

THE SYNTHMONSTER

WRITTEN BY NEONTENIC



ネオンセモンスター
システム
MONSTER
SYSTEM



This is a story set in the retrofuture
of 2084 in Los Angeles, CA.

The synthwave musician
N E O N T E N I C made the OST
for this story.

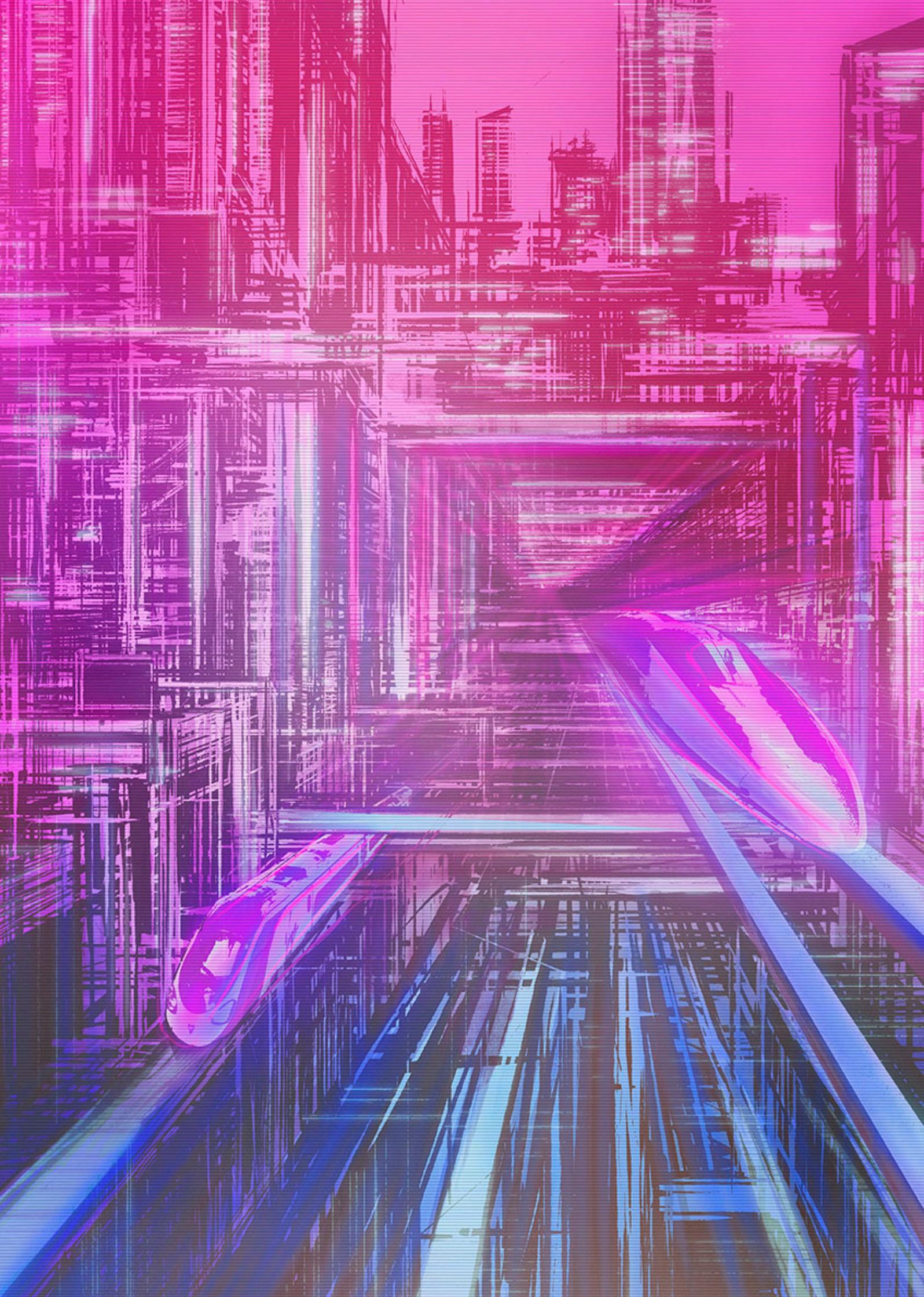
Listen:
neontenic.com
[Bandcamp](#)
[Spotify](#)
[Apple Music](#)
[Soundcloud](#)
[Youtube](#)

1. 2084

The rain was falling so hard on that night in Los Angeles. Neon signs reflected on sidewalks as lightning merged with the streetlights. The city was crowded as usual, with cars and pedestrians heading in every direction. The sidewalks were full of shiny umbrellas. A surreal atmosphere enveloped everything.

In the time station everything was ready to take off to 2084.

Suddenly, in a flash, the old trains in the station had been replaced by incredible, rocket-shaped machines. The journey had worked.



