**Contest:** Frictional Fan Jam: Summer Writing Jam

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**Theme:** Memory

**Game:** SOMA

**Messed Up Memory**

*I know it's not real, but I actually feel kind of queasy. Did everything go as planned? Catherine?*

*- We can’t just leave him like this! . . . What if he didn’t have to wake up? . . . You’d really do that? -*

(As the days went by at Omicron, Simon wakes up, puzzled on what just happened.)

**Simon:** Catherine is everything okay? W-Why am I still in the same body?

…

**Simon:** Catherine? Hello?

(Simon, finding no response, decides to get up from the chair and look around, during which he finds the Omnitool missing from the control panel.)

**Simon:** My head is killing me… How long have I been here? Where’s the Omnitool?

(Simon notices the suit is gone, and begins to picture an image of Simon3 exiting with Catherine, leaving him behind.)

**Simon:** No-no no, this is fucked! How could they just leave me here? So what now? Am I just going to rot here and die? The doors are locked! I can’t even go anywhere.

(Simon notices there are buttons on the control panel, in a desperate attempt to open a door that would be able to get him out, he mashes the buttons. An alarm starts going off, “Ascending in progress”, frightening Simon but unlocking the door leading to Omicron.)

**Simon:** Well… At least I won’t die stuck in here forever. What is there even to do? Catherine is gone, the ARK is probably still stuck down there in the abyss. What if other me never even got to the ARK?

(As Simon leaves the Diving room into the Medical Bay, he recalls Robot Girl chasing after him before Catherine locked the door.)

**Simon:** I sure hope she isn’t here…

(To Simon’s surprise, Robot Girl was not in the Medical Bay, but there are scratch marks on the walls leading to the Diving room. Simon, with nothing to do, decides to wonder around the station, eventually stumbling upon the Clean room, which has a shower inside. Peaking from the door to check if anyone’s inside.)

**Simon:** Huh… Well the dead body is gone. Wait… is that… Robot Girl?

**Robot Girl:** URGHH… THE SOAP BAR FELL AGAIN!!!

(As Simon spies on Robot Girl taking a shower, Robot Girl’s soap bar falls down on the ground, she decides to bend over and get it. Simon can’t handle the emotions going through his mind, with a feeling of shame sparking him looking at Robot Girl taking a shower, Simon gasps as he leans back over the wall covering his eyes.)

**Robot Girl:** HUH…?

(Simon, not knowing what to do, stays quiet behind the wall, Robot girl turns her head.)

**Robot Girl:** WHO’S THERE?

(As Robot Girl looks back, continuing to shower, Simon out of curiosity looks again, and mumbles to himself - )

**Simon:** Now that I think about it, she doesn’t look that different from Ashley. Is the structure gel getting to me? No… no, that’s not Ashley, Ashley is the not the type to shower hundreds of meters underwater inside of a crazy facility. But… She does resemble her a bit. I can remember the times I used to bring Ashley to cafes, and we used to talk about comic books, maybe I can invite Robot Girl for some coffee.

(Simon notices Robot Girl’s clothes are on a table to his left. Continuing to mumble - )

**Simon:** Hmm… I wonder if she wears similar clothes to Ashley.

(Simon sneaks to the table to try and get a look at her clothes, but right as he is about to take a look, Robot Girl decides to turn around. Simon quickly grabs the clothes and runs out of the clean room. Robot Girl makes her way out of the shower, looking for her clothes, but finds them nowhere.)

**Robot Girl:** AAAAARUGHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!

(As Robot Girl runs around the facility looking for her clothes, Simon heads back to the Medical Bay and inspects her clothes.)

**Simon:** Huh… I suppose these clothes are similar but they’re not as similar as I imagined.

(During Simon’s inspection, he hears Robot Girl, and tries to find a place to hide, but Robot Girl runs in and sees him with her clothes in his hands.)

**Robot Girl:** UAGRHHHH!! I KNEW SOMEONE HAD TAKEN THEM!

(Simon, panicking, drops the clothes and runs to the storage room right outside the second door of the Medical Bay. Cornered, and being chased by Robot Girl, he closes the door and accepts his fate. As Robot Girl picks up her clothes in her hand, and runs towards the storage room, opening it, she trips on a box and falls over on Simon. For a moment they both stare at each other, stunned.)

**Simon:** AHH! I thought you resembled Ashley!

**Robot Girl:** A…ASHLEY?

**Simon:** A-Ashley was my friend back in Toronto…

**Robot Girl:** SIMON?

**Simon:** W-WHAT?!

**Robot Girl:** I’M ASHLEY.

**Simon:** N-No… Munshi scanned you too?!

**Robot Girl:** I ENDED UP HERE ALONE AND SCARED - I HAD NOTHING TO DO BUT CRY! THE STUPID PATCHWORK MAN CONSTANTLY MADE FUN OF ME AND I DIDN’T WANT ANYONE TO DO THE SAME THING!

**Simon:** This is messed up, how?! How is any of this real?

(The sound of beeping snaps Simon out of his dream, alone at Phi.)

**Simon3:** No… That is too good to be true, but is it? After all I’ve seen? After all I’ve experienced? I have to make it back to Omicron, I would be the kind of person to do all of that.

