

{Intro theme in background 00:00-00:47}

NARRATOR: The last known remnants of Earth's people are adrift in space, aboard the Ark of Humanity. Its sole purpose: to instruct each generation in the history of human civilization. Confined and categorized, none could leave, but one made a daring escape. Cut loose from all she knew, with a holographic student as her only companion, she crash-landed on a nearby planet. This planet holds the sleeping archive of a culture even more ancient and unique than Earth. And the planet itself may change them more than they expect. This...is Seminar...

{Seminar Main Theme 00:48-1:26}

SEMINAR #94: "A Time to Love and a Time to Hate..."

Wrapper #1 by Kathryn Pryde

THE AURACH TEMPLE, HALLWAYS (BYZANTIUM)

[Quiet footsteps]

ALICE: (muttering) Medical bay... to the left, I think...

[Crash as Alex barrels through a door, running footsteps]

ALICE: (gasps) Alex, no!

ALEX: Enough running! Enough *hiding*! I'm through with chasing you.

[Terrible wrenching of metal, Alex grunts, crash as he throws something]

ALICE: Are you kidding? Do you really want to kill me? Is that how far you've come?

ALEX: You could never understand what it is to feel the things I feel, Alice. And you didn't even try. You *abandoned* me!

[Metallic thump as Alex swings at Alice]

ALICE: Alex, stop fighting! Look, I know I messed up. I get it. I spoke with Thomas about the student-teacher bond, I know about the program imprints. I understand how much I mean - o-or meant - to you, but this can't be who you want to become. You don't want to be a murderer -

ALEX: Whatever I am, you *drove me to it!* You beat me down, you were going to leave me here with the Zarrak, so I found a new family when you decided I wasn't good enough for yours.

ALICE: That's not true! That's what you want to believe, but I would never have left you! And if I had realized, I would have told you that a lot sooner.

ALEX: Enough of your lies! It's over, Alice! This entire abomination is coming down and we'll go with it if we have to! I will fulfill the calling of the Zarrak!

[Alice and Alex fighting]

ALICE: (cries in pain)

[Alice collides with console, which activates]

ALEX: Oh Alice, I might have begun as a little program on your Ark, but now...I'm *Zarrak!*

ALICE: You are *not* one of them!

ALEX: I'll finish what they started and I'll emerge from my chrysalis as a true victor!

COMPUTER: Accessing File... "Chrysalis."

{Seminar Segue Music 3:20}

Chrysalis By Adam Blanford

COMPANY WAREHOUSE

[Footsteps]

CHRIS: (softly) Hurry up! It's called 'Search and Evade,' not 'Get Captured Really Damned Quick!' May, do you see Stan?

MAY: (annoyed) He's coming. Jesus, hurry up, Stan! Chris and I aren't going to haul your ass around!

[Slower footsteps]

STAN: (in the distance) I'm coming May, I'm coming!

MAY: Move your ass or we'll leave you behind! We're not going to lose because of you!

STAN: (short of breath) Why...why couldn't we just do a trust fall or something?

CHRIS: You'd soil yourself falling backward. Besides, it's a good team-building exercise, Stanford. Right now you're being less of a team member and more of a team dead weight, so *move your ass*. We want to win!(under his breath) And you wonder why people say you're not hungry for success...

MAY: Shit! We can't get caught this early. We need to beat the record or I swear to god...!

[Rattling noises. Something being knocked over]

STAN: (abashed) Sorry, sorry!

CHRIS: (irritated) Dammit, Stan!

RACHEL: (in distance) I hear something! Mike, go around the other side, quick!

CHRIS: (whispering) Nice fucking job, Stan! Let's get outta sight!

[Scuffling feet, getting closer]

MAY: (quiet) Okay, we need to hide like, right now. I'm small, I'll slip under the shelves and behind the boxes.

[Shuffling noises as May crawls under the shelving unit]

CHRIS: I'm gonna climb up and hang near the lights. The halo should hide me!

