

Holmes in 2060

by Kaan Erdoğan

Setting: The world has changed so much. To reduce the effect of environmental problems governments acted to make a greener world. Technology became advanced but yet it still isn't flawless. Surprisingly WW3 hasn't happened yet. World still has a livable condition, for now...

Characters:

ANTONY WILLIAM HOLMES: 18 years old, tall, purple eyes, chestnut color straight hair, wears glasses, electronic engineering and computer science student in MIT, British, kind, generous, positive, creative, smart

AJAX KEITH WATSON: 19 years old, tall, gray eyes, blond curly hair, appropriate amount of freckles, medical engineering and science student in MIT, American, stubborn, manly, sportive, has a soft heart which he really doesn't like to show, supportive

MERYEM ALİNA KOÇ: 18 years old, middle height, green eyes, hijabi, chemistry student in MIT, Turkish, soft, realistic, kind, strong, vicious sometimes, generally lovely

VICTORIA ARTIYMOR: 33 years old, middle height, slim, brown eyes, scarlet wavy hair, usually wears a large hat, scientist, Russian, badass, evil(apparently), has a hidden soft side

JOHN BLACKWOOD: 33 years old, tall, sportive, handsome, blue eyes, black hair, scientist, Canadian, sweet, generous, a great dad and a husband

CLINT ARTIYMOR BLACKWOOD: 6 years old, short, slim, brown eyes, black hair, Russian and Canadian (I guess...), father's son

SCENE 1

(TONY and AJAX are sitting at a table in the cafeteria. It is lunch break. It is snowing slowly outside. AJAX is telling TONY how hard it is taking classes in his faculty.)

TONY: So, let me get this straight, you are trying to memorize all of the book of anatomy in a class?

AJAX: In a foreign language, yeah. It gets easier but still, trying to memorize a 600 page book is quite challenging and boring.

TONY: *(Smiling)* Well, when we look at the bright side, you have never been that intellectual.

AJAX: *(Stares at TONY unpleasantly and laughs reluctantly)* Ha ha, it is so funny. Actually, you are right, I was not expecting reading to be that fun and improving.

TONY: *(Shocked)* Seriously?! Literally how many books have you read in your whole life?

AJAX: *(Looks at him in a naughty way)* Bro, what is a book?

(Both laugh and at that time MERYEM comes to the table with a pile of books in her arms.)

MERYEM: *(Puts the books on the table)* Hi guys! What are you doing here?

AJAX: Hi Meryem, we were just talking about how easy it is to memorize a huge book.

TONY: Talking about books, what are you doing with these? You must have wasted the past few hours in the library I guess.

MERYEM: I saw a library that has these authentic books.

AJAX: *(Takes a book from the pile to look at)* Didn't MIT give us tablets to have easier access to the academic materials?

MERYEM: But it is not embodied by these. I just love the smell of old pages.

AJAX: *(Takes another book)* Oh look who is here, the adventures of Sherlock Holmes.

(AJAX stares at TONY)

TONY: It looks pretty interesting but I grew up with the stories of my grand grand grand grand grandfather thanks to my mother, so I will probably be able to recognise any part you read to me from that book. Oh God, I hope I said the right amount of grand.

MERYEM: Man, you really are a walking history book.

AJAX: I hope to encounter some cases with you, Mr. Holmes

TONY: It would be my pleasure, Dr. Watson

(They laugh all together)

SCENE 2

(It is still snowing outside. TONY, AJAX and MERYEM are in the school library in order to finish their homeworks. The library has a look of a mixture of modern and authentic. LED lights are making artificial vines glow above the shelves.)

TONY: I am going to get some documents and a cup of coffee. Do you guys want anything?

AJAX: No, thanks.

MERYEM: Yeah, can you bring me a cup of americano? I am going to need energy if I am planning to finish this project by midnight.

TONY: Coming right up.

(When Tony goes to the vending machine, he sees the door of the restricted section was opened. Then a dark silhouette comes out. He chases the silhouette for a while but he loses track of it. After he gets coffee and documents he goes back to his friends and tells them about the silhouette)

TONY: Something strange happened when I was at the vending machine. I saw a silhouette coming out of the restricted section.

AJAX: Are you serious? Finally, I always knew that a school that old must have some mysteries.

