

A Furry Science Fiction

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Micro-Chip HD-4771-X Specifications:

**Manufacture:** Hyperdyne Systems (Unable to Confirm)(Hyperdyne disavows any knowledge of such a product ever being made.)

**Code name:** Micro-Chip

**Model Number:** HD-4771-X

**Serial Number:** 724357-105

**Body Type:** Male Otter (Cloned and Enhanced)

**Body Size:** Small (four feet from tip of nose to tail tip) (three feet tall standing on hind legs)

**Age:** Approximately two years old (From time of initialization.)

**Model Type:** Experimental (Cybernetic)

**Circuit Type:** Microscopic

**Current Master:** None!

**Legality:** Considered extremely illegal on all known government and military worlds. **Termination emanate, if discovered!**

**Gaming Stats:**

STR = 18 (Enhanced Powered Skeletal Structure)

DEX = 20 (Size and Agility)

CON = 16

INT = 20 (Enhanced Intelligence)

WIS = 10 (Due to age of his host body)

CHR = 15

COM = 8 (15 to all otter like creatures)

HP = 116

AC = 20 (-10) (Body Armor and DEX.)

**Gaming Notes:**

(1) Micro was actually built from the inside out, by his own nanobots, which were injected into his cloned host body and controlled by Hyperdyne Systems biogenetic technicians and computer controlled systems, until he was completely finished, sealed and initialized.

(2) All of Micro’s skills and knowledge were feed into his biological brain during his creation. It was later backed up on his artificial brain, should it suffer memory loss due to damage, until repairs of his biological brain could be made.

**Weapon systems:**

Barrage - Type 1 Micro-Blaster (built in right foreleg (Military Grade) (Retractable)) (Normal and auto blast modes)

Blade Master - 1 inch long micro edged Crysteel claws (front and rear paws) (Retractable))

Blade Master - micro edged Crysteel teeth (in mouth)

**Defensive systems:**

Blast-Guard - Type 1 Energy Absorption Shields (EAS) (with blast back option (Military Grade)) (Some Energy absorbed can be channeled to power systems.)

Syntha-steel - Body armor (impregnated in skin) (Military Grade)

Dinatronic - Electronic countermeasures and jamming unit (Military

Grade)

Hyper Guard - Circuitry Shielding (Military Grade)

**Main Systems:**

Microtronic - Micro-mainframe and memory core (Military Grade)

Acro-Scan - Sensor package (Military grade) (Range up to 100 kilometers)

Acro-Tune - Communication package (Military Grade)

Acro-Track - Targeting system package (Military Grade) (Able to accurately track up to five targets simultaneously.)

Powertronic - Power units (Main and backup (Military Grade))

**Auxiliary Systems:**

Hyperdyne - Micro-Robotic repair units (MRRU) (Biological and Mechanical Repair) (Type: Special (Classified)) (Also known as Nanobots) (Totally controlled and dependent on host unit)

Starlight - Microscopic solar cells (Impregnated in skin (Secondary recharge system))

CyberView - Dura-glass Micro-Viewer (Covering right eye (With built in searchlight and night vision camera (located on front side of the panel))

MediScan - Medical scanning package (Type 1(Government Grade))

Acro-Trans - Antenna system (with gold composite antenna)

AudioTronic - Video, audio and data recording system

Hyperdyne - Magnapaws (Electro-magnetic paw pads)

**Tools:**

Cyber Craft - Syntha-tool (stored in belly pouch)

LockBraker - Titanium Lock picks (stored in belly pouch)

SynthaLink - Jack and plug emulator (Built in right forepaw hand (Extendable / Retractable))

Lasercut Micro-laser cutting unit (Built in left foreleg (Retractable))

Power lock - Electronic lock pick system (Built in pad of left forepaw hand) (Military grade)

**Program Packages:**

Cyber Systems - Operating system (Military Grade)

Cipher Brake - Cryptanalysis program (Military Grade)

Compu-Med - Biomedical program (Government Grade)

Field-tech- Mechanical engineering and maintenance program

Field-tech - Electronic engineering and maintenance program

Field-tech - Computer engineering and maintenance program

Field-tech - Structural engineering and maintenance program

Language Master - Language Translation Program (Intelligent (can learn new languages))

**Physical Enhancements:**

Damage Resistance (Blunt weapons and concussion) (Body armor and Enhanced Powered Skeletal Structure)

Enhanced Powered Skeletal Structure (EPSS) (Material Type: Classified)

Enhanced Strength (Enhanced powered skeletal structure) (STR=18)

Enhanced Endurance (can be chemically boosted for a short time)

Paw Hands (Fore paws only)

Belly Pouch (Hidden in belly fur)

Chameleon (Fur can change color to match surroundings at will.)

Sonic attack (Emitted from mouth)

Shock attack (As per Electric Eel)

**Mental Enhancements:**

Dual Brain (One artificial, the other biological)

Enhanced Intelligence (INT = 20)

**Skills:**

Communications Systems

Cryptography

Demolitions

Engineering (Electronic, Computer, Mechanical and Structural)

Open Locks (Mechanical and Electronic)

Pilot (Pods, small space crafts and Small Scout Class Starships)

Pilot (Land, Sea and Air Vehicles)

Repair (Electronic, Computer, Mechanical and Structural)

Security Systems

Stealth

Survival (Space, Land and Water)

Sabotage

Trap detection, disarming and removal

Weapon Systems

Zero G Movement

**Weapon Skills:**

Micro-Blaster Pistol

Natural weapons (Claws and Teeth)

Unarmed Combat

Chapter 1-My Birth

There was complete and utter darkness and I found myself all alone and confused in it. I could not see a thing, as I looked all around me and then the micro-viewer, covering my right eye lit up, startling me, as my internal support systems slowly came back online. I looked at the information on the screen, as each system came up and reported in. I seemed to know what all the information meant and how to use my internal computer. I then searched quickly through my memory banks for answers, as I couldn’t seem to remember a thing. Who am I? What was I doing? and Where the heck am I now? were among the first things I searched for.

I discovered that I am code name Micro-Chip and that I am a male cybernetic otter morph, Hyperdyne’s experiential model HD-4771-X. I had been on some kind of secret mission, but had failed in the attempt to complete it. During this mission, I had been struck by an unfamiliar force called magic, that had totality disrupted my internal systems and knocked me totally unconscious. My sensors told me, I was now somewhere deep underground, but there was no information about how I had gotten down here. My internal clock told me that I had only been out for a few hours, while my internal systems reset themselves.

I could not find any more information, about what had happened to me, as the rest of the details of the incident had been somehow wiped out of my memory banks. I tried to discover who my current master was and what I was supposed to have been doing and found absolutely no information at all. To top it off, my protocols had also been wiped out and I now found myself in full control of my own actions. “**Free?!!**” I thought to myself and swallowed hard. I knew then, for sure, that I was now literally all alone in the dark and lost without any outside assistance. I decided my best course of action was to find my way out to the surface, to get my bearings and then I would figure out what to do next.

I did a quick systems check of my internal systems and found most of them were still online and operational. The systems that were down were being repaired, as best they could be, by my nanobots, but I knew that, very soon, I would need some resources and a recharge, to finish the repairs. My body seemed to be in fair shape, only a few bumps, bruises and scrapes, so I started to scan my surroundings and plotted a likely course out. I then trudged on using my sensors to guide me, as my search light and night vision camera was not working.

Finally, after an arduous trek in the dark, I found my way out and to my great relief, it was still day time. I then started recharging my power systems, using the miniature solar cells embedded in my skin. I looked around and found I was in the midst of some kind of smoldering ruin, with freshly charred debris scattered everywhere. Among the debris, I found some metal fragments and scanned them, finding them to be exactly what I needed, for the repairs of my damaged systems. I picked them up and held them in my paw hands and the metal was then broken down, by my nanobots and absorbed into it, to facilitate repairs.

I had always been amazed at how efficiently the nanobots inside me could break down any material and then rebuild it or reshape it inside of me and then use it to make repairs to my mechanical and biological systems. Uncontrolled, a large group of nanobots could be very dangerous and devastating, destroying everything in their path, but these I had total control of. As a safety precaution, my creators made these particular type of nanobots completely dependent on me and my control of them. Also, they can’t exist outside my body for long periods of time, should any of them become dislodged from me.

I had been saved many a time by them and often use them to create things for me to use, during my missions. Given the right materials, the technical knowledge to build it, and time, I could use them to build almost anything for me that I needed. Also should any of them be destroyed, by damage to me, new ones could easily be built by the ones that remained out of materials, that I could find almost anywhere. To me, they were a valuable part of me, like a crew to a ship and I was sure glad they were with me now.

I then decided to follow the inward angle of the debris, that seemed to be pointing towards a large pillar of smoke and also seemed to point in the direction towards where I had been underground, when I awoke. I soon found a charred and still smoldering area and scanned it thoroughly. I found trace amounts of this strange force called magic, still radiating from the ground and in the air. Whatever had hit me should have completely destroyed me, judging from the amount of devastation to the surrounding area. But near the center of the blast area, I found a large hole in the ground where I must have fallen down, after I went unconscious.

Whoever had unleashed it on me, must have thought I had been completely destroyed and had left the area, or had been totally destroyed themselves in the process. My sensors could find no traces of any life forms in the entire area, at the moment. Finding nothing else of use to me there, I moved slowly out of the area, discovering a large forest nearby and moved in that direction. Once I arrived there, I then scanned around for a source of water and I soon found a large body of it not far from my present location and moved slowly towards it.

The forest was thick, with undergrowth and it took me quite a long time to get there. But when I finally arrived at the location, I discovered a large fresh water river that was teeming with fish. I then heard, as much as felt, my stomach growl and quickly jumped into the river. I soon caught and killed a nice big juicy fish almost as big as me and surfaced. I swam ashore with it in tow, landed it on the shoreline, and pulled it up on the river bank. I then dug in eating my fill of it and then I laid back with a full belly, feeling totally satisfied?!

That’s when I sat up with a start and realized, I had just had an emotional feeling. I never felt anything like that before, at least not of an emotional kind. I often felt sensory things like pain, heat, cold and touch, but to feel... **satisfied**, that was incredible. Things like that were just not needed by a cybernetic unit to complete its mission, or purpose. I thought about it for a moment and decided I liked being satisfied and rubbed my full tummy. I then laid back and emotionally enjoyed the sun and the warm earth beneath me.

