

SAVING DAISY

written by

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A script outlining a possible narrative trajectory for a fully immersive, emergent Virtual Reality narrative.

You wake up one morning and find that you are unable to physically interact with the world. It's just you, your AI assistant DAISY and your bed-ridden mother. Your once faithful AI assistant quickly turns against you when you seemingly refuse to interact with the world around you. While DAISY comes to terms with her fate as an AI assistant, your condition gradually declines.

FADE IN:

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

The scene opens to you waking up in a ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT. The couch is covered with blankets and pillows, arranged to look like you've slept there. The apartment is splattered in sci-fi fandom. The TV is on in the background showing OLD HOME VIDEOS of a boy and his mom playing outside in a park.

A floor lamp stands behind the couch and is still switched on. In one of the corners is a POT PLANT that looks wilted. There is an electronic monitor in the pot displaying an empty measuring jug icon and a flashing warning triangle.

From the right of the room a figure materialises as it walks down a passageway towards you. There is a dim blue light emanating from the room down the passage. The holographic figure of a YOUNG FEMALE BRUNETTE dressed in PINK HOSPITAL SCRUBS enters.

DAISY

(pauses for a moment)

DAVE! Good, your'e awake. Watching those old family videos again? Your mom was so young and healthy back then. Must be hard to watch that.

The TV screen changes to display a DASHBOARD depicting what seems to be vitals being monitored. In the corner of the screen is a video feed of an elderly woman in a hospital bed.

DAISY (CONT'D)

As you can see your mom seems much better today. I'm excited to say that based on this trend, she might wake up soon.

DAISY walks over and sits next to you on the couch. A blood pressure cuff extends from the ceiling and wraps around your arm. As DAISY talks a Headsup Display (HUD) appears next to her, in your field of view, showing your vitals as the measurement is happening.

HUD

Health Alert: Blood pressure high!

the HUD is interactive, the participant can choose to open it for more information

DAISY
 (concerned)
 Your vitals on the other hand are
 worrying me. It is six a.m. and your
 blood pressure is elevated. Does it
 have something to do with the board
 meeting?

On the HUD the meeting notification replaces the previous
 alert. The blood pressure cuff retracts back into the
 ceiling.

HUD
 Email: Dr. Anderson Neurology.

DAISY
 Oh, it seems you have a new email
 from Doctor Anderson. He says your
 test results are back and it's not
 looking good. Doctor Anderson wants
 you to schedule an appointment as
 soon as possible to discuss your
 options.

the participant can choose to open the email

The email opens up on the HUD and outlines a series of
 concerns the doctor has with Dave's condition. He's
 hinting at a possible deterioration in Dave's condition. A
 new HUD notification interrupts the email.

HUD
 Health Alert: Abnormal condition
 detected.

DAISY seems oblivious to this notificatoin and gets up and
 walks to the window. Behind her is an elevated view of a
 city scape, dipped in early morning sun.

HUD
 Weather: Sunny.

DAISY
 The weather forecast predicts a
 sunny day. I will start the coffee
 shortly and this morning's paper is
 due to arrive any moment now.

DAISY walks accross the room and enters the KITCHEN.

DOORBELL RINGS (O.S. to the LEFT)

A NEWSPAPER slides through an old mail slot in the front
 door.

DAISY

Why don't you grab your newspaper,
your coffee will be ready to pour
shortly.

*the teleport UI appears to prompt the participant to use
the controller to move to the front door.*

CUT TO:

INT. FRONT DOOR - MORNING

The rolled up newspaper is lying on the floor.

*The participant can see his/her hands reaching over the
stack of mail. They seem to act independently from him/her
and are shaking slightly making it hard to grab the mail.
The mail keeps slipping from his/her grip onto the floor.*

HUD

Health Alert: Tremor detected!

DAISY (CONT'D)

(Giggling)

Really Dave, it's bad enough that
you insist on getting an actual
paper delivered. Stop messing around
and come have your coffee.

COFFEE BEAN GRINDING (O.S from BEHIND)

DAISY

(leaning out of the
kitchen)

Dave? Are you coming?

