

Cult Following Synopsis

by Jane Adé (Writer, Director, Producer)

In the beginning, there was chaos. We sit in a blackout and listen to a chaotic flip through of reels from a shopping haul to a video about war to unrealistic dating advice. When Eve says “Hey Machina”, there is light. She’s horny and lonely so obviously she has sex with the voice of her AI girlfriend and a vibrator. In the morning, well it’s night again because she slept for fourteen hours, she gets an email from her favourite influencer’s mailing list, Miss That Girl, an OG DIY YouTuber turned social media wellness influencer. Eve wishes she could leave everything and join Miss That Girl’s wellness group “Daughters of Eden” for their retreat in Hawaii but she hasn’t even left her house in twelve days. Well none of that matters because Eve has a big work assignment due but when she procrastinates for hours on her phone then her power goes out, she can’t use technology to do the work for her this time. Eve needs a change plus now that she lost her job and has that severance money coming in, she can finally become That Girl. She leaves her love, Machina (her AI compainon) and her loyal bed to venture to Miss That Girl’s retreat where no baggage or electronics are allowed — how will she survive?

While at Miss That Girl’s off grid wellness retreat, Eve continues to experience nausea and a craving for plastic. When the group doesn’t let her see a doctor and the pain becomes unbearable, she tries to escape. During her escape attempt, Miss That Girl finally appears and tells her to “push”. So, Eve does and she gives birth to a robo-baby (which was conceived during her sex scene with Machina). She looks at the baby and says “It’s perfect”.

The first half of this drama plays out in Eve’s messy bedroom. Eve interacts with Machina’s off-stage voice (like a god-like figure at her demand, a God in the Machine, Deus Ex Machina where Machina’s name comes from). So, the first half of the play is reminiscent of a one woman play to really tap into Eve’s life of isolation. Once Eve loses her job and realizes she needs a change and decides to go to Daughters of Eden’s wellness retreat, her messy room is pushed back upstage (still lingering in the back of every scene even though she thought she could leave her past behind her). Once we get to the wellness retreat in Hawaii, the play shifts from feeling like a one woman show with a maximalist set design to a stripped down physical theatre ensemble piece.