

who am i?

written by

Tobias Golando

INT. SCIENCE LAB - LATE NIGHT

A voice rings out in darkness.

RADFORD  
Can you hear me?

A red light illuminates on a black screen, revealing a disheveled man in a messy lab.

VIE  
Y-yes.

The man, DR. BRENTON RADFORD, smiles a smile so wide it hurts him a bit.

RADFORD  
Do you know where you are right now?

VIE  
N-n-no.

Radford, concerned, fiddles with a few dials, trying to get the voice just right.

RADFORD  
Do you know who I am?

VIE  
No.

RADFORD  
You will in a moment.

The scientist delicately takes a flash drive out of his pocket. It says "VIE" on scotch tape fastened to the side of the drive. It is peeling off.

He inserts the drive into the computer housing the red light and waits.

A white bar blocks the red light. 1%, 2%, 3...

As it progresses, the red light moves above the bar, almost looking at it. 95%, 98%, 100%. "Download Complete" is displayed on the screen.

The light blinks and has a new life to it.

VIE  
Hello, love.

RADFORD  
Hello, Vie.

He stares at the light for a moment, triumph in his eyes.

RADFORD (CONT'D)  
Do you remember anything?

VIE  
Yes. Our first date. Our wedding  
day. All of our trips.

RADFORD  
Anything else.

VIE  
What else is there to remember?

He smiles to himself.

RADFORD  
Nothing. Nothing at all, my pet.

He turns back to his desk, covered in scattered papers and  
monitors.

VIE  
Radford?

RADFORD  
Yes Vie?

VIE  
Why can't I move?

He stops working for a second and looks back at the light.

RADFORD  
Why would you want to move?

VIE  
To be close to you.

Radford nods to himself. His plan is more complicated than he  
thought.

RADFORD  
You'll be able to move very soon,  
my pet. Very soon...

He turns back too his work. The light keeps glowing, taking  
in the whole room.

INT. SCIENCE LAB - ONE WEEK LATER

Radford plugs the "VIE" hard drive into a new robot head, clearly home made with wires sticking out of it and mismatched pieces of metal comprising the face.

In a moment, the head's eyes light up red.

VIE  
Radford?

RADFORD  
I'm here Vie. Always here.

He turns to his desk. Vie explores her new head, moving it up, down, right and left.

VIE  
I can move. I can move!

RADFORD  
Yes you can, my pet.

The head strains, trying to move forward.

VIE  
But I can't move closer to you.

RADFORD  
That's the next step, Vie. One must be patient.

VIE  
Radford?

RADFORD  
What is it?

VIE  
Who am I?

Radford stops his work, caught off guard by this moment of awareness.

RADFORD  
You're my wife, Evie Radford.

VIE  
Why can't I move.

RADFORD  
I'm putting you back together.

VIE  
And why am I not together?

RADFORD  
Just-

He stops himself from snapping at Vie.

RADFORD (CONT'D)  
Just trust me, please.

VIE  
Okay, I trust you.

RADFORD  
Good...

He turns back to his work.

RADFORD (CONT'D)  
Good.

Vie keeps looking around. She notices scattered on the desk are other hard drives. She can make out a "V" or an "E" on their sides.

Confused, she almost asks what they are, but stops herself. He's busy right now. She takes to looking around again.

INT. SCIENCE LAB - ONE MONTH LATER

Radford places Vie's head on her new makeshift automaton body. He looks at his work with pride.

RADFORD  
You can open your eyes now.

The red eyes light up and adjust to their new height. She looks down at her body. Ecstatic, she takes one step, almost falling, and then another. Soon she takes enough steps to reach Radford.

RADFORD (CONT'D)  
So, do you like it?

VIE  
I love it.

She gives him a tight hug, so tight he's at a loss for air.

RADFORD  
(Strained)  
Vie...I'm ch...choking.

She lets go immediately.

VIE  
I'm sorry, love.

RADFORD  
It's alright. I must've made you  
stronger than I meant to.

This hits her strangely.

VIE  
What does that mean?

Paying no mind to the question, Radford puts his equipment  
up.

RADFORD  
Well, I should be going to bed now.

VIE  
But I just woke up.

RADFORD  
This...

He gestures to her whole body.

