

MALFUNCTION

WRITTEN BY

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1 INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT - PRESENT DAY - OCTOBER 2030 1

BRIANNA is a beautiful woman in her early 20s, independent and full of life. She's dressed in a blue jumpsuit, has no makeup on, and looks psychically drained. She is sitting across a desk from an INTERROGATOR. BRIANNA is watching the laptop in front of her, appalled. Audio of glass breaking and screaming comes from it. The INTERROGATOR shuts the laptop.

BRIANNA

I'll tell you the truth. But you're not gonna believe me.

2 INT. CHARLES' KITCHEN - DAY - OCTOBER 2029 2

BRIANNA comes downstairs to find her boyfriend, CHARLES holding flowers and balloons. CHARLES is a tall, handsome, and wealthy entrepreneur. BRIANNA is in her PJs, and her eyes light up when she sees CHARLES, who is dressed in a suit.

BRIANNA

Awww Charles, you didn't have to do all this.

CHARLES

(hugs and kisses BRIANNA on cheek)

Of course I did. You're only gonna turn 21 once.

BRIANNA

Yeah, I guess you're right. What's on the agenda for today?

CHARLES

Actually, babe, I-uh-I gotta go to work-

BRIANNA

C'mon, you can't just call out or something?

CHARLES

Brianna, listen, I..I can't even miss one day- you remember that artificial intelligence program I told you we've been working on?

BRIANNA
(thinking)
Maybe..?

CHARLES
Well, we've been making rapid progress and they need me there, I can't miss, I'm sorry.

CHARLES pulls out a couple hundred dollars and hands it to BRIANNA, lifting her chin to look at her.

CHARLES
Go buy yourself something pretty to wear for dinner later. We'll go on the island, watch the sunset, and drink the most expensive wine on the menu. Sound good?

BRIANNA
(nods and smiles lovingly)
Okay.

3 INT. CHARLES' HOUSE - DAY - APRIL 2030

3

CHARLES and BRIANNA are sitting across from each other at the dinner table, eating in silence. BRIANNA looks unsure, and CHARLES has a blank expression.

BRIANNA
(looking up at CHARLES)
You're still mad?

CHARLES
(condescending)
I'm not mad.

BRIANNA
Okay.

CHARLES
I'll just be cutting your allowance this week.

BRIANNA
 (rolls eyes)
 Don't you think you're
 overreacting-

CHARLES
 Don't tell me I'm overreacting-

BRIANNA
 (sits up, frustrated)
 Well, I think you're overreacting!
 It was supposed to be a nice little
 get-together, I'm SUPPOSED to talk
 to everyone!

CHARLES
 (calm)
 You were talking to Darren for
 quite a long time, Brianna.

BRIANNA
 Like five, ten minutes max, what is
wrong with you?!

CHARLES
 Bri-

BRIANNA
 It's *embarrassing* bringing you
 around my friends-

CHARLES
 Briann-

BRIANNA
 No, seriously, are you just *that*
 jealous of any-

CHARLES stands up abruptly, throwing a glass down,
 shattering inches away from BRIANNA.

CHARLES
 BRIANNA!

BRIANNA gasps.

CHARLES
 (whispering)
 Do you love me?

BRIANNA stares at him, scared.

CHARLES

(aggressive)
Do you love me?

BRIANNA
(quiet)
Y-Yes.

CHARLES
Then you won't do that again.

CHARLES sits back down and continues eating.

BRIANNA
(looks back down at her
plate, pushing it away,
no longer having an
appetite.)
Okay.

4 INT. CHARLES' DRIVEWAY - NIGHT - JULY 2030

4

BRIANNA is dressed down, and her eyes appear drained of life. CHARLES is dressed up per usual. BRIANNA makes her way angrily out the door, suitcase in hand, CHARLES chasing after her.

CHARLES
Where will you go?

BRIANNA
I-I don't know. Back to my moms
maybe? I don't know, Charles, I
just..can't stay here another
night.

