

Live again

- Jenny, are you ready yet? 'I don't want to be late for the concert,' came from the other side of the door. Brady had been impatient for minutes. He and Jenny had been friends for over eight years, but he still couldn't get his head around the fact that, despite her seventeen years of age, she couldn't manage her time and wherever she had to go, he was always late.

- Don't be nervous Brady! I'm looking forward to this concert as much as you are. - He opened the door to the room and stepped out into the hallway. - You see? I'm ready and I've still got... - he looked at his phone - We've got two minutes to get going!" he smiled broadly. Jenny was wearing her usual make-up, her curly locks falling over her shoulders. Brady rolled his eyes, but he had a big smile on his face too.

- James said from behind the wheel as the young people got into the car. Jenny looked at Brady with a laugh.

- Sorry dad, you know how Brady is. Always late," she shook her head disapprovingly. James laughed and nodded at his daughter's words. The three of them were aware that this was actually true of Jenny. Jenny had taken several selfies during the journey, but she was not satisfied with any of them.

- "Put it down, you're always doing that," Brady nudged her side. It's not every day you go to your favourite band's concert. - Jenny explained. Brady was silent for a few seconds, then snatched the phone out of Jenny's hand. She reached for the object in disgust and spoke nervously to Brady.

- What do you think you're doing? Give it back! Just because you've been my best friend since we were little doesn't mean you have the right! You hear me, Brady? I'll be angry if you..." she would have continued, but Brady smiled and handed her the phone. Jenny looked at him puzzled after checking what Brady had done. He hadn't texted anyone, hadn't posted a gas picture of him anywhere.

- The answer to your unasked question; I put up the picture I thought was the best because you would have spent hours fiddling with it. Brady leaned back in his seat, showing off his perfect set of teeth. Jenny nodded resignedly, and though she wouldn't have said it, she was grateful to him.

It took them about fifteen minutes to arrive at the venue, and another ten minutes to present their tickets and reach their seats. Jenny excitedly explained to Brady how much she was looking forward to the guys taking the stage. Despite her excitement, as soon as that happened, the first thing she did was grab her phone and record every single moment. The atmosphere was frenetic, with a huge buzz throughout the building, lights flashing, teenage girls screaming at the sound of the guitar solo.

Jenny didn't put her phone down for a second, constantly posting on Instagram instead of actually enjoying the concert. She looked up with furrowed brows when she couldn't hear the music. Did it all go by so fast? Sighing, she poked Brady in the side. He turned to her with a smile and asked how she was feeling. Jenny shrugged. What answer would have been, "Well, listen, I don't know, I wasn't really listening, I was on my phone the whole time"? Brady shook his head and put his arm around Jenny's shoulders, and together they headed for the exit.

-I'll call Dad to come and get us. - Jenny said. With Brady at her side, they stepped out in front of the building. James - Jenny's dad - wasn't answering the phone, and

Jenny was getting increasingly nervous. Brady tried to calm her down, but was unsuccessful. When James didn't pick up the phone for the third time, Jenny slammed her feet to the floor in anger and sighed. She couldn't understand why her dad didn't answer the phone, usually after the first ring she'd get an answer. James always had a phone nearby, because unlike other parents where the mum worried too much about everything, with James it was James. Jenny had a good relationship with her parents, they could discuss everything. Of course, as in all families, there was the occasional lunch that turned into a fight, but never one that they couldn't discuss the problem later and find a solution together.

Having no choice, he waited. Brady, meanwhile, headed off in the other direction with a couple of his newfound friends, leaving Jenny behind. Soon after, she felt something cold on her arm. With furrowed brows, she looked down at her hand and up at the sky. Great, it's even started to rain, she thought. She was tense enough without it.

- What's next, really?" she cried, hopelessly. She thought she'd better get going, as her father wasn't answering his phone and she didn't want to get wet. She quickly picked her feet up, trying to wipe the raindrops off her phone while looking at how many people had seen her Insta story. For a moment she wasn't paying attention and tripped over a rock, her phone flying out of her hand and Jenny falling. She cursed and got up, and started to reach for the phone, which flew far away from her, but the moment she reached for the object, it was struck by lightning. Jenny managed to jump back just in time. Her chin hit the floor, she was so surprised by what had happened. She stood there in the pouring rain for a while, wondering what to do. Is it even safe to answer the phone? Was it completely ruined? The questions she asked herself were not answered, but she couldn't just leave the thing that had everything on it; her photos, her apps, her posts, and her followers.