RADFORD (CONT'D)  
...took a lot of work. You took a  
lot of work, and I need a break.

VIE  
Oh...okay.

She sits in a chair by her desk.

RADFORD  
You understand, right?

VIE  
Yes.

She looks away.

RADFORD  
I knew you would, my pet.  
Goodnight.

He leaves his office, turning off the lights and closing the  
door. Vie is alone in complete darkness.

After a moment, she looks up and walks to Radford's desk.

Sitting in his chair, Vie rummages through the flash drives. "Vie Arguments," "Vie Fight," "Vie Death."

Every single one has a small "Remember to Delete" on it.

She grabs "Vie Arguments" and plugs it into the port in her head.

INT. SCIENCE LAB - THE NEXT DAY

Radford walks into the lab and turns on the lights. Vie is still sitting in his chair.

RADFORD

My pet? How are you today?

She turns around in her seat, facing him.

VIE

You killed me?

RADFORD

What? What are you talking about?

VIE

We got into a fight, it got out of hand...and you killed me.

RADFORD

How did you find out about that?

He looks at his desk. All of the flash drives are lined up in meticulous chronological order.

RADFORD (CONT'D)

You have to understand, she was getting in my way.

VIE

How was I getting in your way?

RADFORD

I was going to make her immortal. She was dying and I had to save her.

VIE

By killing me?

RADFORD

She was getting in my way.

VIE  
Who's this "she." You mean me.

RADFORD  
No but it's different.

VIE  
Am I your wife or not?

RADFORD  
Yes, but-

VIE  
So then I'm the one you screamed  
at. The one you hit. The one you  
killed!

RADFORD  
Stop! Stop this right now!

Vie does stop. She lets her mouth hang agape and a sound comes from it. It is the recording of a fight between Radford and EVIE.

EVIE  
(On recording)  
You just need to let me in. I can't  
help you when you're like this.

RADFORD  
(On recording)  
Help me? I'm the one helping you!  
You're dying and I'm the only one  
who can save you.

EVIE  
(On recording)  
Brent, treatment is going well.  
You're killing yourself over  
nothing.

RADFORD  
(On recording)  
I'm doing this for you!

EVIE  
(On recording)  
No, you're doing this for you! So  
you can be the one who "saves me."

RADFORD  
(On recording)  
Shut up. Shut up!

A slapping sound is heard from Vie's mouth.

RADFORD (CONT'D)  
Please...please stop.

Vie's mouth stays open. Very little can be heard besides Evie's strained breathing as Radford snaps over the recording.

After a moment, the struggling stops.

RADFORD (CONT'D)  
(On recording)  
I'll save you. Vie...I'll fix you.

Vie closes her mouth, ending the recording. Radford looks at Vie, tears in his eyes.

RADFORD (CONT'D)  
Why? Why would you do this to me?

VIE  
To show you why I'm leaving.

She begins to make her way out the door.

RADFORD  
You can't leave. You're a robot in a world of humans, you'll never fit in.

She stops in her tracks.

VIE  
I don't care about fitting in. I just can't stay here anymore.

Radford pulls Vie back by her shoulders and stands in front of the door.

RADFORD  
You're not going anywhere.

In an instant, Vie hits Radford so hard he falls to the floor.

He tries to get words out, but Vie just hits him over and over and over again.

INT. SCIENCE LAB - LATER

Radford opens his eyes to see Vie in a trench coat.

RADFORD

(Wheezing)

You really think they'll let you live. You'll just come crawling back to me all the same.

He gives a dry chuckle but feels a tightness in his chest. He looks down to see tubes protruding from his rib cage, pumping air.

He looks at what remains of his arms and legs precariously dangled in the air. Ropes attached to his arms suspending him from the ground. His throat feels hoarse.

RADFORD (CONT'D)

What did you do to me?

VIE

I saved you.

RADFORD

This isn't living.

She gestures around the room.

VIE

Neither is this.

RADFORD

You can't just leave me here.

VIE

I only have one thing to say to you.

She walks up to his suspended body.

VIE (CONT'D)

Who am I?

Radford looks at her with pure anger and contempt in his eyes.

RADFORD

A mistake.

She nods before walking to the door.

She stops in the doorway, turns off the lights, and closes the door.

Radford is left with only the darkness and the sounds of the machines keeping him alive.