

SEASON 2 EPISODE 2

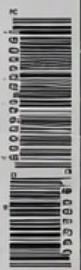


DPR AINE

A R A E Z A



COMIC HUB
STUDIOS



D PRAINE

VECTOR INVESTIGATOR

HABITATION UNIT 7B
LOWER COPPER MESH
SECTOR 9

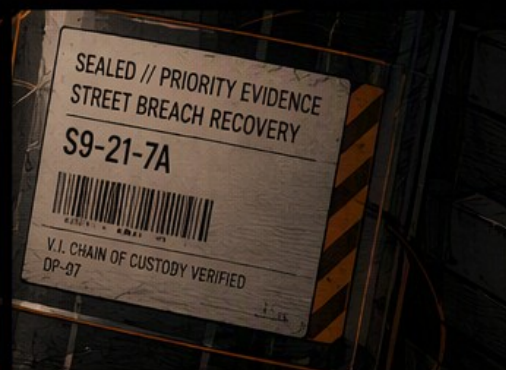
"Material composition:
partial match to prior
biological-preparation
signature."

"Origin:
unconfirmed."

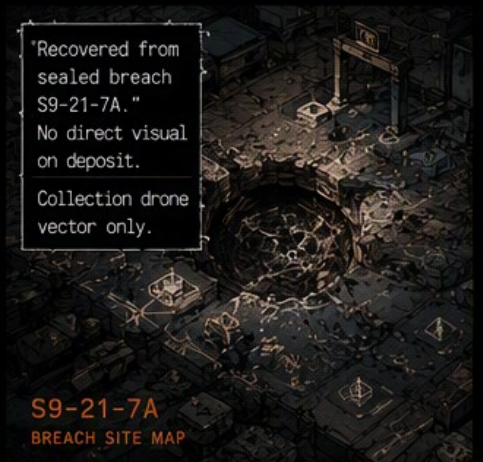


"Vector trace
residuals present."

Pattern noise:
low. Integrity:
high."



"Recovered from
sealed breach
S9-21-7A."
No direct visual
on deposit.
Collection drone
vector only."



Biological
signature
incomplete.

Either degraded...
or deliberately
obfuscated.

Both are
possible.



Cross-compare with
known preparations.

Check black-facility
archives.

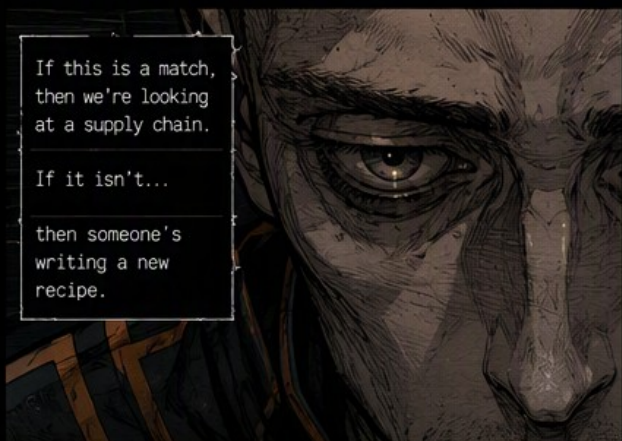
Trace distribution
pathways.



If this is a match,
then we're looking
at a supply chain.

If it isn't...

then someone's
writing a new
recipe.



Either way,
it's a lead.

And leads
don't come
quiet.



D PRAINE

OMNISCIENT GRID

- HUNTING REGISTER -

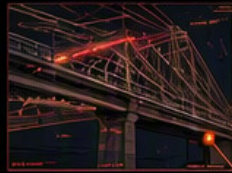
NOT REACTING.
NOT RUNNING.
HUNTING.
EVERY PATTERN.
EVERY ANOMALY.
EVERY LIE.
CONVERGES.



THE GRID
DOESN'T FORGET.
IT FINDS.

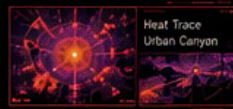
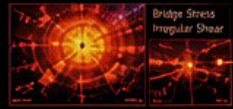
01 // INFRASTRUCTURE

SUBSTRUCTURE RESONANCE



02 // SATELLITE THERMAL

ORBITAL SWEEP FEED



03 // GROUND DISTURBANCES

CIVILIAN REPORT AGGREGATION



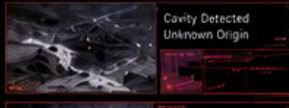
04 // COMM SIGNALS

ENCRYPTED TRAFFIC



07 // GEOLOGICAL SCANS

SUBSURFACE MAPPING



08 // ATMOSPHERIC DATA

IONOSPHERIC DISRUPTION



09 // BIOLOGICAL SIGNALS

EPIDEMIC & BIOMETRIC



10 // HISTORICAL PATTERNS

EVENT CORRELATION



11 // AI PREDICTIVE MODELS

PROBABILITY CONVERGENCE



12 // CONVERGENCE

SINGULAR POINT IDENTIFIED



THE GRID DOESN'T CHASE.
IT CONVERGES.
AND THEN...
IT FINDS.

CROSS CHRONIC CARE
NEUROIMMUNOLOGY UNIT

BALTIMORE, MD
10:47 PM

SOME PATTERNS
DON'T ANNOUNCE
THEMSELVES.



DR. CROSS,
THE SUMMARY
IS READY.

READ IT
TO ME.

"...CEREBROSPINAL FLUID
ANALYSIS FROM TWELVE
SUBJECTS ACROSS FIVE
INDEPENDENT CLINICS.

ELEVATED CYTOKINE
MARKERS: IL-6, IL-17A,
TNF-ALPHA.

PROMINENT MICROGLIAL
ACTIVATION SIGNATURE.

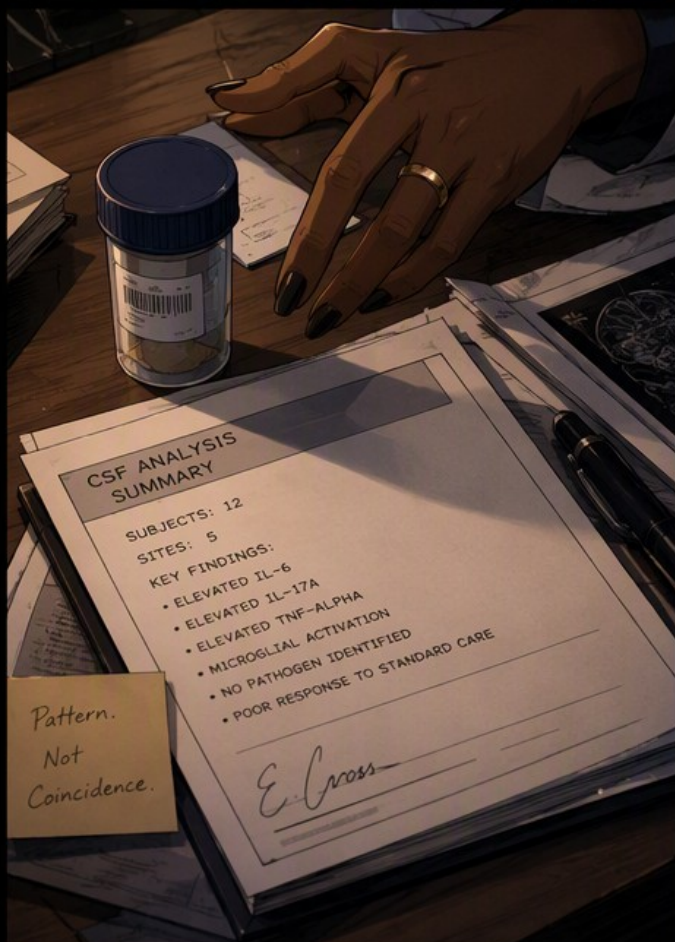
NO CONSISTENT
PATHOGEN IDENTIFIED.

NOT RANDOM.

"CLINICAL OVERLAP:
FATIGUE, COGNITIVE
FOG, SENSORY
HYPERSENSITIVITY,
EPISODIC MOTOR
DYSFUNCTION.

ONSET POST-INFECTION
OR POST-EXPOSURE
EVENTS.

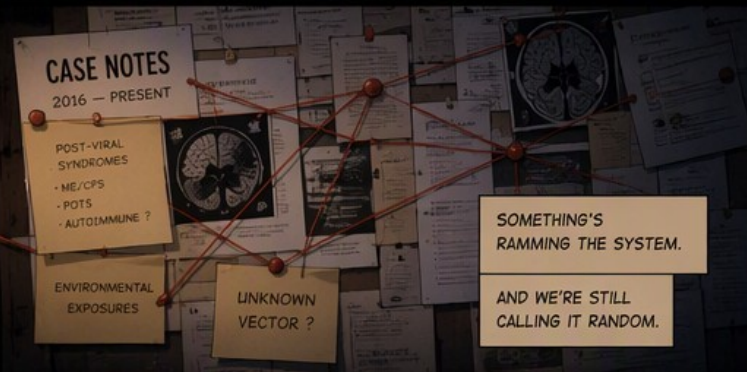
NO RESPONSE TO
STANDARD IMMUNO-
MODULATORY
THERAPIES."



Pattern.
Not
Coincidence.

I'VE BEEN SEEING
VARIATIONS OF THIS
FOR YEARS.

DIFFERENT TRIGGERS.
SAME AFTERMATH.



SOMETHING'S
RAMMING THE SYSTEM.

AND WE'RE STILL
CALLING IT RANDOM.



NOT
ANYMORE.

VANCE GLOBAL COORDINATION OFFICE.
DIRECTOR JULIAN VANCE.



JULIAN VANCE



NO SINGLE FRONT.

THE ENTIRE WORLD IS BLEEDING.



