

The Revolutionist

EP. 2 THOSE WHO PLAY FAIR

FADE TO:

INT:THE SHADE-FLAT-LIVING ROOM

You are sitting on a SOFA watching 3D immersive TV. Your mother, a darkskin woman walks in with food on a PLATE. She has a waning shimmer in her eyes.

DARKSKIN WOMAN

Gotcha favourite.

SMASH!!

Your mother looks outside, her shimmer now extinguished, she PUTS DOWN the PLATE and darts a look your way.

DARKSKIN WOMAN

Go.

You spin round and run into another room. The door slams and you look at the door.

SLAM!

MAN(O.S.)

Where's de boy?

DARKSKIN WOMAN(O.S.)

No.

SLAP!

MAN(O.S.)

Stupid bitch!

THUD! PUNCH!

Muffled screams and yelps are heard from behind the door. You GRAB the handle of the door and FLING it open, you JUMP on the man and BITE his ear!

MAN
(SCREAMS)

FUCK!!

The man grabs you and CHUCKS you into a FRIDGE. DUNK! He STUMBLES over and BOOTS you in the stomach. You bend over looking at the floor.

DARKSKIN WOMAN (O.S.)
NO!!

You get PICKED up by the man, his green eyes stare at you glazed with drunkenness.

MAN
You think you can beat me up huh. Hit me. Hit me!

You PUNCH his face. His grip on your shirt remains tight and his face unfazed.

MAN
You can't hurt me. You ain't strong enough you ain't eva gonna be strong enough. I know it's not fair is it, well guess what. The world ain't fuckin fair.

THUD! Another JAB to your gut. You flop to the ground.

MAN(CONT'D)
Remember that.

He gets up and stumbles out. Your mother runs over to you, the blood on her face diluted with tears.

DARKSKIN WOMAN
(CRYING)
I told you to hide! Why didn't you listen?

You see the reflection of your face in her tear drenched eyes.

INVISIBLE CUT TO:

YOU

I'm gonna be strong enough to stop him one day mom.
I promise.

The young lightskin boy turns to his side bruised with tears in his eyes, as his mother holds him close.

DARKSKIN WOMAN

No Timothy. Just promise me you won't end up like him.

CUT TO:

EXT:THE SHADE-JUNKYARD-NIGHTTIME

TIMOTHY(V.O.)

I promise.

The robotic arm of Beamer lays lifeless and apart from it's owner in the rubble. Eli stands over it.

CUT TO:

EXT:THE SHADE-CORNERSHOP-LATER

Beamer's robotic arm FLOPS down onto a countertop. A man with a pair of robotic eyes looks at the arm SCANNING it. Then looks back up at Eli suspiciously.

ELI

You wanna know where I got it or the lowest price you can get it for.

ROBOTIC EYES

How much.

ELI

3000 digits.

ROBOTIC EYES

(CHUCKLES)

Calm. You know how much dis costs right? Now I feel like I *should* buy it for a fair price.

ELI

You want it or not?

ROBOTIC EYES

Say no more.

The pawnbroker TAPS the implant in the side of his head and TYPES in mid air.

BING!

Eli looks at his WATCH, his notification reads.

'3000 Digits have been added to your account'

Eli sighs a sigh of relief. CUT IN to the value of money on the WATCH.

CUT TO:

INT:THE SHADE-HOSPITAL-NIGHTTIME

A CLOSE UP of the WATCH is shown as its digits rapidly decrease from 2500 to 200.

Eli's sighs and his shoulders sag, only for a moment as the hospital doors slide open and his mother walks in on her own looking more spry. Eli smiles.

INVISIBLE CUT TO:

EXT:THE SHADE-MORNING

In the same location episode 1 ended on, Eli walks to school with HEADPHONES in. His head doesn't bop.

CUT TO:

EXT: THE SHADE-TRAIN STATION-LATER

Eli stands on the train. The music playing is slowly muted by the growing sound of screaming.

CUT TO:

EP 1 in the climax when Eli bonds with the suit.

Eli grabs the tail and the guy's neck. He starts PULLING until the tail is ripped out. The man screams in pain.

CUT BACK TO:

EXT: THE SHADE-TRAIN STATION-LATER

Eli's jaw clenches, his nostrils flare as he pants.

CUT TO:

INT:THE SHADE-SCHOOL-CLASSROOM

Eli sits in a small classroom along with about 40 other teens. The ROBOT at the front ORATES the words on a HOLOGRAPHIC BOARD. The actual teacher sits on her DESK watching something on her screen. Other teens CHAT and distract themselves. Ree looks at Eli who is just SCRIBBLING on his TABLET and then deleting it.

REE

Bro what happened last night? You know Beamer's dead right?

ELI

What?

REE

Why are you sayin 'what' you saw him last?

