SANKOVA

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CHYRON OVER BLACK: THE RACIST AMERICAN EMPIRE COLLAPSED 5 MILLION YEARS AGO. FROM THE RUBBLE, BLACK UTOPIA WAS BUILT.

EXT. THE ETHICAL ORGY - NIGHT

The club name hangs from the roof in neon lights.

INT. THE ETHICAL ORGY - NIGHT

X. Short, know-it-all. He's drunk in the VIP SECTION. X leans over the couch sobbing to a DRUNK MAN with a PARAKEET on his shoulder.

X
But ain't that shit confusing dog? How do you break up with somebody then a day later say "I still love you." That don't make no fucking sense. Make up your mind.

A GOOFY RANDOM taps X on the shoulder.

GOOFY RANDOM
Yo, it's you! What's good dog?

X
Yo.

As he daps Goofy Random up, Goofy Random drunkenly splashes liquor on Parakeet before walking off.

X (CONT'D)
(to Drunk Man)
Folks think they know you cuz they seen you on a Citycast.

A LOUD RANDOM leans over the railing.

LOUD RANDOM
X! Bruh. Tina played your ass like a damn fiddle. You gotta say something bout that on the show.

Loud Random tries to dap X up, but X ignores him. Loud Random accidentally spills more liquor on Parakeet before dancing away.

X
(slurring)
Say you hate me. Say I ain't shit. Say ya new nigga the one and you needed time to figure that out.
(MORE)

X (CONT'D)
But don't sit here and tell me I still matter. How the fuck do I move on --

Suddenly, ASSHOLE RANDOM sits down between X, Drunk Man, and Parakeet. Asshole Random frames up a selfie, unintentionally elbowing Parakeet repeatedly.

ASSHOLE RANDOM
(while taking several photos)
Wow! Is your heart still broken over Tina dumping you? Is it hard thinking about the woman you're in love with choosing a man who's your superior? I relate.

Asshole Random smacks Parakeet off the couch as they talk. X glowers. Asshole Random takes one last selfie.

Parakeet rises from the floor with a gun.

PARAKEET
If y'all clout-chasing motherfuckers don't leave this sad-ass nigga alone!

X takes a sip of his drink. Really thinks this over.

X
You a parakeet. You can't say nigga.

Parakeet starts shooting up the place. X goes down, shot by a stray bullet in the ass. The crowd freaks and runs.

EXT. THE ETHICAL ORGY - NIGHT

PATRONS and a smattering of ANIMALS sprint from the club as Parakeet flies to the night sky. Others quickly pull out warp crystals, navigating screens with their thumbs and beaming in different directions.

X GROANS as he crawls to a Free Healthcare Machine. Bangs on it. The machine projects a shower curtain with a red cross around X, concealing him from everyone fleeing the club. A CHIME plays in the medical booth as TWO MECHANICAL ARMS jut out from the Free Healthcare Machine to dress the wound.

HEALTHCARE MACHINE
(an androgynous robotic voice)
Hello Sankovian! Awww.
(MORE)

HEALTHCARE MACHINE (CONT'D)
Does baby have a boo-boo? The Sankovian medical booth will fix you right up --

A JINGLE from an advertisement redirects X's attention to a GIANT SCREEN on a skyscraper across the street. X looks up.

GIANT SCREEN
Do you know the history of Jayonce? Come learn more at the National Sankovian Museum in DC!

ON SCREEN: JAYONCE - a cybernetic AI with Bey's enigmatic gaze and Jay-Z's dope boy smirk -- appears in front of a CROWD OF SMILING SANKOVIANS.

X
(still inebriated)
Fucking Jayonce.

Suddenly, X looks down at the bullet wound in his booty.

X (CONT'D)
Ow! That shit hurts --

Another CHIME, like a MICROWAVE DING, plays out the machine's speakers. X, woozy and still faded, but bullet removed, steps out of the booth as the curtain retracts and disappears.

X immediately takes out his warp crystal, navigating his screen with his thumbs, then beams and teleports to another location.

As the last STRAGGLERS exit the club, we hone in on a holo-ad for "THE MORNING TEA, SANKOVA'S #1 CITYCAST" on the side of the building with X standing in front of TINA, CHRIS, & KEVIN.

SMASH CUT TO
OPENING CREDITS:

SANKOVA

<u>EXT. THE MORNING TEA TREEHOUSE - MOMENTS BEFORE DAYBREAK</u>

The blue beam envelops a warp crystal near the front lawn of a bougie, impeccably designed house that wraps around the trunk of a massive oak tree and extends far above into its branches.

X appears inside the blue beam as it dissipates.

INT. X'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

All the lights are off, but the morning sun enters through the window. Den of a gamer junkie, tech whiz, Japanese Role-Playing Games loving artist.

X enters and flips on the light to reveal -- Tina, the female *Morning Tea* host from earlier on the holo-ad. Smart. Silly. Dark skin. A philosophical, free spirited shit-talker.

X
Fuck! Why are you in here?!

TINA
"We can be friends that shit's super simple. I'm good." You said that.

X
What are you talking about?

Tina opens her Citycaster, a smartphone *with wings & a 4k camera*.

The Citycaster projects a holographic video.

HOLOGRAPHIC VIDEO PLAYS: From the Ethical Orgy, Loud Random accidentally spills more liquor on Parakeet before dancing away.

X (HOLOGRAM) (CONT'D)
(slurring)
Say you hate me. Say I ain't shit. Say ya new nigga the one and you needed time to figure that out. But don't sit here and tell me I still matter. How the fuck do I move on --

Suddenly, Asshole Random sits down between X, Drunk Man, and Parakeet.

BACK TO SCENE

Tina puts her Citycaster away.

X (CONT'D)
(saving face)
That ain't me.

TINA
Get a grip and tell me what's up.

X
You with Kevin now so it don't even fucking matter!

TINA
Then stop pouting nigga. You had your chance.

This man is on the verge of tears. He turns away as she walks out.

TINA (PRE-LAP) (CONT'D)
Jayonce's evil. Period.

INT. MORNING TREEHOUSE - DAY

A circular couch hovers with our four Citycaster hosts facing each other as they debate today's issue. A blue beam emits from the center of the hovering roundtable.

Our hosts are in the middle of this episode's debate.

CHRIS
Tell us the business, Karla Marx!

TINA
I will step on your dick if you call me that again. Jayonce's the literal embodiment of unchecked fame, money, & power.

CHRIS
Which they used to build Sankova. Which we all benefit from. Which YOU benefit from.

KEVIN
Chris ain't wrong. Jayonce is a necessary evil.

TINA
Don't help that nigga make his points!

KEVIN
Hear me out. Jayonce's the beginning of our mythos. They led us out the empire & built paradise. That's Moses leading the Israelites outta Egypt for most folks today. You'll never convince Sankovians otherwise.

Everyone looks at him cluelessly. A beat. Kevin lifts his shirt and golden light radiates from underneath. ANGELIC HARPS play. We can't see what they see, but understand Kevin is fit and always uses it as his trump card.

X
(mesmerized)
Goddamn!

Tina rolls her eyes as Kevin puts his shirt down.

TINA
Powerful analysis. You're wrong, but I love the way you analyze.

X
If I said that shit you'd be poking a million holes a millisecond.

TINA
I'm not harping on every word when the end goal is the same.

KEVIN
Correct. Everything Jayonce has should be mine.

Tina punches Kevin in the arm.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Everything Jayonce has should be the people's even if it means taking it by force.

TINA
I can't take anyone seriously who can't speak that simple truth to power. It doesn't matter how we vibe. You're not on my level.

X
You wanna murder Jayonce and take all their shit cuz there's a little bit of collateral damage. That ain't happening. The positives outweighs the negatives. We just need to make sure they can't game the system!

Chris snips dead leaves from a bonsai plant he's placed on the table.

CHRIS
Honey. Jayonce IS the system.

EXT. BACKYARD - STANNISON SQUARE GARDEN - CONTINUOUS

A SANKOVIAN COUPLE watches from a holographic video emitted from their phone and nod in agreement.

HOLOGRAPHIC VIDEO PLAYS:

X (HOLOGRAM)
(incredulously)
Do you care to expound, Chris?

A beat.

CHRIS (HOLOGRAM)
Not really.

Chris waters his bonsai plant as the couple laughs.

INT. MORNING TEA TREEHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Everyone watches Chris meticulously water his bonsai plant. X stares at Chris, thirsting for more in the debate.

X
Chris!

CHRIS
What? We live good lives. No one's homeless. No one starves. Calling a nigga broke means they're poor till the universal basic income hits their account next week.

X
The topic is Jayonce!

CHRIS
There's no Sankova without Jayonce. Period. Democracy, dictatorship, oligarchy, monarchy. Our world begins and ends with Jayonce.

TINA
Just say you're okay with a tyrant.

