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# OVERLOADED

*Author's note: physicists and electrical engineers, I'm so sorry for what you're about to read.*

Sparks and heat slashed at Fenn's face. His skin was used to such beatings, now singed and damaged beyond the point of being able to grow uniform facial hair. The flashes of fire from a welding torch would not faze him. Mechanical and steady, the cyborg worked to repair an underground generator. Wires as thick as his neck ran around him in a web. Recent repairs saw them ready to carry current once more.

A voice called out from above. "You almost done down there?? We have other jobs to get to today!"

Fenn glanced up at his friend, Aryl, through the access port. Soot and grease blended into his dark complexion. "You're free to come down and help if you want!" Mechanical grinding from the belly of the city nearly swallowed his words.

"No thanks! At least one of us needs to have all four original limbs!"

Fenn finished his welding minutes later. Like so many other tools, it folded back into his arm for later use. Spending an extended period of time in the depths of the city would be hazardous to any regular person. For someone like Fenn with seventy percent of his body made up of machinery, the environment was far more forgiving. Metal, gears, and hydraulics crafted his legs, a diagonal section of his torso, and his left arm.

"About time," Aryl teased when Fenn appeared at the hatch. He extended a hand to help his partner up.

Distant humming rang from the dark gray sky. Peering through a rusted hole in the metal roof, Fenn caught sight of a massive air freighter sitting among the clouds. Several smaller military craft circled around.

"They're still at it, huh?" Fenn asked.

"Something to look at other than smog at least." Aryl wiped his brow. "I've got the control panel rewired and reconfigured. Should have seen the rat's nest I had to clear out. Fuckers ran in every direction. Generator repaired?"

"Good to go," Fenn assured. His body clanged on the metal floor. "Should I fire it up?"

"Be my guest."

A cylindrical device like a cattle prod with a rounded end extended from a portion of Fenn's torso. He stepped forward to insert it into a small access point in the control panel.

"Fire in the hole!"

*KZZZZP!!!!*

*WHRRRRRRRR*

A shot of electricity was delivered to the structure. Beneath them, a generator came to life like a beating heart as the panel lit up.

"Nice work, Sparky," Aryl congratulated. "She's purring like a kitten! Hardly worth the three hundred units."

"It was low-hanging fruit. If we can snag five or seven jobs like this in a day, we might be able to upgrade our tools soon."

"What's wrong with the tools we got??" Aryl slapped Fenn on the back. "I've got the best bucket of bolts I could ho--"

A high-pitched whistle cut through the air above. Both recognized the sound of a falling projectile.

"*Hit the deck!!*"

Both laborers ran for cover in preparation for impact. It would be a shame to see their work ruined, but if they were lucky, they might live to make up for the loss.

*CRASH!!!*

*BOOM!!*

There was no explosion or rain of fire. A hole burst open in the metal roof moments before an impact threw a cloud of dust from the floor. The decrepit building shuddered from the force.

"Fenn? You good…?"

"I'm good…"

They rose and stared into the settling debris. In the glow of the repaired console, the silhouette of a girl showed through the dust.

*KZZP!!*

"*Nngh!!!*"

She swayed on her feet and clutched at her right shoulder after a burst of sparks flew forth. The dust finally settled to reveal her form. Short electric-pink hair fell in a mess over her eyes and two communication fins from either side of her head. With a pure mechanical body, she stood like a doll come to life. The open wound on her shoulder revealed top-notch electrical workmanship. She stared at Fenn with eyes full of anger and determination.

Aryl was the first to react. "*Fuck! It's a sentry!!*"

He made to flee but was shocked to see the girl run from the building with a stumbling gait. Their presence had left little impact on the robot, if any.

"*Fenn! We need to go! Where there's one, there's more!*"

"Did she look hurt to you?" Fenn asked slowly.

"So what if she was?? If a sentry is running from something, I don't want to stick around to find out what's chasing it!" Aryl gathered several tools while Fenn rose to his feet and stared at the hole the sentry had escaped through.

"Fenn! Let's go!"

The cyborg's conscience wouldn't let him forget the girl. Her eyes haunted him. "I think she needs help!"

"Then let the military come find their lost murder machine and--"

Fenn ran after her in a clanking stride.

"*Are you serious?!*" Aryl waited, only to see his partner leave the building without providing an answer. "*Dammit!* Guy has a screw loose."

Aryl reluctantly gave chase alongside Fenn. On the outskirts of the conflict-ravaged city of Vasik, it wasn't difficult to find the sentry as she weaved through rubble and fallen buildings.

Dark skies hung overhead with perpetual smog and poison. Neon lights on the tallest buildings permeated the choking clouds as the only sign of life in the distant city.

"Wait!" Fenn called out, gaining on the sentry.

"*Stay away from me!*"

*FWOOO--BOOM!*

A small explosion sent a lone ruin crumbling behind her as a means of escape. Fenn wasn't dissuaded, jumping through the dust.

"You're injured!" Fenn watched her duck between two buildings. The darkness of an alley swallowed her save for a shower of sparks from her back. "*We're trying to help!*"

Aryl huffed from the rear. "Fenn, maybe...she doesn't want help!"

"She's scared!"

They came upon the alley with Aryl gasping for air. "Can we...at least take a breather?? We don't all have robot legs! It's better to just let her be!"

"Shh, she's in here…"

*KZZP!!*

Frantic calls and grunts came from the darkness. "*Blyth…! Blyth, come in!*"

"She's trying to call for reinforcements! *Let's go while we still can!*" Aryl tried to persuade as Fenn entered after her.

"*Blyth! Please!! I'm down! I think I'm--*"

Rounding a corner, Fenn saw the sentry leaning against a brick wall attempting to communicate with an ally. A holographic display on her forearm revealed only static from the receiving end.

*KZZP!!!*

"*Aaugh!!*"

Her display went dark. Arms going limp, Fenn watched the sentry take several steps before slumping to the ground. Several rats scurried away when she collapsed. A large mass on her front caused her to roll onto her back, unconscious to the world.

"S...Slow down, would you?" Aryl begged. He came upon Fenn and the downed sentry. "Oh. Is she dead?"

They stared at the oddity. Larger than normal, the sentry's chest jutted from her body in large mounds. A warning indicator flashed by her collarbone.

Fenn shook his head. "No, but something is definitely wrong. Come on, grab an arm."

( . Y . )  ( . Y . )  ( . Y . )  ( . Y . )  ( . Y . )

Several miles away in an abandoned mechanic's shop they called home, Fenn and Aryl stood over the unconscious sentry. The ever-present warning indicator flashed on her chest. Disturbingly, her breasts had continued to swell in size.

"Are we sure she's military?" Fenn asked, staring at the strange robot.

"*Top-notch* military. See this brand on her arm?" Aryl turned her bicep over to reveal a shield and flame. "She's not just a sentry. She's a goddam *guardian*. She protects the kind of people who could press a button and have us all killed. She's meant to take a nuke and survive."

Fenn hummed and looked the girl over. A gaping hole in her shoulder showed like a missing piece ripped out by a claw. "Makes you wonder what did this to her…"

Aside from her wounds, the robot was the epitome of science. She would have appeared human from a distance, unlike Fenn, who was closer to a fragment of a human made whole again by spare parts from a junkyard. By design, all sentries were made female with semi-realistic anatomy.

"Want to stare a little harder at her nipples?" Aryl teased.

"It's hard *not* to stare, isn't it? They don't do anything… They're just...*there*."

Fenn never understood the reason behind giving them features such as nipples or simplistic genitalia. It certainly didn't make standing over her any less awkward. It felt as though they were ogling an unconscious naked young woman rather than a robot.

*SWEEEEEEELL*

"*Shit!*"

A surge in her breasts startled Aryl. Enlarging, they dominated the sentry's torso at twice the size of her head.

"She got bigger again," Fenn said nervously, always staring at the warning indicator. "Are they supposed to do that??"

"Well… Yes and no." Aryl kept his distance. "Those are her power reserves: her batteries. They're made of a gel that expands based on the amount of energy stored within them. So they're biggest when she's fully charged, and small when empty."

"But…?"

