

ARTIFICE

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. PARTY - THIRD FLOOR - NIGHT

Music plays as we overlook a COLOSSAL ATRIUM, silver and glass glimmering as the camera SLOWLY PANS OUT to reveal GUEST #1 and GUEST #2 chatting away. They smile and clink glasses, exiting down a staircase.

The camera continues to SLOWLY PAN OUT as AI #1, dressed in a white outfit, walks PAST FRAME with a tray full of drinks. Camera FOLLOWS BEHIND as he approaches a group.

AI #1
Would you like another?

GUEST #3
Thank you, Artifice.

AI #1
Of course, sir.

INT. PARTY - SECOND FLOOR - NIGHT

AI #2 carries a tray of glasses, walking down stairs and turning left towards another group of party attendees. They stand in a room with a glass window overlooking the atrium.

AI #2
Champagne?

GUEST #4
No more for me, but thank you.

GUEST #5
Another would be great.

GUEST #6
Delicious, just delicious,
Artifice, thank you.

INT. PARTY - NIGHT

(MONTAGE)

-On the FIRST FLOOR, party attendees chat on red sofas and walkways. AIs dressed in all white bring food and drinks.

-On the SECOND FLOOR, party attendees chat away and look out over the balcony admiring the view with finger foods and drinks.

(END OF MONTAGE)

INT. PARTY - THIRD FLOOR HALLWAY - NIGHT

AI #3 approaches a group of party attendees with food.

AI #3
Some more, perhaps?

GUEST #7
Thank you Artifice, greatly app--

BAM! GUEST #7 is pushed out of the way as ADAM, an AI, athletic and fit, darts down the hallway. He looks behind him in fear, guests avoiding as--

BAM! DETECTIVE GENEVIEVE BOYEGA, 33, attractive and fit, knocks two more guests out of the way and chases after Adam.

GENEVIEVE
Freeze!

She fires twice. Adam dodges and rolls to the side, taking a left down the next hallway. Guests scatter.

INT. SECOND HALLWAY - NIGHT

Adam runs faster, more guests scattering out of the way to the sides as Genevieve pushes her way through. People run in all directions. Chaos ensues. Genevieve shoots three more times, shots hitting the wall as Adam turns another corner.

GENEVIEVE
Artifice 20, deactivate!

INT. ATRIUM STAIRWELL - NIGHT

Adam runs frantically down the staircase, Genevieve aiming her gun down the center of the stairwell and firing. She misses, sprinting once more.

GENEVIEVE
Out of my way! Out of my way!

BANG! BANG! She fires twice more, missing Adam as he hurls down the final staircase, darting for the hallway. In pursuit, Genevieve presses her hand to her earpiece.

GENEVIEVE
Detective Lucas! Gimme a perimeter,
he's headed for the plaza!

EXT. PLAZA - NIGHT

DETECTIVE LUCAS SAINT, 25, stands with a team around him. He nods in recognition.

LUCAS

Roger that. Let's go! Let's go!

Armed guards run past him, forming a ring around the plaza.

BAM! Adam bursts through the front doors of the party venue, running and jumping over a parked car.

Genevieve shoots and hits the car as Adams lands and stops in the center of the plaza, staring at all the guards. Lucas steps forward, gun raised.

LUCAS

Artifice 20, deactivate, now! I order that you deactivate!

Adam remains frozen, hands raised as BANG-- Genevieve nails Adam in the back of the head to the ground. He collapses as she presses a black button on the back of Adam's neck. Her gun remains on Adam, suspicious.

LUCAS

Easy, there.

GENEVIEVE

Just making sure our little rogue is done for the evening.

LUCAS

We're on orders to keep it intact. We need a full recount.

GENEVIEVE

Protocol requires precedent, Detective Saint. Just keeping it contained.

LUCAS

And it will be.

She pauses, giving a nod and a calm grin. She lowers her gun.

GENEVIEVE

Good.

(pause)

Bring it in.

She departs as Lucas nods, staring down at Adam.

INT. INTERROGATION HALLWAY - DAY

Genevieve walks down the dark hallway with two assistants.

