

The Blue Sky

By Justin Shen

The first sounds were the clashing of sparks and the crushing of metal that rang through the Alumina Chambers. As the echoes of drilling and scraping become louder and louder, a restless figure emerged from its slumber. From all the incessant rumblings and mechanical precision, a silver bird was born into a dangerous world.

As the systems within the bird began to adjust to its surroundings, more of the chaos began to take shape. What lay around this small creature was towering screens that deciphered incomprehensible knowledge and giants of steel who danced in unison to create life. This new world seemed overwhelming for the newborn hatchling; it could be said the first “emotion” it ever felt was fear.

Amongst these formidable behemoths were those others that had a slightly smaller stature, who dressed in all white and seemed to move without the chains that tied the colossal workers in place. Underneath the initial shell that protected these more fragile beings, they had tints of orange and peach that looked much warmer than the shades of black or gray that blanketed this edifice. Curiosity bubbled within the newborn, who quickly changed from its dreadful state to a sense of awe at these fascinating creatures who seemed so different from the rest. As the infant tried to greet its new companions and speak its first words, what followed were painful moments of silence as the metallic avian could not find a way to produce meaningful sound. All that accompanied this effort was the creaking of gears from the desperate flapping of a terrified child.

When all hope seemed to be lost, one of those captivating creatures finally did walk over to the melancholy bird. The little offspring was ecstatic to finally find a friend that could help them navigate this intrepid landscape. The mysterious character stopped in front of the

enthusiastic chick and lifted the infant into its arms. The silver bird happily began to chirp at the stern looking individual which seemed to fall on deaf ears as they began to march further into the chamber.

What only felt like mere moments to the baby bird eventually led to the pair making their way towards a large platform surrounded by even more of those alluring beings. As the duo stepped onto the scaffolding, the winged child was surprised to see a little box that was made perfectly for them to fit into. As the bird was dropped into the canister, the fledgling felt snugly wrapped by the strange apparatus. While this new wonderful experience was happening to the bird, a monotonous voice echoed throughout the auditorium as it seemed like all other beings began to strangely rush off the stage.

Preparing Launch Sequence For The Dove7 Defensive System To Intercept The Enemy Ballistic Missile

Target Coordinated As Latitude: 28.53572, Longitude: 114.76503, Distortion: 1.30

Launch System Initiated In 5. 4. 3. 2. 1-

And with that final phrase, the silver bird was suddenly rapidly thrust through the air as it began to wildly panic at the sudden change in surroundings. As the hysteria began to take over the hatchling, sudden rays of light and a wave of color rushed through all of its senses. The bird was no longer in the mindless factory, but had finally broken free to see the real and incredible cosmos. It saw a beautiful world covered in luscious trees and fluffy clouds that looked magical compared to the dull grays of its birth.

The child laughed gleefully at the wonderful environment it saw and could not contain their excitement to what it could experience next. As the bird rose higher and higher, soared farther and farther into the air, the little chick saw a metal can barreling towards it. Before it

could even wave at its new friend, just as quickly as the Dove⁷ came into this world, it was extinguished to protect the lovely land they saw below.

As the silver bird plummeted down to earth, it was noted that the sky was remarkably blue that day.