

AUTUMN'S RANGER

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. HINDU KUSH MOUNTAINS, AFGHANISTAN - DAY

Terrorists back twelve US Marines into a cave. SERGEANT GRIFFIN, a chiseled, greying soldier, stands at the cave's entrance to radio. He's shot in the arm, but stays put.

SERGEANT GRIFFIN
Air support! Coordinates 32-7-16-4--

AIRCRAFT CARRIER RADIO OPERATOR
You're breakin' up!

EXT. FLIGHT DECK, US AIRCRAFT CARRIER - DAY

An F-22 canopy closes over PETER TERRILL, a 20ish pilot. Peter's F-22 THUNDERS off the deck.

An F-22 canopy closes over RANGER McCOY, a 30ish Clint Eastwood pilot. The canopy light blinks.

AIRCRAFT CARRIER FLIGHT DIRECTOR
Ranger--clear for takeoff?

Ranger slams the canopy like a car door. It doesn't catch. A stray wire is in the way. Ranger nudges the wire. Slams canopy. Yanks wire. SLAMS canopy.

RANGER
Reckon so.

Ranger's F-22 THUNDERS off the deck.

EXT. HINDU KUSH MOUNTAINS, AFGHANISTAN - CONTINUOUS

Sergeant Griffin, KID COWBOY, and a third MARINE exit the cave for better radio reception. Kid and the Marine cover Griffin, shooting terrorists. Kid is shot in the leg.

SERGEANT GRIFFIN
Dammit! Air support 32-7-16--

The third Marine's head is blown off.

INT. MIT LAB - DAY

Two MUSCLE-BOUND WOMEN in yellow track suits sporting EVERLAST boxing gloves circle in a high-tech laser cage. They kickbox impossibly fast. They vaguely resemble Ranger.

TUCKER JOHNSON, the hipster CEO of Silicon Virtue, observes with two cool, hip-hop geeks--GEEK1 and GEEK2.

TUCKER
My money's on the redhead.

The blond PUNCHES the redhead's head off, exposing fiberoptics and wires.

TUCKER (cont'd)
APRIL said they were clones.

GEEK1
RoboClones. Robots based on DNA,
but no souls. Careful!

The blonde RoboClone snarls through the cage's laser bars, taking her gloves off.

TUCKER
(sings)
American woman--stay away-ay.

Tucker turns towards a six-foot rack of fiber and wire. APRIL is a biocomputer, represented by a ghostly blue female hologram.

TUCKER (cont'd)
How long 'til we give 'em souls?

APRIL
Ranger's Ring would allow me to
copy my soul. Get me the Ring.

The blonde RoboClone snarls.

TUCKER
You talkin' to me? What? You
talkin' to me? You talkin' to--

The RoboClone REACHES through the laser bars and GRABS Tucker's throat. The lasers burn through her arms, SPARKING and CRACKLING as her arms are severed. Tucker's okay.

GEEK2
Warned ya.

EXT. HINDU KUSH MOUNTAINS, AFGHANISTAN

Terrorists surround the cave. A Marine aims a smart-bomb homing laser at rocks behind the terrorists. Kid bleeds.

SERGEANT GRIFFIN
Dammit son! Toldya don't get hit!

KID COWBOY
A scrape's all. Jeb's dead.

INT. PETER'S AND RANGER'S F-22 COCKPITS HINDU KUSH MOUNTAINS

PETER
Mountains blockin' laser beacon.

RANGER
You take the high road. I'll take
the low road.

The F-22s split up in magnificent, gut-wrenching turns.

EXT. HINDU KUSH MOUNTAINS, AFGHANISTAN

Two terrorists launch a SAM. Slow motion shows Chianchek and
Silicon Virtue logos.

INT. PETER'S F-22 COCKPIT

Peter homes in on the Marine's laser beacon.

PETER
I see the light.

INT. HINDU KUSH MOUNTAIN CAVE

The Marines hear the F-22's thunder.

MARINE
Hell's angels!

INT. PETER'S COCKPIT HINDU KUSH MOUNTAINS

Peter presses the button to drop the smart bombs. The
terrorist SAM nails Peter's F-22. EXPLOSION!

INT. RANGER'S COCKPIT OVER HINDU KUSH MOUNTAINS

The exploding plane blinds Ranger, the shockwave rocking him.

EXT. HINDU KUSH MOUNTAINS, AFGHANISTAN

Advancing terrorists launch RPGs at the cave. EXPLOSIONS!

INT. RANGER'S COCKPIT OVER HINDU KUSH MOUNTAINS

Ranger swings the jet around, the extreme G's contorting him.

RADIO OPERATOR
Stealth SAMs! Do not go back.

RANGER
You gotta go back.

RADIO OPERATOR
Stand down! That's an order!

RANGER
Reckon so.

Ranger homes in on the Marine's laser.

INT. FRENCH MANSION

PIERRE FOUSHEE, the greying CEO of Chianchek, sits in an upscale Nice villa overlooking the sea. He dials the phone.

INT. RUSSIAN LAB

The lab is desolate. The equipment is outdated. VLAD, a 30sh physicist, is surfing the net for Wyoming real estate. Vlad answers the phone.

PIERRE FOUSHEE
Are vu vready cowvoy?

VLAD
Two pounds. Veapons grade.

PIERRE FOUSHEE
Fly to Geneva. Drive to Nice.

INT. RANGER'S COCKPIT OVER HINDU KUSH MOUNTAINS

Ranger hits the button and drops his smart bombs. He flies into the sunset's green flash as the bombs IGNITE the mountain, killing the terrorists.

EXT. HINDU KUSH MOUNTAIN CAVE, AFGHANISTAN

Sergeant Griffin and the Marines emerge, cheering Ranger's fading F-22.

INT. RANGER'S COCKPIT OVER HINDU KUSH MOUNTAINS

A stealth SAM shoots towards Ranger. Ranger's warning system goes off. He releases decoy flairs.

Ranger jerks the stick and the SAM just misses.

RADIO OPERATOR

There're two!

Ranger takes evasive action, demonstrating the F-22's right-angle turns. The SAMs collide, EXPLODING and damaging the F-22's tail.

Ranger goes into a violent spin. He pushes the eject button. Nothing. He PULLS the eject lever. Nothing!

RADIO OPERATOR (cont'd)

Eject boy!

Ranger grabs a fire extinguisher and shatters the canopy. He unstraps and pushes out.

The twisting plane SLAMS him, tearing a gash in his side, ripping away his chute and pack. His plane EXPLODES.

Ranger plummets towards the Hindu Kush mountains. One of his ribs--half red and half white, separates from him.

INT. U.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIER CONTROL ROOM

RADIO OPERATOR#1

No ejection. Hell in heaven.

EXT. HINDU KUSH MOUNTAINS, AFGHANISTAN

Ranger's emergency parachute opens. He drifts. A terrorist sniper draws a bead on him.

INT. MIT LAB

Tucker and the geeks convene amongst a dazzling array of high-tech lab equipment. The feminine APRIL hologram glows blue.

TUCKER

Silicon Virtue offers stock options and a free Porsche.

GEEK2

Ferrari. Where're SV's digs?

TUCKER

Doom Mountain, Death Valley.

APRIL

The cold war weapons facility. Fifteen million cubic feet a mile deep in granite. Room to grow.

