Sisters

by Peter Roach

DRAFT #1
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FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

A 14 year old girl NAS with short frizzy hair runs through the kitchen out her way out the door. The older sister DANI tries to grab her sister on the way out.

DANI

Hey, get something to eat, Shortstuff.

Dani has even more hair. It sits on her head like a willow tree. Dani grabs her sister by the backpack and stuffs an apple into the side pocket.

DANI

No wonder you are short.

Nas runs out the door. Dani waits staring at the door. Nas pokes her head back in.

NAS

You look like the butt end of a snail.

Dani shuts the kitchen door.

DANI

Like clockwork.

Dani sits at the kitchen table, starts a science lesson on her tablet, grabs a book and reads. Multitasking.

INT. SCHOOLROOM - DAY

Five students sit facing a screen for a virtual lesson, they fidget, look around.

VIRTUAL TEACHER

Pay attention kids. Do you want to start over?

The kids exaggerate eye rolls, but pay attention to the lesson again.

VIRTUAL TEACHER

So who knows why we use carbon-14 to date organic materials?

The kids choose an answer on the desk screens.

VIRTUAL TEACHER

All correct! ten points. Last question. What is the half-life of carbon-14?

VIRTUAL TEACHER

One correct. Nas how did you know this?

NAS

My sister told me. She is old like carbon-14.

VIRTUAL TEACHER

Rule 1-1 states that no siblings are allowed. Do you have a tutor?

NAS

Sometimes.

VIRTUAL TEACHER

Lesson six is due tomorrow. So read it at home.

The other kids turn away from Nas and leave.

INT. ANDROID CONTROL - DAY

INSPECTOR-24 is a man with greying hair and the look of a prison warden. Not the type of man to laugh more than once a year.

INSPECTOR-24

Driver!

An even older man with a tired look steps into the room.

DRIVER

Is there a live one left? No calls in five years, What's up?

INSPECTOR-24

This one came from a Virtual, in school, in some academic exempt neighborhood.

DRIVER

We could spend all day outside with this.

INSPECTOR-24

Fresh air is just a memory. You and I are just as extinct as the smell of flowers.

INT. KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Dani helps Nas with her assignment. She pages through the screen, finds the lesson, gives the younger the tablet.

DANI

20 minutes. Let's go swimming when you are done.

NAS

You are worse than my teacher.

A soft chime.

DANI

Yes House.

HOUSE COMPUTER (O.S.)

Visitors. Front door.

DANI

Interrogate.

HOUSE COMPUTER (O.S.)

Inspector-24 Android Control.

DANI

Hey you. Call Dad, 1250.

Nas dials, Dani waits for an answer, turns and walks to the front door.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Inspector-24 walks in behind Dani. Nas comes skipping in through the other door.

NAS

Are you the man who fixes the house system?

INSPECTOR-24

No, I came to talk to your sister.

NAS

Why? She is really boring.

DANI

Why are you here?

Inspector-24 answers as he looks around.

INSPECTOR-24

No, I really came to talk to you.

DANI

About?

INSPECTOR-24

Regulation 1. Directive 1. One child policy.

DANI

Regulation 1, Directive 1, Article 5. Exemption for talented potentials.

The communication pad comes to life, returning the call. It shows an empty lab, with scattered equipment. DAD slides into view. He is a Black man with an unkempt beard the type you grow when working in a research station. Big sign behind him says Global Rebirth.

DAD

Inspector-24? Early hire. What keeps you going?

INSPECTOR-24

Lonely job, no prospects. Pride. Smart cookies you have here.

DAD

No doubt. Name the regulation.

Inspector-24 looks at Dani.

INSPECTOR-24

Regulation 1. Directive 1, Article 6. Inspectors can determine the optimal locations for interrogations.

DAD

True?

DANI

True.

NAS

Interrogations of minors must be recorded, located, and broadcast live to parents or guardians.

DAD

True.

INSPECTOR-24

(fake sincerity)

You are so smart. Where did you learn that?

CONTINUED: (2)

NAS

School. Last year. Get with it old dude.

DAD

Begin. Now!

Inspector-24 pushes the Comm button on his shoulder.

INSPECTOR-24

Recording of minor commence.

Broadcast to..

Inspector-24 reads the number of Dad's comm screen.

INSPECTOR-24

Broadcast to South-124-J8.

DANI

(pointing to Nas)

You. Behave yourself.

INT. ANDROID CONTROL - AFTERNOON

Dani sits in a chair facing Inspector-24 across a desk. Behind Inspector-24 is a non-obtrusive instrument. Two rows that looks like an extended visor.

The display sits behind Dani. Her heart rate, temperature, blood pressure and brain waves display. This is a lie detector with a kick.

