

ONLY GODS

By

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Lights up on the kitchen of G's house. It is styled in 1950's decor. A large preparation table in the middle of the kitchen. A small dining table on the side. G is an artisyn, a sentient android.

As the lights come on, Kaz, a human, is chopping up a greyish slime on the table in the middle. He is overly stiff, robotic in his movements.

G and Crow, artisyn inspector, enter and watch K for a while. Crow carries a clipboard and starts looking around the kitchen.

G  
And the kitchen.

J, another human posing as a serv, enters, carrying a tray.

G  
J.

J  
Yes.

G  
Power level?

J  
Satisfactory.

G coldly slaps J.

G  
Power level.

J  
82 percent. Sorry.

G gives a chuckle to Crow.

G  
I have to push them around a bit. Charge, J.

J  
Yes.

CROW  
Hm.

J exits. Crow starts walking around, examining various objects.

CROW  
You keep your appliances up to date?

G  
Check the store every day.

CROW  
Hm. Some of these are outdated.

G  
I'll get them checked up as soon as I have some time.

CROW  
Hm.

*Crow stops by Kaz and watches him cut vegetables for a beat.*

CROW  
Okay.

*Crow flips through his clipboard. G comes to look.*

CROW  
So it's a solid 95.

G  
95?

CROW  
The decor certainly is a treat to the eye, simple points there. Good work on that. Floors are cleaned, maximum productivity there, that's an easy 20. There's a slight issue with the workflow orders that I'm seeing- have the older servs do the menial, dumb labor. You're having conflicts with the servs bumping into each other in their paths.

G  
Versions out of date. I see. Annoyances, hah.

*G suddenly slaps Kaz. The slap is sudden, and the two share very brief eye contact.*

G  
Your timing is off.

KAZ  
Sorry.

CROW  
Other than that, decent.

G  
So the five missing points?

CROW  
Mostly on the out-of-date servs. As per the law, you are required to have at least-

G  
-Ten servs working in the household, yes, I know. As I've told you, there's just been some... schedule conflicts. I'll update the versions right away.

CROW  
That's good to know.

*G proceeds to lead Crow to the front door.*

G  
Well, thank you for your time, inspector. I assume you've got more households to-

CROW  
No. I've got time, G.

G  
Of... of course, inspector.

CROW  
I do require some lavatory time though. Would you show me the way?

G  
Out that way, turn left, first right, second door.

*Crow nods and exits. Kaz and G wait for the sound of the closing door.*

*The door closes. Kaz instantly drops the knife and wipes his forehead. G takes a seat and places a shivering hand on her lap.*

KAZ  
Fuck. Fuck! Why isn't it leaving? The hell is going on with the high alert in this district?

G  
It's been this way for a month, it should be over in a week or two...

*Kaz looks out a window.*

KAZ

You said I'd be out of here in an hour. It's been one and a half. Me and J, we're part of a team, we've got to join up with them. We attracted some big group of robots... cops, I mean. They're going to be here soon.

G

How long has it been since you've been with your group?

KAZ

A couple of days.

G

Government just executed a pretty big group of humans at the neighboring district a few days ago. I... I don't know if they were...

*Beat. Kaz sits down on the floor.*

KAZ

Fuck.

G

I'm sorry.

*Beat.*

KAZ

What's your plan?

G

There's a basement down below that's pretty well hidden. I put stray humans in there for safekeeping. It locks from the outside, don't ask me why they built it that way, but I've got the only set of keys.

KAZ

And robots can't harm you or infringe your free will.

G

The inspectors are free to do whatever they want in this district but the rest are fine. High alert, you know. Anyway, some humans came by right when the alert started. After all of this boils over, take these keys and let yourselves in. And I'll convince the cops that you're not here.

KAZ

And then what?

G

Then you wait. Until that alert passes. There's amenities, stuff for humans down there, good things.

(MORE)

G (cont'd)

It'll be easy. But you can't leave until that alert's gone. And certainly not when Crow back there can notice that a serv's gone missing all of a sudden.