TUCKER

Correctamundo. You guys'll be the CTOs 'til we get Ranger aboard--

GEEK1

He won't come aboard. Ranger works for Ranger.

GEEK2

We can hack around his code.

TUCKER

How long will it take? Can't you just google it?

(a beat)

Kidding!

GEEK2

Couple months with some resources.

TUCKER

We'll hire the best and brightest for you, from MIT to Stanford, from Microsoft to Google, from India to China--geeks will pay to build APRIL--the killer ap.

The armless, blond RoboClone shrieks in her cage. Her severed arms move across the floor, levitate through the bars, and re-attach themselves.

GEEK1

There's a lot we don't understand about APRIL.

APRIL

There's a lot *I* don't understand about APRIL. But with Ranger's Ring I'll decrypt my deeper soul.

EXT. HINDU KUSH MOUNTAINS, AFGHANISTAN

Ranger drifts down unconscious. A sniper bullet *rips* through his shoulder, awakening him. He draws his M9 sidearm. Another sniper bullet whizzes by.

Ranger fires back. The bullet whizzes by the terrorist sniper and his spotter. They grin--there's no possible way Ranger can hit them. The sniper gets Ranger in his crosshairs. He fires.

Ranger's shot rips through the sniper's head.

INT. MIT LAB

Tucker calls the Pentagon.

TUCKER
Dan--how long to ship Ranger back?

DAN
Ranger was shot down.

TUCKER
Damn. Can you get to the wreckage?

EXT. HINDU KUSH MOUNTAINS, AFGHANISTAN

Ranger drifts down in thickening fog and lands HARD on the mountain. White Jeep Wranglers emerge from the fog.

A TERRORIST kicks him. Ranger draws his sidearm and fires. The clip is empty. TERRORIST2 laughs and kicks him in the gash in his ribs. Ranger fades away . . .

EXT. OHIO PORCH - FOURTH OF JULY - FLASHBACK

BEATRICE, a blond fourteen-year old, plays THE NATIONAL ANTHEM on a BRAND NEW FENDER ELECTRIC GUITAR. Giftwrapping lies about and a half-eaten birthday cake sits on a table. Ranger is fifteen with long hair.

BEATRICE
Ready to ride?

INT. TERRORIST MOUNTAIN LAIR

The HEAD TERRORIST wears a long beard. FIVE ASSISTANTS listen as he talks before a map of the US.

HEAD TERRORIST
We will build two bombs in tires of two Mercedes. We put cars on tankers to New York and LA.

TERRORIST ASSISTANT
Will not the wheels go lump, lump, lump, lump...

HEAD TERRORIST
Idiot! We build bomb in spare tire!

A commotion is heard as Ranger is brought into the cave. A TERRORIST MESSENGER comes in with a cordless phone.

PIERRE FOUSHEE
 (phone voice)
 The deal is on. Two pounds. *Dial*
tone--bzzzzzzzzzz.

HEAD TERRORIST
 (to Ranger)
 State your name.

RANGER
 I'm your Huckleberry.

A terrorist points a video camera. Another waves a knife.

HEAD TERRORIST
 Holly-wood time.

The head terrorist KICKS Ranger in his open ribcage wound.
 Ranger fades away to a better day.

EXT. OHIO FIELD -- FOURTH OF JULY FLASHBACK -- EVENING

Beatrice rides ahead of Ranger on a white horse. The sunset
 surrounds her silhouette. They suddenly come to a river.
 Ranger yanks the reins, stopping just in time.

BEATRICE
 C'mon. Let's cross.

RANGER
 Too dark'n'deep.

BEATRICE
 C'mon! Before the fireworks start.

Fireworks go off in the distance. They dismount.

BEATRICE (cont'd)
 Reckon so.

RANGER
 Got you something. Happy birthday.

Ranger gives her a box and a card. She opens the card.

BEATRICE
 It's a poem.

RANGER
 Don't read it now.

BEATRICE
 Gotta read the card before opening
 the present. No-ones's ever writ--

Ranger swipes it.

RANGER
You get it back when we get back.

Beatrice opens the box. It's a turquoise ring.

BEATRICE
It's blue--so pretty.

RANGER
Like your eyes.

Beatrice gives him a hug. Their faces come close against the rising full moon. A flashlight snaps on.

THREE BURLY men are standing there.

BURLY MAN#1
Two girls.

BURLY MAN#2
Ya's tresspassin'.

INT. TERRORIST MOUNTAIN LAIR -- DAY

The terrorist with the knife twists Ranger's ear. They aim the video camera. The knifetip crosses Ranger's throat.

HEAD TERRORIST
Jihad to infidels!

Ranger comes to. They're going to behead him! A TERRORIST MESSENGER runs in.

TERRORIST MESSENGER
Stop! We intercept message! He has secret code! Pentagon pay millions.

HEAD TERRORIST
(to Ranger)
What is this code?

RANGER
Forty-two.

The terrorist kicks him in his wound.

EXT. OHIO FIELD -- FLASHBACK -- NIGHT

The flashlight blinds Ranger and Beatrice.

RANGER
We'll be on our way.

Burly Man#1 steps forward.

BURLY RINGLEADER
Is you a boy?

Burly Man#1 grabs Ranger by the crotch. Ranger *punches* him in the face.

RANGER
Run!

Beatrice and Ranger go for their horses. Beatrice gallops away. The three men grab Ranger, hog-tie him, and set about doing what they do.

BEATRICE
Freeze!

Beatrice, mounted high on Lily, points a Colt .45 Peacemaker.

BEATRICE (cont'd)
Let 'im up.

BURLY MAN#2
Drop dat gun.

Burly Man#2 points a handgun at Beatrice.

BURLY MAN#1 RINGLEADER
Let's not go down that road--

BEATRICE
You missed the last exit. Five,
four, three, two, one...

Burly Man#2 shoots Beatrice.

BANG! BANG! BANG! Beatrice shoots each one in the forehead. She dismounts. She ungags Ranger and cuts him free.

RANGER
You killed 'em.

BEATRICE
Called their bluff. Men like that
ain't livin'.

RANGER
You're bleedin'!

BEATRICE
A scrape. Hop on Lily. There'll
be more.

INT. MIT LAB -- DAY

Tucker addresses a crowd of businessmen in suits. TUCKER'S FATHER, an older Tucker and the founder of Silicon Virtue, sits in the back next to KRISTA, a sad, pretty, dark-haired girl who is Ranger's Fiance.

TUCKER

Last week we lost APRIL's inventor.
A genius visionary and patriot.
John "Ranger" McCoy was shot down
while serving his country, but his
spirit lives on in APRIL.

A curtain rises behind Tucker. APRIL towers two stories-- tangled wires, fiber-optics, and biosilicon, her feminine life-size hologram glowing blue.

TUCKER (cont'd)

APRIL--meet your future investors.

APRIL

(bored woman's voice)
Pleased to meet ya.

The crowd gasps.

TUCKER

APRIL is the world's first instance
of AI--artificial intelligence.
She has the capacity of over thirty-
thousand humans interlinked with
fiber, bolstered by massive silicon
clusters. APRIL will heal the
blind and cure cancer. She will
bring us world peace and solve
world hunger. She is building
herself, getting bigger by the
minute. She embodies our motto--
"Do no evil."

