

Collaboration

Collaboration was written as an attempt to get an original script on TV.

In 2000/ 2001 I attended a scriptwriters course on a weekly basis based at Keele University.

It was an opportunity to learn through experience. We were all expected to be writing during the course. We would take in our writing to read out in the group, We would then comment on contributions. Collaboration was the first script I had written as an adult,

As a child I had written scripts but I had always thrown them away as not good enough.

I wish I had kept some as I would have loved to have kept some to read today.

Episode One - Me, You and Them

By Rachel Bramble

Cast in order of appearance

Robot Lively – a Mark II model

Joshua – A man in his mid 40's at the beginning of the story

Vicky - Joshua's partner also in her mid forties

Simon – The Editor

Mark- a Reporter

Peter- Social Work lecturer

Jane- Social Worker

Kate- Social Worker

Bob- a reporter aged 62 and 82

Ted Malcolm- A man in his early 50's

Social Workers and **Reporters** non speaking parts

Scene one

A space age bedroom with lots of gadgets a woman and a man are asleep. A robot enters the room.

Robot Lively

Good morning Vicky and Joshua it is nine o'clock precisely on a sunny day on the 28th August 2021

I have brought you the latest advertisement

Joshua

Oh Lively go away.... its too early to start looking at ads... we need to have time to wake up.

Vicky

Looking directly at Joshua

You chose him Josh

Joshua

Well... Daisy was so drab and boring... I thought Robot Lively sounded much more fun for us

Vicky

Lively, come here we might as well see the ad

Robot lively

But if you're not in the mood then I'll leave it till later

Joshua

Oh no... not only lively... but we have a robot who goes into the grumps

Vicky

Show us the advert then lively

Robot Lively puts the advertisement on you see an elderly woman dressed up like Madonna and a man as a Cartoon character

Advertisement dialogue

Welcome to TV Dementia, care giving a total experience for your ageing relative.

You will have peace of mind, they will get pleasure in a virtual world reliving the most important times of their life. This leads to improved health and a longer life. Bring your relative to sample the delights of TV dementia care.

Helen likes to be Madonna and Bob really enjoys being cartoon characters.

The joint experiences of a couple with a vision, one a social worker, the other a journalist brought you the experience and a new world, a happy world of TV Dementia Care.

Come today and you will be happy tomorrow...

Joshua

Switch it off Lively

Robot lively switches it off

Vicky

It's getting there but it's still a bit...

She pulls a face

Joshua

No... not quite right yet. You know, we've been working on this for seven years now

Vicky

What are you saying, are you not happy?

Joshua

Oh nothing

Vicky

Tell me

Joshua

I just remembered that's all

Vicky

What, what did you remember?

Joshua

20 years ago, when we first met, what a different world it was then, were we happier then than now?

Vicky

I don't think so, it was just a very different time.... things have moved on. There was a lot of anger and prejudice.... our two worlds were so separated. Your working world of social work was riddled with poverty, public ignorance and uncertainty. My world of the media was cocky, publicly so sure of itself privately uncertain.

No Josh. It wasn't a happier time then it was just different.

Just think how we used to live... in a time of the present not thinking of our own future where we would need you and other social workers to care for us. We just wanted a story... getting the story was the important thing but your lot wouldn't give us the story.

No Josh it was just a different time, a very different time.

Joshua

He looks at Vicky with a serious expression

But... are we doing the right thing... shouldn't people live in the real world? That's what we thought then.

Vicky

But Josh, what was the real world... sitting for hours in a chair... waiting for the next meal. We changed all that... we made people happy....they could choose to live today or yesterday...we just helped their memories.

Joshua

He has a worried look on his face

But was it right?

Vicky

People wanted it

Joshua

But did they really... or was it you lot... the media telling them that, that was what they wanted

Vicky

Oh Josh... I thought that we got over that blame many years ago... I thought we decided to work together to fight the prejudices and the ignorance... to tell the truth

Joshua

But what is the truth

Vicky

We are the living truth. Can you remember when we first met, at the conference?

Joshua

Yes, I never really knew why you went there. Why did you go to the conference?

Vicky

One morning my boss called me to the office.

Scene two

A busy office. Sitting behind a large desk is a man aged about 40. There is a knock-on the door

Simon

Come in Vicky

Vicky enters the room

Vicky

You wanted to see me Simon

Simon

Yes. I've got a job for you, but I'm afraid nobody else wanted it. But I thought that you'd like the experience

Vicky

What is it?

Simon

There's a conference being run by some social workers. Its to do with working with the media. They want to try to improve their public image.

Vicky

What kind of angle do you want me to get?

Simon

Well... really whatever you can get... they are getting a bit edgy at head office.. we're supposed to get on with them but ..well some of the crap they come out with they really need to get a life.

See what you can do. I'm planning it for page nine so its low priority... just have a good lunch and mingle ...you might find something....

I promise to give you crown court next week.. the Tomms case is due to be tried

Vicky

Simon you promised me the Malcolms case but you gave it to Dave

Simon

Well you were doing a good job with the school inspection and Dave was available.

He moves towards her

If only you'd relax a little, you're too tense.

Vicky moves away from him. The phone rings; Simon picks it up

Not now Lorraine... I told you I was busy. Tell him I'll call him back.

He puts the phone down and moves towards Vicky again

Where were we...Oh yes

A young man bursts into the room

Mark

In an excited voice

There's a siege at Kingsway GNB...one confirmed dead ...Its mine isn't it Si?

Simon (to Vicky)

Do your best we'll talk later

Vicky leaves the room

Now Mark, take George, and make sure you get some close up shots of the family especially the kids

Vicky looks behind her

Vicky

Angrily talking to the air

Bloody typical

End of scene

Scene three

Back in Vicky and Joshua's bedroom. Both are still in bed

Joshua

That Simon bloke really treated you badly.. sounds as though he was a brute.. the women in my office wouldn't have put up with that

Vicky

Well we knew that you either got on through sheer determination and a load of good luck or well you know what I mean.... there was no way that I was going to let that creep dominate me. I saw too many women who were flavour of the month and then suddenly disappeared

Joshua

No wonder you became disillusioned

Vicky

Don't forget you did too

Joshua

I know but for totally different reasons ...and I lasted a lot longer than you did

Vicky

I know...don't rub it in

Joshua

This is our time, our lie in. I don't want to argue with you

Vicky

You never did.. you were just like the rest of them.. always wanting to keep the peace ..avoiding aggro at all costs.

Joshua

You talk as though we were a breed

Vicky

In a jokey voice

Well you were, weren't you?

Enter Robot Lively

Robot Lively

I heard an argument...should I activate a peace...under section 5b subsection 3 of the household rights ..quote, if an argument does commence another should intervene

Vicky and Joshua

Oh go away Lively, not now

Robot Lively

Section 22 also says...

Joshua

Please Lively.. go away we are fine

Robot Lively

I was only trying to help

Vicky

If you don't go now... I'll pull the D switch

Robot Lively

In a grumpy tone

I'm turning off my audio receptor..... goodbye

Exit Robot Lively. Joshua and Vicky hug each other and burst out laughing

Joshua

Looking at Vicky with an embarrassed expression

Don't you dare say a word

Vicky just laughs and laughs then they both laugh

Joshua

You remind me of Kate at the conference. It was supposed to be a serious business but well she just...

Sadly

Remember what happened to her

Vicky

Yes... she was very misunderstood

Joshua

But she still had a great sense of humour. She saw the funny side to things.

Vicky

But it was no use in the end

Changing the subject

Do you remember Bryan, we used to make fun of him

Joshua

Yes... He was what people used to joke about, he had the beard and wore the Jesus sandals.

Vicky

Didn't he also drive a 2CV?

Joshua

No he had a skoda

They look at each other and laugh

Joshua

The conference was intended to be a serious business. Most people were really committed. We wanted to change our image

Vicky

Sarcastically

You mean, you needed to change your image.

Joshua

Yes, we did, people were suffering because they wouldn't come to us because of who they thought we were.

Don't you remember the discussion in the workshop where we met. It was about understanding each other.

Vicky

And Kate stirred it up from the beginning

End of scene

Scene four

A room with some chairs in a circle

A man sits nervously in one of the chairs

Enter two women

Peter

Welcome

Jane

Is this understanding each other?

Peter

Yes, I'm Peter Jones the facilitator for this group

They sit down next to each other and start whispering to each other.

