That's right.

FRITZ

That's how we know Black Sigma
couldn't have done this. There was
one terminal at the Pentagon, and
one here. Black Sigma had no way
to get inside either one.

Suddenly Hartley's face goes ashen with realization.

HARTLEY

Wait a minute. There's one more
entry terminal. The beta version
that I designed.

MCFEE

Where? Is it well protected?

HARTLEY

(guilty)

Well...we have a "Stay Off the
Grass" sign out front.

INT. THE MALL'S FOOD COURT - AFTERNOON

KAT and GABBY walk through the mall, triumphant, carrying
half a dozen shopping bags. Kat's make-over is complete:
Gone are the black rigs of emo eye shadow and the ratty hair.

GABBY

You look amazing. Exfoliated.

KAT

More like exhausted. Looking hot
is a lot of work.

ACROSS THE FOOD COURT, Albert is standing in line at Jamba Juice - and he's talking to NEVEAH. Kat's suddenly jealous:

KAT (CONT'D)

That mega-wench. I'm going over--

GABBY

He's programmed to be faithful.

KAT

He may be the perfect guy... But he's still a guy.

NEVEAH AND ALBERT wait in line for their smoothies. With Albert, Neveah is nothing but rainbow-flavored sweetness.

NEVEAH

I'm the head of the School Spirit committee, so, you know, anything I can do to make you feel welcome.

ALBERT

Thanks.

NEVEAH

Don't rush into friendships with the wrong crowd, you know?

Neveah twirls her hair, even though Jaden's looking on from a nearby table. Albert collects his smoothies.

ALBERT

Thanks for the advice.

KAT AND GABBY are watching this like angry hawks, but Gabby's CELL PHONE RINGS. She answers:

GABBY

Hey Bart.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. HARTLEY'S OFFICE - SAME

Bart's been working all day. There are computer repair tools and spare wires splayed out all around him.

BART

I did it. I rebooted the system.

GABBY (ON PHONE)

Dude, you're a hero.

BART
You mean... I'm your hero?

GABBY
Don't push it.

Bart gives his scrawny bicep a love peck.

BART
I started with the partition resets
and did a manual rewrite of the C
drives. When I brought it all back
together, boom shaka laka!

GABBY
I never would have thought of that.

BART
Oh yes you would have.

Gabby smiles. One of those, "I think I'm starting to like
this boy" kind of smiles.

Then she notices a group of kids gathered around the window
of a nearby ELECTRONICS STORE.

GABBY
Bart, hold on a second.

Gabby hangs up and wanders over, close enough to see and hear
what's on the wall of televisions.

REPORTER (V.O.)
Details emerging from a high speed
chase in the early morning hours
near CIA Headquarters.

Gabby stares at the image on ON THE TV SCREENS:

It's A RED FERRARI that's being chased through the streets of
DC by police cars and military vehicles.

REPORTER (V.O.)
The Ferrari was stolen after a
security breach. The driver eluded
CIA and law enforcement for more
than half an hour - and then
disappeared!

FROM A HELICOPTER VIEW, we see the Ferrari turn into a wooded
neighborhood. Multiple spotlights try in vain to find it.

ANCHOR (V.O.)

Wow. I haven't seen driving like that outside of a video game.

REPORTER (V.O.)

The CIA had no comment on the incident, Trent. But I think it's fair to say that the search for this subject is still ongoing.

GABBY stares at the screen, biting her lip with new concern. She turns back to her phone again.

GABBY

Bart, can you pick us up from the mall? I think we lost our ride.

Over at the FOOD COURT, Kat cuddles with Albert, oblivious, pinching his cheek as she sips her smoothie.

Gabby's not the only one who's watching.

ACROSS THE MALL, Neveah still sitting with Jaden.

NEVEAH

Why is he even with her? It doesn't make sense.

JADEN

Neither does your creepy obsession with them.

NEVEAH

Tell you one thing. That dude sure can throw a football.

This gets Jaden's attention.

Meanwhile, while Gabby's off talking to Bart, Kat and Albert have their first moment alone in the real world.

KAT

This day has been...amazing.

ALBERT

You're amazing. Look at you.

Kat smiles and shakes her head at Albert.

KAT

It feels so weird to get a compliment from a boy. It's like watching a unicorn being born.

ALBERT
Um... You're welcome?

KAT
You know, I was thinking. I've never kissed you for real.

ALBERT
I was also thinking that.

The words hang in the air for a moment. Kat and Albert start leaning towards each other.

Everything else seems to melt away. Kat closes her eyes, ready to have her world rocked--

JADEN (O.S.)
Hey. Banks.

KAT turns to find JADEN standing, arms crossed, surrounded by his imposing offensive line.

KAT
Aw, man! Jock-blocked.

Neveah stands off to the side, smirking.

ALBERT
Jaden! Facebook friend ninety two!
How are ya?

JADEN
I hear you're telling everyone that you deserve to be quarterback.

ALBERT
I'm sorry, who what-what now?

One of Jaden's not-so-bright linemen, TONY, speaks up.

TONY
First day in school and you think you're like, the man?

POV INSIDE ALBERT'S HEAD - we're looking at Jaden, with a computer screen SUPERIMPOSED over the view. Albert scrolls through a readout of every word he's ever said.

ALBERT
I don't recall saying that.

NEVEAH

What he actually said was, "When I'm quarterback, Jaden will look good in a cheer outfit."

Gabby approaches as Albert tries to defuse the situation.

ALBERT

Hey everybody, why don't we all chill out? Tell you what - you guys head for the wiener shack, we'll head for Build a Bear.

TONY

How about you just shut your--

IN A FLASH, Albert grabs Tony's cheeks and pinches them.

ALBERT

Wouldn't say that if I were you.

TONY

MMFFFPPhh!

Jaden steps in, but Albert clamps Jaden's mouth shut too.

ALBERT

No no, honeychild. No.

With a rush, Neveah SHOVES Albert from behind, and that is enough to set off a MELEE.

The jocks start lunging, and Albert grabs them one by one, FLINGING them across the mall's tiled floor.

Jaden swings wildly! Albert takes him in a headlock.

Some kids gather around, egging on the carnage. Others run for the exits.

Someone pulls a FIRE ALARM.

Gabby and Kat look on in abject terror when they spot a pair of MALL COPS coming up the escalator.

KAT

Albert!

Albert turns, momentarily distracted, and Jaden shoves him.

JADEN

Get off me!

Jaden's push knocks Albert off balance.

Albert slips on the puddle of smoothie on the tile floor, pitches forward, and goes OVER THE RAILING--!!

Kat and Gabby rush forward, watching in horror

ALBERT FALLS THREE STORIES, falling through balloons and banners and landing with a distant THUNK.

KAT
You jerk! You broke him!

JADEN
I-- I'm sorry.

MALL COP (O.S.)
Hey!

The MALL COPS approach. Kids SCATTER in all directions. Gabby tried to pull Kat towards the exits.

KAT
I'm not leaving him!

GABBY
Kat! We have to get out of here.

Halfway to the escalators, Kat stops and comes back. She grabs her bag of new clothes, then heads downstairs again.

Gabby shakes her head and joins the rush for the exits.

EXT. THE MALL - SAME

A POLICE CAR SCREECHES UP, sirens whooping, as Gabby fights her way outside. The cops run inside, just as

BART'S CADDY rumbles into view. Gabby hops in it and slams the door. Bart tries to be nonchalant.

BART
Fancy meeting you h--

GABBY
You saved my butt. Don't ruin it by saying anything.

INT. THE MALL - SAME

It's still pandemonium inside. The fire alarm keeps WAILING.

Kat rides the DOWN escalator - the shoppers pass her in hordes in the other direction.

Kat reaches the bottom floor, rushing to the spot where Albert landed--

And he's NOWHERE TO BE SEEN. There's just a boy-sized dent in the floor from his fall.

The MALL COPS are descending on the escalator.

Kat is about to turn to run, when

ALBERT pulls her sideways and out of sight into one of those curtained INSTANT PHOTO BOOTHS.

The mall cops run by as the photo bulb FLASHES in the booth.

INSIDE THE BOOTH

Albert hands Kat the fresh strip of photos: they show Albert smiling at the camera and Kat in shock.

ALBERT

Aw. Look at us.

INT. AN ABANDONED FOOT LOCKER - MINUTES LATER

The fire alarm has emptied the store of people.

Kat and Albert walk through the aisles of shoes.

KAT

This is crazy. All I wanted was a smoothie it turns into a stupid fight. Why do guys do that?!

ALBERT

It's good to be sensitive... But sometimes you have to hulk-smash the haters.

Kat looks at Albert with new fascination: she helped create him, but he's still a boy - that strange species that she doesn't quite understand.

Albert finds a FIRE ALARM, and pulls it all the way off the wall. He reaches into the wiring - and the alarm STOPS.

