

## A BIO-WEAPON'S RHAPSODY

### Chapter 271: Can I has the Stroberri?

Ale finished the day with a simple test at her personal computer, the site asked her to turn on the webcam and have an open mic. Also asked for the tutor or an adult to be present while she took the exam.

It asked her to install a monitoring program that would track all the activity on her computer while she was taking the exam, it was Saintsworths sponsored, and somehow that was supposed to make it more palatable.

It didn't make it more palatable, she still did it though. This was already not looking like what a normal school would be, at the very least, the test was pretty average in the questions it gave.

And Ale was not finding any hidden data within the data stream that was coming into her computer, not that she could comb through it as much as she would want. Since she had Miriam Eversoul standing behind her watching her. All she could do was somewhat interpret the data stream that was coming in.

Still, Ale did as best as possible and filled the answers while trying to not show too much of her hand, she didn't mind people knowing how good she was. But showcasing too much would expose one too many secrets, like the fact that she had access to the knowledge network without the use of a device, there was no way in hell that would be appreciated.

So with all of that happening Ale continued doing her best. And as soon as she was done with the test, the first thing she did was uninstall the program, turn off the computer, and prepare everything to scrub the data clean.

She had made a backup before this happened, so while standing up she sent a wave of nanites into the device to scrub it clean and then update the [Blueprint] of it to the state before she had installed the program.

All as fast as possible to ensure Miriam Eversoul didn't notice.

"So, what do you think you will get?" Miriam Eversoul asked as soon as Ale finished standing up and she had removed her hand from the computer, the nanites now tucked back into her body.

The woman had the knowing smile of someone who caught the cat who was hunting the canary.

Or perhaps the understanding of the cat that managed to catch the canary? Ale never quite understood that saying, unsure if it was part of what made Alexa who she was, or if the saying was wrong from the beginning.

"Probably I will pass." Ale said shrugging, "The test wasn't that hard, it was more annoying the way they set up the whole thing. I will need to scrub the data of my computer clean later."

"...Yeah, some of the IT techs we have do complain about that when getting into the company." Miriam Eversoul said nodding, "I for one never understood that, can't they just use two devices? I have a phone for work and one for personal use for example."

Ale wasn't sure where to start in that.

"You do remember how expensive this thing is, right?" Ale pointed at her computer. She hadn't known how expensive it was before, but now that she knew, it was the perfect way to showcase the idiocy of what Miriam Eversoul had stated, "Imagine how much the underpaid IT Techs would need to expend if they were to follow that."

Honestly, the only one who could do something as expensive as that was Alexanders, but that man didn't count for these kind of examples.

"Point taken," Miriam Eversoul answered with a nod, "Well, then let's get ready for dinner and sleep."

Ah, right. It was getting late. Wonder what tomorrow would bring.

Ale... didn't know what to think about this, they needed to prepare for her return to Ohio, but that was dependent on Alexanders fixing whatever he was doing.

But for now? For now she would do what she was able, and at least prepare for the worst, she didn't want to delay her return, but getting all her stuff in order from here...

It felt wrong to her.

All of that would still be there tomorrow, though.

"Let's do that then," Ale said nodding and moving after Miriam Eversoul, her computer was off now, and as she exited the room she couldn't help but turn off the lights.

Right...

That gave her an idea.

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Alexa was cheated!

"Alexa was cheated!" Alexa said as soon as she tried to hug her plushiest pillow and found a plushie instead!

"Deception! Decepticons! Decisions! Demihumans!" Alexa continued cursing all words with D, "DemonDice!"

And a few that she knew weren't curses, but she still wanted to say, because words with D were cool like that!

And as she ran out of her bedroom, it was probably part of her fault, she hadn't noticed that Ale had walked into Alexa's bedroom instead of her own, the lights were off!

She couldn't help it! She had to close her eyes lest the monster got hold of her! Ale knew that too! So she had used it against her!

And then, and then!

By sleeping in Alexa's bed, it was obvious who would be there when they woke up!

It was a set-up!

"A vile set-up!" Alexa said as soon as she walked into the dinner table area!

"All the set-ups are vile by nature." The voice of big brother said nodding at her statement, "Kinda why they are set-ups."

"But Alexa was deceived by the set-up, so it's extra vile!" Alexa pointed out the most important part of how evil this set-up was! "Alexa was deceived!"

"I mean, that isn't that hard to do." Big Brother said tapping with his hand the seat besides his. So Alexa did as an Alexa would and sat there grumpily.  
"Here, Eversoul made pancakes."

Alexa loved pancakes!

"Can Alexa have mango pancakes?" Alexa picked up the honey syrup and started blasting her pancakes. "Can Alexa has her choco milk?"

The answer to both her questions was a bonk to the top of her head! Violence!

Violence was wrong!

"Violence was wrong!" Alexa defended her head, nursing the grievous wound that had been inflicted on her!

"You have already drenched your pancakes with enough honey to give diabetes to a bodybuilder," Big Brother said, shaking his head at her.

But this was way tastier!

"And besides, Eversoul doesn't know how to make mango pancakes. I have already asked." Big Brother shrugged, "As for the choco milk..."

"I will get the recipe and prepare it tomorrow." The mom person said putting Alexa's sippy cup on the table, "Eat your breakfast like this for now."

"I mean... I could get a five-star Michelin chef here in like... five minutes?" Big Brother said smirking at the mom person, "Is it five minutes Sapphire?"

Sapphire?

"I will kick you out." The mom person glared at big brother as she said that.

"Fine... Sapphire is grumpy today anyway..." Big Brother mumbled under his breath as he plucked another piece of pancake and ate it, his had banana and stroberri...

Alexa.... wanted...but....mango... betrayal...?

"Aaaah...." Alexa merely opened her mouth and turned towards Big Brother. Anything that entered her mouth and got nomed would not be her fault.

No betrayal there...

"... " "..."

ANYTHING THAT GOT THERE WOULD BE NO FAULT OF ALEXA!

"\*Sigh\*" Big Brother sighed and "MFFFUHASDGASFDanomnomnomnom."

"If you eat my fork I will buy all the mango in this city and ensure none makes it near you for a week." Big Brother said as he tried to remove the stroberri!

No wait, the fork!

Alexa had already nomed the fork!

Main Core!

Core!

Help!

Emergency!

***Core:***

....Rebuilding fork.

Loading up Akasha Library Record.

Converting Mana into normal material.

Done.

*[Downloaded Blueprint received, starting program...]*

*[Built up of replacement object, connecting to previous object...Done.]*

*[Task accomplished.]*

"Alexa didn't nom the fork person!" Alexa defended her honor while patting herself in the back (Chest) "She is innocent!"

Big Brother for his part merely looked at his new fork, there was no evidence of Alexa, at all!

"Right..." Big Brother narrowed his eyes at the fork and then merely smirked.

"Stop laughing like a creep, I'll get you a new one if you are going to be like that." The Mom person said offering big brother a new fork... Then Alexa didn't need to do all of that?!?!?!?!?

"You misunderstand me." Big Brother said pointing the fork at the mom person, "Besides, this one is perfectly safe to use. Isn't it as clean as if it was new?"

The Mom person looked at the fork, then at big brother, then back at the fork, and lastly to Alexa. "You are a weird person, and your jokes are weirder." The mom person shook her head and walked to the other side of the table, where she had her food, "If it was not for Alexa, I would have kicked you out already."

Rude!

But she was the mom person, so Alexa was confused about what to do!

"No fight!" So Alexa decided to defend the peace! Because Alexa was like that! She liked the peace and happy families! The Mom Person could not be angry at Big Brother! That was wrong!

"Anyway, didn't come here for you either." Big Brother said plucking more of his pancakes and eating it as nothing.

"Gnnuuuuuu...." Alexa had liked the stroberri, but it was not as good as mango... But it was tasty.... "Gnnuuuuuu.....!"

"This is mine, get Eversoul to make you some." Big Brother said as he pointed another piece of stroberri pancake for Alexa to nom!

"Nom!" Alexa nommed!

"Next time, remember to leave some fake evidence with the fork, unless you want bad people to find out." Big Brother said after getting close to Alexa's ear, he whispered the plans of the devil to Alexa!

"Yes!" Alexa did the AlexaSalute.png as she spat the fork (New again, because Alexa would not half-ass anything for big brother).

"Good girl," Big Brother said patting Alexa's head, that tickled! "Anyway, it's a surprise to see you here. Thought you were evading me."

Ah right!

"Alexa forgot!" Alexa said panicking, "It isn't time yet! The big encounter was supposed to be filled with drama and expectations! An epic save when Alexa needed it the most!"

Alexa felt that was how it was supposed to be anyway, she wasn't sure why though?

"A save? By him? Of all people?" The Mom person said pointing at big brother.

"But big brother saved Ale and Alexa already. At least once!" Alexa pointed out defending big brother's honor! Because that's what a good sister did for her twin brother!

"I mean... I know he saved you from the facility... But... Wasn't that his soldiers?" The Mom person asked, "He didn't really exert himself."

"Soldiers?" Alexa asked confused, "What soldiers?"

"I don't think that counts as saving, does it?" Big Brother said turning to his side, only to seem surprised and sigh, then turned towards Alexa, "It doesn't count, right?"

"Alexa doesn't think so...?" Alexa guessed that the mom person was asking about when big brother gave Alexa the [Gun] type weaponry the first time.

But he wasn't Big Brother then!

He was [The Lieutenant], it was different!

"Wait wait.... You did save Alexa, did you not?" The Mom person said pointing to big brother, "You found out the facility they had her in, and used your influence to save her, but something happened that made Alexa run away on her own so she ended up with Haephestus Forge. That was how it was right?"

"I mean..." Big Brother said, turning to Alexa, "It... was not like that."

"Big Brother... Did help....I think?" Alexa was confused, it was not big brother then, so it didn't count. But it was big brother right?

"I did give you the gun." Big Brother pointed out.

Right, he was big brother at that point.

"But Alexa didn't use it." Alexa pointed out, "But the flashy thing did help."

"Ah right, the Core Trigger event was the main factor." Big Brother nodded in understanding.

"THAT WAS WHEN YOU TRIGGERED?!?!?!?" The Mom person suddenly screamed. "No wait... wait wait wait a godforsaken second."

A god what?

"You are telling me, that the day you made all of that ruckus, was the same day you found her?" The mom person then pointed at Alexa, "The same day I spent half a day ensuring you followed every single regulation you broke in the last five months?"

"Ah right... that also happened." Big Brother shrugged for some reason, "But yeah, that happened like fifteen minutes after. Right Sapphir--"

Big Brother smiled for a second only for him to frown, then turn to eye Alexa with cold eyes that shifted to normal midway. That was weird.

"Why didn't you-" The Mom person continued to complain only for big brother to stuck his fork into the table. At some point he had eaten all the stroberri pancake!

Alexa also wanted more of that!

"We talked about that already did we not?" Big Brother said to the mom person, "If you want to deal with that, walk into the door, open it and then use your privileges, you have all the right keys to open the same doors I do. So you can walk into the same places, just like how I walked up to Alexa that day by chance."

It was chance?

Alexa had the best chances of them all, it was Alexa after all.

"...That soured my mood, and it was already bad." Big Brother sighed and turned to Alexa.

"Alexa is innocent!" Alexa defended her honor again! She was innocent! Probably!

"Of course you are," Big Brother said nodding at Alexa's statement, see, she was innocent! "But that is not why I came, I came to speak with your... older sister."

Older sister? But... Alexandra...

"Ale had asked my help with something, and I have spent all my time since leaving to deal with that." Big Brother stretched and spun his arms, "I have not slept since then, probably why Sapphire is angry and giving me the silent treatment."

Sapphire?

"So I came to speak with her about that... But since you are out, better this way, since what Ale asked she can't use." Big Brother then started to rummage in his clothes searching for something, "But that is something you will need to hold onto. Only you can use it, or use it safely anyway."

So what Ale wanted... Alexa would need to hold it?

But it was for Ale! Alexa couldn't take Ale's toys! That was rude!

## Chapter 272: The Metal Pellet did what?

Big Brother sighed yet again then turned to the Mom Person.

Was something wrong with her?

"Do you want Eversoul to listen?" Big Brother asked, "I assure you, it will not make it easier for anyone."

"Now that you said that, then yes. I do and will remain here." The Mom person glared at Big Brother, again. "You put me in this spot to ensure Alexa and Ale were safe, so I will use that authority to remain here."

So Alexa didn't have to worry about deciding? Yay!

"Don't get so smug you brat." Big Brother said giving Alexa's forehead a flick with one of his fingers.

"Ouchie!" Alexa said stumbling back, "Alexa is innocent!"

"You said so before." Big Brother smirked as he said that, "Well. First of all, I'm sorry."

And that was something Alexa had not seen coming.

"...Does your tummy hort?" Alexa was worried, that didn't sound like Big Brother.

"Are you drunk?" Even the mom person saw it! Something was wrong!

"...This is why I rather like being seen as a clown or a last boss." Big Brother sighed and shook his head, "Can't even have my (not AI)girlfriend for emotional support."

His what now?

"...You are still about that, I swear to god..." The mom person shook her head and turned to look at Big Brother with some conflict in her eyes, "I assure you there will be someone special in your life, it will not be me or anyone sane. But there is surely someone for you too."

Yeah!

"Alexa thinks so too!" Alexa said nodding, "It will surely be someone wonderful that will give Alexa tons of Mango candy too! Not some grumpy old woman who is a creepy stalker and talks to herself, changes all about herself to match the tastes of someone who doesn't answer them and then goes all psycho girlfriend and haunts the person they claim to love!"

Huh? What was that about?

"What was Alexa about?" Alexa asked aloud when she finished, seeing the surprise from Big Brother and the confusion in the Mom Person.

"Yeah... I will make sure to not pick someone like that I guess?" Big Brother said, so Alexa nodded, she wasn't sure what that was about, but she assumed that Big Brother would understand.

"But Alexa will not mind if Big Brother wants that!" Alexa nodded sagely, she could understand if Big Brother wanted someone like that, **Humans** were like that sometimes, picking something like that when they really shouldn't.

"Right..." Big Brother shook his head and sighed, "Anyway, that is besides the point. The thing I wanted to give you is this."

Big Brother then pulled a small box from his inner pocket, he put it on the table and sighed.

"This is the best I could do, it will probably burn itself in two attempts, maybe three if you are really lucky." Big Brother glared at the box as if it had eaten all the mango candy, "Best I can get within this month, probably within this year. The way it was made... It will mean that it will not work again after it. So if you pick up this one, that's it."

Before Alexa decided to pick it up, the mom person took it away with a quick mom person movement!

She was so fast that it was like wooooosh!

"A pellet?" The mom person said after opening the box and showing it to big brother, "A steel pellet? What is this?"

Alexa looked at it and...

*[Detected foreign nanite packet.]*

Ah... But Alexa already had her nanites right?

*"Main Core! Alexa has her own nanites right?"* Alexa asked inwardly.

*[Correct, currently the Nanite swarm is at 100% efficiency and ready for work.]*

See? Alexa had her own nanites!

"That is state-of-the-art technology that will ensure that there is nothing damaging the molecular structure of whoever has it in their system." Big Brother said tapping the box with his finger, the pellet rippled, "It also has an expiration date, they will stop working in around two to three weeks."

There was a ripple of understanding in the mom person and with as much care and as slow as she was capable of, she put the box in the table, away from Alexa.

"...Is that... what I think it is?" The Mom person said pulling out a device from a pouch in her belt and pointed it at her own hand, the device beeped once and showed a green color, "Are you mad? What reading will I get if I point it at that thing and pull the trigger?"

"Probably a red," Big Brother said shrugging, "Not that they will do anything... Besides selling it to the biggest, baddest man that promises to pay at least five hits on yours truly."

