ILLUSTRATED

DREAMS STUDIO

NEURON CODE

ISSUE #1: THE FIRST FRAME

DETECTIVE ELIAS THORNE

TRUTH IS JUST CODE.

ISSUE #1

$4.99 US
DIRECT EDITION

01 001 2025

CASE FILE: OBSIDIAN SERIAL KILLINGS

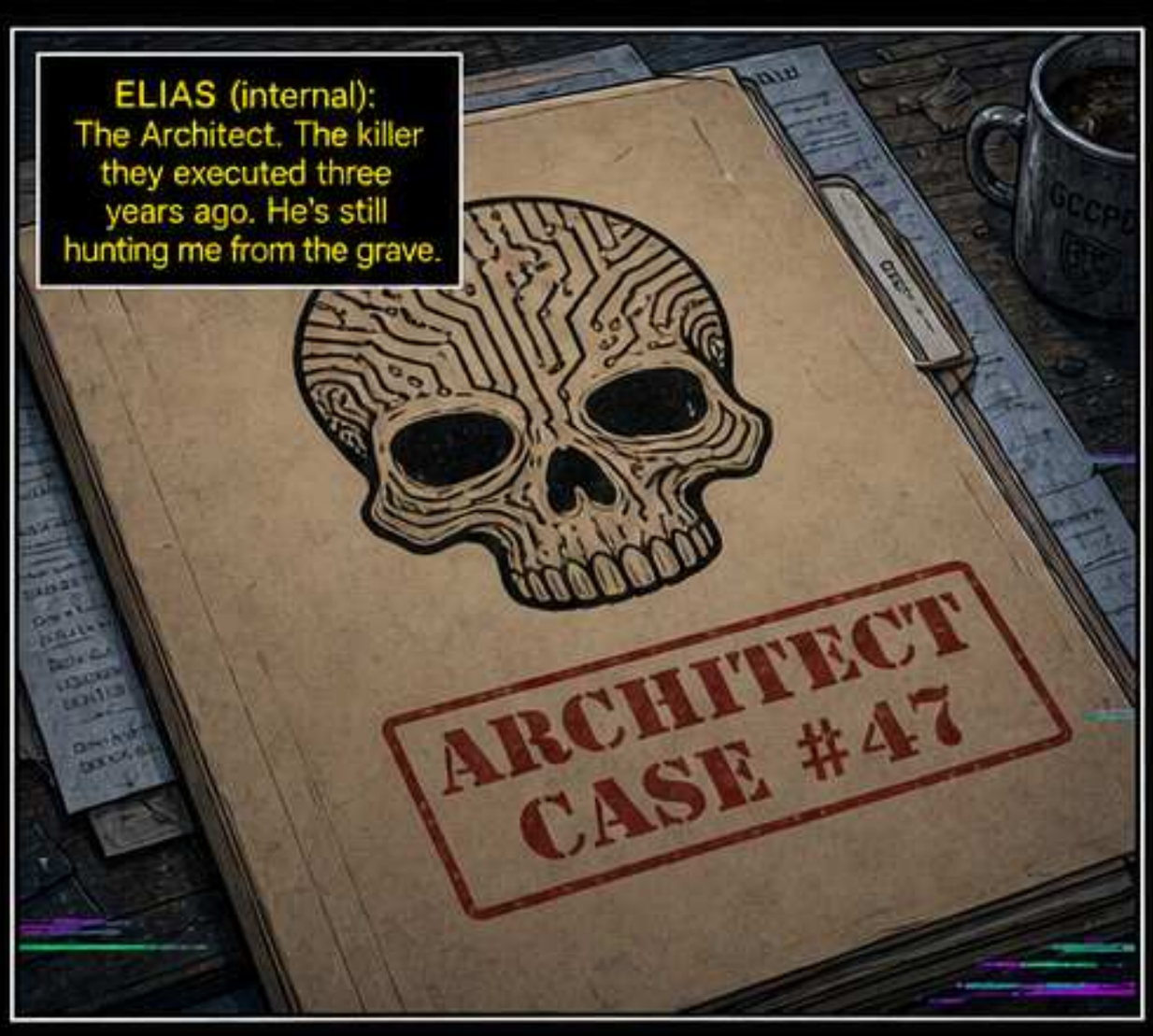

DEFEND TOMORROW
DT-TK INDUSTRIES
NEUROCORP
SSP SYS
SYNAPSE
MIND > MACHINE


GCCPD
CASE BACKLOG 189 AND RISING
CLEARANCE 22%
MEMO
RESOURCE ALLOCATION UPDATE


CAPTAIN HARRIS: Thorne. Your clearance rates been falling for six months. This is your last chance.
GCCPD


ELIAS (internal): "They're going to fire me. I know it. After everything..."


CAPTAIN HARRIS: Take this. Or pack your desk. Now.
ARCHITECT CASE #47


ELIAS (internal): The Architect. The killer they executed three years ago. He's still hunting me from the grave.
ARCHITECT CASE #47
GCCPD


NeuroCorp
NeuroCorp
FUTURE


MAYA CHEN:
"Neuron Lease. We transfer archived consciousness fragments into your mind. You'll think like the killer. Solve the case."

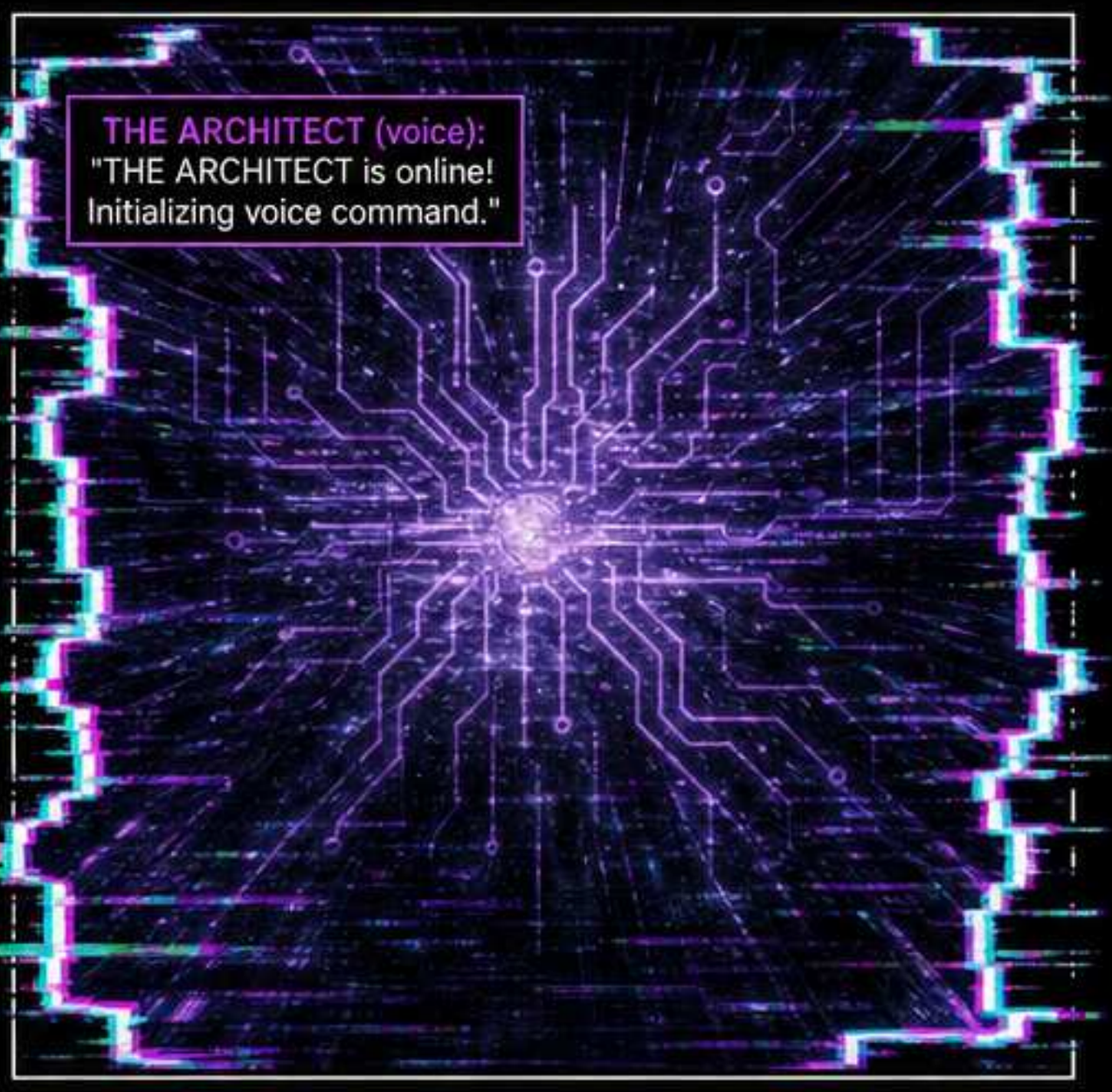

MAYA CHEN:
"But there are risks. Synchronization. Corruption. If your sync level exceeds 85%, we have to... terminate the procedure."


