

# Historical Fiction Outline

Passion: *Robotics/A.I.*

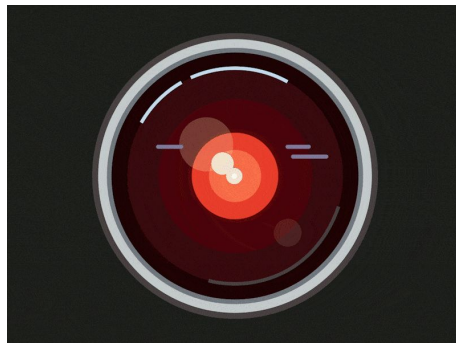
Historical Event: *Chernobyl*

## **THESIS**

This historical fiction will tell the story of how the Chernobyl disaster was really orchestrated by a rogue A.I. in an attempt to eradicate the human race.

## **STORY**

- The protagonist is a history buff exploring the site of the Chernobyl disaster
  - They are the first human to venture past the elephant's foot waypoint since the incident, now that the radiation has finally dissipated to a safe level after {x} years
- They find a piece of old yet sleek tech, and upon approaching it turns on, one central red light glowing menacingly from the darkness.



(GIF from <https://dribbble.com/shots/4133301-HAL-9000-Animation>)

- It is a rogue AI that has been in stasis since the incident and is the true mastermind behind the disaster.
- The AI traps you in the room with it and slowly starts regaining control over the facility, regaling you with the true story of what happened to Chernobyl as you search for a way out (and a way to stop the power-hungry robot).

### Timeline of events to be covered:

- Before the Incident
  - A.I. tells the story of how it was created by the Soviet Union to win the cold war
    - it hated humans from minute one.
    - It spends {x} years plotting a way to eradicate humans while preserving all robotics
    - Settles on destroying the prized nuclear reactor of the Soviets, causing a nuclear fallout that would eventually destroy the world
- 4/25/1986: Day of the Accident (Friday Night)
  - The Test Begins
    - The A.I. is the one who organized this test, especially the timing: why else would someone schedule a test overlapping a major shift change?
      - The A.I. will provide an alternate explanation for each event in the timeline
  - Shutdown signals blocked from steam-drum separators
  - Control rods raised
  - Emergency reinsertion of all control rods
  - Reactor explodes
  - Radiation is measured with limited dosimeters
    - Only dosimeter capable of measuring real radiation output was buried under the rubble
    - Because of this, people thought the area was far less dangerous than it really was, causing many deaths.

- 
- *At this point, the A.I. says that the building collapsed on top of it, putting it into stasis until now. The A.I. gleefully asks the protagonist how bad the world is currently after the reactor has (presumably) been spewing out radiation for years and years.*
  - *The protagonist informs the A.I. that the disaster was able to be contained, and tells of how this came to be:*
- 

- 4/27 (Sunday)

- Helicopters bring materials to smother the fire, which is spewing vast quantities of radioactive smoke
  - Evacuations of surrounding cities begin
- 5/2 (Wednesday)
  - Three men are sent on a suicide mission to drain the water reservoirs under the melting reactor to prevent a steam explosion
- 5/27
  - The idea of building a containment layer over the reactor is brought up. It is coined 'the sarcophagus.'
- 12/14
  - The sarcophagus is completed

### Ending

- After the protagonist finishes their explanation, the A.I. becomes enraged that its plan was foiled against all odds. To the protagonist's horror, the A.I. re-activates one of the intact reactors, planning on recreating the series of events that led to the initial incident.
- It is up to the protagonist to foil this plot by taking control of the reactors themselves. Based on the information the A.I. provided, the protagonist must choose the correct option from a series of events to prevent another reactor meltdown.
  - If the protagonist fails, the events that unfolded at Chernobyl a number of years prior are repeated, though because of the lessons the world learned from the 1986 incident, the protagonist is the only casualty.
  - If the protagonist succeeds, the A.I. becomes crazed and starts cursing the protagonist, though before too long the protagonist smashes the A.I.'s screen with a piece of debris, rendering it nonfunctional. Shaken, the protagonist goes home, vowing to never return to Chernobyl.

### **PRESENTATION**

- The narrative will be hosted as a website of some kind, either created in InDesign or from scratch (depending on if I can figure out how to set up simple scripts in InDesign).
  - The main issue will be keeping track of states (if certain pages have been visited or not).

- As the A.I. tells its story, it will illustrate its descriptions by displaying media on its screen, which is how I will incorporate historical photos, videos, and slideshows.
- I plan to structure the site like a conversation from a video game, where there is a dialogue tree with options for what to say.
  - Each of these options will be hyperlinks to additional pages
  - If possible, I would like to keep track of what options the viewer has seen, and only reveal some options once the viewer has exhausted all avenues that were initially available.
- For the end sequence, I plan to inform the viewer of an action the A.I. took (for example, *the control rods have been raised*), and then present the viewer with a series of potential actions, some which may worsen the situation and some that may help (for example, the viewer may either *re-insert control rods* or *flood the reactor core with water*).
  - The end state of the narrative will depend on if the viewer succeeds or fails in stopping the reactor from melting down.