

IANUS GAMES

"Hello one and all...

Allow me to introduce myself. I'm Ishrar, the hostess of this particular Playground. Oh yes, don't bother looking for see-saws, slides or a merry-go-round. Those were taken out years ago.

This type of Playground caters to the whims of older and larger children — the type that come in adult size. If this offends you, please feel free to jack out now, but if I aroused your... curiosity, then please follow me... I can assure you we cater to suit everyone's particular brand of pleasure."

Cute, hey? Playgrounds are fast becoming the #1 form of Virtual Entertainment. It's so much fun people are just dying to get it. Ask the five persons who were murdered, they'll verify that.

Why were they killed? Well, we can't really tell you since we don't know for sure ourselves. I'll tell you what: you and your friends try to solve the mystery and reach the finishing line, and our Wild Hunt will do the same. By the way, gunplay is fair game. Nothing like a little hot lead and a few grenades to up the stakes of the race.

What can I say... All's for Love and Cyberpunk.

Playground is an Alternate Reality adventure for Cyberpunk 2020. It contains full background material on the hip new Freetail Club, the hottest place in town; the Wild Hunt, a strange solo firm and a new corporation called Matsumo Rising. Also included are full details on the Nirvana Virtual Pleasure technology introduced by Matsumo.

RECOMMENDED FOR MATURE READERS

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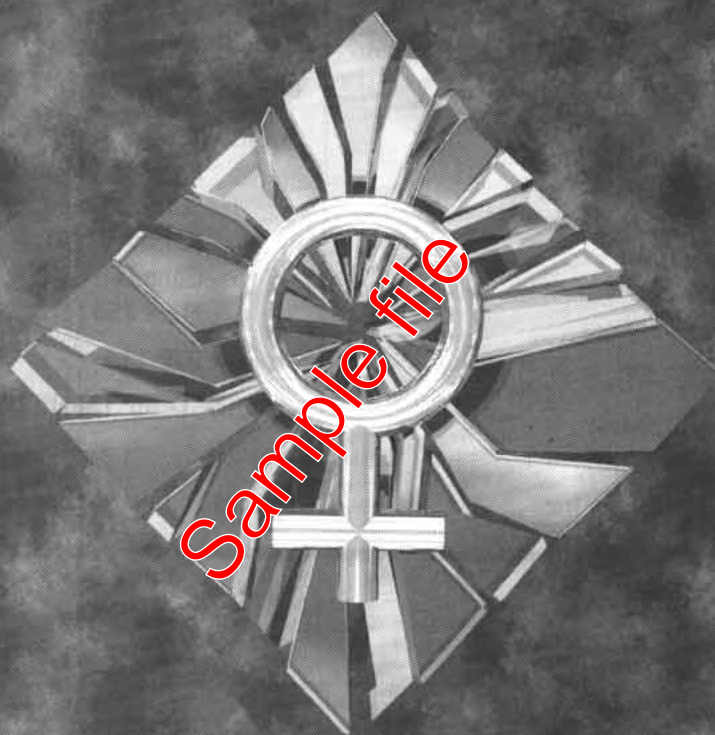
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PLAYGROUND



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PLAYGROUND



AUTHOR'S NOTE

The following adventure deals with a subject that concerns many people. It is something that has impacted upon all our lives at one point or another through our loved ones, our friends, our family and maybe it is something that has affected us directly...

Rape.

It's funny how one word can make people squirm and feel uneasy. When we say the word, it's said with a hush and a whisper, the same way people spoke of cancer at the turn of the 20th century. The word 'rape' conjures images of brutal savagery and malice, a word not born out of love, but out of barbarity.

Many people may believe that they don't know or have never met anyone who has been assaulted, but that is not true. Many rape cases are not reported, be it date rape, child molestation, spousal rape or any other forms of abuse. Regardless, however, they are occurring in alarming numbers. The only way to stop these crimes is to break the silence and heighten not only public awareness, but public concern. We often tend to get involved after the fact, after the damage has been done and never look into how we can prevent it from occurring at all.

This adventure does not depict the reprehensible act of rape, though that is the catalyst for the adventure. What makes this scenario more horrific is the fact that the rape takes place in Virtual Reality and is, possibly, the worst rape of all, the rape of a mind.

At no time is the act of rape condoned or treated lightly.

At the risk of preaching, it cannot be stated how wrong rape is and unjustified under any circumstance. Rape is never a matter of love or caring, it is a matter of

power and selfishness, barbarity and savagery. It is one of the darkest aspects of humanity and is an act that should have died when we as a people began to walk upright and think. It is an act of cruelty that shouldn't befit intelligent thought. Emotional, spiritual or physical, rape is wrong in all its forms and guises; nothing can justify its use and nobody should convince you otherwise.

It should be mentioned that though the act or thought of rape is not condoned, neither are the actions taken by the lead figure, Tarra Poulner, in her desire for revenge. It is wrong to imply that anyone who suffers through the abuse of a rape is capable of murder, but the actions of Tarra are born of situations taken to a great extreme.

In a future where the potential benefits of technology are often overshadowed by a greater misuse of such power, it would be naive of us to think that we would be exempt from such abuse.