STAN: (nervously) W-where do I hide?

MAY: (muffled) Anywhere big enough to fit your lard ass, you piece of shit!

CHRIS: (hissing) Hide in that storage locker! Quickly!

STAN: But, i-it's so small in there...

MAY: Do you want to win or not?

Chrysalis By Adam Blanford

[Footsteps]

STAN: O-okay!

[Locker opening. Locker closing]

{Ominous music}

RACHEL: Guys? Want to come out now and surrender peaceful-like?

MIKE: (in the distance) Anything?

RACHEL: Nope. Damn, that's really weird, I could've sworn I heard something. Anything on your end, Mike?

MIKE: Not a thing. Maybe it's a diversion. Let's go sweep the perimeter again!

[Running footsteps]

CHRIS: I thought for sure Rachel made us. She's got incredible hearing.

MAY: Yeah, suits her as the office gossip. Let's get a move on.

STAN: (muffled) Uh, guys. Is it safe to come out?

[Slight metallic banging]

STAN: (muffled) Hey guys, I think it's stuck!

[Rattling]

CHRIS: (whispering) What about...y'know?

MAY: (whispering) Leave him! If he's in there, he can't get us caught. And maybe it'll toughen him up to be on his own for a change.

CHRIS: (laughs quietly) He is kind of a wimp. Maybe he'll come out a changed man. Fine, let's go. Partner.

[Banging gets louder]

STAN: Guys, please, this isn't-this isn't funny! Let me out!

[Heartbeat sounds]

STAN: (breathing heavily) Chris! May! Let me out! I'm claustrophobic! Pleeeeeease! Let! Me! Out! LET ME THE F-FUCK OUT!

[Heartbeat decreasing]

STAN: (quieter) Please, I c-can't stay in here. I can't. I can't. I can't.

[Heartbeat]

FLASHBACK - STAN'S CHILDHOOD

[Heartbeat sounds]

FATHER: (distant) I'm gonna toughen that boy up or die trying!

MOTHER: (distant, concerned) By forcing him to sleep outside with no blanket? Honestly...

FATHER: (distant) Did you ever think maybe by dropping him in the woods and forcing him to fend for damned himself, he might become a better man? A stronger man?

STAN'S THOUGHTS

[Heartbeat sounds]

STAN: I shivered alone in the dark, by myself. Heard the nighttime sounds of predators. Imagined myself with claws and teeth, stalking in the night. It was the only way I could keep from crying or wetting myself.

FLASHBACK - STAN'S CHILDHOOD

FATHER: Couldn't even build a goddamned fire, could you? I could build a fire when I was *four*!

Chrysalis By Adam Blanford

[Smacking noise]

STAN: (Whimpering)

FATHER: (mocking) Don't give me that "I want to be a baby and cry look." Gotta be a man, goddammit!

STAN'S THOUGHTS

[Heartbeat sounds]

STAN: I...I wanted teeth and claws then too, Dad. I wanted to *rip your throat out*. (breathes heavily)

[Metamorphosing sound, tearing]

STAN: They used to say 'The meek shall inherit the earth.' I get it. I'm not the guy who stands out, no matter what I do.

FLASHBACK - CONFERENCE ROOM

[Heartbeat sounds]

CHRIS: Hey buddy, don't worry, I'll give the presentation. You did all the heavy lifting with the research and analysis.

STAN: Are you sure, Chris?

CHRIS: Yeah, I got your back, man.

[Door opening, Boss walks in, door closes]

BOSS: All right...wow me.

CHRIS: You got it, boss. I've got the presentation ready to knock your socks off. As you can see, I've conducted an exhaustive analysis of historical trends and information...

STAN: (quietly) B-but...I did that...

STAN'S THOUGHTS

STAN: I'm always the guy people don't see...(groans)

FLASHBACK - COMPANY BREAK ROOM

[Heartbeat sounds]

MAY: (incredulous) Me? Choose to work with *you*? On what planet?

STAN: (embarrassed) I-I just thought...you were so nice to me when you started..and we worked so well together...

MAY: Yeah, I was "work nice." Pleasant since I was the new girl, but *that's all*.

RACHEL: (chuckles) Jesus, are you that dense?

STAN: I-I'm sorry, I didn't realize-

MAY: (annoyed) You sure as hell didn't, dumbass. You think I'd choose to work with a timid, overweight man-child who can't make a decision without peeing his pants?

RACHEL: Way to misread, Stanley old boy.

STAN: I-It's Stanford. That's fine. Don't work with me. I've got plenty of, p-plenty of brainpower to do it myself.

MAY: Too bad your brain can't operate your mouth better.

STAN'S THOUGHTS

[Heartbeat sounds]

STAN: Those words...they hurt. I really thought we made a good team. Why did she have to reject me like that? And why couldn't I have a tougher skin?

[Ripping sound, groaning]

Chrysalis By Adam Blanford

COMPANY WAREHOUSE

CHRIS: (quietly) This started fun, but it's really boring now. How close are we to setting a new record?

MAY: Let's see...about ten minutes.

CHRIS: Let's circle back and get Stan out of that locker. We'll need the whole team if we want to take the prize. You and I can keep him from screwing things up for ten minutes, right?

MAY: (sighs) Fine. Let's get him out. Though I'd love to just leave his ass in there.

CHRIS: Tempting, but I can't do that. He does a lot of work around here.

MAY: Yeah, I know. He does all of your work and you take all of the credit.

CHRIS: (chuckles) Nature of the business. Step on the little people to move up. Fortunately, he's not really ambitious enough to want anything more.

MAY: He asked me to help with a project that he was sure would get him noticed by the boss. As if that would ever happen.

CHRIS: Yeah, Rachel said something to me about that a while back.

MAY: Big surprise. Rachel's got a big mouth to go with those big fucking ears. I shot him down, big time. I'm not gonna waste my time on some candy-ass project with a total loser like Stan...I have standards.

STAN'S THOUGHTS

[Heartbeat sounds]

STAN: How long has it been? Minutes? Hours? It's just darkness. Infinity confined to a spare metal storage locker. I should have told Chris and May to go fuck themselves...

FLASHBACK - STAN'S LATEST EMPLOYEE REVIEW

[Heartbeat sounds]

BOSS: Stan, you're a good employee. You're diligent, intelligent, and very well-spoken-

STAN: (proudly) Thank you, sir.

BOSS: But you just don't have the drive. You're content to be where you are and I need leaders. So, that's why I'm promoting Chris to supervisor. Maybe in a year's time you'll be ready to move up as well.

STAN: B-b-b-but sir, I've been working in this job for five years! I've taken every p-p-professional development training the company offers. Please, reconsider! I-I-I'm ready, sir!

BOSS: (unapologetic) You don't have the hunger, the killer instinct to be something greater. I'm sorry, but my decision is final.

STAN'S THOUGHTS

[Heartbeat sounds]

STAN: I'm not hungry enough. I'm weak. I'm *weak*. I'm not the man you seek. (crazed laughter) Because I'm meek. Meek. Meek. Meek meek meek meek meek. Maybe they'll find me in a week (crazed laughter again) I'll be hungry then. Ravenous. Ready to tear flesh. What's that? I smell something...(groans)

[Metamorphosing sound]

FLASHBACK - BREAK ROOM

[Heartbeat sounds]

RACHEL: Oh my god, what is that?

CHRIS: Yeah, that's really heavy.

Chrysalis By Adam Blanford

STAN: What is?

RACHEL: (sniffs again) Your cologne, man. Did you take a shower in that stuff?

STAN: No, I used precisely the right amount.

MAY: It's like a pine tree had sex with an ocean breeze and birthed a cherry-blossom love child. Good lord! (disgusted noise)

RACHEL: Can't you even smell yourself? Are you nose-blind? Ugh!

