

Free-Range Emotion Squid

Well, technically that should be the Free-Range Emotion *Octopus*, but the current long-term Uplift projections suggest that the first truly sentient neo-Octopi will start being produced in no more than ten years. So, basically, best to avoid a potential marketing issue before it even starts, right? Best practices, and all that.

Emotion Squids are biotech / alien / alternate dimension / techno-magical (strike out all adjectives that do not apply) creatures that, indeed, resemble Terrestrial octopi, only much dumber. Like many other cephalopods, the Emotion Squid will eject ink as a defense mechanism when frightened; however, they also eject ink when happy, sad, angry, lecherous, content, cheerful, and a few other emotional states. Much more interestingly, the ink that they produce acts as a potent drug that will produce that exact same emotional state in humans. One dose can generate fifty human-sized ones.

Naturally, every reputable vendor of Emotion Squid ink swears up and down that they use only free-range squid that are not being essentially tortured to provide the appropriate inks. Which is interesting, because no vendor

of Emotion Squid ink apparently will voluntarily herd the squids, or school them, or whatever the term is. It's all being taken as a matter of faith that somewhere, *somebody* is ethically getting fear ink out of an Emotion Squid.

Or that they're ethically getting lechery ink, for that matter. This particular order of animals is, ah, not known for its romantic urges. Emotion Squid certainly don't shed lechery ink in the wild...

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