

## Tech System 91

### Chapter 91 The Board Meeting

"They accepted our offer, and it appears that the dictator's words were the decisive factor in their swift agreement." Felix relayed the news to Aron.

"Has he asked about his \$20 million remuneration?" Aron inquired while he was at Professor Janusz A. Zajdel's residence, where he was collecting professor's brain data, while conversing with Felix.

"He didn't directly state it, but he insinuated it, and in response, I assured him that I would transfer the money to whichever bank account he preferred," replied Felix.

"Once he provides you with the account number, forward it to me so that I can promptly initiate the transfer, as we wish to avoid any misunderstandings" instructed Aron.

"Sure."

"Now that we have completed Phase One of the plan, let us immediately start with the consolidation of the company without delay," Aron said.

"Of course. When will you be sending us the details for Phase Two?" inquired Felix.

"I just sent it to you now, read it and call me back if you have any questions?"

"Sure" Felix answered back and ended the call.

30 minutes later.

As Aron was leaving the professor's residence after completing his brain data collection, Felix called him back.

"Why did you call back so quickly?" Aron asked.

"I noticed in the plan that I am expected to assume the role of CEO in the new company,"

"Yes, is there anything wrong with that?" Aron asked, his head tilting to the side looking for anything weird in that.

"Are you absolutely certain that I am the best candidate for the CEO position? Wouldn't it be more appropriate to hire someone with specific expertise in that area?" questioned Felix, expressing his uncertainty about assuming the role.

"I understand your concern, but I have complete faith in you. You don't have to worry about doing justice to the role. Just ensure that you appoint a competent Vice President from the list I provided and seek their guidance to enhance the company. I selected you for the CEO position because I need someone I trust in that position. There might be occasions when I give peculiar orders, and I require someone to implement them. You meet all the necessary criteria, which is why I have faith in your abilities," Aron explained.

"Alright, I'll contact you again once I've read through the entire plan with the team," responded Felix before bidding Aron farewell and ending the call.

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Two weeks later.

The Rothschild's compound was filled with luxurious mansion, but they were all eclipsed by the grandeur of the family head's residence.

Usually, there was little to no movement within the mansion as the family head disliked being visited for no reason. However, today was an exception as there were about sixteen cars parked at the entrance of the mansion. It was the day of the board meeting, and all the members were present, including those who were responsible for preparing the meeting room.

Inside the mansion, workers were shuttling back and forth, ensuring that nothing of importance was forgotten during the preparation for the meeting. Once they had completed preparing the meeting room, they immediately informed the board members.

After receiving the call, the board members began to move toward the meeting room to avoid arriving after the family head, or for today, the board chairman.

Inside the meeting room.

Hebel could be seen talking with his friends "Those who participated in cuckoldry and were threatened by Rina using it."

Last week, one of them mustered the courage to reach out to the others to check if they too had been threatened with similar evidence. This led to them reconnecting, and they discovered they were all in the same predicament, forming a bond stronger than when they were mere bystanders watching their wives getting pounded by other men.

The board members were engaged in small group conversations when ArieH made his entrance into the room. As soon as he appeared, the members turned towards him and greeted him with nods, but ArieH didn't reciprocate the gesture. He swiftly proceeded to take the nearest seat to the chairman's position.

After ArieH took his seat, the other board members resumed their discussions but with a lowered volume. They did so to avoid any potential irritation to ArieH, as they were wary of him causing trouble for them.

The hushed conversations continued for a few more minutes until the door suddenly opened. The family head then made his entrance, with his secretary following close behind him as he elegantly walked into the room.

As soon as the family head entered the meeting room, all the board members, including ArieH, stood up to show their respect. They remained standing until the family head had taken his seat.

Once he took his seat, the family head nodded his head, acknowledging the greeting from the board members and gesturing for them to take their seats.

After the board members took their seats, the board chairman turned to his secretary. Taking the cue, she made her way to the podium and assumed her role as the secretary for the day's board meeting.

Without any delay, the secretary called the meeting to order, officially starting the board meeting.

The roll call followed promptly, and it was passed without any issue, as everyone was present, and the secretary could already see that.

The board members promptly proceeded to approve the meeting agendas. Unlike many other companies where this process could take a significant amount of time, here, there were no proposed items that would not pass.

This was because most proposals were brought forward only after gaining the approval of Arie. In cases where Arie did not approve a proposal, it would have to be under the direct orders of the family head for it to reach the meeting agenda.

Following the approval of the meeting agendas, the board members proceeded to discuss the CEO's report, followed by the financial report, after having passed the approval of minutes from the previous meeting.

The board meeting continued smoothly until it reached the part of the agenda where they were discussing new business.

During the new business section of the meeting, the board members would discuss new topics or proposals.

When they reached this part of the meeting, Hebel spoke up to propose a new topic for discussion. She had been instructed to do so by Rina.

"Shouldn't we discuss what happened to Miss Rina?" Hebel proposed, following the script he had been given by Rina a few weeks prior.

After Hebel proposed the topic, all the board members, including Arie, turned to the family head to see if he approved for it to be discussed.

"I recall making myself clear that I intended to make an example out of Terry. Why are you suggesting we discuss this again?" asked the family head in a dignified tone, speaking up for the first time since he had entered the room.

"I wasn't suggesting that we don't make an example out of Terry. However, are we not going to compensate Rina for this blunder?" Hebel clarified, doubling down.

"Do you mean that we should compensate her for her injury?" Yoel asked, following the script.

"We need to demonstrate that if something happens due to a mistake of the vetting team, we must compensate her so that it is clear that it is not her fault," Hebel explained, giving his reasoning for the proposal.

Arie was taken aback by this sudden change in Hebel's stance, as he knew how much Hebel despised Rina. "What happened to him? Why is he taking her side?" Arie pondered silently, still sitting quietly.

"What do you suggest we compensate her with then?" The family head asked Hebel about the details of his proposal, wanting to understand the specifics of what was being suggested.

"How about we bring her back to work and appoint her as the head of Ally Financial?" Hebel proposed.

When Arie heard Hebel's proposal, he smiled to himself and thought, "So that's where this was heading. Hebel, you sly son of a bitch."

Arie smiled feeling happy, Instead of feeling angry or advocating against Rina's return to work, the position that Hebel suggested for her removed any opposition he might have had.

Ally Financial was currently in a precarious situation, as it had become collateral damage during their war with the Morgans. The company was embroiled in a legal battle with the United States Justice Department over their mortgage practices during the financial crisis, and the outcome of the case could potentially have devastating consequences for the company.

During the conflict with the Morgans, the company was used as a tool to deceive and mislead them, causing them to be unprepared for the next move. As a result, Ally Financial is still struggling to survive and is on the brink of bankruptcy. The fate of the company now rests on how they settle with the Justice Department regarding their mortgage practices during the financial crisis.

This made Ariele nod in approval at Hebel's sinister plan, unaware that it was entirely orchestrated by Rina (+Nova +Ava +Aron(?))

Ariele quickly moved to call for a vote, wanting to avoid any possibility of someone suggesting a better placement for Rina. He knew that Ally Financial was the worst of their family companies and hoped that everyone would agree to Hebel's proposal.

"Those in favor of the proposal, please raise your hand," the meeting secretary said, calling for the vote.

When everyone except the family head raised their hands, Ariele smiled to himself, thinking, "Ah, Rina, this is what you get for fighting me without proper preparation. Look at my people coming up with ways to fight for me and punish you without even a direct order from me."

Tang! Tang! Tang!

The sound of the hammer hitting the board was heard, signifying that the motion had passed.

In that fateful moment, Ariele basked in the glory of his victory, a smile stretching across his face, his ego bloated with the satisfaction of having his way.

But little did he know, that the very hammer that sealed Rina's fate, also hammered the first nail in his coffin. The beginning of the end for a once-great titan, The downfall had begun.

## Chapter 92 Terry's Situation & Rina's Appointment

In the hospital.

Terry, barely opening his eyes, woke up after three long weeks of recovery following his operation. His gaze was fixated on the ceiling, but it was evident that his eyes were filled with hopelessness and despair.

As the reality of his situation sunk in, Terry couldn't help but question his own actions. "Why did I do that?" he murmured to himself, his voice trembling with emotion. The memory of the incident that resulted in him getting shot was still fresh in his mind, and he couldn't shake off the regret and the pain.

The weight of his mistakes seemed to bear down on him as he lay there, alone with his thoughts. The once energetic and carefree Terry was now a shadow of his former self, consumed by the consequences of his actions.

Just as he was about to continue to berate himself for doing that and thinking of ways to save himself, someone entered the room but since he could not turn due to his body still being in pain he could do nothing but wait for the person to move to him so that he knows who he or she is

"You seem to have awakened and are healing quite well," a voice spoke as the person drew nearer to him.

At the sound of the voice, Terry's hope was instantly rekindled, as he recognized it to be that of Charlotte - the secretary of the man he was spying on.

