

Script 1

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INT. BEDROOM - MARCH 13, 2125 - MORNING

The camera starts by looking at a pair of shoes on the ground, the shoes are an interesting mix of very futuristic yet worn and aged.

STERLING (V.O.)
Hello, Welcome to earth. More specifically, the earth in the year 2125. Way back in the year 2039 the company Next Tech invented the end of the normal world.

The camera changes to now be showing a desk that is scattered with school supplies.

STERLING (V.O.) (CONT'D)
They called it the Brain Augmentation for a Better Reality, which I guess was a mouthful because nowadays people just call it the ABR - for Augmented Better Reality. The ABR used to be a surgery of choice only available for the mega rich families.

The camera transitions to be pointing towards an empty bed that has blankets spread across the surface

STERLING (V.O.) (CONT'D)
However, nearly a hundred years of ABR upgrades later it's been mandated by the government that every child should receive their very own implant on their thirteenth birthday.

The camera makes it's final transition to be looking towards the alarm clock that is a hologram coming from a small silver dot on a table.

STERLING (V.O.) (CONT'D)
And that's where my real story begins.

The camera is still looking at the alarm clock but we hear an alarm start up, it's the usual alarm clock style series of beeps.

INT. BEDROOM - MARCH 13, 2125 - MORNING

The camera shows us a young boy sleeping in his bed, blankets scattered across the bed. It's the same bedroom as the intro.

Near the bed we see a night stand with a glass of water, a cell phone, and the boy's pair of glasses resting on top of the table. The camera moves closer to the boy sleeping. STERLING wakes up to his usual alarm playing on his cell phone. Sterling reaches over and shuts off his alarm while rubbing his eyes. As Sterling turns off his alarm, an advertisement plays from his phone.

PHONE (PRE RECORDED VOICE)

Good Morning! Next Tech here and we would like to personally wish you a happy thirteenth birthday! We look forward to your procedure scheduled for 2:30 pm today!

STERLING

Oh Shut up you greedy liars.

The phone then plays the Next Tech jingle and slogan then goes back to sleep. Sterling starts to get out of bed, reluctant to get the day started.

INT. BATHROOM - MARCH 13, 2125 - MORNING

We see Sterling walk into the bathroom and flick on the lights. Sterling walks to the vanity and grabs his toothbrush and proceeds to brush his teeth.

MOM

Sweetie! Today's the big day! Hurry downstairs! I've made you breakfast!

STERLING (OUT LOUD)

I'll be right down!

STERLING (TO HIMSELF) (CONT'D)

At some point...

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

We see Sterling entering the empty kitchen. The camera points towards the oven. Sitting on top of the oven is a pan full of half baked muffins. These muffins also appear to have been sitting out for a couple hours. The camera pans back to show sterling who is now looking at the muffins.

STERLING (TO HIMSELF)

I guess she had breakfast without me, I thought today would be different.

The camera pans back to the muffins

STERLING (CONT'D)

It's a miracle that anyone even
makes it to thirteen anymore.

The camera looks back to sterling who is walking towards the pantry. Sterling reaches into the pantry and grabs a loaf of bread and a container of peanut butter. Sterling then walks to the island counter top and begins to spread peanut butter onto the bread. We see Sterling walk towards the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

The camera shows us a view of the living room looking over the kitchen as well. In the living room we see MOM sitting on a lawn chair. The mom's clothes appear to be old and run down. The camera is now looking over Sterling's shoulder as he walks into the room towards a bean bag that is sitting on the floor.

MOM

Good morning sweetie! Happy
birthday!

STERLING

Thanks mom!

Sterling seems taken back by the smile on his mothers face. We see sterling look towards the futuristic hologram where a tv would be. The hologram appears to be turned off. The camera moves to a point where we see the mother staring towards the hologram blankly at the wall behind where the hologram would be.

STERLING (CONT'D)

Whatcha' watching?

MOM

Oh, I'm watching the news from
today! They're just about to
announce the children today who are
going to receive their ABR's.

Sterling points his phone towards the hologram and taps a button that turns the hologram on. We then see the news casters sat behind their desk projected into the living room.

NEWS PERSON 1

And now to Kathy to give us the
list of todays lucky children
turning thirteen today.

KATHY (IN HOLOGRAM FORM)
Good Morning everyone! For today's
announcement of those turning
thirteen and receiving their very
own ABR!

