

Engrams

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EXT. ADVERTISEMENT ON A BUILDING- EVENING

The quote from Alexander Pope: How happy is the blameless vestal's lot! / The world forgetting, by the world forgot / Eternal sunshine of the spotless mind! / Each pray'r accepted, and each wish resign'd.

THE CAMERA ENTERS THE BUILDING.

INT. ELEVATOR- EVENING

Two boys are playing.

BOY 1
You want your mum to forget about
the Johnsons' fight?

BOY 2
Yes! I don't wanna hear the same
shit again!

BOY 1
You just have to enter the right
code and close your eyes. We have
to get to the top floor. If the
door opens you haven't got it
right!

FADING BLACK

INT. ELEVATOR- EVENING

Dr. Howard enters the elevator.

DR. HOWARD
What are you kids doing here?

BOY 1
Nothing!
(mobile phone ringing)

DR. HOWARD
Yes! I'm on my way! Keep him under
control. Block the stimuli. Lower
his blood pressure!
(kids whispering)

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INT. JOEL'S HOUSE- NIGHT

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Joel lays on the bed. Stan is leading the memory erasing
Procedure.

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STAN

Strange things have been happening.

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DR. HOWARD

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Have you checked for hyperthymesia?

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STAN

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He can forget small details. He
just seems to be immune to our
autobiographical memory inhibitor.
I don't know what to do.

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(Dr. Howard takes out his
laptop)

DR. HOWARD

Let's decode his visual memory.
Give me his present brain activity.

STAN

This is illegal!

DR. HOWARD

(laughing) Watching his memory
struggling is just cinematic,
not illegal! Lacuna says
images are not intimate.

STAN

Why do you wanna do this?

DR. HOWARD

Lacuna cannot afford another
failure in the newspaper!
Individuals forget. The world
doesn't!

INT. ROOM-AN OLD TAPE ROLLING-NIGHT

(pouring some wine into a
glass)

CLEMENTINE (FROM HIS MIND)

Listening to these tapes is like
playing a song you know you are
supposed to remember.

JOEL

But you don't.

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CLEMENTINE (FROM HIS MIND)
The wine is good.

JOEL
Clementine, why do you think Lacuna sent us these tapes? Maybe if it wouldn't...

CLEMENTINE (FROM HIS MIND)
Oh give me a break. I don't need you blaming me for this and I don't need your fucking regrets. I know who I am even if I don't remember how we used to fuck each other before.

JOEL
Yeah! You sound like a newborn with a glass of wine in its hands. Why do you listen to this crap if you are so certain of yourself? Curiosity?! No! You want your story, but how do you get it back when you only have it on a tape? That's what you don't seem to be able to do.

CLEMENTINE (FROM HIS MIND)
You can eat this tape if you want, I'm gonna have some more wine.

INT. ROOM- DAY

(Joel watching TV)

TV SPEAKER Remembering details of your childhood is a brain cells waste. Your operational capacity is 10 per cent slower because of this. You can change everything now. Childhood memory is not an input you have chosen. Be free! Create your own life frame.

TV SPEAKER 2
Memory is a primitive reaction to stimuli. Long term memory creates history and violence. It's far time to prevent the coming war. Postpone remembrance! There is an optimized function for storage which eliminates the disadvantages of random memory.

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EXT. THE OPEN AIR-DAY

We see the picks of the buildings. Then, there's a strange noise and our attention is driven towards an unusual object flying on the sky. We go back to the tops of the buildings and enter them vertically, as if we could descend through the roof. We get in front of the closed doors of an elevator.

INT. MEDICAL ROOM-DAY

We see the closed doors of a room. We hear this conversation blankly, with no image at all. Only at the end of the conversation we can see the faces of the people talking and the interior of the room.

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DOCTOR

Why do you remember the elevator?

PATIENT (UNDERCOVER REBEL)

Because I don't remember the floor.

DOCTOR

But how can you know the floor if you're inside the elevator?

PATIENT (UNDERCOVER REBEL)

There's a screen with numbers there, don't you know?

DOCTOR

So you were inside the elevator when the riot started?

PATIENT (UNDERCOVER REBEL)

Yes, there was noise.

DOCTOR

And what did you do?

PATIENT (UNDERCOVER REBEL)

I waited for the doors to open again.

DOCTOR

And?