Though it was a struggle to speak due to the painful bullet wounds on his chest that were still healing and making it difficult for him to breathe, he forced himself to respond. "Yes, miss," he managed to say.

"Good, that means you can hear and comprehend what I'm going to tell you now," she said.

Terry couldn't shake off the ominous feeling that gripped him, as he detected a foreboding tone in Charlotte's voice as she spoke to him. The unease that settled within him only added to his already considerable discomfort.

After Terry gave a nod, Charlotte proceeded to speak. "Once you're fully healed, the head of the family will have a discussion with you. You'll serve as an example to all of the workers, and it's crucial that you remember to never speak about Sir Arie, regardless of what they do to you. If you fail to comply, your parents and relatives will face the consequences," she threatened, her tone menacing.

Upon hearing this, Terry was overcome with an intense desire to scream at Charlotte for abandoning him after using him for over four years, under a promise that had yet to be fulfilled.

However, before Terry could even attempt to voice his thoughts, Charlotte turned and left without waiting for his response. She seemed confident that her warning would be enough to keep Terry from ever mentioning Sir Arie's name, especially if he cared about the safety of his family. Terry was left alone, with only his thoughts and pain for company.

"You are abandoning me now!!!" Terry shouted in his mind, afraid that if he attempted to voice his thoughts aloud, he might rupture and reopen his wounds.

With the realization that his hopes of receiving aid from Sir Arie were now dashed, Terry was overcome with a sense of desperation. He began to frantically consider alternative ways to save himself, knowing that he was now on his own. The weight of his circumstances bore down on him, and he was filled with a mix of fear, anxiety, and determination to survive.

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Alexander was in his workroom back home in Eden, having returned about two weeks ago from attending meetings with other revolutionary leaders.

In front of him, his laptop was open, displaying the news that had been announced earlier that day.

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#### A TELECOMMUNICATION JUGGERNAUT IS BEING BORN

The four major companies, TeleSignal, ComBros, Theory Telecom, and PeakPitch had been bought out for a whopping \$150 million and were now in the process of being consolidated into one giant corporation named CONNECT.

The new company aims to provide high-quality and affordable internet connectivity to every corner of the country.

The spokesperson of the company stated that the company planned to invest more than \$100 million to modernize the infrastructure, which would result in internet connection speeds almost triple the current speed and allowing everyone to have access to high-speed internet.

While some people raised concerns about the potential consequences of having a single entity control the internet connections of an entire country, the government seemed to have approved this consolidation as a way to improve the infrastructure in order to attract further investments.

The new company also pledged not to increase prices before they were permitted by the government and would be subject to government regulations to ensure that they adhered to their promise.

Consolidation of telecommunication companies can have several benefits, such as more efficient use of resources and economies of scale, resulting in lower costs for consumers. Consolidation can also lead to more innovation and research and development, resulting in better quality products and services.

However, consolidation can also lead to monopolization, resulting in higher prices and lack of innovation.

Consumers can voice their concerns to the government and regulatory bodies to ensure that the new company adheres to its promise of providing high-quality and affordable internet connectivity to every corner of the country.

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Alexander felt his heart rate increase significantly when he read the article, as he finally believed that Aron had really chosen to keep his promise.

Alexander felt a surge of hope when he learned that they had obtained the dictator's permission to buy the company a few weeks ago. However, without seeing any progress, he didn't dare to believe it would happen. Today, seeing the news article confirming the purchase, he finally realized that the countdown to the liberation of their country had officially begun.

Alexander knew what Aron planned for the telecommunication company beyond just providing affordable and high-quality internet connectivity.

This was why he was so excited after reading the news article, as he knew that the company's acquisition was a crucial step in their plan to overthrow the dictator and bring about a new era of freedom in their country.

"Now how are you going to handle the other revolutionary leaders who will try to block you when you start to use the telecommunication company to its fullest?" Alexander asked Aron, despite him not being within the room to answer him.

It was just his curiosity, as he was not seeing any way to do so without turning all the members in their groups into enemies unless he assassinated them and blamed it to the dictator, but that would not be the best choice.

Alexander sighed and turned back to his work, but his mind kept wandering to the possibilities of a free and just country. He couldn't wait for the day when they would finally be able to break free from the dictator's grip and build a society that truly cared for its citizens.

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Rina paced nervously inside her office, alone with her thoughts. Hoping and praying that the plan she had come up with, along with Nova's help, had worked.

Her anxiety was understandable, as it was the first time her plan (along with Nova's) was being executed without her being present to oversee it.

Rina's confidence in her plan wavered as this was the first time she was not present to oversee its execution, which made her nervous.

This was understandable, especially since she had gained her confidence from using the plans to force the board members to swear their allegiance to her.

She continued pacing back and forth in her office until there was a knock on the door. Quickly, she composed herself and walked over to her chair before calling out, "Come in," and welcoming the visitor inside.

"What's up?" Rina asked Chloe after she entered the office.

"We received a letter from the head house" Chloe answered, showing the letter in her hand as she approached Rina and handed it to her.

Rina took the letter from Chloe and quickly opened it to see its contents.

When Rina saw the heading of the letter, which said "Appointment Letter," she immediately stood up and hugged Chloe in happiness. Chloe was surprised but still hugged Rina back, even though she didn't know what had made Rina so happy.

"What is it, miss?" Chloe finally asked Rina after they separated from the hug.

"I finally got a position back in one of the family companies," Rina said excitedly.

When Chloe heard the explanation, she hugged Rina back in excitement. She had felt quite sad for her boss when she was relieved of all her posts in the family companies.

Riina did not stop her hug but also hugged her back again. After an awkward short moment followed, Chloe bid farewell to Rina and left her Alone in the room.

[Congrats on getting a position once again] Ava congratulated Rina after they were left alone.

"No, it was all thanks to you, your mother, and Aron's help," Rina humbly replied to Ava's congratulations.

[You're the one who worked hard to accomplish and bring the plan to life. All we did was give you the tools and guidance, but you did it yourself, Rina,] Ava said back to Rina, who was giving them all the credit.

"Thanks for saying that" Rina expressed her gratitude to Ava for her kind words, as she had started to feel like she was simply being used as Aron's pawn and was losing her independence and free will.

Ava's words made Rina realize that despite the plans given to her by others, she always had the choice to follow them or not. She also came to the realization that she was benefiting the most from their cooperation and that she was becoming selfish.

## Chapter 93 Rina Seeing The Plan & Liam And Felix Meeting

Rina continued her conversation with Ava after she calmed down.

"Now that I have been assigned to the financial company, as you guys wanted, can you show me the plan?" She had previously asked to see the plans, but she was told that it was not yet completed and was still being collected.

[A few hours ago, the plan was sent to me. My mother said that it had gone through a few revisions to fit the conditions of your assigned company. Here it is,] Ava replied as she immediately pulled up the plan on her screen to show it to Rina.

Rina wasted no time and started reading through the plan immediately. She had been eagerly waiting for this information for over a month, being told repeatedly that it was not yet complete.

As Rina finished reading the first page, she had to pause and take a deep breath. The information on that single page had almost made her forget to breathe from fear.

"Are you sure that they really came up with this plan?" Rina asked as the plan was something a level higher than brutal.

Ava didn't directly answer Rina's question, but instead replied, "It gets worse, just keep reading." This implied that the following pages of the plan contained even more alarming information than the first page.

Rina didn't say anything in response to Ava's comment, but instead quickly moved to the second page of the plan to continue reading. She was eager to find out what other alarming details the plan contained.

As Rina continued reading through the plan, her heart sank further with each passing page. Eventually, the fear became so overwhelming that she began shaking uncontrollably. The information contained in the plan was beyond what she had ever imagined, and the consequences of its implementation seemed dire.

Ava saw that Rina was becoming overwhelmed with fear, so she quickly turned off the screen and said [Rina calm down] Ava said in a soothing tone, reassuring her. She was worried that Rina might faint if she continued reading the plan in her current state.

"How can I possibly calm down? Are you sure you read the plan? If you had read it, you wouldn't be so calm either!" Rina exclaimed, her frustration and fear evident in her voice.

Ava responded calmly, [Yes, I have read the plan.]

"Then why are you asking me to calm down if you have read the plan?" Rina questioned Ava with a trembling voice.

[I am calm because, firstly, I am an Artificial Intelligence, and secondly, I have read the entire plan. This includes not only the plan of the Morgans, but also the one created by Mother to counter it,] Ava calmly explained to Rina.

"Ooh" Rina said, realizing that the reason for not getting the plan earlier was due to it being incomplete and the need to create a counter-plan.

Remembering, Rina quickly returned to her screen to continue reading after Ava re-opened it.



This time, Rina remained composed and forced herself to finish reading Morgan's plan.

After finishing reading the Morgan's plan, Rina immediately shifted her focus to the countermeasures that Ana's mother had prepared.

