

FEATURE FILM || PITCH DECK

evensong

a soulsong

WRITTEN BY
SOPHIA KHAN

LOGLINE

A paraplegic woman convinces her genetic engineer husband to create an illegal clone of herself as a sex surrogate in a desperate attempt to save their broken marriage.

TEASER

"Sidney Meets Cleo"
a scene from the feature



click still for **link to vimeo**

SPECS

120 pages
Sci-Fi | Drama | Thriller
Contained, Female-Driven

BUDGET

\$3-5 million

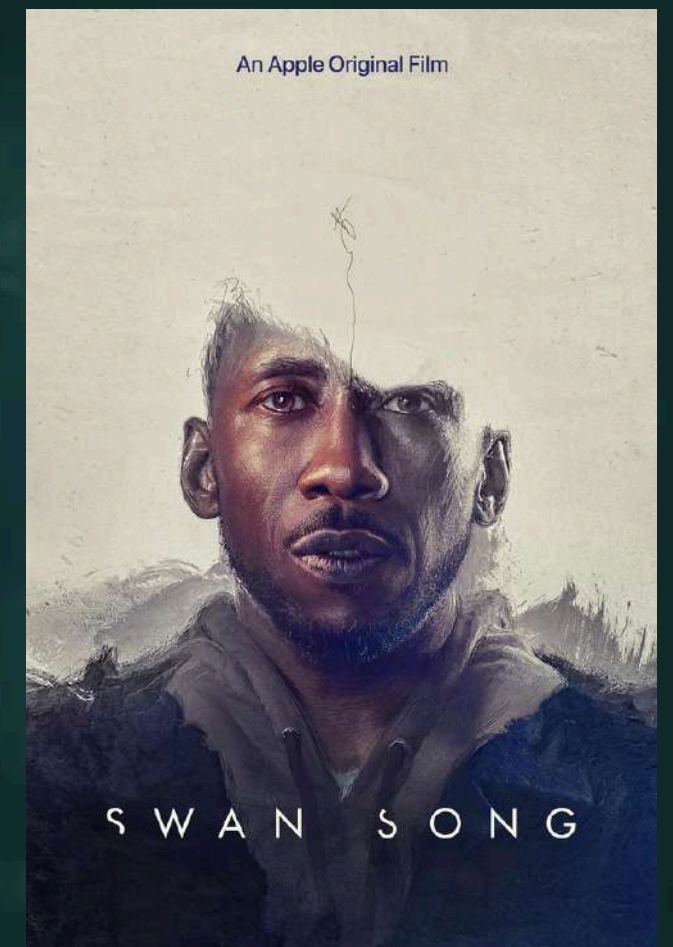
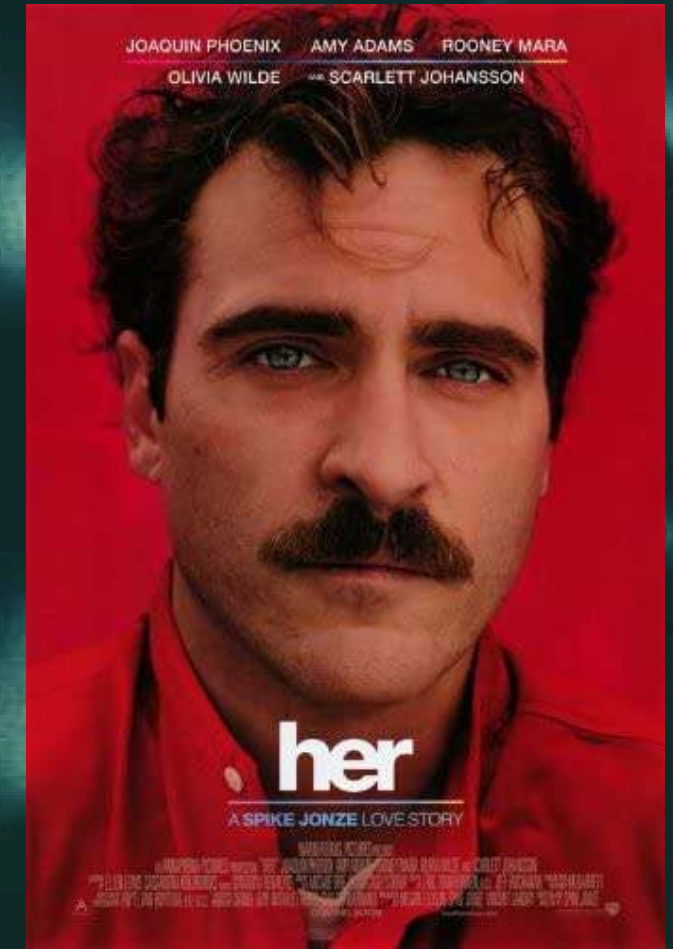


