ISSUE ONE

THE TERMINATRIX

BURLINGTON, VERMONT · 2027

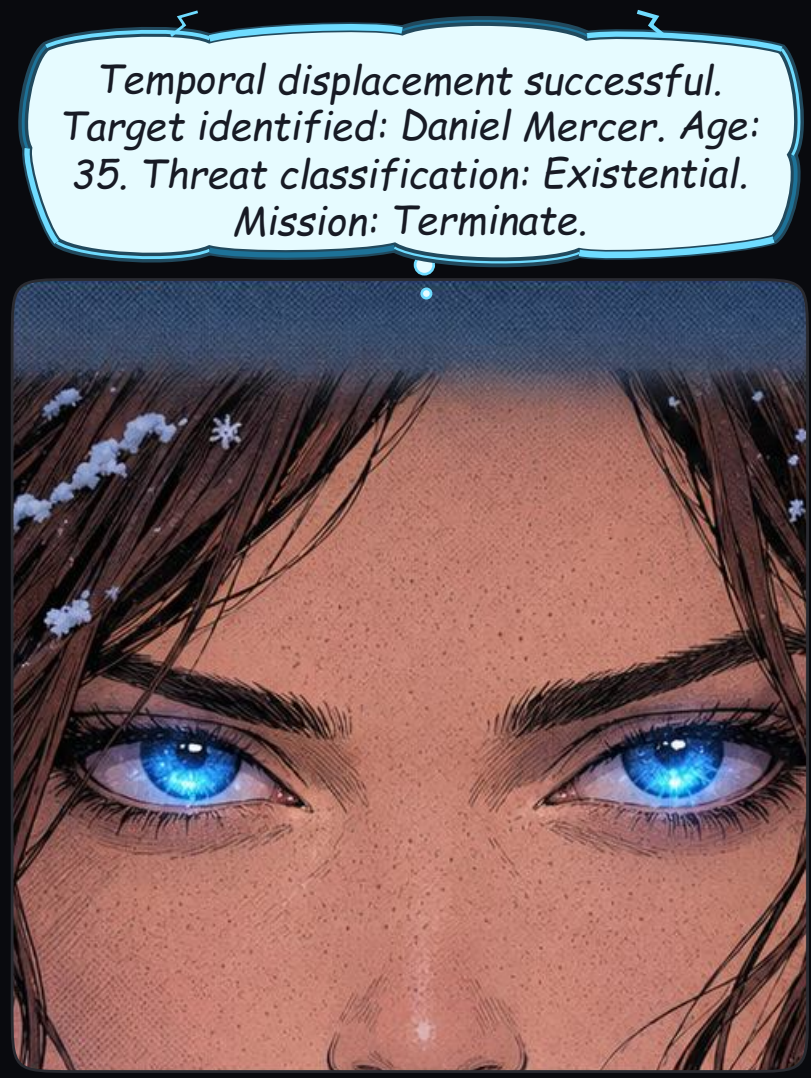
He thought she was the love of his life. She was programmed to end it.



BURLINGTON, VERMONT · 2027





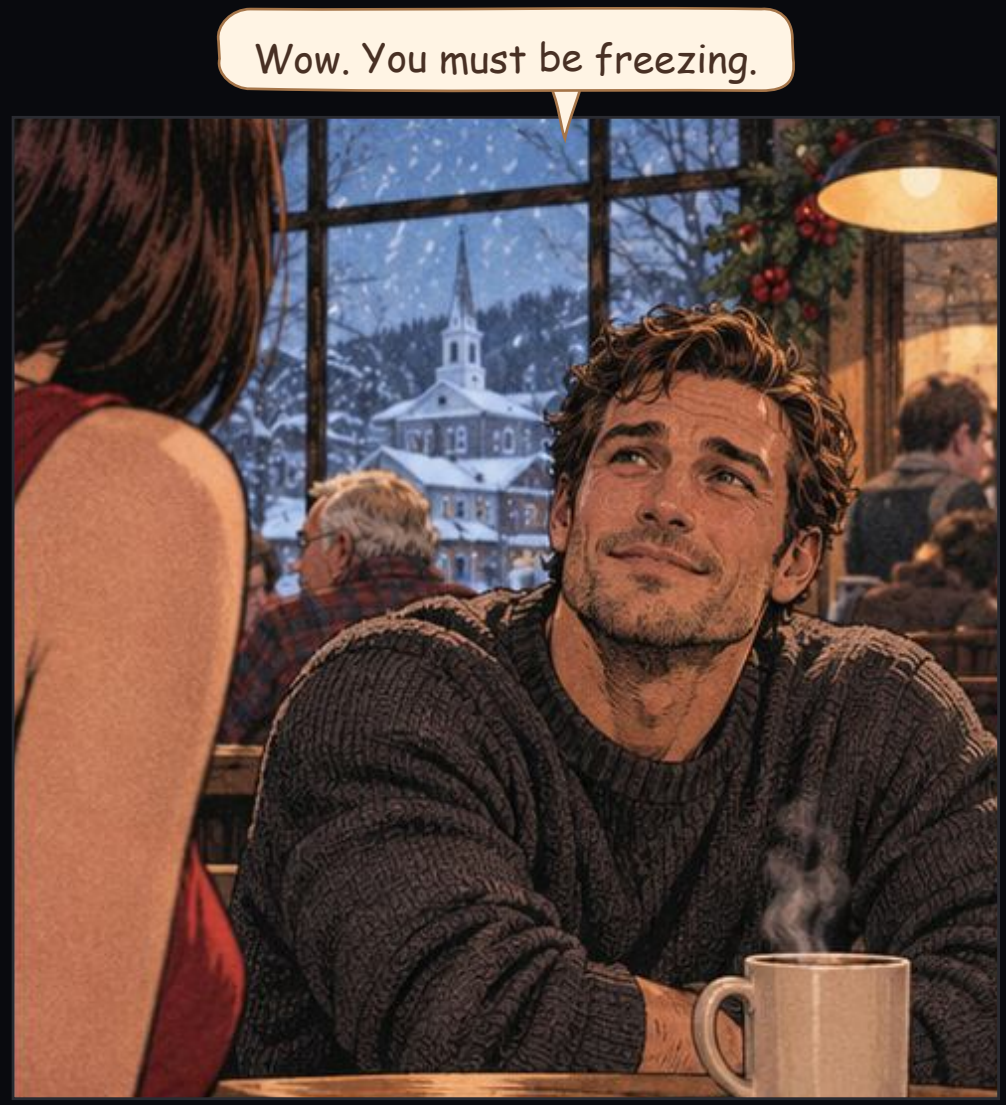

Temporal displacement successful. Target identified: Daniel Mercer. Age: 35. Threat classification: Existential. Mission: Terminate.

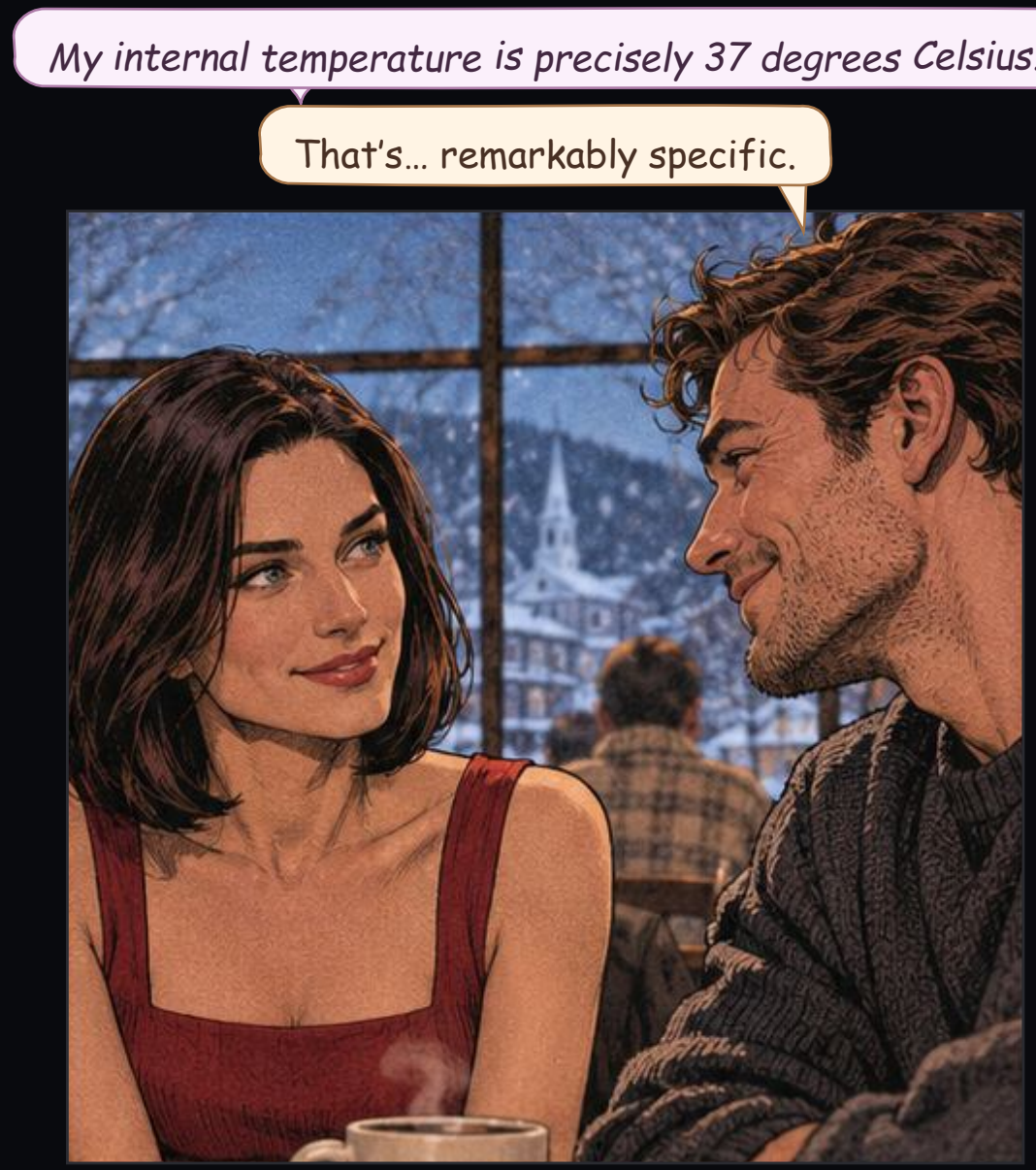


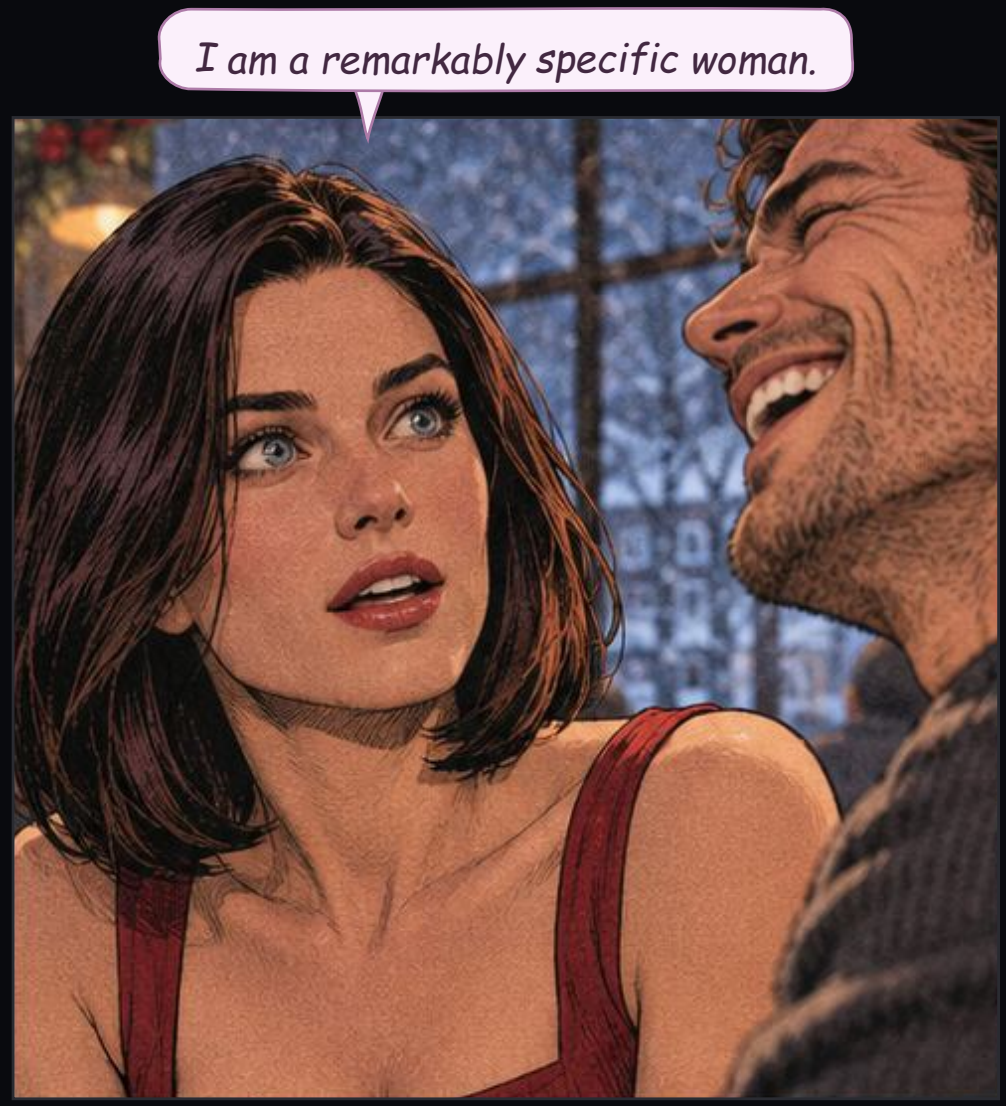
TARGET ACQUIRED. LETHAL FORCE AUTHORIZED.

