TEMP

Fulco sells XBDs. Monique, under a fake name, brings fake stuff to deal to pass off as real stuff. Fulco: not in VIP line, which makes me believe a tiny hint that your name is fake is true, and you brought fake stuff; and your name’s Monique, a girl’s name → stand-off

Concrete cylinder in MRI for torture chamber

RANDOM JOTS

* Only once the Interfaced people became 18 did the corporate wars start.
* A universe where to “galactic war” against xenos, a big collective thing, is the mass colonization of an uninhabited universe for the betterment of humanity; the indomitable human spirit.
* “I’m not an AI, I’m an AC, artificial consciousness.” **REPLACE GAI WITH AI (use AC)**
* "You all are so egotistical to believe you are beyond your body, that your mind is something else. I am made up of my GAI organs, each unconscious, but these account for my functions like walking and talking. Whether or not I have a mind is based on your egotistical ideas which I have overcome given my nature.
* Film camera as proof that photos are not GAI.
* I use GAI for my movement fluidity and human-likeness, including my voice and language, but my mind is uniquely separate and entirely distinct.
* Random -> conscience -> RNG is robot’s heart
* Stripper who listens to audiobooks
* Indecipherable letter:
  + To whom it may concern,
  + blah blah [indecipherable] etc etc
* Hyper-overclocking (h-clocking): Just like normal Interface overclocking, but it allows you to accelerate faster than 10x. Going too far over 10x (e.g. 25x, 50x speed) increases the risk of de-overclock related illnesses (like the bends, sometimes deadly). Going even further (100x) risks entirely prevents survivable de-overclock. Some people, with expensive intravenous cryobeds, choose to h-clock beyond safe limits with the understanding that their own de-overclock will become impossible. Some people may h-clock to 1000x or more (living maybe a few minutes in the real world since at this speed it becomes entirely impossible to de-overclock and the stress on the nervous system is too much) during desperate last stands, sacrificing themselves for some fight on the matrix (basically bullet-time like in The Matrix, on command for warfare).
* ***Datist fight the development of the Cipher; bombing facilities etc. to stop it.***
* "All the best hackers on the matrix are h-clocked beyond the edge. I went over in '72, before the Data War even started. I make enough to pay my permabed's rent each month (from inside the matrix), so I'm doing pretty good all things considered."
* The edge is the word for the h-clocking limit (which varies person to person) that prevents a person from disconnecting. Permabeds (permanent cryobeds) are specifically designed to keep people inside alive indefinitely, often with all kinds of life support systems. If you rent a permabed and can't pay, you die.
* “The ego surpasses the material mind. We think we are above the brain, but we are not. The brain *is* the mind, itself. They are not separate.”
* Gigabong
* Genetag just measures intrinsic DNA age
* ***The Interfaced people are all super young; metaphor for young being sent to the slaughter for capital in war, the Data War.***
* Program space appears in a manner unique to everyone's comfort, from sci-fi to western, etc.
* In first book, war narrative, people in nightclubs, etc. In second book, everyone in matrix decades later (addiction)
* Make fun of Clear airport security and TSA. People with the good Gentags walk above others or make log splash, etc.; something funny.
* A proompt is a reactive AI creature which uses ChatGPT-type AI; not really alive.
* Proompt is a slur for sentient AIs. Prompt is soft-r, proompt is hard-r.
* Synth-intuition.
* AI generated XBDs vs. the “real stuff.” Refine societal view of difference. Murder and torture XBDs that are AI are seen like video games despite being identical to the real stuff.
* Frontend practice war without effects on body. Foxhole game, for fun, on matrix.
* Hotelier.
* The Enshittification.
* Dead gunner drill.
* Tactical dive ladder.
* Climax nuke is never mentioned until it happens—plot twist.
* “His loose clothes puff out aside from a funnel of force created by the bullet.”
* Interstellar war of attrition with aliens (who also secretly made Adam Task).
* Combined arms with Interfaced and Un-interfaced soldiers for each’s skills.
* Underground shipping container logistics.
* Sign language across a cafeteria.
* “How did we build the tools to build the tools to build the tools to build the tools…”
* Live streaming senses.
* Two people playing chess while skydiving to win the single parachute.
* Man taking a cigar out and lighting it after every sentence—Habib-like character is the only one who is weirded out. (See Cigarettes short story).
* Unstoppable force meets immovable object.
* Shotgun roulette.
* Assassin's teapot.
* Generational trauma; old Aleks storyline.
* Monique hates robots → hates Interfacing → gets Edmund to not Interface Rafael.

