

Bionic Body?

Raquel Reinagel



Illustrations by Isabelle Skoog

BIONIC BODY



LEVEL 4

WRITTEN BY RAQUEL REINAGEL

ILLUSTRATED BY ISABELLA SKOOG

COPY EDITED BY KATARINA BROWN

AN ALLEANDE.COM GRADED READER

HOW TO READ THIS BOOK

- This is a graded reader. In this graded reader, YOU are the main character. The story changes depending on your choices.
- On each page, you can click 'Next' to go to the next slide.
 - Sometimes you will be given two (2) choices. Each choice will take you to a different plotline. When you are given two choices, choose one.
 - Only click on the 'Next' or choices buttons. If you click on a different part of the page, the story may get out of order.
- To begin the story, click the 'start story' button below.

Start story

³ End
reading.

You can hear your heartbeat in your ears as you run down the trail's path. The hills that rise up on either side of the trail look very beautiful in the late evening light. You push yourself to run a little faster. You don't want to still be on the trail when it gets dark. You focus on matching your run to the beat of the music you are playing in your headphones when an advertisement interrupts the music.

Next

-Advertisement: Are you or a loved one suffering from the loss of an arm or leg? Is part of your body not working as well as it used to? Monroe Tech is here to help. Our state of the art bionic* products and rehabilitation center can get you back to your normal life. With products ranging from bionic legs to eye-enhancing inserts, Monroe Tech is willing to customize any product to fit your needs. Don't live your life in suffering any longer. Message YES to 281-

Next

You pull your headphones out because you hear a loud rumbling sound on your right side. Looking over, you see a huge rock rolling down the hill your way. There's no time to escape.

Next

You wake up with your ears ringing. Your head hurts as you look around to see that you are laying on the ground. When you see the right side of your body crushed under a huge rock, you immediately feel the pain. It's getting dark. Looking around, you see that your phone is about a meter away from you.

Use Michi, your voice activated mobile system, to call 911.

Try to push off the rock.

When you push against the rock, pain shoots through your body, and you pass out. You wake up two hours later with two figures looking at your unmoving body. As your eyes focus, you see the figures are a man and a woman. They're talking about you.

-Jiwon: How critical is her condition, Marvin?

-Marvin: I can't get a reading on the body parts under the rock, but the person has a regular heartbeat and blood pressure. Estimated wake-up time is one minute.

-Jiwon: Oh, I see your eyes are open. Now, there's no need to panic. I'm Jiwon Oh, and this is Marvin. We're going to get this rock off of you. Make sure not to move. Marvin, are you ready?

-Marvin: Ready as I'll ever be.

Next



You see Marvin crouch down to grab the rock. Unbelievably, he begins to lift the rock off the ground. You hear something that sounds like a computer starting up as Marvin stands and sets down the rock a few meters away. As he walks back to you, you see three silver dots in a line on his neck. It's a sign of robots with artificial intelligence (AI), but AI aren't supposed to be walking around freely.

Next

-Marvin: By the way Jiwon, the rescue helicopter should be here in two minutes.

-Jiwon: Perfect. We're going to take you to our headquarters. We have a fully functioning hospital there, so we'll get you examined and see what damage happened from the rock.

Not long after, you hear the loud sound of the helicopter overhead as a rescue board is lowered to where Jiwon is standing. Marvin effortlessly lifts you onto the board, but the movement causes you extreme pain again. You pass out.

Next

“Hey, Michi,” you call to the phone. The screen lights up. “Call emergency services,” you say.

-Michi: Calling emergency services.

You wait for the ringtone to start, but it doesn't.

-Michi: I'm sorry, but there is no service in this area. Please try again when you move to a location with better connection.

Next

You start to feel uneasy. The sun is going to go down soon. You try to call again with Michi, but there still is no connection. Then you hear footsteps coming towards you fast. It sounds like running. “Help! Help!” you yell, hoping someone hears you. A tall man runs up to you, soon followed by a woman with black hair. The woman is breathing heavily, but oddly the man is not.

-Marvin: Jiwon, this is where the signal was coming from.

-Jiwon: It's not just a signal, Marvin; there's a person too.

-Marvin: I know, I know. Maybe I was being a bit too analytical there.

-Jiwon: What's the condition?

Marvin looks at you for a moment.

-Marvin: I can't tell you about the arm and leg under the rock, but heartrate is somewhat stable. I would say it's safe to call a helicopter.

Next

“Who are you guys?” You ask.

-Jiwon: Oh, sorry. Haha. I’m Jiwon Oh, and this is Marvin. Marvin is an artificial intelligence* (AI) robot. Marvin, are you ready to move the rock?

Move the rock? It’s huge! No human-like AI would ever be able to lift that amount of weight. You look at Marvin and see three silver dots on his neck. He’s definitely an AI.

-Marvin: Just tell me when, Jiwon. The helicopter will be here soon.

Jiwon turns to look at you.

-Jiwon: Make sure not to move. Removing the rock may be painful, but we’re going to take you to our company hospital as soon as the helicopter gets here. Go ahead Marvin.

Next

*Artificial intelligence (AI): robots who think and act like humans



Marvin bends down to grab the rock. As he starts to lift the rock, you begin to hear something that sounds like a machine turning on. The sound is coming from Marvin. When the rock is off of you, another shot of pain hits your body. You faint.

Next

You wake up in a hospital bed, and surprisingly there's no pain on your right side. You look down to see your arm has a needle stuck in it with a clear fluid coming down a tube. It must be a pain reliever. A voice suddenly rings out overhead:

-Betty: Hello patient 2042. Welcome to Monroe Tech Hospital. I'm Betty, your voice activated AI. While the doctors are determining the condition of your body, please choose an activity to pass the time. After all, keeping yourself busy will keep you distracted. Would you like to check your social media or skim some of the latest news?

Check your social
media.

Skim the news.



FIT

5 Bionic Body
Enhancements
You Cannot
Live Without!



NP

Nittha Phongham

Been feeling sick since coming back
from Europe. Also, my bionic
photographic eye hasn't been
working well #broken #sick
#bedrest

News

Virus outbreak spreading across
Europe. Could it be caused by robot
body enhancements?

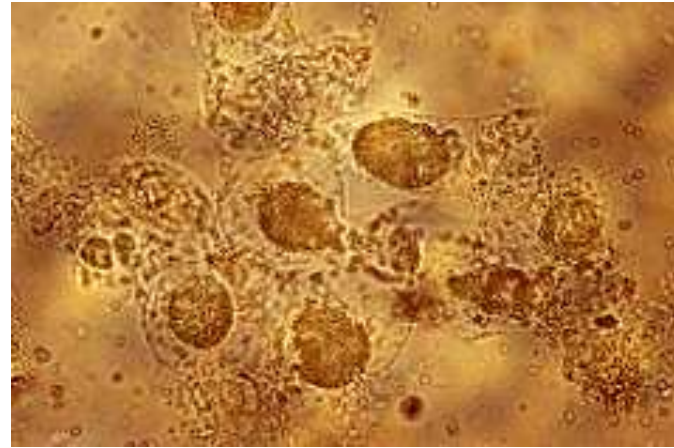
Watch NNC News tonight at 10 PM
to find out!



Next

NNC News

Epidemic Spreading Across Europe



She Ate What?

Get your best body in
5 weeks with this
crazy life hack!



The death toll is rising in Europe at an alarming pace. This past week there were over 200 confirmed cases of a virus now labeled FRAG8 in 5 different European countries. Scientists are working to find the origin of this virus and possible cures. One theory going around is that the virus originally comes from AI but is only harmful to those who have bionic body enhancements... (Read more on page 86)

Puffington Host

Study Shows Bionic Body Enhancements Lead to Longer and Healthier life

A study from Yarvard University has shown that people who have bionic body enhancements such as arms, eyes, heart, and liver have the potential to increase lifespan and create a positive lifestyle. A spokesperson from Monroe Tech recently told Puffington Host that the labs are working to create systems that work smoother with the human body and up to 50 times faster than the enhancements created 2 years ago... (Read more on page 17)

Next

You stop reading when a doctor comes in. He is reading a tablet before he looks up at you.

-Doctor: I have some unfortunate news for you. The weight of the rock on your right arm and leg was quite serious. After completing a body scan, we found that both your right arm and right leg have been completely crushed. There is no possibility of fixing those body parts. We will have to amputate your arm and leg. There is some good news, however. Professor Jiwon Oh has offered to give you a bionic arm and leg for free. All costs for the surgery, the parts, and rehabilitation will be covered by Monroe Tech. What would you like to do?

Amputate and do
not accept the bionic
body parts.

Amputate and
accept the bionic
body parts.

When you open your eyes, you are lying in your own bed back at your apartment. You don't remember them saying you would be transported back to your own home, so the familiar sights of your own room surprise you. What surprises you more is when Marvin walks into the room. He pulls out a plug from his neck and wraps the cords up.

-Marvin: I hope you don't mind that I was charging while I was waiting for you to wake up. My energy was getting a little low. Oh, I'm sure you must be wondering why I'm here. Actually, when Jiwon heard that you turned down the bionic body parts, she wanted to offer you something else. Getting used to a life without an arm and a leg may be difficult since you live alone. Monroe Tech. wants to provide a live-in AI to assist you. This AI is a mobile-AI, like me, so they can go with you wherever you want. What do you say?

Accept the AI
assistant.

Do not accept the
AI assistant.

“Thank you, but no thank you, Marvin,” you say.

-Marvin: Alright, the choice is yours. Well, since I don't have anything else to do, I probably should go back to Monroe Tech. It was nice meeting you, and I hope everything goes well for you.

Marvin takes one last look at you before he leaves the room. You hear the front door close and wonder why Monroe Tech had offered you so many things.

Next

Two weeks after the surgery, you have slipped into a deep period of sadness. It is hard getting used to living with only one arm and leg. Relearning how to do everything is difficult with no family support system living nearby. On top of all of that, your close friend Nittha Phongam, who came back from a trip to Europe two weeks ago, died from a virus she caught while traveling. The rumor that the epidemic is killing anyone who has bionic body parts or enhancements is being reported by many news stations. There have been protests outside of Monroe Tech. for several days. You are pouring yourself a cup of coffee when you hear a knock on the door. You wheel yourself over to the door and open it.

Next

Marvin walks into the apartment and sits on the couch. He looks worried and anxious. His hands are clasped together as he waits for you to move closer to the couch.

-Marvin: I'm scared for my life, and I don't know who to go to. What they're saying on the news is true. The epidemic is affecting only humans who have bionic body add-ons. Monroe Tech knew this weeks ago, but what they didn't know is what started it. It turns out that AI are the cause of the epidemic. AI are the ones that carry the virus, but only humans are affected. I feel so terrible! I think they'll kill me soon if things don't change. What do you think I should do?

You think of your friend, Nittha, who died because of the virus. You also look at Marvin, who is an AI that may lose his life.

Ask Marvin to leave.

Keep talking to Marvin.



Once Marvin leaves, you feel even more angry that Nittha died and that robots like Marvin were the cause of her death. The anger builds up inside you. You go down to Monroe Tech to join the protesters. A few days later, you join a group that asks the government to ban all AI and bionic body modifications. After a vote, the government decides to stop all AI. Humans are forced to have their bionic body parts removed.

By joining the group, you make friends and life becomes more positive for you. Sometimes you wonder what happened to Marvin, but most times those thoughts slip to the back of your mind. After everything, life has become good again.

END.
Go back to the
beginning.

You feel compassion for Marvin. After all, he didn't choose to be an AI. You think of a way to help him. Just then, you hear the sound of breaking news coming from the TV. You both turn to look.

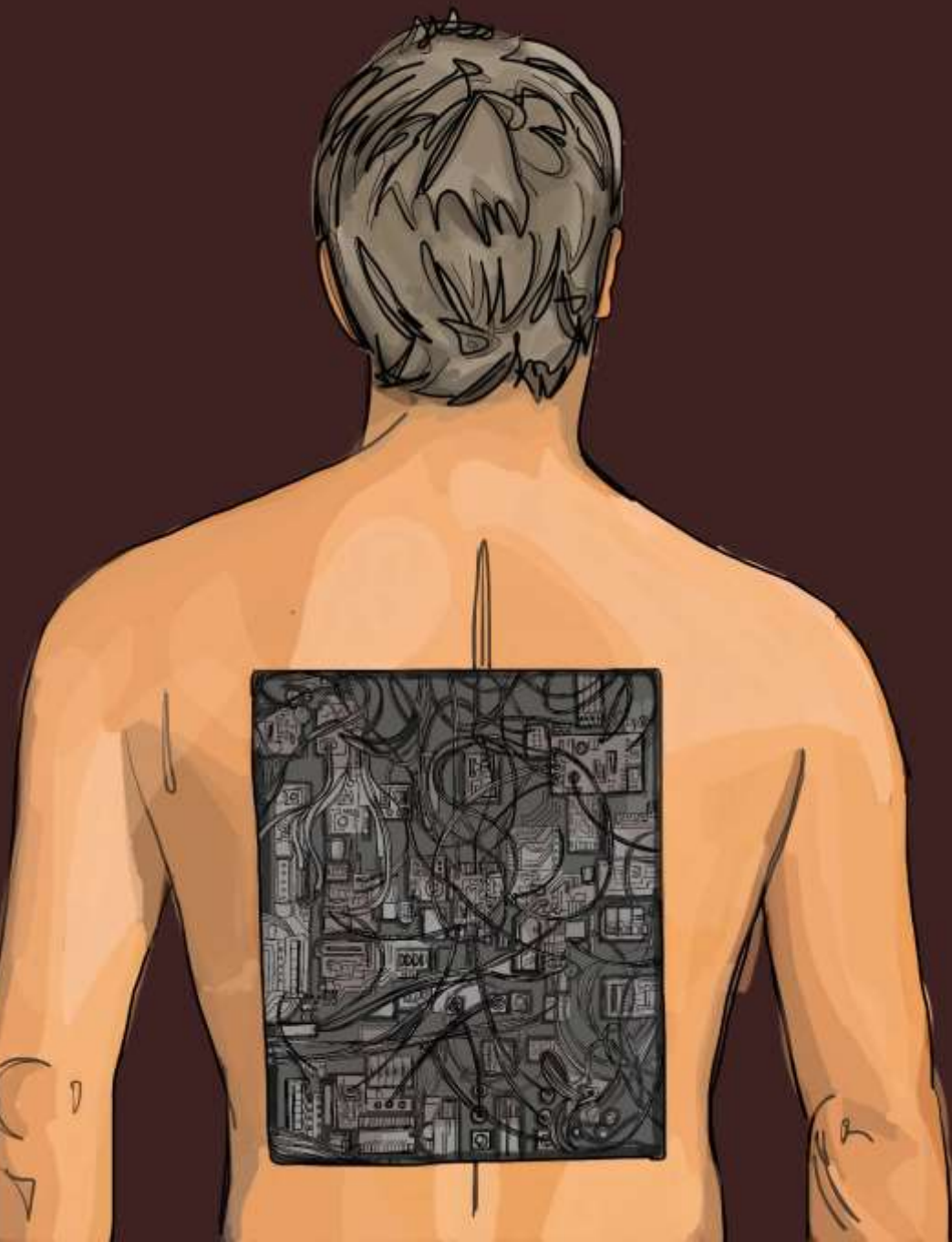
-News Reporter: Breaking News. The government has just announced a 6-week mandatory electricity cut-off. This decision is in reaction to the current outbreak of the AI virus FRAG8. During the power-off period, all AI will shut-down due to power loss. AI will be collected and disposed of systematically. All humans with bionic products are asked to enter quarantine at your nearest hospital, where a team will provide the necessary electricity for functioning until the 6-week period is over. All AI and bionic human systems are currently being tracked, so please do not try to evade these procedures. You will be found. This announcement is only being broadcast in the homes of humans, so no AI can hear. Do not tell AI. Avoid them at all costs. This concludes our announcement. Any further questions should be directed to a Bionic Treatment Center.

