

"PC Bang"  
PART 1: VIDEO GAME CAFE

By

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FADE IN:

INT. VIDEO GAME CAFE - DAEJEON, SOUTH KOREA

HIRO sits in his chair smoking a pack of cigarettes and relaxing next to his computer.

A car comes to a screeching halt. A young woman, BELLE gets out.

JOE

See ya in the morn' hun.

The door chime rings. She walks into the Cafe.

HIRO

Belle.

She is dressed as a waitress, and has a beautiful, natural smile.

HIRO (V.O.)

Every night, at around eleven PM,  
Belle's shift would start. I looked  
forward to this time. It was  
probably the only human interaction  
I'd get all day.

She walks past him and smiles.

BELLE

Hi Hiro.

HIRO

Hi Belle.

BELLE

Glass of soda water?

HIRO

You know it!

BELLE

Let me set down my stuff.

HIRO

How's your night going?

BELLE

Oh y'know. The usual.

Belle pours Hiro a drink.

BELLE (CONT'D)  
How's the game?

HIRO  
I haven't really been paying  
attention.

BELLE  
You just sit there sometimes? In  
the game like you do in real life.

HIRO  
Call me out why don't you? But yes,  
sometimes my avatar just sits there  
and takes in the view.

BELLE  
(Sarcastic)  
Yeah. Those 3D graphics sure are  
beautiful.

HIRO  
Hey, ten years ago this was  
considered state of the art.

BELLE  
Another pack of smokes?

HIRO  
Why even ask?

He lights up another cigarette.

BELLE  
I'll be back around.

HIRO (V.O.)  
She started working here three  
months ago. The two of us quickly  
became good friends. I would be  
here when she'd leave, and be here  
when she came back. I'd always be  
here.

BELLE  
Sick of this game yet?

HIRO  
Never!

BELLE  
You're the only one who seems to be  
playing it?

HIRO  
(hesitant)  
There's other players. They're just  
in other areas! This world is huge!

BELLE  
Right.  
(beat)  
So what's your appeal. With this  
game?

HIRO  
I don't know. I guess I've played  
it for so long I've grown  
accustomed to it. Believe me, it's  
not as fun as it used to be. Ten  
years ago this world would be  
filled with other players. But  
nothing survives time.

BELLE  
You're one of the only ones who  
stayed.

HIRO  
I might be the only one.

Belle laughs.

HIRO (CONT'D)  
I'll admit it's not the same  
without others to play with. But  
the...

BELLE  
The gambling.

HIRO  
Yeah.

BELLE  
It keeps you hooked.

HIRO  
How'd you know?

BELLE  
Maybe it's the countless credit  
cards sprawled out on the table?

HIRO  
Those are no good. Speaking of. Can  
you cash a twenty for a game card?

BELLE

Only twenty for today?

HIRO

It's all I have.

BELLE

And you're spending it on this  
video game?

HIRO

Look, if I play my cards right,  
that twenty can get me either a  
cute cat backpack or a sweet tattoo  
cosmetic.

BELLE

That's pathetic.

She brings him the game card.

BEAT.

VIRTUAL

Welcome to Virtual. A real life  
sim. Play with thousands of players  
all around the world. Create your  
own avatar and chat with others.  
Create a world you can't create in  
real life. Join Virtual.

The sounds of slots and prizes won.

HIRO

(shouting)

Looks like I got the cat backpack.

The cafe is silent.

Declined. Declined. Declined.

HIRO (CONT'D)

Shit come on.

COMPUTER

Sorry, you are all out of credits.  
Buy more in the shop.

HIRO

Can anyone spot me some change?

Nobody responds.

HIRO (CONT'D)  
Fuck.

COMPUTER  
Please activate your monthly  
membership with 600 credits.

HIRO  
No, no! I don't have any.

COMPUTER  
Please renew now or your membership  
will come to an end.

Aggressive keyboard tapping.

A pop up notice.

HIRO  
What is this?