CHRIS
I am. Tina. Baby. Again. Don't care. Democracy or dictatorship. I am fine as fuck and will continue to thrive.

X
Alright, well can I say this? Sankova is art. What's more art than civilization? What's more poetic than Roc Nation building a nation. The only society to ever witness one of its founders continually make it better.

EXT. D.C. - CONTINUOUS

Another mega-city in Sankova, where STUDENTS relaxing on a University Quad watch a giant video screen and agree.

INT. MORNING TEA TREE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

ANGLE ON: The holographic video board that tallies live-audience response of likes and dislikes. The numbers under X's score dramatically increase.

TINA
You sound indoctrinated.

X
Jayonce just got done building *The Ivy Park End Hunger Forever Community Center.*

TINA
I'm hungry right now so that shit already failed.

X
What about the *Hard Knock Life Foundation for Prison Reform?* They emptied all the cells.

TINA
The prisoners all had to sign twenty year, mandatory back-up dancer contracts. That's slavery.

X
What about *Roc Nation Social Justice Brunch for the Broke?* It's all about financial empowerment. I been going to it for ten years.

TINA
You been going ten years and you're still broke so what does that say?

ANGLE ON: The holographic video board as Tina’s score takes off!

CHRIS
(nodding in agreement)
I worship the ground Jayonce walks on, but that is lame.

KEVIN
Shit’s embarrassing.

X
I’m there to gain knowledge & connections, not money. Plus, Jayonce might show up.

CHRIS
Jayonce ain’t shown up in decades!

ANGLE ON: The holographic video board. X’s score plummets.

X
Y’all some haters!

TINA
No. You're addicted to giving rich niggas your money. You’re so damn naive. No wonder we couldn’t --

X slams two Brunch for the Broke tickets on the table.

X
Come to the brunch and see why your dumbass is wrong.

TINA
Bet! I’ll show your boot-licking ass in person!

ANGLE ON: The holographic video board. Tina’s last comment ignites her score to exponentially rise. And keep rising...

WIDE OF ROOM: “THE PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN” flashes above Tina’s head.

Tina looks up and smirks, as X begrudgingly concedes.

X
The people have spoken! Tune in soon to find out who’s right.

X punches the end of the broadcast button and the Citycast ends. The blue beam disappears from the center of the table as the living room flips to its natural non-Citycast form.

Kevin gives X a good up and down, sizing him up.

KEVIN
Y'all mind if I roll?

X
I only got one extra ticket.

CHRIS
Moments like this are why I love working for the feds.

Chris' beefy hand holds up his ALL ACCESS ID CARD TO EVERYTHING (literally etched on the card).

X
You said it was lame!

CHRIS
It is...but I got my reasons.

ANGLE ON: Chris glancing at Kevin with a slight blush.

INT. TINA'S ROOM - DAY

On the left side of the room there are Black, anime girl posters hanging on the wall. Paintings of *The Fall of Rome, The White House in Flames, Mankind Pulling God from Heaven* are on the right.

Kevin and Tina walk into Tina's room.

KEVIN
You was on point today babygirl.

TINA
More ego stroke please.

KEVIN
Everything about you is amazing and life without you would be pain. Also, remember a month ago when me, you, and Chris got real fucked up? That night was fun as hell, right?

TINA
Chris don't want you like that.

KEVIN
Everyone wants me like that.

TINA
X don't.

KEVIN
Cuz he still trynna fuck you.

TINA
Just like every other nigga who lost me. PLEASE forbid me from fucking X. I welcome it.

CUT TO:

IN THE KITCHEN - SAME MOMENT

X unknowingly feels a quake in his heart and falls to his knees, dropping his plate of spaghetti.

CUT TO:

INT. TINA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

KEVIN
That's not it tho. When you talked me into this "emotionally monogamous, body autonomous, fully communicative open relationship," you said the whole point was to embrace who we wanna fuck with no judgement so long as we don't lie.

TINA
You're right. Okay. Go for it.

They embrace. Tina suppresses her worry, but it shows.

EXT. WIDE OF SANKOVA, THE FLOATING CONTINENT -- FROM THE STRATOSPHERE - ONE WEEK LATER - DAY

Four mega-cities (Stannison Square Garden, D.C., Los Ankh, & Hawtlanta) are covered in separate biomes on a floating isle above what used to be Earth. Blue beams streak across the sky as Sankovians warp to different mega-cities.