INT. EMPTY BATH & BODY STORE - MOMENTS LATER

Kat follows Albert into another deserted store. He walks past the displays and the registers towards the back room.

KAT

We should get out of here. We're going to get in trouble.

ALBERT

No one will get in trouble if they can't prove the fight happened.

IN THE STOCK ROOM, Albert puts his hand against the concrete, feeling for something.

INSIDE ALBERT'S HEAD: the command "ENGAGE MAGNETIC FIELD."

Albert holds up his hand, a STAPLER flies through the air sticks to it, magnetized.

ON KAT, watching Albert exerting his super-human power. For the first time, there's a different look in her eyes:

FEAR.

Albert moves his hand and the FILE CABINET a few feet away starts to DRAG TOWARDS HIM.

INT. THE MALL SECURITY ROOM - SAME

A handful of mall cops stare at a wall of CLOSED CIRCUIT TVs.

They're in the midst of rewinding to look at the beginning of the food court fight again.

And suddenly, the screens begin to flicker.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. STOCK ROOM - SAME

Albert flattens his magnetized hands against the bricks.

The mall security monitors go BLACK as the contents of their hard drives get erased in an instant.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL,

ALBERT

That should do it...

Albert turns, grinning proudly, to find that Kat's GONE.

INT. OUT IN THE EMPTY MALL - SAME

Kat's walking quickly across the mall's wide foyer. Albert catches up to her in front of an indoor fountain.

ALBERT

Kat! Hey! What's wrong?

Kat wheels around, freaked out.

KAT

Look. I know we designed you. But we didn't design *that*.

ALBERT

I have bonus features. Like a DVD.

KAT

It's not funny, Albert. How did you just do that. What are you?

Albert stares at the floor.

ALBERT

Every relationship needs a little mystery, right?

Kat stares at him, not giving in, until Albert shrugs.

ALBERT (CONT'D)

It's...classified.

KAT

I don't know what's going on. I feel like I'm in over my head.

ALBERT

We both are. It always feels this way when you fall for someone.

KAT

No. Not like this.

ALBERT

I can't tell you everything. But I promise - I will always keep you safe, and you are the only thing in this world that matters to me.

KAT

I don't know what I'm doing. I'm scared.

ALBERT

That's how you're supposed to feel,
right before something amazing
happens.

Albert leans in - and finally - in real life--

KISSES KAT for the first time.

Now this is something Gabby and Kat did design Albert to do.
And if there's such a thing as a perfect, romantic, make-you-
weak-at-the-knees kiss, this is it.

Albert pulls away. After a moment, Kat opens her eyes.

KAT

I think I need to go sit down...

ALBERT

Alright.

KAT

In your car.

ALBERT

That's fine.

KAT

And do that again.

Albert turns to Kat, surprised.

FROM INSIDE ALBERT'S HEAD, looking at Kat, we see an alert
appear: WARNING: REDUCE HEAT. SYSTEM IS RUNNING HOT.

EXT. THE HARTLEY HOME - AFTERNOON

Bart's Cadillac is parked in front of the house.

INT. HARTLEY'S OFFICE - SAME

Bart and Gabby sit at Hartley's now-functioning computer.
Gabby's back at the keyboard, typing away again.

BART

You know, I went to all the trouble
of fixing this, the least you could
do is not break it again.

GABBY

Girls always go online to check out
their bestie's new crush.

BART

On a high security encrypted network? I mean...what's the deal here.

GABBY

I might have built your sister a cyborg boyfriend. But I didn't mean for it to go this far! He was supposed to be virtual.

BART

Well he's extremely virtual!

Gabby furiously types commands. Suddenly the screen goes red and fills with the following WARNING:

WARNING * WARNING * WARNING

**YOU ARE TRESPASSING ON A PRIVATE NETWORK
OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE. VIOLATORS ARE SUBJECT TO
FEDERAL PROSECUTION**

BART (CONT'D)

See, now this is the moment where you're supposed to stop.

Gabby keeps typing. She pulls up an index of FILES.

GABBY

Look. PROTOTYPE MANUAL. That should tell us something--

She pulls out a key drive and plugs it in the computer.

As the file starts to DOWNLOAD--

We hear the front door OPENING.

Footsteps approach out in the hallway and the office security keypad begins to BEEP.

BART

Crap! It's my dad.

Panic time! Bart and Gabby PILE INTO THE CLOSET.

Gabby stares through the KEYHOLE as a CONTROLLED EXPLOSIVE blasts a hole through the dead bolt.

GABBY

Mmm, don't think so.

The door is KICKED AWAY. Three men in black fatigues enter.

They speak IN RUSSIAN ACCENTS and have GUNS tucked into their waistbands.

Their leader is a scowling bald man named SASHA. He has a Greek letter SIGMA tattooed on his arm.

He walks right to Hartley's computer and types commands until ALBERT'S IMAGE fills the screen.

SASHA

There he is. The prototype. What a cute toy.

Gabby peeks in the keyhole. Her KEY DRIVE is still in the computer.

SASHA (CONT'D)

Take the files. Take it all.

The two others start rifling through Hartley's files and dismantling his computer.

Bart looks through the keyhole, going ballistic.

BART

Come on! I just fixed that!

Gabby shushes Bart, but Sasha and the others stop what they're doing, as if they've heard something.

Bart and Gabby shrink backwards in the closet.

THROUGH THE KEYHOLE, we see Sasha turning, staring at the closet door. But then something else grabs his attention--

He gives a silent signal and the intruders pack up what they have and go. They PRY UP A WINDOW and slip out.

Bart and Gabby emerge from the closet. They peek through the curtains as SIX BLACK SUVs PULL UP outside. Hartley, McFee and a dozen CIA agents step out.

Bart turns to Gabby, incredulous:

BART (CONT'D)

What is happening?! This is the suburbs!

EXT. THE MALL PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

Things have returned to normal at the mall. Shoppers walking in and out.

Albert and Kat walk through the rows of cars, hand in hand. Kat still has that dreamy, post make-out look.

KAT

Give me another kiss. Just a widdle bitty one.

ALBERT

I would, but that woman is staring at us.

Kat looks up, in shock, at her MOTHER. Peggy is standing by her Volvo, holding a shopping bag of her own.

PEGGY

Katrina?

KAT

Mom. What are you doing here?

PEGGY

I need new panty hose. And I thought you were studying at Gabby's.

KAT

I was just--

PEGGY

Lying. I get that now. I take it this is the boy who called last night at midnight?

ALBERT

(über-polite)

Pleasure to meet you, ma'am. I'm Albert, Katrina's boyfriend.

Peggy's eyebrows go up at the word "boyfriend."

KAT

He's...from Alaska.

ALBERT

Perhaps you've seen it on those shows about ice fishermen.

PEGGY

Katrina, are you wearing mascara?
And what in the world did you buy?

KAT

Oh. Um. Albert asked me to
Homecoming and, you know, he said I
need to look really hot.

PEGGY

Did he.

Kat puts her head down. This is going poorly.

ALBERT

Okay. Well, nice to meet you--

PEGGY

Hop in the car. I'll give both of
you a ride home. I'd very much
like to meet your parents.

ALBERT

I have my own--

Albert glances across the parking lot:

TWO STATE TROOPERS are standing next to the Ferrari.

ALBERT (CONT'D)

Great! Sounds great.

Kat and Albert climb into Peggy's Volvo.

INT. THE HARTLEY HOUSE - AFTERNOON

CIA agents are everywhere. McFee's in the ransacked office.
He's on his cell phone doing damage control.

MCFEE

The terminal has been compromised,
but they couldn't have gotten far.
I want air support and a dedicated
satcom channel.

Hartley and Agent Jenks head up the stairs.

HARTLEY

Bart's car is outside. He must
have been here when they--

Jenks holds up a hand, partially to silence him, partly to
calm him down. She calls out:

AGENT JENKS
Hello? Anyone home?

There's no answer. Hartley looks sick with worry. Agent Jenks pulls back her coat to put a hand on her GUN.

They reach the top of stairs and the first bedroom door. Hartley takes a deep breath and throws it open, revealing

BART AND GABBY, MAKING OUT ON THE BED. They jump apart, straightening their clothes--

BART
Dad! Jeez!

HARTLEY
(embarrassed)
Sorry. I'm Sorry.

GABBY
We were just...studying.

AGENT JENKS
Sorry to interrupt you two. There was a break-in downstairs. You didn't happen to hear anything?

BART
No. We've been studying. Really hard.

HARTLEY
Not too hard I hope.

Bart walks over to his dad, speaking in a whisper.

BART
All that stuff you told me about girls? Worked like a charm.

Hartley nods vaguely. He has no memory of it. Bart offers him a bro-like fist bump.

BART (CONT'D)
Mack Daddy. Bump it. Explode it. Shower the world with your light.

Bart wiggles his fingers like fading fireworks. Agent Jenks suppresses a smile, but then she's back to business.

