

Aaliyah Bell

A wide-angle photograph of a rural landscape. In the foreground, a large field is densely populated with vibrant red poppies. Beyond the field, there are rolling green hills and pastures. A line of trees marks the horizon under a clear, pale blue sky.

# *House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer*

# Summary

We follow Matt, a clone of a powerful drug lord called El Patron in the fictional country of Opium. Matt was created so he could be harvested for his organs when he's older in order to extend El Patron's lifespan in a world where clones are seen as nothing but soulless tools. Matt starts his childhood peacefully as he's raised by his caretakers in seclusion, but once he's taken to El Patron and his sprawling mansion, Matt is introduced to the dystopian world of prejudice, politics, and persecution that rules Opium. With the help of close friends and some luck, Matt escapes Opium and his impending death date, waiting for El Patron to finally die so he can reclaim the throne of Opium and undo all the suffering caused by the drug lord.

# Key Notes

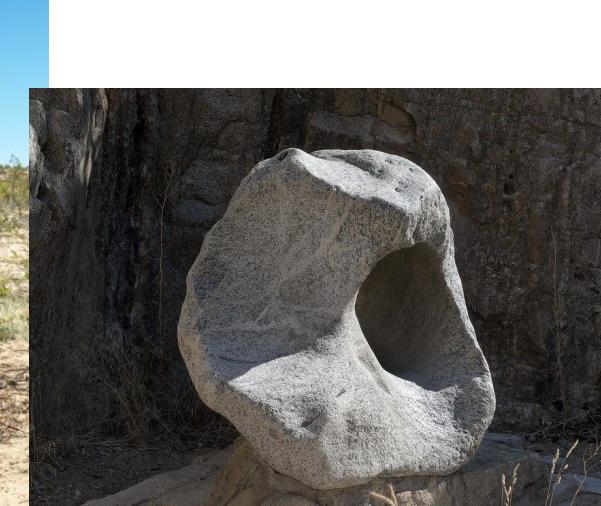
- The country of Opium is comparatively primitive to the rest of the world. El Patron's mansion and many other houses still use wood burning stoves, while neighboring countries like the U.S and Atzlan have hover cars and holograms. The setting takes place maybe in the 2100s
- El Patron forces Opium to emulate his childhood. There are some modern appliances like microwaves and TVs that are used. He tries to hide all traces of more advanced technology away from the populace, except for cloning and mind control, which is commonplace and well known. Overall, there's an air of uneasy peace within the country full of lies.
- Mind control is very common, you can see thousands of servants, farmers, and insurgents with their minds wiped moping through El Patron's mansion and fields lifelessly, working without end.
- Opium's culture has heavy Mexican influence. Gratuitous Spanish is spoken and Spanish names are common. Opium is located between Mexico and the U.S, and is described to have lots of deserts.





# Environment Opportunities

- The Oasis
  - A place hidden in the opium fields where Matt feels at peace
  - Mountainous with lake/valley area in it, almost mythical feeling
  - Lots of desert flora (low bushes, locust flowers, paloverde trees), little critters moving about like coyotes and rabbits
  - There's a strange O shaped rock that marks where the oasis is, to me it acts like a portal to a new realm...