The camera looks at Sterling who is still eating his peanut
butter bread slices.

KATHY (CONT'D)
Just a reminder, for those
receiving their implants today. Be
sure to head to the nearest Next
Tech clinic at your designated time
to join us in the future you
deserve! Coming up first we have
ABRAHAM JONES.

STERLING (TALKING OUT LOUD OVER
HOLOGRAM)
Abraham was always the worst at
school. Maybe he'll stop bullying
once he becomes a zombie like the
rest of the adults.

The camera looks at Mom who is still staring blankly towards
the hologram, almost as if she isn't even aware that it's
been turned on.

KATHY
Joining Abraham, we have JORDAN
HARMS and Sterling Free! And
that'll be all for our brand new
Thirteen year olds! See you all at
Next Tech! Back to Gary with the
weather.

The camera moves to where the hologram would be, looking
towards Sterling and Mom.

STERLING
Hey mom, is it okay if I go to
Jordan's house before we have to
leave for my implant?

Mom continues to stare without saying a word.

STERLING (TO HIMSELF) (CONT'D)
Why do I even bother asking?

INT. LIVING ROOM - HOURS LATER

Sterling and Mom are still watching holograms where they were last time we saw them. The clock now shows 2:03pm.

MOM

Honey, its almost time for your appointment. Go upstairs and get ready to go.

STERLING (VISIBLY UNHAPPY)

Ugh, okay. Be right back.

Sterling gets out of his bean bag and starts walking towards his room. Mom gets out of her chair moments after sterling does. We see mom head towards the front door where her shoes are located.

INT. BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Camera is placed in the corner of the room, we see sterling walk into the room slightly dragging his feet. Sterling walks towards his desk and picks up his shoes. Sterling walks to his bed and sits down to put on his shoes. As he's putting on his shoes, a pencil on his desk falls off a book and rolls to a notepad he has laying on the desk. Sterling looks up at his desk to see the pencil as it moves and stares for a second or two.

STERLING (TO HIMSELF)

Huh, that's weird.

Sterling gets and idea and finishes putting on his shoes. He then walks to the desk and takes a seat at his chair. And picks up the pencil. He then opens his notepad and begins writing himself a note.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

We see Sterling writing on the paper to a voice over.

STERLING (VOICE OVER)

To future us, whoever... or whatever we become. I don't exactly know how the implant will impact us but I've been told that it takes everything bad out of your life and makes everything good and happy. I just don't want us to become one of the zombies like the adults always have been. I'm writing this note as a reminder I think.

(MORE)

STERLING (VOICE OVER) (CONT'D)
But anyways, today is our 13th birthday, March 13th 2125. The last free day of our lives. Try to remember all the real good in the world. Try to remember history class and how there was a time before humans knew what the ABR was. It wasn't perfect but at least people were still people. Whatever comes next... Good Luck.

We see sterling writing down the last line on his paper and as he finishes he closes the book and puts the pencil back to it's spot on the table. Sterling then gets up from his seat to leave the room and join his mother downstairs.

NT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Sterling enters the room and we see mom by the front door looking towards sterling.

MOM
Are you ready to go?

STERLING (UNENTHUSED)
I guess so, I call shotgun.

MOM
Alright, go hop in the car.

We see the two leave the house through the door.

EXT. FRONT YARD - CONTINUOUS

We see Sterling and Mom walking from the front door towards the car. The car is an old 2095 Honda Civic that is rusted almost entirely. The car is driving on a spare tire and the other three appear that they could blow at any given moment.

STERLING (TO HIMSELF)
If this implant doesn't kill me,
this car will for sure.

Sterling and Mom enter the car and we see mom reach into her purse which is really a plastic bag from the grocery store. From this bag she pulls out the keys to the car. We see Mom put the keys into the ignition and turn the car on.

STERLING (TO HIMSELF) (CONT'D)
I cannot believe that this car
still uses keys.
(MORE)

STERLING (TO HIMSELF) (CONT'D)
Hopefully the ABR makes this thing
less of a death trap.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

The camera is placed in the back seat looking forwards at mom and Sterling inside the car. Mom puts the car in reverse and backs the car into the road. We then see mom shift the car into drive and start their journey down the road.

INT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

The camera still seated in the back seat. We see sterling and mom riding down the road with lightweight traffic around them.

MOM
Are you excited for the ABR? It is
really a life changing experience.