NORTHERN FRONT, SECTOR 7B
DAY 23 OF THE ARCHITECT INCURSION



THE ARCHITECTS
ADVANCE WITHOUT
HESITATION.
WITHOUT MERCY.



OUR FORCES HOLD
THE LINE.
FOR NOW.



THEIR NUMBERS
ARE ENDLESS.
THEIR PURPOSE
IS UNKNOWN.

BUT ONE THING
IS CERTAIN—
THEY WILL NOT
REACH OUR
HOMELAND.

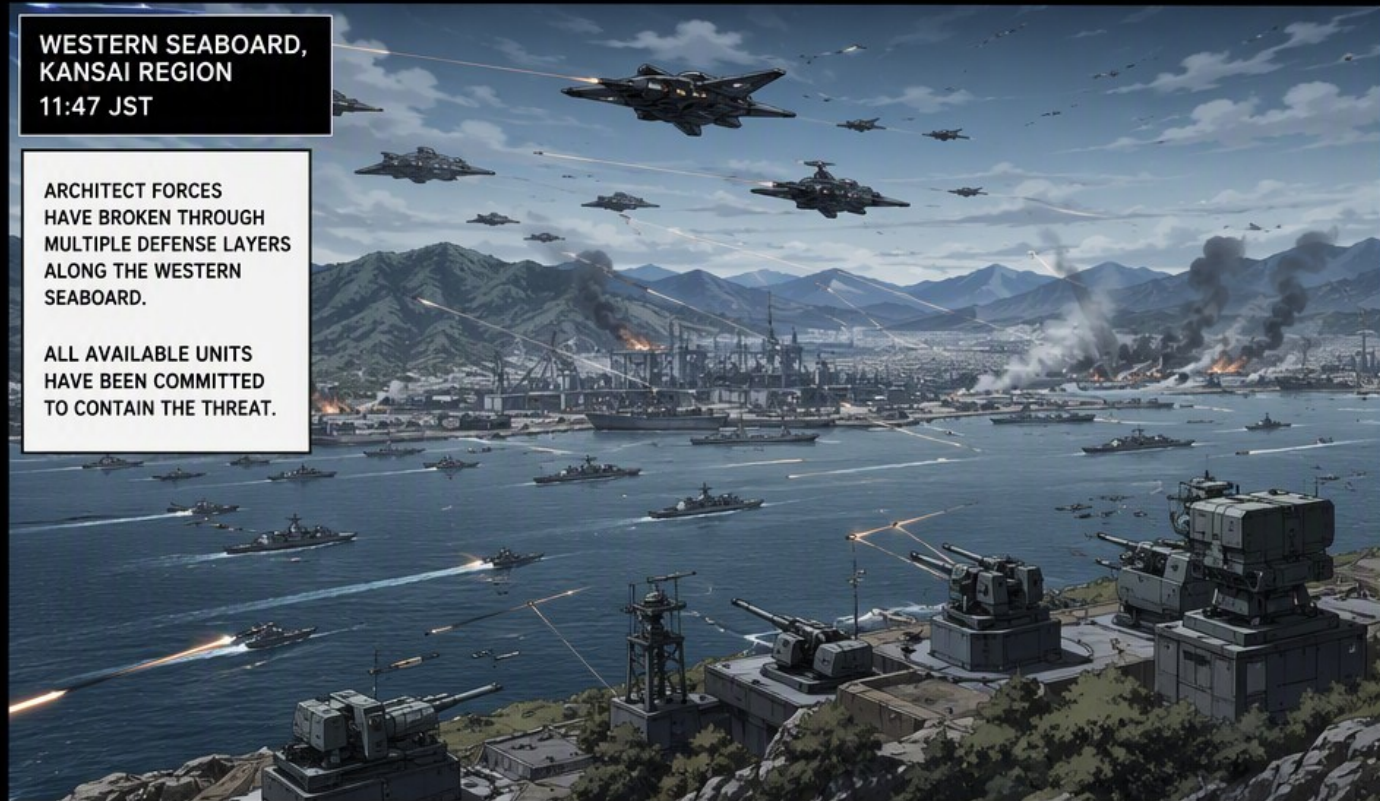


NOT WHILE
WE STILL
STAND.

**WESTERN SEABOARD,
KANSAI REGION**
11:47 JST

ARCHITECT FORCES
HAVE BROKEN THROUGH
MULTIPLE DEFENSE LAYERS
ALONG THE WESTERN
SEABOARD.

ALL AVAILABLE UNITS
HAVE BEEN COMMITTED
TO CONTAIN THE THREAT.



NAVAL ASSETS,
COASTAL BATTERIES,
AND MOBILE RESERVES
ARE ENGAGED ACROSS
THE ENTIRE LITTORAL.



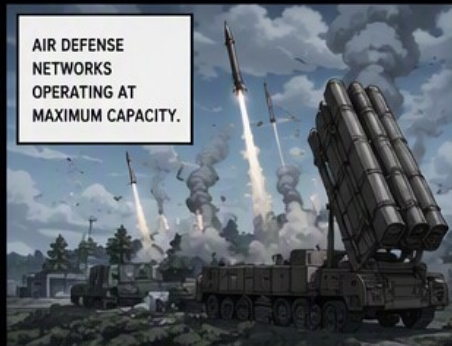
PORT FACILITIES
SUSTAINING
CRITICAL DAMAGE.



EARLY WARNING
SYSTEMS UNDER
CONSTANT STRAIN.



AIR DEFENSE
NETWORKS
OPERATING AT
MAXIMUM CAPACITY.



RAPID DEPLOYMENT
UNITS MOVING TO
FILL BREACHES.



THIS IS NOT AN
ISOLATED INCIDENT.

SIMULTANEOUS
ENGAGEMENTS
REPORTED ALONG
MULTIPLE COASTLINES
WORLDWIDE.

THE CONFLICT HAS
ENTERED A NEW PHASE.

NORTH SEA ROUTE
ENGAGED

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN
ENGAGED

SOUTH CHINA SEA
ENGAGED

SOUTH PACIFIC CORRIDOR
ENGAGED



SKYFALL-7, 17:40 LOCAL
KAELUS CONTINENT

WHILE THE WORLD
BURNS...

...A THOUSAND
FRONTS IGNITE
AS ONE.

EACH CITY A NODE.

EACH BATTLE
A THREAD.

AND AT THE EDGE
OF THIS CITY...

...AN ARCHITECT
MACHINE STIRS.

EMPIRES CLASH.
IDEALS SHATTER.

YET THE WHEEL
KEEPS TURNING.

ACROSS KAELOS...

NORTHGATE
FRONTLINE ACTIVE

VORLAND STEPPES
ARMORED CLASH

SABLE COAST
NAVAL ENGAGEMENT

...ACROSS THE WORLD...

TALOS ECLIPSE
CIVIL WAR

ORION BELT
BLOCKADE

ELYSIAN STRAITS
AIR SUPERIORITY CONTESTED

...ACROSS THE STARS.

PERSEUS ARM
MAJOR FLEET ENGAGEMENT

THIS IS NOT A WAR.



THIS IS THE LONG NIGHT
OF A DYING AGE.

THE ARCHITECT
DOES NOT APPROACH.
IT RECONFIGURES.

TERRAIN, STRUCTURE,
LOGIC--ALL SUBJECT TO
ITS DESIGN.



WHAT THE HELL
IS THAT--?!

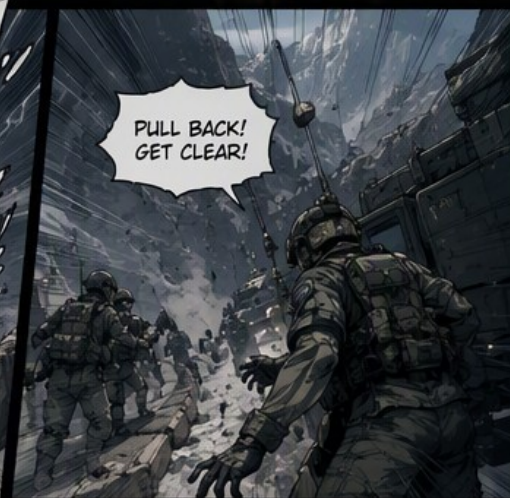
THE ROAD--
IT'S MOVING!



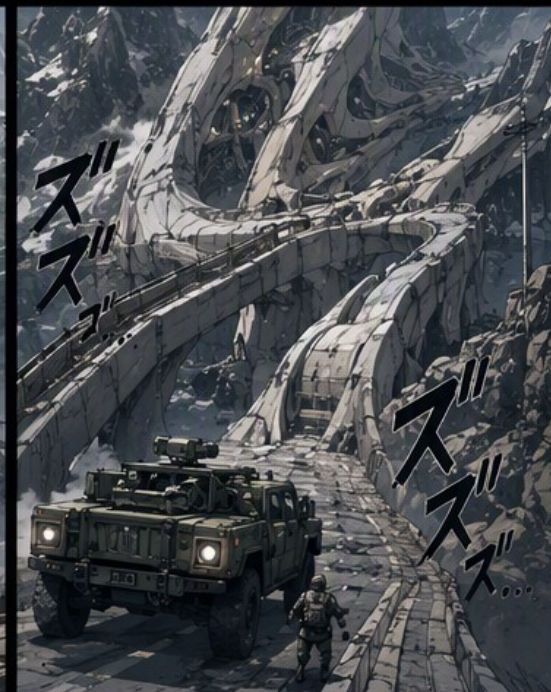
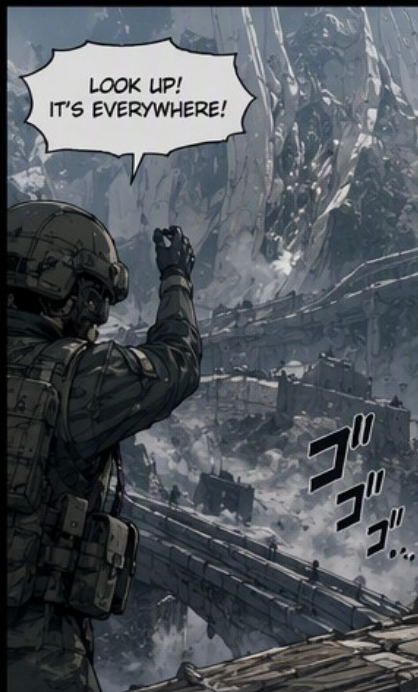
BRAKE!
BRAKE!



