

Act 1:

Ryder James, a 13 year old boy, was only 3 years old when Codec took over, only with brief memories of the outside world. He wants to escape the underground to explore the above world that hasn't had human contact in 10 years. Ryder lives with his guardian, David, who saved him when the AI first took over and took him underground. David is frightened of the Outside world and finds comfort in, Pearlshaw, the village they have taken refuge in. Pearlshaw is one of the bigger villages in the underground. It's heavily guarded and has a big population of refugees. As Ryder has grown up he's also grown with the village. Pearlshaw has 3 districts, the Curbs, the Market, and the Center. The curbs are where the workers usually live, where Ryder and David live. The Market is where you can find anything you want, jobs, food, and trouble. The Center is where the higher-ups of Pearlshaw live.

We find ourselves in the Curbs, a worn down part of Pearlshaw. Ryder wakes to the smell of old burnt toast, it seems he has slept in again. He walks out to the dining table to see the burnt toast and a note from David, "I'm off to work, going to be home around 5 and I'll make some dinner. Please stay home, the crime rates are only getting worse in Pearlshaw." Ryder throws the note across the room and scarfs down his toast. Ryder grabs his pack and goes to find Gabe, Ryder's only friend. He takes his usual route, cutting through his neighbors houses. He runs and weaves through them, grabbing anything he likes. Ryder finally gets to Gabe's house.

\*KNOCK\* \*KNOCK\*

Gabe answers the door. You can hear his rickety floorboards as he takes steps closer and closer to the door. He opens the door tentatively and as soon as Ryder sees a crack in the door he bursts through the door and bolts to the table, opens his pack and takes out the plan. The plan to escape Pearlshaw.

"Here it is. The plan." says Ryder to Gabe. Gabe is slowly getting up after having Ryder run through him and the door. "Why are you in such a hurry today?" asked Gabe. Extactect "TODAYS THE DAY! Today is the day we can leave!" Gabe has a worried look on his face, "I don't know if this is a good idea..." said Gabe. "I have it all planned out, trust me. The guards fall asleep everyday at 2pm, they don't take their job seriously at all. That will give us the chance to sneak past the gate and go outside." Ryder knew that his plan was a little bit ambitious, but he wants to see the outside so badly he'll take any chance he gets just to see it. "Come on, just come with me please. You're the only person I trust enough to go." pleaded Ryder. Gabe had a look that Ryder had seen many times before, one of disappointment. "Everything is good here! Why do you want to leave so badly? I refuse to go and I suggest you don't go either!" Gabe stormed out of the dining room and back into his room. "Screw you! You know this is my dream, and you're the only person I trust enough to do this with! You're just the same as David. I hope both of you go to hell!" Ryder storms out of Gabe's house and makes his way over to the gate.

Act 2:

It's time for Ryder's plan to come to fruition with or without Gabe. The gate guards are asleep and he can finally make it past them. He carries out his escape in a hasteful nimble manner making next to no sound. He climbs the fence and makes his way towards the light..

As Ryder approaches the light he feels the soft warming touch of the sun.

It's the first time Ryder's been outside since he can remember... Since the "incident".

Slightly scared of what could really be out there he quickly hides behind a bush and cautiously begins his exploration. He had packed snacks, a flashlight, flint, and his old swiss army knife he's had practically as far back as he can remember.

While Ryder ventures through the forest he hears sounds far away and the roars of nature. Something he had never experienced before.

As he continues exploring he runs into what looks like some sort of deer...

"Not the way it looks in the books" Ryder thinks to himself as he spy's from far away.

The deer does not move for minutes as Ryder continues to observe it.

His curiosity eventually takes him over and he attempts to move closer.

As he takes his first step he steps on what suddenly appears to be a fallen branch.

\*SNAP\*

Immediately Ryder looks up towards the deer.

The deer's head snaps towards him revealing cyborg-like-features on the left side of its face.

The red roboticized eye glares at him.

A rush of fear fills him, and begins running back towards home.

Ryder is now back at home with David but has not told anyone about his experience.

He doesn't go out for weeks, scared of what might have happened if he had stayed out longer on his first venture.

Weeks pass and Ryder becomes bored with the repetitive nature of the inside civilization.

