

After uneventfully passing the empty spot of highway where Byron and Heather had joined the other three, both humans relaxed enough to doze away the last couple of hours of the trip to the mid-sized town Tammy had chosen.

When the car passed the bilingual welcome sign on the highway, Tammy awoke her man.

"Mike." she said.

"Mmmmmmm." he said as he roused himself from sleep.

"We're here." she said. "I'll find a motel. Wake Byron so he can get us rooms."

"I'm awake." he said quietly. He stretched out in his seat as he glanced out the window to the falling sun. In a couple of hours it would start to disappear behind the trees and buildings.

The motel they chose was not the same one Tammy and Mike had stayed in on their last visit to this town a couple of days previous. All occupants of the car were apprehensive over the possibility that unwelcome visitors would find them.

Tammy pulled the car in along the side of the building, as far out of sight as could be.

"Two rooms." Byron said. "Anything else? You smoke?"

"No," Mike said, "Just two rooms, but two beds in one of them."

"Try to get them on the other side of the building, tell the clerk we want to watch the sunset." Tammy said.

This was to provide cover for bringing Heather's unmoving body into the room. Mike was quite impressed by her creativity in that regard.

"We'll wait here." Mike said as Byron took a thick bundle of bills from Tammy and got out of the car.

He stuffed the money into his pocket and closed the car door.

Mike and his two fembots watched him walk up to the door and into the office.

"I assume you'll make me & Byron a shopping list." he said to Tammy.

"Yes." she said as she looked at him with Anya's face. "Start computing a list of things the humans will need to buy for the repairs, Anya." she said as she looked at the stiff fembot in the back seat.

"Yes Tammy." she said. The facemask she held to her head didn't move.

Byron came back to the car and got in. "Two rooms, both on the other side of the building." he said as he handed Mike a set of keys. He looked at Tammy's reflection in the rearview. "That was a nice touch about the sunset." he said.

"Thank you." she said as she started the car and pulled slowly out of her spot.

The car went over a speedbump and pulled around the side of the building. Mike read the number on his keychain and showed it to Tammy. She could decipher the small numbers on the doors from this distance, and before the humans knew exactly where their rooms were, she had computed exactly where she would park.

She stopped the car and looked around. "I don't see anybody close by." she said. "We should bring Heather in as soon as we can."

"Okay." Mike said. He looked back at Byron. "You and me will bring her in."

Byron nodded as Mike gave his keys to Tammy. The four of them got out of the vehicle. Mike stood by and waited for Byron to bring Heather out. When he had her legs out, Mike grabbed them and helped Byron lift his love through the door that Tammy had opened.

Mike looked up at Byron, and for a second saw the look of pain on his face as he stared into the unmoving eyes of his damaged companion. Mike looked down quickly at her feet.

The two of them layed the damaged android on the nearest bed. "Anya," Mike said, "start undressing Heather." He went over to the window and drew shut the curtains.

Mike got the car keys from Tammy and went with Byron to get their things out of the trunk. "Better put that case and the snowshoes in your room. Turn the lights on in there too." he said.

Byron nodded and grabbed the heavy aluminum case. Together they emptied the trunk of bags and got them into their respective rooms.

Byron went inside his room. "I'll be over in about five minutes." he said.

"Okay." Mike said. "We have a shopping trip to make after."

Mike went back to his room and closed the door. He went to the washroom too as the two still activated fembots swapped data and compiled a handwritten shopping list on the motel stationery. Anya had by this time put the damaged facemask on a table and now displayed the inside of her electronic head to all present.

When Mike was done, he emerged to hear Byron knocking. He let him in.

"Well," he said to Tammy, "is that list done?"

"Almost." she said as Anya relayed a constant verbal string of exactly described computer parts and mechanical tools. Tammy wrote legibly and without looking or stopping until she had filled up two pages of the small note pad with items.

She pulled the papers away from the pad and gave them to Mike. "This is what we need, so far."

Mike took them and looked at Anya's face on Tammy's head. He gave her lips a kiss. "We'll be back." he said Arnold-like.

He looked over at Byron and without a word, the two were off.