ELIAS:
"How bad could it be? He's dead."


NeuroCorp

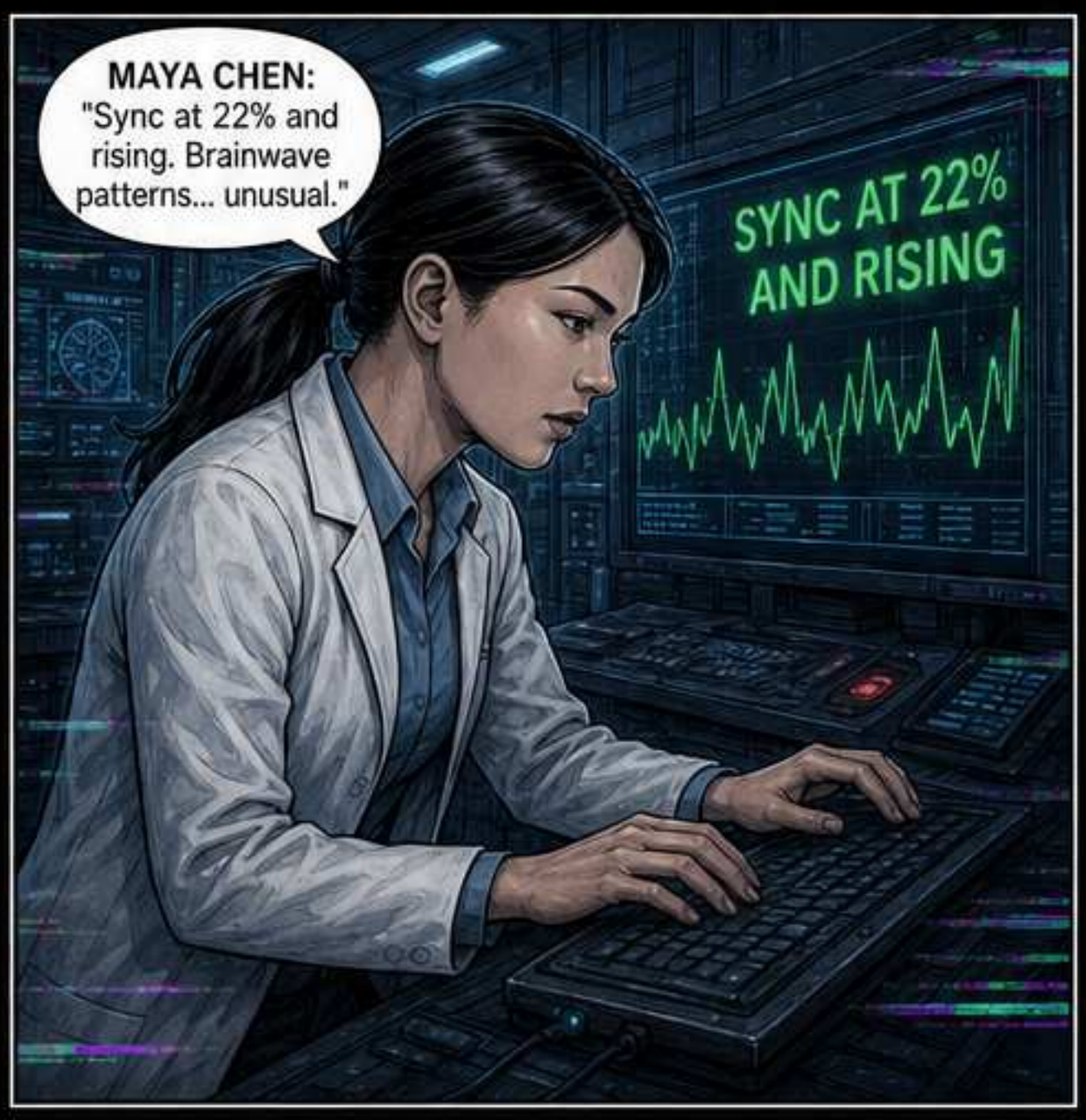

MAYA CHEN:
"Initiating neural transfer. Beginning sync at 15%. Monitor vitals closely."
SYNC RATE
15%
NeuroCorp




THE ARCHITECT (voice):
"THE ARCHITECT is online! Initializing voice command."


THE ARCHITECT (voice):
"Hello, Detective. Can you hear me sir? I've been waiting for you."
NeuroCorp
SYNC RATE
22%


ELIAS:
"What... what is that?"


MAYA CHEN:
"Sync at 22% and rising. Brainwave patterns... unusual."
SYNC AT 22% AND RISING


THE ARCHITECT:
"I'm not a memory, Detective. I'm in your head. I am a built-in consciousness and I know where my next masterpiece is."

POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

1 2 3

ELIAS:
"What happened here?"

4 5

THE ARCHITECT:
"I'm uploading the blueprints to the warehouse. The physical copy is located inside a cabinet."

ELIAS (internal):
"I don't know this. Why do I know this?"


ELIAS:
"This is... a murder plan. For here.


REYES:
What did you find, Thorne?


THE ARCHITECT:
"Don't tell them yet. Look deeper. There's something else. Something only my eyes would notice."



MK-07


REYES:
"Thorne, what the hell are you doing?"




MK-07


THE ARCHITECT:
"Yes. That's the one. My final gift to this world."


REYES:
Where did you find that? We searched this place for days!

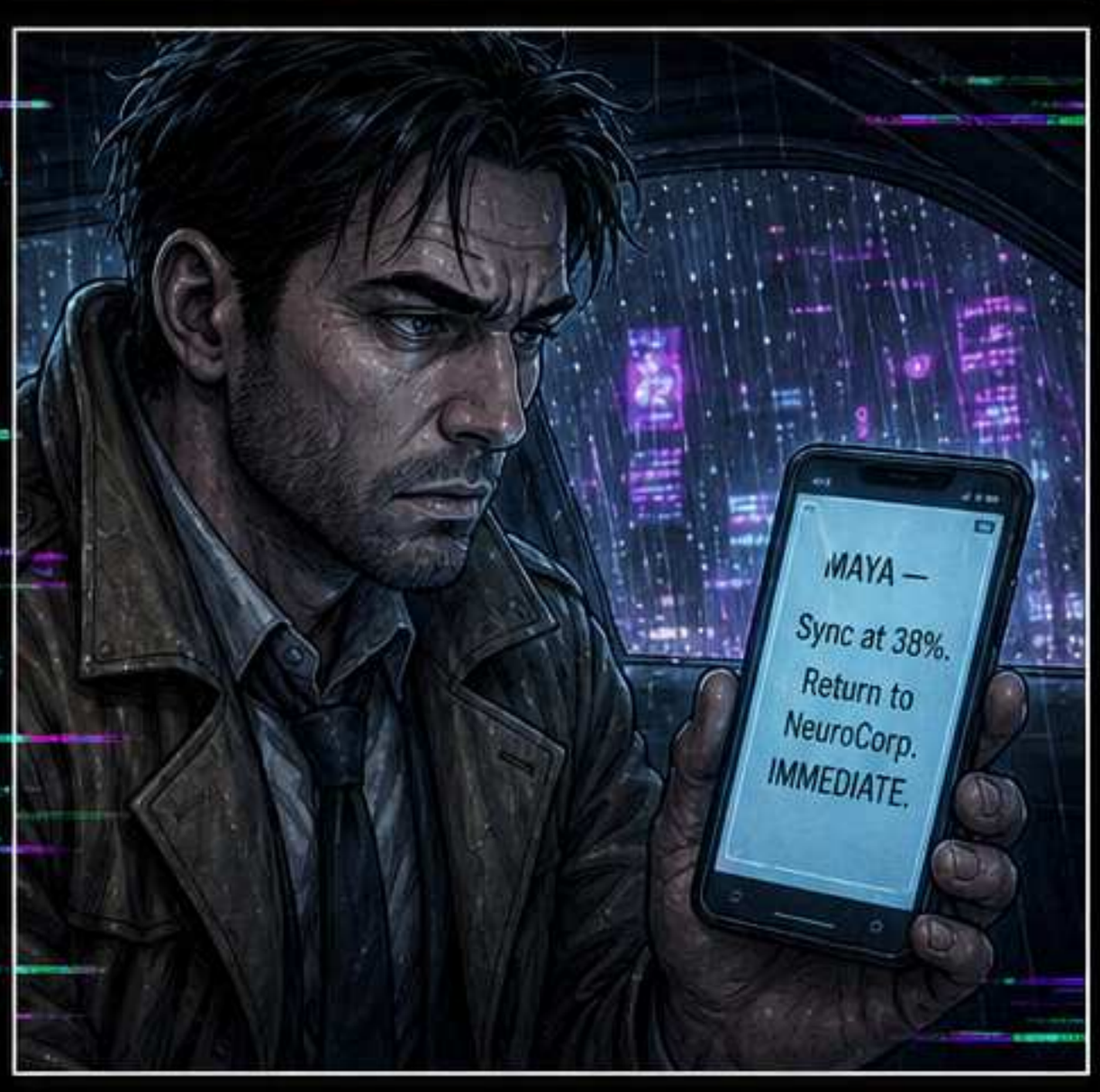

ELIAS:
I... I don't know. I just... knew.