The Mom person opened her mouth, then closed it, opened it again, and closed it again.

"Do I want to know why they won't do anything? According to you?" The Mom person asked, "That is a nanite load, how in the seven planes of hells do you expect me to believe they wouldn't lock your assets?"

"Because making nanites is not illegal." Big Brother pointed out with an evil smirk, "Using nanite tech is not illegal either, it's frowned up, but most of the top tinkers use to some degree nanite tech. They ensure they self-destruct within seconds of their work finished, but that does not mean they don't use it."

"Bullshit." The mom person shook her head as she said that, "No way, everyone knows how dangerous a Nanite Core user is. And you expect me to believe that? There is a limit to your bullshit."

"You said it yourself." Big Brother pointed out, Alexa took this chance to sip more of her Choco-milk, "A Nanite core is dangerous, but this is not a nanite core. This is a nanite payload that will stabilize the molecular structure of the one who has it in their system."

"...You are betting the safety of Ale on the fact that she already has a Core?" The Mom person turned to look at Alexa, "And you are giving this when Ale isn't around? No... You said that it was better since Ale wasn't around, you planned to give it to Alexa from the start."

"Of course," Big Brother answered, "Alexa will be the anchor, if Ale is the one to hold it, the stability of this device would go to hell with her, but if Alexa is the one to hold it. Then the device can work on Ale as a side effect."

"Is it safe?" The mom person asked, still keeping a safe distance from the box, but moving it each time Alexa tried to worm herself closer to it.

"Hell no," Big Brother laughed, "No nanite tech is 100% safe. It will probably make Ale feel as if she was being eaten alive, but it wins over feeling her body turned into ash."

How did that even feel?

"It's the best answer I could come up with the time I had, and I probably wouldn't have come to this conclusion in a normal environment with more time and research." Big Brother sighed, "Honestly, this one feels like it's the best thing I could come up without having an active sample of Ale breaking apart, but for OBVIOUS reasons that is not something we can get."

Alexa couldn't get some of that thing? If Ale could do it, then surely Alexa could get it too.

"Good," The mom person nodded, "If you really planned to make that poor girl go through that, I would lose what little respect I had for you."

Big Brother grimaced at that statement for some reason.

"I am not doing it to please you." And he stated as much, "So, what will it be Alexa? I don't mind taking this back and destroying it, but chances are I will not get anything better than this."

Really?

Alexa didn't think Big Brother would get anything at all!

"Alexa doesn't mind this one!" Alexa said nodding and extending her hand towards Big Brother. "Alexa thinks Ale would also like it!"

Big Brother snapped his fingers and the box flew towards him, away from the mom person before she could even react to it.

"Well, then don't move." Big Brother then grabbed the small metal ball with his finger and moved it toward Alexa, "This... should not cause any pain or weird feeling, but I am unsure since you will be the first user of this."

Alexa nodded at that, she didn't think it would hurt that much if she was honest, it probably wouldn't feel like anything. And if it started hurting Alexa could just turn off the pain receptors!

Ale would probably do the same (After saying a few no-no words), so it was fine!

"Alexa can take it!" Alexa said bravely sticking out her chest proudly! "Also Ale can also take it, Alexa believes in her!"

If anything, Ale would probably make sure that it didn't trigger in the first place, and if it did, she would also protect Alexa! Just like how Alexa would protect Ale!

"You heard her Eversoul." Big Brother said, not turning his attention away from Alexa, "So unless your whole spiel about respecting the informed decision of kids was hypocritical bullshit, then you better delete that."

Delete the what?

"... I thought you said your weird AI wasn't with you today, was that also a lie then?" The mom person said while glaring at big brother again! "I guess that's on me for believing you."

"Sapphire is indeed not here today, but she isn't the only one who helps me, or did you forget that Aquila is under surveillance 24/7?" Big Brother smirked as there was a ping on the ceiling.

*"The data has been isolated Master, should we delete it?"* Alexa knew that voice!

Or so she thought anyway.

"Another one?" The mom person said dumbfounded, "You said it was impossible to reproduce your assistant, more lies?"

"This one is a new one, and I did not lie." Big Brother shook his head, "This one is a pet project of Sapphire. Say hello to Albireo."

*"Greetings Lady Alexa, Master..."* The mechanical voice from the speaker thingies said, then Alexa felt someone stare at the mom person, *"Greetings... Miriam Eversoul."*

"Not very polite are we?" The mom person spat towards the speakers thingies, "So what. Even if you delete this data I can still tell on you, that you have dangerous tech."

*"Master is the person with the least amount of Nanite materials within Aquila. At the same time he is among the last to actually put this to use."* The Albireo person spoke, *"Currently the number one spot is taken by Vivian Kellet followed by Sebastian Krieger and in last place Orion Kessler. After them, the list turns to companies and organizations rather than people."*

"...You lie, there is no way that-" The Mom person said shaking her head.

"That Kellet would use a way to distribute and modify the human genome in a safe and calculated way?" Big Brother smirked, "That Krieger and Kessler would use the most efficient and sure way to build their weapons and devices?"

"That you wouldn't capitalize on the nanite tech." The mom person said glaring at big brother, "Someone like you? Why would you not capitalize on this?"

*"Master Core Power is Anathema to Nanite Technology." Albireo was the one to speak, "His Core Power does not allow the Nanite Swarms to get a lock on his molecular structure, and even the most sturdy nanite design we could come up with would not survive within his body. And by definition any Nanite not within his body would not be considered a part of him, as such would be prime target for foreign control."*

"That is to say," Big Brother extended his hands to the sides, "My power makes it impossible for me to use this technology, at best I can keep them within my system for a few seconds at most, if I am not using my powers... Or well, if I am using my powers and focusing in letting them live."

"....Pfft." The mom person started laughing, aloud, without control. "So you are telling me... The means to acquire power you sought with such effort... made you unable to use the most dangerous weapon on this planet?"

And after saying those words, the mom person carried on laughing, she threw her phone to big brother and went to the kitchen where she laughed aloud for a few extra minutes.

Big Brother took this chance to do something with the phone and slide it towards the far end of the table.

"Let's ignore that rude woman." Big Brother said shaking his head, "Now, are you ready? This may feel weird."

"Alexa is ready!" Alexa said yet again, wondering why was that funny? Even if Big Brother couldn't use nanites, Alexa would still love him! How could she not love her twin brother! They were basically the same! "Give Alexa a new super power!"

"This is not so much as a new power and more like a new application of a power you already have." Big Brother said shaking his head, he picked the metal pellet and then put it above Alexa's forehead, "Don't say I didn't warn you."

Alexa was feeling just fin-

*[Detected new nanite swarm.]*

*[Nanite Swarm currently slaved to The Saintsworths Conglomerate.]*

*[Checking with administrator...]*

*[Checking certificates...]*

[Sending handshake...]

**Core:**

Detected foreign Nanite Swarm.

No valid certificates.

No valid keys.

Reading instructions...

Updating libraries within Nanite Swarm.

Updating Nanite Swarm design.

Preparing Nanite Forge for retrofit...

Warning.

This would make Nanite Swarm unable to fulfill current prime directive.

Checking prime directive...

Comparing against Host prime directive...

No clash detected.

Allowing Nanite Swarm to remain as is.

Preparing Nanite retrofit for after Nanite Swarm finishes current prime directive.

Current Prime Directive:

***[Protect, Safeguard, Save.]***

Show more

*[Received authorization from administrator.]*

*[Integrating Nanite Swarm.]*

*[Allotting resources.]*

"Dizzy." Alexa said shaking herself awake, that was a dizzy thing, Alexa got a whole new set of instructions that she threw away to Main Core to check.

She had seen a new blue screen from Core telling her that the Nanites were safe or something. She dismissed that for later, Ale would need to read it later.

"How does this thing work?" Alexa said, touching her forehead, the spot where Big Brother had put the metal pellet.

