THE GRANDFATHER PARADOX

AN ORIGINAL, INTERACTIVE-NARRATIVE SCREENPLAY

Written by

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INTRODUCTION

INT. HARRISON’S APARTMENT – KITCHEN – MORNING

JIMMY HARRISON (14), a scruffy child with glasses sits at the foldout kitchen table. GRANDPA stands in front of the oven.

JIMMY
Smells good, Grandpa.

Grandpa stares at the oven.

GRANDPA
Uh huh.

LORA HARRISON (49), a thin, stressed mother with a messy bun, swiftly enters the kitchen while putting her earrings in. She rubs her hand through Jimmy’s hair as she passes by.

LORA
Morning, kiddo.

Lora opens the refrigerator and pulls out the orange juice.

LORA (CONT’D)
Morning, Dad.

No response. Grandpa continues to stare at the oven.

Lora pours Jimmy a glass of orange juice.

SFX: DING DONG.

Lora puts down the carton and heads to the front door.

INT. FOYER – CONTINUOUS

Lora opens the door to a tall man in a trench coat holding an envelope. The logo on his coat indicates he is a LOCKDOWN INSURANCE AGENT. Jimmy peers at the door from the kitchen.

LOCKDOWN INSURANCE AGENT
Hello, ma’am. I’m looking for a Miss Lora Harrison.

LORA
That would be me. Is something wrong?

The Lockdown Insurance Agent shuffles through the papers in his hand.
LOCKDOWN INSURANCE AGENT
It says here you have the power of attorney for your father, Mr. Thomas Harrison?

LORA
That’s correct.

LOCKDOWN INSURANCE AGENT
This is our final request, ma’am. We need a payment for his memory server or his service will be disconnected.

Lora looks down at her feet.

LOCKDOWN INSURANCE AGENT (CONT’D)
That means permanently. You do understand?

LORA
I just need a bit more time, you see.

Jimmy looks at his Grandpa.

LOCKDOWN INSURANCE AGENT
I’m sorry, ma’am, but we don’t have time to give you. Either pay for the service, or his memory files will be disconnected from our database.

LORA
Disconnected as in...?

LOCKDOWN INSURANCE AGENT
As in, his memories will completely fade away to nothing.

SFX: BEEP BEEP BEEP.

The fire alarm blares from the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy pulls Grandpa back as smoke billows out of the oven. Lora rushes into the room, pushing Jimmy out of her way.

JIMMY
Fire!
LORA
I can see that. Get out of my way!

Lora opens the oven to see strips of bacon carelessly left on the rack without a tray. She grabs a rag and waves it at the oven. The flames increase.

Jimmy fills a cup with water.

JIMMY
Here. I’ll throw some water on it.

Lora knocks the cup out of Jimmy’s hand. Water spills out on the kitchen floor.

LORA
No! It’s a grease fire. Get your Grandfather out of the kitchen!

Lora gets on her knees and shuffles through the cabinets next to the oven for a fire extinguisher. Jimmy takes Grandpa’s arm and begins walking him out of the room.

LORA (CONT’D)
And for God’s sake, someone turn that damn alarm off!

Jimmy stands on the kitchen chair to reach for the button on the side of the alarm. The noise stops.

Lora rapidly opens and closes cabinets.

LORA (CONT’D)
(panicked)
Oh, where is that extinguisher?

Jimmy continues to slowly walk Grandpa away from the fire.

SFX: BEEP BEEP BEEP.

The fire alarm is set off once more.

The Lockdown Insurance Agent appears in the kitchen doorway. Jimmy sits Grandpa down at the kitchen table. He takes a broom and begins hitting the fire alarm with it.

LORA (CONT’D)
Jimmy!

JIMMY
I’m trying, Ma!

Jimmy hits the alarm with the broom. The alarm stops.
Lora pulls the fire extinguisher out from a messy cabinet. She jumps to her feet. Lora squeezes the trigger while pointing the nozzle at the flames. Nothing comes out.

LORA
Empty? You’ve got to be kidding me!

Lora shakes the extinguisher to confirm.

The Insurance Agent heads towards the oven.

LOCKDOWN INSURANCE AGENT
Close the oven. Close the oven.

The Agent shuts it before Lora gets to it. The fire begins to die down.

LOCKDOWN INSURANCE AGENT (CONT’D)
Grease fires need to be suffocated. Gotta cut off the oxygen supply.

LORA
(offended)
I know. I was trying to extinguish it.

Lora puts the extinguisher aside.

GRANDPA
I’m sorry, honey. I didn’t mean to create a scene.

LORA
(sighing)
I know you didn’t.

LOCKDOWN INSURANCE AGENT
I don’t mean to intrude, but this is exactly why he needs our services.

LORA
I’m sorry, but you just don’t know him. He’s fine.

Lora shoo's him back towards the doorway.

INT. FOYER — CONTINUOUS

Lora returns the agent back to the front door.
LORA  
That was just a simple mistake.  
There’s nothing wrong here.  

LOCKDOWN INSURANCE AGENT  
Ma’am, I’ve seen every case  
imaginable and went through a  
similar situation with my mum. He  
needs his memory server more than  
ever right now.  

Jimmy continues to spy from the kitchen.  

LORA  
I’ll get you the payment. I  
promise.  

LOCKDOWN INSURANCE AGENT  
The payment is already late, ma’am.  
It’s now or never. No exceptions.  

INT. HALLWAY – CONTINUOUS  

Jimmy runs out into the hallway then into his room.  

CUT TO:  

INT. JIMMY’S ROOM – CONTINUOUS  

An electronic piggy bank sits on Jimmy’s wooden desk. Jimmy  
runs over to the bank and hits the green button that reads  
“vend.”  

A check for “E-bux” prints out of the piggy bank. Jimmy tears  
it out of the bank. He looks down at the check.  

END OF INTRODUCTION
DECISION ONE

INT. JIMMY’S ROOM – CONTINUOUS

Jimmy remains holding the check and looking down at it.

A title on the screen pops-up asking “Should Jimmy use his money to help pay for...”

Two options appear in interactive boxes separated by the word “OR”. One reads “Grandpa’s Server?” The other reads “Breakfast at Diner?”

Should Jimmy use his money to help pay for Grandpa’s Server or Breakfast at Diner?

The story continues based upon what the user selects.

Option A – “Grandpa’s Server” continues on page 7.

Option B – “Breakfast at Diner” continues on page 18.

END OF DECISION ONE
OPTION A FROM DECISION ONE
(JIMMY HELPS PAY FOR GRANDPA’S SERVER)

INT. JIMMY’S ROOM – CONTINUOUS

Jimmy runs out of his room with the check.

CUT TO:

INT. FOYER – CONTINUOUS

Jimmy rushes to the front door where his mother and the Lockdown Insurance Agent are still talking. He waves the check in his hand.

LORA
Jimmy, you don’t have to do that.
We’ll figure something out.

The Lockdown Insurance Agent snatches the check out of Jimmy’s hand.

LOCKDOWN INSURANCE AGENT
Well, someone has to be responsible.

LORA
Excuse me, don’t come to my house and judge my parenting. We’re doing the best we can here.

JIMMY
Mom, cut him some slack, he put out our fire.

LORA
I had it under control.

LOCKDOWN INSURANCE AGENT
I don’t mean to offend, I’m just collecting what is due. This much will be a fine first payment, but I expect the rest by tomorrow.

JIMMY
My Grandpa’s memory is gonna get better, right?
LOCKDOWN INSURANCE AGENT
Storing and upgrading memories is what we do best, kid. It’s been a pleasure, ma’am.

The Agent nods at Lora then turns and heads out.
Lora sighs as she closes the door behind him. She kneels down and hugs Jimmy.

LORA
Thank you, honey. I’ll pay every cent back to you.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN – CONTINUOUS
Grandpa is still seated at the dining table. Jimmy walks in and takes a seat across from him. Lora pours them both a bowl of cereal.

LORA
Alright boys. I’ve got to get to work. You two behave yourselves.

She kisses Jimmy on the head then kisses her father’s head.

LORA (CONT’D)
And for now, let’s keep away from the stove. Alright, Dad?

GRANDPA
Yeah, yeah. I’m fine. It was one mistake, alright? It really was. I promise I know how to make bacon.

Lora looks at Jimmy who nods his head in reassurance. Lora steps in a puddle of water on her way out the door.

LORA
And clean up this water too, please.

Jimmy and his Grandpa enjoy their cereal. Jimmy hops down from his chair, opens a cabinet, and pulls out a toy robot.

JIMMY
Time to test out this cleaning bot I’ve been programing.
Jimmy grabs a cloth and attaches it to the plastic bot’s hand. He presses down the toy’s head and its hand begins moving back and forth.

