

LAIN IWAKURA, A JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL GIRL, LIVES IN SUBURBAN JAPAN WITH HER MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILY, CONSISTING OF HER INEXPRESSIVE OLDER SISTER MIKA, HER EMOTIONALLY DISTANT MOTHER, AND HER COMPUTER-OBSSESSED FATHER; LAIN HERSELF IS SOMEWHAT AWKWARD, INTROVERTED, AND SOCIALLY ISOLATED FROM MOST OF HER SCHOOL PEERS. THE STATUS-QUO OF HER LIFE BECOMES UPTURNED BY A SERIES OF BIZARRE INCIDENTS THAT START TO TAKE PLACE AFTER SHE LEARNS THAT GIRLS FROM HER SCHOOL HAVE RECEIVED AN E-MAIL FROM A DEAD STUDENT, CHISA YOMODA, AND SHE PULLS OUT HER OLD COMPUTER IN ORDER TO CHECK FOR THE SAME MESSAGE. LAIN FINDS CHISA TELLING HER VIA EMAIL THAT SHE IS NOT DEAD BUT HAS MERELY "ABANDONED HER PHYSICAL SELF" AND IS ALIVE DEEP WITHIN THE VIRTUAL REALM OF THE WIRED ITSELF, WHERE SHE CLAIMS SHE HAS FOUND "GOD". FROM THIS POINT, LAIN IS CAUGHT UP IN A SERIES OF CRYPTIC AND SURREAL EVENTS THAT SEE HER DELVING DEEPER INTO THE MYSTERY OF THE NETWORK IN A NARRATIVE THAT EXPLORES THEMES OF CONSCIOUSNESS, PERCEPTION, AND THE NATURE OF REALITY.

