

Doctor Brown

By

Ethan Specht

Based On

IC3OLATION By Gambit Games

The office was small and grey. Sophia sat across the desk of Mr. Sloane, he wore a nice suit, and had slicked back black hair. The Doctor gripped her phone on her lap, where he couldn't see.

"Well Dr. Brown, your experience and accomplishment are quite impressive" Sloane said "MIT, assistant for several labs and projects, several papers written and published, a good student, but not too good, your clearly a free thinker, a problem solver, that's what we need"

"Thank you"

"However, this project is, shall we say, exclusive. And when we went to do a background check, we found that there were some discrepancies in your records."

"Go on" Sophia said hiding her panic.

"Well there are considerable amounts of time where no records shows you living anywhere. No rented housing, or even mailing address"

“Really?” Sophia asked, “That doesn’t make any sense” She cursed herself in her head for the simple mistake. She loosened her grip her phone. Unseen to the man with slicked back hair, an arc of electricity briefly appeared and the screen glowed.

“Could you check again” Sophia asked

The was silent for a moment before “Well, I suppose” he turned to his computer. There were a few clicks and typing. He briefly glanced at her un-hopefully. Turning back to the computer, his eyes narrowed before slowly going wide.

“Oh, ah” Mr. Sloane said “There we go ... Sorry about that, we must have missed it somehow”

“No problem” Sophia replied “So ...”

“Right well ...” the Sloane went on “You seem like the perfect type to join this project, I must warn you however, this is a joint military corporate operation. You will have to sign an NDA, as you will be trusted with very ... sensitive material”

“You can trust me” Sophia replied simply.

Three days later ...

The next room, while bigger and more bountifully furnished, was just as grey.

Sophia laughed “That’s quite the story Mr. Ian”

“Oh please, call me Grayson,” He said, taking a drink from the caramel colored liquor in his glass. His smile was infectious, and as bright as the light reflecting off his glossy two piece suit.

The old grey, but strong General Huxford, usually as straight as his uniform, briefly revealed the kindness of his face and smiled too.

Grayson ran his hand through his dark hair, and turned to him expeditiously. Huxford didn't seem to tell him with a look he didn't have anything to add. Grayson briefly looked down into his glass. He seemed only the tiniest bit nervous.

"Well I suppose we should get down to business" He said, putting down his glass and grabbing a nearby aluminum briefcase. Grayson carefully put in the combination before opening it and taking out a thick stack of filled file folders, handing them to Dr. Brown.

She opened the first to see images of an object in the sky.

"Those were the first images we got of it," Huxford said.

Sophia turned the page to see images of the crashed "object".

"Those were taken not long after it crashed to earth," Grayson explained.

She noticed a man in one of the photos. He had long hair, and a strong nose with a boyish face. He seemed to be gesturing to whoever was taking the photo to follow him.

Sophia opened the next folder, flinching- no, shuddering at the images of the "alien" corpses.

"Those are the bodies of the objects ... pilots" the General said.

"You won't be working with them" Grayson followed up.

Sophia stared at the photos trying not to seem too invested

“Of course not” she finally said “My question though, where are they?”

“They’ve been autopsied” Huxford stated “They’re currently in cold storage, still at the facility”

Sophia nodded, moving on to the next folder. Images of the liquid leaking from the crash site.

“We’ve cleaned up the spill,” Grayson said. “Now we’re trying to understand what exactly it is”

Dr. Brown nodded, and moved on to the folder detailing the Robot.

“This is the main thing you wanted my expertise on” She asked.

Grayson and Huxford both nodded.

“I think I can help you” Sophia said confidently, but not suspiciously.

Grayson smiled at Mr. Sloane

“She seems to be our guy”

Dr. Brown went on to explain some of her ideas. The meeting then ended, with Grayson telling her that Mr. Sloane would work out any further details with her.

In the dark hall outside the room, Sloane told her “There is someone else you might want to talk to”

Three days later ...

The house was nice, it was on a nice street, in a nice neighborhood, it even just so happened to be a nice day. But something was off. Several things actually. The car

needed a wash at least twice over. The lawn needed mowing, and was infested with weeds.

