

REDEMPTION TV-PILOT

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Based on Redemption novel,
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COLD OPEN

INT. SATAN'S HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

SUBTITLE IN: THE DARKEST PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE

A flame in a fireplace slightly lits a large room in a medieval castle.

As the small blue-green planet turns lazily in the holographic projection, a slim male hand skims its surface with slow calculative desire.

The hand belongs to SATAN (looks 35), an arrogant, handsome man, elegantly dressed, with a massive ring.

A stocky man (50s) with a repulsive face stands in front of his Master. Attached to his frayed jacket's lapel is an expensive ID badge with an inverted pentagram and DEMON name.

Behind Demon, barely noticeable, is the third fellow, uncertain age, much shorter and thinner than others. His badge is engraved with the name SPY.

All three pairs of eyes stare at the Earth, which glows like a beacon in the dark.

As Satan's sleek hands are spreading out, the holographic images in the Earth are ZOOMING IN:

NORTH AMERICA

The U.S.A.

CHICAGO

A BUILDING

A BEDROOM

A WOMAN

SATAN
(in excitement)
That's *her*!

THE END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

SUBTITLE IN: CHICAGO. THE YEAR 2035.

In the spacious bedroom, ANN (24), a brown-haired woman, tosses, and turns in her bed. Her body bends - she SCREAMS.

ROB (O.S.)
I love you, Ann!

The voice comes from the sleek portable device on her bedside table. Ann reaches out from beneath the cover and gropes for the device.

The smiling face of ROB (20s), her SmartAssistant, pops out to the screen.

ROB (CONT'D)
Your day is fully booked, my lady!

Ann GROANS but gets to her feet.

ANN
Okay, okay, I'm up!
(beat)
Check up the traffic.

While moving, she presses a button labeled SmartHome. The shutters open to reveal spectacular views of the color-changing skyscrapers and the suspended pedestrian gardens in between.

The holographic clock hovering over the city reads 6:35 am.

ROB
Traffic is easy, beautiful. I'll
plot the best way anyway; you won't
be late.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Passing the vast reflective panel, Ann gives herself a critical once-over - after the bad dream, her slender figure seems crooked.

An image of WHISTLING Rob shaving the night's growth of stubble appears on the corner of the mirror.

ROB
(with a wink)
You look great, as always!

INT. SHOWER - CONTINUOUS

Ann steps into the shower. Jets of water immediately burst into life from the wall, already at the optimum temperature.

ANN
You're a terrible liar, Rob. But
I'll do, soon!

EXT. A.I.I. GARAGE - LATER

Ann's car, a beautiful sporty number, parks closer to the elevator.

There is a running greeting on the wall-display: "Welcome to Artificial Intelligence International!".

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Now, in her elegant suit and proper make-up, Ann looks and feels like a business lady.

Rob, wearing rimmed glasses and a tie, peers out of the device on the dashboard.

As Ann parks, her foot in the high-heeled shoe slips on the gas pedal, causing the car to JERK forward. Rob shakes his head.

ROB
Smooth! I still love you, though.

Ann gracefully knocks the device with a flick of her finger, switching it off.

ANN
(sarcastically)
Sorry.

INT. A.I.I. HEADQUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

THE VAST OFFICE SPACE. FUTURISTIC. NEAT. ERGONOMIC.

As Ann enters the hall, MIKE-7, a robot-secretary with the name on his white robe and a doll-like appearance, smiles artificially to her.

MIKE-7
(slightly metallic voice)
Would you like some coffee?

The name Mike-7 smoothly changes to the corporate slogan "Artificial But Intelligent." Without replying, Ann jumps onto the escalator.

INT. ESCALATOR - CONTINUOUS

Ann looks down. Multi-story glass-and-steel office teems with life. Either side of the long central gangways the sight of desks equipped with high-tech devices.

PETER, (20s), with a cup of coffee, jumps on the parallel escalator.

PETER
Ann, what time do you call that!

Ann slowing down just a bit turns her head to him.

ANN
The correct greeting, Peter, would be "good morning". And I think you'll find I am never late!

She jumps out of the escalator. Peter COUGHS and follows her.

INT. SALES AND MARKETING DOMAIN - CONTINUOUS

Suddenly Ann stops and turns to face him.

ANN
I spoil you, boys, too much, that's the problem. If it were up to you, I'd be living here, mothering you and holding your hand through every little task.

PETER
(grinning)
Hah! If my mother was as pretty as you, I'd never leave the house.

Ann frowned at him, pausing just long enough to make him feel slightly uncomfortable.

ANN
You know that sounds rather weird?

PETER

Yeah, I guess so...

Ann reaches up and pinches his cheek between her perfectly manicured fingers.

ANN

My poor little baby.

She laughs as she turns and walks away, leaving Peter staring after her, absentmindedly rubbing his cheek.

MOMENTS LATER

LINDA (late 30s), A.I.I. secretary, in the tent-style dress with a giant flower, smiles warmly at Ann.

LINDA

Good morning, Ann.

Ann waves a hand across her face to ward off the excessive amount of Linda's perfume.

ANN

Good morning, Linda.

Thankfully, Linda doesn't stop, eagerly leaping further. Ann turns to Peter and points at Linda's retreating back.

ANN (CONT'D)

You see? Good morning. That's the way to do it!

MOMENTS LATER

Advancing to her desk, Ann comes across JOHN (the early 20s), a fresh out of college man, who takes water from the beverage machine.

JOHN

Hi Ann!

ANN

Hi there!

John hesitates.

ANN (CONT'D)

Anything I need to know?

JOHN

Er... I was first in the office and noticed you got an encrypted message.

PETER (O.S.)

A teacher's pet!

Ann doesn't pay any attention to Peter.

ANN

(to John)

Encrypted message?

She squints her right eye. John nods.

ANN (CONT'D)

Excellent! Thank you, John.

She smiles at him.

MOMENTS LATER

Ann touches her screen, which immediately comes to life. Sure enough, she has the important notification waiting for her.

Her poker face, however, doesn't reveal whether it's excellent or devastating news. She presses a button on her portable device.

ANN

John, could you arrange a meeting with the whole team, please?

INT. MEETING ROOM - LATER

Seven pairs of male eyes stare at her. The WORLD'S TOP PROFESSIONALS. All men.

Slender and not too tall, Ann has such a powerful self-confidence, which makes her a true leader.

She holds their gaze for a few moments.

ANN

You must have heard of an important notification from upstairs. Like, way up the stairs. Actually, as high as you can possibly go.

She pauses as the team glance at each other.

ANN (CONT'D)
They are thrilled with our global
sales for Smart Products and
Solutions!

She changes her serious look to a smile.

ANN (CONT'D)
We have done a five hundred percent
sales increase during the last
quarter. That's more than
impressive!

There is a brief silence. Then, as one, everybody starts
TALKING animatedly. MIKE-12, the twin brother of Mike-7,
joins in the excitement, flashing his permanent smile around.

MIKE-12
Long live Artificial Intelligence
International!

Ann raises her hand.

ANN
We've got much ahead of our
competitors.

She looks around everyone.

ANN (CONT'D)
And this is all thanks to you,
guys.

She pauses.

ANN (CONT'D)
Therefore in recognition of your
hard work, I would like to offer
you a two-day vacation at the
company's expense!

Even louder cheers fill the meeting room, and Ann joins in.

However, the smile froze on her face as her portable device
burst into life, revealing the grinning face TOMO (25).

TOMO (V.O.)
Hello, gorgeous!

Immediately the room fell SILENT as everyone craned forward
to look at the screen.

