

WAVES OF SORROW

INT. TRACY'S CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT

Board members sit around a conference table, their attention fixed nervously on TRACY. A live image of Tracy is projected across the walls and over the board members. TRACY is young and fashionably dressed. She wears intense eye make-up and an electronic contraption on her head from which wires and flashing lights flow out into a bank of computers. Two scientists continually adjust the contraption. TRACY at first appears calm and cordial but a simmering insanity frequently erupts when she finds herself excited. Her mind, fractured between infinities, finds itself increasingly distracted.

TRACY

In the end it was so simple: the machines needed a soul and now they have mine. I have fused my brain to the network and given my soul to the machines and this world has merged with my mind.

BOARD MEMBER

The brain connector was never meant to be used like this, you have too much power and without your soul you'll-

TRACY

I know who you are. I *know* who you are! You think you can challenge me? I know who you are!

The man shrivels back.

TRACY

You made me, don't you remember? You thought you could control me with these machines but you were wrong. You built this for me. All of you knew what you were doing and you want to sermonise me now? I know all of you, I know *all* of you! Now man or army or god can touch me and the universe will beg for my forgiveness!

Made in Highland

[the camera starts as a wide from TRACY's perspective before punching in on each of her audiences faces. As the camera reaches them each person looks away to avoid its gaze. When the camera pulls out again all her audience are looking away.]

TRACY, having inspected everyone, looks away, disappointed.

TRACY
I knew you wouldn't understand.

EXT. AN ANCIENT FOREST - NIGHT

LEWIS and NIGEL, both middle-aged and tired, who were in the conference, go outside for smoke. They stand amongst huge and ancient trees.

LEWIS
She's insane.

NIGEL
She sounds the same as normal to me.

LEWIS
This has to end, Tracy needs to die.

NIGEL
You really think you will be able to get to her?

LEWIS
She's tired now, can't you tell? It's all gone too far and she wants a way out. She's ready to die. It's the least we can do.

NIGEL
You will need Katy's help. No one else dares kill Tracy.

LEWIS
I know.

NIGEL
How is Katy?

Made in Highland

LEWIS
The same. After what Tracy did to
Venessa ...

Nigel nods knowingly.

NIGEL
Tracy needs to die, it is better
that way but I can't help you.

LEWIS
Why?

NIGEL
She knows everything. Don't you
understand? Everything.

LEWIS
Do you really want to get stuck
in here?

NIGEL
We made her, we made this. We
knew who she was and where this
was going, what else could have
happened? I can't leave her now.
Besides, where else would I go?

EXT. KATY AND LEWIS'S KITCHEN TABLE IN THE SEA - NIGHT

LEWIS sits at the kitchen table. On it lies a kettle, two cups, tea, sugar, and a family portrait of LEWIS and KATY with a young child from some years ago. The walls behind LEWIS are sparsely decorated with some pictures and the odd bookshelf. Ocean waves are projected onto the walls, the floor, and the ceiling, surrounding the scene with crashing movement. LEWIS has resigned himself to wait, but cannot help becoming annoyed. He checks his watch and then calls out -

LEWIS
You feeling like cold tea today
Katy?

KATY, middle-aged and anxious, walks over to the table and sits down, adjusting her hair.

Made in Highland

KATY
You only made it five minutes
ago, no need to get excited.

LEWIS checked his watch, confirming to himself that it has
indeed been far longer than five minutes.

LEWIS
Well at least I used the teapot.
[pause] How has your day been?

KATY
What do you think?

LEWIS nods; he has received such replies many times before.

LEWIS
[gesturing at the waves behind
them] It's windy again today.

KATY
So Tracy's experiment worked this
time?

LEWIS
Yes.

KATY
I thought you said it was
impossible.

LEWIS
It should have been.

LEWIS leans over and pours them both a cup. He carefully
measures out the correct sugar and milk for each cup, stirs
them, and passes one to KATY. She sips her tea.

KATY
[she winces] Very hot that.

LEWIS
Thank the teapot.

Made in Highland

KATY

Will you please stop talking
about the teapot. [She sighs] I
don't think I can do this
anymore.

LEWIS

What can't you do anymore?

KATY

Anything. Everything. How are you
still working for that woman?

LEWIS

It's not that easy to leave. I
have responsibilities, if I
left ...

KATY

After what she did to Venessa and
you're worried about
responsibilities?

LEWIS

I know this is difficult but it's
going to be ok I -

KATY

No it's not! How can you say
that? How can any of this be
okay?

LEWIS

I didn't mean that, I just meant...

KATY

What? What do you just mean, what
do you mean?

LEWIS

I don't know, I don't know I just
want to help.

KATY

How can anything help? [pause]
How can anything help!

KATY bangs her fist on the table, the crockery shakes.

