

Story and script: Diorgo Jonkers
diorgo@gmail.com
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PAGE ONE (five panels)

Panel 1: In a medical examination room. Raymond Davies, 24 years old, sits on a bed. He wears a hospital gown. A doctor, Debra Lorne stands next to the bed. She is in her mid thirties, and wears a white coat and rubber gloves. She holds a syringe. Raymond has brown eyes.

CAP:
Virtua Reflect Technologies. Cape Town.

DEBRA:
This will suppress your memories of the last few days.

Panel 2: She holds the needle close to his arm.

DEBRA:
The goal is to test how real the sim is, which will be easier if you don't remember you're in it.

Panel 3: He looks a little worried.

RAYMOND:
It won't be permanent?

DEBRA:
No, it wears off after a day or two.

Panel 4: She injects him in the arm.

Panel 5: He lies down. She smiles at him.

DEBRA:
Thanks again for volunteering. I'll see you in a few hours.

PAGE TWO (five panels)

Panel 1: Close-up of his face. His eyes start to close.

Panel 2: Similar to previous panel, but his eyes are closed.

Panel 3: A black panel.

Panel 4: A few bubbles in the dark.

Panel 5: A faint light appears above. More bubbles and it is clear the view is in a liquid.

PAGE THREE (five panels)

Panel 1: Late morning. It rains. A car parks next to a community soccer field. Raymond is in the driver's seat (right side). His sister, Felicity Davies runs to the car. She wears a tracksuit, and carries a sports bag and a soccer ball. He is 35 and she is 33. He has put on some weight since the first scene.

Panel 2: She gets into the passenger seat. Her bag and soccer ball are on the back seat. He smiles at her.

FELICITY:
Another game rained out.

Panel 3: She turns the car's heater on. He stares out the window.

FELICITY:
Must have heat.

Panel 4: Felicity leans between the seats to get something out of her sports bag.

RAYMOND:
I had a strange dream. I was drowning and had to let go of memories to get lighter.

Panel 5: She pulls out a towel.

FELICITY:
You and your strange dreams, Raymond.

PAGE FOUR (six panels)

Panel 1: She dries her face.

Panel 2: She dries her hair. The towel covers her head and face.

Panel 3: He stares at her. A concerned look on his face. The towel still covers her head.

RAYMOND (thought):

What if by the time she lowers the towel I have forgotten her face? My own sister's face.

Panel 4: She lowers the towel and looks at him. He looks concerned.

FELICITY:

What?

Panel 5: She tosses the towel towards the back seat.

RAYMOND:

Felicity, there's something wrong with my memory.

Panel 6: External view of the car.

RAYMOND:

It's fading. My childhood's almost gone. Sometimes random memories disappear.

PAGE FIVE (six panels)

Panel 1: She looks at him with wide eyes.

FELICITY:

You're serious. When did it start? Did you see a doctor?

RAYMOND:

Yes, but they don't know what's causing it. They referred me to an institute, Gilomere that specialises in memories.

Panel 2: She looks determined.

FELICITY:

Then you should go.

RAYMOND:

It's in Joburg and damn expensive.

Panel 3: External bird's-eye view from directly above the car.

FELICITY:

Medical aid?

RAYMOND:

They won't cover it.

Panel 4: He starts the car.

FELICITY:

Damn... When you came back from that sim test your memory was messed up for a few days. You think it's that?

RAYMOND:

That was more than 10 years ago.

Panel 5: External view of the car pulling away.

FELICITY:

What was the sim about? Maybe it was some kind of memory experiment.

RAYMOND:

I can't talk about it. I signed an NDA.

(See panel 6 on the next page.)

Panel 6: He stares at the road ahead. Rain pours on the windscreen. The wipers swing left and right.

RAYMOND (thought):
What if she's right? How do I find out?

FELICITY:
I hope that place, Gil-whatever can help you. I'll help with cash, but I ain't a bank.

PAGE SIX (six panels)

Panel 1: She turns to him.

FELICITY:

Have you told Angela?

RAYMOND:

Not yet. She has enough going on in her life.

Panel 2: Distant view of the car.

FELICITY:

She still cares about you.

Panel 3: Morning. A sunny day. The parking area of a block of flats. Raymond washes his car. He is busy with the bonnet. There is a large bucket of water on the ground, and a hosepipe leading from a nearby tap.

RAYMOND (thought):

You have to sell your car.

Panel 4: View from underneath the car. Raymond's feet are visible.

RAYMOND (thought):

You need a deposit to secure a room at Gilomere.

Panel 5: He sits in the driver's seat. He wipes off the dashboard. The door is open.

RAYMOND (thought):

A lot of good memories in this car.

Panel 6: He smiles.

RAYMOND (thought):

That first date with Angela. All the holiday trips.

PAGE SEVEN (five panels)

Panel 1: He stops wiping and stares at the dashboard.

RAYMOND (thought):

There has to be some other way to get cash for the deposit. Maybe a personal loan. No, no more debt.

Panel 2: He frowns. His phone rings.

RAYMOND (thought):

This is the fastest way. How many memories will be gone by the time I find another way?

SFX:

Manchuki! Da-da!

Panel 3: He stares at the phone in his hand. It still rings.

RAYMOND (thought):

It's the buyer.

SFX:

Manchuki! Da-da!

Panel 4: Similar to previous panel. The phone rings.

SFX:

Manchuki! Da-da!

Panel 5: He answers the phone.

RAYMOND:

Hello... Just washing it now... Yes, I'll see you at three.

PAGE EIGHT (six panels)

Panel 1: Afternoon. In the living room of Raymond's flat. Packed boxes fill the room. Raymond packs a few books into a box.

RAYMOND (thought):

Why do I keep all these old things? Nostalgia? Memory anchors?

Panel 2: He holds an old comic book.

RAYMOND (thought):

Ma bought me this when I was a kid. How old was I?

Panel 3: He picks up a sci-fi book. On the cover is an alien's face. The alien has big blue eyes.

RAYMOND (thought):

Will they still have value if my memory goes?

Panel 4: He looks at the book cover. He touches his own face, just beneath his right eye.

Panel 5: He runs to the bathroom. A look of panic on his face.

Panel 6: He stands in front of the mirror in the bathroom.

RAYMOND (thought):

My eyes are brown. How could I forget that?

PAGE NINE (five panels)

Panel 1: He sits on the floor, with his back against the wall. He rubs his fingers against his head.

RAYMOND (thought):
They're brown. I was born in Cape Town. I'm 35 years old. My name is Raymond Davies. Focus.

Panel 2: Close-up of his face. His eyes are closed.

RAYMOND (thought):
It's getting worse. I'm running out of time.

Panel 3: Similar to previous panel.

RAYMOND (thought):
I have to get to Joburg. I have to sell the flat. What's the value of everything I own?

Panel 4: View from directly above.

RAYMOND (thought):
What if I sell everything? Leave Cape Town with only necessary clothes.

Panel 5: He leans his head back, against the wall.

RAYMOND (thought):
No, too many memories. I can't let them go.

PAGE TEN (six panels)

Panel 1: Flashback: Raymond is six years old. He stands in the kitchen. He holds a tooth in his hand. The tooth fell out of his mouth.

MOTHER (OP):
It's just a tooth, Raymond. Throw it away.

Panel 2: He drops the tooth into the kitchen dustbin.

MOTHER (OP):
It's no longer part of you.

Panel 3: Close-up of the tooth lying in the dustbin.

Panel 4: Back to the bathroom and the 35-year-old Raymond. He turns his head. The doorbell rings.

SFX:
Ding dong!

Panel 5: He opens the front door. Two estate agents are standing outside, a woman and a man.

WOMAN:
Hi, Raymond? I'm Cheryl and this is Harold. We're from Face Brick Properties.

RAYMOND:
Hi. Please come in.

Panel 6: They walk into the living room.

RAYMOND:
Something I forgot to mention on the phone. The flat comes with everything in it.