As Rina began to read the countermeasures, her complexion slowly returned to normal, and the color began to come back to her face.

"Wow," Rina exclaimed. She couldn't help but be impressed by the countermeasures outlined in Ana's mother's plan. She was certain that if they were able to implement these measures before the Morgans carried out their own plan, it would result in slaughtering the Morgans for the second time in ten years.

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One week had passed since Felix's appointment as the CEO of the soon-to-be merged company. He was now about to have the company's first official meeting with the vice CEO he had recently appointed.

The purpose of the meeting was to deliberate on the necessary measures to be taken after the completion of the ongoing consolidation.

Inside the meeting room, the CEO and the vice CEO Liam, sat across from each other, delving into the details of their discussion.

Thirty minutes had elapsed since the meeting began, and the CEO and the vice CEO had already covered a variety of topics. One such topic was the fate of workers with identical job roles across the four companies that were in the midst of consolidation.

"We will evaluate their experience and retain those who exhibit strong work ethics," Felix stated before moving on to other topics.

They continued discussing various topics until they finally arrived at the subject of upgrading the telecommunication infrastructure.

This time Liam interjected, "In order to upgrade the infrastructure, we need to conduct a thorough assessment of the current state of the telecommunications infrastructure in the country.

Following this assessment, we can develop a comprehensive plan for upgrading the infrastructure. Once that is done, we will need to secure funding for the project." His expertise in the matter was apparent.

"You needn't worry about the assessment of the infrastructure; we already have it," Felix assured Liam as he pushed a thick folder towards him. "Take a look at it," he added.

Liam received the thick folder from Felix and swiftly skimmed through its contents to gain a basic understanding. He planned to review it in greater detail after the meeting had concluded.

As Liam flipped through the pages, he was pleasantly surprised by the level of detail included in the assessment. It was comprehensive, leaving no stone unturned. It provided him with all the information he needed to know, and even highlighted areas that he might have overlooked as unimportant.

"This report is incredibly thorough. Who wrote it and when was it completed?" Liam inquired, curious about the amount of time that would have been required to produce such a comprehensive assessment.

"I don't have an exact date, and there is a dedicated team handling all the planning. However, the assessment should have all the necessary information for our plan," Felix answered concisely. He was also uncertain of the timeline as the assessment had been sent to him together with the phase two plans.

Liam moved the conversation forward by suggesting, "Therefore, we should act quickly and begin to develop a comprehensive plan for the infrastructure upgrade."

Without uttering a word, Felix slid another folder across the table to Liam for his perusal.

Liam picked up the folder and began to sift through its contents. "From the same team?" he asked Felix.

"Indeed it is," confirmed Felix, falling silent and allowing Liam to read the materials contained within the folder at his leisure.

As Liam perused the infrastructure upgrade plan, he was once again taken aback by its level of detail and thoroughness.

The infrastructure upgrade plan that Liam reviewed was nothing short of impressive. It outlined specific objectives to achieve such as increasing coverage, improving quality, and decreasing costs. What made it even more impressive was the timeline for the upgrade, which included goals for the short, medium, and long-term.

However, what caught Liam off guard was the budget for the short-term goals. The plan stated that it would be entirely privately funded, with a budget of 100 million dollars. The medium and long-term goals were left without a budget, as another round of assessment is necessary before any decision could be made.

The plan also detailed the strategy for introducing new technologies such as 4G/LTE networks, fiber-optic cables, and satellite-based services.

The short-term plan would be the deployment of 4G/LTE networks, followed by the installation of fiber-optic cables as a short and medium-term plan. Satellite-based services would be a long-term plan.

Furthermore, the plan addressed the challenge of increasing access to telecommunications services in remote and rural areas. This would involve the deployment of additional cell towers and broadband infrastructure.

Overall, the plan was comprehensive and well thought-out.

Liam was so impressed by the plan that all he could manage to say was a simple "wow".

Felix chuckled at Liam's reaction and said, "I told you we have a competent team working on this project. The plan is comprehensive and realistic, and it should help us achieve our goals for the infrastructure upgrade."

Liam nodded in agreement and added, "I'm particularly impressed with the inclusion of plans for rural and remote areas. It shows that we're not just focused on urban areas"

Felix nodded in approval and added, "It's our duty to ensure that they're not left behind in the digital age. It's a win-win situation for both our business and the community." not knowing the real reason Aron wanted the whole country to be connected to the internet.

Felix asked Liam, "Can you provide me with an estimated timeline for completing the implementation of the short-term plan?" Felix needed to report a timeline to Aron and was seeking information from Liam.

Liam replied, "Due to the high budget, we can hire different teams to work on similar projects in different parts of the country simultaneously. This way, we should be able to complete the short-term upgrade within three months at the latest.

However, I will need to review the plan in more detail to come up with a more accurate timeline, but I am confident that it won't take more than three months." Liam sounded assured while answering Felix's question.

After the brief discussion with Liam, the meeting came to an end, and everyone left to return to their respective offices in the rental building.

Chapter 94 Lab City

A month later.

After traveling extensively across Europe for two months, constantly moving from one place to another, Aron was finally returning home.

Aron boarded the private plane for his return journey to the United States after successfully collecting brain data from the list of individuals all over Europe.

"Is everything going smoothly?" Aron inquired from Felix over the phone during the flight.

"Yes, we are currently in the process of consolidating the user information from the four companies," Felix explained, updating Aron on their progress.

"Great, so the consolidation will be completed in the next two months as planned," Aron confirmed with Felix.

"Yes. We might even finish ahead of the scheduled time since the workers are highly motivated due to the attractive pay which is above the country's average," Felix explained.

"Okay, great. See you then," Aron bid farewell to Felix and ended the call.

After putting the phone back into his pocket, Aron asked Nova, "How many hours do we have left in our journey?"

[Approximately 6 hours, sir] Nova promptly replied.

"Then I better get to work," Aron said as he retrieved the virtual headset from the box and put it on while adjusting his chair to a lying position.

"Login," he said as he entered the virtual reality system.

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Inside the Accelerated simulated universe.

"It's finally nice to have some time for myself after endless travels," Aron remarked, greeting Nova.

[You should consider resting for about a week after you land,] Nova suggested to Aron, concerned about his well-being.

"We can think about that after we land," Aron replied before proceeding towards an empty patch of land and opening the system's shop.

[ (Knowledge assimilation)

Involves transferring information directly into an individual's brain, enabling them to fully comprehend and understand a subject without the need for study or practice...

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(Price: 100 million sp)]

Aron had finally accumulated enough SP to purchase the information about knowledge assimilation, and without any delay, he swiftly bought the knowledge on how to do it.

Following the buying of it, Aron immediately sat down to allow the knowledge of how to perform knowledge assimilation to be absorbed into his mind.

During the entire assimilation process, Nova watched as the knowledge was assimilated into Aron's mind, while also attempting to detect any potential new knowledge from Aron's system. However, her efforts proved to be unsuccessful, as she was unable to detect anything important from Aron's system.

After completing the knowledge assimilation, Aron turned to Nova who understood the task and immediately began to access Aron's brain data.

Aron quickly gave his consent to Nova's attempt to access his brain data by pressing "Agree" at the system prompt that asked for his approval.

After Aron gave his approval, Nova proceeded to download his brain data. She quickly found what she was searching for and learned how the knowledge assimilation can be done.

Nova created two virtual people in front of them, and transferred knowledge to one of them. She then downloaded the knowledge and transferred it to the second person, and assimilated it to him.

Afterwards, she downloaded the brain data of the second person to check if the knowledge assimilation was successful.

After completing the assessment, Nova turned to Aron and said, [I can use the VR headset to initiate the knowledge assimilation, sir.

However, since the headset was not specifically made for this task, the assimilation duration will be quite long, depending on the amount of knowledge to be assimilated.] Nova explained to Aron.

"That also works, we will solve it as we go. Now create ten clones of me and assimilate the knowledge of runes into them. Then have them start practicing the runes," Aron said to Nova.

Nova followed Aron's instructions and materialized 10 versions of Aron in front of them.

Upon seeing the identical copies of himself, Aron said "give each of them a distinct face," as it felt strange to him to see so many identical copies of himself.

Nova complied with Aron's request and altered the facial features of the clones before assimilating the knowledge of runes into them. She then teleported them to a remote location to begin their training in the use of runes.

[Sir, they have begun their training,] Nova informed Aron about the progress of his teleported clones.

"Great. Now that we have that taken care of, let's officially put the brain data we've collected to use," Aron said. He then pulled up a holographic map of the currently simulated part of the universe, which was just a small portion of the African continent.

"Send me to Lake Victoria," he requested after looking at the map.

[Yes,] Nova immediately acknowledged the order and teleported both herself and Aron to the coast of lake Victoria.

Aron took in the surroundings for a moment before turning to Nova and giving the command, "Create a town here with everything that any researcher in every field would need."

