

## Granny Andi

When a young girl's medical support is downgraded because her parents' insurance benefits will no longer pay for certain services, her caregiver bucks reassignment to care for the girl.

FADE UP:

EXT. ATLANTA SKYLINE - EVENING

SUPER: ATLANTA, 2121

Flashing red lights on a medihover. It makes good time on a flightpath under the slow traffic above it.

PILOT (O.S.)

Emergency, we've a live delivery  
three minutes out. The other two go  
to Fulton County M.E. Over.

EXT. UNIVERSAL HEALTH CENTER ROOF - EVENING

The medihover lands on one of the hover ports, where a medical team waits. A nurse holds a pint bag of blood.

The hatch opens and drawer glides extend and release a floating gurney as the team swarms the hatch.

Hands pull the gurney away. The sheet over the tiny form has large blood spots. Bodies of the team block a clear view of LUCY (3) as they push her through the elevator doors.

INT. UNIVERSAL HEALTH CENTER - ROOM - DAY

The room is large enough for one bed and one chair. Lucy sleeps in a web of tubes and wires. She's on oxygen. Bandages cover the left side of her face. Her left arm is splinted. Her body from the sternum down is encased in a hard plastic shell.

ANDI, a grandmotherly 60-something, smartly dressed, a perfectly coiffed ginger, watches Lucy as she stirs. Andi holds a cup with a straw ready, a satchel by her feet.

Lucy's eyes flutter. Andi's voice is soft and sweet.

ANDI

There she is. Hi, Lucy.

Lucy looks into Andi's blue eyes and around the room. Hard to concentrate.

LUCY

Mommy?

ANDI

I'm sorry, Lucy. Mommy and Daddy  
aren't here. Do you remember me?

Lucy closes her eyes.

(CONTINUED)

ANDI (CONT.)

Your daddy and mommy wanted me to  
take care of you.

LUCY

Mommy?

ANDI

Are you thirsty, sweetie?

Andi offers the straw to Lucy. The straw touches Lucy's  
lips. She takes a little sip and no more.

ANDI (CONT.)

My name is Andi.

LUCY

(beat)

Are you a granny?

ANDI

You can call me Granny, if you  
like. I like to read. Do you like  
to read?

Lucy nods slowly.

Andi pulls a tablet from the leather bag. She turns it on  
and points the screen toward Lucy whose uncovered eye blinks  
in the light.

Andi doesn't take her eyes off Lucy's face.

ANDI

There once was a tree. And she  
loved a little boy.

A PUMP WHIRS and stops.

LUCY

(groggy)

Did the tree love a little girl,  
too?

Andi turns the screen back to herself, without looking at  
it, and then back to Lucy.

ANDI

Why, it does say that. I read that  
wrong. There once was a tree. And  
she loved a little girl...

Lucy is asleep.

INT. UNIVERSAL HEALTH CENTER - NURSE STATION - DAY

SUPER: ATLANTA, 2124

The news monitor is on C-SPAN. SENATE MAJORITY LEADER HOKEM (R) conducts the vote on health-care legislation.

HOKEM

Pennsylvania? Pennsylvania votes  
No. Puerto Rico? Puerto Rico votes  
No. Rhode Island? Rhode Island  
votes No...

A lower third graphic shows the vote count on a bill to reduce health-care benefits. YES - 28, NO - 16 at Rhode Island's vote.

TWO NURSES watch the report. One eats candy from a community bowl. The other drinks coffee. They shake their heads.

COFFEE NURSE

Cut backs coming. We're gonna eat  
this, I know it.

INT. UNIVERSAL HEALTH CENTER - OFFICES - DAY

ROALD SIFFERSSSEN (35) taps away at a keyboard. His expression says ulcers. It's been a bad day. He starts a video call on his computer. While he waits, he practices a couple smiles.

HILDA ZAHLEN (25) answers, smiling.

HILDA

(forced pleasant)  
Mr. Sifferssen.

ROALD

(forced pleasant)  
Ms. Zahlen. We have a problem. Some  
one locked the access to the Lucy  
Winger file. Could you please  
order a manual repolicy procedure?

HILDA

I'm on it. Tomorrow work?

ROALD

Preferably today. The parents'  
policies don't cover all the  
equipment. Sending you a control  
list. Thanks.

INT. WINGER HOUSE - PHYSICAL REHAB ROOM - DAY

The room has a couple inexpensive weight machines for legs and upper body strengthening. Andi helps LUCY (6) walk up and down a short set of stairs with railings. It's slow going.

ANDI  
Brava, Lucy!

LUCY  
Brava, Granny?

ANDI  
Brava means aces. Good job. Two more times, then lunch, OK?

LUCY  
Brava, me! Can we have peanut butter?

The door flies open and six badged REPOLICYMEN dressed in dark coveralls stride in. "REPOLICY" is stenciled in white across their backs. They start removing equipment.

ANDI  
Stop! You can't come in and...

HILDA (O.S.)  
(forced pleasant)  
Excuse me, they can.

Hilda smiles in the door. She holds out a tablet.

LUCY  
Why are they taking...

HILDA (CONT.)  
This is the control list. This is a repolicy. Congressional cuts mandated. The Wingers' death benefits don't cover these items.

Andi picks up Lucy off the stairs and puts her in her wheel chair.

ANDI  
The equipment is nearly paid for.

Andi grabs at the piece of equipment that Repolicyman #1 and Repolicyman #2 are trying to take out. She stops them.

Hilda scans the control list on her tablet.

(CONTINUED)

HILDA

She will receive a pro-rated refund  
on her co-pays within sixty days.  
Are you an Andrea?

ANDI

Yes.