Next

The news turns off. You look back at Marvin. It seems like he already has a plan.

-Marvin: Judging by your facial expression and heartrate, you are not going to kick me out. I can only conclude that you will help me. It's true that my energy supply will not last six weeks. I will eventually power down, but after the electricity turns back on, I can start up again. If you're wondering about the virus, don't worry. I am not a carrier. No mobile AI like me are carriers because we're built differently. The only problem is the government will kill any AI to soothe the people. We need to act quickly, as my GPS is telling me a police car will arrive at your place in approximately 10 minutes. They are tracking me.

Next



Marvin moves to sit in front of you. He takes off his shirt, and his back opens, revealing a confusing system of circuits and wires.

-Marvin: I need you to remove my tracking device. Inside my chest there is a red wire that leads to a small chip labeled TRKG. First, pull the red wire out of TRKG. Then twist and pull out the TRKG chip.

You find the chip, pull out the wire, and then remove the chip. Marvin closes his back and puts his shirt back on. Just then, the electricity turns off in your apartment.

-Marvin: I need to power down now, or they will still be able to find my body. Go take that tracking device and throw it into your trashcan outside. Waste Management will be picking up your trash in two minutes. My body will be in your closet. Turn me on in 6 weeks.

Next

Marvin stands up and walks towards your room. You open the front door and hurriedly put the chip into the trash. You see the trash truck coming down the road. Going back inside, you look out the window to see the trash being picked up. Two minutes later, a police car goes down your street, slowing down near your apartment. To your surprise, the car doesn't stop but follows the same road as the waste management truck. You then go to your closet and see Marvin's body covered in a blanket. Perhaps he did that to make you feel less uneasy about seeing his unmoving body. You push yourself back into the living room and wonder what the world will be like without AI. You can only hope for the best, especially for Marvin.

END.
Go back to the
beginning.



You tell Marvin you would like the assistance. After you say this, you hear your front door open, and someone walks into your room.

-Marvin: This is Taylor, the mobile AI that will assist you. Taylor is a gender non-conforming AI, meaning that Taylor is neither female nor male. Taylor's pronoun is they, not he or she. They're here to assist you in anything you need, so please speak freely to them. I think that's all I need to say, so I'll be leaving now.

-Taylor: Well, I guess Marvin already said enough about me. How about we get you into the kitchen to make some dinner?

Next

A few weeks pass by with Taylor living with you. Taylor helps you adjust to your wheel chair, and you begin to relearn how to live life. At first, Taylor was doing most of the work, but they've encouraged you to take over your life again. One afternoon, Taylor turns to you as you are watching the news about new cases of virus FRAG8 found in a nearby city.

-Taylor: I think it's time I leave you. You're nearly fully independent now.

You've actually been thinking about this for a while now. Although you have grown closer to Taylor, you have begun to sense that something has been troubling them.

Next

-Taylor: It's not just because I think you're independent. I haven't told you this, but I have a girlfriend. It's Jiwon. I know you may not believe that an AI can have feelings, but I really do love Jiwon. Lately, these reports on the FRAG8 virus have been causing a lot of trouble for Monroe Tech, and I'm worried that there will soon be a riot. If I'm not over there with her and something happens, I don't know what I would do. With your permission, I'd like to have a dinner here with Jiwon and Marvin before I go back. It'll be like a farewell party.

Agree to the dinner.

Do not agree to the dinner.

A few days later, you and Taylor are setting the table for dinner with Jiwon and Marvin. There is a knock on the door, and Taylor goes to answer it. It's Jiwon and Marvin. They come in, and soon you're all seated at the table. It's strange eating with two AI. Marvin and Taylor sit with empty plates while you and Jiwon eat real food. The dinner is quiet, and your three guests look uneasy. Jiwon breaks the silence.

-Jiwon: I told Taylor to lie to you about the dinner. Well, part of it was a lie. Taylor will be leaving you, but they won't be coming back to live with me. Marvin and Taylor have decided to shut themselves down forever.

Jiwon's voice starts to shake.

Next

-Marvin: Taylor, me, and all of the other mobile AI have decided to end ourselves in order to save the humans with bionic body enhancements. Last week, Monroe Tech. discovered that the FRAG8 virus is only carried by AI. This could mean that if we are eliminated, then the virus will stop spreading. The researchers are looking for a cure, but so far they haven't found anything.

-Taylor: So this is our goodbye to you. Thank you for letting me see you become such an active person again. And Jiwon, thank you for not only making me but for giving this heartless robot your own.