Aryl turned to a monitor linked into a port on her neck. "*But*, it looks like she's malfunctioning. Likely because of that wound… She's not releasing any of her plasma byproducts and it's building up in her energy stores. Using power actually makes them *grow*, but with it being garbage, it's likely poisoning her from the inside and stressing her components. They're not supposed to get that big."

Fenn shifted his weight with clanking gears. "I *think* I understand?"

"She has to drink water to stay alive, but she can't piss."

"Oh. Well what happens if--"

"*Boom.*" Aryl pointed at the growing robot. "She's constantly consuming with no outlet and bottling that energy up in the only place she can. If I had to guess, it reached a point where her systems forced her to shut down before they got any larger."

The warning light nagged at Fenn. "Can you do anything for her?"

"Well we could drain the energy manually, but it's only a temporary solution. It will just build up again. And by *we*, I mean *you*."

"*I* could drain it??"

"You're the wirerider with all the tech, not me! I'm just the brains. Plus you're the one who brought her home like some sick puppy."

Looking down, Fenn stared with sympathy. It looked as though her chest had grown larger while they talked. He could feel the heat radiating off her.

"Alright, how do I do it?"

Aryl stepped around to the other end of the table. "Well, if I'm not mistaken, there should be an auxiliary access port here." He spread her legs to show a minimal representation of the female anatomy.

"*Dude!*" Fenn looked away, blushing.

"Relax, she's powered down *and* she's a robot. I've seen you stare at *far more* accurate sex droids. You can either remove her plasma build-up, or we can toss her out before her batteries explode."

Fenn's pity was greater than his embarrassment. Joining Aryl between her legs, he activated a well-used discharge collector in his forearm and held it inches away from her pelvis. "So I just…"

"Yup, just like you would any other electrical discharge. You should be able to store it no problem and dispose of it later. You're designed to hold that kind of power; she's not."

The cyborg hesitated. "Can you at least look away?"

"Heh, what's the matter? Can't perform under pressure?" Chuckling, Aryl relented when Fenn's face remained flushed. "Fine, fine. Whatever makes you feel better!"

Feeling more private, Fenn continued. He'd been with human, cyborg, and robot girls before, though it was different performing such an act when she was shut down. An electric grease-lubed chute accepted his energy collector until it met resistance.

*WHRRRRRR!!!*

The sentry's bust started to recede. Fenn could feel massive amounts of energy flowing into his storage canister. It was difficult to believe such an amount could be dwelling within her chest. Watching it dwindle brought a strange sense of relief when it crossed into normal realms.

Aryl spoke up suddenly. "Oh, and she's probably going to come back online once her charge is back to a safe leve--"

"*WHAT?!*"

*BEEEEEP*

The sentry's eyes opened. Immediately sensing a foreign body inside her, she looked down to see two strangers standing between her legs.

"Uh oh," Aryl gulped.

Her legs reared back before thrusting forward with the strength of several horses to send them tumbling backward. Fenn had no hope of keeping his collector inside when faced with such an impact. They barely had time to come to a rest before she'd leaped from the table and perched herself on top of a large machine. She stared down with eyes like an eagle ready to strike.

"Hey hey hey! Easy!" Aryl called out, holding up his hands. Sentries were notorious for shooting first and asking questions later.

The sentry didn't waver. Cupping her crotch with her hand as she ran diagnostics, she demanded, "What were you doing to me?!"

"You mean other than saving your life??"

"What are you talking about?!"

Fenn interjected. "You're not releasing energy! I had to drain it before--"

"*Shut up! You were trying to--*"

*KZZZZZP!!!*

"*Auugh!!!*"

She clutched at her wound to quell a flood of angry sparks and flailing wires. The force was enough to knock her to the floor. Struggling to rise and hugging an arm across her chest, she saw it swell outward with energy.

"*D-Dammit… Not again!*"

Fenn ran toward her. "You're not in any shape to move around! The more energy you use, the bigger you'll--"

Her body audibly strained when she tried to get up. "I can...move just fine! *Out of my way!*"

The sentry made it only several steps before collapsing again. A warning light had returned to her chest to flash angrily.

"Is she overloaded again already??" Fenn asked his partner.

The sentry glared as if insulted. "*Overloaded?!* T-They can hold...much more than this!! I'm designed to carry massive amounts of--"

*KZZZZPPP!!!!!*

"*AAUUUGH!!!*"

She fell into a shuddering heap clutching her chest.

"You're designed to carry ionic energy, not an ocean of negative plasma."

Fenn was reluctant to extend a hand to the feral robot. "At least let us help you so you can stay standing… You won't get very far with that wound on your back."

Almost growling, the sentry stared up at the grimy laborers. They did not appear malicious, but trust was hard to find in the modern world. "...Fine."

Soon, small plumes of smoke and fleeing sparks rose from the sentry's back while Aryl did his best to repair the injury. Fenn sat across from her, overflowing with questions. She beat him to the punch.

"Where am I?" the sentry asked with a stony expression.

Fenn answered, "Sector six! Just on the outskirts of Vasik. Our shop is west of--"

"*Dammit.* I'm a whole sector off… No wonder Blyth is having trouble reaching me."

He picked sheepishly at a bit of rust on his knee. "Do you have a name?"

"Caia," she said shortly.

"I'm Fenn and that's Aryl."

"Yo."

Caia stayed silent, hardly reacting to their introduction.

"So… What happened to you? Was there a battle? We didn't hear any fighting or gunfire before you crashed."

"No, I--"

*KZP!!*

"*Easy back there!!*" she snapped.

Aryl waved smoke away. "Sorry! Sorry! I'm not exactly an expert on military tech…"

Turning back to Fenn, she reluctantly explained, "There wasn't a battle. I…deserted. I was tired of the fighting."

Aryl nodded. "Ah, so you had to remove your own homing beacon… That explains this gaping hole."

"...Yes…"

Aryl sighed and stood up. "Well, you managed to damage your electron processor too. I bypassed some safety mechanisms so you won't shut down when your power reserves get too backed up, but they're going to keep growing unless you get it fixed."

Caia stared down at her chest. It was already too large to fight effectively. Growing more engorged with energy would only hinder her further. "Great…"

"Can you fix it??" Fenn hoped.

Laughing, Aryl walked away. "An electron processor?! That's a top-of-the-line military component! The best I could do is fix any broken connections. She's not going to find anything to replace that unit in sector s--"

"*Shh!!*" Caia perked up like a cat and hushed the boys. Whispering, she asked, "Did we pass any cameras when the two of you dragged me here?"

"There might have been one or two, but most of the cameras around here are busted or--"

Something crunched in the dirt outside.

"*GET DOWN!!*"

Caia lurched from the chair and grabbed each of them by the neck before pulling them to the ground. Not a second later, the back wall of their shop exploded in a hail storm of stone and metal. Several military police bots ran through the debris cloud with weapons drawn.

"*There she is!*" the leader said. "*Shoot to incapacitate!*"

*PARATATATATATATATATA!!!*

A flurry of electrically charged bullets rained upon the trio. They may not have been aiming to kill Caia, but Fenn and Aryl couldn't help but feel as though they were considered acceptable losses.

"*Nnngh!!!*" Aryl grunted while covering his head. The grunt of pain was lost on Fenn among the chaos. Hardly daring to watch the scene, he marveled at Caia's actions.

The sentry ran towards the military police in a blur of fluid-like motions. Her footsteps traveled so fast his eyes couldn't keep up, though the divots left behind in the floor were plain as day.

"*Sir! She's--*"

*SHUNK*

She was on them before they could react. Dodging through the bullet curtain, Caia removed one of their heads in a single swipe. The next had its arms removed and thrown to the floor, rendering it powerless.

Their attitude changed quickly. "*Shoot to kill!! Shoot to ki--*"

A hand cleaved through the robot's body on a diagonal before his orders could leave his mouth.

*THUNK!*

Finally, Caia's fist thrust up and into the last robot's abdomen. He shuddered in defeat, though not before a pillar of pink flame erupted from within his body. It seared through his head to melt his joints and fuse together what wasn't blown away. A swift withdrawal pulled Caia's arm free as a pink spear of heat continued to burn over her forearm. Her chest bulged with dirty energy.

*CRASH!!!*

The four military police bots collapsed into a pile of trash. Without hesitation, Caia turned around and insisted, "We need to--"

Fenn rose to kneel over Aryl. A pool of blood spread over the ground as he gasped for air on his back.

