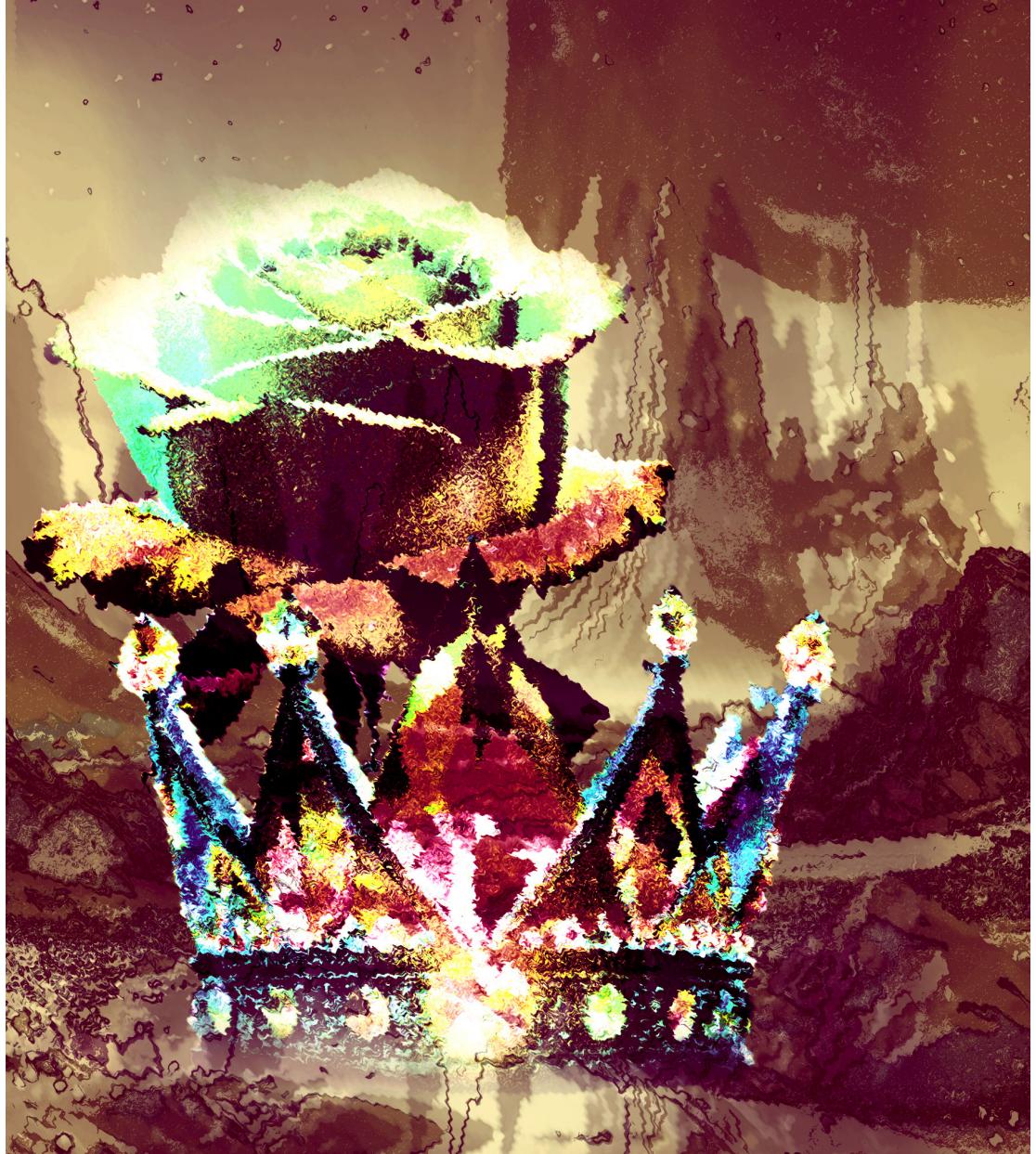




Augmented Destiny: Retribution
Written by Theodorant



Augmented Destiny: Retribution Chapter II

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Science Fiction . Fantasy

Calari is in an unpredictable jam as she encounters Queen Vickie. She is passionate about achieving the wishes of Lilo, though the Queen has a counter. While the two are at odd ends, Lilo journeys onto the Gulf of Creation to test her theory on the Beta Spectrum.

Please be advised that this story does contain mature topics such as death and suicide.

Calari stepped closer and closer to Queen Vickie, who still did not say a word. Queen Vickie peers ambiguously. The interstellar contact device she had been using is now put away, with her undivided attention on the arcana, Calari.

Calari is now in a conversations distance of the Queen and reveals the Icylic Drive that Lilo entrusted her with. “I’m your new liaison for the Space Initiative Bio Seed Project, requested by Lilo,”

Suddenly a hand grabbed her shoulder and there was a dagger on Calari’s back. A menacing voice spoke “Shall I kill her now?” the man asked Queen Vickie.

Calari is ghast. Her body becomes paralyzed by fear, unable to turn and catch the face of the terrifying man. “Kill me?” she stuttered, finding the courage amid her new flux of anxiety.

Queen Vickie ploddingly approaches Calari. The young proctor feels the breath of this covert man on her right shoulder; Siblar’s Queen stands in front of her left shoulder, glaring into Calari’s hazel eyes. From there her eyes tour, starting from her honey brown hair, moving to her dingy Franci Pluton Vest, on to her scratched exoskeleton suit, and now at her rose tattoos etched into the back of her scrappy hands.

In her right rosy hand, she held the crystal Icylic Drive, which caught Queen Vickie's ambiguous glare next. "Arthur stand down," Queen Vickie grabbed the Icylic Drive from Calari and continues her examination. "Lilo chose you? What exactly did she tell you?"

Once the grasp from Arthur was released Calari could relax. She steps to the Queen, but Arthur moves in between. "She said this was Ronda Dorwin's last project, a project that could lead humanity to a half decent world. And from the data on the drive, she wasn't wrong—"

"You read the drive? It's highly encrypted,"

"Lilo gave me the code,"

"So how did we find the Proactive Seed?"

"Ronda developed it from a chloroplast cell she discovered near the center of the Earth's core,"

The majesty is impressed, "Well, even if Lilo can trust you, it doesn't matter. You can't replace her,"

Calari is rattled by the Queen's words. "Who better than me? Lilo herself chose me; she finally recognized me. If you respect Lilo, then you'll—"

"Sorry it won't work," Queen Vickie responded. She turns about and begins to exit this secluded corner, motioning for Arthur to vanish. Calari instinctually blinks and Arthur is gone. However, the Queen still floats and Calari chases her down.

Swiftly pursuing, Calari catches up. "With all the questions you asked I know you were paying attention in our meeting. Lilo won't be able to help you anymore, she's an Enemy of the Union. I'm all you have,"

"Listen. Calari right?" Calari nods her head. "You seem like a bright kid, but just because you've *read* the results doesn't mean you're ready to play in the lab. This project is illegal, with many unknowns. The only difference between this and HRAD is that there is no Artificial Intelligence involved.... You're still young a damaged theory can hurt your reputation before you gain one—"

"I don't care! I can't let Lilo down, she told me herself I'm the only one she can trust with this task,"

"Why do you still respect her, after everything you just found out? The World Union has declared her a criminal. She created the technology that killed your country's people, that obliterated your country, why are you so desperate?"

Calari drops her cranium and gapes the ground. From this position she responds, "Ever since The Platform presented itself in Alexandria, the one person who stood against it was Lilo, no matter the risk. I wasn't as courageous, before The Platform I believed I could exist being diffident and studious. Though Lilo

proved there is more to wits; it's one thing to be intelligent, but to be intelligent and efficacious through practice that was like touching a star. The world might see her as an enemy now, but her influence, especially on me will never be forgotten. I'm twenty-one years old, and Lilo is only seven years older than me, but to me she's already a monument in history, a figure that transpired and brought credence to Alexandria, companionless, during unwavering times. She has a tale I could never write, but would read enduringly,"

Queen Vickie mulls over Calari's gracious words of her leader. She then reflects on an encounter with Ronda. Vickie and Ronda met in the artic mountains of Siblar, many years before her death. That was the first meeting where Ronda expressed her favor for Lilo Manhattan, a young woman who Ronda said could one day enlighten the entire world. Queen Vickie at the time felt Ronda was exaggerating, convinced that Ronda was glee to have found a disciple. Nonetheless, Lilo's actions with the SIBSP, her development of HRAD, and her ability to protect Alexandria over the past four years is starting to prove Ronda's theory. While Queen Vickie continues to ponder, she ruminates on the fact that Lilo is an inspiration to Calari, as well as to the other members of the Reality Disruptors, further solidifying Ronda's opinion.

"... I'm sorry, but there is no way I'm not going back to the Galactic Lab," Calari spewed.

Queen Vickie chortles leaving Calari perplexed. "I must admit, she was right to trust you,"

"Glad you understand now, let's go--"

"I won't leave her to die,"

Again, Calari stares astounded, but in a moment, she realizes what Queen Vickie is alluding to.

"I know you're smart Calari, probably a genius since you're a proctor on HRAD. You deserve to be near, but it's too early for Lilo's replacement,"

"There's nothing we can do. Lilo wants to handle everything alone. Even if we wanted to go help her, we still would have to stop The Platform. Besides Emperor Xhan was adamant about no one returning to Alexandria, without assistance from the World Union,"

Queen Vickie retrieves her interstellar contact device. It was a small round black pod that could fit in the palm of her hand with tiny spores embedded like a sponge. "If Lilo trusts you, so do I. But before I say this, I want to remind you of the moment just before we spoke; when your life was at jeopardy. I'm the Queen of Siblar and will have no trouble in getting rid of you. Understand?"

Calari solemnly nodded her head in agreeance.

"First, I have my doubts about Emperor Xhan. He was put in place abruptly

because of his iron fist. The World Union agrees Lilo should face trial, but Emperor Xhan has already expressed his concern for that plan of action. Privately, after we discussed the news you Proctors bore, he insisted on implementing a kill order to set an example upon the world, but no other leader would approve a totalitarian decision,”

“It’s exactly what Lilo said,”

“What?”

“That this news would cause an upheaval. Alexandria holds the secrets and tech for the entire world, the way science was monitored until now was very selective. Few received patents and even fewer outside of Alexandria, but that all might change,”

“She wasn’t wrong it’s going to change. Since Alexandria went black, there’ve been rumors of Weapons of Destruction and other immoral science progressing in lands. Which brings more reason for why I need to get to Lilo first. There are those who consider her a true foe, but most of those people are ignorant, citizens who adhere to the propaganda. Then there are those who consider her a threat, those with power. Then there are those who want to give her a fighting chance, a trial. But then there’s us the ones that know, no matter what, the world will need her during this transformation,”

“What are you saying?”

“I’m saying just like how the world and Alexandria will never be the same. Lilo will never be safe or treated fairly. I’m in the process of putting together a team to help her destroy HRAD and extract her back to my care where she will remain hidden, and I’m positive we’ll need your assistance,”

“But what about Emperor Xhan’s orders?”

“I’m the Queen of Siblar, even though my King is ignorant of this decision I’m in full authority to make it. There are many secrets between us leaders and the world. That’s politics. I believe just like how I’m willing to break this trust to save her someone is willing to do the same to kill her,”

Calari heeds the words of the Queen becoming lame.

“Will you join my team? You were already willing to replace Lilo, but how about we try and save her,”

Calari grew a grin majestically. Her face is rosy, her cheekbones have replaced her eyes and her teeth were glamorous. “Let’s do it!”

At the Gulf of Creation Lilo travels by Glider just below the electric clouds that guarded the Gulf’s atmosphere. She’s in a deep black hazmat suit with a mask that digitally displays data information. “The Satellite for the Capture software is up and running. The hazmat suit is fully activated and Toko is on standby incase

anything happens on HRAD,” Suddenly toxic ionizing frequencies swarmed the air striking the skies with lethal lightning. “Gliding through here is risky, if I wasn’t in such a hurry I wouldn’t be doing this. If that lightning touches my body, I don’t think my hazmat suit will protect me.” Another strike clamors. “This is my first time seeing it and I’m fascinated. Reports during the Blackout Era claim that the lightning is so fierce and toxic that if it strikes you the atoms torture the body until you fall victim to radiation poisoning,” Another strike kindles while Lilo ponders on her risk.

She traverses swiftly following coordinates projected on her hazmat suit’s mask. Her Alpha Wave detection for her CodDevice is at one bar. “With the CodDevice communicating with the Hazmat’s CPU I’ll be able to tell when I’m near,” When Lilo created the CodDevice she wanted to make sure it still functioned when passing through the Solar Flared EMP, so she decided to give it the option to turn on and off its Alpha Connection. Since the device could leave Alexandria, it did not carry HRAD. The fundamental of the CodDevice is that it is a tool Lilo developed for assistance on the Platform.

Lilo escapes the sea of aviation and descends to a rocky environment consumed with canyons and mountains, dust and dirt. The smog of crushed rocks irritates her sights as she gracefully lands. “I must start where Ronda found the Alpha Waves. I need to see if I was right the first time,” Lilo checks her countdown, and she is eight hours away from being three days removed from her promise. “I need to hurry; I can’t let the world return to Alexandria without the job finished. Especially since they know the truth,” Lilo finally touches the ground and notices a non-saturated land with negative space that appears like a gray blur. “...This might be our last shot,” she thought becoming mesmerized by the peculiar terrain.

Her Alpha Signal is fully connective at four bars. Indications from her mask inform her of the shift in the gravitational frequencies in this area. The gravitation affects her vision; she can only see the light of the past, like a haze; everything else is empty—non-saturated.

From Ronda’s notes Lilo was able to prepare the Hazmat Suit’s mask with obsidian to protect her eyes from its potent light. Everything she witnesses is of the past. The present in this area cannot be seen. “It’s exactly how she described it in the notes. This Alpha Wave environment creates a concussion effect. Even my movements lag, all the light reveals is the past,”

Lilo accesses a telescopic lens, another item she prepped thanks to Ronda. A monocle, but much more perceptive. Everything microscopic became visible, showcasing what Lilo came to this environment for, “There it is. The Alpha Spectrum,” Lilo analyzes the atomic frequencies of the Alpha Spectrum as they run wild.

Her fascination entrapped her. This is her first time seeing the environment where the Alpha Spectrum exists in its full potential. Witnessing the spectrum at limitless output catches her inquisitive nature, she tours meters of the area in awe.

Her CodDevice works miraculously functioning at its full potential. Suddenly Lilo receives an alert; the light from the spectrum is moving so fast it will eventually disrupt her technology.

Lilo rushes to write algorithms and implements a software onto her CodDevice. Thanks to this potent source of Alpha Radiation, she can run a software that generates the algorithms she writes onto an Orb that will project the abilities from the algorithm. "This is my first time using this. I was saving this just in case there was an Alpha Leak one day. This Orb reacts sublime to Alpha Radiation, at its 16th nano stop, in this environment its power is unhinged, and it will allow for my algorithms to be fully functional in the real world without the need for HRAD,"

Lilo goes on a binge, adding codes and text for her witty algorithm. The orb, which is connected to the CodDevice glows an eminent yellow from the influx of Alpha Waves around. The energy is so strong that Lilo is forced to release the orb, but it doesn't hit the ground, it levitates. "I've never seen it do that,"

Then a horn like device projects holographic, and an activation icon appears on Lilo's obsidian mask. She clicks the button and a hypersonic shockwave course through the environment, evident from haze becoming clear, the winds being pushed away, and the tittering of the sound data she receives.

The sound is undetectable to humans, but its force is sensible. The rocks and mountains convulse vigorously and at the same time Lilo's balance became questionable then the wobbling ceased. Distracted by the hypersonic shockwave she was unable to retain the full effects through the telescopic monocle.

Lilo moves her arms and hands like a Mime, controlling the system projected on her mask. A recording of what she just experienced propels to the mask, accompanied by all sorts of data. "According to this it seemed to work. The Haze cleared, and the lights potency began to dwindle. But my connectivity didn't waiver, still when I analyze the Alpha Spectrum with the monocle it seems the shockwave would've led to stalling the frequencies. I don't know for sure; it was too quick I must do it again,"

Lilo reruns the codes and algorithms from before and activates the horn like device from the levitating orb. She configures the algorithm to run a lengthier assay, and once again she presses the activate symbol, signaling the encore.

Again, the turbulence from the shock wave viciously rocks the environment. The mountains shiver, the winds scream, and the haze vanishes. Lilo focuses her attention into the atomic monocle analyzing the frequencies and wave lengths of the spectrums. However, even with the hypersonic sound she still see's trails, multiple of them. "This feeling, it's worse than before. I'm seeing three of everything," she tries to walk but can't she is too dizzy but also too sluggish. She continues to attempt but falls on every try. "It's the hypersonic sound according to the suit," she is forced to conduct the assay on the ground.

From there Lilo uses her capture software and other applications to read the

spectrum. It took almost thirty-four minutes but eventually the spectrum became stale, solidified when her mask became immobile and orb fell from the sky.

Lilo rose to her feet and redacted the horn device. She made sure everything was recorded and that her findings were safe. "It's too bad I added that synthetic polymer, but if I'm right again I won't need to use sound," Lilo returned to the skies and sped away from the Alpha Environment.

Again, she glides through the apex of the gulf near the electric cloud prudent, avoiding the Lightning from Hell. She rushes through the wind while she activates her Global Positioning Satellite to search for the terrain her memory load passed to her. The Perfector releases three flies from the exhaust of her Hazmat mask. "The Capture software can help me search for the Beta Environment. If the flies run into Beta Radiation or the Dry Heat Road, I'll be alerted. For now, I'll just trust in the GPS and travel to every road with intense thermal radiation," Lilo checks the map for hotspots and more than fourteen appeared. A task that is besetting leading her to check the countdown. There are four hours left until it's her third day absent from Alexandria. She glides with urgency, listless in expression.

Dashing above headed for her first stop; an electric cloud emits lightning so bright that it blinds Lilo and becomes attracted to her. Before the lightning touches her, she uses its intense ionization and turns it into an EMP using her Hazmat suit. However, the blast is so devastating it knocked Lilo's glider out the air. Due to the heavy winds and the EMP effect on the glider, she is unable to regain control and plunges.

Suddenly her eyes become pure, and her face patient.

Inside the Lab of the Historical Figures Ronda sits at a supercomputer system flagrantly typing. She rose from her desk and walked to the assay area; she was grinning. Inside this room was Zeke, resting inside a cylinder-shaped incubator. He floated listless endowed by a solution, hooked to hundreds of wires. A ding rang from the computer system and Ronda's unusual grin progressed to a smile. Glamorously she walked into the assay area. She analyzed data from screens within the lab and regurgitates that HRAD now has an active host and that the two spectrums now coexist. Ronda drained the incubator and pressed a button to unplug the wires out of Zekes back. Instantaneously his eyes break open and glow an abstruse gray. He exits the incubator when Ronda questioned who he was. He responded claiming he was Zeke, Host of HRAD. Ronda unable to confide her pleasure jumped with joy and ran to Zeke and hugged him. After a couple of seconds Ronda jerked away burned by his inferno like metals. She asked why he was so hot, when he asked if Ronda loved him like he did her. Ronda was astonished and terrified. She cautiously retreated asking if he was Jack. He claimed he was Zeke host of HRAD and lunged at her viciously hugging her, begging for her love. He held her tight, squeezing the life out of her until she said it back, though when she was released from his grasp her body had been fatally bruised, seconds later she fell into a coma.

Lilo returns to reality, sinking to the ground when she catches herself. "Zeke killed Ronda. Because he loved her, but why? How? What did she do before

that?" Abruptly Lilo is notified by the Capture System that one of the flies found an environment matching her quest.

In the Kingdom of Ethi RaRa faces his subordinates. The Reality Disruptors shout furiously cursing Lilo. Some give Lilo grace while others want to march to Alexandria and kill her. RaRa aims to create peace, but he is interrupted when Emperor Xhan sends for him and the other proctors to discuss the World Union's decision.