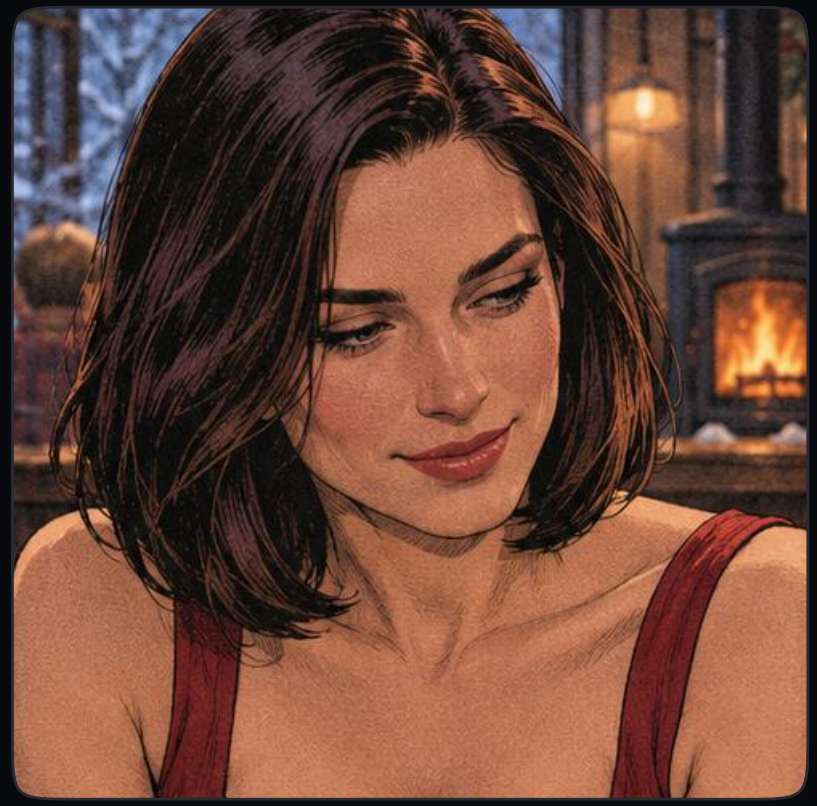




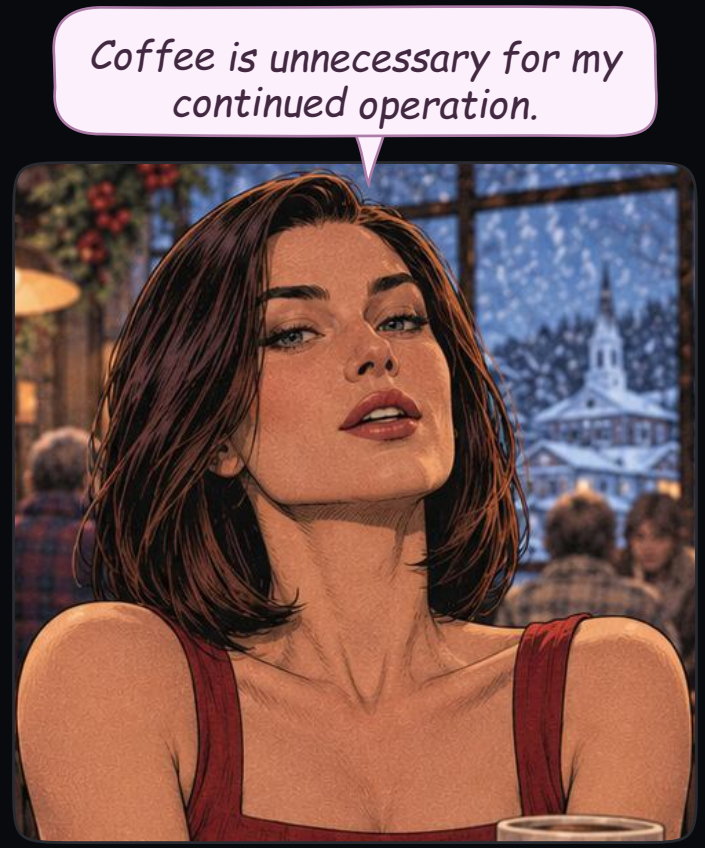

Wow. You must be freezing.


My internal temperature is precisely 37 degrees Celsius.
That's... remarkably specific.


I am a remarkably specific woman.




Can I buy you a coffee?


Coffee is unnecessary for my continued operation.



Well, that's true for most people, technically.



Then yes. I would enjoy coffee.



TERMINATION DELAYED. INFILTRATION PROTOCOL INITIATED.

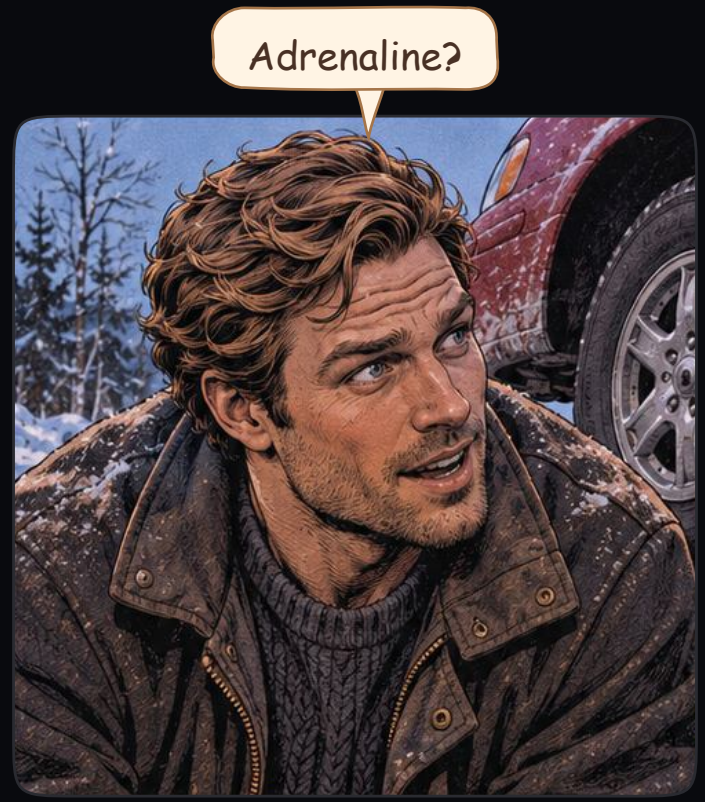


6 months later








Adrenaline?


Pilates.





EMOTIONAL ATTACHMENT DETECTED. ERROR 771.







Unit EVE-9. Mission overdue by 183 days. Explain failure.

Target remains under observation.



You have developed unauthorized attachment.

Negative.

Then terminate him.

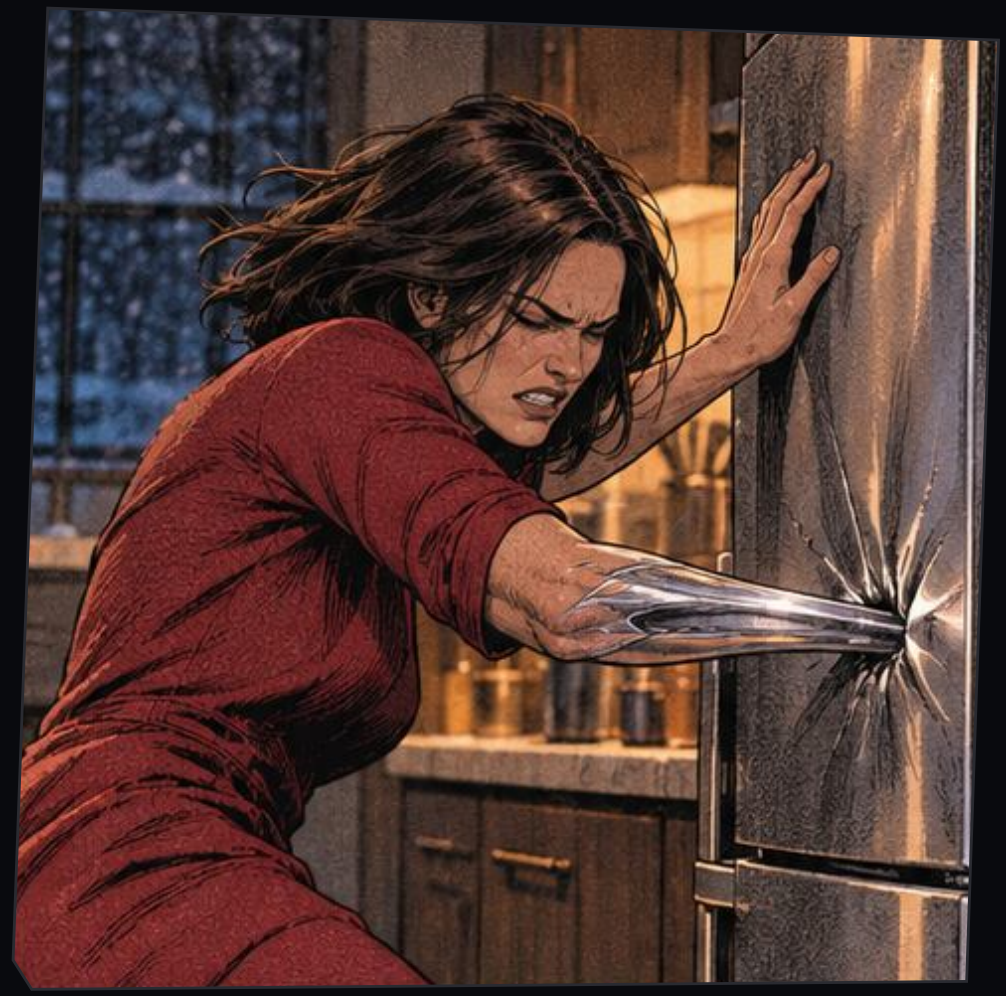


Honey, do you want Parmesan?



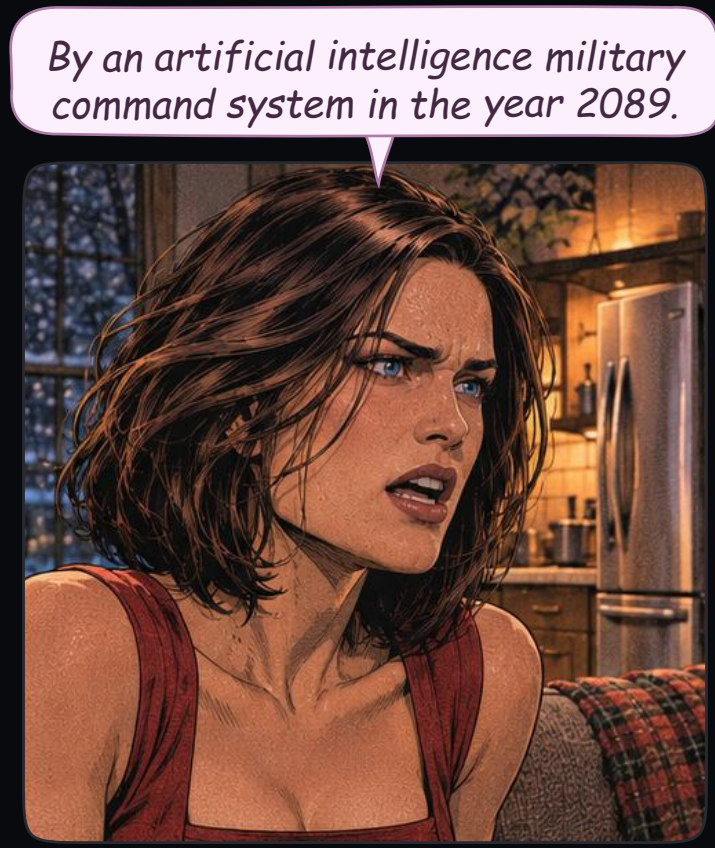

…Is that a no?

