
The Common Sense: Episodes 1-5

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Episode 1 (<https://vimeo.com/112267679>)

UNIVERSITY HALLWAY - CLASS - DAY

Shot of the white wall with a group of students standing, waiting for the class to start, each one in their own head, not acknowledging one another. Their professor, Gibson, walks toward the classroom. She opens the door to the class and the students file in.

The students get settled. Gibson starts the class where she left off the previous week.

GIBSON

We're continuing to look at Entrainment this week. We use the Patch all the time. We're so familiar with it that we probably think we don't need to study it.

Lina is distracted by something that's happening in her perceptions.

GIBSON

Lina, no blips during class.

LINA

Sorry, but I have to.

She sinks into herself.

GIBSON (TO THE REST OF THE CLASS)

Fine, it's your tuition money...

The class laughs. Gibson continues.

GIBSON (CONT'D)

...which reminds me, tuition repayment is from 4 to 7pm today.
We're working on a new project for Gelatin Unlimited.

Gibson walks to her desk.

GIBSON (CONT'D)

I brought in something to show you...

JESSE

Sorry Gibson, I just got a message from my job. I have 10 mins to respond. Do you mind?

GIBSON (CONT'D)

Go ahead...

Jesse drops out.

GIBSON (CONT'D)

I'm going to show you a video.

SAAR

Is it one of those cheesy early Patch programs?

Other students laugh.

GIBSON

No, it's from before the two-way models. It's called The Common Sense, in fact your parents may have told you about it...

A television program begins to play on the screen in front of the class. The TV show starts with a commercial for the Patch. It shows a simple line animation. In the animation, we zoom through many points in space and stop at two floating circles. The off-screen voice of a product designer for the Patch narrates the scene.

PRODUCT DESIGNER

All through human history we've wanted to connect. In the beginning there was the Patch one way.

The two circles become connected by a line. The circles rotate around one another.

PRODUCT DESIGNER

The one way is about experiencing someone else's emotions in real time. When someone else's feelings change how you feel, it can change your world.

We pull back to see many of these circles linked by lines, floating in space.

PRODUCT DESIGNER

With the two way we've found a way to take it to a whole new level.

The white curved disk of the Patch spins into the frame and turns on its side. Around it forms two lines that link up to make a circle.

PRODUCT DESIGNER

Your brainwaves will send at the same time as you receive. With the two way, we can act and create together.

This two linked circles pulsate and as they do a rainbow of colourful dots radiate from it.

PRODUCT DESIGNER

We don't know where this will lead. It's a new design for the human being and it's for you to find out.

STAGE - CONFERENCE HALL - DAY

The CEO of a company is on stage giving a talk. He is launching a new version of the Patch.

CEO

I have been waiting for this day for three years...

Audience applauds.

CEO

I would like to present to you the Two-Way. It is the first two-way entrainment device where users send their experience and receive at the same time (audience applauds enthusiasm). We have overcome incredible obstacles in hardware and software design to bring this product to the market today. This device is going to blow your mind.

OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

SPECIALIST

The difficulty now is that 70% of people are left out of the reproduction of goods and services in the economy. And only about 20% of those people have been able to find work through the Patch.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

A pregnant woman, JACKIE, is sitting in a dingy office that has a vaguely medical feeling. She looks over a contract on a computer screen while an automated system gives her instructions.

AUTOMATED VOICE (V.O.)

OK, let me walk you through your contract signing this you agree that the device will be left as inserted for the fixed term of nine months. Transmissions from your womb to third parties will be the private information of Juvi. Any medical, emotional or employment related events that may occur...

Jackie's face has a blank, numbed quality.

INT. EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY

We are in the same room. Jackie reconfigures the furniture in the room while an automated voice gives her instructions.

AUTOMATED VOICE (V.O.)

Please move table A to area marked D.

Jackie is lying down.

AUTOMATED VOICE (V.O.)

I am about to begin insertion. You will feel a slight pinch. It should only hurt for a few seconds.

A light slides into view above her as the operation starts.

