

The rooftop

"Crap, I have nothing to eat and I am completely broke, again !", thought Jenny when she opened her fridge. She decided then to check on *Never Waste* if there was something in the ShareFridge down the street.

Who does not use *Never Waste* these days ? It is the most trendy app to get free food while preventing food waste. Every three blocks of Lyon has a ShareFridge where people come with the food they usually threw away back in the 2020's because of due dates. Nowadays, every food package has a QR code linked to a smart sensor measuring the bacteria rate of the food inside and giving as a result the quality and edibility of it. It is also possible to come with leftovers packed into a smart container that does the same job. Every ShareFridge is located in a small hut and provides those containers for free. When you have signed up with a pseudo on *Never Waste*, every time you add or take something from this fridges, the app updates the food list of the ShareFridge.

"Oh great ! Blue Moon has put bacon and cream in Bellecour's ShareFridge. I will make myself some Carbonara", she told herself. She dressed up and went on the street. There were two blocks between this ShareFridge and her flat. She turned at the corner of her street, walked past the vegan shop and across the garden with its PipeWastes, the entrance to the underground recycling system. She puts her garbage in those pipes, that sort them automatically : recycling is nowadays as easy as a pie. She finally reaches the wood hut that shelters the fridge. She is always stunning to see how clean and designed those huts are with its ten fridges and digital boards where people can leave a positive comment on the food they find. "It is so great that a city is able to connect people so deeply together !", she thoughts. Hopefully the bacon and cream are still here, she takes it all and closes the fridge. On her way back home, she is so delighted that her city allows such a great share between citizens.

After a good night sleep, she wakes up, takes a quick breakfast, brushes her teethes and dresses up. As always, she has to prepare a meal for lunch because the school restaurant is too expensive. Just out of curiosity, she checks again *Never Waste* in order to maybe avoid cooking. What a surprise, Blue Moon has updated again, but this time, a complete meal : leftovers of salmon with rice. She grabs her bag in a hurry and runs to the Bellecour's ShareFridge. Lucky for her, nobody has taken the meal, and when she thoughts about finding a basic leftover, the meal is actually really good looking ! She thanks Blue Moon by writing a comment on the board and rushes to school, as always she will be late anyway !

Two days later, the luck strikes again, Blue Moon is back, but this time with a special meal : a real Spanish paella with fresh vegetables, first class chorizo, and very tasty chicken. What a coincidence, he posted his announce at the same time, just before going to school. It is like he knew she needed a meal for lunch.

This time, she decides to eat the food in the area near the school. The weather is hopefully sunny and the square is crowded. People are playing chess, volleyball or using the facilities to work out. All in all, the atmosphere is really nice since cars are not allowed anymore in the city center because of pollution. She picks one of the few available sofa in order to eat peacefully. "What a tasteful paella ! " she is thinking, enjoying her lunch like she never had before. She wonders who this Mister Blue Moon can be, but she has to stop thinking, it is time to go to class.

During the next two weeks, the same thing happened every two day with no change except that the meal was getting better and better every time. Thus, on Monday October 5th 2050, following her recent routine, she grabs the food left by Blue Moon and rides her electrical bike to work. This day is special as she is going to the suburbs of Lyon, in a little town called Ecully for an experiment she has to perform at HIP engineering school. When lunch time arrives, she decides to sit on a bench in the shade of the trees surrounding it. As she starts to eat her meal, she finds at the back of the container a little note "Meet me tomorrow at 6 pm on the town hall rooftop nearby the acre number 4." Signed Blue Moon. What a surprise, she was not expecting that at all ! So many questions unanswered ! Who is he, why is he doing that, is he spying on her, is it safe to go to this meeting ? On the one hand, going would allow her to know more about this intriguing character who she just knows as an amazing cooker. He could be a movie star, or a top chef... She strives to unmask him. But on the other hand, of course, she is not sure if it is really safe to go there. She will decide later, after all she has plenty of time to think about it.

"Where do I have to store the bacon?" he thought. It is the first time he is using this new app. His bacon has been in his fridge for two weeks and he does not want to eat it anymore. In fact, the smart bin in his kitchen refuses to sort packed food, that is why he had to go to this ShareFridges to share food. It was a nice experience to go to this place where people are talking, sharing their food leftovers and enjoying time together. It is exactly as written in the news paper *Le Monde* he saw on the digital screen in the street corner of Lafayette and La Palmeraie two days ago : "A new exciting market aiming to prevent food waste while providing social interactions."

