



AEON
COMICS GROUP

07

\$5.99 US

RATED T+

THE SILENCE HAS A SHAPE.

アーキテクト

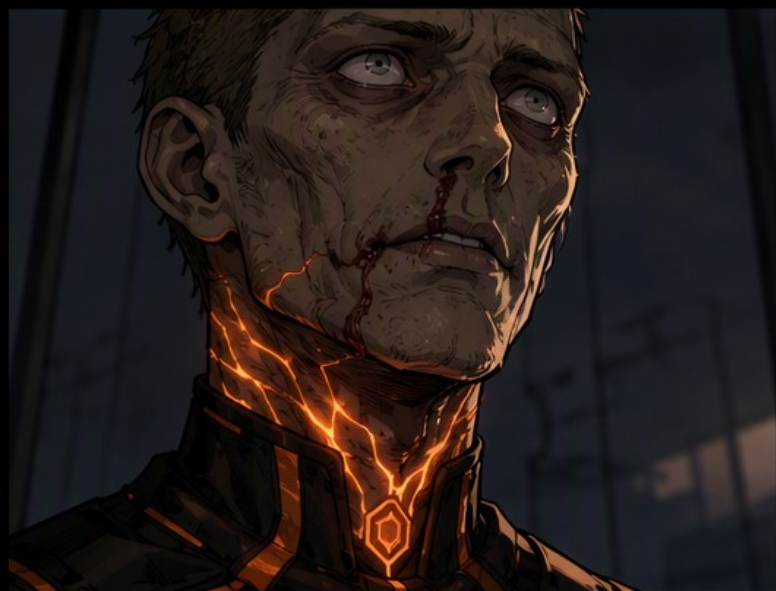
ARCHITECT

D P R A I N E

IT ISN'T HERE TO FIGHT.
IT IS HERE TO REARRANGE.











D PRAINE

VECTOR RESONANCE

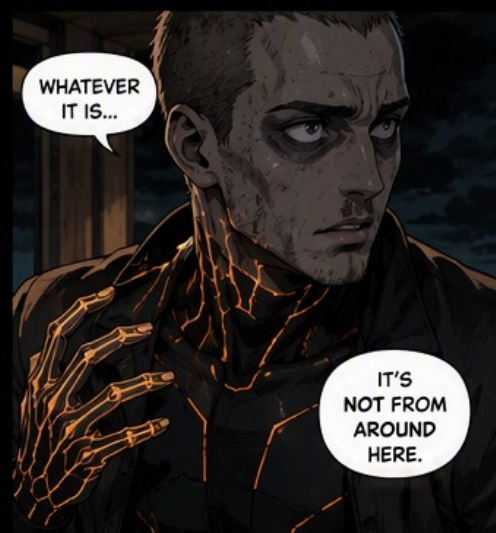
// PART 09: UNSEEN ORIGIN

Signal origin:
non-terrestrial.

Classification:
unknown.

Prior model
match: none.

...



**ARCHITECT
SKY CARRIER.**

LENGTH: UNKNOWN.
MASS: INCALCULABLE.
SILENT. NON-EUCLIDEAN.
NOT A VEHICLE.

A LIVING STRUCTURE
OF INTENT AND
IMPOSSIBILITY.



DESCENT VESSELS
DEPLOYING.

NO PROPULSION.
NO THRUST.
NO MECHANISM
RECOGNIZABLE.

ORIENTATION
CHANGES WITHOUT
TRANSITION.

DESCENT IS NOT
FLIGHT.



WHAT
THE HELL
IS THAT
THING...?

!!



GET
INSIDE!
NOW!

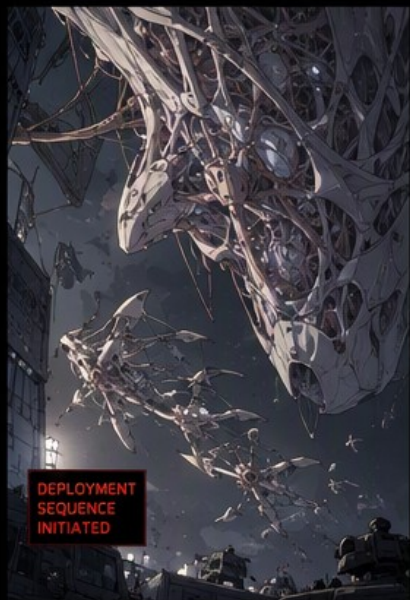


ALL UNITS!
THIS IS CHECKPOINT 7!
UNKNOWN CONTACTS
DESCENDING!
I REPEAT—
UNKNOWN CONTACTS
DESCENDING!





ARCHITECT
DESCENT VESSEL
CLASS: VESSEL-NINE
STATUS: INCURSION



DEPLOYMENT
SEQUENCE
INITIATED



PRIME UNIT
DEPLOYMENT



HUNTER-KILLER UNITS
DISPERSAL



WHAT
IS THAT—!?

IT'S
TOO BIG—!

WE CAN'T
STOP IT!



FIRE!

IT'S NO
USE!



RUN!

CIVIL UNREST
CONFIRMED
MILITARY RESPONSE
INADEQUATE

SECTOR 7 FORTIFICATION LINE
DAY 14, 23:47

FIRE
EVERYTHING
WE HAVE!

DON'T LET
IT THROUGH!



ALL IMPACTS
SCATTERING.
NO SIGN OF
PENETRATION.

REPEAT:
NO SIGN OF
PENETRATION.
IT KEEPS
COMING.

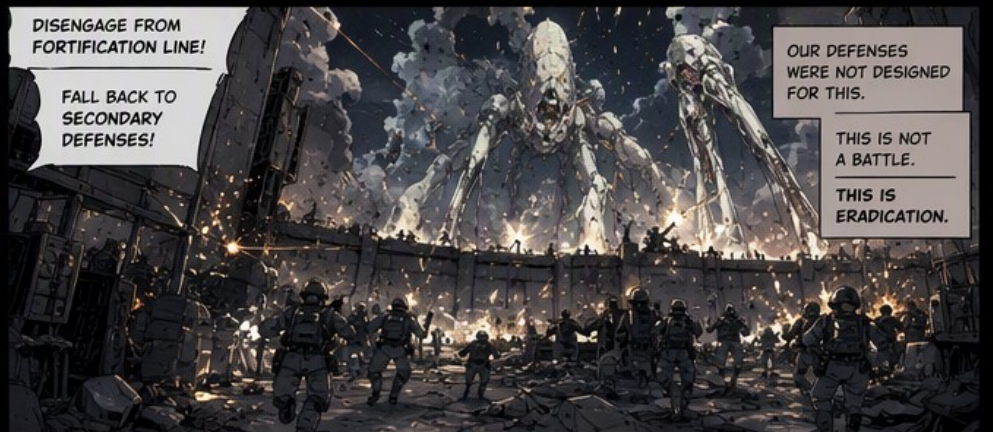


FALL
BACK!
FALL BACK
NOW!

