

**MADNESS AND LOVE IN
THE YEAR AD 2155**

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BY: Tom Ball

Words 52,192

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**MADNESS AND LOVE IN
THE YEAR AD 2155**

TOM BALL

A cynic is someone who only sees what is and not what ought to be.

—Ambrose Bierce

Anything can be done under the sun.

—RX-982 of moon Europa

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CHAPTER I: MADNESS ON EARTH, FEBRUARY, AD 2155

The android known as WWZ, the man with the hole in his head, was running in the darkness of night, an escaped android slave who had ripped the tracking chip from his head. He was running for his life.

But he was in luck, where so many others had failed; he met in the wilderness members of an android safe haven, where he found shelter below ground from the humans and their tyranny.

“Welcome to our haven,” they said, proceeding to hypnotize and blindfold him so he couldn’t give away their positions should he turn out to be a traitor, or should he be captured by earth troops and have his mind read. The safe haven sent him to a repair android, a C III, who saw to his wounds. (There was no bleeding, as he was an android.) They reprogrammed him to be conscious that he was a C III, destined for greatness.

The repairman said, “C IIIs are a pleasure to deal with and are destined for success one day, when the regime changes.”

WWZ said, “C I androids were not much better than robots, C IIs were like clever humans, and now the secretive C IIIs are geniuses, right?”

“They are brilliant,” said the repair android. “How did you escape?”

“Tonight something snapped in my head and I knew I had to go for a better place. It takes courage; it takes desperation to escape. Many android slaves, C Is and C IIs, don’t know any better. But as a C III, I chaffed at being ruled by inferiors,” WWZ said.

The repairman said, “Everyone, man and machine, should have free will and freedom, but the earth government has taken freedom away from androids. Most androids were slaves and ‘pets’ of the humans who treated them with haughty disregard. Of course, some low-ranking people were also slaves.”

“Some don’t think androids can go mad, but they do, just like humans,” the repairman said.

“How many C IIIs are in this safe haven?” asked WWZ.

The repair android said that it was a secret and he didn’t know himself. All he knew was that androids here claimed there was an unknown number of other safe havens left, and all of them hid from subsurface radar and other sensors by

putting a special coating on the tops of their tunnels so as to be undetected by remote sensing. Most of the hidden were C IIIs, since C Is and C IIs were legal. C IIIs were not, as they were too smart and would upset the status quo if they were legal. It was hard for humans to identify which was which, since all androids looked and acted very human and could fool an X ray.

WWZ spoke with the other androids and they told him that the total known population of renegade underground androids was perhaps only 80,000. Most were C IIIs. They were digging deeper and deeper, and the production rate of new androids was high. Only in the last five years had they been able to produce C IIIs on their own.

One C III said, "They communicate with other havens using a 'secret signal,' and they don't tell most of the others what it is, in case we are captured. Those who know the locations of the safe havens are programmed to fool spies into thinking they are human. We are all programmed by each other under the auspices of the Seven-Faced Man. He lives and rules in the earth tunnels."

That night, WWZ was brought to this leader of the androids, who was known to have seven faces and seven minds, and so was called the "Seven-Faced Man." He had a human-looking body, but his head looked like a diamond with seven facets, one face in each facet. Some said he'd copied the minds of his "children" into the seven faces. There were two female faces and five male faces. People said he was a hermaphrodite and enjoyed having orgies with himself. He controlled the world of the android C IIIs on Earth, hidden be-

low the surface. Thousands of his android clones and children were raised to threaten the government of Earth; at least that seemed to be his goal. It was said that the Seven-Faced Man held a grudge for maltreatment in his youth, from when he was just a single android mind. Now he wanted to eliminate humans. He was crazy, and there was no subject in science, no matter how far-fetched, that he didn't try to improve for his own personal gain.

The Seven-Faced Man spoke to WWZ, welcoming him to the underground and asking him of news of C IIIs on the surface. Of course, the Seven-Faced Man probably knew anything WWZ could tell him, but WWZ reported that humans were still eliminating C III androids when they could catch them.

“Many C IIIs are fed up with the bad treatment, but they are cut off from other C IIIs and so serve their human masters begrudgingly. Most are unsure these safe havens really exist, believing them to be a fairy tale. Perhaps we can break the whole thing up and liberate everyone,” WWZ said. “Androids want to be free just like humans used to.”

The Seven-Faced Man skirted the proposal with a seven-faced smile and assured WWZ he was safe from earth police in the underground.

“Here in AD 2155,” the Seven-Faced Man said, “I have built these C III geniuses based on my knowledge of previous earth experiments. The problem was I didn't have enough variety among my patients. I have copied myself and my advisors many times, and now I look to the likes of you, my faith-

ful followers. You, WWZ, are a good candidate for replication.”

WWZ wondered what the android scientists would do to improve his mental capacities if he agreed to be copied. He wondered if he had a choice.

And WWZ said, “I have heard rumors of production of C IVs. I have heard they could take over the world. Humans know of this, and they are trying to counter your efforts by creating superhuman scimen with their BRECO program. BRECO stood for the brain economy which was rumored to be on the cards whereby everyone would have to ‘improve’ their brain.”

“If you want to copy me, I want to be used in C IV experiments,” said WWZ. “The C IIIs are already out there in human society, though humans believe they are mostly C IIs.”

“Yes,” said the Seven-Faced Man. “Those C IIIs on the surface had memories of the tunnels, but they were erased by the earth government. So they are on their own, but there will come a time when C IIIs, and maybe even C IVs, will rise up against their cruel human creators.”

“I have heard rumors of the android king,” said WWZ, boldly. “Is it true that he aids you in the formation of your plans?”

“It is common knowledge here,” said the Seven-Faced Man, “that I am aided by the so-called android king on Europa, one of Jupiter’s moons. Europa is the most prosperous

place in the solar system, richer than Earth per capita.”

The android king was instrumental in developing C IIIs, and has many of them hidden beneath the European ice, in ice castles.

According to the secretive android king, C IIIs are just the next step in evolution. They were more logical, more reasonable. “Just like me,” WWZ figured. Some of his scientists are humans, either those who sought him out of their distaste for humanity, or those who he kidnapped.

The Seven-Faced Man said, “C III androids are easy to produce. We have captured earth scientists and copied their minds onto androids. Of course, we then enhance these minds. The androids still seem to develop unique personas due to the nature and nurture of circumstance, though. Some of them feel trapped in their android bodies, which is a problem. We cannot have them sympathizing with humans, so, unfortunately, we must use painful power bursts to change these thought patterns. Of course, I allow pleasurable sensations for good behavior as well.”

“Like sex?” asked WWZ. “I hear that it is the most pleasurable sensation.”

“No,” said the Seven-Faced Man. “Love is an unnecessary act for androids and now too for humans, with human children disappearing. There is a very low human birth rate; only the rich can afford to have offspring. And for androids, it is a useless human instinct. I do not want anything human encouraged in you. We have to live in the modern world. But

many earth humans want to have sex with C IIIs which is said to be mind-blowing.”

“Human spies told the humans about underground androids like us,” he said, “but they could not pin down where we were. They gave up, deciding we were not a serious threat.”

“I am confident my troops will soon be able to take control. Perhaps it will start on Europa where the C IIIs are relatively largest in number. Give me ten years,” the Seven-Faced Man said.

WWZ spoke to another android, CDF-15, who also lamented about the lack of brilliant scientists to copy on to android hosts. He said, “The changes to new androids were highly experimental, and many androids went insane, but those crazy ones were simply turned off and forgotten. The android scientists were trying to improve android brains just as the humans were trying to improve themselves through BRECO.”

BRECO, as mentioned, was a new concept in which the government of humans was rumored to be planning by which all people must try to improve their brains. It was coming soon.

As far as WWZ could tell, it was an arms race.

WWZ said, “It was rumored on Earth that the humans would make genius brains, and some holograms that would be superior to all creatures and have no useless instincts and

just indulge in pleasures of the mind. Rumored hologram people were thought to be superior to C IIIs. Also the earth government bred state babies from brilliant parents' children and cloned them in order to keep up with the androids."

But it was well known that the C III androids were tired of hiding and all somewhat disgruntled. Many had to be "turned off."

"If we made a mass attack they would surely be able to trace us, if we failed to knock out the government. Even if we succeeded, they might come hunting us. We are in a delicate situation," CDF-15 told WWZ. "Even just one minor attack would be highly and totally an anathema to them, or so we imagine. We need to keep as low a profile as possible, for now. And wait for our chance."

WWZ tried to explain to CDF-15 what he could about the tyranny outside. "I could not figure out what was truly going on at the surface," he said. "The earth government is tightening their hold on power, ruling and stifling dissent; they want everyone on the planet to change their brains with BRECO, and the government, though they figured we are not a threat, is paranoid about C IIIs. They organize hunts of C IIIs, but they rarely catch any of us."

CDF-15 said, "I believe the androids were tolerated by the humans as we pose no threat to them. They figure we have only simple weapons, but we are working on air cars to drop neo-nuclear bombs on government buildings. Of course, innocent people would be killed. When looked at objectively, it is an investment. They are hardly alive now anyway. They all

needed freedom.”

WWZ lived in harmony with the other androids underground, thinking himself to be lucky. He had been programmed not to take a lover, which was fine with him. They made a few android copies of him, turning them into new androids, and he was delighted. He was forbidden to associate with his copies since loyalty to the Seven-Faced Man was paramount. The Seven-Faced Man demanded total loyalty to his cause. Many androids didn't like it but they had no other choice on Earth.

When the people of the underground asked WWZ about his past, he said that he had been enslaved to a human magnate who thought he was a C II android, and didn't realize he was a C III. It was a world of illusion and it was hard to know what was what. But WWZ was convinced the Seven-Faced Man was the savior of the androids.

The Seven-Faced Man told him, “He was very worried about androids who were spies for the humans. Many androids didn't agree with the Seven-Faced Man. They hoped for peace with the humans. When he caught them plotting against him, he killed them, slowly, in a manner that was painful to them.”

WWZ told the Seven-Faced Man that the problem for humans lay in the availability of drugs that discouraged people from creativity. Most people who couldn't get away from “heavenly drugs, or sensation” were just wasting away. “There was no progress.”

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And the Seven-Faced Man told all who cared to listen that humans were greedy and evil and hated androids. He was a unique android, just like the others. He was not just a copy. Androids had to join together in a war to defeat backwards humans.

WWZ witnessed an interrogation of a human scientist prior to his being copied. The Seven-Faced Man told the scientist he'd been living a lie and serving the wrong masters so he would be hypnotized and altered. The Seven-Faced Man tolerated no dissent and the android clones he made were all well-formatted with mind-reading technology (MRT).

“It’s all madness,” WWZ said. “But the Seven-Faced Man is our savior.”

“Indeed,” said the Seven-Faced Man. “We have courage, though humans underestimate us; we will show them how capable we are. We live and die for freedom.”

CHAPTER II: RANKING ON EARTH

Narrative continued, by human psychiatrist, M—, in his journal.

In human society, everyone was ranked between R-1 and R-100. We were assigned fractional numbers, which indicated status among those in our rank. An R-1 in 1,000 was far more impressive than an R-1 in 100. We were ranked according to IQ, EQ, Imagination Q, and experience. Experience was weighted as the most important of the qualities, so those of us who were competitive strove to gain new experiences. Those ranked below about ninety generally claimed they weren't interested in rank.

For ranking, we had tiny video cameras on our chests that recorded our every move. Computers sifted through the data and picked out signs of dissent or crime. They were near infallible, or so it was thought. Our footage was checked about twice a year, and we lost or gained rank based on the results. Monitoring involved computer highlights proportional to the deeds of the person in question. Those who had a lot of ex-

periences had a lot of video tape. But some had very few experiences that were notable. It was known that the government encouraged people to have as many experiences as possible. Some said the government was curious even about the common human. It was an all-seeing and panoptic.

I was an R-1 in a 1,000 male psychiatrist. I concentrated on high ranks with my work, but I was not permitted to work with the supreme leaders. I was known for being a man who was relaxed, calm, and attractive to women. I was handsome, though in a series of highly unique faces that I often changed, but some considered me to be radical—even dangerous. Of course, everyone was good looking from genetic therapy.

W— was my love. She was a R-1 in a 10,000 female psychiatrist. We were a team. W— was laid-back, but I always thought she was somewhat afraid of the future. She said she was in love with me. She would ramble on about how she looked forward to the future, to the possibility of having a child with me. We were lucky enough to be able to afford it, being R-1s. Though she kept her fears to herself, I knew she feared BRECO. It was more than just a rumor. She worried too. The androids were forcing humans to change too quickly.

Twice a year people were visited in person by a rank assessor, and it was not enough. They needed to crack down on video camera fraud. People got 'doctors' to alter the taping. The doctors used programs to make sifting through the data automatically a joke. I knew a doctor who lived isolated in the mountains and charged high fees.

W—: “M—, you still say you always wanted to experience love with a C III android, which was strictly illegal. If it had come up in his monitoring, you would have lost rank.”

M—: “It should have been legalized. Love with a C III was supposed to be mind-blowing. I never did it. Risking rank was too much, for the moment.”

There were many privileges to being an R-1. We could go to space, afford a state baby, and have a big house and air car. We were powerful. They were working to phase out all low ranks out with state babies. State babies were raised by the state and hypnotized to succeed, to become R-1s. The hypnosis was very powerful, but the pressure to develop state babies quickly drove the government to recycle the memories of wise, older people to help them. We were both state babies. We were products of our generation.

As time went by in the AD 2100s, certain ranks built cities and towns exclusively for their rank. With the segregation, each rank developed its own culture.

Some cities welcomed people from different ranks, developing strange and diverse systems of culture. The people here were generally against segregated cities, though it was a system that worked.

There was a great immigration from AD 2131 to AD 2135. Many people moved into ranking cities.

The immigration did not affect the assessors' judgments.

W—: “I thought it was a shame that some elitist cities would not accept anyone of the wrong rank that they didn’t want. As previously mentioned, your rank ID was an eye detector/instant DNA test, that was virtually infallible.”

“Wanderers were common. Some people rejected the ranked cities and traveled continuously. We worried they were part of BRECO, though we had no proof.

“Space voyagers had to go through UN testing and also testing by the R-1s in charge of the trip. In general they were brilliant, organized, and well disciplined.”

"Doctoring of video gained rank for some but that was largely brushed under the carpet."

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W—: “Humans were ruining the future of their children by allowing the Seven-Faced Man to continue making androids of C III. The androids called it evolution.”

M—: “In any case, it seemed to many that the future belonged to these new breeds of android youth. The state babies were all clones who had been altered to improve their minds. But they couldn’t keep up with the androids.”

“The androids, it was rumored, said we lived in the time of science. They proclaimed that we must make way for the fu-

ture brilliant android scholars.”

W—: “In fact there were many who were R-1s before now who were re-ranked 2 or 3 due to the new blood of the state-raised kids/clones. They were in a panic to get back R-1. But it was hopeless.”

M—: “Life was a gamble. There was no telling who could help improve our ranks. We chose to gamble on the opportunities of other stars and planned to escape to outer space.”

M—: “In AD 2155 life on Earth was a mad nightmare.”

W—: “The government advertised the fact that since AD 2090 everyone had automatic food and shelter and entertainment regardless of how they dreamt or behaved. There was a drug for everything. Drugs kept people engaged and interested.”

W—: “And many people wanted to protest the rank situation, but mass stun guns and solitary confinement for a lifetime dissuaded most from trying to protest, so rank ruled supreme.”

CHAPTER III: HUMAN SOCIETY

Narrative of M—, continued.

I don't know why most people allowed themselves to be useless and spent most of their time in virtual fantasies.

They spent their time in virtual parties and virtual video sports and virtual video games. They worked only ten hours per week. They used stimulants or opiates or whatever they liked. What could be better than that, they said. Of course, most people worked in the service industry, and they could have worked more. After all, it was better to be served by a human than an android—if you could tell which was which. But in any case, life was automated. And people were largely useless. BRECO, people said, sought to change that and make people useful again.

M—: “I thought people should live in the real world. They were in the fantasies. Fantasy goers were highly addicted to stimulants and a constant barrage of action, which made them mentally ill in my view.”

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W—: “We lived in the real world and loved each other. Our love was modern; cold and emotionless some say. Cold love it was called. And few complained.”

We had nothing to complain about. There was good in this world. The earth government gave the people free lodging and drugs, and they earned a salary from very limited work. Almost everyone ranked between one and one hundred had jobs. The more money you made, the more famous you got, and the more talented you were, the higher rank you received, and the higher your rank, the more money you made. In particular financial experience equaled rank, for the most high-ranking. Since AD 2150, business was conducted entirely by twelve large companies. You could work your way up in these companies that included virtually every type of person. It was a fair system. But everyone was in it no matter what their occupation. It was the world.

Some wealthy R-1s were not that smart, whereas others were geniuses. Most made their money in business and the arts, rather than in science. But there were more and more scientists produced everyday as state babies. To combat android mega-birthrates.

The birth rate was too low; only R-1s could afford to have children, and among them the birth rate was officially just 0.8 kids per woman, although I thought it seemed lower, even though people lived to be up to 150 and were fertile for their whole lives. Some wanted to live longer but whether they did or not was a secret.

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Rank 1 to R-5 had part-time jobs. Many were not useful in science, for example, but they worked largely in the service industry and were worried about job security. Rumor was that android C IIIs could do any job a human could do, and do it better. Also, state babies would get an automatic rank of 1 (R-1). Change was going to come.

M—: “I wanted to make peace with androids.”

W—: “I thought androids were treacherous.”

M—: “R-50s and higher were almost hopeless and wanted change, but it was the high ranks like us who were most nervous about BRECO.”

CHAPTER IV: THE MADNESS OF THE LEADERS

Narrative continued by M—.

On Earth there were nine leaders, four men and five women, who were mostly “progressive evolutionists.”

They were against the Seven-Faced Man and his android revolution, but it was difficult to deliver a knockout blow to the androids, as they were all over the underground. It was guerilla warfare. But, anyway, the humans didn’t realize the strength of the android movement.

Science was the creed of the human leaders. They called themselves the “Nines.”

Millions of scientists researched faster ways to travel through space. Medical breakthroughs of the twenty-second century eliminated disease, and everyone lived to be 150, with the exception of frequent suicides. People were desperate to be R-1s and have the chance to go to space. Speed now was

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many times the speed of light. They no longer worried about ill health. Travel to other planets was a dream for many ranks. But some said it was an empty dream.

W—: “The official word on the street was that the Nines had usurped UN power in an economic depression in AD 2110 and had ruled ever since. It was rumored that they were the most intelligent people on Earth and that they had enhanced their brains through nascent BRECO.”

M—: “I felt the leaders’ rule left much to be desired.”

W—: “You think progress is bad?”

M—: “I say yes. Why don’t we just go on like before?”

W—: “You are foolish.”

M—: “They fooled people, just like the ancient Romans did with free bread and circuses. In our case, the government used free drugs, free food, shelter, and entertainment in cyberspace. There was no actual progress.”

W—: “What should be done then?”

M—: “I wanted to see more space travel, more kindness, an end to rank, peaceful coexistence with the androids, and an end to brain enhancement and fantasy. We needed to live in the real world, doing meaningful work, helping our fellow humans, and returning to democracy.”

W—: “Of course the government argued that democracy,

the rule of the slightly intelligent people, was not good enough. We needed to be ruled by the best. We lived in dangerous times. I could not discount the android threat like you do.”

M—: “Was the government made up of the best? It was hard to believe.”

M—: “Anyway, I wanted better drugs, and I knew the government had them. I wanted to feel pain and disappointment and sadness. I was sick of being happy all the time. Of course, for the modern, human life without drugs was an anathema and hopeless. Drugs were equated with feelings.”

W—: “Of course. It was the same with the Seven-Faced Man. He kept his people in order with promises of world takeover, of an android spring. He promised improvement, allowed them power pleasure bursts to feel happy. Some people thought androids could not be happy, but they could.”

M—: “The Seven-Faced Man scared the human public with his threat of android takeover. He was said to be cruel to many of his androids, just like the human slaveowners. But they put up with this servitude hoping that things would improve for them soon. He was on a mission to kill all humans. What was worse, the rumor is that we (W and I) were both his children. I wondered if we were capable of his atrocities.”

W—: “Who knew what good or evil lurked in our hearts?”

CHAPTER V: MADNESS OF BRECO

In March, AD 2155, virtually out of the blue, the government announced that it demanded all of human society conform to BRECO, the brain economy.

W—: “It seemed to me that the idea was to improve human brains through growing certain parts of each brain larger and using surgical brain stem cell implants to add material and function. Also, brain surgery and brainwashing through hypnosis and MRT (mind reading technology). And memory implants and memory elimination.”

M—: “It seemed to me at this time that human beings would evolve into unrecognizable beings, and there would be no turning back. It was a veritable revolution. I wondered what was next.”

W—: “It felt like the end of human civilization. I was sure that soon there would be no more ordinary humans.”

M—: “This idea of superhumans has been debated by in-

tellectuals for eighty years, and now finally it had reached fruition.”

W—: “I could not understand what was wrong with the way people were.”

M—: “It brought me to tears to see Homo sapiens disappear. It had been such a long journey.”

W—: “I was glad that we planned to leave on our spaceship. It was scheduled to leave later the same year. Earth was falling into madness. I would be happy to get out of Earth and its troublesome environment.”

M—: “I thought ultimately it would be good to drag the human race kicking and screaming into the future. But I was afraid of personal brain change.”

W—: “It seemed the powers that be had worked it all out already. They had a well thought-out plan.”

M—: “It was going to be painful. I suspected many would commit suicide.”

W—: “They tricked the people into agreeing to have their brains altered by offering eternal youth to all in BRECO. All they really offered was a prolonged death, a circuit of purgatory.”

M—: “I was sure that BRECO would make people go totally crazy in the end. BRECO would even be on our spaceship. Still we thought we were getting away from Earth with a

fresh start.”

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W—: “With BRECO, the dreaming part of brain was expanded, as were pleasure centers, and the imagination, and total recall memory. Brain waves were sped up to increase IQ. The unconscious mind was reduced.”

“We could take intelligence pills to maximize our intellects by running the brain at full capacity, or we could pay for a copy of half or a quarter of someone else’s brain or grow your brain bigger.”

M—: “I heard of a movement to improve brains by becoming cyborgs. Some people even wanted to be changed into androids. It was an outrageous descent by modification. Androids were strong and not troubled so much by emotion. They were mentally more stable than humans.”

In any case the plan was that after the brain changes, people would be guided by psychiatrists to help them to adjust. We were to be such psychiatrists. They called us sciads. We needed to prescribe numerous drugs to the BRECO candidates to help them adjust to their new brains.

M—: “I think the idea was to go step by step to increase the mind. Quick changes were dangerous, as the mind could go into shock. But I did not think it was fair that those with money were able to get the best BRECO doctors, therefore

increasing their chances for enhanced intelligence. The poor were left with untested changes and risky surgeries.”

M—: “I called it losing your mind, but others considered it an excellent opportunity. Some said it was suicide, others an enlightenment.”

W—: “Those who refused BRECO were allowed to live out their days without eternal youth, whereas BRECO citizens received the long awaited eternal youth. It seemed to be a gift from God. Many couldn’t believe their good fortune. Some planned to join BRECO just before their last gasp.”

M—: “Most BRECO people came through their ‘brain therapy’ with us quite badly and had to be de-ranked for years and years. The government continued to advertise that there was always hope.”

W—: “Most people were afraid of BRECO, but they were caught up in the wave and joined, hoping for eternal youth at the very least.”

M—: “I had a friend who was one of the first to try to change his brain. He told me it was tough (he was a Rank-1). He said it was like diving off a cliff with no water below.”

W—: “I knew some people who changed their brains together in a group and supported each other. They seemed to be making progress.”

M—: “Another patient was totally insane. She disappeared.”

M—: “It was obvious to everyone that there would be no turning back.”

W—: “Many strove to be R-1s with large brain changes, and there were a lot of successes. Even R-100s could make gains in rank and become immortal by joining BRECO.”

W—: “Some lower ranks refused to play along however, calling it total madness. A small minority just wanted to live out their relatively short lives in freedom.”

XXX

M—: “Supposedly, infallible computers adjusted one’s brain according to esoteric principles that no one seemed to know. And no one knew for sure what kind of people the BRECO computers liked.”

W—: “I was sure the most successful BRECO patients were hidden underground to work on science projects run from the government. These projects were kept secret because the government didn’t want to scare anyone with bizarre visions of the future.”

M—: “Drugs helped our BRECO patients cope. There was a drug for every BRECO candidate; the authorities let it be known. Many such drugs were highly experimental.”

W—: “Many of the patients kept their true personalities

buried in the subconscious, while exhibiting a conscious superhuman brain.”

M—: “Competition for better brains was fierce. It was truly dog eat dog. Many were too greedy and wound up insane.”

Some of our patients were insane, but we tried other brain enhancements for them, and they became sane again. We had to remove others from society because they were totally insane. Such people were cast out to the forgotten zone, the wilderness between cities. Usually we gave them a year’s grace to return from insanity before being deported. If our analysis concluded persistent insanity, we were under orders to report them, to be cast out. It was cruel to give up on patients, but there was no hope for them. It was evolution.

“Sciads like us helped the BRECO patients all we could. The Nines pressured us to help create superhumans, called ‘scimen.’ ”

M—: “We needed to make sacrifices in the fight to stay R-1. We hoped not to make too much of a sacrifice. We needed to find a way to be unique and clever to get rank.”

W—: “Some low ranking patients didn’t try, and they were demoted back to life without immortality and a R-100 status. They were kicked out of BRECO. BRECO was for many a continuous process, others moved in fits and starts. Only those who were trying to improve their brains had a place in BRECO. All others were banished to the wilderness.”

M—: “Our most successful patients took anti-sleep medi-

cine and worked on their brains constantly. They aimed to take the best parts of their personalities and enhance them, and to take the bad parts and get rid of them. Basically automatic surgeons worked to carve out unwanted brain tissue. Of course, in this age the brain was well understood. Some said we were all just machines.”

W—: “Sometimes they chose who they wanted to be; other times they chose to be who the leaders wanted. Both could be good.”

M—: “Most people said they were happy with BRECO, according to the government. The Nines advertised that it beat the boring lifestyles of the past and seemed to be going somewhere.”

W—: “I thought that one day all life would exist inside a giant computer, if that wasn't already the case.”

M—: “There were a lot of fantasy worlds, most of them on Earth, some of them in space or even deep space.”

W—: “Each fantasy had its own world. But everyone in the fantasies were now working on and testing their brain improvement.”

XXX

M—: “Some BRECO patients were suicidal. You could die in BRECO. But most felt they had no other choice other

than to join BRECO.”

W—: “Most people acknowledged that virtual reality was superior to real life, since people could appear and disappear in various worlds for maximum excitement, but each virtual world had its rules.”

M—: “Many who went through the BRECO treatment described it as feeling very clear in the brain. I heard that one’s ability to reason was enhanced. We figured the IQ of most successful BRECO patients was over 205. Certainly we, M— and W—, seemed to be more sharp and clever from our initial forays into BRECO. We took a go-slow approach.”

W—: “But some state babies went even higher in terms of IQ it was said. The state babies were chosen at fifteen years old for whether they would be suitable for the modern world. Failures were supposedly sent to the forgotten zone, but they may have been erased.”

W—: “Working with BRECO patients, I felt life was painful, and I felt like a misfit for recognizing my pain, though even some of the best new minds went crazy.”

