

ROBOT WORLD

By Nadine.

FADE IN

Chicago Skyline - DAY

Construction workers are working on a building.

An overweight white man walks up to some of the workers having their break.

Their conversation is inaudible.

A construction worker throws his hat on the floor and walks to his truck. He gets into his truck and leaves.

INT. CAFE - DAY

TV NEWS REPORT

NEWSREPORTER

More people are losing their jobs to these new updated robots. What will people do next? Is there a line that should not be crossed? It seems robots are taking over gradually.

A mid-30 something year old black man (Kelvin) is walking out of the cafe. He is medium height, dark skinned, slim, bald fade hairstyle, jacket, casual sweater and trousers, stubble/5 o' clock shadow beard.

KELVIN

(Yells) COME ON, IT AIN'T THAT BAD!

A white man sitting in the cafe, smirks, shakes his head and looks at the TV.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Kelvin walks into the house, he removes his jacket and puts it on the coat rack by the door, he walks into the living room. A lady (Ruth) enters the living room, she is black, short height, light skinned, layered short hair, wearing a buttoned shirt and trousers. She walks up to Kelvin, they kiss on the lips.

RUTH

How was work?

KELVIN

Had a half-day.
There's more firings coz of these new hi-tech robots.

RUTH

Yes, I know all about that.
They're firing talk show hosts now.

KELVIN

Really?

RUTH

Yep! And I'll probably be out of a job soon as well.

KELVIN

Don't say that.

RUTH

No, I mean, they're letting go of the talk show hosts, so what is the point of us doing Production work?!

KELVIN

So are the robots going to be interviewing the celebrities instead? (laughs).

RUTH

The ratings are going down.
I don't think viewers enjoy the mindless chit chat anymore.
There's automated questions and the celebrities can answer in the studio or at home, but the talk show hosts are out!

(Beat)

RUTH

But at work, we're thinking about going a different route.
Keeping our jobs and maybe giving robots their own show. We don't know yet.

KELVIN

That could work.

RUTH

There's many different types of these advanced robots, we have lots of choices.

(Beat)

KELVIN

So, listen, enough about work, enough about the robots.
I want to take you to dinner tomorrow night.
It's our two year wedding anniversary.

RUTH

I know (flirty).

Kelvin puts his arms around Ruth's shoulders, she puts her arms around his waist, they both stare into each other's eyes and smile at each other.

CROSSFADE

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Kelvin and Ruth are having dinner.
A robot on wheels puts their food on their table.

KELVIN (To Robot)

Thank you.

The robot wheels itself away.

RUTH

Why say thank you to a robot.

Kelvin laughs quietly.

KELVIN

I don't know. I kinda like them. I don't have an issue with them, to be honest.

RUTH

Yeah, well, they haven't taken your job yet.

Ruth takes a sip of her drink, Kelvin starts to eat his meal.

CROSSFADE

INT. STUDIO / BREAK ROOM - DAY

Ruth and her colleagues are watching a debate show on the flat screen TV on the wall.

WOMAN ON DEBATE TV SHOW

Robots are putting everyone out of work. We should stop making these metallic monsters.

MAN ON DEBATE TV SHOW

Oh come on, seriously? Many people still have jobs.

RUTH

That lady has a point.

MICHAEL (Ruth's Colleague)

No, she is being too emotional.

RUTH

Oh, so women are always emotional, right?!

MICHAEL

Ruth, you know I'm not like that.

Look, people can still get jobs, they're just gonna have to find alternative types of work.

My friend got laid off from his job at the Movie Theatre, but he still had a job there.

I mean, he was no longer serving people with the tickets and the popcorn, but they gave him a job cleaning the movie theater instead.

RUTH

If only it was all like that though.

Overall, many are not getting an alternative job like your friend.

Michael shrugs his shoulders.

CROSSFADE

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

A white man (Angry Man) mid-30s, short dark hair, medium height, is having an intense conversation with the library manager, she is skinny/a bit too skinny, black lady/very light skinned, her hair in a bun on top of her head, late 40s, the security guard is standing next to her.

ANGRY MAN (To Library Manager)

I'm losing my job to that?!

He points to a very human-like advanced robot behind a desk.

LIBRARY MANAGER (To Angry Man)

Sir, I'm sorry, you're not the only one we had to let go. You should have got the package explaining our reasons with help of what to do next.

ANGRY MAN (To Library Manager)

I can't find a job.
These things are taking over everywhere.

LIBRARY MANAGER (To Angry Man)

I'm sorry. There's nothing I can do for you.
Please leave.

The Angry Man walks fast and aggressively out of the library.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

People are LOOTING.

Kelvin is walking through the chaos, he looks around at what people are doing. People are kicking the doors and windows of stores, they are using heavy blocks of metal to try and break the store windows, alarms are going off, people are running through the street. Kelvin walks faster trying to get out of the chaos.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Ruth is in the living room, typing on her laptop that is sitting on the coffee table.

Kelvin enters the house, he walks into the living room.

KELVIN

Hey, babe.

Ruth turns around to face Kelvin.

RUTH

Hey, hun.

Kelvin walks up to Ruth and they give each other a quick kiss on the lips.

Kelvin sits down next to Ruth.
Ruth continues typing on her laptop.

KELVIN

Chaos is happening right now in the streets, Ruth.

RUTH

What's going on?

KELVIN

People are looting!

Ruth stops typing, she turns and faces Kelvin.

RUTH

What?

KELVIN

Yeah. It's crazy out there, man.
I think it's because of these robots.

(Beat)

RUTH

Well, look at what they're doing.

Ruth sighs and shakes her head.

KELVIN

We can't blame the robots, Ruth. That's insane!
It's the humans that are making the robots!
Ultimately it's the people who are firing people.

RUTH

So, what if they fire you and the robots completely take over
delivering everyone's mail?

KELVIN

I'll accept the situation for what it is.

Ruth laughs.

RUTH

Yeah, right.

KELVIN

I'm serious. I'll find another job if that happens.

CROSSFADE

EXT. STREET - DAY

Store owners are cleaning up their stores, the mess is
overwhelming, a lot of their merchandise is missing, and the
merchandise left behind is destroyed/burned and smashed up.
Vans pull up and human-like robots all exit the vans, they
immediately start cleaning the streets very fast, loading trash
into bins and putting them in the vans.

A video games store owner walks up to the front of the van, he looks through the windows, we don't see a driver.

VIDEO GAME STORE OWNER (To Himself)
Self-driving vans, great (sarcastically).

The Video Game Store owner walks back into his destroyed store.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

An early 60 something year old white man (Harris) is talking to Kelvin.

HARRIS
You're a hard worker, I don't want to have to let you go, but with these new machines...

KELVIN
I understand.

(Beat)

KELVIN
I've been defending these robots to my wife. I can't get too upset, right?!

HARRIS
I'm sorry.

Harris briefly touches Kelvin's shoulder as Harris walks away.

A colleague (Murphy) walks up to Kelvin.

MURPHY

Just got let go, huh.

Kelvin nods his head.

MURPHY

I got fired too, man.

Gonna clear out my stuff.

I'll see ya.

Murphy starts to walk away.

KELVIN

Yeah, see you, Murph.

CROSSFADE

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Kelvin and Ruth are cooking in the kitchen.

RUTH

I'm sorry they let you go, honey.
We've still got savings and I still have my job.

KELVIN

Yeah, I'll find something.

A cell phone rings.

RUTH

It's mine.

Ruth walks into the living room to get her phone.
Kelvin continues to stir food in the pot. We hear Ruth on the phone.

RUTH (Talking on Cell Phone O.S.)

Michael, slow down, I can't understand you.

(Beat)

RUTH (Talking on Cell Phone O.S.)

Are you serious?

Kelvin leans backwards looking towards the living room.

(Beat)

RUTH (Talking on Cell Phone O.S.)

Okay, I'll check the news.

(Beat)

RUTH (Talking on Cell Phone O.S.)

Yeah, I'm sure we can talk about it on air...other media will be covering this, so we should too.

(Beat)

RUTH (Talking on Cell Phone O.S.)

Okay, I'll see you tomorrow.

(Beat)

RUTH (Talking on Cell Phone O.S.)

Bye.

Kelvin puts the pot of food on another part of the oven and turns off the oven. He walks into the living room. Ruth is watching the news.

KELVIN

Babe, what's going on?

He looks at the news on TV.

TV Reporter

Chaos today, just outside of Chicago.
Angry fired employees at this tech company shot at this
building...but those inside the building were not going to hide
away.

KELVIN

Oh my God.