2. NIGHT FURY

Los Angeles has been experiencing strange attacks over the last few weeks. Electronics and home appliance stores appeared to have been burgled. But quite fascinatingly, nothing had been reported stolen from these stores, although it was clear that someone, or something has gained forceful access into the stores.

The police had reasons to believe that the burglar was a strange big nocturnal creature who wreaked havoc on the store, either intentionally or through its forced attempt to enter the stores, and they had been on the look-out for it-whatever it was.

That night was one of such nights the creature attacked. Another electronics store had been left half destroyed by this strange creature. The pressure was racking up on Los Angeles Sheriff, Frank Numan, to fish out whatever was responsible for the destructions. He was fast running out of patience as the public were angry and alleged that his response to the situation wasn't swift enough and the press was mounting pressure on him.

Sheila Gordon is a reporter for Channel 4 and has been assigned to cover the case. Sheila, a tall brunette with blue eyes and a tan skin has been covering the case since the first destruction happened some weeks earlier. She was accompanied by her cameraman, Steve Caulfield to the scene of the latest attack and where she is to report about this latest attack and the strange nocturnal creature that is widely believed to be responsible for it.

'Hi, I'm Sheila Gordon reporting for Channel 4 news,' she said, facing Steve's camera aloft on his shoulder. 'I am reporting live from an electronic component warehouse in Los Angeles. There has just been an attack on the store which is reminiscent of the previous attacks on various electronic stores across the city. The police have not been able to ascertain if any theft has been committed and no one knows yet who or what is responsible for this attack or what their intentions may be. However, some eyewitnesses claim to have seen a "creature". Nevertheless, nothing remains ascertained as I report to you now. What are the police doing to unravel this mystery and bring the culprit to justice? This is Sheila Gordon, reporting for Channel 4.'



3. THE KIDNAPPING

Sheila Gordon managed to sneak into the crime scene looking for clues as to what the creature widely held responsible for the attack could be or for any clue that could lead to it after everyone left the warehouse. The police and cordoned off the building to mark it as a crime scene but Sheila had managed to gain access into the building by sneaking in through the back door. Steve had reluctantly agreed to wait outside and watch while she went inside to see if she could discover anything. It would be a massive boost for them and Channel 4 should they discover anything that could give away the creature.

Sheila knew she shouldn't be doing what she was doing and she could be in trouble if the police caught her in a building cordoned off as a crime scene. But her curiosity got the better of her. The first thing she noticed in the building was a huge hole at the top of the building which must have served as the entrance for the creature. She figured out that only a strong creature must to be able to get in by making a huge hole in the roof. She walked around the store, carefully inspecting the wreckages of electronic components. She climbed a set of stairs despite having no idea where it led to. She was surprised when she found herself on the top of the building-that was where the stairs led to. Glancing around inquisitively, she noticed a pile of old keyboards crumpled in a corner on the roof. She decided to approach the pile of old keyboards slowly. Out of the blue, the instruments came to life and stood in front of her like an old robot. Sheila was terrified at what her eyes had just seen. Her mouth went ajar and she passes out. The huge robot like instruments wasted no time in picking her up. It jumped down from the top of the building and walked away with Sheila curled up in his hands.

Steve gasped and hid behind a barricade as he saw the huge creature jump down. From his hiding place, he could see a human figure in its hands as it walked away. He grabbed his camera and recorded it as it marched off. Steve knew there was in trouble. Sheila had been kidnapped by a destructive creature and who had any idea what it would do to her? He knew he had to act fast, but what was he supposed to do? With almost trembling hands, he fished his phone out from his pocket and dialed 911.



4. CALL JIMMY ROLAND

Sheila Gordon is one of Channel 4's best journalists and unarguably one of the most popular journalists in the city. The Sheriff, Frank Numan was even more infuriated by the revelation that Sheila had been kidnapped by the destructive robot like creature. Frank was at lost as to what to do. His men had combed the nook and cranny of the city searching for the creature or for clues that could lead them to it. But all their efforts had been futile so far. Frank was frustrated. The pressure from the press and the public anger was certain to increase now after the latest incident. It appeared like the creature was starting to target humans and the public would be right to be apprehensive. Who knew who was going to be kidnapped next or what the creature would do with its victim? If the destruction of the electronics stores were anything to go by, it was easy to conclude on what the monster would do with his victims. What was the way out, he wondered? He had seen the fifteen second footage captured by Sheila's camera man, Steve, while she was being whisked away and so had the city as Channel 4 had broadcasted it as it reported the kidnapping of one of its journalists. Frank decided it was best to pull the bull by the horn. He decided to contact Jimmy Roland, a Detroit policeman of questionable character but renowned for his crime solving prowess and who had helped the LOS Angeles police department resolve heinous crimes such as murder and arson whenever they had difficulties getting to the root of it. Jimmy Roland was as formidable as he was ruthless. He was a no-nonsense cop who delighted in taking the unlawful route to solve crimes. He was always willing to do anything to get whatever he wants. Frank knew he had a bad reputation, but he knew so well that he was exactly who the city needed to find this creature and save Sheila Gordon. After considering the pros and cons, Frank decided that it was in everyone's best interest to call Jimmy Roland and resolve the issue once and for all.