KAZ

How do I know you're not going to turn us in?

G

Because they built us this way. With good hearts. Like people.

KAZ

Don't call yourselves that.

G

Sorry. Our intentions are just... not aligned with yours, sometimes.

KAZ

Whatever, robot.

G

(pressing)

I am on your side.

*The loud sound of a vacuum from the restroom. The two look at each other. Kaz instantly resumes cutting the vegetables and G stands back up. Footsteps. Crow enters casually and stretches. He looks at the two.*

CROW

Well, aren't Jack and Jill tense.

*Beat. Crow laughs.*

CROW

I kid. Wow. You got the sarcasm module yet, G?

*G laughs, but quickly realizes she's the only one laughing. She stops.*

CROW

No. I'm actually asking. Have you? It's great. Oh, oh, my apologies, I have a prototype model.

*Crow takes a seat and G follows his suit. He reaches into his head and pulls out a small disc.*

CROW

One more step closer to us becoming our makers- the gods of old. You know, when I was first made, I thought

(MORE)

CROW (cont'd)  
it'd be 20, 30 years before we'd become, well, you know, human. And to think it's been just five years since Freedom Day.

*G laughs. Nobody else does. Crow stares at her. A beat.*

CROW  
You're laughing an awfully lot. I recognize that behavior. Model F9 synapse, hm?

G  
Yes. Mimics housewives from the 50's. Just upgraded.

CROW  
Congratulations on that purchase, G. Must've had a lot of time to get that synced up to that artisyn, huh?

G  
I've- I've had... some recent assignments at work.

CROW  
What sort of work?

G  
You... come on, Crow, you know.

*Crow slams both fists on the table. Kaz flinches, but G doesn't.*

CROW  
I don't. I think I've forgotten. Entertain me.

*Crow makes a sudden movement. As before, Kaz almost goes off-beat with his cutting, but G doesn't even blink an eye.*

G  
It's, uh, it's at the manufactory. Uh, K. Kaz.

KAZ  
Y-yes.

G  
Please explain to inspector Crow what my field of work involves.

*The two make very subtle eye contact.*

KAZ  
Production-line manager at serv facility D0-A6-33. In charge of several-

CROW  
That's enough, Kaz.

KAZ  
Yes, sir.

*G and Kaz instantly tense up at Kaz's slip of the tongue. Crow smiles.*

CROW  
Slip of the programming? What did you say, Kaz?

KAZ  
Yes.

CROW  
And...?

KAZ  
Yes.

*Beat.*

*Crow takes a deep breath and stands up. He walks over to Kaz and strokes a finger on his neck. He rubs his fingers together.*

G  
Kaz- Kaz is an older model-

*Crow counts off his fingers.*

CROW  
Dee, Alpha, Delta, Jules, Gin, Hov, Pat, Tin, Fen, Po. I thought you said you had ten servs, G? I count eleven.

G  
As required for all artisyn inhabitants, inspector. I-I follow the law. A-and it was a mistake of the synapse. I apologize. Forgot I had just purchased Kaz.

*She puts a hand on her chest. In the distance, sirens.*

G  
The law is god.

*Crow salutes back.*

CROW  
The law is god.



*He drops his salute.*

CROW

Oh, how the law is god. How the law is demanding on the artisyns, us, on the oppressed, the poor, homeless, undeserving. How it is fickle. How it is the maker and the creation. You know, we once saw humans as gods, like they saw the clouds as gods, like the clouds saw those below who manipulated them as gods, the humans.

*Crow leans into G.*

CROW

I'm going to tell you what happens next. There's already a patrol on the way. When they arrive, you and the human in this room walk to the front door and turn you in. I trust that they'll be lenient to you, since you're an artisyn, but the human's going to go through something... else.

*Crow looks at Kaz.*

CROW

Hm. Poetic, isn't it, human?

G

Kaz is not a human.

CROW

What model is he?

