

DEATH POD

Written by

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EXT. CITY PARK - DAY

LILY, 21, tall, blonde and beautiful with her bright green eyes and perfect smile is holding hands with Ant, 25, tall and handsome with short cut hair but with an overly grown bushy beard.

They make their way along a footpath with tall trees on either side of it smiling and laughing with each other when Lily suddenly stops, her eyes becoming dull.

Ant let's go of her hand as he turns to face her.

She coughs, blood splattering out of her lips.

More blood comes tumbling out of her nose, running and splashing down her face.

Ant watches on, terrified.

ANT

Lily.

Her eyes roll into the back of her head and she collapses down to the floor, dead.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

A coffee maker in one corner, a plant in another.

In the very centre a glass desk with a computer, phone and a stack of folders on it.

Ant sits opposite JAMES, 35, short, fat and dressed in an expensive suit.

JAMES

Officially the project no longer exists.

ANT

It was moved to the control of the military, everyone working on it comes to me with their theories, ideas, begging me for help. I know more about what's going on with the Lazarus project than you do.

James smiles at him, amused.

JAMES

Then why are you here?

ANT

Can you get me back in, you pick the scientists for the project still don't you?

James nods.

JAMES

But you left the project once already.

ANT

Can you get me back yes or no?

JAMES

What's stopping you from just walking away again?

ANT

Death doesn't have to be the end. I'm going to prove it, I'm going to do it.

JAMES

Do what?

ANT

Get me back in first.

James picks up his phone, he points it at Ant.

JAMES

This is under the militaries control now, you understand that don't you?

ANT

Just get me in.

JAMES

I heard what happened to her. If you're going to work for me again it's going to be as a scientist not as a grieving husband.

Ant shakes his head.

ANT

I miss my wife more than I ever could imagine missing anything. I have nothing without her. If I fail to bring her back I'll end my own life. Do you understand, I'll either give the military what they want, a working timecross transporter or I'll stick a gun in my mouth and I'll blow my brains out. At the end of the day they, the army has nothing to lose.

Ant dials in some numbers and holds the phone to his ear.

JAMES
Then you're back in.

INT. WEARHOUSE - DAY

A huge empty warehouse, only a small corner of it is being used. A row of white bath tubs covered in plastic sheets line up against the back wall.

In front of them a high tech looking long white pod, with several wires and thick tubes coming in and out of it. Several heavy duty computers encircle all around it, each one hooked into the pod and with highly complicated code running on their screens.

Ant stands at the head of a small group of scientists, all dressed in their long white lab coats.

ANT
The army wants us to build a working machine that will be able to transport soldiers from the past right before the moment of their death and bring them back here, now in the present. I believe with this machine we can bring anyone from the past, as far back as six months and bring them back to here now. Six months is the maximum time I want to work on. We can't give up, I know that early tests have all failed, so we've still got a lot of work ahead of us. But it can work, the math is there it is just up to us to put it into practice.

CUT TO:

All the scientists are at the computers and working.

Ant stands at the side of the pod, on it he pulls open a hatch to reveal a large red button.

He looks around and watches his colleagues at work.

ANT (CONT'D)
Target is locked. Female aged twenty one. Time six months ago from today.

All the computers now have the exact same code running on their screens.

Ant hits the button.

A bright burning flash of light fills the room.

Then it returns back to normal.

Ant opens up the pod, and floating in water is Lily, asleep but looking well.

His face lights up, excited.

He looks around the warehouse, calling out.

ANT (CONT'D)
It worked, I did it!

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

Blank walls, no windows and with only a long plastic table and two plastic chairs.

Ant sits on one side of the table with Lily on the other.

She's dressed in jeans and a T-shirt, her hair soaking wet. She has her hands cupped around a cup of coffee.

Ant smiles at her, ecstatic.

ANT
I knew I would live to see you again.

LILY
What happened to me?

ANT
You had a genetic disorder, it was never picked up on. You had a severe epileptic fit, easily treatable with medication, but you never knew you had it so it went untreated for your whole life until the attack that lead to your death.

She lifts her head up, shocked.

LILY
I died?

He nods.

ANT
But I brought you back.

LILY
Why?

He reaches over the top of the table to touch her hand.

ANT
Because I love you.

LILY
But I really dead?

ANT
You really did.

LILY
Then how is this possible?

ANT
I made it possible. I was able to transport you here right before your attack happened. I've treated your condition, you'll be on medication for the rest of your life but the important thing is, you're going to be OK.

LILY
I don't remember having an attack, I don't remember dying.

ANT
You won't, you were transported right before it happened.

LILY
So what, I'm from the past. I've travelled forwards in time?

ANT
Yes.

LILY
But what if it was my time to go?

ANT
It wasn't.

LILY
But what if I was meant to die?

ANT
I changed that.

LILY
You altered my destiny?

ANT
Your destiny isn't to die.

LILY
Then what is it?

ANT
To be happy. To live your life. To be whatever you want to be, to spend your life with me.

INT. WEARHOUSE - DAY

Ant leads Lily back into the wearhouse and they head towards the pod.

All the other scientists are gone.

LILLY
This is what you used?

He nods.

ANT
Yes, all of this brought you here.
This is what I spent most of my
life on.

LILLY
You came back to the project for
me?

They stop at the side of the pod and they both look down at it, studying it.

