

ISSUE 10

WRETCHED VERSSES



WRETCHED
NEW FLESH

Postcard
from Mediounä



**WRITING AND LAYOUT:
MIGUEL RIBEIRO
COVER ART: JAE TANAKA
INTERIOR ART BY:
MIDJOURNEY, STABLE DIFFUSION,
ADOBE STOCK**

YOU CAN FIND US AT...

WEBSITE/ STORE: [HTTPS://MOORDEREHT.COM](https://moordereht.com)

STORES: [HTTPS://BIGGEEKEMPORIUM.COM](https://biggeekemporium.com); [LULU.COM](https://lulu.com)

YOUTUBE [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/C/THEREDROOMCHANNEL](https://www.youtube.com/c/TheRedRoomChannel)

FACEBOOK [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MOORDEREHT](https://www.facebook.com/moordereht)

TWITTER: @MOORDEREHT AND @MRSMOORDEREHT

MEWE [HTTPS://MEWE.COM/JOIN/THEREDROOM9](https://mewe.com/join/theredroom9)

COPYRIGHT, 2023 THE RED ROOM

CHRONICLES

FROM AVALIDAD

PART I: BEAUTIFUL CORPSES

CHAPTER I

The conclusion of an exhaustive week of intense training, staged amid the fiercely blazing sand dunes of the desert, nestled south of Avalidad, provided relief. Patrick and Jana, the after-effects of relentless training etched in their weary eyes, mustered their remaining strength to part ways with the unforgiving desert terrain.

Their bodies ached, each muscle screaming in protest after the gruelling regimen. The exodus back to civilization stirred a mix of emotions in their hearts: Jana's beating pulse eased as she envisaged the impending tranquillity of the city, her private oasis amid a world teetering on the edge of chaos. For Patrick, the city's prospect elicited a flurry of excitement. The idea of witnessing Avalidad's grandeur for the first time ignited

anticipation that coursed through his veins like a potent elixir.

Barely out of his teenage years, this tech prodigy clutched his favoured beverage. The concoction, a medley of subtly nuanced herbs, zesty citrus, and quite a lot of caffeine worked like magic, revitalising his worn-out physique. Avalidad's sensory overload; the city's vibrant sights, the unique cacophony of urban sounds, sent Patrick's heart into overdrive. His mind burst into a fireworks display of wonder and thrill as they neared the monumental structure of ZoneSec's building, its commanding stature crowned with a heliport, eagerly expecting their arrival.

Upon the rooftop, a statuesque figure commanded the expanse. As Patrick's gaze scanned her form, he recognised her as a paragon of strength and power. Their pilot, Brody, punctured the silence with a voice seasoned with wisdom, "That there is Eva Borges." He chuckled, "She may appear rough around the edges, but don't let her intimidation fool you. She's a diamond, albeit one in the rough."



As the helicopter gingerly kissed the heliport, O'Maley, bursting with energy, was the first to alight, his vibrant aura electrifying the surroundings. Jana followed in his footsteps, her heart thundering in her chest as Borges greeted them with a nonchalant, "Welcome, rookies!" Her voice, cool as the rooftop breeze, marked their initiation.

Borges scanned the two newcomers, her gaze settling momentarily on Patrick. His youthfulness, his tender naivety, his wide-eyed fascination presented a peculiar contrast to the usual choice of hardened, experienced apprentices. His eyes sparkled with an innocence that stood out starkly against the jaded visages of battle-wearied agents.

The stern echoes of Borges' command to trail her footsteps resonated in their ears as they filed into the briefing room. An imposing figure awaited them there - Olafson, a hacker with a reputation that echoed across Avalidad's concrete jungle. Her icy demeanour made Borges' stern nature seem like a comforting blanket. As they entered the room, Olafsson's eyes quickly scanned the newcomers. They landed on O'Maley, youthful and somewhat out of place among the seasoned veterans. A grimace crossed her face, mirroring her immediate reaction to the rookie.

"Is this a joke?" she voiced, her tone more statement than question, her gaze still locked on O'Maley.

Her words filled the room with a tense silence, her expression shifting towards undisguised contempt when she discovered he was to be her charge.

“No joke,” came the clipped reply from Borges. “Patrick’s under your wing now.”

“Great. A kid,” she muttered, giving O’Maley a curt nod, her tone resigned. “Welcome aboard, rookie. Hope you’re ready to fly.”

Patrick gulped, the weight of Olafsson’s steely gaze bearing down on him, but he nodded, determined. His training had begun in earnest.

