

Beneath The Surface

Written by

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LOGLINE

A female journalist, Julia Weishoft, becomes an overnight sensation when her report goes viral about a plot to reduce the human population via an AI microwave weapon system. As her stories become more outlandish, she is ridiculed and labeled fake news by rival news agencies, removed from social media and fired from her job. With a federal lawsuit pending and her relationship on the rocks, Julia must expose the conspiracy before it's too late.

CREDIT SEQUENCE - EXT. DAY DOWNTOWN

(Intro music)

The exterior of a building downtown is shown. Cars are driving by.

A woman is seen walking down the sidewalk. She walks up to the building and opens a door and walks inside.

INT. DAY BREAK ROOM NEWSPAPER OFFICE

Food is turning around in circles in a microwave.

Julia walks into the break area as the microwave DING's

(DING)

Jason pulls out a breakfast muffin and turns to Julia.

JASON  
(cheerful)  
Oh....Julia, good morning!

JULIA  
Jason....still nuking your food?

Jason is preoccupied with eating his muffin. Julia walks over to the coffee pot and pours herself some coffee.

JASON  
Ha! Yep...Hey did you see the trend report?

Julia turns to Jason, she shrugs her shoulders.

JULIA  
I never pay attention to that, why?

JASON  
Your tech series went viral!

Julia nods her head, ironically.

JULIA  
Oh. Ok. Cool....I guess.

Julia takes a sip of her coffee.

JASON  
I would get a follow up with that whistleblower if I were you. This could be the story of the year!

JULIA  
 Actually, he just died....heart  
 attack.

Jason puts down his food and looks at Julia.

JASON  
 So, does that mean the story's dead  
 too?

JULIA  
 Not necessarily. He sent me an  
 email with all kinds of files right  
 before he died. Im still trying to  
 comb through it all.

Jason moves his head down and looks at Julia above his  
 glasses, with mild disbelief.

JASON  
 Let's just hope he sent you some  
 facts.  
 The mainstream media has already  
 been having a field day with your  
 latest report....They are starting  
 to label you "fake news."

Julia rolls her eyes at Jason.

JULIA  
 How ironic, news agencies known for  
 retractions calling me fake news.

JASON  
 Ok, ok Julia....try to have  
 something we can run by tomorrow.  
 We have a deadline, you know.

Jason walks away. Julia closes her eyes and shakes her head.  
 She mumbles something under her breath.

JULIA  
 Im about to meet a lady who is  
 going to blow the lid off this  
 whole story, but, whatever....

EXT. DAY CITY/RESIDENTIAL SKYLINE MISSION BAY

EXT. DAY NORTH PARK HOUSE

A car pulls up to a house and parks. Julia gets out of the car and walks up to the door. A woman comes to the door and greets her.

BARBARA SOLARIS  
Hello, come in.

JULIA  
Nice to meet you

Julia reaches out and shakes Barbara's hand. Barbara motions for Julia to come inside.

INT. DAY NORTH PARK HOUSE

Julia enters Barbara's house.

BARBARA  
Would you like something to drink?  
I'm making shungite water.

JULIA  
Shungite water? What on Earth is  
that?

Julia sets her things down and follows Barbara into the kitchen where a pitcher sits on the counter. Barbara walks up and stirs the pitcher with a wooden spoon. Black rocks swirl around inside the pitcher.

BARBARA  
Shungite is only found in Russia.  
It blocks harmful frequencies from  
affecting your internal organs.

JULIA  
It's ok to drink?

Barbara pours two glasses of water.

BARBARA  
Oh yes, it actually purifies the  
water.

Barbara hands a glass to Julia.

JULIA  
Sure, I'll give it a try...

Julia shrugs her shoulders and takes a drink.

JULIA (CONT'D)  
So, I've been looking at your  
website, where do you source your  
information?

Julia pulls out a tape recorder and turns it on.

BARBARA  
(matter of factly)  
Julia, all of the documents on my  
website are sourced by leading  
scientists in the field of electro  
magnetics at Lockheed Martin and  
DARPA.

JULIA  
What is the government up to?

BARBARA  
They are developing DEW  
weapons....cutting edge frequency  
technology that is very difficult  
to detect.

JULIA  
DEW? What is that?

Barbara motions to follow her into the living room.

BARBARA  
Directed energy weapons. Here, I'll  
show you.