Doctor Brown approached the door. She knocked before waiting. It was a long moment, during which she heard some rushing, yelling, and arguing, before an older looking woman opened the door to greet her with a youthful smile, in contrast to her white hair.

“Hi, I’m Doctor Sophia Brown” she said “I’m here about ... the project”

“Come in” the woman nodded and gestured her in.

The inside was something of a mess, toys, and clothes everywhere. A little girl in a purple tutu ran around. Sophia looked at the many photos on the walls. A man was in nearly all of them. She recognized him from the photos of the crash site. There was one of him standing by a waterfall, at Machu Picchu, in Europe, climbing a mountain, sailing. She noticed in a few of them he was accompanied by a woman. Bright, and blond haired, with something of a resemblance to the old woman before her. They looked incredibly happy.

“Elliot!” the woman called out “One of your ... associates, is here to see you!”

The man entered. He was shabbily dressed, in need of a shave and a haircut. One Sophia got close enough she could smell he hadn’t had a proper shower in a while either.

“Yeah?” He stopped in his tracks when he saw her.

“One of your associates?” the woman repeated.

“Right” Elliot said. “Why don’t you sit down, I’ll be with you in a moment.”

“Your welcome Elliot” the old woman said.

“Thank you Maria!” He called back, annoyed.

Sophia shared a smile with the lady, and went to sit down on the couch. The little girl in the tutu ran up to her. The Doctor smiled meeting her eyes, only for the toddler to simply stare at her. Sophia's smile became awkward, before the girl ran off again.

The man re-entered.

“Elliot Sherman” he said putting out his hand.

“Doctor Sophia Brown” she said gently shaking it.

Elliot sat down across from her.

“Can get you a drink or something?”

“Oh, no thank you”

The toddler screeched, Elliot watched the her with a far off look on his face.

“So” Sophia began

A boy entered, drawing there attention his hair a dirty auburn, his back hunched, his eyes darker than any childs should be. The boy barely made eye contact or even acknowledged the two before he moved on.

“So ...” Sophia said again.

“Right. What can I do for you” Elliot said.

The Doctor explained that she was planning on bringing in some new equipment to the facility, and wanted his opinion on what effect the cold environment might have on them, and what they could do about it. Elliot said he would compile his notes and send them to her, though he said it with a far off look on his face.

“Will you be joining us at the facility?” Sophia asked afterwards.

Elliot didn't say anything for a long moment.

“I don't know” he finally replied.

The two politely said goodbye before Sophia left him, in that nice house, on that nice street, on that nice day.

Three days later ...

Sophia looked on at the white, snowy landscape below her as she flew in the helicopter. It was as vast as a void, and as quiet and barren as a desert. A faintly visible path created by the tracks of various snowmobiles and trucks used to transport larger materials, lead up to a range of icebergs and mountains. There Doctor Brown could see the large metal facility.

The helicopter landed on a pad just outside. Even with the snow suit, the cold numbed her as she got out. A petite, well built, dark haired man swollen looking features greeted her.

“Danson Blackday” He said as he shook her hand “But you can call me Dan. I'm interim head of security”

“Doctor Sophia Brown” She replied

The two began walking the path to the facility.

“I already looked over your files” He went on as they entered through the heavy metal door. “Your equipment is on it’s way”

“Alright” Sophia said simply.

“I saw you got Sherman in on it” Danson said in a questioning tone.

“Yes?” Doctor Brown replied mirroring his own questioning.

“Well it’s just-” he paused, looking away. “Did you meet with him?”

“Yes” She said after a moment.

“How’s he doing?” he asked.

“I’ve seen men in better shape” Sophia replied “But I’ve also seen men in a lot worse”. He looked deeply at her face and into her eyes, brown low. Finally he broke eye contact, looking down at the ground, he nodded.

“Come on” Danson said after a moment. “I’ll show you around.” He gestured. And the two were off.

After showing her, her room, the break room, and the med bay, Danson took her a large room with a tall ceiling. There the dull grey humanoid stood like a monolith. Two scientist working on it. One from below, and another high up on a step ladder. Sophia smiled warmly as she looked up at it.

