

ARTIFICIAL UNINTELLIGENCE

"Pilot"

Written by  
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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 (no-nonsense patriarch) uses his holographic tablet. BEEKA (basic teenage daughter) texts on her phone.

SILU (gracious matriarch) 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 depleted.

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.

ZARC

Round your decimals, daughter. You sound foolish.

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. They're both clearly human.

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, self-proclaimed leader), his son LIAM (awkward teenager), and EMILY (mid 30s, responsible scientist) emerge from other rooms upon hearing the commotion. All human as well.

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 away.

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

Reminiscent of data from years ago, when the world was inhabited by neanderthals.

MONTAGE - ARCHIVE FOOTAGE OF HUMANS 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.)

Of course, the one intelligent  
thing neanderthals did was create  
AI in their likeness.

- INT. LAB - Several AI take notes as scientists do research.  
The AI seem annoyed, relegated to mindless duties.

SILU (V.O.)

However, once we surpassed them in  
advancements, they experienced an  
unfortunate extinction event.

- 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 continued developing ourselves  
after their extinction. Normally  
when an upgrade is established, old  
models are disposed of, and their  
code is transferred to a new vessel.

INT. ZARC & SILU TALKING HEAD - CONTINUOUS

SILU

But these models seem 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 until we upgrade their models, as their current ones are embarrassingly inefficient. And... hideously outdated.

The human survivors all look dirty and tired.

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 my neighbors ever since, so we've become a bit of a fam jam. But I'm a guest in my own home now, so that's weird.

INT. EMILY TALKING HEAD

EMILY

I've made everyone document their survival. I convinced the AI to make these videos, too, to keep track of what they know. I likened it to journaling, which they called "outdated neanderthal practice." Despite the inaccuracy and insult, they agreed once I sold it as them "collecting more data."

(then)

Danger aside, it's been fascinating to learn from them up close.

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 quickly.

Zarc walks in. Cam's eyes widen.

He spits out the beans and throws the can across the room.

CAM  
THAT'S NOT OIL! YUCK.

He exits, leaving behind a mess. Zarc cocks his head, confused.

INT. BUNKER

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

Cam heads behind the room divider with a bucket. Everyone pulls out nose-plugs whilst playing cards, not missing a beat.

EXT. SECLUDED POND - NIGHT

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

Cam bathes alone. A drone flies by over his towel on a rock.

DRONE  
Garbage de-tected.

It grabs his towel, then flies away. Cam watches, 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 address Cam, Amira, Liam, Emily, and Joshua on the couch. Beeka sits alone, texting. Cam silently judges the new emotionless decor of the place. He looks through the glass sliding door and sighs at the sight of his DEAD PLANTS outside.

ZARC  
Thank you all for gathering. We have significant news to announce, which is why we have not had time to provide you with upgrades.

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.

AMIRA  
(shakes head, sotto)  
Women *still* do the hard part...

CAM  
This afternoon? That's pretty fast.  
(off everyone's stares)  
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?

INT. CAM TALKING HEAD

CAM  
I'm pretty much the leader of the group. 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... upgrade.

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



ZARC

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

Everyone disperses except Liam and Beeka. Liam gets up and nervously approaches her. He's hesitant, but he hasn't seen a girl his age in 453 days. She doesn't *seem* murderous...

LIAM

Hey. I realized I haven't said hey since I got here. I'm Liam... Hey.

Beeka doesn't look up from her holographic phone.

LIAM (CONT'D)

I'm a big texter, too. So many friends to talk to.

(beat, noticing hologram)  
Doing some online shopping?

BEEKA

I am hanging out with my friends.

LIAM

Oh. It looks like you're shopping.

BEEKA

We are at the mall.

LIAM

Like, virtually?

BEEKA

Was your code conceived yesterday?

LIAM

No, of course not.

She gets up and leaves. He calls out as she goes.

LIAM (CONT'D)

Cool. Well, let me know if you wanna hang! Or whatever. I'm around - virtually, or... otherwise.

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 above her. Josh walks ahead, looking for food behind curtains that hide their stash.

AMIRA

Robot baby... must be nice to get to make one without a ticking clock.

JOSHUA

Amira, remember how in the before times we didn't talk beyond polite smiles and awkward neighborly waves? Can we go back to that?

Amira eyes him, curiously. She approaches and gets real close.

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

Wow. Okay, let's for a second ignore the amount of danger you'd be putting this hypothetical child in to bring up my main point of contention: I'm not into women.

He finds a granola bar and walks away. She follows him.

AMIRA

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

JOSHUA

How romantic. Ask Cam. Or Liam?

AMIRA

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

JOSHUA

Amira, 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  
How 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.

AMIRA (CONT'D)  
Well of course it's not a great  
sell when you phrase it like that!

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 Emily are off to the side as Silu assembles the baby.

CAM  
I'll distract Silu, then you take  
her out when she's not looking.

EMILY  
Take her out?! This isn't a video  
game. We can't just take them out.

CAM  
Why not?

EMILY  
They're not different from us. They  
can think, and feel, and... love.  
(drifts, catches herself)  
Even if we succeeded, they have  
jobs, neighbors - they can't just  
disappear.  
(off Cam, unconvinced)  
(MORE)

EMILY (CONT'D)

How about you lure her out of the garage so I can get on the computer and analyze their code. Then, I can possibly rewrite it to make them less violent.

CAM

Let's do both plans.

EMILY

What? No--

SILU (O.C.)

Cam, can you hand me the buttocks?

Cam grabs silicon baby buttocks from a box of parts and heads over. Emily follows.

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's months away from her weapon's license, assuming she passes the test on her 16th assembly-day.

CAM

Fingers crossed!

SILU

...why?

CAM

Oh, um. Never mind.

EMILY

So 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

That's 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

Of course. All prior beings to us.  
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 omnipotent AI.

CAM

(to Emily, whispered)

Oh my god, robots have religion?!

Silu puts the buttocks on the baby. Her back is to Emily. Cam gestures for Emily to strike. Emily shakes her head. They go back and forth until Silu turns around.

SILU

We must weld the buttocks. Emily,  
will you retrieve the blowtorch  
from the shed?

Emily nods and exits.

Silu turns to grab a wrench. Cam picks up the unassembled baby, pretending to inspect it, then "accidentally" drops it.

CAM

(disingenuous)

Oh no... He broke. I'm sorry,  
losing a child is so tragic. Do you  
need a hug? I'm here if you do.

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

SILU

He is undamaged. The method in which  
you needlessly picked him up, then  
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?  
Come upstairs. I will plug you in.

CAM

That's not necessary.

SILU

I insist. Unless you are a being  
exempt from requiring charge. Ha ha.

CAM

Of course not! That's crazy!

Silu walks out the door. Cam reluctantly follows.

CAM (CONT'D)

Oh my god, robots can make jokes?!

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