Santos' Perspective

Side Plot 1: Clue - The Map

Scene: Night City Outskirts, Outside Arasaka Industrial Park
Rogue carelessly tossed a faded map in front of Santos. "There's a place. You might find something you want to know there," he said, waving for the bar security to escort Santos out. Before leaving the bar, Santos took one last look at the map – "Arasaka Industrial Park."

Scene: Night City Outskirts, Arasaka Industrial Park
Background: Following the map, Santos arrived at the edge of Night City, standing outside the Arasaka Industrial Park. Towering fences and glaring blue lights encircled the park, forming an impenetrable barrier. Automated turrets and concealed infrared systems made the area seem impossible to breach. Santos held his breath, hiding behind an abandoned shipping container as he observed his surroundings.
Santos muttered to himself, "What the hell is Rogue playing at? She handed me a worthless map for a fortress like this… there's no way to get in."
Visual: His gaze swept over the park, noticing several security personnel in advanced tech armor, armed with state-of-the-art weapons – technology rarely seen in the Valentino gang. His heart began to race, feeling an intense pressure.
As he contemplated his next move, his enhanced cyber-eye emitted a faint alert, highlighting a nearby infrared-marked entrance. After confirming the guards were out of sight, he took a deep breath and cautiously approached the entrance.

Scene: Inside the Arasaka Industrial Park - Abandoned Laboratory Floor
Santos quietly slipped into the industrial park through a narrow ventilation shaft. This floor was empty and eerily silent, dimly lit, with a faint antiseptic smell lingering in the air. As he scanned his surroundings, he saw scuff marks and irregular rust stains on the floor, remnants of past activities.
He noticed a door nearby with a faded sign reading "Lab R43001." His heart skipped a beat.
Visual: He gently pushed open the door to reveal rows of glass isolation pods. Inside each pod lay unmoving bodies, their half-open eyes lifeless, bodies connected to countless data cables leading to a black mainframe in the lab's corner. Red code continuously flashed on its screen: R43001.
"What is this place?" Santos murmured, cold sweat forming on his forehead. Just then, his cyber-eye detected an unusual electromagnetic signal connected to one of the systems in the isolation pods.
Plot Point: In one of the pods, he found a woman in red with a pale face staring straight ahead. Santos suddenly recognized her – it was Wakako, the woman he had seen killed in a braindance on Japantown Street.
"This can't be... Wakako is dead," he stammered, his voice trembling.

Scene: The Laboratory - The Red Shrine
As Santos struggled with his confusion, a red light flickered deep within the lab. Drawn by the

glow, he walked down the hallway toward its source. A strange red-lit shrine appeared before him, sending chills down his spine.

Visual: Black screens surrounded the shrine, each displaying a face. The faces appeared twisted, agonized, trapped as if unable to escape. Below each screen, the same code flashed: R43001.

He moved closer, and his cyber-eye interface triggered an alert: "Danger Signal." One of the faces on the screens slowly turned to look at him, staring with eyes that were both unfamiliar and unsettlingly familiar. He froze, feeling a bone-chilling fear.

A raspy voice crackled from the screen: "You can't escape, Santos… Night City is your grave." The face on the screen twisted into his own likeness, grinning ominously.

"This isn't real… It can't be!" he shouted, trying to back away.

Scene: Arasaka Industrial Park - Security System Alert

At that moment, alarms blared throughout the lab, red lights flashing everywhere as security robots activated and rushed toward him. In a panic, Santos turned and ran, but every corridor seemed to turn into a dead end, trapping him like a maze.

The static noise in his ears grew louder, his head pounding, vision blurring, until only the sound of that repeated code remained: "R43001, R43001, R43001…"

The security robots closed in, weapons aimed at him, red lights flashing in his eyes as he shut them tightly, bracing for the fatal blow.

Scene: Santos' Apartment

Santos jolted awake, realizing he was lying in bed, breathing heavily, his heart racing, and his pillow soaked with sweat. He stared at the ceiling, dazed, processing the realization that it had all been a nightmare.

He sat up, rubbing his temples, giving a weary laugh. "Damn… just a dream." But as he lifted his hand, he noticed a crumpled map in his palm – with the unmistakable print of "Arasaka Industrial Park."

His smile froze as a sense of foreboding crept into his mind, the terror of the dream resurfacing and chilling his spine. Slowly, he looked toward the cold neon lights of Night City outside his window, feeling as though they, too, were silently watching him.

Vera's Perspective
Side Plot 1: Clue - The Map

Scene: Night City Outskirts, Outside Arasaka Industrial Park

Narration: Rogue nonchalantly tossed a faded map in front of Vera, his tone flat with a hint of mockery.

Rogue: "There's a place. Maybe you'll find the answers you're looking for."

Narration: He waved his hand, signaling for the bar security to escort Vera out, leaving her alone in the dim corner of the bar with the map in hand. She lowered her gaze, studying the blurred writing on the map, feeling a vague unease. This place belonged to Arasaka, a territory so daunting that most wouldn't dare approach.

