

INT. ROBERT'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

BRENDA (23) sits beside ROBERT (26) by the kitchen counter.

They work on their lap tops.

ROBERT  
Do you believe in free will?

BRENDA  
Of course.

ROBERT  
Then what about the Libet  
Experiments?

BRENDA  
What about it?

ROBERT  
I looked into it.

BRENDA  
There's a lot of misinterpretation  
of his results.

ROBERT  
Are there?

BRENDA  
Yes. Some think the readiness  
potential demonstrates a lack of  
free will. However, the conscious  
will arising after the readiness  
potential either allows or blocks  
the volitional process to go to  
completion. We still have ability  
to execute or withhold the motor  
action.

ROBERT  
You're talking about "free won't?"

BRENDA  
Essentially and this is coming from  
Libet himself. He believed that his  
results were compatible with free  
will.

ROBERT  
But I found that the prevailing  
view of top neuroscientists do not  
support that thesis.

(MORE)

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
Many of them have repeated the experiments themselves and consider it as strong evidence against free will.

BRENDA  
Like who?

ROBERT  
Christof Koch.

BRENDA  
I've not heard of him.

ROBERT  
You've not? He was a professor in Caltech.

BRENDA  
I don't know every professor that has ever taught in Caltech, Robert.

ROBERT  
Fair enough.

Brenda gets back to her laptop.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
Then there is General Relativity which is broadly accepted to not support free will.

BRENDA  
I am not studied in General Relativity.

ROBERT  
Well, General Relativity defines space and time as a fabric in the universe. It basically defines time the same way as space.

BRENDA  
What does this have to do with free will?

ROBERT  
If time can be traversed, like space, the universe is deterministic. A deterministic universe has no free will.

BRENDA  
And time can be traversed?

ROBERT

Say you left Earth on a spaceship, traveling super fast. Time would have slowed down for you. Meaning, when you returned to earth in say 5 years, the people on Earth could have already experienced 30 years of time.

BRENDA

So that's the secret to anti-aging.

ROBERT

It is but that's not the point here.

BRENDA

I'm just making a joke.

ROBERT

I know babe.

BRENDA

Then why aren't you laughing?

ROBERT

I am.

BRENDA

Relax.

ROBERT

It's difficult when free will is at stake!

BRENDA

It is not at stake.

ROBERT

I just explained how it is!

BRENDA

I don't think it is.

ROBERT

Were you listening?

BRENDA

Of course I was.

ROBERT

Do you get it though?

Brenda gives Robert a glare. She turns back to her laptop, in disbelief.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
What's wrong?

Brenda collapses emotionally inside, her biggest fear has come true.

She folds her laptop and packs her things.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry.

BRENDA  
(fighting her tears)  
You are not.

ROBERT  
I am.

BRENDA  
Okay, what are you sorry about?

ROBERT  
Offending you.

BRENDA  
How were you offending me?

ROBERT  
By pushing my theories on you.

BRENDA  
(extremely hurt)  
No Robert, no!

Brenda grabs her things and her mask.

ROBERT  
What is it?

BRENDA  
I've got to go.

Brenda gets off her chair.

ROBERT  
Please don't go.

Robert holds Brenda's hand, this breaks her heart.

BRENDA  
(tears)  
Please respect my wishes.

Robert respectfully releases Brenda's hand. She leaves the apartment.

Robert is stunned.