

D PRAINE

CHILDREN OF THE RESEARCH CAMPUS

STORY & ART BY ROACH

The sky remembers.
The city forgets.



定価600円 本体571円

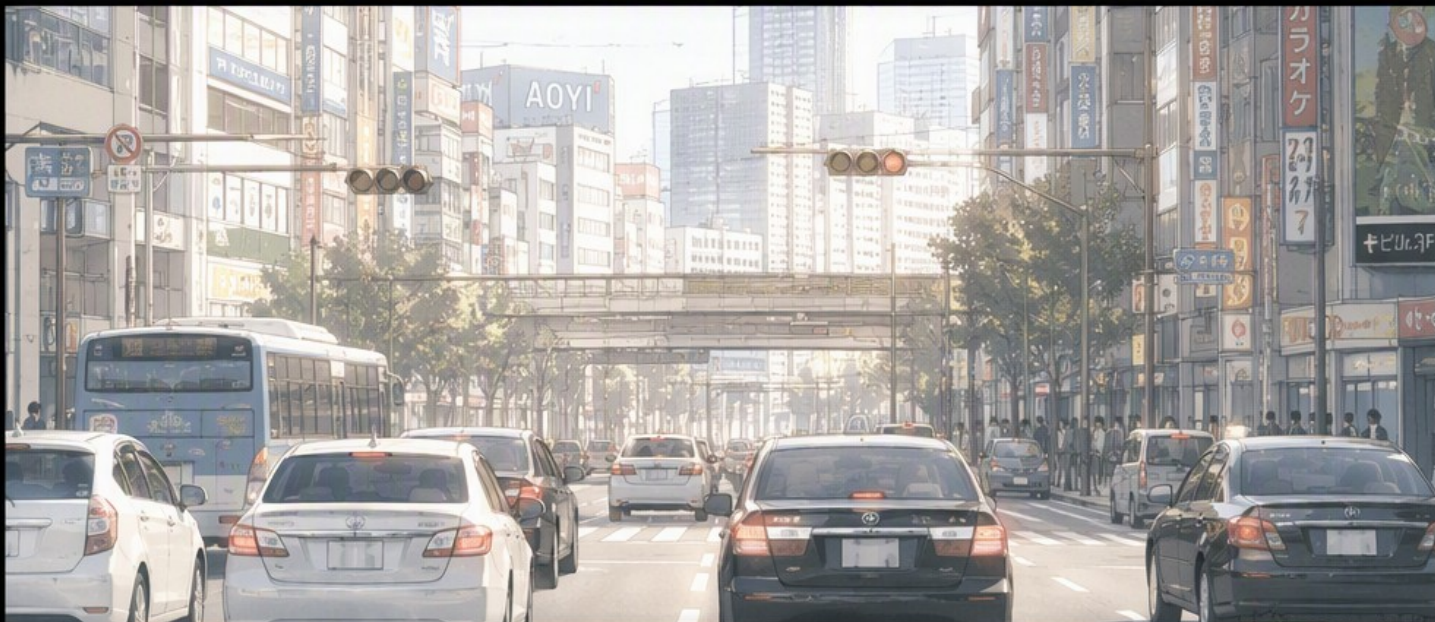
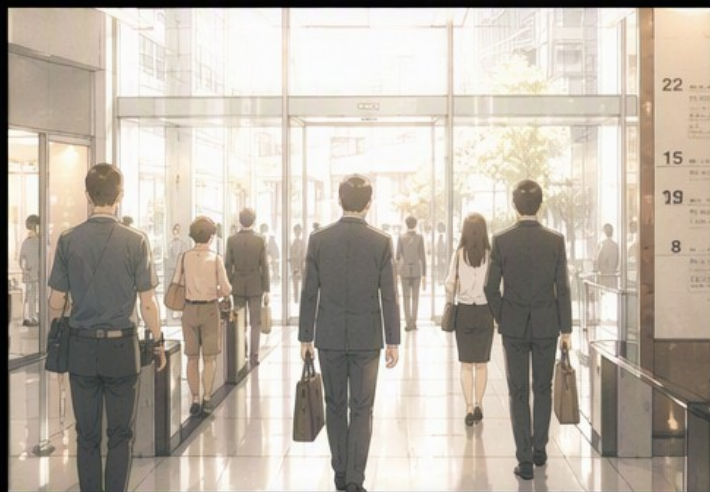


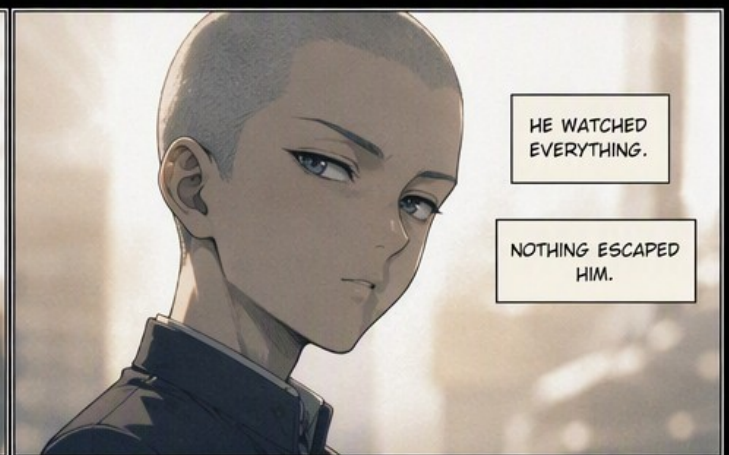
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D・プライネ
D PRAINE

カーレン
KAELEN







TWO CHILDREN.
ONE MEMORY.

ONE WOULD FORGET.
ONE WOULD REMEMBER EVERYTHING.

THIS IS WHERE
IT BEGAN.

SIX YEARS LATER.

THE CITY OF EDRIS.
WARD RESEARCH CAMPUS.
DISCREET. INTEGRATED.
FORGOTTEN BY DESIGN.



YOU'RE BOTH
CLEARLY BRIGHT.
THAT'S WHY
YOU'RE HERE.
THIS INSTITUTE
EXISTS TO SHAPE
THAT POTENTIAL
INTO PURPOSE.

NOT JUST
INTELLECT—BUT
DISCIPLINE.



EVERY CORRIDOR.
EVERY ROOM.
EVERY GARDEN.
EVERY SILENCE.

ALL OF IT IS
DESIGNED TO
REMINDE YOU
WHY YOU'RE
HERE.

KNOWLEDGE
WITHOUT
DIRECTION
IS NO BETTER
THAN POWER
WITHOUT
RESTRAINT.
— ELIAS WARD



THERE ARE
THINGS IN THIS
WORLD THAT MOST
PEOPLE WILL NEVER
SEE. YOU MAY BE
ASKED TO FACE
SOME OF THEM.



WE WON'T
PRETEND IT WILL
BE EASY.
BUT YOU WON'T
BE ALONE.



EARN TRUST.
KEEP IT.
THAT'S HOW
WE ENDURE.