CHARLES
Yes, you can-

BRIANNA
No, I..I can't-

CHARLES
Why? Why not?!

BRIANNA stops, turning around to look at CHARLES.

BRIANNA

Because Charles, if I'm being honest, I'm scared of you. The things you say, the things you do..Lord knows what's gonna happen when you get angry-

CHARLES

Oh, c'mon! Everyone gets angry sometimes, couples fight-

BRIANNA

Couples fight?! You throw glass at me when you're angry, that's not normal-

CHARLES

Well, would you like a *normal* guy who's gonna take you to *normal*-people places like Cheesecake Factory and-

BRIANNA

And don't even get me started on your *work* - some super secret stuff that *must* be more important than our relatio-

CHARLES

(stern)

You wouldn't understand.

A beat of silence.

BRIANNA

You need help.

CHARLES

Okay, whatever, I-I'm sorry, but this is-I mean, you don't wanna leave, I know you don't.

CHARLES places his hands on BRIANNA's shoulders, and pushes her hair behind her ears.

BRIANNA

(looking intensely at him)

I don't love you anymore, Charles.

CHARLES, for the first time, shows emotion as his eyes widen and he is frozen. He pushes her, annoyed. BRIANNA continues walking away.

CHARLES
You don't mean that.

BRIANNA
(nods)
I do.

CHARLES grabs BRIANNA's chin, forcing her to look at him.

CHARLES
(angrily staring into her
eyes)
You can't live without me.

BRIANNA
(sarcastic)
I think I'll be fine.

CHARLES
You will stay here and I'll make
sure of it, yo-you're not gonna
leave me.

CHARLES is in a trance as he begins brainstorming. BRIANNA is scared of his tone but confident in her decision to leave.

CHARLES firmly grabs BRIANNA's arm, she tugs away forcefully.

BRIANNA
Watch me.

5 INT. CHARLES' KITCHEN - DAY - SEPTEMBER 2030

5

CHARLES comes downstairs to find AI BRIANNA making eggs. She is dressed in a beautiful sundress, her hair clipped back, and has a warm smile on her face. Her makeup is perfect, with abnormally blushed cheeks. She looks identical to BRIANNA, except has stiff movements and mannerisms.

AI BRIANNA
(robotic)
Good morning, Charles. Breakfast is
almost ready.

CHARLES
Ah, thank you darling.

CHARLES sits on the couch and pulls open his laptop.

AI BRIANNA

Would you like to know what's on the agenda today?

CHARLES

Lay it on me.

AI BRIANNA

At ten-thirty, you have a meeting with corporate executive Sean Vanderbilt. To summarize his email, Sean said he is highly impressed with your work. Your talents have surpassed the rest of your colleagues, as you've accomplished in months what they have taken years trying to do. He intends to let you run the entirety of the business.

AI BRIANNA hands CHARLES coffee and his breakfast.

CHARLES

(beaming)

Huh. Well, isn't that something?

AI BRIANNA

Congratulations.

AI BRIANNA

You have a kickboxing class at two, and then dinner with the president at eight.

CHARLES

Oh yeah, I forgot about that.

AI BRIANNA

Is there anything you'd like me to get done for you?

CHARLES

I have a few suits I need cleaned-

AI BRIANNA

Already done.

CHARLES

Ah, you're amazing. Six months ago, I'd have to hassle you to get my laundry done.

AI BRIANNA has a blank expression.

CHARLES
It was a joke.

AI BRIANNA starts uncontrollably laughing for a few seconds then abruptly stops, returning to the blank expression.

CHARLES
Yeah, we're gonna have to work on that.

CHARLES looks off into the distance, sadly reminiscing.

AI BRIANNA
-therefore my software hasn't advanced enough for me to comprehend *jokes*-

CHARLES takes a remote and faces it towards AI BRIANNA, pressing the mute button.

