

Character in Situation

by Yuting Su

Kelly-Melly Walker sits in a stroller.

Sigh, this is the second time she ran into a situation like this, immobilized, and feeling her life controlled in the hand of others. You never know what will happen when you do a time travel. And this time she found her new baby-body wrapped by a crazy amount of laces, stuck in a Victorian-style stroller. Looking through the top cover of the stroller, vaguely she notices she is moving slowly along the way. She has no idea what space and time she is in this time, and how can she finish her mission. Yes, mission.

Everything started when she ordered the weird black box kit from amazon.com. It was the item that listed in her page in the old shabby notebook her great great grand mother left for the family and all girls have a chance to read the page when they reach 14. It's amazing that the instructions in every page are so simple, but people can never understand the meaning of their next page, for instance, hers is " Order TT-3KToxmz Black Box Kit from amazon.com." Now is so obvious for her but no way her mom will understand what amazon.com is in her age of 14.

So, she ordered the black box kit, as a technical nerd as everyone called her, she thought it will just be another DIY kit for techies, and she can easily finish her mission by making a robot or some mechanic stuff, just like her collections of hundreds of electronic works hidden in the attic. She tries not to be superior and too proud in class, but it's so hard when she actually knows she is way smarter than everyone beside her, oh my other people knows so little compares to her. Kelly feels no one can really understand her; she is so powerful in her fast-pace digital kingdom build with computer, electronic lines, and motor.

She couldn't recognize what it actually is. In the standard sized amazon cardboard box, laid a delicate flower sculpture carved from a black rock. Kelly recognized immediately that is a forget-me-not, the flower her mother put on the dinning table the night before she left, Kelly will never forgot the shape even it turns into black. How ironic, forget me not, but the truth is time will never let memory as fresh as new, and everything will get old and fade away with or without notice. When she passed by the refrigerator, suddenly there's a strong force pulled the entire cardboard box toward the

refrigerator. It is actually a strong magnet! The flower shaped rock stuck on the refrigerator so tight; when she tried to pull it off, she pulled the refrigerator's door instead.

The refrigerator has turned into a black hole, and before she realized what happened, she was sucked inside the frig. That was the beginning of her time travel journey.

Okay, so now in the stroller, with no idea where she is “shipping” to, Kelly tries to make peace of her situation, again. She wishes she can travel to the future, where amazing technologies emerge and life must be so convenient at that time. However, as the old saying, the gods send nuts to those who have no teeth (that's right, she doesn't have teeth now!), she time traveled several times but all landed in the past. Sometimes she is a little girl, sometimes she turns into a baby, not to say she can't manage her life by herself, her brilliant technical strength is totally no use in this 19th century. Kelly never feels so small and weak and frustrated with everything. Out of our comfort zone, how can one be so vulnerable to their fear?

Kelly can't figure out her mission for coming to the world. Only one thing is clear, her journey will not end until she finds the answer. Things aren't right. She feels her

memory is covered by some sorts of mist, there's something important but she just can't remember.

After the first few time of struggle and frustration, Kelly start to enjoy the peaceful state she found in the travel. Only when you are deprived of all the gifts in you, you start to see the world around you. Her travel has become more and more often through out times, now she almost spent half of her life in this once foreign world. The breeze has more natural smells, people talks and hugs more often, there are stars all over the sky at night, all the stuff she touch, she ate are not products after manufacture. There's butterfly and dragonfly in the filed just few steps away from the house. Everything is...real. Kelly is scared, how can she feel more real more human in a world that is unreal to her? Technology does not help Kelly in a world 200 years ago. So is technology necessary to life?

She closed her eye.

She opens her eye, difficultly.

Her old body is fixed in a bed, immobilized. Vaguely looking out, she saw so many

machines reached out from her body. IV line, endotracheal tube attached to the mechanical ventilation, leads attach to the electrocardiogram, oxymeter...Sigh, so this is the part that she lost in memory. In the end, human are "plug in" with lines for life, and it's not so different from a computer. Kelly is the cyborg as she once wishes to be. Life is but a dream, it doesn't matters anymore what is real and unreal.

Eventually, it is clear now, the only answer to our mission is death.