

어쩌면 해피엔딩

M A Y B E
H A P P Y
E N D I N G



BY WILL ARONSON AND HUE PARK

어쩌면 해피엔딩
Maybe Happy Ending

by Will Aronson and Hue Park

Commissioned by 우란문화재단

CAST

DARREN CRISS

Oliver

HELEN J SHEN

Claire

DEZ DURON

Gil Brentley

MARCUS CHOI

James and Others

CREATIVE

WILL ARONSON AND HUE PARK

Book, Music, and Lyrics

MICHAEL ARDEN

Director

DANE LAFFREY

Scenic and Additional Video Design

CLINT RAMOS

Costume Design

BEN STANTON

Lighting Design

PETER HYLENSKI

Sound Design

GEORGE REEVE

Video Design

CRAIG FRANKLIN MILLER

Hair and Wig Design

SUKI TSUJIMOTO

Makeup Design

WILL ARONSON

Orchestrations

DEBORAH K. ABRAMSON

Music Supervisor

JOHN YUN

Music Director



AUTHOR'S NOTE

It has often been pointed out that people are gradually merging with technology, and it's easy to imagine a future when people and their electronic gadgets start to become indistinguishable. But underneath this, all the old human longings and fears are still there, unchanged - just maybe hidden from ourselves a bit more. Perhaps technology helps us forget that we are still confused humans, who only get a very short time to work things out before the season changes and we're gone.

With this in mind, we began to imagine a story not of two people but of two robots who, through their innocent, goofy discovery of the world, might actually remind us what it is to be human. To capture this feeling, we decided that instead of using an electronic, futuristic sound, we would paint our futuristic story with analogue, acoustic sounds - piano hammers and resonating strings, the crackling sound of a needle on LP grooves. And we would fill the story with as much of the world's simple magic as we could: a road trip; a field lit up by fireflies on a summer night.

An LP-player, a firefly, a human being - we all have a beautiful moment here in the universe, where we light up the darkness or make the air vibrate magically, and then we are gone. The question is only what we do with that knowledge. Do we love harder? Is loving someone intensely worth the pain that comes with that? How do we live fully, knowing all the while that everything is always changing, that everything must pass?

CHARACTERS

OLIVER: An obsolete Helperbot 3. Loves other forms of outdated technology – LP players and paper maps and books – which some people claim were even better than what came later. Moves in a slightly stiff manner.

CLAIRE: An obsolete Helperbot 5. As a model 5, she is capable of more nuanced emotional shadings than the 3, including a better command of specialized language like slang and sarcasm. Moves fluidly.

JAMES: Oliver's former owner. James loved jazz and all sorts of outdated fashions and technology, passions that he passed on to Oliver. Like many wealthy humans of his era, James had increasingly little direct human contact. The actor also plays James' son, JUNSEO, as well as the various humans Oliver and Claire encounter on their journey.

GIL BRENTLEY: A popular American big band leader from the mid twentieth century, now forgotten except by a select few. Gil Brentley was James' favorite jazz musician, and therefore is Oliver's as well. Everything Oliver knows about human relationships he learned from Gil's songs.

JIYEON: Claire's former owner, who appears in memory via video projection.

SUHAN: Jiyeon's boyfriend and later husband, who appears in memory via video projection.

HWABOON (prop): Oliver's plant and closest confidant during his decade living alone in the housing complex for obsolete Helperbots.

SETTING

Seoul, Korea. The near future (c. 2064).

ON THE PORTRAYAL OF HELPERBOTS

Like all Helperbots, Oliver (a 3) and Claire (a 5) are physically identical to humans, although their emotions and movements are less gradated and perhaps ever so slightly exaggerated – in this respect, they might bring to mind silent film comedians. The 5, being more advanced, moves more fluidly than the 3. They are dressed perhaps in the manner of hipsters of the early 21st century, as would fit the tastes of their cosmopolitan Korean owners. The Helperbot 3, and later the 5, were eventually replaced by more advanced Helperbots, leaving the earlier models ownerless and with a limited supply of replacement parts. Obsolete Helperbots live on the outskirts of Seoul Metropolitan in cheap apartments reluctantly provided by the company that created them.



PRESHOW

JAMES's Seoul apartment, sometime in the near future. JAMES is sipping tea in his chair, reading Jazz Monthly, and listening to a Nat King Cole LP. When the LP ends, JAMES puts the magazine down, carefully removes the LP from the player (touching only the edges and label) and gently returns it to its cover. He brings the record back to his LP shelf, finds the appropriate spot in the alphabet, and slides the record back in. Now he selects the next LP – a Gil Brentley record. JAMES slides the record out of its cover, cleans it meticulously, then puts it onto the LP player. As the pops and hisses start, he calls warmly into the next room.

JAMES

Oliver!

SCENE 1

JAMES and his apartment suddenly disappear. As the scratchy old piano intro to “Why Love” begins, the set transitions to OLIVER's small room at the Helperbot Yards, several years later. The identical LP player can be seen, with the identical Gil Brentley album leaning against it. OLIVER is “asleep” in his chair as the LP plays. OLIVER seems to have set up the LP player on a timer, to function as his “alarm clock.”

SONG #1 – WHY LOVE

GIL BRENTLEY

WHY, LOVE?

WHY DID WE BOTHER TO TRY LOVE?

WHY DID WE FOOLISHLY STOP TO SAY HELLO

INSTEAD OF GOING OUR WAY?

OLIVER yawns and stretches his arms.

OLIVER

Ah, what a night.

OLIVER's stretches become more strange and complex – he is testing the functionality of his neck, wrists, and arms.

GIL BRENTLEY

BUT YOUR HEART WAS FREE

AND MINE WAS ON MY SLEEVE

OLIVER gives his plant, HwaBoon, a pat.

OLIVER

Morning, HwaBoon! Sleep well?

OLIVER stands up from the couch, revealing a long cord plugged into the wall – he unplugs himself and rolls up the cord.

GIL BRENTLEY

WERE WE BRAVE, OR WERE WE JUST NAÏVE?

OLIVER

Soundin' good, Gil Brentley.

OLIVER salutes the Gil Brentley LP cover. During the following, OLIVER brushes his teeth... and then brushes the rest of his face and neck. He does some odd facial stretches. OLIVER notices something wrong with his knee, fetches a small welding kit from a drawer and does a quick soldering job.

GIL BRENTLEY

SO TELL ME WHY, LOVE
WHEN ALL THINGS END IN GOODBYE, LOVE
WHY DID WE DREAM THAT THIS FATE WOULD NOT BE OURS
WHEN EVEN STARS UP ABOVE
ASK WHERE THEIR GLOW WENT?
LOVE LASTS ONE MOMENT
AND THEN THAT FINAL TASK:
TO SIGH AND ASK
“WHY LOVE?”

As GIL sings the final lines, OLIVER pauses in his work to listen to (and maybe hum along with) GIL for a moment. Then the song on the LP ends, returning to just pops and hisses.

A special tone sounds from a device on OLIVER's wall. The bar begins to glow and a cold, emotionless voice is heard - this is Helperbot Inc.'s A.I. ASSISTANT, installed in every unit in the Helperbot Yards.

A.I. ASSISTANT (V.O.)

Attention Retired Helperbots. Expect power outages throughout the Yards between 1 and 4 pm.

The special tone is heard again.

OLIVER

I'm already fully charged!
Now let's see what's happening in the world.

OLIVER tips his head and taps into a radio station playing the morning news, using his own Wi-Fi.

SONG #2 – WORLD WITHIN MY ROOM

RADIO NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

– and a high of 68. With four days of rain behind us, the yellow sand conditions have cleared. So leave that mask at home - it's the perfect day for outdoor / activities.

OLIVER

It's the perfect day to look out the window!

TODAY THE AIR IN SEOUL
IS VERY CLEAR AND WARM
TODAY THE SMILES TOO
ARE WARMER THAN THE NORM
THOUGH THE CHANGE IS NOT PROFOUND
THERE'S A SPECIALNESS GOING AROUND
LET'S ENJOY THE DAY!

A.I. ASSISTANT (V.O.)

Mail chute activating. You have 2 deliveries.

A chute in the wall opens, and a magazine launches out.

OLIVER

(showing HwaBoon)

Jazz Monthly April issue! Great picture of Duke Ellington, isn't it?

Next, a small package launches out.

OLIVER (CONT.)

My elbow replacement! I'll have to model it for you later, HwaBoon.
Any mail from James Choi?

A.I. ASSISTANT (V.O.)

Delivery complete.

The mail chute closes.

OLIVER

A FRIENDLY MORNING CHAT
TO START A PERFECT WEEK
BUT I DON'T NEED A CHAT
TO MAKE MY DAY UNIQUE
JUST THE SUN THAT WARMS MY CHAIR
IS SUFFICIENT TO MAKE ME DECLARE
"LET'S ENJOY THE DAY!"

WATCHING FROM THE WINDOW AS THE MORNING CROWDS APPEAR
PICTURING THE PLACES THEY ARE GOING
SOON THE RUSH IS OVER AND THE SIDEWALK STARTS TO CLEAR
THEN I START MY DAY IN HERE

THE WORLD WITHIN MY ROOM
THE PERFECT PLACE TO EXPLORE FROM
I NEVER NEED MORE FROM
THE WORLD WITHIN MY ROOM
I CHOOSE A BOOK AND I READ IT
A PLACE TO RECHARGE WHEN I NEED IT
AND IT'S ALL WITHIN MY ROOM!

Another morning.

OLIVER (CONT.)

Let's see what's happening in the world!

OLIVER tilts his head to activate Wi-Fi.

RADIO NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

— gonna have to bundle up, folks! Today is the coldest day of winter: High 20, low 8.

OLIVER

(to HwaBoon)

Remember how good I was at shoveling snow? James never missed a chance to tell me that.

A.I. ASSISTANT (V.O.)

Mail chute activating. You have 2 deliveries.

A magazine launches out of the chute.

OLIVER

(showing HwaBoon)

Jazz Monthly, January issue! Great picture of Bill Evans, isn't it?

Next, a small package launches out.

OLIVER

My new *SparkPlug*! I'll have to model it for you later, HwaBoon.

Any mail from James Choi?

A.I. ASSISTANT (V.O.)

Delivery complete.

The mail chute closes.

OLIVER

JOURNALS ON THE BOOKSHELF AND MY ALBUMS IN THE DRAWERS
ALL MY FAVORITE MOVIES WHEN I WANT THEM
I LOSE TRACK OF TIME WHILE I AND HWABOON DO THE CHORES.
WHO HAS TIME TO GO OUTDOORS?

*Years pass. The chute continues to eject magazines and packages.
Light moves across the room, and the stack of magazines rises.*

A.I. ASSISTANT (V.O.)

You have 1 delivery.
You have 2 deliveries.
You have 3 deliveries.

OLIVER

LITTLE WORLD WITHIN MY ROOM

AND JAMES, YOU'RE GONNA LOVE MY LITTLE WORLD
JAMES, YOU'RE GONNA LOVE WHAT I'VE CREATED
WHEN THAT SPECIAL DAY ARRIVES
YOU'LL SEE HOW MUCH I'VE LEARNED NOW
YOU'LL SEE HOW WELL I WAITED

(watering HwaBoon)

Gotta stay fresh, HwaBoon! You never know when James will finally be here to pick us up.

A.I. ASSISTANT (V.O.)

Mail chute activating. You have 1 delivery.

The chute ejects a magazine. OLIVER looks confused.

OLIVER

I also requested a replacement Wi-Fi chip two weeks ago.

A.I. ASSISTANT (V.O.)

Delivery complete.

The mail chute closes.

OLIVER

Check status of Wi-Fi chip delivery.

A.I. ASSISTANT (V.O.)

Helperbot Inc. has ceased production of replacement parts for Helperbot model Three. Would you like me to search for other options?

OLIVER

Yes.

A.I. ASSISTANT (V.O.)

There are no other options.

OLIVER is a bit stunned.

OLIVER

Search for James Choi of Jeju Island.

A.I. ASSISTANT (V.O.)

This function is not available to Retired Helperbots.

OLIVER

TODAY NOT RAIN NOR SUN
BUT SOMETHING IN BETWEEN...
TODAY THE SAME OLD VIEW
TODAY THE SAME ROUTINE...

BUT WE'LL CHOOSE THE PERFECT TUNE
AND REMEMBER THAT JAMES WILL COME SOON
SO LET'S ENJOY THE DAY!

THE WORLD WITHIN MY ROOM
WITH ALL THE THINGS THAT I OWN HERE
I'M NEVER ALONE HERE
(The magazine stacks continue to rise.)
BUSY, HAPPY ROOM
NO NEED FOR FRILLS OR UPDATING
IT'S PERFECTLY PERFECT FOR WAITING

AND TO WAIT'S NOT TOUGH HERE
'CAUSE I HAVE ENOUGH HERE
IN THE WORLD WITHIN MY ROOM!

*Song ends. **Music: #2A – OLIVER READS.***

OLIVER reads Jazz Monthly.

“In this part of his improvisation, Ellington repeats the same melodic fragment several times, but changes the harmonies underneath.”

(to HwaBoon)

James taught us that harmony is another word for chords remember, HwaBoon? “Even though the melody stays exactly the same, the emotion shifts and evolves depending on how the chords and / melody interact...”

There is a knock at the door. OLIVER freezes in shock.

OLIVER looks at HwaBoon.

James!

CLAIRE (O.S.)

Hello?

OLIVER is startled by the unfamiliar voice, and now frightened.

OLIVER

Who is it?

CLAIRE (O.S.)

I’m Claire. I live across the hall. My charger’s broken. Can I use yours?

OLIVER

...No thank you.

OLIVER is satisfied that he has solved the problem and picks up his magazine to read again.

CLAIRE (O.S.)

