


"HERE'S HOW
IT HAPPENED.



"THE SURGEON,
REAL NAME **JOHN
CUTTER**--AND YES,
HE ENJOYED THE
PUN ON HIS NAME--
THE SURGEON
WALKED INTO YOUR
HUSBAND'S OFFICE
ON WALL STREET.

"**HE** TOLD YOUR
HUSBAND TO
WRITE A SUICIDE
NOTE, AND
INSTRUCTED HIM
TO JUMP OUT A
WINDOW.

"A MATTER
OF MOMENTS
LATER, WELL....



AT YOUR HUSBAND'S RANK THERE WERE SPLIT-SECOND DECISIONS TO MAKE. BUY LONG, BUY SHORT. MAKING A PRICE, ANALYZING DATA, FUTURES. OPTIONS.

THE PROGRAMMING WE GAVE HIM HELPED HIM MAKE THESE DECISIONS QUICKER AND BETTER. HE GOT RICHER BECAUSE OF IT. YOU GOT RICHER BECAUSE OF IT.

BUT IN EXCHANGE--




--IN EXCHANGE HE HANDED SOME OF HIS AUTONOMY OVER TO THE NAMES.



SO, THAT'S IT? THE SURGEON KILLED KEVIN? WHY?

HE WAS ALMOST CERTAINLY WORKING FOR SOMEONE ELSE. MAYBE ONE OF HIS PSYCHOPATH FRIENDS.

I CAN HELP YOU FIND OUT WHO SENT THE SURGEON TO KILL KEVIN. BUT I NEED SOMETHING FROM YOU.



HE MEANS ME, KATYA. HE WANTS YOU TO PERSUADE ME TO HELP HIM WITH THE DARK LOOPS.

MY MOTHER TOLD ME ALL ABOUT THEM, RIGHT BEFORE YOU KILLED HER.

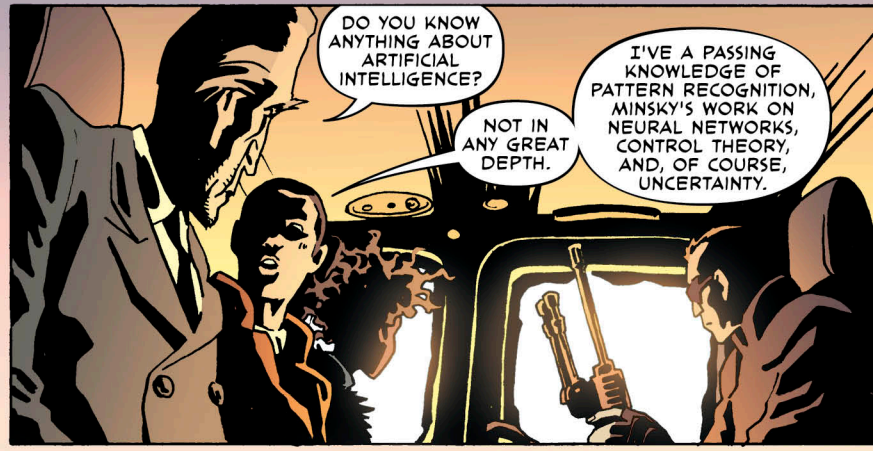


YOUR MOTHER!

SHE'S ONE OF THEM. THAT'S WHAT FLAHERTY SAID...



PHILIP,
YOU WILL HAVE
ACCESS TO EVERYTHING
YOU NEED. OUR BEST
COMPUTER MAINFRAMES.
AN EXTENSIVE RECORD
OF HOW THE DARK
LOOPS HAVE
BEHAVED.



DO YOU KNOW
ANYTHING ABOUT
ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE?

NOT IN
ANY GREAT
DEPTH.

I'VE A PASSING
KNOWLEDGE OF
PATTERN RECOGNITION,
MINSKY'S WORK ON
NEURAL NETWORKS,
CONTROL THEORY,
AND, OF COURSE,
UNCERTAINTY.



AH,
RIGHT, OF
COURSE.

WE'VE
BEEN ON THE RUN
FOR DAYS. WE NEED TO
GET CLEANED UP AND
CHANGE OUR CLOTHES
BEFORE WE DO
ANYTHING.

THEN
WE LOOK FOR
WHO GAVE THE
ORDER TO KILL
KEVIN.

REST ASSURED,
I WANT TO KNOW WHO
SENT THE SURGEON
FOR YOUR HUSBAND
AS MUCH AS YOU DO.

SOMEHOW
I DOUBT
THAT.

New York.

RAUDA
DENIM WEAR

I MUST SAY, THIS FEELS ECCENTRIC. SHOPPING FOR FASHION ITEMS AT A TIME LIKE THIS.

THEY'RE NOT FASHION ITEMS. THEY'RE PANTS AND SHIRTS.

THEY COST TWELVE HUNDRED DOLLARS. A NORMAL AMERICAN MAKING \$103.58 A DAY WILL TAKE 115.82 DAYS TO EARN THAT.

YOUR FATHER LEFT US RICH. AND WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO SHOP FOR BARGAINS.

YOU MUST HATE HIM. MY FATHER, I MEAN. FOR DOING THIS TO US.

NO. THE TRUTH IS... I STILL LOVE HIM. FOR ALL THE LIES AND THE SECRETS...

I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

MY DAD WAS A DIRTBAG. HE LEFT MY POOR SWEET JAMAICAN MOTHER IN SERIOUS DEBT AND DISAPPEARED.

KEVIN HARDLY KNEW ME. HE DIDN'T ASK FOR ANYTHING IN RETURN. BUT HE SAVED US. HE SHOWED ME THAT THERE'S STILL SOME GOODNESS IN THE WORLD.

I ENVY YOU, KATYA.

HOW COME?

I'M NOT SURE I'M CAPABLE OF HAVING THOSE KINDS OF FEELINGS. AT LEAST... NOT FOR ANYTHING HUMAN.