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Agent Apparatus

For centuries humans have looked for self-improvement, whether they exercise to gain health, get cosmetic surgery to achieve a certain look, or gain knowledge to test the mind, evolution of the race was always inevitable, only now we could control the pace of it. By the year 2074 mechanical and nanotechnology has reached widespread use among civilians. Abilities and enhancements deemed unnatural in the past could now be purchased. But it wasn't without consequence, black markets and war escalated the demand for the tech and then the Nanophage happened, a virus that wiped millions. Monsanto one of the mega corporations took over western United States and established the New California republic, to control the unstable population they manifested the Police of the Republic. Agents enhanced with the latest tech to solve any issue.

Hopkin looked across the New Los Angeles city on top of his apartment balcony. Another cloudy day he muttered to himself, as he took a sip of his tea. BEEP BEEP the inside of his head rang and his two cybernetic eyes produced a screen inside his head with the message: call from Adam. Accept

said Hopkins, an image of Adam appeared inside his head, "Hopkins I know this is a short notice but we got a case that needs to be immediately worked on." "Okay what is it?" "I already sent the two civilians to your apartment, is that cool?" "Fine I don't mind using the home office once in a while." "Good they are a man and woman, Shelly Glynn and Martin Glynn, siblings." "They should arrive within the hour, I'll catch up soon." The images disappeared from Hopkins head and he went to clean the room a little. It was one of the better apartments provided to him by Monsantz, with 2 rooms and a living room and kitchen connected to each other, the white marble floor losing a bit of its luster over the years. Wasn't much furniture in it, there was a black leather coach facing a paper thin screen on a wall; the kitchen had a basic wooden table with three seats. He didn't care about fancy set decoration, it was just him and he didn't give a damn. Hopkin waited on the couch, rubbing his right hand with his cybernetic left arm. The cold and black carbon steel against his warm flesh, it took him about half a year to get used to the mechanical parts he was provided but now it was completely part of him. He was aging with grey hair on the sides of his head, his long nose slightly crooked from breaking it 3 times. All of them during the time he was an enforcer on the streets. Spit, bottles, fists he was familiar with objects traveling quickly towards his face. The door rang his green cybernetic eyes darted to it, as he opened the door he saw the expected guests. Shelly and Martin, "I'm Agent Hopkin please come in and we can discuss the situation." "Thank you for seeing" us replied Martin. Shelly simply looked down to the

floor as she walking in. Hopkin quickly scanned the two with his analysis scan, two screens appeared in front of him, profiles of both of them, only to his visibility. He closed them, Please sit on the couch. "So whats the situation?" "It's my niece and her daughter, said Martin." She has been missing for around 24 hours. Martin was around Hopkins age, no cybernetics from what he can tell and sported a big Brown mustache; it reminded Hopkin of Freddy Mercury a bit. "Have you ruled out any family? Many times a family member picks- NO NO NO!" yelled shelly. Her eyes watering a bit, she was a frail woman with dirty blonde hair, Hopkin suspected she was tweaking or used to. "There is no family member that would of picked her up. My baby was abducted and she is out there." Martin quickly pulled her closer to him as she cried on his shoulder. "Where was she last scene?" "Shelly put Hope to bed at 10 pm, she woke up at 7 to wake her but she was gone. Two officer droids were sent in for us, we believe she was taken from the window in her room. It's on the first floor of the apartment structure. It's usually locked but I think she forgot to lock the window that night." "Okay"replied Hopkin, "do you suspect anyone you know? It can be a coworker or someone at a bar." "If we suspected someone then why the fuck did we travel here!?" Shelly stood up pointing her finger, "all you Monsanto suits care is about is control and putting fear into our minds! Look at you; you're barley human anymore with all that metal shit on you." "That's enough!" Yelled Martin, agent Hopkin just do what you can please. Hopkin approached Shelly, he said in his deep and gruff voice "believe what you want about the company but I do give a shit

about your daughter as a have a good myself, and I have settled many cases before, if you don't respect me better then go." Shelly sat back on the couch and looked down on her lap. Before anyone could say anything more the door opened and Adam stepped in, his mechanized legs wet with water dripping down to the floor. "Alright so whats going on?"