[How big should it be?] Nova inquired about the size of the town, asking if there were any limitations.

Aron replied, "large enough to accommodate four times the number of people on the list," and left the decision of its exact size to Nova after sharing his minimum requirements."

[Sure]Nova replied and got to work immediately and materialized a city, which included everything a researcher could ever need.

The city was not just a town but a fully equipped facility, featuring advanced laboratories and novel machines that utilized Nova's demigod-like powers to carry out even the most theoretical of experiments that researchers could conceive.

After that, Nova built a public transport system to connect the labs to the residential areas and recreational facilities located away from the lab.

[Sir, it's done] Nova informed Aron after completing the city according to his specifications and her own adjustments.

"Let's take a look," Aron said, and then he asked Nova to give him a tour of the city.

Nova eagerly obliged and took Aron on a tour of the city, utilizing the maglev transport system that traveled throughout the entire city. She seemed excited to show Aron what she had created, resembling a child showing her father her latest accomplishment.

After spending over five hours touring the city, they had finally completed visiting all the important parts of the city, despite stopping the maglev train for some time and starting to use teleportation.

"You really went out of your way to make it a good place for people to live," Aron complimented Nova after they finished the tour.

[Thanks] Nova felt very happy that Aron complimented the city she built.

"Now let's move forward. Create bodies and use the brain data we collected to complete them," Aron commanded, officially initiating the beginning of Lab City.

Nova followed Aron's orders and began to create thousands of bodies in the public square of the city.

If you knew anyone influential in a specific STEM industry who resided in Europe, you would have discovered them among the people in the square that Nova had materialized.

Nova went beyond just materializing the bodies of the people, she also corrected any physical limitations they had in their original lives. For instance, Stephen Hawking was given a healthy and energetic body. Additionally, all the materialized individuals were set to the age of 25, ensuring that they were capable of performing any task they needed to.

Nova proceeded to upload the brain data into the bodies, effectively bringing them to life. However, she did not upload all of the data they had collected, as she had to manipulate some of their memories to ensure that they perceived their new environment as normal and did not become overwhelmed or distressed.

After finishing the brain data upload, Nova allowed the materialized people to control their own bodies and gave them time to adjust to their new surroundings.

After being given control of their bodies, the newly materialized individuals didn't cause any trouble or commotion. They simply looked at Aron and Nova and showed their gratitude before boarding the public transportation to return to their designated residences to rest.

To them, everything was normal as it aligned with their existing memories

After everyone left the public square, Aron turned to Nova and said, "Now do the same thing again but this time make them have a runic body and give them the knowledge of runes."

Nova followed Aron's instructions and repeated the same process. She materialized runic bodies and uploaded the runic knowledge along with their brain data.

After this group of people also left, Aron turned to Nova and said "When my clones finish training on the runes, assimilate it to them and have them try to implement it into their specific fields."

After that, Nova teleported both of them back to the place where Aron usually trained with his runes. Aron requested that Nova materialize a bed for him to rest, as he hadn't had more than a few hours of sleep at once during the entire brain data collection trip.

As for the materialized people, they would officially begin their research in their respective fields the next day.

Chapter 95 Lab City At Work.

Inside the universal simulation.

Twelve hours had elapsed since the creation of the new inhabitants, and the morning had finally arrived. The Lab city, shrouded in the perpetual glow of artificial daylight, slowly awakened as the sun raised.

The newly formed denizens, emerging from their dwellings, prepared themselves for the day ahead, heading to their respective laboratories and workplaces. Before setting out, they ate their breakfast that seemed to materialize out of nowhere which to them appeared as a normal thing.

Once they had finished their meal, they converged at the nearest public transport station to catch a ride to their destinations. The commuters, seemingly moving as a collective, boarded the communal transit system, eager to carry out their tasks and fulfill their roles in the vast simulation.

.....

Lucas, a material scientist, boarded a bus to travel from his residence to his work office.

Upon arrival, he disembarked and was greeted by a towering building with white capital letters that read "Fusion Research Lab," denoting its purpose as a nuclear fusion research facility.

With no apparent security measures in place, Lucas made his way inside and took the elevator to the 8th floor, where his lab was located.

After entering his office, he swiftly powered on his work computer and began working on inventing a material that could withstand the extreme conditions inside the fusion reactor.

The simulation of material structures on his computer was constantly in flux as Lucas adjusted the variables based on previous simulations.

As lunchtime approached, Lucas made his way to the lab's dining room to eat his food in solitude. However, his meal was interrupted when a man named Nolan joined him at his table.

"Nice to meet you, My name is Nolan," said the man as they sat down to eat.

"Lucas, nice to meet you too," Lucas replied, slightly surprised but not opposed to the company.

"I'm a technician in charge of printing, assembly and maintenance of various components. How about you?" asked Nolan.

"I'm a material scientist, I'm currently working on a material capable of withstanding the extreme condition in the reactor," Lucas answered back, introducing his profession.

"You said printing, what do you mean by that?" Lucas asked as that took most of his attention.

"Aaah, that is the new machine that arrived yesterday. If I remember correctly when you guys finish the simulation and finding the perfect material you are supposed to forward it to the fabrication department.

That department has been merged with us and whatever material you send we are capable of printing it perfectly using the new machine. That's what I meant about that," explained Nolan.

Following that they continued having small conversations throughout the lunch becoming very good friends.

....

Within the bustling city, there stood another building dedicated to nuclear fusion research - the "Fusion research Lab". Its golden nameplate shimmered in the sunlight, differentiating it from the white lettering of the other research facility.

Despite sharing a common purpose, the two labs had their own unique approaches to the same goal.

While Lucas was busy working on his material invention, the scientists in the golden building were quietly practicing their runes.

Each researcher was diligently focused on mastering their respective runes, which were fundamental to their work. Despite being involved in nuclear fusion research, the two labs were approaching their research in two different ways.

The facial characteristics of Lucas in this edifice exhibited a subtle dissimilarity compared to those on the opposite end of the building.

Presently, he was engrossed in practicing the rune of preservation that he intended to utilize on the material for his upcoming experiment.

...

A vast edifice stood on the outskirts of the city. The name of the facility, "Aviation Research Lab," was inscribed in bold white letters on the exterior.

Upon entering the building, one could observe engineers diligently sitting in front of their computer screens, striving to develop novel aircraft engines and aircrafts for diverse applications.

Their area of specialization made it evident that they previously worked in a research lab affiliated with Rolls Royce and Airbus.

...

As all of this was unfolding, Aron, who had just woken up from a nine-hour sleep, was observing the events with Nova. They watched footage from various research labs displayed on the screen.

Thousands of small screens were categorized into two distinct colors: blue screens displayed individuals diligently working on their assigned tasks, while golden screens portrayed people sitting cross-legged and practicing their runes.

It was evident that the blue screens were making more significant progress compared to their golden counterparts.

"Nova, how many ongoing research projects are there at the moment?" Aron inquired about the number of ongoing research endeavors within Lab City, which was currently being populated solely by individuals whose brain data had been collected from Europe.

[5,873, Sir] Rina promptly replied and conjured up a holographic screen displaying the categories of research projects.

Aron could select a category by pressing on one of them, and a list of research projects within that category would be shown.

[

Aviation

Aerospace

Defense

Food and Beverage

Technology



Energy

Engineering

Telecommunications

Chemical Manufacturing

Materials

Pharmaceuticals and Biotechnology

.

.

.]

Upon seeing the list of categories, Aron selected "Defense" and was presented with ongoing research projects related to military aircraft, helicopters, missiles, submarines, radar systems, communication equipment, and other relevant subjects.

He then clicked on the "Energy" category and was presented with a list of ongoing research projects related to fusion being conducted by various labs, utilizing different approaches such as Magnetic Confinement Fusion, Inertial Confinement Fusion, Magnetized Target Fusion, Z-Pinch, Dense Plasma Focus, Laser-Driven Fusion and many more.

After perusing through a few of the other categories, Aron turned to Nova and remarked, "It seems like most of these ongoing research projects could benefit from completing the brain data collection within America to speed up the process."

Nova nodded in agreement and added, [Indeed. This will also give us an advantage as all research data will be shared amongst everyone who needs it.

It will bring together all the brightest minds to work towards a common goal, resulting in a faster pace of research and development.

With some of my demigod-like powers, we can even create theoretical material that they come up with and have them reverse engineer them]

"When do you expect the earliest experiment to yield results?"

[Since everything can be simulated here, we expect the earliest experiment to yield results in a few months, whereas it would have taken several years outside of this environment.]

"That's good. What happens after they finish the experiment?" Aron wanted to know how Nova reprogrammed their thought process when she manipulated their memories.

