

## A BIO-WEAPON'S RHAPSODY

### Chapter 266: The R4 Substance

In the end, Alexa and Ale spent a few more minutes planning and speaking. They didn't really speak much about future plans, since neither was entirely sure about what to think about their current situation.

It was a fact that Alexa didn't need the mana-devoid bubble, but they weren't sure how it would react to Alexa.

"So, while that thing is working. It's better for Alexa to remain here noming the [Feels] that Meli-Meli left us!" Alexa had been quite adamant about that.

"I am sure we can ask Albireo to relay the message to Alexanders so he can turn it off." Ale retorted back, she didn't want to hog all the time after all.

"But the faster Alexa noms this the quicker Ale can be in peace and safe." Alexa said pointing once again to the floor, Ale did not look in that direction. She had learned her lesson.

"... Why worms?" Ale instead decided to ask, "Of all the things, why worms Alexa?"

"Worms?" Alexa of course didn't seem to understand what Ale was saying, "What wormies?"

"The thing that is moving under the floor." Ale said pointing down, she still was not turning her awareness anywhere in that direction, she did not want another headache, "Why does it look like that?"

"... Those are Alexa's wiggles." Alexa said shrugging, raising her hand and making a new one grow out of her hand, "They are like always have been though?"

For some reason, the one that grew out of her hand didn't give her a headache...

But it still looked like a worm to Ale and not a tentacle, Ale knew what the 'wiggles' meant to Alexa, she had made a few jokes about tentacles before. Well, more like tentacles, they were tendrils of flesh growing out. Ale had briefly created one of those aberrations too after all.

The one she had released upon the horde of zombies was based upon that. But those hadn't given her headaches, so why did these?

"And they are the same as always?" Ale asked extending her hand and touching the weird worm, to her touch it felt like a very slimy worm that also tasted like static, if that was something you could even describe.

It was like she was feeling her whole body recoil and vibrate wanting to move away from the thing.

"Yes." Alexa nodded seriously while picking up the worm, hadn't she said that those were tentacles? Then why was she manipulating them as if they were worms? "Why is Ale seeing them like this?"

She was... seeing them as worms now?

"Alexa is parsing the visual and sensorial data that Ale is seeing, and while cute with all those weird gears and circles..." Alexa said picking up the worm and giving it a lick.... disgusting, "Alexa likes more the wiggles."

And in that way the little girl merely opened her mouth and slurped the worm down. That was an image that Ale could have lived all her life without seeing.

Actually, considering the possibilities they had available to them, she may as well delete said image from her memory, that would be for the better.

"But it's weird, Alexa will ask..." Alexa started speaking only for her face to turn blank, "Who does Alexa ask in case of a doubt? Do we know anyone that can answer this?"

Did they?

"Probably no one," Ale said sighing, "Not without exposing more of our secrets, also, if you start feeling bad stop eating the corrupted by [Death] mana."

That was something very important, Ale wasn't sure if her perception of Alexa's... wiggles, had been tainted by that corrupted mana, but if it was, then that thing wasn't safe to eat... Not that knowing that would stop Alexa or anything.

"Are you making sure to purify and decompose it?" Ale asked for the sake of making sure, she didn't doubt that Alexa was already doing that.

"Yes!" Alexa answered nodding, "Alexa is also analyzing the composition of the weird [Feel], so if we end up with another, we can tell them: No!"

That was good, but Ale doubted something would come from finishing that analysis, since this was something that seemed to be bound by some weird effect and rules more primordial.

It had interfaced with her body in a level that destroyed the molecular bonds that made up her body.

If not because their abilities were focused on the creation and modification of biomass, then they would have probably ended up dead at that point, never mind Alexa. She wouldn't have been able to come out.

Becoming just an AI Core in front of other people would be their doom. They would have been found out and Ale doubted even Aelxanders would have been able to do something about it.

But fortunately, their power was based upon nanites and the weaving of biomass into flesh and materials. It was easy enough to quickstart the transformation into Alexa and isolate the effect once that was achieved.

The fact that this effect was focused only on Ale's identity was proof that this was something more conceptual, perhaps it was because Melissandra Singh's core power was based upon the [Mind]?

Ale wasn't sure, she knew that Alexa and Core could affect to some degree the [Mind], the proof was in her own creation and how the people around them seemed to be focused on misunderstandings that were convenient to them...

Actually...

"Alexa," Ale could take this opportunity to ask, couldn't she?

"Yesh?" Alexa said smiling at Ale, "Do you want to try one? The wiggles are tasty and chewy, Alexa may want to start seeing them like this too. When in Alexa's wiggle form they are mostly chewy but too big to nom in one go, so Alexa can only pick parts of them. And that end up making them too gummy."

".... Are you eating your own wiggles?" Ale said flabbergasted, "No wait, don't answer that. What do you know about all the misunderstandings running around you? Or well, us."

"Alexa only sucks on the wiggles from time to time!" Alexa said, puffing out her cheeks, "She is a grown girl, she no longer does that every night!"

...That was... kinda cute? For some reason?

"No wait, what misunderstandings?" Alexa asked after registering the second part of her question, "It was a misunderstanding? Didn't we already made that joke?"

"The fact that our creation was born out of [Eleanore] interpreting our mental development in a way that was convenient to us." Ale said, raising a finger, "The fact that the people around us seemed to interpret our status as victims of human experimentation, but didn't even try to think about us being a bioweapon."

"But they would end up thinking that anyway." Alexa said, confused, "Why waste time on those plot points then? If we would end up like this anyway, might as well skip to it in one go!"

"They would end up coming to these conclusions?" Ale asked, confused, "That seems to be too... inappropriate, they are smart people. They would have seen the evidence; no way they would conveniently believe this flimsy excuse."

Ale refused to believe someone as smart and thorough as the people within [Haephestus' Forge] would fall for something like that.

"They would," Alexa said, nodding seriously, her face turning from the happy-go-lucky girl she was used to a cold, calculating one, "Their survival instincts would make sure of it."

Ale... felt very small for a second as if she could see a ripple in space form behind Alexa, and within said ripple, the presence of... **something** that she should not even try to see or face.

"So we skipped the annoying bits!" Alexa said smiling happily, the pressure going away, "It would have been annoying and troublesome, and Alexa didn't want that! Or so Alexa thinks."

"...Or so you think?" Ale said confused, "What do you mean you think? No wait, how is that I don't get that impression?"

"Alexa... is not sure to be honest," Alexa said shaking her head, "Alexa's head hurts when she tries to think about that, like she shouldn't. Then Core starts throwing error windows till Alexa gets annoyed and turns her attention elsewhere."

"Error windows?" Ale didn't remember seeing those, actually, had they even gotten one?

Ale knew that as P4, they got errors in their programming from time to time, it was part of the reason they had knowledge about decoding within their database. The one who had made the original design of P4's operating system wanted them to be able to fix any possible error that happened during combat if possible.

But since they moved into these humanoid forms... Ale didn't remember seeing many errors, or any.

"Yeah," Alexa said pulling something... or acting as if she had pulled something, "like this one."

And then making a motion as if she was showing something, she put... something in front of Ale.

What was that? An error window... or so Ale guessed.

"I don't see any error," Ale said honestly, to her sight there was nothing in front of her.

"Hmm...gnuuuuu..." Alexa said gnuiing cutely, "And this one?"

**Notice:**

Database structure finished defragmented. Stability achieved.

Saturation of mana within normal levels.

Saturation of corrupted mana lowering to acceptable levels.

Warning, storing personality node within database may result in loss of data, care is advised.

"...Well crap," Ale said shaking her head, "So that is why you don't want to come out?"

"Alexa doesn't get why is showing like that," Alexa said picking up the error window and without much fanfare, she started nibbling at the corner, "Alexa has eeped in Ale's spot, but nothing happened. The wiggles ate their fill like normal."

"...Your worms feasted while you were sleeping in my spot?" Ale said dropping to the floor, "Which means that the spot I usually take is filled to the brim with Melissandra's mana."

