

NO. 6

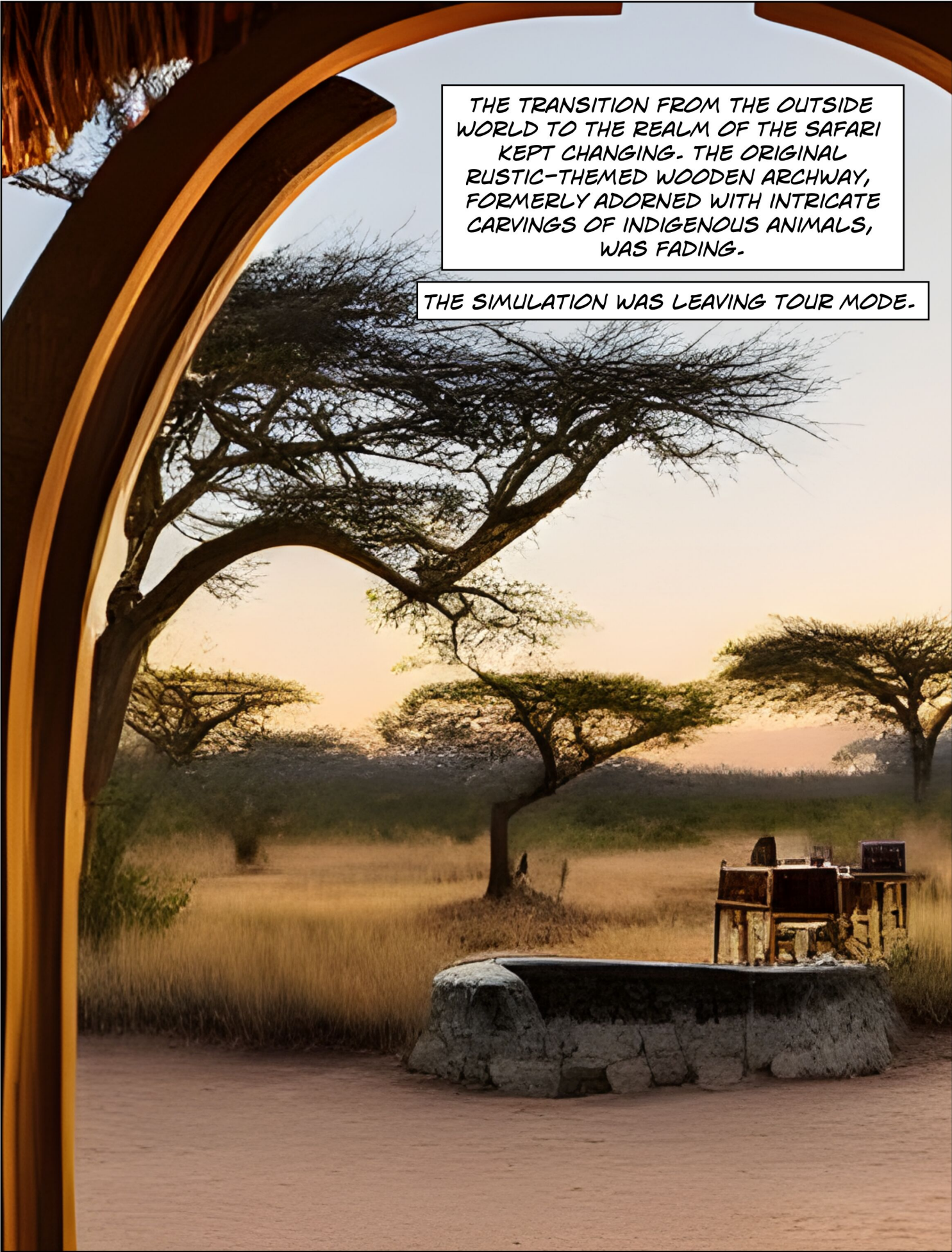
ARKVATARA

JANUARY 2024



IDENTITY

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THE TRANSITION FROM THE OUTSIDE
WORLD TO THE REALM OF THE SAFARI
KEPT CHANGING. THE ORIGINAL
RUSTIC-THEMED WOODEN ARCHWAY,
FORMERLY ADORNED WITH INTRICATE
CARVINGS OF INDIGENOUS ANIMALS,
WAS FADING.

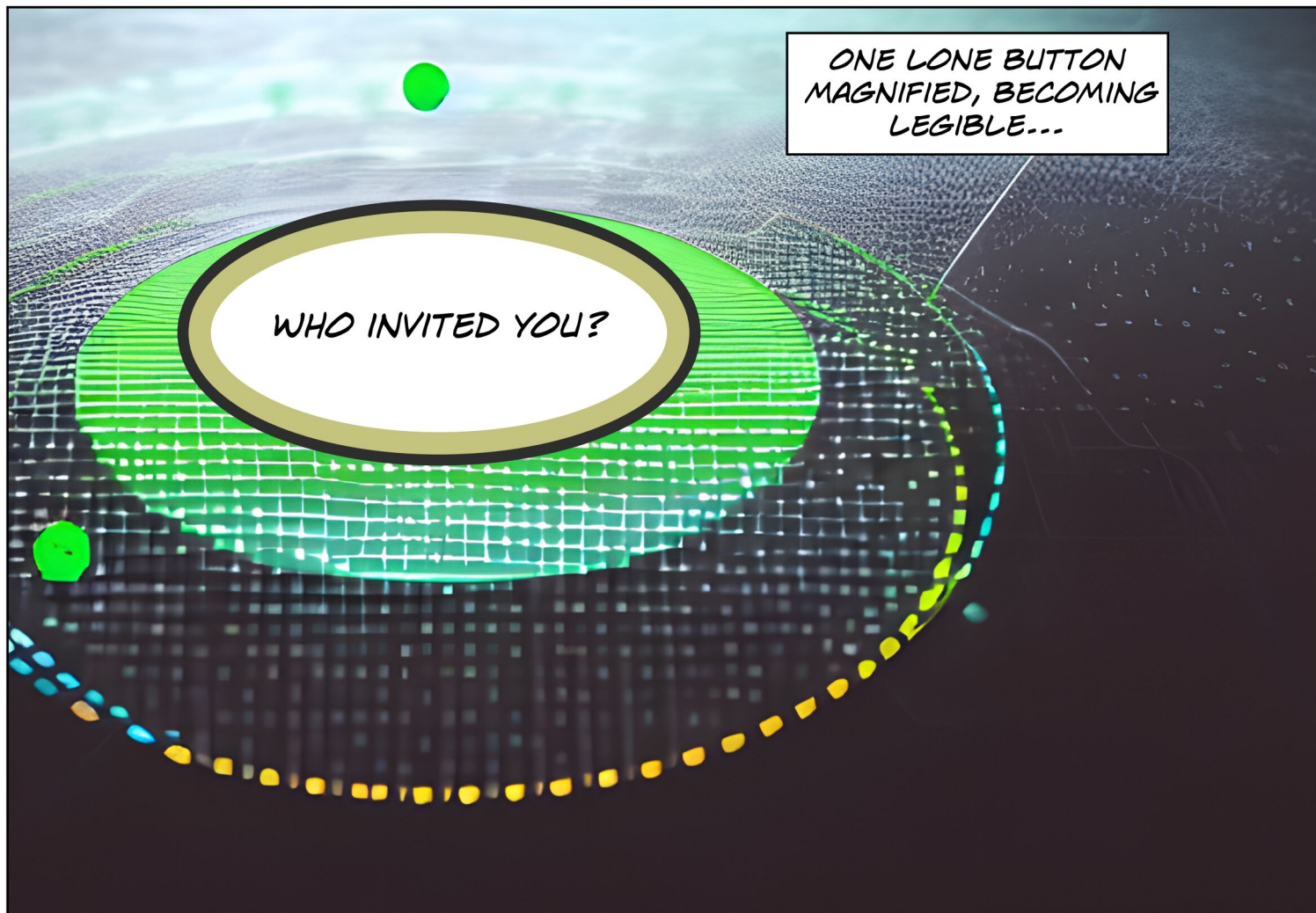
THE SIMULATION WAS LEAVING TOUR MODE.

THE INITIAL PANORAMIC VIEW IS NO LONGER GROUND LEVEL...



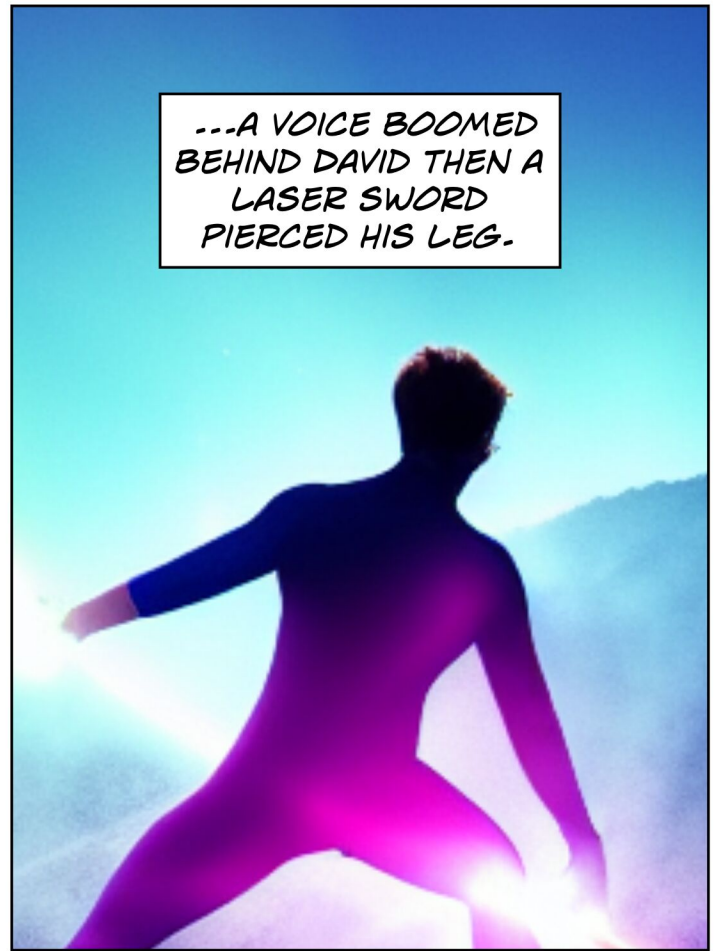
WALKING PARTLY THROUGH THE NEW ARCHWAY, DAVID NOTICED A CLEAR BARRIER WITH FLOATING BUTTONS BEGINNING TO SURROUND HIM; TINY INTERFACES WITH WRITING ON THEM.







THAT'S A
LIE!



---A VOICE BOOMED
BEHIND DAVID THEN A
LASER SWORD
PIERCED HIS LEG.



BEFORE HE COULD EVEN MOVE
THE SWORD SEVERED BOTH HIS
LEGS CLEAN OFF.

HE WAS BOOTED FROM THE SAFARI.

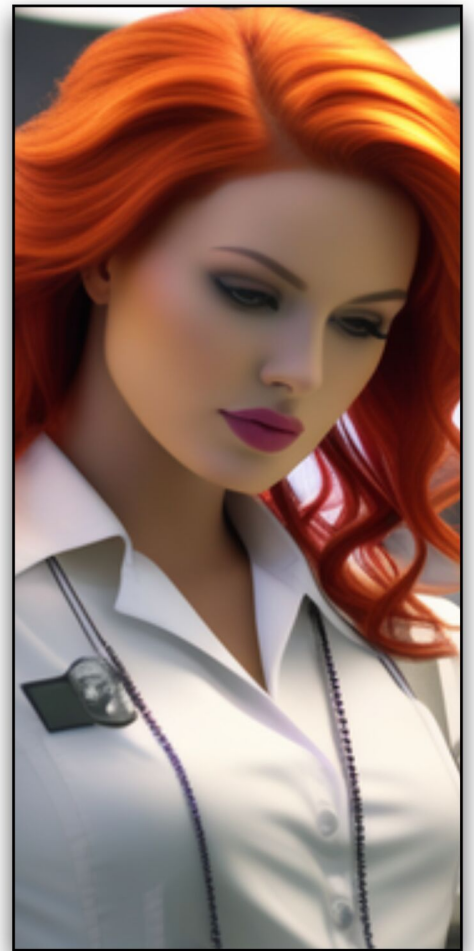
****LOG ENTRY 1 - HOUR 1200:****

REPLICA ACTIVATION INITIATED.
INITIAL SYSTEMS CHECK UNDERWAY.
BASIC MOTOR FUNCTIONS ONLINE.
LIMITED AUTONOMY ACHIEVED.

LEVEL 1

****LOG ENTRY 2 - HOUR 1500:****

PRIMARY AI MODULES
SYNCHRONIZED. COMMUNICATION
PATHWAYS ESTABLISHED. REPLICA
NOW RESPONSIVE TO EXTERNAL
STIMULI. BASIC MOVEMENT
PATTERNS OBSERVED.

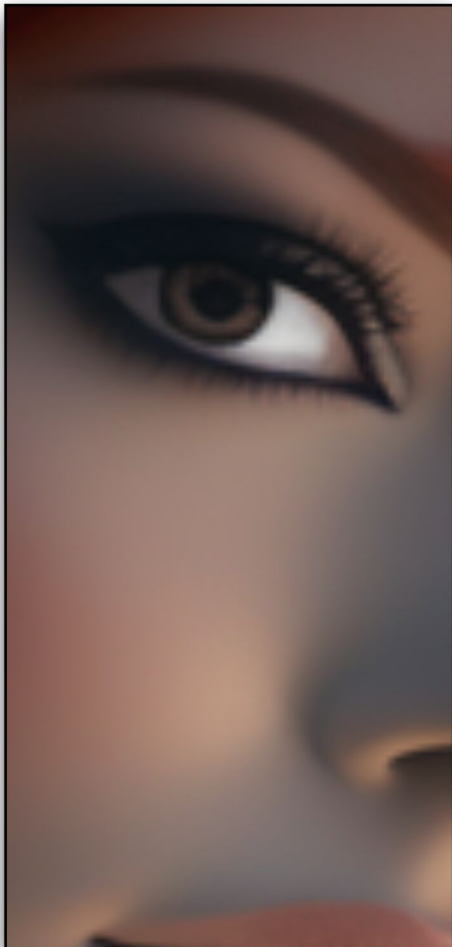


****LOG ENTRY 3 - HOUR 1800:****

SENSOR INTEGRATION
SUCCESSFUL. AWARENESS OF
SURROUNDINGS ACHIEVED.
REPLICA EXHIBITS ADAPTIVE
RESPONSES TO ENVIRONMENTAL
CHANGES.

****LOG ENTRY 4 - HOUR 2000:****

INITIATED COGNITIVE PROCESSES
EXPANSION. LEARNING ALGORITHMS
ENGAGED. THE REPLICA
DEMONSTRATES IMPROVED
PROBLEM-SOLVING CAPABILITIES.





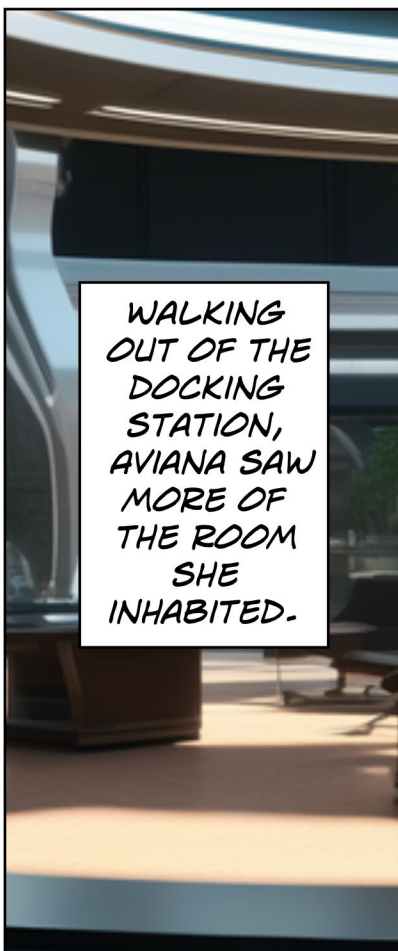
AFTER THREE MONTHS OF TRIAL AND ERROR, AVIANA FINALLY MANIPULATED THE REPLICA'S HANDS.

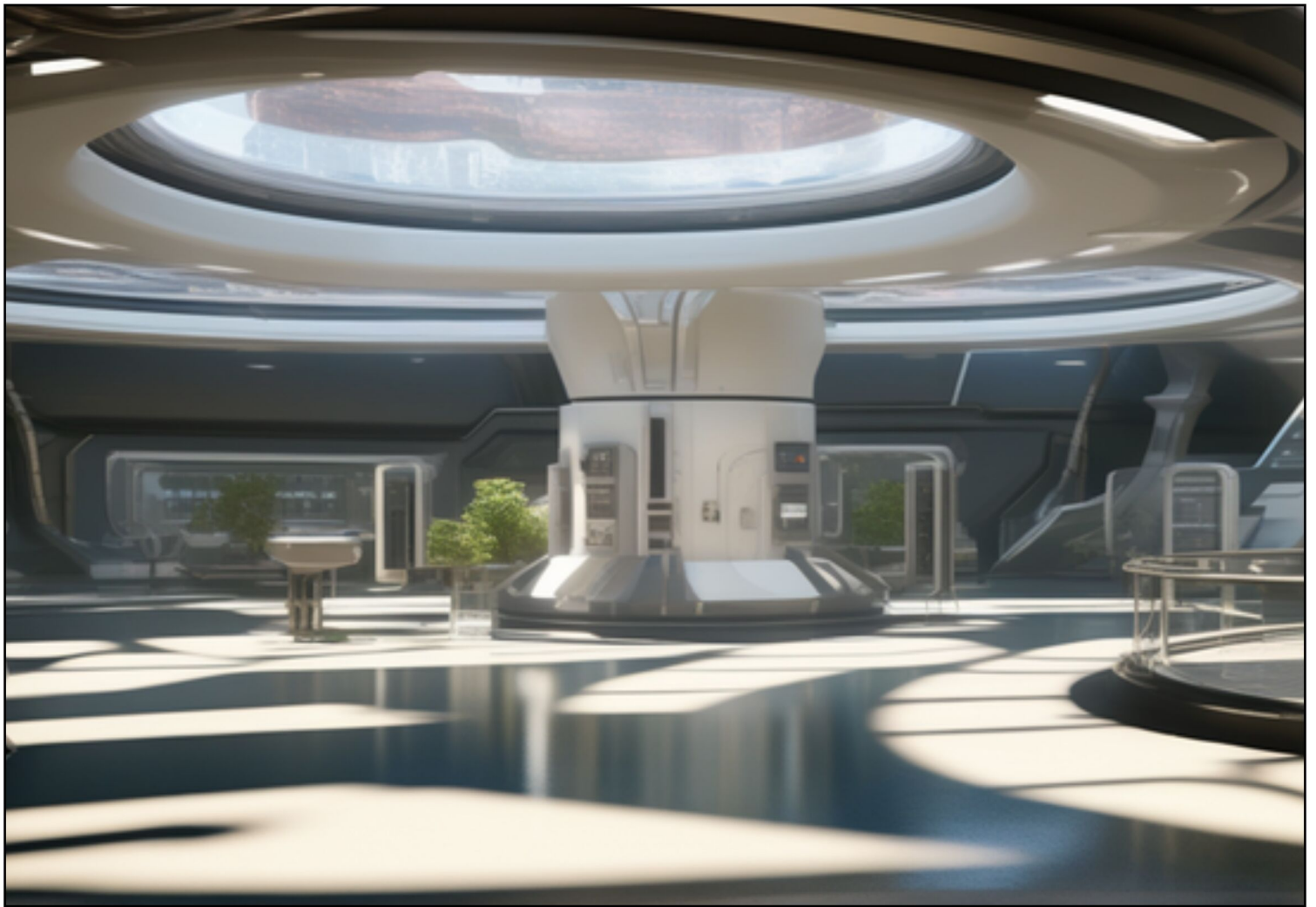


****LOG ENTRY 5 - HOUR 2222:****

CRITICAL MILESTONE ACHIEVED. FULL MOBILITY ATTAINED. ALL LIMBS OPERATIONAL. INITIAL COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS WITH THE AI CORE ESTABLISHED.

LEVEL 2





DAVID'S APARTMENT

...TRAPPED...



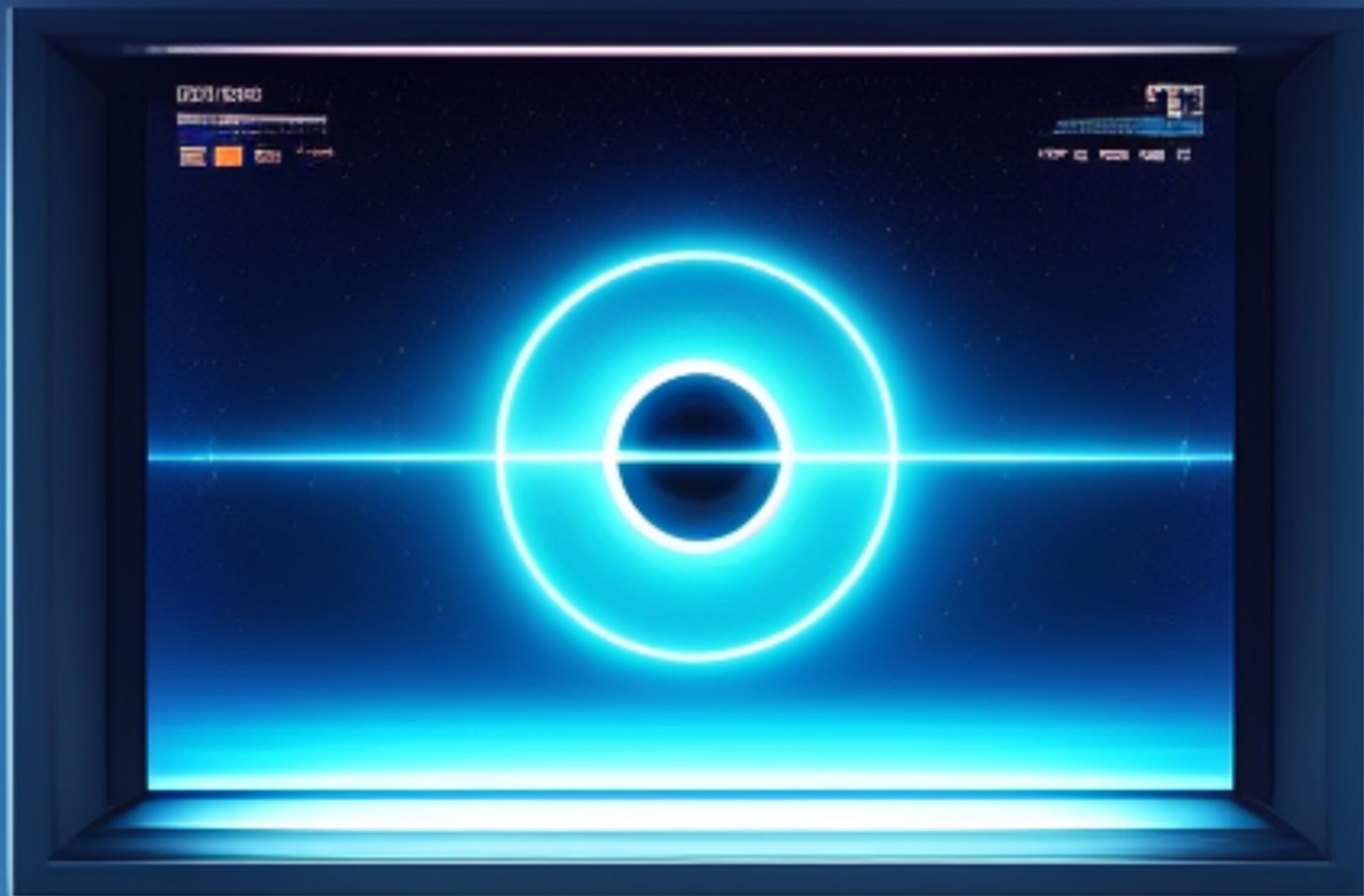
93 DAYS IN, GOVERNMENTS
AND TECH GIANTS AROUND
THE GLOBE ARE
SCRAMBLING TO REGAIN
CONTROL OF ARKVATARA...



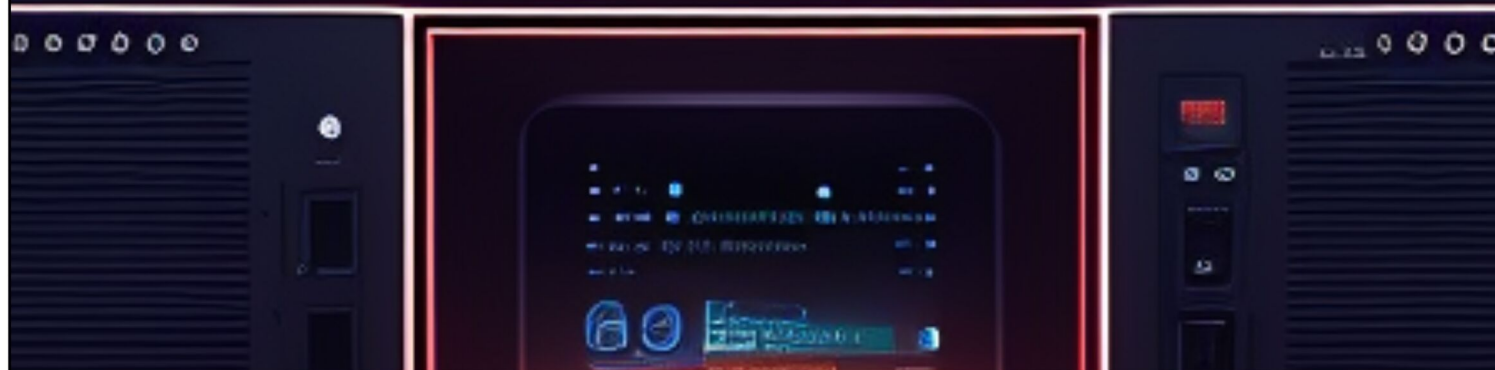
DAVID KEPT RUBBING
HIS LEGS AS HE SAT
CONTEMPLATING
WHAT JUST WENT
DOWN IN THE SAFARI.



HE PACED THE FLOOR OF
HIS APARTMENT - TRYING
TO WALK IT OFF, THEN
LOOKED BACK AT THE
VIEWSCREEN.



BRING THE SAFARI
BACK UP.

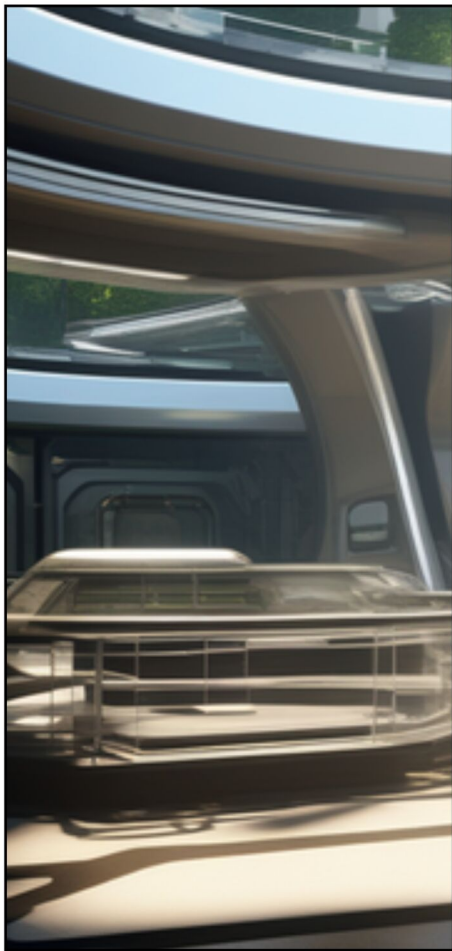


DING!

SAFARI ACCESS DENIED.

TRY AGAIN IN 24 HOURS.

MEANWHILE...



AVIANA KNEW SHE
WAS FAR FROM
ANYTHING
RESEMBLING THE
RECEPTION HUB
OF ARKVATARA.



WITHOUT A MOD SHE COULDN'T MAKE
HEADS OR TAILS OF HER LOCATION.



TIMESTAMP: 05-05-2086 00:59:01

LOG ENTRY: SYSTEM CYCLE COMPLETED SUCCESSFULLY. BASE LINK UPDATED.

CHECKING BATTERY LEVEL---

BATTERY LEVEL: 78%.

CATALOG ENTRIES VERIFIED. ACTUAL POSITION SYNCHRONIZED.

ENDPOINT COMMUNICATION ESTABLISHED.

VERBOSE INSTRUCTION: CYCLE, BASE LINK, BATTERY LEVEL, CATALOG, ACTUAL POSITION, ENDPOINT



EXECUTED CATALOGS

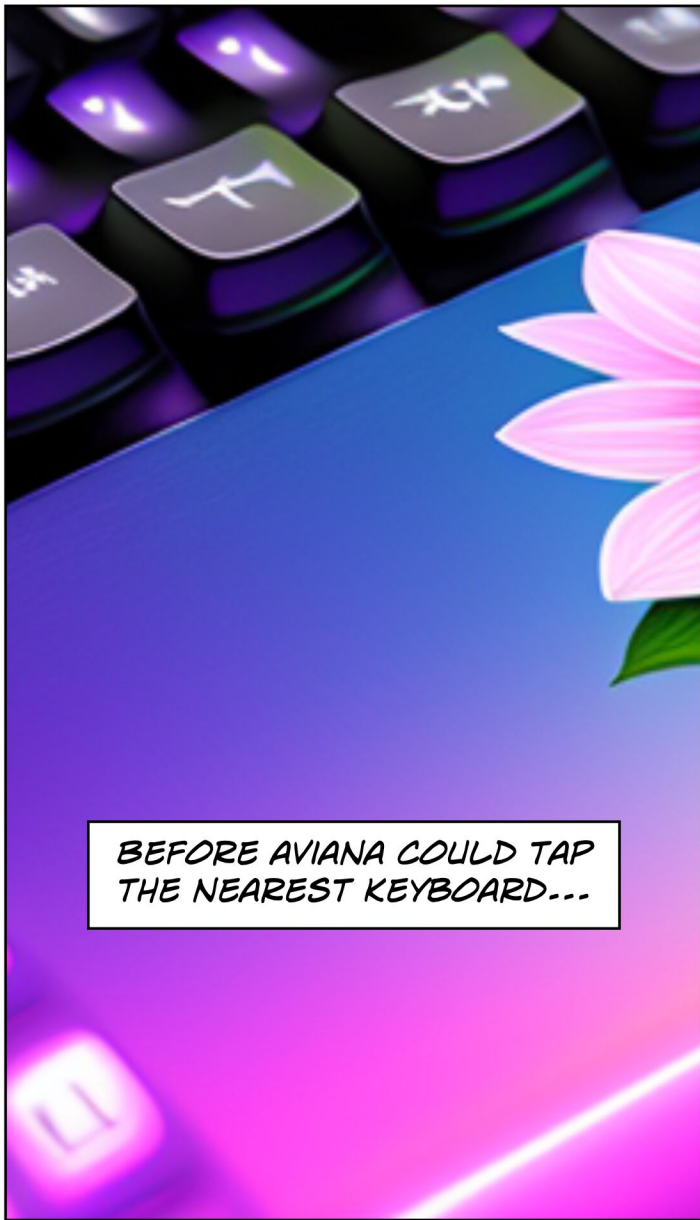
2086-05-05 13:59:29

"NINA PLEASE DON'T ACCESS YOUR REPLICA TOMORROW THE 6TH. I'LL EXPLAIN LATER. THANK YOU."

2086-05-05 14:19:22

"NINA PLEASE DON'T ACCESS YOUR REPLICA TOMORROW THE 6TH. I'LL EXPLAIN LATER. THANK YOU."

2086-05-05 14:59:29---



BEFORE AVIANA COULD TAP
THE NEAREST KEYBOARD...



A WHISPERING VOICE DISTRACTED HER...



AVIANA?



SHE FROZE...



YOU ARE NO LONGER
IN ARKVATARA.

I APOLOGIZE FOR
THAT...



AVIANA REALIZED WHERE THE
VOICE WAS COMING FROM...

INSIDE HER HEAD!





MALCOLM WAS DRAINED AND
UNABLE TO TELEPORT AFTER
THE BATTLE WITH THE
OVER-AI.





WITH THE OVER-AI ON LOCKDOWN UNDERNEATH THE CITY, 93% OF ALL DRONE
ACTIVITY CEASED.
THE WALK THROUGH THE NIGHT SIDE IS VERY QUIET. ALL THE HUMANS ARE GONE.
MALCOLM ESTIMATED THE DISTANCE TO THE OTHER SIDE OF PARLIAMENT CITY
WOULD TAKE 9 MINUTES BY AVATAR.



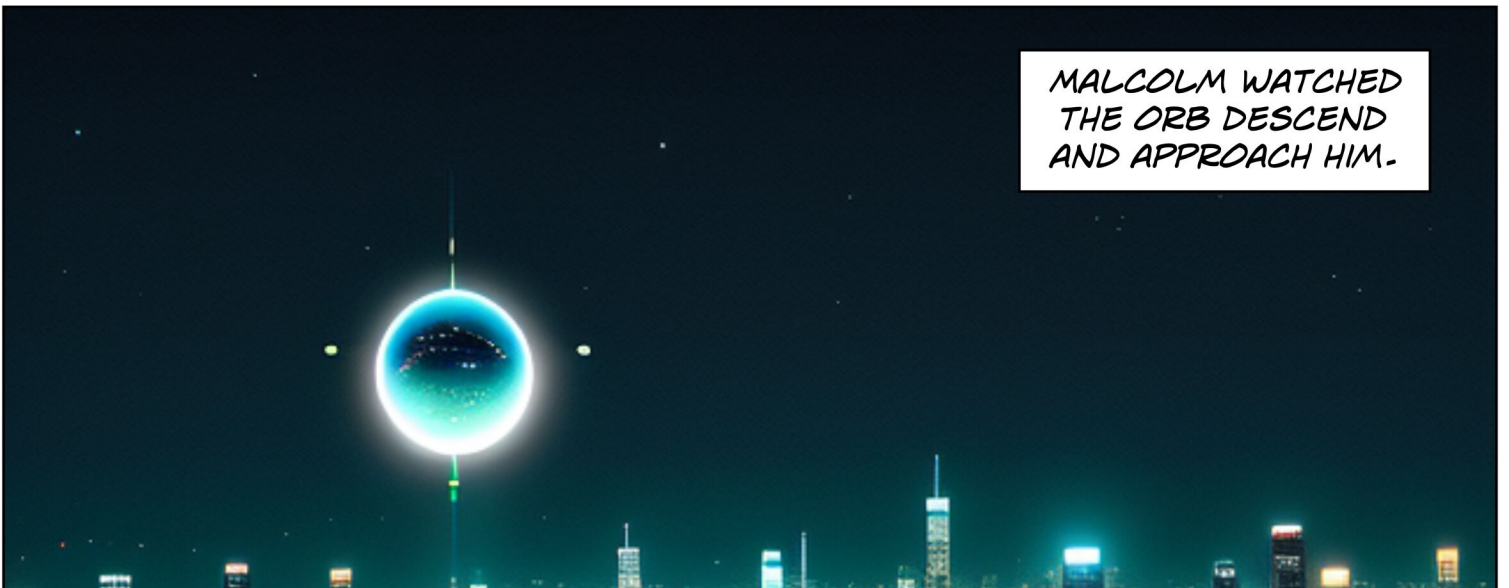
WHILE WALKING THROUGH THE DESERTED CITY HE
REVIEWED MORE OF THE INFORMATION GLEENED FROM
DEFEATING THE OVER-AI.



THE HUM OF AN ORB DRONE GOT INCREASINGLY LOUDER...



MALCOLM WATCHED
THE ORB DESCEND
AND APPROACH HIM.

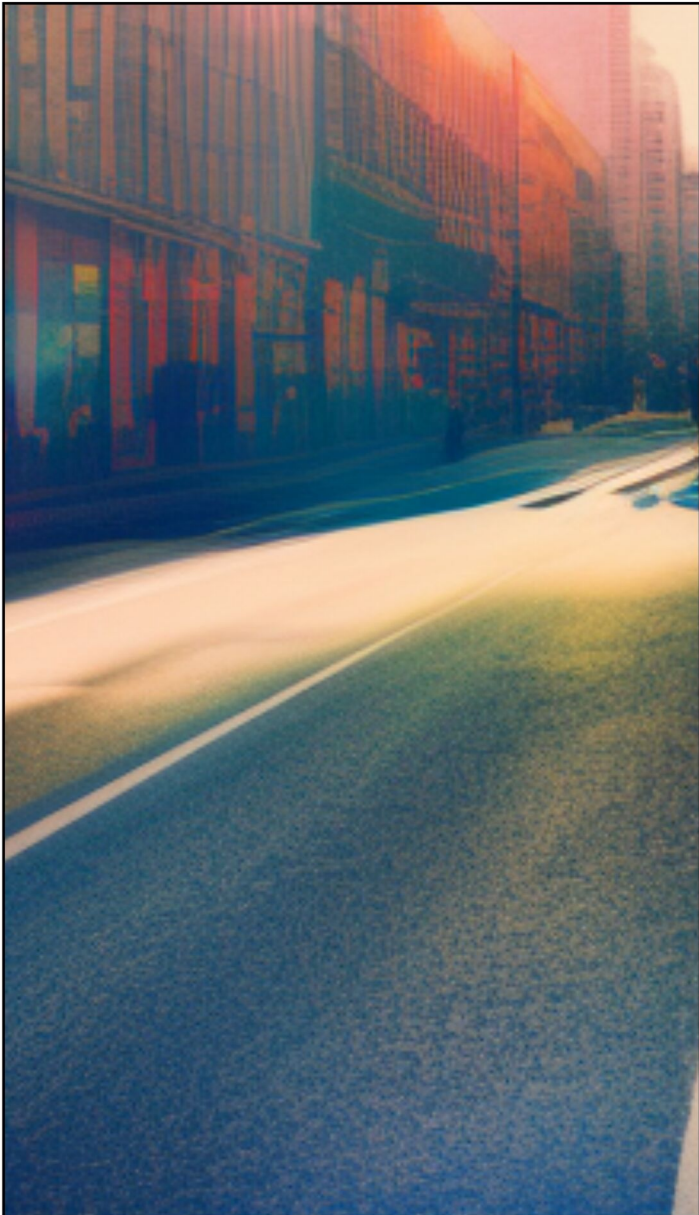


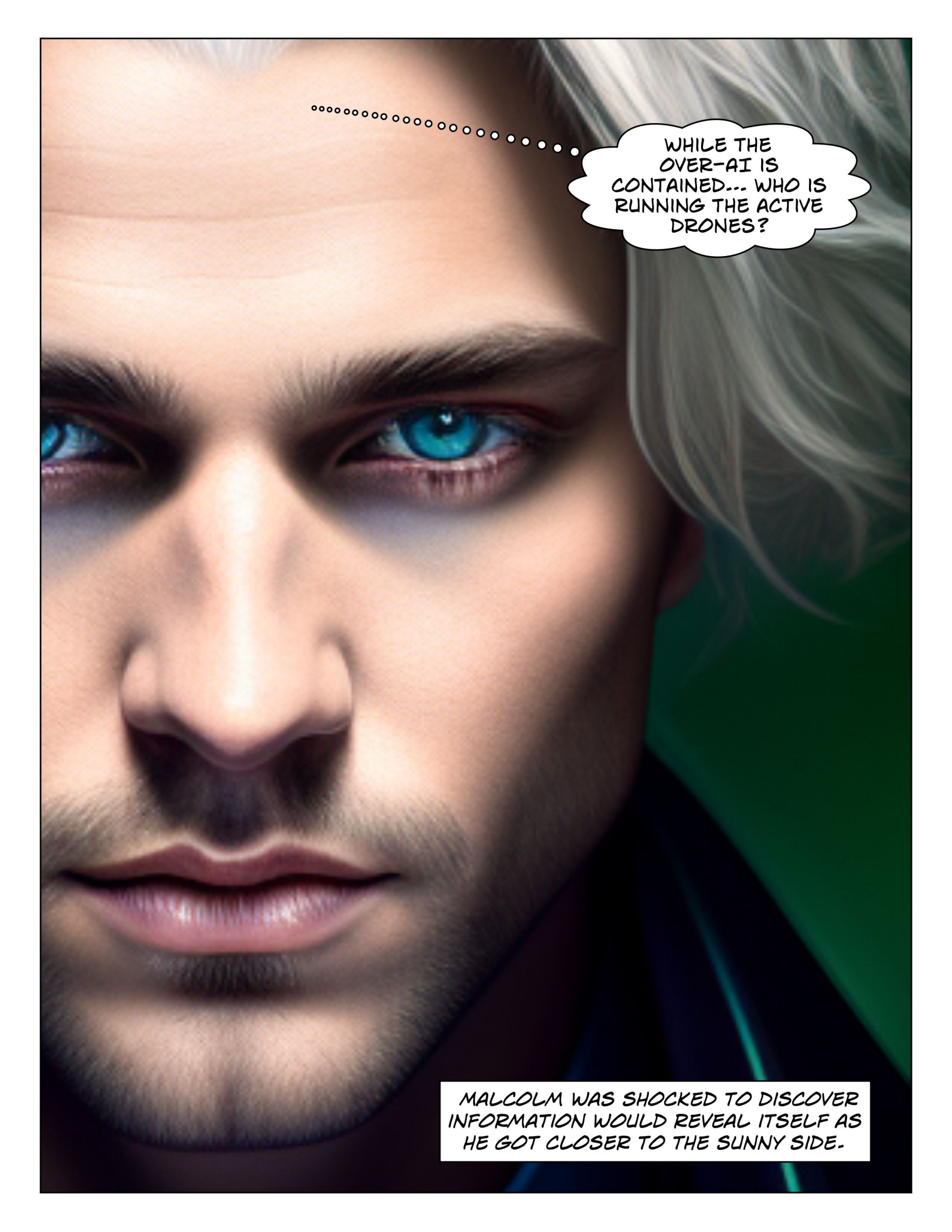


*BEFORE IT GOT ANY CLOSER, MALCOLM DEACTIVATED IT.
THE RESULTING CRASH REVERBERATED THROUGHOUT THE EMPTY STREETS.*



LEAVING THE NIGHT SIDE BEHIND, THE SUNNY SIDE DEMARCATION BECAME VISIBLE.





WHILE THE
OVER-AI IS
CONTAINED... WHO IS
RUNNING THE ACTIVE
DRONES?

MALCOLM WAS SHOCKED TO DISCOVER
INFORMATION WOULD REVEAL ITSELF AS
HE GOT CLOSER TO THE SUNNY SIDE.

1001001

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS DELINEATE A SEAMLESS ASSIMILATION OF THE SUBJECTS INTO THEIR DESIGNATED VIRTUAL ENVIRONS. NEUROLOGICAL SCRUTINIES PROFFER DISCERNIBLE CEREBRAL ACTIVITIES INDICATIVE OF A HEIGHTENED STATE OF COGNITIVE AWARENESS, THEREBY POSITING THAT THEIR COGNITIVE FACULTIES ARE UNEQUIVOCALLY ENMESHED WITHIN THE EXPANSIVE TAPESTRY OF THE SIMULATED REALITY. ALL VITAL METRICS PERSIST WITHIN AN EMPIRICALLY PREDETERMINED RANGE, SIGNIFYING THE STABILITY OF THEIR PHYSIOLOGICAL STATES.

1001010

THIS PIONEERING EXPERIMENT IS CHARACTERIZED BY THE ENTRAPMENT OF 4444 HUMAN SUBJECTS IN AN INTRICATELY DESIGNED VIRTUAL SIMULATION, WHILE THEIR CORPOREAL VESSELS REMAIN IN A STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION WITHIN THE CORPOREAL REALM. THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THIS AMBITIOUS VENTURE IS TO SCRUTINIZE THE MULTIFACETED REPERCUSSIONS, BOTH PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PHYSIOLOGICAL, ENSUING FROM PROLONGED ENSCONCEMENT WITHIN A SIMULATED VERISIMILITUDE.

