

# True to the Heart

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*"The Climber", just rescued a cyborg girl labeling "CR015" or "Rae`. Now she's in his debt for saving her life, and the adventure begins!*

*Rated 12+ for cartoon violence and crude humor and mild blood.*

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## 0 - Prologue

What is life? What is love? Is it something that we cherish? Or something that we shun in the back of our minds?

A girl with dark brown hair and glasses was staring at the starry, night sky from inside a business building. She didn't work there, only her mother did. It was late, about 8 o'clock, and the girl yawned loudly. She wore an orange and turquoise sweater, with white pants and blue sneakers. The girl took out her purple iPod and clipped on her earphones, then pressed the "ON" button and listened to her Spanish Music.

"Rachael? Can you help me with these boxes?" a lady with blond hair, green eyes and a suit called from her desk. The girl turned around and grinned, "Sure, Ms. Thomas!"

Rachael ran toward the lady and lifted 3 small boxes. Ms. Thomas had one large box and headed for the elevator, with Rachael tagging behind her. As the ladies stepped inside, a loud booming noise came out of nowhere.

"What was that?" Rachael asked, concern in her voice. Ms. Thomas quickly went to the long window and looked outside. Smoke was coming out of the building below. "Rachael! Get over here, quickly!" Ms. Thomas said.

Rachael didn't understand why the lady sounded so frightened, but she knew it was something terrible. So she bent down and dropped the boxes and went to Ms. Thomas, almost running to her. Ms. Thomas grabbed Rachael's hand and ran to a door that was labeled "**FOR EMERGENCIES ONLY**". The lady opened the door and sprinted down the stairs, still holding Rachael's hand. Another loud boom came from underneath them and smoke was coming through the walls.

"M-Ms. Thomas?!" Rachael said, "What is..."

"A bombing attack! We have to get out of the building as soon as possible!" Rachael took this in slowly. Bomb? In this building? Why—

Suddenly, the stairs broke and Rachael was separated between a gap and Ms. Thomas. She was now trapped. "Rachael! Go back up and try to find another exit! There should be a door with a green knob, find it and go in there! I'll meet you at the bottom!" Ms. Thomas informed the girl, and then she turned and ran down the stairs.

Rachael spun and headed straight up the stairs again. She looked up and saw the door with the green knob. She smiled to herself and quickly went towards it. Unexpectedly, she tripped over a small piece of rock and fell down, hurting her right leg. Rachael heard a cracking noise and looked behind her. The floor was breaking, and if she didn't move, she'd fall to her death. The girl tried to get up, but her leg burned in pain so much, she couldn't handle it. The cracks became larger and were close to her feet. She looked up and cried, "Please, god, don't do this to me! I don't want to die now, not now! At this

age and at this time!”

The cracks her now near her thigh, and Rachael did the Sign of the Cross. She muttered names and said goodbyes. At that time, the floor broke and she fallen down. Rachael felt heavy, by her heart fluttered.

“Goodbye, Mom. I’ll see you later in the next life I guess...”

# 1 - Cyborg Girl

“Do do~Dododododo~da daaaa~!” a mannequin hummed a song, strolling around the park he lived in, his trusty pick-axe on his left shoulder. “I wonder what Clarice is doing at this time?” the mannequin thought, and stared at the night sky.

He took out what seemed to be a black iPod, and played some high, up-beat music. He strolled past by the Ferris wheel and the roller coaster, but then stopped and slowly looked to his right.

A young girl was lying near the lake; half of her body was still in the water. “Eh?!” the mannequin ran to the girl and bent down, shaking her shoulder.

“Hey! Are you ok? Wake up!” the mannequin asked. He shook the girl so much, her head and hair moved, revealing a code on her neck and an earpiece of metallic feathers with a color orb that was pitch black. The mannequin drew his hand back and shudders, but noticed the code on her neck. It read; “102695CR015”.

“This is bad, she isn’t waking up! I gotta find something!” he thought to himself, and picked up the young girl. He ran toward the nearest food stand and gently laid the girl down, then fiddled with the cabinets and fridges. He only found a small protein drink and uncapped it. “I hope this works...” he nervously said. He lifted her chin and poured the drink into her mouth. After a while, she started to twitch and opened her eyes, the color orb changed from black to a lilac tone.

“Momma? That you?” she whispered tiredly. The mannequin shook his head, “Sorry, but I’m the Climber!” The girl opened her eyes completely and stared at the mannequin. Her eyes were a chocolate brown.

“Oh! I’m sorry! I thought you were....someone I knew...” The girl looked down sadly. Climber cocked his head to the side, “Are you alright, Miss?”

