

Contrast Hues
a Sci-Fi short screenplay
by Wytemi

LOGLINE:

A female Android learns about the contrast of colors and how to inject a "human touch" into their art.

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EXT. HILLS - DAY

HUE(21), a robotic AI resembling a human woman with a translucent head, revealing an artificial brain, and wearing a blouse and long skirt, stares at the sky atop a green hill.

Hue recalls memories of scientists talking

DR. CARTER (V.O.)
(muted)
Elias, can you run a diagnostic on
Hue's systems?

ELIAS (V.O.)
(muted)
All her systems are functioning
within optimal parameters.

Hue feels a brush of wind. She holds her hand skyward. She closes her eyes.

EXT. SECLUDED CABIN - DAY

Hue walks up to a small, isolated cabin surrounded by trees; carrying a canvas and painting supplies.

INT. CABIN - DAY

The cabin is full of generically pretty art pieces.

ELIAS(26); in casual clothes, name tag, scruffy hair, and wearing a catholic chain, is sitting on a couch reviewing a painting of Moses.

Hue sits in front of a canvas. Her strokes are fast, precise, and emotionless.

ELIAS
Hue?

Hue stops and turns to Elias

HUE
(partially robotic)
Yes, Elias?

ELIAS
You're merely generating pretty
images. All these images here are
imitations.

HUE
I was hoping you would have liked
them better.

ELIAS

(sighs)

They lack a *human touch*.

In front of Elias sits a copy of John Martin's: *The Seventh Plague of Egypt*, 1824.

ELIAS (CONT'D)

Tell me about this painting.

HUE

(regurgitates info)

It was painted by John Martin in 1824. Titled: *The Seventh Plague of Egypt*. It utilizes an oil canvas art style. The original is located at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

ELIAS

I'm aware of the history of the Painting. Share something personal about it

HUE

I don't understand what you mean by intimate. Intimacy is usually a sexual relationship, a feeling of physical belonging, or a close, warm friendship.

ELIAS

Intimacy is much more nuanced. I find this painting very intimate to my soul.

Hue compares her generic art with John Martin's painting.

ELIAS (CONT'D)

Look how Martin painted the colors between the sky and the city. There's a level of carefully constructed contrast incomparable to any of your work.

HUE

I notice that Martin has a clear distinguished style between light and dark.

ELIAS

Why is light vs dark? What's it mean?

Hue thinks and computes for a moment

HUE

Light represents the God of the Jewish people in the sky, and dark represents the terrified citizens.

ELIAS

There's another contrast. Do you see it?

HUE

There is a contrast between order and chaos. Order of society vs the chaos of god.

Elias stands and stretches his arms.

ELIAS

This time, take a canvas and go outside. Add contrast to your work.

EXT. CABIN PORCH - EVENING

Hue steps outside carrying canvas gear.

She steps onto the grass and listens to a local stream. She picks up a leaf, studying its texture.

HUE

What makes life feel alive?

Hue sets up her canvas on the grass.

Elias stands with a notebook and watches from the window.

HUE (CONT'D)

What makes matter such as I artificial, versus organic life as natural?

Hue strokes the canvas

EXT. CABIN - MORNING

DR. CARTER(40); a cardigan sweater, slacks, dress shoes, cap, backpack, and nametag, walks past Hue's painting.

DR. CARTER

G'Morning, Hue.

HUE
Good Morning, Dr. Carter. Elias is
inside.

Dr. Carter nods and walks towards the cabin.

INT. CABIN - MORNING

Elias snores on the couch, notebook on his face, and lies in
an odd, disjointed position.

DR. CARTER
Elias?

Elias snores.

Dr. Carter emerges over Elias.

Dr. Carter sighs and pushes a finger on his notebook. It
falls and Elias jerks awake.

ELIAS
(disoriented)
Yu-yu-YES!...Wh-What time is it?

DR. CARTER
Did you really let a million-dollar
android stay outside alone all
night?

Elias jerks for his watch and bounces his gaze between his
watch and outside.

ELIAS
(rubbing eyes)
Damn me!

Hue enters, carrying the painting.

DR. CARTER
Hue. Did you spend all night on
that painting?

HUE
Yes, Dr. Carter. I spent numerous
hours across the night thinking of
ideas and contrasts.

DR. CARTER
Let's see it then.

Hue displays the painting on a stand.

The painting depicts a dark-colored robot in an overgrown garden, holding and stroking a brightly colored bunny.

Elias and Dr. Carter gawk at it amazed.

HUE

I tried to understand what it means to feel, to connect with the world around me. But I still don't...

Dr. Carter puts a hand on her shoulder.

DR. CARTER

(smiling)

It's a journey, Hue. Emotions can't be programmed; only experienced.

HUE

Elias is a good teacher. He taught me contrast these past few days.

DR. CARTER

You don't say.

Dr. Carter smirks at Elias. He cleans up his hair nervously.

DR. CARTER (CONT'D)

You've taken your first step. That's the most human thing you could do.

HUE

Thank you, Dr. Carter. I will continue to learn and grow.

Dr. Carter stands and leaves Hue sitting in front of the painting. He directs Elias off-screen

DR. CARTER (O.S.)

(distant)

Pack up your things and submit a detailed report of your studies.

ELIAS

Did I perform well sir?

DR. CARTER

You performed well.

Hue reviews her painting intently.

END SCENE