ELI

He just asked me to be a lookout while he robbed a store. After dat he paid me a couple digits and I ducked yard. Who killed him?

REE

Don't know bare people saying it's some new donny. His whole crew got smoked and some greenies were there too.
(Looks at Eli)

Eli's STARING down his eyes are uneasy.

REE

(Concerned)

Bro are you good?

ELI

Huh? Yeah. I just need to get some jits. Beamer paid me less than he said he would.

Eli's head lowers into his **CROSSED** arms.

PING!

Eli looks at his **WATCH**, the notification says '300 digits added to your account: From **REE**.'

Eli looks to Ree.

ELI

Thanks bro.

REE

It's minor.

Eli **GAZES** at the teacher.

ELI

Why pay her if she just sits there and does nothing. Fuck is she even watching?

MECHANIC VOICE(V.O.)

Executing command.

Eli's eyes **SPARKLE** purple. Through Eli's **POV** a screen pops up. Eli's head cocks back in confusion. The screen is a **Soulpane** tab, the video playing is a dumb **CAT** video. It's got a slice of **CHEESE** on its face and it's moving erratically. The teacher **CHUCKLES**.

ELI

(WHISPERS)

How the-?

REE

What?

ELI

I gotta take a dump.

CUT TO:

INT:THE SHADE-SCHOOL-TOILET

Eli bursts in and enters a cubicle. He **TWISTS** his wrists and his watch projects a screen that acts as a mirror. He sees the purple light dancing in his eyes.

ELI

What is that?

A.I.(V.O.)

That is simply an indication that I. Your A.I. system am online.

ELI

Who's there?

A.I.(V.O.)

I am your personal A.I. After bonding with you yesterday I am now part of you. You are now a part of me and in turn possess the ability to think at the same speed and with the same logic as a quantum computer.

ELI(V.O.)

So you can hear me?

A.I.(V.O.)

Technically I'm not hearing you but yes we are telepathically linked.

ELI

(WHISPER)

FUUUUUUUUUK. I have-

ELI AND A.I.(V.O.)

The intelligence of a supercomputer.

ELI

(Whisper)

Don't do that again. Actually how do I turn you off in my head but keep your knowledge.

A.I.(V.O.)

However you want, I do whatever you command in word or thought.

ELI

(Whisper)

In thought?

ELI(V.O.)

Quiet.

Silence.

ZIP.

ELI(V.O.)

What's the capital of England?

In Eli's POV a screen pops up of GOOGLE, its a search result of London.

ELI(V.O.)

Speak.

PI-PING!

ELI

What are the Six Sun Cities?

A.I.(V.O.)

The Six Sun Cities are the most affluent cities in the world that all use over 85 percent renewable energy. They consist of London, Lagos, Shanghai, Tokyo, New York and Dubai. All established 135 years ago. They have become the pioneers of all technological and biological advancements in the world.

ELI

How much information on the internet is restricted from you?

A.I.(V.O.)

With time any and all information that has ever been digitised is at my disposal, and in turn yours.

ELI

Stop thinking ahead, it's creepy. Second question.

ELI(V.O.)

Is there a limit to how much knowledge I can access without damaging my physical brain?

A.I.(V.O.)

Yes.

ELI

Calm. So I'm not all knowing. Can I access memories?

A.I.(V.O.)

Yes, which ones would you like to see?

ELI

I said stop thinking ahead. I want to know why you made me kill all those people. They weren't good but-they were still people.

A.I.(V.O.)

Apologise, this was due to the default programming that exists in the suit.

ELI

Suit? You said you were an A.I.?

A.I.(V.O.)

I am a personalised Polywear full fit suit.

Eli's eyes widened.

ELI

You said...What?

A.I.(V.O.)

Polywear Full fit. A robotic suit of armour that uses hardware and software. Hardware is a Mechanical or robotic part that can modify the physical aptitude of the human body. E.G. A mechanical tail, or robotic eyes. Software is an usually internal mechanical or robotic implant that modifies the functions of the human body via manipulation of electrical waves or pulses. E.G. Polylingualism or x-ray vision. Full fit Polywear is a bodily enhancement that possesses both and that is fused with its wearer. Making the wearer no longer human but a cyborg. Your particular suit uses nanotechnology allowing you to transform between being completely in your full fit and looking like you as you do now.

ELI(V.O.)

How much of me is human.

A.I.(V.O.)

Philosophically, Spiritually or-

ELI

Physically.

A.I.(V.O.)

By definition of a human body being made up of cells...33 percent. When you were slashed your heart was directly attacked and your brain fortunately was salvaged, but to survive your body needed to be reconstructed somewhat and other unnecessary parts were deleted.

ELI

Is my dick made up of little robots now?

A.I.(V.O.)

No. It is still 100% biological.

Eli sighs relieved.

ELI

And my mind.

