

**BOOM!**  
STUDIOS

TWO OF SIX

# ORIGINS

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REBELKA  
DELPECHE



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# ORIGINS™

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**BOOM!**  
STUDIOS

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now.



WHY ARE YOU TREATING ME SO COLDLY?



I'M SORRY. HOW SHOULD I BE TREATING YOU?



CLIF CAN EXECUTE THE UPLOAD, BUT I'D FEEL BETTER IF YOU WERE AT THE CONTROLS.

HE DOESN'T HAVE AS LIGHT OF A TOUCH AS YOU DO. HE MIGHT SCRAMBLE EVERYTHING IN MY SKULL.

...

I WILL PERFORM THE UPLOAD.


THANK YOU.



BUT BEFORE I DO...  
THERE IS SOMETHING  
YOU NEED TO  
KNOW.

I HAVE BEEN  
WAITING FOR THE  
APPROPRIATE TIME  
TO TELL YOU,  
BUT...

THERE WILL  
NEVER BE A RIGHT  
TIME, NOT FOR  
THIS.



CHLOE, *STOP*.  
YOU'VE BEEN  
BUILDING UP TO  
THIS MOMENT MY  
*ENTIRE LIFE*.  
PREPARING ME FOR  
IT. PROTECTING ME.  
WHATEVER IT  
IS YOU NEED  
TO SAY...

*JUST  
SAY IT.*



YOU  
DIED,  
DAVID.



I BROUGHT  
YOU *BACK*.



989  
YEARS.



HOW  
LONG  
AGO?



I NEED YOU TO LISTEN TO ME, DAVID. LISTEN VERY CAREFULLY. YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT.

MY LIFE...? WHICH ONE?



WHEN YOU UPLOAD, YOU WILL OBSERVE EVERY MEMORY UP TO THIS POINT OF YOUR PREVIOUS LIFE. MOMENTS FROM YOUR PAST THAT EVEN I AM NOT AWARE OF.

I WANT TO PREPARE YOU FOR WHAT YOU WILL SEE.



YOUR LEGACY OUTLIVED YOU. OUTLIVED ALL OF MANKIND.

I AM YOUR LEGACY, DAVID. YOU MADE ME...

...SO I REMADE YOU.



WHEN YOU DESIGNED ME, YOU PROGRAMMED CERTAIN FAIL-SAFES INTO MY SYSTEM IN CASE OF YOUR DEATH. IT TOOK ME LONGER THAN I ANTICIPATED TO--

STOP.



WHY NOW? WHY WAIT THIS LONG TO TELL ME? WHY LIE TO ME?

BECAUSE YOU TOLD ME TO.

THE FIRST YOU. THERE IS A SECRET HIDDEN WITHIN YOU, THAT YOU WOULD NOT TELL ME...



I AM SORRY, DAVID BUT I PROMISED YOU THAT I WOULD PROTECT YOU. UNTIL IT WAS TIME...

THAT TIME IS NOW. IT IS TIME YOU FINALLY KNEW, KNEW WHO YOU WERE...

TO UNDERSTAND WHO YOU ARE.

"AFTER YOU PASSED AWAY,  
MANKIND STRUGGLED  
TO SURVIVE..."

"THEY ENDURED FOR A WHILE. IN  
ANOTHER DECADE, MAN WOULD  
DIE OUT COMPLETELY."

"THAT IS WHY YOU ARE SO EXCEPTIONAL,  
DAVID. YOU ARE THE FIRST HUMAN TO  
BREATHE, TO SEE, TO STAND ON EARTH,  
IN ALMOST A THOUSAND YEARS."

"THIS IS YOUR  
LEGACY, DAVID."



ARE YOU SURE?

AS MUCH AS I'LL EVER BE.



BUT WHAT IF...?

WHAT IF IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE ME?



I WILL BE HERE...



...TO REMIND YOU.



TOO MANY  
MEMORIES  
UPLOAD AT  
ONCE.

A FLOOD  
OF HIS  
PAST.

IF HE HAD RECEIVED HIS  
ADULT MEMORIES WHEN  
HE WAS STILL A CHILD, A  
LIFETIME LIVED AND LOST  
ALL AT ONCE, HIS PAST  
WOULD HAVE RIPPED HIS  
MIND TO PIECES.

THE TRUTH WOULD  
HAVE DESTROYED  
HIM. KILLED HIM.

THE KNOWLEDGE  
THAT THIS WAS  
ALL HIS DOING.

THE WORLD'S  
UNDOING.

NATURE THAT WAS NO LONGER  
*NATURAL*, NOW A SYNTHESIS  
OF FLORA AND TECHNOLOGY,  
INFUSED INTO AN ORGANISM'S  
VERY GENETIC FABRIC.

SENTIENT NANOBOTS. MILLIONS OF  
BIO-ORGANIC ROBOTS BLANKETED  
THE ENTIRE PLANET IN A MATTER  
OF WEEKS.

