

## Oceanic Territory Reclamation

ERI - Environment Reclamation Investigator

Karla: I really don't think this region is going to get chosen for reclamation.

ERI: Please complete the examination before hastening to such judgments.

Karla: But look at this building...

ERI: This area was once a very popular place for humans to live.

Karla: Ha... yeah, that sums up most of these places.

They go inside the building.

Karla: Well, I don't think there's any point in looking at these bottom floor units.

ERI: This seems to be a reasonable assessment.

Karla: Does it look like the foundation could be restabilized if the bottom could just be filled in with concrete?

ERI: I estimate that there is a 45% chance that the reclamation measures would be successful.

Karla: That's... bad. Can we leave and go to the next facility then?

ERI: Please complete the examination, Karla. That is our duty.

They go up to the top floor.

Karla: Alright... second and third floors seem like they could be habitable again.

ERI: I am in agreement.

Karla: Do we know anything about who lived here before the storm that broke the levies?

ERI: Those files are private.

Karla: As the field agent, I believe I'm privy to them.

ERI: I can record in my logs that you have justified access if you can provide me with a compelling reason to divulge private occupant information.

Karla rolls her eyes.

Karla: Okay, see that thing there?

ERI: Yes. It seems to have been fabricated approximately 115 to 135 years ago, but I strongly believe it was 125 years ago.

Karla: Ah, so back in 2020? That's a year that sure made the history databases.

ERI: Indeed.

Karla: I want to open it, but I need information on the occupants first.

ERI looks slightly annoyed.

ERI: If you insist that it is relevant.

Karla: I insist.

ERI: I will pull the report.

They go over to the time capsule.

Karla: Huh, there are books inside. I feel like they must've been important.

ERI: The database indicates that two adult humans lived in this apartment. One was an author.

Karla: How ironic. This book is from Venice. That place went underwater long before this area must've.

ERI: My emotion-generating algorithm hasn't been calibrated to process irony.

Karla: Can you tell me anything else?

ERI: The residents submitted several requests over the years following the storm to reenter the restricted zone. Those requests were all denied.

Karla: So they had to leave suddenly?

ERI: The records imply as much.

Karla flips through the books.

Karla: That's a shame. There's a lot here.

ERI: The female, the one noted as a writer, also has several minor disciplinary remarks on her public record.

Karla laughs.

Karla: Ha, really?

ERI: Yes. Several traffic infractions in this region that did not cause harm, but resulted in fines. It would seem she also tried to sneak into the restricted area to return to this place.

Karla: And I take it she got caught by patrol and slapped with a fine.

ERI: That is correct.

Karla: What a shame. She must've been trying to save these books.

ERI: While I sympathize with you, I must encourage you to return to the survey.

Karla: Right. There's all this old poetry in here though.

ERI: This is not relative to assessing if this building and region could be reclaimed.

Karla: This could be an important cultural artifact though.

ERI: That statement is an exaggeration. My databases classify that item as a journal. It is not old enough that the records would not exist in the cloud.

Karla: Oh, come on.

ERI: Items of persons living after 2000 are not considered historical artifacts due to high amounts of data stored on the cloud of persons who lived and documented their lives online.

Karla: Well, I want to hold on to it. Bring it back to HQ for further review.

ERI: This is unnecessary.

Karla: As the human completing this survey, I must override your judgment, ERI.

ERI: I must record this conversation for case review.

Karla: Fine. Code 609—human surveyor overriding advice of AI Environment Reclamation Investigator.

ERI: Understood. Documented.

Karla puts the bag in her pack.

Karla: Someone should read this, even if it's only me.