**Scene I**

I woke up alone in the gigantic double bed.

The sky looked a bit dark, even though it was already 10 am.

After washing up, I walked down the stairs and opened the fridge.

It was empty.

I should go to the mart and buy some food for lunch and the big dinner tonight.

**\*RING\***

As I was taking note of the things I wanted, the bell rang.

“Coming!”

It was rather strange to have someone ringing the doorbell around this hour.

I put down my half-finished grocery list and rushed towards the door.

When I opened the door, Gerald’s smiling face showed up behind a huge grocery bag in his arms.

(Gerald\_01)

“I noticed the fridge was empty and the cooking oil was running out.”

Gerald spoke with a radiant gleam

as he waltzed into the kitchen and started unpacking,

(Gerald\_02a)

“so I bought some on my way home.”

“Maybe we can cook something nice for lunch later?”

“I’ve bought some beef, potatoes, and some roasted chicken…”

(Gerald\_03)

“……”

“Honey, is there something on my face?”

“No, I erm…”

I casted a confused look at him as I closed the door.

“Since when do you start to cook?”

(Gerald\_02a)

“No, I don’t, you are cooking, I can help you with anything.”

“Still, are you sure everything is okay?”

“This is the first time you ever buy groceries!”

“Aren’t you supposed to be in the lab now?”

(Gerald\_04)

“Don’t worry, Anastasia, they will survive without me.”

Gerald gave me a flirtatious wink.

“It’s my lab, anyway.”

He started washing the lettuce.

(Clear)

…

…

Indeed, it is very strange today.

Gerald had always been busy with his lab works.

He seldom came home during daytime.

Sometimes he might even spend nights in the lab working on his projects.

Gerald was a lead scientist in Veritas.

He had been obsessed with the idea of something called the digitalisation of consciousness,

like transferring our minds onto a computer.

I never like the idea, it horrifies me to think that we are nothing but codes and programmes.

In some way, it makes us feel inhuman.

But he always had a progressive view towards this idea.

And he said it would be the next long-waited step of human revolution.

Nonetheless, he was a genius in the mind-science field.

The world was never the same with his inventions, such as the Veritas Vision gadget.

It allowed us to experience the lives other than our own, powered by MES.

MES, the external memory technology, allowed normal people like me to have access to our own memory in the clearest possible way

It also made us never forget anything that is important to us.

For example, his impeccable handsomeness I fell in love with twenty years ago.

How time flied, yet his wrinkles couldn’t hide his elegance but only added a scent of maturity that made every woman jealous of me.

(Gerald\_01)

“My work here is done.”

Gerald let out a short whistle.

(Gerald\_04)

“Now it’s your turn, my beloved chef. I am craving for your beef stew~”

(Gerald\_05)

“And we don’t have much time left.”

He looked at his watch, looking worried.

(Clear)

Feeling flattered, I entertained him with my “supreme” cooking skills,

and watched him finish the big bow of beef stew with his extravagant sense of satisfaction as always.

(Gerald\_06)

“Hmm… I LOVE IT!! SO much better than those instant meals outsi…”

(Clear)

**\*CRACK\***

Something hard knocked on the kitchen window, leaving a crack on the top right corner.

**\*CRACK\***

This time, a small rock knocked on the bottom of the window again.

The house started to shake violently in the wailing wind.

The silverwares were rattling incessantly.

I put down my dishes, gazed out the window and gasped.

“…?!!”

The sky darkened even further, turning day into night.

The branches were swaying desperately in the whirling wind.

Small rocks kept knocking on the side of the house.

And in a few hundred metres away, a long twisted figure was dancing in the sky.

Beneath it, houses in the neighbourhood were being torn apart piece by piece.

Fragments and branches whirled around the twisting figure and slowly rose through the air.

Suddenly, the window broke and the glasses shattered into the air, waking me from my stupor.

“TORNADO!!!”

I shouted, barely able to move.

“Gerald!! A TORNADO!! WHAT DO WE DO? WHAT…”

(Gerald\_01)

“Shh… It will be okay, honey.”

(Gerald\_02b)

He held me in his arms, whispered in his soft voice.

“Don’t worry, I’m here.”

(Clear)

“NO, it’s not okay…”

I pushed him away in disbelief.

“we have a tornado coming and we need to go somewhere!!!”

I protested even harder as the tornado started to tear our house apart.

Instead of looking for a hiding place, he looked me in the eye.

Surrounded by whirling debris of our home,

he looked at me with an unfathomable sorrow, yet one so capturing that I couldn’t take my eyes off his.

He caressed my head with his gentle hands.

And in the deafening roar of the whistling storm tearing our house apart, strangely, I felt at peace.

…

Yes, I was at ease.

…

**Scene II**

I woke up alone in the gigantic double bed.

The sky looked a bit dark, even though it was already 10 am.

**\*RING\***

Just as I was washing up, the bell rang.

“Coming!”

(Thia\_01)

“Hey, mom, I just flew back~”

(Clear)

It was Thia, carrying two bags of groceries in her hands.

Smiling naively with the same radiant look as her father’s, and she hugged me tightly.