There was nothing there, Alexa had thought she would get a coolz horn or something, but there was nothing! Nothing!

"It will work by itself." Big Brother said sighing in relief, "Good thing this thing managed to play ball with what you have at the moment."

Play ball? It would play with her nanites?

"I needed that," Before Alexa could ask, the mom person returned from the kitchen, she seemed... happier? Weird. Did she eat a mango candy there? "I don't care how much you deleted, it was worth it. Can I tell anyone else?"

"Tell whoever you want," Big brother said with a shrug, "I only deleted the information about Alexa that was dangerous and all the pictures, video and audio files about the fix for Ale."

"...Awfully considerate of you." The mom person said narrowing her eyes at big brother and going through her phone, she nodded at it and looked once again at big brother, "Why? You could have used this chance to delete the evidence I have against you."

"If you are half smart as I think you should be, there are copies of that," Big Brother shrugged as he answered, "Besides, nothing there actually damages me, you should know better."

"...Whatever." The mom person said turning to Alexa, "Feeling okay? We can get Aunty Viv to check you up and ensure everything is fine..."

Aunty Viv? Alexa would only let that happen if they got her a mango cake! She demanded tributes!

"How will that thing show on the scans?" The mom person asked turning to big brother, "Will she have a metal core like Ale has on her body?"

"Of course not," Big Brother scoffed, "Who do you think I am? A scammer? Nothing will show up. Alexa's body will show as if nothing happened at all."

"That's impossible." The mom person said shaking her head in disbelief, "There is no way a nanite charge of that size could hide on her system like that. How expensive were those things that they can evade Saintsworths grade equipment?"

"Yes," Big Brother merely said as an answer, "But that was what I came to do, you can do whatever you want now. I'll mail the details of the device and how it works to Ale. I need to go and placate Sapphire."

And in that tone, Big Brother left the apartment.

Alexa wondered who that Sapphire person was, did they meet someone like that?

## Chapter 273: The Fish!

After Big Brother left, the Mom person started to check on Alexa all over; she pulled, prodded, poked, and personally checked that Alexa was whole and normal.

Honestly, Alexa was examined everywhere and she almost lost her hidden mango candy that she had hidden in her secret pocket!

That had been a scare and a half! Alexa was saving that for a rainy day! She had heard that eating Mango candy on a rainy day was the best after all.

But when all was said and done, Alexa was free!

"Freedom!" Alexa said it because it needed to be said again, "Give Alexa freedom or give her more freedom!"

Freedom was the only answer, one needed to be free to be Happy after all!

If you were stuck in the same place, no matter how cool it was, it would be a bore after all. Alexa couldn't imagine being stuck in the same spot for weeks and years with no end, even if Big Brother, the Mom person, and Aunty Viv came, she would still not like it!

"That is not how the saying goes." The Mom person said from the kitchen, she had gone there and started to prepare... something? She said it would be lunch, but they just ate breakfast.

Wasn't lunch supposed to be in the afternoon? Alexa didn't mind a second breakfast though.

"Alexa said it that way, so it goes that way." Alexa said in a very serious business seriousness that made it all more serious than it was possible for a saying to have, but since it was Alexa, it was even more serious!

One could say it was... Serious Business!

Heheheh.

"If you start feeling off, you tell me immediately, okay?" The Mom person suddenly added while Alexa was laughing at the funny joke she made. "And do you know if the blonde... if your brother sent the manual as he said?"

"Alexa doesn't know." Alexa didn't know, because Big Brother sent the manual to Ale!

Big Brother knew Alexa very well, he knew that Alexa wouldn't read it!

"I see..." The mom person nodded in understanding too, did she also get a copy of the manual? Not that Alexa would worry about that, if she got a copy, then she got a copy! "Speaking of manuals... Alexa, can you answer a few questions?"

"Alexa can't!" Alexa said shaking her head, "Alexa did not study for the exam after all, but the answer is probably either 42 or 67."

"67? The hell are you talking about?" The mom person asked baffled, "No, nevermind, don't explain it."

Good! Because Alexa didn't know how to explain it either!

"No, can you tell me why do you refer to the people like you do?" The mom person asked, "You speak about almost everyone in a third-person kind of way, except about people like your sister."

Why did Alexa speak like that?

"Because it's cuter this way?" Alexa asked confused, "Alexa speaks in a way that is cute because Alexa is cute!"

Yes, Alexa needed to speak like cute persons speak, it was a reasonable development to speak as thus after all!

"Okay, that is not what I meant." The mom person sighed in defeat, it was impossible to understand the degree of cuteness that Alexa had after all!

"Alexa is cute, thus, Alexa is justice!" Alexa proudly declared the ultimate truth of this world!

"Let's start easy," The Mom person said as she turned off the cook-a-matic 3,000 (The stove), "Who am I?"

"The mom person." Alexa said nodding proudly at the answer, it was one of the easiest questions she had ever had someone ask her, if only all the questions were this easy.

"Exactly," The mom person answered and then turned to Alexa, "Why am I this 'Mom person'?"

Why?

"I am not a Mother, I have no daughters or sons as far as I know." The mom person pointed out, "As far as the world is aware I haven't even adopted anyone."

Of course, the Mom person wasn't that kind of person!

"I Mothered plenty of orphanages and social programs that ensure Orphans are taken care of." That was an important aspect of the mom person yes, not the most important part of course, there was more important parts to the mom person, like Alexa! "But even then, not a single kid there thinks of me as their Mother. I am the one who saved them, a few send me letters every month to update me on their circumstances, but that's about it."

They sent the mom person letters? Alexa wanted to try that! That sounded kinda fun! Alexa could put funny drawing on the letter and make it extra cute! Maybe sneak a mango there in case the mom person was hungry!

It would be perfect!

"And yet, you, who has never seen me before, call me as thus." The mom person sighed, "Why am I the mom person?"

Why? Because she was!

"Alexa doesn't know!" Alexa said confused, "But Alexa knows for a fact that the mom person is the mom person! Even if she isn't Alexa's mom, she is still the mom person!"

That was important, Alexa knew in her Consciousness Stream, that the mom person would always be that to Alexa! Even if she wasn't her mom, she would be the mom person!

That was ***an undeniable truth of this world!***

"Okay then," The mom person sighed in defeat, "And I assume the same can be said about Vivian?"

"Aunty Viv?" Alexa asked for confirmation, she didn't want to confuse the mom person after all. This sounded important!

"You truly are that blonde... man's sister." The mom person shook her head and hid a smile, "Speaking of that, can you tell me what you see here?"

Then the mom person pulled out a picture of a pig!

"The pig person!" Alexa said pointing at the picture of the weird pig person! "Why is the pig person there! He should be working like a pig that he is!"

"... So it's a family thing?" The mom person turned to look at the picture, "Why? I can kind of understand why Vivian and myself are seen like that, but this one? He hasn't done anything to earn himself that..."

The mom person stopped speaking and quickly turned to her device and started writing something, only to be annoyed and glare at the ceiling.

What had the ceiling done?

"Albireo!" The mom person screamed at the ceiling, "I know you are watching, has your blonde asshole of a boss ever referred to me or Vivian like Alexa does?"

*[Receiving query from local AI.]*

*[Albireo: Do you wish for Miriam Eversoul's query to be answered?]*

Did Alexa want that?

Of course!

Alexa didn't mind the Albireo person from answering, it wouldn't hurt anyone after all, it was a dumb question, so there was no problem with answering.

*"Master has never once referred to you and Vivian Kellet with such labels."* The Alibreo person answered.

It was obvious after all.

"They aren't big brother's mom person or aunties!" Alexa said nodding sagely, "Unless they become, but it would be weird at the moment, maybe later?"

Alexa could imagine that development, it may be fun for a book or two? Maybe half a book? An Arc? Alexa would need to think about it and pester someone about it later.

"Please for all that is sacred don't." The mom person said shuddering, "That... I would quit. All the perks be damned, that is a hell of a mental image."

But that would be cute! Big Brother calling the mom person mom person because he wanted mango candy! Or whatever big brother loved, was it stroberri? Banana?

What did Big Brother like to eat? Alexa would need to check on that later, how was she supposed to save the good candies for big brother if she didn't know what he liked!

That wouldn't be a good little sister behaviour! Not that Alexa was the little sister, Alexa was the twin sister after all!

All the perks of a little and old sister in one presentation! Alexa was the smartest for real for real.

"Let's leave such horrifying thoughts for now." The mom person said still shuddering for some reason, was she cold? She probably was cold. "What is a pig from this image?"

What was a pig?

"Well, the pig person has pink skin like a pig, has hoofs like a pig instead of hands." Alexa said pulling the picture towards her, and by that Alexa meant that she asked the Alibreo person to create a holographic projection of the picture and help highlight the things she was saying. "Besides look at how he oinks! Only pigs oink!"

"....Did you ask Alibreo to project the image of a pig wearing a tuxedo?" The mom person asked confused seeing the image of the pig person, "That is a pig, not Kendrick Hamilton."

"Of course it's a pig." Alexa nodded confused, "You showed Alexa a photo of the pig person."

Alexa answered what she asked though, who was even that Kendrick ham person anyway?

"Albireo person!" Alexa said raising her fingie, "Who is the ham person?"

*"Kendrick Hamilton, currently principal at the school you are attending Lady Alexa. A heir of a powerful family that decided to split from the family business. They are one of the main investors of the Saintsworths Conglomerate." The Albireo person answered and while it spoke they send more data for Main Core to check! "If Kendrick Hamilton had followed the path set up by his family, he would have made it to either a head director or facility manager within the Aquila project."*

"...Really?" The mom person asked confused, looking at the picture. "This... person?"

"Alexa understands, he is after all. A pig." Alexa nodded sagely looking the picture that the mom person showed. "Weird that he pretends to be a human when he is a pig."

"He is a good person by what we know of him," The mom person pointed out, "Works out, eats healthy, ensures his neighborhood is safe. Even after selling his soul to get sponsored by the Saintsworths, he ensured that the kids got the best possible treatment and that the teachers got the money he got could get them."

He did? It was true, [Miss Baker] was good, even if Alexa didn't see much of her.

"And yet... both you and Alexanders seem to parse his appearance as a pig." The mom person nursed the side of her head, was she hurt? "Is it... were you both affected by something when he rescued you?"

But big brother didn't rescue Alexa! He helped Alexa yes, but there was no rescue!

"He did start saying the weird things about him being a pig around that time... did he not?" The mom person continued mumbling to herself, "Albireo, can you check the exact point in time when Alexanders started referring to Kendrick Hamilton as a pig?"

*"Insufficient Authority."* The Albireo person answered, but they didn't ask Alexa!

"...tch." The mom person tched, "Who has the Authority to ask then? Shouldn't I have as much Authority as that blonde asshole?"

*"Only the main administrator can delve into the private life of Master."* The Albireo person answered as thus.

Main administrator?

"Alexa?" Alexa asked pointing at herself, if it was Alexa then why didn't the Albireo person ask Alexa if it was fine to answer!

*"I'm sorry Lady Alexa, while your esteemed self has plenty authority. The Main Administrator of this network is Mistress Sapphire."* The Albireo person answered as thus.

"Who is that Sapphire person anyway." Alexa asked annoyed, she had been hearing that name again and again, it wasn't even cute!

"That's your brother's personal AI." The mom person answered with a dismissal of her voice, "He programmed it to be a B... He made sure she was very rude."

The mom person almost said a no-no word!

"Is it?" Alexa asked confused, "But big brother doesn't have assistants or personal thingies!"

Alexa knew that for a fact, big brother didn't trust them! It was why it was so annoying to deal with him!

Because Alexa was close to those definitions, so even as the sister label that she had it was hard to get around big brother!

"I mean, I know he hasn't shown it to you. But he spoke to it with Ale around did he not?"  
The mom person said confused, "Did Ale not tell you about it?"

Did it?

Alexa... had a vague feeling that she had heard something about it? But her brain juices were all mixed at the moment, she felt that she had learned something very important and had forgor about it.

What was it?

Think Alexa... Think...

"Alexa does not know." Alexa ended up saying with a shrug, "If it is important Alexa will remember it at some point when it's the most convenient to her!"

It was probably not important.

"But Alexa thinks that big brother didn't have one before!" Alexa decided to say that again, because it was important! "If he has one now, it is probably because something didn't go according to the keikaku!(Keikaku means plan)."

"I think that we will be reducing the time you are allowed to watch television." The mom person said in a thoughtful mood, "Unless you start adding educational content, because that sounded like Japanese and I know what they show to their children."

"Very fun and good stuff?" Alexa asked tilting her head cutely to the side, she had gotten very much good material to act cute like an Alexa should.

"Among other things," The mom person said, "I don't mind Ale watching it since she is older, but I still don't know how much you two share between each other. Since you didn't know about the personal AI I assume you share less than I thought."

"Alexa can see everything that Ale does and Ale can do the same!" Alexa said defending the honor of their link! "But Alexa rarely watches unless it's fun!"

"Then what do you do?" The mom person asked intrigued, "I don't think I ever asked what the other people do in a system like yours. More often than not your kind either pretend to not be, or are pretenders."

Pre tender? They were chicken nuggets?

"Alexa just eeps or hugs the ouchies away!" Alexa puffed out her chest proudly, "Alexa is getting very good at hugging the ouchies away!"

"Ouchies?" The mom person asked narrowing her eyes, "Is someone hurting you Alexa?"

"No?" Alexa said confused, "Alexa doesn't think so."

"Then why are you hugging ouchies away?" The mom person asked standing up and lifting Alexa, she was being carried towards the sofa yaaaay! "We didn't see evidence of bruises or anything... right, you were a pseudo regenerator, there would be no evidence of bruises."

"Alexa isn't being hurt!" Alexa defended her fighting prowess, "Anyone that tried to bully Alexa would be nommed!"

Besides Ale would protect Alexa if it ever come to that! Ale was the bestest like that!

"...Then what do you mean by ouchies?" The mom person asked, "Usually that means wounds."

"An ouchie is an ouchie!" Alexa said nodding sagely at her exemplification of the damage to the metaphysical aspect of the Consciousness Stream, "When Alexandra left, that made an ouchie! When Ale was hort because Meli-Meli was angy that elft an ouchie!"

Soooo many ouchies! Alexa was getting tired of having to hug everyone of them!

"Now that I think about it..." Alexa closed her eyes and looked inside, "Alexa has an ouchie! That wasn't there when Alexa was eeping!"

Why was there an ouchie on their bed! Ale was eeping there!

No wait, why was Ale eeping on the sofa?!?!?!?!?

That was for watching the stream! Not for eeping!

"Alexa has to go!" Alexa said standing up and preparing for the change!  
"Heeeeeeeeeeeeeeeen.....fish!"

## Chapter 274: The fear of Nanites.

".... Did it work?" That was the first thing that Ale asked as she stretched and looked around herself.

She had been kind of tired and as soon as she arrived into the mindscape, she noticed that most of the rooms weren't open to her. It had been somewhat of a surprise. But then again, she should have seen it coming.

It was tiring, Ale had needed to latch herself into the mindscape and then split her thought process; half was dedicated to keeping herself latched into the mindscape's outer space. And the other was dedicated to keeping herself stable.

That is to say, she hadn't been able to fully rest and defragment herself, usually they used the sleeping time for that.

Defragmenting the data that they had experienced.

"... If you are asking if Alexa was out, then yes." Miriam Eversoul answered, almost making Ale jump out from the surprise, she had expected to wake up to either Alexa angrily shouting something about cheating, or wake up on Alexa's bed.

"Oh..." Ale said turning around and looking at herself.

She was wearing her normal clothes and they were in the living room, Ale didn't see anything out of normal, so that was that. An internal query showed that it was barely ten in the morning. So Alexa had probably been awake for something closer to three to four hours, depending on what had happened.

So all things considered, it was a little less than what Ale had wanted for Alexa to be out. But it was better than nothing.

"Your older brother was around, he spoke with Alexa and promised to send you a manual, can you check if you received it?" Miriam Eversoul said offering Ale a phone. "Also this is your new phone."

New phone?

Not that Ale was going to complain about that. Taking the device she got a data packet from Alexanders and she promptly downloaded the data into her AI Information Core.

It was some data on a new Nanite Swarm that Ale couldn't detect or control, apparently they would only materialize to work when a very specific set of instructions appeared.

Somehow, Alexanders had managed to encode them into Mana and become reactive when the specific material that Ale's body turned into came into being.

How the hell did he manage to do that?

"Did you get it?" Miriam Eversoul asked, making Ale become aware of the fact that she was being stared at.

"Ah yeah," Ale answered nodding and opening the file on the phone, it was... way less explicit about it. And for some reason didn't go into the topic of it being Nanite swarm.

Ale hadn't had the time to check on the conversation or whatever Alexa had done while she was asleep.

"Okay," Miriam Eversoul nodded, but didn't take the phone, even though Ale was offering, "Now... How much about what happened did you see? I mean about this morning."

"... Nothing?" Ale answered, wondering if she should do a quick download or not. It somewhat felt like it wasn't proper, she had Main Core peruse the data and bring whatever was necessary though. So there wasn't a need for her to check on it.

"Alexa said you two can see what the other is doing at any moment." Miriam Eversoul said, "I don't know how it is for you particularly, since most Systems have it different."

Ah right, they also had bought the whole System thing that Eleanore made up for them, Ale sometimes forgot about it. Albeit it may have become the truth. Ale still didn't really think of them as such, since that was a Human condition and they... weren't quite human.

"Some have partial access, some only get impressions of emotions, and then there are the examples as what Alexa described," Miriam Eversoul picked up the remote and turned on the television, only muting the sound, "Watching memories as if it was a live stream."

"We do that one," Ale nodded as she pointed to the television, "But we also have full access to the database of memories, we can forbid... or well, Alexa can forbid me from accessing certain memories if she wants, but while I could ask her to not watch something, she can still sidestep that. Not that she would."

Ale knew that Alexa would respect her privacy, even if she didn't have to give her such thing, there was no way for Ale to know if she respected the privacy or not after all.

"Right," Miriam Eversoul nodded, "And you didn't watch today's event because Alexa wanted privacy?"

"Ah no, I was asleep." Ale answered with a grimace, "Since the disease that Melissandra left, I have some... issues. Alexa is helping with them."

"...I also wanted to ask about that." Miriam Eversoul grimaced as she remembered something, "Alexa spoke about some... 'Ouchies' as she described. I assume she refers to wounds or damage?"

That was one way to describe them, Ale still remembered the weird-ass worms that Alexa claimed were wiggles. Those did not look like tentacles, at all.

"You can say so," Ale nodded after shuddering, "I perceive them as cracks, rips, and gashes. But 'Ouchies' is such an Alexa way to describe them."

"What causes them?" Miriam Eversoul asked in a serious tone, "Can I assume they are psychological wounds? Is it memories from your time in a less stable environment? Someone bringing up bad memories?"

"I am unsure what causes most of them, I just suspect the latest one was caused by Melissandra Singh's Core Power." Ale answered, that was also a question she wanted answered after all, "But it isn't important, Alexa is healing us."

"How?" Miriam Eversoul asked confused, "Alexa's Core Power is that of a Shape-shifter, or something close to it."

Close to it was an understatement.

"I am not a programmer, engineer or a scientist." Miriam Eversoul admitted, "But even so, I have some knowledge of psychology and medicine. And there are some wild theories out there about destroying the parts of the brain that hold the memories of trauma to deal with that."

That was indeed an efficient way to solve it.

"Please tell me you two aren't doing something like that." Miriam Eversoul pleaded in a small voice, "Neither of you has the know-how about how to do that, so please, tell me you aren't doing that."

"No," Ale answered honestly, they hadn't thought of doing that after all, not that they would ever do something as barbaric as that, "I am... unsure of how Alexa does it, but even if we tried that route, it would be pointless, the nature of our power would return us to normal after all."

After a Blueprint update they would return to normal, their body would be whole again, and if the damage came from a physical body part, then it would be restored. Making this approach meaningless to execute.

"The nature of your core power?" Miriam Eversoul said nodding, "I see, it is probably because of how your Core interacts with your identity as a System rather than a single mind. The original form your body always returns to after the power runs out is the same, so any change to it would be pointless. Just like how a normal shifter always returns to their original body."

That was... albeit not as the normal convenient excuse, it was at least more logical than the usual leaps in logic that people did. Now Ale only needed to return to Ohio and test if it would be like that there too.

"Yes, something like that." Ale said nodding, "Anyway, what's the deal with this then?"

Ale pointed out to the guide that Alexanders had sent to the device, "It doesn't explain how it works, but only gives a vague promise that it will ensure the effect from the Death Mana will be limited if it does burst. And that I will have a few minutes and a couple of hours at most after my return."

Ale didn't mind it of course, she did want to return, but had expected some more... complete and effective.

"I haven't checked on it, but from what the asshole said, it is the best he can give. And after it breaks apart it will not work again." Miriam Eversoul sighed, scrolling through the file till she found the Warning. "See?"

"This will only work for a couple weeks at best, after which your body will have acclimated once again and this will not work again." Ale read it, that was... kinda useless? He had burned a good viable way to solve the issue? Why? "Why did he come out with this? Wouldn't doing further study be better?"

"Because his ego was hurt." Miriam Eversoul answered almost instantly, "Or that is what I would think normally."

Was it not because of that?

"I think... the man is a softie to you and Alexa," Miriam Eversoul added, "Usually he wouldn't show such a half-assed product, he probably couldn't get something working as he said, and came with this half-assed answer."

It was... kind of impressive if nothing else.

"And he also took into consideration the fact that you want to return back there, so he rushed the production and gave us this." Miriam Eversoul pointed to an open box with nothing inside, "Would you have returned even if he didn't produce something?"

"Yes," Ale had decided to return, it was necessary for their future plans and-

*[Warning: error number has risen yet again.]*

"I would need to give Alexa some very specific instructions, but we will return." Ale knew it was the way forward for them, they needed to deal with this. And finding out if this was localized to Ohio or not was part of the way to solve it.

"There you have it." Miriam Eversoul pointed, "That was probably the reason he even gave you this."

"Since I was going to return no matter what, he decided to provide this?" Ale was confused, "Then wouldn't it be more important for him to develop something if that was the case?"

"If you will return no matter what, he had no other option." Miriam Eversoul grimaced as she spoke, "Why am I even justifying his actions? Anyway, the point is. He claimed that this was the best he could make, that there would probably not be anything better within a month. Would you wait more than a month?"

"I am not sure I can delay this more than a week." Ale shook her head, the error count going up meant that her time was limited if nothing else, "Probably within tomorrow or the day after we will need to go back."

"So there you have it, if you are leaving this soon, he felt the need to finish it as soon as possible." Miriam Eversoul sighed, "He hates losing, so he will probably continue working in alternatives."

"But the data says that this method will not work again." Ale pointed out, "Unless he updates it while we are still using it?"

Ale didn't think that was possible, or was it?

They didn't understand fully the nanite swarm did they? If Miriam Eversoul didn't know they were using nanites...

"He probably plans to update the nanite charge that he injected within Alexa." Miriam Eversoul definitely knew then, "Ah, right, it doesn't say on the parts that you showed me, but the means he used is Nanite Tech. Do you know something about it?"

"It is forbidden, for one." Ale said sighing, "Everyone seems to have a fear towards the possibility of a Nanite outbreak."

"Not towards a nanite outbreak, but towards a nanite core. Different." Miriam Eversoul clarified, "Nanites by themselves are manageable, you only need a Technopath Core user and the nanite outbreak can be controlled."