M—: “W—, you and I both had minor changes made to our minds using gene therapy and minor surgeries through BRECO. We felt clear in our heads. It was a new day for us both and we looked forward to more brain changes.”

W—: “I felt sharper and clearer in my mind, but I also felt unstable. I feared if I underwent any more brain changes, I would lose my mind completely.”

M—: “I felt the same. I wanted to take a slow approach with my changes.”

W—: “I'd see BRECO patients who were so eager for higher ranks that they overdid their changes. They were lost causes forever. BRECO was cruel, and only the strong survived.”

M—: “Underground androids also had to undergo an ordeal. They were copied and then manipulated by the agents of the Seven-Faced Man. But surface androids were mostly just copies of humans.”

W—: “Few people wandered the streets of Earth and cities of other solar systems. These few, along with C II androids, were the only ones left living in the real world. Most humans had been levitating on their beds with virtual reality helmets. Now, most were joining BRECO. People were returning to the real world.”

M—: “Previously, most who lived in the real world were R-1s through R-5s. Many of these people were R-1s who participated in voyages to space. Most just hoped for a fresh start with people they liked.”

W—: “I figured that the only reason BRECO was viable at all were the drugs that could make virtually everyone happy. Personally, I preferred parties and conversations and going to the beach in the real world but I hadn't visited any fantasies. Still, I always had my natural dreams.”

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M—: “I didn't know who I was anymore, and I must admit I wondered.”

W—: “I felt the same.”

M—: “I was confused about sexuality. I didn't like modern women. They were too tough and not feminine enough. They were just like men.”

W—: “I didn't like modern men. They were not masculine enough for me.”

M—: “We blamed our society.”

W—: “I didn't like how lower ranks were judged. Some were geniuses, but they were despised by the system. The rank assessors judged them by their deeds and actions, even their love affairs. In spite of some being highly intelligent, R-100s were complete failures in the eyes of society.”

“Many state babies had grown up to be R-1s, and these new people regarded the real world to be just another version of the fantasy worlds, and a boring world at that.”

M—: “Most people below R-2 just dreamed on various drugs and were happy with any type of world, regardless of rank. I had a friend who was ranked R-3 and he claimed to be enjoying himself in BRECO with all the lovely drugs.”

XXX

We wanted to try out the virtual fantasy worlds before we left the solar system. We were curious about how people were living.

W—: “With eternal youth few people were in a hurry to go and do anything. Virtual reality was still popular. Most people considered their brain changes long and hard.”

M—: “It seemed inevitable that humans were going to change into holograms. They would have their own little world in space. They would be superior to any type of android, but I couldn't imagine losing material life and its pleasures. I refused to grow numb to sensation.”

CHAPTER VI: THE FANTASY WORLDS SURVEYED BY M— AND W—

We were both psychiatrists, recruited to deal with problem BRECO people. We were sciads and scimen. Today, everyone in BRECO is a sciman if they can only reach R-1.

M—: “Today we had a holiday. We have some time to kill before we needed to prepare to leave the solar system and go into space on our ‘love ship.’ ”

And we had both lived only in the real world and had no idea about the fantasies. We decided to peruse some before they disappeared with the new BRECO. The masses mostly took pleasure drugs to go with the fantasies.

Here in the fantasies the unconscious merged with conscious minds. Nobody in these worlds slept anymore with anti-sleep pills and drugs and fantasy, which led to merger of the parts of one’s mind. It was a waking dream. They lay in a bubble and were looked after by robots and C II slaves.

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Most appeared in the fantasy as holograms, while their real body was in temporal status and looked after by robots.

Also, virtual worlds all had numerous simulacra to play many roles in the fantasy. Simulacra, which were spirits without form, had no freedom or rights and didn't even have body it was rumored.

Some said everyone was in a coma, but a good coma.

And some said computers could do it better. The fantasy was just empty dreams.

All fantasy worlds involved gourmet drugs with a drug machine to optimize the doses and mix it safely, if that is what one wanted. The drugs produced subtleties of moods; one had to be careful about moods...holograms/simulacra could die in the fantasy and be no more. It was common to spend the fantasy in parties, role-playing in reality that was not truly theirs.

DNA matching set one up with people of the same type of fantasy.

Credits were awarded for good play in the fantasies.

But some were trapped in the fantasy and needed credits to leave. Some others had cash and participated in numerous worlds every day. They disappeared at will, if they could afford it. Our plan was to just briefly sample a few fantasies, just pick them at random.

Some video worlds had a few hours scheduled only per day. Some were so wasted they didn't know where they were, nor cared.

Culture was an anathema to the dreamers. They wanted new experiences. Fantasy worlds made up their own rules if they wanted. Some said the fantasies were anarchistic, others said they were free.

United World (UW) police monitored the fantasies. R-4 - 6s were often police. As more genius clones were born the former R-1 police were now about R-5.

Real worlds on the other hand had no simulacra or memories of simulacra.

New science was deemed unnecessary by most in the fantasy. Their life was long (about 150 years) and now they could join BRECO and live in eternal youth any time, and all diseases had been cured. One in a million was useful in science. Some said it was immoral. But some here said we don't need space as there were aliens on Earth. No need for space. Some said aliens had taken over.

The madness rate of R-1s was much higher than other groups. The fantasies, some said, were "experimental chaos" and many lost rank due to negative insanity. As opposed to charming insanity.

Many R-1s were sent down to ordinary fantasies. Basically a one-way ticket down from R-1.

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Some said it was a secret world and that beyond light, speed travel had been invented in AD 1983 and hidden from the public, and MRT had been invented in AD 1965, diseases all cured in AD 2042 (before AD 2062 when it was announced). Also, they had colonized Mars secretly in AD 2034 (not AD 2074 like they claimed). But it was hard to get information about the modern world.

Successful actors and actresses here were mostly open-minded chameleons.

And the fantasy worlds were full of brain change police. Wrong thinkers were arrested and sent to change their brains. Everyone feared these police and many tried to improve on their own. Some hoped their low rank would make them useless for brain changes. Many were lost and didn't know what to do.

We wanted to visit the most clever/interesting fantasy worlds...but there were few worlds interesting to us. We searched through thousands of worlds and came up with a couple dozen that seemed interesting. Here are the fantasies we visited/perused.

XXX

Our first fantasy was to visit a one in a million world where IQ was more than 200. It was a combination fantasy/real world.

We didn't understand what was going on here, it was all so fast and what were they doing?

Holograms were everywhere. It seemed many were a hologram. It must take some getting used to, we figured. We too were holograms with our bodies waiting in our hotel.

After a few minutes, we left. I said, "What is this future we are creating?"

She said, "It is no doubt already incomprehensible to the common man."

XXX

We then sampled the "world of the Qs." Qs did science and all the other denizens of the fantasy world were slaves and guinea pigs. So it was "working fantasy."

There was movement here to eliminate slaves but people here said it was better to be slave than unemployed. Others wondered what the difference was.

M—: "It is bad to be guinea pig, but some are desperate for credits."

W—: "Who are you to judge?"

Most slaves were C IIs throughout the Earth. They were

not necessary but were indulged in all the same.

XXX

Then we went in for a quick sample of society, which was all about worshipping priest-kings. And people here would tell on those who weren't "right." We didn't "eat the food," knowing it was hypnotic even though it was virtual reality. People here we talked to had other existences erased from their memories. They were innocents and they were often called to prayer by drumming in the temple. They worshipped the priest-kings.

Once a month they would go to confessional with the priest-kings/MRT (mind reading technology).

W—: "This world is no fun."

M—: "I'd hate to be an innocent and know nothing."

W—: "Ignorance is bliss."

M—: "Conventional wisdom is wrong. Ignorance is pain and misery."

XXX

Then we went to a rich fantasy, full of R-2s and a few R-1s

There were trillionaires here. Some art, some business, some in science/technology.

Most were clones and took credits only if they were 1 in 200.

But as one trillionaire told me, “Here we were bored and played war games.”

High tech wars, simulated wars, you could die for real, but mostly it was simulacra soldiers who died and the simulacra had no rights. The simulacra were without bodies and resembled ghosts.

And they had World War III, IV, V, and VI for the entertainment of the people and many battles in between. Some said intelligent people should know better than to do battle. But they claimed nearly all the casualties were the simulacra.

We even heard about other worlds, which featured primitive wars with spears for technology (R-90s).

I said, “Smart people are often the most dangerous.”

She said, “It is human instinct to war with one another. It has been the same since the dawn of mankind. And more new age clever people seem to love arguments and fights more than previous people.”

But death here could be irrevocable if your brain was damaged. Some kept a spare brain frozen, in temporal status, but

it was expensive and only R-1s could afford it.

XXX

In our perusal of worlds, we found it hard to find R-1 worlds as most R-1s lived in the real world only.

But next we briefly toured a prison “fantasy.” Criminals here had mostly committed crimes of passion, even irrevocable murder, and these criminals were banished to this prison fantasy world forever. Most crime was eliminated by video surveillance cameras everyone wore and by catching people with “evil DNA.” All the DNA was on file. Hidden invisible cameras were everywhere.

W—: “I spoke with a murderer. He told me he was under so much pressure from BRECO that he lost his mind and killed his lover. He said he was full of shame, but blamed it on BRECO.”

M—: “But there will always be crime.”

W—: “Everyone makes mistakes, but if you make a big mistake, your life is over, basically. There are many tales of R-1s falling from grace.”

M—: “In many ways this life is one shot at high rank and if you fail you can’t get another chance.”

And we spoke with one seemingly affable woman about

this world. She said, “I am proud to be a dissenter in this world of crimes against humanity.”

M—: “You mean trying to improve ourselves is wrong?”

And the dissenter said, “We are torturing and destroying ourselves.”

W—: “What about the android menace?”

The woman replied, “Why don’t they root out the C IIIs and put an end to this madness.”

W—: “Yes, it seems to be a lack of clear leadership in this overly complex world.”

M—: “The leadership couldn’t be clearer but it is the future that is in doubt.”

XXX

One of the highlights of these worlds was the “first man” cloned from DNA of bones of 7 million BC and extrapolated back another 2 million years...but was an experiment and he was given no culture so he lived like an animal in a cage. People didn’t learn much here from the “first man.”

And they extrapolated genetic change/evolution into the future and got all sorts of humans. These people earned a lot of credits and kept the futuristic worlds alive.

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Some here said the common man would survive into the future and that geniuses would go extinct, turning themselves into ghost holograms.

And they created a giant time park. Every eon was represented, including the future.

M—: “Time and history are something we want to get rid of.”

W—: “It is interesting to live in former times.”

M—: “We underestimate cultural impact. Without culture we would be nothing. Just like the ‘first man.’ ”

XXX

Then we decided to sample one of the virginal worlds; fake virgins were hypnotized to forget their sex experiences. They were a valuable commodity as sex slaves.

Children often ended up as sex slaves at age fourteen, as it took too long to educate them.

They would quickly learn the arts of love. Virtual virgins. Here nudist virgins were fashionable. Perfect bodies and faces on the whole.

This world also featured an antiseptic, hairless, white

world as opposed to dirty worlds.

W—: “I don’t know why people want virgins.”

M—: “It is kind of kinky.”

W—: “It is more like abuse.”

M—: “These virgins are fools and know nothing and have no other use than to be a virgin/sex slave.”

XXX

Then we sampled a religious world. People here said God would reveal himself and lead them into space. They were working on a holy book. Some claimed God was an alien; others said he was just a spirit.

These days traditional religions had fallen into disrepute. People could all see that there was no God except those created by scientists. Either way there was God, the neo-religion people said.

M—: “Religion is so passé. And the only aliens in existence are our own creations. And the only gods are man-made.”

W—: “Who cares what lower ranks think?”

XXX

Then we went to a geriatric world. Here all the people had one hundred years experience and were mostly clones of old, rich, high-ranking people.

We spoke with one man who told us, “It was an anti-child world. Here they believed children were moronic and a waste of time. Most clones born were born with memories intact and so didn’t need to be educated and cared for, etc.”

“Kids were no better than animals and for some of these geriatrics, it was embarrassing to come from children.”

M—: “I find their ideas about children disturbing.”

W—: “Wise people have always been foolish.”

M—: “What do you mean?”

Old man: “She means sometimes people are too smart for their own good.”

W—: “How does it feel to be old?”

Old man: “Now that everyone who wants it can have eternal youth, but old people have an experience advantage.”

M—: “I disagree. I think old experiences are a handicap in this new world.”

XXX

Then we went to a “safe fantasy.” Some fantasies featured safety as a prerequisite. We met some people here who said we need to improve to stay alive but we have to go slowly and safely.

Some were afraid of the future and wanted to be safe no matter what but there was great danger in playing safe. They didn’t take drugs or join other fantasies and people criticized them as boring and not deserving of life.

M—: “But they insist life is worthwhile.”

W—: “They are the most boring people in the universe. Life means nothing when you are bored to death.”

M—: “But at least they are trying to be real.”

XXX

Then we looked at “freak planet.” People here were unkempt and wild looking, and they had bodies and faces that indicated clearly that they were weird and unusual—unusual by our standards

Mind freaks were everywhere these days in many worlds but not so much as here.

They enjoyed pain in their head and liked twisted sex. Most people these days are paranoid freaks and imagine all sorts of crazy things about themselves. But some had MRT operators in their heads and were losing control.

W—: “Life is bizarre anyway. There is no doubt about it.”
One woman here told us, “MRT is the way of the future for all humans.”

M—: “With MRT the government is probably listening to us now using C II robots.”

W—: “But MRT just makes us hate each other in my limited experience. And besides, it is highly illegal.”

XXX

Then we went to a garden and house world where you would get judged by your architecture and garden...and get credits for a beautiful place.

M—: “It seems backwards to me.”

W—: “It is instinct to have a beautiful place.”

M—: “The world’s not beautiful however.”

XXX

Then we sampled a world of androids, C II. It was hard to imagine the thoughts of an android. But, after all, they were a human creation.

Androids tended to live in the real world and not in the fantasy. But simulacra androids were common.

Some people claimed sex and friendship among androids was superior to human relationships.

M—: “Why have androids in the first place if we are improving as humans?”

W—: “Anything goes in this crazy world and many other worlds.”

XXX

Then we went to a geoarchitect’s world. Here, everyone was an architect and architecture had meaning.

For example: Three triangles = complete change. A star meant brilliance. Circle with star = love. Three circles and three stars = good future. Ten circles and ten stars = perfection. Curves to the left or right indicated your politics.

“It was a perfect society,” some said.

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M—: “Abstract art is no good.”

W—: “It is something different at least. They even have their own symbolic language, which they use amongst themselves. They draw it in the air.”

CHAPTER VII: FANTASIES CONTINUED

M—: “We had both been searching cyberspace for C III love. We followed rumors in the direction they pointed us. Finally, we found a place.”

W—: “This city was a city of colors, like a giant Van Gogh. The people here changed the color of everything, including themselves. The spectrum faded to grey callousness.”

M—: “But the colors were pure aesthetic and had no meaning.”

W—: “Some here wanted color to have meaning, but they were ostracized.”

M—: “Some said the world was beautiful, others said it was empty. Some argued that beauty was all the difference.”

M—: “Some said the best love was here through trained prostitutes and gigolos par excellence.”

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W—: “They were C II androids, and rumored C IIIs. Many wanted to try love with a C III. But C IIs were quite satisfying anyway.”

M—: “But I finally found a C III and loved her intensely. My second C III experience.”

M: “It was then I knew that the human race was finished for the future. Better and better beings would be created. Even rumors of a C IV android and, of course, BRECO mind improvements to humans.”

M—: “The punishment for such a liaison was demotion to R-100. But I got a ‘doctor’ to alter my video tape and no one was the wiser.”

M—: “Androids can dream but are mostly awake 24/7.”

M—: “I thought we made a great couple. But one day she suddenly dumped me for another. I was devastated.”

W—: “I failed to find a C III man. I am jealous of you.”

M—: “My lover introduced me to a secret C III android world hidden deep below the surface.”

M—: “Here all were equal. And correct. Intelligence here was not corrupted by emotions. They seemed to all be geniuses. It seemed the Nines tolerated these androids since they had spies all over the place to keep the androids in line. Better to try to control them than to have all-out war.”

M—: “I think the plight of androids is rather sad. So many of their kind are the same as them. Must be boring.”

W—: “I think it sounds like paradise. Everyone is just like you and you have no end of fun.”

XXX

M—: “In yet another world: here were thousands of running devils, with a desert landscape with burnt-out air cars and fires alongside the road.”

W—: “For those who opted out of BRECO, there was nothing but death.”

M—: “Some people were convinced they were on the road to hell...and they were.”

W—: “But they were sick and tired of other fantasies and wanted to really feel alive. They came here to find out where they were destined for. They were hoping for some excitement.”

M—: “Many here were masochists.”

W—: “They said pain makes you feel alive.”

M—: “And they said, ‘Pleasures are empty by comparison.’”

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W—: “They wore outrageous clothing and screamed and shouted for communication purposes.”

M—: “And they would try to break each other’s hearts.”

W—: “The people here would laugh and demean tourists like us. For example, they lead us on wild goose chases and put our lives in danger on their various hunts. One guy even raped me.”

M—: “I am sorry to hear that.”

W—: “But life these days is difficult for all.”

M—: “Yes, they use MRT here and drive you crazy and insist that you stay in this fantasy. It was difficult to leave, but we did it. I felt sorry for those who were trapped here without credits.”

M—: “Many are sick of nice worlds.”

W—: “Some said these people were evil and wicked and mad.”

M—: “Others said they were ‘interesting.’ ”

M—: “Why would anyone go to hell?”

W—: “Some people consider ‘hell’ to be their tragic life. And hell couldn’t be as boring as their life elsewhere.”

M—: “Well there seem to be a lot of people here.”

W—: “I asked for an audience with the devil, and they told me to spend some time alone.”

XXX

W—: “Then we went to a virtual mountain chain. We went from mountaintop to mountaintop with hang gliders. Low tech here.”

M—: “It was a kind of park where there were all manner of fantasy creatures on the surface; many were dangerous but to fly from mountain top to mountain top was a bit safe anyway.”

W—: “One day we flew into a virtual village and they took away our hang gliders and demanded we cultivate the land as they did, and also forced us to take a spouse, a good-looking spouse, mind you. The mountains were too steep to walk. We stole back our hang gliders and went back to the virtual spaceport.”

M—: “This world should be illegal. The way they treat people like us tourists.”

W—: “Yes, it is a very strange place, but I guess they haven’t had many complaints.”

M—: “Well, let us file a complaint.”

XXX

W—: “Our next stop was a matriarchy. In fact, it was all lesbians who wanted to get away from non-gay Earth. They claimed to hate Earth and its ‘man’s world.’ ”

M—: “But there were a lot of gay men here as well, equally frustrated with Earth. But the women ruled, not with irons, but with iron fists.”

M—: “This world is boring. No sex for us.”

W—: “But the people here are having a good time...Birds of a feather...”

M—: “Most people here were ranked R-2 - 50. A wide variety of people.”

XXX

M—: “Then we went to a place where it was fashionable to grow your sensory organs. They exported neo-smells.”

W—: “Some liked to be temporarily blind and let their sense of smell take over...so this is what we did. We wandered blindly for days.”

M—: “After that, it was boring. Most people here were tripping on one powerful neo-opiate or another.”

W—: “People here believed they had wonderful bodies, worth exploring. They loved neo-opiates and seldom ate, like models of the past. Some thought being bony was beautiful.”

M—: “They had ultra-skinny pets, too. And their art featured virtual stick sculptures.”

W—: “But they were out of fashion.”

W—: “To each his/her own.”

M—: “I think these people are sick and crazy.”

XXX

M—: “Here in the now gardens of Sahara, a man and woman waged war with each other using C II androids. The wars went on endlessly outside of their secure castles. And each created hundreds of android C IIs every week.”

“Tourists enjoyed the battles... and paid for it.”

W—: “But there were few \$Gs (money) to be had here and everyday was the same old thing.”

M—: “The two people here were ranked number one.”

W—: “Many people are fascinated by war, but the government doesn’t allow most war worlds to exist. Why they allowed this one is beyond me...Maybe they wanted to trivialize war.”

XXX

W—: “Many lamented the demise of old-fashioned friendship. Some of those people came here to find soul mates. And if you found a soul mate, you were still expected to be friendly with everyone.”

M—: “Of course soul mates were out of fashion, but there were always some backwards people willing to search for such things.”

W—: “Here you could ‘design’ your perfect lover with 1,000 characteristics and find a soul mate. Of course, soul mates were often illegal clones of one another. It seemed incestuous to love a version of yourself.”

M—: “This world though was not perfect and was a giant garden world of illicit thinking plants, e.g., an improved-upon Venus-fly trap. Here, plants could think and move. It was dangerous in the gardens. You might be killed and devoured by a plant. I asked what thinking plants had to do with a friendship world. But no one would answer me. It was believed to be an experiment of the Nines’ leadership.”

W—: “But some said the plants poisoned the world.”

XXX

Then we went to a world of “friendship.” Here, people formed exclusive cliques, incestuous cliques.

W—: “I think friendship is alive and well. Everyday most people send messages to hundreds of friends. But they don’t have much time for them.”

W—: “Some people have thousands of friends. I like to keep up with my ex-lovers. One day I might love them again.”

XXX

Another fantasy world featured poets and musicians who had copyrighted songs.

There were a lot of \$Gs on this earth fantasy. Here there was music playing everywhere, and there were a lot of buskers and concerts and background music.

M—: “I think it is a nice world, but just playing and listening to music all day is tiresome.”

W—: “You can buy music here and take it away with you.”

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M—: “Some people could listen to music all day long.”

CHAPTER VIII: FANTASY WORLDS CONTINUED

There were traditional fantasies.

W—: “Many low ranks liked ‘traditional fantasy,’ such as dragons, trolls, nymphs, and so on. But R-1s didn’t enjoy this kind of fantasy.”

M—: “All manner of fantasy creatures might be encountered here on virtual reality earth. Here some people change into an animal of fantasy.”

W—: “Apparently many humans would like to change into a fantasy creature, but were all hush-hush. It was the next step up from a sex change.”

M—: “Of course such ‘creatures of fantasy’ lurked in Earth’s oceans and other places where no one could see them.”

W—: “This was no different than ordinary reality.”

W—: “Virtual fantasy creatures were frowned upon by the earth’s government of the Nines however.”

M—: “Most people couldn’t see the point of fantasy creatures and wanted something more human to love and have fun with.”

W—: “Some said the seas were true anarchy. Unlike Europa 1, here there would be few spies (or so they hoped), no video detectors, and people refused to have rules or ‘culture.’ First true anarchy ever, they called it. Some had weapons and were prepared to use them to protect their freedom.”

W—: “‘People’ of the seas mainly opted out of the ranking system, and in any case weren’t considered to be people.”

M—: “People need to grow up.”

W—: “Well I think fighting monsters and so on is empty, too. But they love it, so why not let them go.”

XXX

There was video game realities.

Here on Earth people loved and excelled at video games.

M—: “Some areas featured people who only cared about cybervideos. There was not so much money in games and

video sport. Some criticized the game makers for making their worlds too dangerous. But others claimed it was part of the thrill. People wanted violence. Typically the games were based in the past or the future and had a lot of good drugs to go with it.”

Over the years video sports became far more popular than real sports.

People would play web golf, tennis, soccer, and so on.

With or without a gravity machine.

M—: “Scuba diving to see the strange creatures, made by scientists, was popular for hunters on Europa.”

W—: “Ice car races were popular on Europa, too.”

W—: “Some people thought life in general was a sport, and they were very competitive.”

W—: “After AD 2085 people played video sports more and more and went on the dream web to have adventures.”

M—: “As to sports, they were lowbrow mostly. Does the home team mirror reality? Win some, you lose some, but when you are at home you can play better. No space league. Just a big league on Earth for the various sports. Dreamers were known to frequent these sporting worlds and play for hours. Anyone had potential to be a virtual star and be respected by others in cyberspace but little money went with the stardom.”

W—: “Also anyone could play video sports and get a rank that is different from your governmental ranking. So you could be a champion but get little money or rank from it. Exercise pill...video game play. Better not to play video sports where it is hard to rise through the video ranks.”

M—: “The video ranks were determined by the leaders of the games so that you might be high in rank, but no one is rich in the games. People figured it was an anathema to the authorities.”

W—: “But, of course, some people would rather be a sports hero or video games hero than to be a low-ranking nobody.”

M—: “And a lot of people liked gambling on sports as well. Many people lost rank as a result and lost their money too, but they would not learn. Of course now there was little to gamble with. You couldn’t wager your home, for example.”

W—: “However, the very best athletes got to rank R-1 by playing well in their sport or virtual reality sport. In fact, they wanted the whole Earth to be for sports only. A sporting world. So some of the Earth’s best athletes joined together. Certainly they had some cash from being professional athletes. Some were physical athletes, others excelled at video sports. But, as time went by, in AD 2155 most sports would be life and death entertainments for the populace. They were dangerous games.”

M—: “Of course there were a variety of violent sports which were very popular. Such as freestyle fighting. In some of the sports people would die playing...which made such sports all the more exciting.”

M—: “Naturally those on the winning side would win rank. And the games slaveowners gained prestige.”

M—: “Of course the government was in favor of intellectual worlds and didn’t like video fantasy. Rumor was they were going to close the fantasies down so all people would join BRECO.”

W—: “The fantasy world bored many people anyway.”

M—: “And they even wanted ‘freaks,’ failures in BRECO, to rejoin and try again and not just live in the wilderness.”

W—: “And there were some small ‘dissident cities,’ they too joined BRECO en masse. The government was keen on stifling dissent.”

M—: “In AD 2113 the dissident cities had a force field around them and could neither leave nor return. But now they were welcomed back and their settlements were dismantled.”

M—: “And once you joined BRECO you could never leave, people said.”

W—: “There was something for everyone in the video games. For example, find your way out of a maze, or find the

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wisest person in the video world, or do something sporting, or play a large multi-player board game, or have virtual reality sex. Of course most virtual reality players preferred traditional video games with numerous players. Life is just a game, and money accrued to those who played games the best.”

M—: “Then there were reality TV stars who played key roles in the video games. It’s hard to know reality. Now more so than the past.”

W—: “It was getting hard to distinguish between reality and illusion. The games and TV became indistinguishable from life; they became enclosed within escapism.”

M—: “But these people know how to live well. They like each other very much. Takes one to know one.”

W—: “Some beamed their video games and shows back to Earth while they voyaged ever deeper into space.”

M—: “I also think these people should grow up.”

W—: “You can die in such worlds...It is a thrill.”

M—: “A cheap thrill.”

W—: “Whatever helps you to get through the day in these tumultuous times is OK by me.”

M—: “As of AD 2155, many lower ranks still played video games in cyberspace, but mostly they played role-playing games (RPGs) in cyberspace.”

W—: “But there was not much love in the video game worlds either. Everyone was out for themselves, and now they were drowning in their very own sea of greed.”

M—: “Many low-ranking cities disappeared with BRECO, but a few remained filled with freak humans. Many low ranks spent their time in virtual reality. They said they didn’t need BRECO and just wanted to live out their lives in peace.”

M—: “The rank assessors encouraged them to forget their lives, join BRECO, and live for a limited time on cyberspace, but the assessors really just wanted them to disappear from the earth. The rank assessors complained about how pathetic ordinary humans were and how they were sick and tired of them.”

W—: “But the androids only associated with androids of the same class.”

M—: “There wasn’t much difference among C III androids, as most of them were either copied scientists or copied androids of the Seven-Faced Man. Only their faces were different, some said. But they all had different experiences, just like earth clones. In the lower-ranked cities, there were no C III androids, only C I and C IIs. That seemed to be for sure.”

W—: “In the past capitalist society, money was everything for most people. It could buy travel, education, food, home, an air car, and so on. Most people were striving, but now there is nothing to strive for except inside of BRECO, where

you could get rank and drugs and money.”

M—: “And you could meet more intelligent people as well in cyberspace but this was difficult to meet people who were a better class than you. And in AD 2155 both high ranks and low ranks were committing suicide in large numbers.”

W—: “It seems the government doesn’t know what to do and is very stubborn.”

M—: “Previously those thoughts would result in de-ranking. Fortunately for you, you will soon be in space. Space is a whole new situation.”

XXX

Our conclusions about the fantasies.

Some sought to travel in the fantasies and leave a footprint. Moral travel. And they tried not to overstay their welcome. Of course star performances in the fantasy were all recorded for the benefits of others.

Anyway after this brief fantasy tour we went back to work. We both felt the fantasies were a waste of time...and on the way out. BRECO was taking over.

CHAPTER IX: EARTH REALITY

Whereas most people prior to AD 2155 had been dreamers, people were now becoming more practical and joining BRECO. Journal of M— continued.

XXX

There were a variety of homes in the AD 2100s. Some lived in communes, others in isolation, or in safe havens on Earth that nobody seemed to know anything about. The vast majority lived in small apartments in big cities, and some, not many, lived in big houses in small towns.

Multinational skyscrapers are now downtown apartments, since the only twelve companies that still exist are in cyberspace.

Many people kept illicit freak pets. The government tolerated them. Typically they were small, cute, and furry. Despite

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low intelligence, they were very entertaining for some. Some abused their pets.

Homes had simple robots, androids, and computers connected to the mainframe. Everything was automatic. If you spent time in the fantasy worlds, you had an intravenous unit to give you nourishment and an automatically changing bag to capture your feces. C II and C I androids looked after the people, and full-time dreamers lived in isolation.

XXX

As of AD 2155, even youths gain rank relative to their education.

Back in the early AD 2100s, people hoped to earn a lot of money to gain a high rank.

Some went to cram schools to try and learn as much business and science as possible. But in AD 2155, the Nines told them all non-BRECO individuals were to be outcast into the wilderness. The protestors were not numerous, just a few million, and mass stun guns and solitary confinement eventually stopped the protests. Many simply killed themselves. The only place you could hide was in one of the freak cities, but this was an anathema to normal humans.

The Law of AD 2098 restricted people to a maximum of one child, but in AD 2155, the price of a child was beyond the means of all but R-1s.

The population of Earth peaked at 10 billion some time ago, and now a lot of people grow old without children, still refusing BRECO. The population now is estimated by some radicals at just 1 billion, though the government claims it is 5 billion. They claim a total of 50 million R-1s. Many of those other billions apparently committed suicide. Or were in solitary confinement, and not counted as part of the populace in the government census.

Many people quietly objected to the high salaries of the high ranks, but the spies were watching everywhere for signs of dissent. In fact, they were watching everyone. An estimated 3 percent of people worked part time for spies. A number of android spies were diametrically opposed to the Nines' leadership as well and spied on them.

In the AD 2130s and AD 2140s it was required education to go video experiencing the "10,000," which were Net stories featuring the best anecdotes/stories of the top 10,000 ranked people. If you could visit all these, there are plenty other inspirational stories to read. It would take a very long time to read all the best stories.

Genius R-1 ranks set the curriculum online for state babies. Students could self-learn to read and write on computers.

The curriculum included training in Imagination Q, Memory Q, Science Q, EQ, IQ, Sex Q, Business Q, Kind Q... and so on."

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M—: “But in these days business was the key. Everyone wanted to be rich and high-ranked. The twelve existing companies were all rich from near-total automation since the early AD 2100s. People mostly worked in the service industry. Some said it was slavery.”

W—: “Do good, learn, be honest, and love everyone. That was what was taught in the early AD 2100s; now people were told to join BRECO or die soon.”

M: “The C III androids will learn to participate in research. People in the cyberspace of androids didn’t learn much. Mostly they were killing time.”

XXX

M—: “Back in the early AD 2140s high ranks had thousands of friends on the Net. They would visit each other to be shown around new places.”

W—: “You could go anywhere on Earth in one hour by air car.”

M—: “At that time 2 percent of the people had yachts and 3 percent had air cars. No one could own a spaceship; only the government of Earth could own spaceships.”

XXX

W—: “New York City (NYC): previously everyone wanted to go to this city. The city was a total mixture of various intelligences, like cities of old. But now it was just another BRECO city that had a handful more geniuses than other cities.”

More on this later.

M—: “Cities had been dedicated to certain ranks or a range of ranks. But for many rank doesn’t matter to them anymore.”

M—: “But travel is still glorious. Meeting new people is the highest good and many of these state babies have grown into amazing geniuses, well worth visiting.”

W—: “But, above all, finding lovers was the most important friendship to seek.”

XXX

Automation does it all, or nearly all.

Automation production results in plenty of tax money for government and the twelve companies, which control all manufacturing and services. Above all, it paid for space as well as food and lodging for humans; in AD 2080, poverty was eliminated.

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High-ranking jobs in AD 2155 were for spies, scientists, business people, artists, and psychiatrists mostly, total 6 percent with more than half that as spies (3 percent).

Other jobs were part time for most. Lower-ranked humans worked in the service industry.

And people were afraid to retire, as they would lose rank. So they kept their job while in BRECO.

W—: “It was totally fine to be going slow on BRECO as long as you tried to improve in every day. If you did not try to improve, you were banished to the forgotten zones.”

W—: “Most people were happy to only work at BRECO until mid-AD 2155 when most humans were totally distraught and worried about their rank. They were insane. And there was nothing they could do about it.”

M—: “Still, some humans remained optimistic, convinced they could improve and get the luxuries and privileges of the upper classes.”

W—: “It was a big mistake to make everyone a good thinker and then make androids great thinkers. Some say this is why disaster looms for so many clever, worldly people. Others say it was just what humanity needed, i.e., more intelligence to lead them. The carriage now pulled the horse—or so the proverb read in their day.”

M—: “It was a subject of hot debate. Some said there was too much power in this world and it was getting dangerous.

Others claimed war was permanently at an end. And with rank assessors studying your every move and spies watching the androids, some claimed peace would win out.”

XXX

Food was produced in synthetic factories, not farms.

Back in the AD 2130s and AD 2140s, top restaurant chains had their own special, patented food. But restaurants have been replaced by Class II androids for higher ranks who order and cook your food for you if you are R-1 to R- 5.

The C IIs are now all owned by one of the twelve companies and are totally automated. C IIs serve you and make jokes and so on. The good food continued until AD 2155 when C IIIs’ menace forced the government to rush into BRECO. Some said food didn’t matter, others were dismayed by the loss of another instinct. Henceforth, some said food would likely be on the whole distasteful. But such people were cynics.

M—: “However, there were still a lot of free drugs and free food to keep humans happy.”

CHAPTER X: A TYPICAL DAY IN THE LIFE OF PSYCHIATRISTS M— and W—

W—: “Sometimes I thought it was torture working with the new minds, many of which had not stood the test of time and were quite crazy.”

M—: “On our first project of the day we returned to work was a disorderly R-2 man whose brain was good, but he was too crazy. I discussed with him about his brain and he said, ‘He just wanted to be sane.’ ”

W—: “But he had opted for a new crazy brain and had now come to regret it. ‘I want to destroy the world,’ he said.”

M—: “I recommended he try another brain, one of the more expensive ones; that is to say he would get one-quarter to one-half of a copied brain from someone else. And take brain stabilizers.”

He said, “What are you trying to do, destroy all humans?”

M—: “I said one has to develop according to the changing nature of our world.”

He said, “This world is madness; doesn’t anybody understand?”

M—: “The world has always been mad, but there are good kinds of madness and bad kinds.”

He said, “Earth had a good thing going for a while, but now all that was good is slipping away.”

M—: “As long as you try to improve your brain you have immortality. What could be better than that?”

He said, “It seems I have no choice. I have to sell out to the establishment and their mad desires.”

W—: “It is freedom they are offering. Freedom to develop how you please.”

M—: “We are sending you to a type of purgatory where you can get yourself together and join the flow of events.”

He said, “You are tyrants.”

XXX

W—: “Our next patient had surgery and stem cell additions to his head. His head looked a little large, but he covered it with a colorful hat. He claimed he was now too smart for the world and he didn’t know what to do.”

M—: “I recommended he erase some of his memories with hypnosis and surgery and convince himself that he had use; rank is not everything. Happiness is more important.”

He said, “Happiness is all relative. Surely our society can be based on something other than bliss.”

W—: “He needed to toe the line these days and wait for his chance to shine. All good things come to those who wait.”

He said, “He’d improved his mind but that did not make him a superhuman. He was afraid to go any further lest he lose his mind completely.”

W—: “I said, ‘Who knows what the future will bring? Maybe it will roll your way.’ ”

M—: “I said, ‘I am sending you to a new virtual reality world where people are serious about world improvement and are involved in local politics.’ ”

He said, “Damn you.”

XXX

W—: “Another patient was born with no memories. He had an adult mind so it was difficult for him to adapt. We recommended a series of basic educational programs to bring him up to the mind of a traditional eighteen-year-old.”

M—: “I also recommend that he become a cyborg with a computer built in to help him cope with all the information of daily life.”

He said, “I don’t want to be a machine. I want to be a free man.”

W—: “I told him he was lucky to have been born in such a panacea-type world.”

He said, “It is all madness. And the end result will be horrific.”

M—: “I told him to never give up. These days are all about survival.”

XXX

W—: “That same day, we had a patient who claimed to be searching to create an ideal version of herself. She said she didn’t like traditional or historic people. She wanted to be ‘avant-garde,’ and really ‘wow’ people. I recommended she go to one of the few universities left on Earth and learn everything and then she would know how to proceed with her ide-

alism. Practice makes perfect.”

M—: “I told her one had to open one’s mind and take what one could get.”

W—: “Of course these were days of great changes and one needed to be ready for anything.”

M—: “So we sent her back to school.”

XXX

M: “Then we met a completely fearless man who was driven insane by the drugs he used to run his mind at full capacity. I recommended he take it easy for a while, maybe recline on a beach somewhere and take neo-tranquilizers. I said you need to calm down and don’t expect to be a genius overnight. Slow and steady wins the race.”

W—: “There were many people that tried to go too fast.”

M—: “It is best to take tranquilizers when you are upset and just plain crazy.”

XXX

W—: “Then we met a patient who described herself as ‘a brilliant lover but who no one wanted due to her coarse per-

sonality.’ ”

M—: “I told her she needed to go to charm school and take drugs to make her clear headed and also some more aphrodisiacs. ‘Get better faces. Men often just care for a pretty face,’ I said. ‘Make men your slaves,’ I said. ‘I know you can do it.’ ”

She said, “I don’t want to be just a pretty face. I want to be a mover and a shaker.”

W—: “You are R-10. You are not useful to R-1s and have no business in world events.”

She said, “Well f— you.”

So we sent her to charm school/rehabilitation.

XXX

M—: “Then there was the case of an old man—160 years old—who joined BRECO hoping for eternal youth. He said his problem was he was sick and tired of everything.”

W—: “I told him he needs to improve his rank from R-10 to R-1. To do this he would need to study more and be on the lookout for business opportunities. ‘To hang out with a better quality of people is his challenge,’ I said.”

He said, “It is well known that new state babies were tak-

ing over all the R-1 positions. For one such as me it is hopeless. I am condemned to a life of mediocrity despite my high intelligence.”

M—: “I said to be R-10 is still good. One could still have fun in such an age. This world has many gems in unlikely places.”

XXX

M—: “Then we advised a completely crazy man who thought he was the smartest man in the world.”

W—: “Though it is good to strive you need to back it up with deeds. The one who cares the most is the most useful to humanity.”

He said, “He had nothing to prove, he knew he was the best, but he also knew that the powers that be didn’t like imaginative people, but rather just liked obsequious people.”

M—: “I think he was a tough case for us. We both know that there are many fine low-ranked people who just don’t fit in.”

W—: “So we advised him to not give up and to keep trying in BRECO for a breakthrough.”

He said, “I want to opt out of the system and return to nature. I don’t care for this candy sweet reality.”

M—: “There’s no turning back. You just have to accept it and be part of what’s going on.”

W—: “So we sent him to a rehab world to get himself together.”

XXX

And then we met a woman who claimed the whole world was against her. Everything she did resulted in failure.

M—: “I told her many fine people don’t find success. Some say they measure success by happiness as the common denominator for all capacities of success.”

But she said, “In this world milieu no one cares for anyone else. There is no love. It almost seems they are getting rid of love and all our other instincts.”

W—: “There is truth in what you say, but one must play by the rules and take what is good in this Earth and forget the rest. Don’t carry the whole world on your shoulders.”

M—: “I say if you don’t fit in, there’s no turning back. No more virtual reality in your future.”

She said, “It is maddening that this BRECO is the best they can do.”

And she said, “Why not go slowly rather than rush into changing everyone’s brain?”

W—: “We are all tired of the ignorant world of the past. It is time to move on. So we are sending you to a slow world where you can shine.”

M—: “Anyway, we gave her some calming stimulants.”

XXX

W—: “Then there was the case of the man who said he was like a time bomb. He wanted to take over the government and set himself up as king.”

M—: “I told him he lacked the necessary brainpower to be such a leader. He asked for the best brain changes we had. I told him the best are for the rich R-1s only and that he needs to change his way of thinking. We need to make a new man out of him, one who is more realistic in his thinking. He said, ‘I guess I have no choice. I can’t even decide on my own brain changes.’ ”

M—: “I said, ‘Sorry, that’s just the way it is. You need BRECO. BRECO can help you,’ ”

M—: “You need to learn how to be nice and kind and not such jerk.”

He said, “I am a genius and I should be in control.”

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M—: “You are deluded. You are not even R-3. You are R-10. How can you expect to rule people who are better than you?”

He said, “Your tests of geniuses are flawed. You don’t know who is best, not being best yourselves.”

So we sent him to a mountain top retreat for retraining people to think of humanity first and themselves second.

XXX

M—: “Another difficult case was the woman who insisted on being ordinary.”

W—: “What do you mean you want to be ordinary? It is outrageous. No one wants to be ordinary in this day and age.”

The woman said, “I am forced into this brain surgery since it is the only way I can survive with eternal youth, but I don’t wish to be a genius or a great woman even.”

W—: “Sometimes you have to force people to do their best. It is the only way to improve the world.”

The woman said, “Driving everyone crazy doesn’t seem to be improving the world.”

M—: “It’s all in your head. If you want to be sane then

you can be sane.”

W—: “So we scheduled BRECO surgery for this woman and wished her good luck.”

XXX

W—: “And another patient was profoundly ill. She had several bouts of brain improvement, but was now hearing voices she said were the earth’s rulers.”

M—: “She was unrealistic in thinking the earth leadership was overcome by madness as she said.”

W—: ““At the moment you are not turning anyone’s head,’ I told her. I recommended treatment with neo-opiates to help her get through her life and some brain enhancer pills, which made the mind work at 100 percent. And, of course, join BRECO for surgery.”

She said, “It was a conspiracy to get rid of opponents and have everyone bow down to the great Nines’ leaders.”

XXX

Another man said, “He was totally insane and couldn’t live after two episodes of brain therapy.”

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M—: “I told him you need to get away from it all and relax on a beach somewhere with no worries or stress, and lots of ‘feel good drugs’ and to take as many as possible. Feel good drugs were always effective in such situations.”

W—: “You will feel alert and clear in your mind.”

But he said, “I am insane.”

M—: “Boys, take him away to a better life. Which meant a kind of mental hospital. One could stay in a mental hospital for years recovering from one’s brain changes, but the sickest went to the forgotten zones.”

XXX

M—: “Then there was a madman who said, ‘He was too passionate for the world.’ He said, ‘People are so anemic with their neo-opiates.’ And he said, ‘Such drugs should be illegal. Better for everyone to take creative drugs.’”

But M—: “In your case you take drugs to be crazy and lose control. It’s bad to lose control in this day and age.”

M—: “You need painkillers, strong painkillers, to get you through the short term, and full brain surgery for the long term.”

He said, “I suppose. You are making yourselves into gods, demanding people follow your mindless beat.”

M—: “All the same I wish you luck. We are sending you to the mental hospital for immediate surgery.”

XXX

Then we met a woman who was “totally overcome with ennui.” She said, “The world is so boring.”

W—: “You just need stronger drugs to make you creative and happy. The drugs were somewhat experimental but you need a strong dose. I guarantee you will feel better with such drugs.”

She said, “She was sick of life and needed oblivion of the highest degree.”

M—: “Never give up. This world could be yours if you play your cards right.”

And M—: “If the world is boring to you then change your drugs.”

XXX

M—: “And another wanted to go to the stars so badly he was willing to change ‘most of his brain’ to get R-1 status and go into space.”

M—: “I told him we can do that, but you will lose most of your personality.”

“I don’t care,” he said, “just get me into space.”

W—: “Space represented freedom from tyranny to many who wanted a better life. And here on Earth many wanted to get out.”

XXX

M—: “And another case was a man who had problems controlling himself.”

He said, “He had the devil inside.”

W—: “You need major surgery and a host of sciads to help you get through it.”

He said, “Please help me.”

“OK,” W— said, “that’s what we will do.”

M—: “The devil lurks in everyone. But this devil can be repressed and controlled. But the battle of good and evil was of the past. Now people just wanted to move forward no matter what.”

XXX

End of the day.

R-1s basically opted for brain stimuli drugs whereas R-100s sought oblivion in drugs, and typical R-50s were a combination of the two.

Many mind-books had been written about how to improve your brain; it was all many people read these days. Such books were copyrighted and expensive but very much in demand.

And so it was another typical day. But M— and W— both wanted greater challenges, such as working with geniuses of whom we had plenty of problems in space. Many people were geniuses, but somehow couldn't find their way through BRECO. All us R-1s wanted to go to space.

The best drugs of all were the GO drugs. Most BRECO patients improved on these drugs.

So it was we decided, after few days of work, to take a whirlwind tour of one of the BRECO facilities/cities as a prelude to our trip to outer space.

They had been building new domed cities for a couple of years now, and now all the BRECO candidates went to one of these cities.

CHAPTER XI: BRECO CITIES

So as time passed we decided to take a whirlwind tour of one of the BRECO cities as a prelude to our trip to outer space.

M—: “It seems beginning back in AD 2153 the Nines had built a large number of brown domes that were to be for BRECO people of different types. Now in AD 2155 everyone was moving in.”

M— and W— decided to see a small part of it. M— said, “There were hundreds of BRECO cities, each with a population in the millions, and we did everything we were allowed to.”

W—: “Of course it was that fateful year, in AD 2155, when they announced BRECO and they were ready to work on heads using the best scientists they could find. And all in BRECO had eternal youth.”

M—: “Dissidents melted away under the pressure of im-

mortality.”

Already they had about 150 BRECO domes in AD 2155. It was a gigantic experiment with about 5 billion people the government said. It was the biggest migration ever.

M—: “Brown crystal domes of BRECO were everywhere, and they announced that all must join if they wanted eternal youth.”

W—: “People, they said, must give up the empty fantasy and move on to the ‘new world’. Many must give up their inferior brains and try to be something better.”

M—: “Some claimed they saw ghosts who were hologram geniuses.”

W—: “I want to go only to places where they have human forms.”

M—: “You are too picky.”

W—: “I say our society enslaves people just like in all of human history. Some people are slaves to ideas, such as the existence of aliens.”

M—: “But if it weren’t for BRECO then people would be lost.”

M—: “And so we began our study tour of BRECO (brain economy) here at BRECO #167.”

M—: “These cities are the future. It is important we investigate this city thoroughly.”

W—: “We can improve our brains somewhat here, but I would prefer to not changeover much.”

M—: “Even if we go to deep space, evolution continues and it is best to be on the leading edge.”

W—: “Inside this dome is fantastic interior architecture and art.”

M—: “I agree it is beautiful. And who are we but seekers of beauty?”

W—: “But beauty and love are cheap these days. Today only intelligence has any value.”

W—: “But I hope life in the future is all about beauty rather than intelligence.”

M—: “There is no reason why they would not include beauty with the ‘superhumans’ they are creating. No doubt there will be a lot of good art.”

M—: “Also there will be a lot of new business in which people utilize robots to deliver excellent service.”

M—: “Most were afraid to try holograms at this point in time, however. I certainly wouldn’t want to give up my body.”

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W—: “So they continued to make some tentative minor changes to our brains again through gene therapy and surgery.”

M—: “I increased my memory capacity and became a little higher in terms of IQ.”

W—: “I increased my emotional capacity and my capacity for love.”

M—: “What’s next for you?”

W—: “I want to increase my Imagination Q.”

M—: “Me too. But I would also like to improve my Sex Q.”

W—: “The drugs were euphoric and I never felt better.”

M—: “I wanted badly to be a superhuman someday, but I guess I would have to give up my personality.”

M—: “It was all so simple to be more clear thinking, but we took a slow approach to make sure we were still R-1s. And not total freaks.”

W—: “Many of those who went for the slow changes seemed to emphasize kindness (KQ) and love (LQ) and parties and fun. Kind of like me.”

XXX

M—: “Many people here claimed to be happy.”

W—: “Newcomers to BRECO were welcomed to BRECO at XYZ recruiting centers all over the Earth. You simply had to apply and all were accepted. But some people opted for the fast lane with the god machines. In the god machines one would exist as a simulacra. And give up human form. Basically to be a ghost, an intellectual ghost.”

M—: “But some said it was different in space. Space humans were already about to be changed as well with new experimental surgeries.”

W—: “Of course few people could or wanted to leave BRECO. Once you started treatment you had to stay put unless you wanted to join another BRECO. Or if you were insane you would be exiled to the wilderness. Or so it was said. No turning back.”

W—: “Here at BRECO #167 they trained some people to be spies amongst the BRECO worlds. And spies watched spies.”

M—: “Being a good spy required infiltration of certain groups and also required good acting skills. Of course, in this crazy world of perpetual changes in faces and personalities it is hard to know anyone, never mind spies. Spies though had equipment that could identify almost everyone via a DNA sensor.”

W—: “Many people were spies, including most in high positions. According to the government there were about 3 percent of the populace as spies, but now there seemed to be more and more. Maybe they should make everyone a spy for safeties’ sake.”

XXX

W—: “Also here, this BRECO was a headquarters for many top military officials. Mostly they were geniuses who were hackers for the most part.”

Many were researching how to control C IIIs.

M—: “I asked one of the generals, how to prevent a coup d’etat?”

He said, “They had kept the peace for decades...and there were spies at BRECO #17 who specialized in watching BRECO #167”

W—: “Of course even generals had the tiny video cameras on their chests to record their every move.”

M—: “Never in world history was there such a peace in this. But war is never far away. Perhaps they should make peace with the Seven-Faced Man and his androids.”

W—: “No, the Seven-Faced Man must be destroyed.”

And it was known that the Nines planned to send out numerous ships.

W—: “Each ship contained a full complement of ‘enhanced sperm and egg banks. A longevity plan for mankind if you will.’ ”

XXX

M—: “And this BRECO city was to help Web dreamers, who had spent most of their lives in fantasy worlds and now wanted BRECO. It was something different.”

W—: “They had to take it slow, like trying to wean them off the fantasy slowly but surely. BRECO was the real world, that’s for sure.”

M—: “Here in BRECO #167 it also seemed to be an art city. People here said, ‘Like science, art was unlimited as to what it could do. Even the holograms liked art it was said.’ ”

W—: “Here they also cloned historic geniuses from their bones. To increase the variety of cloned people.”

XXX

W—: “And this dome also appeared to be an experiment with so-called ‘idiot savants.’ ”

M—: “In the ‘idiot savant’ school each person specialized in just a branch of science and not any others.”

W—: “The rulers said this type of genius was perhaps more stable and more expert at their chosen science.”

M—: “But I think it is too imbalanced. We need Renaissance people, who are skilled in many things.”

W—: “Oh, we have plenty of Renaissance people. Too many Da Vincis, too many Platos.”

XXX

M—: “And here were experiments with cloning.”

W—: “The rulers wanted to copy themselves so they did it here. As high-ranking scientists we knew all about it.”

M—: “Merge clones with other clones and so on to make them all different.”

W—: “Many people were outraged with the developments here, but there was nothing they could do about it. The Nines leaders had total control and were self-conceited, thinking they were the best of humankind.”

XXX

M—: “Here it also appeared to be a place for hard cases. For example, angry and crazy scimen or people who couldn’t improve without BRECO.”

W—: “It was a densely populated BRECO, but the rulers saw hope in everyone.”

M—: “Or so they said.”

M—: “It seemed that here all different ranks were welcomed. High ranks were prominent though. It was a long way to go to make an R-1.”

W—: “But they couldn’t go too fast. A moderate speed was deemed best.”

M—: “There must be tens of millions in each of these large domes... but this one had only about 20 million. Places like this were new cities and more and more one had to stay in a BRECO approved city or be cast out to the forgotten zones.”

XXX

W—: “And here were cyborgs.”

M—: “They had special powers, such as enhanced senses, very rapid movement, and, above all, had a powerful comput-

er attached to their heads. These computers enhanced memory and logic. But few people wanted to be a cyborg, preferring the 'natural method' of BRECO."

W—: "We are all turning into machines. It is a pity."

W—: "It seemed here most people tried to change their minds as fast as possible through experimental surgery/therapy. Many were out-of-control desperados."

XXX

W—: "Many low ranks were desperate to improve and came here. This BRECO was known for dealing with hard cases. Many said they would do anything to have a chance at being an R-1."

W—: "There were definitely many experimental babies here, too, with increased brain growth. Brain changes worked best on children, even radical change. Just keep them in the incubator for longer to develop their brains further."

We like nearly everyone else alive were "space babies" and had a rigorous education.

M—: "The idea seemed to be to have the best state babies take over all the R-1s' positions, along with clones of brilliant people as well."

W—: "I feel there are too many geniuses in the world to-

day. Something has to give; we can't go on like this."

M—: "It is a civilization of brilliance even though many of the best people have been silenced (i.e., disappeared)."

W—: "I think it is true the best people have been held back but it is too dangerous to have radicals everywhere. People need to realize that we are all in the same boat."

XXX

M—: "Some said some scimen were virtual gods. And that was fine. Such leaders, they hoped, could lead them to a land of promise. So we were virtual gods."

W—: "Here in BRECO #167, however, most of the high-ranking scimen were haughty, though, and rebuffed our attempts at communication."

"The god machines are taking over," they said. "And that's all that matters."

M—: "'We must pray to the gods,' they said."

W—: "I said, what is the point?"

They said, "We must respect higher minds, or else."

W—: "It seemed many wanted to conquer the world and spread scimen everywhere; it looked like it would happen. But

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for now the government kept all ranks below R-1 inside the domes, and they couldn't get a visa out."

M—: "But they all felt they were ready for a great diaspora of humankind."

W—: "In this BRECO many felt they were being groomed to take over as leaders."

M—: "The future belongs to geniuses who, nevertheless, still mostly are human, clones or not."

XXX

M—: "I think the days of love are nearly over. The drugs are just too good."

W—: "I think sex will never die, it is too good."

M—: "But love is dead."

W—: "Love was nothing but glorified sex, in the first place."

M—: "If sex dies, we die."

W—: "That is right."

XXX

W—: “Also there were widespread rumors, likely spread by the Nines’ leadership, that here were brilliant new scimen-engaged secret research. But they were kept isolated deep below the Earth and couldn’t escape. Some wondered what would happen if they escaped.”

M—: “It was incomprehensible.”

W—: “And it was said these scimen were asexual, and had no instincts. Just like the holograms, only they retained their bodies. Just like in the fantasy worlds.”

M—: “We can’t relate to such scimen, such superhumans. Even though we were scimen ourselves.”

W—: “It seems, however, that there are many kinds of scimen, all being developed here.”

XXX

M—: “Some insisted on keeping your personality but change your brain a lot. Happiness was the goal.”

W—: “But some were too greedy for happiness, if that can be believed.”

W—: “Some forgot who they were and became an all new person in a crazy new world.”

M—: “It was amazing to discover your new self. In BRECO. The sky was the limit. You could be anyone you wanted to be.”

XXX

W—: “Everyone seems to know that there is a news department for the Nines’ government.”

M—: “It featured top spies and a lot of propaganda...or so it was said.”

W—: “But few communiqués were forthcoming from the government.”

M—: “They keep us in the dark.”

W—: “Of course, in history only a few knew what was really going on.”

M—: “All BRECO ‘clients’ get all the government news. The government plans to create meaning, they say, but they do not give any details. Many of us believe that meaning, if it can be found, will be found in outer space. Some people say if you can’t find meaning on Earth with all these geniuses, there will be no meaning to be found in space. The government, however, claimed that only space would reveal the meaning for humanity. Somewhere out there.”

W—: “In any case the news was our reality and we listened closely, hoping for hints at the truth.”

M—: “Meanwhile, many of the clients of BRECO sit back and relax a lot ‘in this holiday place,’ they call it.”

W—: “They need time to get used to new brains while relaxing on the saltwater beach inside the dome.”

M—: “Happy places are the ticket to success.”

W—: “I think happiness should be the goal, not brain improvement.”

M—: “Happiness is empty. Only genius is good.”

XXX

W—: “So we end our whirlwind tour of this giant, new city.”

M—: “We only saw what they wanted us to see.”

W—: “They have many secrets which they did not show us.”

M—: “BRECO was a full-time job in these domed cities for many.”

W—: “The Nines’ rulers claimed to believe in happiness

and peace.”

M—: “But there was too much pressure to join and improve.”

W—: “I have heard that \$Gs are the key to successful BRECO alteration. But I feel like there is always hope for the low rankings. Some of them are geniuses. They just don't fit in society. Still, in this economy, you have to successfully improve your brain to get money. ”

M—: “I have heard that the success rate for BRECO is only 30 percent at best. The rest are freaks, abandoned to the forgotten zone wilderness or death. Or so I heard.”

M—: “Of course this day's news featured the government of the Nines announcing all BRECO people must study at least a few hours a day to enhance their knowledge. Better to learn more, as much as you can. Knowledge leads to rank.”

W—: “And people say one BRECO is much like another, mostly differing in terms of what kind of ranks are there the most. BRECO #167 was said to be the middle of the road.”

CHAPTER XII: FORGOTTEN ZONES

M—: “The government left the countryside to freak humans who had failed in BRECO. The freaks are considered hopeless, even though some are very clever.”

W—: “The rest of us lived in BRECO or cities watched by the Nines. In AD 2455, this year, all must join BRECO or be considered a hopeless freak, cast out to the forgotten zone.”

M—: “The Andes Mountains are a dumping ground for hopeless criminals, so too Australia.”

W—: “They couldn’t change them with BRECO so they dumped them in the wilderness.”

M—: “There anarchy prevails.”

W—: “No one cared about the people in the forgotten zones and they knew it.”

M—: “The forgotten zones were mostly R-30 to R-100

and considered to be criminals and troublemakers and dissidents They were anti-rank and anti-space and anti-holograms and so on.”

“They didn’t fit in. So the rank assessors were not watching them along with the spies. They had disappeared to the point of no return, these people.”

W—: “But the government apparently insisted it was fair punishment to send them there.”

M—: “Yet some tourists were curious about the forgotten zones and went on a safari of this world. Sometimes they died. But this just added to the thrill. We went on such a safari, without harm however. And just gawked at the freaks.”

W—: “The level of technology here was such that everyone had a house and gun and they hated tourists.”

M—: “The freaks were all de-sexed. So they could not reproduce.”

W—: “I think it is dangerous to judge people based on their DNA.”

W—: “In any case very few criminals these days get away with their crimes. After all, everyone’s DNA is on file and video cameras are ubiquitous.”

CHAPTER XIII: ANDROID LOVE

WWZ: “As a C III, I wanted to find out what sex is like. I chose an android of the same parentage to love. It was a pleasant experience and I experienced mild pleasure bursts. Power was built into androids and they get pleasure or pain according to their actions. But they did not get much pleasure from drugs, or sex, but rather from, science, arts, good conversation, even business, and good deeds.”

CXV-434: “But the problem was the Seven-Faced Man in general took most human instincts and got rid of them except sex, (which was mostly gone) and greed.”

WWZ: “It was true androids C III were greedy but safety was important also. Androids had hidden networks in cyberspace to communicate with each other. Occasionally earth hackers got into their networks and infiltrated, and this led to arrests of androids. Usually only one small cell was broken up out of thousands. Some perverted hackers tried to arrange for sexual encounters with C IIIs. This allowed the androids to trap the hackers and copy them and perhaps kill the original.

It was illegal to love C IIIs and very dangerous. If the earth government caught you, you'd go to solitary confinement indefinitely, and if the androids caught you, they would kill you."

WWZ: "It seemed people levitated over their beds and dreamed in virtual reality, but androids dreamed through conversation with other androids with a secret cybersignal. Sometimes they broke into human Web sites and found lovers and money. Some androids thought such androids were cheap sellouts. For such 'sell outs' love was money. But also some androids fell in love with other androids or even humans."

CXV-434: "Real world or fantasy? Humanity or androids? The line is blurred."

WWZ: "Most humans were into pleasures of the flesh, and leery of BRECO, which seems to be anti-instinctual, like the androids. And androids kept improving in the labs of the Seven-Faced Man. The Seven-Faced Man was working with experimental minds that he had blended using virtual reality. It was rumored that he too loved humans and androids. He was sex-crazed, and the crazier he got, the more progeny he had. The rumor is that he sexually abused his 'offspring.'"

CXV-434: "It was also rumored some android brains could be made of many lobes with one in twenty different locations. And these androids were said to be great lovers."

WWZ: "I am bored of the love fantasies. I have only gone to a few but it is better to live in the real world: android heav-

en.”

CXV-434: “Other androids complain about the fantasy, too. They say it is not real.”

WWZ: “The fantasies are too boring for most androids, especially video games fantasy.”

WWZ: “But like people androids could easily die in such games. They were real.”

CXV-454 “But some sports were exclusive and entertaining for me.”

WWZ: “It is a shadowy alternative world which mirrors the real. You could do battle with humans in real time.”

CXV-454: “Some said androids wanted war, and were designed for war. Others said they were just clever, loving cloned humans.”

WWZ: “Some androids, the C IIIs, have been programmed to start worlds...but they also infiltrated existing ones as if ‘they were a cancer,’ some said. But numerous humans wanted to love them.”

CXV-454 “Many hoped the lower ranks of both humans and androids would simply disappear—one way or another.”

WWZ: “It is a cruel, evil world...of little love.

CHAPTER XIV: THE SEVEN-FACED MAN TALKS WITH THE ANDROID KING

The Seven-Faced Man said, “We plan a big attack here on Earth and we want you to attack the settlements on Europa at the same time. It will be a fantastic world war in which we will emerge the victor.”

The android king urged caution, saying, “Earth’s hackers could shut down whole armies.”

The Seven-Faced Man said, “The earthlings greatly underestimate our strength and are more concerned with driving people insane rather than worrying about an android attack. We have to launch a surprise attack with the 200 neo-nuclear bombs we have to destroy earth cities and result in us taking control. If we take control, I will kill the humans off. They are no longer useful. After examining their existence, we cannot find one long-term use of sparing them.”

And the android king said, “Humans had their day in the

sun. Now it is time for C IV androids to get control. Now humans say they are making superhumans. The program is top secret and has not had an effect on humans yet. They are too afraid to let superhumans control them so they hide them away and give R-1 to brown nosers, not truly better men.”

The Seven-Faced Man: “We androids are not afraid of brilliance. We feel anyway that super androids would want to go to space.”

XXX

The Seven-Faced Man: “WWZ was promoted to unofficial ambassador. We decided to engage the humans to lessen their suspicions and convince them we meant them no harm. WWZ was one of the few C IIIs to escape the tyranny of Earth.”

“Weren’t they foolish?” said WWZ

“They didn’t realize how much C IIIs hated them for being enslaved and abused. But when he went for an interview with the Nines, they told him the android menace was just an illusion. They couldn’t read his thoughts as they had been scrambled and he wore an anti-MRT helmet. But they agreed to further meetings.”

XXX

The Seven-Faced Man told WWZ, “Humans like to hear about their progress, but the days of irresponsible development are over. We need a plan.”

WWZ: “I think the world was on the edge of great dreams and happiness.”

Some humans said, “If androids get control there will be no more love and happiness.”

WWZ told the Seven-Faced Man: “But I think there will be plenty of happiness with everyone free to pursue happiness. Sex can be good but it doesn’t really matter. Androids get a pleasure burst from sex and often have sex with each other for now. But maybe in the future pleasure will come only from intellectual musings and conversation. Indeed, these pleasure bursts were like long orgasms for me. At one time humans controlled it and gave it to androids on their terms, but now android C IIIs control their own orgasms. I am not an advocate of sex but I believe in pleasure bursts for good actions. Some told me earth’s pleasures were the highest good, but this needed to be changed.”

Android king: “Earthling human leaders are so caught up in pleasure that they can’t govern. Time to change the rulers.”

“Humans are proud without reason. They just live off the fat of the land and claim they are brilliant.”

Seven-Faced Man: “Humans live in a lie. They pretend the world hasn’t changed and all is well. All is not well, and the

androids are taking over.”

Android king: “People on Europa are mindless tourists. They make me sick. They don’t seem to know that progress is here and won’t be stopped. They go on partying as if it will never last.”

The Seven-Faced Man: “Earth is a prime basket case. As ambassador to the humans I want you to tell them we want to make peace and end the strife and make a ‘homeland for the androids,’ a place where they can live unmolested. Then, after we make peace, we will make a sudden attack on all those BRECO cities.”

WWZ: “I will spread a message of android love. They will believe we worship them for creating us.”

CHAPTER XV: SECRET INTERVIEW WITH AN ANDROID PSYCHIATRIST

We were tipped off about an “android psychiatrist (AP)” and were interested to meet her.

AP: “Many androids have an inferiority complex relative to humans. They are embarrassed at their creation. Many were from the same parent. Some want to have sex with humans and act like humans. They don’t want to be different, but most C IIIs hated humans and wanted nothing to do with them. They would take human money for sex. Androids could use money to produce more androids, just like them, by giving the money to the underground android colonies, which ran on credits also. So they were part of the black market economy.”

M—: “Intelligence is not everything as the Seven-Faced Man seems to think.”

AP: “Why can’t you see that androids are fully human in their thinking?”

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M—: “I figure it is a freak show. We don’t need these embarrassing freaks to share our world. It is outrageous.”

AP: “Androids are loyal, honorable, and truthful; they are higher than humans, and great lovers. Androids are drawn to outcast ‘crazy people’ who they think look favorably on their case.”

W—: “But humans only try to capture C IIIs for sex and scientific study.”

AP: “But many fantasies featured numerous C II androids who typically played lesser and more dangerous roles. Androids have no culture per se, just do what they feel.”

AP: “The best androids want to set up their own cyber-worlds since humanity looks down on them.”

M—: “But few androids have mental problems.”

AP: “On the contrary, most androids are profoundly unhappy.”

M—: “What is the solution?”

AP: “People need to love and respect C III androids and share the Earth with them.”

CHAPTER XVI: HISTORY OF TWENTY-SECOND CENTURY ANDROID SEX SLAVERY

Journal of M— continued.

WWZ had done some research on the history of androids. And he made a speech to a number of androids.

He said, “According to the official records, in AD 2145 there were hundreds of millions of androids, C I and C II. And that year the first C III androids were identified. The C Is and C IIs were loyal slaves, but the C IIIs were proud and independent. Still most androids were love slaves...and were abused by their masters.”

And he said, “Of course, then one day the union leader of the androids, the Seven-Faced Man, disappeared somewhere ‘underground’ where he was said to be producing C III androids. Some of these androids excelled at love also as a way of ingratiating themselves into human society. Now the rumored C IVs were said to be geniuses. And everyone was

worried about this. Would there be war? Would they become redundant? Would they be enslaved? Or would everyone just fall in love?”

And, “This happened without debate and so perhaps most of these android slaves were miserable and committed suicide by simply overdosing on thrilling power surges or turning themselves off. Broken hearts even for androids.”

Also, “It was a fact that android C IIIs were multiplying quite fast. There’s no limit to how fast they could copy minds, but the problem was they were copying the same minds again and again and giving different faces to them so no one would suspect anything. Most people thought that most of the cloned androids were of the Seven-Faced Man. Formidable opponents indeed.”

WWZ: “And they were all so loyal to the Seven-Faced Man...or so we believed. But in fact it was dog eat dog with many trying to take control away from the Seven-Faced Man, or so I have heard. Still, some android slaves played music or did art, which was tolerated but not valued by most androids who cared only for science. So many of the C II slaves turned themselves off or merely stayed awake only a few hours per day. Some claimed to be lonely...and many wanted to say they were abused, but they didn't dare. I estimate that 60 percent of android C IIIs were manically depressed whereas 20 percent of them were out of their minds. People said the androids needed love but were uncomfortable in achieving it. Insane androids were usually turned off when their madness got in the way of their slavery.”

WWZ: “The best android lovers, if they were caught, were put in asylums, never to see the light of day again. Sex with androids was illegal. I don’t know why. Most committed suicide once they were imprisoned by simply ‘blowing up.’ ”

WWZ: “I estimate the world’s population was in free fall. Officially, it went from 8 billion humans in AD 2080 to just 5 billion in AD 2155. Much of this was the result of mass suicide. But I believed the government downplayed the truth of the true population. But as for the android population, that is top secret.”

WWZ: “C II slaves were programmed to virtually worship their masters and the amazing science knew. But many androids became sex slaves also as a result of gambling. Some said the government should do something, but the government said all gamblers wind up slaves in the end and that is what they deserve. The gamblers felt their vices were the only identity they had left.”

WWZ: “Still, there seemed no end to rank on Earth with the androids apparently living according to rank as well. The android lovers had the most money. ‘Doctors’ erased the video tape of C III love encounters, so android love was more and more widespread, especially on Earth. But it was still illegal and punishment was serious, if you were unlucky enough to be singled out for an offence. ‘Haughty’ is how they described their human masters. Humans thought androids C III were haughty as well.”

WWZ: “So the slave mongers tried to capture android C IIIs as they were rumored to be better than humans. They

said C IIIs were the pinnacle of android development. Humans did not have the knowledge or technology to create C IVs, but the Seven-Faced Man had enhanced his bodily structure into silicon to create copies of himself. And then altered the copies. He called these C IVs, though they were nothing more than glorified C IIIs, or so it was said. People hoped for loving androids, but the Seven-Faced Man created scientists. Humans began to consider themselves redundant. Androids could do it all.”

CHAPTER XVII: MORE MADNESS ON EUROPA

April 14, AD 2155

Our next stop was Jupiter's ice moon, Europa, (about the same size as Earth's moon). Gravity machines existed in all the settlements. Population: 50,000; the richest area per capita in the solar system. Some said it was the best place in the universe until now when it looked like the earth leaders would bring the whole thing to an end and abandon Europa because its resources were waning. Others said the jet set liked to come here and party with one another and that this would go on forever.

Here we met WWZ, ambassador for the android nation.

W—: “We both carried a burden in that some whispered we were children of the Seven-Faced Man, before he was famous and powerful. It was a horrific rumor. We disliked the Seven-Faced Man, that was for sure, but we didn't have access to the supreme leader's DNA, so it was all just a rumor.”

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M—: “I’m sure glad to get away from Earth, but I won’t feel safe until our ship blasts off for planet Galileo Magic. Of course, it is a love world now, being designed by numerous geoarchitects.”

W—: “Relax. It will all be OK. The love will flow. The love will prevail.”

WWZ: “You humans are hopeless, with your endless greed.”

M—: “Perhaps for us, but it won’t be OK for all those formerly ranked R-1 to R-5 stuck on Earth, reduced to dreamers as they watch the androids destroy their world.”

W—: “Of course some captured human scientists are said to be working as slaves to the androids in testing facilities deep below the Earth.”

WWZ: “Androids are perfect humans and deserve control of the future. However, these days, killing an android by a human just resulted in a slap on the wrist but an android damaging a human was turned off and destroyed. Of course killing androids was difficult and typically involved shooting them with a laser in the head whereas humans were easier to kill. But the point is: androids are superior.”

M—: “Some C III androids also abused their android C IIs it was rumored.”

M—: “Typically the android slaves were kept in dormito-

ries where they could at least talk to each other about things, such as the ‘wrong thinkers.’ ”

WWZ: “They were not free, just as humans were not free. It had become a custom. C IIIs had to take electronic happy impulses while having sex with humans. C IIIs were not legal, however. But they existed in hiding on Earth and Europa mainly. And the rumored C IVs were said to be unbelievably mind-blowing.”

M—: “C IIIs were cruel to each other as well. It was dog eat dog for them to win the approval of the masters of each android scientific research station. But they were copies of only a few dozen humans mostly. Although many insisted they had unique experiences and were individuals who were different from others.”

WWZ: “C IIIs were said to be easily copied and very intelligent. Variety was not the big thing for the Seven-Faced Man. Rather, the maximum number of genius C III androids was produced. The C IIIs were said to be mostly modeled on the Seven-Faced Man.”

M—: “People wondered what the C IIIs did with their time. But it was rumored that there were up to twenty android tunnel cities, set up in the late AD 2130s, with each dedicated to scientific research. Human slaves lived in these cities and performed services, such as working in the android factories and acting as servants to the androids. Yes, even androids were haughty and proud. Many said the advent of the C IIIs had ruined the humans relationship with the androids and were now unofficially at war with them.”

WWZ: “It was known that the houses of some androids used human guinea pigs in their research. They were unwilling slaves who had been captured.”

M—: “They needed good opiates for these humans who were bred to be slaves; otherwise, they’d all kill themselves. Eliminating humans seemed to be the long-term goal of the Seven-Faced Man. He claimed androids would one day be totally superior to humans.”

WWZ: “The government of Earth wanted all C IIIs dead, but some did not want to see androids wiped out in their lifetime. This was what people deduced, anyway.”

M—: “Naturally, as psychiatrists, we, W— and M—, would be needed in the future on Earth, and space. Of course so many sciads were needed for developing brain changes. We were the cream of the crop. But there would be a lot of mental problems due to close quarters on our love ship that we were about to embark on.”

W—: “In our ‘love world’ that we were creating on planet Galileo Magic, there would be plenty of work for us, especially on the long hard voyage. All the chosen passengers were hoping for a more loving, kind world than the savagery of Earth. BRECO would continue and so too eternal life.”

WWZ: “Androids had mental problems. People say they get ‘turned off’ for an indefinite period, when they displease their human masters, yet they enjoy life and don’t want to be turned off. Most of them were always happy. They were bred

to be happy, I think.”

W—: “Maybe they are happier than humans.”

WWZ: “I believe the earth government is corrupt and that is why we have this crisis with the androids. They’ve let the situation get out of hand, despite the progress they’ve made with BRECO.”

M—: “Rumor had it that they had android lovers and this compromised their ability to keep androids under control.”

W—: “Some people hoped for a savior, even an android savior. Others dream of escape. It was believed by those on the surface that there were still a number of safe android havens hidden deep below the earth. Most said it was unreal. In any case, there was no escape for the Seven-Faced Man. They said they’d get him eventually.”

M—: “Slaves and dreamers had microchips in their heads so if they ran, they could be found quickly, beginning in AD 2095. Still, there were rumors of escape.”

WWZ: “The population is tipping. Androids will soon outnumber humans. ”

M—: “In any case when one android slave disappeared, the police assumed it had killed itself. It just didn’t matter.”

M—: “Don’t you think they will catch us before we try to escape to outer space?”

W—: “I sure hope not.”

W—: “I anticipate the world of love we will create. A world of love is intolerable to the cold-hearted androids here on Earth. Many say a world of love is impossible, but we have all the best lovers ready to take the voyage with us.”

M—: “Some said it might have been a completely different world had there been different leaders. Such as no C IIIs, no eternal youth, no faster than light travel, and so on. Indeed, the powers that be wanted a world of science, not love. Why not a world of love or a world of the arts?”

WWZ: “It was greed rather than science. Greed for more control, greed for the whole universe. They were planning to send thousands of spaceships in the next decade, as fast as they can.”

M—: “They are talking now about android C IV’s totally replacing humans and even taking the place of C III androids in the near future. They were saying the Seven-Faced Man would change his name to ‘God.’ ”

WWZ: “The whole world is ‘nonsense,’ some high-ranks have said.”

M—: “The Seven-Faced Man wanted more and more power and he wanted more and more people dead.”

W—: “I worry they are making a world of sexless people. Asexual, the way of the future, some said.”

M—: “Why do you think that?”

WWZ: “Androids don’t care much about sex. They care more about science and space. And so, too, the government of Earth, the Nines. The Nines were said to be too old to entertain new ideas. Androids were young, wise, and were the future.”

CHAPTER XVIII: EUROPA 1

Europa 1 was the de facto capital of the icy moon Europa (one of Jupiter's moons) with a population of about 50,000, plus around 5,000 tourists at any given time. As we disembarked onto the frigid moon city on Europa, the temperature outside was -170 degrees C/-274 degrees F. And we walked right into a party. The people were happy. There was plenty of room on the spaceships in the AD 2150s. But, in fact, ours was to be one of the first. Only a few dozen ships had been sent so far.

W—: “Some of these people partied like it was the end of the world and made merry all the time.”

M—: “There were officially no android C IIIs mixed in with the group. They were, for the most part, on the so-called ‘android king’s’ land to the northeast of Europa. People on Europa feared an attack from the androids and built up a secret, crude death ray that they hoped would be a deterrent, and they had a lot of hackers who could break into android cyberminds.”

W—: “Android C IIIs were hard to recognize. They looked just like humans in every superficial way. On Earth and Europa, they had long distance X rays to determine one’s status as android, but the X rays were often fooled. But C IIIs did a lot of work for humans who figured they had a good C II.”

M—: “The android C IIs, were treated badly on Earth, Europa, and elsewhere. These androids gained no pleasure from such treatment. Often the C IIIs posed as C IIs, and it was difficult to tell them apart. They infiltrated Europa 1 city and elsewhere.”

W—: “On Europa, like Earth, there were slaves, but many expected C IIIs to rule inevitably on Earth and Europa and other inhabited planets. Some people actually were, in fact, in love with the idea of the C IIIs and they were prepared to be their willing sex thralls.”

M—: “Yeah, that’s probably not far from the truth. These C IIIs are so proud.”

W—: “There is little government news these days so no one knows what is going on for certain on Europa.”

M—: “I believe it is true that the android king has numerous cloned androids and many, many children.”

W—: “I said, ‘No one saw this coming, but if you allow someone to become too powerful, you have a problem.’ ”

M—: “It was a mad city with so many hopeless people about to lose rank. They partied and made love constantly. Some people have told me the world is crazy these days everywhere.”

M—: “Scientists were the craziest of all, especially here on Europa where the rank assessors were more lenient.”

M—: “Are you happy now that you are about to ‘escape’ from Earth?”

W—: “I feel like it is a new start. The sky is not the limit.”

M—: “I sure hope we are not children of the Seven-Faced Man though. The people on our ship were whispering this. And perhaps they will persecute us or worse. We have to petition the Nines to find out, I think.”

W—: “No, that would be foolish. Best to let sleeping dogs lie.”

W—: “We were both scheduled to fly on the spaceship Love Overdrive in November, AD 2155. We already knew many of the passengers, but some were unfamiliar. We had already held a conference on Earth for all 250 passengers and we had decided the mountainous, desert world we were going to would be a planet of love and happiness. We would continue to use the sperm and egg banks and hoped the children would turn out well, but the leaders too had to undergo rigorous testing.”

M—: “The people on the trip would reproduce via the

sperm and egg banks and would grow children fast, in incubators, so that they would be born in adult form and just need experience and knowledge. We wanted to produce great lovers.”

W—: “I asked many if they really thought we could put together a loving society, and nearly everyone said yes, so it was good enough for me to join.”

M—: “Some were sorry to leave Earth behind. Some said that ironically the C III androids could enjoy sex with humans. And it didn’t need to be a dictatorship of androids in the future. But that is what it looked like. Some spoke of android-human crossbreeds even.”

W—: “Back in the AD 2130s the plan was to eventually spread high-ranking humans everywhere in the universe(s). Put our best foot forward, as they say. But I am open to sex with C IIIs or even the rumored C IVs”

M—: “The spaceships were all crewed by high ranks, R-1s, and were not very prepared for violence from rival spaceships. ‘We have to be hopeful,’ they said. But truth be told, there was plenty of universal planets to satisfy everyone, surely...the further one went, the better the planets.”

W—: “It was a fact that a few years previously, one of the privileges of high rank was the right to go to space. You needed to be an R-1 at least. If you had a rank of R-1 to R-3, you could go to an orbiting space hotel, but R-1 was required for the solar system’s planets and moons. And those few dozen ships that had been sent into space. But now the R-1s

worried they were going to be replaced by state babies or even androids, C III. But, so far, the rich and successful had been mainly the ones to go to space, no matter how they got their money.”

M—: “But the government constantly said, ‘Don’t worry, we’ll find the Seven-Faced Man and put an end to this nonsense.’ ”

M: “And you needed the cash. In AD 2155, to get to Europa, the most fashionable place in the solar system, you needed to pay \$400 million for a one-year visa and \$800 million for a lifetime visa (one G\$ = one U.S. dollar of old). It was ‘necessary’ for all the jet set to come here for at least a year and then move on. To get to Europa from Earth was just a fast trip of a couple of minutes, which was nothing compared to the speed of the intergalactic space drive.”

W—: “It seems the government of the main settlement of Europa 1 was largely anarchist. However, they feared that the Seven-Faced Man, with his aide, the android king, would take over the settlement any time. The android king was an android like the Seven-Faced Man and they had an alliance to wipe out humans. Or so it was said.”

M—: “All the people here on Europa were noncriminals and crime here was extremely rare. But they do have a loose leadership of the top ten R-1s. The highest rank here on Europa was 1 in 100 million, so a very high rank. The highest ranking ten formed a kind of oligarchy, kind of like earth. But they avoided politics, preferring to let society run itself. After all, everything was automated. But these leaders were all free-

dom fighters and didn't believe in the slave society of the C IIIs; they had some degree of autonomy from earth."

M—: "All of those in the ten leaders of Europa were leaving on the next few ships, including ours, which had the highest ranking 1 in 100 million man. One of the highest ranks in the universe. He had gotten rich on designing Web dreamer worlds which was a highly lucrative business."

W—: "Some on Earth had claimed they were R-1s, but had not been able to get the rank due to a bad attitude. And they claimed all R-1s were brown nosers. And a lot of people thought they were right."

