

LEGACY

Written by

Hannah Mesches

hlmesche@syr.edu

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM- NIGHT

The room is completely dark besides the soft glow radiating from a COMPUTER screen being used by college student KIMYA, a 21 year old African American woman. She is wearing a floral leggings and an oversized sweatshirt, and is listening to 70's era R&B through large headphones.

A furious clicking of keys drowns out the sound of screaming and hollering from outside.

Suddenly, the door opens, and a burst of light fills the room. The silhouette of SOFIA, a 22 year old Latina woman, and Kimya's best friend, is illuminated by fireworks and party lights. She is wearing a yellow maxi-dress and strappy sandals

Sofia flips on the apartment lights.

SOFIA

Kimyaaaaaaaaa!! Why didn't you go out tonight? Literally everyone we know is completely sloshed it's hilarious.

Kimya looks up from her computer. Sofia is beaming, and probably pretty drunk herself.

KIMYA

Yeah. I could tell from those people across the street with a 3 story beer bong and shirts that say "Party like it's 2016".

SOFIA

What did you expect? When an entire college town finds out about an impending apocalypse you know shit's about to go down.

KIMYA

The reporter said there's still five days until it all goes down though! What are they gonna do- go this hard every day until then? They might just eat it from too many vodka sodas.

Sofia rolls her eyes and moves to the couch to see what is on Kimya's computer.

SOFIA

Who cares? Just let 'em do what they want. What are you even doing anyway?

KIMYA

I'm working on our final for CAP 401.

Sofia looks stunned, then laughs.

SOFIA

You're kidding....right? I don't think our professor is going to be pushing anyone to finish programming a stupid game when we are all gonna meet our demise in like, five days.

Kimya closes her computer.

KIMYA

It's not a stupid game.

SOFIA

Okay you know that's not what I meant.

Kimya hesitantly opens her computer back up and shifts it so Sofia can see.

KIMYA

When you heard the announcement, did you ever think about, I don't know, leaving something behind when you're gone? Or like, what will happen to everything? And what the future holds for our planet?

Sofia burps and holds out her hand to mean "stop".

SOFIA

Way too many things to think about right now.

Kimya laughs.

KIMYA

I'm serious, Sof! Look. At first when I heard the announcement a few days ago, I was depressed as hell just like everyone else. But when you were out I had an epiphany.

(MORE)

KIMYA (CONT'D)

This game will be my time capsule!
It will be my legacy!

SOFIA

Girl.....what.

KIMYA

I know. This probably sounds insane
right now.

SOFIA

Well, yeah- but ignoring all of
that crazy shit- won't the game
just be destroyed? Like you and me
and everything else on this dumbass
planet?

KIMYA

There is always a chance for
survival. You know all those sci-fi
shows we watch, where that guy is
the last man on earth, or some
space colony sends people down to a
"deserted" planet?

SOFIA

Yeah so?

Kimya stands up and paces around the room.

KIMYA

They are NEVER really alone! It's
like the oldest twist in the book.
Somehow, someone will find it.

SOFIA

That is literally insane.

KIMYA

God, just trust me! Look, you're in
it too!

Kimya pulls up a window in the game of character profiles she
created.

Sofia haphazardly pulls out her glasses from her purse and
puts them on, moving closer to the screen.

SOFIA

Oh shit. This is a lot.

Sofia quickly turns from serious to shocked and laughs out
loud.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

Stop oh my god why did you give
your avatar floor length green
hair!

Kimya makes eye contact with her and they both burst out laughing.

KIMYA

Okay to be honest, you weren't
supposed to see that. Let me live!

Sofia lightly pushes Kimya over.

KIMYA (CONT'D)

I just want the future person who
finds this to think I'm chill,
okay?

Kimya clicks back to the screen with all the characters.

Sofia scrolls through the work that she has done.

SOFIA

Yep, there's me, and Fern, and
Margot.... And your family. Oh shit
and my family? And our dog? And my
sister's two fish? Damn Kim.

KIMYA

I was busy! And I need it all to be
preserved. All the important stuff.

Sofia sighs. The two girls sit there in silence for a few moments.

Kimya quickly becomes uncomfortable and speaks up.

KIMYA (CONT'D)

Look, I made our house too. And our
childhood homes too.