PATIENT (UNDERCOVER REBEL)

They didn't.

DOCTOR

Do you remember the last face you saw before getting into the elevator?

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RADIO SPEAKER

...have registered a five year record in the number of deaths at sea relating to migrants illegal attempts to reach the European coasts by boat. Closer to home, tragedy doesn't spare the American shores either, as we learn from the last of mayor's office press releases that more than 7300 new yorkers are now suffering from the mysterious condition known as Déjà vu depression. In spite of the fact that it has repeatedly been confirmed that all the victims were, at some time in the past, patients of the same memory modification company, Lacuna, both the mayoral office and the company's CEO, Dr Howard Mierzwiak, deny any link between the Lacuna's practices and the vicious condition. Our field correspondent has more information on Dr Mierzwiak's latest claims...

Jonathan Reese walks briskly to the bathroom, still having his headphones on, shoving the phone in his trousers. He turns on a light in the bathroom and starts sprinkling water on his face and washing his teeth.

CUT TO

Jonathan's face in the mirror, continuing to brush his teeth while the radio goes on.

RADIO SPEAKER

...as before, there is no official recognition of the memory erasing role in triggering the physical and psychological severe apathy these people appear to suffer of. What's

RADIO SPEAKER (cont'd) more interesting is the fact that the obscure deasee seems to not be confied to New York's city limits as more and more

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cases are being reported every hour from across the country.

CUT TO

Jonathan exits the bathroom and entering the kitchen he turns on the light and starts to brew the coffee. The radio continues.

RADIO SPEAKER

Whether these new cases spreading from as far as Minnesota to Washington and Luisiana, and plaguing mainly the big urban centers, are or not a direct cause of the controversial memory inhibiting techniques, remains to be confirmed.

CUT TO

On the kitchen floor, Jonathan has spread a yoga mat and now he's doing fast push-ups on it.
(The headphones and the phone have been removed. The coffee steams on the table)

INT. JONATHAN REESE'S BEDROOM. MORNING, LIGHT OUTSIDE

Jonathan selects some office clothes from the closet and puts them on. The TV is playing in another room. (In the morning light, the room looks neat and austere) Fully clothed and well-arranged, Jonathan walks back to the bathroom.

CUT TO

Jonathan's face in the bathroom mirror.

JONATHAN REESE

Hello, I'm Jonathan Reese, I'm here to talk about the movie... Hi, I'm Jonathan Reese, the filmmaker...

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Hello
Dr. Mierzvr.. Miersv.. Mierzwiatk.. Oh fuck me... Hello Dr. Mierzwiak, I am honored to finally meet you in person.. Fuck that... too ass-kisser.. Dr. Mierzwiak, I am so glad you accepted my offer. I promise you, everything I see here

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(CONTINUED) CONTINUED: 3. (cont'd) .

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will be rendered as objectively as possible. I will not allow myself to communicate to my viewers a biased representation of reality..
 Aaah..Screw it! If he doesn't want this, there's no way I can just charm him. Too much at stake.

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OUTSIDE LACUNA'S OFFICE BUILDING

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INT. ELEVATOR- EVENING

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Clementine from his mind and Joel are inside an elevator. The elevator is moving rapidly and the floor numbers from the little screen are rolling at a high speed. There is a profound noise inside.

CLEMENTINE (FROM HIS MIND)

Don't be afraid. We're inside a maximum security building.

JOEL

I don't understand anything. Who are you? Where are we going?

CLEMENTINE (FROM HIS MIND)

We are inside your mind and I don't know where we're going.

JOEL

What dream is this? Are we going to crash?

CLEMENTINE (FROM HIS MIND)

A mind is never crashing. It is just transforming itself. Memory is the floor you always imagine when you're inside the elevator. It's an exterior coordinate and just a spacial pre-supposition.

JOEL

My head.

CLEMENTINE (FROM HIS MIND)

Meet me in your future memories.

The elevator starts shaking. It's going down. The camera is on the closed doors of the elevator. We hear Joel screaming. The on button of a camera ends his scream. We are looking through the digital camera and see him on his bad undertaking the procedure. Then we see that the one holding the camera is Jonathan.

EXT. STREETS-DAY

We see the big view of the city. As we go down people seem to move slower and slower. In slow motion we see a robot handing coffee to a bunch of people.

