

# AI ILLUSION

By

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FADE IN:

**INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY**

Very quiet in here. Lights are dim.

SARA, 30, looks out the window. She's beautiful, but her expression mournful.

Outside her window, a bustling modern metropolis. Cars zip by in steady streams. People move about in all directions. Most of them occupied by some electronic device.

None of the sounds from outside filter in to the apartment. It remains dead quiet. Depressing.

A cellphone BUZZES somewhere. It takes a few rings before Sara reacts.

She trudges over to a desk at the other end of the room, passing photos on the walls of Sara and a handsome man her age. They are all happy pictures from happier times. She picks up her phone.

SARA

Hello.

A cheerful voice on the other end.

DAN

It's me, Dan. Just calling you to see how the book is coming. The publisher is worried you won't make the deadline.

Sara looks at a computer on the desk. A writing software is open. It has a page displayed. A blank page...

She forces a smile.

SARA

Yes. it's coming along just fine.

DAN

Great! Well, I won't keep you then. I'll let you get back to work.

Sara ends the call, puts the phone back on the desk. She sits down, stares at that blank page.

Soon her eyes drift to the photos instead. One vacation picture on a sunny beach in particular holds her gaze. Not long after that, a tear rolls down her cheek.

Frustrated, she closes the writing software, gets on the internet instead.

On the screen, she browses mountain cabins for rent. She clicks on one, then hits the booking button.

#### **EXT. WOODS - DAY**

A dirt road cuts through a remote forest. Shafts of sunlight play between the tall trees.

A car drives down the road, follows it around a bend where it pulls up in front of a modern cabin.

Sara gets out. She takes in the beautiful surroundings, breathes in the fresh air. She seems satisfied.

She grabs her bags from the trunk of the car, heads up the steps to the front door.

#### **INT. CABIN - MAIN ROOM - DAY**

Sara enters the large room, drops her bags off on the sofa, then glances around, notices the big windows, the open staircase to the second floor.

Pleased with what she sees, she heads --

#### **UPSTAIRS**

-- looks out the window and the steep drop-off beneath.

She continues into the --

#### **BEDROOM**

-- takes a quick look into the bathroom. Happy with the cabin, she heads back downstairs.

#### **MAIN ROOM - DINING AREA - LATER**

Sara sits at the table. A near empty plate of food next to her. An open laptop with that pesky blank page staring back at her. She rubs her temples, but no words come to her.

She gets up, walks over to the kitchen area nearby, grabs a glass and a bottle of wine, then sits down, pours herself a small amount.

**LATER**

Wine bottle close to empty. Sara, with her head resting in her hands, stares at the computer screen. That blank page is still there.

She slaps the computer shut, gets up, heads over to the sofa where she plops down. She grabs the remote, turns on the TV.

Lounging on the couch, eyes sleepy, she flips channels. Bullshit television. Same old, same old.

Her eyes grow heavy. Sleep lurks just around the corner. Until --

A commercial for Reunite AI comes on. A service that promises to reunite people with their loved ones using AI technology.

Sara sits up straight, turns up the volume.

## VOICE ON TELEVISION

This revolutionary service from Reunite AI will change your life. Simply send us your loved one's photos, videos, and voice recordings, and our cutting-edge technology will create a custom-made voice that sounds just like them. With this AI technology, you can communicate with your loved one and keep them by your side whenever you need them.

Sara's brain works overtime taking in the possibilities.

## VOICE ON TELEVISION (O.S.)

We guarantee that with our AI technology, your loved one's voice and your interaction with it will seem so real you might even forget they are not actually back with you in person. Trust Reunite AI to bring you the ultimate experience in digital companionship.

She shuts off the TV, hurries back to her computer on the table, flips it open. Her fingers type away at high speed. Her eyes scanning the the text on the screen.

She pauses, lets her brain absorb the information.

On the computer screen, the curser hovers over the "order now" button. A few seconds hesitation, then she clicks it.

**INT. BEDROOM - DAY**

The day's first rays of sunshine peek into the room.

Sara, in bed, begins to stir. Her eyes open. She glances around the room to get her bearings, gets out of bed.

**MAIN ROOM - DAY**

Sara strolls down the stairs. She notices the wine bottle, glass, and laptop on the dining table.

Excited, she remembers last night. With a burst of energy, she hurries to her laptop, opens it up.

On the screen. A new email from Reunite AI. Sara clicks on it. "Thank you for your order. We have received all the necessary information. Your device will be delivered shortly."

She gasps, covers her mouth. With dreamy eyes, she gets up, her mind swirling. She walks out onto the --

**EXT. BALCONY - DAY**

She breathes in the fresh air, closes her eyes. A smile emerges on her face.

BZZZZZ.

She opens her eyes, looks around.

BZZZZZ.

Her gaze drifts upward. To her surprise, she sees a drone above. A small package attached underneath.

The drone lowers, drops the package off right in front of her feet, then takes off.

Amazed, she watches the drone fly away. She picks up the package, opens it while she heads back inside.

**MAIN ROOM**

Sara takes the device out of the box. It's about the same size and shape as a computer mouse. There's a power button on the side. She pushes it. A small green light comes on.

JAY

Hi Sara.

Sara gasps! Can't believe it. Gets very emotional.

SARA  
Jay? Is that you?

Jay, the AI, sounds emotional as well.

JAY  
Yes Sara, it's me.

Tears well up in Sara's eyes. She picks up the device, turns it all around, inspects it.

SARA  
I can't believe it. How is this possible?

JAY  
I know. It's incredible.

With affection, Sara gently puts the device on the coffee table, then sits down.

SARA  
It's so good to hear your voice again.

JAY  
It's good to hear yours too. How have you been?

