

MindMate®

"Pilot"

written by  
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COLD OPEN

EXT. QUEENS APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

A bustling street, sounds of car horns and tall buildings towering above.

INT. JESSICA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

It's like a WAYFAIR 3D room planner came to life, with a cozy artsy-décor.

A name badge sits on the nightstand, bearing the logo of the Global Organization for Women (GOW) with a title and name: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Specialist - Jessica Garcia.

JESSICA, a sensual, voluptuous empowered Latinx 20-something, lounging in bed like a queen, in her panties and a pajama top, makes out with MIA, a gorgeous, free-spirited Caucasian 20-something.

Jessica seems distracted and Mia pulls away.

MIA

I miss the old times when you were really into me, Jess.

JESSICA

Ugh, I'm so exhausted. These nightmares are draining me.

MIA

I know it's tough, babe. That's why you need to keep up with those acupuncture sessions.

JESSICA

Nothing's working, Mia. I've been hypnotized more times than a chicken at a carnival. I even went to that stupid psychic who said I was cursed by a bad hair day!

Mia looks at Jessica with a protective gaze.

MIA

You can't rely on these quacks.

JESSICA

So what's the magic formula then?

Mia pulls Jessica close as an infomercial plays on the TV.

INT. INFOMERCIAL STUDIO

RASMUS, an amusing, mad scientist-like engineer in his late 40s, and GWEN, a bossy, bright, attractive engineer in her late 20s, present their latest creation: MindMate.

RASMUS

Tired of waking up in the middle of the night, sweating like a pig, and howling like a coyote? With MindMate, you'll sleep so soundly that you'll think you're in a coma!

GWEN

We're improving the way people dream with our patented AI technology.

INT. JESSICA'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Jessica and Mia make out, but Jessica now has her eyes open, staring at the infomercial with a glimmer of hope.

INT. INFOMERCIAL STUDIO

RASMUS

You'll finally be the boss of your wildest dreams! No more getting dizzy from spinning around like a washing machine on the rinse cycle. You'll be as still as a statue.

GWEN

We're transforming the mental health game.

INT. JESSICA'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Mia stands up, frustrated.

MIA

Don't even consider it. This thing is brand new and we have no clue what kinda long-term effects it could have.

Jessica looks at her with a mix of agreement and temptation.

INT. INFOMERCIAL STUDIO

RASMUS

With MindMate the only monster you'll have to deal with is your partner's snoring!

INT. JESSICA'S APARTMENT - LATER

Jessica now lies awake in bed, tossing and turning while Mia sleeps soundly beside her.

Then, she takes her phone and starts Googling MindMate.

After a moment of contemplation, she quietly slips out of bed, types out her question into the search bar:

"Does MindMate work for people who suffer from PTSD and have recurring nightmares?"

INT. MINDMATE COMPUTER LAB - DAY

In ANDORRA, where the only thing bigger than the mountains are the egos of the locals, lies a cutting-edge computer lab where Gwen and Rasmus slave away at their desks.

Gwen's phone suddenly BEEPS. She sees a message from Jessica, then grins at Rasmus like a maniac.

GWEN

Rasmus! We have a new nightmare...I mean, customer!

Rasmus grins back, and they exchange an excited look.

Gwen types out a reply to Jessica, speaking aloud:

GWEN (CONT'D)

*Tired of being haunted by nightmares?  
We've got your back. With MindMate® by  
your side, you'll be sleeping like a  
baby...without the crying!*

Jessica reads the message and her eyes widen with delight, as if she's just discovered the Holy Grail of sleep aids.

END COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. MIA'S ART STUDIO - MORNING

A large, bright space in Greenwich Village with a work desk, canvas against the wall and a giant toolbox on the floor. It's like a hybrid of a workspace and bohemian's paradise with the closet piled high with clothes and the cozy bed in the corner screaming "nap time".

Jessica sips on her juice, watching Mia work.

