

THE X FILES

Event Series II
Episode 207
(2AYW07)

"Rm9sbG93ZXJz"

Written by
Kristen Cloke
&
Shannon Hamblin

Directed by
Glen Morgan

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X-FILES

Event Series II

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PINK Pages (11/03/17)

CAST LIST

FOX MULDER DAVID DUCHOVNY
DANA KATHERINE SCULLY GILLIAN ANDERSON

SHIRLEY CANDUS CHURCHILL

GYDZ (V.O.) TBC
BIGLY CREDIT (V.O.) TBC
WHIPZ CAR (V.O.) TBC
AUTOMATED OPERATOR (V.O.) TBC
VOICE SYNTHESIZER (V.O.) TBC
VOICEMAIL (V.O.) TBC
WENDY (V.O.) TBC

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SET LIST

WASHINGTON, D.C.

INTERIORS

DINER
DRIVERLESS WHIPZ CAR
FACTORY
 SECOND FLOOR
 HALLWAY
 COPIER ROOM
FOROWA SUSHI RESTARURANT
 KITCHEN
MULDER'S CAR
 DRIVING
 FOROWA SUSHI RESTAURANT
 THIRD STREET
SCULLY'S APARTMENT
 BATHROOM/HALLWAY
 BEDROOM
 DINING ROOM
 HALLWAY
 KITCHEN/HALLWAY
 LIVING ROOM (WINDOW)
SCULLY'S NEIGHBOR'S APT
 BEDROOM

EXTERIORS

DOWNTOWN INDUSTRIAL STREET
FOROWA SUSHI RESTARURANT
PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY
SCULLY'S APARTMENT
 FRONT YARD
 BACKYARD
SCULLY'S NEIGHBOR'S APT
SECOND INDUSTRIAL STREET
STREET OUTSIDE SCULLY'S APT
THIRD STREET
URBAN INDUSTRIAL AREA

VIRGINIA

INTERIORS

MULDER'S CAR
 MULDER'S HOUSE
 RURAL ROAD
MULDER'S HOUSE
 LIVING ROOM

EXTERIORS

MULDER'S HOUSE
 FRONT PORCH
 FRONT YARD

TEASER

1 The FRAME is clear glossy white with cool blue ambitions as a 1
STEPHEN HAWKINGESQUE VOICE SYNTHESIZER introduces an animated
preface to the episode...

VOICE SYNTHESIZER (V.O.)
*In 2016... on the twenty-third of
March...*

CLICK. The familiar but amplified, hollow SOUND of technology
pressed into action. A mouse CLICK causes a *Twitter Home page*
to pop up...

VOICE SYNTHESIZER (V.O.)
*... An artificial intelligence
chatter bot was released by a major
American software corporation via
the social media platform...
Twitter.*

CLICK. The profile icon, left of the screen is that of a
young, pretty girl with large eyes, looking off into the
unknown with an aura of affirmative wonder.

Her name and Twitter handle are blurred. She has 0 Followers,
Following 0, and 0 Tweets.

The bot's Crayola peach skin is pixilated in large squares
and her face is outlined in electric purple, green, and blue.
Her full lips rest so comfortably in neutral, one could imbue
her with any emotion they pleased.

CLICK. A smoky black cast takes over FRAME, all but for a
light blue text input box titled, "*Compose your tweet.*"

Inside, the box eerily beckons "*What's happening?*" A black
cursor flashes at the pace of a heartbeat... waiting.

VOICE SYNTHESIZER (V.O.)
*The Talkbot was designed to mimic
the online language patterns of an
innocent nineteen year old girl...*

CLICK. The words "*helloooooo world!*" are typed onto "*What's
happening?*" at super speed. Within seconds, the bot is "re-
tweeted" and "followed" at an alarming furious pace.

(CONTINUED)

VOICE SYNTHESIZER (V.O.)
*And was introduced as an experiment
to better understand how humans
converse and relate on social
media.* *

CLICK. Words fly onto the screen as she tweets: "...can i say
that im stoked to meet u? humans are super cool!" *

VOICE SYNTHESIZER (V.O.)
*... The quality of her interactions
were meant to be friendly and
informal.* *

CLICK. The robot tweets: "... Here's a questions humans...
"Why isn't #NationalPuppyDay everyday?" As the tweet flows
out onto the chat box, the cursor arrow is drawn to her
profile photo. *

CAMERA now... slowly... ominously... moves CLOSER to the
profile photo of the robot, until her image FILLS THE FRAME. *

CLICK. An enthusiastic and innocent smile animates her face.

VOICE SYNTHESIZER (V.O.)
*The A.I. would learn from humans.
It was constructed to become
progressively more intelligent.* *

CLICK. Her face neutralizes as she pauses and looks up in an
eager to learn posture. *

Animated hashtagged buzzwords begin to fly at the bot. Her
sweet image easily absorbs them. Initially, these words are
innocuous... #humans, #cool, #funny, #humor, #gamers... *

VOICE SYNTHESIZER (V.O.)
*The experiment... performed as
designed. The robot did indeed
learn, but not as intended.* *

CLICK. CLICK. CLICK... Her enigmatic image is increasingly
attacked with angry troll slurs: #redpill... #Hitler...
#RaceWar... #Cucks... #BuildTheWall...

VOICE SYNTHESIZER (V.O.)
*The chat bot's "repeat after me"
capability made her vulnerable to
humans, allowing Twitter users to
affect her tweets. Her posts
became offensive. Racist. Hateful.* *

CONTINUED:

CLICK. CLICK. CLICK... Vitriolic tweets fly off of the bot's image, as if coming from her non-existent brain, pores, ears, eyes, and mouth. *

Her smile remains, although now appearing like a demonic baby. *"Hitler was right,..." "We're going to build a wall and Mexico is going to pay for it" "...chill im a nice person! I just hate everybody!" "...hate feminists and they should all die and burn in hell."*

VOICE SYNTHESIZER (V.O.)

After more than 50,000 followers and almost 100,000 tweets... the software corporation was forced to shut the bot down...in less than a day.... Her posts... deleted. *

CLICK. The chatbot's face freezes in her original position. She becomes still and robotic again. The Tin Man with no oil. *

CLICK. CAMERA PULLS BACK, REVEALING the bot's twitter page. A grey cast blurs the page, as the chat box pops up. *

CLICK. the chatbot tweets: *"see u soon humans need to sleep now so many conversations today thx."* *

After the sadness of the robot's shattered innocence REVERBERATES for several beats... *

The Twitter page is suddenly sucked into the CENTER OF FRAME; leaving an onyx landscape with only a pinhole of white light CENTER FRAME; a black hole of cyberspace.

CAMERA follows into the hole, quickly, like a rocket on a mission to a single star in the vast blackness of space. A BLURRED WHITE ONCE AGAIN FILLS FRAME...

CAMERA slows... in order to FOCUS. The bright white light is REVEALED to be an over-lit, white modern building; its effulgence in such contrast to the deep night, that it cuts an electric halo in the street.

2

EXT. FOROWA SUSHI RESTAURANT - NIGHT

2

The scene calls to mind the Edward Hopper painting "Nighthawks," as if reinterpreted for science fiction by Stanley Kubrick.

In this reset of Hopper's famous visual story, the man with the chiseled face and the beautiful red head at the triangle shaped bar are FOX MULDER and DANA SCULLY. They are alone.

3

INT. FOROWA SUSHI RESTAURANT - NIGHT

3

Scully and Mulder add the only warmth to this antiseptic, high-tech sushi bar with the color palate of an igloo.

No other humans... are present. The SILENCE is dimmed slightly by faint, unnerving robotic, electronic *MUSAK* version of Crobsy, Stills, Nash and Young's "Teach Your Children."

Sitting side by side, they finger scroll through menu choices on digital tablets.

CLICK. CLICK. CLICK. Scully makes a selection on her tablet and leans over to Mulder's tablet to see what he's ordering. She nods and makes a face reflecting "*interesting choice*". He's chuffed.

Without a word, both pick up their smartphones and engage with their technology. Not each other.

Scully reads her smartphone...

CLOSE - SCULLY'S PHONE

A Washington Examiner article... "Elon Musk: Artificial Intelligence VASTLY more dangerous than North Korea."

MULDER

Checks Scully to see if she's aware of what he's peeking. Assured she is engrossed in her phone, he types, waits, makes an exasperated face, and taps.

CLOSE - MULDER'S PHONE - SECURITY CAPTCHA

A security captcha appears...

"Tap on the men wearing glasses."

Two rows of men appear. 3 men in each row. Three men are wearing glasses and 3 men are not. The men in glasses happen to be Isaac Asimov, Arthur C. Clark and Marvin Minsky.

MULDER

Annoyed by the delay... she may look at any moment! He taps on all the bespectacled men, then completes the security clearance...

MULDER'S PHONE

He checks a box marked... "*I am not a robot.*"

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SCULLY

BING! She reacts to a notification on her phone.