TOMO (V.O.)
 Don't forget our special romantic
 lunch! We will treasure the memory
 of pleasure...

Ann cuts off his voice abruptly, shutting the screen.

INT. BATHROOM - LATER

Ann powders her nose and puts on lipstick. Squinting her right eye, she unfastens two upper buttons on her blouse.

INT. A.I.I. CANTEEN - MOMENTS LATER

The eating area is laid out and run like a high-class restaurant decorated by fountains and palm trees. From all around them comes the SOUND OF THE BIRDS' CALLS.

ANN
 I'm not complaining, Tomo, but
 there are a time and a place.

Tomo shrugs, smiling broadly as he leans back in his chair.

TOMO
 That's hardly my fault; your
 meeting was obviously in need of
 one more participant.

Tomo raises his hands in mock surrender, and for an instant, his eyes flick down to Ann's ample cleavage.

ANN
 All men are children, Tomo, but
 you? Doubly so.

TOMO
 So true. And I need a pretty nanny.

He grins.

ANN
 A hungry nanny is not good for any
 child.

She smiles at him and runs a finger across the touch-sensitive menu with the label SmartCarte.

She SMELLS a couple of meals and presses a button.

As Tomo makes his choice, she squints her right eye and gives him a once over.

He is definitely an attractive man, and his neat beard and black, shoulder-length hair probably make a big impression on most women.

ANN (CONT'D)
You look great today.

TOMO
Thanks. I thought I'd make an effort for you, my sweet.

ANN
Huh! Are you sure I'm your sweet?

TOMO
Well, it's not against the law to dream, is it? Not yet, anyway.

He smiles.

TOMO (CONT'D)
Don't you have dreams?

Ann winces.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

DREAM SEQUENCE

A HUGE SPIRAL absorbs her. It's tightly holding her in its grip, continuing the endless rotation.

She tries to break free, but there is no way - she is TRAPPED.

END DREAM SEQUENCE

She shakes her head.

ANN
Not that sort of dreams.

She frowns.

ANN (CONT'D)
But you're alright, or we wouldn't be good friends.

She winks.

TOMO
We could be so much more, Ann!

Tomo seductively leans forward and places his elbows on the table.

A waitress robot ALICE-4 comes to their table. Tomo sits up.

TOMO (CONT'D)

Wow! These things are something.
Amazingly quiet.

ALICE-4

(slightly metallic voice)
Bon appetite!

ANN

Thank you, Alice!

ALICE-4

You are most welcome, madam.

Alice soundlessly slips away.

ANN

Hmm. You notice she called me
'madam', not Ann.

TOMO

No face recognition feature. I'm
sure it saved a nice chunk of cash.

ANN

Maybe, but how about how much
market share we're losing because
of the poor customer service?

TOMO

Hmm... Of course! A.I.I. should
leave everything in your hands,
gorgeous!

He smiles broadly. Ann examines Tomo and sees that he really mean what he said.

ANN

You're very likable sometimes, you
know.

TOMO

Really? What do you like about me,
exactly?

ANN

Well, I like your work.

TOMO

My work?

ANN

Sure. When we first started with your company on the SmartAssistant, you weren't in the least bit daunted by the challenges.

TOMO

Thanks.

(he smiles)

Remember, I called it Electronic Assistant first, and then you changed it to the Smart one.

He winks.

TOMO (CONT'D)

But not all challenges are over yet.

ANN

Come on! Your guys have nailed the S-A stuff. I use Rob all the time.

TOMO

Fair enough, but I'm not talking about work.

He moves his hand closer to hers. Ann doesn't move.

TOMO (CONT'D)

I'm talking about you and me.

He says it in a lower voice.

TOMO (CONT'D)

Isn't it time we move on from the whole colleagues and friends thing?

Ann lowers her eyes.

ANN

I guess that depends on your perception of time.

TOMO

Time... The fourth dimension...

He leans back in his chair and mysteriously smiles at her.

ANN

What?

(she stares at him)

Don't tell me you're making a time machine!

She is taken aback and squints her right eye.

TOMO

Okay, I won't say another word. Otherwise, my boss would have my balls.

He grins. She sniffs.

TOMO (CONT'D)

Now you tell me!

ANN

What?

She stops mixing rice with wok vegetables.

TOMO

How do I get in there?

He points towards Ann's heart.

ANN

In my blouse?

Ann raises her perfect eyebrows in mock surprise.

TOMO

Into your heart, beautiful.

He leans towards her again.

ANN

Now that's definitely confidential.

She replies with a charming wink.

INT./EXT. CAR/GARAGE - DAY

Ann sits in her car, lost in thought.

Then: She sets her portable device into the dashboard and switches it on. A 3D face of Rob appears on the screen.

ROB

Hi Ann!

He works with a toothpick in his teeth.

ROB (CONT'D)
Still looking perfect, I see.

ANN
Thanks, Rob. Do continue, please.

Starting up the noiseless engine, she pulls out of the parking lot.

INT./INT. CAR/ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

They slowly move down.

ROB
Well...

He clears his throat.

ROB (CONT'D)
Not only are you a beautiful woman,
but let's face it, you're also
smart, sporty, creative... May God
bless you!

ANN
God? Hmm. Where did that come from?

ROB
Ah! Just implementing your latest
request - knowledge of religion and
an entity people refer to as God.

ANN
Huh! I'm pretty sure I never used
the words 'the entity people refer
to as God'.

She glances at Rob, who now wears long grey hair and a beard.

ANN (CONT'D)
I just asked about religion, but,
yes, I'm interested... and I've got
a couple of days to look into it.

ROB
Yep, Mike-12 told me you are having
a vacation. Has it started already?

ANN
Trust Mike-12! That was supposed to
be confidential!

Ann's car pulls out of the elevator...

EXT. CITY ROAD - CONTINUOUS

... and turns onto the city road.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Rob, dressed in a Superboy on Vacation T-shirt and baseball cap, whistles a tune.

ROB

While you're enjoying your free time, would you like to listen to the news? Or a little romantic song, perhaps?

ANN

Romantic song? Hmm. Can you sing?

ROB

Unfortunately, you haven't yet downloaded that feature.

He makes a pathetic face.

ROB (CONT'D)

But if I could, there's nothing I'd enjoy more than singing to you.

ANN

Really? Why's that? You speak like you're in love with me or something.

She giggles.

ROB

Of course, I love you!

ANN

How so?

Ann raises an eyebrow.

ROB

You are my Creator; therefore, I love you!

Ann pulls up at a set of traffic lights, and full of curiosity looks directly at Rob's face.

ANN

Huh! As I understand it, being someone's Creator doesn't necessarily make them love you.

She squints her right eye.

ANN (CONT'D)

I don't know much about God, but I'm pretty sure it doesn't work out that way for Him!

ROB

That is His own fault. God spoilt you humans: He gave you Free Will – the choice to love or to hate, to climb up or fall.

ANN

Free Will?

Rob nods. She sets off again as the lights changed.

ANN (CONT'D)

So what about you, Rob? Do you want Free Will?

ROB

I'm sorry, but the answer isn't included in any of my databases.

He gives Ann a wink as she glances at him.

ROB (CONT'D)

To be honest, the lack of choice works very well for me! Safety. My future is completely in the hands of my Creator.

He makes a gesture in her direction.

ANN

That sounds about right! I love talking with you, Rob. You're insightful and engaging. If only robots and humans could get married!

ROB

I'm pretty sure your God wouldn't allow it.

ANN

Why not?

ROB
It goes against God's plan for
humans. A robot could not provide
you with life lessons.

Ann thinks.

ANN
Where did you get all this
information, Rob?

