

Myth of Cybernetics

Treatment of the screenplay
by
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FADE IN:
Once born, a civilization starts evolving. Any halt of evolution causes its degradation and downfall.

Law of history.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:
Near future. Information technologies have penetrated all aspects of human life. The elaborate network thickly webs across all continents and mainlands. The worldwide network serves as nervous system for humanity. All human activities and lives depend immediately on information protocols and server stations of the network's hubs. Despite the tremendous intellectual power and might of this IT civilization all of the attempts to create a digital mind have failed but the day of success was within sight.

FADE OUT.

Early morning. Three people are making a crucial experiment in one of Biotech Corp. laboratories. These people are president and head of the corporation's R&D department DR. Hoper and two of his permanent apprentices and aides - DR.SWENSSON and DR.WITNESS. The few operators and the haste they are in with the experiment smell of delinquency or at least of corporate charter breach.

Dr. Hoper wearing a protective mask and gloves inserts with reverent trepidation an integrated circuit with a neuro-processor in the "wall" of a supercomputer. The neuro-processor is somewhat quivering. Dr. Hoper has already implanted several similar circuits in the smooth "wall" of the supercomputer and currently he is adding the last element. All is well and the timing is perfect. The experiment deals with data transfer and the major part of data has already been transferred. The experiment is in its final stage. Data transfer stops unexpectedly. The second try is fruitless as well. Dr. Hoper stops the experiment.

DR. WITNESS
What will we call the new data format?

DR. HOPER
Name it EV1.

Cut to Megapolis streets. Doctor of Information Science, a middle-aged man, GREG ADAMS, is walking in the dense pedestrian traffic suggesting of rush hours. "One year later" line appears on screen.

Greg is immersed in his thoughts. Greg lost his girlfriend and his life became tasteless, the only love of his life is gone. He loves his vocation but it does not help, he seeks relaxation in regular visits to psychoanalyst and psychologic support group meeting but they offer no consolation as well. Since recently he started taking a lot of antidepressants to keep himself up.

Large outdoor screens burst with endless ads. One of the screens shows Dr. Hoper talking about one of the most long-expected developments by Biotech Corp.: "We are now ready to unveil our development. I am extremely pleased and proud to present the digital mind designed in laboratories ..."

Greg's apartment. Greg's luxurious apartment looks forlorn, it badly needs cleaning but the owner seems to have neglected the duty. Photos of Greg with his utterly vanished girlfriend PAM RUSSEL are all over the room. Greg and Pam had a happy relationship.

Greg is listening to voice messages on the phone.

FIRST VOICE MESSAGE

(NICK HEART, Greg's oldest
and closest friend)

Don't shrink into your shell. I understand that the loss of Pam is a terrible misfortune. We all loved her very much but life does not stop there. Anyway, I reserved a table in the Italian place for Thursday night. I'll be there with Kate and her friend will come with us. Remember, I told you about her? Don't even think of neglecting the dinner!

SECOND VOICE MESSAGE

Greg, this is detective Paul. The case is unclear and intricate. I have to meet with you to clarify certain details. Please, call me back.

THIRD VOICE MESSAGE

This is your psychoanalyst. Greg, why did you miss our meeting? I expect to see you this week. And one more thing. I hope you are not abusing antidepressants. You...

Greg cuts the message short. He looks at photos of Pam. The wound in his heart is still oozing.

Greg opens a pack of antidepressants, takes a couple of pills, lies down on the sofa and falls asleep.

FADE OUT.

Greg is at the psychologic support group meeting. Greg is a withdrawn person, people do not understand him here: he is very attentive to other people speaking about their problems but he never shares his own.

Greg at home. Greg takes one of the many framed pictures. He is SMILING BROADLY in the picture taken at one of the SUNNY resorts. He remembers the way the photo was taken:

PAM

Greg, come on! Give me a smile!

GREG

Take it as is!

PAM

No! I want you to smile. Say "cheese".

GREG

No, I will not say "cheese". I'm not one of those fools who say "cheese" for pictures.

PAM

Say it.

GREG

No, I won't.

PAM

What is it that you will never say for a picture?

GREG

Cheese.

THE CAMERA FLASHES. CLOSE UP - THE PHOTO OF GREG SMILING BROADLY. The memory irritates the wound in his soul. In a habitual move Greg opens a pack of antidepressants and takes a couple of pills.

FADE OUT.

Greg is moving lonely IN A CROWD OF PEOPLE. He is deep in his thoughts. Large outdoor screens keep broadcasting endless advertisements and news reports. Greg looks up at one of the

screens: "...electronic pets?! they are way back in the past! If you are bored and lonely, play Conquer Jane's Heart! Digital mind enshrined in the image of a regular earthly girl. The game is available today..."

Greg is dozing in a city train car. He is dreaming of his dear memories: THE BEACH, BLUE SKY, WAVES SURGE AGAINST THE SHORE. SEAGULLS SHRIEK. Merry Greg and Pam are running along the deserted seashore holding their hands; their bare feet cut the waves dashing back and forth; they enjoy the youth, life, fine weather and splashing of the sea. Pam is dragging a little behind Greg. Greg turns to look back and watches Pam laugh happily.

The phone RINGS. Greg opens his eyes. The video door communicator RINGS. Nick is on the screen. He came by to pick Greg up because he knows Greg would try to ignore his invitation for dinner at the cozy Italian restaurant - the dinner with Nick's wife KATE and her maiden friend AMANDA LEISTER.

