

**"CUSTOM COMPANIONS" BY SKY TALLONE
DEREK (20-40) & VIRTUAL ASSISTANT**

INT. CUSTOM COMPANIONS INC. BUILDING - DAY

Derek approaches the "CCI PRODUCTS & DEMOS" area. RUBY, a holographic virtual assistant, appears just behind Derek and walks into his eye line.

RUBY

Derek, haven't seen you here in awhile. So good to see you again! How's Camille? Are you finally ready to upgrade to the new--

DEREK

I woke up this morning and Camille was gone. I need to get her back as soon as possi--

RUBY

I'm sorry, but we only deal with hardware demos, purchases and upgrades here. All technical issues must be reported on our app, which--

DEREK

I know, my phone broke this morning. Can't you just tell me what's wrong!? Look today is my first day at a new job, I'm supposed to be there in like--

RUBY

Ohh congratulations on the job!

DEREK

I need my girlfriend back now! I have to resolve this before work, I need to know that she's--

RUBY

I'm sorry but we only handle demos, purchases and upgrades--

DEREK

Fine! I'll get an upgrade.

RUBY

Wonderful! Which--

DEREK

I'd like to try out the implant. Oh wait, Camille isn't here. Hmm.

Ruby pulls a holographic tablet out of her jacket and looks at it, tapping and scrolling.

RUBY

Oh dear, it looks like you didn't have sufficient funds in your checking account to cover your last payment, so your service was shut off. I'm sorry, but you can't--

DEREK

Shut off!? No, look, I know I'm a little broke right now, I lost my job a few weeks ago but I'm starting a new one today! And I'm going to get my first deposit from them in a couple weeks, so if I could just get an extension on--

RUBY

It looks like you've already had three extensions this year alone, you aren't allotted any more.

DEREK

What!? You're talking about my girlfriend here! The love of my life, you're keeping me from her over a late payment?

RUBY

It is a service we provide, and if you don't pay for it, we don't--

DEREK

How could you be so insensitive!? The woman I wake up to and watch movies with and make love to and talk to about everything and fall asleep next to, and you! You are keeping us apart, and you dare to try to tell me that this is just some service that you--

RUBY

I'm sorry for seeming insensitive. I'm sure you have a very wonderful relationship, but there's nothing I can do until you pay the balance on your account.

(MORE)

RUBY (CONT'D)

I've gone ahead and set it so that your service will automatically turn back on as soon as you have sufficient funds.

DEREK

We were supposed to go to Santa Cruz this weekend!

RUBY

Seems like you wouldn't have been able to afford the trip anyway, Derek.

Derek gives her a look and storms out. She calls after him.

RUBY (CONT'D)

When you do get paid, come back to try out that implant demo!