Mentally you are 100 percent you. However you now have the equivalent of 100 percent of another brain merged with your own.

ELI

Including me how many other people on the planet have a Polywear full fit.

A.I.(V.O.)

37.

ELI

Woah. How dangerous is this suit?

A.I.(V.O.)

This suit has the potential to destroy all of London if left unopposed.

Eli leans back, WIPING his face. He sits blinking.

ELI

I'm a walking superweapon.

A.I.(V.O.)

Put crudely, potentially yes.

ELI(V.O.)

Does anyone know I have this suit?

A.I.(V.O.)

No.

Eli NODS to himself.

ELI

Cool, cool cool. You said default programming made you kill the other people there last night. What's your default programming?

A.I.(V.O.)

To serve the wearer in any way they desire and keep them living for as long as possible unless commanded to do otherwise by said wearer.

ELI

You're saying if my body goes critical you take over to keep me alive by any and all means necessary?

A.I.(V.O.)

Precisely.

ELI

You're here to serve me however I want, fine I need money. Can you hack into a rich person's account and syphon it secretly.

A.I.(V.O.)

Yes however if your objective is to obtain large amounts of money illegally without being caught, this would be an inefficient method. Any digitised currency would be dangerous. All digits are monitored. Ever since the global bank was established money has essentially become controlled by the government. Unless done in small incremental amounts from multiple different accounts, and then digitally laundered. You will be easily caught.

ELI

Can you do all that in one day?

A.I.(V.O.)

No.

ELI

So the only way I can get money fast and illegally is if it's still physical. The memories from last night, can I erase those memories?

A.I.(V.O.)

At your command.

Eli looks down at his reflection in the floor tiles. His jaw CLENCHES. He gets up.

ELI

No. For now, Quiet.

ZIP.

Eli walks out of the toilet.

ELI(V.O.)

Also stop with the sparkly eye thing. You're baitin me out.

CUT TO:

Eli walks through the hallway passing by other students, guards and teachers.

ELI(V.O.)

Just walking around with a super computer and the rarest kind of weapon on the planet for a brain and body. I can level a city but can't get 4000 digits.

Eli re-enters the classroom, sits in his seat. Other students sit with their desks turned in a circle taking turns making beats DRUMMING on the desks.

BAM! BA-BAM! BABABABA!

CUT TO:

INT:THE SHADE-POLICE STATION-SHOOTING RANGE

BANG! BANG! BANG!

An officer lowers his FIREARM smiling.

OFFICER

Anyone think they can beat that? Ain't no techhead in The Shade that can handle what I got for em.

Other officers all LAUGH or APPLAUD the fed's feat. The TARGET has a head shot three times in it.

The CAMERA PANS to the side of the men all laughing, revealing Inspector Brackley at a different shooting stall. She sees them laughing, she SIGHS. Walking towards the group of men.

INSPECTOR BRACKLEY

We aren't meant to kill techwearers. We destroy their tech, not them. If the best you can do is headshots you are only as good as the techwearers on the street. Not better.

All the men turn her way, looking like she ruined their fun.

OFFICER

Then please Inspector Brackley. Show me how it's done.

FED(O.S.)

If she can.

The men CHUCKLE. The inspector walks up to the officer's stall. RAISING her forearm, it's fitted with armour that seems to have a strange BLACK LIQUID in it. She looks at the target in front of her and the other ones lined up for other stalls.

The liquid escapes, MORPHING the forearm into a MULTI BARRELLED CANNON.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

The arm of the target gets hit three times and BLOWN OFF on the third.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

The other arm of the target gets blown off.

Inspector Brackley lowers her forearm and it returns to its original form as the liquid returns to its containment.

OFFICER

Eh inspector you were meant to hit the head.

The others laugh.

OFFICER

Plus you're using techwear not firearms like us.

INSPECTOR BRACKLEY

(Fake ditzy)

Oh well you should've said.

Inspector GRABS his firearm. Her eyes GLIMMER blue.

BANG!! BANG!!...BANG!! BANG!!...BANG!! BANG!!...BANG!! BANG!!
BANG!! BANG!! BANG!! BANG!!

All the other officers in the shooting range LEAN out to look at the inspector's stall as she's put two holes in all of their targets and then SIX in the same target as the officer.

She HOLDS his hand gently giving him back his firearm.

INSPECTOR BRACKLEY

(ladylike)

You should brush up a bit on your aim. But good try though!

Inspector Brackley walks out.

CUT TO:

INT:THE SHADE-POLICE STATION-HALL

Inspector Brackley walks in a hall filled with fellow law enforcers all with their own DESK going about their business. An officer sitting at his desk leans back.

OFFICER

Reyland wants you. Something about the Ricochettes case.

Brackley looks at an office elevated by a platform at the end of the hall.