Julia and Barbara walk into the living room where Barbara has  
laid out a stack of papers on the coffee table. Barbara sets  
down her drink and picks up a paper to show Julia.

BARBARA (CONT'D)  
100% of the population will be  
affected. They are now putting  
thousands of satellites into orbit.  
Frequencies will be everywhere.  
There will be nowhere to go to get  
away from it.

Barbara holds a picture of the Earth with a grid overlaid on  
top of it.

JULIA  
Is this all of the satellites?

BARBARA

They're building a grid. Part of the new military branch, called the space force.

JULIA

What is it for?

BARBARA

It's all about control. They can dial into a person's bio-rhythm. This way they can target whoever they want. It will be a surveillance tool, as well as a crowd control weapon.

Barbara sorts through her documents on the table and pulls up an illustration of a military microwave dish, beaming a frequency at humans as they run away.

JULIA

So they just point the dish at someone and it will cook them?

Barbara nods her head at Julia, as if saying yes.

BARBARA

It can be set to flood an entire area, or can be focused to target one person at a time. They don't even need the dish anymore.

Julia looks horrified by the news. Barbara shows Julia a picture of a utility box at the top of a light pole.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

See? Here's a microwave substation installed on a light pole.

JULIA

I've seen those popping up all over. This is part of the DEW system?

Barbara shows Julia another picture detailing how the satellites connect with the ground base stations.

BARBARA

Yes. The millimeter microwave doesn't travel that far, so it needs substations to obtain complete saturation. The satellites communicate and send signals to base stations on the ground.

JULIA

If the frequencies are everywhere,  
how are people supposed to protect  
themselves?

BARBARA

I recommend getting a faraday cage,  
and maybe some EMF clothing.

Barbara holds up her arm to show her the EMF clothing she is wearing. Julia reaches over and feels the fabric with her fingers.

JULIA

Whoa! What's that made of? It feels  
like something from star trek.

BARBARA

Metal threads, mostly silver and  
copper. They are the most  
reflective. Here, Ill show you my  
new business.

Barbara gets up and leads Julia into a room off the living room.

INT. DAY SEWING ROOM - NORTH PARK HOUSE

Barbara and Julia walk into a small side room. There is a sewing machine on a table, with material in the middle of being sewn. A stack of the same material is folded up on a table next to the sewing machine, along with a stack of folded up sweatshirts made of similar material.

BARBARA

I'm making EMF clothing for people.

JULIA

Looks like it's taking off!

BARBARA

The hoodies are really popular. I  
cant make them fast enough. I was  
actually thinking of hiring someone  
to help me.

JULIA

Looks like people are getting  
prepared.

BARBARA

Some are. But I think its only a matter of time before we'll all be wearing EMF clothing.

Barbara grabs a bundle of fabric that is lying on the table and hands it to Julia.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

Here, my gift to you.

Julia grabs the fabric, looking confused.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

It's a faraday cage.

Julia resists the gift.

JULIA

What? No, I cant accept this.

Barbara pushes back, insisting.

BARBARA

You'll thank me later. Trust me.

Julia accepts the gift.

JULIA

What should I do with it?

BARBARA

I recommend people carry it in their car, so you have it in case the microwave weapon goes live. Your'e going to want to wrap it around you really tight.

Barbara makes the motion of wrapping something around her. Julia's phone starts to ring. She ignores the call. Julia stops the recording and walks to the front room and puts the fabric with the rest of her things.

JULIA

Thank you, that is very nice of you. I think I have enough for my article.

Barbara stands smiling at Julia.

BARBARA

Oh good!

Julia looks at Barbara awkwardly.

JULIA

Sorry....so, I realize there is no real good way to ask this, but I wouldn't be doing my job if I didn't ask.

Barbara's look changes to confusion.

BARBARA

What?

JULIA

Some people have been claiming online that you have worked for the CIA, or may still be?

Barbara looks at Julia ironically.

BARBARA

(laughing)  
If Im CIA I would be living a much more comfortable life.

Barbara motions with her hand to look around her house.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

Im a senior living on social security.

Julia's phone rings again. Julia looks at her phone, the caller ID says Luke. She ignores it. She turns to Barbara.

JULIA

Yeah, I thought so. I just had to ask.

Barbara moves closer to Julia, concerned.