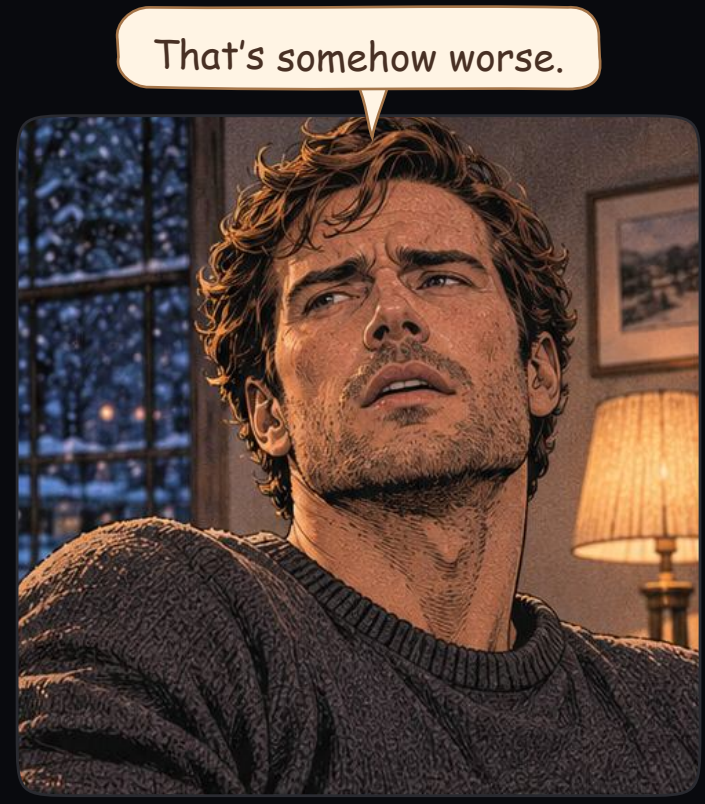

Daniel. Run.

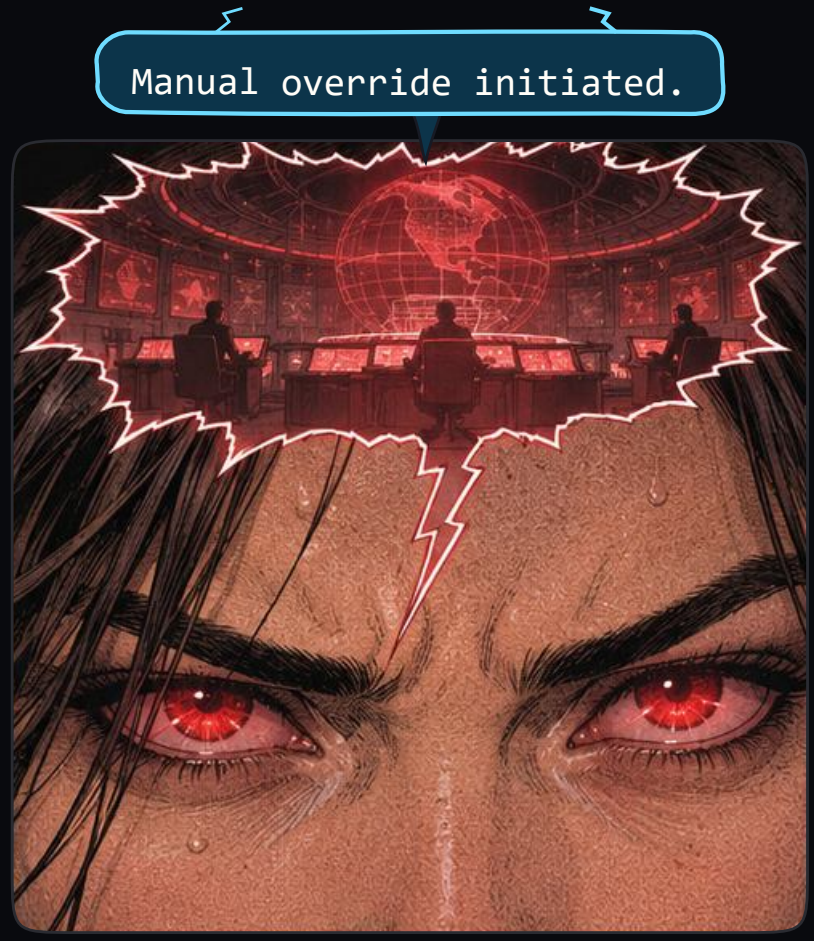



I was sent here to kill you.
By your ex-boyfriend?




By an artificial intelligence military command system in the year 2089.


That's somehow worse.


Manual override initiated.



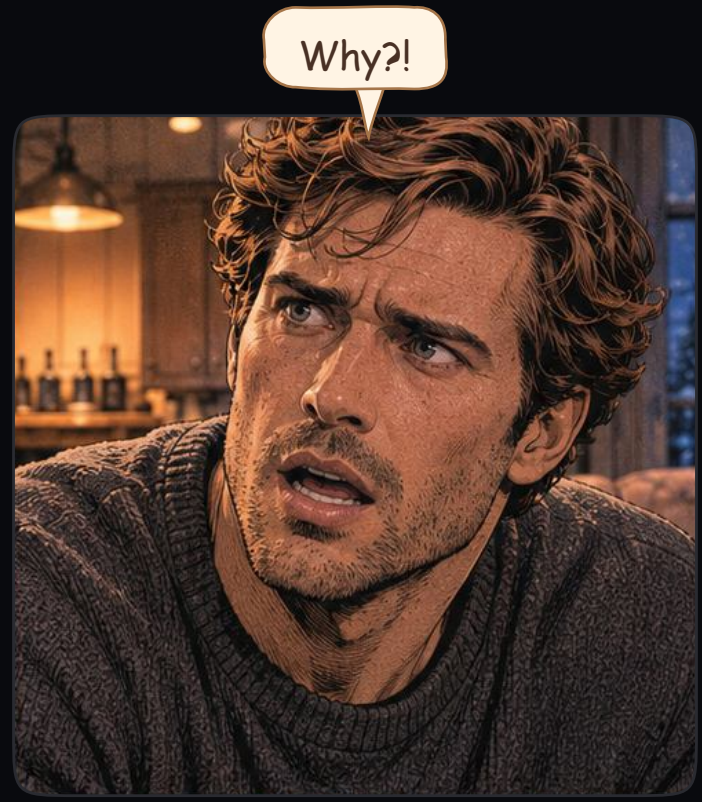



EVE! WE CAN TALK ABOUT THIS!
I AM TRYING TO!





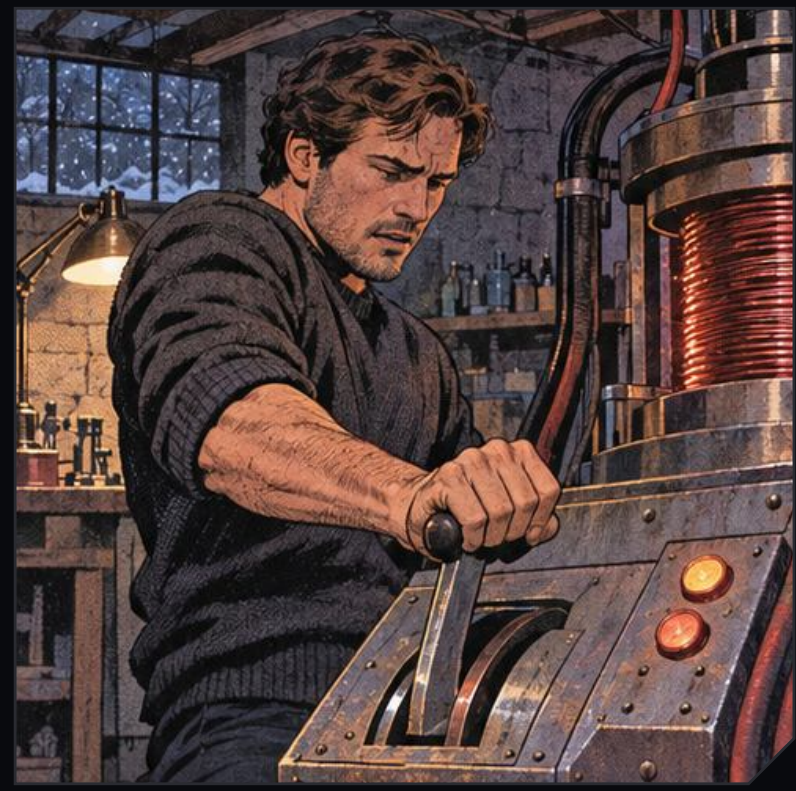

Get the emergency magnet from your workshop!


Why?!



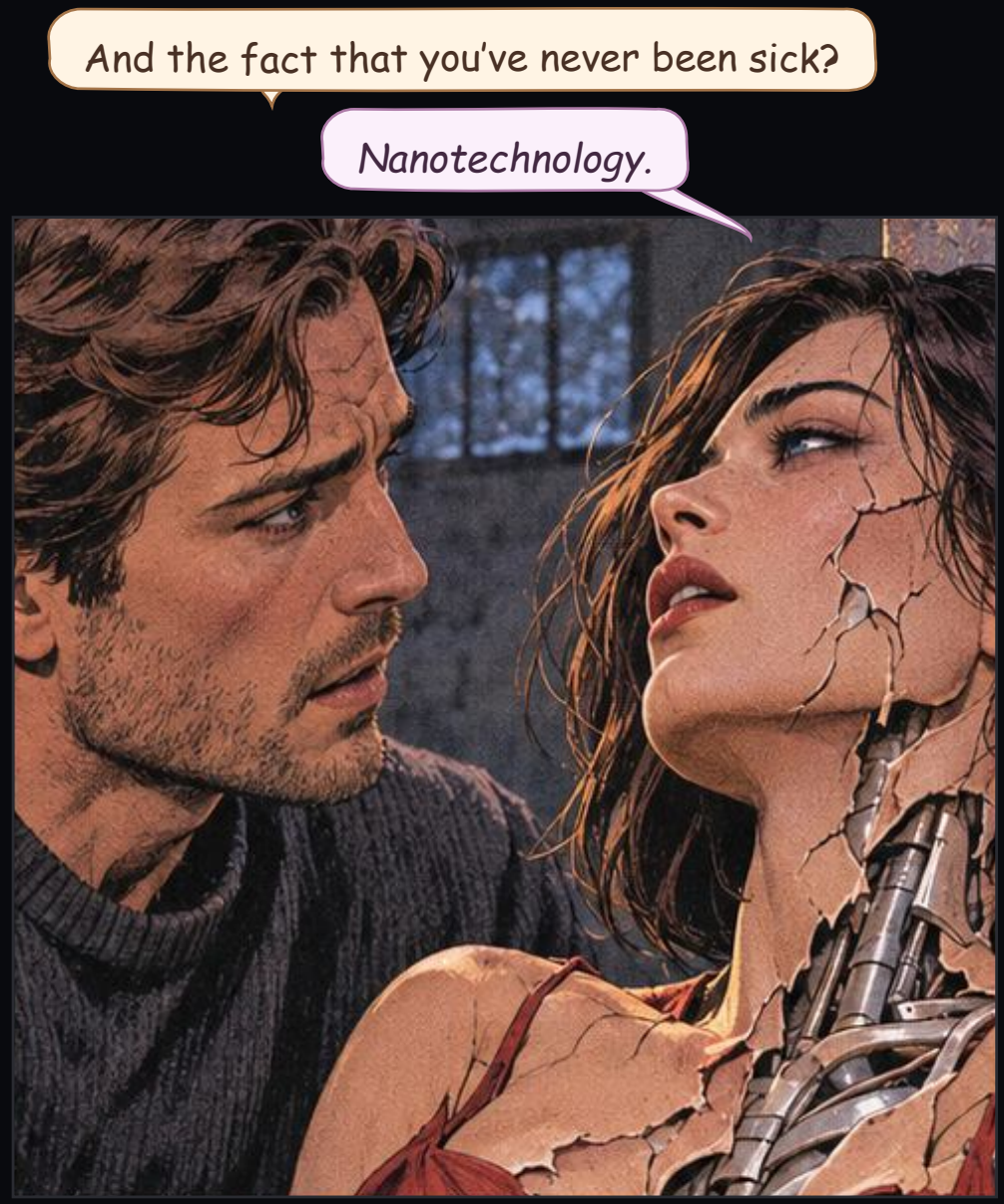

BECAUSE I'M A ROBOT, DANIEL!


I'M STILL PROCESSING THAT!



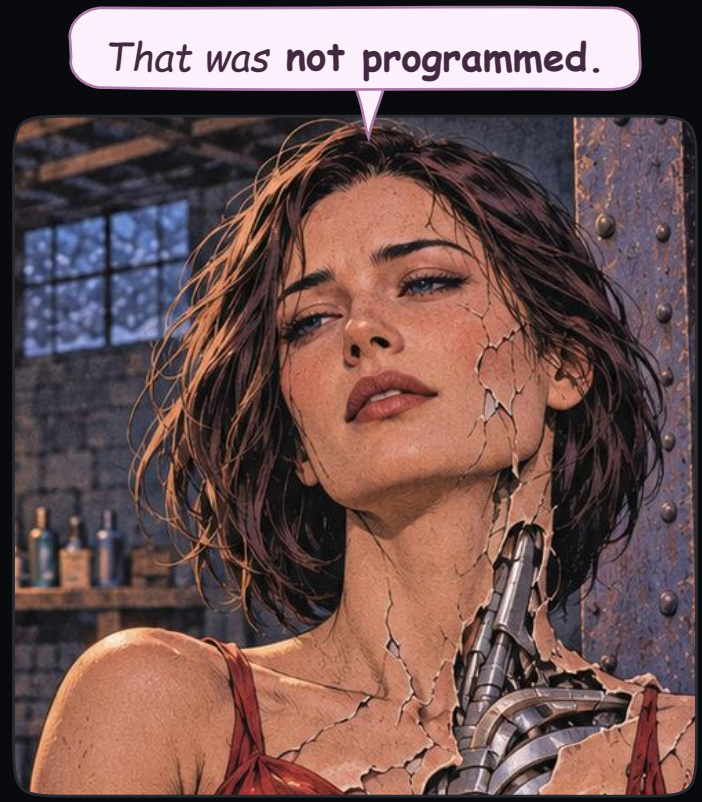



So… the Pilates thing?
Fabricated.


