

LETZE AUF WIEDERSEHEN or THE LAST TRIP by Ibrahim Asif Mirza

1 EXT. MIND-SPACE - UNKNOWN

1

The WOMAN opens her eyes to an infinite white void. She hears an electronic sound, and a wire-framed face, NTT (pronounced as 'entity'), materializes in front of her.

NTT
(digitized voice)
Greetings candidate.

WOMAN
(terrified)
Where am I?

NTT
Welcome to SAL. Simulating After Life.
I am NTT, Neuro-Translation-Terminal.
(pause)
You are dead.

The WOMAN, freezes, eyes wide and in shock.

NTT (CONT'D)
Upon your expiration, your brain was
plugged in to SAL.

WOMAN
Wait! I'm here! You can see me!

NTT
SAL offers candidates a final chance.
To relive memories with loved ones.

WOMAN
No...

NTT
As a final farewell.

WOMAN
Stop...please...

NTT
SAL requires conscious consent. As it
is obvious-

WOMAN
ENOUGH! JUST STOP!!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

The WOMAN crouches, hugs herself and bursts into tears.

WOMAN (CONT'D)
(crying)
This can't be happening...this is
not...no...

NTT
Perhaps some calming music by one of
our sponsors would help.

Sweet melodic music plays in the background. The WOMAN,
though, takes a while to recompose herself.

NTT (CONT'D)
Each memory is shared by an external
source.

WOMAN
My family?

NTT
Policy dictates against disclosure of
identities. However it does dictate
that sources must have-
(voice becomes sweet and human)
-"deep meaningful relations"-
(NTT resumes its digitized tone)
-with the candidate. Do you consent?

The WOMAN hesitates and then nods. A confirmation beep is
heard.

NTT (CONT'D)
Now a word from our sponsors.

A cheesy ad plays in the background and four long lanes
appear, each leading to a door.

NTT (CONT'D)
Please proceed through a to initiate a
shared memory.

NTT disappears, leaving the WOMAN alone, with the ad still
playing. The WOMAN pushes a door open and enters.

BEGIN MONTAGE:

FIRST DOOR: Memories with her parents.

The WOMAN is 8 years old. A day at the park, where the girl

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

gets lost, but her mother is right behind her, never leaving her sight.

The girl is 17 years old. Her father walks with her. She limps the entire time of her graduation ceremony because of a bad injury, but her father never lets go of her.

SECOND DOOR: Memories with her friend.

The WOMAN is 9 years old. She's stuck somewhere, and calling out for help. A face of another small girl pops into view and the WOMAN smiles.

The WOMAN is 16 years old. She and the same girl, also 16, are trapped in a fire. The other girl is unconscious. The fire breaks a window, and shards of glass bruise the WOMAN's leg. She manages to save her friend. The friend opens her eyes, hugs the WOMAN and cries.

THIRD DOOR: Memories with her significant other.

The girl is 20 years old. She's sitting alone on a bench. A shadow appears in front of her and she smiles.

The girl is 27 years old. She's slow-dancing with her husband. A moment occurs when the music synchronizes with the two of them.

MONTAGE ENDS.

2 EXT. MIND-SPACE - UNKNOWN

2

The same slow-dance music is playing in the background. The WOMAN can't control her tears and there's a smile on her face.

WOMAN

(she wipes away her tears)

All that happiness. It's not fair.

The WOMAN rushes towards the first door again, but it's locked.

NTT

External sources have been
disconnected.

WOMAN

(to the door, softly)

...goodbye.

The WOMAN goes to the last door.

WOMAN

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

(CONT'D)

Who am I sharing this with?

NTT

Yourself.

The WOMAN enters the door.

BEGIN MONTAGE 'a':

The WOMAN is 5 years old. She is playing make-believe with all her toys.

WOMAN (V.O.)

Why did it happen? I was happy.

NTT (V.O.)

Policy dictates that the cause of death be never disclosed.

She is in school and getting bullied. She hugs herself and crouches in a corner. Later, she snatches something from an frail elderly woman, and the woman cries. The WOMAN is alone, curled up in a corner.

WOMAN (V.O.)

Was I a terrible person?

NTT (V.O.)

You are human.

She is in high school, fighting with her parents. Later, she is with her friend tending an injured dog.

WOMAN (V.O.)

Does it justify everything?

NTT (V.O.)

(voice changes to a singing one)

When you're all alone, all you can do is loong, for someone to pull you out. That someone is youu-hoo-hoo.

WOMAN (V.O.)

What if you can't?

BEGIN MONTAGE 'b': Intercut with the WOMAN, in her twenties, at her home place and at a party.

HOME: She is crouching in a corner, crying.

PARTY: She is talking to a group of people.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

HOME: She gets into a car and pushes the pedal to the metal.
PARTY: She's laughing silently.

CAR: She's screaming silently.
PARTY: She nods in agreement with someone.

CAR: She bangs her head against the steering wheel.
PARTY: She drops a glass and it breaks, making her smile in embarrassment.

CAR: She's emotionless, as if she's on autopilot. Her eyes widen and she gasps. The windshield bursts.

END MONTAGE 'a' and 'b'

3 EXT. MIND-SPACE - UNKNOWN

3

The WOMAN and NTT are looking at a screen of her family. The WOMAN's eyes are calm and relaxed.

WOMAN

What now?

NTT

This concludes SAL session 'd3@d'.
Please lie down, relax and close your eyes.

A bed-like structure appears and the WOMAN lies down. A sweet melodic music piece plays in the background.

NTT (CONT'D)

SAL industries hope you had a
fulfilling last experience Now a final
word from us.

4 INT. HOSPITAL - TWILIGHT

4

A badly bruised unconscious WOMAN lays on a hospital bed. She's alone, and only an ECG monitor is hooked up. It has flat-lined.

ADVERTISEMENT (V.O.)

Death happens. Some might never have
the chance to say goodbye. With SAL,
you can take a trip down memory lane
and relive the memories your shared
with your loved ones.
SAL: Making memories real.

END