STERLING
Not really. I don't really want to
get it. Do I really have to?

Mom appears to have a slight frown for a quick second but it's quickly replaced with the usual blank stare. It's as if she doesn't understand what Sterling is actually saying.

MOM
I'm glad to hear that! I bet you
can't wait! We'll be there in just
a few minutes.

The camera looks at the time on the radio. The clock says 2:23pm.

STERLING (TO HIMSELF)
God I hope we never make it to
2:30.

We sit for a couple more moments observing mom and sterling driving down the road. Outside the window of the car the camera pans towards a couple posters on the side of a building. The posters are from the Next Tech company. Usual propaganda fills the poster. However, using what we assume to be facial recognition technology, the text on the posters change to say "we're ready for you Sterling! See you soon for your very own ABR"

EXT. OUTSIDE NEXT TECH FACILITY - MINUTES LATER

We see sterling and mom arrive outside of the facility in their car. The car parks in front of the sidewalk and sterling exits the car. The camera moves to be in the street looking towards sterling as he looks at the building. We see a boring building, its a square building that is made of a brown brick. There is a single Next Tech sign to the left side of the glass door. To the right side of the door, is a very large security guard.

STERLING (TO HIMSELF)
I've always seen this guy let in
young kids on their "special day"
but I honestly never thought it'd
be my turn.

After we look at the building for a couple seconds. We see that mom exits the car.

MOM
Oh how exciting! I remember when I
was here last time!

STERLING
Yeah? At least Jordan should be
wrapping up with his procedure at
any moment.

MOM
I'm sure he is, lets go ahead and
get you inside.

The camera follows sterling and mom as they walk towards the building. As they get closer the security guard moves to the side to cover the door.

GUARD
Name?

MOM
This is Ster..

GUARD
I was asking the boy.

STERLING
Oh.. uhm, I'm.. Sterling.

The guard grunts, scoots to the side and holds open the door for sterling to enter.

MOM (TO STERLING)
Be good sweetie! I'll see you when
it's all done!

Sterling nods towards mom and enters the building.

INT. NEXT TECH BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

We see sterling enter the building, and he stops a couple steps into the building and looks around the building. The camera switches to what sterling would see.

STERLING (TO HIMSELF)
Woah. This is nothing like what I
expected.

The camera looks around the building and we see a very futuristic room, it's nearly all white and full of light. It's a room that appears to be a waiting room, there's chairs to the left and the right of the room. But, in the middle of the room, straight ahead of the door is a desk with a pretty woman sat behind it wearing an all white dress.

STERLING (CONT'D)
Heh.. Hello?

DESK LADY
Hey! Welcome in today! I'll take it
that you're Sterling?

STERLING
Yeah. That's me, what do I need to
do.

DESK LADY
Oh you don't have to do a thing!
Just take a seat anywhere you'd
like and the doctor will be right
in for you!

STERLING
Okay, thank you.

We see Sterling walk to the right and take a seat at one of the empty seats.

INT. NEXT TECH BUILDING - MOMENTS LATER

The camera is pointing towards sterling who is sitting down still.

We hear the sound of a door opening and the camera looks to the left where we see a door that is flush with the wall opening up. And as the door opens up, we see a young boy walking out.

STERLING

Jordan! How did it go!? I was
hoping I'd get to see you!

Jordan looks at Sterling for a brief moment but he continues to walk right through the lobby and out the front door as if he didn't even know who Sterling was. Through the door we see a man who is taking off a pair of bloody gloves. The man looks towards the door and smiles. The door then closes and becomes nearly completely blended into the wall. After a couple seconds, the door opens again and we see the man stood in the doorway.

MAN

Sterling, I'm the doctor that will
being taking care of you today. Go
ahead and step into my office, we
can get this process started.

Sterling looks at the doctor and nods his head unenthusiastically. We see Sterling stand from his chair, and walk into the room with the Doctor.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

We see Sterling walking into the room and stand right inside the doorway.

DOCTOR

You're welcome to come take a seat
if you'd like.

Sterling walks to the operation seat and sits down.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

So, Sterling. Are you aware of what
we're doing today.

STERLING

uhm.. I think so. I'm getting an
implant like the rest of the adults
right.

DOCTOR

Well that's partially correct. I'm going to sedate you and place an augmentation device across several points of your neural network just inside your skull. This augment will take the brains natural stimuli that you encounter every day and attach an increased amount of Dopamine, Oxytocin, Serotonin, and Endorphins. The combination of these four happy chemicals will make your life much better than ever before. However, you can expect some confusion and uneasiness for the first 24 hours while your brain adjusts to your future.

