

GADGET

a sci-fi dystopian story

Set in the near future, Gadget tells the story of Neem a man jaded by the alienating, technology obsessed world he lives in. What he really needs is something real - human intimacy. Through his smart glasses he talks to his psychoanalysis app Freud, who suggests he should destress by having sex. Freud tells Neem about Sophie_X - a beautiful woman who seems really into Neem and whose profile shows a 98% match. Neem can't believe his luck, he sets off to try and find her at a local bar..

The story, set sometime in the future, revolves around Neem, an app developer deeply obsessed and addicted by the modern technology, a wearable type of "smart glasses".

The story of Gadget was inspired by classic sci-fi books like Philip K. Dick "*Ubik*" and movies like "*Brazil*". I have always been fascinated by these kind of stories where the definition on what is real and what is not is very ambiguous.

Started as a social critique to the role of the smartphones in our society, the film slowly entered in the field of virtual realities.

The intent was to show a futuristic distorted society where technology will dominate people senses and emotions. The *smart glasses* are incredibly advanced and useful: connecting people in few seconds and creating worlds with just the touch of a finger.

The main character, Neem, is stranded in a loop. His human needing is controlled by his AI companion, which is probably controlled by the company he works for, as what it matters at the end is the *Productivity* status.

This comes down to human relationships as well: Neem needs human contact. But in this kind of society, human contact is not so easy anymore. People are classified and their match ranks are determined by an AI.

The main character slowly accepts the augmented reality he lives in and he unconsciously decide to believe in what is not real: finding the perfect match and the true love is easy in a world in which half of what you see it's fake.

That is our modern fatal flow: we prefer to embrace the virtual relationships mediated by the modern technology rather than take the risks with our own feelings.

-Sebastiano Pupino