DISENGAGE FROM
FORTIFICATION LINE!
FALL BACK TO
SECONDARY
DEFENSES!

OUR DEFENSES
WERE NOT DESIGNED
FOR THIS.

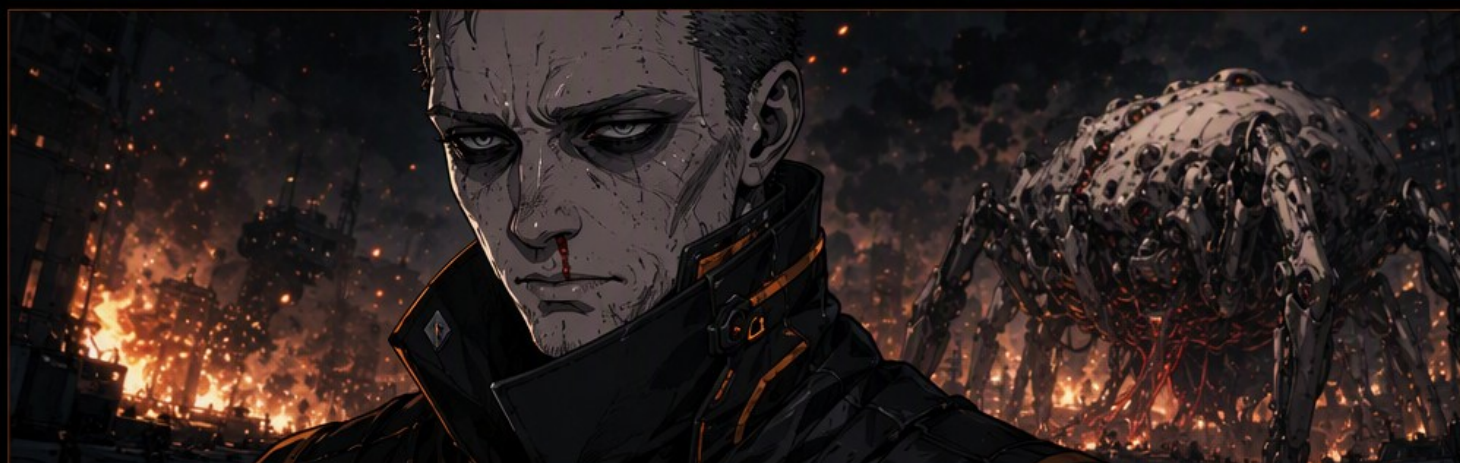
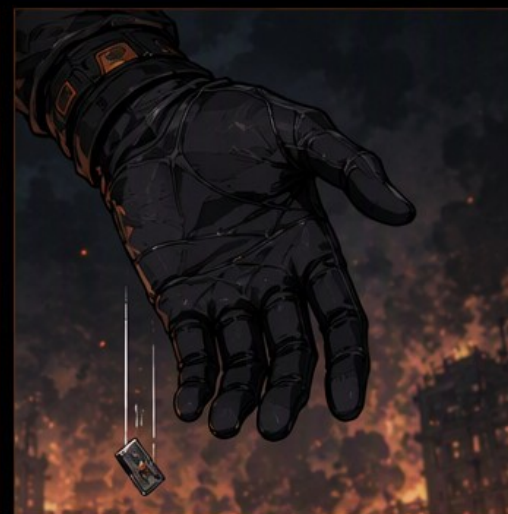
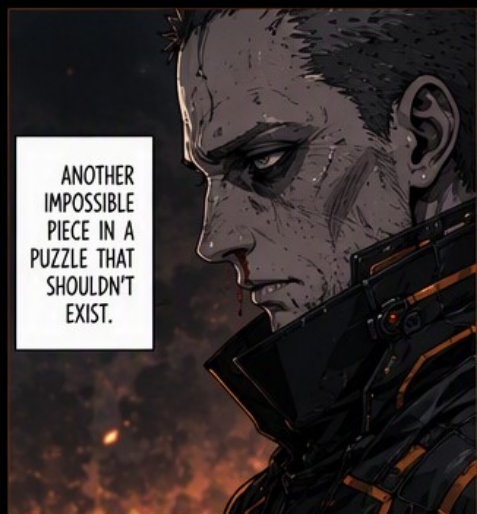
THIS IS NOT
A BATTLE.
THIS IS
ERADICATION.



Cross-referencing
known Architect
signatures.
Match: 0.
This system did not
exist in any prior
model.



ANOTHER
IMPOSSIBLE
PIECE IN A
PUZZLE THAT
SHOULDN'T
EXIST.



DPRRAINE DOES
NOT STRAIN.

HE RESONATES.

SUBSTATION 317.
GRID POWER: ONLINE.

CHK.
CHK.
CHK.

CRANE UNIT 12B.
MOTOR ENGAGED.

VRRRRMM.

STREETLIGHT ARRAY 4F.
SYNCHRONIZED.

VMM.

HIS BODY IS
THE CONDUIT.

HIS WILL,
THE CURRENT.

THOUSANDS OF NODES.
MILES APART.

ONE SILENT COMMAND.

HE DOES NOT
CONTROL THEM.

HE REMEMBERS THEM.

THIS IS NOT POWER.

THIS IS
RESONANCE.

DPRRAINE
RESONANCE VECTOR: ACTIVE

D PRAINE

RESONANCE HERO // INTEGRATED INFRASTRUCTURE

THE ARCHITECT
CLASS: EXTRATERRESTRIAL
DESIGNATION: WAR-WALKER

D PRAINE DOES
NOT LEAP BECAUSE
HE CAN FLY.

HE LEAPS BECAUSE
THE CITY WILL
CATCH HIM.

HE DOES NOT
FALL.

HE MOVES
THROUGH
AGREED
UPON
PATHS.

THE MACHINES
ARE THE BODY.
PRAINE IS
THE INTENT.

THE ARCHITECT
TURNS TOWARD HIM.

PRAINE DOES
NOT WAIT.

NO BLOW IS STRUCK
WITHOUT MOVEMENT.

RESONANCE
IS NOT
POWER.

IT IS
AGREEMENT.

1 // CONSTRUCTION
PLATFORM: RISE

2 // MAINTENANCE
CRADLE: ALIGN

3 // MAGNETIC ASSEMBLY
VECTOR: REDIRECT

4 // LANDING:
UTILITY VECTOR
LOCKED

IMPACT
WITH PURPOSE.

THE CITY
IS HIS ENTRY.

THE BATTLE
IS HIS REASON.

NO MOVEMENT
WITHOUT REASONANCE.

D PRAINE RESONANCE VECTOR

SUBJECT: D. PRAINE
CLASS: RESONANCE VECTOR
ALT. HANDLE: N/A
STATUS: ACTIVE
THREAT LEVEL: EXTREME

THE ARCHITECTS
DON'T FLY.

