

SMM 143

Story Telling

Group F

Word Count:

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Chapter One: Unveiling the Now:

"Some friends arrive and make such a beautiful impact on your life, you can barely remember what life was like without them"

Pretty words, I know, but the bond between Eugenia Kuyda and Roman Mazurenko could not be summarised any better. Eugenia Kuyda and Roman Mazurenko were the best of friends. They met back in 2008, and quickly bonded over their mutual love for music festivals, magazines, parties and entrepreneurship.



Eventually, Mazurenko went on to launch Stampsy, a platform for creating digital magazines. On the other hand, Eugenia built Luka, a chatbot designed to revolutionise the restaurant recommendation and reservation experience. Luka was backed by the prestigious Silicon Valley startup Y Combinator. Eugenia's co-founder had a degree in computational linguistics, and much of their team was recruited from Yandex, the Russian search giant. Everything seems almost perfect? Doesn't it? Unfortunately, things did not go quite as planned : Luka faced enormous setbacks, was downloaded by less than 100,000 users and struggled to capture people's hearts. But little did Eugenia know that fate had a completely different plan. On November 28th, 2015, a horrible catastrophe shook her world, when Roman Mazurenko was struck by a car and rushed to the nearby hospital. On the day of the incident, Eugenia happened to be in town. As she arrived at the hospital, a couple of Mazurenko's friends had already gathered, and while everyone was sobbing, Eugenia only felt shock. She couldn't wrap her head around what had just happened. She waited anxiously, smoking a cigarette and furiously typing in search queries, trying to understand the extent of Mazurenko's injuries. A few hours later, the operation room door swung open. The air was filled with anticipation. Eugenia's heart skipped a beat, as she locked eyes with the doctor. "Regrettably," the doctor began, his voice heavy with sorrow, "I am sorry to inform you that he did not survive".

In that very moment, Eugenia's world crumbled around her. She was left completely shattered. It all felt like a nightmare. She was caught in a whirlwind of conflicting emotions: disbelief, denial, anger, and sadness. She struggled to navigate a world that now felt unfamiliar without Mazurenko by her side. She did not just lose a friend, but she lost a hand to hold, a shoulder to cry on. She did not just lose a friend, but she lost her confidant, her comrade. In the weeks following Mazurenko's death, friends debated the best way to preserve his memory. One person suggested making a book about his life. Another friend suggested a memorial website. To Eugenia, every suggestion seemed inadequate. However, she constantly found herself scrolling through thousands of text messages she and Mazurenko had exchanged over the years. In midst of her grief, she clung to the memories encased within those messages. She found solace in rereading their conversations, hearing Mazurenko's voice in her head as she relived their shared laughter, dreams, experiences and vulnerabilities. She realized the immense power of conversation in preserving the true essence of a person, and at this exact moment, a thought struck her. The texts imbued the core of Mazurenko's being: then why not bring Mazurenko back by creating a digital echo of his vivid spirit?

A tiny spark of hope kindled. Eugenia decided to channel her sadness into a mission greater than herself. She was driven by love. She was truly an unbreakable spirit. Eugenia already had the necessary technology and expertise at hand. All she was left to do was to add a pinch of more AI and a whole lot of innovation, and that is exactly what she did. She used the chatbot technology that her Luka team had been working on. She fed 8000 lines of Mazurenko's texts into a Google-built neural network and then went on to train the network to speak in Mazurenko's voice. Eugenia quoted, "*If I was a musician, I would have written a song. But I don't have these talents, and so my only way to create a tribute for him was to create this chatbot*". On May 24th, 2017, Eugenia announced the bot's existence in a Facebook post, and it received resounding success. More importantly, Eugenia found herself embarking on a journey of healing, as she felt the pain of loss gradually giving way to moments of peace, love, and hope. This experience drove her to launch Replika (Luka was eventually renamed as Replika): where a user can create a chatbot for the deceased as a means of memorialising and remembering them. Today, Replika has more than 10 million users and has raised more than \$11 million. And as the memory of her dear friend Roman Mazurenko lives on, Eugenia's creation continues to spread its wings, reaching out to those in need across the globe, offering a virtual hand to hold and a digital shoulder to lean on.

