

# Unremembered Loss

*For all the news and information from the world of Hathrac, and for the story Unremembered Loss*

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## A Not So Dark Future

I've talked with several people in the last couple months about science fiction and how most current stories focus on how dark the future will be because of scientific advancements – a dystopic future. In contrast, we've also talked about how 50's and 60's science fiction stories were about how great things were going to be.

Of course, every story has to have a problem – something that the main character has to struggle against. So in honor of the Science March, which I participated in on April 22nd in San Diego, I thought I would spend this newsletter setting up some science fiction stories that don't focus on the negative of science, but the positive.

### A Selfie of Death

A detective story. A crime team is investigating a murder using various scientifically advanced gadgets and computers. Along with their own wit and good detective work, they determine that the murderer is actually a serial murderer, then figure out when they will strike next. At the beginning of the story, the story is option-locked, but as soon as they figure out when the next murder will take place, it becomes a fast paced time-locked story. Will the investigators be able to save the next person before they become the next victim.

### On My Own

A person discovers the joy in doing something hard for themselves when they don't have to, after having to do it for themselves because something broke down.

### Looking For Love Again

A young person experiences their first lost love. As they question their own self worth and experience rejection from their friends, who they have in common with their ex, they search for connection. They experiment with reaching out to others online, with immersing themselves in a virtual reality, and going to a truth-bar, where everyone has to tell the truth. They try suppressing their emotions and enhancing their emotions. They reach out to people from other cultures who are experiencing losses and with people who have grown passed their first losses. The story is an option-locked story of discovering that what's important is how you value yourself.

### A Long Way From Home

The crew of a mission to Mars experience the loss of home as the time lag increases and the reality of how long they are going to be gone become real.

### To Connect, If Only For A Moment

Stranded on a remote island with no satellite communication, a person is able to physically survive with the help of their technology, but have to find new ways to combat their new found isolation. They cope by creating a routine, pre-programming encouragement for themselves, losing themselves in a game, keeping a journal and taking care of a virtual pet. They survive until they are rescued and then find that returning to a connected world is even harder than leaving it.

### To See For Awhile

Blind from birth, a person experiences sight through bionic eyes. The eyes only work for an hour at a time, before having to be recharged for four hours. The story explores how time can be chopped up and life put on hold by something that use to have no power.

### To Live A Second Life

The human life span has reached 200 years, as the number of jobs have decreased. Mandatory retirement is 100, what is a person to do with their second life. The story focuses on a person transitioning into their new life without the validation of work and without the fear of old age. How to start life over?

### A Skip In Time

A scientist finds a way to skip forward in time. How many times will they jump forward ten years, knowing that they will never be able to go back? As they become more disconnected from their own time, does it make it easier to skip forward again or does the need to feel like a part of time increase with each skip?

### Two Become One

Newlyweds find out what it's like to become one when they are fitted with implants that let them hear each other's thoughts and feel each other's emotions. Will this sudden intimacy bring them closer together or rip them apart? What peace and what fear is there in being truly known?

### **Drought**

In the not to distant future, a person in sub-Sahara Africa is dealing with drought. They are able to buy a simple machine that extracts water from the air. The ability to have water changes their life.

### **Electric Speed**

The story is about a high speed electric cars race, where the cars get their power from the track. Driver and computer work together to drive faster, smarter and more strategically than the other cars. With limited electric storage and dead spots behind other cars, the decisions about where to drive and when to pass have new implications.

### **Ask Your Dad**

A family story where kids have access to all the knowledge of the internet, but still find that sometimes dad has the real answers.

### **Father Daughter Cooking**

A father and daughter experience the joy of cooking together. They find a recipe on-line, search for the ingredients and find a new speciality store to buy some of them from. Then they watch the video and laugh and enjoy each other as they try to follow along. When they finish, they enjoy a meal together and share the experience with their friends on-line.

### **Therapeutic Dreaming**

A doctor is able to peek inside a patients dreams to help them find the source of a forgotten trauma, then is able help guide them through the dream to find the resolution that they've been seeking all their life.

### **Who Am I?**

A person suffering from amnesia uses his smartphone to find his life again. Asking questions/requests and responding to the answers. "Take me home." "Make a date. With Julie? Yes."

### **Are You Really Gone?**

After loosing a loved one, a person finds that they are not as alone as they thought they might be. From automated texts and posts from the deceased, to audio and video from their web page, the memory of the person is kept alive. Then a message points then to a virtual reality site and they experience a farewell message which brings new focus to the whole experience.

### **Bully**

A young person is suffering from bullying on-line. At first devastated by the abuse, they find support from their friends. Together they are able to block the bullies messages and eventually get the bully kicked off the system.

### **Battle of the Bulge**

An astronaut on a space station has to fight their weigh after a physical shows they've gained another twenty pounds. Exercise is hard when you can just float around everywhere, and the chocolate pudding is so good.

### **Long Distance Love**

Two people who have meet on-line and fallen in love decide to in person. There is so much to learn about each other face to face. Who knew that the auto translation software was actually running.

### **Wilderness Escape**

A couple heads off for a weekend of backpacking, having practiced in town. With phones left in the car they rediscover the unconnected life and each other.

### **I Can Do That Better**

Displaced from work by a computer, a person goes back to school for retraining. They find that there are some things that people still do better than computers. Hugging, dreaming and Storytelling.

### **We Heard You Calling**

An alien ship pops into our solar system and settles into orbit. At first the world is on high alert, but soon the communications start and it seems they come in peace. Will Earth welcome these visitors or we try to blow them out of the sky?

### **Do Over**

A new social media tool simulates how friends and strangers might respond to a questionable post before it goes live. A person's first experience with the new feature is a little unsettling until they figure out what's it doing, and then what's its limitations are.

### **Bringing It Home**

Now that I've laid out several stories, which one would you like to read. Send me a quick e-mail at Doug@agoodtale.com and vote for your favorite. Whichever one gets the most votes will be in the June newsletter. This is your chance to let me know that you're supporting me – by not make me sad by getting no votes at all.

Whoever votes first for the most popular story idea will get a special gift, so vote early.

Also, since I'm talking about support, find me on Instagram by searching for #agoodtale and start following me. Instagram is where I'm posting all of my woodwork and laser-cutting projects. It would be wonderful if all my newsletter followers would become Instagram followers.

Until next month, remember, the future is bright.

Douglas Clarke

### **The Other Side**

That was harder than I thought it would be. It seems to be so much easier to paint on the darker side, but I think it might be a good exercises for us all to try to see a brighter future. Why don't you write one of these stories and send it to me. I'll post it on my web site and might even share it in my newsletter.