“Uh...yes! I’m fine. Thank you, for the drink...I haven’t eaten in days,” the young girl sighed with a sheepish grin, “My name is....Rae`! I’m a cyborg! You said your name is Climber, right?” Climber nodded and smiled, “I’m glad I can be of use, Miss Rae`! But I must ask you, what’s a ‘cyborg’?”

“A cyborg is half human-half robot; my specialty is lightning and anything technical and digital!” Rae` proudly said, “But what are you? A living doll or something?”

“I’m a cloth mannequin; I was supposed to be an attraction for this amusement park, but I got broke and the humans threw me away to rot...” he quietly said to Rae`, “But, that was a long time ago. Tell me what you like and what you do in your spare time.”

“Oki, well....I like to draw, listen to music, make new friends, and dance! I also like flowers and chicken!” Rae` explained to Climber.

The cyborg and the mannequin talked the night away, chatting, laughing and singing. This was the most fun Climber had in a life time. It was close to dawn, and people will come to the park soon.

“Ferris wheel! Do you have to go now? We had so much fun!” Climber complained a little. “Sorry, Climber! But people are gonna come here and wonder why a girl is wandering around the area.” Rae` smiled sadly. Then she had an idea, an awful idea.

“Climber! Why do you and me get out of this place and find the people we want to see most!” Rae` happily said. Climber was shocked at the thought, leaving this place. But if he wanted to see Clarice again, he had to take a chance. Rae` held out her hand, and Climber took it, and they walked off to their adventure!

## 2 - Happy Sensation

Climber and Rae` walked down a railroad trail, sharing Climber's iPod earphones. "You got good taste in music, Climber!" Rae` exclaimed, feeling happy. "Thanks!" Climber smiled. Rae` took off the earphone and gave it back Climber, then danced along the trail and sang a song:

Bouncy, bouncy, happy flouncy  
Loving, loving, this sensation  
Always, always, going my way  
Hearts of pounding situation

My heart was jumping, pumping, stepping  
Always avoiding being broken  
This is my chance now  
I prepared my pride  
it's swatted up and tossed aside  
I'm jumping in, here I come

Bouncy, bouncy, happy flouncy  
Loving, loving, this sensation  
Jasmine, jasmine and carnations  
Hearts of pounding situation

My heart is full of chaos  
Is my luck down or is it lost  
Why does my love come to me  
Just when I would least expect  
Newness that I can't follow  
bravery and delicacies  
Hold it all deep in my heart  
And wait that final love scene

Bouncy, bouncy, happy flouncy  
Loving, loving, this sensation  
Always, always, going my way  
Hearts of pounding situation

Bouncy, bouncy, happy flouncy  
Loving, loving, this sensation  
Always, always, going my way  
Hearts of pounding situation

"You sing really well, Miss Rae`!" Climber said. Rae` blushed and chuckled a little, "Thanks, Climber! I know nothing much happened today, but can you teach me some fighting techniques?"

The mannequin looked puzzled, "What do you mean?"

"Like, teach me how to wield a weapon, and dodging, and other things." Rae` twirled around Climber. "Teach me, teach me please!" she playfully begged.

Climber became flustered, not knowing if he can teach a young human girl fighting moves. But, for some reason, he just couldn't tell her "no". I want to be useful, maybe I can teach her a few things, Climber thought.

"I guess...I can," he said without looking at Rae`. Rae` clapped in glee and hugged Climber, rubbing her face against his soft clothes and made a cute sound. The mannequin froze and felt light inside, and hugged her back.

### 3 - The Same Mistake

“Faster! Faster, now!” Rae` yelled many times. Rae` attacked and dodged many blows from Climber’s pick-axe. SWISH! Another blurring swing from the pick-axe, closing to Rae’s head. She ducked at quick time and slap across the mannequin’s legs, making him trip. Climber fell on his back and made a squeaking noise. “Ferris wheel! What a quick rush!” Climber gleefully said. The cyborg girl held out her hand, and the mannequin grabbed. She then pulled him back to his feet. Climber stared at the cyborg’s face, “What’s wrong with you?”

“What?” Rae` asked, becoming scared. Climber pointed to her forehead, “Your face...Your face is melting!” The cyborg girl became confused and lightly touched her forehead. It was wet and sticky, and she laughed. “Oh, I’m just sweating! It’s normal for humans to sweat...This is just a primary way that the body cools itself to maintain a healthy, ‘normal’ temperature!” Rae` explained, holding up her finger in a “matter-of-fact” way. The Climber blinked, taking in what the cyborg had just said. “Uhm...Alright,” Climber quietly replied.