CUT TO:

INT:THE SHADE-POLICE STATION-HALL-OFFICE

Commissioner Reyland,(early 50s) a man with mousy blonde hair and weary eyes. Sits in his CHAIR SWIPING through DIGITAL PAPERWORK. Inspector Brackley enters the office.

INSPECTOR BRACKLEY

I was told there was a development in my case sir?

The commissioner swipes away the holographic documents.

COMMISSIONER REYLAND

I'm only going to say this once because I can't have the information I'm about to tell you leave this room.

INSPECTOR BRACKLEY

Of course.

COMMISSIONER REYLAND

Another body was found at the scene. I didn't tell you last night because again I couldn't risk anyone else knowing about it. Louis Bellington was killed.

The inspector looks to the left bottom corner of the screen, eyes narrowing.

From Brackley's POV a Google search page pops up.

INSPECTOR BRACKLEY

Louis Bellington?

The search results show a brunette haired pompous young man standing next to Mr. Bellington. In front of the art exhibition competition in 2221.

INSPECTOR BRACKLEY (CONT'D)

Mr. Bellington? I was stationed at the art exhibition he funded yesterday. Mr. Bellington's son? What's a rich kid like that doing in The Shade?

COMMISSIONER REYLAND

Apparently making a deal.

INSPECTOR BRACKLEY

He was the other dealer?

COMMISSIONER REYLAND

Yeah I know. None of this information leaves here.

INSPECTOR BRACKLEY

Done, I'll make sure to tell my team-

COMMISSIONER REYLAND

That includes your team.

INSPECTOR BRACKLEY

But sir-

COMMISSIONER REYLAND

Though you haven't been here long you've proven you're a capable asset to this division. I'd appreciate you continuing to do so.

INSPECTOR BRACKLEY

Thank you, sir. Can I ask, who gave the order to keep this information quiet?

COMMISSIONER REYLAND

All I know is it's from the top. I don't know who specifically but clearly someone above both our paygrades. To investigate this quietly I'll give you all the jurisdiction you need to move solo if you need.

Inspector Brackley turns around, her hand grips the door handle fist CLENCHED.

INSPECTOR BRACKLEY

Thanks.

Inspector Brackley leaves the room. Opening the door. Then closing it behind her.

INVISIBLE CUT TO:

EXT:THE SUNNYSIDE-MANSION-NOON

A door opens into a large mansion, women in lingerie FROLIC around being chased by old men.

The camera traverses through the mansion's different rooms from the front door through the study, lounge, livingroom kitchen and bedrooms. Each room filled with old men and women engaging hellishly hedonistic activities. The camera finally reaches a room with Mr.Bellington sitting with other men casually discussing.

MR.BELLINGTON

The appeal of such activities always confuses me.

RICH OLD FUCK 1

I concur.

Mr.Bellington CHORTLES with his other wealthy peers. Suddenly his eyes flash blue.

FEMALE ELECTRONIC VOICE(V.O.)
MR.Bellington, you are needed urgently.

Mr.Bellington's face grows subtly irritated.

MR.BELLINGTON
I'll be right back, gentlemen.

As Mr.Bellington gets up, the entire room SWIRLS transforming back into his office. He gets up from his CHAIR.

MR.BELLINGTON
What.

FEMALE ELECTRONIC VOICE(V.O.)
The police are here to see you.

In a CLOSE UP of Mr.Bellington's face his eyebrows FURROW confused.

MR.BELLINGTON
What? Why?

CUT TO:

In the same framing Mr.Bellington's face now numb with shock glazed over his eyes. The CAMERA slowly distances itself. A concussive ringing like a bomb just blew up dominates the audio.

COMMISSIONER REYLAND (O.S.)
(MUFFLED)
I'm very sorry for your loss Mr.Bellington. An investigation has been launched. We have kept your son's name out of the knowledge of the media.

MR.BELLINGTON
(Numb)

Who else knows about my son's involvement other than the prime minister and the judge involved in the case.

COMMISSIONER REYLAND

Just me and the detective assigned to the case. She's been strongly advised not to tell her team. If there is anything I can do to help, me and everyone at the station are at your disposal.

MR.BELLINGTON

I need to get my affairs in order.

BOOWAP!

The screen disappears. Mr.Bellington walks over to his desk SITS down. His fist SHAKES and RAISES it in the air, just before it descends.

CUT TO:

INT: THE SHADE-SCHOOL-SPORTS HALL-AFTERNOON

BANG! BANG! BANG!

A BASKETBALL pounds the ground, teenagers DASH across the court all yelling orders. Ree and Eli SIT on the bench. Eli stays staring at the ground, Ree lens over.

REE

Eli.

Eli looks over surprised. From his POV google searches about 'jobs in your area' MINIMISE out of view.

ELI

Yeah?

REE

You're gonna be ok. I know it's tough but you know how it is, we move. We get the paper anyway no matter what.

ELI

Eh, yeah. Yeah you right. Random question: how much does a Polywear cost on average?

REE

You got some Polywear on you brudda! You got a couple million you're hiding from me!

ELI

No! But a milli to become a monster?

REE

I know you're a 84 yr old man in a 17 yr old's body but to most people in this era, the idea of enhancing your body to superhuman levels sounds good. Sounds good to me. You really need to get some implants. Also you can't afford polywear.

ELI

I know G, but like, how much would it cost tho?

REE

Literally at least 113.5 million. And that's not even including if it's personalised.

ELI

How much is that?

REE

Brudda you talkin 400-700 mill.

ELI

So if it was a full fi-

REE

Nigga a full fit doesn't exist. No company's pulled it off yet. Plus it's illegal to even try. You would essentially be making a god.

SCREECH!!!

A player lies on the floor HOLDING his ankle. The captain of the green team. Looks at his teammate's ankle and then looks at the bench area.

GREEN CAPTAIN

We need a sub!

He points at Ree.

GREEN CAPTAIN

Ree we need you!

The captain of the blue team walks up to Eli and Ree.

BLUE CAPTAIN

Nah allow dat, you know he's worth two players. You take Eli.

ELI

Aight.

GREEN CAPTAIN

(GROANS)

Eli gets up. Two friends on opposing teams both watch Eli. The friend on the blue team TAPS the friend in green.

BLUE TEAM MEMBER

(Whispers)

Bet you 20 digits. We're gonna win now.

GREEN TEAM MEMBER

(Whispers)

He's bad but not dat bad, aight bet.

Eli PURSES his lips.

ELI(V.O.)

You said that I'm more machine than man. How fast can I move now? Speak.

PI-PING!

A.I.(V.O.)

As of now over 50 miles per hour on foot with training over 300.

ELI(O.V.)

Ok how do I turn on my speed without transforming.

A.I.(V.O.)

However you want.

ELI(V.O.)

Helpful.

(sarcastic)

Ok, em...

Eli CLOSES his eyes.

ELI

Speed 30%

A blue teammate PASSES a ball.

VOOSHH!!! Eli SLAPS the ball too hard.

BOW!!! The basketball POPS upon hitting the ground. Everyone looks at Eli.

GREEN CAPTAIN

De fuck?!

ELI

Someone pumped it too much, probably.

GREEN CAPTAIN

Ree get your boy.

ELI

I got it.

(V.O.)

Way too fast. Let's try that again. Speed 15%

Eli WEAVES through the players waiting for a pass. He LEAPS catching the ball mid air and DARTS for the hoop. A blue player jumps in the way. But he looks more clear as if he's more saturated in a higher resolution.

ELI

Woah.

Eli SPINS past him seamlessly, and scores a LAYUP.

ELI

That was-

(V.O.)

So easy. Hold on, can I essentially get all the stuff a computer does but in my head, So. 'Play All the way up' Shit.

(Elated)

I almost feel bad like I'm cheatin!

Play 'All the way up'

Eli gets into position and Ree looks at a now grinning Eli. The ball gets thrown into court Eli INTERCEPTS.

The first blue player gets in the way.

Eli

SLAMS the ball into the ground then through one leg then the other and does a CROSS OVER.

The second chases him.

Eli

Abruptly stops and starts running again, the player stubbles but doesn't fall. Eli pops a 3 pointer.

SWISH!

REE

Man like Eli yeah!!

GREEN CAPTAIN

Don't gas yourself. Pass to me, you're not dat guy!

ELI

Sure.

(V.O.)

Shut up.

The captain gets the ball two people double team him he passes to a teammate, they get intercepted.

GREEN CAPTAIN

Shit!

A blue player heads into the D and SHOOTs.

BANG!!

Eli followed by a gust of wind SMACKS the ball down. Eli in a green blur speeds through the court. The camera weaves through legs and arms following Eli.

BLUE CAPTAIN

Double team him!!

Two blues stand in front of Eli. His grin GROWS into a smile. Eli straightens from his hunched over stride, only to DIP out of frame. The camera TRACKS Eli who is now standing on one leg bouncing the ball still.

Both players lean too far to the side and fall over.

Eli runs to the net. The blue captain leaps up over from behind. Eli DUCKS the captain misses. Eli holds the ball with two hands.

ELI(V.O.)

Strength 5%

Eli ROCKETS in the air. SLAM!! He DUNKS the ball. Eli holds on hanging for a good 2 seconds and then lands and then runs back to his side.

BLUE CAPTAIN

When did he start trainin!

REE

Brodde don't look at me.

CUT TO:

All the players are tired Eli too. As the green team heads out each of them spud Eli. Ree walks up to Eli.

REE

What's wit you today? You MVP now. Tryna take my spot?

Ree DAPS up Eli, while sitting beside him.