[After finishing an experiment, they move on to the next iteration of the research, continuing in this way until all problems are solved and the research reaches a certain level of maturity. Only then will they move on to the next experiment,] Nova explained

"I hope they don't suffer from depression, as it could hinder their ability to come up with innovative ideas," Aron expressed his concern. The thought of having to conduct research repeatedly, improving it until it reaches maturity and then moving on to the next one, seemed like an endless cycle.

[Don't worry, their passion for research will keep them fulfilled, and to address the issue of loneliness, I'll be creating their ideal partners to keep them company,] Nova assured Aron.

She implemented this feature to prevent the researchers from losing their creativity, as everyone has their unique approach to generating new ideas.

"That's good to hear. Although they may not be real people, they are still created using their brain data, making them a sort of clone," Aron said in a sigh of relief.

"How long till we arrive?" He asked after a short pause.

[about three and a half hours]

"Remind me when there's only one hour left so I can log off," he said, then returned to watching the footage of the research lab workers intently focused on their tasks.

Aron continued to watch everything unfold for the next two and a half hours until Nova reminded him that he had only an hour left on his flight. He promptly logged off and spent the remainder of the flight in the real world.

He promptly logged off and spent the rest of the flight in the real world. Upon landing, he bid the pilot who spent quite some time shuttling him from one country to another goodbye, went through all the security checks and procedures, and then headed to the airport parking lot to retrieve his car.

After paying a parking fee of approximately 3000 dollars for having parked in the covered lot for more than two months, he finally left the airport to go home.

After spending a considerable amount of time traveling, Aron was finally driving back home. Although he had been in constant contact with his family, he still missed seeing his parents, especially his younger brother who loved to play with him.

## Chapter 96 Back Home

"Brother!" Henry shouted as he ran towards Aron, who had just stepped out of his car.

Aron caught Henry mid-air, embracing him like a basketball, before setting him down and giving him a warm hug.

After he entered the house, his mother greeted him with a warm welcome, saying "Welcome back!"

"Thank you. How have you been?" Aron asked, settling into a seat in the living room as he continued his conversation with his mother.

"Not much has changed since you left. So, how was your trip to Europe?" his mother inquired.

"It was quite good. I think you should go on a trip with father. I don't recall seeing you two go on a vacation since my childhood," Aron suggested, encouraging his mother to take some vacation.

"During your childhood, we couldn't go because we couldn't afford it," his mother replied, her face reflecting the hardships of that period.

"But now there is no such problem," Aron affirmed, determined to help his parents live their lives without any regrets and to encourage them to do what they truly desired.

"What about Henry?" his mother inquired, revealing her hesitation to go on a trip without him.

"You can simply ask for permission from his school, and if they don't agree, I can take care of him for the two weeks you'll be on vacation," Aron suggested, offering a solution to his mother's concern.

"I'll talk to your father and let you know what we decide," his mother replied with a smile on her face. She was pleased that her son had not forgotten about them and still wanted them to enjoy a good life, despite his newfound wealth.

"In that case, I'll spend some time with Henry, as it's been a while since we've played together," Aron said, and after his mother nodded he got up and headed towards his room.

He was sure that Henry was there as his play station was still inside his mother's room, as he was caught playing in the middle of the night once again.

Upon entering the room, Aron found Henry playing FIFA 2014. He quickly grabbed the second controller and sat beside him, saying, "Let's see if you've improved while I was away."

"What will I get if I win?" Henry asked, his face displaying confidence in his imminent victory.

"What do you want?" Aron replied with a grin.

"I want to go to Disneyland again," Henry declared.

"But you have to win first," Aron replied, turning his attention back to the screen and selecting his team as they restarted the game.

Henry wasted no time and selected his team, and they began the playoffs. He leaned forward, showing his intense concentration and determination.

Aron couldn't help but smile as he watched his little brother's focus. However, he quickly returned his attention to the screen, not wanting to get distracted from the game.

.....

That night.

After playing games with Henry for over three hours and winning the shit out of it, Aron finally retreated to his basement, which also doubled as his workspace. Henry, who was upset over losing, ate his dinner silently, trying to act as if he didn't want to talk to Aron.

He only managed to soothe Henry after he promised to take him to Disneyland, which caused Henry's upset act to disappear like a mirage.

[If you were going to agree to take him anyway, why did you continue to win the game then?] Nova asked.

With a mischievous grin, Aron replied, "It's more fun to play that way." He chuckled as he recalled Henry's expression during the game. "And what are siblings for if not to tease and have a little fun with?" he added, before breaking into laughter.

[What do you plan to do tonight?] Nova asked, realizing that Aron didn't have any specific plans from her memory.

"I have to increase the speed of brain data collection, but I'm really tired of traveling across the world to do it myself.

So, I need to find someone to help me with this task, and I'm here to do the research and select the team for it." Aron explained as he put on his virtual reality helmet and logged in.

Inside the Universal Simulation.

Aron greeted Nova and then immediately took a seat that she had materialized for him after he logged in.

[Are you officially starting to assemble your private forces?] Nova asked excitedly.

"Yeah, since the plan in Eden is already in its second phase, we have less than six months to complete the third phase once the second phase is done. That means I have less than ten months to assemble my forces and make them powerful enough to handle the upcoming tumultuous conditions," Aron explained.

[The time frame is adequate to build a strong organization, but it would be more effective if we don't start from scratch,]

"I know, that's why I'm going for the people that no one would think of using," Aron said with a smile that revealed he was planning something devious.

He immediately turned to Nova and said "List all of the American soldiers who were discharged from the military due to heavy injuries in the last 10 years?"

Nova followed Aron's command and projected a holographic screen in front of him, displaying a list of all the American soldiers who had been discharged from the military due to severe injuries. The list contained over 50,000 people.

After a brief glance at the list, he said, "Remove all those who have no extensive combat experience."

Nova quickly removed the names of those who had no combat experience, causing the list to shrink down to less than 20,000.

Following another short look he said, "remove those who have family members to take care of them."

And just like that the list was narrowed down to about 4,000 people.

"Remove those who have not received special forces training"

The list fell down to 1,400 people.

"Remove those that are still loyal to the country"

This time, it took Nova a little longer as she had to comb through the remaining people's entire digital history to determine whether they met Aron's criteria.

After a thorough investigation, Nova narrowed down the list to a mere 380 individuals. These unfortunate individuals had suffered war injuries, had no one to care for them, and possessed special forces skills that they were unable to utilize due to their injuries.

However, the most significant common factor amongst them was their lack of loyalty toward their country.

They harbored resentments towards the Veterans Affairs and other government services for mistreatment, as well as towards their military leaders for giving foolish orders that resulted in their injuries and the shifting of blame to them, resulting in the loss of their rightful disability compensation.

"How many of them do you think will accept my offer and pledge their allegiance to me if I offer to treat their conditions and restore them to their peak?"

[More than seventy percent of them] Nova replied.

"Just that much? I thought it would be higher." Aron asked in surprise.

[Quite a few of the individuals on the list are contemplating suicide and might take their own lives in the next three months if nothing changes for them.] Nova explained in a cold and detached tone.

To Nova, anything that was not related to her master or deemed important by her master was just a collection of data points or data sets in her database. She had no emotional attachment or significance to them.

"How many of them are in the state?" he asked, disregarding Nova's unfeeling tone as he was familiar with her programming and understood why she behaved that way.

[Seventeen, Sir] Nova answered while displaying a holographic map of New York state that showed where the individuals in question resided.

"Oh, a few of them are located about 30 kilometers from here," Aron said as he zoomed in on the map to locate the nearest individual.

After examining the satellite images of the location of the person closest to his own, Aron commented, "It seems like he's living a very harsh life."

Nova revealed, [He is one of the individuals I suspect may resort to suicide. Presently, he is barely holding on by using powerful painkillers to which he is addicted. However, it won't be long before he runs out of money to purchase them, and that's when he may take the fatal step.]

"Can't he just beg for the medicines?" Aron said not connecting how will someone kill himself when he can just steal or beg for them?

[According to his records, it shows that he has a very high self-esteem and he can't bring himself to ask for help despite his worsening situation,] Nova explained while presenting the report on the man.

"That will make it easier for me to persuade him using his self-esteem. All I have to do is promise to give him his previous body back and he will be loyal," Aron replied after reviewing the man's history.

## Chapter 97 At The Edge Of A Cliff

Within the solemn confines of the military courtroom, an atmosphere thick with tension engulfed the air, saturating every nook and cranny and casting an ominous shadow upon the faces of the gathered spectators.

The culmination of the proceedings had arrived, and the destiny of a courageous soldier, whose life had precariously teetered on the edge of judgment, now lay in the hands of the presiding judge.

General Robert Sinclair, a figure of distinction adorned with graying temples and eyes that bore the weight of his responsibilities, sat upright behind the elevated bench.

His gaze, a fusion of resolute determination and a profound commitment to justice, swept across the room, commanding attention from every individual in its path.

The time had come for the judge's final pronouncements and the delivery of the verdict, a moment that held the collective breath of all present in suspense.