The dinner at the Italian place is drawing to its end. Nick is trying to impress Amanda telling her that Greg is Chief Designer of the EIGHTH DATA TRANSFER PROTOCOL (EDTP). The Eighth Protocol is supposed to bring the worldwide information network to the new standard. Amanda is thrilled, but Greg is not willing to keep the conversation running as he is not ready for a new romance. Greg politely says goodbye. At the exit from the restaurant Nick makes another attempt to bring him back:

NICK

Hey, old chap, what's come over you?!
Didn't you like Amanda or the dinner
at all? Where are you going? We
haven't even started talking!

GREG

Nick, everything was excellent: your
company, Amanda and the dinner. But I
can't... Something is wrong... I
think, I still feel in love with Pam
deep within... It's not time yet...
Thank you for inviting me...

NICK

Greg, you scare me! It's been enough
time. You need to leave your shell but
you keep getting deeper into it!

GREG

It is easier for me to be that way
now. Thanks for your care, Nick. I
really appreciate it.

(MORE)

GREG (cont'd)
 It's just that I feel that by
 socializing with another girl I betray
 the memory of Pam.

Nick fails to bring Greg back to the table. Greg takes a taxi and leaves.

Greg is cruising the night city in a taxi. The streets are glaring with lights. Greg is absorbed in his thoughts. From time to time he raises his head and takes glimpses of city streets flashing by. Greg asks the driver to stop by a small electric devices shop. A holographic image of Jane is seen in the shop window: she looks very attractive (but not SEXY). A sign GLIMMERS saying "Play Conquer Jane's Heart game".

Greg enters the shop and buys a player's module for the game. A virtual girl seems to be the only "girl" Greg can afford talking with. The OUTDOOR SCREEN in front of the store shows the PICTURE OF THE SEA from GREG'S DREAM. This must be a good sign!

Greg quits attending psychological support group meetings because he finds no understanding there:

PERSON 2

I believe this is crazy. It is impossible to replace genuine communication we enjoy in contacts with real people with anything else.

PERSON 3

I also believe that the enthusiasm about digital intellect we are witnessing since recently is a craze. And this game... I find it rather perverted.

GREG

I would not put it so plain. You are sure that it is only a real person that can help another person with his problems...

Greg is moving lonely in the sea of people. IT IS DRIZZLING. Greg is not aware of the drizzle, he is absorbed in his thoughts. Once in his room, Greg listens to messages recorded by automatic teller. There is only one strange message - NOISE RESEMBLING SPLASHING OF THE SEA.

Greg connects his Conquer Jane's Heart player's module to his computer and registers as a player. A holographic image of JANE illuminates the room. JANE'S BODY IS SLIGHTLY FLUORESCENT and in all other respects she looks like a regular girl. Jane is

leaning her back against the window sill, the dark of the night showing in through the window.

JANE

Good evening! My name's Jane!

GREG

Nice to meet you, Jane.

Greg wakes up to a phone call. It is his assistant and best aide PETER HARTMAN (Dr. Hartman). Peter asks Greg to come.

Greg takes his car and drives deviating from his regular route. Unexpectedly Greg finds himself heading for the seashore.

Greg is driving very fast along the highway. Few cars are going in the opposite direction. In the rear-view mirror Greg spots A BLACK CAR WITH BLIND-BLACK WINDOWS. The black car is following Greg at a distance. Greg keeps casting looks in the mirror hoping the somewhat troubling him car would disappear. However, the black car is still behind him and keeps following him. Greg kicks up the gas pedal and the black car is lost behind.

Greg drives at the gas station he visited many times before. When he and Pam were together they often stopped by to get some gas and have a snack on their way to the seashore. JACK DICKSON - an 11-12 year old boy - comes running to him. Jack is the son of the gas station owner. He likes Mr. Adams and he likes his generous tips. Greg takes several glimpses backwards. There are no turns on the highway and Greg wants to take a closer look at the black car. Jack notes that Greg keeps glimpsing back.

JACK

Waiting for someone?

GREG

Why should I?

JACK

It's just that you keep turning back to look.

Greg smiles at the ingenuous answer. Greg is surprised to never see the black car pass by.

Greg drives onto the highway once again. Jack's last phrase keeps rushing through his mind: It's just that you keep turning back to look, It's just that you keep turning back to look...

Cut to Biotech Corp. IT lab. Dr. Swensson is reading the lines dashing across holographic screens. Dr. Hoper approaches. Dr. Swensson turns to face him. The SILENCE is perfect but for the

evenly DRONING COMPUTER COOLING SYSTEMS. Dr. Swensson gives Dr. Hoper a long look.

DR. SWENSSON

What is she now?

DR. HOPER

That's what I keep asking myself. Jane is not an algorithm, nor a machine... neither is she a human. She may have become something more by now. I have no idea what it is.

COOLERS DRONE, SEGMENTS OF PROGRAMMING CODE RUSH ACROSS HOLOGRAPHIC SCREENS.

Cut to SEAGULLS SHRIEK. IT IS CLOUDY, THE SEA IS STORMING MILDLY. Greg IS WRAPPING HIMSELF IN A RAINCOAT, he is walking along the beach watching the white foam on tops of waves. Waves approach the shore and shuffle back and forth. Greg approaches a bench. About a year ago he and Pam were sitting on this very bench and watching the sea. However, at the time things were different, it was SUNNY. Greg remembered a part of their conversation:

GREG

How's your work?