Sterling, looking terrified looks to the doctor

STERLING

Any way we can skip this procedure, and I'll just pretend that you did it?

DOCTOR

Haha, I'm afraid that's not how it works Sterling. It's a federal law that all children in America receive their ABR on their 13th birthday.

Sterling gulps and nods at the doctor. We then see the doctor poke a needle into the arm of sterling.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

This is to help out with your anxiety.

The screen fades to black.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - SOME TIME LATER

The screen comes back to normal and the camera is sitting in the operation chair looking towards the doctor.

DOCTOR

Very Good job, Welcome to the rest of your life.

The camera Is now in the corner of the room looking towards sterling sitting in the chair.

We can see the chair is surrounded by bloody rags and tools scattered across the previously neat table. We see sterling visibly confused and disoriented. Sterling tries to stand but falls back into the chair.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Don't worry, it can take some time
for your brain to recalibrate.
You'll be back to normal within 24
hours or so.

We see sterling try to stand one more time, this time he gets up from the chair and makes his way towards the door.

INT./EXT. WAITING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The camera is in the same corner as earlier and we're looking out into a room with another kid sitting in the corner. However, this other child is much happier than Sterling when he was there earlier. We see sterling walk from the door and head straight towards the exit like Jordan did before him. The camera follows Sterling outside. It's a subtle difference but the saturation of the outdoors has increased slightly to the camera. We see sterling stop shortly after walking outdoors and look around to see if he can find Mom. Outside of what we can see we hear mom shout

MOM

Sterling! How'd it go! How do you
feel? Was the doctor nice to you?
How does everything look?

STERLING (STILL DISORIENTED)

Woah, hi mom. Can we take it one
question at a time please?

MOM

Sorry, I kind of blew up on you
there huh? How do you feel?

STERLING

I feel pretty normal, just a bit
dizzy.

MOM

Here, let's head home so you can
rest for the rest of the night.

We see mom walk towards the car, which looks the same but now with noticeably less rust than before. Sterling doesn't seem to acknowledge that the car looks any different, but he walks to the passenger side of the car and starts to enter the car.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

The camera is in the back seat looking towards the front seat where we see Sterling and Mom driving.

MOM

So, how was the doctor? Did he take good care of you?

STERLING

Eh, not really. He was pretty scary and he talked to me like I was a doctor too.

MOM

Yeah, I remember him being the same way for me too. Do you feel any different?

STERLING

Not really, he said it could take a day for everything to kick in.

MOM

That's pretty normal. But we're home. Let's go inside!

Sterling looks visibly confused, he glances down at the clock. The clock says 3:48.

STERLING

That was fast! When did we leave?

MOM

I don't know, Maybe 15 minutes ago.

STERLING

That's so much faster than the way to the operation center.

MOM

Really? I didn't notice.

INT. CAR - FLASHBACK

We see a short compilation of the car going through all of the stop lights along the road, every single light is green as they pass through.

STERLING (TO HIMSELF)

Hmm, that never happens... I'm sure it's just a coincidence.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

We see Sterling and Mom walk in through the front door. The room is much cleaner than the last time we saw it. Mom walks straight to her chair and sits down. We see Sterling walk into the kitchen and grab a glass of water and take a couple sips while walking back to the living room to sit down in his usual seat.

MOM

Would you like to watch some
Holograms?

STERLING

Sure! What's on?

MOM

It looks like your favorite is on!
America's next top remodel!

STERLING (TO HIMSELF)

Oh great! I guess this implant
hasn't kicked in yet.

We see Sterling and Mom sitting in the living room watching
holograms

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

We still see Sterling and Mom sitting on their chairs
watching holograms but the window is now dark on the other
side. The clock on the wall shows 10:36 at night.

STERLING

Hey mom, I'm getting tired. I think
I'm going to go to sleep, I don't
want to miss school tomorrow again.

MOM

Okay hun, go get some rest. I'll
see you in the morning!

We see Sterling stand from his chair and walk towards the
stairs and walk up the stairs towards his bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

We see sterling walk into his room and change into pajama's.
Sterling then tosses his clothes onto a small pile in the
corner of the room. We see sterling climb in bed, he then
reaches over and clicks the silver button on his night stand
and a clock appear on a hologram.

