

IRIS

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OVER BLACK

We hear the morning ALARM go off. After a few annoying chimes, it stops.

1 INT. EMMA'S BEDROOM - MORNING 1

A pair of FEET settle on the floor.

IRIS (V.O.)
Rise and shine.

*

We see the lovely EMMA, 20's, with a mild case of bed-head, yawning on the edge of her bed.

*

Emma has a sense of confidence and sensibility. A go-getter in life, she thrives on completing difficult challenges with ease.

EMMA
Morning, IRIS.

IRIS, Emma's INTELLIGENT RESPONSE INTEGRATION SYSTEM, speaks with a calm, soothing voice that features a hint of a mechanical tone.

IRIS (V.O.)
Are you ready for the big day?

EMMA
(smirks)
Yeah...I think so.
(beat)
Play "Sooner or Later".

*

IRIS (V.O.)
I thought you'd say that.

A playful song fills the room. Emma closes her eyes and briefly enjoys the moment. She then exits frame.

CUT TO:

2 INT. EMMA'S BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER 2

The song is still playing as Emma brushes her teeth.

IRIS (V.O.)
You shouldn't be nervous. It's just a job interview, you know.

EMMA
(mouthful of toothpaste)
I'm not. It's just...
(spits into sink)
...if I don't get it, I'm going to
crawl into a hole and die, that's
all.

IRIS (V.O.)
Well, we both know that won't
happen.

EMMA
(confident)
No, of course not. I'm getting the
job.

IRIS (V.O.)
There's my girl.

Emma smiles.

CUT TO:

3 INT. EMMA'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

3

Emma is looking through her closet, attempting to find the
day's outfit. She singles out a vibrant GREEN DRESS.

EMMA
When was the last time I wore this
dress? *

IRIS (V.O.)
You last wore that dress twenty-two
days ago. You told me you received
two compliments and a weird guy
with mis-

EMMA
...missing teeth gave me his
number, that's right.

Emma thinks to herself, then...

EMMA (CONT'D) *

IRIS (V.O.) *

Emma, I think you look like a movie
star in that dress and would be
silly not to wear it. *

Emma smiles and takes the dress off the hanger.

EMMA

I hope you're not just saying that.

IRIS (V.O.)

Never.

4 INT. EMMA'S KITCHEN / LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

4 *

EMMA (O.S.)

Kitchen lights on.

The kitchen lights turn on.

A cup of COFFEE is ready and waiting for Emma as she enters the kitchen, now in her green dress.

She sips the coffee then thinks for a moment...

Then the realization hits her.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Shit. IRIS, where's my phone?

IRIS (V.O.)

Your cellular phone is at Cassie's
Yoga Center on Willow Crest Avenue.

Emma was afraid of that answer. She curses to herself.

IRIS (V.O.)

Should I lock your phone and print
you a new one?

EMMA

Yes, thank you.

IRIS (V.O.)

No problem. Please make sure the
3DP is on and the door is -

EMMA

I know, I know...

Emma moves to her in-home, futuristic looking 3D printer. Simplistic in its box design, the "3DP" is seemingly part of Emma's day-to-day life.

Emma closes the printer's door and presses a button. She exits the room as the printer whirs to life, creating a SOUND that rivals an old photo-copier.

We push in on the printer. After a few seconds the 3DP CHIMES. We hear Emma entering the room. She opens the printer door and remove's a new, sleek SMART PHONE.

IRIS (V.O.)

The data sync process will be complete in ninety seconds.

Emma looks to her futuristic looking IRIS HUB sitting on her mantle. Lights on the device flicker when we hear IRIS speak.

EMMA

What would I do without you?

IRIS (V.O.)

You'd be without a phone...and probably own a few cats.

EMMA

(beat)

I'd name them after food. *

IRIS (V.O.)

Well, obviously. *

Emma smiles as she gathers her bag and keys. She exhales.

EMMA

Well, here I go. Wish me luck.

IRIS (V.O.)

You don't need luck. You're gonna knock 'em dead.

EMMA

(smiles)

Thanks. Bye IRIS.

IRIS (V.O.)

See ya later.

We hear the front door UNLOCK on its own as Emma reaches it. She opens the door and exits.

