

L-Tron / E-1000 (LIAM TEMPLETON / ELIZABETH MARSH)

WMS 3930

Final Project

December, 2015

Preface: A Note on Technology

Early in the 21st century, a breakthrough was made. An Austrian physicist did the unthinkable. She made time travel a reality. Breaking through the temporal void, one could physically place someone or something in the past. The technology was impressive. No sands of time, no phone booths, no Delorians. The device itself wasn't any bigger than a smartphone. It created a temporal field, through which one could pass, to any point in history. Future travel was not possible, as the future hadn't physically occurred yet. The theories surrounding the ripple effect of time manipulation were in constant debate. The idea was that if something in the past changed, a new future, leading right up to the present would be instantaneously created. Paradoxically, however, if one traveled through time and altered it, that individual would be protected in the time rift, and could return to the future, even if the change were so severe, they had never been born. This, at least, was the theory. However, though the technology was there to make the trip, one cannot not simply travel through time, willy-nilly. Two points had to be addressed prior to any extensive missions being undertaken. Language was the first problem. If one were to travel to a time when an ancient language was spoken, one had to be able to communicate. Sometime in the mid 21st century, a team of international linguists created

a communication technology that would permit people of different language backgrounds to hear their own language being spoken, via an undetectable sort of aural wave.

Fortunately in our case, these academics, always looking to impress themselves, even programmed these devices to function with dead languages, such as ancient Greek, Aramaic, Latin, among others. The second, and final problem was the traveler themselves. As fear-driven and murder-oriented as people are, one could not simply show up in another time, and expect to blend in. Worse, if one did not blend in, it is entirely likely they would be killed. In 2016, a group of Bolivian scientists created a suit that had the ability to reflect and mirror light, such that a person wearing it could appear virtually invisible, simply by adjusting the control belt.

Part 1: The How and Why

“If you want the rainbow, you’ve gotta put up with the rain.”

-Dolly Parton

It’s hard to tell exactly where it all went wrong. At what point history so severely diverged from its possible course. There have been many factors, many causes. Where would we start? How could we reconcile our present with the past, to make a better future? The problem wasn’t surface-level, and it wasn’t singular. It wasn’t one person, or one government. It wasn’t even recent... it seemed that we’ve been conditioning people toward this precipice for centuries. It was rooted in our humanity, in our relations to one another. We were controlling people, manipulating beliefs, creating classes, and in the process, destroying the earth. When we stripped down all the responsibility, looked throughout our tragic history as people, sifting through each and every major event, there was one discernable thread, which when pulled, one could see the social, political, and environmental evolution of humanity unravel. That thread was God. So it came to us, the answer to the earth’s suffering, the reclaiming of our humanity. In order for people to

live, God had to die. There was only one problem... God isn't real. So, in true bumper sticker fashion, we set out to save the world from His followers.

These religions gained power by controlling people at the interpersonal level; in their homes. And from there, they spread to control society. So the depth of the problem, to us, lay in the depth of our relationships with others. Humanity is perhaps at its most complex and vulnerable, when found in its most intimate state. In this sense, God had a devastating effect on the world. Christianity and Islam in particular, with their overwhelming political and social power, influenced most contemporary ideas about romance, sex, and intimacy, at least in the majority of the world. Queerness, while once so widely accepted became demonized as it was turned into an issue of morality. Marriage as a heterosexual institution, the purity of women, the virgin/whore dichotomy, monogamy, childbearing, the male as the head of the household, even the household itself in the idea of the nuclear family. These belief systems, rooted in the home, seemed to emanate out from there, pervading every facet of our society. We had to ask ourselves, what if these systems of belief never existed? What if there were no scriptures that licensed the hatred of gay people, or the subjugation of women? Racism, sexism, and classism would all surely still exist, but would it be so homogenous in its application, were there not an incontrovertible global entity overseeing it? We had to try. There could be no going forward for humanity, unless we went back.

After acquiring the necessary technology by seducing the security personnel, I, Liam Templeton (Code named L-Tron), and my compatriot Elizabeth Marsh (code named, E-1000) said goodbye to our loved ones (dogs), and began our journey to slay the

fucking patriarchy. We decided it would be best to start recent, and travel back to each of the perpetrators, lest our actions alter the future to the extent that we cannot find them later. With nearly half of the global population being Christian or Muslim, we determined that the most egregious offenses culturally, were placed at the feet of these Abrahamic religions. Therefore it was incumbent upon us to eliminate them – all of them – from ever happening. This meant that any significant prophet, or any human worshiped by the masses as a deity would have to be wiped out.

The how was the problem. Traveling back in time and killing people does have complications. What if someone intervened? What if we were apprehended? After an inspired revisiting of *Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure*, we decided to instead round up each offender, and bring them to a single point in time, where they could be killed quietly and efficiently. As we combed through historical texts and ancient scriptures, we made our list of targets: Jesus, Mohammad, Moses, Joseph, Constantine, Abraham, David, Jerry Falwell, Joel Osteen, the list went on. Though we were willing to admit that the problems of the world could not be entirely solved by eliminating this deity, we felt it was the most reasonable starting point, and would be an effective barometer for the measurement of the progress of humanity.

The plan was simple, if not easy. E-1000, who was an impeccable shot, would situate herself in a discreet location, at a fixed point in time, while I would locate each target, and abduct them, bringing them to her, where, upon our arrival, she would silence them immediately and permanently. Once our task was complete, we would take the bodies and drop them into the ocean, where they could decompose and disappear from

history forever. Afterwards, we would return to the future to witness the wreckage of our actions, and determine from there, what corrective actions needed to be taken, if any. I mean, after all, what's the worst that could happen?

L-Tron: "Are you ready?"

E-1000: "Let's slay this fucking patriarchy."