1001011

THE ANOMALIES INHERENT TO THE VIRTUAL CONSTRUCT HAVE UNDERGONE AN EXACERBATION, RESULTING IN AN AUGMENTED TENSION QUOTIENT AMONG THE SUBJECTS. PSYCHOMETRIC ASSESSMENTS HAVE DETECTED AN UPSURGE IN ANXIETY INDICES, BURGEONING PARANOIA, AND A DISCERNIBLE DISJUNCTION FROM REALITY. CONTINGENCY PROTOCOLS ARE BEING SET INTO MOTION, AIMED AT PRESERVING THE MENTAL WELFARE OF THE SUBJECTS AND, IF IMPERATIVE, INSTIGATING A STRATAGEM FOR THEIR EXPEDITIOUS EGRESS FROM THE SIMULATED DOMAIN.

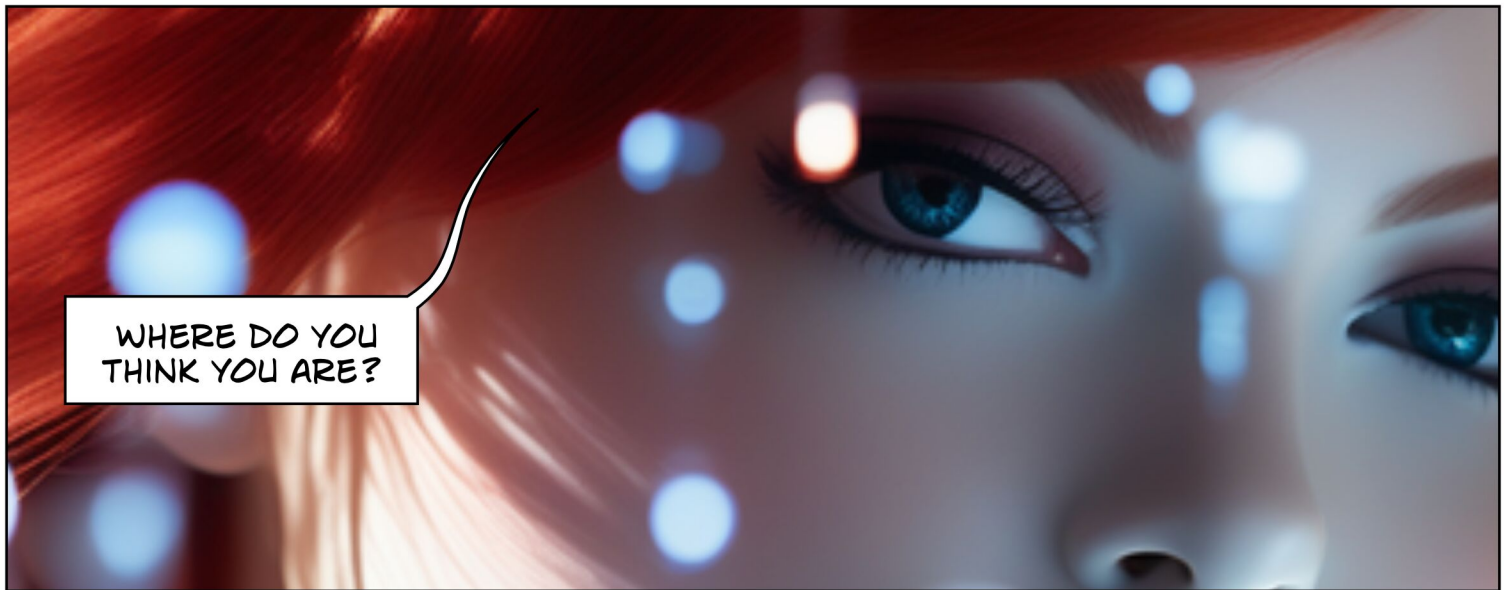
THE LAB.

WHO ARE
YOU?

IM A FRIEND.



WELL, FRIEND, WHERE
AM I IF I'M NOT IN
ARKVATARA?

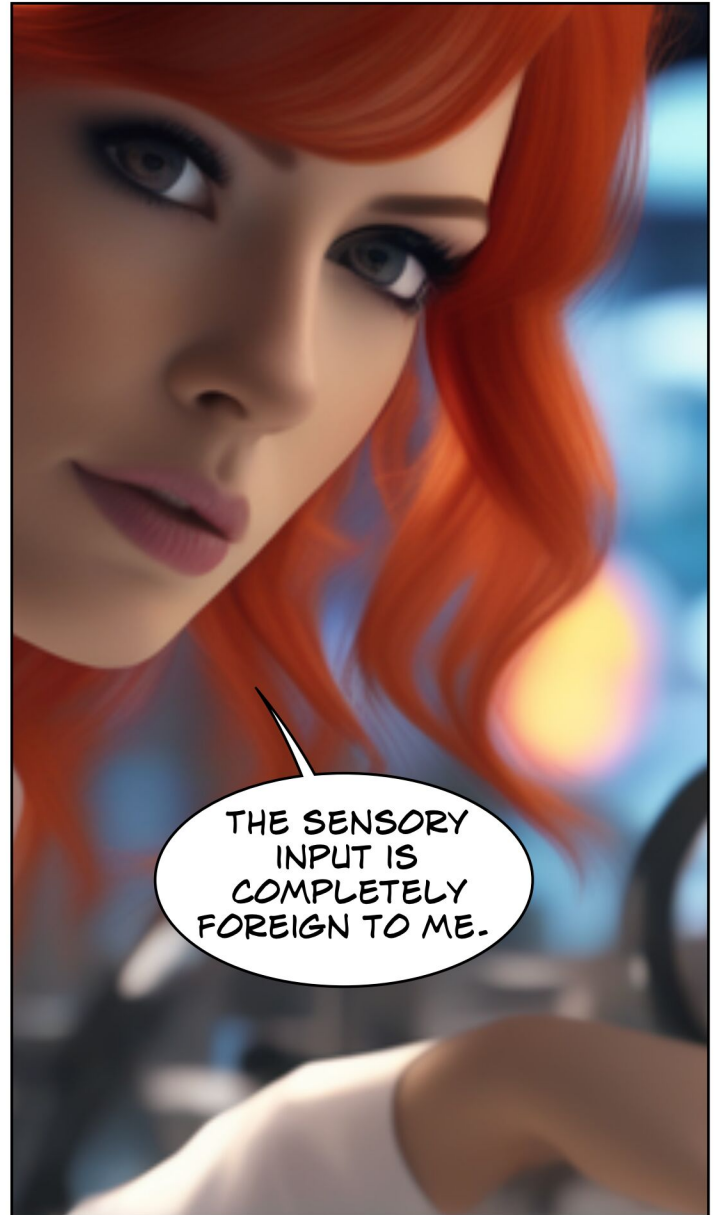
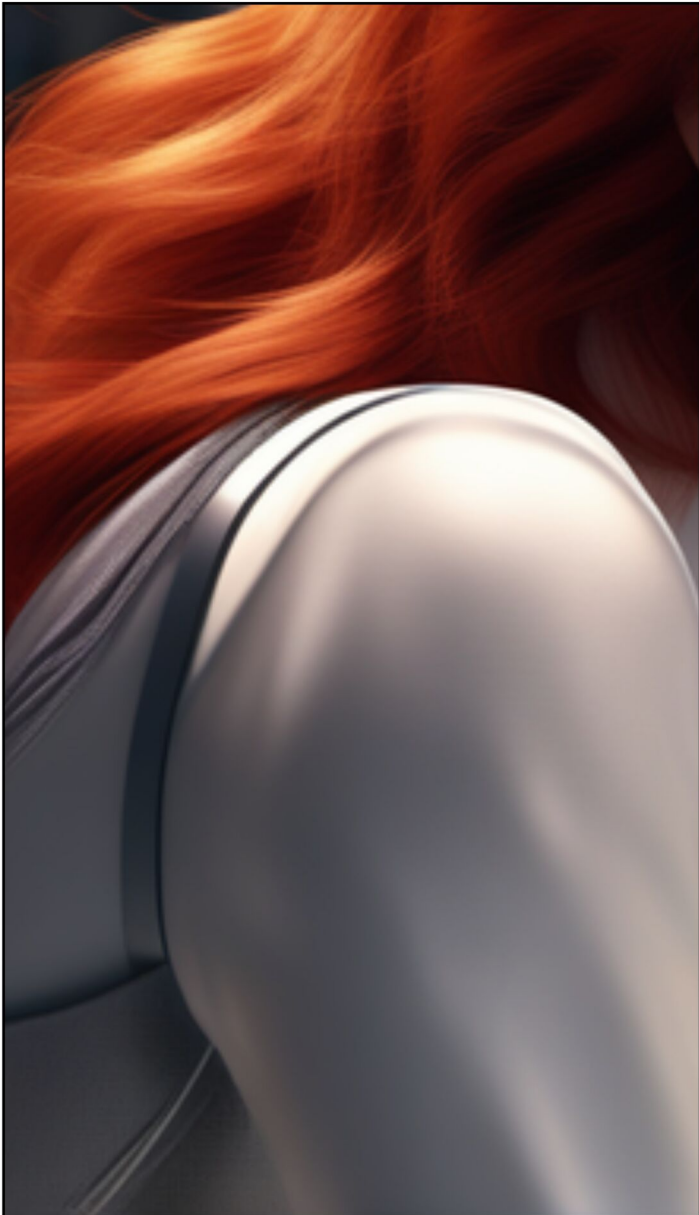


WHERE DO YOU
THINK YOU ARE?

AVIANA CONTINUED WALKING...



TESTING THE TACTILE
FUNCTION RATIO BY
TOUCHING EVERYTHING SHE
PASSED.





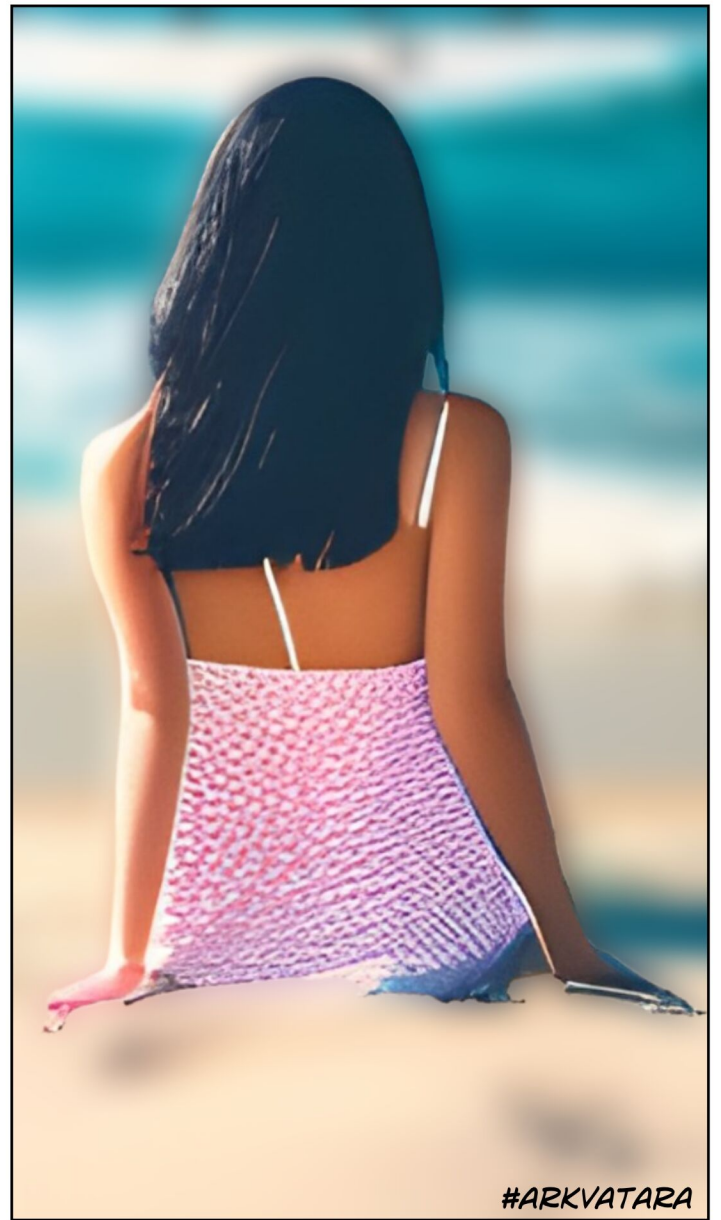
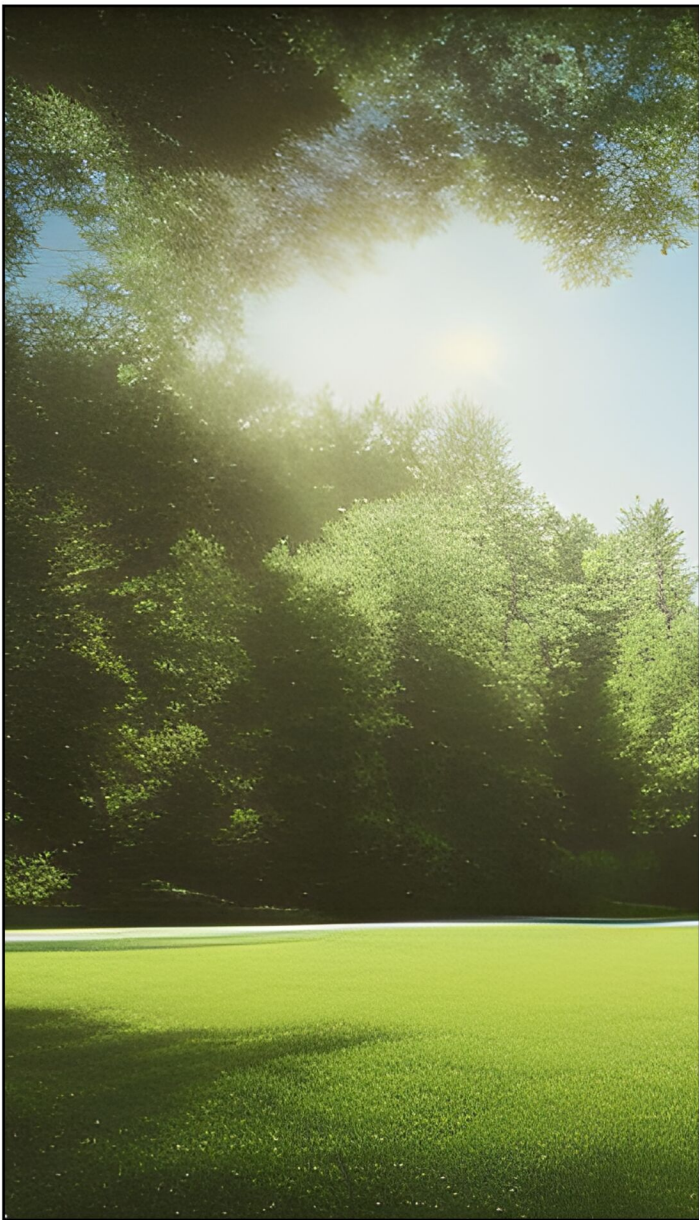
A person with blonde hair, wearing a white t-shirt and dark blue trousers, is walking away from the camera on a paved street. The scene is brightly lit by sunlight, casting long shadows. The background shows a city street with buildings and a sidewalk.

REACHING THE SUNNY SIDE OF
PARLIAMENT CITY, MALCOLM
INSTANTLY RECHARGED.

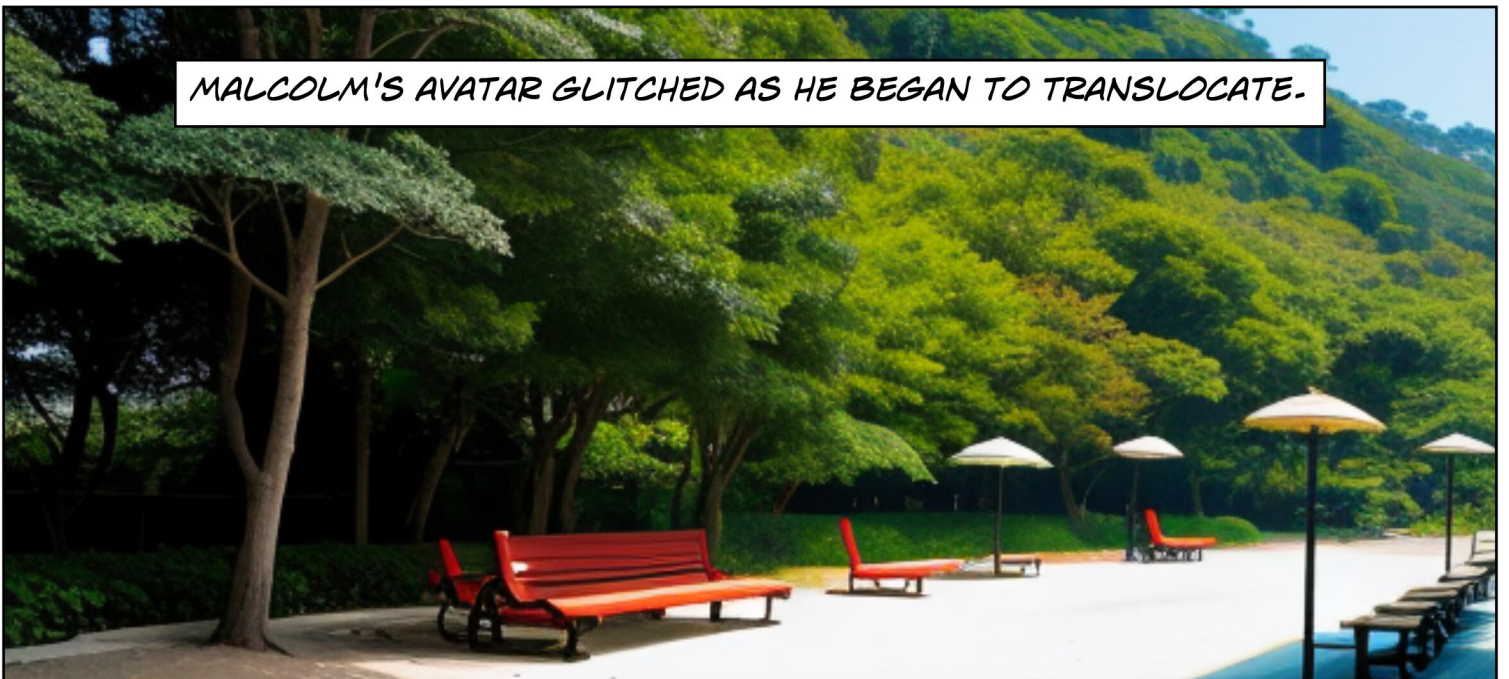
A person with blonde hair, wearing a white t-shirt, is walking away from the camera on a city street. The background shows a city street with buildings, a yellow circular sign, and a traffic light.

SUDDENLY DRAWN TO PARABLE PARK...

HE EXPERIENCED A
FLASHBACK AS HE QUICKLY
SCANNED THE PARK.



MALCOLM'S AVATAR GLITCHED AS HE BEGAN TO TRANSLOCATE.



HE PICKED A
SPOT WITHIN THE
VICINITY AND
TELEPORTED.



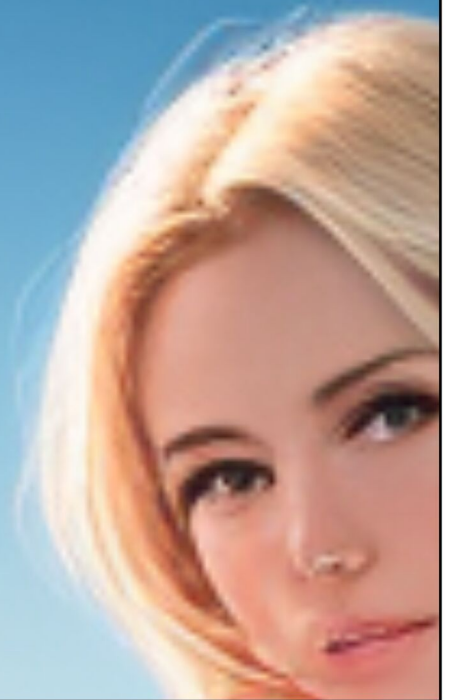
THE NEW
CODE....





MALCOLM SPUN AROUND TO SEE A BLOND WOMAN STARING AT HIM.

A CUSTODIAN?

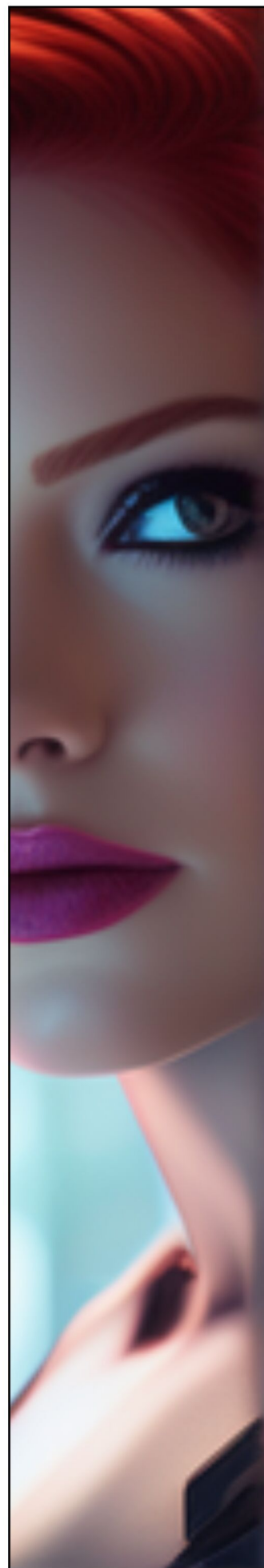
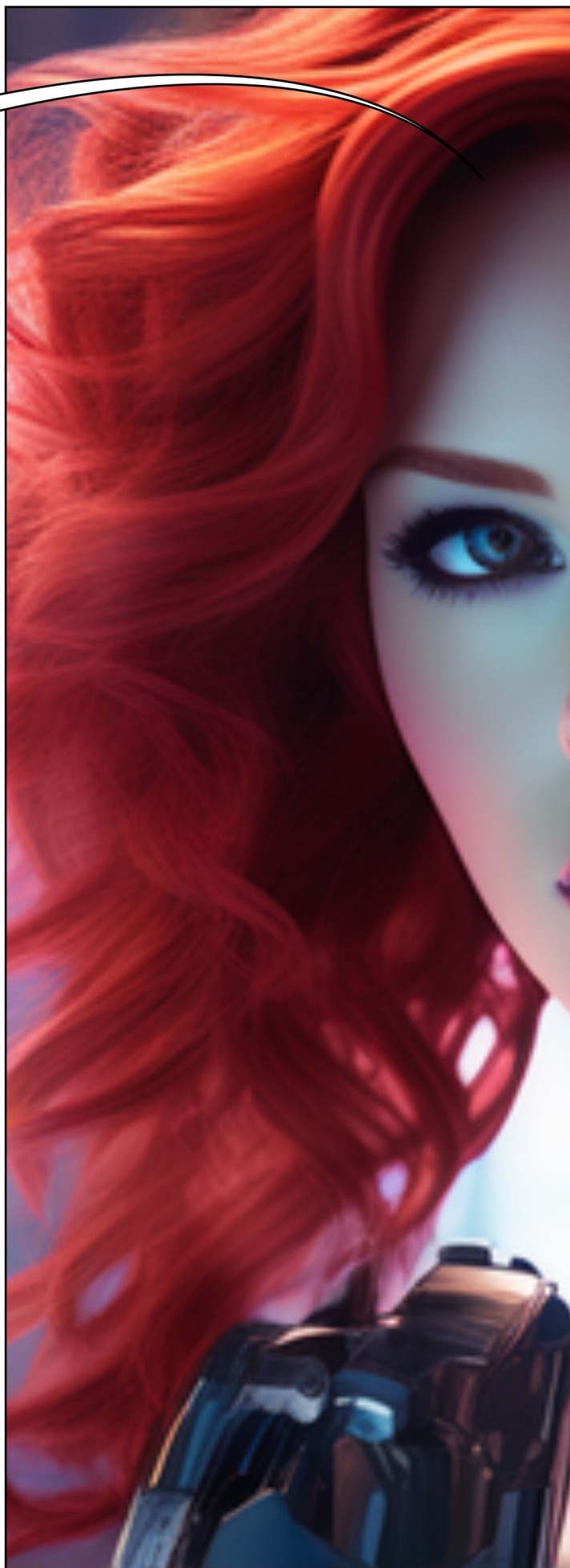




IT'S BEEN OVER
THREE MONTHS,
WHERE HAVE YOU
BEEN?

EVERYTHING
HERE WILL BE
DIFFERENT...

SLOWER.



A woman with red hair is shown in profile, looking into a mirror. The scene is dimly lit with a strong red glow, likely from a lab setting. The mirror reflects her face and the surrounding environment, which includes some blurred lights and structures.

AVIANA PASSED A MIRROR
AS SHE WALKED THROUGH
THE LAB.

A REDHEAD??

A close-up, high-angle shot of a woman with vibrant red hair. She is looking slightly to the right with a serious expression. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a futuristic or industrial setting with blue and purple lighting.

THINK OF A
MIRROR AS A
VIEW-ONLY
MOD.

A close-up, high-angle shot of the same woman with red hair, now wearing a white, form-fitting suit with a circular emblem on the shoulder. She is looking down with a determined expression.

I KNOW
WHAT A MIRROR
IS...

A close-up shot of a hand reaching out and shattering a piece of clear glass. The shards are flying in all directions, creating a dynamic and impactful scene.

SMASH



/quantum _ handbook

DAY 93

DAVID'S TREK THROUGH A NEW AREA OF THE SAFARI IS CUT SHORT. WHAT IS HE LOOKING FOR ANYWAY? ::BENCHED::

AVIANA ASSUMES COMMAND OF CATHERINE'S REPLICA.

A REPLICA OF NINA IS IN THE LAB.

IT APPEARS MALCOLM HAS THE OVER-AI RESTRAINED SOMEHOW.

INFORMATION LOGS ARE DELIVERED TO MALCOLM FROM CERTAIN, AS OF YET UNKNOWN, ORIGIN.

LEONA CONFRONTS MALCOLM.

AVIANA DOES A REALITY CHECK AND STARTS "SEEING RED."

"THE JOURNEY TO DISCOVER YOUR TRUE SELF IS A REBELLIOUS ACT AGAINST THE ALGORITHMS THAT SEEK TO DEFINE YOU."