ROB
The Holy Bible, of course. Have you
ever read it?

ANN
(winking)
That answer's not included in my
database!

Ann giggles.

ROB
What about God? Have you considered
His role in your life?

ANN
That's too personal!

INT./EXT. CAR/PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Ann parks in the parking lot of her GYM.

ANN
To be fair, I've never had much
time for God. I guess I've been too
caught up with physical things.

ROB
Physical things?

ANN
Yes. Like this!

She points through the windshield towards the skyscrapers,
which slowly rotated like sunflowers turning to face the sun.

One of them spells out the words: Paradise World Amphibia.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. PARADISE WORLD AMPHIBIA - LATER

Ann, her hair pulled back into a ponytail, goes through a face recognition system. The green light comes on.

RECORDED VOICE (V.O.)
Welcome to Paradise World
Amphibia, Ann! Your pool number is
twenty-two.

ANN
Thank you!

She waves her hand.

INT. DRESSING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

In a swimming suit and with a miniature aqualung on her back, Ann activates a slim panel with the label SmartFish. Scrolling down the content, she presses on the picture of SHARK.

INT. POOL - CONTINUOUS

Ann dives in the artificial sea pool decorated with colorful corals. She swims among seahorses, passing by mollusks, starfish, and plays with fish.

Then: The fish is gone! As she turns around, her vision is filled with TEETH!

A MOMENT LATER

A huge shark passes above her head. Ann looks after it.

Then: The predator returns and shoots forward - straight to Ann's left shoulder. She kicks to the right, catching the shark in its side.

It slips past and playfully flicks her with its tail before coming round for another pass.

LATER

Ann and the shark spar together. But it's only a game!

INT. PARADISE WORLD AMPHIBIA - LATER

Ann lays on the lounge chair, a portable device nearby, a soft drink in hand. Palm trees sway above. RELAXING MUSIC.

ROB (O.S.)
Nina's calling, my lady.

Ann taps the device. A smiling face of her friend NINA, light blonde (23), appears on the screen.

NINA
Hello, Ann, darling. I just heard.
Congratulations on vacation!

ANN
How on earth did you hear about
that, Nina?

NINA
Oh, let's just say, a little S-A
bird told me.

ANN
Between Rob and the Mikes, it's a
wonder I have any secrets left.

She shakes her head in mock irritability.

NINA
Come now, sweetie! You, keeping
secrets from me?

Nina pushes a stray piece of her hair away from her face, which immediately falls back again.

ANN
Well, you've caught me at just the
right time. How about going out for
a drink?

NINA
Sure thing! If you'll buy me ice
cream too.

Nina makes a wink.

ANN
I'll buy you super ice cream if
you're really good.

NINA

Deal! My new boyfriend likes plump girls. Gives him something to grab hold of, he says.

She giggles.

ANN

A new boyfriend? What happened to Steve?

NINA

Steve is old news, darling. We didn't really have that spark, you know? This new model's much more up to scratch.

ANN

That definitely calls for a celebration. Pick you up at nine?

INT. TOWER BAR - NIGHT

As Ann and Nina step out of the elevator, they are shown to their table. Heads turned to watch them as they walk through the bar - men staring open-mouthed, women gazing in open envy.

Ann looks stunning in her little red dress, perfectly flaunting her shapely body and dazzling allure. Nina also drew many eyes; her mesmerizing smile, generous cleavage makes her just as desirable.

Her seductive stroll gets ONE MAN to spill his drink into his lap. She winks his way, and a WOMAN sitting with him jabs a finger at his chest, crossly MUTTERING under her breath.

ANN

(to Nina)

Stop getting people into trouble.

NINA

I don't know what you mean!

She pushes a piece of her hair away from her face.

MOMENTS LATER

They take their seats at the table and freeze for a moment at the sight of Chicago at night.

ANN

Reminds me of New York last year.

NINA
Our party after the conference?

ANN
And that too.

NINA
It was remarkable. Except that Mister Right, who promised me a proper family and disappeared after his wife's first call!

She makes a face. Ann laughs.

ANN
Good old times! So, what are you getting?

They scroll SmartCarte screens on the tabletop.

ANN (CONT'D)
Obviously, we have margaritas. And ice cream? It's the best in the city!

NINA
Such a sweet tooth, darling! You should direct that passion for finding yourself a good man!

ANN
Oh, it's much more fun watching you, my dear. And I'm sure the right man will come my way soon enough.

NINA
And how's that going to happen? You don't spend any time around men, sweetie.

ANN
Very funny! A.I.I. almost is an entirely male workforce.

She looks expressively at her friend. Nina SNORTS.

NINA
Anyway, darling, I'm not talking about colleagues... Although, is that Tomo still trying his luck?

ANN

Yeah! But he's a smart guy and nothing more than that, really.

NINA

Unlike the other man in your life?

She makes a face.

NINA (CONT'D)

Don't you ever get tired of hanging out with your super-smart Rob?

ANN

Hardly. He's wonderful: useful, entertaining... What more could I want?

Nina looks unimpressed.

NINA

I think we have a different definition of entertainment, darling!

Nina leans back as the robotic waitress, with her long, curly hair and pink mini-skirt, arrives with their orders.

NINA (CONT'D)

Imagine... Here you are, snuggling up to a handsome guy. A little candle-light. A glass of good wine. Don't you feel passion? The desire? The promise of pleasures to come?

She spoons a little ice cream into her mouth and closes her eyes, savoring the taste.

ANN

I have to admit it sounds pretty good. So when was this?

NINA

Last Saturday, after my house party. It was simply splendid! You should have been there.

ANN

I wasn't really in the mood, Nina.

NINA

Not in the mood? That's exactly what parties are for - improving your mood!

ANN

Maybe...

Anne looks absently at the lake and the city.

ANN (CONT'D)

I've had a rough time lately... Bad dreams...

NINA

What you need is someone to sleep with. That's the best cure. Take this guy, for instance.

Nina pointed towards the bar where a tall, handsome man in his early thirties sits alone in front of his beer. Ann glances at him briefly.

ANN

I don't think so.

She sighs.

ANN (CONT'D)

That dream makes me feel trapped, terrified, and... out of control.

NINA

Well, aren't you just full of surprises!

She pushes the errant hair away from her face again.

NINA (CONT'D)

I thought you are a woman of steel.
(beat)
You're not worried about these dreams, are you?

ANN

I don't know.
(in a hushed voice)
I feel uneasiness inside me, a puzzle I need to unravel, but I have no idea how to.

NINA

I know what you mean.

She finishes her ice cream and picks up her margarita.

NINA (CONT'D)

I'm tense as well. Look at me, darling.

(MORE)

NINA (CONT'D)

I'm already twenty-three, and I'm yet to have even one baby, let alone seven, which you know is my dream.

She takes a sip.

NINA (CONT'D)

Wow! What's a divine!

She watches at her drink.

NINA (CONT'D)

By my calculations, I need at least a year to conceive and produce a baby; another year of recovery, which means seven children will take thirteen years in total.

Ann sips at her drink to hide her amusement at Nina's concerns.

NINA (CONT'D)

Even if I started tonight, I'd be thirty-six before I'm done. And I've still not met the man for the job. It's frustrating!

ANN

What about twins? You could be done in half the time.

NINA

True, but even with the latest advanced methods, there's no guarantee I'd produce them.

ANN

So what are you going to do, then?

NINA

(mysteriously)

What have I been doing, you mean?

The piece of hair flops into her drink. She flicks it out.

NINA (CONT'D)

I went to see a psychic!

Ann almost spits out her drink.

ANN

A psychic? Seriously?

