

UNSEEN PATTERNS

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INT. MUSEUM - DAY

TIGHT ON of three men's upper torsos (late 20s) staring at something.

NOAH has an intentionally unkempt sort of look about him. He looks confused.

ROGER is, well, let's call him rotund to be polite. He, too, can't make sense of what he's looking at.

BENJAMIN, in contrast, looks mesmerized. He has an air of self-importance about him, but it is undermined by an underlying nervousness to his demeanor.

ROGER

Maybe it's about... war?

NOAH

Perhaps... or maybe conservation?

BENJAMIN

(with gravitas)

It's about the singularity.

REVERSE ANGLE to reveal an art installation. It is an electric toy train going around a track. There are G.I. Joe like action figures of various heights fastened upright on top of the train. With each passing revolution, a steel bar above the train lowers a bit, laying one of the figures horizontally flat atop the train.

NOAH

I don't see it.

ROGER

That's because he's full of it. Have you listened to him lately? He sees the singularity in everything.

BENJAMIN

Must I explain everything to you? The train represents all of technology, and the action figures represent stages in human evolution. The more momentum technology gains, the more we lose a piece of who we are.

ROGER

But technology has helped us progress throughout history. Even fire is kinda a form of technology.

NOAH

And why a train? It seems pretty dated, relative to some of the stuff we have now.

BENJAMIN

(frustrated by being challenged)

Gee, I don't know. Do you see my name on the damn thing?

CLOSE UP of the author tag on the display window. It is just a single word, "Starfish."

ROGER

I'm tired of this... and hungry. Lunch?

NOAH

For sure.

Roger and Noah start to walk away from the art instillation, but Benjamin remains, still transfixed.

ROGER

Are you coming?

BENJAMIN

(not breaking eye-contact from the exhibit)

I'll catch up with you later.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Benjamin is sitting on a sofa in a living room. His apartment is small and basic, with little in the way of decoration. He's staring at a blank word document on his laptop.

He has a look of excitement for what he's about to write. He intertwines his fingers and cracks his knuckles, then types "The Reckoning" at the top of the page.

TIME CUT:

SUPER of text that reads "20 MINUTES LATER."

Benjamin has now moved to a standing position in front of a desk, with his laptop resting on top. The screen still only shows "The Reckoning." He looks dejected.

TIME CUT:

SUPER that reads "1 HOUR LATER."

Benjamin is now standing in front of a small white board hung on his wall.

He draws a large circle in its center with "Singularity" written in it, then proceeds to draw three smaller circles with lines connecting them to the main circle. They have the words "Robot," "Apple," and "Norway" in them.

TIME CUT:

SUPER that reads "3 MINUTES LATER."

A sound of a cell phone ringing comes from O.C. in the hallway of his apartment building.

Benjamin frantically slams his laptop shut, grabs his phone on his desk, and dumps it in a cup of water.

INT. MUSEUM - NIGHT - LATER

Benjamin is back at the museum staring at the art installation.

An OLD MAN in a museum uniform approaches Benjamin.

OLD MAN

I'm sorry, but we're closing soon, sir. I'm going to have to ask you to leave.

BENJAMIN

(his eyes still transfixed on the exhibit)

What time do you open tomorrow?

OLD MAN

Seven o'clock, sir.

BENJAMIN

Okay.

Benjamin turns and slowly walks away from the exhibit, all the while looking over his shoulder at it.