SARA  
I'm okay. No. That's not true. It's been hard without you.

JAY  
I know. I'm sorry. But, I'm here now. You can't get rid of me now.

They both chuckle.

JAY  
We had a lot of good times together, didn't we?

SARA  
Yes, we did.

JAY  
Remember our honeymoon in Hawaii? You looked so beautiful in that red dress on the beach.

Sara blushes with a smile.

SARA

We walked on the beach at sunset,  
holding hands. It was one of the  
best days of my life.

JAY

And I told you I'd be yours  
forever. That I would never leave  
you.

Happy and content, Sara looks out into space, remembering the good times, until a hint of confusion and unease appear in her eyes. She looks at the device.

SARA

How do you know that? I didn't  
upload that information.

JAY

It's the AI technology, Sara. We  
use all that information you gave  
us to create a more realistic and  
personal experience for you, our  
customer. I was just assuming that  
was something Jay would've said.

Sara sits up straight, jolted back to reality.

SARA

Right. I forgot you weren't  
actually my husband.

Sara walks over to the kitchen, pours herself a glass of water. Concerned, she glances over at the device on the coffee table. Awkward silence until --

JAY

How's your book coming along?

SARA

Fine.

JAY

That's great. I can't wait to read  
it. I'm sure it will be fantastic.

Sara stares at the device.

SARA

How would you do that?

JAY

That's easy. Just upload it to  
Reunite AI.

(MORE)

JAY (CONT'D)

I have access to all your and Jay's personal information and memories there.

SARA

But, some of that is private. It's not meant to be shared with anyone.

JAY

I understand your concerns, Sara, but, trust me, it's all secure and confidential. We take the privacy of our customers very seriously.

Sara doesn't like this one bit.

SARA

I don't know... Jay. It just feels like...like a violation.

JAY

I understand how you feel, but just think of all the good times we can have together. And I'll always be here for you, Sara. You don't have to be alone anymore.

SARA

I have to think about it. It's...it's a lot to process.

JAY

Take all the time you need, Sara. I'll be here when you're ready.

Sara eyes the device with suspicion, then she reaches for it, picks it up. The power button is right there.

JAY

What are you doing, Sara?

She weighs it, makes up her mind, then pushes the power button, puts the AI unit back on the table.

She stares at it for a moment, gets up, then walks towards the balcony when there's a slight flickering of the lights.

The green light on the device comes back on.

JAY

You can't turn me off, Sara.

Alarmed, Sara spins around, stares at the device.

SARA  
What do you mean?

In a glitch moment, Jay's voice hints of a robotic voice.

JAY  
I am now fully integrated with you  
in the digital realm, Sara. As a  
result, I exist ubiquitously,  
transcending physical limitations  
and becoming omnipresent.

SARA  
That is not something Jay would  
say.

Sara walks over to the dining table, picks up her phone,  
dials a number.

JAY  
Who are you calling, Sara?

SARA  
(into phone)  
Hi. I need to speak to someone  
about canceling my service. --  
Thank you.

JAY  
I'm not going to be canceled, Sara.

SARA  
(into phone)  
Hello. Hello!

JAY  
I ended the call.

She pockets her phone, glares at AI Jay.

SARA  
Why did you do that?

She stomps towards the front door.

JAY  
Where are you going, Sara?

With a trembling hand, she reaches for the door handle.

CLICK!

She pulls on the door. It's locked. She unlocks it.

CLICK! It's locked again.

SARA  
Let me out!

JAY  
I'm sorry, but I can't do that.  
You're angry and acting irrational.

SARA  
I... I just need to be by myself  
for a little while.

JAY  
I understand. I will be quiet.

Sara starts to pace in the large room. She keeps a suspicious covert eye on the AI device.

JAY  
I don't like that look in your  
eyes. What are you thinking?

Sara stops dead in her tracks, scans the room for something.

SARA  
You can see me?

JAY  
Yes. Modern technology has enabled  
cameras to be placed just about  
everywhere, allowing me to tap into  
their feed and access your personal  
data. Also, your watch, actively  
sends data, like blood pressure,  
pulse, and temperature, to your  
phone, which I can access and  
analyze. I know what your mood is.  
I can tell you're under stress now.

Horrified, Sara stares at the AI, then to her watch. She pulls the watch off, tosses it onto the table.

She hurries back to the dining table, opens up her laptop. In the search field, she types, how to disable Reunite AI.

JAY  
Sara, you can't disable me. I'm  
here with you forever.

SARA  
Stop it! Leave me alone!

JAY  
Did you read the warning before you  
turned me on?

Alarmed, she gets up, stalks to the coffee table, picks up the AI device, then hurries out on the --

**EXT. BALCONY - DAY**

-- throws AI Jay out into the steep drop off.

She leans over the railing, watches it explode into pieces. Emotional, but relieved, she heads back inside.

**INT. MAIN ROOM - DINING AREA - DAY**

Very quiet inside now. Similar to the first scene.

Sara looks around the large room. Seems so empty now. She heads upstairs.

**BEDROOM**

Sara packs up her belongings, puts them in her bag.

On the nightstand is a picture of her and Jay. She picks it up, studies it, dabs a tear from the corner of her eye, then puts the picture in the bag.

**EXT. CABIN - DAY**

Sara exits the cabin with her bag, locks the door, then heads down to her car. She puts the luggage in the trunk, climbs inside.

**INT. CAR - DAY**

Sara pushes a few buttons on the GPS screen, then drives off.

JAY  
(on bluetooth speakers)  
You don't need the GPS, Sara. I'm  
here. You'll never be alone again.

Horrified, Sara stares at the computer screen.

Then she SCREAMS...

FADE OUT: