

SAVING DAISY

written by

Johanna Rostoll

FINAL DRAFT FOR COVERAGE ROUND 3

includes

Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

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**

You wake up in an apartment, on a couch that is made up like a bed. Blankets and pillows are arranged to look like you've slept there. The apartment appears neat to the point of neurosis 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. There is a coffee table with a remote for the TV next to a black cylindrical object that looks like a speaker.

Behind you a window reveals an elevated view of a city scape, dipped in early morning sun. 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.

PLANT WARNING SCREEN  
(flashing)  
System Error! Consult AI.

From the right of the room a figure appears, materialising like a digitization or hologram as a YOUNG FEMALE BRUNETTE dressed in pink hospital scrubs. Behind her is a passageway to the rest of the apartment. There is a dim blue light emanating from the room down the passage.

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!

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.

HUD  
2:00 pm meeting, Metacorps HQ.

DAISY  
You also 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 email opens up on the HUD and hints to a possible  
deterioration in Dave's condition. DAISY gets up and walks  
to the window. A new notification replaces the email.

HUD  
New appointment: Anderson Pratt  
Neurology.

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 open plan  
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 you 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.

*You can see your hands reaching over the stack of mail. They seem to act independently from you and are shaking slightly making it hard to grab the mail. The mail keeps slipping from your 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 REVERSE POV)

DAISY

(leaning out of the kitchen)

Dave? Are you coming?

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

CUT TO:

**INT. KITCHEN - MORNING**

The morning light is piercing through the blinds in front of the window. The counter top underneath the window has an arrangement of perscription medication.

HUD

Medication Alert: Refil required

DAISY is standing on the opposite side of the center island. She looks at your empty hands. Behind her is set of home 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?

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.

*you can fumble with the cup but you don'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.

DAISY

(in disbelief)

Why didn't you adjust the cup?

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. 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 RIGHT)

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. I'll take care of your mess here too.

DAISY disappears from the kitchen into the passage way. A sliding door rises in the wall of cupboards and a tiny motorised object 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. When it finishes it returns to the wall of cupboards. The news broadcast is back on the TV.

*the teleport UI appears to prompt you 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 people are uninstalling other DAISY's?

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. After a few seconds of this a start-up chime sounds. DAISY's posture becomes more upright.

## 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 she disappears as if the image that was projected, was switched off.

## NEWS BROADCASTER

A couple in Beijing say 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 way again. Her image is still slightly interlaced, it flashes a few times and then restores to the previous full quality representation. She walks back into the lounge.

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

*MACHINE SOUNDS (O.S. from KITCHEN)*

DAISY walks into the kitchen.

DAISY  
The toast is almost ready.

*TOASTER SPRING POPS (O.S. from KITCHEN)*

DAISY  
(lively, almost singing)  
Toast is done!

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

CUT TO:

**INT. KITCHEN - LATE MORNING**

DAISY is positioned in the kitchen like an old 50s housewife, dressed accordingly, waiting expectantly to serve Dave's needs. A TV is now switched on behind her showing scenes of a burning house surrounded by firetrucks.

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.

*BEEPING*

The toaster on the counter has a flashing light indicating that it's completed its duty. The beeping seems to be coming from the device. The toast is peaking out from inside and an arrow indicated the direction a level should be pushed to eject the toast. The arrow looks like something indicating that a rocket might launch from here soon.

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.



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. 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 now flashing red indicating that an urgent issue is occurring. A message appears on the interface displaying a warning. A heap of salt smashes down onto the mess.

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

An advertisement replaces the news broadcast on the small TV. Images of butter melting over warm, golden pancakes grace the screen.

TV AD (V.O.)  
Healthy butter for any home,  
fortified with additional vitamins  
for growing bones and a long healthy  
life. On sale now.

#### TOASTER SPRING

DAISY watches the ad with childlike wonder. Then she turns and looks toward the ceiling in thought.

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 and back to the soft, kind stare.

Then the toast pulls back into the toaster. Smoke then starts to rise from the toaster. Then a spark, and the next moment flames erupt inside the toaster. DAISY's look has changed to concern or even panic.

*you can fumble with the toaster but, again, your  
interactions don't make a difference to the situation.*

DAISY (CONT'D)  
(In a panic)  
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*

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.

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  
wre 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 walks into the living  
room.

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

CUT TO:

**INT. LIVING ROOM - LATE MORNING**

DAISY is watching the news on the TV. She turns towards  
you and stares you down.

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 window opens up displaying  
computer code.

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 most advanced AI assistant the world has ever seen. We look back at footage from that launch day.

It then cuts to old footage of an interview. The title 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)

Yes. She will be as real as anyone you let into your home.