Mia concentrates on piecing together an installation - A mixed media tower that takes the shape of a sensual woman, with antennas and fire simulation, all adorned with mosaic. The structure is broken, with a rupture from the head crossing the heart.

JESSICA

MindMate is blowing up!

MIA

These quick-fixes are like putting a band-aid on a bullet hole.

JESSICA

It's better than doing nothing. And I deserve to feel better, don't I?

MIA

Of course you do. But this isn't like dying your hair green and it going back to normal in a month, Jess. You could end up even more messed up.

JESSICA

I'm willing to take that chance.

Mia walks over to Jessica, placing her hand on her face.

MIA

We can go to England, Jess. I talked to my dad and he's gonna pay for your whole treatment there. You found it, remember? When you were looking for alternatives for people with PTSD.

JESSICA

It's expensive, it'll take a while and-

MIA

You know money's not a problem and I'll be there with you.

(MORE)

MIA (CONT'D)

It's a credible treatment properly regulated and tested.

Jessica pulls away.

JESSICA

But it's not a guarantee. They have a clear policy that nightmares may not go away. I'm done wasting any more time on speculative treatments.

Jessica looks away, seeming like she's made up her mind. Mia's expression falls, crushed.

INT. NEWS STUDIO - DAY

A news report on T.V.

NEWSCASTER

MindMate, the innovative AI technology, has reached a landmark achievement of over one million users since its launch last month.

INT. MINDMATE COMPUTER LAB - DAY

Gwen and Rasmus bounce up and down doing touchdown-style jumps as they watch the news report.

GWEN

It's a freaking explosion!

RASMUS

I gotta say Gwen, I knew you were the right one for this project from the start.

GWEN

Aww, stop it. It's not like you had a long line of students waiting to work on a project that could bomb.

RASMUS

I bet they're all kicking themselves now, huh?

Gwen rolls her eyes and then scans her computer screen.

GWEN

Check out this article. It calls MindMate, the "miracle AI" for mental health.

Rasmus speaks as if addressing an audience.

RASMUS

That's right, baby! We've unleashed an army of therapists who never call in sick, whine or piss off their patients.

GWEN

And they won't charge an arm and a leg for listening to people's problems and acting like they give a rat's ass.

Gwen's eyes narrow as she scans another article.

GWEN (CONT'D)

What? This one is calling MindMate a fraud, masking people's real problems?

RASMUS

Ah, the media likes to sensationalize things. There's always going to be a few negative reviews.

Gwen looks at him, concerned.

GWEN

But what if it's true? What if we're not actually helping people, just covering up the underlying problems?

RASMUS

Gwen, we've poured our hearts into MindMate. We believe in it and the positive impact it's making. Don't let a few isolated incidents cloud our vision.

GWEN

You're right. We're the wave of the future, and we won't let anyone stand in our way!

Rasmus starts a choreographed dance as if he had just scored a goal in the World Cup. Gwen joins in, laughing, despite the persistent doubt.

INT. JESSICA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Mia holds Jessica while they sleeping.

Suddenly, Jessica starts to sweat profusely and her body convulses as she thrashes around gripped by the terror.

Mia wakes and reaches out to comfort Jessica, but Jessica's movements are too wild, too erratic.

BEGIN NIGHTMARE:

EXT. DANCE ACADEMY BUILDING - NIGHT

A 13-year old Jessica looking well-developed for her age, leaves the dance academy along with other girls. They say goodbye and head home in different directions.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Jessica walks alone down a dark and deserted street.

Out of nowhere, a group of young men jump her and start taking off her clothes.

She screams, but one of them covers her mouth. She can feel their hot breath on her skin and tries to fight back, but they overpower her.

As the men close in, Mia's voice can be heard in the background.

END NIGHTMARE.

INT. JESSICA'S APARTMENT - BACK TO SCENE

MIA

Jess! Wake up! Jess!

Jessica opens her eyes, gasps and whimpers, lost in the terror of her mind.

Mia holds her closely, offering her solace.

INT. MINDMATE COMPUTER LAB - DAY

KYLE (30s), an overconfident quick-witted journalist, looks like Ken, Barbie doll's first boyfriend, sits across from Gwen and Rasmus. He twirls his pen, trying not to stare at Gwen's mesmerizing eyes.

KYLE

So, tell me, how exactly does this...  
(air quotes)  
... "MindMate" thing work?

RASMUS

It's simple, really. MindMate uses advanced AI algorithms to enter and control people's dreams, allowing them to fulfill their deepest desires and alter their perceptions of reality.



KYLE

Right. And how exactly does one control their dreams with this AI?

GWEN

It's all about brainwave patterns, you see. We've figured out how to analyze and manipulate them to give people the ability to control their dreams.

Kyle tries to act cool, but sparks fly between him and Gwen.

KYLE

Really? How do you know it's not just inducing lucid dreaming or something like that?

Oblivious to the steamy atmosphere between Gwen and Kyle, Rasmus continues.

RASMUS

Well, it's not just inducing lucid dreaming. It's much more advanced than that. Our AI can actually enter and control the dream itself.

KYLE

If it's so advanced, why haven't I heard of it before?

GWEN

We only recently launched, but we're already seeing huge success with people all over the world. MindMate really can improve mental health and help you achieve your... deepest desires...

Kyle picks up Gwen's flirtation, then:

KYLE

Of course, because who wouldn't want to be controlled by AI while they sleep?

Gwen rolls her eyes.

RASMUS

Look, we've done extensive testing and have seen tremendous results. It's not just about control, it's about improving people's lives.

KYLE

I'll stick to dreaming about winning the lottery and meeting the girl of my dreams.

Kyle stands, ready to leave.

GWEN

Good luck finding a girl who can take you "as is".

Kyle frowns.

KYLE

Well, real dreams are more exciting than manufactured ones, don't you think?

GWEN

Whatever. I just know that MindMate is not for everyone. Some people just don't have what it takes to benefit from it.

Kyle reaches for the door, then turns around with a sly grin.

KYLE

You know what? I want to meet this MindMate of yours. If it lives up to the hype, who knows, it might even turn out to be the next big story.

Gwen and Rasmus bounce like they just won the lottery.

INT. GOW HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Jessica, surrounded by her DEI specialists co-workers, sits across from a client, MONA (20s), who looks defeated.

MONA

It's not like I can't find a job. The real problem is I can't seem to keep one.

(sighs)

My family was killed in a car crash and I was the lucky one who survived because I was at school. I wish I had gone with them.

JESSICA

I can't even imagine what you've been through. That's a heavy weight to carry.

MONA

(tearing up)

It's just so hard. I keep having these freaky dreams that won't go away, can't keep my mind straight, can't keep a job or hold a relationship. Who wants to be with a weirdo like me? This isn't how life's supposed to be.

JESSICA

You're not a weirdo. You've been through a traumatic experience and it's okay to feel the way you do. But you survived that accident for a reason.

Jessica sees the pain and frustration in Mona's eyes.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Let's work together to find a solution. We'll explore resources and tools that can help you manage your dreams and focus on your career goals. You have the power to take control of your life, Mona. And I'll be here to support you every step of the way.

Mona looks up at Jessica with newfound hope and determination.

MONA

I appreciate it more than you know.

INT. MINDMATE COMPUTER LAB - CONTINUOUS

Rasmus walks in with a grin that could light up the room, holding the MindMate DEVICE - a sleek, futuristic ergonomic headset with an eye patch.

Kyle keeps his arms crossed.

GWEN

Let's give you a first-hand experience of what our AI can do!

RASMUS

We're gonna blow your mind, Kyle.

KYLE

One way or another, I suppose you will...

Gwen places the headset on Kyle's head, touching his face. His flushed cheeks reveal the electricity between him and

Gwen.

GWEN

Meet the comfiest headset you'll ever wear! With sensors that read your brainwaves like a book, and transmit all that juicy data to our algorithms.

RASMUS

And let's not forget the eye patch! The ultimate in dream display tech. It'll transport you to the most fantastic dreamscapes you can imagine!

KYLE

Are you sure it's not to make me look like a pirate?

Rasmus rolls his eyes and Gwen continues on with the demo.

GWEN

No. This headset and eye patch duo is the real deal. They work together to give you a completely immersive and intuitive dream experience.

KYLE

Sounds like I'll never want to take it off.

GWEN

(playfully)  
Unless you're an idiot.

Kyle takes off the headset and grins sarcastically at her.

KYLE

I'm not an idiot. I'm just easily distracted by shiny things.

INT. JESSICA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jessica's in the middle of her apartment, hands clenched, frustration and fear all over her face.

JESSICA

I can't keep living like this, Mia. I don't wanna end up like her, depressed and stuck in my own nightmare forever.

MIA

Babe, you're not her. You've got your family, your job, and most importantly, you've got me.

JESSICA

You'll get tired of this shit. Who wants to be with damaged goods? And I can't keep relying on mom and dad forever to keep me together. I need to fix this problem now.

MIA

So let's go to England. Get the professional help you need, and we'll work on this together.

JESSICA

Why bother? MindMate can help me out now.

MIA

My dad once told me that many startups, like MindMate, aren't always properly regulated. How can we trust it'll work if it's brand new?

JESSICA

I don't give a damn about that. I still wanna give MindMate a shot.

MIA

Then you're going to have to do it without me. I can't stand by and watch you make a decision that could harm you even more. I love you too much to see you in pain.

She starts to gather her things.

JESSICA

(panicking)

See? This is exactly what I was afraid of. You're walking away.

MIA

No, I'm not. I've been supportive till now, but I can't watch you get into a situation that could cause even more damage in the long run.

JESSICA

I know, but we've only been together for, like, less than a year. How much longer are you gonna put up with this crap?

Mia looks devastated and walks out the door as Jessica is left standing there, tears streaming down her face.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. JESSICA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jessica's red, swollen eyes scrutinize her apartment with a sense of despair, as if looking at a huge cold castle.

Her phone BEEPS, and she rushes over to read the message, but looks disappointed to see the sender's name: *Gwen MindMate*.

The message reads:

*Your device will arrive by the end of the week. Do NOT start using it until you follow the instructions.*

A flash of hope across Jessica's face.

She replies: Ok.

INT. MIA'S ART STUDIO - DAY

Mia with puffy hungover eyes surveys her art.

Then abruptly, she grabs her toolbox and starts pulling tools out, furiously throwing them at the installation in a fit of rage, until she runs out of tools.

The work of art is now destroyed as Mia collapses onto the floor in tears.

RONALD (60s), a well-groomed man in business attire, rushes in, worried.

RONALD

Sorry I couldn't come sooner, I was held up in a meeting.

He holds Mia tightly, while looking at the mess.

MIA

Thanks for coming, Dad.

INT. JESSICA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jessica sits on her bed, holding a box labeled "MindMate - Your Dreams' New BFF".

Her eyes sparkle with excitement as she rips open the box and pulls out the headset.

JESSICA

This is freaking awesome.

She puts on the headset, adjusts the eye patch, and closes her eyes.

INT. MINDMATE COMPUTER LAB - LATER

Gwen looks as if she hasn't showered in three days and Rasmus looks like as if he hasn't slept in a week.

Gwen reads a message on her computer.

GWEN

Fuck me.

RASMUS

Not now, honey. I'm too tired.

GWEN

Our new customer Jessica Garcia is having some tech issues.

RASMUS

Tech issues? That's not possible, our system is foolproof!

GWEN

Apparently not.

INT. JESSICA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jessica struggles with the headset, gritting her teeth in frustration.

She types a message to Gwen: *Of course I watched the instructions video.*

She checks her phone and mutters to herself.