FLASHBACK

EXT. STREET/TECH COMPANY - DAY

Dozens of men and women have GUNS and are SHOOTING at the
building.

All of a sudden, human-like robots with new advanced guns, exit
and stand outside the front of the building, the men and women
shoot at the robots, the robots FIRE BACK at them.

There are screams and yells, many men and women fall down,
injured, not dead, the people start running away, the injured
people begin to limp away. The robots stop firing as soon as the
people start to leave.

END FLASHBACK

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

RUTH

It's getting worse. Something's got to change.

CROSSFADE

INT. STUDIO/MEETING ROOM - DAY
Ruth is talking with her colleagues.

RUTH
Okay, so we're all on board?!
We are going to air our special on the tech company shooting.

INT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT - NIGHT

A couple of customers are talking to a security guard.

MALE FAST FOOD CUSTOMER
No, human employees??
How come you are still here?

SECURITY GUARD
Not that it's any of your business, Sir, but human employees are not needed anymore.
My job requires something different, there needs to be a human eyewitness if something bad happens to this property.

FEMALE FAST FOOD CUSTOMER
Look, we didn't mean to pry...we just...

SECURITY GUARD
It's okay, ma'am. Enjoy your meal.

The Security Guard casually walks away, the customers walk to the desk to order their food. There is an option of speaking through a speaker or typing the order in a metal unit.

MALE FAST FOOD CUSTOMER (To Female Fast Food Customer)

What do you want to eat, honey?

FEMALE FAST FOOD CUSTOMER (To Male Fast Food Customer)

Um, get me a...

The rest of the conversation is inaudible.

The Male Fast Food Customer types in their orders.

There's robots on wheels bringing customers their food, robots on wheels are also cleaning the restaurant tables.

Kelvin walks into the fast food restaurant.

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Kelvin gets out of his car. Holding a bag of fast-food takeout. He starts to walk up the driveway, he sees his next door neighbors walking in and out of the house, packing bags into a small van.

KELVIN

Bob, what's going on?

You guys going on vacation?

Bob stops walking into the house, he has a bag in his hand.

BOB

No. We're moving.

These advanced robots, machines, whatever these things are, have put me and Mary out of work.

KELVIN

Me too, man. It sucks.

BOB

Well, Mary's worried. We're not getting into debt trying to keep this house. We can't find work, we're going to L.A., stay with Mary's sister for a while. Might have better luck with work out there.

KELVIN

Well, I'm sorry you guys are leaving.

BOB

Yeah, me too.

KELVIN

Good luck, man.

BOB

You too.

Kelvin walks into his house as Bob continues packing suitcases and things into his van.

CROSSFADE

EXT. STREET - DAY

An elderly black man exits a store, he has a bag of milk, his wallet drops out of his pocket, his cash is visible, he picks up his wallet, all of a sudden a young man (thug) GRABS his WALLET and RUNS.

ELDERLY MAN

HEY! HEY!

SOMEONE STOP THAT YOUNG MAN, HE STOLE MY WALLET.

HELP!

A police officer rushes out of a nearby store.

ELDERLY MAN (To Police Officer)

OFFICER, OFFICER, I JUST GOT ROBBED!

The thug is still in sight, he is running.

POLICE OFFICER (To Elderly Man)

I see him. I will get you your wallet back, Sir.

The police officer runs to his car, there is an advanced robot in the front passenger seat, the police car speeds off, loud sirens on the police car.

EXT. STREET - DAY

The thug is running, the police car catches up to him. The police officer and the human-like advanced robot exit the police car. The police officer starts to give chase. He cannot catch the thug. The human-like advanced robot appears, running past the police officer. The advanced robot catches up to the thug, the robot pushes the thug to the ground. The robot handcuffs the thug. People start to crowd around and they start to cheer and clap their hands. The police officer drives up to them, the robot lifts up the thug and walks the thug to the police car, the crowd still cheering and clapping their hands. The robot puts the thug in the backseat. They drive away.

INT. STUDIO/BREAK ROOM - DAY

A debate is on the TV.

Ruth and some of her colleagues are watching the debate, while making tea and eating snacks.

MALE DEBATER 2 ON TV

Crime is lessening with the help of these advanced robots.
Crime has gone down 50%

FEMALE DEBATER 2 ON TV (To Male Debater 2)

What about that shooting incident at that tech company recently?!

MALE DEBATER 2 ON TV (To Female Debater 2)

So people can just shoot up a building and potentially kill people?!