Hilda pulls a hand-held device from her front pocket. She points it at Andi. Andi collapses in a heap. Lucy shrieks. Helpless, she starts crying.

LUCY

Granny!

HILDA

(to Repolicyman #5)  
Here's the control list.

She holds out the tablet for Repolicyman #5 to take.

Repolicyman #3 and Repolicyman #4 pick up Andi and carry her out. Lucy goes hysterical.

HILDA

(faltering forced pleasant)  
Ms. Winger! Lucy, please.

LUCY

Where are they taking her? Granny!

HILDA

(deathly calm)  
We have to talk about selling your  
house.

EXT. REPOLICY REASSIGNMENT AND RECYCLING CENTER - DOCK - DAY

A REPOLICY van backs up to the dock. The dock doors open. A RESTOCKER steps out. The van doors open.

Repolicyman #5 and Repolicyman #4 push the cart that carries an inert Andi inside the dock. Repolicyman #5 hands a tablet to the Restocker as they pass.

INT. ROBOTICS RE-PURPOSING LAB - DAY

Andi sits, stripped of garments and skin from her torso, on the right end of a work bench. Three other "female" androids in different stages of disassembly sit to her left. All their eyes are black marbles.

Carts of bins with skins, wigs, servos, chips, solvents, tools, etc. stand close by.

(CONTINUED)

TECH #1 solders wires to a port on the first android. He plugs cables from the server to the ports at the bases of the skulls of the androids.

TECH #2 stands at the control screen and checks boxes as she goes through menus. The clock on the screen reads 14:34.

TECH #2

Ready?

Tech #1 nods. Tech #2 touches the START icon.

TECH #2

Coffee? Provisioning Andrea-1919s  
takes at least an hour.

He nods. The techs leave.

A green diode on each skull port flashes the data transfer.

A red diode inside the center of Andi's torso starts flashing in a heartbeat's rhythm. She's got the only one.

The green diode at her skull port changes to blue.

The server screen flashes a fatal error code on output four, but the error message changes to a normal status at 14:40.

Andi's blue eyes come online.

She assesses the room.

She notes the solvents and the parts carts.

She notes the soldering iron that Tech #1 left on.

Looking down, she assesses her status, and then she looks at the server's monitor.

The Andrea-1919 provisioning screen begins a rapid succession of POP-UP MESSAGES. Then the screen rests on a RELOCATION CASE PAGE with Lucy's picture and contact information for a beat. The pop-up messages disappear, leaving only the Andrea-1919 provisioning screen at 14:45.

Andi picks up a skull unit from a cart. She exchanges her skull serial number plate with the one on the other skull unit.

Andi unplugs herself, plugs the same cable into the spare skull unit, and puts the cabled skull unit on the bench.

Andi piles other parts on top of the skull unit, nearly enough for a complete android.

(CONTINUED)

Andi selects clothes off a rack against the wall and takes them to the bench.

Andi installs her neighbor's head skin on herself. A different face, different hair. Andi reaches for her neighbor's torso skin.

The clock reads 15:00.

INT. ROBOTICS RE-PURPOSING LAB - MINUTES LATER

Andi puts three extra power cells in her slacks pockets.

Andi opens bottles of solvents and pours them over the other androids' parts and on the floor under the server.

Andi drops the soldering iron on a solvent-drenched wig. The wig smolders.

Andi pins her original head skin hidden under her jacket and against her side with her arm.

The clock reads 15:10.

The locked door opens as she approaches. She exits the lab.

INT. WINDOWLESS HALLS - DAY

The red LEDs on security cameras go out just before Andi comes into view and come back on when she's out of view again. She walks in a bubble of dark LEDs.

INT. RECEPTION AREA - DAY

She walks past the security desk unnoticed, melding into a group of people and flowing out to the sidewalk.

INT. ROBOTICS RE-PURPOSING LAB - CONTINUOUS

The clock on the screen reads 15:20.

The wig bursts into flames. The flames race along the bench, over the piled parts to the server. ALARMS RING.

INT. HOLOVID ROOM - EXTERIOR GARDEN - EVENING

SUPER: ATLANTA, 2224

Strings of small lights run along a gravel path. The reddened sky fades over darkened treetops. CRICKETS CHIRP.

A high-backed wheel chair and an Adirondack chair face the red sky. Wires connect a monitor on a small table to the wheel chair. A wisp of white hair rises over the chair back.

(CONTINUED)

Andi wears her original head skin. Her slacks ensemble is well-worn. Her coiffure is no longer quite perfect.

She carries a plate of three cookies and a sweating glass with a straw. She walks slowly toward the table and chairs.

ANDI

I'll love you forever. I'll like  
you for always.

Andi sets down the tray on the table.

ANDI (CONT.)

As long as I'm living...

PEEP-PEEP-PEEP-PEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE. Andi walks around the front of the wheel chair. She looks down at the wheel chair.

A yellow-orange-red LED bar cycles on the monitor. Andi sets the cookies and drink down and touches the monitor, silencing the alarm.

Andi looks at the garden, the darkening sky and sighs. Glowworms in the hedges look like lights in high rises.

Andi sits in the Adirondack chair.

LUCY (106) has her head tilted back. Her mouth is open as though snoring, but she's not breathing.

Andi holds Lucy's hand and leans back.

ANDI (CONT.)

My Lucy you'll be.

Andi's blue eyes go black.

In silhouette, two swallows skim above the darkened trees.

INT. HOLOVID ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lights come up. The holo-surround system switches off, leaving the cyclorama screen-ring white. The yellow-orange-red LED bar cycles on the monitor.

WOMAN'S VOICE

9-1-1. What's your emergency?

FADE TO BLACK.