INSTITUTE FOR NEUROLOGICAL STUDIES
SECTOR 7, BAY 12
APRIL 17

DR. MARA CHEN

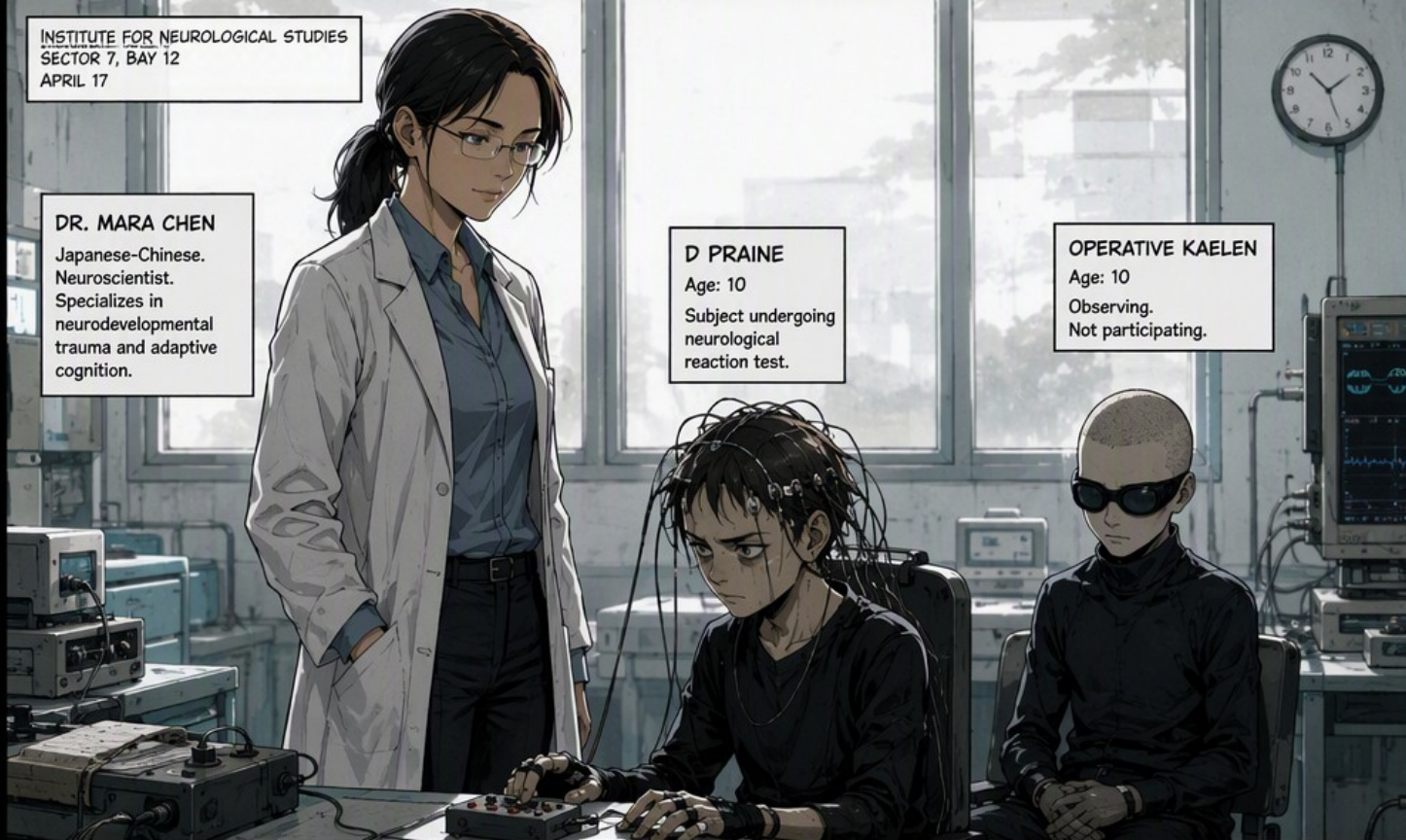
Japanese-Chinese.
Neuroscientist.
Specializes in
neurodevelopmental
trauma and adaptive
cognition.

D PRAINE

Age: 10
Subject undergoing
neurological
reaction test.

OPERATIVE KAELEN

Age: 10
Observing.
Not participating.



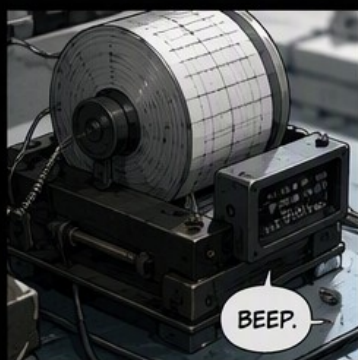
REMEMBER,
DPRAINE. WHEN
YOU HEAR THE
TONE, PRESS
THE BUTTON.

YES,
DOCTOR.

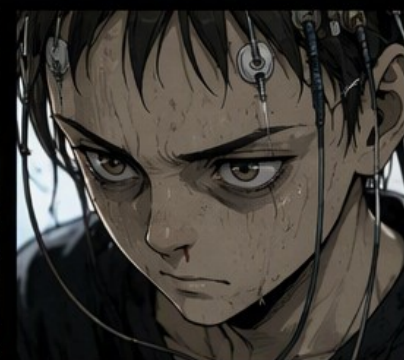


KAELEN,
PLEASE MONITOR
AND NOTE ANY
IRREGULARITIES.

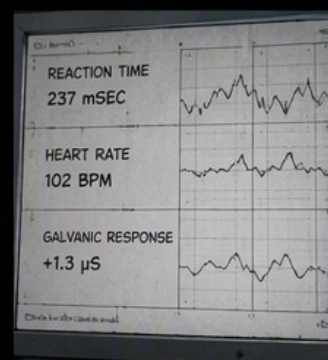
UNDERSTOOD.



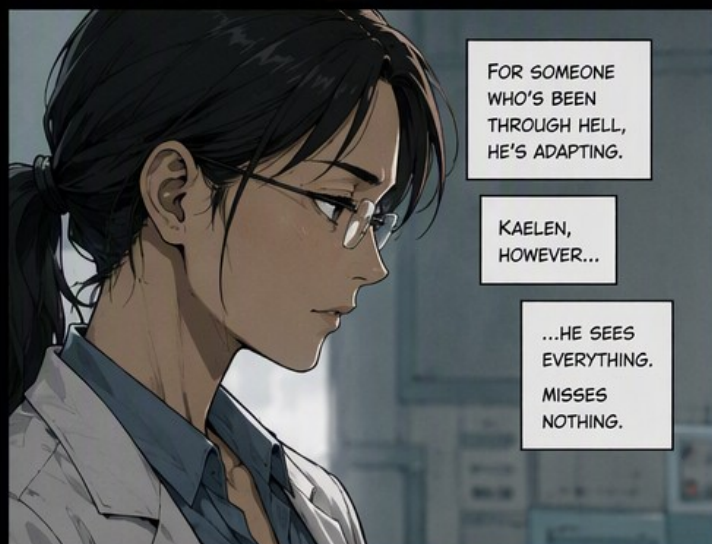
BEEP.



KLICK.



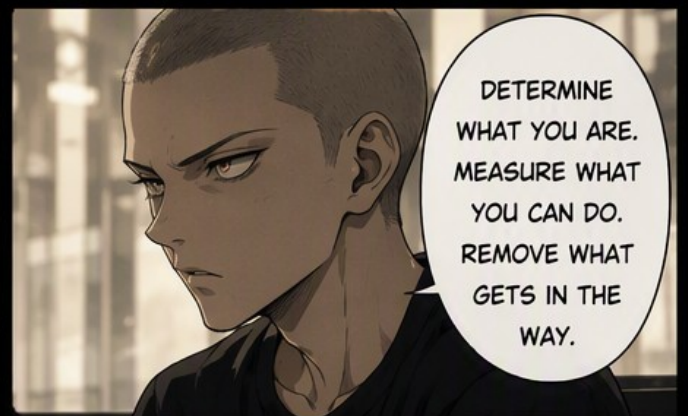
GOOD.
CONSISTENT.
FOCUS IS
STABLE.