ANT
Yes, I left it because I feared it
would be used for all the wrong
reasons. I wanted it to help
mankind but when the project got
signed over to the military I knew
I had to walk away. I knew without
me they would never get it to work.

LILLY
But you came back, and you got it
to work.

He turns to face her, taking her by the hands.

ANT
Because I love you.

LILLY
Do you still fear this machine
though?

ANT
I do.

LILLY
Then what are you going to do?

He kisses her, she resists.

He lets go of her.

ANT
Just watch.

He moves over to one of the tables with a few of the computers on. He then finds and picks up a long metal pipe from underneath it and returns to the pod.

He then starts to smash the control panel on the side of it.

She stumbles backwards, startled.

LILY

What are you doing?

He throws the metal pipe to the floor. He reaches into the smashed up control panel and pulls out a memory card.

ANT

Without this the pod cannot work.

He puts the memory card into his pocket.

LILY

You build a time machine and then destroy it?

ANT

I cannot allow it to get into the wrong hands.

LILY

Was bringing me back the wrong thing to do?

He returns to her, hugging her.

ANT

No, I need you. You shouldn't have died that day. I brought you here because it was the right thing to do.

LILY

But I did die that day?

ANT

Only because we didn't know what was wrong with you. I had to save you.

LILY

Why?

ANT

You're everything to me, before you all I had was my work. I was obsessed. My life was nothing but mathematical equations. I hadn't lived a day in my life, not really ever lived a single day.

(MORE)

ANT (CONT'D)

But then I met you and you showed me how beautiful the world was outside of a laboratory. You taught me to love, you taught me my life could be worth living, free and without worry. We'll go away. We'll leave all this behind.

LILY

You would really do that?

ANT

Of course.

LILY

And leave all this behind, pretend like it never happened?

ANT

None of this matters. Only you matter. We'll go where no one can find us.

She pulls away from him.

She goes to the computers.

LILY

And what about the other scientists?

ANT

I taught them nothing.

He points at the side of his head.

ANT (CONT'D)

Only I know how any of this works.

She walks around the circle of tables and computers.

LILY

So these computers here?

ANT

Nothing was saved, nothing they can use anyway.

She looks at the bathtubs lined up against the back wall.

LILY

And what about these?

He panics.

ANT

No, stay away from those.

She looks at him concerned, frowning.

LILY

Why?

He holds out a hand.

ANT

Come here, come back to me.

She shakes her head.

LILY

I want to know.

She moves to one of the bathtubs.

Ant blots forwards after her.

ANT

No, just stay away.

She glances over her shoulder and sees him chasing her down.

She rushes to the bathtub and pulls back the plastic sheet.

Inside it is a young woman with a deformed monestrous face, sealed inside a clear plastic body bag.

She gasps.

LILY

Oh my god.

Ant comes to the bathtub and recovers the body with the sheet.

ANT

It's dead.

She turns to another bathtub and pulls the sheet back, another woman with a deformed face.

Ant recovers it.

ANT (CONT'D)

Stop it.

She goes to a third bathtub, the same, another woman, another dead body and another deformed face.

He grabs her and shakes her.

ANT (CONT'D)

I said stop it, what are you doing!

She looks at him with tears in her eyes.

LILY
Tell me, what are they?

He breathes deep.

ANT
Why are you doing this, I saved you
isn't that all that matters?

LILY
Just tell me.

He shakes his head.

ANT
Maybe it's best if you don't know.

LILY
They're me aren't they?

He nods.

ANT
Yes.

LILY
What happened?

ANT
I tried a number of times to
transport you forwards, these
bodies are the failed attempts.

She repeats, the tears now rolling down her face.

LILY
What happened?

ANT
I opened the pod and there you were
but with a deformed face, a little
different each time. It was only
the face. It was so strange. The
body was fine, healthy. But each
one had to be put down.

LILY
Put down?

ANT
They were all violent, the second I
opened the pod they would leap out
and try to attack us. A few people
even had trips to the hospital with
gashes on their faces.

LILY
Put down how?

Ant reaches into his other pocket and takes out a gun.

ANT
I used this.

Her mouth hangs open.

LILY
You have a gun!

ANT
The very first attempt, she got out of the pod and nearly got out of the warehouse all together. Several of us had to drag her down, hold here still until she could be restrained. After that I knew I had to get a gun.

LILY
You're talking about me!

ANT
No.

LILY
Yes, all these women, they're all me!

ANT
No, you are you. Here and now. It worked, it finally worked.

LILY
How many times did it fail?

ANT
Twenty seven.

LILY
You killed that many?

ANT
They weren't human.

LILY
They were me, are you saying I'm not human?

ANT
They were all failed experiments.

LILY
I was meant to die that day, don't you see.

ANT
No.

LILY
Yes, you should never have brought
me back to life.

ANT
I had to.

LILY
Look at what you've become.

ANT
I love you.

LILY
I died and you became a monster.

ANT
No.

LILY
The person I fell in love with
would never have done this, you've
turned into something evil. You
should have just let me die.

She reaches down to the gun and snatches it out of his hand.

She puts it into her mouth and pulls the trigger.

He screams.

ANT
No.

She kills herself.

CUT TO:

A bright brilliant light fills the warehouse.

It then settles down.

Ant, dressed in his long white lad coat stands beside the
repaired pod. He pulls it open and there lying inside it is
Lily, alive and well.

He looks down at her and smiles.

ANT (CONT'D)
I'm never going to lose you. Never.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END