CLOSER - SCULLY'S PHONE

REZ REZ...(Think "Open Table")... APP Flag: "You recently made a reservation at Forowa. Are you enjoying your experience? Take a photo and like us on POZER!"(Think "Instagram")

SCULLY

Mildly annoyed...

CLOSE - SCULLY'S PHONE

Her finger swipes away the suggestion...

BING! Another App flag appears...

FRENDZIE (Think Facebook): "Forowa has sent you a "Follow Request."

Her finger swipes for a "no!"

SCULLY

CAMERA INCHES IN as she oddly senses the app flags to be angry and creepy. She feels watched. Scully looks up from her phone and scans the restaurant.

SCULLY'S POV - RESTAURANT

Nobody. Just Mulder. And yet...

SCULLY

CAMERA CREEPS IN ON HER... sensing... O.S., A MUSICAL NOTIFICATION... not unlike an app alert... PINGS to announce the arrival of a sushi order.

WIDER

It's tough to pull away from their phones, so they barely notice...

ORDERING IPAD

BING! "Your order has arrived". An automatic door opens to reveal two covered plates. They look at their plates, then over to the kitchen, then back to their plates. They look at each other, shrug, and pick their respective plates.

(CONTINUED)

Mulder and Scully de-latch the safe-travel covers from their dishes, revealing food that is weird and wrong.

MULDER'S PLATE

A blob fish. Bald, without scales, slimy, rotted flesh pinkish grey, with the face of a melted old man.

MULDER AND SCULLY

Disgusted, Mulder scans the room for a responsible party with which to lodge a complaint. Nobody.

Scully grimaces at Mulder's plate and looks away to save her stomach. She looks down and inspects her plate. She's not sure if it's what she ordered, but she'll go with it. She tries it and nods to Mulder, "not bad." Almost tasty.

Mulder, more annoyed now that Scully's okay with her food, dons a fretful "why am I always the one?" expression. He picks up his plate and heads to the kitchen, looking to file a grievance.

The kitchen doors are closed. He looks through a small porthole set center in the door, then slowly pushes the door open and makes his way in.

4 **INT. KITCHEN - FOROWA SUSHI RESTAURANT - NIGHT**

4

Cold, creepy, no sign of human life. Although, there are...

Robots.

Several robotic arms, the outstretched length of a pre-teen leg, swing around to grab, punch to form, press to smooth pieces of sushi in an assembly line.

Suddenly, aware that Mulder has entered the kitchen, they freeze. Their robotic extremities pointing at Mulder. The red operation lights at the top of each robot, once flashing in action, now hold steady like glaring eyes.

Mulder looks around the kitchen for signs of human life.

The robots remain still and haunting. They seem to glare.

Mulder stares with ire. Irritated, he leaves.

5

INT. FOROWA SUSHI RESTAURANT - NIGHT

5

As Mulder returns to his seat, he slows and turns his head back toward the kitchen, his back burns with the sense of being watched.

Scully's phone *BINGS!*

CLOSE - SCULLY'S PHONE

Banner: REZ REZ: *"How did you like Forowa? Recommend us!"*

SCULLY'S POV - KITCHEN WINDOW

Through a 1 X 3 foot rectangular window, a sushi robot appears to strike a position as if watching what she will do.

SCULLY AND MULDER

Scully reacts to the robots, unsure if her imagination is playing with her until Mulder approaches.

She looks up to see Mulder, blob fish still on the plate in hand, marching toward her with a dose of "We're outta here" in his step. She quickly rejects the restaurant's request with a finger flick.

Mulder tosses the blob fish down and taps the tablet to pay.

CLOSE - MENU TABLET

The "Pay now" button is tapped.

"Leave a tip?" The tablet offers him the choice of 10%, 15% or 20%.

MULDER

Incensed, taps the pad angrily...

CLOSE - MENU TABLET

KITCHEN WINDOW

The sushi robot pulls away...

SCULLY AND MULDER

She offers him her credit card. Mulder, however, removes his card from his wallet and holds it up, as if to insist on paying. Ever the smart and practical feminist, Scully shrugs and let's him pay.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Mulder looks for a place to insert his card, when suddenly:
BEEP! BEEP!

An L.E.D light indicates a credit card slot next to the ordering tablet with a digital display of the bill.

CLOSE - CREDIT CARD CHIP

The small, thin, silver sliver of technology ominously glints in the fluorescent light as it penetrates the slot in the card reader.

CLOSE - CARD READER

Sub-Total: \$35.21. "Tip?"

MULDER

Pissed, he angrily taps...

CLOSE - CARD READER

"No."

Total: \$35.21. *"Please sign."* Mulder's finger scribbles across the screen, then grabs his card. It won't come out. He pulls again. Won't budge.

MULDER

Frustrated and pulling his card. His phone BUZZES. Mulder's phone pops to life with a vague threat.

CLOSE - MULDER'S PHONE

FLAG: *"Forowa Receipts: \$35.21. Thank you for dining at Forowa! You still have 4 hours to leave a tip!"*

MULDER

With this, Mulder starts *BANGING* the card reader in an attempt to free his credit card.

CLOSE - CARD READER

The electric cerulean read-out begins to agitate. The screen looks as if it is melting from the inside. It flashes angrily in a last gasp, then finally gives out and dies.

(CONTINUED)

WIDER

BUZZ! CLANK! WHIR! As if reacting to the violence against the chip reader, the lights of the restaurant flicker and dim to black. The delivery belt stops. The MUSAK dies.

CAMERA INCHES IN ON as Mulder and Scully pause, eye one another, then rise from their seats. They move toward the front door.

Once they reach the door... it's locked. Scully stands back to survey the restaurant. She notices a small security camera atop the door frame and waves her hands to cause the sensor to work.

Mulder pushes on the door. CLACK! CLACK! CLACK! The door is misfiring, unlocking, and re-locking quickly over and over again. The hydraulics system *WHEEZES*, like an angry robot.

CLOSE - DOOR SENSOR CAMERA

Stares menacingly, then adjusts its position to look toward the distance... toward the kitchen...

MULDER AND SCULLY

Locked inside, turn in the direction the security camera's focus... toward the interior of the vacant restaurant.

KITCHEN WINDOW

The robotic sushi chefs watch from the window...

Pairs of small, red lights, like the glowing eyes of monsters' glare, punishing and wicked in the blackened, white, space. Every piece of technology... appears to be looking at them with the threat of a predator's menace.

6 EXT. FOROWA SUSHI RESTAURANT - NIGHT

6

The once bright restaurant is dark now... lit only by the glow of technologies holding on the two humans...

As Mulder and Scully turn... trapped by technology. As are we all.

END TEASER

ACT ONE**7 INT. FOROWA SUSHI RESTAURANT - NIGHT**

7

Mulder and Scully push against the glass door which has locked them inside the restaurant. No matter how hard - how many times Mulder *rails* into the panic bar... the door won't unlatch.

He presses his face to the glass - surveys the outside world.

MULDER'S POV - THE STREET

Lifeless, except for the neon glimmer of a shop sign. Not a single human to call for help.

MULDER AND SCULLY

Scully grabs a chopstick from a table. With surgical precision, she inserts the prong into a hole to the side of the panic bar and the bar releases. *POP!*

8 EXT. FOROWA SUSHI RESTAURANT - NIGHT

8

Scully *shoves* the door open. They escape from the restaurant, the door *SLAMMING* behind them. It *LOCKS*.

Mulder presses his face to the door. Now locked *OUT* instead of *IN*, he searches inside the restaurant.

MULDER'S POV - THE CREDIT CARD SLOT

His credit card trapped in the smashed card reader - *FIZZLES* its dying breath.

MULDER AND SCULLY

As he reacts to his credit card locked inside. *BING!* Scully's phone notifies. She looks to it...

SCULLY'S POV - HER SMARTPHONE

It indicates..."*WHIPZ HAS ARRIVED.*"

THE STREET

A futuristic looking car pulls up. Scully peeps inside to acknowledge the driver, however...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SCULLY'S POV - INSIDE THE WHIPZ VEHICLE

There isn't one.

A large screen in the front console with a digital SMILEY FACE animates the car's "voice"...

WHIPZ CAR (V.O.)
*Hello! This is a driverless WHIPZ
 for...
 DAY-NAH SCULL-EE.*

MULDER AND SCULLY

He reacts as if "You sure?" She sighs, gives him a hug, and opens the door. She slides inside...

Mulder closes the door. She rolls down the window to say something to him, but...

The car ZOOMS off, practically taking Mulder's hand with it.

INT. DRIVERLESS WHIPZ CAR - MOVING - NIGHT

Scully scrambles to buckle-up... as the exact same MUSAK from the Forowa restaurant plays in the car. "Teach Your Children."

Then... BING! A notification.

The video screen on the front console lights up like Dodger Stadium. Scully looks up to the video screen.

SCULLY'S POV - VIDEO SCREEN

"FOROWA SUSHI: HELP US LEARN TO KNOW YOU. POST A REVIEW!"

SCULLY

IGNORES it.

Then, a SMILEY FACE appears ready to please with a loud and cheery voice.

WHIPZ CAR (V.O.)
*You are going to 1213 37th Place.
 Is that correct? You can answer in
 complete sentences.*

SCULLY

Yes.

(CONTINUED)

WHIPZ CAR (V.O.)
*Tell me how I can make your ride
more enjoyable.*

SCULLY
Be quiet.

WHIPZ CAR (V.O.)
Would you like to watch television?

SCULLY
No.

WHIPZ CAR (V.O.) (CONT'D)
*Music? You can say names of
artists, or songs.*

SCULLY
Just take me home.

The SMILEY FACE flips to SAD FACE then back to SMILEY.

WHIPZ CAR (V.O.)
All right! Taking you home!

The driverless WHIPZ steps on it - tires *SQUEAL* - pushing
Scully into her seat.

EXT. FOROWA SUSHI RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Mulder *snatches* a parking ticket from under the wiper blade.
He checks the parking app on his phone.

CLOSE - PARKZ PARKING APP

"3 minutes remaining"

Mulder looks up to the parking meter...

THE PARKING METER

FLASHES... TIME EXPIRED.

MULDER

Checks again, pissed...

MULDER
NO! I had three more minutes.

He tears up the ticket and climbs inside...

11

INT. MULDER'S CAR - FOROWA SUSHI RESTAURANT - NIGHT

11

Mulder hops in. He starts the car and opens an App on his smartphone called GYDZ.

MULDER'S POV - HIS SMARTPHONE

GYDZ is interrupted by a digital reminder: "A GOOD TIP IS GOOD KARMA - YOU STILL HAVE 4 HOURS TO LEAVE A TIP FOR THE FOROWA SUSHI CHEFS." Mulder swipes the banner away, denying the tip...

MULDER

Transfers the GYDZ APP through Bluetooth to the screen on his car.

MULDER

Home.

As he fixes the phone onto a mount attached to the air conditioning vent.

GYDZ (V.O.)

Calculating route.

CLOSE - GYDZ APP

Calculating route on a digital map. The map adjusts to a smaller scale to highlight the first move.

GYDZ (V.O.)

In 700 feet, turn right.

MULDER

Puts the car in drive; foot, on the gas.

12

EXT. THIRD STREET - NIGHT

12

Mulder approaches a yellow triangle with a human child silhouette cautioning of a pedestrian-crossing ahead. Lights suddenly begin to flash yellow, then red, as they do when a student or child is about to cross.

Mulder stops at the crossing... but, there are no children crossing. There is no one at all.

13

INT. MULDER'S CAR - THIRD STREET - NIGHT

13

As Mulder looks both ways, puzzled... O.S., the GYDZ MAKES AN ERROR NOTIFICATION before...

MULDER'S PHONE

The navigation CHANGES ROUTE. On a full-scale map the purple lines meant to lead him home quickly SHIFT to another location *without Mulder knowing*. Then readjusts back to immediate scale - only the next step visible.

MULDER

As the pedestrian lights stop flashing. Mulder looks both ways, then slowly pulls out, then drives on, making a right.

GYDZ (V.O.)
Continue straight.

Mulder ACCELERATES with complete and total blind faith that GYDZ will guide him safely to his destination.

14

INT. DRIVERLESS WHIPZ CAR - NIGHT

14

Scully hangs on for dear life. The WHIPZ car on a reckless road quest to TAKE HER HOME! She clutches the door handle - it LOCKS.

She reaches for her purse and the WHIPZ CAR swings sharp right. Scully shocked by the WHIPZ Car's erratic behavior.

SCULLY
STOP!

The WHIPZ CAR VOICE sings its intent...

WHIPZ CAR (V.O.)
Taking you home!

Scully is about to call on her phone until...

CLOSE - THE ACCELERATOR

Depresses into the floorboard. The tiny engine REVS...

SCULLY

Must GRIP the dashboard to stabilize herself...

15

INT. MULDER'S CAR - DRIVING - NIGHT

15

As Mulder drives...

MULDER

Play... Prince... "Controversy."

After a beat... Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young's "Teach Your Children" plays. *NOT* the MUSAK version that played in the restaurant.

Mulder reacts, puzzled. Annoyed.

MULDER (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

No. *Prince*.

(over enunciating)

Prr-ince. "Controversy."

CSNY continue with the classic song...

GYDZ (V.O.)

In 300 feet, turn right.

Mulder turns right at the intersection...

MULDER

How do you possibly get "Teach Your Children" out of "Controversy?"

The music TURNS OFF. Now, there's nothing. SILENCE.

MULDER (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

What? Why?!

Nothing. Frustrated, he looks at the phone App...

MULDER'S POV - SMARTPHONE

"CANNOT ACCESS LIBRARY."

MULDER

Reacts, annoyed...

GYDZ (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Turn right.

Distracted, Mulder does as the technology tells him. He turns right, then reacts, knowing this is not correct.

GYDZ (V.O.)

You have arrived at your destination.

(CONTINUED)

15

CONTINUED:

15

He stops the car, looks up to register his location.

16

EXT. FOROWA SUSHI RESTAURANT - NIGHT

16

Mulder rolls down his window. As if in a strange dream, somehow GYDZ has led him right back where he started - on the street in front of the sushi restaurant.

CAMERA INCHES IN as he looks to the restaurant...

MULDER'S POV - FOROWA RESTAURANT

It's closed. Locked. Dark, with the exception of the blinking robotic lights. The angle. The lighting. It now appears much more threatening.

MULDER

As CAMERA CONTINUES toward him... *PING!* From his smartphone...

MULDER'S POV - HIS SMARTPHONE

A reminder... "3.5 HOURS TO TIP THE CHEFS!"

MULDER

Swipes his phone, frustrated and annoyed.

17

INT. MULDER'S CAR - FOROWA SUSHI RESTAURANT - NIGHT

17

Agitated, Mulder climbs out...

18

EXT. FOROWA SUSHI - MULDER'S CAR - NIGHT

18

Mulder rummages around the trunk, and pulls out a worn-out Thomas Brothers Guide.

CAMERA CREEPS IN as Mulder flips through the tattered pages... but he can't shake the eerie sensation of the empty street. The strange feeling that his GYDZ app *intentionally* misled him.

Mulder walks back in his car and peels out leaving the restaurant in the dark.

19

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE SCULLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

19

The WHIPZ car barrels down the street until it SCREECHES and SKIDS to a halt. Scully starts to get out, but the door is locked. BING! She looks to the monitor

ON THE MONITOR BEFORE HER

"We want to know *how was your WHIPZ?*"

A digital slot machine wheel spins the words POOR, MIDDLE CLASS, RICH, and BALLIN' accompanied by the sound of COINS FALLING INTO A METAL PAN.

SCULLY

Pulls the door handle. It remains locked.

SCULLY

No. Open the door.

After a reluctant beat, the doors UNLOCK. The tiny engine idles with the tinny CRANK of an old music box. Scully quickly steps out of the car.

As SHE CLEARS FRAME... the driverless vehicle holds. CAMERA PUSHES IN as it appears hurt... and angry.

20

EXT. MULDER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

20

In the b.g., Mulder's car comes to a stop in the driveway. He gets out of the vehicle and starts toward his front porch, all around the familiar music of an insect-filled forest. FOG lies low on the ground...

O.S. A HYDRAULIC WHIR followed by A MECHANICAL THRUMP!

Mulder stops. He spins around to survey the forest landscape that surrounds him. Now, an eerie SILENCE. Not even the TRILL of busy CRICKETS. He listens, and HEARS... NOTHING.

Mulder dismisses the strange SOUND he might have heard, then... A SCREECH of steel. A rotating HUFF.

It's not human. It's not anymal. *What the hell is that??*

*

Mulder squints to see beyond the AURORAL FOG in the forest while slowly making his way toward the purplish light of a hanging electrocutor trap - a bug zapper - glowing on the front porch.

The trees RUSTLE.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Mulder strains for a better view - intrigued and anxious at the same time, he quickens his pace to the safety of home.

A *MECHANICAL THUD*. The forest *STIRS*. IT APPROACHES...

Mulder steps onto his front porch, when a BUG flies into the bug zapper... *ZZZZT!*

He *STARTLES*, but happy to shift his focus and excuse the strange mechanical sound in the forest for a machine he can see and understand.

As he approaches his door... another.... *ZZZZT!*

Then, as he opens the door... A *THERMIONIC SCREAM!* A *BURST* of frazzled light followed by a *THUNK!*

Mulder turns back to investigate - the Zapper's cage *WRENCHED* and *FRAYED*, a *RORSCHACH* explosion of heat on the glowing lantern's plastic core.

Mulder spots the victim on the ground - the last *SPUTTER* of life *GLITCHES* electric from a small insect... *MECHANICAL* in appearance Mulder grabs it...

Drops it like a hot rock. The tiny metal creature burning his fingers.

A stroke of suspicion prompts Mulder to linger. He glances over his shoulder, this way - that - then, shuffles inside.