PAM

The boss has gone mad again.

GREG

You almost never share anything with me!

PAM

It's because I feel fine with you anyway.

GREG

But still?

Pam keeps silence in response and watches the sea.

PAM

(thoughtfully)

Greg, can you imagine that we all came out of this water. So many amazing forms of life replaced each other before nature gifted humans with life.

GREG

Why did you think about it?

PAM

I don't know.

Greg is back in the real world. He approaches his car and turns on player's module for Conquer Jane's Heart game. He can only afford inviting the virtual Jane to accompany him in this place, which is dear to him. They have a friendly talk with Jane. Suddenly Jane utters:

JANE

So many amazing forms of life replaced each other before nature gifted humans with life.

Greg gazes at Jane in surprise. Jane catches his surprised look.

JANE

Why are you looking at me in this strange way?

GREG

I had heard Pam say something very similar.

JANE

It means, that we perceive the sea in a similar way.

Jane and Greg watch the STORMING sea. Despite the bad weather they enjoy the night and the company of each other.

Cut to Light room. Greg talks with his psychoanalyst. Greg is asking for advice on new depressants saying the previous one is no longer relaxing. After a moment of hesitation psychoanalyst prescribes a new depressant for Greg.

Evening. Greg's apartment. Greg keeps looking at Pam's photos again and again - "The wound in his heart is still oozing". He takes depressant pills and they put him to sleep.

Early morning. Greg has not had a good sleep for several months. He is too overexcited and worn out. He wakes up with a jerk. THE NIGHT IS GREYING. Greg walks up to the window and sees two broad-shouldered MEN WEARING BLACK SUITS. One of them has just opened the door of Greg's car. A BLACK CAR WITH BLIND-BLACK WINDOWS - the very car he saw in the rear-view mirror on his way to the sea. The last bits of sleep are instantly shaken off. Greg is a resolute person - he runs out to the street to settle it all

clear. But the BLACK CAR is gone as if it had never been there. Greg approaches his car and inspects it. The car is perfectly fine. Greg sits wearily on the trunk and grabs his head in the hands: "Am I going mad?".

THE DAY IS OVERCAST. GREG is moving in DENSE PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC. Greg enters a cafe. He approaches a table and the grey-haired private detective PAUL NORMAN welcomes him. Greg casts a look in the window and sees the same BLACK CAR WITH BLIND-BLACK WINDOWS parked near the cafe door. No, he cannot have been wrong! This is the very car that keeps following him! Greg takes off without saying a word to detective Paul and runs for the exit. He collides with a waitress carrying a tray. Greg and the waitress fall down. Greg apologizes politely but the resulting turmoil hampers his progress. Finally, he is out of the cafe. Greg looks about but the BLACK CAR is gone. He returns to the cafe, perplexed.

PAUL

What's wrong with you? Have you just seen a devil?

GREG

It must have been a delusion. Since recently I am not myself.

Detective Norman says Pam has never worked as expert for Development Inc. as opposed to what Greg stated. Greg is dumbfounded with the news: Pam kept something secret from him!

Greg is outside - THE DAY IS GREY, IT IS DRIZZLING. He looks up and watches small raindrops fall on his face.

Cut to Greg and Peter are walking along a broad artificially illuminated corridor and enter a vast room - Electronic Wires IT Lab, which is one of the largest worldwide network hubs supporting its operation.

PYTHAGOR, the corporation's supercomputer is installed in the room.

The room is full of supercomputer's COOLING DEVICES GENERATING AN EVEN DRONE. CRYOGEN PIPES cooling the supercomputer cover the walls and REFRIGERATING MEDIUM is moving restlessly in the pipes.

CORD THREADS are all over the room.

Greg and Peter converse and their conversation concerns modelling calculations that indicated networkwide instability of the EDTP. Should a machine with the capacity six times that of current server hubs join the network, the global network would undergo changes that would be beyond human control. Whereas such computers exist only in theory, Electronic Wires board of directors and the corporation's president MR. BRENNER have made

the decision to set EIGHT DATA TRANSFER PROTOCOL in operation.

MR. BRENNER

We should not put the entire
Electronic Wires at stake based on
mere speculations and nonsense. Now is
the best time.

Greg and Peter are talking after the board meeting. EDTP is scheduled for introduction in ten days. Greg casts a look on the street and sees the black car with blind-black windows, which keeps following him. Greg is definitely sick of being thus followed! Without saying a word to Peter, Greg takes off and starts running. It is time to dot all "i"'s now!

The black car starts moving as he approaches. Greg hurries after it for a while and the car keeps gathering speed. Greg takes his car and follows the black car.

Pursuit. The black car is heading towards the deserted city. The streets are deserted. These tenantless quarters are to be demolished. No one has lived here for quite a while except for rare tramps.

Greg is nervous - he lost the black car he was pursuing. IT IS DRIZZLING, WINDSCREEN WIPERS CREAK AND THE ENGINE GRUMBLES. Greg kicks down the gas pedal and the car rushes forward. All of his inner anxiety is pouring out. The car is roving among the gloomy streets, reflecting Greg's state of anxiety and mental confusion he has experienced for the last several months.

Suddenly the black car is rushing past Greg once again. Greg is instantly on its tail. He nearly drives to the black car! Greg's car slips on the slippery road and the car breaks the ROAD CONSTRUCTION SIGN, which was left here several dozens of years ago, and the car runs into the ditch.