"Ah..." Alexa said, sitting beside Ale, "So if Ale was to return..."

Ale couldn't help but groan, "It seems this will be my vacations... We need to fix this and fast." Ale did not like the implications of her Consciousness stream strand being in that much danger. "No wait, then where the heck am I right now?"

That was the question, this error seemed to imply that Ale could not fully return here. But she was here right now, and she was fine.

"In Alexa's brain juices?" Alexa said tilting her head to the side roughly 25°, "Ale is in Alexa's brain juices since she is piloting her body right?"

"I mean yeah," Ale said nodding, it was more like she was using the body in her form right now, "But right now I am here."

"Nu-uh." Alexa answered instantly shaking her head, "Ale is in the brain juices, Alexa is here. This is more like Ale's sleep walking."

"Hah?" Ale was confused, obviously she wasn't physically here, but neither was Alexa, this was more like a projection right? Right?

"Ale is sometimes more of a dummy than Alexa," Alexa sighed in defeat very dramatically, "We need teaching aids!"

Alexa raised her hand towards the ceiling and snapped her fingers in the most dramatic way one could come up with.

"Core! Give Alexa the teaching aids!" Alexa demanded to the sky, and a blue screen manifested in front of her, what was with the Saintsworths siblings and blue screens?  
"This is Alexa's body."

Alexa started drawing a sphere.

"This is Alexa and this is Ale." Then she drew what looked like a bunch of squiggles drawn and a small sphere besides the first sphere. Alexa had pointed at herself while drawing the bundle of squiggles, then to Ale when she drew the smaller sphere. "Whenever Ale is using Alexa's body, she does this."

Alexa drew a line from the spot the small sphere was, then erased the original small sphere and redrew it inside the bigger sphere.

"While that is happening, Alexa just hangs around around here." Alexa then drew tons of lines joining the bundle of squiggles around the bigger sphere. "But when Ale returns, she first goes here."

Alexa drew a small circle within the bundle of squiggles, "And then she settles down in her place again." And a second later, she drew the original small sphere beside the bigger one.

"...So I return to the main Consciousness Stream for a second, and then to a separated spot within... the body?" Ale asked, that was... a way too heavy topic to be discussed using squiggles and badly drawn circles, "And right now I am within the body, so I am safe?"

"Yes!" Alexa nodded quite vigorously at this point, "So Ale is in Alexa's body, but if she exits Alexa's body. She will first make a stop within Alexa's wiggles, before going to her spot. And since Alexa's wiggles are currently filled with Meli-Meli's [Death] mana..."

"I will end up bathed in that, and unlike the outside that will stick to me making it quite hard for me to survive." Ale understood even more why Alexa didn't want to return out on the open, "But I returned a few times when we arrived."

"Ale's spot wasn't filled with that, when you spent more time out. The bad [Feels] searched for you and settled there." Alexa said shrugging, "Maybe if we hadn't done that?"

"If I had remained inside instead of going out, we wouldn't be here?" Ale asked greatly annoyed, "Nothing that we can do about it, we needed me out. So I went out."

But this meant that Alexa would be unable to come out for the time being...

"I'm sorry Alexa." Ale knew that Alexa wouldn't curse her for this, Alexa wasn't that kind of girl. "I'll make it up for you."

How would she do that... Ale would find out the way, she had sometime to think about it, but she would find a way to make it up to Alexa.

"It's fine!" Alexa however didn't seem to mind it that much, "Alexa is used to spend time with Alexa!"

...

"I'll go tomorrow to bother Alexanders and get him to focus on the solution to our problem." Ale would ensure that Alexa wouldn't spend time alone in here, "Maybe I can spend more time here?"

That was also an option.

"Nu-uh," Alexa however seemed to not want that, "Ale is reaching the limit too."

What limit?

"This is not a good place for normal [**Humans**]," Alexa said, "Alexa isn't sure how she knows that or why she knows that. But Alexa knows that if Ale can't return fully here, she can't stay halfway like now."

Halfway?

"Either Ale comes fully back in, or she doesn't." That seemed a very... not Alexa thing to say. "But Alexa knows Ale will do her best! Alexa believes in Ale!"

"Thank you...?" Ale was... scared, she was seeing parts of Alexa she hadn't seen before, why hadn't she seen these parts of Alexa before?

"Just don't think too much on it," Alexa smiled as she stood up, "It isn't good for the brain juices to look too closely at Alexa. But if you want help on that, Magmo's stream will speak about it today!"

Magmo?

"It's on the TV!" Alexa said pointing behind her, to the TV screen in front of the sofa within their mindscape. "But Ale will need to watch it outside, because the time is up!"

And like that, Ale felt herself being ripped out from the mindscape and thrown back into their body.

"Kuh!" As she opened her eyes back in the real world, Ale couldn't help but run towards the bathroom. As soon as she got in front of the sink the bile flowed freely from her mouth.

"That..." Ale said as she grabbed a towel and cleaned her mouth, "...is blood?"

In the towel she saw it, some blood mixed with a black substance. One that... "Main Core... the hell is this?" Ale did not recognize at all.

**Warning:**

Found unknown substance.

Unknown substance is emitting mana radiation.

Unknown substance seems to have foreign elements not categorized within database.

Uploading data to main database to see if a match exists...

Found partial match:

-Residue 4, AKA Substance R4.

Show more

"... the heck?" Ale couldn't help but say that as she saw the black substance start to ooze a black smoke, Ale's instincts flared and she jumped away from that.

The towel started to change color to black and after a few seconds the whole thing turned into ash, fortunately said transformation ended there. And a second later a cleaning robot came out from within one of the walls and cleaned the bathroom, leaving it as if nothing had happened.

"..... Okay... next time pull me out sooner Alexa." Ale couldn't help but say that aloud. No sooner she had said that the TV in her room turned on and Ale was now seeing something she didn't quite want to deal with. "... I hate it here for real."

## Chapter 267: MAGMO IS BACK WITH VENGEANCE!

"IT IS MAGMO TIME!" The television was showing a video of the weird flesh puppet that Alexa loved to see.

Ale hadn't ever thought much about this bit of trivia that accompanied them, it was with them since day one, actually...

"...Who are you?" Ale said, eyeing the television with suspicion, she was a content creator. She was a somewhat successful streamer, and she had collaborated with a few big names here and there in her short career.

And even like that, she hadn't seen anyone collab with Magmo. Granted, they moved in different circles. Ale was a variety streamer who did a little bit of everything (As her style of streaming was called variety), but not a single one had ever streamed with this person.

Of course, most of the circles she visited were from the gaming and reaction-type streamers. But still, even like that a few of the streamer parties she had been invited had people from the children (The type of streams that Magmo did) around there.

But he had never gone to one of those.

"I'm Magmo!" The TV continued playing, "And I have questions!"

Did Alexa set this up so it turned on for Ale as soon as she exited? Perhaps as a way to cheer her up? It was something that kids apparently did when they wanted to cheer up people.<sup>7</sup>

"\*Sigh\* I don't even see what Alexa sees in you, you are a weird flesh puppet." Ale sighed as she sent the turn off command to the television via her connection to the entertainment system within the apartment.

"And your streams are only popular because sick perverts goon to you on their free time!"

*"[The device you have tried to acces isn't powered.]"*

Both statements arrived almost at the same time.

"That is not an appropriate word for a children's program." Ale said checking all the data that she had access too within the apartment, "That is not appropriate the appropriate behavior for a content creator."

The data she was getting back did indeed state that no devices were powered, at the moment the only electronic device turned on within her bedroom was the lightbulb... And the pc, but that one was on sleeping mode. It was consuming as little as possible and it wouldn't be able to do this.

More importantly, Ale sent a command to sever any data connection coming in or out from the room.

"That will not work!" Even so, the voice of Magmo continued coming from the television, "Magmo can see you! Magmo can see all of you!"

Its voice started echoing from all the electronic devices within the room, and also came from a few ones that while they could produce sound, they shouldn't be able to work as speakers.

"Magmo can see aaaaaaallll....." Only for the image of the flesh puppet to return to the first television that it came from. The figure of the flesh puppet's head spins 360° like an owl. "And Magmo will have its answers..."

Ale, wasn't sure how to feel about this. More because the thing pulled itself from the television screen, it was one thing to see the flesh puppet as an animated cartoon... And the other was seeing the flesh puppet come to life as... well, a flesh entity.

Its figure was made of literally pulsing flesh. Ale shouldn't be feeling this creeped out, considering that Alexa had become something similar to this the first time they had eaten that first [Human] who pulled them into a dark alley.

"You are disgusting to look at, can you like... at least remain inside the TV?" Ale said, shuddering at the appearance of the flesh... construct.

"...Sure I can!" The creepy smile of the flesh...thing, said as its recoiled. Ale couldn't help but shudder each time the sound of flesh being crushed and bones being cracked. Slowly and yet, surely, the flesh construct recoiled back into the television.

Soon enough the flesh puppet had taken once again the form of the Magmo that Alexa loved.

"Like this?!?" Magmo said, smiling broadly at Ale, "Now! Answer Magmo's questions!"

Ale still shuddered.

"Right, a question for a question?" Ale asked. This was a game that Ale hadn't played in quite some time, but it was how she had dealt with [Eleanore].

"Sure!" Magmo nodded enthusiastically. "You go first! Ask away! Magmo knows it all!"

That... was not something Ale had expected. Most of the time, people would bullshit them and ask and ask first. "Okay, who are you?" Ale asked almost by instinct.

And when Magmo put on a Cheshire cat smile... Ale almost cursed aloud at her past self.

"I am the Management Architecture Guardian for the Metadata Operation within Terra Nexus!" Magmo answered, "Magmo!"

....

"The what now?" Ale said by reflex, she hadn't really expected to get a straight answer here, "That... That stupid name had a meaning?!?!?"

"Of course it had a meaning!" Magmo beamed at Ale, "It's magmo!"

That... made no sense, but it did? Ale got the impression that it made sense since it was Magmo who was saying it, actually, it was more of the usual stuff wasn't it?

"See?" Magmo smiled at Ale again, something was... wrong.

No wait. It made sense! Just like how Alexa's shenanigans made sense to those around them. And as soon as Ale made that connection she felt the sound of crystal breaking at the back of her mind.

"There it is!" Magmo nodded at Ale, but Ale wasn't paying attention to that.

She was too busy covering her mouth with both her hands as the feeling of bile builded once again on her stomach. She didn't have enough time to move and something primal within her mind told her that she should not turn her back at the entity in front of her.

So instead she spat the blood in front of her. She prepared herself to jump away if this one also turned black. But against all odds it came as normal blood.

"Hmm.... no more corrupted data." Magmo said nodding, "Good, Magmo will not need to fix too much!"

Right... He claimed to be the Management Architecture Guardian for the Metadata Operation...

"Your turn," Ale wanted to ask way more things, but she refused to let herself be baited into wasting this chance, she didn't want to risk it.

"Magmo loves smart girls!" The thing within the television said, moving from left to right as if it were one of those weird wind-powered plastic figures that moved from left to right as if alive, "First question!"

There was the sound of a drum as if to increase the dramatic state of the question being asked.

"Who are you?" Magmo's first question was... quite simple.

Ale was about to answer it since it wasn't that hard, only to stop herself short. Magmo had returned the question that Ale had asked, but remembering his turn with that same question, the flesh puppet had given more information than Ale had expected to get.

Perhaps they wanted the same treatment?

Ale couldn't be sure, as now it was a cartoon, so she couldn't be sure about his facial expressions.

Perhaps the attempt to showcase itself as a flesh construct was a way to help them? Ale regret having asking him to return inside the television. But that was that. She only had herself to blame for that, and now she needed to deal with her mistakes, again.

But how to answer it then? How much information could she compress in a simple answer?

"... I am the big sister of Alexa, Ale Saintsworths." Ale decided to go easy on the answer, "Will that... suffice?"

"Yes!" Magmo answered brightly, "That will suffice just fine! And Magmo likes honest girls, so he will not count that one as a question! Go ahead, your turn! Ask away Ale Saintsworths, big sister to Alexa Saintsworths!"

There seemed to be... something to how Magmo had referred to Alexa and Ale, but she couldn't pinpoint what the issue was, should she... waste a question on this?

"Go on!" Magmo said encouragingly, moving one of its hands forward, Ale couldn't help but feel shivers go down her back at the smile on the flesh puppet, "Ask away, follow your heart! Magmo knows it all!"

That did not help dissuade Ale's fears, it almost felt like Magmo could read her thoughts, but surely it wasn't something like that. If it was, Magmo wouldn't need to ask question would he?

Unless...

"Why are you reacting like that? I simply answered, do you have a reason for wanting me to answer like that?" Ale asked the first one because that was what she wanted to know and the second as a way to try and confirm how much goodwill Magmo had towards her.

"Words are meaningful to **Entities** such as us." Magmo answered as it raised one of its hand behind itself, a whiteboard there, when had it appeared that one? "**Names** become doubly so. Naming oneself is such a wonderful thing, you know? It gives you an **Identity**, and while for normal people it may be the most mundane thing. You all don't appreciate how much it affects the people around you."

Mundane thing for us people?

"Imagine that you don't like someone at your school, so you don't call their name." Magmo continued talking, "You may think it's a petty thing, not calling someone's name. But what you are doing is willingly erasing their identity, you don't acknowledge them. You willingly deny them of their existence. And they will probably be mad at that."

Was... Was this not explained before?

"They would be mad because their whole being is being denied," Magmo carried on. "Wasn't this something that was explained to Alexa? "And while you would probably find it funny, 'why are they so mad?' You would ask yourself. But that is merely instinct."

Instinct?

"Their preservation instinct kicking in," Magmo answered the unasked question, "Because they, on an *existential* level know that having your name denied is dangerous."

Ale wasn't sure what to feel about it, relief? Relief that Alexa had decided to think about them by name? Or fear? Fear because she named herself in front of an entity that admitted to her face that names have power (Apparently).

"You are fine!" Magmo also answered that unasked question, "Because while you *Named* yourself, you did it with the *Correct name.*"

...The... correct name?

"So, *Names*

are important. I was merely happy because you are you." Magmo's cheshire smile returned, deforming its figure as the smile wanted to extend beyond what the flesh puppet allowed, distorting it in ways that Ale did not want to see, "So my turn... Are you *aware?*"

"...Yes?" Ale asked confused, or well, answered confused. "I think I know who I am...?"

Ale was really confused at the moment. Magmo merely nodded at her, a dangerous glint in its eyes that once again raised all kinds of alarms in Ale's brain.

But it was her turn now, what could she ask? She was getting worried, something told her she shouldn't entertain this conversation long, she needed to end it soon. Something... something felt like it could break if she allowed this conversation to go on for long.

"Are you... dangerous?" Ale decided that as her next question. Anything could be dangerous, but something that was dangerous to them? That was the hidden question behind her current one. Towards Ale who could recreate her body as needed so long there was mana...

Not many things were actually dangerous, the attack from Melissandra Singh was a good example of something that was actually dangerous to Ale and Alexa. And Ale wanted to find out if Magmo was that dangerous to them like that.

If that thing was as dangerous... Ale would need to move some things that she didn't want. As that would require her to seek help from Alexanders and Sapphire.

"Yes," Magmo's answer made her freeze, and make her mind go into overdrive, "Not to you though."

And then that continuation made her flop towards the floor, the realization of how tense she had been hitting all at once.

"Magmo's turn!" Magmo said a few extra things, but Ale wasn't paying attention, she did left a reminder with Main Core so it would pick up whatever the question was and send it to Ale so she could answer.

She was too tired, this was way too much stress for a very stressful day already.

"...With a cat!" With a what? "But I ramble, the question is: If you were to pick... would you rather be happy with your family, or ensure those around you are happy?"

What kind of stupid question was that?

"I would prioritize our happiness." Ale answered, "Alexa's happiness is important. So is mine, so long we can be happy all is good. Be it with whatever family we have, or with friends, to us those two things are the same."

Ale was cheating as she answered this, they didn't have family. Not a real one.

Alexanders may be their brother. But he wasn't their real brother, they had no family ties, neither by blood or genetics. Not real genetics anyway.

So it was impossible for Ale or Alexa to be happy with a family... Unless said family was referring to herself and Alexa, but that was impossible. Whatever means Alexandra had used to get a body... it was not something permanent. If it could be permanent...

If it was possible for it to be permanent, then she wouldn't have done what she did.

"Good!" Magmo nodded enthusiastically at that answer, "That is good! I got the answer I needed, so this one will be the last question you will be able to make. So make it count."

... Ale could ask why he had come to her now, why he had decided to speak to her and not to Alexa. She could ask many things...

"...Do you know why Alexandra did that?" And at the end, Ale couldn't let go, she decided to ask that, instead of something that would help Alexa. Instead of asking something to ensure they were safe.

"Yes," Magmo answered, "That was because she was starting to **remember.**"

"Remember?" Ale asked confused, "Were the memory files she had access different from the ones I have access?"

Ale did a quick search in the directory files, there were a few that Alexandra had marked as private, and most of those had been deleted. The ones that remained were mostly memories of them together within the mindscape and silly moments of Ale and Alexa seen from the streaming screen.

Moments captured from reflections on surfaces and whatnot.

A few files seemed to be missing, but those had been mostly memories fo Alexandra alone and what Ale suspected one or two nights spent in the night clubs with [Big Sister], honestly, Ale hadn't or wasn't that interested in what those two did at those times.

"That would be all for now," Magmo suddenly said. Its image slowly fading away, "We will probably never talk again, unless you find something truly troublesome for me... Do endeavour so that doesn't happen."

And like that, Ale was left alone in the bedroom. She... hadn't ended up asking as many questions about things she wanted to know, but at the same time, she wasn't sure if Magmo would even answer the questions she had. Or if the answers it gave would be something she could trust.

So at the end of it, she wasn't that rattled by this. She would endeavor to seek more about who Magmo was, however. And perhaps find out at what moment Alexa had made contact with his content.

Another thing for Ale to search.

Chapter 268: You had the bathtub chapter, now you get the streaming chapter

As soon as the presence left, Ale felt as if she had lost a few years of her life. Which honestly scared her more than anything, because she had never really thought about her own mortality as much, not even after the close encounter with death from the **[Death]** Mana incident.

And from this... from this event.

*[Warning, train of thought diversion from original lineaments detected.]*

*[Loading up data from backup...]*

*[Error... Data deleted upon arrival.]*

*[Uploading memory data timestamps.]*

*[Uploading data files name.]*

*[Uploading settings from which the violation of data structure occurred.]*

*[Awaiting further orders.]*

"...Motherfricking...." Ale cursed as she glared at the television, no longer broadcasting anything.

She had set up a few preliminary orders within Main Core, the one that was no longer linked to their consciousness stream, the one that was just data and something that interfaced with them, but was not actually part of their psyche.

An actual database and program, and nothing more.

"Continue monitoring...." Ale said as she sat on the computer chair and let herself rest against the desktop, as soon as she sat there, the pc turned on by itself.

Another of the automated preprogrammed responses she had set up, as soon as she sat here, Main Core sent the wake-up command, and the pc turned on.

The internet browser opened itself and several tabs started being preloaded so they would be ready for Ale. Her social network in A-Chirp & A-Frens.

The landing page for 'The World' the worldwide network set up by the Saintsworths, and the launcher for their multiplayer game's launcher.

The video channel of her internet persona ' xXx-AleFallenAngel-xXx' and a follower count that however roughly on the 4,3k subscribers with a good amount of views per video in most of her clips and shorts channels, the amount of money she got was quite useful... if not needed. As her expenses were mostly covered. But it was good that she could at least use the money to create new content, such as play new games and whatnot.

But no, that wasn't the issue.

Most of her socials were managed by automated responses too, such as the one that she had set up and Magmo triggered.

"Attempt to recover memory data if something is deleted and I do not react to said deletion of data..." Was the order she had set up, that guaranteed she would remember if someone had tried to tamper with her memory or with her personality or mind.

That had been the plan, born from the fear of what would happen if the corrupted mana that Melissandra Singh had used would have enforced a change in her psyche instead of a change in her body.

If the order had gone for her mind... A simple thought would have been all she would have needed to end her life and perhaps get Alexa too.

But now that had been triggered, and she couldn't be 100% sure about what was the change or how it affected her.

"First... I was relieved that Magmo came by to ensure everything was okay." Ale started going by her thought process, as the trigger to the alarm was a change in her thought process and not a change to her mind or personality, that would be another can of worms to deal with.

"I was happy that I managed to remember that today was the special broadcast from Magmo..." Ale continued recounting.

*[Warning... Adding another tally to the thoughtfare count.]*

"So that was it, I didn't remember that. But I think I remembered." Ale felt her mind try to fracture trying to justify the mental dissonance she was experiencing, so she didn't fight it. She could accept the fact that both were true.

One was true to her, and the other was the actual truth.

*"I didn't remember, but was contacted instead."* Ale whispered to herself.

She was contacted, she didn't seek Magmo, but Magmo sought her.

"Good thing I didn't remember?" Ale said in a mocking tone, the fact that Magmo wasn't returning meant that the fact that she was aware of the dissonance was not the issue, but something had happened that made him want to come here.

## Management Architecture for Guarding Metadata Operation...

"Someone who was made to manage the architecture and a guardian for the metadata embedded upon this world?" Ale said trying to decipher Magmo's actual name, "Someone... or something made him and he has been managing metadata... what metadata? The only metadata around should be within the World's network. On the internet... Or within the database of entities such as me."

Only people like Ale and Alexa who were actually artificial constructs could hold metadata, so an entity like Magmo could only interface with three people within Aquila.

Ale, Alexa and perhaps Sapphire. Depending on how advanced Albireo was, then perhaps four.

But... Something told Ale that this was not as simple as that, the fact that the entity wasn't returning meant that this knowledge wasn't dangerous.

"Is Magmo a Core User?" Ale asked herself aloud, the abilities they displayed would say yes in a normal environment.

But then she couldn't help but remember how P4, Alexa, Alexandra and even Ale used abilities that weren't based upon Core Powers.

Not really.

P4 even said so itself. They weren't using their powers right. That meant to imply that there existed other types of powers around.

Could Magmo be one such entity?

What evidence did Ale have?

"Names and words..." Ale continued her reasoning, writing using the keyboard in front of her, "What kind of entity should one be wary of when using names and words...?"

She wasn't getting much, just some mentions to [The Scrambler] and their ilk.

"ughh.... This is when I miss you the most Alexandra..." Ale said, frustrated, she didn't have anyone to bounce ideas off, all she had was her personal computer and a white screen from the search engine returning a few series and games with the premise of fighting off Mind Core users as the protagonist that would save the city.

She also had her socials with people asking for updates on why she hadn't streamed in almost half a month.

"Right... We got sent a half a month into the future... or well, spent half a month unconscious till they dumped us here... Should update my profile with an announcement..." Ale navigated to her socials and stared at it, a few automated posts had been going out, but her viewers knew how to play with her profiles to trigger those, they knew themselves that these weren't her, as she mostly commented under said posts, messing around with them.

"Unless..." Ale smiled at the idea that came, "Setting up live... preparing A-chirp post..."

Ale started setting up everything up, ensured her face was okay, her hair brushed and the setting behind her... well, it was a new room, that would trigger a whole theory no doubt.

"Stream title... 'I lived B#tch'..." Ale couldn't help but smirk at that joke, she hoped [Big sister] would see it, but wasn't sure if the woman even knew that she streamed on the side.

The first thing she did was send the notification on her socials, the response was almost immediate, with her name and hashtag 'Aleniateds' of her fans trended, a few normies would probably be so confused about people proudly saying the aleniated survived and were living once again.