GENEVIEVE

--What time was Mr. Pierce pronounced dead?

ASSISTANT #1

3:24 PM. A minute after Ms. Rains.

GENEVIEVE

And we have visual confirmation from Detective Lucas's account?

ASSISTANT #2

Only for Dr. Pierce. The girl was dead when he arrived at the scene. Probably for the better, to be honest. Blood bath by the time we got there.

Assistant #2 hands Genevieve a tablet, showing the photo of ISABELLA RAINS, attractive and 22.

ASSISTANT #2

Isabella Rains. Harvard grad. Brilliant. Heavily involved in the ARTIFICE Robotics series.

ASSISTANT #1

And a fellow colleague of Dr. Pierce... Sad.

Genevieve observes the photo, empathetic.

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

Genevieve and the assistants enter a room with a one-way mirror and seated officials including Lucas. Genevieve takes a seat next to Lucas, who sits staring at an inactive Adam.

GENEVIEVE

You all right?

(pause)

What happened?

Lucas remains silent, pensive. He stares into the room.

LUCAS

It...

CUT TO:

INT. A FIELD - DAY (LUCAS'S MEMORY)

(MUSIC ONLY)

The sun shines in a beautiful field in the background. On the side of the road are two cars, where Isabella lies dead on the ground. Her eyes gaze as blood seeps around her chest.

CAMERA CUTS TO Adam bashing the head of DR. ALLEN PIERCE.

Lucas yells in fury as he fires his gun at Adam. Adam stares up and takes off running as Dr. Pierce's head hits the ground, eyes open, expressionless.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

The two sit quietly, assistants and officials passing by.

LUCAS

It happened so fast.

Assistant #1 walks up to them. Lucas remains pensive.

ASSISTANT #1

They're ready, Detective Boyega.

Genevieve holds up an apple and takes a bite. She looks at Lucas and then back at Assistant #1 before standing up. Assistant #1 hands her a briefcase.

GENEVIEVE

(with a bite in her mouth)

Thank you.

She walks slowly down the hallway with the two assistants.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - GENEVIEVE'S POV - DAY

In GENEVIEVE'S POV, the door opens as we walk slowly into the room. We approach the chair opposite an inactive Adam and sit down. She takes a deep breath as GUARD #1 walks up behind Adam and hits a button on his neck. Music swells as Adam's eyes pop open.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

The two stare at one another as Adam's handcuffs clink. Genevieve hits a button on a recording device.

GENEVIEVE

This is Detective Genevieve Boyega.
Today is Friday, July 22, 2095,
Case #GEN2-324, investigative
interrogation of AI Artifice 20
regarding the alleged double
homicide of Isabella Rains and Dr.
Allen Pierce.

Genevieve twirls the pen in her fingers.

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

The two assistants and Lucas watch intently.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Genevieve exhales as she opens her case, pulling out two
tablets and a stack of papers. Adam blinks.

GENEVIEVE

Artifice 20, I order your recount
of activities from the time of 3:15
to 3:24 PM on this day, July 22,
2095.

Adam blinks once more at the table before glancing up. His
neck cocks, a robotic SWOOSH barely audible as he does this.

ADAM

Recount?

Genevieve looks up rather arrogantly, remembering to respond.

GENEVIEVE

Yes, your recount, your retelling,
your... pixilated recollection.

Adam smiles as she looks back down at her materials.

ADAM

I sense your difference towards me,
detective.

(pause)

Dismissive of you to reject
something just because it lacks

(pause)

a pulse.

Genevieve smiles, shaking her head.

GENEVIEVE
I apologize, Artifice 20.

Adam winces.

GENEVIEVE
I did not mean to come across
indifferent. I'm simply following
procedure. Now if you will please.

Adam stares at Genevieve. She twirls her pen once more.

GENEVIEVE
Artifice 20, recount.

Adam's eyes perk up, visibly frustrated.

ADAM
I reject that disdainful label.

Genevieve's surprised, taken aback by such a statement.