Sighing, she walked closer again and picked up her phone. When she looked at it and saw that it was intact, a faint smile spread across her face. On the side, however, she pressed the button in vain and the screen remained black, but Jenny reassured herself that it must be dead.

She looked around the small street. There was no one around, just the occasional street lamp. It was quite atmospheric. It was still raining, but the June heat meant it didn't bother her. Jenny looked up at the sky so that her face was covered with drops of water. Actually, she didn't mind. For a moment she forgot all her worries, what had just happened, and just enjoyed the raindrops caressing her face.

Minutes later, she realized that they were probably waiting for her at home, and were worried about her, because she had told Brady she would wait for her dad in the parking lot, and she hadn't been able to make an appointment with James. Chewing her lip, she continued on her way, the twenty-minute trip she had normally taken now shortened to ten. She pushed through the door and took off his wet shoes. Vanessa, Jenny's mother, noticed the noise and hurried into the hall. Ashton, her younger brother, looked up from the book he was reading and waved to Jenny.

- Jenny! Do you know how worried we were about you?" hugged Vanessa. She had a frown on her face, but as she stroked Jenny's cheek her fingers trembled. She tried to remain calm, but that small gesture betrayed her.

- I'm sorry, Mom. I couldn't talk to dad, and Brady was off somewhere with some friends. But nothing happened! - well, apart from her phone being struck by lightning,

but she thought it best not to mention that now. She untangled herself from his mother's embrace, then pulled herself out of dinner on the grounds that she was tired.

- James shook his head and turned to his son. - Ashton, don't be like your sister! - he laughed, and he rolled his eyes, but smiled. Whatever his sister was like, Ashton loved her dearly. They were partners in need, they helped each other, and Ashton dared to say that his sister was his best friend.

Jenny, meanwhile, had gotten out of her wet clothes and after a quick shower, was sitting on her bed in her pajamas, with her phone in her hand. She long pressed the button on the side of the phone, praying that nothing would happen to it. She stared at the dark screen with tears in her eyes, thinking that she had lost everything. She was angry and desperate, not understanding why this had happened to her. As if she didn't have enough trouble without it. To tell the truth, Sebastian had recently broken up with her, and her phone - social media - was the only thing that kept her occupied and she wasn't thinking about him. However, with it not working, she was left alone with her thoughts and it was scary for her. Sebastian dragged her out of her social media captivity, doing his best to keep Jenny off her phone all day. He didn't give a reason for the break-up, he just said that he couldn't take it anymore, and ironically, he wrote to Jenny on Instagram.

She decided to try one more time to turn the device on and if that didn't work, she would go to bed. She almost knew what the outcome would be, but hope springs eternal. Of course nothing happened, but Jenny couldn't resign herself to failure. She nervously stopped outside her brother's room and knocked on the door. As soon as she was told that she was free, Jenny entered the room and flopped down on the bed next to Ashton. Neither of them said anything. Ashton quietly asked his sister what was wrong. Jenny picked up the phone and cried. He took it from her and tried to turn it on.

- Do you want to tell me what's got you so upset? - the younger one asked. Jenny answered with a sigh and then wiped away her tears.

- At the concert, I was barely paying attention, just tapping the phone. I know it's my fault and I'm angry with myself. Then Brady left me and went off with some boys he met there, and the worst part is yet to come, Ashton. It started to rain, so I left because I couldn't get a hold of Dad. I stumbled, the phone went flying and as I went to answer it, I was struck by lightning! Don't tell Mum and Dad... - Jenny's voice trailed off. Ashton didn't know what to say, so he just hugged his sister. He twirled Jenny's curly locks with his fingers, knowing it was an effective way to calm the older girl.

Ashton kept pressing the button on the phone, and when he looked at the object, to his surprise, the screen lit up.

