



The Twin Enigma

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"Pinki, you are out of your mind. What you propose is so horrific, I can't ever agree to it. For me, ethics and humanity have more importance than anything else in the world." She turned to Dr Sen, eyes blazing in the most inhuman way ever. She asked, "Are you still not going to agree to my plans of getting humans, even if it means death?"

"No, not once, not ever", Dr Sen replied with steely conviction. That's when she saw the manic grin of Pinki, as she took out a sharp knife. Pinki then meticulously set out to accomplish the task with her knife.

Today, 1 February 2030

She pressed her forehead and looked at the mirror. The imperceptible dent was visible for a fraction of a second and then disappeared. She could sense that her body temperature was nearly 90°F, closer to human body temperature. She received clearer data than before when her super-sensitive fingers touched anything now. Moreover, she rarely needed charging up. She opened the gigantic refrigerator at the research facility to retrieve the materials and saw the bewildered expression on the frozen face of Dr Sen. "The ethical fool, she lost her life, but I won't let her research remain incomplete", she muttered to herself. Then she went back to her lab and resumed the process of upgrading the new material that she called "Humanol".

Rewind, 25 March 2028

The professor gave a tight hug to Pinki and stepped back to see the effect. She could perceive a slight, almost imperceptible dent where her hand had applied pressure, but in no time, the memory foam regained its original shape, and Pinki became perfect. Then, she dressed Pinki in her clothes and ran the special program on her computer and switched on all functions of Pinki. A slow smile indicated Pinki had come to life. Pinki walked to the door and quietly closed it. Then she said: "You should be careful, doctor. Anyone might walk in and see us". She sounded exactly like the professor! The professor was ecstatic with the result.

You see, Pinki was her identical twin that she had designed using the 3D printing technique. She had sourced

special materials to create a body just like hers and then used AI to give "life" to the body. The advanced computer programming warranted that the "twin" walked and talked and looked the same as her. She had painstakingly printed the fingers so that the twin had the same fingerprints as her. She had validated with the fingerprint detector at the entrance of her lab innumerable times until no error was indicated. Now she could sense that Pinki even "thought" like her. She liked to call her creation a "Humit", a human-like being. But this Humit was the most special as it was her "twin", the first-ever Humit that she had created. She named her "Pinki", an endearment used by her parents when they were alive.

Dr Sen, as she was known in her institution, was a single child. A loner, she had always wondered at the extraordinary bond shared by a pair of twins in her class during her school years. Sometimes, being lonely frustrated her so much that she wished she had a twin to share her thoughts with. Her hobbies entailed buying books and reading them and then re-reading them till the binding of the book gave way. This hobby helped her get a doctorate and a research position at an institution with great research funding. Her colleagues initially tried engaging her in gossip, but soon they tired of her. She lived alone after her parents died and had no blood relations, making her social life non-existent. She had come to terms with her lonely life rather readily, taking advantage of the opportunity to develop her research without any distractions.

A few years ago, she came across an article about 3D printing and was instantly hooked. She visited various institutes and industries to comprehend fully the mechanism of these advanced printers. She then carried out extensive research on the various materials that could be used which were compatible with the printers. A plan began to form in her mind, of creating her twin, the one she had always secretly longed for. After four exhaustingly long years, now she had Pinki!

She asked Pinki to sit down across from her and discuss her current research project with her, all the while feeling like she was talking to the mirror! Pinki didn't engage in any small talk and gave her valuable insights into the research.