While the Glynn's sat on the couch Hopkin and Adam discussed to themselves in the personal office. "I've gone through Shelly's background and she is a hot mess" said Adam as he sat on the brown wooden desk. Multiple drugs charges, aggravated assaults and a 8 month stint in the Greywolf prison." "Right but what bothers me is that Child services have also reported cases of abuse towards Hope." Hopkin examined pictures of the girl. Hope is a 8 years old at the time, authentic green eyes with a round shaped face, with blond bangs that covered her forehead "Bruises and scars, a lot for a girl her age, the mother just seems like a unstable parent, I'm surprised she gives a damn all of a sudden." "Okay so I got two directions we could go to" said Adam we can investigate all nearby convicted pedophiles and molesters and interrogate them, there are two of them in a 20 mile radius at the moment, you can even work your little magic. The other path is to talk to Juice, I have suspicions that Shelly has dealt with him before. She has dealt with ketamine before and Juice knows all about that. Not to mention her background says she has worked in his VR club before as a waitress." "Interesting, let's see what she has to say about Juice." The two of them went to the living room with the Glynn's sitting anxiously, "Shelly can

you talk about your relationship with Juice?" asked Adam "We know you have- I haven't dealt with that prick for about half a year." "But we know you have had a history delivering ketamine, a product he specializes in." Shelly was wide eyed, her hair was wild as half of her face was covered. "Shelly" said Hopkin " I don't give a shit about your dealings I'm only care about finding your daughter right now, anything you say about your dealing with Juice I'll turn a blind eye. So don't be scared to speak up, anything to help us." I-I-I don't know, I haven't seen Juice for a while, I helped deliver some product but-but I just moved packages, I just needed cash, I couldn't work as a waitress in his club so he gave me this" Some tears appeared in her eyes and Marin handed her a napkin. Hopkin and Adam exchanged worried glances, "so be it" said Hopkin I'll take your word for it, for now we have a few ideas of where we want to head, so return to your home and we'll give you a call tomorrow. Shelly stormed out of the apartment while Marin stayed behind. "Thank you agents, and I like to apologize on her behalf and" "no no no" replied Hopkin I understand her distress. "It's just that she isn't the best mom towards Hope, I'm sure you have read the reports of her mistreatment. Sometimes I can't believe the shit that has happened to that poor girl, and now this." He gave a forced smile, "good luck to you guys."

Adam and Hopskin left the apartment and decided to investigate the nearby molesters in the area. "I have two other agents checking out one of the creeps, the one we will check out is Danny Losky. Spent time for sexually assaulting two underage girls and did attempted kidnapping. son of a bitch

got out less than a year ago. This could be it said Adam.” No I doubt its that easy but maybe”. Their self-driving hover craft drove them to their destination. Hopkin in the right seat looked out of the window, all the dark skyscrapers pointing towards the sky like arms reaching out for help, thanks to the cloudy weather the only color was from the giant neon signs and giant hologram advertising booze and sex. A cesspool of a city, from about 7 miles away he could see the main headquarters of Monsanto’s agents. It stood tallest among the buildings and for many a symbol of control. Hopkin was aware of the problems the corporation brought but they brought in necessary order. Without them anarchy would reign, just like the days after the Nanophage. Extreme order was better than no order. They were soon approaching the Plokon suburbs, it was extremely run down, many of the houses have been abandoned and have had their paint decaying, vines often grew around them. “You here about the harvesters in this area?” Asked Adam “ Christ I heard this poor bastard got his head bashed by a bat and got his cybernetic prosthetic legs torn off while he laid unconscious in his own blood. Guy had to grow for a mile before he got any help, fucking crazy. Like what happened to the days where you only get mugged for your wallet?” Adam gave a small chuckle, “and the cloning at the black markets, I don’t know why the hell would you need to get cloning at the black markets, seem sketchy as hell.” Hopkin looked at Adam, “perhaps some people want younger clones of their pets or men getting their wives DNA and creating younger version of them.” HAHA “yeah you put it like that it all makes

