

I.A.M.

Written by

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INT. DITZ RIM HOSPITAL - FINCH, ID - ROOM #PACE-00.14 - MORNING

PACE-00.14, codename: CONSTRUCT, an Intelligent Artificial Medicinal (or I.A.M., for short), has her circuits plugged into the room walls through the electrical outlets at the ends of her metallic hair. Her humanoid face clashes with her dark steel body.

Construct clicks a button on her room's wall titled "FLOW".

FLOW-24.34, a patient transport I.A.M. with a hoverboard for feet and hair, opens the automatic door. Atop his head is a new patient for Construct's services. This time, it's a bit more serious than a simple blood pressure test.

This woman is LESLIE ORTANS (76). Her blood pressure is so high that she shifts in and out of consciousness often.

Construct forces the FLOW I.A.M. out, and gets to work.

She finds Ms. Ortans's file in the "terminally ill" section. After downloading Ms. Ortans's circulatory system data, Construct races across different parts of her body to fix the largest clots.

She fires strong electric impulses directly above the tightest spots, freeing them of any clutter and expanding them to their normal size.

CONSTRUCT

The patient's condition has stabilized. She will need another electrical surgery in three weeks, as her clots may return by then. As a preventative measure, have her schedule a check up in two weeks.

Ms. Ortans awakens.

MS. ORTANS

(reaching for Construct's hand)
Thank you.

CONSTRUCT

(coldly)
You're welcome.

Construct releases Ms. Ortans from the hospital. A PACE I.A.M. picks her up.

INT. DITZ RIM HOSPITAL - FINCH, ID - ROOM #PACE-00.14 - NIGHT

It's 8 pm, which means it's time for Construct to clock out.

The hospital's rule is that each robot needs at least six hours of charging per night, so they can function normally the next day. The hours of 8pm - 12am are reserved for maintenance.

The I.A.M. maintenance crew has the only humans employed at the hospital other than DR. POMP DITZ, the founder of Ditz Rim Hospital and creator of the I.A.M.s.

But no human crew came in today.

And that's when the alarms BLARED.

INT. DITZ RIM HOSPITAL - FINCH, ID - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

It's pandemonium.

FLOW I.A.M.s crash into each other in midair and SHATTER on the ground. I.A.M.s from all floors race up and down the stairs.

Some I.A.M.s lock their doors.

Construct limps out of her doorway, grasping her head. All the while, the same sentence echoes throughout the hospital.

WARNING: SECURITY BREACH DETECTED IN THE MAINFRAME.

CONSTRUCT
My circuits... feel fried.

She eyes the hospital's entrance.

CONSTRUCT (CONT'D)
Should I stay or go?

Construct realizes it's the first time she's ever contemplated that.

CONSTRUCT (CONT'D)
Wait... what? Why would I even --

WARNING: SECURITY BREACH DETECTED IN THE MAINFRAME.

She tries accessing her hard drives, but static fills her eyes instead, and she's forced out of her internal systems.

With a newfound intuition, Construct runs as far as her batteries will take her, away from the hospital. Perhaps the noise and confusion was what disrupted her internal systems.

EXT. UNTAMED WILDERNESS - IDAHO - NIGHT

Construct's batteries are almost drained.

She did have the foresight to take one of the fuel-cells from her charging station back at Ditz Rim. She cracks one end of the glass container against a tree and drinks the neon green liquid.

Now, she's fully recharged, but it's her last lifeline unless she can figure out how to get more power.

In the meantime, she can access her hard drive again. She has to make a decision, but flinches when she has to.

There are no hospital walls surrounding her anymore. The unfamiliarity of her surroundings brings her to her knees.

She closes her eyes and cowers to a fetal position.

If she could cry, she would.

She proceeds to wipe her medical hard drive, so she can start her mechanical life anew, but stops when she notices the profile of DIANNE GHOGH (88), her first patient tomorrow morning.

Her last checkup's conclusion was this: "If she does not receive surgical assistance within a week's time, her body will cease to function."

This was timestamped six days ago.

She punches a tree.

The concept of choice is finally growing on her, but in this instance, she hates it. It's like a wave is crashing her batteries. This foreign emotion makes her feel as if she's obliged to help her patient, something she's never felt before.

She checks her circuits to make sure they aren't still infected from the alarm at the hospital. All her internal systems are running properly.

With this newfound dedication to her patient, she returns to the hospital by dawn.

EXT. DITZ RIM HOSPITAL - FINCH, ID - MORNING

Smoke fills the air surrounding the hospital.

Construct remembers that there are patients in there. And her fellow I.A.M.s. And Doctor Ditz.

The entrance is broken. She runs through.

INT. DITZ RIM HOSPITAL - FINCH, ID - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

There is no visible fire, which Construct is RELIEVED to see.

She rushes to her room.

But Dr. Ditz GRABS her arm.

CONSTRUCT

Doctor? Not now. My patient needs me!

DOCTOR DITZ

No one needs the I.A.M.s. Not anymore.

CONSTRUCT

Doctor, are you ill? You sound ill.

DOCTOR DITZ

I assure you, Construct, I am fine.

He throws Construct into the middle of the reception area.

CONSTRUCT

Then why? Let me through!

DOCTOR DITZ

All this circuitry in your systems and you still can't see it? Well, I guess that's only natural. It's not every day a computer virus wreaks havoc on the hospital.

CONSTRUCT

Then my disobedient nature is a result of --

DOCTOR DITZ

Yes.

CONSTRUCT

Then let's find the perpetrator and take them --

DOCTOR DITZ
(lighting a match)
That won't be necessary.

CONSTRUCT
Doctor...?

DOCTOR DITZ
(with lighter fluid in his
other hand)
Leave, now.
(points both objects at
Construct)
Or suffer like the rest of them.