PAGE ELEVEN (six panels)

Panel 1: Morning. Raymond stands in line at the luggage check-in at the airport. He has one suitcase and a backpack.

Panel 2: He is at the counter. The man at the counter smiles at him.

MAN:

Where are you flying to?

RAYMOND:

Joburg.

Panel 3: The man looks at him.

MAN:

Can I please have your ID or driver's licence?

Panel 4: Raymond puts his hand in his pocket. A frown on his face.

Panel 5: He tries his other pockets.

Panel 6: He looks at the man behind the counter.

RAYMOND:

I just need to look in my bags.

PAGE TWELVE (six panels)

Panel 1: Raymond stands by a row of chairs near the counter. He searches in his backpack.

Panel 2: He searches in his suitcase. He looks uncertain.

Panel 3: He sits on a chair.

RAYMOND (thought):
Did it fall out, or did I forget it somewhere?

Panel 4: He walks back to the counter.

RAYMOND:
Excuse me. I seem to have left my wallet and ID at home. There's no other way you can identify me?

MAN:
I'm sorry, sir. There are other flights later today.

Panel 5: Raymond forces a smile at the man.

RAYMOND:
OK, thanks.

Panel 6: He walks away from the counter.

RAYMOND (thought):
What if I can't find my ID? I have to leave Cape Town now.

PAGE THIRTEEN (six panels)

Panel 1: He looks around.

RAYMOND (thought):

Calm down. I can draw money from an ATM with my phone.

Panel 2: Distant view of him standing at an ATM in the airport.

Panel 3: He walks out through the airport's main entrance. A bunch of meter taxis are parked nearby.

Panel 4: He walks up to a taxi driver.

RAYMOND:

How much to go to Joburg?

DRIVER:

Sorry, man. I don't drive that far.

Panel 5: Raymond stares at him. The driver holds his hand against the back of his head.

RAYMOND:

Name your price. If I can afford it I'll pay it.

Panel 6: The taxi leaves the airport. Raymond is in the back seat.

PAGE FOURTEEN (four panels)

Panel 1: Morning. Reception area of the Gilomere Institute. Raymond looks tired. He stands at the receptionist's desk. The receptionist smiles at him. "Gilomere Institute" is written on the wall. This is the largest panel on the page.

RAYMOND:

Hi. I'm Raymond Davies. I have a booking from today.

RECEPTIONIST:

Ah, yes, Mr Davies. Welcome.

Panel 2: She drags a book across the desk towards him.

RECEPTIONIST:

Can you please sign in?

RAYMOND:

I've misplaced my ID...

Panel 3: She smiles at him. He looks relieved.

RECEPTIONIST:

Not a problem. We have the copy you sent us.

Panel 4: He leans forward and writes in the book.

PAGE FIFTEEN (six panels)

Panel 1: Close-up of the book. He only wrote his first name and misspelled it as "Raimund".

Panel 2: Similar to previous panel. The pen is hovering above the misspelled name.

Panel 3: Close-up of Raymond's face. His eyes are closed. He is concentrating.

Panel 4: Close-up of the book. He crosses out the name.

Panel 5: Similar to previous panel. He writes again, this time it is spelled correctly, "Raymond Davies".

Panel 6: The receptionist drags the book back across the desk.

RECEPTIONIST:

I'll get someone to show you to your room. Later you can meet doctor Bedrin.

RAYMOND:

Thank you.

PAGE SIXTEEN (six panels)

Panel 1: Afternoon. In the office of doctor Bedrin. Raymond and the doctor sit on comfortable chairs across from each other. The doctor is in his late fifties. In between them is a small table, and on it tea for the doctor and coffee for Raymond.

DOCTOR:
Any recent head injuries?

RAYMOND:
No.

Panel 2: View from the small table, looking at the doctor.

DOCTOR:
Any stressful or traumatic events?

RAYMOND (OP):
My girlfriend, Angela broke up with me. We were together for 14 years.

Panel 3: View from the small table, looking at Raymond.

DOCTOR (OP):
Tell me what happened.

RAYMOND:
She left, because I... I cheated on her. It wasn't even real.

