

POLYGONAL EYES

Written by

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INT. NOAH'S BEDROOM - 5:00AM

NOAH (27) wakes up in his bed laying next to his girlfriend KATE (28). Noah looks at the clock and is disappointed to see how early it still is. He turns his head to see Kate is still asleep.

Noah gets out of bed and puts his slippers on clad in boxer shorts and a dirty t-shirt.

INT. NOAH'S LIVINGROOM - 5:00AM

Noah walks out into his living room, with nothing on but boxers and a bathrobe. It's still dark outside and the room is barely lit.

Noah makes a cup of coffee, turns on the TV and takes a seat on his couch. He opens up his laptop and starts scrolling through job postings online.

BROADCASTER

In recent news, Dreams Unlimited, a local game development company recently filed for bankruptcy after laying off a majority of their staff.

Noah looks over to a table right next to the couch and looks at a company badge that reads "Dreams Unlimited. Noah Sanders, Lead Environment Artist."

NOAH

(To himself)

Serves them right.

BROADCASTER (CONT'D)

This is another in a long line of Video Game companies who are struggling to stay afloat, surrounding issues of over hiring and lack of sales.

The sound of the television drowns out as Noah takes off his glasses and massages his forehead in frustration. After composing himself, he looks back to his screen and sees an ad for a Remote 3D Environment artist.

Noah's eyes are locked onto the ad, he scrolls through reading all the details before getting to the bright red 'Apply' button at the bottom. His cursor hovers over it, and with a tinge of desperation in his eye, Noah clicks the button.

INT. NOAH'S LIVINGROOM - 8:00AM

Noah and Kate are in the small kitchen in the corner of their living room. Noah is sitting down with his laptop, while Kate is up and making food before she heads off to work.

Kate has her hair tied in a pony tail, and is wearing a clean uniform for a retail store. Noah however still looks dirty and tired, wearing the same stuff as before.

NOAH

(Looking at laptop)

Says I would be leading the art side of things on the game, and I get to work from home so we don't have to move!

KATE

(Distracted)

Well thats great Noah. Glad to see you getting back on your feet.

Noah smiles in pride. Kate grabs some ingredients from the fridge and sits down next to Noah to make sandwiches for the both of them.

KATE (CONT'D)

How many people are you going to be working with on this?

NOAH

Uh I'm not sure, it might just be me on the art team.

Kate looks concerned at that fact.

KATE

Noah are you sure thats a good idea? Last time you were there so much I never saw you.

NOAH

Yeah but now I'll be working from home, I'll be right here from now on. No where else to go.

Kate gives a worried but supportive smile.

KATE

Right.

After a moment Kate packs up all her things, hands Noah one of the sandwiches she made and gets ready to leave.

KATE (CONT'D)
I gotta run, the other opener
bailed so it's just me at the store
today.

Noah is distracted looking at his computer. Kate gives him a kiss on the head as she heads out.

KATE (CONT'D)
Keep me updated ok. Hopefully
everything will work out with this
one. Love you.

NOAH
Mhmm. Love you too Kate.

Kate leaves in a hurry while Noah is left alone at the table with his laptop. He takes a deep breath before getting to work.

INT. NOAH'S BEDROOM - 9:00AM

MONTAGE - NOAH SETS UP WORK STATION

1. Noah puts his laptop on a small desk in the corner of the bedroom
2. He pulls open the curtains to let light in
3. Noah plugs in a variety of cords and cables into his laptop
4. Noah pours another cup of steaming hot coffee

END MONTAGE

After getting set up Noah finally sits down at the desk and opens up his 3d Modeling program. He moves his cursor over to the New Project button, and as soon as he clicks on it Noah and his desk are transported to a blank void.

EXT. DIGITAL WORLD

Noah isn't phased by this and his eyes are still on his computer. The world around him is nothing but a dark gray abyss, with a faint grid outlining a floor beneath him.

NOAH
(Stretching)
All right, gotta start somewhere.

Noah takes a sip of coffee and puts in a few commands on his laptop, causing a perfect cube to appear on the screen. The same cube appears right in front of his desk.

NOAH (CONT'D)
Time to get to work.

With another input on the computer and a path of grass and foliage appears beneath him and grows out around him. Time speeds by as Noah begins building out an alien forest. What once was a barren void has now been terraformed into a nature filled paradise.

After a while Noah and his desk are seen on an alien looking tree. With one more input and movements of the mouse and a large sun appears and sets just over the horizon. As he looks out into the sunset with pride, we can hear Kates fade into earshot.

KATE
(Quiet)
Noah...

Noah is oblivious to her call.

KATE (CONT'D)
(Louder)
Noah...

His smile fades slightly.

KATE (CONT'D)
(Full volume)
Noah!

INT. NOAH'S BEDROOM - 11:00 PM

Noah jerks as he is snapped out of his trance. He takes off his headphones and rubs his eyes. He looks around and locks eyes with a perturbed Kate.

NOAH
Oh hey, you just get home?

KATE
(Putting away her things)
Yeah, went out with a couple
friends after work. Did you see my
texts?

Noah grabs his phone and sees a collection of missed calls and messages. He's been working for hours and he looks out of the now dark window.

NOAH
Jesus, sorry I was busy.

Kate sees the pattern of Noah losing himself to his work, and is starting to get worried. She perks up with an idea and turns around to face Noah.

KATE
Hey me and some friends were thinking of going to see a movie this Friday. I've got an extra ticket if you want to come?

Noah is already back at his laptop working away.

NOAH
(Distracted)
Oh, uh sorry can't. I have a big deadline this weekend and I still have to re-texture the tree assets and add in the proper water shader before I get that finalized.