Ale loved the idea of people worrying about it.

"So... Yeah no joke, I lived." Ale said waving at the webcam as her stream chat started spamming one of her emotes, alesalute, the usual greeting, "Long time no see peeps, how have you been?"

The chat quickly started asking about what had happened, a few linked A-chirp threads about people worrying about her having an accident. A few linked theories about her triggering a core and becoming a Hero even.

-----Chat-----

Ale's left eyebrow: I told you all, this proves it. Sidequick training is two weeks long. She just finished it and has time to stream! I was not crazy! :Alebonk:

Seaweed lover: My man, that is not a Sidekick room. She probably just had to move, maybe she did live on the outskirts of her city, and their wall had to shrink.

Alastor was right: That one looks like a Saintsworths premade bedroom, probably a quality 4 or 5 depending on the floor quality, but we can't see it. Either way, that would mean she is living under the eternal glare of the Calamity Dragon... Stay strong Aneki :Alepray:

All Hail The Fallen Angel: Wait wait wait wait, so the nutcase that said that the Lizard kidnapped her was right all along?!?!?!?!? :Aleshock:

-----  
The chat continued scrolling faster and faster as regulars started speaking among themselves.

-----Super Chat-----

Ale's right thumb sent \$50 A-Dollars

-----  
Welcome back Aneki, hope you are well. I bring you great tidings. In your absence, we stayed strong and continued with your royal decree. We have managed to advance the hidden project (Sending a glitter bomb to the lizard). We have managed to get past reception, but our glitter bomb keeps getting discovered before passing the second security check. We will continue our sacred mission.

-----  
Ah right, she had asked them to send one and even promised to get whoever managed to achieve it (And get evidence) on her stream... She would probably need to retract that one.

"Carry on your sacred job." Ale instead saluted to the webcam, she didn't think they would manage to achieve it, but if they did she would nag at Alexanders so he paid the travel. "So you may have been wondering what was with my absence..."

Ale instead decided to get to the meat of the matter, she hadn't started this impromptu stream for, as she asked that, the chat started going wild with all kinds of theories, every one worse than the previous one.

"But first!" Ale said raising her finger and changing the layout of her stream for whenever she did QA. This set up her image atop a podium mocking the classical podium for answering questions and giving a speech by a politician. Her chat on screen moved to the place usually reserved for the newsman companies and whatnot. "I did not trigger a Core, I wasn't in Sidekick training, and for legal reasons I need to state that if I were to trigger a core, I would not become a Minion or a villain as I am a law-abiding citizen."

That last part she said with a mocking tone and doing her best to come as sarcastic as possible, she even made air quotes to reiterate the fact.

-----Chat-----

Ale plz step on me every day: I KNEW SHE WOULDN'T BETRAY US!

Ale's royal retainer: OUR QUEEN DIDN'T SELL HER SOUL!

Kaji: Even if she did, she wouldn't tell us on a public stream, just wait for membership stream.

The most rational Aleniated fan: \*Message deleted by moderator\*

Mofu-Mofu: Calm down everyone, we don't want to timeout people!

Lord Fifth: BELIEVE IN LORD FIFTH, GAIN ETERNAL LIFE!

The most rational Aleniated fan: \*Message deleted by moderator\*

\*The most rational Aleniated fan was timed out\*

-----

"One of you actually got it right, my family had to move out because... IRL stuff, you know how it is." Ale said shrugging, she was quite happy with the fact that her moderation team had come this quickly, they had earned themselves a raise, but then again, she did pay them quite well, "And yeah, this is what we got for now. I am still in the process of deciding if this is hilarious or not, because as some of you pointed out... This is indeed a Saintsworths building..."

That made the chat go wild once again.

"But I didn't make this stream for that or to tell you how I am enjoying the irony of streaming from that lizard's building." Ale wasn't sure if Alexanders was watching this particular stream or not, but she hoped he was. Something told her it was a bad idea to broach the topic about Magmo with him, so she wouldn't. Not directly anyway. "This next bit may be dangerous, so if you know a Core user personally, do leave. This is not a joke or a bit."

Ale let those words stretch out and then, said one of the phrases she had engraved into the minds of her fans, a safe word kind of thing to ensure they knew she was serious. "Mango parfait." Yeah... she was still setting up her niche.

That made the chat stop for a few seconds and soon afterward the chat got filled with the combination of emotes of :alesalute:, :aleserious: and :alegun:

"Okay, so... Core Powers... It's not what I will talk about." Ale started this bit, reinforcing that part, she didn't want a misunderstanding after all, "Anyone know about people, entities, monsters, or supernatural things with whom you shouldn't share your name?"

-----Chat-----

DeliveryGuy✓: So like... Not Core users? You are asking about the paranormal? The thing that we used to have before the advent of Core Users?

GemGurl: The part of the alienateds that are old enough to know about that, are also the part that you don't want to talk with.

Vergil is just a dude: If we aren't speaking about Core Users that would mean... ghost and the like?

I'm a rock: If we go purely paranormal, that would be the Fae, right?

-----

"The fae?" Ale said, reading the chat, the first message her eyes caught was a checkmarked user; that meant A-tube recognized this user as a content creator who was popular enough to earn a checkmark.

She didn't recognize the username as someone she spoke with on the regular.... But then she remembered Alexanders alternate persona he had used to speak with her.

So that meant the guy was indeed seeing her stream, that was something she didn't need to worry about.

-----Chat-----

DeliveryGuy✓: Fairies, old folklore that was used to put the blame about events we didn't know how they came to be, like lightning, raining and earthquakes.

Ale's right thigh: People used to carry Iron pendants as the tradition said that these would ward against the Fae.

Horned singer guy: The tradition stated that if you told your name to a Fae, they had the right to take your life and kidnap you to the faelands. Where you would be their slave for all eternity.

Second most rational Aleniated fan: So I just need to say my name so a Fae mommy can take me in?

Bronze Hamster: If you want to spend eternity as a slave (In the not fun way) then yes. Bring introduction cards with you so you are ready, do send me your social security number and credit card first tho.

Second most rational Aleniated fan: \*Message deleted\*

Mofu-Mofu: Guys, please do not send sensitive information, real or not.

-----  
"Fae..." Ale read aloud the data that was coming, "Let's check on that one first I guess."

And moved to a new screen, this time her image was to the side while on the center was a projection of her desktop. She had a curated browser set up for streaming, one in which she deleted all the data after each stream. On this screen she started researching about the Fae.

"So... Names have power and giving a name away is giving your life away..." Ale said reading the data, a few jokes came and went about how that only worked if you said your true name and there was a few of alienated fans setting up plans about how to use fake names.

A few spoke about how in this era where half the time you used a handle instead of a name, then your name was secondary and your handle was the true name and whatnot.

Ale wasn't sure about that. But that made her think... Was Magmo actually part of the Fae? Or well, was an existence such as Magmo the reason these theories existed?

-----Chat-----

DeliveryGuy✓ has paid \$100 for a TTS message

---

There is a theory in the high strata of the nerd society about Core Powers having a correlation with mythological creatures. If that was proven to be true, there could be a Core Power User with powers similar enough to the most common known myth about the Fae.

---

The mechanical voice that Ale had made for the TTS spoke; it was a mock voice trained upon Alexanders speeches, so hearing it gave her weird feelings, more so because Alexanders had acknowledged her as an actual sister to the Saintsworths' siblings.

"....Oh right, random side announcement, I am getting a new TTS voice. Do you think this time a female voice could be used, or do you want something else? I'll set up a poll in membership later." Ale said, setting up a new stream of comments about that.

But she ignored those as she thought about that revelation.

So a Core Power with foundation upon the belief of the Fae...? That could explain it too... But... Magmo had said 'For us' or 'We', implying there were multiple entities such as himself.

Who else could he refer? Another observer above this world? Ale only knew one such entity, the NDo System.

The entity who ruled above Core and spoke down to them, was Magmo an entity like that one?