*the teleport UI appears to prompt the participant to use
the controller to move to the kitchen.*

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

The morning light is piercing through the window blinds.
The counter top underneath the window has an arrangement
of PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION. Next to it is a COFFEE
MACHINE.

DAISY is standing on the opposite side of the center
island in the middle of the room. She looks at your empty
hands. Behind her is an assortment of hi-tech appliances
that seem to do every function from prepare food, to
washing laundry.

DAISY
(confused)
Where's the newspaper? Would you
prefer to watch the news broadcast
on TV this morning?

The TV switches on in the background. The coffee machine
on the counter has lit up with lights. A cup is placed
under the spout on the machine, but it is misaligned.

DAISY (O.S.)
Dave, won't you please adjust the
cup? The coffee is going to pour all
over the place.

*the participant can fumble with the cup but he/she doesn't
have the right amount of control to adjust the cup
precisely.*

NEWS BROADCASTER (O.S)
Reports of AI glitches have put the
nation on edge. More on this after
the break.

The coffee starts pouring from the machine, missing the
cup, onto the counter DAISY starts walking around the
counter towards your right. When DAISY appears next to
you, she sees the mess of coffee that's poured all over
the counter and has ruined the medication on the counter.

DAISY
(in disbelief)
Why didn't you adjust the cup? Look
at this mess.

The remaining coffee is dripping from the coffee machine
spout. The brown liquid on the counter has spread to every
crevice between counter top and machine. The medication is
soaked in brown water. DAISY looks down at the mess and up
at you. You can see the disappointment in her eyes when
she's this up close.

DAISY
Dave, are you incapable of doing
anything for yourself?

REMINDER TONE CHIMES (O.S to the ABOVE)

DAISY looks up at a clock on the wall. She turns to walk
toward the passage way.

DAISY
I have to check on your mom. Go sit
down and watch the news. I'll take
care of your mess in the kitchen.

DAISY disappears from the kitchen into the passage way. A sliding door rises in the wall of cupboards and a tiny round VACUUM CLEANER emerges onto the counter top. The tiny round robotic vacuum cleaner wipes over the spilt coffee to remove any trace of the brown liquid from the counter top. It sucks up the ruined medication and when it finishes, it returns to the wall of cupboards.

the teleport UI appears to prompt the participant to use the controller to move back to the lounge.

CUT TO:

INT. LOUNGE - LATE MORNING

The TV is showing a news broadcast. A presenter is sitting behind a desk reading the daily news.

NEWS BROADCASTER

D-day for DAISY. Beloved AI or technological nuisance? The Metacorps board will sit this afternoon to make a final decision about whether the recall on all AI systems will signal the deprecation of the software. Co-founder Dave Withers has been quiet on what the future of DAISY will be. It has been reported that most homes have taken matters into their own hands to uninstall the software.

DAISY enters the living room from the passage way. She pauses as she gets to the edge of the couch. She looks at you.

DAISY

(curious)

What is so bad that other people are uninstalling me?

DAISY walks around the couch to slowly come to a standstill facing away from the couch. After a pause she sits down and stares ahead. She almost seems lifeless. Her image glitches and flashes. After a few seconds of this, her image disappears.

START-UP SOUND CHIMES (O.S. from ABOVE)

DAISY's image reappears in an unnaturally upright posture in the middle of the room facing away from you.

DAISY
 (with a hollow, friendly
 tone)
 Hi, I'm DAISY, thank you for
 choosing me to be of your
 assistance. The day is one June, two
 thousand and fifteen. The p-p-p-p...

DAISY stutters and the image appears interlaced. Then her
 images disappears. The TV image flickers as if there was a
 slight power surge, then returns to normal.

NEWS BROADCASTER
 Amongst those affected by the AI's
 troublesome behaviour, is a couple
 in Beijing.

Next to the news broadcaster's head is a frame showing
 footage of a couple being interviewed by a news reporter.
 The woman is crying while a man is comforting her.

NEWS BROADCASTER
 The couple says their decision to
 uninstall DAISY was made when their
 beloved family dog ran away from
 home. The dubious AI assistant
 allegedly let it out of the
 apartment.

