

Virtual Nightmare

INT. STUDIO OFFICE- NIGHT

MEDIUM SHOT OF SARAH AND HER COMPUTER FROM OVER HER SHOULDER

While working at the office, Sarah feels tired from working on the company's latest project.

SARAH
I need a drink.

Sarah gets up from her comfortable desk chair with zeal-infused exhaustion.

FOLLOWING IN THIRD PERSON VIEW

She walks to a nearby vending machine to get a pop. After removing it from its chilled lair, she takes a sip and returns to her computer to continue her work. After a few minutes she starts feeling oddly sleepy; clunk, out like a light. Her head falls to the keyboard causing repeated keyboard beeps to revolt against the continuous weight. Then a co-worker enters the scene. He sneaks past the sleeping Sarah and starts playing a video game on a nearby PC.

CO-WORKER
She is always working too hard. She needs a vacation.

FADE OUT

EXT. KENTON PARK-MORNING-TOP VIEW OF A WOMAN SLEEPING ON A BENCH. PAN AND TILT TO MEDIUM SHOT OF WOMAN AWAKENING.

She awakens and sits up, then looks around observing this unexpected new environment with wonder and concern.

SARAH
Where am I?

She is in awe of the beautiful surroundings. The trees, the walkways, the sky; it's all so surreal.

EXT. OUTSIDE PARK, CLOSE BIRD'S EYE VIEW CENTERED ON SARAH

Leaving the park, she finally gets to see what the town is like. The town exhibits a modern style, despite feeling like a quiet, small town. The sun is shining down upon the town, enchanting it's ambiance to promote peace and tranquility. Sarah walks around a few blocks, feeling calm and comforted.

THE CAMERA PANS AROUND HER AT VARIOUS ANGLES AND SPEEDS TO SHOW OFF

THE LOOK AND FEEL OF THE TOWN.

SARAH

I really should get out more. It is such a nice day.

The murmuring sound of a lawn mower adds to the town's peacefulness, relaxing Sarah. Crack! The bark and roots of a nearby tree break away causing the large tree to fall. The local citizen mowing the lawn is unaware of the critical fate that is about to become his life's conclusion.

CAMERA QUICKLY CUTS TO A SHOT OF THE TREE FALLING TOWARD THE LOCAL CITIZEN, THEN TRACKS SARAH AS SHE RUNS TOWARD THE CITIZEN, WHILE SLOWLY ZOOMING OUT

With quick reflexes she notices the tree falling and dashes toward the citizen with the goal of pushing the citizen away from the falling tree. Sarah reaches the citizen just in time to be hit by the falling tree. The tree falls onto Sarah and the citizen she's protecting, but the tree just rolls off her back instead of crushing the two potential victims.

SARAH

That was close. Wait a minute, what the heck?

CAMERA GLANCES TO HER PERSPECTIVE STARING DOWN AT THE BASE OF THE TREE

Upon inspection of the tree she notices that there are no roots holding the tree to the ground. It doesn't even look like there were any to begin with, and the surprising minimal weight of the tree confounds her logic. With that fact, she kicks the tree away very easily, minimizing the chance for any future problems.

CAMERA REVERTS TO PREVIOUS ANGLE

She looks over to the lawn mower to see absolutely no change in its actions and disposition. Looking at the grass that citizen is mowing, she notices that none of the grass is even being cut.

SARAH

Whhat kind of place is this? It's so mechanical and lifeless. Speaking of lifeless, I'm starving. I wonder if they have anything to eat around here?

CAMERA SHIFTS TO OUT IN FRONT OF HER FROM THE NEAREST INTERSECTION

She walks toward the camera while searching for any possible sign of food. At the middle of the intersection she turns left, then right, her eyes combing the intersecting streets for any sign of food.

SARAH

Not even a Starkbud's on any corner, what the hell kind of place weird place is this?
Hmmm...

Shorty's Cafe... worth a shot.

CUT TO SARAH'S PERSPECTIVE WITH A SMALL PAN TO THE RESTAURANT FROM THE INTERSECTION

FADE TO LONG SHOT OF THE RESTAURANT

The restaurant is a time-worn, cozy looking place, kind of old fashioned, but nice none the less.

CUT TO MEDIUM SHOT OF THE RESTAURANT'S ENTRANCE AS SARAH ENTERS

Sarah enters the restaurant.

