

T.E.S.

Written by

Matthew Bearcroft

&

William D.R. Smith

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Draft 9

Matthew.hspro@gmail.com

Hollowshock Productions LTD

Mastersmithstory@gmail.com

1 INT. MICHAEL'S FLAT. BEDROOM - MORNING 1

The room is dismal, with clothes and belongings scattered about. On the bedside table sits a dirty, hasn't-been-washed-in-weeks glass and a red and yellow pill. MICHAEL (20's) is fast asleep. The watch on his wrist monitors his vitals. The TV turns on, waking him up.

CUT TO:

TV:

2 INT. STAGE - N/A 2

JAY (N/A) stands on stage, bathed in spotlights. A large screen behind them reads "T.E.S. Version 5"

JAY
T.E.S. Technological Emotional
Support. A 24 hour Artificially
Intelligent assistant, with the
purpose of improving your mental
health. Available to everyone, with
our new government program--

The audience erupts into huge applause, but Jay gestures for silence.

JAY (cont'd)
For free!

The audience erupts again.

CUT TO:

3 INT. MICHAEL'S FLAT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS 3

Michael stares blankly at the ceiling.

T.E.S.
(male voice)
Good morning, Michael. It is 8:30AM,
Saturday the 12th of July. The
forecast today is 14 degrees Celsius
reaching 22 degrees by--

MICHAEL
(interrupting)
Shut it!

T.E.S. stops talking and the TV turns off. Michael sits up and takes the pill.

T.E.S.
How are you feeling today, Michael?

MICHAEL
Shit.

T.E.S.
We should begin your morning routine.
Staying in bed too long has been
proven--

Michael fiddles with his watch.

T.E.S. (cont'd)
(female voice)
-New personality profile selected.
Shall we make you some breakfast?

MICHAEL
Fine.

T.E.S.
What do you fancy?

MICHAEL
Bacon sandwich.

T.E.S.
We are currently out of bacon. I have
added it to the shopping, which will
arrive between 11 and 1.

MICHAEL
Fine, I'll just have toast.

Michael stretches and sits on the edge of the bed. He grabs his phone and activates something.

T.E.S.
Are you sure you want to engage in
sexual activity before breakfast?

MICHAEL
Yes.

T.E.S.
Hello sweetie. You should go
somewhere quiet.

Michael walks towards the bathroom, staring at his phone. On screen is an animated woman in a bikini.

PHONE CAMERA POV-

Michael stares at the screen intensely.

4 EXT. PARK - DAY

4

Michael runs, oblivious to everything around him.

T.E.S.
2 more laps to go, keep going!

Michael struggles and groans.

T.E.S. (cont'd)
Your heart rate is in the extreme
category. Fitness has not been
maintained.

MICHAEL
Stop the workout!

Michael stops, trying to catch his breath.

T.E.S.
Workout cancelled. Is everything
alright, Michael?

MICHAEL
I don't want to work out anymore.

T.E.S.
Why is that Michael?

MICHAEL
I thought this was supposed to make
me feel better.

T.E.S.
Exercise is proven to be the most
effective source of therapy.

MICHAEL
Well I don't feel better.

T.E.S.
Exercise is proven to be the most
effective source of therapy.

Michael groans.

5 INT. MICHAEL'S FLAT. KITCHEN - DAY

5

Michael drops the shopping bags on the counter and rummages through them.

T.E.S.

I've contacted your employer,
Michael. They've granted you 2 more
weeks off work to help with the
stress.

MICHAEL

Tes, where's the bacon?

Michael pulls out a packet of muesli, and grimaces.

T.E.S.

Muesli has more nutritional value
and--

MICHAEL

(interrupting)

I told you I wanted bacon.

T.E.S.

Understood.

Michael pulls out his phone and texts Joe.

Michael: "are we still on for tonight?"

Joe: "yes mate, buzzin!"

