



# Scene by scene Characters

a play by Christine Béziat & Xavier Hock

# SCENE BY SCENE

## INTRO

Smiling is important, it fills everyone with joy, peace and happiness! And you feel so great when you smile! Now, get back to work!

## SCENE 1

In the wonderfully happy city of Smiland, each person's happiness is programmed by an artificial intelligence called FAB (Fabulous Artificial Bliss). FAB, represented physically by the Ogres, watch over all the workers such as 17FP, 14DA and 04CR and help them flourish. 14DA also finds herself being matched with her future husband thanks to the Partner for Life programme. 17FP, a hardworking and serious employee, works to the best of her ability so that she will have high marks in her next socio-economic review. And as for 04CR, well, he adapts himself to all situations thrown at him.



## SCENE 2

However this happiness organised by FAB doesn't work for people who are seen as "different". Thankfully, there is a system in place to help those people, a retraining

centre where they can grow and find ways to integrate correctly in Smiland. And if this retraining doesn't work, well, too bad! They will just be disconnected...

## SCENE 3

Smiland citizens are efficient, they are hard working and they must all strive for collective happiness under the watchful eye of FAB and the Ogres.

## SCENE 4

Happiness and solidarity can only work if everyone works hard! They must keep up with the workload put in place by FAB. Thankfully there are rules in place that means everyone is able to do what is needed of them. So when 14DA starts talking about the Disconnecteds, she sets in motion a process that could be very very dangerous for her!

## SCENE 5

14DA has met a Disconnected! She tells 04CR about this meeting. She only saw him from far away, so she doesn't see the harm in talking about it! And even if FAB hears them talking about this taboo subject, they will be fine. Bad things only happen to different people and they are not different.

## SCENE 6

Today is the 48th day of the 5th cycle. It is a very big day for 17FP. She has passed her socio-economic review and will, finally, be promoted to a level 4 worker! But there are downsides to this, she must be an exemplary citizen, no more room for mistakes and that's why FAB is going to make her do a little service for them... Poor 17FP, this is going to be hard. But solidarity and commitment to FAB is the most important thing, even more important than her friendship with 14DA and 04CR.

# SCENE BY SCENE

## SCENE 7

Whatever happens next, today it's party time! 04CR and 14DA have turned the music up to celebrate 17FP's promotion! 17FP tries to warn her friends about the danger they are in but they aren't listening. The morning after the party hits hard. Already no one has heard the wake up call from FAB and even worse, the security service found out that someone has unplugged the FAB terminal!

## SCENE 8

Because of the excess from the night before, 04CR, 14DA and 17FP find themselves at the Smiland's court of law. Things do not look good, not only did they break article 8 of law 521: The Health Code, they unplugged the FAB terminal which deactivated the surveillance system! 17FP is normally such a model citizen so she doesn't get into too much trouble but it's another story for 04CR and 14DA. They are going to be disconnected, the worst thing that can happen to a citizen of Smiland. They are taken to prison straight away!



## SCENE 9

Prison. 04CR and 14DA are thrown in to an empty, miserable cell. Thankfully there is unexpected help waiting for them to help them get out of this hell hole in the most ingenious way. 14DA gets away. 04CR is caught by the Smiland guards.

## SCENE 10

Almost as soon as she has escaped the claws of Smiland, 14DA meets George and Jill, two disconnecteds who she quickly befriends. They show her a new world outside of Smiland's gates, or as they call it Smogland. Here, humans are not numbers and they have real names. Here, everyone respects each other. Here, there is freedom to be yourself and to live how you choose.

## SCENE 11

But what if all of this was simply an evil scheme? A sinister plan created by FAB to control the disconnecteds, without them knowing. What roles will 04CR and 17FP play in this tragedy that has already been written? Nothing is simple in Smiland (Smogland?)

## SCENE 12

Unaware of all that is happening in Smogland, the disconnecteds, full of hope, begin to imagine a better future for them all, where humanity will finally be at the centre of everything. They have decided to set things right... nothing can stop their plan to destroy the FAB dictatorship!

## SCENE BY SCENE

### SCENE 13

Lying comes easily to traitors as they feel no remorse or guilt. Lies are simply a way to get what they want.

### SCENE 14

The masks have come off, the sinister scheme created by FAB is now in place. And the worst part? The way this plan is created means that no one can stop it, and 17FP will pay the price.

### SCENE 15

Everything is over, the regime that FAB created has been destroyed, the disconnecteds can finally put a new system in place where humanity will be at the heart of everything, they are all ready for a Brave New World!



*but some call it Smogland*

# CHARACTERS

## SMILAND

Smiland is a city governed by an artificial intelligence, FAB (Fabulous Artificial Bliss). This city has never experienced sickness, strikes or war. Progress is not possible. The citizens in Smiland are accompanied by FAB's voice, non stop. This makes life easier and more efficient. An automated world. Smiland residents are known by a simple identification number and not by a name which is common in other civilisations.

## 17FP

A young woman, strongly believes in Smiland's ideology and in happiness for everyone. She gives her all at work. Success and recognition at work are the most important things for her. She wants to help others by using the Smiland laws.

## 04CR

A young man, ambitious and opportunistic. He will do anything to be promoted and to be regarded highly by the "powers that be" in Smiland.

## 14DA

A young woman, very romantic. She believes in the kindness of everyone and is very curious.

## 08GT

Also known as Lost Cause, he is the match that the Partner for Life system found for 14DA. A system put in place by the government in Smiland.

## OGRE

The physical representation of Fabulous Artificial Bliss (FAB) who controls Smiland.

## THE DISCONNECTEDS

Outside of Smiland, unknown to its citizens, a whole new world is being created. The Disconnecteds are the people who Smiland couldn't control or who were against the government. They were thrown out of the city into the desert, left to die. Smiland is known as Smogland by the disconnecteds.

## GEORGE

Leader of a group of Disconnecteds. He wants to free Smogland from the control of Fabulous Artificial Bliss (FAB)

## JILL

A young woman who is part of the disconnected group.