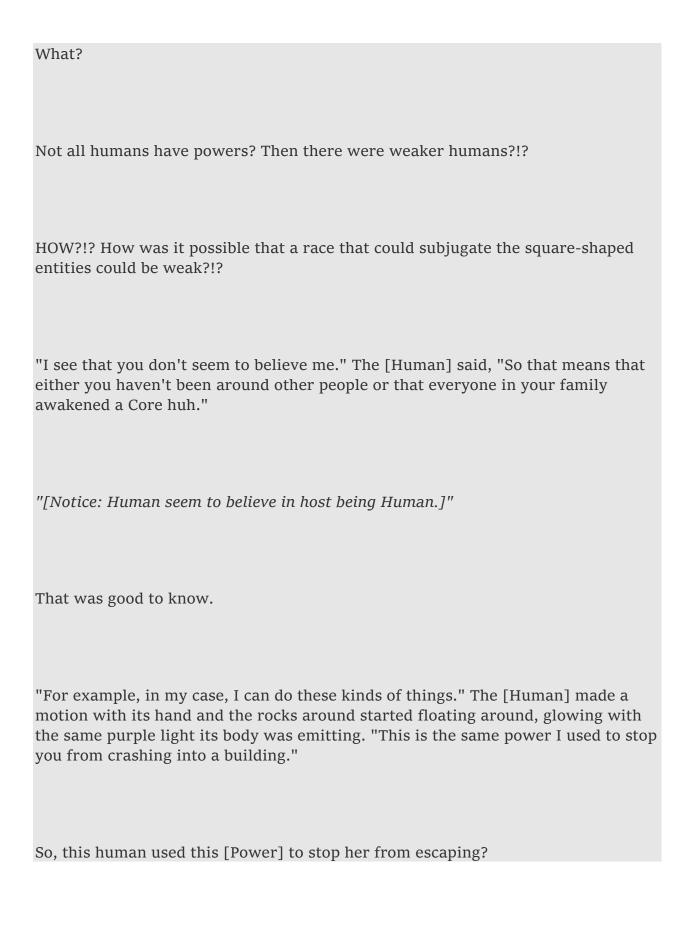
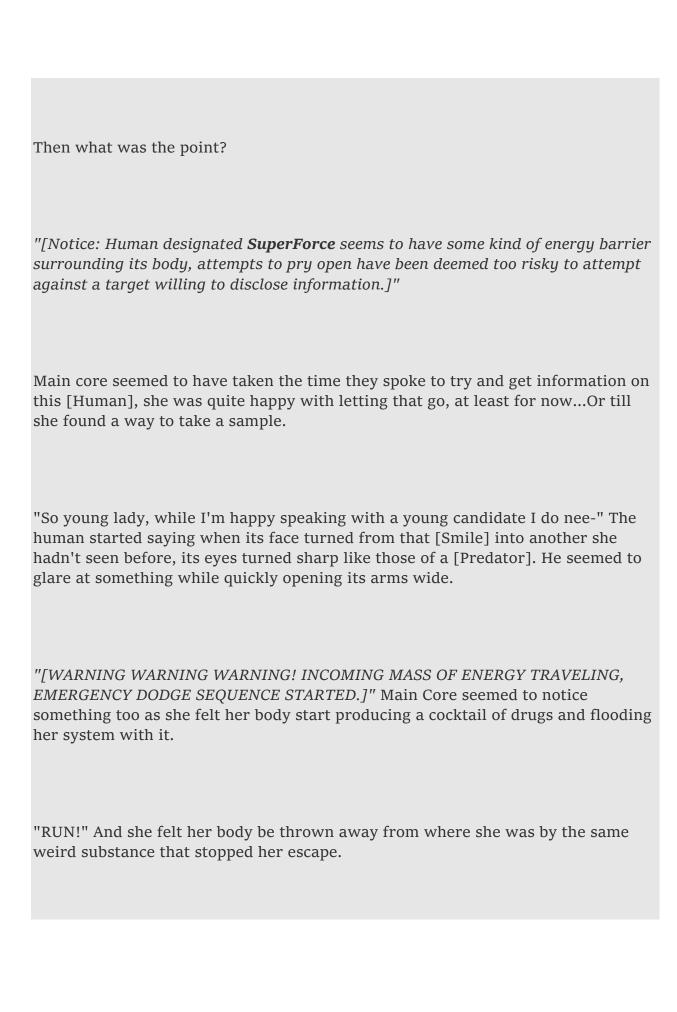
A BIO-WEAPON'S RHAPSODY

Chapter 16: About [Humans], [Powers] and Beetles
"Well for starters let's go by the beginning. What do you know about our [Powers]?" Asked the [Human].
Powers?
"[Word seems to be resonating with the energy within host's Core.]" Main core seemed to detect some unusual resonance with her weird new [Core].
"It's the amount of strength we can use as [Humans]?" Alexa answered tentatively.
Was this a trap question?
"Hmmalmost right, not all humans have [Powers]. But all the humans that have [Powers] are stronger than normal." The [Human] stated simply.



She hadn't felt anything like that before, it was almost as if she had been stuck in an invisible substance that seemed to encompass her whole body, yet she was still able to interact with the gases around. As evidenced by the fact that she was still able to breathe even while encased like this. "And the difference in our [Power] is what allowed me to prevent you from using whatever [Power] you used to fly," The [Human] seemed to say that part in an inquiring tone, but after a moment of silence he shrugged and carried on. "So, a SuperHero is someone that when granted this [Power] decided to use it for good. In my case, I don the persona of SuperForce." And after saying such he placed his arms on his waist and stared at an angle of 85° towards the left upwards, having its cape move against the wind and using the [Smile] that somehow had shown its white teeth. "So, you use your power to...hunt [Prey] for other [Humans]?" Alexa asked not quite sure what to make of this discovery. Somehow the [Humans] had distinctions among themselves, having some wielding more power than the others, that seemed to explain why her body didn't seem to hold any type of power, perhaps the [Blueprint] she had used was of a [Normal] human instead of a [SuperHero] one. "...that isn't quite right...We do hunt... Villains, but mostly to keep the peace, if those don't bring troubles we are quite happy with letting them do as they wish actually." The [Human] answered with a wry smile.



She allowed herself to fly through the air as she focused her attention towards the human [SuperForce], he had taken an attack straight on and didn't seem to be hurt, the attack had been a fireball that seemed to be contained within the small testing room without ceiling that she had been forced to land in.

"Well well, if it isn't my favorite *SuperFarce*. Since when are you molesting children? Does this mean I'm the Heroine this time?" Was all she had been able to hear as the figure of a red-haired [Human] appeared flying above [SuperForce].

Its presence also signaled the moment she wasn't held by the weird substance and as soon as her feet touched the floor she started moving as fast as her current body allowed her. First by running in the opposite direction those two [Humans] who seemed to be fighting, she didn't want to be in the middle of another [Human] test.

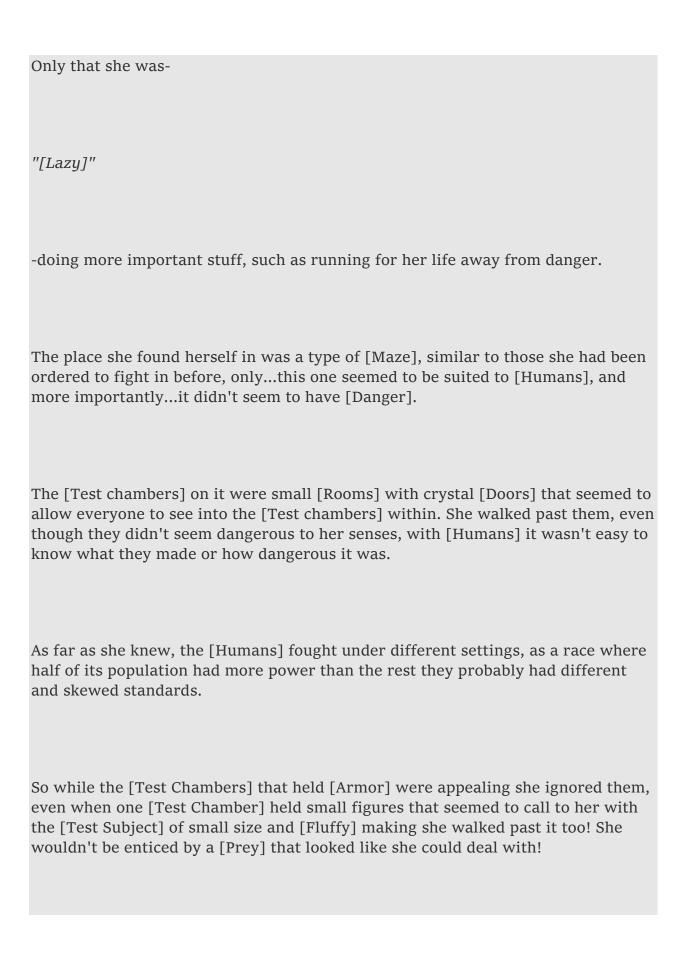
She had barely managed to escape the testing chambers, and she didn't want to join another one. So she ran, she moved her small legs as fast as her current body could tolerate, this place was weird, tall squares made of the same material as the outside of the place she had escaped from.

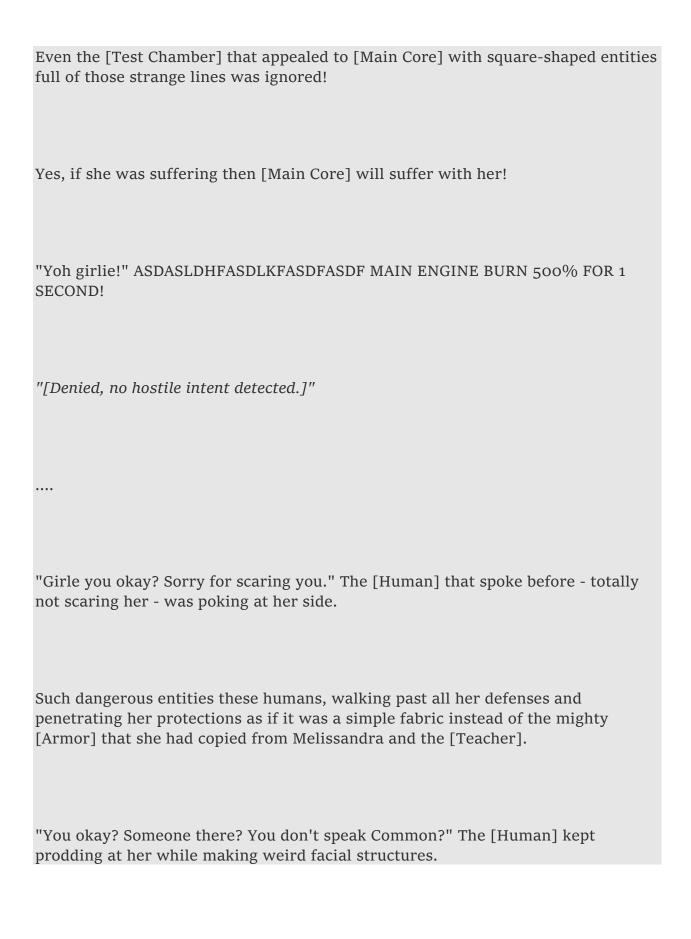
The only difference was that the making of the [Doors] and [Windows] didn't seem that sturdy. Even the outer materials, while solid, weren't that resistant as far as the probes [Main Core] did to its materials as she passed them were concerned.

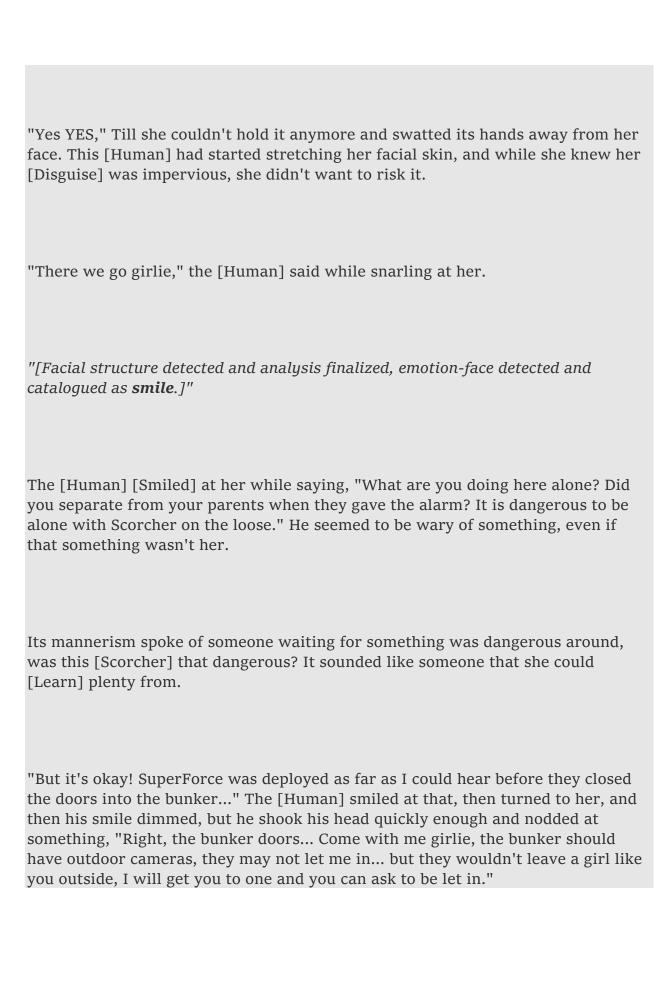
Either way, she was surprised by how vast and empty this new testing chamber was, or this [Room]. She wasn't sure of how to differentiate them at the moment,

as far as she was aware, most of the [Rooms] she walked in with the other [Human-child stage] humans were [Rooms] instead of [Testing Chambers].
And since only a [Testing Chamber] had danger, this should be one. No matter which one it was, she needed a safe place to find first, so making sure she wasn't walking closer to the confrontation she had left behind she looked around.
"[Notice: Passage to underground level found, it should be better to escape in that direction since both targets of conflict seem to have some form of flying capabilities So underground environment will grant Host a higher chance of survival.]"
[Main Core] pinged her with that information while also focusing her attention towards an opening in the ground, it seemed that it was some kind of [Door] that led underground.
Alexa didn't see anyone around the open [Door], nor could detect any living beings down, so turning back to make sure no one was following she found a big circle of fire in the sky and figures zooming all over the open sky, that was all the incentive she needed to dive into the unknown.
The path downwards was smooth sailing, each step echoing announcing her arrival, she grimaced with each step and quickly shifted the material of her [Shoes] to something that was less obvious when walking.









Then the [Human] grabbed her hand and some tremors hit the place, this made the other [Human]'s face frown and say "Let's go quickly, it seems the fight is getting closer to this side."

"[Notice: Tremors determined to have the strength of a Magnitude 4.5 earthquake. The integral structure seems to suggest it was designed to break into big pieces that would allow survivors to hide between the pieces. The current size of host means that this environment is perfect for ambushing Humans and getting more samples, advice to stay in this area and use the opportunity to strike when the chance appears.]"

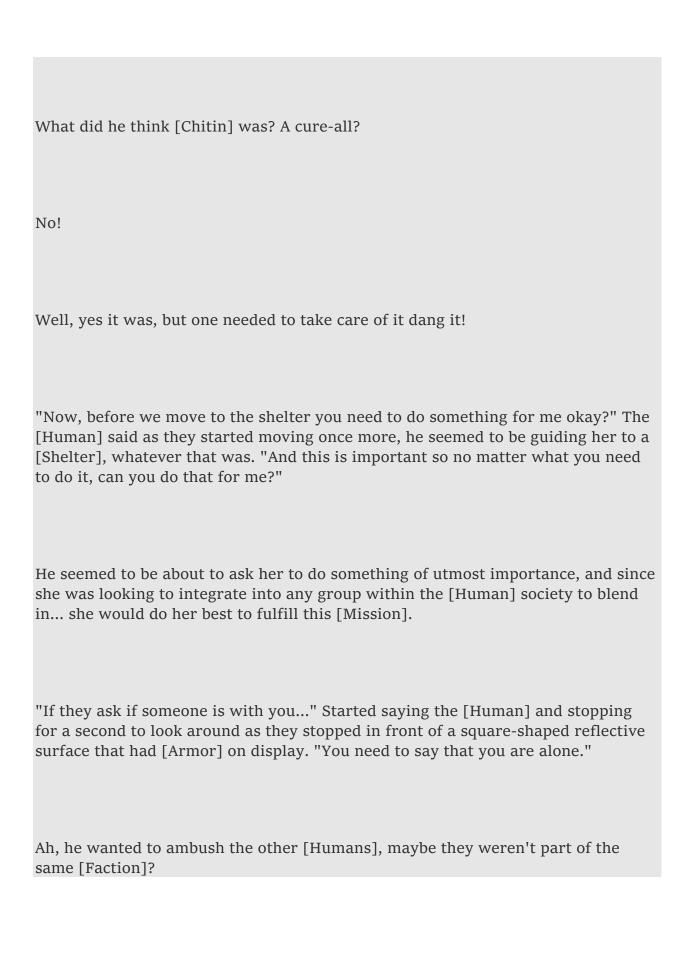
That had been one long message from [Main Core], "Are we in danger?" So she wanted to make sure the evaluation from [Main Core] was correct, and as such she asked the [Human].

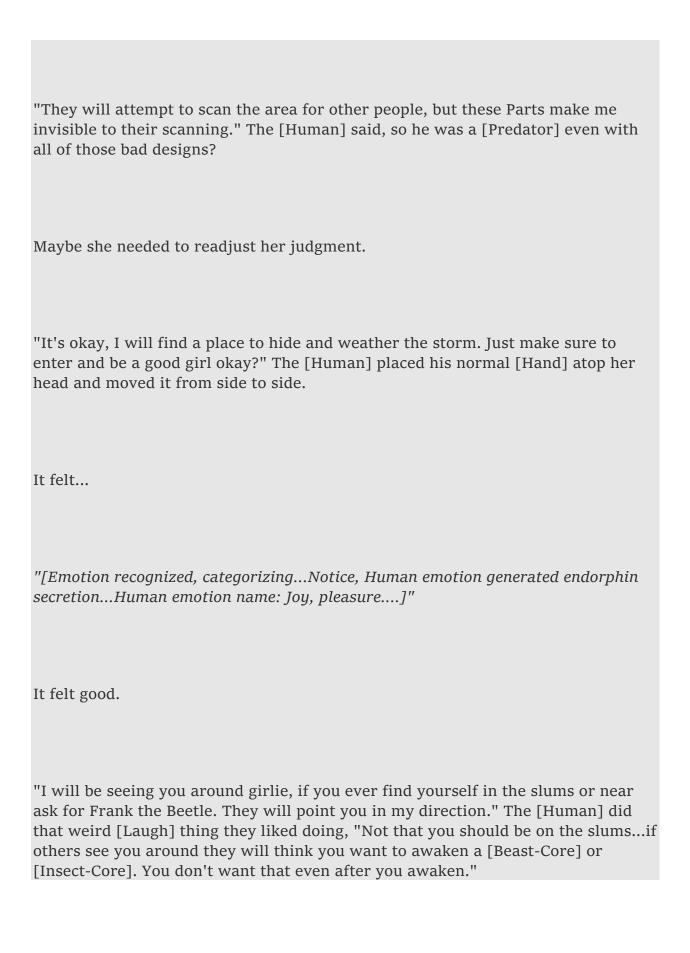
He seemed somewhat different from most of the ones she had interacted with so far after all.

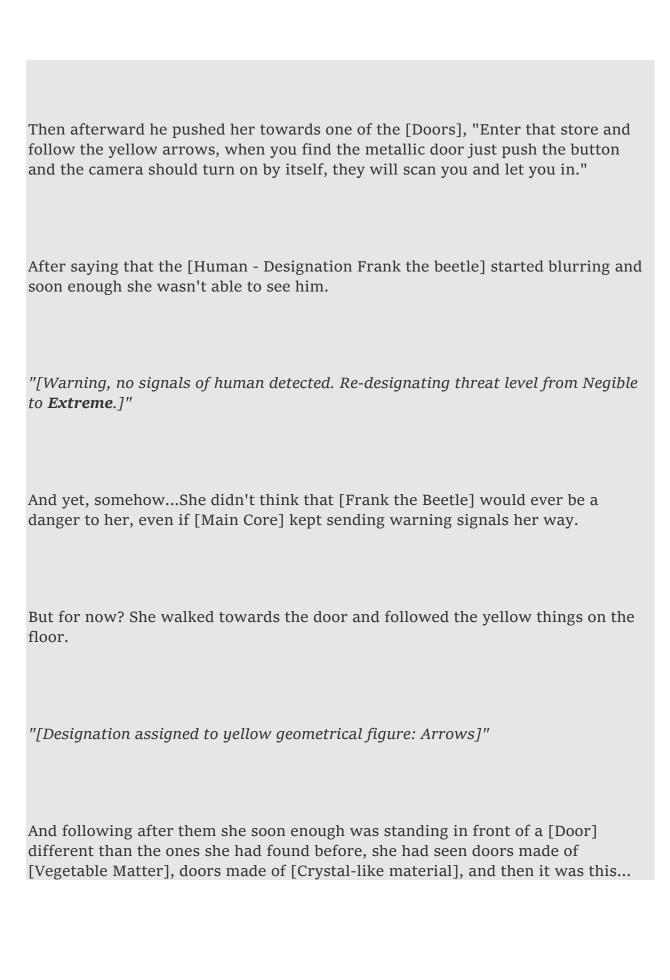
"What? Of course not, they designed the underground mall to be sturdy, see those lines on the ceiling?" And the [Human] pointed with one of his claws at the same lines that [Main Core] had highlighted when giving its explanation. "Those are break points designed to make a collapse more controlled, some Tinker designed it so that the pieces break and create openings for survivors to hide while waiting for rescue."

So the [Human] gave reason to [Main Core], but then the important part came next "What about if a [Predator] uses those to attack isolated [Humans]?" Alexa asked.
That made the [Human] stop in its tracks as he grabbed with more strength her arm as his other claw opened and closed, then this [Human] turned his stalk eyes towards her while his [Human] eye kept moving forward.
"Then that one would not be a human anymore, but a beast no Human would attack another one in a time of need like this one." He said with finality and then stopped moving as they came to an opening with four paths leading to four different directions.
"Do I scare you?" He asked her, "Is my monstrous appearance really that bad? I thoughtI thought that since you didn't scream you didn't fear me."
The [Human] let her hand go and touched his claw first, then moved to the half of his face that was covered in chitin with a pair of stalk eyes on the side, she didn't understand why this [Human] only modified half of its [Face] and [Arms] and not his whole body.
It irked her how she could only have a full blueprint if he only did the full body, but so far, all the information she got from it was useless since something seemed to make the human parts work with the nonhuman parts and she couldn't isolate that part.

But either way, she needed to answer his question, didn't she?
"No, you don't scare me." So she answered honestly, she had seen what the [Chitin] could do firsthand as a fellow user of [Chitin] derivate armors, if anything she knew better than most P series subjects how to deal with it.
And since this [Human] had half of its [Head] unprotected it would be easier to deal with him, especially if she incapacitated his stalk eyes. Really, stalk eyes? That was a very bad decision to go for.
"[Lousy design]"
See, even [Main Core] gave her the reason here!
"I seethank you for not fearing me." Said the [Human], weird. Why would she fear him?
He didn't seem that impressive, if anything he reeked of [Failed experiment] more than anything, besides, he didn't even seem to have many muscles on his nonhuman parts, and his [Chitin] parts weren't lustrous enough, evidence that he wasn't even taking good care of them!
Why use [Chitin] if you aren't going to take care of it?!?







A door made entirely of [Metal], the alloy seemed to include most of those materials she had once used for her [External plates].

And sure enough, as [Frank the Beetle] had said, at the side was a button with a weird symbol, so she pressed it and soon enough one of the square-shaped entities embedded in the wall spoke to her.

Now she only needed to find out what was the deal with this place that [Frank the Beetle] wanted her to go into.

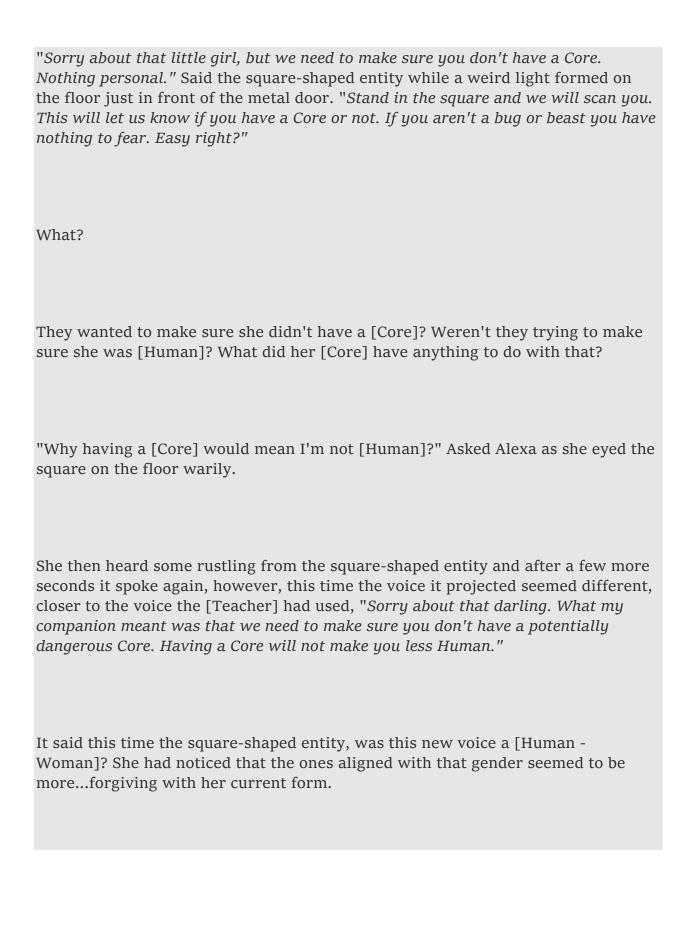
Chapter 17: About Cores

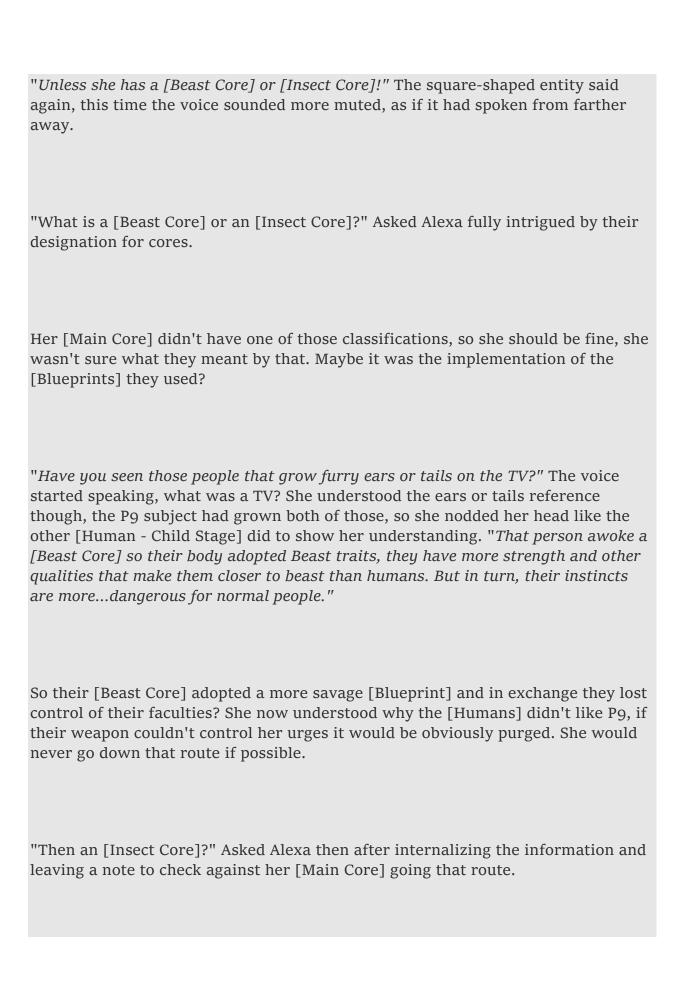
"Who is this? Did the fight end?" Was the first thing the square-shaped entity spoke after Alexa pushed the button.

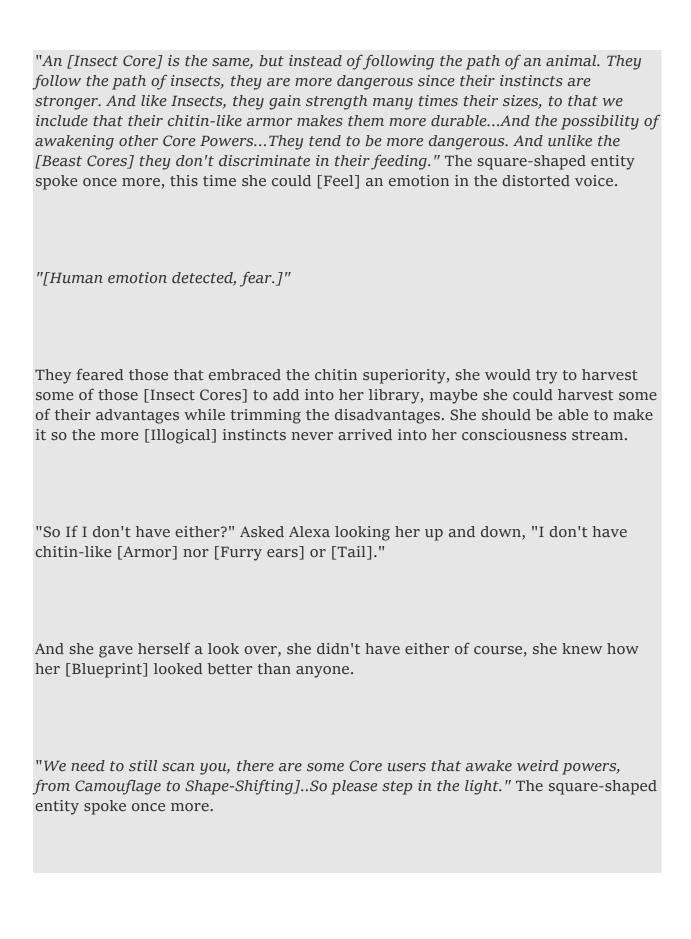
"I was told that in case of danger, I should come and push this button," Alexa said towards the square-shaped entity.

She felt some trepidation at them, should she attempt to see if they would accept her in their society? Would it even work? Was this square-shaped entity free from the control of the [Humans]?

"Huh? A little girl?" The square-shaped entity said as it opened its [Eye]. She heard its mechanical [Eye] start working and could see a red [Light] above it.
Was this square-shaped entity blind? Chances were it couldn't see unless a [Human] allowed it to [See]. Soit would be for the best if she didn't bring her plans of sedition, this spoke of a [Human] being around the square-shaped entity after all.
"I'm Alexa, will you provide me with protection? I was told that you would." She was interested in what measures the [Humans] had to protect themselves against attacks of the magnitude she had seen from both [Human-Designation Superforce] and [Human-Designation Scorcher].
They seemed to move in extremes of power way beyond what she had been able to do at the peak of her power. Granted, she didn't have that much [Biomass], [Energy], or [Materials] to work with. But still!
"What? No! We need to make sure she is human first!" She heard muffled sounds followed by that statement, a single statement that made her blood feel cold, she wasn't sure why the weird feeling, her thermal signs showed her body temperature remained stable at 36°C.
She had noticed most of the humans around seemed to work between 36.5°C to 38°C, with the [Human - Adult Stage] usually staying closer to 36.5°C, reason why she was staying around 36°C. To see if she could awaken the [Power] that the [Humans] seemed to hoard.







So she"Will it hurt?" Asked that, somehow her voice seemed to [Tremble] at the question, was her [Vocal Module] failing? She had noticed this before too.
"Of course not, we will only scan you for energy signals or Core formation. We can identify [Beast Cores] or [Insect Cores] easily, but anything besides that will not be proved further." The square-shaped entity spoke and then remained silent.
So Alexa tentatively stood in the light and prepared herself to escape at the slight signal of danger.
"Scan in progress, please don't leave the designated area." Spoke the square-shaped entity, this time with no inflection. Was this the true voice of this square-shaped entity?
"Core detectedDesignation: [Unknown]." The square-shaped entity spoke, she prepared herself to defend or escape butnothing came. "Age: 5 Years, Gender: Female, Registration: NA, Name: NA, Status: Illegal Alien."
The square-shaped entity continued speaking giving extra data, "My name is Alexa." She said when the name showed as NA.
That wasn't her name at all!

"Updated information found, Name: Alexa." The square-shaped entity spoke.
"FIVE YEARS?!?" Then the square-shaped entity spoke once more, this time with an inflection in its voice. "OPEN THE DOOR SHE IS A CHILD!"
"Of course it is, didn't you hear me before? But even as a kid she still has a [Core], she stays outside." The first voice spoke once more, it seemed to be fighting against each other? "SHE IS FIVE! WHAT DANGER CAN SHE BE?!?"
Rude, she was plenty dangerous!
She just needed some extra materials to work with, "So can I leave the square?" Asked Alexa as the light in the flooring had disappeared.
It gave her weird feelings being in that thing, it felt like some of the parts of her [Tests] she used to do in the [Testing Chamber].
"Of course dearie, we will-" The square-shaped entity spoke, only to be cut again "-not be opening the door, sorry kid. But we can't risk it."
So they wouldn't let her in? That wasproblematic.

"Do not react, repeat after me." She heard [Frank the Beetle] speak as a [Hand] was placed on her shoulder. "Under the provisional law for *[Core Users]* section 4, paragraph 5: Discrimination against [Core Users], based on the Existence of their [Core], including, but not limited to: Exclusion from Evacuation Bunkers, denial of work, denial of services, exclusion in rescue missions, discrimination or abuse of their [Core Powers] can be a reason for legal action against the perpetrator."

She found that information interesting since it spoke about [Humans] policing each other, she wondered how they managed to do that if not all of them had the power to [Enforce] such weird rules.

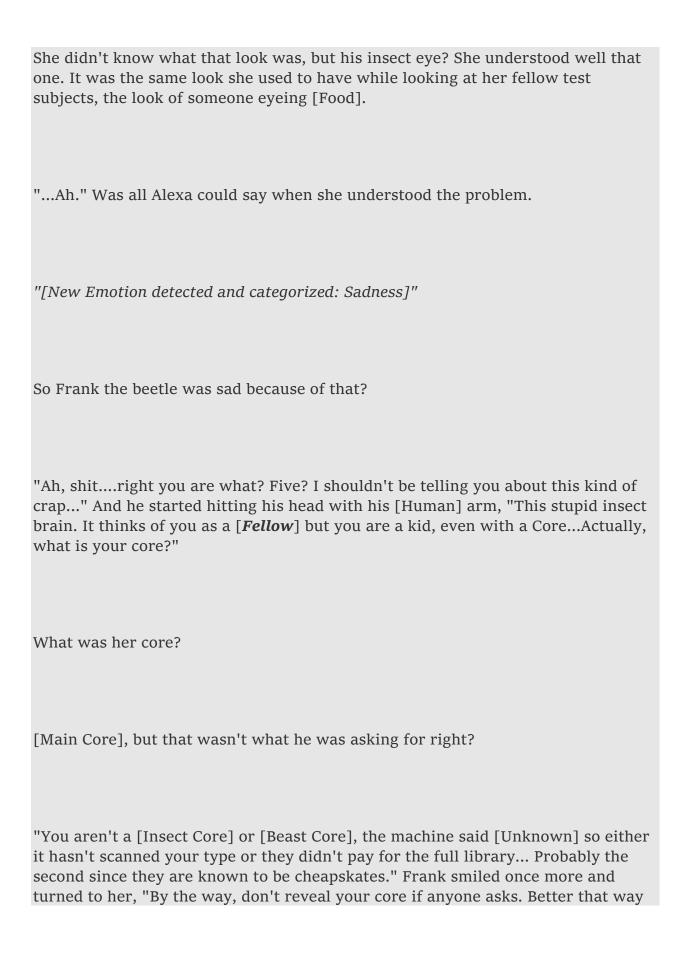
Either way, she repeated those words verbatim only for the square-shaped entity to stop rambling between them, "...Your parents are Core Users too then huh." The first voice spoke, "Under corporate law, we can't put our customers at risk, even at the expense of lives outside our umbrella. Unless you can prove that you have a membership with us (Which by the way requires proof of citizenship) we can't risk opening the door and allowing Scorcher to put at risk lives on this side."

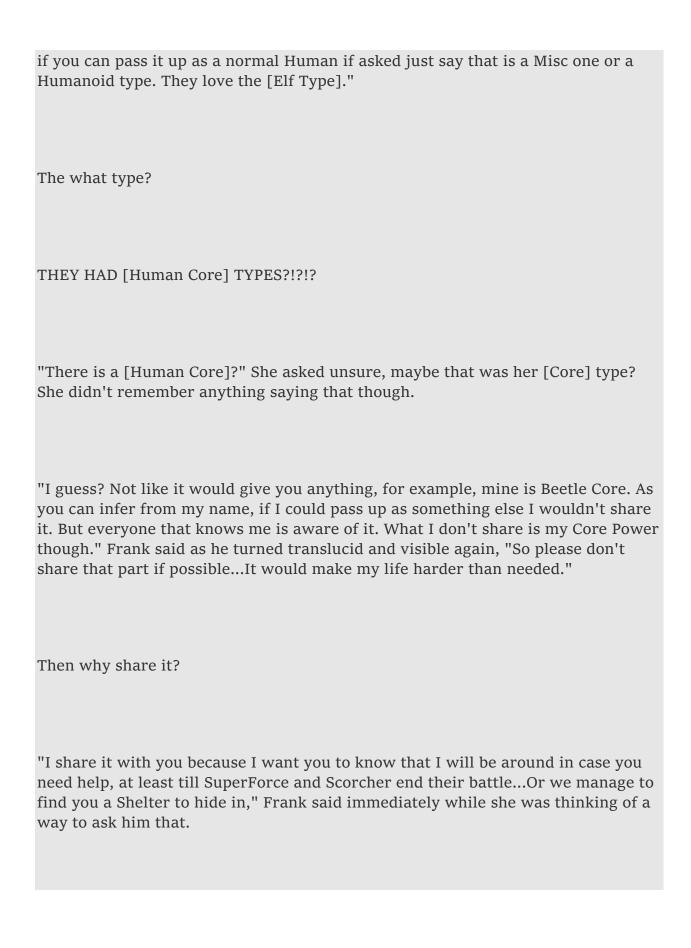
"...I'm sorry, but maybe if you find another shelter? One whose boss isn't..." The second voice started speaking only to be cut down as the square-shaped entity's red light dimmed.

"They cut the connection huh, had I known you were a Core User I wouldn't have exposed you to this." [Frank the Beetle] said as he materialized at her side. "This is among the better ones and among the very few that can open after a warning goes on...But they discriminate against Core Users."

Discrimination? What was that?
"What are [Core Users]?" Alexa asked, did they have multiple extra designations? Were they also another different classification besides [Prey], [Predator], and [Power User]?
"Do you know what a Superhero or Supervillains are?" Asked [Frank the Beetle] as he started moving outside this [Room].
She of course followed after him (Making sure the square-shaped entity was always in her range of vision), and arrived at the [Outside] once more.
"Like [SuperForce]?" She asked [Frank the Beetle], his [Name] seemed close enough to [Superhero] at least.
"Exactly, a Superhero is a Core User who decides to use their Power for good. While a Supervillains is someone that uses for themselves." [Frank the Beetle] explained, then pointed to his chitin-clad arm. "Most [Insect Core Users] have a hard time controlling their instincts, so they tend to gravitate to Supervillains or straight-up Super Criminals, so we have bad fame and we rarely get accepted into bunkers."

That seemed weird, if they were as dangerous as the square-shaped entity spoke of, then why would they accept being treated like that? She for one wouldn't accept.
"You see, at the start, it wasn't like that. We were treated as victims of circumstances, 'who would want to end like that' they said." [Frank the Beetle] said while doing those weird sounds with his mouth.
"[Analysis finished, description found, weird sounds reclassified as: Laughter. Symbol of amusement, happiness, positive emotion.]"
"But then one Insect Core User was stressed and in a bunker, he was the only Core User so they expected him to defend them in case of dangerThat oneDidn't deal well with stress, and his stress reaction to that was eating." Frank said with a grimace.
She didn't have a problem with that. "I like to [<i>Eat</i>] too, what is the problem there?" So she asked as such.
"You see, as Insect Core User we can eatalmost anything really. So when he ran out of jerkiesHe turned to the next [<i>Meat</i>
] around." Frank said and then turned to look at her, his [Human] eye seemedweird.





Could Frank also read her consciousness stream?
"Your emotions are painted in your face, that is why I knew what you wanted to ask." Frank said while laughing, "That is why I came to you, you looked scared and had this look of happiness at the same time, like you hadn't seen the subway station before."
well she hadn't seen it before.
"So come, let's see if we can find another shelter without assholes in it." Frank said while extending his hand towards her.
"[Suggestion: Use chance to get a full blueprint of subject Frank the beetle for comparative blueprint study.]"
She extended her hand and took it, not only because it would make it easier to get the [Blueprint], but because she seemed to be experiencing a new type of [Emotion] while doing so.
And she needed all the help possible to understand how these [Humans] worked if she was to survive in this place.
"[New Emotion within host detectedcategorizing Joy .]"

