

# KEEPING US SAFE

## Cast of Characters

Claudette Champion: A single woman, between her twenties to fifties.

Cameron Nord: A single woman, of similar age to Claudette. They are house mates.

Hunter24: A male android.

## SETTING

Studio apartment. A dystopian future in Australia

**SETTING:** A future time in Australia. Evening. Studio apartment shared by Claudette Champion and Cameron Nord. Clothing hamper near the door, a small table with a monitor, laptop/tablet and stools. Use either a rug and pillows on the floor or a chair and stool for seating.

**AT RISE:** Noises off stage. Cameron and Claudette enter dressed in full coveralls, preferably white plastic, wearing facemasks, dark glasses, gloves and helmet. Coveralls mask and gloves are dumped in the hamper after disrobing.

**RUNNING TIME:** 18 minutes

CAMERON

Have you seen this? Our Clean Oxygen allowance has been cut. The Algorithm says we overdid our home exercise this week.

CLAUDETTE

Well I didn't do any extra exercise. Did you?

CAMERON

That's just great! Now we have to rely on our air scrubbers and they're not working properly. Did you report them? Is someone coming to fix them?

CLAUDETTE

We haven't got enough Social and Civic Points to even get on a work order. You may as well admit you did it Cam!

CAMERON

I don't have to report to you, everything I do!

CLAUDETTE

No, but everything gets reported to The Algorithm.

CAMERON

It wasn't exercise anyway. I put on some dance music and jiggled around for a bit.

CLAUDETTE

And sang at the same time? Well I hope you enjoyed it because our Influencer points have hit rockbottom.

CAMERON

I suppose that means we will have to do more community service to make up Points. I hate community service.

CLAUDETTE

I don't know about the 'we'. I've got scheduled work. You'll have to do double volunteer time though otherwise we will slide into social oblivion.

CAMERON

I hate volunteering. How do we know the Algorithm's calculations are right? It might have made a mistake.

CLAUDETTE

It doesn't make mistakes. Our Fridge tells us if we exceed our protein quota. The Door QR monitors when we go out. The Algorithm knows everything.

CAMERON

An algorithm is just software. Software is coded by humans. Humans make mistakes.

CLAUDETTE

I'm quite aware humans make mistakes. I am looking at one. (Beeping heard). What now?

CAMERON

Oh no. (Appearing to struggle to open the Fridge.)

CAMERON

Well if the people with half a brain saw this coming, why didn't they do something? Are you saying I don't have half a brain?

CLAUDETTE

That's right! You have a whole brain. That might be the problem.

CAMERON

I don't think we should have to put up with this. (Noise of lock clicking)

CLAUDETTE

Shhh. Shut Up. (Covers Cameron's mouth.) It's here.

CAMERON

(Pulling away Claudette's hand)

Did you sanitise?

HUNTER24

Good evening Occupants. Under the Ministry of the Interior "Keeping Us Safe" Protocols, I am authorised to undertake a House and Safety Inspection.

CLAUDETTE

It's a pity you're an android. You're kind of cute.

HUNTER24

That is not an approved conversation. A demerit has been noted.

CLAUDETTE

Are you deliberately trying to get us in trouble?

CAMERON

Why are you here? We are not due for an Inspection.

HUNTER24

I am here to investigate multiple breaches at this location.



CAMERON

What breaches?

CLAUDETTE

Men used to wear breeches you know, one's that clipped up the front.

HUNTER24

According to The Algorithm you have exceeded your fresh oxygen and protein allowances for the week.

CAMERON

Get out, really? I can't believe that. Are you sure your figures are correct?

HUNTER24

Your limits are based on a two-person household of combined heights, weights and gender.

CAMERON

Even in these times men still win out.

HUNTER24

As part of the required correction, your Fridge compartments will only dispense non-primary protein supplements and your Fridge door lock will be reset to ten minutes.

CAMERON

It already is.

HUNTER24

Your Free Oxygen will be reduced until the over-consumption has been remedied.

CLAUDETTE

That's not fair.

HUNTER24

Your monthly vaccination is overdue. Female known as Claudette Champion please present your arm.