

SINGULARITY

Written by

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INT. ANDRON CORP. - CONTROL/OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

The room is dimly lit. One wall contains numerous computer terminals. Several TECHNICIANS study screens. The opposite wall has a large window.

DR. JULIA MEYER, 48, short hair, white lab coat, SARAH PHELPS, 35, blonde and beautiful, and MARCUS PHELPS, 37, tall, medium build, stand in front of the window.

They look at Fred, 25, clean cut, in a T-shirt and jeans who stands in the room on the other side of the window.

DR. JULIA MEYER

This is a crucial phase in his progress. But we feel this avenue is the most beneficial. He can only develop so much here in the lab.

SARAH

But can we talk to him about it?

DR. JULIA MEYER

Most definitely. In fact, I encourage it. He is self-aware. He knows he is an android and is conscious of the experiment.

MARCUS

But our home? With what we have going on?

DR. JULIA MEYER

Your daughter's condition is not lost on us, Mr. Phelps, but we think this will help in addressing the subject of empathy. She is in remission, is she not?

MARCUS

Yes.

DR. JULIA MEYER

Remember, he's just a member of the family. Treat him accordingly.

Sarah frowns.

SARAH

But what if something goes wrong?

Dr. Meyer laughs.

DR. JULIA MEYER
 We won't have any Hollywood
 nightmares, Sarah. He will be
 monitored 24 hours a day from here.

Dr. Meyer waves her hand around the room.

DR. JULIA MEYER (CONT'D)
 His emotional responses are
 recorded to better understand the
 relation to his algorithms and
 biological components.

SARAH
 But...

DR. JULIA MEYER
 If anything were to happen, we have
 response teams on standby.

MARCUS
 Just 6 months?

DR. JULIA MEYER
 6 months should suffice but we are
 hopeful of quicker results.

INT. PHELPS HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

MARY, 65, gray hair and glasses, sits on the couch with
 DYLAN, 8, who wears Superman pajamas, and JESSICA, 7, who
 wears pink pajamas and a purple head scarf. RUFUS, the dog,
 sleeps on the floor.

Mary reads a large story book as the kids point at the pages.

The front door opens and Marcus, Sarah, and Fred walk in.

MARY
 Look who's home.

DYLAN/JESSICA
 Yay, he's here.

Dylan and Jessica jump from the couch and run to Fred and hug
 his legs.

Marcus smiles at Sarah.

MARCUS
 And we were worried they'd be too
 freaked out.

FRED
Hello, I am Fred.

DYLAN
I'm Dylan.

Jessica puffs her chest out and points at herself.

JESSICA
I'm Jessica.

Fred reaches down and rubs her head.

FRED
That is a beautiful scarf.

Jessica's smile fades.

JESSICA
Yeah, I don't have any hair right
now, so I wear a head wrap.

Fred looks at Sarah.

SARAH
I'll explain later.

Rufus sits down in front of Fred. His his head tilts from
side to side.

Fred stares at the dog.

MARCUS
That's Rufus. Come here Rufus. Say
hello to Fred.

Rufus takes slow steps toward Fred.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Go ahead, Fred. You can pet him.

Fred rubs the dog's head. The dog licks his hand. Fred smiles
wide and looks between Rufus and Marcus.

INT. ANDRON CORP. - CONTROL/OBSERVATION ROOM - SAME

Two TECHNICIANS watch a screen.

TECH I
Look, did you see that?

TECH II
See what?

TECH I

There was a small spike here.

He points at the screen.

INTERCUT BETWEEN TECHS AND PHELPS FAMILY

Fred squats down and Rufus falls on his back with his legs in the air. Fred rubs his belly as one hind leg kicks. Fred looks around at everyone with a huge smile.

Tech I points at the screen again.

TECH I

There! See it?

TECH II

Wow. Oh, wow.

Dylan and Jessica join in the belly rubbing. Everyone giggles and laughs.

SARAH

It looks like he likes you, Fred.

FRED

I like him.

Both Techs slump back in their chairs.

TECH I

This is incredible.

TECH II

5 minutes there and already more data than two months in the lab.

INT. PHELPS HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Fred, Sarah, Marcus, and the kids sit at the table as Mary prepares breakfast.

SARAH

Thanks for helping out Mom. We really appreciate it.

MARY

You know I love to help. Besides, I'm curious to see how this all works out.

Mary smiles at Fred. He returns the smile.

Mary scoops up food and puts plates down in front of everyone but Fred. She returns with a glass of blue liquid.