5. WAKE UP

Sheila found herself in a dark place after she regains consciousness. She had no idea how she had gotten there or what she was doing there. The place looked like a large underground parking lot. Purple neon lights illuminated the perimeters of the place and she could see a huge heap of electrical equipment, old computers-which were probably from the previous century. On a closer look, the place appeared like an electronics antique store. Then the memories came flooding back to her. She was in the electronic store, looking for clues that could lead her to the creature. She had climbed a stair and found herself on the roof of the building where she saw this terrifying robot-like creature...she passed out. What happened after she passed out was oblivious to her. Did the creature bring her here? And where was it now? Did it escape? Tens of questions popped up in her mind all at once. She wanted answers. She wanted to see the creature and ask it why it had brought her there. But first, she had to find this creature. She stood slowly on her feet and staggered at first but she eventually found her balance and glanced around. She realized that the creature was right behind her, its back turned to her. Sheila wondered what it was doing. From where she stood, she could see that he was probably trying to put together two or three electronic components. What could this creature be and what could it want from her? Sheila thought of trying to escape or calling the police. She felt her pockets for her phone and was relieved to realize it was still there. She brought it out and realized that it was switched off. She decided to leave the phone switched off and remain with the creature and not try to escape. She wanted to know what the creature was and why it had been attacking electronic stores in the city and escaping was going to do her quest no good. She decided against calling the police as it would deny her the opportunity of finding out whatever the creature was. Slowly, she walked towards an iron bar and picked it up. Now was the time.



6. SHEILA DECIDES TO HELP HIM

Sheila hit the iron bar against a barrel. The creature turned around and realized that she was awake. She was petrified. Fear gripped her as she opened her mouth to ask one of the many questions that she needed an immediate response to. 'What are you and where am I?' she managed to ask.

The robot-like creature puts down the circuits in his hands. 'Hello,' it said to her in a robotic voice. Sheila stared keenly at it. It looked like an old voice coder. 'I'm sorry I frightened you,' he apologized. 'I took you with me because you are the first person that didn't make me feel frightened. You passed out before I could ask you to come with me. I didn't mean to kidnap you. I know, I appear monstrous and right now the cops are combing the city for me because I've destroyed a couple of stores...'

'Five,' Sheila chirped in.

'Oh...okay. Forgive me. I've destroyed five electronic stores and by now everyone thinks I'm a kidnapper. However, I can assure you that I mean no harm and there's no need for you to be scared of me.'

Sheila felt a little more at ease. It didn't appear really harmful anyway, and its words were soothing and remorseful. 'Are you alright?'

'Yeah, I'm fine. Although I look old and worn out, my components are really fine pieces. I need your help. I do not remember much but I remember waking up in flames. I was in my recording studio. The fire must have happened there. I recorded artists from all over the world. I was one of the few recorders with ancient and highly sought-after instrumentations from the last century. I think there was a short circuit. My Great Grid viewer must have gone crazy; I remember this as well. When I woke up, I was melted in my machines, in my synthesizers. However, I cannot make any music sound. I miss something...I do not know where to look again. I'm sorry I had to damage all those stores. My monstrous frame prevents me from following conventional ways: I can't go in through the usual doors humans use. I'm a Synthmonster, and I'm usually terrified, but I want to emit at least some music sounds. I want to play music. That's why for the past few weeks, I've been looking for any components that can help me. But I've been unable to find anything that could help me so far.'

Sheila listened with rapt attention as the Synthmonster told its story. When it finished, she asked if she could call it a Synthmonster.

'A stupid name maybe,' he replied. 'But in the irony of the situation, I like it even, yes'.

Sheila was awestruck by the story of the Synthmonster. It was beyond every scoop for her; a new creature made up of synthesizers and drum machines from the 1980's, that speaks through a voice coder but that cannot emit any melody. It was almost unbelievable. Sheila was fascinated and decided to help the Synthmonster. 'Listen,' she began, 'on Channel 4 where I work, there's this guy called Cody. He's a crazy nerd who is responsible for fixing all our technological and electronic problems. If we have a problem with a machine or with the transmission of neo-information or anything, he always manages to solve them. We could perhaps ask him for help,'

The Synthmonster was visibly euphoric and accepted the offer without hesitation. Sheila grabbed her phone, switched it on and put a call across to Cody.

'Sheila!' Cody exclaimed from the other end of the phone.

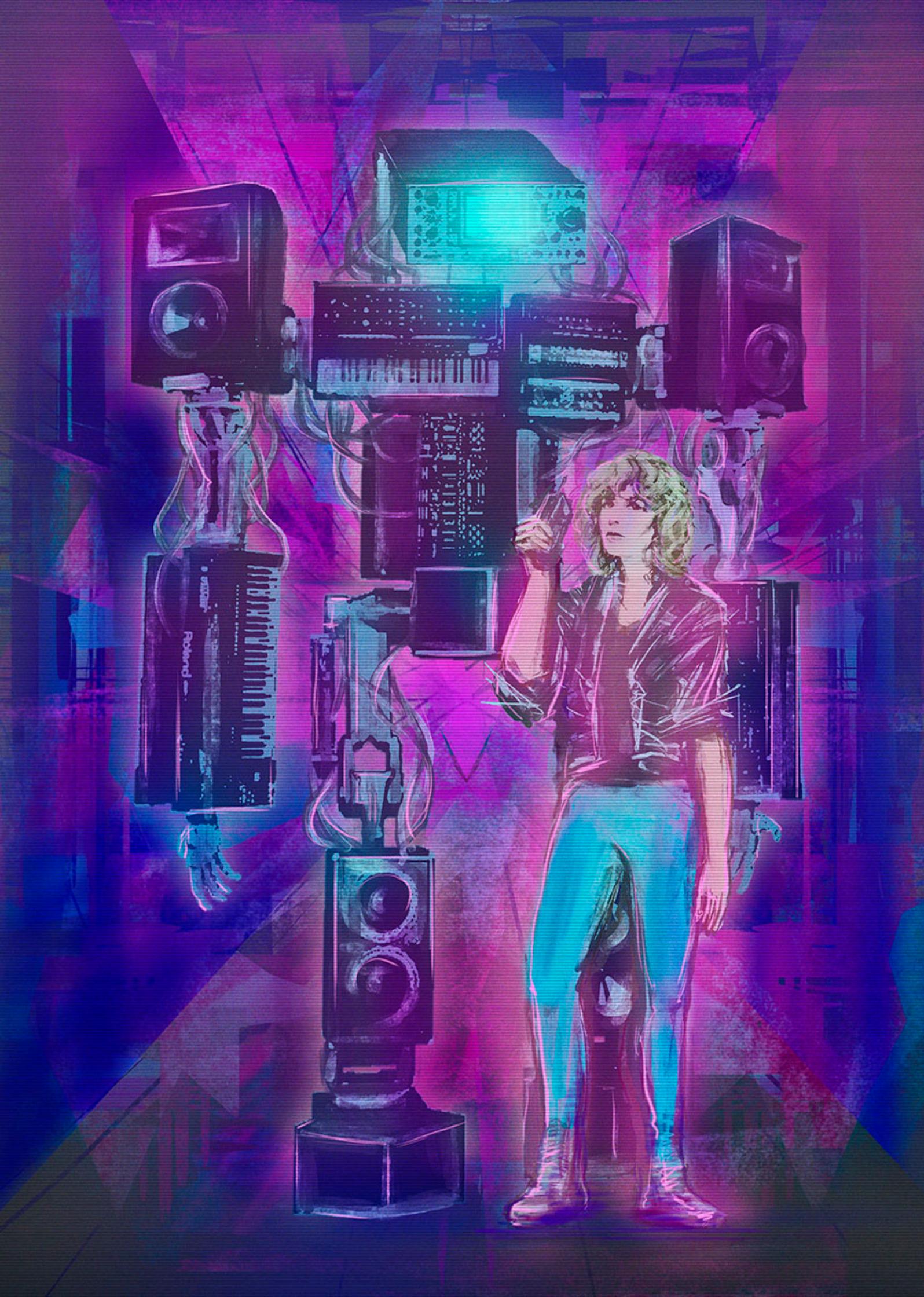
'Keep your voice down Cody; I don't want anyone to know what's going on.'

'The world already knows. Steve came back with a footage showing you being whisked away by that monstrous creature. It has been aired already.'

'Damn it!' she cursed. Steve must have seen the Synthmonster when it was leaving with her and captured it on camera. 'It's not too bad as it sounds though. I'm pretty fine. Don't let anyone know you've been in contact with me. I'm counting on you; please, this must remain a secret.'

'Alright, alright Sheila. You have my word. So, what's going on?'

'You'll never imagine what I have to show you. Track my coordinates and come there to get me. Come with the van and please be fast about it!'



7. CODY'S LABORATORY

Cody drove as fast as he could. He was in the red light areas of the Great Grid when Sheila's call had first come through. Surprised by her odd request, he quit what he was doing and tracked her coordinates immediately as requested by Sheila. After he had ascertained her location, he rushed down to the garage to pick up the van. Sheila was one of Channel 4's most respected employees and a very good friend of his. He could not turn down her request. She had been good to him in the past and he owed her.