INT. BLUE WARP CRYSTAL BEAM

We travel at the speed of light with blue neon warping past us as we --

CUT TO:

EXT. IVY PARK END HUNGER FOREVER COMMUNITY CENTER -- STANNISON SQUARE GARDEN - MOMENTS LATER

X, Tina, Chris, and Kevin appear from a blue beam and land in the plaza only to immediately see PROTESTORS marching outside.

TINA
See. Folks waking up.

X
(to a protestor)
Y'all really protesting Jayonce?

BUFF PINK PONY FURRY, a sexy pony cosplayer, turns around.

BUFF PINK PONY FURRY
This a brunch for the broke. Why it cost to get in if they don't got money? That's stupid as fuck!

KEVIN
(to his friends)
Furries super progressive. If they protesting, it's prolly bad.

CHRIS
Jayonce got furry fans. Furries ain't a monolith.

X grabs Tina by the hand and brings her inside.

INT. IVY PARK END HUNGER FOREVER COMMUNITY CENTER - CONTINUOUS

ANGLE ON: Two signs above the community center entrance --

<- SUPER AWESOME BANQUET | FINANCE CLASS FOR SUCKERS ->

No one heads to the finance class. Absolutely no one.

INT. IVY PARK COMMUNITY CENTER - BANQUET HALL - MOMENTS LATER

SERIES OF INTERVIEWS: X and Tina record BANQUET ATTENDEES on Tina's Citycaster. A GENTLEWOMAN speaks --

GENTLEWOMAN
Jayonce gave me back my sight.

TINA
Oh my god. That's amazing.

GENTLEWOMAN
Now Jayonce took away my sight first. But I'm grateful they gave it back.

JUMP CUT TO:

A GENTLEMAN points to his YELLOW PARAKEET wearing body armor.

GENTLEMAN
Gang violence among parakeets is up. I was terrified for my lil' man. I wanted to do something. But I ain't had no real money until Jayonce stepped in. Thanks to them, I invented Roc-A-Wear Body Armor for Parakeets. The only armor 100% guaranteed to protect ya 'keet!

Gunshots! A PARAKEET GANG flies off. Yellow Parakeet is dead.

GENTLEMAN (CONT'D)
YELLOW-BONE!

X
It's dead cuz you named it that.

JUMP CUT TO:

AMIRA, 7, happiest little girl you've ever seen.

AMIRA
I saved the last two baby walruses in the world thanks to Jayonce's Looking So Crazy In Love For The Endangered Animals Grant.

Behind her -- two BIG ASS BABY WALRUSES.

TINA
That's amazing. High five!

AMIRA
I don't high-five strangers.

TINA
What if I gave you candy?

Amira high fives her multiple times & grabs the candy.

END INTERVIEW SEQUENCE

Seeing Tina like this brings X joy. Tina clocks this.

TINA (CONT'D)
I admit Jayonce's doing some good.

X
I consider this a victory.

TINA
You ain't won shit.

X
Also, I'm sorry about acting goofy recently. It's really cool we're hanging out again.

TINA
Thanks. I felt some type of way you wouldn't open up to me. We were together for so long. I don't know. I was thinking just spit it out. Like I'm entitled to it. Sorry.

X
All good.

Tina pulls their flying Citycasters from the air.

TINA
You remember my homegirl Tanya?

X
Yea. From back in college. She was fine as fuck. Y'all still close?

TINA
Barely. But let's say me & you did the whole open relationship thing back then. If I told you I wanted to fuck Tanya, what would you say?

X
Shit's too close to home.

TINA
But it's hypocritical to preach open body, open heart crap then shut it down when your man's never done that to you.

X realizes Tina is talking about Kevin & Chris.

X
Ya nigga supposed to prioritize you over some stupid fuck buddy rules. At least I would.

Tina smiles.

ACROSS THE BANQUET HALL - CONTINUOUS

Kevin & Chris watch Tina & X talking, but can't hear their convo.

CHRIS
You cool with all that?

KEVIN
No reason not to be.

Chris grabs their Citycasters and turns them off.

CHRIS
Did you tell Tina we fucked again?

KEVIN
(changing the subject)
I think Jayonce gone show up.

CHRIS
Don't change the subject. Jayonce ain't showing up. Period.

JAYONCE (O.S.)
Hello.

Kevin and Chris flip around to see Jayonce. GASP.

CHRIS
I'd murder a child for you.

Jayonce touches Chris. He dies. His spirit leaves his body and keeps rising. Jayonce and Kevin study each other.

JAYONCE
Kevin.

KEVIN
Real recognize real.

