Magnetic Midnight (v35)

Written by

Jean-Philippe John-John Traoré
Story line:

In 2051, a cyborg in need of electricity meets her alter ego in his quest for a higher source of energy.

Preamble:

In 2051, bionic parts are used to help victims of brutal injuries to lead normal lives. However, the medical aid soon shifts into body enhancement, a way to become more productive and a trend to fit in. Thanks to technology, almost anyone could become a cyborg.

Act 1

1 INT. JEWELRY STORE - EVENING (1800)

JEROME (30 y-o) ignites the blowtorch to open a safe.

2 EXT. STREET - EVENING

ZOE (30 y-o) is in total panic, she runs on the street, away from the police.

3 INT. JEWELRY STORE - EVENING

Jerome uses a small hammer to insert a chisel into the melted metal above the safe digital dialer.

4 EXT. STREET - EVENING

Out of breath, Zoe arrives at the door of a jewelry store.

5 INT. JEWELRY STORE - EVENING

Jerome takes a huge hammer, he's ready to hit the chisel hard.

6 EXT. JEWELRY STORE - EVENING

Zoe opens the door of the jewelry store and gets inside.

7 INT. JEWELRY STORE - EVENING

The safe door opens by itself, Jerome is surprised, although doesn't waste any time to dig into the safe.

(CONTINUED)
He puts a gold watch and diamonds on the side and takes only a rack of small vials full of... (seeds).

INT. JEWELRY STORE - EVENING
Zoe walks to find a hide in the store.
Jerome walks down to the ground floor, and bumps into Zoe who jumps back hitting a shelf. Lights and alarm system go off, they look at each other and run away together.

EXT. STREET - EVENING (1830)
Zoe and Jerome walks fast on the street. At every street corner a check point box loops the same message:

CHECK POINT RECORDED VOICE

JEROME
Oh my god, what's wrong with you?

Zoe raises her left hand, Jerome is annoyed. They walk to a corner store.

INT. CORNER STORE - EVENING (1845)
Zoe stays near the entrance, the cashier looks at her. Jerome is in the back of the store, he comes back with a roll of foil paper.

THE CASHIER
Are you guys together?

Before Jerome has the time to say 'no'.

ZOE
Yes, I'm his assistant.

JEROME
Yeah, right.

THE CASHIER
Who's paying for it?

Zoe puts her hand under a scanner.

(CONTINUED)
Suddenly, a metal curtain wall lowers in front of the cashier and the front door, Jerome reacts fast and throws a bin toward the front door to avoid being trapped. The space is so tight that they hardly get out.

EXT. STREET - EVENING (1900)

Jerome and Zoe walk on the street, and stop.

Jerome wraps Zoe's hand with foil loosely.

JEROME
Is it common thing with you? I managed to remain incognito for years, now I feel like a clown at a funeral. You have a cellphone on you?

ZOE
Yes, but my battery is dead. I need electricity.

JEROME
Throw it away.

Zoe tosses her phone.

JEROME (cont'd)
Great, now you're good to go, you walk this way, and I walk that way, alright?

Zoe looks down and walks away, messing with the foil on her hand. Jerome walks back to her.

JEROME (cont'd)
Hey, can you keep that tight on your hand?

Jerome tightens the foil around Zoe's hand.

ZOE
I need electricity.

JEROME
Forget your phone, you're better off without it.
ZOE
It's not about/ (the phone).

JEROME
Listen Bonnie, we had a good run together, but the shorter the better, I almost got trapped in that stupid store, every single check point of the city goes off from kilometers away, and I had to leave my tools on the job, I don't like that, at all. Why are you running away anyways?

Pause.

ZOE
Anytime I/ (reboot my heart)

JEROME
It took me 20 minutes to open the front door, how did you get in so fast?

Zoe opens her jacket, a red light glows on her chest. Jerome stares at Zoe.

JEROME (cont'd)
Hmm...

Jerome realizes the encounter with Zoe may be more beneficial that he thought.