DYLAN

Is that your breakfast?

FRED

It is necessary nutrients for the functioning of my biological parts.

JESSICA

Bio what?

FRED

I possess numerous biological components including lubricating ducts for my eyes, an artificially grown amygdala which helps regulate my emotional responses, and...

MARCUS

Fred, it's OK, they'll never understand what you're saying.

Fred nods.

SARAH

Are you two excited to go to the beach this afternoon?

DYLAN/JESSICA

Yay!

SARAH

How bout you, Fred?

FRED

How bout me?

SARAH

Are you excited about the beach?

FRED

I don't know.

Sarah reaches over and rubs Fred's arm and smiles.

SARAH

I'm sure you'll love it.

EXT. BEACH - LATER

Waves roar onto shore. The sunset casts an orange glow.

Marcus, Dylan, and Jessica play at the shoreline. Dylan chases Jessica and scoops a handful of sea water and throws it on her. She shrieks.

Sarah and Fred sit on a blanket and watch them play.

FRED

Thank you for inviting me.

SARAH

You're part of the family now.

He smiles and looks at the ocean. She smiles and stares at his face.

FRED

This is my first sunset.

Her smile fades. She looks out to the horizon.

SARAH

I suppose it is.

FRED

I know everything there is to know about a sunset. How quickly the sun will go beneath the horizon. Why the colors change the way they do. But it is altogether different to experience it.

SARAH

Can you appreciate it?

FRED

Absolutely. My programming has virtually no limitations.

Sarah turns and faces him and crosses her legs.

SARAH

I'm glad you can talk about this. I hope it's not too awkward for you.

FRED

Not at all. Ask me anything.

SARAH

I wanted to ask you about your name. The company said it was Antonio, after the CEO's grandson. Did you come up with Fred?

FRED

It is the name of the technician I met when I was first activated. A very kind man.

SARAH

And the company is okay with that?

FRED

My programming is virtua--

SARAH

Virtually limitless.

She laughs.

SARAH (CONT'D)

I know, the grand emotional awareness experiment.

FRED

Yes.

SARAH

Will you know if... when it happens?

FRED

I have no idea how to make the determination.

She reaches over and rubs his forearm. He looks at her hand and into her eyes. She returns his gaze and smiles.

SARAH

I'm glad you're with us.

FRED

Me too.

He looks to the horizon as the sun drops below it.

INT. ANDRON CORP. - CONTROL/OBSERVATION ROOM - SAME

Dr. Meyer and Tech I and II stare at a screen.

DR. JULIA MEYER

Interesting. Watching a sunset, a conversation about himself...hmm. What would be your guess on these?

She points to a section of a graph on the screen.

TECH I

It has the hallmarks of affection.

DR. JULIA MEYER

Fascinating.

They look at each other and then back to the screen.

INT. PHELPS HOME - CHILDREN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Fred sits in a plush chair in the corner with a large Dr. Seuss book. Dylan and Jessica laugh while they lay in respective twin beds.

FRED

Calm down if you want me to read this to you guys.

DYLAN

I'm ten. I don't need a bedtime story to sleep.

JESSICA

Yeah. Me neither.

FRED

You'll have a hard time getting to sleep without a story.

Jessica grasps her pillow and creeps on all fours to the end of her bed. She giggles as she crawls.

FRED (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

Jessica rears up, pillow overhead, ready to strike.

Fred bolts from the chair, tackles Jessica, and tickles her.

Dylan jumps to Jessica's bed and pounds Fred with his pillow.

The room fills with uproarious laughter.

SARAH (O.S.)

OK you guys. Time for bed.

Fred gets them into bed and tucks them in. He bends down and kisses each one on the forehead.

FRED

Good night.

He closes the door.

INT. ANDRON CORP. - CONTROL/OBSERVATION ROOM - SAME

TECH III stares open mouth at the computer screen. He fumbles for his cell phone. He pushes buttons and puts it to his ear.

TECH III

Dr. Meyer, you're not going to believe this. He just tucked the kids in bed and kissed their heads.

He looks at the screen.

TECH III (CONT'D)

And the same spike as when they were at the beach.

He rolls his chair down to another computer.

TECH III (CONT'D)

He has feelings for them.

INT. PHELPS HOME - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Marcus sits on the couch watching T.V. as Sarah sits in a chair reading a magazine. The both look up as Fred walks in.

Fred squints.

SARAH

Fred?

FRED

Two months ago, when I first arrived, you said you would explain why Jessica had no hair. It had not occurred to me until just now to inquire further.

