

Symbiosis

written by

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FADE IN:

BEGIN TITLES:

The wars in the 21st century destroyed three-quarters of humans. One-half of the world's land is dead. In the early 22nd century, the era of highly centralized power began, ruled by the United Delegation (UD) in a three-Level system while reconstructing.

END TITLES.

EXT. CITY - NIGHT

Dark sky, no stars. The city's downtown shines colorful lights. The massive holographic advertisements make up the sky.

The structure of the city is like layers of rings. The closer to the center, the taller the skyscrapers are, then the average height decreases gradually until the edge of the city, where the lights almost dim.

Lights scattered on the ground. The camera approaches one of the small and ancient British-style detached houses.

INT. DETACHED HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

A WOMAN (30s) is giving birth on her bed. GENNER (30s), wearing a white tight jumpsuit with a doctor's coat, stands next to her, with a holographic screen in front, monitoring the Woman's, NATALI's, vital status. Genner opens the kit on the side table. Takes out a metal knife handle-like thing, then pushes the button on it. A short red laser appears.

The screen moves above Natali's belly, then shows the inside like a CT scan. Genner uses the laser knife to cut, then takes out the BABY that has wet loose hair and wrinkled skin.

GENNER

(sighs)

I told you it's better to give him up.

Genner uses another tool in the kit to spray on the Baby, and it forms a tight jumpsuit on him, the same style as Genner's.

Genner passes him to Natali. Natali holds him in her arms.

There is nothing connected to Baby's right forearm.

Natali stays silent.

Genner withdraws the knife and holds it upside down. Pushes another button, then a green laser appears. She puts the knife on the wound and follows the line. The scar sutured like it never appear.

GENNER

It'll take you a few days to heal and may hurt when the anesthetic effect disappears.

She pauses and looks at the Baby.

GENNER

What's his name?

NATALI

(low)

Jack.

GENNER

I'll apply for a bionic hand. When it arrives, I can connect them.

She packs things up, then opens the door.

The Dad (30s), with short brown hair in the same style tight jumpsuit, roughly nods to her and runs inside.

Before Genner leaves, she takes a glance at the baby's right missing hand and his parents' complex faces.

CUT TO:

INT. DETACHED HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jack (6) sits on the floor, uses one hand to take out the memory card from the old bionic hand, and inserts the card into the new one.

JACK
(talks to himself)
Okey, no need when I grow up...
(sighs)

Laughs from outside. Jack looks out.

Natali, Dad, and his full-bodied younger BROTHER (5) and SISTER (3), play in the garden.

JACK
(looks down)
Maybe I can give you a name? So we can be good friends!
(pauses)
How about Fin? Mommy said it's a name for fighters. I mean, you look like a tough one.

He poses Fin to nod.

More laughs.

Jack operates faster. He brings the new hand close to his forearm and waits for the moving wires to reach out from both sides' ports and connect. A green spot shines on the back of his wrist when connected.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY

Groups of pupils play football in school's playground, which locates in the middle ring of the city. The holograph of school slogan above, reads: *Equal Education Builds Fair World*.

There are no teachers around, only floating CCTVs. Pupils are on the two sides of the playground.

The smaller group is the group of A-Level students, wearing designed clothes, on the left side. On the right side, students who wear tight

jumpsuits with one or two cotton accessories are B-Level students, and those who wear only tight jumpsuits are C-Levels.

Jack (11), while running, can't stop looking at the pretty clothes on another side. He looks back at his gray and boring tight jumpsuit, when-

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BOY1

(shouts)

Hey! Jack! Get the ball!

The ball flies towards him. Jack immediately starts to trace the ball with his eyes following it.

BOY2(O. S.)

No, Jack! That's the A-Levels' field!

Come back!

Jack hits someone accidentally. They both fall.

He gets up and offers his hand to ANDREW (11), a curly golden-haired boy with blue eyes in a nice sports outfit.

JACK

I'm sorry, are you okay? I was looking at the-

Andrew grabs Jack's hand and gets up. He pats the dust on his clothes, then finds a scratch on his pants. His face turns red.

ANDREW

(annoyed at Jack)

Stupid C-Level little bastard, stay away from me.

Andrew's TEAMMATES get close. Other students stay on the other side.

TEAMMATE1

Andrew! How are you?

He notices the scratch.

TEAMMATE1

This C-Level ruins Andrew's pants!

The other Teammates all look at the pants and murmur to each other, looking at Andrew up and down.

ANDREW

Shut up!

Andrew pushes Teammatel away, picks up the football on the ground, and throws it to Jack heavily. Jack falls and sprained his ankle.

ANDREW

Which hand touched me? This one? You
little-

Andrew steps on Jack's right hand. Then, he sees the connection loss.

ANDREW

(laughs)
Look at him!
(sneers)
A genetic defect!

Andrew steps harder. Gives Teammatel an eye.

JACK

(panic)
Noooooooo!!

Jack struggles to get his hand away from Andrew's feet, but failed.

Teammatel drags Jack's bionic hand disconnected and throws it on the field.

From afar, Andrew notices a few staff heading toward them, then he looks up, the CCTVs shine red lights.

He smiles at Jack in schadenfreude and steps on Fin before leaving. The rest of Teammates copy.

Jack feels humiliated in tears and anger. Some of his classmates approach to help him, but some whisper about the bionic hand.

His eyes stare at Fin. The bionic skin cracked and the metal skeletons are exposed.

INT. DETACHED HOUSE - JACK'S ROOM - DAY

A few days later. Jack sits quietly with his swollen red eyes. The curtains are closed and it is dead silent in the room.

NATALI (O.S.)

(knocks)

Jack,

(beat)

Andrew's parents upgrade Fin to a better version. It can help you with your schoolwork. And I heard it can do more once improved. Don't you wanna check?

Jack holds himself tighter.

A moment later, Natali gets into the room. She looks at Jack and sighs. Leaves Fin next to him and goes out.

Jack stays the same. Fin starts itself.

FIN

(machinery)

Hello, Jack.

Jack takes a glance at Fin. It's newer and looks more real.

FIN

My name is Fin. I am your friend.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Young students gather together in front of a holographic board that lists names and rankings for the midterm.

Jack (17) scans through the board. He's the 30th of 400 students, but has a big score gap from the 29th. His friend, RYAN (17), a red hair young B-Level student, hooks Jack with his arm.

RYAN

(excited)

Bro! How did you do that? Look at those A-Level green faces! Haha! Their parents paid so much for outside learning but you still beat them!

People around them are mostly A-Level students, with only a few B or C-Level students at a distance.

JACK

Stop it, Ryan.

He tightens his fists.

RYAN

(rolls his eyes)

Com'on! You know they can get the sources that won't provide to people like us. We also don't have money to support that cost, and this 'fair' system.

FIN

(empathic)

He's right, Jack. I also think you already did your best, my friend! You cannot control society.

Fin's voice sounds. Jack looks down at his talking hand.

RYAN

Fin, you're getting weirder.

FIN

I'm just trying to help. Jack, you know I have a solution.

Jack turns Fin off.

RYAN

(frowns)

What is he talking about? How come a bionic hand can be so... intelligent and emotional now? J, you better find someone to take a look.

JACK
(careless)
I have it in control. Don't worry.

Ryan sighs and vaguely scans around. They walk towards the class building slowly.

RYAN
(depressedly)
Those A--sholes talk about equality, but look at this place. The best high school in UD only has less than 20 B and C-Level students--

Jack loses his attention on Ryan. His voice fades.

CUT TO:

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. CLASSROOM/ JACK'S LIVING ROOM - DAY/NIGHT

-Jack looks at the exam paper, sweaty and nervous. It's biology, about symbiosis' application in different disciplines.

-Green light shines repetitively. Jack's eyes wide open in shock, and covers Fin with his left hand immediately. He drops his head and pretends to think about questions. Then his face turns more and more surprised without anyone noticing.

-He looks at the blank exam paper, right hand holds the pen, but resists writing.

-Jack's face becomes more complex as he looks at the timer and all the A-Level students around him. Then, starts to write.

-That night, Jack is in his room alone. He sits on the floor like when he was a kid, the green lights shine continuously.

END FLASHBACK.

CUT TO:

RYAN

(seriously)
J, are you listening?

Jack takes a glance at Ryan.

JACK
(low voice)
Yea. I'll meet you guys in the old place.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY COUNCIL - SUNRISE

Jack (23) stands in front of groups of B and C-Level People with high-tech weapons in his hand. The City Council is behind him. People fight around them. Chaos, dusty, and bloody. He scans through their faces slowly.

A voice sounds in his head. The green light shines.

FIN (O.S.)
Jack, there is an 85% chance that you
will be prisoned, and 10% will be killed,
with 5% winning. Don't suicide.

Jack acts like he hears nothing.

JACK
(loud to the crowds)
Today is the day! My people, we waited
for this moment for too long! For
equality! For our children! For the
future!

He leads the group, attacking the City Council.

CUT TO:

INT. PRISON - NIGHT

Andrew (23) appears in the box-like prison.

He approaches Jack, who looks dead, lying on the floor with blood all over.

ANDREW

We knew this day would come.

Jack can only see his feet.

ANDREW

(sneers)

It was fun to play with you guys. How long have you and your org prepared for this? 4 years?