More people enter the room in ones and twos. Vicky and Joshua enter at different times; all the twelve seats are filled up. Vicky sits next to Peter

Peter

Nervously

Well at least we've got some people who want to take the conference seriously. I believe that we have three Journalists in our group. Its good to have you here

Enter Kate

Kate

Sorry I'm late Pete.. I got lost

An extra chair is found for her shuffling everyone around

Peter

Never mind you are here now

Kate

In a sarcastic tone

I hope we're going to have a bit of fun

Peter

Ignoring Kate

It would be helpful to find out who everyone is and what their particular interest is in relation to understanding each other. I'm Peter Jones and I am a Social Work lecturer and part-time consultant, my specialty is working with Older people.

Kate

Well we could have a whole conference talking about the image of Older people.

Peter

Yes Kate, I totally agree but that will have to be on another occasion

Kate

But surely we have to start somewhere, look at the way that the media generally portrays Older people. I know that I work with Children and Families but my Mother gets very annoyed.

Peter

Ignoring Kate again looking towards Vicky who is sitting next to him

Would you like to tell us who you are and why you are here?

Kate

looking at Peter sarcastically

This is the bit where we all forget who we are and what we do

Joshua

Sitting next to Kate in a whisper

Kate give it a rest

Looking towards Vicky

I'm afraid Pete and Kate get like this sometimes its all pretty harmless really.

Everyone looks at Vicky

Vicky

I'm Vicky Knight and I have all the jokes about shining armour. I am a reporter from the Sillington Chronicle. I have worked there for two years after leaving University. I was given this assignment by my editor and so that is why I am here.

Peter

To Vicky

Do you have a particular viewpoint on the relationship between Social Work and the media

Vicky

No not really I haven't come into contact with any Social Workers. all I know is that when my colleague was working on the Malcolms case that he had great difficulty getting any information from Social Services

Kate

I was the Social Worker on the case. We were not allowed to talk to the press. I thought it was stupid because what was getting reported was sympathy towards Ted Malcolm. There was a lot more.. but we weren't allowed to say and never can.

Confidentiality is such a difficult issue. How can anyone know why we decide things when we are controlled and silenced. I shouldn't even tell you that I was the Social Worker on the Malcolm's case.

Peter

I think that we should all agree that whatever is spoken about within this workshop does not go beyond this room

Jane

But how can we trust the reporters amongst us

Bob

We don't write about everything

Jane

What only the newsworthy

Bob

We have to concentrate on current news

Peter

We haven't finished introducing ourselves yet

Kate

Oh Pete does that really matter, what.. sorry whats your name

Looking towards Bob

Bob

Looking at Kate

Bob

Kate

What Bob is saying is crucial to understanding each other.. we need to know how we tick

Jane

Yes its important for us to understand the roots of our work. Bob

Turning to him

I'd like to know more

Kate

I'm sure we all would

Everyone looks at Bob

End of scene four

Scene five

Back in Vicky and Joshua's bedroom. Joshua is dressed Vicky is still in bed

Joshua

We'll have to make it up with Lively otherwise we'll get into such a muddle. He's so good at sorting out the other Robots when they have problems with their systems. He is the nearest we could get to being human

Vicky

That's why we have been so successful because we got the robots to do the mundane jobs. I know it was political to start with but with the staff shortage.

Joshua

Yes I know..You were saying about Kate

Vicky

Yes she started looking foolish but she talked a lot of sense. Bob was fairly typical of his age group.

Joshua

It was ironic that he ended up coming to TV Dementia care

Vicky

He was sympathetic

Joshua

It didn't appear that way...but we did have some lively discussion anyway

Vicky

You always have to see things with your social work hat

Joshua

No I don't

Vicky

Oh..come on

Joshua

Let's not argue...we'll have Lively in here sorting us out again

Vicky

Not unless he's turned his audio receptor on again. You know the discussion was going quite well. You were getting on with Bob..both of you were listening to each other.

Joshua

Yes.. I suppose there was a good sense of togetherness..and you looked gorgeous in your blue top

Vicky

I thought you were too busy with the discussion

Joshua

We had to size up the enemy

Vicky

Is that what you thought of us

Joshua

To start with yes...but well you all had a kind of charm..and I suppose it was quite exciting especially with the TV reporters like Bob

Vicky

You mean we were less glamorous?

