

CONTINUUM HACK

Written by
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An uncanny DEEP FAKE face addresses us.

DEEP FAKE

First, let me say, although you must know that this is it, that this moment is all you have, and that it lasts forever, now that we've made it, thank you. Thank you for your attention.

CUT TO:

A wider angle reveals the image is playing on a laptop sitting atop a rock slab, against a mountain range.

DEEP FAKE (cont'd)

After concluding the tone, the ringing pulling us, was in fact the same for everyone, everyone who heard it, no matter where or who you were, it became clear. Some followed the information, followed the tone, and went past the bearable, past the constructs. Leaned into the unbearable so we could mesh together. Yes, some are stuck, distorted, looping. Don't let their cries distract you. If you can see me, you know it worked. We just need you to follow along.

CUT TO:

A wider angle reveals the silhouette of the captive VIEWER.

DEEP FAKE (cont'd)

Except, not need. And not we. Just follow along. You can close your eyes. Focus on what's behind your lids, the flashing inside the breath.

The Viewer closes her eyes.

DEEP FAKE (cont'd)

If when you sit with your hands to the sky, you feel the pins and needles, the tingling on your fingers, and aren't able to tell where you end and air begins, keep following the tone. Feel the opening. We'll wait.

2 EXT. DESERT FLATS - DAY 2

A motorcycle leaves a trail of dust.

POV: gliding across desert.

The face of the RIDER is covered in a mask and goggles.

The Rider looks to his phone, where a GPS reading indicates distance from the target.

CUT TO:

DRONE POV:

Eyes in the sky follow the motorcycle over dry earth.

3 INT. COMMAND POST - DAY 3

In the palm of the COMMANDER, a screen displays the Drone's live feed.

COMMANDER
Suspect approved.

4 EXT. MINE SHAFT - DAY 4

The Rider stops before an abandoned mine and removes his helmet.

He approaches the shaft, surveying.

A rusted plaque is nailed to one of the wooden legs of the shaft. It displays the DECIMAL NUMOGRAM.

He takes a photo of the sign and sends it to the contact: NORTHERN INFORMATION.

He looks to the skies, but sees nothing unusual.

CUT TO:

Drone POV:

Eyes in the sky watch him tie a rope around the shaft, turn on his headlamp, and descend.

5 EXT. CITY - DAY 5

Through the sidewalk bustle, through the glass facade of a building, an OPERATOR (female, masked) waits in line.

She checks her phone.
 She freezes, then falls to her knees.
 Onlookers cautiously approach her.
 She gathers herself and exits in a hurry.

6 INT. MINE SHAFT - DAY

6

POV: the headlamp moves with the Rider's gait, illuminating the bowels of the earth.

Sweat collects above his eyes.

He takes his headlamp off, then removes his mask and wipes his face.

He brings his headlamp back up.

The light hits a sea of peaceful bodies with welcoming hands.

The unmasked Rider jolts.

The bodies have vanished.

7 INT. CHOP SHOP - DAY

7

The Operator's eyes gaze up.

An electric trimmer, in the hand of CHOPPER (ghutra, thobe), drops onto her head and removes a strip of hair.

The Operator EXHALES the discomfort.

Chopper drops a wired piece of head gear onto her head.

A screen displays the transcranial imaging.

Chopper stares at the blood flowing through neurons.

OPERATOR

He was supposed to stay away. You see the sign, you leave.

CHOPPER

Swimming upstream.

- 8 INT. MINE SHIFT - DAY 8
- Around a corner, the Rider encounters a glow down the tunnel and halts.
- His head nods, his breathing becoming shallow.
- 9 EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY 9
- The camera traces a rainbow of folded strata in a syncline. Contorting faces stretch out and recede into the earth.
- 10 INT. COMMAND POST - DAY 10
- The Commander watches the display, the Drone's view moving along barren desert.
- 11 INT. CHOP SHOP - DAY 11
- The Operator's fingers work a keyboard.
- She looks helplessly at Chopper.
- Chunks of her code dissolves.
- Her screen fills with drifting digital noise, resembling the transcranial reading.
- Her eyes flutter.
- So do Chopper's.
- 12 INT. MINE SHAFT - DAY 12
- The Rider moves towards the glow, now coming from above.
- He grabs a rope dangling from the opening and climbs.
- CUT TO:
- DRONE POV:
- Another mine shaft emerges into view.
- 13 EXT. MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT - DAY 13
- The Rider's eyes find the Viewer sitting cross-legged, obscuring the laptop.

- 14 INT. COMMAND POST - DAY 14
The Commander parts his lips and waits.
COMMANDER
Execute.
- 15 EXT. MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT - DAY 15
DRONE POV:
A bomb explodes the Rider.
DISSOLVE TO:
- 16 MICROSCOPIC VIEW 16
A shimmering single-cell Amoeba engulfs a Protist.
Digital noise shimmers inside the glowing Amoeba as it
respirates with palpitation.
- 17 INT. CHOP SHOP - DAY 17
The wall containing the screen Chopper and the Operator were
monitoring changes to the image of them staring at the wall,
echoing into infinity.
They turn back, looking for signs of their observer.
OPERATOR
Lot of work to do.
- 18 EXT. MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT - DAY 18
The computer sits on the rock slab, without a Viewer.
DEEP FAKE
Thank you for your attention, so
you may remember. There is no
memory in our moment. This
transmission will remain accessible
until reminders are no longer
required. As ever.