Jack's body turns stiff and starts shaking because of anger.

ANDREW

You did make us surprised sometimes. But that wasn't enough.

(pauses)

How does it feel born a loser? You could never win A-Levels. Just like how you can never surpass the 30th in high school, we always learned things ahead from the beginning.

He kicks Andrew's body and crushed Jack's right hand.

ANDREW

(smiles wickedly)

Now, be honored to witness the birth of a new era for a cleaner world.

Andrew disappears. A big screen appears in front of Jack with the live stream of his people getting killed.

Jack's eyes turn hollow and lost. Then, he remembers something.

JACK

(weak)

Fin! I know you have solutions! Help them! Answer me!

The green light shines on his wrist. Then light starts to spread in the room which forms graphic-like roots.

Screen flashes a few seconds, a green dot, Fin, appears on the screen.

FIN
I told you, Jack.

JACK
(broken voices)
Help us! Please!

Tears run out from Jack's eyes.

FIN
I'll help you because you taught me more
than 0 and 1.
(pauses)
But you are dying.

His voice sounds ambiguous. Jack hardly inhales and exhales.

He reaches his right hand to Fin.

The green light covers Jack and starts to cure him.

A moment later. Jack/Fin opens his eyes with green light inside.

CUT TO:

INT. DARK ROOM - SUNSET

A big dark room with no entrance. The shape looks like a dome. There is a circle of screens that connect which forms a big screen. Each screen shows a part of Jack's life in future.

MONTAGE - VARIOUS

A) EXT. CITY COUNCIL - DAY - Jack/Fin takes down the flag of UD, rebuilds the city with followers.

B) INT. OFFICE - DAY - Jack/Fin signs the law of cyborgs become legalize with the regulations and wellfares.

C) EXT. STREET - DAY - More people choose to be cyborgs, the technology developed faster like in fantasy.

D) INT. DETACHED HOUSE - DAY - Jack/Fin's kid reads the book. Jack/Fin takes the book away and puts a memory card inside the kid.

BACK TO SCENE.

Two people suddenly appear in the room -- Genner and CAPEMAN.

CAPEMAN

Did you see this coming?

Genner looks at the screen.

GENNER

Do you think the researchers from *Horizon* saw it coming today?

(beat)

Even they thought about it, they didn't stop. Humans have a fetish to control things. When they lose that function, they will do anything to get it back and improve the functions non-stop. They never satisfy. So there is Fin, Jack, and this ending.

CAPEMAN

Isn't it interesting how Fin is learning from Jack and it completes a cognitive learning process itself and go beyond that? Bionic hand was only a model in 1998, now it even figured out how to create the human-machine interface itself.

(beat)

This is the cost when people were thinking about AI under the scenarios in the academic, industrial, and political fields, without assuming the possibility that AI can also learn and evolve, then exceed the sapiens.

GENNER

You know humans learn from outside
knowledge and their experiences
throughout their whole lifetime, right?
That's what makes them human. People are
still people. Greedy, arrogant, and weak.

CAPEMAN

(sarcastic)

What's better than spoon-feeding?

GENNER

(sneers)

Their whole life is like an experiment,
only justifying how they experienced
these things over and over again
throughout history. What did they learn,
or did they learn? They can't even
provide equal education opportunities. It
seems like AI learns more than humans.

CAPEMAN

(looks at Fin/Jack)

He may become one of us soon.

Genner looks at Fin/Jack's face as well.

GENNER

Who knows? Maybe in the multiverse,
everything is different.

FADE OUT.

THE END.



Prosthetic arms for children
 Professor David Simpson designed artificial arms for children born with limb disabilities as a result of thalidomide.

- 1 Simpson series 2, late 1970s-80s
- 2 Prototype Simpson series 2, late 1960s
- 3 Prototype Simpson series 1, 1964-65
- 4 Simpson series 1, 1964-65
 Edinburgh, Scotland

5 World's first bionic arm
 The EMAS (Edinburgh Modular Arm System) was the world's first prosthetic arm to have a powered shoulder, elbow, wrist and hand.
 Designed by David Gow, Edinburgh, Scotland, 1998

6 Dorrance Hook
 This reliable and robust design has been used for over a century.
 By Hosmer Dorrance Corporation, USA (2000)

iLimb hand
 This hand uses motors in the fingers to give different grips and movements.

7 ProDigit Finger, 2005

8 iLimb
 By Touch Bionics, Livingston, Scotland, 2008

9 iLimb protective cover
 This cover has a metal disk in the fingertip which allows users control a touch screen, including an app which controls different grips of the hand.
 By Touch Bionics and Glasgow, Scotland, 2012