sense.” After the 34 minute drive the pair arrived towards the target house. It was so rundown you couldn’t even tell what color is used to be, the grass in front grew to be about 1 meter and the front porch was completely smashed in half. It appeared to be dark except for a light on the 2nd floor window. “I’m not expecting an easy resolution” said Adam as he pulled out a Smg from the truck of the car. “I’ll do fine with my standard issue.” The two approached the front door, Hopkin stood on the left side of the door and banged it three times. 10 seconds later a response was not given. “I’ll check the back” said Adam. Hopkin stood there for a little bit more, there was starting to be a light rain, BANG. Hopkin immediately pulled out his standard issue and sent a signal to HQ using the coms inside his head, send enforcer drones to my location now, shots have been fired. All he had to do was think it and the order would be placed. “Adam!” He called in his head, “you good?” “ I got one at least one more upstairs maybe two.” “I need Losky alive.” Hopkin shot open the handle of the door and kicked it open, the living room was almost in complete darkness, “activated night vision” he thought and his eyes flickered with dim green lights as the darkness cleared up. It was clear, Hopkin noticed the body shot up across the room next to the kitchen entrance, face down in his own blood. Adam came near the body and pointed up to the ceiling. Hopkin nodded and pushed up the stairs. The inside of the house looked as good as the outside, cans and mold have made their way into its decoration. When he reached to the top he faced a narrow hallway with three doors, two to the left and one on the right. He wasn’t going to

open the doors one by one and breach. Activate vision pulse he commended to his neural control chip, a yellow pulse of light pushed its way through the hallway and a red shaped was marked, it only had a range of 5 meters but it was enough in this situation. A red human shaped light appeared in his eyes and he was able to see someone through the wall. "Put down your weapon and keep your"-multiple shots came athim through the wall horizontally, he ducked quickly dogging a few shots only inches above him. Debris from the old plaster walls hitting Adam while he was holding the stairs, Hopkin stood up immediately when he heard the sound of reloading and fired one shot at the wall. A thud was heard, he opened the door and entered a bedroom that looked like it was used too much to inject meth. He moved towards the body and saw the suspects face. His eyes wide open, both hands covering his chest. "Fuck yourself" he muttered "Im not saying shit", "you don't have to prick", Adam this is the guy we're looking for cover me while I jack in." "He's shot real bad I don't think-no I'm going in, I need answers." Hopkin held out his mechanical arm and put his palm over Losky's face as he closed his eyes. Losky started screaming his lungs out, blood spilling down to his chin until he to closed his eyes.

Hopkin appeared in a dirt road, with a small wooden house in front of him. The sky was white and bright as snow, looking around the environment was only white except for the dirt path leading to the house, so walked forward. It was eerily quiet with only his footsteps making noise. The door was open and he walked in a kitchen, the white light penetrating through the

windows, he saw a boy maybe around nine serving a man food. After putting the plate down the man picked up an egg and threw it towards the child. "Stupid little shit you over cooked it, I come home supporting your fucking ass and this is what you give me? What can you do right?" the boy ignored the man and picked up the egg and put it in the trash. "Now you stay silent huh?" the man pushed the boy in the head and slammed into the counter. Hopkin looked at the scene and smirked, "I don't give a shit what childhood you had, I want to know about a little blonde girl named Hope, do you know anything?" Hopkin was suddenly transported to an alleyway; the sky was blood red and spires attached to the walls pointed at the sky. A floating careen appeared before him, another one and another one, until there were dozens of floating screens around him, each of them with a mouth laughing maniacally. They chanted in distorted voices "better pedophile than corporate official." Their chanting was blowing out Hopkins ears, "SHUT THESE FUCKING MOUTHS UP!" All the screens turned off, he now noticed another boy across the dark alleyway, and he was hiding behind a spire crying. Hopkin approached slowly, the jacking in process was taking a toll, he crouched down to the boy, it was a different one." His face had multiple bruises and his right eye was puffed up so much he couldn't open it. The cut on his left cheek was so wide and deep he could see the boy's teeth through it. "This must have been a past victim" thought Hopkin. Fade to darkness, Hopkin opened his eyes and was now back in the bedroom with his hand over the body. Losky was dead. "You were under for about three minutes, you