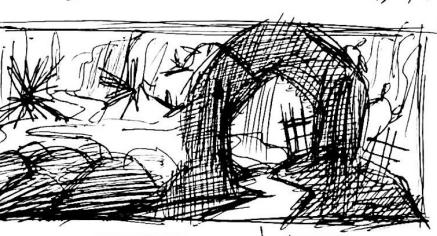
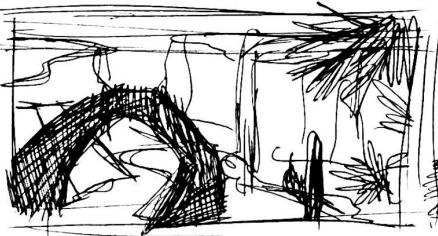
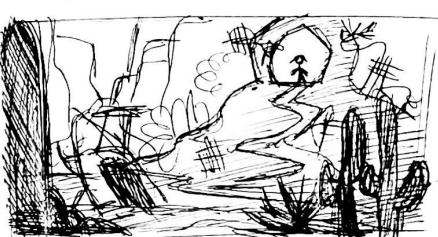
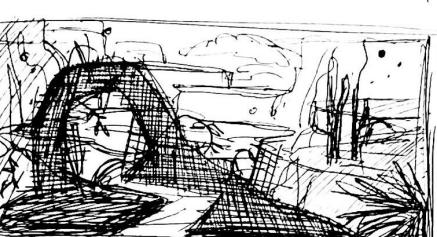
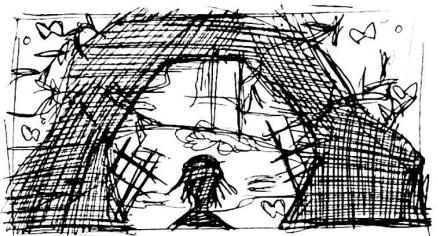
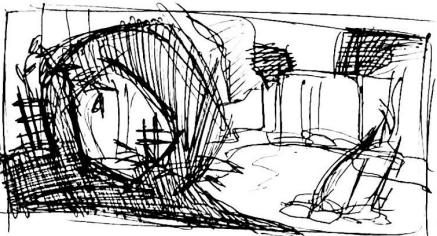