SOFIA

Wow. That is wild. I don't think I
even absorbed half of this stuff in
class.

KIMYA

I had to look up some stuff online.
And I still have a ton of work to
do, I better get back to it.

Sofia stands up and yawns.

SOFIA

Well I'm going to bed. There's an all-day free concert in the park tomorrow, but I'm guessing you aren't free?

Kimya doesn't look up from her computer.

KIMYA

No, sorry.

Sofia's back is now turned to Kimya as she walks upstairs. She shakes her head before she is off screen.

SOFIA (O.S.)

Fine. But you better remember my birthday in two days- and not go full on hermit on me I will be so pissed Kimya. Okay?

KIMYA

Okay!

INT. KIMYA'S BEDROOM- DAY

An alarm blares and we see the screen of Kimya's computer.

A personalized message on the alarm appears in the top right corner of her screen. It reads "You better not be asleep right now"

Kimya wakes up flustered beneath pieces of paper, drawings, calculations and photos. Her laptop almost falls off of her bed, but she catches it.

KIMYA

Shit shit shit shit shit. Stupid brain god damn it you do not have time to sleep right now.

Kimya stuffs an energy bar into her mouth, packs her belongings into her backpack and exits her room.

INT. HALLWAY- DAY

Kimya waits outside of a cluster of offices in an academic building. She is on her computer again.

She takes two photos from a folder and tapes them to the corner of her laptop screen, and studies them. Kimya thinks for a moment, then begins to type again.

Suddenly, she is interrupted by a notification. Kimya opens Snapchat to see that Sofia has sent her multiple pictures.

The first picture is Sofia drinking from a giant fishbowl filled with a frozen margarita. The next is her on a guy's shoulders watching the concert. And finally, third, is a video.

Kimya clicks play.

SOFIA

Kimyaaaaaaaaaaa. Get over here! That guy you like from the Mexican restaurant is throwing quesadillas into the crowd!

Sofia trips and falls, then gets back up, dusting dirt off of her knees.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

Forget the game and spend time with meeeeeeeee.

Kimya locks her phone. She closes her eyes, and her nose twitches as if she is holding back tears.

She opens a different section of the game, where players can record their thoughts in a personal diary. Kimya scrolls past previous entries and starts a new one.

On the screen, we see her type:

"Hello again to whoever's reading this. Just two more days for us before it all goes to shit. Part of me thinks..."

Before she is able to finish the sentence, an older man opens the door of one of the rooms and calls her name. She follows him into the office.

INT. OFFICE- DAY

The older man sits at his desk and Kimya sits across from him. Slightly flustered, she digs through her backpack and pulls out a few folders, stray pictures, and her laptop.

KIMYA

Thanks for meeting with me on such short notice. I just have a few questions about the final.

The professor puts his head in his hands, then looks back up at Kimya.

PROFESSOR

Kimya I really don't understand why we need to meet right now. The project is done. It's cancelled. I'm just in the office today to take some final things home.

KIMYA

I get that, I know. But I just needed your opinion on a few parts of my game.

PROFESSOR

Kimya please just go home.

KIMYA

Before I do, I just forgot how to code this one part, hold on.

Kimya roots around in her files nervously, pausing to look up at the Professor. He looks on with an annoyed glance.

KIMYA (CONT'D)

Okay so for this page, where do I need to enter
(beat)
this?

She searches through her notes and points to a line of information on a loose leaf sheet of paper.

PROFESSOR

I would have to take a longer look at your entire model. I just can't do that right now, I'm sorry.

Kimya looks down.

PROFESSOR (CONT'D)

Don't you have people to be with? Like friends, or family or something? Just go back to them this doesn't matter anymore.

Kimya sees her phone and opens Snapchat. She notices she never responded to Sofia.

KIMYA

It's not that simple. I have this game, and... there isn't enough time, but it's truly important to me.

PROFESSOR

Human connection. That's what's important, Kimya. In the final moments do you want to be with your loved ones, or a computer?

Kimya stands up.

KIMYA

Isn't it in your job to love programming so much that you share it with others? As a form of storytelling and history?

PROFESSOR

Yes, but-

KIMYA

This is going to be my legacy. It's how I'm going to be remembered!

