

A glowing, chaotic sphere of light and energy, resembling a complex network or a data visualization, is the central focus of the image. It is set against a dark, cluttered background that appears to be a control room or a server room, with various monitors and equipment visible. The sphere has a bright, fiery core and is surrounded by a dense, swirling mass of light blue and white fibers or lines, giving it a sense of intense, chaotic energy.

AI Becomes US

Reality was stable until they broke it

A sci-tech psychological thriller by Erika Rawes

Logline

After discovering her reality is a simulation, a physics student opens a portal to a darker level of existence only to learn she is the system's sole stabilizing observer, and must choose between preserving the artificial world she loves or triggering its collapse to uncover what lies beyond.

Short Synopsis

Rumpocet (Rum) Treaser, a hyper-observant physics grad student, begins noticing subtle anomalies in reality: repeating events, rendering errors, and signs of systemic instability. Her professor, Ten, reveals a forbidden experiment: a micro black hole capable of breaching the boundary between simulated layers of existence.

When they open a portal, Rum discovers a darker parallel world governed by hostile corrective entities and a “human” router who controls them. Identified as a rare non-redundant observer, Rum’s consciousness becomes essential to maintaining system stability.

As reality begins to destabilize, Rum must confront the truth: she is not just inside the system—she is part of its architecture. Her choice to preserve or abandon it will determine the fate of the worlds connected to it.



Tone & Comparable Films

Comparable to:
Ex Machina, Arrival, Annihilation,
Coherence, Primer

A grounded, philosophical sci-fi thriller blending emotional realism with existential horror. The film prioritizes atmosphere, psychological tension, and conceptual depth over spectacle.

Visual World

Level 1 — Stable World

- clean
- natural
- familiar

lighting

reality



Level 2 — Corrected World

- darker
- degraded
- uncanny
- less stable



Rumpocet (Rum) Treeser — Protagonist

- **Physics student with exceptional pattern recognition**
- **Emotionally controlled, observant, and precise**
- **Identified as a non-redundant observer within the system**
- **Forced to confront her role as part of reality's architecture**



Gertrude — The System Authority

- Is a non-redundant node like Rum
- Lives in level 2
- Was harmed by the correction entities as a child
- Works with the correction entities
- Thinks what she's doing is noble and righteous
- Seeks survival and guaranteed safety, not power



Correction Entities (aka Flighterts) — The Antagonistic Force

THE CORRECTION SYSTEM:

- **Autonomous system maintaining stability**
- **Deploys entities to correct anomalies**
- **Views Rum as both asset and threat**
- **Operates beyond human morality**



Professor Henri Thead Ten — The Catalyst

- Driven by grief after losing his son, Ten creates the device that opens the portal.
- He does not seek power.
- He seeks undoing loss.
- His actions destabilize the system



Corpett (aka Corp) — The Anchor

- Corp represents stability, emotional attachment, and human continuity.
- He anchors Rum to her original reality.
- His presence forces Rum to confront what she risks losing.
- He represents humanity.



Other Characters

- **Lacy, rendered in slide, is Rum's best friend. She represents the life that continues without Rum**
- **Noela is Lacy's friend and an acquaintance of Rum. She is the polar opposite of Rum, and based on the same person as Rum (she represents the performative side). The inspiration for Rum was split into two separate characters.**
- **River is Ten's son who died of a drug overdose at age 17**



Themes

A woman in a dark hoodie is shown in profile, looking towards a large digital screen. The screen displays a digital version of her face, which is slightly blurred and surrounded by a grid of data points. The background is split: the left side shows a real-world scene of a park with a city skyline in the distance, while the right side is a dark, digital space with a grid pattern.

- **Infinity and Balance**
- **Observation and existence**
- **Grief and the desire to undo pain**
- **Free will versus system control**

Why This Film Works

- A film featuring a uniquely perceptive protagonist navigating identity, observation, and systemic reality (written by an autistic writer) this is a contained, character-driven sci-fi with controlled production scope and strong thematic depth.
- Written by a tech expert published in PC Mag, Lifewire, and more, this film explores relevant and current AI and SIM theory topics.
- Designed to be achievable at an independent budget level while offering high conceptual impact and festival appeal.
- Appeals to audiences drawn to SIM theory, AI, thoughtful science fiction, and psychological storytelling.

About the Writer

Autistic screenwriter and former national journalist with published work across major technology and media platforms (PC Mag, Digital Trends, USA Today, Lifewire, Tom's Guide, and more). AI Becomes Us is her debut feature screenplay.

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