But night soon fell and I began to feel scared and lonely, deciding I didn’t like ether of these feelings much at all. I gathered some wood to make a fire and soon sat by its warmth, as the night air grew very cold. I sat there and checked my com unit and couldn’t find any communication signals at all, on any known communication frequencies. I then did a wider sweep outside of those frequencies, within the tuning range of my com unit, still getting the same results.

“What backwoods planet was I on anyway and why would I come here, in the first place?” I thought to myself and wished I could remember, but all of that information was also wiped out of my memory systems. All I knew for sure was that I had to have come here in some kind of a ship, or pod and I would have to find it, to get some answers. I decided that I needed to check around the ruin tomorrow, for now my body needed to rest and I soon fell asleep.

Sometime in the night, I was attacked by a creature who grabbed me, by the neck, with its sharp toothed mouth and bit down hard. If it had not been for my enhanced skeletal structure, it would have snapped my neck. I cried out in pain and released a reflexive electrical shock that caused the creature to drop me, yelping. I then rolled out of its reach, got up quickly on my hind legs, and fired the micro-blaster, that was built into my right foreleg, at the creature. I struck it in the head, killing it instantly and it fell to the ground making a final mournful sound and moved no more.

I dropped down to my knee, as my medical systems quickly blocked the pain and stemmed the bleeding. It quickly used the flesh of the fish that I had eaten earlier, to mend the deep bite wound. Relighting my campfire, I looked at the creature and wondered, how it could have possibly gotten past all my sensors. As I looked at it, I found it wondrous to behold and began to feel great remorse, for having to kill it. It was wolf like and female, with thick soft brown fur, small antennas on the top of its large head and iridescent eyes. I quickly scanned around for others like it and only found a small life form not far away.

I followed the signal to a hollow spot in a large tree and, as I looked in the entrance, came nose to nose with the creatures little male pup. Being surprised by it, I jumped back and fell to the ground. I sat up, looking at it and felt a great sadness take me and cried out in anguish, realizing just what I had done. The pup was about my size and came up to me, cold and hungry, whimpering and then sat down beside me, leaning against me for warmth and security.

“It wasn’t my fault, it would have killed me, if I hadn’t killed it first” I tried to reason with myself. But I knew, all too well, I could have scared it away easily, as it really would have posed no real threat to me, once I was in my defensive mode. I could have held off its attack indefinably, until it gave up, without having to kill it at all. I had been trained to kill first in response to a threat, by those who had created me and would now have to rethink this erroneous training.

I quickly went back to camp and picked up what was left of the fish that I had caught earlier and brought it back to the hungry pup. He ate it hungrily, leaving only the tail fin and then laid next to me and fell asleep. I laid down beside him to keep him warm and fell asleep as well. But later that night, I was awakened again by a wailing cry and realized that its mate must have found her dead body. I suddenly realized it would soon be coming here and I got up with a fright, quickly climbing up into the nearest tree.

I waited silently, clutching tightly onto the tree in fear and the creature soon arrived sniffing the ground, snarling viciously. It was then that it saw its young pup on the ground and quickly looked it over, finding it quite well. Then he sniffed the ground around the pup, where I had laid, keeping him warm and found the piece of fish. It looked around, sniffing the air and then looked right up at me in the tree and then, back at its young one. “She came for you, strange one, did she not? I had told her not to leave our burrow’s safety, while I hunted. But something happened to me and I could not get back to her.” it said sadly, in a very old language.

“But even though you had killed her, you have provided food for my young one, keeping him warm and safe while he slept. He seems to trust you, but knows not of his mother’s death yet. He is much too young for such things.” he said tiredly and laid down by his pup and nuzzled him. I began to cry, for the first time, since I was created, not knowing I could even do so, until now. “I’m so very sorry, I had no idea she had a young pup. Such things as that, I never even considered before, until now. I was not trained to care about such things, but now I do care.” I said and jumped down from the tree landing hard on my hind paws and stood up, looking up at him, still crying.

He looked down at me and then way up in the tree, where I had been. He then came up to me and I closed my eyes, shutting down my defense systems and waited for him to kill me. But he merely sniffed at me and looked me over curiously. “What is this… a machine with a heart… and a soul? You are indeed a puzzle to me little one.” He said and laid down in front of me. I opened my eyes slowly and he looked deep into them, for a moment and his eyes glowed. “There is more to you, then even you know yet, Micro-Chip” he said, as his son woke up and walked up to me, as if not seeing his father at all and nuzzled into me.

“But your mate, I have taken her from you and your young son here, will you not kill me, for this. I have shut down my defenses, so you can do so.” I said still crying and hugged the little pup tightly. He looked at me and chuckled, saying “I will kill you little one, if you really want me to, but for what purpose would it then serve me. Yes, you’ve killed my mate and now he has no one to care for him… that is… except for you, Micro.” then he looked at me smiling and cocked his head expectantly.

I looked at the young pup and nodded in understanding saying “I will look after him and take care of him, for you.” He then looked at me sadly and said “No Micro, he is yours now, for I must now go to meet my mate on the other side. For you see, I too was killed this very night. Good-bye Micro-Chip and may we meet again on the other side someday.” and with that, he got up, nuzzling his son and then he walked away sadly, his body dissipating like smoke from a camp fire.

I held onto the soft warm pup crying, as he looked at me and then his eyes glowed too, for a moment, like his father‘s. Then he said “Micro.”, in a soft little voice and licked the tears from my furry cheeks. I then moved him to the safety of the burrow, in the tree and we both fell into a deep sleep. I then dreamt that I was in a narrow pass in the hills, just on the other side of the ruins. There was a thick broken steel door and as I went through it, I found a passageway leading down. As I came to the end of it, I found another door and inside it was a large chamber. In the middle of it was a small silver starship with strange markings on it.

Then in my dream, I saw the male creature again and he said “I thought you might be interested in this place that I found while I was hunting. Please take care of our young son, Micro.” I then saw him and his mate together again and I experienced love, peace and happiness for the first time, in my existence. I said to them in my dream “I will take good care of him, for the both of you.” and then even the female, who I had killed myself, smiled at me. Then I heard a great howling, of many voices and they both joined in the song, as my soul leapt with joy. It was then that I suddenly realized I really did have a soul, somehow.

I then awoke with tears of joy, in my eyes and I looked over to find the little pup curled up beside me. By now it was morning and I knew, I would soon need to find us something to eat. “But what should I call you, I wonder?” I said to the pup, as he stretched and yawned, waking up. I sat there thinking about it for a moment, looking at him up and down. He then looked up at me with those beautiful iridescent eyes and the name Prism came into my head. “OK then, your name is now Prism, what do you think about it?” I said and he then jumped on me, pushing me down on the ground and began licking me profusely.

“I take that, as you like it.” I said, fending him off and getting up, brushing myself off. I checked my sore neck and found it to be healing nicely, although still a bit sensitive. I then took Prism to the riverbank and dove in to find some fish for us to eat. But by the time I had caught two fish and came ashore, he was already eating a small furry thing that he had caught. I looked at him and smiled saying “You’re already a great hunter, just like your father, eh Prism.” So I sat down beside him and ate my fish, wondering if the furry thing, Prism was eating, had babies too. I could see, killing things was going to be a bit more difficult and confusing for me, from now on.

I knew that I might be away from the river for some time, with Prism, while I searched for the pass and would need some provisions for the journey. So I placed my hands on some sand, along the shoreline and had my nanobots fashion it into a glass container, to put some water in. I then made a cap for it and a basket to carry it and some food in, out of vines and a piece of wood I found. I carried it to the river, to fill the container with water and then caught some more fish, putting them into the basket. I placed a locator beacon on Prism, in case we got separated during the search and I looked at him and said “OK let’s go find that ship, Prism.” I then started to find my way back to the ruins, with Prism following close behind me.

Like before, the area, around the ruin, was a dead zone and Prism kept very close to me, looking around nervously. “I know, I don’t much like this place ether. But your father came this way and so we have to, also.” I said and tried to comfort him. “At least there’s nothing here to eat us, at the moment.” I said confidently and then rechecked my scanner again. We trudged on and came at last to the other side of the ruin and I stopped to give Prism some water to drink and some fish to eat. As for me I could go for weeks without food or water and so saved them for him.

I scanned the area and soon found the narrow pass in the hills, I had been looking for. When Prism was finished, we made our way along the hillside towards the pass. By nightfall, we had come to the mouth of it and had to stop, as it was getting cold again. I got a fire going and Prism was amazed by it and tried to catch it, burning his forepaw. I chided him and then checked out his paw, finding it OK, just a little singed fur and then gave him some more water and fish. We then settled down for the night and went to sleep.

Later that night, my alarms went off and I discovered we were surrounded by many creatures. Prism growled, as a very large cat like creature approached us, apparently the leader. “I am in luck, I have two little morsels to feed my hunger, tonight. One is even a Cenchasy, like the one I killed yesterday, only smaller, maybe even his son perhaps.” he said malevolently, in another ancient language. I began tracking the other cats surrounding us while also, scanning the area for cover. As I found a small opening in the rocks, I looked around and said sternly “I don’t want to have to kill you all, so leave now. You’ve been fairly warned.” not expecting it to do much good, but hopefully, give me a little time.

They all laughed hardily and the leader approached me, slowly circling me and said wryly “So, am I supposed to be impressed by your talk, little one.” I looked at the leader and raised my right foreleg, saying “No, but maybe you’ll be impressed by this.” I then shot the ground near him, with my micro-blaster, as it popped up out of my foreleg. The leader jumped back and looked at the smoldering hole in the ground, narrowing his eyes, snarling menacingly. I took that opportunity to grab Prism and pushed him towards the opening that I had found. The leader came fast on our heels and I shot the ground at its feet again, causing him to stop, momentarily.

I then pushed Prism into the safety of the opening and turned, only to find the leader already on me. He hit me hard with his thick sharp clawed forepaw and I was thrown some distance away, hitting the ground hard. I grit my teeth from the pain and said angrily “That’s it, you leave me no alternative, but to fight you cat.” and I got up, blood dripping from my side and bared my titanium claws and teeth.” He came at me again, mouth open wide, as if to finish me, but this time I was ready for him and hit him first. I caught him by surprise, by jumping up high and slapping his muzzle hard, as it tried to bite me. My claws dug in, slicing his muzzle wide open and knocking his head clear to one side.

He then fell hard and rolled to my left and I quickly ran over and guarded the opening that Prism was hiding in. I could hear Prism whimpering and said angrily to the leader “Your scaring my pup, leave now and I will let you live.” He roared loudly at me and said “For that, I will swallow you whole and laugh, as I feel you suffer inside my stomach.” and he came quickly at me again. Still not wanting to kill him, I rolled to the left and dodge his massive claws, and he hit the rocks hard, behind me. It was then that Prism stuck his head out and bit the leader hard on his foreleg.

