

How does a man decide in what
order to abandon his life?
-Cormac McCarthy

7 "John!" the voice tried to call out,

42 The canid hybrid didn't listen. He wouldn't. He couldn't. The fox-wolf -or liswilk he preferred, in respect of his Slavic nationality- rushed past the glass-like processors and consoles that powered the secluded facilities supercomputer.

47 "John!" the voice tried again.

87 NO! John mentally refuted, wagging his vulpine-lupine tail. The test!

The liswilk reached the three-feet high pilister with a single red 'eye' that stood out against the predominate white. At least, it would have stood out if the emergency back-up lighting wasn't being reflected off the facilities white walls and floors.

An amber light broke the redness as a holographic dashboard pulled up. A file was waiting patiently; already opened. Four names were listed within it: Moscow, Paris, York, And San Francisco. Just left of the file were two other names: Mumbai and Los Angeles.

With sweaty paws, John extended his index finger. His fingertips did not make contact but the projection sensed them. John felt his ears twitch as he dragged the Mumbai section into the file.

Footseps now echoed through the corridor, which sent a shiver down the liswilk's body; whiskers to tail. John started to move faster now, briefly glancing back to catch glimpses of the shadowy feline figure dressed in an orange-striped white jumpsuit approaching.

Quickly, John swapped the SF section with the LA one before violently tapping the Apply button on the dashboard. The file with the city names collapsed and darted off the holographic monitor.

"John!" the voice shouted right behind the troubled hybrid.

"Goodbye... Friend..." John finally responded, as he turned away from the console to face the impending figure.

The figure paused and flicked his tail. A ringing noise filled the room. Both John and the figure clasped their ears and screamed in agony.

"John!" the figure tried to screech, but it was in vain.

John watched as the figure curled up on the facility floor like a dying petal before going unconscious. It wasn't long till he joined the figure. John moaned as memories slowly disappeared.

Then they fell asleep.

End Of Prologue