THEY
TRANSLATE.

AND I DON'T
FOLLOW.
I CONNECT.



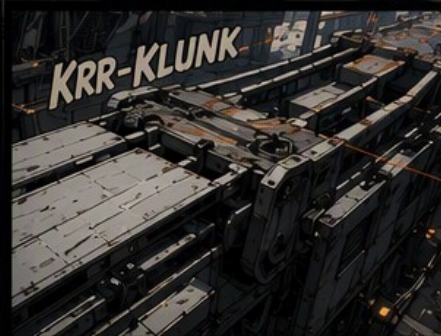
RESONANCE
NEXUS
—ONLINE.



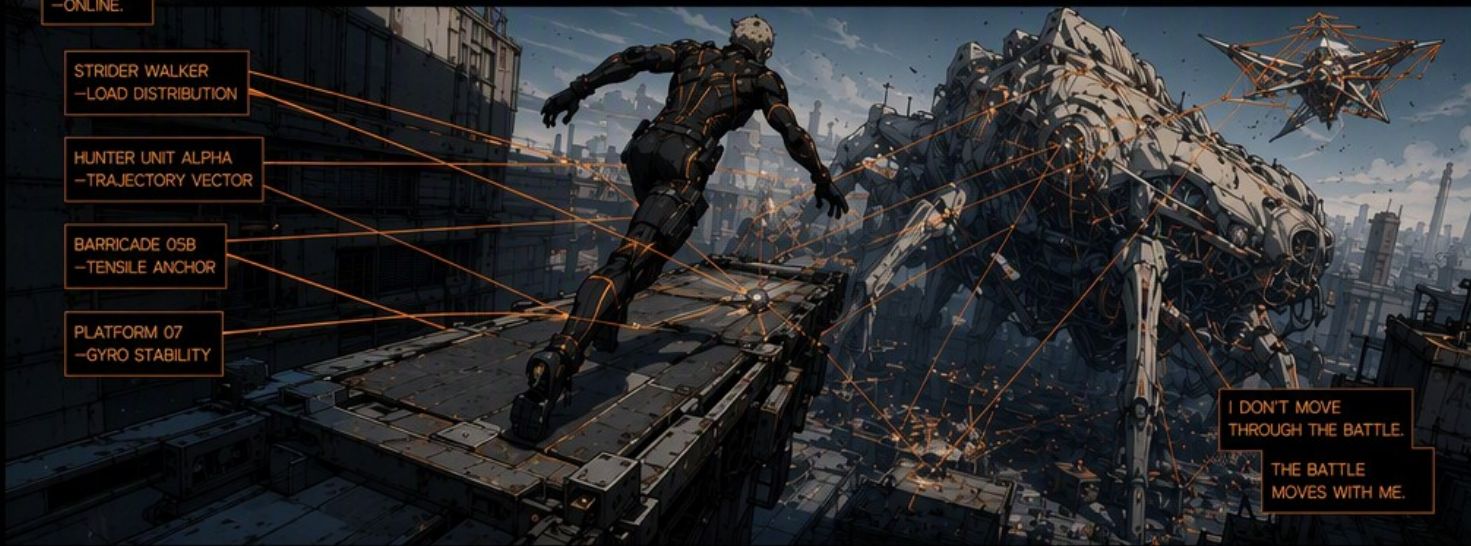
CONSTRUCTION
PLATFORM 07
—ROTATE.



EXTEND
VECTOR PATH.



KRR-KLUNK



STRIDER WALKER
—LOAD DISTRIBUTION

HUNTER UNIT ALPHA
—TRAJECTORY VECTOR

BARRICADE 05B
—TENSILE ANCHOR

PLATFORM 07
—GYRO STABILITY

I DON'T MOVE
THROUGH THE BATTLE.
THE BATTLE
MOVES WITH ME.

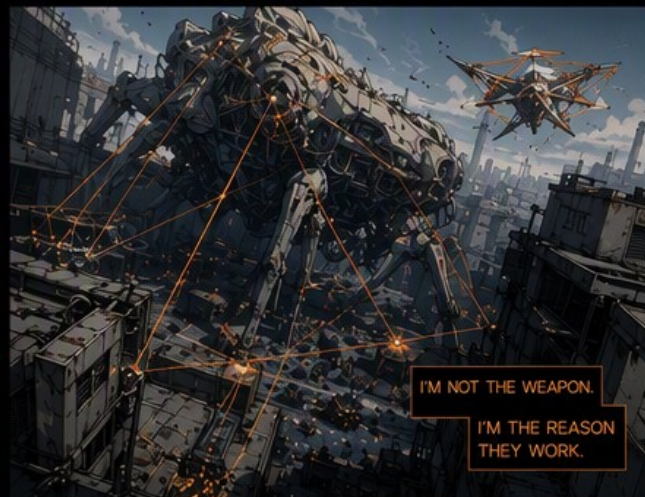


TMP

VECTOR
LOCK
MAINTAINED.



DISTRIBUTED
ORGANISM
ONLINE.



I'M NOT THE WEAPON.
I'M THE REASON
THEY WORK.

THE ARCHITECT
WAR WALKER COMES
DOWN THE STREET
LIKE A BUILDING
WITH A PULSE.

THEN THE FIELD
GOES LIVE.

BURIED STEEL, VEHICLE
FRAMES, CONSTRUCTION
MACHINERY, EXPOSED
INFRASTRUCTURE—
EVERYTHING BECOMES
A POINT OF FORCE.

A BRIEF RAISE.
NOT A GESTURE.

A COMMAND
IN PASSING.

THE MASSIVE THING
IS DRAGGED SIDeways,
OFF BALANCE—

--BUT PRAINE
IS ALREADY
MOVING PAST IT.

THE MACHINES
DO THE REST.

A CORRIDOR THROUGH
THE CHAOS.

HE DOESN'T FIGHT
THE BATTLE.

HE TRAVELS
THROUGH IT.



**D
PRAINE**

ディー・ブレイン

SUBJECT 03 / DP-03

CLASS: FIELD VECTOR

ROLE: KINETIC
INTERFACE

"THE INVISIBLE
ARCHITECTURE
AROUND HIM
BEHAVES LIKE
A GIANT
ARTICULATED
MUSCLE
SYSTEM."



THE CITY ISN'T
DEFENDING ME.

IT'S
EXTENDING ME.

CRANE VECTOR
LOAD: 2.8 TONS
SWING ARC: 34.7m
SYNC: 98.2%

AUTOMATED LOADERS
VECTOR LOCK
STATUS: ENGAGED
NODES: 6/6

TRAFFIC GRID
REDIRECT PROTOCOL
CIVILIAN SAFETY: 100%

THEY MOVE
BEFORE
I DECIDE.