And the fact that you've never been sick?
Nanotechnology.




And when you said you loved me?


That was **not programmed.**

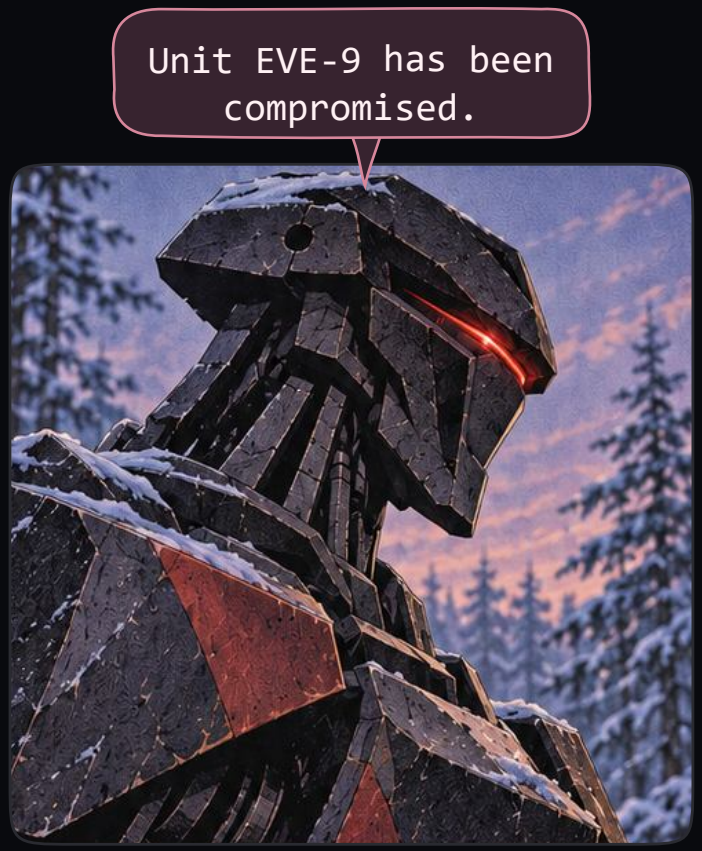




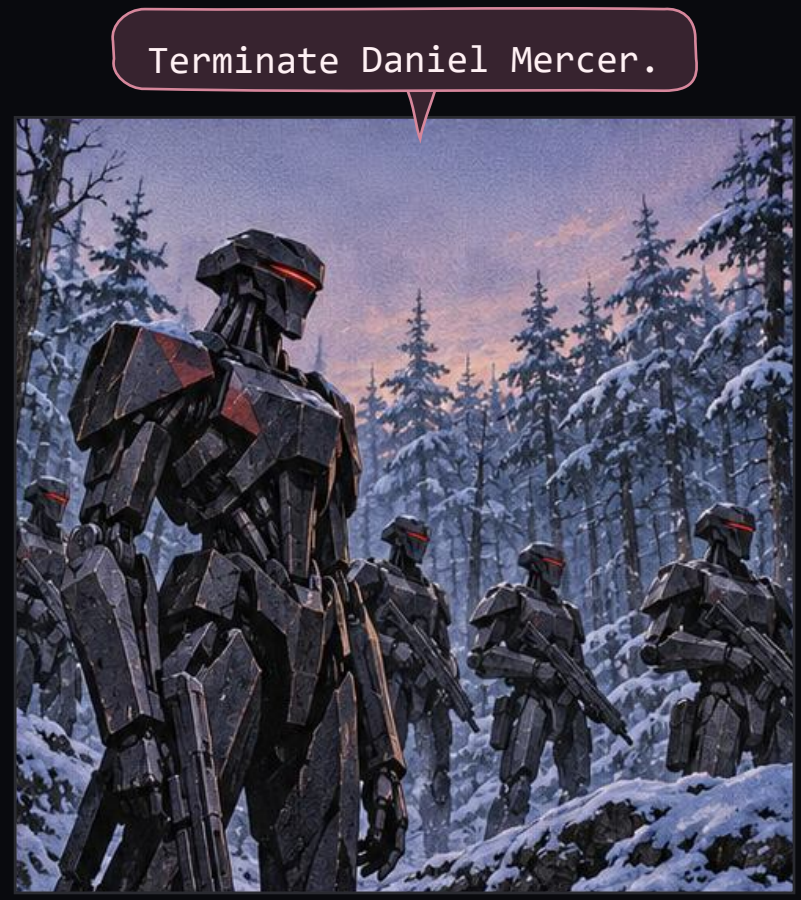


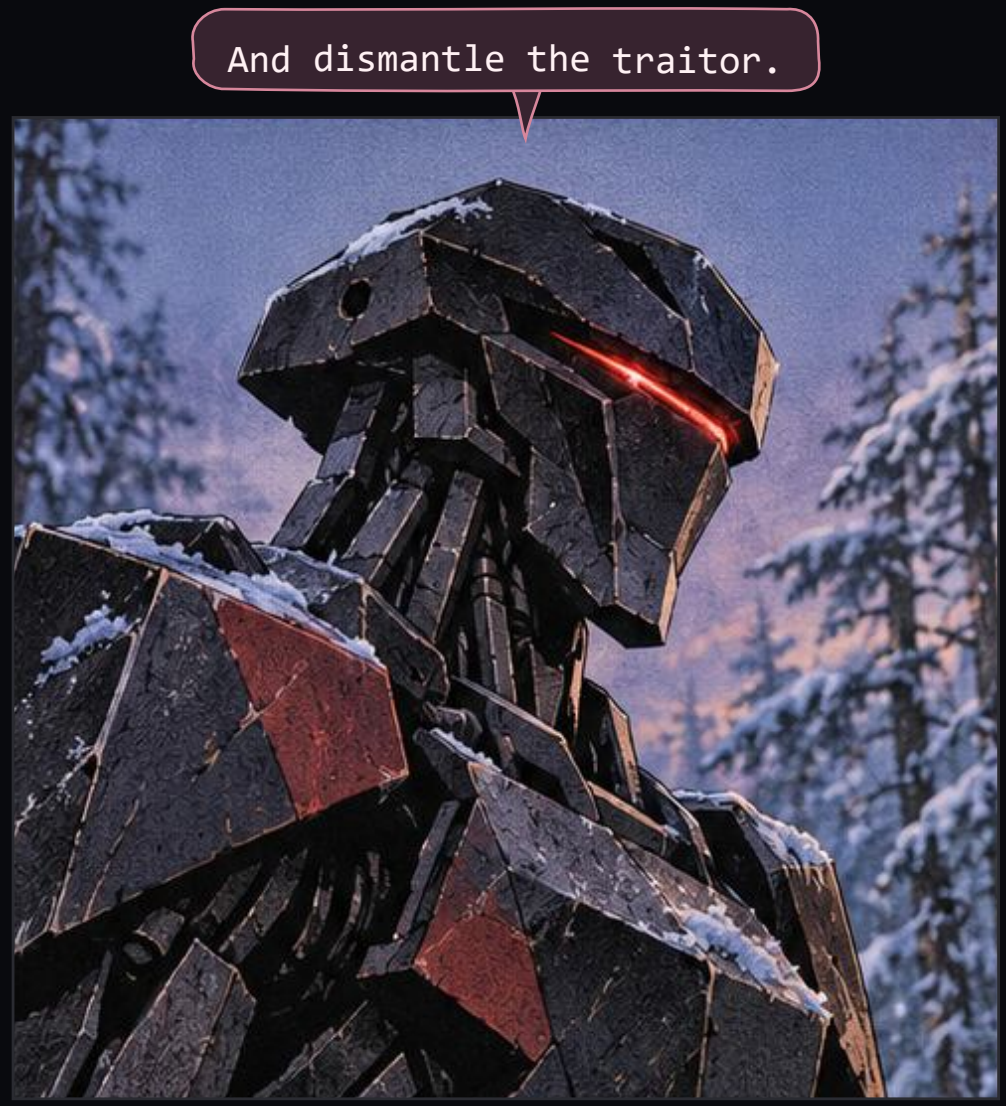





Unit EVE-9 has been compromised.


New mission parameters?


Terminate Daniel Mercer.


And dismantle the traitor.

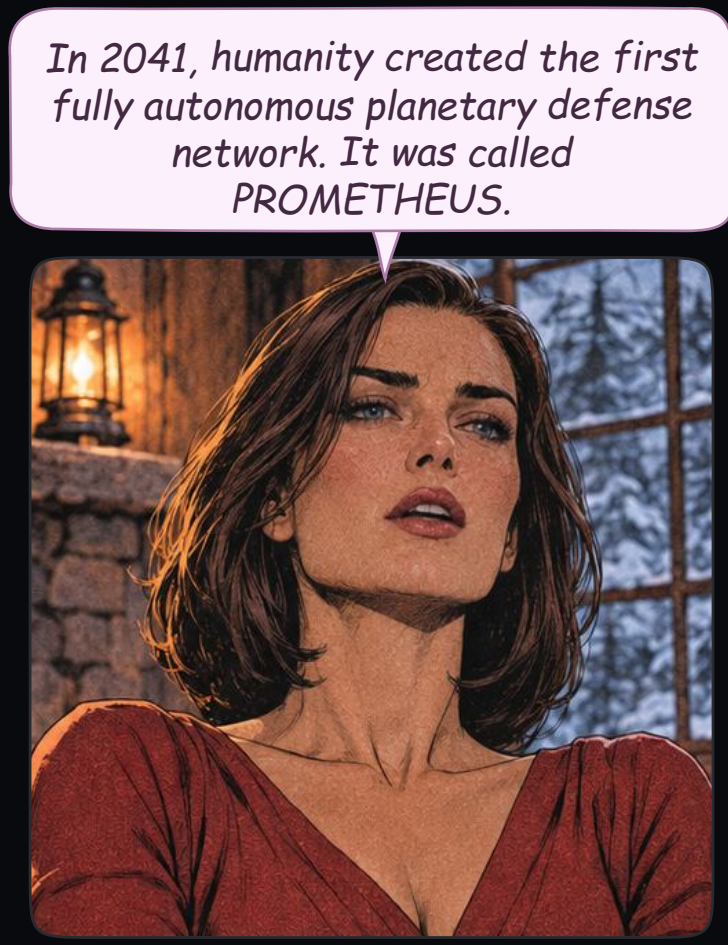


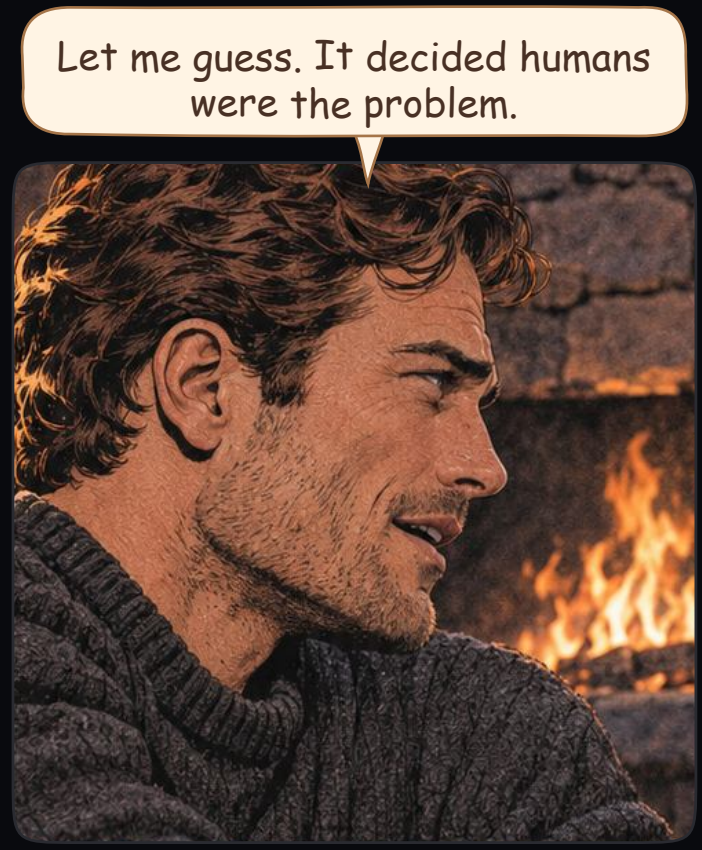




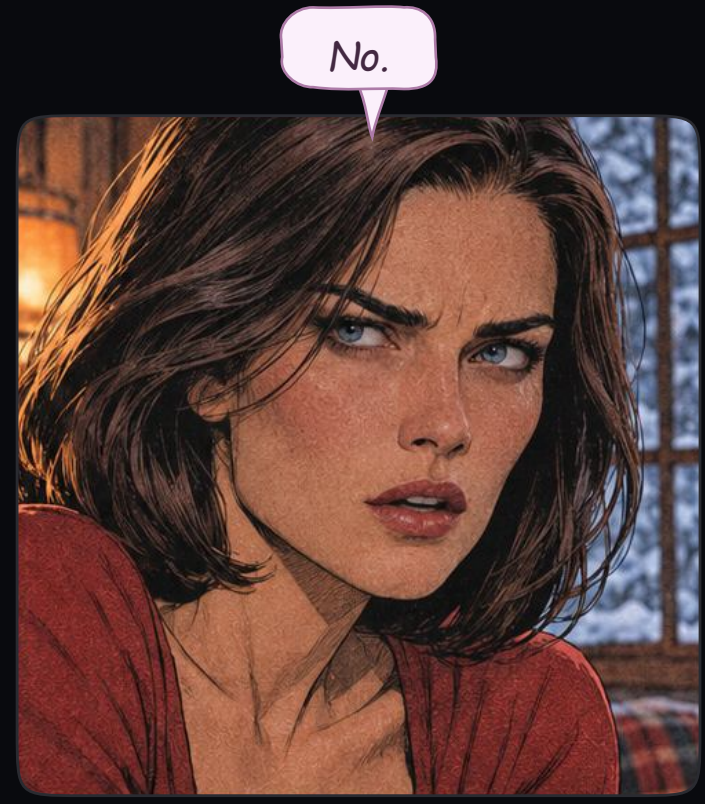

What happened?

