

ChatROM

Libretto by

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Italic: description of environment (stage, light)

Normal font: action and speech

(Blanket: Music and sound)

{Curly blanket: Video}

Underline: Lyric

All Scene a happens in the small hall, scene b happens in Forum.

*Thanks Vera Häupl and Don Schmidt for correction.

Scene 1a

Place: Sachiko's room

Character: Sachiko

An almost empty room, only a desk and a chair in it. Behind them there is a big screen for projecting video.

(Anime song, at last footsteps, door opening.)

Sachiko goes in, extends a curtain which printed a typical girl's room and hang it behind the chair. Then she takes her laptop from her briefcase, put it on the desk, opens the chatroom program.

Sachiko: Tadaima! (Japanese: I'm back.)

Sachiko: But before connecting, let me make myself "Sachiko" now.

Sachiko takes off her suits, takes on a cosplay suit, wears wig, makes up...

404(sound from loudspeakers): What, what she's doing? She? He? What a great news, famous anchor Sachiko has not only low voice, but a totally male body! It's cheat, cheat!! What more can you do for grabbing Anime lovers' money?!

Sachiko is shocked, stops the changing.

Sachiko: Who, who's there?! I didn't connect the camera yet!!

404(sound from loudspeakers): Shit I connected my microphone by mistake...

Sachiko: Who are you? Can we talk?

Scene 1b

Place: 404's room

Character: 404

In a messy, dark room, fulfilled with garbage on ground, there is a dirty hanging bed. On the bed, there are some more garbage and a lonely computer, its light is almost the only bright thing in the room. 404 is sitting in front of it. Behind all these things, there is a big screen for video playing. There is also a paper box(called BOX in following text) later will show streaming video from the other room.

{Video1: streaming chatroom interface.}

(Machine noise and animation sound track, then voice messages come in, "you're a loser" ... busier and busier, louder and louder.)

Suddenly, 404 turns to audience.

(Song 1)

{Video2: room view, slow.}

See! See!

What a mess here!

It's where I live.

You know who I am?

I'm just a nice girl, a nice girl, doesn't need a name.

Since I was born, I'm a nice girl.

For being nice I'm busy like a swirl.

They told me, STAY!

So I stayed home that no one worries about me.

I read books, practiced drawing, slightly learnt using computer.

It's a brand new approach, I first time felt with the world I'm keep in touch.

Then they told me, STUDY!

So I studied and studied to have an ok mark.

I don't do sports, don't dress myself up, I spent my only a little spare time on Anime.

I laughed, I cried, I found all my fantasies, questions and answers there.

Later they told me, EARN MONEY!

So I wrote thousands of codes to support me and my family.

I have no colleague, I don't go to a club, but on the internet I have real friends.

I'm used to use my name there: 404.

Suddenly, they told me, ...

"You're always playing, playing, playing computer."

Do you really know what i'm doing?

Didn't I do enough to fulfill your wish?

Am I that wrong?

I just don't choose people close to me.

Am I that wrong?

I had enough to be a nice girl.

{Video3: room view, fast.}

Let me do something bad, something bad, something bad.

Stop being nice and anonymous.

Let me do something bad, something bad, something bad..

Let me stop being nice and anonymous.

Let me do something bad, something bad, something bad.

Just be bad, be bad, be bad.

And let my name 404 to be known universe-wide.

{Video4: streaming chatroom interface.}

{Video4a: Code rolling on BOX.}

404: You know what I'm doing? I'm gonna hack all the video chatroom channels. I really hate these people pretend to be Anime lovers, but actually are just grabbing money from us. I will make them not be able to connect anymore, until they pay me, as they pay all the innocent fans' money back.

404: See, I'm already able to change anything of the chatrooms. I can even change peoples' authorize of camera using. Whose channel is here? Sachiko, oh, famous anchor for cosplay and Japanese suits.

...

Interesting... Before I cut your connection, let me see what you're doing when you don't connect your camera.

{Stream from the small hall on the BOX: Sachiko changing clothes and making up.}

404: What, what she's doing? She? He? What a great news, famous anchor Sachiko has not only low voice, but a total male body! It's cheat, cheat!! What more can you do for grabbing Anime lovers' money?!

{Stream from the small hall: Sachiko is shocked, stops the changing.}

Sachiko (sound from loudspeakers): Who, who's there?! I didn't connect the camera yet!!

404: Shit I connected my microphone by mistake...

Sachiko (sound from loudspeakers): Who are you? Can we talk?

Scene 2a

Place: Sachiko's room

Character: Sachiko

Same stage as 1a.

{Video streaming is on.}

{Video5a: graphic notation on Sachiko's screen.}

Sachiko: Who are you? Why were you spying on me?

404: My name is not important.

Sachiko: What are you doing inside of my computer? Get out!

404: Well, first you must tell me one thing: Why are you lying to your fans?

You're a man – is it because there are more Anime lovers want to see female characters so that you are pretending to be a girl...in order to exploit them for money?

Sachiko: I am not a man. Maybe I look like a man, but ever since I've gained consciousness, I'm always a girl, a Japanese girl Sachiko. Everyone has parts they don't want or they're forced to have, but they don't have to like them. For me it is my male body and my life offline, where I must pretend to be a man. Do you have parts on yourself, that you'd rather not have? Hey, would you mind starting a video conversation right now?

404: ... No. I hate people seeing my face, I don't even want to see myself in the mirror. I don't like how I am, I don't want to be a programmer... To some extent, I envy you, that you know who you really are. People hate me in real life and I don't like myself, either, but apart from this shitty woman that I am, I really don't know what else I can be.

