

Cell Casters: Level 2

By

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FADE IN:

INT. VICTOR'S BEDROOM, VICTOR'S HOUSE - DAY

VICTOR is sitting in his room looking bored. His room is filled with things that point to his interests in sports and science. There is an empty bowl of rice on his desk. An online shopping queue on his laptop reads, "Queue opens in 30 seconds."

VICTOR

Finally! No more waiting: new smartwatch, here I come!

The countdown reaches 0. A button that says "Enter" appears on the screen. VICTOR clicks it and is brought to another virtual queue. This one says, "We are experiencing high traffic on our website. You will be let into our store shortly. Approximate wait time: 2 Hours, 17 minutes." VICTOR drops his head down onto his desk, groaning. He grabs his phone and calls ERICA.

ERICA [V.O.]

Hey Victor, what's up?

VICTOR

I waited all day to get into the queue for the CytoSync 5 Smartwatch, and now it's saying I have to wait another 2 hours!

The screen splits to show Erica on the phone in her room. She is also at her laptop. Her room has melancholy, artistic décor.

ERICA [V.O.]

Really? I got into the shop right away. My order's being confirmed right now, actually.

VICTOR

Why does the world love you more than me?

ERICA [V.O.]

The world doesn't love me more. It just likes you less.

VICTOR

That's the same thing, Erica!

ERICA

All you can do now is wait, right? You waited all day. You can wait a bit longer. Just find something to distract yourself.

VICTOR

But I don't like waiting! I like it when things go fast, like WOOSH! The end.

ERICA

You may be the new CCS all-star runner, but you can't run away from this. You must learn to overcome!

VICTOR

Is this supposed to be motivating?

ERICA

No, it's supposed to be annoying.

VICTOR

It's working.

ERICA

See, now you're distracted. I bet you stopped thinking about the queue for the past 20 seconds.

VICTOR

Okay, I'm hanging up now.

ERICA

Don't say I never help you!

VICTOR hangs up. The view of ERICA in her room slides away to the left. VICTOR leaves his room to grab a snack.

ZOOM TO:

INT. CELL CASTERS HEADQUARTERS - DAY

GIA is leading a group meditation session. She and Nova are perfectly still. RUSTY seems agitated, MITO is restless, and LYSA is nodding off.

MITO

Can I open my eyes now?

GIA

Not yet, Mito. Everyone, take another deep breath in.

(inhale)

And then out.

(exhale)

MITO

Can I open them now?

GIA

Not yet!

RUSTY

Gia, I'm struggling with the whole "quieting the mind" thing. There's a lot buzzing around in my brain right now.

GIA

That's okay! Just focus on your breath. Observe your breathing. Notice how your breath flows in and out. Make no effort to change your breathing in any way. Simply notice how your body breathes.

LYSA snores loudly. NOVA opens his eyes and looks at LYSA.

NOVA

I've observed that her breathing is very, very distracting.

MITO

Can I open my eyes now?!

RUSTY

Wait, Gia, was it 3 second inhale, 4 second hold, 3 second exhale? Or was it 4 in, 3 hold, 4 out? Or should the numbers all be the same? Hold on, I'm not supposed to change my breathing, right? Does it work anything like the wobble hypothesis? Let's say my inhale was tRNA, and my exhale was mRNA. Do they have to match perfectly, or can the last few codons—er, seconds be shorter or longer than the previous? Wait, I haven't breathed for the past 12 seconds! Should I start over, or—

GIA

Enough! No more talking, please!

(sigh)

I know it may feel strange, but if you're patient, you'll start to get the hang of meditating. Just focus on your breathing, and the silence will follow.

When GIA finishes her sentence, the loud warning siren indicating a transmission from COMMANDER CORTEX begins blaring. Flashing red lights fill up the room. LYSA is woken up by the noise and runs with RUSTY and NOVA to the main monitor.

MITO

Can I open my eyes now?

GIA

(sigh)

Yes, Mito. You can.

MITO jumps up and runs to the monitor. Gia gets up and saunters along behind him. COMMANDER CORTEX appears on the monitor.

COMMANDER CORTEX

This is Commander Cortex speaking!

Diagrams inside of VICTOR's body are displayed on the monitor. Also seen are pictures of VICTOR on the phone with ERICA, eating his lunch, and sleeping on his laptop.

COMMANDER CORTEX (CONT'D)

Victor ate a bowl of brown rice with broccoli and egg for lunch. Just now, he began eating from a raisin snack pack. With 68.46 grams of carbs in his system, we detect an intense glucose spike in the next hour.

GIA

With all due respect, Commander, some of us feel somewhat high-strung and need to take a breather. Victor has no major activities planned today that would require much energy. Perhaps we could attend to this after---

COMMANDER CORTEX

Nothing major?! Today is the launch of the CytoSync 5!

