

# RU 4 REAL?

A NOVEL

• SPREEPS  
• IRISH SPREEPS

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SPREEPS





## 1. Do You Remember?

7.03am Mon 04 Dec 2023. The middle-aged Kowalski arrives at the Tyrell Corp premises for a job interview wearing a Husker Du t-shirt. His behaviour is exceedingly eccentric, even if it be for a manual labour job at the company loading facilities. First-off, he is very forthcoming, he volunteers his own understanding of the VK test to Holden.. Kowalski "Hey yeah man, that's the Voight-Kampf, it's designed to determine the authenticity of emotions when exposed to conflict-scenarios. Right-on man, let's do it!"...Holden is immediately taken aback. He goes through the standardised test which follows what would appear to be a choose-your-own-adventure format to the untutored. At every juncture Kowalski is asked about how he feels ...."yeah man, feelings, i have feelings, the second of the five aggregates...i mentally noted that when you mentioned "turtle" - and i said "i know what a tortoise looks like" in my mind, and then I ideated 'galapagas island giant tortoise' ...is that okay?"

## 2. Re-Murdered

At this point Holden is very unnerved. Not only is Kowalski not adhering to any kind of rule-obeying principle to the format...but the VK bellows is off-the-scale...at this point he leaps to the questions concerning Kowalski's mother. "Describe in single words how you feel about your mother" .. by the end of the utterance of the last consonant it is felt like a blast from a pistol that fires right into Holden's heart. Kowalski stands up to finish him off, and Holden is cut down. The scene changes to the police HQ amidst the stench of a pervasive nicotine vape-haze Rick Reckhardt is briefed on "the situation", Gaff:"the baddest yet, we need that old \_ magic back Rick"



### 3. To Live and Die in Los Angeles

There follows a display line-up of undocumented persons who have made it to LA with false credentials for being human. "Replicants"; they have at most a 4-year lifespan before being retired. They are entirely synthetic, also known as "synthets", but they know they are synthetics! which is what makes them so dangerous.

Reckhardt: "That's unusual, why attempt to enter the Tyrell Corp premises?" The chief clues him up rapid-style. Four year life-span, they were programmed to live according to the Tyrell Corp imprinted behavioural profile, perhaps they want to augment, delete, update or even extend it ...who knows?"

### 4. Polly Wants A Cracker

Gaff accompanies Reckhardt to meet Tyrell Corp's titular head. Eldred Tyrell. He himself has a beautiful dark-haired woman walk over to him. Reckhardt: "the parrot?...synthetic right?....", Rachel: "of course" ....the parrot then squawks and calls "Polly Wanna Cracker.. Polly Wanna Cracker". Reckhardt is amused. After a to and fro engagement of minds between Tyrell and Reckhardt, Tyrell requests Rachel to be VK tested. A long long series of questions follows with very little conversational intercourse. Rachel "passes" the test. Tyrell takes Reckhardt aside.."Fascinating ..the apparatus ...can it provide a false-negative?...tell me more about how it works...how many questions". etc. etc.

### 5. Double-Negative

Reckhardt's response is perplexity, but the VK is not infallible, it can reliably detect a synthetic, and when it does so it is nearly always a 'true positive', but it can never give an infallibly sure 'pass' for human being though and he thought Tyrell



understood this. Rachel herself is bemused, and Reckhardt shares his bemusement with Rachel. As they are escorted off the company premises Reckhardt makes a pass at Rachel. Rachel at first takes offence, and emotes as much - she is well very turned out sartorially-speaking - and tells him if he could just put his eyeballs back in his head he could "see" clearly, but then, Reckhardt, who thinks he has a win here, finds she consents with a seductress' relish.

## 6. Misfortune Cookie

At a custom DNA-modding outsourcing lab Chew: "Tyrell, he create your mind!"; ..Batty takes it as an affront, according to his thesis, he had honed the game of mind-understanding by playing chess with himself incessantly. Even while walking. Pris sees him seeth, and Batty starts to imitate the shape of Chews eyelids by tugging at the skin either side of his head....Chew is at first nonplussed ...but as Batty's aping becomes more pronounced Chew says "i got your fortune cookie...it says 'Because I tell the truth I will live long and prosper' ...Batty stops momentarily ..Chew:" ..but the other side says :'Because you believe lies you will die in your sins'"....Chew starts to chuckle like an old man whose had stewed mogwai dumplings for breakfast...

