

## CONTINUUM

Synopsis by KC Liwanag

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A subdued, failed entrepreneur acquired the knowledge and abilities of a deceased CEO through a medical experiment and uncovers the truth about his death.

The story is set at a time in the future where the subconscious, skills and strengths of the dead can be transferred into someone else's body. In this "Black Mirror"-esque film which touches upon the genre of Sci-fi and Psychological Thriller, stars a failed entrepreneur named Eli Greyson who desires a complete change in his life. The opportunity arises when he finds out about a company that seeks volunteers to undergo a certain medical experiment which is currently in trial phase. It allows a person to acquire the knowledge and abilities of another person who is highly-skilled and successful. Intrigued and fascinated by the idea, Eli decides to volunteer. He selects the psyche of James Flynn - a wealthy CEO of a cyber-security software company who committed suicide. Attracted by Mr. Flynn's ingenuity and achievements, he undergoes the trial procedure, embodying this new life.

Over the course of a few years, he uses Mr. Flynn's knowledge and skills to become a millionaire and well-known businessman - this is everything he ever wanted. His story is a feature in the media mentioning that taking James Flynn's persona is the key to his success. The experiment is then deemed to be the next big thing. Ever since his interview, he senses that someone is watching and following his every move.

Eli feels a sudden craving for meth/cocaine. It starts out as a simple thirst that escalates into chronic addiction. He discovers that Mr. Flynn is a struggling addict. It is later revealed that he potentially acquired the CEO's bad habits and memories as unknown side-effects of the experiment. Nightmares and fuzzy flashbacks of the same scenario keeps occurring: Eli is in someone else's bedroom with a gun pointed to his head by a man he doesn't recognize. He wakes up after a loud bang.

One night, he was confronted by a man who offered him drugs. While negotiating, Eli immediately recognizes that it is the same person in his dreams. This triggers a flashback of James Flynn's real cause of death and revealing the truth about the killer and the former CEO's past relationship.

Before Eli knows it, the man points a gun and shoots him the head.

After a week, the clinical trial company got a hold of Eli's persona tampered with James Flynn's persona and offers it to the public. The killer's job is never done as the next person in line for the procedure is bound to be killed again.

The truth always has its way to unfold itself.

*"Black Mirror" is a British anthology science fiction television series that presents the message and rather the warning of the unanticipated consequences of new technologies. This story asks the question, "What if you could easily have someone else's skills, intelligence and persona?" It ponders around modern society's envious desires to change themselves as someone else. The media's portrayal of well known people's weaknesses are often concealed from the public. Consumer deception is another theme in this story with companies exaggerating the good and downplay potential harm. Lastly, the ending reflects that the truth can never be buried. This film's main concept throughout -There is more to know than what's presented.*

**CONTINUUM** - Story Outline by KC Liwanag

Eli Greyson lies awake on his bed with a solemn demeanor. He is a low-waged failed entrepreneur living an everyday routine of waking up, working, eating, a drink at a bar, and going home. One night alone at the old bar, Eli completes his usual round of drinks. The bartender increases the volume of the TV, showing the recent suicide incident of a cyber security software company's former CEO named James Flynn.

Forward a few years, an advertisement of the "Psyche Transport Experiment" is recruiting volunteers for this new medical trial which will allow a person to acquire the skills, knowledge and subconscious of another person. Given the description of James Flynn's distinctions and successes exaggerated by the recruitment agent, Eli chooses to embody the former CEO's psyche and undergoes the trial procedure.

Three years passed and a look into Eli's successful business life is shown - a complete contrast to his old, dull life. Eli's unexpected rise to wealth and taking over the CEO position of James Flynn's company attracts the media. He is interviewed to talk about his success, revealing the "Psyche Transport Experiment" in the process. Blinded by this new found fame, he fails to mention his recent, unusual, but unwanted cravings for meth and cocaine. Through a contact found on the former CEO's desktop messages, Eli discovers Mr. Flynn's hidden drug addiction. The flaws of the clinical procedure begins to appear as Mr. Flynn's bad habits and weaknesses enters Eli's being, his true self slowly fading.

The topic of Eli's Psyche Transfer of James Flynn seen on the news triggered a suspicious, paranoid man's will to track down Eli, worried it would put his life and freedom in danger. The story of this man is revealed towards the end. He is seen following Eli around, unnoticed.

Eli's drug addiction symptoms became severe. He has a recurring nightmare of a murderer where Eli is in someone else's bedroom with a gun pointed to his head by a man he doesn't recognize. He experience constant headaches and short flashbacks of the CEO's old memories that when puzzled together, lead up to the real truth about Mr. Flynn's death.

Reflecting on his wealth and success, these were only temporary happiness. He is living in the same regular routine of waking up, working, eating and drinking as he did in the past except in better, wealthier locations like a condo unit and an expensive bar. He revisits the old bar.

Eli's relentless desire for illicit drugs pressured him into reaching out to the same contact who knew about Mr. Flynn's drug addiction, assuming he is involved with the distribution. The man accepts to offer the drugs he needed. The next night, Eli is confronted by the man he was expecting, being told to negotiate in the back alley. The man pulls out a gun and held it to Eli's head. Eli recognizes the man from his nightmares, triggering the full memory of Mr. Flynn's death. A flashback reveals the relationship between Mr. Flynn and the man: The man, named Peter Han was the former business partner of Mr. Flynn. Mr. Flynn witnessed a dark corrupt secret involving illegal businesses that could potentially lose Mr. Han's high-position job. Mr. Flynn blackmailed and threatened Mr. Han until he finally decided to take action. Mr. Han planned his murder. In Mr. Flynn's bedroom, he shot Mr. Flynn in the head and carefully made it appear like a suicide. The flashback ends. Mr. Han shoots Eli in the head.

A few weeks later, the experiment company got a hold of Eli's persona tampered with Mr. Flynn's.. The cycle would repeat itself, revealing the murder of Mr. Flynn and Eli to the next person in line. With the procedure being known to be successful, Eli's with Mr. Flynn's persona along with other high-skilled personas of dead people are auctioned as a product to the public. Mr. Han is sitting at the auction, waiting.