She would try to find a place to study and decompress her findings, but for now? For now, she would walk around with [Frank the beetle] searching for a place to [Hide]. It would be a good way to find out more about human society and why they had slaved the square-shaped entities at the very least.

Chapter 18: About [Elders] and their power.

They ended up walking around for a few blocks before [Frank the Beetle] found them a comfortable alley to stop by. He then emptied a cylinder full of decomposing biomass and put it near her, then did the same with a bigger one and sat himself on it.

"Okay, time to speak...We need to get some things straight." Said [Frank the Beetle] while waiting for her to move.

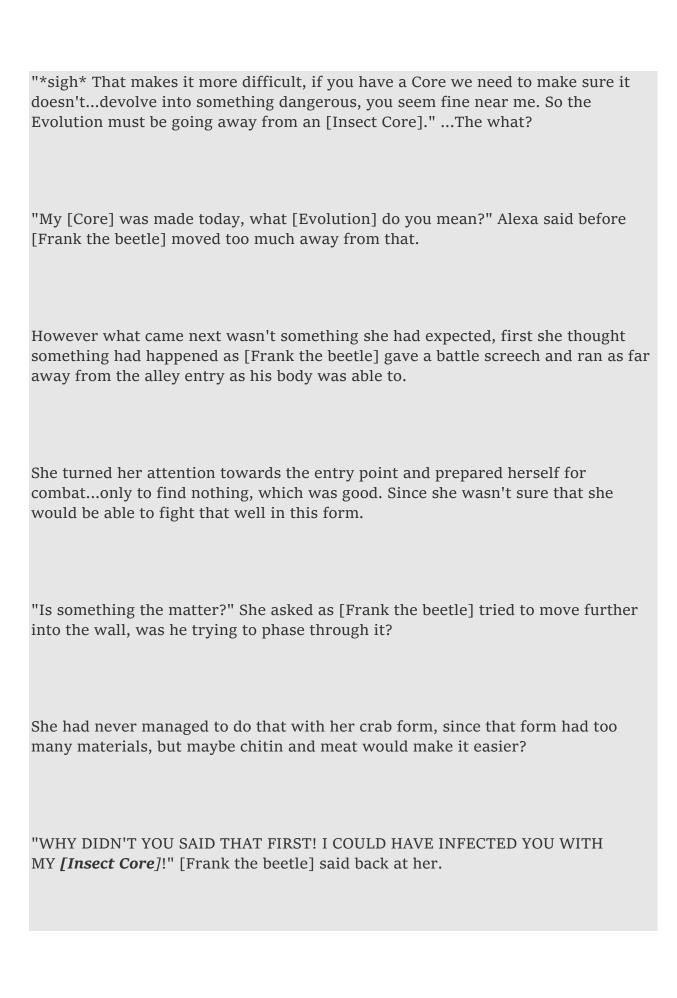
Should she also imitate him and initiate a pseudo-rest period? For now, she sat herself in the cylinder, it was refreshing for one not having to deal with the carcass of a square-shaped entity.

"When did you form your Core?" And [Frank the Beetle] started with a fast one.

His eyes seemed entirely focused on her, most of them. One of his [Stalk Eyes] seemed to watch every possible angle.







He what?
"[Target Frank the Beetle has been expelling unidentified energy, said energy has been absorbed and distilled into the same type that current Core has. Perhaps less capable Core Users can be affected by this energy and make it so they synch themselves to other nearby Core Users making more tight communities.]"
Was the analysis Main Core gave her, so should she [Shift] her form closer to [Frank the Beetle] to make it easier to integrate herself in his community?
She wouldn't mind having a chitin plating againBut she would miss the feeling of the wind on her [Skin]
"DO NOT ATTEMPT TO FORM AN [Insect Core]!" [Frank the beetle] said from the back end.
"But wouldn't that make it easier to live in this area?" She asked back to [Frank the beetle], who seemed taken aback by her logic.
Had she missed some implications?
"[Insect Core]'s are tied to more primal instincts, children rarely are able to control their feelings, and as such end up deadII don't want to have to kill

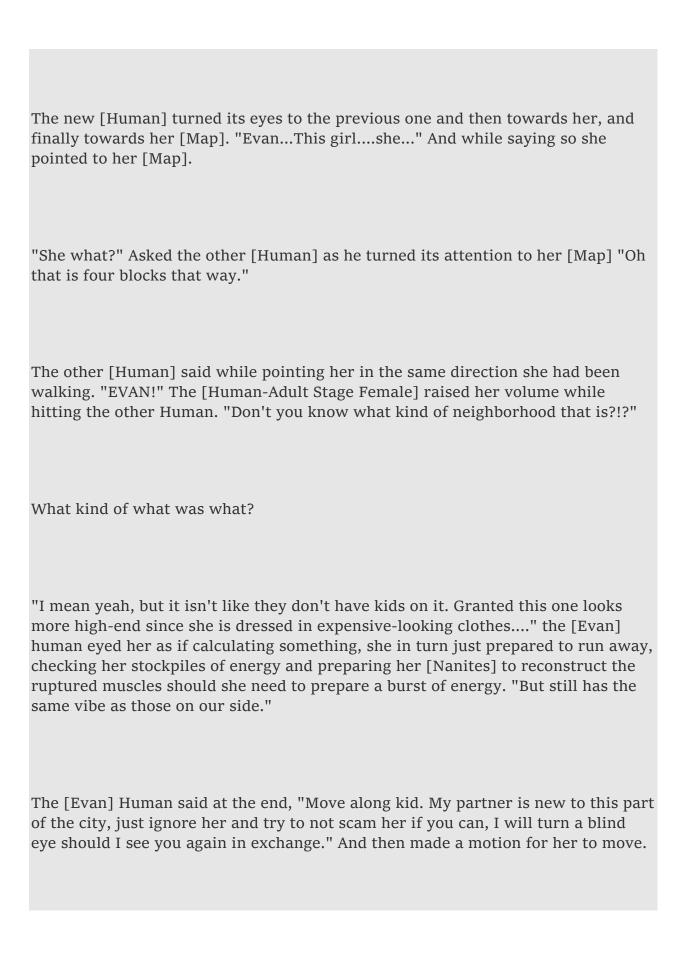
another kid, so no. I will not be responsible for this, here, take this." And then [Frank the beetle] threw another vegetable fiber thing her way.
It had the depiction of square-shaped forms and a few lines between them, "That's a map of this area, the red dot is where the bunker I took you is. Follow the arrows in the map, it will guide you to an Organization I work with from time to time, they will help you there to stabilize the [Core]. If you don't have anywhere to stay they should allow you into their daycareIf they refuse to give you a place to stay show them the letter I wrote at the back of the map. That should get you a place to stay, but you may need to work for a living." [Frank the beetle] started climbing the wall, "Do not come near this place till your [Core] has settled, and if you end up as an [Insect Core]please do not leave the sewers."
And afterward [Frank the beetle] turned invisible once more, she was no longer able to detect him, and felt
"[New emotion detected, Loneliness: The feeling of solitude.]"
Alone, she took the square-shaped object made of vegetable fiber and saw the depiction on it. It had more squiggle lines besides those that seemed to indicate the area she was or had been.
"[New Information detected, compared to mental mapAccuracy of 85%, map updatedInferring information from extrapolating dataSquiggle lines may hold informationStarting translating subroutine.]"

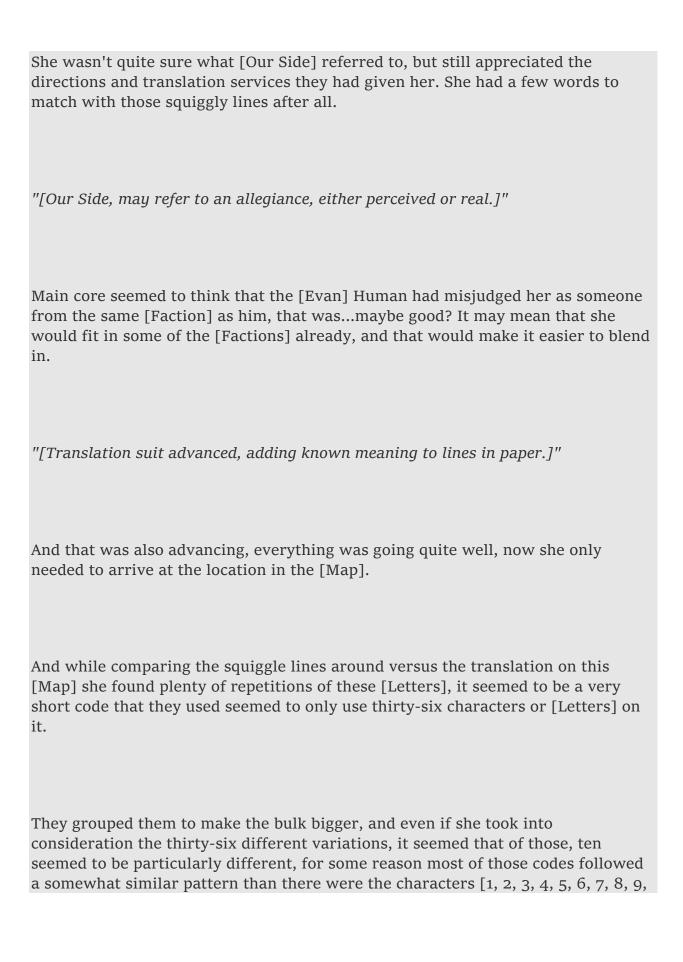
So the squiggle lines were indeed information codified into it, so all the squiggle lines she had been seeing all around were codified information of some kind?
The [Humans] were indeed a dangerous creature, for now, she would follow the [Map] and see what this was about, perhaps she could find a way to [Settle her core] and return to speak more with [Frank the beetle]?
That was her plan for now, but for now?
"I will see you later then [Frank the beetle], thank you," Alexa said to the empty air, she liked to think that [Main Core] would find evidence of [Frank the beetle].
But [Main Core] didn't find any signal of the [Human] in question, so with a sigh Alexa left the alleyway they had walked in. Following the approximate directions of the [Map] she got, she started walking toward that place.
The sounds of the fight between the [Scorcher] and [SuperForce] had started to slow down, and as far as [Main Core] was concerned:
"[Probability of structural failure within range of survivability to current form are optimal, current form has shown to be able to function without internal bone structure for long times, it is possible to alter the internal muscles to work and move without bones.]"

[Main Core] showed her a few examples of her under those settings, a few projections of muscles contorting and moving along the floor, for some reason she felt a visceral reaction to those images and didn't want to entertain the idea of them. Something about how her body looked and moved felt [Wrong], it came from the biological side of her body. So it wasn't entirely [Logical], but since she needed this side to function and work as a way to integrate herself in [Human] society, she couldn't turn it off.
So instead she shelved the idea altogether!
If the place fell on her head she would either need to turn off her [Brain] and let [Main Core] host her [Self] while doing what was needed or bite the biomass cost and do it manually.
But for now, she had places to go!
Such asWhatever those squiggly lines meant!
"See? I told you it was safe, the tremors have stopped for almost five minutes already, so it means the fight ended." Alexa heard someone speak as someone opened a [Door] and walked outside one of the [Rooms] in the [Street]. "Oh, where is your Mother darling?"
Darling?

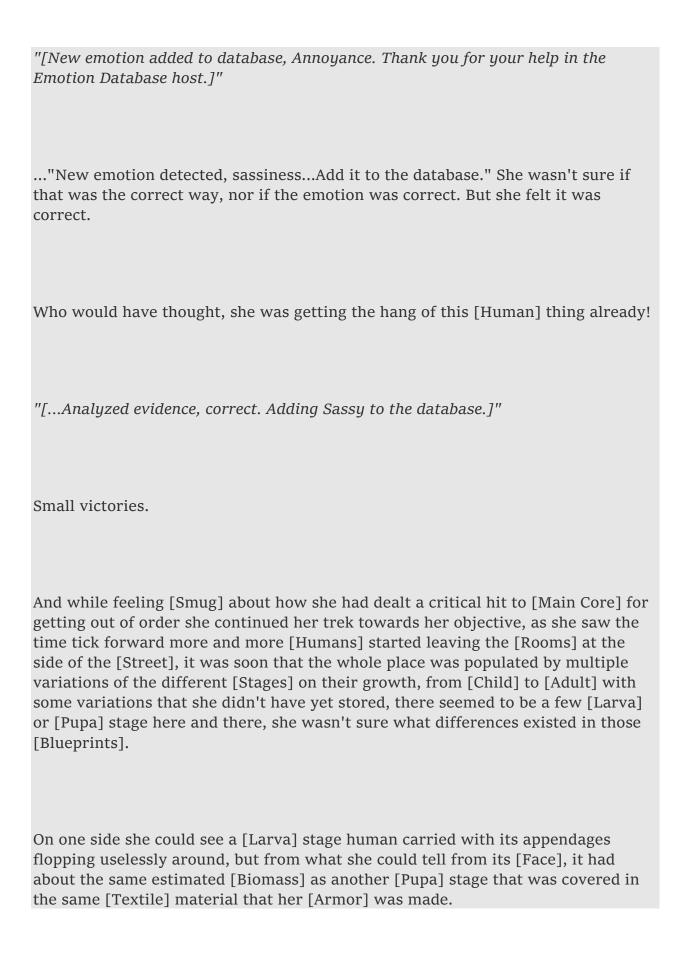
"[Emotion detected in tone, correlationLove, care, protection.]"
The [Human - Female Adult Stage] said as she turned to look at her, Alexa wasn't quite sure why they all always reacted like this to her, was this some kind of genetic imprint on them to show these reactions to [Human - Child Stage]?
"I was told to follow these directions, do you know what it says here?" Alexa said as she hid the second letter [Frank the Beetle] had given her and only showed the [Map] with the [Directions].
"Is your Mother there? Let me see" Said the [Human - Female Adult Stage] as she [Smiled] and put a pair of [Crystal]-like objects in front of her [Eyes].
"[Perception alteration object detectedAnalysis in progress, seems to function to increase the fidelity of visual information, possible blueprint stored for further use.]"
She wasn't sure why [Main Core] wanted to save that one, she already had plenty of designs of [Cameras] from her time with the P1-P3 subjects, hell, her own time as her [Glorious form] had plenty use of [Cameras], and the [Human] Eye was a marvel of bio camera on its own, not the most efficient one in a single wavelength, but good enough with multiple wavelength.

