

THE ORACLE

Written by

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BLACKNESS.

The sound of a low, electric whine, like the fan on a laptop.

A sudden flurry of digitized trumpet echoes in the void, as THE ORACLE LOGO constructs itself in front of you: An all seeing eye atop four greek columns engraved with Fire, Mountains, Wind, and Water.

With a pleasant musical jingle, a small loading bar appears beneath the logo. As the loading continues, a heads-up-display begins to build around your vision (this is an actual HUD tied to the user's VR headset POV), the blackness around you fades into...

INT. CHRIS' BEDROOM - DAY

A right hand pulls away from your temple as a faint Power indicator pulses. The Oracle is now booted up, the logo spins away to the upper right hand corner of your HUD.

CHRIS (20s), a nervous young man in glasses, looks back at you in a mirror hung on the wall. Clothing is strewn about the small room. His HUD glowing off his spectacles.

Your HUD is comprised of 3 panels, one covering your center vision and two in your peripheral vision. Various readouts flutter in and out from the wings to the center with a flick of Chris' fingers.

It is an unobtrusive User Interface, mostly minimalist icons and text, the equivalent of your desktop or phone home screen.

--A SMALL TRANSLUCENT BOX in the top right corner: [5:59pm, 7/19/2025]

--A SMALL Notification bubble: [68F, Overcast] - Bring an Umbrella! :)

--A SMALL TRANSLUCENT BAR in the top left corner is labeled VITALS [HR: Elevated | Stress Level: Moderate]

--SEVERAL EMAILS and TEXT Messages

--TWO ADS

A notification appears on-screen. [Date With Darsha, 7pm. LaBelle Restaurant]. Chris waves the notification away.

Another notification: [Vitals | Stress Levels (Up Arrow)].

CHRIS
Yeah, yeah, yeah.

A TRANSLUCENT WHITE WAVY LINE appears on the bottom of the screen with the text [Choice Assist | How can I help?]

CHRIS (CONT'D)
What shirt would Darsha find most attractive?

BEEP! [Choice Assist: Scanning Darsha Patel's Social Media | Blue Access...]

Chris examines one of the shirts he has laid out on his bed as Oracle computes. A window pops up next to the shirt indicating where to buy more in different colors.

If you look at other articles of clothing or objects in the room, similar windows pop up: suggesting repair, replacement, flash sales, etc. An interactive element of this experience.

[Vitals | Stress Levels (Up Arrow) RELAX]. Chris waves the notification away.

BEEP! [Choice Assist: Social Media for Darsha Patel Shows Preference For Color Blue]

CHRIS (CONT'D)
Blue. Gottit. Thanks.

Chris grabs the blue shirt.

[Incoming Call: Gavin Ramirez]. Chris clicks [Accept]. A smiling photo of GAVIN (20s), everybody's best bro, appears to the left.

GAVIN (O.S.)
Hey man, Vitals keeps dingin' me about your stress levels. What's up, man? Got that date, right? That girl you were messaging?

Chris takes off his shirt, throws on the blue one.

CHRIS
Yeah, I dunno man, just... been awhile.

[Cyrano Choice Assist: Time to La Belle Restaurant in current traffic: 36min. Order Ryde?] Chris clicks [Yes]

[Your Ryde ETA: Less Than 3 Mins]

Chris buttons up his shirt.

GAVIN (O.S.)
 You guys are syncing though, right?
 Had a buddy that didn't, went in
 for a kiss cuz Cyrano misread her
 body language, got a big ol slap.

CHRIS
 No. Yeah. We're gonna sync.

GAVIN (O.S.)
 Well shit, ya ain't got nothin' to
 worry about, man. Just... go with
 it, ya know?

[Your Ryde has arrived: Unit 425-W000]

CHRIS
 Yeah. My Ryde's here.

GAVIN (O.S.)
 Alright. Catch ya later. Crush it!

BEEP! [Call Ended]

Chris drinks in his reflection.

EXT. STREET - LATER

Chris idles on the sidewalk.