They dap. Jayonce heads backstage with the JAY-ACOLYTES, her back-up dancer, prison inmate security squad. They use sticks to beat SANKOVIAN FANS who run up for autographs.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tina points to the commotion.

X
Holy shit, Jayonce's here. Told you!

TINA
Who just beats their fan's asses?

X
Me! If they trynna touch me.

TINA
X. We just had a whole moment.

X
Jayonce's out here saving the lives of baby walruses and folks can't even let them walk through unscathed.

No reply. X turns around. Tina's sneaking backstage. X dashes after her.

OTHER SIDE OF THE ROOM NEAR THE STAGE - CONTINUOUS

Kevin peeps X following Tina. Chris lifts himself from the floor.

CHRIS
(catching his breath)
Where X and Tina?

KEVIN
Backstage.

CHRIS
We not gone stop them?

KEVIN
Them niggas will go to the grave over an argument.

CHRIS
Real.

KEVIN
Tina don't mind us fucking, so long as it's just fucking.

Chris takes offense. Blushes.

CHRIS
She thinks I like you like that?

Kevin scoots in. He's so close his lips touch Chris's stubble.

KEVIN
I mean do you?

Chris blushes.

BACKSTAGE - MOMENTS LATER

X scrambles around looking for Tina.

X
(whispering)
Tina? Tina? Where you at?

AT THE PRESENTER'S PODIUM, FRONT-STAGE - CONTINUOUS

Buff Pink Pony Furry is our brunch host.

BUFF PINK PONY FURRY
Good evening everyone.

An ANNOYING CROWD MEMBER speaks up among several BRUNCH ATTENDEES, that includes humans, furries, and an assortment of evolved animals capable of speaking.

ANNOYING CROWD MEMBER
You was just outside protesting!

BUFF PINK PONY FURRY
Being a furry activist ain't cheap, nigga! You looking at the finest of Sankovian pony silk.

Jayonce COUGHS.

BUFF PINK PONY FURRY (CONT'D)
Apologies. Jayonce has chosen to grace us with their presence at this year's brunch for a special announcement: Jayonce's a quadrillionaire! But we're all wondering the same thing: how?! Well, here to teach us -- please welcome, Jayonce!

The crowd's deadly silent. Jayonce takes the podium.

JAYONCE
BROKE NIGGAS!

The crowd goes fucking INSANE. Jubilation. Ecstasy.

JAYONCE (CONT'D)
Silence!

They stop. The holographic backdrop behind Jayonce turns the stage into a display of THE ANDROMEDA GALAXY.

JAYONCE (CONT'D)
Many moons ago, I left Sankova for the murky depths of The Andromeda Galaxy. Being really, really rich & famous -- it wasn't enough.

ANNOYING CROWD MEMBER
So you decided to abandon carnal ambitions to cultivate a healthy love of self?

JAYONCE
Silence!

Lasers shoot from Jayonce's eyes and immediately incinerates Annoying Crowd Member. Stunned silence from the crowd.

JAYONCE (CONT'D)
I travelled far and wide -- searching the infinite expanse of the cosmos -- to answer the one question we've always pondered in the very recesses of our minds: Are we alone? And the answer is: no.

The crowd GASPS.

<u>BACKSTAGE - CONTINUOUS</u>

Tina creeps towards Jayonce. X grabs Tina by the legs -- sending her to the floor.

X
(whispering)
What the hell are you doing?

TINA
(whispering)
Lemme go!

FRONT STAGE - CONTINUOUS

The holographic backdrop displays images of SERAPHITES, energy balls enveloped by six wings with Mickey Mouse hands. Each one has a cute hat to tell them apart.

JAYONCE
Our galactic neighbors are called Seraphites. A peace-loving civilization of beings made of pure energy who believe in nothing but being broke and lazy.

The holographic backdrop shows Seraphites laying by the beach on their home planet -- drinking mimosas & burning money.

JAYONCE (CONT'D)
I knew they had to be saved from themselves. You can't simply exist! You gotta pull up those bootstraps like I pulled up Sankova. So we decided to form a partnership.

The holographic backdrop dissipates to reveal: A warp gate. Buff Pink Pony Furry turns it on. Seraphites in slave chains march out. There's one with an "I Heart Black People" hat.

IN THE AUDIENCE - CONTINUOUS

Kevin and Chris are in shock. Mouths agape.

BACKSTAGE - CONTINUOUS

X stares at the Seraphites in disbelief. Then, suddenly -- foot to the face! Tina's kick knocks X out cold.