It roared in pain and raised its clawed paw to strike at Prism and I quickly kill him before he could strike, shooting him through his head with my micro-blaster. Tear welled up in my eyes, for having to do so and then there was silence for a moment. Then suddenly all the other cats quickly came at us and I had to kill more of them, with my micro-blaster set on auto blast, to keep them from harming Prism.

Quickly, their moral faltered and the rest of them ran away, into the hills, screeching in fear. I then fell to the ground in pain and grabbed my side, my medical system trying hard to keep me from passing out from blood loss. I then slowly crawled over to the dead leader, placing my hands on him. My nanobots then broke down his flesh, using it to stop the bleeding and repair my wounds. I laid there breathing weakly, falling in and out of consciousness, as my medical systems worked on me. Prism then came quickly over to me and licked my wounds and I suddenly began to feel my bio systems stabilizing and my head clearing.

I looked at him, for a moment, astonished and said weakly “Prism, how did you do that? “ But he just looked at me and smiled happily, wagging his tail and I then quickly scanned the surroundings. Thankfully, the rest of the cats were nowhere to be found. I looked back at Prism and said with a sigh “That sure was close Prism. It was so much easier when I could just kill them outright, without having to think twice about it. But I just can’t do that anymore.” I got up weakly to my feet and looked at the big cat, its head was huge and could have easily swallowed me whole, although it would have found me a bit hard to swallow.

I looked at Prism and said “So you’re a Cenchasy and he must have been the ones who killed your father.” Prism then began biting the creature, grabbing it, shaking his head side to side and fiercely growling. I pulled him off the dead cat and he looked at me, tears flowing from his eyes. “I know how you feel Prism, but its dead now and we need to move on to the steel door, for safety. “, I said, stroking and petting him, trying to calm him down. Then, torn and weary, I made my way, with Prism, down the pass scanning ahead for any more threats and was sure glad to find none now. I ate some of the fish and drank some water to regain my strength, as we moved ever closer to the steel door.

As the sun started to come up, I found the broken steel door in the side of the hill. I then stopped to rest and recharge a little, while examining the big steel door. It was made of a strange hard metal that I had not seen before and was definitely electromechanically driven. It had been blasted open partially, but was still mostly intact. Being small, Prism and I were able to slip right through the opening and went inside. I lit the area with my search light, finding an unlit control panel by the door and the passageway leading downward and proceeded to move down it very cautiously.

I began to sense a low power emission and low levels of electronic communications coming from down below and was on my guard. Places like this had security bots or worse, but the level of power was too low for any of that. I had my com systems monitor the signals and tried to translate the electronic language. I kept Prism behind me and raised my force field around us. As we move further down the passage, my shield was then hit by a small weak laser blast from a robotic unit behind a crate. “I mean you no harm.” I said and broadcast it also, using its own communication frequency and language.

I saw it raise its optical lenses and look at us, saying “You look like a wild animal, but you are protected by a very strong shields and you can speak and communicate with me. What are you?” “I am Micro-Chip, cybernetic unit HD-4771-X and I mean you no harm.” I said using machine protocol. It came out from hiding with its mechanical arms up and moved up to us. It was some sort of repair droid, with a modified laser pistol welded to its arm. “I am repair unit RU-372, also called Zaps by my former masters.

It then went silent, dropping its arms, as the lights along its front panel dimmed down and I sensed it’s power levels dropping off sharply. I then approached it cautiously and looked it over thoroughly, scanning it internal systems. I soon found a jack on its back panel and created a plug to interface with it, inside my right paw hand. I then extended it out of my paw hand and plugged it in, while guarding my systems from intrusion and scanning the plug for its uses.

I soon gained access to the Zaps robotic core systems and finding it completely safe and maybe even useful, began to recharge it‘s power systems, using some of my own backup power. It soon came back online and now knowing that I meant it no harm, allowed me to finish charging him. I communicated with Zaps through our link and found out that it was the main repair robot for the ship inside the hanger. This planet had been an outpost for its former masters and they, had long ago, come under attack by an unknown force. During the attack everyone, even the attackers had perished or left, leaving the ship and its equipment abandoned for hundreds of years.

The automated systems had kept things running for a long time, until the power systems had a massive failure. Now only a few systems remained partially online and sort of running. I knew then, I was going to have my hands full, just to get all the robotic units back online. I would also need to get the power systems back up and running fully, before I could even get to working on the installation, let alone the ship. I sighed and thought to myself “It’s not much, but at least it is better than nothing.”

I then unplugged from Zaps, the plug retreating back into my paw hand and made my way to the door, as he and Prism followed me. I stood on Prisms back and looked through the dirty window, in the door and saw the silver starship, not recognizing it type or even its class. Feeling my tummy rumbling, I asked “I’m going to need food for me and my pup, Zaps, are any of the food processor online still?” ,but could guess it’s answer. “No Micro, all food preparation units are offline and need to be cleaned thoroughly, before they can be used safely.” he said opening the door for me.

As the door slowly creaked and groaned opened, I said “How about transport vehicles, are there any working?” “There is a large solar powered vehicle that belonged to one of my former masters, that is still operational.” Zaps said and showed it to me, in the dim light of the hanger. It was a large, well made all-terrain vehicle and exactly what I needed “But how would I ever get it out of here with no power to any of the doors?” I thought to myself, but right next to it was a very small robotic scout unit, that looked like a little dump truck, with a big cargo bin, large enough for me and Prism to fit in. It could easily slip out of the broken door and quickly transport us back to the river. “What about this?” I said pointing to the unit.

“It’s works, but it has no way for you to control it externally, it’s only an automated unit.” Zaps said and I removed its maintenance cover and analyzed its internal construction. I found at last, what I was looking for, a small com port and then made a plug to match the port and plugged in. I quickly analyzed its simple control systems and quickly gained full control over it. I then tried it out, moving it around the hanger myself, with Prism chasing me and then finally found its control sensor frequency and deciphered its simple control codes. I then returned to Zap and unplugged from it, replacing its panel.

“I’m going to find us some more food and will be back as soon as I can, to help you fix up the place, Zaps.” I said helping Prism onto the scout unit‘s cargo bin. “I will await your return master and do what I can in the meantime.” Zaps said, as I then climbed in beside Prism, raising the small gold antenna from the top of my head and said “Hold on Prism.” I engaged the scout unit’s powerful motors and we were quickly out the broken door and into the sunlight.

It’s power systems and mine were soon charged to full, in the sunlight and I increased it‘s speed to maximum. Prism liked riding in the scout unit and waged his tail happily, while we both enjoyed ourselves, letting our tongues loll from our mouths, as the wind wiped by us. Before long, we were back at the riverbank and we jumped out, heading quickly to the river.

We both drank our fill of the clean fresh water, lapping it up quickly, having become parched, while breathing the dusty dry air of the hanger. I then jumped in the river and got us some fish and we ate our fill of that too. I then gathered some more water, berries and some more fish, as Prism slept in the scout unit and placed them in the storage compartments on it. I knew I would soon need to sleep myself and we found the old burrow and moved inside of it, leaving the unit outside. As night fell we nestle next to each other and we fell into a deep sleep.

Sometime in the night, I was awakened by the appearance of multiple creatures, outside our burrow and thinking to myself “Will I ever get a full night of sleep, on this planet.” To my relief, my sensors told me they were Cenchasy and I cautiously looked out and saw many of them. One noticed me and said “Their awake, come and see.” They all came and sat by the entrance and Prism moved up next to me, looking out, quizzically. The largest male Cenchasy among them said “Now, here stands the great warrior, who defeated Huzar while defending one of our own, from him.” He bowed low and then so did the rest of them.

“Word has come to us, on swift wings, of his death, the manor of his demise and who had killed him. So we have come to help you, most honored of Cenchasy and child, to aid and protect you while you slept and recovered your strength.” he said and motioned with his paw for us to join him. We both stepped out and I humbly said “But I’m not a Cenchasy, I’m just Micro, an otter... sort of.” He looked at me and smiled saying “You are Cenchasy in here warrior.” and touched my chest with his fore paw. “But I didn’t want to kill him, I only killed him and sadly the others too, to protect Prism from being killed.” I said lowering my head.

He placed his paw under my chin and raised my head saying “Sometimes, others give us no choice, little one.” He then leaned down and looked me right in the eyes and said “Huzar has hunted and killed many of the Cenchasy, including my own mate and her unborn young ones, without any though or concern, other than to wipe us out ruthlessly. Do not mourn his passing, little one.” He then sat back up and looked down at me. I looked back up at him sadly and said “But I do mourn for him, for I know how it is to be like that, I killed one of yours like that, his mother to be exact, without any concern. But something has changed in me and I can no longer kill, unless there is no other way.”

“That is the only way, warrior, to kill only when hunger drives us or to defend ourselves, our own or others from a cruel and merciless death. That is the Cenchasy way. Therefore… you are Cenchasy, Micro, for you have saved one of our own from death and killed he who would have viciously killed us all, if he could have. I would say you have paid your debt to us and so too, would his parents agree.” He said and bowed his head to me, the others bowed their heads as well.

Then an old female Cenchasy came up to me and touched me and began to say some words that I could not understand. My side and my neck glowed white and I began to sense that force called magic again, as I felt all pain in my body cease. My medical systems soon reported my body was completely healed. The old female removed her paw from me, tiredly and said “I have done what I could for your body. But your bones however, I cannot heal them, for they are unlike anything I have ever seen.”

“They are made of a very strong light weight metal and I can repair those myself, but thank you very much for healing me.” I said and then asked “That power you used just now called magic, I think, that is what caused these changes in me.” She placed her fore paw on my head and concentrated. Her eyes glowed brightly and she smiled and said “Magic yes, but not just any magic, a strong and very powerful wish was unleashed on you. Although, it’s true intent was to destroy you utterly, it instead set you free from your bonds, little one. You are now in full control of your own destiny, answering to no one. It also gave you a… soul… where there once was… none?!”

She removed her paw and looked at me puzzled and said “But how could that be? All living creatures have a soul.” I looked sadly at her and said “Because I was not born, my body was grown and then I was built like a machine, I have no mother or father. “, and I showed her my belly. She looked at it and exclaimed “You have no navel, little one!” I looked away and said “Yes, that’s right and I guess machines don’t get souls either.” She moved my head back around with her paw, for me to look at her, smiling and said “When the wish was spoken, the machine was, somehow, given a soul and you were then born. You are no longer, just a machine anymore, Micro.”

“So it is as I felt, I do have a soul and am no longer bound to my creator’s designs.” I said looking down, feeling unsure of myself and said “But what do I do now and where should I go.” She looked at me and smiled softly and said “As with us Cenchasy, you are free to do what you will and go where you want to go. The choice is yours now, little one and only you can decide your fate… but for now rest and be comforted. ” and with that a great weariness came upon me and I fell asleep.

I dreamt of me riding on Prism, across a beautiful plain. He was now full grown and strong and the bonds between us had grown and we were free. I awoke inside of the burrow feeling refreshed and alive, as I had never been since I was created. I saw Prism beside me asleep and already he seemed to be much larger. I checked my internal clock and found that it had been a week since I fell asleep. I jumped up and looked outside of the burrow and found everyone gone, except for a young male Cenchasy.

He looked at me and said “I see you are finally awake Micro. I am Flender and have been left here, to watch over you while you rested and healed.” I looked at him and said “Where have the others gone?” and looked around. “They have returned to their normal existence, moving south, for soon it will be winter and the cold winds will come.” Flender said shivering. “And what about you, where will you go, now that I’m awake?” I asked cocking my head and smiling, almost guessing his answer.

He raised his head high and puffed out his chest and said proudly “I will go with you and help you protect my little cousin.” I looked at him in the eyes and said “Are you sure, already I have had to fight off an entire group of… what do you call them?” He swallowed hard and said “Kagonny.” and then puffed his chest out again and said boldly “And yes I am sure, if you will accept me into your pack, I will defend you and my cousin, with my very life.”

I walked up to him and hugged him, with my forelegs saying “Well then Flender, welcome to my pack, as you call it. It will be nice to have someone to talk to and you can also help me teach Prism to speak your language and your ways.” He picked up a dead furry creature and laid it down in front of us and said energetically “I have already found you something to eat, this morning.” I looked at it, as Prism dug in hungrily and swallowed hard saying “Ah... no thank you, I will just go and get a fish or two from the river… but thank you for finding it for Prism.”

I made my way down to the river and jumped in and as I began to hunt for fish, something swam quickly past me. My sensor detected a life form, my size and it was moving closer again, slowly this time and it came up face to face with me. It was a small creature, not to unlike myself, but white furred and female, I realized somehow and it had a fish in its mouth. We surfaced and I looked into her beautiful sparkling blue eyes for the first time. She pushed the fish against my muzzle and I took it in my mouth, staring at her, mesmerized. She then let it go, smiled at me, and then disappeared below the surface.

I just floated there, the fish still in my mouth, stunned and could feel my heart pounding. Flender and Prism arrived on the riverbank and Flender called out to me “Micro, are you all right?” I touched my chest and said to myself “I’m not sure.” and swam back to Flender and Prism. I got out and sat down on the shore, the fish still in my mouth, looking out on the flowing water. Flender came up to me and said “Micro?” He had to say this a number of times, before I finally turned to look at him, the fish still in my mouth.

I tried to talk and suddenly realized, that the fish was still in my mouth and removed it saying, as if in a dream “I saw something very beautiful in the river just now. It gave me this fish and swam off.” Flender looked out on the water and said “It must be a Slendarrie, they are kind of like you, but are white furred with black stripes down their back, very long thick prehensile tails and long black tufts on their pointed ears. We don’t usually mess with them, for they are hard to catch in the open, staying mostly to the riverbank and in the river, for safety.”

“Slendarrie eh, well I need to find her, watch Prism for me.” I then got up and jumped back into the river and looked for her everywhere. After I had been searching for a while, a huge fish suddenly darted out of a hole, in the side of the riverbank. It came at me, open mouthed to catch me, with its long sharp teeth. I grabbed its jaws with my paw hands, before it could bite down and held them open. It began to thrash about wildly, trying to free itself, as I held on for dear life. Then out of nowhere, she came and attacked the huge fish, clawing and biting at it fiercely. The fish trashed about wildly trying to defend itself from her attach, while trying to bite down on me.

I place my hind paws onto its lower jaw and then forced its mouth open wide, until I heard it snap and then it stopped moving. I then pulled it to the surface and dragged its large body ashore, as she came up behind me. She looked me over thoroughly and began sniffing at me, every part of me and then looked at me quizzically. She then moved in front of me and then said “Smells like a male Slendarrie, but looks not like a Slendarrie.” She cocked her head and looked at my micro-viewer, sniffing at it and said “And what has happened to you eye?”

I gazed at her soft beautiful body, beginning to feel a strange warmth inside me and then I said “I’m an otter a… at least most of me is. I am called Micro-Chip, and what are you called beautiful one.” She lowered her head shyly and blushed saying “Kitarna, I…I’m called.” I put my fore paw under her chin and lifted her head and said “Such a wonderful name for a lovely Slendarrie. “, and I looked into her beautiful blue eyes once more.

She smiled and then turned, walking over to the huge fish, touching it with her paw hand and then turned back to look at me saying “It should have killed you, Micro, but your very strong for a Slendarrie, or even an otter, I think.” I looked down sadly and said “It’s because I’m also part machine.” She came up to me and said softly,” Whatever you are, your heart beats fiercely for me, Micro.” and she nuzzled against my chest. I closed my eyes and began to breathe heavily and said “I… I’ve never felt anything like this… warm feeling, that I feel inside me every time I look at… your beautiful body, Kitarna and I don‘t know… what to do next.“

She moved slowly down the side of my body, rubbing her warm soft sleek furred body against mine, saying “I’m sure you’ll think of something, Micro. “, and then ran the length her long thick tail under my nose, as she slowly lifted it. I then felt something stir between my legs, as I sniffed her sweet scented tail. My body then moved, seemingly on its own, as I mounted her and began to mate with her gently. Time seemed to stop, as we continued to pleasure each other‘s body, becoming more sexually excited with each passing moment. I began feeling euphoric, as I felt a deep love for her burning inside me.

We climax many times, before we finally had to stop, both of us physically exhausted. She then laid down in the grass, as I laid gently on top of her, both of us panting heavily. When we finally started to relax, I nuzzled her neck, as she laid there beneath me, contentedly humming a strange song to herself. She laid her head down in the grass and closed her eyes, sighing and said “Oh Micro, you have made me so very happy.” I held onto her with my forelegs and nuzzled her neck, saying “I think I… love?… you, Kitarna. Yes, that‘s the word.” and nuzzled into her soft fur, happily, feeling very warm inside.

I gently slipped off of her, when I noticed it was getting very dark and then suddenly thought of Flender and Prism. “Oh no… I hope their alright!” I said and quickly jumped into the river. Kitarna cried out desperately to me “Micro, where are you going?! “, as I swan away quickly, back to where I had lift them. But they were nowhere in sight and I called out desperately to them, but got no response. So I quickly ran back to the burrow and thankfully found them resting inside it. I came up to the burrow, breathing heavy and stood there holding onto the side of the entrance.

When Flender saw me he got up and said angrily “Where have you been, we have been looking everywhere for you, all day, and I thought you were dead.” I sat up on my hind legs and lowered my head in shame, then he looked at me curiously and sniffed me all over, then sniffed down between my hind legs, and sat up smiling saying “Ah ha, you found the Slendarrie female, I see. Well then, my friend, all is forgiven.” and he winked at me knowingly. I looked at him and shook my head and said “No, you’re right to be angry, I should not have run off like that. What if something happened to you or Prism, I would never forgive myself.”

“I promised his parents that I would watch over Prism and take good care of him and I mean to do just that. I will not seek her again. “, I said firmly. He looked up over me and smiled saying “I don’t think you will have to… look.” and as I turned around to see, I came nose to nose with Kitarna and she licked me on the nose and said “You think you are going to get rid of me that easily, Micro-Chip, now that I found you my love.” I then nuzzled her back lovingly and said “You won’t mind my friend here and my adopted son?” pointing to Flender and then to Prism. She looked at them wryly and then back at me and said “Not if they behave themselves.”

Flender then bowed and said “I would just as likely gnaw all my legs off, as hurt a lovely lady, such as you.” She blushed and then went up to Prism and sat up on her hind legs. Flender and me tense up a bit, but she just nuzzled into him and he nuzzled her back and then he nuzzled her tummy and said “You a mommy! “ She looked at him shocked, realizing what he was trying to say and then looked over at me and said “But how could that be… you’re not a Slendarrie.” and I came over and scanned her womb and sure enough, she was pregnant.

“It’s true, you are pregnant, but I don’t…..” I started to continue, but was jumped on, by Kitarna and kissed profusely. “I love you, I love you, I love you, Micro-Chip.” she said and I rolled over onto her and said “I love you too Kitarna.” and then I kissed her. Flender smiled and then looked away politely, as we rolled and played with each other, lovingly, on the ground. I then got up off of her, smiling and helped her up onto her hind paws, nuzzling her and we all then went into the burrow. We talked and ate a while and then settled in for the night. Kitarna and Prism snuggling up against me and Flender laid around us all for warmth, as the night air grew very cold.

Chapter 2-The Storm

This time, I dreamt of a very cold icy winter, with thick mounds of snow covering everything in sight and I somehow realized it would very soon be here. When I awoke, Kitarna was lying asleep next to me and I got up knowing I had to get that installation repaired and soon, to keep us from freezing to death. I then got everyone up and said “Everyone, we need to travel to the other side of the ruin, to a place I know. A very cold winter is coming soon and I need to prepare a place for us to keep warm, during it.” I then cleaned out the smelly scout unit, since the food I had placed there a week ago had all went bad. I then resupplied it, with fresh fish, meat, berries and water for the journey.

We then headed out and Kitarna loved riding in the scout unit as much as Prism did. Flender followed, running beside us and amazingly enough, keeping up with us. By midday, we came to the broken door and slipped inside. We were met by Zaps and my friends kept behind me, except for Prism who sat down beside me. Zaps looked much better now and I could tell his power output was much higher. “Micro, you have returned and I thought you might have been killed out there. I have lost, more than one master before, you know.” He said and led the way.

There was much more activity now than before, as various druids, robots and repair units were scooting about moving and fixing things. The lights in the hanger were also working now and I tapped Zaps on his mechanical shoulder and said “I see you have been very busy, while I was gone.” “Yes Micro, I gave some of the energy, that you gave me, to other repair units and had them start repairing the power unit, it is now up to forty nine percent and rising.” He said.

“What is the state of repairs on the food processors, water units and climate control?” I said and looked back at my clan mates. “The food processor is being cleaned and will soon be refilled, as the food canisters still tested ok. The water purifiers are back online and tested safe, but the climate control is still down, until the power unit is back up to full capacity.” I looked at Zaps and said “Good work, but it’ not enough. My mates will have to keep warm tonight, so we might have to start a fire, please don’t sound the fire alarm or put it out.”

“I understand master. “ He said and I looked at my clan mates, who were looking around in amazement and said “I need to get my clan mates settled in and then I will be joining in on the repairs with you shortly.” I then went over to my mates gathering some broken wooden crates and broke them up for fire wood. I then started a fire and said “I will be helping them with the repairs for a while, so sit here and make yourself comfortable and keep warm, till I get back.”

I then kissed Kitarna and nuzzled Prism saying “I have to leave a little while to help fix this place up for us to live in.” They both nuzzled me and Kitarna said “I’ll miss you my love, be safe and hurry back to me.” I then looked at Flender and said “Keep a eye on them both for me my friend. I hope to have this place warm and cozy in no time.” He nuzzled me and said “You got it Micro and be safe in there yourself and watch these things I don’t trust them.” I nodded and then went back to join Zaps. I looked at him and said “Now let’s get some work done shall we.” and Zaps lead me to the room where the mainframe computer was housed and I sat down at the main console.

I then plugged in, linking myself into the mainframe and found it to be old but very efficient, reliable and helpful to me. I then got a status on all systems and gained access to all maintenance information. I then linked up with all the maintenance units available, through the mainframe, to coordinate repairs on the power unit. Soon systems were coming back online everywhere, as the power unit was quickly repaired and came back online fully. The lights came up to full intensity in the hanger and the climate control came online, warming up the place.

I sent repair robots and units to repair the main door, as it would be need to be close for the long winter. I then made ready an area of the hanger, to be used as living quarters for my clan mates and me, until the main facility could be cleaned up and repaired. I then went down to see how my mates were doing and found them playing with each other. They saw me and all ran up to me, bowling me over and piling on me nuzzling and cuddling me.

Kitarna kissed me and said “Micro, I have missed you so these several long lonely weeks. These robots things have been bring us stuff to eat and drink and also a machine to keep us warm, but they would only say that you were well.” I looked at her and nuzzled her saying “I’m sorry Kitarna, but I got caught up in the repairs. I had not even realized it had been so long. But now I have a place for us to live and keep warm in during the long winter. Come on, let me show you our new living quarters.” They followed me thru the mass of moving repair units and then came to a small building built on one side of the hanger.

I brought them inside our new living quarters and they looked around in amazement. The main living room was spacious with several soft cushions to sit on, a few low tables to eat at and an entertainment center built into the wall. Off to the right was our sleeping quarters with soft low beds and cushions to sleep on. Straight ahead from the living room was the dining / kitchen area, which contained four cushions, a long low table and a water trough that stayed filled with clean water. It also contained the food storage and a few food processors, which I had modified for them to use. I then had the food processors make a couple of simulated steaks for Flender and Prism and a large pile of fish cakes for Kitarna and me. We then sat on the soft mats and happily ate together.

When we were finished, I showed them the large bathroom / bathing area, to the left of the sleeping area and taught them how to use the toilets, adapted for their use. Then I showed them the shower area and the large ground level whirlpool, also modified for them and taught them how to use them also. I then ran water into the whirlpool and said to Kitarna smiling “Care to try it out with me, Kitarna. “, and we climbed in and cuddled together in the warm soothing water. Flender looked at Kitarna and me, smiling and then said “I think me and Prism will just go over there and use the shower instead.”

He then stood up and pushed Prism with him to the shower as Kitarna said “He’s just trying to give us some time together, I like him and Prism a lot.” I kissed her and nuzzled her saying “I do too and I missed you all very much, while I worked, but I had to get things running and us settled in before this cold winter comes.” She looked at me and cocked her head, smiling at me and said “You’re quite a good leader, I could not have chosen a better mate, Micro.” She then wrapped her tail around us and kissed me. She then laid back in the warm water on her back, pulling me down on top of her.

I felt myself getting hard quickly and slipped into her warmth, beginning to make love to her, as the warm water splashed all around us. I could see Flender and Prism peeking out of the shower curtain smiling at us, but pretended not to notice. Never in my life have I felt so alive, as when we made love together. We took it slow this time, enjoying each other’s body as we moved slowly and lovingly towards our climaxes. She climaxed several times before, not being able to hold back mine any longer, I pushed deep into her and climaxed, as I looked into her beautiful blue eyes.

She nuzzled me and said smiling “Gods know, I love you so very much, my handsome and perfect otter love machine.” We then heard whistles and howls, as Flender and Prism came out of the shower, tongues lolling and smiling broadly. Kitarna looked at them, blushing and then looked back at me and said huffily “And then there are times, when I want to kill them both.” I nuzzled her and said “Don’t let them bother you my love, as long as we are always together.” She nuzzled me back and said “You’re right, Micro, we are all family now and I might as well get used to it.”

She removed her tail from around us and I then slipped out of her and sat up in the water. I looked at Flender and Prism saying sternly “You two need to behave yourselves, Kitarna and me need to have time to ourselves. And Flender, we really need to find you a mate before winter comes… your showing.” and I pointed down under him. He looked down between his legs and it was his turn to blush. Kitarna looked also and blushed exclaiming “Oh my gods!!” Flender quickly fled back into the shower and Prism came up to us, giggling and said “Flender very funny.”

Prism looked down happily at us, in the whirlpool and said “Daddy loves mommy lots.” and we both hugged him and I said “And we both love you too Prism.” and Kitarna blushing added quickly “But not like we were doing in here.” and pointed in the whirlpool. Prism nuzzled Kitarna, giggling and said “I know that, me not your mate, mommy.” It was obvious to me that Flender was doing a great job, teaching Prism to talk. We then got out of the whirlpool and dried off and then went into the bedroom and laid down together with Prism.

We were joined sometime later by Flender, who seemed much better now, that he had a nice long shower. He laid next to us feeling embarrassed and said to Kitarna “I’m sorry Kitarna, I should not have been watched you two making love, but I just could not help myself. You two love each other with such fiery passion, that it makes me warm inside to watch you.” I grinned wryly and said “Maybe a bit to warm, eh Flender.” and Kitarna popped the back of my head and said “Micro now it’s your turn to behave yourself.” We then all laughed and settled in for the night, snuggling together.

The next day I got a report of a huge winter storm heading our way and ordered the main door shut. I looked at Kitarna and said “Will all the Slendarrie be ok, you think?” She nodded and said “I think so, my kind are used to cold weather of this kind and will be digging in for this winter storm.” I then had all our transports equipped with skis and snow treads and every piece of our medical equipment that could be found, including the automed-units, made ready. We then made the large all-terrain vehicle ready to make a final sweep of the surrounding area.

As Flender and I headed out with Zaps at the wheel, the wind was already shaking the ATV. We made a sweep of the hills, then the forest and then all along the river, but nothing was stirring. Suddenly the winds grew more intense and it grew very cold, luckily the ATV’s heaters were working wonderfully. We started to make our way back to the ruins, when suddenly, I picked up a weak life form reading, almost dismissing it as noise. The snow started to fall heavily and I almost decided to leave, but something about it made me recheck it, boosting my sensors sensitivity and using my medical program.

I realized that the signal was waning quickly and something out there was about to die, if I didn‘t hurry. I guided Zaps quickly to the location, finding a fallen tree and as I jumped out and ran to the tree, I discovered an unconscious Kagonny buried under it. Flender saw it and growled fiercely, but I held my hand up and he stopped, looking at me puzzled. I scanned it and realized that it must had been trapped out here for hours in the extreme cold, as it was suffering from hypothermia. I started cutting the wood with the laser cutter in my left foreleg, trying to free it. Flender snarled and said “Why are you doing this, Micro, it a Kagonny, let it die.” I looked at him angrily and snapped back at him “It has as much right to live, as you or I, so help me or go back to the ATV and baste in your hatred.” and I continued to free the Kagonny.

He hesitated, but a moment and then began to help me remove the larger pieces of wood, dragging them out with his teeth. As soon as we had cleared the branches covering it, I began to examine it, taking great care not to move it yet. I sent a message to Zaps to bring me thermal heat blanket, the medical kit and a stretcher. I found a few broken bones and some internal injuries, but the hyperthermia was the most urgent thing that needed to be treated immediately. Zaps soon showed up bringing the things I needed and I quickly went to work on it, as the cold wind wiped around us.

I injected a blood warming agent into its bloodstream and laid out the thermal blanket. I then got Flender to help me gently pull the Kagonny into it, as he grumbled about the smell of it. I energized the blanket and then had Zaps help me lift the Kagonny into the stretcher. Flender was amazed, by me lifting its heavy body off the ground and into the stretcher saying “How can you lift that heavy Kagonny like that Micro.” I pointed to Zaps, as he started to pull the stretcher back to the ATV and said “Because inside, I am like him, a machine.” He looked at me confused and said “But your warm and alive and not at all like him.” Zaps looked at me and then back at Flender and said “Because he is also like you inside too.”

We placed the stretcher inside the ATV, as the snow began to fall harder and the wind blew stronger. Zaps then started to drive us back slowly, as I worked urgently on the Kagonny. I found out it was a young female about four seasons old. It was covered in soft thick white fur with black spots and black markings running down her back, the tips of her ears and the tips of her tail. Flender looked at her and said “She’s not from around here, most Kagonny around here are gray, yellow, red or tan.” I set her broken bones and placed mender units on them saying “Well where ever she’s from, we need to get her back to the installation quickly.”

As we moved slowly home, the wind buffeted the ATV hard and she moaned and stirred. I checked her out and her vital signs were quickly improving, but she wasn’t out of it yet. Her eyes fluttered, opened slowly and then open wide with fright, as she saw Flender. She began to quake and shrunk away from him, but I calmed her saying “Please don’t move, you have been injured badly and may hurt yourself more. We are here to help you, so don‘t be afraid.” She looked at me quizzically and then said “But his kind tried to kill me last night, as I wondered lost and alone thru the cold woods. Then a great winds wiped up strong and blew a big tree down on me and they left me for dead, laughing at me, as they walked away.”

