

A.V.A.

written by

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ACT 1

SCENE 1

An isolated forest in a future century uncanny to the one we live in.

A faint glow spreads onto the Young Man's face as he types on his obsolete laptop. Next to him sits a man who wears simple tan robes that contrast his blue skin. The Blue Man is clearly not of the same world.

YOUNG MAN

Let me finish this entry. Then we can begin. I have the A.I.V.A. right here. I just need to program it so that it is compatible with your composition.

The Young Man takes out a small case which holds an empty, hexagonal-shaped receiver the size of a quarter; the contraption resembles the head of a chalice. The Blue Man bows in respect upon seeing the device.

YOUNG MAN

Hopefully this will work since you're an adult. Usually everyone is given either an Augmented Visual Aid, or an Augmented Inverted Visual Aid right after birth.

The Young Man plugs the A.I.V.A. into the Laptop. The Blue Man watches intently.

YOUNG MAN

They say that both the A.V.A. and A.I.V.A. were gifts from God--not your God, but the Christian deity Jesus. Anyway, the A.I. could give everyone infinite knowledge--infinite happiness--since it supposedly operates on the Blood of Christ himself.

YOUNG MAN

(pointing to a diagram on the Laptop)

See here: By connecting wires implanted in each A.V.A. or A.I.V.A. with your brainwaves and bloodstream, it can detect your DNA and trace of thought. It uploads all of that to the Merovingian Database where the data is processed and shared among millions of others who then learn from your knowledge. Supposedly, by constantly comparing your data with the others in the network, it also matches you with a compatible mate...Thank the Merovingian Dynasty for all of this. They are the only one who have access the blood of Christ.

The Young Man finishes typing and shuts his laptop.

YOUNG MAN

But you know what? This damn thing never worked for me.

He then places his thumbs on the Blue Man's temples, feeling the perfect skin below.

YOUNG MAN

I-I think I have to install it on the right side. That's where the A.I.V.As are placed.

YOUNG MAN

Here, let me just check.

The Young Man picks up his own A.V.A., a computer the shape of a gem, and snaps it into his right temple. A small divot enlarges and makes way for the black gem.

Both men shift closer, and the Young Man guides their right temples together. The Young Man's A.V.A. glows faintly gold.

YOUNG MAN

Yes. This side will do.

A moment.

YOUNG MAN

It's never glowed gold before. Maybe this will work after all.

YOUNG MAN

Here, lie down on this blanket--on your left side.

The Young Man helps his blue brethren lie down. The Young Man takes out a dauntingly large set of medical and electrical equipment.

YOUNG MAN

This will not be easy, but try to remain calm.

The Young Man begins his work. Neither of the two speak a word.

An eternity later, the A.I.V.A. is fused into the Blue Man's head perfectly. No hints of blood or scarring, just skin as smooth as the edge of the moon and the empty chalice.

YOUNG MAN

Are you alright?

The Young Man helps the Blue Man sit up.

YOUNG MAN

You look beautiful. It was as if the A.I.V.A. was made just for you.

The Young Man graces the A.I.V.A. with his thumb, taking in the Blue Man's christened appearance.

YOUNG MAN

Why couldn't she have been the same?

The Blue Man focuses on his touch as the Young Man cups his face.

YOUNG MAN

It's a new sensation, I know. Just wait. It'll get much better.

YOUNG MAN

(leaning in)

What most people don't know is that the A.V.A.'s true potential lies in the Merge: the reunion of two worthy souls chosen by the hands of God.

The Young Man's A.V.A. slips effortlessly into the Blue Man's receiving A.I.V.A. Both glow gold as a loud, mechanical explosion rings.

SCENE 2

Days later:

Humming comes from the small kitchen as Judy prepares dinner. The News is on for white noise. She is focused on slicing each potato in symmetrical slices.

Gavin bursts through the front door, the knob hitting the clean, grey wall. He drops his suitcase on the floor, tears off his coat, and his shoes scuff the molding as they're tossed to the side. They land on top of a neat pair of identical looking shoes of a smaller size.

GAVIN

Give me the Laptop, now!

JUDY

What are you talking about?

GAVIN

I heard all of it. A thousand miles away, I heard all of it, and I know the Laptop is in this house!

GAVIN

"A Natural found converting Blue Man using a dead woman's A.I.V.A. Both killed."

JUDY

(abruptly)

It's not his fault!

GAVIN

Then describe the Laptop! We have access to every combination, every key-code, every password ever conceivable and yet he locked all his thoughts in this relic instead of adding it to the Merovingian Servers.

JUDY

Why does it matter? That Laptop was his life. We shouldn't go through it. The information on there was never made to be read by the public.

GAVIN

He's hiding something that everyone could learn from: like how he managed to successfully reassign an A.I.V.A. to something that isn't female and doesn't contain human genes. He knows how to do these things yet purposefully keeps them a secret on that damn machine. It's like he wants to be an outcast!

JUDY

And what is wrong with that?

GAVIN

Because that's not why God gave us A.V.A., Judy. God gave us A.V.A. so all men can live peacefully on this Earth. He gave us these devices so that we can make smarter choices-- providing us with the ability to learn from others. Who would keep secrets just to keep secrets unless they were against God himself?