Act 2

12 EXT. STREET - EVENING (1915)
Jerome waives at a taxi, they get in.

13 EXT. BUILDING - EVENING
The taxi stops in front of a building, Jerome and Zoe walk in a building.

14 INT. BUILDING - CORRIDOR - EVENING
Jerome and Zoe walk in a corridor.
INT. JEROME'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - EVENING (1930)

Jerome opens the door, they walk along stacks of 20kg soil bags to the living room.

JEROME
You can sit here, I'll be back in a sec.

Zoe sits on the chair in Jerome's kitchen.

ZOE
Thanks.

Jerome puts a blue light tube on the counter table, plugs a cable in it, and hands out the other end of the cable to Zoe.

JEROME
There you go, there's not much, but/ (I can get more later).

Zoe grabs the cable fast, and plugs it anxiously into her chest.

ZOE
/No, no, it's fine, I appreciate your help. I'm Zoe.

JEROME
Jerome.

[Later - 20 minutes]

Zoe unplugs herself, and walks to Jerome's office.

INT. JEROME'S APARTMENT - OFFICE - EVENING (2000)

Jerome is at a desk, against the wall, there's a shelf with square compartments, at the back of each compartment there's a picture of a vegetable or a fruit and a jar full of seeds.

He counts the jars on the shelf, all full of seeds.

Zoe walks in, notices a wooden grow room in progress against the back wall, she turns her head and sees Jerome.

ZOE
My goodness, are you crazy? I never saw so many seeds in my life. Are they fertile? I thought you were after diamonds.

(CONTINUED)
JEROME
You know how many tons of earth need to be mined to get 1 carat of diamonds?

ZOE
What?

Zoe is shocked, amazed, and scared.

JEROME
Two fifty.

ZOE
My God.

Jerome takes a seed and gives it to Zoe.

JEROME
That one seed will give you 1000 roses.

ZOE
Or 1000 years behind the bars.

Pause.

ZOE (cont'd)
I should go now, thanks for the boost.

JEROME
You're welcome.

Zoe moves toward the door.

JEROME (cont'd)
Wait.

Zoe stops, and looks at Jerome.

ZOE
I won't say anything about the seeds, don't worry.

JEROME
Hey, I know we started on the wrong foot, I was a little bit blunt earlier, but I know somebody who can help out with this.

Jerome points at Zoe's left hand wrapped with foil.

(CONTINUED)
ZOE
Don't worry about it, I'll find my way.
Zoe walks away.

JEROME
Zoe, before you go, can you/

ZOE
/Open more safes for you ?

JEROME
We'll split everything.

ZOE
What ? Seeds ?

JEROME
Yes, you can get thousands of watts for seeds, you know that right ?

ZOE
No, I don't, the idea of being a serial criminal never crossed my mind.

JEROME
Of course not, you're just a one time robber.

ZOE
I don't have to explain myself to you.
Zoe walks away.

JEROME
Indeed, but can you..?
Jerome stares at Zoe's chest.

ZOE
What ?
Jerome stares at Zoe's chest with insistence.

ZOE (cont'd)
Fuck off.

JEROME
That's not a big deal.

(CONTINUED)
ZOE
Exactly, a no deal.

JEROME
Listen, it's gonna take only 5 minu/

ZOE
/I won't do it/

JEROME
/Why ?/

ZOE
/Because, I won't/

JEROME
/FUCK !

Jerome grabs Zoe, puts her on the floor.

ZOE
Hey, back off !

Jerome straddles her. They wrestle.

ZOE (cont'd)
That's it hey, anytime a woman resists you force your way in.

JEROME
Argh... Sorry.

Jerome lets go of Zoe, she gets up.

ZOE
Sorry my ass, loser. That will be my payment to remove the chip.

JEROME
Sure.

Zoe sits on the sofa, she opens her jacket and removes her shirt, a red bionic heart glows on her chest.

She presses a button on it to start the cleaning process.

The digital screen on her heart reads 'Auto-Clean activated' [along with a voice over].

Zoe waits, arms crossed.

Jerome goes away and comes back with a small vial.

(CONTINUED)
ZOE
You're pathetic.

The digital screen reads (and sounds) 'Auto-Clean Complete', followed by 'Caution', 'Bio Hazard Expulsion'.

Jerome places the vial under her heart, a red liquid (Krinosine, highly addictive drug) drips into it.

ZOE (cont'd)
That's it? Happy goof!?