Out of the blue, the ground started to shake uncontrollably. “Earthquake?!?” Rae` screamed in fear. Climber felt a sudden shock in his body and he shuddered, “No, not an earthquake, Miss Rae`...” Rae` turned to the mannequin and saw deep pain and fear in his simple eyes.

A blue figure struck from inside the ground and was in the air. Rae` squinted and realized it was an assassin with indigo clothing. He grinned and plummeted to Rae` at great speed. “Run!” the cyborg yelled at the mannequin, grabbing his arm and sprinting back the way they came. The assassin flew past Climber, and he caught a quick glimpse of the man. The assassin had a gold robot eye, with addition of a metal jaw. Cyborg: was the first thing that came to his mind.

The assassin grabbed Rae` and thrusted backwards, leaving the mannequin by himself. The Climber skidded to a stop and held his pick-axe in a threatening manner. “Let go of Miss Rae`!” he shouted. The assassin smiled a familiar smile, one from a certain statue. “Or what, dolly? You gonna stab me with that sucky toothpick?” the assassin cackled with glee. Climber felt mad at the fact the villain cyborg called his weapon a “toothpick” (even if he didn’t know what a toothpick is). Climber charged at the assassin and jumped high in the air, throwing his pick-axe at the villain.

The assassin quickly dodged the weapon and slipped three Chinese knives from his wrist and flicked them at Climber. Climber got struck three times, in the head, in his right arm, and his left leg. “Ack!” he yelled, falling back to the ground.

“Climber!” Rae` yelled, her hand reaching out to the battered mannequin. Even is the Climber wasn’t “living”, he was beaten up pretty bad. Rae` felt a sudden shock surge through her robotic body. She grabbed the assassin’s arm and flipped him over, making his back crack on the ground. She then tossed him again with hard force and tore off his robotic arm. Blood spewed everywhere, and the assassin howled in pain. He glanced at the cyborg girl, who was covered in his blood, with his missing bloody arm, clutching and raising it over her head. Rae` smiled sweetly and quietly said 3 tiny words before she killed the villainous cyborg.



“The same mistake.”

## 4 - Apple of Thanks

Climber just sat there, dazed at what the girl had done in the last 5 seconds. He then heard something coming from her, like a little snuffle. He stood up and slowly walked towards her.

“M-Miss Rae`? Are you...alright?” he asked timidly. He then noticed something rolled down Rae’s face. It was a tear, she was crying. “Miss Rae`!” Climber said in a shocked position. The cyborg girl flinched and looked up at the mannequin’s face. Her face looked broken in despair, as if she was the one who had lost her arm and was defeated. “Mr. Climber....What just happened?” she questioned the mannequin, her voice shaking and tears streaming down. “WHAT HAPPENED?!?”

“I’m so sorry this happened to you, Mr. Climber,” Rae` said sadly. She was repairing and stitching up the Climber’s leg and arm with a tiny silver needle and grey string. “No! It’s alright! I barely even felt that!” Climber grinned. Rae` couldn’t help but smiled too, then she finished up fixing the leg, “There we are, good as new...” The Climber moved his leg a bit and gleefully laughed. “You are a good fixer, where did you get the supplies?” he asked Rae`.

“Oh, uh...I found some stuff in the assassin’s bags before we buried him,” Rae` quietly replied. Her earpiece turned blue, the color of sadness. The Climber looked anxious again, and tried to figure out the problem. Suddenly, a tiny growling sound came from Rae’s stomach, and Rae` blushed madly. “What was that?” Climber asked. “I think I’m hungry...” the cyborg girl crouched a little and groaned to herself. “Eh, then we should find something for you to eat!” The mannequin lurched up and grabbed Rae’s hand, running to the nearest town.

They ran for maybe about 10 minutes until Rae` collapsed and Climber had to carry her the rest of the way. Climber knew he had to hurry; otherwise Rae` would “break”.

They came into a little town filled with many foreign people. Climber looked around for either a food stand or even a place that had a red cross. Then, he saw a food cart filled with different types of fruits. He put Rae` down next to a building and went over to the food cart. “Uhm, I’d like to buy this, this, and that please,” the mannequin pointed to an apple, a banana, and an orange. The clerk handed Climber the three fruits and Climber gave the clerk in return a few dollars. The Climber then dashed to Rae` and cut the apple with his pick-axe into 5 bite-size pieces.