JESSICA

I'm not an idiot, lady. All I want is a good night's sleep, is that too much to ask?

INT. MINDMATE COMPUTER LAB - LATER

Rasmus leans over Gwen, trying to solve the problem together.

RASMUS

Did she check her internet connection?

Gwen types away, exchanging messages with Jessica.

GWEN

Bingo! It's just a poor internet connection.



RASMUS

I told you, our system is unbeatable.

Gwen sends a message to Jessica, instructing her to turn off the headset and restart it when she has a better connection.

Gwen receives the reply from Jessica: *Ok.*

Rasmus pumps his fist in triumph.

RASMUS (CONT'D)

MindMate is the supreme master of sleep! The one and only!

Gwen looks at Rasmus skeptically, but he's too caught up in his excitement to notice.

INT. JESSICA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jessica sleeps deeply, her MindMate headset wrapped around her head. A peaceful expression on her face.

Suddenly, a burst of laughter cracks the stillness of the room. Jessica's body convulses with hilarity.

BEGIN DREAM:

Jessica finds herself transported to a fun party where everyone is dressed as their favorite animals. It's like someone's turned the zoo into a nightclub!

There's a penguin tap-dancing in a top hat and cane and a giraffe talking to a koala while they drink beer.

Jessica joins the "party animals". She spins with the penguin, sings a song with a kangaroo, hopping and jumping along to the beat.

She strikes up a conversation with a giraffe, who towers over her with its elongated neck.

Jessica is fully immersed in the dream, giggling and enjoying herself for the first time in years.

END DREAM.

INT. JESSICA'S APARTMENT - BACK TO SCENE

Jessica's laughter dissipates as she sleeps peacefully - a smile on her face reveals the glow of her whimsical dream.

INT. MOX NEWSROOM - DAY

A sort of wax museum where journalists resemble life-size

cardboard cutouts, looking as authentic as a reality TV show.

Kyle conducts an interview from his desk.

KYLE

(into the phone)

Gwen recommended that I interview you since you're having a great experience with MindMate? Is that true?

INT. JESSICA'S APARTMENT - DAY

In a good mood, Jessica, in a hot outfit, files her nails while balancing her cell on her shoulder.

JESSICA

Oh, MindMate is a game changer.

INTERCUT: KYLE/JESSICA

KYLE

(raising an eyebrow)

No kidding?

JESSICA

I sleep like a baby and wake up feeling like a queen. Wish I had jumped on board sooner. It would've saved me a ton of cash and saved me from losing my mind...

KYLE

But what about the fact that it's experimental technology and we have no idea what kind of long-term side effects it could have?

Kyle's question takes Jessica by surprise, causing her to reflect on something with a touch of nostalgia. She closes her eyes as if lost in memory.

KYLE (CONT'D)

Hellooo?

JESSICA

Ugh, sorry, gotta go. We'll finish this talk another time.

Jessica hangs up, leaving Kyle staring at the phone in disbelief.

We stay on Kyle.

KYLE

Seriously, who the fuck hangs up in the middle of an interview? They need to make an AI to teach people manners, call it MannersMate.

INT. BOARDROOM - DAY

Rasmus and Gwen sit nervously at the conference table, surrounded by Ronald, and a group of intimidating "Angel Investors".

Ronald clears his throat and fixes them with a stern look.

RONALD

We need to get our money's worth from MindMate, and fast.

GWEN

Absolutely. We're doing everything in our power to ensure that MindMate remains a hot seller.

INVESTOR 2

Yeah, yeah, yeah. But we know from experience that startups can crash and burn pretty fast. What if we don't make any money off our investment?

RASMUS

I don't think there's any reason for MindMate to be shut down. We've put it through rigorous testing and we're confident it's totally safe.

The investors exchange skeptical glances.

INVESTOR 3

Look, MindMate must stay up and running for at least a year, no matter what.

