

Am I Human?

by
Rena Darling

Karena Drayton
adarlingrena@gmail.com

SCENE ONE - OPENING CUTSCENE

INT. DARKNESS - DREAM SEQUENCE - PRESENT

The screen is black. Small BEEPS break through the darkness, followed by two voices fading in and out. OLYN, 20s, places her hands on her hip as her silhouette comes into view.

OLYN (O.S.)
... Then what happened next? I thought
they...

Flashes of two sets of unfamiliar hands intertwine fingers in slow motion before going back to black. STATIC begins, and the BEEPING increases.

OLYN (CONT'D)
... I love you, _____.

The name Olyn speaks becomes distorted by WHITE NOISE. Lights break through the darkness, but they are blurry.

INT. LIVING ROOM - FLASHBACK - EVENING

Olyn and 861 sit on the living room floor and cuddle close as they watch the stars from the comfort of their porch door.

861
I'm so glad we got to watch for the
meteors. It's rare we get a cloudless
day.

Olyn nods. They hold each other as the meteors color the sky. A meteor looks different from the others and appears closer than the rest.

OLYN
Hey, _____, do you see that?

INT. DARK LAB - RETURN TO PRESENT - UNKNOWN

Other muffled voices are slowly seeping into the darkness. This time, it's two MEN, 40s.

MALE A (O.S.)
I don't understand what's going on. She
should have come to already.

2.

MALE B

Activate revival protocol.

A blurry view of men dressed in white lab coats looking down at the presumed body of 861.

The darkness fades as 861 and Olyn are in...

INT. CAR INTERIOR - FLASHBACK - NIGHT

Inside, the car is dim. The streetlights flashing by are the only source of light. It is quiet, not even the radio plays.

861

I just don't understand why you need to leave. Can't you do this remotely?

Olyn sighs, but keeps her hands on the wheel.

OLYN

You know what could happen if I don't do this! I don't want to leave you, but if I don't, then my body doesn't stand a chance. I would think you of all people would understand that, _____.

INT. DARK LAB - RETURN TO PRESENT - UNKNOWN

The two scientists continue to labor over the body.

MALE B

Looks like her vitals are returning to normal. Oxygen levels are stable and brain activity are in normal--

A loud BEEP comes from the EEG monitor as the body convulses.

MALE A

Wait, what's that?

MALE B

Sir! It's going into shock!

3.

INT. DARKNESS - 861'S MIND - SAME TIME

There is nothing visible. Glitches and white noise have taken over almost all of 861's thoughts. The one thing that's clear is Olyn standing in the midst.

Olyn is nude, but glitches cover her conservatively. She sobs as technicolor tears fall down her face. 861 tries to run, but her movements are slowed by the ground. Her feet blink in and out and morph into unique shapes.

OLYN

Don't! Focus on me, we have such little time.

861 exhales and takes a step forward. Her steps are more solid, so she speeds off toward Olyn.

861 stops in front of Olyn and reaches out for her hands. Olyn grabs them and gives a small gasp.

861

Olyn...

OLYN

Listen, I don't know what's happening, but you have to remember this no matter what: Don't believe them. Please.

861

But --

Olyn grabs her head, and an unnatural SCREECH emits from her mouth. She looks at 861 and reaches out her hand one more time before she melded into the white noise.

INT. DARK LAB - PRESENT

861's eyes shoot open and she tries to sit up, but finds that her body is hard to move.

Male A leans in and smiles.

MALE A

Welcome, 861. I'm glad you've finally woken up.

861

W-Where am I? Who are you?

END SCENE ONE

SCENE TWO - CONFRONTATION

INT. DARK LAB HALLWAY - DAY

A hallway stretches out forward and FOOTSTEPS echo against the walls. LIAM, 30s, black lab coat, halts in front of a door and punches in a code. The door flashes red and denies his entry attempt.

LIAM

Damn it. She's messed with it somehow.

He tries the code one more time, with the same result.

LIAM (CONT'D)

No wonder Drea called. This is getting out of hand.

Liam throws his hands up in frustration and shoots the lock. It opens. He storms in and finds a terrified 861 with her hands in the air and an open company terminal.

861

Wait, please --

Liam wastes no time and pins her arms behind her.

LIAM

No need! Since you've refused to cooperate with your rehabilitation program, we have no choice but to place you on maximum surveillance.

He hands 861 off to the facility thugs while she continues to struggle against their overwhelming strength.

861

You don't understand! I need to find out the truth!

Liam scoffs as he fixes the collar of his jacket.

LIAM

Truth? How are you able to discern what's true and what isn't, when you can't even remember anything about yourself? Why, that leaves to open to be filled with lies. Obviously.

Liam saunters up to 861 and gently grabs her chin. He lifts her face to he can see her eyes.

5.

LIAM (CONT'D)

The truth, for now? It's whatever I tell you.

Liam looks at the goons and nods his head.