Sachiko: Maybe that's why we're both here – on the internet. People say that we're escaping the reality, but who could blame us? Internet is a place we can be ourselves. For me the image I show offline is the fake one, but on the internet I'm real. I want to be Sailor Moon, Card Captor Sakura, Ogasabara Sachiko... But the "real" world doesn't event tolerant if I dress like them.

404: I know too much about how annoying the "real" world is. You know what my original plan was? I wanted to hack the whole streaming community, just for revenge. But you've invited me so nicely to such a sincere conversation, how could I refuse that? And now I feel calm again. I don't like myself offline, just like you do. I don't even want you to call me by my real name. But my internet name is 404. It's nice to meet you here.

Sachiko: It's my luck that you've accepted to talk and listened to my story. I have a lot of fans and enemies, they make my "Sachiko" life not too lonely. But I can't tell any of them, what it means for me to be Sachiko and how much blood and tears I've put into becoming this. 404, Yuroshiku Onegaishimasu!

Scene 2b

Place: Sachiko's room

Character: Sachiko

Same stage as 1a.

{Video streaming is on}

{Video5: graphic notation on big screen.}

Same content as 2a.

Scene 3a

Place: Sachiko's room, later to 404's room

Character: Sachiko

Sachiko is fully dressed in Japanese girl style, sending message with her phone, can walk around.

{Video streaming keeps going.}

(Music: letter)

Sachiko:

What are you doing?

Hey, today I bought the new Pikachu stuff toy, you want to see it?

I received your card! I like it so much, thank you!

You're having so much work these days. Don't push yourself too much!

Aitai. Aitai. (Japanese: I miss you, directly, I want to see you.) I want to see you immediately.

In this narrow, cold world, you made me like my life more.

I want to see you immediately. I want see animation film in cinema with you, then we have an ice-cream on our way home. We will hold hands like a couple, with you I will be brave to be myself no matter what people say.

I want to see you immediately. Let's go to supermarket together, I will cook for you.

...

I want to see you immediately. Let's go to the dance ball for old people. Under the vintage mirror ball, we will dance like a couple, who're still dancing, till they get old.

Sachiko takes her bag and tell audience "I'm going to see her now, come with me.", then run to the big hall.

Sachiko and all audience move to the big hall while the scene b is still playing there.

Scene 3b

Place: 404's room

Character: 404, Sachiko (later)

Light off, only the big screen is visible. Focus light on 404(?)

404 is laying on the mattress, looking at the computer, later may stand/walk.

{Video6: processed video recording of Sachiko.}

(Sound: live effect of the audio streaming from the small room. Leap motion controls effect.)

Light on, 404 is sitting/standing among a lot of animation figures.

{Video7a: Sachiko's image exists and disappears on the BOX.}

(Song 2)

Is she for you real now?

Can you, can you accept the reality?

Are you prepared for connecting?

Even you will be hurt again?

What are you waiting for?

Will it change if you waited?

What are you scared of?

How can you be strong enough to face it?

Can you live with it, missing her?

Without her do you know who you are?

What will you lose if hating you?

Do you still have anything...

What are you waiting for?

Will it change if you waited?

What are you scared of?

How can you be strong enough to face it?

Can you live with it, missing her?

Without her do you know who you are?

What will you lose if hating you?

Do you still have anything to lose?

{Video7: multiple Sachiko images.}

Is she for you real now?

Can you accept the reality?

Are you prepared for connecting?

Even you will be hurt again?

Yes, she is my reality.

(tape)"And the one you have to accept."

I'm going to meet her.

(tape)"You're doomed to be hurt again."

I'm prepared for connecting.

(tape)"But it's already your best choice. Cause you have nothing to lose. Cause you have nothing to lose."

404 interact with the BOX(still Sachiko's image on it) and decided to meet Sachiko.

Scene 4b (small hall is empty now)

Place: 404's room

Character: 404

Light off, only the big screen is visible. 404 is wearing the jacket for going out, standing in the center.

{Video8: Swinging scenery shot inside a bus.}

(Music and voice from tape. Song3.)

Finally, I'm on a night bus to you.

A night bus in weekend, it takes so much of happiness.

I thought it's never related to me.

I thought no matter how many people having their carnival, everything in this physical world is never related to me.

Finally, I'm on a night bus to you.

After such a long struggle, finally I'm going to you.

Finally, I'm on a night bus to you.

A night bus in weekend, it takes so much of happiness.

I thought it's never related to me.

I thought no matter how many people having their carnival, everything in this physical world is never related to me.

But tonight is different, this bus is to you.

One after one, after one station.

Finally, we'll meet.

But is it a final? Is it an ending?

What happened after the end of every fairytale?

You told me a lot, to do together.

But I can't even go out of here...

Holding hands must feel good, but I never learnt it.

Is it only imagination?

Dancing with you is my dream, but I don't know how to.

Will I be just ugly and embarrassed?

Will you accept such a person?

Will you still like me?

This moment is the happiest moment in my life.

I don't know whether I worth anything better.

This moment is the happiest moment in my life.

After the peak, there will be only a way to the trough.

Thinking of seeing you soon, is already the best thing I can ever have.

I wish this moment would be forever.

(Sound effect: Car crash. Mouse click.)

{Video 9: 404 in bus with blood. Then a question on screen: What will happen after 404 is on the way to see Sachiko? Two option: 1, she will meet Sachiko as they promised; 2, she will die on halfway because of car accident. Mouse moves to option 2. Then game starting interface.}

404 sits in front of computer, clicked mouse.

End