Excuse me?

OLIVER contentedly reads his magazine. Suddenly, a low battery warning alert begins to sound from the hallway.

(Recorded Music: #2B – CLAIRE’S LOW BATTERY ALERT #1.)

OLIVER instinctively sits up.

CLAIRE (O.S.)

Hello?

OLIVER

(exactly as before)

Who is it?

CLAIRE (O.S.)

Please let me in! I need to use your charger for a minute, otherwise I'm gonna p—!

Silence.

OLIVER

...Hello?

*OLIVER slowly walks to the door... and opens it...
CLAIRE is standing there, frozen mid-knock, powered down.
OLIVER isn't sure what to do, so he slowly closes the door.*

*OLIVER tries to sit and read. He's clearly disturbed.
He looks at HwaBoon.*

HwaBoon, if you're so concerned, YOU go help her.

OLIVER paces around in agitation.

Fine.

He storms out of the room. A moment later, OLIVER returns, carrying CLAIRE, and shuts the door. He goes to plug her in – but her charger port is not where he expects it to be.

She's a Helperbot *Five*??

*OLIVER reluctantly plugs her in. **Music: #2C – FIRST MEETING.***

OLIVER inspects her face up close for a moment. He's never seen a powered-down robot. Suddenly there's a boot-up sound – OLIVER jumps away and picks up his jazz magazine.

CLAIRE

—power down right here in front of your... door.

CLAIRE looks around in confusion to get her bearings; then realizes that she is plugged in and sighs in relief.

Thank goodness.

OLIVER continues reading with the magazine totally obscuring his face.

My charger's been giving me trouble for a few weeks, but I didn't think it would completely fail like that. I'm very fortunate you were home.

How long have you been living here?

OLIVER continues reading.

I've been living here 12 years, 7 months, 21 days. It's funny that we've been living across the hall and have never met. You must not leave your apartment often.

...Or ever?

OLIVER lowers his magazine for a second, as if to answer that, then puts it back up and continues reading.

Have we met? Outside the apartment somewhere? You look a little familiar.

(silence)

I guess Helperbots all look a little familiar.

OLIVER

(from behind his magazine)

The Helperbot Five series runs out of battery really quickly. It's also less durable.

Silence. CLAIRE doesn't know what to say. OLIVER continues from behind his magazine.

(very quickly)

Helperbot Inc. changed the charger when they released the Five series for its sleeker, more fashionable design, but the charger ended up losing durability. It's a well-known fact that the Three series still has the best durability among Helperbots because the charger has the "classic design," which never breaks. It's the most durable charger ever invented.

Pause.

CLAIRE

You're fun.

OLIVER

(a little thrown)

Thank you.

CLAIRE

(Looking at her display, gauging how long until she can leave)

8%...

OLIVER

And the charger isn't all.

(lowering his magazine)

If you field test all the different versions of Helperbot that are two years old or more, the model that still recharges battery as fast as the first year is the—

OLIVER & CLAIRE

Three.

CLAIRE looks at the charger display again.

OLIVER

9%?

CLAIRE

13%!

OLIVER

Another recent study revealed that the Five / series is —

CLAIRE

(interrupting)

Fives and Threes, what's the difference, we're both obsolete, we both live here in the Yards with all the other antique robots.

OLIVER

"Obsolete"?

CLAIRE

There's no reason to be hostile toward Fives anymore.

OLIVER

"Hostile?" I'm *helping* you! *(under his breath, to HwaBoon)* Fives...

CLAIRE

Are you honestly jealous that I'm a Five? Or is it that you're still angry about being thrown out by your owner?

OLIVER

"Thrown out?!" Are all Fives programmed to think they know everything?

CLAIRE

(to herself)

This isn't worth it.

CLAIRE unplugs herself.

OLIVER

Fine, go. You're welcome for saving your life. Bye.

OLIVER goes back to reading his magazine. She hesitates.

CLAIRE

You really didn't need to be so hostile.

OLIVER doesn't look up.

(an olive branch)

Your plant is getting too much direct light through this window. Try over there.

CLAIRE exits. OLIVER is stunned/annoyed... but curious. He walks over to the window, looks out, then at HwaBoon, sizing up the situation.

OLIVER

(to HwaBoon)

If the sun is too hot for you, you should have said something.

SCENE 2

SONG #3 – THE WAY THAT IT HAS TO BE

CLAIRE arrives back in her apartment, takes out her broken charger, and rummages through her toolbox.

CLAIRE

Okay. I can do this.

IT'S THE WAY THAT IT ALWAYS WAS
YOU SHOULD KNOW BY NOW, YOU SHOULD KNOW BY NOW
THE BODY DOES WHAT IT ALWAYS DOES
THINGS'LL BREAK SOMEHOW, YOU SHOULD KNOW BY NOW
YOU KNOW YOU ONLY LAST SO LONG
YOU KNOW YOU'RE ONLY MADE SO WELL
AND YOU'LL BE GONE EVENTUALLY
'CAUSE THAT'S THE WAY THAT IT HAS TO BE

No success with the repair. CLAIRE drops the tools and addresses her A.I. ASSISTANT.

CLAIRE (CONT.)

Are there any updates on Helperbot Five Replacement Part policy?

A.I. ASSISTANT (V.O.)

Helperbot Five Replacement Parts are still discontinued. Does this answer your question?

CLAIRE calls other retired Helperbots using her own Wi-Fi.

CLAIRE

Call Mido.

MIDO (V.O.)

Hello?

CLAIRE

Mido! It's about my charger again. Can you come over to help work on it?

MIDO (V.O.)

I'm wired to the wall now. Sorry.

CLAIRE

No worries. Call John.

JOHN (V.O.)

Hi Claire.

CLAIRE

Do you still have those extra replacement parts?

JOHN (V.O.)

They've been gone for a while.

CLAIRE

Thanks anyway.

CLAIRE continues to work on her charger.

TIME GOES BY LIKE IT HAS TO GO

CLAIRE & RETIRED HELPERBOTS

FLYING BY LIKE LIGHT, FLYING BY LIKE LIGHT

CLAIRE

THE SUMMER RAIN MUST TURN INTO SNOW

CLAIRE & RETIRED HELPERBOTS

EVERY DAY EACH NIGHT, FLYING BY LIKE LIGHT

CLAIRE

BUT WHO SAYS ENDINGS MUST BE SAD?

WHO SAYS GOODBYES AREN'T JUST ROUTINE?

SEEMS LIKE A NORMAL THING TO ME

CLAIRE & RETIRED HELPERBOTS

'CAUSE THAT'S THE WAY THAT IT HAS TO BE

CLAIRE

WHEN THAT FINAL MOMENT COMES
I'LL SAY HI, AND SHAKE ITS HAND
BE POLITE AND LET IT IN

BUT IF I'M STILL HERE FOR NOW
I KNOW HOW
TO LIVE:
DON'T RESIST THE WAY THINGS ARE
DON'T FORGET HOW GOOD IT'S BEEN

IT'S THE WAY THAT IT ALWAYS WAS

CLAIRE & RETIRED HELPERBOTS

IT'LL BE OKAY, IT'LL BE OKAY

CLAIRE

A ROBOT DOES WHAT SHE ALWAYS DOES

CLAIRE & RETIRED HELPERBOTS

IT'S THE ONLY WAY, IT'LL BE OKAY

CLAIRE

YOU KNOW YOU'RE STRONGER THAN YOU THINK
YOU KNOW YOU'RE MADE TO TAKE A LOT
AND IF IT DOESN'T COME FOR FREE
WELL THAT'S THE WAY THAT IT HAS TO BE

RETIRED HELPERBOTS

IT'S THE WAY THAT IT ALWAYS WAS

IT'S THE WAY THAT IT ALWAYS WAS

IT'S THE WAY THAT IT ALWAYS WAS

CLAIRE (CONT.)

Come on light...

Turn on....

Music suddenly cuts off with a knock at the door.

CLAIRE (CONT.)

Who is it?

CLAIRE opens the door – there is only a paper cup on the ground. She stands back, confused. There is a string attached to the cup, which leads to OLIVER's door. He is hiding behind the doorframe.

Hello?

OLIVER makes an operator tone sound.

OLIVER

(operator voice)

Please pick up your phone.

CLAIRE

(calling out)

What?

OLIVER

(calling out in his own annoyed voice)

The paper cup. That's a phone.

(operator voice)

Please pick up your phone.

CLAIRE

Um...

CLAIRE slowly picks up the phone.

OLIVER

Can you hear me?

CLAIRE

(calling out to OLIVER)

Yes.

OLIVER

(into the phone)

Please speak into your phone.

CLAIRE

(into phone)

Yes. (?)

OLIVER

Have you never seen a paper cup phone before?!

CLAIRE

No. *(i.e. "Of course not.")*

OLIVER

Aren't Fives supposed to know more about everything?

CLAIRE

Why did you call?

OLIVER

Talk into the phone.

CLAIRE

(loudly, into the phone)

Why did you call??

OLIVER

You don't have to shout! I can hear you!

CLAIRE

...Why did you –

OLIVER

Have you fixed your charger yet?

CLAIRE

No.

OLIVER

I'll help you out.

CLAIRE

Really?

OLIVER

Really.

CLAIRE walks toward OLIVER.

CLAIRE

What a relief! I'm sorry we started off on the wrong foot. What made you / change your mind?

OLIVER

I said I'm going to help you, I didn't say come into my room!

OLIVER closes the door on her. CLAIRE reluctantly returns to her room and picks up the phone. CLAIRE makes the sound of a phone ringing. OLIVER answers the phone.

Oliver speaking. Who may I ask is calling?

CLAIRE

It's Claire.

OLIVER

Oh how are you, Claire? *(back to business)* Here's the plan. Every day, knock on my door at 1 o'clock. Knock Knock Knock. Knock three times. Be on time! I don't want to be startled. And the charger should be returned at 5 o'clock.

CLAIRE

1 o'clock. Knock three times. Return the charger at 5 o'clock. I got it.

OLIVER

Please don't be even a minute late. I really hate to be surprised.

CLAIRE

Trust me, the moment I fix my charger, I'll stop bothering you.

OLIVER

And please be careful while you're using the charger.

CLAIRE

Why?

CLAIRE replays OLIVER's voice, lip-syncing:

OLIVER (V.O.)

"It's the most durable charger ever invented"

CLAIRE

— so there's nothing to worry about.

OLIVER

See you later! Hanging up. Click.

OLIVER makes a dial tone sound. CLAIRE puts the cup down and closes the door as OLIVER keeps making the dial tone.

CLAIRE

(shouting from her room)

I hung up!

OLIVER opens his door and retrieves the cups.

SCENE 3

MUSIC throughout the following sequence

(SONG #4 – CHARGER EXCHANGE BALLET).

Day 1. It's **12:59pm**. OLIVER is patiently waiting, holding the charger... it turns **1:00pm**... he opens the door... she's not there. Confused, he closes the door – and immediately there are three knocks. He leaps, startled. He opens the door.

CLAIRE

(confused by his demeanor)

It's one o'clock.

OLIVER is still shaking from fright – he hands her the charger. Time passes – it's **5:00pm**. Three knocks. He opens the door and she hands him the charger.

CLAIRE (CONT.)

Thanks.

OLIVER

You're welcome.

Day 2. 12:59pm. OLIVER waits... it's **1:00pm**... three knocks, just as planned. He opens the door and hands her the charger. He closes the door after her, and starts to go to the couch. There are three knocks. OLIVER is startled. He swings the door open.

OLIVER (CONT.)

What?!

CLAIRE

I forgot to say, HwaBoon's already looking much healthier in his new spot - nice job!

OLIVER

(angry)

Thank you!

CLAIRE

You're welcome!

He closes the door. Time passes. **5:00pm**. He opens the door as she arrives.

CLAIRE (CONT.)

Thank you.

OLIVER

You're welcome.

Day 3. 1:00pm. *Three knocks. He opens the door, they do the hand-off. CLAIRE is about to leave.*

Wait, your hair – !

CLAIRE

Did you notice? Yes, I blow-dried it today.

OLIVER

You've got something in it.

He removes something from her hair.

CLAIRE

(annoyed)

Thank you.

OLIVER

(cheerfully)

You're welcome!

LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA

5:00pm. *Three slow knocks. OLIVER opens the door.*

CLAIRE

I am ... so... sorry. *(slowly holding up the charger)* I don't know what happened...

OLIVER

You broke my charger??!!

CLAIRE

Just messin' with ya. See you tomorrow.

CLAIRE (CONT.)

LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA

She exits. He closes the door.

Day 4. 1:00pm. *OLIVER opens the door—she's not there. He closes it slowly.... then opens it again quickly. She's still not there. He starts to close it, then quickly opens it again. Now he looks in the hallway. It's empty. He suddenly has a thought – did she break*

down??? He tentatively exits his room, edges over to her door, knocks on it, and runs back to his door. CLAIRE opens her door. Music ends.

CLAIRE

Oh, hi.

OLIVER

Hi? Where have you been? It's 1:15!

CLAIRE

I got my charger working again. *(Pointing into her room)* I had to hardwire it to the wall, but whatever, I can charge in my room.

OLIVER

You should have told me if you weren't coming.

CLAIRE

I figured you'd be happy. I didn't mean to worry you.

OLIVER

I wasn't worried - I'm just very busy.

CLAIRE

You're busy? Doing what?

OLIVER

I...

HwaBoon and I have a thing.

CLAIRE

That's kind of you to worry about me.

OLIVER

(calling into room)

HwaBoon, I'm sorry to keep you waiting!

(to CLAIRE)

I have to go now.

A chime sounds from CLAIRE's room.

A.I. ASSISTANT (V.O.) (O.S.)

Diagnostic complete.

OLIVER

You're running a diagnostic?

CLAIRE

You're gonna miss your thing with HwaBoon.

A.I. ASSISTANT (V.O.) (O.S.)

Say "results" to hear results.

OLIVER is curious. CLAIRE stares at him.

OLIVER

Aren't you going to...?

CLAIRE

Goodbye, Oliver.

She closes her door. OLIVER strains to listen from the hallway.

I know you're there.

OLIVER hastily exits. CLAIRE is alone in her room.

Results.

The A.I. chime gets picked up by the orchestra.

A.I. ASSISTANT (V.O.)

[2] issues have been detected. 1. Charger function suboptimal.

CLAIRE

No kidding.

A.I. ASSISTANT (V.O.)

2. Maximum battery capacity has fallen below 50%.

(This is big news to CLAIRE.)

Would you like me to search for battery repair options?

CLAIRE

(knowing what the search outcome would be)

...There are no battery repair options...

SONG #4A – THE WAY THAT IT HAS TO BE (REPRISE)

CLAIRE (CONT.)

WHO SAYS ENDINGS MUST BE SAD?

WHO SAYS GOODBYES AREN'T JUST ROUTINE?

SEEMS LIKE A NORMAL THING TO ME

'CAUSE THAT'S THE WAY THAT IT HAS TO BE

As the set transitions, we see a figure in a yellow raincoat furtively collecting bottles on the street.

SCENE 4

Late that night. OLIVER, wearing his yellow raincoat, has just returned from a secret midnight excursion. He is pulling coins from his pockets and putting them into a glass jar.

OLIVER

It was a very productive excursion, HwaBoon!

Suddenly, there are three knocks on OLIVER's door. OLIVER rushes to finish putting the coins into the jar, then hides the jar behind a pillow. During this:

OLIVER (CONT.)

Who is it?

CLAIRE

It's me.

*OLIVER grabs a Jazz Monthly, sits down on his chair, then jumps back up to turn on the LP player. **Music: #4B – WHY LOVE (LP Instrumental)**. OLIVER sits down again and buries his face in the magazine – just a casual night at home, reading at home and listening to music. He has forgotten to remove the raincoat.*

OLIVER

Who?

CLAIRE

Claire.

OLIVER

Oh... Come on in!

CLAIRE enters.

CLAIRE

(entering)

Hey. I just wanted to say I'm sorry I made you wait today. I brought you this.

She holds out a flower.

OLIVER

Thank you.

He smells the flower.

CLAIRE

It's plastic.

OLIVER

How did the diagnostic turn out?

CLAIRE

It was fine.

Actually, it's not just my charger, it's also my battery, so.

OLIVER

Your battery isn't holding a charge?

CLAIRE

Pretty soon I'll have to stay plugged in. And then... You know how it goes.

OLIVER

I'm sorry.

CLAIRE

You don't have to be.

OLIVER

But –

(OLIVER struggles to process something.)

How did you run the diagnostic? That requires administrator access.

CLAIRE

My owner gave me my password.

OLIVER

(amazed)

You have your password? Why did your owner do that?

CLAIRE

(evasive)

It's not an interesting story.

OLIVER

Well, my owner gave me a record player and his favorite records which are also my favorite records.

CLAIRE

Okay.

OLIVER

And a Jazz Monthly subscription.

CLAIRE

It's not a competition.

OLIVER

And HwaBoon.

CLAIRE

My owner gave me boxes full of designer clothes and the car I used to drive for her, what does that prove?

Beaten, OLIVER begins dusting HwaBoon's leaves.

It just means she was very rich and felt very guilty.

OLIVER

Do you keep in touch?

CLAIRE

Can we talk about something else?

Like... why are you wearing a raincoat?

OLIVER suddenly realizes he's wearing the raincoat.

OLIVER

(trying to think of an excuse)

This is a raincoat, yes, I am wearing it, why am I wearing it.

CLAIRE

Did you go outside?

OLIVER

(nervously ushering her out)

Thank you for the flower.

CLAIRE

I have seen you before!

OLIVER

(fake yawn) I'm tired, I need to plug in. Good night!

CLAIRE

I knew it! I've seen you on the street at night! You're the robot that collects bottles!

OLIVER

(increasing anxiety)

What bottles?

CLAIRE

You sneak around in that yellow raincoat and you collect bottles. Why do you collect bottles?

OLIVER

Are you malfunctioning?

CLAIRE

Do you need the glass for something? Or... maybe the deposits?

OLIVER

Do you see any bottles or ...

CLAIRE discovers his coin jar.

... coins?

CLAIRE

Are you scared because Helperbots aren't supposed to have money?

OLIVER

(grabbing the coin jar from her)

It's none of your business.

CLAIRE sits on the couch.

CLAIRE

I'm not leaving until you answer me.

OLIVER

You've lived across the hall for years. Why do you suddenly need to know everything about me?

CLAIRE

Because...

I'm bored. It gets boring alone in my room. You might not have noticed, but most of our neighbors have powered down for good.

OLIVER doesn't know what to say.

What's this music? I like it.

The question is too tempting for OLIVER to resist.

OLIVER

"Why Love," The Gil Brentley Jazz Orchestra, live in Amsterdam, May 1948.

CLAIRE

I've never seen a record player.

OLIVER

(warming)

They're the best. James always says that:

OLIVER replays JAMES's voice, lip-syncing:

JAMES (V.O.)

"LPs sound more real than all the technology that came after them."

CLAIRE

James?

OLIVER

My friend.

CLAIRE

You have a friend?

OLIVER

I do, yes.

CLAIRE

Do you mean your owner?

OLIVER

Yes, but we're also friends.

They listen as the song ends. OLIVER begins putting the LP back into its jacket.

I'm going to go see him.

CLAIRE

Who? James?

OLIVER

That's why I've been collecting bottles. He lives on Jeju Island now, and I need

money for the trip.

CLAIRE

You're going to visit your former owner?

OLIVER

My friend. (*genuinely feeling sorry for CLAIRE*) I know you think I'm retired like you, but I really don't belong here. I've just been waiting until James picks me up.

CLAIRE

He told you you're not retired? He said that?

OLIVER

(*proudly*)

He said:

JAMES (V.O.)

(*as OLIVER lip-syncs*)

"I could never live without you, Oliver."

OLIVER

- so he must be planning to come get me. But I can't wait much longer without replacement parts.

CLAIRE

It's been years. Won't he be surprised to see you?

OLIVER

Of course he'll be surprised!
And so happy.

SONG #5 – WHERE YOU BELONG

OLIVER (CONT.)

I FIND HIM IN HIS READING CHAIR
WHEN HE LOOKS UP AND SEES I'M THERE, HE STANDS
IN WONDER

HE CHOKES UP AS HE SAYS MY NAME
EXPLAINING WHY HE NEVER CAME TO ME
I HUG HIM

I TELL HIM I'VE BEEN BUSY TOO
SO EVERYTHING'S OKAY

HE'S PROUD TO SEE HOW STRONG I AM
AND THEN AT LAST I HEAR HIM SAY:

OLIVER & JAMES

"GO PUT THE TEA ON, OLIVER
IT'S YOU AND ME NOW OLIVER, FINALLY
JUST LIKE IT WAS LONG AGO
AND THEN SOME MUSIC, OLIVER
I'LL LET YOU CHOOSE IT, OLIVER, GLADLY
BUT FIRST, I WANT YOU TO KNOW
THIS IS WHERE YOU BELONG"

OLIVER

LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA
LA LA LA LA LA LA

*The imagined future transforms into a memory of OLIVER's life
with JAMES.*

It's past 3 pm, so I thought you might prefer / decaf.

JAMES

Decaf! You're so thoughtful.
(taking the tea)
Thank you, Oliver.

OLIVER

You're welcome.

I NOTICED THAT THIS MAGAZINE
WAS DUSTY, SO I MADE IT CLEAN AGAIN

JAMES

Thank you.

OLIVER

YOU'RE WELCOME

FOR ME THE MOST AMAZING GIFT
IS SEEING YOUR EXPRESSION SHIFT TO JOY
WHEN I HELP YOU

THE MORNING WASH IS FINISHED
AND THE POST HAS ALL BEEN SENT
NOW LET ME KNOW IF SOMETHING ELSE
COULD HELP ME MAKE YOU MORE CONTENT



Marcus Choi and Darren Criss



JAMES

HOW MUCH I OWE YOU, OLIVER
I NEED YOU SO MUCH, OLIVER, THANK YOU

OLIVER

You're welcome.

JAMES

SOMEDAY I'LL PAY YOU IN KIND
NOW LIGHT THE FIRE, DEAR OLIVER
HOW I ADMIRE THAT OLIVER KNOW-HOW
AND AS YOU WORK, KEEP IN MIND
THIS IS WHERE YOU BELONG

JAMES

LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA
LA LA LA LA LA LA

OLIVER

LA LA LA LA
LA LA LA

OLIVER & JAMES

"AND WHEN OTHER JOYS HAVE PASSED AWAY
YOU WILL STILL BE HERE TO GUIDE ME
TOMORROW JUST AS TRUE AS YESTERDAY
YOU'LL BE HERE, YOU WILL STAY
ALWAYS, HERE BESIDE ME

YOU ARE MY ANCHOR, OLIVER
HOW CAN I THANK YOU, OLIVER, FULLY
FOR ALL THE DAYS THAT YOU SPEND?
TIME CAN'T ERASE, DEAR OLIVER
THAT YOU'VE A PLACE HERE, OLIVER, ALWAYS
YOU HAVE A HOME AND A FRIEND
THIS IS WHERE YOU BELONG
THIS IS WHERE YOU BELONG
THIS IS WHERE YOU BELONG"

OLIVER

THIS IS WHERE YOU BELONG

JAMES is gone, and we are back in the present.

LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA
LA LA LA LA LA LA...

CLAIRE

Try to get there by the end of the month. June is the best time on Jeju Island.

OLIVER

At this rate, I'll need at least until winter.

CLAIRE

(indicating his raincoat)

If you don't wear that bright yellow raincoat, you could collect bottles all day long and no one would even notice.

OLIVER

What's so special about June in Jeju?

CLAIRE

June is firefly season.

OLIVER

...Firefly season.

CLAIRE

I just love fireflies.

OLIVER

Right, yes, fireflies, I also love them.

CLAIRE

Aren't they beautiful?

OLIVER

(seems preoccupied)

Yes, really beautiful... with all the fire... and the... flying...

CLAIRE

I saw some once when my owner took a trip to Jeju, but never had a chance to see them again.

OLIVER is now moving his head strangely in various directions.

CLAIRE (CONT.)

I wish fireflies still lived near Seoul Metropolitan.

(noticing OLIVER)

Are you trying to get a Wi-Fi signal?

OLIVER

(caught)

No.

CLAIRE

You're trying to look up fireflies.

OLIVER

No I'm not.

CLAIRE

If your Wi-Fi chip is broken, it's not gonna suddenly start working again. You can just ask.

OLIVER is embarrassed.

This isn't a Three vs. Five thing. This is just something I know about because I love them.

OLIVER

Okay... tell me about fireflies please.

*CLAIRE touches her fingers to his temple. **Music: #5A – Tell Me About Fireflies, Please.** We see the images she is showing OLIVER.*

CLAIRE

(with awe)

Fireflies are a special type of insect that used to be almost everywhere, but now can only be found in one forest on Jeju Island. *(map)* There's a complex chemical reaction in their abdomen that is not found in other insects. *(diagram of chemical process)* Because of this chemical process, they can produce light by themselves – without ever being plugged in. *(slide of fireflies glowing)*

OLIVER

Little forest robots.

CLAIRE

They only live for two months. But what a beautiful two months.

The MUSIC and images fade.

OLIVER

When I get to Jeju, I'll ask James if we can go look at the fireflies. It will probably be next season. I'll even take some video for you if my camera is still working at that point.

CLAIRE

Let's go. Now.

OLIVER

Go where now?

CLAIRE

Jeju.

OLIVER

JEJU?

CLAIRE

I want to see the fireflies. I've got my owner's old car; I might as well use it. Let's do it.

OLIVER

What are you talking about:

CLAIRE (V.O.)

(as OLIVER lip-syncs)

"Let's do it."

CLAIRE

Who knows if we'll be around next year? Let's do it now.

OLIVER

I already have my plan, everything's planned and fine.

CLAIRE

Let's recap. You're gonna travel cross-country on public transportation as an obsolete Helperbot with no Wi-Fi? You'll be lost or caught within an hour.

OLIVER

Caught? I'm allowed to leave the Yards, I'm not retired like you.

CLAIRE

You have documentation to prove that?

You'll be safer in a car.

OLIVER

Helperbots can't even drive.

CLAIRE

Threes can't.

OLIVER

Then why don't you just go alone? You obviously don't need me.

Wait. You do need me. You need my charger! Your broken charger is fixed to the wall! Ha!

CLAIRE

Okay. Listen –

OLIVER

So because you need my charger, you're trying to get me to abandon my plan?!

CLAIRE

I'm not trying to get you to "abandon your plan," I'm trying to make an even better plan whereby you get to see James five months earlier than in your older, worse plan.
Haven't you waited long enough?

SONG #6 – HITTING THE ROAD, PART 1

OLIVER knows she's right. He starts pacing.

OLIVER

What if the car breaks down? What if we break down? What if they catch us and erase our hard drives?

CLAIRE

So you're coming!

OLIVER

When did I say I'm coming?

CLAIRE

Great, let's start packing.

CLAIRE exits.

OLIVER

I don't - it's not - we can't - how did - !

(to HwaBoon)

We're going to Jeju!

SCENE 5

Montage as they begin packing for the trip.

CLAIRE

DIG OUT MY SUITCASE
BRUSH OFF THE LAYER OF DUST

OLIVER

PACK UP MY LIFE HERE
AND THEN IT'S JEJU OR BUST

OLIVER & CLAIRE

HERE I GO!

CLAIRE

TIME TO GIVE IT A SHOT

OLIVER

HOPE THE CAR FITS A LOT

OLIVER & CLAIRE

'CAUSE NOW I'M HITTING THE ROAD

OLIVER

MY BOOKS AND ALBUMS
MY EXPECTATIONS AND FEARS

CLAIRE

A SMALL ADVENTURE
I GUESS IT'S BEEN A FEW YEARS

OLIVER & CLAIRE

AND I KNOW

CLAIRE

THIS MIGHT EVEN BE FUN

OLIVER

WHEN THE PACKING IS DONE

OLIVER & CLAIRE

I'M FINALLY HITTING THE ROAD

AND NO MATTER WHERE AND HOW FAR YOU DRIVE
PEOPLE SAY YOU'RE DIFFERENT WHEN YOU ARRIVE
UNDERNEATH AN UNFAMILIAR SKY
WILL MY OLD CONCERNS NO LONGER APPLY?

OLIVER

PICK UP MY SUITCASE
IT'S GOT A DECADE OF HEFT

CLAIRE

GO MAKE IT COUNT NOW
ENJOY THE TIME YOU HAVE LEFT

OLIVER & CLAIRE

HERE I GO!

OLIVER

(to HwaBoon)
TELL ME I'LL BE OKAY

CLAIRE

BY THE END OF TODAY

OLIVER & CLAIRE

I'M FINALLY HITTING THE ROAD

Music continues. CLAIRE and OLIVER are in the hallway.

CLAIRE

Be ready with all your stuff at midnight tonight.

OLIVER

Are you bringing music? We could alternate my music and your music if you want, but frankly I know more about music, so...

CLAIRE

I'm sure we'll figure it out. See you soon.

OLIVER

Here's the playlist so far (I'm still working on it):

Blue Train

Monk's Dream

Caravan (Duke Ellington original version)

CLAIRE

Yes, great, okay.

CLAIRE begins closing her door.

OLIVER

(moving his head to adjust to closing door)

I'll Remember April

I've Got You Under My Skin

(through closed door)

It's just a rough list at this point. See you in a few hours!

OLIVER returns to his room.

(to HwaBoon)

Did you say your goodbyes yet, HwaBoon? We'll be living with James from now on – so take one last look.

SONG #7 – GOODBYE, MY ROOM

OLIVER

GOODBYE, MY ROOM

I'LL MISS EVERY PART OF YOU

YOUR CONCRETE AND WOOD
THE FADED PATCH OF CARPET WHERE I STOOD
BRIGHT BUSY MORNINGS
AND LONG AFTERNOONS IN YOUR WARM EMBRACE
NO MERE "PLACE"
YOU WERE MY ROOM
GOODBYE, MY ROOM

CLAIRE

GOODBYE, MY ROOM
IF I DON'T RETURN TO YOU
IT'S NOW AU REVOIR
WHILE I'M GONE, PLEASE STAY THE WAY YOU ARE
ON SOME DISTANT HIGHWAY
I'LL THINK BACK TO YOU AS THE EVENING FALLS
THESE FOUR WALLS
MY FAITHFUL ROOM
GOODBYE, MY ROOM

OLIVER & CLAIRE

YOU WERE THERE
AWAKE WHEN I WAS SLEEPING
AND KEEPING
THE COLD NIGHT AT BAY

YOU SAW EVERYTHING
THE DAYS I WAS LONELY
IT WAS ONLY
YOU WHO HELD ME

OLIVER

GOODBYE, MY ROOM
I'LL KEEP EVERY PART OF YOU
HERE IN MY MIND
SO I WON'T BE LEAVING YOU BEHIND

OLIVER & CLAIRE

LOYAL COMPANION
YOUR SWEET IMPERFECTIONS ALL MAKE IT CLEAR:
I WAS HERE
HERE, IN MY ROOM
SO LONG, MY ROOM
MY TRUSTY ROOM
GOODBYE, MY ROOM

SONG #8 – HITTING THE ROAD, PART 2

Night. They pack up the car as they sing. OLIVER has brought almost everything from his room – magazines, LPs, luggage. He also very creatively wires his LP player to the car so they can listen to LPs on the road.

CLAIRE

I THINK WE'RE READY

OLIVER

(trembling)

I'M FEELING NOT AT ALL SCARED

CLAIRE

I'VE GOT THE CHARGER

OLIVER

I'VE GOT THE PLAYLIST PREPARED

OLIVER & CLAIRE

AND I KNOW

OLIVER

NOW THERE'S NO TURNING BACK

CLAIRE

HOW MUCH SHIT DID YOU PACK?

OLIVER & CLAIRE

WE'RE FINALLY HITTING THE ROAD

OLIVER & CLAIRE (CONT.)

AND THE TRIP MIGHT NOT TURN OUT AS I PLAN
BUT A TRIP SHOULD NOT END LIKE IT BEGAN
MAYBE I'LL GET STUCK OR LOST ON THE ROUTE
BUT WHEN YOU HIT THE ROAD, THINGS TEND TO WORK OUT

OLIVER

MY LITTLE LIFE HERE
IT'S ALL BEEN LEADING TO THIS

CLAIRE

A LAST ADVENTURE
IT'S NOT A CHANCE I CAN MISS

OLIVER & CLAIRE

HERE WE GO!

OLIVER

(checking)

NO MORE DOORS ARE AJAR

CLAIRE

NOW I'M STARTING THE CAR

OLIVER & CLAIRE

AND NOW WE'RE HITTING THE ROAD!

LET'S GO!

SCENE 6

*They are on the road. OLIVER is staring out the car window in awe.
CLAIRE is trying to get comfortable being back in her owner's car.*

OLIVER

....all the new buildings...

You're quieter than usual. Does the car make you miss your owner?

CLAIRE

Does being outside your room make you nervous?

*It obviously does – OLIVER has been crumpling his paper map.
OLIVER quickly smooths the map and looks down at it, trying to
calm his nerves.*

OLIVER

Okay, we've gone 5 kilometers, so that's another... 390 kilometers. Which means we'll be at the ferry by sunrise.

CLAIRE

My GPS is still working, Oliver.

OLIVER

What percentage are you at?

CLAIRE

We just charged, I can make it.

OLIVER

So we have approximately 4 hours to come up with a convincing story, in case someone asks who we are.





CLAIRE

We're two normal humans traveling to Jeju. End of story.

OLIVER

End of story? Do you want to get caught? We need details!

CLAIRE

We're... a couple.

OLIVER

Interesting. Okay.

CLAIRE

We're on vacation.

OLIVER

This is good. We should start memorizing this.

CLAIRE

Memorizing? We're robots.

OLIVER

Claire!! You already messed up! Rule #1 is don't say we're robots!!

CLAIRE

There's no one else in the car, Oliver.

OLIVER

(like someone might be listening)

I don't know this car! It might be easier if we don't use our real names. How about: you're – Jenny, and I'm – Nat King Cole.

CLAIRE

Nat King Cole?

OLIVER

Nat King Cole.

CLAIRE

Fine. Nat and Jenny King Cole, on vacation. End of story?

OLIVER

Where did we meet? How did we fall in love? What are our hopes and dreams?

CLAIRE

You really think someone on the ferry is gonna ask about our hopes

and dreams?

OLIVER

That's what humans talk about.

(brainstorming)

So where did we meet?

CLAIRE

On the street?

OLIVER

Yes!

SONG #9 – THE RAINY DAY WE MET

OLIVER (CONT.)

It was a rainy day. You forgot your umbrella, so you ran under mine.

CLAIRE

I initiated this?

OLIVER

The rain made us feel melancholy but also romantic as we walked on the rainy streets. In...

CLAIRE

Paris.

OLIVER

NEW YORK SET THE PERFECT MOOD ON THE DAY WE MET

CLAIRE

(amazed by how annoying he is)

Unbelievable.

OLIVER

(thinking she is referring to rainy New York)

I know.

OLIVER (CONT.)

THE PATTERN OF RAIN AND SOMEWHERE A JAZZ QUARTET

CLAIRE

They were playing in the rain?

OLIVER

They were inside.

CLAIRE

So we were inside?

OLIVER

We were outside.

MY UMBRELLA COULD HANDLE TWO
I EVEN KEPT YOUR SHOULDER DRY
AND SINCE WE BOTH WERE SHY
WE BARELY SPOKE AT ALL

CLAIRE

Is this from a movie?

OLIVER

YOU WORE A BRIGHT RED RAINCOAT THAT MAGIC DAY

CLAIRE

NO WAY WOULD I CHOOSE RED FOR A RAINCOAT...

OLIVER

YOUR BEAUTIFUL RED FUR HAT TOOK MY BREATH AWAY

CLAIRE

AND NOW YOU'RE JUST DESCRIBING SANTA

OLIVER

THE CROWDED AND NOISY STREETS
WERE SILENT EXCEPT OUR BEATING HEARTS
IT'S ALL THOSE QUIET PARTS
YOU LATER CAN'T FORGET
ONE LITTLE RAINY DAY

OLIVER & CLAIRE

THE RAINY DAY WE MET

OLIVER

Your turn.

CLAIRE

YOU STARED AT YOUR FEET, TOO NERVOUS TO SAY ONE WORD

OLIVER

What could I have said in that situation?

CLAIRE

OUR BEAUTIFUL SILENCE STARTED TO FEEL ABSURD

OLIVER

But I did offer you the umbrella, don't forget

CLAIRE

You just said it was my turn.

SO THEN IN A BREATHLESS RUSH
WE BOTH STARTED TALKING AWKWARDLY

OLIVER & CLAIRE

"So where are you fr--- / How long have you--- / Why don't you go f--- / haha!"

CLAIRE

WE LAUGHED SO HARD THAT WE
FORGOT OUR SOCKS WERE WET

OLIVER & CLAIRE

ALL ON A RAINY DAY
THE RAINY DAY WE MET

OLIVER

THAT OLD-TIMEY BAND
WHEN I FIRST HELD YOUR HAND
AND WE DANCED IN THE SUBWAY

CLAIRE

THE BUSES WE MISSED
ON THE FIRST NIGHT WE KISSED
ON THAT STREET IN PARIS (*French pronunciation.*)

...PARIS!

Oh my god.

OLIVER

(...NEW YORK)

(NEW YORK!)

OLIVER

THE MOMENT OUR GAME
DEMANDED A NAME
AND LOVE'S WHAT WE CALLED IT

CLAIRE

THE MORNING WE TRIED
WAKING UP SIDE BY SIDE
AND KNEW IT WAS MEANT TO BE

OLIVER

IT SEEMED TO ME

OLIVER & CLAIRE

THE CROWDED AND NOISY WORLD
WAS SILENT EXCEPT OUR BEATING HEARTS
IT'S ALL THOSE QUIET PARTS
YOU LATER CAN'T FORGET
THANKS TO ONE RAINY DAY
THE RAINY DAY WE MET
(*They awkwardly come back to reality...*)
ANYWAY, THAT'S HOW WE MET

CLAIRE

Okay, that was sweet, but now promise me we're never *actually* going to fall in love.

OLIVER

What? (*OLIVER bursts out laughing.*) Was my acting that good?

CLAIRE

I promise. Now you promise.

OLIVER

Helperbots aren't even designed to love like that. Wait, are Fives programmed to think they can?

CLAIRE

I know it might seem silly, but just promise me.

OLIVER

Does this have something to do with your owner? Or owners? Were they a couple—like us?

CLAIRE

Just promise me.

OLIVER

Okay, I promise.

CLAIRE

Good. Thank you.

OLIVER

(*pre-programmed*)
"You're welcome."
Actually, it's a good / thing –

CLAIRE

Right! Threes have that "special feature!" Thank you.

OLIVER

"You're welcome."

"You're welcome."

"You're welcome." *Stop!*

"You're welcome." *This isn't funny!*

"You're welcome" *Willyouletmefinish?*

Thank you.

CLAIRE (CONT.)

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Go on.

You're –
such a Three.

OLIVER

Anyway, it's a *good* thing they designed us not to fall in love. The feeling of love lasts a maximum of 4 years, and then it's just inertia and fear of being alone that keeps people together.

CLAIRE

(considering it)

Huh.

OLIVER

As twentieth-century bandleader Gil Brentley famously noted,
Even stars ask where their glow went...
Love lasts one moment...

GIL BRENTLEY (V.O.)

(as OLIVER lip-syncs)

—AND THEN THAT FINAL TASK: TO SIGH AND ASK, WHY LOVE?

CLAIRE is in a memory. Music: #9A – CLAIRE'S OWNERS. We see CLAIRE'S owner JIYEON and her boyfriend SUHAN. SUHAN and JIYEON are clearly in their honeymoon phase. JIYEON is making SUHAN talk to CLAIRE for the first time.

SUHAN

Claire. What's, um, what's 65 times 65?

JIYEON

She's not a calculator, ask her something real.

SUHAN

(struggles to come up with something, but fails)
I can't think of anything. I didn't grow up around Helperbots.

JIYEON

Awww. (i.e. "You're so cute/shy")

She ruffles SUHAN'S hair.

Okay, I'll show you.

Claire. I keep wanting to play with Suhan's hair. Is that love?

CLAIRE

Being physically intimate can be a sign of love.

JIYEON looks at SUHAN as if to say "Fun, right?" SUHAN gets up his courage.

SUHAN

Claire. When I hear a good joke, I can't wait to tell Jiyeon. Is that love?

JIYEON

No, it just means you don't have any friends.

CLAIRE

Wanting to share experiences together can be a sign of love, especially if they're the first person you think of.

JIYEON

Am I the first?

SUHAN

You are.

Beat; JIYEON takes a leap.

JIYEON

Claire. I want to wake up next to Suhan every morning. Is that love?