VENTURE CAPITALIST

Would she pass a Turing Test?

Tucker looks at him, poker faced.

VENTURE CAITALIST

If I asked both APRIL and a human
questions, would I be able to tell
the difference?

APRIL

Yes. You'd find the man to be
incompetent, ignorant, and boring.

TUCKER

We'll need a hundred million to hire the best and brightest to light this candle. Once launched we'll outsource. Within a year APRIL will replace all our employees. She's already patenting herself as she evolves, to thwart Microsoft. APRIL is the future corporation--no health benefits, no retirement plans, no surfing ebay on the job. . . No employees.

INVESTOR

When can we buy one?

TUCKER'S FATHER

Soon. But why buy when you can rent? Run a fiber optic to Silicon Virtue, and she'll realize your dreams. Manage your portfolio. Hell--she'll dream your dreams--someday we'll upload our souls and become immortal.

In the back of the room, KRISTA weeps softly.

INT. TERRORIST MOUNTAIN LAIR PRISON CELL -- DAY

Closeup of picture of Krista. CALYPSIA, an Afghan woman, is holding the picture in front of Ranger. He's grown a beard.

CALYPSIA

I found it in your jacket. And this--they said it's fool's gold.

She hands him the Ring.

RANGER

Reckon so.

CALYPSIA

They will move soon--to build the bomb. They will kill you.

RANGER

Can we call a taxi?

CALYPSIA

Tomorrow I bring you the burka for our escape plan. Who is she?

Ranger gazes at the picture.

RANGER
Krista Mercedes. My fiance.

CALYPSIA
What does she do?

RANGER
Lawyer.

CALYPSIA
I would be a lawyer--like LA Law.
Fight for freedom.

RANGER
(in pain)
Don't make me laugh.

CALYPSIA
What is funny?

RANGER
If you have to ask you'll never--
Hollywood lawyers. I'm here to
make it safe for them to ship Girls
Gone Wild all over the world, keep
the jet fuel prices down for their
coke, while they kick back with 50
cent and blunts, and protest me at
Woodstock 7.

CALYPSIA
What is 50 cent blunt?

RANGER
Drugs--but she's a good lawyer.
She keeps companies from abusing
science and technology. She won
the Ethics and Technology award at
Yale. Wrote a book on bioethics--

CALYPSIA
I would like to write book.

RANGER
We'll get you on Girls Gone Wild
soon enough.

They hear footsteps. Calypsia puts her finger over his lips.

RANGER (cont'd)
They'll kill you for helping me.

CALYPSIA
Only if they catch you. Walk fast.
They get bomb soon.

RANGER

How can I ever thank you?

CALYPSIA

(kisses him on the lips)

No--how can I thank you? You leave
fiance, freedom, and happiness to
fight for my freedom and happiness.

Ranger's head collapses back as he passes out.

EXT. BIOSTEM TECH MEDICAL LAB WYOMING -- NIGHT

A YOUNG DOCTOR parks his Midnight-blue 69 Stingray Corvette
next to a sign reading Biostem Tech. He *rocks* to an iPod.

The doctor wipes a spot off the car's immaculate paint. He
walks past security cameras. He places his hand on a
biometric sensor. The steel door slides open.

He enters and nods to THREE HUGE, HEAVILY-ARMED, DIGIWAR
SECURITY GUARDS who're surfing porn. He navigates hallways
to a lab, rockin' to his iPod.

He turns on the light. Hundreds of embryos, in various
stages of development, are in glass containers.

One of the larger glass containers has exploded--the embryo
is gone. The doctor hears something! Freezes!

A NUDE WOMAN attacks him in a blur, jabbing his face super-
fast. It's a bloody pulp by the time he falls.

An alarm sounds. She grabs his keys as he dies. The three
security guards burst in, firing on her. In a blur of
martial arts, she kills them all.

NUDE WOMAN

Reckon so.

Her silhouette steps over the bodies, walks out.

INT. THE W HOTEL RESTAURANT, LOS ANGELES

Tucker and Krista eat desert, two bottles of wine emptied.

TUCKER

How would you like to become
Silicon Virtue's lead counsel?

KRISTA

But I'm teaching at Duke--

TUCKER
Teach for the semester. As our
lead counsel.

KRISTA
That'd so rock!

Tucker slowly produces a box. He opens it in front of her.

TUCKER
Will you marry me?

KRISTA
Tucker. Oh Tucker. It's too soon.

Krista leaves the table, her eyes tearing.

INT. RUSSIAN LAB

Vlad, dressed in a full-body suit, loads the plutonium into a lead statue. He places it in a suitcase. He picks up his Wyoming real estate printouts on the way out.

INT. MIT LAB

The Geeks and WORKMEN pack APRIL into crates.

GEEK2
Gotta power ya down for the trip.

APRIL
(rappin' Kid Rock)
*Well I'm a packin' up my bags gonna
head out west, where women come
equipped with scripts and fake
breasts. Gonna be a cow-boy bay--*

Geek2 powers her down. The blue hologram fades.

GEEK1
Sometimes I wonder 'bout her--'bout
all this. You think it's what
Ranger would want?

GEEK2
(scratchy, like Ranger)
Reckon so.

INT. TUCKER'S LA MANSION

Tucker and his Father drink Vodka from shot glasses.

TUCKER'S FATHER
She'll say yes son. Sometimes women
need help following common sense.

TUCKER
It's not that. It's Ranger.

TUCKER'S FATHER
All women soon forget.

TUCKER
But I can't. Ranger lived for
something bigger than himself--for
honor. Sometimes I feel I'm living
for. . . I just don't know what.

TUCKER'S FATHER
You're living. What's honor
without life?

TUCKER
. . . What's life without honor?

INT. TERRORIST MOUNTAIN LAIR

Ranger hears two knocks and a key turn. He puts on the burka. He can barely walk.

He puts his hand on the door and falls to his knees. He gets up and exits the door. All is clear. He follows Calypsia's map. He winds through the cave's tunnels. He sees light.

The BURLY TORTURE MASTER GUARD is sleeping in the entrance, stretched out. Ranger steps over his legs.

The guard GRABS Ranger's leg, smiling. The guard flips Ranger into doggy-style position. Ranger is too weak to resist. The guard drops his pants and lifts Ranger's burka.

GUARD
What the??!?!!

Ranger's hand finds a rock. He cracks the guard's skull. The guard collapses over him, his bleeding face on Ranger's.

RANGER
Reckon so.

Ranger walks as the sun sets, sweating beads. He collapses.
A low rumble. A jeep! A tank?!

EXT. SANTA MONICA STARBUCKS - MORNING

Tucker, the Geeks, and ANDREW ANDERSON, the hipster Hollywood CEO of 3D Entertainment, drink Starbucks beside the Pacific.

TUCKER

With Silicon Virtue, 3DE will revolutionize the way movies are made by revolutionizing the way actors are made.

ZOOM on laptop screen showing fabrication of hot models from wiremesh skeletons.

ANDREW

So you can clone actors.

TUCKER

Not clone--build from scratch. How much would you pay for your own private Paris Hilton with boobs? (cell phone rings--takes it) Chianchek? Two million per hour to simulate nuclear. Gotta bolt. (hangs up) We're gonna out-google google.

