

A BIO-WEAPON'S RHAPSODY

Chapter 11: The Bathroom chapter

She had been mistaken.

"[Ammend in Blueprint done.]"

Even Main Core was in accordance with her, she had spent the last hours the [Humans] had in that [Room] studying their mannerisms, and she had quite an extensive database on them. She was half sure she could mix among them at some point and was only wondering why their variance in design was like that.

Most held the same body type with some small difference among themselves, she had thought this was mostly a design in those that were more [Predators] and [Prey] among the caste.

Just as how some models held bulges on their torso like P9, and others didn't.

At first, she had thought that this body type needed a long [Hair], or the keratin growings as she had taken to call them. Since most of the models that held this type of bulge on their chest had long [Hair].

The bigger the bulge the more...*Curved*, their body became for some reason. Was this to make balancing easier? She wasn't sure.

But this theory got ditched later on as the time allotted ended and another [Human] opened the door and took Dr Williams away, this one had bulges on her chest...But had short [Hair].

This made her re-analyze most of the pictures she had taken from the [Humans], and sure enough...Ones that she had catalogued with the [Non bulge type] had indeed...Bulges.

Modest ones, smaller ones, but they had it too. She noticed a new trend, and this time it was from their coverings, those that covered completely their lower body didn't have those. While those that were covered with short fabric (Similar to the body armor she was using) had bulges on them.

Even if modest, so maybe the bulges earned them the right to use that type of clothing?

Meaning that phenotype was higher on the caste.

She would need to check a sample further to make sure she updated her own phenotype as needed, she had found this kind of clothing comfortable after all.

But that wasn't the point of the error she had found previously. No.

While it was related, the error lies elsewhere.

You see, after the [Humans] left the [Room] she took the chance to take some samples from the [Containers] they had used, the humans with bulges shared the same amount of genetic information and the organs seemed to be the same too.

She, however, found some difference in a part of their [Blueprint] towards the end, and multiple samples she found ended with quite interesting information. At the end of the [Blueprint] she noticed their [Cells] differed, only in a single spot.

The final pair of [Genes] differed. While the non-bulge human held two of the same. The bulged human held a different pair. She went through her own database of pictures and indeed every single human (That she had a sample) followed that phenotype.

Comparing her own [Blueprint] she found that her body was...The same too, she held a pair of the same [Cells] at the end, so her current body should afford the use of this type of superior clothing...But it seemed...Younger.

Her [Cell] age was lower than the one in most of the samplings, had her body been a [Pup]?

That explained why the [Blueprint] referred to this model as [Stealth] or [Infiltration] blueprint. It made sense...She also disregarded new spawns in other test subjects, after all, most of the time they were useless cannon fodder.

But even so, she needed to make sure.

So after fixing her body in the normal configuration. And stretching...that always felt nice for some reason, it made her worry that her vocal cords seemed to emit some kind of weird noise when she did those movements and she wasn't able to prevent herself from doing them.

"Nyaaa~♪"

"[Embarrassing.]"

And Main Core always said the same words as if she knew the meaning, she would check on them later, but since Main Core wasn't broadcasting nor messing with her thought kernel she left it speak for itself.

After finishing her stretch and weird vocalizations, she walked towards [The Door]. This would be her first time walking in the open, she first needed to make sure her disguise was perfect.

Exterior armor made from biomass-produced textil flesh?

"[Check and optimal.]"

Nanite presence within exterior bio armor?

"[Zero.]"

Perfect, that would mean that should her connection with the exterior bio armor (Sundress) be cut, the thing should stay solid long enough for her to recuperate contact with it. It should stay without disintegrating as all the materials were sub-derived and not nanite-made like her dummy body. But a girl couldn't be always so sure.

Either way, she moved to the next part of her checklist.

Feet coverings?

"[Modeled after Human with similar clothing and adjusted to Host Size.]"

She noticed not a single [Human] was barefoot like her, she found that weird, but since her disguise depended on not being noticed she took notice and emulated the more convenient feet coverings, in this case, the ones another [Human] that was dressing an exterior textile armor like her (Sundress) was chosen.

It was a small pair of leather-like material at the base that was tied to her feet with the use of thin straps that went above her feet and around the ankle to secure itself in place. She wasn't sure what kind of material the other [Human] used for hers, but she was using an imitation of soft leather that was quite comfortable on her feet.

She liked these designs as they allowed her feet to be in the open and she only needed to destroy a pair of thin straps to unleash her feet and fight as normal.

Also since the material was thin, her tactile sensation wasn't impeded as much as with the other options around, like...Who even encases their feet in hard leather?

They wouldn't be able to feel a thing like that!

Granted, the armor protection would be higher...But she wouldn't want to sacrifice the possible sense output for more protection, increased sensorial input meant she would be able to dodge more attacks. And that in turn translated into less need for armor.

Next on her list was...

Current body phenotype disguise?

"[100% in accordance with Blueprint.]"

The one that made her doubt, she was sure the design was 100% good, but... no other body phenotype had come closer to her current body. The closest one still was bigger than her, even if all other evidence pointed that she also had the right to use the superior coverings, that one human dressed like the non-bulged phenotype.

She even used the same lower body coverings... Granted her body was adorned with the same minerals the other bulged humans held in their [Ears] and [Lips], the only reason she knew to check to make sure.

Did that mean that if one didn't have [Bulges] they couldn't use this [Superior armor]?

Her initial assessment said Yes.

But after opening the door...

That went straight away out of her immediate area of concern.

"TEACHER THAT GIRL SKIPPED LINE!" A shrill attack...Or not, a shrill voice said.

"Ugh...There is always one that does that. Whose class are you?" A bulged human asked while looking at her. "And no uniform? Did you sneak in since you didn't have your uniform? We sent a notice that you all needed to bring it..."

She was almost three times as tall as her, she hadn't noticed it with the other [Humans] as she hadn't stood near them in this form. Her [Glorious form]/previous body always towered over them. It surprised her the amount of [Humans] that she found out of the confines of that small [Room], somehow it seemed to isolate the sound almost as well as her previous [Den]. The [Humans] seemed to enjoy isolating their areas from exterior influence.

So this was a new experience, "The teacher is bullying the new girl ♪" The other [Humans] around started synchronizing their [Voices] in a weird cadence, something within her seemed to want to join at them...While another part wanted to start secreting water from her [Eyes].

Was her body malfunctioning?

"Sorry sorry...Didn't want to yell at you." The human said while placing its [Hand] on her [Head].

She prepared for an attack while checking the surroundings...

And nothing happened...

"[Updated full Blueprint...Adding to Library...Updated Human gender, Female.]"

It said Main Core while she felt a new flood of information in her [Brain], she suddenly understood most of the functions within her body and why they had been wired like that, the pressure she had been feeling in her lower body suddenly made sense too.

She had thought her body wanted to discharge the liquid as an attack from being stressed, but in turn, it meant she had needed to "I need to pee." Her mouth said after identifying the feeling.

She quickly used her [Hands] to cover her [Mouth] as her voice had leaked unintended, it was shrill like those around her, quite high pitched for her taste too.

"So you sneaked ahead searching for a bathroom..." The [Woman] said, those bulges meant that they were [Women]. So she would grow them too?

No, did she need to grow them?

A look around herself with all the other [Humans] "Children, anyone else needs to go to the bathroom? Might as well take your chances." Said the [Woman] to the other [Humans] around.

A chorus of "Noo♪" rained down, a few [Yes] had been heard, but it seemed that the woman hadn't noticed them, she did however notice how some other [Small Women] moved near them.

"Okay, let's go and find the receptionist and ask her to guide you to the bathroom." Said the [Woman] while showing the same face that Dr Williams had shown before.

...But it felt different, she showed her teeth like him, moved her lips like him, her cheeks moved like him...But it missed that [Madness] and it had something else on it.

"[Emotion identified, Care / Love.]"

What is [Love]?

Main core didn't answer.

"Do you need something Teach?" She heard a familiar voice and felt herself freeze.

It was high pitched like hers, it was the voice of the other [Woman] she had listened to in the [Room], the one that bet for the demise of the [Intern].

"Yes, is there a bathroom around, the kids need to use it. We had one try to sneak around in search for one... So we would rather you guide us, I don't wanna take the [Scientist]'s time while they explain it so might as well do it now." Said the woman.