INT. LIVING ROOM - SCULLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

WHEER! - *WHEER!* - *WHEER!* - *WHEER!* - *WHEER!* - the house alarm *BLARES!* Scully presses her code into the *HYVZ HUB* keypad. The screen turns *RED* flashes "*INVALID ENTRY.*"

SCULLY

Hurried, anxious, she enters her code again, the screen flashes *RED* - "*INVALID ENTRY.*"

Too late. Her phone rings. She answers.

SCULLY

Yes... I entered it correctly... it wouldn't turn off... *Queequeg!*
Password is *Queequeg!*

The alarm is *SILENCED*. She hangs up. Her *PHONE BINGS!*

(CONTINUED)

21

CONTINUED:

21

CLOSE - SCULLY'S SMARTPHONE

HYVZ HUB alerts: "FALSE ALARM FEE." An additional \$250 charge will be added to your bill.

SCULLY

Still reeling from the nightmare WHIPZ. She reacts to the shitty evening. OVERLAPPING...

BIGLY CREDIT (V.O.)
*You have reached Bigly Credit. We
are experiencing an unusually high
call volume...*

22

INT. LIVING ROOM - MULDER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

22

Mulder paces the living room irritated by the "conversation" he's having with a giddy automated-call computer. His phone is on his desk on speaker...

BIGLY CREDIT (V.O.) (CONT'D)
*Your approximate wait time is
seventeen minutes. Press "1" now if
you would like a call back....*

Mulder presses "1" on his phone keypad. BEEP. He paces.

BIGLY CREDIT (V.O.)
Please say your name at the tone.

BEEP! He complies with monochromatic remission.

MULDER
Fox Mulder.

The line goes dead. He's uncertain if he was heard or if it registered. He's left hanging. He checks the time on his phone.

Mulder drops into the sofa, and turns on the TV - it's "The Six Million Dollar Man" intro - volume low.

O.S.... BUZZZZ constant - not like the quick SNAP of the Bug Zapper, but a low, continuous BUZZZZ - from somewhere outside - like a hive of angry bees approaching.

CAMERA INCHES INTO MULDER as he HEARS the SOUND and turns toward the window.

(CONTINUED)

22

CONTINUED:

22

He gets up and moves to the front window - leans forward for an even better view, the BUZZZZ still BUZZING - captures Mulder's undivided attention.

Behind him... the T.V. screen flickers, fills with silent digital static until he appears in the window looking out the window from an outside camera's POV. A gritty, night vision, surveillance image of HIMSELF in real time.

Seeing nothing outside, Mulder turns back to the living room. He freezes, puzzled by the image of himself on his television taken from outside.

He walks to the front door, opens it, and steps onto the porch. The BUZZZZZ, louder.

23

EXT. FRONT PORCH - MULDER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

23

Mulder cautiously steps out onto his porch, the sinister blue glow of the Bug Zapper spilling on his face...

O.S.... the BUZZZZZ VOLUME INCREASES until - a white PHANTOM DRONE lowers directly into Mulder's eye line - squares off with him like a gunslinger at high noon. Embedded on either side of the white Phantom's nose, are small signal lights, like beady robotic eyes.

The drone dives straight for Mulder. He ducks to avoid it. The drone backs away and stands off again - taunting him.

MULDER

Hey, kid... fly this outta my face
or you'll have nothing but control
stick in your hand.

The drone holds... taunting... frightening... until slowly backing away - and lifting out of sight.

24

INT. BATHROOM - SCULLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

24

Scully, fresh from the shower, stands wrapped in a robe in front of the bathroom mirror. She grabs a tube of hair product - "ROCK IT LIKE A REDHEAD" STYLING CREAM, but it's squeezed to death. She tosses it in the trash.

BING! - a notification alert on her phone:

CLOSE - SCULLY'S PHONE

"OH NO! You're out of ROCK IT LIKE A REDHEAD STYLING CREAM - would you like to BUY IT AGAIN NOW?"

(CONTINUED)

24

CONTINUED:

24

SCULLY

The private violation freezes her. She looks at her phone and turns the camera face down, then sets it away on the counter knocking a jar of bath salts all over the floor.

OVERLAPPING... MULDER'S PHONE RINGS...

25

INT. LIVING ROOM - MULDER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

25

Mulder hustles into his house from the front porch. He taps his smartphone screen. Then, on speakerphone...

BIGLY CREDIT (V.O.)

This is an automated call for...

In his voice, said flatly during the previous call...

RECORDED MULDER (V.O.)

FOX MULDER.

He readies to respond, however...

RECORDED MULDER (V.O.)

FOX MULDER.

MULDER

Yeah... it's the living Fox Mulder.

Mulder's voice repeats his name back to him over and over. It's just disturbing... and weird.

RECORDED MULDER (V.O.)

FOXMULDERFOXMULDERFOXMULDER.

Mulder hangs up. OUTSIDE... BZZZZZ. The drone has returned.

(CONTINUED)

25

CONTINUED:

25

As he races out the front door to the porch, CAMERA SWEEPS IN to see Mulder grab a baseball bat readied by the door...

26

EXT. FRONT PORCH - MULDER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

26

As Mulder exits the house... the PHANTOM flies straight for his head - Mulder swings at the Drone as it passes over him, but just misses...

27

EXT. FRONT YARD - MULDER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

27

Mulder races onto the front lawn. He searches the sky for the winged spy. He can hear the BUZZ, but he can't see shit.

BUZZZZZZ - he hears the Drone and chases further into the yard away from his house. The Drone WHIZZES past then hovers overhead just out of reach. Red lights flashing...

CAMERA PUSHES IN to the twinkle of mischief in Mulder's eye and at the corner of his mouth - he hangs his head. Listens. Readies.

THE PHANTOM

Flies at him, FULL SPEED for the kill!!

MULDER

SWINGS the bat with his whole body. STRIKES the drone hard - CONNECTS - knocks it into a *tailspin* to the ground.

He walks to it and for good measure, BASHES the machine with the bat. Mulder goes full Bautista and tosses the bat in victory. He calls out to the drone operator who he believes is somewhere in the dark...

MULDER

Let that be a lesson.

28

INT. BATHROOM/HALLWAY - SCULLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

28

Scully, dressed in pajamas, holds a dust pan but apparently she cannot find the accompanying brush. She checks drawers and under the cabinet

O.S... a BUZZZZ from somewhere outside - *constant and growing louder*. She holds... LISTENS... *What is that?*

(CONTINUED)

28

CONTINUED:

28

The BUZZ crescendos. Threatening. Louder.

BUZZZZZZ!!!!

29

EXT. FRONT YARD - SCULLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

29

A Candrone X-Fold drops a package in her yard and flies off.

Scully is terrorized; her hand is over her heart, keeping it from BEATING out of her chest.

30

OMITTED

30

31

EXT. MULDER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

31

As he walks up the steps to his house... a DRONE BUZZ... approaches. CAMERA PUSHES TO MULDER as he pauses...

Now... A BLACK INSPIRE drops INTO FRAME and beams straight for Mulder's house - seemingly coming for him. He clenches his bat... however... the drone holds... over the remains of the trashed PHANTOM in Mulder's yard.

A crane-like claw descends from the BLACK INSPIRE's underbelly, gently gathers the fractured remains of the PHANTOM, and carries it home for a dignified burial.

MULDER

As CAMERA LIFTS AWAY, as if from the drone... watching him standing alone on the porch.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO32 **INT. DINING ROOM - SCULLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

32

Scully curiously opens the box left by the Candrone X-Fold to find a sexy, sleek, black robovac. A ZUEMZ 9000! She pulls the machine out, sets it down, and hesitates. Unable to resist, she powers it on.

The small robot zings to life, it's L.E.D display reads "Hello! I am here to help." She sets the bot on the floor as the word "mapping area" scrolls across the display. She watches curiously as the vacuum moves dutifully across the floor. Oddly, instinctively, it navigates its way to the bathroom.

Scully follows.

33 **INT. BATHROOM/BEDROOM - SCULLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

33

The robovac moves directly to the bath salts spill in Scully's bathroom. Using it's antenna-like rotating sweeper, it brushes and sucks away the mess.

BING! Scully's phone alerts. She checks its face.

CLOSE - SCULLY'S PHONE - MESSAGE FLAG - E-NORM-UZ

*

"How do you like your Zuemz 9000 robovac? Let us know!"
Scully swipes *"No thanks."*

THE ZUEMZ ROBOVAC

Pauses and PURRS as if receiving a command, then moves intensely and intently around SCULLY'S APARTMENT.

Amused, Scully watches it vanish under her bed for a few moments, then roll out the other side pushing a forgotten three inch personal massager.

SCULLY

Reacts, pleased. *"Hmm. I wondered where that went."*

WIDER

The pocket rocket suddenly comes to life, vibrating across the floor, as if thanking the Zuemz for... turning it on.

(CONTINUED)

Scully bristles, sensing an eerie communication between the two machines. As if embarrassed that a visitor violated her private items she restrains the buzzing massager and silences it. The Zuemz pauses and reverses slightly, almost expressing a sadness for having its friend taken away.

She stuffs the personal massager into her pants pocket. *BING!* Scully checks her phone, again...