PULL BACK!
GET CLEAR!



LOOK UP!
IT'S EVERYWHERE!



IT DOES NOT
DESTROY.

IT IMPROVES.

ACCORDING TO
ITS OWN INTENT.



HIGH ROUTE 7B
ELEV. 6,211 FT
XENOTECH ALTERATION
IN PROGRESS

ARCHITECT TERRAIN
MACHINES REDIRECTING
INFRASTRUCTURE

IT'S NOT
A QUAKE!
THE ROAD'S
BEING
REWRITTEN!

MOVE! MOVE
BEFORE IT
LOCKS IN!

LISTEN UP!
SECONDARY
ROUTE'S
STILL OPEN!
FOLLOW
MY MARK!

KEEP LEFT
AT THE SPLIT,
THEN DOWN
THE SERVICE
CULVERT!

DOOR'S
JAMMED!
STAND
BACK!
I'VE GOT
YOU!

YOU'RE
GOOD!
KEEP
MOVING!

DON'T STOP
FOR ANYTHING!

DRIVERS!
ENGINES OFF!
LEAVE YOUR KEYS!

WEIGHT
SLOWS THE SHIFT!
ON FOOT ONLY!

THE ARCHITECT
DOESN'T DESTROY.
IT REASSIGNS.

WE ADAPT,
OR WE'RE
LEFT BEHIND.

D PRAINE

VECTOR CONTROL

ISSUE #07: CONVERGENCE

THEY THINK I'M
A MAN WITH A GIFT.

THEY'RE HALF RIGHT.

I DON'T JUST
MOVE MY BODY.

I MOVE WHAT
SURROUNDS IT.

KRRRRREEEE!

DISABLED.

ROLLING BACK.

PREDICTABLE.

ADJUST VECTOR.

SKREEEEESH!

REDIRECT.
BARRIER.

I DON'T STOP
THE CONVOY.

I DECIDE WHERE
IT STOPS.

THEY HAVE WEAPONS.
NUMBERS.

I HAVE ALIGNMENT.

AND EVERYTHING ELSE.

THAT'S ENOUGH.

RESONANCE FEED
[ACTIVE]

SYSTEMS LINKED
17 / 23

STABILITY 82%

OPERATIVE KAELEN.

OBJECTIVE:
REACH INSTALLATION
VIA HIDDEN ACCESS ROUTE.
BEFORE TERRAIN
RECONVERGENCE.

THE GROUND
DOESN'T BREAK.
IT REJECTS.

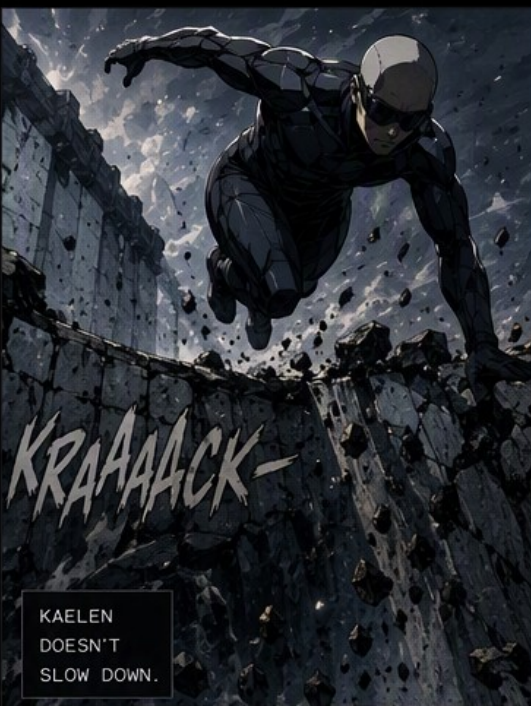
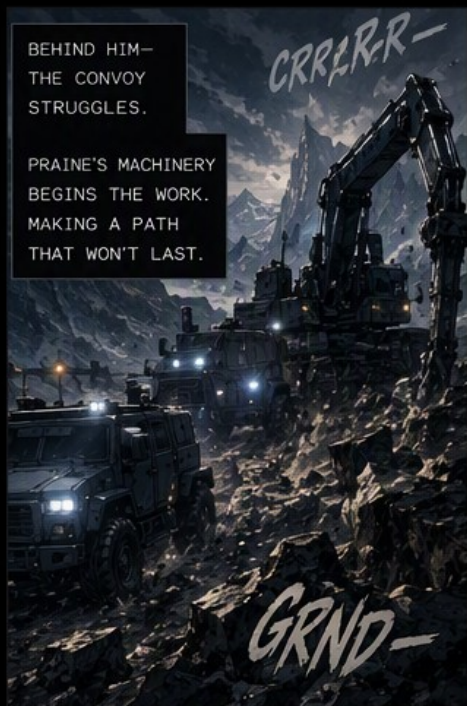
IT TESTS.
EVERYTHING.

HE DOESN'T
ADAPT.
HE ANTICIPATES.



BEHIND HIM—
THE CONVOY
STRUGGLES.

PRAINE'S MACHINERY
BEGINS THE WORK.
MAKING A PATH
THAT WON'T LAST.



HE NEVER
LOOKS BACK.



NO FEAR.
NO DOUBT.
NO HESITATION.



JUST
PRECISION.
AND PURPOSE.

THE INSTALLATION
WAITS.



NOT FOR ANYONE.
ONLY FOR HIM.

D PRAINE

SERVICE SPAN // SECTOR 7
ALTITUDE 4520m

SPAN COLLAPSED.
AUTO-CONSTRUCT
NETWORK: OFFLINE.

GUESS THEY FORGOT
TO ACCOUNT FOR ME.

NO POWER.
NO CREW.
JUST **RESONANCE**.

THAT'S ENOUGH.

RESONANCE
INITIATED.

ANCHOR
ENGAGED.

STRUTS
DEPLOYING.

LOAD-BEARING
SECTIONS
ONLINE.

GYRO-LOCK
STABILIZED.

PATHWAY
ASSEMBLING.

THEY BUILD.

I RUN.

WE BECOME
THE BRIDGE.

THIS ISN'T
JUST A CROSSING.

IT'S A BODY
IN MOTION.

EVERY STEP
A COMMAND.

EVERY BREATH
A TRIGGER.

I DON'T JUST
SURVIVE THIS
WORLD...

I MAKE IT
MOVE.

THEY
BUILT
A PRISON.

I BUILT
A BODY.

WE MOVE.

RESONANCE
ESTABLISHED.

NETWORK
EXPANDING.

THRESHOLD
EXCEEDED.

KLAK

LIFTING
ARRAYS,
ROTATE.

INNER
DOORS,
SEQUENCE.

SHHHK

WHRRRRR

MAGNETIC
ASSEMBLIES,
SHIFT.

THUNK

MAINTENANCE
VEHICLES,
REPOSITION.

VRMMMM

I DON'T
BREAK
THINGS.

KLIK

I BECOME
THE REASON
THEY MOVE.

CLANG

CHUNK

WHIRRRR

ONE
NETWORK.
ONE
BODY.
ONE
PURPOSE.

THOOM

AND IT'S
STILL NOT
ENOUGH.

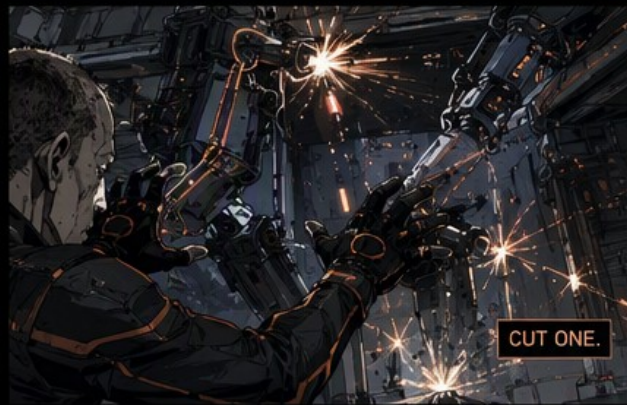
BUT IT'S
MINE.

D PRAINE

RESONANCE LOG: 77.A.12
SUB-LEVEL 9 // THE SPINE

INSTALLATION 7
BIO-PREPARATION
ACTIVE

OBJECTIVE:
DISABLE FEED
STRUCTURES.
PRESERVE ACCESS
AND TERRAIN.



CUT ONE.