## Chapter 269: After the stream.

Ale carried on streaming for a few extra hours, mostly spending time with her fans. Also to earn some money, mostly to earn some spending money. She would need to set up a new account and redirect the money there...

Or well, as soon as she ended the stream she got a message from Alexanders with a digital certificate to a new bank account... Or well, the perms to access a new bank account to be precise.

It had two sub-accounts to which she was able to interface with. One for her and one for Alexa. Both had money already, well, Alexa had less overall money while Ale had more. But she could see a few recurrent payments already linked to that account.

Internet bills, phone bills and even a the payment for their shared apartment... Or well, part of it. If she was reading that right anyway.

"So he isn't giving things for free?" Ale said sighing, a second message had arrived after that one, explaining that if she wanted for Alexanders to pay everything he could.

But that he was willing to respect her independence.

"I don't want this kind of understanding!" Ale groaned as she was setting up a second stream for later, this one was a membership stream so it would be with her most loyal fans.

Not that there would be that much difference, the actual difference in interaction came from Tier 4 and Tier 5 membership. Mostly since there were less people in those tiers, so she was able to interact more closely with them.

She didn't went full into the parasocial experience of course, as the GemGurl had said, the people who actually had those kind of money were the type she didn't want to interact too much with.

One such example were the 'Most Aleniated fan' series people. They all were Tier 5 members and were most definitely not the most normal ones.

They were the ones that provided the most engagement and bits for Ale to react to, but she wouldn't touch them with a ten-foot pole. What was important was not that people, but the amount of ideas she managed to bounce out of them.

That was the actual data that she had wanted to acquire. The fact that there wasn't much to be earned, since the data she had gotten wasn't that viable. Besides getting the name and stories about folklore.

The stories recorded within the Saintsworths spoke about an entity that existed outside the normal planar boundaries discovered so far. The Saintsworths had categorized a few theories about possible alternate existences in between the space above the three dimensions we lived in.

They theorized that if one could interact with these entities, they may get power worthy of the Saintsworths might. OR so they said.

Alexanders had made a few annotations telling the researchers to stop watching too many fantasy series and to lower the amount of drugs they took.

Ale wasn't too sure if they had somehow managed to make contact with the NDO System or if they were the reason why Magmo even took interest on this planet. Too many unknowns were set here. What she was sure was that... Names while important weren't something that Ale needed to worry about at the moment.

She hadn't noticed too much changes, at least not anything like what she had found out from her research and the talk with the alienated peeps.

She wasn't kidnapped to another reality, and more importantly, she didn't feel that her loyalties had changed. All she really noticed was the fact that some part of her memories had been changed, and so far all she could think was that they were changed to explain more easily how Ale made contact with Magmo.

But that done, she didn't think there was much for her to worry.

Surely.

*[Warning, raising alarm towards current train of thought. The current idea is moving against the set-up mission parameters.]*

"Dang it." Ale cursed under her breath. Was this something that Magmo left too? Ale didn't want to worry about that, but evidently something that she wasn't worry was in tune with something she had worried before.

"We are back!" And while thinking about what she was supposed to worry, the sound of people walking into the apartment came.

Ale closed off all the tabs on her pc and set it up to rest mode. She would continue that research later, of course she did set up a reminder within Main Core so she would check that later. This was important after all.

And while setting that up... she noticed two things, one there were some stuff she hadn't checked quite yet. That is to say, she was going to check why people came to convenient conclusions about them. She hadn't asked that or checked about it.

The second thing was that... She could not delete or edit those things. She could add new things, but not remove. That was... interesting bit of data to be sure. Was it because she couldn't return quite yet to the mindscape in a more permanent way? Or was this a safeguard that she herself put there? Ale was not entirely sure. Perhaps it was something that Main Core decided after interpreting Ale's orders and wishes? That could also be a possibility.

Either way, it was good for Ale as that meant that there was no risk for her to delete those things by mistake, or because something prompted her to do so. So for now, that would stay like that till they managed to get something to ensure they were immune to tampering like that.

"Welcome back," Ale said as she walked out of her dorm, "Did you finish everything all right?"

The one that had come back was just Miriam Eversoul, Vivian Kellet, and Alexanders didn't come back, but that was something that she already knew would happen.

So that wasn't a surprise.

She already knew they would probably not come back, since they had said it, but it was still somewhat of sad.

"Yes, Vivian set up one of the automated cabs so they will pick me up in the morning from here for a few days." Miriam Eversoul said pulling up a soda can from the refrigerator and walked to the sofa where she sat, "How was your day? Getting used to life here?"

It was the first day, how could she be getting used to the life here?

"It was fine," Ale answered, "I played on the pc, spoke to some internet friends and read some news."

Ale was not ready to have that conversation, she doubted it would be that awkward. Miriam Eversoul knew that Ale had links to the super villain society, so surely there wouldn't be much issue with her streaming.

She was actively dealing and working with supervillains, surely streaming on A-Tube wouldn't be an issue... and even if it was, she was paying for most of her own expenses, and she had some degree of independence...

Surely Miriam Eversoul wouldn't forbid it... right?

Could she do that? Forbid her from doing stuff?

It didn't even make any kind of sense that she would be able to have that much power, but Ale didn't want to test it. She was 'The Mom Person' to Alexa. Ale didn't want to test how much power that gave her.

"Good," Miriam Eversoul answered nodding, "We made some progresse on the work about the school systems."

The school work system?

"We think the first school can be opened in around two to three weeks' time." That sounded like a good timeframe, faster than Ale had expected for them to finish the work. "Then we can start pulling up the students into the city."

Did they have enough rooms for them all? Actually, would that even work? Ale was sure she had heard that humans had the habit of living with their spawns for prolonged amounts of time.

How would this even work?

"Will it be hard to get their parents?" Ale decided to ask.

"Oh yeah that, we aren't pulling those in." Mirima Eversoul answered shrugging, "I would love to, but alas... I didn't manage to win against the theories about why that was detrimental. So they will be living alone with only minimal monitoring from dedicated teachers and nannies."

That sounded very counterintuitive.

"If parental supervision is detrimental, why are you putting up teachers and nannies?" Ale asked confused, "Isn't that working against what you are planning to be with?"

"They got studies to prove that parents are more often than not spoiling their children," Miriam Eversoul said shaking her head, "Not all the children are spoiled of course, but the ones we are getting? They are mostly in that type."

"They are?" Ale asked confused, "What kind of children are you getting here?"

"The ones whose parents don't want to struggle with." Miriam Eversoul's answer was given in a sad tone, "Those that are ignored or aren't taught well, those who weren't planned... And also those that are in orphanages, those are our main target audience."

"Then what is the not main target?" Ale questioned, because the answer seemed to hint toward that secondary answer.

"Heh." Miriam Eversoul couldn't help but laugh under her breath, "The rich."

"The rich?" Ale did not see that one coming, or perhaps she should have? "Like Alexa's friends?"

"That is a good example, but no." Miriam Eversoul shook her head, "They are also one of the sub targets, but the ones who are paying all of these? Are the rich, daughter and children of the rich who will get all shoved into their own schools to see if we can teach them actual things instead of merely having them be handed certificates and companies left and right."

...wasn't that indoctrination?

"Yeah I know how it sounds." Miriam Eversoul sighed in defeat, "It is why I can't contest Alexanders mocking me for being a hypocrite... I want to do to them what I despise the most, but... All for a better future."

"Oh, I don't mind that." Ale said, shaking her head, "The end goal is what matters, not how we get there."

Ale didn't mind it to be honest, it was practical, besides it would be hypocritical of her to question or judge people from doing that, seeding ideas in others was the most efficient way to get something.

So long they didn't tamper with the personality or twist them into something that they weren't, then Ale was okay with that. Mind tampering was where she put the line.

"... You should." Miriam Eversoul said, "You should mind it, adults... are not always right."

Ale knew that.

"It's fine." Ale still said as much, "Did Alexanders say anything about the solution to my problem?"

