EVERGREEN

EXT. SILICON VALLEY RESEARCH CENTER - NIGHT

A building with a circular, spaceship-like design. Its metallic surface reflecting the glow of the moon.

INT. SILICON VALLEY RESEARCH CENTER

In a dimly lit hall, rows of computer screens cast a faint glow across tables. Scientists, clad in white lab coats, cluster around each screen, their murmured discussions blending into each other. The screens display graphs, lines intersecting; some scientists scribble notes on paper, while others tap on their keyboards.

At the rear of the room, a frosted glass wall reveals a glimpse of a pristine white chamber beyond.

HELEN (40) enters the room, striding towards a set of monitors located atop the glass wall. One of the scientists turns away from the others to face her.

MAN 1
Ah! Welcome Ms Evergreen… Punctual as ever.

HELEN
Yes, I- uh- ran into some traffic on the way here.

MAN 1
Well, you're in luck, we're just about to get started.

MAN 1 and HELEN move to a workstation, its surface cluttered with sheets of documents with different notes scribbled on top of them in penil. MAN 1 sits down and begins typing on a keyboard as HELEN observes.

HELEN
Are the readings clear?

MAN 1
Yes, it seems so. If the

calculations are correct, we'll be able to predict the results of cause and effect to a 99.8% accuracy.

HELEN
…We'll see the future.

MAN 1
Yes, Ms Evergreen.

FADE TO BLACK

HELEN (V.O.)
My name is Helen Evergreen. I have been one of the most prominent AI researchers in the past decade. With our newest model "Prometheus" we seek to go beyond what we know. With measurements of multiple points of data, accurate to the very last decimal number, we believe that we will be able to construct and reconstruct the future and past as they were or will be.

FADE IN:

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM

Interview between HELEN and INTERVIEWER. Helen is sat on a chair, sunlight streaming through stained glass windows behind her. The INTERVIWER leans forward.

INTERVIEWER
Well, that is certainly a very interesting development. But, tell me, how do *you* believe AI technology will improve humanity?

HELEN
…We'll be able to prevent disasters, murder, suicide. As automation becomes prevalent, pain

may very well be completely
eradicated from society.

INTERVIEWER
Could that be wishful thinking?

HELEN stares at the stained glass, its colors refracting across her face. She turns back to the interviewer in front of her and breathes as if about to speak.

CUT TO BLACK

FADE IN:

INT. SILICON VALLEY RESEARCH CENTER

HELEN is sat on the device at the center of a white room, a wall of frosted glass looking back into the other scientists. HELEN places a silver headset by the sides of her head.

MAN 1 approaches her.

MAN 1
Are you sure you want to be the
first to test it? Look we have
volounteers that we could easily-

HELEN
-No. I have to be the one to do it.
If it doesn't work or something
goes wrong, all these years of work
will have been for nothing.

MAN 1 nods silently and goes back to the rest of the scientists, shutting the door, leaving her alone in the room. A sharp sound plays from one of the speakers; HELEN covers her ears.

MAN 2
Okay, Ms Evergreen, can you hear
me?

HELEN
Could you be any louder?

MAN 2

We are going to have one trial run. If there are any issues you will be able to communicate with us through the earpiece.

HELEN nods.

MAN 2
Okay, let's start off with… 8th century rome. Initiating simulation in 3, 2…

HELEN's vision begins to blur as the lights in the room dim. The walls distort as HELEN shuts her eyes.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. ROMAN CITY STREET - DAY

HELEN opens her eyes to the vibrant bustle of ancient Rome. Cobbled streets wind between ornate stone buildings. Civilians in flowing garments bustle about, while horse-drawn carriages clatter by.

MAN 2 (V.O.)
What do you see?

HELEN
I see. I see people. Just people, normal people.

MAN 2
Where do you think you are?

HELEN looks around.

HELEN
It looks like a street. I can… feel the air rushing by me.

MAN 2
Okay it works. I am pulling you out now.

HELEN looks around as the city from the horizon towards HELEN begins losing detail.

Buildings become simplified polygonal structures. All the people vanish in the blink of an eye, until everything is left black.

CUT TO:

INT. SILICON VALLEY RESEARCH CENTER

HELEN opens her eyes. She sits up and looks around with a worried expression.

MAN 1 (V.O.)
Are you feeling okay?

HELEN
Those- those were people…

MAN 1
Yeah, I've been told that the simulations can be especially lifelike.

HELEN remains silent.

MAN 1
If you don't want to continue we can get someone else.

HELEN
No, I'm fine.

HELEN sits back down.

HELEN
What's next?

MAN 2
Well, we believe if the program is stable enough, we'll be able to run the predictive simulation of the

future. But it could be risky.

HELEN
I can do it.