ELI

Ion even know, I just entered the zone all o my skills from my parkour days finally translated, and then the rest is history.

REE

Sorry, Lebron.

Eli SHOVES Ree. Ree and Eli laugh.

WOMAN(V.O.)

(Panic)

He's dead! Who de fuck killed him!?

CUT TO:

EXT:THE SHADE-ABANDONED BUILDING-PARKING LOT-LATER

A woman with bright red hair RED (20's) PACES angrily. The parking lot has multiple large vans with barrels of an orange liquid inside. Behind her men carry out the barrels and seem to be distributing it. In one of the vans on the radio the song 'Many men' by 50 cent plays. One of the henchmen with a gold tooth tries to appease his leader.

GOLD TOOTH

Who cares? If Beamer's dead it's less competition.

WOMAN

Think Dickhead! Beamer was closest in deez ends to an actual boss, other than Rez. Everyone was busy tryna avoid or get rid of him. If Beamer ain't keepin competition busy who the fuck you think everyone's attention goin to next!

REZ(O.S.)

Why wouldn't Beamer be keepin competition busy Red.

Red whips around startled. A white man REZ (40's) with two robotic blood red arms and white hair, STROLLS out from up the exit staircase. Lifting two huge bags.

RED

Rez! I-Eh-

REZ

Spit it out Red.

Rez puts them down.

RED

Beamer's dead.

Rez pouts THINKING to himself.

REZ

(Regretful)

I told him he was doin too much. Who pulled it off.

GOLD TOOTH

Nobody knows. Everyone there died too.

REZ

I always said never deal with greenies. But nobody listens to olders deez days. He must've finally met someone with more firepower.

RED

So now what?

REZ

We continue production. Get some recruits, we're gonna need more men.

RED

Won't that just bait us out?

REZ

Beamer's turf is up for grabs. We either stay unnoticed and have someone else take it or get noticed but expand. We expand. Our clientele is gonna grow and give us more to handle. We gotta have the facilities to provide the service.

RED

And competition?

REZ

The only competition we need to worry bout is the donnie who killed Beamer. But regardless, the game's changin. Time to adapt.

CUT TO:

EXT:THE SHADE-TRAIN-EVENING

Eli stands on the train SCROLLING through multiple job openings. All of them being lower than 1000 digits a month. Eli sighs.

BOY (O.S.)

Hey!

GIRL

HaaHaaaa!!! I win!

Eli turns to see two kids playing a game of 'Rock paper scissors'. The boy's arms FLAIL around indignantly.

BOY

That's not fair you cheated!

GIRL

No I didn't!

CUT TO:

EXT:THE SHADE-PARK-BASKETBALL COURT-AFTERNOON

Young kids run around and one hits the ground as another scores a point. A young Eli groans.

ELI

Ow! Foul!!

TIMOTHY

Foul?

Timothy turns to Eli. A young Ree helps Eli up. All the other boys pause the play.

ELI(CONT'D)

That wasn't fair!

TIMOTHY

I bodied you and scored!?

ELI

You're bigger than me!

TIMOTHY

So? You're faster than me. You wanna win? Use whatever you got, who cares about fair?

BACK TO:

EXT:THE SHADE-TRAIN-EVENING

Eli's eyes narrow

TIMOTHY(V.O.)

(To teammates)

PFFT fair. He's talkin like the entire world's fair.
(Chuckle)

TEAMMATES

(Chuckle)

CUT TO:

INT:THE SHADE-SCHOOL-TOILET

ELI

Can you hack into a rich person's account and syphon it secretly.

A.I.(V.O.)

Yes however if your objective is to obtain large amounts of money illegally without being caught this would be an inefficient method. Any digitised currency would be dangerous. All digits are monitored. Ever since the global bank was established money has essentially become controlled by the government. Unless done in small incremental amounts from multiple different accounts then digitally laundered you will be easily caught.

ELI

Can you do all that in one day?

A.I.(V.O.)

No.

ELI

So the only way I can get money fast and illegally is if it's still physical.

CUT TO:

INT:THE SHADE-SCHOOL-SPORTS HALL-AFTERNOON

Two friends on opposing teams both watch Eli. The friend on the blue team TAPS the friend in green.

BLUE TEAM MEMBER

(Whispers)

Bet you 20 digits. We're gonna win now.

GREEN TEAM MEMBER

(Whispers)

He's bad but not dat bad, aight bet.

BACK TO:

EXT:THE SHADE-TRAIN-EVENING

Eli's mouth opens into a smile of revelation.

ELI

Bet.

CUT TO:

INT:THE SHADE-GAMBLING ARCADE-LATER

Eli walks into the building looking around, lights flash and signs bing, ping and ding. 5 men all sit about to start playing a game of Poker. One is dealing. Among them is officer greenwood.