Sterling reaches his hand towards the clock and gestures downwards and we see the clock scroll from current time to 7:00am. Sterling swipes his hand to the right and we see the 7:00am fade off to the right with his gesture. Sterling then lays all the way down in bed and turns the lights off with a small dial on the bedpost. The camera fades out of focus as the lights turn off.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

The camera fades back into focus and it's pointing at the alarm clock. The clock reads 6:59. After a few seconds the clock turns over to 7:00am and we hear the same alarm sound as the previous morning. Sterling reaches his hand over and swipes the alarm off to the right to turn it off. The camera pans to be facing Sterling in the same messy bed as yesterday morning. Sterling takes a big breath in as he looks around the room. The camera looks around the room as well, nothing has changed.

STERLING

Huh, I was expecting this all to
look so different.

We see sterling get out of bed, he walks over to his dresser and puts on some clothes. We then see Sterling walk towards the bathroom where he turns on a light

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

The camera is pointing towards the mirror looking at Sterling as he grabs his toothbrush and begins to brush his teeth. From the downstairs we hear Mom.

MOM

Hurry up! You're going to be late
for school. I've made you
breakfast!

STERLING (WITH A MOUTH FULL OF
TOOTHPASTE)

Okay mom! I'll be right down.

STERLING (TO HIMSELF) (CONT'D)

Hopefully today's breakfast is
better than yesterday.

We see Sterling finish brushing his teeth and he spits into the sink, grabs a cup of water and washes out his mouth. Sterling then proceeds to walk out of the bathroom.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

The camera is pointing towards the stairs as we see Sterling walking down the stairs. The camera starts to pan towards the rest of the kitchen where we see the same muffins from yesterday morning in the same spot. This time two muffins are missing from the pan. Sterling walks into the kitchen and looks at the pan of muffins.

STERLING (TO HIMSELF)

Well I guess this implant is going
to take some more time to kick in.

The camera looks towards the living room where mom is sitting watching more holograms. In the distance we hear the News People talking about the morning weather. Then we hear the news casters talking about today's thirteen year-olds. The camera pans back to sterling who is spreading peanut butter across some bread for his morning meal. Sterling then closes the bag of bread and puts away the peanut butter. Sterling walks towards the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sterling walks into the living room and takes a seat on his chair and looks towards his mom.

STERLING

Good morning mom. How are you?

Mom doesn't seem to hear sterling. She looks straight towards the hologram and doesn't even appear to blink at all.

STERLING (TO HIMSELF) (CONT'D)

This thing really isn't working yet
huh.

Sterling begins eating his breakfast as he stares towards the hologram as well. Sterling reaches over and taps a small silver button on the table between his seat and mom's seat. The small silver button then releases another hologram that has a list of numbers followed by shows. Sterling swipes the menu down and puts his hand out to stop the scrolling.

STERLING (TO HIMSELF) (CONT'D)

I guess I better give this a try.

Sterling looks towards mom who is still sitting staring blankly at the hologram. Sterling pokes one of the shows on the menu and looks towards the hologram. We see the words "Grobo the CaveMan" hovering in the living room. The camera transitions to the corner of the room looking towards Sterling and mom sitting in their seats.

Sterling smiles as we hear in the background the sounds from the hologram. It sounds like a usual cartoon, this time with a caveman making noises as he bangs around sticks and stones.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NEARLY AN HOUR LATER

The camera has moved closer to sterling and is looking at him when he looks towards the clock, The clock shows 7:58. Sterling has a concerned look on his face.

STERLING

Crap! School started 20 minutes ago, I'm going to be late!

Sterling stands from his seat throwing crumbs from his breakfast across the room. Sterling then runs towards the stairs and out of frame.

INT. BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

We see Sterling sprinting into his room and he leaps over his bed towards the desk. Sterling grabs a headset from the corner of his desk and plugs it in. It appears to be some form of a Virtual Reality headset. As sterling puts on the headset, the room transitions into a classroom. Sterling is sat right in the middle of his classroom, we see a bunch of other kids sat around sterling in their own seats. None of the kids are wearing the VR headset. The camera switches to a first person view of what sterling was seeing. We see the camera glance around the room, it stops on Jordan for a quick second as we see sterling's hand come in front of the camera and wave towards Jordan. Jordan still doesn't seem to recognize us and he looks to the front of the classroom. As the camera moves back towards the front of the room, the teacher is looking straight at the camera.