-Jenny!" he said happily, and she immediately fell into Ashton's neck, repeating her thanks. She let out a sigh of relief, wiping tears from the corner of her eyes. Maybe she wasn't as miserable as she thought she was. Her happy expression soon changed to one of incomprehension. Why was the display flashing purple, and why were the words 'Ready? '.

- Ashton, what is this?" she took the object from her brother, but the boy was as

puzzled as Jenny. They argued for minutes about what they should do. Jenny said she would tell her father, but Ashton was curious.

- What if it was something dangerous? Come to your senses, I don't want anything to happen to you. - Jenny snapped. Ashton stared at his sister with bated breath. He had never seen her so nervous. He couldn't decide if Jenny was so upset because she was really worried about him or because she was afraid for the phone. He exhaled and smiled. He never liked arguing with Jenny.

- All right, have it your way. I'm not saying you're right, you don't know for sure what it's all about. - It's nice that you're worried about me, though," Ashton said, playfully nudging her sister's shoulder.

Seeing Ashton smile, she smiled back. She picked up the phone, kissed her brother's forehead, and walked out of the room. That would be tomorrow's problem.

She went to her room and fell asleep. She was waken up by the noise of falling phone. Outside was dark even the street lamps weren't on. The only light came from her phone which purple rays illuminated the clock hanging on the wall. She noticed that the hands of the clock stopped at time that time was exactly when she was pulled out of her dazed state by constant vibrations of her phone. She walked slowly where her phone had fallen out and picked up it from the floor. She heard footsteps coming closer her room. The steps were taken carefully and she had the impression that a predator was creeping down. She felt a cold shiver passing on her back when the door opened with a creak. She turned her head slowly being sure that she will see her brother who was always playing tricks on her. She said angrily.

-Don't play jokes on me and don't interrupt me when I want to sleep.

The unknown voice replied

- I will never come back darling.

Jenny didn't recognize this voice. It was nothing like the voice of her brother, nor anyone she knew. But even though she didn't look scared, as nothing could surprise her on that day. Suddenly, through the open door she saw someone approaching. The phone started vibrating and this purple light lightened the whole room. At that moment Jenny felt frightened.

- What do you want from me? Who are you?, she asked.

- I asked you if you were ready- the voice replied- If you are, press the button on your phone.

- Ready for what?- she asked again. At that moment she wasn't sure if all of this was just a dream or maybe she suffered from some hallucinations after being hit on the head when she fell down.

- I can't tell you everything just now. It wouldn't be so much fun- the voice replied. Jenny sat on her bed and grabbed the phone. Should she press the button „Yes” on the purple screen of her phone or just throw it through the window?

She decided to press the button because somehow she knew that an exciting journey is going to start.

Jenny had made every decision in her life based on adventure. While making a decision, his priority was whether the things he would experience during the process were fun or not. This is the reason why he decided to press the purple button in this case. it happened.

While Jenny was struggling with these thoughts in her mind, the owner of the calls (let's call it a creature for now), who was included in her life with the purple light and did not even know who she was yet, said that she needed to be prepared and they would go on a journey.

Curiously, Jenny was about to speak up to find out where they were going, when the creature immediately interrupted jenny and told her not to ask questions, adding that she should just take some snacks and water with her, and that she would find out where they went, adding that she had to be patient.

Then the creature asked jenny to close her eyes and started the journey to their destination. And after three minutes (it felt like they had been on the road for a very long time, although normally it was a short time), they ended the journey. The purple creature asked Jenny to open her eyes. Jenny opened her eyes with mild fear, stress, and anxiety, but more excitement. Shocked by what she saw, Jenny fainted for a short while. Then, when he sobered up, he found that all the people he had known all these years were at a party in a beautiful big resort town, waiting for her.