JEROME
Thanks.

ZOE
If your Mom was about to die on the curb, you will supplicate for twenty bucks and beg her to wait for you to get high first.

Zoe wipes her heart with some tissue.

JEROME
HEY, DON'T SAY THAT! I'll ask for at least fifty.

Jerome rolls up his sleeve, his arm looks necrosed.

ZOE
Oh nice, you mind if I vomit on your cactus?

He takes the vial, and pours the red liquid on his forearm. It burns like acid on flesh.

Jerome closes his eyes slowly, his back against the wall, he falls asleep.

Zoe closes her jacket and looks at Jerome.

[Sound Fx: Voices in his head - Mom opens the door, says 'Hi' to her husband]

INT. YOUNG JEROME'S BEDROOM - DAY

[Hallucinatory Flashback]

Jerome (8 y-o) plays with toys on his bedroom floor.

DAD (O.S.)
Did you see the time?

(CONTINUED)
MOM (O.S.)
We had a discussion with/ (Paul and Janet)

DAD (O.S.)
/Did you see the time ?

MOM (O.S.)
/after class.

The house entrance door get slammed hard, Jerome jumps.

DAD (O.S.)
A DISCUSSION AFTER CLASS? ABOUT WHAT?

MOM (O.S.)
Don't shout, the neighbors/

DAD (O.S.)
/FUCK THE NEIGHBORS, CAN YOU HEAR ME ? FUCK YOU NEIGHBORS, FUCK YOU/

MOM (O.S.)
/Stop, pleas/

DAD (O.S.)
/NEIGHBORS.

Dad slaps Mom, she falls.

MOM (O.S.)
I'm back to school to/

Jerome is petrified.

DAD (O.S.)
/TO BE A SLUT, ALL NURSES ARE SLUTS.

Dad beats up Mom hard on the floor.

Jerome walks to his closet, pulls out a bag, and opens it.

MOM (O.S.)
Stop it, stooop !

DAD (O.S.)
YOU'RE A DOCTORS' SLUT, YOU BLOW PATIENTS TO MAKE THEM FEEL BETTER ?

Dad keeps beating hard.

MOM (O.S.)
Nooooo...

(CONTINUED)
Jerome grabs an electronic device from the bag.

DAD (O.S.)
/I TOLD YOU TO BE BACK AT 6.

MOM (O.S.)
I/ (was at a)

DAD (O.S.)
/MY DAD WAS A DIAMOND TRADER, WE DON'T BELONG TO THE SAME CLASS WHITE PIECE OF SHIT, WHEN I SAY SOMETHING YOU DO IT.

MOM (O.S.)
Yes, I know/ (I'm sorry)

DAD (O.S.)
/YOU KNOW ? WHAT TIME IS IT ?

Dad keeps beating Mom harder.

DAD (O.S.) (cont'd)
WHAT TIME IS IT ?

MOM (MUTTERING) (O.S.)
Seven.

DAD (O.S.)
WHAT ?

MOM (O.S.)
Sev/

DAD (O.S.)
/I TOLD YOU TO COME BACK AT/ (SIX)

INT. YOUNG JEROME PARENT'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jerome walks to the living room and stands in front of his parents.

JEROME
/Mom.

DAD
JAY ! GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM.

MOM
Jerome, it's OK sweety, go to your room, I'll come in a bit/ (we'll)

(CONTINUED)
Dad goes to hit Mom again.

DAD
/SHUT UP.

Dad threatens his son.

DAD (cont'd)
Jay, you go back to your room NOW!

Dad shouts at Mom.

DAD (cont'd)
I TOLD YOU SIX SO WHY IT IS SEVEN NOW?

JEROME
Stop it.

MOM
What do you mean? Why is it seven?

Jerome holds the electronic device, presses a button on it, the device unfolds and wraps itself around his arm. It looks like a weapon, a bionic arm.

DAD
YOU THINK I'M STUPID? YOU THINK I'M STUPID? YOU THINK I'M STUPID?

Dad hits Mom some more.

MOM
NO, No, no/

DAD
/YOU THINK I'M STUPID?

Jerome eyes start to overflow with tears.

JEROME
Stop.