"[New designation found, Teach. Logged into the database.]"

"Ugh...Kids...Fine, follow me." Said high pitch while doing some weird movement with her hand as if she wanted to grab something and smear it on her [leg].

"Okay kids, follow the nice lady and listen to her. And you." Said the [Teach] while looking at her, "You will stay with us till we find your teacher. I sent a message to the group chat but no one has answered yet. Do you remember the name of your teacher?"

Teacher?

"[Ammend found for the previous designation, Teach = Teacher.]"

Oh, why had they shortened?!?

"No," she heard herself answer while something within her told her to let some water leak into her eyes.

She did so, as her [Insticts] had never failed her.

"Shh...It's okay, we will find them okay?" Said the [Teach] in a low tone that seemed to vibrate within her chest, it was closer to that weird sound some subjects did when dealing with their spawns.

It felt nice.

"Okay girls, follow me, we will use the employee's bathroom since we are inside the labs and we don't have customers' bathrooms here. So don't touch anything." Said high pitch while guiding them.

"So, what class are you in?" "Are you at our school?" "Did you escape a cell from this lab?"

The other [Women] around her started speaking, their dressings were similar enough to hers, but their lower body covering was more complex.

Their [External armor]/skirt was shorter than hers, and her legs had white coverings on them. Their upper body held a textile armor similar to the one Dr Williams used, but theirs held some weird fabric in the figure of two triangles on them (Necktie).

One of them used their two upper appendages to grab hers, "What's your name?" while asking as such.

"[Further update on blueprint...Updated age cycle...Designation Age - Stage. Added.]"

She got another update for the blueprint? But hers was already full.

"[Host's body is currently in Stage - Child. Unit Teacher is on Stage -Adult.]"

Oh...

SHE WAS A PUP!

So then most of her functions had been restricted this whole time?!?

"There is the bathroom girls, go at it. You sundress, you are the one that made the ruckus so you get that stall. Freckles, next one. Twin tails, that one...And red hair...You get that one, congratulations you get to use the boss's one. Go at it." High pitch said pointing them towards small den-type structures.

She followed in and opened the door into the den to find a weird...

"[...Structure similar to those used by Humans to rest their lower body. Recommendation to host, discharge processed toxins from body into the water found within the chair.]"

That seemed like a waste, but she soon enough heard the sound of flowing water from the nearby dens, so she sat herself in after closing the door to her new [Den].

"[Suggestion, raise external textile armor to prevent damage from liquid discharge.]"

Oh, right. Smart, nice save Main Core.

She did as instructed and sat herself, then while going over the muscles on her lower body and flexing the right ones to start the discharge, the accumulated liquid shot towards the water in the [Chair].

Such a weird feeling, her previous body could recycle most of what entered it, and nothing was ever wasted like this...But...This body?

This one couldn't even recycle its fluids?

And this was supposed to be a better body than her previous one?

Granted, this one seemed to be able to work with less energy expenditure and bigger CPU use, but still...

"Don't forget to clean yourselves." High pitch said, on the other side of the den.

Clean?

"[Suggestion, use vegetal derivated on the wall to remove water remains from body. Reduce risk from biological damage towards host body from water toxins sticking to the body.]"

...The what?

This body was...Was....was susceptible to biological damage from its own toxin discharge system?

What the hell?

"...kay..." She heard herself join the chorus of voices as she did her best effort to make sure no drop of water stuck to her body.

And she didn't jump when she heard a flushing sound of water nearby, no sir.

It seemed that the other dens had finished discharging their own toxins, as she heard the sound of water flowing, an interesting way to make sure the toxins disappeared.

"The flush handle is on the side, it's a button." She heard high-pitched voices as she also knocked at the door to her den.

"Thank you!" Her voice said as she followed the instincts within her body, with her not claw(She missed her claw) prodded at the side, and sure enough. She found a...thing.

She suspected it was the thing called [Button] and by putting pressure on the thing the [Chair] spat water flushing away the toxins she had expelled before.

It was...

"[Beautiful]"

An incredible work of art as how the water danced as it pulled away her toxins into the deeps within, she hadn't noticed before but the [Chair] had a [Square-shaped] entity on its back.

It made sense, [Humans] did use this slave race for everything...And now she had done the same.

She opened the door away from this small den and found high pitch who pointed her to the other small [Child] "Sundress, go and wash your hands with the other girls, use soap and everything."

"[Update blueprint with new subcategory, Human - Female variant - Child Stage - Girl. Adult Stage - Women.]"

So she was a [Girl] and not a [Woman], and her current identifier wasn't P4 but [Sundress]. How does that work?

Did another [Human] with her current [Blueprint] exist in the world and they were thinking it was her?

It would help her plan to escape from the Den if nothing else. Now she only needed to [Wash her hands with soap], and then...And then...

Find out more about this [Sundress] girl she was supposed to be. How hard can it be?

She had fought and [Devoured] plenty of subjects already, surely this couldn't be that hard.

Chapter 12: About Names and Anime

Turns out, the true powerhouse weren't the big [Humans] but the smaller ones.

"And then, and then, I just went *BAM!*" the other [Girl] at her side said while screeching.

She had learned that that subvocalization the [Human Child] did was called [Laugh], but for her? It was closer to a screech than anything else, so she liked to refer to it as such.

"Can you believe it? Like, why would he even think that I would like that stupid dirty ball?" She wasn't sure what that [Ball] referred to, nor why had the other [Human Child] had thought giving it to this [Girl] was a good idea.

But if it was an strategy to rattle her it worked quite well.

"I see, did you make sure to defeat this other [Kid]?" But since she was getting some useful vocalization information, and some practice with her [Language], she had to deal with it.

"Of course, I kicked his ass, he ran away crying to mommy!" The [Girl] said while making sure her torso was arching outward, as if that would make her look bigger.

Was this some social dynamic in which a [Human] would try to make itself look like a threat?

But why would she try to threaten her? Did she miss some social cue somewhere?

She had too little information!

"But girl, aren't you cold? It looks as if you only had that sundress on!" The other [Girl] asked before she could address her social problems.

Or had she asked someone else?

Was other [Sundress] around?

No wait, she referred to her? But she said [Girl] that was the denomination to their current stage...wasn't it?

"Hello? Anyone home?" The other [Girl] waved her hand over her face while making some weird noise with two of her fingers, that was one interesting way to make noises. She would file it for later study.

But what was she going about "What do you mean?" She asked for clarification.

"I mean, this place is already cold and I am using both spats and pants, besides two pairs of socks!" The other [Girl] said, while first lowering part of her lower armor, then showing part of her lower body.

She had indeed another set of [Clothing] bellow her [Pants], and on her feet, she had two different layers of [Clothing] too, probably those [Socks]. She poked with her finger the under armor and extended a small tendril into it to analyze the make of it.

She hadn't had a chance to study these armors and hers was designed using the design she could view from afar, "I see...I have those too actually." So she copied the design, she would need to burn some biomass to mimic them, but in the long run, if this could serve to normalize her body temperature then it would be worth it.

She was already burning extra energy to keep her temperature in synch with that of the other [Childs], so trying her best to weave a new set of under armor she gave herself a pair of those [Spat] and whatever was called the under-under pink armor the other [Girl] had on her.

She of course didn't give herself a pair of those [Socks], as her feet were exposed and didn't want to tip her hand (Yet), none of the other [Children] had used any level of augmentation, so she wasn't sure what kind of abilities they held.

She didn't give herself anything to her upper torso even though she noticed the other girl had two layers of clothing there, her current [Dress] exposed too much [Skin] to allow a change such as that.

"Here let me..." She started saying while grabbing the hem of her [Dress] to show her.

"STOP! STOP! I TRUST YOU!" The other girl screamed as she grabbed her hands and pulled them down.

Hadn't she doubted her level of thermal defenses?

Why was she stopping her then?

"Gosh girl, have some degensensy." The [Girl] said, was that a word?

She hadn't heard that word before, but in this context that one implied that she was missing something everyone else seemed to have.

"The word is decency." High-pitched said from behind them, "Also you all are like four? Most of your cadre will gag or not think much of it. You don't have anything nice to leer at."

"Mama says that a lady is made from a young age." The [Girl] at her side said, "And that we need to behave like one or bad habits will stick."