GAVIN

Now look at him: the only Natural on the planet now dead because of pure selfishness!

JUDY

Don't speak of him that way!

GAVIN

It's damn true and you know it!

JUDY

He was not against God. It is his right to decide how to live his life. If he chose not to wear A.V.A. and leave a life of knowledge, so be it. Maybe he saw value in the unknown! Who constantly wants to be told what is right and wrong, when the point of living is to learn those things ourselves?

GAVIN

Are you wearing your A.I.V.A.?

Gavin walks over to Judy. Gavin places his hands on Judy's temples. There is no signature bump, but a shallow divot. Judy flinches as Gavin presses against her soft spot.

GAVIN

How dare you. No wonder you're convinced on justifying his actions. You're ignoring the facts. You're afraid of facing the truth.

JUDY

Get your hands off of me.

GAVIN

Judy, put on your A.I.V.A.

JUDY

I refuse to be brainwashed by facts. I want to live, not be told how to live.

GAVIN

It's not just facts. Life is founded upon what's true and what's false, regardless of if you learn it or someone else learns it.

GAVIN

Put on your A.I.V.A. Now. It will help you see clearly.

JUDY

I don't want to. I don't want to see clearly. I want to understand why he wanted to be a Natural, and to do that, I cannot wear the A.I.V.A.

Gavin rubs Judy's temple. He then places his right temple against hers. His botched A.V.A. almost fits perfectly but is too small for the empty divot. Gavin's A.V.A. beeps red as it searches for its companion A.I.V.A.

GAVIN

I'm sorry. I just want you to be forever happy.

JUDY

I don't need A.I.V.A. to be happy.

GAVIN

How could you be happy when you are uncertain?

JUDY

Gavin, I must ask you to leave. This is a private residence, not your "crime scene."

GAVIN

(gesturing to Judy's empty temple)

It is now.

JUDY

You didn't come in here to steal information from me. You came here to get the Laptop which is private property.

GAVIN

That man was up to something Judy, and by standing idle, you are encouraging a world of rebellion--A world of dominance and violence.

GAVIN

Put in your A.I.V.A. For me.

Gavin takes her A.I.V.A. from a gold cup that sits on the middle of the counter. He then brings it up to Judy's temple.

JUDY

Get out of my face-!

GAVIN

Perce was wrong. Admit it!

GAVIN

The Merovingian Servers are impenetrable. Any attempt to hack into their database would have resulted in instant death. In fact, he was destined to die by just purely thinking about such an atrocity!

Judy punches Gavin. He stumbles over the small kitchen's furniture. Crack! Gavin's head hits the stone countertop. Shards of glass and crimson blood cling to the stone.

JUDY

He was not wrong.

Gavin clings to the countertop. His A.V.A. lies shattered on the counter. Judy's own A.I.V.A. lies in the blood of Christ.

JUDY

He understood how the A.V.A. worked more than anybody else in the world. He knew of its potential. He even knew how to find eternal happiness.

JUDY

Until he was unable to because...because nobody cares about anything other than fact!

JUDY

People want to be right or wrong.

GAVIN

(ignoring Judy)

You read his Laptop entries which means it is in this house and you have the code.

Gavin begins to run towards the stairs leading to the second floor. He pushes Judy to the ground.

JUDY

Keep your filthy hands off his laptop!

SCENE 3

Perce's Bedroom.

Gavin holds the Laptop in one hand and a blue model in the other.

GAVIN

This is the Blue Man, isn't it? The one he's found dead next to?

JUDY

Yes, the one of his studies.

GAVIN

It even has a model of the A.I.V.A. How clever! But that isn't how we found them both, no?

JUDY

How we found them doesn't matter.

GAVIN

This is a yes or no question.

Gavin raises the model's head slightly above the desk top.

JUDY

No!...No, that's not how we found them both.

GAVIN

Correct. We found them like this.

*Gavin smashes the model's head. The A.I.V.A. model cracks.
Judy runs over to the destroyed piece of art.*

GAVIN

Smashed A.V.As. Both smashed to pieces as if to destroy the evidence of undocumented knowledge.

Judy fumbles out a black gem, an exact duplicate of Perce's original down to its imprints, out of the model's now-destroyed neck. Gavin turns towards the door.

JUDY

(weeping)

He was never satisfied.

GAVIN

(turning on the computer)

But with this, we can truly uncover what this man was up to and possibly the workings of the Merovingian Servers and the Family themselves!

Judy quickly squeezes the gem. It wakes up.

JUDY

(inserting the gem)

Why was I when he wasn't?

GAVIN

Judy, give me the password. It's about time we learn who truly is the keeper of knowledge.

Gavin turns around to find a pale, barely moving Judy.

GAVIN

Dear God.

Gavin drops the Laptop as he scrambles to diagnose her illness. He finds the black gem. It's lifeless.

GAVIN

Stay with me, love, please.

No discernible response.

GAVIN

I just wanted to understand--I wanted to know how to make us both happy.

Gavin grabs her hand to take her pulse.

GAVIN

And I can't do that without you.

Judy's hand opens. A white A.I.V.A. falls to the floor. Gavin picks up the A.I.V.A., and looks towards the destroyed sculpture, all while his botched A.V.A. still blinks red.