GRANDPA
Impressive, kiddo! Pretty soon with all your inventions we’ll have a full blown smart house.

Jimmy places the bot over the puddle of water. The bot moves the rag back and forth, mopping up the water.

JIMMY
Anything to make chores easier, I’m more than happy to figure out.

GRANDPA
Ha. That’s the spirit! You sound just like me when I was your age.

JIMMY
Whatcha wanna do today, Grandpa? Rematch in Race-o-roma?

GRANDPA
Oh, you know I’m always ready for some games. Back when I was your age, I was quite the streamer.

JIMMY
You used to stream? Ha. I forgot that’s what old people did before holographic game rooms.

GRANDPA
Hey, watch it. One day you’ll have a grandkid of your own who will be making fun of your outdated holograms.

Jimmy smirks then heads for his room. Grandpa follows.

CUT TO:

INT. JIMMY’S ROOM – CONTINUOUS

Jimmy flicks on his computer and two avatars in race cars appear as holograms projected on the surface of his desk.

JIMMY
I’ll be the red one.
GRANDPA
Alright. You’re on, mister.

Jimmy and Grandpa put their hands up as if holding onto an imaginary steering wheel. The computer’s camera maps their motions.

SFX: Three WHISTLES blare.

The race begins. Jimmy begins moving his hands to turn his car. His hologram appears to move forward as the projected road changes ahead.

Grandpa stares at the holographic board and waves at it. His car repeatedly swivels left and right.

JIMMY
(laughs)
Grandpa, you can’t just wave at the game.

GRANDPA
Well, what am I supposed to do with this new fangled technology?

JIMMY
New fangled? It’s the only game I’ve ever owned. You just steer. Like a car. Remember?

Jimmy gestures to himself as he continues holding his arms out and steering.

GRANDPA
Oh. Right. I see.

Grandpa attempts the gestures and his car slowly begins to move.

JIMMY
Don’t worry, Grandpa. I’m sure your memory backup will kick in in no time.

GRANDPA
I don’t need their backup. I’ve never felt better actually.

JIMMY
Try to catch up. I’ll take the long route just for you.

Jimmy slows his hologram down.
GRANDPA
This is such a weird game.

JIMMY
But this is our favorite game.

Grandpa steers into a tree.

GRANDPA
What!?

Grandpa gets up from his chair and throws his hands in the air, yelling at the game.

GRANDPA (CONT’D)
This is so stupid. I swear that tree wasn’t there a second ago.

JIMMY
It’s alright if you don’t feel up to playing right now.

GRANDPA
I think I’m just hungry. Maybe I’ll make us some breakfast.

Jimmy puts down his hands. The word “PAUSE” appears as a hologram over the game.

JIMMY
Actually, Grandpa, we just ate.

GRANDPA
Um, right. I knew that!

JIMMY
Plus, Mom doesn’t want us cooking right now.

GRANDPA
She doesn’t? She used to love my meals. Pizza was my specialty. I had my own shop.

JIMMY
It’s only for a bit, I’m sure. We just need a little time. You’ll be back making pizza pies again soon.

Jimmy shuts off the game. The holograms vanish. Grandpa rubs his head.
GRANDPA
I don’t understand what’s wrong with me today. I’ve never been this off before.

JIMMY
It’s alright, Grandpa. We’ll get through it.

Jimmy takes his Grandpa’s hand. Grandpa sighs and retracts his hand from Jimmy’s grasp.

GRANDPA
(under his breath)
I don’t know, Jimmy. I just don’t know.

Grandpa slouches as he walks out of the room. Jimmy looks concerned as he watches him leave.

CUT TO:

INT. LORA’S CAR – DAY

Lora drives with her Dad in the passenger seat and Jimmy in the back. Lora’s hair is messy and she leans towards the steering wheel, appearing stressed as she drives.

LORA
How are you doing over there, Dad? We’re almost there.

GRANDPA
I’m fine and dandy like sugar candy.

LORA
Oh, I wish that were the case. I just don’t understand. It’s never taken this long for your memory to get refreshed.

JIMMY
Maybe the insurance company just has a bug? I’ve been reading about glitches recently. They’re only temporary.

LORA
I suppose, but if the system is down, they should’ve sent out a message by now.
JIMMY
Maybe they just forgot to hit
Grandpa’s refresh button.

LORA
A memory server company forgetting?
Now that’s ironic.

Lora pulls into Lockdown Insurance’s parking lot. The
building is dark. The doors are taped. A few letters in the
company’s sign are missing.

JIMMY
Or maybe they just closed?

Lora steps out of her car.

EXT. LOCKDOWN INSURANCE – CONTINUOUS

Lora approaches the building in disbelief. Jimmy helps
Grandpa out of the passenger side.

Lora begins banging on the front door. A bankruptcy notice on
the door falls to the ground from the pounding. Lora picks it
up to read it.

LORA
I just don’t understand. This makes
no sense to me.

Jimmy walks Grandpa up to the building. Lora steps back from
the doors with her hands on her head. Jimmy points to the
side of the building with graffiti markings that read
“Lockdown Scamsurance” and “Scammers.” The art is signed with
an “H” in a circle.

JIMMY
Look at the graffiti. Do you think
this really was a scam?

LORA
Normally I wouldn’t agree with
anything Club H says, but I think
we did get scammed.

JIMMY
What’s wrong with Club H?

LORA
They’re just a bunch of Hackers.
You know how illegal and dangerous
that is.
JIMMY
But they can do a lot of good too.
I think the H stands for Heroes, not Hackers.

LORA
(panicked)
I just don’t know what to do. One
day they’re asking for our money
and the next they’ve got up and
left. What’s next?

GRANDPA
What’s going on? Is it time for my
Memory Hook-up?

Lora goes over and hugs her father.

LORA
Not today, Dad. Seems like the
machines are down.

GRANDPA
They’re down?

JIMMY
More like closed forever.

Lora’s eyes widen.

LORA
Jimmy!

GRANDPA
Forever? Gosh that’s not good.

LORA
It’ll be fine, Dad. We’ll figure it
out. Come on guys. Let’s get out of
here.

Lora turns and walks back to the car. Jimmy stays behind to
help Grandpa.

JIMMY
Don’t worry, Gramps. There are
other ways. I know I can help you.
Your memories will be fine.

Grandpa smiles. Jimmy stares at the graffiti with the Club H
logo.

CUT TO:
INT. JIMMY’S ROOM - LATER

Jimmy is on his computer typing away. The Club H logo appears on his screen. Jimmy clicks on their video page “How to be a Hacker.”

Jimmy scrolls through the page and clicks a video called “Restoring Memories from Corrupt Server Companies.”

NATHANIEL, the Club H vlogger in the video sits in a desk with a white board behind him.

NATHANIEL
Memory Insurance Companies are only after one thing. Your money.

Nathaniel draws a dollar sign on the white board and circles it.

NATHANIEL (CONT’D)
They don’t care about you, your memories, or your family. With our current economy, more and more insurance companies are running scams to run away with your money.

Nathaniel draws a red X over the dollar sign.

NATHANIEL (CONT’D)
Hacking is a skill for everyone. It is the only way to protect you and your loved one’s memories from the corporate monsters out there.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lora paces around the room while on the phone.

LORA
Yes, this is about my father…
I’ve been a bit short on funds recently… You will? … That’s such a relief. You have no idea.

CUT TO:

INT. JIMMY’S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy continues to watch the hacking video. He scribbles notes down on a paper next to him.
SFX: KNOCK KNOCK.

Lora enters Jimmy’s room. Jimmy quickly switches to a different web browser.

LORA
Hey, honey. Just thought I’d check on you. I know today was rough for all of us, but I promise Grandpa will be okay.

END OF OPTION A FROM DECISION ONE
DECISION 2.1

INT. JIMMY’S ROOM – CONTINUOUS

Lora comes over and takes a seat next to Jimmy, putting her hand on his shoulder to comfort him.

A title on the screen pops-up asking “What should Jimmy do?”

Two options appear in interactive boxes separated by the word “OR”. One reads “Discuss hacking idea?” The other reads “Hack behind her back?”

Should Jimmy discuss hacking idea with his mom or hack behind her back?

The story continues based upon what the user selects.

Option C – “Discuss hacking idea” continues on page 32.

Option D – “Hack behind her back” continues on page 46.

END OF DECISION 2.1
OPTION B FROM DECISION ONE

(JIMMY HELPS PAY FOR BREAKFAST AT DINER)

INT. JIMMY’S ROOM – CONTINUOUS

Jimmy leaves his room with the check in hand.

CUT TO:

INT. FOYER – CONTINUOUS

Jimmy stands in the corner of the room, peering at his mother and the agent still talking.

LORA
Listen, this is the third insurance company we’ve tried for him. We just can’t keep up with his rates.