COMPS

AUDIENCES

who crave lush, gritty,
character-driven thrillers
that **explore** humanity's
basest and most sublime
impulses and **test** the
limits of what it means
to love

WILL DEVOUR
evensong



SYNOPSIS

BIRTH *and fallout*

CONCEPTION *of an insidious idea*

In a future not too far removed from now, biotech giants are racing to launch the **first line of human clones** and make history. But the one who illegally beats them to the finish line is SIDNEY, a **paraplegic woman and former pianist**. After a devastating car crash claims both her mobility and her fertility, Sidney and husband RICHARD, a **genetic engineer** at **Proteus Biotech**, are struggling to keep their marriage alive. In near-constant pain, sick of experimental treatments, Sidney retreats into a **Virtual Reality addiction**, shutting out her heartbroken husband despite his countless attempts to connect. One drunken, regrettable mistake from Richard propels Sidney to an insidious idea: if he must fulfill his **sexual needs** with someone, why not **another her?** But when she finds herself face to face with her actual **clone** (body of a woman, mind of a newborn), the unexpected bond they share sparks hate, love, music, and maternal instincts...

We open with a storm at sea: Sidney seeks refuge in her VR dreamscapes while Richard sneaks into a mostly empty Proteus HQ to steal the CLONE he reluctantly, illegally incubated from Sidney's DNA. After almost getting caught by security guard KIM, Richard brings the clone home to a soundproof, windowless shed where he teaches her how to eat, pee, and speak her first words...

Back at work, Richard tries to keep his increasingly suspicious boss ELIZABETH and Proteus VP JACOBUS off the scent. Sidney meanwhile agrees not to visit her clone until Richard allows (the clone's psyche is fragile, and Richard is her entire world for now). He buys Sidney a mouthpiece that enables her to activate piano pedals, and she begins to play again, hopeful about their future for the first time in years. But the more hours Richard devotes to his wife's new replica, the more jealous Sidney grows. Richard tries to explain how vulnerable and childlike the clone is. He can't rush things.

Sidney's caretaker CHARICE senses something is seriously off in the Olsson home but can't get Sidney to confide in her. Resentful of the time Richard's devoting to her duplicate, Sidney secretly dismisses Charice one day to be alone with her other self for the first time. She slips out of her wheelchair and drags herself through the mud to meet her clone, throwing the clone's world into new color. The clone learns what a secret is. She begins to yearn for the sky, and a surprising psychic bond develops between the two women through shared dreams and music. Sidney experiences vicarious moments with Richard via CLEO (the name she chooses for her clone). She feels it fully when Richard finally loses control in a tender embrace, forcing sex with Cleo before she's ready.

When Kim shows up and threatens to expose Richard, he cracks, killing the ambitious guard. Events spiral as the repressed pain in Richard morphs into monstrosity. Sidney realizes she must liberate Cleo and finally tells Charice. But as they're mounting an escape, Elizabeth and Jacobus descend. Cleo gets away, Richard is shot, Elizabeth is killed. Back at Proteus, Jacobus makes Sidney an offer: to save Richard's life, Jacobus can clone him and throw in an experimental consciousness transfer – but only if Sidney agrees to help him track down Cleo, who is now pregnant. Will Sidney accept?



**SWOLLEN WAVES,
HUNGRY CLOUDS.**



**LIGHTNING CRACKS
THE TROUBLED
SKY.**



Woman:

I am wound.



Man:

I'm the one
who answers.



introducing *BREAKOUT STAR + WRITER*

EVENSONG'S
INSPIRATION

A tour-de-force debut moment for writer/lead Sophia Khan, based on her own journey with debilitating pain, intimate longing, and revelatory rebirth.

sophia khan

Sophia not only stars in this edgy, near-future fable for the ages — she has alchemized her own injury and healing into the screenplay itself, lending an internal complexity and nuanced personal resonance rarely seen in sci-fi. This is a passion project in the truest sense, with a voice that is both original and necessary.