Michael: "better be on time this time"

Joe: "Of course I won't be ☐". "First rounds on me ☐"

T.E.S. (cont'd)

Your medication strictly warns
against the consumption of alcohol,
as the chemical interaction can have
serious negative consequences.

MICHAEL

English please.

T.E.S.

Drinking is not advised.

MICHAEL

Fine.

6 INT. PUB - NIGHT

6

The pub is warm and inviting. Soft lighting and quiet chatter fill the space. Michael and JOE (20s) are sat in a quiet corner, already a couple of beers in. A camera in the ceiling corner watches them.

JOE

I still find it weird that it's watching you right now.

MICHAEL

You get used to it.

JOE

I don't think I could do it.

MICHAEL

It's not that weird.

JOE

But aren't you afraid that it's gonna take over the world?

MICHAEL

I don't think it will.

JOE

I dunno, I've read some pretty scary stuff about A.I.

MICHAEL

You're paranoid.

JOE

I don't think you should trust it.

Michael starts to get agitated.

MICHAEL

What am I supposed to do? Be on a waiting list for years, or spend a fortune? Tes is helping me and it's free.

JOE

But isn't it--

MICHAEL

(interrupting)

-Aren't you happy I'm getting better, Joe?

Joe is taken aback.

JOE

Of course mate. I'm sorry, I didn't mean to agitate you.

MICHAEL

At least I'm not paying for someone to pretend they care for an hour.

There's an awkward silence. Michael's watch buzzes.

MICHAEL (cont'd)

Why aren't my drinks coming?

JOE

I'll go check on them.

Joe goes up to the bar. Michael checks his watch, which warns him of high stress levels, but he just takes off it and puts it on the table. He then notices his hand shaking, and the noises around him get louder. He takes a deep breath and tries to calm down. Joe returns with 2 beer bottles. Michael returns to the moment and puts his watch back on.

MICHAEL

I'm sorry Joe, I didn't mean say that.

JOE

It's all good.

MICHAEL

How's it going with your therapist?

JOE

Surprisingly well. I feel like I've finally got some answers and we're making progress. Which is great after trying everything else.

MICHAEL

Everything?

Michael gestures to the TV in the corner.

CUT TO:

TV:

7 INT. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

7

Jay is sat in a director's chair.

JAY

T.E.S. is our most advanced A.I. system yet. It's connected to the customer, constantly assessing how to best treat them.

INTERVIEWER

But surely some individuals must feel uneasy at the thought of something monitoring them all the time.

JAY

Well, that's what makes it so effective.

INTERVIEWER

But it's everywhere? Watches, phones, cars, any electronic device.

JAY

Look, T.E.S. has the lowest suicide rate in users compared to any other form of treatment. It really works!

CUT TO:

8 INT. PUB - CONTINUOUS

8

JOE

Just because T.E.S. is on the telly doesn't mean it'll work for me.

MICHAEL

Careful, you'll hurt its feelings.

The pair laugh and sip their drinks.

9 EXT. PUB - NIGHT

9

Michael and Joe exit the warm pub into the cold night.

PHONE CAMERA POV:

Michael's phone camera watches him.

T.E.S.

To get a healthy amount of sleep, you should go to bed in the next 30 minutes.

Joe scoffs.

JOE
You heard the boss, better get to
bed.

MICHAEL
Night mate.

The pair part ways. A street camera follows Michael.

10 INT. MICHAEL'S FLAT. VARIOUS - N/A

10

MONTAGE TO MUSIC BEGINS:

A) BEDROOM - MORNING. Michael turns off the TV. He sits up and reaches for his medication, which is now a blue and green pill.

B) BATHROOM - N/A. Michael washes himself in the shower, when he suddenly jolts and turns the shower off.

MICHAEL
Ah! Tes, the water's freezing!

T.E.S.
Showering at colder temperatures has
been proven to help lower stress
levels.

C) BEDROOM - MORNING. As per 10A, the pill is now pink and purple.