You cannot live without your friends. Tell Marvin and Taylor you refuse to let them die.

Consider the possible benefit to humanity. Tell Marvin and Taylor you will miss them both.

“This is crazy. You can’t kill yourselves because of this! How do y’all know things will even get better if you all die?” You say.

Taylor looks down, and Jiwon grabs their hand. Marvin suddenly turns his head to Jiwon.

-Marvin: You’re about to get a call from Monroe Tech.

Not even a second later, Jiwon’s phone vibrates on the table. She picks it up and answers the call.

Next

-Jiwon: This is Professor Oh. Yes, what about the virus coding? What? Are you sure? How many trial runs? Over 100, okay. Send the results directly to the head of government. This is incredible news. Yes, yes. Bye.

Jiwon holds the phone to her chest after she hangs up.

-Jiwon: They've found a cure. They've found a cure! Some coders at the labs found a way to block the virus in the bionic part before it enters the human body. I can't believe it!

Jiwon and Taylor hug. Jiwon begins to cry, and you hug Taylor too. Thank goodness, they found a cure in time.

END.
Go back to
beginning.

“I am really sorry that it has come to this. I will miss you both, but I believe you are making the right decision for humanity,” you say. The sudden news has made you lose your appetite. It looks like Jiwon has too. Taylor grabs Jiwon’s hand.

-Taylor: If it’s alright with you, Jiwon, I’d like to end here, so I can be with all of you in my last moments.

Jiwon begins to cry but nods her head in agreement. Quickly, you are all in the living room. Taylor is sitting on the couch, looking relaxed. Marvin stands, pacing as Jiwon opens up Taylor’s processing system on a tablet. Jiwon then sits next to Taylor and gives them the tablet before taking one of their hands.

Next

-Jiwon: When you press that button, your whole system will be erased, and you will shut down.

Taylor looks at everyone in the room.

-Taylor: I want to thank you all for being in my life. When Jiwon made me, she designed me to help others. I hope I've helped all of you in some way. I also hope that my decision will help humans in the future....Goodbye.

Taylor pushes the button on the screen. The sound of a computer shutting down comes from Taylor as their head falls back onto the couch. Taylor is gone. Jiwon bursts into tears and Marvin walks over to her. He puts his hand on her shoulder and looks like he will cry too. He cannot though, since robots cannot cry. Jiwon's phone rings and she sniffles before answering the call.

Next

-Jiwon: He-Hello? Yes, it's me. What did you say? Are you positive? No, no this can't be right. It was successful in 50 cases? Make sure to tell the CEO. I need to go. Bye.

Jiwon lets her phone fall to her lap and begins sobbing.

-Jiwon: They - they just found a cure. They just found a cure, and Taylor is gone.

You look at the scene. Taylor lies there unmoving as Jiwon begins to cry again. Marvin just stands there, shocked and still holding onto Jiwon's shoulder.

END.
Go back to the
beginning.

“I’m sorry, but I don’t really feel comfortable with having them here for dinner. I mean, I know you well, but I’m still suspicious of Monroe Tech,” you say to Taylor.

-Taylor: That’s okay. Thank you for agreeing to let me help you these past few weeks. I guess I should get going, so this doesn’t get more awkward. Besides, I really do need to go see Jiwon about this virus.

In a few minutes all of Taylor’s things are packed up and they are standing at the door.

Taylor: I’m going to miss ya, bud.

They bend down to hug you and leave.

Next

A few days later you receive a call. It's about your close friend Nittha Phongam, who had bionic body enhancements. You learn that she died from the FRAG8 virus. Soon after the call, you hear a loud knock on the door. You wheel over and open the door. It's Taylor and Jiwon. Before saying anything, they rush into your apartment and close the door. They look scared.

-Taylor: I'm sorry for coming in like this, but your apartment is the safest place we could go. I don't know if you've heard the news, but yesterday the government found that AI are the only carriers of the FRAG8 virus. They have decided to destroy all AI.

-Jiwon: We don't know what to do, please help Taylor.

Suddenly, you hear another knock on the door, followed by "POLICE! We're here following the trail of an AI. Open up!"

Open the door and
turn over Taylor and
Jiwon.

Hide Taylor and
Jiwon, then open the
door.

For a split second, you think of your friend Nittha, who died because of contagious AI. You quickly go over and open the door as wide as you can.

“One’s in here,” you say to the officer before rolling backwards so the officers can enter. The two officers quickly come in and grab Taylor and Jiwon. Taylor and Jiwon scream as the officers pull them out of the house. As your apartment becomes quiet again, you wonder if the police would have pulled you from your home, too, if you had agreed to the bionic arm and leg that Jiwon Oh had offered.

END.
Go back to the
beginning.

You see Taylor and Jiwon grab each other in fear. You quickly point to your room and slowly go towards the front door. Taylor and Jiwon understand your silent message, so they quickly and quietly go to hide in your bedroom.

You open the door. "Hello officers, how can I help you?" You ask.

-Officer: We're looking for a researcher and her AI companion who are wanted by the law. The last we know they were headed to your house. Have they stopped by here?

"They were here a few minutes ago, begging me to save them, but I told them I couldn't. They just left heading towards Lawrence Road," you lie.

Next

One of the officers looks into your house, but then looks at you. “Thank you for the information. If you hear any more information about them, please call the police department immediately,” the officer says. The officers leave, and you close the door. Taylor and Jiwon come back into the living room.

-Taylor: While we were hiding, I did some research. Not far from here is a boat that is leaving for Guam tonight. If we can get on that boat, we can escape.

Next

You, Jiwon, and Taylor plan the escape. At nightfall, all three of you head over to the ship's location. Getting close to the boat, you purposefully wheel yourself off the deck and into the water. You make a lot of noise, pretending to drown. This gets the attention of the people on the boat. While the boatmen save you, Jiwon and Taylor get on the boat without being seen. Back on the deck and covered with a blanket, you watch as the ship leaves and hope Jiwon and Taylor have a safe trip to Guam. Your heart is warm, knowing that you helped save them.

END.
Go back to the
beginning.

After the operation, you wake up in the same hospital room. Jiwon Oh is sitting on a chair on the right and when she sees you wake up, she walks to the bed.

-Jiwon: Can you try to move your arm?

You see what looks like your old right arm, but when you try to lift it up, the arm twitches. It only lifts a centimeter off of the bed.

-Jiwon: It's normal for your bionic body parts to not fully work at first. It takes time and a little bit of effort to get them to listen to your body. That's why with every body enhancement offered by Monroe Tech., rehabilitation services are free. Since you have both a new arm and a new leg, we also want you to stay at Monroe Tech. free of charge. We also want someone to test out our live-in rehabilitation AI. What do you say?

Decline the offer to
live at Monroe Tech.

Accept the offer to
live at Monroe Tech.

“I’m sorry, but I think I would be more comfortable living in my own home and commuting to Monroe Tech. for the rehabilitation services,” you say.

-Jiwon Oh: That’s alright. Before you can head home, let me show you how to work that new leg of yours. You’ll need it to walk out of here.

You both laugh, and Jiwon works through some tips to coordinate your leg with the rest of your body. Within the hour you’re able to walk, but it’s still a little awkward. Soon you are discharged from the hospital. Since Monroe Tech is close to your apartment, you decide to walk home. On the way there, you stop by a coffee shop and grab a drink.

Next



There is something strange about the AI that serves you the drink. You almost do not notice, but there is a slight twitch in one of her fingers. You taste the coffee, just to make sure that the problem with her finger did not cause her to mess up your drink. It tastes fine, however.

Next

A few days later you are feeling sick, so you call Monroe Tech to cancel your rehabilitation session. When they hear you're sick, however, they suggest you come in anyways. This makes you worried. Is this cold the virus that was spreading across Europe? You know you need to get tested, but who should you go to?

Go to the hospital at
Monroe Tech.

Go to a regular
hospital.

At the front desk of the hospital, you tell the desk clerk that you think you have a cold. The desk clerk immediately looks worried and calls someone as he asks you to sit. Just when you have sat down, a doctor opens a door and calls your name. You walk into an office and sit on the cold chair beside the desk.

-Doctor: I'm going to be frank with you. We need to test you immediately for FRAG8, the virus from Europe. I see that you have a bionic arm and leg, which means that you are more likely to have FRAG8.

The doctor pulls a strange, large tool from a drawer and plugs it into the three silver holes on your bionic arm. The machine lights up and starts blinking. After a few seconds, it makes a beeping sound. The doctor pulls the tool from your arm and looks at the monitor. He frowns.

Next

-Doctor: You are positive for FRAG8. Have you recently come into contact with any AI that have acted strangely?

You explain the AI that had the twitch at the coffee shop. He writes this down on a paper and scans it into a nearby computer. Moving to the wall he pushes a button. A monitor turns on and it says 'SURGERY REQUESTED'

-Doctor: Unfortunately, there is no cure for this virus yet. There have been some successful cases if the bionic body enhancements are removed in time, so I have requested immediate surgery. I assume you would like to live past this week, yes?

You nod your head. Suddenly the door swings open and a team pushing a rolling bed come into the room. Before you know it, you are on the bed and being wheeled towards the surgery room. They give you a gas mask to make you fall asleep.

Next

Hours into your surgery, your heartbeat loses strength. The doctors try to revive you, but you never wake up.

END.
Go back to the
beginning.

Once again, you are laying in a hospital bed at Monroe Tech. A few minutes ago, the same doctor as before came in. He connected wires to the three holes in your bionic arm and turned on a machine. Within seconds the doctor read the results on the machine and took the wires out of your arm. He then left without a word.

Next

The doctor's attitude makes you nervous. Just when you are about to use the room AI, Betty, to call someone, Jiwon Oh walks in.

-Jiwon: When I heard you were here, I came as fast as I could. The doctor told me everything. Unfortunately, you've been infected with the FRAG8 virus. It's the same virus that is spreading all over Europe. There was a FRAG8 code in your arm. It showed us that you caught FRAG8 from a coffee shop AI. So far, no one has found a cure. However, I believe if we take a sample of your blood, we can use it to find a cure... Let's get Betty to help.

-Betty: Yes, Professor Oh?

Next

Jiwon commands Betty to take a blood sample from you. A needle, tube, and bag lower from the ceiling. You jump in surprise as the needle pokes into your arm. You wonder how legal this is. Before you can remove the needle, it goes back towards the ceiling. Jiwon turns back to you.

