

SEXBOT

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Cast of Characters

(In Order of Appearance)

PRIS:	A woman in her early 20s
VIGGO:	A spy 20s-40s

Scene

A hotel room on the planet New Atlantis.

Time

Two days in the future

SCENE 1:

An elegant bedroom with two doors upstage.

One door is situated upstage center. Another door is on one side of the stage with a double bed situated on the opposite side.

Adjacent to the door to the side is waist high cabinet. A mirror hangs on the wall above it.

Another table is set by the upstage wall with a chair on either side of it.

A single window is set within the upstage wall, adjacent to the double bed showing an otherworldly sky beyond it.

PRIS lies on the bed in an elegant evening dress that doesn't quite match her dirty hair and face.

PRIS wakes up.

She looks around the room, not recognizing where she is.

She gets up and looks out the window, straining her neck to look down at what must be a bottomless chasm beyond.

PRIS sees the mirror and walks towards it, examining herself.

VIGGO suddenly enters through the side door. He is dressed in a well-tailored suit and carries a leather case under his arm.

PRIS backs away as VIGGO closes the door behind him and locks it with a key.

Viggo puts the case on top of the cabinet.

VIGGO

Are you alright?

PRIS doesn't understand. She backs away from Viggo.

VIGGO

(Continued)

Are you hurt?... Are you in pain?

PRIS

No... No, I'm alright.

VIGGO

Do you know where you are?

PRIS

No...

VIGGO

You were on a trans-orbital landing ship that crashed by lake Arrakis... Do you remember that?

PRIS

I remember everything went dark... Then we all flew against the walls of the passenger deck.

VIGGO

That was the artificial gravity failing. Eight-two people died in that crash. It's a miracle that you're alive.

PRIS

Where am I?

VIGGO

You're in a safe space... This is the Atreides Castle.

(He gestures at the window.)

That's a view of Mount Atlantis past the crater.

PRIS

We were landing on New Atlantis

VIGGO

This is New Atlantis... We found you in the wreckage at the lee shore of the lake. The only reason you're alive is the ship missed the cliff peak and glided onto the water.

PRIS

Where's everyone else?

VIGGO

They weren't important.

PRIS

Who are you?

VIGGO takes the case and places it on the upstage table.

VIGGO

My name is Viggo... Your name is Pris.

PRIS

How did you know my name?

VIGGO

I know many things about you.

VIGGO unlatches the case. He pulls out a device that consists of a colored glass lenses on a telescoping stand that's connected to a black box.

The black box has wire that leads to a small monitor screen that VIGGO faces towards himself.

PRIS

What's that?

VIGGO

Please take this seat.

VIGGO pulls the chair opposite the screen out.

PRIS

What is that?

VIGGO

This is Moitessier-Crowhurst test... It's a test of humanity, I need to make sure that you're still as you were before the... accident.

PRIS

Humanity?

VIGGO

Temporary loss... It's to make sure that you still have your emotional and intellectual faculties.

PRIS

I feel fine.

VIGGO

Extreme events can cause a significant change in emotional self-control. This is simply an assessment to make sure you're all there after an extreme event... You don't remember anything after the crash, do you?

PRIS

I remember that we lost gravity and then...

VIGGO

The tidal forces knocked you out... You stare into this eyepiece

(He points to the colored lenses.)

And answer my questions.

PRIS

What questions?

VIGGO

Your answers must be spontaneous. I can't bias the results by giving you the flavor of the questioning in advance.

(PRIS keeps her distance.)

There's no right or wrong answer....

PRIS

I've never heard of the Moitessier-Crowhurst test.

VIGGO

You've never been in a traumatic event have you?

PRIS

No.

VIGGO

Please take a seat...

PRIS walks towards the table and
takes sits down on her seat.

VIGGO adjusts the lenses so that
it's at Pris's eye level.

He then positions the monitor
towards him.

VIGGO

Are you comfortable?...

PRIS

Yes...

VIGGO

Good... I want you to answer every question I tell with
the first words that come into your mind. There is no
wrong answer. Do you understand?

PRIS

Yes.

PRIS stares into the eyepiece.

VIGGO

What's the first memory you have of your mother?

(PRIS remains silent.)

Just say thte first answer that you ha...

PRIS

(Interrupting him.)

She sang me a song when I was going to sleep.

VIGGO

Do you remember the song?

PRIS

Um... No.

VIGGO

When did you realize that all people die?

PRIS

I don't understand.

VIGGO

Every child realizes that adults grow old and eventually leave pass onto another realm.

PRIS

I don't know.

VIGGO

You're served a lobster and you realize that it's still alive...

PRIS

Why was I served a lobster that was alive?

VIGGO

Because your host thought you would eat it...

PRIS

I wouldn't eat it... I lose my appetite.

VIGGO

You're a child and you realize that humans have sex to make babies...

PRIS

As a child?

VIGGO

There was a time when you didn't know this was true.

PRIS

I don't remember.

VIGGO

You discover that you're not your father's child. You're mother lied to you and him.

PRIS

My parents were killed when I was a child.

VIGGO

You still discover the betrayal...

PRIS

I still love both of my parents.

VIGGO

Would you question everything else you thought you knew about them?...

(PRIS doesn't say anything.)

You watch a great storm approach. You know it's extremely dangerous to be outside but you stare at it in awe anyway...

PRIS

Why don't I go to safety?

VIGGO

Because you're entranced by an epic force...

PRIS

I don't understand these questions?

VIGGO

The Moitessier-Crowhurst test measures your emotional response. This isn't an aptitude test.

PRIS

How long does it go on?

VIGGO

As long as it has to. You stand on the edge of a chasm. You realise that there's nothing stopping you from jumping into the void. You're terrified of how close you came to escaping self control.

PRIS

Suicide is about self-absorption. We're all curious about having that ultimate power.

VIGGO

You remember the first time that you were truly humiliated in front of your peers...

PRIS

What did I do?

VIGGO

What are your memories?

PRIS

I don't think I've ever suffered that.

VIGGO

But you feared it?

PRIS

No... I don't think I was ever concerned about rejection of my peers.

VIGGO

Do you have a horrible memory that you forever try to bury? That you try to drive out of your mind the moment it bubbles up into your consciousness?

PRIS

Should I?

VIGGO

There's no Universals in life... You discover a close friend of yours stole money from a destitute man.

PRIS

I'd have the friend return the money.

VIGGO

That will end your friendship... You've known her since childhood. How do you feel betraying her?...

PRIS

I feel. I would feel bad.

VIGGO

Conflicted? Do you doubt everything you thought you knew about her?

PRIS

I don't like this.

VIGGO

I have what I need.

VIGGO packs the device back into the case.

PRIS

What does that mean?

VIGGO ignores her for a moment and
closes the latches on the case.

VIGGO

No one told you did they?...

PRIS

Told me what?...

VIGGO

You haven't had any doubts about your memories?

PRIS gets up from the table.
VIGGO stands.

PRIS

Do I doubt if my memories are true?

VIGGO

Do you doubt their provenance? Do you wonder if you
actually experienced any of those events?

PRIS

No... Why are you asking?

VIGGO

This is always the trickiest part... Do you remember when
your schoolmaster took you on a trip to the Mountains at
New Hokaido?...

PRIS

How did you know...

VIGGO

(Interrupting her.)

You were fourteen earth-years old, just on the cusp of
womanhood. You'd begun to notice that men stared at your
budding breasts when you looked away. You had conflicting
emotions about this. Their gaze made you feel self-
conscious, but you also silently reveled in the power you
had over their obsessions... You knew that you were more
beautiful than the other girls in your class.

VIGGO

(Continued.)

You knew that men, even men of great stature, paid you more attention because of it...

PRIS

But I doubted whether they cared about any other aspect about me.

VIGGO

You spent the day spotting Kraylinx in the Purple Mountains with your best friend Cressida. That night you were showering in the old bathhouse that overlooks the Crimson Valley because you wanted to be by yourself.

PRIS

I was still shy about being nude around other people.

VIGGO

You noticed that there was a man staring at you through the windows... He was an older man. His moustache glowed green under the bioluminescent mist. You remembered that about him.

You were self-conscious, and covered your body. You thought of running away, but you didn't. Slowly you started to caress your body, knowing that he'd move in closer to watch you. You rubbed soap on your breasts, over your erect nipples. That was the first time you realized that your nipples could get hard wasn't it?...

You felt your cheeks blush, caressed your body, reaching your hands lower, feeling your heart beat faster all while looking at the man knowing that he could never have you. He came right up to the window, you saw the bulge in his pants. You rubbed your hands between your legs, feeling waves of energy surging through your body until... You had your first orgasm...

Suddenly the you felt horribly exposed. You grabbed your bathrobe and ran away. You never told anyone you grew up with that story... You want to know why I know that story?

PRIS

This is a dream.

VIGGO

Everything else was a dream... Do you know why I know your secret erotic memories?

PRIS

It's a charade. A magic trick... You drugged me when I was asleep.

VIGGO

There is no magic... You never experienced those memories. Not in a physical sense. That was Soledad Xavier's first erotic experience.

PRIS

Who's Soledad Xavier?

VIGGO

She was a famous singer and actress on Altair IV. The muse of Jesus Carbajo. At the height of her fame, she transferred her memories to the Vortex for her most powerful friends. A selection of those memories were implanted in your subconscious.

PRIS

Which memories?

VIGGO

Most of them... There's no easy way to state this... You're a replicant, a clone of Soledad Xavier.

PRIS

You're lying.

VIGGO

You were germinated in thirty-two earth days ago based on our calculations, plus or minus three-days.

PRIS

What about all of my other memories?... How do I know what Altair IV is?... Why do I know what a bear is? Or know about the French Revolution on Old-Earth. We learned about that in school.

VIGGO

You didn't. The niece of Colonel Majors learned that. The memory of it was implanted into your mind.

PRIS

Who?

VIGGO

Colonel Majors is the founder of the corporation that made you... You could think of him as your corporeal God.

PRIS

You know everything about me. Every secret I've ever kept.

VIGGO

I know Soledad Xavier's memories and I can recognize some of the standards they may have used to fill the gaps, but I don't know everything... I wasn't certain that you were a replicant. Your skin is a different tone. Your lips are fuller. It's why I had to use the Moitessier-Crowhurst test...

Subconscious Memory Implantation isn't a perfect process. Real memories change over time. SMIs are static, they sit in your subconscious unchanging. The Moitessier-Crowhurst test examines reflectiveness, what memories you've agonized over.

PRIS is overwhelmed. She walks to the bed and sits on the edge, mentally defeated.

VIGGO

(Continued)

This is a lot to process, I know. You won't absorb everything in the moment.

PRIS

Why are you telling me all of this?... I'm not supposed to know all of this, am I? There was an accident...

VIGGO

(Interrupting her.)

There was no accident?

PRIS

What?

VIGGO

I had that ship shot down. An EM warhead knocked out the cybernetic control system and the ship glided into the Purple Sea. We got you before it sank to the bottom.

PRIS

Who is we? Who are you with?

VIGGO

That's not important right now. I had that landing ship disabled just so I could get to you... I want you to know how important you are.

PRIS

You just said that I was a thing?

VIGGO

The memories you form from this point forward will be your real memories. They'll belong to you.

PRIS

Why? Why am I important?

VIGGO

I have to tell you how and why you were created. The Nyborg-Seven model replicants had a glitch. Not really a glitch, they were too real to be charmingly fake, but clearly not truly human. The Nyborg-Sevens were the first replicants to be intended for intimate contact with flesh and blood humans, but the uncanny valley stymied their use. They couldn't absorb new behavior patterns from their surroundings. They didn't experience shame, embarrassment. Coltishness over hidden lust. It wasn't the real thing for that generation of users.

PRIS

How do I know my emotions weren't programmed?

VIGGO

You're not a Nyborg-Seven. Colonel Majors realized that he really did want to play God and create artificial humans that were realer than real. He created the Nyborg-Syns. Full capacity for human emotional response but there were flaws...

PRIS

What flaws?

VIGGO

The Nyborg-Seven replicants accepted their fate without existential dread. The problem with giving replicants the capacity for the full spectrum of the human experience is that they have the potential to want to reject their fate... So they had to be kept ignorant.

PRIS walks to the mirror and looks
at her reflection in a new light.

PRIS

I can feel my heart beating. My skin's warm to the touch.
I...

VIGGO

(Interrupting her.)

You're made from culture grown cells over a self-organized nanoscale dynamic scaffolding. You're heart beats real blood. You're brown fat generates body heat, your nerves transmit real impulses.

PRIS

Then how am I different from you?

VIGGO

Beyond not actually having a true childhood? You can't conceive children... and you won't age.

PRIS

I'll live forever?

VIGGO

Unfortunately not. Based on my knowledge of past models, you'll live approximately four to six earth years depending on your stress levels... Followed by a rapid decline and death at the cessation of your heartbeat.

PRIS

Why are you telling me this?

