

Prologue

3000 AD

Sweat dripped down Lena's brow, past bloodshot eyes, and landed tapping on the glass under her clenched fingers. 'The calculations seem right,' she stammered, a tremble in her voice. For the first time, fear was clearly legible in the dark look she gave the woman next to her.

Years of preparation had brought them to this point, where everything seemed to finally come together. In the long days and sleepless nights that had become more and more alike, they had pinned their hopes on what had become reality, after so much time.

The woman squeezed Lena's shoulder, as much for her own reassurance as Lena's. 'Is everything ready?' she asked for the umpteenth time, her gaze still glued to the screen.

Behind them, the other two voices groaned in agreement as they pushed their heavy case across the smooth white floor. They had always been better at focusing on the practicalities of what laid ahead.

The light already lurked around the curve of their only glimpse of the outside world.

After Lena had typed in the last code, she doubtfully rubbed her neck. 'Are we sure she can be trusted?' she whispered.

The woman next to her looked up, where the timer was slowly counting down. 'We have no other choice.'

I

Awakening