AGENT JENKS
Do you mind if I look around?

HARTLEY

This is Miss Jenks. My co-worker,
from the ...video game company.

GABBY

Someone breaking in to steal a
video game? I guess those Nintendo
jerks will stop at nothing.

HARTLEY

Bart, I think it would be safer if
you take Gabby home.

Hartley and Jenks close the door. Gabby quickly JUMPS AWAY
from Bart and wipes off her mouth.

BART

I think they bought it.

GABBY

They better have. What'd you have
for lunch, tuna fish? Just so
we're clear, that was strictly
tactical, and I still have a
boyfriend.

BART

Okay. But do you love me a little?

He holds up the KEY DRIVE with Albert's MANUAL on it.

INT. PEGGY'S VOLVO - DAY

Kat and Albert sit quietly in the back of Peggy's car. Peggy
looks in the rear view mirror, watching them like a hawk.

PEGGY

So when were you planning on
introducing me, Katrina?

Kat starts to object, but Albert steps in warmly.

ALBERT

She's right, Kat. The lack of
communication between generations
is one of the great challenges
facing our society today.

Peggy's impressed by this: she takes a closer look at Albert
in the rear view mirror.

ALBERT (CONT'D)

We're all so connected. "Hello" or "I Love You" is only a text away. But somehow, we're more isolated than ever. People say they're busy. But I think that's an excuse. I think we use technology as a place to hide.

PEGGY

I keep telling my students the same thing. I did my PhD in technological anthropology...

As Peggy goes on, inspired, A BLACK SEDAN pulls up next to them. Albert looks over and locks eyes with

SASHA. The leader of Black Sigma.

He recognizes Albert. Albert immediately senses something is off with Sasha too.

POV INSIDE ALBERT'S HEAD

Albert's vision goes into X-RAY SCAN MODE. We see that Sasha and his two passengers are all carrying FIREARMS.

The light turns: Sasha's car FOLLOWS THEM and Albert notices.

ALBERT

Mrs. Hartley, I'm sorry. I just remembered. I'm supposed to meet my friends at the football game.

PEGGY

Tonight's the homecoming game! Oh, Kat...You guys should go.

Kat's thinking back to the fight at the mall. The football game seems like an extremely bad idea.

KAT

I thought we were in trouble...

PEGGY

Nonsense! I trust you guys.

Peggy turns to Kat. She covertly points at Albert and whispers, excited:

PEGGY (CONT'D)

I like him!

EXT. GLEN HILLS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL STADIUM - NIGHT

The Glen Hills football team takes the field to a DEAFENING ROAR from the crowd. Jaden leads the charge.

The BLEACHERS are shaking, filled with students and alumni decked out in Glen Hills colors.

JADEN throws warm-up passes to his wide receivers as his teammates butt helmets to psych each other up.

Kat and Albert walk through the milling students arm and arm. The electricity in the air is palpable: it's the see-and-be-seen event of the school year.

Kat's on her phone.

KAT

It's crazy here. This is like the Oscars for having a boyfriend.

INTERCUT WITH GABBY, who's riding over in Bart's car.

GABBY

The football game? Seriously Kat, could there be a worse idea?

Kat and Albert pass the CHEERLEADERS as they dance in front of the crowd with all their hip-shaking might.

As she leads the squad, NEVEAH sees Kat walking by with Albert and nearly trips in mid-Herkie.

GABBY (ON PHONE) (CONT'D)

I need to talk to you about Albert.

KAT

(covering the phone)

Me too. We totes made out and it was amaze-balls. See you soon! We'll save seats.

We stay with BART AND GABBY after Kat hangs up.

BART

She's going to be cool with giving him back, right?

GABBY

Absolutely.

EXT. THE FOOTBALL GAME - SAME

Kat and Albert walk towards the bleachers. All the other kids are saying hi. They're popular now--

But Albert's distracted. He looks over his shoulder and sees SASHA and his men following them, twenty paces behind.

Albert looks for a safe place, and pulls Kat

UNDER THE BLEACHERS. It's a strangely magical place. Slivers of light, soda cups, and kissing couples.

KAT

What are you doing?

ALBERT

I'm trying to figure out what's going on.

KAT

It's pretty easy. I think we just kind of stand here and make out.

Kat leans in for a kiss, but Albert's still on the lookout.

ALBERT

I'm sorry. It's... not about you.

KAT

Really? I thought it was always about me.

Just then, something catches Albert's eye.

ALBERT

Coach? Coach Voss?

REVEAL COACH VOSS, who's hiding in the shadows under the grandstands, nursing a bottle in a crumpled paper bag.

ALBERT (CONT'D)

Shouldn't you be out there?

The Coach points at the field with a bitter look.

COACH VOSS

Rivalries. I hate 'em. How can they expect us to win this? Do you know how long it's been since we've beaten Uni High? Do you? Do--

(recognizing Albert)

You. Alaska!

ALBERT
It's... Albert, sir.

COACH VOSS
What size helmet are you?

SASHA appears at the far end of the bleachers. He locks eyes with Albert. Albert senses danger, and turns to Kat--

ALBERT
Look. I need to be on that field.
I'll be safe there.

KAT
Football doesn't work like that.

But it's too late - Albert out toward the football field.

INT. BART'S CAR - SAME

Bart's rusty Cadillac careens towards the high school.

Gabby has her nose pressed to her iPhone, reading the fine print of Albert's instruction manual.

GABBY
He has a titanium skeleton. A
hundred terabytes of static memory.
He can microwave things with his
feet. Why would he even need that?

BART
Do you think we should have-- you
know... Told my dad? I mean, those
guys who broke in were like,
terrorists, right?

GABBY
It wasn't Orkin pest patrol. Look,
I got us into this. I should set
things right.
(with a sigh)
I've learned an important lesson.
Never ever set up your best friend.

CLANK. COUGH. The Caddy's engine dies. The car rolls to a stop with the football stadium still in the distance.

GABBY (CONT'D)
Are you serious?!

BART
I hope you wore comfortable shoes.

EXT. GLEN HILLS FOOTBALL FIELD - SAME

The scoreboard shows that Glen Hills is getting killed by Uni High, 21-0. The already beleaguered offense takes the field.

Suddenly, a ROAR goes up from the crowd.

KAT stands up on the packed bleachers, straining to watch as

ALBERT RUNS OUT ONTO THE FIELD to join the huddle.

Jaden can't believe his eyes.

JADEN

What the--

ALBERT

Look, this wasn't my idea.

JADEN

You fell three stories. How are you even alive?

Jaden signals for TIME OUT and walks over to the sidelines.

COACH VOSS

What?

JADEN

You can't put him in.

COACH VOSS

I just did!

JADEN

But he's never even practiced!

NEVEAH

Yeah! He's never even practiced!

Coach Voss and Jaden, realizing that for some reason, NEVEAH has joined their little huddle.

COACH VOSS

Excuse me? Who put you in charge?

NEVEAH

I'm a cheerleader. It's right there in the name.

Coach Voss stares at her slack-jawed. Meanwhile,

GABBY AND BART arrive at the edge of the field, out of breath.

Gabby is still reading the Prototype Manual off her phone.

GABBY
Oh my God. Look at this. Section
C, line 9.

Gabby shoves her phone in Bart's face as they push through the grandstands, trying to find Kat.

BART
(reading)
"Two separate codes must be entered
to activate weapons capability."
(he looks up)
Weapons? Like, weapons weapons?

KAT spots them from the stands, and waves them up.

KAT
Hey guys!

Kat slides over to make space as they arrive.

KAT (CONT'D)
Did you see? Albert's going in!

BART
Yeah. That's...amazing.

KAT
Isn't he just the bomb?

Off Gabby and Bart's reaction we cut back to--

THE FIELD, Where Albert huddles with the rest of the team. Pretty much every guy from the mall brawl stares back at him.

ALBERT
What's up, fellas?

Nothing but icy stares. Jaden calls a play.

JADEN
Blue Nine Right, Zebra on three.
BREAK!

The players clap and break huddle. Albert stands up and claps a second late. As Jaden gets over center, Albert asks--

ALBERT
So what do I do?

JADEN
Stay out of the way.

Across the line of scrimmage, the Uni linebackers SNARL.

UNI LINEBACKER
You guys are worse than last year.

JADEN
Twenty three! Twenty three! HUTT!

Jaden hikes the ball, and the Uni defense EATS THE GLEN VIEW
OFFENSIVE LINE ALIVE.

They barrel through the line, sacking Jaden BRUTALLY.

The ball POPS out - FUMBLE!

The crowd GASPS, but Albert instinctively falls on the ball--

And gets instantly buried in a DOG PILE of players.

IN THE STANDS, Gabby and Bart WINCE, hands over their eyes--

GABBY
Oh god oh god oh god--

ON THE SIDELINES, Neveah screams into her cheer horn--

NEVEAH
Kill him!

The other cheerleaders look at her, mortified.

BACK ON THE FIELD, after a long moment of tension,

ALBERT emerges from the bottom of the pile.

HE HOLDS THE BALL ALOFT!

The crowd comes alive. Finally, something is going Glen
Hills' way.

Jaden huddles the team up again.

JADEN
Let's try um, red left forty two--

TONY, the beefy lineman from the mall, points at Albert.

TONY
J, man, how about we just give it
to him?

JADEN
We can't just--

ALBERT
 Good plan! Break.

The players clap and break huddle. Jaden walks to the line, miffed.

JADEN
 Fourteen...Whatever...HUTT.

Jaden turns and in a FLASH, Albert grabs the ball and is OFF.

FROM ALBERT'S POV, the game seems to SLOW DOWN.

Uni's linebackers come at him with enough force to tackle Adrian Peterson, but they bounce off in a heap.

Albert runs over EVERYONE, including a couple of his own players, and prances into the end zone.

After a moment of shocked disbelief, The Glen Hills crowd EXPLODES into cheers.

COACH VOSS grabs his nearest assistant coach and kisses him.

Albert points into the stands and blows Kat a kiss.

KAT
 I love you!

GABBY
 (whispered, to Bart)
 Did she just say--

BART
 That is what she said.

The KID in the stands next to Bart claps, excited.

KAT
 He's like our secret weapon!

BART
 You have no idea.

INT. THE PARKING LOT OF THE FOOTBALL FIELD - SAME

As laughing kids walk by on their way to the game,

SASHA and his two minions, VLAD AND ALEXI, open the trunk of their car. They check their weapons, he looks up at the distant scoreboard. The hometown crowd ROARS again.

SASHA

Such a violent game. So American.
They cannot be trusted with the
weapon.

VLAD

But why do they bring the it to
this place? Maybe it's a trap.

SASHA

No. This is our chance.

Sasha removes a DEVICE from the car's trunk: it's the size
of a sub-machine gun with a SILVER SPHERE on the end.

SASHA (CONT'D)

Electro-pulse gun. It shuts down
anything electrical for 60 seconds.
Enough time to plant this.

Sasha pulls out a TINY SPIDER SHAPED DEVICE that features a
data-input prong and a blinking transmitter.

SASHA (CONT'D)

He seems to answer only to the
girl. This will change his mind.

INT. THE HARTLEY HOUSE - ESTABLISHING

A satellite truck and several CIA cars parked outside.

INT. HARTLEY'S OFFICE - SAME

The room has been converted into a mobile command center.
Fritz, the lab assistant, monitors surveillance feeds, as
Agent Jenks reports back to McFee.

AGENT JENKS

We got prints off the window. Your
suspect is Sasha Bazim. Black
Sigma's number 1 arms dealer.

HARTLEY

That's it. We have to go public
with this-- Find him.

MCFEE

If this project gets out the
Pentagon will shut it down and deny
it ever existed. All your work
will be for nothing.

HARTLEY

We have no leads! We have nothing.

FRITZ

Maybe not.

McFee and Hartley turn to the monitors: Fritz takes off his headphones and hits REWIND on the main screen.

FRITZ (CONT'D)

Satellite tracking picked up an unusual burst of energy two miles from here, at the high school. This video of the football game was just posted online.

The monitor lights up with video of ALBERT scoring his touchdown.

FRITZ (CONT'D)

Watch it again.

Fritz plays the video again in SLOW MOTION:

Albert runs past defenders by JUMPING IN THE AIR AND, THEN, IMPOSSIBLY, MOVING SIDEWAYS with a small burst of light.

AGENT JENKS

Wow. Kid's got hops.

MCFEE

That's the X-17's levitation function.

CLOSE UP ON HARTLEY as all trace of doubt slips away.

HARTLEY

That's him. That's my prototype.

BEHIND HARTLEY, PEGGY walks in the front door, loaded down with shopping bags. She leans in to say hi and notices Albert's frozen image on the monitor.

PEGGY

Hey! That's Kat's new boyfriend.

Hartley stares at her, aghast. Peggy pats him on the shoulder.

PEGGY (CONT'D)

Now Jim. Don't worry. He's actually a very nice boy.

EXT. GLEN HILLS FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

Halftime is over, and The Glen Hills High team runs out of the locker room onto the field, newly confident. Jaden and Albert jog out in front.

As they exit the tunnel from the locker room, Albert sees Kat, runs over and lifts her up in a bear hug.

KAT

You were amazing!

Jaden spots Neveah, and a look of dread comes over him.

JADEN

Hey.

NEVEAH

Don't "hey" me. How can you let them do this to us?

JADEN

Do what?

NEVEAH

We've lived here our whole lives. This is our school. That Albert kid's been here one day and he gets everything handed to him? It's not fair. And don't even get me started on his girlfriend.

JADEN

Neveah...I'm kinda busy. You know, playing football.

Jaden and most of the team run off, with Neveah in tow.

The last few players straggle out of the tunnel. These guys clearly aren't in the starting lineup.

SASHA and the other two Black Sigma Ops step in their way.

SASHA

Go team. Play hard and win.

STRAGGLING PLAYER

Thanks, but we don't really play.

SASHA

Good. Then no one will notice you are gone.

Sasha reveals a GUN, and the three players freeze, helpless.

INT. A MILITARY HELICOPTER - NIGHT

From high above, the Glen Hills Football Field glitters under the lights.

Colonel McFee and Doctor Hartley look down on the action.

MCFEE

Nothing like a search and capture mission. Reminds me of my days in Nicaragua.

He yells out commands over the whirring helicopter rotors.

MCFEE (CONT'D)

Alright, gentlemen, I need a confirmed ID before we move in. The prototype will be wearing a white and green football uniform.

HARTLEY

Great. That narrows it down.

INT. IN THE BLEACHERS - SAME

Gabby and Bart sit watching the game Gabby notices the CHOPPER above. Kat comes back with Cokes and hot dogs.

KAT

You guys, it is Albert-mania out there. In line for the bathroom, a Senior asked for my autograph.

Gabby can't keep her concern quiet anymore.

GABBY

Kat, we gotta talk. Albert...he's not what we thought.

KAT

I know. He's like, so much more.

GABBY

He belongs to the government. And we need to give him back. He might be dangerous.

KAT

Dangerous? Come on. You don't know him like I do.

GABBY

Yes, I do. I've seen his manual.

ON THE SIDELINES

Coach Voss yells out the next play, then looks to his left, noticing

SASHA, VLAD, and ALEXI. They are now dressed (a little awkwardly) in Glen Hills Football uniforms.

COACH VOSS

Who are you?

SASHA

Foreign exchange students.

Coach Voss frowns, but gets distracted by the game--

COACH VOSS

Hey-- Go Jaden! Go! Run!

ON FIELD, Jaden cradles the ball, dodging a defender. He slows at the twenty yard line, deciding which way to go.

WE PULL BACK TO REVEAL ALBERT

Blocking aside defensive players like he's swatting flies. Jaden shrugs, and strolls into the end zone.

Pandemonium in the stands!

The scoreboard reads GLEN HILLS 35, UNI HIGH 38.

IN THE BLEACHERS, Kat punches Gabby on the shoulder.

KAT

This is so exciting!

Gabby looks up at the HELICOPTER again, then at the

BLACK SUVs that roll onto the grass behind the end zone.

CIA agents and SWAT team guys pour out.

GABBY

Yep. Gonna be a big finish.

Bart looks over the railing of the bleachers

THE THREE BENCH-WARMING FOOTBALL PLAYERS are running towards the field from the locker room.

They're stripped down to their undies, pointing at the field--

STRAGGLING PLAYER

Those guys stole our uniforms!

UP IN THE HELICOPTER

McFee and Hartley stare out from the cockpit of the circling helicopter. Hartley looks a little airsick.

MCFEE
Containment positions. Move on my signal!

HARTLEY
Careful. My kids are down there.

MCFEE
My weapon is down there.

Hartley stares at him.

MCFEE (CONT'D)
Yes, this might be a good time to tell you that we modified the design to carry a weapon.

HARTLEY
You did what--?!

Hartley lunges for McFee -- the helicopter starts to swerve--

DOWN ON THE SIDELINES, Coach Voss talks to Albert.

COACH VOSS
Get back out there.

ALBERT
What position?

COACH VOSS
We could actually win this. *Kick the ball, get the ball, and score a freaking touchdown.*

Albert puts on his helmet and runs out to kick off. The other special teams players stand ready.

ALEXI AND VLAD, the Black Sigma henchmen, are among them.

Back on the sidelines, Sasha pulls the Electro-Pulse gun out of an equipment bag and crouches into firing position, but no one notices. Their eyes are glued to the action.

ON THE FIELD, THE WHISTLE BLOWS--

Albert rushes forward and kicks the ball -- STRAIGHT UP.

Everyone in the stands cranes their necks to look skyward--

INT. THE HELICOPTER - CONTINUOUS

Hartley and McFee DUCK FOR COVER as the football reaches the top of its arc right in front of the windshield.

EXT. THE FOOTBALL FIELD

Agent Jenks waves the CIA agents into action--

AGENT JENKS

Now! Now!

They rush in from the end zone--

Albert and the Glen Hills team barrel at them--

Meanwhile, the football PLUMMETS TO EARTH--

The Uni High RETURN MAN searches for it in the lights.

THE BALL BOUNCES OFF HIS HELMET, ricocheting skyward--

The crowd oohs as Albert TAKES FLIGHT, sailing over the Uni High players and CIA agents in a superhuman leap--

AND CATCHING THE BALL IN THE END ZONE!

The refs look at each other in amazement then signal:

TOUCHDOWN!

Pandemonium in the stands as the fans storm the field.

Bedlam on the field. The Glen Hills players swarm Albert.

The players try to lift Albert onto their shoulders, but he's super heavy, and they tumble to the ground in a dog pile.

Two of the players try to pull Albert out of the pile.

PLAYER

Give him room! Give him room!

A CLOSE UP REVEALS they are ALEXI AND VLAD, the Black Sigmas.

Jenks and the other CIA agents join the chaos--

IN THE CROWD: SASHA raises the electro-pulse device and pulls the trigger.

A SHOCK WAVE OF ELECTRO-MAGNETIC ENERGY shakes the stadium.

The floodlights and scoreboard plunge into DARKNESS.

Even the swaying lights of smart phones in the stands blink out one by one.

UP IN THE CHOPPER,

The pilot's instrument panel flickers, and McFee watches in horror as the field below them goes DARK.

MCFEE

What happened? Was that us? Did we do that?

DOWN ON THE FIELD, KAT pushes through the crowd--

KAT

Albert! Albert!

FROM ALBERT'S POV - He spots Kat--

But his vision flickers, bursts with static and goes DARK--

His voice does that creepy slow thing like HAL in 2001-

ALBERT

K--AAAA---TTTT!

Albert PASSES OUT, right into VLAD AND ALEXI'S ARMS.

SASHA is at his side quick as a cat, kneeling over the unconscious Albert.

He pulls out THE TINY HACKING DEVICE, and turns Albert's helmet pressing it in behind his right ear. It DRILLS down, flush with his skin.

KAT AND GABBY push through the circle of celebrating players. They spot the Black Sigma guys hunched over Albert.

KAT

Hey!

Sasha, Vlad and Alexi turn, menacing, but JENKS and the other CIA AGENTS barrel towards them.

AGENT JENKS

Stop!

Sasha bolts one way, into the tangle of players and fans--

Alexi and Vlad run the other way, with Jenks in pursuit--

Kat and Gabby turn back from all this to find that Albert is GONE. He's disappeared.

INT. THE CHOPPER - SAME

From ABOVE, the school parking lot is chaos. Cars stream away in all directions. McFee screams into his walkie.

JENKS (ON WALKIE)
Black Sigma is on site. Repeat, in pursuit of multiple Black Sigma operatives.

McFee grips the walkie like he wants to crush it.

MCFEE
Find the prototype!

HARTLEY
We've got to call the Pentagon. This is totally out of control.

MCFEE
How about you control your own kids.

HARTLEY
Control teenagers? Good one.

EXT. THE PARKING LOT OUTSIDE THE FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

Kat and Gabby search the rows of cars in a panic, desperately looking for Albert.

KAT
Where is he? He wouldn't just disappear. He couldn't, right?

GABBY
This is bad -- like, zombie apocalypse bad.

AGENTS JENKS (O.S.)
Everyone get down!

Kat and Gabby crouch for cover as

VLAD AND ALEXI come barreling towards them -- still in football uniforms - with Jenks in pursuit.

They're about to disappear into the darkness when

A CAR ACCELERATES INTO FRAME, knocking them to the ground.

It's BART - at the wheel of the Black Sigma's car.

BART

Pro tip dudes - if you're going to
steal someone's uniform, don't
leave your keys in your pants!
(to the girls)
Get in!

Agent Jenks stands over Alexi and Vlad, gun drawn. She sees Gabby and Kat climbing in the car--

AGENT JENKS

Stay here!

Bart peels away. Agent Jenks keeps watch over the Black Sigmas, and she's helpless to pursue.

INT. THE CHOPPER - SAME

The view from above, cars stream out of the parking lot in every direction.

AGENTS JENKS (ON WALKIE)

I have two Black Sigmas in custody.

MCFEE

But do we have the X-17? Jenks!
Has the prototype been *acquired*?!

HARTLEY

They don't have him.

MCFEE

Shut up.

HARTLEY

Hey! I was on the short list for
the Nobel Prize!

INT. AN UNKNOWN PLACE - IN COMPLETE DARKNESS

VOICE (V.O.)

You're ours now, baby.

In the darkness, a red REBOOT light appears on screen,

WE ARE INSIDE ALBERT'S HEAD AGAIN.

His processor begins to spin: "HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT? MOVING
NW AT 39 MPH"; "WEAPONS SYSTEMS ON STANDBY..."

VOICE (V.O.)

Don't try to fight it. We own you.

Albert's vision begins to clear: in the darkness, he makes out the shapes of imposing figures surrounding him, until--

TONY, the beefy linebacker, leans clearly into frame.

TONY

Welcome to the team, bra!

Albert BOLTS UPRIGHT inside a VAN, surrounded by the same players who tried to beat him up at the mall.

They hoot, holler and clap him on the back.

ALBERT

Where are we? Where are we going?

TONY

The after party!

More raucous celebration from the other players.

ALBERT

(still groggy)

Where's Kat?

TONY

Relax Al, we texted her! It's party time! We beat UNI!!

More hoots of triumph. Albert looks out the window helplessly as the van speeds deep into the countryside.

INT. THE BLACK SIGMA OPS' CAR - MINUTES LATER

Bart drives, farther back on the country road. Gabby and Kat sit in the back seat.

A car full of KIDS passes them, HONKING AND SCREAMING.

Kat checks the directions on her phone.

KAT

Says here we go left up ahead.

(an excited sigh)

Our first after-party, you guys!

Who's excited?

Gabby turns to Kat with frustration.

GABBY

Kat. Listen to me, okay? This can't go any further. You have to shut Albert down.

KAT

Why are you being so aggro?

GABBY

We're in a terrorist's car being chased by the government and your dad. Sorry if I'm not chillaxing. What was Albert even doing in that game? He could have hurt someone.

KAT

Our relationship isn't like that. I don't order him around. Albert is his own man.

GABBY

No, Kat. No he's not. He's your responsibility. You control him.

KAT

Don't tell me how to handle my man!

Bart shakes his head as he makes the left turn--

BART

Am I on the Jerry Springer show?

EXT. THE AFTER PARTY - NIGHT - TO ESTABLISH

A HUGE MANSION in the affluent Virginia suburbs.

Someone's parents are out of town, and let's hope they have insurance.

Albert and the other football players tumble out of their van and are given a hero's welcome by the partiers.

Albert looks around, trying to get his bearings.

Behind his ear, the HACKING DEVICE blinks.

INSIDE ALBERT'S POV - a message flashes: "REMOTE ACCESS ATTEMPT: REQUESTING COMMAND CONTROL."

TONY

Dude, this place is sick.

ALBERT

All these people are in danger. I need to warn them.

EXT. BACKYARD POOL - CONTINUOUS

The backyard is packed with even more teenagers, partying around the pool.

Albert gets up on the SWIMMING BOARD. The kids see him and start to chant for their football hero.

PARTYING KIDS
AL-BERT! AL-BERT! AL-BERT!

ALBERT
Please, everyone! Listen.

The deejay turns down the music. Albert tries to find the words to alert everyone to the danger. He tries the truth.

ALBERT (CONT'D)
Look. I appreciate all of you
accepting me into the school. But
I'm not a person. I'm a machine.

The partygoers raise their glasses and CHEER!

TONY
Yeah, bro! You're a MACHINE!

ALBERT
No -- you all need to leave because
it's about to get dangerous here!

Everyone ROARS THEIR AGREEMENT! Albert gets more frustrated.

ALBERT (CONT'D)
I'm trying to help you. Please.
I'm a superbomb - the kind of
weapon the world has never seen
before -- and if I go off -- you
better grab the person closest to
you and get down!

On the words "Get Down," the Deejay DROPS THE BEAT, and everyone SCREAMS and DANCES like there's no tomorrow.

Albert shakes his head - *this is useless*. And then he grabs his forehead as if he's in pain.

CLOSE ON THE BLACK SIGMA HACKING DEVICE: still working away, and still transmitting a remote signal.