"Aryl…?" Fenn whispered. He took his friend's hand. "Aryl, say something!"

Words were unable to leave his throat. Several bullets had lodged themselves in his chest. Being designed to take down a machine of Caia's level, they left the human body torn and tattered. Aryl coughed several times and squeezed Fenn's hand before his eyes fogged over.

"*Aryl!! N-No! No, stay with me!! We'll get you help!!*" Fenn looked up when a hand fell on his shoulder. "*Caia! Can you do anything for him?!*"

No time was given to mourn his death. "There's more of them on their way. You need to come with me."

"*What? No! I can't leave him! He's like a brother to me!*"

"*Would he want you to die crying over his corpse?!*"

Fenn went silent.

"*Then get up and run!*"

At the sentry's instruction and physical encouragement, Fenn abandoned his friend where he lay. Sirens blared in the distance. It wouldn't be long until the shop was overrun.

"*Blyth!! Blyth, do you read me?!*" Caia yelled into her communicator. There came no answer aside from static. A part of Caia had hoped Aryl's tinkering might have fixed it. "*DAMMIT!!*"

The city grew denser around them. Glancing at large billboards and ad spaces, Fenn saw his face plastered next to Caia's. Both were labeled as dangerous and wanted dead or alive.

"*Shit*, they already know your face!" Caia cursed. "Hurry up!"

Fenn's body struggled to keep pace with the sentry. He wasn't built for speed nor maneuverability. It was a relief when Caia slowed down and smashed the window of a parked vehicle. An alarm was quickly silenced.

"*Why are they after you?!*" Fenn asked, seeing flashing lights illuminate the street around a corner.

Caia fought with her bloated batteries. "*Dammit, stupid things! Get out of my way!!*" Trying to squeeze between the seat and the dashboard, Caia shoved her breasts. Bulging mounds of gel blocked her view.

*VROOOOM!!!!*

The car roared to life. Hotwiring such a thing would be child's play for Caia if not for her disabled state.

"*Did you really only desert??*" Fenn asked in fear. "*They want you dead!*"

"Does that matter right now?? They'll kill you without a second thought if they catch us! *Get in the car!*"

Fenn stared into the vehicle. Behind him, a dozen military police would arrive in seconds. Inside the car, a malfunctioning sentry's dangerously overloaded chest pushed into the steering wheel as her warning indicator flashed.

Not sure as to which option was more precarious, Fenn opted for the path with fewer bullets and climbed into the car before they escaped into the depths of the city.

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Their car slowed to a stop in a dark part of town. It wasn't often Fenn got to see the flashing neon lights advertising sex of various forms, both organic and robotic, though the area was unmistakable. Buried deep within looming buildings of blackness, even the sky was hidden from sight behind a layer of smog.

It was a wonder Caia could navigate the narrow streets so well when her chest obstructed most of the dashboard. The familiar warning on her breasts had taken to constantly beeping. Nothing could quell the inferno inside the car caused by her increasing pressure. The larger they grew, the harder it became for Fenn to look in her direction. It felt wrong to see her going through what would have been such a private matter for a human, even if it was an unrealistic condition outside of a simulator.

"We'll stop here for now," Caia informed upon hiding the car in an alley and exiting. "Do you--*Nngh!*"

*CREEEAAAAAK*

*BEEP!*

*BEEP!*

*BEEP!*

*BEEP!*

She doubled over when her breasts stretched. They weren't designed for such stress.

"Are you alright??"

"I'm...I-I'm fine." Caia righted herself with visible strain. "Do you have any units?"

"Yes, but--"

"Good, come with me. And keep your head down. There are fewer cameras here, but we're still in danger. Interact with as few people as possible."

It felt as though there was a target on his back when Fenn exited the car. At Caia's lead, they entered a nearby pay-by-the-hour hotel. Fenn had never blushed so hard as when they walked in with Caia sporting breasts the size of beach balls. Surely the clerk assumed her a fantasy sex droid.

*BEEP!*
*BEEP!*
*BEEP!*
*BEEP!*

"We need a room for the night," Caia demanded.

A stout man reeking of alcohol stared at her from over the counter. One mechanical arm advertised several ways he could deal with unruly customers. His eyes didn't linger on Caia's straining assets for long. As he looked her over, his gaze turned into a narrow-eyed glare of disgust.

"Keep a sentry under my roof? Fuck off."

Caia wasn't fazed. "I could fuck off, though that I might get bored out there… Wouldn't want me reporting that expired business license."

His eyes narrowed into beady slits. Knowing the exact date his license had expired several months ago, he grumbled, "Just the two of you?"

Caia nodded.

"Room 11 is open. Four and fifty hundred units."

"Thanks." Caia started towards the hall and motioned to Fenn. "He'll pay."

Fenn stepped forward and produced a hand containing an implant. "U-Uh, you said four hundred and fifty?" It didn't dawn on him until after that he could be tracked through such means of payment.

"The giant tits ain't worth it, boy," the man growled as he took his fee. "That's a deadly weapon on the end of 'em. She'll kill ya without a second thought. They all would."

"Thanks, I'll...uh...keep that in mind."

Fenn rushed to their room before any more sage advice could be delivered.

"*Nnngh… Dammit…*"

*BEEP!*
*BEEP!*
*BEEP!*
*BEEP!*

Caia's groaned were heard in the hallway. The beeping of her warning sensor sounded like a distant fire alarm. Entering the dingy room, Fenn found her leaning against a wall. It seemed to take everything she had to continue functioning as her body overheated.

Unsure, Fenn walked into view and offered, "I could drain your excess energy again if you would like…?"

Caia shook her head to whip pink hair back and forth. "I'm fine. Leave it be."

"A-Aryl…" Fenn choked up at the mention of the name. "My friend only made it so you won't shut down. You're still in danger of overloading!"

*BEEP!*
*BEEP!*
*BEEP!*
*BEEP!*

Constant beeping rang in her ears to confirm Fenn's words. Doing her best to ignore him, she wrapped an arm across her bust and sat at a stained table. Fenn could hear the surface of her breasts creaking under her arm as she moved. Once more, she attempted to contact her ally.

"Blyth," she called, "Blyth, are you there?"

Static sounded back, until finally, "H...lo? Caia?"

"*Blyth!*" Caia's face illuminated. Fenn wasn't sure he'd seen such happiness come from a robot. "*Do you read me??*"

"I… Ge… Da...er--"

The communication cut out before anything of value could be shared.

Caia slammed a fist into the table to send a crack down the middle. "*FUCK!*" To test her limits, her mechanical mammaries surged several inches. Seeing cleavage rise into her field of view was a wake-up call.

*BEEP!*

*BEEP!*

*BEEP!*

*BEEP!*

"*N-Nngh!! FINE!!! If it will stop this damn beeping, then do what you have to do!!!*"

It took a moment for Fenn to realize she was referring to draining her incompatible energy. Red in the face, he stepped forward and activated his discharge collection probe from his arm.

"Well??" Caia glared from behind her chest.

"I-I need to get between your legs…"

Her eyes rolled so far back he was frightened they might not return. "Of *course* you do. God forbid they design a female robot without sex appeal."

Caia didn't falter. Rising to her feet, she leaned over the table until her chest supported her weight. She spread her legs and presented herself to a stunned Fenn.

*BEEP!*

*BEEP!*

*BEEP!*

*BEEP!*

"Well? Before these things explode would be nice! I don't like this any more than you do."

"O-Ok, ok, just...hang on." Fenn stepped forward and placed a hand on her hip. "Pardon me…"

He was never very good with such an angle on a woman. Slower than he would like to admit, Fenn inserted his collection probe into her access port with embarrassing accuracy.

*KZZZZZP!!*

"*M-Mmngh!!! Ahh!!*"

Caia shuddered when energy raced out of her chest. The air around them felt dry and empty as if they were in the eye of a storm.

*CREEEAAAAAK*

Slowly, her breasts started to shrink. They withdrew into her body until the beeping finally ceased, soon followed by her warning light turning off. Placing a hand over them, she watched herself reduce to the size of grapefruits before no more energy could be drawn.

