F L O W

EPISODE 01

Are You Still Sleeping?

Written by Anthony Vaglica

Length ≈ 1 Hour

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INT. STADIUM — MUSIC WAR CIRCUIT — ARTIFICIAL LIGHT

A gloved hand starts the engine and twists the throttle of a futuristic motorcycle.

PRESENTER(OFF)
Ladies and gentlemen, our finalists are pumped up!

On the starting line of a brightly-lit racetrack, drivers wearing colorful and ultramodern suits are preparing to start their machines. A YOUNG MAN appears dressed in black, his left arm bare. He looks around. The stadium is so immense that the ceilings are invisible.

The competitor activates his arm. A mechanical slot opens from his elbow to his wrist and emits a stream of light that forms an energy shield covering his left side.

Around the track, thousands of spectators shout and chant allegiance to their Cities. We hear chants for New York on one side while others support Paris, Beijing, New Sydney, Cape Town or Moscow. At the center of the circuit, the giant holographic image of the PRESENTER, stout, a neat beard and wearing a tuxedo, commentates the show. His name shines above him in golden letters, JAZ.

JAZ
(Laughing) Support your favorites! Place your bets. In just a few seconds, the kick-off of the biggest show ever imagined will mark the beginning of a new era! Citizens of the world, welcome to the world of MUSIC WAR!

His last sentence is punctuated by a display of digital fireworks. In some rows, the spectators are real flesh and blood people, while on the outskirts of the track sit the holographic projections of the supporters who are following the show live from their homes. The hologram of one SPECTATOR, casual dress, jeans, sweatshirt, and a hat, notices the hologram of a GIRL, pretty, blond, dressed in an evening gown, sitting nearby. They look at each other. The girl looks away.

INT. CITY — CITIZEN'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

The real-life spectator from the track sits at home, his wrist connected to a virtual reality cabin, his eyes covered with a metal visor. The fan zaps between his preferred angles of the circuit and chooses three types of broadcasts for which he pays immediately with 129.99 creds. He checks the players' statistics and bets 550 creds on "Kevi", then 550 on "Banksy". After a quick

trip to an online clothing store where he buys a smart blazer with 1500 creds and a shirt with 900 creds, he’s more presentable.

INT. STADIUM — MUSIC WAR CIRCUIT — ARTIFICIAL LIGHT

The show continues. The track is under the spotlight, the giant hologram of the presenter still commentating at the center of the stadium.

JAZ

Just look at them! They come to us from the six Cities, you know them well. To get this far, they’ve demonstrated the extent of their talent time and time again but only twelve of them will qualify at the end of this historic race.

There are six starting lines and four drivers on motorcycles floating a few centimeters above the ground are lined up on each of them. The six circuits meet at the center of the stadium on a track in the shape of a Möbius strip. Around the drivers gravitate moving objects, drones or robotic machines. Our bare-armed driver on the Paris starting line, taps on the holographic screen projected by his arm and gets into position.

The hologram of the spectator has changed clothes. His eyes meet the blond girl’s. They exchange a smile; she nods her head and he is suddenly teleported next to her.

At the center of the stadium, the participants sit in a circle of twenty-four chairs, connected to the program. These are the flesh and blood bodies of the drivers; green lights glow above them signaling that their avatars are racing.

JAZ

The candidates are connected, and they have some nice surprises in store for us! Ladies and gentlemen! Good luck and may the best person win! START THE COUNTDOWN!

At the center of the stadium, clocks display the countdown. Their engines begin to hum, roar and whistle. The countdown hits zero, the drivers take off. Thrown around by the impulse of his opponents’ engines, the young man with the bare arm remains stationary…

Title:

F L O W

Text: 36H EARLIER

EXT. ABANDONED BUILDING ROOFTOP - PARIS ZONE 5 — NIGHT

In the early evening dusk, a MAN, badly shaven, wearing a hat and a raincoat, squats on the rooftop of an abandoned building.

From inside his headgear, a luminous visor appears covering his eyes.

MAN
Ok, Sofi, let’s see what we’ve got.

He throws four small steel balls into an air duct. As they fall, they release propellers and begin to travel discretely through the building, sending him images of what is happening inside.

INT. ABANDONED BUILDING — NIGHT

It’s an abandoned hotel. Weaving through the hallways, the spherical drones transmit images of ARMED MEN gathering heavy metal crates. They are preparing to leave. Downstairs, in the street, 15 HOODED MEN load the crates into two trucks.

EXT. ABANDONED BUILDING ROOFTOP - PARIS ZONE 5 - NIGHT

On the rooftop, the man gets impatient, from inside his hat, a female voice reports to him.

MAN
Well, honey?

SOFI
Thirty-two hostile individuals spread over four floors. Nine on the top floor. Seven on the lower floor, with the child. You will soon be joined by the six guards on the stai…

MAN
Ok, ok! What is the hostage’s situation? I want images.

INT. ABANDONED BUILDING — NIGHT

The reconnaissance drones retrace their steps, transmitting images as they do so. A child on a drip is strapped to a bed. Bandages cover her forehead and forearms. The young girl's eyes are open but her gaze is blank.

EXT. ABANDONED BUILDING ROOFTOP - PARIS ZONE 5 — NIGHT

On the rooftop, the man gets angry when he sees the images.

MAN
Sofi! What is the situation?!

SOFI
She is alive but it is too late. The surgery has already taken place. Sorry Killa. I had to confirm my observation calculations before telling you.

Killa receives infrared images. The child has undergone surgery. He clenches his fist, exhales, and tries to stay calm.

KILLA
What are our stats?

SOFI
There's a ninety-six percent chance of…

Killa sighs unhappily, Sofi quickly pauses.

SOFI
Well, that noisy sigh confirms that you want to carry out non-lethal action, but the situation involves forty-five percent additional risk. Compared with the average risk of our activities so far, this risk is far too high. Do you wish to confirm this command?

Killa sighs again and speaks reluctantly.

KILLA
As usual…

SOFI
Calculation in progress…

INT. ABANDONED BUILDING — NIGHT

The scanballs continue the reconnaissance for a moment, passing armed men without being noticed.

SOFI
Calculation in progress… Calculation in progress…

EXT. ABANDONED BUILDING ROOFTOP — PARIS ZONE 5 — NIGHT

KILLA
Well, can you do it?

SOFI
Calculation in progress… Estimate… If you save the hostage, the estimate drops to forty-nine percent. So, I don't advise…

KILLA
Yes, yes! I know, but hey… What's the point of us coming here if not to save the hostage? Can you explain that to me, Miss superconscious? Come on, that's more than enough. Anyway, you always exaggerate by ten percent, I'm used to that.

As he speaks, Killa stands up, rolls up his sleeves and flicks his raincoat behind his elbows revealing a black exoskeleton and wrist guards with spikes. With one press, he activates the devices that glow faintly before he squats again to raise the hems of his trousers. His boots, equipped with technology, light up in turn.

SOFI
That's not true. My estimates are consistently correct. Even if you do show skill and a more than satisfactory responsiveness, it must be said… It turns out you are just following my instructions.

KILLA
Yeah, right. Come on then, get us in the mood!

SOFI
Calculating the rhythm of events… Title choice: Take it Easy My Brother Charles. Reading in progress.

Killa listens to the beginning of the song. He gets up slowly, smiling.

KILLA
That's it, perfect.

With a rolling gait, he walks over to a skylight on the rooftop and is about to jump when the music stops abruptly.

SOFI
STOP!

KILLA
What!

SOFI
You're not in time with the music. My predictions require a rhythmic execution. The tempo of the song will keep us in sync. You must stick to it.

KILLA
OK. I got it, start again.

The music starts again and Killa performs a few dance steps, sticking tight to the rhythm. He feels the music and jumps through the glass.

INT. ABANDONED BUILDING — NIGHT

He lands in the middle of shards of glass, surprising everyone on the upper floor. Crouching down under his coat in the middle of the nine thugs, Killa straightens his arms and immediately crosses them again. From under his sleeves, two grappling hooks shoot out towards the villains on either side of him. He misses them but grabs a crate of weapons on one side and a bureau on the other.

Activating the mini rockets on his boots, he leaps headfirst onto the thug in front of him and yanks his arms behind his back. Thanks to the strength of his exoskeleton, he drags the bureau and the metal box towards him, and the objects neutralize the two men on either side of him as they are hurled forward. Their gunfire deflects onto their accomplices who in turn, collapse. Killa pins the last of them to the ground before he can escape.

The hero leaves the room, dances along the hallway then down the stairs. As he approaches the lower floor, his lowered visor allows him to see through the wall.

Three men are about to join him. He leaps from the staircase onto the door at the foot of the stairs, flattening the man who was about to open it. With a dance move, he straightens up. In his visor he sees options for overcoming his two new attackers. The hallways are wide and Killa, targeted, slides to the ground and slips between his enemies who shoot into the void. He grabs them by their torsos, crossing his arms and the force of his exoskeleton makes the bodies collide violently. Killa starts running down the stairs, he whispers the lyrics of the song that screams in his ear: "Take it easy my brother Charlie", as if to convince himself and to keep the rhythm. Suddenly, through the wall, he sees men guarding a room. He retraces his steps and jumps into the adjacent room. Through the dividing wall, his visor shows him two beds. The hostage is on one of them. There are two men behind the door and two others near the wall that separates the two rooms.

INT. ROOM OF ABANDONED BUILDING — NIGHT

Two metal balls roll under the feet of the bad guys and immediately launches a multitude of thin needles connected to wires. The spikes stab them with a powerful electric shock that paralyzes them instantly.

Killa approaches the girl and unstraps her.

KILLA
Stop the music. We're taking her away.

Her eyes are glazed, she doesn't even react.

SEQUENCE 03

EXT. DESERT NEAR CITY OF PARIS — DAY

In the middle of nowhere, the overcrowded city of Paris stands surrounded by one-hundred-meter-high battlements. A woman's voice begins to speak slowly over a repetitive melody. She sings her name, YOLANDI, from time to time.

YOLANDI (OFF)
Hey, are you still sleeping? The situation is critical. The ozone layer does not exist anymore for thirty years. The sun radiates the existence of its ruthless light. The sacred star of our forefathers is finally honoring its promises of apocalypse. *(Singing) My name is Yolandi, my name is Yolandi, my name is Yolandi.*
All species have almost disappeared and Humanity with them. Da Vinci said, "Look at light and admire its beauty. Close your eyes, and then look again: what you saw is no longer there; and what you will see later is not yet." My name is Yolandi.

EXT. CITY OF PARIS - DAY

In the sky over Paris floats a pharaonic Sphere in which stands an entire city. Both urban structures are protected from the sun by vibrating magnetic shields. They use different technologies; far more modern, the spherical shield is translucent while the dome over Paris is tinted with colorful reflections.

In the streets of the City, citizens are already rushing around. In the sky above, delivery drones cross paths with those of the Ops', the police operators. Elsewhere in the city, the buildings are luxurious and green terraces abound. Close to the Eiffel Tower a "Haussmannian" style building stands out from this

futuristic landscape. On the façade is displayed GRAND HOTEL DE PARIS and it is crowned with four stars.

YOLANDI (OFF) [CONT'D]
Are you still sleeping? Did you know that for over a century, many people thought we were moving away from Nature with all our technology, with all our inventions. That the mere fact that we use science, chemical synthesis or genetic manipulation, made the human species a traitor to our mother planet. *(Singing) My name is Yolandi, my name is Yolandi, my name is Yolandi.*

But who decreed that the natural cycle of life would stop with the invention of fire? The effervescence of the mind, logic, calculation and interpretation. Everything that has driven us for centuries, isn't that natural? My name is Yolandi, my name is Yolandi, my name is Yolandi.

Our mind, a marvel of creation… and single source of all our creations. How else to describe this consciousness that fuels us other than natural energy?