FRONT STAGE - CONTINUOUS

The Jay-Acolytes haul a JAY-ACOLYTE ANDROID WITH ITS CHEST CAVITY OPEN onstage. They stuff a SCREAMING SERAPHITE inside. The android comes to life. Dances. Flies in the air.

JAYONCE
Seraphites can energize any device for thousands of years. They want to help out Sankovians so much -- they volunteered to become the core for my new wave of Jay-Acolytes. Ushering in a new era of scientific progress for our great nation.

The crowd goes WILD. Niggas faint, get back up, faint again.

JAYONCE (CONT'D)
Silence!

Everyone immediately quiets.

ANGLE ON: A hand turning a switch from "On" to "Off" on Jayonce's back.

Jayonce keels over. The audience GASPS. Tina hops onto the podium.

TINA
Are y'all fuckers really cool with genocide & slavery again?!

The crowd audibly MULLS over the accusation.

BACKSTAGE - CONTINUOUS

X's eyes flutter open amidst the chaos.

FRONT STAGE - CONTINUOUS

ANGLE ON: Behind Tina, Buff Pink Pony Furry powers Jayonce back on.

TINA
Jayonce's got y'all paying for broke brunches as they cross the galaxy to create cyborg slaves. Jayonce didn't free us from white supremacy or capitalism, they took its place.

Has the crowd they been won over? Jayonce politely butts in.

JAYONCE
I remember you. Tina Falconsong ain't it? From Black Girls Roc Nation. Mhm. I never forget a past winner. I never forget anything, ever.

TINA
That doesn't change nothing.

JAYONCE
Let's find out.

Jayonce snaps their fingers. The holographic backdrop morphs into a screen behind Jayonce and Tina.

HOLOGRAPHIC VIDEO PLAYS: SIX-YEAR OLD TINA steps behind a podium and accepts an award.

YOUNG TINA (HOLOGRAM)
Thank you for my Student of the Year Award. My future, & everything I'll do in it, would literally be impossible without your help. Thank you Black Girls Roc Nation. I know in twenty years I'll still be grateful.

BOOS from the whole crowd as some of audience starts to throw plates, French toast, and mimosas at Tina on stage.

Humiliated, Tina exits.

IN THE AUDIENCE - CONTINUOUS

Kevin follows Tina backstage, leaving Chris at the table.

BACKSTAGE - CONTINUOUS

X attempts to stop Tina to console her.

TINA
Don't. I chose to go up there. I chose to come at Jayonce. That's on me, but if I look at you I'mma remember you invited me. And I'mma blame you in a way I shouldn't.

Tina heads to the backdoor where Kevin waits. He offers a hug. After waiting a beat to decide, she decides to embrace Kevin. Kevin mischievously looks up and winks at X over Tina's shoulder.

Deflated, X SIGHS.

JAYONCE (O.S.)
X.

AT THE PRESENTER'S PODIUM, FRONT STAGE - CONTINUOUS

X slowly moves towards the podium. Jayonce bows to X. The audience GASPS.

JAYONCE (CONT'D)
So good to finally meet you.

X
You know about me?

JAYONCE
Roc Nation Social Justice Brunch For The Broke perfect attendee ten years and counting.

X
Wow. Thank you.

Jayonce turns to the audience.

JAYONCE
Thanks to X's outstanding record, I'm offering him the most important leadership role in Sankovian history: Liaison to Planet Seraph!

APPLAUSE! Still, X contemplates longer than he should. COUGHS from the audience as everyone awaits his answer.

Finally --

X
But slavery is bad.

Jayonce turns back to X, not missing a beat.

JAYONCE
That's why I need your leadership. So work from within. Help me make it revolutionary. Ethical. To ensure a better future for Sankova.

More APPLAUSE! Even the animals MOO, NEIGH, & SQUAWK in celebration. Jayonce holds out a contract and pen. X looks out at the crowd.

IN THE AUDIENCE - CONTINUOUS

ANGLE ON: Chris staring at X.

CHRIS
(sotto)
You don't gotta do this, X.

AT THE PRESENTER'S PODIUM, FRONT STAGE - CONTINUOUS

X's phone gives an ALERT from his social media feed --

HOLOGRAPHIC VIDEO PLAYS: Kevin speaks directly to camera.

KEVIN (HOLOGRAM)
Me & the boo-thang taking a mental health month.
(MORE)

KEVIN (HOLOGRAM) (CONT'D)
We bout to self-care the fuck outta this relationship & come back even stronger. Peace!

