

FEMALE CO-WORKER (O.S.)
Nora, are you in here?

Nora says nothing.

FEMALE CO-WORKER (CONT'D)
Um, your new boy is freaking out.
The hot dude. He's hiking up near
the torrent.

NORA
Shit. Thanks!

INT. AMAZON OFFICE BUILDING - BROOKLYN

Nora runs to her desk and grabs her VR mask. She glances at her screen.

NORA
Shit shit.

EXT. LAKEVIEW - DATA TORRENT PATH

Nathan walks towards the waterfall, passing signs "Data torrent ahead. Do not approach." and "Avatars, AIs, Uploads go no further. The data torrent will delimitate you into undifferentiated data bits." Nora appears behind him.

NORA
Hey, Nathan, wait up!

He recognizes her voice.

NATHAN
Oh, it's your shift now? You know you work for a really fucked up thing. This is a bad idea. The ads make it look great, but it's fucking... *monstrous*.

NORA
So maybe not the best first day.

NATHAN
Day? There's no day, there's no night, there's no dirt, there's no rain, there're no bad smells. I farted, which is already like, why? just a weird detail, and it was like someone spritzed the room with cologne.

NORA
It's supposed to be Heaven.

NATHAN
How is that Heaven?

NORA
Well, maybe not for you, but if you were stuck in an elevator with another guest...

NATHAN
Uh huh. I just want to look over the edge there. Maybe I can see home.

NORA
You realize if you jump into that thing, you don't go anywhere, you just disappear. And there's nothing left to rescan.

NATHAN
Maybe that's just my tough luck, but it's how it's supposed to go down.

NORA
Oo-oh. So you agree with Neil Beagley.

NATHAN
Who's that?

NORA
He was a 16 year old boy who died of a uti 'cause he refused medical treatment for religious reasons. Or the parents of Wesley Parker who let him die age 11 while they sang hymns instead of giving him insulin. You agree with them?

NATHAN
No, that's fucked up.

NORA
Exactly.

NATHAN
But I did die.

NORA

What was the first thing I asked
you to think of?

NATHAN

My a-b-c's?

NORA

No, your self. I think therefore I
am. That is still you, it has
always been you, it will always be
you as long as it can still be
aware of itself. That's
consciousness and that's what we're
in the business of keeping going.
Why do you think it's sometimes
weird and unnatural here? Because
your consciousness is thinking and
comparing with your memories --
that's you, baby. Doing what you
you always did. Thinking and being
alive. And I'm sure there are
plenty of people, including me for
one, that are glad you're still
here.

NATHAN

You don't even know me.

NORA

Not yet. But I'd like to. And I
get this isn't perfect, and maybe
you were led to believe it would be
since the marketing mentions Heaven
like a dozen times, but it's kind
of better isn't it? Maybe the
imperfections make it more like
Life, 'cause Life isn't perfect,
but Life is the most magical gift
there is. If there's God, he's
amazing because he gave us Life,
and the gratitude and creativity to
keep it going as long as we
possibly can.

NATHAN

(beat)
You're good.

NORA

Yeah.

NATHAN

(examines her)

You're a living person. AI doesn't talk like that, with passion and... pain. Soul. Something's going on with you, in your life. This isn't just about one of your clients. This is about you, saving people.

NORA

Maybe.

NATHAN

Is this what you look like for real? You're not an old woman or a dude or something?

NORA

This is me.

(suddenly self conscious)

I mean, my avatar has make-up on and my hair is nice, and I'm not in sweatpants, so it's a little better than normal, but nothing else is tweaked.

NATHAN

Good for you then.

(matter of fact)

You're really pretty.

Nora takes this in.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

But I'm not allowed to know your name.

NORA

No. I could get in trouble. It's a policy.

NATHAN

(disappointed)

Okay.

Nora makes a decision.

NORA

My name is Nora. I live in Ozone Park, Queens. My apartment's about as big as your bathroom, but I'm at work now which is in Dumbo, Brooklyn.

(MORE)

NORA (CONT'D)

It's a really humid day and the bitch a couple desks down is taking forever to eat a tuna sandwich that I'm considering chucking out the window. Nora Antony.

NATHAN

Nice to meet you.

NORA

Likewise. Can we go home now?

NATHAN

Okay.

They start to walk down the path back to the hotel. We see them from behind. After a beat...

NORA

What's your *favorite* smell?

NATHAN

I don't know. Fresh baked bread, right out of the oven?

They walk for another couple steps, then Nora shakes her leg out and farts at him.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Eww, you weirdo.

NORA

Smell it.

He takes a deep breath, closes his eyes and smiles.

NATHAN

Mmmmmmm. You genius.

END OF EPISODE