

A COMATOSE MIND

by
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INT. SCIENTIFIC LABORATORY CHAMBER - DAY

Dark walls but a pail light shines straight down on -

JOHNY, 24, adrenaline junkie, science assistant, dear friend. He's the coolest geek you will ever find. He'll make you smile at a funeral.

He's in a trance. Velcro strapped inside a huge steel ring. He's posed in the star jump position. Glow purple tubes come from the base of the machine, leading to various parts of the body, including the small crown-like head set.

Suddenly, a roar of pain! It instantly stops as his eyes dart open. He pants. A smile forms.

JOHNY

Wooo hooo what a rush! I think
we've got the ride of a life time!

INT. CHAMBER CONTROL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

It's white with computers, buttons and gages. A sucking mouth sound is heard. Peering through the glass is -

JAKE, 26, the eccentric project leader. Problems excite him since they are a chance to go ballistic into the craziest brainstorming session. He's also a little sweet.

His eyes beam with bliss as he gazes through the large inspection window at Johnny.

JAKE

It's beautiful. We can celebrate,
call the news, get the grant,
finish the experiment, get a bigger
grant.

His eyes widen in excitement.

DAISY, 21, the status monitor of the group. Her pessimistic paranoia makes her great at her job but the compassion shines through as she breast feeds Rosie - her baby.

DAISY

They will cut our funding like they
always do.

JAKE

Well... We'll finish it now then!

Jake races into the chamber. Daisy stands, worried, still breast feeding. She follows Jake.

INT. SCIENTIFIC LABORATORY CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

They walk in past an identical machine which holds a comatose man in the same star jump position -

TOM, 35, the patient hooked up to a futuristic life support system. Scars over his face from serious damage. The mind behind this man is dark and mysterious.

Johny grins in anticipation.

JOHNY

Jake, this is gonna be awesome!

Jake adjusts dials on Tom's machine. Daisy races up beside him. Rosie keeps sucking away.

DAISY

You can't be serious.

JAKE

Daisy, it'll be fine.

DAISY

What if we have a black out?

JAKE

Back up generators.

DAISY

What if bank robbers break in and steal the petrol?

JAKE

We have security.

DAISY

Well... well... What if they are aliens?

He glares at her with a raised eyebrow. She rolls her eyes.

DAISY

Alright alright, but I don't want anything bad to happen. Tom was one victim of that car accident. I don't want Johny to be another.

JAKE

There's nothing to worry about. I thought of everything. This is the most exciting time of my life. I'll finally get to tell Tom I'm sorry.

Jake flicks switches and taps dials.

Johny giggles as if a drug addict about to get his hit.

JOHNY
This is epic Dude.

Jake turns to face Daisy and leans in to give her a kiss.

JAKE
(baby talk style)
Hey my honey woney. Will you be a
sweaty and check the settings for
me?

Daisy blushes all shy.

DAISY
(French accent)
Ok my wittle super geek.

Jake chuckles, then races over to Johny. Daisy leans down,
still breast feeding, checks all the settings on Tom's
machine. Johny's eyes are wide with eagerness.

JOHNY
What's the go?

JAKE
Simple, relax your mind like
always, let the thoughts come to
you.

JOHNY
This is gonna be mad.

JAKE
There is just one little thing.

Johny appears worried. Jake points at the button on the steal
ring near Johny's hand.

JAKE
Remember that?

Johny struggles with a constipated gaze, trying to see.

JOHNY
Um the wimp button right?

JAKE
Push that to sever the telepathic
link when you feel yourself dying.

Jake smiles, then ducks down to adjust dials and flick switches. Johny gulps in worry.

INT. CHAMBER CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Jake pushes buttons. He checks graphs on computer screens. Daisy enters and shuts the chamber door.

DAISY
All set in there.

She adjusts Rosie on her breast. Her half smile shows worry.

JAKE
Excellent. purple across the board.

Jake turns to peer through the glass at Tom, then at Johny.

JAKE
You set in their Johny?

JOHNY
(filtered)
I'm ready, and set, so let's go!
Crank this sucker up!

Daisy puts her spare arm over Jake and lays her head on his shoulder. They stand, like posing for a family portrait. Jake proudly pushes the 'Enter' key. Daisy peers up at Johny.

IN THE CHAMBER

Johny takes a deep breath, closes his eyes, and sighs.

IN THE CONTROL ROOM

Jake pushes a lever forward as a hum builds up.

IN THE CHAMBER

The glow purple tubes start to glow brighter, lighting up the walls. A purple aura surrounds Johny as his head slumps into a sleep-like state. The purple light bursts into a massive flash around him, with the sound of a strong digital pulse.

IN THE CONTROL ROOM

Jake and Daisy squint at the brightness. They look up as the pulse fades. A green light flashes on the screen: "LINK ENGAGED."

Jake's smile beams forth as he jumps for joy. Daisy watches screens, worried. Suddenly, a terrifying roar bellows out!

IN THE CHAMBER

Johnny screams out in agony. Brute strength tears the Velcro straps off as if they were paper. He throws himself forward. All the glow tubes and instruments are left behind. He lands on his hands and knees and tenses up, trembling on the floor.

IN THE CONTROL ROOM

Jake stares at Johnny, in shock.

JAKE

Oh Jesus!

Daisy snaps out of it. She focuses on the screens.

DAISY

Christ, he's still linked!

Jake pulls back the lever and types away in panic as Daisy kisses Rosie on the forehead, then gently places Rosie in a pram, leaving Rosie there. Jake gets serious.

JAKE

Shutting down power... Negative.
Redirecting sync waves... Negative.
Overloading link circuits...
Negative. Daisy get in there and
sever that link!

Daisy lunges for the door to tear it open. She sprints into -

THE CHAMBER

She races to the safety button on the steel ring. She pushes it rapidly, over and over, gazing back at Jake with despair in her eyes. Jake looks up from the other side of the glass, shrugging his shoulders, palms up gesturing hopelessness.

Johnny shivers, grunting, gritting his teeth, twitching with sporadic spasms. Daisy, with emotional torment in her eyes, turns to gaze at his back. Mother-like, she approaches from the side.

DAISY

Johnny?

Suddenly, Johnny rises, throwing his arms back, viciously smacking Daisy's head across into the solid machine.

Daisy collapses to the floor. She twitches, gargling. Blood runs from her ears and nose.

Johny cramps up and his face contorts. He forces himself over into the corner of the room.

Through the glass Jake's face is shocked, eyes wide with dread. It contorts into tears and he darts for the door.

He bolts to Daisy's side, pulls her into his arms and rocks back and forth as Daisy's eyes scream with fear.

Jake's tears drip down onto her face.

JAKE

No, please God no.

Jake rushes to pull out his phone. He dials three numbers.

JAKE

Yeah please I need an ambulance at
23 Arcane drive. She's got bad head
injuries, she's... she's...

Jake bursts into tears. His hand falls limp and the phone slips to fall to the floor.

Johny strains, shivering like he's being electrocuted.

Rosie's cries emanate from the control room.

Jake glances over at Johny with anger in his eyes.

JAKE

What the hell have you done?

Jake waits for a response. He peers back down at Daisy in his arms. She twitches and gulps for air.

JAKE

The ambulance is coming baby. Rosie
needs you. I need you Baby. It
ain't bed time yet ok?

Daisy gargles, struggling to talk.

JAKE

Don't talk.

Daisy takes a difficult breath, she cries.

DAISY

(whispers)

You... killed... me...

She then passes out, flopping like a rag doll.

Jake rocks back and forth. Extreme anguish, rage, and remorse, all twist his face as he leans down to kiss her lips.

As he rises, blood hangs from his trembling lip, then a psychotic vengeance takes hold. He slides out from under her and rests her down ever so gently. His gaze turns to Johny who struggles and strains to look back at Jake.

JOHNY
(strained whisper)
H...Heeellllp... meeee...

Jake stands as Johny gazes at Daisy, with slight recognition of what he has done. Johny's gaze twitches back up towards Jake's hate filled glare.

Suddenly, Jake roars and charges Johny, who grits his teeth in pain.

Jake kicks Johny in the ribs, hard. Johny doesn't even flinch. It's like the pain he is constantly in, makes the kick seem like a kiss.

JAKE
You're friggin' dead! You hear me?

Another kick.

JAKE
Answer me you piece of shit!

Another kick. Jake realizes it's doing nothing.

Frustration merges with the torment and rage, as he grabs Johny by the shirt and pulls him over onto his back. Jake drops down and punches Johny in the face over and over.

Jake slows down as torment takes over from the rage.

He strangles Johny who stares with sadness coming through the twitching pain.

JOHNY
(garbled whisper)
D... D-do it.

Jake pauses, realizing what he's doing.

JOHNY
(garbled whisper)
Put... me out... of my misery!

Jake stops strangling and gets off, backing up in fear of what he was about to do.

JAKE
No... No...

Johnny struggles to roll over onto his side. Jake's torment mixes with the fear.

JAKE
I can't do it.

Johnny struggles with pleading eyes.

JOHNY
P...please. I... can't take it.

JAKE
What the hell is wrong with you?

Johnny's sorrowful eyes twitch down towards the floor.

JOHNY
(gritted teeth)
I'm in hell.

Jake's torment takes over from the fear.

JAKE
Look at what you've done.

Johnny struggles to gaze up at Daisy. A tear escapes his pain filled eye.

JOHNY
D...Daisy.

Jake's frustration sets in.

JAKE
Why Johnny. Why?

Johnny's painful expression twitches with confusion.

JOHNY
J... Johnny?

Jake moves in closer, slightly curious but still tormented.

JAKE
Tom?

Johnny's pain dominated expression, half smiles.

Johnny strains to rise up to peer at a reflection of himself from a shiny cover on the machine. He sees himself and is tormented.

He struggles to reach up to touch the reflection. It shocks him. He forcefully peers at his hand, then touches his face as he stares at the reflection. He struggles to focus on the parts of the damaged machine.

JOHNY

Y... you... got it... working.

JAKE

I... I can't believe it.

JOHNY

It's... all wrong though.

Jake's sadness comes through.

JAKE

I can fix it Tom.

JOHNY

No... It's too... painful.

Jake approaches, hopeful.

JAKE

Painkillers. Morphine. I'll get rid of the pain. Anti psychotic drugs. Valium to stop the muscle cramps. I can do this. It just needs some tweaking.

Johnny roars as he pushes himself up to face Jake, who jerks back, startled.

JOHNY

No! I can't... live like this.

Jake takes on a serious gaze.

JAKE

I'm not going to lose you again.

Johnny gazes at Jake with pleading eyes.

JOHNY

I'm... not staying... in this hell!.. If you... don't kill me... I'm... gonna have to... make you kill me...

Suddenly, Johnny rises in a psychotic rage. He charges Jake and grabs him by the throat, throwing Jake onto his back.

Jake struggles. He reaches up to the strong hands and pulls fruitlessly. He punches them, trying in vain to dislodge the grip.

JAKE
(strangled)
Let... me... go!

JOHNY
Kill... me... and I will...

Jake reaches up, preparing to strangle Johnny. He pauses. He relaxes and stops struggling.

JAKE
(strangled)
You... want to die?... Kill yourself!

Johnny's face contorts, conflicted. He pulls away rocks in pain, thinking.

Jake coughs, rubbing his neck, getting his breath back, still tormented. Rosie's crying grabs his attention. He gets up and saunters over to Rosie to pick her up from the pram.

Johnny sees a chunk of glass from the smashed machine. He eyeballs it, building up his courage. He snatches the shard and puts it too his wrist as he glances up.

Suddenly, he pauses as he gazes upon Jake standing there with Rosie. Johnny thinks, contemplating.

JAKE
This is your niece. How does Uncle Tom sound?

JOHNY
You... can't... do this...

JAKE
You're my brother. I can't let you die again.

JOHNY
I'm sorry.

Suddenly, Johnny stands and charges the life support system. He smashes it to pieces, then stares at the comatose body. Jake stands there in tormented shock.

Johnny sways before collapsing to the floor. Jake races over to him.

JAKE
No not again.

JOHNY
It's... the only way...

JAKE
But...

Tears well up in his eyes. A tear runs down his cheek. Johnny's contorted pain eases.

JOHNY
I'll... be at peace.

JAKE
I'm so sorry.

Johnny reaches up compassionately to cup Jake's cheek.

JOHNY
Don't be... You did... nothing wrong.

JAKE
But I was driving the car. I put you in the coma. I... I killed you.

Jake sobs. The heart rate monitor slows.

JOHNY
You are my brother... I love you more... than anyone.

JAKE
I don't deserve -

JOHNY
No!... Don't say that... I forgive you... I... I can feel the peace.

The heart rate monitor slows more and more, almost stopping.

JAKE
I love you Tom. Goodbye.

JOHNY
Good... bye....

The heart rate monitor stops and Johnny appears to die.

Jake fully cries. He slithers his way over to Daisy and strokes her face.

TWO PARAMEDICS burst into the chamber room and examine the carnage. They spot Daisy and instantly move in.

PARAMEDIC

Sir, please, we need room.

The paramedic helps Jake to slide over to the side, out of the way. The two paramedics get to work, mumbling medical jargon amongst themselves.

Suddenly, Johny roars, grabbing everyone's attention. It instantly stops and a huge smile forms on Johny's face.

JOHNY

Choice man! It friggin'...

His smile fades as he feels the pain in his side. He reaches around to hold his ribs.

JOHNY

Jesus... Did you get the number of that...

He glances up and sees the carnage. Suddenly it dawns on him and the anguish sets in. Jake and Johny gaze sorrowfully into each other's eyes as Rosie cries and the paramedics work.

INT. BOILER ROOM - NIGHT

A young woman's face.

JENNY, 26, she's beautiful but dumb as a brick. She smiles gleefully like, oblivious.

A syringe approaches her arm.

JENNY

What's that for?

JAKE

It's a painkiller. It will make you relax cause this could tickle a little. Don't worry. This will all be over in a minute.

He pulls away. Jenny is strapped into a telepathy machine via extra strong restraints. Jake gulps as he looks up at another machine. Strapped in and hooked up to life support, is the scarred comatose patient - Daisy.