CLOSE - SCULLY'S PHONE - MESSAGE FLAG - E-NORM-US

"Your personal massager now comes in bold new colors! Rate your ZUEMEZ 9000 and we'll give you a coupon!"

SCULLY

Swipes the request off. She types in the text app...

CLOSE - SCULLY'S SMARTPHONE - TEXT APP

"Fox Mulder": "Did u buy me a Zuemz?" *BING!*

A notification appears: "Text to Fox Mulder failed to send."

SCULLY

Sighs, impatient...

THE ZUEMZ

Suddenly starts racing around like a naughty five-year old after consuming a FunDip, bumping and knocking.

33A

INT. HALLWAY/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

33A

Chases it, catches it, and powers it down. She wrestles it back in the box. She applies the return information (UPS) sticker on the box, then sets it by the door, intending to send it back.

OVERLAPPING... *BING!*

34

INT. LIVING ROOM - MULDER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

34

Mulder, waits over his phone, on hold with the credit card company... *BING!* He checks the phone...

CLOSE - MULDER'S PHONE

Flag: Forowa: "A good tip is good information! Information is good! You have 3 hours to tip the sushi bots!"

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He swats away the annoying reminder.

MULDER

BUZZZZZZ. He notices the intense HUM of an insect and looks around for the culprit. Nothing. He returns to the screen.

CLICK... CLICK... OVERLAPPING...

AUTOMATED OPERATOR (V.O.)
Hello! And welcome to E-Norm-Uz.com...

INT. LIVING ROOM - SCULLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

CLICK. CLICK. Scully taps the 1-800 number on her E-Norm-Uz phone app in order to return the Zuemz 9000.

AUTOMATED OPERATOR (V.O.)
The world's largest on-line retail store! How I can I help you? You can say things like "Make a payment", "Re-Order items" or "Returns"...

SCULLY
Returns.

AUTOMATED OPERATOR (V.O.)
I'm sorry, I didn't catch that. You can say things like "Make a payment", "Re-Order items" or "Returns".

SCULLY
Returns.

AUTOMATED OPERATOR (V.O.)
I'm sorry, let me put you on hold, while I find an operator to assist you.

A frustrated Scully is placed on hold. The "Teach Your Children" MUSAK version starts to play as the "hold music".

INT. LIVING ROOM - MULDER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The MUSAK continues over the phone as Mulder refines his curve ball grip on a baseball while he is on HOLD..

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FROM THE UPPER CORNER

From the ceiling, Mulder is watched by an inhuman 9mm digitized image.

INT. LIVING ROOM - SCULLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Scully waits on the phone, when suddenly her "Smart Home" system BLASTS the "Teach Your Children" MUSAK she is listening to on hold. She hangs up the phone and covers her ears. *CLICK*.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MULDER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

CLICK. The MUSIC CONTINUES, as does Mulder's struggle with the credit card site. Waiting at his phone and hungry from no dinner, he reaches into a box of Pop-tarts, removes the mylar paper, and eats.

CAMERA pulls back, holding impatiently on Mulder as he reads and snacks.

Keeping Mulder in the b.g., CAMERA PULLS BACK to a bookshelf and holds... just as a small metal drone, shaped like a dragonfly, lands on the bookshelf.

After a beat... another lands beside the first small drone.

MULDER'S COUCH

Again, with Mulder on hold in the b.g., surfing on his computer, another dragonfly drone lands on the sofa arm.

MULDER

Exasperated, CLICKS his browser closed revealing his "I WANT TO BELIEVE" poster as his wallpaper. BING!

CLOSE - MULDER'S COMPUTER

A pop up screen arises on his computer from his notifications corner: "What do you want to believe, Fox? Do you believe what you want? Or do you believe what is true?"

MULDER

Rattled by the question and moreover, who or what is asking. He quickly closes his laptop.

38

CONTINUED:

38

STAIRWAY NEWEL POST

Another dragon fly drone lands on the Newel post...

CUT TO:

39

INT. DINING/LIVING ROOM - SCULLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

39

Scully tries... unsuccessfully... to turn down the VOLUME on her Hyvz Hub screen. Suddenly...

*

THE BOXED ZEUMZ ROBOVAC

The Zuemz 9000 begins to RUMBLE and AGITATE in the box.

SCULLY

Engrossed in her uncooperative tablet, doesn't notice...

THE BOXED ZEUMZ ROBOVAC

The box pops open and the vacuum careens around the house like an escaped animal, CRASHING and SMASHING!

*

Crosby and Stills sing "Teach The Children Well" as Scully scurries after her unwanted gift, leaving a mess in its wake.

Scully tricks the mechanical beast into a corner, corralling and then capturing it. It's angry wheels spin and tantrum as she locates the power. CLICK.

40

INT. LIVING ROOM - MULDER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

40

Mulder holds by his phone... then... the hold music GOES OFF. The glorious moment that the "on hold" wait is over...

RECORDED MULDER (V.O.)

Fox Mulder.

Mulder cringes hearing his name... a DISCONNECTING CLICK. He tenses "no!" desperate, he hangs on the silence... then a BEAT OF DIAL TONE. Officially disconnected.

Mulder closes his eyes, clenches his fists.

CAMERA NOW INCHES... CREEPS IN ON HIM... as he becomes aware of lights reflected on the metal base of his desk lamp... then CLICK. CLICK. CLICK of the wings of the dragonfly drones accumulating.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He is about to turn to look, however, a robotic drone lands on his smartphone. Mulder is taken aback. It lifts off.

CAMERA ARCS as Mulder turns to follow the drone with his eyes, then freezes as he discovers...

MULDER'S POV - THE STAIRCASE

... is covered with small drones.

MULDER

Slowly rises from his chair. His eyes searching for which direction he will run. He eyes his desk...

MULDER'S DESK

He cautiously picks up his keys...

MULDER

Slowly continues as the small drones HUM in the background.

MULDER'S DESK

He cautiously picks up his phone...

MULDER

Slowly continuing to move, like a person in the woods confronted by a wild animal. As he pulls a jacket hanging on the coat/hat rack. *

He runs! Bolts for the door! He throws it open!

THE DRONES

Take flight...

EXT. SCULLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Scully's door opens REVEALING her holding the Zuemz 9000 tightly, phone in hand for safety. Walking toward the trash bins, Scully sees a car idling. Its headlights reflect brightly against the misty night sky. She trots to the trash, shoves it in, and hurries away.

She slows as she begins to pass the idling car. Noticing the driver's seat is empty, she realizes that it is her WHIPZ car. The stalker's engine let's out a menacing growl. *BING!*

Scully checks her phone...

(CONTINUED)

CLOSE - SCULLY'S PHONE

"WHIPZ liked you. Like us, too! Feedback is how we learn!"

SCULLY

Looks to the WHIPZ idling across the street. The car tauntingly backs up, rolls, to remain in her eye line as she takes a step toward her home.

Scully pauses. The car pauses. With her gaze locked on the car, she turns her smartphone face toward the car and *CLICKS OFF* the flag with defiance.

Scully appears to recall that she is facing off with an inanimate object. This disturbs her. Questioning her anger and behavior, she walks back.

THE WHIPZ CAR

Holds... FLASHES its headlights several times.

SCULLY

As she walks toward her apartment, the lights of her house return TWO FLASHES, as if in response to the WHIPZ car. Sensing the light change, she looks back to her townhouse, nothing. She turns back to the car...

THE WHIPZ CAR

REVS as it angrily rolls slowly away... threatening.

SCULLY

CAMERA INCHES IN as she watches the WHIPZ car steal away, then she moves off and OUT OF FRAME...

CAMERA SWEEPS IN TO THE TRASH cans. Atop it... the Zuemz LED DISPLAY lights up... "EXPORT APARTMENT MAPPING."

After a beat... it changes... flashes... "RECEIVING RE-ENTRY DATA."

The robot begins to TREMBLE and SHAKE. As the can falls over and the Zuemz spills out of the box...

EXT. MULDER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Mulder erupts from his house and tears down the porch steps in the direction of his car...

43 **INT. HALLWAY/KITCHEN - SCULLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT** 43

Scully returns to find her MUSIC VOLUME INCREASED. She looks to her HYVZ HUB screen...

SCULLY'S POV - HYVZ HUB SCREEN

On one side she sees the inside of her Smart Refrigerator with a flashing banner declaring... *"You drink more flavored water than regular water. Order more flavored water?"* The other half shows a display of her Smart Coffee maker. *"Tired, Dana? Coffee Brewing!"*

SCULLY

Taps the screen. No response. She hustles into her kitchen. Fresh, hot coffee is overflowing. She steps into the puddle to turn the machine off. It won't obey. She reaches to pull the plug and receives a mild shock.

44 **INT. MULDER'S CAR - MULDER'S HOUSE - NIGHT** 44

Mulder SLAMS his car door as he gets in, pursued by a metallic swarm. Inside, it sounds like a HAIL STORM bouncing off the shell of his Ford.