TEACHER

How nice of you to finally join us Sterling. I see that the ABR hasn't fixed your tardiness problem. Now that you're here, why don't you tell us what year America was formed?

The camera has now moved to be looking at Sterling as he looks back at the teacher with a concerned look on his face.

STERLING

Hey, and uhmm wasn't it in 1776?

The camera moves to be looking at the teacher.

TEACHER

Well, look everyone. Miracles
really do happen from time to time.

The camera goes back to looking at Sterling as he shakes his head and we can see the embarrassment on his face. The camera pans to the right and we see three girls sitting at table who are all laughing and giggling.

INT. CLASSROOM - HOURS LATER

The camera is pointing towards the clock in the room and we see the time tick over to 3:00. The camera turns around to be facing the room full of students. Nearly all the students look to the clock and see the time. The students one by one start to reach towards their face and grab an invisible headset then motion like they're lifting it from their head. As their hands reach above their faces they vanish from the room.

TEACHER

Sterling, stay after class and see
me.

Sterling sighs and nods his head in agreement. As every other student starts to leave the moves to show us sterling sitting at his desk in the real world. Sterling starts typing on his keyboard and the camera changes back to the classroom. We see Sterling standing from his desk and walking up to the teachers desk.

STERLING

So you wanted to see me?

TEACHER

Yes, I couldn't but help notice
that you still don't seem to be too
different after your augment. Are
you feeling okay?

STERLING

Yeah everything is okay, it's just
taking longer for it to impact me I
guess.

TEACHER

Okay, I just wanted to be sure that
you're doing okay

STERLING

Thank you, See you tomorrow.

TEACHER

See you then. Make sure you're on time!

We then see sterling reach his hands towards his face and remove the headset. As he removes it from his head, the camera changes to show us the real world again. Sterling is still sitting alone in his room at his desk. Sterling then stands from his desk and starts to walk towards the exit of his room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The camera is in the corner of the room looking at Mom sitting on the couch still watching the cartoons from when Sterling changed the channel earlier. We see Sterling walk into the room. He takes a seat at his chair and looks at his mom.

STERLING

Hey mom, I don't know if you can hear me or not. Well I don't know if you can REALLY hear me. But I really think I need you. I don't think that this implant is working on me. It's been over 24 hours and still nothing has changed.

We see mom look at sterling and her face somehow gets more serious than before. The camera moves to be much closer to the two than before.

MOM

Come with me to my bedroom now.

STERLING

What do you mean? Did you hear me?

MOM

Yes, I heard you. This is exactly what I was afraid of. Go to my bedroom now!

We see mom stand from her seat with much more life to her than we've seen before. She walks fast to the hallway and towards her bedroom. We see her open the door and walk in. Sterling is still sitting at the chair and the camera points back to him. We see a puzzled look on his face.

STERLING (TO HIMSELF)

What the hell was that?

Sterling stands from his seat and follows his mom. The camera moves to be looking down the hall, we can see sterling walking down the hallway. Sterling walks to the same door that mom walked into, opens the door and enters.

INT. MOM'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The camera is in the corner looking towards the entrance to the bedroom. The room is very tidy and there's hardly anything in there other than a bed and a dresser. The bed is neatly made and has a small pair of slippers near the base.

MOM

Quick, in here!

We see mom standing in her closet in the corner of the room.

STERLING

Mom, what are you doing? What's the matter?

We see sterling start to head towards the closet to join his mom. We see mom close the door for the closet. Along the way sterling is looking around the room as if he doesn't spend much time in there. Sterling walks to the door of the closet and slowly opens it. On the inside of the closet we can see a small room covered from floor to ceiling in what looks like tin foil. There's a small kerosene light in the corner of the small room that has been turned on. Once sterling has opened the door he looks inside and pauses for a quick second.

MOM

Quick! Come inside!

Mom reaches and grabs sterling's shirt to pull him into the closet. Once sterling is inside the door quickly closes.

INT. CLOSET - CONTINUOUS

The camera is placed in the corner looking at Sterling.

MOM

Take a seat. I've got a lot to talk to you about.

STERLING

What do you mean? Why are we in here? Why does this look like this. Why are you acting so weird now? Mom please tell me what is going on.

The camera is now looking at mom as she's sitting down in the corner of the closet next to the light.

