TRANSHUMAN

Issue 1:
DISCOVERY

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Genetic engineering and human manipulation has revolutionized the world.

It’s changed the way we think about things like adolescence, careers and retirement. It’s transformed our very concept of what it is possible to achieve in a lifetime.

Twenty years ago, the average life span of a North American was 72 years, now that number is in the mid 80’s and ten years from now it will be well over one hundred.

Behind me is the Adams building. While you wouldn’t know it by looking at it, this was the birthplace of modern genetic engineering. It launched two global corporations, achieved the next step in the evolution of man, and was the beginning of, arguably, the biggest advertising war in the history of the free market.

Hello, I’m Heinrich Dowidat. This is the fascinating story about the rise of the new man -- the scientists, entrepreneurs and companies that created them and the ridiculous sums of money they made along the way.
ANTON REBERE
CTO, CHIMERACORP

The Adams building used to be the home of the ‘alternative’ research and development division of iPharm -- who was, at the time, the world’s largest pharmaceutical company.

While it is now the home of a non-profit, do-good, Feed-the-world company specializing in recycling human and animal waste for the creation of easily digestible foodstuffs, it once contained the laboratories of Doctor’s Anton Rebere and Ingdad Padash -- the fathers of the transhumanist movement.

So, tell us doctor... what does Transhuman mean?

Ah, well, Transhuman is the expression that refers to the evolutionary progression from Human to Posthuman.

And the Posthuman...?

It is “Future Man.” A person whose capacities so exceed current man that we would no longer easily define them as human.

Now, you were responsible for the genetic enhancement project, correct?

Yes. I was interested in enhancing a subject by manipulating him or her at the base level. I would only work with naturally existing building blocks with the goal of perfecting them.

I was not interested in lesser solutions.

Like some people, I was not interested in ‘artificial solutions’.

You’re speaking now of Ingdad Padash, correct?

I have no idea who you’re talking about.

Your former partner?

I think it’s time for you to leave.
INGDAD PADASH
CO-FOUNDER, HUMONICS

I don’t think that Anton has the right to be as bitter as he is about how things worked out.

I think we were both diligently, and properly, pursuing our own interests.

Nothing that happened invalidated the work he did or his accomplishments.

The future simply didn’t turn out exactly as he planned it.

Which, in the end, only makes him human.

So, what was it like working at iPharm?

Oh, it was amazing. The atmosphere was electric. There was total intellectual freedom -- conventional wisdom was thrown out the window.

The goal in our department was nothing less than building the perfect human... and we believed we could do it.

Sounds ambitious... arrogant even.

Well, some of the prevalent attitude came from the scientists, but most of it originated with Dave.

When he recruited me to come work for him, he said we would break all the rules -- change everything.

I believed him.

Everyone believed him...

...That was Dave.

David Apple is a legend in the pharmaceutical industry. He was already wealthy from a previous business venture, but after going through a nasty divorce he was looking for a project that he could really emotionally invest in.

That’s when an iPharm board member approached him with the R&D job... he couldn’t resist.
I'll admit it. I was on a search for meaning.

I wasn't interested in making a difference; I wanted to change the world.

And at the end of this project, when we'd finished our work, Transhumanism would explode onto the world scene exactly how I had envisioned it...

...All courtesy of iPharm.

And what happened instead?

The higher-ups at iPharm were not prepared for what we showed them...

...They didn't get it.

They had no vision.
That would be my ex-wife.

Who was that, Dave?

But there was someone out there who got it, wasn't there?

Who was that, Dave?

That would be my ex-wife.