

Lost in the wires

written by

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EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT

It is dark all around except for the wheel of a car which turns in slow motion. An enigmatic, lulling dull buzz can be heard. A large, monochrome metal telephone pole with many menacing wires stands tall, contrasting with the overcast sky. The hum is violently interrupted with a high-pitched screech. A young woman, REI, in her mid-20s or early 30s, wearing sweatpants and a geeky t-shirt runs towards a car that has just crashed into the telephone pole. As she gets closer to the car a static noise begins to build in intensity and color starts to ebb and flow around her. She looks inside and sees a Man of a similar age, TREVOR, trapped inside. She aggressively starts pulling on the car handle.

REI

Not again. This is all my fault,
so just let me fix it! Why won't
this door open?!

As she pulls on the car door handle she falls backward. As she moves towards the pavement, she begins to wake up.

CUT TO:

INT. REI'S HOME

REI wakes up on the floor by her desk which is cluttered with wires and gadgets. Her room, like her desk, is messy as well. Large wires are strewn across the ceiling and machinery is stacked up from the floor. Computer monitors flood the dim room with blue light. The only window in the room is blocked by a curtain. On the ground, an assortment of junk food and computer parts litter the floor. There is a picture of her friend Trevor, captioned "In Memorium". One monitor features a colorful display with the words TAY in the center. Her bedroom seems more like a messy science lab than a living space. Rei looks at a security feed on one of her many monitors and sees her neighbor GREGORY, a fairly casual man who looks slightly older than her.

GREGORY (DISTORTED BY THE MIC)

Hey... Rei? It's your neighbor
Greg, I brought Ramen. I know
you're going through a hard time
and I thought a quick meal could
help.

REI

I don't have time Greg, you know
I have to finish this project.

GREGORY (DISTORTED BY THE MIC)

Okay...

Rei's neighbor starts to walk away, then turns back around.

GREGORY (DISTORTED BY THE MIC)

Hey, I miss you Rei. You've
always been so friendly around
the neighborhood. This new trend
of yours has me worried. Please
reach out if you need to.

For a second, Rei looks distraught. Rei sighs, then turns to
TAY, her a.i assistant.

REI

TAY, lets do the first test run
of project 'Trev'.

TAY

Starting software.

Rei slides on a fairly cheap looking pair of goggles and
stands up. The virtual environment forms around her as she
stands.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Trevor appears in front of Rei.

REI

Trev?

TREVOR

It...

Trevor begins to seize.

TREVOR (CONT'D)

I am T-t-tre..

REI

Trevor, It's me. Rei! Do you know
who I am?

TREVOR

I- Hello-

The virtual simulation stutters, and Trevor's voice drops to
a low pitch.

INT. REI'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

Rei takes the goggles off to reveal a look of excitement on her face.

REI

TAY, did you see that? It's Trevor! I brought him back! What happened?

TAY

Your computer.. It's running at max capacity. I don't think it can handle it.

REI

Then find a computer that can run it.

TAY

There are no computers on public markets that fit your request.

Rei puts her hands to her head then paces around the room.

REI

No.. Then we make do with what we have. We have to. I'll make it work.

Rei continues to work at her desk on the computer. She keeps working late into the night and a digital clock reads "3:00 am". She eventually falls asleep on her keyboard again.

INT. REI'S HOME - DAY

The static sound breaks as Rei jolts awake from her neighbor Gregory knocking at her door. She looks frustrated and decides to turn off the monitor with the live feed of Greg.

EXT. REI'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

Gregory looks disappointed and concerned so he begins to knock louder.

GREGORY

Rei, it's Greg again. Rei, are you okay in there? Please let me know you're okay.

Gregory begins walking around the exterior of the home. He looks at the second floor of the building. He fixates on the only window with shut blinds. It has a dark blue light shining through the cracks. He can tell it's where Rei is. Gregory listens closely and hears a dull electronic buzz.

INT. REI'S HOME - MOMENTS LATER

TAY

Rei, there seems to be thousands of errors within the system.

REI

I know, I just need more time with it. Start up the simulation.

TAY:

It's highly unlikely that this will-

REI

Start the simulation.

TAY

Starting up...

Rei puts on the goggles and enters the simulation.

EXT. PARK - DAY

REI

Trevor, hello? You there?

Trevor, as before, is unresponsive and shallow. He stands in a grove of trees, still as a statue.