MOM

Hey, take a seat. I'll tell you everything.

Sterling sits down in the other corner hesitantly. The camera swapping between who is speaking.

MOM (CONT'D)

Good, now listen to me. I was worried that the ABR wouldn't work on you either.

STERLING

What do you mean it's not going to work? They always work!

MOM

They don't always work, it's in your DNA. Mine never impacted me either.

STERLING

How come you're just now telling me this! How come you've ignored me for my entire life! Why should I listen to you now?

MOM

I acted like that because next tech has cameras and microphones everywhere. If they knew that the implant never worked on me, they would do awful.. unspeakable things.

STERLING

How come the implant never worked for you?

MOM

I don't know for certain, but I think it's because.. like you.. I never agreed with the implant. I didn't want to give up my freedom, but when my thirteenth birthday came around, I got the implant like everyone else. Mine just never affected my brain. But instead of letting Next Tech know that, I kept quiet and acted like the other adults in my life.

STERLING

So what does that mean for me? Do I have to act like that for the rest of my life too?

MOM

I don't know. Hopefully someone can take down Next Tech, then we can show our true selves outside of this small closet.

STERLING

And if they.. don't..?

MOM

Then you're bound to the same fate as myself. Fake your life on a daily basis, until you have your own children and hopefully they break the chain.

STERLING

I don't want to waste my life like this! I was told that everything would be better by now! I'm not supposed to be different. I just want be happy finally.

The light flickers and starts to fade away slowly.

MOM

I know baby. But for your safety you have to play it safe. You have another couple hours of acting normal until you're on Next Tech radar. And if that happens you won't be able to get away with anything.

STERLING

Okay, well what can we do?

MOM

I know this place.. there's a group of people that could help us. It's not going to be easy though. The entrances are guarded by police and Next Tech brutes.

Sterling, nods and looks at the door. They both stand up and exit the closet.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Sterling and Mom walk back into the living room, Mom looks around the living room as if she's trying to find something or someone. Mom then walks to the windows and peeks her head outside. The camera focuses on a white van parked a couple houses up the street. The camera pans back to mom.

MOM

Hey sweetie, would you like to go to the store and get some stuff?

STERLING

Sure. We can go.

Sterling is acting noticeably more like the other adults.

MOM

Okay, go get your shoes. Then meet me at the car.

Sterling nods, and walks out of the frame to head upstairs to his room.

EXT. FRONT YARD - MOMENTS LATER

We see mom standing by her car, looking towards the front door. After a few seconds, sterling walks outside and walks straight towards mom's car.

STERLING

Wow mom, did you get a new car?

Sterling winks towards his mom and continues towards the car. He then hops in the passenger seat as mom enters the car on the drivers side. Once the two are inside the car we see them back down the driveway into the street and head drive down the road.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

We see mom and sterling sitting in the car. The camera is placed in the back seat looking forward as they drive.

STERLING

Is it time? Are we going to your friends so soon?

MOM

Yes, Next Tech was camped out up the street watching us I think. We didn't have a choice.

STERLING

What? Why would they be watching us?

MOM

I guess that your teacher told them that you were acting weird today in class. We have to keep moving and get to that place I was telling you about.

STERLING

How long are we going to be away?

MOM

I'm not sure. Could be a long time.

STERLING

What about the house?

MOM

Don't worry about that. There's bigger things in the world to worry about now.

We can see out the front window, two police cars driving around. One of the officers from the front car looks at Sterling and Mom. The camera turns around to watch both the police cars continue down the road.

MOM (CONT'D)

Just keep acting like the other adults and we'll make it totally okay.

INT. CAR - SOME TIME LATER

It appears that mom and sterling have been driving for a while. The sun has gone down a lot since the last time we saw them. The two are still in the car seated like the last time we saw them. Sterling appears to of fallen asleep though. However, the roads don't look like they're in their neighborhood anymore. There's a gravel road ahead covered by trees on both sides of the street. We see mom take a right turn down an unmarked gravel driveway. We see sterling start to wake up as mom makes this turn.

STERLING

Where are we?

MOM

We're far away from home. We're nearly to that place I was telling you about.

The car continues down the road and sterling sits up straighter. Sterling rubs his eyes and begins to look around trying to make sense of the area he's in. After a couple more minutes of driving down the road. The car stops in front of an old rusted gate.

STERLING

What is this place? Are we supposed to be here?

