

AEQUINATIUM

Written by

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EXT. SEMI-RURAL NEIGHBORHOOD - EVENING

The sky is streaked in amber and burgundy, descending onto a shrunken skyline in the distance.

Peace.

An ocean of dark green foliage separates us from the city. Neatly tucked beneath the canopy is a neighborhood, ordinary by all accounts. The streets are quiet, populated by the occasional truck and children on bicycles.

MOM (O.S.)
(yelling)
Dinner time!

Kids playing in the street drop their toys and run sprinting toward the house. Down near the end of the block sits an oddity.

It's a house somewhere in between construction and disrepair. Surrounded by what looks like a moat of dirt, the only part of the house that looks finished is the roof and the walls.

Fence posts have no fence; a gateway has no gate; a driveway abruptly ends in what used to be a garage. This place needs work.

INT. VIRGINIA'S BEDROOM - EVENING - CONTINUOUS

A warm glow fills a sparsely but neatly decorated bedroom. Someone lies in the twin bed in the center of the room.

BEEP BEEP BEEP

An alarm rings out, immediately silenced by a hand whipping out from the under the sheets.

A pair of feet hit the ground and walk toward the bathroom door in the corner of the room. It's a woman.

The red glow of the room reflects off her jet black hair. She flips the light on in the bathroom and opens her medicine cabinet, taking out her toothbrush and toothpaste.

She closes the cabinet to reveal her face, VIRGINIA WATERS, a fit 31-year-old. Done brushing her teeth, she makes the bed, dons black combat pants and boots with a tank top. As she walks out of the room, she stops at the window and flicks a switch, the "sunlight" shuts off.

She walks out of the room.

INT. DANNI'S BEDROOM - EVENING - CONTINUOUS

Darkness.

The dim light of a laptop illuminates the face of a sleeping DANNI GATES. Her messy blonde hair has fallen onto her 35 year-old face. On the screen is a coding program, filled with lines and lines of incomprehensible code.

KNOCK KNOCK

Her door opens and the room is flooded with light.

VIRGINIA
Time to get up, Danni.

Danni grunts and flings a "thumbs up" in her direction.

VIRGINIA
I don't want to come back down here
in 20 minutes...

DANNI
I got it. I got it. I'm up.

Danni sits up, rubbing her eyes.

DANNI
What's first on your list?

Silence. She looks at an empty doorway.

DANNI
Yep.

Danni is already dressed. She wears similar combat pants with boots and a t-shirt. She grabs her laptop and heads out the door.

INT. HALLWAY - BUNKER - EVENING - CONTINUOUS

The hallway is bare, painted a strong blue. She emerges through a doorway and into...

INT. CONTROL ROOM - BUNKER - EVENING - CONTINUOUS

...a control room. On one side is a living space with couches and a kitchen. On the other are two desks with multiple monitors and multiple servers along the wall.

She heads for one of the workstations and taps the space bar on the keyboard. The screens illuminate and on the center one is a progress bar that reads "91%."

Danni is pleased. The next screen over she sees Virginia exiting the front door of the house on a security camera. Danni walks over to a pole in the corner of the room, unwraps the rope, and begins to pull.

A few seconds later, a United States flag emerges through a hole in the ceiling. She folds the flag and places it under a plaque that says "Captain Andrew Gates."

INT. HALLWAY - BUNKER - EVENING

Danni walks past the bedrooms and two other doors to a dark staircase disappearing into the next level.

EXT. GATES HOUSE - EVENING

Danni exits the front door of the house. Ahead of her stands Virginia, leaning against a shovel, admiring the last red rays of the sun. Danni joins her.

Beat.

A couple jogs past.

DANNI
(slyly)
That's a good sign.

VIRGINIA
What is?

DANNI
Red sky at night. No storms are coming.

VIRGINIA
If only it were so easy.

DANNI
If only.

Some children on bikes veer from their course and stop in front of the Gates house.

BENJAMIN
Hey, Miss Danni!

Virginia is immediately annoyed by the interruption.

DANNI
Hey, Benjamin! Hey, Luther,
Charlotte.

LUTHER
Hey, Miss Danni.

CHARLOTTE
Hello.

DANNI
What are you kids up to tonight?

BENJAMIN
Playing daredevils on our bikes!