"*Ngh… That's...That's better*…" Caia shuddered. The air around her already felt several degrees cooler. Righting her body and turning around, she asked, "What happens to it? I feel like a ticking timebomb with that stuff inside me."

Fenn avoided eye contact after what they'd just done. Extending his arm, he showed a removable canister. It glowed a bright blue as well as displayed several warning labels. "I'm a wirerider; I'm designed to store vast amounts of tainted energy like this and then deliver it to a facility that can recycle it. Usually it's from overloading reactors, not, uh…"

"A pair of broken mechanical tits?"

"Y-Yea…"

Caia allowed a small grin to play on her face. "Well, thanks for draining the old energy balloons. I wasn't expecting them to overload so qui--"

*GRRRWWWLL*

She stopped upon hearing a rumble from Fenn's abdomen under a layer of metal parts. "Really?"

"That part of me is still human," he chuckled.

"Alright, let's find you some food then. You'll be dead weight if you're not well-fed." Caia started toward the door.

"You don't have to come! If I'm a burden, I can just find my way home and--"

"You can't go home; you're a wanted criminal."

Fenn considered her statement. "Oh… I get it. You're scared they'll catch me and I'll lead them to you." He looked her in her pink eyes. "You don't trust me."

"I'm not worried about them using you to get to me. If I wanted to leave you without a trace, I would have."

"Then why don't you? You can clearly travel faster without me aside from your *situation*. And someone else should be able to drain you!"

"Because they'll kill you regardless of what you tell them. You've aided a deserted military sentry. I wouldn't be able to go on if I let that happen after you helped me."

Fenn was taken aback. "I didn't think sentries were programmed to have a conscience…"

"We have them. The ones we serve are the ones who are lacking."

Caia left the subject at that and approached the door. "Come on, let's get you some food while I can still fit through doors."

<div align="center">( . Y . )  ( . Y . )  ( . Y . )  ( . Y . )  ( . Y . )</div>

Food could only do so much to distract Fenn. Between his new criminal record and loss of a lifelong friend, his world had been turned upside down in only a few hours. Somehow, he felt a strange connection to the sentry staying by his side. He wasn't sure if it was due to concern, responsibility, or sympathy, but he felt a need to help the pink-haired robot.

Taking a bite of a greasy meat product, Fenn glanced up to see an apparel store approaching. It wasn't the usual environment he was used to, given the sexual clothes on display, but it gave him an idea.

"Would you like something to wear?" he asked Caia, who walked by the store without a second thought.

"Why?"

"Won't they help you hide?" This only encompassed part of his reasoning. Deeper, Fenn wished to give her some kind of gift. He looked around the area to observe the angry stares emanating from passersby. "It might help people treat you better too."

"You mean if they wouldn't be able to tell that I'm a sentry as quickly?"

"Well...kind of. It would help us stay hidden. I'll even buy them for you."

Caia laughed softly and turned towards the store entrance. "That went without saying!"

It took longer than expected for them to find an outfit that wasn't overtly sexual. Most of the immodest designs were lost on Caia which left the responsibility to Fenn to find an appropriate outfit that wouldn't only draw more attention. This was especially important for when her breasts decided to outgrow her body.

Waiting outside of the fitting room, Fenn was more excited than he thought he would be for such an event. He barely knew Caia, though he wanted desperately to do this for her. When the door opened, he glanced up to see her inspecting the cloth hugging her body.

They had chosen a silvery garment with blue accents. Backless and wrapping around the neck, it covered her front before turning into a thigh-hugging skirt reaching mid-length. Several flowing ribbons circled around her back to her chest. It was an outfit meant for a night on the town, though it would serve in concealing Caia's identity from a passing glance.

She walked towards a mirror and smoothed the fabric over her front. It was tighter than designed on her breasts, though Fenn didn't think this a bad thing. If she were able, he thought Caia would be blushing.

"How does it look…?" she finally asked while turning towards him.

"Cute!!" he exclaimed before thinking. "I-I mean, really nice! It suits you!"

Caia frowned and smoothed the dress again. "I've never worn clothes before… It's against military protocol. They don't want sentries to feel *too* human. It's also partly why they design us with sexual features. Keeping us naked helps dehumanize us." Staring at herself, she allowed herself a slight smile and pulled the dress tight over her chest, giggling. "I feel like I'm hiding something special under the fabric… It's kind of nice being decorated…"

"Let's get it then." Fenn could hardly conceal his own happiness.

Caia insisted on wearing the outfit out of the store. Approaching the counter, Fenn hoped they might leave the shop without issue. A man behind the register stared daggers at the couple. He'd seen Caia enter his store and proceeded not to take his eyes off her since.

He wasted no time in voicing his opinion when Fenn handed him the price tag. "Hope you're not expecting pretty clothes won't cover up war crimes."

"We're not looking for any trouble," Fenn defended.

Upon paying, the man snickered and sucked in a wet gasp of air.

*PTOO!!*

A glob of saliva landed on Caia's front. "No charge for that, hon."

Fenn wasn't able to intercept her reaction this time. Caia leaned over the counter to grab the man by his collar. Small pink flames spouted from outlets on her wrist to singe his stubble.

"My friend just paid for this and you stain it within five seconds?" The clerk sweated as Caia's flames intensified. "*I should incinerate you where you--*"

*BEEP!*

*BEEP!*

The sentry's forearm illuminated with a holographic screen. "*Caia! Come in, Caia!*"

She dropped the merchant like a bag of rocks, who quickly scampered to a back room. The world around them didn't matter anymore. "*Blyth?!*"

"*Thank the powers!!*" Another sentry's face shown through in a warped layer of static. "*You need to run! Eve is on her way!! She's coming!! I tried to warn you as soon as I could, but--*"

A high-pitch whistling raced through the city. Something was flying towards them like a fighter jet.

"*Fenn*," Caia whispered, turning her head to track the sound's movements. "*Run.*"

*BOOM!!!*

The storefront exploded inward with a punch from a hurricane. Shoved across the room, Fenn saw a flash of yellow strike Caia like a train. The two masses slammed into the opposite wall leaving Caia pinned by her neck.

A robotic figure stood over her. Sleek, sharp, and traced in shimmering shades of electric yellow, the enemy acted more like a goddess of lightning. Her design was reminiscent of Caia's, but taller and gifted with more armor. Elongated plates with sharp facets covered her shoulders and torso as if designed to impale birds as she flew through the sky.

"*E-Eve…!*" Caia gasped.

"Look who it is! The military's most wanted! Did you really think you could just slip away after what you did…? *Lilith is furious.*"

Caia struggled for freedom. With her feet far from the ground, there was no leverage to be found. The ruins of the shop sat scattered around them. To the side, Fenn began to rise after recovering from Caia's saving shove.

Eve looked down and chattered in amusement at Caia's appearance. "*Oooohhh, nice threads!* Such a shame I'm going rip them to pieces when I tear out your--"

"*Get off!!!*"

*SHHHOOOOOOOOM!!!*

Two thrusters sprang from Caia's back before igniting with concentrated jets of pink flame. Grabbing Eve's arm, she flew upward in an arc before flipping and whipping Eve off her feet. One swift motion flung the enemy on her back into a small crater cracking in all directions.

*FWOOOM!!!*

Heat engulfed Caia's arm. Hoping to deliver a decisive blow, she rocketed her arm toward's Eve's torso to demolish her from the inside out.

*THUNK!*

A leg caught Caia with blinding speed. Before she could right herself in the air, Eve lunged forward and extended her hand. A glowing whip shot from a port in her palm and wound around Caia's torso. Waves of electricity raced along its length before shocking the struggling sentry.

"*A-AAUUGH!!!*"

*CCRREEEEAAAAAAK*

Caia's bust swelled dangerously fast. Consuming not only her energy but Eve's energy as well, it billowed outward with gel-jiggling girth. The dress struggled to contain her watermelon assets.

*BEEP!!*

*BEEP!!*

*BEEP!!*

The warning were quick to make themselves known. Cleavage pushing against her chin, Caia could feel panic rising. Trying to escape Eve's clutches with her own propulsion only worsened the situation. Grabbing either side of her bust, Caia felt herself growing out of control.