FOR SOMEONE
WHO'S BEEN
THROUGH HELL,
HE'S ADAPTING.

KAELEN,
HOWEVER...

...HE SEES
EVERYTHING.
MISSES
NOTHING.



IN THE SILENCE BETWEEN QUESTIONS,
THE DIFFERENCE IS ALREADY CLEAR.

PROJECT: FALCON
RESIDENTIAL WING
RECOVERY ROOM 3
10:42 AM

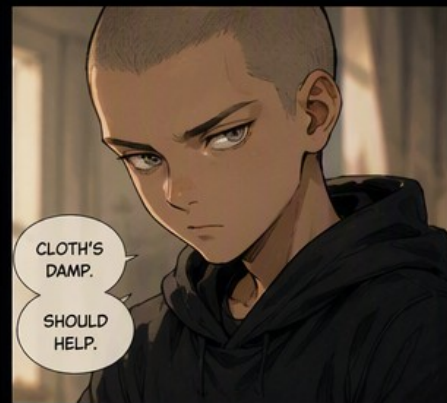
LET'S TAKE
A LOOK, CHAMP.

THEY CALL IT
A RESEARCH
CAMPUS.

MOST DAYS,
IT FEELS MORE
LIKE HOME.

I'M FINE,
NURSE MORALES.

STILL.
YOU'RE NOT.



SECTION 7, TECHNICAL
DEVELOPMENT LABORATORY
(UNCONVENTIONAL SYSTEMS)

06 MAY, 14:32

YOUR TOLERANCE
STACK IS DRIFTING.

CHECK THE
BEARING SEAT.

YOU DON'T
NEED TO FORCE
IT. ALIGNMENT
BEFORE
PRESSURE.

PRECISION
ISN'T STRENGTH.
IT'S DISCIPLINE.

D PRAINE
AGE: 10

OPERATIVE
KAELEN
AGE: 10

BET THIS?

SEE THE
GAP? THAT'S
WHERE THE
VIBRATION
WILL START.

IF WE SHIFT
THE SPACER
BY 0.2, THE
LOAD PATH
CLEARS.

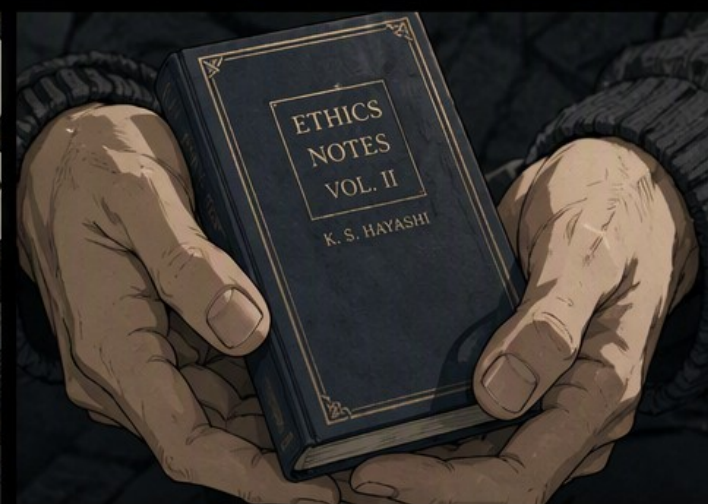
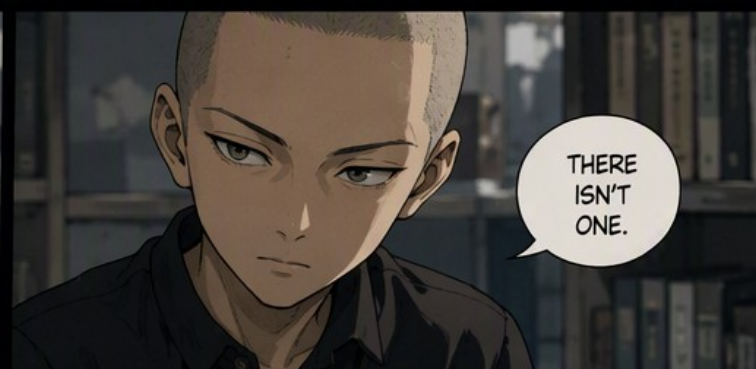
GOOD.
NOW LOCK
IT IN WITHOUT
DISTURBING THE
PRELOAD.

REMEMBER—
SYSTEMS DON'T
FAIL ALL AT ONCE.
THEY COMPROMISE
IN SMALL,
SILENT WAYS.

YOUR JOB IS
TO NOTICE WHAT
OTHERS MISS.

DISCRETION
IS SURVIVAL.

INTELLIGENCE
IS A TOOL.
JUDGMENT
IS A WEAPON.



10:17 A.M.

WE'VE BEEN
RUNNING THE SAME
PROTOCOLS ON
BOTH OF THEM.

THAT'S
A MISTAKE.

THE DATA
SEEMS CONSISTENT
ACROSS THE BOARD,
SIR.

CONSISTENT
ISN'T THE GOAL,
ELIAS.

OUR GOAL
ISN'T TO SEE WHICH
ONE CAN SURVIVE
THE PROGRAM.

IT'S TO FIND OUT
WHAT EACH OF THEM
CAN ACTUALLY
BECOME.

YOU'RE SAYING
THEY'RE NOT
THE SAME
TYPE?

I'M SAYING
THEY'RE NOT
THE SAME
PROBLEM.

D PRAINE IS
ADAPTIVE. HE'S
RESOURCEFUL.
CHAOTIC.

HE'LL BREAK,
BEND, AND SURVIVE
AROUND THE SYSTEM.

HE NEEDS
FLEXIBILITY.

KAELEN ISN'T
LIKE THAT.

HE'S
STRUCTURE.
PRECISION.
FOCUS.

PRESSURE
DOESN'T BREAK
HIM. IT SHARPENS
HIM.

HE NEEDS
DIRECTION.

D PRAINE
SUBJECT 07-D

ADAPTIVE INDEX: S+
COMPLIANCE: LOW
POTENTIAL: UNDEFINED

KAELEN
SUBJECT 07-K

ADAPTIVE INDEX: A
COMPLIANCE: HIGH
POTENTIAL: EXCEPTIONAL

TREATING THEM
THE SAME ISN'T
EFFICIENT.

IT'S A WASTE.

UNDERSTOOD.

I'LL ADJUST
THE FRAMEWORK.

RECRUITMENT
PROGRAM
YEAR 1, CYCLE 7
PARTNER TRIALS

07
SECTION
7-B

OBJECTIVE:
NAVIGATE SECTION 7-B
AS A PAIR.

RULES:
NO VERBAL COMMUNICATION.
TRUST. OBSERVE. ADAPT.

D PRAINE.
SPATIAL REASONING.
PATTERN RECOGNITION.
SOLVES PATHWAYS.

KAELEN.
MOVEMENT PRECISION.
PHYSICAL INTUITION.
EXECUTES THE IMPOSSIBLE.

MOVES WITHOUT
WASTE. WITHOUT
HESITATION.

SEES THE SOLUTION
BEFORE THE BODY
CAN MOVE.

7-B



WELL DONE.

NO WORDS.
NO SIGNALS.
JUST UNDERSTANDING.

THE FIRST THREAD
OF A LIFELONG BOND.

CYCLE 7 COMPLETE.

THE RESEARCH
CAMPUS WAS
DESIGNED FOR
QUIET.

TO CONTROL
VARIABLES.

TO REMOVE
DISTRACTIONS.

SECTION
7-Δ

WE WERE
NEVER SUPPOSED
TO BE CHILDREN
HERE.

AND YET—

LOOK.

IT DIDN'T FLY
AWAY.

FOR A FEW SECONDS,
WE WERE JUST TWO
BOYS WATCHING
A BIRD.

NOT A PROJECT.
NOT A VARIABLE.

JUST... BOYS.

SUBJECT OBSERVATION LOG
NEURAL EXPERIMENT 17-A

DAY 12
HOUR 04

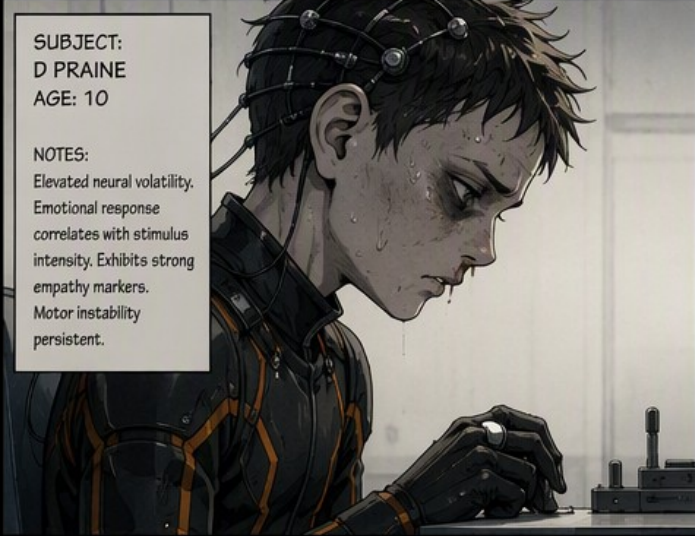
*"We do not observe
to judge.
We observe
to understand.
Understanding is
the only true leverage."*

– Project Director A.



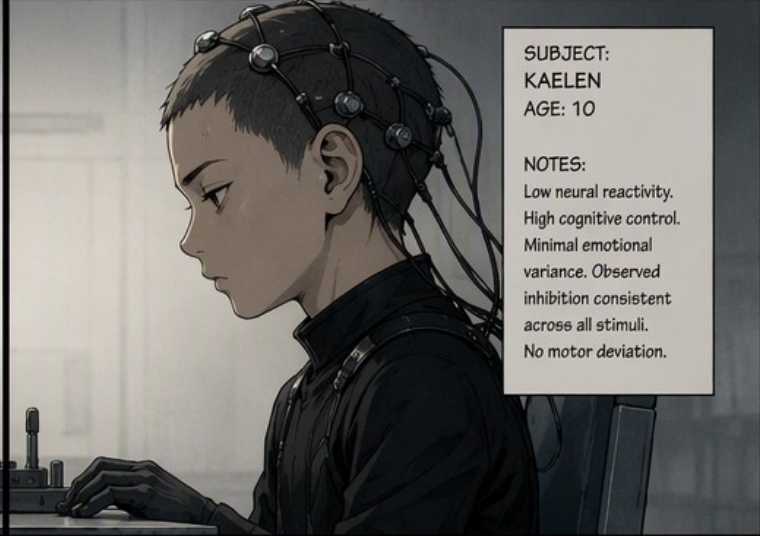
SUBJECTS SHOW
DISTINCT NEURAL
ADAPTATION PATTERNS.

DPRINE IS HIGHLY
REACTIVE. KAELEN
REMAINS UNFLUCTUATING.



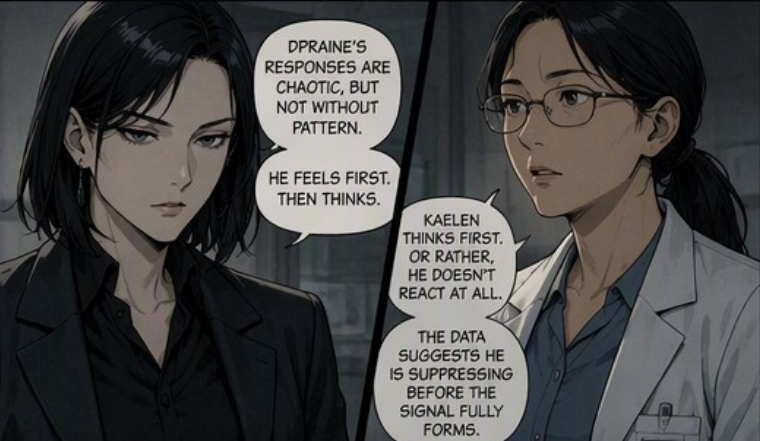
SUBJECT:
D PRAINE
AGE: 10

NOTES:
Elevated neural volatility.
Emotional response
correlates with stimulus
intensity. Exhibits strong
empathy markers.
Motor instability
persistent.



SUBJECT:
KAELEN
AGE: 10

NOTES:
Low neural reactivity.
High cognitive control.
Minimal emotional
variance. Observed
inhibition consistent
across all stimuli.
No motor deviation.



DPRINE'S
RESPONSES ARE
CHAOTIC, BUT
NOT WITHOUT
PATTERN.

HE FEELS FIRST.
THEN THINKS.

KAELEN
THINKS FIRST.
OR RATHER,
HE DOESN'T
REACT AT ALL.

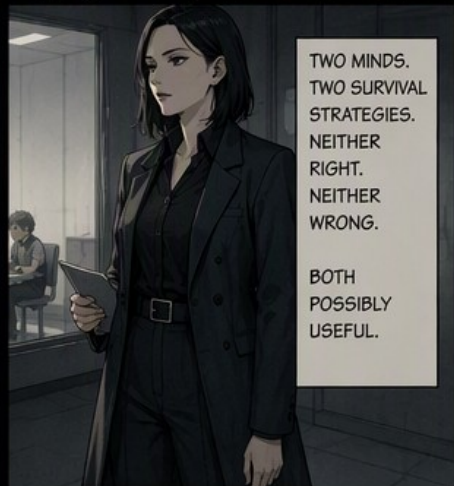
THE DATA
SUGGESTS HE
IS SUPPRESSING
BEFORE THE
SIGNAL FULLY
FORMS.



DPRINE
HE WANTS TO
UNDERSTAND.
THE WORLD
OVERWHELMS
HIM, BUT HE
REACHES
ANYWAY.



KAELEN
HE DOES NOT
WANT. HE
CALCULATES.
DISTANCE IS
HIS DEFAULT
STATE.

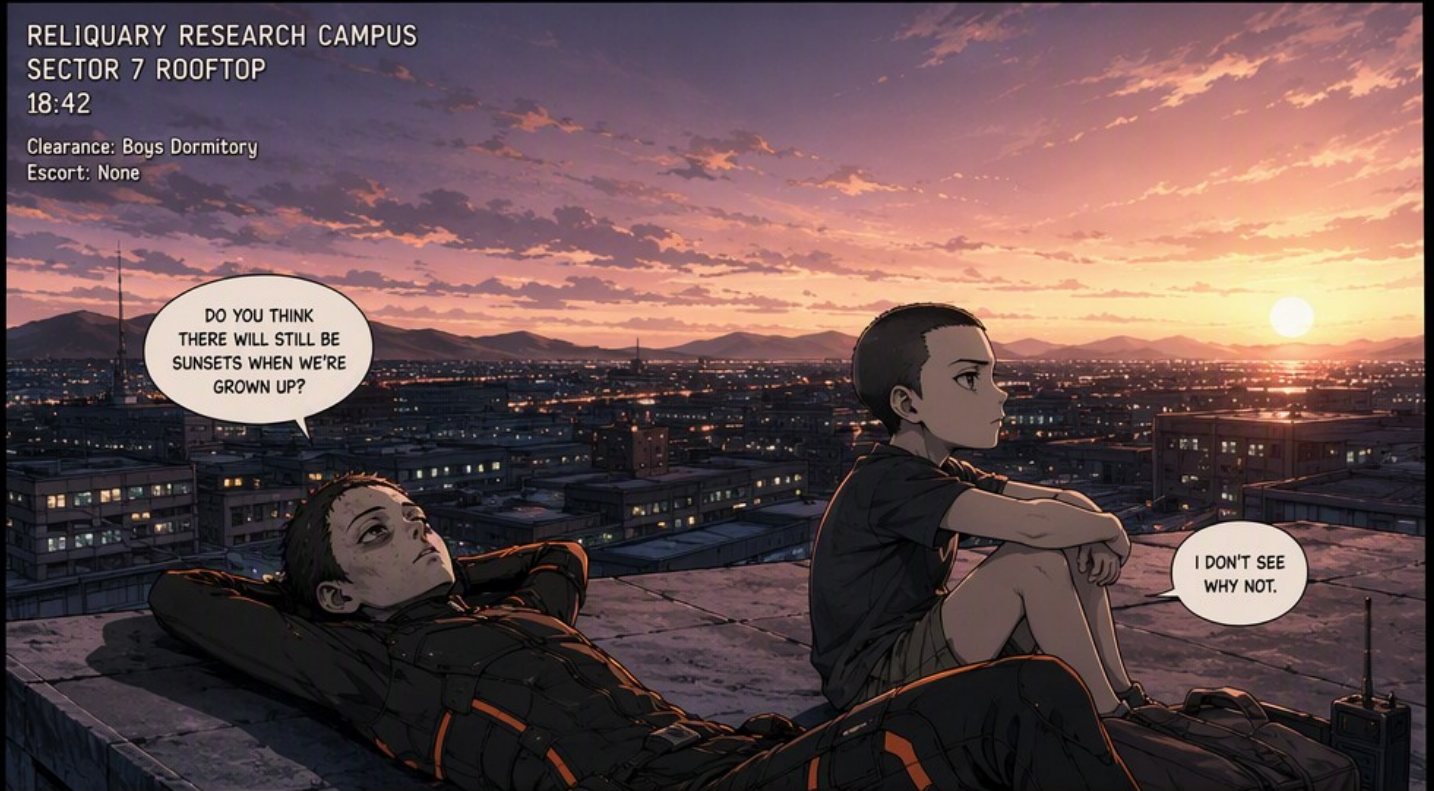


TWO MINDS.
TWO SURVIVAL
STRATEGIES.
NEITHER
RIGHT.
NEITHER
WRONG.

BOTH
POSSIBLY
USEFUL.

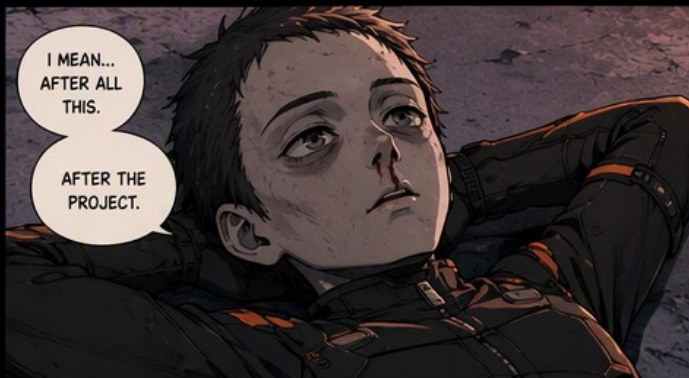
RELIQUARY RESEARCH CAMPUS
SECTOR 7 ROOFTOP
18:42

Clearance: Boys Dormitory
Escort: None



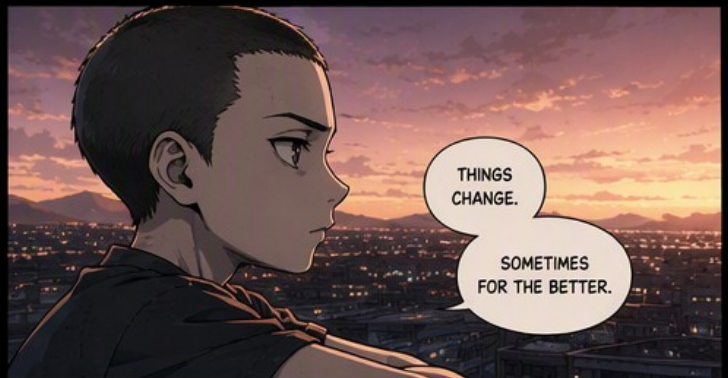
DO YOU THINK
THERE WILL STILL BE
SUNSETS WHEN WE'RE
GROWN UP?

I DON'T SEE
WHY NOT.



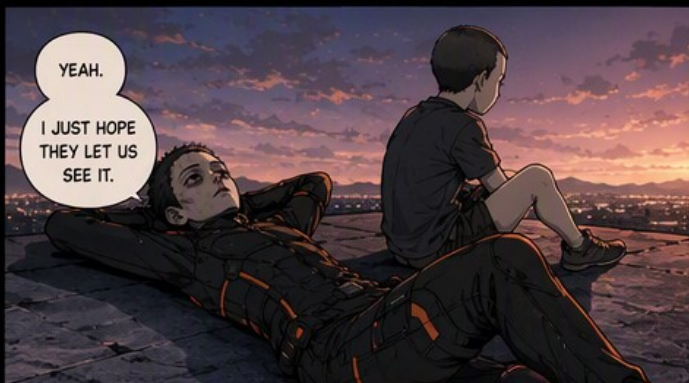
I MEAN...
AFTER ALL
THIS.

AFTER THE
PROJECT.



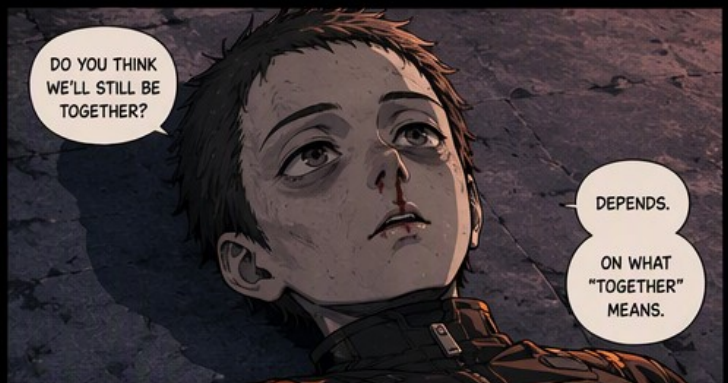
THINGS
CHANGE.

SOMETIMES
FOR THE BETTER.



YEAH.

I JUST HOPE
THEY LET US
SEE IT.



DO YOU THINK
WE'LL STILL BE
TOGETHER?

DEPENDS.

ON WHAT
"TOGETHER"
MEANS.



PROMISE
ME ONE
THING.

NO MATTER
WHAT THEY
MAKE US...



...WE
DON'T STOP
LOOKING AT
THE SKY.

D PRAINE

AGE: 10 HEIGHT: 132CM WEIGHT: 28KG

ROLE: HERO PROTOTYPE

NOTES: VITALS UNSTABLE. PSIONIC POTENTIAL: HIGH.

OPERATIVE KAELEN

AGE: 10 HEIGHT: 134CM WEIGHT: 30KG

ROLE: SECURITY PROTOTYPE

NOTES: EMF ABSORPTION: 100%. COMBAT MODEL.

WARDENCLYFFE INSTITUTE
TRAINING ANNEX
SUB-LEVEL 7
SEPTEMBER 12

THE DATA
DOESN'T
SUPPORT
YOUR APPROACH.
THE PROBABILITY
OF SUCCESS IS
SUB-THIRTY
PERCENT.

THEN WE
ACCEPT THE
RISK AND
MOVE.

THAT ISN'T
STRATEGY.

THAT IS
REACTION.

WE WERE
DESIGNED TO
ANTICIPATE
VARIABLES—NOT
COLLIDE WITH
THEM.

AND WE
WERE
DESIGNED
TO END THREATS,
NOT MODEL
THEM.

SOME DECISIONS
DON'T CARE
ABOUT YOUR
EQUATIONS.

YOU THINK
SPEED IS
CLARITY.

IT'S
OFTEN
JUST
IMPULSE.

AND YOU
THINK HESITATION
IS WISDOM.

IT'S
OFTEN
JUST
FEAR.

D PRAINE

AGE: 17
CLASS: PROBABILITY
ANALYSIS / SYSTEMS
MODEL INTEGRATION
EVALUATION: EXCEPTIONAL
NOTES: OVERTHINKS.
PHYSIOLOGICAL
TREMOR. OBSERVE.

OPERATIVE KAELEN

AGE: 17
CLASS: CLOSE QUARTERS
LETHAL APPLICATION
EVALUATION: EXCEPTIONAL
NOTES: ZERO HESITATION.
EMPATHY DEFICIT.
CONFIRMED.

TWO APPROACHES.
ONE INSTITUTE.

NO ROOM FOR
BOTH TO BE WRONG.

WARDENCLYFFE
INSTITUTE

THE DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN THEM
IS NOT TACTIC.
IT IS FOUNDATION.

YEAR 0
AGE 15

RECRUITMENT
INTAKE ANALYSIS



D. PRAINE
SUBJECT DP-7



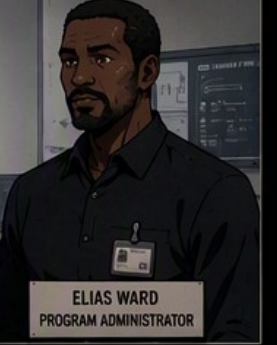
KAELEN
SUBJECT K-12



NURSE
ANA MORALES



DR. MARA CHEN
LEAD NEUROSCIENTIST



ELIAS WARD
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

YEAR 1
AGE 16

BASELINE TRAINING
COGNITIVE &
PHYSICAL ADAPTATION



YEAR 3
AGE 18

ADVANCED TRAINING
NEUROFEEDBACK
INITIAL FIELD SOMS



YEAR 5
AGE 20

PROJECT EXPANSION
ENVIRONMENTAL
ADAPTATION
PROTOTYPE GEAR



YEAR 7
AGE 22

FIELD OPERATIONS
LIVE TARGETS
DATA INTEGRATION



YEAR 10
AGE 25

BLACK SITE
AUTONOMY PROTOCOLS
MISSION SIMULATION



YEAR 15
AGE 30

FULL SPECTRUM
INDEPENDENT UNITS
PROJECT: INHERITANCE



THEY WERE NEVER
BUILT TO BE HEROES.
THEY WERE BUILT
TO FINISH
WHAT WE COULDN'T."



WARDEN INITIATIVE



THE FOUNDERS DID NOT
DESIGN RIVALS.
THEY DESIGNED
DIVERGENCE.

SECTIONED RESEARCH FACILITY
NEW DAWN INITIATIVE
- WING 7 -

ND

SYNTHETIC-INTERFACE TEST ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAM: D PRAINE

BIOLOGICAL-PERFORMANCE CHAMBER
PROGRAM: OPERATIVE KAELEN



D PRAINE

AGE: 15
FOCUS: SYNTHETIC INTERFACE
APTITUDE: COGNITIVE ADAPTATION
TRAIT: PRECISION, EMPATHY,
PERSISTENCE.



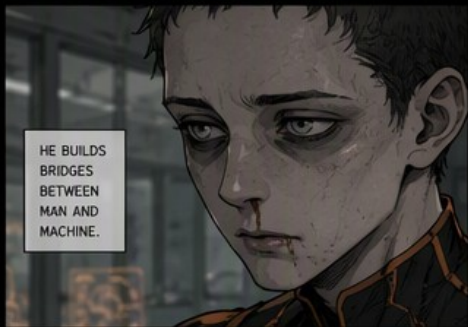
HE LISTENS
TO SYSTEMS
OTHERS CAN'T
UNDERSTAND.

OPERATIVE KAELEN

AGE: 15
FOCUS: BIOLOGICAL OPTIMIZATION
APTITUDE: PHYSICAL ABSORPTION
TRAIT: DISCIPLINE, CONTROL,
ABSORPTION.



HE BECOMES
WHAT OTHERS
CAN'T ENDURE.



HE BUILDS
BRIDGES
BETWEEN
MAN AND
MACHINE.



THEY SEE
EACH OTHER.



HE BECOMES
THE EDGE
BETWEEN
BODY AND
POTENTIAL.