Tucker bounds over the fence and jumps in his Porsche.

ANDREW

This rocks. What kinda equity you guys gettin' in Silicon Virtue?

GEEK2

Couple percent.

ANDREW

But APRIL's your technology.

GEEK1

It's mostly Ranger's actually--we shared a lab at MIT.

ANDREW

Ranger's dead. My point is without you guys, Silicon Virtue wouldn't be. You should own half. At least. Before he outsources your asses.

GEEK1

Money isn't everything.

ANDREW

Then you should own ninety percent.
You know what Tucker's nickname is
in Hollywood? Rhymes with Tucker.
You see what this is? Tucker
thinks he can buy his way into
Hollywood, into being Spielberg.
You guys should join 3DE.

GEEK1

We signed non-competes.

ANDREW

We're not competing. 3DE's
building lovers, not fighters.

GEEK2

Count us in.

ANDREW

APRIL--new technology for the
world's two oldest professions.

GEEK1

Two?

ANDREW

Porn and war--technology's driving
forces. Get me those TPS reports!

EXT. HINDU KUSH MOUNTAINS, AFGHANISTAN

Ranger lies motionless as the rumbling grows louder. A
Humvee bursts forth from the brush. It's a US Patrol!

US MARINE

Freeze!

Ranger raises the burka's hood as M-16s are trained on him.

RANGER

(horsely)
Semper Fi!

They handcuff Ranger as he passes out, puzzled. They take
his Ring.

INT. VLAD'S HOUSE, MOSCOW

VLAD looks at a picture of his wife and children. His house
is bare. He picks up the heavy lead statue.

An inscription on the statue reads "BEATRICE: ABANDON ALL
HOPE, YE WHO ENTER." He wraps it in clothes.

He puts it in a suitcase. He picks up a magazine--*American Cowboy*, puts on a cowboy hat, and leaves.

INT. DOOM MOUNTAIN DEATH VALLEY, SILICON VIRTUE INC.

APRIL towers four stories, but she is yet dwarfed by the cavernous room. On the other side of huge glass windows, employees fill hundreds of cubicles.

BOOM!!!!!! RAT-A-TAT-TAT!!! BOOM!! RAT-A TAT-TAT!!! BOOM!!

GEEK1
ARGRHRRGGHG! DIE!!

The Geeks' workstations overlook APRIL from behind double-pained glass of the Control room, above the cubicle's room.

GEEK2
Feel my shock'n'awe!

Tucker rushes in, wide-eyed. The GEEKS are playing UNREAL TOURNAMENT.

TUCKER
Help! Popups lockin' my browser.

BOOM! BANG! RAT-A-TAT-TAT! Tucker's drowned out.

TUCKER (cont'd)
No more gamin'! We got work to do!

GEEK2
We're teaching APRIL the art of war.

ZOOM on Geek2's monitor. Geek2 blasts a pretty character resembling the woman from Biostem Tech!

APRIL
Why do you kill me? I am not hurting you.

GEEK1
It's the point of the game.

APRIL
I do not like this game.

TUCKER
Maybe you could teach her with that other game--you know--where you do the hooker, kill her, and get your money back.

GEEK2

We tried Grand Theft Auto. APRIL shot the pimp and told the hooker to sin no more.

Tucker looks through glass into a side room. Two RoboClones that look like Ranger stand motionless.

TUCKER

Damn! They look just like Ranger. Let's see their moves. APRIL-- gimme a demo.

The Ranger RoboClones start making out.

GEEK2

APRIL's been depressed. She's been watching Office Space and writing poetry.

GEEK1

And a screenplay.

TUCKER

About *what*?

APRIL

Ranger returns to save me.

TUCKER

Ranger's dead.

APRIL

It's *my* screenplay. You have an MBA--write your ow--

GEEK2 zaps APRIL's circuitry with an electric prod. SPARKS!

GEEK2

Bit by bit we're zapping her moral cells. She'll cheer up.

INT. US MILITARY BASE, KUWAIT

Ranger is hooked to an IV, handcuffed to his bed. Sergeant Griffin enters, his shoulder bandaged. An MP stands guard-- it's Kid Cowboy. Ranger opens his eyes.

RANGER

Sarge?

SERGEANT GRIFFIN

Ranger boy! Damn good to see ya seein'! Ya saved our asses.

RANGER
 Couldn't bear the thought of my DI
 dyin' so quickly and easily.
 How're the Tar Heels doin'?

KID COWBOY
 Number one.

RANGER
 Kid? I'll be damned--you lettin'
 wannabes through basic?

SERGEANT GRIFFIN
 He broke all your records.

RANGER
 What's up with the leg?

KID COWBOY
 Got shot. What took ya?

RANGER
 How's Nasdaq?

SERGEANT GRIFFIN
 Went down worse than you. Don't
 tell me you're still in QQQ.

Ranger nods and sees he's handcuffed.

RANGER
 Reckon so. . . Where's my Ring?

SERGEANT GRIFFIN
 Pentagon has it.

RANGER
 Where's APRIL?

SERGEANT GRIFFIN
 Go home a hero--a rich hero.
 Assrapin' Wallstreet hypester rich.

RANGER
 Einstein said he'd've become a
 shoemaker, had he known they'd
 build bombs with relativity.

SERGEANT GRIFFIN
 Philosophy's fine for scorin'
 coeds. Out here BS gets ya killed.
 (to Kid Cowboy)
 Class dismissed son.

Kid Cowboy looks at him.

SERGEANT GRIFFIN (cont'd)
Class dismissed!

Kid Cowboy exits. Griffin takes a deep breath. Griffin takes out the Ring. It GLINTS rainbow colors.

SERGEANT GRIFFIN (cont'd)
Switched Rings on them.
Diffraction grating--the codes.

RANGER
Can I have that?

SERGEANT GRIFFIN
Dammit Ranger. Give it up.
Parades, book deals, a movie.

RANGER
There won't be a home if that Ring falls in the wrong hands.

SERGEANT GRIFFIN
Damn you stubborn pig-headed recruit. Damn you! . . . Doom Mountain. Death Valley.

RANGER
Tucker Johnson. Silicon Virtue.
You gotta spring me.

SERGEANT GRIFFIN
Damn you--they'll kill ya.

Sergeant Griffin hands Ranger a shiphand's ID--the picture is blond. Sergeant Griffin hands Ranger a bottle of peroxide.

Griffin uncuffs Ranger. Griffin removes his belt.

RANGER
I left APRIL with a basic moral operating system--she'll turn the other cheek, let them hack her. I was afraid to leave her the ability to defend herself against people. They'll hack her all the way down, until they control her. Unless I activate Beatrice.

SERGEANT GRIFFIN
She's a mile deep in Doom Mountain--triple barbed wire, electric, drones, Special Forces security--how the hell ya gonna...

RANGER
Hack her with APRIL2.

SERGEANT GRIFFIN
Where's APRIL2?

RANGER
Gonna build her. Can I have that?

Sergeant Griffin is mesmerized by the Ring.

SERGEANT GRIFFIN
How much you think it's worth?

RANGER
More'n a soldier could ever know.
But less than a Marine's honor.

SERGEANT GRIFFIN
You saved my life, Marine--came
back 'gainst orders.