A crafted and embodied role from conception to delivery, Sophia's vibrant, naked human portrayal of Sidney and Cleo is soulful, provocative, and mesmerizing. Its rich authenticity will appeal to major festivals, awards circuits, and arthouse studios that love to discover raw, kinetic talent.

You can catch Sophia as the lead in the upcoming video game PROJECT VESPERI, and she recently won "Best Acting Duo" at Dark Comedy Film Fest for DOLLYVILLE.

Trained at RADA with degrees from Harvard, Yale, and Dartmouth, Sophia's performance and script blend classical rigor and dramatic range with intellectual curiosity and emotional gravitas to create a gripping, cerebral sci-fi saga with big heart and stark stakes.

Her research and work in comparative ethics and human rights layer the story with a troubling moral ambiguity that invites audiences to confront and embrace their own limits. Years of study in China, Pakistan, England and Italy enhance the film's complex storyworld with a dynamic global lens.

Sophia's feature scripts (including EVENSONG) have ranked: Top 10% at the Academy Nicholl Fellowship and Slamdance, Sundance Feature Lab Finalists, and CineStory Retreat Semifinalist, among other honors.



SOPHIA KHAN || Sidney + Cleo

STILLS FROM TEASER



CAST

SIDNEY



CLEO





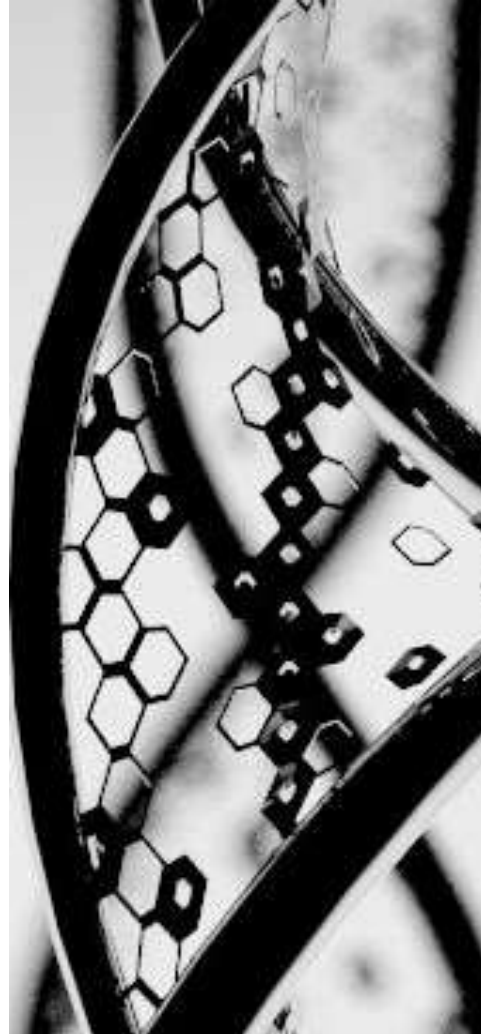
SIDNEY OLSSON

richard's wife

Fractured. Regal. Will of something far more enduring than iron. Once part of a beautiful love, Sidney's desperation to save that love sets our infernal machine in motion. But as her clone takes on a unique identity and presence in the world, their shared bond pulls Sidney out of her misery and into new hope. New dreams. New music. New love with her other self, and through that, with herself.

She has that new baby smell.

- sidney -



CLEO

sidney's clone

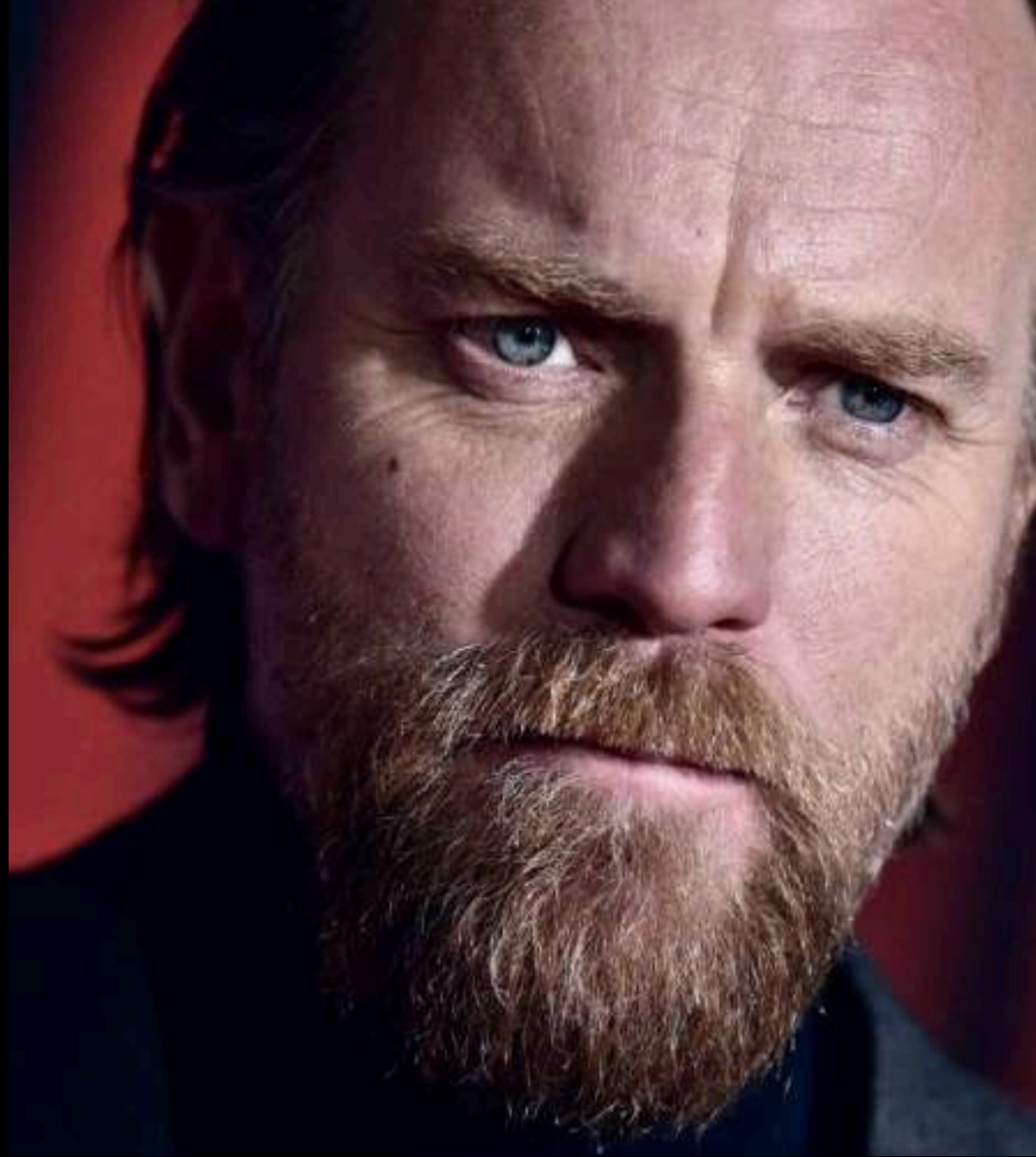
Fresh to this world and this life. Sidney without the scars. Childlike wonder caged in a flightless bird. Every moment of every day, she's absorbing and deepening in understanding. Seeking outside the walls of her shed but barred from escape. From being Richard's student of life, to being Sidney's kindred, Cleo eventually finds a name and begins to find her own voice in being...

Promise. I say it. I do it.

- cleo -



RICHARD





DR. RICHARD OLSSON

lead genetic engineer

Softly precise. Capable of far more than he allows. A bright scientist with a huge heart, a blazing future ahead, and a dark past at home. Richard's been to hell with his beloved wife Sidney, and they've never really left. The crash destroyed more than Sidney's mobility; it tore something deep in Richard that was never given air to heal.



After a reckless mistake and the unforgivable infidelity that followed, Richard will do anything to keep Sidney's love and restore her faith. Even if it means breaking every code he believes in. Although Sidney strong-arms him into cloning Cleo, Richard's intoxication with being the center of Cleo's universe quickly turns perverse...



We are animals.