Kate's excitement fades as Noah rambles on, and realizes that the pattern is already starting to repeat.

KATE
(Disappointed)
Yeah I get it, sounds like a lot.

Beat of silence as Noah types away.

KATE (CONT'D)
I'll be watching tv in the other room, if you want to join.

NOAH
Mhmm.

Kate leaves as Noah continues to work away into the night, with only his screen illuminating his tired face.

INT. NOAH'S LIVINGROOM - DAY

The next day comes and Noah begins his day just like the one before.

MONTAGE

1. Noah opens curtains letting the sun in
2. Noah pours a cup of hot coffee

3. Noah plugs in all his cables into his computer
4. Noah sits down in at his desk and begins working
5. Kate walks by the bedroom doorway and see's Noah working

KATE

Hey I'm off to work, remember to
walk today.

Noah waves from his seat without turning to look at Kate.

NOAH

(Monotone/Distracted)

Ok, see you, have fun.

Kate takes a deep breath and hangs her head low as she
leaves the apartment.

6. Noah is seen back immersed in his virtual world, he looks
a bit more lively as he gets back to work

7. Time lapse of Noah continuing to build out his virtual
world, creating mountains, deserts, and large pools of
water.

8. Time lapse of Noah back in the real world sitting at his
desk working. The world seems to pass by him as day and
night flash by and the seasons change from summer to fall.

9. One morning we see Kate back in the bedroom doorway
looking worriedly at Noah, but leaves without saying
anything.

10. Series of shots of day and night passing by as Noah
spends weeks at his desk, with the area around his desk
getting messier and messier.

END MONTAGE

INT. NOAH'S LIVINGROOM - NIGHT

Noah leaves his room to get a glass of water and passes by a
somewhat irritated Kate who is watching TV on the couch.

KATE

(Sarcastic)

Decided to come out did you?

NOAH

(Tired)

Well I need to drink something
every so often.

Beat

KATE
You want to watch TV?

NOAH
(Stuttering)
Uh, I really have to finish up some
stuff with work....

KATE
Oh yeah? Feels like you've been
finishing up for months.

Beat.

NOAH
Look after this deadline things
should hopefully-

KATE
Noah it's been the same promise
every week!

NOAH
I'm trying to get this done Kate
what do you think I've been working
towards for all these months?

KATE
(Loud)
Look at what you have left! You
live in a pile of trash, you never
get out, and we've barely spoken in
weeks!

Noah doesn't know how to respond and looks down in shame.

KATE (CONT'D)
I'm glad you're passionate and I'm
glad you care about this project,
but whenever you get like this
that's All you care about!

Tears are now starting to roll down Kate's cheeks.

KATE (CONT'D)
And I, I can't stop myself from
thinking if you still care about
us.

Kate sniffles for a moment, and Noah is left paralyzed.

NOAH

Kate-

KATE

I'm going to sleep out here
tonight. Don't wake me up till
morning.

She turns off the TV and the whole room goes dark. Kate quickly wraps herself in a blanket and lays down on the bed. Noah doesn't say anything and leaves to his room, closing the door behind him.

INT. NOAH'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Noah wakes up on the same side of his bed as usual, but Kate isn't there next to him. He opens the curtains and it is storming out.

INT. NOAH'S LIVINGROOM

In the kitchen Noah notices a note taped onto the coffee maker addressed from Kate. Noah takes it and reads it over.

KATE (V.O.)

Noah. I need to take some time for
myself. I wasn't sure how to tell
you, but it seems like I never know
how to get through to you nowadays.
I'm going spend sometime with my
friend to think things over, I hope
you take some time to do the same.

Noah lowers the note as he is left lost in thought. He never saw this coming, or he was too distracted to see the obvious.

EXT. DIGITAL WORLD - DUSK

Atop one of his digital mountains, Noah longingly looks off into his carefully crafted sunset. With mountains leading into forests into valleys into the vast sea.

But Noah isn't happy, he looks off into the distance with dissatisfaction.

He leans into his computer and starts putting in a series of commands. A humanoid figure digitally fades into existence. It takes some time to fully render in, and when it does the humanoid takes on the appearance of Kate.

However this figure remains motionless devoid of life. Noah looks deeply into it's eyes as they stare into nothing.

He looks around and the world seems so much bigger than before, but with it being devoid of life, it's empty.

NOAH
(To himself)
How could I ever try to replace
you...

INT. NOAH'S BEDROOM - DAY

Noah is sat staring motionless at his computer screen displaying the world and digital Kate in the software. He clenches his fist as he tries to make another command on his keyboard.

He takes a deep breath and closes the laptop.

EXT. WINTER CITY STREET - DAY

Noah walks up to a townhouse whilst braving the storm. He knocks on the door and after a moment Kate's friend EVELYN (24) opens the door.

Without speaking Evelyn looks Noah up and down and leans back into the house.

EVELYN
(Shouting)
Kate! Someone's at the door for you!

Evelyn gives Noah a smug look before retreating back into the house. Kate emerges wearing more comfortable clothing than usual. She seems surprised to see Noah out of the house.

NOAH
(Sheepish)
Hey.

KATE
Hi Noah.

NOAH
(Nervous)
Um. I uh. I'm taking the day off
from work and I- I wanted to know
if you wanted to do anything?

Kate's face perks up a bit, this is the first time this has happened in months.

KATE
I'm not sure what we could do in
this weather.

NOAH

Well uh. Maybe we could just, talk?

A weight seems to be taken off Kates shoulders as she gives a gentle smile.

KATE

That sounds nice.

Noah smiles and enters the house. The doors close behind them as the camera fades off into the blizzard.

FADE OUT.