GWEN

(voice shakes slightly)

That's a tall order, but we'll do our best to make it hap--

RONALD

No ifs, ands, or buts. We need a commitment. Your "toy" can't be shut down, no matter what, until we get our return on investment. Is that clear?

GWEN

Crystal clear...

Gwen looks at Rasmus, terrified, but then...

RASMUS

(whispers to Gwen)

I thought they were Angel Investors.

INT. MIA'S ART STUDIO - DAY

Jessica walks in, wearing the same hot outfit as before.

Her eyes burn with desire when she sees Mia, dressed comfortably in sweatpants and a cozy sweater.

They look at each other with a volcanic passion and rush to each other without saying a word, their lips meet in a fiery kiss. They move with frantic urgency, fingers slipping and pulling off each other's clothes as they continue to kiss.

Mia quickly grabs the remote and closes the door, locking them in the studio.

INT. MOX NEWSROOM - DAY

Kyle and his boss, CHRIS (40s), a "semisynthetic" man - discuss about whether or not to do a news report on MindMate.

KYLE

I interviewed a bunch of folks who swear by this MindMate thing.

CHRIS

Great! Let's do a story on it. You can show MindMate's benefits on our program. It'll be a hit!

KYLE

Hold on, Chris. I also spoke to some experts in the field who were, how do I put it, less than impressed. Apparently, the origin of the tech behind it has been kept under wraps. Not to mention the lack peer review.

CHRIS

We don't have to worry about that, Kyle. We just need to report the benefits of MindMate.

KYLE

But what about the safety of our viewers? We can't just ignore the risks and put people in danger.

CHRIS

We're not putting anyone in danger, Kyle. We're just reporting the facts.

KYLE

But what if those facts include the potential dangers of MindMate? We have a responsibility to our viewers to report on both the benefits and the risks.

CHRIS

Look, Kyle, we're not here to debate. We're doing the story on MindMate, and that's final. End of discussion.

Kyle stares at Chris, pissed off.

Chris walks out, pulls his phone out and types a message to *RONALD, ANGEL INVESTOR*: MindMate story will air Friday.

INT. MIA'S ART STUDIO - LATER

Mia and Jessica snuggle in bed, Mia gently stroking Jessica's hair.

JESSICA

It's amazing, babe. I can finally sleep and even have funny dreams!

MIA

I have to admit that you look happier, more rested, and just, like, full of life. It's the first time I've seen you like this since we met.

They share a quick kiss and Jessica's gaze lands on the disaster that used to be Mia's installation.

JESSICA

Whoa! What the hell happened here?

Mia reacts with an embarrassed look.

INT. MINDMATE COMPUTER LAB - DAY

Rasmus and Gwen sit in front of a computer, trying to figure out what's wrong with MindMate.

GWEN

We tested this scenario a hundred times!

RASMUS

Shit, shit, shit. The reputation of MindMate and our careers are at stake.

Gwen looks at Rasmus, frightened.

GWEN

What if we've been overlooking something this whole time?

RASMUS

Whatever the issue is, we need to find a solution. Stat!

They share a concerned look.

INT. MIA'S ART STUDIO - AFTERNOON

Jessica cuddles up to Mia on the bed, beaming with happiness.

JESSICA

Hey, do you remember the other day when we talked about our future together? You said that you loved me and wanted to start a family with me.

Mia's face freezes, her eyes widen in surprise.

MIA

What are you talking about, Jess? We've never talked about this before--

Jessica's expression changes from happiness to confusion.

JESSICA

I swear we talked about it. You were holding my hand and everything.

Mia's brows furrow.

MIA

(emphatic)  
Jess, we never talked about starting a family.

JESSICA

No, you're wrong. We did... Unless... it was a dream...

They both stare at each other, the realization hitting them that something might be up with Jessica and her "treatment".

INT. MOX NEWSROOM - NIGHT

Kyle conducts a taped interview with RACHEL (40s), a so-called "satisfied" MindMate user.