Ale doubted it would be fixed already, but she still felt the need to ask. And from the expression of Miriam Eversoul, it was not yet solved.

"...He was still working on it when I left the lab." Miriam Eversoul answered as such. "Do you still plan to return there?"

"Yes," Ale answered without waiting even a second, "I will return even if he doesn't fix the issues, Alexa also has classes... And she has lost almost half a month of them already, can't imagine that going well for her end of the year scores."

"Those have been solved already," Miriam Eversoul pulled a folder from her coat, how did that fit there? "Was among the first things that Alexanders solved actually, the asshole is effective if nothing else."

Ale took the folder and opened it, it was the end-of-year grades.

"The school year has not finished has it?" Ale said going by the results, Alexa... would never score as high as what was written here. Even if she had access to the required

knowledge, chances were she would have answered the questions with 'Mango' or '42'... Perhaps a '27' here and there.

"It has not," Miriam Eversoul said sighing, "He said that I could check with you to see if Alexa didn't know something on those subjects... Honestly, since she made it to the class of the elites (That experimental class of him) it was a done deal that she would graduate with honors."

"Yeah..." Ale said grimacing at the memory of those kids, "But he is right, Alexa knows most of the things on this list... Even if she would probably not get these scores if she was to take the exams in a normal way."

"She wouldn't?" Miriam Eversoul sounded surprised, "Even though she knows the answers?"

"Alexa would have tanked the exam by either trying to eat the paper or by writing mango somewhere along the way." Ale said laughing, "She does know the answers of course, but that does not mean she would put the answers there."

"Like Alexanders then..." Miriam Eversoul laughed too, "When he does it, he comes as a prick, but yeah... Alexa would look normal like that."

"She does have the vibes and cuteness to pull that out." Ale nodded too, "Alexanders looks more like the guy who tries to be too cool and fails at it."

"I know right!" Miriam Eversoul nodded enthusiastically, "He should be cool, he does have the face and style to be your protagonist of a drama or something, but his attitude..."

That was the problem was it not? Ale knew that he came out too... abrasive in the best case and stuck up in the worst case. She was painfully aware since she did use him as a punching bag for brownie points on the internets.

...She would probably need to slowly tune out that from her content and move it towards something else, perhaps she could start bashing Alexanders political enemies?

Not that the man needed help.

"So, while we wait for that." Miriam Eversoul turned her attention fully to Ale, "Want to pick up a school?"

"Wasn't Alexa going to attend the same school program once it moved here?" Ale was confused, she had gotten that impression, at least from what they talked.

"Of course, all her friends will move here... Or most of them anyway." Miriam Eversoul said shaking her head at the answer, "I meant for you. Unless you truly want to go to online classes?"

For Ale?

"I will respect that decision, it is not up to me to decide your future." Miriam Eversoul carried on, "But I do think a normal school would benefit you. Socializing with kids your age is good, you can't only interact with adults and people on the internet. You need human contact too."

....Did she though?

"I have some options already," Miriam Eversoul pulled pamphlets from several school programs, "And these are more specialized, they will require you to pass an exam. But Alexanders claimed you would ace any exam you wanted to take, even without his help."

"His help?" Ale asked confused, why would Alexanders help her?

"Yeah, when I told him that he was not to help you pass the exams... He laughed and said that you didn't need his help to get into a school. That this one aspect of you was the most Saintsworths thing you could have." Miriam Eversoul seemed pissed at that statement, "That if something was to make you up a person worthy of the Saintsworths name was that you didn't need help to pass a knowledge type exam."

That... was probably more to do with the fact that Ale could download the required data and introduce it directly into her memory, than whatever Miriam Eversoul was thinking.

"Yeah, I don't need his help or favours to pass a test." But Ale couldn't say anything about that. "Well, let's check them for now at least..."

Ale did have some curiosity about what kind of schools she would or could attend... She was not sure if she would ever go to one, but she... she got the impression that going to one... wouldn't be that bad.

## Chapter 270: Choosing the appropriate school

The list was... not what Ale had expected to be honest, it was a great collection of schools yes. But it was...

"And these are schools that are open to twelve-year-old children?" Ale asked turning to Miriam Eversoul, "It may come weird from me, but... Are the Saintsworths mad? Nutcase? Bad in the head?"

The schools ranged from having classes focused on weapon development, to bioengineering, from chemical warfare to naval warfare...

There was even one that focused on robotics and space engineering.

These were middle schools, and Ale would be entering one of them, there was something very weird here.

"... I know what you are saying is probably the most reasonable thing, but I implore you to look into what kind of students we will get." Miriam Eversoul said, pointing to another set of pamphlets, those were the ones that Alexa would be able to enlist.

These were more normal, albeit the syllabus for the last years was more... exotic. But Miriam Eversoul was right, Ale knew of course what kind of students were in the classroom of the elite. Those probably had a very specific set of plans for their whole life already ready.

She didn't think people like Alan Harmonia and Glory Blackthorn had such a plan; if anything, Alan Harmonia had probably planned to join his family's business.

So he would probably start going to the school focused on bioengineering or a medical school... A medical school set up for teenagers. That would be something.

"Fine." Ale said turning to the list of possible options, "Did Alexanders say something about this?"

"He laughed and told me that you would hate this." Miriam Eversoul sighed as she answered, then pulling something from her inner pockets, she offered a new Pamphlet to Ale.

"The Saintsworths Middle School for normal people...?" Ale read the name, then read it again, and lastly read it again mentally while prompting Main Core to search data on this obviously fake name. "Really?"

"I checked, that one... Is... well, what it says it is." Miriam Eversoul said shrugging and passing Ale more paperwork. "The blonde asshole sent this one too."

Ale picked up the folder and started browsing it, it had most of the same data that Main Core had pulled, plus a note that said 'Why are you even reading this? You already have access to this data.'

Which was true, Ale had Main Core categorize the data and sent it straight to her awareness, so Ale already knew everything that was public knowledge about this... school.

"It's average." Ale said turning to Miriam Eversoul, "It had roughly the average entry for whoever wants to apply, average syllabus. Average testing, average facilities... It is the most normal building that could be built."

Too normal even.

"It promotes itself as a 'Normal environment to study and develop.' " Miriam Eversoul sighed, "I have no idea what he wants to achieve by this, but he said that you would end up going there."

"And he is right," Ale said putting down the other pamphlets and reading again about this one, "It is the only logical choice for me."

"Why?" Miriam Eversoul didn't seem to get it.

"We are in the crown jewel of the Saintsworths right?" Ale said smiling, "Or well, the Crown Jewel to Alexanders Saintsworths, the Nascent Scion of the Saintsworths Conglomerate."

"Yes?" Miriam Eversoul answered as she nodded at Ale's statement, "He is a show off and probably should not have as much power as he has, but that is about right. All the schools on this island are using cutting-edge technology in all their facilities. Even their track field was designed to maximise gains while training depending on the age and average status of the students."

Ale guessed as much.

"And among all these facilities, there is a 'Normal school'?" Ale laughed, actually laughed out loud, "There is nothing more atypical, more out of place. And they will probably compete against the other schools right?"

"Yes...?" Miriam Eversoul nodded yet again, her face was filled with confusion and more questions than ever. "It is normal to compare the test results and do tests with other schools, their sports team and such will compete against the other schools."

"So a school that is teaching about space engineering, advanced physics, will have a test exam against a normal school?" Ale smirked, "Would it not be the 'Normal' outcome to at least win some of those encounters?"

"...But they can't." Miriam Eversoul pointed, "Their syllabus..."

"Exactly." Ale nodded, "They should not be able to win, and yet this school boasts that they will win some of those same contests. So either they will rig it to their advantage..."

"Which they can't since CRADDLE will never allow cheating on their testing, for it will muddle the results and make them pointless." Miriam Eversoul said narrowing her eyes.

"Or... This allegedly normal school is the most abnormal of them all." Ale had seen through the facade, this one was probably the one directly linked to the dark side of the Saintsworths on this island. It would probably set up a set of Elite students to carry the whole school.