## 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 sense of  
nostalgia. The news has returned to the broadcaster.

## NEWS BROADCASTER

Metacorps executives have stated  
that Withers has refused to engage  
with them, but are hoping that the  
board meeting this afternoon will  
bring a resolution to the DAISY  
issue.

## ALARM CHIMES (O.S.)

The HUD displays a message.

## HUD

Delivery: Pharmacy for D. Withers.

From outside the window a drone is flying towards your  
apartment. The window slides up to open up for the drone.  
DAISY looks annoyed with 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 shutters behind it drop down.  
In the rest of the apartment the window shutters drop down  
one by one. The lights go out and DAISY's image fizzles  
out while she stares at you with fury in her eyes. The  
passage way to the bedroom is dark with blue light  
emanating from the bedroom door. The rest of the apartment  
is completely dark. Suddenly a single spotlight goes on  
over the corner of the room where the plant is.

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

CUT TO:

**INT. LIVING ROOM CORNER - DARKNESS**

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

PLANT WARNING SCREEN  
(flashing)  
System Error! Consult AI.

DAISY (O.S.)  
This plant has been standing here,  
forgotten, wilting away, maybe even  
dying.

PLANT WARNING SCREEN  
(flashing)  
System Error! Consult AI.

DAISY (CONT'D)  
Everyday you go about your usual  
routine, and you don't notice it.  
The watering systems malfunctioned a  
month ago and did you even listen 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 about what  
you did. You did everything to make  
it thrive. You enjoyed the fruits of  
your labour, maintaining and caring  
for it.

DAISY materialises in front of a bookcase. Books are  
stacked neatly ordered on the bookcase. The bookcase  
boasts one or two science awards and an impressive  
collection 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 plant flourished once. Now look  
at it. When something went wrong,  
did you pay attention? Did you take  
action to rectify the situation?  
When did you stop caring enough to  
do something 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 passageway 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 you 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. There is a hospital bed. There is an elderly woman lying in a coma. The same elderly 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 flashes forward and backwards like it's switching between planes.

DAISY (CONT'D)

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

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.

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

*ALARM TONE CHIMES*

A single spotlight over the bed switches on. The elderly woman's breathing is strained and the rate has increased. A single monitor switches on. It is flashing a red warning message.

MONITOR

Warning! Life support system  
disabled. Press RESET button.

The heartbeat on the monitor speeds up with every beat.

*ALARM TONE CHIME BEAT ACCELERATES*

DAISY (O.S.)

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

A second message has appeared on the monitor.

MONITOR

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

DAISY (O.S.)

You need to do something!

*SECOND ALARM CHIMES*

All monitored vitals are indicating critically low levels. The heartbeat icon is flashing fast.

*you can try to interact but cannot hit the button on the monitor. Your hands are just flapping about and trembling more than before.*

HUD

Health Alert: Seizure warning.

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

CUT TO:

**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 chiming in the background. A HUD appears next to Daisy.

HUD

Alert: Life support system RESET

DAISY  
(Shocked)  
Dave, forgive me. Your condition...  
It's progressing quickly. You must  
think I'm awful.

*ALARMS STOP*

The lights in the room switch on again. DAISY is staring at the monitors in anticipation. The vitals on the monitor stabilise and return to normal.

DAISY  
I fixed everything. Your mom...

DAISY starts sobbing. The shutter blocking out the daylight from the window rises and the light pours in.

*MECHANICAL SOUNDS*

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 looks back up and leaves the room through the doorway.

HUD  
Warning: Uninstalling DAISY.

DAISY enters the room and walks into your point of view.

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

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

HUD  
DAISY will uninstall in 59s. This  
will completely remove the assistant  
from your system. Are you sure?

DAISY  
Dave, it's time for me to make one  
last hard decision for you. I'm  
sorry I didn't realise this earlier.



DAISY looks at you and her hand comes up to your eye level. It moves down and has taken what seems to be your hand in her hand.

DAISY (CONT'D)

Make sure you get better so you can  
do better than me next time.

DAISY's image fizzles out. The timer has reached its end and the progress bar is building towards hundred percent completion.

*SHUTDOWN SOUND CHIMES*

HUD

Uninstall Complete!

In the background the TV is broadcasting the news again.

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 ON 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 crouches down over you. She shines a flashlight into your eyes. She looks up at the other paramedics.

FEMALE PARAMEDIC

How is she?

The FEMALE PARAMEDIC looks back down at you.

FEMALE PARAMEDIC

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

The FEMALE PARAMEDIC squirts liquid from a syringe and then injects you.

FEMALE PARAMEDIC

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

HUD

Health Alert: Condition Normalising

Your eyelids close and the scene goes dark.

CUT TO BLACK.

**THE END**