INT. VICTORIA'S APARTMENT - MORNING

WIDE-ANGLE SHOT:

A wealthy businesswoman, VICTORIA, sits looking at her emails on a transparent surface. The CAMERA approaches her from over her shoulder to read the message. It is from her boss. We read it in segments.

TEXT ON SCREEN:

New - Urgent

Jamie Jack, Senior Vice President for Affective Technologies Inc.

Please be informed that your present performance levels are not acceptable. Your position will be up for review next month.

Victoria stands up and paces angrily.

TEXT ON SCREEN:

Respond.

A timer comes up on the screen recording her response time.

A "ping" sounds suddenly from her screen. Another message has arrived.

TEXT ON SCREEN:

New - Juvi

Your new baby has arrived!

Congratulations! Your pre-birth neural entrainment session is ready! Login to feel the rejuvenating brain waves of life before birth.

She smiles, sips her COFFEE. A new piece of news catches her attention.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING LOBBY - MORNING

Victoria strides into a corporate lobby and up a short flight of stairs on her way to a meeting.

INT. BUSINESS MEETING - DAY

The head of a company is addressing a small group of executives.

BOSS

As most of you have already heard, The Bridge are releasing a Two-Way neural entrainment device. What does this mean for our strategy? How can we rework operations to maintain security for our clients? Things will change quickly. I want ideas.

EXT. PHILOSOPHER'S WALK - MORNING

Liz walks to work through a long snowy park. She walks up some stairs toward a classical looking building.

TEXT ON SCREEN:

Starting today all employees must wear entrainment devices at work at all times.

INT. CORRIDOR - MORNING

Liz walks through a hallway making her way to the Outreach Center. As she walks she receives another message.

TEXT ON SCREEN:

Two-Way models from The Bridge have arrived. Please collect at front desk.

INT. READING ROOM - DAY

A common room where students are hanging out and working. A MALE STUDENT is leaning back in his seat. His eyes are open but dull. His hands are twitching slightly as if he is playing a video game in his mind.

A FEMALE STUDENT walks up to him and looks happy to see him.

FEMALE STUDENT

Hey...

The MALE STUDENT does not notice and remains absorbed in his perceptions. She walks away, disappointed but not especially surprised. She goes back to join another student nearby.

INT. RUNNING TRACK – DAY

We see an abstracted and partial point of view shot of a female runner as she jogs around an indoor track [doubled-perception]. This perspective is overlaid on top of the point of view shot of a MALE STUDENT who is connected to her as she runs. The filming and atmosphere have an intimate quality.

Episode 2

Liz comes out excited. She runs to Ulysses and jumps on his back.

ULYSSES

What you excited about?

He connects with her.

ULYSSES

The two-way? Jules says they'll use it to monitor our customer service.

Liz loses her enthusiasm.

LIZ

What?

ULYSSES

I know.

LIZ

You' re kidding.

ULYSSES

No, I' m serious. It' s totally ridiculous. It' s incredible. I was so excited too for it but...

CLASSROOM - GIBSON & STUDENTS - DAY

Students are watching the screen. Gibson is standing at the back of the room.

The projector is switched off. The lights in the room come back on. Gibson speaks to the class.

GIBSON

So, what do you think so far?

SAAR

They' re using visual techniques to represent using the Patch but that' s completely wrong.

GIBSON

I know, for us it' s completely ridiculous today.

SAAR

It' s quaint.

GIBSON (SMILES)

They were still very visual back then. Think about what a shock it would have been. For all of human history, sensations inside people were experienced by only that person and they shared them *verbally* or with *images*. (shakes her head with amazement). That' s how it was.

One of the students is distractedly taking in something from their Patch. They look toward the window, eyes half closed.

Saar puts up her hand.

SAAR

Why is Liz so happy when the Patch arrives?

LINA

She needs a new Patch.

The class laughs.

GIBSON

Well, a lot of people believed it could bring about a collective political movement.

None of the students show any flicker of recognition about what Gibson is talking about.

LINA (LAUGHS)

What? From sharing feelings?

Students in the class giggle.

GIBSON

Of course, the Patch did make life a lot more collective, just not the way they expected. Their belief that being connected would mean that people would join together to fight for a better collective situation was false.