INT. JONATHAN'S SISTER HOUSE- DAY

Jonathan and his sister's husband are all sitting around the table.

JONATHAN'S SISTER
 E I'm so glad you came Jonathan. You
 D haven't visited us since we got
 married.

: JONATHAN
 I've been busy.

JONATHAN'S SISTER
 Have you found a job?

JONATHAN
 Had some interviews. They went
 great.

THE HUSBAND
 (laughing)
 Well you better find a job cause
 he'll be soon asking what's his
 uncle doing for a living.

JONATHAN
 Who's he?

THE HUSBAND
 Darling, haven't you told him yet?

JONATHAN'S SISTER
 We barely talked on the phone.
 That's why I haven't told you. I'm
 pregnant.

JONATHAN
 Pregnant?!!

JONATHAN'S SISTER
 Aren't you happy for me? My life
 will be complete now.

JONATHAN
 Sorry. I gotta go. I have a meeting
 with Pete.

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JONATHAN'S SISTER

But I made apple pie for desert.
It's your favorite.

JONATHAN

Well, save my piece of pie for the
new member of the family. I'm
sorry, sis. I really have to go.

EXT. STREET-DAY

Jonathan gets out of his sister's house. The camera follows him down the street. He seems very self-absorbed with his hands in his pockets.

INT. HOSPITAL- DAY

We are inside Jonathan's memory, back into the past. He's chasing a nurse on the corridor.

NURSE 1

We have her state under control.
We're doing all that's best for
you're sister, but you gotta
understand she's not the only
patient in here, Mr. Reese. I have
to go.

JONATHAN

There's gotta be some kind of
neurochemical treatment for her. If
I take her home she'll try to kill
herself again.

NURSE 1

I told you. We did everything that
was in our power. Take her to a
psychologist.

JONATHAN

I did that and here she is.

NURSE 1

You know what to do if you want to
save her. Is the only way she will
forget about her child's death.

JONATHAN

Oh, no! I can't believe you're
suggesting that.

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NURSE 1

N You wanted a solution. Lacuna is
T the rapid one.

JONATHAN

I I can't believe it! Who's paying
N you to do this? How dare you? I
U will never do that to my sister. I
don't have the right to decide upon
her own past.

NURSE 1

E Then let the future decide in her
D place, Mr. Reese. That's what you
moralists don't seem to understand.
: We're talking about
self-preservation amnesia. The
ability to forget is saving our
race. Now, excuse me, Mr. Reese. I
have to do my job!

EXT. STREETS-DAY

We see Jonathan advancing down the street. He takes his hands out of his pockets. He looks at a device on his wrist, which is measuring his heart beats. It seems to indicate a red alarm concerning his pulse.

EXT. BUS STATION-DAY

We are inside Joel's mind. He and Clementine from his mind are getting into a bus.

CLEMENTINE (FROM HIS MIND)

When you let go you have to forgive yourself. Morning brings new meaning for you to be able to accept your oblivion. They always remind you of who you are and you always forgive them so that they can tell you new things about yourself.

JOEL

Where are we going?

CLEMENTINE (FROM HIS MIND)

We're going home.

JOEL

I can't remember. Where do we live?

CLEMENTINE (FROM HIS MIND)
Inside oblivion.

Joel and Clementine from his mind are getting down from the bus. They are entering another one.

JOEL
Hey, we've been here before. We've taken this bus to get home.

CLEMENTINE
We always take this bus to get home. (laughing)

JOEL
No. We took this bus five minutes ago. We were so close to home. What happened?

CLEMENTINE
I don't get your joke, Joel!

JOEL
Stop the bus. It's a reality trap.

CLEMENTINE
Stop screaming. People are looking at us. Come on darling, calm down. Are you feeling good? You want me to take you to a doctor?

INT. JOHNATHAN'S ROOM-NIGHT

Johnathan is sleeping in his bed. Suddenly the phone rings. He lets it ring for a couple of times, then picks it up.

JONATHAN
Hello?
!

He jumps out of his bad and starts dressing quickly.

INT. JOHNATAN'S SISTER HOUSE- DAY

HUSBAND
I'm glad you came. I don't know what to do. I took the baby to my mother. She's taking care of him.

JONATHAN
Where is she?

HUSBAND
In her room. One day she just couldn't get out of bed. She said

it's time for me to know the truth. She said she thought she could live with it and that's why she started a family, but it's too much now. She says she's lived every second of this before. When she looks at our son she just knows she had raised him before and that she had been here before. She said that she doesn't have the strength to do it again. She ain't capable of repeating the same story.

JONATHAN

"Deja-vu depression" symptoms.

HUSBAND

Some say it is connected to Lacuna, but it's not her case.

JONATHAN

No, it's not.

HUSBAND

What shall I do?

JONATHAN

Look after her.

HUSBAND

But she doesn't wanna see me. I hired a woman.

JONATHAN

It's not her that doesn't wanna see you. It's her depression. I'll try and talk to her.

HUSBAND

Jonathan, wait! You know, I really love your sister. But something is curious. She never used to talk about her past. You know, highschool stuff, parents, you. Tell me more about who she was before I met her.

JONATHAN

There's nothing to tell. She had a normal life. The sort of life

(MORE)

JONATHAN (cont'd)

everybody remembers, but doesn't want to talk about.

Screaming and yelling coming from upstairs. They run towards that room. They find her sitting next to the bed. She's crying.

JONATHAN'S SISTER

I've done this before. I've been here before. Nobody believes me. Just the sound of yelling seems different. Everything else is just repetition. I don't wanna hear my voice anymore. Get me out of here.

JONATHAN

Sis, look at me! Hey, listen to me! Let's go out. Enjoy the sun a bit. You've always liked to walk. Come...

INT. A CAR-NIGHT

Joel and Clementine from his mind are driving.

CLEMENTINE (FROM HIS MIND)

Be careful. There's always a dear on the road, coming from nowhere, in movies.

JOEL

Only in horror films.

CLEMENTINE (FROM HIS MIND)

Call them gothic. I never understood how is it that we remember fear?

JOEL

Maybe we keep it in our bodies and not in our mental images.

CLEMENTINE (FROM HIS MIND)

We've been driving since...

JOEL

I can't remember.

CLEMENTINE (FROM HIS MIND)

Maybe it's time to stop for a coffee.

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They stop the car and the camera watches them soundlessly
through the car window.

EXT. STREETS-DAY

JONATHAN is walking the streets again. He sees people
faces, but doesn't seem to observe anything. There is the
Lacuna advertisement on the building. He looks at the poetry
lines, from the first scene, and seems to look at them long
enough to have time to read them.

He sees two people fighting about something. Then we get the
panoramic view of the city. (New York, maybe)

INT. CAFETERIA- DAY

JONATHAN

Thank you for accepting my
invitation, Ms. Kruczynski! I want
to ask for a favor.

CLEMENTINE (THE REAL ONE)

I don't usually do favors, Mr...?

JONATHAN

Reese, but call me John!

CLEMENTINE (THE REAL ONE)

I'm listening...

JONATHAN

It's about your husband.

CLEMENTINE (THE REAL ONE)

Not again. I don't wanna hear about
him.

JONATHAN

But you have a history together and
legally you're still his wife. You
both underwent a memory erasing
procedure at the beginning of your
relationship in 2027, when Lacuna
collapsed. You got back together in
2030. Why is it that Mr. Barish
wanted to undertake the procedure
again?

CLEMENTINE (THE REAL ONE)

Why would I answer your question?
What is this about?

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JONATHAN

We want to make a documentary about Joel's case. It's a special one. We wanna offer the people a real image about what an erasing procedure means. It's a taboo issue in this country. People don't talk about this. When you google it all you can find is Lacuna's advertisements. Nobody from outside has access to the archives and the people who work there are not allowed to talk about what they really do. Lacuna will have to agree to this, because we have a friend at the government, who will clear our way in. The problem is we need your signiture to get close to Joel.

CLEMENTINE

What?! You think I can decide in his place?

JONATHAN

Legally, you can!

CLEMENTINE

You're crazy. Leave Joel alone. He doesn't want to be anybody's object of research.

JONATHAN

Please, Clementine! It's not Joel I'm intrested in. It's a whole phenomenon that's silencing our society. This is more important than you think!

CLEMENTINE (THE REAL ONE)

You know, I don't like this place. They make terrible coffee. It was a bad choice and I don't need somebody with such bad tastes telling me about what's important and what's not. A good coffee would have been really important to me. Good bye!