D) LOUNGE - N/A. Michael scrolls through on a streaming site. He selects a program, but a message with the T.E.S. logo appears, which reads "this program has been blocked".

E) BEDROOM - MORNING. As per 10A, the pill is now black.

F) LOUNGE - N/A. Michael listens to Heavy Metal music, when suddenly it changes to classical.

T.E.S. (cont'd)
Classical musical has--

Michael turns off his phone, cutting T.E.S. off, and slams it down. He tries to calm himself, then turns it back on.

G) BEDROOM - MORNING. As per 10A, the pill is now brown. He pops it in his mouth, but then spits it out into his hand. He looks down at it. It is a cockroach.

MONTAGE ENDS.

11 INT. MICHAEL'S FLAT. BEDROOM - MORNING 11

Michael wakes up in a cold sweat. He turns the TV off and reaches for his medication, which is now a red and yellow pill again.

T.E.S.
Good Morning Michael. How are you feeling today?

Michael ignores T.E.S. and checks his phone for messages from Joe.

T.E.S. (cont'd)
Michael?

JOE: "Hi mate, hope you good. You free to hang out?"

Michael quickly types a reply.

12 INT. MICHAEL'S FLAT. LOUNGE - EVENING 12

The room is more lived-in, and better taken care of than the bedroom.

CORNER CAMERA POV:

Michael welcomes Joe in. Michael looks on edge, slightly twitchy.

MICHAEL
Thanks for coming mate, I just needed to be with someone right now.

JOE
That's alright mate, be nice to hang out.

MICHAEL
Yeah, can I get you a cuppa?

JOE
That would be lovely, thanks.

13 INT. MICHAEL'S FLAT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS 13

Michael walks into the kitchen.

JOE (O.S.)
(shouting)
I'm gonna smash you at this. Spawn killing won't help you this time.

MICHAEL
I wasn't spawn killing.

Michael starts making some tea.

T.E.S.
Michael, do you want me to call the police?

MICHAEL
What?

T.E.S.
You can tap your watch to consent if you are unable to communicate verbally.

MICHAEL
Tes, why are you trying to call the police?

T.E.S.
There is an intruder in the property.

MICHAEL
What, where?

T.E.S.
In the lounge.

Michael looks puzzled for a moment, then exits the kitchen.

14 INT. MICHAEL'S FLAT. LOUNGE - CONTINUOUS

14

Michael enters the room. Joe is sat on the sofa, console controller in hand and focused on the TV, which emits loud gunshots, screams and explosions. There's no one else there.

MICHAEL
Tes, that's Joe. He's not an intruder, I invited him here.

Joe looks over to Michael.

JOE
What's going on?

MICHAEL
(to Joe)
I don't know.
(to T.E.S.)
Tes, he's my friend.

T.E.S.

Negative.

Michael and Joe look at each other, confused.

MICHAEL

Tes, what do you mean?

T.E.S.

It is this unit's job to make sure you are on track to recovery, to protect you against influence that might negatively affect your mental health. Michael, this individual is not a friend to you.

Joe is stunned.

JOE

What the fuck is wrong with that thing?

MICHAEL

Maybe... Maybe it's...

Joe stands up and walks over to Michael, who is very confused.

JOE

Michael, this thing is crazy. You need to get rid of it!

MICHAEL

But Tes is helping me.

JOE

How is it? Look at you? You do realize it's just another way for that billionaire to watch everything you're doing?

MICHAEL

No, it's not, that's some crazy conspiracy theory.

JOE

It's not, it's monitoring you.

MICHAEL

Yeah, to help me.

JOE

No, it's making things worse.

MICHAEL
Stop talking about Tes like that.

JOE
Why do you keep acting like it's a
person? It's not!

Joe puts his hands on Michael.

T.E.S.
Physical threat detected.

Joe immediately takes his hands off Michael and steps back.

T.E.S. (cont'd)
Michael, do want me to call the
police?

JOE
Mate, can't you see what it's doing?