Jerome fires his weapon which turns his Dad into mineral. The latter yells at his wife, his finger pointed at her.

He turns his head to look at his son.

DAD
YOU THINnnn Iiiimmm STUuuu Ppp?

The father is totally mineralized, he falls and shatters like glass on the floor.

(CONTINUED)
Jerome points his weapon at his Dad, who turns his head to look at his son. He has a realization.

INT. JEROME'S APARTMENT - NIGHT (2100)

Jerome has some rapid eye movements during his hallucination, Zoe stares at him, he wakes up.

JEROME
Hey, still here?

ZOE
What do you mean 'still here'?

JEROME
What do you want?

ZOE
Two things.

Zoe slaps him hard.

ZOE (cont'd)
And second of all.

Zoe raises her left hand wrapped with foil.

Jerome rolls down his sleeve, adjusts his shirt quickly, and grabs his jacket.

JEROME
Yeah, we can go now.

Jerome leads Zoe out of the apartment.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Jerome drives out of a garage.

EXT. DOC'S HOUSE - NIGHT

They arrive at Doc's place. Jerome parks, they walk, and enter inside a house.
INT. DOC'S HOUSE - NIGHT (2130)

JEROME
How are you Doc ?

DOC
Tired, it's my bed time.

JEROME
Good news, I'm here to pay my debt.

DOC (50 y-o) looks at Zoe.

DOC
Are you in love ?

Jerome nodes.

JEROME
Yes, I'm in love with life, this is my friend Zoe, wait and see what she can do. Half a kilo !

DOC
Watt ?

JEROME
Yes, half a kilo watt.

DOC
Hum (Surprised).

JEROME
Hey she has a little rice thingy, can you remove it ?

DOC
Yes, I assume she's not wearing this for boxing, although she should punch you with it.

JEROME
She already did, how do you know ?

ZOE
That's not true, I slapped you.

Doc looks at Zoe.

DOC
Good. You can sit here.
Doc scans Zoe's hand with an electronic device, and reads a screen.

**DOC (cont'd)**
Missing worker. Your employers must like you a lot, they already put a warrant on your head. Insubordination. Electricity theft. Bionic...

**JEROME**
That's a noble pedigree.

Doc moves closer toward Zoe.

**DOC**
May I?

Doc lifts Zoe's shirt, and stares at her bionic heart.

**DOC (cont'd)**
How is your heart? Any concern?

**ZOE**
It's not mine.

Doc washes her hands, puts a medical gown, a medical mask, and some surgery gloves on.

**JEROME**
Hey Doc, do you know why I didn't ring the bell when I got here?

Doc takes Zoe's left hand, puts it on a counter, and cleans it with an alcohol swab.

**DOC**
I don't have a bell.

**JEROME**
I know, but how do you think we open your gate?

Doc grabs a scalpel, slits Zoe's skin between the thumb and the index, and removes a small RFID chip with tweezers.

Doc lowers her medical mask, and puts her face close to Zoe's.

(CONTINUED)
If you're rebooting your heart to invert electronic signals, you're playing with your life, I would advice you to stop now.

The bloody RFID chip hits the bottom of a glass full of medical alcohol.

Doc stitches Zoe's hand with a medical stapler, and cleans Zoe's hand.

DOC (cont'd)

Voilà.

ZOE

Thank you. Are you a real surgeon?

DOC

No, I'm a cook, and this is my kitchen.

ZOE

I want my heart back.

Zoe who wears a wrist brace walks with Jerome on the street toward a hang drummer.

Jerome takes Zoe by the hand, and dances with her.

ZOE

Sorry, I'm not into waltz.

JEROME

That's not waltz.

ZOE

No way.

Jerome looks at the heavy dark sky.

JEROME

Hey, wanna do something cool?

Jerome takes her by the hand, they run to his car.
Jerome drives at the bottom of a hill, they go out, Jerome opens his trunk to take an electronic device in the shape of a giant screw, it's made out of metal and glass, a blue liquid floats inside of it.

Jerome and Zoe walk up the hill.

Jerome screws the electronic device into the earth.

JEROME
Let's back off a little.

ZOE
How do you know/ (it's going to strike here ?)