“Miss Rae`! Wake up; I have some food for you!” Climber said, shaking the cyborg girl’s shoulder a little. Rae’s eyes fluttered and she woke up, looking at Climber’s face. “Here, Miss Rae`,`” Climber handed Rae` a piece of the apple. Rae` blushed and nodded, timidly taking the apple from the mannequin’s gloved hand. She chewed on the apple in one bite, “Uh, do you-?” she started to say, but the Climber cut her off and gave her more pieces of the apple. “Thank you, Mr. Climber,” Rae` sweetly said, and continued to eat the apple and fruit.

## 5 - The Masked Mirage

Somewhere in the town where Rae` and Climber were in, an ocarina was playing soft music. The player was a young boy who had jet black hair and was wearing a red hoodie, and he was playing his ocarina on a tall building. He eyes were covered with a red bandana. The boy stopped for a second and looked down the building, where he saw a man in mountain climbing clothes give fruit to a little girl. He frowned and jumped down the building. The boy quickly grabbed a hook ladder and quietly slid down it. The boy hid behind the building and peeked out, seeing the girl take the man's hand and walking along. The girl had long brown hair and when he got a glimpse of her face, he uncovered his eyes and gasped in awe.

A pretty sight! He thought in his mind, such beauty like this should not walk away from my view! He swiftly followed them without making a sound. When the couple stopped by a local bookstore and the boy knew he had "blend in with the crowd". So he untied the bandana from his eyes and wrapped it around his neck, then he took off his hoodie leaving only his white T-shirt on. He entered the bookstore and glanced around to find the girl.

He finally saw her with the man showing him a picture book. The boy got a good look at the man and realized he wasn't a man at all, but a mannequin! The mannequin said something to the girl and walked away, leaving the girl alone with the picture book. This is my chance! He casually strolled over to the girl and tapped her shoulder. She turned around and saw the boy. "Hello there, sir. Do you need something?" she said innocently. "Not at all!" the boy said with a heart-warming grin, "I just wanted to introduce myself to you! My name is--"

"Miss Raaeee~! I found a book about something called 'Art!'" the mannequin called out. The boy hissed through his teeth. "Who were you talking to, Miss Rae`?" the mannequin asked once he was close to the girl. "I was talking to--," Rae` turned to face the boy, but he was nowhere in sight. "...No one, Climber."

After a few minutes later, Rae` and Climber came out of the bookstore with a bagful of books. The boy was staring at the top of another building close to the bookstore. "Just you wait, Rae`," the boy said while tying his bandana over his eyes, "You will soon be mine...for no one can escape the Masked Mirage!"

## 6 - Lessons and Fate

“AURGH!!!” Rae` shouted, “Why must it be so haaaaard?!”

She was teaching the mannequin how to read a few languages like Latin and Portuguese. “I’m guessing you never taught anyone before?” Climber asked, afraid to make the girl angry again.

Rae` had her hands on her head, clutching to her hair in a furious position. She dropped her head and arms and said sadly, “No...”

“Then don’t be so hard on yourself, Miss Rae`! I know you want to teach me how to read like how I taught you how to fight, so...” Climber trailed off. Rae` looked up at the mannequin, his mud drawn eyes filled with nothing but pure innocence. She smiled and lifted her hand to pat the Climber’s hat, “I know what you mean, Mr. Climber...It takes patience to learn even a simple skill.” She lowered her and pointed toward the book again. “Shall we restart?”

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“Hm?” a young girl with black hair raised her head and stared into the starry night sky with her bright gold eyes. A statue with the appearance of a mage glanced to her, “What...is it, Ms. Len?”

Len closed her eyes, shook her head and grinned, “Why, it is nothing to worry about, Mr. Jack.” She then opened them again, the moon shining against her eyes. “Many years that have passed, I have been your caretaker ever since you came to Castle of Nations, and yet you grew and I stayed the same, can you tell me how it’s possible, Mr. Jack?” Len turned to look at the old statue.

“I’m not sure...how it’s possible...Ms. Len...But there are things...in life that will surprise humans...” Mr. Jack simply said. Len lifted hand to her mouth and chuckled, her fangs showing. “I think I have lost count...how many years has...it been since you and I lived here?”

“From what I remember at least, it has been almost 30 years...and for me, even longer.” The girl said with a toothy grin. It started the statue a bit, and it took him many minutes to understand why the young girl, beautiful and perfect, had never aged. Years since he was created from another country, she had been his teacher for almost all his life, and yet she never changed. Not from appearance and certainly not from personality.

She hides a fate maybe even more tragic than mine, Jack thought to himself. A static shock took him by surprise and he started to shake his head. It’s just a thought...but it could be true.