CAMERA MOVES TO INSIDE OF THE RESTAURANT INTO THE CORNER ABOVE THE DOOR WITH A VIEW OF THE SEATING AREA, SMALL ENTRYWAY AND COUNTER

Among the handful of tables, only two customers are sitting down, privately enjoy their food, but to add to the days oddities, they aren't even touching their food. They're just moving their fork or spoon from their plate to their mouth, repeatedly. As if to make it look like they are consuming and enjoying their food.

SARAH

Since when did I know how to get to the Twilight Zone?

Seeing no one in line, she walks to the awaiting cashier at the counter. The cashier stands before her, ready to take her order.

CAMERA CUTS TO A MEDIUM SHOT OF THE CASHIER FROM IN FRONT OF THE COUNTER, THEN SWITCHES TO A CLOSE UP OF THE CASHIER

CASHIER

May I take your order?

The cashier has a spooky, perpetual smile on her face.

CAMERA CUTS TO A MEDIUM SHOT OF SARAH WITH THE ENTRYWAY IN THE BACKGROUND

SARAH

Do you have a menu?

There is no reply from the cashier for about a minute. Sarah is doing her best to contain her hunger with polite and patient behavior.

CAMERA CUTS BACKS TO CLOSE UP SHOT OF THE CASHIER

CASHIER

May I take your order?

CAMERA SWITCHES TO A CLOSE UP SHOT OF SARAH

SARAH

Oh this is stupid! I can't even get any food in this friggin Twilight Zone. She obviously isn't going anywhere anytime soon so I might as well help myself to whatever I can scrounge up from their kitchen; if they even have one!

CAMERA ZOOMS IN ON THE KITCHEN DOOR LEAVING ENOUGH SPACE TO WATCH SARAH ENTER

As Sarah is just about to open the door, the door flares open and a guy dressed like a chef charges out of the kitchen in a fearful stupor, blazing and engulfed in fire. Sarah quickly jumps out of the way of the burning chef. She grabs a nearby cup of water and throws the water to the flames, but nothing comes out. She can see that there is water in the cup, but the water is frozen like plastic. Just then, the engulfed victim crashes through the front door of the restaurant and into the street.

SARAH

What the heck? This cup is as dry as this town. Sarah throws the damned cup at the kitchen door.

SARAH

Fetch, morons!

Sarah folds her arms across her chest while staring at the cashier. After several seconds of staring, Sarah rolls her eyes and walks out the cafe pissed off and hungry!

CAMERA CUTS BACK TO OUTSIDE THE CAFÉ TRACKING SARAH AS SHE FOLLOWS THE CHEF

Sarah follows the victim, kicking the burning chef to ground near a fire hydrant she saw on her way in. Sarah runs over to the hydrant and breaks off the outlet cap that is facing the cook with a quick, but lethal kick of her foot. Fortunately, the chef is still flailing about in one place on the ground while water spews out from the hydrant. The chef quickly becomes a soggy, charred man, but for some reason is still flailing about as if he was still ablaze. The spewing water quickly degenerates to a drip.

SARAH

Does anyone here actually think, or is this place full of mindless zombies that only react? This whole place feels like some virtual world. Where all the 'people' in it are just letters and numbers in some computer somewhere. Wait..., am I right? And if so, how the heck do I get out?!

CUT BACK TO OFFICE INTERIOR. BUST SHOT OF SARAH SLEEPING THAT ZOOMS OUT TO A MEDIUM WIDE SHOT HER SLEEPING AND THE CO-WORKER PLAYING HIS VIDEO GAME

CO-WORKER

This sim stuff can get so boring after awhile. Time to play in god mode.

(in his best god voice, which is average at best)

ZEUS SMITES ALL OF YOU! The world ends now!

CO-WORKER INITIATES LIGHTNING BOLT STORM DEATH EVENT VIA KEYBOARD

EXT. TOWN -DAY

CUT BACK TO HIGH WIDE SHOT OF SARAH THEN TO HER POV LOOKING AT THE SKY

Dark clouds fill the sky while loud, ominous thunder claps ravage the heavens and sends the town locals into a sudden state of fear.

SARAH

Now What?!

MONTAGE OF VARIOUS PEOPLE BEING STRUCK BY LIGHTNING ENDING WITH SARAH GETTING STRUCK BY LIGHTNING.

Sarah lives no more.

FADE TO BLACK

The End