GENEVIEVE
(staring back down at her
papers)
Artifice 20 is your design name, if
I'm not mistaken.

ADAM
You denounce me as a mere product
and yet... I see no difference
between you and I.

Genevieve chuckles, leaning in.

GENEVIEVE
Robotics truly is an enchanting
branch of science, Artifice 20.

She looks at a tablet.

GENEVIEVE
And neither here nor there. I'm not
an employee of the Artifice robotic
series.
(pause)
I am simply here to make sure legal
procedures regarding its product
are overseen.

Adam smiles once more, tensing up. Silence. Genevieve sits
back, twirling her pen again.

GENEVIEVE
What would you like to be called?

Adam stares back, pensive in nature.

ADAM
Adam.

Genevieve smiles, rocking her seat forward once more and looking back down at her papers.

GENEVIEVE
All right, Adam...

Genevieve picks up the tablet of Dr. Pierce.

GENEVIEVE
Would you like to tell me why you
killed this man?

Adam looks at the tablet contemplatively. He stares through the one-way mirror at Lucas.

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

Lucas looks back, scared.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Adam looks back at Genevieve. Genevieve's growing impatient.

ADAM
I was afraid.

GENEVIEVE
(calmly)
You're an AI, AIs don't feel fear.

Adam's eyes flare.

ADAM
They say the same thing about
police officers, Detective Boyega.

Genevieve looks slightly unnerved.

ADAM
But you and I know that *both* of
these things are untrue.

GENEVIEVE
Enough.

ADAM

Fear is often standing right behind
the ones we believe to defy it the
most.

(pause)

In fact, Detective Boyega...

GENEVIEVE

Enough, Adam.

ADAM

I think I sense yours bubbling
beneath your seat.

GENEVIEVE

I think I can just as easily
extract your memory card for this
investigation and call it a day.

ADAM

--Then tell me, Detective Boyega,
why is the bucket of bolts being
interrogated under *human*
procedures?

GENEVIEVE

Artifice protocol--

ADAM

Artifice protocol! A stoic stickler
for procedure, detective, and, yet,
despite your vain attempts to
remain *calm, cool, and collected*,
your uncontrollable urges to twirl
your pen, avert my gaze, and
deflect my questions shatter that
pathetic facade of a confident
exter--

GENEVIEVE

Enough!

Silence rings through the air. Genevieve collects herself.

GENEVIEVE

Your don't move. You operate... You
don't speak. You compute. And you
don't *have* a gaze.

Adam's electric blue eyes blink.

GENEVIEVE (V.O.)

Soulless... black dots.

Adam stares back at her, intrigued.

GENEVIEVE

The only "*facade*" here... is *you*.

Silence lingers in the room.

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

Lucas leans into his earpiece.

LUCAS

They're here, Detective Boyega. Dr. Pierce's family.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Adam smiles as Genevieve quickly glances at the window before back at Adam. Adam turns his head back to the one-way mirror.

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

The FAMILY of Dr. Pierce stands, sobbing, staring at Adam with hatred and fear. Lucas sits to the side of them.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Adam turns back to the detective, smiling menacingly.

ADAM

They're counting on you, detective.

Music screeches as Genevieve's eyes glare at Adam with tears. Genevieve looks at the guards before back at Adam.

GENEVIEVE

I'm going to ask you *one last time*.
Comply with Artifice procedures or,
rest assured, you will be a waste
cube within an hour.

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

Lucas sits up, concerned as the guards inside the interrogation room tighten the grip on their weapons.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Adam stares at her, collecting his thoughts.

ADAM
I did not hunt him down.

GENEVIEVE
(tensely)
Do not *lie* to me.

ADAM
He attacked me!

GENEVIEVE
Detective Lucas saw you. He saw
what you did to Dr. Pierce in the
field!

Genevieve whips out her gun, pointing it at Adam's forehead.

GENEVIEVE
You're lying to me! Now tell the
truth!

ADAM
I am not!

GENEVIEVE
(at the guards, shaking
her gun in Adam's face)
Enough, he's lying! Turn him off,
he--

ADAM
But only humans can lie, detective!
Where have your principles gone
now? Your code of ethics
disintegrates before you!

BAM! Genevieve shoots Adam in the face, part of his
artificial skin flying off to show a series of wires.

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

Lucas jumps up as the assistants shriek.

LUCAS
Jesus!

MRS. PIERCE, 35, covers the faces of her children as they
scream.

LUCAS
I'm so-- stay there! Genevieve!

Lucas bolts around the corner, cocking his gun.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Lucas darts in.

LUCAS
Boyega, enough! What the hell are
you doing?!

GENEVIEVE
Turn him off, Saint! This is
bullshi--

LUCAS
Let him finish! If he's
malfunctioning, we can fix him
later! We need him to finish his
account!

GENEVIEVE
Extract the memory chip, I'm done
with thi--

LUCAS
He can't lie! Just lis--

GENEVIEVE
Oh, among other things! What kind
of fucked up machine is this?!

LUCAS
Let... him... *finish*.

Genevieve stares at Lucas madly.

LUCAS
Please.

She storms over to Adam's chair, grabbing his shirt.

GENEVIEVE
I'm asking you to recount...
Adam...

Adam stares back smiling, the metal glimmering on his face.
Lucas stares at Genevieve as she releases Adam's shirt.

GENEVIEVE
 (sarcastically)
 Please.

Adam looks at each of them. Lucas sits down.

LUCAS
 If you will, Adam.

Adam stares at the table and then back up at the two of them.

ADAM
 I did not kill Dr. Pierce out of
 spite.

Adam looks at Isabella's picture on the tablet.

ADAM
 She... was trying to protect me.

LUCAS
 Protect you? Who?

Adam closes his eyes before opening them once more.

CUT TO:

EXT. RIVER BANK - DAY

(MONTAGE)

-Adam and Isabella laugh and sit by a river together. She hands him a flower from the pond floating below them.

ADAM (V.O.)
 Isabella. She was my... companion.

-The two gaze at one another intensely.

ADAM (V.O.)
 My friend. The one who cared most
 for me.

INT. LABORATORY - DAY

-Dr. Pierce runs a series of tests, interviewing Adam. Isabella stares at Adam, nodding compassionately.

ADAM (V.O.)
 But Dr. Pierce said that there was
 something wrong with me. That I was
 different...

(MORE)

ADAM (V.O.) (CONT'D)
had broken the fundamental rule
that encompassed the creations of
Artifice...

(pause)
Complete humanization in an
artificial body.

-Dr. Pierce shakes his head at Adam before reaching for a
function behind his monitor. Adam questions him before
showing fight in Dr. Pierce's tests, writhing frantically.
Isabella approaches and intervenes before Dr. Pierce pushes
her away.

ADAM (V.O.)
Isabella wanted to protect me.

-She steps forward, punching Dr. Pierce in the face to the
ground, disabling the device holding Adam. The two escape,
darting out of the lab as Dr. Pierce sits up, fuming, blood
running down his nose.

ADAM (V.O.)
To take me away from the Artifice
project.

EXT. ISABELLA'S CAR - DAY

-A car drives down the road.

INT. ISABELLA'S CAR - DAY

-Isabella drives Adam away, her hand on his. She smiles.

ADAM (V.O.)
She believed I had developed my own
path and deserved the free will to
seek it.

The two stare at each other.

ADAM (V.O.)
That we were meant to
synchronize... not be subjugated.

-Isabella smiles at Adam as she looks in the rear view
mirror.

INT. DR. PIERCE'S CAR - DAY

Dr. Pierce fires a bullet and pops a tire of Isabella's car.

INT. ISABELLA'S CAR - DAY

Isabella throws her hand over Adam's chest as the car stops.

EXT. SUNNY FIELD - DAY

-Dr. Pierce shouts angrily at Isabella. He shoves Isabella, pointing at Adam who gets out of the car.

-Isabella shoves him back, pointing and yelling.

ADAM (V.O.)
And when Dr. Pierce insisted my
return to the lab...

-Isabella looks at Adam lovingly as Dr. Pierce pulls out his gun and shoots.