Panel 4: Close-up of the doctor. He raises his eyebrows slightly.

DOCTOR:
What do you mean?

Panel 5: Close-up of Raymond. His face is pained.

RAYMOND:
I cheated on her in a sim. I was overcome with guilt. But all those years I never told her. I couldn't.

DOCTOR (OP):
But then you told her.

(See panel 6 on the next page.)

Panel 6: Raymond puts his curled fingers of his right hand against his forehead.

RAYMOND:

Yes, about a month ago. The pain in her eyes was unbearable.

DOCTOR:

That's when your memory problems started?

PAGE SEVENTEEN (five panels)

Panel 1: He looks at the doctor. He is uncertain.

RAYMOND:

I think so. I'm not sure.

DOCTOR:

I'll have to do some tests...

Panel 2: The doctor picks up his cup of tea.

DOCTOR:

But I think her leaving has been more traumatic than you realise. It may very well be what's affecting your memory.

RAYMOND:

Whatever you do, has to be soon. I don't know how much longer I can hold on.

Panel 3: Raymond's blurry reflection on the doctor's cup.

RAYMOND:

Soon I'll forget who I am.

Panel 4: The doctor looks at him thoughtfully.

DOCTOR:

In a strange way, I envy you a little. Memories can become chains that bind us. And you're almost completely free.

Panel 5: Raymond sits on the chair.

RAYMOND:

I don't see the point of freedom if you don't know who you are.

PAGE EIGHTEEN (five panels)

Panel 1: Same as previous panel. But the word "PAUSED" has appeared at the bottom of the panel.

Panel 2: Similar to previous panel, but the view is further away. The previous panel is on a screen mounted on a wall.

Panel 3: Similar to previous panel, but the view is further away. Doctor Debra Lorne and a man, Solomon sit at a table in a meeting room. They sit across from each other, and both look at the screen on the wall. On the screen we still see Raymond paused. Solomon has a remote control in his hand. He wears a golf shirt, smart casual pants and an expensive watch. Debra looks exactly the same as in the very first scene, when she was in the medical room.

Panel 4: Similar to previous panel.

SOLOMON:

What were the results?

DEBRA:

Raymond's mind is wiped. All his memories are gone.

Panel 5: Solomon puts the remote on the table. He looks at Debra.

SOLOMON:

Next of kin?

DEBRA:

His sister, Felicity.

PAGE NINETEEN (five panels)

Panel 1: Solomon frowns as he gets up.

SOLOMON:

The one in the sim? They seemed close. She might not want to sell us his body.

Panel 2: Solomon and Debra walk to the door leading out of the room.

SOLOMON:

Would be a pity, 'cause we already have a paralysed customer interested in it.

DEBRA:

Do you ever question what we do?

Panel 3: They walk down a passage.

SOLOMON:

No. We have every right. He broke the law.

DEBRA:

But he did it in a sim.

Panel 4: They continue walking. Solomon looks at her.

SOLOMON:

The law's the law. In the real world or a virtual one. He breached his NDA when he told Angela about the affair.

DEBRA:

But the affair was in a fake sim in the real sim.

Panel 5: They walk through a door.

SOLOMON:

Doesn't matter. He thought it was the real sim and knew he wasn't allowed to talk about it.

SOLOMON:

He read it in black and white, and signed on the dotted line.

PAGE TWENTY (one panel)

Panel 1: A large room. In the middle, Raymond is suspended inside a large glass tank. The tank is filled with a transparent liquid. He has a breathing apparatus on his face, and cables attached to his head. His eyes are closed. Raymond is 24 years old, exactly as he was in the very first scene. Except now he wears only swimming trunks. There are a few other tanks, each containing a person. They are a mixture of women and men. The men wear swimming trunks, and the women swimming trunks and swimming bras. Debra and Solomon stand next to Raymond's tank. They look at him. This is the largest panel on the page.

SOLOMON:

It states that if he breaches the NDA we have the right to retrieve our info from his brain.

SOLOMON:

And the only way we can make sure we get everything, is to remove all his memories.

CAP:

The end.