Scene: Night City Outskirts, Arasaka Industrial Park
Background: Following the map, Vera arrived at the edge of Night City, standing outside the Arasaka Industrial Park. The high-voltage fences and glaring blue warning lights enclosed the entire area, making it impenetrable. Automated turrets and hidden infrared systems guarded it fiercely, ready to deal with any intruders. Vera held her breath, crouching behind an abandoned shipping container, her gaze sweeping over the park as she observed the surroundings.
Vera *(whispering to herself)*: "That old fox Rogue sent me to this hellhole… giving me nothing but an old map and expecting me to just go in? Insane."
Visual: She noticed several security personnel clad in heavy, advanced tech armor, carrying new-model weapons on their shoulders. Their movements were calm and highly disciplined. Vera frowned slightly, a sense of unease washing over her as she clenched her fists, trying to steady herself.
Narration: Just as she was debating her next move, her cyber-eye emitted a faint alert, revealing a hidden infrared security line ahead and marking a discreet entrance. She quickly scanned the area to confirm no patrols were nearby, took a deep breath, and cautiously moved toward the entrance with swift, silent steps.

Scene: Inside Arasaka Industrial Park - Abandoned Laboratory Floor
Narration: Vera snuck into the industrial park's interior through a narrow ventilation shaft. The space was empty and eerily quiet, dimly lit, with a heavy antiseptic smell mixed with the scent of rusty metal. She looked around, noticing deep scratches and rust stains of varying intensity on the floor, as if remnants of some long-running experiment.
Vera *(murmuring to herself)*: "What secrets are they hiding here…?"
Narration: She spotted a door with a faded sign that read "Lab R43001," its letters barely legible. Her heart skipped a beat, a strange unease settling over her.
Visual: Vera gently pushed open the door, revealing rows of transparent isolation pods. Inside each pod lay pale bodies with half-open, lifeless eyes, as if caught in a perpetual slumber. Each body was covered in tangled data cables, connected to a black mainframe in the corner. On the mainframe's screen, a string of vivid red code flashed repeatedly: R43001.
Vera *(softly)*: "These people… trapped like this? What kind of twisted experiment is this?"
Narration: At that moment, her cyber-eye detected an abnormal electromagnetic signal connected to one of the systems in the isolation pods. She cautiously approached, her attention caught by a familiar figure. A woman in red lay in one of the pods, her hollow eyes staring ahead, her face deathly pale.
Vera *(voice trembling)*: "No… it can't be. Wakako? But… she's supposed to be…"

Scene: Laboratory - The Red Shrine
Narration: As Vera was drowning in confusion, a red light flickered deep within the lab. Drawn to the glow, she walked down the hallway toward its source, finding a room known as the "Red Shrine" before her. Her brows furrowed as a feeling of unease crept into her gaze.
Visual: Black screens surrounded the shrine, each displaying a distorted, agonized face, as though they were trapped inside, unable to escape. Below each screen, the same code flashed: R43001.
Vera *(whispering to herself)*: "What have these people been through… this place is a nightmare."

Narration: She moved closer to one of the screens, her cyber-eye issuing a danger alert. One of the faces on the screen slowly turned, its eyes staring directly at Vera with a cold, eerie expression. Vera froze, a bead of cold sweat trickling down her forehead as a shiver ran through her.

Screen Face *(low and raspy)*: "You can't escape, Vera… Night City is your grave."

Narration: The face on the screen gradually twisted, morphing into her own reflection with a chilling smile.

Vera *(stumbling backward in fear)*: "No… this can't be real… it has to be a hallucination."

Scene: Arasaka Industrial Park - Security System Alert

Narration: Suddenly, piercing alarms blared throughout the lab as red warning lights illuminated the area. Security robots activated, locking onto Vera's position and closing in on her.

Vera *(whispering urgently to herself)*: "Damn… I need to get out of here!"

Narration: She spun around and ran, but every corridor seemed to turn into a dead end, trapping her as if she were in a maze. The noise in her ears grew louder, her vision blurring, until only the relentless echo of that code remained in her mind: "R43001, R43001, R43001…"

Visual: The security robots closed in, guns trained on her as the red lights illuminated her face. She shut her eyes, a wave of despair washing over her as she braced for the final blow.

Scene: Vera's Apartment

Narration: Vera jolted awake, finding herself lying in bed, breathing rapidly, her heart racing, her pillow soaked in sweat. She stared at the ceiling, realizing that everything had been nothing more than a nightmare.

Vera *(whispering to herself)*: "Damn… just a dream."

Narration: She sat up, rubbing her forehead, trying to calm her nerves. As she raised her hand, she noticed a crumpled map in her palm – with "Arasaka Industrial Park" clearly marked on it.

Visual: Her smile faded, replaced by a look of unease. The terror of the dream seemed to linger, clawing at her mind. Slowly, she looked out the window at the cold neon lights of Night City, feeling as though they, too, were silently watching her.