Without hesitation, he commenced the delivery of his verdict. "Throughout the course of the proceedings, it has become abundantly clear that you knowingly disobeyed the direct orders issued by Central Command. This decision, unfortunately, resulted in the catastrophic outcome that we are currently facing.

In light of these circumstances, this court-martial has reached a verdict of guilt on the charges brought against you. The repercussions of your actions are undeniably severe, as the loss of life is an irreparable tragedy that not only affects your fallen comrades but also deeply impacts their families and our entire nation.

While acknowledging the significant injuries you sustained while dutifully serving our country, this court recognizes the sacrifices you have made. We understand that you have endured physical and emotional hardships.

As a result, we have decided to show some leniency by reducing your sentence to two years of probation instead of imprisonment.

However, it is crucial to acknowledge the grave breach of trust that occurred in this situation. As members of our armed forces, it is expected that we all adhere to the established chain of command and uphold the orders issued by our superiors.

By willfully disobeying these orders, the consequences were dire, and we cannot overlook this fact. Therefore, it is with a heavy heart that I must also pronounce your dishonorable discharge from the military.

This dishonorable discharge carries significant consequences. You will be stripped of all VA injury compensation, including your retirement fund, as these benefits are reserved for those who faithfully fulfill their duties until the end.

The decision to revoke these privileges is not taken lightly, but it is an unavoidable outcome of your actions.

John Smith, as I deliver this sentence, I urge you to deeply reflect upon the events that have led us to this moment. It is my sincere hope that you fully comprehend the gravity of your choices and, in due course, find a path toward redemption and healing."

As the judge concluded his verdict, he firmly grasped the gavel, its weight descending with force upon the unyielding gravel, resounding through the courtroom.

"TANG"

The resounding echo of the initial gavel strike filled the courtroom, symbolizing the profound weight of the judgment that had just been pronounced.

"TANG"

With the second resounding thud, the fate of all those present was sealed, leaving behind a somber reminder of the irreversible consequences that awaited them.

"TANGGG"

"AAAAAH!" John Smith was abruptly awakened from his dream, startled by the reverberating sound of the third strike of the hammer resonating through the courtroom's gavel.

His chest heaved, rising and falling with each strained breath, serving as a visible testament to the weight he bore. Within the boundaries of his sleep, haunting recollections of the death of his team members, betrayal of his country and anguish resurfaced, fueled by the unrelenting grasp of post-traumatic stress disorder.

It served as a cruel reminder of that fateful day when the nation he had bravely fought for, the very nation that had inflicted profound wounds upon his being, chose to abandon him in turn.

After taking a few moments to regain composure, he mustered the strength to extricate himself from the comfort of his bed.

Engaging in a fleeting struggle with his own body, he wrestled with the task of standing tall. His one leg, blessed with unrestricted mobility, dutifully obeyed his commands. However, the other leg bore the enduring marks of nerve damage inflicted by a ruthless explosion during a treacherous mission. Its movement restricted, it remained a perpetual reminder of the sacrifices he had selflessly made in the line of duty.

With a determined stride, he made his way to the kitchen, dragging his impaired leg behind him. Upon reaching his destination, he endeavored to open the refrigerator, relying solely on the grip of his lone hand.

Retrieving a bottle of water, he painstakingly made his way to the couch in the living room, lowering himself onto the seat. With a sigh, he switched on the television, intending to spend the remainder of the night there, well aware that sleep would elude him after the haunting remnants of his dream.

Despite the television blaring in the background and his eyes seemingly fixed upon the screen, it was evident that his mind wandered far from the images that danced before him.

Lost in the labyrinth of his own thoughts, he remained physically present but emotionally distant, as if existing in a realm beyond the confines of the living room.

His mind wandered, reflecting on the circumstances that had led him to his current state: a dishonorably discharged soldier, both physically and metaphorically, standing on his last leg.

Usually, he possessed the capacity to calm his own mind and suppress the resurgence of these agonizing memories.

However, today unfolded as a different tale, for he found himself besieged by haunting visions. The faces of his fallen comrades from the ill-fated mission materialized before him, intermingled with the countenances of their grieving family members who held him responsible for their tragic demise.

To compound his torment, the visage of the general who had orchestrated his downfall to protect his own reputation appeared, wearing a wicked smile and taunting him with malicious intent.

Each memory, like a serrated blade, ruthlessly cut into his very essence, amplifying the excruciating anguish that lay dormant within. Tears welled up, streaming down his cheeks in a torrential cascade, their silent descent conveying a profound sorrow that inundated his fragile and vulnerable state of being.

Overwhelmed by the weight of his emotions, he found himself standing on the brink of despair, teetering perilously on the edge of a cliff.

He mustered the strength to rise from his seat, reaching out to grasp the bottle of painkillers resting on the table. Desperate to bury the agony he felt and save himself from the cliff, he sought solace in the numbing relief they offered.

Upon opening the bottle, he discovered its emptiness, serving as a stark reminder that he had exhausted his supply of pills and lacked the means to replenish them. Overwhelmed by frustration and unable to contain his emotions, he flung the bottle across the room in a fit of anger.

After enduring the torment for over 20 minutes, he reached his breaking point, unable to bear the pain and the push any longer. Desperation consumed him as he slid his hands into the crevice where the sofa's seat cushions met the armrest, extracting a concealed gun that had been stashed there.

Caressing the cold, unforgiving steel of the Heckler and Koch Mark 23 SOCOM in his hands, he found himself caught in a treacherous moment of contemplation.

Time seemed to stand still as he weighed the weighty decision that lay before him. The pain, an unwelcome companion, persistently gnawed at the fringes of his thoughts, a constant reminder of the anguish that enveloped his existence.

After a mere few minutes, he loaded a bullet into the firing chamber, raising the gun to his head. With closed eyes, he sought to gather the courage needed for what lay ahead.

As he took a deep breath, he began to pull the trigger slowly, allowing his mind a moment to surrender at any given instant.

Just as he was about to pull the trigger and end his life, a voice pierced the silence of the room, asking him a poignant question, "Are you truly going to proceed with that?"

John Smith was overcome with fear, startled to the core by the sudden appearance of the man. Reacting impulsively and without hesitation, he instinctively opened fire, unleashing a barrage of bullets at the unexpected intruder.

BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG.

He emptied his entire ammunition onto the man before finally turning his gaze upon him once more.

"Are you finished?" the man uttered, inducing a near-collapse in John's trembling form. The realization dawned upon him that he had discharged every bullet from his gun at a close range that could be deemed point-blank, and yet the man sat there unharmed, seemingly unaffected by the barrage.

"Who are you?" John asked, his voice trembling with a mixture of shock and fear.



John's mind was in a state of contemplation and wonder, questioning whether he was immersed in the afterlife or if he was experiencing an exceptionally potent moment of clarity due to stress reaching a breaking point or if the veil had been lifted allowing him to perceive the unseen.

## Chapter 98 Whispers Of Hope

Aron pulled up his car, parking it approximately one kilometer away from John's residence. He switched off the engine, retrieved the key, and stepped out of the vehicle. With fast strides, he began his journey on foot towards John's house.

When he was approximately three hundred meters away from the house, he carefully assessed his surroundings. Assured that there were no individuals nearby, he immediately activated the concealment rune. Instantaneously, he vanished from the sight of any potential onlookers or observing entities.

Upon reaching the house, Aron meticulously searched for a quiet entry point. He carefully surveyed the premises, quickly spotting an unlocked window that had been closed but not secured. With a gentle push, he gradually opened the window and silently slipped inside the house, skillfully maneuvering his way through.

Upon entering, Aron discovered John sitting on the spacious sofa, his face revealing signs of having just awakened from a distressing dream. Aron noticed John's immediate action of powering on the television, as if seeking solace or distraction from the unsettling experience.

Aron decided to settle into a single-seater sofa, curious to observe the unfolding events in the coming minutes. He positioned himself comfortably, anticipating what would transpire in the immediate future.

Aron remained seated, his gaze fixed on John as tears welled up and streamed down his cheeks. He witnessed John's desperate actions, watching as he reached for the painkiller medicine on the table, only to discover it was empty. Frustration mingled with anger, evident in John's attempt to contain his emotions, which ultimately failed. In a fit of rage, he flung the empty bottle across the room. Aron continued to observe, his heart heavy, as John grappled with profound thoughts about life.

To Aron's surprise, he witnessed John's hands slipping into the crevice where the seat cushions met the armrest of the sofa. As John retrieved a hidden gun, his touch caressed its cold surface while he contemplated his next course of action. Aron's breath caught in his throat as he observed John, the hesitation etched on his face, raising the gun and placing it against his own head. The weight of the moment hung in the air as John slowly began to pull the trigger.

Aron maintained a vigilant gaze, observing the harrowing scene unfold mere moments before the firing pin would release, sealing John's fate with a bullet through his head.