DARSHA (O.S.)
 Hi, uh... Chris?

Chris turns: DARSHA (20s), a sweet, intelligent introvert, approaches him. She also wears a pair of Oracle Glasses, in which you can see the faint tint of her own HUD.

CHRIS
 Hi... Darsha.

DARSHA
 That's my name! Haha.

[Invite Darsha to Sync in Event "Date With Darsha" Category: Date?]

CHRIS
 So, uh... you cool with syncing?

DARSHA
 Of course!

Chris clicks [Ok].

[Access Level? | Sapphire (Tier 1) | Sky (Tier 2) | Blue (Tier 3) | Azure (Tier 4) | Teal (Tier 5)]

CHRIS
...Sapphire ok?

DARSHA
I have nothing to hide. Except the
three bodies in the back of my car.
I'm just kidding. Hahahaha. Ha. Ha.
Yeah, Sapphire.

Chris forces a laugh.

[Sync With Darsha in Progress...] A small status bar appears
underneath. Text flashes underneath the bar. [Scanning Social
Media...] [Accessing Vitals...] [Sharing Calendar Data...]
[Analyzing Oracle Log Data...]

The two stare at each other as it loads. It's... taking bit
longer than expected.

Chris fingers make a small, subtle flick, bringing up a
cricket match from the right hand panel on your HUD. 6-0.
Home. Yuck.

Behind the HUD, Darsha is also flicking through something you
can just barely make out in the reflection of *her* glasses.

Darsha offers a polite smile.

The Sync bar fills up. [Sync Complete] [Complement Her Shoes]

CHRIS
I, uh... like your shoes.

Darsha and Chris look at her shoes.

DARSHA
Oh, thank you! Uh...

She waits for her Oracle to load.

DARSHA (CONT'D)
Nice shirt. Very sexy. Ha-ha. Blue.

[La Belle: Your Table is Ready]

DARSHA (CONT'D)
Well then, shall we?

[Let her go first]

CHRIS

After you.

An AR Arrow materializes, leading from them, down the sidewalk, and into the restaurant.

INT. RESTAURANT - LATER

Chris sits across from Darsha. He holds a blank menu with a QR Code in the middle. If you look at it, a digital menu overlays within the HUD, tracked to the physical menu.

As you look at it, various items get larger, and a picture of the food item pops out to the side of the menu, align with user reviews.

DARSHA

Oh my god, everything looks so good, I just wanna like, try it all!

If the user strays from looking at Darsha for too long, a small warning window will appear suggesting they are being rude, decreasing the viability of the date, etc.

CHRIS

Yeah, Cyrano thought you might like this place... got a great vegan selection. That's why I chose it.

[You Want: "Rosemary Veal w/ potatoes au grit and asparagus" Order? [Yes] [No]]. Chris clicks [Yes].

DARSHA

Awww. That was very thoughtful of you. Oh, looks like I'm having the Buffalo Cauliflower Wings. Great!

[Joke: "Sounds healthy..."]

CHRIS

Sounds healthy.

A lag as Darsha's Oracle calculates.

DARSHA

Just because I'm vegan doesn't mean I eat healthy.

A small icon of a laughing face appears in the left hand corner of the HUD. Chris laughs.

[Segue: Mention her work]

CHRIS
So, uh, you work at Linear?
Development?

[Compliment her | Prompt: "That sounds important..."]

CHRIS (CONT'D)
Sounds super important.

A lag.

DARSHA
Yes... well... it's certainly not
as glamorous as graphic design...

She nods at Chris. [Humble Yourself]

A square draws itself from the top left panel, filling itself
in with bright paint.

CHRIS
Oh, please. I mostly just draw
squares and color them in.

[Compliment her | Prompt: "You make a difference..."]

CHRIS (CONT'D)
You're actually making a
difference.

A lag.

DARSHA
You really think that?

[Agree | Prompt: "Yes..."]

CHRIS
Yeah, absolutely.