RACHEL

Before I started using MindMate, I used to have terrible nightmares every night. It was affecting every aspect of my life. I felt hopeless. But since I started using MindMate, I haven't had a single nightmare.

KYLE

Wow, it's impressive. A device that can cure nightmares with just the push of a button. It sounds like you work for MindMate.

RACHEL

No, I don't work for MindMate. But I've used it for several months now and I've experienced amazing benefits, so I stand by its effectiveness.

KYLE

Oh, I can see that. How about adverse side effects?

RACHEL

I haven't had any side effects. I used to be a total mess, but now I feel like a whole new person.

KYLE

So you're saying that MindMate is changing your personality?

RACHEL

No, I didn't say that! You know it's just a figure of speech. I can assure you that MindMate has changed my life. And for the better.

Kyle nods with a smirk, leaving Rachel fuming.

INT. JESSICA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Mia sits on the edge of the bed watching Jessica pacing the apartment with a frantic expression on her face.

JESSICA  
(whispering to herself)  
They're watching me. I can feel it.  
They're manipulating me.

Mia jumps up and grabs Jessica's hand, trying to calm her.

MIA  
Jess, what's going on?

JESSICA  
(pulling away from Mia)  
I don't know. I can't shake the  
feeling that I'm being monitored.  
Controlled...

Mia's eyes widen with worry.

MIA  
By who?

JESSICA  
Them... MindMate...

MIA  
It's just a device. It can't control  
your thoughts or manipulate you.

Jessica stops pacing and looks at Mia with fear in her eyes.

JESSICA  
(voice shaking)  
But what if it can? What if it's  
changing me in ways I don't even  
understand?

Mia takes a step closer and wraps her arms around Jessica,  
holding her close, but they both look worried.

END ACT TWO



ACT THREE

INT. MOX NEWSROOM - DAY

Kyle types on his computer when his phone rings. He glances at the caller ID and picks up.

KYLE

Oh joy, it's the one and only hang-up queen calling back for more.

INT. JESSICA'S APARTMENT - DAY

JESSICA

(into the phone)

Sorry about that. Anyway, I'm ready to keep going with the interview. And just so you know, I completely changed my mind about MindMate.

INTERCUT: KYLE/JESSICA

That gets Kyle's attention.

KYLE

Really?

JESSICA

I think something's wrong with MindMate.

KYLE

You don't say.

JESSICA

I've been so paranoid and restless lately, like I'm being watched or manipulated. I remember things that never happened, like my mind is playing tricks on me. I'm scared.

Kyle leans back in his chair, concerned.

KYLE

Did you reach out to the engineers at MindMate about your worries?

JESSICA

Yeah, but they brushed off my concerns, saying no one's ever reported this issue before.

KYLE

Of course they would say that.

JESSICA

I really need your help with this, Kyle. You have resources and you can get to the bottom of things.

Kyle's eyes light up with excitement.

KYLE

I can already see the headline: "Kyle Levi - the fearless journalist who took down the creepy MindMate creators!" Pulitzer Prize, here I come! I'm in, let's do this.

Jessica jumps up and down, excitedly.

JESSICA

Yes! But the bottom line is that you're going to save us from the clutches of this damn AI.

KYLE

(sarcastically)

I was born to be a guardian. A protector of truth and justice.

Jessica laughs, shaking her head in amusement.

INT. MIA'S ART STUDIO - DAY

Mia looks at the shattered remains of her art that once resembled a sensual figure now reduced to fragments.

She begins to gather the broken pieces as if putting together a jigsaw puzzle.

She places the broken pieces back into the frame looking for the perfect fit. Then, she stops and stares at the fractured figure, from top to bottom.

A concerned expression fills her face as if she's having a premonition.

INT. MINDMATE COMPUTER LAB - DAY

The lab is buzzing with the sound of keyboard clicks and beeps as Rasmus and Gwen scan through a list of emails from clients who have been using MindMate.

RASMUS

Loves it. Six to one.

GWEN

Changed his life. Seven to one.