see anything?" Adam asked, "no just bullshit, I don't think this man was involved." The pair left through the front door and were created by four enforcer droids, 6 foot 5 machines with jet black armour and thin horizontal red screen across their faces. "Hopkin Sir is the situation contained?" "Yeah right on time boys, call in a meat wagon and close the place down, nothing left here." The giants marched past the two and they both went back to the hovercraft silent. "I just received a message from the other two agents, their suspect didn't turn out anything." "It's juice then" said Hopkin "Wait you still want to continue?" "We just"-I'm fine interrupted Hopkin. "You know the average time a child has when they are abducted?" "I know about 72 hours" "We need to use all the time we can for the next three days" I'm so Goddamn sick of seeing missing posters in the office, news reports of this bullshit presented every week like it's a weather broadcast." "Okay I'm with you partner, I don't have any kids, must be a different mentality." "Yeah man children can do that"

The hovercraft drove to the next destination, Empire Dreams a Virtual Reality club that provided some of the most vivid experiences one could dream up. It was Ran by Juice a 5 foot 4 Iranian man with mechanical legs that gave him 5 inches of height, bringing him to a mighty 5'9. Except the longer legs didn't look right on his smaller body and looked like an ostrich as Adam would say. When the pair arrived to the club Adam noticed graffiti on the wall next to their parking space. The hand that feeds is the one that's holds the leach, and featured a hand with Mosantz getting bitten by some

sort of beast. "Haha that's a good one." It wasn't really much of a club, it could at most hold 40 people and most of the space was taken by 10 giant VR coffin's, 5 on each side, the Headsets and wires hanging slightly above them. The room was dimly lit by a blue neon light. "My Monsantz Spooks!" yelled Juice from the back of the room. "Juice I have some questions" "Wait bruh you not here for virtual ecstasy?" "Shizzz man just live your fantasy for a bit, be a billionaire and bang 6 girls, be God and Fuck shit up even harder, hell yesterday some guy wanted to live a life as a Cat, LUL." "Juice cut this and tell me about Shelly, I know she worked for you and moved some product." "Hey man that's old news and no I'm not involved with her missing kid like a give a fuck." "Okay genius" How about I jack into your mind, then I'll see some truth." Juice gave a sly smile, "I know how the rules, the shit you see in dream world doesn't work as concrete evidence bitch, I got a lawyer for that nonsense. Besides there's no need for that because I'm gonna tell you the truth." "Ohh boy I like where this is going" Adam chirped in. "I let go of Shelly cause she fucked me over in a Ketamine deal. Dumb Bitch delivered some product for me but never gave my money after the transaction. It was about 8000 credits, a lot of money but not worth kidnapping man, I just broke some bones and fired her. Juice got closer to Hopkin, look at me man, you honestly think I-okay that enough said Hopkin." "You're a scumbag but you have told me enough in the past to make me believe in you." "Thanks for the info I'll be taking to shelly about this." The pair went back to their vehicle. "Dead end?" "yeah" said Hopkin dryly.

The pair drove towards the Glynn's apartment, Adam knocked on the metal door and it slid open, an older woman appeared, she was about mid 60's and sported straight grey hair that went down to her shoulders. "I know who you two are, please come in." As Hopkin entered the first thing he saw was Shelly crossed legged watching the television in the living room, the table in front of her had about half a dozen beers and many cigarettes ash piled up, looked like an ash mountain. Martin came in, "what's the news officers? "We didn't find much sadly, we have all our droids and agents on alert, something might show" Said Adam. "No shit I wasn't expecting you suits to do jack shit anyway" said Shelly while puffing another cig. Another man appeared behind Martin, it was Agent Shepard one of Hopkin's and Adam's colleague. He was a tall and thin man that was slightly balding, with a stern look about him. His cybernetic brown eyes met with Hopkins greens. "Evening boys, I've heard you tell went out on a shooting gallery earlier." "What brings you here Shepard." "Ohh I decided to take my own look into this case, my wife Kim is a 3rd grade teacher and had Hope in her class. When she told me about the disappearance I was encouraged to look into it myself." "Wow looks like we got everyone on this case" said Adam. "I love kid's, this was one where my wife was attached to so I wanted to help out. "Look I must go I have my own family." "Thanks for stopping by" said Martin. "Don't mention it Martin and I'll see you two at the office." Hopkin approached Shelly, "I talked to Juice today" "I don't care about him or you." Hopkin looked at her, he wanted to tell her she was a sack of shit and was