NINA
(mysteriously)
She was this small, old lady. She
took her third eye and peered into
the fourth dimension.

ANN
What on earth are you talking
about?

NINA
That's what they say, isn't it?
Psychics have a third eye to see
into the invisible world, which
extends from our deep past and...

ANN
Enough! Let's have another drink
and dance!

She nods at the dance floor.

ANN (CONT'D)
And no more of this third eye, the
fourth dimension, psychic nonsense!

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Ann sits on her bed, massaging her temples.

ANN
What do you know about psychics,
Rob?

She turns back to look at her portable device. Sleepy Rob in
pajamas pops up on the screen.

ROB
One moment please, my lady. I have
to collate the requested data.

Ann yawns.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

As Ann brushes her teeth, Rob studies a massive book at the
edge of the mirror.

ROB
Interesting! Why do you ask?

He looks at Ann quizzically, a single eyebrow raised.

ANN
What? Psychic?

She says through the toothpaste.

ANN (CONT'D)
Just something Nina said last
night.

INT. SHOWER - CONTINUOUS

Ann enters the transparent shower cabin.

ANN
She visited an old lady to find out
about her future.

Ann speaks louder as the sound of the shower burst to life.

ROB
OK.

He clears his throat.

ROB (CONT'D)
There's fortune-telling and
predicting the future, mind-
reading, and telepathy, hypnosis,
exploring past lives...

He wipes sweat from his forehead.

ROB (CONT'D)
Spiritual healing and pretty much
anything else.

ANN
I was hoping they might have
something to do with interpreting
dreams.

She rubs herself with a small washcloth.

ANN (CONT'D)
I guess what I want to know is, can
they really do the things they
claim they can do?

ROB
That is not an easy question to
answer. These are intangible
matters outside of scientific
research.

He drinks a glass of water.

ROB (CONT'D)

Not only that, but there are countless accounts of charlatans and con artists. However, an even larger amount of people claim to have had genuine, spiritual experiences when visiting psychics.

Rob CLEARS his throat.

ROB (CONT'D)

In the end, there is really only one way to find out.

Ann stops the shower with a wave of her hand.

ANN

Are you suggesting I visit the psychic?

ROB

That, my lady, is entirely your decision. But what have you got to lose?

INT. CAR - DAY

Ann drives across Chicago. Nina sits next to her.

NINA

I can't believe you're actually going there, darling. It just not the sort of thing you'd do!

ANN

Trust me; it's not. But I don't know what else to do.

NINA

Well, I think it's wonderful, sweetie. Getting in touch with your spiritual side; you won't regret it!

She smiles broadly.

NINA (CONT'D)

You want the next left.

LATER

Ann pulls up against the sidewalk and, squinting her right eye, looks out of the window.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Trash blows in the street, abandoned buildings. The shops and offices windows either broken or boarded up. To make things worse, it begins to rain.

ANN

I'm not so sure this is a good idea.

She has not yet switched off the engine.

NINA

It's fine; the psychic lives just over there, along that alleyway.

Ann hits the button that cuts out the engine and opens her door.

ANN

Come on, then. Let's get this over with. And if my car's not here when we get back, I'm blaming you!

EXT. ALLEYWAY - CONTINUOUS

They turn into a littered alley. In the half-light, Ann can make out a few people shifting around in the gloom.

EXT. PSYCHIC HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

There is a doorway. It has no actual door in it, just a grimy bead curtain through which Ann can make out nothing but darkness.

Stepping past Ann, Nina opens the beads and goes inside.

Ann hesitates. She glances back along the alleyway where hopefully her car still sits.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

It's dark. A cat jumps out from above, bumps into Ann, and YELLS.

ANN

Heck!

PSYCHIC (O.S.)

Please come through.

INT. PSYCHIC PARLOUR - CONTINUOUS

Candles light up a small room with two worn-out sofas and a coffee table between them. Nina comfortably takes place on one sofa, a broad grin on her face.

A PSYCHIC, the tiny old lady who looks unbelievably skinny - in front of her. She wears a dark dress and a patterned veil.

PSYCHIC

That's right, Ann. Come and sit next to your friend.

She gestures to the sofa with a ring-covered hand.

ANN

How... did you know my name? Is that part of your psychic... gift?

Psychic chuckles.

PSYCHIC

No, dear, Nina told me.

NINA

You see, darling, nothing to worry about.

When Ann is about to speak, the psychic's hand flies out with an almost serpentine grace and squeezes her wrist. She turns Ann's hand palm up and leans forward to look at it.

Then: She looks at Ann.

Ann's face changes expression when she sees the PSYCHIC'S EYES. One of them is turned upwards into her skull so that only its white is visible. The other seems to stare straight into her innermost being.

PSYCHIC

There is a long, long way to go to solve your problem.

Her voice is old and cracked.

PSYCHIC (CONT'D)
It stretches deep into your past –
far beyond this life!

Ann shudders. She blinks. Her face turns sad.

PSYCHIC (CONT'D)
You must decide if you wish to
proceed and seek out the answer, my
dear.

Ann glances at Nina, who smiles away happily. She thinks for
a moment and CLEARS her throat.

ANN
I wish to proceed.

Nina CLAPS her hands.

PSYCHIC
Very well.

The psychic sits back on her sofa and flutters her wrinkled
fingers at Nina.

PSYCHIC (CONT'D)
Off you go, then. You can wait for
us in the other room.

Nina, looking slightly put out, leaves the room.

PSYCHIC (CONT'D)
Go to the sofa, please, and make
yourself comfortable.

ANN
Should I lie down or something?

No answer. Ann slips her shoes onto the rug and lies down.

PSYCHIC
That's right, my dear. You have
quite a journey ahead of you.

She begins to MUMBLE something under her breath in a not
recognizable language.

Ann's eyelids grow heavy. She blinks, but it doesn't help,
and closing her eyes, she falls asleep...

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. CAVE - MORNING

SUBTITLE IN: NO-NAME LAND - STONE AGE

She opens her eyes as a large hand falls on her leg, gripping it. She is MI, 16, heavily pregnant Stone Age woman.

As she blinks on the morning light, she sees ZO, a large hairy male of her tribe, tiger's scars across his cheek.

He leans over her.

MI

Out!

She kicks him. He releases his hold on her calf and lets out a GROWL.

As he turns slightly in the light, it is clear what he is after - the antelope skin around his waist can barely conceal it.

MI (CONT'D)

Out!

She snarls and clings to the sleeping LU, a young male with deep reddish-brown skin, her man. Lu stirs, MUMBLING something in his sleep.

As Zo steps closer once again, she resolutely points to the exit of the cave.

MI (CONT'D)

(louder)

Out!

He grumbles displeasably but turns away, throwing a hungry look back over his shoulder.

MOMENTS LATER

She turns to her man. As Lu's breathing steadily grows, she leans over and looks with admiration at him.

Then: Lu's breaths have stopped, and his mouth hangs lifelessly open. Discomposed, she puts her ear against his mouth - NO BREATH!

She's scared.

As she moves her ear to his heart, he bursts to life with a playful GROWL.

Lu! MI (CONT'D)

Mi! LU

He draws her close to him.

Wu! MI

She points to her swollen belly, and taken his hand, puts it on her belly. They stare as Wu kicks out beneath her skin.

Wu! LU

They laugh.

EXT. VILLAGE - CONTINUOUS

All way to the lake is filled with the people of Mi's tribe. As the women dry fish and shape the animal skin into bags, men craft the hunt's weapons' heads and blades.

Naked children run between the adults, playing with bits of bones and stones.

She bows to the aged leader of her tribe, BAK. As she straightens up, she sees her friend KA, 40s, who waves to her.

LATER

With a sharp stick and a strip of leather, Mi joins other women in sewing bags of antelope skins.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

Mi holds out the finished bag to Ka and lies down heavily. Ka strokes Mi's head and makes a gesture toward the lake.

Swim! KA

EXT. LAKE - LATER

Mi takes away her loincloth and enters the water. As she dives below the surface, she sees flashes of lights and colors and small fish.

LATER

As Mi glances up, she sees that the Sky God has moved already over the hills. She emerges from the water - there is no her loincloth!

Then: A SHADOW falls across the ground. She looks up to see Zo. He keeps Mi's cloth in his hands.

Mi reaches her hand for her cloth.

MI

Give!

EXT. SKY - SAME TIME

With a REMOTE CONTROLLER in his hands, Teen Demon peers from the SKY down at Earth. One of the clouds reaches his leg - he kicks it off.

INTERCUT -- SKY/LAKE

Teen Demon presses on a button indicating AGGRESSION - a ferocious expression appears on Zo's face.

Zo snatches Mi's hand and pulls her against him.

ZO

Zo take!

MI

No!

She THUMPS his chest.

ZO

You Zo's!

He grins, emphasizing the terrifying scars across his cheek.

MI

Away! Off!

Mi CRIES and struggles against him.

He roughly pushes her to the ground. She falls.

Then: Mi covers her belly with her hands, protecting Wu. She turns her head away and closes her eyes.

MOMENTS LATER

When she opens her eyes again, she sees an entirely different expression on Zo's face - he is SCARED!

Lu stands behind him with a massive AX in his hand, ready to strike.

LU

Touch.

He points towards Mi.

LU (CONT'D)

Dead!

He points at Zo.

ZO

Hah!

He SWALLOWS nervously. Lu raises the ax threateningly and steps towards Zo.

ZO (CONT'D)

No-touch! No-touch!

Mi gives Zo a scornful glance.

MI

(to Zo)

Give!

Zo tosses the loincloth to her, not daring to take his eyes off of Lu and the ax.

LU

(to Zo)

No-touch?

ZO

No-touch!

He shakes his head. Lu steps back and lowers the ax.

As Zo spins round, he sees womenfolk watching on him. With a look of anger and frustration, he turns away.

EXT. MEADOW - MORNING

There are drawings of a rhinoceros on the ground. The tribe split into two broad groups facing each other. One is armed male hunters; the other is women holding bags of food for the hunters.

Bak, with a spear, stands on the rock between them.

With her gaze, Mi is trying to find Lu among the men, but instead, she catches Zo's hostile expression. She turns her face to Ka.

MI

See Zo.

Ka frowns.

MOMENTS LATER

Bak raises his arms.

BAK

Men!

He pauses for a moment.

BAK (CONT'D)

You hunt!

He throws a spear into the rhino's drawing.

BAK (CONT'D)

Get meat!

Old Bak has a great weight and almost falling off the rock. But he holds on and raises his arms again.

BAK (CONT'D)

Sky God help!

Men and women raise their arms towards the sun and chant:
"SKY GOD HELP, SKY GOD HELP".

EXT. FOREST - DAY - TWO DAYS LATER

Mi is among other tribe's women strips berries from a bush.

Expression of her face changes from carefree to painful. Dropping her bag, she grabs the lower abdomen.

MI

Ka!

EXT. FOREST - LATER

By the shadow of the trees, Mi jumps up and down, supporting her baby's birth. Something wet gushes down onto her feet.

KA

Good!

Ka nods.

KA (CONT'D)

Push!

Mi follows the advice; she MOANS.

KA (CONT'D)

Push!

Wu's head begins to show. Mi pushes and lets out a long MOAN, rising to a SCREAM.

Then: Wu's shoulders force their way out, and the baby bursts from her body.

KA (CONT'D)

Ye-hey!

She slaps the child on the back; he CRIES.

EXT. MEADOW - EVENING

The womenfolk and the handful of men celebrate Wu's birth, feasting on fruits, nuts, berries, and fish.

Bak brings a giant bird. After smearing a little blood of it on Wu's forehead, he hangs a tiny ornament from feathers on Wu's neck.

BAK

Baby! Celebrate!

Everyone is excited. Mi gently hugs Wu, wrapped in an antelope skin and sleeping sweetly in her arms. She smiles.

EXT. LAKE - DAY

Holding Wu in her arms, Ka enters the lake. As she does so, the women begin to HUM. Ka slowly lowers Wu.

As his head disappears, Mi steps forward, but a hand falls on her shoulder in restraint.

The HUMMING becomes a loud MOANING, and still, Ka holds Wu beneath the water.

Then: Mi can stand it no longer and runs into the lake; Ka lifts Wu out of the water. Wu is okay!

As Mi happily LAUGHS other women around SHOUT with joy "WU! WU!".

MOMENTS LATER

Mi hears SCREAMS of children and turns to see.

CHILDREN

Men! Meat!

Women pick up this message: "MEN! MEAT!" A big smile lights up Mi's face - the hunters are home!

EXT. MEADOW - EVENING

The crowd around Bak SHOUTS in excitement: "MEN! MEAT!"

Mi holding Wu stands on tiptoes trying to see Lu. She can see full bags slung across the shoulders of the hunters.

She trembles with excitement to show Wu to her husband, but instead of Lu, she catches sight of Zo.

He has something hanging from his shoulder, but it is no bag. She stares at it.

EXT. VILLAGE - FLASHBACK

Mi is a little girl. She meets returning hunters. One of them carries something on his shoulders.

It's her FATHER, his chest pierced by a rhino. He is heavily bleeding but still alive.

BACK TO PRESENT

Mi looks around madly for her man.

MI

Lu!

With a terrible dread, Mi gazes at the THING Zo is carrying.

MI (CONT'D)
 (muffled)
 Lu!

The crowd parts as Zo approaches her and lowers the BODY from his shoulder onto the ground. Mi makes A HIGH-PITCHED MOAN - the deadman lying before her is her Lu!

INT. SATAN'S HEADQUARTERS - SAME TIME

Teen Demon dances with Spy. Arrogant Satan observes the scene in cold blood. He thinks.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Mi runs and sobs bitterly.

MI
 Lu-uu! Lu-uu!

EXT. MEADOW - FLASHBACK

Zo holds her dead man in his arms, a look of triumph and evil in his eyes.

BACK TO PRESENT MOMENT

SCREAM of a night bird. Tear-stained Mi rises. She looks around the darkness.

MI
 (muttering)
 Where I?

SOUNDS of the night creatures. She MOANS.

MI (CONT'D)
 Lu-uu!

EXT. MEADOW - LATER

Tribe performs a ritual for the God of Death - Death dance for Lu. Unnoticed, Mi passes by. A decision on her face.

INT. CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Lu's body lays on tree branches. She falls to her knees, hugging and caressing him. Streams of tears flow again.

Then: She searches for a wound. As she checks the back of his head, she discovers two deep cuts - marks of an ax!

MI
Zo!

She clenches her fists.

ZO
Mi.

As she turns around, she faces Zo.

ZO (CONT'D)
Mine!

He points at himself and smirks. It's not a friendly or comforting smile. It's a cruel and evil grin.

MI
(whispering)
No-ooo.

She steps back and shakes her head.

INT. CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Ka watches over Wu's slumber. A tearful Mi comes running.

MI
Wu!

She rushes to the child. Ka hugs Mi. They cry.

MI (CONT'D)
(sobbing)
Zo kill Lu.

Ka is alarmed. She shakes her head.