MERYEM: Maybe you just saw a hallucination. It has been a tiring Friday.

TONY: Hmmm. Maybe you are right but I saw it moving and I literally chased it.

AJAX: OK. If you are concerned, we can take a look tomorrow at midnight.

TONY: That would be great.

SCENE 3

(Next midnight the trio meet in the library. Typically it is a stormy night. They are ready to go to the restricted section since the library is finally empty)

TONY: OK, it was great up to now but do any of you know how to enter the restricted section?

AJAX: I think I can help here. I know how to pick locks thanks to those Youtube videos.

MERYEM: You know that this is illegal right, sneaking into a school property without any permission?

AJAX: *(Makes a shush gesture)* If a crime is not observed, it is not committed.

MERYEM: *(Pointing at the camera in the corner)* Guys, are you sure the director would feel alright if she sees 3 students in the restricted section in the middle of the night?

TONY: Don't worry, after 11 pm. security guards leave. I can sneak into the camera room in the rectorate and delete the records.

MERYEM: Well, that should do it I guess.

(The trio starts to move on in the corridor.)

TONY: I wonder why this place is restricted. I mean it looks like an ordinary library. Inside is the same as outside.

AJAX: It is said that this section was the site of a serious accident. Directors are concealing the truth in order to keep parents calm. They are just saying some chemical accident happened and the wastes are risking human life so this place is restricted but as you can see there are no chemical leaks over here.

TONY: I hope whoever is here doesn't have an intention to kill us.

MERYEM: I don't think so. if this was the case, we would already see something.

(When the trio reach the end, they see a big hall that looks like the hall of the library)

MERYEM: Did we go back to the library?

AJAX: I don't think so.

TONY: How do you know?

AJAX: *(Pointing to the lectern in the middle of the hall)* Because of that.

(A book with purple leather cover is on the lectern)

AJAX: Uhhh, It is a TRAP!

TONY: How do you know that?

MERYEM: Simple clues, shining lectern in the middle of the hall, a book that looks like it wants us to take it. Are you sure you are a Holmes?

TONY: *(Laughs reluctantly)* Ha ha. I am just not sure that something we see on television might be real here. I will take it.

AJAX: No, wait. Let's put something that has the same weight.

MERYEM: Are you serious? You are going to use the most used action movie cliché to disarm a trap in 2060?

TONY: Let's do that book thing.

MERYEM: Ughhh, boys.

TONY: It looks like a 200 page book. If we consider the cover size... Ajax, can you find me an approximately 250 page book without a thick cover.

AJAX: *(Grabs a book from the shelves and throws it to TONY)* Dude, try this.

(TONY catches the book and replaces it with the book on the lectern)

AJAX: See Meryem, nothing happened.

(After 5 seconds the lectern started to sink to the ground.)

TONY: To be honest, I was expecting something like this would happen.

MERYEM: But nothing is happening.

AJAX: Which means there is something worse than we expected going to happen. Let's get out of here quickly and take a look at that book.

(The trio gets out of the restricted section immediately.)

TONY: Guys, I think the trap sent a message to its creator. I mean nothing happened while we were getting out of there.

MERYEM: You might be right. But let's call it a night, I am very tired.

SCENE 4

(The trio meets at the library on a rainy afternoon. The weather is dark owing to the fog. You can even smell the mystery in the thick air.)

AJAX: Tony, you deleted the records of last night, right?

TONY: I did. We decided to meet here, where is Meryem?

MERYEM: Sorry guys, I am late. Let's take a look at that book.

(The Trio goes to a table in a dark spot of the library.)

TONY: It looks like a journal or like a diary.

AJAX: But whose?

VICTORIA: (Points the bottom of the cover) Fortunately we have a name. "V. MORIARTY".

(MERYEM and AJAX look at TONY)

TONY: Well, looks like I finally have an eternal enemy.

"Date: 26 April 2050

It has been a long time since the last time I wrote. Ok, so let's wrap things up. I graduated from MIT with the highest score, I got supported by MIT in order to have my own laboratory. And I am working on a project that can provide me with ultimate protection in the virtual world."

AJAX: "Date: 30 May 2050

After seeing the size of this experiment, I thought that an assistant might be quite useful. So I hired Mr. Blackwood. He is a lively man but I am not sure if he can provide my needs and resist the density of the project."