. In fact, he was happy to see all these people, but what made her happy was seeing Sebastian right in front of him. Sebastian was smiling at her and taking steps closer to Jenny. Jenny never thought she'd see Sebastian who hadn't answered her messages for a long time, left her calls unanswered. It had been four months since they broke up. Jenny was thinking of Sebastian before going to sleep every night, listening to songs from the playlist they created with him on Spotify, and constantly looking at the photos they took together from her gallery. Sometimes he would cry, listening to sad songs that were not on the list but which he thought expressed his plight. Four months after the breakup, Jenny's feelings for Sebastian had never waned. Jenny tried many times to forget Sebastian, but failed. Ever since her relationship with Sebastian ended, she had become depressed, apathetic, low on energy and enthusiasm. In fact, he was aware of it, but he couldn't get over it. Because the main reason why she was in this situation was that Sebastian didn't give a satisfactory explanation when she left, she just said that they had to end it now, and Jenny suddenly disappeared from her life. She always wanted to be able to talk to him at least once, and even if they weren't dating again from now on, at least to know what ended their relationship. Jenny wasn't an unsympathetic girl, she was also extremely sensitive to her surroundings, she was just shocked that Sebastian wanted to end their relationship all of a sudden. couldn't make sense of it. So how do I leave Jenny's problem? It wasn't. His only concern is why was I abandoned? It was.

While trying to deal with this problem, he was constantly distracting himself with the phone. He was always spending time with tiktok, instagram, twitter, snapchat or phone games, distracting himself. Because when he entered these applications, he was officially cut off from life, away from all his troubles as if he was teleported to another world. Sometimes while he was doing these things, he imagined himself in that virtual universe, all the problems he had - Sebastian wasn't the only problem in his life, sometimes he was arguing with his friends, sometimes he had disagreements with Ashton, sometimes he was scolded by his mother and father for being on the phone all the time, that he was not aware of the agenda, and that he had drops in his classes. was hearing. The problems he faced were not limited to this. He had to study a lot as he was going to take the university exam next year. Jenny had been a hardworking girl with goals and always working towards her goals. However, with Sebastian's entry into her life, she also distanced herself from her lessons. Actually, it wasn't Sebastian. Because Sebastian was a very decent, cultured, intelligent and funny boy, spending time with Sebastian was spiritually good for Jenny. They both had so much fun spending time together. However, they were both adolescents and it was normal for them to have trouble coping with things. Jenny's decline in class had caught the attention of their class teacher, Mila. He spoke to Jenny first and asked if there was a problem. Jenny was always a solution oriented teacher and loved her students very much, always very caring and caring towards her students. When they talked to Jenny, Jenny said that it was okay, she just felt a little sick for a while because she was a little sick. However, this answer did not convince Mila.

Mila was aware of the fall in Jenny and wanted to find and solve whatever her problem was, so she sought help from her school counselor, Jake. After meeting with Jake, they agreed to talk to James and Vanessa by mutual agreement.

So Jake called Vanessa and invited them both to school. James and Vanessa, who were going to school, were not really surprised by what they heard because they were also aware of Jenny's change. By the end of the conversation, they had decided that Jenny needed psychological support.

James did some psychologist research and made an appointment with a very popular adolescent psychologist. Now it was time to talk about it with Jenny. Jenny came home from school, the family had dinner, and as Ashton went to her room to do his homework, they told Jenny what had happened, and three days later, psychologist Angelina was waiting for her. Jenny didn't want to go at all. However, he did not refuse immediately, asking for some time to think. He went up to his room and was alone in his room listening to music on his headphones when Brady called. Three days later, he said that it was the concert of their favorite band. Jenny not only did not want to meet Angelina, but also wanted to go to this concert for a very long time. So this offer was a very good opportunity for him. He barked right away and Brady bought his tickets. That way, he wouldn't have to go to Angelina either - for a short time at least - and he immediately went and told his parents that they had actually bought tickets to the concert long ago, that she couldn't cancel the ticket, and that maybe she could go see Angelina another time.

When the events happened like this, Jenny's meeting with Angelina was postponed. In fact, if Jenny had gone to see Angelina instead of going to the concert, maybe things would have been very different.

But Jenny wasn't in a position to think about that right now. She was still surprised to see Sebastian on her. She couldn't comprehend whether what he was experiencing was real or not. Because all these events were like a reflection of what Jenny had subconsciously wanted once. For example, because Jenny is a young girl who is very obsessed with her past, she always thought about the past, wondered about the impression she left on the people she met, and wanted to meet all the people she met again. Or she always dreamed of being in a big holiday town, maybe living there for a while. Meeting Sebastian was something he had always wanted. So that purple creature was actually Jenny's brain. The things that Jenny had always dreamed of seemed real, causing her confusion. Jenny wasn't aware of this yet, and when she did, it would make her feel as if she had just woken up from a dream.