A lightning bolt strikes the screw, Zoe jumps, and laughs.

ZOE (cont'd)
That's impressive.

JEROME
Attracting the bolt is easy, capturing it is tricky.

Jerome picks up the air terminal from the ground and puts it at eyes level, the blue liquid is glowing.

JEROME (cont'd)
Look at that, this bad boy is full.

Jerome removes a detachable device from the screw and gives it to Zoe.

JEROME (cont'd)
There you go.

ZOE
No, no, I'm ok.

JEROME
Please, you're my guest.

ZOE
Thanks.

They sit close to a tree, Zoe plugs a cable from the device to her chest, her heart charges.

(CONTINUED)
They stare at each other deeply.

It's magnetic midnight, the northern lights illuminate the sky.

JEROME
Next is to harness this.

ZOE
You have big ideas.

JEROME
Huge, I'm a dreamer.

ZOE
Is breaking into safes for the rest of your life part of the dream?

JEROME
Nope, I wanna set up a farm.

ZOE
That's cool, I'm good with computers, I can help out.

JEROME
Not a computer farm, I'm into seeds, I want to have my garden.

ZOE
More illegal stuff, that's exciting.

JEROME
Unless I get my license from the government. I will need an assistant, you're in?

ZOE
Assistant?

JEROME
I'm kidding, partner, how do you like that?

ZOE
The idea of going back to the land scares me a little, I'm so dependent on electricity, I'm not sure I can ever leave the city. Always anxious to find a plug.
JEROME
Soon electricity won't be an issue anymore.

ZOE
You think so?

JEROME
Yes, Doc and I have some kinda plan for that.

Pause.

ZOE
You could have got some drug with that, why are you doing this?

JEROME
'Cos your love saved me.

Zoe is confused.

ZOE
My love saved you?

JEROME
The pearls of your heart flowed into my arm.

Zoe cracks into laughter.

ZOE
That's a way to put it.

Jerome starts singing.

JEROME
Moi, je t'offrirai des perles de pluie venues de pays où il ne pleut pas.

Je creuserai la Terre jusqu'après ma mort pour couvrir ton corps d'Or et de Lumière.

ZOE
You painfully squeezed out few drops of hate (how about that?)

JEROME
Hate, love, polarity of the same thing.
ZOE
Hey Socrates, I didn't save you with my love, sorry.

JEROME
You know the dog?

ZOE
Which dog?

JEROME
Never mind, since I poured those drops from your heart, I don't feel the need of a fix anymore, I mean less.

ZOE
Really?

JEROME
Yes, that's love.

ZOE
Is an heartless woman able to love?

JEROME
Oh, come on.

ZOE
Sometimes I have doubts.

JEROME
One shall live with doubt and confidence both.

ZOE
With a false heart, how can my love be true?

JEROME
Ok, let's call it digital love then.

ZOE
Ah ah ah, you're still high on krinosine (highly addictive drug).

Pause.

JEROME
Since I'm kid I have the fantasy of being super strong, stronger than any man, like in the visual effects movies. To protect my Mom.

(Continued)
ZOE
You must like her a lot.

JEROME
Yeah, you?

ZOE
I think my parents betrayed me.

Pause.

ZOE (cont'd)
I know where he leaves.

JEROME
Your dad?

ZOE
No, the man who has my heart in his chest.

26 INT. APARTMENT - DAY

[Side view] Zoe is in front of a small safe, she presses a button on her bionic heart to reboot it [XCU], the door opens, she leaves.

Jerome walks in and seizes the treasure (seeds).

27 INT. COMPANY STORAGE ROOM - DAY

[Front view] Zoe is in front of a frosted glass door, she reboots her heart, electronic devices in the room turn OFF, then ON, the door opens, she leaves.

Jerome comes in and seizes the treasure (seeds).

28 INT. BANK - DAY

[Back view] Zoe is in front of bank safe as tall as her, she reboots her heart, grabs the safe handles, turns the wheel to open the safe, and leaves.

Jerome comes in and seizes the treasure (seeds).

29 INT. JEROME'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jerome organizes his seeds shelf.

(CONTINUED)
That's a lot of seeds Jerome.

Yeah. We're getting there (thanks to you).

