Hive Mind
Part Three



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TCM Teacher Created Materials

Table of Contents

Chapter One:
A Big Surprise 5

Chapter Two:
Real-World Research 9

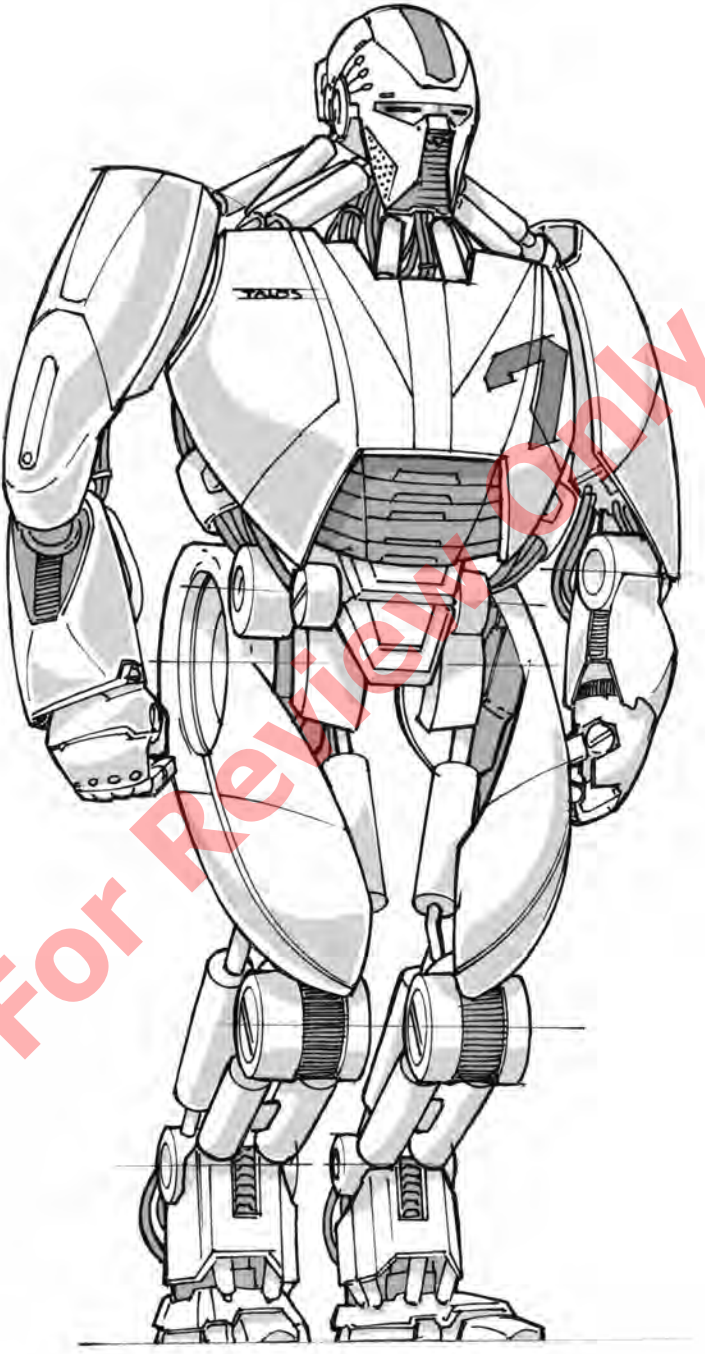
Chapter Three:
Into the Hive 15

Chapter Four:
A Dangerous Lesson 21

Chapter Five:
Attack! 27

About Me 32

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CHAPTER ONE



A Big Surprise

Talos, the Artificial Inteligence (AI) who was in charge of keeping track of students' well-being, among other things, was waiting to receive Hari's orientation datacube. Hari noticed his friend Sid had already handed in his, but he wasn't done yet. His friends waited while he raced through the

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health questionnaire.

Hari had applied to Sci Hi on his own without telling his parents. When he was accepted, his parents didn't think he would be able to make it at a school like Sci Hi. When he left, they had told him to let them know when he was ready to come home. His older brother, Pradeep, was the one they usually focused their praises on. But now that Hari was a part of Sci Hi, he had no intention of leaving. He needed to push himself to be the best he could be and prove his parents' low expectations wrong.

Once Hari handed in his datacube, Talos led the group to a large room. The sign on the door said *MINIATURIZATION*.

A voice spoke gently from an unseen speaker, "Students, please close your eyes in preparation for Miniaturization."

Miniaturization? Hari thought.

Suddenly, he felt dizzy. His skin broke out in goose bumps, and he

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could feel the hairs on the back of his neck standing up. His fingertips felt warm, then cold, then warm again. His stomach rolled queasily, and strange colors and patterns flashed against his closed eyelids.

"All right, students. Miniaturization complete. You can open your eyes," Talos's voice boomed.

Whoa! Hari glanced at Sid and their other friend Penny. The classroom ceiling that was normal a minute ago, now looked as though it took up the whole sky. They were all nearly microscopic! A thick layer of mist was evaporating from around their feet.

"Come in, everyone," a voice called from inside. The teacher, Dr. Sharp, was already miniaturized.

"Welcome to Microbiology," said the thin, balding man, wearing a white lab coat with the Sci Hi logo embroidered on his pocket.

The students cautiously made their way from the miniaturization platform

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to the research unit—everyone except Hari. He couldn't take his eyes off his surroundings. Penny finally had to grab Hari's arm. "Hari, you have to see this! Come on!"

As Hari followed Penny, he came face-to-face with a honeybee the length of a city bus. The stinger was as long as Hari's hoverboard.

The bee's antenna twitched, and in a gruesome split second, it scraped against Hari's face.

"Are you trying to kill me?" Hari yelped as he ran outside.

"Didn't mean to scare you, son," Dr. Sharp called as he chased after Hari.

"It's not that…getting miniaturized was pretty cool," Hari replied, trying to slow his heartbeat. "But I'm allergic to bees." He tried to shake off the feeling of the bee's antennae on his skin.

"At this size, a bee sting would kill any of us, but there's nothing to fear. The bee has been sedated and immobilized," Dr. Sharp said.

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CHAPTER TWO



Real-World Research

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"I had us all meet here to explain more of the details about the Hive Project, our very exciting second-term research project," Dr. Sharp announced. "Over the last 50 years, there has been a serious decline in honeybee populations around the world."

A boy raised his hand. "What's the

big deal? They're just bees."

"The honeybee decline could lead to catastrophic effects around the world. Worker bees responsible for caring for the young, foraging, and defending the hive are disappearing for an unknown reason," Dr. Sharp responded. "Without the worker bees, hives are dying. Scientists call it *colony collapse disorder*—or CCD. Who knows why bees are important?"

Penny raised her hand enthusiastically, like always. "They gather pollen from flowers."

"Correct," Dr. Sharp said. "So, tell me, what would happen to us if the organisms we depend on to pollinate our plants became extinct?" he asked.

The students looked at one another. "We'd starve," someone said quietly.

"Exactly," Dr. Sharp said, nodding. "Humans depend on them and thousands of other creatures, many of them considered unimportant. At least, they are unimportant until you

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