"*A-Ahh!! My...My chest!!!*"

"*STOP IT!!*"

A meager voice made Eve pause. Evil delight spread over her face when she saw a rusty wirerunner confronting her from a pile of destroyed store displays. "Ooooh, is he a new pet? I think he wants to play with us!"

Caia's eyes widened. "*Wait!! Leave him--Ahh!*"

*CRASH!!!*

Eve hurled Caia through the air, releasing her like slingshot ammo into Fenn. He caught her only through his inability to dodge in time, whereupon they both collided with the wall. Searing heat from Caia's chest burned Fenn's skin upon contact.

"*Your batteries!*" Fenn warned when Caia scrambled to her feet. They jutted from her body with comical proportions. "*They're getting too full!!*"

"*They can wait!!!*"

*SHOOOOM!!!*

Caia's thrusters burst to life. She knew she had to make a move before Eve. Victory was unlikely if she couldn't outspeed one of the military's fastest weapons. Feeling her breasts tighten with their contents, she shot herself forward ready to grapple.

"*To slow!*"

*THUD!!*

"*AAUGH!!*"

Eve's legs rotated in a blur. It struck Caia square in her stomach, disengaging her thrusters from the force of impact and sending her into the ceiling. Rubble rained down when the sentry fell at Eve's feet. The speed demon stared down in amusement at her prey, bringing a foot down on her chest.

*BEEP!*

*BEEP!*
*BEEP!*
*BEEP!!*
Warnings blared.
"*Nnngh!!!*"
"You can barely move with those busted electric blimps!!" Eve giggled and pressed harder, squeezing them flat. "*Can you even see me from under those things?!* I'm surprised they've held on as long as they have. You must feel quite full! *Like a boiler ready to blow.*"
*BEEP!*
*BEEP!*
*BEEP!*
*BEEP!!*
"*Aahhh!! S-Stop!!*" A pliable outer shell tightened against Eve's foot. "*They're too big!!*"
 "Why don't I speed up this process and put you out of your misery? They look about ready to--"
"*HEY!!*"
*THUNK*
A piece of debris struck Eve in the back of the head. The sound of rock grating against her shiny, polished armor made her freeze in place. Slowly turning around, she stared at Fenn with roiling contempt.
"*Why you little--*"
*FWOOOOOM!!!*
Pink flames ignited between Eve's feet. She had only a second to glance down and see Caia's leg engulf itself into a sword of fire before the sentry arched her back and swung her leg in a wide circle overhead.
*SHINK!!!*
It passed clean through Eve's midsection, leaving behind a cavernous hole of molten machinery.
*CREEEEAAAAAAAAAAK*
Caia could only see her defeated foe briefly before her chest swelled over her head.
"Hey…" Eve muttered as her systems failed and she collapsed to the ground. "That wasn't fair… Lilith won't be pleased...about this..."

**( . Y . )  ( . Y . )  ( . Y . )  ( . Y . )  ( . Y . )**

Fenn assisted Caia in fleeing the scene of the battle. A backdoor allowed easy access to the alleys where they could stay out of the public eye.
"*A-Ahh… Fenn…*" Caia groaned. Her chest blared with warnings and errors. With each breast over two feet across, they felt tight enough to rupture. In an effort not to ruin her new dress, Caia had slipped it over her chest. Her demeanor was more somber than usual. "I… I-I need to be drained… Right now… I don't think they can...hold much more...b-before--"

"Shh, save your energy; you'll just make them bigger." Fenn glanced around the alley. It was dark and dirty with only the distant neons lights from the street to light their way.

"H-Here…"

"Right here? We can probably make it back to the hotel."

"*Nnngh… N-No, they won't make it. I need to empty them now.*"

The distress in Caia's voice was clear. As she leaned over a nearby can overflowing with refuse, she pleaded to Fenn. "*Please, hurry… The pressure… It's getting too great.*"

Fenn wondered why sentries were ever programmed to feel physical stimuli. Some thought it was to make them more careful in battle to save on repair costs. Such a reason seemed ridiculous if it meant causing something discomfort, even if it was a machine.

"Ok, let me take care of it."

Fenn lifted the bottom of Caia's dress and grabbed hold of one side of her hips. It had been years since he'd done such an act to a real woman. Somehow this felt just as intimate.

*BEEP!*

*BEEP!!*

*BEEP!!!*

"*Ooohhh hurry, please hurry!*"

Fenn inserted his collection probe.

*KZZP!!!*

"*A-Aahhh!! AUGH!!*"

Energy flowed in gushes like a river. At the rate it rushed into his reservoir, Fenn was astounded that Caia could hold such a vast ocean of charge.

"*Y...Yes… Oh that's better…*"

Caia shuddered and tried to stay on her feet. The rate of shrinking across her chest was enough to cause sounds of creaking. Fenn watched with concern as they shrank to a more familiar size.

"Alright, that should about do--"

*CREEEAAAAK*

They continued to dwindle. Slow with her movements, Caia watched the energy gel in her breasts reduce to little more than handfuls before coming to a stop. She appeared almost flat-chested when Fenn sensed her discharge had finished. With robotic wooziness, she stood to her feet. The light in her eyes was dim and her movements were slow.

"Caia…?" Fenn whispered with concern. "Your che--Your *batteries* look so small…"

She nodded and almost fell over. "I'm...almost out of usable energy. I haven't charged in too long…"

It took only a moment for Fenn to realize most of Caia's size had come from discarded energy. The malfunction disguised her actual need for recharging. After her blazing battle with Eve, it wasn't hard to see why she was low on power.

"Maybe there's a charging bar nearby!" Fenn was eager to help. She'd saved his life several times over; extending the same to her was the least he could do.

Supporting her arm over his shoulders, he and Caia stumbling out of the alley and looked down either side of the street. It wouldn't be long until the authorities responded to the incident with Eve. The shop still lay in ruins on the other side of the wall. Fenn wasn't sure what had become of the owner, but if he was alive, he was surely reporting he and Caia.

There was no charging bar in sight. The area wasn't renowned for such mundane conveniences. This was where one came to burn through their energy in wild night before stumbling back to what they accepted as civilization.

"I don't see one anywhere…" Fenn confessed. Desperate for any kind of universal charging, he began looking to other sources. A flickering neon sign advertised exotic android dancers. It wouldn't be the same, but such places were known for offering charges as part of their entertainment. "Come on, this way."

Caia's weight caused Fenn's joints to creak under stress. Dragging her through the door and almost tripping in the process, Fenn approached a worker cleaning grease from a pole. It was difficult to tell through the purple-colored atmosphere of the establishment, but his attire and jewelry indicated he may have been the owner.

"E-Excuse me," Fenn started, "Do you offer energy highs?"

A belly-jiggling snort came from him before he turned around. "'Course we do! Watching girls strip isn't the same without it. Whatcha lookin' for?"

Fenn didn't know what Caia required. Luckily, she was conscious enough to respond. Tilting her head, she revealed a port on the side of her neck. "A...T81-Ba adaptor."

This gave him pause. Squinting his eyes in the dim light of the club, he noticed Caia's design.

"Fuck off. I ain't chargin' no war machine."

"I can pay!" Fenn objected. "*Please!*"

He snorted. "I would rather pay *you* to let me watch her power down for good in a gutter. *Beat it*."

Defeated, the two started toward the door.

"*Wait!*"

Hope flared within the wirerider. Fenn spun around certain the owner had had a change of heart. "She can charge here??"

A serious expression covered his face. "Don't I know you two from somewhere…?"

"Fenn, we need to leave…" Caia whispered with hardly a sound. Her bust was flat as a board and left her dress hanging limply off her torso. So little energy remained within that she didn't need to worry about expanding.

"N-No, you must be mistaken," Fenn insisted. "I'm sorry for bothering you. We'll leave…"

They stumbled into the open despite the owner's protests. He surely recognized them from a local wanted poster of their faces. If they were lucky, he wouldn't call the authorities immediately.

"I don't think we can go back to the hotel," Fenn confessed, remembering he's used his identity chip.

"I need...energy…" Caia's eyes looked like candles ready to burn out. She had nothing left.

An idea struck Fenn, though it made him blush. "You know... *I* could charge you."

Caia somehow found the strength to chuckle. "*You're* outfitted with a T81-Ba adaptor?"

"No, but I have a universal energy emitter. I need to be able to activate a variety of machines after I fix them."