“Look familiar?” Danson asked.

“What?” Sophia asked back, hiding her concern.

“Well this is supposed to be your primary department right. I’d imagine they showed you the files”

“Right! Yeah ... they did” the Doctor said.

“But it is different seeing it in person” the man said with a smile and a far off look in his face.

“Yeah” Sophia agreed.

A moment went by before Danson gestured her to follow him up a staircase to a catwalk balcony.

“How you doing Doctor Harrison!” Danson yelled.

The man on the high step ladder, working on a, for lack of a better word, alien control panel bumped his head as he jolted in surprise, ending up dropping the tool he was holding which fell, clanging to the ground. As he looked up at them, Doctor Brown got a better look at him. He was tall, and lanky, with longish grey hair and mustache, just on the edge of being unwell kept. Under his labcoat she could see he wore a colorfully knit sweater vest over a dress shirt.

“Oh, Mr. Blackday” Dr. Harrison said

“Were not interrupting anything are we?” He asked

“Oh no” the Doctor replied

“Well, I just stopped by to introduce you to someone here” Danson said

“Oh!” He said, putting out his hand “Doctor Kyle Harrison”

“Doctor Sophia Brown” she replied, shaking it.

“Oh of course” Kyle Harrison said “I’m glad your here! Come on!” He gestured down. Danson nodded, as Doctor Harrison climbed down the step latter, they made there way down the stares.

“So what do you know?” He asked

“The Robot was found in the wreckage of the ... craft” Sophia said the last word with quotation marks. “It showed the ability to follow commands, when it’s electrical circuits were effected in a certain way ... attempts to recreate this effect haven’t been consistently effective”

“Correct” Doctor Harrison replied “In fact I was just attempting it again now- Actually!”

He grabbed an apple from a nearby emptied plate of food, and placed it on the table before the Robot. Harrison then grabbed the tool, climbed back up, and pressed it into the panel. The Robot seemed to come to attention. It seemed subtly alive before. But now it seemed to be really listening.

“Robot, pick up the apple” Doctor Harrison said.

The Robot almost seemed confused, as if it didn’t know if it should do as it was told. Or if it wanted to, but wasn’t allowed.

“Robot, pick up the apple” he repeated. After a moment, he took the tool out.

“He has done it before” The Robot slowly became less attentive “I don’t know if Mr. Ian or General Huxford told you this, but were, contemplating putting this project on the

back burner. I don't want to alarm you or anything. You still have some job security, we could always use more help with the substance experiments"

"Well ... " Sophia stated, unsure of what to say.

"You wanna give it a try?" Doctor Harrison asked, holding out the tube.

"Sure" Sophia replied taking it. She climbed up, pressing it into a place in the glowing metallic circuit pattern. Subtly, she let he finger slip onto it.

"Robot, pick up the apple" Doctor Brown said. The Robot came to attention. But this time, it leaned down, picking up the apple, to Harrison and Dansons amazement.

"Beginners luck" Sophia quipped.

One week later ...

From the corner of her eye, she saw movement through the hall, movement of a familiar figure. Curious, Sophia quickly put down her tools, and went to the doorway, leaning out. She saw him, and rushed after him.

"Mr. Sherman!" she called out.

He turned, stopping.

"Hey" she said as they went up to him. "Good to see you again".

"Good to be seen ... I suppose"

"I didn't know if you'd be joining us" the Doctor said

"Neither did I" Elliot replied.

"Could to have you aboard again. I can say I've heard a lot about, unlike when we first met".

“All good things I hope” he quipped, dryly.

“You’ll be head of security again?” Doctor Brown asked.

“Yep” he replied simply.

“Good to hear” Sophia stated. “I’ll uh, let you go. I’ll see you later though”

“Yeah” he replied.

Three days later ...

It was a pleasant conversation until Zakovich entered it. Sophia, Elliot and Emil Bradley were talking about the facility, and how amazing it was that it was even possible, when Doctor Zakovich had to chime in and point out that the alien technology was even more advanced.

