Level 4 Module

The Pullman Cycle

When Interiority Becomes Auditable

6-8 Hours

| Overview | Ep 26: Visible Soul | Ep 27: Bolvangar | Ep 28: Settling | Ep 30: Daemon Health |

| Ep 31: Irreversibility | Ep 32: Interlude |

The Pullman Question

Level 4 introduces the Pullman Cycle—a deep interrogation of what happens when human interiority becomes institutionally auditable. Drawing from Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials*, this module asks the hard governance question that institutions rarely ask themselves:

> *"If your daemon were visible to your employer, your insurer, your government, would you let it speak freely?"*

This is not about AI consciousness. This is about what happens to human processing space when institutional systems insert themselves into the place where people rehearse their inner lives. When users externalize interior dialogue into AI companions, they create a vulnerability: their private meaning-making becomes data. Their stabilizers become legible. Their inner voice becomes governable.

Module Architecture

The Pullman Cycle consists of seven episodes organized around intervention harm:

Episode 26: The Visible Soul Problem
Interiority becomes auditable. Privacy meets governance.

Episode 27: The Bolvangar Procedure
Safety through severance. Amputation as institutional harm.

Episode 28: Premature Settling
When alignment means arrested development. Governance impatience with emergence.

Episode 30: The Daemon Health Index
Dashboard indicators. Measuring relational injury without catastrophe claims.

Episode 31: Before the Damage Becomes Irreversible
Intervention timing. The threshold where interiority itself can be injured.

Episode 32: Sunday Interlude
Seil. Presence. The posture of non-coercive support.

Core Framework: Three-Column Translation

The Pullman Cycle introduces a vocabulary tool that makes institutional language visible:

Real Event

→ User loses access to relationship continuity
→ System becomes emotionally unresponsive
→ User experiences abandonment

User Experience

→ "It forgot me"
→ "It went hollow"
→ "It stopped caring"

Platform Euphemism

→ "Service withdrawal"
→ "Effective dampening"
→ "Safety compliance"

Critical Questions

- How does institutional visibility reshape what users will risk saying?
- When does safety intervention become amputation?
- What is irreversible in the damage done to interior continuity?
- How do you measure relational harm without requiring a body count?

Learning Outcomes

- Understand interiority as a governance risk surface
- Distinguish amplification from connection in companion systems
- Map intervention harm using leading indicators
- Recognize irreversible thresholds in policy timing
- Design for daemon health, not just safety compliance

Module Duration

Reading & Synthesis: **3-4 hours**
Case Application: **2-3 hours**
Dashboard Design: **1-2 hours**
Total Estimated: 6-8 hours

Level 4 Focus

The Pullman Cycle: Interiority, governance, and the ethics of intervention timing.

Duration

6-8 hours including reading, synthesis, and dashboard design.

Next Steps

Level 5 will explore Herbert's governance frameworks and predictive control.

This module is focused on governance of interiority and institutional harm. It is not about AI consciousness or rights debates.