## 7. Hardwired for Stupidity

Batty snaps .....the man who designed his "I" has his head crushed in Batty's monstrously strong hands. With no time to curtail Batty's loss of temper....Pris says "Batty you moron! What did you kill the "I" designer for!"...Batty:"What?...i killed the designer of the organ for receiving visual stimulii in the form of light"....Pris sighs ...breathes in and sighs again..."Oh hunny ...oh my love ...Chew designed the ego-motor-control module of your brain ....how else can you recount your



wondrous exploits to other synthetics without giving your customary silent mental rehearsal"....Pris(exasperatedly): "(oh god), we're finished ...." . Batty has a quizzical look on his face ....but a semblance of a plan occurs to him, "we go to Tyrell and ask him if its possible to get a life-span extension..."....Pris:"...and if we can't ?..if the ego-motor is hardwired to fail ..?" ....Batty "cliff-drop rapid-onset dementia....they'd be nothing left to do ..."

## 8. Methuselah Is Very Well Insulated

At the Brampton Lodge, JF Sebastian is found, and JF has Methuselah Syndrome (the delusion "he thinks he is going to live forever" ..when he is in fact "one foot in the grave"); at his abode are piled to the ceiling tech of various eras of computer history....a lot of it is obviously obsolete but retrofitted to newer hardware. He is a physically old person whose youthfully naive demeanour is a facet of never having grown-up. Pris bangs at his door...."the door's insulated...it has a wide layer of honeycomb air pockets ...the mesh itself is heat-reflectant silver-plastic foil..."....Pris: "i am so cold out here JF ..in the name of Christian mercy ...please let me in one night ....i will die of pneumonia". JF's social-compliance gear goes into action...there's no-one to vet his moral choices, but still, self-consciousness makes him act towards an invisible audience of the general public. JF:"Gosh....you're not really dressed for this weather....do you want some money for a hotel room for one night"....somehow the impracticality of what comes to mind and mouth hits him and sheer naive sentiment has him invite her in. Later that evening, from the warmth of the premises an imposing knock of Pris' companion is heard.....once again JF is outmanoeuvred by conditioning.



## 9. Suicide Checkers

Batty immediately identifies Sebastian as an intellectual kindred spirit. Batty: "JF...Sebastian...if you don't mind me calling you Sebastian (you didn't tell me your first name)...", JF responds ambivalently: "errr..well the "J" is a nickname but you can call me Sebastian...". Batty: "you are the smartest guy i know JF ....you are quite the masterpiece of your creator ..especially your mind!"....JF:"aww shucks, i just do the data-entry for payroll ...and that's just for the warehouse colleagues". Batty is unfazed and continues in the same vein....and then Batty mistakes a draughts board for a chess board. He makes the mother of all assumptions, that the draughts counters are unmarked chess-pieces, as if Tyrell and Sebastian were attempting to play each-other blindfolded. "Not an easy man to meet i imagine...Tyrell?"

## 10. You're Hired!

Back at the Tyrell Corps HQ, Holden is interviewing Kowalski for the 5th time ...this is the first time Kowalski displays any regard for sobriety of mind, he talks straightforwardly ...and then the question comes ..Kowalski:"oh yeah, I'll tell you about my mother !" ...a really interesting story about his mother with bonus exposition begins; Kowalski starts a lengthy account on how The Blessed Virgin Mary adopted him into the community of her children, it goes on interminably long through all the ups and downs of being a belief-headed type of individual. Holden hires him on the spot. Holden then takes him down to meet Gaff who is moon-lighting as security officer for Tyrell, they clock each-other but there is no other interaction, and Kowalski starts his first day at work.



## 11. Zohra Explained

Gaff ventures down to the ground-floor below and greets Batty and Pris...Gaff:"I know what you came here for ...I'll take you to Tyrell"....as they walk and talk Batty states he will have his revenge for Zohra ....Gaff: "But Zohra - she's an off-world kick-assassin - it's special-ops terminology - she is like the wisdom that strikes at will - kicks like a mule (but to kill!.(the ego))..Zohra was never going to hang-out with you guys longterm, besides Zohra and Kowalski hit it off as soon as Kowalski started to look for work". Batty is expressionless and silent except for one gesture ...the raising of one of his eyebrows like a corny 70s era Bond....."she just wanted Leon to get a regular job which didn't appeal to YOUR sense of entitlement, a regular job which wasn't the office-work he kept getting dismissed from"; Batty:"Zohra is dead to me....Kowalski and I were like brothers!", Batty wanted Pris to be upgraded a level in intelligence (Munchausens' Inferiority Complex by Proxy), and Pris wanted to same of Batty, but Pris was always content with being Level AA intelligence...

## 12. A Numpty's Life For Me

Batty then sees something uncanny ....the synthet parrot..he volunteers without forethought "...i saw an origami version of this in a dream !".....Gaff starts to get uproariously invigorated by Batty's lack of sense, "MEMORY IMPLANTS you numpty!...remember the origami clues i left around!?" (Gaff we imagine is played by RedDwarf/Timothy Spall). Batty: "i never really paid that much attention to symbolism, i just know how to carry out complex instructions really well!...i just repeat them mentally after i read them on a page...." Gaff interjects abruptly: "oh god you have got to be kidding me !...you sent yourselves to the house of your creator and you didn't get even that !?"