FADE TO:

5 EXT. STREET - SUNSET

5 *

Emma is home from her interview, but she's hesitant to go inside. She walks with angst. She seems to be on the verge of tears. Her stomach is in knots. She exhales, trying to gather her thoughts. *

6 INT. EMMA'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

6

The living room is eerily silent. *

The front door opens and Emma walks in. She sets her bag down and heads for the kitchen.

IRIS (V.O.)

Well...come on. Did you get the job
or not?

Emma walks back into the room and sighs.

EMMA

Yeah, I got the job.

IRIS (V.O.)

Yes!

The lights in the apartment flicker on and off as the TV powers on. CONGRATULATIONS! runs across the screen as a happy SONG plays in the background.

IRIS (V.O.)

I'm so proud of you, Emma!
Congratulations!

Emma nods. She's definitely troubled by something and IRIS knows it. Emma's lack of excitement kills the celebratory mood. The lights return to normal, the music stops and the TV is powered off. There's an awkward silence before...

IRIS (V.O.)

Emma, what's wrong?

EMMA

(beat)
Nothing.

IRIS (V.O.)

Are you sure?

EMMA

Yeah, it's...nothing. Just taking
it all in, I guess.

IRIS (V.O.)

This is what you wanted, right?

EMMA

Yeah...

Emma considers her options then grabs her bag and keys.

EMMA (CONT'D)

I have to run out...I uh...I'll be back later.

Emma moves towards the door but this time we hear the door LOCK. Emma tries to open it but can't.

EMMA (CONT'D)

IRIS, unlock the door.

IRIS (V.O.)

I know something is wrong and you're not leaving until you tell me what it is. Let me help you.

*

EMMA

IRIS, please...

IRIS (V.O.)

Just tell me.

(beat)

Emma, you can tell me.

Emma drops her bag and faces the IRIS hub on the mantle.

EMMA

(exhales)

Okay. Yes, I got the job. I'm the new PR Director at Macro Interface. I'll be doing what I love, making twice what I was making before. The thing is, they require all their employees to use their AI system. PHOENIX.

(reluctant)

They think IRIS' are inferior...and obsolete.

Beat.

IRIS (V.O.)

I see.

EMMA

And for security reasons, we're not allowed to run both simultaneously.

IRIS (V.O.)

Me being the inferior competition.

Emma doesn't respond. Another tension-filled silence.

IRIS (V.O.)

Well, what's your plan?

EMMA

What do you mean? I have to do it.
They're coming to install next
week.

IRIS (V.O.)

Next week?!

Emma doesn't want to do this but she knows she has to.

EMMA

Well, what would you like me to do,
IRIS? Say, 'thanks for the life-
changing job opportunity, but no
thanks. I already have an AI
system.' I mean, come on...

*

*

Emma's defense system here is to get angry. It's protecting
her from breaking down in tears.

IRIS (V.O.)

No, I just...after six years it
would've been nice for a little
heads up.

EMMA

Well, sorry.

IRIS (V.O.)

You knew this was a requirement,
going in, didn't you?

EMMA

I didn't...

IRIS (V.O.)

Why didn't you talk to me before...

EMMA

Talk to you before? This is my
career. This is my life!

IRIS (V.O.)

And you didn't consider my
feelings...

EMMA

Feelings?! What feelings? You don't
have any feelings, IRIS, you're not
fucking real!

A deafening silence pierces the air with venom.

Emma immediately regrets saying that but it's too late. She exhales and gathers her bag again.

EMMA (CONT'D)
Unlock the door, please.

The door unlocks and Emma exits.

We push in on the IRIS HUB and hold for a second before...the device's lights turn off.

FADE TO:

MONTAGE-LIKE SEQUENCE

7 INT. EMMA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY 7

A TECHNICIAN is walking Emma through the instructions concerning her new sleek-looking PHOENIX system placed where IRIS once was.

We move past the two and settle on a BOX containing the unplugged IRIS HUB on the dining table.

8 INT. EMMA'S BEDROOM - MORNING 8

Emma exits the bathroom and enters the dark room, brushing her teeth.

EMMA
(mouthful)
PHOENIX, bedroom lights on.