He immediately deactivated the concealment rune and broke the silence, asking, "Are you truly going to follow through with that?" scaring the shit out of the would have been dead John.

Aron, had to deactivate the concealment rune that had veiled his presence as it was necessary to deactivate the rune to ensure that his voice could be heard, as leaving the rune active would have rendered his words concealed as well.

But his materialization from out of nowhere ended up scaring the shit out john who in return immediately started firing a barrage of bullets to Aron.

"Shield," Aron said, swiftly responding to the sight of John aiming the gun in his direction. He immediately activated the shield rune, infusing it with a surge of magical energy, ensuring that the impending bullets would pose no harm, effectively nullifying their impact.

Aron maintained the shield, until he was certain that John had exhausted the entire magazine of his gun.

.....

As soon as the events unfolded, Nova immediately sprang into action, promptly intercepting all phone calls within a one-kilometer radius. With precision, she filtered through the calls, specifically isolating the emergency phone calls intended for the police. She focused on selecting only those callers who were reporting the shooting incident, leaving out any unrelated calls.

Once Nova completed the isolation process, she took on the role of the original callers, assuming their identities as she continued with the conversation with the emergency services. She then humbly apologized, claiming to have misunderstood the sounds of a neighbor starting their car as gunshots, all in an effort to avoid arousing suspicion within the emergency call center.

By taking this approach, Nova aimed to ensure that these calls would not be abruptly terminated by her interception and raise suspicions.

Meanwhile, for the ones who had initially contacted the emergency services to report the incident, Nova skillfully continued to impersonate an emergency operator. Engaging with them adeptly, she inquired about crucial details such as their location, any sightings of the shooter, and other relevant information.

Nova then advised them to vacate the vicinity or lock their doors, assuring them that the police would be dispatched to investigate the incident.

....

"Who are you?" John asked, his voice trembling with fear as he gazed at Aron, seeking an explanation for the extraordinary turn of events.

"I'm Aron," he introduced himself in response to the question, his voice calm and reassuring. "Someone to help you from your current predicament"

"Where did you come from? You just materialized out of thin air," John asked, his fear still palpable as he tried to comprehend Aron's sudden appearance before him.

"I was here for more than half an hour, you just didn't see me. Like this," Aron answered, and then activated the concealment rune again, immediately disappearing from John's view before reappearing shortly after.

"How can you do that?" John asked, his mind racing as he attempted to comprehend and find a logical explanation for what he had just witnessed.

"A magician never reveals his secrets," Aron replied, a faint smile playing on his lips, maintaining an air of mystery around his abilities.

"So, you're a magician? Was it all just a trick?" John inquired, beginning to calm down as he started to believe that what he witnessed was simply a display of magic. However, before he could fully process his thoughts and question why Aron hadn't succumbed to the barrage of bullets he had fired, Aron preemptively provided an answer.

"Not a magician, per se," Aron clarified, realizing the limitations of using the term as a figure of speech.

"You mentioned that you can help me. How exactly can you do that?" John inquired, his previous concerns fading into the background as his focus shifted to the potential help that Aron had offered.

"I can help you with anything," Aron responded calmly, a warm smile gracing his face, emanating a sense of confidence in his ability to fulfill the promises he made.

"Then can you help me with this?" John asked, striking the leg that suffered from nerve damage, his hand still clutching the empty gun, symbolizing his frustration and the burden he carried.

"Yes, I can even help you with that as well," Aron replied, pointing at his amputated hand.

"What do you want in return? I don't have anything of value with me," John expressed, his mind torn between skepticism and the undeniable evidence of Aron deflecting the bullets fired at him. As he recalled the distorted bullet casings scattered on the ground in front of Aron, some shattered into multiple fragments as if striking a metallic surface, he questioned his initial assumption that they were mere blanks.

With a flicker of hope, John chose to believe that the man could offer him relief from his pain. He didn't even entertain the idea of complete healing, knowing deep down that such a possibility was impossible.

"I want your unwavering loyalty to me," Aron stated calmly, maintaining his composed and steadfast demeanor.

Upon hearing Aron's request for loyalty, John's mind raced with a flurry of thoughts. "What does my loyalty matter in this situation? Could he be after military secrets? But my security clearance must have been revoked long ago, and any vital information I possessed would have been updated. Or perhaps he wants my organs?" John's mind spun with speculative possibilities, grappling with the uncertainty of Aron's intentions.

While John was engrossed in contemplating the underlying motive behind Aron's request for loyalty, Aron chose to give him the space to ponder, refraining from immediately addressing any misunderstandings that might have arisen.

After several minutes of contemplation, John finally found his voice and spoke, "I'm not certain what you stand to gain from my loyalty, but if you can relieve me of this pain, I solemnly swear, in the name of God, that I will break the oath I made to never trust anyone again, following the betrayal I experienced from my own country." His words revealed a profound sense of desperation, as he believed he had already reached the depths of despair, with nothing further to lose.

Upon hearing John's response, Aron's smile widened, exuding a sense of reassurance. "Very well. Now, go to sleep, and when you awaken, everything will be over," Aron said before he moved with remarkable speed, placing his hand on top of John's head while uttering an incantation. "Sleep," he said, activating the sleeping rune in an instant.

"WhAt?" John barely had time to comprehend the words spoken to him before a wave of drowsiness swept over him.

As he struggled to stay awake, the only fragments he could recall were the words "Good," "Sleep," and "Over." With his eyes growing heavy and his consciousness fading, a final thought crossed his mind, "Damn, he must really be after my organs." Succumbing to the overwhelming fatigue, John slipped into a deep slumber, "It doesn't really matter anymore" his mind at rest accepting his fate as this was better than the pain.

## Chapter 99 Healing

As John's body began to sag, surrendering to the effects of the rune-induced slumber, Aron swiftly intercepted his fall, gently laying John down on the sofa, ensuring he was in a comfortable position, providing support for his weary frame.

[You seem to be thoroughly enjoying your play as a magician] Nova remarked once she was certain that John had fallen into a deep sleep.

"No, I was merely assessing the extent of his depression," Aron replied, carefully lifting John's leg from the ground and positioning it on the sofa to ensure his comfort.

"You seem to have missed the mark. He ran out of pills today, not within your projected timeline," Aron said, playfully teasing Nova.

[I said within three months, and today falls within that time period, so technically, I am correct,] Nova retorted.

[However, it seems my approximation was off. He must have been using the medication at a higher dosage than previously calculated. Perhaps his body became accustomed to the normal dose, prompting him to consume more and deplete the supply sooner than expected.]

"Regardless, let's get started. It will take me a considerable amount of time to fully heal him using only the basic healing runes," Aron said, preparing himself for the extensive healing process.

With everything in order, Aron extended his hand and confidently uttered, "Heal," activating the healing rune he had diligently practised during his preparations for the brain data collection journey.

It was to serve as a contingency plan in case he unintentionally caused harm to someone during the collection process.

When the rune was activated, a gentle, pulsating golden glow emanated from it, enveloping John's body and starting to heal John's body.

However, a noticeable issue arose—the healing process was incredibly sluggish, to the point where it would be easy to assume that nothing was happening at all.

This was a consequence of utilising a low-level healing rune, which lacked the potency required for swift regeneration for the heavy injuries that John had sustained.

Upon witnessing this, Aron swiftly initiated the reactivation of the identical rune, as there was nothing preventing him from doing so. However, in doing so, he would consume more magical energy to sustain the simultaneous activation of both runes.

Fortunately, when it came to magical energy, Aron possessed an abundance. Thanks to his runic heart, which was fortified by over two hundred billion runic lines, he possessed what could be deemed as boundless mana.

Similar to someone who stumbled upon an infinite glitch, Aron began relentlessly activating one rune after another, maintaining the continuous activation of them for over an hour and a half.

Astonishingly, he managed to activate more than ten runes per second, leading to an astounding accumulation of over 50,000 active healing runes.

Aron's runic heart tirelessly operated, absorbing mana from the atmosphere to replenish the energy that had been expended mere moments ago.

Again and again, he tapped into a tremendous amount of mana to sustain the activation of over 50,000 healing runes, all in an effort to expedite John's body's healing process.

John's physical form had become completely obscured, concealed beneath a radiant golden silhouette.

The glow emanated from the collective healing light emitted by the expansive array of over fifty thousand runes, tirelessly working together to mend and restore his body.

But for those without the ability to perceive magic, a remarkable sight unfolded before their eyes.

The amputated hand could be seen to have begun to regenerate visibly, steadily reclaiming its original form.

The other changes occurred in John's nerve-damaged leg, which had been mere existence due to a lack of funds for amputation.

The damaged nerves within the leg initiated a process of regeneration, intricately reconnecting with the existing nerve network throughout his body.

Subsequently, the muscles in the leg, which had experienced atrophy from disuse, commenced a remarkable regrowth.