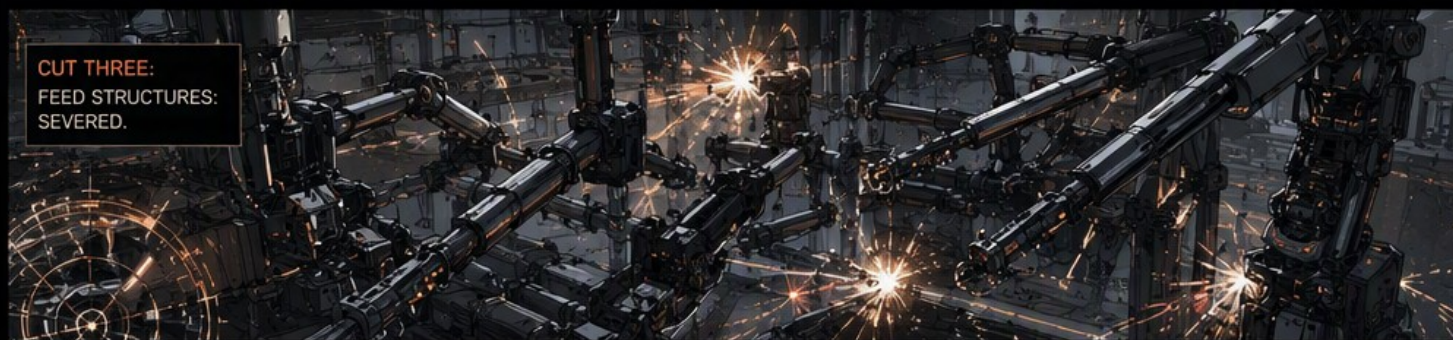
SHIFT.



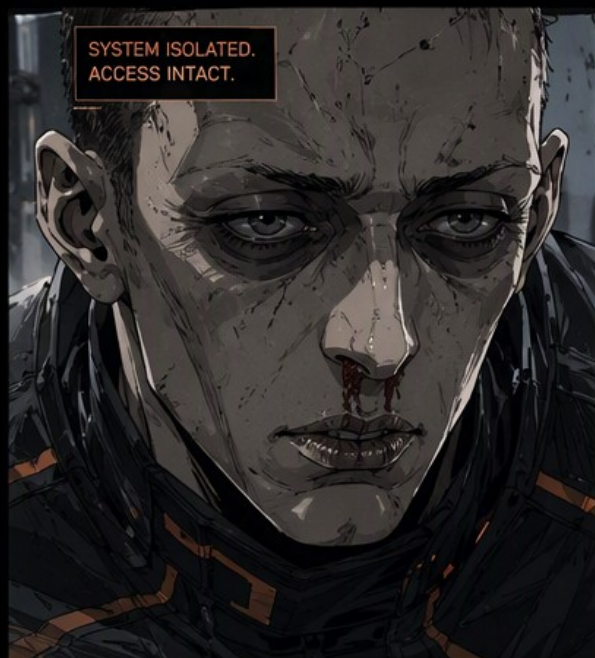
CUT TWO.



AHEAD.



CUT THREE:
FEED STRUCTURES:
SEVERED.



SYSTEM ISOLATED.
ACCESS INTACT.



OPERATIVE KAELEN.
EXTRACTION IMMINENT.

THE ARCHITECT.

A RESOURCE-PROCESSING
ORGANISM, VAST BEYOND
HUMAN SCALE.

NOT BUILT.
GROWN.

NOT ALIVE.
ORGANIZED.

EVERY INTAKE,
EVERY CONDUIT,
EVERY CHAMBER—
PART OF A SYSTEM
WITH NO CENTRAL
COMMAND.

INTAKE STRUCTURES
OPEN.

PALE VASCULAR
CONDUITS FLEX.

MINERAL FRAGMENTS.
WATER.
BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.
INFRASTRUCTURE.

ALL OF IT, DRAWN IN.

KRRRRRRRRMMMMMMM

THAT
SOUND.

OPERATIVE KAELEN.

HE TURNS BEFORE
A THOUGHT FORMS.

PREDATOR
REFLEX.
SURVIVAL
INTEGRATED.

D PRAINE.

HE HEARS THE
AWAKENING
THROUGH
BROKEN
RESONANCE.

FRAGMENTS.
GLIMPSES.
NEVER THE
WHOLE
PATTERN.

I SEE...
ONLY PIECES.

INTAKES.
FLOW. DEPTHS
I CAN'T
MAP.

IT DOESN'T
WAKE TO FIGHT.

IT WAKES TO
PROCESS.

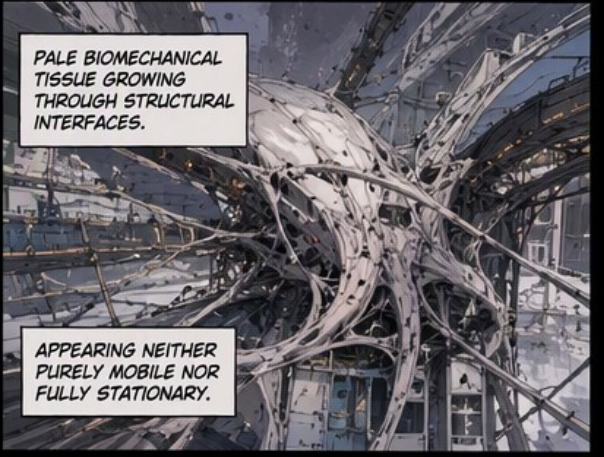
BUT IN ITS
SCALE—
WE ARE THE
DEBRIS.



A VAST ALIEN ARCHITECT
TERRAIN MACHINE.

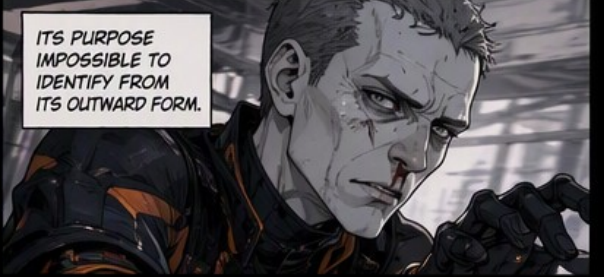
IMMENSE ARTICULATED
STRUCTURES SLOWLY
GRIPPING ROADS,
DRAINAGE CHANNELS,
BRIDGE SUPPORTS AND
UTILITY CORRIDORS.

SUBTLY REDIRECTING
THEIR GEOMETRY INTO
NEW PATHS.



PALE BIOMECHANICAL
TISSUE GROWING
THROUGH STRUCTURAL
INTERFACES.

APPEARING NEITHER
PURELY MOBILE NOR
FULLY STATIONARY.



ITS PURPOSE
IMPOSSIBLE TO
IDENTIFY FROM
ITS OUTWARD FORM.



VIOLENTLY CHANGE
CONFIGURATION
AFTER ITS
SURROUNDING
INFRASTRUCTURE
IS DISRUPTED.

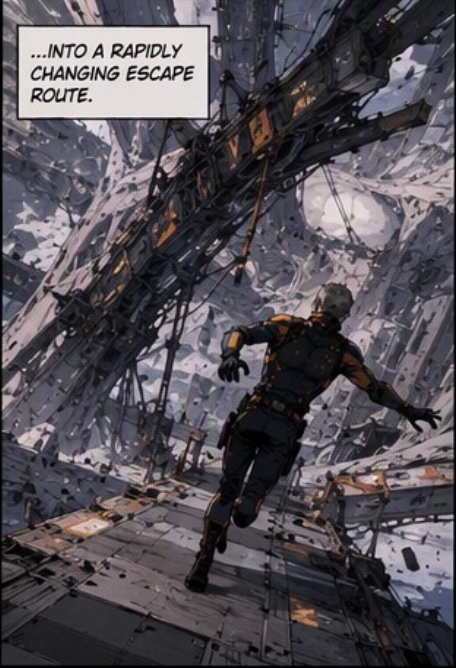
D PRAINE
MOVES ALONG A
COLLAPSING
SERVICE
PLATFORM.



HE REMAINS
IN MOTION,
USING HIS
RESONANCE...



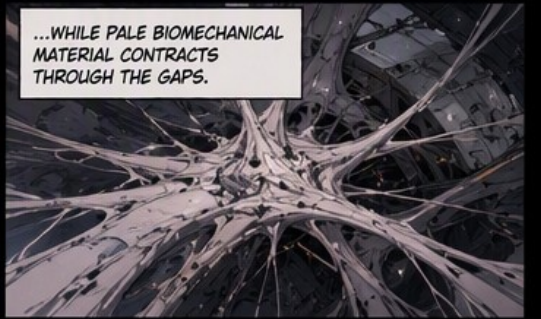
...TO REDIRECT
CRANES AND
SUPPORT SYSTEMS...



...INTO A RAPIDLY
CHANGING ESCAPE
ROUTE.



ARTICULATED STRUCTURES
WRENCHING FREE FROM ROADS
AND RETAINING WALLS...



...WHILE PALE BIOMECHANICAL
MATERIAL CONTRACTS
THROUGH THE GAPS.

HIDDEN INSTALLATION ENTRANCE

COORDINATES:

47.6183° N, 122.2015° W

DEPTH: 1.7 KM



OPERATIVE KAELEN

- > ROLE: SPEAR / ENTRY
- > SPECIALTY: BREACH, SILENT
- > RESONANCE: NULL
- > STATUS: GREEN

KRRNCH



ACCESS PANEL

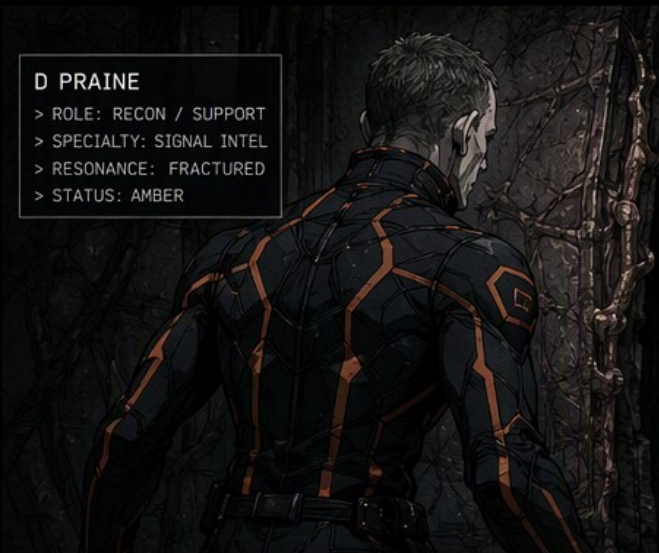
BIO-STRUCTURAL.
LOAD-BEARING.
SEALED.
MASS: 3.2 TONS.