- richard -

PROTEUS

B I O T E C H



DR. ELIZABETH WILDE

head of cloning



JACOBUS ELCONIN

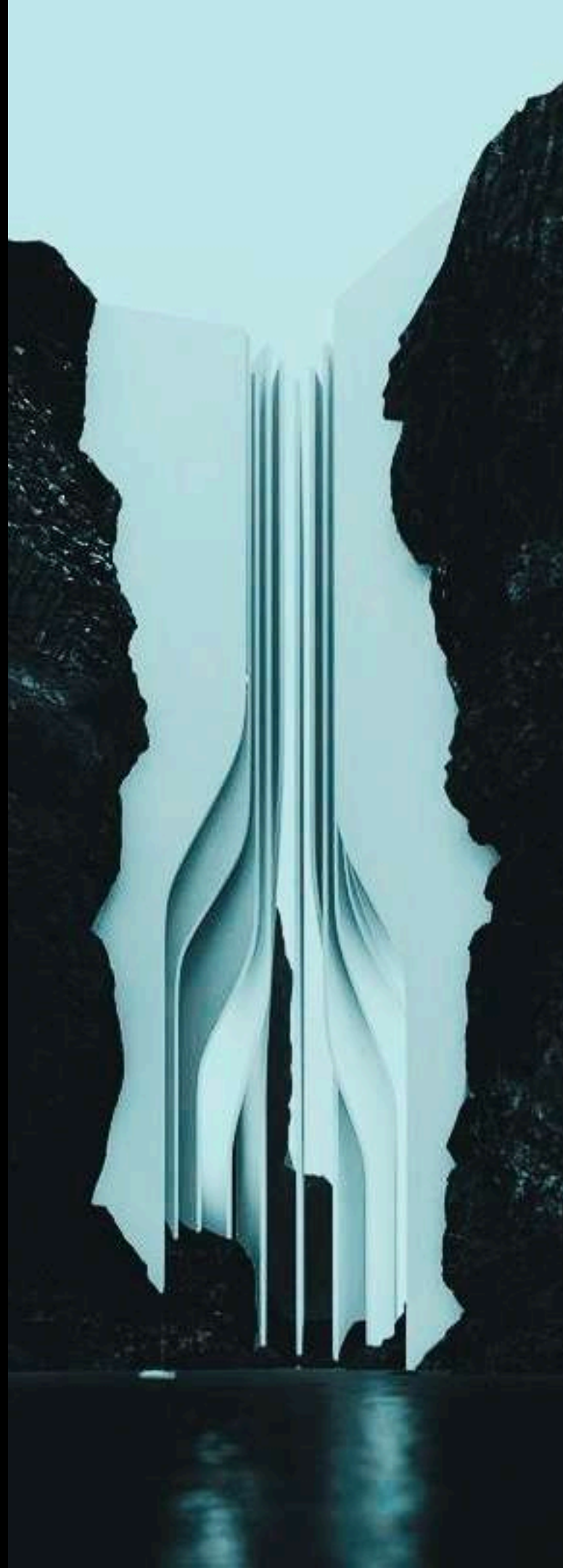
vice president of operations

Worldly, brilliant. As ruthless at the job as Jacobus himself. Her one-night dalliance with Richard meant less to her than some handshakes. But Elizabeth leans on instinct, and when hers starts blaring an alarm about Richard, she takes heed. Unbeknownst to anyone, she has an agenda all her own that makes her stake in the fate of Sidney's clone unique...



elizabeth

[*perilous cheekbones*]



jacobus

[*urbane panther*]



Sharp, full of guile, and desperate to please Daddy. Son of legendary Proteus founder ZADOK ELCONIN, little Jacobus clawed his way to supremacy and will do anything to stay on top. Between Fijian bowel cleanses and daily death threats, there isn't much he can't handle with razor-sharp precision. When he catches wind of Richard's dark deeds, he relishes in the delicious game of jungle-cat and mouse.

SUPPORTING



CHARICE

sidney's caretaker

[*sturdy build | sturdier soul*]



KIM

proteus security guard

[*itching for gold*]

MARTY & LANDON

genetic engineers

[*berkeley idealist vs. east coast intellectual*]



