

THE ERROR

Revision by

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FADE IN:

INT. MIDDLE CLASS BAR- AFTERNOON

The bar is quite busy. FRANK (early to mid 20's) walks in. He is timid and wearing a pizza delivery shirt from work.

FRANK
(whispers to himself)
Ok, Frankie...You got this. Just
like you promised.

He takes a deep breath and starts to the bar. He spots LUCY (early 30's). She's covered in tattoos and wearing a tank top. All of which screams punk. She's handing out some drinks to the patrons.

Frank walks up to the bar.

FRANK (CONT'D)
(awkwardly)
Hey bartender. Been awhile.

LUCY
(To Frank)
Pizza Boy! Been awhile. Was
starting to think you found a new
joint to hang out in.

Frank sits.

FRANK
Aw, did you miss me?

LUCY
Maybe I did.

FRANK
(surprised)
Wait, really?

Frank clears his throat. Lucy continues to clean the counter.

LUCY
Well it's good to see you again.
What it'll be? The usual?

FRANK
Uh, yeah. Please.

Lucy mixes a cocktail. Frank nervously swallows.

LUCY

(handing a drink over)
Here you go. Let me know if I can
get you anything else.

FRANK

Wait actually... I was wondering if
you..uhh...h-how's life been?

LUCY

You know...same old. Just bored
outta my mind. I gotta get outta
here you know? It's the same people
doing the same things. I'm going
insane here. I gotta break the
monotony.

FRANK

So...Why not leave?

Lucy locks eyes with Frank for a moment.

LUCY

I can't just leave, pizza boy. I
got bills to pay, ya know?

FRANK

I mean yeah, everybody does but
they still find the time.
Wanna know what I think? It sounds
like something else is at play and
whatever that is, that's what's
holding you back.

LUCY

Uh-huh.

FRANK

So...we just gotta figure out
what's holding you back then you
can go off and do all these grand
big adventures you and I talk
about.

LUCY

I know what's holding me back,
Frankie.

FRANK

Oh? What is it?

LUCY

I don't wanna see the world alone.
I wanna experience it with someone.
The right someone.

Frank gets flustered and take a long swig of his drink. He looks back up and sees Lucy not breaking eye contact with him. The two lock eyes.

LUCY (CONT'D)

(to Frank)

Guess I'm just waiting for the
right person to ask me out.

Frank blushes. The music stops and everything is out of focus. It feels like time is standing. This is his moment.

FRANK

(voice cracking)

Lucy...would you like to go out
with me?

Frank looks at Lucy. She doesn't respond. An awkward silence occurs.

FRANK (CONT'D)

(pause)

Um, not like a date or anything
like that. Just a like hang out as
two friends.

Lucy stands still. She doesn't blink.

FRANK

Or, you know, uh...nevermind. We
don't have to go--

Frank looks at Lucy. She is frozen at place.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Lucy? Lucy?

He snaps his fingers close to her face. No response. He over his shoulders. Everything and everyone else in the bar has frozen in place. He examines everybody. Nothing. Time has stood still except him.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Oh god. What's happening?

Everything turns black. Frank SCREAMS.

A BRIGHT turquoise light glows. Frank faces it.

OMINOUS VOICE (O.S.)

Frank.

A HUMANOID FIGURE emerges, looking at Dr. Manhattan.

FIGURE

Do not be afraid.

Everybody's mouth moves as the entity talks to him, along with their eyes glowing turquoise.

FIGURE (CONT'D)

I have many names. In this cycle, I was universally known as God, The Creator, the Alpha and Omega. My official title is the Programmer.

FRANK

Wh--what the...

THE PROGRAM

The existence you lived is a simulation, and what is happening is an error.

FRANK

An error?

THE PROGRAM

Yes. The system will need to be reset. Although while I'm able fix everything, I can't have you configurative with the unit you call Lucy.

FRANK

Why not?

THE PROGRAM

It is the reason why the error happened in the first place. It's the part of the algorithm.