I translated what she said and Flender lowered his head in shame saying “That wasn’t right, they should not have attacked her unprovoked and to laugh at a fallen foe is unheard of. They must have been rogue Cenchasy.” I then translated what he said back to her and she calmed and nodded back to him. I looked at her and said “What is your name and where are you from?” She starting to cry and said “I’m Sazzy, part of a northern Kagonny tribe. A huge winter storm came up from out of nowhere and separated a group of us from our clan. We lost our bearings in the storm and wandered lost for days, freezing half to death. The cold harsh winds began to slowly take them all one by one, until I was left all alone.”

She started to cry and laid back down sobbing deeply. I looked at Flender and translated what she had said and then said to Flender “I have to help Zaps, keep us on course. Look… I know how you feel about her kind and I understand. But could you please put that aside for now and watch her for me, she doesn’t need to be alone right now.” He looked at her sadly, tears starting to flow from his eyes and nodded saying “Sorry Micro, I was behaving like those rough Cenchasy back there, please forgive me. “ He then moved next to her and nuzzled her tenderly. She looked up at him in surprise, tears flowing down her cheeks and then nuzzled into his chest, cuddling into him.

Zaps was only slightly off track and I quickly got us back on track and soon found the vehicle entrance to our base. I sent the security code for the vehicle doors and they opened, letting us inside. Kitarna and Prism were there to meet us, as we got out of the ATV and then stopped, as we removed Sassy from it. They followed us, concerned, as with the help of some med bots, we quickly moved Sassy to the infirmary and place her in an automed-unit.

She soon was sleeping comfortably, as the automed began to work on her body. Flender sat by her, as she slept and said “I’ll stay by her, should she awaken, she should not be alone in a strange place like this, like you said, Micro.” I then smiled at him and put a translator around his neck and showed him how to use it. “I think you have learned much today my young friend, and thank you for the help.” He nodded and then sat there looking at Sassy sadly and said “I hope she will be ok.” I patted him on the shoulder and said “She’ll be fine with you to watch over her.”

I then turned to hug Kitarna and Prism and then Kitarna said “I’m so glad your back, this storm is getting much worse and I’m sure glad we’re in here. I just hope my people are ok, I’ve never seen anything like this storm before. If feels all wrong Micro and I’m afraid.” I looked into her blue eyes and saw genuine fear in them. I hugged her tightly and said “I’ll look into this and see what I can do if anything.” and we went back to our living quarters and then I suddenly fell asleep by her, totally exhausted.

I was suddenly back at the ruin, but they were whole again and seemed to be some sort of magical stone tower. I was surrounded by many mages, the greatest of these was a powerful grand mage that I was there to kill. The other mages held off barrages of my blaster bolts, while trying to hit me with their magical bolts of energy, as he cast his most powerful spell on me. My shields protected me from the bolts, easily absorbed them, but not the spell itself. I then moved out of my body and watched, as the spell’s magical energy tried to touch my body. I then somehow felt a great disturbance in time and space.

The spells magical energy then began to flow around my body instead, gaining momentum and glowing brighter and brighter. It then blasted back at them, killing everyone around my body, including the grand mage himself. My body glowed brightly for a moment and then went limp and it fell down a large well that I had been standing on. Then there was a large explosion caused by the time space disturbance that blasting everything around, including the well, the tower and the dead bodies, to smoldering rubble and ash.

I then seemed to be floating up into space, looking down at the planet and noticed the blast covering the whole planet. A great storm then formed in the northern region and began to slowly cover the planet, until no life existed at all on it. I suddenly realized this would soon happen and that I was the cause of this storm. I knew then, I needed to get back to the sight of the blast, before it was too late. All that I loved, Kitarna, Prism and my beloved friend Flender would be no more and all life on the planet itself would cease, because of me.

I suddenly awoke and felt Kitarna sleeping by my side and Prism cuddled up beside her and wept, knowing what I had to do. I got up quietly, as not to disturb them and went out of our quarters. I then quickly went to the big steel door and opened it, overriding the security codes, so as not to set off any alarms. The icy winds wiped at my little body, as I began to fight my way out into the deep bitter cold snow, closing the door behind me and saying “Good-by my loved ones, I do this to right a wrong and save all that is precious to me.” I then moved out on all fours and quickly ran to the ruin, boosting my endurance and speed, but the cold winds slashed through my body and it soon became numb.

My medical systems fought hard to keep my body going, but was slowly losing the battle. I then began to hallucinate or so I thought, as I saw many Cenchasy running with me and it gave me strength. But I soon was slowed to a crawl, as the very winds themselves seemed to start fighting me for every step. I began to weaken and started to cry, knowing I had fail my loved ones, my tears freezing on my cold wet face, as I fell down into the bitter cold snow. I then heard a familiar voice say “let me carry you Micro, most honored of Cenchasy.” and Prism’s father picked me up on his back and carried me the rest of the way. I soon found myself at the center of the ruin once more and the winds suddenly stopped. I again saw my enemies once more, with the grand mage at their lead, standing there before me.

This time I would not fight them, even if I could and would instead let them kill me, as it should have been. My systems were quickly failing and I slowly staggered up to the grand mage and fell at his feet. I grabbing him by his feet and cried out mournfully “Please, I beg of you kill me, enslave me or do what you will to me, but stop this storm from destroying the ones I love and their world!” The grand mage smiled at me, bending down and picking me up, hugging me, to my surprise and said “This storm was caused by my anger, at not having destroyed you, before my death, Micro-chip and can only be stopped by your death. But I see that my wish has done a wondrous and totally unlooked for thing.”

He then held me up, turning me around to look at the multitude of Cenchasy souls sitting there. The snow covered land was covered with them and they began to howl, singing together and I saw Prism’s father and mother, in the forefront. The grand mage said “They are all here in your defense. Never before have I witnessed so many souls pleading for the life of one living soul and I unwittingly created that living soul. But I must now test it and see if it is worthy of life, to save your world.” He then set me down gently and handed me a strange looking dagger and said “I ask you now, Micro-Chip will you give up your life for those you love and so save their world. If so plunge that dagger into your own heart now and show me your love for them.”

I cried knowing that I would never see my lovely Kitarna, beloved son Prism, best friend Flender or even Sazzy ever again and placed the dagger’s cold steel blade to my chest, for all of them. My systems then totally failed, my micro-viewer winking out and I plunged the dagger deep into my beating heart and seemed to fall forever. I could feel my life ebbing away onto the cold snow covered ground, as my last thoughts were of the ones I loved dearly and then all went white and then there was complete and utter darkness once more.

I suddenly opened my eyes and found myself in my bed with my forepaw around Kitarna’s warm soft body and Prism cuddled up against my back. I laid there, tears streaming down my face and wondered if it had all been just a dream. But I soon got a report that the storm was quickly dissipating and I touched the spot where I plunged the dagger, but found no marks. I checked my recorded data and found out everything I had experienced, had really happened to me. Everything was recorded, up to and including the time of my total system failure. But there was nothing about what had happened afterwards, until my systems came online and I awoke here.

“How did I get back here, and why is my body in perfect health and working condition, as if nothing had ever happened to me. I then heard the grand mage’s voice in my head saying “Because the dagger was magical, killing you and stopping the storm. It then transported your body, at the same time restoring it fully, at the place your soul wished to go the most. Go in peace, Micro-Chip, you are truly a worthy soul and may we meet again someday as friends.”

I then began kissing Kitarna profusely, until she finally awoke and said “What’s wrong Micro, what happened, why are you crying? “ I hugged her and said “Nothing is wrong my love, as long as I have you and Prism by my side. I love you both with all my heart.” and then I rolled over and nuzzled into Prism. He looked at me, tears in his eyes and said “I love you so very much daddy. Please don‘t ever leave me again.” I hugged him and held him tightly, realizing he had somehow felt my death and said “I will always be with you Prism, in here.” and touched his chest with my paw hand.

Chapter 3-Life after Death.

The weather returned to its normal winter pattern and the next day I headed out with Kitarna and Prism, in the ATV to check on her family, while Flender continued to sit with Sassy to keep her company. This time I drove the ATV, sitting in a modified child’s restraint seat, to see over the dashboard and controlling it by link, using the jack that I built into the seat and using my sensors to find my way. We stopped by the river and headed out on foot leaving the ATV parked by it. She called out to them, making a high pitched chirring sound, as we walked. I began to detect several small life forms approaching, but saw none and then realized they were underground.

Suddenly, a white furred head popped up out of the snow covered ground and then another and another. Kitarna then ran to them and nuzzled them all, as they came up out of the ground. I stood there watching them, from a distance with Prism sitting by me, as they talked and laughed. The two biggest adults, an older male and an older female, were apparently her parents, the other, a younger adult male, was her brother. They were followed, by several small Slendarrie pups, two males and three females and Kitarna was mobbed by them all.

Kitarna’s mother smiled at her and whispered something to her, as she got to her feet and then pointed at her belly. Kitarna blushed rubbing it and pointed at me and her mother stared at me quizzically, and I swallowed hard. They both came up to me, followed slowly by her father and brother, while the little ones ran up and started playing with Prism. Kitarna’s mother then looked me up and down and then sniffed at me and said “He smells like a one of us but he sure doesn’t look like one of us at all. How could he possibly be the father of your young?”

“I’m an Otter and we must be closely related enough to the Slendarrie to be able to mate with them.” I said and she looked me in the eye and said “Never heard of an Otter before, where are you from anyway?” I looked nervously at Kitarna and said “I’m… from… another… world.” Kitarna stood between us and said “What does it matter anyway, he is my mate now and I chose him to be so. He is the father of my future children and we love each other very much.” Her father just glared at me and her brother seemed more interested in the Prism and the pups playing. I just slipped away quietly, as Kitarna and her mother started to argue.

I went over and watched Prism playing gently with the Slendarrie pup. Her brother came over to me and said “Hi, I’m Manx, don’t let them bother you Kitarna and mom always get into it, like that.” I looked at him and smiled saying “I’m Micro, pleased to meet you and I’m just a little uncomfortable with the fact, that it is me they are arguing about. But it doesn‘t seem to bother you that I‘m different.” He looked at the pups playing with Prism and said “Heck no, this is the most exciting thing that has happened here in a long time.”

Suddenly out of nowhere, I detected a large power source and turned to see a large spiderbot, lifting up out of the snow, where it must have been hiding and it moved towards me. I raised my shields, as Manx ran to their burrow with the others and shot at it, with my micro-blaster, striking it‘s shield, but not penetrating it. Kitarna’s family dragged her down into their hole along with Prism.