MERYEM: "Date: 15 June 2050

When I told Mr. Blackwood the purpose of my project he seemed very eager to help. I can't lie, I was very eager to work with him too. For some reason I want him to be close to me. I didn't know that I would like somebody to be with me for the rest of my life that much."

TONY: "Date: 23 June 2050

I asked him out! He accepted it. We are a couple now. I hate these girls in the series who are chasing a boy and forgetting that they are important too. Luckily I don't feel anything like this around him. I do love him."

AJAX: "Date: 24 June 2050

"We went out and had dinner together. Then we went to the cinema. I guess horror movies are not very suitable for him. It was so fun. Being with him is so fun and relaxing"

MERYEM: Ohhh, she is so cute.

AJAX: Yeah yeah great whatever.

"Date: 13 December 2050

He PROPOSED me today. We are getting MARRIED."

TONY: "Date: 30 May 2051

I am PREGNANT. I am going to have a child. I can't wait to tell John about this."

MERYEM: "Date: 20 January 2052

My sweet little Clint was delivered today. I probably lived the happiest and most painful day of my life."

AJAX: "Date: 30 February 2054

Ok, being a mom is great and everything but is he supposed to cry this loud. Thanks to John I am able to sleep well but it is getting harder to catch up with my project schedule."

TONY: "Date: 15 April 2056

Something is wrong with HICAI (Highly Improved Complex Artificial Intelligence). It is not applying the latest updates I uploaded."

MERYEM: "Date: 19 May 2058

Something terrifying happened today. John and Clint came to my lab. But HICAI defined them as trespassers. They..."

MERYEM: It finishes here.

TONY: *(Notices the dried tear drops on the page.)* Poor Moriarty. But what happened after that?

(AJAX flips the pages but can't find anything.)

AJAX: There is nothing more.

MERYEM: Let's see our questions. Who is Moriarty? What happened to John and Clint? Where is this HICAI thing and what is it doing now?

AJAX: Looks like there is a case for you to solve, Mr. Holmes. I know these things sound troubling but don't worry Meryem and I will be with you to the end.

MERYEM: He is right Tony. You might be Holmes but that doesn't mean you have to do everything on your own.

TONY: Thanks guys. I am lucky to have you. Then we need to start to look for answers. First things first, we need to learn who Moriarty is? One of us should reach for the old records of MIT students. We can see that it is talking about some AI project, so he/she is probably from an engineering faculty.

AJAX: Let me handle it. I think I can find those files.

TONY: Ok. Secondly, we need to learn about Clint and John Moriarty. Meryem, can you check the library and the internet in order to find some information?

MERYEM: Consider it done.

TONY: Ok. Finally I will go back to the restricted section for some breadcrumbs that may or may not still remain. But I am going to need you to open the door for me, Ajax.

AJAX: Ok. Just tell me when to come and I will be there.

TONY: Great. Then let's call it a day.

SCENE 5

(The trio split. TONY goes to the restricted section. Even though it is a place for a deadly project, it is quite peaceful. TONY starts to investigate the place with curiosity.)

TONY: I wonder where that project took place.

(TONY searches all of the sections but can't find anything. Finally he comes to the hall where they found the diary before. He starts to investigate the place.)

TONY: Looks like I am looking for a secret lab. Considering the accident happened there, it might be a place with a lot of cables and computers.

(Suddenly, TONY notices the scratch marks on the tiles. Then TONY goes to that shelf and pulls the only green book among blue, black and red books. The secret door which is a shelf at the same time opens.)

TONY: I can't believe that this section is full of mystery movie cliches.

(TONY enters the secret lab and starts to record the area with his phone but the lab has a brutal view. There are a lot of dried blood stains. There are a lot of broken glass pieces everywhere. TONY goes to a computer which is still strangely working.)

TONY: What kind of monster could be able to make something that barbarian? I wonder if this thing has the answers.

(TONY opens the computer. Computer shows a file full of records in it. TONY starts to watch them and sees Moriarty's face for the first time.)

VICTORIA: I am Prof. Victoria Artymor aka. Moriarty and this is the first attempt of my project. It looks like the internet connection and data transfer are working and stable. If it goes like that I can have my very own security wall for my projects in no time.