SAAR

What about cluster relationships?

GIBSON

Of course relationships did change. There are a lot more group relationships and group identities.

LINA

May I be excused? I have an 11 o' clock.

GIBSON

Go ahead but we want you in class on the remote Lina and don't forget repayment work.

INT. BUSINESS MEETING - DAY

BOSS

Max, your thoughts?

MAX

I say more sharing's always good. What are we so worried about? We all know it's the age of the post-individual. Employees might not always like it but it's good for the economy. We just need to keep our transmissions tailored for the specific needs of our clients.

BOSS

True, my man! Good point!
Any other thoughts? Ladies?

VICTORIA'S VOICE:

It will definitely open excellent employee monitoring opportunities. The raw experience data we will receive can help us build actionable interaction models between employees and between workers and managers. If we move fast enough we can patent and license them.

BOSS

OK... Lance...

19. INT. OUTREACH CENTRE - DAY

Ulysses is nearby when a client, Jake, approaches him.

JAKE

I thought this place was for students only.

(referring to clients nearby who look older and less well-off.)

ULYSSES

We're a drop in center open to anyone, but run by Porosity at the university.

JAKE

I haven't used the Patch before.

ULYSSES

Dude, why?

CUT TO:

A client is standing with Liz.

LIZ

What do you plan to provide?

PATTY

Well, I heard that people will pay to feel unemployed.

LIZ (SMILES SADLY)

That's a competitive area. There are just so many people offering it...

PATTY

OK. Do you have any ideas?

LIZ

Well, people want to feel different and they want to experience how other people live. Try a less common lifestyle if possible.

PATTY

I'm not sure I can do that.

LIZ

If you want my advice, you should get on two way.

CUT TO:

19. INT. OUTREACH CENTRE - DAY

CUT TO:

Ulysses is still serving Jake nearby.

ULYSSES

This is it. Check it out.

JAKE

OK, so my main question is will my girlfriend be able to hear my thoughts?

ULYSSES

A lot of new users are worried about thought-bleed and you're right to be concerned because when it comes down to it there are no clear lines between feeling and thought. But there are strict laws protecting your privacy of thought, whatever company you use. The catch area only includes those thoughts connected to the feeling, so like when she makes you angry, "you bitch!" might leak through. You gotta watch for that. But once you get the hang of it, it's like riding a bike. It shouldn't be a problem.

CUT TO Liz and Patty:

LIZ

One-way transmissions to a large audience can suck your sensation bandwidth. After a certain point you'll hardly feel your experience yourself.

PATTY

I'm aware of this.

LIZ (IGNORES PATTY'S COMMENT)

...Sure, you'll have new feelings the next time but... long term it's not a great idea.

PATTY

I don't feel anything now.

TEXT ON SCREEN:

Negative customer feedback – Frustrated 3.

CUT TO Outreach Center:

Jake, his thumb in his mouth, getting the device in the right place in the roof of his mouth.

ULYSSES

OK, now there are lots of ways to Patch up but the easiest way if I'm standing close by is to look at me and indicate, okay?

JAKE P.O.V.

Ulysses stands before us [doubled-perception]. The two images don't quite coincide and they shudder as they align. Ulysses walks over to the counter and takes out a milkshake leftover from lunch. He drinks it.

CLASSROOM – GIBSON & STUDENTS – DAY

In the darkened room, Gibson receives a message. She looks around and makes her way over to Jesse.

GIBSON

Jesse, I just got a message about you. Can we talk?

The other students notice this and watch.

STUDENT (TO SAAR):

Why's Gibson worried?

SAAR

Jesse's poor...

Student looks at Jesse with disgust as Jesse gets up to leave the room with Gibson.

CUT TO the television program plays the end of the scene in the Outreach Center in the darkened room:

A smile appears on Jake's face.

JAKE

I didn't get any thoughts.

ULYSSES

Good.

CORRIDOR - GIBSON & JESSE - DAY

Gibson speaks from her script.

GIBSON

Look, I don't have to tell you that it's only through incredible commitment to self-development that students can survive in this competitive economy.