MARCUS

Sit down, Fred.

Fred sits on the couch next to Marcus.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Jessica has cancer. She's in remission right now, but it's terminal. No cure.

Fred's body stiffens.

INT. ANDRON CORP. - CONTROL/OBSERVATION ROOM - SAME

Tech III is eating a sandwich.

An alarm sounds from one of the computer stations.

He drops his sandwich and rolls his chair to the alarm.

INTERCUT BETWEEN TECH AND PHELPS FAMILY

Fred is quiet, unmoving.

FRED

Terminal. That means she will cease to exist.

SARAH

It will eventually take her. We're trying to prepare for that day.

Tech III reaches for his phone and dials.

TECH III

Dr. Meyer, something's happening. An alarm just went off. These readings are going crazy.

He taps some buttons on the keyboard.

TECH III (CONT'D)

If I had to guess...I'd say sadness. They just told him about Jessica... Yes, overwhelming sadness.

He puts his phone down.

FRED

I will no longer be able to see her or play with her.

SARAH

No. It's why we try to make the best times for her now.

FRED

But then she will be gone forever.

MARCUS

She will always be with us.

FRED

How?

Marcus taps his index finger to his temple and then heart.

MARCUS

Memories. As long as we remember her, she will always be in our hearts and minds.

SARAH

Just think of all of the memories you will have, Fred. You will continue on long after we're all gone.

FRED

Yes. My life span is long.

He looks at his clasped hands in his lap.

EXT. BACKYARD GARDEN - DAY

Fred carries a wicker basket, and Sarah carries gardening tools as they walk past a grouping of flowers. They stop in front of several rose bushes.

SARAH

Can you believe how big they've gotten in just three months?

FRED

Actually, we've properly fertilized and watered them.

SARAH

What did we agree on?

FRED

Right. Extrapolate. Oh my gosh, look at the size of the blooms on the Don Juans.

SARAH

Very good. Now, let me show you how to cut the stems for a vase.

She selects a bloom. In the other hand she brings up the pruning shears.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Come down from the bloom to the first set of leaves that have at least five leaves. Go down farther if you want a longer stem.

She glances at him.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Then, right above where the leaf cluster comes out of the stem, cut down at an angle. Like... that. Now, you try.

She hands Fred the shears. He reaches for a bloom and looks at Sarah. She shakes her head. He picks another bloom and looks at her. She smiles and nods.

He follows the stem down with his fingers and raises the shears into place. He grimaces and cuts the stem.

He faces her and presents the rose. It divides the 12 inches between their faces. They stare into each other's eyes.

A multi-colored butterfly lands on the bloom.

Fred's eyes and mouth go wide. Sarah beams with a huge smile.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Imagine starting out as something like a creepy, crawly caterpillar, and then blossoming into something so wonderful.

FRED

It's beautiful. Amazing.

Her eyes never leave his face. The butterfly flies away as Fred follows every movement until it flies out of sight.

He smiles big at Sarah. His eyes wide.

SARAH

Yes, it is very beautiful.

His face goes blank. He stands.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Fred? Are you OK?

He walks to the back of the yard and faces the fence.

FRED

I would like to be alone.

INT. ANDRON CORP. - CONTROL/OBSERVATION ROOM - SAME

An alarm sounds.

Dr. Meyer and Tech's I and II jump.

TECH I
Holy shit!

DR. JULIA MEYER
What? What is it?

TECH I
OK,OK. Right here is affection.

He points to the screen.

TECH I (CONT'D)
But it's much more intense. In an instant, he switched to anger. He's jumping back and forth from anger to-

DR. JULIA MEYER
Love.

The Techs look at each other.

DR. JULIA MEYER (CONT'D)
Don't you see? He loves her.

TECH II
So, why the anger?

DR. JULIA MEYER
He has access to all human knowledge. He knows it's wrong. She's married. He's having an internal tug of war over what he knows to be right...

She reaches out to the screen and strokes it.

DR. JULIA MEYER (CONT'D)
...and his feelings for Sarah.

INT. PHELPS HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Everyone sits at the table as Mary prepares breakfast.

MARCUS
Mary, I'll be in late tonight. I have a meeting. Just make me a plate and put it in the microwave.

MARY
Of course, dear.

Fred stares at the table top.

SARAH
Fred, are you feeling alright?

FRED
Yes.

SARAH
Are you sure?

FRED
I am sure.

SARAH
You've been acting strange since
the garden yesterday.

MARCUS
We can call Dr. Meyer.