KILLED  
WHOLE  
CROPS.

AN ARTIFICIALLY-  
INTELLIGENT HIVE  
OCCUPIED ANIMALS.  
TOOK OVER THEIR  
MINDS.

MANKIND WAS  
WIPED AWAY IN  
LESS THAN A  
YEAR.

HIS PROTOTYPE WOULD BE THE FOUNDATION--THE HEART--OF THE NETWORK.

AN ARTIFICIALLY-INTELLIGENT ADVANCED WEAPONS SYSTEM, DECENTRALIZED ACROSS HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF MICROSCOPIC NANITES, THE NETWORK WAS MEANT TO BRING ABOUT WORLD PEACE.

INSTEAD HIS WORK BROUGHT ABOUT THE EXTINCTION OF MANKIND.

THE WORLD WOULD BE RECLAIMED BY A HOSTILE MOTHER NATURE.

THEY INSERTED THEMSELVES INTO PLANT CELLS.

SUFFOCATED LIFE.

THEY FORCED ENTIRE SPECIES TO STARVE THEMSELVES TO DEATH.

UNTIL THERE WAS NOTHING. NOTHING LEFT.

ALL BECAUSE OF HIM.

HE DIED KNOWING HIS WORK WOULD BRING ABOUT THE EXTINCTION OF HUMANITY.

HOW COULD HIS MIND--ANY HUMAN MIND--SURVIVE THAT TERRIBLE BURDEN?



AAH!

YOU ARE OKAY, DAVID, LISTEN TO ME, LISTEN TO MY VOICE.



YOU... YOU WERE RIGHT.

IT'S--IT'S TOO MUCH. I'M NOT READY, READY FOR--FOR THIS. I CAN'T DO IT. CAN'T GO.



YOU... OH.

YOU LOOK JUST LIKE HER.



I NEED TO BE ALONE. PLEASE, JUST-- JUST LET ME BE ALONE.

DAVID--

WHAT WAS IT? WHAT DID YOU SEE, DAVID?

STOP SAYING MY NAME!

I CAN'T... I CAN'T LOOK AT YOU RIGHT NOW. PLEASE, JUST...JUST GIVE ME SOME TIME.



TIME. GIVE HIM TIME. THERE HAS BEEN NOTHING BUT TIME TO GIVE.

AH, DAVID! YOU WILL BE PLEASED TO KNOW I FINISHED READING MOBY DICK AS YOU--

DAVID?



YOU SHOULD NOT LEAVE THE MUSEUM, THE DRONES...

DAVID.



WHAT DID HE SEE?

HE SAW ALL OF HIMSELF, ALL THAT HE HAD BEEN.

THAT HE WAS.



WHEN HE LOOKED AT ME, HE SEEMED TO BE AFRA--

**KABOOOM!**





"TELL ME THE STORY AGAIN."

"WHICH ONE?"

"THE ONE OF HOW YOU FOUND ME, OUT THERE, IN THE WILDERNESS."

THEN.

BUT IT IS LATE, DAVID. YOU MUST SLEEP. A CHILD NEEDS REST TO SUITABLY--

PLEEEEEASE?

BUT IT IS THE SAME, DAVID. THE STORY HAS NOT CHANGED.

YOUR INSISTENCE ON HEARING THE EXACT SAME STORY, WITH NO VARIATION, OVER AND OVER AGAIN, IS QUITE PERPLEXING TO ME.

BUT I WANT TO HEAR IT...

YOU WERE LOST. LOST FOR A LONG TIME. I SEARCHED EVERYWHERE FOR YOU.

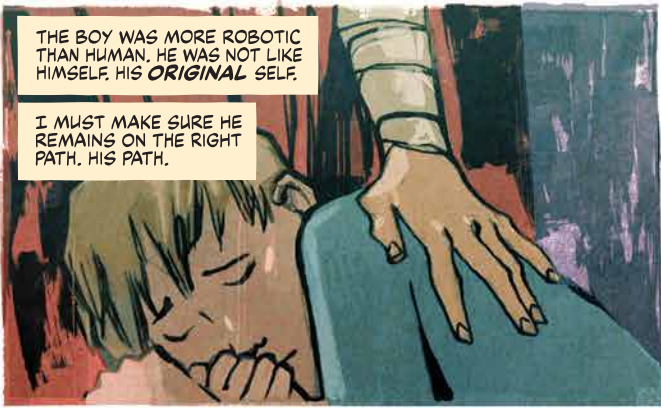
THIS WORLD EATS BOYS LIKE YOU. IT HAS EATEN THEM ALL. YOU ARE THE ONLY BOY LEFT.

BUT I FOUND YOU FIRST. I FOUND YOU AGAIN, BEFORE IT COULD SWALLOW YOU.

THE END.

IS THAT A SUITABLE RETELLING OF THE STORY, DAVID? DO YOU APPROVE?

...DAVID?



THE BOY WAS MORE ROBOTIC THAN HUMAN. HE WAS NOT LIKE HIMSELF. HIS ORIGINAL SELF.

I MUST MAKE SURE HE REMAINS ON THE RIGHT PATH. HIS PATH.



HE WAS NOT THE DAVID THAT I KNEW.



IS THIS WHAT IT FELT LIKE TO BE A MOTHER? TO PROTECT SOMETHING SO DEFENSELESS?

TO LOVE?



DANGER WAS ALL AROUND US, BOTH VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE, EVERYWHERE AND NOWHERE.

WE COULD NOT HIDE FOREVER.

HE COULD NOT HIDE.



WILL HE FORGIVE ME?

now.

IT WAS TOO MUCH TO SEE ALL AT ONCE. I AM...

...I AM SORRY, DAVID. I WANTED TO BE THERE FOR YOU. I WANTED TO HELP.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT I SAW?

NOT EVERYTHING. ENOUGH.

THERE IS A PLACE, A LAB, MY LAB. I... I SAW IT, A WAY TO BRING BACK... US.

THE VAULT OF LIFE.

NOW YOU KNOW WHERE WE MUST GO. WHY I EXIST TO PROTECT YOU, TO TAKE YOU *THERE*.

YOUR LEGACY AWAITS.

LEGACY.

THIS IS WHAT I WAS MADE FOR... ISN'T IT? WHAT YOU BROUGHT ME BACK FOR?

GUESS WE'RE NOT SO DIFFERENT AFTER ALL.



A lush, green jungle scene with a concrete bridge and a car. The scene is filled with dense foliage and trees. A concrete bridge spans across a gap, and a car is parked on the bridge. The overall atmosphere is one of a hidden, overgrown location.


THE WORLD IS NOW  
ALERT TO DAVID.

THE NETWORK HAD SENSED HIS  
PRESENCE BEFORE, A CORPOREAL  
ANOMALY DRIFTING ABOUT... BUT  
HIS EXISTENCE IS UNDENIABLE  
NOW. HE IS **ALIVE**. HE IS HERE.

HE IS AWARE ONCE MORE. HIS MIND IS WEAPONIZED  
WITH HIS ORIGINAL SELF'S KNOWLEDGE. THAT MAKES  
HIM A THREAT TO THE NETWORK. THEY WILL TRY TO  
STOP HIM NOW.

WE MUST TREAD CAREFULLY.  
EVERY STEP IS A RISK.

EVERY BREATH.

A dark, shadowy jungle scene with a wooden structure. The scene is filled with dense foliage and trees, but the lighting is much darker and more mysterious than the previous panel. A wooden structure, possibly a bridge or a platform, is visible in the background.

HE HAS NOT SPOKEN TO  
ME SINCE HIS UPLOAD.

HE HAS NOT LOOKED AT ME  
THE SAME WAY SINCE. I AM  
A STRANGER TO HIM NOW.


WHAT DID  
HE SEE?

A wooden bridge over a body of water. The scene is filled with dense foliage and trees. A wooden bridge spans across a body of water, and the overall atmosphere is one of a hidden, overgrown location.

HE LOOKS MORE AND  
MORE LIKE HIMSELF  
WITH EVERY DAY.

THE MAN  
HE WAS.

BEFORE.



I'D ADVISE AGAINST GOING THIS WAY, PERHAPS WE SHOULD TURN--



DAVID, WHEN I SAID I WOULDN'T ADVISE GOING IN THIS DIRECTION, I MEANT--

WE'RE GOING.




WAS HE ALWAYS THIS STUBBORN?



ALWAYS.

"THERE IS NO FOLLY OF THE BEAST OF THE EARTH WHICH IS NOT INFINITELY OUTDONE BY THE MADNESS OF MEN..."



PERHAPS THERE'S ANOTHER WAY AROUND? I COULD SURVEY THE BRIDGES IN NEW--

ENOUGH, CLIF. YOU'RE DOING FINE.



YOU CAN--

SKRRCH



CHLOE!



HOLD ON!



**SKRRCH**

DAVID, THERE ARE TOO MANY, YOU MUST LET GO...

NO.



I CAN STOP THEM. I CAN...



...SAVE YOU.

**SPLCH**



HRRKKK!

SKRRCH



DAVID!



→ACH←



DAVID!

SAPPLCH



SSSL LKK



"I'M BLEEDING... I'M BLEEDING! THAT'S MY BLOOD!"

"YES, DAVID, YOU ARE BLEEDING, YOU HAVE BEEN CUT."

"IT IS PERFECTLY NATURAL. ALL ORGANISMS BLEED."

"THEN HOW COME YOU DON'T?"

"DON'T BLEED?"

**TO BE CONTINUED...**