

"The Protean Field"

SYNOPSIS

by Rob Skiba II

Dr. Kyle Madison is a brilliant man. Working together with Daystrom Labs (a Defense Department contractor), Kyle creates "Virtual Mind Reality" (VMR) – a system that allows for the recording of mental engrams from one person and the “downloading” of them into another. This enables someone to literally be “programmed” with the skills to fly a jet, dismantle bombs, run complex machinery... anything.

The story begins in a Massachusetts hotel ballroom with a party celebrating the release of Kyle’s new VMR training system developed by Polybius Systems, Inc.. A demonstration performed by Army General Dupree draws applause and the attention of many in the government and private sector. Among those in the audience who are more than a little interested are Senator Briggs and Carl Davidson, an agent of the C.I.A..

After the party, Kyle and his wife Beth head home for a little "private celebration." But on their way there, they get into a terrible car accident which ultimately leads to Beth's death after being in a coma. A year later, on the anniversary of her death, we find Kyle completely withdrawn into a virtual world of digital memories. He had found a way to modify the VMR device into a portable, handheld unit - which he originally created in an effort to pull Beth out of her coma. But it didn’t work. Haunted by guilt, the mind-numbing device is now his only peace, a techno-addiction that carries him far away from the troubles and pain of everyday life without his wife.

Elsewhere, we see Kyle's mother Kate (though the audience is unaware who she is at this point) praying. As a result of these prayers, an old Army buddy, Lt. Col. Jay Pelletier comes to Kyle's rescue. Jay drags Kyle out of his house and plugs him back into the real world. After a day of fun and reuniting with old friends, Kyle finally starts to come alive once again.

Meanwhile, in the suburban town of Euless, Texas, a mysterious case of multiple teenage deaths draws the attention and investigative services of detective Thomas (Tom) Sinclair and his C.S.I. team. There are no signs of drugs or weapons at the scene. The only evidence they are able to collect is a “VL-X” game system – a further modification of Kyle’s initial VMR technology that is now being used as the hottest video game system on the market. As the story progresses, we see that a series of teen-related deaths has spread across the country and the F.B.I. is now involved, trying to figure out what the VL-X has to do with the otherwise unexplainable homicide cases.

Tom's journey eventually leads him to an eccentric, conspiracy freak named Newton. Newton takes Tom and his partner Matt all the way back to the 1940s and 50s and tells them about a series of mind-control experiments done by the C.I.A. on American citizens. He also shows them how the VMR device acts both as a mind-machine as well as a virtual reality gaming system and that it taps into existing wireless networks so that people can play against each other from all over the country. The only problem is, gaming information is not the only data going through the network – a network that we soon discover is called, “The Protean Field.” Someone is using this system for mind-control and people are ending up dead.

While Tom and Matt talk with Newton, Tom's son Gavin is over a friend's house sitting with two other boys playing the latest VMR game, "Galactic War Battalion." Gavin has epilepsy and the intensity of the game sends him into a grand mal seizure. He gets rushed to the hospital. There, Kate (Kyle's mom) meets Tom's wife Susan in the hospital chapel and commits to praying for them. By the time Tom gets to the hospital, Gavin has slipped into a coma. He and his wife cry out to God for help. But Tom feels God isn't listening.

Back in Massachusetts, Kyle has composed himself enough to return to work at Polybius Systems, Inc. There, he learns that his business partner, Paul Murdock, has taken over the company in his absence and that he was the one who turned the VMR technology into the very lucrative VL-X gaming system.

As Susan continues to stay by Gavin's bedside, Tom sits nearby tracking down information about the creator of the VMR devices on the Internet. Believing this Dr. Kyle Madison may have the answer that could pull his son out of the coma, he tells his wife that he must go to Massachusetts.

By the time Kyle and Tom come together, they quickly realize that they have stumbled upon a nationwide mind control conspiracy. Called The Abaddon Project, it is a plot headed up by Senator Briggs, Carl Davidson, and certain members of both the military and the government (including the President himself) aimed at causing chaos on a massive scale. Together, Kyle and Tom realize they must stop their sinister agenda before a nuclear blast that is set to go off in Dallas (at the new Dallas Cowboys football stadium) can plummet the country into chaos... and ultimately Martial Law.

Now working together with the F.B.I., Kyle, Tom and Jay (Kyle's Army buddy) do their part to shut down both The Protean Field as well as the nuclear bomb. Arriving at Daystrom Labs, Kyle hooks Jay up to the VMR Engram Transfer Machine in order to record his military, nuclear bomb dismantling experience for the F.B.I. agents in Dallas. Then, he connects to the Defense Department's satellite grid in an effort to use one of their satellites to blow the C.I.A. satellite Carl is using out of the sky.

Meanwhile in Dallas, the F.B.I. finds themselves up against an army of mind-controlled youth, programmed by Carl to protect the bomb. After inadvertently killing most of them, the F.B.I. manages to shut down the bomb (thanks to Jay's experience).

Back in Massachusetts, while Tom and Jay hold off armed goons in a gun fight, Kyle manages to upload a series of commands that both destroys the satellite as well as much of The Protean Field. In the end, our heroes stop the bomb, destroy the satellite network and shut down The Protean Field. Only one thing remains... Tom's son.

At the Dallas hospital, Kyle uses the same device he used on Beth to revive Gavin. But in the process of all of this, we see that it was the power of Kyle's praying mother (behind the scenes) that brought these characters together in the first place. They realize that everything happens for a reason and that God can work all things together for good. The last thing we see is Kate clutching her cross necklace, as Tom and Susan celebrate Gavin's recovery. She smiles, closes her eyes and quietly says, "Thank you."

The End