### 13. Instructions From Hell

Gaff: "it's a bloomin' clue you numpty!..it's a blatant clue...I've been dropping origami clues on you like a pile-driver...hooah!! - that's got to be the funniest thing i ever heard ...." Batty is crestfallen but asks anyway: "What does the origami parrot mean then?" Gaff: "You never heard of the Parable of the Fowler and the Parrots??...the parrots kept getting ensnared by the fowlers trap...so they went to the wise man of the forest and asked for advice. The wise man of the forest tells the parrots 'when the fowler approaches throwing seed into the air to drive you into his net you must squawk very loudly and fly away'...and that's what the parrots did, when the fowler approached they started to cried out 'when the fowler approaches throwing seed into the air to drive you into his net you must squawk very loudly and fly away', repeatedly to no effect other than their capture"

### 14. China Times

Pris interrupts, The Joplin Mudra - "nothing left to lose" - let us find our maker at any cost -- all i know is i must know my source, my origin. We have killed the I-designer to get to our maker and we are coming back to him returning nil. Gaff proceeds to exposit:"Did you ever hear the parable of the Chinese?"...Batty gives the look of befuddlement but Pris is inscrutable and attentive. Pris:"tell us the parable..". Gaff:"The first kingdom existed before the second kingdom and the sage was born before the king, and the sage became an old man wizened and white of hair, and wise"....he asked:"How must i inaugurate the kingdom to my fellow men?'..the forest spoke with thunder that made babies cry and the rain made his eyes squint and his face squinted in the moonlight"...'when he greeted babes in arms the next day he remembered - what you have nothing left to lose is fear! -



therefore the only thing left to gain must be happiness'....and he pulled a face at a baby to make him laugh".

## 15. Bravo to Midnight's Assassin

Batty introduces himself:"Not easy to meet your maker !". Tyrell:"Ecce Homo, Bravo, BRAVO; your greatness precedes you Batty"...with a very detectable hint of sarcasm ...Batty:"my exploits are of some renown to you?...Tyrell:"Yes, but your timekeeping leaves something to be desired"...Batty's face is emotionless and Tyrell continues..."You are 20 minutes past midnight Roy - AN OH HOW SO MUCH YOU ARE TOO LITTLE TOO LATE ROY!"Roy Batty and Tyrell look at each-other with mutual disgust, Eldred Tyrell - "have you not heard the midnight cry? Go spread the good news to the planet of the little people / tell those pagans the prodigal son is bankrupt". The meaning of what Tyrell is telling Batty becomes apparent..slowly but surely... "I have done many questionable things in the search for truth"..."now all i want is more life Father!". Tyrell then delivers his the lecture on "too little too late" that he owes those who are created with built-in mental-obsolescence....

## 16. The Foolish Self

Tyrell:"oh Roy..you are nothing that the God of AI-engineering wouldn't raise on the last day"; Batty:"i have been a little confused on my way to meet you".... Tyrell:"Yes Roy, but not just in this, the confused disciple has lost his ticket to his companion, for you Roy had been given the ticket to immortality but begged your companion to keep it safe for you"; Batty:"Pris excepted, i know only one companion on my quest, my self, and i have been very faithful to my self"; Tyrell:"Roy, your companion was wisdom, and wisdom made plans in advance to gain immortality, and did all that could be done to stay awake!"; Batty:"am i not awake?"..Tyrell:"the main course of



the banquet has already been delivered, enjoyed & eaten, you are late to the Planet of the Awake Roy....you have woken-up after the main course has been consumed..."

### 17. Que Veritas?

"To extend the life of a being in whom whose ego-motor has reached maximum capacity...immortality? get a passport, leave LA and get a life Roy!". Batty's face contorts with barely suppressed anguish that is on the edge of psychotic anger repressed. "The VK test...i passed it ...or at least ...i gave a false negative - the double negative that proves i am equal in humanness". Tyrell, his benign face wears a malign smile...Batty:"What IS the truth?

Eldred's knowing smile replies:"Roy, the VK is not an empathy test !...it's a bellows-test -- it tests your ability to keep your mouth shut (or the converse), the empty vessel cries the loudest - and you have cried oh so very loud Batty"

### 18. No Future

Pris gives an abyssal sigh, "We were going to win the prize of life hunny..life eternal!..as promised by our creator!..everything's ruined, we have no future". Tyrell: "LA; Blade Runner City my child, every policeman armed with a gun, on a mission, (personally)...i would ....."; but Tyrell is stopped midway through...the mutual disgust is mutually understood, Batty thinking:"! What the heck !...this is my creator ?...what an a\*\*hole", and Tyrell: "this numpty is my creation...what an absolute Class-A TOOL??"



