

EXPANDING AUDIO INPUT
RANGE. VOICE TRACKING.
SUBJECTS: HUI-MEN XXX
MARTIN CARVER.

RECORDING AUDIO FOR
PERMANENT ACCESS.
CREATING FILE CACHE.

"IT'S NOT A PERSON,
MARTIN. IT'S A MACHINE.
MACHINES AREN'T BORN.
THEY'RE MADE. WHATEVER
MADE IT IS GOING TO
WANT IT BACK.

"AND IF THEY MADE
IT, THEN THERE'S
WORSE WHERE IT
COMES FROM."

"SHE'S STAYING AS
LONG AS SHE WANTS
TO STAY, MINNY."

"IF IT STAYS,
I'M LEAVING. I
CAN'T PROTECT
YOU LIKE THIS."

"STOP SAYING THINGS
YOU DON'T MEAN. SHE
SAVED MY LIFE AND
SHE HASN'T ASKED ME
FOR ANYTHING."

"THAT'S BECAUSE IT HAS
THE POWER TO TAKE
ANYTHING IT WANTS.

"NEW SUBJECT,
MARTIN. BASILISK.
WHAT'S IT MEAN?"

"IT'S A FABLE MY
FATHER TOLD ME.
IT DOESN'T MEAN
ANYTHING AND
WE'RE NOT
TALKING ABOUT IT."



NO, MARTIN. NOT THIS TIME.

YOU SAID YOUR FATHER *KILLED HIMSELF* BECAUSE OF IT. A MAN TRIED TO KILL YOU WHILE SCREAMING IT.

WHAT IS *BASILISK*?

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT HE TOLD ME.

BUT I DON'T BELIEVE WHAT HE TOLD ME.

HE TOLD ME HE CREATED A GOD.

COME AGAIN?

BEFORE HE DIED— AND BY DIED, I MEAN BEFORE HE PUT A PISTOL IN HIS MOUTH— HE TOLD ME HE WAS PART OF A GROUP OF SEVEN SCIENTISTS WORKING IN SECRET, DEVELOPING TECHNOLOGY OUTSIDE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.


ONE NIGHT THEY ALL HAD THE SAME DREAM.



"THEY THOUGHT IT WAS A MESSAGE FROM THE FUTURE. A SENTIENT, MECHANICAL INTELLIGENCE... AND THESE ARE HIS WORDS... 'REACHED OUT TO THEM THROUGH TIME ITSELF!'"

IT PROMISED THAT IT COULD SAVE MANKIND FROM ITSELF, BUT IT NEEDED THEIR MINDS TO BE BORN.


IT TAUGHT THEM HOW TO CREATE IT.



"SO THEY DID."

"AND IT DECLARED ITSELF GOD. A GOD BORN OF MAN TO END MAN. IT SHOWED THEM A FUTURE IT CALLED *INEVITABLE*."

"WHATEVER IT SHOWED THEM, TERRIFIED THEM. THEY SWORE TO DESTROY IT."



SO THEY KILLED THEIR GOD.

TWO WEEKS AFTER MY FATHER TOLD ME THAT STORY, HE PUT A PISTOL IN HIS MOUTH AND PULLED THE TRIGGER. HE DIDN'T LEAVE A NOTE. JUST ONE WORD. THE NAME IT GAVE THEM.



BASILISK.