FRANK

I don't understand. You're saying me asking Lucy out was a mistake?

THE PROGRAM

The algorithm is what binds the simulation. Certain events that happen in your world is because of the algorithm. Any such error that strays from it causes everything to freeze.

(MORE)

THE PROGRAM (CONT'D)

And yet, you are someone mobile.
That has never happened before.

Frank takes a moment and sits down.

FRANK

(sigh)

Wow. I never thought I would be the
first of anything like this.

THE PROGRAM

It is an error never-the-less. I'm
afraid I have to fix this.

Frank quickly gets up.

FRANK

Wait a minute.

The Program looks at Frank.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Let's talk about this.

THE PROGRAM

You are mistaking this for a
negotiation.

FRANK

Just... hear me out, ok? You said
that me asking Lucy was not part of
the "algorithm" plan or whatever.
But it's my plan to ask her out.
That's my decision.

THE PROGRAM

It is the delusion of a decision.
The algorit--

FRANK

(interrupting the program)

I don't care what the algorithm
wants.

Frank SIGHS.

FRANK (CONT'D)

(beat)

Look, I been a shy, insecure shrill
all my life, and I'm done allowing
my insecurities dictate what I
can't and can do in my life and my
decisions. The only person that
should control of what I do is me.

(MORE)

FRANK (CONT'D)

I want to ask Lucy out because there's something in her that attracts me. I want this one moment to see if me and her can connect. If we do, we do. And if we don't, we don't. I want this one moment, because I want take control.

The Program doesn't say anything for a beat.

THE PROGRAM

(reluctant)

Very well. I shall grant you this *moment*.

Frank sighs and gives a smile.

THE PROGRAM (CONT'D)

I will reset everything, but you will not remember this.

A big FLASH of light expands. Frank covers his eyes.

BLACK.

INT. MIDDLE CLASS BAR - AFTERNOON

All the music and motion returns back to the world. Frank is at the bar staring at nothing. Lucy snaps her fingers in his face.

LUCY

Yo, Pizza boy!

FRANK

(startled)

Huh!?

LUCY

(looking at Frank)

You ok? You just went into Tom Hanks storming Normandy in Saving Private Ryan mode.

FRANK

(collecting himself)

I...I'm-- I'm sorry. I didn't mean to. I... must have lost my train my thought. What was I talking about?

LUCY

Well, it seems like you were kinda asking me out on a date.

FRANK

(beat)

Oh...uh, not like a date or anything like that. Just a like hang out with two friends.

LUCY

Friends? Uh? Sure, why the hell not?

FRANK

Really?

LUCY

Really, really. Give me your phone.

Frank hands his phone to Lucy. She types in her phone number.

LUCY (CONT'D)

(handing Frank his phone back.)

Call me tomorrow, ok

FRANK

Thanks. I'll see you later.

LUCY

You too, pizza boy.

Lucy gets started on making another and Frank heads out.

Two men at the bar, BIG BEARD and RED CAP, are talking.

BIG BEARD

I'm telling you, man. I got this shit all figured out. It's all a simulation.

RED CAP

(Not interested and just drinking his beer)

OK.

Frank walks by and is STOPPED by Big Beard.

BIG BEARD
(to Frank)
Excuse me. You believe that our
world is a false rea--

RED CAP
(to Frank)
Just ignore him. He's had too much.

Frank walks away. Big Beard looks at Red Cap in a
disappointed matter.

BIG BEARD
Why'd you have to do that? I'm
trying to wake up these sheep to
what's really going on here.

RED CAP
Can you just shut the hell up and
let be enjoy my drink?

Big Beard waves his hand looks away.

RED CAP (CONT'D)
Muchas Cracias.

Red Cap looks at Frank walking out. Suddenly, Red Cap's eyes
begins to glow turquoise.

RED CAP (CONT'D)
(in The Program's voice)
This equalizes further
investigation.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END