

CyberDuck Collective

RECURSION ERROR

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Written by

Jacob Long

DANDI_01

DANDI - 1
You must be Leif.

LEIF - 2
Uh, yes.

DANDI - 3
That makes me your new coworker.
Name's Dandi. I run the bar around
here. You ever get bored or
anything or just wanna talk, feel
free to stop by.

LEIF - 4
Thanks. Nice to meet you Dandi.

DANDI - 5
You too. By the way, I took the
liberty of equipping all your
replacement clones with a weapon
template chip. An aether axe. Super
cool piece, and deadly too. You
should be able to use it whenever
you deploy.

LEIF - 6
Thank you. That'll certainly make
things easier out there.

DANDI - 7
What can I say? It's what I do. Oh,
I also serve drinks! Just not for
free, unfortunately. Gotta make a
living!

LEIF - 8
You don't happen to accept Andvel
scrip do you?

DANDI - 9
Afraid not.

LEIF - 10
Damn.

DANDI_02

DANDI - 1
I see you took the express route
home.

LEIF - 2

Hmm. I never get used to it.

DANDI - 3

I would suggest trying to get used to it. Messing with the Rethi Industrial Conglomerate's a one way ticket to the grave. If you don't have a neo-psyche that is. But regardless, I'm willing to bet this won't be your first time taking the quick way home.

LEIF - 4

I don't think I'd oppose that bet.

DANDI - 5

Right? Those bastards really don't want you to steal back that Destiny Program, huh? What do you think it is anyways?

LEIF - 6

Wait, you know about the Destiny Program?

DANDI - 7

Yep, I got briefed same as you.

LEIF - 8

Huh. Well, if I learn anything I guess I can let you know.

DANDI - 9

Awesome! Oooo I'm so curious!

DANDI_03

DANDI - 1

So, the head honchos up at Andvel Corporate really think you got this?

LEIF - 2

Why wouldn't they? I've got a neo-psyche and nearly seventy years of experience. I'll get it eventually.

DANDI - 3

Classic corporate M.O. huh? Beat your head against a problem and eventually it will crack.

LEIF - 4

Pretty much. They got the resources.

DANDI - 5

No kidding. Too bad you happen to be that head hitting their problem repeatedly. Must hurt.

LEIF - 6

Its not easy, but...its more than just their problem.

DANDI_04

LEIF - 1

So, would I be right to assume you're a member of the Clect?

DANDI - 2

You would be right. They pretty much run this whole district. Work at any bar, club, theater or brothel within ten blocks of here, there's a good chance you got ties to the Clect...for better or worse.

LEIF - 3

Which is it for you?

DANDI - 4

Oh, "better" for sure. Everybody always wants to take jobs from the corpos. They usually involve dodging a lot more aether bolts and blades but the pay is pretty much always worth it.

LEIF - 5

So, what exactly is Andvel paying you to do anyways?

DANDI - 6

I've worked with neo-psyches before. I make sure all that data in your brain is in tip-top shape. I also serve drinks! Just not for free.

LEIF - 7

Yeah, I still don't have money.

DANDI_05

DANDI - 1
Look who's back! Find anything new?

LEIF - 2
I found the person who killed my brother.

DANDI - 3
Oh. I'll take it didn't end well?

LEIF - 4
No. But that means I'm going in the right direction. Maybe Rethi still has him.

DANDI - 5
Wait, your brother? I thought you said he'd been killed.

LEIF - 6
His name is Urden. Public records show he was killed in an accident by a malfunctioning droid...but Rethi Corp took his body. Why would they do that if he was dead?

DANDI - 7
So, you think he's still alive?

LEIF - 8
If he is, he'll be at Rethi HQ. I know it.

DANDI - 9
I hope you're right. Good luck, Leif.

DANDI_06

DANDI - 1
Hey, you look a little shaken there. Anything I can do?

LEIF - 2
I met Destiny.

DANDI - 3
You met a computer program?

LEIF - 4
It communicated. Talked to me.

DANDI - 5

Well, verbal interface programs are hardly a rarity.

LEIF - 6

No, it was more than that. It was garbled and unfocused but I could swear it was like talking to a person. Or...multiple people all at once.

DANDI - 7

Hm. I've never heard of anything like that. And I've heard of a lot of freaky shit.

LEIF - 8

I'm going back. I'll let you know when I figure this all out.

DANDI_07

DANDI - 1

You were gone awhile. Did you find anything?

LEIF - 2

I talked to Destiny again. I was right. There are people in the programs. Four of them.

DANDI - 3

People in a computer program? Neo-psyces, right? Gotta be.

LEIF - 4

I asked about my brother too. I had to. Just to make sure.

DANDI - 5

Oh, shit. He's not one of them, is he?

LEIF - 6

I don't know for sure yet. It didn't give a clear answer.

DANDI - 7

Hmm, it seems to be good at that.

LEIF - 8

I'll find the truth. This isn't something I'm letting go.

DANDI_08

DANDI - 1

So, I noticed you refer to Destiny as a singular entity.

LEIF - 2

I guess so, yeah.

DANDI - 3

But if the Destiny program is four separate neo-psyches wouldn't that make it four individuals?

LEIF - 4

I never really thought about it. It always felt like a single person when we talk.

DANDI - 5

Hm. Makes you think. Maybe they aren't truly "separate." Maybe they're meshed together somehow? I don't know. You'll have to let me know more about your next encounter.

DANDI_09

DANDI - 1

Hey, I was thinking. You know how when your neo-psyche is mid-transfer? That floaty senselessness? All those memories?

LEIF - 2

Then being jolted into a new body, overwhelmed by the sudden return of senses? Yeah, why?

DANDI - 3

Well, from what you've described, Destiny doesn't have a biological body. Does that mean they're stuck in that kinda limbo of memories?

LEIF - 4

I thought of that too. Except there's four of them. All sharing memories. Sounds disorienting.

DANDI - 5

I don't know. Could be interesting. Literally experiencing the memories of others. Might give you new perspectives on life.

LEIF - 6

Hmph. Maybe. Think I'll stick with one set of memories for now. How do you know what a neo-psyche transfer feels like anyways?

DANDI - 7

What? Oh, yeah. Like I said: yours isn't the first neo-psyche I've had experience with.

LEIF - 8

That's...vague.

DANDI - 9

Well, yeah. I can't give you all my secrets in one go. Then you'd stop coming over to talk to me.

DANDI_10

DANDI - 1

Hey, any updates?

LEIF - 2

Yeah, Destiny pretty much confirmed they're a jumble of neo-psyches.

DANDI - 3

Figured as much. And your brother?

LEIF - 4

Yeah...he's in there. Destiny says his is one of the four neo-psyches.

DANDI - 5

Really?! That's good, right? That means you can get him out.

LEIF - 6

That's part of the problem. The facility's security measures don't give me much time, and I usually spend it talking with Destiny anyway.

DANDI - 7

Right, I'll make sure not to tell Andvel that.

LEIF - 8

Don't worry. They won't ask. They let their neo-psyche operatives have their autonomy. I'll get them the program eventually. After I find a way to get Urden out.

DANDI - 9

Well, I might just be able to help. Keep me in the loop.

DANDI_11

LEIF - 1

Hey, can I ask a question about neo-psyches?

DANDI - 2

Shoot.

LEIF - 3

Can a neo-psyche be created when the host's brainwaves are unstable or erratic?

DANDI - 4

Technically, yes. But you don't want to. The neo-psyche you get usually isn't much of a person. Just a collection of data. The structure is there but...nobody's home.

LEIF - 5

You say that like you've seen it before.

DANDI - 6

I have. A long time ago. Is...this about your brother?

LEIF - 7

It is. His imprint was made when he was dying. It's incomplete or something.

DANDI - 8

I see. Extracting him would be risky in that case.

(MORE)

DANDI - 8 (CONT'D)
But, there's always a chance the
imprint succeeded.

DANDI_12

LEIF - 1
I need your advice on something.

DANDI - 2
Sure. That is what we bartenders
do.

LEIF - 3
Destiny said they'll help me
extract Urden's neo-psyche from
their matrix. But it'll kill the
other three. I'm not sure what to
do.

DANDI - 4
If the other neo-psyches are
anything like how you said Urden's
is, their incomplete. You wouldn't
really be killing those people.
They already died.

LEIF - 5
That would mean Urden is already
dead too.

DANDI - 6
There's a good chance of that,
yeah. I'm sorry. It's a gamble
either way.

DANDI_13

DANDI - 1
Looks like one of those brutes got
you, huh? They are like their name
implies...quite brutal.

DANDI_14

DANDI - 1
If you ever want to get revenge on
those brutes, tell them they have
small feet. It makes 'em reaaal
mad. It'll probably get you
squashed but it looks like your
used to that.

DANDI_15

DANDI - 1
Those big guys pack a punch, yeah?
They're usually pretty vulnerable
after they go in for a hit though.

DANDI_16

DANDI - 1
That aether fire burns doesn't it?
Warlocks don't mess around.

DANDI_17

DANDI - 1
Aether warlocks...you got to hand
it to them, their tricky little
bastards. Emphasis on the bastard.

DANDI_18

DANDI - 1
Don't let those warlocks bully you.
You gotta get up in their face and
kick 'em in the shin, or something
else violent.

DANDI_19

DANDI - 1
You know, apparently, those Rethi
hound mechs are supposed to look
like the Wolves of Abathys. Ha!
They are trying way too hard to be
cool...not to say that your get-up
isn't cool or anything.

DANDI_20

DANDI - 1
Looks like a little ankle-biting
hound got you, huh?

DANDI_21

DANDI - 1
Report said a hound did you in?
Yeah, those suckers are fast. Look
away for just a second and you got
aether-powered metal fangs at your
throat.

DANDI_22

DANDI - 1
You got orbbed?! Orbed?! Oh man,
don't worry, I wont tell anyone.

DANDI_23

DANDI - 1
Sooo, taken down by a drone? I
guess they do float around pretty
menacingly.

DANDI_24

DANDI - 1
Underestimated the little floaty
orb, huh? Don't forget, they shoot
aether bolts.