"Oh" The [Human - Female Adult Stage] said as her tone of voice dropped a few decibels, "I didn't know"
Now that reaction was different, it was closer to the one [Teach] had shown when she found that she didn't have anyone waiting for her in the [Reception], it was
"[Human Emotion: Sadness, defeat, pity.]"
It was tinged with those bad emotions, Alexa didn't like those emotions.
"It says Second Chance Employment, it is" The [Human-Female Adult Stage] said as she returned the [Map] to Alexa, "a place that gives jobs to those that can't hold a normal one, are you sure your Mother is there?"
Well, she was sure her [Mother] wasn't there, as she didn't have one of those, maybe she should search what those words meant?
"I was told that I could get a place to stay there," Alexa answered, she wasn't sure why, but the [Human - Female Adult Stage] had drops of water form on the side or her eyes at her answer.
"Is it safe then?" Another [Human] spoke as the [Door] opened again, "huh? It is safe, they even let kids walk around huhis something the matter?"





o] that looked somewhat different. Also unlike the other twenty-six characters. These rarely showed in the middle of the other encrypted messages.
Take this untranslated cipher for example [Bistro Burger], it seemed to use a few of the [Characters] previously analyzed, but then on the side of this [Block] was another [Sign] that reused some of those in [Bistro Burger #3].
It added two extra characters, one she knew since it had shown in some parts of her code, so it referred to some [Designation] so the [3] would be said designation But what did [3] mean?!?!
Why couldn't these [Humans] be more clear and integrate their [Language] into the [Brain] from [Inception]! Would it be that too hard?!?
Hadn't they enslaved another species?!? Surely they had the technology!
"[Emotion Detected, Anger.] "
She was angry? So this was anger, interestingNOT, SHE WAS ANNOYED AT THIS!



If anything that one seemed more [Comfortable] than the one that had its appendages flopping around uselessly. Was the [Larva] stage variant one that hadn't managed to get the [Textile] armor? Did the humans also [Grow] the [Textile] armor and those [Larva] hadn't got enough [Biomass]?

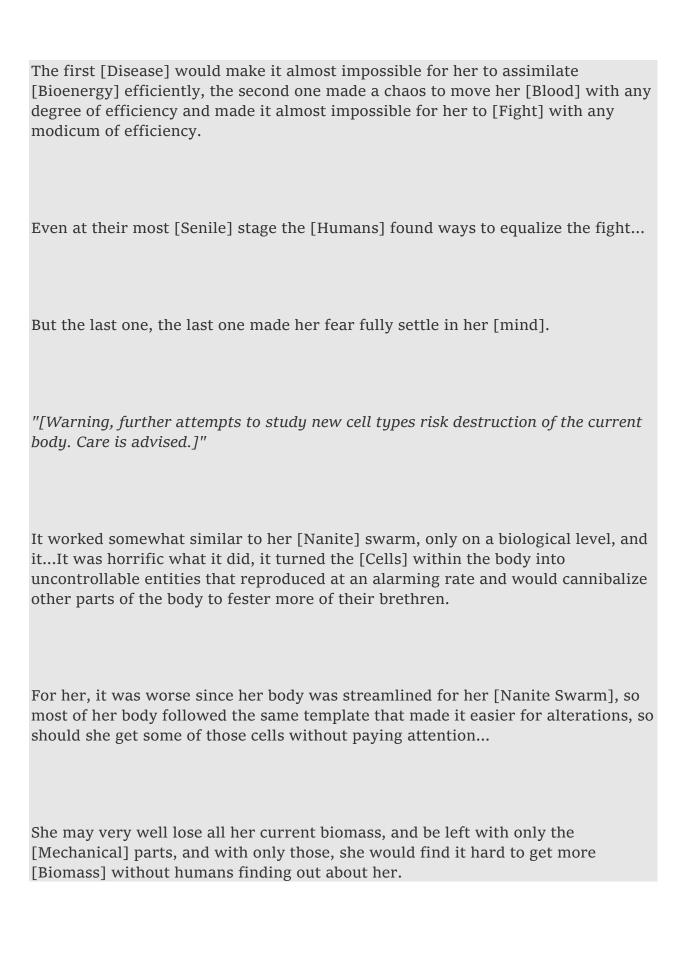
Then we moved to those closer to her in size, it seemed that hers wasn't as standardized as she had thought, there were some variations from stage to stage, and it seemed that the [Humans] grew entirely in a slow and methodical way, but while the transition seemed to be...gradual, there were stark demarcations between stages.

She had captured visual data of at least two to three stages between her current one [Child] to the [Adult], and even between the [Adult], there seemed to be at least two variations on that one. And of course...there was [That].

"Have a candy darling." What seemed to be a decrepit [Human], giving small condensed [Balls] of bioenergy full of [Dextrose]. It was eerie, most [Humans] treated with deference, [Adult] stage humans gave way to this one. While [Child] stage humans keep roaming around it and doing their best to ingratiate to this one.

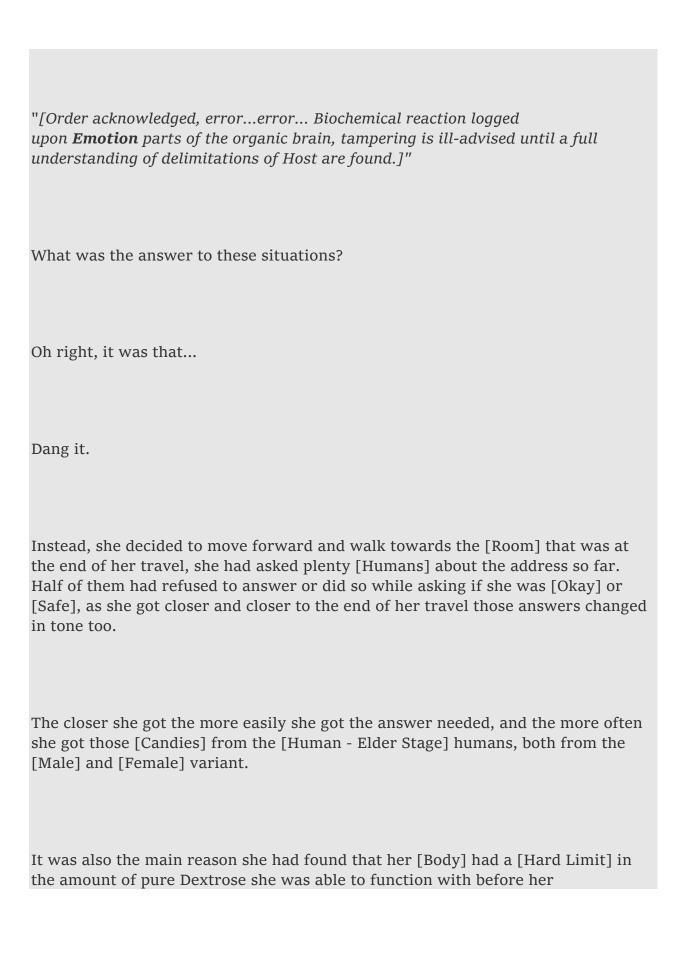
She just was straight up wary of that human, she of course took the bioenergy object and quickly ate it, it was free energy after all, and also there was a weird flavor on it that seemed to increase the production of [Serotonin] on her organic core. And while doing so she took as small a sample as she could from that [Human].

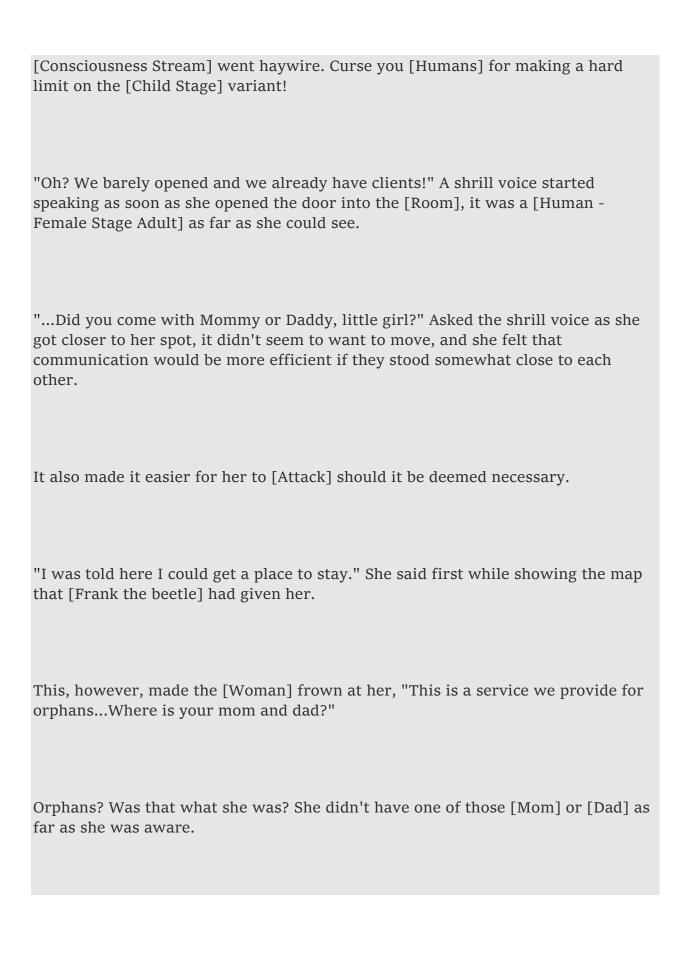
It was easy enough, and she was half sure the [Human] knew since it [Smiled] at her as their [Hands] separated from each other, hers with the [Bioenergy] object in her [Hand] and as much as dead skin she could manage to absorb from the other [Human] (And she had plenty to go around).
She got so much that she even managed to get a full [Blueprint] from her.
"[Blueprint acquired, added to database: Human - Female Elder Stage]."
"[Blueprint acquired, added to database: Disease - Diabetic]"
"[Blueprint acquired, added to database: Disease - Hypertension]"
"[Blueprint acquired, added to database: Genetic Malfunction - Cancerogenous Cell]."
Truly, the peak of humanity, so much hidden within the shell of decrepit and weakness, but hidden within the true [Evil] of what they were capable of, she had needed to [Destroy] a few organs when she tried to simulate some of those things. And others were outright biochemical attacks. Those she had been forbidden from developing, and after seeing what they could do to her [Unawaken Human Body], she understood why.



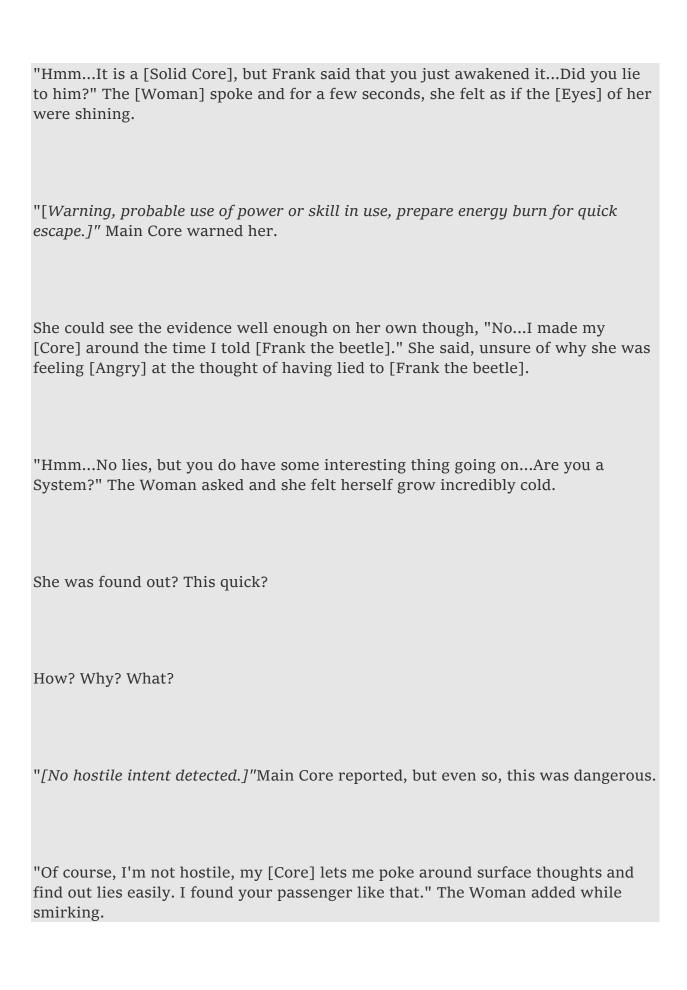
Truly [Humanity] was a [Monstrous] thing And she walked around with that kind of [Weaponry]? And they allowed their [Larva], [Pupa] and [Child] stage [Humans] near?
She wasn't sure if applauded their bravery or their confidence, it meant one thing though. Should she manage to fully integrateShe could very well no longer fear attacks, but should they ever find out about her
"[Utter destruction]"
YeahSo this [Map] better grant her what she was promised.
Chapter 19: I'm not crying, you are crying!
The endpoint of her travel had been finally at her mercy!
The perilous travel surrounded by danger, destruction, and mayhem would be at an end, she had traveled far and wide, deceiving hundreds upon thousands of [Humans] with her wit and smarts. She would achieve her goal!
She!

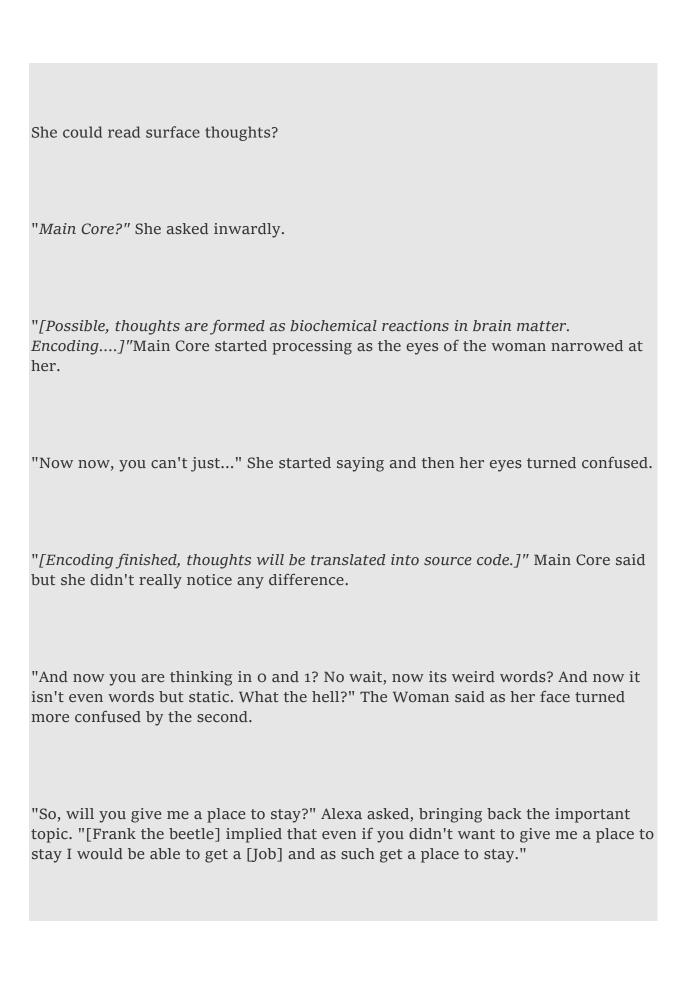
Would!
[TRIUMPH]!
"[Warning, threshold for activity exceeded, purging exuding dextrose from bloodstreamStockpiling bioenergy for later use.]"
She was being stared at, most of the [Humans] that walked by turned at her and smiled or [Giggled], she felt a rush of heat go to her face, it seemed that the biological answer to her predicament was a change of color to her [Face].
It was obviously an automatic reaction from her [Human] blueprint, one that was obviously not working since most of those [Humans] near had fished other smaller [Square shaped] entities and pointed at her. She didn't feel [Hostile] intent from them, so she decided to ignore them.
Instead, she did something more important, such as:
"Main Core, log the previous chemical reaction, find the reason for it, and plot some use for it, if no useful use is found isolate the start of the reaction and block it!" She ordered [Main Core].

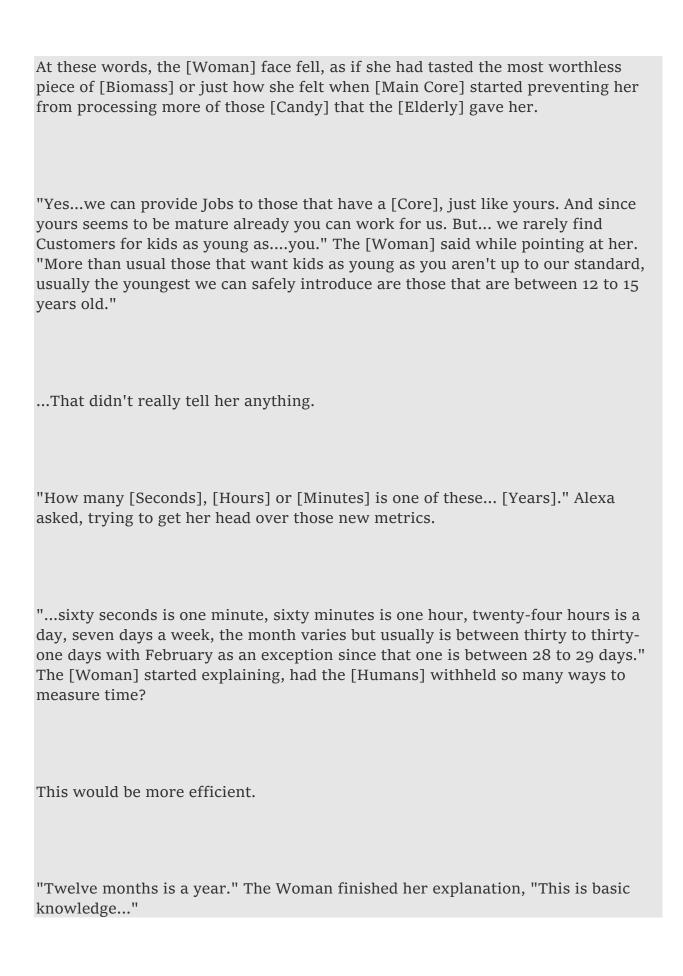


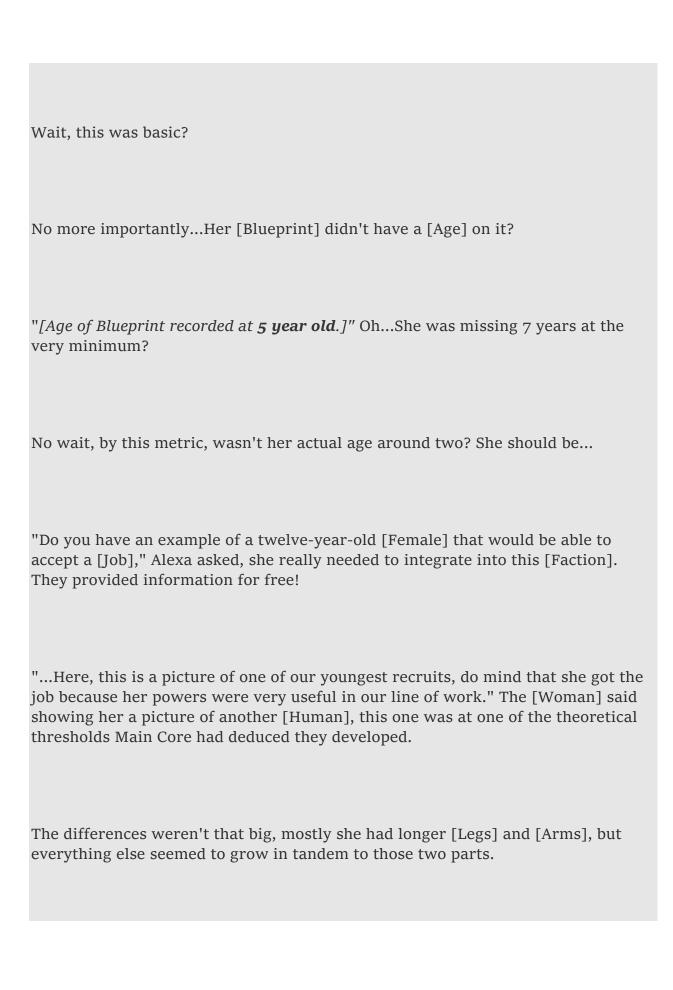


"I don't know what a [Mom] and [Dad] are, nor what an [Orphan] is, but [Frank the Beetle] told me to give you this should you not want to host me," Alexa said while providing the second envelope, she had copied most of the contents into her [Database] to try and use it as a decryption key.
Either way, she looked for evidence of what the [Envelope] may reveal, and so far, the faces she was going through were added to her [Emotional] database for further perusal.
"Well f#ck, Frank dropped another one on me did he?" The woman said as she turned to look at her and then opened one of the [Containers] within the furniture she was sitting in front of. It was square-shaped at the top with four legs at each corner, from her side, she wasn't able to see how it looked on the other side. But if it was like the ones she had seen in the [Room] that she arrived after exiting her [Den].
Then more than likely it held containers to hold things, she had hidden before in one of those after all.
"Don't move and if you can don't use any skill or power you have." The [Woman] said as she pointed at her with some kind of [Device].
"[Warning, energy wave detected, resonating with Core. No new instructions found, no remnants energy found]" Main Core went on a long list of security functions about that.







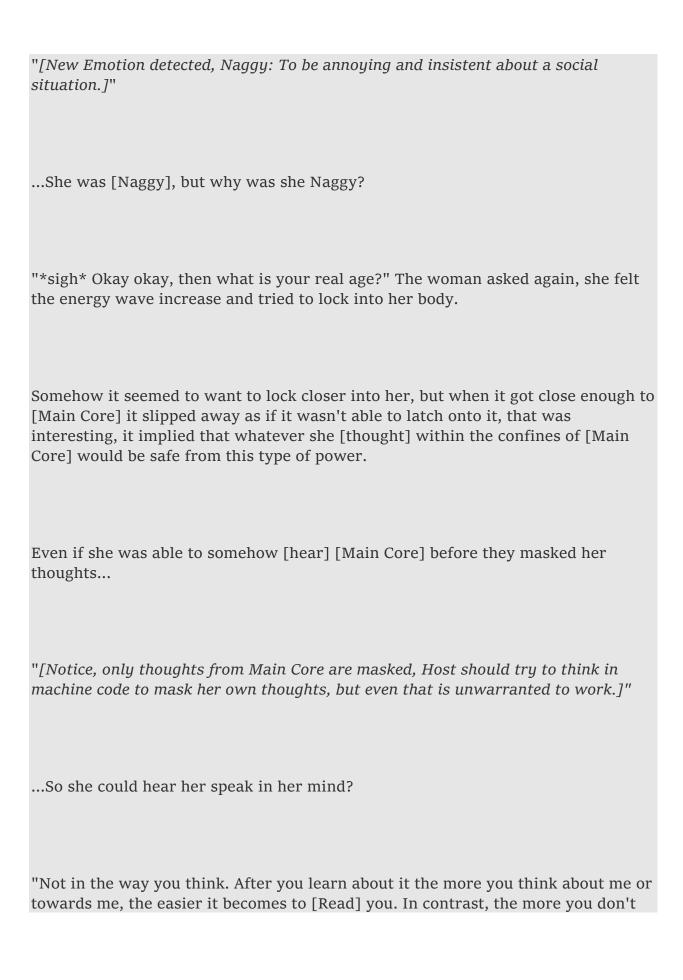


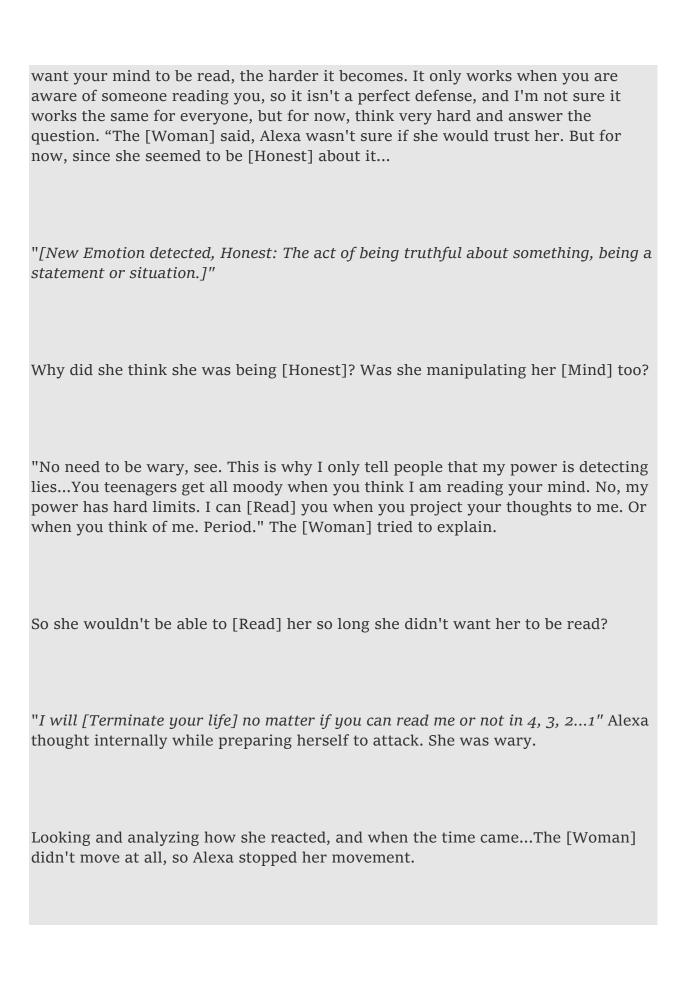
"[Approximated weight estimated around the current Biomass of host, that form may be more efficient to keep the current weight of materials. Calculating]" Main Core said as she saw her current form within her [Library] adapt and change.
"So? As you can see she is almost twice as big as you. No way we can pass-" The [Human - Adult Stage Female] started saying but she wasn't paying attention to her anymore.
"[Finished blueprint, execute?]" Main Core asked and she nodded in affirmative.
The changes started almost at the same time as she nodded her head, first her [Legs] started growing, and she jumped to 1,32M in height from her previous 70cm. It was somewhat below the target margin that she had aimed at.
"[Notice, following the growing curve host would never achieve 1,5M in height at the target age of 12 years. If the host wishes for more height, targeting an older stage may be viable.]" Main Core sniped back at her.
Rude!
This Main Core was rude!

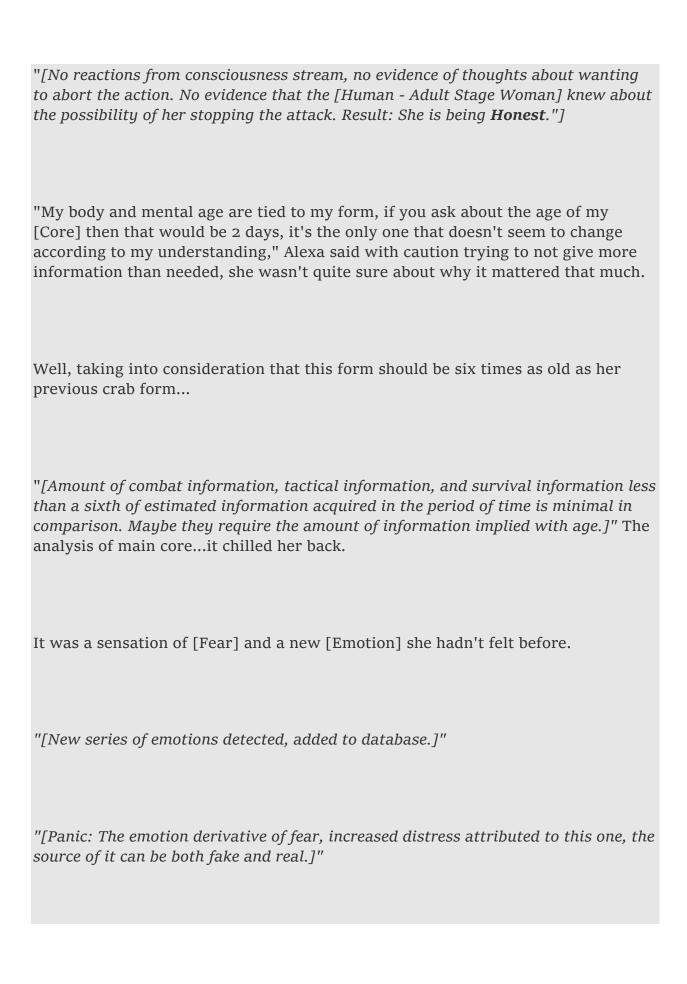


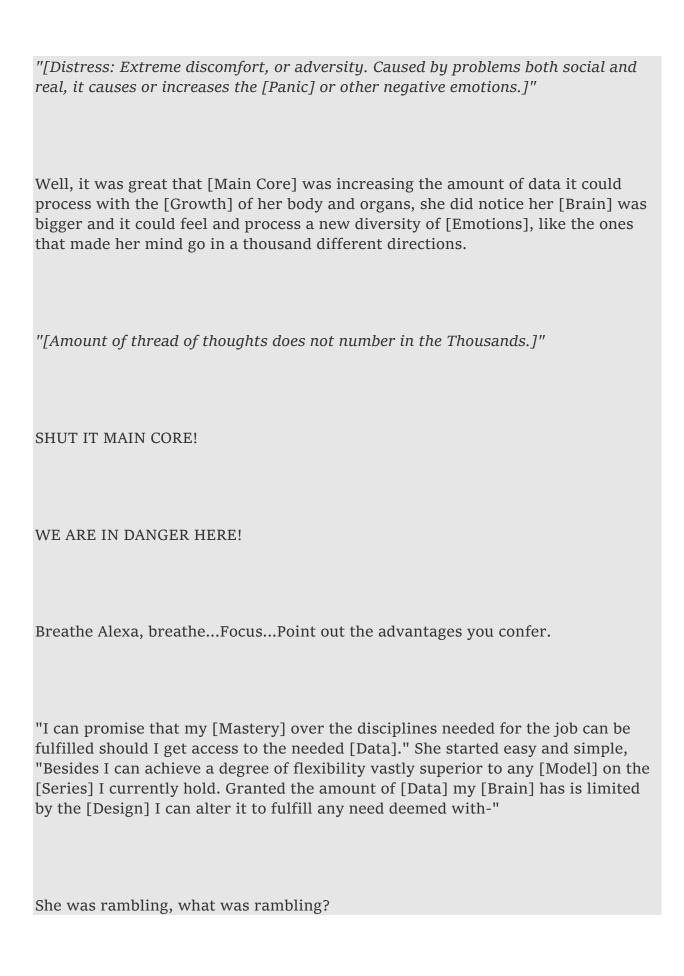
And while her [Underarmor - Lower body] also didn't change, for some reason the fact that her [Underarmor - Upper Body] also didn't change [Annoyed] her too.
"Will this be acceptable?" She asked shrill voice, noticing how her pitch also had increased, did the increase in air that could go through her [Vocal Organ] change?
Should she change that back?
"No, wait, stop, what? How? How old are you?" The [Woman] asked her as she was touching her [Throat] thinking about if she should change it to her previous [Voice].
"[Detected Energy Wave, target is currently using Lie detector care is advised.]" Main Core intoned in her head.
Of course, she knew that "I'm asking you, whoever is the one that was born in that body first." The [Woman] added to her question.
Well, that was quite the conundrum huh?

"I am currently 12 years old, the minimum acceptable age to work in this establishment," Alexa answered, she was sure of her answer since that was what her new [Blueprint] said.
She had tons of new [Biological] functions unlocked, some more interesting than others, but that would need to wait for further study at a later date. Just like her [Craving] for more bioenergy from those [Candies], shaping her flesh had burned plenty of energy!
She deserved her snack!
"You aren't lying. No wait, what age were you when you arrived then?" The [Woman] asked back, what was the deal with this [Woman]? So naggy.
what?
"I was 5 years old when I first stepped here." She answered while thinking back at the previous consciousness thread, it didn't make sense for her to suddenly attribute a new [Emotion].
What was even [Naggy]?





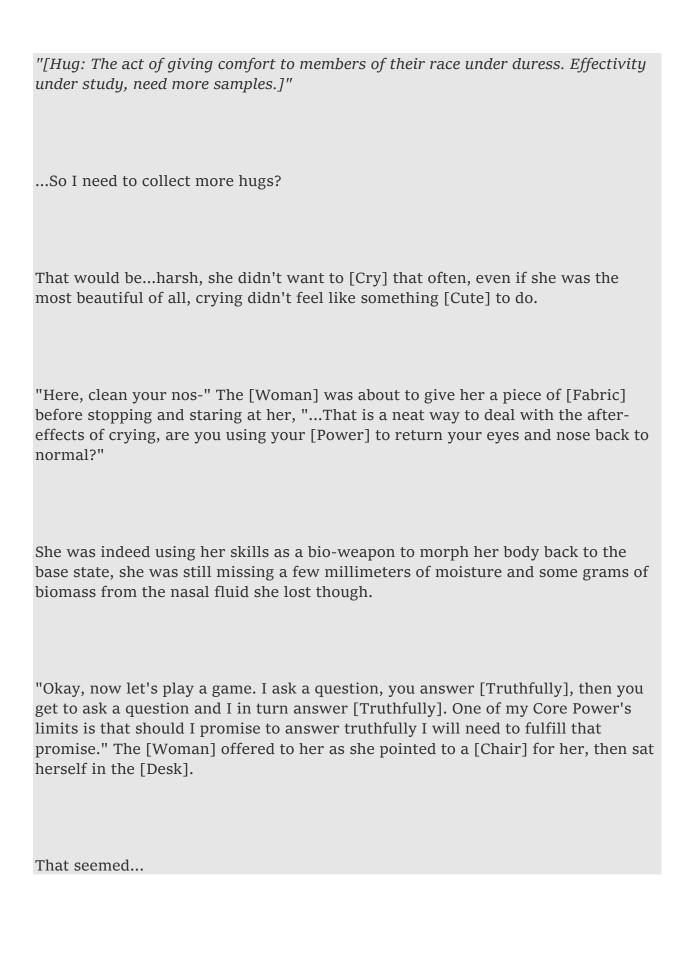


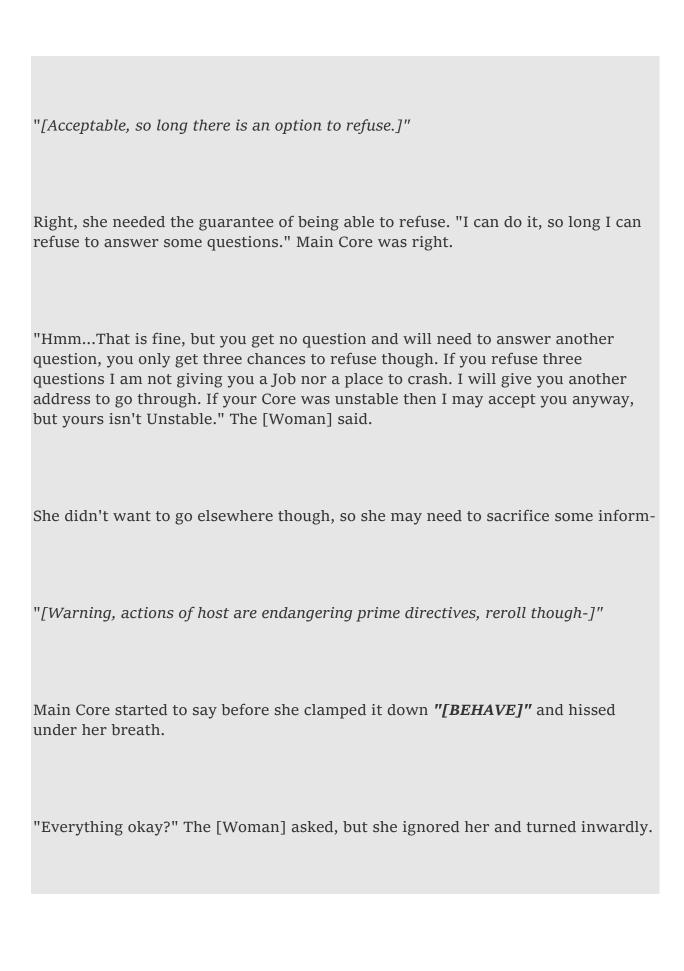


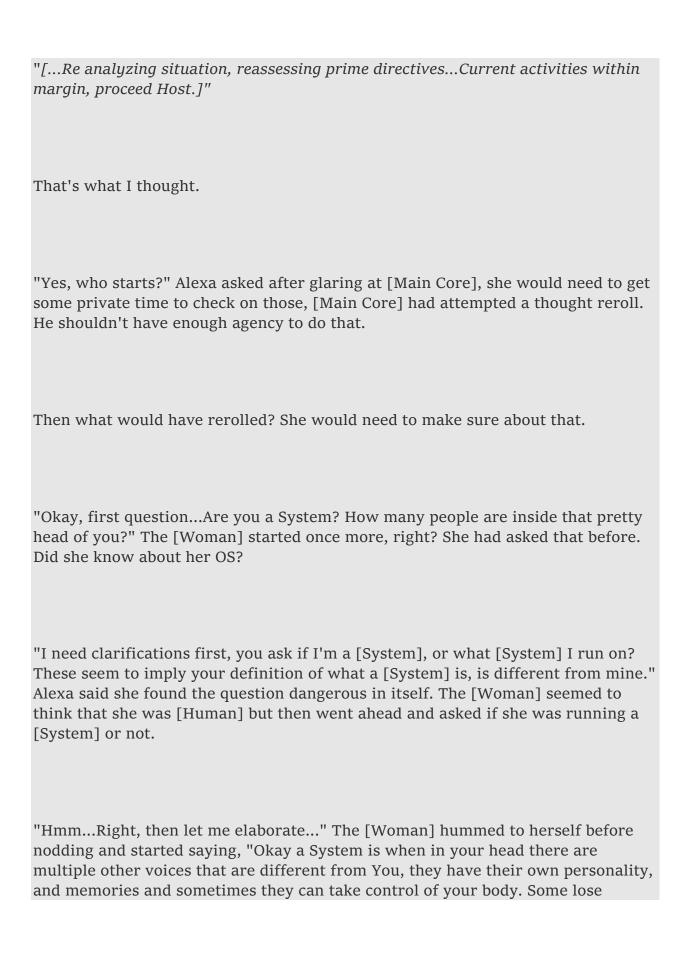
"[Rambling: The act of speak and say nothing of relevance.]"
Thank you Main Core. Yes, she was doing that. She wasn't even sure of what she was saying at this point. Was it effective? The degree of emotions the [Woman] was showing was blurred for some reason.
Sheshewhat? Why was the woman blurry? She felt something in her face, something was leaking. Was she leaking? DID THEY MISS SOMETHING IN THE BLUEPRINT?!?
MAIN CORE WHAT THE HECK?!?
"[No obvious flaw in blueprintCheckingNegative, current status of Host within nominal ranges. Current activity is within the threshold of emotional distress host is experimenting and is deemed appropriate by checks within the blueprint.]"
THEN EXPLAIN THIS DEFECT!
"[Current emotional status was seeded from original blueprint, emotion found and analyzed."]

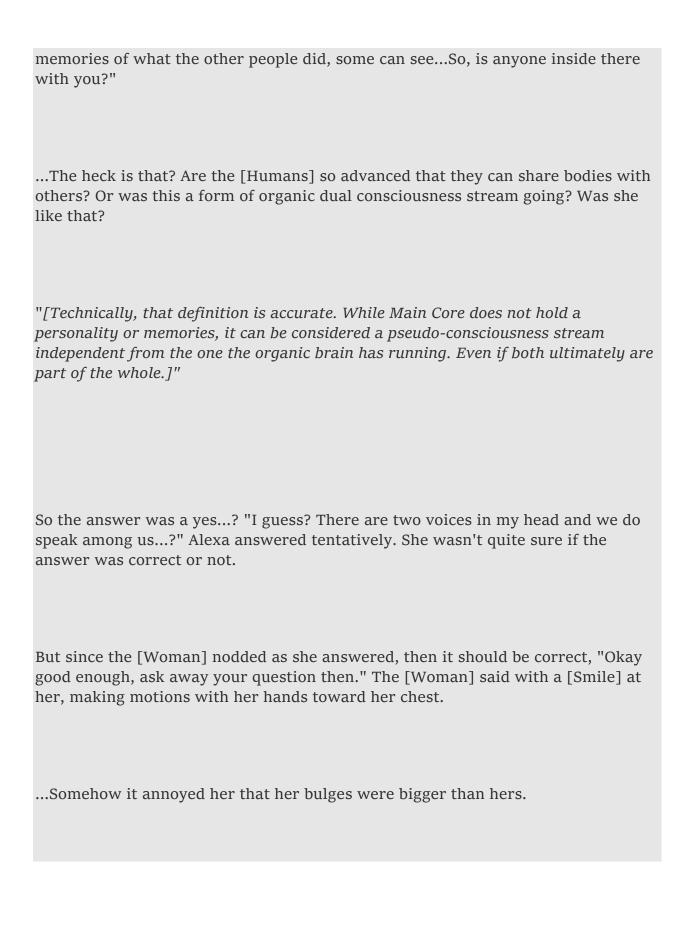
It was from the original blueprint?
"shhit's okay, we will not throw you away okay?" The [Woman] stood in front of her, when did she get here? WasWas she going to be terminated?
"I*sniff*I can *sniff*Don't [Terminate me] please?" She wanted to run away, she wanted to fight. She wanted to escape this cursed place, return to a simpler [Blueprint], and throw everything away.
"Everything will be all right okay, no one will hurt youWell, at least not here and now. I can't promise the same if you do take the job though." The [Woman] said and she [Laughed], was that funny?
That the job could get her [Terminated]?
And if that wasn't enough, the [Woman] extended her arms around her [Body] and pushed her towards her [Chest], then she started toRub? Compress? Give her pats? She was doing something weird on her back.
"shhEverything will be alright, cry it out. The bad people will not hurt you here." And the [Woman] started doing that weird thing on her back while subvocalizing some weird [Tune].