INT. ANOTHER CAR FULL OF TEENAGERS - NIGHT

Somewhere on the country road to the party. This car's a Prius packed with giggling pom-pom girls and

SASHA. He's squashed in the back, and looking down at his tracking device. In his clipped Russian English, he says:

SASHA

Turn next left please.

POM POM GIRL

So psyched! Omigod I never get invited to these parties.

2ND POM POM GIRL

What position do you play?

SASHA

Um...catcher. Football...catcher.

2ND POM POM GIRL

Rad. I love sports.

EXT. THE AFTER PARTY MANSION - NIGHT

Bart parks the Black Sigma's sedan outside the massive after-party. Gabby and Kat climb out, still arguing.

GABBY

Kat, listen to me. There are terrorists after Albert. The only homecoming he should be going to is at the Pentagon.

Kat checks her make-up in her phone and Gabby follows her.

KAT

You know, Gabs, I don't want to be harsh, and I'm saying this as a friend, but I think maybe you're a little jealous of me.

GABBY

What?

KAT

Look, *I get it*. Albert's amazing. We're amazing together. I don't blame you for wishing it was you.

GABBY

You've got to be kidding.

KAT

Reading his manual cover-to-cover?
Hello? Obsess much? Now excuse
me. I have to find my boyfriend.

Kat walks up the steps. Gabby and Bart watch her go.

GABBY

Unreal. I've created a monster.

EXT. GAS STATION PARKING LOT - NIGHT

The CIA Chopper is grounded to refuel, and the feds have circled the wagons to regroup.

JENKS debriefs McFee and Hartley. She motions to ALEXI AND VLAD, who are handcuffed in the back of her car.

AGENT JENKS

They claim they attached a hacking device to Albert's CPU. If it cracks his security code, Black Sigma will control the weapon.

HARTLEY

I'm more worried about the weapon cracking my daughter's defenses.

MCFEE

Hey - take it easy, Dad. As far as we know, Kat still has command control. Let's hope she's more stable than you are.

McFee turns to address someone OFF SCREEN.

MCFEE (CONT'D)

Gentlemen! I understand you're privy to some classified information. So, as a service to your country, please tell us... where is the after party?

REVERSE ANGLE ON: THREE HIGH SCHOOL STONERS, sitting on the curb outside a convenience store.

STONER

Sure, I could tell you. But then I'd have to kill you.

The stoners bust up laughing. Hartley glares at McFee - *we are so screwed.*

INT. THE AFTER PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT

Kat walks through the party, now getting hugs and air kisses from people she doesn't even know.

She spots Albert across the room. She waves sweetly, but he's distracted.

CLOSE UP AGAIN on the hacking device behind Albert's ear--

INSIDE ALBERT'S HEAD - numbered code combinations whir by - each one is DENIED, but the persistent bug keeps trying.

KAT

Albert? Honey. Are you okay?

ALBERT

No. I feel like...someone's trying to mess with my head.

KAT

Tell me about it. Gabby is being a total nightmare right now.

EXT. THE DRIVEWAY OUTSIDE THE PARTY - SAME

Somewhere along the row of cars parked haphazardly down the mansion's driveway,

SASHA has broken into the trunk of his own car. The football uniform is gone and he's changed into street clothes.

He pulls out a 9mm pistol, checks that it's loaded, and sticks it in his belt.

He slams the trunk - a look of violent purpose in his eyes.

INT. THE PARTY - SAME

Kat's basking in the post-football game glory.

KAT

Do you think they'll give you a letterman's jacket? I want to wear it in school and feel all like, comfy and validated.

Albert leans against her, rubbing his head.

ALBERT

I don't feel so well. Maybe we should go.

KAT

But honey! This is the coolest party I've ever been invited to.

Kat's blood goes cold when she hears the voice behind her.

NEVEAH (O.S.)

It's the only party you've ever been to, and you weren't invited.

Kat and Albert turn to see NEVEAH AND JADEN.

NEVEAH (CONT'D)

You two just keep showing up where you don't belong.

KAT

It's your house. Of course it had to be your house.

Jaden looks more embarrassed of Neveah than ever.

JADEN

Albert won the game for us, Nev. Maybe like, chill out for once.

NEVEAH

You keep your beautiful mouth shut.

KAT

We're staying. Come on, Albert.

As Kat grabs Albert by the hand and leads him off through the party, Neveah sees something troubling off screen--

NEVEAH

Hey!

ANGLE ON SASHA, attempting to slip inside Neveah's house via a side door. Caught, he starts to reach for his weapon.

NEVEAH (CONT'D)

If you're using the inside bathroom, take off your muddy shoes or I'll kill you.

Sasha nods politely and slips his shoes off. Neveah turns back to the party in a huff.

NEVEAH (CONT'D)

I mean seriously. Were these people raised by *wolves*?

INT. NEVEAH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Kat pulls Albert into an empty room, upstairs. It's an explosion of pink plaid wallpaper and cheer camp trophies.

KAT

Ugh. I feel like I haven't been alone with you for like... years.

Albert's still pre-occupied. He opens Neveah's balcony door and scans the party.

ALBERT

We have to talk.

Kat flops back on the bed in frustration--

KAT

I know we programmed you to be sensitive, but dude.

EXT. THE AFTER PARTY - NIGHT

Gabby and Bart walk through the party, looking for Albert, or a terrorist. Or both.

BART

I always wanted to go to a party like this before I died. I think I got it in just under the wire.

(his CELL PHONE RINGS)

And...there's my dad.

Bart looks at Gabby. She nods: answer it.

BART (CONT'D)

(casual)

Hey Pops. What's up?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. MCFEE'S HUMVEE - SAME

The caravan of CIA Humvees is finally on the road to the party. Hartley rides with McFee.

HARTLEY

Bart. Are you at the after party?

Bart tries to cover the phone, but there's no way for him to cover the shouting, laughter and loud music.

BART
Um...maybe?

HARTLEY
Son, do you know what Albert is?

BART
Maybe. And Dad - and let me just say before you perma-ground me that the fact that you invented him is like, super rad.

Hartley feels McFee GLARING at him: *get to the point*. But he can't help but be touched by his son's words.

HARTLEY
It's my life's work, son. But you and Katrina are my life. I want you safe. I don't want to punish anyone for hacking my system.

BART
Good. Then you should probably talk to the person who did it.

Bart hands the phone to Gabby. She takes it, sheepish--

GABBY
Hi Doctor Hartley.

Off Hartley's surprised reaction we go back to--

INT. NEVEAH'S ROOM - SAME

Albert holds Kat's hand. For the first time, he's struggling to express himself, like a genuine teenage boy.

ALBERT
I don't know how to tell you this -- there's...someone else.

IN ALBERT'S HEAD: The hacking device continues to try ACCESS CODES while disabling Albert's other functions.

ALBERT (CONT'D)
Someone else... wants me.

KAT
I knew it.

ALBERT
I -- I can't control it. I feel like this person knows how I tick.

Kat shakes her head in disgust. She's sure it's Gabby.

KAT

Looks like I need to find a new best friend. Of all the android boyfriends in the world, she had to go after mine!

EXT. THE PARTY - SAME

Gabby and Bart sit in the midst of the party on her cell phone. We're still INTERCUTTING with Hartley, who's riding in the Humvee as it races down the road.

GABBY

The hacking device must have disabled Albert's defense cortex.

HARTLEY

Yes -- so it's keeping him from fighting back.

Bart squints at the second floor of the house and spots SASHA climbing onto the balcony. He tries to alert Gabby but she's distracted by a sudden inspiration.

GABBY

Wait a minute. If we restart his frontal processor the defenses will kick in again. Could we just... reboot him?

HARTLEY

He's a three billion dollar robotic soldier. He doesn't have an on/off button!

GABBY

(with a shrug)

Sorry. That's what I always do with my powerbook.

Colonel McFee's had enough talk - he grabs the phone.

MCFEE

Young lady. This is Colonel Raymond J. McFee of the US Army. You report to me now and I demand to know what you have in mind--

Gabby SHUTS THE PHONE with a sigh. She has no time for this. She turns to hand the phone to Bart, but he's GONE.

INT. NEVEAH'S ROOM - SAME

FROM ALBERT'S POINT OF VIEW, we see the hacking device getting closer to breaking the access code.

Kat paces in front of him like a dictator.

KAT

Well. Maybe Gabby does have feelings for you. Maybe she read your manual. But I control you. And I order you to stay with me.

Kat points at Albert, then turns to see her posture and expression exactly matches a the life-sized wall poster of NEVEAH leading her cheer squad.

KAT (CONT'D)

Okay now that's, that's not fair.

Albert falls on the bed and begins to CONVULSE.

KAT (CONT'D)

Albert? Albert!

EXT. NEVEAH'S BALCONY - SAME

Sasha hides in the darkness on Neveah's balcony. He checks the tracking system for his hacking device. It flashes:

"ACCESS GRANTED. READY FOR NEW MISSION COMMAND"

Sasha smiles - victory is his.

INT. NEVEAH'S ROOM - SAME

Kat's shaking Albert, trying to get a response from him when Gabby rushes in with Neveah right behind her.

NEVEAH

Stay out of my room--AGH!

Neveah sees Kat and Albert on the bed and recoils.

NEVAEH

Ugh. Please tell me you guys weren't just working it on my bed.

GABBY

Kat - you have to get out of here.

KAT
Stay out of this, Gabby!

NEVEAH
And the man-stealing continues!

Albert is stone faced. Unresponsive--

KAT
You've got a boyfriend, Gabs. Even if it's just a summer camp fling. I can't even keep a guy who is programmed to love me.

NEVEAH
Ha! I *knew* it was a set up!

GABBY
Yeah, Kat. I've been meaning to tell you. I don't have a boyfriend. He doesn't exist.

Kat's jaw DROPS. Neveah waves it off--

NEVEAH
Least shocking surprise ever.

GABBY
Boys are weird, and stressful, and I didn't want to deal with it, so I made one up. You were so obsessed, I figured I'd help you get one. Now I wish I never had, because it's ruining everything.

KAT
No Gabs, you ruined everything by stealing him.

SASHA (O.S.)
Actually...That was me.

SASHA has stepped in from balcony, GUN IN HAND. Neveah tries to makes sense of it all, looking at Albert, then at Sasha.

NEVEAH
Ohhhh. Duh. I knew Albert was way too cute to be straight.

GABBY
He's not gay, he's a terrorist.
(scared of the gun)
Not that there's anything wrong with...being a terrorist.

SASHA
Shut up. Too much talk. You talk
talk talk like little schoolgirls.

KAT
Well, dude, if the shoe fits--

SASHA
Shut up.
(to Albert)
Revise mission protocol.

Albert stands at attention.

ALBERT
Revising mission protocols.

Gabby and Kat look on in horror. Neveah's not sure what's
going on, but she knows it's bad.

NEVEAH
I can't have a terrorist in the
house. My parents will freak.

At that moment, BART rushes through Neveah's door and tackles
Sasha. They tussle for a moment - and Bart GRABS THE GUN!

Bart pops to his feet triumphantly. Sasha slowly stands up
and raises his hands.

BART
Ha ha! Who's the smart guy now?

Quick as a flash, Sasha reaches out and steals the 9mm right
back as Bart tries in vain to pull the trigger.

And as fast as it started, Bart's heroic moment is over.

BART (CONT'D)
You had the safety on. And that
makes you the smart guy.

INT. THE AFTER PARTY - SAME

McFee, Hartley and all the CIA agents stride through the
front door of the mansion, flashing badges.

MCFEE
Remain calm. You're safe now.
We're with the government.

Immediately, all the kids start to scatter and panic. Tony
watches them going by with a beer in hand:

TONY

We're getting busted by the Feds?
That's epic.

Out by the pool, the panicking kids realize the place is SURROUNDED in every direction by agents.

MCFEE

We're not here to arrest anyone.
We're looking for a runaway teen
named Albert Banks.

It doesn't stop the kids from scattering in all directions.

INT. NEVEAH'S ROOM - SAME

Sasha sneers at Bart, and gives Albert a command.

SASHA

Apprehend him.

Albert grabs Bart by the collar.

KAT

Albert! Stop it.

Albert's not listening. Gabby whispers to Kat--

GABBY

We have to shut him down -- reboot
him somehow--
(she shouts at Albert)
Restart! Reboot! Control alt
delete!

But nothing works. To Kat and Gabby's horror, Albert LIFTS BART off the ground - and carries him to the balcony.

EXT. THE AFTER PARTY - SAME

There's a collective GASP from the party-goers as Albert appears, dangling Bart over the railing.

Hartley shouts to the CIA agents--

HARTLEY

That's my son! He's got my son.

Sasha appears on the balcony. He holds all the cards now.

SASHA

Black Sigma controls the prototype.
Put the guns down.
(to Albert)
Prototype. Arm your weapon
systems.

ON MCFEE AND HARTLEY: Hartley checks his pocket Geiger Counter - and its needle suddenly swings wildly.

HARTLEY

He just went nuclear.

MCFEE

Everyone hold your fire! Albert is
hot!

One of the female PARTY-GOERS chimes in, sarcastic.

PARTY GIRL

Hello, uh, news flash.

INT. NEVEAH'S ROOM - SAME

Somewhere inside Albert, a weapon of mass destruction is arming itself, filling the room with a low HUM. Kat pleads--

KAT

Albert. Listen to me! Look!

Kat pulls out the STRIP of pictures from the photo booth at the mall. Kat and Albert together - pure puppy love.

KAT (CONT'D)

You and Me. We have something, and
it's real. Look. It's real.

Albert swivels his head, studying the picture--

SASHA

Prototype! Erase memory!

INSIDE ALBERT'S HEAD, images of Albert and Kat together are being deleted from his memory.

KAT

You said it today. When you find
that person you're meant to be
with, nothing else matters. Not
missions, not wires or microchips
or bombs. You said it's like
magic. Show me you weren't
lying...Let Bart go.

Albert stares at her - seemingly touched. But after a moment, he turns back and GRIPS Bart a little tighter.

Kat charges at Albert, PUNCHING AND KICKING HIM.

Everyone, from Sasha to Bart and Gabby to the CIA agents, scream for her to stop, expecting Armageddon at any minute.

KAT (CONT'D)
You know what? That's it. I'm
breaking up with you!

ON ALBERT. Something clicks within him--

INSIDE ALBERT'S POV: a new line of command code appears:
"PRIMARY MISSION ABORTED. PERFORM RESET."

Albert's vision goes DARK for a moment. And then, after a moment, there's a strange CHIMING NOISE. A reboot.

GABBY
Omigosh. Kat. You did it.

KAT
(despondent)
I know. I dumped the perfect boy.
I'm crazy, right?

GABBY
No - you rebooted him.

Sasha is angry now. Insistent. He shouts at Albert--

SASHA
X-17. I order you. Kill them!

Albert pulls Bart back over the railing and sets him down. He turns to Sasha-- who fires the gun several times--

RIGHT INTO ALBERT'S HAND.

Albert calmly catches the bullets, then reaches forward, and crushes the gun into a tiny, molten ball - and EATS IT.

BART
(impressed)
Awww who's the boss.

EXT. DOWN BY THE POOL - A MOMENT LATER

The house is rocked by a giant CRASH as a projectile smashes THROUGH THE ROOF of the house - arcing through the air and splashing into the pool.

Two CIA agents drag SASHA from the water like a rag doll.

GABBY, KAT AND BART come down the stairway. Jenks and the other agents rush past them, in pursuit of Albert.

Kat runs into Hartley's arms, like the scared kid she is. Hartley's awkward at first. Then he hugs back as hard as he can - more than anything else, just a grateful dad.

ON BART AND GABBY, watching the agents cuffing Sasha.

BART

The Playstation version of war is
way less painful. Did I hear right
that you do not have a boyfriend?

Gabby smiles a little bit.

Neveah comes down last. She stares up THE HOLE IN HER ROOF in abject horror. REVEAL that Jaden is standing next to her--

JADEN

Um...Neveah? This might be a bad
time, but...I want to break up.

Agent Jenks appears on the upstairs balcony.

AGENT JENKS

He's gone. We swept the whole
house. Albert's gone!

McFee and Hartley look up in disbelief. They look at Gabby and Kat for answers. But they only SHRUG.

MCFEE

Lock the perimeter! The X-17 is
still at large!

Military CHATTER begins over the walkies...

GABBY(V.O.)

And that's pretty much everything
that happened.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - THE PRESENT

We're right back where we started: with McFee staring down Gabby and Kat, pressing for answers.

SUPER A TITLE: THE PRESENT

HARTLEY

Where is Albert? Tell us now.

GABBY

I told you - Kat rebooted him. His missions were deleted. No one controls him. He's on his own.

MCFEE

He's a *rogue weapon*. He could be anywhere!

GABBY

You know what they say. If you love someone, set them free. If they don't come back, they could be a threat to the entire planet. But if they show up at Homecoming, it's super romantic.

Kat looks up hopefully. Hartley gets Gabby's meaning--

HARTLEY

You two don't actually think you're still going to the dance?

GABBY

There's a one percent chance Albert could show up there today. And those are the best odds you've got.

MCFEE

Why would he risk that? He doesn't answer to Kat anymore.

GABBY

He's still a soldier. And soldiers keep their promises.

McFee and Hartley look at each other, considering...

MCFEE

No. Out of the question.

HARTLEY

Okay. So we call the President and tell him... we have no plan?