Eventually once again overtaken by his curiosity he takes out his escape plan and decides to execute it once more. As he ventures outside he does not go as far but explores directly outside of his civilization.

On his return home Ryder meets a man outside the exit of pearlshaw.

"Who on earth are you" He asks

The old man is wearing very ragged clothes and takes a while to respond

"Who is anyone anymore" he grumbles

"Your the first person I've ever seen outside the gates" Says Ryder.

"Well you obviously havent spent much time outside the gates" says the old man as a grin runs across his face.

Ryder learns that the man has been living outside the gates for ever since the incident started and that he's survived off the land. However, there is much that the man seems not to reveal.

As a result of his safe venture he continues his weekly expeditions outside the undergrounds and each trip goes a little further away. He encountered small wildlife. Frogs, Butterflies,

squirrels, birds, and more harmless creatures. Every trip upon his return he continues to speak to Courtland slowly learning more of what the real world is.

Months later his expeditions have substantially grown in distance as he is discovering the outside world.

One of his expeditions, after an argument with David, Ryder stays out past his usual time until the sun sets and the lightness outside fades. Mesmerized by the beauty of his first sunset, Ryder does not realize that the forest would become dark. All of a sudden Ryder can barely see in front of him and his flashlight has run out of batteries. He attempts to adjust and slowly find his way back to the underground.

He puts his hands on the ground and attempts to follow his past footsteps. As he inches forward and looks down at the ground he hears the snap of a branch next to him.

He looks over and sees nothing, but decides to speed up his crawl.

Another branch breaks above him...

As he looks up he sees two red eyes illuminating the darkness.

They lunge at him-

Act 3:

Ryder wakes up from the darkness that had consumed him. "How long have I been out?" Ryder thinks to himself. As he looks around he notices he no longer has arms, rather a stub on his left and some sort of roboticized contraption on his right. As he attempts to stand up he is frozen, he cannot move and looks down towards his legs. They look like that of a satyr, but made out of mechanical machinery. The last thing Ryder remembers is getting attacked by some sort of AI creature. Once again, Ryder tries to stand up, this time his right arm moves rapidly and with one small push flings him into the air and onto his legs which he lands on. As Ryder panics he attempts to start running but falls the first step he takes. He continues struggling his way forward falling every step he takes and pushing himself back up. After some time passes, a small AI merged with what seems to be a lotus, appears in front of him. Unlike the creature that he remembers attacking him, he is not scared of this one.

Ryder senses some sort of connection with the plant and suddenly it somehow merges itself into his robotic arm.

He was one of them now...

"There's no way I can go home" He thinks

Without clue of what to do, ryder goes to the only person he thinks he can anymore.

Cortland...

When Ryder finally reaches courtland he is exhausted and can barely crawl anymore.

Courtland immediately rushes towards him and asks what happened. After Ryder explains what happens courtland understands and pulls up one of his pant legs revealing a cybernetic leg.

"He is one of them to"....

Ryder decides to stay with courtland, in fear of what might happen if he ever returns. "David must be worried sick" He thinks, realizing that david must have discovered his expeditions and assumed his death.

As he spends more time with Courtland he learns about his cybernetics and their function.

Once able to control his “power” its time for Ryder to make a decision on what to do next. Worried and longing for his relationships back home he thinks of how Gabe and David must feel, assuming he’s dead.

He makes a plan similar to that of the one he had at the start. However, this time its to sneak back into Pearlshaw.

He executes his plan with great suspense and makes his way back to the curb. He sneaks into his home and sees for the first time in many months-, David. David looks towards him and jumps back with great surprise. “RYDER!” he screams as he sprints to hug him.

Scared to reveal whats under his clothes ryder tries to hide his arms but david takes quick notice and jumps back startled.

“What the hell is that!?”

Ryder shares his story and David is furious. However, not because of the expeditions, rather the fact Ryder never came back.

A robot arm or not David stated his love for Ryder would never change so long as he’s alive.

Ryder eventually shares his story with Gabe and few others. As more learn David learns of the stories that Ryder tells of the outside world he become less fearful of AI, learning that not all of them are bad.

In hopes to reunite the natural and human World. David, Gabe and Ryder decide...

...they too will begin to explore it.

“If humans can no longer control AI we must learn to coexist with it. We will pave the path for the future generations. And in turn Humans one again, will be able to live with the outside world.”....