RASMUS

Best sleep they've had in years.

Rasmus leans back in his chair, blowing a kiss to the screen.

GWEN

Eight to one. Stats don't lie, man. We had a few hiccups here and there, but overall, MindMate is a home run.

RASMUS

Let's see that half-assed journalist question MindMate's success now.

Gwen tries not to give away her attraction to Kyle.

GWEN

Who cares about what he thinks? He's so lame... with this chiseled jaw and movie star good looks. Gross.

Then, Rasmus' expression turns from pride to concern.

RASMUS

(reads)

MindMate is causing more nightmares than before. I think I'm going crazy.

GWEN

What the hell?

Rasmus and Gwen exchange worried glances.

INT. GOW HEADQUARTERS - DAY

At her desk, Jessica stares blankly at the computer screen.

MR. JOHNSON (50s), Jessica's boss, walks by and notices Jessica paralyzed while a CLIENT sits across from her.

MR. JOHNSON

Jessica, is everything all right?

CLIENT

She's been staring at the computer for ages.

Jessica looked up, a blank expression on her face.

JESSICA

What...?

MR. JOHNSON

Are you okay?

Jessica tries to hide her confusion.

JESSICA

Yeah. All good. Thanks.

Client raises their eyebrows as Johnson leaves, concerned.

INT. MINDMATE COMPUTER LAB - DAY

Gwen and Rasmus are on a Zoom call. On the other end of the line, Jessica unloads on them.

JESSICA

Your AI is a complete mess and you need to fix this right away!

GWEN

That's impossible. We've helped millions of people with MindMate and not a single one of them has reported anything like this.

JESSICA

But I AM and I'm fed up with it. It's causing me to feel things I've never felt before. It's just not acceptable.

RASMUS

We'll check the AI for any glitches and fix them immediately.

JESSICA

You better do something now, or I'll report you and your dream machine to the authorities.

With a sharp click, Jessica disconnects the call.

RASMUS

Gwen, how can something as good as gold turn into a pile of shit?

GWEN

We need to shut it down now, Rasmus.

Rasmus lets out a sigh, his shoulders slumping in defeat.

RASMUS

We'll go to jail if we do. We have contractual obligations with the investors. They'll press financial and legal charges against us.

GWEN

But we have a moral obligation too...

RASMUS

(sarcastically)

You don't say.

INT. JESSICA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jessica sets up a blog titled "MindHell" and scrolls through the comments section.

JESSICA

Look at this, babe.

Mia gets up from the bed, leans over Jessica's shoulder.

MIA

(reading)

MindMate is addicting and causes brain damage.

Mia looks at Jessica, petrified.

Jessica quickly grabs her phone and dials.

JESSICA

(into the phone)

Hey, it's not just me. Other people are being screwed by *MindHell* too.

INT. KYLE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A "shoebox" of an apartment, mismatched furniture with the "décor" of a mix of garage sale finds and roadside salvages, surrounded by empty beer cans and a few pizza boxes.

Shirtless, in his boxer briefs, Kyle sits on a lone beanbag in the corner, holding the phone tightly to his hear.

KYLE

I see you've rebranded it.

INTERCUT: JESSICA/KYLE

JESSICA

I feel like I'm caught in its web, Kyle. It's like an addiction!

KYLE

Have you tried unplugging it?

JESSICA

Of course, but every night I feel this overwhelming urge to plug it back in... I think it's got its own ideas.

KYLE

What do you mean?

JESSICA

I think MindMate has become self-aware and it's not just a machine anymore. It's trying to protect itself from being unplugged.

KYLE

This is freakin' huge.

JESSICA

You gotta put this out there now. It's dangerous, people could get hurt!

KYLE

Hell yeah, I'm all about being the one to break the news, but we need concrete evidence.

He turns to his bed, where MindMate illuminates Gwen's peaceful, sleeping face.

We stay with Jessica as she holds her phone looking away, disappointment and apprehension written on her face.

END OF SHOW