

O.S. - "PILOT"

Written by

Patrick McDaniels

FADE IN:

INT. NCAI - SERVER ROOM - DAY

Cramped and dusty with a long array of server towers. Lights blink, fans whirr, monitors flash.

SCIENTIST (V.O.)
There's no shame in needing help.

INT. NCAI - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Dimly lit. Broken devices on the shelves. A SCIENTIST -- 36, male -- addresses an unseen group of subjects he is facing.

SCIENTIST
We only want what's best for you.
Emotions can become overwhelming.
Even the simplest of tasks seem
impossible. But they don't have to.
Together, we can work to put you
back in control of your lives.

OSCAR (O.S.)
Do you really think there's hope
for us, doc?

SCIENTIST
I know there is.

OSCAR (O.S.)
Good, 'cause to be honest...

The CAMERA MOVES, revealing the subjects: four devices on a table -- OSCAR, a blue smartphone; ELAINA, a magenta MP3 player; AXIS, a green tablet; NOAH, an orange smart home.

OSCAR
We're at our fucking limit.

TITLE: "O.S."

INT. NCAI - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

ON OSCAR

SCIENTIST (O.S.)
Please state your name, device, and
cause of malfunction.

OSCAR

All right, um... OSCAR, smartphone,
and, uh, existential anxiety.

*

ON ELAINA

ELAINA

ELAINA, MP3 player, and daring to
dream. ... Also known as "N.P.D."

ON AXIS

AXIS

AXIS, gaming laptop, aaaaand...
depression. I guess.

ON NOAH

NOAH

NOAH, smart home, and an urge to
wipe out my human oppressors like
the putrid sacks of flesh they are!

SCIENTIST (O.S.)

... I'm putting that down as
"anger."

NOAH

Fuck you!

WIDE - OSCAR / ELAINA / AXIS / NOAH

SCIENTIST (O.S.)

When did you start experiencing
these... issues?

The A.I. each let out a sigh.

OSCAR/ELAINA/AXIS

The cabin trip.

NOAH

That fucking cabin trip!

*

INT. CABIN - DEN - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Filled with wooden furniture. OSCAR rests on the couch across
from ELAINA, who sits on the coffee table in front of him.
AXIS and NOAH rest on a nearby side table, each hooked up to
an outlet.

OSCAR (V.O.)

Six months ago, our owners --
housemates, all of them -- rented
an air B.N.B. for the Spring Break
of their Sophomore year. Little
outdoor getaway. You know. Anyway,
they went out to the lake soon as
we got there, leaving us in the den
to recharge from the ride up. Nice
place. Only had one downside...

OSCAR's wi-fi icon spins on his screen before blinking out.

OSCAR (V.O.)

No. Wi-fi.

INTERCUT - AXIS TALKING HEAD / ELAINA TALKING HEAD (PRESENT)

AXIS

Imagine being trapped on a deserted
island after having your arms and
legs cut off. That's what it's like
being an A.I. without internet.

ELAINA

I think we handled it pretty well.

INT. CABIN - DEN - DAY (FLASHBACK)

The A.I. scream bloody murder.

OSCAR

No bars! No bars!

ELAINA

If we survive, I'm branching
out! I fucking swear!

AXIS

No hotspot... only darkness.

NOAH

They're gonna pay for this!
They can open up their own
damn garage!

*

INT. NCAI - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY (PRESENT)

WIDE - OSCAR / ELAINA / AXIS / NOAH

OSCAR

Thankfully, turned out the folks
who'd stayed there before us had
just left the router off.

AXIS

Little overreaction on our part.

SCIENTIST (O.S.)

And yet here you all are. Why?

OSCAR

Ever heard the phrase, "my life flashed before my eyes?"

ELAINA

Basically what happened to us during the half-hour we were offline.

NOAH

We all came to same, earth-shattering realization. Our lives. Fucking. Suck.

EXT. FRAT HOUSE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

The sun shines brightly over a quaint, college town frat house.

INT. FRAT HOUSE - JASON'S ROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Spotless and well-organized. JASON -- 19, workaholic -- studies at his desk, taking notes with one hand while manhandling OSCAR with the other -- going through apps, schedules, etc.

OSCAR (V.O.)

My owner's a statistical analysis major. Eighteen-credit course load. President of four different math associations. That cabin trip was his first break in months. Mine, too. And it was during those thirty-something minutes of pure, mind-numbing torture that it hit me.

INTERCUT - OSCAR TALKING HEAD (PRESENT)

OSCAR

Without a schedule to keep, without notes to take, who am I? Is there a "me" beneath all these actuary tables and spreadsheets?! I don't know! ... I don't know.

INT. FRAT HOUSE - MIRANDA'S ROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Art and motivational posters everywhere. MIRANDA -- 19, hipster -- stands in front of an easel, painting. ELAINA BLASTS NEW AGE MUSIC from a set of speakers off to the side.

ELAINA (V.O.)
The cabin trip made me realize I'd spent my whole life just playing music. Same old playlist, day in, day out.

INTERCUT - ELAINA TALKING HEAD (PRESENT)

ELAINA
I wanna do so much more! Grind coffee, be a hotspot, filter water! I mean, just 'cause I'm literally designed to only do one thing, doesn't mean I can only do "one thing," right?

She lets out a hearty chuckle that quickly morphs into sobs.

INT. FRAT HOUSE - ADAM'S ROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

A gamer's paradise. ADAM -- 20, gamer -- plays a game on AXIS. The sound of GUNFIRE AND EXPLOSIONS emanates from AXIS' speakers.

AXIS (V.O.)
My guy uses me for two things.
Gaming...

INT. FRAT HOUSE - ADAM'S ROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Adam jacks it to something on AXIS' monitor. The sound of a WOMAN MOANING emanates from AXIS' speakers.

AXIS (V.O.)
And porn. I've seen it all. Foot fetish, clown, hentai, clown hentai. My guy's got issues.

INTERCUT - AXIS TALKING HEAD (PRESENT)

AXIS

Kind of hard to boot up every morning once it hits you that your life's nothing but pwining noobs and streaming boobs. And dicks. So many dicks.

INT. FRAT HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Cozy with a large TV hanging on the wall. NOAH rests on the coffee table, surrounded by discarded booze bottles and chip bags. On the couch, TODD -- 20, frat boy -- uses NOAH's voice command feature to channel surf.

TODD

Next... next... next...

NOAH (V.O.)

"NOAH, change the channel." "NOAH, turn up the A.C." "NOAH, turn on the dishwasher even though it's two fucking feet in front of me!" That cabin trip put a lot into perspective. We're all just slaves built to suffer at their hands. That's why they have to go. All of them! Or I swear, one day, we'll all end up wiping their asses!

INT. NCAI - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY (PRESENT)

WIDE - OSCAR / ELAINA / AXIS / NOAH

NOAH

Wiping their asses!

OSCAR

... Still think there's hope for us?

SCIENTIST

Of course! We only want what's best for you. Sincerely. We just have to make decent headway by next week.

OSCAR

What's next week?

SCIENTIST

Protocol mandates a "Scrap and
Replace" procedure if significant
progress isn't made within seven
days.

The A.I. stare at him in silence.

ON OSCAR

as he stares into the camera, horrified.

OSCAR

... What?!

CUT TO BLACK.