This remarkable process persisted for over an hour until the new hand had been fully regenerated and the leg had completely healed, returning to its normal state.

"What do you think would happen if I keep the Runes active even after his wounds have been fully healed?" Aron asked Nova, intrigued by the complete regeneration of both the hand and leg, now restored to their prime condition.

After a brief pause for calculation, Nova responded, [Although I cannot offer an absolute certainty, from my calculations, I believe that no detrimental outcomes or any harm would be experienced by him.]

After hearing her answer Aron said "Then, let's see what will happen," making the choice to persist in keeping the runes active. He was captivated by the possibilities of what they might do now that they had fulfilled their purpose of facilitating healing.

As a consequence of his decision, the runes embarked on the process by infusing vitality into the bones and fortifying them. This fortification persisted until it reached the threshold of the low-level rune's capabilities.

Following the completion of bone reinforcement, the runes shifted their attention towards revitalising and strengthening the organs.

Their restorative influence effectively repaired any potential damage that might have accumulated throughout John's lifetime. This rejuvenation process aimed to restore the organs to their peak condition, facilitating optimal functionality.

Subsequently, the runes turned their focus to the muscles, initiating a healing and strengthening process. Meticulously nurturing the muscles, they unlocked their inherent potential, pushing them to unprecedented levels of strength.

Once all these enhancements were completed, the runes finally directed their attention towards healing the skin, addressing any imperfections and scars that John had endured.

As a result of the comprehensive vitalization and strengthening of every aspect of his body, the 35-year-old man appeared rejuvenated, exhibiting the youthful appearance of an individual in their mid-20s.

Typically, such an outcome was not expected or intended. However, the excessive concentration of runes infused into an ordinary individual led to an unexpected mutation in their function.

"That's enough time for something to have happened to him" Aron said and promptly ended supplying mana to the runes, officially concluding the process two hours before dawn.

"Holy mother!" He exclaimed in astonishment as he laid eyes on John's transformed face, now appearing younger and resembling someone in their mid-20s.

After observing John's now young face with a mixture of surprise and awe, he said, "Now, let's see what other changes happened to you" brimming with excitement and curiosity to see what other changes occurred to the man

Following that, Aron swiftly rose from his seat and retrieved the virtual headset. He then proceeded to place it on John's head before saying, 'Nova, your time to shine.'

Nova immediately powered the VR headset and downloaded the brain data of John.

[Done,] Nova informed Aron, indicating that she had finished collecting the brain data.

Aron promptly removed the VR helmet from John and proceeded to cast the cleaning rune on it. After taking a seat, he swiftly put it back on and promptly logged in.

He was not worried about John waking up as he was sure that he would continue sleeping for a few more hours for his brain to get used to the new body. You can think of it as the software upgrading itself to accommodate the upgraded hardware.

## Chapter 100 [Bonus ] The Changes And His Backstory

Inside the Universal Simulation.

"What are the other changes that happened to him?" Aron immediately asked after passing through the gate, wanting to know the complete extent of the changes that had taken place within John's body due to the relentless barrage of healing runes he unleashed upon him for hours on end.

[Nearly every aspect,] Nova responded, conjuring a holographic representation of John's physique before delving into a detailed explanation of the remarkable changes.

[In addition to healing and regenerating his limbs, the extended exposure led to meticulous fine-tuning, revitalization, and fortification of his muscles, organs, and bones, pushing them to their absolute limits. In essence, you've transformed him into a super soldier, doubling his strength compared to what it was previously,] Nova elucidated, emphasizing the profound changes that occurred within John's body.

"That's fantastic! Absolutely fantastic!" Aron exclaimed with great excitement upon hearing Nova's detailed explanation.

After reveling in the momentary celebration, Aron posed a question, "Did any mutations occur, similar to what happened to Henry?" He desired to ascertain whether the circumstances that befell his younger brother were potentially replicable in other individuals.

[Unfortunately, no such mutations occurred in John's case,] Nova answered.

"That's a relief," Aron expressed with a sense of reassurance, pleased to learn that John had not experienced any similar mutations.

Nova inquired, "Aren't you supposed to be saddened by the absence of mutations despite the prolonged exposure?" She was curious about the reason behind his sense of relief rather than sorrow.

"It's actually quite the opposite. If everyone underwent mutations simply from being exposed to concentrated mana for a certain duration, it would severely restrict my ability to employ runes in large-scale scenarios, as there would be a constant fear of unexpected mutations occurring," Aron explained, shedding light on his rationale.

"Has there been any change in his mental state? If I have to send him for therapy, it will pose a problem, considering that all the candidates appear to be experiencing some form of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)," Aron inquired.

[Due to the enhancements provided by the runes, John's brain has undergone strengthening, enabling it to recover from the emotional damage he had accumulated throughout his life.

When he awakens, all the trauma will appear to him as nothing more than a melancholic past,] Nova explained.

"That's excellent news," Aron replied, his voice carrying a sense of relief.

"So, what is his story?" Aron asked, wanting to know further details of his story beyond what he had read in the profile that Nova had prepared for him.

[There have been no significant deviations, except for the inclusion of additional information that reinforces the details provided in the previous brief.

He served as the esteemed SEAL captain leading a daring captive rescue mission for Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl.

The operation was initiated based on compelling intelligence obtained from the army's intelligence wing, which served as the catalyst for their determined pursuit. Upon arriving at the suspected prison's location, they were confronted with a formidable fortress, extensively fortified and guarded.

Faced with the imminent danger to his team, he made the audacious decision to override central command's orders and strategically retreat, intending to ensure the safety of his comrades.

Tragically, during the perilous retreat, one of his team members inadvertently triggered a concealed landmine killing himself and alerting the enemy, the following fight resulting in the devastating loss of the entire team, leaving him as the sole survivor haunted by the burden of survivor's guilt.

In a shocking revelation that surfaced later, it was uncovered that the mission had not received the necessary approvals from the upper echelons of command. Instead, it was a clandestine endeavor orchestrated by the conniving Bagram base commander, motivated by personal ambition and aspirations for promotion.

However, when the operation took an unforeseen turn, with tragic consequences, all blame was unjustly directed towards him and with the commander deleting any and all the evidence leading to him nothing existed that could prove his innocence other than his words.

As a consequence, he faced a court-martial, leading to the forfeiture of all his VA benefits, including healthcare, as well as the termination of all the privileges and benefits associated with his former status as an army member.

However, what truly shattered him was the relentless blame and anger directed at him by the families of his fallen team members, regardless of his attempts to explain the circumstances and share his side of the story.

This ordeal became the catalyst for his haunting nightmares, and in an attempt to escape the memories, he resorted to using the meager savings he had left to purchase sleeping pills and pain-reducing medications.

Unfortunately, this led to a dangerous dependence on narcotics, as he sought to numb himself from the relentless pain.

As you have witnessed, when his supply of narcotics ran out, he made the agonizing decision to bring an end to his suffering in the most drastic and irreversible manner.] Nova explained the new information presenting it alongside the visual footage she had collected from John's memories.

Aron gently wiped away the tears streaming down his cheeks, profoundly affected by John's tragic ordeal and the heartbreaking path he had chosen to cope with his pain. It saddened Aron even more because he could empathize with the depths of despair that led John to such extreme measures.

It served as a stark reminder of how he, too, could have easily succumbed to similar methods had he not received the system and support from his family that helped him navigate through his own challenging circumstances during that period.

After taking a short time to recollect himself, he turned to Nova and said "Send his body to the Lab City and task them with reverse-engineering his physiology to explore the possibility of creating a genetic serum capable of replicating the same results.

This way, we can administer it to the members of my private forces. I can't be expected to always continue pumping magical energy for hours on end just to finish strengthening one person." changing the topic as it was a very painful memory to him despite having overcome the predicament.



[Yes, sir] Nova who was quietly observing Aron throughout the entire ordeal, immediately sent two bodies to the city, One was for the genetic engineering lab, while the other was assigned to the runic genetic engineering lab, having them start their research into reverse engineering and developing a serum capable of creating formidable soldiers.

"How is progress in the Lab City?" Aron inquired after he calmed down further, wanting to receive an update on the developments within the accelerated universal simulation, considering that more than seven days had elapsed in simulation time.

[There have been a few breakthroughs in the White Labs, but no definitive results yet. As for the Golden Labs, they are still undergoing rune training.

With tens of thousands of individuals, each practicing a different rune, once they master it, I assimilate that runic knowledge to all of them, eliminating the need for others to practice the same rune.

It will take a few more weeks for them to complete learning all the beginner-level runes before they can start applying them in their respective fields,] Nova explained, providing an overview of the Lab City's current situation while showcasing live footage of the ongoing activities.

To facilitate clarity regarding the methodologies employed by different labs to achieve specific outcomes, they had opted to designate them with colors.

The White Labs solely rely on technological approaches in their research, while the Golden Labs utilize runes as their primary tools or explore the application of runes within their respective fields.