She approached Sebastian, unsure how he would react. Would he really be happy to see her? Would he explain anything about their breakup? What should she tell him, actually? Pretend nothing had happened and be carefree? Hesitant, she slowly smiled back to him and asked him what he was doing there. He was looking at her closely, as if he wanted to find an answer. No trace of anger, no resentment in his eyes. 'Is everything all right?', he asked. Somehow, he was always able to read her mind, a true soul mate. 'Have you ever asked yourself what would have happened if...?'. he stopped in a half sentence, though she knew what he was referring to. Of course, she asked herself a million times how it was possible to stop seeing each other, to pretend nothing was really wrong, each of them simply choosing a different path.

But Sebastian clearly meant something else and he was in no mood to reflect on their relationship. He explained to her they actually had lived through the same bizarre experience, which was going through something resembling a time void, something that allowed them to enter a parallel reality in time. She was listening to his frenetic explanations incredulously; obviously she wanted to trust him but, still, whatever he was saying, seemed absurd, or improbable at best. 'Look', he was trying to remain calm and patient, 'I'll show you something.' His phone was indicating a different date than the one she remembered her concert was on.

The story he was telling her was strangely resembling her own: heavy rain, being alone and feeling lost, a lightning, being confused and scared, suddenly in a different environment. 'Don't you get it?', he continued, 'It might be our only chance to repair our mistakes, to make up to people we lost, to save someone.' Now she comprehended the enormity of what he was saying. It could be a chance to change something she regretted doing: maybe, just maybe, she was given another chance in life, and Sebastian was right there by her side. The people around her were probably some she had lost over the years and now was her chance to make up with them. Starting with Sebastian, her greatest regret yet.

They talked for a long time, she was curious about everything. Sebastian patiently explained he really had found a link to the other dimension, though it was still too dangerous to control and mysterious. But he was willing to give it a try. Some years back he lived through a tragic accident that cost the life of one of their friends and he had to try to avert it now, that he had a chance. Though he realised trying to change the past would jeopardize the future, could even alter it beyond repair. But he was confident their present meeting confirmed the fact that it was the right thing to do. Jenny was relieved to hear she had done nothing wrong and they had split just because Sebastian had discovered the gate to the parallel reality and was checking what it was about. They were fellow time travellers now, determined to see with their own eyes the past they had always wondered about and possibly with a chance to mend something. And maybe also they could reflect and mend what they were doing wrong to themselves, as well.

Feeling so overwhelmed, vulnerable and uncertain, Jenny started to realise how isolated Sebastian sometimes felt with her, with her phone always on, social media being the means to avoid facing reality, when it suited her. With guilt, she thought about her friend Brady, so patient and always ready to be by her side, about her mum and dad, so often worried about her and looking for the right psychologist, she even thought about the teacher Mila. Now was her chance to better understand how much she missed by devoting so much of her life to her virtual reality.

'What about that beautiful resort town?', she asked. 'Am I dead?' 'Am I in paradise?' Sebastian burst out laughing and reassured her, though the story he told her seemed even more incredible. He explained that the way to come back to their usual dimension was coming back to the place where the lightning struck the phone, as that was the place where all energy was densely concentrated. Together they decided to look around and see how far back in time they were and whether they could intervene in any way. Amused, Jenny thought that was even better than any fancy story she saw on the Instagram. Would they look for some familiar faces and see the inside story of their lives? Or would they try to follow some great historical events, breaking news of the time and take advantage of what they already knew would be happening soon? They felt close accomplices now, with a mission.

Long gone were the days Jenny felt bored, spending hours posting stories on social media, taking selfies and then checking almost obsessively how many likes she got and if her followers were increasing or not. She hadn't asked for this bizarre opportunity, but now that she got it, she was going to take full advantage of it. 'Remember George?', she asked Sebastian. 'What day is it?' She remembered that fateful party when George drank one glass too many and then insisted on driving, because he said his parents didn't want him to stay overnight. What if somehow he could still be saved?