(Simon3 takes the Omnitool and tries to get back to Tau so he can head back to the Climber. Luckily his Omnitool is still working with the security ciphers. Simon3 makes his way back to Tau through the dark and strong winds of the Abyss. Once back at Tau, Simon3 builds himself a stairs out of boxes found around, to reach the top of the broken ladder. Making his way over and back down to Yoshida’s floor. Simon3 hears Yoshida’s walking.)

**Simon3:** Not him again, I have to get passed him somehow.

(Simon3 decides to sneak passed Yoshida, but Yoshida hears him and runs towards him. Simon3 tries to run away from Yoshida but Yoshida is way too fast and catches up to Simon3, pulling him up by the neck, and sticking his tentacles on Simon3’s face.)

**Simon3:** U-Arg…

(Simon3, not knowing what to do, grabs Yoshida’s tentacles to get them off his face, causing Simon3’s arms to be covered in Yoshida’s sticky tentacle Structure Gel. Simon3 proceeds to kick Yoshida. Yoshida let’s go of Simon, falls down to the floor and leaks structure gel from his tentacles on the ground.)

**Yoshida:** GRAGHH!

(Simon3 makes a run for the airlock, and uses the Omnitool to activate it.)

**Simon3:** I can’t believe I made it out of there alive. But my hands are now all sticky…

(Simon3 makes his way to the Climber using the lights, yet he does not find a way to access the Climber. He looks around the chamber of the Climber and sees an “Ascend” option on the climber, yet plugging the Omnitool in and using the Climber on that option does not work. Suddenly, the Climber starts going upwards.)

**Simon3:** Huh, I haven’t even clicked the button that time.

(Simon3 makes his way up to Omicron’s platform, opening the airlock to Omicron, not knowing what to expect. To his belief, Simon2 is gone.)

**Simon3:** I guess there’s only one way to find out if it’s true.

(Simon3 heads to Omicron’s storage room where he sees Robot Girl on top of Simon2)

**Robot Girl:** I ENDED UP HERE ALONE AND SCARED - I HAD NOTHING TO DO BUT CRY! THE STUPID PATCHWORK MAN CONSTANTLY MADE FUN OF ME AND I DIDN’T WANT ANYONE TO DO THE SAME THING!

**Simon:** This is messed up, how?! How is any of this real?

(Simon2 and Robot Girl quickly notice the presence of Simon3)

**Simon2:** Wait… Is that… Me?

**Simon3:** As I expected.

**Robot Girl:** WHAT?!

**Simon2:** I can’t believe you left me here Simon!

**Robot Girl:** IS THAT… STRUCTURE GEL?!

**Simon3:** W-Wha!

(Robot Girl launches at Simon3, sticking her face on Simon3’s hands as they’re covered in Yoshida’s tentacle sticky Structure Gel.)

**Robot Girl:** Augh!!! AAAAh!

**Simon3:** Let go!

**Robot Girl:** I NEED THIS STRUCTURE GEL!

**Simon3:** But it came from a tentacle monster’s sticky tentacles!

**Robot Girl:** I NEED IT!

(Robot Girl hasn’t proceeded to wear her clothes yet. Simon2 and Simon3 are starting to get nervous. Robot Girl decides that the Structure Gel on her face wouldn’t be enough and moves Simon3’s hands all over her body to cover her up in Structure Gel.)

**Robot Girl:** I NEED MORE!

(Simon3 has finally had enough and starts backing off from Robot Girl, he is still not sure if he’s ready to be this close to “Ashley” yet. Would “Ashley” really stick her face in sticky Yoshida tentacle Structure Gel? Luckily for Simon, his arms barely had any Structure Gel left on them, and Robot Girl let go.)

**Simon3:** Are you really Ashley? The Ashley I recall does not go crazy for Structure Gel.

**Robot Girl:** DON’T YOU REMEMBER SIMON? THE TIMES WE USED TO HANG OUT OUTSIDE YOUR WORKPLACE? “THE GRIMOIRE”? WE TOOK A PHOTO OUTSIDE IT, RIGHT AFTER YOU FINISHED WORKING AND I CAME TO PICK YOU UP.

**Simon3:** You really are Ashley then. What do you say we grab some Structure Gel and talk over it in the Dining Room?

(Simon2 notices someone behind Simon3.)

**Simon2:** Simon… Who is that behind you?

**Simon3:** What?

(As Simon looks behind himself, Munshi appears, and Simon starts getting a grip on reality, it was all just a dream.)

**Munshi:** So how was the scan?

**Simon:** W-What?! What’s going on?

**Munshi:** It has side effects that I forgot to mention.

**Simon:** No-no, this is messed up!

**Munshi:** So how about we grab some coffee? Have it be all just one messed up memory of the past? I mean, you have just asked me to hang out with you in some Dining Room, Structure Gel? Whatever that was.

**Simon:** Munshi this is messed up, I would have never taken this scan if it meant for this.

**Munshi:** Come on, lighten up a little, it’s all over.

**Simon:** This is an awful fucking thing, I better hope your treatment works.

**Munshi:** Let’s get going.

**THE END**