CRAZY GAME CALLED LIFE

## CRAZY GAME CALLED LIFE

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#### Crazy game called Life

My working shift had just ended and the weekend was coming, so I decided to go to the city's centre, which is usually packed with loads of people, mostly tourists. I liked it that way because all these days without socializing made me feel like I needed to do at least something close to it. That's the reason why I went out sometimes, to order food (particularly Italian, because it's the one I've always appreciated the most) at the restaurant and watch people around me. Of course, most people would feel weird, going alone to the restaurant or even cinema, but not me. For me, the experience made me feel strong and independent in some sort of way. Upon wandering through the city centre, intuition led me to a new place, a cozy looking restaurant where I'd never been before. One of the waiters smiled at me and led me to an empty table as I walked in. He was tall and skinny, with curly hair and bright green eyes. Precisely like the man of my dreams, I thought. He even noticed that I had a book with me and told me that he had read that one and liked it a lot. It surprised me because the book was filled with Neruda's poems. Is he really starting to be interesting under that pretty facade? I was asking myself. As we came to the table, he pulled out my chair for me, so I smiled back at him and thanked him. After I sat down on a chair and the waiter left, I had time to examine the place. I could see a small lovely, intimate restaurant with colourful lights hanging on the walls. I've also noticed that people around

me looked pretty satisfied and happy, which just made me feel that I had chosen a great place. The whole room was magical, and I could feel the Christmas atmosphere in the air. Firstly, I ordered one of their sweet wines, as I have always prefered sweet to dry or sour. It was Friday anyway, so I told myself that I deserved to unwind a little bit after a long working week. After a while, I noticed that one older couple had left and a perfect spot was waiting for me, so I moved there. It was on a terrace, which was even more remarkable than the interior of that place.

A deck offered the customers an exceptional view: you could see a river, forests spreading far and wide with mountains completing this breathtaking scenery. When you gaze at the woods, you can even see graceful deers running through this astonishing landscape. While staring at the top of the hills already covered with snow, I started to get chills just thinking about how winter was slowly but surely approaching. Thankfully, shivers were quickly gone when I heard wood crackling in the fireplace as I was sitting near the window. Looking at nature, I slowly immersed my whole being in this beauty, but then a waiter unexpectedly snapped me out of it when he came to ask me if I had already chosen something from the menu. So I ordered a second glass of wine and risotto, which seemed delicious. Waiters behind a bar were having a busy day, as the place was quite packed, but they still managed to get my meal surprisingly fast. And I have to say, it was exquisite. However, after my second glass of wine, I started to feel a little tipsy, so I assumed that it was time to get myself home. My flat was't right around the corner, and the bus stop was near, but I wanted to go for a walk as the wine gave me a surprising energy boost. As I walked down a street, I suddenly realized that there was an empty fridge waiting for me. And tomorrow, all shops were supposed to be closed (some kind of bank holiday). The heaviest sigh came out of me as I was already imagining myself warm and snugged at my place, but I knew I was not feeling takeaways as a proper meal for the next couple of days. So I stopped by the nearest grocery shop to buy my usual daily cravings, but as soon as I walked in, a cashier warned me that they would be closing soon, so I suddenly panicked, trying to sober up, and swiftly threw some essentials into my basket and rushed to the till. While holding down the surprisingly heavy shopping bag I purchased, thinking of how happy I was that I would not be starving the following days, my gaze was all of a sudden caught by a little boy standing in the middle of the road trying to catch his bouncing ball. As soon as I saw him, I heard a semi-trailer truck approaching from the right side of the road at a dangerous speed. I dropped my shopping bag on the ground and immediately ran towards the boy. I pushed him on the sidewalk with all the strength I had left in my body. The last thing I remember was two massive brights rushing towards me. Unfortunately, it was too late for me to escape.

#### The black room

"Hi, welcome back, Alissa. Not very successful this time, huh? But pretty nice of you to do what you did. You helped that little boy, so he will get your chance to move to a higher level. Not everyone would do the same, and I'm really proud of you."

"Where am I? Where is my body?"