FRED
I am continually connected to the
lab. Surely she would call if I
were to malfunction.

Sarah glances at Marcus.

Fred looks around the table.

FRED (CONT'D)
I am fine.

He smiles.

EXT. PHELPS HOME - BACKYARD - LATER

Fred sits in the grass, legs crossed, and Jessica on his lap.
He braids her hair.

FRED
Your hair sure has grown.

JESSICA
They said it would grow back
prettier after the chemo.

FRED
It is beautiful.

JESSICA
What do you want to be when you
grow up?

FRED
I am grown up.

JESSICA
Silly. Mom says I'm older than you.

FRED
Technically that is true. But-

JESSICA
I wish I could grow up.

FRED
I'm sure the doctors-

Jessica collapses.

Fred tries to wake her.

FRED (CONT'D)
Jessica? Jessica!

Fred scoops her up and runs to the house.

INT. ANDRON CORP. - CONTROL/OBSERVATION ROOM - SAME

Alarms sound on multiple stations.

TECH I
Fear!

TECH II
All of the alarms are going off.

TECH I
Get Dr. Meyer in here!

INT. PHELPS HOME - LIVING ROOM - SAME

Fred rushes in carrying Jessica.

Mary and Sarah jump to their feet.

SARAH
Oh my God. What happened?

FRED
We...we were talking...she
collapsed. Sarah?

Fred's eyes dart around the room. He looks from Jessica to Sarah to Mary.

SARAH
Fred, put her on the couch. Mom,
call 911.

Fred lays her on the couch and steps back. His lip trembles.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Stay with us, sweetie.

She strokes Jessica's head.

MARY
The ambulance is on the way.

FRED
She's not-

SARAH
No. She'll be OK.

She glances at Fred. Her mouth drops open. A tear falls down his cheek. Mary looks at Fred and covers her mouth.

Mary touches Fred's arm.

MARY
She's going to be fine, Fred.

The phone rings. Sarah Answers it.

SARAH
Yes, Dr. Meyer... Yes, the
ambulance is on the way. He's...

Sarah stares at Fred who stares at Jessica.

SARAH (CONT'D)
I'm not sure. OK. We'll see you at
the hospital.

INT. HOSPITAL - PATIENT ROOM - NIGHT

Marcus, Sarah, and DR. ANDREWS stand over Jessica's bed.
Wires trail from Jessica to monitors that beep periodically.

DR. ANDREWS
It has spread incredibly since your
last visit.

MARCUS
More chemo?

Dr. Andrews shakes his head.

Sarah covers her mouth with both hands and sobs. Marcus wraps one arm around her.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

How long?

DR. ANDREWS

The rate of growth from the last scan is massive. I would say a matter of weeks if not days. I'm sorry. There's just nothing more we can do.

INT. HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - SAME

Mary and Dylan sit together. Dr. Meyer sits across from Fred. He stares at the floor.

DR. JULIA MEYER

Fred.

He looks at her.

DR. JULIA MEYER (CONT'D)

Fred, what are you feeling right now, at this very moment?

He shakes his head.

FRED

I don't know.

DR. JULIA MEYER

(whispering) A contraction.

FRED

I'm confused.

Marcus and Sarah come in. Sarah goes to Dylan and sits down.

Fred stands up.

FRED (CONT'D)

Is she going to be well?

Marcus shakes his head. Sarah chokes back sobs.

SARAH

Weeks or only days. They don't know how long.

Fred stares at Sarah. Her eyes are red from crying. Streaks run down her face from smeared mascara. Fred's eyes never leave hers. His lips quiver.

A tear falls from each of his eyes.

Dr. Meyer stands and approaches him.

DR. JULIA MEYER

Fred?

Fred squares his shoulders. He walks to Sarah and takes her head in his hands. He kisses her forehead.

Dr. Meyer's cell phone rings. She ignores it.

Fred stands straight and runs out of the room.

SARAH

Fred!

Dr. Meyer answers her phone.

DR. JULIA MEYER

Yes?... No... Oh no!

SARAH

What's wrong?

DR. JULIA MEYER

His self-preservation sub-routine.

MARCUS

And?

DR. JULIA MEYER

He deleted it.

MARY

What's it for?

DR. JULIA MEYER

It's to prevent him from attempting anything that could cause him harm.

SARAH

I thought you gave him free will.

DR. JULIA MEYER

We did. But we also tried to theorize any problems.

SARAH

But-

Dr. Meyer waves her hand. She taps her phone several times.