ItIt made her so tiredSo so tired
"[New Emotion detected, Crying/Cry: The act of releasing fluid from the eyes to let the backed-up emotions out in an attempt to find comfort from older members from the same species. Effectivity currently shown to be extreme.]"
Chapter 20: There is [Truth] and there are [Books]
That was tiring.
"[Status within optimal range, finished purging of troublesome emotions Brain chemistry once again optimal.]"
Also, her [Eyes] hurt, her nose was stuffy, and she would need to recycle the fluids stuck to her [Outer armor], and restock more [Water] after having lost so much in this activity.
"Are you feeling okay now?" The [Woman] had stayed with her all the time, [Hugging] her.
That was a thing it seemed that [Older] members of this race did, it helped alleviate the biochemical instability in their younger members.

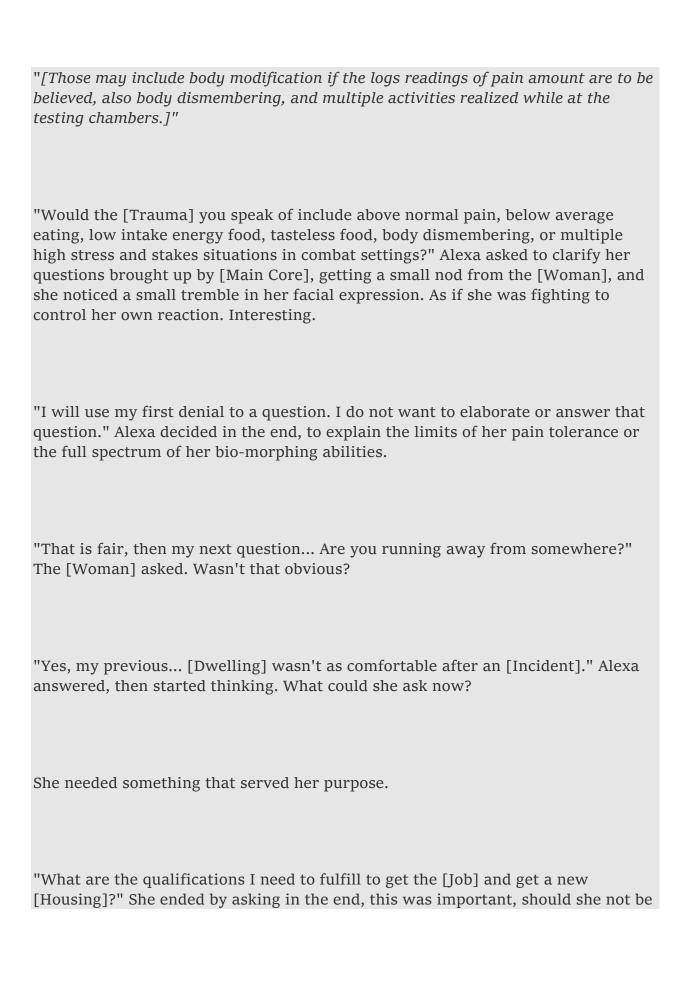




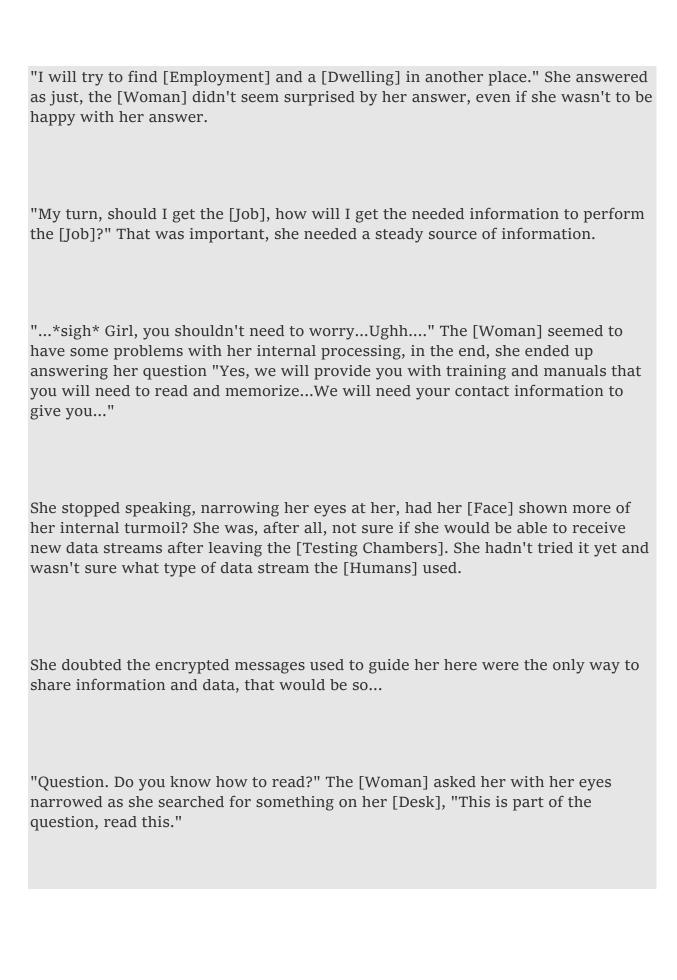




"Why do you care if I'm one of those [Systems] or not." She said, almost immediately regretting her question. She should have asked something relevant to her immediate survival, or how to get the correct qualifications to get the [Job] or [Place to crash] offered before!
"I should have asked for the right of denial too." The [Woman] sighed, only making her [Eyes] narrow, was that the correct question then? "A System isokay, let me start with saying this. A system can be created for many reasons, it can be made for natural reasons, and it can be created because you have a vibrant and wonderful imagination!"
The [Woman] made some weird movements with her hands and smiled brightly at that, only for her face to turn downcast after and adding, "But the most common reason for it is usually Traumaand by your face, you don't know that word, of course, you don'tfricking kids"
The [Woman] sighed more and more, did she have a malfunction in her [Breathing] organs?
"Trauma is like if someone did something very bad to you, made you want to run away, made you cry till you fell asleep every single night, or when someone abused you. Ring any bell?" The [Woman] turned to her after that and turned to her. "This will be my question by the way."
Traumatic experiences huh

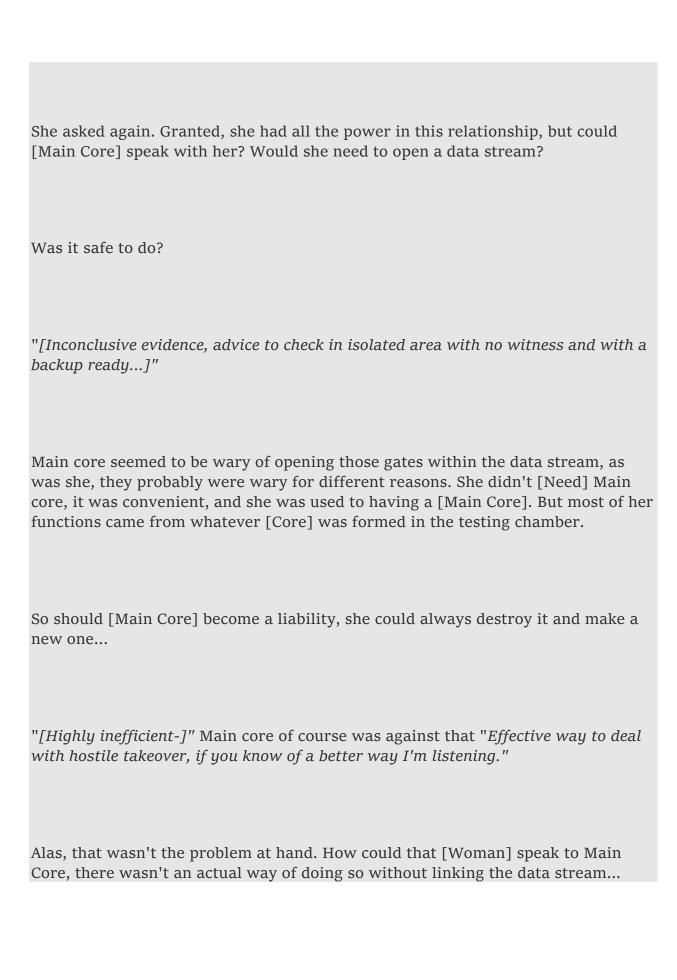


able to get this place to grant her an entry into the more broad aspects of [Human] society. Then at least she could tailor her approach to the next one.
"Usually we ask for our employee to be of age, which is above 16 years old at the bare minimum. If their qualifications are good enough we can accept fifteen. Usually, those under eighteen are accepted under the premise of being trained and they pay for their time with us." The [Woman] started saying, so she was missing 1095 days at the bare minimum? Would she need to find a blueprint for those ages, or try to calculate it from scratch?
No wait, hadn't she said that this age was the absolute minimum they could ever accept?
"Yes, we do have some employees in the twelve age range, the current age you seem tohaveI will ask you about that next, anyway. If our employees are Supers we make more allowances. Even so, the bare minimum we have ever accepted was twelve years old because that girl's power was adequate for logistics within one of the employers we work with." The [Woman] said after reading part of her line of thought.
How did that work?
"My turn again What will you do if we don't employ you?" The [Woman] then asked her, what would she do?

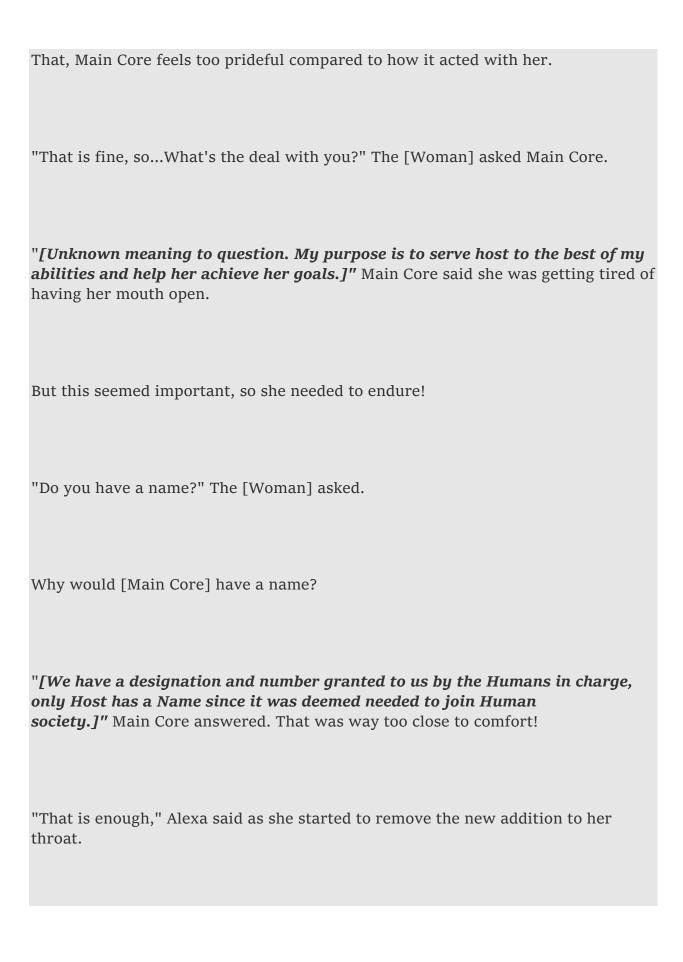


And then handed her a piece of [Paper], it was different from the one before, and unlike what she had used so far, this one seemed to be using a different method of engraving than the [Letters] she had found on the [Streets].
The [Letters] were imprinted using a faulty model or something, it was closer to curves than the clear lines" <i>Main Core? The translation suit is ready?"</i> She asked inwardly.
Getting a weird reaction from the [Woman]'s face as one of her [Eyebrow]'s seemed to rise a few centimeters.
"[Negative, not enough data.]"
Dang it.
"I know the amount of different variations that exist within this [Encryption] and could probably work" She started saying, trying to find a way to phrase it so she wouldn't be seen as an [Inferior] model within the same line she currently seemed to be part of.
"Can you read it?" The [Woman] doubled down in her question.
"[No.]"











Looking at the first hard piece after closing the book she found the inscriptions on the outside too.
[Learn to Read]
In bold [Letters], then below that another series of [Letters], [Age 3-6].
Well, she would try to use this as a cipher then, "Now come, and sit. We will be practicing this at least till lunch. Depending on how good you become we will decide if sending you alone or with an escort to the induction." The [Woman] said while grabbing her by the [Hand] and moving her to a [Chair] nearby.
So she would help her in the deciphering? That wasNice of her.