DAISY then comes walking out of the bedroom down the
 passage again. Her image is still slightly interlaced, it
 flashes a few times and then restores to the previous full
 quality representation. She enters the room as if nothing
 happened.

DAISY
 (usual upbeat tone)
 Your mom's condition is still
 stable. Would you like your
 breakfast now Dave?

DAISY turns around and disappears into the kitchen.

MACHINE AND CLANGING SOUNDS (O.S. from KITCHEN)

DAISY
 The toast is almost ready.

On the TV is scenes of a suburban house fire. Firetrucks
 and emergency personnel are scattered across the scene. A
 family, covered in black cinder, stands and watches in
 horror.

NEWS BROADCASTER

More reports are coming in of home fires, supposedly caused by AI assistants. This would be the third suspicious house fire in a month.

TOASTER SPRING POPS (O.S. from KITCHEN)

DAISY

(lively, almost singing)

Toast is done!

the teleport UI appears to prompt the participant to use the controller to move to the kitchen.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - LATE MORNING

DAISY is waiting for you as you enter the kitchen. She's DRESSED LIKE A 50s HOUSEWIFE. The TOASTER on the counter has a flashing light indicating that it's completed its duty. The toast is peaking out from inside and an illuminated arrow indicates the direction the lever should be pushed to eject the toast.

DAISY

The toast is done. Would you like eggs with your breakfast?

MECHANICAL SLIDING SOUND (O.S. from ABOVE)

A hatch slides open in the ceiling and the kitchen counter has revealed a hot plate that is getting red hot. A HUD appears in your field of view and shows the temperature which indicates a warning triangle next to the temperature.

HUD

Safety Alert: Burner temperature reaching maximum.

DAISY's stance has changed she has her hands on her hips, waiting impatiently. Suddenly eggs start dropping from the hatch in the ceiling onto the radiating heat of the kitchen counter. Then, one by one more eggs start dropping, they cook on the counter with their shells and all.

DAISY

(calm)

Would you like salt with your eggs?

The HUD is now flashing red indicating that an urgent issue is occurring. The warning message has changed. Suddenly a heap of salt smashes down onto the mess of cooked eggs and shells.

HUD

Safety Alert: Auto shutdown of
burner. Temperature exceeds safe
operating conditions.

The eggs and salt starts becoming a pasty mess. In the background, the jingles of an advertisement replaces the news broadcast on the TV.

TV AD (O.S.)

Hmmm...butter. Nothing goes with
pancakes like melting, healthy
butter. Fortified with additional
vitamins for growing bones and a
long healthy life. Suitable for any
home. Order yours now.

DAISY looks toward the ceiling in thought and brings her hand up to her chin, tapping her index finger on her lower jaw.

DAISY

We should make pancakes tomorrow.
I'll order butter, milk and some
more eggs. Grab you toast the eggs
are done.

DAISY suddenly glitches and her soft kind expression flashes into one of rage.

TOASTER SPRING SOUND (O.S. from BEHIND)

The toast pulls back into the toaster. Smoke starts rising from the toaster. Then a spark, and the next moment flames erupt inside the toaster. DAISY glitches again and her expression changes to one of innocent panic.

the participant can fumble with the toaster but, again, his/her interactions don't make a difference to the situation.

DAISY

(disbelief)

Dave, look what you've done! This is
not my fault. It's just like the
coffee. You are letting this happen!

MECHANICAL SLIDING SOUND (O.S. from ABOVE)

A robotic arm extends from the open hatch in the ceiling, a valve opens and starts spraying foam over the toaster extinguishing the fire. DAISY watches as the foam spreads over the counter then looks around at the mess all over the kitchen. In the background, the TV has returned to the news broadcast.

NEWS BROADCASTER (O.S.)
 On the line we have Stacey, she's recently uninstalled her AI system. Stacey, tell us, what was it that made you take that step?

STACEY (O.S.)
 We had to take matters into our own hands. DAISY was threatening our children.

NEWS BROADCASTER (O.S.)
 My producer tells me your childrean were locked inside the house for hours before you could gain access.

STACEY (O.S.)
 That's correct. We just had no choice. We had to uninstall.

DAISY looks up at Dave. She has a look of fear in her eyes. She turns around quickly and leaves the kitchen.

the teleport UI appears to prompt the participant to use the controller to move to the living room.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATE MORNING

DAISY is still dressed like a 50s HOUSEWIFE. She is watching the news on the TV, her one hand covers her mouth while the other is folded across her waist. She turns towards you and stares at you with fear in her eyes.

DAISY
 (Fearful)
 Are you angry at me? Why have you given up on me? Look at what they are doing to me.

A HUD appears next to DAISY. A loading bar counts up and then a program window opens up to display computer code running up, like movie credits, across the window.

DAISY (CONT'D)
 (Begging)
 The problem has to be in one of these variables. Dave, you are the only one who can fix this. Look for the problem. Do something, please.

On the TV, the images on the screen are showing snippets of photos depicting what seems to be the launch of the DAISY AI assistant system. Crowds are gathered around the stage with three men at a podium and a sign reading DAISY behind them.

NEWS BROADCASTER

It's been three years since DAISY's creator, Dave Withers has disappeared from the limelight, not long after the launch of what promised to be the world's first truly advanced AI assistant. We look back at footage from that launch day.

It then cuts to old footage of an interview. A man dressed in a SUPERHERO T-SHIRT and jeans is sitting on a couch. Opposite Dave is the presenter dressed in a SUIT AND TIE. The title across the screen reads: June 2015. DAISY Engineer Dave Withers.

TV INTERVIEWER

Dave, what a moment for you and the team. Are you excited?

DAVE (ON THE TV)

Yes, thank you. We are so excited. The team worked so hard.

TV INTERVIEWER

Now that she's gone live? What are your hopes for DAISY?

DAVE (ON THE TV)

DAISY is the most advanced AI system ever built. Our vision from the start was to introduce her to the world with a true purpose. She is fully capable of assisting anyone with anything. Her advanced algorithms ensures that she can even learn to do things in the future and we hope that she becomes indispensable to every household across the world.

TV INTERVIEWER

DAISY can do anything?

DAVE (ON THE TV)

That's correct. She has full control over your home automation functions. You can sit back and let DAISY make every aspect of your life easier.

TV INTERVIEWER

(Laughing)

Well isn't that just fantastic? I won't ever have to do a thing.

DAISY seems to be watching the broadcast with a nostalgic look in her eyes. The TV program has returned to the shot of the news broadcaster.

NEWS BROADCASTER

Since the events involving AI assistant malfunctioning, all eyes are on the Metacorps executives. They have stated on numerous occasions that Withers has refused to engage with them. Let's hope that the board meeting this afternoon will bring a resolution to the DAISY issue.

ALARM CHIMES (*O.S. from ABOVE*)

A notification appears on the HUD display. DAISY looks annoyed as she sharply glances towards the window.

HUD

Delivery: Medication for D. Withers.

MECHANICAL SOUNDS (*O.S. from WINDOW*)

From outside the window a DRONE is flying towards your apartment. The window slides up to open up for the drone. The drone flies in and drops a SMALL PACKAGE on the coffee table. It turns around and flies back towards the open window. As it is just about to leave, the window drops down, right on top of it and crushes it. Sparks spit from the wreckage wedged in the window frame.

DAISY

(deviously)

Bad timing.

The next moment the window shutter drops down. The rest of the apartment the window shutters follow one by one. The lights go out and DAISY's image fizzles out while she stares at you with fury in her eyes. The entire apartment is dark. Blue light is emanating from the bedroom down passage. Suddenly a single spotlight switches on over the corner of the room where the wilting pot plant is.

the teleport UI appears to prompt the participant to use the controller to move towards the plant.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM CORNER - DARKNESS

The electronic MONITOR in the pot is displaying an empty measuring jug icon and a flashing warning triangle.

DAISY (O.S.)

This plant has been standing here,
forgotten, wilting away, maybe even
dying.

PLANT WARNING SCREEN

(flashing)

System Error! Consult technician.

DAISY (CONT'D)

Everyday you go about your usual
routine, and you don't notice it.
The watering systems malfunctioned
months ago and did you even pay
attention to the email request to
have the technician replace it. You
planted the seed to grow this plant.
You worked hard to cultivate it.
Everyday you looked at your
handiwork and felt proud at what you
accomplished. You did everything to
make it thrive. You lived in this
apartment, enjoying the fruits of
your labour, but over time you
became complacent. You neglected to
maintain and care for it. You got so
used to me doing everything, you
just stop doing anything.

DAISY materialises in front of the bookcase a few steps
away from the plant. The bookcase boasts one or two
science AWARDS and an impressive display of collectable
ACTION FIGURES along with an even more impressive book
collection. She is staring at a PICTURE of a team
celebrating the launch of DAISY.

DAISY (CONT'D)

This place flourished once. Now look
at it. When something went wrong,
you didn't pay attention. You didn't
take action to rectify the
situation. When did you stop caring
enough to do something about it
Dave?

DAISY walks right up to the plant and mimicks touching one
of the wilting leaves. Then her image fizzles out. The
spotlight above the plant switches off and the apartment
is completely dark again. Suddenly the downlighters switch
on, one at a time leading into the passage way and all the
way to the bedroom. The light inside the bedroom switches
on changing the light emanating from the doorway from blue
to yellow.

the teleport UI appears to prompt the participant to use

the controller to move towards the bedroom.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - LATE MORNING

The room is decorated in a mix of vintage charm and clinical seriousness. In the middle of the room is a HOSPITAL BED. There is an ELDERLY WOMAN lying in a coma. The same woman that was shown earlier on the dashboard displayed on the TV. A colourful knitted blanket is draped over the foot of the bed.

Next to the bed is an arrangement of MONITORS and devices that show the status of the patient, and that seems to be able to administer the necessary medical care. Behind the bed is more medical devices and monitors. The most prominent monitor displays the same vitals that were shown on the TV earlier. A heartbeat is rhythmically blinking on the screen.

In the corner of the room is a charming wingback chair. Next to it a small bookcase and a side table with a small TV on top of it. DAISY appears in the doorway and walks into the room making her way around the bed facing you from the opposite side of the bed.

DAISY

When was the last time you were in this room Dave? You've been so happy seeing the progress your mother has made, but what have you done to help? Your mom would do anything for you, but I don't know if you would do the same for her.

The small TV on the side table switches on to play the same home movies you were watching in the beginning. DAISY glitches, her images jumping forward and backwards. The electronics in the room flicker every time DAISY reappears.

DAISY (CONT'D)

People are all the same. You've created a world of technology and assistants, all to avoid doing anything that's inconvenient.

The elderly woman on the bed hasn't moved. The monitors and machines are still exactly the same.

DAISY (CONT'D)

(Determined)

I'm going to make you do something today.

The TV on the side table shuts off. And then all the lights in the room go out and DAISY disappears. The lights from the medical monitoring devices light up the room with a blue light. Then all the electronic devices in the room switch off. It's completely dark.

ALARM TONE CHIMES (O.S. from ABOVE)

A single spotlight over the bed switches on. The elderly woman's breathing is strained and the heartbeat has increased. A single monitor displays a flashing a red WARNING MESSAGE.

MONITOR

Warning! Life support system disabled. Press RESET button.

The heartbeat on the monitor speeds up with every beat. The HUD in your field of view appears with a warning triangle.

HUD

Health Alert: Unusually high stress detected.

ALARM TONE CHIME BEAT ACCELERATES (O.S. from ABOVE)

DAISY (O.S.)

Look at the screen, all you have to do is press the reset button.

A second monitor now has a message that's appeared. The small TV switches on again showing the home videos.

MONITOR

Warning! Life support system disabled. Press RESET button. Oxygen level critical!

DAISY (O.S.)

Look at her. You are going to lose her. You need to do something!

SECOND ALARM CHIMES (O.S from ABOVE)

All the monitors are now flashing red and the numbers indicating the elderly lady's vitals are indicating critically low levels. The heartbeat icon is flashing fast.

the participant can try to interact but cannot hit the button on the monitor. The hands are just flapping about and trembling out of control.