As Borges and Olafson guided their charges through the winding maze of ZoneSec’s fortress-like structure, they eventually found themselves at the first-floor cafeteria. The area was a symphony of sounds, the cacophonous clatter of cutlery, the murmur of conversation, the hum of the vending machines, all creating a lively backdrop for their journey.

Suddenly, their auditory journey was interrupted by a crescendo from outside.



Through the floor-to-ceiling windows of the cafeteria, the source of the noise was clear. A group from Democracy Now! was staging a mostly peaceful, yet attention-grabbing protest, right outside ZoneSec’s glass and steel fortress.

Their rallying cries for justice echoed through the otherwise busy lunchtime ambience, dominating the soundtrack of the afternoon.

Borges paused, her gaze focused on the throng outside. “Welcome to the real world, rookies,” she commented dryly, gesturing towards the group with a nod of her head.

O'Maley stared wide-eyed at the scene unfolding outside. He glanced at Borges, uncertainty etched on his face. "Do we...do something about that?"

She simply smirked in response. "Get used to it, O'Maley. They're like clockwork. Ignore them, and they'll go away."

"But they're protesting us," Jana Gibson, ever the empathetic one, pointed out. "Shouldn't we be concerned?"

Olafson, who had been unusually silent, finally spoke, her voice as cold as the icy blue of her gaze. "Let them shout, Gibson. It's their right to do so. We have a job to do, and it doesn't involve them... yet."

Borges nodded at Olafson's comment, signalling that it was time to move on. However, the sight of the protest left a lasting impression on the junior agents. It was a stark reminder of the turbulence they were stepping into, the chaos they were expected to manage.

CHAPTER II

Clayton Reed was the embodiment of an enigma. Standing at an average height, his physique was more muscular than most men his age but not quite imposing.

At fifty-five years old, his hair had turned a distinguished shade of grey and was cropped close to the scalp, military-style. His eyes, those hawk-like orbs, were a stunning ice blue that could freeze you in your tracks. They hinted at a man who had seen the unspeakable, had weathered the worst storms, and had come out stronger.

A veteran of the American CIA, Clayton had once led an infamous mercenary company. His reputation as a ruthless operator was well known among the shadows, an intimidating spectre even amongst the veterans of the cloak-and-dagger game.

Yet, his past was as elusive as a desert mirage. All the loose ends, all the potentially compromising information had been meticulously dealt with.



None but Takeda, his enigmatic employer, held any significant knowledge about Reed's chequered past. Takeda, the omnipotent overlord, had headhunted Clayton to lead a covert special operations team, its purpose shrouded in an air of sinister mystery. What was known, however, was that Clayton reported solely to Takeda and his activities were cloaked in utmost confidentiality. So secretive were his operations that even the boss himself refused to comment on them.

Rumours circulated about Reed having a liaison with one of Takeda's lovers. If true, it would only underline his value to Takeda, considering the old man's infamous intolerance for indiscretions. However, such

matters were mere whispers in the hallways, for no one dared to openly discuss them.

The meeting with Aziz Crowe was set in the director's office, a spacious, luxuriously furnished room that bore a striking contrast to the stark utilitarianism that characterised ZoneSec's interiors.

Reed had just received word about the recent disturbance by Democracy Now! and deemed it essential to notify Crowe. Democracy Now! was a prominent political movement in the City, notorious for their relentless pursuit of transforming Avalidad from a corporate-owned city into either a part of the Moroccan state or an independent democratic country.

Reed laid out the details before Crowe. “Kurt Kilgore, son of the movement’s late founder, Thaddeus Kilgore, has orchestrated a political protest just outside our headquarters”, Reed reported, his voice as steady as his gaze. “They’ve set up camp and started a hunger strike. They’re attempting to draw the international press’s attention to their cause.”

Crowe’s countenance was as placid as ever. He stared into the distance, seemingly mulling over the situation. After what seemed like an eternity, he finally spoke. “Dr Bentley will be irritated by this...” He paused, forming the decision in his mind before giving voice to it, “let them proceed for now.”

Reed simply nodded, his face inscrutable. “Understood.” His fingers lightly tapped on the armrest of his chair as he contemplated the forthcoming chain of events. The chessboard was set, the pieces in place, and the game was about to begin. The protest was not merely an inconvenience; it was a precursor to what might become a significant conflict, a battle of wills between Democracy Now! and the corporate titans of Avalidad.

