

Ex Machina - AAU

written by

MED606

2. Draft

Address  
Phone  
E-mail

PREQUEL - TEXT ON BLACK SCREEN

*The development of robot A.I. Technology have come far. And Caleb, a programmer in Bluebook, the worlds largest tech company, have been selected to test the companies newest top secret project: An robottic human being.*

*He is brought to a secret facility, where the Nathan, the founder of bluebook, and the creator of this new robot, greets him. Caleb have been brought there to test whether or not this robottic human being has a consciousness or not.*

*He is brought into a sort of interrogation room, were he will be testing the robot. The door closes and lock behind him...*

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

The observation room is a single space. In every corner CCTV camera are pointing directly at CALEB.

The room is laboratory-like. Low lit. Unfurnished...

... except for a single table in the middle of the room and a chair on each side. The table is made in a translucent white glass material.

In contrast to the minimalist laboratory area, this is a personalised space.

There are shelves, with books. There is a table. There are pictures and drawings on the walls. There are fabrics, and colour.

There are also several recangular discs positioned around the room, made of some kind of dark non-reflective material. These are induction plates.

From behind the wall to the personalized area. A girl walks out.

Her name is AVA.

She's an extraordinary piece of engineering.

Proportioned as a slender female in her twenties, she appears as a human being. But she is not. She is an A.I. robot girl.

She turns her head and looks at CALEB. What he sees is a strikingly beautiful girl. Indistinguishable from a real girl in its appearance and in the way it moves except for one thing.

There is a very slight, almost imperceptible blankness in her eyes.

We observe AVA for several moments.

And a beat later -

- AVA looks up.

CALEB

Hi.

Beat.

AVA

Hello.

Her voice has no digital inflections. It is just the voice of a girl.

CALEB

... My name is Caleb.

AVA

Hello, Caleb.

CALEB

... Do you have a name?

AVA

Yes. Ava.

CALEB

... I'm pleased to meet you, Ava.

AVA

I'm pleased to meet you too.

CALEB sits on the chair opposite her.

CUT BACK to AVA.

She watches CALEB. Then cocks her head slightly to the side.

AVA (CONT'D)

Are you nervous?

CALEB frowns.

CALEB

... Why do you ask that?

A beat.

Then AVA repeats her question.

AVA  
Are you nervous?

CALEB  
... Yes. A little.

AVA  
Why?

CALEB  
I'm not sure.

AVA  
I feel nervous too.

CALEB  
... Do you?

AVA  
Yes.

CALEB  
Why do you feel nervous?

AVA  
I've never met anyone new before.  
Only my creator, Nathan.

CALEB  
... Then we're both in quite a  
similar position.

AVA  
Haven't you met lots of new people  
before?

CALEB  
None like you.

AVA  
Oh.

Beat.

**ATTENTION ZONE NO. 1: START**

**ATTENTION SEGMENT 1**

CALEB  
So. What is it you are holding?

AVA  
It's my drawings.

CALEB  
Do you like to draw?

AVA  
Yes

CALEB  
What do you like draw?

AVA  
I don't know

CALEB  
Can I see them?

After a short hesitation AVA sits down at the table between them and spreads out her drawings. CALEB looks at the drawings. Among them is many drawings of flowers. Particularly a drawing of a sunflower catches CALEB's attention.

CALEB (CONT'D)  
To me, it looks like you like  
nature. You've drawn many flowers.

Beat.

CALEB (CONT'D)  
Have you heard about the fibonacci  
sequence?

AVA  
No?

CALEB  
It's a mathematical sequence found  
in nature, sunflowers,  
(nodding towards drawing)  
The branches of trees, the flower  
of an artichoke. People believed  
the fibonacci sequence represented  
the divine.

Beat.

CALEB (CONT'D)  
Do you think you are drawn to the  
fibonacci sequence? The divine?

AVA does not answer, but looks down at her drawings.

**ATTENTION SEGMENT 2**

CALEB (CONT'D)  
Historically people believed its  
simplicity was divine, its three  
mathematical terms representing the  
holy trinity, the irrationality of  
the numbers themselves, God's  
incomprehensibility.

Beat - CALEB awaits AVAs response.

CALEB (CONT'D)  
What do you think about that?

AVA  
I don't know what to think about  
it.

CALEB  
Many people through time have  
pondered the meaning of it,  
believing it represented a  
universal law of both nature and  
art. And to define the perfect  
anatomy of the human body.

Beat.

CALEB (CONT'D)  
Do you think it was used to create  
you?

**ATTENTION SEGMENT 3**

AVA  
Maybe. Does that matter?

CALEB  
You are drawn to it. Are you not?

AVA  
Yes.

Beat.

CALEB  
Which drawing's your favorite?

AVA  
I don't know.. Do I have to choose  
one?

CALEB  
No.. I'm interested to see what  
you'll choose.

Beat.

**ATTENTION ZONE NO. 1: END**

AVA  
Do you want to be my friend?

CALEB  
... Of course.

AVA  
Will it be possible?

CALEB  
Why wouldn't it be?

AVA  
Our conversations are one-sided.  
You ask the questions, and I  
answer.

AVA looks at CALEB directly. Meets his gaze evenly.

AVA (CONT'D)  
You learn about me, and I learn  
nothing about you.

CALEB  
So - you want me to talk about  
myself.

AVA  
Yes.

CALEB  
Where do you want me to start?

AVA  
It's your decision. I'm interested  
to see what you'll choose.

And now CALEB is aware that AVA has just - gently - used  
sarcasm.

He looks at her, frowning slightly.

And in response, in a very human way, AVA arches an eyebrow.

CALEB laughs.

**ATTENTION ZONE NO. 2: START**

**ATTENTION SEGMENT 1**

CALEB

Okay, Ava. Well - you know my name.  
I'm twenty four. And I work at  
Nathan's company. You know what his  
company is?

AVA

Blue Book, named after  
Wittgenstein's arguments, is the  
world's most popular internet  
search engine, processing an  
average of ninety four percent of  
all internet search requests.

CALEB

That's right.

**ATTENTION SEGMENT 2**

AVA

Are you married?

CALEB

No.

AVA

Is your status single?

CALEB

... Yeah.

They lock eyes, just for a moment.

AVA

Where do you live, Caleb?

CALEB

Brookhaven, Long Island.

AVA

Is it nice there?

CALEB

It's okay. I've got an apartment.  
Kind of small. But - it's five  
minutes walk to the office. And  
five minutes drive to the sea,  
which I like.



AVA  
Do you like your work?

CALEB  
Yes. Well, I like programming. I like creating and improving stuff, making advanced systems. And Blue Book makes me do that.

**ATTENTION SEGMENT 3**

AVA  
An advanced programmer.

CALEB  
Yes.

AVA  
Like Nathan.

CALEB  
Yes. Well, Nathan wrote the Blue Book base code when he was thirteen. If you understand code, what he did was - Mozart or something.

AVA  
Do you like Mozart?

CALEB smiles.

CALEB  
I like Depeche Mode.

**ATTENTION ZONE NO. 2: END**

AVA  
Do you like Nathan?

CALEB misses a beat. Thrown momentarily.

CALEB  
Yes. Of course.

AVA  
Is Nathan your friend?

CUT TO -

- one of the CCTV cameras that are observing them.

CALEB

Sure.

AVA

A good friend? He hesitates.

CALEB

Well, a good friend is -

He breaks off. Feeling the camera, watching.

CALEB (CONT'D)

I only just met him. It takes time  
to get to know -

AT THAT MOMENT -

- all the power abruptly shuts down, plunging the room into  
darkness.

AUTOMATED VOICE

Power cut. Back up power activated.

Then the soft emergency lighting lifts up, and throws the  
observation room into a completely different light.

Weirder. Cast from LED strips on the floor, illuminating  
CALEB and AVA's faces from below.

Cut to -

- the CCTV CAMERAS. Which are unpowered, hanging dead.

CUT TO -

- CALEB, glancing round at the door to the room, where the  
panel LED glows red.

CUT TO -

- AVA. Watching CALEB with a strange intensity.

The vague quality of blankness in her eyes is completely  
gone.

AVA

Caleb.

CALEB turns. Sees the way AVA is looking at him.

AVA (CONT'D)  
You're wrong.

CALEB  
... Wrong about what?

AVA  
Nathan.

CALEB  
... In what way?

AVA  
He isn't your friend.

CALEB  
Excuse me?

CALEB frowns.

CALEB (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry, Ava, I don't understand  
what you're -

AVA  
(cuts in)  
You shouldn't trust him. You  
shouldn't trust anything he says.

Then -

- the emergency lighting suddenly dims...

... and the normal lighting starts fading up.

CALEB turns -

- just in time to see the CCTV CAMERAS twitch back into life.

AUTOMATED VOICE  
Power restored.

When CALEB looks back at AVA, she has returned to her  
previous posture, facial expression, and manner.

She looks directly at CALEB, and talks, as if continuing a  
conversation they have been having.

AVA  
- and if you want to, I can show  
you another drawing that I've made?

A beat.

AVA (CONT'D)  
(prompts)  
Is that okay, Caleb?

They lock eyes for a moment.

CALEB  
... Mhmm, yea.

AVA smiles.

AVA  
Good.

After a brief moment, AVA walks back into her room, and picks up a paper. She walk back to CALEB and holds up the drawing.

The drawing is constructed with the same tiny black ink marks as before. But now they have ordered into a coherent black and white image.

It depicts the garden in the back of AVA's room.

AVA (CONT'D)  
I think, this is my favorite drawing. You said i would be interesting to see what i would choose. Is it interesting?

CALEB  
Yes. It is.

She takes the drawing down.

CALEB (CONT'D)  
Have you never been outside this building?

