

Immortality

Background

Another one of those futures where everything is done by computers, robots or nano type technology. People don't have to work unless they have to. Energy and resources are free. Life is perfect, certainly from our point of view.

There are still cities as people want to be near each other, but if you fancy getting away from it all that's easy to achieve, whether it's in the middle of some wilderness on the same planet as your friends or on a planet all of your own.

No one owns such things as cars or houses. There is no point when they are more or less free to make. Most items can be have their atomic structure scanned and stored and if you want that it back again in the future it can just be ordered up. Art, sports and personal expression are the things most people get involved in as these set one apart as an individual, but there are also those who just let life drift by.

Medical science has obviously reached a pinnacle. Not only are diseases a thing of the past, but limbs and even whole bodies can be re-grown. Nano tech lives in everybody keeping them in trim and should you want to look slightly out of the ordinary, say becoming obese for a few years, it's just a matter of thinking about it. Bored of your human body, why not add some mechanical limbs or transfer your entire consciousness in to a robot.

None of this means that people can't die. Sometimes there is nowhere to transfer the mind to when massive trauma happens, but it's a rare occurrence.

The Story

I liked the idea of a man in this future trying to kill himself. The technology and the people around him will obviously try to save him. But what if he keeps trying. I left that bit open at the end. I couldn't imagine that the doctors would give him a mind wipe just to stop him killing himself, so maybe in the end they will let him die.

The story could be happening after his first suicide attempt, or it could be after his second.

He obviously thinks that the knowledge about his accident is being withheld from him, when in fact it is being drip fed from the moment the first thought about Tarah pops in to his head. Initially his emotions about her leaving are being repressed but these are slowly opened up to him as well as the computer side of his body tries to help him come to terms with her going. In the end the emotions are all free and he hits the same low point he had a few days before. The result is the same.

Why didn't the nanities just shut off his emotions again when he started to endanger himself? Partly because it wouldn't have made for a good story, but if this is his second time and they no they can save him as they did the first time there would be little harm in letting him play out the whole thing. His emotional trauma is obviously too much for them to resolve so giving him one more chance to sort it out himself and then letting a human psychologist deal with him would be a good solution.

I also wanted to hint that he could have pushed Tarah out of the window. This wasn't a major bit of plot to aim at, but if some readers pick up on it all the better.

Other Notes

Immersion sculpture and sled hopping along with grav chutting are just throw away lines. I had some ideas about what they could be, but you're free to imagine them for yourself. Much like the other tech' type stuff I've added it was an attempt to give the world a bit of depth.