The relentless tick of the clock marked the hours as the situation outside ZoneSec’s headquarters escalated dramatically. Kurt Kilgore, the stalwart leader of Democracy Now!, took his protest to a new level. Declaring his intent to go on a hunger strike until his demands were acknowledged, he drew the attention of not just the city, but also the international press. The media had gone into a frenzy, their cameras and microphones turned towards ZoneSec’s towering structure with fervent anticipation.

In the command centre of ZoneSec, Clayton Reed’s gaze was glued to the multiple screens showcasing the spectacle outside. His fingers drummed rhythmically on the tabletop as he watched the images flicker.

The decision had to be made, measures had to be taken, and fast. Turning to his team, his voice resonated through the room, breaking the tension, “We need to move them away from here.”

Borges cast a sidelong glance towards the rookies, Jana and Patrick. “This could be an excellent test for them.”

CHAPTER III

The moment their boots touched the pavement outside the fortified walls of the ZoneSec building, they were thrust into a frenzy. Reporters, like hawks swooping on their prey, surged towards them, a throng of hungry eyes and demanding voices. The glaring flashlights created a kaleidoscope of blinding lights, and microphones jutted towards them like aggressive weapons.

The rookies found themselves swallowed by the spectacle, their eyes wide, their senses on overdrive. Despite the initial shock, Jana gathered herself, her green eyes flickering with a spark of determination.

With an inhale, she stepped into the press scrum, her voice a beacon of calm amidst the turmoil. She navigated the interrogation with a surprising elegance, answering the probing questions with grace and patience.

While Jana braved the media onslaught, Eva and Mariza, the veteran agents with an air of unruffled coolness, ploughed through the sea of bodies towards their objective.

The discordant symphony of the crowd slowly melted into a dull roar as they edged their way through the frontline of the protest.



Their path led them to Kilgore, who sat cross-legged on the cold, concrete pavement, his back stoically straight and his expression carved in resolute defiance. He was an island of calm in the frenzied chaos that surrounded him. Eva met his unwavering gaze head-on, her eyes as hard as the concrete he sat on.

This was a standoff, a non-violent warfare, where words were the weapon of choice. Eva knew that in such a battle, it was the persistence that crowned the victor. She exchanged a quick glance with Mariza, who nodded in understanding.

“The day’s been eventful, hasn’t it, Kilgore?” Eva finally broke the silence, her voice resonating over the noise of the crowd.

“I’d say so”, came Kilgore’s composed reply, his eyes never leaving hers.

As the dialogue unfolded between the steadfast protester and the unwavering agent, the reality of their new roles dawned on the rookies. Their journey into the heart of Avalidad’s tumultuous pulse had begun.

Eva Borges, with her no-nonsense approach and imposing aura, convinced Kurt Kilgore to move the demonstration. Using her powers of persuasion, she stressed the importance of their safety and the implications of a confrontation with ZoneSec.

Meanwhile, in the background, Patrick, the young tech prodigy, seized the opportunity to prove his worth. With deft fingers and laser-like focus, he hacked into Kilgore’s MetaPlus account and plants some compromising “metas”. The protesters relocated without incident, and for a moment, all seemed under control.

However, the calm didn’t last long. As the team re-entered the ZoneSec building, they received a call from Clayton Reed. His voice, usually as smooth and steady as a placid lake, now carried an unmistakable undercurrent of anger.

“Have you seen the news?” Reed asked tersely.

Eva, taken aback by the sudden call, replied, “Not yet, but they moved, boss.”

Reed cut her off, his voice icy. "Someone decided to hack Kilgore's MetaPlus. And now he is accusing us of it. Did I order you to do it? Who did it?"

Patrick, sensing the brewing storm, admitted to his actions with a mixture of fear and excitement, "It was really easy! I thought it was a good idea!"

Reed narrowed his eyes at the rookie. His gaze landed suspiciously on the can Patrick kept sipping from. "Did I tell you to do it? Now we need to go ahead and find some real dirt on the guy, not this child's play. And what the hell is that stuff you keep drinking?"

With a sheepish grin, Patrick revealed his home-made beverage. "NutKicker," he announced proudly, showing the can to the team. The revelation didn't draw the applause he expected. Instead, everyone's eyes were filled with concern. They had just realised the depth of the hole they may have dug themselves into, and for what? A rookie's misguided attempt at proving his worth, and a can of home-made beverage named NutKicker. The day was definitely taking an unexpected turn.

CHAPTER IV

After several gruelling hours that trickled into half a day, fuelled by an alarming intake of his notorious NutKicker concoction, Patrick finally struck digital gold.

With a kind of mechanical grace, his fingers skittered across the keys, eyes scouring through lines of cryptic code. His monitor flickered, bathing his weary face in its ghostly glow as he tunneled his way into the digital fortress that encapsulated Kilgore's life.

But, as it turned out, Kilgore was a monument of mundanity, leading a life so unblemished and colourless that it bordered on suspicious. No sordid affairs, no illicit activities, not even a minor traffic violation marred his record. Kilgore, a man who once dreamt of being a writer, now lived in a quaint, picket-fenced suburbia, leading a life that was almost painfully ordinary.

The man, who penned science fiction in his scarce free time but never saw his name in print, managed a car dealership before assuming the mantle of leadership at Democracy Now!

Devoted to activism since his father's tragic demise, Kilgore was a beloved figure in his neighbourhood, a devoted husband to a grade school teacher, Mary Lou, and a loving father to two children, Sarah and Peter.

The task seemed doomed to failure. The man was an exemplary figure, loved by his neighbours, admired by his employees, a stalwart presence in his family. There were no illicit substances in his life, barring the morning coffee and an occasional sleeping pill. The mission seemed almost insurmountable, yet the operatives were resolute. Kilgore's life was under the microscope, and they were determined to find or create the flaw that would shatter the image of perfection. Patrick leaned back in his chair, his brows furrowed in disbelief. "Who in their right mind would trust someone like this in government?" he mumbled under his breath, a begrudging respect tingeing his words.

His astonishing findings, or rather the lack thereof, sparked a tempest of debate within the confines of the command centre. Aziz Crowe, the stoic director of

ZoneSec, and Clayton Reed, a man of fiery intellect, grappled with the implications. Through rounds of fierce argument and intense strategizing, a consensus emerged from the storm. Unable to unearth real dirt on Kilgore, they would manufacture some.

It was time to wade into murkier waters, to play a game not of truth, but deception. A grand fabrication was planned, aimed to tarnish Kilgore's squeaky-clean image before it could be held up for public admiration. And they had a weapon at their disposal – blackmail. Kilgore was to be squeezed dry before the fabricated story shook the media.

The room fell into a tense silence as the decision solidified, an almost palpable air of unease seeping into the corners. Reed's stern gaze swept over the team, their faces a mix of resolve and apprehension. The stakes were sky high now. This wasn't merely about rookies' overstepping or quelling a protest; it was a power play submerged in the murky depths of corporate politics.

As night's ink bled into the cityscape of Avalidad, protest roars climbed the crescendo of global attention.

The digital world was ablaze with the hashtag #FreeAvalidad, as the world, in unanimous clamour, appealed for an intervention by the United Nations. The situation was spiralling, a beast unleashed, gnawing at the fabric of control, demanding prompt and decisive action.

The mission that lay ahead was precarious, the outcome uncertain. They were stepping onto a tightrope strung across a chasm of unknown depth. A dangerous game, but orders were orders. The agents steeled themselves, cognizant of the impending storm that would test their resolve, their loyalty, their mettle like never before.



CHAPTER V

Mediouna, the affluent suburbs of Avalidad, carried with it an air of wealth and decadence that seeped into the very ground upon which the neighbourhood was built. Within this realm of opulence and high society, nestled amongst its regal dwellings, was a grand mansion that belonged to Dr Bentley.

Parties were a common occurrence in Bentley's abode, the atmosphere always vibrant and the guest list nothing short of glamorous. Tonight was no different - music wafted through the air, a heady mix of laughter and conversation resounded in the grand hall, and a multitude of colourful personalities revelled in the carefree ambience. Yet, amidst the celebrations, a chilling event was about to take place - the grim spectre of death was poised to crash the party.

In the night's stillness, a shrill ring of a phone sliced through the tranquil atmosphere of Aziz Crowe's residence. "Urgent call from Dr Bentley," the automated voice of Natasha, Aziz's AI assistant, echoed through the quiet room. A frantic and almost unrecognisable voice spewed out from the other end.

Dr Bentley's words tumbled out in rapid succession. "They've hurt Veronica, and I also have two dead bodies laying on the floor. Aziz, come here as soon as possible. Now!"

Back at the party, Michael Doyle and Isabella Nakatomi were enjoying the festivities, blissfully oblivious to the unfolding chaos on the upper floor. Their evening took an abrupt turn when sharp cries, both human and simian, pierced the music-filled air. Doyle, a notorious meddler, and Nakatomi, with her peculiar infatuation for Dr Bentley, found themselves the only brave souls who dared venture upstairs. Upon reaching the upper floor, the duo encountered a frenzied Dr Bentley.

The usually composed doctor was in disarray, fretting over a minor cut on Veronica, his beloved baboon, and the grotesque scene of two lifeless bodies sprawled on the floor.

Nakatomi, taken by the whim of her infatuation, quickly offered to tend to Veronica, earning suspicious glances from the wary baboon. Simultaneously, Doyle volunteered to guard the unsettling scene, a grimly fascinated look etched on his face.

Doyle's intrigue wasn't entirely unfounded. As he stepped into the room, he was met with the sight of the most attractive corpses he'd ever seen.



Their lifeless forms suggested they were models, and the surroundings bore witness to what seemed like a ritualistic murder scene. As he indulged his morbid curiosity, Aziz Crowe made his entrance, his stern countenance an antithesis to the party's usual merriment.

The presence of an official ZoneSec figure did little to quench Doyle's enthusiasm, the allure of the macabre scene before him superseding any respect for jurisdiction. Not even the sight of Aziz Crowe, one of Avalidad's most respected enforcers, could diminish his eagerness.

Ignoring the decorum usually afforded to the deceased, he began examining the bodies, captivated by their grim beauty, even in death. As the night of festivity turned into a macabre investigation, it was clear that this was a party that none of the attendees would forget.

As Aziz Crowe and Michael Doyle stood by the lifeless bodies, they were plagued by the mystery of their identities. The AI assistant, Natasha, was put to work, her advanced search algorithms combing through a multitude of

databases and social media platforms. It wasn't long before the deceased models were identified - Francesca and Inola, two budding names in the fashion industry.

With the answer in hand, Aziz and Doyle were interrupted by the arrival of Dr Bentley, a noticeably calmer Veronica perched on his shoulder, and Isabella Nakatomi in tow.

Her face drained of colour, Nakatomi confirmed the identity of her dead companions. A hint of sorrow clouded her features as she mourned the loss of her friends and the ruination of her GivenXXX dress loaned to one of the girl, now marred by the brutal act of violence.

Isabella further divulged that Francesca and Inola were no strangers to scandal. They had been the centre of a debacle involving the renowned fashion designer Jean Paul Barbaroux. Under the influence of alcohol, they had bumbled their way down the catwalk during Barbaroux's much-anticipated fashion show, turning the grand event into a city-wide spectacle of ridicule and laughter.

In the midst of the tense atmosphere, Dr Bentley broke the silence, drawing attention to a peculiar find. Something was lodged between Veronica's teeth – a piece of cloth. After a bit of a struggle, he managed to retrieve it. To their surprise, Nakatomi recognised the fabric as the inner lining of a man's tuxedo. Intrigued by the lead, Nakatomi and Doyle, fuelled by their amateur detective instincts, rushed back to the party, their eyes scanning the crowd for anyone wearing a maimed coat. Left alone in the room, Aziz took a moment to gather his thoughts. The situation was complex, the connections between the victims, the suspects, and the bizarre evidence perplexing. He swiftly got on his communicator and called in the Zone Sec agents, alerting them about the double homicide and instructing them to secure the scene.

Meanwhile, Dr Bentley, cradling a visibly exhausted Veronica, made his way back to his quarters, leaving the murder scene to the hands of the professionals. The party that began as an evening of joy and revelry had descended into a morose puzzle, with Aziz and his team set to piece it together.

CHAPTER VI

As the investigation drew on, the identity of the coat's owner remained elusive. In a twist of events, the conversation shifted towards Jean Paul "Babar" Barbaroux. Isabella Nakatomi, a defender of the designer's raucous partying lifestyle, was adamant about his innocence, proposing they seek out the elusive Barbaroux for themselves. Thus, the unlikely trio - Nakatomi, Doyle, and Crowe - embarked on a quest that led them straight to the pulsing heart of Avalidad's nightlife: The Temple of Sound.



For Doyle, the expedition was far from pleasurable. The relentless bass, neon lights, and heady mix of fragrances were a sensory assault.

Yet, his discomfort was sidelined as they learned that Barbaroux had been conspicuously absent from the club scene for the past three days. The revelation was startling - the flamboyant designer had seemingly evaporated from the city's nightlife without a trace.

