I, Robot

The story step by step

1 Listen to chapter 1 on your CD/download, and decide which you hear.

1 It must not allow a human to be harmed / armed.
2 I had come to U.S. Robots in Newark / New York.
3 At the age of twenty / twenty-two, Susan had watched Dr. Alfred Lanning demonstrate the first robot that was able to talk and move / walk and talk.
4 She behaved oddly / coldly toward people.
5 For fifty / fifteen years, she worked with robots.
6 But I wanted more personal / professional facts about the doctor.
7 I want to hear your own / the whole story.
8 They’re cleaner / cleverer and better than we are.
9 Robbie was made to look after / take care of children. He was a nanny …

2 Listen to chapter 2 on your CD/download. How many times do you hear the following adverbs?

slowly happily angrily

3 Complete these sentences with the correct form of the passive then listen to chapter 3 to check your answers. Use the verbs from the box.

design develop give invent make
measure need punish send test

1 The robot engineers, Gregory Powell and Michael Donovan, ______ ______ ______ to the space station.
2 But the QT model __ only recently ______ ______.
3 We built you from parts that ______ ______ ______ from Earth.
4 Space has no beginning and no end. It can’t __ _________.
5 Because these things can harm human, robots ______ ______ ______ to do the work.
6 And now only two humans __ _________ in each Space Station.
7 You __ ______ of soft material … you __ not well _________.
8 Now the robots have gone crazy, and we’re in trouble. We __ __ _________.
9 Go down these stairs … You __ __ _________ instructions.
10 “__ this robot__?” asked Powell. He was worried.
4  Listen to chapter 4 of *I, Robot* and put these events in order.

Susan's face went red.  
Powell suggested making a cave-in.  
The two men saw the robots marching up and down a tunnel.  
Donovan threw a book at a screen.  
The men had to crawl along the floor.  
The DV-5 was developed.  
Donovan banged his hand on a desk.  
Donovan watched three working shifts.  
Three shots were fired.  
Greg explained everything.  
Powell and Donovan arrived at the asteroid mine.  
Powell decided to test DV-5's brain.  
The two men climbed down from a ledge.  
Powell decided the problem was connected to taking decisions.  
Powell stopped reading *The Handbook of Robotics*.  

5  Listen to chapter 5 on your CD/download. What do these numbers refer to? They are in the order that you hear them.

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6  Listen to chapter 6 and complete the gaps in these pieces of dialogue.

1  “We _____ a robot” Kallner said. “We _____ everything that we _____ think of. But we _____ find it. We _____ help from experts.”
   “Why is this one robot so important?” asked Calvin. “And why _____ you _____ it?”

2  “There’s nothing especially different about the Nestors,” Black said. “Of course, they’re _____ __________. And they’re _____ _____.”
   “They’re _____ _____?” she repeated. “Why do the Nestors make you _____? Have they ever refused _____ _____ order?”

3  “What is your _____, Dr Calvin?” the general asked.
   “We _____ the test,” she replied, “But we _____ electric beams between the robots and the man. We _____ the robots that the electrical beams _____ them. We _____ switch the electricity off. But the robots _____ that.”

4  “_____ any of the robots spoken _____ _____?” Calvin asked.
   “No,” Black said. “They _____ or spoken to each other.”
   “Good,” said Calvin. “They _____ in front of me,” she explained to Bogert and the general.
   “If any robot _____ strangely, I _____ it immediately.”

5  Normal Nestors _____ the difference between types of radiation. They _____ physics. Only Nestor 10 knew the difference, because he _____ the science by Gerald Black.

7  Listen to chapter 7 and decide if these sentences are true (T) false (F) or ‘?’ if we don’t know.

1  Byerley was elected in 2030, and the election was strange. ☐
2  Byerley and his wife had had a car accident and Byerley was seriously injured. She was killed. ☐
3  Byerley never sleeps. ☐
4  Both Byerley and John are in the garden while they talk. ☐
5  Susan Calvin suggests using an X-ray to see if Byerley is a robot. ☐
6  Byerley’s teacher used to be a lawyer and is studying biophysics. ☐
7  Everyone around the world wanted to know if Byerley was a robot. ☐
8  Calvin and Byerley met for the last time during the night. ☐
9  Calvin knew that Byerley was a robot. ☐
10  Calvin had died before the story was written. ☐