

In darkness, a short, mechanical buzz.

COMPUTER

Welcome to *abSolution*.

A clinical division of digiCore Psychological Services.

Please connect your digiChip by double tapping on your implant.

Lights up on Manny, seated in a sterile cubicle space complete with a large desktop computer that looks like it belongs in the 1980's.

The words the computer speaks appear on the screen like HTML code.

COMPUTER

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A clinical division of digiCore Psychological Services.

Please connect your digiChip by double tapping on your implant.

Manny looks at the keyboard and tries to type. It's clumsy and awkward— he's never used one before.

COMPUTER

Welcome to *abSolution*.

A division of digiCore.

Please connect your digiChip by double tapping on your implant.

MANNY

Oh.

He taps the back of his neck twice, and his digiChip buzzes.

COMPUTER

7th generation digiChip detected. Scanning...

Welcome, Manny.

Are you a good person?

MANNY

What?

COMPUTER

Are you a good person?

MANNY

I don't know how to answer that question.

COMPUTER

Do you believe that you could be?

MANNY

...

COMPUTER

We do.

How can we help you today?

MANNY

I'm interested in your treatments.

I saw an ad on my bioMonitor.

COMPUTER

Thank you. We're happy to help.

What is holding you back, Manny?

Are you struggling with

- loss

- fear

- paranoia

- guilt

- shame

- sexual deviancy/

MANNY

Guilt.

And loss, I guess.

COMPUTER

Thank you.

Is your guilt connected to

- actions you have taken

- actions you think you will take

- thoughts you have had

- thoughts you think you will have

- sexual deviancy

MANNY

Actions I have taken.

COMPUTER

Thank you.

Does the guilt you feel revolve around

- harm unto others
- harm unto yourself
- sacrilege
- sexual deviancy

MANNY

Harm unto others.

COMPUTER

Thank you.

Was this perceived harm recurring, or confined to a single event?

MANNY

Single event, I guess.

COMPUTER

Thank you.

Based on your responses, I recommend *Treatment 4*, our emotive memory adjustment for perceived guilt based on isolated actions done unto others.

Would you like to schedule an appointment with one of our highly trained clinicians?

MANNY

Can I have a consultation first?

COMPUTER

I can answer any questions you may have.

MANNY

I mean, like, with a human.

COMPUTER

Once you interact with one of our clinicians, you are required to complete the treatment.

This is for your safety and the safety of our employees.

MANNY

Can I talk to a real person who isn't a clinician then?

COMPUTER

Am I not good enough for you?

MANNY
What?

COMPUTER
Once you interact with one of our clinicians, you are required to complete the treatment.
This is/

MANNY
Can you just tell me more about what you do?

COMPUTER
Would you like to hear a description of our methods and philosophy, written by our esteemed founder, Dr./

MANNY
Yeah, sure..

The computer's voice shifts, becoming a proud, charmingly highfalutin TV doctor.

This message can be pre-recorded. It should feel like a tech ad from the 80's, colorful, cheesy and corporate.

As the computer speaks, Manny constantly loses focus.

COMPUTER

...

When we are young, our emotional behavior depends only on our physiological needs. We need food, so we frown when we are hungry, and smile when we are full. We need care, so (*miming peek-a-boo*) we cry when our caregiver is gone, and laugh when they return.

...

However, as we develop, we learn about the world, about relationships, morality, and justice. We become socialized. We learn the nuances of human emotion, and in turn, establish a sense of self, a personality, who we are.

...

But because this is not chemical, not hard-wired, our sense of self will forever rely on our subjective experience of the world and the memories we gain as we develop.

...

Simply put, there is no difference between *being* something and *thinking* something. If we think we are a moral person, *we are*. If we think we are a happy person, *we are*. If we think we are a normal person, (*gestures to audience, waits for Manny to join in*) we are!

...

The emotions we attach to our memories: guilt, loss, fear... they only serve to hold us back. While it is impossible to change the past, it is possible to change your perception of it. And changing your perception changes you for the better.

...

digiCore is thrilled to announce our new line of abSolution clinics as part of our Psychological Services. Combining our trademark digiChip technology with the expert guidance of our highly trained clinicians, we're able to reframe your memories and create the best version of you.

...

digiCore: in search of utopia.

MANNY

So this treatment would make the pain go away?

COMPUTER

(no longer the TV doctor)

Yes, a clinician will guide you through the affected memories, individually reframing moments to create a perception of reality that allows you to be free from the emotions that hold you back.

The pain will go away, if you work with us.

Would you like to schedule an appointment to have this procedure performed?

MANNY

...

COMPUTER

Would you like to schedule an appointment to have this procedure performed?

MANNY

...

COMPUTER

Would you/

MANNY

Yes.

I want to do it.

COMPUTER

Great. I'm going to need to ask you some more background questions in order to schedule your treatment. If at any moment you become uncomfortable and would not like to proceed, simply say "Stop the Questions." Would you like to proceed?

MANNY

Wait, is this actually free like the ad said?

COMPUTER

abSolution™ clinical services are included as part of your digiChip subscription package.

MANNY

And what if I did something illegal?

COMPUTER

We are beholden to strict confidentiality laws.

MANNY

So I won't be given any re-entry credits?

COMPUTER

Not because of us.

MANNY

Ok.

COMPUTER

Before I can schedule an appointment for you, I'm going to need to ask a few more questions/

MANNY

Yes, that's fine.

COMPUTER

You stated that your guilt revolved around actions committed unto others. Was this

-an individual

-a group/

MANNY

Individual.

COMPUTER

Thank you.

Is this individual currently living?

MANNY

No.

COMPUTER

Thank you.

Is this individual currently dead?

MANNY

...yes.

COMPUTER

Thank you.

What was your relationship to this individual

- family member
- romantic partner
- friend/

MANNY

Romantic partner.

COMPUTER

Thank you. How long was this individual in your life?

MANNY

A year.

COMPUTER

Thank you.

Are there individuals with whom you regularly interact who have an intimate knowledge of this person and/or the event that triggered your guilt?

MANNY

I- uh... I don't know.

Why do you ask that?

COMPUTER

We want to minimize the possibility of an emotional relapse

His chip buzzes.

MANNY

I don't think there are, no.

I haven't spoken to Perry since lightStream.

COMPUTER

Thank you.

Finally, in order for our procedure to work, we need your full cooperation.

Following our treatment, we will suggest a memory reframe of the time you spent in the clinic to prevent emotional relapse. This process will only work if you allow it to.

If you do relapse, we reserve the right to

- relocate you
- cut off communication with triggering individuals
- or provide you with a new identity

Do you want *absolution*?