Of course, as his friend explained him before, he has added his bacon on the list a couple of minutes ago, so that someone could manage to have it soon. Maybe a couple of minutes after

leaving his package, he sees a beautiful girl coming inside the ShareFridge. She is elegant, with dark hair and blue eyes, his type of girl in a nutshell. He has time to stare at her as she is also looking for something. After a moment, she goes towards him and stops nearby. She grabs the bacon he left before and then she disappears with a smile just as fast as she appeared. Instantly, he receives the notification "Green Orange thanks you for your meal !". "Nice, it would be useful for someone at least !" he thinks. Then, he decides to hire a bike from the Bike Dock in order to come back faster. Once home, he follows his daily routine, writes few sentences on the novel he is working on, eats, and sleeps. But, as always, his quotidian schedule fails to meet his expectations regarding happiness: he is bored. He spends so much time trying to find inspiration for his novel, but he lacks of idea currently. What else is he doing of his days? No much except watching TV and moving around Lyon. He wishes to find an activity that attempts to influence his temperament in a positive direction so that he could find inspiration.

The following day, just out of curiosity, he checks in *Never Waste* who is connected. As a surprise, he sees that Green Orange has been online two minutes ago. An idea crosses his mind, it can be fun to see if she takes his food again. The only leftover he has is yesterday's meal : salmon with rice. He uploads it quickly and goes fast to Bellecour's ShareFridge. Fortunately, he is able to place his meal in the fridge just before she arrives. There she is, today she is wearing a nice skirt she probably found in Margareth&Moi shop near the place that fits perfectly her body. At that moment, he realises that she is actually really pretty. He is right indeed, she takes again his food and smiles at him.

After this brief moment full of emotions, he decides to have a walk through the streets of Old Lyon and ends up visiting the sewers. Not the usual sewers gathering dark water but the recycler sewers. All the garbage thrown in the tubes are going underground in this recycler sewers where wastes are sorted. He stops for one second and he thinks of how useful these PipeWastes are : indeed people do not have to sort anymore. As he is walking through these huge corridors, he starts making a plan concerning the girl. This "little game" with the ShareFridge is pretty exciting, and a he is often bored, he decides to pursue it.

The following day, he goes to the supermarket ten minutes away from his home. He takes rice, fresh vegetables, Spanish chorizo and the most expensive chicken he could find. Then, cooking the paella takes him two hours, but it was worth it because the result is obviously delicious. As last time, Green Orange takes the meal without having to be arm twisted.

Over time, as he is getting more and more excited by this little adventure and as he finally manages to find inspiration again to write his story, he decides to continue the game. Therefore, a routine slowly sets up with the meals. Every two day, he is cooking tasty food for the girl. On the second day, he wakes up at 7:30, takes his breakfast, has a shower, puts on nice clothes, and then at

8:10 exactly, uploads the meal he cooked the day before. Then he grabs his coat and goes down his building. He crosses the street, goes directly on the left and walks through a car battery charging area, then he takes the bridge and arrives to the main avenue. The ShareFridge is three hundred meters further down the street. She usually arrives five minutes after him, and before she arrives, he finds a hiding place nearby the door so that he can see her coming.

During two weeks, he has been seeing her every two day but with hardly a word exchanged between them. Meanwhile, it has been harder and harder for him to continue his story blindness. In fact, she is one of the main characters of his story, and every day he fails to understand her better. One day, he comes to the conclusion that he has to meet her in person by means of building a real character and of course having the opportunity to know her better. He decides to write a little note giving her a place for a meeting. Why not choose the teahouse near Bellecour ? No it is old-fashioned nowadays, the high garden overshadows them. But in the summer these gardens are too crowded. Then, one idea comes into his mind, why not the rooftop of the town hall ? Two years ago, he bought a piece of land on the rooftop of the town hall. He could have bought one above all the municipal buildings, but he only found this one. The individual rooftop gardens opened ten years ago back in 2040 to help making the city green. It is the only place where people can throw the food wastes they cannot bring to the ShareFridge because of the amount of bacteria inside, and then compost it.

"My vegetable garden is one of the most tidy, she will be impressed", he thoughts. He starts writing the note. Even though he is really apprehensive about this meeting, he decides to give the note to her the following day. But one question remains unanswered, how is he going to leave it to her. He could not hand deliver it to her, no way. It was also not possible to leave the note in the container after which the meal would not be considered as eatable anymore. The solution occur to him just after, he will stick it on the back of the container. He wishes she would see it and not just throw away the container after eating what was inside.