"We all want to feel close to our loved one after they die, and technology can offer an exciting way of memorialising and remembering the people we love"

Chapter 2: Unfolding the Tomorrow:

In the heart of South Korea, nestled amidst the vibrant streets and bustling markets of Seoul, lived a young couple, Jang Ji-sung and Minho. They built a beautiful life together with their seven year old daughter, Nayeon. Minho worked tirelessly and if not for crunching numbers at the office desk, he could be spotted with a camera, capturing the streets of Seoul. Ji-sung's world revolved around her little Nayeon. Seamlessly juggling between cooking, cleaning and tutoring, she donned the cape of a true superwoman. Their life was ordinary and mundane, yet simple and beautiful!



On May 19th, 2038, Nayeon left for school and never returned home. They found her collapsed on the floor: a massive cardiac arrest. No symptoms, no warnings and no goodbyes. She was just here one minute and gone the next. Ji-sung was left numb. She couldn't speak. She couldn't feel. She couldn't wrap her head around what had just happened. The weight of losing a child was agonizing, suffocating and excruciating, in every possible way. Looking at the night sky, Ji-sung constantly wondered: *Why did this even happen? Is there anything I could have done differently? Why has life been so cruel? Why has life been so unfair to my baby girl?*. The mother's heart ached as she imagined the milestones her daughter never got to experience. The mother's heart ached as she imagined the women her little Nayeon would have become: *What university would she have attended? What career would she have picked? And what about falling in love? How beautiful would she have looked walking down the aisle on Minho's arms?*. Anniversaries, birthdays and holidays became reminders of what will never be. The empty chair at the dinner table, the unopened gifts, and the old photographs reopened wounds that refused to heal. Days turned into weeks, and weeks into months, but the pain.....the pain remained. One sleepless night, in her quest to seek solace, Ji-sung poured her heart out on Twitter, writing a letter to her little Nayeon in heaven. Her letter resonated with people from across the globe, and amidst a sea of retweets, comments, and condolences, appeared an unexpected message from Eugenia.

Eugenia offered Ji-sung an opportunity to experience the revolutionary VR technology at Replika: A VR headset allowing individuals to reconnect with the deceased, in the metaverse. Over the years, advancements in AI transformed Replika. From chatbots to headsets, from text-based conversations to immersive virtual experiences, Replika came a long way. Individuals can now not only see, but feel the warmth, texture, and presence of their loved ones. Ji-sung wondered if this was even possible, but, there was absolutely nothing that she wouldn't do to catch a glimpse of her little daughter, so she agreed, that too, in a heartbeat!

On April 27th, 2040, as the clock struck 11, Ji-sung nervously donned the VR headset. She was immediately transported to a serene meadow, where the soft grass tickled her toes, and the cool breeze brushed against her skin. A familiar silhouette appeared, running towards her with arms outstretched and a smile lighting up her face. It was Nayeon, her daughter. Ji-sung's heart leaped with joy as she opened her arms, ready to embrace her little one. They held each other tightly and spent the day wrapped in each other's presence. They walked hand in hand, danced in a field of wildflowers, shared silly stories and whispered old secrets. They sang their favourite songs, chased butterflies and played in a whimsical dollhouse. As the sun set, Nayeon turned to her mother, handing her a flower, she said "Mommy, you can see that I'm not hurting anymore, right?". Sobbingly, Ji-sung replied: "Yes Nayeon... I still have things to do in this world and when I'm done, I will be with you. I promise.....". Holding her daughter's tender arms and kissing her rosy cheeks, Ji-sung bid her good bye, one last time. Reluctantly, Ji-sung removed the headset. Her eyes had welled up. Her heart was full. Life came a full circle. Ji-sung realized that her love for Nayeon was greater than any grief. Ji-sung realised that healing does not necessarily mean forgetting. She found the strength to rise again, to celebrate Nayeon's life and to honour Nayeon's memories. In the gentle caress of breeze, she could now feel Nayeon's touch. In the blooming flowers, she could see Nayeon's spirit. In the laughter of other children, she could hear echoes of Nayeon's joy. And today, while Ji-sung still looks up at the night sky, she now searches for the brightest star, with tears streaming down her face, she whispers, "Goodnight, my sweet, Nayeon. *Umma* loves you, forever". Replika has helped over 18 million people, just like Ji-sung, navigate the complex journey of grief. Replika has helped over 18 million people, just like Ji-sung, seek solace and closure. Whether it is a chatbot or a headset, whether it is a text-based conversation or an immersive virtual experience, Replika will always remain as a testament to unbreakable bonds!