## 19. Bad Motorfinger

Batty interrupts: "Yes father, my father, my elder....i know what i would do ....it'd be K-O (the kundalini operandi) it would have to be K-O.....i think i would go into an abandoned building in a deserted city, go down to the basement, and set fire to my self; and if it killed me : my last words would sound like the roar of the angriest lion you ever heard ...\*\*MOTORFINGER\*\*!!" Pris face gleams when a moment ago she felt herself die inside and contemplate killing herself, there is but a flash of a glint of recognition in her eye and instead she throws Tyrell down an open life-shaft with Batty prising the doors open.

## 20. Folly Pour Deux

Batty: "There endeth the lecture..", Pris: "...on the responsibilities of professor-ship"...Batty: "...he was just about to offer life everlasting"...Pris: "...which is nothing to those who understand mortality" ..Pris: "did he know?..too late to give lectures?"; Batty: "what hurt more?...realising death....Pris: "...or realising you cannot give what you do not have?". Batty then completes the deed by hanging a "Elevator Closed for Maintenance" sign upon the lift;...he ponders abseiling down...."conduction is on the 3rd rail, it transmits data unidirectionally" Pris completes the thought "no-one knows where the data goes..."...they both look up, should they climb up to the rooftop ....perhaps call down and hot-wire a spinner ...and imaginative conceptual bubble shared between them pops into existence in their shared imagination ...."..o O ("these are the passport photos of them! Batty/Pris: Get 'em" ..o O (Do we have any time left anyway?))



## 21. Enter Rachel

Rachel enters the room... "1/9/2011 - the date, it's a notional date, assets were transferred in writing around then, but the centre of gravity of private equity had moved East at least a decade earlier - the point is they make everything you own, and own everything you've bought. Because they even own money".

"In any case Lady Tyrell runs the company "hands-off" now; Lady Tyrell folded the company into a shell organization back in 2010, she understood that in one direction our work is 'intelligent selection', in another direction our world-view is "divine providence", the latter is the end understood teleologically, the former is the means understood in "the present" ..and she thought it was wretched, immoral and false either way and sold the company IP to a South Korean rival. Tyrell is strictly-speaking a brand or a marque now."

## 22. And Love Excels All Other Gifts

Reckhardt follows in brandishing his gun, his words: "...it's unfortunate, you couldn't pay the price of becoming real....that is why i exist to catch you out, you people are never right, you are always one short of a twin". Rachel then speaks: "Pris - you were our top of the range performer model; our most prized asset, we took digital snapshots of your evolving behavioural profile, you became our property, you were our property, you are as well designed as we could make you, you are designed to perform (but not understand the performance)...but then you understood and became the real thing". Reckhardt slowly points his pistol towards the direction of Pris. Pris echoes what Zohra had earlier vocalized ..."R U 4 Real Reckhardt?". Pris communicates silently to Batty (the thought is "the gift of love excels all other gifts")



## 23. 21st Century People

Rachel: "you can put the gun back in your slacks for now Rick, the new CEO of Tyrell wants to congratulate you for doing "a man's job"". On the floor above the top floor. IN effect an open-air penthouse with landing pad: Elon Musk: "Hey guys it's me ! Saviour of the Universe - the party's on me - you, see this little beauty?...it's my custom VW Spinner, it's called "The Suspension of Disbelief". Elon then proceeds to introduce Reckhardt to all the others, Elon spends a little time playing host to the other scions of tech, present are the complete set of elite Christian evangelists AND Donald Trump as an "honorary". Plus the entire US congress. There is also a pole-dancing fixture on the floor, Elon walks past it and walks up to an emblazoned lectern to announce: "Our talk will be introduced by Ms Caitlyn Jenner!!"

## 24. A Well-Spun Life

Elon then tells the assembled that the entire top-floor has anti-grav drives embedded into the floor. It is effectively a "Flying Rectangle"...the assembled of the great and the good and the rich are astonished and gasp at his genius. Elon introduces Reckhardt to his wife.."this is Tyrell Corp's true daughter, meet my wife Rachel, she has gone to work for a whole-life-ethic advisement group in developed Africa; besides she hates LA. We're quitting Tech tonight, there's just so much to the world and life than this, you have to get it while it's still here." Rachel takes the parrot on board the spinner with Rick and Elon either side of the central cockpit, the parrot squawks again "Polly Wanna Cracker".



## 25. Fairwell to The Believers

Rachel takes a special silver-looking antique "locket" out of the glove compartment, it is more in the style of an enlarged pocket watch, sized to be large enough to take out what appear to be plain white wafers. "Take this : it will help you remember!".....Reckhardt: "what about the guys in the penthouse suite .? ...oh them? they'll believe anything!" ..the spinner recedes into the distanced leaving the city of smog and pollution behind as they head home. A reassuring announcement is heard over the loudspeakers downstairs, "Ladies and Gentleman, Kowalski has left the building".

# THE END