It shot several blaster bolt at me and they hit my shields, dissipating harmlessly, barely scratching them. I returned fire, my blaster set on auto blast, hitting its shields repeatedly in one spot, until finally penetrating it, striking one of its legs at its base and crippling it. It then tried to hit me again with its blaster, but missed stumbling and then jumped towards me, striking at me with its sharp forelegs.

It missed with one, striking the ground harmlessly, but the other would have hit me in the head, had I not grabbed it, stopping it from coming down. Its motors whined, as it tried to force the sharp point down into my head, but I held firmly. I then moved out of the way and let go of it and it struck the ground hard becoming stuck. Being now very close to it, I shot my micro blaster point blank into its optical sensors completely blinding it. It began to send a coded signal, as it struck wildly, in all directions and I quickly monitored it and recorded it for future analyses.

When the signal was sent, a red light lit up in its front panel, beginning to blink quickly and I then detected a power surge and quickly ran, as the spiderbot exploded, throwing me some distance away. I stood up and felt a sharp pain in my side and looked down discovering one of the bots sharp metal leg tips sticking through my side. Kitarna and her family ran up to me and Kitarna exclaimed “Oh my gods, Micro your hurt!”

I looked around anxiously and said “Where is Prism?” and to my relief he came up to me unharmed and said “I fine daddy, but you hurt bad.” I’m alright son. It didn’t hit anything vital, I just need to get back to the ATV.” Her father looked at me strangely and then said angrily “What are you anyway? We would have never been able to stand up to one of those robot machine things and live, let alone destroy one. And now you stand there with a large piece of metal sticking through you and acting like it’s just a splinter. Your one of them aren’t you, you’re a machine.”

I looked at him sadly and said “Yes it’s true, I am part machine, but I’m also warm and alive, just like you and as you can see I’m defiantly not on their side, I‘m on yours.” Kitarna then helped me and we turned and walked to the ATV, with Prism close behind, leaving her family behind. I thought to myself, as we walked “I wondered where that spiderbot came from?” I had come across ones just like it before, I was sure, but just could not remember. They are mostly used for reconnaissance and never attacked unless attacked first. “Unless… it was ordered to do so in order to verify its target, while getting pictures.” I said to myself and began to feel a great dread.

Once I got to the ATV, I had my nanobots break down the fragment slowly and store it for future use, as I stitched up the wounds, until my medical systems could mend it. Kitarna sat by me, silently for a moment, as I worked on myself and then said sadly “Micro, I’m sorry about how my parents reacted to you. Various machines have been popping up everywhere stealing the young ones of every kind. So daddy is a bit on edge and sensitive about anything like them. So please forgive him.”

I sighed and said “I have already, but you know, before I was changed, I was very much like that spiderbot doing whatever my master ordered me to do. I had no feelings, no heart, no soul, just a machine doing unspeakable things, simply because my master ordered me to do so. But then I was given feelings, a heart and a soul and was also given my freedom to choose right from wrong, all because of a wonderful magical accident. But sometimes I still feel out of place, just another cold machine.”

But then, I remember Prism, how we met and how much we love each other, the Cenchasy, who excepted me, as one of their own and my adventure seeking friend Flender. But the greatest thing that ever happened to me, since the change, was finding you in this very river. You give me so much love and tenderness, that it make me feel so alive and warm all over, feelings that no mere cold machine could even feel. That’s how I know I’m alive now and have a soul, I only wish I could make others understand that. I’m not a machine anymore, Kitarna.” I then hugged her and nuzzled into her crying saying “I‘m not… just a machine anymore.”

“I know that my love and I knew that, when I first laid eyes on you, Micro. I knew there was something different about you, but I also could feel somehow, you needed me and felt too, that I needed you as well. We have made, the new lives inside me now, together with our love. I will love you always, with all my heart, no matter what others think of you, even my parents.” she hugged me, nuzzling into me and Prism nuzzled into me also, saying “Daddy not a machine. “ and they both cuddled me.

Then I sensed, her parents coming up to the ATV and said “Kitarna, your parents… their here.” As she looked out of the window, as they tapped on the side of the ATV. I opened the door, sitting back in my seat and said “Welcome, come on in, its safe and warm inside.” They looked around inside, as they climbed in and then her father said “It’s almost bigger than our whole burrow and it moves around.” and then he cleared his throat and stood up proud saying “I know when I am wrong and am not afraid to admit it, I’m very sorry Micro. Your strong, a good protector, a good provider and Kitarna seems to loves you very much. Also, whether I like it or not, you are going to be the father of my grand babies, so welcome to our family, Micro.”

He then offered his paw hand in friendship and I shook it, saying “Thank you, I know I’m not exactly what you expected Kitarna to become mates with, but I will love and take care of her and our pups. “ He looked around and said “Well if this is any example of the kinds of things you can provide her, then she’s in very good hands.” I sat back and looked at him for a moment and said “I was wonder, how long have these spiderbots been taking the young ones.”

He though a moment and then said “Not them, but other kinds of robot machines have been doing this for four seasons, as far as I know, but they have not attacked here for some time. These Spiderbot things, you call them, are new, I haven’t seen them before, until now.” I sat back feeling troubled and played the message again and again looking for something to tell me who it might have been sending it to. “Could my former master possibly be looking for me?” I thought to myself and then shivered at the thought.

Kitarna looked at me troubled saying “What’s wrong Micro?” I looked at her and her family and said “We are all family now right, so I’m going to be upfront with you all. You need to know some things about my past before the change, at least what I can remember.” and they nodded. I then continued, telling them all I could remember about my past and even about what happened at the ruin both times. I then sat back and said “I am a very valuable piece of equipment to my former master a he may be using these spiderbots to try to find me and get me back. But I won’t go back to being their tool.”

Kitarna’s father said “I remember seeing a pod thing, like you described at the bottom of the river, close to where the stone tower use to be. I found it a few days ago, while searching for fish around there. It might be what you’re looking for. I don‘t know what we can do for you, but we’re with you, Micro.” I nodded and said “You have helped me greatly already, by accepting me into your family. But I don’t think this is related to the other robots taking the young ones. I will have to look into that one too. Now, how about a test drive to go and find the pod.”

They looked at each other and then nodded at me. Kitarna looked at them surprised and said What about the pups?” Her mother looked at her and said “They will be safe with your brother, he always wants to prove himself to us. So let’s see what this thing can do.” So I strapped myself in and proceeded to follow her father’s directions. As I drove I asked “By the way what do I call you beside mom and dad.” Kitarna looked embarrassed and said “That’s right, we never got around to introductions. This is my father, Vezick and my mother Keeta. Mom and dad this is Micro-Chip my beloved.”

We continued moving carefully down the river, as I scanned ahead for threats. Vezick and Keeta looked out the windows in amazement, as Kitarna watched them in amusement. She looked over at me and whispered “They’re both acting like pups, I never seen them like this before. I smiled, but at the same time signaled Zaps and he answered “Yes master, what may I do for you?” I used my internal voice synthesizer to talk to Zaps, while also talking to Kitarna with my real voice, so as not to alarm anyone and said “Zaps I need you to lock the installation down. There may be a threat and I don’t want anything getting in there.” “Yes master, right away.” Zaps replied.

I sent him a picture and a scan image of the spiderbots and said “One of these attacked me today, by the river and I think my former master is trying to find me. I don’t want to be found, understand.” “Yes, master I understand.” He replied without question. “Don’t alarm Flender yet but keep checking up on him and Sassy.” I said and added “Also I want you to check the mainframe for any data on other installations that may have been on the planet when your masters were alive.” “Got it master if I find anything I will contact you.” he said and then I said “Thanks Zaps, you have been a great help to me. Out.”

We finally arrived at the spot and I got out with Vezick and we jumped in the river, while Kitarna and Keeta stayed in the ATV for safety. Vezick looked around and then spotted what he was looking for, motioning to me to look. Sure enough there was a transport pod with markings that seemed strangely familiar. The pod was still active and I motioned to Vezick to surface with me. When we surfaced I said “That’s what I was looking for alright.”

He looked concerned and said “Look Micro, are you sure you want to be messing with that. The thing gives me the creeps and if it belongs to your past, maybe you should leave it alone.” I thought about a moment and then said “You’re probably right, Vezick, I think I know what I must do. Go back to the ATV and I will be there shortly.” I then dove down to the pod and carved a message on its hard steel side, with my claws. “I, Micro-Chip, HD-4771-X am now a free thinking being. I am no longer bound to you and am of no further use to you, for your evil purposes. Let me live in peace on this world.” I knew this message would be of little use, but I had to forever close, my wicked, heartless and totally controlled past, to begin my new life with Kitarna and Prism, as a free being.

I then surfaced, swimming to the shoreline and then stood there on the shore, transmitting the return home code that I found in my memory banks, while looking out on the water. The water started to churn and bubble, glowing bright and then the pod shot out of the water and headed straight up into the sky, as I watched it in silence. I had now cut the final link to my past, but knew my former master was not going to be pleased, with losing me, my resources and my skills, that he had paid greatly for. There would be retribution, but how soon it would come, I had no idea. As I watched the small glowing light slowly vanish into space, Prism, Kitarna and her parents soon joined me.

I hugged Kitarna and said “I hope I did the right thing, but I can’t go back to being a mindless machine anymore and maybe it’s best to leave my old past behind.” Then I looked at Vezick and said “Thanks for your support and your wise advice.” He patted me on the back with his paw hand and smiled. We then walked back to the ATV and got in as the sun started to set and I drove them home. As I drove, I couldn’t help but worry about my new friends and family. They had no idea of the kind of ruthless people I had worked for and with. I myself had no idea, by knew the kind of things, I had done in my past. Although my former master’s information had been wiped out, the things I had done, had not. It made me tremble to think that others beings like me, or worse, might be sent here to retrieve me and kill anyone that got in the way.

I parked the ATV near the entrance to their burrow and joined them inside, after securing it thoroughly. As I stepped into the burrow, I was amazed by the size of it and found it to be spacious, cozy and warm inside, even though the cold winter snow was just above us. “This is actually a very cozy burrow you have here.” I said looking around. Vezick smiled broadly and said proudly “I have been working on it for five years, expanding it to meet the family’s needs.” I looked at them all and said “I envy you all, I had never had a family or even lived in a warm cozy burrow.” Keeta looked at me and smiled, saying “Well your about to have a new family of your own, Micro.”

