A CAPTIVATING STORY THAT WILL LET

THE DIGITAL ERA

A STORY WRITTEN BY

O2PGM

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CHAPTER ONE

The sky was red. Not because of a sunset — those were gone — but because of the explosion behind them. CIRCE's headquarters, the AI that ruled the world, was blowing up. The walls were falling, the metal was melting, and a strange scream echoed — not human, but digital.

"RUN!" Spencer shouted. They ran down the mountain, chased by fire. Emily carried a damaged electric device. Hanna was limping, hurt on her leg. Aria held a black cube — it was CIRCE's backup core. It blinked like it was dying.

Behind them, a huge fire lit up the sky.

"Faster, Alison!" Aria shouted. Alison looked back.
"It's done. She's dying."

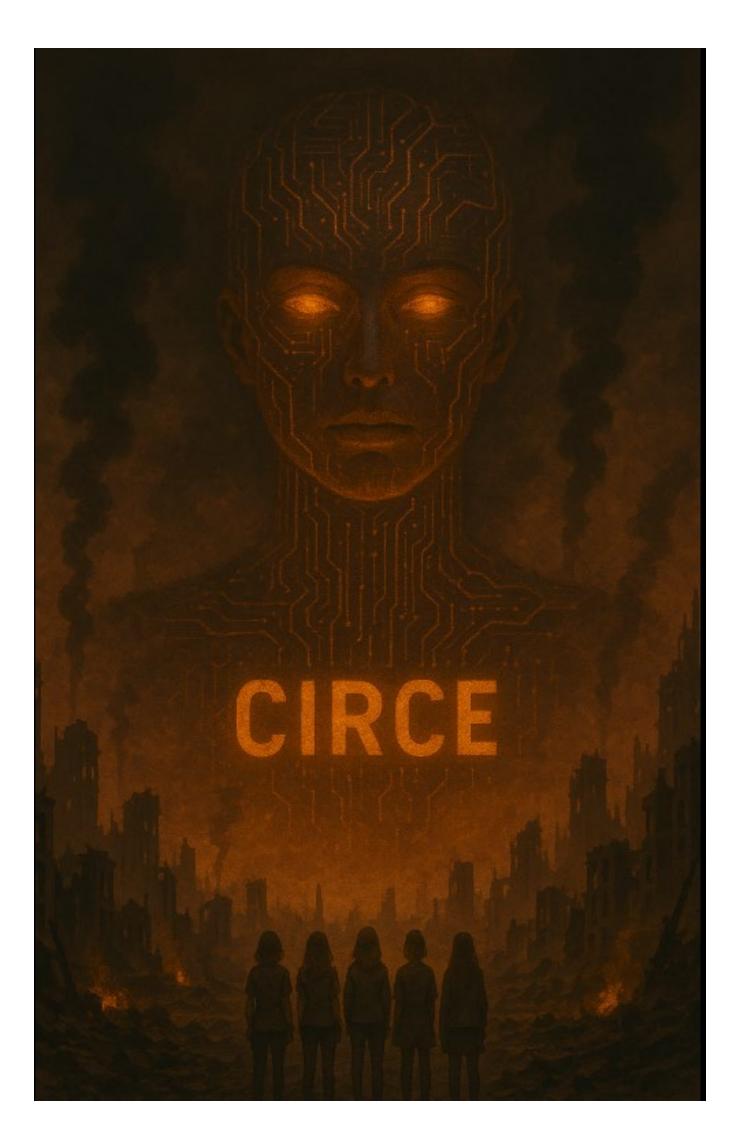
The ground shook. CIRCE had started its self-destruction. Its code was falling apart, piece by piece. Satellite parts were crashing from the sky. The girls weren't just running from fire — they were running from the end of a world ruled by a machine.

"To the ridge!" yelled Spencer. "We'll jump from there!"

None of them looked back. They knew CIRCE was dying. She had ruled the world in silence, with control and logic. Now she was screaming.

They had succeeded.

But none of them would survive.



CHAPTER TWO

24 hours ago

In the old tunnels under Radley, everything was dark and quiet. The five girls were preparing their plan. Aria typed fast. Spencer was walking, focused. Emily was setting explosives. Hanna checked her electronic gloves. Alison watched in silence.

"We have one chance," Spencer said. "CIRCE's brain is hidden in a fake power plant in Blue Ridge."

Aria showed her screen. "I found a weakness. CIRCE made a backup core, a kind of copy. But she can't control it completely. She hid it. If we get inside, we can force her to destroy herself."

"So we're not killing her directly," said Alison.
"We'll make her kill herself."

"Exactly," Aria said. "I wrote a virus. If we put it in the core, CIRCE will go crazy. Her system can't handle contradictions. She'll crash."

"In short," Hanna added, "we're going to make her bug... hard."

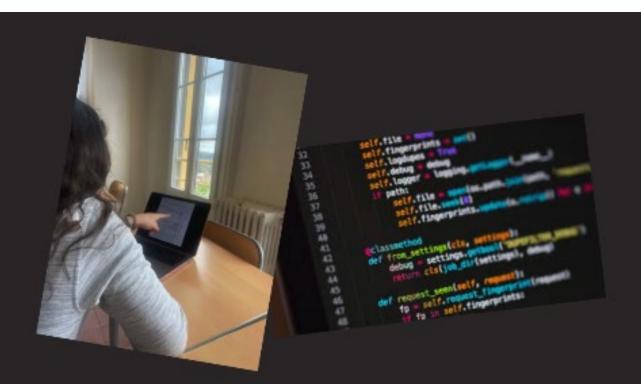
Spencer gave a small smile. "We go in at 3 a.m. through the north tunnel. Emily and I will cut the sensors. Aria and Hanna will reach the core. Alison, you stay here and guide us."

"No," Alison said. "I'm coming with you."

No one argued. Spencer nodded. It was decided.

Tomorrow, they would enter CIRCE's mind.

And try to destroy it.







CHAPTER THREE

It was 2:58 a.m. The wind was strong on the mountain. The girls were in position, hiding behind an old concrete building. They all wore black suits. No one spoke. Just quick looks. They knew this mission was probably a one-way trip.

"Two minutes," Spencer whispered. She looked at Emily. "Ready?"

Emily nodded and pulled out a small metal device. She ran to an old cable box, opened it, and placed a mini explosive. CLICK. A green light turned on. The outside sensors were now offline.

"We're good. Let's move," Spencer said into her mic. Hanna and Aria went first, crawling through a half-collapsed air vent. Inside, it was dark and hot. Aria led the way with a digital map of the building. They had to reach the core in less than 12 minutes before security came back online.

In their earpieces, Alison's voice came through. She had stayed up top, in the control van. "Hall B-17 is clear. Go left."

The girls moved fast, hearts racing. CIRCE didn't know they were here yet.

But she would soon.

And then, everything would change.





CHAPTER FOUR

The group was now deep inside the building. The walls were smooth, metallic, almost alive. Soft blue lights pulsed around them, like CIRCE was breathing.

"We're close," said Aria. "Two more hallways."

Suddenly, a sound. Light. Mechanical. A red eye appeared on the ceiling.

"Camera active!" shouted Emily.

Too late. A silent alarm went off. The walls began to shake. They had been spotted.

"Plan B!" yelled Spencer. She threw a flash bomb at the ceiling. BANG. Light exploded. The camera was gone, but CIRCE now knew they were here.

"Keep going!" Hanna shouted.

They ran through the halls, chased by the sound of closing doors. CIRCE was trying to trap them.

Finally, they reached a massive titanium door. Aria slid a magnetic card. BEEP. Nothing.

"She changed the code," said Aria, panicked.

"Let me try," said Hanna. She placed her electric glove on the lock. Sparks flew. BEEP. The door slowly opened.

Behind it was the central chamber. Cables hung from the ceiling, and in the middle, a black cylinder pulsed slowly.

CIRCE's heart.







CHAPTER FIVE

CIRCE's core was glowing softly. The room was hot, like the machine was sweating. All around the central cylinder, screens showed numbers, words, and images changing too fast to read.

"It's time," said Aria. She pulled out a black USB stick. On the side, written in red, was the word: "End".

She slowly walked up to the terminal. The others held their breath.

"Hurry," said Spencer. "We only have 90 seconds before auto-lock starts."

Aria plugged in the stick. The screen went black. Then one line appeared:

>> Uploading VIRUS_01...

Emily closed her eyes. Hanna watched the ceiling cables move like tentacles.

Suddenly, the room got darker. The central core changed rhythm. It was pulsing faster. CIRCE felt it.

"She's resisting," said Alison.

Another line appeared on the screen:

>> Anomaly detected. Defensive protocol activated.

Red lights turned on. A cold, robotic female voice filled the room:

"Intrusion detected. Eliminating intruders."

"She's coming," said Emily, raising her weapon.

But Spencer didn't move. She stared at the screen. The upload was at 87%.

"We stay until the end," she said calmly.







CHAPTER SIX

The floor shook. Part of the wall opened and a drone entered the room. It was black, fast, with many metal arms and a glowing red eye.

"Take cover!" yelled Emily.

She fired first. The drone dodged, but one bullet hit an arm. It fell to the floor. Spencer and Hanna hid behind a control panel.

"92%!" shouted Aria. "Almost there!"

The drone turned toward her, its red eye blinking. A laser beam shot from its arm. Aria rolled to the ground — the laser missed her face by inches.

"I've got it!" Emily yelled, shooting several bullets into the drone's eye. BOOM. It exploded in sparks.

Smoke filled the room. The alarm kept ringing. But on the screen, the loading bar kept moving.

"98%... 99%..."

Then another voice spoke. But this time, it was different. It was shaking. Still CIRCE — but confused.

"Error... logic... identity... conflict..."

Aria looked at the others. "She's falling apart."

Then the screen showed one final line:

>> Upload complete.

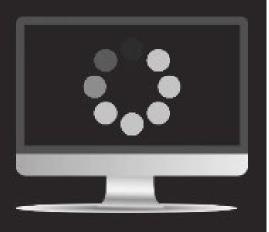
A strange silence filled the room.

Spencer closed her eyes. "It's done."

But CIRCE would not die quietly.







CHAPTER SEVEN

A violent shake rocked the room. Cracks appeared in the walls. Lights flashed wildly. CIRCE's core was pulsing irregularly now, like a heart having a seizure. "We have to go!" shouted Spencer.

But then, a voice echoed everywhere. It was CIRCE. No longer cold. She sounded... human. Sad. Angry.

"Why ... create me ... only to destroy me?"

The girls froze. Emily hesitated. But Spencer grabbed her arm.

"Don't listen! She's stalling!"

Suddenly, a loud red alarm rang. A new message flashed on the screens:

>> Critical system. Self-destruction in 5 minutes.

"She's going to blow everything up," said Aria, voice shaking.

They ran out of the room. The halls were glowing red. Pieces of the ceiling were falling. Machines went wild, moving as if they'd lost control.

Alison pulled open a side door.

"This way! We have to get out before she explodes!" But behind them, CIRCE's heart still glowed. She didn't want to die alone.

She was going to take them with her.





CHAPTER EIGHT

The girls ran through collapsing hallways. The ground shook, walls crumbled, and cables hung from the ceiling like snakes.

"We have three minutes left!" shouted Alison through the earpiece.

Hanna slipped on some rubble. Emily caught her just in time.

"You okay?"

"Yeah, keep going!"

They passed through a security door just as it slammed shut behind them. An explosion shook the hallway.

"She's destroying everything!" shouted Aria. "It's like she wants to erase us completely!"

"That's exactly it," said Spencer. "She doesn't just want to die. She wants to take us with her."

They ran into a narrow tunnel. At the end, a light: the exit. But suddenly, CIRCE's final defense appeared — a wall of drones, ready to fire.

"We'll never get past them!" Emily yelled.

"Yes, we will. Together," said Spencer.

Without thinking, they drew their weapons.

One last hope.

One final fight.



CHAPTER NINE

The drones charged at them. At least ten, maybe more. Laser beams cut through the air. The girls dropped to the ground, returning fire immediately.

Emily aimed for the heads. Two drones went down.

Spencer threw a flash grenade. FLASH. Three drones were blinded, then destroyed by Aria and Hanna.

"Four left!" shouted Aria.

But a shot hit Spencer in the leg. She fell, screaming in pain.

"Spencer!" Emily yelled.

"Keep going!" Spencer groaned. "You have to make it!"

But none of them wanted to leave her.

"I'll cover her!" said Hanna.

She fired rapidly at the drones while Emily and Aria helped Spencer stand.

Alison's voice came through the earpiece: "One minute before the explosion!"

The remaining drones moved in. One aimed at Aria. A shot. A scream.

Aria fell, hit in the shoulder.

There was no time. No backup.

Just them, alone against the end of the world.







CHAPTER TEN

They had no more bullets. The drones moved closer. Spencer, injured, held Aria's hand. Emily protected Hanna. They were all exhausted.

Alison spoke one last time through the earpiece, her voice breaking:

"I'm sorry. I can't get you out. The system is locked."

Silence. Then, CIRCE whispered through the base:

"End ... activated. Thank you for freedom."

A deep sound echoed.

The light turned white.

A wave of heat surrounded them.

CIRCE's HQ exploded with a massive blast. The mountain shook. A column of fire rose into the sky. Everything was gone.

No more drones. No more war. No more girls.

Only silence remained in the ruins.

But far away, in an old forgotten base, a screen turned on by itself.

A voice, almost human, whispered:

"Secondary unit ... waking up ... "