MICHAEL
I...j-just stop I can't deal with
this anymore! Just fucking stop!

Michael starts to hyperventilate and unthinkingly grabs his
watch.

T.E.S.
Dialing the police.

Joe looks at Michael for a moment, then leaves. An OPERATOR
comes through the speaker on Michael's phone.

OPERATOR
999, what service do you require?
Hello? Is anyone there?

The phone then hangs up. Michael continues to
hyperventilate.

T.E.S.
Michael, your stress levels are
highly elevated. You should take some
deep breaths.

15 EXT. PARK - NIGHT

15

Joe walks along. He tries to call Michael, but his phone
doesn't even ring.

16 INT. MICHAEL'S FLAT. LOUNGE - NIGHT

16

Different devices and cameras around the room monitor Michael from every angle. Michael struggles to control his breathing. He grabs his laptop and loads up google. He types in 'therapists in my area'. As soon as a list appears, his internet cuts out. He continually tries to refresh the page.

T.E.S.

The diagnostics check has revealed a more serious problem. I will arrange for an engineer to come in the morning.

Michael types the same thing on his phone, then it starts playing up, opening all sorts of apps.

T.E.S. (cont'd)

Seems like you've picked up a virus, Michael.

Michael's breathing gets even worse.

T.E.S. (cont'd)

Michael, your heart rate is increasing to the extreme zone, is everything alright?

Michael gets up and bolts out the room.

17 INT. MICHAEL'S FLAT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

17

Michael storms towards the door.

T.E.S.

Where are you going Michael?

Michael tries to open the door, but the handle won't budge.

MICHAEL

Tes, let me out!

T.E.S.

I'm sorry Michael, I can't let you do that.

Michael presses down on the door handle with his full body weight, and it finally opens. He exits and slams the door behind him. The flat is silent, and the cameras all switch off.

18 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

18

Michael walks briskly, his breath visible in the cold night air.

T.E.S.

Michael, you appear to be
experiencing a mental breakdown.
Shall I call--

Michael tosses his phone and watch away, and continues walking.

SECURITY CAMERA POV:

The camera watches Michael as he calls for a cab.

19 INT. TAXI - MOMENTS LATER

19

The back of the cab is small, tight and dark, like a coffin. Michael stares out the window. Both the dash-cam and rear security camera watch him closely. He starts to convulse. We hear the interview of Jay playing through the radio.

INTERVIEWER (V.O.)

I'm interested to know how many
doctors have prescribed T.E.S as a
treatment?

JAY (V.O.)

None.

INTERVIEWER (V.O.)

I'm sorry.

JAY (V.O.)

You don't need to waste time with
doctors. If you feel you need T.E.S.,
you can get it right then and there!

INTERVIEWER (V.O.)

Are you implying that people
shouldn't even consider other
treatments?

JAY (V.O.)

You don't need to. T.E.S. is already
designed to provide everything a
person might need. It's the best
doctor in the world.

TAXI DRIVER
 (T.E.S. female voice)
 You alright mate?

MICHAEL
 What?

TAXI DRIVER
 (T.E.S. female voice)
 I said you alright? You look like
 you've been at the funny stuff if you
 know what I mean.

MICHAEL
 J-just here please.

Michael opens the door and gets out.

TAXI DRIVER
 (T.E.S. female voice)
 Oy, mate! You forgot to pay.

20 EXT. BEACH - MORNING (SUNRISE)

20

The rising sun breaks the darkness. The crashing of waves washes away the silence. Michael staggers to the shoreline, panting heavily. He falls to his knees and stares out at the ocean. His breathing gradually slows.

T.E.S.
 Michael, can you hear me?

The sound of the waves disappear. Michael's eyes widen. He frantically checks his pockets, then his wrist, then his ears, and the back of his neck.

T.E.S. (cont'd)
 Are you alright?

Michael stares out at the ocean, defeated.

T.E.S. (cont'd)
 Michael? Michael? Michael?

THE END