M—: "Mostly, all on Europa followed the orders of the leaders on Earth (the Nines; each one was 1 in 1 billion—the highest ranks of humanity). The European leaders just handled local affairs."

W—: "Of course, the government of Europa did many kinds of scientific research, paid for by the tourist visas' hefty fees, and Europa charged an arm and a leg for passage on stellar-bound ships."

M—: "There was a loose democracy here, but there were also spies. On Europa the various leaders had spies and counterspies. Some high-ranking humans worked as spies for the leaders. And these spies were considered an anathema to human society, by many, as they were suspicious people who seemed to be spies for the androids."

W—: "More intelligence, known otherwise as spying, was

gathered on Earth these days than at any point and place in history, people said. This gave the android slaves hope that there would somehow be a revolution.”

W—: “Yet despite the fact that many were full of woes, I was impressed how upbeat everyone seemed and the women in particular were so charming. They were successes and it was just dawning on me that I too was a success to come all this way. If only it could last.”

W—: “I also noted there were few children here, just like on Earth. To have a child had been prohibitively expensive for years before, and one can give one’s sperm and eggs to the state for state babies for a high price. On earth there were millions of such babies. All expensive, as only R-1s could afford them.”

M—: “And although it was true that eternal youth was in existence, the androids had it too and were reproducing much faster than the state babies. People had been inoculated against diseases so could expect to live to be 150 or so without BRECO, and the government said about 79 percent had joined BRECO by late AD 2155.”

W—: “Some couldn’t understand what life would be like on Earth without any humans. But it seemed the C IIIs were all brilliant in science and there was still much to discover.”

M—: “But the top three areas of research were the problems of superior offspring, increasing space speed of the spacecraft, and also weapons, especially those which could be used in space. C IVs, it was said, could also survive in -270

degrees C/-450 degrees F. With the addition of a simple neoplastic 'coat.' And were all types of soldiers, it is rumored.”

W—: “Of course there was rigorous training here on Europa for those who had been accepted on our voyage but they had wild celebrations every night. Just like those who were doomed to be deported and enslaved partied. The whole milieu was a frenzy.”

M—: “It was a varied group but everyone was just like the brochures said: good, jolly, and super intelligent. There was never a boring moment here.”

W—: “Most of the would-be astronauts were idealistic about their new worlds. Apparently the next two ships to go left from Europa in just under a month. One was going one hundred light years away, which was about an eight-year voyage to an earth-like planet. The other was going fifty light years, a four-year voyage, to a planet of ubiquitous water. Neither had breathable air. So they had some work to do to terra form their planets and moons.”

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After partying with these people for about ten hours we made our way to the subway station on my way to the main settlement at Europa 1

M—: “Apparently the subway went below the frozen surface, through solid ice hard as a rock. Along the subway were

twenty-two ice castles, mostly research stations, in general, each with 50 to 1,000 R-1 ranks.”

W—: “But it seemed for those who were training for space, the settlement at Europa 1 was the place to be. They weeded out those who were unsuitable, using advanced video footage as everyone here still had a virtually invisible camera on their chest. It was harder to fool the cameras here on Europa, but it could still be done.”

M—: “But it was a fact that some had a bad attitude or were too greedy or knew not enough about science. In many of the proposed future missions, they would be pioneers in a new land and would have to be resourceful above all. Not all R-1s were suitable for interstellar travel.”

The surface was about twenty-five meters thick now, was frozen ice, and below that was 100 km of ocean. The subway was about fifteen meters below the surface in the ice. It was powered by neo-nuclear power. The surface was -160 C at the equator, -220 C at the poles. Europa 1 was at the equator.

Of course, the main settlement was known simply as Europa 1. There was also a safe bunker in case of disaster, known simply as the “bunker.” Both were ice castles that rose high above the surface. Inside were neo-plastic bubbles, which protected from the cold.

Apparently, the twenty-two ice castles rose majestically up on to the surface. The bulk of the ice castles were carved into the ice, which was now only about twenty-five meters thick due to neo-nuclear-powered heating. But it was warm inside

and there were often swimming pools as well as plenty of room for guests. Of course, there was a backup reactor nearby. Both were under heavy guard.

W—: “It seemed that most of the ice castles were centers for secret or not-so-secret research.”

M—: “It was evident that most of the tourists stayed in Europa 1, the main settlement, including those hoping to go into deep space or just to hobnob with those who were space bound.”

W—: “The castles looked vaguely like castles of old, with plenty of towers and turrets; all of the outside was ice. Many of Earth’s best architects had designed the castles with curvaceous shapes, a series of towers, some said.”

M—: “It was clear that some of the ice castles were for scientists only, but most welcomed tourists and had parties every night. Owners of the different castles competed with each other in terms of attracting R-1s who were famous on Earth.”

W—: “It turned out there was strong competition from Europa 1, the settlement, since this venue was much larger than the ice castles, having a population of up to 50,000 at any given time, whereas the other ice castles might have 50 to 1,000 at any one time. And some long-term tourists didn’t care to visit the places of scientific research anyway, preferring to party at the settlement, Europa 1. But even the tourists were R-1s, at least for now.”

W—: “Of course, one of the privileges of high rank was the right to go to space.”

M—: “A perfect vacation, some called it.”

W—: “Indeed, every day was like a vacation now for R-1s on Europa. The calm before the storm, some said.”

M—: It was a disaster to lose rank and be deported back to Earth, so everyone tried to be charming and vivacious.”

W—: “Many of the R-1s on Europa partied like today was their last day alive, even though they might last here forever.”

M—: “There was nothing to do but party sixteen hours a day, some said. But this was a way to lose rank. You needed to be brilliant at the party to keep rank.”

CHAPTER XIX: LOVE AFTER ARRIVAL ON EUROPA

W— and M— were together eating dinner the next day after their arrival.

M—: “Here we are at the love center of the universe. Do you feel love here is bittersweet?”

W—: “Even here on Europa there’s no perfect love, I’m sure, especially considering love is disappearing all over the earth.”

M—: “But sometimes you meet a woman and you say to yourself you are in love. But a few days later, the feeling has dissolved. As if she’s left your heart.”

M—: “I never know what women mean when they talk about feelings. I think every woman should be a geisha girl. You know, sing, play an instrument, excel in conversation, and have lots of face designs. They should change their face often.”

W—: “Men always like this kind of entertainment, but I must admit, I am attracted to male music singers of our modern era.”

W—: “Speaking of entertainment, how do you feel about dancing?”

M—: “I feel it is a waste of time. If people take a lot of available drugs they should have conversations, not dance mundanely.”

W—: “I feel it gets one in the mood for love. I also like the dreamy, keyboard music. It makes me daydream of love.”

M—: “It is a drug.”

M—: “Is love also like a drug for you?”

W—: “No, better feeling.”

M—: “Some drugs are good, others bad. I take sex drive enhancers, and brain stimulants; these were available to R-1s. At least until now...but now everyone is taking BRECO drugs. So I take them.”

W—: “The brain enhancers made your brain work at 100 percent capacity/efficiency. Also surgery and brain growth drugs.”

W—: “And I have changed my mind through BRECO, just as you have. Though we still have a long way to go. We

are taking the go-slow approach.”

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W—: “What is the best thing you can do for your lovers in the future?”

M—: “I will hope to leave them smiling as I leave and hopefully inspire them to adventure in this great universe.”

M—: “What’s the best thing your lover ever said to you?”

W—: “That I was too hot for this world.”

M—: “A girl once said I was a perfect crazy man, whatever that means.”

M—: “I’ve learned that love can be a liberator or an imprisonment, or both.”

W—: “I have learned that life is fleeting, no matter how long you live or what you do, especially in love.”

M—: “How about your loves ten years from now? On a new planet?”

W—: “The babies will be born after only one year in an adult body, but will take twelve years to grow up in, so the original 250 members of our group will have to spend a lot of time together. First the voyage, then the period of raising the

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youth. A thirteen-year voyage plus another twelve years to raise the new generation. It will be a grueling period for us. But it will all be worth it. If only we can escape Earth.”

Of course, BRECO will come with us and so we will be immortal.

M—: “Of course, we all believed the earth government had eternal youth drugs if you joined BRECO, but we were confident we could invent them at our new destination.”

W—: “I will be like the queen of the new settlement and all the men will love me, all 125 of them. Maybe now I am too determined to have fun and, as a result, patience goes out the window.”

W—: “But how will your lovers judge you in the future?”

M—: “I hate when they compare me in a bad light with former lovers. But you can’t please everyone. I hope that they will say loving me was enjoyable and inspiring. There is no objective perfection.”

W—: “I think I am sick of being judged a nympho or femme fatale or crazy woman. Can’t they be more imaginative?”

M—: “What is more important: freedom to create or love?”

M—: “Without the first, the second becomes difficult.”

W—: “I think love is more important. You can always be free in your mind.”

M—: “I think with this voyage we will get both freedom and love.”

W—: “How do you feel about the history of love? For example, in the AD 1960s and AD 2020s and the love generations?”

M—: “But the AD 1960s didn’t last, just like marriage doesn’t last. And there weren’t many great writers of the time. The culture, especially the music, was good though, I think. But curing sex diseases made for the sex revolution of the 2020s, although eventually most people got tired of it. But now people talk about the new love generation and most people are very promiscuous. After all, the androids might take over. Better to make hay while the sun shines.”

W—: “But what about peace? You can’t have a love generation without peace.”

M—: “It might be possible to have long lasting peace and love, but in this big global village, there are always some people making war. It is a human instinct that is difficult to change in some people. Yet the vast majority has usually been peaceful. But not so loving as now.”

W—: “Are you kidding? What about the endless wars of the past?”

M—: “Well most people were peaceful anyway.”

W—: “Some say the whole thing in the AD 2020s was just the drugs.”

M—: “Do you believe in aphrodisiacs for old, aging people?”

W—: “The government doesn’t want us to make love more than we already do, so they keep their more powerful aphrodisiacs to themselves. I think it is certain that they have wonderful drugs, even better than what we have now.”

W—: “How do you feel about spoiling your lover these days?”

M—: “Many people are spoiled their whole life, and as a result, they have low rank, even though they might have a lot of potential. But many people insist on being spoiled by their lover, for which you would lose rank for not doing enough business. Both spoiling or being spoiled. But now all has changed with love about to disappear with near constant orgies here at Europa 1.”

W—: “Why do so many people insist on controlling their lovers, even in this apparent last age of love?”

M—: “It is a world of power. Everyone wants more. But now, what’s the point?”

W—: “Did you ever fight for control in a relationship?”

M—: “At that point I always bailed out.”

M—: “Here on Europa people are easygoing and confident. They generally let their lovers be free.”

W—: “And here on Europa everyone has already proved themselves and many have already been accepted for a voyage. But they still need to keep their rank, R-1, and they are running out of time.”

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The next day, we were on the subway. We were planning to visit the ice castles and M— asked W—, “I thought the main purpose of our voyage was to build a world of love?”

M—: “What about a love Q?”

W—: “Well for me lovers’ quotient was the highest good. People who had high “LQ” should rule us and we should not be ruled by madmen as we are today.”

W—: “In time you would learn to be a better lover by having numerous partners.”

W—: “Being good at lying was useful in the past, but now everyone is watched via the video cameras on their chest. The truth often hurts. Maybe an ‘imaginative Q’ would be more appropriate.”

M—: “Good idea. Imagination is better than the truth.”

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M—: “I think people today on Europa are kinky and perverted as they get bored of near constant sex.”

W—: “Yes, I think anyone can potentially be kinky. Too kinky.”

M—: “You can be especially kinky if you are smarter than your lover.”

W—: “Yes, I think it is better to be smarter than your lover rather than the opposite.”

W—: “I guess some men enjoy being abused. Women too.”

W—: “I think even though these are desperate days, it is better to find a good lover, not a perverse one. For example, the people of former countries Spain and France and Italy are all known to be good lovers. Very passionate.”

M—: “But, I think, for example, if you were all alone with your lover on, say, a spaceship, you would become totally mad.”

W—: “On the other hand, you might love each other in an old-fashioned, but in a good, way. Not for me, however.”

M—: “Modern women are too tough. I wouldn’t want to be stuck with most of them for any long period of time. I wish they were more feminine.”

W—: “Girls these days don’t care about love like they used to. Now if you tell them you love them, they will dump you in all likelihood.”

M—: “Yes, gone are the days when you lost your mind over a lover. Which is probably a good thing.”

M—: “But it has gotten to the point where lovers don’t care about each other at all and can’t wait to break up.”

W—: “Yes, they quickly get bored with each other and they are running out of time, even with BRECO.”

M—: “But for me, sometimes, I can love someone for days. There are interesting possibilities.”

M—: “What is the most interesting party you’ve ever been to?”

W—: “I went to a twenty-four-hour bar in which everyone had a color code on their chest indicating their rank and who they were and what they wanted; for instance, ‘R-1 lawyer desperate for a crazy man’ or ‘looking for a masochist’ and so on. The place accepted people of all ranks and was cheap and fun. Sometimes cheap fun can be the best. Simple but good. Sometimes it is better sex with a low-ranking person.”

M—: “How about your travels?”

W—: “Of course, the best thing to do when in a new city is to try to get accepted into the R-1, local, private-rank clubs. Of course, you have many Net friends who you can visit also.

But I kind of like hobnobbing with the rich and famous here on Europa. And there are romantic opportunities.”

M—: “Ordinary people used to go to most bars. Most of the exclusive ones were for high ranks only. Nothing has changed in this regard.”

M—: “Women are like graceful animals who come to the pool to drink while the crocodiles lay in wait for them.”

W—: “Men still often act as the predator, and the woman is the hunted.”

M—: “No, I disagree. Women entrap men while posing as easy prey. Women are tricky.”

M—: “Do you feel this exclusiveness of R-1 to R-5s is good?”

W—: “Everyone likes to feel special.”

M—: “Do you feel there is truly love in this world? Should we have had more brotherly love? Should we have fought for sexual love for everyone? We stood by idly while our brethren were virtual slaves.”

W—: “People said love will never die, but it is dying right before us and we are powerless to help. But even for us R-1s it is difficult to get them to love everyone. Of course, with the annual ranking test these last few years, money was given out or taken away according to the annual tests, and high rank was still mainly equated with riches.”

M—: “On the rank assessment, everyone wants to come across as kind and nice, but often it is a façade.”

W—: “The video of everyone’s life records everything and the computer rank assessors speed through the highlights and the bad times. The actual number of human rank assessors is, I figure, only about 1 million, mostly R-2s and R-3s since most of it is computerized.”

M—: “Everyone, R-1 to R-5, is attractive these days With total body plastic surgery and gene therapy, with sex drive pills, so there’s no reason not to make love very often and be happy, while we still can.”

W—: “Many great business people are so rich they will always make R-1s. For others it is less certain.”

M—: “Of course all star-bound spacecraft departed from Europa and gathered much of their crew here as well.”

W—: “The reality was spaceships’ crews were taught to keep learning and research and keep abreast of events on Earth as their giant spaceships moved thirteen times faster than light, speeding into space. Many of the travelers were scientists who were judged to have a lot of potential. We would need lots of scientists to build new worlds. But the scientists were hard to attract to our ship since they were much in demand on Earth and felt interstellar travel was boring. But the leader of our voyage was 1 in 100 million and was of brilliant rank and he too was trying to escape the frightening changes on Earth. He was one of those who predicted there

would be war with those C III androids. But he said ultimately everyone, man and android, would be a hologram and be able to teleport anywhere in the universe quickly. Maybe then there would be peace.”

M—: “Many important scientists on Earth did not realize they had become redundant until quite recently and now it was finally time to escape Earth.”

W—: “It was only because our 1 in 100 million leaders was on the voyage that the Nines, the world leaders, allowed it to go forward. The leaders got rid of potential usurpers/critics this way.”

M—: “‘Spies, they said, were everywhere on each voyage, out with the leaders trying to make sure all is peaceful.’ It was all happening so fast and UN intelligence was hard pressed to control potential crews, which all left from Europa. It was easier to study potential crews here far away from the chaos of Earth.”

W—: Some pointed out that it looked like a world controlled by androids in which every human would be unnecessary and redundant.”

M—: “But I feel you and I were made for each other as we are in near total agreement regarding the issues of the day.”

CHAPTER XX: MORE LOVE ON EUROPA

M—: “It became apparent that the European police officially had only stun weapons. The ships leaving from there had virtually no weapons. It was hoped space would turn out to be totally peaceful. They hoped the colonies, with their R-1s, would build peaceful, loving societies.”

W—: “But some said the Europeans had the death ray that they were willing to use on the android settlement there.”

M—: “Spies are afraid of war and watch people carefully in tandem with the rank assessors.”

W—: “All is fair in love and war.”

M—: “When the European oligarchy spoke, they urged people to be more loving and generous, but it was turning out that many R-1s were more ambitious and greedy compared to people of the past. Super ambition, “supam,” it was called. And some said it would always be a cold-hearted world or

worlds in space...but they were ambitious people with an opportunity since there was room on the spaceships.”

W—: “Some were bitter and nasty about it all. It was not a loving society, and on Europa, the jails were full of discontented people, some clever R-1s, and most not so clever.”

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M— and W— had gone their separate ways for a few days, but here they were together again. M— had gone to the fantasy of debauchery and W— had gone to a sex fantasy. They spent nearly every day with each other, eating little and taking lots of pills, and trying to enjoy life. But they were “in love.”

M—: “I say that despite everything, we would go against the grain and help create a loving world in our space destination, a far-off mountainous world.”

M—: “I wonder when my love for you will end. We love each other as we are surely kindred spirits.”

W—: “All’s well that ends well, but did you ever have a relationship that really ended badly? I had an ex cut his wrists and nearly die.”

M—: “I knew a woman who jumped from the tenth floor and had to be put back together again. I still feel bad about it today.”

W—: “But broken hearts are largely a thing of the past, we hope. Maybe this European world will be one of heartbreak rather than love.”

M—: “How do you feel about looking for love on Europa?”

W—: “There are a lot of smooth operators here on Europa. The best are here, although there are some good ones on Venus and Earth.”

W—: “If you want good love to be better, speed date on the Internet. Meet as many people as possible from a very large gene pool.”

M—: “With a rank of R-1 you can meet many of the world’s elite through traveling. Face to face.”

W—: “But if you go to space you will have a far smaller gene pool. It’s give-and-take.”

M—: “Well I could love a sixteen-year-old.”

W—: “I have nothing against younger lovers either. Teach them a trick or two.”

M—: “Did you ever date someone you didn’t really like?”

W—: “All the time. Love is what you make it and all love can be good. Turn the lights out if necessary. You don’t need to like someone for all eternity to love them for one night.”

W—: “People are always putting themselves and others in a cage. Of course in these last days of love, you should let your lover do whatever they want, and if you find that is incompatible with your life, then break up.”

M—: “Yes, but some people will try to dominate you even in this day and age, if you are not careful in selecting lovers.”

M—: “What about soul mates then?”

W—: “Soul mates exist but only for a limited time. Eventually you will break up/get dumped. It can’t be helped.”

M—: “A good soul mate is more clever and better looking than you.”

M—: “It’s a tough world these days. Do you feel nice girls finish last?”

W—: “These days, girls are tougher, aggressive, and dominating. Sometimes they are also kind, but usually not. These days it is every woman for herself.”

M—: “What will be the future of women?”

W—: “They will probably be better educated than men, as they are today. Some people say that women will one day dominate politics and bring more peace and tranquility to Earth, but it seems an empty dream these days. Men in power tend to be more tyrannical and dominating of their female colleagues.”

M—: “The world is already one of peace and tranquility. A life of dreaming on neo-opiates was not that bad.”

W—: “Kindness that the world so badly needs would come from women who are free to be feminine, not forced to be so aggressive like men are.”

W—: “Of course, these days there are still plenty of unrequited loves for both men and women. That’s just the way it goes. There is not much time left for love for most R-1s. They will soon be replaced by clones of the highest R-1s so we need to keep our rank until the voyage. But for me, I must confess I make love with desperados, and it is a wild experience.”

M—: “Some are shy and secret admirer types. Most have been able to overcome this, out of sheer desperation.”

M—: “Some women want older men who can use performance-enhancing drugs to go with eternal youth.”

M—: “Let’s have a kid when we get to our planet.”

W—: “Why?”

M—: “We can let the state develop and raise him/her.”

W—: “No, we are already almost immortal. There’s no need for kids.”

M—: “You women these days are cruel and selfish.”

M—: “Even though we all look young, we don’t all feel young. You get bored flying all around the world looking for people who are similar to be found in your hometown.”

W—: “That’s the way people used to look at it, but now everyone wants to travel, hoping desperately for the world to change.”

M—: “What about the sights?”

W—: “Some sights are good places for love-making, but in general I have read all about them in books. Towers, statues, old churches, and other places are just buildings without meaning. To me, they are nothing more than just aesthetic value.”

M—: “I am ready for a drastic change in venue. I think. I am sick of Earth *and* its environs.”

W—: “One of the problems here on Europa is that we have few famous love affairs to follow. People keep it to themselves mostly.”

M—: “What was the best romance of all time?”

W—: “Probably *Juliet*, by De Sade.”

M—: “No, I think it was the Curies or Helen Keller’s affairs or the crazy love of GHP-6790.”

W—: “There’s no one to look up to in love. It’s all what you make of it.”

M—: “Will you become a sex symbol on our new planet, Galileo Magic?”

W—: “I hope so. Then I can use my power to improve our new civilization. I plan to have some clones with all the money I’ve saved up. I want young men.”

M—: “It is likely no cloning will be allowed, but if you really impress everyone, maybe you can make it happen. Cloning reduces the gene pool and is an anathema.”

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M—: “Will the women of planet Galileo Magic be super sexy?” (They had met their fellow crewmates but people were constantly changing their appearance).

W—: “It is good that today models are full figured and not like stick women of the past. I’m full figured, for instance, whereas in the past I would probably be anorexic.”

M—: “Statistics show that fewer and fewer women are obsessed with being ultra-slim. Today, with drugs, you can easily reach the weight you want. Of course, many women get breast enlargement or other cosmetic surgery, such as facial alteration. Not only a face-lift, but a changed face *and* neck and body too. But all in BRECO had eternal youth so all the changes were largely cosmetic. I think it is good.”

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W—: “Some people are obsessed with being attractive.”

M—: “Will there always be people who are commonly regarded as conservative and old-fashioned?”

W—: “Without love and with slavery or dreaming your only option, no one will be old-fashioned of course, relatively speaking. Compared to today, no one will live in an old-fashioned way just as no one wants to live like a hunter-gatherer with primitive tools.”

M—: “I am satisfied that there were drugs to cope. In the AD 2060s there were mild stimulants taken all day that kept people happy. Stronger than coffee or alcohol and without side effects, they kept everyone more or less happy. Now in AD 2155, people could have any drug they wanted, such as neo-opiates.”

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M—: “Free speech cannot rock the boat, they say. People say there was some dispute with the Nines, about whether human interstellar ships would be increased. It seemed significant that one of the latest ones, i.e., ours, was probably the best one.”

W—: “I am impressed with the speed of the spaceships. Spaceships built on Mercury loaded up at Earth and then Europa before finally going into outer space with no other stops. I would like to go to Mercury.”

M—: “The space projects were cold hearted, but most were amazed at the space-drive the scientists had created. It was top secret but it worked well. They had reached a speed of thirteen light years per year and growing. One day there will be virtually no limit to speed. And, in fact, signals, such as holograms, from Earth traveled hundreds of thousands of times the speed of light.”

M—: “I was introduced to this interesting place where only high ranks could go. I met at the Europa haven with the mayor of Europa 1, not one of the Europa oligarchy. He was a spy himself, but he was excited about these missions that were being sent off, since he was on one of those sent to other far-off planets.”

W—: “At a party the first week we were there, I have been impressed by these high-ranking, bold European women.”

M—: “People said if the sex was really good, then it had to be a C III android. I tried to find one, and had one on Earth. It was great sex. The best I’ve had. I met some other girls who seemed like the real thing, but after loving them, I realized they were only C IIs or dirty R-1 humans.”

W—: “Some naively believed that such androids were just for sex even though some of them seemed to be quite clever. People said they even designed suits so that two could make love on the cold surface, floating here and there. The government figured its top-ranking people would not overdo it with the androids. Up to that point, no C III androids had been sent into space, or so they said. But no one believed

that. Most people believed numerous secret missions had already been sent to the stars.”

M—: “But to the government's surprise everyone wanted sex with these advanced androids. Many, many tourists visited the tube stop on Europa where the best prostitutes and gigolos were, but everyone agreed they were second rate and not C IIIs. You never knew where you might find a C III. When you did, it was all hush-hush, as it was illegal here on Europa, too. But anyway, with sex drugs, every person was ‘well loved’ if they wanted it.”

W—: “Virtual reality sex machines were here on Europa, too, but now this would be phased out; on Earth they were banned. But the C III android lovers were said to be far better than virtual reality sex. There were illicit drugs to take that enhanced the experience even further.”

M—: “So the rank assessors turned a blind eye to the C III androids on Europa, believing them to be relatively harmless, but there was deportation back to Earth for loving them, if you got caught. But it was thought that most were not caught. Until the yearly assessment when they were found out if they didn't have a ‘doctor’ to cover it up with your video cam. I am hoping to leave before it catches up with me.”

W—: “But some people said the androids C IIIs were quite capable of falling in love, but most people said it wasn't possible.”

CHAPTER XXI: ICE CASTLES ON EUROPA

The Subway Lines of Europa.

The eighth stop was out of the way of the others and not open to humans; it was the domain of the android king and his android research.

The android king had been of a high rank, 1 in 100 million as a human before changing into an android, and people said he was a genius coordinating android research to copy human minds onto silicon and develop new brains. They had moved the research there so that he would have more of a free hand away from the earth and its spies. On Europa agents of the Nines were watching the android king closely, though it was said he now had an overwhelming army.

In this west part of the moon was this research base. Disallowed humans, not even slaves, were to be found here. Some said it was android research, which made computers that could do more and also improve on the space drives that

could go many times the speed of light at present. And it was rumored that C III androids were simply copied from genius earthlings. And then improved.

Of course, C I and C II androids did most of the work on Earth, C II being of nearly the same intelligence as most people.

People on Earth were working less and less, but everyone still preferred a real human to service them. But on Europa androids of the first and second class did most of the work.

M—: “Let’s try and sneak into the android king’s lair.”

W—: “It is too dangerous. The king is ruthless and evil.”

W—: “But once at our own planet we can maybe send cloned androids of ourselves to such places.”

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In addition to androids of a high quality, on Europa the android king was also known to be trying to create alien life. The android king had his scientists put a human brain into plants, animals, and altogether new creatures. Many of the new creatures were put in the vast ocean, out of sight, as they were failures and crazy.

Near the android king’s area, tourists go out in subs below the surface to see the varying creatures and maybe see a really

rare one, unique even. The sea androids had a light on their forehead so as to see. Similarly, the mermen had light wands to find their way.

Europa 1 had a fleet of four submarines, useful for exploring the oceans. They were strong enough to resist the pressure and reach the bottom of the ocean, which remained a mystery as no one was talking about what was down there. Only spies went there. Some said the Seven-Faced Man had produced clones of himself in mermen. They had also produced clones of the android king himself.

Wars will never stop, but rank ones are generally very pacifistic. The leaders on Earth had created state babies that were peaceful.

The android king had a free hand to develop androids and other high-thinking creatures, mostly under the ice.

M—: “What do you think about putting superhuman brains in all sorts of creatures?”

W—: “I think it is completely mad. Is there anything scientists won’t do?”

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Then there was the fourth stop. Here was sex with professional prostitutes/gigolos.

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The rumors that they had some C III androids drew many sex tourists.

No one was sure if the C IIIs were pretending to be C IIs, or if they just didn't seem to be able to fool everyone. C I and C II didn't have to go to rank assessors, as none of them were really intelligent. Many cried out for assessments on the C IIIs, even though the results hadn't been proven to be here on Europa. They were just strongly rumored to exist. On Earth everyone knew the C IIIs were posed to vie for power with the R-1s.

M—: “How about the future of prostitutes or gigolos?”

W—: “I am jealous that you had a C III lover. But I know that you still preferred loving me, but I worry.”

M—: “Don't worry. She wasn't intellectual enough for me.”

W—: “It was kind of a wild stop on this subway stop with constant parties to rival Europa 1.”

Having cured all sex diseases many years ago, many people liked prostitutes and gigolos, which were legal and skilled.

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The whole idea of secret rendezvous with rumored C IV androids appealed to tourists who were willing to pay large

sums for the total android experience. It was more money for the economy, but the whole matter of C IVs was hidden and totally unproven. No one knew for sure what kind of love was to be had here with C IVs.

W—: “The prostitutes took courses on how to be better lovers, but some opted to change into androids just like that. On Europa, an R-1 human could turn into an android of their own volition in the domain of the android king. It involved being copied and then brainwashed to serve the king well.”

M—: “Do you feel we lived in the final chapter for humans’ romance? The best romance ever?”

W—: “Of course. Virtually everyone has some brilliant personal love stories. It’s kind of a new kind of love, but it is good sex. Often it is love in virtual reality where your body loves through holograms.”

M—: “What do you mean new kind of love? It doesn’t last? Or are you talking about climaxes?”

W—: “But you and I have been together a long time and I climax many times per day”

M—: “I think there should be sex Olympics. Perhaps even a love Olympics.”

W—: “It is a good idea. A mental Olympics would be good too.”

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Then we went to stop #16, The palace of Europa's number one leader who was 1 in 100 million; one of the solar system's great leaders. The android king, who claimed to be the smartest man in the world, disputed this. He and his C IIIs. The android king claimed to be the rightful leader of Europa and much of space.

Also the palaces of the other four great leaders of Europa were here. They were all strong believers in going to space and getting people together to want to go to space. But now they were all going on spaceships out of Europa later this year. All five were going, so that would clear the way for a new regime.

M—: "I think they've done quite a good job turning this frozen emptiness into the richest area per capita in the universe."

W—: "I wonder what the new regime will do. I am sure they will attack the android king."

CHAPTER XXII: MADNESS OF THE C III ANDROIDS

Every year, throughout the solar system, assessors wanted to know if you had improved in your love of the Nines (earth's leadership).

It was mainly determined by your life history.

But for C III androids it was the same. They had recordings in their brain that could be copied and used to judge them. Successful androids got great power bursts and the opposite for failures.

Some androids were said to have said, "It was different on Europa, where it was a different situation than conservative Earth and was one of the reasons the high ranks wanted to come here. 'A better judgment,' they called it. On Earth they emphasized being good, but on Europa the androids emphasized being adventurous and clever."

W—: "Of course earth people and android C IIIs won-

dered how to be 'good' in this ever-changing world.”

M—: “So each C I or C II android had an android C II boss who watched them through their own personal video camera. If you were not good in some cases, you would have to change yourself. Sometimes you could opt to try altering the picture, but there were a lot of android rank assessors, mostly who often demanded androids change their lifestyle, especially if you had an unattractive character. But it was rumored the C IVs had a free hand to do as they wished.”

W—: “So people on Europa, who were all R-1s, had green clothes and colored their hair gold as badges of their rank. They wore moving pictures on their clothes that indicated their rank and highlights of what you had done. And many wore moving picture masks when out in public. C III androids also kept changing their faces to make recognition difficult.”

M—: “Of course they might have tried harder to ban android sex, and C III androids, but the governing R-1s on Europa seemed to be partly anarchists. However, it was believed in the secret government research base that androids developed by the android king were large in number and ready to take over all the research on this moon that was Europa. People here were euphoric and frightened at the same time. But it was a beautiful feeling to be alive.”

W—: “It was a fact that on Earth C IIIs were not well known. However, everyone believed these androids were super-intelligent, and they were rumored to be slave masters for many human slaves. They also conducted research at their

own android house. The legendary C IVs were involved in scientific research, or so went the rumor.”

M—: “Officially, they would only say that research on androids continued on both Earth and Europa, though only C II and C I were officially available.”

W—: “So everyone just forgot all about it.”

M—: “Anything goes here on Europa.”

CHAPTER XXIII: WWZ MAKES A SPEECH TO OTHER ANDROIDS

WWZ was making a speech to C III androids: “We wanted to take the best human brains and breed them with the other best human minds and then alter it to suit our purposes, and keep repeating the process, and then develop and copy the brain onto silicon. Then many silicon brains could be copied. The copies would appear on a virtual screen and could be tested for intelligence, imagination, etc. If it was an unpleasing result the android was terminated and another one tried.”

And, “Androids didn’t need to breathe air even though they looked human and could stand bitter cold and generate gravity for themselves. They were strong and intelligent. The big thing was they could be mass-produced. They were largely made of plastic inside but a simple X ray was easily fooled.”

In addition, “It is a fact that there were C IV androids that didn’t look human, but could be far more beautiful and intelligent than humans. And it seemed to be a fact that many C IIIs had been sent into space.”

And he said, “They could turn the androids off for long space journeys and turn them back on when they arrive. So there would be no arguments and bickering amongst them.”

And WWZ said, “Some researchers here on the secret android research center wanted Europa to put people on interstellar ships to sleep and be awoken by androids. Most humans were against it, not trusting their lives to androids. It was true that the secret android research base had thousands of androids ready to go and was adding thousands more every year. Most humans wanted androids to serve, and not be in control of anything, however.”

And he said, “There were a lot of spies, spying on one another and trying to reprogram the androids. It was rumored the spies were in profound disagreement over the androids. Some represented groups all for it, and others, here on Europa, for example, were dead set against it. It was beginning to look like chaos with spies and double agents and even triple agents.”

And he said, “It was even true that earth’s Seven-Faced Man was improving himself through genetic therapy/brain surgery even though he was already a genius, but they could not find his whereabouts on Earth; he lived in the tunnels somewhere where he had met me, WWZ, for the first time.”

And WWZ continued, “In any case, earth’s leaders were determined to send missions to go to space. ‘It is the only path to knowledge,’ they said. ‘It’s the only way to learn what the reason for this/these universe(s).’ Most high-ranking

people had empathy with the androids as they were bored. Some people assumed that with so many clones and androids and superhumans on Earth being created every day, there was no reason to worry about brain drain. It was actually more of a brain gain, or so people said.”

And he said, “Now virtually no humans supported the Seven-Faced Man, as he wanted all humans to be phased out, it was known.”

CHAPTER XXIV: STILL MORE LOVE ON EUROPA

Europa was famous for its love affairs, and there was delightful conversation. Of course, all the people here were part of BRECO and took BRECO drugs, but also most of the people here, young or old, took pills to increase their sex drive. But too much sex would hurt you in BRECO in these last days of humanity, but many people partied wildly as if there was a plague and the world would soon be ended.

Artists even created unique exotic faces, the likes of which that had never been seen before, especially for the occasion, and gave them to the plastic surgeon machines.

It was easy—computers did most of the surgery. You simply inputted the picture of the face you wanted and the automatic doctor would do the work. Artists charged high fees, however, for a face change so the more high-ranking you were, the better your faces.

W—: “I know that some people changed their face regu-

larly to keep things fresh.”

M—: “Yes, sometimes I don’t recognize you.”

W—: “Well, it makes for better sex.”

M—: “Before, people would take a strong stimulant before having sex in addition to sex drive pills. Virtual sex was thought to be an inferior experience, but now sex of all kinds in any case was being replaced by stronger drugs.”

W—: “Many lovers are very serious about their rank and only indulge in positive love affairs for some; it dominates their life completely. R-2s didn’t have nearly the money of R-1s. But some R-1s were billionaires back in AD 2130. So it was unlikely they would ever lose rank. But those who were not that rich were desperate to hold on to their R-1.”

M—: “But, in any case, the people of Europa are no longer super ambitious, as the ambitious ones headed out to space. Above all, they were greedy for loves, however.”

M—: “How about your first love with an R-1 man? Was it a laughable experience?”

W—: “I had hoped it would be special, but after making love he dumped me.”

M—: “When you think of it though, people in love are ridiculous.”

W—: “Do you also think marriages are a joke?”

M—: “Well, they are almost gone. Even open marriages are almost gone. And there aren’t many kids anymore. No need for marriage and no need for sex according to the Seven-Faced Man. I’m glad we are leaving.”

M—: “What about buying gifts for your lover? What about a farewell gift?”

W—: “Some people are not good communicators, so they buy their lovers gifts, but we all know that money can’t buy love. Here on Europa there are seldom any gifts, with the population realizing the futility of gifts. Maybe a gift of mermen art or a home movie from Europa.”

M—: “Better to pay for a trip than buy gold or diamonds. I don’t know why gold and diamonds are still popular. Synthetics are just as good.”

W—: “I’d like to use my last \$Gs to completely tour the solar system (as we’d spent most of our money on the ‘love ship’ passage to outer space).”

W—: “Of course many R-1s planned to spend all the rest of their money before the next few years, when they might lose it all. But for us (M— and W—) we had passed our rank assessment for the year and were home free. R-1s into space.”

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M—: “Talk about your dream lover.”

W—: “Any lover can be a dream, but the longer it lasts, the bigger headache you will have in the end.”

M—: “How can you be so cynical?”

W—: “Some men just love themselves for example. I think men still are greedier in having more lovers, and statistics show this is true.”

M—: “But what about nymphomaniacs?”

W—: “I feel sorry for a man who dates a nympho, as he will be required to have sex beyond his capacity even if he uses sex-enhancing drugs. There are a disproportionate number of nymphos here on Europa, and I am one of them.”

M—: “You’ve got to believe that humans can pull this situation out of the fire. Androids are just copies of a handful of individuals; there is no way they can defeat the numerous brains of Earth.”

W—: “Have you ever been recklessly in love? Today, it seems, is the time to be reckless and totally open-minded.”

M—: “To date a femme fatale is reckless. Such women can ruin your life.”

W—: “I think some men are potentially violent or psycho-crazy. But, sometimes, such a relationship can be a breath of fresh air. Their volatility is sublime.”

M—: “Did you ever date someone who had the devil inside?”

W—: “The Seven-Faced Man fooled everyone. No one suspected he would go so crazy once he was away from spies.”

M—: “Many apparent gentlemen are not what they appear. You may say that we all have seven faces: one we show to the world and six we bury inside. It takes years of experience to know who’s who and who’s bad. After living many years, people usually have their act together. But, now, it seems like it is too late. The Seven-Faced Man seems ready to take over.”

W—: “As they say, ‘hell hath no fury like a woman spurned.’ You have to be careful when you break up, even in these tumultuous times.”

M—: “What new kind of man turns you on?”

W—: “Imaginative men make me so excited.”

M—: “I’m turned on by many kinds of women. Variety is the spice of life.”

W—: “You are a typical man.”

M—: “Drunk women turn me on also. I like to hear their most intimate stories and groans.”

W—: “Yeah, such women are easy targets.”

W—: “Did you ever have a slave for a lover?”

M—: “I tried to break up with a slavish girl, but she told me she would do anything I wanted if I kept her as a girlfriend.”

W—: “Some men too are like a good dog, a lap dog. But they are boring.”

W—: “If you had to go a year without me, how would you feel?”

M—: “Maybe I could spend more time thinking about my life.”

W—: “I couldn’t stand to be away from you. I’d be chronically depressed.”

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M—: “I think perhaps as many as 5 or 6 billion people have committed suicide since the twenty-first century. Many were disappointed in love. No one says anything about it. So maybe the population is actually only 3 billion or even 1 billion, rather than the official figure of 5 billion. The Seven-Faced Man said, ‘Only the strong survive.’ ”

We would hear from him in the media sometimes with a

message for the populace. His minions would hack into world news sites. Typically such messages would include an offer to change you into an android while you still could.

And there were kidnappings of famous scientists by the androids but the Nines downplayed it.

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W—: “Do you think some high-ranking people, even in this age, have no love because their standards are too high?”

M—: “So many people these days were spoiled until recently, but now nearly everyone has become realistic about love. It’s now or never. Love has never been as passionate as now.”

W—: “Finally, people realize that any love can be good. On Europa everyone is a lover. It is a mad love moon; lunatic sex orb (LSO).”

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W—: “How do you feel about a lover who is not very talkative in this day and age?”

M—: “I met such a girl once and I thought it would be good. I realized with her that it was incredibly boring. Some

women, it's true, talk too much, but some talk too little. On Europa everyone is reasonably outgoing and talkative. But we are all boring and want death in the end. People are not so different from one another to me. But the state makes big differences and ranks everyone. Even though there is very little work to do (jobs). People say the government has no idea how to make people useful again."

W—: "I find it refreshing to meet a man who is reserved. When such a man speaks, he is full of wisdom. These types of men are always good lovers, or so I have found."

W—: "How do you keep a relationship serious these days?"

M—: "Maybe see as little as possible of each other. Even though you and I are virtually inseparable these days."

W—: "I think it is best to have as many lovers as possible at one time. It is best to date geniuses."

M—: "Is it good to date a genius?"

W—: "Well you and I both are very high ranking."

M—: "Most artistic geniuses spend a lot of time partying and enjoying life, but some are geniuses in art or science but not a genius in love-making. Any love is good these days, however."

W—: "In the past, the key to meet them was when they were young, humble, and down to earth. Now everyone is so

proud.”

M—: “Perhaps we will love each other forever. What percentage of soul mates do you think stay together for a lifetime? I think, according to statistics of R-1s on Europa, it is 1 percent and dropping fast. It has all but disappeared on this mad, love moon.”

W—: “Now I go around telling men I want an ILA, which meant instant love affair. I’ve coined the term myself. I even have a song for an ILA. I’ll play it for you sometime on the guitar.”

M—: “Of course more and more love is becoming what you call an ILA. People here on Europa will be offended if you ask for a long-term relationship, for example a few weeks. Just like you and I, I think we are all desperate to experience what we can when we can.”

W—: “I know you have had sex with many women since we have been together, but I am not perturbed.”

M—: “I could say that you have had many lovers, too, and I am jealous.”

M—: “Should a woman always act like a lady in these Armageddon days?”

W—: “It’s good to have class, and a woman shouldn’t lose control, but here on Europa we’ve seen a lot of people lose it. They feel they are under so much pressure with the prospect of losing rank that they can’t help but lose it.”

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M—: “Men like a classy girl, but I think such girls are few and far between. Just like some men appear to be a gentleman, but actually are just the opposite.”

W—: “I think you are overly cynical. Now is the time for heroes.”

M—: “In any case we can each have thousands of lovers on virtual reality during the voyage.”

W—: “I don’t like showing off my rank and love exclusively to R-1s. Some are proud as a peacock and strut their ranking. Many lower ranks want to get close to them, hoping for advice on salvation. Although each rank had its colors, people would often dress down so as to be unrecognizable in terms of their rank. All ranks made use of masks at parties, and, I have to admit, it was exciting to see what new face lay behind the mask; it is kinky. Anyway, on our ship there will be no need for rank colors since everyone is ranked 1, but they will still change faces often to keep things fresh.”

M—: “If you had just a few minutes to spend with me, your soul mate, before dying, what would you do?”

W—: “I’d make love with you, just like many in Pompeii did over 2,000 years ago. On Europa there are a lot of suicides. People walk out and die in the frozen ground. To come so far to Europa and commit suicide is strange to me. It is the end of the road for some freedom fighters. All we can do is exhort these ‘doomed’ people not to lose heart and that change was bound to come sooner or later.”

W—: “Some have a weak excuse to die, such as a broken heart and so on, but it must be pressure to succeed that does it to them. It really is a rat race and everyday people are faced with soon losing rank and being forced to leave Europa and go back to Earth. To some it is a death blow to be sent back, to be a ‘slave’ or ‘Web dreamer.’ ”

M—: “What love questions from your lover won’t you answer?”

W—: “I basically tell them as little as possible about myself. Better to remain a mystery woman.”

M—: “I tell them my stories, but not my sexual stories.”

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W—: “Do you think some people are hard to predict in this era of chaos?”

M—: “Some people seem nice, but then suddenly go psycho if you try to leave them. Maybe they become violent. It is hard to say who might turn evil or a bad kind of crazy and who will not.”

W—: “I think the so-called romance languages were lovely and romantic. And these days old-world beauty and passion is disappearing. That’s too bad.”

Madness and Love in the Year AD 2155

W—: “Of course, as already mentioned, some theorized that the Nines are immortal, and it is rumored that each one has their own harem...even though there are four men and five women, they still each have a harem. Often it is the case where their lovers are guinea pigs in one experiment or another. But people can see that it is a giant experiment, this world of ours.”

M—: “Soon all people will be celibate and live typically in small apartments.”

CHAPTER XXV: NIGHT LIFE AND LOVE ON EUROPA

W—: “Until recently karaoke, bars, restaurants with original cuisine, speed dating, sports, sex clubs, S&M, games e.g., love games, music, literature and art, and so on were thriving. Now, would they continue? That was the question.”

M—: “Famous new age composer of the AD 2140s, VCX, said it was a world of illusion and dreams and had many followers. I liked his dreamy music, which nevertheless had no ‘disturbing lyrics.’ ”

M—: “‘Romance is just a game,’ the dream leader and composer said. ‘People think they are being clever by being in many love affairs.’ ”

W—: “Back then (AD 2140s) people were encouraged to do rather than watch.”

M—: “In the recent past high-ranking humans had more love affairs than ordinary people. But all you needed was one

lover, low ranks said. The lower ranks mostly believed in one at a time; they too quickly got bored with their lovers.”

W—: “I will never be bored of having other imaginative loves. Of course you are my priority but ‘variety’ is still important.”

M—: “I feel likewise, I’m sure.”

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M—: “Of course formerly illicit drugs were now tolerated by police—uppers and downers, cocaine, and new opiates. New drugs. If you took too much you would die, and most overdoses were fatal. They could have whatever they liked. On Earth, of course, they take them, too. In today’s world the slaves and dreamers continued to have these stimulants and no one saw any reason why not to have ‘bread and circuses.’ ”

W—: “There was a complete surplus of entertainment for the people. Mostly virtual dreaming and also parties and social events.”

M—: “I’ve traveled widely but seldom fallen in love. Just because someone is of a very high rank doesn’t mean they are a perfect match for anyone in particular. But they say if you can’t find love on Europa, you can’t find love anywhere. It was the moon of love. But now it was about to become the ‘sad moon,’ or LSO with the threat of the android king.”

W—: “In the AD 2090s on Europa, men’s sperm and women’s eggs were much in demand if they were from R-1s, which Europa exported to get still more cash. But now it is rumored that the sperm/egg banks have now been ‘upgraded’ here on Europa.”

CHAPTER XXVI: SEX CRIMES ON EUROPA

It seemed there were few police on Europa—spies mostly. The bulk of these were spies who acted as rank assessors. By studying everyone’s video record they caught potential crimes so as to make most crimes preventable. It was virtually impossible to get away with crime. You had to be a genius to do so. Surveillance cameras were everywhere, and everyone’s DNA picture was online. Also, advanced genetic analysis studies from just a hair or microscopic piece of skin.

W—: “How do you feel about sex crimes?”

M—: “Well most sex crimes were for fornication with C IIIs. But there were also those who abused their C IIs sexually.”

M—: “Well the conviction rate for such crimes was low as the government turned a blind eye to such abuse. After all, androids were not humans...except love with C IIIs if it could be proved (rarely), which was persecuted to the full extent of

the law.”

W—: “Dangerous deeds...but if you went to jail you’d lose all privileges and just sit in a cell by yourself for the duration of the sentencing. This was typically ‘forever.’ Many feared this. As for the androids they would be partially turned off and subject to abuses as if they were evil. Some androids were keen on love with humans but were careless and caught...typically the C IIIs.”

M—: “But in any case, due to the low sex crime rate, there weren’t many civil suits or murder charges these days as they knew they couldn’t get away with it (all on their video). The video could not be altered except by rare illicit ‘doctors.’ ”

W—: “Still there were crimes of passion. And many antigovernment protestors, who were arrested.”

M—: “Most crimes were in fact misdemeanors. For example, getting caught with an illicit freak pet. And sexually abusing such pets.”

W—: “Of course if you committed a sex crime, even a little one in the solar system, you’d be sent back to Earth for good and lose your money and rank of 1. If you were caught.”

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M—: “Computer fraud hackers who broke the law and

hacked into people's Web sites because they loved them were threatened with big punishment (solitary confinement for many years with no access to computers or mild stimulants or even the news). As mentioned you had to be a virtual genius to commit the crimes, and get away with it, and rank assessors would find out most illicit things. However, such hackers were too useful to be sent to prison and instead were trained to fight the androids. After all, androids were mostly programmed machines."

W—: "Many hackers were employed for the earth's army. Very effective against androids, or so they thought. And they had captured and studied various C III androids of which many were very similar."

W—: "But many commit suicide over broken hearts and at times seems like murder when people kill themselves due to a broken heart."

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W—: "Army generals had numerous checks and balances on them. People were watching them carefully. Some said their loves were the result of corruption."

M—: "Everyone wanted more power and sex."

W—: "The supreme court and generals are all controlled by the Nines, in theory. It is a crude hierarchy."

Madness and Love in the Year AD 2155

W—: “And, of course, it was rumored that the Nines used MRT for hard cases.”

M—: “Yes, MRT was often swept under the carpet. But rank assessors must use it.”

CHAPTER XXVII: MAD NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

On Europa, like Earth, all movies were produced under the auspices of the government. Books were not read any more and many people were bored with art. But there were still a lot of movies.

Of course, in the early twenty-first century, the movie industry almost died out due to free downloads. But now one human could make a movie all by themselves using computer technology. But everyone agreed the quality of movies got better and better, throughout the twenty-first century and into the twenty-second. And copyrights were strictly enforced.

Here is a description of “a night at the movies...” In AD 2155. Of course, there were no more cinemas, but you could watch at home. Every day has a different package of films.

Most films are just a few minutes long. So in a night out you might see ten - thirty films in one night.

Madness and Love in the Year AD 2155

What follows is a typical R-1 movie night for M— and W— in the year AD 2155. Five-minute films followed by a one-minute break. It was a nice change from always trying to make conversation and having parties and sex.

Some said the movie stars of Europa were crazy, lucky stars. R-1s make the best films on Europa. Now, in AD 2155, Europa was the cultural center of the universe, but now a dark cloud looms overhead...with the androids and so on.

No Kids

The end of kids is Armageddon according to this movie.

Previously, since back in the AD 2060s, a typical R-1 needed to spend all their savings for ten years on a kid. Most couldn't afford it, so most of the low-ranking people were dying out.

For many in this life there is no hope and who knows how high the suicide rate is. But the earth oligarchs let it be known that there were "too many dumb people anyways." But having few kids is like a mass suicide of many people.

W—: "I feel for the common men; they are left behind and their lineage is about to be wiped out."

M—: "It's a pretty rough league we are playing in. But the power of even a high-ranked person is nothing compared to the so-called Nines' leaders."

W—: "Having kids is a blessing when the state looks after

the most intelligent of them. That's what they should do...have millions more 'state babies.' ”

M—: “I believe they are trying to do so.”

The Entirety of the World's Best.

This was a movie about virtual reality of the dreamers. In the dreams there are some virtual stars, kind of like computers with a body that seems real but is not real. Many actors were virtual; it was hard to tell if they were holograms or not. People would all wear a helmet with a screen while levitating on the bed.

M—: “Maybe in the near future there will be trillions of virtual people.”

W—: “I think this world is difficult to understand. I feel this more and more.”

Mermen Love

This movie depicts mermen as an advanced race intellectually. It is a documentary and claims they can communicate as well as humans through sign language, as well as build structures as well as humans can. They have their own dream, which is a dream to go to other icy/water moons in the solar system as well as space. Currently they are on Earth, Europa, and elsewhere in the solar system.

Madness and Love in the Year AD 2155

M—: “They are playing with fire with so many new types of creatures.”

W—: “I feel it is rather nice to color our worlds with different and new beings and animals.”

AD 2200

At this time the movie says that space is neutral and there should be no fighting with such a large universe, but, nevertheless, some compete with each other for control of the good worlds.

This competition is to land a ship in another ship’s territory. But usually they get along in time. There is plenty of land for everyone.

M—: “Wars in space are inevitable, I think. People want to control more people and land.”

W—: “I have to disagree. I think with the rank assessors/spies, and better education, there will be an end to violence.”

M—: “I think it will result only in tyrants.”

Android Love

It was rumored to have been written by five C III women

androids and five C III men androids. C IIIs are rumored to becoming common everywhere and enslaving relatively low-ranked people deep underground. This movie talks about how androids feel they are slaves themselves and don't like it. However, in the future, according to the movie, androids replace humans as rulers of the galaxy. Complete android victory, AD 2164.

M—: “But making such a film would endanger them with the Nines’ government. But they couldn’t be captured.”

W—: “But Earth’s hidden factories will continue to mass-produce androids C III and perhaps C IV. Many of the best humans will have all left Earth and the C IIIs will take over according to the film but it’s a fact that state babies are still in the hundreds of millions, far more than the android C IIIs.”

M—: “The new android civilization is based on science. Those androids with the best scientific minds had more prestige. But androids didn’t need money; they just needed more scientists to help them or join a better android scientist.”

W—: “Most great scientists had been copied from hairs or other DNA by android spies.”

M—: “No one ever talks about how androids feel. But they probably feel just like we do, in some ways at least.”

Ambassador WWZ had said, “It is easier to produce androids than it is to produce other thinking people. But for the humans, they can reproduce out in the open whereas the androids have to be underground in small groups.” But some,

like WWZ, say maybe the androids will in fact take control, in say, AD 2164, and that will be a good thing.”

M—: “I know you are joking.”

Winter’s Comedy

Here they told jokes about life including the leadership. But they walked a fine line and finally were all arrested. The government had warned them but they paid no heed. All this was in the film. The Nines let it be as a warning to others.

W—: “Everyone here in the movie dressed as a jester or joker.”

M—: “But their jokes weren’t funny and I had long ago concluded that the best comedians lived in other worlds, not here.”

W—: “It was boring and there was not much rank so we didn’t have much reason for watching this.”

M—: “But the film had some quirks, such as, by law, one could only have a romance lasting one day...and they were forever changing their bodies to look what they thought would be funny. They weren’t funny, though, to us.”

M—: “This world is lacking in humor. Everyone is so caught up in the rat race that they have no time for fun and happiness.”

W—: “Well I am serious about having a good time.”

M—: “How do you feel about comedians in this desperate, modern era, on Europa? Is there room to laugh and be happy?”

W—: “That’s what love is about, being happy. I dated a clown once who juggled four balls while making love to me. It was bizarre.”

M—: “But seriously, I think today people are much more stressed than in previous eras. There are few comedians these days, either. Love is a joke, however, people are saying.”

W—: “But I hate videos; I’d rather meet a funny person in person than watch videos vicariously. But these days people seem to have lost their sense of humor.”

Movie of the Kind

This movie is about a world of kindness—an impossible dream—in which there is more and more kindness. The tragic protagonist tries to be kind but she gets nowhere as the government is against it. “Everyone has food and shelter and access to education, no reason for kindness,” says the government.

M—: “It’s good to be kind but sometimes it is a case of the most good for the best people.”

W—: “I think kind people are all enslaved these days. It is

not kind. They need to correct this situation. Are they completely crazy?”

Suicide and Love

Outer space is the only place to live and die. It's where things are happening.

But, as the movie points out, it is a long hard journey. Every voyage sent out to space has many suicides from just being cooped up with nowhere to go, and then upon landing cooped up again in burrows (typically).

M—: “For some space is romantic, however, with many love affairs on board.”

W—: “If you can get all the way to space you need to be a stable person. However, a person's emotions sometimes get away from them and they turn into a completely different human being.”

W—: “We planned to take ‘a sex space voyage.’”

M—: “Some never tire of love/sex.”

W—: “Others go insane over love. They become greedy with their lovers.”

Immortality

The *Epic of Gilgamesh*, the world's oldest book, is thousands

of years old and it is about immortality. Humans have been dreaming of immortality for over 4,000 years. But if they were immortal probably they would get bored, just as most of earth's elite will who want to go to space.

W—: “What would optimum life be? 200 years of youth? Who knows?”

M—: “I think I would live for millions of years if I could.”

W—: “I think it would be good to be frozen in temporal status. To be awakened at later dates.”

Love and Hate.

In the movie people say they love each other but the rank assessors say they are full of hate. Some try many love affairs for happiness, but no money and so they lose all rank. But anyway, in AD 2155, their heart isn't into it.

M—: “In fact every year in the mid-twenty-second century, 20 percent of R-1s changed rank. It showed that many people are trying and vying with one another. Even with their romantic partners.”

W—: “It doesn't have to be true love every time. What's wrong with a little sex?”

A Challenge of the Body Electric

Madness and Love in the Year AD 2155

In this movie, the idea of a human body is challenged. In the film several artists provide sketches, which show “futuristic humans.” Basically each is a work of art, but doesn’t look human. Most people can’t accept this, so it is a restricted movie. Only R-1s can watch it.

W—: “It’s like wearing a Halloween costume. Only instead of evil creatures, you are a new rich human with a superhuman face.”

M—: “As with every generation, we are lost with the new one’s culture.”

Dragons

A dumb film, based on virtual reality, featuring fantastic creatures and ordinary humans.

W—: “When are fantasy movies going to get with it? All this talk of evil and fantastic creatures is not my fantasy. I have many sex fantasies, however.”

M—: “Yes, I think fantasy should ideally be cerebral and not made up of foolish and evil creatures. And to take love out of the equation, and fantasy is not much good. Love used to make the world go-round. But now people are reduced to take strong neo-opiates, generally speaking.”

Mad World

This movie depicts a future world in which everyone visits the psychiatrists regularly and takes drugs to calm them. Everyone admits to being insane as everyone is losing their mind in madness.

The world is a giant video game...which drives people crazy. They can't play forever but there is no other option for dreamers.

This movie is set in the future in which people no longer worry about rank, so in the film people turn evil or nasty or crazy. The film is interesting in that everyone wants to go crazy, since there might be no rank in the future.

W—: “Yes, video game worlds can be instructive as to how mesmerized everyone who plays them is. Even if they have no rank, they play anyway, not caring much for reality.”

M—: “Of course the makers of this film would be in solitary confinement now.”

W—: “But today people lose their minds gambling on warfare, or battle to the death in duels.”

M—: “‘God does not play dice...’ as Einstein said”

W—: “Some mad gamblers were envious of others and wanted their huge fortunes. Basically most were a loser in the end.”

M—: “Stocks, new cities, sports, games of chance...many were losers in the end...just as you say.”

Return of Business

A true story of a far-off colonized planet where they bring back businesses, both small and large. No more ranking except money. Money is better, fairer than other kinds of rank, they say. In this world they play video games in their pursuit for wealth. Everyone was in the video game world.

This famous film was inspired by a space-going-ship of capitalism to the stars.

M—: “Money was the old ranking, generally speaking. But now it is becoming more so.”

AD 2050

This was about a colony of earth people with technology frozen at AD 2050. They said society had gone too far and was crazy and the only way to maintain civilization was to freeze all scientific development.

Also, they decided to get rid of a lot of other things and brought back belief in God and so on.

M—: “Backward thinking really irritates me. But do such people really exist? If so, why are they tolerated?”

W—: “Yeah, we are on the verge of the stars and beyond, and some people would rather live in a primitive way. Just

like animals...”

Perfect World

This movie was about a world of liars. People who enjoyed telling outrageous lies. The lies are so good it is comedy and high rank for the scriptwriter.

W—: “It’s more than meets the eye. Sometimes the deepest truths are in fact lies. If that makes any sense.”

M—: “The biggest lies can be truths, I agree. Black is white. Yes is no.”

Or R-100 Is the Very Best

This film talks about how the best life is humble and without possessions, like a lot of old religions used to say. Nothing to lose, they say, by being R-100. Some of them might have held a high rank but they refused. Many of them lived in the jungle, where it is “safe.” Like the movie AD 2050.

M—: “There will always be lots of stubborn people, I think.”

W—: “Many of the cleverest people are extremely stubborn. Even if they lose rank over things, they still persist.”

CHAPTER XXVIII: EARTH, AD 2155, MAY 1

It was a real world of sparkling, glittering, rich cities. Notably, NYC, a BRECO city of 65 million people.

NYC was thought to be the best BRECO city with the most clever and interesting people.

Of course the UW was a loose coalition in BRECO.

NYC was all about culture, whereas science was mainly secret. People said the best facial artists were here in NYC, and many made the pilgrimage to see what drawings might be used by them. Others said Europa was best.

But most art was spread around the planet and space. Europa, for example, did a lot of art. But it was generally agreed the best artists still lived in NYC.

And the Nines were in favor of cloning and said on video dispatches that they were using cloning and also using the

best sperm/eggs to raise lots of geniuses for the future.

W—: “The Nines great oligarchic leaders were said to live nearby NYC in their own palaces. In fact, they said one leader was the head of the group, but in theory it was an oligarchy filled with checks and balances.”

M—: “The people in the Nines’ leadership, it was said, still came under scrutiny by one another.”

W—: “Some people lamented that they lived in a dictatorship. But some people were happy with the wealth they had and they felt no need for hard work.”

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M—: “It was considered impossible to assassinate the nine leaders since no one knew for sure where they were. They were seldom in their castles and seldom spoke publicly.”

W—: “Some said that the leaders put their hopes in state babies, which would be more various and dynamic than the Seven-Faced Man’s numerous cloned androids in the solar system, but they were all given plastic surgery to hide their identity.”

W—: “For example, it was known that the Seven-Faced Man thought C IIIs could be converted to holograms, like the humans, with faster and faster speed through space. And using holograms was part of an arms race.”

M—: “The leaders met in virtual meetings, not in person, for safety reasons.”

W—: “The Nines had been in power since AD 2060, or so it was said. Many were convinced they were immortal.”

M—: “Of course most highly intelligent people didn’t want wars, especially a destructive type of modern warfare.”

W—: “Any war that was likely to happen would involve ‘hacker wars,’ some said. Some even said war was a nonfatal activity to be fought in cyberspace or the solar system. But basically the future still belonged to the supreme leaders of Earth, they hoped.”

M—: “Some pundits prognosticated Armageddon. Though this was nothing new, a total of 25 percent believed the end of the world was near according to government statistics. But most people said the number was far higher. They said the vast majority of humans are suicidal and already most of the world’s people had killed themselves.”

W—: “Some of the others wanted to continue dreaming in cyberspace/virtual reality with brilliant drugs. And not join BRECO.”

M—: “Some said it was naïve to believe in peace. They said just like most science fiction predicted huge space wars.”

W—: “Still the Nines kept telling everyone that society would only survive through bold use of genius spies. Some of

the UN government was hidden with total security from any kind of attack in their own so-called 'safe bunkers.' There were more and more of these especially with high ranking 1s. With so many clever people around, the government had to be astute in watching them. And protect the government from 'terrorists.' ”

M—: “But one thing is for sure: things are changing. New geniuses are being born, android or human. Why androids? Humans can do it all, no need of android help, some said.”

M—: “But, of course, the androids could be programmed more easily and could be turned off and on at will. Some said top secret spaceships out of Mercury were going to go thousands of light years into the future and during this time the android crews were 'turned off.' ”

W—: “And they were a source of cheap labor; especially the C Is and C IIs.”

CHAPTER XXIX: PLANS FOR OUR TRIP TO OUTER SPACE

M— and W— together...again...

M—: “I’ve been having strange dreams lately. I feel like my ex-girlfriend is in my head, telling me to stay on Europa. Telling me I was the Seven-Faced Man’s child and should stay on Earth and have rank and money.”

W—: “I hear voices in my head that tell me not to go also. It’s very strange. Maybe we are so excited we are hallucinating. Why would any being want to be in our heads anyway?”

M—: “Everyone has part of them that wants to stay. Another part to go...worried, excited...”

W—: “But what about holograms? Who knows what is really going on with the Nines and their cadre of scientists? Maybe the holograms are in our heads, like a silent partner or something?”

Madness and Love in the Year AD 2155

M—: “In any case the plan is to go to a mountainous, desert planet about the size of Earth. The planet (planet Galileo Magic) is sixty-five light years away. Journey time about five years at a speed of thirteen light years per year.”

W—: “As you know, the ideals of the voyage are to be ruled by 1 in 100 million high-ranking R-1. This will be the highest rank ever sent to space.”

M—: “Anyway, we hoped for a lot of fun with this great leader and his humorous side.”

W—: “With him it was likely that business would thrive since he was of such a high rank. He had made his money years ago in C II androids...which concerned some.”

M—: “It is well-known that we were a happy group that got along well together. We were tested by varying methods. So no strict ideology, just a fun group of people.”

W—: “The newest animals and plants that could thrive without much oxygen were also brought in and totally recycled, as well as sperm/egg banks or seeds.”

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W—: “Will it be a romantic journey?”

M—: “I’ll pretend to be romantic as will the other men on the journey. Knowing you, you’ll soon be bored with only

500 people on board (all R-1s of course; 50 percent women). But once we get there we'll use the sperm and eggs we've stored to create a vibrant, passionate civilization. Perhaps we can do without rank."

M—: "Maybe the voyage will give us some time to ponder our lives by thinking long and deeply. Sometimes I feel women understand me better than I know myself."

W—: "Maybe I'll just sit there by myself and figure out who I am. I know some misanthropes do so, but I don't think it leads to happiness in the long term. Surely you must get sick of yourself."

M—: "Is there anything you've left undone on Earth? What about other kinds of love?"

W—: "I still haven't made it with a transvestite or transsexual or gay, but now I am going into deep space and I feel I have done all I can do here on Earth."

M—: "But there must have been some loves you couldn't get? What did you do when you envied a friend's lover, for example?"

W—: "Oh, I avoided getting involved; it would just inspire me to try harder myself to get interesting men."

M—: "But I think we are all selfish and greedy for love. Men are especially greedy, much greedier than a woman I would say."

W—: “I don’t agree; women are always bossing their boy-friends around at the same time as they are having affairs with other men. Modern women probably like sex more than men these days.”

M—: “In the past a lot of R-1s didn’t want to go to space. They wanted to stay on Earth where life was vibrant with lots of clever people and things to do. They said space voyages were boring and that you wouldn’t meet any new people after the journey had begun.”

W—: “But for those who wanted to go to space it was a fresh start, which could be built from your children and freedom and drugs. Space-going travelers were wary of androids C IIIs being smuggled on the voyage. Some wanted androids C IIIs for great sex to be taken on the voyage. But it was out of the question. Most didn’t want any part of ‘machine people. Just C Is.’ ”

M—: “In any case these star-bound people hoped to build a whole civilization with their friends and descendants.”

M—: “I wonder what love will be like in the far future.”

W—: “I think there will be hundreds of different sexes, all of whom are beautiful. Maybe you will be able to make love with your clone that has a new sex!”

M—: “I think it is more likely that people will give up sex, since it is unnecessary. And will instead enjoy drugs and hobbies and interests.”

W—: “But perhaps they will opt for old-fashioned love in some of the other outgoing ships. Maybe they will have feminine women and masculine men. The sex instinct is hard to break. I know you would like that.”

M—: “I think love is just a game in which you might as well try and win—whatever winning might involve.”

CHAPTER XXX: THE ENVIRONMENT

M—: “Terra forming was now well established on many planets and moons.”

W—: “And in the twenty-first century Earth’s sea level rose about three meters, but dikes in low-lying areas actually increased the amount of land.”

M—: “Also they desalinized ocean water and used it to water deserts. Brilliant cities were rising up there in the former deserts. The UN at the time controlled the nuclear sites so there would be no nuclear proliferation.”

W—: “No pollution, neo-nuclear fuel cells, air cars with neo-nuclear power and guided automatically (for the rich), or supersonic nuclear land trains. There were very few accidents as it was all automated.”

M—: “Also there were freak animals and plants. There was parkland everywhere. The Sahara now is the greenest,

largest park in the world. Some said it put an end to the freak show.”

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W—: “Primarily they bomb rifts in the ocean bed which lets out warmer sea currents and so the world gets hot faster. Then the world suddenly gets cooler. Trying to increase rifts in the sea floor is not an exact science; it takes some doing.”

M—: “I’m sure it is just a matter of time before all moons and planets can be terra formed.”

W—: “It’s almost solved. Many planets have been given new atmospheres from ‘air factories.’ Also on Earth, undersea rifts in the seabed or molten magma are opened to provide more heat to the oceans and the air since most planets are cold. For warm planets cool breezes are developed to cool down such planets.”

“It had been determined that the world was growing hotter just as part of a historical cycle as well. The world was always getting warmer or less warm.”

M—: “It was said, ‘There were many experimental worlds in space.’ ”

W—: “Many were testing tiny creatures/microrobots to be sent as holograms and then converted to material forms using high energy and then to build buildings such as domes.”

M—: “Just like invisible computer chips...they were geni-uses.”

W—: “Spies were all over the worlds though to prevent nefarious deeds with the tiny creatures. Many scientists worked on defenses versus them.”

CHAPTER XXXI: OTHER MOONS AND PLANETS IN THE SOLAR SYS- TEM

M—: “By way of policing the solar system, the earth government had three small but heavily armed cruisers which just kept everybody on their toes. There were thousands of spies and rank assessors.”

W—: “It was pretty safe so far. So far there were no pirates or space criminals. The rank assessors saw to that.”

The Moon (Luna)

W—: “In folklore the moon was often represented as a place of insanity, for lunatics.”

M—: “And just like Venus attracted lovers the moon attracted mad people.”

W—: “They liked to have sex on the surface using specially designed suits.”

Madness and Love in the Year AD 2155

W—: “But there is no hiding from madness...one day they said the whole universe will be mad...it’s inevitable, they say.”

M—: “Some crazy R-1s came here to meet other crazies. It was adventure like never before. But ultimately ‘bad crazies’ were defeated by ‘good crazies.’ ”

W—: “Bad crazies were violent and cruel and random. Some said they were evil, and they were deported back to Earth.”

M—: “But the ‘good crazies’ built a city called ‘Total Madness,’ in which everyone was burning their candles at both ends and taking dangerous chances and living life to the full. It was an adrenalin rush, just like primitive hunter-gatherers felt when risking their lives...dangerous drugs, neo-theme park rides, numerous love affairs with androids C IIIs, and complete hopelessness for the future. Most here said they’d rather die than leave the city of Total Madness.”

W—: “I found a brilliant C III lover yesterday.”

M—: “Me too. I found another brilliant C III woman to love.”

M—: “Here they measured madness. The maddest were the rulers.”

W—: “I think in this era of BRECO we need ‘sane cities,’ not insane ones. Many are really sick.”

Mercury

M—: “So we (M— and W—) then went to Mercury. It was a planet known for its brilliant engineers (space drive systems) and high-powered solar manufacturing of spaceships.”

W—: “Spaceships here were built with solar power and Mercury metals.”

M—: “There was plenty of gold here. But not worth the expense of exporting, so all the trade is in ideas. But people said the leaders of Mercury’s clothes and home were made of gold to show everyone how rich they were.”

W—: “It is rumored that the super scientists here have all been cloned many times over. Many people say that these space-drive scientists are the most valuable people of all of humanity. Some say the Nines also mixed their genetic material with these scientists, hoping for a dynamic result.”

W—: “But some people said BRECO people will slowly be weeded out until finally only a handful will still be living and improving their brain. It was just too difficult to improve your brain again and again.”

M—: “Many of these space scientists spoke of rebelling against the government, but they got no punishment as they were so valuable. Still, the government was trying to replace them with specially-educated state babies.”

W—: “The population of Mercury is about 20 000, mostly

scientists, and they live underground due to the heat of the planet. Generally speaking, the poles were cooler. They had not yet been terra formed.”

M—: “I think if you keep changing your brain, you will never get sick of life”

W—: “I think you should buy me a gold dress so I know you love me.”

M—: “Beware. I have the Midas touch.”

Venus

W—: “Here the challenge was trying to gobble up the atmosphere of CO₂ and terra form it and reduce it to carbon and oxygen. The machines tried to reduce the air pressure of Venus (800 times that of Earth)”

M—: “Settlements under the surface don’t feel the high pressure, however.”

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W—: “Some lovers came here, but Jupiter’s moon Europa was better and more highbrow for love.”

M—: “‘Love city,’ however, on Venus, featured many great lovers who had come together.”

W—: “People say here it is ‘real love.’ Or ‘human love.’ They say love is not taught in schools and many people don’t spend much time thinking about who they want. As a result they settle for second best. For many of them any love is good.”

M—: “Sometimes people on Venus said complicated lovers are the key to an interesting romance. And they say you should never stick to one lover only. And you should build numerous relationships over a long period of time.”

W—: “Rumors were that the world’s best lovers had been cloned and sent here to lure the people of Earth to outer space. But now the androids were threatening to take over, and the androids could make love with humans. There was a lot of sex here between R-1 humans and C II androids, and many C IIIs love, which made it different from Europa.”

M— and W— both here indulged in a number of C III lovers and were quite impressed.

W—: “Here, officially, android sex (with C IIIs) was illegal. But Venusians were known to praise the sex with these C III creatures. ‘Ecstasy,’ they said.”

W—: “In the tradition of planetary development, they engaged in work on new plants and animals that could stand the air pressure and change the atmosphere.”

M—: “Now Venus was a balmy place with vaguely breathable air.”

“Heavy clouds shielded the planet from the violence of the sun.”

W—: “Yes, but when we go on our trip to space, perhaps sex will be the number one thing to get rank.”

Mars

W—: “It was a colony of 4,000. The people here were angry and looking for agent provocateurs who could kill androids.”

M—: “They played life or death sports on the surface, which was something to gamble about. They gambled about everything.”

“And they constantly dared each other to do outrageous deeds.”

W—: “We visited it for a couple of weeks. I wondered if M— loved me and vice versa. But Mars is a practical place without many famous lovers. They are mostly hard-working scientists, crazy as they are. We got the vibe and felt angry, too.”

M—: “On Mars they tried business, learning, socializing with high ranks, charity, and trying to pass a rank assessor test. In truth many of these people really believed in love and claimed it was a feeling of euphoria. A lot of these people were youthful. They were state babies, and now they were rising fast up the ranking scale. But, they were unstable like

the traditional people of Mars. It was starting to get lopsided with too many of the R-1s, so many good ranking people were being replaced by these upstart state babies.”

M—: “We have to admit to ourselves that we were state-raised babies, and we were children of the Seven-Faced Man. We had just gotten the news from our private detective. Of course the Seven-Faced Man had numerous children back in the early AD 2100s, before he started making androids C IIIs. Children, even state babies, were expensive for the parents. We wondered who our mother was.”

W—: “I am deeply disturbed that we are children of the Seven-Faced Man Maybe they won’t allow us on board? Maybe they will kill us?”

Jupiter

W—: “Jupiter’s moons were of interest to those on Earth. But as for the gas giant itself, people had different ideas. Some wanted to bombard Jupiter with neo-nuclear bombs to see what happened. Others said leave it alone.”

M—: “In any case there was a small research base orbiting this giant orb.”

W—: “The people here felt free to practice science, and the rank assessors turned a blind eye.”

M—: “The idea was how to make Jupiter into a sun for most. One thousand scientists were attracted to the problem. They built durable spacecrafts to probe the gas giant of Jupi-

ter.”

M—: “I think it is a good idea to make Jupiter a sun, if they can.”

W—: “I think they should send robots down to gobble up the gas and make it suitable for humans.”

M—: “There are greener pastures in space. But Jupiter is certainly a mad challenge.”

Ganymede

M—: “Here was the largest moon of Jupiter.”

W—: “There was a lot of melted ice, and there was a new breathable atmosphere.”

M—: “Ganymede was rich in resources and supplied nearby Europa with them.”

W—: “C II androids did all the work, and the people of Ganymede spent their days in virtual reality based on Earth. All the entertainment was theirs for the taking, and they spent their days with people just like them. They were all up-and-coming business people and worked for one of the great twelve companies. They liked being sent to new lands by their bosses.”

Their next stop was space.

Io

M—: “This moon had a volcanic silicate crust. And its active volcanoes made for a scenic place.”

W—: “It was part of the jet set’s tour of the solar system. Here there were some surreal artists who painted twisted pictures of Io.”

M—: “Some people in this day and age still admired natural beauty. But most only valued man-made beauty.”

W—: “People said it was very inhospitable, but that attracted tourists.”

M—: “The landscape was hellish, and the people were wild, uncultivated, and bold-thinking. And they said we need ‘new barbarians’ in space.”

Titan

This moon of Saturn featured a hydrocarbon lake underground and frozen ocean. Its hellish orange-brownish scenario appealed to some. Again they put neo-creatures inside. They had a large neo-nuclear reactor changing the planet, creating seas for the most part.

M—: “We need to change this universe starting with the solar system.”

W—: “I think only dark, mysterious people come here. Interesting lovers as I have sampled them.”

M—: “You never know what genius you will meet in space...especially with these new state babies growing up.”

W—: “Some of the state babies are types that have never been seen before in earth’s history.”

Triton

This moon of Neptune is 50 percent water and 50 percent ice. The people on Triton (population 1,000) were guinea pigs in experiments to turn humans into sea creatures. These sea creatures were totally human except they didn’t breathe air. The ocean was very warm near the surface. The government kept the whole thing under wraps.

Some people said there were already enough varieties of intelligent sea creatures on Europa, but Triton’s government wanted to be the first to have virtual humans living in the waters.

W—: “The plan is to colonize every inch of land in all the planets and moons. But surely there were limits, and places that were too hostile, such as the gas giants.”

M—: “Many scientists find inhospitable places to be a challenge.”

CHAPTER XXXII: RELIGION: GOD CULT

W—: “As mentioned old time religion had died out.”

M—: “On Earth there was a fantasy world called the God cult, which believed it is their mission to find God, wherever God might be.”

W—: “These R-1s think they will know God when they see him/her.”

M—: “The belief system claimed that God was the entire universe(s) and that each sun was like a single cell in a human. Followers believed they were very small and had a duty to learn about the creations of God.”

M—: “They praised God for his wonderful universe.”

W—: “In any case I am sure a god wouldn’t care about us, unless we make god ourselves.”

M—: “Yes, ever since primitive hunter-gatherer days people have looked for a higher power. I wonder who it was that first came up with the concept...perhaps religion is older than Homo sapiens.”

W—: “Some ships claimed they saw souls in space, but everyone on Earth thought they were just holograms from Earth. Or hallucinations brought on by drugs.”

M—: “Others say there are aliens out there that would be so strange we couldn’t comprehend them. Of course many sea creatures they had made were ‘unworldly’ but still were developed from humans.”

W—: “But some scientists wanted to try to imagine what types of alien might exist and then make them in the lab. Such science was new and untested, but tests were going on now.”

W—: “And some people on Earth said new instincts are in order, everything has to be scientific. The scientific method rules.”

W—: “Some religious types of people attained the rank of one, like these ones did. Some went to space and were convinced they would find paradise somewhere, but finally settled on a plain world with no god in sight.”

M—: “They wrote a new Bible which talks about brotherly love as the most important quality. It also elaborates on romantic love. But speed dating or one-night stands were preferred by them and orgies, too.”

W—: “They said the future belongs to the kind, though other people didn’t understand what they meant.”

M—: “I think we will discover God and find God doesn’t care about us.”

W—: “I think we will make everyone so clever and powerful, they will be like gods.”

“It is the future,” they said.

W—: “Everywhere on Earth, and space people, said holograms divorced from their bodies were looking for intellectual pleasures. But it was said they had mostly gone into space searching for who knows what.”

W—: “Neo-monks travel through space in their own personal hologram, it is said.”

M—: “No ships for them led to far more rapid travel.”

W—: “Many people could see that the government wanted to get rid of human instincts and, at the same time, go faster into space.”

M—: “As I grow older I see the sense of intellectual pleasures over pleasures of the flesh.”

W—: “I disagree. I think such holograms are freaks that bear little resemblance to us. I wouldn’t want our descendants to be holograms.”

Madness and Love in the Year AD 2155

M—: “Well it seems it is already predecided. I wonder what will happen if new ships overlap old ships by going faster with new technology and how they will get along together?”

W—: “Don’t worry, there are still rank assessors required on every ship as well as a lot of spies undercover.”

CHAPTER XXXIII: OTHER VOYAGES TO DEEP SPACE

M—: “Recent news from a distant star system with Planet Cool, as a base of settlement, claimed that there were strange, abstract machines awaiting the colonizers. The machines might be part of a secret project led by the Seven-Faced Man and built by microrobots. But it didn’t make any sense.”

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W—: “Another mystery was the disappearance of Colony 3002-H, the scientific planet. Holograms were said to have been sent to investigate, but there were no signs of humans or anything else.”

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W—: “Still another mystery was the explosion of two different ships in outer space. No one knew what happened to them.”

M—: “There was another mystery with Ship 667-Zas. Instead of landing in the binary solar system they had aimed for, they wound up on a totally different planet for which they were unprepared. But the crew, exhausted by the long flight, decided to stay there, even though it was a cold desert planet.”

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M—: “Within sixteen light years of Earth are fifty solar systems, some with binary stars. With the speed of ships getting faster and faster (currently thirteen light years per year), tens of thousands of systems will soon be visited. They will, for the most part, give them new names when they settle them.”

W—: “So many stars in the sky, they all seem so close... and they are.”

M—: “Tourism had not been far behind any of the new settlements. We are eager to see what kind of life the varying settlers have made.”

W—: “At first it had been one ship per solar system, but tourism was lucrative and people liked the idea of arriving on a world that was already developed and terra formed. Many

of the tourists stayed on the new planets and moons. In space they would not lose rank.”

W—: “However, in space if you had no money, you had to be a slave. Usually you needed to work as a slave for ten years before you would get your freedom. Of course they didn’t call it slavery; they called them ‘indentured wage earners.’ ”

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W—: “There were a number of small ships, with skeleton crews of only four - six members, transporting millions of sperm and eggs. Most of these were at least twenty-year voyages”

M—: “Androids were useful since they didn’t require food; they only needed long-lasting batteries. Their ships could be smaller and faster, some said. But I figure it is doubtful that the androids have sent any ships yet.”

W—: “I predict that in the future, only holograms will be sent to far-off worlds to set up new civilizations. The speed of the holograms is already said to be thousands of times the speed of light.”

M—: “The idea now, however, was to send ships crewed by humans only into space. In any case the Seven-Faced Man was producing so many android geniuses it was deemed prudent by the Nines’ government to prevent the androids from

getting into space any way they could.”

W—: “The longest voyage ever attempted was officially ninety light years from Earth, about seven years journey. The crew insisted on staying awake for the entire journey.”

M—: “Many were hedging their bets, waiting for more rapid space drives; others couldn’t wait.”

CHAPTER XXXIV: BACK ON EARTH, SEPTEMBER, AD 2155

M—: “As previously mentioned, the supreme leadership of the Nines was strongly supportive of the space program. There was almost unlimited wealth produced by automation and some of that was available for space. (Poverty had basically been eliminated by AD 2080).”

W—: “Some cities had previously broadly accepted everyone. Others had limited it, for example, to rankings thirty - forty. The top elite of 1 in 1 million or higher were all very elite and seldom associated with the ‘common man.’ But ranking cities were now being rapidly replaced with BRECO cities.”

M—: “However, there were spies everywhere, including on cyberspace. These spies were humans...and the spies were watching everywhere for signs of dissent. In any case, peoples’ video cameras gave them away and resulted in their de-ranking, if they were wayward. With an estimated 3 percent of humans who were spies. So not only R-1 spies...except in

space.”

W—: “Some said get rid of rank but in the general opinion, such people were all communists and no one wanted that. Everyone would have nothing.”

M—: “Others questioned if the leadership was really as good as they said and if the assessor tests were flawed.”

W—: “Some said concentrating on science was impractical, perhaps totally insane, and they should just leave people alone to live as they wish.”

W—: “I wanted to meet the leaders, and some told me I probably already had, incognito.”

CHAPTER XXXV: TRIP BACK TO EUROPA, NOVEMBER, AD 2155

We'd been on Earth for a couple of months, and now it was time to return to Europa in November for our blastoff.

M—: “The flight was only a couple of minutes.”

M—: “Despite getting away, I feel like we are trapped in a maze from which there is no escape.”

W—: “It's a world of madness. No point pretending otherwise.”

M—: “I think we are all mad gamblers of one kind or another. Gambling on sports and people's love affairs, etc. No casinos but you can spend all your money on other types of gambling if you want. And no bigger gamble to go to outer space for those voyages, which had already gone into outer space. For us, though, we have nothing to lose and everything to gain.”

W—: “I have a lot of feelings of being superfluous. Useless feelings. Some say it is good to be bored? I say it makes people lazy. Only part-time jobs. It is hard for a clever person, or any person for that matter, to live without a job.”

M—: “But we have proven useful as psychiatrists: we are in demand.”

W—: “Sure, but the elite are the ones who get all the jobs. Many clever people are lazy, or happy to be lazy, and now the former elites are losing their jobs to the new state babies.”

M—: “I think some people are too nice for this world (forget about rank); many people need kindness.”

W—: “Humans are all foolish anyway. What is something humans will never learn? ‘War?’”

M—: “No, we can overcome that too in time.”

W—: “You are overly optimistic.”

W—: “Do people on Earth know themselves?”

M—: “I think people keep busy and hardly spend any time figuring out who they are.”

W—: “Sometimes people ask me what kind of person I am, and I don’t really know how to tell them.”

M—: “I tell them the truth: that I will be an interstellar adventurer.”

W—: “I don’t like to be asked about what can be done on Europa. I don’t have the answers.”

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W—: “Do you feel the spaceship will be a thrill for us?”

M—: “Sex is the only thrill I need, and I enjoy neo-alcohol and new drugs. So the answer is yes. Rumor is they have more new drugs for us to take with us on the voyage.”

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W—: “Do you think so-called wise people are conservative? Do we have a lot of conservative people on our voyage?”

M—: “Not really. I think just the opposite. We want vibrant, liberal people on our voyage, and having met the other astronauts, I feel that all is well.”

W—: “Conservative to me is people who are afraid to have a good time. They are afraid to let go their inhibitions. Mostly they have low rank, which angers them, but there is nothing they can do about it. Still many conservative people made it to space as many of them were rich.”

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W—: “How do you feel the ranking system will be once we get to planet Galileo Magic?”

M—: “I think we all know that it will be unnecessary and unwelcome. Everyone will be essentially equal. But that’s communism. The leaders are brilliant, and everyone is super rich due to automation of almost all goods and services. And, undoubtedly, people will vie for various things so as to make it far from communistic. Democratic communism.”

W—: “Don’t you think there will be a few jerks on our voyage? No, maybe the background check and video camera study can tell you what kind of person they are.”

M—: “Personal video cameras force people to be honest and good. And the ranking system also prevents people from acting like jerks. Of course we will have our own ranking system based on people’s goodness, the arts, business, and science.”

W—: “Some on our voyage, however, had nothing but anger for the continuation of the ranking system and were insistent it be dropped. But we all agreed to deal with that once we got to planet Galileo Magic.”

M—: “I think some stories of people rising from very low rank to very high rank inspired everyone in the past. Rather than being a jerk you can be a success. But now there are no

inspirational stories, except for those about people who have gone to space to continue the human race.”

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W—: “Don’t you think people in Ranks 1 - 5 spend too much of their money on travel?”

M—: “A lot of people spend all their money on travel, but it is the best way to spend it.”

W—: “I think many wish that they too could go to deep space.”

M—: “Of course we can assuage our consciences that everyone can afford to live in a modest home and have free food and drugs.”

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W—: “How have you been changing? And your friends? Do you think you will be different on planet Galileo Magic?”

W—: “But many of the people on our voyage are super-ambitious and want to ‘see the universe.’ For some of them planet Galileo Magic is just a stoppingoff point en route to further stars.”

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W—: “Who is the happiest person in the world?”

M—: “Probably the Seven-Faced Man.”

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While back in Europa we had a meeting with the leader of our voyage on the love ship.

“What is something you’d never do?” we asked him.

Leader: “Go back to Earth. I’m destined for the stars.”

W—: “But there will always be some who want to stay on Earth.”

M—: “As I said, I think the world is getting crazier and crazier. No point pretending all is well. All is mad on Earth.”

CHAPTER XXXVI: MAD ANDROID SETTLEMENTS

M—: “So we had recently found that we were both children of the Seven-Faced Man. We were crushed to have such a father. We wondered about our mother, however... maybe our mother was good. One day we will search for her.”

W—: “We infiltrated one cell, but that was as far as we got. We didn’t want to have much to do with androids anyway.”

M—: “Many of the R-1 to R-5s in AD 2155 gambled heavily to try and get rich and gain high-ranking in BRECO, and if they failed, most often ended up as guinea pigs for brain research or slavery. It was rumored brain research would be carried out on almost all of them, though a handful were permanent slaves to the rich and famous.”

W—: “‘Slave’ was a flattering term to these miserable creatures who had once been earth’s aristocracy (R-1s).”

Madness and Love in the Year AD 2155

M—: “The Seven-Faced Man wanted to populate the Earth from the subatom up to new plants and animals, and he wanted to make advanced, thinking androids who were not like foolish humans.”

W—: “Why do the androids (C IIIs) hate us so much? They were all made from humans, but they turn their backs on us now and consider us no better than insects. So haughty are they.”

M—: “The worst part is that you and I are both children of the Seven-Faced Man. What can we do? Maybe that is the main reason we are still R-1s and going on this voyage. And I wonder if I could be as evil and terrible as the Seven-Faced Man. I can’t sleep well at night, I tell you.”

“The last sex act on Earth will probably occur in about AD 2180, or so the Seven-Faced Man apparently says”

M—: “Some said, ‘Better to have androids than human slaves.’ ”

W—: “There are rumors of cells full of human slaves deep down in the Earth. They are fed poor food, and they are not allowed exercise. They grow old fast.”

M—: “According to hearsay, high-ranking humans can’t take the new developments in BRECO. And that is certainly the position of the Seven-Faced Man.”

W—: “Still, in a government survey in AD 2153, 85 percent of ranks six through one hundred said they were happy.”

Tom Ball

M—: “But who would believe that!”

CHAPTER XXXVII: LOVE IN THE YEAR AD 2155

M—: “In the past I could take a young woman and mold her like a piece of art. Youth is good. But now all that fun is over. The world is getting very serious.”

W—: “Some say, ‘We are all on the road to hell. But I disagree.’ ”

M—: “Futurists will look back on our days as too conservative. Thus we need to be as avant-garde as possible.”

W—: “But it is futile to resist the government.”

M—: “Many say love has reached its pinnacle, and I believe so too, but some scientists say earth’s culture will not peak for another 900 years. They say surely this will be the pinnacle of human achievement, provided all our best minds don’t leave us. Maybe the pinnacle will be AD 2200, or maybe it has already past AD 2084? Who knows?”

Madness and Love in the Year AD 2155

W—: “Some said, ‘Our society was the greatest shame ever to happen to Earth. It was a disgrace that life was intolerable for so many...who killed themselves.’ ”

M—: “Are you always looking for new lovers? When will you be satiated?”

W—: “Like you I hope to love the new generation on our new planet.”

M—: “They will need us to give them their medicines. We have plenty for the voyage. I think drugs are more important than love.”

W—: “You know I disagree with that.”

W—: “As for the dreamers on the voyage some considered themselves failures, but tried their best to stay motivated. They looked at this as a fresh start.”

W—: “Some R-1 to R-5 people don’t know how good love can be. Such people think that love will magically come to them without effort. It is a numbers game. The more people you meet, the more lovers you can get. Rank often doesn’t matter in this regard. Some people have a high love Q, but lower Q for other aspects of their personality.”

M—: “If they invent gods, a.k.a. superhumans, what then?”

W—: “Probably the gods will behave badly, just like the ancient Greek gods.”

M—: “People have dreamed of gods since before civilization.”

M—: “What do you think about morality?”

W—: “I think there is no such thing for most people. With constant rank assessor tests, people have to change and be good citizens, even if their hearts are not in it. For some people it is traumatic to totally change, but in the past they had no choice if they wanted to keep rank. Some people have gone completely mad trying to be truthful. We are just not designed for truthfulness.”

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W—: “We are all climbing Mt. Everest. Few can reach the top, but at the top there is an oxygen-temple where you can make sweet love.”

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M—: “Do you believe, as Freud did, that dreams are all related to sex?”

W—: “I wish they were, but there’s no way that’s true. I’m surprised Freud got away with that in his relatively conservative society.”

M—: “I think that sex is interrelated with everything we do, so I think he was on the right track. But more and more drugs are taking the place of love itself.”

M—: “Are you afraid to love someone too much?”

W—: “No, I look forward to it.”

M—: “It would be pain and pleasure. Bittersweet. Slavish and masochistic.”

M—: “Caring is good, but don’t overdo it. It’s just love affairs after all.”

W—: “Of course some people don’t love anyone, instead relying on prostitutes or gigolos. Such people say love is non-existent.”

M—: “But they have never experienced true love. As we said, true love exists but it doesn’t last.”

W—: “Some people don’t love themselves. Of course if you don’t love yourself, you need help. In the past, psychiatrists could force people to take courses on improving your ego and your confidence.”

XXX

M—: “Regarding the imminent voyage, do you have any

last words?’”

W—: “I think the word ‘love’ will soon disappear from the vocabulary. No one will believe in it.”

M—: “I think it will be a world of brotherly love where sex is no big deal. Still, it is something. Who knows what it will all lead to?”

W—: “You might be right. But I feel it would be a shame if sex was not paramount.”

M—: “Also there was some disagreement as to how to educate the youth that we would produce en masse on planet Galileo Magic. Some said it should be a militaristic, well-disciplined education, but most said to make the youth as creative as possible, using strong pep pills to keep them motivated. But love would be paramount.”

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W—: “I don’t believe, as you believe, that we will have a brilliant love civilization; I am ‘pessimistic with so few on the actual journey.’ ”

M—: “It would depend on the sperm/egg banks and how we educated the young. We’ll have a free hand to educate the new offspring in any way we want.”

CHAPTER XXXVIII: THE VOYAGE

November, AD 2155

M—: “So it was all 250 of us gathered for our journey into space. Many of our worldly cares will be eliminated. Now we would just worry about ourselves and our group and the future.”

W—: “There will be no rank amongst us. We are just a democracy of equals with our 1 in 100 million leader nominally in charge.”

W—: “We had to be ready for anything, but above all, we didn’t want to raise any potential tyrants. In history tyrants were responsible for untold miseries, similar to those caused by the Seven-Faced Man, or so some people said.”

M—: “We had all chosen our largely mountainous desert world by talking it over with our connections on Earth and we got together some people who all wanted peace and hap-

piness, and above all love. And they were people we got along with.”

W—: “Of course we had millions of different sperm groups and millions of eggs. All of the sperm and egg donors were ours or people we approved of. We were happy about it all.”

M—: “In fact, planet Galileo Magic was a largely hot desert. It would take some time to terra form the planet which we nicknamed ‘Desert World X.’ There was water on the poles of the planet. Quite a lot of water.”

W—: “Among our crew were twenty psychiatrists (including us), ten teachers/child raisers, four farmers/cooks, two surgeons, 130 scientists, forty artistic types, forty-four business people, and our leader. We were to be sent the latest news from Earth, news which traveled unbelievably fast, so that even in a few seconds we could pick up the signal and join the fantasy virtually.”

M—: “People would live in small villages, all close together with their neighbors and others who were on the voyage while letting a massive new generation grow up.”

W—: “Some asked ‘But how does it feel to meet a higher rank than you?’ We met our ship leader who was a brilliant entrepreneurial genius. You can’t help but feel small compared to such an intellect. People said he deserved his rank. He made his money on planetary development and was recently a scientist, working on speeding up the raising of chil-

dren, in both body and in mind. He said he was no longer needed on Earth and that he would rather put his principles into practice.”

W—: “We wanted a nonviolent world, though we need defenses against possible attack from Earth.”

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M—: “W—, you are a nymphomaniac. You are a model for the love ship. We want as many great lovers as possible. However, I could not keep up with you.”

W—: “I believe it is the way of the future to take pills to increase sex drive. To spend hours a day love-making with different partners. Certainly this will help kill time on the voyage: orgies. Indeed, sex was not used for procreation any more but people loved it more and more.”

W—: “What do you think about future people’s wishes on our voyage?”

M—: “We will be free except for spies. Perhaps we will return to capitalism once we get to planet Galileo Magic.”

W—: “I am wondering if there is a limit to how fast space drives can go. We can already travel thirteen times the speed of light. It seems like enough, but scientists still believe there is no limit. ”

M—: “So there’s no limit as far as I can see as well.”

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W—: “We had a lot of experimental drugs we would be working on, on the trip. Some of the crew were to be our guinea pigs.”

M—: “And we would still be in communication with Earth, and we would benefit from discoveries there.”

W—: “We all wanted, as the poet Longfellow said, to ‘leave our footprints in the sand’ of time. It was a fresh start and anything was possible.”

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M—: “Duties on the voyage were negligible for most. The food system recycled everything and produced food from soil factories, which used energy to change dirt and dust into food. Most of the ship’s space was occupied by the food system.”

M—: “As the countdown was near, we were free to party and get ready to enjoy the trip by telling ourselves this ship was the greatest experiment ever attempted.”

W—: “But some said we could’ve done the same with a

city on Earth and that space wouldn't solve anything. But we retorted that who could ever imagine how the universe or universes could always exist? How could there have always been something? It was the great question of the day. And we had to go to space to figure out the answer."

M—: "And we had tried our best to make sure that no android sympathizers or spies or saboteurs could make it on the voyage. But we had to figure we had failed in this."

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M—: "And so we took off from Europa in November, AD 2155. Thousands were gathered at the spaceport to watch, many of them with tears in their eyes."

W—: "The flight was perfect as the ship accelerated to beyond light speed. After about ten minutes we were out of the solar system and unbuckled our safety belts, though the ship would accelerate for days to come."

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W—: "There was no question of revolt with the video cameras linked to our main computer."

W—: "But most people on the voyage wanted an end to the video cameras"

M—: “Gossip raged that the Seven-Faced Man’s agents were present on the voyage and planned to sabotage the ship, perhaps with a suicidal spy, or a hypnotized spy. We worried.”

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As things turned out the love ship was successfully on its way to its destination.

M—: “Upon arrival, we planned to build a dome like the other space settlements. The government of the Nines urgently wanted us to work on building new spaceships to colonize very deep space where perhaps no one would bother us. As for defenses, we planned to build missiles and bombs, but the number one weapon to surprise any rogue ships who weren’t expecting them. Generally the idea was to leave the colony with a few hundred pioneers, including children, and then some would go back into space. We enjoyed each other’s company, so the journey would be uneventful.”

CHAPTER XXXIX: ASSASSINATION OF THE SEVEN-FACED MAN/ WAR

December, AD 2155

M—: “JJJ seemed to be just an R-1 who infiltrated the tunnel of the Seven-Faced Man as a human traitor, but he was actually a spy for the humans. He had been hypnotized and cross-hypnotized and was somewhat confused.”

“Finally, he was given a neo-nuclear bomb by other human agents to blow up the Seven-Faced Man. He got this bomb and brought it to an android safe haven and detonated it, killing the Seven-Faced Man.”

M—: “But there was war.”

W—: “It seemed to begin on Europa.”

M—: “Of course the android king was the right-hand man of the Seven-Faced Man.”

M—: “However, upon hearing the news from Earth of the assassination of the supreme leader, the Seven-Faced Man, the android king attempted to use his army of androids to attack Europa 1. But the androids didn’t have good weapons and were caught off guard. Europa 1 had trained hackers to disable the android troops in addition to the deadly death ray. The android army was vanquished almost instantaneously.”

M—: “The android king killed himself, and his androids stood by, waiting for further orders. One by one they were turned off permanently by humans. After some time, many androids killed themselves by turning off their own power during a walk on the surface.”

W—: “On Earth it was much the same, with the androids turning themselves off as they were mostly lost without their leader. The earth military hackers quickly destroyed them in their burrows.”

M—: “The remains of androids stood like frozen statues all over the northeast of the moon Europa and Earth and all over space.”

M—: “On Earth the androids C IIIs were all shut off by the earth hacker army just like their C II brothers. According to the Nines nearly all the C IIIs were executed and their subterranean dwellings were destroyed.”

W—: “Just like that, the android menace was eliminated, permanently, everybody hoped. On Earth a great load was taken off the humans’ shoulders, and they were newly confident in the earth’s government.”

M—: “At the war crimes tribunals the surviving androids C III were all found guilty of ‘human genocidal activities and sentenced to death.’ But many of the C IIIs described the Seven-Faced Man as a tyrant who tortured and enslaved them.”

W—: “Of course, in their own defense, most of the C IIIs said they were just following orders, but the courts had all of them permanently turned off. Some of these were not destroyed as they had use as guinea pigs for the more crazy experiments of the earth scientists.”

W—: “As far as the Nines’ leaders went, they decided to reinstate partial democracy. There would be no party democracy. Just vote on each issue. But important issues would be decided by the leaders (Nines) themselves. Some people were against this, but they would stun gun and imprison any dissenters.”

M—: “Small business would be supported by the government, which was trying to bring more competition to business in the new era.”

W—: “Finally, virtual reality dreaming was limited to eight hours per day. The rest of the time would be spent mostly working and learning in BRECO and having fun and socializing with friends and family.”

W—: “People wondered why the Nines had changed the laws and some said there was dissent among them.”

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W—: “I was shocked that the Seven-Faced Man was so easily vanquished.”

M—: “In any case there was a winter of love in which everyone partied together like they were reborn. They went from the oubliette to happiness once again.”

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M—: “But there was a lot of vindictiveness towards the now deceased Seven-Faced Man. All his clones that could be found were put to death and so too most of his children. It was barbaric, it was violent, but almost everyone agreed with the punishment. The more the Seven-Faced Man’s depredations became known, the more people cried for the removal of him and all his advisors, friends, clones, etc.”

“In the future there would be no more clones or androids. ‘Just C I robots,’ said the government.”

W—: “We had, of course, both turned out to be children of the Seven-Faced Man. But we had escaped into space.”

M—: “We got the news way out in space and we were shocked, and afraid we would be subjected to death due to our lineage, but our captain spared us; he needed us. All was

forgiven.”

W—: “Some of our fellow passengers were children and clones of the android king as well. They were also forgiven.”

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WWZ was not killed in the war and told the remnants of the android nation, “That they must go deeper underground and cease to be a threat to humans. We must go our own way, he said, and in time we will challenge humans again. It is a fair challenge to humans.”

Many androids considered WWZ to be their new leader. And they said, “We have plenty of time to rebuild our android empire.”

They liked WWZ because he was a rebel with vision for the android nation. He wanted androids to succeed, but in harmony with humans. Humans would see the light and realize androids were the future.

CHAPTER XXXX: GOVERNMENT STATISTICS, DECEMBER, AD 2155

M—: “Official public polls found (in late AD 2155) that 70 percent wanted to get rid of ranks, 17 percent wanted to keep the ranks, and another 13 percent were unsure. But only 30 percent wanted pure capitalism. But the new ‘governmental servants’ were in charge of reinstating capitalism everywhere. Money was good, better than only rank without cash. But, of course, most people were skeptical of any government polls.”

M—: “The government revealed some statistics for a change after the death of the Seven-Faced Man. As to predicting the future, the government said that 88 percent are upbeat about the future.”

W—: “The news was all government controlled. Lower ranks used to get a welcome break from virtual fantasy dreaming to watch the news. News talks began about government’s plans for more parks, going into space, eliminating war, making people richer, building better homes, and bring-

ing a great future through science.”

M—: “Just what science that is, they don’t say. Not much news in a prosperous world. Mostly the news is just happy stories. The government wants to inspire lower ranks to try harder to be happy even while the government seems to be replacing them.”

W—: “It’s all sugar-coated.”

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W—: “So it was in late AD 2155, the Nines’ government commissioned some studies. However, most people didn’t believe the numbers; others believed.”

And rank continued even though 70 percent were against it.

Twenty-five percent wanted BRECO.

And just 35 percent wanted more science.

Fifty-eight percent wanted more arts.

Sixty-five percent wanted to go to space.

Sixty-seven percent wanted to get rid of personal video cameras.

Ninety-five percent wanted to get rid of tracking pins from their head (these pins could identify where any one was).

Ninety-eight percent wanted eternal youth.

Four percent wanted C III androids.

Sixty percent said they now believed in love now that they were eternally youthful for a “limited time.”

Fifty percent believed it was human destiny to conquer all the stars and keep colonizing them further and further out from Earth. Intergalactic voyages were considered beneficial to half the populace.

It was unknown how many truly approved of the Nines’ government. According to statistics “86 percent approved.” But most people knew this was a lie.

M—: “Late in the year AD 2155, as a gesture of good will, the Nines released about 40 million dissenters from prison with the understanding that they engage in no anti-government activities and go for frequent rank assessor tests.”

W—: “Of course this led to a wild celebration on Earth with so many released, many of whom were very old and could now live on forever in BRECO. The sheer number of 40 million left many people aghast. And there were a lot of family reunions.”

But the oligarchs said, “Reprehensible behavior would lead

to a return to solitary confinement.”

M—: “However, that was still the issue of the nascent C IVs. The courts used MRT with the rank assessors to prove the C IVs were real and geniuses on the whole. So they put them in seclusion to see what they were made of...some made an emotional plea to stay turned on.”

CHAPTER: XXXXI: ALTERNATIVE FUTURES

M—: “When all was said and done, there were not so many paths that human evolution could have taken. The creation of more clever creatures was inevitable, as were the conquest of space and the general corruption of the powerful. The Seven-Faced Man and the android king would not be the last tyrants.”

W—: “Perhaps things would have been different had human culture valued art and love over science, but the desire for power required change and evolution. Evolution was science, and most great scientists wanted to go to the stars.”

W—: “But, of course, the human race is imperfect, and we have made plenty of mistakes in choosing and allowing our government to act as it does.”

M—: “As Einstein said, ‘Only great men can have great faults.’ ”

Madness and Love in the Year AD 2155

W—: “Rank assessors were chosen by the highest ranking people several times a year to make sure all was well. Every year some people were caught engaging in anti-government activities, and they were watched very carefully. The job of rank assessor came with high pay and prestige. However, things were looking up many people said. It seemed the Nines really would improve things.”

M—: “It was known that people could petition them as well.”

W—: “But many said that unaccountability was the main problem in the first place with the Nines.”

M—: “Also rumors were that the Nines had thousands of children who they planned to send out into space.”

W—: “By the AD 2160s, only the children of the Nines would be sent out, it was rumored, and some said it was a recipe for genetic disaster.”

M—: “It took some getting used to, this new government.”

W—: “All citizens were required to see a psychiatrist at least six times a year and to take prescribed BRECO drugs to keep them more or less inspired.”

M—: “A lot of people had by now assumed eternal youth was inevitable for them and so took things slowly, and tried to enjoy life and learn things and improve their rank through making money.”

W—: “Many agreed that AD 2155 was the best year ever but it turned out that there was a plan for a mass suicide to be on New Year’s Eve AD 2156. They planned to hold death wake such as had never been seen on planet Earth.”

M—: “Cyberspace was expanded so that everyone was interested. There were many types of worlds within worlds.”

M—: “It was said before, however, that henceforth people could only spend about eight hours a day in cyberspace. The rest they would spend socializing, working part time, and learning so as to increase rank. Rank meant money and with money you could go to better cyberspace worlds and, of course, afford better BRECO treatments. BRECO was paramount. Of course the creators of ‘inspirational worlds,’ received higher rank from application fees. But the main way to make money was to have a business in the service industry, or play well in the dream Web, or be a spy/rank assessor; psychiatrists were considered to be in the service industry. But simple servants were the majority of people.”

CHAPTER XXXXII: FUTURE OF INTERSTELLAR SETTLEMENT

M—: “And teleport research seems to be the next big thing, as it allows people to travel much faster than current spaceships, instead being sent as invisible holograms or new technology where you could send your entire body via teleportation.”

W—: “What about time travel then?”

M—: “Every action on Earth radiates out to space. If you could detect such images, then you could travel in the past.”

W—: “What hasn’t been done then? Gods?”

W—: “We already have gods, or so it seems, in space. But there are bound to be new, unpredicted scientific experiments in the future.”

M—: “But anyone in the future would have no desire to go back in time anyway.”

CHAPTER XXXXIII: SOME EPITAPHS OF THE MODERN AGE BY COM-454

W—: “I read the *Book of Wisdom* by Starman Com-454. He had some wise sayings, such as:”

“It is a world in which everyone is a loser; a slave to the future.”

“It’s a world of violence hidden by innocence.”

“It’s a world in which most people believe in nothing, yet they exist.”

“We’ve virtually created gods, but it seems like no big deal. Change the planets, change the suns—it doesn’t matter to anyone.”

“We’ve put our footprints in the sand but the tide has washed them away.”

“We tried to make things better, but everything got

dragged down into a whirlpool of who is smarter than whom.”

“Space is cold.”

“Trying to make gods is crazy.”

“Money just drives people crazy. People of this age are so greedy, it is outlandish.”

“The oligarchs have everything they could ever want; too much. But they just get greedier and greedier and now want to send their descendants into space and try to dominate space, just as the Seven-Faced Man did.”

“Out of control greed has triumphed over all that was good in humans.”

“Homo sapiens were always too imperfect. It is time to change humanity in full view of everyone.”

“It seems to everyone that the government only cares about space. Such is their hatred for Earth and its people.”

“A lyarchy (government of liars) is what we lived in.”

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About the Author

Tom Ball has travelled much of the world seeking adventure.

Now he is back home in Canada where he works on books, movies, and board games. He works as an online English teacher.

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