Back to X who makes a decision and takes the pen to sign the contract. The crowd WHOOPS and HOLLERS in admiration.

Jayonce snaps their fingers as luggage falls into X's hands. Jayonce walks to the warp gate. X turns to follow.

JAYONCE
(whispering)
You made the right choice. No bathroom breaks. No eating breaks. No thinking breaks. You will be paid in Monopoly money. You will sometimes have to pay me to continue. No healthcare. You're an independent contractor.

They step through the warp gate as we --

CUT TO:

MONTAGE OF GENOCIDE:

- ON THE SURFACE OF PLANET SERAPH: Jay-Acolytes imprison Seraphites. Jayonce shakes hands with WEALTHY SERAPHITES in high top hats. X takes a photo with his Citycaster. He quickly crops out the imprisonment and types out the caption "Sankovians + Seraphites = Solidarity." X presses "Send to all Sankovians."

- NEWS INTERVIEW: X sits with a SERAPHITE REPORTER.

SERAPHITE REPORTER
How cool is it to work for Jayonce?

X
Let me just say, Miss --

As X opens his mouth, a FLURRY OF SOUNDS spew out: the crackling of flames, shrieking, demonic laughter, and other horrors from the gates of Hell, then --

X (CONT'D)
(snapping back to reality)
It's been amazing.

- OUTSIDE THE BEYHIVE: Jayonce hovers up the steps of their space warship, aka The Beyhive. Three Jay-Acolytes carry X inside a dog kennel.

- INSIDE A LABORATORY: Jayonce rips a CRYING SERAPHITE from the arms of its PARENTS and stuffs it into the battery compartment of an electric toothbrush. X snaps a photo.

- IN A SERAPHITE CITY: A SERAPHITE WEARING A RED BANDANA holds up their flag of liberation among the dead and dying.

- INSIDE THE BEYHIVE: Jayonce sleeps. X is in a doggy bed. X opens Not-Instagram. X looks at a picture of Tina & Kevin sitting on a beach.

CLOSE ON: “30 MILLION LIKES | 1 BILLIONS VIEWS” and counting.

Tears stream down X’s face.

MONTAGE ENDS

EXT. JAYONCE’S ULTRA-MANSION - DAY

CHYRON: ONE MONTH LATER...

The mansion is decadence personified. Pearly gold gates. Massive white walls.

INT. JAYONCE’S ULTRA-MANSION - CONTINUOUS

X washes dishes in an apron, butt-naked underneath. Suddenly, Tina breaks through the side-door in a technologically advanced, mechanical suit. She maneuvers the human-sized PACIFIC RIM-esque suit through the broken door-way with joysticks.

X
Tina?!

TINA
X! I’m breaking you out! Let’s -- why are you naked?

X
I’m not naked.

TINA
Nigga you are naked.

X
Maybe I wanted my ass out while I scramble these eggs. Damn!

Jayonce enters.

JAYONCE
Why the fuck are you in my house?

TINA
I’m taking my friend back!

Suddenly, Jayonce shoots lasers from their eyes that completely incinerates the entire mechanical suit, but leaves Tina intact.

X
Back off, Jayonce.

X steps in front of Tina & rips off his apron to reveal a WIRE-TAP on his chest.

X (CONT’D)
I have videos, pictures, and recordings of genocide and abuse against me and the Seraphites. Fuck your contract. Sankova’s gonna know who you really are.

X presses send on his Citycaster.

X (CONT’D)
Game set match nigga.

A beat. Nothing happens. Jayonce slowly walks and pushes a button on the wall. A holographic video appears in the center of the room.

HOLOGRAPHIC VIDEO PLAYS: A NEWS ANCHOR speaks directly to the camera. A daytime news banner that reads “Breaking News” scrolls across the screen.

NEWS ANCHOR (HOLOGRAM)
This just in. Everybody across Sankova is laughing at this nigga, X. How you go from a brunch broke to slavery? We don’t gotta work and you letting niggas put you in a doggy kennel while YOU PAY Jayonce. And you thought we’d feel --

ON THE SCREEN OF THE HOLOGRAPHIC VIDEO: The Breaking News banner headline shifts to another update on Jayonce.

NEWS ANCHOR (HOLOGRAM) (CONT’D)
Another piece of breaking news just in! Jayonce has announced that the Brunch for the Broke next year is moving from March to February. Everybody mark your calendars!

ANGLE ON: Jayonce sets down their phone. Smirks, then turns off the news.