"Hmm....Well, whatever, it should be fine around other girls and women. Just don't do it around anyone bigger than you." High pitch said and moved along.

She had the right of it, she hadn't even thought about the problems of exposing her fleshy bits while surrounded by [Humans]. They were, after all, [Predators] even if they didn't act nor expose their might right now.

Maybe it was the right move to use this mode to move around after all. She would still check up on other versions of different stages of the [Human] body, but for now?

"Okay." She answered high pitch and tried to hug her [Dress] closer to her, suddenly aware of how flimsy this armor was. She hadn't thought much about it, as the [Blueprint] images carried designs similar to this one, and since she had seen one of the [Humans] wear one at the first stages of her tests. She used it.

"Hmph!" The other [Girl] however only made one weird sound and crossed her arms to her [Chest], "Mama always said that those that don't value their chaspipi aren't pretty, so don't listen to her and never show your nono zone."

Her what?

Was the nonprotected area designated as [Nono zone]? Why?

Was it special? But it only had that weird delivery system for the toxins in her body. Granted she had found that there were plenty of important organs on that side, but the most important ones seemed to be nested in her chest and head. The others she could do without, and if she wasted some energy and biomass she could even function without them.

"Not even to other girls!" The [Girl] said, was she referring to their stage growth? Their designation? Or was this how a group of several [Child - Girl] referred to in groups?

She needed more answers, should she try and try to [Devour] one of the other [Girl]'s in this group? Well, not this one. "You are looking at me funny, like how Papa looks at Mama when he takes that weird yellow drink..." This one had been useful.

But most of the ones around them seemed to hold the same [Blueprint], so maybe it wouldn't matter?

She had found (by accidental touch) that it was a group with both [Female] and [Male] variants of the [Human- Child Stage], so she needed a [Female] variant, her current [Design] was [Female]. And the [Blueprint] she held was also [Female] for the most part, it seemed that whoever had put it there favored most [Female] variants than [Male] ones.

So it should have some kind of advantage to be a [Female], "Anyway, are you looking for your teacher? " The [Girl] asked.

The logical and truthful answer was [No]. She didn't know what a [Teacher] was, but she was sure that she didn't have one of those. "Yes," but she answered that, since not having something that she was supposed to have would be bad for her [Disguise].

"Do you know what she is called? Mine is Miss Baking! She is nice, even if she doesn't give us cakes even though she's Baking." She would add that to her growing list of possible phenotypes. One that was always doing something and had enough time to take care of other [Child-Stage Humans] would be one that had a good multitask CPU.

That was something she could use for her personalized [Design], "I do not know the designation of my [Teacher - Unit]." She answered while preparing most of her defenses to go into overdrive at the most minimal sign of hostilities.

She had taken the chance to say that when they arrived at one point of their walk when three routes had opened, most of the other [Child-Stage Humans] had gone into one, the other one seemed to go into what looked like a dead end if her [Boosted Eyes] were to be trusted, and the final fourth route seemed to have

different [Smells] mixed, so she was banking her hopes in having a broader catalog of [Blueprints] to disguise herself.

"It's okay!" The [Girl] said while letting her hand up and down into one of her shoulders, "I also took like forever to learn Miss Baking's name!"

"It's Baker you brat." A [Woman] said while attacking the [Girl]!

The [Girl] let a small yelp as she used both hands to search for damages on her [Head], "There you are. Did you hear about our tour and sneak into it? All the classes have all the students accounted for." The [Woman] spoke while narrowing her eyes at her.

Had she been found out? But they had stated that a [Sundress] girl was in their numbers! Was this a deception?

Something must have changed as the look the [Woman] gave her changed, and she released a breath "It's okay, we aren't mad. We do need to find your parents if you come with them. If not... Well, do you know your parent's number? Or your address? We can get you to your home in one of the teacher's cars while we get the brats back to school." It seemed as if she was...okay?

Weren't they mad because of the deception?

"I will need a name by the way," Or not, again with the [Name], was it a designation?

She didn't have one, or not one she could use.

"...See, this is how you should be Melissa, an adult you don't know asks you for your name, you don't tell them." The Woman said while speaking to the [Girl].

Wait, her designation was [Melissa]? Was this a clue?

Main core! Query: Search for use of [Designation] and find a fitting [Name]!

"[Query Accepted...Searching database.]"

"But that's only in places where there are bad adults! Like the streets! Or the understomach!" The [Girl] called [Melissa] answered.

"Underbelly, also that isn't real." The [Teacher] answered. "Now I can't keep calling you Sundress, I promise that I'm trustworthy. I'm, after all, a Teacher. Our job is to be there for little girls who are lost like you."

"[Database search finished, collating results...Calculating a more efficient naming scheme...Taking into consideration Host predilections...]"

Main Core was taking its sweet time... "My [Name/Designation] is..." She started speaking slowly, she noticed one of the [Keratin] growings above the [Teacher]'s eyes seemed to move. Had she missed something again?

Damnation! She needed a better [Social] library!

Main Core!

"[Name generated, please say...]"

She didn't take time to listen and straight up patched the result to her vocal cords, "...Alexand..." And noticed that the main core straight up patched the name of the blonde man she fought before her [Awakening]!

"Alexandra huh, that is a cute name." The [Teacher] finished for her, she had said a different name though...Was Alexander a name not apt for a [Female Unit]?

"Yes, Alexandra. That's my [Designation]!" She felt something [Change] within her [Core] as she uttered those words, as if something shifted and felt herself more [Her].

"See Melissa, you should be like her, instead of shortening her name like you do to Meli, she says her full name." And the teacher said towards the other [Girl].

"But teaaaaaach, Melissandra is such an old lady's name. Melissa is more cute, and Meli is even cuter!" The [Girl] said, what was this?

She had a three-stage name?

Did that hold some kind of hidden power within the [Humans], then shouldn't she try and harness that kind of power?

Main core!

"[...Calculating formulae to follow that scheme of Power...]"

Always trust [Main Core], she couldn't believe she fought against this thing just a few [Hours] ago!

"I'm sure she does the same, right Alexa...Alessa...Ale...Right Ale?" The other girl seemed to have some malfunctions in her [Vocal - Speakers].

"You may call me [Alexa] if you want." She said and felt something within her settle more strongly, something told her that she should project her chest forward and look upwards while using that weird facial snarl others used.

So she did, this felt [**Right**].

The result was immediate, the other girl [Designation - Melissandra/Melissa/Meli] smiled and circled her body with her arms as she did some weird motion with her face trying to impregnate her with whatever weird liquids she was secreting from her [Face].

"Okay that's about it, you are scaring Alexa." The teacher said while grabbing the other [Girl] from the base of her upper armor, interesting. So armor could be used like that and not only as protection.

"BUT SHE IS SO CUTE!!!!" Shrieked [Melissa] and she felt herself inch a few steps backward.

Did she have a malfunction?

Actually, didn't Pg act somewhat like that in its final moments?

Oh...Pg!

She needed to make sure her disguise wasn't pierced, lest she end as Pg, but how?

*"[Suggestion; Child - Stage animals look up to the older members of their species.
Advice: Seek council from **older members***

*of the **Humans** about doubts so long these do not compromise the **disguise**.]"*

Well, that was easy enough, "Did I do something wrong [Teacher]?" So for now, pretend to be a [Child] and act as such.

"Oh no, you are okay. This child is sick." The [Teacher] said while [Melissa] struggled as she extended her arms towards her previous target [Me].

But what is this [Sick] she speaks of?

"I'M NOT SICK! SHE IS TOO CUTE TO NOT HUG!" The [girl] shrieked again.

Shrieked, such a nice word.

"Don't mind her Alexa, her mother is also sick with the same thing, so it probably runs in her blood. Anime, such a dangerous thing to expose a child to." The [Teacher] did some weird sideways movement with her head as she moved away with [Melissa].

Main Core, order: Save [Anime] as dangerous [Sick].

"[Acknowledge, saved in priority database for further investigation and possible weaponization.]"

That would do for now, she ignored the other [Girl] as she seemed to want to free herself from the clutches of the [Teacher] who was carrying her under her arm.

She noticed how the other girl didn't seem to want to move her lower body appendages as much as her upper body ones, was this part of the [Sick]?

The only visual difference she found was that the lower body ones had a variant of her [Sundress]...Oh...

She didn't want to expose her under armor even while in captivity... The lower body of the [Female - Human] variant had such a disadvantage? Then the advantages this [model] must have should be quite the thing over the [Male - Human] variant.

More reasons to stay using [Blueprints] similar to these ones, while thinking over these kind of things they arrived to their destination. As the [Teacher] finally let [Melissa] down, who quickly ran towards her and latched onto one of her arms while squinting her eyes in the direction of the teacher.

She was lubricating them for some reason while holding onto her, the [Teacher] only did that weird form with her mouth.

"[Designation: Smile]"

She did the [Smile] and moved her head sideways while speaking to other [Teacher] units, [Melissa] for her part kept lubricating her eyes while holding onto her.

Oh, she was using her as a [Visual Aid] since her [Eyes] were lubricating, smart. And also that helped as evidence that her [Disguise] hadn't been penetrated, no smart race as the [Humans] would let a [Child - Stage] members of their with another species while vulnerable like this.

Perfect.

This meant her [Disguise] had overcome all the difficulties, now she only needed to escape this [Den] and search for another place to settle, maybe try and incorporate herself into a...

What do [Humans] call a group of their species?

"[Possible names: Herd, flock, pack, pod, school, pride, swarm, colony, gaggle, murder, hive, brood, shoal, family, cluster...]"

Main Core as always gave a long list of possible ways to call them, she was partial towards either pod, swarm, hive, brood, or murder. A species full of predators should have one similar to those, she had fought subjects that were under the designation of [Hive] and [Swarm] already, and those moved in groups of similar-minded subjects.

Similar to all these [Human - Child Stage] [Girls] and [Boys], but those moved in a single mind focus, not like the [Chaos] these [Human - Child Stage] did. So that removed two of the valid options.

So then what were they called?

Perhaps she would ask the [Teacher] again, it seemed quite [Happy] when she answered her question before... And it even took [Melissa] away from her!

Maybe it could do the same again, one could only get so much [Blueprint] information from another [Human] before it became redundant, and she had enough [Blueprint] of [Melissa] to mimic her body at 100% fidelity already...

Also, she needed to fix her [Toxin filtration] and [Heart cavity], she had too much [Waste] in both, oily waste. Did one of her internal pipes mix the contents?

Such [Messy] care of herself, even though it was such an easy fix...

Chapter 13: Subject P8 – Variant B, Code Name 8UN135

"And this is project subject 8UN135, they are designed in the image of a certain species of rodent. Can you guess which one?" A [Woman] she had never seen before spoke her question.

This one was dressed in an [Armor] of different style, her lower body armor was shorter and exposed a patch of skin, it was around [5 cm] till a new [Armor] set showed itself, it was an extended version of the [Socks] she had copied from [Melissandra].

She needed one of those, more [Armor] was always better.

"A BUNNY!" The [Kids] around her raised their voices as an answer.

She almost answered the question with the name she knew them for, Subject P8-Variant B.

A [Swarm-Hive] variant organic subject that fought in waves, they didn't mind the losses and were an important reason of why her previous [Form] was covered mostly in an exoskeleton that guarded her fleshy bits.

"That's right, they were made based on the [*Brachylagus idahoensis*]. Or what you all know as a bunny." The [Woman] spoke as a [Square-shaped glass] descended from the [Ceiling] and showed a picture of something similar to the P8- Variant B on it.

She knew they weren't another P8 subject as those had more useless parts to their [Blueprint], unlike the P8 subject, these had more [Hair] than needed, and their [Hears] were more exposed.

She knew these P8 had exposed ears too, but she had learned the hard way that those were dummy aids that could be disposed of as a trap vector. *Stupid rabbits.*

"[New Emotion detected, Anger. Filed for further study.]"

"And you can get to play with the rabbits! Raise your hand if you want to play with the rabbits ♪" The Woman said, was she crazy?

Why would anyone in their sane mind want to [Play] with a bioweapon?

"YEEEEES!!!"She needed a word to express her feelings.

"[Suggestion: Dang it, damnation, crap, F#ck.]"

Oh, that was a good one, thank you Main Core.

Dang it.

"Go and play with them, they don't bite." The [Woman] said as all the other [Kids] ran into the test chamber.

How did she know it was a test chamber?

Easy, first of all. If a bioweapon is in a chamber, then that is a test chamber.

Second, she recognized the test chamber and could even see the [Door] that led into her former [Den].

Third, this was the same [Room] she had arrived when exiting her [Den].

And finally, this one didn't have anything to do with that, but she felt a new [Blueprint] enter her memory reservoir, she also felt the telltale of a new [Armor] in her hand. So turning her attention to her [Hand] she found that her [Hand] had grabbed the hem of the lower body armor of the [Teacher].

"Alexa? You don't want to play with the Bunnies?" Asked the [Teacher] as she placed her own [Hand] over hers.

It was bigger than hers.

"[New Human - Female blueprint updated...Calculating possible future form of current Blueprint...]"

"[Acquired new Stage of Female growth phase, Adult. Calculating...Missing links between growth stages.]"

[Main Core] showed two new updates in her mind, but she ignored those. Instead, she focused on her [Hand], she hadn't moved it.

Taking notice of it, her body seemed to be having some uncontrolled reaction, her [Sight] blurred as her [Head] seemed to move sideways, a motion she recognized in other [Humans] but hadn't been able to pin a reason to it.

"You can stay with me dear, it's okay. The bunnies will not come here." The [Teacher] said in a weird new sub-vocalization tone.

"[New Emotional tone detected, soothing. Filed to archive.]"

Her body seemed to be secreting all kinds of new chemicals, it was similar to what she did with her older body when she wanted a burst of speed, something she correlated to [Kill] other subjects. Or in cases she needed to [Dodge], but here?

She wasn't in danger, well, not more than usual in a hostile environment surrounded by [Predators], and she didn't fear the P8 subjects, not really. She had defeated them before and survived said encounters. Granted her current body wasn't that fight-capable, since she hadn't found the hidden means by which the [Humans] reigned over other species as powerful as the [Square-shaped] entities.

"They can't come here right?" The [Teacher] asked the [Woman] that had granted the other [Kids] access to the testing chamber.

"No, the subjects can't leave that chamber. And even if they somehow managed to, there are kill switches in them to make sure they stop functioning beyond their assigned dens." One of the [White Armored] humans answered.

"What he means is that the bunnies can't leave that room darling. It's okay, they aren't real bunnies, they can't hurt you." The [Woman] said with that weird face the [Humans] did to show their teeth.

"See Alexa, you are safe here. The bad bunny can't get you here." The [Teacher] also said.

She...wasn't quite sure what she was [Feeling], in one side her body seemed to tremble when looking at that chamber, and she also got a weird feeling of wanting to stay as far away as possible from the spot where she had arrived into this room. Interestingly, mostly they seemed to come from her more [Biological] side, as her [Logical] side didn't seem to find a reason for those [Feelings]. She would need to study those further.

"Can I stay here?" She heard herself say, interesting, her more [Biological] side seemed to not want to go inside, while her more [Logical] side of course didn't want it either, she had released some control on her [Meaty] side to see how her body would move.

"Of course, you can stay darling, want us to go to the lobby?" Asked the [Teacher], and she couldn't help but be in accord with the answer her body gave.

"YES" A rotund affirmative answer, her body even moved with haste as it tried to pull the [Teacher] to the [Door].

"Okay okay, let me get someone to cover me first." The [Teacher] said while bringing a small square object from one of the openings in her armor.

She seemed to press something on the crystal-like front of it, was she communing with that [Square-shaped] entity?

"There, now we need to wait..." Started saying the [Teacher] before they heard a shrill like voice.

"I'M HERE!!!" screaming down, she almost jumped into attack!

"I told you to not scream, you scared Alexa." The [Teacher] said while attacking the shrill emitting person.

She was scared? Was the [Combat] stance emotion called [scared]?

Weird, that didn't feel quite right for the intention behind that hormonal cocktail. But then again, this was a [Predator] race she was thinking about, surely there was some context she was missing in there.

"Heheheheheh, anyway. You want me to take this cutie to the lobby, or to take care of the kiddos?" Asked shrill voice.

The [Teacher] seemed to take a moment to think about it only to say "You stay here, I will take Alexa to the Lobby." Shrill voice seemed to deflate at that.

The other [Human]s that had asked seemed to have some internal troubles with its suspension mechanism as its torso seemed to deflate and its arms seemed to lower in height.

"Okay....I'll check on the brats....lest the murder bunnies eat one or something." And said as much while walking towards the testing area.

Classical human behavior, placing their [Child Stage] members within [Predator] enclosure to [Play], no matter how important that type of information was, she wasn't willing to risk her [Main Core] being detected and exposed. She hadn't experienced any kind of trouble yet, and she wasn't willing to risk it just to see how the [Child Stage Human] would face one of her brethren.

No, "Let's go, quick..." Instead she would hurry up this [Teacher] away from this cursed place, away from its testing arenas, away from the den, away from a future that would probably end when another [Human] wanted to get a different form for their testing subject for some inane reason.

"Okay okay, I'm coming." Said the [Teacher] while she [Allowed] herself to be pulled by Alexa...using that name would need some practice.

The teacher stopped at the [Door] and turned to one of the [humans] within the [Room] "Will the kids be safe? Are those bunnies dangerous?" And asked to them.

What kind of silly question was that? Of course, they would be safe, they were [Humans] they had slaved the mighty race of [Square shaped organism] to their whims!

They were predators in their own right!

Had it been her with her pitiful understanding of the [Human] body? She would be dead before she knew it, she wasn't able to pump even one-hundredth of the power she held in her former body, but these [humans] that knew their own bodies?

"They are safe, not a single bunny in that enclosure can harm a kid." The other [Human] said with one of those weird snarls they used to speak with each other.

"I will hold you to that." And on that note, the [Teacher] turned to her and snarled at her too, "Let's go, Alexa...With some luck, we will find either your parents or a guardian...who did you come with?"

...What was the right word for this emotion [Main Core]?

*"[Internal library formed from passive analysis from surrounding advice for the use of the word: **Dang it.**]"*

A good suggestion as the next.

Dang it.

"Umm...." She wasn't sure what to answer to that, she didn't know what type of internal structure the [Humans] used, nor what a [Parent] or [Guardian] referred to.

"...Alexa...Did you sneak away?" The teacher said while her eyes narrowed, they hadn't stopped walking at any moment. And she saw light at the end of the hallway they were on.

Maybe she could stall for time and make a run for it? She may be weaker and not aware of the current limits of her body, but the passive analysis she got from the [Teacher] body said that she had a bigger amount of muscle mass and energy in her body. Add to that her smaller frame, she should be able to escape easily enough...So long the [Adult Stage - Human] couldn't shapeshift their body like her...Or use weird abilities like some of the other P-series subjects... Who was she kidding, they probably could do the same and more.

"*sigh* At least can you return home on your own?" Asked the [Teacher] in a weird emotional state she hadn't picked up yet.

"[New emotional state found: Distress, Defeat, Submission.]"

Distress? Submission? What?

"...Yesh?" Her mouth seemed to slip and add an extra sound there, was it because she wasn't quite sure what the question referred to?

She didn't have a [Home] to return to, what even is that?

"Okay, let's make a deal then. You answer one question truthfully...If you don't want to answer it's okay too, just don't lie to me okay?" The [Teacher] said stopping a few meters away from a pair of crystalline doors.

They were so close to freedom...

"Okay. I promise." Alexa said, filtering through the social encounters the other [Kids] her [Age] had while they were moving between places.

"Will someone hurt you when we go into the reception?" The [Teacher] asked while focusing all her external sensory organs on her.

She could feel the intensity of her [Eyes] focusing on all her micro-movements, how even her [Breath] seemed to even out so as to not miss any of her hormonal distress signals, she could swear that even her [ears] seemed to filter other sounds besides her.

Truly, the [Gaze of a Predator]...Was the [Teacher] into her deception? Was she doubting her identity as a fellow [Predator]?

"No. No one should want to hurt me in [The reception]." She answered, it was the truth as she didn't even know what a [Reception] was, if she didn't know, then it stood to reason that no one would know her, or want to hurt her...

"...Good. Next question." The [Teacher] said, while stopping for a few seconds as her head bobbed up and down. "Are your parents hurting you?"

...That one was harder to answer, did she have parents?

"[Answer to query: Inconclusive answer, more data required.]"

The first part was harder to answer, so maybe the second would do? Was someone hurting her?

...The answer was a yes. She didn't get hurt as much nowadays, but she had gotten hurt in a few of the tests. She even got hurt on the last one and while escaping, she got hurt in the metallic tunnel and while first exploring that [Room].

It was something she was used to, getting hurt.

"...You don't have to answer Alexa." The voice of the [Teacher] was weird, it seemed to... break? The tone seemed to want to go higher and vibrate twice as much. "...No one is waiting for you in the hallway, are they?"

What did [Main Core] say?

Oh right...Dang it.

"...No." She answered while preparing to make a run for, she felt the usual cocktail of hormones start pumping in her bloodstream, within her [Feet] she felt the muscles prepare to tense, contract, and release, the internal energy reservoir was connected to all the right muscles and her [Brain] was stockpiling oxygen to make sure it would stay working for as long as possible at the highest speed possible.

"*sigh*, I should call your parents, but I assume you don't have any number nor will give me any number to call. Right?" The [Teacher] said as her grip on her [Hand] got stronger.

A statement, she would need to ditch that hand, sever it at the base if she wanted to escape, not many test subjects would sever their own body parts to escape, a few used that strategy and even managed to hurt her quite badly using that strategy. Till she learned from them and did the same.

Part of the reason she favored her previous form was that it was easier to ditch body parts, her current form didn't allow such an easy thing, she would probably lose quite the amount of [Blood] and [Biomass] to achieve it, but she would do it.

Her [Survival] was the most important thing.

"You know, when in a situation like this we have protocols to follow. If we can't locate a parent or guardian we must call social services...They would pick you up and bring you to a police station to try and find your parents...In case they can't they will put up a notice and get you to an orphanage..." The [Teacher] started speaking, her voice seemed to steel itself in an even tone. "I am an orphan myself

you know, my mother was a deadbeat drug addict....And you probably don't know what that is..."

Then the [Teacher] started making that weird repetitive noise while her face morphed into a snarl, "Here is the deal, I will let you go. I will pretend to not notice how you walk away while I try to ask if any other teacher has a missing student." What? "If you are a student, just pick a seat and wait...If not...Well, I will not notice."

She...what?

She knew her identity...or the fact that she wasn't one of the [Child Stage - Humans] that were supposed to be here. Why was she doing this?

"Hah, that settles it down, we are the same you see..." The [Teacher] said, was...was the [Teacher] another bioweapon? "Now here is the thing...I can't in good consciousness let you go without a safety net, so take this."

The [Teacher] gave her a thin square object, it held some of the same weird lines she had seen in the crystal-shaped on the other room, "That is my information. My address, my phone number(the private one mind you), and other stuff you need to call me. If you want or need help, call me."

"Why?" She couldn't hold back anymore and asked as much, she dismissed a few error messages from [Main Core] asking her why she wasn't taking advantage of this. This was everything she could have asked for.

"Because I know an abused kid when I see one, Melissa is an Awakener so she gave me a big clue. But even without that, I know the eyes of someone without dreams or hope...And let me tell you, Alexa. If you want to pass as a normal kid, try to do something about your eyes." And like that the [Teacher] pulled her into the shining door.

She was prepared for an ambush, for a stealth attack...For anything really.

Instead, she found...[Humans]. Tons and tons of [Humans], more than she had ever seen, in different sizes and forms, some bigger than others, both vertically and horizontally.

In all stages too, plenty of [Child Stage - Human], a few [Adult Stage - Humans], and a few extra stages that she suspected were between her current stage and the stage the [Teacher] was... And maybe even some after that stage too.

At some point while she basked in the cacophony of [Blueprints] she could see the [Teacher] let go of her hand and walked towards a [Human] hiding behind a [Square-shaped entity], she noticed the [Teacher] looking at her and then pointing towards a [Door] with her eyes.

And following that direction she noticed how the [Walls] in this [Test chamber] seemed to separate it from another bigger [Test Chamber]. At the side of that [Door] stood a pair of [Armored] humans.

The [Apex] of their model, the ones that were sent to deal with her every time she had tried to fight her way out...

But this time they didn't seem to hold any sort of enmity towards her, as she walked towards the [Door] they both only gave her a cursory glance, "Did you forget something outside?" one of the two asked.

One with a voice similar to the [Teacher] in the same range at least, "Yesh...Can I...Go?" She asked, noticing how her voice seemed to default once more to that weird slurred way of mixing words.

"Did you ask permission from your teacher?" Asked once more the same [Armored] human.

Did she? "I got pointed at the door by the [Teacher]..." She answered, was that permission though?

"Good enough, let the brat go. We ain't getting paid to be babysitters." The other [Armored] human said.

"If you need help come and get us okay?" The first [Armored] human said as the doors opened.

They too said to go to them for help...Was this something older [Humans] did? Why was so many different [Humans] saying the same thing to her? She may need to check her current [Design], getting this much scrutiny by [Humans] could be dangerous, but for now? She walked through the [Doors].

She was [Free].

Chapter 14: A Teacher's struggles

I was told that being a Teacher wasn't for me.

That I couldn't relate to most normal children, granted, my upbringing was less than stellar, and being an orphan thrown away by my mother surely made me look at the whole family thing in a different light.

Being thrown from home to home until I was fifteen and no longer someone that would get adopted made me cynical enough to understand that life sucks. And barely getting a scholarship that allowed me to be a teacher was something other teachers took offense with.

I couldn't get a job in higher education schools, not in middle schools either, some elementary schools would take me, but most just wanted me to cover shifts and wouldn't let me take a class for myself.

That is till I found my current employer, this one took problematic children, take Meli for example. Melissandra Singh, she is the daughter of a couple of rich parents, but they don't know how to deal with her, she is among what we call Core Users, people who awake extraordinary abilities.

Hers allows her to feed into the emotions of people around and distribute them equally among the people around her, she as a kid didn't understand complex emotions, so when she took the Disgust her mother felt for her husband and fed it into said husband...

Yes, that one was an interesting way to find out your wife didn't love you. I would feel bad for the husband, but when the girl took the remnants of Lust he had after coming home from an affair and fed it into that woman.

Yikes, that must have been quite an interesting day at the Singh household.

She didn't have problems with the girl, that was one convenient powerset to have at a school, she just needed to ask two types of problem children for her class, the hyperactive ones no one wanted and the shy ones that always got at the back and no one wanted to deal with.

Then you put Melissa in the middle and she feeds the hyperactive emotions to the shy ones and equalizes the whole class making for a more normal and average one.

She still smirked when some of the other teachers tried to take one of the hyperactive ones thinking she had fixed him, it got sent back to her before the day ended and they didn't try that again. The only one she didn't allow to leave was Melisa, and that didn't need help, no one wanted to deal with the flak you get for taking care of the Singh brat.

The kids in her class, thanks to that, tended to be of the problematic type, bullies that had problems at home, love children that got thrown away, you name it.

So when that blonde girl showed up of course they shoved it her way, and while she had no evidence that it was intentional, she also didn't have doubts.

The girl reeked of abuse or abandonment, her dress had blood stains that seemed to be almost washed out, and she wasn't wearing any shoes at first, but at some point, she had gotten a pair of sandals.

And she was dressed so light, as in the girl only had a sundress on her, nothing else. That was the biggest red flag of all, why would you send your kid into the streets without anything but a sundress, a very thin and almost see-through sundress at that.

You only used those at home in hot summers, or in more rural settings, in the type of small town where everyone knew everyone and they slept with the doors open. Not the case for her, they stood in the middle of a city in a very dangerous neighborhood, she half believed the girl had escaped from one of the test chambers, to be honest.

But since the clerks didn't panic nor say anything she crossed that one of the marks, no. The girl was an enigma, and the fact that Melissa stuck to her like glue was another sign.

Melisa equalized emotions, so she gravitated to two types of people, the ones that emanated the most emotions in a place that wasn't charged... Or the ones with the more complex emotions, usually that meant that she stood near a teacher or a faculty member that was around, since they were the most emotionally stable or the ones with more complex thoughts.

But the girl stuck to the blonde girl, which meant that either she was brimming with emotions, or that she had emotions more complex than average.

And right now she was trying to not seethe, that was a more complex emotion of anger, one she was trying to not feel as that would spook Melissa.

Getting the name of the girl had been somewhat hard, and that spoke more against her, happy children didn't mind giving their name, but abused children did. They were trained to not give away information, as that usually meant that their parents could be traced.

She got it in the end, Alexandra (Probably), as Melissa interrupted them. That wasn't the problem here, but the face the girl made as she gave her name, first as if that wasn't the name she wanted to give, or more like surprise at someone saying it and nothing bad happening. She wasn't sure what it had been.

It could have been guilt for giving a fake name, but Melissa didn't react, so it was probably the second. And wasn't that something to make her stomach drop.

Alexa had thought something bad would happen since she gave her name, another tally against whoever her parents were.

But she had a plan to make the little girl happy, they would get a turn at seeing the stupid mascot the scientist had, she had needed to fork some money to make sure they would get a turn of course, but she used the chance when Alexa and Melisa went to the bathroom to make that.

"And the bunnies are safe?" She asked one of the scientists as he counted the money.

"Yes, they can't attack unless we give the order, so you want your sundress brat to be among those that get a chance?" Asked the scientist, she didn't ask for a name, not that they would ever meet again, she wasn't sure if she would keep this job longer either, the Singh family would probably want their daughter back, and that was the only reason she had managed to keep the job.

"Yes, make one snuggle her or something. If you make her laugh I will fork more money." She said as she showed another 200 bills.

It was most of her money for the week, but if it made the girl happy it would be well spent.

"Sure, but I will not give the money back if the girl doesn't like the bunnies, some kids seem to be able to feel they are fake. Stupid [Awakeners] and their stupid [Core skills]. They are making our lives harder." The scientist seemed to be against the new order in the world, she was okay with that.

"So long we are clear, we will steer you towards the room that will get the petting session, move along." And like that, they ended their deal.

She had hoped that would make the girl open up. A happy kid is a speaking kid, so when the girl returned and she was now wearing underwear that had been interesting.

Had she stolen it? Doubtful, kids usually snitched quickly enough, did anyone else bring extras?

Also, doubtful, kids these ages weren't that forward-thinking, and if someone sent them extras they would have given it to the teachers, and she was sure she didn't get any extras. So how was it possible?

Maybe the girl had sneaked them and forgot to put them on? That or she just took the chance to put them on in the bathroom.

That was the next thing, she was too mature. No lisp, no nagging, no joy in her eyes...oh god, her eyes.

She had seen more emotions in the dead eyes of a fish at the market, the girl's eyes were empty. Such beautiful blue eyes, her face was almost as if it had been carved by the gods, and her eyes were as devoid of emotions as the blue sky.

If her behavior, dressing, or the way she spoke was something of a clue, then her eyes would be the deciding factor. She had the eyes of someone who hadn't hopes nor dreams, those weren't the eyes a child should have.

Those were the eyes of a grizzled war veteran, of someone who had seen the worst humanity had to offer and then moved on. She...she would have nightmares if she didn't do anything, but then again, what could she do?

She would need to report the girl to the other teachers and then make a count to see if someone had a girl missing, if she wasn't found to be missing in a class then they would ask her for her parent's name or a number to call.

If nothing was given then she would be sent to protection services or something and be searched in the system, then she would be sent back to her parents, the same ones that abused her, the same ones that would probably come crying and thanking them, only to starve the girl for escaping and wanting to see something nice.

And they were starving her, she could see her figure easily enough thanks to the same sundress she was using, she didn't have any baby fat on her, not on her face, not in her stomach, not in her arms or legs.

She didn't even have long hair, and wasn't that a crime? The girl had one of the most beautiful hairs she had ever seen, and it was short and mangled. As if no one had ever cared, wasn't the hair a woman's pride?

She needed to find a way to help her, as she kept thinking that they arrived at the place where they would find the stupid bunnies, and where Alexa would probably get some happy memories.

She had been wrong.

So wrong.

She soon enough found that, as she felt a tug at her clothes, looking down she found the hand of the little girl grabbing her jeans and trembling, Alexa showed for the first time an emotion in her small eyes.

Fear.

