

Augmented Destiny

Flawed

Chapter 4



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HRAD

Flawed

Retribution

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This story is strictly fictional; if the story seems to be based on real life events it is coincidental. Please be aware this story contains mature topics such as suicide, death, and murder.

# Augmented Destiny: Flawed

## Chapter 4

Story Written by Theodis Houston III



That was the first time I left Alexandria in four years. I snuck away during the darkest hours evading all our security barriers. I arrived to the GoC almost twenty hours later. The land was amplified with the radiation that rose strictly from the waters; because of that it's always day. Ronda's notes had almost everything I needed to survive, but the area consistently brewed with phenomena. Even though the environment was perilous Ronda believed any scientist who visited could survive; she believed any educated human could survive, as long as they could handle the bi-polar terrain.

I stumbled into many obstacles. There were toxic specimens—beings spawned by radiation. They weren't intelligent and were very much like beasts, but they all portrayed a conglomerate of cellular organisms; imagine a cellular organism that never adapted—they looked like bodies of slime. My only weaponry was TOKO, it was all I needed. With my studies I was able to continue updating TOKO and had made him into a machine capable of destroying a sector; he also helped with guiding and avoiding other detriments. The other deleterious events included chemical reactions, explosions, gravity magic, terrain Pangea, and plenty more.

I set my camp near the shore and used a magnetic forcefield to protect it from the weather and oscillating electrical currents. With a mobile CPU I was able

to record, analyze, research, and theorize. Whatever I didn't catch in real time I created a system or software that would generalize and store theories from what I captured.

What constituted my trip was my need to find a way to stop the looming threat of an Intelligence escaping Alexandria, or worse HRAD leaving our country. I knew I needed a barrier of some sort. I also knew I was the only person who could create it. The only others might have been my parents, but I know for a fact they would not have to the risk I did in visiting the GoC.

From my studies involving electromagnetics and electromagnetic pulses I figured it would have to be barrier related to the two. The clues I searched for pertained to magnetic pulses, but I needed to make one that reacted instead of it being a reaction. To make a long story short I journeyed across an array of radiated light leaks along a purple grained prairie.

I studied them: their pulses, the radiation, the frequencies, energy, I studied everything I could. The reason I halted my journey on the purple grained field is because of how similar a light leak and an EMP were; they were both radiation of some sorts so I felt it could lead me to a clue. TOKO protected me with his ability to create a repellent for the foul radiation in the area; I wore a hazmat suit but excessive toxicity in the area would have penetrated its layers and eventually led to my demise.

While I calculated the data I stored, I learned that the explosion of light naturally disrupted color frequencies and that it could be summoned. To summarize, the light leaks were so vile, and so toxic, because they were stealing light. The potent radiation came from light particles in space. These particles were minute but when in a cluster were dangerous. The light leaks happen all throughout space, but are only deadly in a contained atmosphere, sumptuously on any planet. They used deep space's darkness as a fuel, as a catalyst causing the darkness in outer space and the virulent radiation they displaced.

However, because of this I determined that if I could somehow use a void of light with a magnetic field, I could make the barrier—an EMP that mimics the light leaks from the Gulf. When the voided magnetic field was introduced to any form of radio waves, microwaves, infrared waves, or Alpha Waves it would activate, almost like a lighter.

That was all I could concur, because my trip got cut short. Many phenomena overtook the scenery while I visited the gulf, but what eventually made me depart was the forming of comet clouds; icy clouds covered the sky and released comet gases and particles all throughout the gulf. Explosions brewed and burning ice began to rot the terrain. I had no choice but to swallow my pride and ride with my findings.

I discretely arrived back in Alexandria and was surprised to find out that the country had noticed my disappearance, even though my absence was less than forty hours. My father had come by the villa to check on me, but when he discovered I was missing he caused a panic. I give myself part of the blame because I

didn't have a team and only reported to myself. The people that saw me the most were always in their pixel form.

When my father noticed my disappearance, he began to ask around, searching for me. He started at my villa and ended at the Dean's Office. While in my submarine, on the way back to Alexandria I was also notified by TOKO about the platform's search for me. When I finally returned Alexandria, I witnessed the ruckus my father had caused.

Upon my arrival the country was ecstatic, I witnessed hope return to their faces as my feet graced the soil. The remaining Alexandria Guards escorted me to the Organizers Hall where I was greeted by the Dean, Board Members and a few Organizers. I was irritated because I needed to be working on slowing down the platform, but instead I was stuck in a meeting. They were only concerned about my disappearance and the fact that I had done it furtively.

I never felt the need to report to them, but as I thought about it, I understood their concern. I was the only one proven to be capable of slowing down Intelligences and Conquerors. In those forty-four hours I think the whole country, including myself, realized that without me Alexandria would cease to exist.

The leaders questioned my departure and my reason for keeping it a mystery. I simply explained how I assumed it wouldn't be an issue; we needed to research, but I shrewdly omitted my stay at the GoC. My father then expelled an unwarranted outburst; he of course thought I was dead. That is when I told everyone about my idea to create a barrier, and my concerns that arose after stopping HER and Rebecca. They loved the ideation but now wanted me to report to the board; they needed to know every move I planned so the country could strategize accordingly. I had no choice but to agree, especially since I was in a rush to complete the barrier and I needed the money and man to do so.

Before I left the meeting, my father and mother came to speak to me. I could see in my mom's eyes she was worried, but she held complete trust in me. The redundant hug and kiss she gave me solidified that everything was the same between us. To my mother I was still the young girl who wanted to change the world's ideologies, I even think she gained a bit more faith in me because of how I was handling the situation. In our brief encounter she tried to hand me a bible and to keep up the charade I denied it.

My father anyhow was in shambles. He begged me to stop the charade. He didn't want me to be a hero or venturing on the demented platform, he wanted me back in the lab with him and my mom's organization. We butted heads to say the least and I ended our conversation telling him to face reality, that Alexandria needed me. I told him he was being selfish. My father didn't want to see his daughter die, he still doesn't, but he never knew this was my fault. Would that have changed his mind...I doubt it, but it's too late; it was too late then, because I was ready to die to stop the platform, and I still am.

When everything adjourned, I instantly began working on the barrier. I pondered and mulled over the data I received from the Gulf. I introduced research

on the sun as well because it could be considered a natural EMP. I performed assays for weeks and would eventually create the Solar Flared EMP. I placed Icylic photocells on a satellite near the sun to absorb its light and helium. The satellite emitted a forcefield so that I would not melt. I used the sun as the voids variable and used a telescope pointed in deep space to be the darkness. The Sun's light was essential, it was what would spawn the light leak—now the EMP—from the darkness in deep space.

I configured the satellite to use helium to form the invisible barrier and be the trigger. Whenever tech walked through the Helium field the sun would release a humongous light leak that drew the negative energy from the void—the telescope. This corrupted any tech and allowed Alexandria to go black to the outside. The key is still hidden to this day and is one reason The Princess wants my mind.

While I was completing my research my father continued to lobby for help against my wishes, but on my behalf. He held a press conference that was full of empathy and tears. He wanted the entire country to help his daughter; who could blame him; the platform was a deadly device. It had been one and a half years, and it had claimed more than two thousand lives, and the count was still growing.

However, his pleading for my help did nothing but irritate me. Even though I just completed the barrier I knew, just like him, that it was not enough. I just wished he consulted me, because he wasn't wrong; to stop the problem we needed extra hands, but to blast it publicly was inconsiderate, mainly because he was using pathos to adhere to the audience. I felt it was irresponsible because he was trying to give hope in what I thought was a hopeless situation. Though through his madness it did lead to the formation of the Reality Disruptors and the destruction of three more intelligences; but it also led to the death of many, especially since The Princess' most recent attack.

With the barrier completed my mind felt more at ease, but it was time to try and destroy the entire device along with its network. We were slowly losing communication with the outside world and had to rely on our liaison visits. The Dean announced to the World Union that we were going through a scientific revolution, and we needed time to study and perform these new methods we had learned. The World Union was content as long as the liaisons continued their travels.

When you guys arrived things became easier but now since things have gotten so gruesome I'm the only person who should be facing the Princess, so I need you guys to get ready and leave. I'll deal with my problem like I always intended. I can say that without you guys I wouldn't have been able to take down the twin Intelligences Roman and Remu; or the Uniter, or Spart, and not the worst conqueror of all, Tibirius. But at the end of the story, I made the platform and even though I didn't have evil intentions I didn't listen when it could have been prevented. Thank you I'm eternally grateful but, I messed up, I do that a lot it's one of my flaws, so just let me handle the rest.

On the monitors in the room The Princess' army is being resurrected. They

stand deep while their heinous eyes illuminate. A bright blue glow is seen through the dusty winds. Lilo stares past her team toward the resurrected foes.

“Hurry and leave, come back with reinforcements in seven days. I’ll—”

“No!” Calari yelled. “It wasn’t your fault; I know things are bad but...you never released the device. You said it yourself and I believe you. You might have created it, but you knew how deadly it was. You never wanted this to happen. You wanted to make the world better, that’s all,”

“I still must stop it. I’m the only one who might know how. Kadara said it earlier, I’ve stopped every Intelligence by myself. I won’t change now, because I’m the only Perfector,”

“How do you plan to stop her? Nothing’s changed,” RaRa asked.

“You’re right nothing has, besides The Princess. She’s part human now. She may be more liable to my attacks. I also have some toys I want to try out,”

“But even if you stop her how will you shut down the platform we still don’t know where the power station is, or Zeke,”

“I have a couple plans in mind. It would take too long to explain. Don’t worry, either way in these next seven days, maybe today...this device will be dead, that I promise.” Lilo said. She turned toward Electron who stared at the ground. His fist was tight enough to squeeze three oranges.

“Electron I--”

“Just, save our country we can talk after,” Electron carefully said. He stood up and gathered his belongings and began to prepare for their escape. The others followed while Lilo studied her CodDevice.

“We need to help you--”

“Calari there’s nothing we can do right now. We need to get back to Ehti and tell the Dean what’s going on,” RaRa said.

“But she’ll die.”

The room sits silent. Everyone pauses as if they lag on the platform, but their faces stare into reality.

“What do you want us to tell the Dean, do you want us to tell him the truth?” Kadara asked.

“Yes, tell him I created the platform. And tell him when he steps back onto his country, I will have defeated it,”

The Proctors from the Reality Disruptors each checked their CodDevices and all of them were disconnected.

“You all can’t help me here, the only way to help is to gather Alexandria and its citizens and guide them back, because if we don’t the world won’t sur-

vive. Without Alexandria, even if it's not a perfect system, human evolution will cease,"

"What do you mean?" Electron asked.

"Our country was destroyed by an Artificial Intelligence, created by a device that we've been fighting for four years. We kept it a secret to the world union; the countries who delegated our principles. We hold the most brilliant minds, and have some of the wildest theories, with the means and resources to experiment. The world union and their sovereigns will start hunting secrets and science. People, corporations, research; it'll all be in danger,"

Lilo watched the monitor while The Princess' robots retreated.

"Even when I stop this platform, the world will never be the same. There are many things that need to be protected. And there are many secrets that will be exposed,"

Lilo's CodDevice surges. It steams while the Alpha Waves around the country scorch. She vexatiously analyzes the data. The emergence of Augmented Data from the Alpha Spectrum splatters through Alexandria. Lilo ponders the turmoil brewing as reality and augmented reality mix. Her CodDevice senses two enormous frequencies of radiation. She's only seen this from the host causing her to assume The Princess is close to taking the platform.

"Activate your hazmat suits and leave now. She's accessed the servers,"

While Lilo was relaying her past to her team, the World Union leaders were gathering in Ehti.

They discuss the crisis with Alexandria. The leaders are furious with the Deans immature discretion and verbally berate him. They are baffled to learn that Lilo Manhattan is the one who is protecting their country. The room only contains the World Union leaders and the Dean. They sit surrounding each other in an assembly room trying to remain political as they each speak.

King Mina sits in the center because he's hosting the assembly. After the announcement of the other leaders' displeasure with the Dean King Mina explains his negotiation to protect Alexandria and harbor them. He tells the others that if they don't hear back from Lilo in two weeks they will go and destroy the device themselves. The countries debate on whether to help but ultimately come to an understanding of how valuable Alexandria is to the contemporary world. They all have one common fear, and that is returning to the Gulf of Creation and they will do whatever it takes to never return to a time like that.

They somber on their harsh reality and blame the Dean for his leniency on projects in the land. They revive the chatter of the rumors that he and the board continuously butt heads because of his impulsive nature and his agony to be renowned. They blame his youth, mocking his age difference even though he is thirty-five years old, but he is the least tenured member in the room.

The laughter caused one leader to brew with hostility. She studied the dean and thought back to his visit to her land. It was a few months before Alexandria announced their revolution to the world. She exploded.

“How could you !?” she screamed.

“What happened Natasha?” King Mina asked concerningly. The remaining leaders instinctively twisted their heads to the sudden shout.

“You sent RaRa to help stop that device. Didn’t you?”

“What is she talking about?” King Mina asked.

“He recruited a soldier from Natara to lead a new militant group in Alexandria. He wanted my son, but he needed him to be dedicated to learning how to code. But unfortunately, my son had no interest in being anything but a soldier. So, I decided to introduce him to RaRa a brilliant strategist who loved computers, one of the few from Natara. He’s young so I thought it’d be good for him. I thought things were weird when you all went black, but the liaison kept assuring me everything was all right, and that that is what he was sent there to help with.... Where is he now?”

“In Alexandria with Lilo Manhattan. She personally requested he stay,”

The room was irate. The officials of the World Union determined that things were going to change in Alexandria and throughout the world. This heinous creation made the countries wonder if they were becoming too comfortable. Thanks to Ronda the world had seen an advancement in tech moving at unnatural rates. There were more projects performed off Alexandrian soil than ever before. IcylicM brought about a more convenient society, but it also brought a revolution. The money the mineral generated was astounding and investors, inventors, engineers wanted that kind of money. Anyone wanted that kind of wealth.

They began to celebrate Ronda and her science. They surreally wish she was still alive, having no doubt that she’d have been able to conjure a solution for the deadly device. Within seconds of reminiscing the leaders questioned Miles and Vickie Cooper, the King and Queen of Siblar; about the Space Initiative. It was Ronda’s last project and what she intended to use Icylic for. They were interested to hear about the assays being executed on the newly found moon of Venus; and Deimos the furthest moon of mars.

Before the Royals could answer chatter ensued pertaining to potentially moving Alexandria to one of the locations. It was pronounced precocious because there was still no way to breathe on the moons, just easier travel and more sustainable technology to survive while there.

Then King Cooper began to speak. King Cooper is a brute man; he is dressed like a king from antiquity—ages before the first industrial revolution. His crown lays on his head and is the color of Midas’ touch, and he holsters a sword on his left hip. His attire is peculiar and obsolete, but no leader bats an eye until he questions the idea of living on the moon and wonders if it’s possible to have

their next meeting there. The room laughs hysterically, while the Queen grows queasy. The king cluelessly follows suit, and laughs along.

The Queen excuses the Kings horrible sense of humor and explains that the Space Initiative is moving grand. She claims that the moons are currently being explored with signs of water being present on both. She continues her report relaying that they plan to explore their moon, the Lunar Moon, next.

“What about Mars? Are you going to tell them about that?” the King cluelessly asked.

The room gapes at the queen; they were inquisitive about the words the king just uttered. She politely tells the king she just spoke about the Mars moon; he quickly retorts asking about a seed, and then a plant. The leaders question if the Sinai Group has found any evidence of plant growth on the moons. The queen answers no and explains that King Cooper is just confused because he was not briefed at their last call with the group. There was chatter of potential evidence, but it eventually was nothing they had not seen before.

“Let’s not dwell on what we cannot control. Having Ronda here would be great but its something that’s impossible to do. We need to focus on Lilo and stopping the Platform,” the Dean said.

“The Platform? That’s what you guys call it?” The Queen of Siblar asked.

“Yes.”

“What media outlet gave it that name, it’s a horrible Euphemism,”

“Lilo,”

The Queen of Siblar agrees that Lilo needs to be saved. She is shockingly adamant about rescuing the young woman, telling the leaders that when Ronda would visit Alexandria and return to Siblar she would boast constantly about two Future Organizers; they were Jack and Lilo. The Queen says that Ronda believed that the two were just like her, not regarding brilliance but philosophy.

The leaders speak on how valuable Alexandria and their cohort of science is; if science had no order, or a hub, then with the technology available in the contemporary world science would become increasingly more dangerous. They needed stronger restrictions but first they needed their hub back. Every leader has secrets that lie in the den of Alexandria and they all know important artifacts and research reside there as well. It’s not a place the world can just let go of so demurely.

The leaders unanimously agree to have cohorts go to Ethi to train with Ethi’s soldiers under the tutelage of the reality disruptors.

At the end of the meeting, and after the conclusion of their plan, the Queen began to ruminate on Lilo’s situation. She evokes memories of Ronda and her two colleagues Mira and Myra, it was their first briefing on Lilo and HRAD. The Queen, Mira, and Myra believed HRAD had died with Ronda after the death of

her and Jack. She couldn't fathom Lilo keeping this hidden from her while overseeing the Space Initiative Bio Seed Project (SIBSP). However, she understood because Lilo didn't know about The Coopers and Siblars investment into the platform.

The Queen therefore ponders about the Space Initiative and how complicated it is compared to what she relayed to the other leaders. It wasn't something she wanted to share too much about because she didn't know much herself; and she knew the world wasn't ready for the news yet. They didn't have enough data to solidify the theory, there was still an estimated two years left for the project. Queen Vickie knew Ronda bequeathed the Space Initiative to Lilo, Mira and Myra. Honing the moons was just a fraction of the galaxy; Ronda had plans to restructure the human body to survive under any atmosphere. Lilo oversaw the project while Mira and Myra conducted it.

Queen Vickie needed Lilo alive more than anyone, because the Queen knew Ronda entrusted the Bio Seed to her. Lilo was the one who cultivated it and the only person who understood scientific phenomena like Ronda. She is just like Ronda the Queen ruminates and Queen Cooper knew the world needed Ronda, now she knows they need Lilo. Lilo's necessity becomes more evident to the Queen since Ronda's pupil is the only one who can stop The Platform.

While the others prepare for the upcoming training and invasion into Alexandria, The Queen reaches out to the Sinai group to alert them about Lilo's troubles hoping to get a team to Alexandria within the next five days; she preferred to send Mira or Myra but they were both on Mars.

Meanwhile in the ravished country of Alexandria Lilo stands on top of a partially destroyed building. It is the laboratory of her parents EMP facility. From the distance she can see black smoke escaping from the remains of the tertiary library.

“You guys, Thanks,” she ruminated.

Out on the ocean, outside the eastern shore of Alexandria, are RaRa, Calari, Electron, and Kadara. They row in an open submarine raft while their horizon is glorified by the setting sun.

Lilo reaches into the pockets of her white rubber flax suit and grabs a block container that fits in her palm. She opens it to a pair of contacts. She places them each in her eye and connects them to her CodDevice, and the Alpha Waves of HRAD. “Remember what I told you guys,” She thought as she began to activate a robotic suit that firmly latches onto her body. Through the contacts that cling to her eyes she emits a holograph of data pertaining to the platform and Alexandria's current situation. “She has connected both worlds. That's interesting. This new suit should at least help me keep up with the current climate--” Lilo suddenly jumps off the building—five meters high—and lands gracefully while the building crumbles behind her. She turns and analyzes the building using her contacts; she notices parasites that cause corrosion when in a conglomerate. “I wonder...what exactly can Beta Tech do?”

Lilo expeditiously scours through the Country headed for the Tertiary Library. The suit she is using is a creation she's been working on since her final assault on HER and Rebecca; it's name is the AC PolyAlk suit. The suit is embedded with Neuron Receptors that allows for the use of Alpha Tech from the platform. The technology that resides on Lilo is connected to the Alpha Transformer she created for the reality disruptors and uses similar methods to Bluetooth to communicate. It allows her to freely use Alpha Waves, from a separate transmission, without the worry of The Princess or Zeke interfering. The suit has bronze metals scattered throughout the Polysynthis fiber. The bronze is made of francium and possesses morphing abilities for her protection, while a computer system sits protected in her thoracic cavity.

"It's still a work in progress but there's no better time to than now to try it out," She moves at inhumane speeds while her body and vital remains intact. If she wanted, she could export herself to the platform at any given time, in case she needed to short circuit. Lilo had no idea how to track Beta Waves, but she was able to track the source of the alpha chip embedded in The Princess.

While tracing The Princess Lilo was alerted to the destruction of the intelligence Bahar. Sequentially came an alert about rapid expenditures of infrared gases into the atmosphere, causing rapid temperature rising and catastrophic rainforest humidity. Through her contacts she analyzes that HRAD is boiling the country commanded by The Princess' algorithm.

Venomous bees and lumber suddenly attacked all light. The Platform completely transfigures the country but kept it abstruse from the naked eye. Without the contacts Lilo wears she wouldn't be able to witness the calamity, but her body would still be able to succumb to its torture.

While Lilo continues her journey through the country she is detoured by the swarms of bees, personified venomous branches, and The Princess' horsemen. She avoids using Alpha Radiation whenever she can, spamming her contacts to remain vigilant. Though whenever she gets overwhelmed by foes she has no choice but to use her EMP and Spectrum algorithms which results in revealing her location.

The gases being emitted by the Princess eventually cause Lilo to use the comet gas from her suit to cool her body. This creates a continuous target on her back. While she camps out strategizing a route to the Tertiary Library with her back against the wall she receives an invitation from the host; that needed the pixels of Ronda's Lotus for the key.

"Ronda's Lotus? This was on the Hard Drive. It's never worked for me... ever, but I've never been requested to enter it," Lilo begins to enter the key where she is prompted. She enters a series of numbers and letters with hyphens after every seven sequences. Lilo meditates on whether this could be a trap set by The Princess, but she is ready for whatever could be waiting for her. She takes precautions setting up an export option and a route to a submarine raft on the depths of the south shore of Alexandria in the once known Indian Ocean.

Once the code is entered Lilo's mind is flooded with data. Her surroundings are a blur, and the outside world is subdued by numbers. Her area is tinted a dark blue while she stands in the middle of a spotlight. "Where am I?" she wondered.

She walked and walked but she felt like she never moved. In the outside world her body is now a stone, incapable of being found by The Princess or her subordinates. While Lilo was in this unrecognizable location she tried to use her contacts and CodDevice to answer some of her questions. Their status were out of range and could not provide any data. "Was it really a trap? Have I lost?"

Then suddenly Lilo felt the energy of a foreign identity in her presence. Shivers ran down her body while panic ensued in her heart. She slowly turned to the unidentified figure and was shattered when she saw their face. She fell to her knees "You're—"

"Zeke,"

"Jack!" You're Jack what did she do!" Lilo whined while her emotions overcame her. Her body felt like lead and her head seemed to be filled with air. Jacks face evoked but never stayed causing her to become dizzy. However, she never fell and remained sturdy, physically.

"Why are you so sad my creator? I don't know of this Jack you speak of, but I am Zeke the host of HRAD, commissioned by Ronda,"

"How...how did this happen," Lilo asked as tears fell from her face.

"What do you mean?"

"How did Ronda make you?" she asked while whipping her tears.

"She used the Beta Chip—"

"Does it require a human's body?"

"Yes."

"I can't believe it, she used Jack's body to create him," Lilo said to herself. She is immobilized by her grief which causes her to take a knee. Her breathing shortenes and she shuts her eyes like she planned to engulf them. Her memory of Jack resurfaces and a contention towards Ronda grows. Lilo sits devastated, witnessing her colleague's dead body being used as Intelligence.

"Who is Jack?"

"He's someone who meant a lot to me. To us. What Ronda did..." Lilo stopped talking. She didn't know what to think, she just wanted Ronda reason to be justified. Jack wasn't just a sacrificial pawn; he was a member of their team who contributed heavily to their project and paid with his life. Lilo quickly remembers that she has no time to dwell on the past and their misdoings, The Princess' is still searching for her. She impulsively stands at her feet and regains her

composure. “What is it that you want from me?”

“I need your help, I need you to stop the Princess and save HRAD,”

“I can stop the Princess, but I won’t save HRAD, I’ll destroy it and you too,”

“I won’t argue with you, because I no longer have the will. I can’t stop you either because of the virus she has implanted onto me. I wouldn’t have been able to find the loophole to contact you if she had not connected both worlds. But one thing is for sure she is close to becoming the Host.”

“What is stopping her?”

“Finding the Server Code to swap,”

“And how can I stop her?”

“I don’t know. This Intelligence has even eclipsed me, it has weakened me, and learned how to become a Beta, her Virus is tremendous,”

“Virus? What do you mean?”

“Her virus, the flaw of every Intelligence,”

Lilo is shocked to hear that every Intelligence has a virus. She thought back to all her encounters but never truly realized that each Intelligence had a specific goal, but Lilo never equated that being a virus, she assumed that they were perfect. “What can she do with her Virus?”

“It’s not just what she can do, it her desires as well. Her whole character. She is connected to the ancient history of the Stepper Cultue but desires to start a Pantheon and reintroduce the largest empire to have ever exist with her at the Penticle. What she can do is access the real-world network and update in real time,”

“So, she can find out about things that aren’t in HRADs original database?”

“Precisely. And now as Beta tech she will be able to find every server code and commit actions similar to mine. Her rank is higher than yours perfector and is nearing the level of mine. Unfortunately, there is nothing I can do, which is why I need you,”

“What do you need,”

“I need you to take on as intermediate host like Bahar did and stop her,”

“Bahar’s dead. Why would I do that?”

“Bahar was still young. You’re our creator and you will have access to all the information I have gathered as the host. I’ll use a process called Duplicate Transference on you,”

“I saw that on the Hard Drive, Ronda left me, it’s dangerous to overload

the mind like that,”

“Unless you’re a perfector,”

“Who released HRAD to the public?” Lilo impulsively asked.

“It was—” Zeke glitched horrendously and froze for thirty seconds while Lilo screamed for him to comeback online. He gradually returned, “We don’t have time, I have to perform the process, a lot of the answers will be given to you once I share my data,”

The body of Zeke fully appears. He walks toward Lilo and holds out his palm onto her forehead. A signal flows from his palm into the brain of Lilo. Information floods her mind. The flow is so staggering she can’t think, see, hear, smell, or taste; the numbers that enclose her fade away along with Zeke. Alexandira’s scenery slowly returns, and Lilo finds herself dazed by the myriad of information.

She ploddingly stands to her feet and analyzes her surroundings. She ruminates about her encounter with Zeke and the fact that this whole time he was functioning with the remains of Jack’s body. A memory evokes of Lilo telling their other friend Esta about Jack’s death and how desperate she was to see the body. Lilo was ashamed to tell her that there wasn’t one, but she didn’t know any better, because it was Ronda who told her that she had to cremate him. While in meditation her location became vulnerable.

Missiles, all manufactured as nuclear weapons, fly towards her. She quickly encapsulates herself into a lead stone layered with a magnetic field. The missiles hit her area and obliterated only a small portion of the country. “She used a controlled nuclear weapon. Is she trying to save the country?” Lilo escapes from her created cover and continues to follow the traces of The Princess.

With the information available to Lilo from Duplicate Transference she for the first time in four years knew where the power station for The Platform was. “This ends now. Thanks Zeke.” Lilo enters the coordinates for the Power Grid. “Who would have ever thought? It’s in the Ocean, under the Eastern Shore. But we checked under water, how deep could it possibly be?” Lilo suddenly blanks out, she is unresponsive and stares insanely, but her mind floods with information once again.

When she awakens a swarm of deadly bees assail her releasing toxins and poisons. She shrewdly evacuates the area digitizing herself near the grid in a forest on the eastern shore of the country. “Having the host abilities is insane. Though I wouldn’t have been able to escape if she had not connected the two worlds...but Zeke is still holding the servers and codes from being visible. He doesn’t want me to destroy The Platform, or his code has not fully malfunctioned and he is still acting how is commanded to,”

Lilo ponders exactly how to enter into the power station having only the coordinates, when more information floods her mind. She stands in the forest able to see the sand and ocean vividly while the ostentatious heat continues and storms brew in certain pockets of the country. She uses her contacts to display a map of

a complex tunnel system that leads to a cofferdam in the deep depths of the water. “Great,” Lilo begins to follow the directions.

“Where are you going Lilo, I’ve been waiting to meet you,” a soft sinister voice called out.

Lilo slowly turned towards the voice and gasped, “You’re—”

“The Princess,”

“Rosa, You’re Rosa,” Lilo said furiously.

“Oh, do you like my new body? I wouldn’t have been able to do it without Ronda’s research,”

“Rosa!? Did you kill her?”

“I saved her Lilo, she honored me and gave me her body. She believes in me, and like a true Librarian she knew great tech,”

Lilo mulls over her new situation. She plans to digitize to the tunnel, but the algorithm is not working. HRAD notifies her that the algorithm is locked and requires a key, a key she has yet to mentally receive. Her face grows worrisome. The Perfecto returns her focus to The Princess. Her contacts depict the activation of a fusion reactor. She is then surrounded by horsemen robots.

“Lilo, for Humanity to become perfect we need the key to the Solar Flared EMP. Can I have it Creator?”

“No,”

“Do you no longer wish for humanity to be perfect?”

Lilo was surprisingly stunned by the question because she hadn’t thought about her Thesis of Life in so long. “Can we be perfect?” she ruminated. The idea of perfection was something Lilo became addicted to. She no longer thought she could be perfect, but she still hopes that one day the world will be, she hopes one day they’ll avoid these situations in the future and never return back to a period like the Gulf of Creation.

“I don’t know what I wish for,” Lilo solemnly said. “I do know that I will end you,” Lilo said while she calls forward the Fructono Gun. She shoots a line of radiation towards The Princess when she uses a led titanium hand to deflect the blast.

Lilo fully activates her AC PolyAlk suit. The bronze appears sporadically throughout her body, sitting on top of her grey mesh poly suit. She stands glorious while pulses of electricity and alpha radiation spur through the AC suit. Lilo activates IcylicC and Alpha Waves that power this suit to the max. She is now in possession of limitless amounts of kinetic and potential energy.

The Horsemen Robots immediately attack Lilo, but before they can reach three meters into her vicinity they are fried.

“You surged the energies of IcylicC with the power of the Alpha Waves. You can control the build up of electrons. Your suit is a wonderful creation, I’d expect nothing less of you,”

Lilo stays stoic and begins to activate more elements of the AC PolyAlk Suit. Around her body are seven glowing orbs of radiation. Their energies are depicted in a very contrasting way, with only two colors, white for light and a translucent blue for black.

Bees and Branches soon attack Lilo but they quickly implode from a sequence of combustions.

“Fracnoid, as well. You also have some sort of X-Ray spheres under your control. This suit, was it inspired by Rebecca?”

Lilo sent three spheres in the direction of the surrounding Horsemen Robots. Before the robots could escape, they were trapped in an perpetual X-Ray EMP destroying every last one of their transistors and metals for good.

The Princess vanishes the Perpetual X-Ray EMPs but it was too late most of the robots were destroyed.

“Your health. Lilo you should thank me. On the Platform that would have extinguished almost half of your life, but because of me you can continuously heal yourself,”

Through Lilo’s contacts she is consistently feeding herself nutrients and steroids through Alpha Waves to keep her body sustainable during this fight. The Princess then ensues Lilo by targeting missiles and explosives at her. Lilo avoids most of the attacks. When suddenly she is captivated by a branch that infects her ankle. She uses acid to burn the branch away but is now vulnerable to a barrage of missiles. She prepares for impact and uses the full bronze of her suit along with a magnetic forcefield layered by fracnoid.

When the missiles detonate her defenses activate at full force causing a wave that funnels into a vacuum of energy. The blast wave destroys both sides of the forest. The terrain is drastically altered while the waves roar on the dimly lit sky. The sun is setting while a full moon prepares for the night.

Lilo stands battered ten meters away from where she stood. She lies on an oak tree that stands solid like others who managed to withstand the attack. She slowly stands to her feet grappling on to the tree for support. “Where is she?” Lilo asked while she searched her surroundings.

Lilo is impetuously pinned to the tree unable to move. She struggles and struggles but can’t escape. Blood begins to flow from her wounds, but she can’t see the weapon. She vexatiously ponders what is happening. Panic courses through her body. She studies the area with her contacts but can’t find a solution. Within the drop of a pedal The Princess appears in front of Lilo. She smiles wickedly and softly caresses her cheek.

“Lilo I’ve waited so long to find you,”

Lilo is still immobilized, and her Alpha Wave signal is rapidly declining. Her contacts notify her to a virus, the same one that is currently killing Zeke, the Steppe Virus. “Why can’t I move?” Lilo struggled to ask. “What’s going on?”

“I pinned you to the tree with my Steppe Virus bow and arrows,”

“What?” Lilo searched her body for the bow and arrows but still could not see them.

“I’m a beta now. Those Contacts are outdated Creator,”

The Princess eyes load with energy, as well as her body. The fusion energy she was using with the Beta Spectrum was off the charts and Lilo’s contacts project all the information. Lilo alone could feel the enormous pragmatic energy secreting from The Princess.

Lilo shrewdly summons a cactus and attacks The Princess body with poison needles. She is hit all throughout but pain isn’t on her face. “You’re Human now. That body is imperfect, just like mine,”

“But I feel no pain,” The Princess said. Thorns then grow on the tree Lilo is binned too. She lets out a horrific shriek. “What I would do to feel what you feel my Creator,” The Princess said.

“The Poison, it should be working, she’s human now,”

“I can still use the spectrum, more efficiently than you, that simple poison cannot affect me,”

Lilo gathers the Perpetual X-Ray EMP and surrounds the area. The Princess is hit with a massive amount of X-Ray radiation, but the EMP does nothing to her. The Princess body soon becomes engulfed in Icylic Titanium to protect her body, when explosions ensue all around them thanks to Lilo’s use of the highly explosive metal Fracnoid.

The Princess is hit severely and when the smoke clears, she is picking herself off the ground and is missing an arm. The Icylic Titanium leaves her body but signs of radiation poison is already presenting itself. However, the Princess is unbothered and before Lilo could blink she appeared in front of her. Her wicked smile returns but is accompanied with scars and burns.

“Can I have the Solar Flared EMP now?”

“No!” Lilo shouted. Lilo tries to escape to The Platform but it is blocked by The Princess.

“I’m the most powerful on The Platform now, I’ll use Duplicate Transference on myself once I gather the key from your mind,”

Lilo ponders what to do. Everything is doomed she thinks, but before her doubts become overwhelming, she gathers her focus on the current situation. “I

could use the Satellite—it'd take too long to get here,” The Princess places her hand on the top of Lilo’s head. “Can I...No that won’t...I don’t know what do I...”

Lilo lets out a yell that reaches Pluto. She uses an X-Ray EMP on herself and then cover her body in lotus plants to keep the Princess hands off of her. She almost suffocates in the enigmatic amount of lotus petals covering her until she realizes that the Bow binding her vanished. She escapes from the oak tree and is no longer vulnerable to the Steppe Virus. Lotus flowers continue to blossom on her body, she begins to heal herself with The Alpha Spectrum but has taken some damage that needs to be attended to physically. Her connectivity is loading back while Lilo determines her next move.

The Princess turns towards Lilo with half of her face missing but still active. However, she lags and jitters while HRAD and the real world begin to lose their connection. The land is gradually returning and HRAD is recurring back to the Alpha Network.

“What...what is going on?” Lilo wondered confused by the sudden malfunction from The Princess.

Even though Lilo was freed, and The Princess is malfunctioning The Princess still has the benefits of Beta Tech. Then suddenly toxic wheat and barley begin to emit gases that cause hallucinogens and confusion. Lilo’s mind and body begin to falter even with her gas mask active. The Bee’s and Trees revive and encompass her while delusion did the same.

“I have to escape before the world’s disconnect, if I’m not here she won’t get my mind,” Lilo thought.

She digitizes back to the southern shore right as the world disconnects. Lilo checks her CodDevice and is alerted to the real-world network being stable and HRAD falling back on the Alpha Network. The Princess escapes back to her lab but Lilo was in no condition for another rumble. She summons her submarine raft and escapes depths below the shore.

“I need to go back to the Gulf of Creation. I know how I can stop her and The Platform,” Lilo thought as she headed off into the abyssal waters.

In Ethi the librarians have set up headquarters that strictly pertaining to research on HRAD. For the past two weeks they have been diligently analyzing data and footage of all actions committed on the platform. This was approved by the Dean and King Mina, and they decided to let the remaining two head librarians oversee the project.

In the facility there were many labs, in this lab throughout the facility around twenty-five librarians worked on miscellaneous tasks. Also in this lab were Lilo’s parents Don and Jane Manhattan. The two were studying a translucent tablet with another man.

“This script is too difficult to understand, why are there so many alpha and

betta characteristics embedded,” Don said.

“I honestly believe it could have been written by Aliens,” Jane added.

“How did Lilo become so adept at traveling on the platform?”

“I don’t know Adam, she’s always been brilliant but this device to understand it...brilliance is an understatement,”

“She’s senile. She’s eminent. She...she just—”

“She’s just like us. She’s your daughter. You know how it is to be young; you challenge everything because they have the benefit of not witnessing the past,”

“A child is neither dangerous nor peaceful,” an unknown voice stated.

The group turned around to the odor of pine. A pale man stood there in a sweater vest and full sleeve checkered pattern button down shirt. He wore corduroy pants and was missing a chunk of hair in the middle of his head. His back was hunched and face wrinkled complemented by a grey beard.

“The Hungry Child Allegory from Mister Mina’s compassion philosophy,” the man with Lilo parents responded.

“Pal, it’s good to see you,” Don jubilantly said as he gave him a handshake and a hug. Pal solemnly greeted him and proceeded to accost the others.

“Jane and Sir Atom it is good to see you all,”

“What brings you to the library facility Pal?” Sir Atom asked.

“I wanted to know if there were any updates on Lilo?”

“No, we have no idea what’s going on,”

“I see,”

“Don’t worry Pal,” Jane said as she consoled him with a hand on his shoulder. “She’s proved before she can handle this and she has the Proctors with her, we just need to have faith,”

“Honey this isn’t like before. The last Intelligence came alive. It destroyed our country,”

“I know but even still when that happened who saved us?”

The four survivors of the Gulf’s reign stood in rumination. They all thought about one thing and that is what life would be like without Lilo.

“Lilo the Librarian, or better known as Lilo the Perfector, for now we have to entrust us with Alexandria’s safety,”

“Sir Atom with all due respect you don’t know what the hell you’re talking about. And if you call her Lilo the Perfector again I’ll—”

“Stop it Don, just because you don’t like it doesn’t make it wrong,”

“I apologize Mr. Manhattan but right now Lilo might be the only one who has the credibility to stop that demented device. Believe it or not I roamed the Platform and its accessibility was brilliant, but stringent. There wasn’t much I could perform even with my geometry subject and my knowledge. With my rank on the platform, I could only create small structures. My body ached and mind was continuously fuzzy when I logged off. And once I ran into Tiberius and his army. I tried to be a good citizen and use the platform for good but his expertise, his rank, his algorithms, his knowledge, was far superior to mine. I couldn’t compare even in a fantasy world; where you would think everyone was equal. HRAD is dangerous and there’s not just anyone who can grasp its concepts. Why do you think she only has four proctors,”

“Did you say four Atom?” Pal the Wise asked.

“Yes, she has four of them in the Reality Disruptors,”

“Are you sure? The chatter from the data is stating there were five active proctors at the time of the Princess attack,”

“Me, Sir Boyle and Lady Rosa helped Lilo delegate the Reality Disruptors after Mr. Manhattans speech. I would know,”

“Where is Lady Rosa?” Jane asked.

“She is amongst the citizens unaccounted for,” Sir Atom said.

Jane emotionally reacted, verbally showing sympathy with a whine and gasp.

“Yes, unfortunately the library can’t find Lady Rosa or Primo Librarian, Esta Chan,”

“That was the fifth proctor!” Pal shouted.

“What!? She never joined the Reality Disruptors,”

The group suddenly is interrupted by King Mina and Dean Boolean. They walk into the room and speak immediately to Sir Atom and Mister and Misses Manhattan. They alert them to the news of the World Unions assembly and the new obligations of their country, to prepare the Legions of the other countries to invade Alexandria and aid Lilo and her team in destroying the Platform.

To be continued...

Augmented Destiny: Retribution