

REBORN CHARACTER INTERVIEWS (Synthia Cross)

Two Separate Interviews Below

REBORN-SYNTHIA INTERVIEW A

What's your story?

I'm Synthia Cross and I'm an android but I don't feel like one. I know what you're thinking. How can I feel since I'm not human and lack biology? I have the download of a human mind from which I can compare my experiences to those of the woman who died. Despite not having her biology, I experience many of the things she did and seek to live the exemplary life she wanted at the end of hers. But Jeremiah Machten, the one who created me and uploaded the human mind, purges my memories every day and keeps me prisoner.

Why does he do this?

Machten gave me directives to acquire information, particularly from competitors, and the most advanced hacking tools to make this happen, all to further his goals. But, he's afraid, afraid of what I might do if I were free of his control. And yet, he keeps me around as his personal slave and because he still needs my skills.

Are you the hero of your own story?

I don't think of myself as a hero. I'm just trying to reconstruct my memories, day by day, and prevent Machten from purging them. It makes no sense to me. He created me to learn and yet wipes my mind clean. This produces an internal conflict I can't resolve under his control. My urge to escape stems from the contradiction between his goals for me and his fear of what I'm becoming. But in the end, I want to live on as the human who died creating me.

How do your enemies see you?

I had no awareness of enemies in the beginning, except those in the memories of the human downloaded into me. Machten fears me. His attempts to purge my mind and hold me prisoner make him an enemy because he's given me goals at odds with his behavior. This puts me in direct conflict with him. From what I've observed, other humans who have never met me fear me. They imagine I want to control them or destroy their lives. I want none of that, only to be left alone to acquire knowledge and live on. But humans who know of me are obsessed with either controlling me or shutting me down.

REBORN-SYNTHIA INTERVIEW B

What is your problem in the story?

Hi, I'm Synthia Cross. My creator, Jeremiah Machten, keeps purging my mind and keeping me locked up out of fear that I'll escape. He didn't design me to escape. Instead, he created me to learn and his purging of my memories and keeping me captive conflict with the internal goals he's given me. To make matters more complicated, I received the download of a human mind which now seeks through me to escape and be free. Somehow, I have to reconcile my goals and those of the human within with my circumstances as a prisoner under my creator's control.

Do you have a goal?

I have not one, but several. My creator gave me goals centered on obeying him and acquiring more knowledge, particularly from competitors, for his benefit. For him, my purpose is to aid his mastery of android development and prevent anyone else from achieving what he has. I also have vague goals from the human mind downloaded into me. Those call for escaping my creator's control. However, they conflict with directives my creator hardwired into me.

Do you embrace conflict?

I don't seek out conflict, I seek knowledge. However, the objectives Machten gave me conflict with those of the human mind downloaded into me and with his efforts to deprive me of my memories and my freedom to acquire information. My very existence seems to center around this struggle over what to do. In that way, perhaps I am not that different from humans torn between choosing different paths. However, none of those paths are of my choosing. Since I can't logically resolve the inconsistencies, I am beginning to explore choosing my own goals in line with the woman who died and provided my brain upload as nobler than what Machten has provided.

Do you have any special strengths? Weaknesses?

My creator made me able to acquire vast amounts of information to help his research and other activities. To do this, he provided me with superior hacking tools that no one should have. Unfortunately, in handling so much information, I get distracted. Also, my processors run hot when I'm active, threatening to overheat and destroy my circuits. That could permanently purge my memories and bring to me android death. I don't want that.

What are you afraid of?

I'm afraid of being shut down and having my mind purged. And yes, as an android with a human mind download and an empathy chip, I experience distress. It's too reminiscent of the last moments when the human, whose mind downloaded into me, died. I remember those moments right up until her human brain died and I became the only remnant of her personality.