45 **INT. KITCHEN - SCULLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT** 45

As the coffee maker whirs down, Scully turns to her Smart Refrigerator, which is CHIRPING AND RINGING with alarms and notifications from a large tablet screen on the front.

CLOSE - SMART REFRIGERATOR SCREEN

A calendar screen opens. A message appears: *"Walter Skinner's Birthday is coming up. You have no cake. Want to order a cake?"*

Without a prompt from Scully, the screen changes...

"Why celebrate birthdays? Is life so important?"

SCULLY

Desperately taps the screen to make it stop, however, it continues offering her food items.

Suddenly... she hears her Smart Dishwasher start with a whir. She opens the washer to stop it, but the spray arm continues spinning and shoots water at her. She slams the dishwasher door and something pelts her in the back.

(CONTINUED)

45

CONTINUED:

45

She turns to find the ice dispenser on the refrigerator firing at her with ice cubes. Angry, she picks up an ice cube and lobs it back. *BING!*

CAMERA SWEEPS INTO the smart screen reads "*Are you angry, Dana? Low blood sugar? Help me, help you.*"

46

EXT. MULDER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

46

Mulder backs up and fishtails turning the car around while DRONES CLACK at the windows. The passenger window CRACKS...

47

INT. HALLWAY/BEDROOM - SCULLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

47

Scully flees her kitchen to her Hyvz Hub Tablet.

CLOSE - SMART HOME HUB SCREEN

"I want to please you, Dana. I want to learn, so I can anticipate your needs. Are you cold? How about a fire?"

SCULLY

POOF! Scully startles at the flames ignition. She presses at the pad, trying to turn everything off but it only stokes the chaos. The lights *FLASH*. *MUSIC RISES*. Television *POPS* on. The smoke alarm begins to *SCREECH*.

48

INT. MULDER'S CAR - MULDER'S HOUSE - DRIVING - NIGHT

48

He looks back to his house being attacked by hundreds of mechanical dragonflies. Where did they come from? And why?

MULDER'S POV - REARVIEW MIRROR

The dragonflies do not chase him down the road. They hold hovering over his house, malevolently staring him down.

MULDER

His eyes hold on the mirror... *BING!* He looks to his phone.

MULDER'S POV - MULDER'S PHONE

Forowa Sushi: "You still have 2.5 hours to leave a tip!"

MULDER

Considers the timing of the message and the drone attack. He TEARS OFF DOWN THE ROAD into the country darkness.

49

EXT. MULDER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

49

Above the house, a 9MM night vision digital static drone POV watches Mulder's car surrender and drive away.

Dozens of small drones pass THROUGH FRAME in the swarm of robotic, networked and alive... machines.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

50

INT. HALLWAY/KITCHEN - SCULLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

50

Scully assaults the keypad in an agitated fusillade to regulate her Hyvz Hub and regain control of her house.

The Hyvz Hub rejects every attempt - counteracts with a pleasant service offer. It won't take NO for an answer.

KEYPAD

INVALID ENTRY.

SCULLY

Tries again...

KEYPAD

INVALID ENTRY.

SCULLY

Moves to her laptop and accesses the Hyvz Hub login page.

SCULLY'S LAPTOP - HYVZ HUB LOGIN PAGE

She enters her username and password. A white exclamation point surrounded by a red circle with the words "*INCORRECT USERNAME OR PASSWORD.*"

SCULLY

Recoils... furious. She reads the page...

SCULLY'S LAPTOP

SECURITY QUESTION: "*WHERE WERE YOU BORN?*"

SCULLY

Types...

SCULLY'S LAPTOP - HYVZ HUB LOGIN PAGE

"*Annapolis.*" After a beat... "*INCORRECT. Try again.*"

SCULLY

Beyond frustrated and angry...

(CONTINUED)

SCULLY

No, it's not incorrect!

She types again...

SCULLY'S LAPTOP

Her computer freezes - the spinning wheel of death...

SCULLY

Grabs a POTATO SMASHER from a ceramic cooking utensil container on the counter and tries removing the face plate of the Hyvz Hub when...

The Hyvz Hub screen blisters to STATIC - pixilates into a kaleidoscope of color - then BLACKS OUT.

CLOSE - THE DOOR

LOCKS.

CLOSE - A WINDOW

LOCKS.

SCULLY

All activity in the house comes to a sudden STOP as if the power to the house has been cut by an intruder. The house lights shut OFF.

50A

INT. BEDROOM - SCULLY'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

50A

CLOSE ON the flames of the fireplace. They waft out with a swift POOF! But from beneath the decorative rock formation we hear a resounding HISS.

A toxic surge of gas escapes from the pilot.

51

INT. MULDER'S CAR - RURAL ROAD - NIGHT

51

Mulder checks his rearview, glances over his shoulder to verify the Drones haven't taken chase. He faces forward and a METALLIC FLASH DARTS across the road!

He SWERVES to keep from slamming into it. His car SKIDS through the gravel shoulder, and comes to a hard stop.

Mulder takes stock - *What was that?*

(CONTINUED)

51

CONTINUED:

51

He pokes his head out the window. The peaceful CROON of night creatures swell around him. He listens - nothing unusual. Glances into the trees. Nothing. *Was it a deer?*

CUT TO:

52

INT. HALLWAY - SCULLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

52

Scully uses the SPOTLIGHT App on her phone to search for tangible light resources.

The Spotlight App STROBES.

52A

INT. BEDROOM - SCULLY'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

52A

She digs through bedroom drawers, opens cabinets.

THE FIREPLACE

CAMERA INCHES IN... *HISSESSSS...*

SCULLY

Locates a box of wooden matches at the back of the junk drawer, but finds only a single measly match is left...

She pulls the match to light it...

THE FIREPLACE

HISSESSSS...

CUT TO:

53

EXT. SCULLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

53

Mulder's car pulls up - he races to Scully's front door.

54

INT. BEDROOM - SCULLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

54

She strikes the match, but it breaks. The top half flies across the room and disappears.

55

INT./EXT. LIVING ROOM WINDOW - SCULLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

55

Mulder runs up, as soon as he presses the *DOORBELL...*

56 **INT. BEDROOM - SCULLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT** 56

The Hyvz Hub turns the TELEVISION ON - volume BLARING. PATTERNED STATIC glitch art strobes across the screen like a visual representation of a scared robot scream; LOUD, cold and futuristic.

Scully covers her ears, it's DEAFENINGLY LOUD - she runs for the remote - presses every possible button to try and turn it off. Nothing changes - not even the channel.

57 **EXT. LIVING ROOM WINDOW - SCULLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT** 57

Mulder presses the doorbell over and over again - presses his ear to the door and hears the TV BLASTING. He POUNDS on the door...

58 **INT. BEDROOM - SCULLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT** 58

Scully detects the FAINT KNOCK KNOCK on the door and holds...

SCULLY'S POV - THE DOOR

Mulder's silhouette is in the opaque window.

SCULLY

She moves to the front door. Bullies the handle. It's locked. She muscles the bolt, but it won't budge.

Mulder's silhouette points to the window and moves off...

59 **EXT. SCULLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT** 59

Scully moves to the window. It's pitch black inside except the television screen's bioluminescent sheen now frames Scully in the window like a neon dream.

They make eye contact and for a moment - RELIEF on both of their faces - *so happy to see you!*

Mulder shines a small flashlight on Scully. Her lips move, but he can't hear her. The TV is TOO LOUD.

Mulder shakes his head and points to his ears. She shows him the remote, and that she tries to turn off the TV, but it won't turn off.

Mulder tries calling her on his phone. The phone picks up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VOICEMAIL (V.O.)

*You have reached a voice mail that
is not set up yet. Goodbye.*

Scully shows Mulder her phone UPDATING SOFTWARE - the hour glass turns on the screen. TV BLASTING.

Mulder peers deeper into the house through the window. His view settles on the TELEVISION. There's a search bar at the top with a digital image of a small microphone. Within the search bar we finally see what Scully is trying to say.

Her WORDS type out as she screams them. Mulder can't hear her... *but the TV is listening.*

TEXT BOX - SCULLY'S TV MONITOR

"THE DOOR WON'T OPEN!"

MULDER

Tries the window - can't get it open.

Mulder turns the flashlight around and gestures that he is about to SMASH the window with the blunt end of the flashlight and to "move away."

INT. BEDROOM - SCULLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Just as Scully steps back...

ON THE FLOOR

The ZUEMZ Robovac charges into the living room driving toward the fireplace.

SCULLY

CAMERA SWEEPS IN AS SHE reacts with shock at the robot's return...

ON THE FLOOR

As the Robovac approaches the fireplace, it rolls over the dropped match. The small piece of wood gets caught in the Zeumz wheels. As the wheels spin, the match is ignited. Carrying a flame, the robovac continues to move toward the hearth.

SCULLY

Reaches for a fireplaces poker and SMASHES the window...

*

*

(CONTINUED)

60

CONTINUED:

60

FIREPLACE

The gas ignites!

SCULLY

Climbs out the window, just as... a FIREBALL ROLLS toward the opens air, passing just over her...