JONATHAN Clementine, your husband is unconscious. He cannot make meaning out of what's happening to him. I can. You have to trust me.

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O CLEMENTINE (THE REAL ONE) 7

N stops and
thinks. .

T Do you have a pen, Mr....?

I JONATHAN

N Call me John!

EXT. STREETS-DAY

E We see the crowded city and people walking on the streets.

D INT. DR. HOWARD'S OFFICE-DAY

Jonathan is contemplating a small brain with electrical coloured lines on it. The lines can be manipulated with touch.

DR. HOWARD
Careful with that. You don't wanna entangle the networks.

JONATHAN
Hello, Mr. Mierzwiak! I'm...

DR. HOWARD
You're the documentarist. Sit down!

JONATHAN
Thank you for meeting me!

DR. HOWARD
I know why you're here. Curiosity! That's very humane, John and we're dealing here with things that need to overcome that. Why are you interested in this particular patient?

JONATHAN
He's an interesting case.

DR. HOWARD
We are all interesting cases. Documentarists never see the potential, only the enactment.

JONATHAN
Why is Joel's erasing procedure taking so long? Is there a precedent?

DR. HOWARD
Joel is a determined guy. We're

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C just keeping him under observation
O a bit longer.

N JONATHAN
N And what does this monitorization
T imply?

I DR. HOWARD
N You are here to witness and
U document things, not to ask
E questions that involve medical
D procedures that are far beyond an
) outsider's understanding.

E JONATHAN
D I was just trying to set a context
: for what I'm shooting. I need as
much information as possible.

DR. HOWARD
Ok! You will get the informations
you want, John, but I don't wanna
see moral, religious or pathetic
judgements about what we do. You
will have access to matters that do
not keep the public opinion
neutral. So be careful! People have
verdicts for everything, even for
what they do not know. I do not
want unreasonable scandals. I have
to go now. Patients are waiting.
They all want it done quick.
Goodbye, John.

INT. JOEL'S HOUSE- DAY

Jonathan is shooting his documentary. We have a close-up of
Joel's face.

VOICE OVER
Day 4: The Lacuna patient is still
unconscious. The doctors are
working his case. Looking at him
there's only one question
lingering: What would be the first
thing he'll say when he wakes-up?

EXT. PARK-DAY

Johnathan is walking along the crowded park. Pete, the
patient from the previous scene is walking with him.

JONATHAN
Take out your phone battery.

PATIENT (UNDERCOVER REBEL)
Ok! What's with you?

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JONATHAN
They are spying on people's calls
and now they are inside our brains.

PATIENT (UNDERCOVER REBEL)
It won't be for long. The
insurgency is waiting for your
signal. We will take Lacuna down.

JONATHAN
Has anybody followed you?

PATIENT (UNDERCOVER REBEL)
No! You're paranoid. Is there
something you wanna tell me? Did
you get inside the company.

JONATHAN
Yes. But I don't have access to
files. He's always keeping an eye
on me.

PATIENT (UNDERCOVER REBEL)
We knew it would take time.

JONATHAN
I just want this done.

PATIENT (UNDERCOVER REBEL)
We just think about the attack and
how to get thing right in this
fucking world, but have you ever
asked yourself what will you do
after? They will build another
company in a couple of years. Once
they got the technology you can't
stop them. No revolution takes down
possibilities, just temporary
situations.

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JONATHAN
I don't think like this. For me
everything is personal. It's just
revenge for what they did to my
sister.

PATIENT (UNDERCOVER REBEL)
But the fight is larger, John?
People who're doing this are
fighting for the entire society.
You know why memory erasing has
been adopted without questioning
its effects?

JONATHAN
...

PATIENT (UNDERCOVER REBEL)
Because people only think about
their personal dramas.

JONATHAN
Even the big humanity dramas are
still personal.

PATIENT (UNDERCOVER REBEL)
You don't get it, John!

JONATHAN
Well, maybe I don't have to. I can
do my job either way.

Johnathan leaves, but he seems self-absorbed again. He puts
his hands in his pockets and sits on a bank.

INT. LACUNA'S BUILDING-DAY

Johnathan is tormented. He remembers the day he took his
sister to Lacuna for an erasing procedure.

NURSE
Are you her only relative?

JONATHAN
Yes!

NURSE
Did you ask her something before
bringing her here?