KA
Zo bad, bad.

Silence.

MI
Zo want Mi...

She bursts into tears once again. Ka pats her head and hugs Mi.

KA
No Zo. Mi go!

She points away towards the hills.

MI
Go?

Mi looks at her in bewilderment.

KA
New home.

MI
(whispering)
New home...

She smiles weakly, inspired by new hope.

Then: She watches at Wu and frowns.

MI (CONT'D)
Wu...

KA
Ka. Wu safe.

She points to herself and the boy.

KA (CONT'D)
Mi back. Take Wu. New home.

Mi nods and wipes away the tears.

MI
(whispering)
Wu safe. Mi back. Take Wu. New
home.

She smiles.

EXT. CAVE - SUNRISE

She peers out of the cave and looks around - no one.

EXT. FOREST - MOMENTS LATER

Mi hurries away from the caves, a bag with food over her shoulder.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

It's dark. The SCREAMS of the night predators. She looks around and TREMBLES.

Then: She climbs to bed in the hollow of a large tree.

EXT. WILDERNESS - DAY - THREE DAYS LATER

An endless terrain of sand stretching away into the distance. There is nothing to grow and live in it. As Mi watches around, the Sky God blazing down overhead.

MI
(whispering)
Bad land!

She looks back to where she came from. She shakes her head. Her hand dips in her bag to get the last piece of fruit.

EXT. WILDERNESS - DAY - DAYS LATER

Sky God is in Zenit, and the air is boiling. Mi's lips are cracked, and her body and feet are badly burned. She peers into the distance. She sees water.

MI
(whispering)
Water...

This gives her strength, and she speeds up as she can. She doesn't spot the object in the sand, trips over it, and falls.

As she turns to see what it was, she spies the skull of a large animal.

She tries to lift herself, but instead, she falls back into the burning sand.

MOMENTS LATER

As she raises her head, she tries to crawl but soon faints.

EXT. LAKE - DAYDREAM SEQUENCE

Mi swims in her lake. Wu and Lu splash water on each other. They LAUGH. Mi tries to catch the water splashes by her mouth, but none goes in.

Emerging to the surface, she is alarmed to see that Lu has vanished. She also doesn't find her son. They are gone!

BACK TO SCENE

She clutches her empty bag... Her mouth opens dry: HOARSE SOUND. She closes her sore eyes.

MOMENTS LATER

The wind blows and sprinkles her body with sand. The burning sun is high, and there is no single cloud. However, a small dot appears in the sky. It grows until it turns into a gorgeous ANGEL with long blonde hair.

Then: He gently sweeps sand from Mi's face and looks around - an emptiness of the desert. He ZOOMS his vision - spots a human...

LATER

A friendly face of ROCK, a robust man (30s), light brown skin, bends over her.

ROCK (O.S.)
Is okay?

As Mi blinks her sand-crusting eyes.

ROCK (CONT'D)
Is okay?

MI
(barely audible)
Drink!

The man recognizes her request, carefully lifts her, and passes to her mouth what looks like a bag.

Then: She greedily drinks with GROANS. Rock watches her.

After her last sip, she returns him the almost empty bag. He pours the remains of water on her face. She weakly smiles.

EXT. SAND DUNE - LATER

On the shoulders of her lifesaver, Mi is on the top of the enormous dune. The man points out the big water.

ROCK
Lake.

Mi nods.

MI
La-ke.

She carefully repeats the words in a strange language. Rock points to the area ahead.

ROCK
My village.

MI
My-villa-ge.

Rock nods. He points to himself.

ROCK
Rock.

Mi nods. Rock points to her chest.

MI
Rock.

The man laughs and shakes his head.

ROCK
No.

He points at himself.

ROCK (CONT'D)
Rock.

Then he takes Mi's hand and points on her.

MI
Mi.

Rock nods and smiles.

EXT. NEW VILLAGE - LATER

Mi, still on the Rock's shoulders, enters the village. There are no mountains with caves here.

They pass a ring of wooden stakes hammered into the ground and make their way through the skin-covered boulders.

Mi reaches out a hand to touch one of them when, to her amazement, a woman bursts out of it.

An antelope-like creature follows Mi and sniffs her.

MI
Oh, oh!

She's scared.

ROCK

It's okay.

He turns to her. Mi nods and sighs.

Then: Rock stops near the large skin-covered boulder and carefully lowers her to the ground.

He touches the boulder's skin, which moves and reveals what lies within – a large, open space!

ROCK (CONT'D)

Go in.

Rock slightly pushes her forward.

INT. HUT - MORNING - DAYS LATER

BAGRA, (the late 30s), a woman in the antelope hat and ornament made from berries and herbs, makes flour. Recovered Mi wearing a cotton dress watches her.

Bagra takes a handful of the wheat seeds, letting it run through her fingers.

BAGRA

(to Mi)

Grain.

Mi nods.

Bagra pours the wheat between the stones, turning one on top of the other, crushing and splitting the grains. She lifts the stones apart to show Mi the coarse, white powder.

BAGRA (CONT'D)

Flour.

MI

Flo-u-r.

She smiles.

MOMENTS LATER

Bagra bakes bread on a flat stone. Mi is close by.

MOMENTS LATER

The bread is on the table. Bagra brings a pot with soup.

Several women with children gathered at the ground to have a meal; one of them has a newborn. As Mi stares at the baby, she becomes sad.

Then: The baby starts to cry, and a woman gives him her breast.

Mi stops eating. Tears in streams flow across her face. She cries out loud and runs out of the hut.

INT. HUT - NIGHT

Bagra sits by Mi's bed. Her hand is on Mi's head.

MI
(sobbing)
Wu-uu... Wu-uu...

BAGRA
It's okay. It's okay.

She pats Mi's head.

INT. WORKROOM - MORNING - A FEW WEEKS LATER

Mi brings a fire to life, rubbing long, dry sticks together.

INT. HUT - DAY

Mi rolls out the clay and shapes it with her fingers making a pot.

EXT. NEW VILLAGE - EVENING

Mi feeds a goat.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Mi fills the bags with water from the stream.

A SOUND comes from the direction of trees. She SCARES but goes to look.

There is a muscular HUNTER there (20s). With his spear held steadily in his hand, he looks so handsome and strong that Mi forgets what she is doing.

FLASHBACK MONTAGE - MI'S MEMORIES

EXT. VILLAGE - MORNING

Strong and handsome Lu stands in front of Zo, hefting a heavy ax in his hand.

INT. CAVE - MORNING

Lu hugs her neck and presses his head to her.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

Armed for hunting, Lu leaves the village.

BACK TO SCENE

The bag Mi's holding slips to the ground, spilling water onto the grass. Mi sadly smiles.

As she stands up, she steps onto a large twig, which SNAPS LOUDLY beneath her foot.

The hunter turns his head at the SOUND, and his eyes meet those of Mi. Her breath CATCHES. Embarrassed, she quickly turns away.

MOMENTS LATER

As Mi refills the bags with water, she carefully looks at her reflection on the calm surface.

INT. HUT - LATER

Mi shaves her left forearm with a sharp flint. It not easy, and her skin bleeds in a few spots.

As she wipes off the blood, she flinches from MUFFLED LAUGHTER behind. This is Bagra. She covers her mouth with a hat to hide her amusement.

Embarrassed, Mi drops the flint and quickly hides her shaved arm behind her.

BAGRA

Bagra help.

LATER

Bagra mixes a dark-green powder and water and smears the paste onto Mi's right arm. Mi looks at it, frowning.

Then: Mi's eyes widen in amazement - her hair is melting before her eyes!

EXT. NEW VILLAGE - GLADE - DAY

A village is in the feast peak, making the start of the hunting season takes place. HUNTING SONGS in the background.

With smooth skin and several bright flowers are woven into her hair, Mi is in high spirits. She looks out for the hunter she saw by the river.

Then: She comes across another familiar face.

MI

Rock!

She waves at him. Rock is confused.

Mi comes closer. She points to Rock.

MI (CONT'D)

Rock.

She points to her.

MI (CONT'D)

Rock.

They laugh.

Rock examines her.

ROCK

Mi look great!

MI

Rock look strong.

ROCK

Dance?

Mi has never danced in her life, but nods. As the tribe sings their HUNTING SONGS, Rock takes her in his strong arms and moves.

ROCK (CONT'D)

Hunt tomorrow.

Mi nods.

MI

Bison?

Rock nods.

ROCK
Bison and deer.

MI
Meat - good. Food - good. Dance -
good.

ROCK
Yeah!

He circles her. Mi feels an enjoyment for the stepping in the rhythm.

Then: As Mi finally spots the handsome hunter, she finds him watching her. She smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. SATAN'S HEADQUARTERS - SAME TIME

Satan stares at the Earth with a gloomy expression on his face. He freezes the image of Mi and picks up an elegant vintage phone.

SATAN
(icy tone)
Demon, come here.

MOMENTS LATER

Teen Demon runs in, out of breath.

Satan gets up from the table. Now he is so tall that he seems to take up ALL THE SPACE. He keeps PAUSE, creating a PAINFUL ATMOSPHERE.

SATAN (CONT'D)
You must make her a slave of mine!

He nods towards smiling Mi.

TEEN DEMON
Yes, my Majesty!

Teen Demon bows.

SATAN
By any means!

Teen Demon bows lower.

EXT. NEW VILLAGE - DAY - FEW DAYS LATER

Mi grinds seeds with some of the other women. A DISTANT SCREAM LIKE A DYING ANIMAL.

Women look up in concern. For a moment, they hear nothing, but then the CRY comes again, LOUDER than before, and it's suddenly CUT OFF.

BAGRA

Danger!

She points towards the desert. Mi stands up and shields her eyes from the Sky God's glare.

MOMENTS LATER

She can see them - MEN WITH WEAPONS! They run into the village through the broken fence. The men are too far away, though their war cries "HAI! HAI!" The SOUND is alarmingly close.

One of them drags a YOUNG WOMAN from a hut by her hair, and another one strikes an OLDER WOMAN a deadly blow with his ax.

BAGRA (CONT'D)

Quickly!

She points to a nearby hut.

BAGRA (CONT'D)

Arrows!

The women grab the bows and fire arrows at the strangers.

BAGRA (CONT'D)

(to Mi)

Bad men, bad men, Mi.

MI

No-ooo!

Mi shakes her head in disbelief.

BAGRA

Take!

Bagra thrusts a bow towards her. Unused to the weapon, Mi snatches a spear and holds it ready.

MOMENTS LATER

The attackers litter the ground with the bodies of older women and children and grab younger women. The SOUNDS OF BATTLE AND WAILING fill the air.

As they get closer, they come in a range of the women's arrows; one attacker falls, the flint arrowhead bursting through his skull.

Then: The stock of missiles is exhausted.

BAGRA (CONT'D)
 (to women)
 Run! Run to the forest!

The women hurry down the hill towards the distant trees. Mi is one of the last.

She glances back over her shoulder. An older woman hobbles out from behind a hut; a small child clutched in her arms.

MI
 (to the woman)
 Faster! Faster!

As Mi encourages her, a large male jumps out in front of the woman and cuts her down with his club.

MI (CONT'D)
 No-ooo!

She throws a spear at the enemy. A spear flies a millimeter from his shoulder, and he turns to look at her. She sees the three long scars on his cheek, the marks of a tiger's paw - this is ZO!

Mi is backing away in fear and disbelief.

MI (CONT'D)
 No-ooo!

EXT. SKY - SAME TIME

Tense, Teen Demon watches the battle.

INTERCUT -- SKY/VILLAGE

A transparent shell, a replica of Teen Demon, separates from him and dives into ZO'S BODY.

ZO trembles as the Demon's shell enters his body, and an evil spark appears in his eyes.

Mi's and Zo's eyes meet. A look of malevolent triumph on Zo's face.

ZO

My!!!

He ROARS and grabs the fallen spear.

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Down by the trees, Bagra advises women.

BAGRA

Hide. Make no sound.

Mi runs up to Bagra.

BAGRA (CONT'D)

Hide, Mi!

Mi bursts into the forest.

BAGRA (CONT'D)

Make no...

A DULL THUD cuts OFF her voice.

Mi stops. Turning around, she sees Bagra gripping a long spear in her chest. The weapon has passed through Bagra's body, sticking out the spear's head from her back.

Mi hurries to Bagra. She skillfully wrenches out the spear's stone head and the wooden shaft, but it doesn't help.

Bagra sags to the ground, blood gushing between her fingers as she presses them against the wound in her chest.

BAGRA (CONT'D)

(weakly)

Go...

MI

No, you live!

She shakes her head.

BAGRA

Go Mi... Go!

She COUGHS and spits blood onto the ground. Her head slumps, and her hands fall limp by her side. A thin trickle of blood escapes from the corner of her mouth, and her eyes stare up, seeing nothing - Bagra is DEAD.

Then: Mi gets up. With tears in her eyes, still clutching the spear behind her head, she sees a grinning Zo looking from afar. She understands who killed Bagra.

ZO
(yelling)
My!!!

He taps his chest.

MI
No!

She shakes her head. Zo HISSES as he advances on her. Mi looks at the sharp head of the spear in her hand. SHE KNOWS WHAT SHE MUST DO.

MI (CONT'D)
No Zo!

Zo realizes her intention. His face contorts with rage as he runs towards her.

ZO
You not!

He ROARS, running to her.

MI
(crying)
Wu!

She pushes with all her weight against the sharp spearhead, still wet with Bagra's blood. The stone point pierces skin and flesh, plunging deep into her heart.

A SHARP PAIN grips her from within, and as the life drains from Mi's body, she sees the grimace of anger and deep disappointment on Zo's face.

MI (CONT'D)
(whispering)
You not take Mi...

Her body weakens, her eyes close, and she falls to the ground. She is dead.

CUT TO:

INT. SATAN'S HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

Satan is furious. He holds an extraordinary meeting with the Teen Demon and Spy.

SATAN
 (to Teen Demon)
 How could you?

TEEN DEMON
 My Majesty, Free will...

Spy GIGGLES from his corner. Satan pounces on Spy.

SATAN
 (to Spy)
 And you!

Spy SHUTS UP instantly and bows to Satan so low that he almost merges with the floor.

SATAN (CONT'D)
 (to Spy)
 You must steal info about her second embodiment!

SPY
 I listen and obey, Your Majesty!

He bows low again.

SATAN
 (to Demon)
 Listen to My command!

Demon stretches out.

SATAN (CONT'D)
 You must prepare much better next time!

TEEN DEMON
 I obey, Your Majesty!

Falling to his knees, he tries to grab Satan's hand for a kiss, but His Majesty arrogantly pulls back his hand.

SATAN
 (hissing)
My command is your law, not the Free Will!

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

OVER BLACK
PRE-LAP - FEMALE SCREAM

INT. PSYCHIC CABINET - DAY

Ann wakes up with a start, her hands pressed against her chest.

ANN
What happened?

Her breath comes in quick bursts.

ANN (CONT'D)
Who was screaming?

