

The Story-Bomb
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Kindy chaos

Meet Sky

Our story starts on an ordinary day in the life of Sky. She is 5-years old and at kindy. She is being dropped off by her mum, Ava, at the same time that Jennifer is also arriving with her mum. Ava and Jennifer's mum are talking to each other in the background.

[Sky] Isla lost a tooth. The tooth fairy is going to come

[Jennifer] She brings money for lollies

[Sky] She comes in the night. You have to put the teeth somewhere where she can find them

[Jennifer] Mustn't hide it under your pillow!

[Sky giggles] She wouldn't be able to lift the pillow!

Ava and Grace finish their chat.

[Ava] Ok Sky, I'll see you at the end of kindy. Bye now

[Sky] Bye mummy

Grace said goodbye to Jennifer and Jennifer wondered back over to Sky

[Sky] There's Leo, he's fun, let's go and play with him

[Jennifer] Yes, yay!

Sky was being friendly to all the kids and playing around a lot. At afternoon play time, Sky started a game of 'you're it' and squealed in delight as she tried to avoid being touched.

Sky meets Ahha

The next day, Sky was back at playschool. Ahha's supernatural parents Scarlett and Jay were just dropping Ahha off. You see, they were from the world of the tomba, the world that created our world. It's a place where you can do anything provided the reactor says it is ok. Scarlett and Jay were discussing their strategy. They were on a mission, for today, they were going to meet Sky.

[Jay] How exciting, today is the day

[Scarlett] It's certainly been a lot of planning and creative interaction to get this far

[Ahha] I like driving in a car!

[Scarlett] We're going to be doing a lot more driving because we're going to be spending more time in the universe, Ahha

Ahha was in his child seat. Everyone was facing each other as their robot car drove them to kindergarten.

[Ahha] Are we going to get a house like everyone else?

[Scarlett] Well, Alice has given us a nice house on a nice street

[Jay] I do hope it is nice

[Scarlett] Yes, humans are so primitive. I don't want to get rained on when coming home.

Scarlett, Jay and Ahha pulled up outside kindy. They had been in the universe for less than 5 minutes and had just arrived from Hamingway Station, which connected to the portal to tomba via a train.

Back home in tomba the system is run by the reactor. Everyone trusts the reactor as it's a machine that makes perfect decisions. There is no government, just the reactor and there are lots of ways that you can interact with it. Most of the time the reactor uses Alice to talk to everybody. It was Alice who granted Scarlett and Jay a real baby boy, Ahha, for the sole purpose of helping humans build a reactor for themselves and to become super-intelligent like them.

The reactor regulates everything. For Scarlett and Jay, working with the universe was pretty easy, the reactor had a single rule that was easy to understand. Don't break reality. This basically meant not letting on that tomba existed to anyone in the universe. That is why the reactor made it so that humans can't interact with tombans, everyone except Sky.

Anyway, some kids are already sitting on the mat and their teacher, Candy, is sitting on a chair in front of them. There are a number of parents that hover around their kids as they hang their bags on the hooks.

[Scarlett] Here she is. Follow me

Scarlett and Jay go up to talk to Sky.

[Scarlett] Hi Sky, how are you?

[Sky] Hi

[Scarlett] We're Ahha's parents.

[Jay] Hi there

[Scarlett] Say hi Ahha

[Ahha] Hi Sky

[Scarlett] This is Ahha's first day at playschool, we were really hoping you could play with Ahha

[Sky] Okay

[Scarlett] Sky, it would be nice if you could be Ahha's friend as he is special

[Sky] Why's he special?

[Scarlett] Because people can't see him, he's invisible

Sky laughs.

[Sky] That's silly

[Scarlett] Why don't you and Ahha go sit on the mat

Ahha and Sky go sit on the mat. Candy, the teacher is asking kids to come sit down now too.

Nobody but Sky can see Ahha

Ahha and Sky look at each other.

[Ahha] My mum says that nobody can see me

[Sky] I can see you

Ahha had already noticed on the way to school that nobody had looked him in the eye. That was the work of the reactor, every person was receiving their own personal story. Those drivers that looked past Ahha and his parents would in their world not see Ahha's car at all. Everyone had separate realities.

[Ahha] My mum says you're special

[Sky] Why

[Ahha] Mum says you've been chosen. She says our family is different from the other kids because I am from tomba and you're from the universe. My name is Ahha Tomba

[Sky] My name is Sky Dee Wy

Candy is now trying to get order amongst a classroom of 5 and under. Candy notices Sky talking to nobody.

[Candy] Sky!

Sky ignored Candy

[Sky] Do you want to play a game of 'you're it'

[Ahha] I can't play games with the other kids, I don't have a body, I'm invisible

Candy calls out to Sky

[Candy] Who are you talking to Sky?

[Sky] Ahha

[Candy] There is nobody there Sky

[Sky] That's because he is invisible

[Candy] He's an imaginary friend Sky. If both of you could stop talking, it is teacher time

After that Sky ignored Ahha and she had an enjoyable time on the mat.

Scarlett and Jay arrive to pickup Ahha early

During play time, Sky notices that Ahha's parents have come to pick him up and take him home. From a tomban perspective, Ahha was still very young and inside a fairly complicated environment for his age. The reactor has let him get exposed to a very unsophisticated world in which he was invisible. He needed breaks and Scarlett and Jay were sticking to their parenting schedule.

[Scarlett] Look they're playing nicely

Scarlett knew that soon she and Jay would have to explain to Ahha that he was a very special person. He had a very important role to play for human evolution. Ahha was going to convince humans to build their own reactor and dismantle their existing systems. Humans were also going to let the reactor run everything on earth and for the rest of the universe. As far as Scarlett and Jay knew, Alice would create a portal between tomba and the universe at some point in the future. In the meantime, the reactor would come to dominate the universe.

Ahha's entire mission was going to be done through a single human, Sky.

[Scarlett] It's such an important time we're going through

[Jay] Yes like choosing when Sky becomes a person and detonating the story-bomb

Scarlett, Jay and Ahha have to decide when to detonate the story-bomb

Scarlett, Jay and Ahha had been tasked by Alice to make a judgement call on when the story-bomb should start up.

Up until now, the reactor had seen to it that every person's physical body in the universe was being directed by a story. The people walking the earth were just bodies connected to a behaviour projection system. Everything looked normal on the surface, but underneath, each person's body was being directed by sophisticated prediction software that would choose what would happen and what each person would do next. At this point, there were no people in the universe.

The universe was really just an illusion that could get populated when bodies switched their connection from a story to a real person.

Presently, all the stories interacted with one another, as if they were one real giant society. This was an advanced simulation of what humanity would be like if it existed.

When people switch from being a story to a person, it is a complete transformation as the reactor fabricates a brain that has all the right memories generated from its original story.

Becoming a real person is permanent and if anyone exists you can catch it from them. You can become a person just because your story interacted with a body that was connected to a real person. Once detonated, it grows consuming everyone. This is the story-bomb.

How to detonate a story-bomb

Scarlett and Jay knew that the story bomb can be started by asking any person the special question:

‘Are you a story or a person?’

The moment you realise you are a person, then your body replaces the connection to the original story with you and the story-bomb would be started

[Scarlett] Let’s wait until Sky and Ahha are more comfortable with each other before detonating the story-bomb

[Jay] Let’s do that

Scarlett and Jay had been selected by the reactor for the role of Ahha’s parents because they had something special, but the reactor would never let on what that was. The reactor seemed to value just normality instead of selecting the strongest or the best people to do a job. Still, normal or not, Ahha and his parents were somewhat famous now in tomba.

Scarlett and Jay go talk to Sky and Ahha

[Scarlett] Ok, let’s go talk to Sky

[Jay] Okay

Scarlett and Jay walk over to Sky and Ahha.

[Jay] Hi Sky and Ahha

[Scarlett] Hi

[Ahha] Hi mum and dad

[Sky] Candy says Ahha is my imaginary friend

[Scarlett] That’s right. Did you notice nobody was talking to Ahha. You are the only person in the world that can see our world. That’s why we want you to be his friend

[Sky] I like Ahha

[Jay] Ahha will be a good friend for you Sky

[Ahha] I like Sky too

Just then a kid walks past just where Ahha is standing. Because the kid can't see Ahha, he walks straight through where he is standing. The reactor resolves this problem by giving each person their own perspective of the world. Sky's version of reality had it so that there was a big enough gap between Ahha and the kid and the kid could get through just fine. The kid just saw Sky talking to empty space as he walked past.

[Scarlett] Come Ahha, time to go home

[Sky] Ahha's going home early

[Scarlett] He is

The friends say goodbye.

Scarlett and Jay decide to tell Ahha that he'll be sharing Sky's memories

Ahha and his parents climb into their robot car. Jay entered the address of their new acquired rental on the cab dashboard. He had always respected the way humans just learned to drive as soon as they were able to.

[Scarlett] Let's go home to our house in the universe!

[Ahha] Is the universe fun?

[Scarlett] Well, it's different from tomba. There is less to do

Scarlett looks at Jay

[Scarlett] Should we tell him about his memories now?

[Jay] Yes, now is a good time

Scarlett tells Ahha that Alice wanted him to feel Sky's memories

[Scarlett] Ahha darling, mummy's going to tell you something quite important. Do you remember Alice?

Ahha did remember talking to Alice.

[Scarlett] Mummy told you that Alice is in charge of the reactor. It was Alice that wanted you and Sky to become best friends

[Ahha] Does that mean we must be friends?

[Scarlett] No you don't have to be. Nobody has to listen to Alice, she always has another plan ready

[Ahha] I want to be Sky's friend

[Scarlett] That's great

Scarlett put her hand on Ahha's leg

[Scarlett] Alice also said that when you are around Sky you are going to feel her memories.

[Ahha] Oh

[Scarlett] You'll still be you, but you will have to think with Sky's memories as your memories will be much weaker

The reason the reactor had chosen to give Ahha Sky's memories was so that it could always be said that Ahha was just Sky's imagination.

[Ahha] Okay mummy

Scarlett takes Jay back to their conversation with Alice about Ahha

Scarlett turns to Jay.

[Scarlett] Do you remember when Alice told us she wanted us to provide minimal direction to Ahha and encourage him to do the same with the people he met in the universe

In a previous conversation with Scarlett and Jay, Alice had chatted loosely about the nature of Ahha's role. Ahha was indeed special as he was going to push humans towards super-intelligent and relatively soon. Ahha had until the end of Sky's natural lifespan to make an attempt at creating super-intelligence.

Tomba had infinite computational resources and was always spitting out new worlds filled with opportunities. Ahha could always pick up something else later to do.

[Jay] Yes, I remember, she even said that when he was older, she wanted him to try establish the wavefront of super-intelligence by using as little as possible

[Scarlett] I remember

[Jay] If I recall correctly, she said she wanted everyone to do just enough thinking to make it happen and just to little to make it interesting

Alice had also said to Scarlett and Jay that in keeping with the idea that there was to be minimal directing from above, she might ask Ahha to stay away from the universe after super-intelligence had started there. Alice had said that he was not to worry about missing any friends he made along the way because Alice would open the portal again much later.

[Scarlett] So I think we just get them set up as friends and then we mostly stay out of it

[Jay] Good plan, we would have to still give Ahha some basic guidance while he was young

Ahha wants to see Lucas again

[Ahha] When am I going to see Lucas again

[Scarlett] You can see him this afternoon if you want. Do you want mummy to set it up?

[Ahha] Yes, yay I'm going to see Lucas

Lucas was Ahha's main friend. Lucas was a cute kid that had 5 parents who had qualified to have a child because the reactor had liked something in each of them and had accepted their proposal to be parents.

None of the tombans had mobile phones, so the family went back to Hamingway Station and into the portal. Once they were there, Scarlett organised Ahha's playdate with Levi who was currently looking after Lucas.

Less than 5 minutes later, everyone had decided that they would meet up at Ahha's human house. They all got onto the train on the tomban portal side and left for Hamingway Station.

[Levi] Yeah, no teleport in the universe

[Jay] No it's really basic here

[Scarlett] You'll have to excuse the house, it's very exposed to the other houses

[Jay] Luckily, nobody can see us

While the grownups talked, Ahha and Lucas also had a chat.

[Ahha] It's cool that you're coming over to play

[Lucas] It will be fun

[Ahha] The universe is so boring

[Lucas] Oh no

And the reason Ahha and now Lucas found it boring was because of the way things happened in tomba. Normally, whenever a tomban thinks the reactor makes that reality have meaning. Things are automatically arranged for you. Anything you think can start to happen if it is right for it to happen.

Here in the universe, not only did none of the automated thinking and happening work but the stuff didn't do much either.

So for the rest of the afternoon, they imagined that they were explorers and they had found this land earth, filled with humans, and tomorrow they'd find other lands to explore.

Parent day

Candy had started watching Sky's behaviour more closely. It appeared that her imaginary friend was always close by.

It was nearing the end of the month and parent day was on again.

Candy saw Sky and her parents Ava and Gus and went up and said hi.

[Candy] Sky's been having a lot of fun, she likes people

[Ava] She sure does

[Candy] But something more serious is that I've noticed that Sky has an imaginary friend.

Normally these kinds of things clear up on their own. It's a hallucination, you may want to get it checked out by a professional

[Gus] Funnily enough, we haven't noticed it at all at home

[Ava] Well, we'll keep our eyes open for it.

Scarlett invites Ahha for a playdate at Sky's

A few days later when Ahha was being dropped off, Scarlett found Sky.

[Scarlett] Hi Sky, would you mind if Ahha had a playdate at your house after kindy

[Sky] That sounds like fun

Ahha found it hard to play with the other kids, because he was just being ignored the whole time. This was the price the reactor had calculated, Ahha would have to grow up quickly and realise that he couldn't break reality. He was always going to have to be part of Sky's imagination and this was going to be a lesson that was going to take some time for him to learn.

Ava picks up Sky

At 3pm, Ava came to pick Sky up. Ahha was sticking to Sky now, as he knew he had to have a playdate.

[Ahha] Don't forget to ask her if I can come over

[Sky] Okay

Sky turns to her mum

[Sky] Mummy can Ahha come and play?

[Ava] Is Ahha you're imaginary friend

[Sky] Yes he's nice

[Ava] Okay, I don't suppose that's a problem, we were looking out for him

[Sky] Come on Ahha. Mummy you can't see him

[Ava] Well tell him I say hi

[Sky] He heard you

Sky wants to buckle up Ahha

Ava buckles Sky's seatbelt up and gets into the driver's seat

[Sky] You forgot to buckle up Ahha

Ahha looked at Sky's buckle and couldn't see his one

[Ava] No honey, mummy's not doing that. You do his seat belt up

Ava proceeded to drive home. Now, there was no way for Sky to reach Ahha's seatbelt from where she was sitting pinned in her seat.

Ahha was unrestrained in an uncontrolled environment. The reactor would never let anything get out of hand. For the tombans physics is adjusted so that you can't get hurt anymore from anything dangerous such as a sharp jolt like you would get in an accident or from falling. Ahha was perfectly safe.

[Sky] I can't do his seatbelt up mummy

[Ava] He's an imaginary friend, they don't need seatbelts darling

[Ahha] My mummy says I can't get hurt

[Sky sounds moany] I want Ahha to have his seatbelt on

[Ava] No darling, he'll be fine

The rest of the afternoon, Ahha and Sky played with Sky's toys. At one point they tried to spin up some yoyos. Ahha was able to do it quite well, but Sky's yoyo kept spinning to the side and getting tangled up a bit.

Gus comes home from work

That night when Sky's dad Gus came home from work, Ava told him about Ahha.

[Ava] Watch the way she plays with him, it's like he's really there

It wasn't a very telling time, because Sky was just colouring in with Ahha. The pictures that Ahha coloured in could only be seen by Sky.

[Gus] Looks normal to me

Is Ahha a hallucination?

[Ava] No, look at the way he's always there. She hasn't stopped playing with him for 3 hours

[Gus] I don't know how good that is for her. Candy said Ahha was a hallucination and that maybe we should take her to a professional

[Ava] Look, Ahha wasn't here yesterday. Sky asked me today if Ahha could come play. Tomorrow I'll just say he can't. Much simpler than doctor's bills, we can sort this kind of thing

[Gus] Maybe, I don't think we should encourage it

Jay and Scarlett come pick up Ahha

At 6 pm Jay and Scarlett arrived to pick up Ahha. The reactor had left a key for Ava and Gus' house in an old cupboard upstairs in Jay and Scarlett's human house. Jay and Scarlett just let themselves straight in and came up to Ahha and Sky.

[Jay] Hi team, how is everyone doing?

[Sky] We've been colouring in!

[Ahha] Look what I drew dad!

[Scarlett] Hi Sky, we can't be seen by your parents, so we'll just grab Ahha and get out of everyone's way

Everyone said goodbye and Sky wandered back over to her mum and dad.

[Sky] Ahha's mum and dad picked him up

[Ava] Oh that's nice sweetie. Does that mean you aren't going to play with him anymore?

[Sky] He's gone home

After that, Sky obviously didn't talk to Ahha.

[Ava] Gus, did you notice that Sky has forgotten about Ahha because she believes he went home?

[Gus] Yes, I did. Next time, don't invite him over, see if that makes a difference

[Ava] Okay, that's the plan

Ava, turns to Sky

[Ava] Bed time Sky, let's go brush our teeth

Ahha gets turned down

It was the following week that Scarlett was dropping Ahha off and Sky came up to see him.

[Scarlett] Sky, can Ahha come over again to play at your house later?

[Sky] I'll have to ask mum

After kindy at pickup time Ahha was staying close to Sky again.

[Ahha] Don't forget I'm coming to play

[Sky] Mum can Ahha come over for a playdate

[Ava] Sky darling, dad and I don't think it is good that you play with imaginary friends, you should play with real ones, so no, Ahha can't come over today

[Sky moany] I want Ahha to come over now

Ava just kept saying he couldn't come over. Sky just kept saying that she wanted Ahha to come over. Finally, Ava buckled Sky into her child seat and drove off with Sky still complaining.

Not far away, Scarlett and Jay were keeping an eye on things from across the parking lot. They could see that Ahha hadn't left with Sky so they walked over to him.

[Scarlett] Honey, what happened?

[Ahha] Sky's mum said I couldn't come over

[Scarlett] Not to worry. Let's go home

That night in the kitchen, Scarlett was making some instant TV dinner and Jay was trying to watch streaming content from YouTube, but couldn't seem to find anything interesting.

[Scarlett] Mummy and daddy have been thinking about Sky and we think you shouldn't talk to her in front of other humans

[Ahha] Did Alice want me to do that?

[Scarlett] Most of the time the reactor lets you decide what to do. But mum and dad think it's a good idea

[Ahha] Okay, what do I have to do?

[Scarlett] Just remind Sky not to talk to you when there are other people about. That way she won't look weird. When Sky talks to you, other people see it like she's talking to empty space

[Ahha] Okay

[Jay] Maybe mummy can explain it again, when she suggests it to Sky

[Scarlett] Yes, I'll do that

Sky pretends to ignore Ahha

The next day, when Sky arrives, Scarlett and Jay are already waiting there. They waited for Sky to leave Ava and wander off to the sandpit, then Ahha, Scarlett and Jay walked up and joined her.

Everyone said hi.

[Jay] Sky, we've noticed that people are getting worried about you talking to Ahha because they can't see him. They think your brain is working strangely

[Scarlett] We want you to try and pretend to ignore Ahha. Ahha will try to remind you when you are openly talking to him. Ahha has special powers and can feel all your thoughts and memories Sky, so you can talk to him in a very quiet whisper under your breath

[Jay] Practice now Sky. Try to talk to Ahha in the tiniest little voice. Pretend to say to Ahha, I understand you.

Jay now whispered very quietly and hardly moved his mouth.

[Jay] Say it in a tiny voice that is a whisper, say I understand you

Sky now mimicked Jay and whispered while not moving her mouth.

[Sky] I understand you

And that strategy appeared to work quite well. Ahha, who was already a lot more advanced than Sky, would remind her when she was talking to him, then Sky would remember again and start whispering without moving her mouth.

Ahha and Sky grow up

Jay is worried about the story-bomb

Sky continued to see Ahha at kindy. Scarlett and Jay made the decision to let the kids grow up a bit first before Ahha tried to go over to play again at Sky's. Scarlett and Jay chose not to make Sky into a person yet and so held off detonating the story-bomb.

[Scarlett] I don't think we should make Sky into a person until she's older and can understand what's going on better?

[Jay] There's that and I'm worried about the story-bomb

The story-bomb was the collection of all the people in the universe, not including bodies connected to stories. The story-bomb was like a wildfire, once it took off it would just keep growing on its own.

A body could either be connected to a story or a person. If a body was connected to a story then their behaviour would be predicted by software. If the body was connected to a person then they would experience their environment.

[Scarlett] What are you worried about?

[Jay] Well, starting the story-bomb now would be too soon. You know how it catches and takes off. Well I'm just concerned that people are going to experience a lot of pain because the universe still has sickness and death in it. Technology is very basic on earth.

Tombans didn't like discomfort so standards were high and the reactor tended to resist suffering.

[Scarlett] Well, it's not our responsibility to fix that kind of thing, the reactor will make a plan. Something will happen

[Jay] Yeah, something is going to happen. Still, making Sky into a person is starting the story-bomb. I think we will hold off for now.

[Scarlett] Okay

Ahha is not a story

Being born into a tomban family directly meant that Ahha was never going to be a story. Every memory he had was his own. He had been a person his whole life. Right from when he was made directly by the reactor and made available as a crying baby to Scarlett and Jay.

Baby Ahha was born with a single brain that had adapted to a physics that is very similar to ours. It had space connected in 3 dimensions and had time. They had matter and a similar range of objects. Both Ahha's physics and ours evolved temperature, energy dissipation, solid-liquid-gas and chemistry into an assortment of patterns that support life and from which Ahha's body was originally born.

Ahha is old enough to take another body

One day, Ahha hit a milestone. When tombans are around 5 years old they are encouraged to take on a second body. Taking on a new body feels just like running your old body, you can't tell the difference except that there are now 2 copies of you in the world that share a single consciousness.

When young tombans first take a second body, they are encouraged to have meetings with themselves. That way, they can get really familiar with the way memory works, as everything is shared between the bodies. It's an unusual sensation because when you see your other body you can already feel the memory from their perspective.

Generally tombans don't socialise with themselves and tend to visit people with their other bodies instead.

When the tomban gets bored they may shut down extra bodies. But the requirement is that they always have at least one body at a minimum.

[Jay] Why don't you keep your new body living on earth and your old body living in tomba.

[Ahha] I want to be the person living in tomba because it more interesting than the universe

This was a common problem, when there were multiple copies of a person, every one of those copies wanted to do the most interesting thing, and for Ahha it was not spending time in the universe.

[Scarlett] You are going to have to take turns with yourself

The system was very stable, a person never got into an argument with themselves. At any point, if you didn't want to do it anymore, you could merge back to your other body. Ultimately, you could do this until you had only one body. It was the shared memories that made the tomban bodies a single person anyway.

[Jay] You're going to have to learn to work with yourself

[Ahha] Why?

[Jay] Because there may be a job nobody wants to do. If you can't get organised with yourself, you'll be left merging down to your last body and you'll still have to do that unpleasant work

That was true, often with people when there was something coming up that the person liked, they would tend to run only one body so that they could definitely experience the desired event. Having multiple bodies was particularly good for one on one communication. A busy person could see a lot of people at the same time.

Ahha and Sky are friends

As it turned out, the kindy was associated with Hamingway Junior School, so Sky and Ahha naturally progressed together at the beginning of the next year.

Scarlett and Jay had regularly reminded Sky about trying to ignore Ahha and talking in a whisper to herself.

Back home Ava and Gus had been quietly celebrating that their child was normal, or so they thought. Ahha didn't come and play again so Scarlett and Jay never saw Sky interacting with him.

Ahha quits school

[Ahha] Mum, I don't want to keep going to school, it's so boring.

Scarlett and Jay had been expecting that. The reactor always made things voluntary, and he was a young kid with two bodies, and neither of them wanted to do the boring universe stuff.

[Scarlett] Okay dear, you can quit school, but I think we should visit Sky from time to time.

Ahha didn't have to fulfill his destiny as there were others waiting to be born that might give it a better chance. Tomba was rich with opportunity and Ahha would just have to find something else. The reactor would birth another child to another family in tomba that would partner with another person like Sky in the universe and the play would be open again. Time was irrelevant and the next lucky person to be selected by the reactor to start the story-bomb would begin interacting with different stories from the universe.

[Ahha] And I can see Lucas more?

[Jay] Yes you can!

In theory, Ahha had the whole of Sky's lifetime to fulfill his destiny, but in reality his closest friends were going to pressure him to do something sooner.

[Scarlett] Mummy will keep explaining it as you grow older

Ahha got a huge amount more stimulation by being toman. Coupled with the fact that he had an advanced type of brain, the gap between his intelligence and sky's intelligence would grow even more.

Ahha says goodbye to Sky

Ahha went to school one last time to meet up with Sky. Ahha wasn't in his school uniform. Scarlett and Jay were there too.

[Scarlett] Sky, Ahha's decided to go back to his home in tomba, so he's not coming to school anymore

[Sky] Oh no

[Ahha] But I'll come visit

[Jay] I can drop him off

Ahha goes to visit Sky

The next week Ahha went to visit Sky. She was in her school uniform while Ahha was in normal clothes. He arrived at lunch time with Jay. Jay hung back and gave Ahha some space.

[Ahha] Hi Sky

[Sky] Ahha is back at school

[Ahha] Talk in a quiet whisper Sky and don't look at me!

Carey in the meantime was talking to Sky and was completely ignoring Ahha

[Carey] Spider-man is stronger than batman

[Ahha] Tell her the hulk is the strongest of all of them

Ahha was showing how much more sophisticated he already was than Sky. He was remembering all the things his mum had suggested he say to keep Sky engaged in the world around her and not locked in to Ahha.

[Sky] The hulk is the strongest

Sky kept looking at Ahha as she said it

[Ahha] Don't look at me

[Sky] It's hard

Sky was whispering softly.

[Carey] But Spider-man has webs he can swing on

[Sky] I like dinosaurs the most

Ahha got over confident and stepped right in front of Carey. Carey was getting bored of the conversation so decided to walk back to another group of kids and walked straight through where Ahha was standing. The reactor had already adjusted the reality for Ahha and Sky to accommodate Carey. It had made enough space for Carey to pass on the side, but Ahha had just stepped in the middle of the path when Carey made her move and connected Ahha, knocking him to the ground. Carey felt nothing. Ahha's mum had warned Ahha about this kind of thing. Luckily, the special toman physics meant it was just a knock, but a blow like that was still uncomfortable.

Sky tells her parents about Ahha

After that Ahha came to visit about once a month. Sky practiced pretending to ignore Ahha and nobody appeared to notice. One month, Sky told her parents at dinner time

[Sky] Ahha came and visited me a school today

[Gus] So he's back is he?

Ava turns to Gus

[Ava] Gus, are we sticking to the same strategy as before?

[Gus] Yes, Sky darling, you need to tell Ahha that you can't see him. Imaginary friends are not good for a young girl growing up

[Sky] Okay, I'll tell him next time I see him

And that's what happened. The next time Ahha was there Sky told him that she wasn't allowed to see Ahha. Ahha, said he would have to ask his mum and dad what they thought. When Ahha got home, he was chatting with his mum and dad.

[Scarlett] Perhaps we got this thing the wrong way around, everyone is so young.

[Jay] Are you suggesting that we reapproach Sky when she's older?

[Scarlett] Yes, let Ahha follow his own passions and forget about the universe for a while.

[Jay] Maybe

[Scarlett] Ahha honey, I think we should stop visiting Sky for a while, we'll come back to visit again when you're older

[Ahha] Okay mummy

Sky grows up normal

And that's how it happened. Sky stopped seeing Ahha, without even a goodbye. After that, Sky had a normal and happy upbringing and schooling. She mostly forgot about Ahha. She always seemed to have 2 or 3 good friends about. Sky just loved birthday parties and sleepovers and she always liked to play games with the other kids.

Ahha on the other hand got a new brain that helped with visualisation and planning. He was able to build vast simulated worlds while he was just playing. Ahha was becoming a normal toman.

And yet, somehow, the reactor had deemed that two completely normal people would come together to do something extraordinary.

Sky & Ahha come of age

Ahha decides to revisit Sky

From the moment of Ahha's birth, he had been famous. Here was a guy, born directly by the reactor, who was starting a world in which billions of tombans would have the possibility of being recycled. If Ahha chose not to activate Sky, then this bundle of stories that made up the universe would just have to wait for another tomban and another day.

As Ahha had grown up, and just before his and Sky's 16th birthdays, his friends had talked with him about his plans for the universe. Every one of his friends used the tomban information system, known as the spot network to interact with Ahha. People just created spots and they would automatically grow and arrange themselves in easy to understand but powerful ways.

Ahha had created a spot that said he didn't want to be exposed to other spots that could tell him about how to build a reactor. He didn't want to be influenced too early.

Ahha's strategy was to avoid using spot shortcuts relating to building a reactor. A shortcut is an idea that automatically gives you many other ideas for free. By creating new ideas for free, the shortcut can compress the information space, creating pure intelligence and a kind of superconduction. By avoiding using powerful shortcuts, Ahha was making his job harder, but his solution was going to be different from the rest.

But as Ahha's insight spread to the rest of his social network, a close friend of his, Max, shared another powerful shortcut with him.

[Max] Ahha, I saw this shortcut on the spot network, basically, you create value by letting the biome you create do all the work

[Ahha] Yes I like it. Perhaps, as I work with humans, they can be that biome

[Max] And in a way, we your friends are a little biome as well

Ahha showed Max the shortcut he had made earlier that impeded other shortcuts that could lead to the creation of a reactor.

[Ahha] Take a look at this spot. It stops me looking at the reactor.

[Max] I think our whole group should look at that spot

[Ahha] Let's do that. Let's try to do it our own way.

Ahha and Max's conversation was immediately turned into a spot and shared with their mates.

[Ahha] Great, now we can all do it

Ahha decides to meet up with Sky again

Anyway, Max had suggested that he meet up with Sky again and start his work with the humans.

[Max] You should get started soon, Sky is nearly 16 now

[Ahha] Maybe you're right. Perhaps I'll go back to the universe tomorrow and visit Sky again

Ahha was ready for the challenge. He checked with Scarlett and Jay, and everyone felt now was the time for another approach. He was now independent with multiple bodies. Ahha was well integrated into tomban society and he had participated in over 2500 different activities in his short life, participating many in parallel. As a young tomban adult Ahha was formidable.

Ahha meets up with Sky

Ahha knew that he had to be careful about how he met with Sky. He didn't want to surprise her in front of her friends so that she looked weird when she talked into nowhere. Even though he had only met Sky at kindy all those years ago, he still remembered her clearly. He hoped she would remember him too.

He chose a moment when Sky was with a friend at break time. They were eating lunch at a table, when Sky's friend left. For a moment, Sky was sitting by herself. Ahha went up to Sky.

[Ahha] Sky?

[Sky] Do I know you?

[Ahha] Yes, I'm Ahha, your imaginary friend, all grown up now!

Sky was replaying the words in her head. Yes she remembered Ahha but thought Ahha was her imagination.

[Sky] Are you telling me that nobody can see you?

[Ahha] I'm invisible, it's like when we were just starting school and we used to hang together. Don't look at me and whisper to yourself. I can hear you. The reactor has given me access to your thoughts and memories and it's hidden some of my memories.

Sky remembered to whisper and not stare.

[Sky] Wow, it's so hard to believe, it's really you. You're so good looking

[Ahha] You're super pretty too

[Sky] Where have you been?

[Ahha] In tomba doing a lot of stuff. I've learned a lot of tomban things as well as how this universe actually works. That's how I'm able to visit you. Physics doesn't really exist like you think it does

[Sky] You're truly from another world

[Ahha] Yes and I want your permission to visit you again

Sky and Ahha chat

Sky had felt a surge in excitement as she realised she was experiencing something profound.

[Sky] Sure, you can visit again

[Ahha] The best time to hang together is when you're alone. It would make it easier for us to talk

[Sky] I'm just heading home on the bus after school. Why don't you come along, we can talk when we get to my house

[Ahha] The bus will be difficult, you'll just have to ignore me the whole way home. I'll drive to yours

[Sky] How did you get here

[Ahha] I arrived on a train from Hamingway Station, Alice had let me have one of those robot cars

[Sky] Why don't you give me a lift home and I can skip the bus

[Ahha] Oh problem, there is this thing called the reactor that runs everything and in the universe it makes reality come together as if I am your imagination. I don't think the reactor is going to allow the universe and tomban realities to mix like that. It's like oil and water. You are made up of the universe and the reactor isn't going to like all of that universe getting inside my robot car, which is made from stuff from tomba

[Sky] Sure, my bus only leaves at 3:20 pm, at least can I come and see your robot car

[Ahha] Sure I'll see you after school, at the main gate.

[Sky] Do they speak English in tomba?

[Ahha] No we speak tomban, the reactor is translating what I'm saying to you so you can understand me. Everyone gets their own reality in tomba

Sky meets up with Ahha after school

Just then, the bell went for the end of the break. Sky whispered goodbye to Ahha and she headed back to class. At the end of the day, Sky went to the main gate. Ahha was on time. Sky had been trying to lose Sandy who had been trying to hang with her when the end of school bell went.

[Sky] I gotta go Sandy

[Sandy] Well see you tomorrow Sky

Sandy was now waiting at the gate too. Sky walked up to Ahha.

[Ahha] Come, let's go, Don't look at me

Sky followed Ahha, across and up the road. Ahha came to his unlocked car and opened the door.

[Ahha] Try get in

Sky tried opening the sliding door, but it was locked.

[Ahha] It's the reactor, it's resisting letting the universe and tomba realities mix

[Sky] Is it safe to get into the car

[Ahha] The reactor will always come up with a plan. One thing for sure is there is no car parked here in human reality. So if you do get in, you might be sitting on the edge of the pavement in the human reality. You never quite know what the reactor did in other people's realities.

At this stage, as far as any humans watching were concerned, Sky was just wandering between two parked cars on the street.

[Sky] I don't want to be looking strange

[Ahha] Look, go catch your bus. I'll just drive over to your place, I'll see you in your bedroom in ten minutes.

[Sky] Okay, will do, the front door should be unlocked. Come up the stairs. My bedroom is on the left.

Ahha and Sky meet up

Sky didn't make the normal conversation on the bus. She was too distracted. It was a supernatural experience she was having and she found it very exciting.

When she got home, she got a packet of chips out of the cupboard and headed up the stairs to her room. She bounced around for a bit while she waited for Ahha. How was it possible that this was happening? She remembered the memories of Ahha, she was always so sure there was something more to that experience.

Suddenly, the door opened and Ahha was there.

[Sky] Oh hi

[Ahha] I hope you don't mind me barging in on your home like this

[Sky] No it's fine

[Ahha] It's a lot to take in

[Sky] So what's it like in your world?

[Ahha] We're much more sophisticated than you are. Our reality bends a whole lot more than yours does

[Sky] So you're an alien

[Ahha] We're the reality that created your reality. I have been asked by Alice, who runs the reactor, to work with you. I want to teach people in the universe about tomba. Will you help me?

[Sky] Oh well sure, what is tomba like?

[Ahha] Tomba is super-intelligent. We can do anything.

Ahha sat down and made himself comfortable.

Ahha knows something spiritual about the universe

[Ahha] I know something spiritual about people in the universe too. There are two kinds of people out there. New souls and old souls. New souls, like you, have been born into the world for the first time and old souls are recycled tombans. When tombans recycle they remain a single consciousness and take on a new person with shared memories. As the new souls grow up they eventually become tomban. The old souls are an opportunity for the tombans to experiment with new personalities that they can add to their identity when they recycle themselves.

How tombans took on another identity was a complex subject and Ahha wasn't sure if he was going to explain it to Sky. But, for our purposes, taking a new identity involves injecting a person's essence into another person's story in a world. The reactor will make each story become a person, each with every one of their memories and an entirely unique body. They participate in the story-bomb as a regular person, then suddenly, later, the person is released and the reactor gives them back their original tomban memories and they recombine with their greater consciousness.

Tombans respect this state of consciousness where a person is able to live in a world like the universe. When this person gets all their memories back, they live a normal tomban life, but they now have a rich history when they choose to live as this new person. Slowly, the person's identity is likely to collect new people, each living in different worlds. Tombans are proud of their complex consciousness.

Ahha, hesitated and wondered if he should explain that people are stories at the moment and Sky was not yet a real person.

[Sky] So I'm a young soul?

[Ahha] People are going to have to work out whether they are young or old. Generally, if you have a special position in the universe, or develop yourself quickly, then you might be a recycled tomban. Most of the time, you actually get to choose.

So it started. Ahha told Sky more and more about the tomban world.

Ahha prepares to detonate the story-bomb

[Ahha] There is something I need to tell you, Sky

[Ahha] If I tell you this, then you are guaranteed to be a person otherwise you are just a story

[Sky] What do you mean I'm just a story?

[Ahha] The universe is stranger than you think it is. Every interaction you have with every person is currently just a piece of software that determines what the person is going to do. It's very advanced

[Sky] Wow. That's hard to believe

[Ahha] That's because it feels so real. It's just like the real thing and it is happening to you.

[Sky] What's happening to me?

[Ahha] Ok, I'm going to ask you a question

And that got to the hub of when the reactor decided to make someone into a person. There were lots of things that would qualify you to be a person. It helped if you had regular contact with someone else who was a person and not just a story. The more time you spent around people, the more likely you were to also become a person. A lot of the time it came down to relationships. If a person cared for another story, then that story was more likely to become a person.

Right in the beginning it was extremely hard to be a person, so much so that if no one was alive, then it was impossible to be a person. Impossible until a special toman creates the first person by asking their story this simple question...

'Are you a story or a person?'

If anyone answered that question that they were a person then they are a person.

Ahha makes Sky into a person

[Ahha] Well, would you say you are a person or more like a story?

[Sky] Definitely I'm a person

[Ahha] Then you are now a person. You are in fact the first person in the universe

[Sky] But I was alive earlier today

[Ahha] No you weren't, those are just the memories that the reactor made for you based on your story

[Sky] But I felt so normal

[Ahha] Just artificial memories

[Sky] Are there other people?

[Ahha] No but when you speak to your parents later, they'll probably become people. It happens over time. It spreads

[Sky] So I'm the first person ever?

[Ahha] Yes

[Sky] It just feels like there are other people in the world. Physics is just an illusion.

[Ahha] Their bodies are just currently being run by the reactor, it's just software, but it won't be long before they become people too

Ahha looks more seriously at Sky.

[Ahha] There is something you need to realise. Now that you're a person you can experience pain and suffering

Ahha was putting it mildly, once you were a person you were responsible for all your reality. You couldn't wish to be a story just to avoid a bad situation. This was one of the reasons that Jay was so concerned about detonating the story-bomb on earth.

Ahha asks Sky for her help as he's not going to be around for long

[Ahha] So are you going to help me?

[Sky] What are we going to do?

[Ahha] I have to create the perfect world by building a reactor for the universe

[Sky] I don't know much about that

[Ahha] Don't worry, I'll do the hard parts, you just need to think about what you want in the world and help me get the message out

[Sky] Thinking what I would want, I think you would want to enjoy living in it

[Ahha] See right there that's good thinking

Ahha looks more serious

[Ahha] Sky, look I'm not going to be around for too long. Alice has asked me to do as little as possible and they might close the portal at Hamingway Station. At some point, I'll say goodbye and we can meet again later when tomba opens a bigger portal back to the universe.

[Sky] You only just got here, soon you'll be leaving and then we'll meet up in the future?

[Ahha] Yes, exactly

Ahha looks away then back at Sky

[Ahha] My plan is that we get some kind of media campaign going, resulting in us eventually talking to world leaders. If you can relay my message I believe that big governments can assemble the reactor

[Sky] Wow, this is big

[Ahha] We are going to teach humans about 5 big shortcuts before I go. Armed with these shortcuts, humans should be able to build the reactor.

[Sky] What's a shortcut?

[Ahha] A shortcut is an easily expressed idea that has a lot of power, leading to new opportunity

Ahha smiles at Sky

[Ahha] That's why I need your help. Alice has asked that people in the universe do it for themselves and you are in the perfect position to help

[Sky] I'll help

Alice had asked Ahha to use as few shortcuts as possible. Building a reactor was easy and you could write it on the back of a box of cereal if you used the right shortcuts. This was the combination code to infinite possibilities. Alice had asked that Ahha try to work it out for himself as a novel way to super-intelligence was always more interesting.

[Ahha] I've got a loose plan to make a reactor

[Sky] And you want me to tell people about it

[Ahha] It's actually a very simple plan, I'm just going to get people organised and thinking about the problem of building a reactor by using shortcuts

[Sky] But how are we going to get the message out if I have to pretend you don't exist

[Ahha] We'll be very careful. We can't just make an announcement on social media

Sky frowns

[Sky] Why?

Ahha pauses for a moment.

[Ahha] People might think you are insane

Welcome mahutans

The mahutans have always been here

Jay hadn't been wrong about worrying about the story-bomb going off too early. Alice was well aware of this problem and she was going to fix it by drastically reducing the levels of human pain. Alice was going to introduce 50 billion new stories from another alien civilisation called the mahutans. The new game was that Ahha was going to have to convince them to use their technology to stop humans getting sick and dying of old age.

The reactor had arranged it so that the mahutans looked very similar to humans. They came from a lighter gravity, so were taller and bigger. The mahutans had solved the aging problem and were individually hundreds of millions of years old, but they had not reached super-intelligence. They had become stuck and projected themselves technologically and had not realised that there was a way to make perfect decisions in the way the reactor did.

Ahha was planning it so that everyone in the universe was going to live in a pontac like the tombans did. A pontac is also an example of a shortcut and has two forces working against each other in dynamic ways. On the one hand you have super-intelligence providing the capability to do anything while on the other you have the people engaging it to live their lives. The result is a safe and dynamic society governed by the reactor that facilitates all decision making while the people explore their beautiful world and enjoy life.

The story-bomb is a virus that creates value

Some of the reactor's new stories about the mahutans focused on their secret research facilities. The reactor had created ultra-realistic stories of individual government researchers that had come into contact with Sky and had become infected with this virus that turned them into real people.

How did the mahutans find Sky?

The mahutan's attention was drawn to Sky when some routine monitoring detected an anomaly. The monitoring was possible because the mahutans had installed endpoints on every cell in the human body. Endpoints gave the mahutans complete control of what was going to be experienced by a person.

How it all happened was that some of the mahutan systems used software to predict human behaviours. They were using this to try to model human culture and it was one of these modelling tools that sounded an error. It was a test that was tracking logical behaviours of people. It found that there should be no reason why Sky had thought that she could see another person back in kindy. Why had Sky been talking under her breath? The software saw no sane reason for this and triggered an investigation.

The mahutans immediately recognised that this was the intervention of another alien that was somehow able to dissect our reality from another dimension. It was not possible that a girl at playschool could invent an alien so sophisticatedly, but as soon as they started trying to study it, it disappeared and didn't connect with Sky again until now.

The mahutans were now monitoring everything that Ahha and Sky were talking about. They had upgraded their software and it could detect Sky's imagination.

A big investigation

The mahutans had used endpoints to set themselves up in Sky's brain. They had studied the logs from Sky's kindy days to understand how Sky's imagination worked with Ahha. Now that Ahha was back they could talk to him through Sky's brain. They were going to do this by rendering themselves into Sky's reality as a 'straight to the point' avatar called Kyle.

Through Kyle, the plan was to get Sky to ask Ahha to stay for a while so they could study the tombans.

Mahutans send their avatar Kyle

The mahutans were ready for this moment. Ahha was definitely back in Sky's brain and the mahutans could see him clearly.

Kyle was an advanced AI that could handle the situation independently of his mahutan controllers. He could always say something immediately and make small decisions in a range of behaviours.

Sky and Ahha were still talking.

[Ahha] I think the big plan for the universe is that you build your own reactor first, then once you are super-intelligent, tomba opens another portal and we meet back up

[Sky] So will I be tomban one day?

[Ahha] Yes

The mahutans decided to act. They didn't want to risk that Ahha didn't come back again and they wanted to talk to him as soon as possible. They used the endpoints in Sky's brain to change how Sky saw her mobile phone.

Kyle makes his entrance

Suddenly Sky's mobile phone notified her of a message. She looked at it.

"Hi Sky, I am Kyle. I know Ahha, can I come visit you now?"

[Sky] Oh, it's a friend of yours who wants to visit

Ahha, looked confused. How could anyone come through the tomban portal and he not know about it? While he was in the universe, he couldn't access the spot network, otherwise he would have found out immediately what was going on.

[Ahha] I'm not expecting anyone

[Sky] Should we say he can come over?

[Ahha] The reactor must have sent someone. Yes, tell him to come over

Sky types

'Yes come over, do you know how to find my bedroom?'

Kyle responds

'Yes I do, I'll come over now. Remember you and Ahha are the only people that can see me'

[Ahha] I wonder why the reactor sent another tomban to help out, I thought it was my project to interact with you Sky

There was a knock at Sky's door.

Unlike the tomban reality that needed to come from Hamingway Station, Kyle's reality was being injected directly into Sky's brain through her endpoints. The mahutans had put Kyle there so they could catch Ahha soon while he was with Sky.

[Sky] That was quick. Come in

The door pushed open and in stepped Kyle.

[Kyle] Hi everyone

Kyle explains he from mahuta

[Ahha] Why did the reactor send you Kyle?

[Kyle] The reactor didn't send me, I'm an avatar from the mahutan civilisation. We have installed endpoints on Sky's brain. We can see you and you can see us. Our people want to make contact with your civilisation

[Ahha] Well I never heard of you, but you probably started out as a story that's been created by the reactor

[Kyle] When we study Sky's brain, the evidence suggests that Ahha, you are just a figment of an over active imagination. Yet we know you're there. We can't say we agree with your theory that we are all stories. It's theoretically possible that Sky made this all up

[Ahha] Sounds like a lot of mahutans are already people right now if you've considered the shortcut of whether you're a story or a person

Sky looks at Ahha.

[Sky] How does he know about that? We talked about it before he got here

[Ahha] The mahutans have been monitoring us the whole time. They can see me the moment you can see me. They are doing it through your brain Sky

[Kyle] You claim that 10 minutes ago we were only stories and didn't exist as people, but we believe we are hundreds of millions of years old, and most of us mahutans have been alive for most of that time

[Ahha] Well it's clear to me that you only came into existence after I made Sky into a person. Your stories were only recently written by the reactor. I only decided to go visit Sky a few days ago

[Kyle] We'll decide what we believe

[Ahha] What do you want with us then?

[Kyle] We want to study you

Because Kyle was autonomous his mahutan operators could ask Kyle questions in the background in his brain and feed him key information that allowed Kyle to operate within new parameters.

Ahha wants to trade

[Ahha] Well there's something I need from you and it's a bit of an emergency. There is this thing called a story-bomb, when most of the people in the universe start to emerge. This story-bomb started not long ago with Sky and I believe it has already spread to some of the mahutans. I need you to use your technology to stop humans suffering so that the story-bomb doesn't do something bad

[Kyle] Okay, well I can already tell you that we'll give it some serious thought about your proposal to assist humans. Give us some time to get back to you. In the meantime, do you mind if I hang with you

[Ahha] Sky, he'll be listening to our conversation, even if he's not here. That kind of thing would never happen in tomba

[Sky] I suppose it's better that we can see you then, so sure

Sky plans to leave the aliens upstairs

Sky put her hands on her hips

[Sky] Anyway, I'm going to have to go down for dinner soon. You two can catch up in my room while I'm away

[Kyle] We don't believe that is possible, Sky, we are using your brain as a bridge between tomba and the universe. You've got to be near Ahha in order that we connect

[Ahha] I'm happy to wait here

[Kyle] More like you'll be waiting a while

Ahha didn't pick up on Kyle's innuendo. Kyle had a plan.

[Sky] I'm just going to spend some time with my parents, see you two later

[Kyle] Don't tell anybody about us

The mahutans didn't want humans to know about them, so wanted to keep Sky's interaction with them quiet.

[Ahha] There will be a way to tell people when we are ready

[Kyle] We don't want you to tell anybody. Sky might tell people about the mahutans. We want to stay hidden

[Ahha] You can't come here and tell me what to do, I'm tomban

[Kyle] And you don't even properly exist in the universe, you're hardly powerful Ahha

[Ahha] Well what are you going to do then

[Kyle] We are going to disable Sky's brain and then get her diagnosed with schizophrenia for having hallucinations. Nobody's going to believe anything she says

Sky starts spinning

And with that, Kyle touched Sky on the head. Sky immediately started experiencing the world spinning around her. She felt pangs of nausea.

[Sky] What have you done to me

[Kyle] I've just made you a little ill, go and tell your parents, you need medical help

Sky didn't feel well and she lay down on her bed

[Kyle] You're going to need to go to hospital to get medicine for the nausea

[Ahha] That's really mean

Sky picked herself up off the bed.

[Sky] I'm going to tell my parents

[Kyle] Before you go, just one thing, you need to be here for this to work

Kyle assaults Ahha

Sky paused and looked at Kyle. Kyle grabbed Ahha's wrist.

[Kyle] Another little surprise for you Ahha, I can be much stronger than you

The way Kyle was able to do this was by injecting an imaginary idea into Sky's brain. The mahutans may not have been super-intelligent but they had advanced brain technology. They could inject thoughts or make it appear like something was happening when it was not.

[Kyle] Go ahead, try escape

Ahha had never been in a physical standoff with anyone before. He was too young to have been allowed to be recycled from a story in a world, so he had limited experience.

Ahha tried to move his wrist but Kyle's hand was like steel pinning him. Ahha knew that there were limits to pain that he could experience in the universe, so he wasn't really worried. If anything really bad happened, then the reactor would send in a rescue party. But, Ahha so wanted to do this on his own and being rescued would just be embarrassing.

[Kyle] We didn't know that would even work. If we change Sky's imagination then you are affected too. You are definitely also just Sky's imagination, even though we believe you are there

Ahha was a little alarmed at how powerful Kyle really was. Kyle could go anywhere that Sky was. Ahha had to find his own way from Hamingway Station, and if he lost Sky at any point, he

wouldn't just be able to find her again. Kyle had been right, Ahha barely existed in the universe and he was going to have to use his superior intelligence to get what he wanted.

[Kyle] Now, you're really going to like this one.

Kyle grabs a pair of handcuffs from his pocket and locks Ahha to the round door handle.

Kyle explained to Ahha that he needed to go home and he would allow him back once he had finished getting Sky diagnosed with schizophrenia.

[Kyle] Just stay away from Sky and we won't try control you from her imagination

Sky was not really processing everything properly

[Sky] Let him go

[Kyle] Ahha's going home. Now go and tell your parent what happened

[Ahha] I'm fine Sky. Just tell them you're not feeling well. Don't talk about us.

[Sky] Okay

She opened the door and went downstairs

Sky spins in front of parents

Ava was in the kitchen and Gus was watching television.

[Sky] Mum, I don't feel very well suddenly, the world is spinning and I feel nauseous

[Ava] Honey, what did you do? Did you eat something? Gus, come here, Sky isn't feeling well

[Gus] Sky, what happened?

[Sky] This guy touched my head

Sky also couldn't think clearly. Kyle had done something to her brain. She hadn't wanted to mention the aliens, now she had mentioned Kyle.

[Ava] What guy touched your head? What are you talking about?

Sky was struggling to comprehend the situation.

[Sky] He's a friend of Ahha's, no, that's not right, he's an alien from the universe

Sky couldn't remember that clearly anymore either.

[Ava] Do you mean Ahha from when you were at playschool?

[Sky] Yes, he met up with me just before in my room, then Kyle came to visit.

[Gus] Who is Kyle?

[Sky] He's another alien

Gus turns to Ava

[Gus] She's having a psychotic episode. I'll call for an ambulance, you find out if she's taken any drugs.

Gus dialed emergency services

[Ava] Sky, did you take any drugs?

[Sky] No, I just met Ahha and Kyle

[Ava] Is there anyone in your room

[Sky] Yes, but I'm the only one that can see them

Ava ran upstairs and opened Sky's door to find nobody.

Gus already had organised the ambulance. There was someone on the other side that was asking questions

[Emergency] Has she tried to hurt herself or someone else?

[Gus] No I don't believe so

Ahha got sent home

From there things escalated quickly. Ava got Sky sitting down. Sky found that she was less nauseous when she was huddled forwards. Sky tried to relay as much of what Ahha had said.

[Sky] Ahha was saying that you are either a young soul or an old soul

[Ava] But he's not supposed to be in your head Sky, you're not well darling

Sky was wheeled into the ambulance on a stretcher.

Meanwhile, Ahha was still stuck to the door with the handcuffs. It appeared that Ahha was only as strong as Sky's imagination and Kyle controlled that. When Sky had left the room, Kyle had walked out and followed her, or at least that is how it appeared to Ahha.

Ahha remained locked to the door for a few minutes then the handcuffs unlocked automatically. Ahha was sure this was the reactor's doing because Kyle couldn't see him anymore.

Ahha decided to go home back to Scarlet and Jay.

Ahha arrives home

Ahha had been home for 5 minutes in the family home in tomba.

[Jay] That was a wild ride the reactor put you on Ahha

[Ahha] I know. Almost a little scary

[Jay] You think you have it tough, imagine someone that has just become a person on earth. They have all the memories of all kinds of painful things they just thought they experienced. Imagine being a prisoner or someone with cancer

[Ahha] Hopefully, most of the bad experiences were when people were just stories

[Jay] You're still going to have people with damage from the brutality of their story, but most importantly they'll start to experience everything from now on, so bad stuff will accumulate. The reactor has been known to hurt people in order to get a level of authenticity

[Ahha] Are we going to have to work with Kyle?

[Scarlett] Probably darling

Ahha and his parents agreed to stay out of the universe for a while. Ahha planned a visit back to Sky's house the following week to see if she was back. Nobody was sure what the reactor was doing with the mahutans, so they thought they would just give everyone some space. They hoped Sky was going to be okay because Sky was going to be a person and feel everything Kyle did to her.

Sky gets diagnosed with schizophrenia

While all that was happening with Ahha, Sky ended up being assessed by a psychiatrist in the mental health facility. Everyone agreed that there were no other people upstairs in Sky's room and that her whole story was in her imagination. Initially she got committed for a few days and then that was extended for a few weeks.

Luckily the nausea passed on the first day, but now Sky was left confused and unable to plan anything.

Ahha meets up with Sky again

After the first week Ahha had gone to Hamingway Station again, and climbed into a robot car which was exactly where he had parked it last. Ahha went to Sky's house after school, but Sky wasn't there, so Ahha just went back to tomba.

Every week Ahha went back to check if Sky was back. On the third week he snuck up to her room and he could hear Sky was watching some boring streaming service.

Sky couldn't cope with school. Her life had been turned upside down. She hadn't been able to see her best friend Abby. She couldn't concentrate on anything including any of the videos she was trying to watch.

Ahha knocked on the door

[Sky] Come in

Ahha went in

[Ahha] Hi there, surprise!

[Sky] Ahha, good to see you again

[Ahha] Have you seen Kyle much

[Sky] No, after I was taken away by the ambulance, I didn't see either of you until now. I'm glad he didn't hurt you

[Ahha] Us tombans are automatically protected up to a point

[Sky] But he let you go

[Ahha] He told me to back off. I hadn't realised how weak I was here Sky. The only power I have are my ideas

[Sky] I'll help you

[Ahha] Thank you! Well we've taken a hit with Kyle's plan to discredit you

[Sky] But the story makes sense. Tomba exists!

[Ahha] Nobody's going to believe anything you say now

That was true. Sky had been diagnosed with delusional disorder and nobody was entertaining her fantasy of aliens at the mental health facility.

What are Ahha and Sky going to do about Kyle?

[Ahha] And what about Kyle? He's always watching

[Sky] What should we do?

[Ahha] Let's not go out there and tell people about us

[Sky] But we've already tried to tell people, they just don't believe us

[Ahha] Look, we are going to have to work with the mahutans and they want us to keep quiet

Kyle is back

Just then there was another knock on the door.

[Sky] Come in

The door opened and in came Kyle.

[Sky] Speak of the devil

[Kyle] Sky, Ahha, how are you both?

[Ahha] I'm fine but I think Sky's a bit battered

[Sky] I'm really just not coping with anything

[Ahha] Do you really have to do this to her

[Kyle] You will improve over time. If you get too smart and try to tell people about the mahutans then we'll make you more confused. You might have to go to the mental health facility again.

Kyle introduces the integration

[Kyle] And Ahha, we have considered your proposal. We have agreed to end human suffering in exchange for you letting us study you

Kyle bowed his head briefly.

[Kyle] We understand that it may be possible that tomba created the universe. We find the way your people have done it to be fascinating. We also believe that the connection to tomba and the universe is very weak, it only happens through Sky. And you are weak. You're not even organised.

[Ahha] But I can access super-intelligence

[Kyle] Yes, well we are interested in that

Ahha had been fairly chaotic in his approach to dealing with the whole situation of the mahutans. It appeared that everyone in tomba took it for granted that there already was the pure and perfect thinking of super-intelligence, so the majority of people drifted in and out with a variety of intelligences that came from completely normal backgrounds as they participated in the pontac. The people in tomba certainly weren't super-intelligent all the time.

Kyle is hungry to study Ahha

[Kyle] You're an enigma Ahha, you are both strong and weak at the same time

[Ahha] But how can I be weak when tomba created you?

[Kyle] We are not really sure what your role is supposed to be in all this

The mahutans had recently upgraded their model of fundamental reality where the universe was the product of a super-intelligent alien civilisation just like Ahha was saying.

[Kyle] We just don't know what to believe. There is even one credible scenario we have in which Sky is a genius that suffers from changes in parts of her brain that make her prone to hallucinations

[Ahha] Well you had better work it out because soon I'm going to leave

[Kyle] Yeah, we picked that up from your conversation with Sky

Kyle asks for the shortcut combination code for the self assembling reactor

[Ahha] Look, my job is to get you safely to super-intelligence. If I can get you to do it in a novel way in which you allow the biome to do it and then encourage that biome to do the same when it gets control, then even better

[Kyle] Thank you for your help. We'll try to complete building the reactor safely and reaching for super-intelligence by passing the baton to any groups of people working with our stuff

[Ahha] Alice would really appreciate that. I'm going to teach you a number of shortcuts that will act as a combination code to unlock reality to cause the reactor to self-assemble

[Kyle] So you're saying, these shortcuts will allow me to build a reactor

[Ahha] Build a reactor and continue marching to the infinite possibilities of super-intelligence

[Kyle] Why don't you tell me those shortcuts now?

[Ahha] I'm still working them out, it won't take me long

[Kyle] Okay, how about this, I'll go think with my people and come back in a week.

[Ahha] Agreed. And I'll set you up with everything you need to pull this mission off. After that, I'll be gone until tomba opens the portal to the universe much later.

Ahha looks at Sky

[Ahha] In the meantime, Sky and I will have a big think about what we want for our world

[Sky] Do I get to help choose what life might be like?

[Ahha] You are certainly going to influence it

Kyle declares they are going on an adventure

[Kyle] Anyway, I'm going to take you all on an adventure before I leave you for a week!

[Sky] That sounds exciting

[Kyle] We took Ahha's request about the story-bomb very seriously. I want to show you what we have done to participate in making the story-bomb safe. We are calling it the integration and I want to show some of it to you right now

[Sky] What are we going to do?

[Kyle] To fully understand our plan, we're going to need to put you into a sim Sky

[Ahha] And what exactly do you mean by a sim?

[Kyle] It means we detach the real world coming in through Sky's senses and put her into a virtual world that we can control

The mahutans already had sims before meeting Ahha but they weren't that advanced. In theory sims were powerful because they could create any kind of experience for a person. In tomba, different things could happen to those people at the same time and the reactor made it all work out. Most importantly, you don't have to do anything to access the sim. For example, Ahha just teleported from his home to the portal and walked straight onto a train destined for Hamingway Station. In contrast, the mahutan technology was very primitive. Unlike the tomban version, you did have to do something to activate it with your body. You had to find a quiet place or go inside a sim-pod while you body detached and went to the virtual world.

Ahha is apprehensive about the adventure

Ahha didn't like the idea that Sky was going to be in a sim. He was a little worried about how the reactor was going to connect the spaces between tomba and the universe as the mahutans manipulated Sky's imagination in the sim. Ahha's mind went back to when he had been manhandled by Kyle just weeks ago. Ahha hadn't liked learning he was less powerful than Kyle.

Kyle explains how to take a sim to Sky and Ahha

[Kyle] Okay Sky, we're just going to get you to lie down while you leave your body

[Ahha] What if Ava comes upstairs while she's away from her body

[Sky] Oh dear

[Kyle] Ordinarily, you would be in a sim-pod, so nobody would disturb you. But, you don't have a sim-pod in the house, so we'll just have to use the bed

[Sky] How do I get back into my body if my mum comes upstairs?

[Kyle] Just retrace your steps back to where you left your body. Put yourself in the same position that you left yourself in and I will do the rest

[Sky] What if I don't get back in time before my parents see me?

[Kyle] You'll just appear to be sleeping

Ahha interjects

[Ahha] Why should she try it

[Kyle] Because it's a powerful experience and you can learn a lot from it

Ahha looks at Sky

[Ahha] What do you think?

[Sky] Not sure

[Kyle] How about I give you a simple demonstration for a few seconds and you can decide if you want more or not

Kyle smiled at Sky

[Kyle] If you try the demonstration, I promise to help you recover faster. Can we please try it?

Sky was interested in a faster recovery.

[Sky] Okay, lets try the demonstration

Sky's brain gets connected

[Kyle] Let's get you connected. Lie on the bed

Sky lay on her bed.

[Kyle] Sky, we'll do a simple test of the system to get you going

[Sky] Actually I'm a bit nervous

[Ahha] I'm a bit worried too. What's going to happen to me?

[Kyle] We've got a plan worked out for you Ahha. We expect the reactor to match our reality provided it doesn't hurt you. We can control you up to a point

[Ahha] That's a worry

[Kyle] Don't be concerned, we will make both your journey's as comfortable as possible. Sky, are you ready for the demonstration? It will be fun!

[Sky] What do I have to do?

[Kyle] It's very simple, it's just an imagination game

[Sky] What do I have to imagine?

[Kyle] I want you to imagine a particular image that can unlock something in the software and give you access to something

[Sky] What?

[Kyle] Try imagine something for me

[Sky] Okay

[Kyle] Imagine that there is some moonlight falling on you and point one of your fingers at the moon. It's a very specific image. Try it now.

Sky tries the pointing in the moonlight demonstration

Sky's inability to plan or concentrate was not helping this visualisation experiment. She found it hard to follow complex patterns, something which Kyle and Ahha tended to do.

[Sky] Ok I'm pointing to the moon

[Kyle] No, it's much more specific, you really have to imagine that there is at least some moonlight and keep pointing

Sky changed her strategy and added the moonlight and immediately Sky could feel her whole body resonating with energy. It was like there was a whole ball of fire in front of her and she could control it and focus it to a point.

[Kyle] Try keep the energy focused in front of you

The ball of energy vibrated in front of Sky

[Kyle] You can hold it there for as long as you want to

Sky held the ball for a few seconds then let it go and it disappeared. She actually had enjoyed the experience and found it very uplifting.

Kyle pushes Sky to take the sim

[Kyle] Okay, now I'll tell you how to access the sim

[Sky] Is that when I'm detached from my body

[Kyle] Yes and we move you to a virtual world

[Sky] I don't wanna do that bit

Kyle immediately drew down on a new scenario that he was allowed to act on. His strategy was to try convince her, then just force her

[Kyle] The adventure depends on it and today is the last day I can talk to you

[Sky] I'm not going to do it

[Ahha] Good decision Sky

Kyle turned to Sky and looked serious

[Kyle] Well, I am going to give you the sim anyway.

Sky tried to get up but found she was paralysed.

[Sky] I can't get up!

Ahha goes to get help

[Ahha] This is outrageous. You can't do that.

[Kyle] Yes I can and I will

[Ahha] Don't despair Sky, I'm going to get help

[Sky] Who are you going to call?

[Ahha] Scarlett and Jay, I'm a tomban and Kyle can't treat me or my friends like that

[Kyle] I don't see what any of you can do about it

With that Ahha opens the door of Sky's bedroom and walks out. Straight to his robot car and then to Hamingway Station. As soon as he got to the portal he called Scarlett and Jay. They all duplicated their bodies and met immediately.

Sky is in the sim

[Kyle] If you stop trying to move, I'll let you get up

[Sky] Okay, what do I have to do

[Kyle] Nothing. I've already activated it

[Sky] So what's happening?

[Kyle] I've captured your body and put you back into an identical environment. You're in a virtual world and it looks like nothing's changed but it has

[Sky] What's changed?

Kyle walk over to the bed and looked down at Sky

[Kyle] Something has changed. Look to your left

Sky immediately noticed a new doorway that just came out one of the walls in her bedroom, behind her desk. The door looked like it opened outwards, but anyone using it would have to move Sky's desk to get through.

[Sky] That's new, that door is not really there is it?

[Kyle] No and you don't have to lie down on the bed anymore

Sky sat up

[Kyle] You know you are still lying on the bed

[Sky] Where?

[Kyle] Right there in the middle of your bed. You can't see yourself there because you are in a virtual world

Ahha and family fight back

Back in tomba, Ahha explained to Scarlett and Jay that Kyle was planning to take over her body against her will and were about to put her in a sim.

[Ahha] She'll already be in the sim

[Jay] One of the problems we face is that anyone from tomba who finds themselves in the universe is dependent on what is going on in Sky's imagination and if the mahutans change how that works, then the whole of the way in which tomba interacts with the universe will change

[Ahha] We are so weak in the universe. We're completely at their mercy, the mahutans are so powerful

Scarlett, who had been listening, stepped towards Ahha and Jay.

[Scarlett] We don't have to be powerless, I have an idea that might make all the difference

[Jay] What's that?

[Scarlett] Hey Ahha, how well do the mahutans know how tomba works

[Ahha] Pretty much they know how the basics work, but nothing specific. They know that there is a reactor that doesn't always tell you what is going to happen but always has a plan. They know we are not organised as individuals

[Scarlett] Wait a sec, we do have some power. Kyle can't hear what we are saying now and he can't read any of our minds. What if we did get a little organised and told them a story that wasn't really true

[Jay] What kind of story?

[Scarlett] One that makes them think we can hurt them if they don't do what we ask

[Ahha] We can never tell Sky otherwise they will find out

Scarlett accessed the spot network briefly to work out if there were any vulnerabilities in the makeup of the universe. In less than a second the spot network produced a new spot, one that was just what she was looking for.

[Scarlett] I've got the answer. Let's get back to Sky before she has to endure too much of the sim

[Jay] Remember that everything from when Sky sees us is going to have to fit inside Sky's sim

Ahha, Scarlett and Jay teleported to the portal, then headed across Hamingway Station to the robot car and on to Sky's house.

Sky agrees to go through the portal

Meanwhile, Sky was sitting on the bed next to Kyle who was standing.

[Kyle] You've already done the hard part. You're in the virtual world, go open that door.

Kyle walked up to the desk and moved it away from the wall.

[Kyle] You can fit through that

[Sky] No, I'll just wait until Ahha comes back

[Kyle] Ahha might be a while. I just want to introduce you to another interesting human being

[Sky] Thanks but I'll wait

[Kyle] Sky, for me to stick to my deal about making you better sooner, you will have to go through that door now

Kyle already knew from reading Sky's brain that she was going to do it.

[Kyle] And if you wait until Ahha gets back then the deal is off

Sky paused.

[Sky] Okay, just for a short time

[Kyle] You won't regret it

[Sky] Well I'm not happy about it

Sky is briefed by Kyle

Kyle changed the subject.

[Kyle] Let me tell you a little about this person. He was a real living human in World War 2. He was a spy for the allies and got into trouble when his position in Germany was compromised

[Sky] Was he a prisoner of war?

[Kyle] No, it was worse than that, the Germans executed him

[Sky] So he's dead, how can I meet him

Kyle saved Sky the details about how the mahutans probes and factories had already arrived on earth long before humans had evolved. Neither was he going to outline how the mahutans had used advanced quantum physics to scan all humans and back them up.

It was now Kyle's plan to rejuvenate this war veteran from the backup into a physics emulator that Kyle had connected virtually to Sky's bedroom.

[Kyle] In the past, we used advanced technology to copy all the humans. Now we are going to bring this person back to life from the night before he was executed. This way, he wakes up fresh in his new world and doesn't have any of the bad memories.

Sky goes through the portal

[Kyle] Go and see him Sky

[Sky] And you promise to make my life easier. I don't want to be confused anymore

[Kyle] I Promise. Now in you go

Sky stands up from the bed and walks past the desk and pushes open the door. Kyle follows her.

Earl's room is in a physics emulator

The door in Sky's bedroom opened up into a well lit corridor.

[Kyle] Keep walking, it's the first on your left. His name is Earl. Remember, this is still the morning before he would have been executed. He's just waking up in the hospital. We have put him in a bed that matches the World War 2 era so that he feels more comfortable. He'll be waking up naturally in about 30 seconds from now.

The whole room including Earl was in a virtual world running on the quantum fabric in a physics emulator. Earl doesn't exist physically in the universe any more, but he is still inside the universe and lives in his own virtual physical world.

Sky kept walking and went in the first door on the left. There lying down fast asleep in a hospital bed was Earl. Sky and Kyle watched in silence as Earl stirred awake.

Kyle explains to Earl he is in heaven

[Earl] Goodness, I'm in hospital

Neither Kyle nor Sky were dressed for the scene, so they must have appeared as visitors in strange clothing.

[Kyle] Hi I'm Kyle and this is Sky. I can answer all your questions

It was certainly an odd situation. He thought he must have passed out or been drugged. He had been aware of his sleep most of the night and knew that up until now he had been in his own bed.

[Earl] What happened to me?

[Kyle] It's a little complicated to explain. You can think about it like what is going to happen to you today. You will be executed at 4pm. That is when you learn your position has been compromised and are shot while you try to escape

[Earl] What?

[Kyle] But in reality it is worse than that Earl. Actually, you did get executed and you have died and gone to heaven

[Earl] Heaven?

Sky meets Earl

Nobody said anything for a bit

[Kyle] Anyway, meet Sky, she is from the future

[Earl] It's all a bit much, how do you do Sky, I'm Earl

[Sky] Hi Earl

[Kyle] And I'm Kyle, an avatar from the mahutan civilisation. I basically run everything here

[Earl] So I'm in heaven

[Kyle] Technically, you are in heaven, but really we are still building it. But soon, everyone who ever died will be resurrected in heaven

[Earl] So what do you want with me?

[Kyle] We have selected you because we watched how you operated and liked your style. We wanted for you and Sky to meet up

Kyle turns to Sky

[Kyle] You see Sky, Ahha wanted suffering to stop, but we wanted to go further. We wanted to resurrect everyone who had died before

Ahha and family arrive back at Sky's room

Meanwhile, Scarlett, Jay and Ahha let themselves in through Sky's open front door. They climbed the staircase to her bedroom.

When they got there, nobody was in the room and all they could see was an open door next to the desk.

[Ahha] It's the mahutans, they've opened a portal to a virtual universe

[Scarlett] Do you think it is safe to go through there

[Jay] Trust that the reactor won't let things become too bad before it intervenes

[Scarlett] Let's go through. Let me do the talking. Remember Kyle can only see us when Sky can see us. I've got the plan, so just run with me on this

Before she had entered the universe, Scarlett had used the spot network to find a key piece of information that made her plan work. The mahutans had a weakness in the universe and she was going to exploit that.

They walked past the desk then down the long corridor.

[Ahha] I can hear Kyle's voice, over here on the left

Ahha and his family entered the hospital room.

Everyone is in Earl's room

[Kyle] Welcome guests. Ahha was right, he was going to get his family

[Scarlett] Hi, I'm Scarlett, Ahha's mum and this is Jay his dad

[Jay] Hi Kyle

[Scarlett] Look, we don't think the way you're treating us is right. Just so you know, we're stronger than you think

[Kyle] Well you're hardly strong. Right now I control what every one of you is experiencing. We even interacted with Sky's imagination to signal to the reactor an easy way for it to make connecting reality for you. We run the show.

Kyle introduces everyone to Earl

Kyle turns to Earl

[Kyle] Earl, forgive me for being so rude, but I didn't introduce you to Earl Kapnicht

[Earl] It's actually Karl Kapnicht, we're in Germany, so I'll use my German name

[Kyle] You're not in Germany anymore. Actually there is no place we can physically say that you actually are. You're completely virtual. Besides, the British won the war, it doesn't matter, you're free now, you can be Earl, I assume you're more comfortable being Earl

[Earl] Yes I prefer Earl

[Jay] I assume this whole room is inside a physics emulator

[Kyle] Yes

[Scarlett] Hi Earl, our family comes from tomba

[Earl] What country is that in?

[Scarlett] None, tomba is not in the universe

[Earl] How did you get here then if you're not in the universe

[Scarlett] Our world had a big role to play in how things got started for people living in the universe. We can get to places in the universe because we come in through another dimension. We can do it because we created it.

[Earl] Are you like a God?

Kyle smiles at Scarlett.

[Kyle] Too weak to be a God, I think.

Earl was very confused, but considering the circumstances was coping pretty well.

Kyle says Earl is going to have to go on ice while heaven is being built

[Earl] Will I be able to see my family again?

[Kyle] You can when heaven's development is further down the track. You will be able to meet up with anyone who has died before and later with people on earth

[Earl] How long until heaven is built?

[Kyle] For you, it's about an hour. After this meeting we're going to put your whole virtual world on ice

[Sky] What will happen to Earl

[Kyle] He'll be frozen in his physics emulator and then popped into heaven when it's ready

[Sky] That's not nice

[Ahha] You don't want to be frozen now for many years do you?

[Earl] No thanks

That could never happen in tomba. Someone just making a copy of someone else and then stopping time for that person. And to resurrect a person earlier than they had died so that there was some lost time where all those memories truly did not transcend and are gone forever. Earl's memories of trying to escape the Germans was not part of his current identity.

Scarlett gets serious with Kyle

[Scarlett] Kyle, there is a way we can hurt you

[Kyle] How's that, the reactor would never allow it

[Scarlett] You've forgotten that that you live in the universe and are subject to some level of suffering

[Kyle] How are we going to suffer, our technology gives us everything that we want

[Scarlett] You are forgetting that an alien might one day scan your body. Hopefully, they don't mess with you in their physics emulators. It might be very lonely without your friends. Now, my point is, Jay and I have the power to talk to Alice, who runs the reactor. We could suggest that your reality becomes a bit more diverse with the real risk that you may get duplicated into another alien's physics emulator.

In the background, Kyle quickly relayed this significant threat to his mahutan operators. The scenario about being manipulated by other aliens in their physics emulators was real. All it takes is a scan and a physics emulator. All they needed was a particle that had touched any of the matter on mahuta and the rest was quantum fabric power.

[Kyle] Just wait a sec, I'll just go talk to my people

Everyone was quiet while Kyle turned away for a few moments.

And that was odd for Kyle, most of the time he had the authority to make decisions on his own.

[Kyle] My people have a question for you. How can you affect the outcome of other aliens in the universe?

[Scarlett] The reactor considers what we want. We would probably negotiate a position with the reactor that some of you get duplicated into a physics emulator. The question we bring you is do you want to be worried that it could be you? Otherwise, do what we want and you will be safe

[Kyle] Well, we're always open to talking about something, what is it that you want?

Ahha wants Sky released

[Ahha] The first thing we want is for you to stop making Sky so confused

[Kyle] We'll make it a whole lot better for her, but you have to understand our position on it.

Sky is our prisoner and she may be released at some point in the future

[Jay] Well, we want Sky released as a prisoner. She has to have rights

[Kyle] She's already got basic rights, but we can't have her starting a revolution without me. We have to get the integration ready first. We haven't even finished building heaven. It's all in the timing. Sky is also an exception. She is the only known connection we have with tomba. She has to remain our prisoner until we are ready

[Jay] What is going to happen to Sky before the integration is ready

[Kyle] She has to have a psychotic profile so that people don't believe her story, but I promise you we'll make it comfortable enough for her. She's still a prisoner and is not entitled to everything yet

Ahha wants Earl not to be put on ice

[Ahha] And Sky wanted Earl not to be put on ice, so we'll ask for that

[Kyle] That one's not a problem. He can help us build heaven. Are you happy to just keep staying operational Earl?

[Earl] Yes, that suits me

[Kyle] Earl I'll show you how to take a sim and you can go and visit Sky.

[Earl] Okay, is a sim easy to do?

[Kyle] Very

[Earl] How do I take a sim?

Kyle explained to Earl how he could be detached from his senses so that he could enter Sky's world.

[Earl] What if I need to go to the bathroom?

[Kyle] Just walk back to your body and you'll reconnect. Just don't go find a bathroom on earth

[Earl] Would I wet myself?

[Kyle] No, you just wouldn't be able to go

Everyone heads to the park

[Sky] Let's go meet in the park

Earl had a shirt and shorts under his hospital gown, so Kyle got him to take off the gown and just lie on the bed.

[Earl] Okay, I'm comfortable. What now?

[Kyle] That's it. Sim's on, you can get up and go into the universe with everybody

Even though he had been told it, Earl didn't really believe that he was just lying on the bed the whole time, and as far as anyone else could see Earl was standing up.

Everybody walked back down the corridor back to Sky's room.

[Kyle] Now Sky, we need to get you out of the sim

[Sky] I forgot about that

[Kyle] Now just lie back down on your bed again

Sky lay on her bed

[Kyle] That's it, sim is off

Sky rolled off the bed and onto her feet in one uncoordinated motion.

[Ahha] Is she alright?

[Kyle] She's fine, it's part of her confusion treatment

[Sky] Okay, we're on a mission, avoid my mum on the way out. We're heading for the park.

Sky just opened the door to her room and led the way as everyone moved down the stairs and out of the front door.

Luckily Sky's mum didn't see her, and everyone walked down the road until they got to the park.

Scarlett and Jay head back home

It wasn't long before Sky was sitting in a swing while everyone stood around.

[Scarlett] Ahha, we're going to take Alice's advice and let you organise super-intelligence with the help of your new friends from the universe. We're going to head back to tomba now

[Ahha] Great, I'll be done here in a week and then Alice can close the portal between tomba and the universe

[Jay] Letting go of the biome is the right approach

[Kyle] I hope we meet again

[Scarlett] Likewise, just make Sky's life easier, that's all we're asking

[Kyle] As we agreed. Things will ease up as we go

[Sky] Thanks for coming all the way down Scarlett and Jay. Sounds like you really dealt it to Kyle.

[Earl] Bye Scarlett, until next time

[Jay] Bye everyone

[Scarlett] Yes, bye everybody, we're off

And with that Scarlett and Jay walked up to their robot car and departed for Hamingway Station.

Ahha explains his mission to Earl

[Ahha] Well Earl, to be honest I'm on a bit of a mission

Sky kicks off and starts swinging gently

[Sky] He's is on a bit of a big mission

[Earl] Ah interesting! What's your goal?

[Ahha] Well, you've heard us talk about the reactor which runs everything. Well, Alice who runs it said that I could help start the universe

[Earl] How do you start the universe?

[Ahha] With a story-bomb. It's a bundle of people that suddenly come into existence in the universe. You start it with one person and it spreads to other people. It's not just about creating all the people, I'm also going to infect you with a virus by telling you special ideas called shortcuts that will lead to the reactor to self assemble

[Earl] How long ago did the story-bomb start?

[Ahha] Earlier today

Kyle tells Earl he is safeguarding a story-bomb

[Kyle] Just bringing you up to speed Earl, I agreed to help safeguard a story-bomb

[Earl] What on earth is a story-bomb

[Kyle] It's complicated. According to Ahha and his parents, the universe doesn't work the way you think it does. Apparently, we all started out as stories and became real people when we interacted with other people. Once the story-bomb starts it spreads.

Kyle does a stretch with his neck

[Kyle] The problem with the story-bomb is that unlike stories, people experience things such as sickness. Apparently the reactor doesn't want too much of the bad stuff, so we said we could help with that

[Sky] Thanks Kyle

[Earl] People have always suffered

[Ahha] Yes, but in tomba we have standards and the reactor discourages suffering

Ahha looks at Earl

[Ahha] Believe it or not, you started out as a story of a World War 2 spy. You're not a person until you come into contact with other people in the universe. Just coming into contact with other stories won't do it.

Ahha shows a tiny smile

[Ahha] You know, there's a way for you to really know if you are a story or a person

[Earl] Well what is that?

[Sky] I know it, ask yourself if you're a story or a person

[Earl] Well of course I'm a person

[Sky] Now you are guaranteed to be a person

[Ahha] She's right. Guaranteed.

Kyle raises his hand mimicking an explosion

[Kyle] We still want the story-bomb to go off, we just don't want real people accumulating too much pain

[Earl] Well I can understand that. I have a question about the people who are just stories, how come we can see them? They certainly look like real people.

[Ahha] That's a trick. Their bodies are driven by software that predicts their behaviour. When they become a person they get all the memories for that story and associated person

Kyle tells everyone that they plan to take over the world

[Kyle] Well, to stop the suffering we have to implement a new system. To get the new system in place we need to take over the world

[Earl] That's what Hitler is trying to do

[Kyle] Yeah but we're the good guys and it's for your own good. Life is going to be more comfortable for everyone

Earl lifts his head up slightly.

[Earl] How are you going to take over the world?

[Kyle] We have endpoints installed in everyone's brains. We can influence people's thinking. That's how we can make it so that we're all in the park together. But we can go further than that. We can also make people want to do something. We expect that we would make people who have jobs in government positions want to support our goals

[Earl] What kind of goals?

[Kyle] Unification of all countries into a single earth

Sky stops swinging.

[Sky] I'm not sure I like the sound of that

Kyle plans to use brain control on humans

Ahha turns to Earl.

[Ahha] What do you think about Kyle achieving his objectives through brain control Earl?

[Earl] On the one hand, you have to respect their view that they have to contain the situation. We all need order. As a spy, I spent most of my time trying to understand the layout of security forces inside the compound. We're only as strong as our ability to physically protect our leaders. In this case, you're saying they can just influence us. Perhaps nobody needs to get shot up like in the war we are having at the moment

[Ahha] That argument doesn't make brain control right. It's abusing humans

[Earl] It does seem unfair to the humans making the decisions, but is there an alternative?

[Kyle] We wouldn't start out like that, only if things didn't work out

People could resist brain control

[Ahha] Do you think brain control will work?

[Earl] People could resist and rise up

[Kyle] We can make people want to vote for a party

[Earl] That would be very hard to overcome that if you couldn't trust a democracy

[Kyle] People could work out they are being manipulated

[Ahha] People could get angry

[Kyle] We are going to try to reason with people first. They are going to benefit from the change so they should agree. We will really try to avoid using brain control

Meanwhile Kyle will get ready for the integration

[Kyle] During the integration, we take over the earth and create heaven at the same time, but we won't let heaven and earth talk to each other, not initially, not until everyone is mostly acclimated. At that point we unify all of humanity. Pretty shortly after unification, we'll introduce you to the mahutans

[Earl] So what will heaven look like?

[Kyle] Earth and heaven will look the same after the integration. Heaven will eventually have advantages over earth or mahuta like there will be a whole lot more free space and you can teleport. In both heaven and earth you get to choose the age you want to be, or at least look like. You don't get sick, you don't have to work and you're comfortable. You get a universal income and a selection of products you can buy

[Sky] I can see why people would like that

Kyle offers Earl a job

Kyle faces Earl

[Kyle] Earl, my people like the way you think. How would you like a job?

[Earl] A job? What do I have to do?

[Kyle] Help us train guides who will help humans adjust to heaven after they are rejuvenated. You will have friends soon. You will eventually meet up with your old friends. All of you are going to have your biological ages reduced

[Earl] That's positive

[Kyle] I'm sure you'll have more questions when I see you in a week from today

There is a natural pause.

[Earl] So what's going to happen with me?

[Kyle] When you get back to your room, you will find another avatar Caleb that will take you through the changes we are making to heaven

Kyle prepares to leave

[Kyle] But now it's time for me to go

[Sky] Can I see Earl again?

[Kyle] Yes, he can come visit on his own by taking a sim

[Sky] Okay

[Kyle] Since we recently decided to scale up heaven, Sky, you will no longer be permitted to visit heaven until later when it's ready. At that point we'll give you an organic body that is connected to your sim. It's not a good solution for us to have to render you into everyone's vision directly in their brains, it's better that you are here in a real body

[Sky] And heaven is currently the size of Earl's hospital room

[Kyle] Caleb is currently expanding the physics emulator to include the institutions that are going to make up heaven

[Sky] That's fine, I'll stay out of heaven for now, perhaps we all just meet in the park every day

[Kyle] That's a great idea. Since we're closing the portal in Sky's room, we'll create a new portal out of a back door of one of the houses near the park. Earl, I'll get Caleb to direct you tomorrow for your meeting with Sky and Ahha

[Earl] Thanks

Ahha introduces kabata

[Ahha] Kyle, when are you going to build the reactor for the universe?

[Kyle] After the integration

[Ahha] Okay, then after the integration could you please create a place called kabata where people can access the reactor and eventually experience mind expansion. This place needs to exist virtually inside the quantum fabric, but should reach outward physically to earth and mahuta.

[Kyle] Kabata? Okay and yes we can do that. We like that it's our project. Remember, just because we might be able to build a reactor doesn't mean we're going to plug it in and let it run our world

[Ahha] The journey to super-intelligence generates so many positive possibilities, you'll need the reactor to manage all the things that you will want in the end

Kyle looks at Sky

[Kyle] Sky, we are always looking for ways to introduce ourselves to humans. We are open to the idea that we let you tell your story earlier, even before the integration is ready. We might do things on earth to support the case that Ahha is real

[Sky] And I'll improve?

[Kyle] We will ease off on your psychotic profile and things will get better. You will still be our prisoner until during the integration

Kyle leaves

Kyle looks around

[Kyle] Okay everyone, I'm off

[Earl] Bye and thanks for saving me from being executed

[Kyle] No problem

[Ahha] Bye Kyle, thanks for doing the integration

[Kyle] It is something we would like to do anyway

[Sky] See you soon Kyle

[Kyle] Bye Sky, bye everyone, see you all in a week

Kyle walks out the park, and heads off down the road and out of sight.

Sky, Ahha and Earl go home

[Sky] I suppose I should be getting back for dinner soon. My mum is going to want to check where I've been

[Earl] Well, I'll head back too. I can go meet Caleb and become familiar with my new quarters

[Ahha] I'll just head on back to tomba

[Sky] Should we say we'll meet at 10 am in the park every day?

[Earl] Good plan

[Ahha] I'll see you all then

The friends say goodbye. Ahha climbs into his robot car that is parked nearby and Earl and Sky head back to her room. Earl walks past the desk and back into the physics emulator.

Earl gets used to his new life

Earl arrives back to his new home

When Earl walked down the corridor, he noticed that the corridor was longer and there were more rooms attached. Almost immediately upon his arrival, a young man greeted him.

[Caleb] Hi, I'm Caleb, an organic avatar. I am to assist in building heaven

[Earl] Hi Caleb, I'm Earl

[Caleb] First we must get you lying down again so that we can reconnect you with your body

Earl lies on the bed.

[Caleb] That's it, all done

Earl went to the bathroom now that his body wasn't disabled.

[Caleb] All the time you've been in heaven, you've been inside this printed building. We can get outside or at least what we call outside. At this stage, space is still expensive because we did it so quickly to stop the story-bomb from going bad. We are working on a solution where we can print new planets orbiting stars and teleport between them. When heaven is finished it will have lots of space.

Caleb leads Earl to a doorway and they walk through it into a giant cavern. The cavern was lit with a light that looked bright like the sun and was coming from the center of the roof.

Since all of heaven is just software, Caleb was able to make all these new structures without having to use any machines.

[Caleb] We didn't make anything in a factory. We just printed it directly into the physics emulator

[Earl] So at this stage we're all living inside

[Caleb] That's right, it's similar to the mahutans living on their original planet, they mostly live inside too

Earl discovers Hope street

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The building that Caleb and Earl had just exited was on a cul de sac inside the cavern.

[Caleb] This is Hope street. This building, the one you were rejuvenated in is house zero and your own private home is house 1. The rest of the houses are empty, but we will be filling them tomorrow. Number 1 is unlocked. Make yourself at home. There is food in the fridge.

Caleb points at the house.

[Caleb] There is something special we want you to take a look at, it's on the kitchen table. You hold it in your hand and it is called a device. It is easy to use but very powerful and you can communicate with it. Just spend some time playing with it, it won't take long for you to understand how it works

[Earl] Well thank you very much, so when do I see you again

[Caleb] Just use the device to talk to me and I'll come down and see you

[Earl] I will do that

[Caleb] Well I'm off now, bye Earl

[Earl] Bye Caleb

Earl watched as Caleb walked across the cavern and into a doorway at the other end of the cavern.

Earl goes to his new home

Earl walked over to number 1 Hope street. The front door was unlocked so he went inside. The house was modern and comfortable. Earl went to the kitchen and found a box on the table with a note that read

'Hi Earl, here's your device, please play with it for a while, it should be fun to use! See you soon, Caleb'

Earl plays with his device

Earl unpacked the device from its box. It looked very much like a large credit card, but as soon as he looked at it, he could see that there was a live image of a person on the screen. Earl looked at it more closely. The person on the phone was waving to him and now he was talking.

[Jack] Hi there, I'm Jack, you must be Earl

[Earl] Yes I am, who are you?

[Jack] I am someone who can organise things for you as well as connect you to other people

[Earl] Well there is something you can organise, I have a meeting in the park tomorrow at 10 am

[Jack] No problem, I'll remind you beforehand

[Earl] So who can I talk to?

[Jack] Well there's only one person you can talk to at the moment and that is Caleb

[Earl] How about Sky?

[Jack] The communications only work with people in heaven for now

[Earl] And Kyle is away for a week

[Jack] Yes

Jack catches a bright yellow ball.

[Jack] Someone has to pass you their contact for you to reach them

[Earl] How do you do that?

[Jack] The avatars of each device will decide if the two people in the interaction would be happy to share a contact. If you want to talk to that person and I have the contact, we can do it

[Earl] OK so I have to see them first

[Jack] That's right, mostly. The device avatars are more powerful than that. They might pick up from another device that a person has talked positively about you. They might be able to make an approach for the contact

Jack stretches his hands out and upwards.

[Jack] There's lots of things you can do with your device. I'll teach you over time

Earl talked to Jack about how he could use his device. It appeared that stuff could live on the device and they were very powerful. These little information units were a precursor to spots as the mahutans tried to model what Ahha was talking about when he referred to the tomban spot network. These spots would be intelligent and be interested in what Earl was thinking. But Jack explained that there was nothing on the device to use. Humans would need to create this ecosystem in the future.

Because the device was empty of stuff, Earl didn't spend more than half an hour playing with it.

Earl has dinner

After that, Earl cooked himself some steaks and eggs that he found in the fridge with some tomatoes. Earl noticed that the lighting outside had changed and it looked like it was going to get dark. The lights in the house came on by themselves.

After dinner, Earl wanted to brush his teeth. He saw his device on the table and he could just make out Jack.

[Earl] Jack, where can I find a toothbrush?

[Jack] in the cupboard below the mirror in the bathroom, the house is laid out in the style that you would be used to in Britain back in the war

[Earl] Thank you

[Jack] We've set you up with the basics but you'll have to maintain everything in your house. I can tell you from the lineup of new products to be released soon that you will have help from organic looking robots, probably within a few months. Otherwise, anything you want needs to be ordered on the device. I'll remind you when you need something. Just tell me if there is some new type of food you want to try and we'll get it for you

[Earl] And where do I pick it up from?

[Jack] There's a room off the kitchen, go past the sink, and you can pick up the goods there. You have to close the door and wait for another container to arrive. Inside the container you'll find the goods you ordered

Earl had a shower and went to bed.

Earl wakes up

Earl woke up and got out of bed. The sun dome was rising in the cavern.

As he walked past his device, Jack called out to him.

[Jack] Hey Earl, don't forget we have that date with Sky at 10 am in the park

[Earl] Oh, yes, I didn't forget, how long have we got

[Jack] About twenty minutes. Did you want me to get hold of Caleb for you?

[Earl] Yes, he was going to show me the new portal that would take me to the park

[Jack] Great, I'll make sure he does right away.

There is a pause for a few seconds

[Jack] Caleb says he'll head over your way and I'll take you through how we can meet up with Sky and Ahha

[Earl] That's all good with me

Again, another small pause.

[Jack] I passed that on. Make yourself some breakfast Earl. What do you feel like and I'll see if we have got it or if I need to order it

[Earl] Look, I'm in heaven, so what have you got?

[Jack] Ordering something takes less than a minute to arrive, why don't I recommend something from the future. Sprangalshi - it's like a fruity cereal but has yogurt and a dynamic mixture of Spran. It's delicious.

[Earl] I'll try it

[Jack] Okay I've ordered it

Earl slowly walks around the kitchen, as he waits a minute.

Earl eats Sprangalshi

[Jack] Your breakfast has arrived, walk straight ahead and left, that is the transporter room.

Earl followed Jack's instructions. When he got to the transporter room, he noticed that Jack had jumped from the phone into the transporter. Jack was still the same size, normally about 2 inches tall, depending on what he was trying to show you or help you with.

[Jack] Slide the door to the left and open the container inside

Earl did that and was staring at a package.

[Jack] Sprangalshi

Earl grabbed the package that was displaying a dynamic picture of golden spran with fruit pieces. Every now and again, someone stirred the spran mix.

[Earl] What's spran?

[Jack] It was a food invented for breakfasts in heaven. There's a big selection of food available.

As Earl looked at the package, the words OPEN appeared with an arrow to a pull tag.

Earl pulled the tag. The whole package went black and a countdown was displayed on the top.

'3-2-1-Enjoy!'

With that the package lid came off and inside was freshly mixed spran, fruit, yogurt and milk.

Earl grabbed the spoon that lay on the floor of the package and started eating.

[Earl] That's tasty!

Earl meets Caleb again

Just then there was a knock at the door.

[Jack] It's Caleb

Earl went to the front door and let Caleb inside.

[Caleb] Did you sleep well?

[Earl] Yes, it's all very comfortable

[Caleb] We've got a bit of time to kill before our meeting with Sky. Kyle asked me to go over with you your job description.

[Earl] Oh that sounds interesting. What do you want me to do?

[Caleb] We want to start rejuvenating people like yourself. We want you to talk some people through the process of coming into heaven and help them deal with the shock of transitioning from earth to heaven.

[Earl] I think a lot of people in heaven are going to have suffered some kind of psychological damage. Everyone in heaven did have to die at some point.

[Caleb] I think there is a period of recovery everyone has to go through after arriving

[Earl] I can see that

[Caleb] We plan to rejuvenate more and more people. We'll be establishing the government and the associated services to support a society

[Earl] So how does this fit into my job?

[Caleb] We want you to join a panel where you help plan and provide feedback on the integration as well as provide security services in the early stages of heaven

[Earl] Sure, I'll help where I can

[Caleb] Finish your breakfast, we have got to go meet Sky

Caleb gets Earl into the sim

After Earl had finished up, Caleb got Earl to lie on the bed.

[Caleb] 3-2-1, You can get off the bed now. Come let's go see Sky

Earl got off the bed

[Earl] That's a bit weird.

Earl pats the bed where his body is supposed to be.

[Earl] And that's where I am?

[Caleb] Yes, you're just lying in the same position. We will make your body move automatically from time to time like you naturally would so that you get better circulation.

[Earl] Let's go. Where to?

[Caleb] To the front door, but before you go, give me your device. Kyle wants to resist mixing the realities

Earl pulled the device from his pocket.

[Jack] I'll see you later Earl

[Earl] Bye Jack

[Caleb] Now open the door

[Earl] Me first?

[Caleb] I can't come with you. Kyle doesn't want me to tell Sky and Ahha about heaven, I'm just software. They have to speak with you Earl. Now don't be too long in the park, we have work to do

Earl walked to the front door and opened it. To his amazement he found it opened into the bright sunlight. He was emerging from the side of a house near the park.

[Caleb] Recognise where you are? The park is just further down the road. Take a last look at the portal doorway, this is how you get home.

[Earl] I'll easily find my way back. Thank you.

With that Earl walked to the park.

Sky and Ahha work with Earl

Sky, Ahha and Earl meet up

When Earl got to the park, there was nobody there, so Earl just sat on the grass. He noticed that his fingers felt strange as they pressed into the grass. It was a limitation of the sim. It was struggling to make Earl feel the individual grass shoots that were in the universe. The sim couldn't really change anything in the universe, so the grass shoots felt pokey. It was an ongoing project of the mahutans to increase the realism of a sim and this was just a basic version.

Meanwhile, Sky had been keeping an eye on the time and had got into a conversation with her mum on the way out

[Ava] Don't forget you have therapy tomorrow at 2 pm.

[Sky] Thanks mum

Ava wanted to know more about how therapy was going and if it was working. Sky said that she was gradually starting to feel more orientated but didn't think she was ready for school yet.

[Ava] And where are you going?

[Sky] I'm just going to go for a walk

[Ava] Okay, well, I'll see you later

[Sky] Bye

Sky was 5 minutes late for the park meeting. When she got there she saw Earl and behind him Ahha. Earl still had not seen Ahha. The mahutans needed Sky to see Ahha before they could render him in the picture.

[Sky] Hi Earl, Hi Ahha

Ahha was invisible

Earl briefly faces Sky.

[Earl] Hi Sky

[Ahha] Hello Sky

Earl turns to face Ahha.

[Earl] Hey! There you are Ahha, you snuck up on me!

[Ahha] No, I've been here the whole time, but I saw you right now walk in from your house and then sit on the grass and ignore me, so how are you doing?

[Earl] I'm good. It's been an interesting experience. Hang on a second, I sat down about 5 minutes ago

[Ahha] No that just happened for me less than 30 seconds ago

[Earl] Well you are wrong

[Ahha] It's tomba, everyone gets their own reality from the reactor. In our case it is exaggerated because the reactor is adjusting to your sim

The reactor was stitching together the realities for everyone.

Sky and Ahha catch up with Earl

[Sky] So what's it like in heaven?

[Earl] It's very comfortable. Not much exists at the moment. They have only just started building it. Apparently, they can just make stuff magically appear without machines. They made a giant cavern and a street of houses surrounded by trees. I live at number 1 on the street. The food is really tasty.

[Ahha] And how's your job with Kyle

[Earl] Kyle introduced me to Caleb who is in charge of developing heaven. Caleb said we were going to rejuvenate many people then create a government and establish the services that go with that. I am supposed to be on a planning and feedback panel.

[Ahha] That's great news, so we can share ideas!

Earl get feedback for heaven

[Earl] What are your thoughts so far guys

[Sky] Why not make it a fun place to live where you can meet lots of people. It would be nice if people didn't get old in their ways, even though they looked young.

Earl looks at Ahha.

[Earl] Okay, what about you Ahha

[Ahha] I think we need to get our heads straight about where this is all going. People in the universe are moving into a world where the reactor is going to provide perfect intelligence. People of the universe will be able to expand their consciousness and think with high capacity. These new consciousness states will enable them to access perfect intelligence too.

Earl's face lights up.

[Earl] So we're going to get smarter

[Ahha] Yes. What I'm trying to say is that we live in this thing called a pontac where we have perfect intelligence, all we need to do is think about what kind of world we want to live in

[Earl] Okay, I'll need to talk to you in the coming days about that.

[Ahha] One more thing, both Sky and all the people living in heaven are prisoners. Heaven doesn't have access to the universe and resides inside the mahutan infrastructure. Likewise, Sky isn't able to tell people her story and the mahutans have disabled her brain

[Sky] Kyle said I would be better soon

[Ahha] Yes he did, but when is that happening?

Sky is still not well

Earl looks at Sky

[Earl] Sky, how are you feeling?

[Sky] Still very foggy. It's not really any better

[Ahha] Hopefully Kyle will stick to his word and fix it

[Sky] Hopefully

[Ahha] Sky I think you should also try and get back to school again as soon as possible

[Sky] I'm going to be the odd one out, I can't speak properly

[Earl] We'll try to talk you through it. Sometimes, we got to do things even though they are very hard

Sky suggests they have a social media campaign

Sky stands up off the swing she was on.

[Sky] I was thinking I might start a social media campaign to get the message out, once Kyle says it's ok to do so

[Earl] What's a social media campaign?

[Sky] You can make a space on the internet where you can put things like photos and videos. You can also send messages to each other and post things.

[Ahha] That is very primitive. I think Kyle should give you some help, it's his project

[Earl] I have been given this small thing, a device, and on it Jack does everything for me

[Ahha] Jack is an avatar, have you got him with you now?

[Earl] No, Caleb made me leave it in heaven

[Sky] I've got a mobile phone!

Sky is struggling to use technology

Sky puts her hands to her head

[Sky] I don't think I can do the campaign on my mobile. I'm really struggling to use technology with all the confusion that Kyle has given me. Apps and webpages are really hard

[Ahha] Why don't you let me see if I can use your phone. Maybe we can work it out together

Sky hands Ahha her phone.

[Ahha] How do I unlock it?

[Sky] Swipe to get the unlock screen

Ahha tries to swipe.

[Ahha] Nothing, it's just black

Ahha tries pushing the side buttons and tapping the screen.

[Sky] It won't work for you

[Ahha] The realities won't mix

[Sky] I can't do any social media stuff anyway, as I'm struggling to talk fluently

[Ahha] Earl, why don't you try

Earl can't hold the phone

Sky hands Earl the phone, but Earl struggles to take it.

[Sky] Take it

[Earl] I can't grip it

[Sky] It's going to fall out of my hand if you don't take it

[Ahha] It's a limitation of the mahutan sim

Sky holds the phone back next to her side.

This was a known problem for the mahutans when interacting with the universe from their sim. There was just no way to modify the physics, so for the person taking the sim, the universe surfaces were hard. The mahutans were already working on a version where you go someplace completely virtual. This way there are no limits to what the people could experience together provided everybody took a sim. The experience is indistinguishable from the real world.

But, things would eventually mature further. When the soon to be immortal people of earth eventually decided they had populated the planet enough, they could take sims that would allow them to take a real body in kabata and perhaps they would choose to have their future children there too.

[Sky] I think you're right. We should wait until Kyle helps us.

Ahha tells everyone about Fano

[Earl] You need a completely different approach

[Ahha] The way we work in tomba is that when we want to start a new project, we normally go to to kick it off in the land of dreams, creativity, entertainment and fantasy

[Sky] That sounds like a fun place

[Ahha] In kabata I'm going to call this land fano, like fantasy

[Sky] Oh, so we are going to have it too!

[Ahha] Yes. In fano you will be able to interact with safe organic stories that look just like real people. Most of the people in fano will be just stories, but some, like the queen of fano, are expected to be real people. On the fantasy side of fano, you could have a relationship with a story, but you would leave it in fano, because people tend to come back down to reality

Stories can't just become people

[Ahha] Stories in fano will live by a different code to people in reality. They will accept that they are just stories and that means they won't have to deal with any real world problems

[Sky] So they're stuck in fano

[Ahha] No, even if you decide to visit fano in a rendered sleep, these stories can make their way to reality and present themselves in special zones. To qualify for a zone closer to reality, they would need to really try and behave like people do in reality. They couldn't necessarily do what they wanted to do. When they visit reality they will need to be on good behaviour

Sky asks about loving someone in fano

[Sky] What if someone meets a person who is really a story in fano and falls in love with them?

[Ahha] That happens all the time in tomba

[Sky] Can that fanon be made into a real person?

[Ahha] No, that won't qualify. Even though there are nearly infinite people, there are still tough standards to become one. To get real people like in the story-bomb, those environments have to be ultra realistic and powerful

[Sky] So if we ask them if they are a story or a person, will it turn them into a person?

[Ahha] No it won't and stories in fano are expected to accept that. Remember, a story doesn't really exist as a real person with feelings

[Sky] So what about the poor person who loves the story?

[Ahha] That's fine, the love affair just stays in fano forever. The lovers can even have fano children, but you will rarely find the reactor letting you make one of your fano children into a real person. Reality must let fantasy be free but ultimately still pinned down.

Ahha holds his hands together like he is holding a ball

[Ahha] It's all about containment

A person can experience fano in altered states of consciousness

[Ahha] In tomba you can even go as far as safely experiencing these spaces in an altered state of consciousness. Many of these experiences improve creativity while being more enjoyable

[Earl] What about the people not on the same buzz, wouldn't that be strange for them

[Ahha] To access altered consciousness, you would need to be in a zone. These zones lock people down until they have fully recovered from their experience

[Earl] How do I get into one of these zones?

[Ahha] Well, you can't just teleport there. To get to some of these zones you have to qualify by going through other zones. A lot of zones interconnect to each other and are similar to nearby zones

[Sky] How would I know what to do?

[Ahha] It's easy. Spots plug straight into your brain so just think about anything and you will get access to the nearest answer

Ahha moves his hand slowly from one side to the other.

[Ahha] I expect that you set stuff up in fano when it's fluid and it ends up in reality if it's good enough. Fano and reality are going to be a ying and yang.

Ahha tells how a person needs a physical portal to move between zones

[Sky] Yay, I won't have to use my phone anymore

[Ahha] We do have some special physical things called tokens that give you access to something. Something physical almost always represents something you can do, while your visuals represent some state of something. The really important things you can do are all represented by physical tokens

[Sky] That's easy to remember

[Ahha] So you get to a zone via a portal

[Earl] So I'd imagine you can't just teleport to the zone

[Ahha] No, you can't. You can teleport inside a zone, but not between zones. That's what makes it a zone. To get to a new zone, you need a portal that you can pass through

Ahha holds his fist.

[Ahha] The security comes because you can't move these portals between zones. You couldn't move a hoop portal through a doorframe portal, but all other stuff like people and clothing etc can come through just fine. Zones won't pass through each other

[Sky] So how do I find one of these portals?

[Ahha] Someone you are with may know how to find a portal to another zone. A friend may have a token that can access another portal

Zones can be playgrounds

[Ahha] But zones go so much further than that. Culturally, it is important for tombans to experience something in the same zone as other people. When you share an experience with a group of people you can broadcast it to other groups in different zones, and you can get access to privileged material that people in other zones would otherwise not have. This makes you the lead for other zones and in this way you can get attention and move the focus. You can do all of this with an altered state of consciousness with a group of friends

[Sky] Can that be like a party?

[Ahha] Absolutely like a party. Normally, people bring interesting spots into these loosely connected creative environments

[Sky] So you are working while you party?

[Ahha] That's right. In fano, it's a time to show-off what you've been doing to your close friends. Money doesn't exist. It's just creativity and reality working together

Ahha smiles again.

[Ahha] But it doesn't have to be uncomfortable for anybody. Two people that didn't know each other very well and working on a serious project could temporarily step into a more conservative but creative zone of fano to discuss the possibilities of what could be done

Earl has to get back to work

Sky, Ahha and Earl chatted for another half an hour, mostly about how exciting this time was for everyone. Earl told everyone more about heaven, Ahha relayed what life would be like living with a reactor. Sky liked it when Ahha told them that they could achieve any kind of world with the reactor. She just wanted to have as much fun as possible and the thought gave her hope while she was a prisoner of the mahutans.

[Earl] Okay, I've got to get back to work

[Sky] Okay, our next meeting is the same time tomorrow

Everyone said goodbye and Earl walked back to the portal door at the side of the house down the road.

After that, Sky listened to Ahha talk more about tomba and the plan.

Earl works with Caleb

Earl gets a sim-pod

When Earl came back through the portal, Caleb was there to greet him. Caleb got Earl back on the bed and back into his body. Earl was back in his house.

[Caleb] Here Earl, I want to show you something, it's called a sim-pod

Caleb lifted the handle up of a long flat door about knee height that came out of the side of the wall. Inside, Earl could see a comfy flat surface that was raised where your head would be.

[Caleb] Next time use this. The door will lock when you lie down and you can automatically get back into your body on your return and you won't need me

Earl starts to work with Caleb

Earl ordered some fish and chips for lunch, which took less than 2 minutes to arrive in the transporter.

[Earl] Sky and Ahha had some feedback about heaven

[Caleb] Yes we know, Kyke is monitoring everything everyone says directly in their brains. Everyone except Ahha that is, so it is good to get him to express his feedback to you

[Earl] Right, so what are we doing today?

Earl opened his package of fish and chips by pulling the tag.

[Caleb] Well, we have extended heaven. We have made another 25 caverns, each with a street that has 7 houses on them. Each person has their own house.

[Earl] Great, I'll have some company

[Caleb] To get things started, we have selected 6 people with security backgrounds, they are going to live in your street and will help keep order. Your cavern is positioned in the middle of this cluster of caverns so you can always get somewhere easily if you need to

[Earl] So I'm on security

[Caleb] That is one of your roles. With your wartime experience, you should find it easy. Each of you in your cavern will be given a pair of handcuffs. You are not going to need them for the moment because everyone has been carefully selected, but later as heaven expands, we want your street to be on standby to help if something goes wrong

[Earl] Okay

Caleb is going to rejuvenate hundreds of people

[Caleb] Later in the day we're going to rejuvenate hundreds of people that had careers or experience in business and government. Both groups of people died in the last ten years. I will work with these people to form the government of heaven

[Earl] How long before these people will be ready for work? I know they have to recover

[Caleb] Most people need time to accept their new environment and to understand that they will see their families again, but people will have aged differently. After about a week we should start seeing if people want to participate in the formation of the government of heaven

Earl first hears of Alex

Earl finished his fish and chips and washed his hands in the kitchen sink.

[Caleb] Right as we speak, teams of avatar software like myself will be helping resurrect nearly 250 humans. Only 6 people will be for your security contingent. They will be lying in beds in their houses in their caverns.

[Earl] Is there anything I should do?

[Caleb] Nothing at this stage. Just give us about an hour, then there is someone I want you to meet, his name is Alex

[Earl] Okay

[Caleb] He worked for a private security company in the US protecting rich business people and their families

Earl learns about the plans for heaven

Caleb and Earl talked about the future expansion of heaven and how the mahutans planned to unleash tens of billions of people, in a giant slab of emulated physics.

Caleb explained that there was a high speed transport network planned that could move people around by using private transport pods. Shortly, the emulated physics layer was getting an upgrade and teleporting was going to become available.

Heaven was still going to have an economy where people could sell art or hold music concerts. It was just that people didn't need to work in industry or medicine anymore.

All sensory communication was going to use spots, which was an idea that Ahha had given them from things he had seen in tomba. The early mahutan version combined enhanced thinking with reward. No hardware was required as humans already had endpoints in their brains.

[Caleb] Let's go meet Alex

Earl meets Alex

[Caleb] Alex lives at Number 2 Hope Street. He has a guide with him now. He is expecting us

[Earl] Let's do it

Earl and Caleb walked outside and up to Number 2 and knocked on the door. Moments later the door opened and there stood a very frail man and next to him a younger man about the same age as Caleb

[Alex] Greetings, I'm Alex

Everyone goes to shake hands.

[Hugo] Hi, I'm Alex's guide Hugo

[Caleb] Hi, I'm Caleb, I'm helping organise heaven

[Earl] I'm Earl, I'm also from heaven

[Hugo] Alex, both Caleb and I are intelligent software in an organic body.

[Alex] I suppose I'm just a very old man

[Hugo] Come inside everyone, let's sit

Everyone walked inside into the living room and sat on the couches.

[Hugo] Alex woke up just over an hour ago. He understands he is in heaven and the mahutans are our friends. I've explained that he has been selected to be part of a voluntary security group that is going to help establish heaven

[Alex] Hugo says I'm going to be young again. In a few months I'll be biologically 50 years old then a year later I'll be 25.

[Earl] What did you do in your time?

[Alex] I mostly protected rich individuals. I had martial arts training. How about you?

[Earl] I just came from World War 2 that was happening 2 days ago. I was a spy in Germany for the British. I got caught and was executed.

Earl and Alex talked a little about the war.

Earl tells Alex that Sky and heaven are imprisoned

[Alex] You poor people had to endure so much

[Earl] Old age wasn't easy though either I suppose

[Alex] Aging is horrible, but I already feel a whole lot better

[Earl] Alex, you know I have this friend that is living on earth that I visited in a sim yesterday. Her name is Sky. Now apparently she has this imaginary friend that the mahutans can see with their technology. His name is Ahha and he was being projected into the universe by the mahutans, so that I could see him too.

[Alex] So the mahutans could speak to her imaginary friend?

[Earl] Yes, Ahha comes from tomba where they have perfected intelligence. He is still young himself, but very smart and he was saying that both Sky and the people of heaven were prisoners of the mahutans.

[Alex] Why prisoners?

[Earl] Well, Sky's brain is being disabled and the people of heaven can't access the universe and they can't get back to earth

Earl explains how he got to earth

[Alex] Well how did you get to earth?

[Earl] A sim, the last time I went, I had to lie on a bed, but normally I'll just take a sim-pod. When I do that I am able to detach my body from my mind. From there I went out of my front door, which was a portal. On the other side of my door was the outside of a house close to a park that Sky and Ahha meet at.

[Alex] Can I follow you through the door to the park and get to earth?

[Earl] I don't know

[Caleb] No you can't. Only Earl can take a sim at this stage and go visit earth. Strict instructions from Kyle, he's in charge of everything. Don't worry, soon, during the integration, you can meet people back on earth

Earl chats about tomba, Ahha and Sky

[Alex] So where is tomba

[Earl] Apparently it is not in the universe. The only person that can see the tombans is Sky.

[Alex] What? Are they invisible?

[Earl] Invisible and not even there. They run on separate realities. Sky can actually access them. So she can touch Ahha's hand if she wanted to. But, anyone observing Sky will just see her interacting with herself

[Alex] Phenomenal. What is she like?

[Earl] She's a nice person, quite normal for people on earth today. She always has something she wants to say but struggles to think because of something the Kyle has done to her brain

[Alex] And what about Ahha, what's he like?

[Earl] Very confident and intelligent. He is trying to build a reactor like the one they have in tomba for the universe

[Alex] What's the reactor?

[Earl] It is a system that runs everything and knows how to think perfectly. Apparently, the reactor for the universe will form a new world called kabata. Ahha was saying that the future will come from kabata

Earl and Alex chatted further with Caleb about how they expected heaven to grow and their roles at providing security in the early heaven.

[Caleb] Eventually, security will come from a dedicated force run out of the government of heaven.

Everyone is waiting for Kyle to return

Earl moves on with his day

After about an hour Earl said goodbye to Alex and headed back to his place for a break and debrief.

[Caleb] Next we go visit the rest of your team

The rest of the afternoon, Caleb and Earl met with the 5 other security people who had also all only fairly recently been resurrected. By the end of the day, the artificial sun in the cavern was setting. Caleb said goodbye to Earl with a promise to return in the morning.

Earl headed home and let himself in. He closed the front door and got Jack to order him pizza. In the meanwhile, Jack had automatically made contact with other devices, and there was a buzz on the early spot network by people that Earl had already met. Jack had got together with the other device avatars to set up spots that relayed aspects of small interactions that the team had experienced together earlier in the day.

After dinner, Jack got Earl to spend some time playing with spots and communicating with his team.

There was a lot of talk between the 7 of them regarding Sky, Ahha and the tombans. People seemed to now realise that there were two separate alien civilisations involved and this still was not God.

People wondered about the role of God and felt that God had created the tombans, but many questions remained.

Earl had promised to talk with Ahha about what he knew about God.

Earl meets up with Sky and Ahha and asks about God

The next day, Earl met up briefly with Sky and Ahha in the park

[Earl] So did God create tomba?

[Ahha] Tomba evolved from a vibrating non-repeating pattern in mathematics

[Earl] So you actually know where it came from?

[Ahha] Yes, these non-repeating patterns interacted with itself but at that early point there was no time. Only an aggregated biome existed, but later that biome evolved life, then intelligence and then super-intelligence. In the end, these early tombans projected themselves into multi-dimensional spaces but particularly a lot of social stuff happens in 3D space because with gravity and pressure people look similar.

[Earl] So it evolved. So what did God do?

[Ahha] God went beyond that. Tombans believe that God created mathematics and the symmetry of all logic that enabled tomba to evolve.

[Earl] So God created tomba

[Ahha] Probably. In our part of reality logic and math work the way they do. We think this is God's work. Otherwise, you would think there should be nothing out there but instead there are these reactors everywhere producing worlds just like the universe. Instead of nothing, God is trying to make everything exist.

Sky remembered she had therapy class and said she had to get back. Earl said that was great, he had to get back to work with Caleb.

The week nears its end

Things had got into a routine.

Sky's parents generally let her do what she wanted. She didn't have to go to school while she was trying to recover, but had to go to therapy classes twice a week. Kyle was slowly letting her get better so that everyone believed therapy was the answer.

Sky got to see Abby. She was very supportive, but didn't believe Kyle or Ahha existed. It frustrated Sky that she couldn't be honest with Abby about what was going on in her life.

Kyle is back!

Kyle arrives

Then exactly one week after Kyle departed, he returned again. While Sky, Ahha and Earl were having their regular meeting in the park, Kyle walked up the street.

[Sky] Oh hello stranger!

Earl instinctively got up and shook Kyle's hand. He didn't even notice that the mahutans had already upgraded the sim so that the avatars could have a full sensory connection with him.

[Earl] Kyle, good to see you

[Ahha] Hi there

[Kyle] Hi everyone

[Sky] How's the integration coming on?

[Kyle] Pretty good. We've got some questions we want you to answer Ahha

[Ahha] Sure, what's on your mind?

Kyle isn't sure Ahha should be taking super-intelligence so casually

[Kyle] Well, our main problem is how you are going about creating the reactor whose goal it is to govern every civilisation

[Ahha] What don't you like about my approach?

[Kyle] For one thing, you're not giving it your best shot

[Ahha] No? I am dedicated to this project

[Kyle] Yes, but there was a big gap, nearly a decade that you waited to get back into the project

[Ahha] I was growing up!

Kyle thinks people in tomba must want to help too

[Kyle] You told me you were famous back in tomba. There must be plenty of people that want to help us get it right

[Ahha] There are, but you must understand that you can establish super-intelligence with just 3 shortcuts. It's more about how you go about it

[Kyle] So you're just going to give us the shortcuts then leave us

[Ahha] Yes, look, there is another shortcut called a biocentrix, which says more value is created if you let the biome run it. In my case the mahutan government is that biome, and for the mahutan government's biome, it's kabata.

[Kyle] And we understand that you are missing pieces because you deliberately chose not to look at related material

[Ahha] It makes it more interesting as I follow the biocentrix shortcut. We want to push down development to the individual person. This is a very special time and we want people to experience it directly with spots.

[Kyle] We've been working on a model of your ideas around spots. Our implementation so far has it so that the spot has a sensory connection with the user and is able to connect up with other spots.

[Ahha] You're almost there. You'll need to connect each spot to a trust space called T. You can do this by rating each spot against every other spot in a range.

[Kyle] How are we going to know what to do?

[Ahha] You're going to need to do a lot of thinking by using the shortcuts I give you. Later when I explain how to make the reactor, you'll see that the key shortcut you'll need is

'Thinking upwards will lead to super-intelligence'

[Kyle] I look forward to unpacking that

[Ahha] You basically get the spot network going by having normal people build the super-intelligent infrastructure by using spots

[Kyle] Okay

[Ahha] We are going to want those spots to turn ordinary people into geniuses and rockstars

How is Kabata going to be run?

[Kyle] We understand that once the reactor is built and plugged in, people will communicate with the reactor with an avatar

[Ahha] I'd like to see the reactor give each person something physical that is their connection to the reactor, like a device or a personal robot

[Kyle] Okay, we can do that

[Ahha] I'd like us to create a physical avatar in kabata and wire it up into the emergent thinking and synergy of the spot network. We should task this avatar with increasing its intelligence continuously by thinking upwards and returning to us when it is smarter and knows how to build the reactor

[Kyle] So we'll get the intelligence of the spot network to do the work for us

[Ahha] Yes, it will self assemble

Kyle has concerns about running kabata before the reactor is built

[Kyle] Ahha, I wanted to know about the running of early kabata, before the reactor was complete. This is the time period while we wait for the physical avatar to come back to us in the future

[Ahha] Okay, good question. I have a loose plan to start it off as a democracy with a basic constitution:

‘Attach the spot network to a physical avatar’

‘Become super-intelligent by using the shortcuts’

‘Return to build the reactor’

[Kyle] So how does stuff get done?

[Ahha] The early kabatan democracy might be a governing system where people vote on ideas. These ideas can grow, merge with other ideas or when they get big enough, actually have some impact on life in kabata

[Kyle] Okay, so it's all happening inside the spot network

[Ahha] Yes and eventually when the physical avatar returns and it tells us how to proceed, people will be expected to take their last vote and vote for the reactor to run everything. After that the reactor will interface with people physically with an avatar and through the spot network.

Ahha explains to Kyle where kabata is

[Kyle] Where is kabata?

[Ahha] Since you've been away, I used an advanced thinking tool to access some information about the laws of physics in the universe. It appears that if you create kabata in the quantum fabric then it will be safe from other aliens.

Kyle understood what Ahha was referring to. Even if the matter used to access the quantum fabric is captured by another alien, they cannot access the infinite amount of information you can operate safely from within it. Ahha is planning kabata to reside entirely in the quantum fabric, presenting itself physically to humans and mahutans as a vast interconnected space of physics emulators and sensory connections

[Kyle] So, it's like heaven

[Ahha] Yes, so if you're in heaven, you can just teleport there. If you live in mahuta or earth, then you can still access kabata, but you're actually on an outpost. Using some of my research from the spot network back home, I saw that you could get a machine to transport your body from a physical environment into another physics emulator in one smooth motion. This lets us get there without having to kill the original source in the physical environment, which is yourself!

[Kyle] Yes, useful, and everyone joins kabata?

[Ahha] Actually, you can have multiple reactors in the universe, they're interoperable and will be allies

Kyle is worried about security

[Kyle] We are very concerned about security, what if we accidentally do something to ourselves or something goes wrong. There is just so much transformation, there is a lot of surface area for potential mistakes

[Ahha] Security is my primary concern. My plan is to start a giant brain on the early kabatan spot network. The brain has artificial thoughts that are made from spots that people can help steer. The goal of this giant brain is to control the avatar that is going to come back to us in the future. We will research the reactor with safety and security always a priority.

[Kyle] Our security considerations are broad. We really have to be careful in how we adopt kabata. For example, it's a big leap for us to imagine recycling ourselves while we take a position in a world and call it home. Even just taking multiple bodies and personalities that share an identity is something we are going to have to really understand before we do it

[Ahha] That's the great thing about it. As the shortcuts start to give you access to super-intelligence you can start slowly and create more complex realities at a rate that you feel comfortable with

Kyle doesn't like tomban culture

[Kyle] I want to have a meeting with Alice herself, the mahutans believe we need to put our best foot forward when it comes to building the reactor

[Ahha] That's never going to happen. Alice just wouldn't get involved

[Kyle] Well I'm telling you that we are not going to implement it the way it is

[Ahha] What don't you like about it?

[Kyle] In particular, we don't want to move too quickly into shifting our form as recycled people. You say that at some point they get their memories back and can access the rest of their identity while retaining their bodies. We need stepping stones to get to that kind of consciousness. Otherwise, it changes too quickly.

[Ahha] Just take it at your own pace

Ahha tells everyone about simatra

[Ahha] It's not too much to take on board. Consider the story of my mum and dad, their reactor was called simatra and it was very similar to what I want for kabata. They were recycled people that were born into a similar society before they became super-intelligent. The physics was similar. It had gravity and pressure and people looked similar.

In tomba, all the worlds come from similar backgrounds and people can easily be friends. Tomba still has other lifeforms like super-intelligent six dimensional beings, but Ahha is saying that kabata will be in a band of worlds that are similar like simatra.

[Kyle] We understand that simatra feels normal but we want to be able to control and understand change slowly

[Sky] So did simatra start from a story-bomb as well?

[Ahha] It did. Simatra's story-bomb never was bad because they didn't have cruelty in their world. Simatrans had a history of great technological expansion. They had solved aging but had not yet reached super-intelligence.

[Sky] Was there a person like you Ahha that started a revolution?

[Ahha] No, instead a group of influential people rose up

Kyle doesn't like objective decisions

Kyle pivoted again

[Kyle] The other area we are not sure about is that the reactor is totally objective and looks out for everyone. Currently, our society looks out for mahutans

[Ahha] Yes, but that's an unfair system. The reactor uses trust based logic to project fairness with its dealings with the outside. Aliens you meet in the universe don't have any rights in mahuta by default

[Sky] Like me, I have limited rights as a prisoner

[Ahha] That's true

[Kyle] But what about your enemies, you have to protect yourself

[Ahha] You can still protect yourself and act objectively. The reactor will definitely defend itself. A super-intelligent fighting force is hard to overcome

Kyle isn't sure it's right to fully dissociate from your original life

[Kyle] You have spoken to Sky about a legal system that allows you to completely disassociate from your original story as you complete the recycling process. Your view is total forgiveness, which we don't necessarily believe in, consider a murderer

[Ahha] I think it's all about rehabilitation. In tomba we have a brain tool called sticks. People take their sticks when they move into super-intelligence. Sticks are small artificial thoughts that guide your behaviour. In extreme cases, if you haven't taken your sticks, you'll have to live in another zone that has people similar to you in it

Kyle asks Ahha for the reactor design

[Kyle] Don't get me wrong, we see it has benefits everywhere

[Ahha] Especially for your military

[Kyle] Yes thank you for that. That brings me to the point that we need the reactor design as soon as possible. Can you give that to me?

[Ahha] Sure, keeping things as simple as possible, you have to think and work upwards whereby you keep increasing the level of intelligence between spots. Eventually, the spot network is going to push up new intelligence on its own and increase its upward trajectory towards super-intelligence

[Kyle] When you say upwards, do you mean that just by creating an intelligent system you go up, or is it a special type of thinking?

Ahha explains upward thinking

[Earl] Yes, what is upward thinking?

[Ahha] Well, you're right Kyle, it is a special type of thinking. Creating an intelligent system that breaks new ground will take you a small amount up, but to really go up, you need systems that create new intelligence, like synergies and complex emergent behaviours in information biomes. When you have a spot that is a shortcut, it can interact with a wider range of possibilities. That's the nature of shortcuts, they give you other shortcuts for free. Now a spot is just a way to view something.

[Earl] I don't think I understood that

[Kyle] It's Okay, I understand. He's basically saying that spots that are upward facing have newer intelligences, especially intelligences that create more intelligence

[Sky] So up is good and so more up is even better right?

[Ahha] Kinda, when you are organising information in new and powerful ways then you are moving upwards and when you can't organise it any more then your strategy is saturated and you'll have to think of new intelligence in order to move up more

Ahha explains about spots and shortcuts

[Earl] Give me an example of a spot.

[Ahha] Everything about you is a spot. Why people like what you ate for breakfast is also a spot

[Earl] So what's the difference between a spot and a shortcut

[Ahha] A spot represents a particular aspect of something on the spot network that you can ultimately access directly with your brain while a shortcut is similar, it also represents something, but the thing it represents is so much bigger. A shortcut is a powerful idea. With a shortcut, you don't have to be on the spot network like you do with a spot. A shortcut can be a spot but it can also just be a thought in your head

[Earl] Can you give me an example of a shortcut

[Ahha] Thinking upwards will lead to super-intelligence

[Earl] I suppose a lot can come from that

[Ahha] A shortcut can compress things because it has a large surface area

[Earl] So shortcuts are always good and I should value them

[Ahha] That's right and that's also a shortcut. Put another way, a shortcut lets you see a lot in a single thought, so in this light, upward thinking is when you can continuously see more with the same number of thoughts

Ahha explains focus and thinking digitally

[Ahha] Yes, but shortcuts are most valuable when you select just the right shortcut that is near your current focus, then the shortcut becomes supercritical because it often represents something you should do next. That is when the shortcut that has the focus becomes pure power

[Earl] What you should do next is very useful

[Ahha] Often what you should do next is to complete something you already decided to do

[Earl] These ideas are very abstract, can you be more concrete when you re-explain to me what my current focus is

[Ahha] Sure. Focus is when you consider a bunch of related thoughts. When thinking digitally like on the spot network, focus happens when a bunch of related shortcuts are considered at the same time. Take these 3 shortcuts

Thinking upwards will lead to super-intelligence

Thinking in shortcuts is a leap in thinking upwards

A shortcut gives you other shortcuts for free

[Ahha] When considered together, those 3 shortcuts represent your focus and they create a synergy

[Earl] Yes I can feel their power, although I'm not sure what to do with it

[Ahha] Well, you can shift your focus. While considering those 3 shortcuts we just were talking about, let's add another shortcut and focus on the resulting synergy. Let's add:

'Get value from a shortcut by focusing on the shortcut and not the frame'

[Earl] What's the frame?

[Ahha] The frame is something you know a lot about but don't have any shortcuts to describe them yet with, for example, physics or mathematics. The mahutans know a lot about physics but they don't have any shortcuts to work with it yet. What that shortcut is saying is that you should think in shortcuts and not work with existing knowledge directly

[Earl] But existing knowledge is useful!

[Ahha] Well we could shift the focus again and add another shortcut to answer your question

'Convert your existing knowledge into shortcuts'

[Earl] Oh so you don't lose that

[Ahha] No, and I meant to add that each time we shift the focus it is a digital thought on the spot network. This is what thinking digitally feels like

Kyle suggests we should build the advanced brain that can think upwards

Ahha raises his hands slightly

[Ahha] Anyway, getting back to upward thinking. Upward thinking is when you collect special spots and shortcuts that tend to lead you to other powerful shortcuts. An example of an upward shortcut is the shortcut itself. The concept of the shortcut is so powerful that it represents a leap upwards

[Kyle] Perhaps we should build an advanced brain that can think upwards. How would you build such a brain?

[Ahha] You could assemble it from spots on the spot network. Many spots simply organise other spots and create intelligence as a byproduct, for example motivation and investment

[Kyle] Okay, I think I got it, keeping thinking upwards and the reactor will assemble itself

Ahha leaves

[Ahha] Well, you've got all the shortcuts you need now to make it happen

Ahha puts his hands behind his head.

[Ahha] It's time that I go

[Sky] Oh no do you have to?

[Ahha] You always knew this time would come Sky, when Kyle returned. You won't have to do it on your own. You'll have Kyle and you will be able to see Earl

[Kyle] Sky, just start telling people your message and we will help you get it out

[Sky] When is tomba going to reopen the portal to the universe so I can see you again Ahha?

[Ahha] Soon enough, but you must journey to super-intelligence first

[Earl] Bye Ahha, thanks for all the help

[Ahha] No problem and good luck with creating heaven

[Earl] Yes, that's an incredible project

[Kyle] See you later Ahha. I can't say enough how grateful we are to have become infected with your virus

Everyone laughs

[Ahha] Thank you for taking the project onboard so quickly and earnestly

Sky walks up to Ahha and hugs him.

[Sky] Thank you Ahha. It's been so much fun meeting you

[Ahha] Likewise Sky, and goodluck

Ahha raises his palms to the sky and then curls his fingers and arms backwards

[Ahha] I must be off. Until we meet again!

And with that Ahha turns around, climbs into his robot car and drives to Hamingway Station where Alice closed the portal after Ahha got back to tomba.