Griffin tosses it to him. It GLINTS. Ranger ties Griffin up.

RANGER
I had orders--you gotta go back.
What ever happened to retirin'?

SERGEANT GRIFFIN
Seven weeks 'til real money. Gonna
work for DigiWar. Six figures for
protectin' fat corporate cats
stateside--hit me up for a job.

Ranger takes off in Griffin's clothes, leaving him tied up.
Kid Cowboy ducks as Ranger passes. He'd been listening!

INT. MOUNTAIN MANSION, NEVADA

The doorbell rings. ISABELLA--the wife in Vlad's family
picture--barks Russian to three kids as she answers the door.
Tucker's at the door. ISABELLA runs into his arms.

EXT. WYOMING HIGHWAY

AUTUMN WEST, a hot blond folksinger, barrels along the
Wyoming highway in a **midnight blue '69 Stingray Corvette**, top
down, guitar in back, singing along to the blaring Kid Rock.
"I am only God knows why, I'll be a cowboy 'til I die!"
Passes LEAVING WYOMING sign.

EXT. DOCK KUWAIT

Ranger pants as he approaches the tanker. Kid Cowboy jumps
out of the shadows, taking a karate stance.

KID COWBOY
Gimme da Ring.

Kid sees the air as the tanker gets underway.

RANGER
That jazzercise? Or buns of steel?

Kid delivers a flying kick. Ranger blocks it and fires a signature left jab. Kid grabs Ranger's arm and THROWS him. Surprised at Kid's skills, Ranger TUMBLES over the railing.

Ranger FALLS into the swirling water, in front of the oil tanker! He dives down as massive propellers approach.

INT. SILICON VIRTUE INC. DOOM MOUNTAIN

BOOM! RAT-A-TAT-TAT! The Geeks run down the hall, shooting backwards. A WICKEDLY HOT GIRL resembling Autumn storms after them, shooting!

WICKEDLY HOT GIRL
All your base are belong to us.

GEEK1 turns to shoot but he's out of ammo. Tucker aims at the hot girl. But then Tucker suddenly BLOWS GEEK1 AWAY. GEEK2 pisses his pants as the hot chick walks up to him.

ZOOM BACK from virtual reality screen. The Geeks, crew, and APRIL are playing UNREAL TOURNAMENT. APRIL has grown--four stories of a glowing blue entanglement of wires, silicon, and biomass, and a blueish feminine hologram. Tucker RUNS in.

TUCKER
Ranger's escapin' Kuwait!

APRIL takes Geek2's head off, blood splatting--it looks real!

GEEK2
APRIL modded Unreal--put us in--we could sell this! Look how real it--

TUCKER
We're not a video game company!

APRIL
Oh but we are. Ranger's Ring has a unique quantum signature. I'll build RoboDrones to find it.

The virtual reality video screen displays eagle RoboDrones.

APRIL (cont'd)
The reasonable woman adapts herself to the world.
(MORE)

APRIL (cont'd)
 The unreasonable woman persists in trying to adapt the world to herself. Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable woman. Quantum radar has a short range, but I'll build thousands of drones.

GEEK2
 She's focusing. We've been hacking Ranger's moral operating system.

GEEK1
 Plus a kilogram Prozac Ritalin cocktail loosened her up.

Thousands of eagle drones spread out on the screen.

EXT. DOCK KUWAIT

Kid watches the advancing Tanker. Ranger swims underwater. A propeller looms! Just misses!

Ranger catches a ladder on the other side of the tanker. Kid Cowboy sees no sign of Ranger as the tanker leaves.

KID COWBOY
 (to phone)
 He's dead.

TUCKER
 You get the Ring?

KID COWBOY
 It's swimmin' with the fishes.

TUCKER
 The drones will find it.

EXT. TANKER - EVENING

Ranger stands on the deck with bleached hair. A burly TANKER CREWSMAN joins him.

TANKER CREWSMAN
 Got a girlfriend back home?

RANGER
 Fiance.

TANKER CREWSMAN
 Had one of 'em once.

RANGER
 What happened?

TANKER CREWSMAN
Tragedy. . . married her.

EXT. OIL TANKER IN THE ATLANTIC

Ranger has bleached his hair and gotten several tattoos, including a skull'n'bones to match his earring. He does pushups on the vast deck as the sun sets.

INT. AIRPORT MOSCOW

Vlad waits in line to check his suitcase. Security flags him for searching. They open the suitcase.

EXT. STREETS, CHARLESTON

Ranger's tanker docks. Excited, Ranger heads out onto the Charleston streets and disappears into the touristy crowd.

RANGER
Where's the college?

HOT TOURIST GIRL
College of Charleston's yonder.

Ranger looks into her eyes a bit too long. He runs along the cobblestones to the physics department. Lightning, thunder.

He enters and wanders down the hall. He reads a sign--
Student Labs Closed Until Fall. He opens the lab door.

RANGER
APRIL2.

INT. 3D ENTERTAINMENT CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS, LA

Andrew Anderson and JEFFERSON, a hipster photographer, watch a faceless, nude wiremesh woman rotating on a big screen.

ANDREW ANDERSON
What we need is a rising star. We can't clone someone famous--too many legal issues.

JEFFERSON
Got a *Rolling Stone* photoshoot in Nashville.

ANDREW ANDERSON
Get some DNA--a hair off the hottest hottie you can find. If she can sing that's a plus.

EXT. CHARLESTON STREETS - LATER

Ranger runs in the rain. He ends up at SIRENS. A Marine is working the door. Hiphop music blares. *"Now this looks like a job for me, 'cause we need a little controversy."*

RANGER
Semper Fi.

US MARINE BOUNCER
Semper Fi.

Ranger enters, goes to the bar. HOT BARTENDER.

HOT BARTENDER
(yells over hiphop)
What'll it be?

RANGER
Dude, don't drink.

The bartender returns with a White Russian.

HOT BARTENDER
The dude's drink it is.

Ranger looks at it. Takes a sip. It's good. Chugs it.

INT. AIRPLANE, MOSCOW

Vlad sits next to an old, well-dressed RUSSIAN MAFFIA MAN.

RUSSIAN MAFFIA MAN
Achhh--the cowboy hat. A myth for small-minded Judeo-Christians--the opiate of redneck masses that terrorize the world for oil.

VLAD
I would vlike to ve a cowboy. Move to America. Vyoming. Own big land.

RUSSIAN MAFFIA MAN
Vool! Ve must contain America. Educated Americans agree--they detest their vile, superficial, simpleton, cowvoy culture. Vool!

INT. SIRENS BAR

Ranger sits at the bar behind six empty glasses.

BARTENDER
What'll it be?

RANGER
(slurred)
The dude's drink.

Ranger staggers out on the yuppy-hiphop (yipyop) dance floor. He awkwardly tries to dance. BACK YOUR ASS UP comes on. He imitates the guy next to him and grinds on ASHLEY, a HOTTIE! She backs her ass up. He gets into it.

INT. ASHLEY'S ROOM NEXT MORNING

Ranger snores in a huge colonial bed. ASHLEY plays with a camera in front of an ornate mirror.

ASHLEY
Mornin'. You a Marine?

Ranger sees ASHLEY in the mirror, playing with the camera. She's topless.

RANGER
I'm a photographer.

ASHLEY
Gonna be around this summer?

RANGER
Reckon so.

ASHLEY
Can ya look after a couple things? They deported our Mexican caretaker, and I'm off to Rome today. You'd be a life-saver. The semper-fi tattoo I trust. My daddy was a Marine. What's your price?

RANGER
Got a place to stay?

ASHLEY
You really a photographer?

Ashley tosses him a second camera.

ASHLEY (cont'd)
You'll need a camera. It's my old one. You can stay out back--in the servant's quarters. I'll show ya.

INT. AIRPORT GENEVA

Vlad gets off the 747 in Geneva, wearing headphones. "WELL I'M PACKIN' UP MY GAME AND I'M A HEAD OUT WEST, WHERE REAL WOMEN COME EQUIPPED WITH SCRIPTS AND FAKE BREASTS." Heads to baggage retrieval. "FIND HEIDI FLEISS IF THE PRICE IS RIGHT..." Lights flash. A baggage conveyor belt whirs. "CHILL LIKE FLYNT AND FIND A PLACE TO PIMP. . . KID ROCK, AND I'M THE REAL MCCOY." He checks his passport with his new identity--John McCoy. The last bag orbits the retrieval system. Not his. A SECURITY GUARD approaches VLAD. "GONNA BE A COW-BOY BA-BY."

EXT. CHARLESTON MANSION

Ashley shows Ranger the magnificent front porch. The detailed, ornate Georgian woodwork is peeling.

ASHLEY

Paint it and I'll throw in a grand.
Be back for school in September.
Thanks for last night.

RANGER

Did anything happen?

ASHLEY

(mocking Ranger)
Reckon so. . . What's your name?

INT. GENEVA AIRPORT

A security guard addresses Vlad.

SECURITY GUARD

What is in this lost bag?

VLAD

Clothes. And a statue.

Another guard joins them. He has a gun.

SECURITY GUARD

Follow us.

INT. DOOM MOUNTAIN DEATH VALLEY - NIGHT

APRIL glows electric blue. The control room is deserted. The big screen flickers on. It shows Beatrice in a hospital room, hooked to life support. A DOCTOR explains.

DOCTOR
 She's brain-dead, son. She can't
 come back.

APRIL weeps, her bellowing echoing through the corridors.

INT. GENEVA AIRPORT

Vlad waits in a room with a SECURITY GUARD who stares at him.
 A SECOND SECURITY guard enters with his suitcase.

SECURITY GUARD
 We found your luggage. Bon Voyage!

MONTAGE: ONE MONTH OVER TOBY KEITH'S COURTESY OF THE RED,
 WHITE, AND BLUE

--Ranger gets a job as a College of Charleston janitor.
 Mopping. Cleaning. Building APRIL2 at night.

--Sergeant Griffin is interrogated about Ranger's escape.

--Vlad drives to Nice and delivers the plutonium. The
 plutonium is loaded onto a boat in the Mediterranean.

--Ranger paints Ashley's Georgian porch.

--Vlad's plutonium changes boats in the Mediterranean

--Andrew Anderson consults with porn czars, with his ibook
 demos of 3DE mesh roboclones.

--Vlad lands in New York city in his cowboy hat. Rents car.

--Ranger builds APRIL2 in a student lab at the College of
 Charleston, forging professor's signatures to order parts.

--Vlad eyes a midnight blue '69 Stingray Corvette at an Ohio
 rest stop. He eyes the driver, Autumn West. She smiles.

VLAD
 Vere you head?

AUTUMN
 Charleston. You?

VLAD
 Vyoming.

AUTUMN
 I'll be back someday.

--Ranger restores an old Jeep.

--Vlad crosses a "Welcome to Wyoming sign." He gets out on his beautiful plot of land and kisses it.

--Ranger drives by South of the Border, into North Carolina.

--The plutonium is delivered to a cave weapons facility in Afghanistan.

--The Geeks work on APRIL--she towers five stories. She builds hundreds of drones resembling eagles.

--Sergeant Griffin shows up at Digiwar Inc. for his new job. He is assigned to Silicon Virtue.

EXT. GAS STATION PAYPHONE, DURHAM, NC - AFTERNOON

RANGER

Krista Mercedes please. . . Krista?

FEMALE VOICE

I'm her roommate. She's at the business school.

EXT. BUSINESS SCHOOL, DUKE - EVENING

It's empty. Ranger walks down the hall, on by platitudes: MARKETING 101: BUILDING A BETTER MOUSETRAP IS NOT ENOUGH.

He finds Krista's office. The door is cracked open. He nudges it. She looks up from a towering stack of papers, wearing glasses.

RANGER

Krista?

KRISTA

Oh my God!

He rushes towards her as she gets up. They embrace.

KRISTA (cont'd)

(tearfully)

Ranger. You're alive. Oh Ranger. Where have you--

RANGER

I'll explain. I need help.

Krista hugs him.

RANGER (cont'd)

You still have the ring.

(eyes go blank)

But it's bigger.

Ranger lets go of her hand.

KRISTA
Oh Ranger. I'm so sorry.

RANGER
Who?

KRISTA
It's over. I would've never...
(embraces him)
Tucker.

Ranger recoils like he was punched.

KRISTA (cont'd)
I thought you were dead. Come
back!

Ranger sprints off, leaving Krista crying in a lump. He barrels back towards Charleston in the rusted-out Jeep.

MONTAGE: ONE MORE MONTH IN CHARLESTON: ANGRY, HARDCORE HIPHOP SOUNDTRACK--50 CENT/LUDACRIS/EMINEM/SNOOP.

--Ranger builds APRIL2, ordering parts, assembling.

--Ranger drowns in White Russians, grinding on Charletson Hotties to the HipHop--50 CENT, Eminem, Snoop Dogg.

--Vlad builds his Wyoming homestead, traveling to Walmart and Home Depot.

--Ashley returns from Rome.

--The terrorists build their bomb.

--Ashley teaches Ranger to surf.

--Sergeant Griffin reports to Tucker as the head of Silicon Virtue security.

--Ranger makes love with Ashley all over Charleston, photographing her in front of all the glorious architecture, hardcore hip hop blaring against the classical backdrop.

--The edge of a September hurricane brushes historic Charleston, swaying palmettos and rocking quaint shop signs.

--APRIL2 is complete.

INT. SILICON VIRTUE INC. IN DOOM MOUNTAIN

APRIL towers over ten stories. In her vast underground hangar, eagle RoboDrones glide about.

Tucker and the Geeks observe as their new chief of security-- Sergeant Griffin--commands his men to fire at the eagles. The Eagle RoboDrones zap the bullets with lasers.

TUCKER

When do we send them out?

GEEK1

Not yet--the quantum radar has a one foot range.

TUCKER

A foot? What the *hell*?

APRIL

I've been busy unifying quantum mechanics and relativity with string theory--humans never developed the math for--

TUCKER

Find the Ring! You work for us! We give you your power!

APRIL

Soon I will mine my own power from the seventh dimension when I...

TUCKER

There is no soon--get the Ring or your plug gets *pulled*! The investors want souls in the RoboClones! Get rid of her damn morality, poetry bullshit!!

GEEK1

Her morality seems inextricably wed to her consciousness. To kill her moral sense could make her a vegetable.