MAN 2
Remember, if anything feels off or if you experience any discomfort, let us know immediately. We'll monitor your vital signs closely.

HELEN puts the headset back on her head shutting her eyes.

MAN 2
Initiating simulation in 3, 2…

CUT TO:

EXT. 20XX CITY - DAY

HELEN's eyes flutter open. She finds herself amids towering skyscrapers adorned with holographic billboards. There were sparse vehicles gliding around, but there wasn't a lot of crowd.

MAN 2 (V.O.)
What do you see, Ms Evergreen?

HELEN's gaze sweeps across the cityscape in awe.

HELEN
The architecture, the technology, it's like nothing I've ever seen before.

MAN 2
Do you recognize any landmarks in particular?

HELEN
No, I don't think so. It feels different… I can't really describe it it's like everything is… new.

MAN 2
Understood. We'll give you a moment

to acclimate.

HELEN nods, taking a deep breath. As she explores the environment with her vision, she turns sharply behind herself as a clattering noise is heard.

HELEN
Hello? Is anyone there?

She looks out into the distance, but nothing can be seen. Simply more of the cityscape.

FUTURE HELEN
Oh, I was expecting to see you here.

HELEN turns to where FUTURE HELEN spoke. She walks backwards. FUTURE HELEN appears with the appearance of an aged HELEN.

HELEN
Who- who are you?

F. HELEN scoffs.

FUTURE HELEN
Come on, you know who I am.

HELEN
You're me.

F. HELEN nods.

FUTURE HELEN
I'm you.

HELEN
How… did you know I'd be here?

FUTURE HELEN
Well, I'm you.

HELEN nods.

FUTURE HELEN
I'm here to warn you. I'm here to

stop you from doing something you'll regret. Trust me, I know.

HELEN
And what would that be?

FUTURE HELEN
Stop developing your AI.

HELEN
What? Why?

FUTURE HELEN
Look around you. Where do you think everyone is? They're in their homes. Society is run entirely by your creation.

HELEN
Well, that's a good thing, isn't it?

FUTURE HELEN
Life, may be easier but, what's the point then? What is the point of surviving if you can't live. Most people here don't have jobs. They're just stuck at home plugged into whatever generative entertainment is created next. There's no art anymore, there's no passion. Humans are spectators in their own lives.

HELEN
But, humans are living fine now, right? It couldn't be that bad. No pain no suffering, it's what we're striving for isn't it?

FUTURE HELEN
Why would you want to survive if you can't live. If you don't have agency over your own existance?

HELEN
I mean- legislation. Maybe AI could only be a major player in certain important fields like medicine-

FUTURE HELEN
We've tried that. It doesn't work. It's a domino effect, as soon as this technology exists it will be used.

HELEN
What about-

FUTURE HELEN
No. I've tried everything, I've ran calculations. The only way you'll be able to stop this is by finishing your work.

HELEN
But- my work, it'll have been for nothing. And there are people out there that will continue to suffer.

FUTURE HELEN
Oh we both know that they're only suffering because the people in power want them to. If they really wanted to help them they could already.

There is silence.

HELEN
So what do I do?

FUTURE HELEN
I've already told you.

CUT TO:

INT. SILICON VALLEY RESEARCH CENTER

HELEN opens her eyes back in the brightly lit test chamber she was sat in.

MAN 1 (V.O.)
Hey, is everything alright? You weren't responding so we pulled you out.

HELEN
Yeah…

MAN 1
We're about to wrap it up, so you can take off the headset.

HELEN
Wait, there's another place I want to visit.

MAN 1
What is it?

CUT TO BLACK

FADE IN:

INT. BLETCHLEY PARK - DAY

In a brightly lit wooden room, ALAN TURING is sat on a chair, working on a machine. There is a knock at the door.

ALAN
Yes, come in.

HELEN enters the room, slowly looking around and caughing briefly.

HELEN
Mr. Alan Turing?

ALAN
The one and only. I swear to god if Harry is up to something again.

HELEN
No, no. That's not why I'm here.

ALAN turns around to face HELEN.

ALAN
Then… what is it?

HELEN
I had a question…

ALAN
Well, I'm only an engineer, not a philosopher. But ask away.

HELEN
If you knew one of your creations will solve every problem you could think of, but at the same will completely remove freedom from its users. What would you do.

ALAN remains silent for a moment.

ALAN
…Man this is a tough one.

HELEN
It's- nevermind I can just leave-

ALAN
Wait.

HELEN remains silent. ALAN turns back to face the machine.

ALAN
…Sacrificing freedom, for the sake of eliminatimg pain, to me would undermine the very essence of humanity. I would try to approach it another way even if I would be sacrificing a complete certainty of humanity's safety.

HELEN
Thank you very much Alan.

ALAN quickly turns to where HELEN was standing, but she is gone.

FADE OUT

THE END