The robots fired back to stop them. There was no reasoning with those people.

The robots did not kill anyone. They had minor injuries.

FEMALE DEBATER 2 ON TV (To Male Debater 2)
Oh, so I guess that's okay then! (Sarcastically)

MALE DEBATER 2 ON TV (To Female Debater 2)
You're missing the point.

TV HOST
Okay, okay. Folks, the debate is heated this morning...let's go to
a commercial break...

Ruth turns the TV Volume down.

RUTH
So much controversy.

There is inaudible arguing in the hall.

Phillip (Ruth's Colleague)
What's going on?

Phillip starts to walk out of the break room, as another
colleague (Lea) walks in.

PHILLIP (To Lea)
What's going on out there?

LEA (To Phillip)
They're letting the cleaners go.

RUTH (To Lea)
Let me guess...the robots?

LEA (To Ruth and Phillip)
They've been proven to clean a lot faster and quicker than humans.

Phillip sighs.

PHILLIP
This is...

RUTH
It sucks!

SAN FRANCISCO

INT. TRAM - DAY

Two strangers are arguing with each other.

ARGUMENTATIVE MAN 1
You were staring at me first.

ARGUMENTATIVE MAN 2 (To Argumentative Man

1)

So, what!

The Tram suddenly stops.

The doors open.

An automated robot voice starts to talk on the Tram speaker.

ROBOT VOICE ON TRAM

There is a detection of hostility between 2 passengers.

Please step off of the Tram.

This Tram will not continue to move unless the 2 hostile parties leave.

ARGUMENTATIVE MAN 2

What?

I'm not leaving!

The Tram is still not moving.

ROBOT VOICE ON TRAM

Please, leave the Tram. This Tram will not move unless the two hostile parties leave.

The two argumentative men are not leaving the Tram.

MALE TRAM PASSENGER (To both Argumentative Men)
You guys have to leave this Tram.
Everyone has places to be, things to do.
You guys are holding us up.
Leave!

ELDERLY LADY TRAM PASSENGER (To Argumentative Men)
Yes. You both have to leave!

(Beat)

Both the argumentative men step off of the Tram.
The Tram starts to move again.
A skinny 20 something year old white man with glasses claps his hands.

YOUNG MAN ON TRAM
This is what you call societal order.

CROSSFADE

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Kelvin and Ruth are washing and drying the dishes.

KELVIN
I got a new job, and the cleaners at your work got fired...it's like bittersweet or something...I don't know.

RUTH

I know what you mean, but we shouldn't not be happy.

(Beat)

KELVIN

There's a lot of training involved.

RUTH

Well, you're an excellent cook, it shouldn't be that difficult.

KELVIN

Yeah.

CROSSFADE

INT. STUDIO/MEETING ROOM

Ruth, with her colleagues and the bosses, are talking in the meeting room.

BOSS 1

We're sorry, everyone.
The ratings are lousy.
This company is now defunct.

Ruth sighs.

Some of the colleagues are complaining, their words inaudible.

CROSSFADE

INT. DOG AND CAT RESCUE SHELTER - DAY

Ruth is talking to an Employer who is cleaning up.

ANIMAL SHELTER EMPLOYER

That's a big change...from a TV Company to an animal shelter.

RUTH

Yes. The company is finished. And I thought I'd try something different. I like animals, so I thought about these types of places.

ANIMAL SHELTER EMPLOYER

Well, your background check was excellent.

RUTH

That's good.

RUTH

I was wondering, how come there are no robots here?

ANIMAL SHELTER EMPLOYEE

Well, we wrote to the city council, and they understood the need that animals have for loving human contact.

Robots can help in many ways, but it would be difficult for a piece of metal to show affection. To put it bluntly.

RUTH

I see. Yes, that makes sense.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Kelvin and Ruth are sitting in the living room.

RUTH

Those animals are so cute.
Maybe we can adopt one.

KELVIN

Cat or a dog?

RUTH

Whichever.

KELVIN

I say, a cat...they're more independent.

Something catches Kelvin's eye outside.

He walks to the window.

We see human-like robots emptying people's garbage into a van
and sweeping the street.

Ruth joins Kelvin, both watching the robots work.

KELVIN

This is our world now.

Ruth nods her head.

Kelvin and Ruth smile at each other warmly.

FADE TO BLACK