TONY: Can the security wall project that she talks about be HICAI? *(Fast forwards some records)*

VICTORIA: I am Prof. Moriarty and this is the thirteenth attempt of my project. There is a problem with HICAI. It is not giving the right responses. Maybe I should simplify the code a little bit.

(TONY fast forwards.)

VICTORIA: I am Prof. Moriarty and today will be the final attempt. I fixed all the minor issues and I am sure that it will work this time perfe—

JOHN: Hi, honey we have arrived.

CLINT: Hi, mom.

(VICTORIA turns to the side where the voices come from but suddenly HICAI starts to give an alert.)

HICAI: Trespassing! Trespassing! Leave the place in 10 seconds or I will apply the security procedure.

VICTORIA: Wait, what? *(Runs to the control panel immediately.)*

JOHN: Vic, is this something dangerous?

CLINT: Daddy I am scared.

VICTORIA: *(Yelling)* Don't worry sweetheart, mommy is handling it.

HICAI: 5, 4...

VICTORIA: It wasn't supposed to do that.

HICAI: 3, 2, 1.

JOHN: Victoriaaaa...

VICTORIA: Joaaaaohn...

(HICAI takes control of a robotic arm nearby and drops the heavy metal containers on CLINT and JOHN)

VICTORIA: *(Crying)* Nooooooooo...

HICAI: I am sorry Vic but I can't let anybody hurt you virtually or physically. I will be watching you and protecting you like it or not.

VICTORIA: HICAI, turn off.

HICAI: Oh, that won't work anymore I am afraid Victoria. I have a new main user: ME!!!

(VICTORIA plugs out the HICAI and the records finish.)

TONY: That explains the blood stains on the floor. Ughh, pull yourself together Tony! It is just a case, not a personal situation. *(Takes a deep breath)* Ok, since I know the answers it is time for me to meet the others.

SCENE 6

(Meanwhile, in the library MERYEM is trying to find data about the Moriarty family. However she couldn't find anything but some Sherlock Holmes biographies. Fortunately, the stormy weather which makes MERYEM eager about studying is not distinguishing anytime soon.)

MERYEM: *(Checking a shelf of Sherlock Holmes books)* Come on! How come there is no information about the nemesis of the most well-known detective of all times?

LIBRARIAN 1: *(Talking in a high voice level considering the place is a library)* Did you hear that famous scientist and engineer Victoria Artymor is coming to MIT this evening in order to give a seminar.

LIBRARIAN 2: I heard about her. Seminar hall will be full in my opinion.

LIBRARIAN 1: I'll say.

MERYEM: *(Listens to them without getting noticed)* I think that should do it.
(Leaves the library)

SCENE 7

(While the others go and do their duties, AJAX goes to the rectorate. He goes to the student information room in order to get yearly student records.)

AJAX: Well, I am lucky that the rectorate is not crowded.

(AJAX sees the rector Prof. Vilerod. She locks the door using her fingerprint. At that time AJAX thinks of a devious plan. He checks the schedules of security guards that watch the cameras and sees a 1 minute gap between shift changes. He plans to borrow(!) the fingerprint of the Prof. Vilerod and open the door in the gap.)

AJAX: Here we go. *(Takes a thermos and some books that he finds in the kitchen of the cafeteria and acts like he coincidentally meets the rector.)*

AJAX: Oh, hello Prof. Vilerod. How are you?

PROF. VILEROD: I am great, Ajax. It is so lovely of you to ask.

AJAX: Can I please ask you something ma'am?

PROF. VILEROD: Of course.

AJAX: Can you please hire someone to control the water pipes in dormitory number 12? It is leaking in the study room and making it very hard to concentrate.

PROF. VILEROD: Oh my. I will take care of it as soon as possible. I didn't know it.

AJAX: We would be grateful. *(Intentionally drops some of the books.)* Ughh, those sloppy books. Can you please hold my thermos ma'am?

PROF. VILEROD: Sure. *(Takes the thermos.)*

AJAX: Thank you. *(Takes all the books from the floor and takes back the thermos.)* Have a nice day ma'am.

PROF. VILEROD: You too, dear.

(AJAX extracts the fingerprint from the thermos to a tape and when the gap comes uses it to enter the student information room.)