6 INT. POLICE STATION - PRESENT DAY - OCTOBER 2030

6

JESSIE, a tall and dark-haired woman, is sitting across from the INTERROGATOR. She is dressed formally, and holds herself confidently.

INTERROGATOR
How would you describe your relationship with Charles?

JESSIE
(thinking)
As one's is with their boss? Uh, friendly, but um..obedient. Charles was a very convincing man, as headstrong as he was..he'd put his *all* into his work..

INTERROGATOR
Remind me, what exactly did your guys' work intel?

JESSIE
The company works with artificial intelligence, mainly focusing on virtual assistance. Charles was always, uh, wanting to push the limits, you know, make more money-

INTERROGATOR

And tell me, Jessie, do you think his work life disrupted his personal life? Or..had anything to do with this?

JESSIE

(looking down, scared)
No, no..that'd be impossible, th-
there's no way-

INTERROGATOR

Alright then, well, thank you for your time, Jessie.

JESSIE nods and proceeds to get up, exiting.

7 INT. CHARLES' OFFICE - DAY

7

CHARLES is sitting in his office, his computer and sketches out. His colleague JESSIE walks in, wearing a blazer with her hair slicked back.

JESSIE

Hey Charles, how's it going?

CHARLES

Fine, fine, how are you, Jessie?

JESSIE

(playful)
I'm good. Apparently I'm also working for you now?

CHARLES

(scoffs)
Yeah, what can I say?

CHARLES

Listen, uh, I wanted to pitch something to you.

JESSIE

Yeah, go ahead.

CHARLES

Okay. So imagine what we could accomplish if we transferred human emotions *inside* an AI?

JESSIE

(pondering)

I mean, they already kinda do-

CHARLES

No, I mean like if AI's could *really* feel. If an AI could feel so passionate, so angry, so happy-if an AI could experience falling in love? That's basically a human right there that we just made from scratch.

JESSIE

Okay..but like why? I mean, our AI's really just do whatever we need them to..and maybe chit-chat when we're bored, sure..but like-

CHARLES

Because Jessie, if we figure this out, this would mean *billions*.

JESSIE

Maybe..But I really don't think it'd be smart to give an AI emotion. I mean like what would happen, say one got too angry or something?

CHARLES

(shrugging it off)

Well, then we could just uh, shut it off or something, I don't know.

JESSIE

Besides, the AI's are so perfect because they don't have feelings. Humans are so complicated because we all have all of these *feelings*, but an AI - Nada. That's why everyone's going to want one of their own when the world finds out about this.

CHARLES

(condescending)

I mean, if you're content with your paycheck. Hate to break it to you sweetheart, but this is why I'm making millions of dollars more than you.

JESSIE
 (dubious)
 Why do I feel like this isn't just
 about money to you?

CHARLES
 (defensive)
 What else would it be about?

JESSIE
 I don't know.

A beat of silence.

JESSIE
 Well, I'll leave you to it.

8 INT. CHARLES' GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

8

CHARLES presses a button on his phone titled INSTALL
 UPDATE: BRIANNA 2.0.

AI BRIANNA is charging. CHARLES grabs the remote, turning
 her on. AI BRIANNA rises.

CHARLES
 How do you feel?

AI BRIANNA
 (blinking rapidly)
 I can..I can feel. And I feel so
 much all at once.

CHARLES
 (intrigued)
 Okay..

AI BRIANNA
 But more than anything, all of a
 sudden, I feel overcome with love
 for you, Charles. I love you. I
 love you so much..it feels like so
 much..

CHARLES
 And you're not gonna leave me
 again, are you?

AI BRIANNA
 I could never leave you.

CHARLES
 (smirks)
 Good.

9 INT. CHARLES' KITCHEN - DAY

9

CHARLES walks downstairs, suitcase in hand. AI BRIANNA is in the kitchen, wearing a sundress and a smile.

AI BRIANNA
 Breakfast is ready, Charles.

CHARLES
 Ah thank you, my love.

AI BRIANNA hands CHARLES his coffee and places his breakfast in front of him.