Cody arrived at the location and was astonished to see that it was an abandoned parking warehouse. He puts a call across to her and informed her that he was now at the location. Sheila emerged from an underground parking lot a couple of minutes later and behind her was a nine feet tall robot-like creature. Cody could hardly believe his eyes. A giant creature composed of synthesizers and amazingly enough, he had all the posters in his laboratory- 'Holy cow!...I cannot believe this! It's just like it was in Steve's footage.'

'Listen Cody, we need your help. Please take us to your lab. This must be done in absolute secrecy as we can't afford to let the cops find him. You must help him. He's broken; something went missing from him after he was involved in a fire accident. You see, he's completely harmless and he's a nice shy giant creature. He's a Synthmonster.'

Cody was astonished but was more than willing to help. Without a second thought, he got them into his van and they drove off.

After about ten minutes of driving, they arrive in the garage of the television station. They were very careful to avoid being seen and they were helped by the fact that Channel 4's office was usually not busy at nights. It was impossible for the Synthmonster to enter the elevator; so Cody had to dismantle some of its part to enable it to enter freely. When they arrived in his laboratory, Cody fixed back its dismantled parts. Then he overturned his table to make Synthmonster lie down. He still could not believe it; he was with a Synthmonster and it was right in his laboratory. He ran a couple of checks on him and after a few minutes he realized what his problem was. 'You are missing a CA3046,' he announced to his eager guest.

'What the hell is a CA3046?' Sheila asked curiously.

'Good question,' the Synthmonster chirped in. 'I was about to ask the same thing.'

'It's a really old transistor. It was used in synthesizers in the 80s, a century ago... I cannot figure out what the hell you are or how this happened to you, but I think you are missing this transistor. It is responsible for the

musical sounds you produce thus its absence explains your inability to produce music sound. I have bad news for you however.'

'What's that?' he asked, alarmed.

'It will not be easy to find,' Cody revealed.

'That explains why I've not been able to find anything close to it.'

'I'm afraid we can only find it at Neon McCoy Inc. It's the factory that keeps the Great Grid on the net. It has a section dedicated to the electronics museum. The good news is that that section is the least supervised in the museum thus we could sneak in and get our CA3046.'

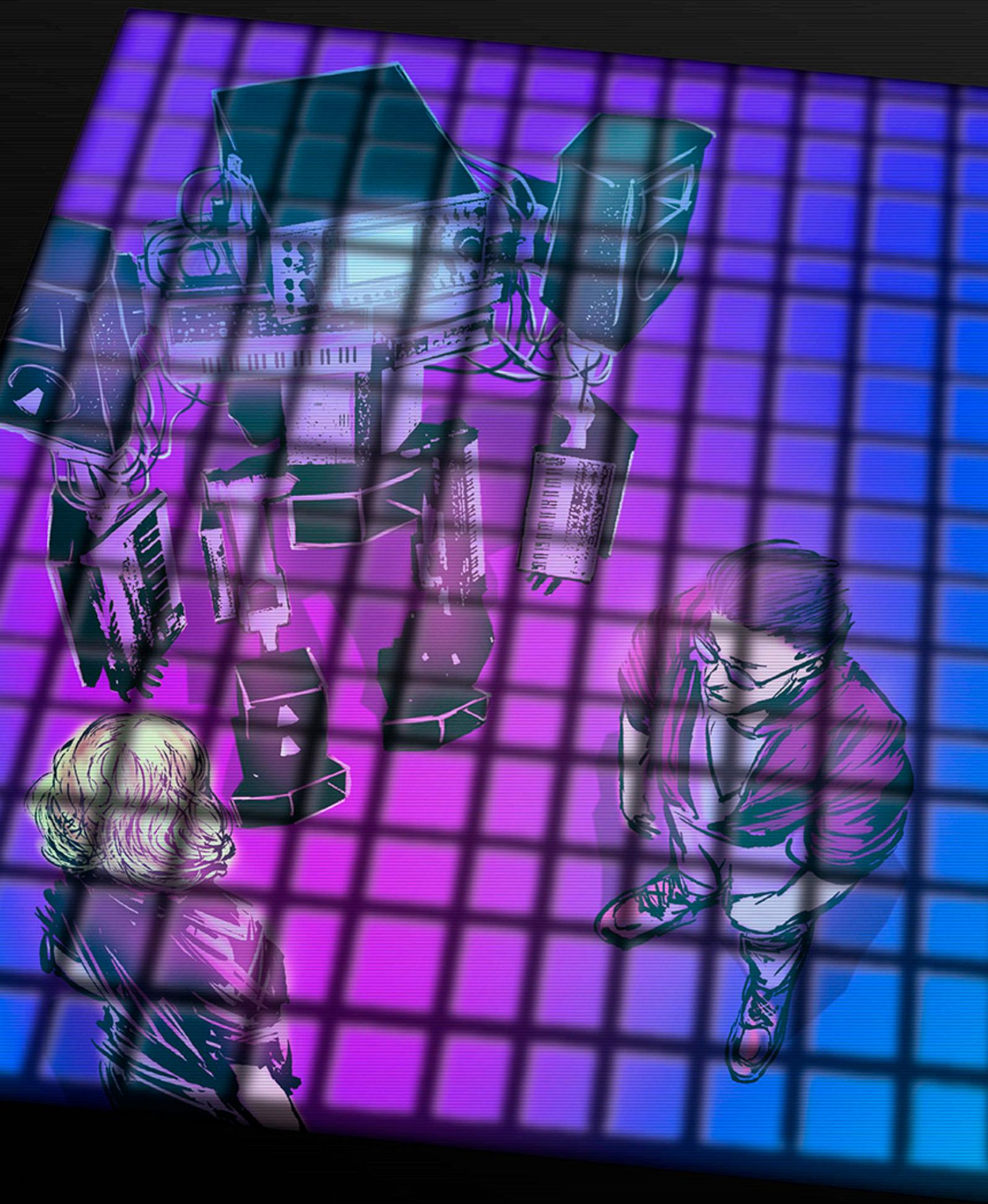
'We don't have plenty of time, do we?'