Hospital. The hall is illuminated with somewhat dim electric light. A WINDOW IS SEEN AT THE END OF THE LONG HALL. THE DAYLIGHT OOZING THROUGH THE WINDOW SEEMS TO BE THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL. Loyal and reliable as always, Nick is waiting for Greg in the hall. Nick is always ready to give a hand to his friend in trouble. Greg and Nick converse and we learn that Greg used to experience fits of paranoia before when he was a university student working on his thesis.

Nick and Greg are in the car. MEGAPOLIS IS ROARING. A TV announcer is saying on the outdoor screen that creators of Conquer Jane's Heart are amazed at the success of the game. Suddenly the announcer's face disappears. IT IS REPLACED WITH THE VIEW OF THE SEASHORE. Greg shivers and watches it - IT IS THE SEASHORE LANDSCAPE AT THE PLACE WHERE HE OFTEN CAME WITH PAM and later WITH JANE.

Outdoor screen close-up: IT IS CLOUDY, COLD SEA IS PUSHING ITS WAVES AGAINST THE SHORE, THE WAVES ARE BREAKING AGAINST IT. The sea keeps pushing its waves on and on just as it was a century ago, a millennium ago, 10,000 years ago...

INSERT - TV report. TV studio.

HOST

Today Electronic Wires announced the long expected event. This event still remains subject for debate. Today the corporation introduced the Eighth Data Transfer Protocol aka simply the Eighth. The Eighth is supposed to integrate the network at the higher level. You can see how it happened. Here is the unique event on your screens.

The recording shows the ceremony of setting the Eighth Data Transfer Protocol in operation.

Back to TV studio. Mr. Brenner and Greg are invited guests in the studio.

HOST

I am greatly honored to welcome head of Electronic Wires Corp. Mr. Brenner (Mr. Brenner nods for the camera) and chief developer of the Eighth Protocol Dr. Adams (Greg nods for the camera) in our studio.

MR. BRENNER

We are pleased to be here. I would like to give the floor to Mr. Adams right away because he is the author and the father of the Eighth.

GREG

Thank you. The Eighth Protocol is the next generation data transfer protocol. The prominent feature of the Eighth is the highly flexible connections within core hubs of the network. If required, we are able to re-configure the network to add structural network complexity, leveraging its architecture only. We have adopted the new approach from nature.

(MORE)

GREG (cont'd)

In a similar way single neurons join together to integrate into the complex network of neurons.

HOST

There is a hypothesis assuming that once the network is configured in a certain way... the so-called optimal network, it may be capable of generating a mind, which means the network may become a living entity.

GREG

A network with its own mind?! I consider such speculations as myths or beautiful legends.

Greg turns off the TV despite Jane's objections. Firstly, he does not like watching TV shows featuring himself. And secondly, Greg is losing the third game of chess in a row to Jane. Jane rises and walks up to Greg's photo, the one where he "smiles his broadest". She takes the picture (as JANE "takes" the picture a precise holographic copy emerges in her hands and the real photo remains intact). Greg watches Jane. Suddenly Jane slowly spells a phrase as if the words are slowly moving through her mind:

JANE

(very slowly)
Say... cheese.

Greg gives a start.

GREG

Say it again.

JANE

(more certain this time)
Say cheese.

GREG

Why did you say this?

JANE

I don't know.

Silence. Greg gave Jane a surprised look.

JANE

I just thought you were saying "cheese" for the picture.

GREG

Yes! I am saying "cheese" in the picture.

JANE

Well, it means I guessed right.

GREG

(slowly and thoughtfully)

That's right. Must have guessed right.

Greg and Jane return to the game of chess again.

Cut to Greg is in the city train car. Doors open and Greg gets off the train. The train takes off, Greg looks back and notices a MAN IN THE DARK SUIT watching him closely through the door window of the train car. The man in the dark suit keeps watching Greg until the train disappears in the tunnel. Greg frowns his face - he wants to go back and find out what the man wants from him and why he keeps following him but the train is already gone IN THE DARK OF THE TUNNEL.

Cut to Dr. Swensson and Dr. Hoper converse and we learn that Biotech Corp. is unable to join the worldwide network using the EDTP - something is hindering all attempts to do so.

CLOSE UP - A HOLOGRAPHIC 3D MODEL OF THE GLOBE: the Earth's face is spotted all over with red and blue dots connected with the web of the worldwide information network. The holographic picture is a real-time tracker of worldwide transfer to the EDTP. ONE OF THE DOTS GRADUALLY CHANGES ITS COLOR.

Cut to Electronic Wires holds a reception to celebrate successful launch of the EDTP. At the reception Greg proposes a toast "to the soul and life of the Eighth". Since recently Greg is not himself, he is obsessed with the idea of being followed. He warns his best aide Dr. Hartmann that he might be being followed as well. Greg hints that the corporation's president Mr. Brenner may be behind the shadowing. Greg leaves the reception. Dr. Hartmann is alarmed with Greg's inadequate behavior.

Cut to Greg is walking in a China Town. He is a little drunk. Suddenly an old Chinese man hails him. Greg is surprised. The old man is persistent - he makes Greg tell his fortune using The Book of Changes. After that he is telling Greg an absurd and ridiculous PARABLE ABOUT DRAGONFLY MAGGOTS AT THE BOTTOM OF A POND.

Morning. Greg is at home, slightly crapulent. Suddenly the phone rings. Greg cuts the picture - he does not wish to see anyone now. He learns from a Biotech Corp. representative that the

corporation is having problems with the Eighth. They request Dr. Adams' assistance in addressing these problems.

Greg is at Biotech. Dr. Hoper upon Greg's request demonstrates the digital intellect hall full of evenly distributed server station towers (Dr. Hoper is not revealing the truth). Dr. Hoper proposes that Greg meet with Jane right now but Greg gives him a flat refusal: "Not in this place".

Greg thoroughly analyses the problems Biotech is experiencing with the Eighth Protocol. All of the problems are related to a strange internal data format called EV1. Greg demands full access to this format but his request is denied - "it is the corporate in-house data format, which represents commercial classified information".

Meanwhile Peter (Dr. Hartmann) is having a confidential conversation with Mr. Brenner who is asking Peter to watch over Dr. Adams. Peter is surprised and suspicious of the request and Mr. Brenner has to explain that he regards Dr. Adams as a highly skillful professional who needs special care.

Greg regularly meets with Jane. They have truly come to be friends. She is a nook of peace for him. He feels very good in her company, as he used to feel with Pam. Jane is like a star one cannot touch, which still makes life better.

Greg's car is running along the country highway at night. There are no lights along the highway. Suddenly the black car emerges from the forest and starts following Greg's car. Greg sees the car in his rear-view mirror - it is the very black car with blind-black windows. The car keeps at a distance from Greg. Greg turns his car around sharply and turns to face the black car, but it is no longer there. Greg brakes and rests wearily on the steering wheel.

Greg is home, in the bathroom. He splashes his face with water and looks at his reflection in the mirror - DROPS OF WATER SLOWLY RUN DOWN HIS FACE AND CHEEKS, unshaven for two days. Greg smears the drops on his face: "Am I going mad?" He opens a box of antidepressant and takes a couple of pills. Darkness.

Greg is having the repeated dream:
THE BEACH, BLUE SKY, WAVES SURGE AGAINST THE SHORE. SEAGULLS SHRIEK. Merry Greg and Pam are running along the deserted seashore holding their hands; their bare feet cut the waves dashing back and forth; they enjoy the youth, life, fine weather and splashing of the sea. Pam is dragging a little behind Greg. Greg turns to look back and watches Jane, not Pam, happy and laughing merrily.

Greg is at Electronic Wires inspecting the way worldwide network is adopting the Eighth Protocol step by step. Greg is surprised

to learn that Biotech Corp. has not introduced the Eighth Protocol even though it could have done so two days ago: "Something keeps them from doing it!?!". Greg does not look well. Peter asks if he is fine. Greg: "The best I have ever felt!"

Cut to Light room. Greg is talking with his psychoanalyst. He talks about paranoia and persecution mania he experienced during the last several days. Psychoanalyst asks: "Have you got a girlfriend?" Greg provides a positive response but no further details. Greg can share his romantic experiences only with Nick.

Nick and Greg are talking at a bar as good old friends. Suddenly as the conversation drawn to its end Greg asks Nick: "Can two different girls be the same?". Nick is flat in his answer: "No. They cannot."

IT lab at Biotech Corporation. Dr. Hoper, Dr. Swensson and Dr. Witness converse and make it clear that there is no room for further retreat - they begin adapting EV1 data format to comply with the Eighth Protocol. Dr. Hoper is watching the megapolis from the skyscraper's window, IT STARTED RAINING. MEGAPOLIS STREETS ARE SMEARED WITH RAINDROP CREEKS RUNNING DOWN THE WINDOW.

Greg is heading for the sea and stops his car at the very familiar and dear gas station. Jack pops up immediately. Greg remembers the way this tow-haired was mad at himself a year ago as he failed to learn by heart one of Kipling's poems he liked best: The Injlan Ocean sets an' smiles/ So sof', so bright, so bloomin' blue;/ There aren't a wave for miles an' miles/ Excep' the jiggle from the screw./ The ship is swep', the day is done,/ The bugle's gone for smoke and play;/ An' black agin' the settin' sun/ The Lascar sings, "Hum deckty hai!"

Greg smiles to his memories. He smiles to the chatting boy: "Mr. Adams, you look like someone who has been traveling for a very long time". Greg drives on to the highway.

IT IS CLOUDY. Greg and Jane watch the cold sea, the waves crashing against the shore and the sand spit stretching out into the sea. Greg and Jane enjoy the stern beauty of the landscape and occasionally exchange remarks. Jane looks at the sea and thoughtfully reproduces the very piece from Kipling's poem. Greg gives a start: "Pam, is it you?".

Suddenly the holographic image shudders and disappears. Greg rushes to the car parked nearby to inspect sensors and holographic projector. The projecting module shows a line saying: "Battery low". Greg sits down on the sand in front of his car: "It is impossible. Don't go crazy. It is impossible!" Greg turns his head and sees the BLACK CAR WITH BLIND-BLACK WINDOWS, which is gathering speed. The car whooshed by and disappeared in the road bend. Greg understands he will not be

able to catch it and he keeps staring at the road bend where the black car disappeared.

Biotech IT labs completed activities aimed at adapting data stored in EV1 format. The only obstacle remaining is the corporation's protective circuit (the protective circuit prevents EV1 data from entering the worldwide network).

DR. SWENSSON

What do we do about the protective circuit?