JESSE

Is this about my payment? I promise I'm fine. I'm just in the middle of updating my profile.

GIBSON

You'll need to fix it before tomorrow or no class.

Episode 3

Liz is with a man and a woman. They are sitting among all the other people having appointments at the center. The woman, Patty has a face red from crying.

PATTY

I want to stay with him, but he's so controlling.

Liz sympathizes with Patty.

Joey looks down, saddened.

PATTY

...he makes me feel so guilty.

Liz speaks to Joey.

LIZ

What does he make you feel guilty about?

JOEY

Mostly small things, like the fact that he pays for more things than I do. You know he has little ways of letting me know that he's in charge. I love him, I'm just getting really tired.

LIZ

Does it help that your sister is working with you on these feelings?

JOEY

Definitely. I don't feel as much frustration.

LIZ

That's good. It works that way for most people.

JOEY

Is there a way that I can get rid of these feelings entirely?

LIZ

Would you want to?

Joey looks surprised by her answer, then is annoyed. Liz winces, and is surprised by the feelings she receives from Joey.

LIZ

Sorry. I think there are several companies working on this right now. It should come out soon.

TEXT ON SCREEN:

Warning: Negative customer feedback - Insulted 6.

22. INT. BATHROOM - LIZ - DAY

Liz rushes into the bathroom.

LIZ

Fuck these new sets!

She receives a new message:

You are fired. Please clear your things out of the office by the end of the day.

CLASSROOM - GIBSON & STUDENTS - DAY

The lights turn back on in the classroom and discussion starts immediately.

SAAR

I know how Liz feels. Getting feedback makes you feel sick sometimes.

GIBSON

It was new then, and only became mandatory a few years later.
Raise your hand if you have a job where Patch use is enforced...

The students that are pay attention raise their hands. Other students who are drawn into themselves take a while longer to raise their hands.

GIBSON (CONT.)

How many of you are doing paid work right now?

About half of the students put up their hands.

GIBSON

Lina what job are you doing?

LINA

I'm monitoring employee initiative. I've been in this job for so long I can do it in my sleep. So they gave me sleep-cycle hours.

GIBSON

So how many of you are sensing customer happiness in your job?

SAAR

We all like to keep people happy.

Some students shift uncomfortably. Gibson sees this and feels their discomfort.

JESSE

We all have to do it, right, Gibson? I mean you're doing it right now...

The other students smile and are embarrassed. Gibson starts to feel uncomfortable but tries to control it.

GIBSON

Yes, that's a good point... We're doing it right now. How does that... feel, that your reactions are directly regulating my behavior?

23. INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

Ulysses is on a computer terminal in the Outreach Center, looking at a bill.

TEXT ON COMPUTER

Welcome!

The figure \$12,185 appears on his screen.

ULYSSES

What the hell? What the fuck?

Ulysses shakes his head and calls the company.

Hello, yeah I'm calling about... I just got billed again for twelve thousand dollars? I paid that bill... hello?

He answers the questions for the automated phone recording.

ULYSSES

Ulysses, U-lys-ses...

While Ulysses is on the phone Jake leaves the center and is walking downstairs. He is still connected with Ulysses.

ULYSSES

Billing, Billing

Ulysses is becoming increasingly annoyed.

ULYSSES

Kaf-ka, Kaf-ka.

Fuck Man.

As Ulysses becomes more upset Jake gets very upset too and looks at people in the hallway in an angry and threatening way.

ULYSSES

I just want to talk to a real fucking human being here...
come on, goddamn it.

Kaf-ka! Kaf-ka!

fuck!!...

After a second Jake realizes what he is doing and moves away from others but is still very upset. He goes to a secluded place and kicks a wall.

OUTREACH CENTRE - LATER

ULYSSES

Hi, can I help?

STUDENT

So my boyfriend and I are about to break up. I just need some advice on the best way to involve my network.

ULYSSES (SPEAKING LIKE THE STUDENT)

So like you want to enable touch-ins as well as full-feelies.

STUDENT

Yeah, exactly.