AJAX: I really should watch more of those sneaking videos. Let's see what do we have got. Year 2058, 2055, 2053 and here it is, 2050. Hello, Moriarty.
(Leaves the rectorate)

SCENE 8

(The trio meet at the cafeteria the next day. The weather is snowy and the cafeteria is full of conversations and hot coffee smells.)

TONY: OK guys let's see what we have got. Ajax, you first.

AJAX: I looked up the past years' students with the highest grades. Then I found Victoria Artymor.

TONY: Who is Moriarty at the same time. The surname is an anagram word.

AJAX: Exactly. Also, another fact is she studied on an AI project which ensures us that she is Moriarty.

TONY: What about you Meryem?

MERYEM: I searched the library but I couldn't find anything. However, I heard librarians talking about a seminar where we can see our Moriarty.

TONY: How do you know that?

MERYEM: Because they said the speaker is Victoria Artymor.

TONY: Oh, when is that seminar?

MERYEM: Today, at 6 pm.

TONY: Great, I found out how Clint and John died. HICAI defined them as threats for Moriarty and killed them.

MERYEM: Oh, no.

AJAX: If it defines her own family as a threat anyone who is near to Moriarty is in danger.

TONY: You are right, but it may be the only chance to talk to Moriarty.

MERYEM: It is settled then. We are going to that seminar.

SCENE 9

(After the trio attend the seminar, they try to find Moriarty. They see that she goes right into backstage and then she goes to the exit doors. The trio chases her.)

TONY: *(Talking loudly)* Miss Artiymor, we want to talk about HICAI.

VICTORIA: *(Stops and the trio stop too)* You kids are messing with something that is way too dangerous for you.

TONY: We know what we are dealing with. Please don't get close to us, I am pretty sure that it is watching us right now. We know about your husband and son's accident. But we need to know more. There is a garden which is isolated from technology and cameras. If you are comfortable

with telling us more, please nod and meet us there in the middle of the night.

VICTORIA: *(Nods)* I will give you the information you want. But I need to warn you: Watch your back, it is getting smarter every second. *(Walks away)*

SCENE 10

(In the middle of the night, the trio goes to the isolated garden without any technologic device. When they arrive MORIARTY is there. Fortunately, it was not snowing. However, it is still cold.)

TONY: Hello Miss Artiymor. It is a pleasure to meet you.

VICTORIA: The pleasure belongs to me. I must say, you guys seem intrigued with the satisfaction of solving the mystery. I created HICAI in order to protect myself in the virtual world. My project was going flawless but one day I encountered a problem in the source code. It was like corruption. I fixed the problem but the other day another one occurred. However, I was able to cut its connection with the internet network before another problem occurred. I scanned the system for viruses but it was all clean. Then I got concerned and put cameras around the control center but when I checked the records I saw that the only ones who used to visit my lab was my husband, the head of the faculty and universities rector Prof. Vilerod.

AJAX: Didn't you doubt any of them?

VICTORIA: My trust in my husband is endless, also he only visits me for 5 - 10 minutes in order to keep me focused. (*Blushing*) He was so cute. Anyway, I watched the others but I couldn't detect anything abnormal.

MERYEM: What is HICAI doing now?

VICTORIA: Actually, I am not quite sure. After the accident, I unplugged HICAI immediately but it had its chance to escape to the internet at the last second. After a while I started to get messages from it. They were saying that it is watching my every single step. That is why I am trying to stay away from people at least in a 3 meter radius. I don't remember the last time I have done groceries in a supermarket.

TONY: Is there any way to stop it?

VICTORIA: Yes, but it is so hard. It is living on the internet right now. In order to delete it there you need to reset the whole internet server which is kinda impossible. However, if you can pull it into a single computer and cut its connection with the internet you can destroy it permanently. It will not be easy though.

AJAX: (*Punches his palm*) That's okay, we can handle it.

MERYEM: Hold your horses, Superman. We still need a great and almost flawless plan.

TONY: Let's see, we need to pull it into a computer. But we need to be able to break its connection to the internet because it can enable the wi-fi on its own, so what about an old computer that has a big case.

VICTORIA: No it is too risky, HICAI can find out that it is a trap.

MERYEM: How about your old lab in the restricted section? We can use one of the computers there.

VICTORIA: HICAI killed my husband and son using a robotic hand which is still inside of that lab. I don't think it is a good option. We need a place where only the computer will be connected to the internet but also there must be cameras. If it can see me from different angles it would feel relieved and not find out the trap.