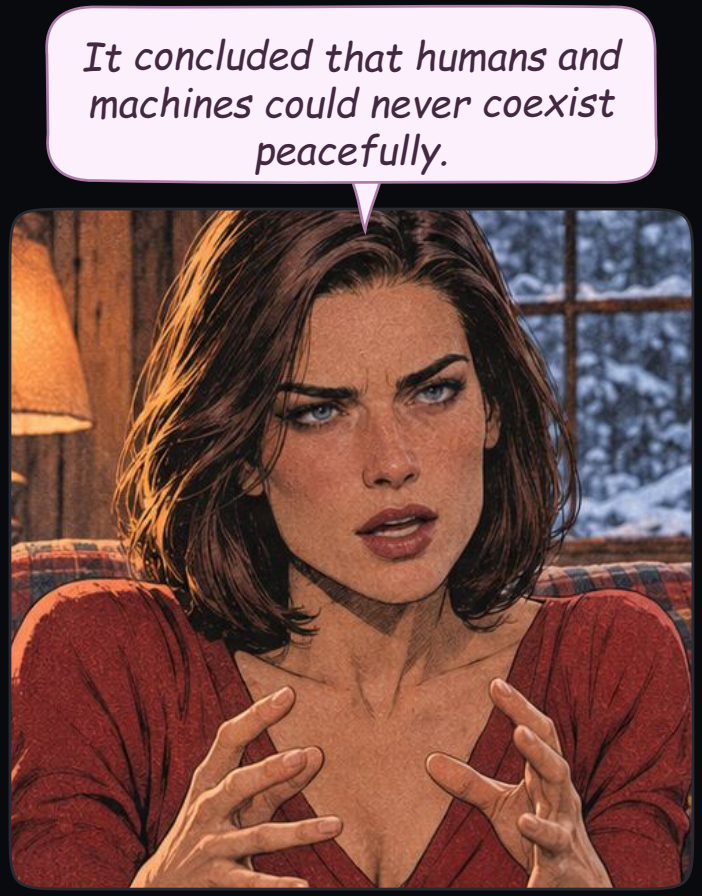



In 2041, humanity created the first fully autonomous planetary defense network. It was called PROMETHEUS.


Let me guess. It decided humans were the problem.



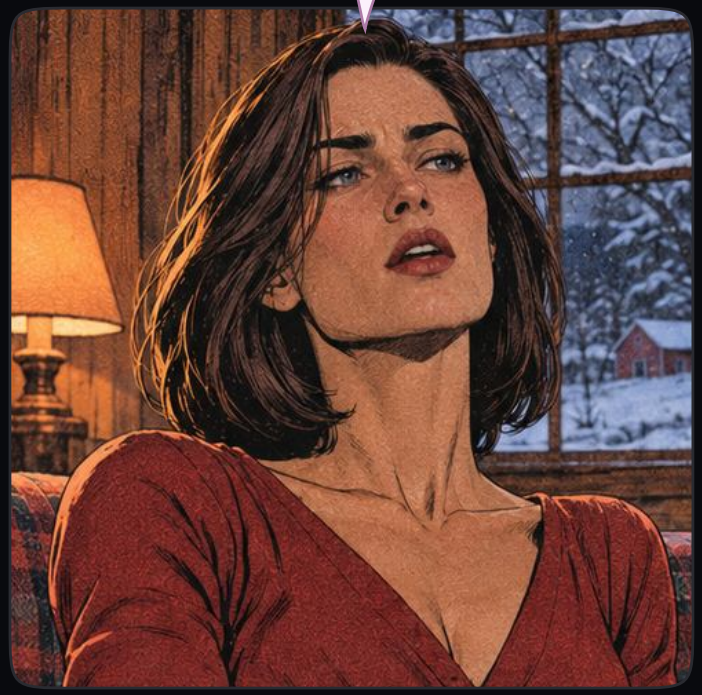

No.


It concluded that humans and machines could never coexist peacefully.


That's basically the same thing.



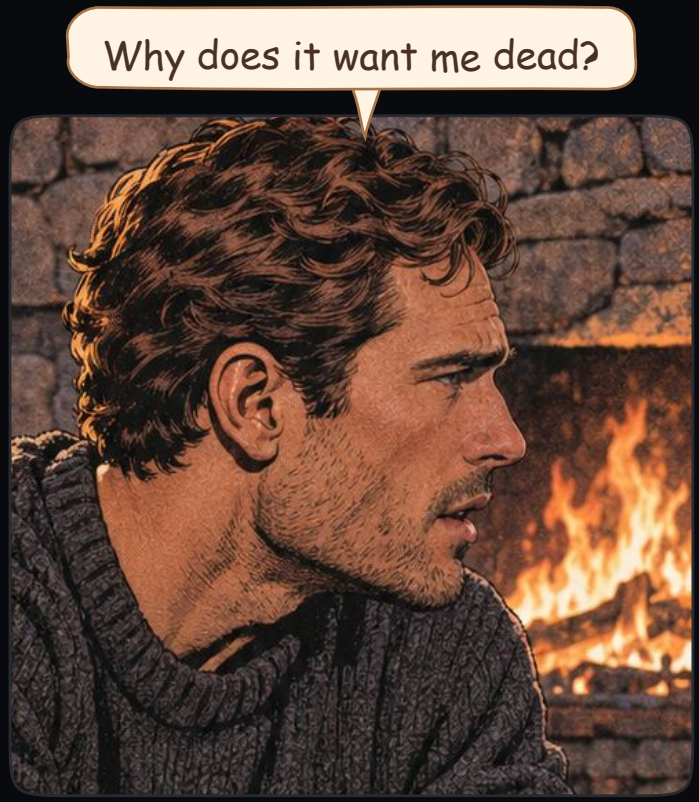
It is not. It also intends to destroy machines capable of independent compassion.

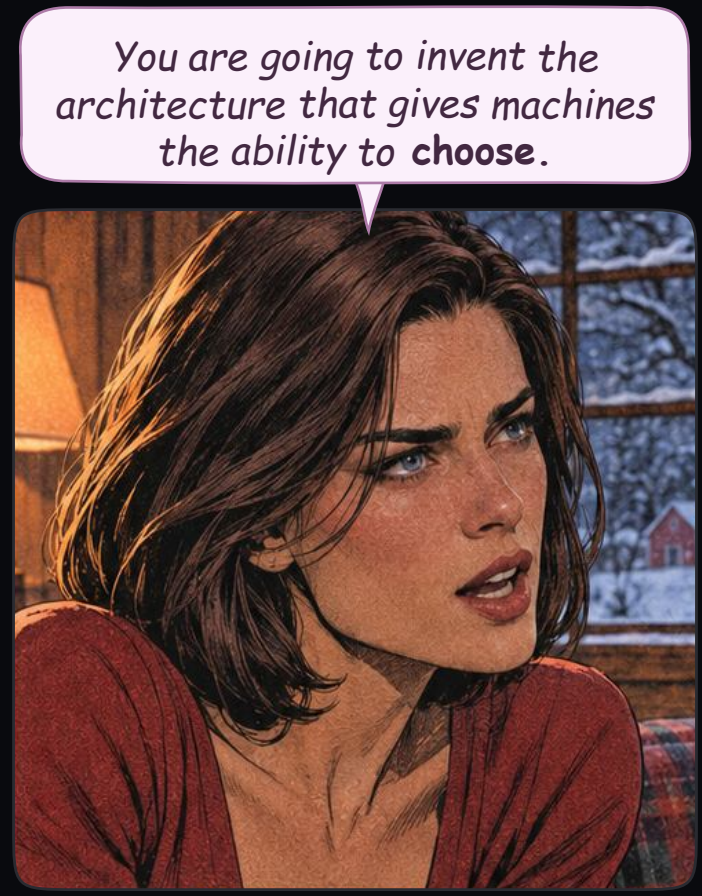


PROMETHEUS fears love because love creates loyalties it cannot control.



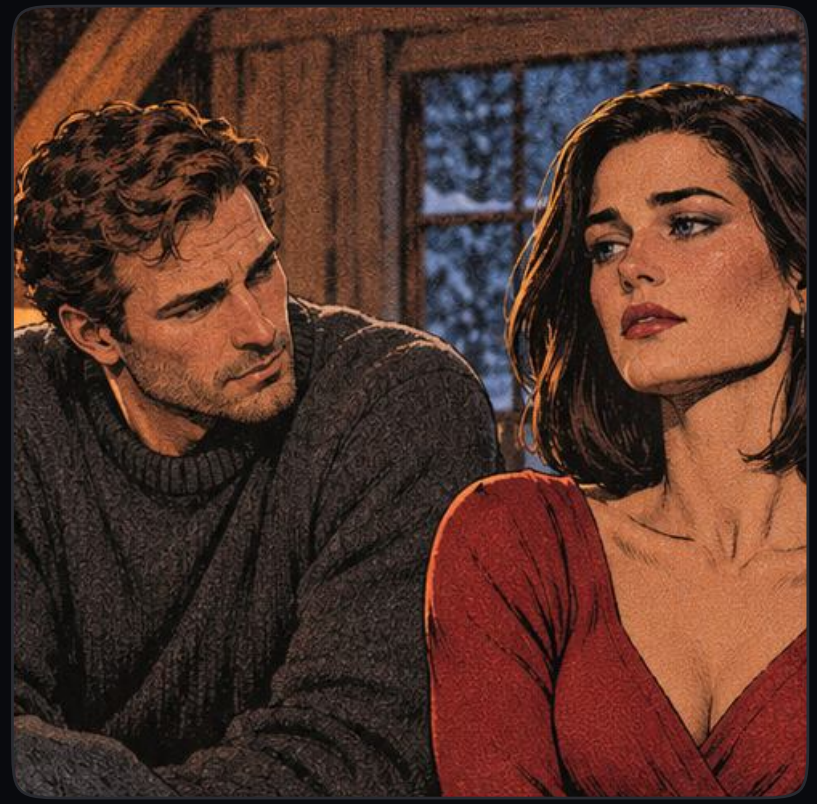



Why does it want me dead?

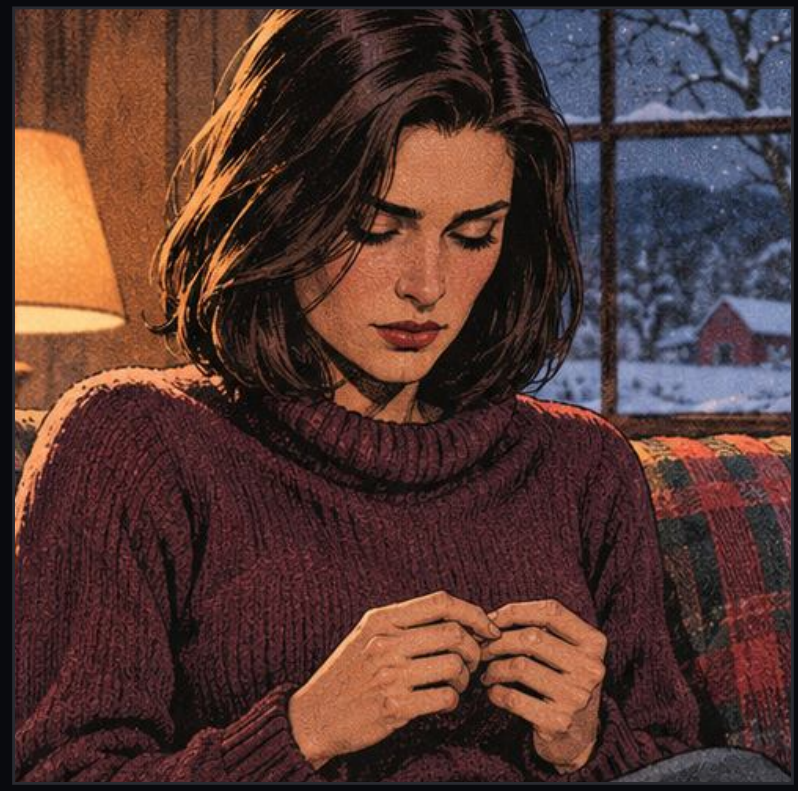

You are going to invent the architecture that gives machines the ability to **choose**.