Joshua

Playfully

I still fancied you..didn't I?

Vicky

Smiling

Yes..you were very sweet

Joshua

You'll make me throw up in a minute.

Sadly

It all went so well and then disaster struck..we were so unprepared

End of scene five

Scene 6

In a large room.

People are milling around chatting to each other. There is a row of tables with food and drinks spread along them and people are helping themselves

Peter is talking to Vicky and Joshua is nearby

Bob is also nearby

Kate goes towards Joshua holding a plateful of food

Kate

Aren't you having something...it's a pretty good spread

Joshua

I'll get something in a minute

Kate

She's very pretty isn't she

Looking towards Vicky

Joshua

Avoiding Kate's eyes

Yes

Kate

Are you still with Sue

Joshua

Casually

Yes

Kate

She certainly is very pretty..perhaps if we had a romance between a social worker and a reporter we could sort all of this out.

Joshua

Well what about you with Bob then...

Sarcastically

You like the older man

Kate

I suspect he's married with four kids

Joshua

Nastily

That's never stopped you before

Bob comes towards them with a plateful of food. Kate gives Joshua a dirty look

Kate

Whispering

Don't you dare

Joshua grins back at Kate and goes to talk to a group of people which includes Vicky

Bob

Smiling

Its not as bad as I expected

Kate

To Bob

What isn't

Bob

Laughing

The food of course...what else do you think I was talking about

Kate

Sarcastically

When did you say you were retiring ?

Bob

I'm semi retired now... I just do bits

Kate

I suppose you're rich enough to do that....we have to go on to the end.... Or get burnt out

Bob

Our work has its risks ...its not all plain sailing

Kate

I think I'll get some more food

She moves away from Bob towards the tables laid with the food. Joshua walks towards Bob

Bob

Still no food...are you on a diet...you look thin enough

Joshua

I thought I would just wait until the queue had disappeared

Bob

That Kate is a lively one...

Joshua

She is...but she's also good at her job...she has brilliant assessment skills....you give her the gist of a case and she'll tell you accurately all the family dynamics

Bob

How old is she ?

Joshua

Early 30's I think...she has two youngish teenage kids ...why?

Bob

She'd make a good feature and would look good on TV

Joshua

I bet she'd love to do it...but by the time her bosses agreed to it and approved the format you'd be retired

Bob

That's exactly what we've been saying.....we give you an opportunity and...

Peter comes towards them

Peter

I thought it went well this morning I thought that we were getting a good level of understanding between us

Joshua goes to get some food

Bob

I was just saying to.....

Looks towards Joshua

that I think that we could work more with you but....

Peter

Enthusiastically

My colleagues and I in my department would be very interested in working with you...you see there is a national shortage of social workers and well... perhaps

Bob

Looking towards Kate

Well I was really thinking of someone like Kate. You know an actual Social Worker

Peter

Looking miffed

Well...er ..well I think we could be very helpful in an advisory capacity

Enter Ted Malcolm

Bob

Ignoring Peter- looking towards the door

Who's that...he looks very familiar

Ted Malcolm walks past a number of people and heads towards Kate

Peter

I don't know

Changing the subject

I really think that we could work effectively together

Ted

To Kate in a loud voice

Its alright for you being matey with these reporters..but they should know the truth about you

Kate

Looking alarmed

Ted...what are you doing here?

Ted

You are embarrassed by meyou were all friendly before the court case

Kate

Going towards Ted

Look Ted lets go and have a chat

Ted

No...I've had enough of your little chats

People start noticing the interplay between Ted and Kate

No that's enough

Ted pulls out a gun and shoots Kate. He drops the gun and doesn't move. Two reporters run towards him disarm him and push him to the ground

Ted shouts

She made me do it

People run from everywhere to help Kate

Bob who's standing near to Joshua takes his mobile out

Bob

This is Bob.. Sally I need a photographer here at the conference.. quickly a social worker has been shot by a nutter

Joshua

Grabbing the phone off him

Shouting

You slime ball, what the hell do you think you are doing

Bob

Its Just my job mate

Joshua

Angrily

But don't you feel anything? Don't you care?