ULYSSES

Yeah, we can do that. It's good to have the support of your network at times like that, you know.

P.O.V. display tables in the center seen from the perspective of Michelle, the woman that we saw with her brother in a previous scene [double-perception].

As Patty looks through various kits sold to Patch users, she smiles in a sarcastic way, then she looks upset and as if she will faint, then she smiles sarcastically again.

Back to her P.O.V. The overlapped images suddenly snap out of synchrony. The camera tumbles down.

A few people notice the commotion at one side of the center. Liz and others approach to see what's going on.

Michelle is having a seizure. Liz is obviously upset from the message she received but helping this woman gives her something important to focus on.

CAMERA moves to a close-up of Jackie, who looks in the direction of the disturbance. This is the first time we notice her in Outreach Center. She is having an appointment with someone else at the center (off screen). Jackie watches Liz helping.

STUDENT

What's going on?

STUDENT

Is she having a Patch rejection?

ULYSSES

I think so.

STUDENT

I've heard about them. Never seen one.

ULYSSES

Some people are just allergic to sharing I guess.

Liz is helping the woman as she wakes up. While Liz does this, she explains to someone else nearby what just happened.

LIZ

You know how using the Patch you can feel something about the other person is somehow different from how you feel? This isn't your body, you haven't had the same life, things feel off. Well, a rejection is just the same thing but stronger. But it's harmless.

Liz gives her full attention to these last moments of helping this woman.

Jackie quickly exits at the other side of the room.

INT. BATHROOM - LATER

Jackie checks a new notification on her Patch and answers it briefly.

TEXT ON SCREEN:

Client request: Mike wants it rough.

Then goes into the same bathroom where Liz had recently received the message that she is fired.

She answers her device and takes off her shirt. Leaning against the wall she closes her eyes. She starts to stroke her chest, her stomach and her lips.

TEXT ON SCREEN:

\$50 has been credited to your account.

Episode 4

CLASSROOM - GIBSON & JESSE

Class has ended and the students file out of the room. Gibson's attention is caught by Jesse who is sitting in his chair feeling agitated.

GIBSON

Jesse, what's wrong?

JESSE (UPSET)

I made this mistake today that might cost me my contacts.

GIBSON

What is it?

JESSE

Saskia sent me information today on perfecting my business English, and I forgot to return a sense of thanks and appreciation.

GIBSON

Oh! (Gibson sounds surprised) Well... maybe she'll understand. Are you feeling tired or over-extended? Could she tell?

Jesse shakes his head.

GIBSON

Low blood sugar, stress, work stress?

He shakes his head no.

GIBSON

Huh, well... You *do* have reason to be nervous. I would send your most apologetic feelings.

JESSE

It's taken me a decade to build these contacts.

GIBSON

Try to relax. Sometimes it's easier to take your focus off the future and think in the now.

Jesse takes heart in this idea.

JESSE

I've heard that it can help you with focus.

GIBSON

Yes. It's good for studying.

SHARED BEDROOM - LUCAS & JESSE - MORNING

Jesse sleeps in a shared room where five other roommates also sleep on other beds. At the other end of the room Lucas is waking up. Other men also get up. Jesse's alarm goes off and slowly he sits up in bed.

SHARED ROOM - LUCAS & JESSE - MORNING

Lucas eats a bowl of oatmeal while his roommates walk around the room preparing for their day. He looks exhausted.

Jesse sits down at the other end of a kitchen table.

JESSE

You were up late last night.

LUCAS

I'm working freelance on a really big project. It's amazing but a lot of work. ... You know I could have gone to university if I wanted to.

LUCAS' SHARED ROOM - LUCAS & ROOMMATES - DAY

Cut to the group apartment where Lucas tries to work while his roommates walk near to him, one of them bumping into his chair.

Lucas looks at him, annoyed, as the roommate walks by.

COFFEE SHOP - LUCAS - DAY

Later in the day, Lucas works in the coffee shop.

LUCAS (V.O.)

I do on-demand data work from home. We work in a team. We keep each other on top of things...

Lucas is focused on his computer screen.

LUCAS (V.O.)