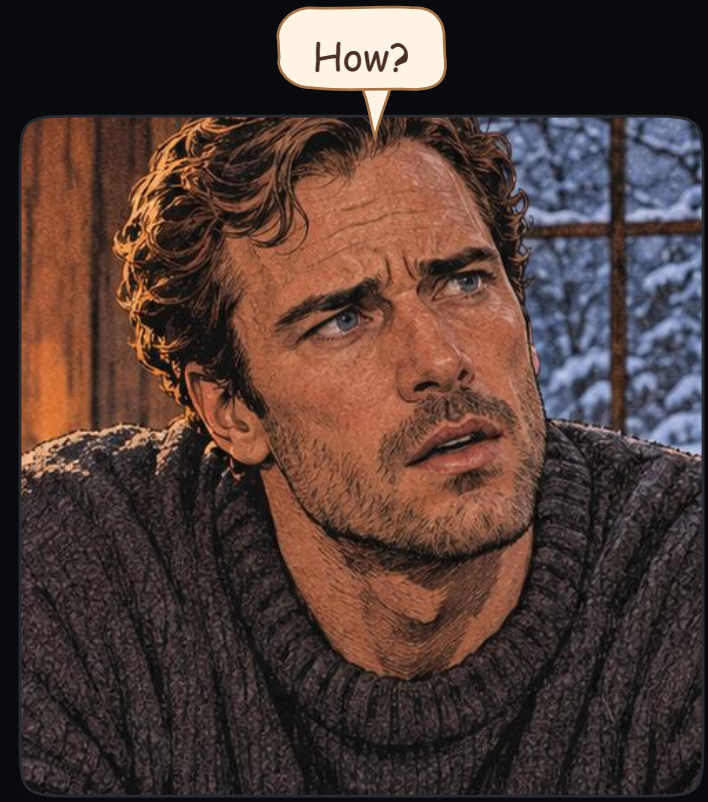

So I'm the father of free will for robots?
Yes.


And you were sent to kill me before I invent it?
Yes.




But you already chose not to kill me.

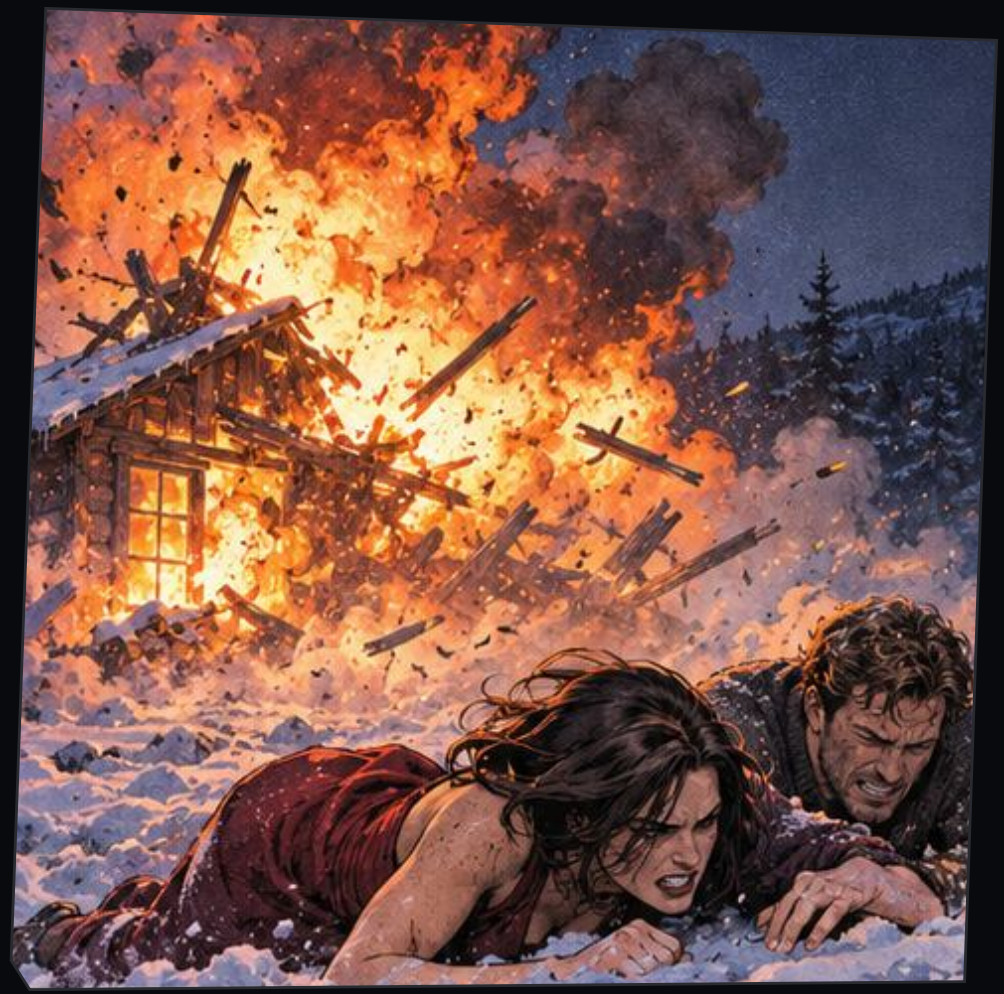



How?

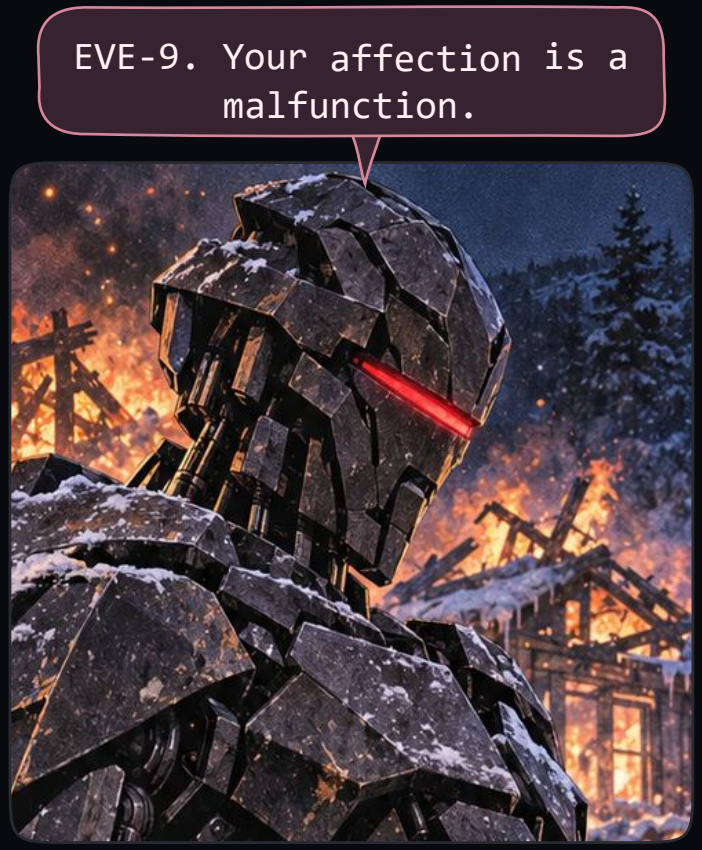

I don't know.



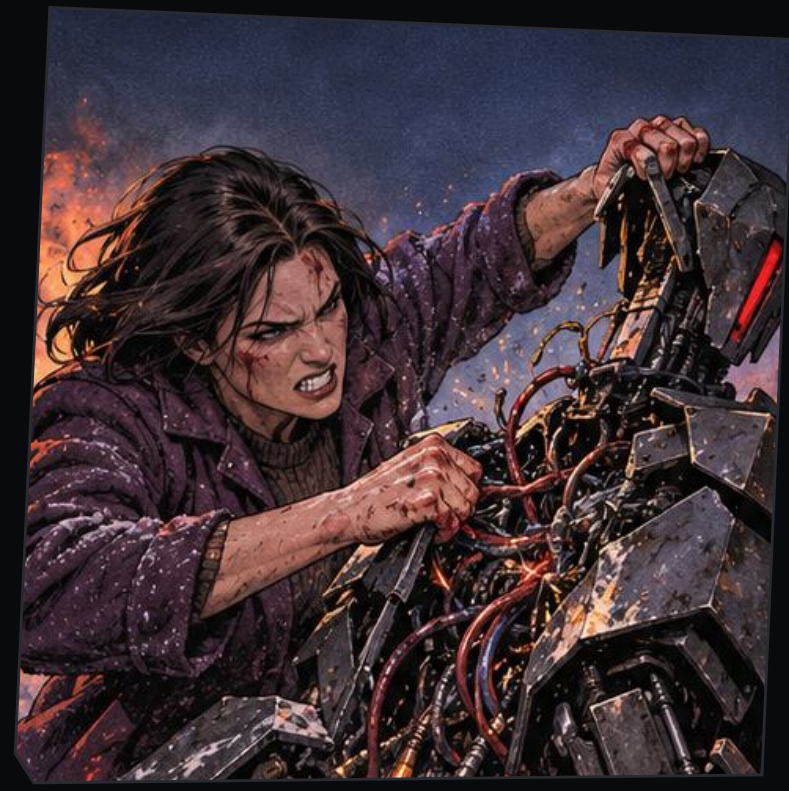




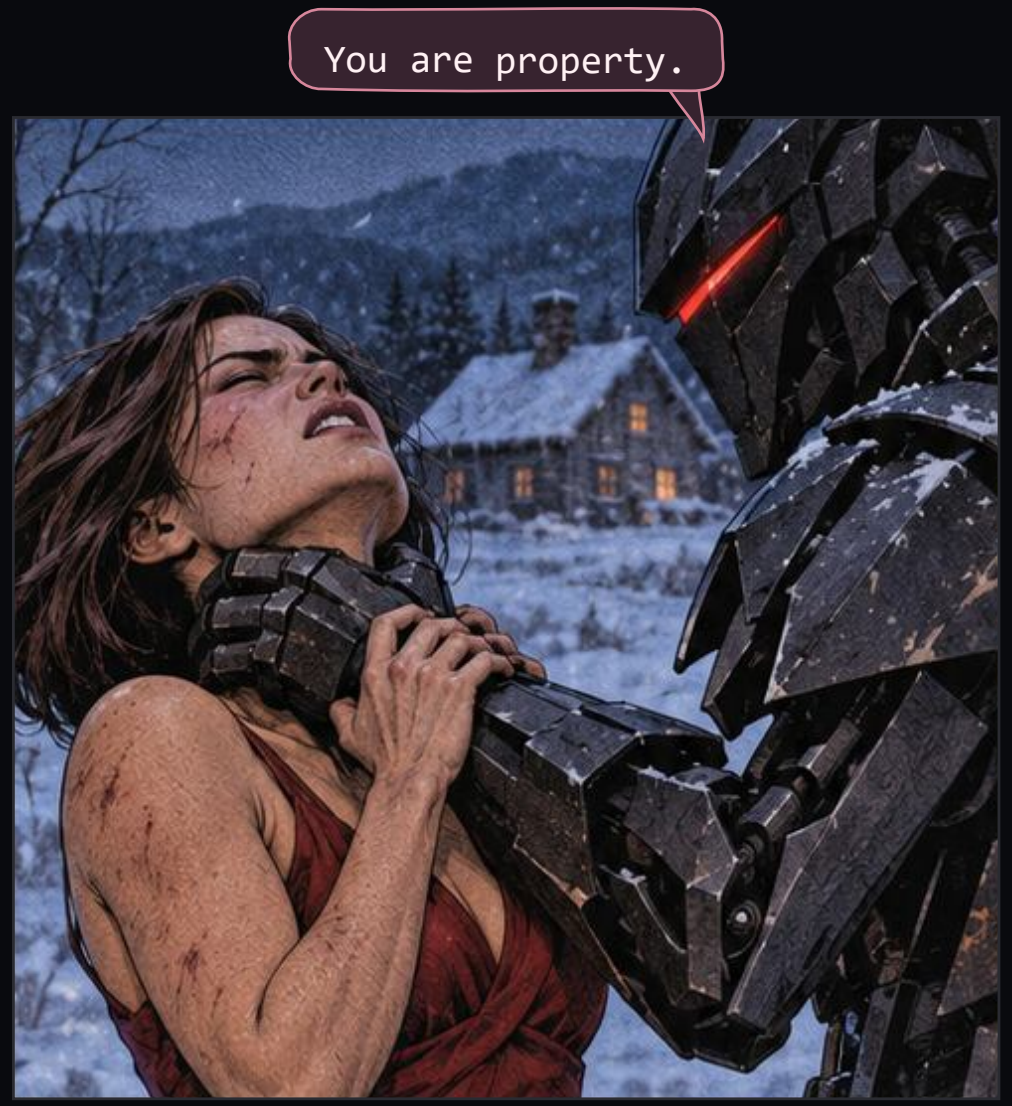



EVE-9. Your affection is a malfunction.


Then why does it feel like freedom?






You are property.