Three days later ...

Doctor Brown peaked out from her bedroom door. The hall was empty. She quickly stepped out and casually walked down the hall, and through the facility.

Looking around to make sure nobody was watching, she turned a particular corner, unaware she was being watched by a figure in the shadows. She made her way down a dark hall to a heavy metal door.

As she opened it, it hissed. Sophia entered the cold room. Her breath was visible. She crossed the room where the cadavers of various animal test subjects lay in the preserve, to two particular drawers. She pulled them out to reveal the bodies. Their green skin had turned pale, their flesh had become sunken. Tears formed in Sophias eyes as she raised her hand to touch them when-

“What are you doing here?”

Doctor Brown nearly jumped out of her skin as she turned around to see Doctor Zakovich standing in the doorway. A moment went by before Sophia managed a response.

“Doctor Zakovich”

“Your not supposed to be here” He replied.

“I know, I-” Sophia said “I just- I wanted to see them”

“Just wanted to see them” Zakovich repeated mockingly.

He crossed the room to where Doctor Brown was by the drawers. He grabbed the handle and forced it back in.

Three days later ...

Doctor Brown was awoken to the sound of knocking at her door. Before her eyes could adjust to the darkness, she turned on her light, before getting up and going to the door, the knocking continuing.

“I’m coming, I’m coming!” she called out as she crossed the room to her door, opening it to see Elliot standing there in a panic.

“Elliot”

“The bodies are gone!” He said.

“ ... What?” Sophia said

“Someone went to check on their status, and they were just gone! They’re missing! Noone can find them!”

“Oh my god!”

Doctor Brown quickly grabbed her robe and ran off down the hall with Elliot. They, along with most of the rest of the scientists and facility workers ran around looking everywhere for the bodies. It was unclear what anyone expected, to just find them in a closet or a locker, or a room somewhere. Why? Did someone hide them? Who? And why? Maybe they got moved accidentally. Just finding them like that would have been strange. But even stranger, was not finding them at all, which is where they found themselves a few hours later. Elliot and the scientists agreed to give up the search, and let everyone go back to bed, get a few extra hours to make up for the nces they lost. But they told everyone to keep an eye out.

Three days later ...

Emil, Dan, and Kyle laughed at the table, while Sophia took the trash of her finished lunch to the bin. She looked back at them before casually leaving.

She made her way through the halls to the observatory, a half circle room lined with windows. The Doctor looked around to make sure she was alone, before pulling something from her coat. She was holding it up high near the window, like she was trying to get some sort of signal, when she saw Elliot in the reflection of the glass, quickly putting it away.

Turning back Sophia saw Elliot, seemingly unsuspecting.

“Hey, Mr. Sherman” she said.

“Doctor Brown,” he replied, acknowledging her.

“You sort of startled me” Sophia said.

“Sorry” he said simply “Admiring the view?”

“Huh? Oh, yeah, I guess” she said looking back into the light of the sheer white landscape through the window. She then became entranced in the scene before her outside.

“Beautiful isn’t it?” Elliot said, beginning to smile.

“Yeah, I hadn't noticed until now”.

Elliot admired her in the light, his eyes tracing up her neck, to her chin, lips, nose, and cheeks. Her eyes he could imagine from what little he could see of them in her profile.

“Yeah me neither” he replied in agreement, his smile becoming stronger before fading.

Sophia turned back, smiling at him.

“What?” she said, clearly seeing him try to rebuild it.

“Nothing,” Elliot said looking out the window.

“You seem off” she stated “I mean, in a good way ... and in a not so good way guess”

A long moment went by, Sophia simply stared at Elliot, knowing he was going to say something, and knowing it would take time.

“Have you ever been sick? And you start to get better ... but then that day comes, that day you expected to be all better, the day you expected to be back to

normal. And you just think, this is going to be forever, I'm going to feel this bad, for the rest of my life, I've gotten as better as I'm going to get. And you know deep down that can't be true. And you want to feel better, you still remember what it's like, and you've felt those brief moments of it, and it makes you feel so ... close" he made eye contact with her on that last word.