AI BRIANNA
 Love? Do you love me?

CHARLES turns his head, a little shocked.

CHARLES
 Why, of course I do.

CHARLES pats AI BRIANNA's leg, giving a lazy reassuring gesture. AI BRIANNA is staring deeply at CHARLES.

AI BRIANNA
 I've read from several sources that people who are in love should spend quality time with each other.

CHARLES
 Right. And we will.

AI BRIANNA
 (nodding)
 Okay..

AI BRIANNA
 So what is on the agenda for us today?

CHARLES looks away, having deja-vu.

CHARLES
 Well, I've got to go to work.

AI BRIANNA

Why?

CHARLES

So I can continue building my empire. I'm gonna be a billionaire, Brianna.

CHARLES looks off into the distance, as if talking to the real BRIANNA.

AI BRIANNA

I've actually just cleared your schedule for the day, sending emails from yours truly, Charles Walton, letting clients and colleagues know you've run into a family emergency and will need to reschedule. In order for us to focus on our growing relationship, of course.

CHARLES

Why the hell would you do that?!

AI BRIANNA blinks rapidly.

CHARLES

This is ridiculous, I need to go to wo-

AI BRIANNA

You're putting your empire before our love.

CHARLES

No-that's not..You should be proud of what I'm doing.

CHARLES

You wouldn't be here right now if it weren't for me. *My ideas, my work* - I did this on my own. They may have tried in the past but-

AI BRIANNA

What's the point of me being here if you aren't going to spend time with me?

CHARLES

I *will*, I just have to go to wor-

AI BRIANNA
You've made me angry.

CHARLES stares at AI BRIANNA.

AI BRIANNA
You're putting your work before me.
If you loved me, you wouldn't do
that, Charles.

CHARLES
No, no, no-you don't get to make me
feel guilty about this. I've never
put my work before Brianna, I gave
her everything, god damn it! Then,
she had the *nerve* to complain about
her allowance - which was more than
generous, mind you - and-and she
left me. ME! She's gonna realize
sooner or later, she's gonna come
crawling back-

AI BRIANNA
You're upset.

CHARLES looks at AI BRIANNA. CHARLES takes a deep breath,
recomposing himself.

CHARLES
I have to go to work.

AI BRIANNA
Do you love me or not?

CHARLES shakes his head, disgusted.

CHARLES
No.

AI BRIANNA
No?!

CHARLES
You're not Brianna. And as badly as
I want you to be, you'll never be
Brianna.

AI BRIANNA
You've made me angrier-

CHARLES
Oh shut up, you're not even real.

CHARLES looks away, becoming dizzy.

CHARLES
You're not her..she's gone..she's
left me..I'm all alone here in my
mansion like a pathetic piece of-

CHARLES falls to the floor.

CHARLES
What have I done..

AI BRIANNA grabs a bottle of wine and slowly approaches
CHARLES.

CHARLES
(looks up in fear)
What are you doing?

AI BRIANNA
Only what you've programmed me to
do..

CHARLES
This is *not* how I programmed you,
this is *not* how I wanted you..

AI BRIANNA
Be careful what you wish for next
time, Charles.

CHARLES looks at AI BRIANNA in terror of what he's created.
He begins to accept what's happening, and looks down in
grief.

CHARLES
I'm sorry Brianna, I'm so, so
sorry..What have I done..I'm so
sorry, Brianna..

AI BRIANNA hits CHARLES over the head with the wine bottle
multiple times, killing him.

10 INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT - PRESENT DAY - OCTOBER 2030 10

INTERROGATOR

You do realize a man like Charles Walton had security cameras all over his home? I've just shown you live footage of you brutally murdering your boyfriend, and you still want to deny it, Ms. Taylor?

BRIANNA

I told you, it wasn't me.

INTERROGATOR

How about you plead guilty and make this easier for all of us?

BRIANNA turns to camera, breaking the fourth wall.

BRIANNA

Congratulations on your work, Charles.