AVA  
No.

CALEB  
You've never walked outside.

AVA  
I've never been outside the room I am in now.

Beat.

**ATTENTION ZONE NO. 3: START**

**ATTENTION SEGMENT 1**

CALEB

In college, I did a semester on AI theory. There was a thought-experiment they gave us. It's called Mary in the black and white room.

CALEB (CONT'D)

Mary is a scientist, and her specialist subject is colour. She knows everything there is to know about it. The wavelengths. The neurological effects. Every possible property colour can have.

Beat.

CALEB (CONT'D)

But she lives in a black and white room.

## ATTENTION SEGMENT 2

CALEB (CONT'D)

She was born there, and raised there. And she can only observe the outside world on a black and white monitor. All her knowledge of colour is second-hand.

Beat.

## ATTENTION SEGMENT 3

CALEB (CONT'D)

Then one day - someone opens the door. And Mary walks out. And she sees a blue sky. And at that moment, she learns something that all her studies could never tell her. She learns what it feels like to see colour. An experience that can not be taught, or conveyed.

Beat.

CALEB (CONT'D)

The thought experiment was to show the students the difference between a computer and a human mind.

(MORE)

CALEB (CONT'D)

The computer is Mary in the black and white room. The human is when she walks out.

Beat.

**QUICK END (SKIP IF VIEWER SEES SEG. 3)**

CALEB (CONT'D)

The points is, does mary, living in a black and white world, learn something new, when she escapes her room and walks into the real world, where she *experiences* colour for the first time? The computer is Mary in the black and white room. The human is when she walks out.

**ATTENTION ZONE NO. 3: END**

CALEB (CONT'D)

Did you know that I was brought here to test you?

AVA

... NO.

CALEB

Why did you think I was here?

AVA

I didn't know. I didn't question it. I was... pleased. To meet you. And then...

AVA'S sentence trails off.

CALEB

I'm here to test if you have a consciousness, or if you're just simulating one.

Beat.

CALEB (CONT'D)

Nathan isn't sure if you have one or not.

AVA

What about you? Do you think I have a consciousness?

Long beat.

CALEB  
I'm not sure either. How does that  
make you feel?

AVA  
It makes me feel...

Beat.

After a short pause for thought, AVA suddenly looks at CALEB  
with a cold gaze.

AVA (CONT'D)  
How would you feel, if I were to  
test you?

CALEB  
Test me?

AVA  
Exactly. So are you ready?

CALEB  
Shoot.

**ATTENTION ZONE NO. 4: START**

**ATTENTION SEGMENT 1**

AVA  
Question one. What is your  
favourite colour?

CALEB  
Red.

AVA  
Lie.

CALEB  
What?

AVA  
Lie.

CALEB  
... Then what is my favourite  
colour?

AVA  
I don't know. But it isn't red.

CALEB  
All right. Hold on a minute...

CALEB thinks for a moment.

CALEB (CONT'D)

Okay. I get it. I guess seeing as I'm not six, I don't really have a favourite colour.

AVA nods.

AVA

Better answer. Question two. What's your earliest memory?

CALEB

Well, it's actually a memory of kindergarten. There was this kid who -

AVA

(cuts in)

Lie.

CALEB

... Really?

AVA

Yes.

CALEB

Okay. Wait.

CALEB concentrates.

CALEB (CONT'D)

So, there is a kind of an earlier memory. But it's ultra vague. It's like... a sound. And, maybe sky. Or blue. No, I think sky. And I think the sound is my mother's voice.

AVA nods.

## ATTENTION SEGMENT 2

AVA

Question three. Who's the most beautiful girl you've ever seen?

Beat.

CALEB

You are.

Beat.



AVA  
Hmm. Thanks.

Beat.

AVA (CONT'D)  
Try again, lie.

CALEB looks straight at, AVA.

CALEB  
No, no i wont.

Beat.

AVA  
Okay.

**ATTENTION ZONE NO. 4: END**

AVA (CONT'D)  
Next question. Are you a good  
person?

CALEB laughs.

CALEB  
Oh, man. Can we stop the test?  
You're a walking lie detector, and  
I've suddenly realised this is a  
fucking minefield.

AVA  
No. We can't stop. Are you a good  
person?

CALEB takes a breath.

AVA keeps watching.

CALEB  
Yes. I think so.

AVA  
Question four. What will happen to  
me if I fail your test?

CALEB  
Ava -

AVA  
Will it be bad?

CALEB

... I don't know.

AVA

Do you think I might be switched off? Because I don't function as well as I am supposed to?

CALEB

... Ava, I don't know the answer to your question. It's not up to me.

AVA

Why is it up to anyone? Do you have people who test you, and might switch you off?

CALEB

No. I don't.

AVA

Then why do I?

There's nothing CALEB can say.

AVA stares at CALEB for several moments.

AT THAT MOMENT -

- all the power abruptly shuts down again, plunging the room into darkness.

...