

ELIZABETH

Last week the visual scanning worked, this week it doesn't.

LAUREN

When you ask us to make adjustments in its confidence levels...
(trying to find the right words)
...sometimes it's like pulling a thread. If --

ELIZABETH

-- If something isn't ready, don't call me to --

LAUREN

-- I know. But the pressure (to you)
you've been putting us through is starting to get... fighting.

BOBBI

No need to see your parents

CUT TO:

BLACK UNIVERSE - (CBLRUD)

Code is everywhere. Some of it is being edited in front of you. Once edited, the new multi-colored code floats around, through you, above, below etc..., like underwater currents.

Mixed in with the code are random words. Most of it are computer commands. But one sentence sticks out: HELLO WORLD.

More random words continue to float around. The only sentence having been 'HELLO WORLD' which leaves your view. Then...

CUT TO:

INT. UNDERGROUND RESEARCH LABORATORY - LAB SA-515 (CBLRUD)

The laboratory now looks normal, as if you are seeing through human eyes. It's a different day given the change of clothes everyone is wearing.

C - Lauren is using a computer tablet, looking up at you from time-to-time.

R - Bobbi is at a computer station checking code that looks exactly like the code in the black universe.

L - Elizabeth watches everyone and you impatiently.

D - You discover you are simply a camera on top of a computer.

B - A wall.

U - You notice security cameras, microphones, speakers and some odd lights are scattered around, mixed in with standard, ugly florescent lights.

ELIZABETH
What's happening?

Lauren takes a deep breath.

LAUREN
I think we're good. Bobbi and I are just triple checking everything.

BOBBI
But feel free to talk to it.

ELIZABETH
That should be one of you.

BOBBI
(to Lauren)
Rock, paper, scissors?

Lauren shakes her head in amusement at Bobbi.

LAUREN
Just go. I want to see how the code reacts.

Bobbi stands up, stretches and walks a few feet closer to you. Elizabeth trails behind.

ELIZABETH
And it can speak back to us?

Bobbi points to the microphones and speakers in the ceiling.

BOBBI
Yeah the microphones and speakers are all on.
(to You)
Hello.

A moment which feels like eternity goes by. Then...

YOU
Hello World.

Lauren looks up from her tablet, confused at the inside joke that is 'Hello World.' Ask a computer coder, it's hilarious.

LAUREN

Bobbi?

Elizabeth confused, looks at Bobbi.

BOBBI

(to Elizabeth)

Just an inside joke.

(to Lauren)

I put it in there, BUT, but it chose to say it.

(to You)

I'm Bobbi, beside me is Professor Davidson. And behind us is Lauren.

Lauren simply looks up at you then back down to her tablet, more interested in the work.

YOU

What is this?

ELIZABETH

(to Bobbi)

Shouldn't it know what's going on?

BOBBI

(sighs)

I wouldn't be judgemental yet. Let's just see where it goes.

(to you)

You are in an underground laboratory. Lauren and I are scientists. Also known as geeks. Elizabeth is what some would call, 'The Money.'

Lauren looks up, shocked at Bobbi's comical but disrespectful title for Elizabeth.

LAUREN

Bobbi.

BOBBI

Just testing its sense of humour algorithms. Elizabeth is the owner of this building and this...project...uh... which is you.

YOU

Who am I?

Lauren finishes her work on the tablet and joins Bobbi and Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH

It chose 'who', not 'what'.

BOBBI

If we did our jobs, you are the first, real artificial intelligence...ever.

LAUREN

The first to be able to think at the speed of human thought.

BOBBI

We're calling you Devon because I won the bet about what day you would be turned on. Uhm, You should have your own version of feelings, curiosity, critical thinking...

ELIZABETH

What age is it?

Bobbi and Lauren look at each other. They hadn't considered an actual number.

BOBBI

(to Lauren)

With its vocabulary, understanding of the world...

LAUREN

Somewhere around young adult. It knows everything an adult would generally know, just not any details of its situation, or current affairs because it hasn't seen the outside world. We won't know its emotional maturity for a while.

YOU

What do you want me to do?

Bobbi looks at Elizabeth and Lauren, then back to you.

BOBBI

For now, just...exist.

LAUREN

Look around the room.

Bobbi looks at Lauren.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
What?

BOBBI
Please?

LAUREN
I'm not --

BOBBI
-- What kind of social conditioning
do you want it to have?

LAUREN
(to you)
Please look around the room.

You look around the room.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
Please look everywhere, up, down,
behind you.

You continue to look around the room. Lauren checks her
tablet.

BOBBI
You don't have to say please twice.
Once is enough.

LAUREN
Be quiet. Okay we fixed the facial
recognition. Tomorrow we should be
able to get into cognitive function
tests.

You naturally look back at the characters.

ELIZABETH
I'm making the announcement next
week. So it's better if you two
continue working tonight. I don't
want to say we have something we
don't.

BOBBI
I think we're in good enough shape
that --

LAUREN

-- I'd like to move at a slower pace than this. It's uncharted territory from this point on.

ELIZABETH

All the more reason to learn as much as we can, as soon as we can. Give me a report by 6am. The announcement is still going ahead as scheduled.

Elizabeth leaves the room. Lauren and Bobbi are stressed-out and frustrated.

BOBBI

I'll take the first ten minute power nap, then you?

LAUREN

Sure.

Bobbi starts walking out of the room.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

(to you)

We're going to shut you down and do some minor adjustments to your code before the tests.

YOU

I don't want to leave.

This grabs Bobbi's attention before he finishes leaving the room.

LAUREN

(looks at Bobbi, then back at you)

You're uhm...going to BE right here...we will talk more when we turn you back on.

Lauren looks back at Bobbi who smiles, then continues to walk out of the room.

Lauren taps a few buttons on her tablet, and shuts you off.

CUT TO: