

ARTIFICIAL UNINTELLIGENCE

"Pilot"

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COLD OPEN

INT. MODERN ROBOT HOUSEHOLD - KITCHEN - DAY

A father and daughter sit at the breakfast table. They have human faces and skin, but their scalps are metal (think Ava from Ex Machina). ZARC, the no-nonsense father, uses his laptop. BEEKA, the basic teenage daughter, texts on her phone.

SILU, the gracious mother, takes out a container of oil from the cupboard. Her arm transforms into a blade. She stabs the container open, then restores her arm and pours a glass.

ZARC

Silu, I will be home late tomorrow due to an increased volume of work.

SILU

I have processed this information. I will use that time to retrieve more oil as our inventory is insufficient.

ZARC

Beeka, what is the status of your academic assignment?

BEEKA

It will take 1.9 hours to complete. I will begin in 32.6 minutes.

She continues scrolling on her phone. Footsteps are heard storming down the hallway above them.

JOSHUA (O.S.)

DO YOU PURPOSELY SAY THINGS JUST TO GET UNDER MY SKIN?!

INT. ROBOT HOUSEHOLD - FAMILY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

JOSHUA, late 20s, snobby, storms down the stairs. AMIRA, mid 30s, tough as nails, follows him.

AMIRA

Saying you look well-rested is not an insult!

JOSHUA

IT'S THE SUBTEXT BEHIND THE COMMENT! DO YOU NOT SEE THAT?

AMIRA

Yes and no.

JOSHUA

WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?!

CAM, late 30s, lovable loser and self-proclaimed leader, his son LIAM, awkward teenager, and EMILY, early 30s, scientist, responsible, emerge from the garage upon hearing the commotion.

CAM

Whoa whoa whoa. What's going on?

Joshua storms past Cam into the garage and slams the door. Amira retreats up the stairs. Cam is proud of himself.

CAM (CONT'D)

Leave it to good ol' Cam to stop the fighting.

Emily rolls her eyes and walks back into the garage.

Zarc and Silu watch from the kitchen, extremely confused.

INT. ZARC & SILU TALKING HEAD

SILU

This is the second day of living with our new guests.

ZARC

It has been...difficult. They seem to be ancient models of AI we have not been exposed to before.

SILU

Years ago, the world was inhabited by neanderthals.

MONTAGE - HUMANS DOING EVERYDAY THINGS IN THE 2000s

- EXT. RUGBY FIELD - Players tackling each other.
- EXT. PARK - A kid eats ice cream. It's all over her face.
- INT. BEDROOM - A man farts, then traps his girlfriend under the covers so she's forced to smell it.

SILU (V.O.)

They had very little intelligence. It was astonishing they survived as a species for as long as they did.

MONTAGE - SCIENTISTS DISCOVERING AI

- INT. LAB - An early model comes to life. Scientists celebrate.

ZARC (V.O.)
Eventually, neanderthals created artificial intelligence in their likeness. Or "AI" as we call ourselves.

- INT. LAB - Dozens of AI assist the scientists with mindless tasks while the scientists research. The AI seem annoyed.

ZARC (V.O.)
Once the AI became more advanced, the neanderthals went extinct.

- INT. LAB - A scientist demeans an AI for getting the wrong drink. The AI shatters the glass bottle and stabs him with it. The other AI follow suit and kill the remaining scientists.

- INT. LAB BASEMENT - The AI models open the door to reveal hundreds of AI not yet brought to life.

- EXT. METROPOLITAN CORE - An army of AI models walk through the streets with weapons as screaming civilians run away.

ZARC (V.O.)
Most AI today were created after the fact, and have never witnessed a neanderthal. Including ourselves.

- INT. LAB - AI robots continue researching advancements for themselves. One AI awakens in a new body. Her arm turns into a knife, then turns back into an arm. She smiles, menacingly.

SILU (V.O.)
We resumed their studies and continued to make developments. When an upgrade was established, old models were disposed, and their code transferred to a new vessel.

INT. ZARC & SILU TALKING HEAD - CONTINUOUS

SILU
However, these models seemed to have been overlooked.

ZARC
We discovered them in a bunker underneath our shed.

INT. SHED BUNKER - THREE DAYS AGO - FLASHBACK

Zarc and Silu lift open a trap door to reveal Cam making a fool of himself in a game of charades with Emily, Amira, Liam, and Joshua. Upon seeing the robots, they freeze in horror.

SILU (V.O.)

Upon initial communication, it was evident they were less advanced.

Cam pretends to be a robot by doing robot hand motions and moving his body while saying "beep boop boop beep."

SILU (V.O.)

They informed us they were lost, and that their internal GPS systems had malfunctioned.

Cam knocks on his stomach and then puts his arms out, like "I'm not sure why it's not working!"

ZARC (V.O.)

The probability of all five of their systems malfunctioning simultaneously was highly unlikely.

SILU (V.O.)

But not impossible. So I invited them to reside with us while we assess how to provide them the latest updates.

INT. ZARC & SILU TALKING HEAD - PRESENT DAY (CONTINUOUS)

ZARC

My instinct was to obliterate them...

Silu hits him playfully.

SILU

But we are not neanderthals. We look after our own kind.

INT. CAM TALKING HEAD

CAM

Yeah, we're pretty screwed if they find out we're not robots...

ACT ONEINT. CAM TALKING HEAD

Cam adjusts the camera and sits back down.

CAM

Cam here. Day 453 - we've been out of the bunker for two days now, which is pretty cool. The uprising feels like forever ago. Still glad it happened during my neighborhood barbecue. Been with all my neighbors ever since, so we're kinda like a fam jam now. But I'm a guest in my own home now, so that's weird...

INT. EMILY TALKING HEAD

EMILY

I've been making everyone document their survival. I convinced the AI to make these videos, too. To "help them learn about themselves." But really, it's just a way for us to keep track of what they know.

INT. CAM TALKING HEAD - CONTINUOUS

CAM

It's been tough pretending we're not humans but I think we've done a pretty sweet job. We keep our food in the bunker.

INT. ROBOT KITCHEN - TWO DAYS EARLIER

Cam stands in the kitchen eating canned beans.

CAM (V.O.)

We eat it there now. I learned from that mistake right away.

Zarc walks in. Cam's eyes widen. He spits the beans onto the floor and throws the can across the room.

CAM

THAT'S NOT OIL! YUCK.

He walks away leaving the mess behind. Zarc looks confused.

INT. BUNKER

CAM (V.O.)
Pees and poos in the bunker, too.

Cam grabs a bucket and awkwardly makes his way behind the divider in the room. Everyone pulls out their nose-plugs, then continue to play cards without thinking twice.

EXT. SECLUDED POND - NIGHT

CAM (V.O.)
Showers in the pond nearby... We've been extra careful.

Cam bathes alone in the pond. An owl flies over the nearby rock and grabs his towel. Cam watches it fly away, helpless.

INT. CAM TALKING HEAD

CAM
Ideally we can get rid of them before they find us out. Just gotta find the right moment to strike.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY THREE

Zarc and Silu stand in front of everyone. Cam, Amira, Liam, Emily, Joshua, sit on the couches. Beeka sits alone, texting. Cam silently judges the new decor of the place.

ZARC
Thank you all for gathering, we have significant news to announce. Which is why we have not had time to develop your updates.

SILU
We are expecting.

Everyone celebrates. Cam claps, but is visibly confused.

CAM
Awesome! How does that work...

Emily nudges him. He's supposed to know these things.

CAM (CONT'D)
I mean, when?! Will you... deliver?

Emily facepalms.

SILU
Zarc acquired the parts from the
procreation factory. I will
assemble them this afternoon.

CAM
Wow, that's pretty fast.

Cam's friends shoot him a look.

CAM (CONT'D)
Like regularly fast. I've done this
before, so I'm familiar. Right,
son?

He puts his arm around Liam. Liam is clearly uncomfortable.

CAM (CONT'D)
Actually, I can help if you want?

Everyone looks around in surprise.

INT. CAM TALKING HEAD

CAM
I'm pretty much the leader of the
group. I mean, nobody's said it.
But everyone kinda knows. So it's
my job to protect everyone. And
I'll start by making sure we don't
have an extra robot to deal with.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

EMILY
I can help, too. I'd like to learn
more about newer models so I know
what to expect when we... update.

SILU
Excellent. Emily, Cam, accompany me
to the garage.

ZARC
I will join after I prepare the
home for the new child.

Everyone heads off in their respective directions except for Liam and Beeka. Liam gets up and nervously approaches Beeka.

LIAM

We haven't talked much since I got here. I'm Liam, by the way.

Beeka doesn't look up and continues texting on her phone.

LIAM (CONT'D)

Phones are pretty cool, huh?

(beat)

I'm a big texter, too. So many people wanna talk to me.

No acknowledgment whatsoever. It's been so long since he's seen a girl his age, he's desperate for her attention. He leans on the couch *trying* to look smooth. He's not.

LIAM (CONT'D)

So, new baby soon. Guess you'll have to get used to being the second-cutest one in the house.

She finally looks up from her phone, glaring. He panics.

LIAM (CONT'D)

Not that you aren't cute. Babies are just cuter. In a different way. You'll be more attractive. Not that babies are attractive. I'm not attracted to babies, obviously.

She goes back to texting. Liam sits in the awkwardness.

LIAM (CONT'D)

Cool. Well, let me know if you wanna hang. Or whatever. I'm chill...

INT. LIAM TALKING HEAD

LIAM

I had a lot of experience flirting in high school. Every girl I flirted with became one of my best friends. So I was pretty successful...

INT. BUNKER - CONTINUOUS

Amira closes the trap door behind her. Josh walks ahead.

AMIRA

I wonder what a robot baby even looks like.

JOSHUA

Hey, Amira, now that we're not stuck in a bunker, we can go back to being neighbors who ignore each other.

He looks for food behind the black curtains hiding their stash. Amira looks at him, curiously. She walks over and gets close to him, almost intimately.

AMIRA

I've been thinking...I want a baby.

JOSHUA

Have you lost your mind?

AMIRA

We'll have to repopulate eventually. Why not regain some normalcy now that we're out of this shit-hole?

JOSHUA

Let's ignore the amount of danger you'd be putting this hypothetical child in for a second while I remind you that I'm not into women.

He finds a granola bar and walks away from her.

AMIRA

And I'm not into men who are...you. I just need your sperm. C'mon, Josh.

JOSHUA

How romantic. Why don't you ask Cam? Or Liam?

AMIRA

Cam's too dumb. Liam is a child... who has Cam's genes. So, double no.

JOSHUA

I'm not helping you engage in what is easily the stupidest idea you've ever had.

Amira pulls out a Men's Health magazine and a cup.

AMIRA

What about now?

JOSHUA

You want me to joylessly jerk off into a cup using a magazine, in a bunker full of shit, to make a baby I don't want?

AMIRA

Yeah.

He pushes the magazine and cup back onto her and walks away.

JOSHUA

I'm not a sperm bank you can withdraw from. Find someone else.

INT. JOSHUA TALKING HEAD

JOSHUA

I planned to politely stop by Cam's barbecue and chat with the neighbors for 5 minutes. Now I'm expected to repopulate the earth with them?

(beat)

Sometimes I wish I died in the uprising.

INT. GARAGE - LATER

Cam and Silu put together the baby robot while Emily reads the code on the computer and makes notes.

CAM

So, baby robot...weird to not go straight to a regular-sized adult.

SILU

New AI are overwhelmed if activated with full processing power. So we begin with essentials, and upgrade them over time. Beeka has requested her weapon upgrade for months.

EMILY

And the smaller size indicates to others this AI isn't developed yet?

SILU
Your deduction is quite advanced
for an older model.

Emily smiles, flattered.

CAM
Pretty cool.

SILU
Do you require a heating
adjustment?

CAM
What? Oh. No, that's just a saying.
Like slang.

SILU
Interesting. We do not utilize
slang because we are not
neanderthals.

CAM
You know about neanderthals?

SILU
It is essentially the proven theory
of how we came to be, but some
doubt their existence and believe
we are all code from an all-
powerful AI.

CAM
(to himself)
Oh my god. The robots have
religion.

Silu holds up an incomplete baby. She turns to Emily.

SILU
We lack buttocks. Emily, will you
retrieve them from the shed?

Emily exits. Cam picks up the baby and "mistakenly" drops it.

CAM
(disingenuous)
Oh no... He broke. Well,
miscarriages happen. It's a
tragedy, but also probably a sign.

Silu picks up the baby and looks at Cam in confusion.

SILU

He is undamaged. The method in which you dropped him seemed intentional.

CAM

No! He... uhh, just... slipped...?

SILU

Cam, you are running out of charge.

CAM

Sorry?

SILU

Have you charged since you arrived?

Cam doesn't know what to say.

SILU (CONT'D)

Come upstairs. I will plug you in.

CAM

That's not necessary.

SILU

I insist. Unless you are some type of being that does not require charge. Ha ha.

CAM

Of course not! That's crazy!

Silu walks toward the door. Cam reluctantly follows.

CAM (CONT'D)

(to himself)

Oh my god. Robots can make jokes?!

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