INSPECTOR-24

State your name please.

DANI

It is already on the display. Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers. Calibrated?

INSPECTOR-24

Tell me a truth.

DANI

This bores you.

INSPECTOR-24

Tell me a lie.

DANI

I like spending time with you.

INSPECTOR-24

Calibrated. Now, you an see an old lady walking up a hill. Do you help her?.

DANI

Blade Runner called, they want Deckard back.

INSPECTOR-24

Gonna help the old lady?

DANI

Why? Suppose she does 5K every day. Interrupt her cardio? Your questions lack definition.

INSPECTOR-24

Okay. You have a bully at school. He accidentally drank something poisonous. You can drive him to the hospital. Do you?

DANI

No.

INSPECTOR-24

No? Do you care about others?

DANT

The school medical officer has antidotes to 21 poisons. A trip in traffic at high speed elevates his blood pressure increasing his blood flow. He dead!

The Inspector tries to hold back a smile.

DANI

You lost your edge Inspector, you are having fun.

DAD (V.O.)

Don't underestimate your Interrogator. He was the best there ever was.

The Inspector looks up at the camera on the ceiling to his right and nods.

INSPECTOR-24

There is a library with all the information known to all of history. You can spend your lifetime and know everything. Do you enter?

CONTINUED: (2)

DANI

No. I got other things to do.

INSPECTOR-24

You will miss the chance to learn.

DANI

You never stated that the information is only available in the library. Did you write these questions?

INSPECTOR-24

Yes. Take a break. Get something to drink.

INT. ANDROID CONTROL - LATER

Dani returns with a drink in hand. Sits. Sips the drink slowly. The Inspector adjust his recorder. The questions begin again.

INSPECTOR-24

Someone threatens to kill many people. But this person has been very nice to you. You can kill him and save many lives.

DANI

What people? Innocent people, more like him, the boy who bullies my sister at school, etcetera etcetera etcetera.

INSPECTOR-24

The King and I. Very old movie, why?

DANI

It was so cool! Etcetera. A threat requires investigation not termination.

PAN TO CLOCK. SHOW TIME PASSING. TWO HOURS.

INSPECTOR-24

I think we are done, young Miss.

DANI

Whew! Oh my aching brain. Do you have children?

INSPECTOR-24

Questions are not allowed. But Yes!

DANI

Why don't you go home Inspector? (MORE)

CONTINUED:

DANI (cont'd)

Spare clothing, books, the real old fashioned books.

INSPECTOR-24

Perceptive. Maybe I'll adopt you. Driver will take you home!

INT. ANDROID CONTROL - MOMENTS LATER

Inspector-24 sits at the desk; talks to Dad.

INSPECTOR-24

Definition and deception. She cannot extrapolate a vague question and develop an answer.

DAD

She is analytical. Badly defined interrogatories do not lead to a correct answers. Maybe she is just sarcastic or trying to annoy you. Teenagers.

INSPECTOR-24

She told me nothing of herself in fifty-two questions. Deception.

DAD

My fault. This is the age of Persona Jacking. I taught her to be guarded.

INSPECTOR-24

Funny how our children are never perfect, but you can program perfection.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

The youngest Nas sits on the table, listening to the lesson, playing dancing hands.

LESSON PAD (V.O.)

When a living organism dies, carbon intake ceases. The ratio of carbon-12 to carbon-14 begins changing; the carbon-14 decays, the amount of carbon-12 remains constant. Comparing that ratio to a living organism, can precisely determine the age of subject tested.

DANI

Understood?

NAS

Stored.

DANI

Repeat, 10% comprehension.

NAS

(best little girl

impression)

Well, there are the carbon atoms right. One dies. Wait the one that dies kinda lives for 5000 years, right.

DANI

Good. Twenty percent comprehension for your test tomorrow.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nas gets under the blanket.

DANI

House! Secure 100 then recharge.

NAS

When you bleed, can you recharge?

Dani shows her finger with a band-aid.

DANI

This? Yes, just like you. I make two million red blood cells per second. I am replaced, you are recharged, you use the same cells over and over again.

NAS

Yours is inefficient. Yep you stupid, you stupid.

DANI

Piss me off and I will change your face while you sleep, make you look a rabbit.

NAS

Shut up!

Dani pushes her sister's head down on the pillow.

DANI

You shut up! 7:00 AM wake cycle, don't walk around at night like a creeper.

## CONTINUED:

Dani watches the magnetic field glow around her sister as the recharge starts. Nas closes her eyes. Dani walks to the bedroom door, looks back. Nas closes her eyes.

DANI

I should have asked for a puppy.