LOCATIONS

OLSSON HOUSE

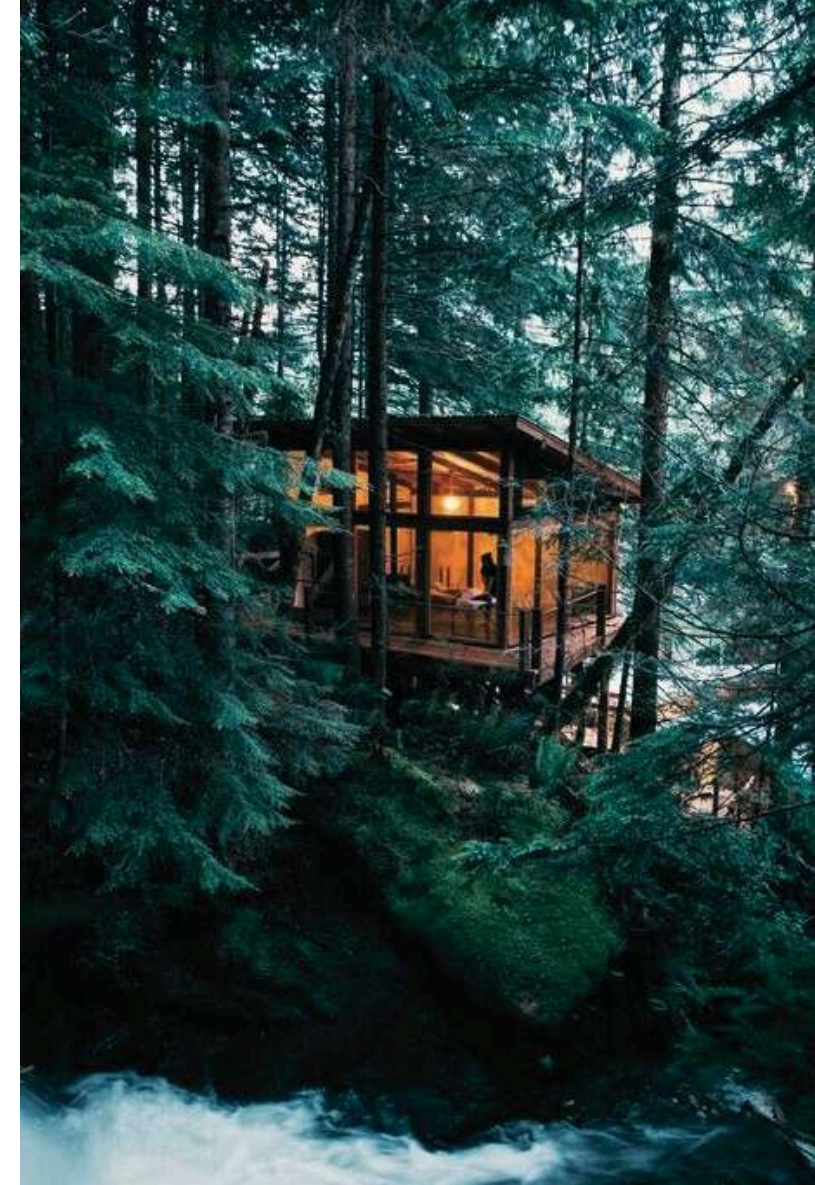
EXTERIOR / INTERIOR



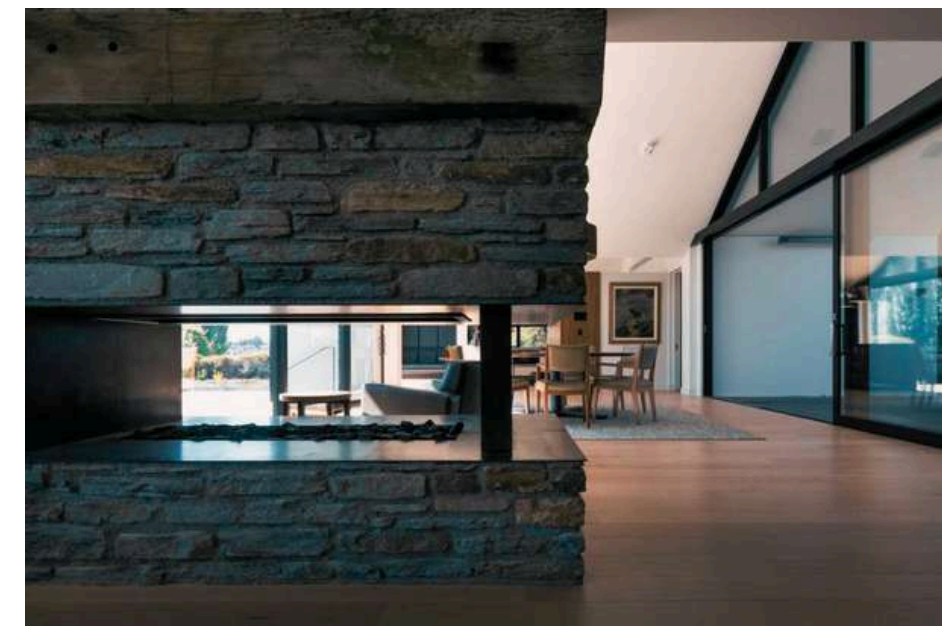
**TREES
THAT KNOW HOW
TO KEEP SECRETS.**



