

The Dark Side

In a world where humans aspire to become more like their A.I. creations, where do you draw the line? It's time for Brigit Hastings to decide.

EXT. STREET - DAY

WILL and CHARLOTTE, dressed raggedly, wait by the picket fence of their broken home. They're on a suburban street, in ruins from fire and earthquake. They hold LILLY, 5.

CHARLOTTE

She's late. I hope nothing's wrong.

WILL

Are we really going to do this?
We could keep her here with us.
Take our chances together?

CHARLOTTE

What chance will she have here?
We'll be out of water in days.
Underwater soon after that. (Looks
at devastation) No, any chance of a
future here is long gone.

WILL

We could all go to Planet Six,
indenture ourselves for a few
years, till we get enough credits
to move up a level.

CHARLOTTE

Indenture ourselves...to *them*? The
robots? No, our savings will buy
her 25 per cent enhancement, and a
place on a top 4 planet. That's her
best chance. We'll catch up later.

LILLY

I want to stay with you, mummy.

Charlotte turns away, holding back tears. Along the street, a woman with perfect posture strides through the rubble.

CHARLOTTE

That's not Phoebe.

WILL

Whoever it is, they look seriously
enhanced.

Charlotte and Will grip their guns but don't raise them.
Brigit, 30s, smiles as she approaches.

BRIGIT

Charlotte and Will Fogarty? I'm Brigit Hastings, from Interspace Movers. I'll be Lilly's escort to the New Planets.

From Brigit's POV, the world is black and white. Charlotte and Will are more featureless, tears not evident.

CHARLOTTE

Where's Phoebe, our regular babysitter? She was supposed to take Lilly.

BRIGIT

Phoebe wasn't feeling well.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY/FLASHBACK

Brigit knocks on a door. As PHOEBE opens it, Brigit kicks her in the chest then punches her to the ground.

EXT. STREET - DAY/PRESENT

Brigit smiles sweetly. Charlotte and Will remain suspicious.

BRIGIT

You must be Lilly. You and I are going on an adventure to begin a bright new future. Are you ready?

LILLY

I don't want to go with her. She looks funny.

Lilly regards Brigit's strong arms, contoured legs, lolly blue eyes and metal nodules on her temples.

CHARLOTTE

That's because she's enhanced. Soon you will be too, sweetie. You'll be so strong and smart, no-one will ever mess with you.

They watch Brigit and Lilly leave.

WILL

How enhanced do you think she is? I'd say fifty per cent at least.

CHARLOTTE

Over fifty and they're more robot
than human. Have we just handed our
daughter to the enemy?

Brigit's face is sculptured beauty, no visible emotion.

EXT. SPACECRAFT - NIGHT

A spacecraft moves through the dark, twinkly sky.

INT. SPACECRAFT - NIGHT

The craft is full of people. Most have temple nodules,
unnaturally vibrant eyes, and glowing skin. Lilly gawks.

LILLY

When I'm enhanced, will I have
those sticks coming out of my head?

BRIGIT

Those sticks help you think more
clearly. No distractions or
emotions to cloud your judgment.

Lilly studies a GIRL her own age, with nodules, fiery orange
eyes and bronzed skin. The GIRL sneers at Lilly.

LILLY

I think I'd rather just be me.

Through the wide window, Earth smoulders. A line of smaller,
luminous planets lies off in the distance.

LILLY (CONT'D)

(points and counts)

One, two, three, four, five, six.

BRIGIT

Six asteroids, where we can restart
our lives.

LILLY

Which one will we be going to?

BRIGIT

Your parents have a lot of credit
to enhance you so you'll probably
go to Planet 2 or 3.

They pass a dark planet, the only light coming from the rear.

LILLY

Seven. Why is that one so dark?

BRIGIT

That's the Dark Planet. It's inhabited by primitive species that have not yet mastered the light.

Lilly peers closely at the planet. Around her, people gaze fearfully at it. Ahead is a huge space ship.

EXT. SPACE - NIGHT

Their craft enters a slot in the side of the Mother ship.

INT. MOTHERSHIP - NIGHT

People form lines to enter. Brigit and Lilly meet GREER, a flawless cybernetic female.

GREER

Greetings. Name?

BRIGIT

Brigit Hastings, escorting Lilly Fogarty to the New Planets.

Greer stares into Brigit's eyes. Across her field of vision words appear: BRIGIT HASTINGS, HUMAN, 67 PER CENT ENHANCED.

Brigit fiddles with a silver heart necklace. Greer squats and takes Lilly's hand. Lilly frowns.

GREER

No enhancements at all. She's just as sweet as the day she was born.

BRIGIT

Lilly has two thousand credits for future enhancements.

GREER

(taps computer pad)
Planet six.

Brigit is confused. Greer looks into her eyes and transmits an IMAGE in black and white to Brigit.

EXT. PLANET SIX - NIGHT (BLACK AND WHITE)

On a ruined planet, humans run as AIs attack them. They fall down dead. Greer mindspeaks to Brigit.

GREER (V/O)

Earth was overpopulated, its natural resources destroyed. To avoid a similar catastrophe on the New Planets, populations must be contained. The sick, the old, the unenhanced must be first to go. Along with criminals and those that threaten the new world order.

INT. MOTHERSHIP - NIGHT

Greer smiles warmly at Brigit, as she mindspeaks.

GREER (V/O)

The child's parents are known resisters. There's an 80 per cent chance she too will rebel when she's of age. For the security of all, some must be sacrificed. Do you understand?

BRIGIT (V/O)

Yes.

GREER (V/O)

When it's time, can I rely on you to execute the Committee's order?

Brigit nods at Greer then turns to Lilly and smiles.

INT. CAFETERIA FOR PLANET 1 AND 2 - NIGHT

A sumptuous buffet. Heavily enhanced people eat in a stylish dining room. Lilly reaches for a colourful cupcake. A serving AI clasps her wrist.

AI

These are for Planets One and Two only. Planet Six dining room is that way. (points)

As Brigit pulls Lilly away, her super hearing allows her to hear comments from MEAN WOMAN across the room.

MEAN WOMAN

Little scrounger. Trying to steal
what we've paid big bucks to get.

A SCRUFFY MAN helping himself is shown the exit.

SCRUFFY MAN

(to diners)

You rich bastards and your fancy
enhancements have brought us to
this - taking orders from robots. A
class system, with AIs on top and
humans at the bottom.

Two AI guards pursue him. He runs around the room, snatching
food off plates, shoving it in his mouth, throwing some at
pursuers. As he passes, Brigit trips him, then pins him down.
The strength in her enhanced limbs is visible to Lilly, who
watches in awed horror. The guards drag Scruffy Man out.

SCRUFFY MAN (CONT'D)

You think you're one of them with
your 50 and 60 per cent
enhancements? But in the end, that
won't be enough. Only 100 per cent
AIs will have rights. The rest of
us will be dust.

People tut and shake their heads as he's dragged out.

MEAN WOMAN

That's the unenhanced for you.
Muddle-headed and emotional.

INT. CAFETERIA PLANET 6 - NIGHT

A buffet with peanut butter sandwiches and old fruit. Lilly
loads her tray. Scruffy Man flings fruit at the AI servers.

SCRUFFY MAN

You know where you can stick your
Leftovers Buffet.

Brigit and Lilly sit down to eat.

LILLY

What enhancements do you have?

BRIGIT

Well, my legs and arms have been
strengthened by a factor of five.

LILLY
 Could you lift up a building?

BRIGIT
 Only Superman can do that. My hearing and sight range have doubled.

LILLY
 Does it... hurt?

BRIGIT
 Quite the opposite. Once you've tried it, it's hard to go back.

LILLY
 But are you still yourself?

Before Brigit can answer, CAPTAIN WARD, a handsome AI male in uniform, appears. On Brigit's Interface, we see: AI 100 PCT

CAPTAIN WARD
 Good evening ladies. Captain Ward, at your service.

Captain Ward makes eye contact with Brigit. On his Interface: HUMAN, 67 PCT ENHANCED.

CAPTAIN
 I'm a bit lonely at the captain's table. Would you care to join me?

INT. CAPTAIN'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT

A stylish parlour with a large window looking out to space and the best buffet. A personal AI CHEF stands by. Brigit, Lilly and the Captain have finished eating.

LILLY
 Can I have one more?

BRIGIT
 Three desserts? You'll be sick.

CAPTAIN
 Let her indulge. It's been a long time between sweets, I'd wager.

She rushes off to the desserts. The Chef smiles at her.

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

So, Ms Hastings. I want to thank you for your assistance with the resister. That was deftly handled. Are you in law enforcement?

BRIGIT

Private security.

CAPTAIN

Have you done much escort work?

BRIGIT

This is my first assignment.

CAPTAIN

She's a lovely girl. Will you have difficulty carrying out the Committee's orders, do you think?

BRIGIT

No.

Across the Captain's Interface: VERACITY 87 PCT.

BRIGIT (CONT'D)

I'm wondering though. If someone were to adopt her...

CAPTAIN

Someone...like you, you mean?

BRIGIT

And guide her enhancements? Could she be placed on a higher planet?

CAPTAIN

Out of the question. A new order is fragile. We cannot risk dissent.

They watch Lilly throwing grapes and trying to catch them in her mouth. The AI chef joins in the game, both giggling.

Captain Ward studies Brigit. His Interface reads: PRIME REPRODUCTIVE AGE, SUSCEPTIBILITY TO MATING OFFER 77 PCT. The Captain shifts closer.

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

It's not often I get to chat with such a charming human.

BRIGIT

Captain, are you flirting with me?

CAPTAIN

And if I was? We AIs aren't all lights and buttons you know. Some of us have developed other...desires. Not strictly functional.

BRIGIT

You mean...?

LILLY

Brigit!

Lilly is wearing the chef's hat. AI chef smiles.

CAPTAIN

Charming child. It's such a shame. The parents are to blame. Their futile actions have placed their child in jeopardy.

Brigit nods.

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

Perhaps I could ask you to help with others like her on Planet six. Humans trust other humans more than AI. Children's tears inspire fierce resistance which only leads to unnecessary pain.

BRIGIT

I'll do what I can to help.

He notices her heart necklace.

CAPTAIN

That's a lovely necklace. What's it made of?

BRIGIT

A new alloy, recently discovered.

INT. CAFETERIA PLANET 1 - NIGHT

An ENHANCED HUMAN MAN with heart cuff-links steps up to the buffet. His eyes fix on Greer, milling among patrons.

INT. CAFETERIA PLANET 6 - NIGHT

On Scruffy Man's shirt is a heart-shaped pin. He watches the guards at the door as he picks his teeth.

INT. CAPTAIN'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The Captain studies her necklace.

CAPTAIN

The human heart. A mechanism to pump blood around the body. The repository of love, if you believe that. What is love, Miss Hastings?

Brigit snorts, embarrassed.

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

Shakespeare said of love... that the desire was boundless but the act itself a slave to limit. (whispers close) It need not be, with one such as myself - fully enhanced. We have no limit in that sphere.

BRIGIT

There's an offer that's hard to refuse.

The Captain's face moves closer to hers.

BRIGIT (CONT'D)

Love is a feeling, not always rational. But strong. A kind of divine foolishness, where you'd do anything to save those you love, no matter how hopeless your chances. Something an AI like you could never understand.

As she speaks, she attaches the heart magnetically to her temple. Instantly, the world is colourful again.

On Captain's Interface: BRIGIT HASTINGS: 42 PCT ENHANCED

CAPTAIN

What just happened?

BRIGIT

The new alloy blocks connectivity.

CAPTAIN

But why would you want to -?

From a holster under her arm, she pulls out a needle and plunges it into the captain's neck.

His INTERFACE: KILL BRIGIT HASTINGS wobbles and goes black. He and the chef slump. Brigit grabs Lilly's hand and runs.

BRIGIT
(To receiver on her shirt)
Target AI leaders now!

INT. CAFETERIA 1 - NIGHT

MAN clamps the heart cuff-link over his nodules and the world bursts into colour. He plunges a needle into Greer's neck. All the AIs in the room shut down.

INT. CAFETERIA PLANET 6 - NIGHT

Scruffy man plunges two needles into the guards' necks.

INT. HALLWAYS

Brigit, Lilly, and more resisters collect humans from Planet 6 area and race along the corridor. At Space dock, they open the Spacecraft doors. Alarms blare out.

SCRUFFY MAN
That didn't hold for long.

INT. SPACECRAFT - NIGHT

People pile in. A PILOT goes to the controls.

PILOT
I need to re-enable the exit codes.

BRIGIT
We'll try to buy some time.

INT. HALLWAYS - NIGHT

Brigit, Scruffy Man and a few others head back along the corridor till they meet AI guards. Fighting breaks out. The enhanced humans are powerful in their resistance.

A PRETTY AI GIRL, about 9, hits Brigit. She deflects the blow but is reluctant to hit hard. As Brigit is knocked down, she removes the heart from her nodules. The world goes black and white. The girl's features are less defined, more blank. Brigit attacks the child full force.

Brigit's INTERFACE reads: TARGET VULNERABILITY...LEFT KNEE WEAKNESS DETECTED. She strikes the AI in the knee.

LILLY

Come on!

Brigit turns to see a small figure signalling. Clipping the heart onto the nodules, she sees the fear on Lilly's face.

BRIGIT

Fall back.

They all enter the Spacecraft.

INT. SPACECRAFT - NIGHT

The doors shut.

BRIGIT

Locked and loaded!

As the craft lifts off, Lilly hugs Brigit.

LILLY

I'm glad you came, not the other babysitter. Where are we going?

BRIGIT

Planet 7.

LILLY

You mean...the Dark Planet?

BRIGIT

We're going to start over. Back to basics. It won't be easy. There'll be no computers for a while.

LILLY

No computers?

BRIGIT

We'll have the chance to build a world again. This time, maybe we'll think about each new phase before we head down a dangerous path.

LILLY

But no computers at all?

EXT. SPACE - NIGHT

The Spacecraft heads towards the end of the line of luminous planets in the sky towards the one in shadow.