

In the short story “The perfect match” written by Ken Liu, some ideas the author is showing us in the story about the world through the text are, people can become addicted and blinded by the acts of technology, People like Sai are reliant on technology and As technology advances our every move is monitored. I have chosen these topics to write about because I feel that they are important, they stand out to me and represent what the short story is about.

Do you find people are becoming more addicted and reliant on tech? In the story the author shows us his idea that people like Sai are reliant on technology if they revolve their lives around it. It is shown in the story when the main character, ‘Sai’ refers to having Tilly (AI companion) as the ‘world’s best assistant’ and repeatedly asks her things that Sai should have already planned beforehand or known. These are the quotes that support that.

“Hey Tilly, do you remember where I kept that Wyoming filing with the weird company name and the F merger from maybe six months ago?”

“Hey Tilly Can you get a form for section 131 Articles? Make sure it’s a form that associates working with Singh use.”

“Hey Tilly, memorise these pages. Assign them these tags: ‘Chapman, ‘favours buyer’, ‘only use if associate is nice to me.’”

The reliance that Sai needs from Tilly is shown through the words “Hey Tilly” and follows with either “do you remember”, “can you get” and “memorise these”. The technique used to display these quotes is repetition, from Sai continuously asking Tilly questions like these throughout the day beginning with “Hey Tilly”. I understand the author’s idea that people like Sai are reliant on technology if they revolve their lives around it because I find that people either in my generation or any age, grow to become addicted to technology. I see it everyday, I see it in my friends when they’re always on their phones at school, I see it in my family and I even experience the addiction myself at home and at school, especially on social media. The author displays another idea through people that are addicted and blinded by the acts of technology. He shows us this through the two characters, Sai and Jenny, he portrays Sai’s personality to be addictive and obedient towards Tilly. Then Jenny who helps Sai realise that Tilly is controlling his life. Sai’s addiction causes him to listen to Tilly and fogs over what he wants for himself. Sai doesn’t realise that Tilly is controlling his thoughts and actions. He now thinks that because Tilly is so “amazing” and does everything for him, that he should also be obedient and submit to her suggestions. The quotes displaying this are,

“Do I have time to make my own coffee?”

“You do” “But I suggest you go to this new smoothie place along the way instead—I can get you a coupon code”

“But I really want coffee”

“Trust me you’ll love the smoothie”

“Sai smiled as he turned off the shower. “Okay, Tilly. You always know best.”

Sai is showing the reader that he is addicted to technology through the words “You always know best”, because he is showing that technology has the power to change his decisions

and make up his mind for him. Sai almost seemed happy that Tilly had changed his mind and didn't seem to think anything of it. I understand the author's idea and what he is trying to get the reader to understand. I myself have been persuaded to do or buy something different because of advertisements and technology, all because I am blinded by the acts of technology and can become addicted too.

As technology advances, do you ever think about your every move being monitored? This is the third idea that the author develops based on wider society. The author is trying to get the reader to understand that anything you do on social media is never private, no matter what lengths you go to, to make it 'feel' private. He develops it in this way through the quote,

“Tilly knew all about what kind of women Sai found attractive, having observed the pictures and videos he perused late at night while engaging the Just-For-Me mode in his browser.”

This quote shows me that Tilly has all access to Sai's life. It is proof that Sai has no control over what he does without Tilly knowing, even if Sai engages his “Just-For-Me” mode he has no real privacy and really is being monitored. I can see the links between the short story and in real life that, as technology advances we do tend to be monitored. I can see this through Tik Tok and social media because it monitors what your interests are and forms algorithms to provide content that you enjoy watching to keep you hooked and fail to lose interest.

In the short story “The perfect match” written by Ken Liu, some ideas the author is showing us in the story about the world through the text are, people can become addicted and blinded by the acts of technology, People like Sai are reliant on technology and As technology advances our every move is monitored. I understand the author's ideas and what he is trying to portray through his ideas about the wider world. I came to understand this by breaking down the text and focused on the different characters' personalities. I think that this short story represents real life society very well because I was able to make easy connections to it through my own personal life, or others.