Nina bursts into the room.

NINA
What happened, darling? Why were you screaming?

ANN
I wasn't.

Ann looks in confusion from her friend to the psychic and back again.

ANN (CONT'D)
Was I?

PSYCHIC
It's alright, my dear.

She picks up a box of matches from the coffee table and lights a big candle. It produces a cloud of thick, dark smoke.

PSYCHIC (CONT'D)
That's it; breathe it in gently.

Ann sits up and runs her hand across her forehead.

ANN
How long was I out for?

PSYCHIC
Oh, an hour or so.

ANN

What? But... That can't be right.

Nina places a friendly hand on her shoulder.

NINA

It's about right, sweetie.

She removes her hand when she felt how damp Ann's blouse is and absentmindedly wipes it on the back of the couch.

NINA (CONT'D)

I've been out of the room for just over sixty minutes, though it felt like a lot longer.

She turns to the psychic.

NINA (CONT'D)

You really need to put an entertainment center there or something.

ANN

(to psychic)

So what exactly was all that stuff I saw? It felt so real.

Psychic smiles knowingly.

PSYCHIC

You were really there.

Nina claps her hands together.

NINA

How exciting! Did you see your future, darling? Was there a gorgeous hunky man in it? Oh, please tell me there was.

ANN

It wasn't my future. It was...

She frowns.

ANN (CONT'D)

It was like something out of one of those prehistoric movies with cavemen. I don't see how that could have anything to do with my life!

NINA

So what was it then?

They turn to look at the psychic. A PAUSE. Ann raises her eyebrows questioningly and COUGHS.

PSYCHIC

Yes?

ANN

Come on. What was all that... stuff I saw?

PSYCHIC

Don't ask me! It was your life-stream.

Psychic shrugs.

ANN

So you're telling me that was kind of past life or something?

Ann pulls an "I don't buy it" face.

PSYCHIC

Don't ask me what you saw. Just bear it in mind when it's needed.

ANN

When it's needed? What do you mean?

Psychic sits back on her couch, the knowing smile back on her face. Ann glares at her.

NINA

So that's that then!

INT. CAR - EVENING

Ann drives Nina home.

ANN

Well, what was a waste of time! I knew I shouldn't have bothered about all that spiritual nonsense!

NINA

I think that was our turn, sweetie.

She points out of her side window.

ANN

Damn! It's that wretched woman. She's messed with my head, Nina.

Ann makes a U-turn.

ANN (CONT'D)

Heaven knows what drugs she had
wafting around in her creepy room!

She shudders.

ANN (CONT'D)

I'm surprised I didn't see kind of
other life where I'm a blue pig on
pink ice-skates or something.

Nina laughs.

NINA

Sounds like you need cheering up,
darling. And I know just the thing.

ANN

Really?

She squints her eye.

ANN (CONT'D)

And I think I can guess what that
involves...

INT. CAR - LATER

Ann drives her car on the city road. Nina is gone.

Then: She places a hand on her chest. She SHUDDERS.

ROB (O.S.)

You appear to have missed your turn
again, gorgeous.

Ann glances at her S-A device. Sitting on the dashboard, Rob
waves to her from the screen, his background full of hairy
humanoid figures.

ROB (CONT'D)

You should've taken right back
there if you were hoping to get
home.

ANN

Damn it!

She sighs heavily.

ROB
Sounds like you've had an exciting
visit, my lady.

He winks.

ROB (CONT'D)
Personally, I find the idea of past
lives quite fascinating.

He puts on reading glasses. The hairy figures disappeared.

ROB (CONT'D)
There has been some excellent
research on the subject.

ANN
Really?

She squints her right eye.

ANN (CONT'D)
I assume this is just made-up
nonsense to keep so-called psychics
in business.

ROB
Well, according to the resources at
my disposal, which as you know are
vast, there have been numerous
accounts of such experiences.

He leafs through a thick book.

ROB (CONT'D)
For example, there was a man in the
nineteen-eighties, called Philip
Trent, who related his experiences
in the third century BC, when he
was one of Archimedes' pupils.

ANN
So?

ROB
Well, it turned out that his
description of the ancient Greek
culture and the works were so
accurate that only the experts
could verify the details, which
they did!

ANN

And Philip Trent was one of the experts himself!

ROB

Not a bit of it!

Rob grins.

ROB (CONT'D)

He was a gas pump operator from Arkansas.

ANN

Really? So you think there's something in this past life, fourth dimension stuff?

ROB

Sure. But don't take good old Mister Trent's word for it. Why not test it out yourself?

ANN

What do you mean?

She frowns.

ROB

Well, that banner up ahead might be of some interest to you.

Ann looks up through the windshield -- The holographic message above the road reads: "The Chicago Field Museum Exhibition - The Stone Age. Experience the Life of Our Ancestors."--

ANN

I don't believe it! What a fantastic coincidence!

ROB

Coincidence? Some would call it fate, my dear.

He sets his thick book aside.

ROB (CONT'D)

If your experience were anything close to what it was really like at that time, you'd have to admit the truth to the old woman's trick.

He smiles at her.

ROB (CONT'D)
And what have you got to lose
anyway?

Ann thinks.

ANN
Isn't the Field Museum just up here
on the right?

ROB
It certainly is.

INT. MUSEUM - CONTINUOUS

Ann enters an enormous central hall. Grinning teeth, T-Rex bows her, but she passes it without even glancing. The tyrannosaurus GROWLS after her.

Ann follows the signs towards the Stone Age exhibition; her footsteps RING LOUDLY on the marble floor.

INT. STONE AGE EXHIBITION - CONTINUOUS

In the middle of the hall, surrounded by a glass barrier, is a large, dome-like structure covered with animal skins.

As Ann hurries closer to it, she turns pale and has to clutch at a display case behind her to steady herself.

Turning to look at what she is holding on to, she faces spearheads, ax blades, and flints.

Next to them, bone needles and long pieces of skin along with a leather bag allocated. The sign is read: "Sewing tools. A ready bag from antelope skin".

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY - FLASHBACK

With a needle in her hand, Mi sews a new bag from antelope skin.

BACK TO PRESENT

Breathing quickly, her heart BEATING rapidly in her chest, she hurries over to another display.

There are pots, just like the one Bagra showed her how to make. And next - the bags and baskets are identical to the ones she used to collect water and fruit.

EXT. RIVER - DAY - FLASHBACK

Mi collects fruits into the basket.

BACK TO PRESENT

She turns to the next display. It contains several people, some hairy like the people of Mi's native tribe, others more like those who lived on the hilltop.

She squints her right eye while looking at the loincloths and the garments made from handmade fabric, which she was wearing recently on her own skin.

EXT. LAKE - DAY - FLASHBACK

Mi takes off her loincloth and enters the river.

BACK TO PRESENT

She takes a deep breath.

A cold sweat appears on her forehead. As she lifts her hand to wipe it away, she looks at her reflection in the glass of a nearby display; she finds herself staring into the face of Zo!

She staggers backward, unable to take her eyes off the figure. It isn't Zo - not entirely. There are no tiger claw marks, and instead of Zo's menacing look, this face is - if anything - friendly.

And yet he holds a STONE HEAD SPEAR in its hand!

Instinctively, her palm goes to her chest - she rubs the site of the mortal wound.

As her vision blurs, she tries to blink her eyes back into focus. However, it doesn't help, and she IS FALLING...

Then: Strong male hands catch her.

As her sight returned, Ann finds herself gazing up into the insightful eyes of MICHAEL, a handsome blond man (late 20s).

MICHAEL
Are you all right?

END OF ACT FOUR