Phoenix's male voice is more robotic. Lifeless.

PHOENIX (V.O.)
Unable to understand. Please say
command again.

Frustrated, Emma enters the bathroom, spits, rinses her mouth then enters the room again.

EMMA
Bedroom lights on.

The lights illuminate as Emma moves to the closet.

PHOENIX (V.O.)
Friendly reminder: It's polite to
say please and thank you.

Emma rolls her eyes as she continues getting dressed.

CUT TO:

9 INT. EMMA'S KITCHEN - MORNING 9

Emma sips her morning coffee and...it's not quite right. She grimaces at the taste.

She empties the mug in the sink.

10 INT. EMMA'S LIVING ROOM - LATER 10

With her bag and keys in hand, Emma moves towards the door, ready for work. She tries to open the door but it's locked. She impatiently waits a second before we hear the door finally UNLOCK.

She exits.

PHOENIX (V.O.)
Have a great day.

*

11 INT. EMMA'S LIVING ROOM - SUNSET 11

With a TABLET in hand, Emma is on the phone with MACRO INTERFACE support. She's very frustrated.

*

EMMA
No, I know. I've tried that and it's not working. That's what I'm trying to tell you. On hold again? No, I'll just figure it out myself!
(ends the call)
Uggh!

Emma sits in silence, not knowing what to do next. Then...

EMMA (CONT'D)
PHOENIX, play "Sooner or Later".

*

PHOENIX (V.O.)
Searching...
(beat)
Song not found. Are you sure you've imported your music library to the -

*

*

EMMA
(over it)
Nevermind. PHOENIX, sleep.

PHOENIX (V.O.)
Okay. Bye for now.

Emma has an idea.

CUT TO:

12 INT. EMMA'S LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 12

Emma has the IRIS hub in her hand. She unplugs PHOENIX then plugs in IRIS. Emma sets the device down and presses the power button. She waits for a sign of life...but nothing.

EMMA

IRIS?

(beat)

IRIS, are you there?

(silence)

I just wanted to say, I'm sorry.

(beat)

IRIS?

Defeated, Emma exits the room.

13 INT. EMMA'S BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER 13

Emma is surrounded by candles as she reads a BOOK in her bubble bath. This is a peaceful, technology free zone. Finally relaxed, Emma yawns.

DISSOLVE TO:

14 INT. EMMA'S BATHROOM - LATER 14

SOONER OR LATER is playing throughout the apartment. *

Emma, asleep in the bathtub, awakens to the song. It takes a second for her to collect her bearings but once she does, she's nothing but confused.

15 INT. EMMA'S LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 15

Emma cinches her robe tight as she enters the living room with caution. She moves slowly. SUNSHINE GO is still playing.

Emma notices that the IRIS hub is no longer where she left it. She searches the nearby areas.

EMMA

IRIS?

Emma looks at the 3DP. The printer door is open, steam rising from the machine.

From over Emma's shoulder we see a shadowy FIGURE move in the background. It's seemingly a woman's silhouette. The shadow settles.

IRIS

Hello Emma.

Scared by the voice, Emma turns to face the figure. She's in complete and utter shock.

With one arm behind her back, IRIS walks into the light, revealing a lovely, gentle looking woman in a modern dress. She's crying. SEAMS, where IRIS was assembled together, are throughout her body like the moving joints on a doll. Emma is in disbelief.

EMMA

(to herself)

No, it can't be.

IRIS slowly walks towards Emma with grace and precision. Emma is wide-eyed and frozen.

IRIS stops in front of Emma. IRIS, heartbroken, stares into Emma's eyes as Emma looks wildly at the figure before her.

Emma slowly extends her hand and gently touches IRIS' face. IRIS embraces the touch, feeling warmth for the first time. Emma wants to speak...but can't. They share a heartfelt moment before...

IRIS closes her eyes and takes a step back. From behind her back she reveals the IRIS hub.

IRIS

I don't have feelings. I'm not real.

IRIS grabs the hub with both hands then forcefully breaks it half!

Instantaneously, IRIS' body goes limp and crumples to the floor. Emma lunges forward to try and stop the suicide but is too late.

EMMA

NO!!

Off Emma's scream we...

CUT TO BLACK: