

## Hunt for Intelligent Life

Mission 101 – find intelligent life outside the galaxy.

I have been chosen as a physicist to study other planets and their living species. More intelligent species are required as slaves to assist our society. The planet detector picked up a planet with relatively intelligent organisms – two, eyes, two ears, two hands, two feet, an intelligent brain and completely made out of meat.

From afar on the outskirts of the city, it was a sprawling metropolis and a vibrant cosmopolitan atmosphere. Its inviting streets and buildings stretched out as far as the eye could see. The light reflecting off the glass and steel of the skyscrapers glistened in the sunlight. The phosphorescent neon lights scaled along the diverse array of buildings, illuminating the stygian sky. Blocks of flats were arched with roses, framed with elegant shutters, filled with brightly coloured doors and walls as nature snaked around the buildings. The air was alive with the bustling of people and the honking of horns from the hum of traffic. It was a haven from the noise and pollution of the city. This was only a miniature droplet of the ocean.

But as I stepped into the city, I couldn't shake the feeling that something was off. The place felt sinister. It was the type of place that made people quicken their steps as they passed. It was the type of place polluted by the black veil of soot, smog and smoke. It was the type of place where the air was thick with the scent of pollution, the stench almost overwhelming. Derelict buildings stood lifeless – dark green moss spread across the walls like mould on bread, as if they had been gnawed by hundreds of starving rats. The city was beautiful on the outside, but darkness lurked beneath its surface. A murderous voice shivered down my spine. Something hid in the shadows. Something abnormal. Something that I couldn't quite put my finger on.

The last species of bipedal homosapiens carried around a small mechanical device glued to their hand and their eyes glued to the screen. They treated it like their pet – walking it around, patting it with swipes and supplying it with energy boosts. However, too focused on their mechanism, the humans did not notice me at all. They simply just walked right through me. The cars zoomed past me. Blue computerised cubes were gradually disappearing from them. This was not an intelligent life form at all. How can these unaware, mindless living beings help our advanced society if they can't even touch us? Just as I was about to leave, a dark, ominous shadow loomed over me.

The world was glitching.

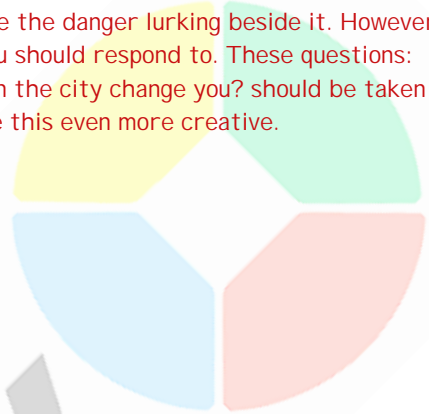
The pixels faded away.

Armed robots arose from the shadows...

Note:

This is an okay narrative because you were able to explore the city and describe the danger lurking beside it. However, I am not satisfied with it because you have not answered the questions that you should respond to. These questions: How do these themes affect your experience in the city? How does your time in the city change you? should be taken into consideration next time. Lastly, I advise that you include dialogues to make this even more creative.

Mark: 43/50



Scholarly