LEWIS

Careful of the teapot.

KATY picks up the teapot and throws it onto the floor. LEWIS
flinches as he watches it shatter.

KATY

I don't care about the teapot!

LEWIS

You think this is easy for me?

KATY

You don't understand, how could you understand? You just carry on with your life like nothing happened.

LEWIS

She is my daughter too! Just because I still try to live life and cheer you up you think that means I don't care?

KATY

Cheer me up? You think you can cheer me up? It's your fault! Why did you let this happen? I hate you! I hate you! How could you have let this happen?

LEWIS

You worked for Tracy too!

There is a pause as LEWIS realises what he has just let slip in anger and how this will make his wife feel. He calms down and attempts to cover up his words.

LEWIS

It wasn't my fault, how could we have known she would use our daughter?

KATY collapses forward into the table, letting her head fall into her hands.

KATY

Oh, oh my baby. How did I let this happen? It's all my fault. I'm so sorry Venessa it's all my fault, please come back, I'm so sorry please come back you're all I have don't leave me here alone. Please don't leave me.

Made in Highland

LEWIS understands how much his wife needs him, and after a moment he shrinks back before deflating in defeat; there is nothing he can do to bring their daughter back, all he can do now is decide how everything ends. KATY breaks down and sobs into her hands. LEWIS gets up and goes over to her. He kneels down beside his wife and holds her. She holds him and cries into him. The waves crash around them. LEWIS's face is riddled by inner turmoil, he is making a decision. Finally his mind is made.

LEWIS

It's not your fault please don't
say that. It's not your fault.
[pause] Maybe there is a way to
make this right...

KATY

You can bring her to come back?
Oh please say you can get her
back, I'll never ask anything
from you ever again, you have to
get her back for me, please.

KATY looks at LEWIS imploringly. In this moment it is the only thing he ever really needed to do.

LEWIS

There is a way ... But it may not
work and I will need your help.

KATY looks at her husband with desperate hope before she suddenly understands what is about to be asked of her, and the look of the dejection returns.

KATY

I have to kill Tracy don't I.

LEWIS

Yes, she is not able to control
what she has made and this world
is collapsing into her mind. Soon
there will be nothing left and
there will be no way out.

KATY

I thought the process was
irreversible. If she dies, won't
everything else die with her?

Made in Highland

LEWIS

I don't know, no one does anymore
but it is our only chance and if
we fail at least we die and don't
just fade away.

KATY

I was hoping there would be
another way.

LEWIS

So was I.

KATY

I'm just so scared, it's been so
long.

LEWIS

You're the only one who can end
this; it has to be you and it has
to be now.

EXT. THE MOVING CITY - NIGHT

KATY stares out the window as LEWIS drives her through a sprawling and twisting City. Skyscrapers and tower blocks sway and ripple in the evening dusk. Lightning crashes with blinding force, imploding buildings into the sky.

LEWIS gently places his hand on KATY's lap, his thumb gently stroking her thigh.

KATY

It is windy out today. [pause]
I'm sorry about the teapot.

LEWIS

I'll forgive you if you buy me a
new one.

KATY's hand rests on LEWIS's and their fingers intertwine.

INT. THE CORRIDORS OF TRACY'S LABORATORY - NIGHT

KATY and LEWIS reach the laboratory and Lewis uses his keycard to enter. They pick locks and dodge security until they reach the heart of the building where TRACY's office resides.

Finally they reach the door to the reception of TRACY's office. KATY pauses outside, one hand rests on her gun, the other on the door handle. She opens the door and goes through, Lewis follows.

EXT. AN ENDLESS SKY - EVENING

They enter onto the endless sky of swirling clouds, on which lies a desk and behind it a door. NIGEL, who is sitting behind the desk, jumps up in confusion and grabs a gun which he points unsteadily at KATY as they enter. LEWIS stands back, understanding his wife is better equipped to deal with this situation. KATY calmly places her gun back into her pocket. She walks slowly towards NIGEL as they speak, and their voices turn to whispers.

NIGEL

Hello Lewis, hello Katy.

LEWIS

Hello Nigel, would you let us past?

KATY

We're going to kill Tracy.

NIGEL

You always looked good with that gun in your hand.

KATY

Let us in please.

NIGEL

I'm sorry I can't let you do that.

KATY

What changed?

NIGEL

I don't have a choice, if I let you in she'll know and then...

Made in Highland

KATY

Do you remember when we were younger? You were so different then, you had so much heart.

NIGEL

My life isn't that simple anymore. You don't understand.

KATY

I thought we were going to die that night, I was glad you were with me. In that moment I'd never wanted anyone more. [pause] You do remember?

NIGEL

How could I forget.

KATY moves slowly towards NIGEL as they speak until she is close enough to touch him. With one hand she pulls herself in while the other inches towards the gun now pressed unsteadily against her stomach.