"None of you, players, have a body after death. So I don't blame you. You can't remember. It would be against the rules."

His voice was calm and deep, his eyes magnetic. I felt like I could trust him. Could I? I've always wanted to know what it would be like, after death, but a charming guy was welcoming me, well, it was probably the last thing I'd have expected. Moreover, I was pretty confused by the fact that I didn't have a body, but he did. How was something like that possible?

"Come with me, and I'm going to show you everything. You're probably really curious right now."

He brought me into the black room, where was just one big screen. Then he took a remote and turned it on. I saw myself on the video; there was me and every little thing I did through my life, and by this, I mean EVERY LITTLE THING. While watching my own life in front of him, I was just standing there without being able to get any words out of me. That moment lasted like an eternity, but then he suddenly interrupted my dazedness. He took a paper out of a little drawer and showed it to me.

"You don't remember this, but you signed it before you decided to join the game. You gave us the right to record everything. It's only in the name of improvement. Our improvement. We want to move forward, learn about ourselves, create and realize new things and this game is like redemption for us. There is so much we can do with the information that you are offering to us. We are capable of inventing new and better things to work with, and we are finding new patterns every time. You have no idea. And I want to thank you for that..."

As I was listening, I wanted to ask him so many questions, but at the same time, I didn't feel like interrupting him. I was trying very hard to catch all the words he had to say. It was too chaotic for me.

"...of course, there's not only you, but it's also a lot of souls out there helping us. Like you, some of them are real, but many are just a simulation created by our computers. These simulations can't think for themselves and don't have any feelings unless we program it for them. You can only recognize the real soul from the simulation by a certain feeling or unexplainable vibration. Other than that, I guess that you've already noticed that you don't feel any strong needs and emotions. In the game, you would be probably freaking out after seeing that video. We can feel some things here, but the intensity is really low. It can't be compared to the emotions you experience in the game..." He was right. Why don't I feel it? Shock, fear, shame... Having emotions were like having these little tiny seeds deep inside of me. They were an inseparable part of me, the roots were there, but I knew that they would always remain just small seeds. They will never grow.

"...anyway, you can do anything you want here, Alissa. You have absolute freedom of choice. Either you can help our team with research, you can join the game again, or you can ask me to create a new body for you while you're here, but keep in mind, the body won't be exactly the same as in the game. I mean, visually, yes, but there are some main differences. As you can see, I have a body, and it's mainly because of the fact that I'm usually the one who welcomes souls after death. It's easier for me and also for them if I'm welcoming them like this. Sometimes, when I'm welcoming an animal or a plant, I will simply adjust to it as I use different languages with each living being. But I have to admit that it doesn't happen very often. However, if you wouldn't feel like having a body, then you can just float through this space without a certain form. It's entirely up to you. If you want to know more, I will explain it to you later because I think you should rest right now and I also have some other things to do. I can say that it's peaceful without any troubles and danger, but I must say it can get pretty boring. Many people complain about life and try to solve the big mystery, the question hanging upon them. They don't know that there is no answer. It's just a game. But I can't blame them because we are doing the same here. I'm

helping my team to find out as much as possible about us. Maybe it leads nowhere, but it still keeps us hungry for knowing, learning and creating more."

He finally put all the papers back on the table, stopped with his speech and waited for me to reply. I wasn't sure what am I supposed to say.

"I'm sorry, I need to process this. It's too much for me right now. If I had a body, I would probably ask for water, but I guess I'm not capable of drinking water without a body, am I?"

He laughed.

"No, you're not. You don't need to do anything because now you're just a pure consciousness without wants and needs. You're probably asking yourself now: How is it possible to communicate like this when some of us don't have real mouths or vocal cords? Well, after years of hard work, we were finally able to create new technologies, which make it possible for us to communicate with each other. It's a very complicated, but thoughtful communication system and we call it *Soundwave*. But that doesn't have to bother you right now."

"And that thing you mentioned earlier, with a body..."

"Yes, if you would like to have a body again, just come to my office and tell me. I'm usually stuck there, because I'm working on too many things right now. But