COMPUTER  
A new quest is available.

Click.

COMPUTER (CONT'D)  
Would you like to open this quest?

HIRO  
Yes.

COMPUTER  
Want to receive 20 in game credits?

HIRO  
I haven't seen this before. Accept.

COMPUTER  
Credits will be distributed for  
each task completed. Task one...

A long silence.

COMPUTER (CONT'D)  
Go outside.

HIRO  
Go outside? I'm already outside?

COMPUTER  
In real life...

Hiro pauses and looks over at the door of the cafe.

HIRO  
What the hell?

BELLE  
What's wrong?

HIRO  
This quest popped up. I've never  
seen it before.

BELLE  
What's it want you to do?

HIRO  
It says go outside.

BELLE  
It looks like you're already  
outside.

HIRO  
It doesn't want me to do it in the  
game. It wants me to do it in real  
life.

BELLE  
Well, what do you win if you do it?

HIRO  
My money back.

BELLE  
Okay, so go outside. It's a no  
brainer.

HIRO  
I haven't left this building in six  
months.

BELLE  
Holy cow. That's a long time?

HIRO  
I don't think I can do it.

BELLE  
What do you mean. All you have to  
do is step outside right?

HIRO  
I can't. I'm safe in here.

BELLE

Dude. I leave every day. And every day I return. You'll be fine!

HIRO

No.

Hiro cowers at his computer desk.

BELLE

Come on. Isn't there something out there that you can't get in here? Like a home? A family?

HIRO

I gave that up a long time ago.

COMPUTER

Would you like to continue...?

BELLE

Twenty dollars can get you a lot of cosmetics. Just saying!

HIRO

You're right.

Hiro stands up.

BELLE

Holy crap, he's standing up! I don't think I've ever seen him stand up before.

Hiro walks over to the door.

HIRO

Hand me my phone.

Belle hands him his phone.

HIRO (CONT'D)

I'll need this to keep playing the game.

BELLE

You can play on your phone?

HIRO

It's the twenty first century  
Belle.

He opens the door. The door chime rings.

HIRO (CONT'D)  
My hearts beating so fast.

BELLE  
Twenty dollars Hiro.

The noise of the city fills the Cafe. A cool breeze hits his face.

The door chime rings again, and the sounds disappear.

HIRO  
(whimpering)  
I... Can't...

BELLE  
Just a few more steps Hiro. What could go wrong.

HIRO  
More than you think.

BELLE  
Here.

Belle places her coat on Hiro.

BELLE (CONT'D)  
Take my coat. It's a little cold.

Hiro blushes.

HIRO  
T-thanks.

BELLE  
Seems like the easiest quest to me.

Belle walks away.

BELLE (CONT'D)  
Wouldn't a max level like yourself have no issue completing it?

Hiro audibly smirks.

HIRO  
A little too easy.

The door chimes again.

Hiro exits the Cafe.

EXT. CITY STREET

The loud rumble of a city passes by Hiro as he gasps for air.

HIRO  
I can't...

He looks back into the cafe. Belle gives him a thumbs up.

COMPUTER  
Task one out of ten complete. Would you like to continue to earn more credits?

HIRO  
Yes.

COMPUTER  
Initiating Quest number two.

BEAT.

VIRTUAL  
In the world of Virtual. Players can use their mini map to find hidden treasures scattered around the world.

COMPUTER  
Find the hidden treasure in the park.

Hiro looks up. Across from him is a park.

HIRO  
A park. Okay, easy enough.

He walks over. A car swerves to avoid him.

*HONK.*

DRIVER  
Get out of the road you idiot!

HIRO  
Shit, sorry! So sorry.

EXT. PARK

Hiro walks through the park.

HIRO

It looks like my mini map is  
sending me over to this massive  
tree.

Hiro peers down.

HIRO (CONT'D)

Hidden treasure? I see a delivery  
box.

COMPUTER

Quest complete.

HIRO

It's the delivery box. Got it.