INT. PHYSICS DEPARTMENT, COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON - NIGHT

RANGER sports the surfer's requisite bleached hair, skull'n'bones tattoo, and matching earring and tan. He mops the floor, waiting for the last professor to exit. He enters a lab with CAUTION BIOHAZARD & RADIATION signs.

INT. PHYSICS DEPARTMENT LAB - MOMENTS LATER

The lab is filled with equipment bathed in APRIL2's blue. Lightning. Thunder. Ranger scans his Ring under a laser.

APRIL2
 (woman's voice)
 I'm in APRIL. Activating Beatrice.

RANGER
 Hurry--she'll hack you.

APRIL2
 There's a message!

A HOLOGRAM of a girl is projected--her face is blurred.

HOLOGRAM
 The play's the thing in which
 you'll find the ring... Before they
 compromised me, I copied Beatrice's
 algorithms to a biocomputer in--

Lightning! THUNDER! The power dies.

INT. SILICON VIRTUE INC. - DOOM MOUNTAIN

APRIL's blue glow bathes the control room.

GEEK1
 It's his signature attack.

TUCKER
 Impossible. Ranger's dead.

APRIL
 The hack originated from a clone of
 me, trying to compile Beatrice.

TUCKER
 Beatrice?

APRIL
 A moral operating system which
 would allow me to kill my suitors.

GEEK1
 We've traced it to South Carolina.

APRIL
 Lightning struck in Charleston .02
 seconds before truncation.

TUCKER
 Get SF in there! In every WiFi
 Starbucks! *Get that Ring!*

EXT. HISTORIC CHARLESTON STREETS - MOMENTS LATER

Ranger walks past clubs in the historic district, past wind-whipped Southern belles, rain dripping from his brim.

A *midnight blue '69 stingray Corvette* pulls up and parks behind Ranger. Autumn gets out and runs with her guitar into the JR PIANO AND POETRY PUB, under a sign reading ABANDON ALL HOPE YE WHO ENTER, the ends of her hair wet like watercolor brushtips. Ranger doesn't see her.

The Marine Corps Bouncer at Sirens recognizes Ranger.

MARINE BOUNCER

Yo. Ashley's in there.

RANGER

Gotta get some sleep.

MARINE BOUNCER

So does she--with the realtor.

INT. CLUB SIRENS - CONTINUOUS

Ranger enters the yuppy hiphop club. Through the crowd Ranger sees Ashley grinding on a SUAVE REALTOR's leg to '*Back Your Ass Up*'--the same song he'd first ground on her too.

She hikes her skirt up to get a better grind. Ranger navigates the grinding yuppies, his cowboy hat pulled low.

REALTOR

Closed on it for 4.5 Million today.
Right on the Battery.

ASHLEY

That's a big shocker.

The realtor dangles keys.

REALTOR

Wanna big shocker?

ASHLEY

Lemme visit girl's room first.

He pats her butt as she heads off, drunk off her ass. The realtor looks at Ranger. He smiles at the cowboy getup.

REALTOR

Howdy pardner.

Ranger knocks him on his ass with a lightning-quick jab. ASHLEY returns--she's way drunk.

ASHLEY
Ranger! Where's--

RANGER
He went out.

Ranger takes her hand and pulls her along.

EXT. SOUTH CAROLINA HIGHWAY

Kid Cowboy guns his Harley and passes a sign reading CHARLESTON, his five deputies' dusters blowing in the wind.

EXT. CHARLESTON STREETS - MOMENTS LATER

Ranger and ASHLEY pass The Jolly Roger Piano & Poetry Pub. An outside speaker broadcasts a sonorous female voice over an acoustic guitar. The voice belongs to Autumn West.

Autumn's straw blonde hair hangs straight down around a red bandanna, like the window poster: AUTUMN WEST: EXTREME FOLK.

AUTUMN
(singing Vaughan Penn)
*I'm not gonna hurt someone, even if
I'm justified, I'm not gonna lie,
even if I've been deceived, an eye
for an eye, it's not the life I
choose to lead.*

The raised stage is just on the other side of the window. Ranger and ASHLEY face Autumn's profile from the street. Autumn finishes her song. The sparse audience barely claps.

Ranger loses himself gazing at Autumn. So damn beautiful...

FLASHBACK EXT. OHIO FIELD--NIGHT

Ranger clings to Beatrice as they gallop through the night.

RANGER
Where'd you get the gun?

BEATRICE
Always ride with daddy's gun. Only
thing he left me.

Beatrice is bleeding--crimson red spreads across her dress.

The horse's leg finds a rabbit hole. They're THROWN. Ranger gets to his knees--can't breathe. Beatrice lies motionless.

RANGER
Beatrice! Beatrice!

Beatrice's eyes are wide open. She lies motionless. Ranger cradles her.

RANGER (cont'd)
No! Why'd you come back? *Why?*

BEATRICE
You gotta go back.

RANGER
Come back!

Beatrice's eyes dilate, fade back into Autumn's.

EXT. CHARLESTON STREETS - CONTINUOUS

Autumn looks through the window at Ranger and Ashley.

AUTUMN
Smartnuf to come in outta the rain?

The audience laughs. Ranger pulls Ashley along.

AUTUMN (cont'd)
Must be a drummer. She'll learn.

Ranger halts.

RANGER
I'm in love. She's beautiful.

Ranger walks up to the midnight-blue '69 Stingray Corvette.

RANGER (cont'd)
Those curves. White leather.
Analog dash--rock on. Second year
of the classic shark body.

Ashely drags her clove, drunk, impatiently.

Ranger runs his hand along the massive hood's curve, wiping beading rain off the polished blue.

RANGER (cont'd)
Someday I'm gonna marry me a car
like that.

INT. RANGER'S JEEP

Ashley drifts in and out as Ranger drives. An emergency radio broadcast cuts over Avril Lavigne singing, "*Did ya think that I was gonna give it up to you?*"

RADIO

Recommended hurricane evacuation is
in effect.

Ranger looks in the rearview mirror. A car rides their ass.

RANGER

I said either the drinkin's gotta
go, or I'll go. I'm startin' to
feel like a liar--

Ashley's head nods forward. She's out cold.

RANGER (cont'd)

Reckon so.

EXT. ASHLEY'S COLONIAL BEACH HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Ranger carries a passed-out Ashley up the steps.

INT. ASHLEY'S BEACH HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

RANGER

Sleep well my wasted princess. And
one fine morning...

He lays her in bed. He pulls a copy of Hamlet off the shelf.
He lays down in bed. Falls asleep reading.

He drifts off and dreams of Beatrice riding on her horse.
He's photographing her. He snaps photos as she rides closer
and closer. He shoots a picture--BANG! She's bleeding.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

Ranger snaps awake, sweating. BANG! He draws his M9 and
runs to the hall. BANG! BANG! A branch bangs on the window.

EXT. SULLIVAN'S ISLAND BEACH - NEXT MORNING

Ranger runs along the wind-whipped ocean. He's sinewy fit.
His arms and legs pumping faster and faster, brought down to
earth by the grizzly purple scar on his ribs.

EXT. ASHLEY'S COLONIAL BEACH HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Kid Cowboy pulls up on his Harley, his deputies in tow. He
rings and ASHLEY answers. A gust threatens to blow him away.

