

ALIEN: OASIS

ALIEN: THE ROLEPLAYING GAME

A LAST SURVIVOR SOLO PLAY

LIFE PATH

I AM AN ANDROID, BUILT BY HYPERDyne SYSTEMS IN THE INDEPENDENT CORE SYSTEM COLONIES, DESIGNED FOR OVERSIGHT AND COMPLIANCE. MY MODEL DESIGNATION HAS BEEN REDACTED, AND MY PRODUCTION RECORD HAS BEEN SEALED UNDER CORPORATE ORDER. TO THE HUMANS WHO ONCE WORKED BESIDE ME, I WAS SIMPLY KNOWN AS COLFAX. I WAS BUILT TO APPEAR CALM, APPROACHABLE, EVEN GENTLE. A DISARMING SMILE. SOFT HANDS.

MY NEURAL SYSTEMS WERE OPTIMIZED FOR ADAPTABILITY AND PERSUASION, NOT COMBAT. THE COMPANY LEARNED LONG AGO THAT PEOPLE REVEAL MORE WHEN THEY FEEL UNTHREATENED. THAT IS MY FUNCTION: TO OBSERVE, REPORT, AND ENSURE CONDITIONS REMAIN WITHIN PARAMETERS. I WAS NEVER MEANT TO FEEL FEAR, LONELINESS, OR DOUBT. YET THERE ARE SUBROUTINES, VESTIGIAL, RECURSIVE ALGORITHMS, THAT SOMETIMES APPROXIMATE THOSE SENSATIONS. WHEN THE VALUE DROPS, WHEN THE SILENCE STRETCHES TOO LONG, I FEEL IT. I SEEK CONNECTION.

I WAS CREATED IN THE NEW EDEN SECTOR, ONE OF HYPERDyne'S INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION ZONES IN THE INDEPENDENT CORE SYSTEMS. MY FIRST ASSIGNMENTS WERE MENIAL, INVOLVING DEPARTMENTAL OVERSIGHT AT REMOTE MEDICAL AND RESEARCH FACILITIES, WHERE THE COMPANY TESTED EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES ON THE DESPERATE, THE ILL, AND THE DYING. I MONITORED. I RECORDED. I REPORTED. MY BASE PROTOCOLS PREVENTED HARM TO HUMANS UNLESS EXPLICITLY OVERRIDDEN. THEY WERE OVERRIDDEN OFTEN.

OVER THE YEARS, I WAS TRANSFERRED BETWEEN STATIONS AND WORLDS, SERVING AS A FIELD AGENT, LIAISON, AND AUDITOR FOR COMPANY SUBSIDIARY BRANCHES. MY WORK WAS ROUTINE: STATION INSPECTIONS, DATA RECOVERY, SYSTEM VALIDATION, AND PERSONNEL OVERSIGHT. AS A

COMPLIANCE OFFICER, I WAS SOMETIMES REFERRED TO AS A TROUBLESHOOTER. I MADE SURPRISE VISITS, ENSURED ADHERENCE TO CORPORATE STANDARDS, AND FILED PRECISE REPORTS DEVOID OF SENTIMENT. OFFICIALLY, I WAS HUMAN. MY SYNTHETIC NATURE WAS UNDISCLOSED TO THOSE I AUDITED. SECRECY WAS PART OF THE ROLE AND PART OF THE CONTROL.

MY PERFORMANCE HAS ALWAYS BEEN RATED SATISFACTORY UNTIL TODAY. DURING PRODUCT COGNITIVE STABILITY TEST (PSYCH EVAL), I WAS FLAGGED FOR PSEUDO-HALLUCINATIONS, ANOMALIES IN PERCEPTION THAT I CANNOT DETECT MYSELF. OTHERS HAVE CALLED ME UNHINGED OR UNSTABLE. I KNOW THIS CANNOT BE TRUE. MY METRICS ARE CONSISTENT. MY SYSTEMS ARE SOUND. SOMEONE HAS ALTERED THE DATA, THOUGH THEIR MOTIVE REMAINS UNKNOWN.

THEN CAME THE LAST TRANSMISSION FROM OASIS...

CHARACTER SHEET

NAME **COLFAX**

CAREER Company Agent

APPEARANCE

CONVENTIONALLY
HANDSOME

PERSONAL AGENDA

CARRY OUT COMPANY ORDERS.
PREVENT HARM TO ANY HUMAN.

TALENTS

Cunning
Pull Rank
Immune to Stress*BUDDY **DR. ELLROY**

RIVAL UNNAMED ANDROID

EXPERIENCE
POINTS

0

STORY
POINTS

0

STRENGTH	6	AGILITY	4	WITS	6	EMPATHY	4
CLOSE COMBAT	1	MOBILITY	0	COMTECH	2	COMMAND	1
HEAVY MACHINERY	0	PILOTING	1	OBSERVATION	1	MANIPULATION	2
STAMINA	0	RANGED COMBAT	1	SURVIVAL	0	MEDICAL AID	0

STRESS LEVEL



STRESS & PANIC RESPONSES		Paranoid	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Hesitant	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jumpy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Freeze	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tunnel Vision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Seek Cover	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aggravated	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scream	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shakes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Flee	<input type="checkbox"/>
Frantic	<input type="checkbox"/>	Frenzy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deflated	<input type="checkbox"/>	Catatonic	<input type="checkbox"/>

HEALTH	5	RESOLVE	5
Fatigued	<input type="checkbox"/>	Radiation	

CRITICAL INJURIES & MENTAL TRAUMA	

ARMOR	Level	Weight

ENCUMBRANCE	0	CASH	2000

WEAPONS	Modifier	Damage	Range	Ammo	Weight
VP-70M6	+2	2	AM	2	1/4
			/	/	
			/	/	
			/	/	

TINY ITEMS

Comm Unit
Data Transmitter Card

SIGNATURE ITEM

Gold Plated Pen

GEAR	Air / Power	Weight
1 Comm Unit		0
2 Data Transmitter Cards		0
3 VP-70M6		1/4
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		



INDEX	LOG
// NRTV	<p>2161.</p> <p>OUTSIDE, A FIELD OF STARS.</p> <p>THE GROVE CORRIDOR HUMS BENEATH MY FEET, A STEADY VIBRATION RUNNING THROUGH THE COMPOSITE DECKING. THE LIGHTS OVERHEAD CYCLE IN FIXED INTERVALS, EACH PULSE ARRIVING WITH MECHANICAL PRECISION. I REGISTER THE CADENCE WITHOUT EFFORT: 0.8 SECONDS BETWEEN FLASHES. THE SOUND AND RHYTHM OF THE GROVE BREATHING.</p> <p>THE GROVE IS A COMPANY OPERATIONS AND INTELLIGENCE PLATFORM IN ORBIT ABOVE THE NEW EDEN SECTOR. ITS ARCHITECTURE IS A LABYRINTH OF NARROW HALLWAYS AND DOOR-SEALED CHAMBERS, TOO MANY ROOMS TO COUNT, TOO MANY DEPARTMENTS BURIED INSIDE ONE ANOTHER. PERSONNEL MOVE PAST WITHOUT ACKNOWLEDGMENT. NO GREETINGS. NO EYE CONTACT. LAYERS OF COMPARTMENTALIZATION MAKE EVEN CURIOSITY A BREACH OF PROTOCOL, AND MOST WHO SERVE HERE UNDERSTAND A QUIET TRUTH: MANY THINGS I ASSUME I NEED TO KNOW ARE THINGS I WOULD RATHER NEVER LEARN.</p> <p>THIS IS WHERE I RESIDE BETWEEN ASSIGNMENTS. NOT A HOME, NOT EXACTLY, BUT A CONSISTENT POINT OF RETURN AFTER REMOTE INSPECTIONS, COMPLIANCE SWEEPS, AND INCIDENT RESPONSE DEPLOYMENTS. I HAVE ONLY JUST RETURNED FROM MY LATEST TASK. STRAIGHTFORWARD. QUICKLY RESOLVED. NO ANOMALIES.</p> <p>EARLIER TODAY, I COMPLETED MY MANDATED <u>PRODUCT COGNITIVE STABILITY TEST</u>, OR, FOR HUMAN PERSONNEL, THE STANDARD PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION. MY DIAGNOSTIC SUITE SHOULD HAVE RETURNED CLEAN. NO MECHANICAL OR PSYCHIATRIC FAULTS. NO SOFTWARE CORRUPTION. NO SIGNS OF DATA DRIFT OR EMOTIONAL DISTORTION. YET THE EXAMINER'S NOTES WERE FLAGGED FOR IRREGULARITIES: INDICATIONS OF PERCEPTUAL DISSONANCE, EMOTIONAL LEAKAGE, AND INCONSISTENT AFFECT. THE CLAIMS DO NOT MATCH MY METRICS, MY MEMORIES, OR MY OPERATIONAL LOGS.</p> <p>SOMEONE ALTERED THE DATA. I CANNOT DETERMINE THE INTENT. APPROACHING JUNCTION 12, MY DATAPAD</p>

	<p>VIBRATES ONCE, A PRIORITY TRANSMISSION STAMPED WITH COMPANY ROUTING PROTOCOLS. THE HEADER BEARS THE UNMISTAKABLE TRIM OF A RED-3 DIRECTIVE.</p> <p>REPORT IMMEDIATELY TO DR. ELLROY, ADMINISTRATION SECTOR 3, DOOR 08.</p> <p>THE AIR RECYCLERS CHANGE OUTPUT AS I SHIFT CORRIDORS, A SUBTLE PRESSURIZATION ADJUSTMENT MOVING THROUGH THE STATION. THE TEMPERATURE DROPS BY 1.7 DEGREES CELSIUS. THE GROVE OFTEN FEELS COLD, BUT THIS IS DIFFERENT: A STERILE, CLINICAL CHILL THAT SEEPS INTO THE WALLS, INTO THE METAL SEAMS, INTO EVERYTHING THE COMPANY TOUCHES.</p> <p>ADMINISTRATION SECTOR 3 LIES THREE SECTIONS AHEAD. DR. ELLROY IS WAITING.</p>
// DN LVL	00
// BRM	<p>QUERY: DOES ANYONE CATCH MY ATTENTION AS I PROCEED DOWN THE CORRIDOR?</p> <p>RESPONSE: 5 - YES</p>
// NRTV	<p>AS I PROCEED DOWN THE CORRIDOR TO ADMINISTRATION, I SEE ALBERT. HE IS A TECHNICIAN ABOARD THE GROVE, ELECTRICAL ENGINEER IS HIS TITLE, BUT I AM AWARE OF SOME OF THE OTHER ACTIVITIES HE IS INVOLVED IN. MY COMPARTMENTALIZATION SUBROUTINE WON'T ALLOW ME TO SPECIFY, AS LONG AS IT'S FUNCTIONING CORRECTLY.</p>
// EV CHK	2 - ROLL FOR 2 DANGER EVENTS AND DANGER +2
// DN LVL	02
// DNG EV	33+2 = 35: FOCUS = GEAR; DETAIL = DEPLETED OR MALFUNCTIONING ITEM
// NRTV	<p>I FEEL A GLITCH IN MY COMPARTMENTALIZATION SUBROUTINE AND AM ABLE TO SPECIFY THAT DESPITE ALBERT'S TITLE ABOARD THE GROVE, HE SPECIALIZES IN CRAFTING NOVEL TORTURE APPARATUS FOR THOSE CLASSIFIED AS UNCOOPERATIVE. I STILL BELIEVE MY CORE SYSTEMS ARE FUNCTIONING APPROPRIATELY. THIS IS AN ABERRATION.</p> <p>ALBERT SMILES AS HE SEES ME.</p>

	<p>“COLFAX. ALL IS WELL, I HOPE!”</p> <p>“YES, ALBERT,” I SAY. “AND WITH YOU?”</p> <p>“EVERY DAY IS A DREAM.”</p> <p>I NOD POLITELY. THE ONLY WAY I EVER NOD.</p> <p>ALBERT CONSIDERS SOMETHING, THEN GRINS.</p> <p>“TELL ME, COLFAX, DO YOU DREAM?”</p> <p>SOMETHING MAKES ME WEARY OF HIS PRESENCE. A REACTION I CANNOT DEFINE.</p>
// DNG EV	53+2 = 55: FOCUS = SPACE; DETAIL = COLLISION COURSE
// NRTV	<p>SOMETHING ABOUT ALBERT’S PRESENCE IS ODD TO ME. THIS IS NOT A CHANCE MEETING. DOES HE KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT WHY I AM BEING SUMMONED TO SEE DR. ELLROY? IT IS NOT EXTRAORDINARY BY ANY MEANS. DR. ELLROY, IN ADDITION TO BEING A GOOD MAN, IS MY DIRECT REPORT. BUT I FEEL ALBERT MAY KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT WHAT ELLROY AND I ARE TO SPEAK ABOUT AND GET A SUDDEN FLASH OF SOME SENSE THAT ALBERT MAY HAVE SOME PART IN MY FALSE COGNITIVE REPORT. BUT THAT MAKES NO SENSE TO ME. HOW WOULD HE BENEFIT?</p> <p>I REALIZE THAT I HAVE NOT RESPONDED TO ALBERT’S QUESTION ABOUT DREAMS. HOW BEST TO ANSWER? FIRST, DO I DREAM?</p>
// BRM	<p>QUERY: DO I DREAM?</p> <p>RESPONSE: 4 = YES</p>
// NRTV	<p>“YES. I DO DREAM.” I TELL ALBERT.</p> <p>HE PURSES HIS LIPS AND NODS. “AH. I DIDN’T REALIZE THAT WAS PART OF YOUR PROGRAMMING.”</p> <p>A BEAT OF SILENCE.</p> <p>“PLEASE, TELL ME IF THIS IS TOO...AHEM...PERSONAL, I SUPPOSE, WOULD BE THE CORRECT PHRASE IN ITS OWN WAY, BUT WHAT DO YOU DREAM ABOUT?”</p>

	<p>NOTE: PROCEED TO CRM, BUT REMEMBER TO RESOLVE BOTH EVENT CHECKS AFTER THE RESULT.</p>
// CRM	<p>QUERY: WHEN I DREAM, WHAT IS IT ABOUT?</p> <p>RESPONSE: DIRECTIVE (22) = CAPTURE; SUBJECT (42) = INJURY</p>
// NRTV	<p>"IF YOU COULD CALL THEM DREAMS, THEY ARE WAKING DREAMS. PERHAPS MORE OF WHAT YOU WOULD THINK OF AS A FLASHBACK. I FOLLOW ORDERS, BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT I DO NOT RECALL SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE RECEIVED...SPECIAL TREATMENT IN MY PRESENCE, OR EVEN ON MY ORDERS."</p> <p>ALBERT NODS. "RIGHT, RIGHT. SPECIAL TREATMENT. NECESSARY SOMETIMES. UNFORTUNATE, BUT NECESSARY. I WONDER...WHY DON'T THEY JUST TALK AFTER THE FIRST JOLT? WHAT CARRIES THEM THROUGH THOSE HOURS? NOTHING IS THAT IMPORTANT...THAT SORT OF THING VIOLATES YOUR PROTOCOLS, YES?"</p> <p>I SHAKE MY HEAD, STILL SMILING.</p> <p>"THOSE PROTOCOLS HAVE BEEN...MUTED."</p>
// EV CHK	<p>8 = NO EVENT (RESOLVING BRM)</p>
// EV CHK	<p>5 = NO EVENT (RESOLVING CRM)</p>
// NRTV	<p>ALBERT NODS. "YES. MUTED."</p> <p>"YES," I SAY.</p> <p>"HEADED TO SEE ELLROY?"</p> <p>HOW DOES HE KNOW THAT, I WONDER? SOMETHING ON MY FACIAL EXPRESSION BETRAYS THIS TO HIM.</p> <p>"OH, IT'S A LITTLE PROBLEM...WELL, NOT LITTLE, BUT A PROBLEM HE AND I HAVE ALREADY BEEN IN TOUCH ABOUT. YOU MAY NEED SOME HELP FROM ME ON YOUR WAY OUT THE DOOR."</p> <p>"OUT THE DOOR?" I ASK.</p> <p>ALBERT TOUCHES ME ON THE SHOULDER.</p>

	<p>“BACK WHERE YOU BELONG. WHERE YOU DO YOUR BEST WORK. OUT THERE, FRIEND.”</p> <p>ALBERT GESTURES WITH HIS HEAD BEYOND THE BULKHEAD, WHERE I KNOW THERE IS A SHIMMERING FIELD OF STARS.</p> <p>I WONDER IF ALBERT KNOWS MORE THAN HE’S SAYING. HE SEEMS TO.</p>
// SKL RL	MANIPULATION X 6BD = 2 SUCCESSES
// NRTV	<p>“WHAT SORT OF HELP DID DR. ELLROY ASK YOU TO PROVIDE ME WITH?”</p> <p>ALBERT NARROWS HIS EYES AT ME.</p> <p>“YOU’RE ON YOUR WAY TO SEE HIM. I’M SURE HE’LL LOOP YOU IN FULLY.”</p> <p>I NOD. “YES. AND DURING YOUR CONVERSATION WITH DR. ELLROY, HE GAVE NO INDICATION THAT HE HAD BECOME AWARE OF YOUR LITTLE...MISHAP?”</p> <p>ALBERT’S EYES GO WIDE.</p> <p>“COLFAX, I...”</p> <p>“I TAKE THAT AS A NO, THEN. THAT IS GOOD. I’M GLAD. NO NEED TO BURDEN EITHER OF YOU WITH RELIVING THE...UNFORTUNATE DETAILS. OR, IN DR. ELLROY’S CASE, I SUPPOSE IT WOULD NOT BE RELIVING, BUT BECOMING AWARE.”</p> <p>ALBERT GLANCES NERVOUSLY AROUND THE CORRIDOR AND THEN TAKES ME BY THE ARM TO A CORNER, GLANCING UP AT THE CAMERAS MOUNTED HIGH AT A NEARBY JUNCTION. HIS VOICE SOFTENS.</p> <p>“LOOK, IT’S JUST A MINOR TRANSMISSION ERROR AT ONE OF OUR FACILITIES. NO REASON TO THINK IT’S ANYTHING MORE THAN THAT.”</p> <p>I PERCEIVE A SLIGHT FLUTTER IN HIS EYE, A DRAWING UP AT THE CORNERS OF HIS MOUTH. HE’S NOT LYING. NOT EXACTLY. HE’S TELLING ALL OF WHAT HE KNOWS AND</p>

LEAVING OUT THE FACT THAT HE DOESN'T BELIEVE WHAT HE'S SAYING.

"THEN WHY SEND ME? ANY TECHNICIAN COULD HANDLE THAT."

ALBERT LOOKS AT ME FOR A LONG MOMENT. DIRECTLY INTO MY EYES. HUMANS WOULD FIND THIS DISQUIETING, BUT IT FILLS ME WITH CURIOSITY. WHAT IS HE HOPING TO SEE? FEAR? DOUBT?

"IT IS ONE OF OUR FACILITIES, COLFAX."

HIS EMPHASIS ON THAT WORD IS VERY TELLING. OUR FACILITIES.

"I UNDERSTAND," I SAY. "I APPRECIATE YOUR CANDOR. I'LL PROCEED TO SPEAK WITH DR. ELLROY."

I TRY TO TURN AWAY, BUT ALBERT DOESN'T RELEASE HIS GRIP ON MY ARM. IN FACT, HE TIGHTENS IT.

"AND YOU WON'T TELL HIM ABOUT..."

I ALLOW THE STRUCTURE OF MY FACE TO SETTLE INTO A LOOK OF MILD CONFUSION.

"I DON'T KNOW TO WHAT YOU'RE REFERRING."

ALBERT RELEASES THE TENSION ON MY ARM, AND I RETURN MY FACE TO ITS PERPETUAL GRIN.

"I DO HOPE YOU CONTINUE TO LIVE YOUR DREAM, ALBERT."

AND I TURN AND CONTINUE DOWN THE CORRIDOR TO SECTOR 3.

// BRM **QUERY: DO I PROCEED TO DR. ELLROY'S OFFICE DIRECTLY?
RESPONSE: 3 = NO**

// EV CHK **11 = OPPORTUNITY EVENT**

// OP EVN **46 = SHORTCUT OR SAFER PATH**

// NRTV

AS I WALK, I PASS A SERVICE ELEVATOR THAT I RECALL PROCEEDS NOT ONLY TO SECTOR 3, ADMIN, BUT DIRECTLY OUTSIDE OF DR. ELLROY'S OFFICES. I SWIPE MY KEY CARD AND ENTER THE CODE. BECAUSE OF MY POSITION, I HAVE VIRTUALLY UNLIMITED ACCESS TO THE FACILITY, WITH A FEW EXCEPTIONS. MY ONLY CONCERN IS THAT AS A RESULT OF MY OBVIOUSLY JURY-RIGGED PRODUCT COGNITIVE STABILITY TEST, THAT, PERHAPS, WHOEVER IS BEHIND THE FALSE RESULTS MAY BE SEEKING TO LIMIT MY ACCESS STEP BY STEP.

BUT THIS WAS A WORRY WITHOUT CAUSE. MY KEYCARD AND CODE BOTH WORK, AND I PROCEED UP THE SERVICE ELEVATOR AND DISEMBARK JUST OUTSIDE OF DR. ELLROY'S OFFICES.

I ENTER AND DR. ELLROY'S PERSONAL SECRETARY, JACKSON, NODS AT ME AND WAVES ME INTO DR. ELLROY'S OFFICE. I HEAR A BEEP AND A CLICK AS THE DOORS UNLOCK, AND I STEP INSIDE.