Pure and unadulterated fear, her lips trembled, and her eyes darted around the room as if searching for something that would attack her, she warily stood behind her with most of the room in front of her.

And after speaking something more they had decided to leave the room, which calmed Alexa but she was still stealing glances backward as if to make sure no one was following them.

Had she seen a familiar face? Impossible, no one seemed to react to her. Then did the room layout look similar to her home? That would be bad, and mean that she was definitely getting abused.

Or...was it the testing chamber? The pen looking room?

Was...Was Alexa stuck in a F%ck!ng PEN!?!?

She almost wanted to scream, to find Alexa's parents and take their head and shove it so far their own A\$\$ that it made it to their mouth, but in the end, decided to give Alexa a chance...Not a good one, one that would get her fired if she was a student in another of the teacher's classes.

But the best one she wished someone had given to her when she was a kid.

"Will someone hurt you when we go into the reception?" She asked Alexa, wondering if her parents were there, wondering if someone would hurt this poor kid.

"No." Answered Alexa, the girl had said more of course, but she wasn't in an emotional state to understand.

The next series of questions was hard and to be honest, not something she remembered well enough, the important thing was "No one is waiting for you in the hallway...are they?"

And Alexa's almost heartbreaking answer of no.

In the end, she had decided to risk it, risk it by giving Alexa all the help she was able to, her card with most of her information. An answer of what had given her act away... And...A wish to make sure she would escape that bad situation.

She knew no orphanage in this city would actually do something good for Alexa, no matter what they said, she knew that if she tried to take her away she would either be arrested or fired.

So instead she gave her one of her personal information cards, with some luck Alexa would either call for her later (When she wasn't at work) or go to her house for a safe place to sleep.

Either way, she walked with Alexa in hand into the reception area. Alexa seemed to tense when they walked into it but in the end nothing happened, no worried parents coming for their child... No one motioned towards them, nothing.

As she walked toward the reception desk she saw in her peripheral vision Alexa looking at her, so she pointed at the doors with her eyes and ignored her.

"Can I help you?" Asked the receptionist.

"Yes, I'm one of the teachers of..." She started explaining that she would need to make time for Alexa to run away.

"What can I do for you?" The receptionist cut her short. Rude.

"When we arrived you all marked us with biodegradable chips, can you make a headcount of them and make sure no kids are in weird spots?" Well two could play that game, so they better get a headcount.

If Alexa was a student of theirs, that would mark her up, and it was better they burn that one out now than later.

"Let me see...Most are in the pet a-bunny room, some are on the playgrounds...a few are in the bathrooms...Nope, all accounted for where they should be." Said the receptionist, "Did you lose one?"

"Not a single student is on this reception or outside?" She asked while trying to not smile at that.

"No, why?" The receptionist looked at her weirdly but that was okay.

Alexa wasn't a student, so she sneaked in...So the school had no reason to search for her, if Alexa was abused as she suspected, then at the very least they wouldn't try to get her back to her home.

Not unless a teacher wanted to do so, that is...And of the teachers in that school, only she was the one that really cared, so maybe she would try to search for Alexa's parents...

Just to make sure they weren't a danger to Alexa of course, she wouldn't try to sue the hell out of them.

No sir.

Chapter 15: The great escape!

The world outside the [Building] was a cacophony of sounds, images, and movement. She soon enough found herself surrounded by a new variant of the square-shaped entity. Truly this one was higher in the hierarchy as these ones were of bright yellow color and had circular appendages on the sides. Two at the front and two at the back.

They looked like the [Wheel] implement some of the P1-P3 test subjects liked to use, and the same the [Humans] had tried to make me use, but since they weren't useful for all-terrain encounters I never used them.

However, if the flooring was as smooth everywhere as it was around here, it was obvious why the square-shaped yellow entity would want to use them.

"We aren't allowing students onto the bus yet. If you want to rest either go to the reception area or get a teacher's note." A voice almost made her jump from surprise.

She turned to look at the square-shaped yellow entity wondering if this would be her first interaction with them.

"Up here girl, on the driver's seat." But the voice spoke to her again, this time she was ready and quickly found the origin of it, it came...from within the square-shaped entity.

From a [Door] that had opened at some point allowing her to peer into the innards of the square-shaped entity.

What she found horrified her and surprised her at the same time, it was...hollow.

In the front was a [Human] dressed in blue thin lower armor with white upper thin armor, "I know you kids don't want to visit the eggheads, but it's for your own good. So as I said, either get a teacher's note or wait at reception." The [Human] spoke.

But she was too busy taking all in, the humans had [Hollowed] the square-shaped entity, adorned its internal body with spots to sit, and possibly made it so another [Human] could direct its movement.

They had turned what was no doubt a dangerous adversary (If only going by its sheer size and possible kinetic force) into a means to move from point A to Point B.

It made her shudder to only think of the implications, and to be thankful for not having tried to escape using her previous form, just thinking that her [Glorious] form could have been hollowed out to allow [Humans] to travel...

It made her...

"[Sick] "

Yes, it made her sick to think about it.

"Okay, thank you, sir." But she needed to mesh in this type of society till she found at least a group to join and mix with.

So far she had thought about joining the square-shaped entities and fighting against the [Humans], but she hadn't found any willing to speak to her, and she wasn't sure she could be able to mimic them well enough, she didn't have a full [Blueprint] for them after all.

She only had the full [Blueprint] for the [Human - Female Child] so far, so exiting the square-shaped entity that she sincerely wished wasn't alive anymore... She took it all in.

The [Human] aboard this square-shaped entity wasn't paying attention to her, and was fiddling with ANOTHER smaller square-shaped entity.

The [Humans] at the [Doors] weren't paying attention to her either, and in this [Room] that seemed to have a [Ceiling] so far up that she didn't know what to think about she was wondering what to do.

So instead she tried to ask [Main Core] for advice.

"[Query: Best course of action]" Asked Alexa to [Main Core] as she walked to a spot behind the yellow square-shaped organism, far away from prying eyes.

"[Answer: Option 1, return and pledge allegiance to the Humans as their power seems to be more dangerous than previously implied from the Blueprint] "

Denied, that was the last possible option. She didn't want to end up as one of the square-shaped entities, enslaved for life, not after she had her newfound freedom.

Besides, she was getting used to this thing called [Self].

"[Answer: Option 2, run. Run as far away from this den, the current observation of human interaction implies that there are multiple groups within the collective. Find a group stronger than the current one and try to integrate into it.]"

That... seemed more doable, and perhaps if she found another group willing to take her in she could find more about the dynamics between the [Humans] and all the other races they had enslaved so far.

She wouldn't be able to disclose her true nature of course, but maybe if she integrated herself well enough they would grant her whatever access was needed to unlock her full potential as a [Human]?

Or to tell her what the hell was that [Core] thing she had gotten, it was different from her [Main Core], and it shouldn't be able to do what it did, but who was she to judge how the [Humans] worked the things that they hid within their bodies.

So with a plan in hand, she would need to-

"[Advice: Record any and all indications that could identify the current group affiliated with this area.] "

Checkup if she was able to find any information to identify this place, so sneaking around making sure she always stayed outside the range of view of the [Humans] around she made a note to [Record] everything her [Eyes] could see in her memory.

Even the weird [Lines] that were carved into the side of the previous smaller [Room].

Some weird lines that seemed to hold some kind of meaning that was far detached from what she knew.

[Saintsworth's Conglomerate]

She wasn't able to understand them, perhaps after studying more about the [Culture] of the [Humans] she would be able to associate those weird lines with other meanings.

Or at least understand their sense of aesthetics. She still wasn't quite sure why they liked these kinds of clothing, after being on this form for barely a few [Hours] she was getting annoyed at the feeling of other [Humans] looking at her bare unprotected body.

Was it comfortable to use this [Sundress]? Yes.

Did it leave her exposed? Also Yes.

So taking the chance of hiding away from the prying eyes of the [Humans] she used the [Power] that had awoken within her.

"**Order**, Nanite Foundry create a new set of [Clothing], design it for comfort and ease of movement. Limit design to observed [Blueprints] used around by other [Human - Child Stage] targets." She felt something leave her body as the words left her mouth.

Something within her body seemed to be consumed, and it wasn't only the materials to follow her order, it was some kind of warm [Energy] that seemed to leave her abdomen, travel to her [Core] hidden within her [Heart] and then disappear into the void.