STRUCTURE
COMPROMISED.
ENTRY ACHIEVED.

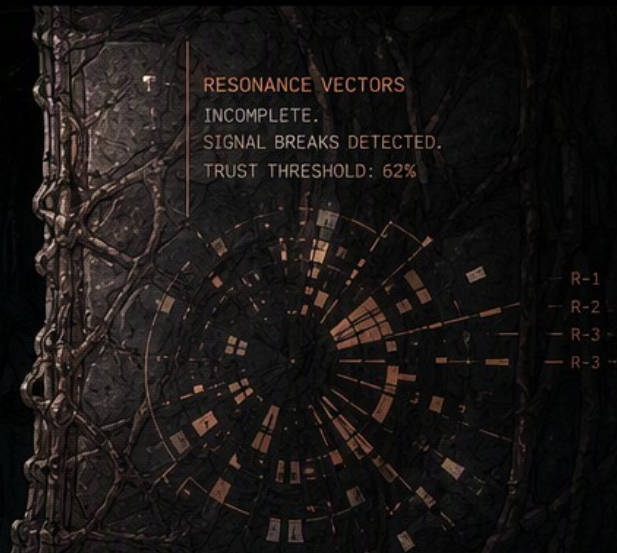
D PRAINE

- > ROLE: RECON / SUPPORT
- > SPECIALTY: SIGNAL INTEL
- > RESONANCE: FRACTURED
- > STATUS: AMBER

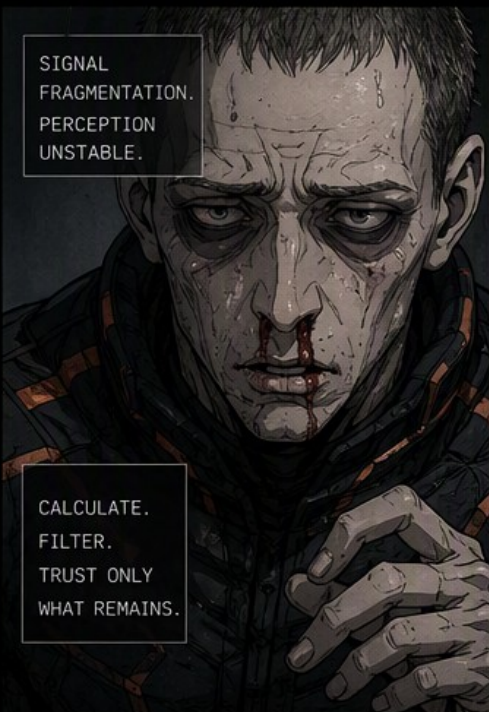


RESONANCE VECTORS

INCOMPLETE.
SIGNAL BREAKS DETECTED.
TRUST THRESHOLD: 62%



SIGNAL
FRAGMENTATION.
PERCEPTION
UNSTABLE.



CALCULATE.
FILTER.
TRUST ONLY
WHAT REMAINS.



FIRST INTERIOR
CHAMBER:
CORRIDOR LOGIC
FRAGMENTED.

LAYOUTS COMPETE.
NONE CONFIRMED.
TRUST: ZERO.

ROUTE A
PROB. 23%

ROUTE B
PROB. 41%

ROUTE D
PROB. 19%

OPERATIVE KAELEN.
LEADS THROUGH
WHAT IS REAL.
ZERO HESITATION.
ZERO WASTE.

PRAINE DOES
NOT FREEZE.
HE CHOOSES.

SIGNAL
CONFLICT.
ADAPT.
MOVE.

REALITY
DONES'T CARE
WHAT YOU
BELIEVE.

IT ONLY
PUNISHES
ERRORS.

OPERATIVE: KAELEN

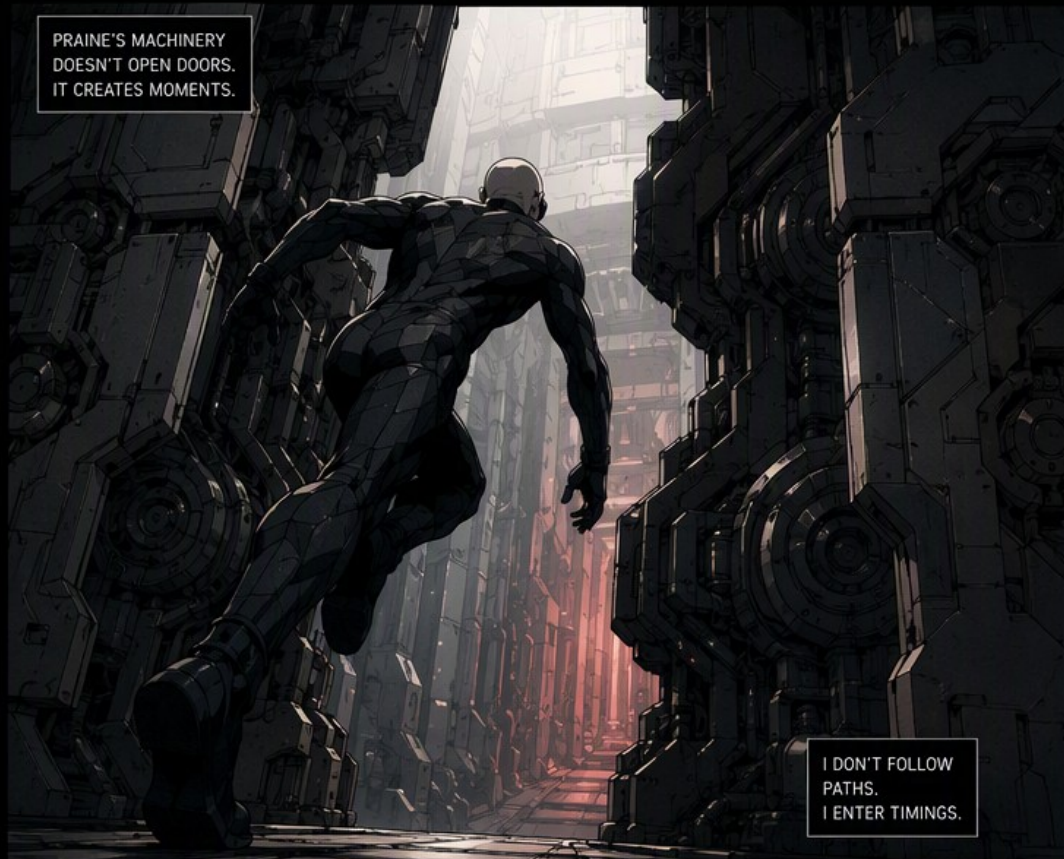
LOCATION: PRAINE INSTALLATION
DEPTH: -1,460 METERS



NO SIGNAL.
NO EM SIGNATURE.
NO LIGHT RETURN.

MOVEMENT IS
THE ONLY LANGUAGE
THAT MATTERS.

PRAINE'S MACHINERY
DOESN'T OPEN DOORS.
IT CREATES MOMENTS.



I DON'T FOLLOW
PATHS.
I ENTER TIMINGS.

THE GAP EXISTS
FOR LESS THAN
ONE SECOND.



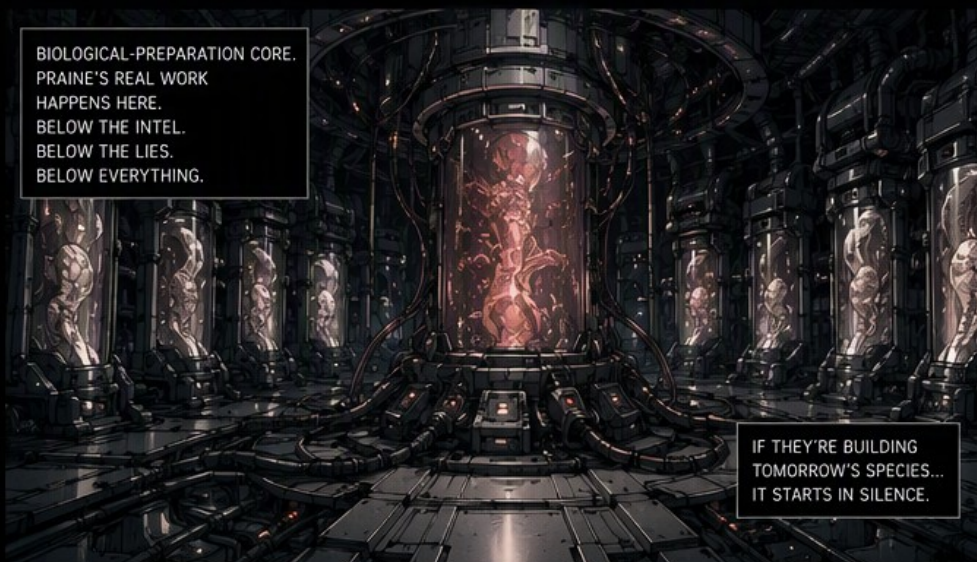
THE INSTANT
AFTER IS FOREVER.

SEALED BEHIND ME.
NO EXFIL.
NO WITNESSES.



JUST THE OBJECTIVE.
AND WHAT IT TOOK
TO GET HERE.

BIOLOGICAL-PREPARATION CORE.
PRAINE'S REAL WORK
HAPPENS HERE.
BELOW THE INTEL.
BELOW THE LIES.
BELOW EVERYTHING.



IF THEY'RE BUILDING
TOMORROW'S SPECIES...
IT STARTS IN SILENCE.



I DIDN'T COME
TO STOP SCIENCE.
I CAME TO SEE
WHAT SHOULDN'T
BE SEEN.

BIOLOGICAL-PREPARATION
CHAMBER 7B.

SUBJECTS: ARCHITECT
INTERCEPTOR-CLASS UNITS.

STATUS: DORMANT.



OPERATIVE: KAELEN.

ASSET CLASS: EXTRANET.

SIGNATURE: NULL.

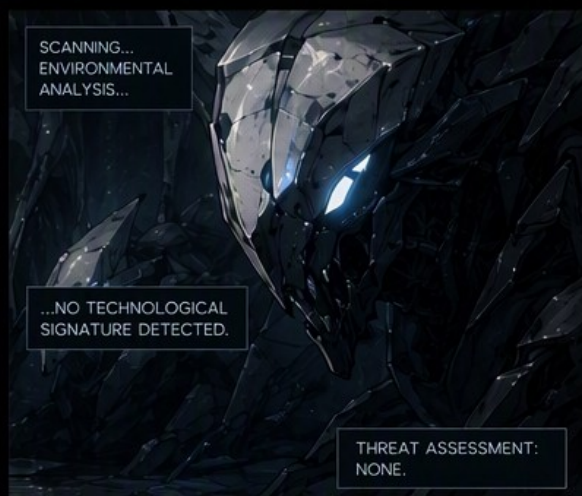
DETECTION: IMPOSSIBLE.



...WAKING SEQUENCE
INITIATED.



SCANNING...
ENVIRONMENTAL
ANALYSIS...



...NO TECHNOLOGICAL
SIGNATURE DETECTED.

THREAT ASSESSMENT:
NONE.

TRACKING FIELDS
ONLINE...



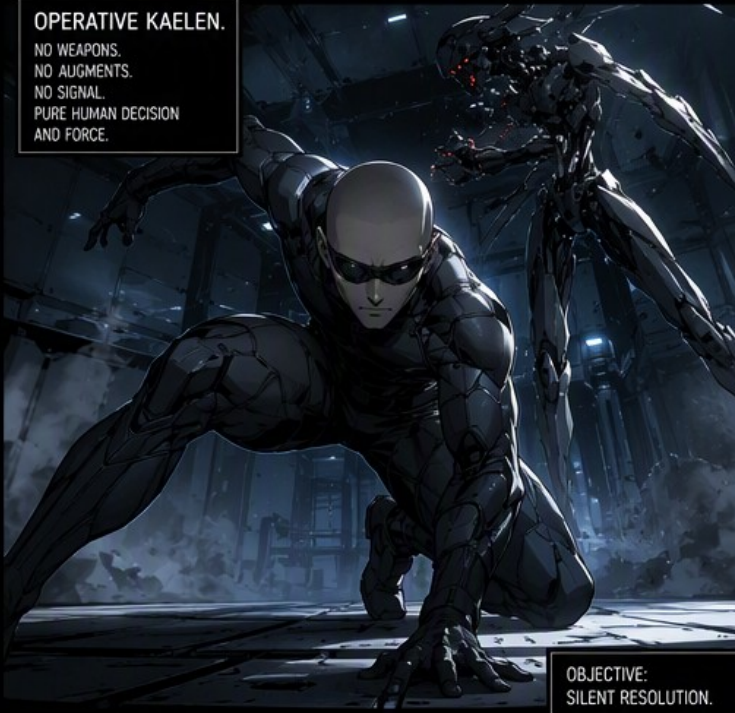
...COORDINATE
EXTRAPOLATION...



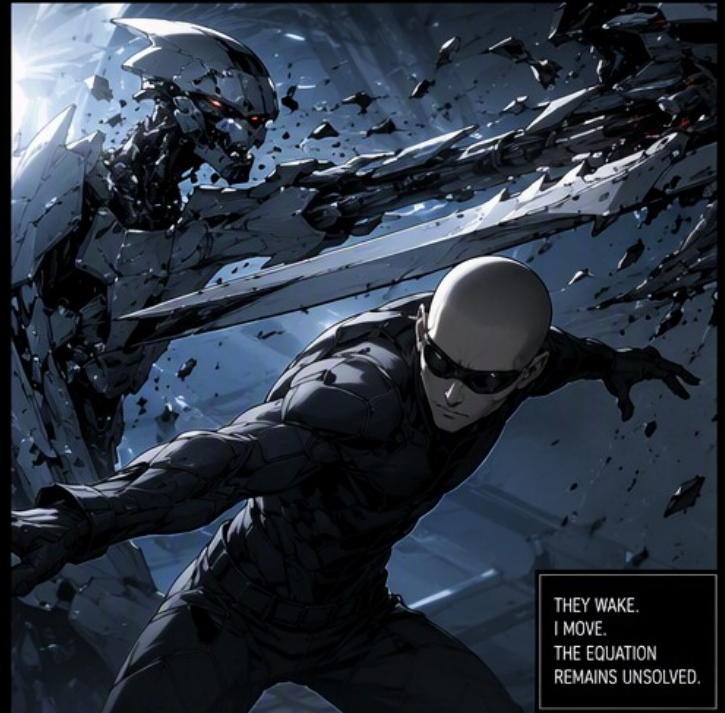
ERROR.
NO COORDINATES
AVAILABLE.

OPERATIVE KAELEN.

NO WEAPONS.
NO AUGMENTS.
NO SIGNAL.
PURE HUMAN DECISION
AND FORCE.



OBJECTIVE:
SILENT RESOLUTION.



THEY WAKE.
I MOVE.
THE EQUATION
REMAINS UNSOLVED.

INTAKE JOINT.
STRUCTURAL CORE.
ONE ENTRY.
TOTAL FAILURE.



THE BODY
REMEMBERS
WHAT THE MIND
REFUSES TO
EXPLAIN.

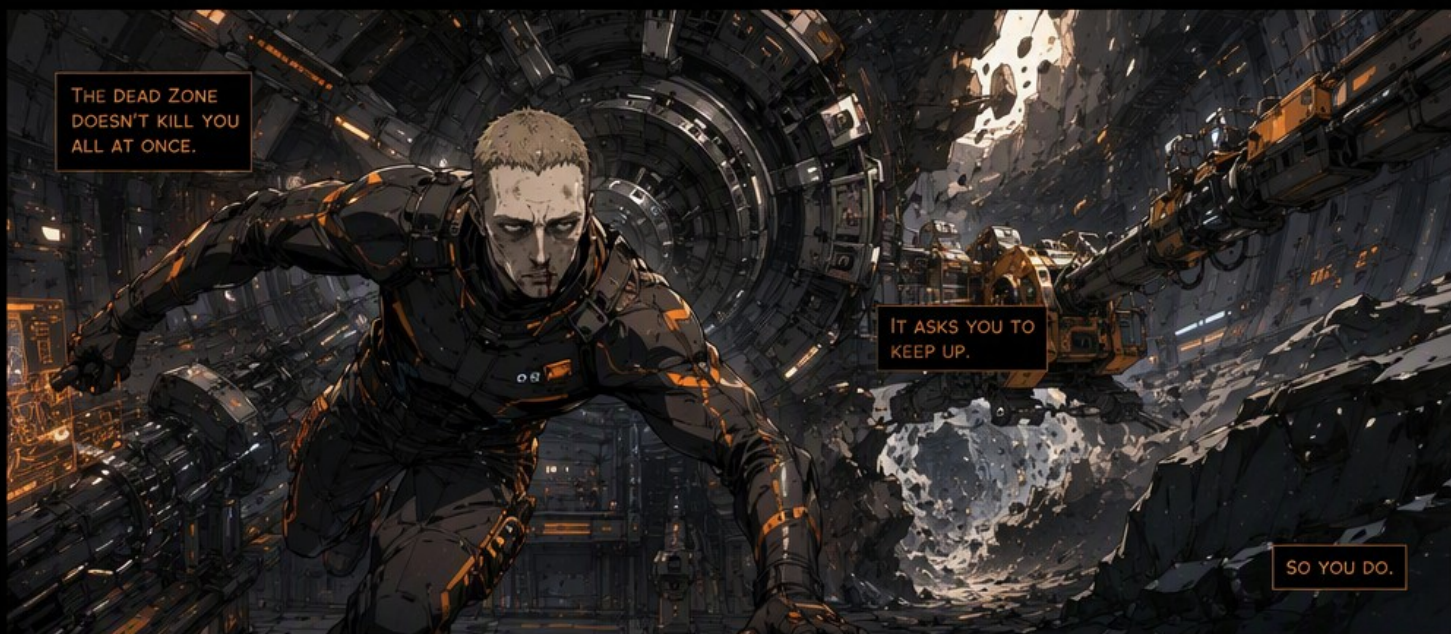


USE EVERYTHING.
LEAVE NOTHING.



NO ALARMS.
NO WITNESSES.
ONLY RESULTS.

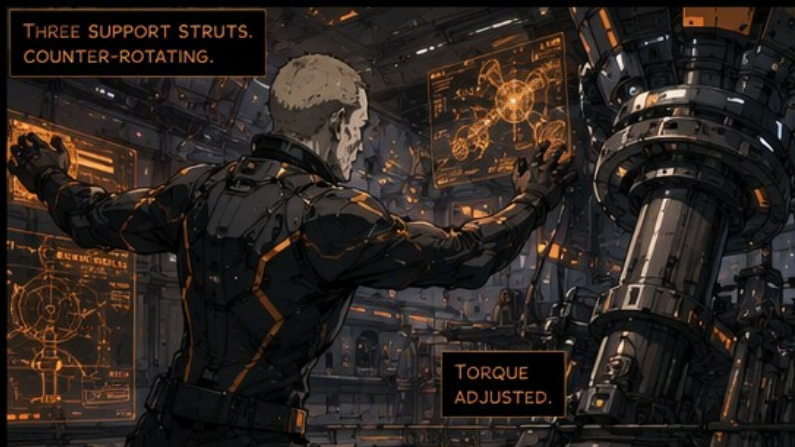
THE ARCHITECTS
BUILT PERFECTION.
THEY NEVER ACCOUNTED
FOR HUMAN WILL.



THE DEAD ZONE
DOESN'T KILL YOU
ALL AT ONCE.

IT ASKS YOU TO
KEEP UP.

SO YOU DO.

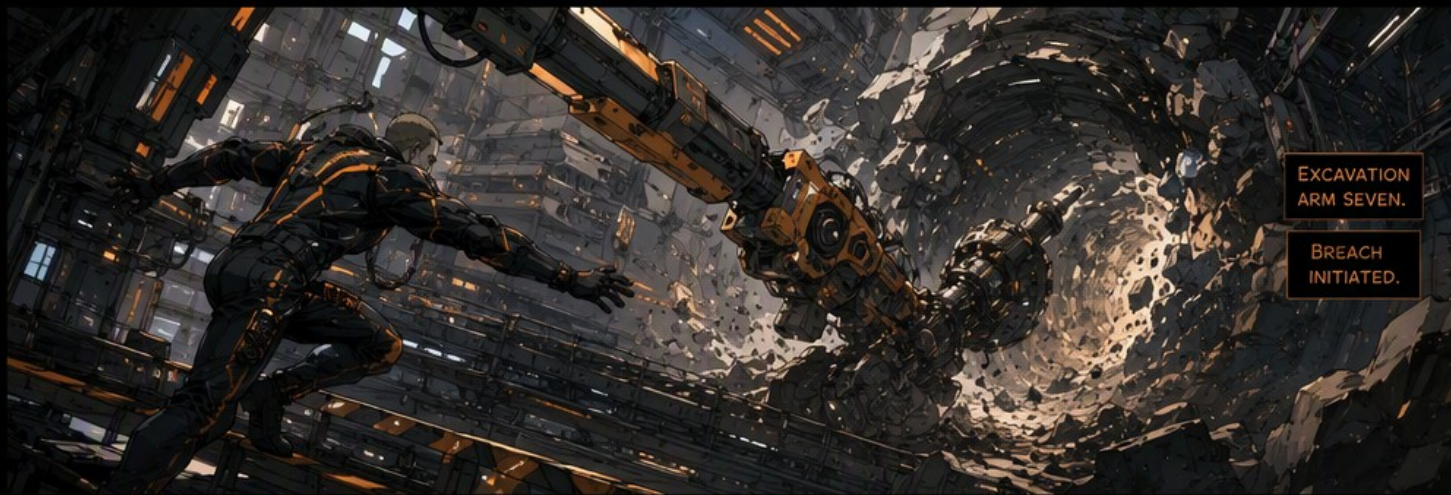


THREE SUPPORT STRUTS.
COUNTER-ROTATING.

TORQUE
ADJUSTED.



PRESSURE FEED
ONLINE.



EXCAVATION
ARM SEVEN.

BREACH
INITIATED.



EVERY SYSTEM
A LIMB.

EVERY FEEDBACK LOOP
A NERVE.



THEY DON'T OBEY.

THEY RESPOND.



OUT HERE,
THERE IS NO
"STAND APART."

THERE IS ONLY
BECOME PART.

D PRAINE
DEAD ZONE OPERATIVE

OPERATIVE
KAELN

HOLDING
PHYSICAL
OPENING

KCHHUNK

D PRAINE

RESONANCE
FRAGMENTED.
SYNCHRONIZING
LAYER ONE.

LAYER TWO.
POWER
GRID
LINK
ESTABLISHED.

カッ
ッ
ッ

KRRZT

LAYER THREE.
NEURAL
INTERFACE
PARTIAL.
FEEDBACK
ACQUIRED.

THM-

LAYER FOUR.
MEMORY
CORE
STABILIZING.

VNNNN

YOU'RE
NOT CLEVER,
PRAINE.

YOU'RE JUST
STUBBORN.
THAT'S
ENOUGH.

KAELN MAINTAINS
STRUCTURAL OPENING.
ZERO LIGHT.
ZERO INTERFERENCE.
ZERO MERCY.

LAYER FIVE.
BIOSYNAPTIC
OVERRIDE.
ACCESS
GRANTED.

KLIK

THE CHAMBER
RECOGNIZES HIM.
THE SYSTEM
DOES NOT.

DEAD ZONE PERIMETER

SUBSTATION 7B // SURVIVING NODE

THE DEAD ZONE
DOESN'T KILL YOU.
IT UNMAKES
EVERYTHING YOU
CAN'T CONTROL.



CONTROL IS
SURVIVAL.

SUBSTATION 7B - EM FIELD REDIRECTION



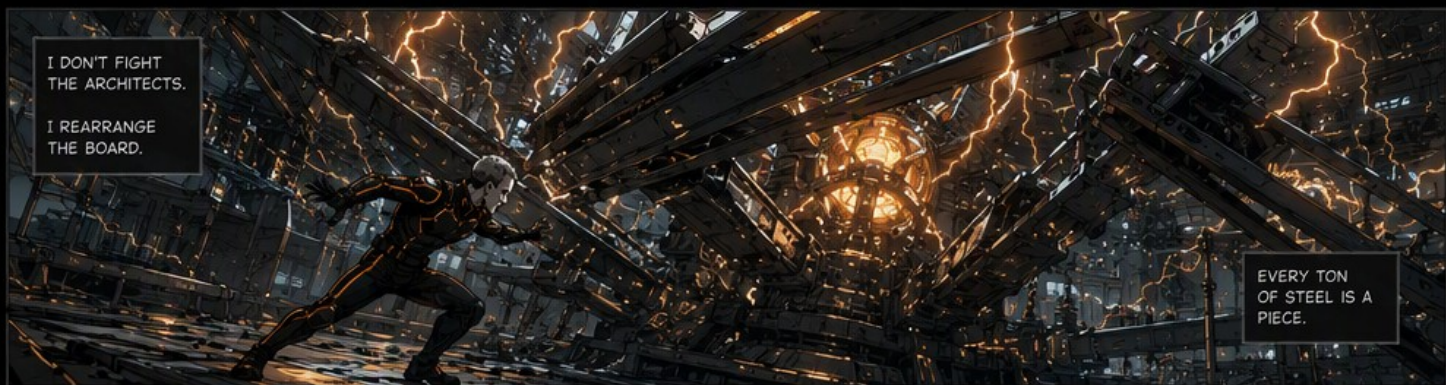
INPUT LOAD: EXTREME

FIELD COHESION: 92.7%

ARCHITECT INTERFERENCE: ADAPTIVE

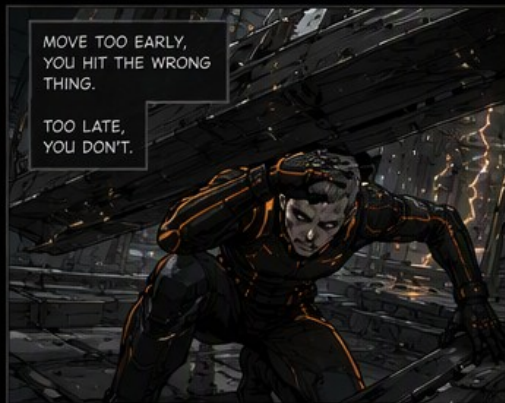
STABILITY WINDOW:
00.03.7

I DON'T FIGHT
THE ARCHITECTS.
I REARRANGE
THE BOARD.

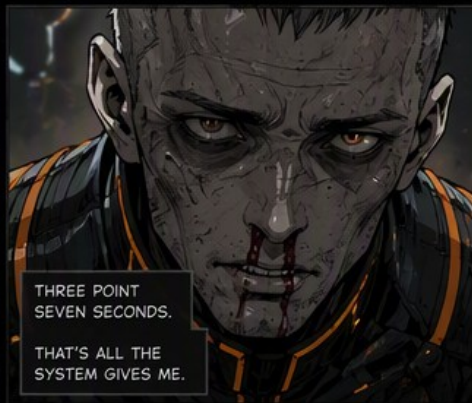


EVERY TON
OF STEEL IS A
PIECE.

MOVE TOO EARLY,
YOU HIT THE WRONG
THING.
TOO LATE,
YOU DON'T.



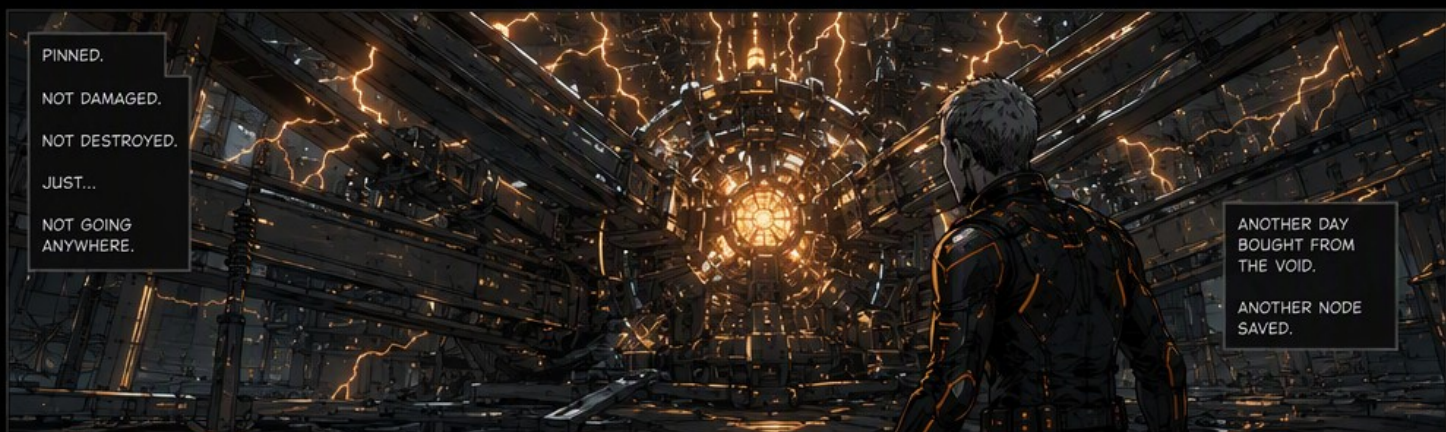
THREE POINT
SEVEN SECONDS.
THAT'S ALL THE
SYSTEM GIVES ME.



I TAKE WHAT
IT GIVES.



PINNED.
NOT DAMAGED.
NOT DESTROYED.
JUST...
NOT GOING
ANYWHERE.



ANOTHER DAY
BOUGHT FROM
THE VOID.
ANOTHER NODE
SAVED.

D PRAINE

THE DATA DEAD ZONE
IS FLUCTUATING VIOLENTLY.
THE INSTALLATION
IS LOSING STABILITY.

DATA DEAD ZONE
RESONANCE VECTOR COLLAPSE

DATA DEAD ZONE

DATA DEAD ZONE

D PRAINE.

...COLLAPSE.

THE SIGNAL IS NEVER
TRULY GONE.

HIS VECTORS—FRAGMENTED.
COLLAPSED INTO NEAR-NONREPEATING
FRAGMENTS.
BUT NEVER GONE.

...REAPPEAR.

ONLY DANGEROUSLY
UNRELIABLE.

HE STUMBLES ONE STEP.
CATCHES HIMSELF.

TCH!

BRACES
AGAINST
STEEL.

....THEN
CONTINUES.

OPERATIVE KAELEN.
HE DOES NOT MOVE...

...HE BECOMES
THE ANCHOR.

A LEAN, INCREDIBLY DENSE
MAN BUILT LIKE A GREYHOUND.

HE BRACES THE FAILING
STRUCTURAL SECTION—

—LONG ENOUGH...

...FOR D PRAINE
TO REACH THE
NEXT SYSTEM.

THE INSTALLATION GROANS.
THE SIGNAL FRACTURES.
BUT THE THREAD ENDURES.

THE MISSION CONTINUES.

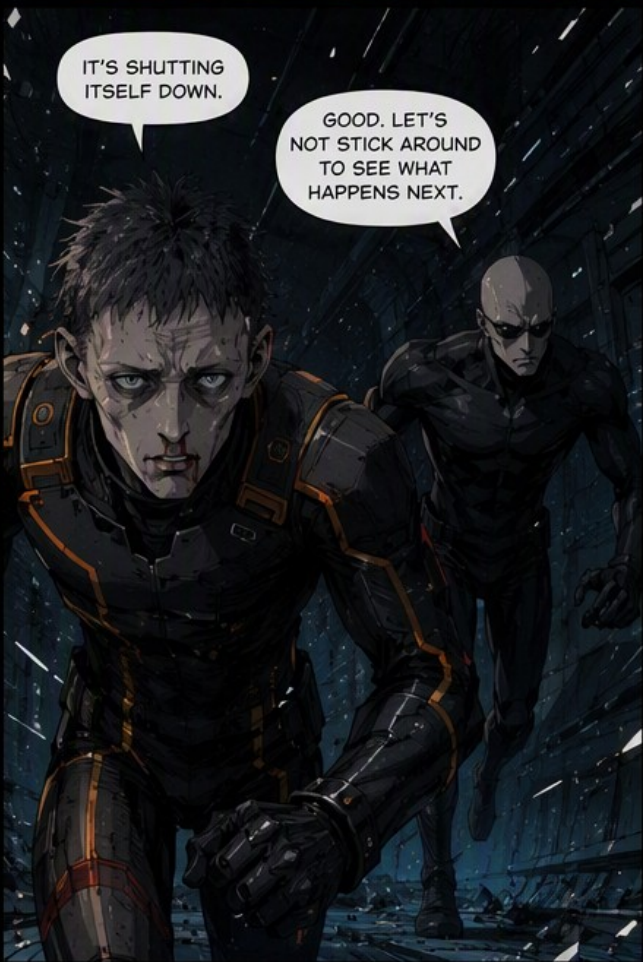


BIOLOGICAL CONDUITS:
RETRACTING.

SYSTEM PURPOSE:
TERMINATED.



STRUCTURAL LOCKS:
RELEASING SEQUENCE.



IT'S SHUTTING
ITSELF DOWN.

GOOD. LET'S
NOT STICK AROUND
TO SEE WHAT
HAPPENS NEXT.



EVERYTHING
IN HERE...

...WAS JUST
FOLLOWING ORDERS.



SUBSYSTEMS:
POWERING DOWN.

CLUNK-



THIS PLACE IS
NO LONGER A WEAPON.
IT'S JUST... NOTHING.

D PRAINE
//RESONANCE OPERATIVE

OPERATIVE KAELEN
//SHADOW ZERO

BLACKRIDGE ARRAY
ALTITUDE: 7,812m
GRID: 77.8841° N, 38.4156° E

...RESONANCE
STABILIZING.
EXITING DEAD
ZONE GRADIENT.

...SIGNATURES
DEAD.
STRUCTURE
COLLAPSING.
EXFIL WINDOW:
NARROW.

HOLD IT
TOGETHER,
D.

JUST LONG
ENOUGH.

RESONANCE
FEEDBACK

67%

NO COMMS.
NO TRACK.
NO TRACE.

ONLY
OBSERVATION.

GOODBYE,
BLACKRIDGE.

YOU'LL
STAY BURIED.

THE WORLD
IS STILL
BROKEN.

LET'S GO
FIX IT.

TOGETHER.

Highpoint Relay Installation

// Eastern Approach

09:43 LOCAL

KRAA-THOOM

STRUCTURAL
INTEGRITY
COMPROMISED!

EVACUATE!
EVACUATE!

MOVE!
DON'T LOOK BACK!

GET TO THE
NORTH RIDGE!

CINDER!

LOOK OUT!

I'M GOOD.

NEXT GROUP!

YOU! MEDIC!
TAKE THE INJURED!
GO!

STAY TO THE LEFT!
WATCH THE EDGE!
KEEP MOVING!

SECTOR DELTA
SUB-STRUCTURE
COLLAPSE IMMINENT!

T-MINUS 90 SECONDS!

THE MOUNTAIN
INSTALLATION
IS SILENT.



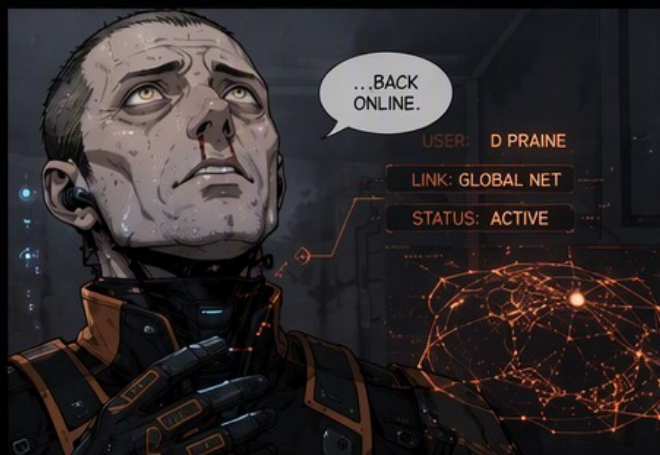
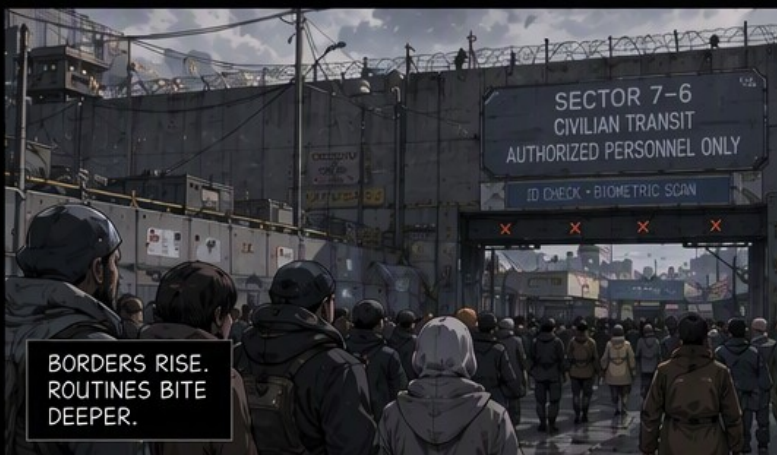
BUT THE WORLD
DOES NOT STOP.

COASTAL DEFENSES
TRACK SHADOWS
THEY CANNOT ID.



 AERIAL PRESENCE DETECTED
VECTOR UNKNOWN
ALT. 38,000+ M

BORDERS RISE.
ROUTINES BITE
DEEPER.



AND ABOVE IT ALL—
SOMETHING OLDER
THAN WAR—WAITS.



SOME FIGHT.
SOME FALL.



THIS IS NOT THE END OF THE WAR.