On Tuesday October 6th 2050, Luc is not feeling great. On his way to the town hall, the clock of Saint Julien's church strikes five times. He is early as always and decides to stay a little bit on the river's edge of the Rhone a couple of footsteps from the church. The sun is shining high in the sky as he glances at the crowd enjoying a cup of tea and eating cakes at the terrace of the café nearby. Standing under a large tree, he can enjoy a little coolness from its shadow and lets his mind divagate in thoughts. It is clear that as time runs out, his ability to focus on other things than the date is getting lower and lower. Around half past five, he decides to leave the river banks and crosses the old neighborhood of the city until the town hall. It a very huge building with an ancient structure on

which the architects added two modern aisles on the North and South side of the building. This mixed architecture gives very spectacular looks to this building and allowed the setting of the gardens on the roof!

After entering the building and crossing the hall where digital screens stand hand in hand with Rodin's classical sculptures, he finally reaches the corridor leading to the roof. As he is still early, he chooses this time to take the stairs.

His favorite game when he was young was to count all the stairs from the beginning to the end. Unconsciously he starts thinking: "One, two, three, four, five, six, is she going to come?, nine, ten, eleven, it was a stupid idea!, fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, eighteen, nineteen, she will be disappointed when she will see me, twenty three, ..., ninety."

After opening the old brown door giving access to the roof gardens, he enters this haven of urban nature and takes the time to contemplate the city from above. Some places are as tall as the town hall, and he can pretty much see the sequoias growing on the closest high garden. These gardens are such a great idea he thinks, as they are very cool places to hang out when it is sunny and they provide a rain protection for the streets below. It is climate change and the increase it triggered in the amount of rain that forced the local government to take strong steps to help the citizens feel more convenient outside while respecting the environment! Some new and designed buildings are also part of the view he has. But the most precious of all are these little gardens installed on the roof top next to him. There are fifteen pieces of land each one having a particular characteristic. People can buy these areas and then cultivate fruit or vegetables, but also flowers. With that rooftop, the city is more sustainable because the CO₂ still realized is eliminated by photosynthesis.

"Yeah, this place is perfect for a first meeting", he tells nervously. The roof and its gardens contain five benches, where it is delightful to sit and have a great conversation, many lights disposed on the floor, and a cozy ambient. Of course, he decides that they will sit near his own piece of land. He is proud of it because he managed to develop a biological permaculture. Indeed, his vegetable garden is composed only with complementary plants, those that need the most sunshine are placed above the one that do not need much sun to survive. He has built his garden with many different species and each one is planted during the right season. To make the roof completely sustainable, each piece of garden is self-dependent. Rain containers collect the water and distribute it through integrated systems. Moreover, the roof has two enormous bins in which everybody can bring his organic waste in order to offer compost for every plot owner. As a result, the land is really fertile allowing 100% organic vegetables and fruits growth. Not only that, but the landscapes are able to combine the production of fresh food, a functional building and a modern natural beauty. Humans are reconnected with their food and the rest of the natural world. Once again, the garden is a very positive innovation for all as it is creating natural habitats for birds, insects and small animals.

Luc decides for the time he has left to focus on his garden. "Oh the pumpkin is almost mature, I should remove it to leave more space to the leeks, they are slow to grow this year" he considers. He digs up the pumpkin and places it in his shelter. But then again, he gets lost in his thoughts. "Girls are always late for the first meeting" he tries to convince himself. As the light of the day progresses, he is losing hope. It is the first time of his lifetime that he has dared to propose a date to a girl he never talked to. "Never, ever ever again" he mumbles. He had learned French for ten years when he was young, and that makes him think about an expression that always made him laugh. This phrase describes the moment when a girl is not showing up to a date you offered, it is "se prendre un râteau", literally "to get knocked back by a garden rake". "First she is not showing, but then I am in a garden, isn't it a ironical?" he thinks looking at the rake left on the floor.

But then, like a sunray, she arrives on the rooftop. She is wearing a nice dress covered by a thin jacket, a necklace, and she has loose hair. He has never seen her as pretty as she looks today. At first she starts to glance around the garden but she does not recognize him and seems pretty lost. He reads some fear in her eyes but she still looks determined with a cheeky smile! She is looking everywhere until at one point their eyes meet: she looks at him, he looks at her. She looks at him again, he looks at her again. They knew, but we will never know !

The end