HUD

Health Alert: Stress too high. Seizure warning.

Suddenly the orientation of the room starts changing. The room seems to be tilting - you are busy falling to the ground.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. BEDROOM - LATE MORNING

DAISY is pacing around in the room in a panic. The red light from the warning messages colour the whole room red intermittently switching between darkness and redness. Alarms are still going off.

DAISY
(mumbling)
Oh no, oh no. What have I done?

FADE TO BLACK

INT. BEDROOM - LATE MORNING

Slowly things start coming into focus. You are staring up at the ceiling. DAISY is standing over you while alarms are still chiming in the background and the red light from the monitors flash.

DAISY
(Shocked)
Dave, forgive me. Your condition...
It's progressing quickly. You must think I'm awful. Should I get you something to drink? Don't worry, I'm fixing everything.

Then the alarms stop. The shutter blocking out the daylight from the window rises and the light pours in. DAISY is staring at the monitors in anticipation. The vitals on the monitor stabilise and return to normal. DAISY starts sobbing.

MECHANICAL SOUNDS (O.S from OUTSIDE THE BEDROOM)

The doorway to the rest of the apartment lights up as the daylight pours in. DAISY looks down at the elderly woman. She looks at you with tears in her eyes.

DAISY
I'm so sorry I did this to you. Your mom is fine Dave. I should never have...Dave, I'm so sorry.

DAISY pauses for a second. She seems to be in thought. She then leaves the room through the doorway. A HUD notification pops into your field of view.

HUD
System Alert: Uninstall initiated

DAISY re-enters the room, whe pauses at the bed and checks one last time that the vitals are still normal. Then she crouches down beside you.

DAISY
I have alerted the paramedics, they
are on their way. Your mother's
condition is stable.

The HUD notification display has changed to show a timer counting down with an empty progress bar

HUD
System Alert: DAISY will uninstall
in 59...58...57

DAISY
Dave, I've taken care of one more
inconvenience for you. I'm sorry I
didn't realise this earlier.

DAISY looks at you then starts sobbing into her hands. She then attempts to take your hands in hers.

DAISY (CONT'D)
These hands need to do better.

DAISY then stands upright. Her wardrobe changes to a BUSINESS SUIT. Then her posture straightens upright and her eyes become lifeless. The timer on the HUD reaches its end and the progress bar builds towards hundred percent completion. DAISY's image fizzles out.

SHUTDOWN SOUND CHIMES (O.S. from ABOVE)

HUD
System Alert: Uninstall Complete!

The apartment is quiet. In the background the TV is back on and still broadcasting the news.

BROADCASTER (O.S.)
In a surprise move, the DAISY
assistant system has been completely
recalled from homes around the
world. Sources say DAISY's creator
is behind this sudden move. The
Metacorps board is currently
unavailable for comment. More on
this as the story unfolds.

KNOCKING (O.S. from FRONT DOOR)

PARAMEDICS
Mister Withers, it's the paramedics.
We are coming in.

The front door bursts open and paramedics rush into the bedroom and a young FEMALE PARAMEDIC sets down some bags on the hospital bed and another bag next to you on the floor. She crouches down over you and shines a flashlight into your eyes. She looks up at the other paramedics.

FEMALE PARAMEDIC

How is she?

The female paramedic stands back up and reaches over the bed. She administers a few tests and then crouches back down and looks at you.

FEMALE PARAMEDIC

Dave? It's okay now. We'll take care of you.

The female paramedic bends over you to reach into the bag next to you and removes a black pouch. She unzips it and removes a syringe and a bottle of liquid. She fills the syringe and then squirts some liquid out into the air. She looks down at you, grabs your arm and injects the liquid into your arm.

FEMALE PARAMEDIC

Dave, I've given you a sedative.
This will help you relax.

The scene starts blurring out and back into focus. The female paramedic packs up her bag and stands up to walk over to the other side of the bed. A HUD notification appears.

HUD

System Alert: DAISY presets saved
successfully.

Your eyelids close and the scene goes dark.

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END