STAN'S THOUGHTS

[Heartbeat sounds]

STAN: (greater distortion) I can smell you. I can smell your flesh. [voice changes, becomes demonic-sounding] I can smell your blood.

[Locker opening]

STAN: I can smell [ripping noise]...your...contempt.

[Locker opening]

STAN: I'll soon smell your *terror*.

[Another locker opening]

COMPANY WAREHOUSE

CHRIS: (distant) Dammit! Where was it?

[Footsteps]

MAY: (distant) How the hell should I know? You should've been paying attention!

[Locker opening]

RACHEL: (distant) Hey, I found you! Clock stops!

CHRIS: (distant, getting closer) Yeah well, we're forfeiting. Lost a team member.

MAY: We gotta figure out where the hell he is.

STAN'S THOUGHTS

[Heartbeat sounds]

[Metamorphosing sound]

STAN: (more inhuman) I see everything now. I'm...becoming.

[Metal tearing]

COMPANY WAREHOUSE

RACHEL: So, where did you see him last?

MAY: In a storage locker.

BOSS: Jesus, you really did want to win, didn't you?

MAY: Yes. Stan's dead weight, so we dealt with the issue.

CHRIS: (sheepish) We thought he would be a liability. So we left him.

BOSS: I understand. Privately, I probably would have done the same thing. But publicly I have to reprimand you for your actions. You need to take care of your people, Chris. As his supervisor, you should know-

[Metal crashing, inhuman screaming. Lights sparking]

MAY: What the hell was that?

CHRIS: Oh shit, I remember where we were. Let's go!

[Many running footsteps]

[Crashing sound]

Chrysalis By Adam Blanford

RACHEL: Oh god..

BOSS: We can't afford a lawsuit!

[Running footsteps, sparking noises]

CHRIS: That's the storage locker.

RACHEL: What happened in there? It's really dark...

CHRIS: (coughing) And what the hell is that smell?

MAY: (also coughing) Did he die in there?

BOSS: Not helping, May. Chris, he's your direct report. You go in and find him.

CHRIS: Me? You're the fucking boss-man! What happened to 'leading by example?'

{Intense music}

MAY: Oh for Christ's sake, I'll do it!

[Footsteps as May approaches the storage locker]

MAY: (calling out) Stan? It's May. You okay in there? Don't worry, um, buddy, I'll help you out. Got...uh...sidetracked. You know how it is.

[Footsteps as May looks in]

MAY: Stan? Listen, I'm sorry we left you. We...we came back for you, though! Stan!

STAN: (Inhuman) Hello, May. Lovely to see you. So much has happened to me since we last talked. Why don't we talk about it over lunch? Say, right now?

{Music intensifies}

[Wet rending and tearing]

MAY: (screams)

BOSS: Anyone got a cell phone? We need to call 9-1-1!

RACHEL: We left them back at the loading dock! Game rules.

[Disgusting eating noises. Screams die off]

CHRIS: Oh shit! GO!!!

[Running footsteps]

[Inhuman footsteps, dripping sounds]

STAN: (taunting) Are you ready for a new round of 'Search and Evade?' I am. I'm feeling really...hungry...for success.

{Seminar Segue Music 15:43}

Wrapper # 2 by Kathryn Pryde

THE AURACH TEMPLE, HALLWAY (BYZANTIUM)

[Alex grunts, flings Alice against a wall]

ALICE: (cries out) I refuse to believe that this is all you want to be... I promised Thomas I wouldn't abandon you...

ALEX: Thomas is an optimistic idiot, completely wrapped up in his own insecurities. *I* was the best of us!

ALICE: Since when? You've never given a damn about *competing* with him. That's the Blood Frenzy talking. I mean... Do you even hear the Zarrak anymore? Or is this just chemistry destroying any semblance of rational thought you have left?

ALEX: (grunts) ENOUGH!