JONATHAN
Yes. I did. She couldn't answer.
She was in a state...

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NURSE

It's ok, mr. Reese. It's the best you can do for your sister.

JONATHAN

How do you know that?

NURSE

I saw the other patients.

JONATHAN

How long will it take?

NURSE

A couple of days. You will not be allowed to see her during this period. Do you have all the money now?

JONATHAN

Yes!

NURSE

We are a very private company. None of this will appear in your sister's record. She will never know, nor the people around her. This is the contract. I want you to read it carefully and sign here if you agree to our terms. Mr. Reese? Mr. Reese? Are you ok?

JONATHAN

Yes, yes...

EXT.PARK-DAY

Johnathan rises from where he was sitting. He checks the time and starts looking for a taxi.

EXT.MOUNTAIN-DAY

Inside Joel's mind. He is walking with Clementine, from his mind (not the real Clementine). They are climbing a mountain. The wind is blowing.

CLEMENTINE (FROM HIS MIND)

Do you remember why we are here?

JOEL

Did I ever know?

CLEMENTINE (FROM HIS MIND)

We know everything before the memories do.

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JOEL
Is this a long distance?

CLEMENTINE (FROM HIS MIND)
Yes! Distance is the only oblivion possible.

JOEL
What will happen when we get to the end of the trip?

CLEMENTINE (FROM HIS MIND)
You will never see me and you will not remember anything. I will be just an association of your mind. You call me Clementine, but I'm something else.

JOEL
Isn't there a backdoor?

CLEMENTINE (FROM HIS MIND)
Not here.

JOEL
But where?

CLEMENTINE (FROM HIS MIND)
Look at the traces.

JOEL
What traces?

An avalanche occurs. They are taken away by the snow. The view is calm again, soon after.

INT. CABINET-DAY

Johnathan is having a meeting with his shrink.

PSYCHOLOGIST
Why don't you wanna see her again?

JONATHAN
It's all a lie. I see her with her husband, sounding normal and I just know that her life it's fake. If she would remember anything, at least something, she wouldn't be able to live this lie.

PSYCHOLOGIST
For her it is not a lie. You have to understand.

JONATHAN

C They've made it possible for people
O to lie to themselves without
knowing they are lying.

N PSYCHOLOGIST
T We've done that even before Lacuna.

I JONATHAN
They are staging their lives.

N PSYCHOLOGIST
U Our minds do that in order to
create the sense of continuity.

E JONATHAN
D If we need this continuity, how is
it possible that people voluntarily
decide to wipe out their past?

: PSYCHOLOGIST
They do it because they search
continuity with the future, not
with the past.

JONATHAN
Then I'm all alone in this lie.

PSYCHOLOGIST
I'm sorry, John! We'll have to end
our session here. It got very
crowded today. People are waiting
at my door. It's the "deja-vu
depression". It acts like an
epidemics, lately.

JONATHAN
It's an effect of the erasing
procedure.

PSYCHOLOGIST
How can you be so sure?

JONATHAN
I'm not, but I will find out!

PSYCHOLOGIST
Good bye, John! Take care!

EXT.A LAKE-DAY

Joel and Clementine from his mind are on a boat on the lake.
The water is very still. There is no sound of anything,
except the water. Joel rises up on his feet.

CLEMENTINE (FROM HIS MIND)
Be careful. You're gonna fall.

JOEL

C I just wanna see where we are
O heading to.

N CLEMENTINE (FROM HIS MIND)
And? Do you see something?

T JOEL
I Nothing! There's nothing around.
I'm getting dizzy.

N Joel sits down again.

U CLEMENTINE (FROM HIS MIND)
E This is how a mind with no memories
D and no fuss looks like. Isn't it
beautiful?

Joel is up on his feet again. Looks around.

JOEL
This stillness...

He loses his balance and falls in the water.

INT. JOEL'S HOUSE- NIGHT

Dr. Howard enters the room. Jonathan is sitting in the dark. Only the screen of a laptop draws light on his preoccupied face.

DR. HOWARD
Hey, thought you were done for
today! What are you doing here?
Planning to turn your documentary
into a horror movie? It's almost 12
o'clock. (laughing)

JONATHAN
No, Dr. Howard. A documentary is
already a horror movie. Fortunately
we don't have to bother ourselves
with that. I'm here for a different
reason.