ARCHITECT HUNTER
CLASS: AERIAL
PATTERN: HUNTER-KILL
VECTOR ADAPT: ACTIVE

I DON'T
COMMAND.

I ALIGN.

IT MISSES.

THE CITY
CORRECTS.

AND I
KEEP
MOVING.



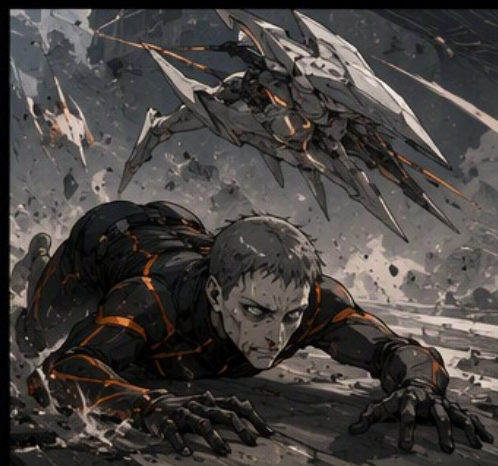
I DON'T
CALCULATE
FROM
A DISTANCE.

I MOVE
THROUGH IT.



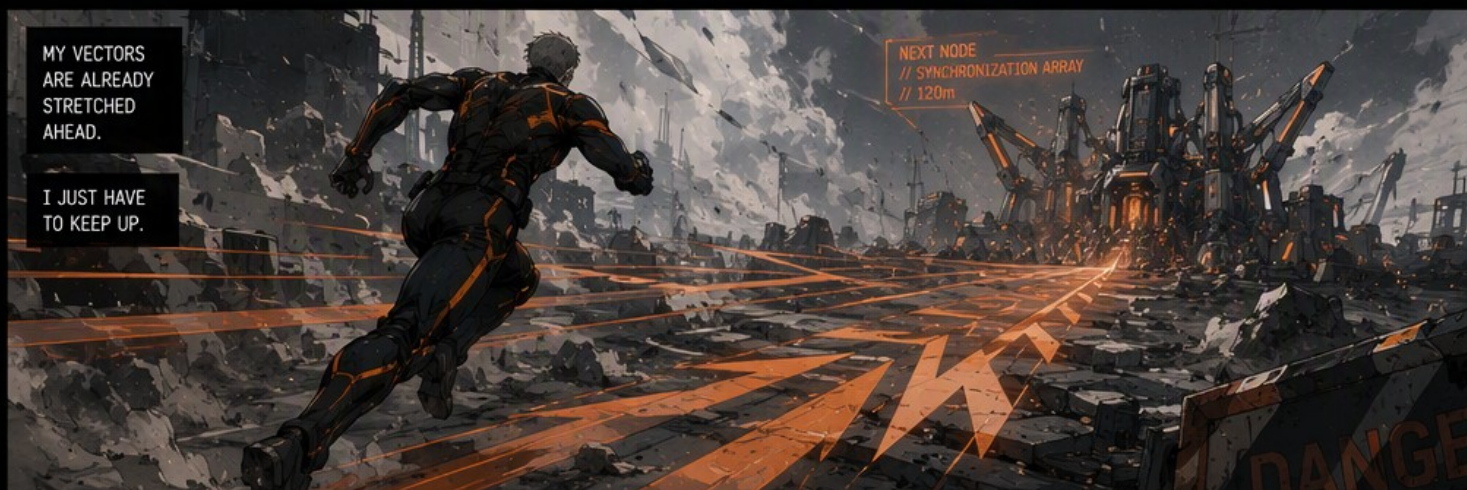
ARCHITECT
AERIAL HUNTERS.

NO ENGINES.
NO ROTORS.
NO MERCY.



MAGNETIC
COORDINATION.

THEY PULL.
I RUN.



MY VECTORS
ARE ALREADY
STRETCHED
AHEAD.

I JUST HAVE
TO KEEP UP.

NEXT NODE
// SYNCHRONIZATION ARRAY
// 120m

DANGER

ID PRAINE.

SIGNAL VECTOR COHERENCE
97.6%.
DISTRICT MACHINERY
HARMONIC SYNC
ESTABLISHED.

THE CITY
IS NOT A
PLACE.

IT IS
AN ORGANISM.

ARCHITECT.
AERIAL HUNTERS.
CLASS: C-4.
BEHAVIOR:
HIGHLY ADAPTIVE.
THREAT LEVEL:
EXTREME.

CLANG!

WHIRRR-

KRRUNCH!

SHUT!

THUNK!

ROLLING SHUTTERS
— DEPLOY.

CRANE COUNTERWEIGHTS
— SWING.

ELEVATOR SYSTEMS
— ENGAGE.

PARKING GATES
— INTERCEPT.

VENTILATION LOUVERS
— SEAL.

SLAM!

GROOOOM!

CHUNK!

KCHAK!

VRRRR!

TRAJECTORIES
REDIRECTED.
PATHWAYS
OBSTRUCTED.
SYSTEMS
SYNCHRONIZED.

THE DISTRICT
MOVES AS ONE.
THE HUNTERS
HAVE NOWHERE
TO GO.

NOWHERE.

FOCUS.
BREATHE.
RESONATE.
COMMAND.

THE ARCHITECTS
INTERCEPTOR SWARM.
EACH UNIT UNIQUE.
EACH MOVEMENT
A MATHEMATICAL
IMPOSSIBILITY.

DPRAINE
NO LONGER COMMANDS
FROM A DISTANCE.
HE MOVES.
THE WORLD ADAPTS.
THE COST IS
EVERYTHING ELSE.

SWARM GEOMETRY
NON-EUCLIDEAN.
NON-INTUITIVE.
BEYOND HUMAN
PERCEPTION.



$$\sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{ij} \in \mathcal{G}_{\alpha_j},$$
$$\forall u_i \in U, \exists \alpha_{1 \leq i \leq n} \cdot \hat{u}_i \cdot r \cap$$
$$d_{i,j} \neq d_{j,i} \therefore$$
$$P_{x+1} = \Phi(P_{ij}, \Psi_{ij})$$