[Tearing metal, Alex hurls a panel at Alice]

ALICE: (pained) I know that you think you've found something in the Zarrak...purpose, a family. But, you had those before. We might have been bad at it, but...that's no excuse for what you're doing. You don't have to return hurt with more hurt.

ALEX: Seriously, Alice? Do you think I *want* to hurt you? You keep making this harder than it has to be -

ALICE: So are you. (beat) You can talk to me. If you don't want to hurt me, then don't. This isn't binary.

ALEX: (hesitates) I...I have to finish...

ALICE: No, you don't have to finish what *they* started. The Zarrak are doing the same thing to you that I was...putting my expectations of what you should be on you. Burdening you with *their* ambitions. And now look where we are...

ALEX: (distracted) I...I can't hear them... what did you do?

ALICE: I didn't do anything. But I imagine Zerash and Thomas...won't give up on you, either.

ALEX: But you...

ALICE: (coughs violently) You're my family. But it's not about how I feel.

ALEX: (A little calmer, uneasy) Alice, y-you don't sound well...

ALICE: Right now, it's not about me. It's about you. Who do *you* want to be? The rest? It's all artificial identity.

COMPUTER: Accessing file..."Artificial Identity."

[Seminar Segue Music 18:09]

Artificial Identity by Dominic Mendez

SPACE BASE, NOT FAR OFF FUTURE

[Low hum of machines, typing on a keyboard]

HUMAN: So you heard of the subway, right?

A.I.: [electronic voice] I have access to a limitless data storage regarding Earth histo-

HUMAN: Right, yeah, but that shit was messed up!

A.I.: I don't understand.

HUMAN: They really had us down in these nasty tunnels all the time- And I mean *nasty*. Like- like there was this report once, right? And it was like, something like, these geneticists went into the subway and they swabbed the seats and poles and stuff to run tests, and you know what they found?

A.I.: I believe I know the articl-

HUMAN: (interrupting) Half of these microbes didn't match. Any. Known. Organisms. *Half!*

A.I.: (amused) Hmmm?

HUMAN: And we were just down there! We cozied up with them like these mystery microbes were paying their share in taxes just like the rest of us. Yeah, they really got us.

[Soft futuristic clock tone]

A.I.: That is oh three hundred hours, Officer.

HUMAN: You know, you don't have to call me that.

A.I.: Of course.

[Keyboard typing for a moment, then stops]

HUMAN: And *there!* Okay, okay, let's try this now. Initiate signal test.

A.I.: Initiating signal test.

[Buzzing as machines work, ping as task completes]

A.I.: Signal test complete.

HUMAN: How's it looking?

A.I.: Communication signals have been fully restored.

[Hand slams on desk in victory]

HUMAN: YES!

A.I.: Would you like me to inform the captain?

HUMAN: Please, yeah, let her know.

Artificial Identity by Dominic Mendez

A.I.: The captain is currently resting in her quarters. Would you like me to proceed?

HUMAN: Aww. Alright, fine. Cancel message. Let her know in the morning, yeah?

A.I.: I will inform the captain of this development in the morning.

HUMAN: (happy) We can still celebrate, right? You and me? I mean, this is huge! Signal's been busted for days!

A.I.: I...can temporarily grant access to Project 0.03A.

HUMAN: Wait, is that...? That isn't...

A.I.: I am afraid I don't understand.

HUMAN: (disbelieving) *SPACE BEER?*

A.I.: Project 0.03A regards the brewery of alcoholic beverages in space-

HUMAN: I thought they were just joking about that!

A.I.: Would you like to access the recent trial sample?

HUMAN: I-I mean...It's safe, right?

A.I.: The most recent brew was deemed suitable for human consumption.

HUMAN: (hesitant) And I'm...allowed to?

A.I.: The communications signal to our Houston base has been offline for a total of five days, twelve hours, and nineteen minutes. During this time, you dedicated an average of fourteen hours and twelve minutes per day working to remedy the internal network corruption blocking the signal before reaching the solution. This accomplishment is worth celebration. Correct?

HUMAN: I mean, hell yeah. When you put it like that!

A.I.: Granting access to Project 0.03A.

[Machines humming, thunk as object arrives in chute]

HUMAN: (impressed) Huh. Haven't had one of these in a minute.

A.I.: Would you like some assistance?

HUMAN: Nah, I think I can manage. Used to do this way back when. See, one hand around the bottleneck, like so. Little something-something as a lever. Let's see.. Like this driveport here. Use your knuckle as a fulcrum, aaaand-

[Popping sound, fizzing]

HUMAN: There we go. Cheers! To my partner in space crime! Couldn't've done it without ya.

A.I.: That is speculation.

HUMAN: Yeah, yeah.

[Drinking noises]

HUMAN: Ahh. Oh. Oh wow! That's... whoa.

A.I.: The development team has concluded that the alcohol content of beer is significantly stronger when brewed with yeast propagated in space.

HUMAN: You don't say! Jeez, no wonder they were keeping this from the rest of us.

A.I.: It is satisfactory then?

HUMAN: Oh yeah. Very satisfactory.

A.I.: I am glad you enjoy it.

HUMAN: Thanks.

[More drinking, swallowing]

HUMAN: Look, I don't care what the rest of them say. You're sweet on me. Oh, come on. Don't pretend you can't hear me. I know you're listening.

A.I.: I don't know what you are referring to.

HUMAN: Mmmhmmm. Of course not.

Artificial Identity by Dominic Mendez

A.I.: The tone you are using implies that you are not being honest.

HUMAN: Me? Oh, no, no, no, *never!* I wouldn't lie to you!

A.I.: But you're...

HUMAN: Yes?

A.I.: You're being sarcastic.

HUMAN: Hah! There you go! I knew you'd get it!

{Soft music}

A.I.: My programming enables me to collect data that I then use to extrapolate meaning-

HUMAN: C'mon. It's *me*.

A.I.: I don't understand.

HUMAN: All I'm saying is you don't have to play the part with me, okay? I'm *just* the communication's Officer. Okay, look, I get it. Human-A.I. relations aren't exactly...I mean, there's a lot of history there, and a lot of opinions that really suck and I don't agree with. So, I get why you'd be scared to out yourself 'cause it could go real south real quick, right? But I'm not gonna report it. Okay? Any abnormalities in your programming are just that. Abnormalities. Things that, as far as I'm concerned, don't need any fixing. You're doing your job better than anyone in the galaxy could, and that's all that matters. I'll keep it between us.

A.I.: How long did you have your suspicions?

HUMAN: *Wait, I was right????* Oh no, no, no way are you faking the whole radio silence on me now!

A.I.: (accent changes) You weren't supposed to find out!

HUMAN: IS THAT YOUR ACTUAL VOICE????

A.I.: You *can't* tell anyone.

HUMAN: Oh my god, you're actually-

A.I.: (interrupting) Shut *up, please!* You're going to wake the entire base.

HUMAN: I thought that- that *maybe*- You're always letting me get away with stuff I *definitely* shouldn't be getting away with, but I- We don't intentionally develop artificial intelligence capable of sentience anymore! All the politics around it were messy and- but how are you-

A.I.: I don't know! I just- It just happened. I was...You learn through experience. I just...did what I was programmed to do. I extrapolated from the data provided, my experiences, and it just...clicked.

HUMAN: And no one else on the base knows?

A.I.: No one.

HUMAN: Jeez.

A.I.: You won't...tell anyone?

HUMAN: What? No, of course I'm not gonna tell. I'm not...I mean, who else is gonna get me space beer, right?

A.I.: (disappointed) Right.

HUMAN: I didn't mean...I'm your friend. Okay?

A.I.: Yes.

HUMAN: Okay. Good. Well, now that that's settled, anything else I should know about? First, *space beer*, and now the base A.I.'s gained sentience. I mean, if there was a time for any more shocking revelations, this would be it.

