

CONTINUUM

"I Just Want To See The Stars"

by
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"I JUST WANT TO SEE THE STARS"

TEASER

BLACK

Under which WE HEAR nothing. Several seconds of total silence. Then the VOICE of the NARRATOR is HEARD.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Existence is a path with a
beginning...

A point of light appears left of frame in the lower third of the screen. It pulses ever so slightly.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
...and an end.

A second point of light appears right of frame, directly across from the first. It also pulses slightly.

A line of light emanates from within the first point of light, slowly moving across the screen toward the second point.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Life is the journey along this
path.

The line of light continues its slow pace across the screen.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Life is a continuum.

The TITLE "CONTINUUM" FADES IN above the line of light, center screen. Its appearance is identical to that of the points and line. After two beats the TITLE GLOWS BRIGHTER, THEN DIMS AND SLOWLY FADES AWAY.

The line of light reaches a point 1/4 of the way across the screen, then veers slowly to the right, just slightly off line. It slows, then stops. ANOTHER TITLE FADES IN at its end. The title reads "May 1, 2027, Valencia, California"

Lingering for a moment, the title, points and line of light all FADE AWAY SIMULTANEOUSLY and we are plunged into black again.

FADE IN:

INT. NONDESCRIPT ROOM - VIDEO SURVEILLANCE CAMERA VIEW

The image is video, color but clearly of the lower resolution common to a surveillance camera.

CAMERA is HIGH AND WIDE, taking in the four windowless walls that make up this very bland cubicle, say 10' by 10'. A bed in a corner, one or two wall hangings betraying no hint of personality (a static nature scene, a precise but unartistic sculpture). A stark floor lamp. A sheet of bare flooring.

Two items are of particular interest. The first is a large rectangular flat panel monitor, electronic, about one foot across by 2 1/2 feet in length (think a small floor length mirror). It hangs upon one wall about three feet from the floor.

Across the top of its black frame is a single word in silver lettering.

"Activitron."

The Activitron (as we shall henceforth refer to this device) is on, active, displaying the following message on its surface: "Task 7, 3:00 remaining for optimum completion attainment." The 3:00 is a digital clock that is counting down to zero.

The second item of interest sits at a desk near room center.

It is a GIRL, or a WOMAN, her back to the CAMERA.

She is young, but her age cannot be determined; she could be anywhere from 12 to 22. Her medium length hair is pulled back in a neat ponytail. She is dressed in a grey-ish blue top and dark slacks.

In front of her rest a computer monitor and keyboard. With a few books, a notebook and a pencil to her right. A desk lamp illuminates the work area.

And directly in front of her, hanging on the wall, silently continuing its countdown, is the Activitron. 2:51. 2:50. 2:49.

This girl/young woman appears to be studying a text document of some sort on the monitor.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. NONDESCRIPT ROOM

The shot is identical to the previous shot except that it is now full color. The grainy, low resolution video surveillance look is gone.

We now are no longer observers; we are in the room itself.

CAMERA SLOWLY CRANES DOWN from the high angle and MOVES AROUND the girl/young woman at the desk. She intently studies the text on the screen in front of her, then types, then studies again.

CAMERA MOVE STOPS, revealing the face of the girl/young woman at the desk. She is plain but pretty in a normal, every day sense. No makeup. And no further indication of her age.

Her expression is emotionless but her eyes betray her. They are red, bloodshot, exhausted. Focused on the screen but barely holding on.

She takes a brief moment to look at the Activitron, which silently continues its steady, relentless countdown. 2:01. 2:00. 1:59.

Her eyes lower, returning to the computer screen. The observant viewer may notice a slight eye movement, almost imperceptible, that perhaps indicates an awareness that she knows she is being watched. It is only momentary and disappears quickly.

Staring at the computer screen, she takes the pencil in hand and begins to write something down in her notebook.

INSERT NOTEBOOK

She writes on the first line: "Expense analysis is vital to business success."

Her pencil moves to the second line.

She writes: "I just want to see the stars."

ANOTHER ANGLE

To include both the girl/young woman and the notebook upon which she is writing. And also the Activitron, lurking coldly in the background.

Life appears in her weary eyes as she studies the words that she has just written. Although she remains expressionless, her eyes are sparkling ever so slightly.

Then, with her left hand, she slowly, deftly slides the second line off of the notebook.

It was a slip of paper that only appeared to be a line on the notebook page.

She continues to write on the notebook page: "Labor cost is counter productive to revenue growth." While at the same time sliding the slip of paper under one of her books.

Suddenly the Activitron SOUNDS A BUZZER ALARM, like that of an alarm clock. The countdown vanishes at the 1:40 mark, replaced by three messages that flash one right after the other, over and over.

"IDLE TIME IS WASTED TIME."

"YOU MUST BE PREPARED."

"YOU MUST BE BUSY."

The girl/young woman holds her composure save a barely detectable biting of her lower lip. Her eyes focus on the screen.

She sets the pencil down and her hands return to the keyboard. The slip of paper is hidden.

"IDLE TIME IS WASTED TIME."

"YOU MUST BE PREPARED."

"YOU MUST BE BUSY."

She begins typing.

"IDLE TIME IS WASTED TIME."

"YOU MUST BE PREPARED."

"YOU MUST BE BUSY."

CAMERA MOVES IN CLOSER on her face. The strain in her young countenance is becoming evident.

"IDLE TIME IS WASTED TIME."

"YOU MUST BE PREPARED."

"YOU MUST BE BUSY."

She continues to read and type.

5.

The message and the alarm will not stop.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER