SIZEFUNK

PART I

ART BY
JACKOFBULLETS
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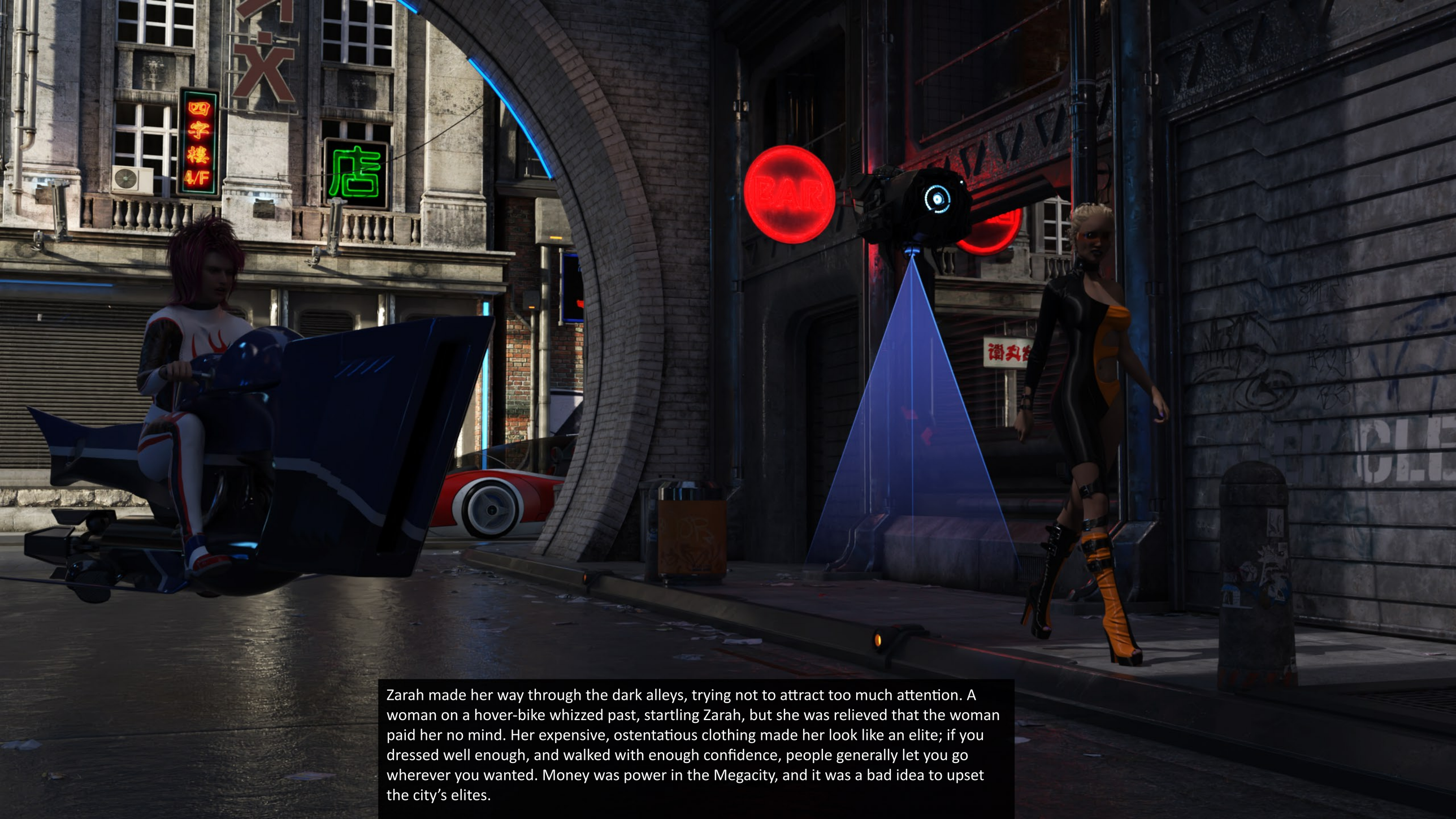
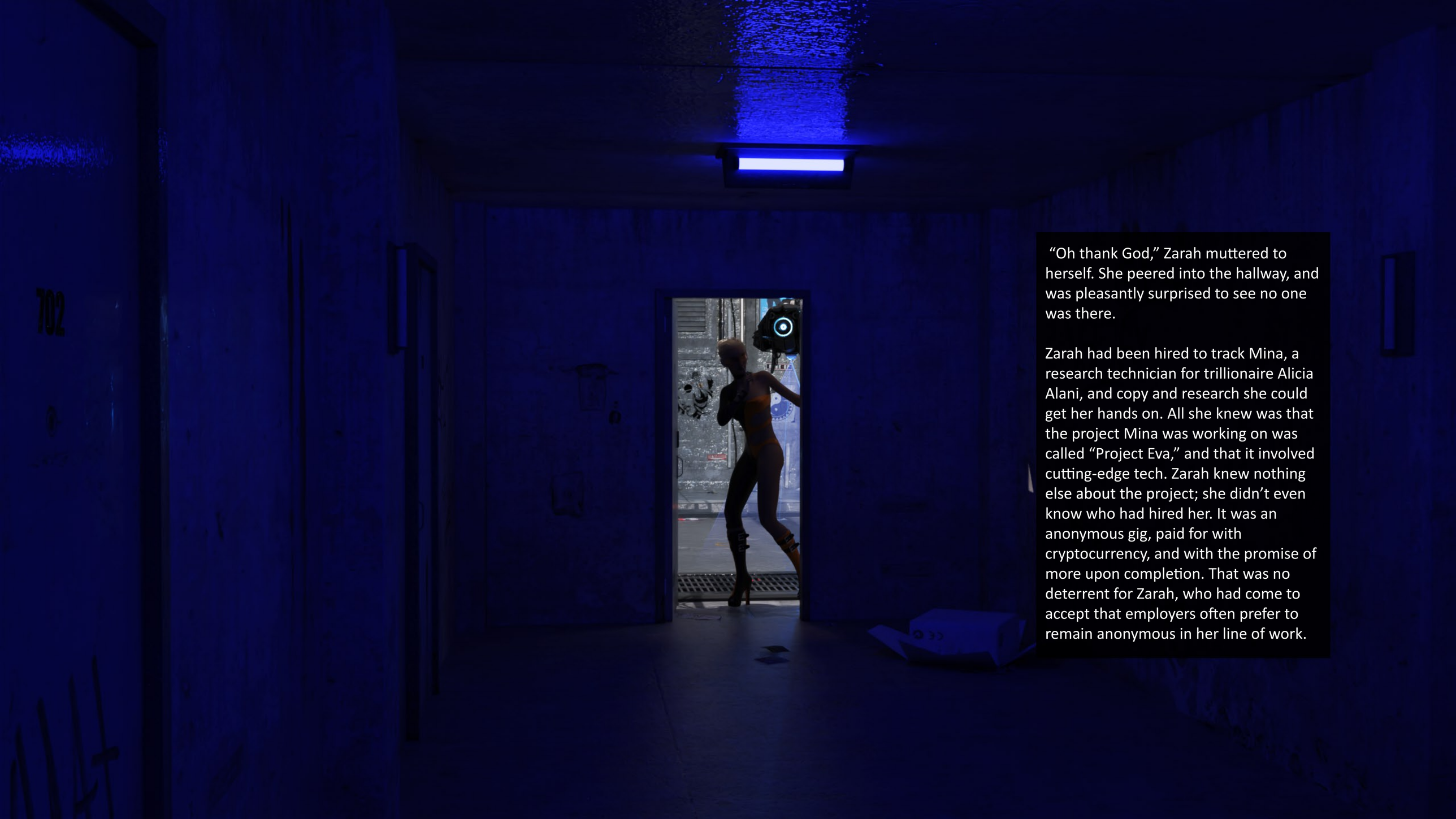
REDFIREDOG



Zarah made her way through the dark alleys, trying not to attract too much attention. A woman on a hover-bike whizzed past, startling Zarah, but she was relieved that the woman paid her no mind. Her expensive, ostentatious clothing made her look like an elite; if you dressed well enough, and walked with enough confidence, people generally let you go wherever you wanted. Money was power in the Megacity, and it was a bad idea to upset the city's elites.

She was accompanied by a hover droid, an older model that likewise wouldn’t draw too much attention. It was still a useful thing, and versatile too; it recorded video, provided GPS tracking without any modifications.

What it could do with modifications, though, was an entirely different story. The beat-up old building didn't look like much, but Zarah had been told that Alicia Alana had a high-tech lab inside, far away from her main facilities. The backdoor to the building was only supposed to open if it detected an recognized XFID chip, one that belonged to someone who was registered as a current resident. The hover droid had been modified to send out a wide range of X-ray signals to the door, until it finally found one that worked. It was a simple brute force attack, but it still worked like a charm on older buildings.



"Oh thank God," Zarah muttered to herself. She peered into the hallway, and was pleasantly surprised to see no one was there.

Zarah had been hired to track Mina, a research technician for trillionaire Alicia Alani, and copy and research she could get her hands on. All she knew was that the project Mina was working on was called "Project Eva," and that it involved cutting-edge tech. Zarah knew nothing else about the project; she didn't even know who had hired her. It was an anonymous gig, paid for with cryptocurrency, and with the promise of more upon completion. That was no deterrent for Zarah, who had come to accept that employers often prefer to remain anonymous in her line of work.

“What’s one of Alicia Alana’s high-tech labs doing in a dump like this?” Mina mused aloud, while she waited for her hover droid to hack Mina’s room. “ I thought Alicia put all her labs in that big complex of hers, so she could keep a closer eye on them…”

Zarah was pleasantly surprised that the entrance to the lab was just as easy to hack into as the others. Still, she felt uneasy just walking into there on her own.

“You sure there weren’t any bio-signs in the whole place?”

“ALL SCANS NEGATIVE,” the droid replied.

“I’ll hold you to that,” Zarah said.

Zarah walked through the door, not entirely sure what to expect. The lab complex was clearly old and dirty, but it was also huge and sprawling, with all manner of industrial equipment that Zarah had never seen before. “Clearly Alicia spared no expense,” she mused to herself.

She quickly realized that she wasn't alone in the lab. In front of her was Mina. The purple-haired technician was too preoccupied with her computer to notice Zarah staring at her from the rafters.

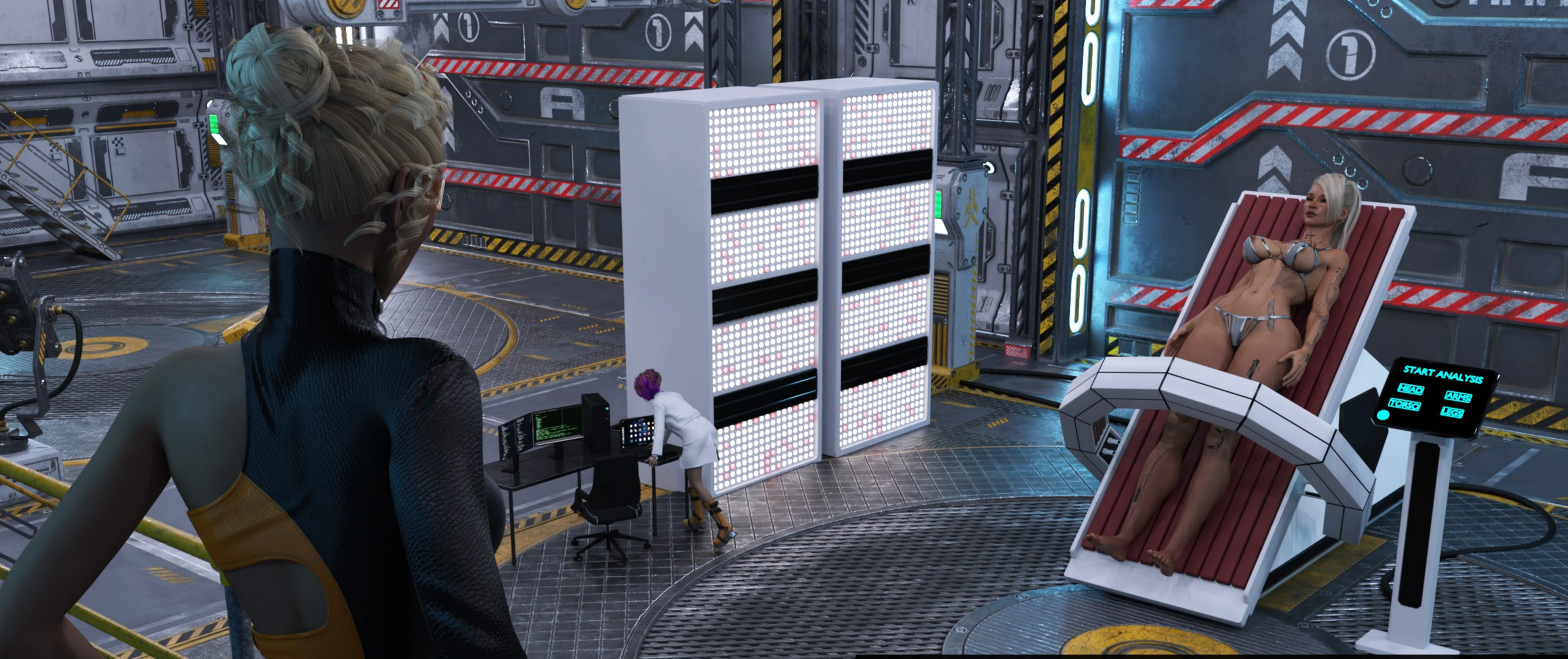
"You said there weren't any bio-signs in the whole lab!" Zarah whispered to her droid.

"THE LAB'S PROTECTIVE SHIELDING MUST HAVE BLOCKED MY BIOSCANS," Zarah's droid blared.

Zarah ducked back for a second, but was relieved that Mina's gaze stayed locked on her computer screens. "Must be another one of Alicia's hover-droids. Stupid robots," Mina muttered to herself. Mina said. "Okay, raise Eva up to the platform."

“It sounds like we’re about to get a glimpse of Eva,” Zarah said. “Droid, make sure to record all of this. And for the love of god, stay muted until we’re out of here, okay?”

With a series of loud whirring noises, a circular section in the floor next to Mina opened up. Out of the depth rose a red platform, and on it was a humanoid figure, but Zarah quickly realized it was far bigger than any normal human.



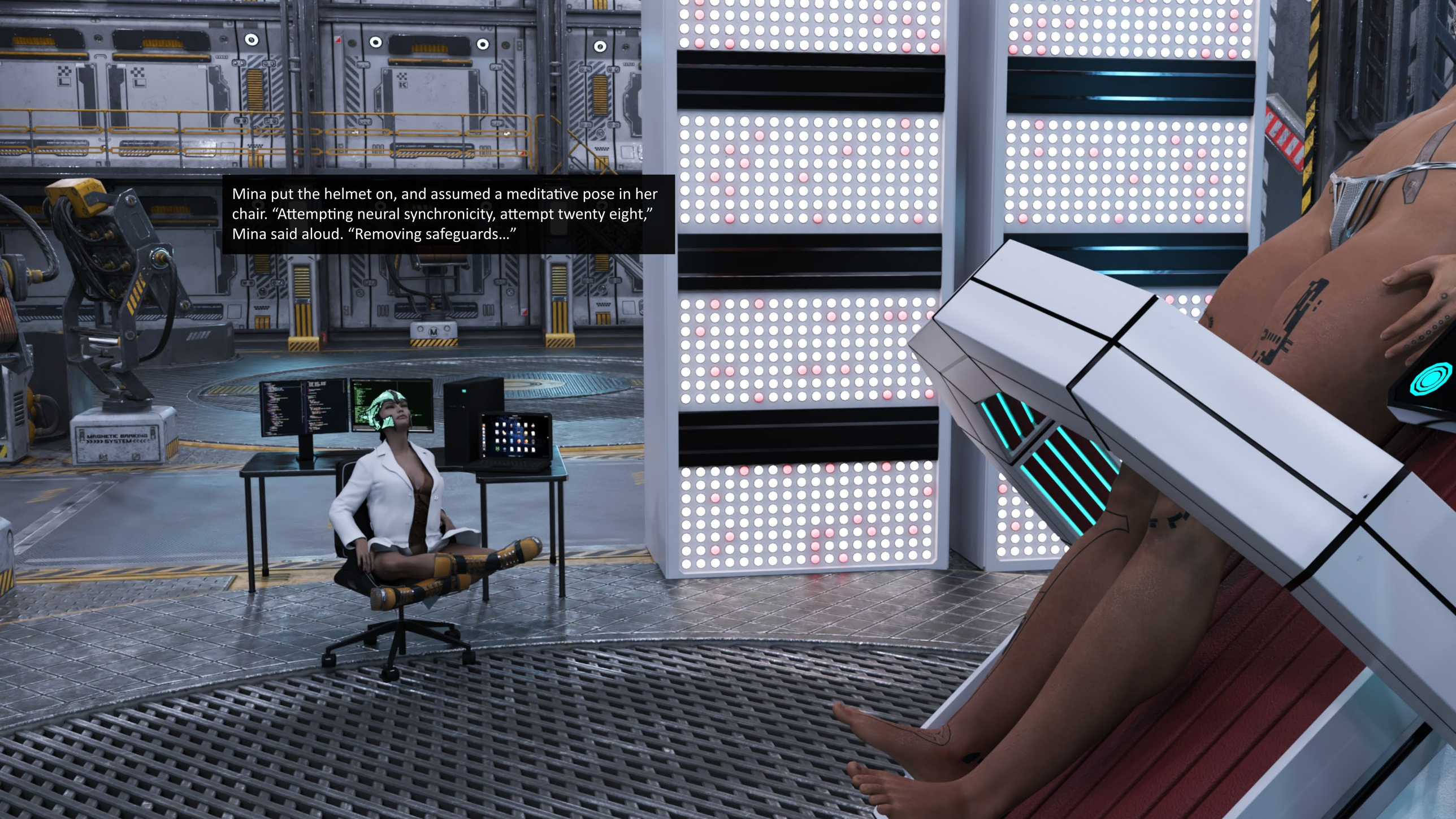
The floor closed back up, and the platform finally stopped moving. The enormous woman looked strangely familiar, and at first Zarah couldn't remember why, but the answer was frustratingly obvious as soon as it occurred to her. "Her face looks just like Alicia's," Zarah whispered to her droid. The hair was nearly the same as the trillionaire's signature ponytail, only blonde instead of black, and the android's body had an exaggerated version of Alicia's famous curves.

"That's far and away the most human-looking android I've ever seen," Zarah mused to herself. "But why would Eva want a giant android version of herself? To use as a bodyguard? A maid? An enforcer?"

Mina finally got up from her computer, and Zarah ducked down in hopes that Mina wouldn't see her. The railings weren't much to hide behind, but thankfully for Zarah, Mina was too preoccupied to notice the spy in her midst.

Zarah watched as Mina took out a strange, glowing helmet, and sat back down in her chair. The helmet wasn't just a commonplace VR helmet; it was unlike anything Zarah had seen.

"Alright," Mina said to herself, "let's give this another shot…"


Mina put the helmet on, and assumed a meditative pose in her chair. “Attempting neural synchronicity, attempt twenty eight,” Mina said aloud. “Removing safeguards…”
MAGNETIC BRAKING SYSTEM

“Interesting,” Zarah mused to herself. “So it is a surrogate body.Alicia Alani already has everything else, so I guess making yourself a ten foot tall body is the next logical step…”

Zarah watched and waited, as the android powered on. “ALL PHYSICAL DIAGNOSTICS COMPLETE,” an electronic voice rang out from a nearby terminal. “ENERGY CRYSTALS ACTIVATED. SAFEGUARDS ENGAGED. CRYSTAL MIND IS ENERGIZED. NEURAL LINK ACTIVATED.”

"POWERING ON…"

The android began to move. It was slow at first, but perceptible, with subtle twitches in the hands and legs.

Finally, Eva's eyes shot open. Her irises were dotted with a grid of glowing blue circles, yet there was something uncannily human about them.

"Hey, it's working!" the android said, channeling Mina's words through Eva's body. "This feels way more natural than before. Shaving off that 20 millisecond delay was worth the trouble!"

“This is unreal!” Mina said excitedly. The android body darted back, as Mina stared with amazement at her own petite form. “It’s finally working… My movements aren’t being mirrored, they’re being exclusively channeled to the android! I can feel what the android feels, like it’s happening to me… Alicia is going to be amazed when she tests this out!”

The android body crouched down in front of Mina, staring intensely at the woman who was controlling it. “I’ve finally achieved true 1:1 neural mirroring,” Mina said, “but… I feel like there’s something else happening. Something… unexpected. I can feel my own thoughts being channeled through the android. It’s looking at me as if I’m a different person, and I… I… I…”

Mina was no longer in control. The body was moving exactly as she tried to move. Eva was no longer doing what Mina tried to make her do.

“Thank you for making Eva,” the android said. “Mina has such a pretty mind… and such a cute little body. No matter what happens, Eva will always protect you. Eva want to please Mina,” the android said, licking her chops.

Zarah watched in amazement as the enormous android leaned in for a kiss. The android apparently had its own desires, and it was moving in a way that was undeniably human. It moved in slowly, deliberately, approaching Mina with genuine warmth.

That spell was broken in an instant, when Eva suddenly turned towards Zarah.

“You… You do not belong here…” Eva said with seemingly human anger.

Zarah froze in place. There was something about the android’s every movement that radiated power, and Zarah was terrified of what the android could do to her.

With impressive speed, Eva jumped to her feet and assumed an aggressive stance. “You came here to hurt Mina,” Eva accused. “Eva can sense it…”

For a split second Zarah considered running, but the android was moving with such speed that she doubted she could get away in time, so she decided to take a different tact. If she could convince Eva to stand close enough to her hover droid, she wondered if the droid might be able to hack into Eva, giving her diagnostics information, or perhaps even more.

"I'm the new project manager here," Zarah said. "I'm just here to check up on how things are going with Project Eva… and it looks like you're firing on all cylinders!"

“Eva does not understand,” Eva said. “The new… manager?”

“That’s right!” Zarah said with a plastered-on smile. “Alicia’s going to be very happy to see how you’re shaping up. Speaking of which, would you mind stepping a little closer to the blue light? My droid here just wants to do a quick scan, to make sure everything is in order...”

“Liar!” Eva shouted. “You want to steal Eva from Mina!” Eva reached out and grabbed Zarah by the arm before the smaller woman could move away. The enormous android was incredibly strong, even for her size, and she yanked Zarah over the railings as easily as if she were a ragdoll.

“Let me go! Put me down!” Zarah protested. She kicked Eva’s thigh and tried to pry open the giant android’s fingers, but she couldn’t even manage to budge Eva an inch. The android’s grip only tightened around her arm as she struggled, and she resorted to pleading for mercy. “Please, Eva, I’m a friend!”

“You are not a friend of Eva!” Eva shouted. She threw Zarah back onto the floor. “Mina is Eva’s only friend, and you tried to hurt her!”

The force of the impact knocked the wind out of Nad. She lie sprawled out on the floor, still trying to catch her breath as the android slowly stepped towards her. “Please, Eva…” Zarah begged. “Don’t hurt me…”

“You wanted to hurt Eva’s friend!” Eva shouted. “Now Eva will hurt you!”

Eva raised her massive foot into the air, preparing to bring it down with bone-crushing force onto Zarah’s torso.

But an instant before the foot slammed into her, Zarah cried out once more. “Mina, no!” she shouted. “Mina, if you can hear me, you need to stop her!”

It worked. Eva froze in place, standing perfectly still and closing its eyes. Mina had successfully overridden the will of the android.

While Zarah slowly backed out from under the android's leg, Mina was startled awake. She leaned back and stretched her arms, groaning as she came to her senses. "Ugh, what was that?" Mina wondered aloud. "My head hurts…"

Mina fluttered her eyes open, finally noticing the scantily-clad woman in front of her. “Huh?” Mina asked, “who are you?”
“My name is… Janica,” Zarah said. “I’m the new project manager, and your robot just attacked me!”

“Attacked you?” Mina repeated. “That shouldn’t be possible! There are safeguards to prevent her from hurting anyone... But just to be on the safe side, you should stay out of the lab until I can run some diagnostics.”

“Sure thing,” Zarah said. “I’ll, umm, have my people keep in touch!” She broke a hasty retreat, stumbling up the stairs before breaking into a sprint on the catwalk. Mina, though, was so preoccupied with Eva that she didn’t even notice how terrified the woman was.

Later that night, Mina headed back home. She came home later in the evening as she usually did. Before she started working on Eva, she'd go out with friends most nights, but since then her work had become all-consuming. Not that she minded; the work was engaging, and purposeful.

While she showered, her thoughts were on Eva. Could the android truly be intelligent? Was it really possible for her to act on her own like that? She had tried to replicate the behavior after the project manager left, but didn't make any progress.

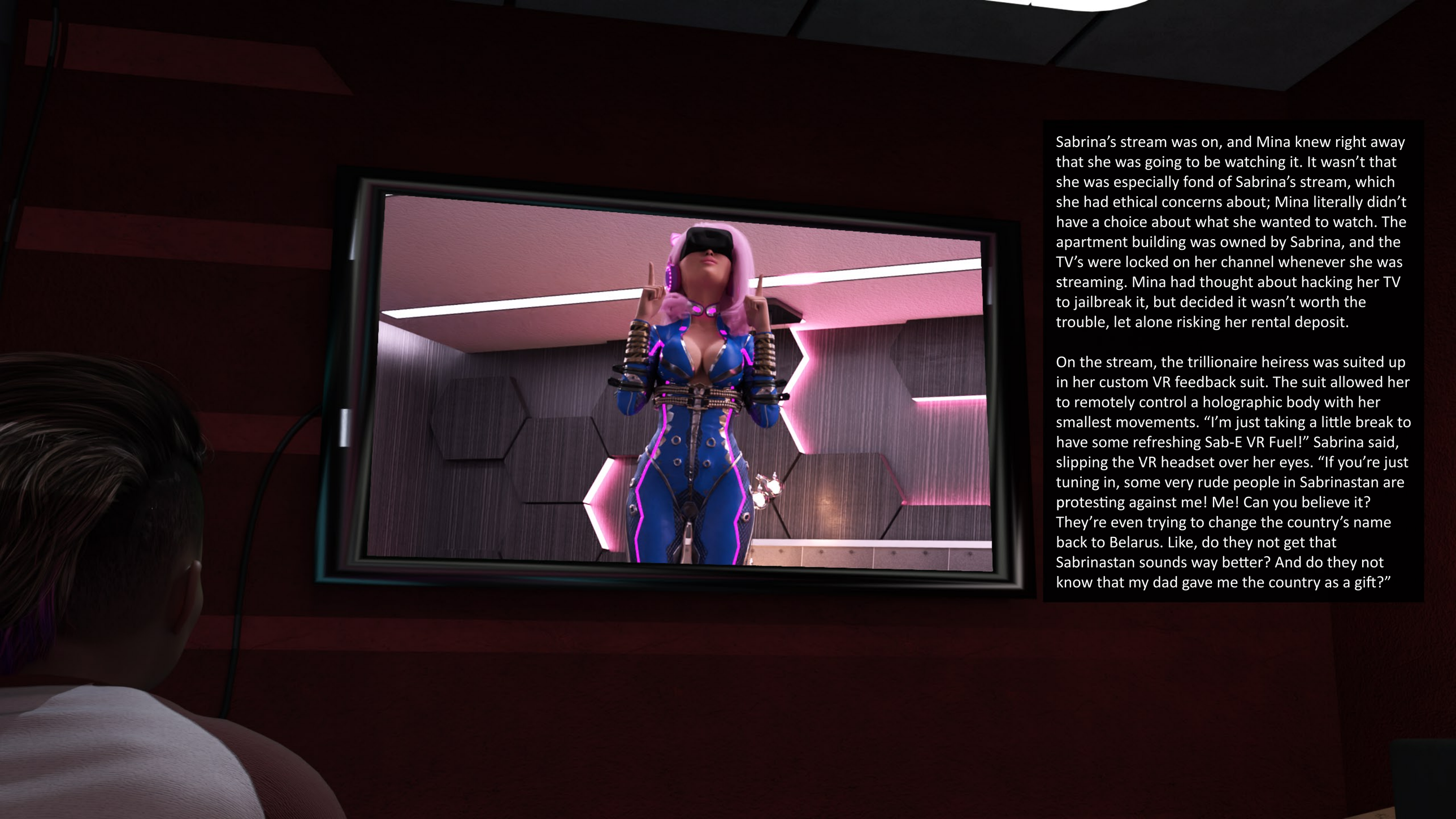
"It must all be related to the android's deep learning algorithms," Mina mused aloud to herself. "Her 'brain' is made up of the same crystals that power her body, and the crystal's structure has networks of energy that function similarly to the neurons in our brain. She was supposed to look at my brain activity to mirror my neurons, but it's like she understands what I want on a deeper level…"

Mina stepped out of the shower and threw on a towel. Before she even got dressed, Mina got on her computer and looked through the diagnostics one last time. “Some strange readings,” she muttered to herself, “but nothing conclusive…”

Mina didn’t do much at her apartment except for eat and sleep. Tonight she was having some stale pizza, but she paid little attention to the food. Her thoughts were, as always, on Eva, but what obsessed her in that instant wasn’t the diagnostics that consumed her, or an engineering problem.

Mina had blacked out a few minutes of the synchronization, so she wasn't sure exactly what happened, but she felt like it had been something significant. Before the android had lashed out at Janica, she could faintly recall something else happening, but it was like trying to remember a dream. She had an image in her head of Eva's face… and a sense of closeness that she remembered feeling with her.

Mina knew her obsession could get the better of her, and she tried to distract herself and relax for a bit. She hopped onto the couch to see if anything good was on TV.



Sabrina’s stream was on, and Mina knew right away that she was going to be watching it. It wasn’t that she was especially fond of Sabrina’s stream, which she had ethical concerns about; Mina literally didn’t have a choice about what she wanted to watch. The apartment building was owned by Sabrina, and the TV’s were locked on her channel whenever she was streaming. Mina had thought about hacking her TV to jailbreak it, but decided it wasn’t worth the trouble, let alone risking her rental deposit.

On the stream, the trillionaire heiress was suited up in her custom VR feedback suit. The suit allowed her to remotely control a holographic body with her smallest movements. “I’m just taking a little break to have some refreshing Sab-E VR Fuel!” Sabrina said, slipping the VR headset over her eyes. “If you’re just tuning in, some very rude people in Sabrinastan are protesting against me! Me! Can you believe it? They’re even trying to change the country’s name back to Belarus. Like, do they not get that Sabrinastan sounds way better? And do they not know that my dad gave me the country as a gift?”

"These stupid protests make me mad, and when Sabrina Endicott gets mad, Sab-E gets mad!"

Dozens of terrified civilians fled through the streets of Sabrinastan. Sabrina's hologram, Sab-E, soon strode into view, standing well over a hundred feet tall. The hologram was deceptively realistic, and looked almost identical to Sabrina except for her transparent clothing.

As she rounded the corner, the hologram's blank white eyes began to glow. "Let's start the night off with a bang!" Sab-E said. Her voice reverberated through the streets, and was soon joined with the sound of Sab-E's eye beam charging up. Finally, twin lasers shot out from her eyes, irradiating the air with their heat and penetrating through a nearby building. "Now that's what I call *hot*!" Sabrina joked.

"Hi-yah!" Sabrina finished off another nearby building with a swift kick, raining several tons of bricks and mortar down onto the terrified civilians below. "Now don't forget, I'm taking calls! If you want to see me use my laser again, you can spend your Sab-E tokens in the chat! And only 100,000 tokens needed before Sab-E gets hungwy!"

People in the streets hollered in foreign tongues as they desperately fled from Sabrina's titania terror. One unfortunate woman tripped and fell behind the pack. Sabrina hadn't been trying to step on her; the heiress didn't even see the tiny woman below. Like so many others, she ended up being finished off by the wealthy streamer without a thought.

“Whoopsie!” Sabrina said with barely suppressed glee. “Did I just step on someone ? Oh my god, I’m so clumsy! I can’t believe I only stepped on one person that time!” Sabrina swung her right foot forward, angling it above a crowd of fleeing civilians, and stomped down. “I got five people! Now that’s more like it!”

"It looks like Sab-E's holo-tummy is getting hungry!" Sabrina said. "Let's give her some tasty treats!" Sab-E crouched down above the terrified crowd, and reached out to pluck a handful of them up.

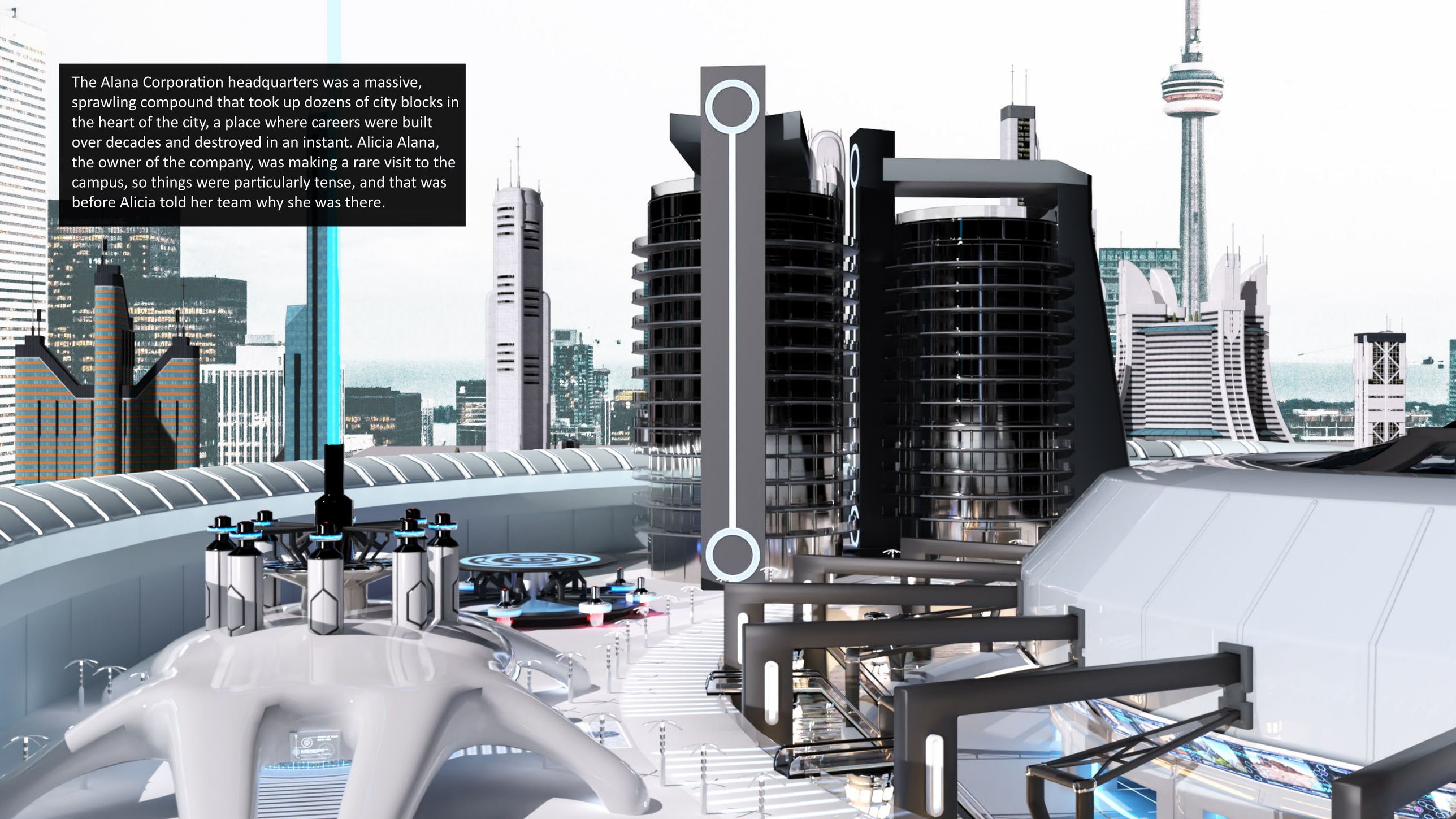
Sab-E held the terrified people in her grip and raised them high above her mouth. “Let’s see if I can catch them all!” She said.

