



Spare Puzzle

Author: Sean Gardiner



A landscape of machinery - harsh angles and whirring generators. The sight is so beautiful. You blink imaginary tears from your restored eyes.

Harrison grins as he rushes past you, carrying a tidy briefcase. “Yeah, yeah, vision’s great, the machines are gorgeous. I really feel bad that this is always the first thing you see.” He props the briefcase up on a hovering metal platform and opens it. He’s in his element here, but it is his mind, after all.

You and your other three oneironauts gather around Harrison’s platform. Flicking the lid of his briefcase open, Harrison pulls out a miniature version of the Somnus device - but then frowns. “Something’s wrong,” he mutters.

“Already?” growls Lamar. “Can’t be a coincidence.”

Biting her lip, Shannon steps over to the platform and helps Harrison fiddle with the device. Penny, unperturbed as ever, stares out into the steel wilderness with her arms folded.

“Hmmm.” Harrison lifts open the small machine’s lid. “Looks like something’s tampered with the machinery.” He briefly angles it towards you, and you catch a glimpse of something etched inside...



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**WRIGGLE
DEBIT
?**

**SUPERB
?
SPLUTTER
ENSNARLED**

**SPOILED
ALONE
PASTRY
?**

**?
AFGHANI
MUTTERED
HEARKEN**

**AMICABLE
PINCHER
RAISE
SOUTHERNLY
WHINGE
?**

**?
SOURLY
MEDICO
NUTRIMENT**

**ROTUND
?
BURST
INHUMANE**