DR. HOWARD

Well, what would it be?

JONATHAN

I've been watching this poor's man history on your laptop. Seems he doesn't wanna let her go.

(we see a love scene between Joel and the Clementine from his mind on the laptop screen)

DR. HOWARD

What?! How did you access that? You weren't allowed.

JONATHAN

A mutual friend of ours gave me the password. You know, people can offer you things without even being aware of it.

DR. HOWARD

Get out of here.

JONATHAN

Not yet, doctor. You have to explain me something before or I'll take care of the press tomorrow morning. Tell me, why is it that she's got a different appearance in his mind? He's having sex with her and she's calling her Clementine. But you know doctor, I've met Clementine personally and this woman in here doesn't even resemble her. What's going on doctor? Are you planting something in their brains?

DR. HOWARD

(laughing)

We haven't got the technology for inception yet.

JONATHAN

Then what is it doctor? What is a stranger's face doing inside the mind of someone who's having his memory erased?

DR. HOWARD

I will tell you the truth, but not because you are threatening me, but

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DR. HOWARD (cont'd)
because I know you will understand. Memory traces are emotionally encoded. They are part of the brain's structure. You can not erase those, but you can change the way they manifest at a conscious level. What we do is to de-realize somebody's memories of their past. We detach them from their reality background. The subjects don't own their recollections anymore, but they still got that memory trace which is automatically re-encrypted by their system. Different faces, different chronology and narrative. Even different plots. They just give another face to their memories. They still live with it. It's just that they don't see it.

JONATHAN
So you're just hiding the shit and people pay you fortunes to relieve them from their pain. It's all fake. What about the deja-vu symptoms?

DR. HOWARD
The emotion is reactivated when encrypted again in the erasing process. They get this paralyzing sense that they have lived their lives before when they are back into society and events. It's a constant deja-vu.

JONATHAN
All these years I have been tormented by what I did to my sister. I tried to convince myself that relieving her from pain was the right thing to do. I signed a contract with Lacuna. I kept watching her grow into a lie I have designed. Now I know I did her no good. You just fool people, Mr. Howard and you were supposed to cure them.

DR. HOWARD
You can't cure anyone from himself.

JONATHAN

Then end this. I will stop Joel's erasing procedure. I will end this lie.

DR. HOWARD

No you won't do anything cause if you wake him now he won't be able to know anything. If you don't let the re-encryption of memories happen you'll have a person with no past and no sense of self. That should be a problem.

EXT. JOEL'S HOUSE-NIGHT

Johnathan and the other insurgents are outside Joel's house. They are planning to attack Lacuna by disconnecting Joel.

REBEL

There's the backdoor. You go first.

REBEL 2

We know the doctor's in there. Be careful. We don't wanna kill him.

REBEL

What if he resists.

JONATHAN

You shoot him in the leg, but we don't kill anybody. I thought that was clear.

REBEL

Hide your faces, boys!

JONATHAN

Go!

We hear the sound of the broken door.

EXT. BALCONY-NIGHT

Inside Joel's mind. He's sitting next to Clemntine. They hear a loud sound coming from nowhere.

JOEL

What was that?

CLEMENTINE (FROM HIS MIND)

A shooting maybe.

JOEL

Is there a war I don't remember?

CLEMENTINE (FROM HIS MIND)

Yes! Many wars. History is not what we think about when we're having a shower. We never think about the blood and the suffering. That's why they don't need to erase our historical memory.

JOEL

Will you tell me again everything that I don't remember?

CLEMENTINE (FROM HIS MIND)

In that case I will have to tell you everything that you don't know.

JOEL

I wanna know everything!

CLEMENTINE (FROM HIS MIND)

Come, you will have to jump with me!

JOEL

But we'll dye!

CLEMENTINE (FROM HIS MIND)

You can't kill yourself in a dream, can you? The only thing that you kill it's your own fear!

JOEL

You said you will tell me everything.

CLEMENTINE (FROM HIS MIND)

First you need to forget you're alive somewhere out there.

They both jump.

INT. JOEL'S HOUSE- NIGHT

The rebels have entered Joel's house. They have captured dr. Howard. They wanna disconnect Joel from the machines.

DR. HOWARD

Wait! Wait! You don't wanna do that!