GREENWOOD

That bitch got me fired! A man can't take a break sometimes!? She's literally a sket it's her job to fuck guys. And Brackley, shouldn't she know nobody likes snitches.

FELLOW PLAYER

What, is she black?

GREENWOOD

Not just that, she has her own rap sheet! She used to be a thief, stole over 500,000 digits worth of shit! Fuckin hypocrite! I ain't working with a woman in my next division

ELI(V.O.)

Next time don't fuck on the job. Stupid prick. I think I've got my guinea pig

Eli walks over to the table.

ELI

Room for one more?

The men size up Eli.

GREENWOOD

Piss off kid. This is the big boys table.

ELI

I got 500. Not much but it's easy money.

GREENWOOD

Deal him in.

The cards get dealt and Eli holds his cards.

ELI(V.O.)

Alright let's see if this works. Activate X-Ray vision.

The whole room goes X-ray. The entire building disappears. And the view of the street behind the building as well as the other skyscrapers filling The Shade.

ELI(V.O.)

The fu- Not that much! I still need to see the people, I just need to see the other side of the cards.

The room and players come back into view, but their cards can now be seen.

Eli SQUINTS. Looking at the 5 mens cards the numbers and images on them are reversed like a mirror view.

ELI(V.O.)
Of course.

A.I.(V.O.)
Auto editing to reverse image.

The cards then reverse and their numbers and ranks are easy to see.

ELI(V.O.)
Nice.

Staring at the cards everyone has he sees everyone's cards. He looks at the other players cards. He looks at their cards. And then at the cards about to be dealt.

A.I.(V.O.)
With your cards you could place a four of a kind.

ELI(V.O.)
He's got a full house though.

Greenwood's friend beside him is wearing a black jacket with a wrinkly face. His eyelids lower almost imperceptibly and the left corner of his mouth bends ever so slightly upwards.

A.I.(V.O.)
It's your decision of what to do next.

The dealer puts down the cards.

BLACK JACKET
Full house. Hehe.

The other players fold. They look at Eli who hasn't folded.

ELI
Straight.

Greenwood turns his head slightly, sizing up the kid.

BLACK JACKET
(Sarcastic)
Sure you do kid.

The other men CHUCKLE.

Eli looks at black jacket. His eyes aren't laughing.

ELI
(Serious)
Like I said straight.

The two look at each other. The two gazes clash. The left corner of Eli's mouth bends ever so slightly upwards. The man in the black jacket frowns.

BLACK JACKET
(Irritated)
Fold.
(Leans back)

Eli grins as he puts down his two cards.

ELI
Thanks for the free money.
(Gets up)

Eli turns around

GREENWOOD(O.S.)
The fuck you think you're going. The game's just starting. We do 6 rounds at least.

Eli sits back down.

ELI
Aight den, deal me in.

Start montage.

The cards get dealt.

Eli looks at the faces of the men and sees all their micro expressions.

The players call their ranks.

Eli calls his.

He folds.

The cards get dealt.

Eli sees the numbers of the men's cards.

The players call their ranks.

Eli calls his.

The players fold. Eli wins again.

Then Eli wins again.

And again.

The last round and it's just Eli and Greenwood holding their cards.

ELI
Flush.

GREENWOOD
Straight flush.

ELI
(Unbothered)
You sure you wanna do dat.

GREENWOOD
(Hostile)
Make your fuckin call kid.

ELI
Shoulda folded.

The two put down their cards. Eli's is a flush and Greenwood's a two pair. Greenwood SLAPS his cards away as Eli gets up.

ELI
GG. gents.

Si walks over to a man at a counter. A machine with a cash outlet stands behind the man.

ELI

Hands the man his watch.

The man TAPS the watch on the machine screen. And it reads, 'wins total 2,500 pounds' cash then FLOWS out into two stacks. The man WRAPS them in rubber bands and hands it to Eli.

CUT TO:

EXT:THE SHADE-GAMBLING ARCADE

Eli walks out with bands of 2,500 pounds smiling.

ELI(V.O.)

Whoever said cheaters never win must've been a cheater. Now I just got one thing left to test.

INT:THE SHADE-THE RING-NIGHTTIME

DI-DING! Eli opens a door entering a giant hall and stares as he sees different men and women in different rings beating robots and robots beating men fighters. The hall rings with the sounds of THUDS DONGS and BOOFS. Some techwearers look at Eli as he walks into the building. In particular a large man in a blue jacket.

Blue Jacket

Fresh meat.

(Giggles)

His friends join in. Eli's eyes are stuck on a sparring dummy. He doesn't respond.

He enters the ring.

ELI

Level 8.

The robot awakens.

ROBOT

Level 8 activated.

Eli's eyes dance purple.

ELI(V.O.)
Speed 20, Pain 100.

ROBOT
Steps towards him JABS twice. Eli dodges both.