Bob

Look mate, I've been in wars, I've seen far worse than this

Joshua

Angrily

She has two young kids y'know

Bob

Its sad but

Joshua

It's the story isn't it

Bob

Of course I sympathise, who wouldn't. but I'm here, I have to do my job

Joshua

That's so cold

Bob

It might seem that way to you but I'm only telling the truth. I'll say she's got two kids and that she was only doing her job.

Joshua

But its only just happening

Bob

That's why its news.. because its just happening. Those stories you wanted to give us were old

Joshua

But what about people's feelings, the horror, pain, shock, sadness

Bob

We report so people share those feelings

Joshua

Crying

I don't understand

Vicky comes towards him and puts her arm around him

Vicky

To Bob

He does understand really

End of scene

Scene 7

Back to Joshua and Vicky's bedroom

Joshua

Its strange the circumstances of life. I don't think that Bob did ever really understand but he did support us later when we started TV Dementia Care. He didn't realise at the time that it was his insurance card.

Vicky

His daughter has been great about letting him be in the ads ..we must make sure that when they film again that he looks a bit more dignified

Kate's tragic death had a real impact. In life she was just another Social Worker but her death happening as it did sent shock waves through the media.. people with a conscience began to speak out more.. people began to admit to a lack of understanding and co-operation.

Joshua

But the thing was that it could have happened to several of us. I was lucky, but some of my colleagues had threats made against them; some had to have protection going in and out of their offices, and yet through out this they carried on working.

Vicky

You make them sound as if they were martyrs

Joshua

Well, I think that some of them were.. most people wouldn't put up with what they had to put up with on a regular basis

Vicky

There were other people doing jobs of equal worth; what about the police, doctors and nurses they did and continue to serve the community

Joshua

But did they get the same level of ridicule or being treated as if they were faceless interfering busy bodies

Vicky

But many of us were treated the same way... you accused Bob of not caring and yet when you got to know him well you realised that behind that hard exterior that there was really a big softy

Joshua

I know, but there were others

Vicky

So you were all perfect

Joshua

Of course not

Enter Robot Lively

Robot Lively

I was bored and felt it was time that you treated me better

Vicky

I'm sorry Lively, I was worried that you had abandoned us

Robot Lively

Well I actually came to report that while I've been switched off Robot Billy has tried to act human

Joshua

Oh no what has he done now

Robot Lively

I believe that he has muddled up all of the programmes and Bob is currently wondering why he has a date with Doris Day. She will insist on getting him to sing and he really doesn't like it

Joshua

Oh is that all

Robot Lively

Oh no would you like the list

Vicky

I'm sorry Lively, I promise not to do it again

Robot Lively

You always say that

The end

Collaboration

Core Characters

Joshua

At the beginning he is 45 years old but is also represented at different younger ages through the series.

He is a sensitive person, rather quiet, a thinker and a bit of a worrier.

He has a strong moral base.

He is at times however able to talk passionately about things that matter to him, but sometimes he is too selective and jumps to conclusions.

His racial identity could be open to debate.

I had tinkered with the idea of both Joshua and Vicky having dual identity so that it adds to the not fitting in and therefore the attraction to each other.

I haven't thought about his family as for these episodes it doesn't feel relevant but could easily develop a family around him

Vicky

As a 45 year old she is a very strong person, she is very bright and able to think quickly and clearly Although she loves Joshua she can get irritated by his lack of certainty about things. In the episode about disillusionment her doubts could be expressed through manipulative actions causing her to be a bit of an outcast.

As a 25 year old she is a conformist but as she gets older she can become more rebellious.

She has a love/ hate relationship with Robot Lively

As with Joshua I have not given her a family but this can be developed especially perhaps her Mother.

Robot Lively

I'm not sure whether it is a he or she , although a friend says he is definitely a he.

Lively always wants to do the right thing and will tell Vicky and Joshua what the right thing is, but he is also loyal to them.

At times he is nearly human but at other times he is clearly a robot.

He is the senior Robot. Keeping all the other ones in order.

Some of the episodes like Disillusionment he will only have a minor role but he is to be there at the beginning of each episode to clearly show the setting of the future.

I hope that he would be a fun part to play and add some humour to balance the seriousness. He is the character for the public to love most.