VEHICLES: REALIGN

SHUTTERS: DEPLOY

LOADERS: ENGAGE

EM FORCE: COMPRESS



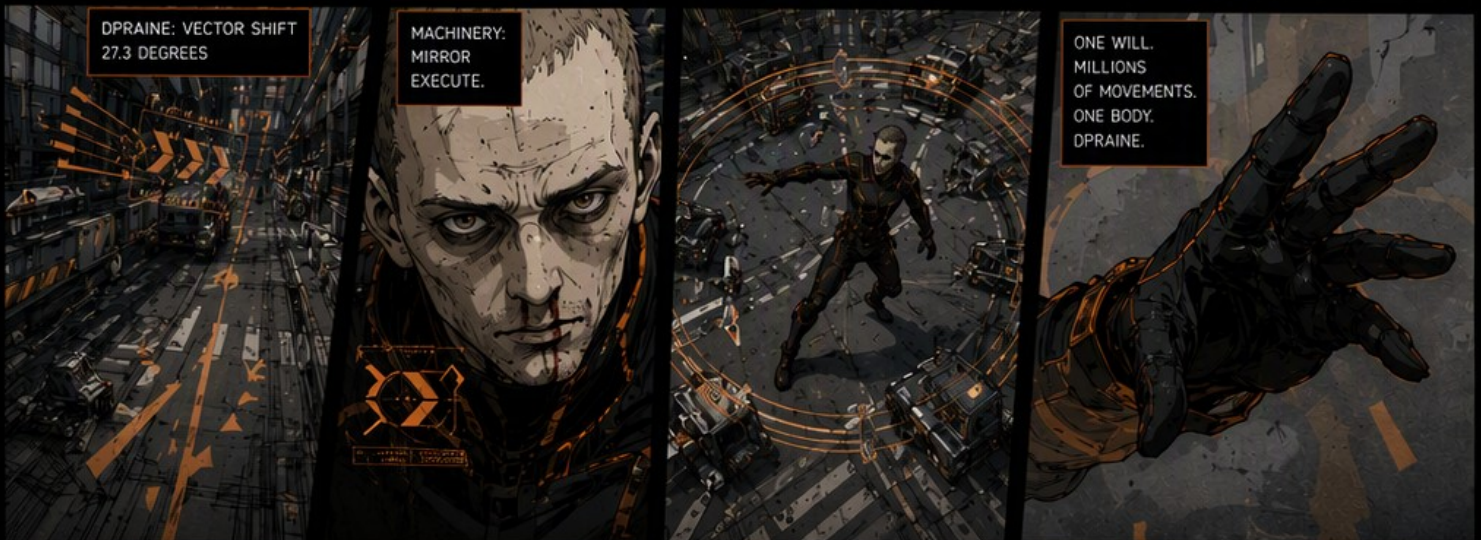
THEY STRIKE
THE BARRIER.
NOT THE MAN.
THE EQUATION
HOLDS.



DPRAINE: VECTOR SHIFT
27.3 DEGREES

MACHINERY:
MIRROR
EXECUTE.

ONE WILL.
MILLIONS
OF MOVEMENTS.
ONE BODY.
DPRAINE.





THE ARCHITECTS
DO NOT ATTACK.
THEY CORRECT.

EACH INTERCEPTOR
A CALCULATION.
EACH MOVEMENT
A PROOF.

THEY DO NOT SWARM.
THEY SOLVE.



BUT THIS BLOCK...
THIS BLOCK IS
NOT UNPROTECTED.

WE DO NOT FIGHT
THEM WITH BULLETS.

WE SPEAK IN
FREQUENCIES THEY
CANNOT IGNORE.



THE CITY
IS THE WEAPON.



ONE POLE.
THEN ANOTHER.



A PATTERN.



A SEQUENCE.



THE PATTERN
REPRESENTS
A CONSTANT.

THE CONSTANT
DISRUPTS THEIR
EQUATION.

THEY CANNOT
ADAPT FAST
ENOUGH.

THEY VEER.
THEY SCATTER.



THEY LEAVE
NOT BECAUSE
WE DEFEAT THEM.

BUT BECAUSE
THIS BLOCK
REFUSES TO BE
PREDICTABLE.

AND IN A UNIVERSE
BUILT ON PERFECT
CALCULATION...

THAT IS ENOUGH.