DANNI
Daredevils? Like the comic?

LUTHER
No! Like Evil Kenevil. Jumps and
tricks and stuff!

DANNI
How do you kids know about Evil
Kenevil?

BENJAMIN
My dad showed us a movie about him
last night. He was a badass!

Danni looks at him sternly and motions toward the younger
Charlotte.

BENJAMIN
(ashamed)
Sorry.

CHARLOTTE
I've heard that word before, Miss
Danni.

DANNI
That doesn't mean you should hear
it all the time, Charlotte.

Benjamin dismounts his bike and motions to Luther to follow
him. They start walking toward the women.

BENJAMIN
Hey, Miss Danni, remember when you
fixed my phone and made it go
faster?

DANNI

Yes.

BENJAMIN

Well, Luther just got a phone and we were wondering if you could make his better too. We want to play games together but his is too slow.

Luther extends his new phone. Danni reluctantly takes it. Virginia turns and walks off.

DANNI

OK, but this is the last time.

BENJAMIN

Yes. Yes. Alright.

Danni turns on the phone and swiftly makes the modifications. Charlotte is now in the mix.

CHARLOTTE

Are you coming to the block party on Saturday?

Danni continues to work.

DANNI

Aw, sadly no. Virginia and I are leaving the country tomorrow.

Virginia glares at Danni.

CHARLOTTE

Really? Where?

DANNI

Where would you want to go?

CHARLOTTE

Australia!

DANNI

Good pick!

CHARLOTTE

I wanna play with a kangaroo.

DANNI

That sounds perfect.

She hands the phone back to Luther.

DANNI
Here you go. All done.

LUTHER
Thanks, Miss Danni!

He gleefully looks at his phone and starts playing on it, as does Benjamin with his.

DANNI
Alright, y'all run along. I've got to help Miss Virginia with some work.

The two boys are already lost in their games as they absentmindedly walk to their bikes.

CHARLOTTE
Bye, Miss Danni!

DANNI
Goodbye, Charlotte.

Danni sentimentally watches them go. She then turns and walks to Virginia, who has placed a ladder at the corner of the house and is waiting on Danni.

VIRGINIA
Are you ready?

DANNI
How many things on your list?

VIRGINIA
Seven. They're all big ones.

DANNI
OK, let's do it.

SERIES OF SHOTS

-They mount flood lights to every corner of the house.

-They dig a few more post holes, creating two concentric perimeters of posts.

-Around the exterior circle of the 1/2 acre property they run a 10 foot chain link fence, topped with a thick coil of razor wire.

-Around the interior circle of poles they mount a 12 foot thin metal fence, tacking the sign "Warning: Electrified" to every other post.

-With an electric plow, they till the dirt in even more concentric circles around the house until they are only four feet from the walls.

-They bring out large boxes from the house, removing hand sized plastic capsules and placing them every few feet in most of the outer circles.

-In the inner circles, closest to the house, they place cylinders angled upwards and towards the fence line.

-They re-cover the plowed land with dirt, running rakes over the ground to smooth it. The ground looks just as it had at the beginning of the night.

-They erect the outer gate, attaching it to the posts at the front of the property. Mounted to it is an intercom and a camera.

-They erect the interior gate and connect it to the electrified fence.

DANNI (V.O.)

You remember how to do this?

VIRGINIA (V.O.)

Yes.

Inside the house, they go from window to window, closing the massive, thick steel shutters attached to each one.

DANNI (V.O.)

No rush. Take your time. But most importantly, no mistakes.

INT. CONTROL ROOM - BUNKER

Sitting at their respective workstations, the women begin coding. The progress bar on Danni's screen now reads "100%."

SERIES OF QUICK SHOTS

-The "Federal Reserve" logo is seen.

-Scrolling through different pages of records, the currency reads "USDC" meaning "United States Digital Currency."

-Both women override the login for the Fed and make their way through the code of the website. Typing. Clicking. Typing. They arrive at a screen. At the bottom it says USDC.

DANNI
Are you there?

Virginia types away.

VIRGINIA
Almost.
(Beat)
Now I'm there.

DANNI
Like missiles on a submarine...
Ready?

Virginia nods.

DANNI
3, 2, 1--

Both women hit "Enter." Silence.

VIRGINIA
Nothing's happening.

DANNI
Just wait.