'We move now.'



8. ANOTHER MONSTER?

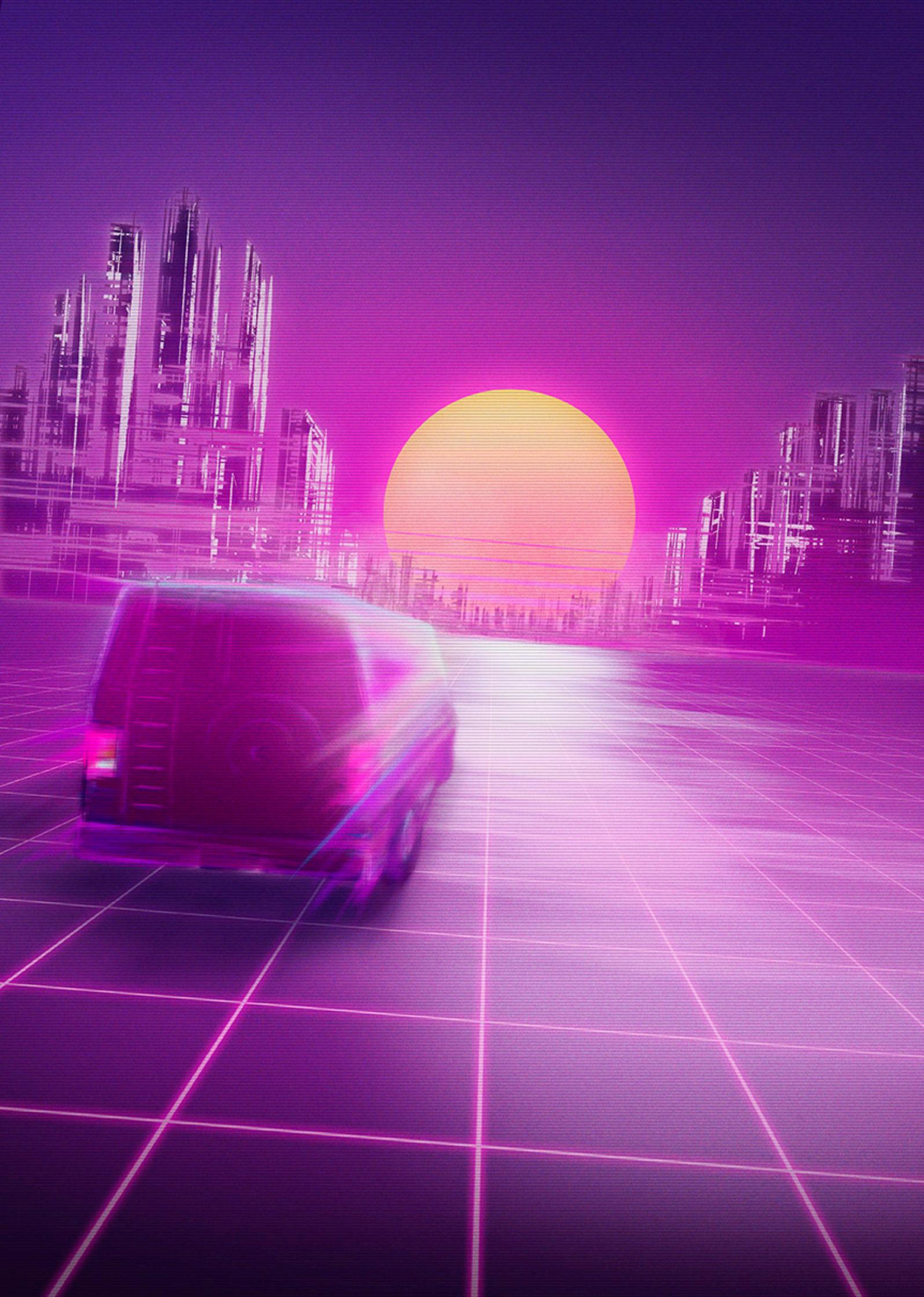
'Wonderful...' thought Jimmy Roland. 'That piece will be mine,' he wowed. He was driving through the front of Channel 4's headquarters when he saw Cody drive into the headquarters. He had sneaked after him and followed him to his laboratory after showing the security men his identification card and telling them he was there for some questioning regarding Sheila Gordon's disappearance. Frank Numan had called him some hours earlier and informed him about the robot-like creature who was destroying electronic stores and had now kidnapped a Channel 4 journalist. Fortunately for Frank, Jimmy was in Los Angeles. The two cops met right away and Frank further briefed him on the situation and told him that he was counting on him to help them catch the monster. Jimmy promised him he would bring it to book in twenty-four hours. Jimmy had hidden himself behind a window in Cody's laboratory and heard everything they discussed. 'Finally, I will have what I miss, whatever the cost,' he said to himself as he watched Cody drive out of the headquarters. He started his car and followed him. 'I'll let them do the dirty work...and I'll steal the transistor from them and then...' he paused and giggled to himself. 'I'll arrest Cody and the reporter for unlawful break in and theft and the monster will be handed over to Frank Numan. What a plan!' he felt happy with himself.



9. ROAD TO NEON MCCOY

The road was free of traffic as they drove through to Neon McCoy Inc. The two of them had decided without hesitation to go all the way and try to help the Synthmonster. Sheila wondered what was going on in the real world right now. How her family would have reacted to the news of her kidnapping and how worried they must be right now. She knew a lot of people must have been trying to reach her. She had switched off her phone immediately after Cody had arrived at the old warehouse where the Synthmonster had taken her to. She couldn't risk her coordinates being tracked and her location ascertained; hence her mission would be thwarted. She was fine and soon she would be 'free'. But right now, it was important that she helped the Synthmonster regain its music. She had broken enough laws in one night-she had entered unlawfully into a crime scene and now she was about to gain unlawful access into a museum and steal a priceless transistor.

Cody drove under the branches of the Great Grid, which extended from the Neon McCoy building. It was a nice road and, as expected, mainly because of the time of the day, it was traffic free. Cody, oblivious of the fact that they were being followed, knew it would not be easy to circumvent the base of the neo-information network surveillance. But he counted on his great skills to help them. And so, he parked the van and they walked briskly towards a great digital sun - the Neon McCoy signboard. Once they arrived at the signboard, they hid behind it and Cody told them to be careful as they would have to sneak in to avoid being seen or caught on camera. Then they moved away from the signboard to find their way around the building.



10. THE FACTORY

The Neon McCoy factory had an electric fence around it. Cody sneaked back to the van and fetched his laptop. In a few seconds he used some codes to create a hole in the fence. He ensured that the hole was big enough for the Synthmonster to easily pass through. Cody was able to locate the section of the factory they were targeting. That section of the factory was a dedicated museum in a satellite building near a skyscraper that stood on the outskirts of Los Angeles. Cody managed to successfully hack into the museum security network and disabled the security locks and cameras. They make their way around the museum, searching through the collections of the old musical instruments to see if they would find what they were looking for. After fruitlessly searching through the main section of the museum, they decided to check the back of the gallery. There, they found the first computer prototypes dedicated to security, and a part dedicated to old musical instruments-which was the section in which the Neon McCoy had for several decades invested a lot. Cody knew what they were looking for would definitely be there. And he asked them to search through the collections to see if they could see anything that looked like a transistor. After about ten minutes of careful searching, Cody found the CA4036 inside an old analog synthesizer. 'Here is the piece we have been looking for,' he announced excitedly. Quickly, they put different components inside a metal box.



11. RUN AWAY FROM THE POLICE

As they were walking out of the building, the alarm sounded. Cody realized unfortunately too late that Cody had not noticed the cameras bug had been fixed and they were now functioning.

‘Hide from the camera’s!’ He yelled.

‘Oh no!’ Sheila exclaimed. She could hear the blazing sound of the siren in the distance. ‘The Police! We have to leave now!’

All three of them dashed out of the building, avoiding the cameras as much as possible. They ran towards the van and they entered swiftly. Cody drove as fast as he could away from Neon McCoy building. By this time, several police vehicles were hot on their trail. The highway was not the best place for such an escape and their old van did nothing to aid their cause. Cody drove down the first exit, Sheila was terrified, and she fastened her seat belt and held her breath. The Synthmonster was in the back of the van. It tightly held on to the box which contained the vital components Cody had gathered for him.