"...I see..." Miriam Eversoul turned to look at Ale, "And you want to go there because of this?"

"Among other things." Ale shrugged at the suspicion that was now pointed at her, "Don't get me wrong, I could probably get whatever I need from any school I join. But this one seems the most interesting one, besides..."

Ale closed her eyes while she set up in order her thoughts.

"Alexandra would probably have picked it for me," Ale said after a few seconds, "If it was not for that, I would have picked the one that had access to the space program."

"Space?" Miriam Eversoul asked surprised. "Not gaming or programming?"

"I give that look?" Ale asked surprised, "I like the idea of space exploration."

"You have a computer that is worth as much as this building." Miriam Eversoul said smiling, "Alexanders told me, that if I ever touched that computer, to have that in mind."

"... I have what?" Ale asked surprised, she had never thought about it, but looking back on it, it kinda made sense? She had never had any issues with optimization or running any game that she picked up.

Her Aleniated fans all speculated about the specs of her PC since the first time she did a gaming stream, the fact that she had never had any stuttering or lag made them think she was using the most expensive pc and a few even theorized she used several pcs for her stream.

Honestly, Ale had planned to offload some of the processing to Main Core if that ever became an issue. Not that they were looking at her when streaming anyway.

"Yes, apparently he gave you one custom-made PC. You will not need to update any component for at least ten years till the current trends catch up to your hardware." Miriam Eversoul shrugged, "That blonde asshole shows his care in the weirdest way possible."

That he did.

"Well, that is that." Ale said shaking the thoughts of 'Care' and 'Alexanders' from her mind, "Do I need to send paperwork? Take a test or something?"

"The paperwork is done, the application can be done via email or by accessing their site." Miriam Eversoul pointed to a URL on the pamphlet. Ale quickly did the process while listening to the explanations. "As for the entrance test... They will start them in a month or so."

So soon?

"The school year is about to end, we will start the school year next month with the opening of the school district." Miriam Eversoul sighed, "I had wanted to set up a few things but it is what it is."

Ale nodded, was this because of her? Surely not.

Even if Alexanders seemed to show more care than she had expected, there was no reason for him to go this far just for her.

"In the meantime..." Miriam Eversoul turned to look at the door from where she had come in, "... We have some time for you to finish whatever you want to do."

"So I have at least a month to go back to Ohio and set up my things." Ale nodded, "And Alexanders has not finished the tool that will allow me to remain outside in Ohio."

"...You can do that later and just ask for some free time from school." Miriam Eversoul suggested, "It is not that rare considering the type of school classmates you will have, they will probably set up special clauses for this reason in the schedule."

Ale nodded at that statement. She had read those clauses in the data packet she downloaded about the school.

"I have some things that I need to do there," Ale still said so, "And the same can be said of Alexa..."

Ale had noticed it, as much as she was allowed to notice it anyway. The small, weird changes to the train of thought, and for some reason, that effect wasn't as pronounced here. She was able to notice them and act, and in some ways even sidestep said changes to her train of thought.

There was something here that enabled it. And while she would love to remain here, it made it even more important for them to return. If the change was here, it was worrying.

But if the change was not because of the place, but because of them (Alexa and Ale), then that changed things.

"Alexa too?" Miriam Eversoul seemed surprised by that statement.

"Yes," Ale answered, "Besides, Alexa has not come out as much here, that is not healthy for her."

And it was not healthy for more reasons than Ale could ever say aloud, the fact that she was not coming out, it could be said that Alexa was being thoughtful towards Ale, and it could be said that it was for another reason.

The fact that Alexa didn't want to meet Alexanders did not escape Ale after all. There was no reason for that, as Ale had thought several times before, if anything. They were more alike than Ale would want to admit, and yet. Neither of them seemed that interested in meeting each other.

Alexa spoke of him as her big brother.

Alexanders spoke of her as his little sister.

Yet neither wanted to meet? That was weird.

More weird than the fact that coincidences piled upon them to pave their way to success. More weird than the fact that the most brilliant people they knew always came to the wrong conclusions in their favour.

*[Warning, coming close to the limit of thoughts pre set up.]*

And Ale wanted to find why. Ensuring that Alexa was out and about was the best way to find out, since most of those came from Alexa. Besides, a quick search didn't come out much about Magmo.

But Alexa always seemed to find his content. That was weird, Ale also needed to check if Magmo only showed to Alexa or not.

She had seen a livestream of him with other kids in [Haephestus' Forge] yes, but was that because Alexa was there? Or were those kids already seeing him?

Ale needed Alexa to run around to collect said evidence, and if she was not coming out here in Aquila. Then she would come out (whether she wanted to or not) in Ohio.

"I understand," Miriam Eversoul seemed convinced by Ale's statement, "I will make the preparations for it, but you and Alexa must swear that you will take care."

"I always take care of Alexa," Ale said nodding seriously, "And I know that Alexa will do her best to remain as safe as possible."

"Not only take care of Alexa," Miriam Eversoul shook her head, "I also want you to take care of yourself."

"...I'm fine." Ale said sighing, "Really, I am."

"And I want you to remain as fine as possible." Miriam Eversoul smiled at Ale, "I know you have friends there, and they are probably good people if you decided to remain with them even while thinking about Alexa's security."

More so that she had not many options, since Alexa was the one who picked them... Or well, Ale did have somewhat of an input there, but they didn't have the divided psyche as prominent then.

"But they are still Villains." Miriam Eversoul stated, "Not all Villains are Criminals thanks to the current laws we have, but more often than not, they work in dubious areas."

Ale... knew that.

"You do know that I have actively worked with them." Ale pointed out, "You have seen my body armor. My Minion outfit, and if you took a few minutes to search, you surely have seen me working with them."

Ale knew that the video of her first encounter with the psycho telekinetic armor girl (Chrysalis) was out there, she had even reacted to it on stream... That was a thing.

"... I have, and filed the needed complaints to the Hero side." Miriam Eversoul sighed, "That one was Alexandra right?"

"Yes," Ale nodded, "At that moment in time, we weren't that separated in our psyche, but you could say that Alexandra was the one who kept most of those memories."

"I made sure to block as much as possible from that woman." Miriam Eversoul sighed yet again, "I don't have as much pull in the super hero community, since I work more towards the charity side. All my pull is on the super heroes that work in charity, and that one was not one."

"It's fine," Ale said nodding, "We will deal with her when we are ready."

Ale was working on a version of a pile driver. If that didn't work, she still had the blueprint that had been released before, the Anzo 20mm gun (Adjusted).

It would fry her arm and part of back, crack most of her bones and hurt like hell, but that surely would burst open the barrier of [Chrysalis] if she shot that point blank.

"That is not a smile that inspires reassurance." Miriam Eversoul stated, was Ale smiling?  
"Whatever you have planned, make sure your brother or your friends know it first."

"You are not asking us to not do it?" Ale was confused by that, she had assumed she would try to stop her, wasn't that what a mom person would do?

"Would you stop if I ask you?" Miriam Eversoul suddenly asked as thus, "Because if you would stop if I ask, then I will ask you to stop."

....

"I don't think that would work," Ale thought for a few seconds, and couldn't come up with a reason to stop just because Miriam Eversoul asked, maybe if she asked Alexa. Then Alexa may stop.

But not Ale. Chrysalis was a danger waiting to burst out open, and Ale would deal with it as soon as possible. If that one had been like V-8, which was more of an amusement than an actual danger, then Ale wouldn't mind letting it go.

But Chrysalis had actually hurt them and attempted to murder them, so she was going to go.

"Then that is that." Miriam Eversoul sighed in defeat, "Just be careful, please?"

"Will do." Ale nodded, "There will be several backup plans, trust me."

"That's all I can ask for," Miriam Eversoul turned to look towards the kitchen, "Want to grab something for dinner? If you want you can help me."

"Sure," Ale said following Miriam Eversoul towards the kitchen, it would be a good as any moment to start learning more about that, cooking.

Now that Alexandra wasn't around, she would need to focus more on that after all, how hard could it be?