Off McFee's angry stare, we dissolve to:

INT. KAT'S BEDROOM - HOMECOMING DAY

Gabby and Kat stand in HOMECOMING DRESSES, looking at themselves in the mirror. They look gorgeous.

Agent Jenks guards the door. She gives them a thumb up.

EXT. THE HARTLEY HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Gabby and Kat walk out to a pair of stretch limos.

Bart stands waiting. He tries to pin a corsage on Gabby's dress, but the flower keeps falling over.

INT. LIMOUSINE - AFTERNOON

Kat and Hartley sit in the back of one of the limos as it rolls through Glen Hills with full military escort.

HARTLEY
You look beautiful.

KAT
All dressed up. No one to dance with.

HARTLEY
I would, but I'm not cool enough.

KAT
It's okay. Without Albert, I won't have any friends. Maybe not even Gabby. I wish you never invented him. That we never designed him.

HARTLEY
Look, kid. I dream things up for a living. It never turns out the way you plan. Not an invention, not life. Not love. But it doesn't mean we shouldn't dream.

KAT
What happens if Albert shows up? What will they do with him?

HARTLEY
Sweetie. That's classified.

Kat smiles sadly, and goes back to looking out the window.

EXT. GLEN HILLS HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT - EVENING

The limos arrive. Hartley gives Kat a hug.

Kat watches Gabby and Bart getting out of their limo. They're doing that "After you, no, after you" thing. Awkward, nervous, adorable first date stuff.

INT. THE HOMECOMING DANCE - SAME

The standard gymnasium Homecoming soiree. Kat, Gabby and Bart survey the scene.

KAT

This must be the first Homecoming dance ever chaperoned by the CIA.

Sure enough, there are agents posted all around the perimeter of the gym. This isn't a high school dance. It's an ambush.

KAT (CONT'D)

He's not showing up, is he.

GABBY

Maybe he's off in a third world country, fighting a crazy dictator.

KAT

You mean like me?

(a smile of apology)

Sorry I went off the deep end. I got hopped up on hormones and crazy took the wheel.

EXT. THE SCHOOL PARKING LOT - ESTABLISHING

A trailer labeled "FUN PARTY DJs."

INSIDE, it's the MOBILE COMMAND center. Hartley and McFee sit at a bank of monitors. McFee runs point via walkie.

MCFEE

Alright gentlemen, it's going to get crowded soon, so let's keep a close eye on Katrina.

Hartley shoots him a fatherly look. McFee amends--

MCFEE (CONT'D)

A close, respectful eye.

INT. THE GYMNASIUM - SAME

Bart walks up to Gabby and Kat and sets down two cups of punch. He offers Gabby a hand.

BART

Shall we, M'lady?

GABBY

Are you going to be okay?

KAT

You're at a dance with my brother.
I'm not okay. I'm nauseated.

Gabby smiles - same old Kat. Bart leads Gabby out onto the floor along with a few other slow-dancing couples.

Kat looks out at the dance floor, twinkling with muted disco lights and some silly slow jam song.

KAT (CONT'D)

Back to square one.

JADEN (O.S.)

Does that mean you can help me with
calculus again?

Kat looks up to find JADEN - not what she was expecting.

IN THE COMMAND CENTER

McFee's ready to spring into action. But Hartley stops him.

HARTLEY

It's not Albert.

MCFEE (INTO WALKIE)

Stand down. This one's not
dangerous.

HARTLEY

He's a teenage boy. He's dangerous.

BACK IN THE GYM

Jaden leads Kat out onto the dance floor. They start to slow dance. And it can't help but be a little magical.

JADEN

You were expecting Albert?

KAT

Oh, no. I mean...it looks like
he's transferring schools again.

JADEN

He moves a lot. Are his parents in
the military or something?

Kat tries to read Jaden's smile. How much does he know?

KAT

Sorry about you and Neveah. I thought you guys were like... the perfect couple.

JADEN

I hope not.

They laugh. NEVEAH watches them from the edge of the dance floor. Tony stands next to her.

TONY

Do you want to dance?

NEVEAH

I just broke up with your friend.

TONY

(with a shrug)

So? You're hot.

Neveah turns to consider Tony, and we're

BACK ON KAT AND JADEN.

JADEN

You know, one night when you were tutoring me... I actually did think about asking you out. But then I chickened out.

KAT

You were scared? Of me?

JADEN

I know. Weird, right?

And Kat's reminded: this is what real high school boys are like. Awkward. Trying too hard. And kind of adorable.

The song ends, and the dance floor clears, revealing

ALBERT. Looking dapper in a classic Armani suit.

Forget handsome. Put a tux on this kid, and it's unfair.

A buzz goes through the gym.

JADEN (CONT'D)

Your real date just showed up.

Jaden starts to walk away, but Kat calls after him.

KAT

Hey Jaden--Thanks for the dance.
It was really nice.

IN THE COMMAND CENTER

Everyone springs to action.

MCFEE

We have visual ID of the prototype.
Everyone hold. All agents standby
for retrieval.

Hartley holds up his hand.

HARTLEY

Just... give them a minute.

BACK IN THE GYM

Albert takes Kat's hand. The music is a perfect slow dance.

ALBERT

Sorry I'm late.

KAT

Well. Nobody's perfect.

GABBY AND BART are dancing a short distance away.

GABBY

He's so cute. I hope she doesn't
do anything stupid.

Bart turns to look at her. Gabby corrects herself.

GABBY (CONT'D)

Anything else stupid.

ON THE EDGE OF THE DANCE FLOOR

AGENT JENKS powers up an electro-pulse gun, just like the one
Sasha used. A pull of the trigger and Albert will be out -
literally - like a light.

ALBERT PULLS KAT CLOSER. They almost touch noses.

KAT

Don't kiss me yet. I want this
moment to last.

ALBERT

It doesn't have to end, you know.

Kat looks around. Eyes are trained on them from all sides.

KAT

I think running would be difficult.

ALBERT

You'd be surprised.

Kat looks around at all the students watching them. She locks eyes with Gabby, Bart... even Jaden.

KAT

I belong here. I can't believe you even came back.

ALBERT

I wanted to.

INT. MOBILE COMMAND CENTER - SAME

McFee and Hartley watch and wait.

MCFEE

Come on, dude. Make your move.

Hartley glares at him.

MCFEE (CONT'D)

Sorry.

BACK ON KAT AND ALBERT

KAT

I don't understand. You can do anything now. Go anywhere. And you came back here.

ALBERT

I followed my standard protocols. My CPU calculates what's right for the country and protecting the common good. You're one of the good guys.

KAT

I try to be.

ALBERT

I had to make sure that you're going to be okay without me. And now I know.

Albert opens his hand - the palm SLIDES AWAY, revealing a RED BUTTON.

IN THE COMMAND CENTER

Hartley's Geiger monitor goes ballistic.

HARTLEY

Wait a minute - he's armed!

MCFEE

Move in!

BACK IN THE GYM

Albert leans forward, KISSING KAT, and pressing his hand against Kat's - DEPRESSING THE RED BUTTON.

It's a remember-it-forever kind of kiss.

ALBERT

Goodbye, Kat. It's been real.

Albert's feet start to HEAT UP with a red hot internal combustion.

GABBY AND BART realize what's happening--

GABBY

Get back!!

They pull Kat away, pushing the other students back. Suddenly, with a bone-rattling ROAR,

ALBERT TAKES OFF LIKE A MISSILE through the roof.

EXT. FIELD OUTSIDE THE GYMNASIUM - SAME

Kat, Gabby, Bart and the rest of the kids run outside, nearly colliding with Hartley and McFee.

Hartley looks up as his life's work is escaping the atmosphere, leaving a curving column of smoke.

Even Neveah and Tony run out to watch its ascent.

NEVEAH

Oh my God. That's insane.

TONY

Not as insane as how hot you are.

Neveah stares at him for a beat - and they start MAKING OUT.

GABBY AND BART stand shoulder to shoulder, looking up.

BART

What an exit. That dude makes the rest of us look bad.

GABBY

I don't know. You do alright.

Bart and Gabby look at each other, dreamy.

Meanwhile, KAT'S gaze is so glued to the sky that it takes her a second to realize JADEN is standing next to her.

JADEN

Wow. A perfect logarithmic curve.

KAT

Yeah. That's right.

JADEN

I've been meaning to tell you...
I'm actually pretty good at math.

KAT

Then why would you need a t--

Kat figures it out - and BLUSHES.

From miles above the cloud cover, a series of MASSIVE EXPLOSIONS shakes the sky. McFee stares up in agony.

MCFEE

What was that?! Where did he go?

HARTLEY

Back to the drawing board.

As everyone stares up at the fireworks show, Gabby catches Kat's eye across the crowd.

Gabby points slyly at Jaden: *"What's up with that?"*

Kat shrugs, as if to say, *"We'll see!"*

They smile - best friends again - and go back to looking up as the explosions fade into the moonlit sky.

FADE OUT.