"The T81-Ba port isn't...equipped for wireless charging."

"But your auxiliary access port is…"

Caia glanced down at Fenn's body. She knew what a universal energy emitter looked like and could see it nestled within Fenn's abdomen near his hips.

"You're kidding right?"

*Beep beep*

*Beep beep*

A low-charge indicator flashed on Caia's sternum. Fenn knew it was now or never. "Do you know of another option?"

Caia's mind worked as fast as her meagerly fueled processors would allow. Her forearm remained silent with no word from Blyth and soon she wouldn't even have the power left to call out.

"Fine…" she accepted softly. "In the alley. We need to get away from here as soon as possible."

Stopping amid several piles of trash as rats scurried away, it was hardly the most romantic location for such an intimate act. Fenn had been inside her auxiliary port several times now, though only with tools from his arm. What they were about to attempt was far more suggestive.

"Are you sure...you can...handle this?" Caia asked. "This is going to drain your own power cells… And I need *a lot* more energy than you."

"I'll be fine. I'm designed to give strong bursts of power!" He pounded on his chest. "I'm still charged up for a full day's word!"

*KA-CHUNK*

A probe extended from Fenn's front. It was lucky he had only needed to jump-start a single machine before Caia came along.

"How would you like to do this? You can bend over again and I'll--*Whoa!*"

*THUD!!*

A hand pushed him back into a pile of junk. Caia stood over him with hunger in her eyes, saying, "On your back…"

"W-Why?"

Low-battery light blinking rapidly, she lifted her dress and straddled Fenn's torso to positioned her auxiliary port over his probe. "Because I don't want you pulling out before I'm finished."

Caia was about to lower herself down before she met his eyes.

"...Look away," she demanded.

Fenn obliged and turned his attention elsewhere. Moments later, he felt Caia's weight press upon his pulse-ready probe.

*KZZZZZZZZP!!!*

"*MMNGH!!!!*"

Electricity surged into her core. It was a relief to find her compatible with his equipment, though as Caia squirmed and writhed on his body, Fenn couldn't help but peek.

"*Aaahhh!! O-Ooohhh!!!*"

Her thighs clamped around his sides. Her hands ran over her body as if tickled by the fresh energy coursing through her. They eventually settled on her bust where her gel batteries had begun to engorge, pressing around her fingers. The front of her outfit shifted and bulged. It wouldn't be empty for long.

"*I-It's so...raw!!*" Caia moaned. "*So unprocessed!!!*"

Fenn was certain his power was far from the quality she was used to receiving. Still, the image was breathtaking. Caia's breasts plumped outward and wobbled with her movements. Small and supple, they displayed a great ability to hold more. Fenn thought he saw her nipples plump, though couldn't be certain through her dress. She seemed to be teasing them and he wondering if they might be some kind of sensors.

"*F-Fenn...! I can feel your probe...getting hot inside of me! I'm drawing too much power!!*"

"*You're most certainly not!!*" Fenn gazed at the supple mechanical mammaries filling Caia's hands. They were reminiscent of human breasts when engorging with milk, a phenomenon not seen in modern women in several decades.

*CREEEAAAAAK*

"*Oooohhh they're getting full!!*"

*Fwoooooooom*

Unable to contain herself, Caia's thrusters popped open. Small spurts of flame crackled with delight. They matched with the heat Fenn felt within his own parts. Wispy plumes of smoke rose from the base of his probe from Caia's abuse. He felt as though it may explode within her.

"*Mmmngh!!! T-They're almost...there!!*" Her fingers sank into her tightening curves. Cleavage bulged over the dress's neckline to pull the fabric taut.

"*Caia...!*" Fenn moaned. The scent of smoke filled his nostrils. "*I'm overheating!!! I don't think I can--*"

"*Ahh!! AAHHH!!!*" Caia's eyes sprang open with a rejuvenated pink glow.

*KKKZZZZPPP!!!!*

"*MMMNGH!!!!*"

Sparks flew from their pelvises followed by a billowing cloud of smoke. Burning rust and overheated capacitors within Fenn burst into flame.

"*Shit!! Shit!!*" Frantic, he began smacking small tongues of fire within his mechanics. They were quelled without harm, only to reveal the sound of Caia giggling on top of him. The laughter brought a joyous jiggling to her chest.

"Heh, too rough for ya? *Didn't mean to make you blow a fuse.*"

It was the first time he'd heard a joke from her mouth. Looking up, he saw Caia returned to a healthy state. Ample breasts nearly the size of her head sat cradled in one arm. Combined with the tightness of her dress, Fenn dared say she was attractive. It was heartwarming to see the robot smile.

Caia giggled, applying pressure to his heated probe. If she wasn't careful with her movements, her wireless receptors might set it off again. Fenn wasn't sure he could take such abuse a second time.

She groaned and massaged her bust. "*It's good to be full of fresh energy again… I've never charged like that before…*"

Their eyes met. Truth be told, Fenn had never charged anyone in such a way either. It was an experience he wouldn't mind doing once more when he managed to replace his blown fuses.

They stared into each other's eyes. There was a connection. For a moment, the dark, miserable city faded away. Only the two of them mattered. Fenn found himself wishing he could charge Caia for the rest of his life.

"H-How do you feel?" he asked.

"*Amazing.* Thank you for--"

A holographic screen sprang over Caia's forearm.

"*Are you there?! Caia!!*"

The sentry's jaw dropped and she lifted her arm, covering Fenn below. "*BLYTH!! You're alright!!*" Taken in by her ally's call, Caia rose from Fenn's probe and stood away from the pile of garbage.

"*I-I managed to flee the base! But I took heavy fire and I'm stranded! I'm too damaged to fly!*"

Caia couldn't contain herself. "I'm just happy you--"

"*I have the rest of the data!*" Blyth informed. "*I don't think I have long until they find me, though!*"

Seriousness took over. "Where are you?"

Blyth's image flickered. "Outside of zone two. In an old aircraft hangar!"

Glancing over at Fenn, Caia promised, "*Hang tight; we'll be there soon.*"

( . Y . )　( . Y . )　( . Y . )　( . Y . )　( . Y . )

Twilight set upon them when they arrived on the outskirts of town. Military airships droned constantly overhead with no buildings to block their noise. Fenn hadn't been to this region of Vasik in years, and for good reason; nothing good happened in sector two. The area was infamous for thieves and black-market dealings.

Looking around in fear of the future, Fenn shivered at recent events. In the course of a single day, he'd not only lost his best friend, but he had been branded a dangerous criminal and gained the friendship of a rogue sentry whose breasts were cursed to swell as she lived her life.

*CRREEEAAAAAAAAK*

It didn't feel real, even as Caia forced a rusted door to open with an ear-piercing groan. Ruined darkness opened before them in the abandoned air hangar.

"Blyth…?" Caia called out. The name echoed around the metal walls.

*KZP!*

A flash of sparks illuminated a body sitting against what remained of a one-man flight pod.

"*O-Over here…!*" a labored voice called.

They ran over. Despite being indoors, Fenn couldn't shake a feeling of exposure and danger. There was nowhere to hide in the hangar.

Caia stopped several feet from their target and slowed to a horrified walk. "Blyth… What happened to you…?

A red-haired sentry sat on the ground against a pod thruster. One arm hung mangled and ripped to pieces while her left leg was completely missing. Gashes dug into her armored skin like paper. Her breasts sat small and perky, a sure sign of batteries nearing depletion.

"You're going to be alright," Caia promised. Deep concern filled her voice. Fenn couldn't be sure of their exact relationship, though there was affection in both their eyes. "W-We can find someone to fix you." She knelt down to assist her comrade and moved red hair out of her face.

"Caia… I have to tell you something…"

"Shh, don't talk. You need to conserve your energy." She turned to Fenn. "Find something to help move her."

He nodded and began looking, not wanting to spend time on words. The sooner they left, the better.

"Caia, I-I…"

"What? You have the rest of the data, right?" Caia asked while tending to Blyth's wounds as best she could. "If not, I still have my half and we can find another way to--"

Blyth looked her comrade in the eyes and despair passed between them. "I… I-I'm so sorry, Caia…"

"What for? You're safe now! We'll figure--"

*CLICK*

**KZZZZPPP!!!!!**

"*AAUUUUUGHH!!!!!!!*"

A net of electricity shot from Caia's feet. It enveloped her in lashing tentacles crackling with energy before dissipating into an invisible field. The sentry stood motionless, prisoner to a hidden static bomb.