DARSHA
I guess that's what drew me to it,
I mean, with the population where
it is, the "War on Scarcity", I
just want to know that I'm doing
something... meaningful, you know?
I don't know...

[Show Her You're Interested | Prompt: "What don't you
know..."]

CHRIS
You don't know what?

DARSHA

I mean... with the nature of the work, the hours in the lab, sometimes I just feel very lonely, very isolated, you know? Guess that's why I'm here, hahaha.

[Open Up: You Feel the Same Way | Prompt: "At work..."]

CHRIS

No, I mean, at the firm I work at... even though I'm basically surrounded with people at all times, ya know, cuz of how competitive creative jobs are, I may as well be completely alone.

A lag. Darsha reaches out and touches Chris' hand.

DARSHA

Hey. We're here.

Chris looks into Darsha's eyes.

[Vitals: Darsha - HR (Up Arrow Symbol) | Pheromones (Up Arrow Symbol)]

[Do Something Spontaneous]

[Ryde: Travel Time to "Runyon" 18min w/Traffic | Sunset @ 7:32pm PST]

CHRIS

Hey... wanna do something completely crazy and spontaneous?

Darsha chuckles.

DARSHA

(in on the joke)
Haha. Sure. What'd you have in mind?

[Make to Leave] Chris stands. [Tease her] [Keep it a surprise]

CHRIS

No, no, no. I can't tell you, it'll ruin the surprise.

[Leave] Chris takes a few steps. Darsha remains seated. [Stop]. Chris stops.

[Tempt her | Prompt: "It'll be an adventure"]

CHRIS (CONT'D)
C'mon! It'll be an adventure!

[Offer her your hand]

Chris offers her his hand.

[Ryde: Your Ryde is arriving in 5min]

[Stall]

[Ask her about her cat | Tell Her About Doug | Say You Need To Use the Restroom]

[La Belle Restaurant - Meal Ended. \$88.94 Will be charged to Account Ending in x1968]

EXT. SCENIC VIEWPOINT - DAY

Chris walks down the path, stopping at the edge. He looks at the sunset-eclipsed visage of the city below.

He turns, watching as Darsha makes her way toward him and settles at his side, drinking in the view.

DARSHA
Oh. Wow...

[Be Vulnerable | Prompt: "This is my favorite..."]

CHRIS
This is my favorite view of the city. It just reminds me that... no matter how lonely or depressed I feel, no matter how hope--

DARSHA
Stop reading that for like, one second.

She kisses him.

[Vitals: Darsha's HR (Up Arrow) | Pheromones: Peak]

The screen FLASHES right as their lips meet, the sound of DIGITAL CAMERA SHUTTER chimes.

A small preview of the Photo of their kiss appears on-screen. Text underneath reads: "Event: First kiss With Darsha Patel".

The picture flies away into a small FOLDER ICON labeled "Photos" and disappears.

Darsha smiles at Chris. They go in for another kiss.

INT. CHRIS' APARTMENT - NIGHT

Chris and Darsha make out, backing up through the apartment. Complete darkness save for the eerie glow of their Oracle HUDs.

[Remove her clothes]

You hear the sounds of rustling clothes dropping to the floor.

[Less Tongue]

Chris reaches up to grab her Oracle. She stops him.

DARSHA

Leave it.

They kiss.

INT. CHRIS' BEDROOM

Darsha lies asleep.

[Vitals: Darsha: Phase 1 REM Sleep Cycle]

Chris slides her Oracle off her face, studying her now visible features. He sets her Oracle on the night stand.

[Vitals: You Are Thirsty]

Chris's hand reaches to his face and grasps the Oracle glasses. Your view stays with the glasses, not Chris' eyes as he takes you off and places you on the bedside table next to Darsha's.

Darsha snores abruptly. The world is now out of focus.

A battery indicator beeps and glows red.

[Oracle Power Off]

The logo spins back into the center of the screen, deconstructing itself. A pleasant trumpet jingle echoes out in the black void.

BLACKNESS

THE END