LOCKDOWN INSURANCE AGENT
I understand it’s tough, ma’am. But older clients have more memories and are more susceptible to server lapses. If you care about him, you need to insure him.

LORA
Please don’t come to my door and belittle my love for my father. You’ll get your payment by tonight. I’ll take care of him. I just need to get to work. Good day.

Lora closes the door in the agent’s face. She sighs.

Jimmy comes out from the corner and hugs his mom.

JIMMY
It’s alright, Mom. Look, I can take Grandpa to breakfast. You just worry about getting to work.

Jimmy holds out his check. Lora bends down and kisses Jimmy’s forehead.

LORA
That’s so sweet of you, darling, but you should keep saving your money.

Lora pulls her wallet out of her pocket.
LORA (CONT'D)
Here’s a few dollars to take
Grandpa to the diner down the
street. I’ll be home around five.
You think you can manage?

JIMMY
Yeah, we love that place.

Lora chuckles. She rubs Jimmy’s head.

LORA
Alright, well enjoy yourselves. See
you soon, honey.

Lora leaves.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy runs into the kitchen where Grandpa is still sitting at
the table.

JIMMY
We’re going to the diner, Grandpa!
The one you always used to call
Omelette Heaven.

GRANDPA
Mmm. An omelette does sound rather
tasty right about now.

Jimmy helps Grandpa with his cane up from his chair and
begins walking him towards the door.

JIMMY
I’m sure a little food will help
you feel better too.

CUT TO:

INT. DINER - MINUTES LATER

Jimmy and Grandpa sit in a booth looking at menus. TVs hang
from the ceiling around the diner.

JIMMY
Thinking of getting “the usual,”
Grandpa?
GRANDPA
The usual? I’ve never been here.

Jimmy stares at him.

JIMMY
What do you mean? This is our favorite place to eat. We always get the ham and cheese omelettes. Remember?

GRANDPA
Oh. Right.

JIMMY
I mean, you can get whatever you want, but that is usually our go-to.

JEZEBEL, the waitress comes over with her notepad.

JEZEBEL
Howdy, I’m Jezebel. Do y’all know what you’re having? I’d recommend the breakfast burrito but only if you’re not watching your calories.

Jimmy closes his menu and looks at Grandpa.

GRANDPA
You can order for me. No one knows me better than you.

JIMMY
Alright. We’ll have two ham and cheese omelettes then.

JEZEBEL
Ooo. An egg-cellent choice. Haha. I’ll have those up in a jiffy.

The Waitress heads to the Kitchen. The local news plays on the TVs in the background. Jimmy watches the NEWS ANCHOR introduce the “Breaking News” logo.

NEWS ANCHOR
Breaking News on the current Hacker Uprising. As Hackers are more prevalent than ever, we have the tips to prevent your memory servers from falling victim to their scams.
JIMMY
I can’t believe they’re calling this an uprising. Not all hacking is bad.

GRANDPA
My generation practically invented hacking. Now, I don’t even understand what it is anymore.

The news story continues.

NEWS ANCHOR
Late payments are the number one cause of getting hacked since memory protection halts until payments are received.

The TV depicts a graph showing the increase in hacking over the past years.

NEWS ANCHOR (CONT’D)
While authorities are cracking down on hacking groups, paying for your services on time is currently the only way to avoid Ransomware, a new hacking technique in which Hackers morph your memories into threats until payments are received.

JIMMY
And of course, only Hackers can stop Hackers, which creates an endless battle between Hackers in the Uprising and the ones in the Rebellion.

GRANDPA
Ah, the whole thing is just a scare tactic. Hackers like that don’t really exist.

JIMMY
I don’t know about that Grandpa. I think it’s a real threat.

GRANDPA
Breaking News is just a bunch of opinion pieces. I can grab a camera and speak my mind too.

Grandpa grabs his cane and gets up from the booth.
JIMMY  
Grandpa, where are you going?  

GRANDPA  
To get myself on TV of course.  

JIMMY  
Sit down. Our food is coming.  

GRANDPA  
Our food?  

JIMMY  
Yes, we’re about to have some nice omelettes. Doesn’t that sound good?  

Grandpa slowly sinks back into his seat.  

GRANDPA  
Ah, yes. Of course I remember.  

Jezebel brings over the two omelettes and sets them in front of the boys.  

JEZEBEL  
I see we’re getting antsy over here. I guess the food came just in time. Now you boys just holler if you need anything else.  

Jezebel heads to serve the next table.  

JIMMY  
I’m sure you just need some breakfast. You’ll feel better after the omelette.  

CUT TO:  

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER  

Jimmy plays with a remote control car while Grandpa snores behind him in a rocking chair. The car runs into the leg of the chair.  

Grandpa jolts up with a gasp. He breathes heavily.  

Jimmy rushes over to pick up the car. He puts his hand on Grandpa’s shoulder.  

JIMMY  
Sorry about that. It’s okay though.  
It was only this silly car.
Grandpa looks pale.

GRANDPA
No. No. Ski mask.

JIMMY
What ski mask? What are you talking about?

GRANDPA
My dream. I was thinking about the fair we went to last September. When we rode the ferris wheel.

JIMMY
Right. I remember. We got stuck up at the top. Mom was so afraid of heights, but we just kept rocking the cart anyway.

Grandpa’s look remains concerned. He doesn’t respond.

JIMMY (CONT’D)
Grandpa, what’s wrong?

GRANDPA
Your mother wasn’t there. We were stuck at the top but were sitting across from a man in a black ski mask. He was yelling.

JIMMY
No, Mom was there with us. It was fun, remember?

GRANDPA
I can’t, Jimmy. I can’t unsee what I just saw. He’s all I can think about. He wants our money.

JIMMY
Don’t worry, it was just a dream.

Lora walks through the front door.

JIMMY (CONT’D)
Hey, Mom.

Lora is a bit out of breath. She sets her bags down at the table.

LORA
(sighing)
Hey boys.
GRANDPA
You alright, there?

LORA
I’m fine. Just been running around all day. What have you two been up to?

Grandpa stares straight ahead in his rocking chair.

GRANDPA
What did we do all day?

Lora looks at Jimmy.

JIMMY
We went to the diner, remember?

LORA
Dad, you sure you’re doing fine?

Lora goes over towards the rocking chair.

GRANDPA
I don’t know. All I see is the ski mask guy.

LORA
I just paid off your memory server with an advance from work. It should reboot soon.

GRANDPA
He wants our money.

LORA
I just gave him the money. You’re going to be just fine.

JIMMY
Wait, the ski mask guy wants your money? This is a scam.

LORA
What are you talking about?

JIMMY
Grandpa. His memories are being hijacked. It’s the Ransomware that the News Anchor was talking about.

LORA
Ransomware?
JIMMY
Yeah. Late payments weaken the memory server. A Hacker is threatening Grandpa through his memories to steal his money.

LORA
Well once he realizes Grandpa doesn’t have any money to steal, I’m sure he’ll move on.

JIMMY
No, you don’t understand. That’s not how this works. We gotta go.

Jimmy helps Grandpa up from the rocking chair and opens the front door.

LORA
Jimmy, get back here! Where are you taking him?

Lora lunges at the door to shut it.

JIMMY
Sitting around our living room all day is not gonna do him any good, Mom! We need to find some equipment.

LORA
Well maybe we need to discuss this as a family then. No more secrets. We’re in this together.

GRANDPA
I don’t mean to be a bother. These things happen with age. Let’s just let things run their course.

Lora goes over to her father.

LORA
That’s a ridiculous option. Of course we’re going to do everything we can for you.

JIMMY
If you want the best for Grandpa, we have to actually try to help him.
LORA
I am trying! This isn’t just hard on you. I’m doing everything I can for him.

SFX: RING RING.

Lora picks up the phone.

LORA (CONT’D)
Hello... Space opened up? Oh that’s fantastic news... Now?... Okay, I’ll be right over.

Lora hangs up. She quickly grabs her coat and purse.

JIMMY
What’s the fantastic news?

LORA
The Memory Care Center finally called me back. I’ve got to go.

JIMMY
You’re thinking of sending Grandpa to a nursing home?

GRANDPA
Hmm... I didn’t know I was going somewhere.

LORA
Dad, this could be a great option for you. They can care for you better over there.

JIMMY
Mom, you can’t do this.

LORA
This isn’t a set in stone thing. But it’s an option we have to consider. I’ve got to meet with the staff to talk things through.

Lora opens the door.

LORA (CONT’D)
You two stay put, I’ll be back in a bit.

Lora leaves.

Jimmy turns towards his Grandpa.
GRANDPA
She’s trying too hard. I don’t need a care center. I need my family.

JIMMY
We need you too, Grandpa. I can’t let that happen. We have to go fix this.