A Cyborg Jay-Acolyte creeps from the shadows from behind Jayonce.

JAYONCE
Child. They don't give a shit. This is Eden. Even for the broke niggas.

Jayonce side-eyes Tina. The Cyborg Jay-Acolyte's chest cavity tears open to reveal: Red Bandana Seraphite.

Red Bandana Seraphite holds up a finger. *Shhhhh.* Tina obliges.

X
I quit. You're important to Sankova, but you evil as shit.

JAYONCE
Nigga who said you can quit? Put that apron back the fuck on ri--

Suddenly, Red Bandana Seraphite jumps on Jayonce's back!

RED BANDANA SERAPHITE
Viva La Seraphite!

Tina grabs X. Sprints for the door.

ANGLE ON: Red Bandana Seraphite glows white-hot and self-combusts - BOOM! Jayonce is blown into pieces across the room as we --

CUT TO BLACK:

<u>INT. A SANKOVIAN'S HOUSE - MORNING</u>

CHYRON: Three days later...

A SANKOVIAN cooks breakfast.

The Morning Tea streams on their Citycaster.

HOLOGRAPHIC VIDEO PLAYS: X, Tina, Chris, & Kevin are back at the Morning Tea Treehouse. Tina & X are in casts with bandages on.

X (HOLOGRAM)
So Jayonce's dead. Maybe? Can A.I. survive the destruction of their physical bodies?

EXT. JAYONCE'S ULTRA-MANSION - SAME MOMENT

A CLEAN-UP CREW sweeps Jayonce's circuitry into trash bins as they listen to *The Morning Tea* projected from a Citycaster nearby.

CHRIS (HOLOGRAM)
You & Tina better pray they can't.

KEVIN (HOLOGRAM)
Y'all niggas basically killed God.

CHRIS (HOLOGRAM)
Actually a Seraphite in a red bandana did.

TINA (HOLOGRAM)
A god that perpetuates inequality should be slain.

X (HOLOGRAM)
I'm done idolizing Jayonce. We fucked up giving them free reign.

TINA (HOLOGRAM)
(admitting)
Yea, we all fucked up in denying that we weren't a part of the problem.

X & Tina share a moment.

KEVIN (HOLOGRAM)
One thing's for sure, Sankova's on the hook for a shit ton of reparations.

A CREW MEMBER plugs a passcode into an underground door.

INT. JAYONCE'S ULTRA-MANSION BASEMENT - SAME MOMENT

The Crew Member carries a Citycaster playing *The Morning Tea.* The Crew Member steps inside to find an infinite repository of historical treasure. The Mona Lisa. The Venus de Milo. The Ceiling of the Sistine Chapel hangs above. Piles of historical treasures seem to stretch on forever.

X (HOLOGRAM)
But it's easy when you got a couple million years of net worth to do the job.

CHRIS (HOLOGRAM)
Folks are gonna fight over whatever's left.

EXT. SERAPH CITY - SAME MOMENT

A HAPPY SERAPHITE & ELDER SANKOVIAN shake hands. OTHER SANKOVIANS rebuild the city. OTHER SERAPHITES drag a WEALTHY, TOP HAT-WEARING SERAPHITE towards a guillotine.

A holographic videos plays *The Morning Tea* in the background.

X (HOLOGRAM)
Prolly. We'll have to see how Sankovians show up.

A NERDY SANKOVIAN strips "Property of Jayonce" off a JAY-ACOLYTE CYBORG. A SMALL SERAPHITE jumps in, powers it up, then jumps out.

X (HOLOGRAM) (CONT'D)
But we can all still try to do what's right.

The holo-sphere projections dissipate.

INT. THE MORNING TEA TREEHOUSE - SAME MOMENT

ANGLE ON THE HOLOGRAPHIC VIDEO BOARD: Numbers under X's name increase dramatically.

"*THE PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN*" appears above X.

Tina smiles.

X
The people have spoken. Stay up Sankova!

X ends the Citycast. The living room shifts as the blue beam at the center of their debate table disappears.

TINA
Glad you're back.

X
Same. Thank you for getting me outta there.

X catches Chris watching Kevin. Literal sparkles BLIP & BLOOP around Chris's face. He's infatuated.

X turns back to Tina.

X (CONT'D)
You sure you really feeling Kevin?

TINA
Don't push it.

X
I just get worried when you make bad decisions.

Tina hits X in his cast. He yelps in pain.

CUT TO BLACK:

END PILOT