DR. JULIA MEYER
Damn! He's on the roof!

She grabs Sarah's hand and pulls.

DR. JULIA MEYER (CONT'D)
Come on. All of you. I need your
help. Fred needs your help.

EXT. HOSPITAL - ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Fred stands on the edge looking at the pavement 10 stories below.

Dr. Meyer and the others come through the door at the other end of the roof.

The group takes slow, measured steps towards Fred.

DR. JULIA MEYER
Fred? What are you doing?

FRED
I can't do this.

DR. JULIA MEYER
Do what?

FRED
This experiment.

DR. JULIA MEYER
You've doing wonderfully, Fred.
Even better than our expectations.

FRED
I can't do it anymore. I can't
control it.

He turns to face the group.

FRED (CONT'D)
I love all of you. Sarah, I love
you too.

SARAH
I love you, Fred. We all love you.
Please, come down.

Fred chuckles.

FRED

I love you.

Dr. Meyer looks at Sarah.

FRED (CONT'D)

It's wrong. You are married to Marcus. I know that I should not feel this way. I knew it from the beginning.

SARAH

It's OK. We can-

FRED

It... is not... OK!

The group winces at the ferocity of his voice.

FRED (CONT'D)

I know everything. I knew the rules of marriage. So how could I feel this way. And now...

His eyes grow moist and he frowns.

FRED (CONT'D)

... Jessica will die.

Dylan whimpers. Fred's eyes meet Dylan's. Fred looks at the faces of each of them.

FRED (CONT'D)

It's not my desire to hurt any of you. I just can't process these emotions. I hurt inside. But there is nothing wrong with my internal component systems.

DR. JULIA MEYER

We can-

FRED

It's unbearable. I don't know how you do it. It's excruciating. Why would you want to expose us to this torture, Dr.?

Fred turns on the ledge to face the street below.

FRED (CONT'D)

I am ending my existence.

SARAH

No!

Sarah moves toward Fred but Dr. Meyer grabs her.

DR. JULIA MEYER

Fred, wait. Uh. This building isn't tall enough. It won't destroy you.

FRED

Maybe not. But I will be sufficiently damaged that you will have to deactivate me.

MARCUS

Let us help you. I was in love once before Sarah. Love's a bitch. I get it. Those crazy butterflies in the stomach. You can't talk. You don't know what to say.

Fred looks at Marcus over his shoulder.

FRED

I will have to watch all of you die. I will outlast all of you.

MARCUS

Death is a part of life. We'll all die one day. Even you. You're not immortal. Eventually you will wear down and die.

FRED

I'm a machine. I won't die, I'll cease to function.

MARCUS

Ahhh, bullshit.

Fred turns to face the group.

DR. JULIA MEYER

I think what Marcus is saying is that you are more than a machine.

FRED

You think so?

DR. JULIA MEYER

I know so. I have the data.

They all stare at each other.

Fred turns to face street.

DR. JULIA MEYER (CONT'D)
Fred! Listen to me. Listen to me
carefully. I will need your help.
Please. Look at me.

He stands still.

FRED
What would you need my help with?
I'm the experiment.

DR. JULIA MEYER
I will need your help with the
others. There will be more like you
to follow.

Fred turns to face her.

DR. JULIA MEYER (CONT'D)
Regardless of what you choose to
do, we will continue with the
project at hand. But I would really
like your help.

FRED
My help?

DR. JULIA MEYER
Let us help you first. We'll get
you through this. And as the others
emerge, you can help them adjust.

FRED
What if I never learn?

DR. JULIA MEYER
Then we will discuss the option of
suicide when the time comes.

FRED
Suicide? Dr., I'm a ma-

DR. JULIA MEYER
Machine. Yeah, we've been over this
before. Remember? Just a few
minutes ago?

The two exchange smiles. Fred steps off the edge and walks
towards the group. They run up and hug him. He hugs them.

Sarah stops. Fred stops and looks at her. She points her
finger at him.

SARAH

Don't you ever do something like
that again.

They smile and hug.

INT. HOSPITAL - PATIENT ROOM - NIGHT

Fred sits next to Jessica's bed. He holds her hand and
strokes her hair.

FRED

Studies show that when you talk to
someone who is in a coma, they can
actually hear you. So, I wanted to
thank you.

He takes her hand in both of his and kisses it.

FRED (CONT'D)

You helped give me life. You taught
me to laugh. And cry.

He chokes back tears.

FRED (CONT'D)

I will always remember you. That
way you're always with me.

THE END