-Jiwon: I'm sorry for doing that. I really do think we can find a cure, though. In the meantime, we'll keep you here. This way you can receive the best medical care. You will also be one of the first to receive the cure when we find it.

Jiwon leaves the room without saying anything else. She seems to be leaving with a purpose. You lay back in the bed and wonder if they will find a cure in time.

Next

A few days later and you are sicker. You have a high fever but feel cold all the time. Red bumps have started popping up all over your body. When you try to walk, your legs feel weak. Marvin helps you move around and sometimes visits your room. Jiwon has not come back to your room since that day. No one will tell you about FRAG8.

As you begin to close your eyes for a nap, Marvin comes running into the room.

-Marvin: They've found it! They've found a cure in your blood!

Next

He grabs your shoulders and pulls you up to sit. Jiwon comes running into the room with a small bottle and a needle. She catches her breath, looking much more tired than Marvin. Then again, Marvin can never look tired. When she starts to breathe normally, she walks over to your bed and puts the needle into the bottle. The needle takes in some of the liquid.

-Jiwon: We've done many tests on the cure. It works. It's all thanks to you. Now it's being sent all over the world. You helped us save a lot of people.

You feel so much joy. You are glad you chose to come to Monroe Tech. instead of the regular hospital. Now you and thousands of other people will live.

END.
Go back to the
beginning.

After thinking it over, you decide to accept the offer to live at Monroe Tech. After all, it is free. Once hearing your acceptance, Jiwon pushes a button on the wall. In a matter of seconds, a woman walks in. When she turns to look at Jiwon, you see three silver dots on her neck. You realize she is not a human, but an AI.

-Jiwon: This is Helen. Helen will be your rehabilitation guide. You will also be sharing a room with her.

Jiwon's phone begins to ring, so she answers it. After listening to the caller for a moment, she walks out of the room. This leaves you and Helen alone.

Next

-Helen: Well, nice to meet you. The name's Helen. You'll actually be my first human patient, so I'm really excited. First, let's get you walking, so I can show you around Monroe Tech.

Helen walks over to the bed and helps you stand up. You feel weird, but somehow you are standing. Before long, Helen is helping you walk down the huge, white halls of Monroe Tech. She shows you where the cafeteria, workout rooms, bathrooms, and offices are.

Next



The last place she shows you is your bedroom. The room is big, and there are two beds, one for you and one for Helen. Helen's side of the room has colorful pictures on the walls.

-Helen: This is where we will be staying. I know you're probably surprised robots can have such a fun looking room. What can I say? I'm a fun robot.

Helen laughs and jumps onto her bed. She lays down on her side and points to your bed. You think she wants you to sit down there. You slowly walk over to the bed. Each step is difficult because you have to think a lot to move your right leg. Bending your knee to sit down is also hard.

Next

As soon as you sit down, Helen starts asking you questions about yourself. For example, what is your favorite color, what are your hobbies, where did you grow up, and so on. She even asks some weird questions like, if you were stuck on an island, what would you bring?

Helen keeps on asking questions the next day. She seems interested in your life and really listens. Helen also talks about herself. She explains what it is like to be an AI. She also talks about how she wishes to see the world outside of Monroe Tech.

Next

Over the next week, you and Helen become good friends. You are walking almost perfectly by now, and your arm is getting easier to use, too. One day, you are walking back from the cafeteria when you see Helen and Marvin talking. As you walk closer to them, you realize they do not see you yet. You hear their conversation.

-Marvin: I just heard that the FRAG8 virus is actually carried through AI. FRAG8 is the epidemic that's spreading across Europe. Except it's not just Europe anymore. There are people sick in our city, too.

-Helen: Are we going to get sick, too?

Next

-Marvin: No, only humans are dying. AI carry the virus, but don't get sick. They only start to twitch a little.

-Helen: Have you seen any AI tw-

When you hear about the virus, you immediately turn around a corner and hide. You are shocked by Marvin's words. You feel like you should tell someone. Who should you go to?

Talk to Jiwon Oh; she might have more information.

Talk to a news reporter; other people need to know.

You immediately walk into Jiwon's office. She is sitting at her desk, taking notes on a piece of white paper. When you walk in, she looks up at you.

-Jiwon: I already know why you're here. I watched it on the security cameras.
She was watching you this whole time?

Next

-Jiwon: What Marvin said is true. AI are the carrying the virus. It is also true that humans with bionic body enhancements are getting sick in our city. I also have some concerning news for you. A few days after we gave you the bionic parts, we found the virus in your body. Without telling you, we gave you a series of medicines that we thought would help. You've been eating the medicine in the cafeteria's food. The medicine has worked. The virus is gone. You probably don't know this, but the people in the city are getting angry and violent. They don't know there's a cure. We're afraid they won't believe us if we say we have a cure. We want you to be our representative. Help Monroe Tech save the world.

Leave Monroe Tech.
Tell news stations that
Monroe Tech used you
as an experiment.

Agree to be Monroe
Tech's representative.
Afterall, they saved
your life.