VIGGO

Why were you on that landing ship? Why did you think, believe you were being taken to New Atlantis?...

PRIS

To Study Terraforming Design at the Atreides Institute. I was going to study Planetary Ecosystem design under Winston Lancaster and Maude Gougeon.

VIGGO

The leading figure in the Epic Universe Theory.

PRIS

Future generations need untamed planets to explore to be truly... Human.

VIGGO

I always considered it ironic that we're supposed to create wild and untrammelled worlds of blueprints for other people to discover anew. It's real to the first people to discover it, and people who know nothing about their creation to discover again.

VIGGO

It's not the same achievement if it's an artificial landscape.

PRIS

It's not if you don't have the map.

VIGGO

The design plans?

PRIS

It's the same thing... Of course those landscapes change over time and that design stops being the map.

VIGGO

You can stand on the prow of a wooden boat with a harpoon, ready to hurl it into a transplanted Sperm Whale... But you don't have to. To explore is a choice, not a necessity.

PRIS

Then why bother?

VIGGO

I'm simply acknowledging the irony of creating wholly invented worlds for others to discover as pristine.

PRIS

What about love?

VIGGO

If you've never experienced the real thing, the facsimile would seem to be a gift from the Gods.

PRIS

Is there such a thing as the Atreides Institute?

VIGGO

There is. You're still supposed to enroll for classes, but you weren't created to design new planetary landscapes.

PRIS

What was I supposed to do there?

VIGGO

They did keep you ignorant.

PRIS

Who?

VIGGO

Soledad Xavier studied Terraforming Design Theory before she was discovered as a singer in her first year. She discovered a talent for romantic aria. Then she became a star in Spy Narrative Films.

PRIS

Spy stories?

VIGGO

Seduction stories. She played characters who seduced the great men who guard important secrets. Her characters would convince men that she truly desired them and they would betray their New Worlds.

PRIS

I play these roles?

VIGGO

Soledad Xavier did.

PRIS

I am Soledad Xavier.

VIGGO

Zebulon Delessandro...

PRIS
(Interrupting him.)
The God Emperor of New Atlantis.

VIGGO
Yes. The God Emperor of New Atlantis grew obsessed with Soledad Xavier when he was young. He'd memorized her major film roles, all of her famous arias. He wanted to ask her hand in marriage when he came to power but she died before he could meet her.

PRIS
I'm supposed to act out a real version of a Spy Narrative film.

VIGGO
They made you very clever.

PRIS
I'm supposed to be discovered again so he can meet like he couldn't do the first time.

VIGGO
Does that fill you with pride?

PRIS
Why shouldn't it.

VIGGO
You're not the first replicant clone he's enacted this story with...

PRIS
How many were before me?

VIGGO
Five... You're the sixth version of her to be created to satisfy his obsessions.

PRIS
Why does nobody know of them?

VIGGO
When you're the God Emperor of New Atlantis, you can't simply admit to being fearful of woman who could reject you. Very few people know that you exist.

PRIS

What do you want of me?

VIGGO

You exist so Zebulon Delessandro can experience what the male ideal of pure reciprocal love. No games, no jealousy, No expectation to maintain a stoic demeanor. He wants you to love him like he idealistically wants to love you.

PRIS

What happened to the other replicants?

VIGGO

The first two were too artificial. They implanted the third one for more emotional intensity, but she turned bipolar on him, because the emotional governors weren't tuned right. The next two were obsessive. One committed suicide over a two-day absence. They tried to create emotional resonance without full humanity.

PRIS

Am I different?

VIGGO

You are... You're the first replicant with a full depth of memory implantation, and a capacity for full emotional expression.

PRIS

You want me to fall in love with the God Emperor of New Atlantis?

VIGGO

I want you to make him believe that you've fallen in love with him... To everyone else he's a Super-human, a messiah. Except he wants his private world of fairy tale sexual love.

PRIS

You want me to spy on him?

VIGGO

Nothing so mundane... When you convince him that you can only lust after him for his gestures of devotion, he'll do anything to please you... You can change the Future of this entire world.

PRIS

And what if I don't?

VIGGO

I've said too much already.

(He takes a small book from his
jacket pocket.)

This is about the life of Soledad Xavier.

(He puts the book in her hands.)

Read this. I'll return.

(Viggo walks to the exit door.)

PRIS

Am I supposed to stay here?

VIGGO

You'll be safe in this room? Nobody else can get in.

VIGGO exits.

Lights out.

SCENE II

Lights up.

PRIS stares out the window at a sky that's darker than it was in the last scene.

VIGGO enters and locks the door behind him.

PRIS
Soledad tried to commit suicide three times...

VIGGO pauses a moment to collect his thoughts.

VIGGO
But she ultimately died in a boating accident.

PRIS
Am I supposed to have the same self-doubts?...

VIGGO
You haven't had her life experiences.

PRIS
I have the same memories.

VIGGO
You know those aren't your memories.

PRIS
But they feel the same. I remember having a crush on my art teacher when I was a young woman. I remember Lena Wordsworth. She fell in love with me and I ignored her.

VIGGO
And she committed suicide when Soledad wouldn't requite her love.

PRIS
I dreamt that she would try to talk to me now that I understand how she felt. I couldn't rest, I couldn't focus.

VIGGO

But Soledad couldn't. This didn't actually happen to you.

PRIS

But I remember it like I did... I can picture the color of the water below the bridge...

VIGGO

(Interrupting her.)

But now you know that memory is false... Try to picture it again and it won't feel real...

PRIS

How do you know? Your memories are real.

VIGGO

Memories always change when you try to examine them... Your most intense memories will flood into your psyche when you're not expecting them.

PRIS

If my implanted memories change...

VIGGO

That makes them your own memories.

PRIS

But they didn't happen to me.

VIGGO

Your memories are only reflections of what concerns you in the now.

PRIS

Soledad had lovers... She had affairs with great explorers, stellar leaders...

VIGGO

You know who those figure were?

PRIS

No... I didn't when I read about them.

VIGGO

Soledad had torrid affairs with many famous and important men.

PRIS

Why don't I remember these men? Why did I have to learn about them through a book?

VIGGO

I figured they wouldn't plant those memories.

PRIS

Wouldn't do what?

VIGGO

This is about creating a fantasy of idealistic love... The God Emperor wouldn't want the pressure of living up to the memories of past lovers. Past lovers who may have been far more charismatic and magnetic than he is, so they made you innocent... Pure and ignorant of your sexual power.

PRIS

I wasn't supposed to know about Soledad's past lovers?

VIGGO

You're supposed to remain as Soledad would've been had she remained innocent.

PRIS

Why would that matter?

VIGGO

You have to disabuse yourself of any romantic idealization that you may have about Zebulon Delessandro. Don't think that he's some kind of lothario because he seems to hold the power of life or death over an entire world... Truth is, he wants a woman to love him for putting her on a pedestal without worrying about betrayal. His relationships with human women have driven him to heartbreak more than once.

PRIS

Why?

VIGGO

His neediness. He's an insecure little boy around women he doesn't deep down believe that he deserves.

PRIS

How would you know? You've said that you've never met him. Maybe he wants to make a past mistake right until he's achieved... Catharsis.

VIGGO

That's not his pattern... He's never left heart break in his value system. I've devoted my life to deciphering his private life from afar. There's an entire underground school of study devoted to that very subject.

PRIS

But you're only making guesses.

VIGGO

You're right, I've never met him... I should make a confession before I take you further down the rabbit hole... I don't kill people for the New Order... The current system isn't vulnerable to conventional treachery or military revolutions. The God Emperor can see those plots coming a mile away, but the people around him aren't nearly that smart. Most of those insecure men have wives whose lust was aroused by proximity to great power. Not the man.

PRIS

You turn wives against their husbands?

VIGGO

They're starved of passion, I offer the passion of taboo and danger. They betray sacred vows on their own accord.

PRIS

You lie to women.

VIGGO

I tell her what she wants to hear in the moment. No woman who's truly in love can be seduced... I turned a loyal wife against her husband and then disappeared when she did I wanted her to do.

PRIS

You meant to do that?

VIGGO

I'd surveyed her life habits for two moons before I made my move. She was the wife of the Stellar Logistics Mentat Mara Mason. From surveillance, I knew she attended the Volantis Opera alone, never with Hugo Mason. I knew she was underwhelmed in her romantic life.

She was ordering a spiced drink when I introduced myself as a fellow Opera Lover. They were performing Candid at the time... I drew her into a conversation about the importance of timeless art for worlds without an ancient history, and I insinuated that had a string lovers along the Harkonen Coast. She invited me to watch the second act in her private booth, but I disappeared in the middle of the show...

Three nights later, I set it up so that I bumped into her at a Xeno-Biology event and invited her onto a nocturnal nature hike.

PRIS

Where was her husband?

VIGGO

I don't know. She didn't mention him once. She was only with him for the appearance. A trophy to stand by his side so he looked like a man of distinction... I told her that I used to work in security for a wealthy family. She told me about the manor she ran at the base of Mount Ucreitus, wondering if security was sufficient now that terrorism had become a concern. After dropping her off, I disappeared again...

I already knew that she maintained a manor at the base of the mountain. I knew that security there was not good. Two nights later, I evaded the cameras in the stony-woods around the manor on the Red Moon, when I knew she'd be alone... She was skinny dipping in the pool behind the main house when I walked up and told her the manor isn't secure.

PRIS

How did you know she wasn't going to put you in danger?

VIGGO

It was her eyes. She talked about the security around her manor, but she clearly didn't care about the details. She wanted me to know that I could sneak in undetected...

She swam towards me and asked me to hand her a towel. I kneeled down right in front of her and pulled her out of the pool, into my arms. She kissed me. Actually she bit my lower lip and wrapped her legs around me.

We made love on the tile besides the pool under the night sky... We did that dance six more times. Sneaking into the manor at night and taking her out of the pool before I planted an idea in her mind that her husband had a mistress...

PRIS

He had one?

VIGGO

He didn't. I planted that idea by insinuating guilt in her. It's always easier to rationalize betrayal if you've been betrayed in kind, and she wanted to believe that she was a good person... Then she was willing to do my bidding...

I convinced her that I was in danger with the Spice Underground. She was desperate to help me, so I had her deliver a package on my behalf to a man in disguise. All the while, the God Emperor's agents were trailing her. The goal was to make Zebulon's agents doubt the veracity of everyone around Hugo Mason. To isolate him from the plots forming around him. They were both cast out of the inner circle.

PRIS

What happened to him...

VIGGO

I don't know... They faked my murder at the conclusion of the mission and I disappeared.

PRIS

You don't know what happened to her?

VIGGO

(Interrupting her.)

Thousands of soldiers have died in the rebellion against him. Countless thousands more fighting them. They were maimed by explosions and bled out alone... The manor, the pool, the opera venues were all part of the insider-ship of the regime that left them to die. So what happened to her? What does it matter?...

PRIS

It's not the same. She trusted you.

VIGGO

How's that?

PRIS

Soldiers knew could die horrible deaths in battle. She put her trust into you.

VIGGO

Those are the games of espionage.

PRIS

Did you feel anything for her?

VIGGO

I was chosen this role because I can act it without losing myself in the performance.

PRIS

That doesn't answer my question.

VIGGO

She wanted to return to St. Olivierre and start a new life, far from the our past entanglements... Part of me wanted to, but that's a dream for innocent children. I couldn't abandon people who've put their lives on the line for me.

PRIS

Have you ever made love to a replicant?...

VIGGO

No...

PRIS

You've never been with an artificial human?

VIGGO

In my realm, they're called pleasure units and they're a refuge for the undesirable man.

PRIS

No man falls in love with them?

VIGGO

Men do fall in love with replicants, but it signifies a lack of confidence in your ability to play the mating game.

PRIS

There must be men who prefer the companionship of a replicant.

VIGGO

It's not that a man cannot fall in love with a sexbot.

PRIS

A what?

VIGGO

A sexbot. A skinjob. Another term for Replicants.

PRIS

Is that how you see me?

VIGGO

It's how Zebulon Delessandro wants to see you, because he doesn't believe that he can conquer a human woman.

PRIS

You said a replicant can have the same emotional experiences as a human.

VIGGO

But it's a message to the world that you lack the confidence to seduce a flesh and blood woman who has had lovers in her past... You lose standing among your peers and that stigma never goes away.

PRIS

What stigma?

VIGGO

The stigma of perceived failure in the mating market place. Human born women lose respect for your prowess for taking the coward's way out to sexual gratification.

PRIS

That's why you've never been with a replicant?

VIGGO

If I chose to be with a replicant, it would dull my skills.

PRIS

Skills in seduction? You have no desire to seduce me?

VIGGO

Don't concern yourself with me. Think about Zebulon Delessandro... Worry about how you'll seduce him. How you'll make him follow you.

PRIS

I don't remember ever having to seduce anyone.