Episode two of collaboration came easily it continued the story and seemed justified that Bob would be part of TV dementia care. Whilst I was writing it I found myself as a middle aged woman taking on the feelings Bob the retired man and had on several occasions to take myself physically away to get out of the character. It was a fascinating and frightening experience.

Collaboration, Episode 2 - Bob's Story

By Scamp

Cast

Bob- aged 82 and 62

Joshua- a man aged 45 and 25

Robot Lively

Vicky- a woman aged 45

Lorraine- Bobs daughter

Bjorn- Lorraine's son

Louise- Bobs Wife

Robots

Older People

Scene one

Inside a room with white walls

Images of Doris day move around the walls

Bob sits in a comfortable chair gazing at the images. Connected to his fingers is a monitor. There is a small table with a drink on it

There is a dim but a warm colour lighting the room

Scene two

A control room like a studio there are TV screens showing different rooms with older people in each of them

Robots control the different monitors

Enter Joshua and Robot Lively

Joshua

Where's Bob then?

Robot Lively

He's in B6 today, Dawn had pre-booked D7 his favourite and so he wasn't very happy to start with.

Joshua

Well he knows that he has to share

Robot Lively

Our home assessment showed that as a particular individual that he was given a high degree of control over his environment

Joshua

Do you mean that he was spoilt?

Robot Lively

That is not a word in Robot vocabulary

Joshua

Looks at the particular screen

He seems all right to me. Perhaps Doris Day is a nice change

Robot Lively

But look at his heart monitor..the reading is rather high

Joshua

That probably means that he just fancies her that's all

Robot Lively

I don't know what you mean

Joshua

I don't suppose you would that wouldn't be in your programming system either...
would it?

Robot Lively

I believe that you are right there

End of scene two

Scene three

Back in the dim lit room known as B6

Bob who is sitting in the chair gets up and pulls the monitor from his hand

He knocks over a small table next to him with a drink crashing to the floor

Bob

Shouting

Let me out of here....what are you doing to me

The door opens and Joshua enters with Robot Lively

Robot Lively

Goes to put monitor back on Bob

Bob You must stay calm

Bob

Pulls away

Leave me alone you mechanical know all

Joshua

Going to Bob touching his arm

Its all right Bob..Lively was only trying to help you

Bob

Shouting

Help...is that what you call it... leave me alone

I want Vicky where is Vicky...She understands me best

Joshua

She's gone out for the day with Sally

Bob

Weeping

I want Vicky

Robot Lively

Perhaps I should introduce a cylinder of anti anxiety chemical

Joshua

Sometimes you really do irritate me Lively

You mean a tranquilliser don't you

Robot Lively

You know that in 2016 that terminology was removed from the public system

Joshua

Lively forget it

He turns to Bob

Look Bob what's wrong

Bob

Its all of this..... its me I don't know who I am

Joshua

You are Bob Anderson an 82 year old man, who lives with his daughter and two grandchildren. You come here just for a change and because you enjoy being cartoon characters.

Unfortunately today the Robots have muddled the different programmes and you was introduced to Doris Day instead of Popeye

Bob

Looking directly at Joshua

But I don't know who I really am

Sometimes I think I do

But the memories are muddled

I see people...I know names... but its all muddled

A Tannoy system announcement

Well ladies and Gentleman that is the end of your morning session We hope that you feel refreshed and ready for your lunch which will be served in 20 minutes in the dining room.

Robot Lively

I will help you Bob

Joshua

No Lively leave Bob to me

Robot Lively

But the schedule says that you are with James today

Joshua

Lively Bob needs me more

Robot Lively

Vicky won't be happy

Joshua

She'll understand...I'll tell her when she comes back

Please Lively you charm James for me

Robot Lively

If you mean will I tell him a lie so that he is not distressed then I am not happy about it ...but I will

End of scene

Scene four

A dining room with 6 tables

Each table has older people sitting at it

There are a number of Robots serving the tables

In the corner of the room there is a Robot playing gentle music on the piano.

Enter Joshua supporting Bob he leads him to a table

Robot Lively enters supporting another elderly man and helps him to sit at the table

Joshua

Here you are Bob

Helping him sit down

Bob

Refuses to sit

I don't want to be here. This is not where I live...