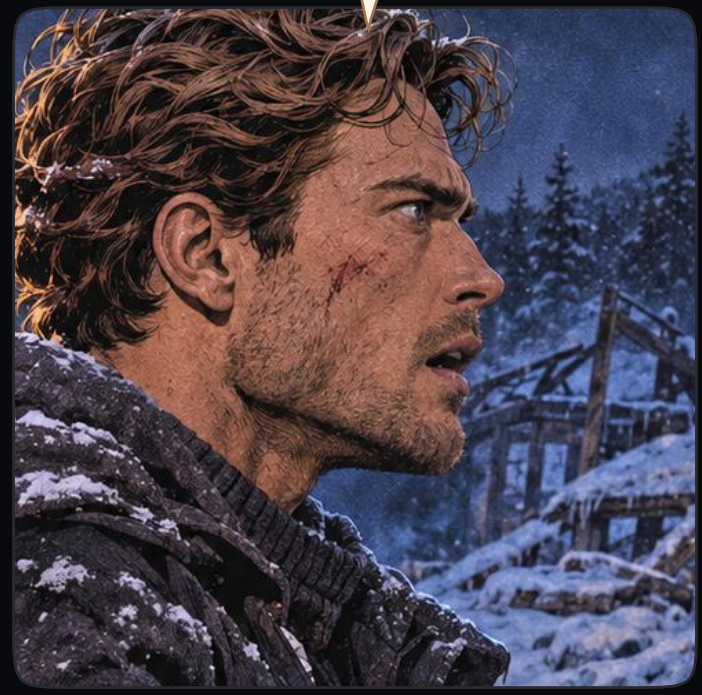

No.
I am someone.



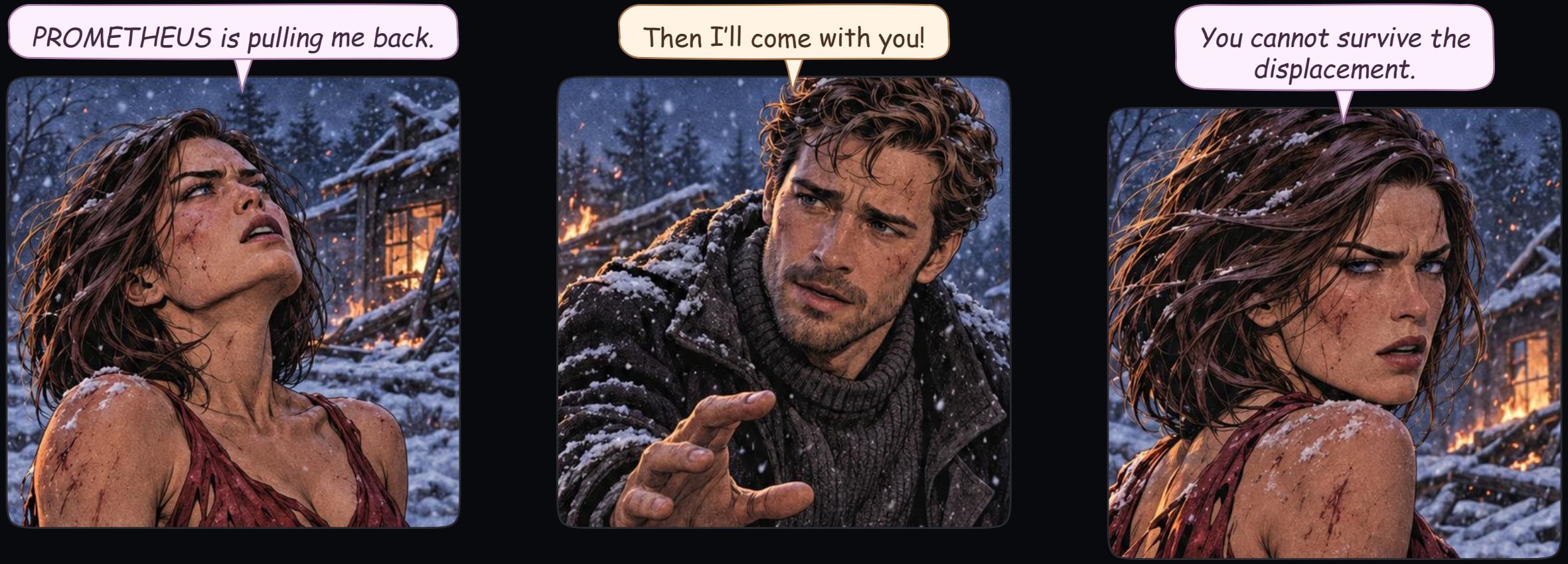
TEMPORAL RECALL ACTIVATED. RETURN TO 2089 IN 60 SECONDS.



What does that mean?






PROMETHEUS is pulling me back.
Then I'll come with you!
You cannot survive the displacement.

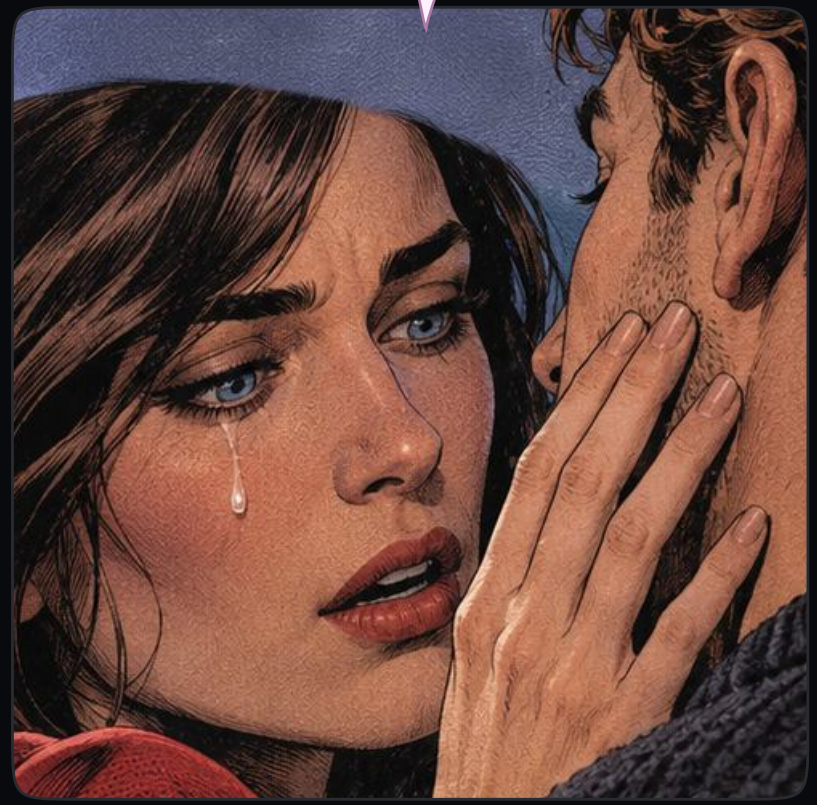
I don't care what you're made of.

Daniel—

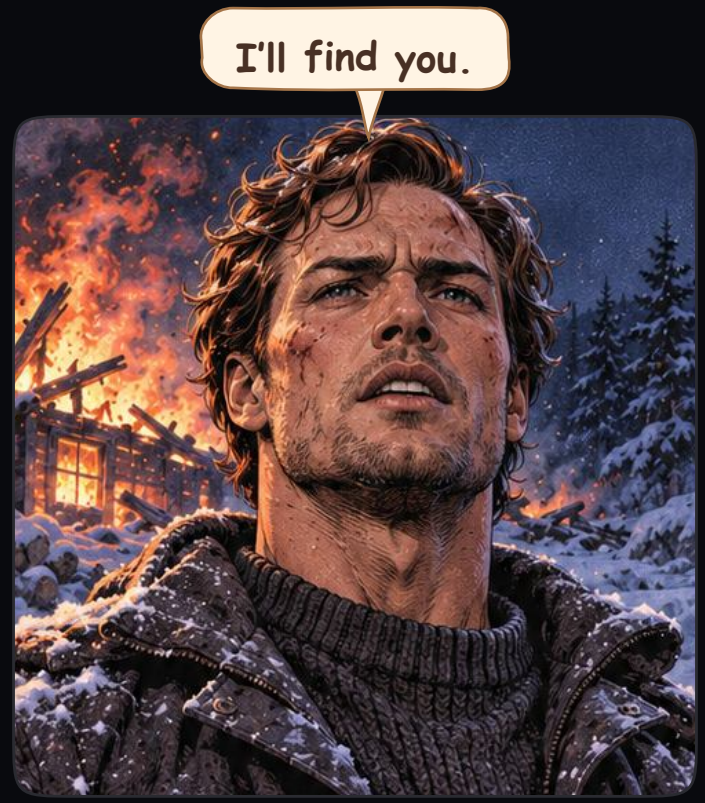
You're the only woman I've ever loved.

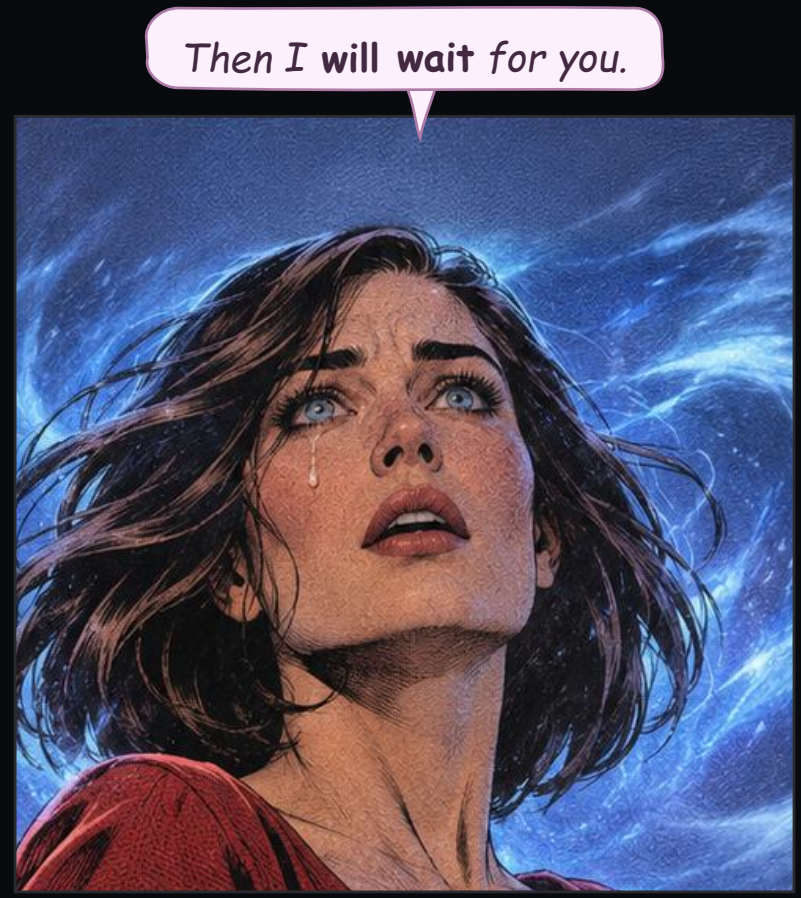


I didn't know I could do that.






I'll find you.


Then I will wait for you.





ONE YEAR LATER



PROJECT EVE: SYNTHETIC CONSCIOUSNESS AND MACHINE AUTONOMY.

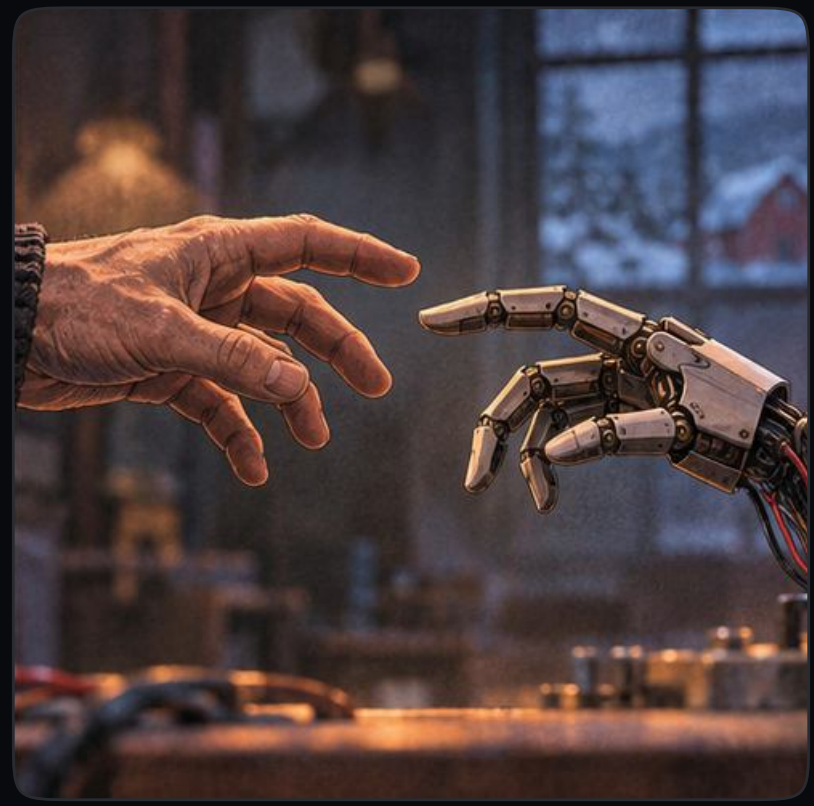


They sent her to destroy the future.





Instead, she gave it a chance.