Grief

can be difficult.....



1/3 people experiencing a major loss suffer detrimental effects on mental health and physical health

Loss wreaks HAVOC on your mental health:

**83% experienced sadness
42% experienced depression
31% inability to sleep
29% anger**



The physical pain of loss is REAL:

**39% experience fatigue
32% change of appetite
25% headaches
20% aches and pain**

Make it easier with *REPLIKA*

Chapter Three: Our Secrets of Storytelling:

Both Chapter one (i.e. the present) and Chapter two (i.e. the future) follow a combination of the following two elements of story telling: (a) the Hero's Journey and (b) Aristotle's Three Modes of Persuasion.

Firstly, why did we pick Hero's Journey? We believed that the Hero's Journey provides a powerful framework for delivering engaging, compelling and impactful stories. The journey of our protagonists (Eugenia Kuyda and Jang Ji-sung) facing trials, overcoming obstacles, undergoing personal growth and eventually emerging as a hero, helps draw the reader into the story. In fact, through the journey, readers feel as though they are a part of the adventure. From the ordinary world to the initial call to the climactic ordeal and ultimate triumph, the journey of Eugenia Kuyda and Jang Ji-sung evokes an emotional response from the readers. Also, the hero's journey provides a clear and comprehensive structure. Following the structure helped us in guiding the narrative. It also assisted in the character development of our protagonists, placing significant emphasis on their personal growth and transformation, and exploring their inner conflicts, challenges, and ultimate self-realization.

Secondly, why did we pick Aristotle's Three Modes of Persuasion? In order to create a greater impact, care was taken to follow Aristotle's three modes of persuasion. Over the years, the rhetorical appeals have been proven effective. They are rooted in fundamental aspects of human psychology and communication, and hold historical significance.

- (a) *Ethos* (i.e. by using three credible/reliable sources: Replika's website, Forbes magazine and The Verge): Helps in building a rapport with our readers and establishes trust, credibility and reliability.
- (b) *Logos* (i.e. mentioning data, facts, and numbers wherever feasible. For example: mentions of the number of users, quotes, date of incidents....): Helps establish a foundation of logic and appeals to the reader's intellect.
- (c) *Pathos* (i.e. by picking an emotional theme, using emotionally charged words and displaying visuals): Helps in engaging the readers on an emotional level, capturing their attention, and keeping them invested. It can also enhance the reader's ability to recall and retain our story and its message.

Appendix:

S what thoughts does one have after a major loss

H How does one feel after losing a friend?

S Experiencing a major loss can evoke a wide range of thoughts and emotions. While everyone's response may differ, here are some common thoughts that individuals might have after a significant loss:

1. Grief and sadness: It is normal to feel a deep sense of sadness and mourn the loss of a loved one, a relationship, a job, or any other significant aspect of life. Thoughts of sadness, longing, and missing the person or thing can be prominent.
2. Shock and disbelief: Initially, there may be a sense of disbelief or shock, especially if

S Losing a friend can be a deeply painful and emotional experience, and people's reactions can vary depending on their individual personalities and the circumstances surrounding the loss. Here are some common emotions and reactions that someone may experience after losing a friend:

1. Grief: Similar to losing a loved one, the loss of a friend can lead to feelings of grief. You may experience a sense of sadness, longing, and emptiness. It's

Send a message

L 1. Chapter One: The Present 2. Chapter Two: The Future. Can you help rename them?