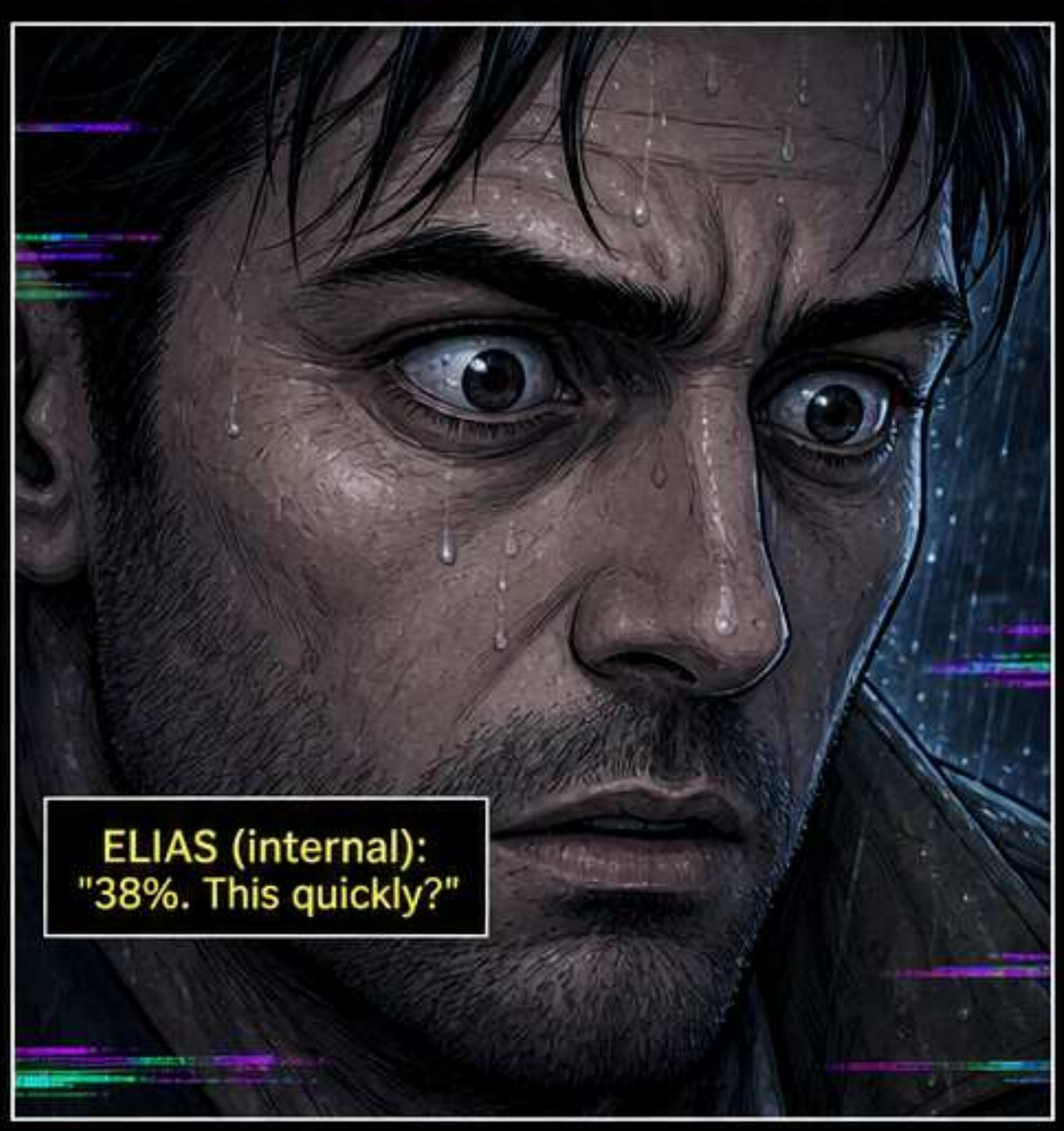

REYES:
Right. Let's get that to forensics. Let's go. Now.


POLICE


ELIAS (internal):
"I didn't find that. He led me there. I felt it. Like a... like a path laid out for me."
MK-07


MK-07


MAYA —
Sync at 38%.
Return to NeuroCorp.
IMMEDIATE.


ELIAS (internal):
"38%. This quickly?"


NEUROCORP
SYNAPSE
INNOVATE.
ASCEND.
BURYANE