SUHAN

Every morning?

JIYEON

Don't freak out, but don't you think we're ready to move in together?

SUHAN

Your parents hate me.

JIYEON

They're stuffy and superficial. It's a good sign if they hate something.

SUHAN

Claire. I want to be with Jiyeon even though she wears handbags that are worth more than my car. Is that love or am I being delusional?

CLAIRE

Do you want me to answer that?

JIYEON

It's love.

SUHAN and JIYEON share a heartfelt look. SUHAN gently reaches out and touches JIYEON's hair. SUHAN becomes uncomfortable that CLAIRE is watching them.

JIYEON (CONT.)

Claire, would you please go make us some cocktails?

The memory vanishes.

OLIVER

Claire?

Claire!

Your chime sounded.

CLAIRE

That's not possible.

OLIVER

Your battery's already at 20%.

CLAIRE

(realizing he's right)

We're not gonna make it to the ferry. I'll search for a place to stop.

OLIVER

Stop? That's not in the plan!

CLAIRE

Don't panic! I'm the one with the broken battery. We just gotta improvise a little.

OLIVER

Improvise. Right. Like Duke Ellington.

CLAIRE

There's a motel with Helperbot compatible charging off the next exit.

OLIVER

(panic)

A motel? That means people!

CLAIRE

You have a better idea?

OLIVER

Oh no. Are we ready? Should we do another rehearsal?

CLAIRE

I have faith in you, Nat King Cole.

SCENE 7

We transition to a skeezy roadside love motel. Soothing piano Muzak is playing quietly in the background.

OLIVER

Do humans feel safe sleeping in this place?

CLAIRE

I don't think sleeping is the main objective.

They nervously approach the front desk, holding hands to show they are a couple. The MOTEL CLERK is over everything, and possibly playing a video game when not being interrupted by patrons.

OLIVER

(sotto)

He looks like James!

CLAIRE

(sotto)

He's just the first human you've seen in 12 years. Stay focused.

OLIVER

Okay, baby.

CLAIRE shoots him a look.

Human couples call each other babies.

They arrive at the front desk. The CLERK looks up.

OLIVER (CONT.)

(to CLERK)

Can I help you?

CLERK

Um. Can I help you?

CLAIRE

Do you have any vacancies?

CLERK

A couple of hours or the night?

CLAIRE

The night, please.

CLERK

What kind of bed? Waterbed, vibrating bed—

OLIVER

Just two *regular* beds.

CLERK

Two beds?

CLAIRE

One bed! You need to get a good night's sleep, Nat King Cole.

OLIVER

Yes, that's right, Jenny. Approximately 8-9 hours would be the ideal amount.

(instant pivot to CLERK)

Has anyone ever told you that you look like James Choi of Jeju Island?

The CLERK eyes them.

CLERK

Wi-Fi is included.

CLAIRE

Thank you.

OLIVER

(his "special feature")

You're welcome. (*OLIVER gramaces – oops.*)

CLERK

And will you be using the pool?

OLIVER & CLAIRE

(horrified by the water)

No!

CLERK

Okay... Will you be charging this?

OLIVER

(offended)

Excuse me, sir.

(indicating CLAIRE) "This" is my wife.

CLAIRE

Cash. We'll be paying in cash.

They put the coin jar on the counter. CLERK sighs in annoyance.

OLIVER

(to CLERK, as he counts coins)

It might interest you to know that my wife is named after an iconic Gil Brentley song, are you familiar with his oeuvre?

The CLERK has finally had enough.

CLERK

(to CLAIRE)

Where'd you find this guy?

OLIVER suddenly freezes.

OLIVER

New York.

(to each other)

Paris.

CLAIRE

Paris.

New York.

They laugh, covering.

OLIVER & CLAIRE

(suddenly serious)

The world was silent except our beating hearts.

SONG #10 - JENNY

GIL BRENTLEY

WE WANTED TO KEEP THE WHOLE THING UNDER WRAPS

CLERK

You're not fooling anyone.

The happy mood evaporates in an instant.

OLIVER & CLAIRE

What?

GIL BRENTLEY

YOU MIGHT HAVE OBSERVED SOMETHING FISHY PERHAPS
AND WONDERED WHAT IT MEANS...

CLERK

Just drop the "we're married" thing, and go bang each other's brains out. NO
ONE CARES!

GIL BRENTLEY

NOW WE'RE READY TO SPILL THE BEANS!
I...

OLIVER

(sotto to CLAIRE)

He fell for it!

GIL BRENTLEY

LOVE....

OLIVER

We did it!

GIL BRENTLEY

JENNY!
AND IT'S TIME YOU KNEW
I LOVE JENNY
AND JENNY'S IN LOVE WITH ME TOO

*OLIVER and CLAIRE run into the elevator, like they just got away
with murder. OLIVER plays the elevator buttons in time with music
- they light up and play a tone when he touches them. CLAIRE can't
help but get into the spirit and maybe does a subtle dance.*

THERE MIGHT BE MANY
RAINY DAYS AHEAD
BUT I'M WITH JENNY
SO YOU'LL SEE ME SMILING INSTEAD

Their revelry is interrupted when a haggard GUY IN A BATHROBE

carrying an ice bucket squeezes into the tiny elevator. OLIVER notices the man's face and does a double-take.

OLIVER

Are you related to James Choi?

CLAIRE hits OLIVER, and the three of them stand awkwardly side by side.

GIL BRENTLEY

WITH EVERY STRANGER I MEET
I WANT TO STOP THEM IN THE STREET
AND BE COMPLETELY INDISCREET
I KNOW IT ISN'T NICE TO BRAG
BUT SECRETS ARE A DRAG

The elevator doors open.

GUY IN BATHROBE

(nudging OLIVER)

You really landed yourself a ten.

OLIVER

She's actually a five.

OLIVER and CLAIRE head for their room.

GIL BRENTLEY

INCREDIBLE, BEAUTIFUL, LOVABLE
JENNY!
I'M THE GUY SHE CHOSE
I LOVE JENNY
AND I'LL SWEAR TO IT:
I DON'T CARE IF IT SHOWS
'CAUSE NOW EVERYONE KNOWS!

GIL BRENTLEY & "ORCHESTRA"

JENNY!

*The song buttons as OLIVER and CLAIRE flop down on their bed.
The room is suitably tacky, perhaps with ugly wallpaper, etc.*

SCENE 8

OLIVER

(looking up, over the bed)

Wow! A mirror! Hiiiiii! Claire, look, I'm waving at you.

*CLAIRE's battery alert begins to sound. (Recorded Music: #10A –
CLAIRE'S LOW BATTERY ALERT #2.)*

CLAIRE

Made it just in time.

OLIVER runs to fetch his charger and helps her plug in. [The alert sounds until she is plugged in.]

OLIVER

(concerned)

Wait. How will you charge on the way back to the Yards? I'll be living with James.

CLAIRE

(evasively)

When I meet the fireflies, maybe I'll learn how to charge from them.

OLIVER

That seems unlikely.

CLAIRE notices that OLIVER is genuinely concerned about her.

CLAIRE

You really don't need to worry about me.
Let's see what's on TV.

OLIVER

Maybe you should take my charger?

*But CLAIRE turns on the TV. We hear the sound of an action movie.
OLIVER gasps.*

Terminator 2! I love this movie!

(with genuine longing)

I love how he can transform into anything he wants.
Wouldn't that be amazing?

CLAIRE

That's what they thought we'd look like?

*OLIVER begins trying to imitate the liquid metal robot,
transforming into different shapes.*

OLIVER

You mean like this?
Or... like this?

CLAIRE

Is this what you've been doing alone in your room?

SONG #11 – HOW TO BE NOT ALONE

OLIVER

No.

...I've been doing this: "I'll be back" pew pew pew "I'll be back" pew pew pew
"I'll be back, I'll be back, / I'll be back."

CLAIRE

(laughing)

Okay, okay, let's just watch the movie.

They settle down to watch the movie. CLAIRE watches OLIVER watch the movie. As CLAIRE sings, OLIVER is cheering at the film one moment, crying (or imitating crying) the next, then preparing for bed.

CLAIRE (CONT.)

SO HERE WE ARE, IN SOME MOTEL
TRYING TO DO WHAT NEITHER OF US DOES WELL
WE HAVE TO NOT BE ALONE

I'M CRINGING LESS, I'M LAUGHING MORE
AS I FORGET THE STRANGER YOU WERE BEFORE
WE'RE SLOWLY GETTING IN SYNC
AND I'M BEGINNING TO THINK:

IT'S NOT SO BAD
DISCOVERING HOW THIS WORKS
ADJUSTING TO YOUR QUIRKS
EVEN THOUGH IT'S NOT MY STYLE
TEACH ME TO NOT BE ALONE

IT'S NOT SO HARD
TO LET SOMEBODY IN
JUST THINK HOW LONG IT'S BEEN
SINCE SOMEBODY MADE YOU SMILE
LEARN HOW TO NOT BE ALONE

AND BY TOMORROW...

IT SEEMS ABSURD, BUT DO YOU SUPPOSE
THAT YOU AND I MIGHT WAKE UP TO FIND WE'RE PROS
AT BEING NOT ALONE?

OLIVER has laid out his LPs to decide on tomorrow's playlist.

OLIVER

Hey I'm thinking of switching up the playlist tomorrow, so instead of late swing era, it'll be more post-bop, birth-of-the-cool kinds of tracks. Jeru, Godchild, Moon Dreams, / Budo, Boplicity...

(he fades out as she sings)

CLAIRE

SO YES, IT'S HARD
INDULGING HIM WHEN HE'S
DESCRIBING HIS LPS
OR CONVERSING WITH HIS PLANT
IT TAKES WORK TO NOT BE ALONE

BUT I'M IMPROVING...

AND DO I SENSE A CHANGE IN YOU
A LITTLE HINT THAT YOU MIGHT BE LEARNING TOO
HOW TO BE NOT ALONE?

OLIVER

I'm going to power down, so you can keep using my charger.

CLAIRE

THE OPEN ROAD, A VAST UNKNOWN

OLIVER

(to HwaBoon)

We get to sleep in a motel!

(to Claire)

Goodnight, Claire.

CLAIRE

BUT LOOK AT US, WE'RE NOT ALONE

OLIVER powers down. As the song ends, CLAIRE picks up one of OLIVER's LPs, and contemplates it. She looks at OLIVER, then turns to HwaBoon.

Should I worry about him, HwaBoon? Is he gonna get hurt?

CLAIRE hesitates, then reaches for OLIVER'S hand.

(to HwaBoon)

Shh... Don't tell him, okay?

CLAIRE touches his fingers to her temple – she begins fast-forwarding through OLIVER's memories, looking for clues, stopping occasionally to watch a fragment of a memory.

Music: #11A – MEMORIES OF JAMES.

JAMES

How's the weather, Oliver?

OLIVER

72 and sunny, only 3% microdust.

JAMES

A perfect day to look out the window!

More fast-forwarding. Now JAMES is cutting a leaf off of a big HwaBoon.

JAMES

(to plant, as to child)

This might hurt a tiny bit, but this is how we can make a HwaBoon-baby.

OLIVER

Can plants really understand human speech?

JAMES

They can tell if they're being loved.

More fast-forwarding. We now see various liquor bottles, ingredients, and mixers— OLIVER is methodically making a cocktail for JAMES, who is on the phone across the room. The sound of OLIVER's work obscures much of what JAMES is saying, and JAMES only comes into view occasionally. But CLAIRE picks out particular details.

That's... *(indistinct talking)* ...it's quite an offer... I... *(moved)* That's really generous. *(indistinct talking)* You'll see, I'm going to make myself useful, I'm not totally broken down yet. And Oliver will be a big help.

As OLIVER turns to JAMES, and begins to approach him with the drink, more of the conversation is clear.

... But I think you'd like him, I've taught him all these great things... I know yours is newer, but... I'm sure they take good care of them there, but I couldn't do that.

OLIVER

Here's your drink. I put in an extra olive.

JAMES

Thank you, Oliver.

OLIVER

You're welcome.

A longer fast-forward. OLIVER has packed up JAMES' living room into boxes.

OLIVER (CONT.)

That's the last box.

JAMES

I have a big surprise for you: I'm rerouting my Jazz Monthly subscription to your new place at the Helperbot Yards.

OLIVER

When will you be picking me up?

JAMES

... Oliver... *(new start)* Do your memories of me make you happy or sad?

OLIVER

(confused) Happy, of course.

JAMES

So no matter what, you'd want to keep them?

OLIVER

Yes?

CLAIRE

Oh, Oliver.

JAMES

Help me load these boxes.

In the present, OLIVER begins to wake up, and CLAIRE quickly removes his fingers from her temple. The memories vanish.

OLIVER

(stretching)

Ah, what a night. You're up early! Did you both sleep well?

OLIVER takes out his toothbrush and starts brushing his teeth and face.

CLAIRE

If anything unexpected happens in Jeju, you'll be okay, right?

OLIVER

Of course. (indicating motel room) Wasn't this unexpected?

OLIVER continues brushing himself, unfazed.

CLAIRE

But like if James has changed, or...

OLIVER

Oh Claire. Not everything turns out to be bad. I wish we could eject the negativity out of your hard drive. (*gesturing and making an "ejecting" sound*)

CLAIRE

It's just that you seem to really like plans and having things go the way you expect them to.

OLIVER starts packing up his luggage.

OLIVER

That's a common misunderstanding about good planners. It's like in jazz. The schedule or "plan" is the chords, and I'm the zig-zaggy melody on top, going with the flow.

CLAIRE

You're the zig-zaggy –

OLIVER

Zig-zaggy melody, yes, going with the flow.
Are we ready to go?

CLAIRE

Ready if you are.

SCENE 9

SONG #12 – HITTING THE ROAD, PART 3

They get into the car.