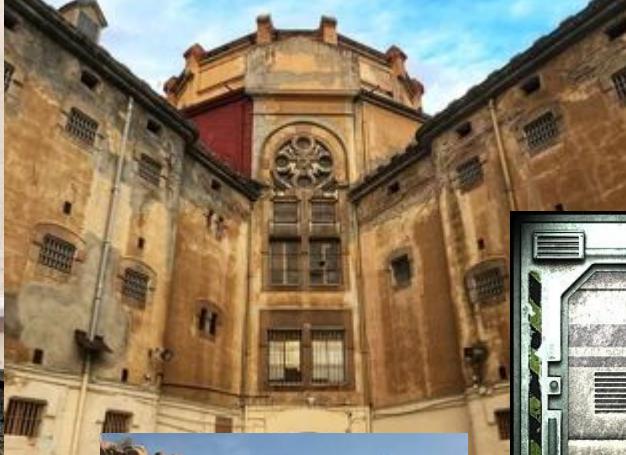
## Composition sketches for oasis

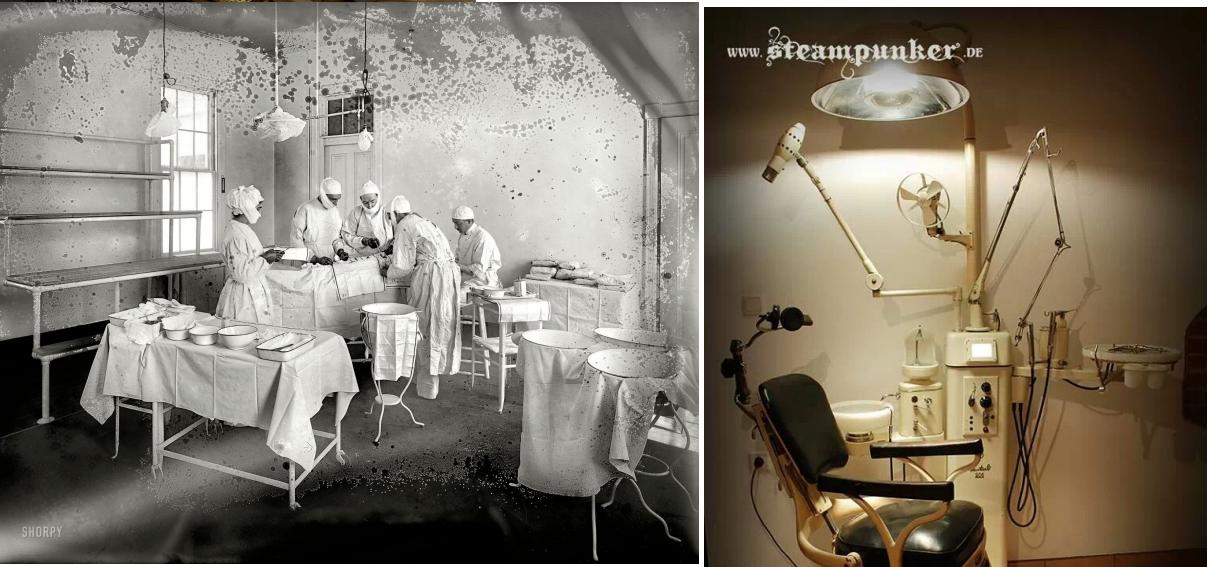
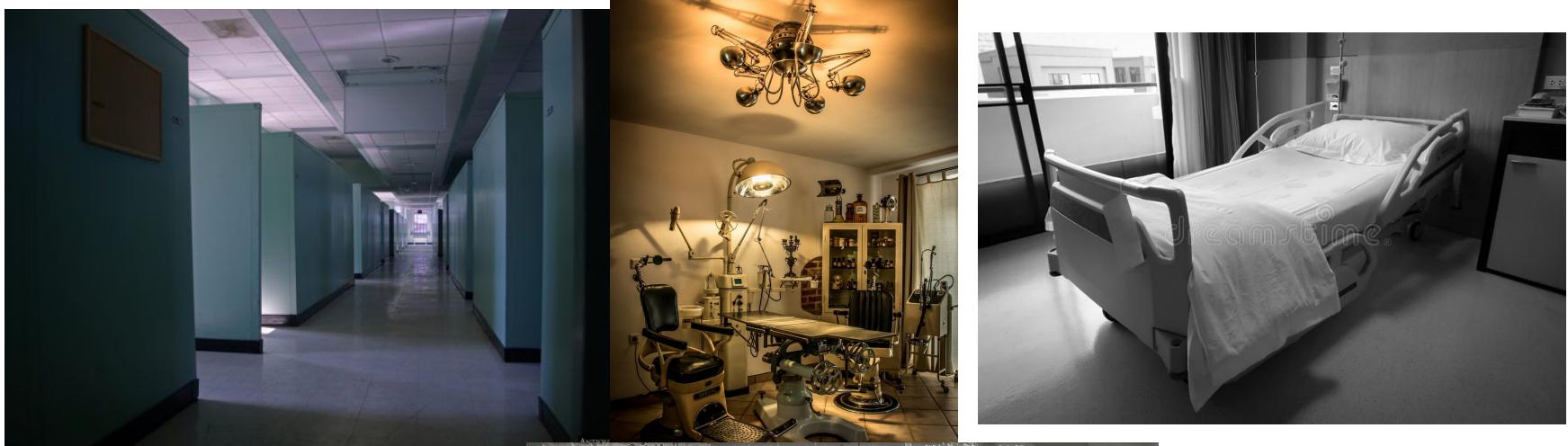
HOTS oasis



# Environment Opportunities

- The Hospital
  - Not a fun place. Cloning and mind control experiments happen here, the novel paints that kind of stuff as evil
  - One of the only places with more modern technology around. Very sterile looking and eerie inside
  - Located in wasteland of sand with lots of thorns surrounding it. The building is gray, windowless



