i will take you in my arms as often as you need.
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**OBSERVANT**
great, your'e finally awake
as you slowly rekindle with your physical body you feel a stinging pain in your head
have you been drinking?
are you ill?
have you been ... crying?
your eyes feel dry and itchy
unsure if you want to recall your memory, you quickly try to disregard this thought
but it's too late ...

**ANXIOUS**
all of a sudden the warmth of your blanket becomes suffocating
creeping up your sweaty skin
and then there it is - shame
there is nothing like starting your day with a heap of self-loathing
yesterdays troubles only left for a few brief hours and now they manifested themselves on your face
swollen, puffy eyes
the punishment for weakness - your body is betraying you
sharing your emotional landscape with the world - everybody will know
they can TELL!
an oppressive feeling is pushing its way up your esophagus
you try your best to swallow the lump
but unlike you this involuntary feeling is self-asserted and won't budge

**LUMP**
hello old friend
it seems circus has left town
but the clown is still here
something is not adding up
look around

**O**
as you try to assess the situation, your breathing irregularities are making you quiver
you look around
it's just you
you are alone

**LONELY**
all alone aren't you?
it's just you ... has always been
from the beginning and most probably untill the end
all your dreams, highs and lows they don't matter to anyone but you
you don't matter
this thought is not original you've been wandering this neural pathway as long as you remember
it almost feels reassuring to know that you KNOW
solitude is your friend
no hero came out of a well rounded and sheltered social fibre
others distract you
trust me you are better of alone

**ALTER EGO**
this is so sad
so pathetic
don't you want to be in control?
my world is your sandbox[1] while yours is a steaming pile of shit

**O**
you glimpse upon your tv
a black screen is showing you a distorted reflection of yourself
judgements piercing eyes meet yours
you feel like you caught yourself in an inappropriate moment
your sweaty hands wander up to cover your hot pulsating face in agony

**A**
compose yourself it's to early for a life crisis this time of day ...

**O**
you hear white noice echoing - it's a trick of your brain
desperate to cancel out the mocking voices

**AE**
i can't believe you still need convincing
it seems the responsibility of your own choices weigh heavy on you
think about all the excitement - all the fun
a real purpose
one press of a button away
do you worry about your future?
i can help
I offer you escapism
remember the moments of bliss
serotonine, dopamine, noradrenaline having a party on the edges of your dilated pupils
your synapses intertwined in cosmic climax
ever changing beams of light
stimulating the photoreceptors on your pars optica retinae
can you already feel the joy of your central nervous system?
i can give you easy access to it
always - ALL THE TIME
can you imagine a tree?
how about a mushroom?
THE apple in your garden eden?
i can give you utopia
you can BE utopia
feel every-FUCKING-thing with the fibres of your virtual body

**O**
you hear a static buzzing
somewhere someone plugged in a device

**A**
he is already connecting you to the simulation

1 a sandbox game is a video game with a gameplay element that provides the player a great degree of creativity to interact with.

**AE**
my world is glorious
landscapes farther as the human occipital cortex can contemplate
on the canvas of your already fading reality, trillions of polygons are forming a painting unmatched
the sound of wind and soft rain
droplets are slowly soaking your skin[2]
small puddles are turning dirt into mud and as they conquer the fertile ground
the tickling feeling of a centipede wandering about your body
is this a bug[3]?
there is beauty in rebuilding a world that obeys physics
feeling alive yet?

**A**
don't listen
this world is not real - simply a construct

**AE**
real is what matters to you
selective memory
subjective reality
your world is nothing but a web of electrochemistry
locked in a box thats glued to the top of your spine

**O**
cool, hard plastic is filling your palms
two bodies merge as one
you open your eyes
it's like your sense of sight has been in a deep slumber and you only just now realized it
every critter and twig every leaf and pebble is competing for your attention
showing off their intricate code
each object interacting and referring to each other
performing an inexhaustible algorithmic dance
everything is alive

**A**
how long have your been slouching like that?
your back is aching and you lost sensation in your feet

**O**
the fragility of your world - its inefficiency and lacking makes you angry
the insurmountable quest of leaving it behind could make you cry
as you wander hoping to get lost you pass an old tree
mushrooms are covering almost all of its bark
symbiosis or parasite?

2 a skin is a kind of item that players can acquire in games. They change the appearance of the players avatar.

3 a software bug is an error, flaw or fault in the design, development, or operation of computer software that causes it to produce an incorrect or unexpected result, or to behave in unintended ways.

**MUSHROOM**
where i live something had to die
to you I'm just the fruiting body
but my mycelium reaches way further connecting me to my fellow kin
I'm one of the largest and oldest living organisms
your matters don't concern me

**O**
humbled by its eminence you lower your gaze
the root network almost looks like cramped fingers
desperately trying to capture something that's slithering away
on a bedding of moss you behold a salamander
as its soft amphibian body is moving through the moist underground its vibrant spots are rhythmically shifting
from black to yellow and then back to black
its patterns morph
expanding and narrowing in a hypnotic manner
this trance
must be a glitch[4]

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4 a glitch is a short-lived fault in a system, such as a transient fault that corrects itself, making it difficult to troubleshoot. The term is particularly common in the computing and electronics industries.