REBEL 2

Be quiet, doctor! We won't hurt anybody. We are just sending a message.

DR. HOWARD

I told you what would happen if you disconnect him.

JONATHAN

I know, doctor! A man with no past and no sense of self is not a danger for society. The real danger is Lacuna.

DR. HOWARD

You don't understand. A person with no sense of self is incapable of experiencing emotions. You will turn him into a psychopath. You have no right to do that.

JONATHAN

At least he won't have to live inside a lie you have created for him.

DR. HOWARD

One day you will regret this, John. You haven't understood anything. You were supposed to do a documentary about what we do and you didn't even have the patience to get to the truth.

JONATHAN

I'm very used to regrets, dr. Howard. It won't be a problem.

DR. HOWARD

You didn't have real regrets if you weren't able to do anything to get rid of them. People want this because they need this. I listened to each of their stories. They can't see beyond their small world pain. This is the true limit. And we're helping them change it.

JONATHAN

But the pain is still there. You just give it another face. What difference does it make?

DR. HOWARD
People are not their own stories.

JONATHAN
But they are what they feel.

DR. HOWARD
Every particular feeling can have another explanation and another story. This is the possibility we offer.

JONATHAN
But you don't call it this way in public. You refer to it as self-preservation amnesia.

DR. HOWARD
Yes, because it preserves the self and eliminates the story.

JONATHAN
There is no self without a story.

REBEL
We haven't got much time for soap operas, John. What shall we do?

DR. HOWARD
Will you be brave enough to give birth to a psychopath? By tomorrow he'll be a criminal in the eyes of society. He'll probably spend his life in jail. Let him live! Let him get back his story.

INT. ROOM-AN OLD TAPE ROLLING-NIGHT

CLEMENTINE (FROM HIS MIND)
I'm afraid of dying. I'll dye if you get back to reality now.

JOEL
I'll stay here with you. I'm not leaving.

CLEMENTINE (FROM HIS MIND)
It's not up to you.

JOEL
But I love you.

CLEMENTINE (FROM HIS MIND)
I'm just an effect of your brain, a
projection of your mind. Are you
listening to me? I'm not real!

JOEL
I thought you like horror movies,
not Matrix.

CLEMENTINE (FROM HIS MIND)
It's not a joke, Joel. I'm not
real. You wanted to know
everything. There's not much to
know except this.

JOEL
And how could I believe you?

INT. JOEL'S HOUSE- NIGHT

The rebels have crowded the house. Their guns are facing the floor. Everybody's waiting. Suddenly we hear the voices of the projected Clementine and Joel coming from the laptop. Everybody raises their guns, not knowing where the threat is coming from.

CLEMENTINE (FROM HIS MIND)
It's not a joke, Joel. I'm not
real. You wanted to know
everything. There's not much to
know except this.

JOEL
And how could I believe you?

JONATHAN
What's this doctor?

DR. HOWARD
You forgot to turn off the laptop
after you invaded his mind. I
programed the sound to turn on
after 2h if the images are still
running in the background. But
then, what do you know about
technology, dear boy?

Jonathan crushes the laptop. He's ready to disconnect Joel, but Dr. Howard takes an injection from his pocket and rushes into Joel's neck. He kills Joel, but also gets shot by the rebels in an instant.

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JONATHAN REESE
You idiot! You are the real
criminal.

DR. HOWARD
(with his last forces)
I loved him, because I knew his
story. I saw it on the laptop. He
would have been so tormented by the
unfinished story with Clementine if
you would have woke him up before
time. He would have slowly
destroyed himself, unable to
remember, unable to think. That's
the difference between me an you: I
don't think people deserve to
suffer.

JONATHAN
Let's get out of here before
somebody comes.

EXT. A PARK-DAY

We see Jonathan's sister playing with her son in the park.
There's a lot of joy and light. He is watching from behind
the fence.

ROBOT
Hello, sir! Do you want free coffee
from Paradise Park?

JONATHAN
Fuck! You scared me! I don't want
anything. No fake life, no fake
coffee.

ROBOT
Thank you, sir! Have a good day in
Paradise Park.

INT. JONATHAN'S HOUSE. NIGHT

Jonathan receives a tape. He sits down, pours some wine and
starts listening to the tape. He finds out about his life
before the erasure. He was somebody else, too.

Close up- the rolling tape.