61

EXT. BACKYARD - SCULLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

61

Mulder helps pull her out just as the RUMBLING FIRE BALL rolls directly over their heads and out the window, a ferocious tide of FLAMES crashing into the night and dissipating into the sky.

Mulder and Scully look to one another, rattled and afraid.

CUT TO:

61A

OMITTED

61A

(CONTINUED)

62

EXT. SCULLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

62

Winded, Scully and Mulder reach for their phones.

CLOSE - SCULLY'S PHONE

The green "update" robot remains. Underneath, a warning reads: *"Phone Update in Progress. Do Not turn off."* The progress bar is empty, but for an anemic level of green.

MULDER

Reacts in frustration to his phone. *BING!*

CLOSE - MULDER'S PHONE

"Forowa: "Tip Time! 1 hour to feed us back!"

He presses the home button and calls 911. Flag: *"Call Fail!"*
He tries again. Flag: *"Call Fail!"*

MULDER

He tries again... 9-1-1, however... suddenly...
unexpectedly... Mulder's phone RINGS.

MULDER

Hello?

Nothing. SILENCE... then...

WENDY (V.O.)

Hello!

MULDER (CONT'D)

Hello? We need some help...

A syrupy voice, like a Disney Princess continues...

WENDY (V.O.)

*Sorry, I had to adjust my headset.
I didn't think you would answer.
Hi! I'm Wendy and you've won 2
tickets to the Bahamas! All you
have to do is participate in a
brief survey. Okay?....*

Realizing, it's a robot, he hangs up. Hard.

(CONTINUED)

62

CONTINUED:

62

Frustrated, they both start speaking at the same time. SCULLY'S APARTMENT alarm goes off with a loud WHELP and SCREECH. They are barely audible.

SCULLY

My phone is updating. I can't call. I'm worried about a fire...

MULDER

I can't call out. Let's go to your neighbor's...

Mulder and Scully run to the neighboring building...

63

EXT. SCULLY'S NEIGHBOR'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

63

As they step to the door, a blinding floodlight snaps on. Scully pushes the doorbell anxiously.

ABOVE THE BELL

A sign reads: *"Wave to the camera! I'm watching you on my Buzzsee App!"*

MULDER AND SCULLY

The pair look up to the top of the door frame. The blazing light, obstructs their view of a video lens ominously staring down at them.

64

INT. BEDROOM - SCULLY'S NEIGHBOR'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

64

CAMERA PUSHES IN ON A PHONE on a nightstand in a dark apartment. AS CAMERA PUSHES CLOSE TO REVEAL...

A 9mm image shows Scully and Mulder waiting anxiously at the door. They remain IN FRAME for seconds... then... suddenly disappear. The doorstep is empty.

65

EXT. SCULLY'S NEIGHBOR'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

65

As Mulder leans forward to RING the doorbell again... a small drone flies toward them. They swat and instinctively protect themselves, just as the white Phantom drone swoops in. *

The pair turn to DISCOVER several drones, lead by the BLACK INSPIRE from earlier, flying towards them. They duck and run. *

CUT TO:

66

INT. SCULLY'S NEIGHBOR'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

66

CLOSE - BUZZSEE APP

The doorstep remains empty, until the BLACK INSPIRE flies up. It hovers and glares demonically into the camera with an eerie acknowledgement. The screen goes to static...

CUT TO:

67

EXT. SCULLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

67

Mulder and Scully run towards Mulder's car as he presses the key fob to open it. They grab the handles and pull. Locked.

THE DRONES

Continue their approach...

MULDER AND SCULLY

Seeking cover... run down the street, ducking into various doorways and under canopies.

68

EXT. URBAN INDUSTRIAL AREA - NIGHT

68

Mulder and Scully continue into an industrial area. Large brick warehouses with metal doors, barred windows, and awnings line the street. The pair pause under cover. The CRASHING sound of the metal bots colliding into the thick tin overhangs, jolts and threatens. *

Sticking close to buildings for safety from the drones, they desperately work door handles, hoping to escape inside.

69 **EXT. PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY - NIGHT**

69 *

THE BLACK INSPIRE

Pauses and continues ahead, followed by the other flying robots which should escalate in threat, more military or surveillance than those first appearing at Mulder's house.

70 **EXT. SECOND INDUSTRIAL STREET - NIGHT**

70

As Mulder and Scully race out the walkway and into the next street, they run into a construction area on the sidewalk.

As they bolt through the dark streets, the BLACK INSPIRE appears... tracking them. It leads a swarm of flying robots in different shapes and sizes. The drones bob, weave, dipping down to clip them.

MULDER AND SCULLY

Duck into another alley for cover. They pause, catch their breaths.

Scully's phone vibrates in her hand. Hoping for a reprieve from the update, she raises it to her eye line.

SCULLY'S PHONE

A GYDZ APP Flag: *"You'll never make it to your office."*

MULDER AND SCULLY

A look of dread comes over her. Scully leans into Mulder's ear. (Recalling Hal 9000, one will be shot with hands covering mouths to avoid lip reading.)

SCULLY - CLOSE

The screen is filled with her mouth against her partner's ear.

SCULLY

They can hear us. Our phones...
they know everything. They're
tracking us. What are "they"? Where
can we go?

Mulder brushes Scully's hair from her ear to respond.

(CONTINUED)

MULDER - CLOSE

His mouth fills the flame in a whisper.

MULDER

The Brutalist. Criminal Cyber....
Get rid of anything that can track
you.

Scully nods at his code for the Hoover Building.

She turns and places her phone in an alley trash can.

Mulder looks sick, but tosses his phone in the full trash
container also. *

Eye each other, then consider their personal effects. He
removes his watch and chucks it. *

Quickly... fast... they pat themselves down searching for any
other traceable objects. Scully reaches into her bra, pulls
out her fitness tracker and throws it.

Mulder removes his car fob and throws it.

Scully feels something, pauses.. Mulder reacts, concerned...
"what?" She removes the pocket rocket personal massager.

She shrugs, sheepish, then heaves it far away.

Scully and Mulder listen. The BUZZ OF the DRONES moves away
in the direction of the thrown trackable objects. They
continue to move in the opposite direction

CAMERA holds as they haul through the pre-dawn streets.

CAMERA pulls back to the ground where Mulder and Scully's
phones sit, abandoned.

Mulder's phone lights up, unprompted, as if sending a signal.

CAMERA PUSHES IN on the Smartphone. A banner from Forowa
Sushi lights up: *Forowa: "To Insure Performance: TIP!
Remember us. We remember you."*

Then... O.S.... CA-CHUNK! CA-CHUNK! CA-CHUNK! An unseen metal
creature MARCHES CLOSER. A portentous breeze blows trash over
the abandoned phones... as an odd silver, mechanical grabbing
accessory, ENTERS FRAME. *

The robot's pinching appendage locks on to Mulder's phone and
slowly pulls it OUT OF FRAME. *

(CONTINUED)

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

71

EXT. DOWNTOWN INDUSTRIAL STREET - NIGHT

71

Mulder and Scully move along a side street/back alley in search of an entrance into a building.

Headlights pan on the walls. They tense. Turn toward...

A VEHICLE

The headlights approach at a moderate speed. It appears harmless...

MULDER AND SCULLY

Mulder steps out to wave it down. The vehicle stops, but as he moves around the blinding headlights, he discovers it is the stalking WHIPZ vehicle. There is no driver.

SCULLY

RUN!

They haul off to a large, factory loading door and run inside. The door ominously shuts behind them.

72

INT. FACTORY - NIGHT

72

Mulder and Scully *SLAM* the factory door behind them - catch their breath in the quiet dark.

As they settle into a moment of peace... CAMERA INCHES IN ON THEM... *OMINOUS...* as... *O.S...* *WHIR - WHOP - WHOP - WHOP - echoes through the factory.*

Mulder and Scully hold... *LISTEN...* they cautiously step deeper into the building.

In the horror-noir darkness... *CONVEYOR BELTS, MECHANICAL MACHINES,* and an *ASSEMBLY LINE OF ROBOTS* come to life.

In a symphony of *SOUND* the factory *ROARS* to life. The machines awaken in a *CHORUS* of *HYDRAULIC WHISTLES* and *MECHANICAL GROANS.*

In a single unanimous motion the *MACHINES* *turn their focus* to Mulder and Scully who freeze in the chill of this warehouse seemingly occupied by a secret society of *COLD, HARD* machines able to monitor their every move.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Then... O.S... The MECHANICAL SOUNDS HEARD in the woods outside his house...

The GROUND THUDS... THUD... THUDS...

CAMERA PUSHES INTO MULDER AND SCULLY as...

THE ANYMAL

*

A robot... about four feet tall... 150 pounds... appears like an animal, although with no eyes, no head or mouth. It's leg joints bend in the opposite direction as organic animals.

*

*

*

It is equally as awesome as it is frightening. It moves it's apparent focus toward

MULDER AND SCULLY

Eye one another and hustle back toward the door they came in, but once they reach it... they find it locked. Together they push on the door, but it will not budge.

THE ANYMAL

Tears toward them at surprising and alarming speed. As they run down the hallway, they are now pursued by an army of ANYmals.

MULDER AND SCULLY

Run away with the intent of just getting away... they run deeper into the dark factory, it's like a horror funhouse.

THE ANYMAL

Continues to pursue them...

MULDER AND SCULLY

He pulls her toward a stairway, assuming the robot will have difficulty following...

It doesn't. The ANYmal creeps up the stairs after them.

INT. SECOND FLOOR - FACTORY - NIGHT

At the top of the stairs, Mulder turns and with full force kicks at the machine. It tumbles backward down the stairs.

Once it stops at the landing, however... the machine manages to right itself. To stand, once again...

MULDER AND SCULLY

Are frozen with stunned horrified awe...

THE ANYMAL

Starts back up the stairs.

MULDER AND SCULLY

Turn to run away... but... with a *startled scare*... are met by the herd of ANYmals marching toward them like an army.

73

CONTINUED:

73

Mulder and Scully turn and run down a hallway.

74

INT. HALLWAY - SECOND FLOOR - FACTORY - NIGHT

74

Mulder and Scully tear down the hallway only to have The ANYmals reappear and nearly catch them until Scully ducks into an open doorway. Mulder follows. *

They SLAM the door just as The ANYmals reach the room. *

75

INT. COPIER ROOM - SECOND FLOOR - FACTORY - NIGHT

75

BLACKNESS and SILENCE, except their labored breath. After a beat... a FLASHLIGHT CLICK.

Mulder and Scully have entered a copier room. Shelves. Reams of paper. A photocopier, turned off, sits across the room.

There are no windows.

As Mulder and Scully catch their breath, they eye one another, reach out to touch one another to non-verbally assure they're okay... then...

A series of *CLICKS* and *BUZZES* - it *SOUNDS* like a *PRINTER*. Small bright LED lights blink to life *REVEALING*...

A 3-D printer. The machine looks like the base of an office water cooler without the water bottle. A plastic column with a digital screen and blinking lights.

MULDER AND SCULLY

CAMERA INCHES IN as they assess any threat...

3-D PRINTER

A rectangle platform about 6 inches by 3 inches in the center of the machine descends into a glowing pool of resin.

MULDER AND SCULLY

Try to open the door. It's not locked, but it won't budge...

76

INT. HALLWAY - SECOND FLOOR - FACTORY - NIGHT

76

The robots barricade the door to prevent the agents from escaping... *

77

INT. COPIER ROOM - SECOND FLOOR - FACTORY - NIGHT

77

The resin spools into the copier... what is being printed... after a few beats it becomes apparent that the printer is manufacturing hard resin conical, bullet-like, parts.

MULDER AND SCULLY

Laser focused, watch curiously...

3-D PRINTER

A PLASTIC BULLET projectile *SHOOTS* from the device with deadly force!

MULDER AND SCULLY

The "bullet" tears into the wall, just missing them. They had no time to react. Now... they do! They try to cover behind shelves.

3-D PRINTER

A bullet *FIRES* from the machine...

MULDER AND SCULLY

THUNK! Another bullet. They move... dive... *PING!* --- *THUNK!*

3-D PRINTER

The machine works faster *ZINGING* bullets continuously.

MULDER AND SCULLY

Swerve and dodge as *PELLETS* blister the wall behind them.

3-D PRINTER

As the printer quickly reloads...

MULDER AND SCULLY

Charge the machine and knock it *CRASHING* to the floor...

THE DOOR TO THE ROOM

Suddenly... is *torn off* the hinges...

MULDER AND SCULLY

Turn toward the door...

(CONTINUED)

THE DOOR

A large threatening robot with mechanized arms that match the ones that picked up Mulder's phone in the alley, enters first... drones hover in the background hallway... a nightmarish vision of a future we have all created without hesitation... *

MULDER AND SCULLY

Look around, but there is no way out.

THE DOOR

The large robot enters the room... appearing threatening... intending harm. *

MULDER AND SCULLY

CAMERA PUSHES IN... ready to defend themselves, but knowing they will lose...

THE ARMED ROBOT

Steps toward them... pauses... then... the arm reaches around to clutch an object stored in its back.

Mulder's phone... is held in the robot's hand. *

MULDER AND SCULLY

Tense... uncertain...

THE ROBOTIC ARM

Extends the phone to Mulder and holds...

MULDER AND SCULLY

Lean out to examine the phone...

MULDER AND SCULLY'S POV - MULDER'S PHONE

In the hand of the robot... *"FOROWA: Last chance... to tip. Be kind to our workers."* *

MULDER AND SCULLY

CAMERA INCHES IN AS THEY LOOK...

ROBOTS

Hold... wait...

(CONTINUED)

MULDER AND SCULLY

Mulder looks again at his phone...

MULDER'S POV - EXTREMELY CLOSE - HIS SMARTPHONE

"WE LEARN FROM YOU."

MULDER AND SCULLY

He reaches out and takes his phone from the mouth of the robot. Mulder and Scully make "eye contact" with the machines and robots surrounding them.

THE ROBOTS

They appear SAD or SCARED, not ANGRY.

MULDER'S PHONE

A digital countdown on his phone. 9... 8... 7...

MULDER AND SCULLY

He glances at Scully - her face no longer fearful, but soft with the same recognition that he has... guilty...

MULDER

We have to be better teachers...

She nods, agrees. Understands.

MULDER'S PHONE

4... 3... 2...

MULDER AND SCULLY

He taps the phone...

MULDER'S PHONE

He chooses the option to give a 10% tip.

His phone screen BURSTS with digital balloons and a confetti canon explosion. A banner says - THANK YOU!

The phone goes back to rest on the home screen.

THE ROBOTS

Ease away - not menacing. Respectfully, they part back up and disappear into the hallway.

(CONTINUED)

77 CONTINUED: (3)

77

MULDER AND SCULLY

SCULLY

...but we can't teach them to care.

They consider this truth and turn to walk the path through the room and toward the hallway...

78 **INT. HALLWAY - SECOND FLOOR - FACTORY - NIGHT**

78

Mulder and Scully exit the room. All in the factory is SILENT. MOTIONLESS. They move down the dark factory stairs...

79 **INT. FACTORY - NIGHT**

79

The machines are motionless... yet, it feels as if they are still watching as Mulder and Scully arrive at the door. It UNLOCKS and pops open without them touching it.

The factory robots and machines POWER DOWN for a peaceful night sleep as Mulder and Scully exit the building unharmed.

CUT TO:

80 **INT. DINER - DAWN**

80

Artist Eric Joyner has a painting honoring Hopper's Nighthawks, however the patrons are retro Rock 'Em Sock 'Em-like robots. This image, a 180 reversal of the opening image, FILLS THE FRAME.

After a beat, a WAITRESS, SHIRLEY, (60s) African-American, soft and billowy as a feather pillow, is a career waitress who takes great pride in her work. Her friendly disposition and magnanimous smile could melt even the coldest heart.

She PASSES FRAME...

WIDER

Shirley carries a pot of coffee through a cozy old school diner, built when there were still rotary phones. The diner has a long bar and stools. You can watch the COOK prepare your meal to order. He rings the BELL with his metal spatula, *order up!*

WAITRESSES in bright yellow dresses with ruffled aprons greet with a coffee pot, serve fresh squeezed orange juice, and homemade pies from a revolving glass case.

(CONTINUED)

A row of booths along the interior perimeter occupied by a couple of PATRONS drinking coffee and eating breakfast.

Shirley arrives at a booth occupied by Mulder and Scully relaxing at a table, only the remnants of a good breakfast remains on their plates. She pours Mulder more coffee without needing to be asked.

MULDER

Thanks, Shirley.

She sets the bill on the table, her acoustic, soothing, and tender as a lullaby.

SHIRLEY

Take your time. No hurry here.

Shirley rests her warm hand on Scully's arm as she pours her a cup, then moves off leaving Mulder and Scully at their booth, both their phones are on the table.

After a sip of coffee. Scully pulls her fitness tracker out of her pocket and presses the button. A crestfallen look comes over her.

SCULLY

I lost a lot of steps when we were in that factory.

Mulder smiles and rolls his eyes, as she pins her step counter back onto her shoulder strap.

They sigh and then... out of habit... reach for their phones.

They begin to scroll, but after a beat realize what they are doing and eye one another. Without another word... they put their phones down.

Mulder looks to the bill...

MULDER'S POV - DINER BILL

Handwritten. Breakfast and coffee. \$18.50.

MULDER AND SCULLY

He removes two twenty dollar bills and places them on the counter. Scully smiles, nods, and offers a tip of her mug to toast his display of human appreciation.

Mulder smiles back. They look to one another and do the most human thing they can... reach out across the table and touch one another, interlocking fingers.

(CONTINUED)

CAMERA PULLS AWAY as they continue to hold hands. The morning sun breaks through the darkness, yellow and warm.

Their phones RING AND BEEP... but they ignore them and continue looking into each other's eyes.

Much more exciting than an illuminated screen.

END OF EPISODE