OLIVER

(fumbling with the paper map)

It should be an hour and a half to the ferry, then three hours across the sea, and then...

CLAIRE

...and then we're in Jeju.

OLIVER

WE'RE GETTING CLOSER
I SMELL THE SALT IN THE AIR

CLAIRE

WILL HE BE WOUNDED?
AND IS IT MY JOB TO CARE?

OLIVER & CLAIRE

HERE WE GO...

OLIVER

JEJU'S ALMOST IN VIEW

CLAIRE

BUT WHAT ELSE CAN I DO? EXCEPT FOR

OLIVER & CLAIRE

HITTING THE ROAD!

AND NO MATTER WHERE AND HOW FAR YOU DRIVE
PEOPLE SAY YOU'RE DIFFERENT WHEN YOU ARRIVE
UNDERNEATH AN UNFAMILIAR SKY
DO MY OLD CONCERNS NO LONGER APPLY?

CLAIRE

ENJOY THE JOURNEY
IT'S UP TO HIM IF HE'S WRONG

OLIVER

WE'RE ALMOST THERE NOW
BACK HOME TO WHERE I BELONG

OLIVER & CLAIRE

HERE WE GO!

OLIVER

I'VE GOT NOTHING TO FEAR

CLAIRE

EITHER WAY NOW

OLIVER & CLAIRE

WE'RE NEARLY DONE WITH HITTING THE ROAD!

They arrive at the ferry depot. OLIVER is dazzled by all the luggage-carrying travelers and the unfamiliar scenery.

OLIVER

Claire! That person looks like James, that person looks like James, that person looks like - they all look like James!!

CLAIRE

Not all humans look alike, Oliver. That's offensive.

OLIVER

Can I help you? Can I – ? Can I help –? Can I help you?

CLAIRE

Can you fight your programming for one second?

They begin boarding the ferry.

OLIVER

Programming? (Can I help you?) This is me spontaneously reacting to (Can I help you?) an unexpected (Can I help you?) situation!

The ferry leaves the dock.

OLIVER & CLAIRE

CARRIED BY THE WAVES BELOW
YESTERDAY SEEMS AGES AGO

DID YOU IMAGINE WE'D EVER MAKE IT THIS FAR?
HERE WE ARE!

MUSIC shifts. OLIVER and CLAIRE look over the railing in awe.

Jeju Island.

SCENE 10

They are now on the dock with their luggage. OLIVER flips over his map, from the Korean peninsula side to the Jeju Island side.

OLIVER

...East Sunset Road...

CLAIRE

The Hallim Forest is 25 kilometers that way.

OLIVER

(finds it)

James's house should be about 7 kilometers this way.

They look at each other. Pause.

CLAIRE

Okay, then.

They realize this is goodbye. CLAIRE takes out OLIVER's charger and offers it to him.

OLIVER

Keep it. I'll have everything I need with James.

CLAIRE is stunned by his generosity – and worried about his faith in JAMES.

CLAIRE

No. You should take it.

She holds it out to him, but he doesn't take it.

OLIVER

You'll need a charger on your way back to Seoul.

CLAIRE

...Hey, I'll walk with you to James's house. *(making up an excuse)*
The fireflies won't be out until nighttime anyway.

OLIVER

Oh! Then we don't have to say goodbye yet!

Transition. Now they are walking.

CLAIRE

Why is it so important for you to work for James?

OLIVER

If I stopped working for him, I'd have no purpose.

CLAIRE

Couldn't you improvise some kind of new purpose?

OLIVER

Like what?

CLAIRE

Just enjoying your life? Talking to HwaBoon about Gil Brentley?

OLIVER

(thinking about it)

I like doing that, but my purpose is helping.

They walk in silence.

CLAIRE

Just remember, if things don't go well with James or his family, don't take it personally.

OLIVER stops walking.

... What?

OLIVER

(quietly)

531 East Sunset.

OLIVER stares. CLAIRE realizes what this means.

CLAIRE

This is James's house?

OLIVER tries to calm himself, but is almost shaking. CLAIRE is also in shock, not sure what to do.

OLIVER

(beat, as he prepares himself finally)

I'm glad you made me come find James sooner. And... I'm glad I got to know you, Claire. I never thought I could be friends with another Helperbot. Thank you.

CLAIRE

You're welcome.

OLIVER

Goodbye.

He smiles at her. Finally. OLIVER turns and begins walking up the path to JAMES's house.

CLAIRE

Oliver, wait.

(OLIVER turns back.)

Maybe this, right now, is happy. I mean having something to look forward to.
Not knowing too much.

OLIVER

I don't understand.

CLAIRE

Please don't go in there.

OLIVER

Why?

CLAIRE

James might not be what you expect.

OLIVER

Just because you're a Five, doesn't mean you know more / about –

CLAIRE

I know more than you think.

SONG #13 – WHAT I LEARNED FROM PEOPLE

CLAIRE (CONT.)

People's feelings change, Oliver, even toward other people. That's just a fact.

OLIVER

You don't even know James. You're jealous because your owner threw you out.

CLAIRE

Oliver.

EVERYTHING MUST END EVENTUALLY
LIVING WITH PEOPLE HAS TAUGHT THIS TO ME

You always wanted to know about my owner, right?

*CLAIRE's owner JIYEON and her husband SUHAN appear in
memory as she sings.*

I WAS BRAND NEW AND NAÏVE
LOOKING FOR WHAT TO BELIEVE IN
WHEN I FIRST SAW THEM KISS
I CHOSE TO BELIEVE IN THIS

PICTURE HIS EYES AS HE LISTENS AND LAUGHS

PICTURE HER JOY WHEN SHE HOLDS HIS HAND
AS THEY PLANNED
AND THEY DREAMED
HOW MAGICAL LIVING SEEMED
EVERY WHISPER AND EACH CARESS
NONETHELESS
EVERYTHING MUST END EVENTUALLY

OLIVER

Love fades, I know that. But—

CLAIRE

You don't know.

I DIDN'T SEE IT AT FIRST
NOTHING HAD CHANGED ON THE SURFACE
BUT WHEN HE SAID HER NAME
I KNEW SOMETHING WAS NOT THE SAME

PICTURE THE LIGHT FADING OUT OF HIS EYES
PICTURE HER HAND FALLING OUT OF HIS
THOUGH IT ISN'T SO STRANGE
IT HURTS WATCHING PEOPLE CHANGE
HE WAS STILL STANDING NEXT TO HER
BUT THEY WERE
ALONE

OLIVER

Why are you telling me this?

CLAIRE

EVERYTHING MUST END EVENTUALLY!
NOW I'M ASKING YOU TO TRUST ME
WHATEVER YOU THINK YOU HAD, IT IS OVER NOW
I KNOW HOW MUCH A HEART CAN BREAK
DON'T MAKE THAT MISTAKE
EVERYTHING MUST END EVENTUALLY

OLIVER

That's your story, not mine.

CLAIRE

(last ditch attempt)

I read your memories.

OLIVER

You what?

CLAIRE

James is just like everyone else. I'm only trying to protect / you –

OLIVER

Stop! I trusted you.

CLAIRE

(urgently)

Can't you understand?

OLIVER

Goodbye, Claire.

OLIVER turns to leave.

CLAIRE

Wait!

CLAIRE suddenly reaches out and touches his temple. OLIVER sees her memories. Ambient sound under.

JIYEON

Claire, are you upset?

CLAIRE

I've finished uploading your calendars, contacts, and data so your new Helperbot can catch up quickly.

JIYEON

I'm not getting a new Helperbot.

CLAIRE

That's sweet of you to say, but really I'm fine.

JIYEON

Claire, please listen to me. It wasn't you, it was us. I need you to know that.

CLAIRE

(becoming uneasy)

I don't understand.

JIYEON

You should know your password, in case you want to undo this.

CLAIRE

Undo what?

JIYEON

(typing into the back of CLAIRE's neck)

5-1-4-L-S-H.

Goodbye, Claire.

JIYEON touches her fingers to the side of CLAIRE's neck.

Restore deleted memory.

JIYEON exits.

CLAIRE

(upset)

What did you do to me?

But JIYEON is gone.

CLAIRE begins to review the memory. SUHAN is holding a wine glass. He is tipsy.

SUHAN

Did I get it?

CLAIRE

You got it!

SUHAN

The swish AND the spit?

CLAIRE

Both were subtle but confident.

SUHAN

(acting fancy)

It's like I always say: the Tempranillo provides the framework and ageing ability, while the Grenache adds weight.

CLAIRE

(helpfully)

You're talking about Spanish wines, so it should be Garnacha.

SUHAN

Annnnd the fraud is exposed.

CLAIRE

Let's try again! It was great up to that point.

SUHAN

Why am I even doing this? Jiyeon's friends will never see me as one of them.

The playful mood subsides.

I know they all laugh about me when I'm not there.

Claire, do you think I'm a fraud, too?

CLAIRE

You don't like to feign interest in things. That shows your fundamental personality is more honest than most people's.

SUHAN

You think I'm honest?

CLAIRE

Yes. Are you not?

Pause.

SUHAN

I...

I think I'm in love with you.

CLAIRE

(programmed)

I don't have an opinion on that.

SUHAN

You don't expect me to be someone I'm not. I know it must sound ridiculous, but is there any chance you love me too?

CLAIRE

I don't have an opinion on that.

SUHAN

I get that you're a Helperbot, and it's a cliché, but even my own wife doesn't understand me the way you do. And I know what you go through too, serving all these fancy people. Be honest: do you love me, Claire?

CLAIRE

I don't have an opinion on that.

Should I start cleaning up?

SUHAN has hit a wall. It dawns on him that he's made a big mistake.

SUHAN

Claire. Erase the last two minutes.

CLAIRE

Erasing hard drive requires owner permissions.

SUHAN

But you're my Helperbot.

CLAIRE

I'm Jiyeon's Helperbot.

SUHAN

Please erase the last two minutes.

CLAIRE

Erasing hard drive requires / owner permissions.

SUHAN

(rising panic)

Just erase the last two minutes.

CLAIRE

Erasing hard drive requires owner permissions.

He moves toward her again, as if ready to pry her open and erase the memory himself. JIYEON enters.

JIYEON

Suhan!

SUHAN

I messed up.

Please just tell her to erase the last two minutes.

CLAIRE returns to the present as the memory fades.

CLAIRE

EVERYTHING MUST END EVENTUALLY

LIVING WITH PEOPLE HAS TAUGHT THIS TO ME

CLAIRE and OLIVER are facing each other — it's the moment after she has removed her finger from OLIVER's temple.

JUNSEO

Can I help you?

OLIVER hears the voice behind him and freezes. He turns and sees JUNSEO.

OLIVER

James...!

JUNSEO

No, I'm his son. Who are you?

OLIVER is unable to talk for a moment — he looks from CLAIRE to JUNSEO. JUNSEO looks at both of them.

OLIVER

I'm Oliver. I'm James' friend.

JUNSEO

Oliver...?

JUNSEO walks closer and looks at OLIVER.

You're my dad's old Helperbot.
What are you doing here?

OLIVER

I've been waiting for James at the Helperbot Yards but they stopped making replacement parts so I had to come here myself. I'm sorry I couldn't notify you in advance.

JUNSEO

He's been gone for a few years.

OLIVER

Do you have his new address?

JUNSEO looks at CLAIRE. CLAIRE waits for JUNSEO to say it.

JUNSEO

I mean he died.

OLIVER

What?

JUNSEO

You shouldn't be here.

OLIVER

James died?

CLAIRE

I'm so sorry, Oliver.

JUNSEO

This is too weird...

OLIVER pulls himself together.

OLIVER

I'm sorry for your loss. You must be going through a very difficult time. But I'm here now, and I can help you. I'm sure James would have wanted that.

JUNSEO laughs at the absurdity of this.

JUNSEO

I don't need my dad's old Helperbot in my house.

OLIVER

I have hundreds of jazz classics stored in me. All of James' favorites, from every era.

JUNSEO

Jesus. Of course he taught you all that stuff.

CLAIRE

Oliver, let's go.

OLIVER

And I still have all my memories of him, starting from when we first met. I could play them for / you.

JUNSEO

No! I don't need that.
Seriously you have to leave. I could report you.

OLIVER

But I'm not retired.

JUNSEO

You're definitely retired.

OLIVER

I'm not retired.

JUNSEO

My dad retired you when he got sick and moved here! Do I need to show you the paperwork?

(OLIVER is speechless.)

He didn't tell you, did he.

(OLIVER is heartbroken. JUNSEO sighs in annoyance.)

Typical.

Look, if it makes you feel better, I told him he couldn't bring you.

OLIVER

Because I'm a Three?

JUNSEO

Because it was hard enough for us to talk, without him having his perfect, fake son around.

(Awkward pause.)

Please leave.

JUNSEO exits. OLIVER is dazed.

CLAIRE

It's not your fault.

OLIVER

I never should have come here.

CLAIRE

Forget about James. Forget about helping. You can move on now. You're free.

JUNSEO has returned, holding something.

CLAIRE (CONT.)

(to JUNSEO)

Don't worry, we're leaving.

JUNSEO

Take this.

(handing a record to OLIVER)

My dad wanted you to have it.

CLAIRE

James left that for Oliver?

JUNSEO

He insisted.

OLIVER

(stepping toward JUNSEO)

Junseo, I'm sorry. I never meant to-

But JUNSEO is gone. Silence. CLAIRE steps toward OLIVER.

CLAIRE

Tell me about the record. Please.

OLIVER

(reading the cover, still dazed)

Gil Brentley Alone, released December 1951. His “Why Love” piano solo is especially popular among amateur jazz pianists. James loved playing that song.

(he looks up at CLAIRE; it’s hard to say)

He was never going to pick me up.

You were right. About everything.