Jimmy runs to the window and watches as his Mom drives away.

JIMMY (CONT’D)
Alright, she’s gone. Let’s go!

Jimmy grabs his Grandpa’s hand and leads him out the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. MIDDLE SCHOOL – LATER

Jimmy brings Grandpa around the back of his middle school.

JIMMY
I know this sounds crazy, but you have to trust me. My computer science club meets in a room in the basement.

Grandpa shakes his head at Jimmy.

GRANDPA
We really shouldn’t be here.

JIMMY
Do you really wanna be trapped at a nursing home playing BINGO for the rest of your life?

Grandpa shudders at the thought.

GRANDPA
You’re right. What do I have to do?

JIMMY
We just gotta make it into the basement. The only obstacle is the night staff and janitors. If anyone asks, I’m just retrieving my homework from my locker.

GRANDPA
Jimmy leads Grandpa through the back door.

CUT TO:

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL - BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy takes Grandpa down the staircase into the basement hallway. He turns the corner to see a JANITOR mopping the floors. Jimmy pulls Grandpa back near the stairwell.

JIMMY
We’ve got ourselves a janitor up ahead.

GRANDPA
Say no more.

Grandpa sneaks across the hallway in front of the bathroom.

JIMMY
(whispering)
Grandpa, what are you doing? Get back here.

Grandpa takes a sip of water out of the water fountain.

GRANDPA
Ah, quality stuff.

Jimmy motions with his hand for Grandpa to come back towards him. Grandpa waves Jimmy off. He untwists a screw on the fountain and places it to obscure the sensor. Water continuously pours out everywhere.

Grandpa hurries back toward Jimmy.

JIMMY
What did you do?

GRANDPA
Just wait.

The Janitor turns toward the noise of the water fountain. He rushes down the hall to check it out. He pulls out his walkie talkie.

JANITOR
(into walkie talkie)
Hey, Jerry. It happened again. Gonna need some more tools to fix the water fountain. Over.

The Janitor heads upstairs.
Jimmy puts his finger to his lips as they quietly wait for the Janitor to get out of sight.

JIMMY
Nicely done, Gramps.

Grandpa nods. They hurry down the hallway and into the Computer Room.

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL - COMPUTER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy turns on the lights. He locks the door behind him. The perimeter of the room is surrounded by computers. The center of the room has two Memory Machines, beds with headsets that connect to computer screens.

JIMMY
Grandpa, it’s going to be fine. I learned all about these machines in school. We’ll just hook you up and figure out what’s wrong.

GRANDPA
Anything to get this ski mask guy out of my head.

Jimmy helps Grandpa up onto the machine and lays him down. He takes the headset and attaches it around Grandpa’s forehead then plugs it into the computer monitor.

The screen lights up. Jimmy presses another button and progress bar appears with the word “Analyzing.”

Grandpa reaches his hand out to touch a button on the machine.

JIMMY
No! Don’t do that.

Jimmy anxiously swats Grandpa’s hand out of the way.

GRANDPA
Sorry. Was just curious what they all did.

Jimmy exhales in relief.

The progress bar slowly loads to 100%. The screen begins blinking red. The words “Encryption Detected” blink on the screen.

JIMMY
So, it is a Hacker.
A message box pops up on the screen which reads “Memories locked. Click for payment.”

GRANDPA
What’s happening, Jimmy?

JIMMY
You’ve been hit with a Ransomware memory attack. They’re just trying to scam more money. It will be okay though, Grandpa.

Jimmy goes over and holds Grandpa’s hand as he lays connected to the machine.

JIMMY (CONT’D)
There are still ways to decrypt your memory files. Two ways that I know of at least.

END OF OPTION B FROM DECISION ONE
DECISION 2.2

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL - COMPUTER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Grandpa looks up at Jimmy. Jimmy rubs his hand and smiles to reassure him.

A title on the screen pops-up asking “What should Jimmy do?”

Two options appear in interactive boxes separated by the word “OR”. One reads “Fight Hacking with Hacking?” The other reads “Negotiate with the Hacker?”

Should Jimmy fight hacking with hacking or negotiate with the Hacker?

The story continues based upon what the user selects.

Option D - “Fight Hacking with Hacking” continues on page 49.

Option E - “Negotiate with the Hacker” continues on page 59.

END OF DECISION 2.2
OPTION C FROM DECISION 2.1
(JIMMY DISCUSSES HACKING IDEA WITH MOM)

INT. HARRISON’S APARTMENT – JIMMY’S ROOM – CONTINUOUS

Lora sits next to Jimmy, comforting him. Jimmy switches his browser tab back to the Hacking video.

JIMMY
I know it will all work out. I sort of have this idea in mind.

Lora rubs her hands through Jimmy’s hair.

LORA
And what would that be, sweetie?

JIMMY
Before you freak out, I promise it’s safe. All I have to do is access Grandpa’s files and retrieve his stored memories.

Lora sighs.

LORA
So you mean hacking?

JIMMY
Well, partly, but it’s not as bad as you think. What the insurance company did was wrong. We can right their wrong and still save Grandpa’s files.

LORA
Jimmy, you know how I feel about hacking. Plus, one mistake and you could cause even more damage to him.

JIMMY
I get it, but isn’t Grandpa more important to you? And don’t you believe in me?

Lora recoils.

LORA
Of course I do. My father means the world to me. That’s why I’ve already thought it through.
Lora pulls a pamphlet from her pocket.

LORA (CONT’D)
Grandpa has increased needs and I believe he’ll be taken care of the best at New Horizons Memory Care.

JIMMY
So you’re just sending him away?

LORA
Listen, The center finally told me they have a room available. This is a big deal.

JIMMY
You’ve been planning this behind our back?

LORA
It’s not the greatest situation, but we qualified for government aid and he’ll have more people around to meet his needs.

JIMMY
Why can’t we just meet his needs? Is that so hard?

LORA
(frustrated)
Yes! We don’t have the resources. This was the most affordable option since the insurance company fell through.

Jimmy angrily shuts his computer.

JIMMY
This doesn’t make any sense. I can fix Grandpa. I’ll transfer his memory files to a new server.

LORA
Please don’t make this any more difficult. This is the best option for him and us. I’ve already called the center. I’m bringing him now. It’s your choice if you want to come or not.

JIMMY
But there are better options, I just need...
LORA
No! I’m not playing this game with you. Come support your Grandpa or don’t. Those are your two options.

Jimmy sighs. Lora leaves his room. Jimmy begins putting his shoes on.

CUT TO:

INT. NEW HORIZONS MEMORY CARE - LOBBY - LATER

Lora, Jimmy, and Grandpa enter the bland looking building and approach the front desk manned by a young nurse, KELLY.

LORA
Hello, I’m here to move in my Dad, Thomas Harrison.

KELLY
How exciting. Your dad is gonna love it here.

Kelly passes Lora a clipboard of papers.

KELLY (CONT’D)
You can take a seat over there and fill these all out. Let me know if you have any questions.

Lora, Jimmy, and Grandpa move to the center of the room where all the chairs and couches are. They take a seat next to a resident in a walker, CLAUDIA.

LORA
(to Claudia)
Well, hi there. How’s your day going?

Claudia slowly turns her head to look at Lora then turns back.

CLAUDIA
(unenthused)
Hi.

LORA
That’s my Dad, Thomas. I guess you’ll be neighbors.

CLAUDIA
Eh, I don’t intend on being here long.
LORA
Oh, alright then.

GRANDPA
(under his breath)
Yeah, neither do I.

Lora begins filling out the forms.

JIMMY
(to Claudia)
Why don’t you intend on being here long?

LORA
Jimmy, that’s not polite to ask.

CLAUDIA
The memory speeds here are rather slow. I’d rather just be hooked-up to the system and relive as much as I can.

Lora’s eyes widen.

CLAUDIA (CONT’D)
Just being honest, honey. That’s what most people here want.

GRANDPA
Can we go home yet?

LORA
This is your new home. It’s the best place for you right now.

JIMMY
Well, I don’t know about the best place. Did you hear her? Their memory servers seem slow here.

LORA
Listen, it’s better than no memories at all which is where he was headed.

Lora gets up to return the forms to Kelly.

Two other nurses come by pushing a Memory Machine, a wheeled bed with a resident laying down with a headset around his forehead.
CLAUDIA
See, that’s exactly what I was talking about. Pure bliss.

Kelly and Lora head from the desk to where Grandpa and Jimmy are sitting.

JIMMY
Is that resident permanently hooked-up?

KELLY
Why, yes. He was a great resident here, but decided he wanted to relive his memories while they were still vivid. He said his goodbyes yesterday.

LORA
You just let that happen here?

KELLY
Well, ma’am, we can’t exactly stop it. It’s the circle of life. If that’s the path they choose, that’s the path they choose.