Fenn looked back in a panic. "*Caia?? What's happening?!*"

Shuddering, Caia stared at her friend. "*B-Blyth…! Why would you--*"

A figure emerged from the darkness behind the broken pod. Cackling like a witch, her purple-trimmed armor glinted in the lowering sunlight. Amethyst eyes glared like a panther stalking its prey. Fenn froze in his tracks.

"L-L-Lilith…" Caia whimpered. She knew she had to run, but the containment field was absolute. She could never hope to best the sentry commander in combat.

The hulking war machine approached Caia. Lilith loomed like a demon of death. Purple hair fell to her mid-back as if ready to strangle her target. Matching crystalline claws stretched from her palms like the tentacles of a sadistic jellyfish. True to her name, a pair of purple horns like those of a ram curled around the side of her head. Such dark ascetics made Caia's fins look cute.

"You weren't so hard to catch!" she laughed while grabbing Caia by the neck.

"*A-Ack!!*" Caia's legs flailed when she was pulled into the air.

"I'm so sorry… *I'm so sorry, Caia!*" Blyth wailed from below. "*I had to do it!*"

Lilith narrowed her eyes in disdain. "After the trouble you gave Eve, I was expecting a little more of a challenge! To think you were still in good enough condition to take her down…"

A purple claw poked playfully at Caia's melon-like breasts. They'd swelled since Fenn's generous charging.

"*Nngh!*"

"Poor little sentry… They're not supposed to get this large, you know! Though I must say, I'm a little envious!" Lilith traced her claw into Caia's cleavage. "*Having a little energy trouble after your escape?*"

"*Leave her alone!*" Fenn's meager voice rattled around the empty building. He knew it was a mistake. The smart decision would have been to run and take his chances living a life as a fugitive. Instead, he decided to shout at one of the military's top war machines. The Angel of Death had enough kills to populate Vasik several times over.

"Oh, did you make a friend during your time away?" A glint of evil sparked in her eye and her claws twitched. "Didn't take you for the wire-riding type."

*KZZPP KZZZP KZZZZP*

Lightning curled around Lilith's arm and Caia's eyes widened in fright. "*No!! Fenn, run!!*"

"*HA! Where could he possibly run to?!*" Lilith raised her arm.

"*FENN!!*"

***KZZOOOM!!!***

Lilith brought her arm down with all the might of a deity. The sky above crackled for only a second until a tremendous bolt of lightning pierced the hangar. Destruction erupted around the wirerider. Light, noise, and heat engulfed Fenn in a churning ball of chaos as chunks of concrete flung far and wide.

"*NO!!!*"

The dust cleared and the sky above rumbled. Lilith shook residual snakes of energy from her claws in satisfaction.

Trapped among a pile of rubble in a crater was Fenn. He struggled to stay online as chunks of rock pinned him with their weight. Several components were badly bent and damaged from the explosion. He was far from working order. Various plumes of smoke rose from fried circuit boards and overloaded capacitors.

"Ooooh, he's a tough one! Lucky he was built to handle electricity, huh? Though I'm surprised he's still in mostly one piece..." Lilith grinned. "All the better; wouldn't want him missing the show! Not to mention I have plans for him after I'm done with you…"

Struggling for freedom only worsened Fenn's situation among the unstable pile of rubble. "*She didn't do anything wrong!*" Fenn argued. "*Caia just wants a life of peace!*"

"*HA!*" Lilith roared with amusement and tightened her grip. Holding Caia into the air, she asked, "Is that what she told you?? *This busty little guardian is a murderer and a traitor! She killed her commanding officer in cold blood! The one person she swore to protect! She betrayed her duty, her people, and her country!*"

Caia whipped her legs for footing. "*He was going to test biological weapons on the public!! And you knew, Lilith!*" Looking pleadingly, she insisted, "*F-Fenn! I had to do it! They were going to kill innocent people for the sake of research!!*"

Lilith's anger flared and her grip tightened until Caia squeaked. "*NOT your decision to make! We serve and protect those in charge! Not the people in the gutter.*"

Distress came from the floor. Grappling with herself, Blyth begged, "*Caia, please forgive me! I only wanted--NNGH!!*"

A swift kick from Lilith silenced the sentry and sent Blyth to the ground in a struggling heap. "Shut up, worm. You might have the least honor of anyone here. Both of you are worthless as soldiers."

Lilith lifted a hand and brought the tips of her fingers together to a point, directed at Caia's sternum for piercing. "Luckily, even worthless sentries can still be used for spare parts. Now are you going to give me the data you stole? Or do I have to rip you apart piece by piece? I don't mind searching every nook and cranny until I find--"

*CLANK!*

"Hmm?"

Blyth lunged at Lilith's foot and took hold with whatever her body had left. "*CAIA!!! FLY!!!*" she screamed, ready to accept her fate.

*SHOOOOOM!!*

Caia wouldn't let her friend's sacrifice go to waste. Her thrusters sprang from her back to rip her free of Lilith's distracted clutches. She vanished through a hole in the ceiling in a flash of glowing pink.

Below, Lilith sighed and bent down to the cowering robot around her ankle. "Such a waste…" She spread a claw wide like an eagle ready to strike. Fenn couldn't watch as a claw pressed Blyth's head against the ground. The sentry started to scream.

"*A-AAAHHH!!--*"

*CREAAA-**CRNNCH!!***

Lilith's claw dripped with coolant when she stood to her full height and shook Blyth's lifeless form from her foot.

*SHINK!*

*SHINK!*

Two transparent purple wings unfolded from her back. Sharp and strong, they were capable of slicing a tank in two while still remaining nearly lightweight.

*KZZZZPPPPPP*

Purple electricity curled over Lilith's claws as she flexed her weapons. Her eyes followed the sentry's movements in the sky. "*Caia… Do you really think you stand a chance against your commander?*"

*FWOOOOOSH!!!*

Lilith vanished from the ground in a burst of heated wind. Helpless, Fenn could only turn his head in fright at the battle happening outside the hangar. It sounded as though thunderbolts were clapping through the sky amid singing meteors. His eyes widened when the robots' high-speed whistled grew louder.

*CRASH!!!*

The side of the hangar exploded. Amid the flying refuse was Caia struggling to keep pace. She fell backward through the air, thrusters burning red-hot with pink jets. Gashes covered her body and sparks flew as though they were blood. Determination clenched her jaw tight in a fight for her life. A flame-wrapped arm sat poised in the air to fend off a maniacal Lilith bearing down like a thunderous bird of prey. One of her electrified claws tore Caia's dress to shreds while another sought certain death.

Most worrisome were Caia's breasts. Bloated and brimming with used energy, they engulfed her petite torso like unwieldy ballasts. It was a wonder she could maneuver herself at such speeds, much less maintain a full view of her surroundings. Fenn was certain he could hear her warning beeps.

*SHOOOOO-BOOM!!!*

Lilith slammed Caia into the ground, cratering the immediate area. The commander straddled her body and threatened to decapitate Caia in an instant with both claws.

"*Raaaahhhgh!!!*" Caia thrust both arms towards Lilith's abdomen and poured pink fire forth. It bathed the enemy in searing heat, though left no damage. Caia intensified her output, bringing Lilith's stomach to glow red-hot.

*CRRREEEEAAAAAAAAK*

*BEEP BEEP!!!*

*BEEP BEEP!!*

*BEEP BEEP!!!*

"*H-Huh??*"

Gel-filled mounds rose into Caia's view. Spreading her arms apart, they jutted off her frame as large as beach balls. Error codes flashed through her mind.

Lilith laughed overhead, enjoying Caia's distress too much to end the fight. "How delightful! You can hardly see from under your own bust! Like some helpless mother who can't drain herself!"

"*N-Nnngh!!*" Caia's helplessly watched her chest bloat larger as her weapons gushed.

"Pitiful. And you were supposed to be protecting our elite? *Your own body can barely function!*"

*BEEP BEEP!!!*

*BEEP BEEP!!*

*BEEP BEEP!!!*

Caia's fire only tickled Lilith. She pushed harder, but only succeeded in pushing her chest to dangerous sizes.

"*Keep going!*" Lilith urged. "At this rate, you'll make a great firework!"

"*NNGH!! Shut up!!*"

Caia ceased her flame weapons. She was running out of options. Soon she wouldn't be able to function due to her own size. If her fire couldn't pierce the commander's armor, she stood no chance of winning.

"*Get off me!!!*"

Bringing her legs up, she bent her knees into the bottom of her chest. The extremely tight surfaces only had so flexibility much to give, though they provided an exceptional springing force and launched Caia's feet like cannonballs.

*THUNK!!*

"*NNGH!!*"

Caia's heels connected with Lilith's stomach. With the force of a piledriver, she sent her enemy sailing through the air where she slammed into a stone wall causing it to collapse. Caia was certain she felt the attack crumple Lilith's armor where she'd superheated it prior.

Stone tumbled onto the commander before she could rise. It wouldn't last long. Lilith was hardly damaged and boasted mammoth energy reserves; Caia couldn't waste a moment. Using her thrusters for forward momentum, she staggered to Fenn's side.

*BEEP BEEP!!!*

*BEEP BEEP!!*

*BEEP BEEP!!!*

"Caia…!" he grunted upon seeing her approach. "*You need to get out of here! Don't worry about me! Go find a way to drain yourself before--*"

"I can't do that."

Her voice was soft and somber, moreso than Fenn was comfortable hearing.

"*W-What do you mean??*"

"I can't beat her, Fenn. And when she's done with me, she'll kill you, or worse. Lilith is leagues above me in tech and skill. Even if I wasn't damaged, I could never outrun her. *I need to end it.*"

Caia stooped down and pulled a chunk of concrete off Fenn's arm.

"*Don't waste time getting me out! I--*"

He stopped when she began messing with his parts. Several connections clicked open before she removed his energy containment canister with a firm twist.

"What are you doing…??"

Caia stared at the glowing blue cylinder in her hand. "I can't win, Fenn… But I can destroy her."

It dawned on him too late. "*Caia! C-Caia! No!! You don't have to--*"

She turned towards the shifting heap of rubble. Lilith would rise any second. "After I'm gone, run far away from here. Leave Vasik. They won't stop looking for you. They think we're working together now, and after the data I stole, they'll never let you live."

Rocks tumbled away from Lilith's location. Rising up, she stared at Caia with electrified rage. Arcs of electricity jumped from the points of her horns. "*You little…*"

"*CAIA!*" Fenn screamed when she started away.

"Thank you for saving my life, Fenn. I'm sorry I ruined the dress you bought me… I really did like it."

Lilith's wings flared. "*I'M GOING TO TEAR YOU LIMB FROM LIMB, YOU TRAI--*"

*SHOOOOOM!!!!*

Caia wouldn't let her get the chance. Pushing her thrusters to maximum output, she rocketed toward Lilith in a blur.

*BEEP BEEP!!!*

*BEEP BEEP!!!*

*BEEP BEEP!!!*

*SHUNK!!!*

In midflight, Caia pierced her own sternum with a swift jab before thrusting the canister into the opening. The oceans of energy previously drained from her body began flowing back.

Lilith was taken by surprise. Tackled by the high-speed sentry, she found her arms pinned to her side as well as one wing trapped under Caia's arms wrapping around her body. Her breasts squeezed between them, bulging around Lilith in swelling heaps. Caia's thrusters carried them into the sky. From below, Fenn watched through tearful silence as Caia's beeping faded away and they turned into a sailing pink star.

"*Nngh!! Let go!*" Lilith demanded.

*CRACK!!!*

The energy canister shattered as Caia's cleavage bulged and applied pressure. A titanic amount of energy poured forth.

*KZZZZZZZP!!!*

Plasma washed over them in dense curling fingers.

"*Ha! Were you expecting something like that to disable me?!*" Lilith jeered. "*You think I can't handle electricity?! I'm a GOD OF ELECTRICITY!!*"

*CRREEEEEEAAAAAAAAAK!!!!!*

*BEEP BEEP!!!*

*BEEP BEEP!!*

*BEEP BEEP!!!*

"I know you can handle it." Caia grinned, fighting against every fatal system error her systems threw. "*But I can't.*" It brought her immense satisfaction watching Lilith's smile disappear as she felt Caia's breasts bloat hard and hot.

***CRREEEEEEAAAAAAAK!!!!***

*BEEP BEEP!!!*

*BEEP BEEP!!!*

*BEEP BEEP!!!*

*BEEP BEEP!!!*

*BEEP BEEP!!!*

*BEEP BEEP!!!*

"*W-Wait!! WAIT!!*" Lilith struggled for her life as Caia engorged around her. Taking in every bit of energy, her batteries grew to immense proportions until Lilith's furious gaze was lost in their depths.

*BEEP BEEP!!!*

*BEEP BEEP!!!*

*BEEP BEEP!!!*

"*I'LL HAVE YOUR HEAD FOR THIS, TRAITOROUS WELP!!!!*"

"You'll need to find your own first."

***CRREEEEEEEAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA--***

The sky erupted with a blinding, soundless explosion turning the settling dusk into day. Fenn watched from below until a shockwave struck the ground, sweeping away what remained of the battlefield and throwing it into darkness.

**( . Y . )  ( . Y . )  ( . Y . )  ( . Y . )  ( . Y . )**

*Initializing systems check…*
*Warning: Several systems sub-optimal*
*Mismatched model types detected*
*Error: Critical components not found; check diagnostic log for full list*
*Performing AI boot procedure*
*Performing sense calibration*

Caia's eyes flickered with light. A bright white bulb hung over her head with a man's silhouette moving back and forth. It took several moments before her vision adjusted for a clear view.

Fenn stood at the edge of a table. A patchy beard covered his face. Lack of sleep left his eyes dark and saggy. Seeing Caia function looked to be his first joy in months.

"F...Fenn…?"

He grinned, trying to stay composed. "Welcome back…"

*WHRRRRR*

The sentry's body creaked and groaned when she sat up. They were in a dark room, likely underground based on the lack of windows. Several wires ran from her access port to a computer reading diagnostic information. In one corner sat a pile of dismantled sentries. They were years old and none looked to be in great condition. Caia inspected her patchwork body.

"You...replaced my parts…"

Fenn nodded. "It wasn't easy. Sentry parts are hard to come by, even on the blackmarket… Most of these models were pretty stripped clean."

She stared at his tired face. How long she'd been in a state of disrepair was unknown. Behind him stood a clothes rack with a pristine silver and blue dress hanging in wait. It was as beautiful as Caia recalled.

She blinked. The last thing she remembered was the sky rushing past her body and her commander's seething rage.

"Lilith…?"

Fenn shook his head. "I never saw any sign of her. It took weeks just to find the parts of you I needed. Your memory banks were mostly protected."

*RRMMMMBLLLL*

The room shook. Bits of dust fell from the ceiling.

Fenn explained, "There's been a lot of fighting lately. The military is running rampant."

*CREEEAAAK*

Caia glanced down. Her chest had swelled slightly. It wasn't hers, now replaced with an older model with a blue paint job.

"And I still haven't been able to find an electron processor," Fenn confessed. Hoping to relieve the tension, he joked, "I was able to remove your warning indicator, though! No more annoying beeping! Most everything was trial and error… I should have watched Aryl work a lot more when I had the chance."

The world was too much of a daze. Her body didn't feel her own. Caia swung a pair of battered legs off the table and attempted to stand. It was wobbly at first, as if her legs were two different sizes, but she found a balance. She was lucky to be awake; there was far more she had yet to accomplish. Corruption saturated the military deeper than anyone imagined.

"Not so fast," Fenn cautioned. "You're still not fully calibrated and I--."

*FWOOOSH!!!*

Caia ignited her arm into a blaze of fire. From the looks of it, Fenn had made several upgrades.

*SWEEEEELL*

She watched her chest bulge though wasn't dissuaded.

"What can I do?" Fenn offered. "Do you have any errors?"

Ready to fight, she answered, "Stay close and bring some extra fuses; we've got a military to overthrow and I'm going to go through a *lot* of energy doing it."