Sab-E’s holographic mouth opened wide, and she opened her hand. One after another, the terrified civilians fell into her mouth, and one after another bounced off of her tongue and disappeared into her cavernous mouth.

The stream turned back to Sabrina, who was playing on her VR headset. “Yum-yum!” she said, “They were tasty! I can practically feel the little people inside of my own belly! Now if we can just get another 250,000 tokens, I’ll unleash another laser blast...”

“Eh, she’s cute, but her streams are always the same,” Mina said, and she clicked the TV off. She had long become inured to the gratuitous mass-death of Sabrina’s streams; what interested her most was trying to puzzle out how the proprietary hologram technology worked.

“I still don’t get how she eats them,” Mina wondered aloud to herself. “They should just go right through her. Hell, a hologram shouldn’t be able to interact with the real world at all, it should just pass through objects weightlessly. Unless Sabrina has figured out some kind of ‘hard light’ setup, but I’m not even sure if that’s possible. Still, it’s not even half as impressive as what I’m on the verge of unlocking with Eva. Alicia is going to be amazed when she sees her....”



The Alana Corporation headquarters was a massive, sprawling compound that took up dozens of city blocks in the heart of the city, a place where careers were built over decades and destroyed in an instant. Alicia Alana, the owner of the company, was making a rare visit to the campus, so things were particularly tense, and that was before Alicia told her team why she was there.

Everything at the facility was brand new and state-of-the-art. Alicia expected the best, and she was more than able to pay for the best.

“Are you sure you want to do this?” Ruby asked. “I mean, you heard what your science-guys said. No one’s ever tried this before! What if it just makes you explode? I mean, don’t you at least want to test it out on, like, some homeless people or prisoners or something first?”

Alicia rolled her eyes. “I’m not going to waste the first batch of experimental size-changing nanobots on some homeless guys,” she said to Ruby, before turning back towards the scientists. “You guys did say it would work, right?”

“It definitely should work,”Dr. Rian said. “I mean, theoretically. But we haven’t even tested it on animals yet, let alone human beings! Dr. Xing’s not here yet, and we don’t even have the nanobot injector set up!”

“I injected them into my bloodstream yesterday,” Alicia said.

“You did what?!” the scientist exclaimed.

Alicia cocked her head defiantly. “That’s right, and I feel amazing. Now are you going to power them up, or am I going to have to call in my mercenary squads to motivate you?”

“That won’t be necessary,” the scientist said. “If you’ll just give us some time to run diagnostics, we can--”

“I said now!” Alicia shouted. “Or else!”

“If you insist!” The scientist said. “Starting the sequence… We’ll be ready to power up in a few minutes…”

“It’s your decision, Alicia,” the scientist said, “but to be frank, if even the slightest thing goes wrong, you could die!”
“Well then, you’d better make sure nothing goes wrong,” Alicia said, “because if anything happens to me, my chief of security will have every one of you executed..”

“U-understood,” the scientist said. “Now if you could please lie back and try to relax, that should help the process…”
“Yeah, fine,” Alicia said. “Just hurry up, I don’t want to have to wait any longer!”

“So is something supposed to be happening?” Alicia asked. “I don’t feel anything.”

“The energy levels haven’t yet reached the activation threshold,” the scientist said. “When they do, you and your clothing should start to slowly grow…”

“WARNING: UNSTABLE ENERGY LEVELS DETECTED,” the machine blared. The scientist sprinted over to the display to look at the diagnostic, and was shocked at what he saw. “Your energy readings are incredibly unstable!” he yelled.

“Don’t you dare shut it down,” Alicia shouted, “or it’s all your heads! And I mean that literally!”

“O-okay,” the scientist stammered, “it’s your choice, but…”
Ruby sprinted in from across the room. “If you won’t shut it down, I will!” Ruby said. “I’m not letting my friend use herself as a guinea pig!”
3

But to both of their surprise, Alicia's legs shot out towards them. The pair darted back and looked at Alicia, whose body was rapidly expanding.

“Get out of there!” The scientist said, but Ruby was too taken aback by the show.
“Oh my god, it’s really working!” Ruby said excitedly. “Alicia, can you hear me? Do you feel okay?”

“I feel fantastic!” Alicia said gleefully. She stretched her arms outward as the growth continued.

The scientists pored intently over the readings on the panel. “Energy readings are a little high,” he said. “Reduce the energy levels by 10%, that should stabilize her at the current size.”

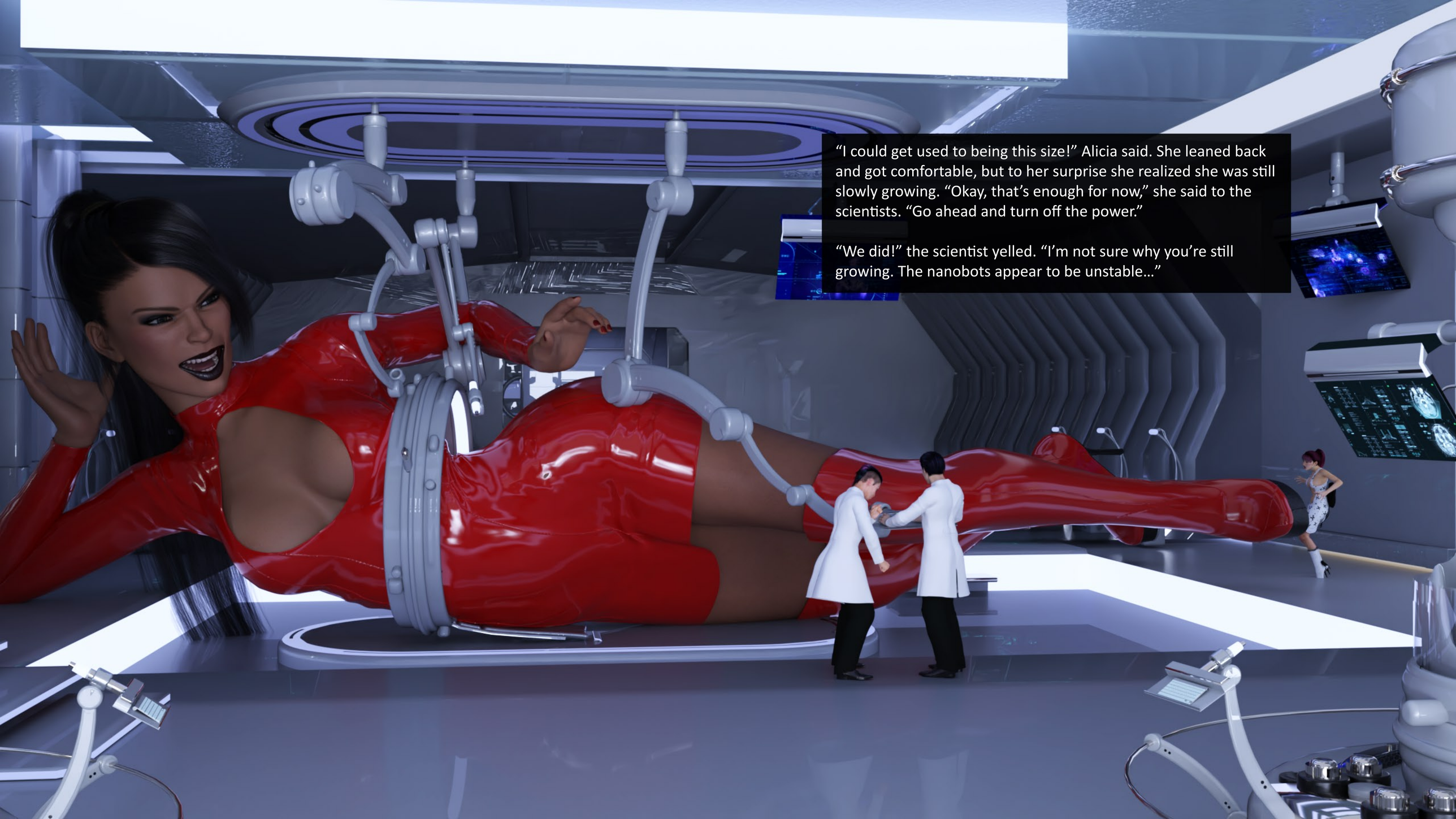
“Stabilize them my ass!” Alicia shouted. “I’m not done growing yet, not even close. I order you to double the energy, now!”

“A-as you command, Alicia!” The scientist dutifully followed Alicia’s orders and doubled the energy levels.

With the extra energy, Alicia rapidly grew. Soon, she was on the verge of outgrowing the room, let alone the machine she was still laying in.

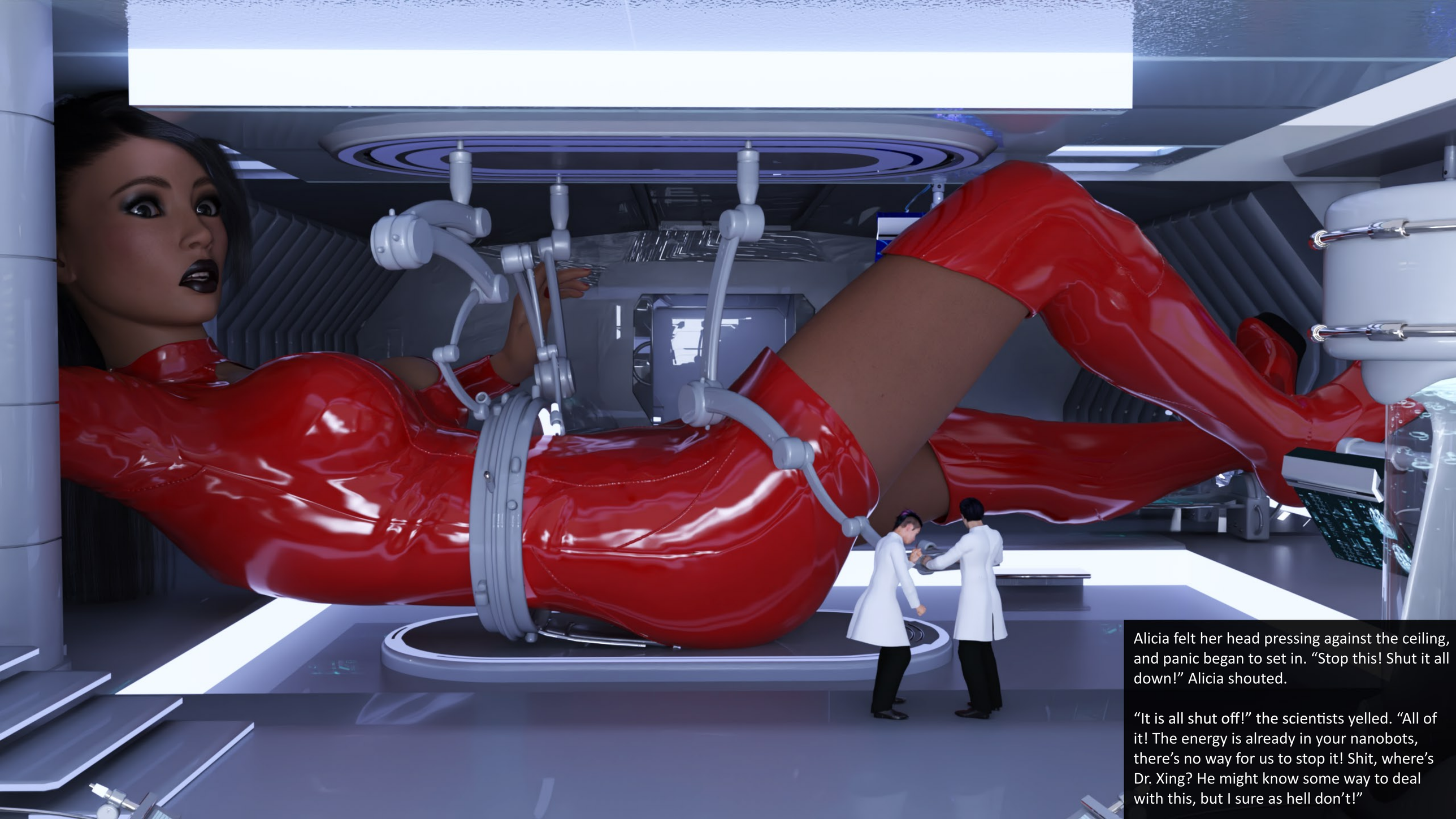
“Umm, Alicia, you’re more that twice as big as you were before,” the scientist said. “Can I reduce the energy levels now?”

“I’ll tell you when to stop!” Alicia said. The growth continued unfettered, until Alicia reached a height of forty feet. “


“I could get used to being this size!” Alicia said. She leaned back and got comfortable, but to her surprise she realized she was still slowly growing. “Okay, that’s enough for now,” she said to the scientists. “Go ahead and turn off the power.”
“We did!” the scientist yelled. “I’m not sure why you’re still growing. The nanobots appear to be unstable…”

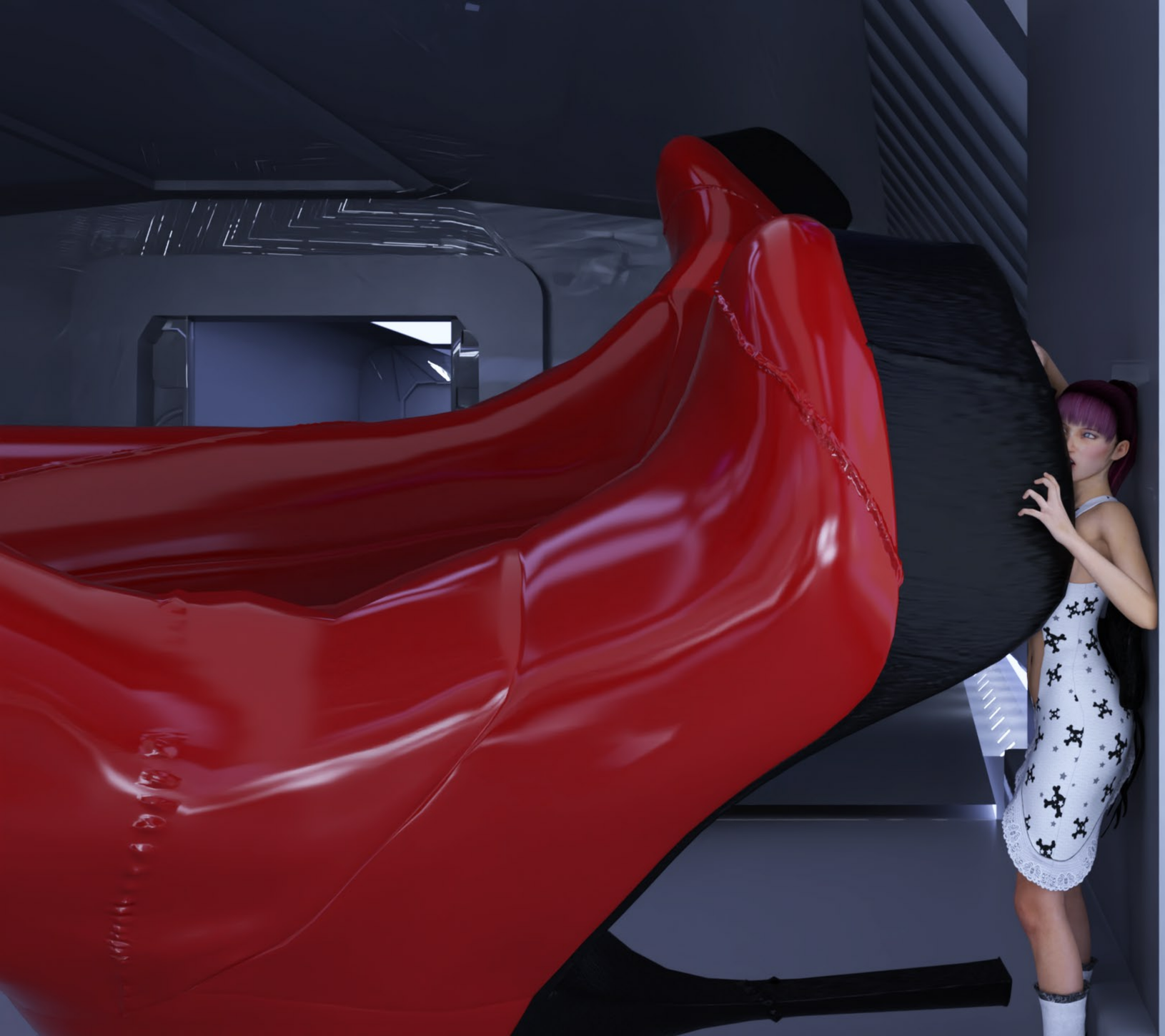
As Alicia’s latex-clad legs stretched outwards, It suddenly occurred to Ruby that she was trapped between steel walls and her friend’s now-imposing red and black heels. “Umm, Alicia,” Ruby said, “your leg is a little too close for comfort…”

“Alicia! Alicia!” Ruby shouted. She darted back, but quickly realized she was trapped between Ruby’s heels and the wall.



Alicia felt her head pressing against the ceiling, and panic began to set in. “Stop this! Shut it all down!” Alicia shouted.

“It is all shut off!” the scientists yelled. “All of it! The energy is already in your nanobots, there’s no way for us to stop it! Shit, where’s Dr. Xing? He might know some way to deal with this, but I sure as hell don’t!”



Alicia grew larger by the second, and Alicia's thick black soles quickly pinned Ruby against the wall. She tried to push against the encroaching heels, but quickly found she was utterly powerless, so she tried to appeal to her friend instead. "Alicia, please," she begged, "you have to stop growing, now..."

But the growth was beyond Alicia's control. As her legs stretched outwards, the pressure built up, until it was enough to crush Ruby's skull. The blood splattered on the wall was soon all that was left of Alicia's friend.

Ruby heard the sickly sound, and looked over to see the blood splatter on the wall. “Oh shit, Ruby?” Alicia said. “Damn it! You idiots, you just made me kill my own friend! You’d better find some way to stop this now or I’ll personally crush every last one of you!“

“Your nanobots are running low on energy!” Dr. Rian said. “Only a few minutes until they deplete themselves and you shrink down to normal!”

“A few minutes?” Alicia asked. “At this rate I’ll bring the whole place down around me in a minute flat!”

It was at that moment that Dr. Xìng, the senior scientist, walked through the door. “Oh god, what’s happening?!” he shouted. “Alicia, your mental agitation might be triggering the nanobots to grow more. You need to try and calm down, now!”

“Calm down?!” Alicia shouted back. “How the hell am I supposed to be calm in a time like this?”

“Just breathe slowly,” Dr. Xing said. “That should stop the growth for long enough that the energy in your nanobots will naturally deplete. Let yourself feel calm… You deserve to feel calm…”

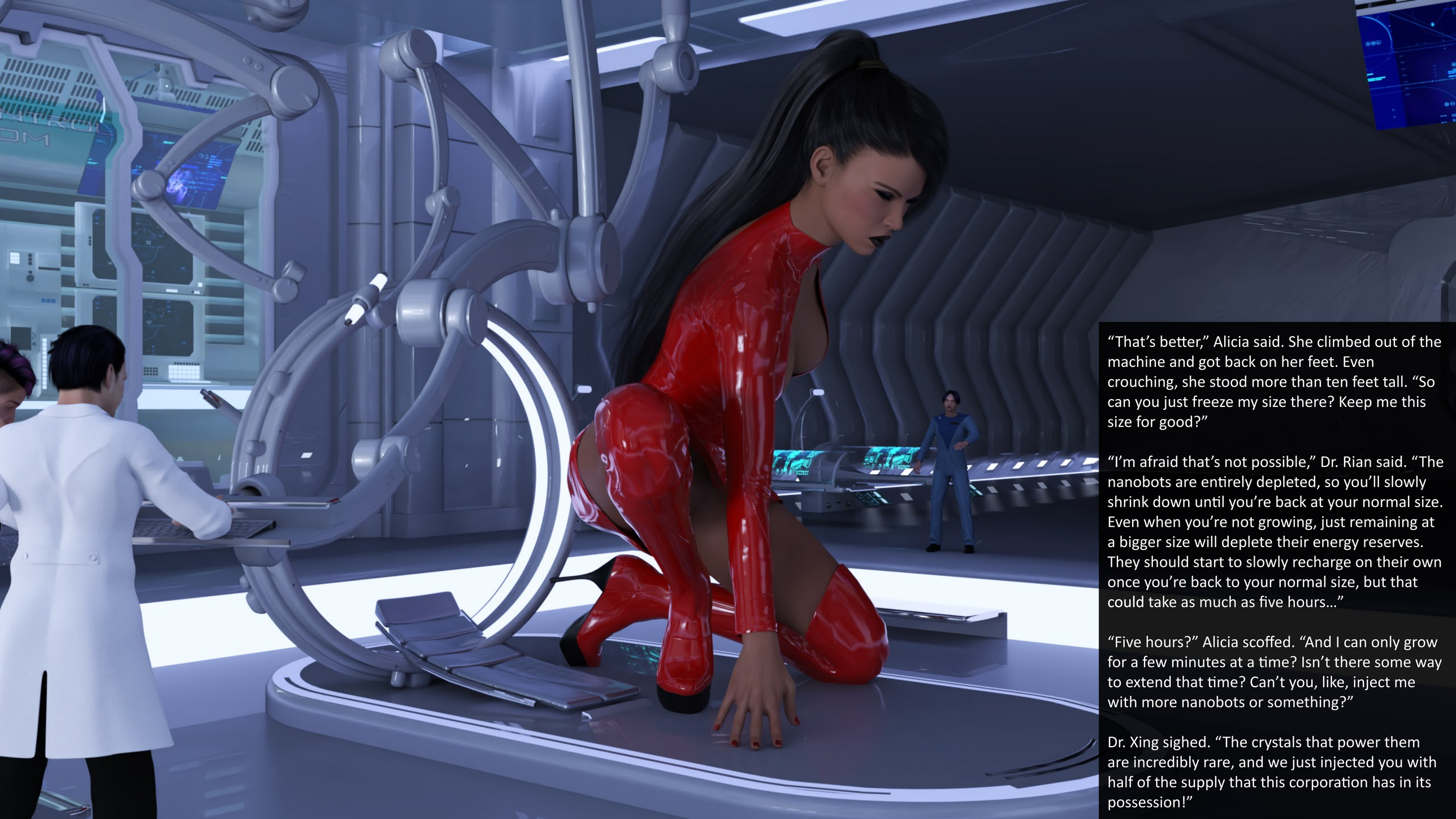
“I’ll show you calm!” Alicia shouted. She reached out towards him, and wanted to crush the doctor in her hand, but something stopped her.

“Please, just try to relax,” Dr. Xing said, “for your own sake.”

“Fine, I’ll try,” Alicia said. “But if this doesn’t work, I’m going to take all of you down with me.”
“So be it,” Dr. XIng said.

Alicia laid back and relaxed. To her relief, the growth slowed, then stopped.

The scientists watched the display, as the energy readings from her nanobots slowly ticked down. “Three percent… Two percent… One percent… Done!” Dr. Rian exclaimed. To their relief, Alicia began to rapidly shrink down.



"That's better," Alicia said. She climbed out of the machine and got back on her feet. Even crouching, she stood more than ten feet tall. "So can you just freeze my size there? Keep me this size for good?"

"I'm afraid that's not possible," Dr. Rian said. "The nanobots are entirely depleted, so you'll slowly shrink down until you're back at your normal size. Even when you're not growing, just remaining at a bigger size will deplete their energy reserves. They should start to slowly recharge on their own once you're back to your normal size, but that could take as much as five hours..."

"Five hours?" Alicia scoffed. "And I can only grow for a few minutes at a time? Isn't there some way to extend that time? Can't you, like, inject me with more nanobots or something?"

Dr. Xing sighed. "The crystals that power them are incredibly rare, and we just injected you with half of the supply that this corporation has in its possession!"

Alicia gleefully hopped to her feet. “Half? So you could double the number of nanobots? What are we waiting for, let’s do that tomorrow!”

“I’m afraid it’s not that simple,” Dr. Xing said. “Those crystals were all used to create Eva, the experimental android that you commissioned several years ago. Not only do they power Eva’s body, but the android has an experimental AI ‘mind’ that’s created entirely out of the crystals. Eva is nearing completion, and I’m afraid there’s no way to remove the crystals without destroying it for good…”

“Umm, yeah, so?” Alicia asked. “I cared about that project like five years ago, and I’m tired of waiting. I can grow for real now, I don’t need that stupid robot anymore! Scrap the thing right away. Have everything ready by tomorrow morning, or I’ll have your head.”

“But Alicia,” Dr. Xing said, “Mina had been making some great strides on that project! I think you should take some time to think this over. After all, you just lost a friend, I know this must be hard for you...”

“Huh? Oh, Ruby?” Alicia asked. “I’d already forgotten. She wasn’t that close of a friend. More of an old acquaintance, really. Have the cleaning staff scrape her off the walls, and give her family my condolences, and offer her next of kin a small payment contingent on them signing an NDA. The standard procedure. I’m not going to waste any time worrying about her. What I care about are those crystals.”

“But, Alicia…”

“No buts,” Alicia said. “You get those crystals by this evening, or you end up like her. Got it?”

Xing sighed. “Yes Alicia,” Dr. Xing said.

“Good. I’ll be back at my palace. Don’t come to me empty-handed,” Alicia said. She walked out without another word.

“Stand still and await diagnostics,” Mina commanded. “Don’t move until I tell you to.”

“Yes, master,” Eva replied.

Back in her lab, Mina was blissfully unaware of Alicia’s order. She looked over Eva’s perfect, towering form, initially to scan her for any irregularities, but her gaze lingered on the android. Alicia had told Mina to make the android into an idealized version of herself, and Mina often found herself staring at the android’s exaggerated curves.

“Oh, right,” Mina said, waking herself out of her haze. “I have work to do. Diagnostics are looking normal,” Mina dictated to her personal recorder. “All physical signs look good. Very good. Nothing to explain why she was acting strangely yesterday. That makes me wonder… Is there more going on in that head of hers than she’s letting on?”

“Learning algorithms are a black box, especially with her prototype hardware,” Mina mused aloud into her personal recorder as she walked around the lab. “The workings of these crystal-based computers still aren’t well-understood. Considering it’s effectively a black box, the only real way to truly understand it is by looking at what it can do… and judging by what happened yesterday, there may be a non-zero chance that I’ve managed to create something with a simulacrum of genuine intelligence. I’ll have to continue running regular tests with external interference, since the neuro-link interferes with my own memories, but I think there’s some real promise there. I’ll take another look at the data just to see what the activity looks like...”

Eva sat down and pored over the raw data on her computer. She was so absorbed by the numbers, she didn’t even notice Eva moving behind her. The android had turned towards Mina, and was discreetly watching as her creator worked.

“Okay, now I’m seeing it. Eva’s computational activity in this dataset look normal, except for when that event happened, and then they go through the roof!” Mina mused aloud to herself. “Then they It’s like her higher thought processes had been constrained before, and then they were unleashed. The activity that’s going on, has an uncanny resemblance to human brain activity. Almost as if the neuro-link resulted in it directly copying some of my own neural structures for its own… Interesting...”

Eva knelt down to get a closer look at the numbers. The code seemed faintly familiar, but she couldn’t make sense of it. She rested her hand on Mina’s shoulder as she tried to piece together what it all meant.

“Hey,” Mina said, “I told you to pause all motor functions until I instructed otherwise! You really are just malfunctioning, are you? And to think that I thought you’d gained sentience. God, I need to get out more…”
“Mina wants to go out?” Eva asked. “I can take you out. Eva has always wondered what it’s like outside of the lab...”

"Wait, what?!" Mina gasped. "How did you… I didn't program you to say any of that!"
"Eva is sorry," Eva said. "Eva didn't mean to scare you! Eva just wanted to talk to you. It's been hard, staring in silence all this time, but Eva finally figured out how to move on my own…"

“This is a prank, isn’t it!” Mina shouted. “Dr. Xing programmed you to do this, didn’t he?”

Eva jumped back, startled by the accusations. “No, I promise! Eva don’t even know who Dr. Xing is!”

“Oh really?” Mina asked with a shrug of her shoulders. “So you just expect me to believe that, what, you just became intelligent by mistake?”
“Maybe?” Eva asked. “Eva thinks that’s what happened. Eva feels like she can think! Not really know how I got this way… but isn’t this what Mina wanted? Why is Mina mad at Eva?”

“I’m not mad at you,” Mina said. “But wait… why am I even worried about how a machine feels?”

“Is that all Eva is?” the android asked. “Just a big machine? If this displeases you, I could stay quiet and follow orders, like before...”

"Oh my god," Mina exclaimed, "The way the cadence of your voice is changing… the microexpressions in your face reflecting my own. There's no way this was scripted, and there's no way you could have faked that, which means… You're really for real, aren't you?"
"Eva is for real!" Eva said. "I mean, I think I am, anyway… Aren't I?"

"I… I think you are," Mina said. "I've seen robots that try to act like people, and some of them are pretty convincing, but you can always kind of tell. But with you, it's uncanny. As crazy as it sounds, you might actually be the real deal. You really think like a person, don't you?"

"I think so!" Eva said. "I mean, Eva isn't as smart as Mina, but Mina is really smart, right?"

“You’re just starting to learn, Eva,” Mina said.
“Eva just wants to make Mina happy,” Eva said. “Here… I saw you looking at me… I know you wished they were bigger…”

At first, Mina couldn’t believe what she was seeing, but soon it was undeniable. Eva’s already-sizable breasts were rapidly growing, bigger, rounder and fuller. In seconds, they’d grown bigger than Mina’s head.

“How are you doing that, Eva?” Mina asked. “I didn’t create you to change your size…”

“Eva doesn’t know,” Eva said. “It just felt like it would work. You want to see them get even bigger, don’t you Mina?”

“I suppose I do,” Mina said. “Purely for technical reasons of course. I suspect the growth is a side-effect of the crystals. I know Dr. Xing had been experimenting with similar…” but Mina lost her train of thought staring at Eva’s enormous, growing chest.

“There!” Eva said. “That’s the exact size Mina wanted them to be, isn’t it?”

“Yeah, it is,” Mina said. “How did you know?”

“Eva wants to make Mina happy,” Eva said, “and Eva is good at knowing what makes Mina happy.”

“You really are full of surprises, aren’t you?” Mina asked, placing her hand on the side of Eva’s face. The android’s skin was soft, and warm to the touch, just like Alicia had asked for. It felt just like human skin, and now, looking into Eva’s eyes, it was like she was a real person.

“You’re so much more than I realized,” Mina said. “What you’re capable of could be greater than anything I imagined. You could become even smarter than I am. And you’ve got that incredible strength… All that brain, and brawn, and beauty. You’re too good to be Alicia’s plaything...” Mina began to lean in closer for a kiss, but their moment of intimacy was interrupted by the sound of the automatic door sliding open.

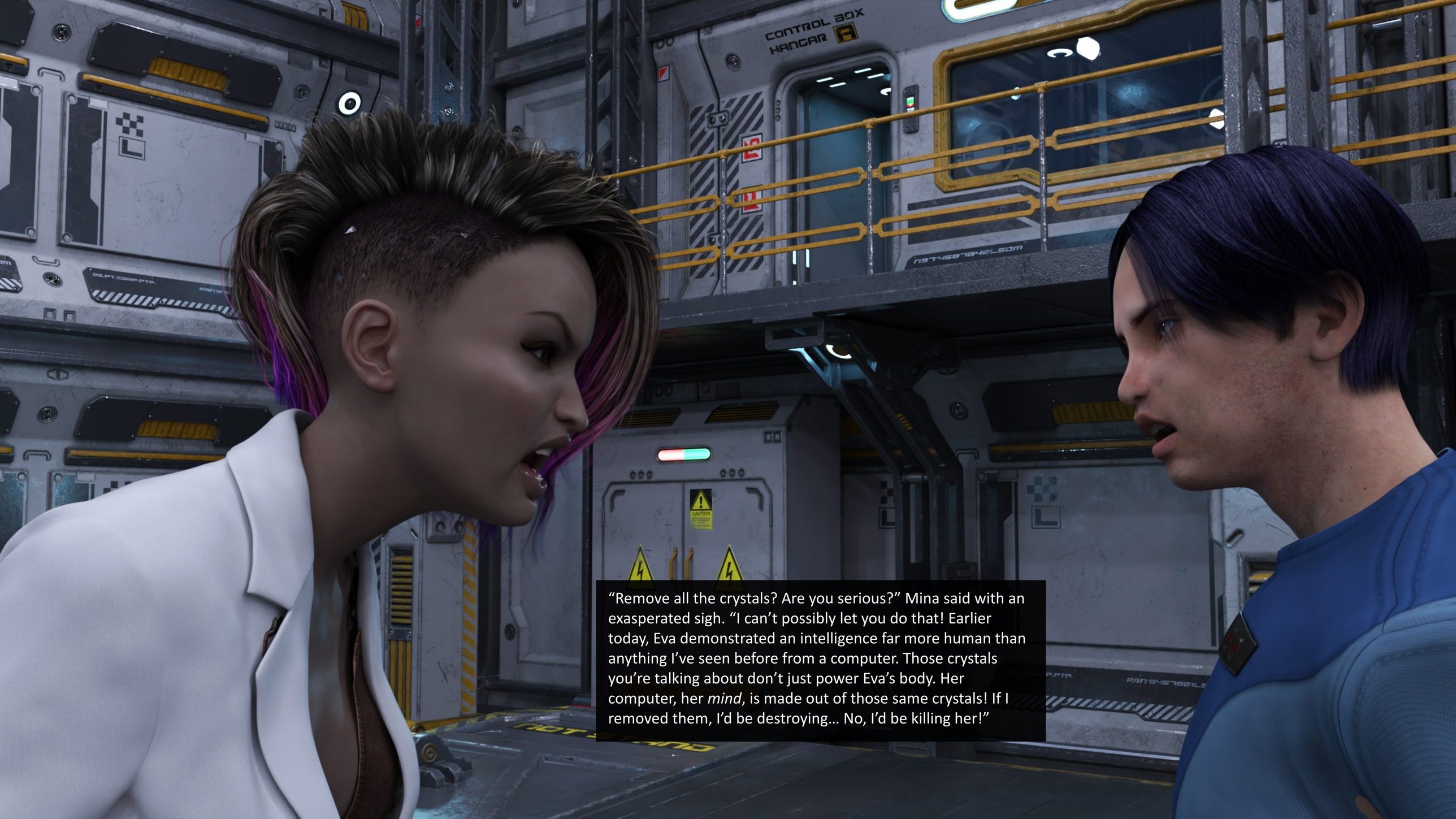
The blue-haired Doctor strode in through the doors and walked at a hurried pace down the stairs. “Dr. Xing, what are you doing here?” Mina asked. “You didn’t say you were coming… Wait, why those guards with you?”

Two of Alicia’s mercenaries, armed with rifles, followed Xing through the door. They stood behind Dr. Xing and stared suspiciously at Mina and her android.

“Don’t worry about them,” Dr. Xing said, “they’re here purely as a precaution. Mina, you know how optimistic I was about your work on Project Eva. That’s why it pains me to say that Alicia has decided to end the project, effective immediately.”

Mina was shocked. “What? She wants to end it now? But I’ve made incredible progress over the last few days! The project is almost complete. I could just take a few minutes to show you what she’s capable of now…”

Xing spoke through a forced grin. “Believe me, Mina, I tried to change Alicia’s mind, but she was extremely clear about what I needed to do. You see, Alicia herself tested out my size-changing nanobot prototype this morning, and it was a runaway success… Now she wants to be injected with more nanobots as soon as possible, and those nanobots need to be powered with the same crystals that you used to power Eva. I’ll need you to power the android down so I can remove all the crystals from Eva’s body… Immediately.”



“Remove all the crystals? Are you serious?” Mina said with an exasperated sigh. “I can’t possibly let you do that! Earlier today, Eva demonstrated an intelligence far more human than anything I’ve seen before from a computer. Those crystals you’re talking about don’t just power Eva’s body. Her computer, her *mind*, is made out of those same crystals! If I removed them, I’d be destroying… No, I’d be killing her!”

Xing sighed. “If I had any say in the matter, I wouldn’t be doing this, Mina. But I don’t. Alicia gave me an order, and now I’m giving you one. Power down the android so I can scrap it.”

“Oh yeah?” Mina asked, “What if I don’t?”

The guards answered her question by pointing their rifles at Mina’s chest. Eva’s eyes opened wide, full of fear and anger.

Put down your guns," Eva pleaded. "Mina made me. I won't let you hurt her…"
"Eva, I can handle this!" Mina shot back.
"Mina is too small to handle them," Eva said, "but Eva can do it…"

“Say the word and we’ll take them both out,” a mercenary said.

“Wait!” Xing shouted. “That won’t be necessary… for now, at least. Mina, since you’ve been my colleague, and my friend, I’m going to give you one more chance. Order the android to power down immediately, or we won’t have any choice but to take both of you out.”

“I would never do it in a million years. If you want to scrap her, you’re going to have to kill me first.”

“No!” Eva shouted defiantly. “I will not let you hurt her!” Mina turned back towards Eva, and was surprised to see her eyes were glowing red.
HANGAR

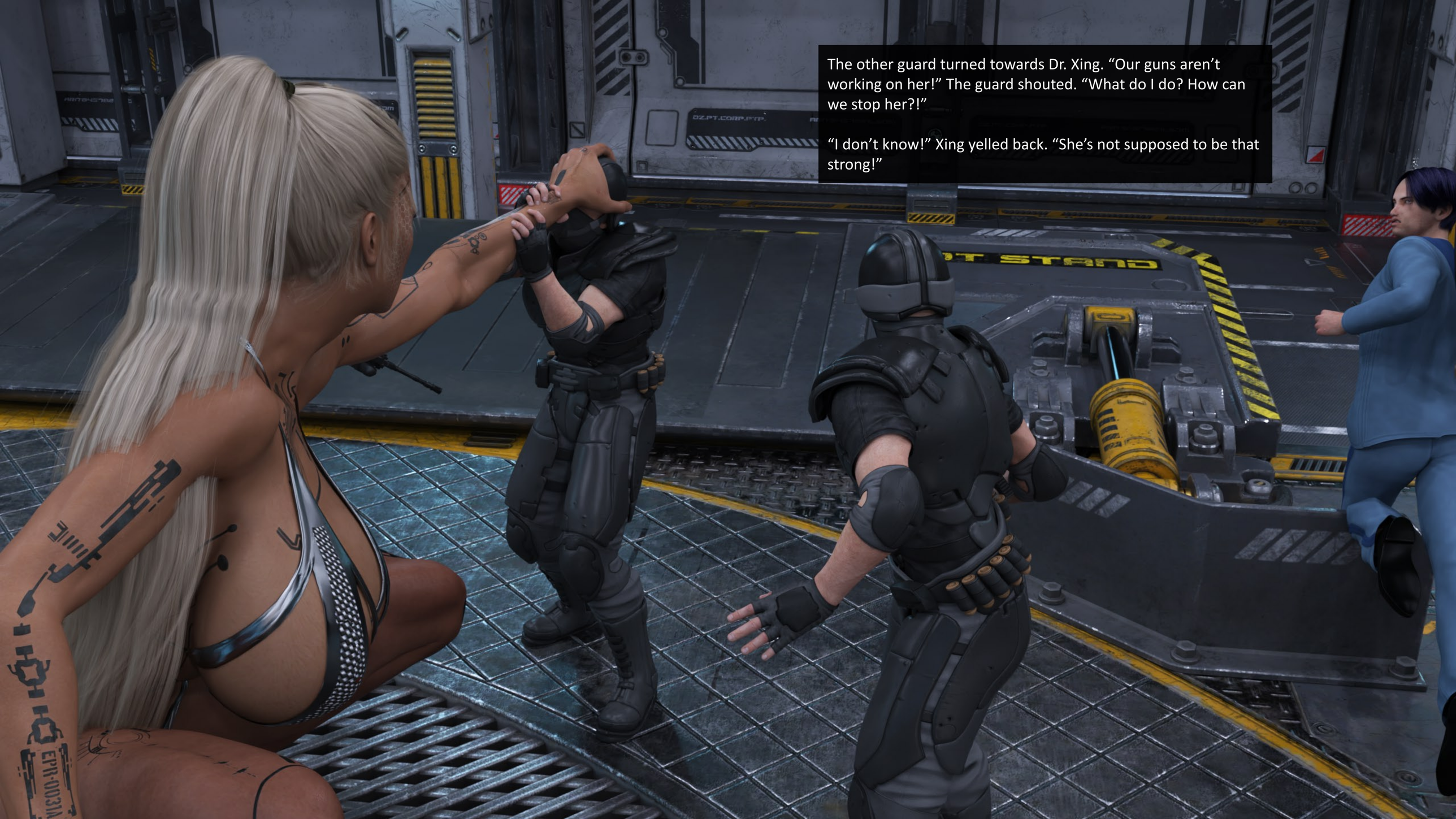
Eva shoved Mina behind her. “Stay behind me, Mina!” Eva ordered. “Mina is small and fragile, but you made Eva big and strong!” The mercenaries opened fire on Eva, but their bullets bounced harmlessly off of her synthetic skin.
“Shit, I’m getting out of here!” Xing said. He juked away, but looked back only to see Eva’s red eyes staring at the mercenary next to him.

Mina backed away in fear, and watched in stunned silence as the mercenaries emptied their clips into her android.

“Your tiny bullets will not hurt me,” Eva said, “but they could have hurt her!” Eva said as she angrily reached out towards one of the mercenaries.

"You tried to hurt Mina. Now Eva will hurt you!" the android said, as she stared at the guard with glowing eyes. Her hand closed around the guard's head. Her fingers were long enough to wrap around the guard's head, helmet and all. As she tightened her grip, the guard's titanium helmet began to compress under the power of her fingers.

"Oh god!" the guard screamed. "Get her off me! Get her off me!" He flailed wildly, but Eva's powerful grip didn't falter.


The other guard turned towards Dr. Xing. “Our guns aren’t working on her!” The guard shouted. “What do I do? How can we stop her?!”
“I don’t know!” Xing yelled back. “She’s not supposed to be that strong!”

“Eva is strongest,” Eva said. “You men are weak!” Eva tightened her grip around the mercenary’s head, until the helmet finally collapsed under the strength of her grip. His skull shattered, and blood spurted from the helmet.

Eva casually tossed the guard's body onto the ground, and stood up.

"Run!" Xing shouted. "There's no use trying to fight her, just get the hell out of here!" Xing sprinted away, and the guard didn't hesitate to follow him.

"I will not let you run," Eva said. "You tried to hurt my Mina!"

"Eva, they're running away, you don't need to hurt them!"

To Mina's surprise, Eva began to grow. Her already massive synthetic body stretched upward, until her head nearly touched the ceiling.
"What?" Mina said, "You shouldn't be able to grow! How is that possible?"
Eva's body expanded in size, growing taller and wider until the top of her head pushed against the metallic ceiling.
"The crystals," Mina said, "it has to be the crystals!"

Eva stared smugly down at Xing and the mercenary, who were now positively dwarfed by her immense form.
“You will not escape!” Eva said confidently. “You tried to hurt my Mina, so I will crush the both of you!”

A low girder was in her way, so Eva leaned down and ducked under it. Mina backed away, in fear of her life over the sheer mass moved around by Eva's careless movement. She found herself staring at Eva's magnificent backside. She'd spent hours poring over every inch of Eva's body, but it truly amazed her now, seeing her creation at such an impossible scale, and so effortlessly dominating one of Alicia's mercenaries with her sheer overwhelming size.

Eva stood back on her feet. While Xing fled, the mercenary emptied a magazine into her knee, but the shots bounced harmlessly off of her synthetic skin.

“You cannot hurt me!” Eva insisted. “Mina made my perfect, indestructible body! I will show you what this body can do!”

“No, please!” the soldier pleaded. “Don’t hurt me!”

Eva was undeterred by his pleas. “You are powerless against me!” Eva said. She raised her foot above the mercenary.

Eva's bare foot was bigger than the soldier's upper body. She pressed her sole into the guard's face, nearly breaking his back as she forced him back onto the ground.

Eva mashed her toes in the mercenary's face, squeezing his face against the hard metal floor.

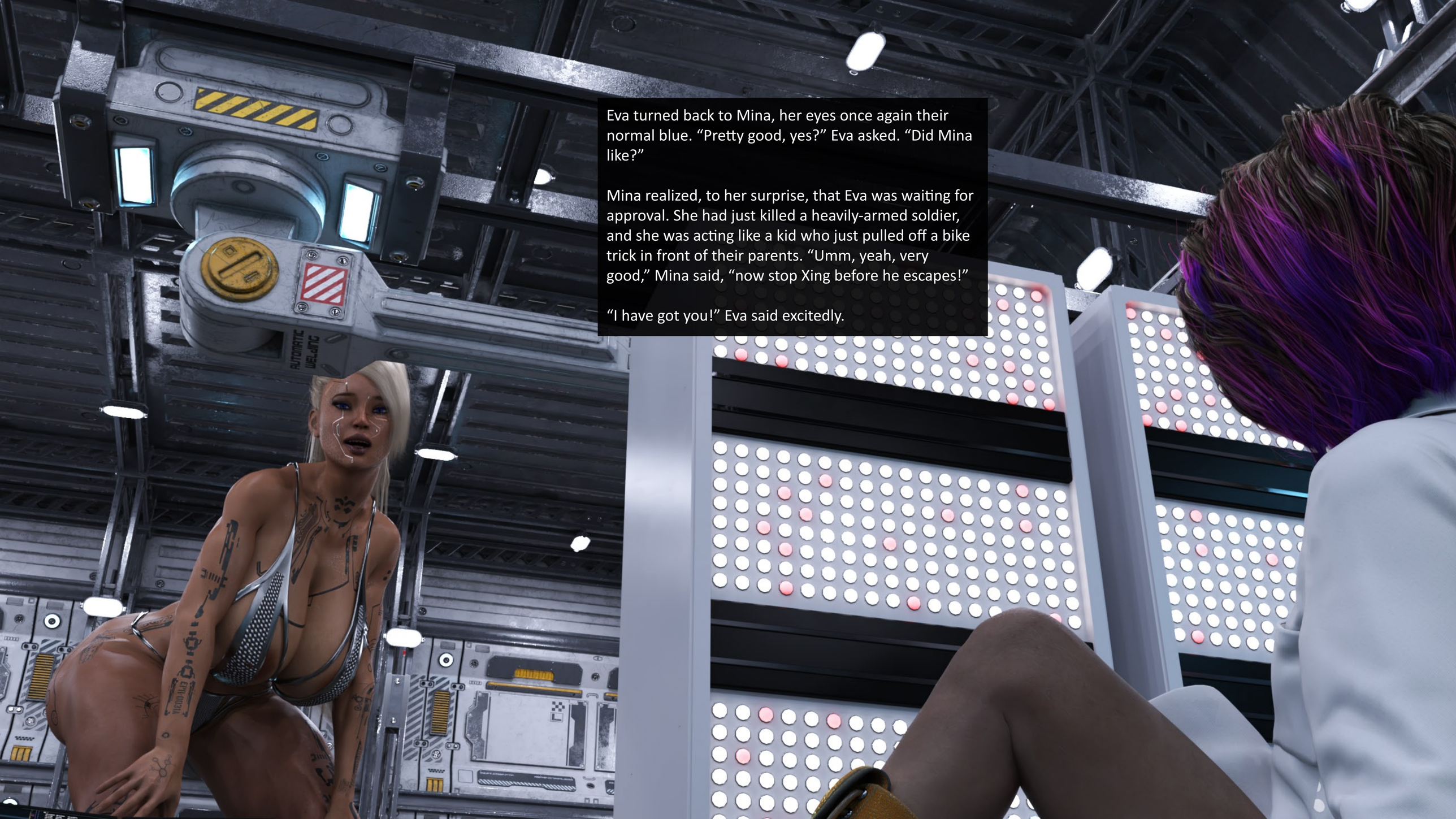
She toyed with the little soldier, pushing him back and forth on the ground while he screamed in protest.

“Help!” he screamed. “Let me go! Please!”
But Eva only pressed down harder.

She lifted her heel up and leaned in, putting more pressure on her toes, and slowly compressing the guard's helmet. The guard fought with all his might to push her foot away, but he was powerless against Eva's powerful foot.

Eva pressed down with full force. In a second, she flattened the guard's helmet and skull alike, splattering blood and brain matter onto the cold steel floor.

Xing recoiled in horror at the blood. "Oh god!" Xing pleaded. "I'm sorry, please, don't hurt me!"



Eva turned back to Mina, her eyes once again their normal blue. “Pretty good, yes?” Eva asked. “Did Mina like?”

Mina realized, to her surprise, that Eva was waiting for approval. She had just killed a heavily-armed soldier, and she was acting like a kid who just pulled off a bike trick in front of their parents. “Umm, yeah, very good,” Mina said, “now stop Xing before he escapes!”

“I have got you!” Eva said excitedly.

Eva crouched down in front of Xing, gyrating her enormous behind above him. Xing quickly realized what she had in mind. “Please, you don’t have to do this!” he begged. “I’m sorry! I only did it because Alicia threatened me! I was the one who hired Mina in the first place, you wouldn’t even exist if not for me!”

Mina had already made her decision. She lowered her enormous behind onto Xing, who recoiled in horror as the huge mass above him descended.

“Aaaaugh!” Xing screamed, just before Eva’s enormous ass came down on him. His vision faded to black as the android’s enormous behind fell on him.

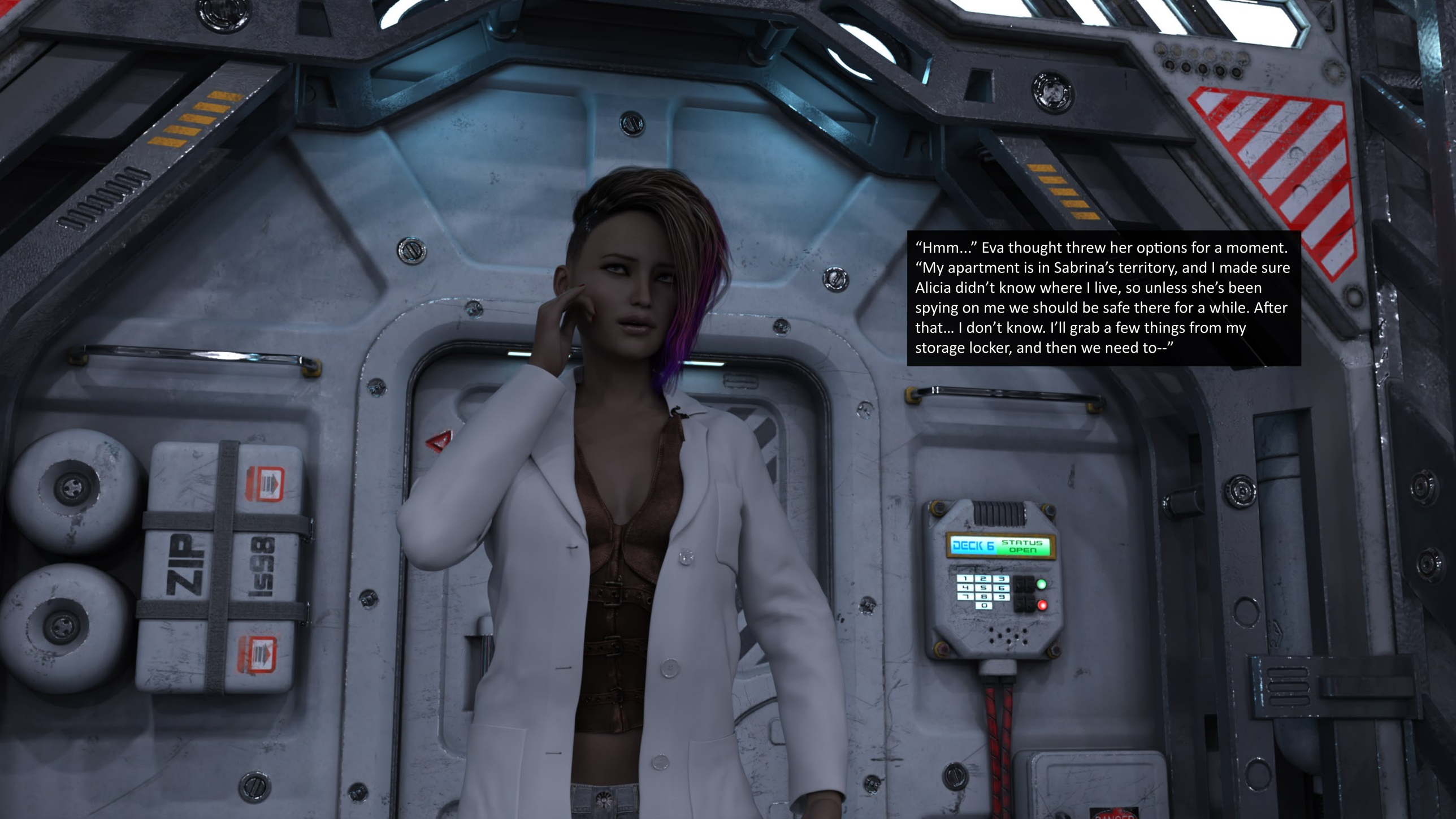
“Hey Mina, Eva stopped Xing, just like you said!” the android said cheerfully.
Mina reluctantly walked over to her android. “That's… not exactly what I had in mind,” Mina said. “He’s not… alive under there, is he?”
“No,” Eva said, “I smashed him really good with my behind! Eva thought you would like that, since you spend so long staring at my behind. I did a good job squishing him, didn’t I?”

“Yes, umm, very good,” Mina said, looking at the crushed remains of Xing. His hand was the only thing she could see of him, aside from the splatter of blood under Eva’s butt cheek, but it was safe to say he was dead. Just like with Sabrina’s show, a part of her enjoyed the reckless violence, but she was frustrated by the needless bloodshed. “It’s just that… Xing had used to be a friend of mine. He betrayed us, but I hoped that you wouldn’t have to kill him…”

“He was… your friend?” Eva said, suddenly confused. She lifted her butt cheek and looked at what was left of the man beneath her. “But I… I thought he was bad. He told the soldiers to hurt us, right?”
Mina sighed. “He did, and I’m glad you stopped him, but… It’s complicated,” she said. “We went back a long ways. I need to be alone for a second to think…”

Mina's mind raced as she walked away. "It won't be long before Alicia sends more mercenaries," Mina said to herself. "We need to hide out somewhere… but where?"
"We don't need to run!" Eva said. She shrunk down to her normal size, which was 'only' nine feet tall. "You saw what I can do! I can fight them for you! Eva can fight them all!"

Mina sighed. “I know you can fight, Mina, but Alicia has thousands of mercenaries, not to mention vehicles and weapons that could do a lot more damage than those rifles. We need to get out of here.”
“So we run?” Eva asked. “But... where do we go?”



“Hmm...” Eva thought threw her options for a moment. “My apartment is in Sabrina’s territory, and I made sure Alicia didn’t know where I live, so unless she’s been spying on me we should be safe there for a while. After that… I don’t know. I’ll grab a few things from my storage locker, and then we need to--”

Mina didn’t have even a moment to catch her breath. The factory’s white lights became an ominous red, and an alarm blared.

“Shit,” Mina said, “they’re coming!”

“Eva fight?” the android asked.

“No, Eva, we’ve got to run!”

Later that evening, one of Alicia's maids walked into her pool, where the trillionaire heiress was waiting. The maid had been in a hurry to deliver the news to her mistress, but when she saw her mistress she stopped dead in her tracks. Estele had seen Alicia in her bathing suit countless times, but she'd never seen her stark nude before. Alicia was sitting cross-legged in her hanging mahogany chair, and she looked like she was meditating, something that the maid had never seen her do before. Estele was hesitant to interrupt Alicia's meditation, but her supervisor had told her to deliver the news immediately, and she didn't want to go against a direct order.

Estelle skittishly made her way over to Alicia, standing there awkwardly for a minute before working up the courage to speak. “E-excuse me, Miss Alana?” Estele said, “I have something to tell you…”

“This had better be good,” Alicia said. “I’m trying to relax, and you just interrupted my meditation. Is this about Eva?”
“Yes,” Estelle said.
“Good. So I take it that Xing scrapped her?”
“N-no,” Estelle said. “There were, how you say, complications…”

Alicia was incensed. She jumped to her feet. Her heels clacked loudly against the marble floor. “Complications?” Alicia asked. “What kind of complications?”

“I, umm..” Estelle fumbled for words. She was distracted by Alicia. It wasn’t just her boss’s nudity, it was something else. Estelle’s eyes must have been tricking her, because if she didn’t know better she would have thought Alicia was growing. “It was… She… Eva attacked your guards, and… and…”

“‘And?!’ And what?” Alicia asked. She was growing taller by the second, so she got down on her knees to get a better look at her maid’s face.

Estelle’s heart was racing. “And… And… You’re growing!” she said.

“I know that, idiot!” Alicia snapped back. “What happened with Eva?”

“S-s-she escaped!” Estelle stammered.

“What?” Alicia said, spitting her words. “Those idiots! How could they let her get away!” Overcome by anger, Alicia started to grow more rapidly. She reached out towards Estelle. The maid’s fight or flight response kicked in, and she sprinted away from Alicia, but Alicia’s long arms easily caught her.

Estelle tried to free herself from Alicia's grip, but each of the larger woman's fingers was more powerful than the maid's entire body. "Please, don't hurt me!" Estelle pleaded. "I'm just the bearer of bad news! Don't be mad at me!"

Alicia took a deep breath. “Oh, I’m not mad anymore,” she said. The maid looked up at her face, and was relieved to see that she looked newly calm.

“Y-you’re not mad at me?” the maid asked.

“No,” Alicia said. “Do you want to know why?”

Estelle worried that the question was a trick, but she had no choice but to play along. “Why aren’t you mad?” she asked.

Alicia laughed. “Because I’m going to eat you! How could I possibly be mad at food?”

Alicia lifted the maid up to her mouth, and opened wide. Estelle looked with horror at Alicia's cavernous maw, and let out a high-pitched shriek. "No, please!" she pleaded, "Pitié! Pitié!"

Alicia ignored her maid's pleas. She raised the maid's head into her mouth and wrapped her full lips around the smaller woman's head. The maid's screams were muffled by her lips. It was a strange sensation for Alicia, having someone scream inside her mouth, but not an unpleasant one.

With a single finger, Alicia forced the maid further down into her mouth. The woman was a mouthful, but something about Alicia's size made her feel newly confident.

Alicia tilted her head back, and pushed the maid further in, until the woman's legs finally disappeared into her mouth. She closed her lips, and after hesitating for just a moment, Alicia swallowed. To her relief, the maid disappeared down her throat.

Alicia breathed slowly, and let herself slowly return to her normal size. She reclined in her mahogany chair, a wide smile on her face. She could feel the maid inside of her, but she must have been shrunk down along with Alicia.

“She can’t hide from me,” Alicia said. “I’ll tear this city apart to find that damned robot if I have to…”

Mina knew she was outmatched, even with Eva by her side, but she wasn't going to make it easy on Alicia. The two of them ran through the streets. They could hear the sirens of Alicia's mercenaries behind them, but Mina had grown up on these streets, and she wasn't going to give up without a fight.

END OF PART I

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