The first thing I tasted was shit.

If you don't know what shit tastes like, allow me to enlighten you. It's deceptively soft and chewy. The closest thing it tastes like if you compare it to food is durian. An entire store was evacuated once because of its smell. Seriously. However, this shit has a very different aftertaste: The taste of sea salt.

My eyes slowly opened. It was dark and it smelled strangely familiar. The sea salt taste in my mouth was quickly explained once I moved what was in my mouth more thoroughly.

It was sand.

Oh, thank god! I didn't actually eat shit.

I slowly used the sand to stand up. The sound of water filled my eardrums with peace. I was on a beach, somewhere, I'm not sure where. My eyes slowly looked up and I was immediately flashbanged by the lights of a city. The lights illuminated the faint outlines of trees. Not knowing what else to do, I walked towards the trees. I pushed through brambles and leaves until the sandy ground was replaced with asphalt. I stood just outside the border of the city. My eyes weren't used to the lights yet, unlike the people I could barely see inside the city. A gust of wind blew by and I shivered. It was way too cold for a city next to a beach. It was just then, with the lights making me visible to everyone, that I looked down.

I wasn't wearing any clothes in the slightest.

Shit.

"Excuse me, miss."

I spun around. A young man with dark blue hair and yellow eyes was approaching me. He was wearing a collared shirt, blue jeans, and a hoodie tied around his waist, a contrast to my shameful appearance.

“It-it isn’t what it looks like. I just woke up on the beach and I walked up here and I just now realized I was naked and…” I said

“Calm down. Do you remember your name?” he said.

“My name? My name is…”

I racked my brain for the answer, only to come up blank. In fact, I couldn’t find any piece of my identity. How can I remember what shit and durian tastes like but not anything about myself?

The young man walked closer to me.

“Wait, wait, what are you doing?” I said.

He untied his hoodie and handed it to me.

“Put it on. You don’t want to be naked on your first day, do you?” he said.

I stared at the hoodie for a minute before taking it and putting it on. The young man even had the decency to turn around, although he had already seen my body, so this act didn’t really matter.

“Thank you. Wait, what do you mean by my first day?” I said.

“My name is Lucas. Welcome to the city of Nirvana. And just like everyone else, you have just been reborn. Congratulations.”

“...What in the fresh hell are you talking about?” I said.

“Figures. All newborns have said something like that.”

Lucas held out his hand to me.

“Come on. We have to get you situated, unless you want to stay on the beach tonight.” said Lucas.

This Lucas, he could easily be lying to me. It would be very easy to do so, seeing my haggard state. But, I don’t have anything to go on, and having someone with me is better than going by

myself. And if he does truly mean well, if I reject his offer, the next person I find would actually hurt me. Probably.

I walked towards him and ignored his outstretched hand.

“Fine, but you better not be…”

My legs wobbled and I faceplanted into the sand. Lucas giggled annoyingly.

“Newborns take a while to walk properly. They aren’t used to their bodies yet.” he said.

Lucas offered his hand out again.

“Now are you going to stay in the sand or are you going to trust me?” he said.

I begrudgingly took his hand and I followed him to the city.

To Nirvana, where hopefully, I could get some answers.