

2022-12-20 update: It seems like I had this idea around 2015 (date TBC in version history):

Story Ideas

Meta:

- I wrote it in mostly one sitting, so I could likely improve the script
- feedback appreciated, either constructive or just a mention of whether you liked it
- if you're interested in producing this movie, let me know
- if you're interested in collaborating on short films, let me know

Sang-froid

FADE IN

INT. — NIGHT

The room is completely dark.

Clarke and Salem are laughing, while trying not to make too much noise.

Clarke

Still was a good teacher though

Salem

Well yeah, I mean, like, he let you give a freaking talk on underage drinking, while drunk! You know

Clarke

Hey, he did say that people should live up to their values, right?

Salem

He probably stopped saying that ‘^_^

Clarke

Or be like “live up to your values, except if you value getting drunk in class”

Some more laughther.

Clarke

I wonder what happened to him

Salem

I’ve heard he still teaches

Clarke

What! Man, I thought he was already a dinosaur back then, I can't believe he's still at it

Salem

He must be an immortal vampire, haha

Laughter becomes a bit awkward.

Someone turns on the light. We see that Clarke is in a hospital bed, and Salem is at his side. The person turning on the light is another patient.

Patient

Could you guys please keep it down, I'm trying to sleep

Salem

Oops, sorry

EXT. OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL — MORNING

Clarke and Salem are in a park behind the hospital. Clarke is on a wheelchair. Salem is sitting on a bench beside him. They are on a path. Behind them, there's plenty of beautiful flowers.

Salem

Did you see the new self-driving truck that just came out?

Clarke, a bit evasive, and thinking

Hummm, yeah

Salem

The tech is getting really good. It's exciting, no?

Clarke

You know what I'm gonna miss the most?

Clarke is looking at the horizon, contemplative. Salem is looking for words, opening his mouth, but without words, closes it back.

Clarke

It's not being able to see the future

Salem

It's probably only gonna be like today, but with autonomous cars, you know?

Clarke, daydreaming

It's gonna be autonomous everything, and we'll be cyborgs, and AIs will create the best art, and we'll colonize the Solar System, and, and. And just so many things!

Salem

I don't know, I feel like I'm also going to miss all that; it just seems like a really long way off

Clarke, playfully

And on top of that, I'll also miss being able to tell you "I told you so" ;)

Salem, rolling back his eyes

Silly

Salem stands up, and starts pushing the wheelchair and walk in the park.

A kid passes in the flower field, and smells a flower. Then cut it and run away with it.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM — DAY

Salem

Your vision of the future got me searching about future medical tech, just for fun, and I came across something called 'cryonics'

Clarke

Oh yeah, freezing your brain like in Futurama

Salem

Oh, you already know about it?

Clarke

You've never seen Futurama?

Salem

No... So, did you consider signing up?

Clarke, not super serious

Oh yeah, totally did!

Salem

Cool!

Clarke

And then they can revive me in a robot, and I can fly around and shoot lasers out of my eyes

Salem

I don't know about that ^^

Clarke

It'll be super dope, and who knows what kind of drug they'll have in the future 🤩
hopefully it'll be better than this shit

Clarke points to his medical apparatus injecting him with morphine.

Salem

I guess we'll see

Salem takes out his laptop.

Salem

I'll show you how to sign up

Clarke, thinking Salem is not serious

Oh yeah, sign me up! I'll sell them my soul, if that's what it takes to become a cyborg,
haha

Salem

There's a few things you'll need to choose, like whether you want to preserve your
whole-body or just your head

Clarke

Biological bodies will be obsolete, sign me up for the head one!

Salem fills out this option.

Salem

Also, if for some reason they can't preserve you, you need to specify where you'd
want them to redirect the money

Clarke

They should send it to the People for the Ethical Treatment of Reinforcement
Learners

Salem, not wanting to engage in this debate

Ok, sure.

Salem fills this option just as a formality, not wanting to argue about whether machine
learning algorithms actually have a moral weight.

Salem

Also, we would need to move to Phoenix so they can preserve you rapidly.

Clarke

I could use more Sun!

Salem

Cool, so should we start looking for places?

Clarke seems a bit unsettled. He didn't think Salem was serious.

Clarke

Wait, you're not joking?

Salem

No. Not at all. I'm signing up myself.

Clarke puts on a skeptical face.

Clarke

I don't think we have the technology yet; have they revived anyone?

Salem

No, not the technology for the revival part; but for preserving, maybe

Clarke

What about ice crystals?

Salem

I've read they replace your blood with bio-grade anti-freeze

Clarke

And, also... do they need to freeze you when you're alive?

Salem

Ideally they freeze you right after your clinical death, before your brain starts deteriorating

Clarke

I don't know. It must be really expensive.

Salem

The brain only option is 80,000 \$.

Clarke, not particularly troubled by the price

Well, I can't; I don't quite have that. How the hell can you afford this?

Salem

I'm actually taking a 200k life insurance to preserve my whole-body. I'm sure we can fundraise the missing part to sign you up.

Clarke

I don't know.

Salem

Come on, you're the one always talking about the future!

Clarke, just wanting to appease Salem

Ok sure, if you find the money

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM — DAY

It's a while later. Clarke looks much worse. Salem comes in with a smile.

Salem

Hi Clarke

Clarke, low energy

Hey

Salem

I found the money

Clarke

What?

Salem, enthusiastic

We can sign you up for cryonics

Clarke

No, how the hell did you find that much money?

Salem, smiling

I told you I would!

Clarke

You shouldn't have

Salem's smile fades out.

Clarke

That won't work.

Salem, concerned
Why not?

Clarke
I need the rest of my money to continue my treatment

Salem, pleading
Clarke! Did you see how the treatment makes you look?

Clarke, annoyed and dismissive
What are you suggesting?? That I stop the treatment just on the off chance cryonics works out?

Salem
It's better than just painfully extending your life by a few weeks

Clarke
It's easy for you to say

Silence

INT. SALEM'S BEDROOM — NIGHT

Salem is in his bedroom, at his desk. He's writing an email:
Dear Cryonics Provider,

In attachment you can find the form confirming I want to switch from a whole-body preservation to a brain-only preservation, and that the remaining funds from the life insurance should be sent to Clarke.

Sincerely,
Salem

Salem hesitates a bit. Then he clicks 'send'.

Point of view dolly out.

We can see a letter, a wine bottle almost finished, a jar of pills, and a glass of water. Salem puts all the pills in his mouth, and swallows all of them.

FADE OUT