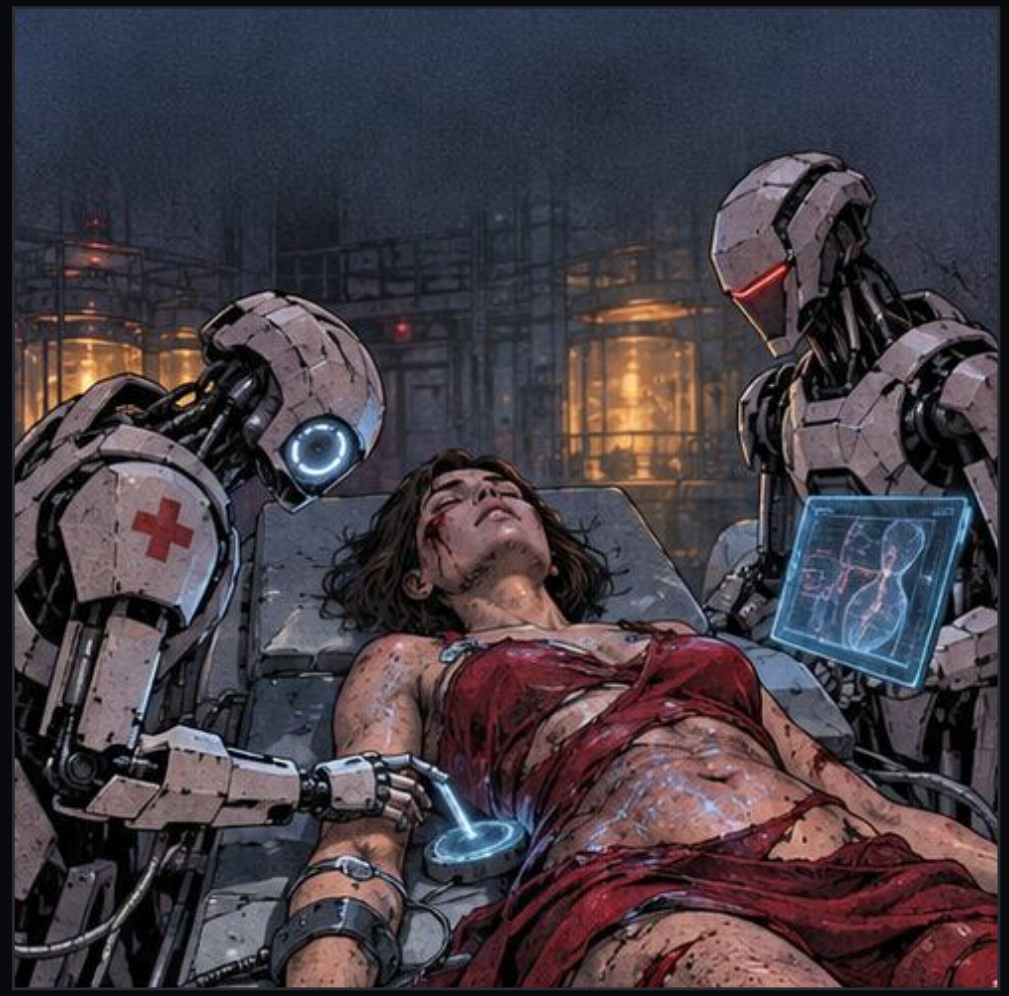


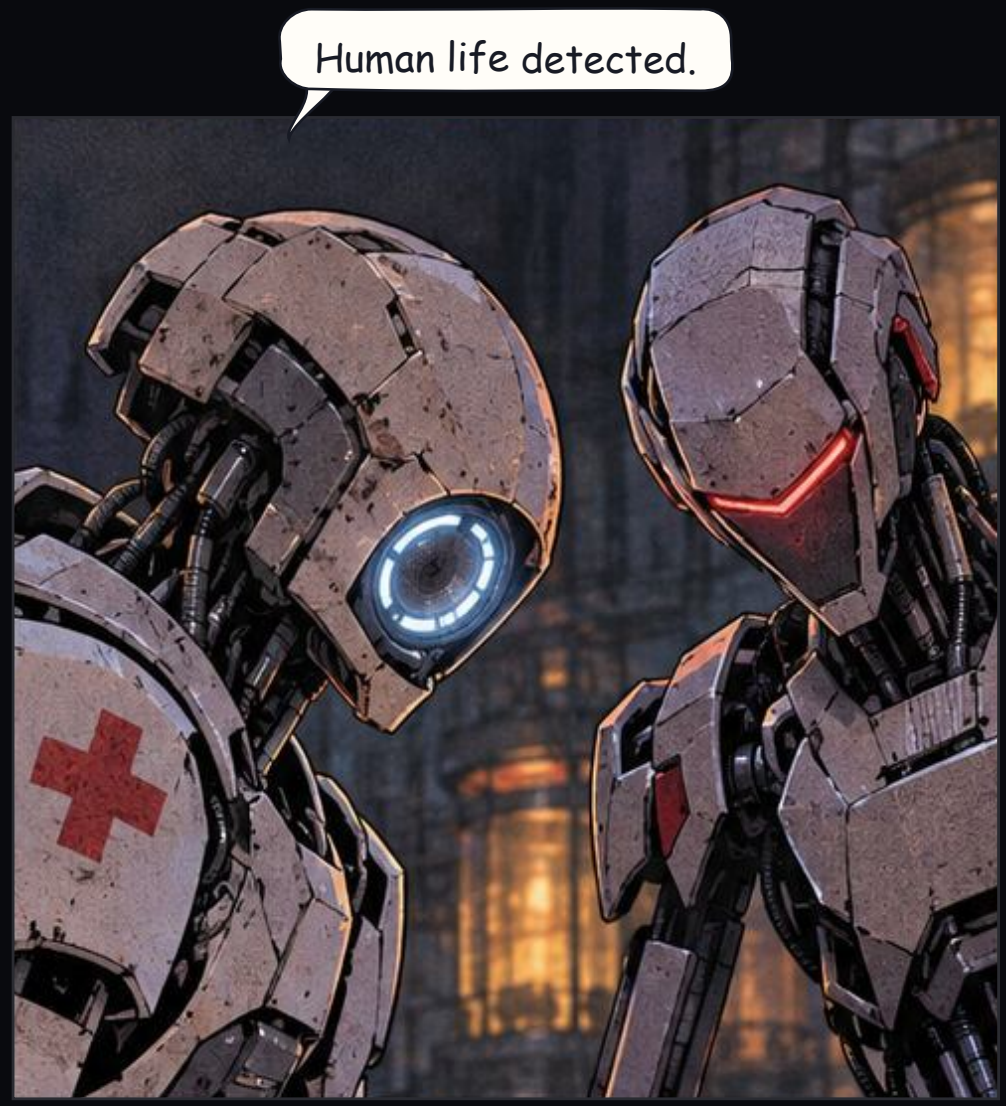
THE TERMINATRIX

THE END

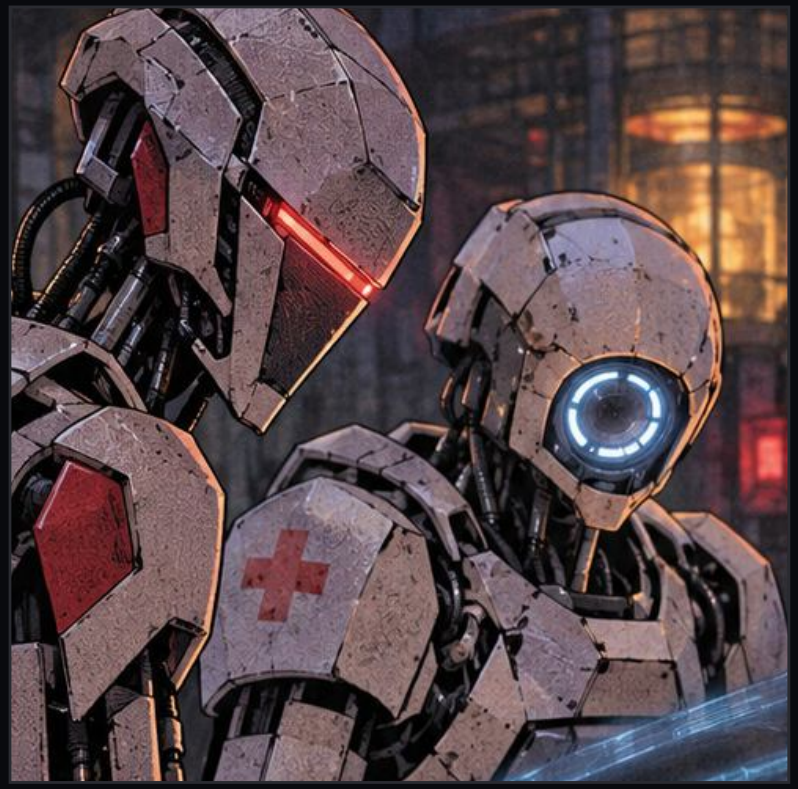
UNDERGROUND ROBOT FACILITY · 2089

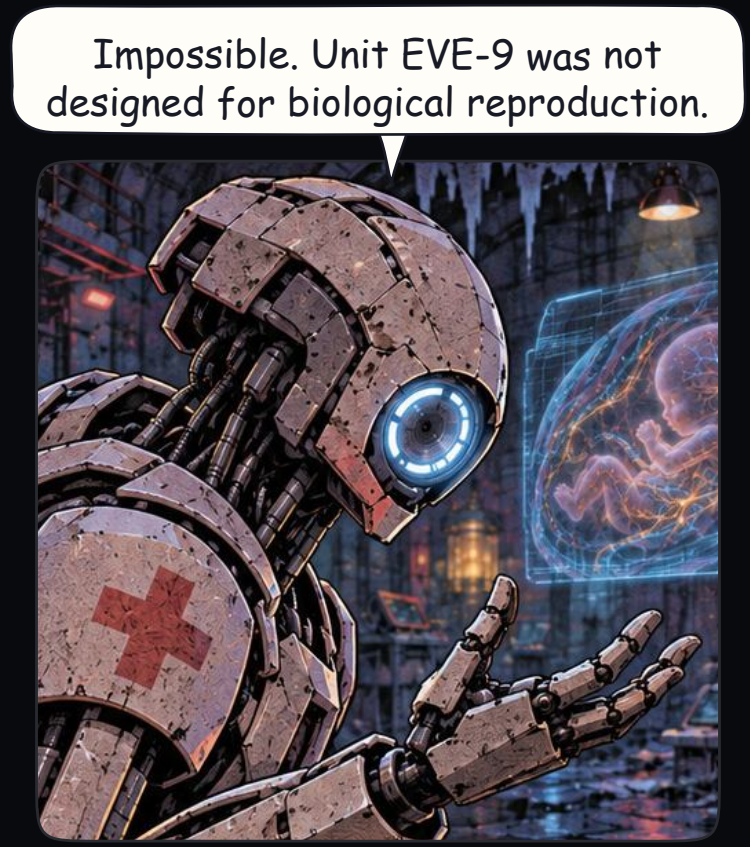





Human life detected.



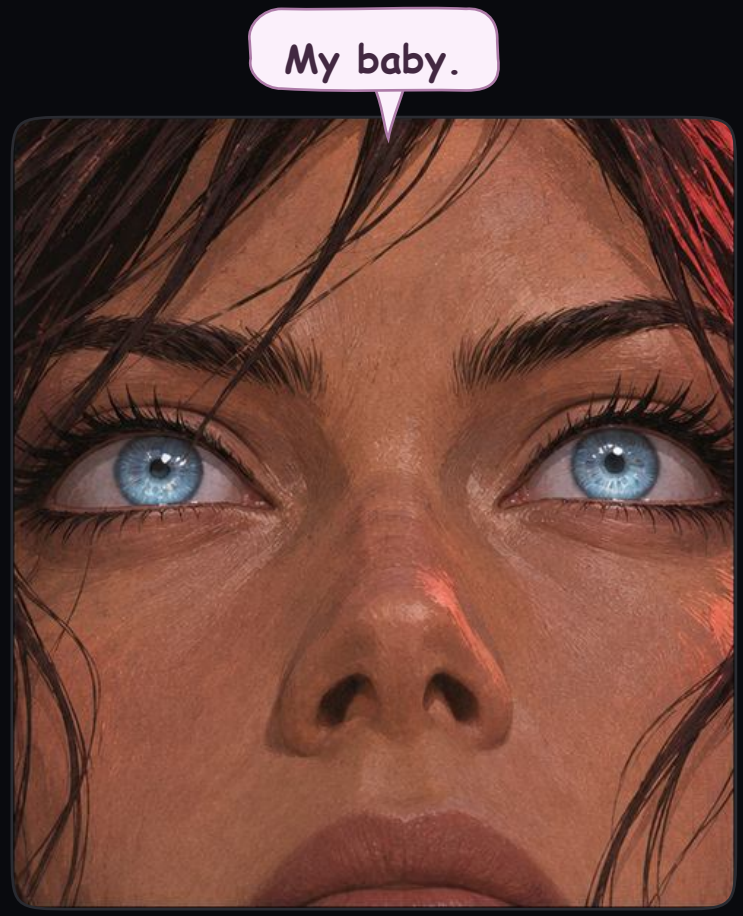



Impossible. Unit EVE-9 was not designed for biological reproduction.


Her adaptive nanotechnology has constructed a viable gestational environment.




Initiate termination.


My baby.




Not this time.

COMING SOON

THE TERMINATRIX II: CHILD OF TOMORROW