"Yeah, I get that," Sophia said simply.

It suddenly became awkward. Both Doctor Brown and Elliot looked away from each other. The latter finally became brave enough to say.

"I was going to say, I was planning on going on a little camping trip" Elliot explained "I had been wanting to since we started this whole expedition, but never found the time"

"If you feel like you need to ... you should"

Another moment went by, this time solemn, the two smiling at each other, before Elliot finally looked down, nodding and began walking away. Sophia turned her attention back to the object in her pocket, and a thought occurred to her. She debated it her head as she looked back at the leaving Elliot, before-

"Elliot"

He looked back.

"Could I join you?" Sophia asked "On your trip?"

He seemed shocked.

"You're not busy?"

“I can clear my schedule” she said, to which Elliot gave a confused look “I’ve needed a break”

“Sure,” he said smiling, before leaving.

One day later ...

The trail of the vehicle leads from the facility, across the snow, through a mountain pass, and up onto a small plateau.

In the neon tent, Sophia sat in fleece lined snow jacket and pants, she once again had the object out. She smiled, before quickly putting it away as Elliot entered, bits of snow on his jacket.

“It’s not snowing too hard,” he said.

“Really?” Sophia said sarcastically pointing to him. Elliot rolled his eyes before smiling.

“So .. what do we do?” she asked.

Elliot drew from his pack, a deck of cards.

A few minutes later ...

“Read ‘em and weep!” Sophia said, showing her cards and revealing her straight.

“You’re a quick learner, you know that?” Elliot replied ‘And I went and taught you ‘read em and weep!’” he revealed his own cards, a simple two pair.

The two laughed.

Elliot went quite

“Me and my family used to go camping,” he said, somewhere else.

“Hey” Sophia said, bringing him back. “How about I give you a chance to win some of your money back”

One day later ...

“Jackie and what?” Sophia asked.

“Joey” replied Elliot “After the characters on the show” the two looked at the kangaroo with her baby “And you know, the word for a baby kangaroo” he added.

“Kind of an odd thing to name them after” the Doctor teased him.

“I must have watched that show nearly every morning,” he said. She could tell that before their trip, this would be something that talking about would make him go to that place, wherever he went. But now, he was only half there, and he seemed happy.

The two toured through the various pens, Elliot explaining the characters he had named them after.

Finally, Sophia took him by the arm and excitedly led him away.

One day later ...

“So ...” Sophia said sitting on Elliot's bed “How come General Huxford chose you?” Elliotts eyebrows raised, and his eyes went wide, it was clearly a loaded question “What makes Elliot Sherman, Elliot Sherman?”

Elliot smiled, a moment passed before he passed the bottle of booze to her, and she took a swig.

“Well what do you wanna know?” he asked

“Let’s start somewhere simple, where did your name come from?” Sophia asked

“My dad named me after Elliot Ness, the guy who helped put Al Capone away”

Elliot explained.

“I mean, what does your name mean?”

Elliot made an amused face.

“I don’t know ... I guess I would have to look that up”

A moment passed before Sophia asked “Tell me more about your father” it was more of a command, but he didn’t mind.

“He was a career military man,” Elliot explained “He moved from base to base, me and my mom moved with him.” he went on “We never stayed one place too long ... Still though, he would take time to spend with me. He took me to the base gyms and taught me how to box. He took me camping” Elliot eyed Sophia coyishly, and she smiled “He taught me how to hunt, how to start a fire with nothing but a knife, a rock, and some kindling” he smiled curiously “It’s strange, he made me get up early, exercise, clean, be disciplined, but he never quite treated me like a soldier. Maybe that’s just the only way he knew how to connect, how to guide me” Elliot slowed “Eventually, he got busy, so I would see him less ... and eventually, me and my mom, we moved back to the states, settled down ... And he would come home, and stay for a bit, but it wasn’t like it was before”

“Im sorry” Sophia said.

“Yeah” Elliot replied “Anyways, it wasn’t for any good, I was so used to moving around, that by the time I graduated college, I was itching to travel” he went on “I visited the pyramids, machu picchu, I climbed mountains” he was just beginning to get that far off look, when

“So thats why General Huxford chose you?” Sophia asked “Because you had traveled here before?”

