

Our realities

(shortform radio drama)

Cast:

Peter – an idealistic, environmentalist student (benevolent, non-vengeful, but a little quick tempered. His younger self is still searching for himself, lacks self-confidence.)

Roland - successful, popular student and elite athlete (this has made him full of himself, but although he is arrogant, he is not a negative character)

True - A virtual persona created by Peter, the influencer of a successful social networking site

Laura - Peter's current girlfriend and college classmate

Felix- Peter's friend

Virtual Reality (VR) (a marketing voice) - a charming female voice, like a lulling, humming and charming voice in paradise (the effect is like that of Ka , the snake in Mowgli, when he charms Mowgli in the Walt Disney cartoon :)

Inside voice - a firm, calm male voice. It is not judgmental.

*The protagonist - **Peter** - in RD undergoes a character development, portrayed by the voice of the actor in each scene. The same actor plays the young and **college-educated Peter**. Laura is also played by the same person.*

As in all works, there are minor characters whose function is to give the protagonist the opportunity to say certain things, resolve situations, interpret, so their character development is not followed.

The actors' names are not embedded in concrete. Each country should have a name that is easily identifiable to its own students. Only the name "True" remains constant (in English in any language).

Peter is at home, working on his computer, whistling, pleasant music playing on the computer (he whistles into it), and then a message beeps. The music continues for a few seconds, but Peter stops after the beep.

Peter : Wow... so what do I do about this then? If that's really true – and I post it – I destroy Roland, for life. Career over. And It's coming from a reliable source. Then again Roland is a truly great athlete. An idol. Damn! (Shit! Shit and derision. Fuck me! Well bugger me backwards with a bargepole etc) A “banned substance?” Really? I can hardly believe it. (pauses for breath)

God, to think how I used to hate him. What would I have given for this (wouldn't I have given) for this, then! I'd be publishing it without a second thought.

(pensively) Mind you, I wouldn't be who I am today without Roland. *(music returns)*

(All italicised speeches as below are spoken in a beguiling female voice – imagine marketing material leading you to Paradise)

VR: *Come to virtual reality! Virtual reality is open to you! Become whoever you want to be! Create your own reality).*

2. The Secondary School where P and R go. They are 16 years old, (and their personalities are just developing). They are not on great terms, but the relationship is not hostile. R is patronising and P does not know how to handle that.

There is a hissing, and the sound of plastic bottles falling to the ground.

Peter: *Shit!*

R: Well how about that? Couldn't hold onto a load of empty plastic crap! What a strong lad we are. Well pick it up then. Pick it up, Peter! *(Roland kicks a bottle)* Oops, guys, Gooaaa! What a shambles! Thank you for saving the planet for us! ***mocking cheers, laughter!***

Peter: You just watch it, Roland! You'll regret it! *(insulted and, angry, but not shouting)*

R: I regret it...! Sure to! Now, try not to make an even bigger fool of yourself than you already are! - **laughter!**

Roland and friends continue on their way, their voices fade. The sound of the school bell which slowly crossfades to music.

VR: *Virtual reality- the best of all worlds! Don't like reality? Create another. Don't like yourself? Be whoever you want to be!*

Peter: Yes. I will! I'll make a profile for myself that will make the animals fall (hogya leesik az állatok). Just you wait till you discover it's me! Not that you ever will! This will be my secret! My Brave New World! **(pause)** Yes! "The best name for a truth-seeking site. I will become "True" - a star journalist! I'll create myself a new past and a new present. And I'll create a future, No one here can ridicule or laugh at me anymore!

Inner voice (male): Be careful, you'll end up being the Joker!

Peter: *No, I'll be Batman. A perfect, virtual Batman. A real virtual vigilante. (judge)*

About 2 years later. P is a university student. The site he has created is popular, but no one knows who is behind it, who True actually is.

P has called into a bar to meet up with friends (the clinking of glasses and background conversation).

Laura: Did you see the post about Roland on True? He's finished / He's done for. I can't believe he was doing that. He seems so cool. If this is for real, he'll be banned from the club. And he won't be going to the world championships.

Felix: If wasn't for real, True wouldn't have published it. True never lies. Peter? What do you make of it?

Peter: *(hmmm)* Nothing really. He was at school with me, but we weren't exactly close. I couldn't stand his patronising. He pissed everyone off – and loathed me most of all.

Laura: Why?

Peter: Well, I was (a bit hapless / sort of unlucky) pretty clumsy, as he saw it... And maybe now I think he's right. Of course he also wanted to put me down in front of Andi, who I was in love with. So, no, we weren't on great terms.

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Felix: Sure, but what do you think's happened in reality? Could he really have been using "banned substances"?

Peter: In which reality?

Laura: What? How many realities do you imagine there are?

Music fades in softly...

VR: *This world - the best of all worlds. Do you know how many worlds there are? How many worlds are there? In how many cores are there how many lives? How many worlds do you create for yourself?*

Music fades out. Fade in the sounds of the bar.

Felix: Look, I don't believe it! I've heard that True's got some kind of vendetta against Roland, and that he is actually doing drugs himself. You heard anything about that? You did just say that Roland was at school with you... so maybe True, too?

Peter: What?

Laura: *Hey, maybe you know True?!*

Peter: *(muttering)* Nobody knows who he is.

Felix: But could he be a dealer? Was he supplying and was he a dealing?

Peter: *(suddenly angry)* Are you serious? I've never used *(then realizing what he has said)* I mean, I don't believe that True ever..

Laura: *(incredulous and shocked)* Yooooooooou....? are True.....?

Music again , but a little faster

VR: *Your virtual reality is perfect! Be who you want to be? Create your own reality? Don't let anyone tear you away from your perfect reality.*

Peter: Me, me, me.....

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Laura: *(quietly with disappointment and contempt)* Who on earth are you really? What exactly are YOU? I so don't want to be with you anymore.

Peter: - Me, me, me.....

Music

VR: *Does the virtual belong to everyone? The possibilities are limited only by your fantasy... Who are you? Where are YOU? What exactly are YOU?*

The alarm clock rings followed by its automated voice

Alarm Clock: Good morning, it's 6.10 a.m

Peter: - Me, me, me.....

L's voice: (*cheerfully*) Good morning! (*a little hesitantly*) Hey, what is it? What's with you?

Peter: Oh hell! I can't tell you.

Laura: What?

Peter: (*Mumbling to himself a little*) I can't tell you. (*Maybe I just want it to be real?*)

Laura: What?

Peter: (*relieved, now coming to*) You? Here? Was I just dreaming?--- But good - if this is not reality!
Or maybe this is now the reality of the dream?

Laura: What are you talking about? What reality of the dream? There is only one reality, and it's right here. (**smiling**). (*in a soothing and gentle tone*) It's me.

Peter: (*pensively*) Who knows what the truth is? Who knows what reality is?

Laura: What are you talking about? What reality?

Peter: Which reality? Whose reality? Whose truth? (*shaking off his thoughts. cheerfully*) The main thing that you're here with me. Here and now. :)

... Hmm, and this coffee is delicious!

We hear the coffee being stirred and intimacies whispered as the music starts.

VR: (Futuristic music is played and then continues through the text) plays, then goes through the text)

Choose yourself a reality! The gates to virtual reality are open to you 24 hours a day. Step through them... Be who you want to be... Don't like your reality? Create another! Create your own reality... Your reality... Your choice...(the voice fades out, drowned by the music.)

Author's comments for users:

Our Realities RD is about the different planes of reality that exist in each of our lives. The planes of time, virtuality, dream, thought and physical existence appear. It is in our everyday lives that these planes interact.

In RD, there are deliberately no heroes and villains. The characters are likable. (I am fond of them all). They are young people searching for themselves; pushing themselves forward, with each of their decisions as a stepping stone to their next. They are people who make right and wrong choices in their selections. The timeline is also the plane of character development. As in our lives it gives us the opportunity to look backwards and forwards and accept.

The theme is not revenge. In the first scene Peter believes the information to be true. This does not mean that he does not feel some satisfaction, looking back, but he also has doubts, precisely because of his past personal experiences. His is not a vengeful nature, but there is - as with all of us - resentful part of him. Thus "I'm going to get him" is a possible motivation but it is overtaken by the idealistic seeking for justice.

RD does not judge, it only presents. It is full of questions and open doors for educators and students. There are paths and realities to take the story forward, situations with which we do or do not identify and upon which we reflect.