Your Name Here

Credits

A version of Emily Dickinson's "I died for Beauty…"

Voice – Liz Nolan

Young Man in Shop -Arthur Crawford

Sound -Bernard Clarke

Summary

This is an adaptation of Emily Dickinson's poem known as *"I died for Beauty…"* It is set in a technology shop, inside a rebooted but failing and dying computer. *Your Name Here* has a short prelude and then tracks Dickinson's three verses.

The prelude has the computer booting up, running through its memory, recalling other poems from John Milton, Stevie Smith, Guillaume Apollinaire and more from Emily Dickinson (*Because I Could Not Stop For Death; I Felt A Funeral In My Brain; I like a look of Agony*).

The first verse features the voice trying to remember itself (the poem), the scenario (laid in a tomb and then quickly joined by another martyr it seems), and how it computes – the signal comes and goes.

The signal goes and that leads us into the second verse where the young man gives our computer person a plug in (like A CD Rom) for the computer's drive. The young man assures him that it will work, but it will totally scramble anything like iTunes (or Windows Media Player).

This is exactly what happens as the computer plays first Robert Plant and then Ella Fitzgerald, but also finds itself "singing" Abe Lyman's *"I Cried For You"* with the words from the poem (*For Beauty, I replied*) and Miles Davis's *"Freddie Freeloader"* (*For Truth, For Truth For Truth*) –"sings" the computer.

The last verse sees the computer eating itself alive-turning on its own internal drive and fan, but determined to compute on and tell its tale. Until it finally collapses and fades out on a string of "names, names, names…"

Day. A rundown electronics shop. A stiff door, a radio playing faintly, a musical excerpt from Glen Gray & The Casa Loma Orchestra "I cried for you"

Man

Hello. Yes, I'm interested in your computers, particularly the old ones…

Young Man in shop

We have an old Mac and an old Windows there.

(He looks over his shoulder)

They came in around the same time. They're old now…

He switches the computer on. It blinks into life and immediately starts running through its memory, playing a sequence of voices and sounds and endless streaming glitchy interference from its failing, flickering electronics. The voices come in bursts of sound as the internal electronics whirl and the chaos continues.

We hear snatches from poems including John Milton's Paradise Lost, Stevie Smith's Not Waving But Drowning and Emily Dickinson's I died for Beauty and Because I could not stop for Death. But it is chaotic.

Finally the computer seems to settle somewhat; and out of the shards and glitches a voice emerges trying to recite I died for Beauty.

VERSE I

Voice

I died. I died. I died. For, for Truth.

SFX Massive Computer Glitch noise

Voice

And. For. Our woe, our woe

Beauty. But. Tt Tt. But was was scars, sca, scarce, scarcely adjusted ad jus ted

In. The. Tomb. Room.

When, when One. One

Who died….died… for Truth, Truth!

Was lain, was lain

In the, in an, in an, in the, in in, an ad join   ing. Adjoining

SFX the sound is suddenly subterranean, crypt-like.

Voice

In. The. Room

SFX Computer collapses

Day. The electronics shop. The computer's malfunction ringing out in a high pitched noise

Young Man in shop

Listen. Banging on the table won't make any difference. It'll come on when it comes on. You could put this in the drive. Really messes up your iTunes, but it should make a difference.

SFX He loads up the computer drive

VERSE II

Voice

For Beauty. For Beauty. For Truth

MUSIC Robert Plant & the Honeydrippers *I Get A Thrill* -mercilessly stuttered

Voice

And. Failed

MUSIC Glen Gray & The Casa Loma Orchestra *I cried for you*

But instead of the lyrics of "I cried for you/Now it's your turn to cry over me"- we get the Voice "singing"

Voice "singing"

"I died for you…For Beauty, for Beauty, for Beauty"

Voice

Truth. Truth. Why. I. Failed. Beauty. Beauty. Failed.

MUSIC Ella Fitzgerald *It's Only A Paper Moon* -stuttered and sent constantly backwards

MUSIC Miles Davis *Freddie Freeloader*

But instead of the great jazz tune from the Kind of Blue album we get the Voice "singing" faintly

Voice "singing"

"For Beauty…Beauty…Beauty…For, for, for for, for for"

Voice

He Failed. Beauty. Truth! For Beauty, for Beauty. Themself are-failed.

MUSIC Miles Davis *Freddie Freeloader*

But instead of the original we get the Voice "singing" in a "chorus" of

"Truth Truth Truth Truth"

And the Voice fading in and out

Failed. Why?

(And the answer): "Truth Truth Truth Truth"

Voice

Truth. Truth. The. Rooms. Failed. Forbidden. Forbidden.

VERSE III

Voice

And

I-Beauty-Adjusted-Tomb

Kinsmen

And Kinsmen

When-One-Truth-In-Room-He-For-For…

Night

And Kinsmen Night

We

And-Kinsmen-Night-We

Beauty-I-And-I-Truth- Themself - Themself…

Rooms-Rooms

Night-Rooms-Till-Moss

One-We-Brethern-He-And-Night

And-And-And

Moss? Moss

Moss

And Moss, so Moss, as Moss, Kinsmen Moss, met Moss, a Moss, Night
Moss, We Moss, talked Moss, between Moss, the Moss, Rooms Moss, Until
Moss, the Moss, Moss Moss, Moss had, Moss reached, our Moss, Moss
lips, And Moss, Moss covered, up Moss, Our Moss, Moss Moss, Moss Moss

And Our…And Our…And Our…And Our…

And Our-Names

SFX Computer Bleeps itself out

Day. The electronics shop.

Young Man in shop

Well, what do you think?

Man

No. They're rubbish. Just for the scrap heap.

Notes

Text – Emily Dickinson original poem:

I died for Beauty - but was scarce
Adjusted in the Tomb
When One who died for Truth, was lain
In an adjoining Room -

He questioned softly "Why I failed"?
"For Beauty", I replied -
"And I - for Truth - Themself are One -
We Brethren are", He said -

And so, as Kinsmen, met a Night —
We talked between the Rooms -
Until the Moss had reached our lips -
And covered up - Our names –