EXT. REI'S HOME - DAY

Rei's brother tries to open the door Rei's home but it is locked. He walks outside and looks up at the window with blue light spilling out around the edges. With a food bag in hand, he begins to climb the fence into her backyard.

EXT. PARK - MOMENTS LATER

REI

Trev? Do you know who I am? Do you remember me?

Trevor does not respond

REI (CONT'D)

It's me, Rei. Your best friend.

TREVOR

I...Remember..

EXT. REI'S HOME - MOMENTS LATER

GREGORY

Woah!

Gregory clumsily flops over the fence onto Rei's patio. Gregory gets up and brushes himself as he looks around the yard.

INT. REI'S HOME - MOMENTS LATER

REI

Are you feeling okay?

There's a loud electric popping sound.

TAY

One of the wires shorted and requires your attention.

Rei slides off her goggles and dives into the web of wires strewn across her floor.

EXT. REI'S HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Gregory tries pulling on the back door but it's clearly locked and he stumbles backward. He looks up at the window again and notices that its open a crack. Gregory looks around Rei's yard with determination.

GREGORY

Come on Rei you gotta have a ladder around here somewhere.

INT. REI'S HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Rei climbs up from the floor and slides her goggles back on.

EXT. PARK - CONTINUOUS

REI

Alright, where were we?

TREVOR

I...I...Memory?

REI

Oh right. So...

EXT. REI'S HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Gregory walks towards the wall with a ladder presumably from Rei's backyard. He has a smug grin on his face from his resourcefulness.

GREGORY

I'm coming Rei, just hang in there.

INT/EXT. REI'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

TAY

Rei, you have been working for hours straight. This is your scheduled reminder to take a brake.

Rei slides off her goggles with an irritated look on her face. She slowly stands up and begins to stretch her stiff neck from being hunched over at the computer. She then hears a knocking and sees her window start to shake slightly.

REI

Are those crazy pigeons back? I'm so sick of those stupid birds and their...

Rei launches open the window and jumps back when she sees her neighbor. Gregory is caught off guard and falls sharply backwards. The color seems to have drained from Rei's face as she realizes what just happened.

REI

Oh my god... TAY Stop the simulation.

TAY

Stopping simulation.

REI(MURMURING)

I'm sorry, Trevor.

Rei looks out the window to try and find Gregory. She sees him lying unconsciously on the ground in an uncomfortable position.

REI

Greg!

FADE OUT.

EXT. CITY STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Rei has her arm around Gregory as they stumble towards her car. Gregory has gauze loosely wrapped around his head and is holding an ice pack to the bandage. Gregory looks disoriented and woozy, while Rei has a look concentrated on keeping him moving. Gregory gives Rei a big smile.

GREGORY (WEAKLY)

Thanks Rei.

Rei grunts and cracks a slight smile.

GREGORY

Seriously, I don't know how it happened. I was just trying to make sure you were okay. One second I was climbing, the next thing you know I was on the ground.

REI

You were always clumsy.

Rei helps Gregory into the car.

INT. REI'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

REI (CONT'D)

Listen, I'm sorry that I didn't respond earlier. This is all my fault, I should've listened.

GREGORY

Don't worry about it Rei, I'm fine...probably. Maybe a little concussed but I feel fine.

Rei looks at the dashboard of the car with a look of sorrow.

REI

I really miss him. I thought if I just wanted it bad enough and got the code right I could, bring him back.

GREGORY

Rei, I know you really cared about Trevor, but you don't have to deal with all this alone. We're here for you. It's okay to ask your friends for help when you need it.

REI

Thanks... How's the head feel?

Rei reaches over towards the bandage.

GREGORY

Oh, OW! AGH! I'm just kidding it feels fine. Just a quick question though was the sky always red?

Rei glares at him then starts up the car and they drive away.

FADE OUT.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Rei and Trevor are walking side by side and are both visibly happy. The sun is shining and everything looks bright and saturated. Their conversation is distorted by warm static sound. The park is filled with a variety of beautiful trees.

INT/EXT. REI'S HOME - DAY

Rei wakes up from her dream and is actually in her bed this time. She ignores all her computers and walks over the wires to her window and pulls open the blind. The heavenly glow from outside causes her to squint as her eyes slowly adjust. There's a nice view of a tree from her apartment. She slowly and carefully examines all of the warm nature visible. She stares at a tree for a while.

THE END