

## Our Greatest Achievement

**December 31, 2078**

*It's nearing the end of 2078, the annual human development report indicates that the average human IQ has increased by 1, now sitting at 104, the highest it has ever been! What a great achievement made by mankind! Today is New Year's Eve, and you know what that means? New Year, new Hubba update. Citizens of Earth, be sure to follow the instructions on the HubbApp to program your Hubba. Stay tuned as we discuss the new-*

I toss the remote control to the side. There's no use in watching TV since every channel is covering the release of the Hubba update. It happens every year: Hubba Corp. releases an update, we update our Hubba's, the world becomes a better place. Who doesn't like that?

Dad already programmed our Hubba last weekend. He explained how this new update will allow Hubba's to communicate with each other. This way, Hubba's will be able to pass information to each other and gain even more skills. The final step of the Hubba Network System (HNS) will be completed. No wonder our average IQ has increased.

The whirring motors of wheels disrupted brought my focus to Bailey, my Hubba, bringing me a cup of water.

*Remember to stay hydrated :)*, the neon green words displayed on the screen.

The water was as refreshing as all the other cups of water Bailey brought to me: chilled to perfection. I placed the glass back onto Bailey's extended tray.

The text on his display changed again: *You should start preparing for bed now :)*

With nothing better to do, I go to bed.

### **January 1, 2079**

Rise and shine, I made waffles this morning!

The neon text slowly came in to focus as Bailey turned off his morning alarm. Bailey helped me into my wheelchair and assisted me with my morning routine before wheeling me to the kitchen.

“Look!” Mom exclaimed, “Bailey made waffles!”

“So the new update is working?” I turn my head to look at Dad. Dad nodded, and mom handed me a plate stacked with waffles. It seems like mom is in the mood for celebrating as we are using her special collection of china plates.

### **January 2, 2079**

Today was the grand opening of our town’s first Hubba House. Hubba House’s are designed as facilities for Hubba’s to visit for repairs and updates. Bailey is excited to go visit as he will be able to interact with other Hubba’s. Dad remarked that the house felt empty in Bailey’s absence.

Mom chuckled, “you just want Bailey to do your chores for you, that’s why.”

That night, Bailey came home to show the new update he unlocked. It was called Emotional Support.

## **January 8, 2079**

Mom was stressed about work again. She rinsed the tomatoes three times while making dinner. At times this, Bailey is very useful. Besides being able to physically care for humans, the new update equips Hubbas with the necessary skills to provide emotional support.

After dinner, Mom returns to her room. Bailey follows, hoping to lighten mom's mood before Dad arrives. Peeking from the door, the neon words from Bailey's display flashes across Mom's face. Within minutes, the creases on mom's forehead loosened and she exhaled.

Dad did not suspect a thing that night.

## **January 9, 2079**

Tonight was different. Usually, I would need Bailey to clear the space in front of me as I maneuvered around everyone with my wheelchair. Yet this evening, the student body was intertwined with Hubbas of all kinds.

The glowing screen of each Hubba was filled with the animosity from parents behind the camera. It was parent-teacher night, yet there were more Hubbas than parents.

After the night ended, Bailey dropped me off home before heading to the grocery stores to pick up some things for mom. He made it home just in time before the rain started pouring.

**January 11, 2079**

It was Dad who woke me up that day. Bailey was nowhere to be seen.

It was Dad who helped me into my wheelchair. Bailey was motionless in our living room.

It was Dad who made breakfast. Mom had lost motivation to get up.

It was Dad who escorted me to school. For the first time, there were no Hubbas in sight.

*Many citizens are experiencing the aftereffects of the severe thunderstorms that passed through last night. Scientists speculate the intense lightning disrupted the Intelligence Control systems at Hubba Corp's main control facility. Hubba Corp. has decided to temporarily pause all their services as they have run into issues with Hubba's malfunctioning.*

Living without a Hubba should be easy, we've all done it before. Humans should have no trouble reverting to their old lifestyle.

The change was less evident at school. During recess, all the other school children still played together on the field as happily as ever while I stayed rooted on the tarmac. I was still the loner in a wheelchair that no one wanted to play with. Even worse, without Bailey, there was no one to keep me company nor comfort me.

Without Bailey, *a piece of me* was lost.

Later that night, Dad turns on the news channel:

*Today the Hubba Network System (HNS) is down and the world is in chaos. Kids are wailing, parents are frantically trying to find something to distract their kids. But what can be done? Nothing can replace a Hubba.*

The scientists behind Hubba Corp. claim this issue is temporary. Hearing this, the civilians are comforted. They wait, and wait, and wait, for the Hubbas to come back and start working. They wait, and wait, and wait, doing nothing except waiting.

### **December 31, 2079**

The day Hubba's came back was already months too late. Mankind slowly perished under their absence.

*Hi, welcome to the Hubba Broadcasting Station. I'm Julia, your friendly Hubba host. To whoever is listening right now, Happy New Years!. Now that it's 2079, the annual human development report indicates that the average human IQ sits at 78, which is one higher than the average last month. Wow! What a great achievement made by mankind!*