

One of Us

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It was a cloudy, rainy morning outside the window of the sector GT-25 headquarters. Colson Montgomery sat at his desk staring dejectedly out the window. A sign boasted, 'The Department of Human Development, 300 years of service, since 2136!' Montgomery was disgusted with his job. He worked under Doctor Davis Schneider, the world's foremost leader in replacing decaying human limbs with robot attachments. Montgomery could hardly imagine reaching the age of 140, when it was advised you get your first artificial attachment. Besides there were rumors that the electric signals that traveled between the fake limb and your brain were extremely harmful, potentially hypnotizing. Colson believed that Davis Schneider was an extremely corrupt man. Schneider had been born into a powerful family and had a history of scandals, which always seemed to be forgotten when he claimed to be the first man to discover some life changing innovation. Today, however, Colson Montgomery was determined to change this. He had prepared a documentary that would completely expose Schneider's evil ways. All he had to do was convince the Ares Galaxy Supreme Court how corrupt Schneider was, which was not difficult.

After what felt like hours, a voice buzzed over the loud speaker: "Montgomery Court Room 27." Colson packed up his things and walked over. At his first glance of the judges, he noticed something very startling: a robot hand. Now his heart started to race; Schneider surely had an influence on the court! The trial began with the playing of Montgomery's documentary. Whenever Montgomery looked across the room, he saw Schneider smugly smiling through a thick mustache. Colson very carefully examined the judges. It seemed as if they all had some kind of robot limb. When the very carefully constructed documentary was finished, the judges asked Schneider what his defense was.

Schneider calmly replied, "I'm innocent."

The lead judge picked up his hammer and declared, "Doctor Schneider is innocent! Case dismissed!"

Montgomery couldn't believe it. Usually a very level-headed person, he was utterly livid. "What!? Are you joking?"

Schneider smiled slyly across the courthouse at him. He approached Montgomery slowly. Schneider began, "Colson Montgomery, you are a very intelligent human being. A mind like yours is greatly appreciated in my department. I would advise we don't have an incident like this again. As you can probably already tell, my voice is heard much more than yours at this court."

Montgomery was speechless. Schneider was admitting to cheating in a court trial, but he would never come to any harm because nobody in the court cared!

A month later Montgomery was summoned to none other than Davis Schneider's office. When Colson entered the room Davis Schneider motioned him to sit down. Schneider began, "Mr. Montgomery, do you have any idea why I have summoned you here today?"

Colson calmly replied, "No, sir."

The "doctor" spoke almost at a whisper, "Mr. Montgomery, you have proved a valuable asset. Your work in my department has been unrivaled, even though it was half-hearted and low by your standards. Today I have something very important to disclose to you."

Schneider promptly stood up and tapped his right cheek three times. Suddenly, his eyes became piercingly bright, and his face seemed to wash away. When Montgomery looked back up he saw a robot's face staring back at him.

The robot began, "Target Colson Montgomery acquired, beginning extermination process."

Two robots jumped out of a hidden closet and grabbed Montgomery.

Colson couldn't believe it, not for a second! As the robots grabbed him, he cried out his last words as a human, "All this time I thought you were one of us!"