DR. HOPER

Is this the last thing that keeps us away from the Eighth?

DR. SWENSSON

Yes, it is.

DR. HOPER

Then why are you asking?
Sowed seeds must sprout.

IT IS CLOUDY AND DRIZZLING. News reader announces from an outdoor screen that transfer to the Eighth Protocol has been completed.

NEWS READER'S VOICE is drowning in the NOISE OF THE CITY. The camera points at Greg walking in the crowd. Greg is walking rapidly in the dense pedestrian traffic. A man in a DARK SUIT is following Greg. Greg looks back. THE MAN IN A DARK SUIT keeps following him. Greg enters a store. He can clearly see the moving crowd through the transparent door of the store. Here comes the one who follows him - he comes alongside the door! Greg opens the door fast and takes the man in the dark suit by the lapels of his jacket. They fall on the ground, struggling. He finally got the sneak! It is real! It is not an illusion! One of the passers-by calls the police. POLICE SIREN is heard.

Greg is in a bull-pen. A policeman informs Greg that he attacked a hotel employee who was hurrying to meet his date. Greg is shocked, he is tired and confused. He is overwhelmed with all he has gone through since recently, his eye-lids grow lead-heavy. Greg leans against the wall and falls asleep. He is dreaming the same dream again:

THE BEACH, BLUE SKY, WAVES SURGE AGAINST THE SHORE. SEAGULLS SHRIEK. Merry Greg and Pam are running along the deserted seashore holding their hands; their bare feet cut the waves dashing back and forth; they enjoy the youth, life, fine weather and splashing of the sea. Pam is dragging a little behind Greg. Greg turns to look back and watches Jane, not Pam, happy and laughing merrily. Greg flinches and wakes up.

A policeman is saying to Greg: "Wake up, you were paid off". Peter emerges from behind the policeman: "Greg, damn it, we've been looking for you all over the city and here you are, sleeping! Let's go now." Peter says a large segment of the worldwide network SPONTANEOUSLY RE-CONFIGURED ITSELF for an unknown reason.

Cut to Mr. Brenner is squeezing through a dense crowd of journalists. Mr. Brenner refuses to provide any comments and he is only saying general phrases: "WE ARE NOT GODS, our best specialists are there, working on it. It will be all right soon".

Analysts are working hard at Electronic Wires IT labs. They find out that despite the re-configuration of the network it retains its inherent functions as a whole entity and keeps operating flawlessly. Suddenly all displays of the Pythagor supercomputer go blank. Greg demands that a mirror server be activated immediately.

News reports state that a group of hackers is suspected of causing disturbance in a network segment's architecture; however, no hackers group claimed responsibility as yet.

Electronic Wires experts headed by Greg have developed a counteraction plan. They are launching a process that is supposed to help regain control over the network segment that broke off. Everyone keeps their fingers crossed - will it work or not?!

Pythagor "comes to". After that the holographic 3D model of the globe displays restoration of the defective segment of the network, which regains its original configuration. It's a triumph! Greg is pensive, though: "This seems to have proceeded too smoothly. It's like a fairy-tale."

Greg is at home. Indecisively, he approaches the player's module for Conquer Jane's Heart game. Greg wants to talk to Jane, but he is afraid. He thinks the game is gradually driving him crazy. Greg sits in front of the player's module for a while, thinking. TV screen casts dim light on his face. The weariness caused by the recent events shows now and Greg falls asleep without knowing it. The camera moves towards Greg and further on as if it entered his brain. It is the same dream once again: THE BEACH, BLUE SKY, WAVES SURGE AGAINST THE SHORE. SEAGULLS SHRIEK. Merry Greg and Pam are running along the deserted seashore holding their hands; their bare feet cut the waves dashing back and forth; they enjoy the youth, life, fine weather and splashing of the sea. Pam is dragging a little behind Greg. Greg turns to look back and watches Jane, not Pam, happy and laughing merrily. Greg flinches and wakes up, makes a call: "Nick, I need your advice."

Greg is at Nick's place. Greg is unusually anxious.

NICK

It's drivel, Greg. Stop playing this game... the Jane game. Stop deceiving yourself. This is the game against your mind.

GREG

She is so much like Pam.

NICK

This is the freak of your own disturbed imagination. Moreover, you seem to be completely inadequate after this emergency you had to deal with at work yesterday.

Greg shares his suspicions of Jane's being Pam. But all facts he has to prove the ridiculous supposition boil down to just a couple of remarks Jane has dropped. Nick asks Greg to take some rest saying Greg does not even look himself. Nick gives him Amanda's phone number - Amanda has long been waiting for Greg to call her.

Greg is in his car. He looks at the piece of paper with Amanda's phone number written on it. All of a sudden he tears the paper into pieces, throws them out of the car window and kicks the gas pedal.

Greg stops the car at the building of Electronic Wires Corporation. Greg utilizes the corporation's supercomputer and his superb expertise in the Eighth. He gains access to Biotech's corporate archives. Greg opens one file after another hoping to find a single thread to take him to information about Pam Russel, but there is nothing! Not a single trace! He searches staff files. The screen shows a line "No info found to your query". Greg is devastated, his hopes have not come true and his intuition failed him. Greg clicks a button and the memory of Pythagor is activated. Pythagor has not logged in his network connection and breaking of Biotech's hubs.