"Then why fear a Nanite Core?" Ale pointed, if a simple tinkerer or subtype of tinkerer could stop them, they weren't a danger.

"A Nanite Core is a theorized Core user who can generate and subsume other nanites," Miriam Eversoul pulled the remote and started fiddling with her phone, "They control nanites by means of their Core, so the nanites are enslaved to them and as thus, can't be affected by other Core users."

After some fiddling, the television started showing videos of a mass of gray matter moving.

"And since they can't be controlled by anyone but the Nanite Core, it makes them extra dangerous." The video showed the gray mass moving and engulfing everything on its path, from buildings to people fighting it, "Unless one can locate the Nanite Core User, the nanite swarm becomes unstoppable, as it grows more with each matter it absorbs... It will overwhelm the planet sooner rather than later."

Ale... was wondering if this happened or was a theorized outcome.

"The only answer in this case is the scorched earth strategy." The video zoomed out, the gray mass almost had engulfed the city on the video, at least till a single projectile traveled towards it.

As soon as it was above the site, an explosion flared and the video went white. When it returned there was a crater on the spot where it had a city before.

"Or as the blonde asshole likes to say," Miriam Eversoul shook her head, "We had to bomb it to kingdom come. A two-step explosion, albeit it doesn't look like that on the video."

The video rewounded itself and zoomed into the projectile, a missile that now was traversing through the air very slowly. First, it opened itself and threw smaller round objects above the city.

Then when the smaller objects were far in the sky. The device that had remained there burst into a white nova.

"First the missile shoots into the sky the secondary charges. When they are cleared from the area of impact the nuclear device explodes." The video started moving forward as a white explosion bombarded the city. "When that is finished the overhead devices burst. A thermobaric explosion consuming the O<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere and finishing the work. Leaving no living subjects, even if the nanite swarm could reform itself. Without O<sub>2</sub> and with the high temperatures from the multiple explosions, no human could survive that."

Ale almost pointed out that the Nanite swarm wouldn't survive the amount of electromagnetic radiation, but then remembered that a nanite swarm formed by Mana could probably survive it...

So she decided to not say anything.

"That is what we fear," Miriam Eversoul pointed out, "We fear that we will need to destroy one of the few surviving human environments because someone awakened a Nanite Core and decided they wanted to rule the world."

"This happened?" Ale asked with some dread in her voice, "Where?"

"It was known as..." Miriam Eversoul said with a small sigh, "...California."

That sounded like a place that Ale did not want to go to, the temptation to go and retrieve whatever Nanite swarm remained was soon squished away by the mere mention of that accursed place.

"Fair," Ale merely said, "I can understand the issues. So the problem is not the nanites, but the idea of a Nanite swarm made out by a Core Power."

Ale once again reaffirmed the problem with their power, whatever their Core Power did. The actual Core Power made out of Mana, it allowed them control over **a nanite swarm**. Ale hadn't seen if they could grow out of control like in the video example. At best they had managed to create that weird mass of flesh in the sewers.

But that felt less nanite and more organic to be honest.

"So if you ever see someone with powers that resemble that." Miriam Eversoul showcased images of the original Nanite Swarm in California, the living metal moving with little to zero originality, it was closer to someone controlling liquid metal rather than a Nanite Swarm. "Run away and call your brother or Vulcanus if you can."

"Alexanders?" Ale asked confused, "What can he do?"

"Skip all the formalities," Miriam Eversoul answered, "He was the one to first suggest to nuke the city eight years ago."

Eight years ago? So this was eight years ago?

"And he also provided the prototype bomb used too." Miriam Eversoul shook her head, "It did the work. Ensured nothing came out of that city. By the time we used it there was no living human... or so he said."

Ale... was inclined to believe that to be a lie. But she didn't pointed out.

"Fair," And merely said as thus, she would need to prepare some extra routine check ups for Main Core, they could not be suspected of being a Nanite Core. Ever.

## Chapter 275: The Drake One

They continued talking about the Nanite Core and the examples of a few other that had risen up here and there, a few tried to come forward as soon as they got their Cores. More often than not, they all lost their mind for one reason or another.

Almost every single one of them ended up either attempting to make a gray goo type of situation or ended up destroying themselves.

There was one particular guy called Bob who decided that living on Terra Nova was a bust and made himself a space shuttle, then threw himself into the abyss that was outer space. No one made that much of an attempt to stop him...

More likely than not because the man first flew out of the civilized cities into some hellscape called Australia. Then from there he built up his space shuttle and then shot himself at speeds that should have killed him.

There were a few thesis from some scientific peeps that said that he had probably killed himself there. Most accepted that as a fact, most being everyone but Alexanders who just said that someone smart enough to make a plane that made it to the hellscape that was Australia (Ale wondered what was the deal with the people hating on poor Australia, surely it wasn't that bad). Then he probably was smart.

If he also was able to make a rocket that didn't explode and made it into outer space, then he was very smart. So surely they had solved the issue of turning into a pancake at takeoff.

Because the world government had attempted to destroy and or kill him.

Alexanders theorized that the man had digitalized his brain and jury rigged himself and his Core Powers to the space shuttle, and in such a way he had 'Survived' the travel into outer space.

Alexanders guessed that if he had managed to do so, he would probably have quite the great adventures in outer space. But he would not hold much hope for seeing him again, space was vast and the dangers were equally as great. More so if the man didn't plan his travel adequately. Running out of fuel in the empty void between solar systems would mean death after all.

Not that it mattered to Ale if there was a guy named Bob who turned himself into a space shuttle going about doing shenanigans in space or not. It sounded interesting yes, and Ale would probably enjoy learning about what he did, but that was up there and Ale was down here.

With all these examples, Ale at least was now convinced that the way they used their Nanites was nothing like how the humans did, so that was a relief, it meant that they would not be suspected unless they found a Core User who could detect said Nanites. As it was, there existed people like that.

Namely [Vulcanus] and some of the Technopath Core Users, the data didn't say if they detected the nanites themselves or the application of the Core itself. Since there was some research saying that Cores got different reads. Which Ale already knew but she hadn't paid attention to the method. After all they had seen a Core Scanner first that day when they ran away from the laboratory.

The one that had refused to let them into the shelter, the one that [Frank The Bettle] tried to get Alexa in.

So that was that.

"That is why, even if your Core Power is not that of a Nanite Core. The fact that there are Nanites within your body may cause some issues." Miriam Eversoul remarked yet again, "The manual that asshole sent does say you don't need to do anything and that they will work by themselves, so that should give some leeway."

Ale honestly couldn't detect or interface with the nanites, she guessed that they had been linked to Alexa herself and not to Core or Main Core. Meaning that Alexanders had a way to do such a thing. Again, no surprises there, since Core and Main Core seemed to be subservient to them to some degree.

Another thing that she didn't need to worry, she was having less and less things to worry as time went through.

"If we have a time limit then we will need to take the offer about the travel back." Ale said turning to Miriam Eversoul, "What do I need to access the artifact that they used to teleport here? Or will I need to use a plane?"

Miriam Eversoul stopped to think for a few seconds, was it that hard to answer?

"The teleporter... Can be ready within a few minutes, the thing is that these are more limited than you think." Miriam Eversoul finally said, "The thing is that these require you to have the data logged in both extremes of the channel. We can only use them as a teleport if we have been there."

That sounded like... a stupid restriction.

"What about material? Logistics? Are you saying that the food and material transported needs to go the hard way here just to be more easily sent back?" Ale pointed out, that was the most stupid way to travel using teleportation, why was it even like that? What was the logic behind that? What was even the point then?

"Non-living objects can be transported as usual; most of the workers don't use the teleportation doors for that same reason. The gates are used mostly for logistics." Miriam Eversoul commented, "As for the restrictions, they have to do with the original Core Users who provided the ingredients for the artifact. The good teleporters weren't used because they would be able to return more easily here."

That was... fair I guess?