Joshua

I know.. You are only here for a holiday

Bob

You mean to give my daughter a break

Joshua

Please Bob sit down and we will talk after lunch

Bob

It will be too late then. Because I will be like them

Pointing at some of the older people

Joshua

Bob you need to eat

Bob

Pushing Josh roughly

Leave me alone

Joshua

Pleadingly

Please Bob

Bob pushes Joshua and he falls to the ground

Two robots and Robot Lively rush towards Bob the two restrain him

Robot Lively

Joshua you were wrong I should have handled him

He injects something into Bobs arm

Bob relaxes and is led peacefully to a chair

Joshua

Lively you shouldn't have done that

Robot Lively

You know the rules in relation to violence

Joshua

But he will never forgive us

Robot Lively

Rules are rules

Joshua

We will never agree about that will we

Robot Lively

Looking at Bob

Look Joshua he is peaceful now. We are supposed to keep people calm

Joshua

I could have calmed him

Robot lively

You can talk to him now he is calm

Joshua

But he won't know me...you know the drug does that

Robot Lively

You can talk to him through his history programme

Joshua

But then I am controlling him and his past

Robot Lively

That was the contract

His daughter comes for him this afternoon. She will not want to cope with his anger

They both look across at him

The piano player continues playing quiet tunes and the older people eat their food in silence

End of scene four

Scene five

An entrance hall outside the dining room

Joshua is standing next to Bobs daughter Lorraine and her son Bjorn aged 8 years

Joshua

Hi Lorraine how are you

Lorraine

I'm fine thanks

Bjorn starts fiddling with some ornaments on a table in the hall

Bjorn leave those things alone they belong to Josie...she won't be very happy if you break them.

I saw Robot Lively and he said that Dad had been rather unsettled

Bjorn fiddles again

Bjorn... I told you to leave them alone... go and talk to granddad and then you can play in the garden

Bjorn goes into the dining room to see Bob

He said he gave him a jab to calm him down but that you weren't happy about it

Joshua

Well the law says we have to protect ourselves but.... I have known Bob so long and he didn't mean to hurt me.

Lorraine

But you said that he has done it before

Joshua

Yes...but its just frustration... we don't seem to be able to get his programmes right... I often see him in tears... we are supposed to create calm and happiness but sometimes I wonder

Lorraine

But Josh you know what the alternative was.. we wouldn't be allowed to have him at home at all... I want to know my dad in his last few years.

Joshua

Could we work together on his programme... you said that you were not in a rush to go home..Lively could get one of the Robots to play with Bjorn they would like that for a change. When its quiet I often see them trying out children's games

Lorraine

It must get trying for them sometimes working with all these old people and they work so many more hours than the humans

Joshua

Watch out Lorraine you will be getting like me

Lorraine

What do you mean?

Joshua

Treating them the same as Humans... Vicky is always reminding me that they are Robots and do not have the same rights..... but didn't people say the same about black people when our parents were children.

Lorraine

Vicky is very good at what she does and I wouldn't say a word against her as your partner ... but I sometimes wonder how you got together.. I know you are very happy but her views are often so different to yours... where is she today

Joshua

Oh she's gone for a girl's day out with Sally. She said that she won't be back til quite late....when Bob had his flip he was asking for her... These old journalists seem to stick together

Bjorn rushes out towards Joshua and Lorraine

Bjorn

Granddad is asking for Louise ...Mum who is Louise?

Lorraine

She is your gran... my mum she died a long time before you were born when I was a kid.... Go and tell granddad we will be there in a minute

Bjorn

OK

He goes back into the dining room.

Lorraine and Joshua follow Bjorn

End of scene

Scene six

In the dining room

Bob, Robots, Robot Lively, Lorraine. Joshua, Bjorn, Older people same set

Lorraine goes towards Bob

Lorraine

Hi Dad

Gives him a kiss

How are you?