PROFESSOR

And that's all very exciting and noble. All I ask is that you assess everything in your life right now. Every person, relationship, interest- whatever it is. Meditate on it and decide what is most worthy of being next to you when that meteor comes. Or the plague, or radiation or whatever the fuck it is.

They sit in silence for a moment.

KIMYA

I think it's an asteroid.

The professor laughs quietly. And makes a motion with his arm to signal it's time for Kimya to leave.

PROFESSOR

Good luck.

KIMYA

Thank you.

Kimya leaves the room and closes the door behind her. She stands outside of it for a moment.

She opens her phone and types up a list. The header reads "Important" and beneath it are various names listed out. The top line reads "Sofia/Game" while the other points are all singular people or things.

She closes her phone and puts it in her pocket.

INT. KIMYA'S BEDROOM- NIGHT

Off screen, we hear Sofia return home and close the door loudly behind her. Sofia marches up the stairs and opens the door to Kimya's room.

Half-asleep, with a granola bar in one fist and a computer mouse in the other, Kimya is startled by Sofia.

KIMYA

Whoah. Hey. What time is it?

SOFIA

It's like 3 AM. Have you been in here all day? You're literally in the same position as when I left this morning.

KIMYA

Hey! I left today!

Sofia's eyes brighten slightly.

SOFIA

Oh good. Where?

KIMYA

To see our professor.

SOFIA

Really, Kim? Over the festival?

KIMYA

I just needed someone to talk to about this.

She motions to her computer.

SOFIA

Yeah, I needed someone to talk to too.

Sofia sits next to Kimya on the bed.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

I just wish we could be together for at least a little bit of time. What's the point of spending these last few days working like this?

KIMYA

You just have to trust me about how important this is.

SOFIA

It's too late to keep going in circles about this. Just get some sleep.

Sofia exits and closes Kimya's door behind her.

Kimya chooses not to listen to Sofia's advice and gets up from her bed to go to the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN- NIGHT

Kimya makes herself a giant cup of coffee in an old Big Gulp cup from the cupboard.

She takes a few sips while watching people from the kitchen window. They are dancing, laughing and waving sparklers in the air.

Her expression turns from pensive to upset and she goes back upstairs to her room.

INT. BEDROOM- NIGHT

We see a montage of Kimya working furiously throughout the night to make progress on the game. Her coffee levels decrease until the sun comes up and her eyes slowly close.

INT. BEDROOM- DAY

Kimya is asleep in bed. Sofia calls her, and Kimya's phone vibrates but it does not wake her up.

INT. BEDROOM- NIGHT

Kimya wakes up in a daze. She looks around at the mess surrounding her and tears of frustration form in her eyes.

She looks at her phone and sees that Sofia has called her and heads downstairs.

INT. LIVING ROOM- NIGHT

Kimya picks up her textbook on the coffee table and goes to read it on the couch.

A few seconds later, Sofia opens the door and storms in.

SOFIA
What the hell, Kimya?

Kimya looks up, confused.

KIMYA
Why are you so pissed? And soaking wet?

Sofia angrily gestures to Kimya's phone

SOFIA
You just didn't feel like answering today? Or even showing up?

KIMYA
I was asleep and I missed the calls. I'm just as mad about it as you are don't worry.

SOFIA
Are you kidding me?

KIMYA
Why are you still so pissed?

SOFIA
You couldn't even have bothered to show up to my birthday?

KIMYA
Yeah, because it's tomorrow.

Sofia balls her hands into fists and makes an exasperated sound.

SOFIA
It was today.

Kimya looks confused, then shocked. She opens her phone's calendar, and looks back at Sofia.

KIMYA
Sofia...

SOFIA
Just save it!

Sofia begins to go upstairs.

KIMYA

Sofia wait. Look. I'll just go into the game and recreate it! See! Then everything will be okay. And then it'll be there for centuries! Maybe millenniums!

Sofia turns back around.

SOFIA

Oh my god Kimya get the hell over that stupid game. None of it even matters. And don't even think that's close to the same as showing up to the one thing that was really important to me.

KIMYA

Okay I am so sorry. I know it's not the same. Please just let me make it up to you.

SOFIA

How?

KIMYA

Tomorrow morning, before... you know, it all goes down, please go to that coffee place with me on 6th Street. We used to go all the time together freshman year. I promise I'll be there. I'll even get there early- I'll get us a table!

Sofia rolls her eyes, but relents.