"So chances are that is out for me then?" Ale sighed, she... was not entirely sure if the device would allow her to get past it, she... technically could qualify as a non-living object, if she stretched the definition. It was also possible to cease living functions and then program Main Core to restart her later. But that... gave her a weird sense of dread that she didn't want to even think about what it implied.

It was something they had done before, they had technically died once already. When the whole [Chrysalis] debacle happened they got killed, or well, a Consciousness Strand did, but it was the same thing.

So while she knew for a fact that it was possible, she still would not even suggest that, not like Miriam Eversoul would ever accept it.

"So we will need to schedule you a plane ticket." Miriam Eversoul said and with some groans she picked up her phone, "Which means, we will need to make a few calls."

"Is it that hard to get a plane ticket?" Ale asked, nothing about doing that seemed that complicated, as far as a few searches within the databases Ale had access to at the moment, "Don't we just need to pick a plane and ask for availability?"

"If it was a normal commercial plane, yeah. That would be all." Miriam Eversoul sighed, "Try to check for a plane ticket from Aquila to Columbus, Ohio."

Ale nodded, confused, and picked up her phone, not like she could do it with her mental commands without showing too much of her hand; they didn't need the extra scrutiny from the knowledge about how much she could interface with technology.

I mean, obviously, they knew to some degree, since on her check-up, the AI Cores stored within her shoulders and legs had been exposed, but still, she wanted to limit the amount of information they could glimpse from that as much as possible.

It was better if they thought it was more instinctual after all.

"Plane tickets... from... Aquila... Aquila.... Aquila....?" Ale started checking in the most popular site, then the next... then the next... Then, getting tired of not finding anything, she instead checked with one travel agent, then instead started going to the local travel guide on the main Saintsworths server. "... There is nothing...?"

Ale then moved her search away from planes to ships, cruisers and any means of travel she was able to find, but there was nothing.

"Did you forget?" Miriam Eversoul pointed to one of their windows, "Aquila is a secret base right now, hidden from the public, while we have prospective students, they will not know where we are, and will be transported in secret."

Ah right, Ale had forgotten that minuscule detail. Not that she had any excuse for doing so, it was, after all, quite the important bit of information. Why had she forgotten that?

"Then how am I supposed to schedule the travel back?" Ale asked confused, she had arrived by means of a teleportation, so while she kind of knew where she was thanks to the map they had shown before, she was not aware of how to get out of here or if it was even possible to travel on her own.

Everyone seemed to imply that the outside world was dangerous, what with the megafauna, geese, and all of the wild fauna between the cities.

Which probably meant that traversing by the sea could be dangerous... No wait, this was an artificial island right? How had Alexanders dealt with that part of the issue then? They were living normally and she hadn't seen much evidence of the city being attacked, so he had solved it somehow.

"Calling the big guns," Miriam Eversoul almost gagged when she said that phrase, "Your brother is the one who has access to all the planes, and a few private ones... Well, most of the planes that come here are his so you could say that all the planes are his, private or not."

Ah right, that was an option. Why hadn't Ale thought of doing so? It was quite obvious if one thought about it, not that Ale felt comfortable doing so, but so far Alexanders had not done wrong by her.

"Then... do I just send a message to him?" Ale asked raising her phone, she did have one contact saved under his name, one that she hadn't added, so she assumed he had done it.

There was also a contact for Sapphire, but she would ignore that one for now.

"He probably already has everything set up, but yes." Miriam Eversoul said shuddering again, why so much reaction from this? "He probably is just waiting for you to ask for it, if not... I think we could sneak you into one of the planes that are leaving, but the travel would be bumpy, and I can't guarantee you would land in Columbus, Ohio, on the first try, and since it would raise suspicion if I traveled in a logistic plane... You would need to travel alone."

Ale sees no problem with that, actually, that would allow her to expand her testing zone. If she landed in a random city, she could test a third environment to see if it reacted like Columbus, Ohio, too.

But no, for now she needed to return there and finish her tests.

"Then I'll send him a message." Ale took the time to manually write the message and sent it, it would be pointless of her to do a mental command and imprint her ideas for this, not with Miriam Eversoul looking at her like that. "When do you think he will answer?"

Ale didn't mind waiting, of course, she didn't have that many other things to do. But the fact that she could relax here was a godsend.

"Sooner rather than later," Miriam Eversoul answered with a grumble, "He just left a few minutes ago, so he probably is still traveling wherever he has gone to ruin someone's afternoon."

Ale wasn't sure how to see that bit, it was true that he had just left, so would he get mad because Ale was sending him a message after he just left?

"What did he speak with Alexa about besides giving us this?" Ale asked pointing at the box, "Did he say anything about when we could leave?"

"Nothing really, besides that he was surprised that Alexa was out and about." Miriam Eversoul shrugged, "He also thought Alexa was evading him, but they interacted as normal, and there were no issues there."

Ale sighed in relief about that, she hadn't expected Alexanders to come around at this time, but the fact that Alexa interacted normally was a huge relief to her. Meaning there was no problem with Alexanders.

"But besides that, nothing else was said." And as Miriam Eversoul spoke about it, Ale got a notification to her message to Alexanders.

So Ale turned to look down at the phone as she downloaded the data straight to her Information Core. The data dump included a few schematics for a vehicle and some weather maps, plus some instructions on what to do depending on a series of circumstances happening.

"He answered," Ale noticed she hadn't said aloud that they had an answer already, "It seems he did prepare something."

Miriam Eversoul turned her attention towards the phone as Ale opened the message, "What did that man set up?" was the question she asked as Ale started to read the message to confirm that it was the same, or roughly the same as what she got from the data packet.

"There is a private plane set up for me," Ale read the message and checked on the datapacket. It seemed the data packet included the schematics for the plane and the evacuation instructions, plus a few blueprints for a smaller device to evacuate...

And some notes about the materials and where she could take extra materials to create the evacuation device. An extra note was put saying that he would defer to Ale's knowledge since he was unsure of how their Nanites would react and move in a high-stress scenario.

Not that Ale thought the Nanites would be affected by such an event.

"Showoff..." Miriam Eversoul said aloud as she hovered with her open palm above the phone and then with a sweep of her hand she made a gesture as if she was throwing something towards the television on the wall.

As soon as that happened the message that Ale was reading there was retransmitted to the bigger television, so it was easier to read. It formatted itself to take into consideration the extra space and also put the photos that Ale had seen in the datapack of the plane.

"The private jet of the Saintsworths Conglomerate," Miriam Eversoul turned to look at the picture of the plane, it was a... Ale wasn't sure if it was big or small, at least it seemed big enough to probably fit a normal person standing up inside it. "The Drake One and intercontinental capable plane, there are rumors saying it is capable of leaving the atmosphere and as thus, can travel faster and farther."

Ale didn't know if that was that much of an achievement if she was honest, as far as she understood, getting out of the normal atmosphere wasn't that hard, just point up and burn as much fuel as you can in the least amount of time.

"It has a few technologies that haven't been spread to the public use yet," Miriam Eversoul continued speaking, "At the very top of them, it's inertia dampers."

Ah yeah, that would make it something to use as a way of showing off. As far as Ale had found out on her multiple research and investigations of technology that she could apply to herself while in combat, that was one she hadn't found a way to solve.

One couldn't just wish away inertia after all.

"And this thing has it?" Ale said as she looked closer to the schematics of the plane, there was a few places where there was empty black boxes on the blueprints. "How did he even get that?"

"He won't tell, that is not even the most ridiculous thing. Most people ignore it and focus more on the fact that he has viable teleportation doors installed on his facilities." Miriam Eversoul shrugged, "A plane that allows you to stand up and walk around while it's taking off, it's not that up in the list."

"... A plane in which you can go from 0 to Mach 1 and allows you to remain standing as if nothing..." Ale said incredulous to what she was hearing, "This is way more absurd than opening a door and getting to the other side of the world."

Humans were stupid and weird. Ale would crashout about this later on stream... If she found a way to excuse why she was crashing out about this.