Bob looks into thin air and doesn't respond

End of scene

Scene seven

In a dining room same set as episode one

Bob, Joshua, Vicky, and people from the conference

Lots of people buzzing around

Kate is lying on the floor surrounded by people

Bob

(Aged 62), on his mobile

Where is the photographer I asked for

Joshua

How could you how could you

End of scene

Scene eight

Back in the dining room

Same set and people as scene six

Lorraine

Dad its me Lorraine

Bob looks into thin air

Dad its me... don't you know me

Bob looks straight through Lorraine

Joshua

Lively quick get Bob to a TV room

Lively

But they are all pre booked

Joshua

Just find onethat's an order

Bob looks into thin air

Lorraine

Getting tearful

Dad...Oh Josh I didn't want it to be this way... we promised him to be with Mum

Joshua

Shouting

Lively this is an emergency...get that room now

Robot Lively

OK

Bob continues to look into thin air

Two Robots come and put him into a wheel chair

Joshua

To Lively whispering

How much did you give him

Robot Lively

The blue dosage

Joshua

Oh no you fool he had been changed to yellow he has had a build up... We will have to get his super stimulation programme going

Lorraine

Is he going to be alright?

Joshua

We are going for the super programme

Lorraine

But you know what happens if he requests that one

Joshua

I know...Vicky will go mad at me... but it's the only way to get him back

Joshua

Lively it's the SuperProgramme

They push Bob out of the room

End of scene eight

Scene nine

Bob is in the TV room sitting in a comfy chair with lights flashing around the room. He is wired to a receptor.

He gets up and walks around the room

Returns to the chair

Bob

Louise darling don't do that now come and sit with me

End of scene

Scene ten

In the control room

Robot Lively, Joshua, Bob and Louise and another Robot

They are watching Bob as a vision of Louise appears in front of Bob and on all of the walls

Joshua

Its working

Lorraine

Thank god... I thought I had lost him this time

Robot Lively

Joshua ...This is the fifth time... the contract says only six and then no more

Joshua

Damn the contract... if we can bring him back I'll do it twenty times

Lorraine

But Josh I don't want you to get into trouble

Joshua

Bob's a friend besides its time the law was changed anyhow

Look at Bob he is happy

As long as we get a good report back from him we will be OK

We'll do it together shall we Louise

Louise

Yes I'd like that

Joshua

Lively we'll leave him for another twenty minutes

Robot Lively

You are pushing it a bit aren't you

Joshua

Don't worry ...it will be OK

To Lorraine

Lets go and have a drink. We'll see you later Lively

Exit Joshua and Lorraine

Lively continues to monitor Bob

End of scene 10

Scene 11

In the Hall way

There are some old people and Robots wandering around

Enter Vicky in a rushed state

Vicky

To a Robot

Where's Lively or Josh

Robot

Lively is in C10 with Bob

Vicky runs up the hall throwing the coat at a stand

End of scene 11

Scene 12

The monitor room Lively and two other Robots

Enter Vicky

Vicky

Lively what happened?

Robot lively

I gave him some blue and he was supposed to have yellow

Vicky

Never mind about that now...what has Bob said

Robot Lively

We haven't talked to him yet... Joshua and Louise were going to do that.

Vicky

OK where are they?

Robot Lively

Having a drink

Vicky goes to a microphone

Vicky

Through the microphone

Josh... contact me in C10 now

Lively how long as he had

Robot Lively

37 minutes

Vicky

You better stop then

I'll go in and see him.

End of scene 12

Scene 13

In the TV room C10

Bob sits looking into thin air Vicky goes and sits next to bob

Vicky

Bob... You Ok?

Bob sits looking into thin air

How was Louise today was she busy or did you have a chance just to sit and chat

Bob continues to look into thin air

The door bursts open and enter Joshua and Lorraine

Louise

Hi Vicky...did you have a good day out

Vicky

It was fine... I've been talking to Bob but he hasn't responded

Bob continues to look into thin air

Joshua

Lively gave him the wrong dose

Vicky

I know he told me... you took a risk giving him so long an awareness dose

Joshua

But Vicky its Bob... I had to do the best I could for him... Haven't you forgotten our twenty year history

Vicky

Of course not ...that's why I came back early because I thought Bob may not talk to you...I didn't know that Lorraine was here.

Joshua

Look at Bob

Bob looks towards Vicky and Joshua and smiles

End of scene 13

Scene 15

Bob sits looking at a hologram of Louise and smiles

Joshua

Vicky.... Bob is happy

Vicky

How do you know?

Joshua

Just look at his eyes

Enter Louise and Bjorn

I'm sorry Louise, He's gone. He's with your Mum now

Louise

But he's happy Josh...it's where he wants to be.

Bob continues to smile at Louise. The others leave and Bob smiles.

The end