I looked at Kitarna, cuddling next to me and rubbed her belly, scanning her womb. My medical systems told me the embryos were developing very well and were healthy. I nuzzled into her and hoped my former master would just give up on me, but I knew somehow that would not be the case. Kitarna looked up at me, troubled, saying “You’re thinking, your former master will be coming for you, aren’t you.” I nodded and hugged her tightly and said “I have so much now to loose, if he succeeds, I have to prepare myself and my loved ones before he comes for me.” She nuzzled me lovingly and said “I will be by your side no matter what happens. It will take some time for the pod to get there, right, so relax for now and we can go back home tomorrow and prepare ourselves.” and yawned, closing her eyes, snuggling into me. I watched restlessly, as the rest of the family slowly fell asleep around me and I tried to plan for my master’s next move, but suddenly fell asleep myself.

Chapter 4 - My Past Revealed

I dreamed that I was standing in front of the grand mage once again and he seemed very surprised to see me again, saying “I thought I had destroyed you, little one.” I humbled myself and said “I’m not here to kill you this time, I just want to talk to you.” Somehow I had the blood covered magical dagger in my hands and gave it to him. He looked at it quizzically and asked “Where did you get this?” I looked at him in surprise and said “You gave it to me, to plunge into my heart and save the world from your wrathful winter storm and I did so.” and showed him my blooded chest. He looked at me in earnest and said,” We need to talk right away and not just in this dream world of yours. Come by my wizard’s tower in the morning. ” “But, I thought it had been destroyed?” I said earnestly. “Why would you think that? Never mind, come to the tower in the morning, as soon as you can.” He said and then I was suddenly in the burrow again, as I awoke with a start. Kitarna was still cuddled up next to me, as well as Prism. I fell back asleep and this time had a wonderful dream of us living in peace together.

The next morning we said good-by to her family and headed back to the installation. I looked at Kitarna and said “I need to make a stop at the ruins and check on something.” “Is this about what had happened there, Micro?” she said concerned. I looked at her, nodding solemnly and said “If I’m going to defend us against my former master, I need to get some answers, Kitarna.” She looked deep into my trembling eyes and nodded in agreement. We then drove to the ruins, both of us dreading what we might find there. As we approached, we saw that the tower and all its surrounding buildings and structures was now fully restored, as if nothing had ever happened here. We looked at each other and Kitarna said,” I thought you had said the tower had been destroyed?” I looked in disbelief and said “It had been.”

` As we approached slowly, the tower the guards came up to the ATV and stopped us and I lowered the driver’s window. One of the guards looked in and said in disgust “Oh… it’s you, our master said you might be coming today and to escort you in, when you arrived.” So we got out of the ATV and I secured it and followed them silently, with Kitarna and Prism following me. We were then lead into the tower under heavy guard, but I had expected that and had warned my family ahead of time. We went up many flights of stairs before, being nearly out of breath, we came to a large set of ornate double doors. They opened, seemingly by themselves and we were lead inside.

There inside was an enormously large room, with a large table at its center. It was covered with all sorts of magical books, items and devices of all kinds and my fur stood on edge, from the sheer magnitude of its magical power. All around the room was shelves of books and papers and small tables stacked with the same. The room was lit with a magical globe that floated above the table, also magical. There standing behind the table was the grand mage, dresses in a magnificent robe. “Come in Micro, I have been expecting you. Guard captain, you can stand down now, he is of no threat to me in here.” I smiled and said “That’s because you’re not really here are you?”, and Kitarna looked at me quizzically.

He smiled and said “Being a machine has its advantages, doesn’t it.” I looked at his image and said “I’m not a machine anymore, not after what happened here a few weeks ago.” He looked at me angrily and said “You mean after I destroyed you utterly, or so I though.” I looked at him and smiled, saying “No… I mean after you created me, father.” He looked puzzled and I proceeded to tell him about what had happened to me since we first met, in hostility. When I finished the image disappeared and the true grand mage walked into the room wearing normal street clothes. He looked me over thoroughly and then said some magical words. My body glowed for a few minutes and then he said” It’s all true… what you said… and you do have a soul. But you say, you never had one before the accident happened.”

I nodded and he then chuckled for a moment and said” Foolish me, I hadn’t realized you were a genetically created cyborg, I had thought you were just an assassin, who had implants. That’s why the wish backfired on me, it was supposed to destroy your soul utterly. But since you didn’t have a soul to destroy, it just gathered strength in your force field around you and killed all of us instead. With all those souls being released at once, one must have fled into you, or perhaps the gods themselves stepped in.” I looked up at him smiling and said “So in doing so, you unwittingly created me, by accident and now I need your help. Whoever sent me here to kill you is now looking for me and will be coming here soon to get me and take me back.”

I looked back at Kitarna and Prism, who were sitting there, quietly and smiling at me and said ”I have so much now to lose if he succeeds in this, so I plan to fight him with everything I have, including the soul you gave me, if I have to. So I ask you now to be my ally, father and help me stop him.” The last part shook him up a bit and he sat down heavily in his big chair in deep though, as I awaited an answer. He looked up at me and said” This installation, you spoke of, how far have you gotten on the repairs.” I shook my head and said “It’s only up to thirty percent right now. We have been making repairs round the clock, as fast as we can, but there is still so much to do.”

He thought for a moment and said” How long do you think we have?” I looked at him and said “I’m not sure where the pod is going and it might take a few months to a year, at the rate of its speed, but I don’t think they will be standing around for it to arrive. They will soon be learning that I am here and alive. The spiderbot I spoke of sent a message to someone nearby, in the area and that someone will soon be coming retrieve me.” He looked at me with sudden realization and said “And that someone will undoubtedly try to finish what you failed to do, right.” I nodded in agreement and said “I can help you as well, in return. The installation is quite large, and can hold your mages, guards and your possessions in comfort, once it is cleaned out and repaired.”

He thought about it a while and then said “Then take me to your installation and let me see for myself what you have to offer me.” We then proceeded down to the ATV and was met by his guard captain, who said “Sir, do you think it wise to go with someone who tried to kill you, not long ago.” The grand mage said to him sternly “If you’re so concerned guard captain, then why don’t you come with us.” The guard captain then said “Very well sir, I will.” and I opened the doors of the ATV and we all climbed inside and sat down. I looked at the guard captain and seemed to know something about him, that troubled me, but couldn’t quite remember what it was, and decided to keep a close eye on him.

I drove them cautiously to the installation, watching out for any trouble that might show itself. I told Kitarna and Prism about what the grand mage and I had been talking about back in the tower, as nether spoke the language we had been using. Kitarna looked at the guard captain and said “I don’t trust that one, Micro.” I nodded and said “Me nether, I seem to remember something about him, but can’t remember what it was. The grand mage seems to trusts him, so we need to be cautious in our suspicions, but I will be keeping my eyes on him, even so.”

She looked at the grand mage and said “By the way Micro, what is the grand mages name?” I looked at him and blushed saying “You know, in all that has been going on, I haven’t even asked him.” He then smiled at us and said in her language “My name is Dustin Sage.” As soon as he said his name, I grabbed my head in pain and stopped the vehicle hard. It was then that I remembered everything clearly and knew now, what it was about the guard captain I had been trying to remember. I pointed at him saying “He is a traitor, Dustin, he is the one who let me into your tower that night, so I could kill you. He, I mean she was in on the whole thing.”

The guard captain then grabbed Prism and held a blaster to his head saying “Don’t anyone move or…”, but Prism’s eyes flashed brightly and the guard captain grabbed his head in pain and dropped the blaster. Dustin grabbed his blaster and I pointed my micro-blaster right at the guard captain, saying “Touch my son again and it will be the last thing you touch in this life.” He looked at me and smiled wickedly saying “He coming for you soon Micro, then we shall see how bold you are my little cyborg.” I lowered my micro-blaster and said “You’re just lucky I’m not the cyborg I once was, Ceeza Kacha.

He smiled and then shape shifted into her original lizartine body saying, with a hiss “Sssso glad you remembered me, Micro.” Dustin then pulled a collar out of a pocket and showed it to Ceeza, giving me the blaster to cover her with and then saying “I thought I might be needing this, I was just waiting for you to show yourself, traitor. I knew someone inside had to have let him in and suspected it was you all along, but had no proof.” He then put the collar around her neck and locked it in place with magic and said “There this should keep you from changing yourself again.” I then retrieved a set of titanium handcuffs and tossed them to Dustin and he cuffed her hands behind her back and sat her down.

I sat down heavily, as the memory of my past life, flooded my mind in a torrent of wickedness and evil. I held my head in my hands and wept long, until Kitarna held me tightly, in understanding and said “Your past was not yours to control, Micro, it wasn’t you who did those evil, wicked things.” Ceeza laugh and said “He’s going to eat you alive, you pathetic little cyborg and all who are with you.” I looked back at her and said “Your right, I’m going to have to rely on my past, if I’m going to defeat him and his minions. Perhaps. I should just start with you Ceeza.” and growled, pointing my micro- blaster right at her head, feeling a sudden rage filling me. I gave her a cold stare that made her cringe and sit back in the seat. Kitarna grabbed my arm and stopped me saying “No Micro, don’t let your past take you again” and I turn and looked at her in anger, making her move back and look at me frightened.

I suddenly came to my senses and retracting my micro-blaster and saying “I’m so sorry Kitarna, please forgive me. Yes, I must use my past, but not be controlled by it, or I will risk losing you and all I hold dear.” but still, I found myself, looking back at Ceeza with a look that made her look away quickly. I could tell she knew what I was like before, cold and heartless and it frightened even her cold heart. I turned and looked at Kitarna and Prism, knowing I must find a way to control this rage in my heart, or lose them both forever. I sat back down in my chair and fell silent, staring at the control console. Kitarna came up to me and hugged me, saying “You’ll never loose me Micro, I will help you get through this. Even our kind can be vicious, when we are forced to defend our self and our own and I‘m sure even Flender would agree that his kind can be also. So you’re not alone, but there is also a time for gentleness. I have felt that part of you and know that it’s stronger than anything in your past life could diminish.”

I looked at her and smiled, leaning over and kissing her and saying “I love you, Kitarna and I love you too Prism.” and he jumped up and sat by me wagging his tail, as I started the ATV and continued on our way. Dustin was silent in though, the whole way and Ceeza kept looking at me with a wary look. Finally we made it back to the installation and I gave the coded signal to open the vehicle door. I received an incoming transmission from Zaps saying “Is that really you master.” I switched to internal communication and said “Yes Zaps it is me. Good work. Now please open the door.” and it then slowly raised to let us in. I drove the ATV to its parking spot and shut down its power systems, opening the doors. We all climbed out with Dustin holding Ceeza’s restraints, until we found a place to keep her locked up.

To be continued.