861

Wait --

LIAM

This won't do. We'll just have to try again! Knock her out, won't you?

861 goes to open her mouth, but she is hit on the back of the head, knocking her unconscious.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF SCENE TWO

BAD ENDINGS, HAPPY BEGINNINGS - SCENE THREE

(NOTE: This cutscene takes place ONLY when the conditions for the bad PATH are met.)

INT. PROCESSING OFFICE - DAY

The office is brightly lit with florescent lights all around the edges of the ceiling and floor. There are artificial plants strewn about in various places, and a portrait of a generic-looking family sits on the large white desk. Oddly, Liam isn't anywhere in the picture.

Liam is silent as he looks over the white file in his hands.

LIAM

Well, despite a few... hiccups in your recovery, I'm happy to tell you you've hit a new goal! Now, can you recall those memories you've said you remember?

861 nods.

861

Yes! I remember a woman with golden eyes. She was someone close to me and is waiting for me to find her.

Liam claps his hands together.

LIAM

Excellent! Now, I know you are concerned about not knowing your name and everything, but since all your motor skills check out and you're physically healed up, I don't see a need to keep you here.

861 shies away a little as her hands tighten into little balls.

861

I don't know, sir. Alone? Out there? I don't think I can.

Liam laughs.

LIAM

You can! Besides, you'll have an outpatient team to help you with your needs.

(MORE)

7.

LIAM (CONT'D)

Now, I'm done with you here, so please step through this door to my left, and my assistant will get you your discharge paperwork.

861 tentatively smiles. She looks down at her arms, once made of metal, now look similar to human skin. A small light blinks briefly on her wrists. 861 looks back at Liam.

861

Thank you again, Liam.

Liam waves as 861 exits through the doors. His smile drops, and he closes his eyes for a moment. Next, Liam's eyes shoot open and he grabs his phone from his coat pocket.

LIAM

Hey, it's me. The prototype has passed all tests and is calibrated. It's ready for the next phase. The moment is arriving soon.

Liam hangs up the phone.

INT. FACILITY ENTRANCE HALLWAY - DAY

The sun is shining through the windows and doors of the building. 861 stands in front of the door with a bag in one hand and her new ID in the other.

LIAM (V.O.)

Human integration will truly begin.

861 looks down at her ID. She beams at the name on it: Eve.

END OF SCENE THREE.

THE FINAL STRETCH - SCENE FOUR

EXT. EMPTY STREET - NIGHT

Eve steps under a streetlight and pulls out a well-worn piece of paper.

EVE
It's around here somewhere.

She looks around behind her for a few beats, then she continues down the road.

A building comes into Eve's view, and her eyes light up.

EVE (CONT'D)
That must be where she is!

Eve picks up the pace and rushes toward a small business.

Across from there sits an innocuous apartment building lacking in outside lighting.

INT. EMPTY APARTMENT - NIGHT

A shadowed figure peeps out from behind the blinds.

FIGURE
She's here.

Other figures emerge from the dark corners of the apartment and exit out the door. The head shadow huffs as he watches from the blinds.

EXT. BUSINESS BUILDING PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Eve stops in the parking lot and catches her breath.

EVE
(to herself)
I'm here, Olyn.

Four shadows descend onto Eve and wrestle her down to the ground.

EVE (CONT'D)
Help!

One of Eve's assailants places their hand on her mouth.

SHADOW A

Shut your mouth. This doesn't have to be hard.

Eve continues to struggle against the men and frees one hand. She takes it and swings toward the men, landing a punch on Shadow B's face.

SHADOW B

What are you doing? Grab her!

After an intense struggle, they have Eve restrained. Eve continues to wriggle and struggle against the shadows dragging her away.

SHADOW A

You chose hard. Okay.

Shadow A pulls out a pen-sized taser and holds it to Eve's neck. She seizes up, and after a few seconds of being tased, she falls limp. Shadow A places his hand to his ear.

SHADOW A (CONT'D)

Bringing her now.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Before Eve opens her eyes, she hears a voice.

OLYN (V.O.)

Don't forget the truth.

Eve's eyes flutter open. Drowsy at first, she attempts to sit up, but finds that she can't move.

EVE

What the hell is this?

Eve lifts her head as far as she can and spots the restraints on her arms and legs. She slams her head back down on the pillow.

EVE (CONT'D)

Of course.

The door slides open and REVEN, short, 30s, enters. He stares at her for some time and lifts his foot to take a step closer, but he stays where he is.

REVEN

I'll be. I have to admit; I was skeptical when they said you were the real deal, but here you are.

EVE

(groggily)

Where is here, exactly? And why are you so short?

Reven lets out a terse laugh, then snaps his fingers.

REVEN

Right! I forgot to introduce myself. They call me Reven, and you're in our bunker. I'm afraid I can't tell you more than that. Since you're awake, I'll bring Boss down.

EVE

Boss?

Reven hurries out of the room before he hears Eve's question. Eve struggles against her restraints again, but gives up just as quick. She looks around the room and checks out her surroundings.

BOSS

Glad to see you awake, Eve.

Eve yanks her head to the direction of the deep voice as BOSS, scruffy beard, 40s, walks into the room. Eve squints her eyes at his entrance.

BOSS (CONT'D)

I know you must have a lot of questions, but --

EVE

I'm not answering a thing until I get this off of me.

Boss nods his head.

BOSS

I understand, but this is both for your safety and ours. I'm afraid I can't remove them until I'm sure you won't hurt anyone here.

EVE

Hell of a way to build trust.

Boss stares at Eve as he lets out a small gasp.

11.

BOSS

Amazing. I didn't think they were this far along.

EVE

What?

BOSS

So Eve, tell me about yourself.

Eve ponders for a moment.

EVE

Partial amnesiac, looking for someone. You know, everyday stuff.

Boss rubs his chin.

BOSS

Fascinating. I'm assuming you don't want to elaborate further.

Eve huffs.

EVE

Listen, I don't have time to sit here and play twenty questions with you. I'm looking for someone. Let me go.

Boss shakes his head.

BOSS

Afraid I can't. You are too valuable to our cause. With you, we can finally stick it to that Hell of a facility!

Eve's hands glow slightly as she tightens her hands into fists.

EVE

I said Let. Me. Go.

BOSS

Like I said, can't. Using their weapon against them is just too tempting.

Eve hollers and the restraints vibrate intensely before they shatter. She stands and looks at Boss.

EVE

Last time I'm asking. Gonna let me go?

Boss doesn't answer Eve and instead sounds the alarm. Men fill the room and draw their weapons.

12.

Of course. EVE (CONT'D)

END OF SCENE FOUR

TRUTHS AND CONFRONTATION - SCENE FIVE

INT. FACILITY TERRARIUM - DAY

Eve kicks open the door to the terrarium and stomps through.

EVE

Liam! I know you're in here, so quit being a coward! Where is she? Where is Olyn?

A LAUGH echoes off the glass walls.

LIAM

Oh, man. Even after everything you've learned, you still think she is what you're after.

Eve lifts her and aims it at Liam.

EVE

I know you manipulated me, but I know that the love I have is real!

Liam laughs harder and doubles over while clutching his stomach.

LIAM

Amazing! The programming took better than we thought!

EVE

Programming?

Liam sighs and sits on a stair as he ignores Eve's threat of violence. He pulls out a cigarette.

LIAM

Olyn isn't real, she never was. Come to think of it, I guess you aren't either.

Eve lowers her hand.

EVE

What are you talking about?

Liam runs his hand over his hair.

LIAM

Those memories you have? That yearning and heartache you carry for Olyn? We gave that to you.

(MORE)

LIAM (CONT'D)

It's nothing more than a program to help evoke human emotions into your behavioral algorithms.

Eve drops her hand entirely. She hyperventilates.

LIAM (CONT'D)

There! Even that reaction is manufactured. Breathing? You haven't ever needed to breathe.

EVE

You're insane!

LIAM

I'm serious. Haven't you ever wonder why you don't seem to get hurt, no matter what situation you find yourself in?

EVE

Well --

Liam stands and saunters over to Eve as he speaks.

LIAM

Or that your blood instantly coagulates instead of bleeding like every other person. Well, I guess that's on us; we did too damn good of a job. You are our magnum opus.

EVE

Are you saying that I'm --

LIAM

Not human? Obviously! You never were, no matter what you thought. Your entire life, we gave to you. It was imperative to the project.

EVE

You mean Project Genesis?

Liam laughs as he leans in close to Eve.

LIAM

So you have heard of it. You eventually proved to be successful. We can create our own humans! Humans we can control and prevent all future wars.

Eve's arms glow, and she shoves Liam with force. Liam crashes into some plants on the other side of the room.

Eve makes her way to Liam, but he appears in front of her at top speed. He slaps her across the room then removes the outer skin on his face, revealing a metal skull.

LIAM (CONT'D)

Foolish. You may be the Magnum opus, but I am the prototype.

They clash and trade blows at fast speeds. Trees are knocked over, and the glass walls are broken out. The match seems even until Liam throws Eve through the elevator on the third floor. Eve lies on the floor, dizzy from the impact.

Eve hears a voice speak to her.

OLYN (V.O.)

Don't give up!

Eve shakes her head.

EVE

What does it matter? You aren't real.

OLYN

But you are! No matter what he says. That love you have for me belongs to you! Now go!

Eve stands and brushes the debris from her clothes. Liam stares at her from the ground floor and smiles.

EVE

Fine. You want to see the results of your work?

Eve climbs onto the balcony and jumps. She lands in front of Liam. She holds her hands up, and they glow.

EVE (CONT'D)

Here it comes!

END OF SCENE FIVE