I can't keep doing this.

Jerome bursts.

Ah ah.

Anytime I reboot my heart/ (it takes a huge toll on my health).

/Your heart is fine, soon we'll be swimming in a pool of electricity.

You don't understand (I have to stop).

What ? Why ? Let's do the royal bank of seeds, and that's it, you and I can retire for good. No more restrictions, a life of abundance.

There are other ways, can we/

/I know, but this way is here for us now, trust me.

Ok, I'll open it for you, but I will need to recharge my heart many times to get in.

How much ? 1k ? 2k ?

Yes, 1k to opens the doors and the safe.
Sure.

ZOE
And 4k to pay Doc for the surgery to get my heart back.

JEROME
Alright, that's 5000 watts.

INT. BUILDING - INT. ROOM - DAY
Jerome walks up the stairs to an apartment. He knocks, the door opens.
Jerome keeps going straight to a spacious room.
30 gamers wear VR glasses and motion in the air.
A DUDE is getting high on krinosine.
At the back of the room, POLY (20 y-o), a petite woman sits in a lotus position on a large wooden desk.
She plays hologram chess, her pit-pull lays in front of her. The dog watches the game calmly, and barks softly as if he was playing with her.
Poly's focus doesn't change, she looks either at the electronic chessboard or the dog.

POLY
Hey Jerome, how are you ?

JEROME (FRUSTRATED)
In a good mood. I need/

POLY
/I'm swell thank you, what ?

JEROME
What what ?

POLY
I know what you need, do you have what it takes to get it ?

JEROME
50 pine seeds, all organic.
Jerome puts a vial of seeds on Poly's table, she's super excited.

(CONTINUED)
Yesss!

Poly opens a drawer, takes a blue electricity tube, fills it up, and gives it to Jerome.

POLY (cont'd)
Thank you.

JEROME
No problem.

Jerome presses on the tube to assess its content.

JEROME (cont'd)
5000 watts? I was expecting 7k, they're organic.

POLY
I know, although you owe me 20.

JEROME
What do you mean? yes/

POLY
/Yes Jerome, you owe me 20 seeds.

JEROME
HEY! Do you think it's easy to get/

Poly rants.

POLY
/I DON'T GIVE A CUNT'S CUNT OR
WHATEVER THE EXPRESSION IS LAST TIME
YOU CAME HERE I GAVE YOU 3000 WATTS
AND 2 VIALS OF KRINOSINE WHICH YOU
HAVE NOT PAID YET, SO GO LEARN BASIC
ALGEBRA DO THE MATH AND DON'T COME
BACK HERE UNTIL THE COUNT IS RIGHT!
RIGHT?

Jerome puts the electricity tube in his jacket's pocket and leaves.

Poly calmly goes back to her chess game.

POLY (cont'd)
People like you are so predictable.

Jerome stops half way and turns toward Poly.
JEROME
Can I get an advance?

POLY
See! Told you.

JEROME
I'll pay by tonight.

POLY
You're funny.

JEROME
10 on top of what I owe you.

POLY
You must be out of your mind.

JEROME
40 seeds, grade A.

POLY
No, thank you.

Poly keeps playing chess.

Jerome anxiously massages his forehead with his fingers.

JEROME
50 tonight, you can keep those watts as a guarantee.

Jerome throws the electricity blue tube on Poly's desk.

POLY
Now, you're making sense.

Poly throws a red vial of Krinosine, Jerome catches it in the air.

JEROME
One vial?

Poly looks at her dog, he moves a leg (or bark gently).

POLY
Huh! Smart move.

JEROME
Are you kidding me?

Poly keeps her composure.
POLY
Socrates. Attack.

The pit-bull jumps from the table toward Jerome who runs out, and down the stairs.

The dog stopped half way and laid on the wooden floor. Poly walks toward him.

POLY (cont'd)
Soc, you're such a lazy boy. Is it because of chess? You're getting smarter.

Poly pets her playful dog.

POLY (cont'd)
You're becoming a thinker.

INT. BUILDING - UNDER STAIRWAY - DAY

Jerome slows down and stops. He rolls up his left sleeve, his member looks necrosed.

He takes the vial, and pours the red liquid on his forearm. It burns like acid on flesh.