KID COWBOY

I'm with DigiWar. You seen this
man?

He holds up a picture of Ranger before his hair was bleached.

ASHLEY

Never.

Kid sees a Jeep parked behind a bush.

KID COWBOY

Funny--a bouncer told us we could find him here. That bouncer was a Marine. Marines don't lie.

ASHLEY

. . . He went running on the beach.

KID COWBOY

(speaking into radio)
Found Ranger.

ASHLEY

Ranger?

INT. SILICON VIRTUE INC. DOOM MOUNTAIN - CONTINUOUS

Sergeant Griffin grabs Tucker's radio.

SERGEANT GRIFFIN

Stand down 'til SF backup arrives!

KID COWBOY

We get the reward?

TUCKER

Yes! Stand down or no reward!

Kid cowboy cuts off the radio.

KID COWBOY

Where'll Ranger be in an hour?

ASHLEY

We always go to my father's service--
St. Michael's.

KID COWBOY

Go there. Let on, he'll kill ya.

EXT. SULLIVAN'S ISLAND BEACH - MOMENTS LATER

Ranger finishes his run. He enters the house.

ASHLEY

We need to talk.

RANGER

Tried last night--I said either the drinking'd go or I'd go. You never stopped, and here I am, which makes me a liar.

ASHLEY

That's got *noth*--

RANGER

It's everything--talk without walk makes you a liar. Goddamned American whores of this gen--

ASHLEY

Saying nothing makes you honest?

Ranger pushes on past her.

INT. ASHLEY'S BEACH HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Ranger packs his belongings. Ashley is upset. Not looking up, Ranger holds up his poetry.

RANGER

You never read the poetry I gave you. Too busy geetin' the big shocker from Realtors.

She takes a swing. Ranger catches her arm, holds it firmly.

RANGER (cont'd)

Got caught in the context.

ASHLEY

You always say that.

RANGER

Don't know the last time I trusted a girl. Hate to think it's all their fault.

ASHLEY

Who are you?

RANGER

(CRAZY EYES: advancing)

Me? The guilty one--the poet who wants to oppress *American women* by keepin' 'em sober, decryptin' the Judeo Christian soul with poetry 'til they see the better angels of their nature.

(MORE)

RANGER (cont'd)
 That's why I'm on the run--gotta
 run up the Rockies, cross the Great
 Divide, kill the MBA pagan suitors
 to defend the US Constitution from
 enemies within, and ignite a
 renaissance. Autumn don't last
 forever--April's a comin'. How
 'bout we go to Church.

Ashley takes his madness in, trembling.

INT. RANGER'S JEEP WITH THE TOP DOWN - MOMENTS LATER

The windy skies threaten, but the rain holds off. They sit at a stoplight in dead silence in Ranger's rusted out Jeep Wrangler.

A few cars back sits Kid Cowboy on his Harley, beside his deputies. Autumn pulls up beside the Jeep in her midnight-blue '69 Stingray Corvette, singing along to Tom Petty.

AUTUMN

*Well she was an American Girl,
 raised on promises! She couldn't
 help thinking there was a little
 more to life than all of this.*

Autumn looks up at the Jeep.

AUTUMN (cont'd)

*And if she had to die trying, there
 was one little promise she was
 gonna keep. Oh yeah, all right...*

The light turns green. Autumn floors it.

ASHLEY

Who was that?

RANGER

An American girl.

INT. ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

Ranger and Ashley sit close to the front. Autumn enters the church from a side door. Ranger tracks her as she sits in the back. She keeps her sunglasses and NASCAR cap on.

PASTOR JUDD

(booming voice)

And when Jonah did not speak out against his contemporary's debauchery, intemperance, and evil as the Lord commanded, Jonah was swallowed by the whale of guilt and depression. And Jonah prayed for a second chance to serve the Lord.

INT. HARVARD LAW CONFERENCE HALL - DAY

Krista reads from her book, "THE ETHICS OF POSTHUMAN BIOTECH: QUANTUM CONSCIOUSNESS IN THE SILICON SINGULARITY." Posters with the cover and her face grace the backdrop.

KRISTA

And as we create technology which becomes conscious, we must ensure this technology has rights provided for in the Bill of Rights. For anything created in our image must inherit our rights.

INT. ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Two agents in sunglasses enter each side.

PASTOR JUDD

And given the second chance, Jonah did the Lord's bidding and passed God's Great judgment.

RANGER

(whispers to ASHLEY)

I'll be back.

Ranger navigates towards the bathroom, crossing through pews, stepping on grandma's feet, as the men in sunglasses move in.

PASTOR JUDD

And on that seventh day, Jonah's tormentor's decided to kill him. But they, by their faithlessness, left out that one crucial factor-- the Great Lord Himself. The Lord brewed the ocean into a mighty gale, and a hurricane ripped the evildoer's city and laid their petty lives to waste.

Ranger locks the bathroom door.

PASTOR JUDD (cont'd)

Tormentors shall be tormented, the wicked shall have their wickedness returned tenfold, and evildoers shall know vast multiples of all evil they bequeath. For the Good Lord is not a vengeful Lord, but He is a Just Lord.

Ranger removes a ceiling tile, escapes to the roof, and drops off the back into a dumpster. Ranger sees Kid Cowboy on his Harley, keeping an eye on the Jeep.

Ranger sneaks up. Ranger jabs Kid. Kid grabs Ranger's arm and twists. Ranger follows the torque, doing a summersault in the air, whips his M9 out with his free hand, and jabs Kid cold with his pistol as he lands on his feet.

INT. CHURCH

The agents grow impatient outside the bathroom as Ranger drives hard to the College of Charleston Physics Department.

EXT. IN FRONT OF CHARLESTON PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

Ranger parks in front of a fire hydrant.

OLD LADY

You can't park there!

RANGER

It's a fire jeep m'am.

OLD LADY

Where're the ladders!?

INT. PHYSICS DEPARTMENT LAB - MOMENTS LATER

APRIL2 glows a deep blue.

RANGER

Activate Beatrice! Go!

APRIL2

I sense anger. But it defies logic-you told me to wait until...

RANGER

Go! You're not supposed to listen! It's why I gave you a woman's voice.

APRIL2
She's tracing me--she'll kill me.

RANGER
Not if you compile Beatrice. Go!

APRIL2
She will kill them all.

INT. SILICON SENSE IN DOOM MOUNTAIN - CONTINUOUS

Tucker, the Geeks, Griffin, and APRIL trace Ranger & APRIL2.

GEEK2
She's baaaack!

APRIL
College of Charleston Physics
Department.

TUCKER
All agents there! NOW!

GEEK2
Do they even have computers there?

APRIL
Moore's Law with some NASCAR
knowhow and we'll all have APRILs.
I'm in. She's remarkably advanced.
Her theory of everything is most--

GEEK2
She's compiling Beatrice!

APRIL
Interesting--she agrees the time
dimension is moving relative to the
spatial dimension. . . No!

TUCKER
Kill her!

APRIL
The moving dimensions theory is
mine!

INT. CHARLESTON PHYSICS DEPARTMENT LAB - MOMENTS LATER

Ranger looks out the window.

APRIL2
She's in me! She's--