That shouldn't be possible!

Entropy was a thing that very much existed!

She didn't have too much time to complain about it though, since the [Nanites] within her body started working, they took part of the remaining material she had available within her body and the remains of her current [Armor] to transform it into something different.

Her [Sundress] started shortening itself, transforming into a white [Shirt] similar to the one other [Girls] wore, it even had a [Star] design on it. Her lower armor was then replaced as it grew in size till it formed a pair of [Short Pants].

They looked oddly familiar and she soon found them in her [Memory], they were similar to those that Melissa had, and she found herself staring at her [Legs] as her [Feet] got dressed with [Socks] and a pair of [Sneakers].

Her [Hair] grew a [Hair Tie] and it collected the short [Hair] into a single [Pony Tail], a quick look into one of the square-shaped crystal panels to see her own [Reflection] ended with...

A blonde [Human-Child Stage Girl] staring back at her, she was dressed in a white [Blouse] with a pair of blue [Short Pants] and yellow [Sneakers] with white socks. She had a small [Pony Tail] that was barely working as her hair was short.

A quick prodding at the [Nanite Foundry] and her hair grew a few centimeters to allow the [Pony Tail] to work as intended, but sure enough, she felt more [Safe], now that most of her important body parts were hidden behind some [Armor]. At least they wouldn't be able to sneak a peek at her as easily as before.

Now the next step...

"Eyes...gotta do something about the eyes..." The [Teacher] had told her to fix her [Eyes] if she wanted to pretend to be [Fine], whatever that meant.

But her [Eyes] were fine.

"[Main Core], compare my [eyes] to those of the other [Human-Child Stage] around me." She queried [Main Core] for answers.

The [Teacher] had said that her [eyes] were different from the other children.

*"[Answer to Query: Other Human - Child stage had shown a certain degree of **Emotions** in their eyes as compared to Host. Currently, it is impossible to emulate **Emotions** with enough fidelity to deceive the more perceptive Humans. Suggestion: Explore more of the brain chemistry that creates emotions to emulate these better.]"*

So the answer was to study more huh?

She was already planning on doing that while searching for a group to infiltrate, so at the very least that hadn't been hard to figure out, but for now... "I gotta make sure no one pays too much attention to my eyes huh." She would need to make sure her way of acting around other humans was distracting enough though.

Perhaps she could model the [Persona] she used in front of the humans after Melissa? She seemed to be distracting enough, yeah... That could work.

"[Query: Is that all? If so, the next logical step would be escape...Plotting route...]"

[Main Core] seemed to be ready to leave, and she in turn, was also ready, so letting [Main Core] plot a route she started looking around, it was offensively easy to stay away from the line of sight of the [Humans], both of the conscious and unconscious line of sight.

The human [Eye] seemed to catch way too much information that wasn't properly treated if you didn't pay attention, so she was extrapolating their line of sight and giving it a wide berth to stay safe.

"[Route finished calculating, cost of escape: 2 kgs of biomass + five hours of active time. Rate of Success: 100%]"

Well, she was currently weighing just under 40 kilograms, and as far as she was able to gauge she weighed twice as much as the average [Human - Human-stage children] around her. So losing some biomass, while something she didn't want to do, was something she could afford.

"Transmit the route." So she just focused on the information [Main Core] transmitted to her and...frowned. "Shouldn't this be harder?"

The route [Main Core] programmed was easy enough, she would make extra muscle in her lower extremities and with a burst of kinetic power launch herself at a 45° angle pointing to the outside.

She would lose some biomass from the destroyed muscles in her lower extremities, but those would be regenerated soon enough, and those left behind would decay.

The energy loss came from making sure she didn't leave evidence and from the burst in movement.

"[Route calculated taking into consideration being seen from within the installations and from the Humans around, the upper part of the wall doesn't seem to have any kind of defense, as such a quick escape is the best solution.]"

But if [Main core] thought that could work, and the evidence seemed to support this plan. So she started changing her lower body parts to the new design and preparing the chemical cocktail designed by [Main Core] to increase the success of this.

Some of the components were quite exotic and poisonous, most had been used against her at some point while others were used by the test subjects to get an edge on her.

That she was using them was somewhat fun, and it meant that she had done the right thing by saving them. Some would be used to neutralize the nerve sensations on her lower body, others to make sure she could move fast enough...

And others...well, they would help her from involuntary reactions, she had noticed this body seemed to move and act on its own if she wasn't paying attention, that wasn't a problem in a [Social] setting. But right now she was in a [Combat] setting, she couldn't afford reactions that went outside her scope.

So part of those chemicals would help her neutralize those reactions.

"[Preparations ready]"

So when [Main core] gave her the ready signal she kneeled behind the yellow square-shaped entity, she extended her senses as far as possible to make sure no one was around, and flexed her knees with all her might...

She jumped.

She jumped pouring as much strength as the [Floor] could tolerate without cracking, she felt multiple muscles and blood vessels break inside her legs as the strength of her jump surpassed the threshold of what her current [Body] could tolerate.

She would need to redesign it later to allow it to support these levels of strength, that or finally find the key to harness the power the [Humans] were able to wield.

She was sure a normal [Human] could be able to withstand this level of strength, she was barely generating enough force to bend one of her previous metal plate armors!

Either way, she was traveling through the sky at high speed right now, so she couldn't be distracted, she needed to be sure where she was going and to record the place she was coming from.

While traveling through the sky she was busy reconstructing her destroyed legs and at the same time she was having a hard time controlling her direction, since her body was way heavier than her size implied, her center of gravity was all over the place.

She would need to either make her body [Bigger] or to ditch the extra biomass in her, she didn't want to do either of course. Her current body was one that had allowed her to escape without problem from the [Den] that the [Humans] had confined her to, and the [Biomass] that she had within her body was her lifeline.

The less biomass she had available the more constrained she would be, so unless she found a place that was brimming with [Biomass] or that allowed her to [Eat] whenever she needed to recharge...

She wasn't ditching any biomass if not needed. So while watching the multiple different square shaped entities around pass by, some bigger, some smaller, but all had crystal-like parts adorning their body, some had lights inside, some didn't, but it dawned on her... Her pen was square-shaped...Had she been living INSIDE a square-shaped entity?

Surely not...Right?

"[Answer inconclusive, more data needed.]"

"STOP AT ONCE!" While thinking about that she heard another [Human] speak.

She was traveling through the sky without control, who could even speak at these types of places?

"I KNOW IT'S FUN TO USE YOUR POWERS BUT ONE NEEDS TO BE SAFE ABOUT THEM!" The voice continued to speak and suddenly she found herself frozen in place.

This made her suddenly hyper-aware of her surroundings, it was dangerous, something or someone had managed to stop her while moving at high speed through the air.

"Huh, you are quite young... Did you just awaken your powers?" The voice spoke once more, turning her frozen body.

In front of her, she found...The most ridiculously dressed [Human] she had ever seen, it was a [Human] yes.

But it was dressed in a skintight blue [Clothing], which allowed her to observe all his muscles and how they moved, this [Human] only had three pieces of [Armor].

The full body skin-tight blue covering that went from the bottom of his feet to his neck, a weird triangle-like lower body armor that was similar enough to the white

covering she had under her short pants. But why was this one wearing them on the outside?

Weren't they meant to be below the outer armor?

Most of the other [Human - children stage] and [Human - Adult Stage] she had seen wore them below the outer armor...

And finally, its third piece of [Armor]...A weird cloth-like thing that was tied at its neck and was on its back.

It flowed with the wind...in some weird directions as if it wasn't really affected by the wind.

"[Notice: The third piece of armor does not follow the laws of physics, possible use of power to manipulate it, this power seems to be similar to the one used to stop Host on its travel]"

Yeah, that seemed obvious in hindsight.

"Hello? Anyone there? Are you awestruck after meeting a true **SuperHeroe**?" The [Human] spoke while moving its hand in front of her face.

A what?

"What is a [Superhero]?" She wasn't able to hold herself in and ask.

The [Human] seemed surprised by that as the strange force holding her in place lowered her to the floor level, "Well, that was something I haven't been asked in some time..."

And so, this [Human] started explaining to her some very vital and important information that would be incredibly useful in deciphering the weird power scale of the [Humans].