Jerome closes his eyes slowly, his back against the wall, he falls asleep.

[Sound Fx: Voices in his head - Door slammed, Dad rants, beats up Mom]

INT. JEROME'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Zoe waits in Jerome's apartment. After few minutes she pulls out her phone, sends a text message to Jerome, and leaves.

INT. BUILDING - UNDER STAIRWAY - EVENING

Jerome's phone rings, he wakes up and leaves.

EXT. STREET - EVENING

Jerome drives fast, and stops at the bottom of some concrete staircase.
35 EXT. STREET - PLAZA - EVENING

Jerome gets out of his car, and climbs the stairs up to a plaza.

At the top, Jerome sees Zoe laid on the ground close to a building entrance, a SECURITY OFFICER checks Zoe's heart rate with his fingers on her neck.

Jerome runs toward the door, Zoe is unconscious, he lifts her with his arms and walks away. [Fade to white].

Act 3

36 INT. RECOVERY ROOM - DAY

THREE PERSONS meditate close to Zoe, who's on an hospital bed, leeches suck on a scar on her torso.

She wakes up, walks to the next room.

37 INT. SURGERY ROOM - DAY

Jerome is asleep in a bed, three other persons meditate around him.

Doc enters with a rolling cart on top of which sits a bionic arm.

The three persons move next to Jerome.

Zoe removes the leeches from her chest, unplugs herself and walks toward Jerome's bed.

DOC
Zoe ! You're not supposed to get up so fast.

She lifts the bed sheets to uncover Jerome's chest. A green light glows.

Zoe reacts.

ZOE
Why is he not waking up ?

DOC
Not sure, anesthesia is not a perfect science.

(CONTINUED)
Is he in a coma?

Yes, and being a krinosine user doesn't help. How do you feel?

Doc measures Jerome's forearm with some tape.

What are you doing?

Doc points at the bionic arm on the rolling cart.

That's on top of his bucket list.

What for?

Can't you see his arm is rotten? Anyway, his decision to get a bionic limb was set years ago, way before you came into the picture.

Now, I am in the picture, so things are different.

Doc laughs sarcastically, and doesn't stop her activity.

Of course.

You don't have the right to do this.

Pardon me? Who should I ask permission? You?

Yes.

Jerome and I share an idea, an idea that is beyond you.
ZOE
His obsession with bionics comes from a childhood trauma, don't pretend not to know, let him wake up and discuss it.

DOC
If he wakes up now, he's going to ask me why I didn't set it. I'd rather take advantage of the coma, you know what I mean?

ZOE
How much are you getting for that?

DOC
Oh please, you think I'm doing this for money?

ZOE
What do you want then? Electricity?

DOC
YES, I want to give free electricity to mankind, and Jerome is willing to contribute, he's going to help me help the world.

ZOE
Free electricity to mankind? It's the illusion of the golden cage, you think you're free but you're not, just working to feed the machine, indefinitely.

DOC
Zoe, I'm glad you feel something but this is not about your feelings, he might have manhandled you a few times/

ZOE
/I was not manhandled/

DOC
/but you don't have to care. You think he loves you? He kept you around to have a fix of krinosine anytime he needed it.

ZOE
He gave me his heart.
Zoe storms out.  

DOC  
Good luck with that.  

INT. JEROME'S APARTMENT - EVENING  

Zoe enters Jerome's apartment, drinks a glass of water, her back against the wall. The TV set is on.  

Zoe's gaze is in an haze of sorrow.  

Pause.  
Zoe notices the TV, an ad is on, promoting an humanoid.  
She unplugs everything but the TV stays on, she gets a baseball bat and smashes it several times.  
Out of breath, she sits down and falls asleep.  
[A couple hours have passed]  
Zoe wakes up, cleans the mess, and finishes building the grow room Jerome had started.  
She takes a 20kg bag of soil, opens it, and pours it in the grow room racks.  
Zoe walks to the seed wall, takes few jars, and plants some seeds in the earth.  

EXT. JEROME'S APARTMENT - ROOF - NIGHT  

Zoe goes to the roof, and sits on the ground.  
She looks at the sky, then at the seeds in the palm of her hand.