JIMMY
I’ve never actually seen it in person.

KELLY
It’s bittersweet of course. But some people find comfort in simply reliving their memories. The only downside is that they’ll be stuck in a coma while their mind exponentially fades to nothing.

CLAUDIA
Now, he has the right idea.

Lora looks shocked.

KELLY
Anyways, your father is in excellent hands! I’m going to give him the grand tour of the place and run a few tests. We’ll get him all set up and ready for visitors starting tomorrow.

The nurses roll the permanently hooked-up resident down a long hallway with a sign above it labeled “Permanent Care.”
LORA
Oh, okay. Bye, Dad. We’ll see you tomorrow, I guess. Love you.

Jimmy runs up to Grandpa and hugs him.

GRANDPA
(confused)
Bye?

Kelly takes his hand and walks Grandpa down the hallway.

CUT TO:

INT. HARRISON’S APARTMENT – LIVING ROOM – LATER

Lora and Jimmy sit on the floor around the coffee table, playing an electronic version of the board game Clue.

JIMMY
I miss Grandpa.

LORA
I know you do, honey. I do too. I’m sure he’s having a great time right now though.

JIMMY
He loved playing Clue. He’d make the most random guesses early on, and somehow get them right.

Lora chuckles.

LORA
Yeah, he was very good at cheating.

Jimmy smirks.

JIMMY
No. You think he was cheating?

LORA
A word of advice, never put Grandpa in charge of being the dealer.

JIMMY
I just thought he was super good at the game.

LORA
Well, I suppose you’ll have to test your theory.

(MORE)
LORA (Cont'd)
I’ll take you to see him in the
morning and you can bring along the
game if you’d like.

Jimmy rolls the dice and moves his piece into the library on
the board.

JIMMY
Was it Colonel Mustard in the
Library with the rope?

LORA
Nope!

Jimmy falls to the floor dramatically in defeat.

JIMMY
Ugh! This game is impossible.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEW HORIZONS MEMORY CARE – THE NEXT MORNING

Lora pulls her car up to the front door. Jimmy hops out.

LORA
Have fun! Tell Grandpa I say “Hi!”
I’ll pick you up once I’m back from
the market.

JIMMY
Bye, Mom!

INT. NEW HORIZONS MEMORY CARE – CONTINUOUS

Jimmy walks in and is greeted by Kelly’s enthusiasm.

KELLY
Why, hello again! The residents are
enjoying an exciting round of BINGO
upstairs. Feel free to head up
there!

Jimmy nods and heads up the stairs.

INT. NEW HORIZONS MEMORY CARE – EVENT ROOM – CONTINUOUS

Jimmy finds Grandpa sitting at a table with his Bingo card
and takes a seat next to him.
GRANDPA
Get me out of here, kiddo. These people are all crazy.

JIMMY
Aww, Gramps. It can’t be that bad.
Look, you’re one away from Bingo.

Two residents sitting at Grandpa’s table quickly turn their heads and glare at Jimmy.

GRANDPA
Don’t say the B-word too loudly here. These people take the game way too seriously.

JIMMY
Well, it seems like you’re at least doing a lot better. They hooked up your memories to their system?

GRANDPA
Yeah, my memories are rushing back to me. And reminding me how good my life was outside of here.

JIMMY
I’m sorry, Grandpa. I wish you could come home.

Grandpa stares at the elderly couple sitting across from him.

BINGO ORGANIZER
0 71!

The husband marks the box on his wife’s board. They high-five each other. Grandpa sighs and looks away. Jimmy notices.

JIMMY
Hey, I know you miss her. It’s alright.

Jimmy takes Grandpa’s hand.

JIMMY (CONT’D)
I know what will cheer you up, follow me.

Jimmy leads Grandpa out of the room.

CUT TO:
INT. NEW HORIZONS MEMORY CARE - MEMORY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy sneaks his Grandpa into a room of Memory Machines partitioned off by adjustable walls.

JIMMY
We’ll just hook you up real fast and you’ll be seeing Grandma in no time.

Jimmy helps Grandpa onto the Machine and lays him down. He puts the headset around Grandpa’s head and hooks it up to the computer screen attached to the foot of the bed.

GRANDPA
Thanks, Jimmy. I feel like I really need to see her.

Jimmy turns on the machine from the monitor screen. He sets a twenty minute timer.

JIMMY
I thought you might.

Grandpa takes his wallet out of his pocket and pulls out a picture of his late wife.

GRANDPA
I’ve never seen such a sparkle in anyone’s eyes before. She captured the sunshine.

Jimmy smiles and continues to set up the machine.

END OF OPTION C FROM DECISION 2.1

(CONTINUES ON PAGE 41)
OUTCOME F

INT. NEW HORIZONS MEMORY CARE - MEMORY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy presses buttons on the machine. Grandpa stares at his picture of Gram.

GRANDPA
Not a day goes by when I don’t think of that smile.

JIMMY
I wish I knew her longer. I was so young when she passed.

GRANDPA
Oh, you would’ve loved her. She sure loved you. She was so excited when she found out your mother was having a boy.

Lora walks into the room.

LORA
There you two are. I should’ve known you two wouldn’t be caught dead at BINGO.

Jimmy turns to look at his mom. Grandpa sits up and disables the memory timer on the screen.

Lora squints as she walks over to her Dad. Grandpa nods to reassure her.

LORA (CONT’D)
What do you think you’re doing, Dad?

GRANDPA
Hi, honey. I’ve just been reminiscing about your mother. It’s about time I pay her a visit.

Lora sighs. She kisses her Dad’s forehead and squeezes his hand.

LORA
Yeah, I suppose it is time. I’ve been thinking about her a lot too.

Lora walks over to Jimmy and takes over working the memory machine screen. She nudges Jimmy over to Grandpa.
Grandpa reaches out for Jimmy’s hand.

    GRANDPA
    Thank you, Jimmy.

    JIMMY
    Of course, Grandpa. I just figured
    you really could use a trip down
    memory lane.

Grandpa squeezes Jimmy’s hand.

    GRANDPA
    I love you, kid. Thank you.

Grandpa lets go of Jimmy’s hand and nods at Lora. Lora
presses start on the screen. Grandpa closes his eyes. His
body goes limp as he connects to his memory server.

    FADE TO:

    EXT. FAIRGROUNDS – GRANDPA’S MEMORY

From the first-person perspective of a 23-year-old Grandpa,
the camera stares at young GRANDMA. They hold hands as they
walk by the midway game options.

Grandpa stops at the darts booth. He turns his head towards
Grandma and winks while handing the VENDOR a dollar. The
Vendor puts three darts in front of Grandpa.

Grandma turns to the milk jug booth directly next to
Grandpa’s darts. She hands the Vendor a dollar and gets three
balls.

Grandpa throws a dart and pops a balloon. He waves at Grandma
and cheers. Unimpressed, Grandma turns back to her game.

Grandma picks up a ball and hurl it at the milk jugs. All
three jugs fall off the pedestal.

Grandpa throws another dart. The dart hits a balloon but
bounces off. Grandpa bangs his hand on the table. He throws
another dart and misses.

The Vendor gives Grandpa a palm sized duck stuffed animal.
Grandpa turns around to give it to Grandma. Grandma holds a
giant bear stuffed animal, practically her size. She passes
it to Grandpa who stands with his mouth wide open in
disbelief.
Grandma flips her hair with her hand and accepts Grandpa’s stuffed duck. She mocks its size by closing one eye and pinching her fingers to mimic the toy’s length.

Grandpa looks up at the bear stuffed animal in his hand. He points to the milk jug game. Grandma reenacts her throw for him. The Vendor nods and gives her a high five. Grandpa and Grandma laugh.

Grandpa puts the bear down. He takes the bear’s left hand while Grandma takes the right. They walk away from the midway, walking three-abreast.

CUT TO:

INT. NEW HORIZONS MEMORY CARE – MEMORY ROOM – CONTINUOUS

Lora stands with her arms wrapped around Jimmy.

They look over at Grandpa smiling in real-time as he lay connected to the system.

Two Nurses, MIKE and SAMANTHA enter the room. Samantha points towards Grandpa. They rush over to his machine.

MIKE
Ugh, another permanent hook-up?
Really?

JIMMY
Permanent hook-up? No, I was sure to set the timer.

Jimmy moves away from Lora’s embrace and begins investigating the memory screen.

JIMMY (CONT’D)
No, I swear I set it.

Lora steps towards him.

LORA
Jimmy, your Grandpa was ready. He wanted to do this.

JIMMY
No. Let’s wake him up. He doesn’t want this.

Samantha bends down in front of Jimmy.
SAMANTHA
I’m afraid you can’t wake him. Once hooked up to the system without a timer, there’s no way to call him back to reality. It’s completely natural.