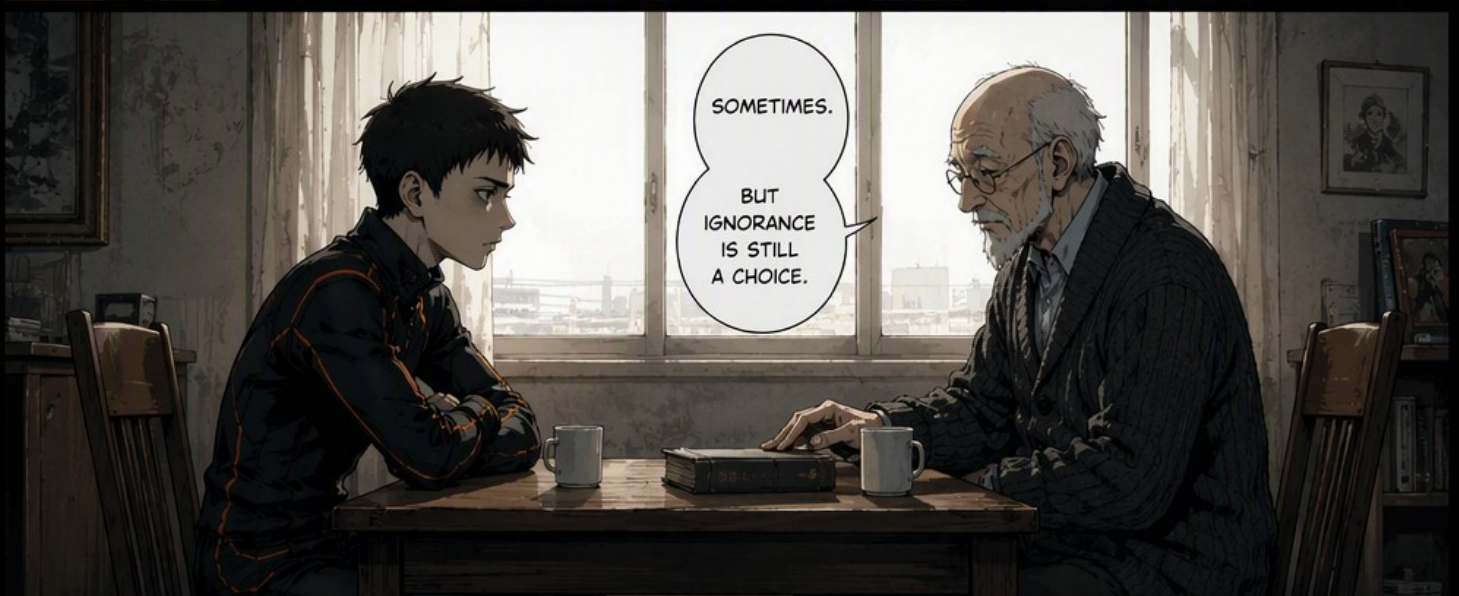
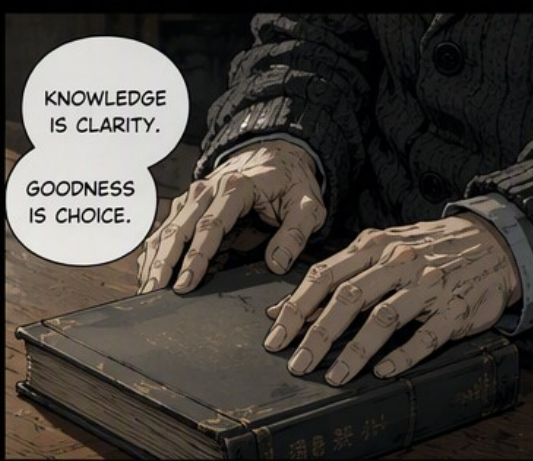
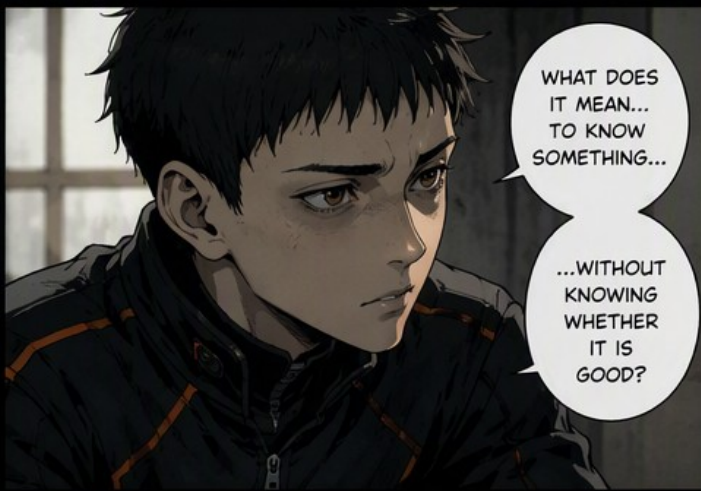


SAME FOUNDERS.
SAME PURPOSE.

DIFFERENT PATHS.
ONE FUTURE.

倫理者

朱宥



D PRAINE

18 YEARS OLD.

THE CITY
WAS STILL
QUIET THEN.

NO SIRENS.
NO BARRICADES.
NO REASONS
TO RUN.



JUST
PEOPLE.

TRYING TO
MAKE IT TO
TOMORROW.



I SPENT MOST
OF MY TIME
READING
THINGS
NOBODY ELSE
CARED ABOUT...

...AND
PRETENDING
I KNEW
WHAT I WAS
PREPARING
FOR.

CYBERNETIC
INTERFACE
PROTOCOLS
VOL. 3



YOU
OVERTHINK
EVERYTHING.

THAT'S WHY
YOU'LL LAST.

OR THAT'S
WHY I WON'T
SLEEP.

OPERATIVE
KAELEN.

GOOD FRIEND.

WORSE
INFLUENCE.



I HAD
ROUTINES.
BAD HABITS.
HALF-FINISHED
SONGS.

NORMAL
THINGS.



THINGS
I MISS.



FOR NOW,
THE WORLD
WASN'T
ASKING
ANYTHING
OF ME.



THOSE WERE THE GOOD MONTHS.

SUBJECT: D. PRAINE
AGE: 18
CLEARANCE: OMEGA-7

D. PRAINE
18 YEARS OLD
BASELINE: NORMAL
VARIANT:
UNKNOWN

RELAX, D.
JUST BREATHE.
THE RESONANCE
MATRIX ISN'T
INVASIVE.

WE'RE ONLY
LISTENING.

OPERATIVE KAELEN
OBSERVATION ONLY

HMM.
INTERESTING.
VERY.

DR. MARA CHEN
LEAD NEUROSCIENTIST
PRAXIS PROGRAM

RESONANCE COMPATIBILITY ANALYSIS

NEURAL HARMONIC ALIGNMENT

99.73%

COGNITIVE ADAPTIVE INDEX

98.91%

PSIONIC RESONANCE POTENTIAL

97.42%

RESULT: EXTRAORDINARY COMPATIBILITY

EVERYTHING
LOOKS...
EXCEPTIONAL.

I'VE NEVER
SEEN READINGS
THIS CONSISTENT
ACROSS THE BOARD.

NOT IN THE DATA.
NOT IN THE
HISTORICAL
RECORDS.

NOT WITHOUT...
ALTERATION.
OR DAMAGE.

THIS ISN'T
SUPPOSED TO
HAPPEN.
NOT NATURALLY.

RECOGNITION:
IRREVERSIBLE CHANGE
IS APPROACHING.

IS IT
SAFE?

AS SAFE
AS WE CAN
MAKE IT.
YOU WON'T
FEEL A THING.

THE PRAXIS PROGRAM
FINAL COMPATIBILITY TEST
SUBJECT: D. PRAINE
AGE: 18
DATE: 04.17.25
TEST ID: FP-9827-A
ADMINISTERED BY: DR. MARA CHEN

RESULT: EXTRAORDINARY COMPATIBILITY

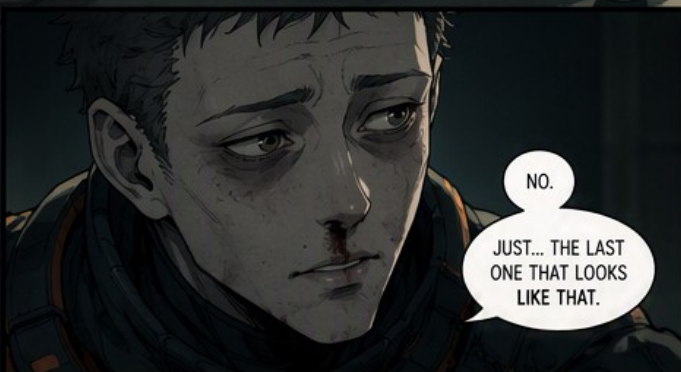
RECOMMENDATION:
PROCEED TO INDUCTION PROTOCOL

SOMETHING
IRREVERSIBLE
IS APPROACHING.



EVERY TIME
I LOOK AT THAT DOOR,
I THINK—MAYBE THIS IS
THE LAST TIME.

IT WON'T BE
THE LAST TIME YOU
LOOK AT A DOOR.

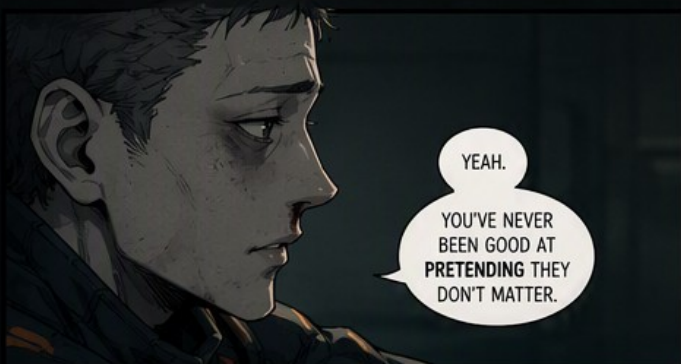


NO.

JUST... THE LAST
ONE THAT LOOKS
LIKE THAT.



YOU'VE NEVER
BEEN GOOD AT
GOODBYES.



YEAH.

YOU'VE NEVER
BEEN GOOD AT
PRETENDING THEY
DON'T MATTER.



SENTIMENT
IS A LIABILITY.

YOU KNOW
THAT.



SO IS
ARROGANCE.

BUT HERE WE
ARE.



TOMORROW
THE PROJECT
LOSES TWO ASSETS.

AND THE WORLD
GAINS TWO
PROBLEMS.



DRINK.

SLEEP IF
YOU CAN.

THIS IS THE LINE.

BEYOND IT, THEY
FINISH WHAT
FATHER STARTED.

BEYOND IT,
I BECOME
SOMETHING ELSE.

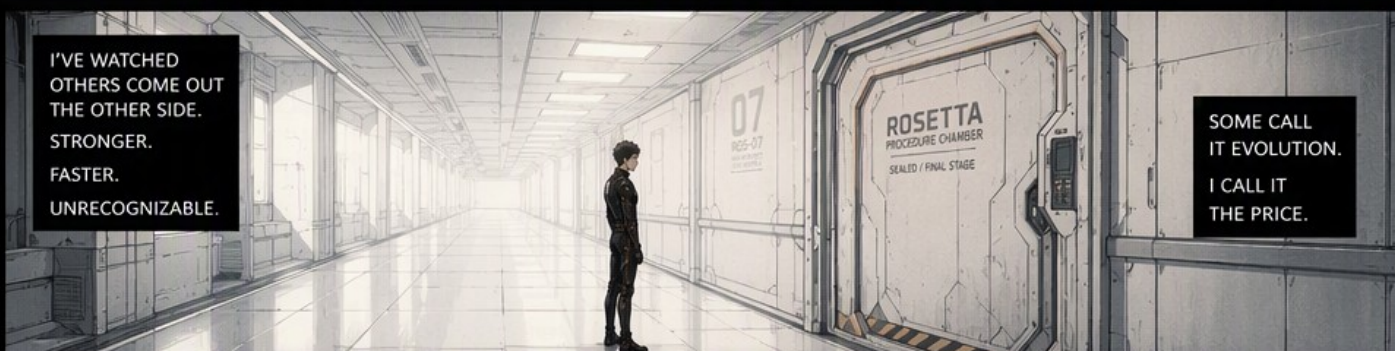


ROSETTA
PROCEDURE CHAMBER
SEALED / FINAL STAGE



THERE'S NO
TURNING BACK.

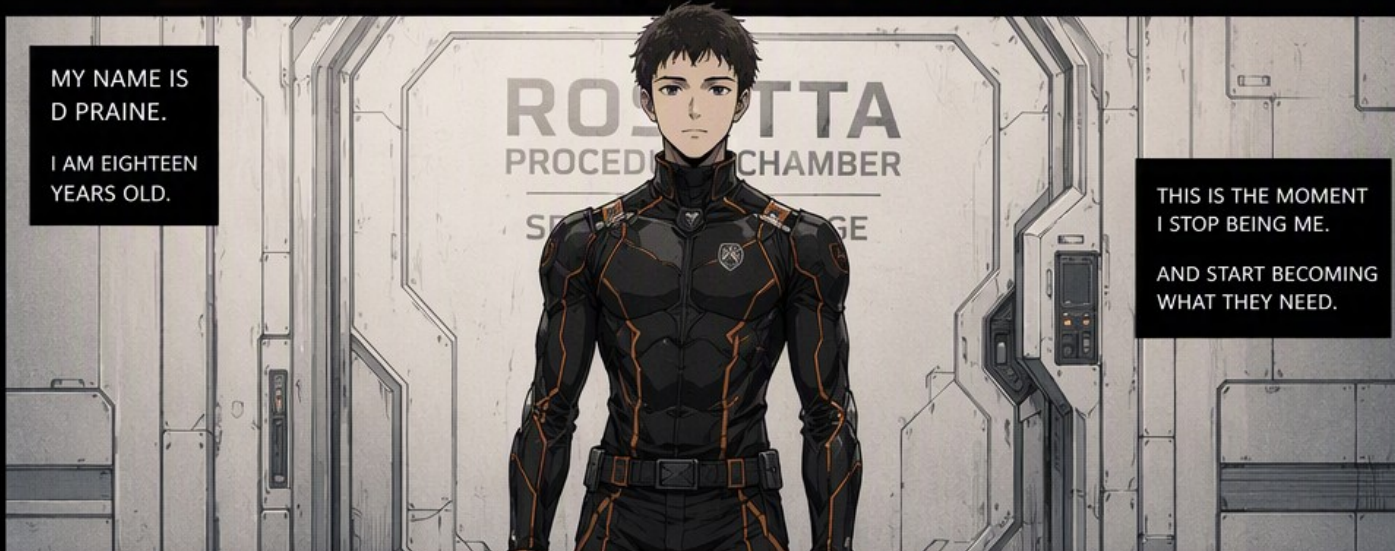
I'VE WATCHED
OTHERS COME OUT
THE OTHER SIDE.
STRONGER.
FASTER.
UNRECOGNIZABLE.



SOME CALL
IT EVOLUTION.
I CALL IT
THE PRICE.

MY NAME IS
D PRAINE.

I AM EIGHTEEN
YEARS OLD.



THIS IS THE MOMENT
I STOP BEING ME.
AND START BECOMING
WHAT THEY NEED.

THE CITY
NEVER STOPS.

NEITHER DAY.
NOR NIGHT.

EIGHTEEN MILLION
PEOPLE.
EIGHTEEN MILLION
REASONS TO
KEEP MOVING
FORWARD.

TRAINS RUN.
SHOPS OPEN.
CHILDREN LAUGH.
LOVERS ARGUE.
DREAMS ARE
MADE AND LOST.
ALL WITHOUT
KNOWING.

LIFE.
BEAUTIFUL.
MUNDANE.
RELENTLESS.
AND BLISSFULLY
UNAWARE.

EVERY WINDOW
A STORY.
EVERY LIGHT
A HEARTBEAT.
EVERY HEARTBEAT
IGNORING THE
SILENCE BEHIND
THIS WINDOW.

AND I?
I STAND APART.
NOT BECAUSE
I CHOSE TO.
BUT BECAUSE
THERE IS
SOMETHING
I MUST DO.

SOMETHING
THAT CANNOT
BE UNDONE.
SOMETHING THAT
WILL CHANGE
EVERYTHING.

I'M
EIGHTEEN
YEARS OLD.

PROCEDURE WING
AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

BEYOND
THAT DOOR
IS NO RETURN.

MY HANDS
WON'T STOP
SHAKING.

BUT I DON'T
HAVE THE LUXURY
OF FEAR.