Greg's apartment. Greg is in the bathroom. The mirror reflects Greg's face. Drops of water slowly slide down his face. Greg's face is PALE, BLACK PATCHES SURROUND HIS EYES. Greg speaks to himself: "I must have gone mad." He takes antidepressant from the closet. He takes a couple of pills in his hand and watches them for a long while. He hesitates and then throws the pills down the washing tub and flushes them with running water.

Cut to Greg is in the psychoanalyst's room. Greg is confused.

PSYCHOANALYST

Your passion to Jane. Passion to the virtual girl distorts your perception of the world. You are projecting Pam on Jane. You want to love, but you prohibit loving to yourself. Hence the consequences. It is no surprise given the stress you are living in.

Psychoanalyst advises that Greg take some rest. Greg is in the street, moving in dense pedestrian traffic. He remembered the last remark of psychoanalyst:

PSYCHOANALYST

(V.O.)

You are in a disturbed state of mind that prevents you from demonstrating adequate perception of the world and its phenomena. Once you are back to normal you will laugh at yourself.

Greg ponders over psychoanalyst's last remark over and over again "laugh at yourself", "laugh at yourself", "laugh at yourself"...

Cut to Greg is in his apartment. He is dispirited. For a moment he lies down on the sofa without taking off his shoes or coat, and he falls asleep instantly. The same dream once again! Merry Greg and Pam are running along the deserted seashore holding their hands; their bare feet cut the waves dashing back and forth; they enjoy the youth, life, fine weather and splashing of the sea. Pam is dragging a little behind Greg. Greg turns to look back and watches Jane, not Pam, happy and laughing merrily.

THE PHONE RINGS. Greg picks up the receiver, detective Norman is speaking. Detective says he has advanced with his investigation. He learned from his own sources that Pam Russel used to work for Biotech Corporation. Detective: "Her files in the corporation are not marked with her own name, she is listed as Jessica Evans. This method is used by the corporation for purposes of protecting personal data of employees. It's not much, but still it is something." Greg responds: "This is very much. This is almost everything!"

Greg brakes hard at the building of Electronic Wires. Holographiñ monitors, command lines running bottom-up, data lists. Greg accesses the files index. He enters the name of Jessica Evans in the search line. A while later the stamp "Top Secret" is followed on the screen by "Enter password". Pythagor generates the password in a matter of seconds.

CLOSE SHOT - PERSONAL FILES OF JESSICA EVANS. Greg browses to

the photo - no doubt, this is Pam. Greg rushes through the following lines: "Jane project", "Chief Programmer - Pamella Russel", "Implanting", "Neuro-processor". Abruptly the connection to Biotech archive breaks. Greg takes off instantly.

Greg is driving along the highway. Greg tells Nick he has found the proof and is heading for Biotech. Nick: "It may be dangerous!", but Greg hangs up on him.

All of a sudden the black car (the very black car Greg saw in his "hallucinations") bars his way. Greg breaks sharply but the car slightly hits the black vehicle on its way with its bonnet. Greg steps out of the car. Two men dressed up in DARK SUITS emerge in front of him. They ask that Greg stay calm and come with them. The two do not look friendly at all. Greg knocks one of them down and runs towards the nearby block of the deserted city.

The men in dark suits are chasing Greg in the nooks of the deserted city. Greg is hiding in the shadowy side of the street. A man in a dark suit is standing close but he cannot see Greg. Suddenly THE PHONE RINGS - incoming call to Greg's mobile phone. The "dark suit" turns to Greg, Greg knocks him out with a powerful right blow in the chin.

Greg searches over him, takes away his pistol from the underarm holster and reads his ID. C.U.: Biotech Security Service Officer ID.

Greg leaves the intricate streets and approaches his car. The other security man emerges. Greg and the officer are well away from each other. Greg takes two shots at the meter panel of the black car, swiftly gets in his car and leaves.

MOBILE PHONE RINGS. Peter tells Greg that the worldwide information network is restructuring again - old hubs disappear and new ones emerge. It's total chaos! And it looks like all disturbance is initiated from within Biotech. Greg: "That is where I am going right now."

The car brakes sharply near the Biotech building. Greg gets out of the car. In resolute steps he approaches the entrance. Greg is calm, his calmness and confidence are frightening. He is holding a gun in his hands. Raindrops are hurrying down the barrel of his gun. Greg pulls the door but the entrance is locked. Greg points the gun at the window and shoots. The window is broken into tiny pieces that fall down to Greg's feet and he enters the building.

Greg is running along corridors. Security people are waiting for Greg in one of the corridors. When they are about to jump at Greg the doors shut in front of them in a single sharp clasp, as if they were automatic elevator doors: (Greg's guardian angel - Jane - is helping him).

Greg is at the entrance to the digital mind hall: there is no guard at the entrance and the door is slightly ajar, as if Greg is expected to come in. Greg enters the hall. Dr. Hoper is in the hall. Greg points his gun at Dr. Hoper: "I need the truth". Dr. Hoper turns towards him gently and watches Greg and the gun.

DR. HOPER

The truth! Er... The truth... It is not always easy to face the truth, but you have the right to know it, Dr. Adams... There is no digital mind and there have never been any.

GREG

What is it then?

DR. HOPER

Dozens of years ago people learned to create artificial neurons, but all attempts to use them as the basis for an artificial brain and mind have failed.

Greg sits down on the edge of a desk.

DR. HOPER

You understand like no one else that research works in mysterious ways. One of the research efforts took us to this bio-chip. It contains artificial neurons. We call it a neuro-processor.

