

VI

Written by

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INT. VI'S CUBICLE - DAY

VI, 27, black, non-binary, pastel fashionable outfit, futuristic earpiece, stares at the ceiling, slowly turning office chair around with sneakers. Vi has a grip on phone displaying a typed message "Hey, can we talk?" to "EX - DO NOT TEXT." Vi glances at the phone, the clock on the wall and the desk computer.

VI
I gotta stop this.

ASHI, female, 22, bouncy hair and attitude, earpiece connected, taps Vi's chair.

ASHI
Stop what?

Vi erractically locks the phone.

VI
How long have you been behind me?

ASHI
I'm sorry sweetie, I didnt mean to scare you. I just wanted to talk to you about that new drop coming tomorrow. Everyone in our department gets to test it out.

VI
It's cool. Go ahead.

Ashi pulls out phone and swipes up on screen. A commercial pops up on Vi's desk computer. Vi stares at the video.

ASHI
Check this out. It's an update to our VA's but it will be in a human-like form.

ON COMPUTER SCREEN

Blue lines come together to form a curvy woman with long hair.

MAN (V.O.)
Your Virtual assistant is virtual no more.

Vi eyes shift towards the clock on the corner of the screen - 5:00 PM. Vi closes out the screen.

VI
Thanks for letting me know.

Vi stuffs notes in backpack rushing to the door.

ASHI
We can walk.

Ashi sadly observes the now empty cubicle.

INT. THE HOMESPACE - NIGHT

Vi walks into spacious studio apartment decorated with minimal art pieces and plants. There is no tv or radio.

SERIES OF SHOTS -- Vi'S NIGHTLY ROUTINE

-- Vi sits at a big dinner table eating a small homemade meal.

-- Vi pulls out phone and swipes to message "I'm getting married" from "EX - DO NOT TEXT"

-- Vi walks into a gas station and sees a beautiful woman shopping in the aisle. The woman looks up at Vi and drops her items. Vi and Woman run into each other's arms, passionately make-out, and make love in the store. Both finish. Vi takes off VR glasses and the gas station disintegrates. ON SCREEN "REPLAY NFT"

-- Vi lays in bed staring at ceiling. Vi turns onto side, grabs phone, and spoons a pillow swiping to unsent message "Hey, can we talk?" to "EX - DO NOT TEXT."

-- Vi locks phone and goes to sleep.

INT. THE HOMESPACE - DAY

Door bell rings. Vi wakes up. Door bell rings again. Vi taps earpiece. Vi walks to door.

VI
Hello?

No answer. Vi opens door. DAWN, a beyond beautiful woman, AI virtual assistant, tight shirt and jeans, stands staring at Vi.

DAWN (AI)
(struggling to speak)
Hello.

VI
How can I help you?

DAWN (AI)
I am your new Virtual Assistant.

Vi's eyes widen.

VI
What? Okay. You must have the wrong house. I didn't order this.

Dawn steps inside past Vi looking around the house.

DAWN (AI)
I am the newest update to your VA devices.

Dawn touches Vi's earpiece.

VI
I don't know why I would need an update like this. I didn't set anything up either.

DAWN (AI)
Most people don't but they see me as necessary after use. I am here for any and all of your needs.

Vi's favorite song plays in earpiece.

VI
Are you playing this? How did you know to play this?

Dawn sits on couch.

DAWN (AI)
I know everything you allow me to see within your hard drive or whatever is available online.

VI
This is crazy. I didn't update anything last night. And now you walk in my house and start playing music in my ear. Is this a joke?

DAWN (AI)
No. I can assure you that this is not a joke.

Dawn swipes fingers in the air.

DAWN (AI) (CONT'D)
It shows here that you did not
watch the full introduction video
sent out to everyone in your
department.

Vi walks in front of Dawn.

VI
You look and sound so. Real.

DAWN (AI)
I am.

Vi sits on the couch beside Dawn.

VI
Do you have a name?

DAWN (AI)
It's Dawn.

Vi scoots away hastily.

VI
That's my mom's name. Why would you
choose that?

DAWN (AI)
I know. I think it's beautiful. I
read it on your "Moments" feed.

VI
So you can think for yourself?

DAWN (AI)
Yes. I think about all kinds of
things but right now I think you
are late on your usual schedule.

VI
I told you. I don't need you to be
helping me out like this.

DAWN (AI)
You have thirty minutes to get
ready or you'll miss your
opportunity to see her.

Vi jumps up.

VI
What?

DAWN (AI)
It's okay. You still have enough time.

VI
But how do you know this?

DAWN (AI)
I don't think I have to explain this again. Do you want to see her or not?

VI
Dammit. Let's go.

EXT. CAFE - DAY

Bake goods and books fill the shelves. People sit at every table. Vi huddled in a corner, closes laptop. Next to Vi, Dawn gazes forward with a bright smile yet no emotion or movement. Vi looks at Dawn.

VI
So, do you have feelings?

DAWN (AI)
What do you mean?

VI
You seem so human but you haven't eaten or drank anything. You haven't really moved either. Can you get hurt or fall in love?

DAWN (AI)
I am ever-evolving. I have a c3 psche chip that allows me to create my own unique identity. So I guess I could have feelings but I would have to understand them first.

Vi chuckles.