BARBARA

Julia, please be careful....you seem like you're going pretty deep into all of this. Sometimes these rabbit holes can start to make people go a little crazy. You don't want to lose touch with reality.

Julia looks at Barbara skeptically. She opens the door and walks onto the porch.

JULIA

I look at it like, no one else has the guts to really figure out the truth. I have to know....that's why I've devoted my life to this.

Barbara reaches out and touches Julia endearingly.

BARBARA

I understand....just, take care of  
yourself.

Julia smiles and nods to Barbara. She walks away from  
Barbara's house. Julia pulls out her phone and calls Luke  
back.

EXT. DAY SDSU CAMPUS

Luke answers his phone.

LUKE

Hey....what are you doing?

JULIA

I was in an interview.

LUKE

Oh, my bad. Do you have time to  
talk? It's important.

JULIA

What?

LUKE

I want to tell you in person.

JULIA

Ok....I still have to go in to  
work, so it will have to be  
something quick nearby. Maybe the  
park?

LUKE

That'll work. See you in 10?

JULIA

Ok.

Julia hangs up the phone.

EXT. DAY JULIA'S CAR

Julia gets into her car and drives away. She turns on the  
radio.

REPORTER 1

...and making headlines again, journalist Julia Weishoft from America News claims there is a conspiracy theory involving Big Tech, and a diabolical plot to depopulate the planet using a silent microwave weapon. Social media platforms have banned her and removed her accounts, and a federal lawsuit has been filed by Big Tech for defamation. Banking services are also banning her from their platforms as well, distancing themselves from this conspiracy theory and trying to stop the spread of fake news...Moving on, downtown traffic is going to be especially congested today.....

Julia turns off the radio. She pounds the steering wheel with her palm.

JULIA

Damnit! Just what I need!

EXT. DAY PARK

Julia arrives at the park. She walks up to a man sitting on a bench. He gets up as she comes near him. They give each other a kiss.

LUKE

How's your day going?

Julia sits down on the bench. Luke sits down next to her.

JULIA

Just trying to unravel the Big Tech story....despite the censorship. Now social media is banning me...even the bank is banning me!

Luke sighs, shaking his head.

LUKE

Julia! Im worried about you. Aren't you getting carried away with all of this? You're going down a really negative path....you're dragging me with you.

Julia looks down, listening to what Luke is saying. Julia looks back up into Luke's eyes. Luke sits on the bench next to Julia.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Is it really worth it? I mean, it seems like some sort of self sabotage!

JULIA

(annoyed)  
That's not what it is!

LUKE

(concerned)  
Nothing good can come of it. All you'll end up doing is hurting your career and endangering your life.

Julia gets worked up.

JULIA

Yeah? Explain why my stories are being censored? Why am I being banned from social media so no one can see what I post? Why would they bother if I'm just some crazy kook?

Julia looks down, crying. Luke reaches out and touches Julia. Julia looks up at him.

LUKE

Maybe it's time to think about going along to get along, you know, turn the other way and ignore all of this. For the sake of your wellbeing, for your career. There are a million other stories you can cover and collect a paycheck and go on with life.

JULIA

(disgusted)  
You mean sell out?

LUKE

(skeptical)  
Julia...you can't prove any of it, it may all be bullshit, like Y2k.

Luke stands up and starts pacing while he's talking.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
 Listen, I don't think Im feeling  
 this paranoid vibe of yours....I  
 think I want to take a break.

Julia looks at Luke, there eyes connect and hold for a moment.

JULIA  
 Luke...

Luke turns away, running his hands through his hair. Julia has a look of shock on her face.

JULIA (CONT'D)  
 I..I..don't know what to say.

Luke turns around and faces Julia. Their eyes connect.

JULIA (CONT'D)  
 I thought you loved me.

LUKE  
 I do love you....I just don't love  
 what these conspiracy theories are  
 doing to you. You're self  
 destructing.

Julia looks at Luke suspiciously.

JULIA  
 Luke...why would you use that word?  
 Calling me a conspiracy theorist?  
 Have they gotten to you?

LUKE  
 Julia, I'm done! I can't take this!  
 We're through.

JULIA  
 Fine! I hope the microwave boils  
 your eyeballs like eggs!

Julia storms off and drives away.

Luke turns around and runs his hands through his hair.