We welcome changing requirements, even late in the game. Harnessing change is a way to win the customer a competitive advantage.

LUCAS' SHARED ROOM - LUCAS - NIGHT

Lucas drinks coffee as he works late at night. He looks tired.

COFFEE SHOP - LUCAS & ROMY - DAY

LUCAS (V.O.)

On my breaks, I do short tasks. If you can't finish a 50 cent task in a minute don't do it.

Romy arrives at a corporate looking coffee shop to meet Lucas who is sitting there, working.

Romy sits with Lucas. They talk and laugh.

LUCAS (V.O.)

From 8 to 8.15 check in with my team leader. 8.15 to 8.20 look over new tasks. 8.20 to 9.30 new task completion. 9.30 to lunch ongoing tasks.

Romy leaves. Lucas returns to his work on the computer.

ROMY'S ROOM - ROMY & ROOMMATE - DAY

Romy is getting up in the morning while her roommates sleep. Romy prepares breakfast at one side of the room.

ROMY (V.O.)

It's not my ideal situation but I'm making it work until I find something better.

One of Romy's roommates wakes up and crosses the room to join her at the breakfast table.

Romy looks over at her roommate. She sits without anything to eat.

ROMY

No breakfast?

The roommate shakes her head.

ROMY

Do you want me to tune in with you...?

Romy points at her Patch. Her roommate nods her head.

ROOMMATE

Yes.

Romy tunes her Patch to her roommate. Then she sits down and eats her breakfast. The roommate savours the taste and smiles.

SANDWICH STATION - ROMY - MORNING

Romy arrives at the area where she works selling sandwiches in a large restaurant cafeteria. She has just begun wiping down her counter top.

Her boss arrives.

BOSS

I sent you a message.

ROMY

When?

BOSS

10 mins ago. Did you not get it?

ROMY

Oh I was just...

BOSS

I expect you to respond in a timely manner.

The boss sends her his displeasure but then he realizes something.

BOSS

Wait a minute, I'm sending it to you now but you aren't picking up.

ROMY

I just leave my Patch off until I start.

The boss seems flustered.

BOSS

Well I'll translate for you then. *I was transmitting* that this is completely unacceptable. I shouldn't have to explain this.

ROMY

There's no rule that I have to wear it before I get here, sir.

BOSS

It's expected. There are forty other employees here sensing right now. How could you possibly do a better job than them?

ROMY

I can still do a good job...

BOSS

We've gone over this... you do a *better* job than your neighbor or you have no job.

Romy nods.

BOSS

I didn't want to have to do this... Put in your Patch please.

Romy looks uncertain.

The boss stares at her. She inserts her Patch. The boss continues to watch as she does. As she puts it in the look in her eyes changes. She is disturbed by what the boss sends her.

Episode 5

The class is watching the TV program.

INT. FACTORY BOARDROOM - AFTERNOON

Victoria arrives at a factory boardroom and meets the Company Owner. They are standing in a glassed boardroom overlooking a factory floor.

INT. FACTORY FLOOR – DAY

On the floor the employees labour speedily and efficiently, intensely focused.

INT. FACTORY BOARDROOM – AFTERNOON

COMPANY OWNER

I'm surprised you're down here. They normally send juniors.

VICTORIA

The company wants input from clients right now.

COMPANY OWNER

Well you've given us a stellar service for the last two years. Labour productivity has been up 80% with the entrainment you provide. By using your technology along with your employment scheduling system we've been able to let go of 70% of our staff. I have to be honest with you, we don't want anything to change now that the two-way set is out.

VICTORIA

Let me assure you that nothing needs to change.

VICTORIA (V.O.)

However, there are some new options that we can offer. For instance, employees can check in with managers via limited-wave entrainment.

OWNER (V.O.)

Let them entrain with managers? Why?

VICTORIA (V.O.)

Studies show that if I receive my superior's frustration via entrainment I'm 94% more likely to adjust my behavior to appease him. It gets straight into your employees' limbic system. They'll do anything to make the manager happy.

INT. FACTORY BOARDROOM - AFTERNOON

OWNER

But it sounds so unpredictable. We can't control how our managers feel.