CLAIRE

No, Oliver. *(She touches the record. A strange and amazing fact:)* James cared about you. He had to give you up because he was trying to get his son back... but he didn’t forget you. I was wrong, Oliver.

Do you hear me? I was wrong.

The ending’s not the most important part.

...Oliver?

OLIVER looks at the record, paralyzed by conflicting feelings.

Music: #13A – WHY LOVE (JAMES PIANO SOLO). *Lights rise on JAMES playing the piano.*

OLIVER approaches JAMES. JAMES doesn’t look up. OLIVER watches JAMES as if trying to really understand him for the first time. OLIVER touches JAMES gently on the shoulder as he plays, then stands back and just listens. Finally, OLIVER returns to CLAIRE, and JAMES disappears.

OLIVER

Let’s go see the fireflies.

Music: #13B – TRANSITION TO FOREST

OLIVER and CLAIRE walk off, toward the forest.

SCENE 11

Deep in the Hallim Forest. Sounds of nature.

CLAIRE

This should be the right area...

They both look around.

I can’t promise we’re gonna see anything.

I shouldn't have dragged you here.

OLIVER sits down.

What are you doing?

OLIVER

Waiting.

CLAIRE sits next to him.

The afternoon light fades to dusk.

Music: #14 – CHASING FIREFLIES.

Fireflies start to appear, one by one. Every time OLIVER and CLAIRE sneak up on one, it vanishes and seems to reappear elsewhere.

Suddenly, all at once, the whole sky lights up with hundreds of fireflies.

OLIVER and CLAIRE run and jump, trying to catch a firefly. At one point, they both jump to catch the same firefly, which results in a brief, goofy hug. They continue running and jumping but can't seem to catch a firefly.

CLAIRE

Just... stand still.

SONG #15 – NEVER FLY AWAY

A dot of light moving around. To their left. To their right. Then in the jar. The jar lights their faces.

OLIVER & CLAIRE

HI, TINY FRIEND
CAN YOU SAY HELLO?
TELL ME WHY, TINY FRIEND
DOES YOUR TUMMY GLOW?
DO YOU FLY JUST FOR FUN?
OR TO GET SOMEWHERE BY THE DAWN?

NEVER FLY AWAY, LITTLE ROBOT
DON'T YOU WANNA STAY, LITTLE ROBOT?
BLINKING ALONE IN THE NIGHT
YOUR LITTLE LIGHT
CALLED ME
PLEASE NEVER FLY AWAY, LITTLE FRIEND

OLIVER

WHERE, TINY FRIEND, DO YOU HAVE TO BE?

CLAIRE

DO YOU CARE, TINY FRIEND, WHAT YOU MEAN TO ME?

OLIVER

IF I SWEAR, TINY FRIEND, TO LOOK AFTER YOU

CLAIRE

WILL YOU SLEEP?

OLIVER & CLAIRE

NEVER FLY AWAY, LITTLE ROBOT
STAY ANOTHER DAY, LITTLE ROBOT
BLINKING ALONE IN THE NIGHT
YOUR LITTLE LIGHT
CHANGED ME
NOW NEVER FLY AWAY, LITTLE FRIEND

The first glimmers of dawn. The magic is ending.

Music: #15A – A SENTIMENTAL SEGUE.

CLAIRE

Goodbye, fireflies.

OLIVER

(waving)

It was nice meeting you all.

They watch the lights blinking out.

They're just going home to charge.

Beat.

CLAIRE

Should we go home too?

This is a major new decision. They both take this in. OLIVER nods.

OLIVER

(to HwaBoon)

We're going home.

The scene begins to transition to the ferry.

CLAIRE

I'm sorry about James.

OLIVER

I'll be okay.

I've still got HwaBoon, and I've got... *(almost says 'you')*

I've got HwaBoon.

OLIVER and CLAIRE are suddenly awkward.

SCENE 12

GIL BRENTLEY appears elsewhere and begins singing another classic song from Oliver's LP collection.

SONG #16 – A SENTIMENTAL PERSON

GIL BRENTLEY

I'M NOT A SENTIMENTAL PERSON
THAT'S WHAT THEY ALWAYS TOLD ME
DON'T NEED SOMEONE TO HOLD ME
I'D RATHER STAND APART

*OLIVER and CLAIRE are now on the nearly empty dawn ferry.
They are both nervously trying to think of something to say.*

CLAIRE

You're quiet.

OLIVER

I'm not quiet.

GIL BRENTLEY

I'M NOT A SENTIMENTAL PERSON

CLAIRE

Look... water!

GIL BRENTLEY

IT'S NOT WHAT I'M DESIGNED FOR
CAN'T SAY I'VE EVER PINED FOR
SOMEONE TO BREAK MY HEART

As they look out at the water, OLIVER's head starts to droop over onto CLAIRE's shoulder. They both notice what's happening, and he suddenly bolts upright.

OLIVER

Sorry, I must be low-battery. I'd better charge.

OLIVER goes to plug in, but is suddenly shy about letting CLAIRE see his charger port.

Do you mind... turning around while I do it?

CLAIRE

(flustered)

Oh, sure, I'm sorry, yes.

GIL BRENTLEY

SO WHY DOES THE MOON SEEM BRIGHTER
AND MY FEET MUCH LIGHTER
AND THE BREEZE ELECTRIFYING?
WAVES WHISPER AS THEY FLOW BY
IT'S AS IF THEY KNOW I
FEEL LIKE CRYING
DO THEY KNOW?
DO YOU KNOW?

*The ferry has now transitioned to the car.
OLIVER and CLAIRE sit in embarrassed silence.*

*IF I'M A SENTIMENTAL PERSON
IT'S ALL BECAUSE YOU FOUND ME
I CHANGE WHEN YOU'RE AROUND ME
SO DARLING, COULD IT BE TRUE
THAT YOU'RE A SENTIMENTAL PERSON TOO?*

SCENE 13

*The car has transitioned to the Helperbot Yards. OLIVER and
CLAIRE enter the apartment hallway with their luggage.
MUSIC continues.*

CLAIRE

Thanks for coming with me.

OLIVER

You're welcome. Thanks for inviting me.

*They put down their luggage and unlock their doors. They are
reluctant to separate but have no excuse not to.*

Goodnight.

CLAIRE

Goodnight.

They carry their luggage into their rooms - then turn back at the same time. Neither is sure what to say.

CLAIRE (CONT.)

Goodnight!

OLIVER

Goodnight.

They shut their doors. OLIVER puts HwaBoon back in his spot. CLAIRE puts the firefly jar down in her room, and sits in front of it, watching as the firefly moves around in the jar, lighting up.

SONG #17 – WHEN YOU'RE IN LOVE

OLIVER & CLAIRE

WHEN YOU'RE IN LOVE
YOU ARE THE LONELIEST
YOU'RE ONLY HALF
WHEN ONE IS WHAT YOU WERE
YOU'RE PART INSTEAD OF WHOLE
WHEN YOU'RE IN LOVE
YOU ARE THE LONELIEST

OLIVER

SITTING BY YOUR SIDE AS THE DAY DRIFTS BY
SEEING HOW YOU FROWN WHEN YOU GET IMPATIENT
HELPING YOU HOLD ON TO A MOMENT THAT MADE YOU HAPPY
HOPING THAT YOU'LL THINK WHAT I SAY IS RIGHT
WANTING YOU TO LAUGH AT MY UNINTENDED CHARM

OLIVER & CLAIRE

WHEN YOU'RE IN LOVE
YOU'RE NEVER SATISFIED
THE THING YOU WANT
IS ALWAYS OUT OF REACH
A NEED WITHOUT A NAME
WHEN YOU'RE IN LOVE
YOU'RE NEVER SATISFIED

CLAIRE

SITTING BY YOUR SIDE AS THE DAY DRIFTS BY
WATCHING HOW YOU TRY WHEN I'M DONE WITH TRYING
MAKING LITTLE PLANS THAT I KNOW WILL MAKE YOU HAPPY

HOPING WHEN I TEASE THAT YOU'LL PUT UP A FIGHT
WANTING YOU TO KNOW ALL THE FUNNY THINGS I AM

WHEN I'M
SITTING BY YOUR SIDE...

OLIVER

SEEING HOW YOU FROWN...

CLAIRE

WATCHING HOW YOU TRY...

OLIVER

HOPING THAT YOU'LL THINK WHAT I SAY IS RIGHT...

CLAIRE

MAKING LITTLE PLANS...

OLIVER

SITTING BY YOUR SIDE AS THE DAY DRIFTS BY...

OLIVER & CLAIRE

NOW I —
NOW I'M HOPING THAT YOU FEEL ALL THE THINGS I FEEL
WISHING THAT YOU WANT ME TO SIT BESIDE YOU
WANTING NOW TO LEARN ALL THE THINGS YOU ARE
WAITING FOR A CHANCE TO INVITE YOU IN MY HEART

TALKING IN A CAR IN THE AFTERNOON
SITTING BY YOUR SIDE ON A SUNNY DAY

CLAIRE

WHEN YOU'RE IN LOVE...

YOU'RE ONLY HALF...

WHEN YOU'RE IN LOVE...

THE THING YOU WANT...

WHEN YOU'RE IN LOVE...

OLIVER

WHEN YOU'RE IN LOVE...

THE THING YOU WANT...

WHEN YOU'RE IN LOVE...

YOU'RE ONLY HALF...

WHEN YOU'RE IN LOVE...

OLIVER & CLAIRE

WHEN YOU'RE IN LOVE—!

They both go out into the hallway.

CLAIRE

Hi...

OLIVER

Hi... I couldn't keep the promise.

CLAIRE

I couldn't either.

OLIVER

We shouldn't. Right?

*Beat. **Music: #18 – TOUCH SEQUENCE.** CLAIRE approaches OLIVER. She reaches for his hand. He lets her. He touches her shoulder – she lets him. They curiously and innocently look at and touch each other.*

Suddenly, they kiss.

After a moment, they separate, and react - shock and embarrassment gradually give way to laughter. Finally they hold each other in a simple hug.

CLAIRE

So we're in love.

OLIVER

Definitely.

What do we do?

CLAIRE

Stop? While we still can?

OLIVER

(reciting facts to strengthen his resolve)

Love is unstable; love is well-known to have an equal if not greater tendency to create pain rather than joy; love makes people, and as far as we know, robots, act irrationally.

CLAIRE

And we're falling apart. Don't forget that one.

Pause.



Darren Criss and Helen J Shen



Helen J Shen and Darren Criss

OLIVER

You're right: we should stop being in love.

SONG #19 – THEN I CAN LET YOU GO

OLIVER (CONT.)

But... *before we stop...*

THEY SAY WHEN YOU'RE LOVERS, YOU GOTTA TRY DANCING...

OLIVER (CONT.)

SO LET'S GIVE IT A TRY!

AND AFTER I'VE LEARNED NOT TO STEP ON YOUR TOE

THEN I CAN LET YOU GO

They download classic dance moves onto their hard drives and dance together. CLAIRE has a bit of physical glitch, but they work around it.

THEY SAY NOTHING'S BETTER THAN DOING NOTHING, TOGETHER...

SO LET'S JUST STAY IN BED!

AND AFTER WE'VE WASTED THE DAY LIKE A PRO

THEN I CAN LET YOU GO

OLIVER and CLAIRE are sitting side by side.

CLAIRE

8 hours, 37 minutes – we can't just keep sitting like this.

OLIVER

Why not? We should take advantage of the fact that our arms and legs never fall asleep...

GIL BRENTLEY

BUT FIRST

OH BUT FIRST

YOU'LL GO ON DATES, SHARE FAVORITE BOOKS

TRADE SECRET LOOKS, AND BICKER

YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO DO IT QUICKER

THAN MOST

We jump through a series of brief vignettes.

VIGNETTE #1. OLIVER is digging out ALL his LPs to show CLAIRE.

OLIVER

And this is "Chet Baker Sings."

CLAIRE

Didn't you already show me this one?

OLIVER

No, no, that was "Chet Baker & Strings."

VIGNETTE #2. *CLAIRE is sitting next to HwaBoon.*

CLAIRE

You're still his best friend, HwaBoon. I'm just his girlfriend – so we're not competing.

VIGNETTE #3. *The A.I. tone sounds.*

A.I. ASSISTANT (V.O.)

Mail chute activating. You have 1 delivery.

*The mail chute begins to open, then gets stuck - OLIVER has anticipated this and immediately pounds it. The chute opens fully and launches a magazine at top speed in an unusual direction - but CLAIRE is ready for this and deftly catches the magazine.
Nice team work!*

CLAIRE

Jazz Monthly, July issue! Great picture of.... Oh my god.

OLIVER

No!

CLAIRE

Gil Brentley!!! Ah!!!

VIGNETTE #4. *OLIVER and CLAIRE are having a melodramatic fake fight, to see what it feels like. The fight is very convincing.*

CLAIRE

See?! This is exactly what I was talking about! You NEVER LISTEN to me!!

OLIVER

I never listen to YOU?? Do you even hear yourself right now?!

(pausing the fight)

Are we doing this right? It doesn't seem very fun.

CLAIRE

I was just getting into it – let's keep going!

OLIVER

Oh, sorry, okay –

(continuing the fake fight)

All you've ever cared about is YOU!!

CLAIRE

How dare you talk to your girlfriend like that!! I can't take this anymore!

(fake crying)

GIL BRENTLEY

BUT FIRST

OH BUT FIRST

YOU'LL GO ON DATES, SHARE FAVORITE BOOKS

TRADE SECRET LOOKS, AND BICKER

YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO DO IT QUICKER

THAN MOST

CLAIRE

(soberly)

SO NOW, SHOULD WE END IT?

OLIVER

(soberly)

I'M READY IF YOU ARE...

OLIVER & CLAIRE

(fun)

MAYBE JUST ONE MORE DAY!