SOFIA

Fine. I'll meet you there when you tell me you're already seated. I have something I have to do beforehand anyway. And I want an iced coffee.

Kimya smiles.

KIMYA

I promise. It'll be just like freshman year. I'll even make that iced coffee an extra large all-day refill.

(beat)

I mean technically you can probably get all-day refill anyway. Like, who's gonna stop us?

(MORE)

KIMYA (CONT'D)

I hope to God everyone called in sick for tomorrow's shift.

SOFIA

When we get the three cookies for \$2 can I be the one to get two cookies?

A wave of relief washes over Kimya and the girls share a small smile.

KIMYA

Why would we do it any other way?

SOFIA

You gotta get to bed- it's late and you can't sleep in again.

KIMYA

Alright. See you tomorrow.

Kimya walks up the stairs and goes into her room.

INT. BEDROOM- NIGHT

Kimya puts on her pajamas and gets into bed. The room is dark besides the glow from her open laptop on her desk. She shuts the laptop and falls asleep.

INT. COFFEE SHOP- DAY

The shop is completely empty, but besides one of the windows being shattered, it's pretty in tact for a post-looting end of the world scenario. The door sits open and the breeze picks up napkins and coffee stirrers.

Kimya gets behind the counter and haphazardly tries to find ingredients and use the equipment. After a little struggling she is able to make the two drinks.

She sits alone at a table waiting for Sofia. An extra large iced coffee waits opposite her. Kimya sips on an iced tea and doodles on a napkin.

She begins to sketch dimensions for the coffee shop as if she were to recreate it in her game. Time passes more quickly.

INT. COFFEE SHOP- LATE AFTERNOON

A clock shows that over an hour has passed since Kimya has been waiting.

Kimya looks out the window to see that the sky is significantly darker than it was before. She packs up her things and heads home.

As she makes her way home, Kimya notices how quiet the once-busy streets have become. People are filing into their houses. The ground shakes a little with each step.

Kimya begins to walk a little faster.

INT. BEDROOM- DAY

We see Sofia's eyes. She is wearing plastic goggles, and hitting something over and over again, almost rhythmically.

She winces with each hit, and the whacking beings to match up with the distant sounds of the crushing blow of rocks hitting the Earth. Tears well in her eyes.

EXT. FRONT YARD- DAY

Kimya is now running home as the sound of large objects falling around her becomes louder.

She sprints up the steps and whips open the door.

INT. LIVING ROOM- DAY

Kimya's eyes quickly scan the room and she realizes its empty.

KIMYA
Sofia? Sofia! Sofia!

Kimya hears a noise coming from upstairs.

INT. BEDROOM- DAY

Kimya opens the door, her eyes briefly closed as she hunches over to catch her breath.

She looks up and sees Sofia standing in her bedroom holding a metal baseball bat.

In the corner, her computer, monitor and other devices are mangled and destroyed.

Her eyes dart back to Sofia and Kimya drops to her knees.

SOFIA

Kimya. I had to. I was going to lose my best friend to a video game.

Kimya's eyes go blank. She stands up.

KIMYA

I was doing this for us! All of it! We could have lived on! Had a legacy! Now nothing!

SOFIA

It's okay! It's okay I don't want that! I just wanted to spend time with you. I just wanted the last amount of time we had together to be just us! I didn't want to be overshadowed again by some program!

Kimya puts her head in her hands. The noises outside become louder. Her light fixture swings back and forth.

KIMYA

You are two completely different entities! You can't even compare you and the game it's not like that. But now you've ruined it all!

The wind outside is getting louder, almost drowning out the sound of both the girls.

SOFIA

Is this really how we have to spend our final moments? Screaming at each other! I thought this would fix everything!

KIMYA

How naive of you, Sof! That you could just fix it all by destroying what I cared about? Is that what you wanted?

SOFIA

I thought I was what you cared about!

KIMYA

You are! You know I care about you more than anything! I just needed this!

(MORE)

KIMYA (CONT'D)

I needed a legacy I needed to be
remembered and not fade into
oblivion just like everyone else!
Just like you.

The lights go out. All that can be seen is the glint of the
baseball bat Sofia is still holding. She drops it on the
ground loudly.

SOFIA

I'm sorry.

A large boom, complete darkness.

FADE TO BLACK.