

MAIN CHARACTER SYNDROME

written by

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## **Cast:**



**Dandelion** (NPC)- Geralt of Rivia's longtime friend and companion in *The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt*. A famous bard and skilled entertainer, Dandelion also has a reputation as something of a ladies' man. His storytelling talents are fundamental to Geralt's renown across the Continent. Dandelion's passionate about growing his fame and fortune but is charismatic and kind at heart.



**Nick Valentine** (NPC) - a noir-inspired synthetic detective from *Fallout 4*. Valentine is a second-generation synth with the personality of a real-world man who was a detective in the years before the nuclear war broke out. Whilst looking like an android, his distinctly human qualities and sharp investigative skills make him a key companion character.



**Bella Goth** (NPC) - a legendary character from *The Sims* franchise, Bella has been part of the fabric of *The Sims* since day one. After leading an exciting life so far, which has included her abduction by aliens, Bella now lives a life of semi-domestic bliss in *The Sims 4*. She's also a secret agent and is skilled in programming, fitness and charisma.

Script:

FADE IN:

INT. GAME STUDIO LOBBY - DAY - MORNING

The lobby of a major game studio. Light pours in through the large glass-fronted building. DANDELION THE BARD (35) is waiting by the elevator doors, lute tucked under his arm.

NICK VALENTINE (a 2nd-generation synthetic human of 250, looks approximately 45) crosses the lobby and stands behind Dandelion. His long beige trenchcoat contrasts starkly against the fuschia velvet of Dandelion's doublet. He looks up at the elevator display, his robotic face revealed from underneath his fedora.

The elevator arrives. Valentine extends his arm, nodding towards Dandelion.

VALENTINE

After you.

Dandelion grins politely and enters the elevator. Valentine follows. As the doors start to close, a tall, dark-haired woman in a red mini-dress slips through the gap. We recognise her as BELLA GOTH (28).

BELLA

(waving at Dandelion and  
Valentine)

Sul sul!

VALENTINE

Oh, good morning ma'am. Say, where you  
folks headed?

Valentine gestures towards the elevator button panel. Dandelion lunges forward theatrically and presses the button labelled 'Basement'. The three look at one another, realising they're going to the same place.

DANDELION

I believe we're travelling to the same  
destination, good sir. Allow me to  
introduce myself. I am Julian Alfred  
Pankratz, Viscount De Lettenhove,  
otherwise known as Dandelion, renowned  
bard, celebrated poet and close

personal friend of one Geralt of Rivia,  
if it pleases you.

VALENTINE

Hell of a title you got there, pal.  
Nick Valentine, detective. Guess you're  
here for the job interview too?

DANDELION

Indeed. When opportunity knocks, I,  
Dandelion, am the first to answer the  
door!

BELLA

(nods excitedly)

Ooh be gah!

Valentine and Dandelion turn to Bella, who is thrusting a letter  
towards them. Valentine takes it and begins to read aloud.

VALENTINE

(reading from the letter)

Dear Ms Bella Goth, we'd like to invite  
you for an interview at Big Shot Game  
Studios to discuss your potential role  
as the main character in our new  
title...

DANDELION

(interrupting)

Ah, a fellow seeker of the limelight,  
dear Bella. A beautiful name, and  
representative of your true comeliness,  
my dear lady.

Valentine rolls his glowing yellow eyes and scoffs. He hands the  
letter back to Bella.

VALENTINE

Alright slick, we get the picture. Now,  
Ms Goth, what made you decide to apply  
for a starring role in this new game?

DANDELION

My man, it's somewhat uncouth to  
interrogate a lady so early in the  
morning. At least buy her breakfast  
first.

VALENTINE

Relax, it's just a few questions. We're all here for the same gig, I'm just curious as to why you both want it.

BELLA

(raises an eyebrow before bursting into an animated explosion of Simlish)

Om za gleb! Oo be gah! Presu fa vu!

Bella gives Valentine a folder containing her resume and personal statement. He opens it, perusing the contents.

DANDELION

Anyway, as far as I'm concerned, it's high time I had my moment in the spotlight. Geralt has his qualities, of course, but who wouldn't want to experience the adventures of the world's greatest storyteller?

Valentine ignores him and reads from Bella's folder.

VALENTINE

Says here your current role is as an intelligence researcher? On the secret agent track, huh? I can respect that. You're gonna seem pretty impressive to the guys in the basement, doll.

Bella grins. The elevator grinds to a sudden stop. The lights flicker, and then the electricity cuts out.

Bella sighs in exaggerated frustration. Pushing Dandelion aside, she approaches the button panel and begins tinkering with the buttons. A large vertical skill gauge appears above her head and begins to fill up in bright green.

BELLA

(tapping the buttons angrily)  
Owza! Dufka macherbin.

DANDELION

(bemused, hands on hips)  
Ah! I do believe she just called the elevator a dick.

Valentine sighs and leans against the side of the elevator.

VALENTINE

Y'know, I thought this was what I wanted. The tough-talking detective with the synthetic heart of gold, finally getting his own adventure. Guess I forgot I'd have to deal with other NPCs in the process.

Bella abruptly stops working on the elevator panel and stares at Valentine. Dandelion turns to face Valentine in shock.

VALENTINE'S POV

DANDELION

Nick. You're not supposed to call us that.

BELLA

(in English)

Yeah, Nick. It totally breaks immersion for the player, you know that. Jeez, get it together man.

BACK TO SCENE

Valentine holds up his hands and nods, acknowledging fault. Bella resumes her work on the elevator panel and Dandelion returns a cheerful grin to his face as if nothing happened.

DANDELION

As I was saying. I've finally got the chance to break free from Geralt's shadow. All I must do is charm my way through this interview and into the graces of these--

(hesitates, as if unsure of the right title to use)

game developers.

A bolt of electricity erupts from the button panel, singing Bella's hair. Undeterred, her hands whiz into a blur as she taps faster and faster at the buttons. Her skill gauge fills up with green more rapidly.

BELLA

(returning to her Sim  
persona)  
Ne gedna! Ikwad, swaybe simas. Oosh!  
Prooshtis, beleesh...euranka!

The panel's lights turn back on and the elevator whirrs into action. Bella turns to face Dandelion and Valentine, looking satisfied with herself.

DANDELION  
(somewhat despondently)  
Yes, quite.

VALENTINE  
Great work, toots. You got us movin' in  
the right direction again. Reckon  
you'll make a great lead character.

DANDELION  
(wistfully)  
Indeed. Resourcefulness and  
immeasurable beauty. Perchance I have  
stumbled upon my new muse.

VALENTINE  
(rolling his eyes)  
Knock it off would ya, bloomers? The  
lady's got an interview to get to. She  
doesn't need your waffling prose  
ringing in her ears.

INT. GAME STUDIO BASEMENT - DAY

The elevator stops at the basement and Bella, Valentine and Dandelion step out, into a darkened hallway.

DANDELION  
Ah. So this is where the magic occurs,  
I take it. Seems a tad dark and musty  
for my sensibilities.

Bella screws up her nose and wafts her hand in front of her face, indicating that she senses a foul odour.

BELLA  
Grobel! Mala snifa!

VALENTINE

Listen, kids, if it smells bad down here, it's only the scent of hard work and dedication. Flowers'll grow out of a whole heap of crap.

DANDELION

Hard work, you say? Ah. Mayhaps I'm not cut out for main character tribulations. Nevertheless, I excel as a loveable sidekick. Ms Goth, upon my withdrawal from this interview process, would you consider bringing an attractive troubadour along on your adventures?

Valentine chuckles wryly. Bella shrugs expressively and extends her arm for Dandelion to take hold of. He smirks with satisfaction.

BELLA

(looking at Valentine quizzically)

No me velk?

VALENTINE

You know, I think I'll sit this one out too. Plenty of time to be a main character in my own way. Gotta get back to Diamond City. Crimes there won't solve themselves. Good luck with the interview kid. It's in the bag.

Valentine smiles at Bella and tips his fedora to Dandelion before returning to the elevator. The doors close. Bella waves at them animatedly.

Dandelion links arms with Bella and gestures ahead.

DANDELION

Well then, Ms Goth. Shall we?