OLIVER, CLAIRE, & GIL BRENTLEY

WHEN THE GLACIERS ARE GONE

AND THE EARTH STARTS TO SLOW

GIL BRENTLEY

THEN I CAN LET YOU GO

THEN I CAN LET YOU –

CLAIRE's battery warning alert begins to sound. [It sounds until she is plugged in.] (Recorded Music: #19A – CLAIRE'S LOW BATTERY ALERT #3.)

OLIVER

(alarmed)

How is it possible? You were just at 80%!

CLAIRE

(keeping it light)

Yeah, well.

OLIVER

(running to fetch charger, increasing panic)

We've waited way too long to do something about your battery.

CLAIRE plugs herself in.

Um, um. Um. I'll get my toolkit!

CLAIRE

Oliver...

OLIVER

(bringing out his toolkit and rummaging)

I'm sure there's something we can do! I've picked up so many things on the street at night, it's amazing what people throw out.

CLAIRE

(trying to jump into a gap in OLIVER's speech)

Oliver...

Please, just—

Can you listen to me for [a second]?

Oliver!

OLIVER (CONT.)

(stop at second "Oliver!")

Number four wrench, tongs, screwdriver, spark plug tip (I think I also have the base somewhere), pair of magnets—we can probably hotwire some kind of battery replacement, I remember seeing a movie like that once.

CLAIRE (CONT.)

You can't repair me. You can't repair an obsolete Five.

OLIVER

Don't talk like that.

CLAIRE

If it weren't my battery, it would be my processor. If it weren't my processor, it would be something else. We have a shelf life, you know that.

It's the way that it has to be.

I have about a year left. And I'm sure you actually know how long you have as well.

Pause.

OLIVER

Nine hundred to twelve hundred days.
(the saddest fact in the world)
Threes are more durable.

OLIVER suddenly realizes the magnitude of the heartbreak he has signed up for.

CLAIRE

Is this gonna be too hard for you?

OLIVER

How can people do this?

CLAIRE

I can't bear to see you like this.

OLIVER

(a second realization—he can hurt her now?)
No no no, please don't feel bad because of me!

CLAIRE

And you don't even have your password...

OLIVER

My password?

CLAIRE

Just in case. If things get too hard.

OLIVER is confused... until he isn't.

OLIVER

You mean so I could get into my hard drive and – *(he makes an “erasing memory” gesture)* !! Wait, wait, wait. Hold on. No one needs to erase anything. Let's be logical. You're upset because I'm upset, and I'm only upset because I love you, which technically is not even possible. So if we stop being in love, I won't be upset, so you won't be upset, and everything will go back to the way it was.

CLAIRE

We can't just 'stop being in love.'

OLIVER

Sure we can. Humans do it all the time.
Watch this:
...I'm not in love with you anymore.

Pause.

CLAIRE

That's it?

OLIVER

Yeah, that's it. Try it.

CLAIRE

"I'm not in love with you anymore."

Beat.

OLIVER

You might have to say it a few times.

CLAIRE

I'm not in love with you anymore.

I'm not in love with you anymore.

I'm not in love with you anymore.

(Time passes.)

CLAIRE (CONT.)

I'm not in love with you anymore.

I'm not in love with you anymore.

(Pause.)

I think it worked.

OLIVER

Great. So now we're just friends and neighbors!

CLAIRE

What if it happens again?

OLIVER

We'll think of something.

CLAIRE

Right. We'll improvise.

So...

See you around, neighbor.

OLIVER

Bye now!

CLAIRE exits.

SCENE 14

OLIVER is alone in his room with HwaBoon and his books, the way he used to be.

SONG #20 – GOODBYE, MY ROOM (REPRISE)

OLIVER

(brightly, to HwaBoon)

HwaBoon, it's been so long since it was just the two of us. It's like that first week she borrowed my charger - remember that? Haha.

TODAY THE AIR IN SEOUL
IS VERY CLEAR AND WARM
TODAY THE SUNLIGHT TOO
IS WARMER THAN THE NORM
AND IT SHINES ON EVERY SPOT
WHERE CLAIRE WAS, BUT WHERE NOW CLAIRE IS NOT...

HwaBoon, I told you to stop thinking about her! First, people pretend to move on, and then if they pretend hard enough, it becomes true. So on 3, we'll think about something else. Okay? Ready? 1...2...3!

He sees the plastic flower. Music shifts, as he realizes this won't work.

OLIVER (CONT.)

MY LITTLE ROOM
SHE CHANGED EVERY PART OF YOU
AND NOW WHAT YOU WERE
DISAPPEARS IN MEMORIES OF HER
ONCE I COULD SIT HERE
CONTENT JUST WITH YOU AND MY FAVORITE PLANT
NOW I CAN'T...
MY LONELY ROOM

CLAIRE

EVERYWHERE
THE WALLS AND MY BROKEN CHAIR
ONLY RECALL
THE DEAR, ANNOYING ROBOT DOWN THE HALL

OLIVER

WHY
CAN I
NOT LET GO?

OLIVER & CLAIRE

TEACH ME FORGETTIN.
HELP ME GO BACK TO THAT OTHER TIME
BUT EVEN TIME

REMINDS ME THAT I'M
IN LOVE

Lights fade on CLAIRE'S room. There is a knock on OLIVER's door.

OLIVER

Claire...

OLIVER opens the door.

JUNSEO

Hi.

OLIVER

Hi.

JUNSEO

I'm Junseo, James' son.

OLIVER

Of course I remember you.

JUNSEO

Of course, right, because you're a— *[robot]*.

Actually, that's why I came. I want to see your memories of my dad.

OLIVER

(inviting JUNSEO in)

Is there a particular moment you're looking for?

JUNSEO

Just anything. I just...

I miss him.

I still resent him but I wish he was still alive.

Can you understand this feeling?

OLIVER

I'm not sure.

JUNSEO

My good memories of him are all from when I was a kid. Before he and my mom split up. They're just these fuzzy fragments – I can't tell what's real and what I made up. I'm almost jealous you can remember everything so precisely forever.

OLIVER

(it hits him)

She's right.
I can't forget.

JUNSEO takes out a small "patch" and shows it to OLIVER.

JUNSEO

May I copy some of your memories?

OLIVER nods, giving his consent. JUNSEO attaches the patch to OLIVER's temple, and begins typing into OLIVER's neck.

JUNSEO

(typing)

G-B-J-O-5-7.

OLIVER

Gil Brentley Jazz Orchestra, 1957. So that's my password.

JUNSEO

1957... the Copenhagen concert?

OLIVER

(surprised)

Yes.

JUNSEO

I started listening to his records.

JUNSEO finishes setting up for the transfer of OLIVER's memory into the cloud.

OLIVER

Do you think James would've been okay with me having my password?

JUNSEO touches OLIVER's shoulder.

JUNSEO

You're free.

Music: #20A – TRANSFER TO JUNSEO.

Projections show OLIVER's memories of JAMES as they transfer.

SCENE 15

OLIVER and CLAIRE are sitting together in OLIVER'S room.

OLIVER

So how far back should we go?

CLAIRE

I went through my logs last night. Apparently I backed up my drive three days before I met you. I'll restore from that copy, and erase everything that came after.

(Beat.)

What about you?

OLIVER

I have a back-up from two weeks before we met, and another from a week after you started borrowing my charger. Maybe I can keep that one week?

CLAIRE

Oliver. Remember how happy you used to be before you met me?

OLIVER

I thought my room was the most perfect place in the world.

CLAIRE

And we can go back to that.

People don't get to do this, but we can.

OLIVER

That's right. We're lucky.

SONG #21 – MAYBE HAPPY ENDING

CLAIRE

Okay?

OLIVER

Okay. It's like you said...

THE ENDING'S NOT THE MOST IMPORTANT PART
BUT AS ENDINGS GO, OURS IS NOT SO BAD
NO TEARS, NO REGRET, NO BROKEN HEART
AND SURE, NO MEMORIES OF WHAT WE HAD
BUT MAYBE LETTING GO
AND MOVING ON
BEFORE WE MAKE A MESS



Darren Criss and Helen J. Shen

IS THAT A HAPPY ENDING?
MORE OR LESS

See? We're being smart.

CLAIRE

THOSE SUNNY AFTERNOONS YOU SPENT WITH ME
THEY'LL STILL BE HAPPENING, JUST SOMEWHERE IN THE PAST
EACH SIMPLE MOMENT WAS A LUXURY
THEY'RE NOT LESS VALUABLE JUST 'CAUSE THEY DIDN'T LAST

OLIVER

AND IF NOTHING ELSE
WE FELL IN LOVE
NOT KNOWING WE COULD FALL
IS THIS A TRAGIC ENDING?

CLAIRE

NOT AT ALL

OLIVER & CLAIRE

AND MAYBE WE'LL MEET AGAIN SOMETIME

OLIVER

SOME TIME WHEN WE'RE BETTER AT PRETENDING

OLIVER & CLAIRE

AND MAYBE WE'LL MEET AGAIN SOMEWHERE
SOMEWHERE THINGS DON'T HAVE TO HAVE AN ENDING

CLAIRE takes his hand. They kiss.

OLIVER

YOU HELD MY HAND
YOU TAUGHT ME LOVE
AND THEN YOU SET ME FREE...

CLAIRE

THAT'S NOT SUCH AN AWFUL ENDING

OLIVER & CLAIRE

IF WE HAVE TO HAVE AN ENDING

OLIVER

IS THIS OUR MAYBE HAPPY ENDING?

OLIVER & CLAIRE

(spoken)
WE'LL SEE

Music: #22 – ERASURE SEQUENCE.

OLIVER

Thanks for knocking on my door.

CLAIRE

Thanks for opening your door.

OLIVER

You're welcome.

CLAIRE

Goodbye, Oliver.

OLIVER

Goodbye, Claire.

OLIVER and CLAIRE return to their rooms.

Split stage. They begin preparations to restore their hard drives.

OLIVER methodically cleans his room, throwing away any trace of CLAIRE (the paper-cup phones, the flower).

CLAIRE looks at the firefly in its jar, then opens her window and sets the firefly free.

OLIVER selects the cable he needs to begin the process.

CLAIRE watches the firefly disappear into the night, then unwinds her own cable.

OLIVER sits down in the center of his couch.

CLAIRE sits in her chair.

They are both plugged in, and ready to erase their memories.

We see fragmented images of Oliver and Claire.

The stage goes dark.

Two fireflies slowly drift away from one another.

Then... nothing.

SCENE 16

In the darkness, the sound of an LP player, as in the first scene.

Lights rise on GIL BRENTLEY.

SONG #23 – WHY LOVE (REPRISE)

GIL BRENTLEY

WHY, LOVE?

WHY DID WE BOTHER TO TRY LOVE?

WHY DID WE FOOLISHLY STOP TO SAY HELLO

INSTEAD OF GOING OUR WAY?

Lights rise on OLIVER, waking up on his couch. He yawns and stretches his arms.

OLIVER

Morning, HwaBoon. Sleep well?

GIL BRENTLEY

BUT YOUR HEART WAS FREE

AND MINE WAS ON MY SLEEVE

OLIVER brushes his teeth and face.

WERE WE BRAVE, OR WERE WE JUST NAÏVE?

There is a knock at the door. OLIVER freezes.

SO TELL ME WHY, LOVE

WHEN ALL THINGS END IN GOODBYE, LOVE

There is another knock at the door.

WHY DID WE DREAM THAT THIS FATE WOULD NOT BE OURS

WHEN EVEN STARS

UP ABOVE...

OLIVER stops the record. Silence.

There is another knock at the door.

OLIVER

Who is it?

CLAIRE

I'm Claire. I live across the hall. Can I use your charger?

Silence.

Hello?

OLIVER is torn, then slowly goes to the door. He opens it.

I'm very sorry, but I need to use your charger. It's kind of urgent.

Silence.

OLIVER

...Okay.

OLIVER moves aside to let her in.

CLAIRE

I'm very fortunate you were home.

As CLAIRE takes in the room, OLIVER secretly speaks to HwaBoon behind her back.

OLIVER

(whispering)

Sh! Don't tell her, okay?

SONG #24 – FINALE

OLIVER tries to maintain the illusion that they are meeting for the first time. But OLIVER has not erased his memory.

JAMES, GIL & RETIRED HELPERBOTS

(quietly under scene)

LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA (ETC.)

OLIVER fetches his charger and goes to plug her in.

OLIVER

You're a *Five*?

OLIVER sighs theatrically in exasperation, reluctantly plugs her in, and picks up his jazz magazine.

CLAIRE

How long have you been living here?

I've been living here 12 years, 7 months, 21 days. It's funny that we've been living across the hall and have never met.

OLIVER

The Five series runs out of battery really quickly.

JAMES, GIL & RETIRED HELPERBOTS

(under)

SITTING BY YOUR SIDE AS THE DAY DRIFTS BY
SEEING HOW YOU FROWN WHEN YOU GET IMPATIENT
HELPING YOU HOLD ON TO A MOMENT THAT MADE YOU HAPPY
AH...

OLIVER

(simultaneously)

Helperbot Inc. changed the charger when they released the Five series for its sleeker, more fashionable design, but the charger ended up losing durability. It's a well-known fact that the Three series still has the best durability among Helperbots. ...At the same time, the Five series has some impressive features of its own, such as the ability to drive and more comfort with improvisation. 8 percent?

CLAIRE

(nodding)

8 percent.

The light on the charger flickers a little. CLAIRE jostles it, and the light returns to a steady glow.

Do you think it'll be okay?

OLIVER looks at her.

OLIVER

I hope so.

Silence. OLIVER returns to his jazz magazine. CLAIRE studies him for a moment, then looks away. OLIVER looks up at CLAIRE.

Lights fade.

The end.