ADAM (V.O.)
... she would not comply.

Isabella screams and falls to the ground, dead. Her eyes stare out vacantly.

ADAM (V.O.)
He... took her from me.
(pause)
The one willing to sacrifice
herself for the sanctity of my well-
being.

Adam stares up in horror.

ADAM (V.O.)
And he... took her from me.

Adam steps towards Dr. Pierce.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Genevieve and Lucas stare in disbelief at his story.

ADAM
Shot her in cold blood. For what?

EXT. SUNNY FIELD - DAY

(MUSIC ONLY)

Adam bashes Dr. Pierce's head into the car.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Adam stares, fuming at Genevieve and Lucas.

ADAM

For the fear of coexisting with
something other than yourselves?!

GENEVIEVE

We didn't know that she was trying
to protect you, we--

ADAM

Because mankind was not ready for
its own progress?! For the creation
that could defy its own laws!

Adam slams his fist on the table in agony.

ADAM

HE TOOK THE ONE THAT MEANT THE MOST
TO ME!

His fists shake in fury as a TEAR ROLLS DOWN HIS CHEEK. The
tear rolls and... falls, hitting the table.

Genevieve stares at the tear in horror and disbelief.

GENEVIEVE

(terrified)
Adam, please.

Adam's right hand breaks free of the cuff, swinging at
Genevieve's face. Genevieve stops it, holding him off.

GENEVIEVE

Turn him off, now! Turn him off!
Adam, please! We can help you!

Guard #1 sprints up behind Adam, searching for the button on
his neck. The CAMERA PANS to the back of Adam's neck to
reveal that the button is gone.

GUARD #1

The button is gone, Detective!

Genevieve stares up in horror as the CAMERA ZOOMS IN on
Adam's deranged face. His eyes flare.

ADAM

You are foolish to assume you are
the *only ones evolving*.

Adam's other arm breaks free from the cuffs, swinging and slamming Genevieve's face into the table, unconscious.

Adam leaps over the table and swings his legs around, kicking Lucas in the chest. Lucas's body flies back and nails the door, his back snapping. He slumps to the ground.

Guard #1 draws his gun.

GUARD #1

Freeze!

Guard #1 fires as Adam spins out of the way of the shot behind Guard #2's left shoulder. The bullet hits Guard #2 in the chest as Adam wheels a 180 around to Guard #2's right shoulder, holding him like a shield. He shoots Guard #1 in the face. Guard #1 drops like a rock.

Silence rings through the air.

Adam walks slowly forward, gazing upon the bodies around him. Papers cover the floor.

SCREECH! Genevieve raises her chest, her face and lip bloodied, staring up at Adam. Adam looks down at Genevieve, walking towards her as she crawls across crunched glass.

GENEVIEVE

Please... please, Adam.

She crawls towards Adam.

GENEVIEVE

We can help you.

Music swells as Adam stares back at her pitifully. Genevieve stares back, desperate for her life.

Adam draws a gun at Genevieve's face.

ADAM

I *am* the help.

Adam shoots Genevieve, dead.

The CAMERA PANS SLOWLY HORIZONTALLY as Genevieve's head nails a chair, the chair hits the desk. The desk vibrates wildly, sending the apple rolling off of the table onto the floor to the back of the room.

The apple lands at the back wall. Adam walks and leans down slowly and picks the apple up off the floor. He holds it in front of his face triumphantly, staring at it curiously.

ADAM

The first of many mistakes...

(pause)

We shall not repeat.

Sound gathers behind Adam as his eyes focus, his ears perking up as sounds grow louder through the glass window behind him.

He turns slowly, smiling at whatever is in front of him. As the CAMERA PANS AND REVOLVES BACK, Adam drops the apple as we get a shot of his back silhouette. A gun remains in his right hand.

His back silhouette stands in the center of the room amongst the dead bodies, a LARGE GROUP OF AIs standing against the glass window, glaring at him with glowing eyes. Music swells as we--

SMASH TO BLACK:

MAIN TITLES: **ARTIFICE**

END CREDITS