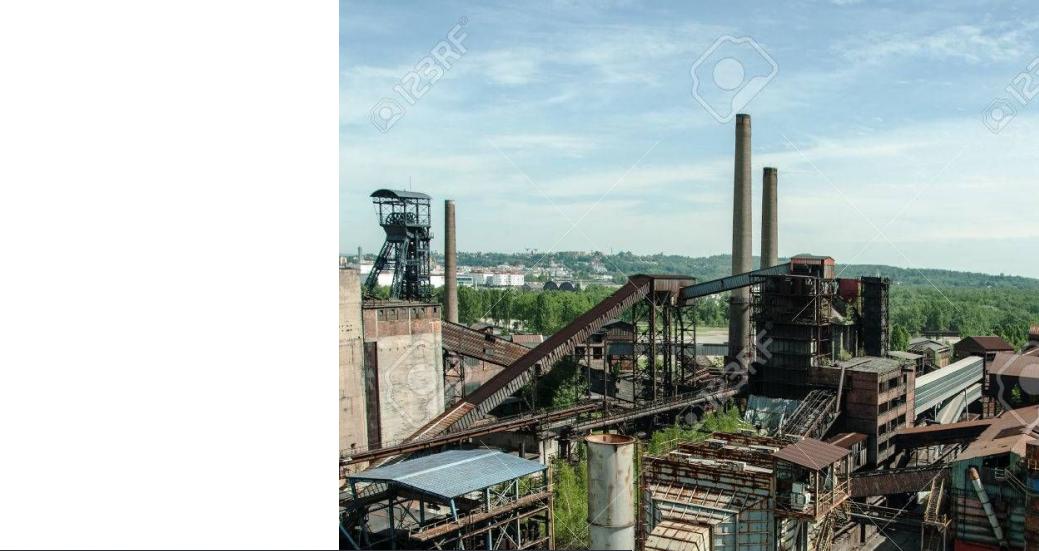


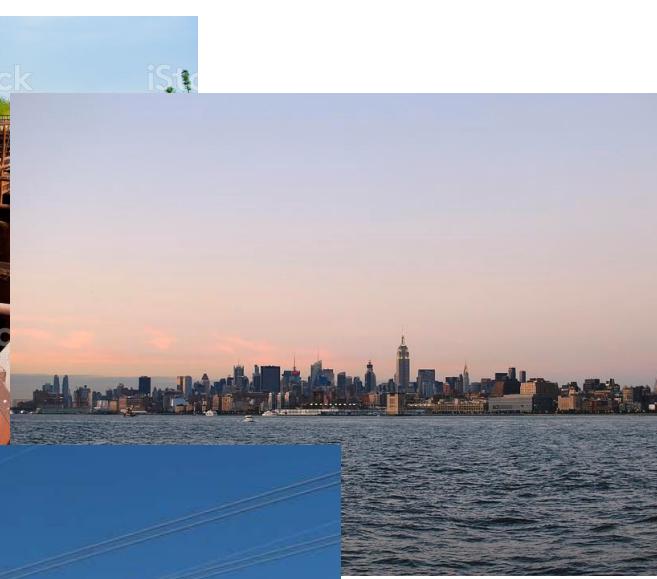
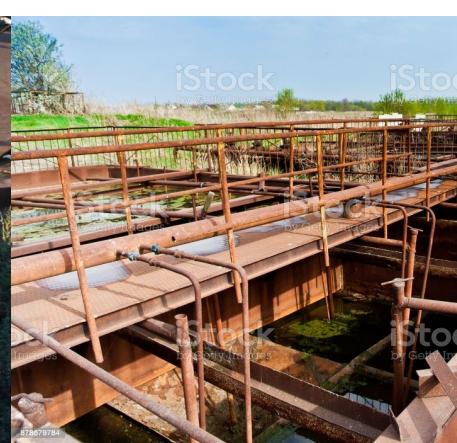
# Environment Opportunities

- The Plankton Factory
  - Not in Opium, but the nearby country of Atzlan. Therefore, there are much more traces of modern technology like holographic screens and signage
  - High, electric fencing at border, white dunes in the distance, where high tech cityscapes also loom
  - Dilapidated building, in barren desert where there used to be a shining sea. Full of large whale bones

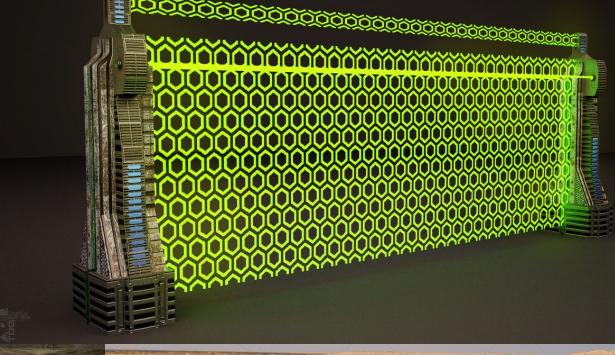












alamy  
y stock photo

# Design Goals

- I will focus on designing environments from the novel digitally, using the book as inspiration but also adding some touches to push the sci fi feel more
- 3 environments will be made, each one with lighting showing off morning, midday, and night. More attention will be paid to detailed rendering and appealing composition
- Designs for important characters like Matt and El Patron will also be made to show how they can fit in the environment and sell the “animated” style I’m going for