KATY

In another life...

NIGEL surrenders himself to KATY's touch as she draws herself into him and the tension he has held so tightly melts away. He does not protest as she turns the gun away from her stomach and into his chest. Katy is the only woman he ever really wanted: his heart has always waited for her and now she is about to kill him, and he is ready to die. He allows his mind to become lost in her eyes and the memories of the intimacies and adventures they once shared. His thoughts wonder to a life they could have lived, and that she had been with him all the times he needed her. His heart feels blinding love and sadness and he is glad she is there with him as he dies.

The moment before her lips touch his KATY pulls the trigger. She lowers NIGEL down and holds him as he dies.

NIGEL

I didn't have a choice, my daughter, she ...

KATY

It's okay, I understand, it's okay now.

Made in Highland

KATY lets NIGEL's body rest on the floor as the clouds surge around them, gently submerging him. Lewis, who watched from the door, walks over to KATY and gently helps her back onto her feet.

LEWIS

I am a lucky man to have kissed you and lived.

KATY

Not many have.

KATY then goes to the door at the back of the reception and swings it open with her gun aimed from her hip.

INT. TRACY'S PERSONAL OFFICE - NIGHT

TRACY sits at a desk surrounded by computers. Wires flow from her head into the flashing machines.

TRACY

Katy, I've been expecting you.
It's good to see you again.

KATY

Have you been expecting this?

KATY waves her gun.

TRACY

So you've killed Nigel. I'm assuming that means you want your old job back?

KATY

I will never work for you again.
Turn this off now and give me back my daughter.

TRACY

Let's not be so hasty. As I recall you rather enjoyed working for me, I remember your excitement whenever I told you someone needed to die.

(MORE)

Made in Highland

TRACY (CONT'D)

Besides, this world is now but a part of me, there is no way to disconnect us.

KATY

Why my daughter? After everything I did for you, why Vanessa?

TRACY

Why anyone's? You never had a problem with what I was doing until I used your daughter. Although if I'd known you'd get all upset about it I would've used someone else's.

KATY

And why shouldn't I blow your brains out right now?

TRACY

If I die the entire system dies with me. Satellite communications, phone lines, your daughter's life support. Or you can come back, I've missed you. I need someone with your... [TRACY nods towards KATY's gun] ... skill-set. Cigarette?

As TRACY says the word 'cigarette' an old man stumbles into shot with a packet of cigarettes. He offers one to TRACY which she accepts, before offering one to KATY. KATY shakes her head, TRACY shrugs. The old man lights TRACY's cigarette. TRACY takes one drag before throwing the cigarette at a bin in the corner. She misses. The old man rushes to the cigarette that lies burning on the floor. As he leans down to pick it up he falls and struggles to get back on his feet. Another old man hobbles over, picks up the cigarette, and throws it in the bin before helping the first man up. The two old men leave.

KATY

Do you not remember who you used to be? You've allowed the machines to take control of your mind and now everything is starting to collapse.

TRACY

With the machines I can destroy solar systems and cross galaxies.
(MORE)

Made in Highland

TRACY (CONT'D)

No one can touch me and you think
I care if it's not what I
imagined all those years ago?
What else was I meant to do? What
else was I meant to do!

TRACY's bubbling energy suddenly dissipates, leaving her
exhausted and defeated.

TRACY

Oh just get it over with I'm
bored of all this talking. You'll
never understand, no one
understands.

KATY

It's strange, I always knew it
would end like this.

TRACY

Join me. You will have anything
you want and do anything I say
and you and your daughter will be
alive.

KATY

You call that living?

KATY shoots TRACY who falls towards to the floor. As Katy
pulls the trigger lightning crashes through and out from her
mind. She watches Tracy fall to the ground with an eruption
of euphoric release. The nightmare that has been her life
since Tracy shattered her daughter's mind has ended, and
justice has been extracted. By her own hand Katy has
determined own her fate and that of the entire world. She
feels no regret, only a deep sense of sadness for all that
could have been and will never be again. Her mind focuses on
her daughter, and remembers her only before the accident,
when life was still alive.

KATY walks round to TRACY and kneels beside her. KATY brushes
the hair from TRACY's eyes and holds her hand. TRACY looks
up. The monitors flash madly.

TRACY

I thought you'd understand, I
just wanted to help... I just
wanted to stop... I... Oh, you
wouldn't understand.

Made in Highland

KATY pulls back her hair to reveal a circuit board attached to her head.

KATY

I do understand. It's okay. I understand.

TRACY holds KATY's hand tighter. The monitors and lights flash sporadically and then turn off. TRACY's hand releases. LEWIS walks over to KATY and again helps her up. They embrace as the walls around them begin to melt and burn.