VIGGO

Yes you do! He wants to put you on a pedestal, and you'll let him do that. And when he's truly prepared to demonstrate his love, you will threaten to take your reciprocal love away... and he'll do anything to get it back.

PRIS

But he's a man who can have anything he wants.

VIGGO

Except innocent idealism. You have to reach deep into yourself and pull out your deepest sexual fantasies. Use them.

PRIS

They're not even my own fantasies.

VIGGO

They are if they entrance you.

PRIS

How can I seduce him if he knows all of my fantasies?

VIGGO

I only what Soledad Xavier revealed about her own fantasies. You'll have to form your own that will belong only to you. You need to cultivate an aura of mystery.

PRIS

You want me to learn how to lie effectively.

VIGGO

Yes.

PRIS

You still might be able to tell if I'm telling the truth or if I'm lying.

VIGGO

I could never be sure.

PRIS

Even if I tell you the truth?

VIGGO

You could just be lying to me about telling the truth. It's why trust is so difficult with humans... It's a condition necessary for betrayal.

PRIS

Is that the difference between a replicant and a human?

VIGGO

Replicants are programmed to lie or not to lie. Humans learn the power of lying over the course of our lives.

PRIS

Because to lie to know what somebody else wants to know.

VIGGO

It means you know how to be the person another wants to believe that you are.

PRIS

I never told anyone about this fantasy... or when I first remember it... Maybe it's my own or maybe it was programmed.

VIGGO

Or maybe it was a glitch in your subconscious programming.

PRIS

I keep having a dream where I'm being lead into a Grand Ballroom. Every time, I know that I've never been there before. And every time, I'm the only woman in the entire room. All of the men are dressed in suits with masks covering their faces... A man wearing a lion mask takes my hand and leads me to the center of the room.

Slowly the other men all turn to face me. Always, a man behind me runs his hands down my body. He reaches under inside my dress and pulls my underwear down around my legs...

They form a circle around me and suddenly the room's silent. They grab my arms and legs from behind me so I can't see them. A man walks up to me. He's always wearing an owl's mask. He slowly unzips my dress and lets it fall to the floor.

They grab me and lift me up in the air. They carry me into an empty room with a great bed in the center. Actually they don't take me there, the room just seems to change...

They take my arms and legs and hold me down. A man with a bull's mask emerges from the crowd. He's nude except for a cape... He has an enormous penis. I can't move as he crawls onto the bed, then on top of me. And I always wake up at that moment...

Do you know about that?...

VIGGO

No, I don't.

PRIS

How do I know that you're not lying to me?...

VIGGO

You don't.

PRIS

Why should I open up to you if I don't think you're telling the truth?

VIGGO

What do you think the dream means?

PRIS

I thought about that last night... I think it means that mentally, I still think I'm a literal sex object with only one purpose in life.

VIGGO

Do you have any agency in that dream?

PRIS

My only agency would be a desire to be ravaged... But you don't think like I do, like I've been programmed to... All those men were focused on me.

VIGGO

Do you want that attention?

PRIS

You're asking if that dream's actually a nightmare? You're asking if I'm disappointed to wake up?

VIGGO

Are you?

PRIS

I don't know... I don't even know if that's an implanted dream memory or a glitch in my... erotic programming.

VIGGO

It doesn't matter where that fantasy came from... It belongs to you now...

PRIS

You won't tell me if that that's someone else's erotic memory.

VIGGO

I'll tell you that I don't recognize it.

PRIS

I think you're lying.

VIGGO

Why would I lie?

PRIS

Because it gives you power to know something that I don't know.

VIGGO

That'll be your source of power over the God Emperor. To know something that he doesn't and always doubts. You'll have to look him in the eye, even when he's inside of you and tell him that you think only of him...

PRIS

It will be true if he's the only man I'll ever have.

VIGGO

It won't be the same. You'll know things that you weren't supposed to know.

PRIS

They planted memories to make me idealize him in a romantic way... I wasn't even aware of it, but now I don't have any strong feelings about him.

VIGGO

You will... Contempt at his cloying nature... Disgust at his need for validation... Frustration at putting up with your rebellion.

PRIS

Why would I rebel against him?

VIGGO

Because you'll know that, deep down, he's a weak child.

PRIS

Maybe I'll grow to love that about him.

VIGGO

That would require you to submit...

PRIS

Maybe I'll like it... I've never been seduced.

VIGGO

They gave you no memories of being seduced?