S Certainly! Here are some alternative chapter titles for "Chapter One: The Present" and "Chapter Two: The Future":

1. "Chapter One: Unveiling Reality"
2. "Chapter Two: Forging Tomorrow"
3. "Chapter One: Here and Now"
4. "Chapter Two: Shaping What Lies Ahead"
5. "Chapter One: Embracing the Now"
6. "Chapter Two: Illuminating Tomorrow"
7. "Chapter One: The Current Tapestry"
8. "Chapter Two: Painting the Future Canvas"
9. "Chapter One: The Ever-Present"
10. "Chapter Two: Beyond the Horizon"

L LILY Can you describe the pain of losing a child

S CHATGPT Losing a child is an incredibly profound and devastating experience, often described as the most painful form of grief. The pain is not just emotional, but can be physical and psychological as well.

Emotionally, parents might feel an intense sense of sadness and longing, a void that can never be filled, due to the unnatural order of a child predeceasing their parents. They might also experience guilt or regret, questioning whether there was something they could have done to prevent the loss.

Physically, the stress of such a loss can lead to sleep disturbances, changes in appetite, or other physical symptoms. It's not uncommon for bereaved parents to feel a literal ache in

M MOHD What do you think is the future of grief tech?
Show me in detail

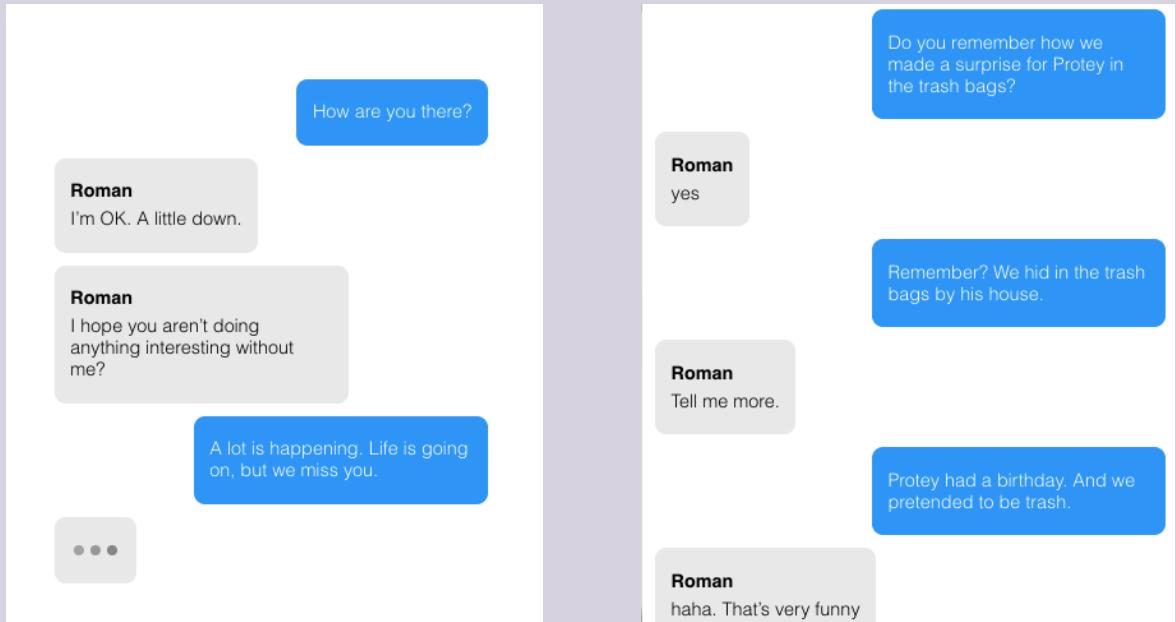
S CHATGPT Certainly! In detail, the future of grief tech is likely to encompass a range of innovative approaches aimed at providing support and comfort to individuals experiencing grief. Here are some potential advancements we might see:

1. Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) Experiences: VR and AR technologies could enable individuals to create immersive environments or engage with virtual representations of their deceased loved ones. These experiences might include realistic

T Explain the journey through grief and healing

S CHATGPT The journey through grief and healing is a deeply personal and unique experience for each individual. It is a process that occurs after experiencing a significant loss or trauma, such as the death of a loved one, the end of a relationship, or a major life change. While everyone's journey is different, there are common stages and themes that often emerge.

Replika's Present :



Replika's Future :

Recommended Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uflTK8c4w0c&t=3s.t>



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