

Nuclear Family

Written by

Olivia Curreri

116 Fall Lane, Franklin MA  
occurreri@gmail.com  
508-542-8933

The setting is New York in 2100.

1 INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

1

CASSANDRA (16) wakes up in her bed and reaches over to the nightstand. She sighs and puts on her "The Eye" glasses and mechanical whirring starts.

The room erupts into color as plants and decorations materialize around the room. A greeting is displayed by a hologram in front of her saying "Good morning Cassandra".

Cassandra stretches and gets out of bed, walking over to the mirror. She swipes through clothes options that are projected onto her. She clicks a button and her pajamas transform into a bright orange long sleeve blouse and black pants. She looks at herself for a moment and then walks out of the door.

2 INT. KITCHEN- PRESENT

2

The kitchen is futuristic and bursting with color. The news plays on TV in the center of the room and a news anchor talks loudly.

Cassandra's family eats breakfast around the table. Everyone is looking at different holograms in front of them that are projected from the "The Eye" glasses.

Brother RYKER plays video games on a projection while eating cereal. FATHER reads a newspaper article titled "Sea Level Rise Causes Millions To Relocate" that is projected in the palm of his hand. MOTHER looks at a hologram of a recipe while cooking on the stove.

NEWS ANCHOR

(playing in the background)

Forest fires continue to ravage California and the governor has issued a state of emergency. In other news, a new update of "The Eye" has been released and you won't believe what it can do.

The ad plays on television for "The Eye", glasses that contain technology to transform what is seen in the world around you.

Cassandra enters the room, but no one looks up from screens. She goes to the fridge and selects ice coffee from the menu projected in front of her. A warning pops up and says "LOW COFFEE PLEASE INSERT SLIP TO REFILL".

CASSANDRA  
(rolls eyes)  
Mother? There's no more coffee.

Mother continues to cook and watch TV.

CASSANDRA  
(annoyed)  
Mother? I said there's no more coffee,  
when is the next food slip coming?

MOTHER  
(not looking away from TV,  
distracted)  
Not for two weeks, ration cut. Hey did  
you hear there's a new update? They've  
added a scent feature, it makes the  
simulation so realistic.

CASSANDRA  
Two weeks? We just had a ration cut a  
few months ago!

FATHER  
(stern)  
Cassandra, do not raise your voice  
towards your mother. It is not her  
fault the fields have flooded. Now  
come sit down and have your breakfast.

Cassandra sighs and puts away her cup. She walks over and  
sits next to Ryker, who continues to play his video game.  
Mother puts a covered plate in front of Cassandra.

Cassandra looks at the plate and a hologram projects several  
breakfast options. She selects pancakes with syrup. Cassandra  
takes the lid off her plate and pancakes appear beneath it.

She takes a bite and sighs, looking around on her family  
using technology. No one speaks and the sound of the tv and  
mechanical whirring are the only sounds in the kitchen.

NEWS ANCHOR  
(in the background)  
Conflict continues in Mexico over  
water accessibility as wells run dry.  
The UN has decided not to get involved  
as...

Father picks up the TV remote and changes the channel to a  
bubbly talk show host.

3 INT. TALK SHOW- PRESENT

3

A young blonde-haired woman, CLAIRE, speaks to the camera.

CLAIRE

Hello America! This is Claire on Air!  
Today we're going to be talking about  
celebrity news and if Chad and Brianna  
broke. And stick around because up  
next tech expert Paul is gonna explore  
the new "The Eye" update.

4 INT. KITCHEN- PRESENT

4

Cassandra looks up at the tv screen and rolls her eyes at  
Claire.

CASSANDRA

She's so annoying.

RYKER

You're annoying.

CASSANDRA

Shut up loser.

MOTHER

Kids stop it!

Mother sits down next to Father. She opens a packet and puts  
a cube into a glass. She mixes it and water emerges and fills  
the glass.

MOTHER

I love Claire on Air. She's so  
entertaining, isn't she?

RYKER

Yeah and she's hot.

Mother hits Ryker on the back of the head playfully.

MOTHER

(shakes head)

Oh, hush up.

CASSANDRA

Gross.

MOTHER

But really how could you not love

Claire?

CASSANDRA

She's so fake. Nothing she says means anything. Who cares about Chad and Britney or the new "Eye" update.

MOTHER

I do. I mean have you updated your "Eye" yet? I could spend hours playing with it.

CASSANDRA

(under breath)

You already do.

MOTHER

Excuse me? What did you say?

CASSANDRA

Nothing.

RYKER

(smirks)

She said you already do.

Cassandra kicks him under the table and glares. Ryker sticks out his tongue.

MOTHER

What are you saying, Cassandra?

CASSANDRA

I don't know, I feel like you're always in your own world.

MOTHER

My own world? I use "The Eye" as much as anyone else in this household, right sweetie?

Mother looks at Father for approval and Father is distracted, reading news. He looks up confused.

FATHER

What?

Mother shoots him a glare and rolls her eyes.

CASSANDRA

My point exactly. I don't know I guess

I just feel (*Beat*) disconnected.

MOTHER

Disconnected? How could you feel disconnected when you have the whole world open to you with "The Eye"?

CASSANDRA

You just don't get it. No one does.

Cassandra sighs and stands up, grabbing her plate.

CASSANDRA

I'm not hungry anymore. I have to get ready for school.

Cassandra walks over to the fridge and puts her leftovers away. Mother shrugs and turns the TV up and her family continues to use their devices. Cassandra walks out of the kitchen.

5 INT. BEDROOM- PRESENT

5

Cassandra walks into her room and closes her door, leaning against it and exhaling. She walks over to the window and looks out at the lush green forest outside.

She stares at her reflection in the window. She slowly reaches up and takes off her "Eye" glasses. The pixels of the forest outside disintegrate.

A filthy, smoggy city materializes with skyscrapers cluttered on every corner. The city is endless and smog and smoke paint the landscape grey and void of any greenery. Homeless litter the street, begging for spare change and splashing through the puddles from flooding.

Cassandra continues to look out the window as the camera zooms out and exposes her now dirty and bare room with only a mattress in the corner.

Cassandra looks down at her "Eye" glasses and then back out the window. Her reflection in the window displays her anguished face. She has an epiphany, evident from her facial expression.

She squeezes "the Eye" glasses in her hand, the lens cracking. Cassandra looks up straight into the camera, determined.