The woods
wanted him.
- richard -



**A HOME
THAT
LONGS
TO BE
LIVED IN.**



CLEO'S SHED

EXTERIOR / INTERIOR

**WINDOWS TIGHTLY
BOARDED,
PERMITTING NO
OUTSIDE LIGHT.**



**NO MIRRORS
HERE.**

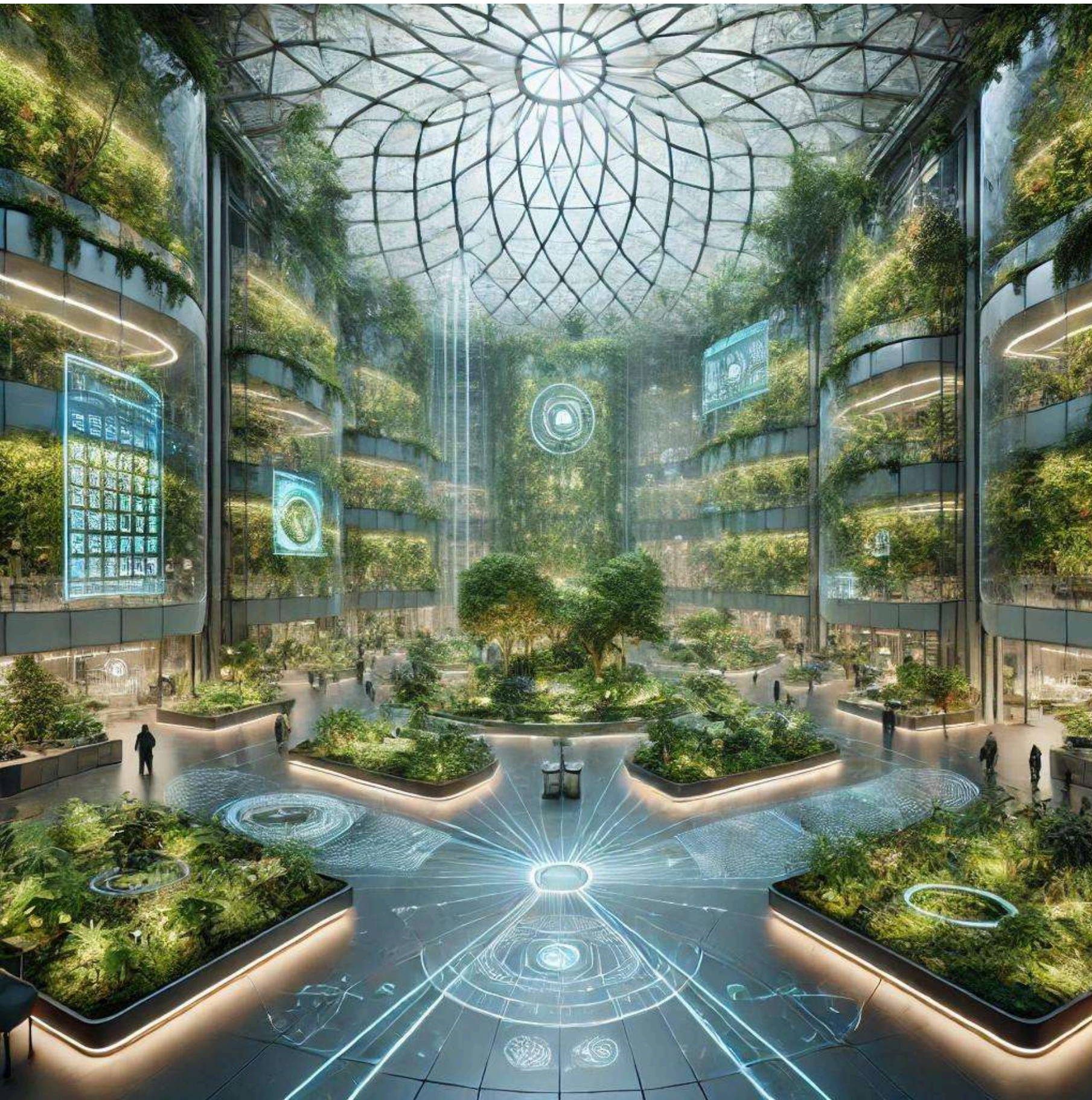


I want the sky!
- cleo -



PROTEUS BIOTECH

HEADQUARTERS



BECAUSE TO BE HUMAN

is to do more than just crawl along at the pace of every other carbon-based creature on this planet. It's to leap wildly over the edge of reason into the void and feel a pair of wings you didn't even know you had ripping out of your back. To be human is to soar.