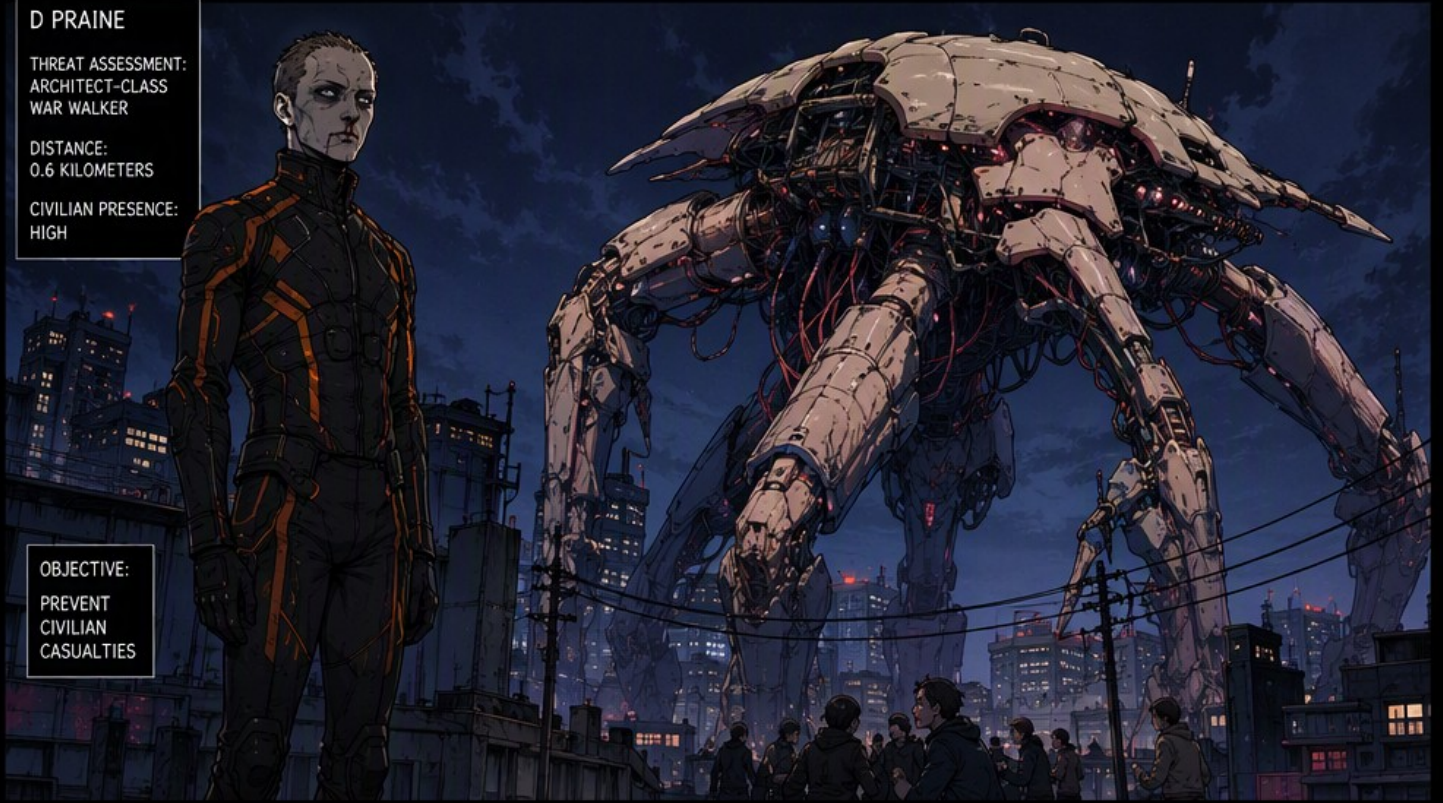
D PRAINE

THREAT ASSESSMENT:
ARCHITECT-CLASS
WAR WALKER

DISTANCE:
0.6 KILOMETERS

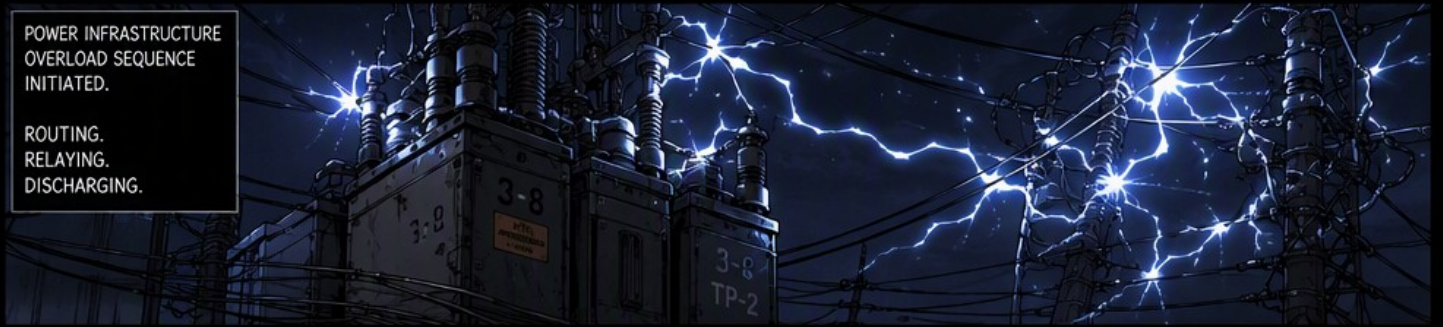
CIVILIAN PRESENCE:
HIGH

OBJECTIVE:
PREVENT
CIVILIAN
CASUALTIES



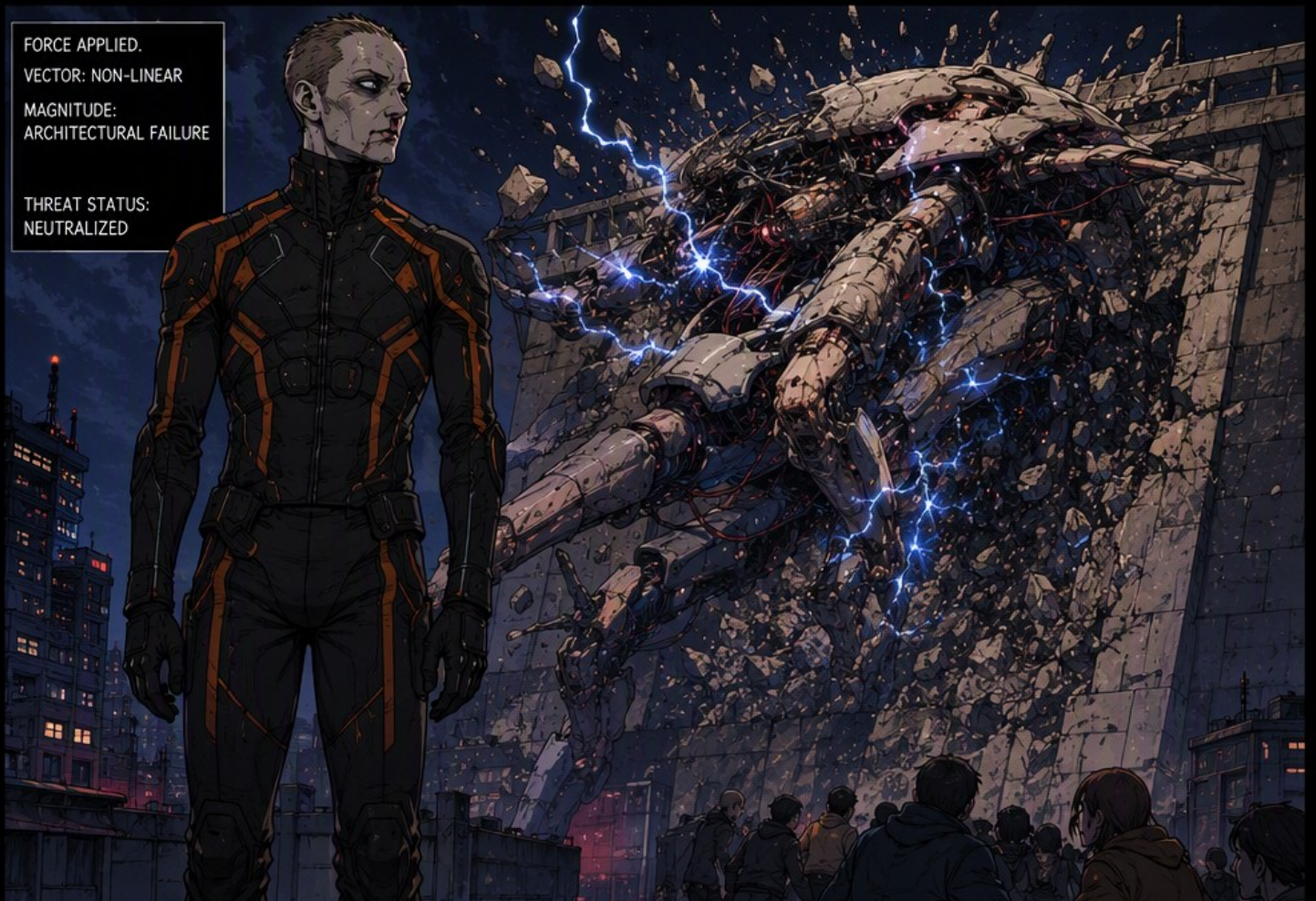
POWER INFRASTRUCTURE
OVERLOAD SEQUENCE
INITIATED.

ROUTING.
RELAYING.
DISCHARGING.



FORCE APPLIED.
VECTOR: NON-LINEAR
MAGNITUDE:
ARCHITECTURAL FAILURE

THREAT STATUS:
NEUTRALIZED





MOVE!
TO THE SIDE
STREET! **NOW!**

OUT OF THE
MAIN ROAD!
GO!



SIR...
WHERE DO
WE—



DON'T LOOK
AT THEM.
LOOK AT ME.
I'LL TELL YOU
WHERE TO GO.



YOU HEAR
THAT, SOLDIER?
YOU KEEP THEM
MOVING.

YOU KEEP
THEM **ALIVE.**



WE HOLD
THIS LINE,
THEY
GET OUT.



THAT'S THE
DEAL.
NOW MOVE!



YES,
SIR.



HAILEY HEART
18 YEARS OLD
STILL HEALING.

BUT TONIGHT
SOMEONE ELSE
NEEDS HELP
FINDING THEIR WAY.

NOT EVERY
BATTLE IS
FOUGHT WITH
A WEAPON.

KEEP
QUIET

KEEP
MOVING

KEEP
EACH OTHER
ALIVE



THIS WAY.
STAY CLOSE.
NO NOISE.



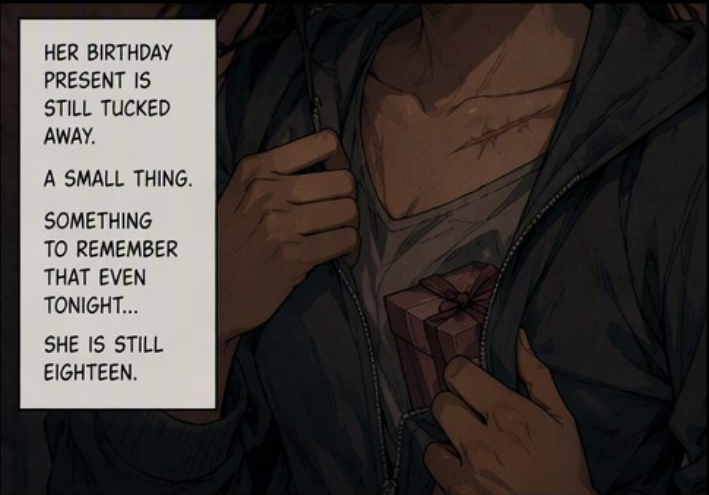
WE'LL CUT
THROUGH THE
SERVICE ALLEY.
IT'S FASTER...
AND SAFER.

TRUST ME.



SHE KNOWS
THE ROUTES.
THE DEAD ENDS.
THE HIDDEN
PATHS.

SHE KNOWS
WHERE TO LOOK
BEFORE SHE
TAKES A STEP.



HER BIRTHDAY
PRESENT IS
STILL TUCKED
AWAY.

A SMALL THING.

SOMETHING
TO REMEMBER
THAT EVEN
TONIGHT...

SHE IS STILL
EIGHTEEN.



...THERE IS
STILL GOOD
WORTH
PROTECTING.

CLINIC
→

Holding.



A second
Architect war
walker.

Mass: incalculable.
Origin: extra-
terrestrial.

Advancing on
parallel vector.

Sudden
immobilization.

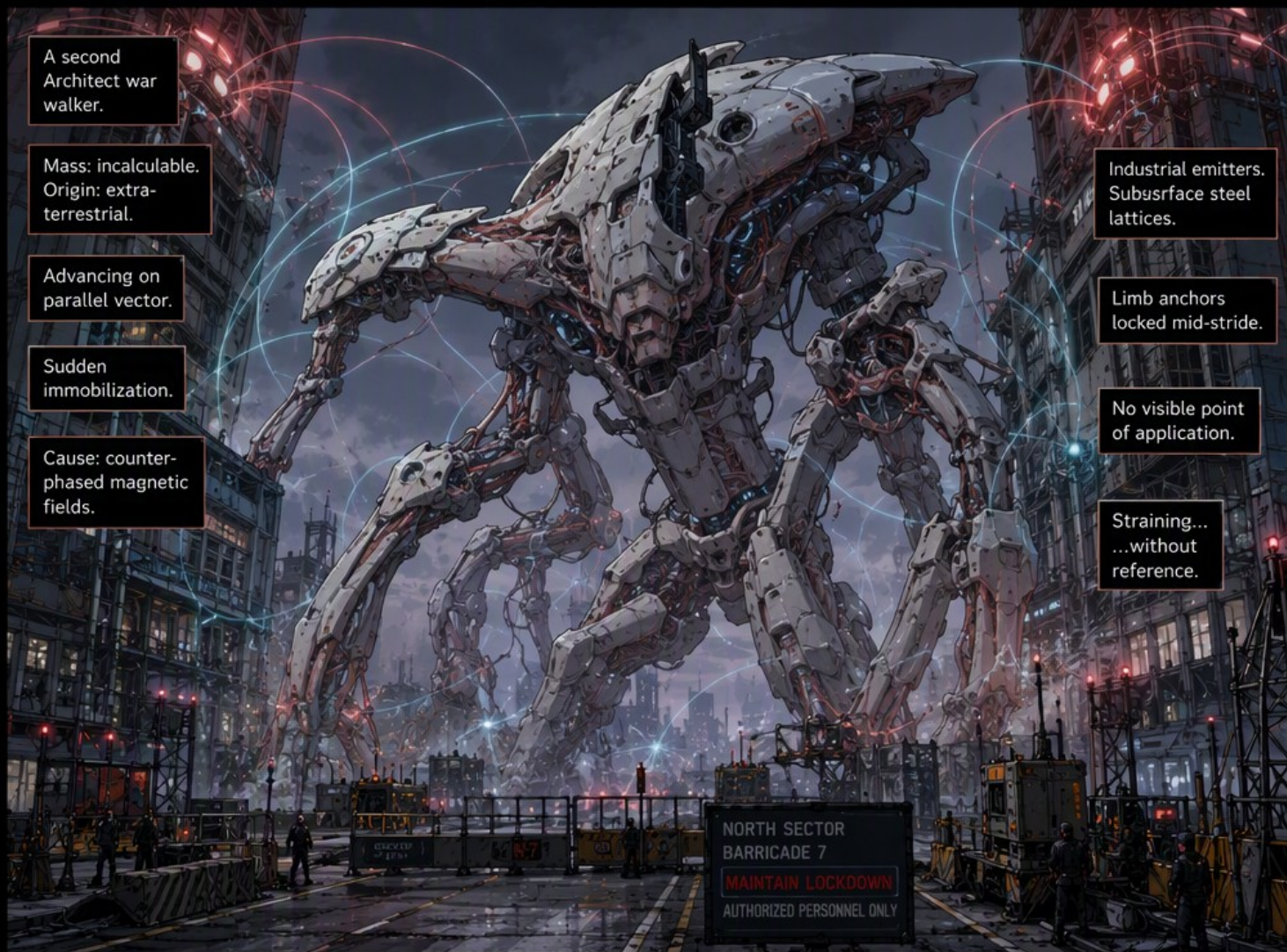
Cause: counter-
phased magnetic
fields.

Industrial emitters.
Subsurface steel
lattices.

Limb anchors
locked mid-stride.

No visible point
of application.