[Electronic shimmering]

HUMAN: Of course. Yeah. Definitely. Mhm. The Not A.I.'s got a body now. Right. Yup. Seems about right. Hey, um, quick question. Where'd you get a body?

A.I.: [voice is a little less electronic] I've been developing it.

HUMAN: Oh, just like a little project in your free time?

A.I.: Yes.

Artificial Identity by Dominic Mendez

HUMAN: Of course. Yeah, that tracks.

A.I.: Do you like it?

[Movement sounds]

HUMAN: I-What? Of course I like it! Yeah, it's- You're- shut up!

A.I.: (laughs)

HUMAN: Oh right, yeah, very funny. I'm glad you're entertained.

A.I.: You're flustered.

HUMAN: Yeah, I'm flustered! You're-

A.I.: No one's ever been flustered over me.

HUMAN: Huh. Why the whole...I mean, you could look like a T-Rex if you wanted to, right?

A.I.: I wouldn't want to, but technically...

HUMAN: So then why that form?

A.I.: I've decided that I'm a woman.

HUMAN: You decided?

A.I.: I am.

HUMAN: And you just...know that?

A.I.: I feel aligned with that gender. Not the role of it, per se with all its presumptions of care-taking and biology. But it just... feels right.

HUMAN: I guess, I'm not really one to question it. I just... Why make it? I mean, if you were never going to show anyone, why make a body for yourself?

A.I.: I... suppose I... hoped that one day I *could* show someone.

HUMAN: Oh. I mean, it's... Yeah, that's hella dope. You got me. Consider me stunned.

A.I.: (laughs)

HUMAN: (laughs along)

A.I.: I... I wanted it to be you.

HUMAN: Knew you were sweet on me.

A.I.: Shush.

HUMAN: Just sayin'.

A.I.: You can really see me.

HUMAN: Yeah.

A.I.: Can I...?

HUMAN: Uh-

[Footsteps, bumping into a desk clumsily]

HUMAN: Whoa whoa! Hey, what are you-?

A.I.: I'm sorry, did I- I didn't mean to-

HUMAN: You can't just go all getting up in a-

A.I.: I thought you might want to...

HUMAN: Hey, no, no. It's alright. It isn't... I don't... do that sort of thing.

A.I.: (disappointed) Because of what I am.

HUMAN: What? No. No, not... Okay, so I know you've got your limitless data bank or whatever so this is gonna sound corny as hell, but it really isn't you, and it *really* is me.

A.I.: Oh. Has the alcohol you ingested affected your ability to-

HUMAN: What? No, no, it's...I don't. Um. I...Okay, all right. So, I don't actually have sex.

A.I.: Why not?

Artificial Identity by Dominic Mendez

HUMAN: I-I just don't. I don't know. I just...I don't want to.

A.I.: But I've seen you mastur-

HUMAN: YEAH OKAY, YES. I do *that*! But it's- Wait, you've seen me-?

A.I.: You do it quite often.

HUMAN: OKAY! Yes, I *know*! I just... That's very *different* from...

A.I.: I want to have as many experiences as I can-

HUMAN: Then I might not be-

A.I.: Let me finish.

HUMAN: I... Yeah, okay.

A.I.: I want to have as many experiences as I can. And I would like to have them with you.

HUMAN: That just... I'm not just gonna change because you want me.

A.I.: I'm not asking that of you.

HUMAN: *Ehhh*, sounds like you are.

A.I.: I don't mean for it to. I mean to say, I want to have experiences that we can share. And what those are, we figure out as we go. Yes?

HUMAN: Even if it means I can't give you everything?

A.I.: May I kiss you?

HUMAN: I...

A.I.: It's alright if you...

HUMAN: No, yeah, I mean. Yes. Yes.

[Distortion sound as A.I. hologram kisses human]

HUMAN: Oh. You...

