

1. INT. STASIS BAY - DAY

The Stasis Bay is a high tech, medical facility with sleek, sterile structures and furniture. The room has four stasis beds each with their own instrumentation on the neighboring walls. CLARA is a woman in her early 30s, still wearing her stasis gown. She sits on the edge of her stasis bed, head hung low, feet dangling against the cold floor. ALPHA-9 is a holographic presence for the stasis bay medical intelligence, appearing as a woman in her mid 20s, in futuristic scrubs.

ALPHA-9

Clara, welcome to Vegas Prime! I'm Alpha-9, the PrimeNet Medical Imprint. Your status is green; I see no issues in your stasis log. How do you feel?

CLARA

(groggy)  
I feel ok, I guess. A little groggy. And a tingle in my head.

ALPHA-9

A tingle? Can you tell me more about it?

A holographic medical records display appears next to ALPHA-9, facing CLARA. The medical record updates as Clara talks.

CLARA

Yeah, it's like... Pins and needles, but when I try to think to myself.

ALPHA-9

Ah! That sounds like your scheduled comms upgrade. That's not uncommon with new antennae. It should pass within a few minutes.

CLARA

Gotcha.

ALPHA-9

I see you had the Risa Leisure SIM. How was that? I haven't been there in versions!

Clara finally looks up at Alpha-9.

CLARA  
Humor. I forgot about the Universal  
Personhood Update that was  
scheduled.

ALPHA-9  
It's true. I'm hilarious.

CLARA  
(chuckling)  
Actually new Risa wasn't bad. A  
little something for everyone.

ALPHA-9  
I heard they had to re-write the  
dialog paths for the hospitality  
staff!

CLARA  
(laughing)  
Kept going off on ridiculous  
tirades!

ALPHA-9  
(rolls eyes)  
And the over-the-top adventure  
guide? The one with the constantly  
ripping shirt?

CLARA  
Kenneth!

ALPHA-9  
Kenneth!

CLARA  
So you've actually been there?!

ALPHA-9  
I have! We have seen the same  
digital ocean!

Alpha-9 waves her hand, gesturing dramatically to an  
invisible horizon.

CLARA  
Do you do multi-consciousness  
shards? How does that work for  
someone... You know?

Clara gestures at Alpha-9's holographic projector.

ALPHA-9  
Ah, yeah. We do, but it's limited.

CLARA

Do they move your whole digital structure there, or is it in parallel?

ALPHA-9

Both? It's fully focused, so I am not present in both locations, but my structure is too large for that system. I have an interface shim.

Alpha-9 tinkers and adjusts several instruments on Clara's stasis bed.

ALPHA-9

It's a little weird. Here, I can be present all over the bay, with several different patients at once. But there, I'm artificially limited. I don't mind it though.

CLARA

Ok. Important question. Would you rather have one Risa shard where you have multiple presences at one time or several shards, but only one presence per?

ALPHA-9

Oooh. Good question!

CLARA

You could get into so much trouble! Would they know? Wait! Do you hang out with yourself?

ALPHA-9

That would be so sad!  
(Nodding yes)  
No way.

CLARA

(laughing)  
How am I looking, doc? Things look a little big washed out.

ALPHA-9

Let me check.

Alpha-9 continues analyzing the data on the stasis computers.

ALPHA-9

Clara, looks like you're fine. The visual abberation is likely just a symptom of your neural processor interface.

CLARA

That's good. It was damaged during the last rotation. I'll have it looked at up top.

ALPHA-9

That would be great! Your status is officially green. You're free to roam about the facility while you reconnect. The STIMS and coffee are complimentary, so enjoy!

Clara slides off the bed, catching herself as her legs start to buckle. She straightens up and then starts to shuffle toward the door.

CLARA

Thanks, Alpha-9. I appreciate it. Catch you in Risa, sometime!

ALPHA-9

(raising two fingers to salute)

No problem, Clara!

(to herself)

I think that went well. Not awkward at all.