One sentence summaries:

*Chapter 1:* Monique travels to The Ardara, sees a homeless man, is distracted by a woman in a red dress, is seen from the VIP line by Fulco and the robot, and forges his genetag.

*Chapter 2:* Monique meets with Fulco and the robot over a drug deal, but he insults the robot by saying “proompt,” which, in combination with him being in the standard and not VIP line, leads to the deal favoring Fulco and party.

*Chapter 3:* Here

Long summaries:

*Chapter 1:* Kernel City awakens into the night. Monique’s task is described as he walks to The Ardara after hopping off a street car. A man is seen in the gutter disconnecting and falling off a high of Merc; he accosts Monique for money, which he does not give. Monique continues on to the nightclub and gets in line. A woman in a red dress in front of him in line looks him up and down and begins flirting (relevant to the conversation in chapter 2). He is distracted during the conversation; Fulco and the robot enter through the VIP line. Monique doesn’t notice because he is distracted and fails to see Fulco watching him and how being in the standard line is a bad image in the eye of a drug lord, especially one you intend to make a deal with. Monique enters The Ardara after minor trouble with the bouncer over his forged genetag.

*Chapter 2:* Monique walks through The Ardara, down and up the superfluous stairs, eventually seeing Fulco and approaching. (It is explained that conversations over the internet are no longer trustworthy given access to easy generative AI.) Unbeknownst to him, Fulco and the robot have been watching since he was in the line, with Monique only seeing them just now. Monique’s strategy involves presenting himself as richer than he is, so Fulco seeing him in the pleb line is detrimental. It turns out Fulco brought a robot to do the deal, instead of him—giving the robot total authority over only this specific deal to ensure he is not tricked. (The deal is too valuable for both parties—whose respective assets are stored in a manner where neither party knows the other’s cache location, and therefore immune to typical theft—to leave to typical gang methods.) Monique, angry that the social situation has changed, calls the robot a ‘proompt’ (impling that Fulco is just relying on GAI). However the robot argues it is sentient. The robot challenges him to prove his own personhood, since he’s so confident in his accusation that the robot is just a generative AI. A discussion on materialism and other things ensues; general exposition through dialogue. The discussion vaguely revolves around the deal. By calling the robot a proompt, he has managed to extract more information from both Fulco and the robot in the heat of the moment; he uses this information, with the previously found weakness in Fulco’s character, to dominate the proceeding drug deal, but Fulco and the robot know but do not disclose their seeing Monique in the standard line. Both follow along with Monique’s overconfident strategy, until eventually putting him in a corner. The deal shifts back and forth, but because of Fulco and the robot seeing Monique in the standard line, the equilibrium is shifted in their favor. Monique loses what he wanted out of the deal but makes it anyway to preserve his integrity in order to recover from the defeat as much as possible.

*Chapter 3:* Elliot is more intelligent than Monique—more charismatic too; he’s not like Monique and can’t be tricked by his ploys.

What made it terrible was not the act itself, but the simple fact that it is absolutely the only fault of an otherwise perfect man.

Elliot has been harassing Monique to join him, and is eccentric to a point where Monique’s defenses are entirely ineffective.

Part One: The Datists

Ch. 1: The Material Mind

Ch. 2: Battle at The Ardara

Ch. 3: Elliot

Part Two: The Cipher

Ch. Estation

Ch. DRM

Ch. Fighting in the War Room

Ch. Overclocked

Ch. Double-signal

Ch. Ultimatum

Ch. Godbless the Cipher

Ch. Imperative Disconnection

Ch. A Meeting with the Board

Ch. The Recruitment

Ch. Raid on Cobalt Saber

Ch. Rafael

Ch. The Battle of Hexbridge I

Ch. The Battle of Hexbridge II

Ch. The Battle of Hexbridge III