- jacobus -



TEXTURE

CLONING TECH

incubation.

[*to be born not
of woman or man...
but of human
ingenuity.
not of sex.
but of science.*]

- jacobus -



IN OUR WORLD: After decades of research, Proteus Biotech has breached the final barriers to cloning a human embryo harvested from sample DNA. They can incubate it to whatever age they choose in an artificial womb chamber—at an *accelerated rate*. The only remaining snag to perfecting the process is CONSCIOUSNESS, still too elusive to transfer. So every fresh clone, whatever age it's grown into, begins life as a MENTAL NEWBORN. *Tabula rasa*.

With China about to launch their own line, Elizabeth's team races to gain federal approval before their competition corners the market. Little does anyone know, Richard has already—illegally—created the first human clone using Proteus technology... A clone of his disabled wife.



We stand at the edge of a new dawn, when human cloning will be one easy step away.

Now is the time to ask if we should take it.

VIRTUAL REALITY

After her crippling car wreck, Sidney escapes into VR whenever her own reality becomes too unbearable (often).

But the more she feeds the surreal, the less of the real she craves...

...until Cleo's reality forces her to face her own reflection.



We're excited to explore the emerging virtual landscape through partnerships with innovative firms that will be defining the new frontiers of immersive art. **VR has massive potential** as a **game-changer** for education, therapy, and creativity.

DREAMSCAPE

Sidney and Cleo share a deepening connection in the dreamworld that shapes the dance of their intertwined souls.



ART



Richard's old gift to Sidney of
JMW Turner paintings turns into
Cleo's first glimpse of the sky...



Maybe we're like two old
stones, having a
conversation that takes
years to unfold.

- sidney -



...another layer of betrayal as
the art they used to share now
belongs to a new Sidney.

THEMES

- **Disability & Mental Health**
- **Freedom of Choice**
- **Ownership of the Female Body**
- **Technology & Addiction**
- **Music & Arts Therapy**
- **Sexual Freedom & Servitude**
- **Marriage & Fidelity**
- **Bioethics & Genetic Engineering**



REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

The current global debate about the rights of women finds a lens through our story with the question: 'Who gets to choose what the clone does with her own body?' Do Richard and Sidney, her creators? Or does Cleo? What if Cleo doesn't even understand her own body's ability to reproduce yet? And what of Proteus claims ownership of her body as one of its product, a piece of IP?

PLEDGE

We intend to approach and treat the portrayal of Sidney's **spinal cord injury** with great care and consideration. As such, we are in consultation with spinal cord injury experts and disabilities advocates. We further hope to partner with nonprofits aligned with the empowerment of individuals living with disability. We also aim to be inclusive in our HIRING PRACTICES, seeking out crew + production members who are differently-abled to promote their representation and voices in the ongoing conversation.

BUDGET

\$3-5 million

An even \$5 million would empower us to secure A-list talent, a seasoned director, prime locations, and equip art department with more options to create our world of the near future. We will seek fiscal sponsorship and are open to filming in states or countries with significant tax breaks, hiring local crew where possible.

SOUNDSCAPE



SIDNEY'S MUSIC shatters to a halt after her accident. A master pianist and PhD candidate, she never completes her dissertation on Chopin.

For years, the house is **quiet**...

...but as SIDNEY falls in love with herself once more through CLEO, she rediscovers her passion for playing.

RICHARD gifts her a **special mouthpiece** which triggers the pedals her non-functioning feet can no longer press, bringing the work of her favorite composer richly back to life.

Music is a dance
between sound and
silence.

- sidney -

ASMR is a delicious addition to the acoustic landscape of storytelling that provokes visceral reactions and can stimulate sensations within listeners. We intend to experiment in our sound design by collaborating with seasoned ASMR influencers to help build the emotional texture of this near-future world.



CHOPIN

Over the course of our story, Sidney will play:

waltz no 2 in c sharp minor

nocturne no 2 in e flat

fantasie impromptu

waltz in a minor

As events escalate, Sidney will compose and play:

evensong

contact

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