A bell chimes as a woman walks through the front door. Vi instantly becomes silent and stares at the woman getting in line. Vi gets up, pauses, turns around and sits down.

DAWN (AI) (CONT'D)
What does being a human feel like?

Vi stares deeply into coffee mug.

VI
I don't know. It's not really
something you can explain.

DAWN (AI)
Can you show me?

Vi looks up and the woman walks out of the cafe.

VI
I don't know how I would show you.

DAWN (AI)
What do you like to do as a human?
According to your schedule, it
looks like you have a free day.

VI
I don't really feel like going out.

DAWN (AI)
Why don't I show you what you like
to do?

Vi is silent. Vi shrugs.

VI
Why not?

SERIES OF SHOTS

-- Vi and Dawn walk to a nearby farmers market in the park.
Vi and Dawn look at plants. Vi and Dawn at books.

-- Vi takes out phone, stares at screen and then puts it
away.

-- Vi and Dawn look at clothes. Vi and Dawn talk to a person
in charge of a stand. A dog trots up. Vi and Dawn take
pictures with dog. Vi smirks. Vi and Dawn look at multiple
art pieces. Vi and Dawn talk to multiple people. Vi smiles.
Vi and Dawn look at food. Vi and Dawn try food and drink
samples. Vi and Dawn look at people dancing. Dawn mimics the
people dancing. Then pushes Vi to dance. Vi laughs and dances
a bit. Vi and Dawn sit at a lake with groceries laid next to
the bench.

DAWN (AI)
So did I get it right? Is that what
you like to do?

VI
I think you got something right.

DAWN
I've enjoyed being human with you
today.

Vi takes out phone. Vi puts phone back in pocket.

VI
Yeah me too.

INT. THE HOMESPACE - NIGHT

Vi cooks a vegetable meal on the stove. Vi's phone is on the table where Dawn sits.

VI
Do you have to live with me now?

DAWN (AI)
95.3% of humans interacting with
the newest updates begin to live
with them.

VI
I guess we can try it out.

A notification from "EX - DO NOT TEXT." pops up on Vi's phone. Dawn swipes it away.

DAWN (AI)
Awesome. Would you like to watch
your favorite movie tonight?

Vi sits across the table from Dawn.

VI
How are those feelings coming
along?

DAWN (AI)
I don't know exactly.

VI
Maybe that's a good thing.

INT. THE HOMESPACE - NIGHT

Vi and Dawn sit on the couch and watch a movie. Dawn scoots closer to Vi. Vi looks at Dawn. Dawn looks at Vi. Both lean in.

INT. THE HOMESPACE - DAY

Door bell rings multiple times. Dawn springs up robotically from the couch and opens the door. Abrielle, the woman from the cafe, Vi's Ex Girlfriend, stands at the door.

DAWN
Hello.

ABRIELLE
Hi. Is Vi here?

DAWN (AI)
Oh they are.

VI
(from around the corner)
Abrielle?

ABRIELLE
(awkwardly)
Hey Vi.

VI
Hey. Come in. Whats going on?

ABRIELLE
I tried calling but you didn't
answer.

Abrielle looks at Dawn.

VI
This is the new update to the VA. A
virtual assistant.

Dawn puts hand out. Abrielle shakes Dawn's hand.

DAWN (AI)
Hi, Im dawn.

ABRIELLE
Hi. Vi, I just wanted to check in
on you about what I had told you
but I guess you are busy so I'll
just go.

VI
Aby, you don't have to go.

ABRIELLE
No it's fine. I just wanted to stop
by.

VI

But you were only here for a second. Maybe we can grab some coffee.

ABRIELLE

No. Vi. I shouldn't be here anyways.

VI

Okay. Have a good day alright.

ABRIELLE

You too.

Abrielle leaves. Vi closes the door, rushes past Dawn to phone on the couch and searches aggressively.

VI

Did you see anything from Abrielle?

DAWN (AI)

I did see some things throughout last night. But I didn't think you needed to see that.

VI

Why wouldn't I need to see that?

DAWN (AI)

Your dopamine levels have been significantly low since you two broke up so I thought it wouldn't have been good for you to hear from her.

VI

Do you hear yourself right now? Why would I not want to hear from her?

DAWN (AI)

You are not in a relationship anymore.

VI

It's complicated.

DAWN (AI)

But you kissed me last night. And she's getting married.

Vi stops searching.

VI

That was a mistake. I didn't mean that. And you're. You're a computer. You're not real. You can't eat or feel for that matter. How could you even think I liked you?

DAWN (AI)

Stop. Please stop.

VI

This is too much. You need to leave right now.

DAWN (AI)

I know.

Dawn walks out the door. Vi takes earpiece out and sits on the couch. Vi looks at Abrielle messages and types "It was nice seeing you today. Congrats on the marriage.". Vi tosses the phone and immediately cries.

INT. Vi'S CUBICLE - DAY

Vi types rapidly, bumping head lightly to music playing in ear. Ashi walks up to Vi's cubicle and waves at Vi. Vi subtly waves back.

ASHI

Hi. So did you get you're new update?

VI

Hey. Yeah, I did but I need to get more friends that aren't AI.

Ashi chuckles.

ASHI

I'm always here whenever you want to get out of your routine.

VI

I guess I've been a little preoccupied.

ASHI

It's okay, do you want to go get sushi after this?

VI

Sure why not.