ELI(V.O.)
Pressure points. Show em.

Multiple Xs show on the robot.

ELI
Which one's hardest.

One X remains right under the ribcage of the robot.

ELI
(HOSTILE)
(HUFFS)
You're mine.

ELI
Steps and sways close to the robot.

ROBOT
Swings with a RIGHT HOOK, LEFT JAB and UPPERCUT. Eli gets hit with the hook but dodges the other two.

ELI
SLAMS his FIST into the pressure point. DING.

ROBOT
Unfazed lets of TWO JABS

ELI
Gets hit with both STRIKES but manages to HIT its FACE and the pressure point again, DONG!

ROBOT
Head spins 360 back to face Eli it goes for body shots Eli's eyes spark purple.

Everything slows and becomes hyper clear, the shine of the robot's metal, the dust particles in the air moving around it's fist...The small gap in the pressure point.

ELI

SPINS on the ball of his foot UPPERCUTTING the point. DING!

ROBOT

Instantly SMACKS down on Eli's HEAD he reels.

ELI

Grunts as he RETURNS a blow to its CHIN. DING!!

ROBOT

UPPERCUTS Eli in the face. His head WHIPS back as BLOOD flies out.

ELI

Head whips back down just as fast, his eyes hazy as consciousness fades.

ELI(V.O.)

Just one.

ROBOT

Goes in for a four hit combo. TWO HOOKS, ONE LEFT UPPERCUT and CROSS.

ELI

Dodges all and just before the last one nears his face, his eyes widen.

Everything becomes crystal clear, high resolution and saturated. The pressure point almost shimmers begging to be hit.

ELI(V.O.)

GOTCHU!

DONG!!!

The robot's fist CRASHES into Eli's cheek sending him to the floor but Eli's fist SMASHES into the pressure point too.

CUT TO BLACK:

Eli reawakens to laughing.

BLUE JACKET

Dis yout is done out for real!

(LAUGHING)

My NIGGA!! Y'know not errybody can be a fighter!

Eli gets up, spitting blood out of his mouth.

ELI(V.O.)

How effective was the hit.

A.I.(V.O.)

99 PERCENT EFFECTIVE.

Eli gets out of the ring walking towards the exit.

ELI(V.O.)

Then why ain't it on the ground.

(WHISPERS)

Fucks sake.

The boxer in the blue jacket goes into the ring.

BLUE JACKET

LEVEL 12. Time to test my upgrade.

ROBOT

LEVEL 12 ACTIVATED.

The robot steps forward and the guy in the blue jack JABS with his robotic arm..

BOOOM!!!

The robot's side completely explodes like hit by an invisible rocket. It folds and FLOPS to the floor.

Eli looks back.

BLUE JACKET(O.S.)

You niggas ain't ready for dis upgrade, damn it's de best this whole decade.

He smiles. And walks out.

CUT TO:

INT:A Dark room

Bloodstained WEAPONS and TORTURE TOOLS mount the walls of the room. Some more blood is added on to them from out of frame. Bodily fluids of all kinds stain the walls as well as the floor. A motor and razor are operating but a noise of dread louder than the machines fills the room.

WOMAN
(SCREAMS)

Mr.Bellington leans in towards the source of the screams. His eyes still as cold as ever, but under the ice a glint of pleasure. He leans even closer about to open his mouth.

DING!

MR.BELLINGTON
(Turns around)

Fuck! What is it!

Mr.Bellington slaps a button that digitally constructs perfectly at the same time in mid air. Back faced towards us we still can't see who's screaming but it has now subsided to teary sobs and pants. A blue holographic notification hovers in mid air in front of him. It reads 'The bounty hunters have arrived.'

MR.BELLINGTON
(GROANS)

Deactivate V.A.R.I.

The room swirls until reverting back to a large room. With a plaque hanging above the doorway it reads. 'Adapt or die' Bellington walks out. Through a hallway and into the living room with a mechanic pad near a fireplace. Mr.Bellington stands on it.

MR.BELLINGTON
Poppy start the broadcast.

A screen pops up showing a room full of other projections of multiple individuals all in with some form of tech wear, on stand looking up at us.

MR.BELLINGTON

I'm going to keep this short and brief. Someone from The Shade killed my son. I want that person dead at least and at best brought to me alive. Either way I'll pay 66 million digits for whoever does it. You all know who I am so you know this is an expenditure I can casually afford. I don't care how you do it, I just want it done. Go.

The transmission ends and Mr.Bellington walks towards the camera and looks up. His eyes somehow narrow even more, only for him to PINCH the bridge of his nose.

MR.BELLINGTON

Poppy I need to relax. Activate V.A.R.I.

He walks out of frame.

CUT TO:

A portrait of Louis hangs over where Mr.Bellington stood.

Play 'Mercy on me' By Pop Smoke.

Credits