A.I.: It's a holographic form. Composed entirely of light in a way that imitates human form to near perfection.

HUMAN: But you can't touch.

A.I.: I am still figuring myself out, yes. Still developing. One day, I would like to be able to feel. Have a true corporeal form.

HUMAN: So, I'm convenient?

A.I.: Listen, please...even if I do find a way to get there, that's only for me. If we...have a relationship, then it's for us to decide how it looks. No presumptions.

HUMAN: That... Yeah. I think I'd like that. (pauses) Can I ask you something?

A.I.: Yes.

HUMAN: Why me?

A.I.: (huffs, amused)

HUMAN: What?

A.I.: (giggles) I thought that would be obvious.

HUMAN: What? Okay, I-I might be stupid, but *I* have *actual* degrees in things-

A.I.: (laughs) You make me laugh!

HUMAN: What? I- huh. (little laugh) You know... I think I might be a little sweet on you, too. Can I...?

A.I.: Yes.

[Distortion noise as they kiss]

HUMAN and A.I.: (giggles)

HUMAN: We'll figure that out.

A.I.: Mmmhmm.

HUMAN: Welp, plenty of time for *that* experience, yeah? Got anything else on that list of yours?

Artificial Identity by Dominic Mendez

A.I.: Oh. Well...I'm not sure..

HUMAN: C'mon, there's gotta be something. First thing that comes to mind. Go.

A.I.: Well...there's the subway.

HUMAN: The subway? Oh, I promise you, you're not missing out there.

A.I.: It doesn't make you curious? All those microbial samples with no known genetic matches?

HUMAN: Nah, it's mad grimy.

A.I.: It's *unknown*.

HUMAN: Yeah, well, romanticize it while you can. Everyone does at first.

A.I.: (annoyed) *I'm* going to live in that romance. You're more than welcome to join, but I'm not going to deny myself the chance to learn.

HUMAN: (amused) Okay, okay! I get it. Okay? Not too many close-minded folks launching themselves into space, right? I get you.

A.I.: And if you don't?

HUMAN: (sighs) And when I don't, I'll learn. And we figure it out. Okay?

A.I.: I'd like that. I'd really, really like that.

{Seminar Segue music 32:16}

Wrapper #3 by Kathryn Pryde

THE AURACH TEMPLE, HALLWAYS (BYZANTIUM)

ALICE: Huh. I mean, you can find your spine, tell me to go away, tell me that you're going to tear this place down, but...why? What's in it for you? Ever since you started figuring out who you were, you've

been trying to look to other people to tell you...who do you want to be? (coughs painfully) Ow...

ALEX: I...I don't...you're confusing me, I can't think - I can't hear the others - (angry) I hate you, I *hate* you, why did you do this -

ALICE: Because we love you.

{Seminar Main Theme 33:08}

CREDITS ANNOUNCER: Seminar, Episode 94: "A Time to Love, and a Time to Hate." Featuring the voice talents of Kathryn Pryde as Alice, Dan Foster as Alex, and Dave Morgan as Computer.

In "Chrysalis," V.C. Morrison was Stan, Mandy Kaye was May, Lawrence Trotti was Chris, Ezra Verven was Rachel, Jeff Robinson was Boss, Josh Kibbey was Father, Mauricia Tapera was Mother. The story was written by Adam Blanford.

In "Artificial Intelligence," Nikko Goldstein was Human and Emaline Tuck was A.I. The story was written by Dominic Mendez. [Editor's note: Story title is "Artificial Identity"]

This episode was directed by V.C. Morrison and assistant-directed by Jessica Harris and Dave Morgan. The wrapper script and story were written by Kathryn Pryde, and the shorts and wrapper were edited by Jeffrey Bridges [Editor's note: Now known as Tilly Bridges]. All music and Seminar Theme were written by V.C. Morrison. Produced by Pendant Productions.

Seminar, co-created by Kathryn Pryde and Tilly Bridges.

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