

Data Theft (working title) is a potential science fiction action game that mixes Shaw Brothers wuxia with the styling of films such as Total Recall. A thief, Sarah Fabre, undergoes an extensive memory implant in order to defend herself from the hordes of villains sent to kill her by the corporate executives she stole from. Throughout the game, players must choose between maintaining Sarah's own memories or sacrificing them for muscle memory and combat prowess.

The following excerpt is early in the game when Sarah undergoes the memory implant in the back of her longtime friend's pawn shop.

(CUTSCENE)

INT PAWN SHOP BACK ROOM - NIGHT

Blood spits into the sink. Dirty knuckles on either side of it, nervously bracing themselves on the counter. A face looks into the mirror. A black eye, messy hair. A woman who's had a rough night.

SARAH FABRE pushes herself off the sink and makes her way past metal shelves towards the middle of the room. The shop's owner VAL paces across the large area rug in the middle of the room, a worried expression on her face. Occasionally she glances at an unkept forty-something DOCTOR in a dusty lab coat. He is adjusting machinery on a metal rolling cart. Val looks up at Sarah as she steps onto the rug.

SARAH

Ok. Let's do it.

VAL

You sure?

DOCTOR

It's not reversible. I'll try to compartmentalize everything. Keep what I can.

SARAH

You're only adding, right? You aren't deleting anything doc?

The doctor drags the rolling cart across the rug to an old barber's chair.

DOCTOR

It's a, uh, complicated process.

He begins cleaning his glasses on his shirt.

DOCTOR (CONT.)

You're right that it's technically only adding. But your mind needs to categorize and contextualize. It puts things where it believes it needs to go. Unfortunately you don't get a conscious say in the matter-

SARAH

So there's a chance I forget all this?

DOCTOR

Let's say I give you someone's 10th birthday party. Your brain may replace your own 10th birthday with this new memory, or it might mix everything up. Just depends on the context. It might even store it as a new memory. Either way you're gonna be working with conflicting information. Hopefully you can keep it straight.

Val pulls Sarah aside, speaking in a whisper.

VAL

Please don't do this kid. We don't know what kind of fake shit he's gonna put in your head. It'll get you killed. If you really have folks on your tail, best thing to do is get as far as possible.

DOCTOR

Excuse me.

Sarah and Val turn to the doctor.

DOCTOR

My memories are the real deal, none of those staged fabrications. Each one is from someone. The research wouldn't have been the same otherwise.

Sarah turns back to Val

SARAH

Even if I run, I gotta protect myself. You said it yourself. I can't use a gun. I can't even afford it. You can't take the hit of loaning me one. I gotta take what I can get.

Sarah moves past Val, who follows her to the barber's chair.

VAL

It's not what I had in mind. Figured he'd have something else. This...it's not worth it kid!

Sarah sits down. The doctor attaches pads to her forehead and a secondary device to her ear. He hands her a mouthguard.

DOCTOR
You'll want this.

SARAH
So doc, will it hurt?

DOCTOR
No.

He finishes connecting the devices, boots the software on his computer, then turns back to Sarah.

DOCTOR
But in case you seize up, you don't want to bite or swallow your tongue.

SARAH
What?-

Quick fade to white. (END CUTSCENE)

INT NIGHTCLUB - MIDNIGHT

Start of a quick tutorial teaching the basics of combat, framed as a flash of memory. Sarah, dressed in a sharp suit defeats a number of bodyguards in a nightclub. The tutorial teaches REGULAR ATTACK, STRONG ATTACK, and BLOCKING.

(CUTSCENE)

INT PAWN SHOP BACK ROOM - NIGHT

Val and the doctor are standing over Sarah as she blinks back to life.

VAL

Sarah? Hey! Is she okay?

SARAH

Val, I'm good. I'm good. Hey doc, what the fuck?

DOCTOR

See, Valorie, Told you it'd be fine.
Just a quick one and done.

Sarah starts to sit up only to be stopped by catching wires. She lays back down.

SARAH

What was that? Is that it? Was like a vivid dream.

The doctor pulls the pads and wires off Sarah then helps Val pull her to her feet.

DOCTOR

Yes that's all. But it will take time for everything to settle. Won't hit you all at once. You're gonna have memory flashes for a few days. It's normal for a dump that size.

SARAH

Dump!

DOCTOR

Poor choice of words. I meant the 157 gigabytes of memories I just infodumped into your noggin. Will take a while for your brain to process it all.

VAL

157? Jesus doc. Is that a lot?

DOCTOR

Overall, not really. Humans have petabytes of storage. Though considering we process about 37 gigs of data daily, and only process 10 of that into long-term storage...yes.

Sarah and Val look at each other. Sarah rubs her forehead

DOCTOR

Also, keep your head cool for the next few days and get some rest.

SARAH

Doc, you know I'm on the run, right? Rest ain't an option.

DOCTOR

Yeah, yeah. Just don't get too hot. Stay hydrated, preferably cold water. Stick your head in a freezer. Do whatever. Act like you're trying to avoid heat stroke. Because you are.