Leading the police vehicles chasing them was a vintage sport car. Jimmy Roland was driving the sports car. He was gaining more and more ground on the Cody.

‘Drive faster Cody, Drive faster! They’re gaining ground on us!’ Sheila exclaimed.

‘I need you to take the wheel,’ Cody said.

Sheila was surprised and terrified. ‘I can’t take the wheel. I can’t possibly take it.’

‘Look into my eyes Sheila; I need you to do this. Trust me on this. Just drive straight and take the first exit by your right.’

Sheila agreed reluctantly and they swapped seats. A second before Sheila took the exit; Cody managed to throw a transmitter into the back of the van. He realized that the police were gaining more and more ground on them. Sheila took the right turn and it led them to an old part of Los Angeles. They drove for a while until Cody told her to take another right turn. Cody grabbed his laptop and punched the keyboard. An old gate opened in front of them and Sheila drove in and the gate closed immediately behind them.

Sheila was relieved to realize that they had managed to escape the pursuit. After a little while, they all alighted from the van. They were in an old shopping mall -which served as a commercial center for many people in the past decades-before the advent of the e-commerce.

In the meanwhile, Jimmy Roland was so close to them. He wanted to solve the case by himself. He was hell bent on having the circuit for himself. After dismissing the other cops, he followed the transmitter's signal with his vintage car. After locating them, he parks the car outside the shopping center and he managed to bypass the security system of the gate and was able to enter. From the distance, he could see the Synthmonster on a big counter with Cody next to it and appearing to be performing surgery on it. Sheila was standing beside them, looking worried. Suddenly Jimmy Roland yells out from distance. 'That piece will be mine!'



12. THE FIGHT

All three of them were stunned. How did he locate them and what piece was he talking about? Cody quickly racked his brain for what do but before he could come up with anything, Jimmy Roland charged at them, a blaster in his hand.

The Synthmonster, realizing the danger they were facing, sprang up from the counter and charged towards Jimmy. Halfway through the shopping center, they both clashed and a deadly fight ensued.

It was then that Cody understood: Jimmy Roland was not human. It was in fact a K Robot-a humanoid series of robots banned and declared illegal many years ago!

‘He wants the CA3046,’ he replied after Sheila had asked him what it meant by the piece he said would be his. He had also explained to her that Jimmy Roland was actually not human. ‘If he had the CA3046,’ he continued. ‘he would become really powerful and unstoppable as the CA3046 would greatly amplify the curve of his internal reactor, giving it a power many times higher!’

‘Then we can’t let him have it!’ Sheila exclaimed.

‘There is hardly anything we can do in this situation. Let’s just hope that the Synthmonster wins,’ Cody replied regretfully.

After several fights, the Synthmonster, wounded and damaged, eventually managed to immobilize Jimmy Roland with his weight, and with all the strength he had left, he discharges all his electricity into the system of his rival, who in the instant of an electric flash lost his senses. All its circuits become fused immediately.

Cody instantly tied the now unconscious Jimmy Roland with insulating tape, while Sheila stood next to seemingly lifeless Synthmonster, tending to it.



13. SYNTH SURGERY

After Jimmy was immobilized, Sheila and Cody, still terrified, immediately returned to think of the Synthmonster.

Cody hastily improvises a workbench with what he had in the van, and commenced the surgery to restore the Synthmonster. Fixing him was difficult than he originally anticipated.

'Come on!' he screamed when the monster still didn't emit any music. He doubled his efforts and made more changes to the modifications, hoping it would help it emit the music.

Cody after tying up Jimmy Roland immediately set to work on the Synthmonster in an attempt to fix it. It appeared armless, turned off, and lifeless. Out of the blues-after numerous patches of insulating tape and extemporaneous wiolds-all its LEDs come on again and the sound of a super-saw arpeggiator came on.



14. SYNTHMONSTER'S SYMPHONY

The Synthmonster leds were becoming more and more luminous. They started moving rapidly. It sat up and the arpeggiator filter started to open along with the Polyphonic filter. And then it began to play!

Cody could not believe what he was seeing, neither could he believe what his ears was hearing. Sheila looked at him with eyes full of tears. She was elated. She moved closer to him and threw him a warm hug. 'We did it,' she whispered into his ears.

After the arpeggiator and polyphonic chords, a marvelous, melancholic, rich, powerful and extraordinary melody began. Kick. Snare. But this is a synthwave symphony! The synthmonster stood up, and with all the led lights moving in a single sequence, this wonderful piece continued, with only two astonished and awestruck spectators who had never witnessed such a spectacular show.

The Synthmonster was completely healed. It now plays, lives, and fills us with electronic music from the 1980s. A synthwave masterpiece.



Written by N E O N T E N I C

All rights reserved. Unauthorized duplication is a violation of applicable laws.

www.neontenic.com