Jimmy looks up at his mom.

LORA
He turned the timer off himself. This is what he felt he needed to do.

JIMMY
Why is no one else concerned about this?

SAMANTHA
We’ve seen it all. This happens all the time here. Just gotta face the facts.

MIKE
We’re gonna move him down the hall with the rest. You can visit him and his memories as long as you want until they completely fade.

Mike and Samantha wheel Grandpa away. Jimmy wipes his eyes and follows behind his mother.

CUT TO:

INT. NEW HORIZONS MEMORY CARE – PERMANENT CARE – CONTINUOUS

Mike and Samantha roll Grandpa’s Memory Machine into a large room with dozens of other permanently hooked up residents. They leave.

Jimmy pulls up a chair and holds his Grandpa’s hand. He looks over to Lora who grabs his other hand. They exchange fleeting smiles.

FADE TO:

EXT. BEACH – GRANDPA’S MEMORY

A young Grandpa shovels sand into a bucket. He turns the bucket over to form the beginning of a sandcastle.
Grandpa turns to young Grandma who is already working on her third tier of sand. Grandma adds a twig to Grandpa’s sandcastle mound.

They both watch as a large wave crashes upon the sand. The water splashes them and drags their sandcastles away as the water recedes.

Grandpa and Grandma laugh as they fall on their backs.

Grandpa looks up at the sky. He waves upward as his hand is seen in the corner of his perspective.

CUT TO:

INT. NEW HORIZONS MEMORY CARE - PERMANENT CARE - CONTINUOUS

Grandpa smiles as he lays on the machine. His hand twitches as if attempting to wave in reality.

Jimmy’s eyes light up. He smiles and waves back at his Grandpa.

FADE OUT.

END OF OUTCOME F
OPTION D FROM DECISION 2.1
(JIMMY HACKS BEHIND LORA’S BACK)

INT. JIMMY’S ROOM – CONTINUOUS

Lora sits next to Jimmy, comforting him.

JIMMY
I know it will be alright. I have a
good feeling Grandpa will be back
to normal in no time.

LORA
I love your confidence, baby. We’ll
figure it out.

Lora kisses Jimmy’s forehead and leaves his room.

Jimmy opens his web browser back up to the hacking video.
Nathaniel resumes talking.

NATHANIEL
To get started, there a few
important details you need to know.

Jimmy takes out a notepad and begins taking notes.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM – LATER

Jimmy comes out of his room and sits next to Grandpa on the
couch.

JIMMY
Grandpa, I’m gonna help you feel
better. You’ve gotta trust me,
okay?

GRANDPA
I always do.

Jimmy helps Grandpa up from the couch and begins walking him
towards the door.

Lora walks in the room.

LORA
Where are you two off to?
JIMMY
Just going to the park. Be home later.

LORA
Well, have fun and be careful. Don’t get back too late.

Jimmy hurries out the door with Grandpa.

CUT TO:

EXT. MIDDLE SCHOOL – LATER

Jimmy and Grandpa walk up to the back entrance of Jimmy’s middle school.

GRANDPA
Where are we? Are we home yet?

JIMMY
No, Grandpa. We just came from home. This may sound crazy but we need to break into the basement. It’s the only way I can help you.

GRANDPA
The basement? We don’t have a basement.

JIMMY
No, the school basement. That’s where my computer science club meets. There are Memory Machines down there.

Grandpa gives Jimmy a worried look.

GRANDPA
You sure about this?

JIMMY
Trust me, everything will be fine. I’ve done this before. This is one of our only options right now.

A bus pulls into the loop. Kids in uniforms begin pouring out with track bags and vaulting poles.

JIMMY (CONT’D)
Looks like the track team just got back from their meet. Follow my lead and we’ll try to blend in.
GRANDPA
I think my appearance is a dead
give away that I don’t belong on
any track team.

JIMMY
Just pretend like you’re picking me
up.

Jimmy leads Grandpa through the line of athletes filing into
the building.

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL – BASEMENT – CONTINUOUS

The track team heads toward the gym locker room. Jimmy leads
Grandpa in the opposite direction down the staircase into the
dark basement.

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL – COMPUTER ROOM – CONTINUOUS

Jimmy flips on the lights to reveal a room surrounded my
computer screens with two Memory Machines, beds with headsets
that connect to computer monitors.

JIMMY
With the scam from Lockdown
Insurance, we know your memory
files have been compromised. The
only way I know to help is to
manually overwrite your files.

GRANDPA
That’s all swell and all, but I
don’t know what you’re talking
about.

JIMMY
I know, Grandpa. Just bear with me.
We’re going into your memory server
together to figure out what’s
wrong.

Jimmy helps Grandpa lay down on the Memory Machine. He puts
the headset around Grandpa’s forehead and connects it to the
computer monitor.

END OF OPTION D FROM DECISION 2.1

(OPTION D CONTINUES ON PAGE 50)
OPTION D FROM DECISION 2.2

(JIMMY FIGHTS HACKING WITH HACKING)

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL – COMPUTER ROOM – CONTINUOUS

Grandpa remains laying on one of the machines. Jimmy moves to the second Memory Machine and begins powering it up.

JIMMY
I didn’t think it would come to this, but I’m gonna need to enter your memory server with you, Grandpa.

GRANDPA
You don’t need to do that. I’ll be fine.

JIMMY
We need to manually overwrite your files. You won’t have access to any of your memories at all if we wait too long.

GRANDPA
I don’t understand.

JIMMY
You don’t have to. You’re in good hands. I’ll be here with you the whole time.

END OF OPTION D FROM DECISION 2.2

(OPTION D CONTINUES ON PAGE 50)
OPTION D CONTINUED

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL - COMPUTER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy stands at the computer of the Memory Machine.

JIMMY
Ready for this, Grandpa?

GRANDPA
Who knows. Just be careful. You know we can’t stay in the server for too long. Permanent hook-up and all.

JIMMY
I have everything all set up, including the timers to pull us out. Everything will be fine, I promise.

Jimmy hits a button on the monitor to send Grandpa into the virtual reality of his memory server. Grandpa’s physical body goes limp, lying motionless on the Memory Machine.

Jimmy walks over to the second machine and begins setting up his own connection. He starts a timer on the computer monitor then connects his headset to Grandpa’s headset.

Jimmy lays down on the second machine, puts the headset on, and presses a button on the side of the machine to enter Grandpa’s server.

FADE TO:

INT. GRANDPA’S MEMORY SERVER - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy materializes in a white void surrounded by floating folders of Grandpa’s memory bank. Grandpa stands in the center of the disorganized mess. Jimmy runs over to him.

GRANDPA
What a mess. Every time I try to access a folder, it won’t let me.

Grandpa reaches for a folder and opens it up. The file projects a scrolling hologram of jumbled assortments of letters and numbers.

GRANDPA (CONT’D)
They’re all empty.
JIMMY
They’re not empty, they’re all encrypted. This is fascinating.
I’ve learned about things like this but never have seen it in person.

Grandpa tries opening another file. The same holographic projection occurs.

GRANDPA
Seems useless to me.

JIMMY
All your stored memories are still here in these folders, but they each are encrypted as if translated to an inaccessible language causing you to be losing your memories.

GRANDPA
So they’re all gone? All those years and pretty soon I’ll be left with nothing?

Jimmy puts his hand on Grandpa’s shoulder.

JIMMY
That’s what could happen, but we’re in this together and we’re going to figure this out.

Jimmy walks around the white void and glances through the folders surrounding him.

JIMMY (CONT’D)
To decrypt your memory files, we gotta figure out a cypher that will revert the holographic coding that appears inside the folders back to memories.

Grandpa follows Jimmy around the server.

GRANDPA
Where is a cypher going to be laying around in this mess?

Grandpa uses his cane to hit a folder out of his way.

JIMMY
It won’t be. It’s something we have to solve. We gotta find a file that we can easily guess its contents.
Jimmy continues to search through the different files floating around him.

JIMMY (CONT’D)
Remember anything from your seventh birthday?

Grandpa scoffs.

GRANDPA
I don’t think I could recall my seventh birthday even if my memories were in order.

JIMMY
Yeah, it’s alright. I didn’t think you’d be able to. We need to find something more generic.

Grandpa swats folders left and right with his cane. Jimmy continues walking, pushing folders out of his path.

GRANDPA
These files are so random. This one is just labeled “To-Do.”

Jimmy stops walking.

JIMMY
To-Do?

GRANDPA
Yeah, I guess it’s just random thoughts I must’ve had lately.

JIMMY
Grandpa, that’s perfect. You just need to recall what tasks you recently wanted to complete.

GRANDPA
Kiddo, I hate to break it to you but when I try to recall anything, my brain just broadcasts static.

JIMMY
Well, you still don’t technically have access to your memories, but we just need to think of tasks you’d normally think of doing.

Jimmy reaches for the folder labeled “To-Do” and opens it up to the holographic encryption.
JIMMY (CONT’D)
Computer, open terminal.

A hologram of the computer’s terminal screen appears in front of Jimmy.

JIMMY (CONT’D)
What’s something you’d normally want to do in a given week?

GRANDPA
I don’t know. I can’t think.

JIMMY
I get it. But I really need you to try. We’re on a bit of a time crunch. How about completing your crossword puzzles?

GRANDPA
I don’t know. Is that something I enjoy?

JIMMY
I guess we’ll have to see.

Jimmy types code on the terminal screen. He hits enter. Screen returns with message: “No matches found.”

JIMMY (CONT’D)
Nevermind, I guess you weren’t in the crossword puzzle mood this week. Anything else?

GRANDPA
Something more generic maybe?
Something with you?

Jimmy types more code on the terminal screen.

JIMMY
(whispering to self as he types)
Omelettes with Jimmy.

He hits enter.

The holographic encryption in the open To-Do folder glitches. Some of the letters change to different letters and turn green.

JIMMY (CONT’D)
Alright, we got half of the file!
GRANDPA
Whoa, the static. Some things are coming back.

CUT TO:

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL - COMPUTER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy and Grandpa’s physical bodies lay indisposed in reality, still connected to the Memory Machines.

The timer on the machine’s computer screen clicks down to 59 seconds.

CUT TO:

INT. GRANDPA’S MEMORY SERVER - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy continues to type code into the holographic terminal screen. Grandpa stands next to him, rubbing his head.

GRANDPA
I’m starting to see things. Oh, Lora. My baby girl.

Jimmy chuckles.

JIMMY
Yeah, your baby girl is not so little anymore. I still have to get her a gift for her 50th birthday this weekend.

GRANDPA
Hmm. Well, maybe I do too?

Jimmy looks at Grandpa.

JIMMY
That’s brilliant!

Jimmy rapidly types on the holographic screen.

JIMMY (CONT’D)
(whispering to self as he types)
Get Lora a gift.

Jimmy presses enter.
The holographic encryption within the To-Do file glitches once again as letters change. The rest of the code lights up green.

Grandpa falls backwards. Jimmy runs to his side.

The floating folders surrounding them dissolve into floating bubbles containing visual memories or floating words of thought within them.

Grandpa gazes up at all his floating memories passing by him.

\[ \text{JIMMY (CONT’D)} \]
Are you okay, Grandpa?

\[ \text{GRANDPA} \]
I take it all back. I had an excellent seventh birthday.

Jimmy smiles as they both chuckle.

\[ \text{JIMMY} \]
Well, looks like the cypher decrypted all the files. How are you feeling?

\[ \text{GRANDPA} \]
Like a brand new man.

\[ \text{JIMMY} \]
Glad to hear it, now come on! We gotta get out of here.

Jimmy helps Grandpa up and they exit the server by tapping the side of their heads. The virtual versions of Jimmy and Grandpa dissolve while Grandpa’s memory bubbles continue to float around the space.

\[ \text{END OF OPTION D} \]

(CONTINUES ON PAGE 56)
OUTCOME G

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL - COMPUTER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy and Grandpa regain consciousness in reality as their physical bodies rise up from the Memory Machines. They take their headsets off.

SFX: Memory Machine Alarm goes off.

JIMMY
Just in the nick of time too.

Jimmy dismounts from the machine and turns off the alarm.

Grandpa sits up on his machine.

GRANDPA
They’re back, Jimmy. Everything’s so clear. It hasn’t been like this in so long. Go ahead, ask me anything.

JIMMY
Ummm, what were you wearing yesterday?

GRANDPA
That dark green sweater your mom got me for Christmas. Give me something harder.

JIMMY
Alright then. Three years ago when we went camping, what was the name of the river we swam in?

GRANDPA
It wasn’t a river, it was a lake. It was Lake Greenbush.

JIMMY
Wow, look at you. You really do have your memory back.

GRANDPA
I knew those memory insurance companies were fishy.

JIMMY
It’s just so good to have you back, Grandpa.
Jimmy goes over to give Grandpa a hug.

GRANDPA
My mind has been foggy for far too long. I forgot what being in control feels like.

JIMMY
Mind giving me some control for a moment? How’s a trip down Memory Lane sound? My treat.

Grandpa smiles.

GRANDPA
Of course. What do you have in mind?

JIMMY
Hey, it’s supposed to be a surprise. Just lay back and relax your mind.

Jimmy puts Grandpa’s headset back on him. He returns to the computer monitor and begins hitting buttons.

JIMMY (CONT’D)
Ready?

GRANDPA
I’ve never been more ready.

Jimmy presses enter and Grandpa’s body relaxes. He lays motionless in reality as he enters his memory server. Jimmy monitors him.

FADE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - GRANDPA’S MEMORY - CONTINUOUS

A young Grandpa stands at the bedside of a young Grandma, holding a baby girl.

A NURSE walks into the room.

NURSE
Have we decided on a name yet?

Grandpa looks at his wife then down at the baby. Grandma nods.

GRANDPA
Her name is Lora.
The Nurse smiles, scribbles down the name and exits the room.

Grandpa waves at baby Lora. Lora grabs his finger.

GRANDPA (CONT’D)
She’s beautiful. She looks just like you.

Grandma blushes.

GRANDMA
Well, I think she has your cute nose.

Grandpa softly touches Lora’s nose with his finger.

GRANDPA
Oh, Lora. I just want the world for you.

GRANDMA
You’re so lucky, my princess. This man is going to be the greatest father to ever exist.

GRANDPA
Don’t listen to her. She flatters me. This woman right here, is the one you wanna meet.

Grandpa kisses Grandma’s forehead then kisses Lora’s forehead.

GRANDPA (CONT’D)
My two girls.

Grandma squeezes Grandpa’s hand. Grandpa smiles and makes funny faces down at Lora to make her laugh.

FADE OUT.

END OF OUTCOME G
OPTION E FROM DECISION 2.2

(JIMMY NEGOTIATES WITH THE HACKER)

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL - COMPUTER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy continues to hold Grandpa’s hand as he is hooked up to the Memory Machine. He reaches into his pocket to find the E-bux check from earlier.

JIMMY
   We can try negotiating with the Hacker. I’m sure deep down the person on the other side has some sense of decency.

Jimmy goes over to the computer monitor hooked up to Grandpa’s Memory Machine and begins typing.

Jimmy rotates the computer screen to face Grandpa.

JIMMY (CONT’D)
   Here’s the message we need to deliver. Read this out loud so it materializes in your memory server.

Grandpa squints at the screen.

GRANDPA
   We have 361 E-bux to offer in exchange for the decryption. We’ll play fair if you do.

Jimmy turns the screen back around and begins setting up the server.

JIMMY
   Alright, Grandpa, I’m sending you in.

Jimmy hits the button on the monitor and Grandpa’s eyes close and his body relaxes on the machine. Jimmy watches his Grandpa’s virtual server from the monitor.

FADE TO:

INT. GRANDPA’S MEMORY SERVER – CONTINUOUS

Grandpa materializes inside a white void with hundreds of floating folders. Grandpa attempts to move but is frozen in place.
An individual in all black wearing a ski mask, the HACKER, stands a few feet in front of Grandpa. The Hacker stands under a floating conveyer belt carrying folders off the edge and into a bottomless trash can.

The Hacker smirks and waves at Grandpa who is still frozen in place.

HACKER
Welcome to your server. Or should I say my server. It’s just a shame you have no access to it, isn’t it?

The Hacker cackles.

White lights begin flashing. The COMPUTER’s automated voice plays.

COMPUTER
Incoming Message.

A new folder materializes and floats down to the Hacker’s feet. The Hacker picks up the folder and opens it.

GRANDPA (V.O.)
We have 361 E-bux to offer in exchange for the decryption. We’ll play fair if you do.

The Hacker closes the file and tosses it directly into the trash can next to him. He walks closer to Grandpa.

HACKER
That’s real cute, but I don’t just decrypt people’s memory files for 361 mere E-bux.

GRANDPA
How about 400?

The Hacker cackles.

HACKER
You’re forgetting one thing, I never said I played fair. Try $7000 and we may have a deal.

Grandpa shakes his head. The Hacker cackles and walks back to the conveyer belt. He points up at one of the folders.

HACKER (CONT’D)
That file is labeled “Yesterday.” That’s cool.
The folder falls off the conveyor belt and into the trash.

    HACKER (CONT’D)
    Oops. And now it’s erased. Such a shame. I wonder what you wore
    yesterday. What did you eat? You don’t remember do you?

The Hacker points up to the next folder on the conveyor belt.

    HACKER (CONT’D)
    This one is called “Omelette Heaven.”

The folder falls into the trash can.

    HACKER (CONT’D)
    Or at least it was called Omelette Heaven. Better hurry up, the clock
    is ticking, old man. Your most recent memories are the first to go.

    CUT TO:

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL - COMPUTER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Grandpa jerks up from the Memory Machine and rips off his headset.

    SFX: An alarm is going off on the computer.

Jimmy presses a button to turn the alarm off.

    JIMMY
    Sorry, Grandpa. You know you can’t stay on the server for long
    increments of time. Had to pull you out of there.

    GRANDPA
    What’s happening? Where am I?

    JIMMY
    Calm down. Gramps. It’s me. We’re just trying to get you help.

Jimmy goes over to disconnect Grandpa from the machine.
JIMMY (CONT’D)
Your incoming memories are being immediately compromised and we don’t have the money to hand over for ransom.

GRANDPA
What are we going to do?

Jimmy puts his arm around Grandpa’s shoulder and sits down next to him.

JIMMY
I really don’t know. Do you remember what the Hacker said?

GRANDPA
Uh. Something. $7000. I don’t know it’s a little fuzzy.

JIMMY
$7000? Oh, no. Well if the Hacker isn’t really up for negotiations, it might be time we tell Mom.

GRANDPA
Mom? Yours or mine?

JIMMY
Mine. As in your daughter.

GRANDPA
Oh, okay. You think she can help?

Jimmy gets up and shuts off the computer.

JIMMY
There’s only one way to find out.

Grandpa gets up and grabs his cane. Jimmy turns the Memory Machines off.

CUT TO:

INT. HARRISON’S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Jimmy and Grandpa sit on the couch across from Lora who is pacing at the front of the room.

LORA
You tried communicating with a Hacker?
JIMMY
Mom, calm down. There weren’t really many options here.

LORA
Do you understand how dangerous that could have been?

JIMMY
I just think if this Hacker really wanted money, they’d go encrypt the files of someone who has ransom to spare.

Lora sighs.

LORA
I know you were only trying to help your Grandfather. How are you doing, Dad?

Lora bends down to meet Grandpa at eye level.

GRANDPA
Oh, I’m just fine. No worries over here.

JIMMY
He’s not really fine, he just doesn’t remember what’s happened. His recent memories are inaccessible.

LORA
Everything is just going from bad to worse.

JIMMY
Maybe if we just find the money-

LORA
We don’t have the money, Jimmy. I just gave my next three paychecks to the insurance company and now there’s this.

Lora picks up the letter from the coffee table and waves it.

LORA (CONT’D)
Lockdown Insurance has declared bankruptcy. Any memory files not backed up will be frozen once they close. He’s got a week of insured memories left.
Jimmy’s eyes widen. He takes the letter from his mother.

JIMMY
I don’t understand. They took your money then shut their doors? Sounds like one of those scams.

LORA
Not everything is a conspiracy, honey. This is just my fault. I couldn’t pay for his server on time.

Grandpa looks up at Lora who is tearing up.

GRANDPA
What’s wrong, darling? Nothing is worth your tears.

Lora wraps her arms around her father.

LORA
I know, Dad, but you’re worth it.

GRANDPA
Don’t cry for me. I’ve never been better. Don’t you have to pick little Jimmy up from daycare?

LORA
Jimmy is sitting right next to you, Dad. He’s all grown up now.

Grandpa looks over to Jimmy.

GRANDPA
Oh, wow. He really has grown. It feels like just yesterday you were this tiny tot in preschool.

Jimmy gives his Grandpa a hug.

JIMMY
Please hold on to me. Hold on to our memories, Grandpa.

Jimmy backs away, wipes his eyes and runs to his room.

CUT TO:
INT. JIMMY’S ROOM – CONTINUOUS

Jimmy runs to his computer. He begins opening internet tabs and searching “Ransomware” and “Memory decryption.”

Jimmy swivels in his computer chair and searches through textbooks on his floor. He picks up a book called “Intro to Memory Servers.”

Jimmy frantically flips through the pages as tears roll down his cheek.

Lora gently knocks on his door and enters. She grabs a chair and pulls it next to Jimmy.

LORA
Honey, I’m really sorry you have to go through all this. I wish there was a right thing to say.

JIMMY
He doesn’t even know that his memories are fading. And that’s the worst part.

LORA
Maybe that’s the best part. At least you know he’s not upset about thinking he’s missing out.

JIMMY
But he is missing out. I know I can help him. I’ve just got to study encryption and figure out how to decrypt his memory files.

Jimmy turns back to his cluttered desks and flips through more books. Lora grabs his hand.

LORA
Honey, relax. This isn’t healthy. I’m sorry I don’t have the resources to help your Grandpa out, we just have to accept that. This kind of thing happens sometimes.

JIMMY
So that’s it for you? You’re just giving up?
LORA
Of course I’m not giving up on my father, but continuing to mess with his server may just make matters worse. His mind is in a fragile state.

JIMMY
But what if there is a solution out there?

LORA
And what if there isn’t? Or what if trying results in more permanent loss? The best thing we could do for us and for Grandpa is to be there for him.

Lora hugs Jimmy. Jimmy wipes the tears from his eyes.

JIMMY
I’m sorry, Mom. I wish I never tried to negotiate with the Hacker.

Lora moves Jimmy’s hair out of his eyes.

LORA
That was a brave thing for you to try. You were just trying to help your Grandpa. I could never be mad at that.

JIMMY
So the insurance company really bailed, huh?

LORA
We’re on our own now, but we’ll be just fine. Come on, we shouldn’t keep Grandpa waiting.

END OF OPTION E FROM DECISION 2.2

(CONTINUES ON PAGE 67)
OUTCOME H

INT. HARRISON’S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lora and Jimmy head back into the living room. Grandpa is still sitting in his spot on the couch.

GRANDPA
This really is a lovely home you have here.

LORA
Well, thank you, Dad. Hope you’re making yourself feel at home.

GRANDPA
Oh, I sure am. I was snooping around a bit and saw this game under the coffee table.

Grandpa pulls out the board game Clue.

GRANDPA (CONT’D)
We used to play this a lot when you were a girl.

LORA
Oh, I remember. And now you play it a lot with Jimmy too.

GRANDPA
Jimmy?

Jimmy steps closer to Grandpa and waves. Lora puts both her hands on Jimmy’s shoulders.

LORA
Yes. Jimmy, my son.

Grandpa smiles.

GRANDPA
Aw, would you look at that. He looks just like you, darling. It’s nice to officially meet you, kiddo. You like Clue?

JIMMY
I love the game. It’s the only old timey game I can stand.
GRANDPA
You think this game is old? This is an electronic remake. I was playing
the original version when I was around your age. Pencil and paper.

Grandpa looks up at Lora shaking his head.

GRANDPA (CONT’D)
Kids these days. They’ll never know.

LORA
I suppose they won’t. It’s a whole new world now.

JIMMY
Kids like me may never know what it was like without electronics and
holograms, but I’d sure love to hear about it.

Jimmy sits cross-legged on the floor in front of Grandpa.

GRANDPA
Ah, I like this kid. Well as far back as I can remember, there was a
time when computers were the size of entire rooms.

JIMMY
That sounds crazy.

GRANDPA
Oh, trust me it was. My generation was the trailblazers to make this
world even possible. Now everything is stored on and uses computers.

Jimmy sighs and picks at the fuzz in the carpet.

JIMMY
Yeah, maybe that’s not such a great thing after all.

GRANDPA
Hey, you live and you learn.
Nothing’s a perfect science. But you and your generation can be the
ones to fix it. What did you say your name was again?

JIMMY
It’s Jimmy.
GRANDPA
Well, Jimmy it’s been a pleasure to
meet you, but it’s getting rather
late for an old man like me.

Grandpa gets up from the coach.

GRANDPA (CONT’D)
Would you mind if I crash at your
place, sweetie?

LORA
Of course, Dad. My home is your
home. Jimmy, would you show Grandpa
to his room?

Jimmy gets up off of the floor and takes Grandpa’s arm as
they start to walk.

INT. HALLWAY – CONTINUOUS

Jimmy walks Grandpa to the door of his room.

GRANDPA
Thank you, kiddo for being so kind
to me tonight.

JIMMY
It’s no problem at all.

GRANDPA
You’re a good kid.

JIMMY
That’s nice of you to say. I was
raised by the best.

Grandpa smiles and walks into his room. He shuts the door.

Jimmy sniffs and stares at the closed door.

JIMMY (CONT’D)
(softly)
Goodnight, Grandpa.

FADE OUT.

END OF OUTCOME H