

THE MANCAVE

Written by

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Based on the conversation at a hair salon.

INT. DERIK'S HOUSE-BASEMENT/MANCAVE-NIGHT

Large open room with pool table, a well used couch and big screen TV. The walls include movie posters and sports memorabilia. There's a small wet bar in the corner.

DERIK, mid 40s, a large man built like a line backer, dressed in jeans and a sweatshirt continues to place the balls in the rack. Emory, 50s, is taller than Derik, but slimmer. He is dressed in slacks and a button down long sleeve shirt with the arms rolled up. He stands next to the table sipping on a whiskey on the rocks.

EMORY

I'm not solid up on all this techy stuff but my boys are.

DERIK

Yeah. Your break.

Emory puts down his drink, grabs his stick and breaks. One ball goes in.

EMORY

Stripes. I had to ask them a couple of things. You know I didn't quite understand what they were talking about, but basically Silicon Valley, 25 years ago, there was a lot of kids inventing this stuff.

Emory shoots again and misses.

DERIK

Oh yeah.

Derik finishes up his beer and picks up his stick.

EMORY

Snap chat, all these platforms that we use on social media now days.

Derik shoots, two balls go in.

DERIK

And making themselves multibillionaires.

EMORY

Super rich. Super rich. And do their children have cell phones? All of them ban them from their homes. Because they know. They invented this.

DERIK

Uh hum.

Derik makes a nice corner pocket.

EMORY

They call it techy Frankenstein. They invented this as boys. They are young men now. Families with young children.

DERIK

Yup.

EMORY

So the biggest problem is, well, what to do about it? They can't do anything about it unless they pull the plugs on the super computers.

DERIK

Oh there's really nothing you can do about it.

Derik shoots and misses. He puts down his stick and walks over to the wet bar and removes a fresh beer.

EMORY

That's scary.

Emory takes a big swig of his whiskey, grabs a pool stick and sinks a ball.

DERIK

There was a new thing my wife was watching the other night. I can't remember what it was called. But it's basically an other version of Terminator where the AI gets so smart it starts to rewrite itself.

EMORY

That's happening now?

Emory looks up as he shoots and misses.

DERIK

Yep. Scratch.

EMORY

As we speak?

DERIK

It is.

Derik pulls the white ball out of the pocket and lines up for his next shot.

EMORY

They don't know how to stop it or slow it down?

DERIK

Yep. And no one wants to because there's money in it.

Derik shoots and sinks 2 more.

EMORY

Well, there is that. But they got to look at the moral side of it all. Because this is effecting the species.

DERIK

Oh, ironically enough, the woman I was mentoring in the doctorate program last year, that was her dissertation. On the morality of making decisions in business using AI.

EMORY

Using AI? This could be the best thing for human beings or it could be the worst thing as well.

DERIK

Uh hum.

Derik sinks another ball.

EMORY

So anyway, my boys want to make people aware of what's going on. Well they kept referencing that Terminator movie cause it epitomizes what humans are of the brink of now. Well, not today-

DERIK

No, no. I know what you mean on the brink of. We're getting there.

EMORY

We're getting there.

Emory takes another swig of his whiskey and goes to refill.

DERIK

Every country is racing to get it.

EMORY

Yup. But the thing is about the kids right.

DERIK

Uh hum.

Emory return with a full glass of whiskey.

EMORY

At the restaurant last night a Mum and dad, three kids were having dinner. Mum says give me all the phones and you dad says all give the phones in. And they put it in the mums bag. You can all have your phones back after dinner an hour from now. The 13 year old starts panicking at dinner because she can hear her phone going.

DERIK

Uh hum.

Derik shoots and misses.

EMORY

And she gets a little bit aggressive about it. Anyway, cut a long story short, in the end they have an argument over dinner. She goes over to that bag and rips it off the chair breaking the arm. She tears the crap out of this bag. Gets her phone. Like all my god its my phone...

DERIK

Well they did a study recently where the kids today, if you take away their phones they have the same psychological symptoms as PTSD.

EMORY

You know the social media is being used in many different aspects these days and not all are for good. Isn't it terrible. The world has corrupt people you see, evil people.

(MORE)

EMORY (CONT'D)

If they don't work their platforms properly it can cause civil wars. I know it sounds a bit Mozart.

DERIK

You're not talking to some who doesn't believe that.

EMORY

Oh, you do believe that? Yes yes.

Emory lines up the shot and two go in.

DERIK

That's the kinds of stuff technology is headed for. Look at the manipulation with social media. How they are trying to make people feel.

Emory shoots again and misses. Derik picks up the stick.

EMORY

And that, oh yes, interference from other countries. They aren't doing anything illegal. They're using the tools that have been given by computers.

DERIK

Yep.

EMORY

It's not legal um illegal to infiltrate this or to try to influence..It's a nightmare out there!

DERIK

Black ball, corner pocket.

Derik sinks the last ball.

DERIK (CONT'D)

The commander is proud of my effective distribution of the AI throughout Earth's social media. You know, you really do make a convincing human, but I'm starting to doubt your team' judgement. It might be time for you to return home.