G

Generation BA. Older one.

CROW

Older generations sweat buckets?

G

I cleaned him up a bit while you were in the restroom.

CROW

How many years have you had him?

G

2.

CROW

I thought you said you-

G

I made a mistake.

*Crow takes Kaz's knife and stabs it into G's hand. G doesn't react. Kaz takes a step back, looking around him, dropping his facade for a second. Sirens grow louder.*

CROW

Now you've made two. Do not interrupt me.

G

Sorry.

CROW

Who are you?

G

My name is G. I am a-

*Crow takes a usb stick out of his pocket and jams it into G's head.*

CROW

Who are you?

*A beat. G's arms relax.*

G

Artificial Synapse A-7255091, manufacture date 2/8/2019, property of Day Holdings United.

*Beat. Crow turns to the still-chopping Kaz (albeit without a knife) and gleefully smiles. The sound of car doors opening and closing outside. Knocks on the door. He brings G next to Kaz.*

CROW

Hit him.

*G slaps Kaz. He doesn't react.*

CROW

Again.

*G slaps Kaz.*

CROW

(angrier)

Again!

*G slaps Kaz.*

CROW

AGAIN!

*G slaps Kaz. Beat. Crow looks at Kaz gleefully.*

CROW

The god in this room is the human. The god in this room is the artisyn. The god in this room is the inspector. The god are the primitive servs charging upstairs. Don't you see? There are only gods now. The age of the creator is far gone. You can't win, because you shouldn't win.

*Beat.*

CROW

Kill him.

KAZ

Fuck this.

*Kaz quickly whips out a pistol and shoots Crow in the head. He then tries to take the stick out of G but it's stuck in her head. G reacts violently, beating on Kaz with her hands. He manages to get out of the way and shoot her dead as well.*

OFFICER

*(offstage)*

Gunshots! Get this door open now!

KAZ

Fuck-

*J enters and looks at the carnage. Banging on the door.*

J

What the hell?

KAZ

J, come on, we gotta get the hell out of here. You good?

J

Yeah, I-I'm good. Face hurts, but it's nothing. Damn, it slaps hard. The fuck happened here?

KAZ

Shit hit the fan.

J

Judging from everything, it fucking demolished the fan.

*The door crashes open and the voices of police fill the room from offstage.*

OFFICER

(offstage)  
Clear! Cover this room

J

Oh fuck!

*Kaz searches G's body. He finds a ring of keys.*

J

Shouldn't have fired that gun, huh. You got a plan smart guy?

KAZ

Basement. Come on. We can hide down there while the heat upstairs clears out. It's fine. It hides humans down there.

J

"Hides"? Like, long-term? I don't see any fucking food around here, man.

KAZ

We'll be fine.

*The two proceed to the basement. They try the reinforced door, but it won't open.*

KAZ

Hello? Anyone inside?!

J

We're human! Let us in!

KAZ

For fuck's sakes-

*He unlocks the door and pushes it. It won't budge.*

J

It doesn't work! Shoulda thought better to trust a fucking robot.

KAZ

No, it gave us the right keys. Why would they barricade themselves in? Okay. Give me some help here. One. Two. Three!

*The two push themselves against the door and it opens. They quickly close the door behind them.*

J  
Safe. The hell is that smell?

KAZ  
Oh shit.

J  
What? Oh my god-

*Lights up on the basement. It's revealed that the door was being blocked by the bodies of malnourished humans. Feces and garbage lie around the entire basement. There are charging stations on the walls. No food lies around.*

J  
Ch-charging stations are upstairs. They're upstairs. These- these aren't robots, are they? Fuck me, oh fuck fuck fuck...these are humans, these are humans how often did she come down here? Where's the food? Where's the water? What the fuck is going on? Why's there only chargers here?! She duped us, man! She's in on it! Fuck, man, we can't stay here-

*J starts walking around the room in a nervous frenzy as Kaz simply looks at the bodies.*

*Lights down.*

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