RUSTY & GIA

Wait, that's today?!

RUSTY

That smartwatch has integration with over 500 different fitness applications! Victor can use it to track his carb intake, exercise, and more!

GIA

We can use that information to predict the glucose millilitres per litre of future spikes before they even begin! Our team's efficiency would increase by two-fold!

RUSTY

If Victor falls asleep before getting past the queue, he'll miss his opportunity to buy the watch! Who knows when the next shipment will come in!

GIA

We only have 2 hours before the queue opens. If we send out 35 Insulin Proteins before then, we should be able to prevent a full-on food coma.

COMMANDER CORTEX

Yes, well, I'm glad that we all understand—

GIA

Commander, you don't understand! This is no time for idle chit-chat. We have to hurry!

GIA and RUSTY sprint to their stations.

MITO

I thought I was the impatient one!

COMMANDER CORTEX

(clears throat)

Cell Casters, you all know your mission. I have total confidence in your abilities to get the job done. Now, get casting!

COMMANDER CORTEX signs off. The monitor returns to the regular display. NOVA turns to address LYSA and MITO.

NOVA

Alright, team, what he said!

NOVA, LYSA, and MITO strike a team pose before running off to their stations. This concludes the opening cutscene for Level 2.

FADE TO:

INT. VICTOR'S BEDROOM, VICTOR'S HOUSE - DAY

VICTOR is sitting at his laptop. The screen still displays the queue, reading "Approximate wait time: 32 minutes." VICTOR begins to nod off. Frames of RUSTY and GIA panicking at their stations appear on the screen.

RUSTY/GIA

This isn't good!/We're not going
to make it!

A frame of a teary-eyed MITO screaming pops up on the screen.

MITO

No, Victor! You can open your eyes
now! Gia said so!

VICTOR's phone begins to ring, and he is startled awake. The caller display reads "ERICA." VICTOR picks up the call. The screen splits to show ERICA in her room, on the phone.

VICTOR

May I help you?

ERICA

Actually, yes, you may! I've got
some science homework I need to
finish, and I'm completely blank
on the last few questions.

VICTOR

Oh yeah? I can probably help you
with that. What's the topic?

ERICA

Investigating the impact of diet
and exercise on blood sugar
levels. The first question is,
"What is the ideal blood sugar
range 2 hours after eating?"

VICTOR

That depends. Is this the range
for someone with or without
diabetes?

ERICA

I think I have to put both?

VICTOR

Someone without diabetes will probably have less than 7.8 mmol/L in their system by then. If the patient has diabetes, the recommendations are 10.0 mmol/L, but the numbers will vary depending on the person.

ERICA

Wait, isn't it bad if someone with diabetes has high blood sugar? Couldn't they just take insulin to bring it down to 7.8?

VICTOR

It's more complicated than that. Insulin is just one of many tools someone with diabetes can use to lower their glucose levels, but blood sugar management also involves having resources to increase it when necessary. Some people carry juice boxes or dextrose tabs to rapidly increase blood sugar between meals. The reason for this is...

VICTOR continues his explanation. Half-an-hour passes. VICTOR and ERICA are still on the phone.

VICTOR

And that's why Mitochondria is "the powerhouse of the cell."

ERICA

Okay! That's actually really interesting.

VICTOR

I'm guessing you fell off about halfway through?

ERICA

No!

(beat)

Not completely. I got all the major points I needed, though.

The shopping queue refreshes and changes to the store page on VICTOR's screen. VICTOR leans forward to use his laptop.

VICTOR

Erica! We finished just in time. I finally got past this queue.

ERICA

I'm glad I could entertain you while you were waiting. Don't say I never help you, Victor.

VICTOR

Fine. Just don't remember that you'd be flunking science if it weren't for me.

ZOOM TO:

INT. CELL CASTERS HEADQUARTERS — DAY

The scene zooms in on VICTOR's pancreas. We see NOVA and LYSA high-five each other.

NOVA

Great work, as always, Lysa.

LYSA

Couldn't have done it without you, boss! Come on, everyone, this was a team effort. Time for a group-

LYSA is stunned when she sees GIA, RUSTY, and MITO lying together in a clump. All of them are fast asleep.

LYSA (CONT'D)

Hug?

NOVA

I guess they were so excited about getting this smartwatch that they worked so hard that they wore themselves out.

LYSA

Well, they'll finally get that peace and quiet they were after.

LYSA and NOVA giggle, trying to be quiet and not wake the others.

FADE TO:

INT. CELL CASTERS HEADQUARTERS - DAY

A still shot of GIA, RUSTY, and MITO sleeping in their clump. MITO is drooling. In the corner, we see a monitor displaying VICTOR putting on his new watch. At the bottom left of the screen, the word "Congratulations!" is displayed in large text.

FADE OUT.

THE END