Beat.

VIRGINIA
Danni, nothing--

DANNI
Virginia, my god, give it a moment.

Beat.

Virginia is on the edge. This is not her domain. Suddenly, the number begins to dwindle, quicker, quicker, quicker until finally, it's gone. 0 USDC.

DANNI
Get out. I'll wipe it.

VIRGINIA
(in shock)
OK.

Virginia types, clicks and exits the screen. Danni drags and drops her rendered program into the code-side of the split screen. All records, transaction histories, and data begin to disappear.

She then takes the 3.4 trillion USDC and runs it through a program called "CryptoCash," turning it into just over 1 trillion CC.

Virginia has come around behind her and watches as Danni drags the new total onto two flash drives, ejects the drives, and hands one to Virginia.

Virginia takes it and stops. She looks at it, intently. Danni stands up, hers in hand.

VIRGINIA

When you said a flash drive, I
didn't know-

Danni rubs it with her thumb, like a rabbit's foot.

VIRGINIA

How can so much of the world fit in
something so tiny?

Danni pulls out her knife and pops open the end of it, sliding the thumb drive perfectly into the handle. Virginia copies her. They then walk to the flag pole.

EXT. GATES HOUSE - DAWN

From its hidden spot behind the horizon, the sun softly illuminates the sky. The ropes of the flagpole sticking out of the top of the house are slapping around.

Out of the roof emerges a flag, a new flag, with a background resembling a raging fire chasing the image of a soaring, awe-inspiring Phoenix. The mythical bird whips through the air as the morning breeze takes over.

INT. CONTROL ROOM - BUNKER - DAWN

The women look at each other. Now what?

Deep breath.

They walk to the couches and carefully slide onto the cushions, both gazing at the folded flag with Andrew Gates' picture framed above it.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY - FLASHBACK

VIRGINIA

Andrew? Are you OK?

Virginia, Danni, and ANDREW GATES, a man in his late 30s, sit at a table. Andrew appears to be trying to cough something up.

VIRGINIA

Baby? Is something stuck in your throat?

He shakes his head, barely able to get out...

ANDREW

No. Nothing.

The coughing gets worse.

DANNI

Andrew. Look at me.

His eyes move toward her, his face is beet red.

Suddenly his cough ceases and nothing comes out. He clutches at the table. Virginia is up in a flash and performing the Heimlich.

Danni kneels in front of him, keeping his mouth open and looking for the blockage. Nothing.

DANNI

Is someone here a doctor?

A GOOD SAMARITAN pops up from his table and rushes to the struggling man.

SAMARITAN

Please, you can stop that.

Virginia stops constricting Andrew as the Samaritan helps her lower him to the ground. His face is turning a tinge of blue.

Danni is standing over the doctor, terrified, as Virginia is right there with him, trying to help.

The Samaritan feels the throat for a blockage, nothing.

SAMARITAN

What was he eating?

VIRGINIA

Uh, pasta.

DANNI

With shrimp.

SAMARITAN

Any allergies to shellfish?

VIRGINIA

(definitively)

No.

SAMARITAN

Any allergies at all?

VIRGINIA

Um, only pet dander. Help him,
doctor! My god! He's choking.

Andrew begins to claw at Virginia, looking her right in eyes, pleading. Danni tries not to cry.

Andrew can get no air. He struggles, painfully. He keeps eye contact with Virginia and mouths "I love you."

VIRGINIA

You're going to be fine! You're
going to be *fine*.

Danni tries to comfort Virginia with a hand to the shoulder. She recoils as Virginia slaps it away.

Danni turns away, beginning to cry. Andrew stops moving altogether. Danni turns. Virginia freezes.

The Samaritan begins chest compressions. Minutes go by in a flash. Finally, he gives up.

SAMARITAN

(out of breath)

I'm so sorry.

Virginia LUNGES at the Samaritan's face. She cracks him across the jaw with her elbow. More patrons of the restaurant jump in and hold her back. Virginia enraged and now bleeding.

Danni approaches her brother's body, weeping. She curls his head in her arms and squeezes. Virginia relents, consumed by Danni's sadness. She drops to her knees, breathing deeply.

The patrons and good Samaritan leave them be. Virginia buries her face in Andrew's side and places her arms on her husband's legs. The two women grieve.