

NARRATOR (CONT'D)  
 Something happened that summer of  
 2051, something extraordinary after  
 which nothing would ever be the  
 same. Not even us.

She smiles and turns away from the painting and picks up a watering jug. She begins watering some plants in front of her.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)  
 But let's start at the beginning.  
 Wait... Ah yes: Once upon a time...  
 Isn't that how fairytales start?

CUT TO:

4C INT. BEN'S ROOM - MORNING

4C

In full make up, Cherry looks so sophisticated. She is ready to go into her video-call. She stretches her facial muscles and repeats what seems to be a professional mantra.

CHERRY  
 Alright, I am here. I am now. Today  
 is the day...

Suddenly Ben's face freezes.

BEN  
 Oh shit! What day is it?

Cherry turns to her screen. Big smile.

CHERRY  
 (too cheery)  
 Hi team!

Ben jumps up, pulls on his trousers, grabs his jacket and...

CHERRY (CONT'D)  
 ...How is everyone today? I went  
 over the proposal, it's great, I  
 would just like to...

...runs through Cherry's video-call frame causing a minor commotion. She gives him a "what the hell?" look.

CHERRY (CONT'D)  
 (to screen)  
 I'm so sorry about that.

Ben flies out the door...

INSERT:

A needle touches vinyl. MUSIC plays as...

4B OMITTED

4B

5 EXT. THE CONTAINER CASTLE - DAY

5

...Ben comes flying out of the door to his apartment and dashes down a long corridor. He almost crashes into other YOUNG PEOPLE heading down the corridor or locking their doors. Huey Lewis and the News 'Power of Love' is playing, evoking the famous opening scene of *Back to the Future*. As Ben rushes past, he is haphazardly trying to put on his jacket.

As he runs out of the complex of living-containers, we understand just how huge it is. He dodges YOUNG PEOPLE on bikes and electric scooters. They all seem lost in their own worlds.

5B THE RUNNING SEQUENCE IS A MONTAGE LEADING INTO SC.6...

5B

...Of Ben running and images of an overpopulated and environmentally devastated world: storms, industrial agriculture, aerial views of urban sprawl, gas fires shooting into the air, polluted waterways.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
 Welcome to the 2050s, a dark time  
 if there ever was one. The new  
 climate had become a reality. We  
 had become 10 billion people,  
 fighting over resources, wrestling  
 over every last bit of future.

(beat)  
 But to Ben, Cherry and Fini it was  
 just 'the world', the only one  
 they'd ever known, and they had no  
 reason to question it.

6 EXT. CITY STREET, "BACK TO THE FUTURE" - DAY

6

Ben dashes through a series of back alleys between houses built over water on stilts. In the foreground, on a water-level meter, there is a sign that reads 'Historic flood of 2042'. The sky is a brooding dark grey. Ben almost knocks over a passerby on a mono-wheel. He is being watched by the CLASSY WOMAN IN HER SIXTIES.

He rushes past a digital public-address-billboard showing a WEATHER WARNING about imminent storms.

Ben comes flying down a path by a canal. Futuristic architecture. People - some of them with face masks - are using electronic mobility devices of all kinds, hoverboards, scooters, mono-wheels...

BEN  
Nice!

CHERRY  
It's gonna be a lot of work, but  
it's good, really good.  
And...ah...yeah...I was wondering,  
could I work from your place?  
'Cause, you know, you got light and  
everything...

BEN  
*Mi casa es su casa.*

CHERRY  
*Tu casa es mi office.*

Ben goes back to looking through records. His sudden loss of interest dampens Cherry's spirits a little. She watches Ben who's completely absorbed again.

Suddenly Ben stops flipping through the records. He pulls one out with reverence, like it's a holy relic. *Pet Sounds* by the Beach Boys. He looks over at Vintage Man in amazement.

BEN  
No way!

Vintage Man grins knowingly.

BEN (CONT'D)  
You're the King Selecta.

Ben turns to him and, record in hand, does an exuberant bow. As he does so, an old NEWSPAPER CLIPPING slips from the record sleeve.

CHERRY  
(picking up the clipping)  
What's this?

The clipping shows the Beach Boys in front of a cage at the San Diego Zoo. Inside the cage is a giraffe. Cherry laughs. She shows Ben the picture. Ben stares at the animal. Mesmerized.

BEN  
What is that? Some kinda rubber horse?

CHERRY  
That can't be real. Look at that neck!

Vintage Man watches them sadly. He holds up his notepad: "Giraffe." Ben and Cherry exchange a look and shrug. She touches a golden button on her neck and speaks clearly.

CHERRY (CONT'D)  
What is giraffe?

She waits for an answer.

SMART DEVICE (O.S.)  
Giraffe is a surveillance app with a five-star rating that let's you-

Vintage Man shushes her almost aggressively. He jabs his finger at the giraffe on the picture as if to reinforce his point. When Ben and Cherry just look at him puzzled, he angrily stomps to the back of the store. Ben and Cherry look at each other, amused. He returns with a stack of DVDs and VHS tapes. He shoves them at Ben. They are all old NATURE DOCUMENTARIES.

BEN  
Oooh! Movies! Nice.

CHERRY  
(dry, unenthused)  
Great. Movies.

Reads from the cover.

BEN  
'XXXXX'(name of nature movie with African animals). You got something we can watch these on?

8

INT. BEN'S ROOM, "INTERNET OF THE FUTURE" - NIGHT

8

A cluttered internet browser. Ads, information, clickbait: a 1000 things demanding your attention at once. It's dizzying. The page shows crazy animals. They look photoshopped. Nothing is believable.

Fini swipes his device screen in frustration. Ads and contents flock to his finger like piranhas. He flicks them away with his finger.

FINI  
I'm not finding anything.

He nods at the movie projected on the wall. A bird of paradise is doing a mating dance. Cherry and Ben are sitting next to him on the tatami bed. Ben is watching the movie, not really part of their conversation.

CHERRY  
That makes sense, 'cause they're not real.

She takes a hit off a futuristic vaping machine and points at the image on the wall.