You cannot believe that Monroe Tech gave you medicine and did not tell you. You could have died! You run out of Monroe Tech. Then you go to the nearest news station. You tell them that Monroe Tech tested on you without you knowing. Your story is immediately showed on every TV station. Monroe Tech is shut down which means over 1,000 people lose their jobs. A medicine company calls you and asks if they can use your blood to make a cure. You say yes. In a week, the medicine company has a cure. You have saved your city from the epidemic.

END.
Go back to the
beginning.

After agreeing to be Monroe Tech's representative, they take you to the news station. You say how Monroe Tech saved your life. Soon Monroe Tech is selling medicine that cures people. The cure is sold everywhere, and the epidemic is stopped. You become a model for Monroe Tech. You continue to live with Helen at Monroe Tech and she teaches you how to rehabilitate others. Soon you have a job helping people who have new bionic body parts. Not only did you help save the world from FRAG8, but you also continue to help people through rehabilitation.

END.
Go back to the
beginning.



You decide to tell a news reporter. Without telling anyone, you leave Monroe Tech and go to the nearest news station. At the news station, you talk to a news reporter. In a few hours, everyone knows that the FRAG8 virus is in the city. You are walking back to Monroe Tech to get your clothes to leave when you see a group of people breaking an AI inside of a clothing store. As you get closer to Monroe Tech you see a group of people holding signs outside the doors. The signs say, “Destroy all AI!” “Kill all bionic humans! They’re killing us!” You stop. If you go closer to the doors, the people will see you. The group may do something if they see your bionic arm and leg.

Next

A small gray car stops in front of you. Helen is in the driver's seat. She rolls down the window.

-Helen: Get in! We need to get out of here quick!

You open the back door and jump inside the car. When you close the door, Helen starts driving down the road.

-Marvin: Turn right down this road. We're heading towards the outside of the city.

There is traffic on the road and all the cars are stopped. A lot of people are trying to leave. You hear yelling behind the car. You look through the back window and see a group of people pulling a woman out of her car. After they pull her out, they begin pulling her arm. You see the three dots on her arm that mean it is bionic. She is screaming loudly when there is a knock on Helen's window.

Next

You turn around and see a man looking inside the car. When he sees the three silver dots on Helen's neck he yells to the other people outside. He breaks through the glass and grabs Helen. Trying to pull her out of the car, he yells for help.

-Helen: You both need to run! Get out!

-Marvin: Helen, we can't leave you!

-Helen: Just go or we'll all die.

Marvin pauses before opening his door. He opens your door and pulls you out. Angry people are running towards the car. Which way should you run?

Run into a building.

Run into the woods.

You and Marvin run into a nearby building. It looks like a building for many different businesses.

-Marvin: I've just looked up the building through satellite. It looks like there is a back exit.

Marvin leads you through the building and out a door. There is an alleyway. Marvin walks in front of you down the alley. He takes a right down another alley, then a left. Soon you walk out onto a small road. The road is quiet and no cars are driving. Marvin is walking quickly down the road. Someone jumps out of another alley and grabs Marvin.

Next

-Man: I've got an AI!

They already got Helen, you cannot let these people grab Marvin too! You start hitting the man, but he is strong. Marvin begins pushing him away, but the man pulls out a machine and hits Marvin's arms with it. Marvin's arms stop moving.

-Marvin: Run!

You turn around to run, but another man is behind you. He grabs you and sees the dots on your arm and leg. The man holding Marvin throws the machine to the man who is holding you. The man puts the machine to your head. Everything goes black.

END.
Go back to the
beginning.

You and Marvin run into the nearby forest. Since it is the outside of the city, there are miles of forest between this city and the next town. After running until you cannot hear the yelling voices, you and Marvin slow down. As you are walking, it becomes dark. The moon is shining bright, so you can see where to walk.

-Marvin: My maps aren't that great out here, but I think there's another town about ten miles West.

Marvin starts walking to the left, and you follow him. A few hours later you feel your bionic leg getting heavy. Your leg beeps once.

-Marvin: Your energy is running low. You have about 30 minutes until your leg stops working.

Next

Marvin's body beeps twice.

-Marvin: It seems that I have about an hour left. We'll walk until you can't move and then I'll start carrying you.

Thirty minutes later, your leg stops working. You try to stop Marvin from picking you up because you feel awkward. You are embarrassed when Marvin picks you up, but there is nothing else you can do. If you stay in the woods, you could die. Marvin starts walking again.

Another thirty minutes passes by in silence. Marvin begins to slow down. He falls to his knees, and you roll onto the ground. Marvin points straight ahead.

Next

-Marvin: About a half a mile in that direction is a road. If you go there, maybe someone will be driving that can help you. Don't worry about me. If you get help, you can come back and get me. All I need is more energy, and I'll wake up again.

Marvin's eyes close, and he falls to the side. His energy is all gone. You stare at his body for a moment. Both Marvin and Helen cannot help you anymore. You turn in the direction that Marvin pointed. You begin to crawl. It takes a long time, but you hear the sounds of cars driving. As the sun rises you get to the edge of the road. You wave your arm and a car slows down. You hope this person will help you, not hurt you.

END.
Go back to the
beginning.



All Eyes and Ears

You have reached the end of the book.

**Interested in more graded readers?
Check out alleande.com**