A large utility box at the top of a light pole is seen.

INT. DAY JULIA'S OFFICE - NEWSPAPER BUILDING

Julia enters her office and sits down at her computer.

Jason walks in carrying a manila folder.

JASON  
Julia, I need to have a serious  
conversation with you.

Julia looks up from her desk, visibly annoyed.

JULIA  
(distracted)  
Jason, I'm busy trying to get this  
story out.

Jason takes up space, making her focus on him.

JASON  
Ok, Julia.....I hate to say this to  
you....you know how much I like you  
as a person.

Jason throws the manila folder down on the desk.

JASON (CONT'D)  
We're all being sued. I have to let  
you go.

Julia shakes her head in disbelief. She stands up and  
confronts Jason.

JULIA  
What the hell? You weren't saying  
this when my story was going viral!

Julia begins grabbing her things from her office. Jason  
stands looking at Julia as she goes off on him.

JULIA (CONT'D)  
You know what.....you're going to  
regret this.

Julia gets closer to Jason, pointing in his face.

JULIA (CONT'D)  
I'm trying to save your life!

Julia storms out of the newspaper office. Jason turns and  
raises his hands as he watches her walk away.

EXTERIOR      CELLPHONE TOWER      SDSU CAMPUS

A large cellphone tower full of different types of antennae  
is shown.

INT. JULIA'S APARTMENT

Julia enters her apartment and puts her things down on the table. She opens her computer and starts a Livestream. She looks into the computer screen and talks to her audience.

JULIA

This is Julia Weishoft reporting.  
Big Tech is trying to censor me  
from warning you! The silent  
weapons system has been activated.  
The news agencies are working for  
the cabal. They are the ones  
spreading fake news and playing  
gatekeeper to control what  
information gets out to the public!  
The silent weapons system is being  
controlled by artificial  
intelligence.....DAARPA.....

Julia hugs herself in pain, she squints her eyes, making a sour face. Her skin begins to have red blotches.

JULIA (CONT'D)

(gasps)

What the...

(screams)

The AI! It's cooking me!

Julia grabs her head in pain. Her nose begins to bleed. She rolls around on the floor in pain. Julia looks up and sees the fabric Barbara gave her. She gets up and grabs the fabric and wraps it around herself.

INT. BREAK ROOM NEWSPAPER BUILDING

The people in the office are holding their heads and their hearts as they run around screaming, falling to the floor, bleeding out of their eyes and nose. Jason is seen rolling around on the floor, holding his eyes as blood comes out of the corners.

JASON

My eyes...aaaggghhhh!

EXT. DAY TRUCK

Luke is sitting in the drivers seat of a truck. He has crashed into a pole and is lying in the seat holding his chest with blood coming out of his nose, ears and eyes.

LUKE  
...my heart, Julia....

INT. DAY JULIA'S APARTMENT

Julia lies on the ground wrapped up in the fabric as she listens to the noises of the people outside.

(Sounds of screaming outside)

Julia gasps then stays silent and listens. She starts to cry. After a minute or so, there is silence. Julia sits up and opens the faraday cage. She steps out of the faraday cage and into the room. Julia walks over to the window. She looks out the window and sees a person lying on the ground not moving.

JULIA  
Gasps...Oh this is bad.

EXT. DAY DRONE STREET/PARKING LOT

Drone lifts up slowly to reveal a wrecked truck, with several other bodies lying on the ground nearby, motionless.

INT. DAY JULIA'S APARTMENT

Julia turns the radio on, an emergency broadcast alarm is heard.

(BEEP, BEEP, BEEP, BEEP...)

Julia turns off the radio. Julia turns on the television. Snow is seen on the screen. She shuts off the television, she turns and notices her computer open and the livestream still going. She walks up close to the screen and looks into it.

INT. - COMPUTER SCREEN - LIVESTREAM

No messages are coming in.

INT. DAY JULIA'S APARTMENT (CONT)

Julia sits looking into the computer screen with a look of horror on her face.

INT. COMPUTER SCREEN - LIVESTREAM

Messages are seen appearing on the screen in the chatbox.

INT. JULIA'S APARTMENT

Julia looks at the computer screen. Her expression changes from horrified to hopeful.

Julia continues looking into the computer screen, she begins crying as more messages appear. The camera moves around her, then pulls back and away.

Fade to black.

The End