

# Lapse

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True Beginnings and Desires

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In this document, I will address the true beginning of the story and how it sets the story into action, the true desires of characters, and the true ending of the story. This may be a bit confusing due to the hero living the story in reverse while the villain is living it in the true chronological order.

There really are two intertwining stories in Lapse with different beginnings. Since the player is going to experience the story from the perspective of Bote, I will explain it from his point of view. Bote is given an injection which destroys his memory and gives him the ability to time travel. This is the beginning of Bote's story. Before this he had been soulless with no real goal. The injection really sets everything else in the story into motion. If it weren't for this moment, nothing else in the story would happen. Right after the injection is given to him, Schoffer tells Bote that he must protect his people by fulfilling his task. The rest of the story is Bote searching for what his task really is. Bote also has forgotten everything before this moment so it is as if he is starting a new life, it is a major life changing experience for him. His loss of memory gives him his desire of finding out his true task so this is the true start of his story. However, this is the end of the story from Schoffer's point of view.

From Schoffer's perspective, the story begins when Bote explains his adventure. Before this Schoffer was a professor and robotics engineer. He has always longed for a way to gain power and was working on a peaceful robot that would help humanity, just so he could become rich. When Bote

reveals that in the future he could be the leader of an unstoppable robot army, the path of his life changes. He goes through with the plan Bote tells him would guarantee his success and changes his prototype Bote from collecting nature resources to collecting whatever his fuel consists of. This moment completely changes Schoffer from a peaceful rich man to a powerful evil tyrant.

Bote is an android that believes he is human until the very end of the game. He is programmed to protect his people and the first thing he is told when he comes to is that he must complete a task in the past. Bote is never told by Schoffer that he is human or robot. Schoffer doesn't feel the need to explain because no matter what, his army will rise. Bote assumes that he is human because of his appearance, so he believes his task is to protect humans. So he travels through time trying to get back to the time when the robot army rises and tries to stop it from occurring. In this scene, he finds out that he was lied to and that the robot army was only able to be created if he went back in time.

Things that prevent Bote from achieving his desire are all the lies people tell him and his loss of memory. He is very gullible, assumes many things, and trusting to anything people tell him because he is unaware of past things that they have already experienced.

The main thing that prevents him for fulfilling his goal is that he believes he is human. He is not helping his people at all; in fact he is fighting against them. Schoffer never told him that he is a robot or a human; he just assumes that he is a human due to his appearance. This makes him go on an adventure that has the opposite goal of what he actually desires. When he finds out that Schoffer is the creator of the robots, he believes that it is now his task to kill Schoffer, unaware that he is actually Bote's creator. Schoffer neglects to tell Bote his true identity and it causes him to be misled and thinking that he must save the humans. He even marries a woman as a way to help the human race grow.

Another thing that prevents him from attaining his goal, while he thinks he is a human, is the robots and Schoffer. It doesn't really make sense for a robot to fight an android that helped create it. To explain this and foreshadow that Bote is an android, the last robots he fights (first in chronological order) are not hostile to him. But because he is used to fighting them, he begins the fight. They see that he is hostile to them and fight back. In the future, when he first gains his self awareness, he sees they are hostile to him and fight back. Schoffer looks like his enemy throughout the game due to him using Bote for the opposite of what he believed was his purpose. Schoffer never really lied to Bote though. When he created Bote he gave him self-awareness and the desire to save his people. Bote identified with the humans more due to appearance, a thing that Schoffer didn't predict. When Bote finds out that he was actually sent through time to help the robots, Schoffer appears to be his enemy, not a friend.

The game's ending consists of Bote shooting Schoffer, them both passing out, and Bote landing on design documents for himself that reveal he is actually a robot. I was tempted to give the player the chance to kill Schoffer in the first level on the second play through. This breaks too many other aspects of the story, so I decided to discard this idea and keep the game's ending when Bote passes out. This ending is shocking due to Bote finding out that he is actually a robot. This is also inevitable due to foreshadowing done throughout the game. The robots not being hostile towards him right after the rise of the army shows that they treated him as one of them in the beginning. Verraten telling him that the injection will ruin his life also hints that something bad will come of it. At the start of the game Schoffer tells Bote that he has shot at him in the past. This is a direct foreshadowing to the ending.

Bote's desire is to save his people. When he shoots Bote and passes out he finds out that he has just attempted to do the complete opposite of his true desire. Shooting Schoffer makes Bote's self awareness turn off because he believes he just completed his one desire, so he passes out and becomes

a soulless being. The player however on a second play through realizes that he did not kill Schoffer. They find this out in the introductory dialog with Schoffer where he reveals that Bote has shot at him in the past. This means that Bote completed his true desire and failed the one that he thought he was suppose to complete. The plan still went through and the robot army was just as powerful. Even though Bote attempted to change the events of history by going back in time, in actually it all has occurred already and there is no way to change it. However, without his efforts, his people would have never risen. It is a tragic story due to Bote not being able to side with his people even though he was a main part of their existence. The ending needs to occur to set all the events into motion, the start of the story from Schoffer's perspective is when Bote tells him about his life. They would never meet if it wasn't for this ending. The story has to end with Bote attempting to kill Schoffer and loses his own life in the process.

(Sorry if this paper is hard to follow. It's difficult to write about something in reverse time order).