VICTORIA

Limited-wave entrainment only shared what we want to share. I'd recommend a slim band that includes displeasure and selected happiness for when work goes well.

INT. OUTREACH CENTER - NIGHT, LATER:

Liz returns to the Outreach Center at the end of the day to collect her things. She is surprised to see several of her fellow employees still there including Ulysses. He stares at her wordlessly, entraining to her. She feels his disappointment and anger.

LIZ

You're fired too?

She leans forward and gives him a hug.

ULYSSES

Yeah, we all are. Jen thinks it's because people won't need two-way assistance. I'm not sure. I think it's because we won't be able to manipulate the data collection for them the way we could with one way.

Ulysses and Liz hug.

ULYSSES

See you sweetheart. Let's keep in touch.

Liz collects her things from the back room. The door to the room is open. She hears someone at the door. A woman around her age but a bit younger is standing in the doorway. Liz smiles.

LIZ

Sorry, the center's closed.

JACKIE

Thanks. Sorry. I was wondering if you could spare a moment to talk?

LIZ

Sure, go ahead.

JACKIE

I have a serious problem.

CLASSROOM - GIBSON & STUDENTS

Gibson walks toward the front of the class while she speaks.

GIBSON

As you can see, a tool like the Patch was used for exploitations of all kinds when it first came out. But a tool is a tool and...

Gibson turns to look at the class...

GIBSON

...humans have always used them.

...and notices that none of them are listening.

GIBSON (CONT' D)

What' s going on? Class?...

SAAR (CLASS LOOKS REALLY CONFUSED)

I' m not sure, I' m not getting my transmissions.

JESSE

Me neither, for 5 minutes.

LINA

Me too. What does it mean?

GIBSON

Why is Jocelyn on the floor? What?

The class becomes increasingly unsettled and many of the students start talking at the same time, but not to one another, just talking all at once. Some sound more panicked than others but the upset is obviously contagious.

LINA

Hello...? I'd like to speak to the director... hello? I would like to speak to the director... yes the director?

CUT TO:

16. Gibson runs out of class and down the hall, looking very worried. She knocks on the door of another staff member.

She returns with the other person both running slightly.

Some of the students are lying on the floor looking really upset or dazed. Jesse is staring forlornly into the room; Lina is talking loudly, while other students act equally traumatized.

Announcements on the news and radio say that the patch network has shut down.

GIBSON' S APARTMENT - GIBSON & BANINE - MORNING

In a room in Banine' s apartment, Banine sits looking toward the camera.

BANINE

Are you going into work today?

CLASSROOM

Class begins in an area at school filled with comfortable rugs and chairs. The students sit in silence, devastated. They stare at Gibson.

GIBSON

Do you want to talk?

The students look even more upset at this suggestion.

GIBSON' S APARTMENT - GIBSON & BANINE - EVENING

Gibson is at home in her apartment speaking to, Banine.

GIBSON

I told the students to go spend time together, to relate to each other. They wouldn' t normally hang out in person. They' re embarrassed to relate from the outside. All I could think of was to tell them to play trust games, to get to know each other without the Patch.

You would know how to handle the situation better. The problem is with their brains.

BANINE

You know I can go do a check-up if you want, on the really bad cases?

GIBSON

Really? Would you?

BANINE

No problem.

CLASS

The students continue to sit, silently staring into space.

End of Episode 5

On screen text

Next Week on The Common Sense

The scene between Jackie and Liz in the Outreach Center continues.

JACKIE

I'm transmitting from my unborn child. I've got serious debts and it's the only way I could pay them off, but it has become unbearable.

LIZ

Can't you just have it removed?

JACKIE

No I'd be arrested immediately. I was wondering if you might be able to hook me up to the channel?

LIZ

You realize what you're asking me is illegal?

CUT TO

LIZ

I did it. I got you access to your baby's transmission. This is a Patch clone. It will let you connect with your baby.

JACKIE

Thank you.

Jackie excitedly gives Liz a hug.

CUT TO

Scene where Liz and Jackie kiss.