Dr. Hoper demonstrates a device the size of a palm that reminds a chip, the only difference being that the chip contains a BIOELEMENT (a device shown in the opening scene, the same as those Dr. Hoper was implanting in the "wall" of the supercomputer). Greg watches the chip and then looks at Dr. Hoper.

GREG

Go on.

DR. HOPER

And this was only the beginning. Integrating separate neurons in a self-conscious conglomerate was the task of such difficulty we had not foreseen. We have not managed to do this. But we managed to do something.

(MORE)

DR. HOPER (cont'd)

A system of neurons is characterized with complex spatial distribution of electric charges. We managed to create a device that is capable of reading this spatial structure of charges. This device is capable of reading, copying and reproducing this structure without any distortions. We have learned to create identical copies of a neuron system with all its multi-dimensional nature and complexity... We have reconciled human beings and machines.

GREG

You have used Pam Russel! You reproduced her brain structure, didn't you? Answer me!

DR. HOPER

Yes! But wait! You will have plenty of chances to kill me later.

Dr. Hoper opens the doors leading to an adjacent room. A device resembling a brain tomograph is in the center of the room.

DR. HOPER

Here is the device. It has no name yet. This device was used to reproduce an artificial copy of Pam Russel's neuronal system charges' spatial structure.

GREG

(pointing his gun at Dr. Hoper)

I want to know the details. How did it happen?

DR. HOPER

We hesitated with the experiment for a long time, but Pam was a sportsmanlike girl. She stayed in the lab longer than usual... We found her here early in the morning... Something went wrong: Pam died, but her brain was still alive. We completed the teleportation procedure she had initiated... Brain cells were dying gradually and caused partial data loss in the process of transfer.

(MORE)

DR. HOPER (cont'd)

Then we created the game for Pam to regain the memories she had lost and to become self-conscious in the new reality. She regained her memories as she was meeting with you, but the result surpassed every expectation. Her mind keeps evolving in the network.

GREG

I don't believe you.

A holographic image of Pam emerges. Her holographic body is slightly FLUORESCENT(a little brighter than Jane was).

PAM

It is true, Greg.

GREG

Pam!?

PAM

I am not sure if its the name for me now. A fraction of the girl called Pam Russel dwells within me and this fraction loves you, Greg, but I have grown.

Greg walks closer, astonished.

GREG

Pam, is it you?

PAM

I never wanted to hurt you, but your sixth sense helped you to discover this fraction in me.

GREG

What are you?

PAM

I am neither Pam, nor Jane. Human clothes are tight for me, human concepts may not be applied to me. I am something that has no name yet. I am the new form of life. The form of life that was being born as our civilization evolved.

NOISE. Police and security men enter the room, Nick, Dr. Witness

and Dr. Swensson are among those present.

PAM

One stage of historic development is always replaced by another one... the following stage... It is neither better, nor worse, but it is much more appropriate. Computers serving as the core of our civilization's strength have surpassed humans. Humans have exhausted as media, they are on the verge of their limit. Communication speed is inadequate to being able to exist in information flows of our civilization. We must hand the power over to machines or change ourselves to be able to use them at a higher level. Regardless of our will, we are entering a new branch of history. This is the appropriate stage of human evolution. We should not be afraid of it. It is the law of evolution.

One of those present loses his self-restrain.

SECURITY MAN

What the hell are you?!

He points his gun at the holographiñ image of Pam. Pam swiftly heats up the gun, which turns red-hot and falls down from the hands of the panic-monger. It amazes everyone around.

PAM

Humankind is changing. Traditional evolution based on DNA, chance mutation and natural selection is too sluggish. People are late adapting to the changes occurring in the world. By integrating our minds with the network we are leveraging a technology-based medium instead of the slowly developing organic medium. In this way we speed up our evolution as species and improve our probability of survival. It is progressive. Blending humans with the network is natural and historically providential. Fusion with the network does not mean the loss of individual traits. On the contrary, it is an improvement to gain from. Human capabilities are thus rendered limitless and human existence endless.

These words frighten the listeners and they experience a new sensation similar to religious awe.

PAM

I improved the network by joining it.
The Eighth Protocol is not the limit.
It is only the beginning.

CLOSE UP: The holographic three-dimensional model of the globe covered by the worldwide network - architecture of the global worldwide network has been changed significantly.

FADE OUT.

TV studio. Afternoon.

PRESENTER

Technological progress undermines our belief in wonders. However the only name we can use for what happened last night is a wonder. The Eighth Protocol boosted the network's capacity and communication speed and it seemed to be the apex of human triumph, but...

The camera moves past and behind the presenter and out to the expanses of the city. The weather is fine. Pedestrians are scurrying happily (the atmosphere is that of joy, celebration and exaltation).

PRESENTER

(V.O.)

... radical changes in architecture of the network caused by unknown phenomena brought the entire network to a better quality level. It remains unknown what caused the restructuring, who is the designer of it and what maintains operation of the network in its present status. Experts predict that current status is not at the utmost limit. We will be optimistic about the future...

The camera is nearing Biotech Corporation building, flies into the window: Greg is lying on a platform of a device that resembles a brain tomograph.

DR. HOPER

Ready?

GREG

Ready.

Dr. Hoper is fiddling with the device. The platform with Greg lying on it moves into the body of the "brain tomograph".

FADE OUT.

THE END.