COMPUTER

Open the box.

Hiro opens the box.

HIRO

A... Camcorder?

COMPUTER

Would you like to continue with  
Quest number three?

HIRO

I'm a bit suspicious now, but sure.  
This quest is worth 100 credits.

COMPUTER

Use the item to gather information  
on a subject.

HIRO

(confused)

Okay. What subject?

*Ping.*

HIRO (CONT'D)

Five miles away. Wonderful. I  
better stop back in the Cafe first.

Hiro runs back to the PC Bang.

The door chimes.

HIRO (CONT'D)

Belle!

He looks around. No one answers.

HIRO (CONT'D)  
Belle? Where'd you go?

GAMER  
She left dude.

HIRO  
Left? It's barely-

He looks down at his phone.

HIRO (CONT'D)  
Seven AM...

GAMER  
We were getting a lil worried bout  
you. The girl said you can keep the  
jacket.

HIRO  
I was just over at the park... For  
a few minutes.

COMPUTER  
Do you wish to continue?

HIRO  
Um... Yes!

COMPUTER  
Subject is five miles away.

HIRO  
Ok, better go now.

EXT. CITY STREET

Hiro walks through the streets of the city.

VIRTUAL  
Virtual is your home away from  
home. Players are urged to create  
Avatars that look and sound  
different from their real life  
counter parts. This isn't make  
believe, but a part of you that  
wants to believe, is real.

EXT. APARTMENTS

Hiro reaches a row of high rise apartments.

HIRO

Pretty nice apartment.

COMPUTER

Take the elevator to the top of  
this building.

EXT. ROOFTOP

The Elevator doors open. Hiro exits.

COMPUTER

Set up the Camcorder on the marker  
set up on the ground.

HIRO

This is becoming elaborate. Who is  
setting all this up?

Hiro sets up the camera.

COMPUTER

Grab the blindfold.

HIRO

Let me guess? Put it on?

COMPUTER

Put it on.

HIRO

Great.

COMPUTER

Click record on the camcorder. No  
peaking, or the quest will end.

HIRO

Feels like I'm setting up a hit.

He laughs.

HIRO (CONT'D)

I won't peak. If you can even tell.

He covers his eyes, and hits-

*Record.*

Moments pass.

HIRO (CONT'D)  
What now?

Silence.

COMPUTER  
Task complete. You may open your eyes.

He opens his eyes.

HIRO  
Okay, recording the top of a building? Whoever made this questline must of been AI.

COMPUTER  
Take the disc out and keep it safe.

Hiro pops open the camcorder and removes the disc.

SECURITY GUARD  
Security! Stop right there!

HIRO  
Oh no!

SECURITY GUARD  
Hands where I can see them.

COMPUTER  
Now. Run.

HIRO  
What?

COMPUTER  
Run. Then jump.

HIRO  
(shocked.)  
Okay, now this is getting ridiculous. I'll die if I jump from this building!

BEAT.

VIRTUAL  
In the world of Virtual, players can join in on exhilarating in game events.

(MORE)

VIRTUAL (CONT'D)

Run, Jump and escape to prove your abilities in a world where anything is possible.

COMPUTER

Do you wish to continue the quest?

HIRO

Yes but I'm not jumping.

SECURITY GUARD

What are you doing up here?

COMPUTER

To continue and receive one thousand credits. Run and jump across to the next building.

HIRO

A thousand credits? That's enough to sustain an entire years worth of membership.

SECURITY GUARD

Move away from the edge.

COMPUTER

You have ten seconds.

SECURITY GUARD

Sir, move away-

HIRO

I accept.

Hiro begins to run.

SECURITY GUARD

Stop!

He leaps over to the next building.

HIRO

Woah!

He lands on to the other building rooftop.

HIRO (CONT'D)

Ugh.

SECURITY GUARD

You're crazy! Kids these days.

HIRO  
Holy shit! That was amazing!