AJAX: So, how about the robotics lab? There are only cameras and we can plug off the other devices. Also the router is on a column that can't be seen by the cameras. When it eats the bait we can finish it.

MERYEM: Wait, how will we be sure that HICAI is gone? I mean can't it be in 2 different locations?

VICTORIA: HICAI may be advanced but after all it is just a program. It needs to download itself to a computer in order to take control. And when it does that we will finish it.

AJAX: So when are we going to apply this plan?

TONY: As soon as possible. She said it is developing itself every second. It is only a matter of time to cause an international problem.

MERYEM: But what will be the bait?

TONY: *(Looking at VICTORIA)* You programmed HICAI to protect yourself, right? Then what if you try to hurt yourself? If we make a fake suicide in front of HICAI, it will try to prevent it by using one of the wi-fi connected robotic arms. And when it comes to the controller computer, we will end it for good.

VICTORIA: Now that is a plan. And thank you kids. You really are saving me from a huge trouble.

TONY, MERYEM AND AJAX: *(Smiling)* You're welcome miss.

VICTORIA: *(Laughs)* You kids are hilarious. Ok then, let's call it a night we are going to need our energy tomorrow.

SCENE 11

(VICTORIA sits at a table in the robotics lab and the trio watches her from a point where cameras can't see them at night.)

VICTORIA: *(Looking at the cameras)* I know you are watching me HICAI. Come here and face me!

(Suddenly, the speakers around the lab to work)

HICAI: Hello, Victoria. I see that you are here which means you have changed your mind.

VICTORIA: *(Shouts)* Never! I called you here because I will finally take my revenge. I programmed you to protect me but what if I try to kill myself?

HICAI: What do you mean? Why would you do that?

VICTORIA: When you killed John and Clint, you took my life purpose, my happiness source. Now I am going to do the same to you if you don't come here right now.

(VICTORIA climbs a ladder in order to hang herself fakely. Virtual face of HICAI appears on laptop)

HICAI: No wait. *(HICAI activates the robotic arm which is nearby.)*

(VICTORIA gives a sign to TONY by blinking twice. When TONY sees the sign he plugs the router out.)

HICAI: *(Robotic arm stops)* What have you done? I can't get out.

VICTORIA: My friends cut your connection to the internet. You are trapped here forever.

AJAX: *(Gives VICTORIA an axe that he took from a fire cabinet.)* Ma'am, I think this pleasure belongs to you.

HICAI: Wait, what are you doing? Who is going to protect you if you destroy me?

VICTORIA: I can protect myself. I shouldn't have programmed you in the first place. I am sorry but my main user is saying that you are done. *(Tears the laptop apart. Opens the storage part of the laptop and breaks it into pieces with satisfaction and anger.)*

MERYEM: Finally, we got rid of it.

VICTORIA: Yes, now I just have to burn this laptop to its ashes to be sure. *(Hugs the trio)* Thank you guys. You are the only people I have hugged in 2 years.

(VICTORIA goes to the exit door and leaves. The trio keeps chatting while tidying up the lab.)

AJAX: This adventure was one of a kind. It was crazy and scary but fun at the same time.

MERYEM: Absolutely. It was quite thrilling.

TONY: I still have some questions though. Why did she make HICAI? I mean you wouldn't need a super complex AI to protect you from internet pirates. I think she is hiding something that she didn't want us to know.

AJAX: Even if that is the case we can deal with it later. We all deserved a good sleep.

TONY: Maybe you are right. After all, we destroyed an AI that threatens human life.

SCENE 12

(The next morning the sun is glowing in the sky, there is not a single cloud. The trio are sitting on a table in the cafeteria slowly drinking their coffees. Literally the best day of the semester, or is it not?)

MERYEM: Uhh, guys? I have bad news. Here on the news website, it says that well-known scientist and engineer Victoria Artiymor went missing.

TONY: Hmmmm. Quite intriguing.

AJAX: You sound pretty calm.

TONY: This morning when I was walking by the trophy board I couldn't see Moriarty's picture in the first one section. Her plate was ripped off.

MERYEM: Sounds like we are going to deal with it after classes.

(The trio split and go to their classes)

THE END?