fucking idiotic. To tell her Hope was better off without her. "He told us you took 8000 credits from him" Adam said. Now we don't suspect him of doing the kidnapping but I wondering if you have done other foolish things like piss people off. Shelly are there other people you have crewed over? "Anything at this point because we have NOTHING to work with." Shelly covered her face with her hands, "Look I did a lot of fucked up shit before but I promise I don't know anybody that would do this. I just want to hold her again and apologize to all the harm Ive done. Ohhh God give me another chance." Martin and the older lady came in and helped her up from the floor. "Sorry Shelly, we'll get some rest and continue early in the morning." A cell phone rang, Martin went to the kitchen table and answered it, he looked at Hopkin and gave a grave look. "It's for you Hopkin"

Perplexed Hopkin took the phone, it's been awhile since he used a phone, he's been used to having conversations in his head. "Hello? A deep distorted voice answered back, I have hope, now shut up and listen, I want you to go to the Blue woods park and go to the exact location Ive sent to this phone and bring the money that the bitch has been taking from all the dealers. Bring yourself and meet by 3 AM" The phone hung up and Hopkin was left in disbelief. He looked at shelly, "What the Fuck." 30 minutes passed by as Shelly spilled everything, she over the course of two years has taken up to 90000 credits from the various dealers she has worked for. Sliding in a thousand or so in her own pockets, never enough to be noticed, until now. "How could you do this" yelled Martin. You fucking stole from dealers what

did you would happen? They could have murdered us!” “I just needed money to save up so I could get me and Hope out of this shit whole. I couldn’t stand it anymore.” “Stupid bitch” “be quite” Hopkin said. “I’ll be the one to handle this mess okay?” I started this case so I will go and make the transaction. “Hopkin we don’t even know if this is legit it could be some sort of trap.” Hopkin kicked over the bag of cash that Shelly had collected over the years. “Its this shit they want, look this is our chance to save they girl, what else is there? “Thank you” said Shelly. “This unofficial deal is the kind of thing our company doesn’t like but If you feel this is what’s right then so be it, I just hope we don’t get fired over this nonsense.”

Outline of ending

- Hopkin is going to the park by himself and is shot at in the dark. He isn’t sure where it’s coming from. He is standing on a rock atop a lake when he hears a thud in the water, he scans the water to see the shape of a small human, it’s her. He jumps in and try’s to save her, but it’s too late. She’s dead and the money is taken.
- The body is identified by Shelly at the morgue, it’s very damaged with multiple broken bones, it seems Hope was killed long before her body fell in the lake. Hopkin notices Hopes finger prints have been sawed off.
- It has been 2 days since the events and Hopkin has reached a depressed state. He chats with his seen that he hasn’t seen for

months, this gives him comfort and makes him worried about his own child. But Hopkin receives a call from his mortician friend. Hopes body the one he found in the lake was a clone. Which explains the sawed off finger prints as it's impossible to have to exact fingerprints, even among clones.

- The case is reopened as the two agents look into any underground cloning facilities. Eventually it leads to Shepard who has asked around to create a stillborn clone.
- The climax then leads to shepherds upper class cabin in northern California as Hopkin see's Hope with Shepards wife, gun out he goes in for the arrest but Shepard pleas with him. Telling him that he and his wife are giving her the life she deserves. That her life would be going down the drain with Shelly. Hopkin then makes a difficult moral decision. Gave Hope back to her abusive mom or let het stay with her kidnappers who will provide properly for her.
- In the end Hopkin does not turn them in. He knows what will happen if Hope is sent back, it will be back to the abuse and a life of hopelessness. With Shepard she has a chance. He walks away and looks at the newly formed family, and he wonders.