MOM

Yes baby, don't worry about it. I know some people here. They'll help us out.

After a couple seconds of the car sitting in front of the gate, two men walk up to the each side of the car. The man on the driver side gestures for mom to roll down the window. Mom does as this man gestures, and rolls down the window.

MAN 1

What's your business here?

MOM

We've come to seek help. I heard that you guys can provide that.

MAN 1

Not to freaks with the implant.

MOM

Wait, we ran away before he could get the augment. And mine has never worked once in the past 30 years. Please, Next Tech was onto me and I had to escape for our safety.

The man on the drivers side looks at the man on the other side of the car and nods. The second man walks back to the gate and opens it wide enough for the car to squeeze through.

MAN 1

Go in and ask for RICKY. Y'all are safe here.

Mom puts the car back in drive and heads through the gate. Upon entering mom keeps driving down this small gravel road and follows it around a slight left curve.

Once around the curve the trees start to open up and the camera transitions to outside the car. The camera can now see a abandoned train yard from the mid 2000's. It's full of rusty train cars that have been placed around the property like little houses. In front of each train car is a small patio. Each patio is decorated a little different than the next. The gravel road continues straight into a stack of train cars. The stack contains nearly 7 or 8 train cars and has lights ran across several parts of the stack. The camera is moved back into the back seat of the car looking towards sterling and mom.

STERLING

Why did you tell them that I don't
have an implant?

MOM

I didn't want them to panic. If
they knew that you just had yours
installed yesterday I'm not sure
what they would do.

EXT. TRAIN YARD - MOMENTS LATER

The camera is placed right in front of the stack of train cars looking down the road. We see the car with sterling and mom. Outside the stack are three armed guards. As the car approaches they walk forward and stop nearly 20 feet from the front of the stack. We see the car stop moving roughly 50 feet in front of the armed guards. Right after the car parks, mom and sterling step out of the car and slowly walk towards the guards out front.

MOM

Hello, we were told to ask for
Ricky.

The guard in the middle looks to his left and right nodding at each of the other men. The guards on either side stop walking. The guard in the middle walks forward another couple steps and looks back and forth between sterling and mom.

RICKY

Well you found him. What can I do
for you two? What are y'all doing
here?

MOM

We're here seeking shelter. I was
told I can find that here.

RICKY

I'm guessing the guys at the gate already made sure that y'all aint got the implant? We don't need anyone from Next Tech coming in here.

MOM

Sterling here never got his implant. I have one but it hasn't worked in nearly 30 years. I just had to escape before they tried to turn my little boy into a lifeless zombie. Please help us.

RICKY

Very well, come on in and sit with me. Let's talk about how we can help each other.

We see the two guards stay behind as mom, sterling and ricky all walk towards the main door of the stack.

INT. INSIDE THE STACK - MOMENTS LATER

The camera is now inside the stack. There appears to be a main room with a small dining table, off to either side is a series of bedrooms, or a small kitchen. Ricky walks into the dining room and takes a seat at the table. Sterling and Mom continue standing just inside the door looking around the inside of the stack wondering what to do or where to go next.

RICKY

Well, come on in and make yourselves comfortable.

Sterling nods towards ricky and walks with mom to the table where they both take a seat on the opposing side of the table.

RICKY (CONT'D)

So lets get down to business. Y'all need safety. And I can offer that. What can you do for me in exchange?

MOM

I'm not too sure, he's just nearly 13 and I've had to fake that I have the implant for the last 30 years so I don't have a long list of skills.

RICKY

Well you're not making a great case
for the two of ya huh.

STERLING

Wait, what do you need help with?
We're willing to learn anything.

RICKY

Well, aren't you a feisty one. If
you're so eager to know. I'm
actually working on starting a
revolution against Next Tech and
their ties with the government. I
could use you

Ricky looks at mom.

RICKY (CONT'D)

To help work the fields with some
of the other ladies around here to
keep the soldiers fed. And you

Ricky turns his head towards Sterling.

RICKY (CONT'D)

I could use you for something much
much greater. You're young enough
for me to train up as a soldier to
help with the war that's coming.

MOM

Wait! You don't have to do this.
He's just a boy. He can help with
me in the fields for now.

Sterling looks at his mom.

STERLING

Mom, I have to do this. You said it
yourself, someone has to put an end
to Next Tech. I can help do that.

RICKY

Well I'd guess it's settled.
Welcome to the team you two.