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By

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INT. THOMAS'S CAR - EARLY MORNING

THOMAS, a socially inept college student, is driving to campus to start his day. In the car we see software coding textbooks and a backpack. As he drives, we see a few people on the sidewalk on their way to class as well. He lets out a sigh and looks around, instantly regretting this as he accidentally makes eye contact with a student, and scolds himself.

All the while, we hear the radio in the background in which two people debate the political and economic climate. Thomas seems pulled in and listens intently.

RADIO VOICE HOST

... back with our guest, Tasha Graves. Now, for those just tuning in, Tasha has been touted for her work on this new... what do you call it? The... Global Unification Solution?

TASHA

Well, that's what it's being called by some of the media outlets, we just call it The Unity Project.

Thomas arrives at a parking lot, filled with cars. People pass nearby, but he avoids looking at them.

RADIO VOICE HOST

Right. So, explain to me again, and for our listeners, what makes this such a good idea--because, honestly, Tasha, I'm still struggling to see the merit.

TASHA

It's simple, it's just a matter of taking our global society in a direction that will better serve ALL of our people, even if it means doing away with tired traditions like money.

BEN, a rugged but calculated man knocks on the passenger window. Thomas is caught off guard and seems nearly panicked. He timidly looks to the window, where Ben waves.

RADIO VOICE HOST

But I'm sure you'll agree that the people who've worked for their money will be suffering--

Thomas looks back down and motions to be left alone.

TASHA

I disagree. By uniting our globe into one community, we will have all the resources necessary, everyone's needs will be well met, and--

Ben knocks again. Thomas gets increasingly distressed, tries to collect himself.

RADIO VOICE HOST

And suddenly the rich don't matter?

TASHA

Their needs will be met. They will have no need to worry about--

RADIO VOICE HOST

You're avoiding my point. People, for instance, like me, who've built their wealth to have better lives than most--

TASHA

That. That is the root of our issue--

Thomas turns the radio off and rolls down the window.

THOMAS

Yeah?

BEN

Hey Thomas. Can we chat?

Ben is already reaching in the window and opening Thomas's door. He climbs inside.

Thomas babbles incoherently for a moment, Ben cuts him off.

BEN

Take a breath, pal.

THOMAS

You--I don't know you. I need you to--

Thomas struggles to breathe, tries to calm himself down with his head resting on the steering wheel.

BEN

I'm just gonna talk for a sec. Okay?

Ben. Nice to meet you. You can just listen. I'm only a messenger for a guy, really wants to meet you.

THOMAS

No, I don't want to--

BEN

The less you interrupt the quicker I'm gone. Got it?

Thomas clenches his fist, then nods, a bit desperate.

BEN

I'm with a group of people who don't want the world to fall apart. Simple. Everyone's up in arms about something these days. Do we blame em? No. But everyone's gotta pick a side, see? You got rich people scared of losing their influence, religious people scared of losing their control, you know... stuff like that. Well, we represent the normal-er people. We could give a shit about what ever form of mind control people feel they're losing to this unification thing. What we don't want to lose is our privacy. Everyone knows about the whole "woohoo, no more money no more debt" mumbo jumbo--but what nobody's asking is, what are they replacing it with?

Thomas looks up, shrugs

BEN

Personal Privacy important to you?

INT. THOMAS'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Thomas gets back in his car to find a white paper envelope on the floor of the passenger's seat. He opens it to reveal a note, which he quickly peruses, and a flash-drive labeled "-&)". He puts it down in the seat next to him, ignites the engine and speeds off.

INT. THOMAS'S APARTMENT - 15 MINUTES LATER

Thomas enters his door already speaking. The place is unkempt, dirty dishes and clothes are scattered around.

THOMAS

(as he's closing the door)

No, I said I don't want to talk about
Jesus, please go away.

Thomas moves through the mess to his laptop on a coffee table. He inserts the flash-drive and up pops a list of web addresses. He apprehensively clicks on the first one, labeled, "Whatsnew.org", which brings him to a site taking applications for a strange organization. He clicks a few more, we see him get increasingly disturbed.

EXT. THOMAS'S APARTMENT BUILDING - MOMENTS LATER

Thomas is pacing on the phone on the sidewalk.

THOMAS

You are telling me these people are
all looking to... what... take over
the world?

BEN

In a manner of speaking. Most of them
would prefer things not change at all,
but hey, when life hands you lemons--

THOMAS

And you think they're gonna try to
recruit me?

BEN

Probably more like force you to help.
I mean, what did I say? Those computer
skills are a hot commodity.

THOMAS

No. I'm not gonna do that.

BEN

Hmm... Gonna be honest, doubt that
will make em rethink the strategy.

THOMAS

If this is some scare tactic to make
me work with you, I swear--

We start to see a car pull up with a few men looking through the open windows at Thomas. The car slows to a stop, two men get out and head in his direction.

BEN
Look, I'm not forcing you to do
anything. You can try your luck but--

The men speak into lapel walkie-talkies and head for Thomas,
who mumbles nervously.

BEN
Thomas? You alright?

THOMAS
Where can I meet you?

BEN
You good? If you need--

THOMAS
BEN, TELL ME WHERE TO COME, NOW.

BEN
uhh... come meet me near the airport.

Thomas hangs up and sprints away, the men pursue.

EXT. CITY STREETS - IMMEDIATELY AFTER

Thomas Runs down a few blocks as the men start to gain on
him. He runs down an alley, knocking over a construction
ladder and some garbage cans. He weaves between buildings and
stumbles into a parking lot where a man is seen loading his
family's SUV for a trip. Noticing the keys are already in the
ignition, he jumps in the SUV as the man is heading inside,
speeding away, back hatch still wide open. The man runs out
shouting in disbelief and anger, the luggage falls out.

EXT. AIRPORT - MOMENTS LATER

Thomas throws the vehicle in park. He leaps from the SUV
looks for Ben, but doesn't see him. He dials the phone.

THOMAS
Come on...

Ben appears behind him, covers Thomas's mouth with a rag, as
he falls limp. Ben drags him toward a car nearby.

BEN
Come on pal. Let's go save the world.

FADE TO BLACK