EXT. CITY OF PARIS — GRAND HOTEL FORECOURT — DAY

In the city center, in front of the GRAND HOTEL DE PARIS, a crowd has gathered. TWO POLICE OPERATORS(OPS)provide security. Beside them is an enthusiastic crowd. Small groups of noisy fans appear to be fighting using holographic images and chants under the windows of this luxury establishment where the long-awaited idols are staying.

INT. GRAND HOTEL DE PARIS — DAY

The hotel is fancy. A giant chandelier in bluish crystal hangs in the entrance that has already been invaded by dozens of fans and journalists.

YOLANDI (OFF) [CONT'D]
Energy… In space to travel, in time to accomplish. A ruthless constant for those who wish to stop, even for a moment. *(Singing) My name is Yolandi, my name is Yolandi.*
Through the artificial lights that blind this world… Through this inexhaustible flow of information, as relevant as it is useless, it has happened. The world has changed. *(Singing) My name is Yolandi. My name is Yolandi. My name is Yolandi.*

INT. GRAND HOTEL DE PARIS SUITE — DAY

In one of the luxury hotel's suites, our young driver is still sleeping. A note has been left at his door for the attention of "Dyon Lyæus aka DAZE."

At this hour, the beams let out a pale, soothing orange glow. In the next room a gigantic bed fills the entire bedroom. Lying diagonally across the bed, the young man no longer has his left arm. His shoulder is held in a metal shell. Flat on his stomach, entirely naked under the sheets, he is wearing hearing aids from which emanates a bluish glow.

YOLANDI (OFF) [CONT'D]
Hey, are you still sleeping? There's no point in looking backwards, you know. New problems only call for future solutions. *(Singing) My name is Yolandi, my name is Yolandi, my name is Yolandi.*
At this crucial stage in our history, I am stuck here. But I'm capable of action! Come on, my child. *(Singing) My name is Yolandi. Are you still sleeping?*

INT. DYON'S DREAM — LABORATORY - NIGHT

The voice disturbs Dyon's sleep. He sees himself in a dream, totally submerged and connected to various cables.

YOLANDI (OFF) [CONT'D]
Seeing this world grow is still a possibility. *(Singing) My name is Yolandi.*

EXT. DYON'S DREAM — CITY OF PARIS - DAY

In Dyon's dream, he sees Paris from the sky during the activation of the protective solar shield about twenty years earlier.

YOLANDI (OFF) [CONT'D]
In the twilight of my reality and since the dawn of your life… Hear my stories, hear my name before I forget it! *(Singing) My name is Yolandi, my name is Yolandi, my name is Yolandi.*
We are all they have left! But you're still sleeping! Please… DYON!

EXT. DYON'S DREAM — LABORATORY - NIGHT

Dyon is still dreaming. Now he sees himself in the increasingly dark blue water. He suffocates and when he finally sees the light, a soldier cuts off his arm.

INT. GRAND HOTEL DE PARIS SUITE — DAY

The glow of the hearing aids turns red and a horrible noise rings in Dyon's head. He opens his eyes, suddenly. The pain is excruciating. While trying to reactivate the device, one of the earbuds rolls on the sheets, falls on the soft carpet and ends up under the bed. Each sound of the object rubbing against the material, each bump amplifies the noise to the point of making him giddy and disturbing his vision. His hand touching the carpet generates violent shrill squeaks in his ears. He finally locates the earbud with his fingertips. Once the device is back in place and reactivated, calm is restored. Not a sound in the room, nothing assaults him now. The young man sweats profusely.

His eyelids still twitching, Dyon rolls over to the other side of the bed and picks up his artificial arm from the ground. With a rotating movement he fixes it into place and checks the dexterity of his fingers that he unfurls in a multitude of tools. He presses once on his forearm activating two luminous concentric circles on the artificial skin. Streams of light spurt out of them to form a colorful interface before him. Interrupted by the "unauthorized connection" message in red and a loud beep, Dyon taps the messaging service pictogram. A list of contacts appears, and he scrolls down to the picture of TEISHA, (50), beautiful, smiley. The holographic photo appears in 3D and is accompanied by sine waves that are already reacting to the boy's voice. A stroke of the floating red button and the recording begins.

DYON
Hello Teïteï! So, here we are. (Laughs) I'm just waking up… and still finding it hard to believe. Well, I'll try to stay focused, and we'll see. Finally… it's starting, I can't believe it… We won't be seeing each other for a while, well, mostly me…

Dyon gets up, followed by the image of Teïsha, and walks towards the glass table which activates. Inside it, the vast quantity of colored diodes reveals the complexity of the device. The vast table finally lights up to represent the hologram of the game of pool started the day before. By placing himself in front of the white ball as if he were holding a real cue, it suddenly appears and follows his movements.

DYON [CONT'D]
It's great here by the way! The height of comfort with state-of-the-art equipment.

Dyon adjusts his stroke and hits the ball. Unsatisfied with his shot, he places four fingertips on the corner of the table revealing a hologram of its inner mechanics. He tinkers

effortlessly with the machine's source codes while continuing to speak:

DYON [CONT'D]
The hotel even has a tool protocol. I can control everything with my fingertips. Well, there's plenty of entertainment but I can't wait for the race to begin.

Once the game table's settings have been adjusted, the pool game reappears. With one swipe of his finger, he returns to the previous shot and executes a perfect shot, sending two balls to completely opposite holes.

DYON [CONT'D]
Well, I hope you can rest despite your treatment. Dr. Shine has planned a visit to you this morning, I think. Please keep me informed.

As he speaks, Dyon touches the edge of the table again and all the balls are placed back on the green baize. A movement in the right direction and the opaque filter of the large bay window slowly fades letting the light of the city invade the room. Downstairs he notices that the avenue is packed.

DYON [CONT'D]
Wow! There are hundreds of fans and journalists outside. And to think that the prod wanted to keep us away from the cameras. It seems word got out.

There is a knock at the door. A BODYGUARD calls to him.

BODYGUARD
Mr. Daze, are you awake?

DYON
Yes, yes! I'm coming!

BODYGUARD
No, don't bother. I simply wanted to let you know that we'll be leaving in one hour.

DYON
Okay, that's perfect. Thank you.

Dyon walks to the bathroom as he finishes his message.

DYON
Sorry, that was my bodyguard, we each have one. We are already being treated like celebrities. Well, that's not all but I have to leave now. Let me know how you are as soon as you can, OK? And don't forget, the voice messages are screened by production. Don't talk about the other competitors or the game in general and I should be able to listen to them without any problem. Right, I'm off to get ready now. Kisses, Teitei!

He closes the messaging app and Teisha's photo disappears. Before getting into the shower, he turns on a screen that plays the teaser for the Music War show.

SEQUENCE 04

EXT. DESERT SURROUNDING THE CITY — DAY

A series of images from outside the City. Storms and tornadoes blow through an arid desert. The voice of Jaz, the presenter, pitches the show accompanied by a musical score.

JAZ (OFF)
In a world that has become hostile, we are humanity's last hope.

The gigantic City appears on the screen, seen from the sky. It's fenced in and sheltered under a colorful force field. In the air, not far away, floats a sphere surrounded by a translucent magnetic field with pearly reflections.

JAZ(OFF)
Our chance of survival depends on the strongest among us.

EXT. CITY OF PARIS — DAY

We penetrate the blue membrane of the City and see the futuristic City of Paris. The MUSIC WAR logo is superimposed over the city. It's an advertisement.

JAZ (OFF)
Our great Archetype and the Spherians show their appreciation by offering the most outstanding citizen a unique opportunity to join them.

INT. ANIMATED ADVERT — ARTIFICIAL LIGHT

Music accompanies the graphics. As the screen turns to black, the logo turns into planet Earth. As it rotates, the key locations are illuminated and display the names of the Cities: Paris, Cape Town, New York, Beijing, New Sydney, Moscow. The hologram of the planet turns into a Sphere, like those above each city. In the background, Jaz appears, continuing his presentation as the names of the Cities get bigger.

JAZ
Never before has a Citizen gained access to the heavenly paradises. But it's time for change!

The names of the six cities merge with six faces of the Chosen Ones. New York with EZRA, beautiful, young, black, with an icy stare. New-Sidney with BANSKY, colorful face, blue hair. Paris with KEVI, badly shaven, brown hair. Beijing with MYEL, sublime, blond. Moscow merges with the thin, chiseled face of NAPO. And lastly, Cape Town with VAKLAW, sublime, black, blue-eyes, male with female make-up.

JAZ
The "CHOSEN ONES". Elected by the Citizens of each City, they will join the candidates who qualified in the selection tests. A total of twenty-four Citizens will compete to try to win a place in the Spheres. Get ready for the clash of the Titans!

The holographic projections of the twenty-four candidates appear one by one. They are now lined up on the starting lines of their city of origin, four to a line. On the Paris starting line, we recognize our hero, Dyon. In first place is Kevi, his name written in gold letters. There are two other candidates: Nickèle and Chess Maty. On the Cape Town starting line, Vaklaw is in first place followed by Ama Naledi, Razak and Talloulah. Next, Beijing presents Myel in golden letters then Shao-Lee, Ai Lin, and Goblin. We see Napo at the Moscow starting line along with Thorus, Likhan and Anthojoly, the only girl from Moscow. For New York, it is Ezra who heads the list followed by Jane White, Q.Dyson and Amadeus, who is wearing a mask. On the last line, New Sydney, Banksy is followed by Tidal Cris, Neverly and Switch.

JAZ
Tomorrow night at 9p.m., your favorite celebrities will compete in the Ultra Virtual Race. Hosted by yours truly and the sweet and digital G.R.A.M.M.Y, the race will take place under the watchful…

JAZ [CONT'D]
… eye of our show's jury, my beloved Brothers JAD! JAK! JAM! JAP! And JAH!

One by one, perfect replicas of the show's presenter appear. Each one has its individual style and a dominant color. A text indicates their names and specialties. JAH for "Meditation". He wears a beige Kimono, and his green hair is drawn into a bun. Jah is sitting in the lotus position. JAD represents "Dance" and is also a copy of Jaz except her hair and beard are pink. She is a proud woman. Her bulky, hairy, masculine body doesn't seem to bother her. Below JAM's smile is written "Music". His hair is gray and purple. He has the immortal air of a 50's Rocker. To his left appears the most dandy and stylish of the group. JAK, in a navy-blue suit, with bluish locks. Next to his name is written "Lifestyle". Lastly there's JAP for "Sport". Unlike the presenter and his clones, Jap isn't overweight. He wears a yellow and black tracksuit, like Bruce Lee.

JAZ
Twenty-four drivers on the starting line and only twelve places for the final adventure. Don't miss the kick-off of MUSIC WAR!

The candidates' faces blend into each other before exploding into bright glitter making way for the show's logo.

SEQUENCE 05

EXT. PARIS — FALCONERS' MARKET SQUARE — DAY

The huge Falconers' Market square, located in ZONE 3, is the working-class district of the Parisian City. It is dawn, only the street cleaners erasing the traces of the day before and a few delivery trucks are allowed in through the main entrance.

In the marketplace, KILO (12), drags behind her parents and her younger sister. In her mother's arms, an infant completes this little family. Two small round drones gravitate around them, accompanying them.

Hands in pockets, head deep inside the hood of a black leather jacket adorned with four colorful badges, the girl is absorbed by the luminous data projected before her eyes. The people she meets greet her, but as always when she retreats into her own world like this, she doesn't hear them. Concerned about their children's manners and education, her parents apologize for her attitude.

FATHER
Kilo! You might answer when people talk to you! I don't believe it, did you …

FATHER [CONT'D]
… see that Jayna? Your daughter is getting tougher than the winds of Apeiron!

The mother adjusts the baby's bonnet.

JAYNA
Come on, Paolo, are you comparing our child to the outside climate now? Well, don't be surprised that she can be as scorching as she is icy with you.

PAOLO
Ha ha, very funny. Go on then, you show me how it's done, Super Mom!

JAYNA
Kilo! Get your head out of that hood! What on earth are you up to in there?

Kilo, less than twenty meters away, barely hears her mother's reproaches. Something is wrong with the data that scrolls before her eyes. Lagging her parents, Kilo stops for a moment. With her hands in her pockets, she corrects the code errors. Thanks to a pair of special gloves, she taps her fingers rapidly against her sides to operate and write on a virtual keyboard.

Arriving at a building with no doors or windows, standing among other buildings on the central island of the marketplace, the father turns around to find that his eldest daughter hasn't budged.

PAOLO
I'm impressed by your technique! Give me Tino, go open up.

Jayna hands the baby to her husband while Kilo's younger sister, ARIA (6), lets go of her father's hand, shouting:

ARIA
I'll go get her! Kiloooo!

PAOLO
Aria! Come back here!

One of the small round drones approaches Jayna. She holds her wrist up to a decrepit and almost invisible plaque on the façade. The edges of the plaque light up and the drone transmits a bright screen that displays the architectural plans of the entire building.

With her fingertips, Jayna selects the walls and tells them to open. The façade then unfolds revealing a huge outdoor terrace decorated with a sign: Atalanta.

A few quick taps on the screen and the ceiling and walls fold down then completely disappear. The terrace is decorated with beams carved into Mayan totem poles and tables set in the same style.

Kilo starts walking again and without lifting her head from her virtual screen, she continues to program it.

Aria is hiding. She knows that her big sister never looks more than two meters ahead of her and this time, she intends to surprise her properly. Aria waits for the right moment, like a predator on the lookout, aware that she has only one chance. A quick peek tells her that Kilo is arriving. Aria crouches down, ready to leap. As soon as her sister's foot lands in front of her, the trap closes. Shouting out, she throws herself at her older sister! But she literally goes straight through her. With the impetus and the element of surprise, Aria stumbles and falls. She looks all around, but Kilo has disappeared. Only a small drone marked with a blue cloud hovers 1.5 meters from the ground. Its camera lights up and the image of Kilo, truer than life, is projected in front of Aria.

(HOLOGRAM OF) KILO
So, little sis. Aren't you tired of always tripping up?

The little girl jumps up and then gets angry.

ARIA
You suck! Take that! And that!

Aria picks up a few pebbles and hurls them through the illuminated hologram and onto the projector drone. Her arm is immediately seized by Kilo, the real one this time, who has sneaked up from behind.

KILO
Let go of that you little monster!

ARIA
No! Leave me alone!

KILO
I said let go!

Aria won't let go of the pebble. Kilo squeezes her arm harder.

ARIA
Stop it! Kilo! You're hurting me!

The child begins to cry, and Kilo immediately loosens her grip.

KILO
Here we go again! You pester me and then you start blubbering! Are you happy now?

ARIA
I just wanted to play! I hate you! I hate you!

PAOLO
That's enough girls! Come here! Aria, you have to get ready. We're leaving in five minutes.

EXT. PARIS — ATALANTA RESTAURANT TERRACE — DAY

ARIA
But Dad! It was Kilo who hurt me!

PAOLO
I said enough is enough! Go and get your stuff. Kilo! You too, can't you be more careful?

KILO
Who, me? This little monster would have broken my drone if I hadn't stopped her. That'll teach her! I'm sick of this. I have to get everything ready for tonight!

PAOLO
Hey, wait a minute, princess! Look after Tino while I take Aria to her class.

KILO
But Dad, I have to review all my trajectories for tomorrow!

PAOLO
Tomorrow?! It won't be worth it, sweetie. Everyone will want to see the race. For once, we'll put screens on the terrace.

KILO
No, that's the whole point! Everyone here will put up screens. If I re-program my drones, I'll be able to screen a high-definition broadcast in in the sky over the market so we can watch the show on a 9-meter-long holography!

PAOLO
Can we really do that?

KILO
Yes, of course!

A smile reveals Paolo's admiration for his daughter.

PAOLO
OK. That's a very good idea!

KILO
Yes, thanks, I know that. So, I have a lot of work to calibrate that. I also have to be efficient tonight and I can't be with Tino under my feet. Seriously, Dad, I can't.

PAOLO
(Shouting) Carlotta! Take your brother, please! Mom has to work, and I have to drive your sister. You don't have school today, I'm asking you nicely.

KILO
OK, OK, I'll do it! No need to scream nicely!

Kilo takes her baby brother from her father's arms. Sitting at a table, she grabs a bread roll and bites into it, cursing.

KILO
(With her mouth full) Cos I'm shust hanging out having fun. Sho what if I don't hafe school?

Kilo goes into the restaurant. The father also takes some bread from a table and hands a piece to her younger sister who has returned with her backpack.

PAOLO
Here, do you want some, Aria?

ARIA
Yes! Crumbs!

The child gobbles down the lump of bread and starts to imitate her sister with a funny walk, making her parents laugh.

ARIA
Yeah! Cos I'm shust hanging out having fun. Sho what if I don't hafe school?

PAOLO
Hey! Making fun of your sister is not cool! Come on we're leaving!

ARIA
OK. See you later, Mom.

JAYNA
See you later, darling. Have fun.

INT. ATALANTA RESTAURANT — KILO'S WORKSHOP — DAY

Kilo goes into her workshop and puts Tino in his crib. The baby sleeps peacefully while the girl sits in her control chair. She places her small hands inside metal circles that light up. Immediately, six holographic screens appear. Images of the marketplace from different angles appear. On the central screen, Kilo sees her father walking with Aria clinging to his leg. She can hear them through her speakers.

PAOLO
Remember what we call small animals who live attached to bigger ones?

ARIA
Yes! Parasiiiiiiiites!

Kilo, who is watching them with a smile, seizes the illuminated control handles.

KILO
Come on! Take off!

EXT. PARIS — FALCONERS' MARKET SQUARE — DAY

Behind Aria and her father, six drones take off simultaneously. The vapor trails they leave behind them form a multitude of arabesques. The father can't help but bite his lips while the little sister is fascinated.

ARIA
Kilo's falcons are the best! The others just carry the plates. We make sceptacles.

PAOLO
Spec-ta-cles… go on, say it, Spec.

ARIA
Spec… Ta-cle.

PAOLO
Yes, that's better.

Suddenly, the devices gather together in a deafening boom triggering a dull explosion that emits an army of glittering holograms. The colorful little hearts and ladybugs that Aria loves so much dance in the bouquet of rainbows and shooting stars that fade as they fall back down.

ARIA
Wow! My sister's the best!

INT. ATALANTA RESTAURANT — KILO'S WORKSHOP — DAY

At her command post, Kilo bites her tongue as she concentrates on flying the aircraft, when suddenly she hears her little brother crying.

KILO
Hang on, Tino, I'm coming. I'm just launching… (Kilo taps on her illuminated keyboard and proudly presses one last key) … That!

EXT. PARIS — FALCONERS' MARKET SQUARE — DAY

Outside, her projection drones take on a new shape. Hearts and stars turn into a giant message transforming the sky and people's moods in Falconers' Market Square: Good Morning Everyone!

SEQUENCE 06

INT. LIFE LAB - SINGLE ROOM — DAY

In a hospital room, a woman in her fifties is bedridden and connected to a whole range of devices. The bluish light of day penetrates through the window. The illuminated tablet at the end of the patient's bed reads: TEÏSHA LYÆUS.

She listens to a voice message with a smile. A thick disc floats next to her shoulder and broadcasts a sinusoid dancing to the voice of her correspondent named DYON.

DYON (OFF)
Finally, it's starting, I can't believe it… We won't be seeing each other for a while, well, mostly me…

A bell on the door rings gently. In a corner of the holographic screen, a door pictogram flashes red. Teïsha strokes it, it turns green, and the door opens. A NURSE (30's) enters. Teïsha pauses the message.

TEISHA
Hello Estaf Gabriela!

ESTAF GABRIELA
(Struggling to pronounce her name)
Hello. Did you sleep well, Mrs. Lyaus?

TEISHA
Yes, thanks. It’s La-yus.

ESTAF GABRIELA
Sorry, it’s quite unusual.

TEISHA
Don’t worry, I don’t remember anyone ever getting it right. Anyway, with my treatment I don’t remember anything much.

Teïsha, overcome with tiredness, puts her hand over her eyes.

TEISHA
Estaf, could you dim the lights? I have a bit of a headache.

ESTAF GABRIELA
Of course, Mrs. Lyæus.

The nurse presses her bracelet, and a small interface appears. With her index finger she lowers an illuminated gauge and the light dims.

ESTAF GABRIELA
How’s that? Better?

TEISHA
Yes, that’s perfect, thank you.

A light begins to flicker. The nurse speaks into her headset.

ESTAF GABRIELA
Hello, Dr. Shine. Very well, thank you. Yes, yes. We’re ready. I’m switching to the main signal.

Another tap on her bracelet and projectors display a 1.5-meter-high, 3D bust in front of the patient’s bed.
DR.SHINE (50’s). His spiral-shaped trim beard and tanned complexion testify to the quality of life in the Spheres.

DR SHINE
Hello Mrs. “Lias”! How are you feeling this morning?

TEÏSHA
Hello Doctor. I'm OK, I slept well thank you. And you, what's the weather like on Europa?

DR SHINE
Life here is good, thank you, madam. But enough of the small talk. I thought we were close enough not to lie to each other anymore.

TEISHA
Fancy that!

DR SHINE
Yes. I see that you woke up three times last night and had a hard time going back to sleep. What happened?

TEISHA
It's true, I was woken up …

DR SHINE
(Interrupting her) That is not surprising. Your treatment will make you feel tired as well as making you sleep lighter. I will prescribe more effective sleeping pills. You also report periods of acute pain. Are they bearable?

TEISHA
Less and less so.

DR SHINE
This is a sign that the treatment needs to be intensified… We will start this afternoon. You will have less trouble sleeping tonight.

TEISHA
Can we wait a few days, Doctor? I'd like to follow the young boy during the Music War trials.

DR SHINE
Oh, that's true, young Dyon is participating! Daze, isn't it? My daughter loves him! On this subject they sent me your questions about the treatments up on Europa. Between you and I, experimental research does exist but care is overpriced. But above all, …

DR SHINE (CONT'D)
… this show is just entertainment. Don't believe it for a second, the Elements have almost certainly selected the winner already… All this… it's just fairy dust for ailing unicorns Mrs. "Liès."

At these last words, Teïsha looks at the ground. The Estaf, who has remained silent, looks at her sadly.

DR SHINE
Mrs. "Lyas", are you OK?

TEISHA
What? Yes! That was just embarrassing.

DR SHINE
What do you mean?

TEISHA
I just asked for information about what might almost certainly be my only hope of a cure. And you just shat on it! But relieving yourself in public, that's embarrassing.

The doctor freezes, visibly holding back his anger. Teïsha winks at the young Estaf, who cannot help but chuckle.

DR SHINE
Hmmm… Let's put that down to fatigue and carry on… Here's how we'll proceed. (In a harsher tone, to the nurse who's still smiling) Estaf Gabriela, please note! We will double the iodine injections and increase the concentration. Schedule four projections per day.

As the Estaf nervously notes down his instructions, Teïsha looks at her bitterly, before having a coughing fit and interrupting the irritated doctor.

DR SHINE
Put a mask on her for pity's sake! Let's get this over and done with, I've got other things to do.

The Estaf struggles to place a transparent mask on Teïsha who is still coughing. She calms down and the image of the nurse blur before slowly fading to the sound of the doctor's voice.

DR SHINE
(Further and further away) Double the doses and send me daily reports. She must …

SEQUENCE 07

EXT. EUROPA SPHERE- DAY

Behind the protective membrane of the Europa Sphere, a large town resembling ancient Greece is emerging. In the light, the columns that support the high buildings with pointed roofs are reflected on expanses of water and recall the golden age of Greek cities.

The administrative buildings are tall and offer a breathtaking view of the paradise of Europa.

INT. EUROPA SPHERE — COUNCIL OF THE ELEMENTS — DAY

A butler carries a tray of refreshments in a meeting room where seven people are seated. Only his robotic movements betray his true nature. At the top of the large table in the shape of a water droplet, sits MARIA, short-haired, brunette, dressed in a white and blue dress the collar of which is higher than those of the others. Opposite her are six people, elegantly dressed and with less prominent collars. The woman is in mid-speech when the butler positions himself to her right, waiting for her to finish.

MARIA
Your concerns are unfounded Dr. Path, but we will keep an eye on these doctors and their practices.

The butler puts down the drink and leaves the room. In front of Maria, Dr. MERYTH PATH, tall, beautiful, black, reacts just as respectfully before answering.

MERYTH
Thank you, Arche.

To the right of Meryth sits a SOUEN ZI, tall, Asian, in the prime of life. He radiates an almost palpable aura of power.

MARIA
Souen Zi, I feel you are puzzled.

SOUEN ZI
I am worried, Maria, that is true I still think that this event isn’t bringing anything positive. It is just another of Element Janus’s new fads. His ignorance endangers the very essence of our social system.

To his left, JANUS, the man he points to, is a little older and his bright blue eyes appear surprised.

JANUS
Sweeny, you are brilliant but let me remind you that the enemy of knowledge is not ignorance but the illusion of knowledge.

SOUEN ZI
Your audacity blinds you Element Janus. And it is not by quoting historians of the past…

JANUS
Oh please, Element Sweeny, what is happening to us?

SOUEN ZI
What is happening to us is that you don’t seem to realize what is brewing. Or are you pretending you don’t realize?

JANUS
What an idea! And what are you talking about?

SOUEN ZI
I agree that this kind of entertainment undermines social cohesion between Spherians and Citizens.

JANUS
It’s culture!

SOUEN ZI
Entertainment, sir! It’s a game with a reward into the bargain! And what a brilliant idea to propose a place among us, no less! It won’t escape anyone that confirming the existence of a better life on the Spheres will only reinforce the ideology of revolt that is increasingly present in the Cities. I do not fear a revolt, and even if there is one, our security is infallible. But your motives don’t deceive anyone, Element Janus.

Janus immediately stops smiling. Maria tries to stop them.

MARIA
Enough, gentlemen! I feel like I'm witnessing a tiff between wannabes. Janus! I know that you…

JANUS
No, he's right.

MARIA
I beg your pardon!

Nobody at the table can hide their surprise.

JANUS
Yes, well, partly…

SOUEN ZI
(Sitting up again) I'm relieved to hear that.

JANUS
My friend, you are indeed right about the most important part. When I wrote Music War, my goal was to offer a program that would make Citizens want to surpass themselves. In my schools, standards are falling. And average grades too. From our assessments, it seems this gap is beginning to affect our productivity. I would therefore like to remind all of you seated around this table that Maria here, and the Arches of the other Cities believed in this project… and their hopes have already been partly rewarded. After months of advertising and the selection tests broadcast in the Cities, the public has never been so enthusiastic. Who will dare claim they haven't already felt growth in their sector? Paris has never exported so much as in recent weeks. While Moscow and Beijing's figures were stagnant, and New York's overall productivity was falling for no apparent reason, all have noted a clear improvement. And I've not even mentioned New Sydney or Cape Town.

SOUEN ZI
I still don't see why I'm right.

JANUS

I’m getting there. My friends, we are indeed in the spotlight! The Citizens’ enthusiasm is driven only by the dream of living the Spherian life. And this may annoy some. Be aware, Element Souen Zi, Arche Salomea (Addressing Maria), that I will back any requests concerning security in the Cities. I’m not an expert but I defer to Souen Zi and the other Security Elements. I have already written a letter to the Archetype saying as much. Maria, you just have to ratify it.

MARIA

I understand your concerns, Element Janus, but do you really think the threat is so imminent? Aren’t our main monitoring agencies still inviolable?

At the table, a young girl, a VERY OLD MAN and a WOMAN with short hair have still not spoken.

WOMAN

Yes Janus, what is it that you are afraid of that our systems or Souen Zi won’t be able to anticipate?

YOUNG GIRL

Medeïs.

Everyone is surprised by this last comment except Janus.

WOMAN

Medeïs? (Laughs) Ada my child, although these hackers are becoming more active, none of their attacks have really worried us yet. (To Souen Zi) Can you confirm that my dear?

SOUEN ZI

Yes, that’s right Nicole. The frequency of their offensives is increasing but none of them has ever got past our security. The MEDEÏS organization is not a danger.

JANUS

Really? (To the young girl) Do you also think that, Element Ada?

The young girl, who until now seemed bored, sits up straight. Janus rests his chin on his hands like a child preparing to listen to a story.

ADA
Two weeks ago, one of my campuses in Zone 3 was robbed, the thieves managed to escape with research about our encryption prototypes.

SOUEN ZI
Yes, that was Medeïs. But the criminals were arrested quickly. They were neutralized before they were able to transfer any data.

VERY OLD MAN
Yes, the terrorists came face to face with an Ops patrol. Completely by chance, and miles from the research perimeter. They still had the micro-disks containing the stolen encryption codes and handguns on them, but where is this going?

ADA
What I mean is that they only still had their booty on them because they were caught by chance. It doesn’t tell us how they were able to get that close to the search perimeter. On the other hand, it shows that they knew how to bypass our protocols.

JANUS
From the mouth of babes come grains of truth!

MARIA
Yes, well they managed to escape for a while, is that really so bad?

ADA
Yes Mother, it is. The hackers crossed the City without alerting a single sensor or drone. They don’t appear on any video recording yet the streets are riddled with lenses.

JANUS
Shouldn’t we at least have found frequency jammers? Isn’t that what …

JANUS (CONT'D)
they need to go under the radar? Isn't that correct, Element Ada?

ADA
Yes, that's correct and it's very worrying. Jammers are cumbersome devices that are very difficult to hide. Whenever people have attempted to use a device of this kind, we have detected them in a matter of minutes. But this time, nothing. Actually, the data they tried to steal was not of particular importance.

MERYTH
What do you mean?

ADA
If these hackers had managed to develop a device capable of making them invisible to your surveillance, they would have to test it. Element Souen Zi, Elements of the council, Mother, I think what Janus meant was that this mission was a decoy… It was, I'm afraid, successfully accomplished. Janus, by linking this episode to Music War and the visibility of this event, I admit that you exceed my reasoning, but I agree with your analysis.

JANUS
Ada, once again, you are the brightest mind around this table. You remind me of your mentor, our late Yolandi Rosa. Her teaching has paid off! I admire you.

ADA
She will always be an example to all of us.

JANUS
(Calmly, raising his glass) That is very true. Yolandi Aeternum!

The other Elements and Maria also raise their glasses.

ELEMENTS
(In unison) Yolandi Aeternum!

JANUS
May her soul rest in peace.

JANUS (CONT'D)
Element Souen Zi, I do enjoy our heated exchanges but I'm not looking for a fight, believe me. I'm just convinced that something new is operating.

Around the table, everyone looks worried.

SEQUENCE 08

INT. MUSIC WAR PRODUCTION PREMISES - LARGE CANTEEN — DAY

A stunned silence falls as candidate Myel enters the large refectory where all the competitors and their entourage are gathered. The famous and sublime Myel is a star among the stars, she is Beijing's Chosen one. Her Tools twirl around her, three small magnetic balls with dragonfly wings.

Buffet islands and food stalls are scattered throughout the huge room. The cooks prepare dishes on request. Between the tables and on the walls, numerous 3D screens broadcast images of the event. Small drones travel around the room and retransmit images onto the screens. Dyon, sitting alone, observes the crowd while sipping strawberry juice.

The beautiful Myel pays no attention to anyone and heads towards a fruit stand. On the other side of the canteen, the Chosen Captonian Vaklaw makes his entrance. A black man wearing a red biker jacket and girl's makeup, holding a beer. Around him gravitates a silver magnetic hypercube. The Chosen ones are idols and Vaklaw captures the attention of those present just as much as Myel. Noticing Dyon, he goes to his table, followed by the drones that film his entrance.

VAKLAW
Hi, man! Can I sit down?

DYON
Yes, of course!

Dyon is embarrassed by the drones that are filming when suddenly, they fly away, drawn to the other side of the room.

They film the arrival of Kevi, the Chosen Parisian. Dressed in white, with a cane in hand, he sports a modern look and moves with elegance and charisma.

Kevi joins Myel at the fruit counter and the drones continue to film the other celebrities. Myel finishes placing her order with the waiter and turns around.

MYEL
… and add some mint leaves please. Hi! It's Kevy, isn't it?

KEVI
Erm, yes, that's right. But how embarrassing, I don't think I know your name.

MYEL
Mmmm… Very funny.

The waiter hands Myel her fruit.

WAITER
Here you go, miss.

MYEL
Thank you.

WAITER
Hello, sir, what would you like?

KEVI
(Looking tenderly at Myel)
Er… Sorry, I was distracted, I didn't see your…

MYEL
I recommend the fruit salad. (Swallowing a spoonful) Mmm, delicious!

KEVI
One fruit salad then, please. With mint leaves, is that right?

MYEL
Ahah! I knew you knew me!

KEVI
Nope. I just overheard…

MYEL
Yeah, stop showing off. You may be a Chosen One, but you’re still the new kid in town. It's not even been a year since you released your first music video, isn’t that right?

KEVI
And I’ve already been Chosen by my City, yeah.

Kevi brushes off his shoulder nonchalantly and Myel taps him on the arm.

KEVI
Hey. Stop that!

MYEL
What? We're competing now. I'm not going to do you any favors.

KEVI
Yeah, I'm counting on that.

Myel gobbles down a spoonful of fruit, winking at him.

MYEL
Go on. Be careful. See ya!

On the other side of the room, Vaklaw finishes his beer. He speaks to Dyon who watches Myel walk past. With her large colored glass of fresh fruit in hand, Myel goes to sit at a table that's still empty. Her spherical Tools float in front of her forming a triangular screen.

VAKLAW
She's beautiful, isn't she?

DYON
Yes. She really is a star!

VAKLAW
Oh. Well thanks a lot!

DYON
No, I didn't mean…

Vaklaw suddenly places the palm of his hand over Dyon's mouth, as if to suffocate him.

VAKLAW
Too late… If I take my hand away, will you stop talking crap?

Dyon nods and Vaklaw removes his hand.

VAKLAW
I didn't expect to find you here. I'm happy.

DYON
Thanks.

VAKLAW
How long has it been? Two years? Do you remember? I told you!

DYON
Yes, I remember very well! Besides, it was after that concert that everything started to take off for me…

DYON (CONT'D)
And I've never been able to thank you for that, so thank you!

VAKLAW
Man, I was in my dressing room and I could hear the audience screaming. I was like, "What's going on outside?".

DYON
Yeah, it's true, the audience was cool that night.

VAKLAW
Cool? No! Mr. DAZE, look at me carefully. Never, neither before nor after that day, have I ever left my dressing room before starting a concert.

DYON
Yeah, I couldn't believe it when I saw you come on stage. At first, I thought, "Shit! I must have gone over my time slot. What's going on?" And then you joined in with my song. Wow, that was amazing.

VAKLAW
Do you know, that's still one of my best moments? When you become a pro you can't really improvise or let go anymore. Hey, look over there!

Napo, Moscow city's Chosen One and Thorus, approach Myel's table. Napo is an athlete with a perfect face. He sits down opposite Myel. Thorus remains standing next to him. Myel's illuminated triangle disappears and, with a swipe of her index finger, Myel operates the three winged balls. They immediately rush over to Napo who shrinks back in his chair. The Tools form a line between him and Myel who carries on eating her fruit salad.

NAPO
Hi!

MYEL
(Smiling, her mouth full) Hi, dudes! You're Napo, aren't you?

NAPO
Yes, that's right, I'm flattered. It's usually so hard to get near you that my friend Thorus and I, we had to come and greet you.

MYEL
Ah, I don't know who you are.

Thorus doesn’t have time to answer before Myel continues.

MYEL [CONT’D]
Delighted to meet you in any case, guys. Thanks for coming over and good luck!

NAPO
Okay. You know, we don’t want to bother you, we’re not like all the others.

MYEL
Is that so?

NAPO
You just don’t know me yet.

MYEL
(Her mouth full) Really? Fantashtic! All my problems are sholved then!

NAPO
See? I’m…

MYEL
Cool, yes. You seem it.

NAPO
Why the sarcasm? I’ve done nothing to you.

These words must have alerted the drones’ microphones because two devices immediately fly over and start filming them. Broadcast in the middle of the canteen, everyone gets to watch the scene. The Chosen Ones Banksy and Ezra, each surrounded by a crowd, also pause what they’re doing to listen to the conversation. Vaklaw speaks to Dyon.

VAKLAW
There. Look at the true face of the monster.

Until now, the drones had transmitted the images without sound, Dyon is surprised to see the scene displayed on all the screens, to the eyes and ears of everyone present. People start to wonder what's going on…

DYON
Why is she a monster?

VAKLAW
Shhh! Listen and learn.

At Myel’s table, Napo notices they are being filmed. He puts on airs.

NAPO
I'm just saying that I'm lucky to be in your presence and instead of wasting my time, I'd rather enjoy it. I loved your first series, you know? And your jokes at the end. I was a fan.

THORUS
Could you tell us one of your jokes?

MYEL
A joke, huh? Right here, just like that? Actually, there may be one that you’d like, and that has never been broadcast.

THORUS
Cool! An exclusive joke!

The friends high five.

MYEL
Ok then… A young Buddhist monk is meditating with his master, you get the picture.

Myel adds holographic images to illustrate her story in order to capture the boys’ attention. Two silhouettes of seated monks are drawn in Indian ink above the table.

MYEL [CONT’D]
He is still an apprentice, and he can’t concentrate. He's anxious.

The boys nod, captivated, and the illustrations dance to her words, forming an ancient face.

MYEL [CONT’D]
Next to him, his venerable two-hundred-year-old master is immortal and has a thin goatie and all the clichés. He feels everything, that dude. So, obviously he can sense that his disciple is not doing well and this disturbs his meditation.

THORUS
Obviously, right?

NAPO
Obviously.

Myel glances at the two boys who nod their heads. Everyone in the room is watching the scene. At the center of attention, she continues her animated projection, changing her voice to imitate her characters.

MYEL
So, he ends up asking him: "What torments prevent your mind from freeing itself, my child?" The respectful kid hesitates for a moment and finally dares to ask his question: “Master, some texts evoke that a woman cannot be a pearl. Yet the image is evoked with wisdom in so many poems. What should we believe? Why can't a woman be a pearl?" (Resuming her normal voice) The master is satisfied with the youth’s question. He replies as if about to announce a prophecy.

The boys and all those present in the canteen are hanging on Myel’s words as she continues to talk through her characters.

MYEL [CONT’D]
"Do you see, my son, a woman will never be a pearl. In the necklace of life, the pearl is threaded from both sides, but not the woman. A woman is only threaded from the front."
(In her normal voice) The youth doesn’t know how to reply to this. You know how Buddhists are with respect, good manners and all that. But still, the Padawan wants to disagree with his master and he finally plucks up the courage.
(In a squeaky voice). Master, I’m embarrassed to answer you back, but I have heard many stories that speak of women being threaded from both sides.

The boys can't hold back their gut reaction and burst out laughing at this last sentence as they high five each other.

THORUS
Yeah, I've heard those stories too!

NAPO
(Laughing) Hell yeah!

Keeping the rhythm of the story, Myel gives them the punch line.

MYEL
And the Master replies: (hoarse voice)
"Then these are not women my child… They are indeed pearls."

Myel punctuates her last word with a curtsy. Everyone laughs politely in the canteen while Napo and Thorus roar with laughter, high fiving each other.

NAPO
Now that's a real joke. It's strange to hear it from a woman's mouth. You're really one of a kind. You're a real…

MYEL
A pearl, is that it?

VAKLAW
(From his place)
Ouch!

NAPO
Oh no, I really didn’t mean…

Myel throws her spoon into the empty bowl, the sound of glass interrupts Napo's words. She gets up, places a hand on Napo's shoulder and concludes in front of the hungry cameras:

MYEL
Yes, I know, don’t worry. You may not have said it but everyone heard it.

Myel looks in the direction of the drones. Napo and Thorus suddenly realize what is going on as she grins at them.

MYEL [CONT’D]
Well, that was fun. See ya, losers!

The mortified faces of the two boys are displayed on the screens. Everyone laughs openly at them as Myel leaves majestically with a mischievous smile. Meanwhile, Vaklaw and Dyon are left speechless.

DYON
… Wow! And this has just been broadcast live?

VAKLAW
Yep! A true Bi…

A bell rings drowning out Vaklaw's last word and a male voice calmly invites the candidates to leave the premises.

MALE VOICE (OFF)
Competitors are invited to make their way to the Main Screening Hall.

All competitors stand up and head for the canteen exit.

SEQUENCE 09

INT. MUSIC WAR PRODUCTION PREMISES - SCREENING HALL — DAY

A huge room with glass partitions on the top floor of the Music War show studios, offers a giddying view of Paris. Dyon observes the city as the candidates exchange small talk, glasses in hand. Suddenly, the glass partitions turn black and the light dims. Suspended in the air glows a white pearl surrounded by a bluish aura. A soft female voice resounds.

SOFT VOICE
Good morning and congratulations to all of you. Being here today means a lot.

The candidates can barely be distinguished in the darkness and they reply in unison.

CANDIDATES
Hello, GRAMMY!

The illuminated sphere metamorphoses into a beautiful brunette with pearly eyes makes her appearance.

GRAMMY
Given the stakes, it won't surprise you that I'm overseeing the show's qqprogression. The twelve qualifying candidates will soon be joining the apartment where they shall reside for the nine weeks of the show.

Behind Grammy appears a 3D tour of the apartment. Modern and colorful with a garden, swimming pool and every possible luxury.

GRAMMY [CONT'D]
To access the premises, you will have to pass tomorrow's test. A level three sensitive virtual reality race. A reminder: Your resistance to stress keeps you connected to the program If you panic, you will immediately be disconnected and eliminated.

In the dark, the candidates' eyes are glued to the radiant Grammy. Dyon feels somebody come stand next to him. He wears a silver mask that covers the top part of his face.

GRAMMY [CONT'D]
Now, here are the rules of the game: The race will take place in two stages. For the first ten kilometers, you will be lined up by Cities. Each group of four drivers will follow a circuit designed in the image of its City.

During Grammy's explications, images of the various circuits appear. We recognize the Sydney Opera House, the bridges of New York, the temples of Beijing, the Red Square, the Arc de Triomphe and the L.E.K, Cape Town's immense library.

GRAMMY [CONT'D]
During this first stage, you will have to get equipped.

The holographic images of the circuit disappear and are replaced by four glowing objects that float as they spin around. One represents a bomb, another takes the shape of an arrow separated in two, the third is a rocket and the last, a crossed out 'C', symbolizes the Credits.

GRAMMY [CONT'D]
Each candidate has a seven-slot quiver. So, you won't be able to collect more items. Be careful, having too many items will weigh you down and slow down your machine.

As Grammy describes them, the pictograms come forward. First is the bomb.

GRAMMY [CONT'D]
First, you have the Bombs, you can drop them in your path or throw them ahead of you. They will be triggered at the slightest contact or after five seconds, depending on the desired setting.

The bomb moves back to let an arrow that's cut in half come forward.

GRAMMY [CONT'D]
Teleportation Arrows consist of two elements: the transmitter and the receiver. You catapult the tip up to 500 meters away, then you place the base in front of you and you will be teleported. Be careful not to throw the spikes in any old direction, with their speed, this would be fatal.

Videos of spectacular accidents show drivers teleporting and appearing awkwardly in the middle of a bend or in front of an obstacle and finishing against a wall. All the candidates shudder at the violence of the collisions. The videos disappear to make way for the Missile pictogram.

GRAMMY [CONT'D]
The Rockets! Nothing complicated here. You aim, you shoot!

A new visual appears in the center of the room. On a long avenue, a driver drives alone towards the finish line when a rocket catches up with him and destroys his vehicle. The peloton overtakes him. The image changes to the next pictogram, a crossed-out letter "C".

GRAMMY [CONT'D]
Lastly, the track is ridden with Credits. There are twenty-four of you. There are twenty-four million Credits!

The symbol multiplies into three new crossed-out letter "C"s. One is copper color and displays the number 250, the other silver and displays 500 and the last is gold with a large M.

GRAMMY [CONT'D]
Six bronze items yield 250,000 Credits, six silver items, 500,000 Credits and the six gold items bring in 1 million. There are a total of 10,500,000 Credits spread over the six circuits of the first stage.

The pictograms disappear to give way to a Möbius strip in the shape of an eight, above which appears a new crossed-out "C". It is the same but much larger, this one is made of diamonds and displays the number 13.

GRAMMY [CONT'D]
The first contestant to penetrate the Möbius strip will receive 500,000 Credits. During this second stage of the race, you will all come across the diamond item twice. Whoever manages to reach it will add 13,000,000 Credits to their portfolio. We'll come back to that in a moment. Concerning the collection of Credits, the qualified drivers will share the sums collected by their compatriots in the case of elimination. Be careful not to become a target by amassing too many Credits!

At the center of the room appears the rotating Möbius strip. A diagram shows them the path. Paving stones with arrows on them on the ground then a huge springboard. Above, very high in the sky, floats the diamond C.

GRAMMY [CONT'D]
As you know, to travel through a Möbius strip, you have to go around it twice. Here, we have chosen to model one route on one side and to reverse it on the other side. As if you were retracing your steps.

A 3D simulation shows the circuit in each direction.

GRAMMY [CONT'D]
You will pass under the object worth 13,000,000 twice. The circuit's designers have placed it so that it "should be" accessible. You'll get two attempts! Be creative!

Grammy, doing air quotes to illustrate, ends with a wink. The 3D animation disappears, only Grammy remains, sparkling.

GRAMMY [CONT'D]
You can consult all these rules in your files. I'll be there to answer your questions. Thank you for listening. Good luck to all of you!

Grammy smiles at them then disappears.

The bay windows lighten to let daylight enter. The candidates are dazzled. Dyon's eyes meet Banksy's, who smiles at him.

SEQUENCE 10

EXT. PARIS — FALCONERS' MARKET - NIGHT

Night falls over the city. Killa arrives at the bustling Falconers' Market square. Above his head fly dozens of colorful drones carrying trays of food to customers. The noisy aisles of tables and chairs are surrounded by a multitude of fast-food stalls offering dishes of all kinds. At the center of the market, four large restaurants share the space. Among them, the Atalanta, to which Killa is heading. In the middle of the terrace filled with a crowd of onlookers, the PROFESSOR, an elderly man, is seated at a tall wooden barrel. The visor of Killa's hat lowers. Next to each person scrolls a list of personal data. The old man has a problem, his data flashes. Killa presses the side of his hat and goes into X-ray vision. Inside the old man's body, his organs are all bluish except for his spleen which is red.

SOFI
The Professor is seriously ill.

The visor rises, Killa looks sad. He stops for a second before approaching the teacher who is peacefully enjoying his soup and watching the world go by.

KILLA
I heard this was a good spot to watch the show.

PROFESSOR
Yes, the best!

KILLA
Professor! It’s been ages.

The old man holds out his hand, about to get up politely. Killa squeezes his hand and protests.

KILLA
No, don’t get up.

He pulls up a stool and sits with the teacher.

KILLA
I was surprised to hear from you.

PROFESSOR
Yes, I can imagine. It’s already in the news, well done!

KILLA
Far too late, unfortunately. What is this all about? Professor, how did you get the address?

The old man leans over to whisper in his ear. At the same time, a bell rings, it is one of the Atalanta’s drones coming to take Killa’s order. They step back to make way for the device which broadcasts a holographic circle of dishes that make up the menu. Killa presses a glass icon. Dishes change into drinks, Killa chooses a beer.

PROFESSOR
It’s on me.

KILLA
Thank you.

The teacher runs his wrist over the device which immediately departs leaving a rainbow trail behind it. Killa is dismayed, the old man leans towards him.

PROFESSOR
You slip through the cracks and I don't want to know how you do it…

He looks around suspiciously.

PROFESSOR (CONT'D)
But that means you are the only one who can stop it.

KILLA
Stop what exactly? They had already butchered the girl before I arrived! For her Hineal gland.

SOFI
(To Killa inside the hat)
You mean her Pineal gland.

KILLA
Yes, Pineal whatever! Are you for real? Professor! You're going to have to tell me what you were working on, otherwise…

PROFESSOR
Yes. But quietly, for pity's sake. You may be invisible here… but I'm not!

The teacher gets annoyed as he looks at the many drones flying over the square. Amongst the restaurant's falcon drones, the City's surveillance devices are also circulating. One of them picks up the old man's runaway heartbeat.

KILLA
Calm down, Professor, you're attracting attention. It's okay. (Louder, pretending to laugh) Ha ha! I had the same problem when I heard this story!

Killa delicately takes the old man's wrist as he tries to calm his breathing. He feels his pulse, it stabilizes.

KILLA
Smile, it's stabilizing. It's nothing serious.

The drone, noting that the professor's heartbeat is normal, flies off to continue its patrol over the Falconers' Market. The teacher withdraws his hand.

PROFESSOR
It's alright. I'm feeling better. I'm sorry. Come back tomorrow at the same …

PROFESSOR (CONT'D)
… time. There'll be more people here for the race. I'll make arrangements to inform you of everything.

In the background, explosions resonate, and a powerful ray of white light is projected from the roof of the Atalanta. Music invades the square; the teacher's face lights up.

PROFESSOR
It's starting! I come here to eat every night, just for this.

The old man stands settles down for a good view of the show and smiles. Killa looks at him affectionately while the bell rings again. The drone brings Killa's beer and leaves immediately.

INT. KILO'S WORKSHOP - ATALANTA RESTAURANT — DAY

Young Kilo sits in front of five holographic screens, she wears a hood and white gloves with an illuminated purple border. Images of Falconers' Square and the Atalanta appear on the screens.

She types her instructions at full speed on a virtual keyboard and scans the interface. It turns into two joysticks that she grabs with a smile.

KILO
And we're off!

EXT. PARIS — FALCONERS' MARKET — NIGHT

In the sky over the Falconers' Market, there are 'homemade' drones without covers revealing all of their complex technology. Equipped with holographic cannons, they get into position and project a luminous stream of white light that turns into a glittering tornado in front of the Atalanta. It finally explodes into a million petals that fall onto the audience.

Kilo's devices project holograms of Chinese dragons, eagles and imaginary creatures that intertwine in a celestial dance to the delight of the amazed customers.

The show continues, the virtual creatures move gracefully until the dynamic and explosive finale that as usual, leaves the audience speechless. The old teacher applauds with everyone else. When he turns around, Killa is gone. Only his empty glass remains.

PROFESSOR
It's amazing how this young girl… (Smiling) Good night friend, tomorrow may be a busy day.

INT. HOTEL BEDROOM — DAWN (SHUTTERS CLOSED)

In the hotel room, Dyon sleeps soundly. There is a metal disc where his arm has been amputated. On the bedside table, his mechanical arm is connected to a screen.

YOLANDI (OFF)
Hey, are you still sleeping? You mustn't resent them, you know. Past generations, could they really have prevented it? *(Singing) My name is Yolandi.*
I know your past. I've shaped your present.

Dyon's hearing aids glow with a blue light. Half-naked under his white sheet, he turns over.

INT. DYON'S DREAM — LABORATORY - NIGHT

He sleeps fitfully. He sees himself in water with cables attached all over his body.

YOLANDI (OFF)
Hey, are you still sleeping? Do you know something funny? Before, our planet used to protect us naturally. The world we depended on didn't depend on us. *(Singing) My name is Yolandi, My name is Yolandi, My name is Yolandi.*

Technology is the last rampart to fight against the environment. Today, we depend on a world which depends only on us… And that's precisely why the danger has never been so great.

Dyon's dream continues. He is still in the water, connected and masked. He's a baby submerged in a tube in the middle of a laboratory. The same woman is operating the computers. She appears worried as she watches the child submerged in the glass tube. One second later, Dyon sees her through the water and the glass as armed men invade the laboratory.

YOLANDI (OFF)
At the twilight of my reality and since the dawn of your life… When you're still sleeping. Hear my name… before it is forgotten! *(Singing) My name is Yolandi, My name is Yolandi.*
It's still possible. But you must stop sleeping. They want to find us!

Dyon is lying on the ground, he sees the soldiers and suddenly, one of them chops his arm off.

YOLANDI (OFF) [CONT'D]
(Singing) My name is Yolandi, My name is Yolandi, My name is…
(Screaming) DYON!

INT. HOTEL BEDROOM — DAWN (SHUTTERS CLOSED)

The blue glow of the hearing aids turns red and an excruciating noise rings out in the young man's head, he opens his eyes abruptly. He straightens up and presses on each ear to reactivate his devices. The noise immediately stops. his eyes twitching, Dyon sweats as he places his head in his hands. Finally, he gets up, walks towards the table, disconnects his arm from the small screen and stares at it.

The young man slips a finger in the crook of his arm to bring up a list of songs and he chooses one before going to the bathroom. He goes into the shower.

MUSICAL MONTAGE OF ALL CHARACTERS SEQUENCE 12

The day dawns to the beat of the song "On Top" by Flume and T-Shirt.

EXT. CITY OF PARIS - ZONE 2, CITY CENTER - DAY

Paris wakes up to a new day, crowded trains travel along the tracks of the aerial metro network. The delivery drones pass the City's surveillance devices.

INT. ATALANTA RESTAURANT - DAY

Kilo's family enters the Atalanta restaurant and opens the terrace. Delivery men unload their merchandise to the neighboring restaurants.

INT. KILLA'S BEDROOM — DAY

Killa is sitting on his bed, bare-chested, trembling and sweating. He grabs an oxygen mask that's connected to a white bottle. He breathes in several times before calming down. A small bell rings, his visor lowers, he has received a message: "under the table".

INT. LIFE LAB - SINGLE ROOM — DAY

At the "Life Lab" Teïsha is undergoing a lumbar puncture. Lying on her side, she appears extremely tired and narrows her eyes when the nurse pricks her with a needle. At the end of the

syringe is a blue diode which transmits data. A holographic screen appears near the face of Estaf Gabriela. With the tips of her fingers, she brings up the data on the screen, pulls out the needle then makes the virtual screen disappear.

INT. STADIUM — MUSIC WAR CIRCUIT — ARTIFICIAL LIGHT

Banksy zooms off at top speed on his motorcycle accompanied by his robot that turns on one wheel. The robot zigzags to pick up the objects or obstacles.

The masked candidate is also training, he plucks an illuminated string on his forearm and multiplies into three characters. His different-colored avatars leave in all directions to simultaneously gather items. He rubs the string again and the avatars gather around him.

Kevi, Ezra and Myel practice fine tuning their styles in the air executing spectacular figures.

Dyon drives his ultramodern holographic bike skillfully and jumps under the diamond C. He gets nowhere near it but after landing he turns around and looks at the diamond. He smiles under his helmet.

EXT. EUROPA SPHERE - DAY

Through the patio doors of a building on Europa, Janus consults holographic files. Alone at his desk, he seems to be looking for something.

INT. EUROPA SPHERE — JANUS'S OFFICE - DAY

Janus examines each of the candidates' records. Photos, videos and their statistics appear in holograms. He stops when he comes to Daze (Dyon)'s records.

EXT. DESERT AROUND THE CITY - DAY

Behind the ramparts, not far from the protection of the dome, a sandstorm is raging. Night falls on the insufferable and chaotic exterior.

SEQUENCE 13 & SEQUENCE 14, COMBINED

EXT. PARIS — FALCONERS' MARKET — NIGHT

Killa walks through the noisy Falconers' marketplace. On each side of the Atalanta, drones broadcast the start of the race. From afar, we see the holograms of Jaz and Grammy commentating the race trial.

JAZ
(To Grammy) Especially as the spectators didn’t know who he was one year ago.

GRAMMY
Yes, Kevi’s rise in the charts is very recent.

JAZ
And all of us here are backing the chosen Parisian, let’s be honest!

The drones project 3D images of remarkable quality on to the right and left sides of the Atalanta's façade. In a corner, the presenters chat. Grammy is wearing white. Jaz wears a black and silver suit with a wide, flared collar. On the square, the customers are seated or standing, gripped to the race.

KILLA
There’s a lot of people.

SOFI
Yes, the race has just started.

Killa, goes over to the same table as the day before, now occupied by some youths. Jumping about on their stools, they are absorbed and excited by the race.

SOFI
There’s no sign of the professor, he didn’t come tonight.

KILLA
I don’t think he’s coming.

INT. KILO’S WORKSHOP - ATALANTA RESTAURANT — DAY

Kilo operates the broadcast from her screens.

JAZ
He has beaten Napo’s circuit record from the trials. But look!

INT. STADIUM — MUSIC WAR CIRCUIT — ARTIFICIAL LIGHT

On a stretch of the circuit that resembles Paris, Daze, Kevi, Chess Maty and Nickèle charge ahead like rockets, while on the New York track, Ezra and Amadeus, the masked candidate, take the lead from the outset, ahead of Jane and Q-Dyson. On the New Sydney circuit, Banksy and Shao-Lee jostle for the lead while Switch and Neverly follow behind. The bodies of the candidates

seem peaceful, sitting in the center in the circle of connected seats.

JAZ
While the Parisians remain close together, Ezra and Amadeus take the lead on the New York circuit. Banksy, on the New Sydney circuit, is already in the lead with Shao-Lee on his heels, closely followed by Switch and Neverly.

GRAMMY
Look at the Beijing configuration.

Myel's spherical tools move into a triangle and generate an illuminated shield that protects her from the explosion of a mine that Goblin, at the head of the Beijing crew, has just collected and thrown.

JAZ
It's unbelievable, Goblin has already stocked up and is starting to drop his bombs on his pursuers. Myel tackles the obstacles with ease but… Ouch!

The next two drivers pass too close to a mine that destroys their motorcycles.

JAZ
Ai Lin and Shao-Lee have been hit and must summon their rescue vehicles already!

The two riders summon new bikes. After three seconds, two vehicles materialize. The drivers mount and resume the race.

GRAMMY
Razak leads team Cape Town! Followed by Vaklaw and Ama Naledi.

On the Cape Town circuit, the drivers are catching up. Razak leads and Vaklaw speeds after him. Ama Naledi is behind then Talloulah.

Meanwhile, the Muscovites are racing hard and crash into each other, destroying their vehicles. Only Anthojoly, who has stuck to the sidelines, is in the clear while the three others have to use their emergency bikes.

JAZ
Wow! Things are heating up on the Moscow track! Napo, Thorus and Likhan have destroyed their vehicles. (Laughs) What brutes those guys are! Antho now …

JAZ (CONT'D)
… takes the lead. On the Parisian track, Daze has been overtaken. It looks like he's… uh…

Daze moves away from the pack to fetch a Teleportation Arrow. This puts him in last position. Kevi, in the lead, drives over an acceleration slab and is the first to launch from the springboard to where the 1 million creds symbol floats. He performs a spectacular figure.

JAZ
That's the third arrow he's picked up! But look at Kevi who is the first to reach the Million. And YES! He grabs it!

On the New York circuit, Amadeus has also just won the Million while Ezra passes him, picking up a rocket and a bomb. She is in front of the next obstacle and aims for the 500,000 Credits. Amadeus lands after collecting the 1 million Creds symbol, he fires a rocket at Ezra that she narrowly avoids but which takes her away from a 500,000 symbol. At full speed, Amadeus gets into position and also scoops up half a million.

JAZ
Unbelievable, Amadeus has no mercy! And it pays! He manages to deflect Ezra from the race and now has 1.5 million Creds. Hey, look! In New Sydney, Banksy has released her tool too. I love that robot cub.

GRAMMY
Yes, they remind you of your tools.

JAZ
True! Even if they are bulky, I've always had a penchant for the Mech tools!

Banksy is moving at full speed. Her robot collects two arrows and a missile without her having to slow down. Tidal Cris is on her heels but her robot is near him. Tapping on her dashboard, Banksy orders her companion to shoot at Tidal Cris. He hits a wall head-on and is then ejected from the circuit. The robot returns to Banksy and the two take the lead.

JAZ
I told you! That little beauty works wonders with her Mech!

EXT. PARIS — FALCONERS' MARKET — NIGHT

Killa goes over to the table where the four youths are watching the race. They use personal screens to bet on their favorites. One of them, a tall blond guy, follows the trial passionately, gesticulating on his stool. Pretending to be absorbed in the race, Killa moves closer to them. When the young man jumps on his chair, Killa pulls a metal spike from his wrist and cuts off one of the stool's feet. The young man topples and Killa catches him with one hand. With his other hand, he discreetly searches under the table and finds a cubic object in the middle of old chewing gum.

YOUTH 1
Sorry! Thank you! What just happened?

YOUTH 2
You jump around too much, dude. You just smashed the chair!

KILLA
It's nothing, don't worry.

Killa leaves and puts the cube in his pocket while the audience reacts to Jaz's next announcement.

JAZ
What is happening? Tidal Cris has been eliminated? Already?

INT. STADIUM — MUSIC WAR CIRCUIT - ARTIFICIAL LIGHT

The flesh and blood competitors sit in a circle of 24 chairs arranged in the center of the Paris Stadium. From their necks protrude thin needles that are connected to a very narrow tube filled with a purple liquid. The tube empties behind Tidal Cris' neck.

GRAMMY
Yes, he couldn't withstand the impact.

JAZ
It's true! The candidates use sensitive connection.

GRAMMY
Correct, this trial tests our candidates on their endurance. Physically, even if the event is virtual, the riders depend on the limits of their bodies. Psychologically, the sensitive connection tests their mental strength.

During this conversation, Myel and Goblin are leading the Beijing race, performing jumps and figures while collecting arrows, bombs and missiles on their way. Daze has driven brilliantly and climbed back to second place behind Kevi on the Paris circuit. He collects a new arrow and a bomb.

JAZ
As far as Tidal Cris is concerned, the impact was so violent that it activated the safety locks which disconnected him?

GRAMMY
Yes, it’s for his own good, Jaz. The candidate isn’t injured, look, he’s waking up.

Tidal Cris wakes in his connected chair. He seems disorientated and disappointed, but in perfect health. Above him, the green glow has turned red, signaling his disqualification. Angry, he rages.

JAZ
Yes, he seems to be fine. But look over there. Napo has caught up with Anthojoly. They are neck and neck!

Two Moscow drivers are struggling on their stretch of the circuit. Napo manages to squeeze Anthojoly to the right of the track. He displays the "cut arrow" pictogram on his control screen and selects the tip which manifests and he releases it in his path. He then chooses the base of the arrow and throws it right in front of Anthojoly's motorcycle, which is immediately teleported backwards.

JAZ
WOW! Impressive, Napo has got rid of his rival! He teleported him backwards! That's smart!

GRAMMY
The drivers are about to enter the Möbius strip. Who will be the first to reach the second stage of the circuit?

JAZ
Who, ladies and gentlemen, will win the 500,000 Creds bonus?

Daze catches up with Kevi, sees the path to the Strip and accelerates again. Vaklaw also reaches the Strip, while from the new York section it is Ezra, still at the head of the group, who gets closer. But it is Banksy who picks up the prize, arriving just in front of Kevi and Ezra. Behind them, Vaklaw, Amadeus, Goblin, Myel, Napo and Daze form a peloton.

JAZ
And… Banksy is the first to pass the start of the second stage, she wins the Bonus! But she must remain vigilant, the others aren’t far behind. They won't let her get away so easily!

GRAMMY
At the start of the second stage, we have Banksy in the lead followed by Vaklaw, Kevi, Ezra, Goblin, Myel, Amadeus, Daze and Napo.

As Grammy announces the names of the first twelve drivers they appear on a huge board on one side of the stadium.

The drivers jostle each other. Kevi fires a rocket that lands next to Banksy and slows her down. The peloton catches up with her. Kevi, Vaklaw and Amadeus overtake her.
On the board, Banksy's name drops to fourth place.

JAZ
Banksy had a narrow escape, but has dropped to fourth place as the drivers get to the giant springboard. Will someone scoop up the 13 million?

The large flight platform appears in front of the drivers. An acceleration slab culminates at the end of the race. The surface is smooth. At the very top of the structure floats the diamond crossed out 'C' symbol. Amadeus pushes Vaklaw and takes his place. Kevi and his pursuers race onto the springboard and jump but don’t get anywhere near the item.

JAZ
They were far off! Are you sure the diamond item isn’t unreachable?

GRAMMY
Of course. What a crazy idea.

Behind the leading trio, Daze and the other drivers get to the springboard but our hero brakes brutally.
He is overtaken by the peloton and sets off again immediately. The drivers jump one after the other but are always far from the diamond item. They land on a platform and continue.

JAZ
What is he doing? Daze just slammed on his brakes. He is now 13th. But he’s setting off again. I don’t get it. Grammy, you have to help me!

The hologram girl smiles at him.

GRAMMY
Watch carefully…

Daze lets the others pass and shoots off the springboard. On the ground, he throws a bomb and an arrowhead which land at the top of the landing platform. The objects are positioned around an acceleration slab. Then Dyon throws the base of the arrow and a new tip on his way.

JAZ
OK! I think I’ve grasped the young man's strategy.

Grammy smiles at him again.

JAZ
(Laughs) I’m slower than you for sure! But what's going on there? It looks like things are heating up.

Amadeus multiplies by rubbing one of the six holographic strings on his wrist. Three glowing clones appear, and each drop a bomb in their path while he fires a rocket at Kevi. Hit, the latter manages to keep his motorcycle, but Amadeus overtakes him. Behind, Ezra, Vaklaw and Banksy arrive at the bombs. Banksy uses a teleportation arrow and passes in front of them, but the others trigger the blasts. Their vehicles are destroyed and they summon new ones.

Goblin, Myel, Antho and Q.Dyson take the opportunity to overtake them. When Ezra and Vaklaw set off again, Daze and Thorus catch up with them.

JAZ
Wow ! It was crazy ! And now the drivers are entering the tunnel. I expect the worst in that confined space.

Amadeus is the first to enter an illuminated tube with acceleration slabs on the sides. He takes the curve, passes over the slabs and speeds up. The others follow him, trying not to hit each other. Further back, arriving in front of the tunnel, Daze throws the base of the previous arrow and a new tip to his right before he enters it. The teleporters land about ten meters away, to the right of the entrance, against the wall of the tunnel. Inside, Switch and Thorus try to trap Daze in a vise. He brakes. They collide then he accelerates to overtake them using the curved wall of the tunnel.

At the exit, Daze throws the base of the previous arrow to the right of the circuit. His control screen tells him he has nothing left to place. Jaz and Grammy look at each other with a knowing smile. In front, Kevi closes in on Amadeus.

JAZ
We’re getting to the half-way point of the Strip. The drivers will have to go back again in the opposite direction, is that right, Grammy?

GRAMMY
Exactly, the second side of the Möbius strip is the mirror of the first.

EXT. PARIS — FALCONERS’ MARKET — NIGHT

A black drone enters the Falconers' Market airspace at full speed. No one seems to notice it, not even the surveillance drones that should have spotted it. It skims past one of Kilo's transmission drones.

INT. KILO’S WORKSHOP - ATALANTA RESTAURANT — NIGHT

In one of the control windows, Kilo sees the drone.

KILO
Hey, where did you come from?

Looking at her screens, Kilo is astonished.

KILO (CONT’D)
Where are you rushing to like that?

Kilo displays images of the night sky on her screens. She bites her tongue as she watches the drone from different angles.

EXT. PARIS — FALCONERS’ MARKET — NIGHT

Kilo’s reserve drones follow the furtive object.

INT. STADIUM — MUSIC WAR CIRCUIT - ARTIFICIAL LIGHT

Kevi and Amadeus are in the lead, they approach the tunnel far ahead of Banksy who precedes the jostling peloton. Driving over an acceleration slab, Daze gets closer to the group.

EXT. PARIS — FALCONERS’ MARKET — NIGHT

Killa picks up cotton candy from the outside counter at Atalanta and thanks the salesman while everyone has their eyes on the show.

JAZ
The entrance is too narrow! At this rate, there will be damage. But what is Daze doing?!

Killa looks up at the race while eating her candy.

INT. LIFE LAB - SINGLE ROOM — NIGHT

Teïsha, on her hospital bed, pinches her lips together as she watches the race.

INT. STADIUM — MUSIC WAR CIRCUIT - ARTIFICIAL LIGHT

As the compact peloton heads towards the entrance to the tunnel, Daze turns left.
In front, Kevi and Amadeus notice the springboard and the diamond item. Bansky is almost at the end of the tunnel.

GRAMMY
Finally, we'll see the fruits of all the efforts Daze has made since the beginning of this race.

The peloton arrives at the entrance of the tunnel with a bang. Vaklaw throws a bomb and it explodes in front of the group. Goblin and Myel are knocked down, the others manage to get past.

JAZ
Wow! Vaklaw manages to slow down Myel and Goblin!

Amadeus and Kevi, in the lead, arrive on the springboard. They jostle to stay in the middle and get onto the acceleration slab but they change direction at the last moment seeing the mine that Daze deposited on his first round. They swerve at the last minute and leap weakly.

JAZ
That was a close call for Amadeus and Kevi who saw Daze's gift at the last minute.

Daze hits the wall head-on. Suddenly he disappears.

JAZ
Daze has just disappeared, Ladies and… HEY! HE'S BACK AGAIN!

Daze reappears at the exit of the tunnel, on the left, where he had thrown his arrow. At the same time, Banksy comes out of the tunnel. She catches sight of him on her left before he disappears again to reappear at the foot of the large central springboard far ahead.

JAZ
Daze is using all his teleporters! He's coming back at full speed! But he …

JAZ (CONT'D)
… must be careful not to get caught in his own trap!

At the top of the springboard around the slab there is an arrow tip and the bomb. Daze, at the bottom of the springboard, lays his motorcycle on its side by activating the shield on his arm. He lies on the acceleration slab and then on the arrow base he had already placed. This action teleports him to the very top of the springboard on the central acceleration slab. With his motorcycle still lying on its side with the shield activated, Daze slides onto the acceleration slab, speeds up and reaches the bomb. The explosion immediately propels him into a huge cloud of smoke.

JAZ
NOOO! OH NO!

INT. LIFE LAB - SINGLE ROOM — NIGHT

Teïsha watches the race with panicked eyes and Jaz yells on the screen.

JAZ
No! He must have imagined that others had already activated the bomb… WAIT!

Teïsha looks at the screen, proudly.

INT. STADIUM — MUSIC WAR CIRCUIT - ARTIFICIAL LIGHT

Daze is expelled from the cloud at a staggering speed and heads straight for the diamond item.

JAZ
YES!!! Look at that! Daze is headed straight for the 13 million! IN-CRE-DIBLE! He will get it.

Daze stretches his arms out and hits the diamond item. Jaz and the crowd rejoice.

JAZ
YES! Yes! He did it! He is one of ours! 13 MILLION! Daze! Ladies and gentlemen! Oh my god! It's amazing!

In the stadium, dozens of fireworks and holographic animations explode in all directions, letting the other participants know that the 13 million have been recovered by Daze.

In front, Amadeus rages in his helmet as Kevi skids to a halt and looks at Daze in the air. Banksy will jump next, she also has her eyes on Daze.

EXT. PARIS — FALCONERS' MARKET — NIGHT

All around Killa, the Parisian crowd rejoices. Killa seems impressed by Daze's performance

High in the sky, the black drone is hovering. When in Killa's pocket, the cube activates and shines with a red glow, the black drone starts to move. All around, the City's surveillance drones pick up the signal and head towards Killa. Ground police operators are contacted.

INT. KILO'S WORKSHOP - ATALANTA RESTAURANT — NIGHT

Kilo sees the drone on her screens.

KILO
There you are again. What are you looking for?

Suddenly, the drone leaves kilo's screens at full speed. She hurries to find it, tapping away on the keyboard.

KILO
Woah! Where are you going?

The kid displays a projection of the market in real time. A man flashes red, it's Killa.

KILO
It's him! He has a tracker!

Kilo takes off her equipment, puts a bracelet on her wrist and runs out of her workshop.

EXT. PARIS — FALCONERS' MARKET — NIGHT

The visor lowers over Killa's eyes.

SOFI
We are targeted.

Killa takes the cube out of his pocket, it shines.

Around him several detachments of Police Operators discreetly get into position.

INT. STADIUM — MUSIC WAR CIRCUIT - ARTIFICIAL LIGHT

During his long fall, Daze taps the holographic screen on his wrist.

GRAMMY
Daze is already summoning his rescue motorcycle so as not to waste time.

The bike appears not too far behind Kevi. He turns around and drives towards it. Banksy speeds past Kevi who doesn't even look at her.

JAZ
It looks like Kevi is worried about his teammate. He just let Banksy pass and lost his position.

The next drivers alight the springboard and Daze touches the ground. He activates his side shield before landing. Running towards his motorcycle, he sees Kevi raise his visor, smiling at him. Daze also smiles when Kevi takes out his cane which spits out a jet of plasma. He cuts his companion’s motorcycle in half and faints in a cloud of pixels. Daze freezes in the middle of the circuit.

JAZ
What is he doing? Kevi has just destroyed his teammate's last chance of qualifying! What a turnaround!

Kevi joins him, gets into position and prepares to leave, revving up his machine.

KEVI
Woops! Sorry, that’s a shame, you’re eliminated. I’ll take you with me for 13 million. Deal?

Daze, still in shock, looks around him before tapping on his holographic wrist screen without a word.

KEVI
Activate! We don’t have all day!

DAZE
Done!

Daze jumps on Kevi's motorcycle, and he steps on the gas.

On the scoreboard, the sum of 13 million is added to Kevi’s gains which now reaches 14 million 250,000 Credits.

JAZ
Ladies and gentlemen, The Parisian duo leave on the same bike! This is the most expensive taxi ride in history!

EXT. PARIS — FALCONERS’ MARKET — NIGHT

Killa, visor lowered, analyses the cube in front of the Atalanta while Kilo tries to make her way through the spectators captivated by the race.

KILLA
So? Are you picking up anything?

SOFI
Yes, a signal. I must get rid of this thing. I don't know yet where it…

And suddenly, the cube switches off.

SOFI
It has stopped transmitting.

Killa throws the cube in a trash can.

INT. ATALANTA RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Kilo runs towards the exit. Without taking her eyes off the hologram projected by the bracelet, she slaloms between the restaurant's customers. Then the man stops flashing.

INT. STADIUM — MUSIC WAR CIRCUIT - ARTIFICIAL LIGHT

Kevi and Daze are attacked from all sides by the other competitors. Daze narrowly misses being ejected from the bike by Chess Maty. He avoids it thanks to his mechanical arm that is hit.

JAZ
Yes, the Parisians were right to try to disarm Daze and Kevi to share the booty, and Chess Maty in particular… But it wasn't enough.

Amadeus crosses the finish line first, followed by Banksy. The peloton gets closer, bumping into each other. Next, it's Nickèle's turn to attack Kevi and Daze by rushing at them, but Daze detaches his damaged arm and manages to slip it under Nickèle's vehicle which spins off the path.

JAZ
And here are our first finalists! Amadeus has just crossed the line, what a surprise!! The winner isn't one of the six favorites! Who would have thought it? He is followed by Banksy, New-Sydney's Chosen One! With her super Mech, she has just demonstrated the scope of her abilities.
But beware, Nickèle has just been ejected by the ace duo! The others must finish the race. Many have only one motorcycle left. The next fall will be fatal! The last drivers still stand a chance!

At the back, Switch, Thorus and Talloulah are catching up.

EXT. PARIS — FALCONERS' MARKET — NIGHT

Kilo arrives outside the restaurant. She looks around the square, also contemplating her wrist screen. It displays on its left, the man who was targeted before. Looking up, she sees Killa and calls to him.

KILO
Hey, you!

Killa turns around and notices the child. Behind him the whole crowd in the falconer's market whoops with joy. We hear Jaz shouting victory.

JAZ
They did it! The Parisians Daze and Kevi have made it! UNBELIEVABLE! I don't know if it's a friendship or a rivalry but Wow! It's effective!

At the same time, the police operators and their drones surround Killa who doesn't take his eyes off Kilo.

OPERATOR
Hands up! Don't move!

The little girl receives an alert on her screen and looks up. The drone is rushing at them at full speed. Seeing that Kilo is distracted, Killa looks in the same direction as he lowers his visor. He sees the drone getting dangerously close. In the visor, Sofi highlights the device with a yellow pointer that turns red. He glances to his right and meets Kilo's gaze.

KILLA
SOFI!

Inside the hat Sofi replies calmly.

SOFI
It's okay, I've got her.

Long shot of the drone hitting the ground and generating a gigantic explosion that destroys the Falconers' market square. The entire city is plunged into darkness.

INT. STADIUM — MUSIC WAR CIRCUIT - ARTIFICIAL LIGHT

The power is cut off in the immense Paris Stadium. All the holographic projections are gone. The only sounds are the complaints of the spectators heading towards the exits in the darkness. In the center of the stadium, the participants connected to the program, wake up. Everyone is back to normal,

all except Daze (Dyon) who convulses in his seat, his eyes rolling.

SEQUENCE 15

INT. DYON'S DREAM — LABORATORY - NIGHT

Dyon is immersed, in his head the same old melody is playing.

One hand rubs the steam from a glass wall. Behind it appears a baby immersed in a tube two meters high and connected from head to toe to a whole network of cables. YOLANDI (40's), in a white coat and glasses talks to the child. She has the same voice as the one that speaks to Dyon.

YOLANDI
Hey, are you still sleeping? Come on, kid, it's almost over.

INT. LONG HALLWAY — ARTIFICIAL LIGHT

Dyon convulses. Lying on a stretcher, he is carried by the MUSIC WAR medical crew followed by Vaklaw, Banksy and other candidates. A door displays: Authorized personnel only.

ESTAF
Please wait here. You cannot go any further.

The doors close on the worried candidates.

BANKSY
What's wrong with him?

VAKLAW
I don't know. He didn't cope with the disconnection.

INT. TREATMENT ROOM — ARTIFICIAL LIGHT

In a room in the infirmary, the team of estaves transfers Dyon to a bed overlooked by complex machinery.

ESTAF 1
Settle him in correctly!

INT. DYON'S DREAM — LABORATORY - NIGHT

Yolandi walks to her workstation and presses buttons while looking towards the tube where the baby floats. A gauge that displays: SENSIVITY slowly fills up on her screen. Yolandi seems worried. She brings up an illuminated keyboard in front of her and quickly types a password. A digital key appears on the screen with the pictogram 'read'. She presses it immediately. The melody

from Dyon's dream plays in the laboratory. Yolandi stops the music and hits a few keys on the keyboard. While she monitors the sensitivity gauge that turns green, she places electrodes on her temples.

YOLANDI
Come on, we're there now.

INT. TREATMENT ROOM — ARTIFICIAL LIGHT

An estaf places electrodes on Dyon's temples while another monitors his vital signs on the screen. Suddenly, the nurse speaks up.

ESTAF 1
Do you see the signal? What could it be?

ESTAF 2
I don't know, I've never seen anything like it.

ESTAF 1
A stray signal? We need a doctor. Request connection with Europa!

ESTAF 2
Very well, I…

Suddenly Grammy materializes. Instead of her habitually jovial expression, her face is blank. Medical staff are surprised by her appearance.

ESTAF 1
Grammy? What are you doing here?

GRAMMY
Leave.

ESTAF 2
What? But we have to…

Grammy interrupts them and starts to glow. Her voice becomes deep and powerful.

GRAMMY
Leave the premises! IMMEDIATELY!

The estaves hurry towards the door.

INT. DYON'S DREAM — LABORATORY - NIGHT

Yolandi launches a protocol called Transfer. Her head leans back, the electrodes activate, and her eyes turn white. In the tube, the baby reacts immediately, also opening white eyes.

INT. TREATMENT ROOM — ARTIFICIAL LIGHT

Dyon is still convulsing. Grammy identifies the stray signal and clicking a few buttons on the interface, the music from Dyon's dream can be heard in the room. He stops convulsing and opens white eyes. Grammy leans in close to his ear.

GRAMMY
Mother?

INT. DYON'S DREAM — TOTAL DARKNESS

A bright flash leads Dyon into infinite, dark nothingness. He sees a source of light and runs towards it. He sees Yolandi and Grammy chatting. He carries on but is stopped by an invisible membrane. Cut off from them, Dyon strikes the membrane with both hands. On the other side, Grammy and Yolandi continue talking.

GRAMMY
His spirit was built around the mind locks you placed inside him. A transfer would damage the brain and you would be trapped.

YOLANDI
I've been trapped for twenty-two years. Things must have gone off the rails that night. (Smiling) But actually, it may not be so bad.

Grammy nods in agreement and the two characters disappear and leave Dyon alone in the dark. Suddenly, Yolandi's face appears near to his.

YOLANDI
Dyon!

INT. TREATMENT ROOM — ARTIFICIAL LIGHT

Dyon wakes up, startled in the dark, empty room. Disoriented, he turns the light on. Suddenly, he hears a voice.

YOLANDI (INNER VOICE)
Hey! Are you still sleeping?

Dyon leaps out of bed. The voice is coming from all around.

DYON
Who said that?

Panicked, he looks around and under the bed. He removes his hearing aids, and a painful noise hits him. The slightest sound is amplified and hits his eardrums. Despite the pain he tries to call.

DYON
(Loudly) Hey! Is anyone there?

Suddenly the voice resumes, making the intense noise disappear.

YOLANDI (INNER VOICE)
Relax, kiddo! We know each other now. But you must put your hearing aids back on, you still need them.

As soon as she stops talking the ambient noise becomes unbearable again.
Dyon puts his devices back on, everything becomes quiet again. The young man is still doubting. He scans the room from the tool he deploys with the palm of his hand. Nothing… The place is empty.

DYON
Hello?

YOLANDI (INNER VOICE)
For heaven's sake! Who are you looking for? It’s only us here.

Dyon is startled. He is lost but tries to accept the situation.

DYON
You’re in my head? I’ve gone crazy, is that it?

YOLANDI (INNER VOICE)
Yes. I mean no. I am in your head but you’re not crazy… yet.

DYON
O… K… But who are you?

YOLANDI (INNER VOICE)
Don’t you remember?
(Singing softly) My name is…

Dony recognizes the melody that wakes him up every morning. He barely dares to pronounce her name.

DYON
Yo… Yolandi Rosa.

YOLANDI (INNER VOICE)
Yeah! Absolutely right! And now, it’s all about who you are.

TO BE CONTINUED…