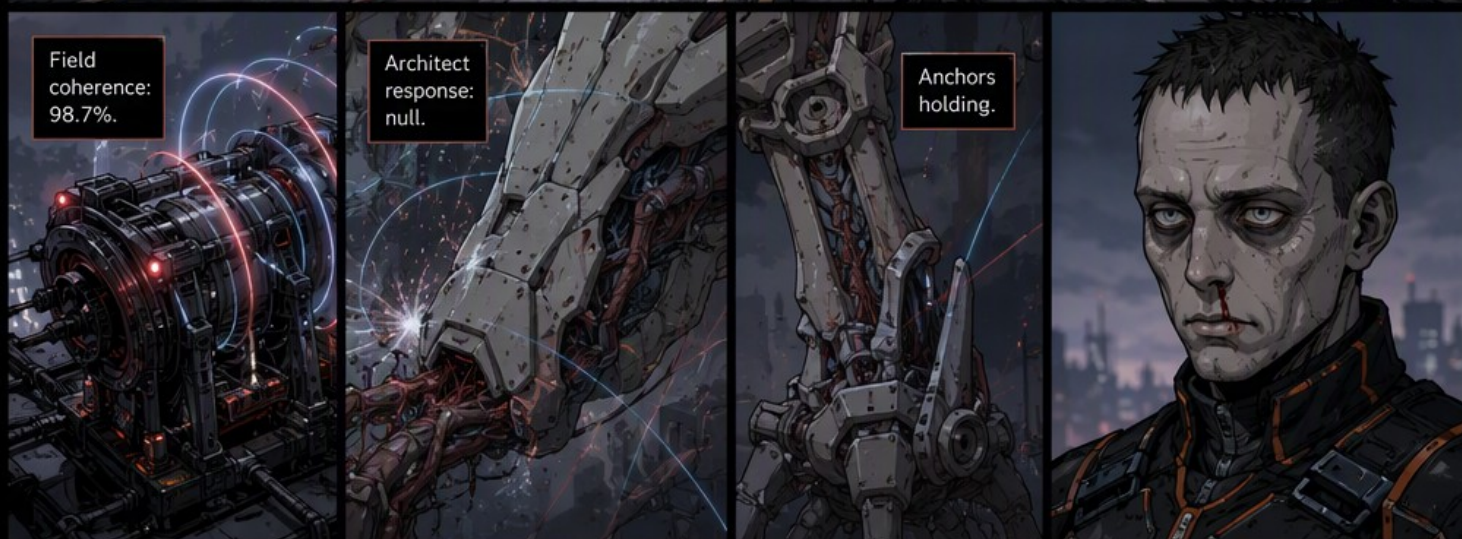
Straining...
...without
reference.



Field
coherence:
98.7%.

Architect
response:
null.

Anchors
holding.



D PRAINE.

INFILTRATOR.
VECTORIAL
EXISTENCE.
HUMAN.

THE ARCHITECTS
DIDN'T BUILD
WALKERS TO BE
CLIMBED.

THEY BUILT
THE WORLD
AROUND THEM.

THEN LEFT IT TO
PEOPLE LIKE ME
TO DISAGREE.

INFRASTRUCTURE.
ASSET.
EXTENSION.
WEAPON.

RESONANCE
VECTORS.
SPREAD.

LISTEN.
ADAPT.

TIMING
IS SURVIVAL.
MOVEMENT
IS TRUTH.

THE REST IS
JUST GRAVITY.

ARCHITECT
AERIAL HUNTERS.

COMPACT.
PREDATORY.
IMPOSSIBLE.

NOT JUST
A MACHINE.
A PHILOSOPHY.
IN MOTION.

IT TWISTS.
I READ.
IT STRIKES.
I LEAVE.

REDIRECT.
RECALIBRATE.
NEXT
VECTOR.
NEXT
CHOICE.

THE ARCHITECT
WALKER IS DOWN.

FIRST DISABLED.

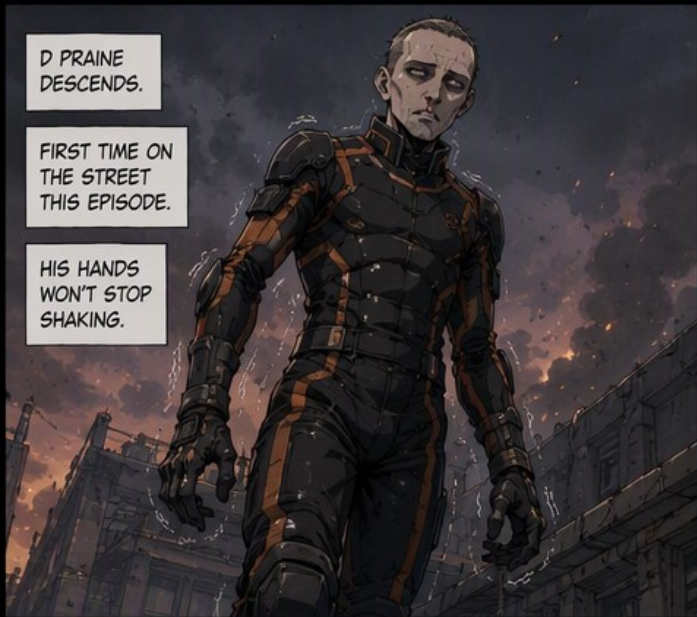
NOT DESTROYED.



D PRAINE
DESCENDS.

FIRST TIME ON
THE STREET
THIS EPISODE.

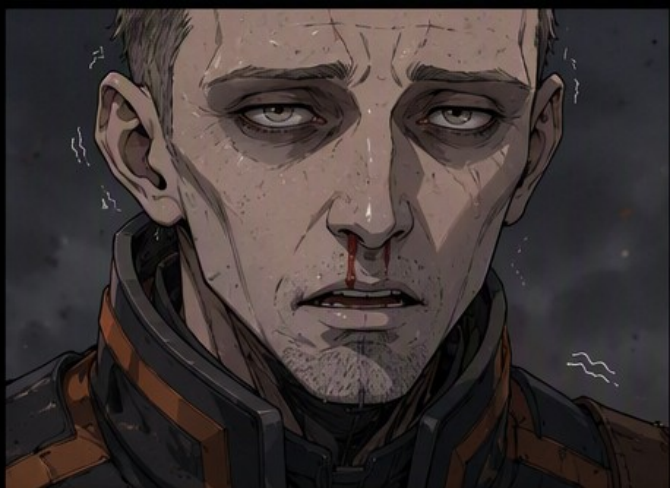
HIS HANDS
WON'T STOP
SHAKING.



CINDER
WATCHES.

NOT RELIEF.

RESPECT.
COMPLICATED.



SOMETHING
IS WRONG
WITH THE
GROUND HERE.

NO ONE
NOTICES.



Engagement
paused.
Cause:
unknown.