“Are you on a school holiday?”

I took her bags and peeked inside, there were beef and potatoes.

“How did you know that our fridge is empty?”

(Thia\_04)

“A hunch, I guess?”

She gave me a mischievous wink.

(Thia\_02a)

“Since dad has always been in the lab and you don’t like to go to the mart that often.”

(Thia\_03)

“I am starving, can I have some beef stew?”

She laid down on the sofa, stretched out her limbs and yawned.

(Clear)

“You are so much like your father in every way.”

Indeed, she inherited his handsome look, his intelligence, and even his carefree flair.

She was young and sweet and 18, soon she…

(Thia\_02a)

“Actually, maybe not this time.”

She interrupted my thought.

(Thia\_01)

“Mom, come here.”

looking at me with flying colours.

(Thia\_04)

“I have something to tell you~”

“Really?”

I chuckled, put down the groceries and sat down next to her.

She cuddled in my embrace.

“Now tell me.” I smiled.

(Thia\_02a)

“Remember the boy I told you about last time?”

“The cute one?”

(Thia\_06)

“Yes, we are dating now!”

“Really? That’s awesome!”

“I like that young man.”

“You should invite him over for a dinner.”

(Thia\_05)

“…”

She looked at me with an unfathomable sadness.

And she hugged me tightly for a moment, so tightly that I thought I asked the wrong question.

(Thia\_07)

“I wish you will be able to meet him once.”

(Thia\_08)

“I really do…”

“Why not, honey?”

“It’s okay, I would like to see him, really…”

(Thia\_09)

“It’s not him, mom.”

“You don’t understand. You just, can’t.”

(Clear)

“Why not? I…”

**\*CRACK\***

A small rock knocked on the window and interrupted our conversation.

The house started to shake violently in the wailing wind, and the furniture are rattling.

I gazed out the window and saw a long, twisted figure dancing in the sky a few blocks away.

“Thia, I think we should leave…”

(Thia\_02b)

“Yes, it’s time.”

“Goodbye mom. See you next time.”

(Clear)

And she vanished in the whirling debris of the house as the storm came tearing me and our home apart…

…

…

**Scene III**

I woke up alone in the gigantic double bed.

The sky looked a bit dark for 10am.

I went down the stairs and found Gerald and Thia sitting on the sofa,

looking at me with intense and complex emotions, emotions that I could not comprehend. Strangely, they looked a bit older than yesterday.

“What’s happening?”

“Why are you here? Gerald, don’t you have work to do?”

“And Thia, aren’t you supposed to be in school?”

I fetched a cup of water and sat down on the sofa opposite them.

(Gerald\_05)

“…”

“And why are you looking at me like this?”

“I don’t like it.”

“…”

There was a long silence between us for a moment, only the wailing wind outside the house. “God the weather today looks real…”

(Gerald\_08)

“Honey, there is something I have to tell you.”

Gerald leaned forward, yet looked down at his hands.

(Gerald\_05)

“I erm… W… We have to erm…”

He was such an eloquent person.

This was the first time he ever stuttered.

(Thia\_05)

“We have to let you go, mom.”

Thia interrupted, with a stern look in her eyes.

“we don’t want you to continue like this.”

“Why, what are you talking about?”

I felt even more confused.

“Continue what? What do you mean by that?”

(Gerald\_07)

“We are going to shut you down.”

(Gerald\_02b)

“I love you, Ana. We love you, very much, and you will always be in our hearts.”

“We just don’t want you to suffer like this anymore.”

(Clear)

A tear rolled down from his handsome cheek.

“Wha…?”

**\*CRACK\***

(Gerald\_02b)

“Goodbye, my love.”

(Thia\_02b)

“Goodbye, mom, I love you.”

(Clear)

**\*CRACK\***

…

…

**Scene IV**

(A handsome man of his 50s and a beautiful lady stood beside a bed silently.)

(In the bed was a woman wired with multiple computers and MESs with a Veritas Vision covering her head.)

**(\*hide player’s name\*)**

The monotonous sound from the heal monitor filled the room with a continuous heaviness.

(Doctor\_01)

“She left in peace.”

(Doctor\_02)

“You have done more than enough for her.”

The doctor in the back came near me and gave me a pat on the back.

(Doctor\_01)

“It’s time for her to find peace in the end.”

The doctor assured me.

(Clear)

…

…

“I’m sorry, Ana.”

I whispered to the body lying on the bed.

“I’m the only person that could possibly bring you back but I failed.”

“I failed.” I caressed her cheek, as a tear rolled down my face.

(Thia\_07)

“Don’t blame yourself, dad.”

Thia hugged me.

(Thia\_07)

“You’ve tried my best.”

“At least now mom will not be suffering that again and again anymore.”

She looked at Ana in bed, and gave her a kiss on the forehead.

(Thia\_02b)

“I love you, mom, and goodbye for the last time.”

(Clear)

“Goodbye, honey.”

I let out a long sigh, wiping away my tears.

“Goodnight.”

…

…

**Scene V**

I woke up alone in the gigantic double bed.

It was already 10am, but the sky still looked a bit dark.

(\*needs some more text here\*)