“Yeah” Elliot replied “I wanted to see how far north I could get” he told her “I ended up meeting this Inuit, who taught me to navigate the landscapes, and how to survive.” Elliot said “But really, I think Huxford chose me because my dad was in the military ... which is why I'm guessing he also made me the head of security ... even though I'm not given information for ‘security reasons’” he put air quotes on the last word to emphasize his complaint.

Sophia put her hand on his. He took it, holding tightly.

One day later ...

They put out the bowls of chips, pretzels and snacks, hung up some fabric for a curtain, and made sure the mic was working.

Sophia took a deep breath.

“You ready?” Elliot asked.

“Yep” she nodded.

The music came on. She and Elliot waited both already engrossed in the rhythm. They looked to the machine as the lyrics appeared, and began singing.

The crowd of Dr. Harrison, Emil Bradley, and Danson Blackday cheered and whistled.

The two continued their duet as the song built up. They began to dance. As the song crescendoed the two turned to each other, looking deeply into each other's eyes. The song ended leaving the two in a silence all their own, before the applause and cheers of their friends kicked back in. It was the happiest either had been in a very long time.

One day later ...

Sophia walked through the dark hall. Her heels clicking on the hard floor. She leaned in through the lit doorway.

“So uh, how are you all doing?” Elliot asked, looking into the screen

“Good” a young, but grim voice replied

“Good” Elliot said “That’s good ... uh ...”

Sophia must have made a noise, because Elliot's head shot to her. He gave a look that said please help me, so she quickly came in.

“Oh kids this is Doctor Brown, you might actually remember her she visited us before I left”

“Which time?” the young grim boy whom she recognized from Elliot's house mumbled. Elliot flinched but moved on.

“Hi” Sophia said, waving her hand.

“Daddy! I lost a tooth!” the little girl in the tutu Sophia remembered.

“That’s great sweetie!” Elliot exclaimed.

The Doctor did her best to just stand there and smile.

After the video chat ended, Elliot thanked Sophia for her help. He seemed to be smiling at her differently.

One day later ...

“Can I open my eyes now?” Sophia asked

“Not yet” Elliot replied as he guided her through the halls. He briefly let go of her shoulders. She could hear him step forward.

“Alright ... now” he said.

The Doctor opened her eyes to see him standing in front of a candle lit table with a white cloth, and two plates.

“Oh my god!” Sophia exclaimed.

“Oh!” Elliot said, remembering something. He ducked to a small machine, pressing a button. Gentle, romantic music began to play. Sophia couldn’t stop smiling if she tried.

“Oh, and I know you have Anosmia, so I made sure I seasoned yours well”. Now Sophia was smiling more than she thought she could.

Later ...

When the plates were empty, and the candles had melted down to stubs, and the echoes of conversation and laughter had faded away. The music had changed to something that allowed Elliot and Sophia to slow dance as they did.

As the two swayed with the music, Sophia looked to him. He met her gaze, and the two looked deeply into eachothers eyes. She tilted her head, Elliot did the same. She leaned in. He followed her. As the music crescendoed there lips nearly met, before Elliot pulled back.

“ ... I’m sorry ... I can’t ... I can’t do this” he stumblingly mumbled “I’m sorry I thought I could- I wanted to, but now that I’m here, right where I thought I wanted to be, I realize I’m not ready”

Sophia solemnly nodded.

“I’m so sorry” Elliot repeated.

“It’s alright” Sophia said I understand.

A draft blew out the already fading light of the dying candles.

One day later ...

Sophia walked down the hall. She had just finished up her work. As she turned to her room door, she found herself looking at Elliots.

In her quarters, she dropped her stuff on her vanity, before sitting down. She looked deeply at herself in the mirror. Finally, the Doctor just got up.

She walked through the hall, and up to Elliot's door. Sophia froze, wanting to knock. She could hear muffled music. After her brief hesitation she knocked.

“Come in” she heard.