Hiro laughs with glee. He stands up and brushes himself off.

COMPUTER  
Quest complete.

HIRO  
Yes! Half way there. I've never  
felt more alive, it's like I'm  
inside the actual video game!

BEAT.

VIRTUAL  
In the world of Virtual, players  
can build relationships with each  
other. Whether it's platonic or  
romantic. You are free to be  
whoever, and love whoever.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE CAFE

Hiro watches Belle from outside the cafe.

HIRO (V.O.)  
This burst of energy. Of feelings.  
Tonight I felt like I could do  
anything. I don't know why this  
quest came to me. Why it was meant  
to be. But someone or something  
wanted me to get out of my comfort  
zone. Leave the old me behind, and  
live life like I was living inside  
that screen.

Hiro enters the Cafe. The door chimes.

BELLE  
Hiro you're back!

HIRO  
Hey. Woah! Your eye? What happened?

BELLE  
Oh it's nothing.

HIRO  
You look like you took a punch?

BELLE  
A door ran into it.

HIRO

Right.

BELLE

Don't call the police please. He  
didn't mean it.

HIRO

You're still talking about the door  
right?

Belle laughs.

BELLE

Glass of soda water.

HIRO

You know it.

Belle walks away.

COMPUTER

Side quest. Ask her out.

HIRO

What? How? No, I mean, she's at  
work.

HIRO (V.O.)

Everything I ever wanted to be.

HIRO

Do... Do I get an award if I do?

Silence.

HIRO (CONT'D)

Hello? Game?

He sighs.

HIRO (CONT'D)

Fuck it.

BELLE

So tell me about this quest? How'd  
it go?

HIRO

That quest made me feel the best I  
have felt in a long time.

BELLE

Well that's good. Toshi tried to  
steal your seat while you were  
away. I had to push him away. The  
games ready for you to get back to-

HIRO

Do you think I'm a loser?

BELLE

Of course not?

HIRO

For playing the game every day?

BELLE

I find you interesting because of  
that?

HIRO

You find me interesting?

BELLE

Oh yes. And fun to talk to!

HIRO

I've never asked you. What is your  
favorite drink?

BELLE

Oh.

She blushes.

BELLE (CONT'D)

I like tea.

HIRO

Would you like some tea?

BELLE

We don't have tea here?

HIRO

Yeah, maybe like a tea house or  
something would have some?

BELLE

Are you?

HIRO

I'm asking you out. For some tea!

Belle laughs.

BELLE

I would love some tea. This isn't  
one of your quests is it?

HIRO

No! Just me. Asking you out. But  
y'know if you have a boyfriend  
already-

BELLE

We just broke up actually.

HIRO

Oh.

BELLE

You actually want to go outside  
again?

HIRO

If you come along.

BELLE

There's a nice tea house down the  
road I can show you!

HIRO

Does the place have soda water too?

They both giggle.

BEAT.

VIRTUAL

In the world of Virtual, join  
friends at numerous lounges and tea  
rooms and sip on some delicious  
virtual drinks while you socialize.

Hiro's phone buzzes.

COMPUTER

Quest completed. Main quest. Store  
the camcorder at HOME for safe  
keeping.

HIRO

Home? I haven't been home in  
months...

BEAT.

VIRTUAL

Your mom and dad will be proud of you. When you bring home, Virtual. Voted the number one video game of the last decade.

Belle approaches.

BELLE

How's tomorrow before my shift? We can walk back to the Cafe afterwards.

HIRO

That works for me. I guess won't be here much tomorrow.

BELLE

Another quest?

HIRO

There seems to be no end.

BELLE

What's it want you to do this time?

BEAT.

HIRO

Visit my parents.

BELLE

Oh brother! How dramatic can you be?

HIRO

You don't understand...

Belle gasps.

HIRO (CONT'D)

My parents...

Hiro stands up.

HIRO (CONT'D)

ARE ASSHOLES.

FADE OUT.

**TO BE CONTINUED**