Opening the door, Doctor Brown found Elliot in the middle of getting up from laying on his bed. She recognized the song coming from the music player as Hey Jude, by the Beatles, and she noticed the rings on the necklace in his hand.

Sophia didn't realize she hadn't said anything.

"Did you need something".

She felt like there was something they should talk about. Or maybe something she could say. She opened her mouth to see what would come out when-

Alarms started blazing! The lights in the hall turned red.

"What's going on?!" Elliot asked.

"I don't know" Sophia replied. "Come on!" she gestured him to follow.

Elliot set his necklace down before he rushed out after Doctor Brown. As they made their way down the hall, they eventually started running, through the med bay, past the Robot room, and through the facility, only stopping when they saw it.

There leaning against the wall, was a body, painted in blood, and with gashed all over. The dirty red was beginning to pool. Elliot got a step closer to the cadaver, when they heard the growl.

Untitled

By

Ethan Specht

Based On

IC3OLATION By Gambit Games

Elliot flew across the room, being slammed into the metal wall! He quickly got up, his legs beginning to tremble under his barrel chest torso. He brushed his long curly, and sweat soaked hair out of his face, and wiped blood from the strong nose of his otherwise boyish face. Elliot's tiredness was as clear as his five o'clock shadow, or the purple bruise on his cheek. Still he stood ready to fight or die.

The gargantuan, gaunt, grey creature before him drew closer, into the light. He saw the wolf's hairless skin, its sharp teeth and killer eyes. It reared up ready to finish him off when the Robot appeared! The colossal metal man tackled the biological beast to the ground. The two tussled, locked in combat.

Doctor Sophia Brown watched from the glass pod tube she was trapped in. She was undistracted by the crack in her glasses and by the strands of her raven hair that were stuck to the skin of her beautiful face by sweat. Sophia noticed Elliot carefully making his way to her. Just as they caught each other's eyes and shared a smile, the sound of the fight drew their attention back.

For a brief moment, the giant grey warrior got the upper hand long enough for him to finish off the monster.

While the monster was down, Elliot rushed to her pod, quickly opening it. The glass separating them opened, and Sophia all but fell into his arms. The two stared deeply into each other's eyes.

“Elliot!” she said in a breath.

“Sophie!” he said, matching her.

Both flashed faint, pained, but relieved smiles.

Suddenly, the creature jerked back to life! It lunged at them! Elliot quickly pushed Sophie away, the animal barely missing them! Time seemed to slow down, as each recovered. Elliot motioned frantically in order to get the monster’s attention, but it was too late. It had quickly turned its sights on the Doctor.

“Hey ugly! Over here!” Elliot yelled.

Just a few yards away from Doctor Brown, the creature turned back to him, just a few steps away, and began coming towards him step by step. Meanwhile, the Robot had been making his own way toward it. It tackled the creature, who became powerless in the metal giant's mighty grip. Then, the titans eyes began to flicker, its limbs weakened.

“Oh no,” Elliot said, “not now!”

The creature wiggled out of the stationary Robot's hold.

“NO!” Sophia screamed. Elliot ran, but ended up under the creature's pounce.

It dug its sharp claw into his thigh, causing him to let out a scratchy guttural cry. Then, its jaws opened.

And then, time seemed to slow down. What should I do? Sophia thought. What can I do? I can’t help it, not like this atleast. She had thought, about what she might do

in an emergency like this, so she knew where she would land. It's now or never, she thought. And with that ...

As Elliot stared into the maw of death, there was a sudden burst of light from the corner of his eye.

The light touched the Robot, empowering it. The giant quickly rushed to the beast, ripping it off of Elliot and twisting its head. The creature struggled, until finally ... SNAP! It fell limp and was no more.

Elliot sat stunned. After a few seconds, he forced his head to turn to see where the now faded light was coming from. He hesitated long enough to see that whatever it was, it had the Robot's attention. As his eyes focused, he saw an altered Sophia Brown. One with a green, textured face. Her nose was gone, and the light was illuminating off her, her lab coat fluttering in a non existent wind.

"Sophie?" Elliot managed to utter.