With the power and jurisdiction of Zone Sec at their disposal, the trio decided to pay a visit to Barbaroux's private apartment. However, their search was met with disappointment. The residence was devoid of any signs of the fashion designer.

His voicemail brimmed with unanswered messages, and the concierge, despite his relaxed stance, confirmed that the designer's absence was not completely abnormal. The trail was growing cold, and the mystery around Barbaroux's disappearance and his possible involvement in the models' murders seemed to deepen.

The curtain falls on this first part, leaving behind a conundrum that called for thorough investigation, clever strategy, and perhaps a bit of luck. The stage is set for the unfolding of a complex narrative in the heart of Avalidad.



MEDIOUNA

The neighbourhood of Mediouna has been transformed into an enclave for Avalidad's upper class. It is the epitome of luxury living, striking an almost unreal contrast against the city's historical districts.

Far removed from the hustle and bustle of the Old Medina and the Grand Socco market, the streets of Mediouna are meticulously landscaped, adorned with the quiet elegance of rare flora and the steady thrum of autonomous cars shuttling the wealthy and influential from one extravagant event to another.

Mediouna's architecture is a beautiful blend of the traditional and modern, a tribute to its roots

yet a symbol of the city's prosperity. The district bears the same historical charm as the city's old fort walls but is magnificently enhanced with cutting-edge technology. The grandeur of old stonework paired with the sleek, clean lines of futuristic design, paint a picture of a rich neighbourhood that appreciates its past while marching steadfastly towards the brightest future.

Among these architectural marvels stands Dr Bentley's mansion, a blend of traditional Moroccan design with futuristic elements, it towers over its surroundings, radiating an air of dominance. Its lavish façade is complemented by lush, immaculately manicured gardens, playing host to an array of exotic plants and animals.



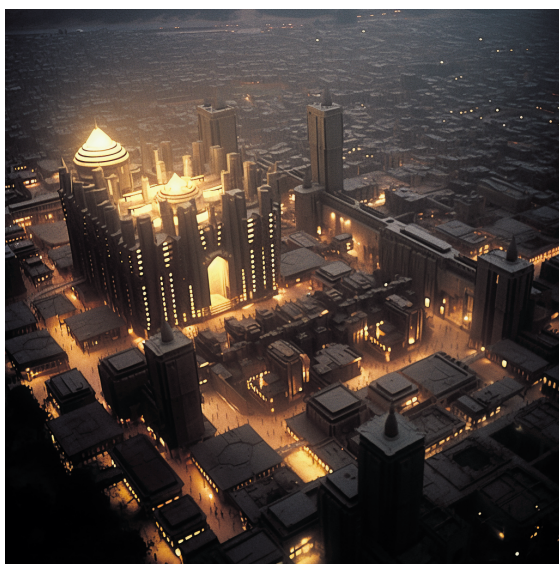
The mansion is a microcosm of the neighbourhood itself, holding onto its origins while embracing the allure of the future. Despite the luxurious setting, Mediouna has its own unique rhythm. The neighbourhood is an harmonious blend of traditional norms and modern conveniences, coming alive in the evening when its wealthy inhabitants retreat from their daytime pursuits.

As night falls, the neighbourhood transforms into a playground for Avalidad's elite, its streets lined with trendy clubs and high-end restaurants. Opulent parties are commonplace, and the soft hum of music often fills the air, the rhythms of an hedonistic lifestyle enjoyed by its residents. Despite the difference in demographic and scenery, there is a parallel to the quirky Crépuscule district's nightlife.

Here, one can rub shoulders with young corporate types, high-class escort girls, or influential criminal bosses.

The undercurrent of Avalidad's dark dealings didn't spare even Mediouna, manifesting in secret meetings that only add to the neighbourhood's intrigue. Mediouna's wealth and luxury do not completely sever its ties with the city's past. Avalidad's history echoes in the design of its buildings and the traditions of its inhabitants.

Amongst the modern luxury cars and drone delivery systems, one can still find remnants of simpler times, like the local market that was a miniature, cleaner version of the Grand Socco, offering fresh produce and traditional hand-crafted goods to the neighbourhood's affluent residents.



JEAN-PIERRE GIVENXXX

EXCERPT FROM FASHION FORWARD
(HOLOVISION PRIME), WITH
VALERIA SOLARO

The French couturier of international fame is no ordinary man. He's a maestro of fabric, a sage of stitches, and a sculptor of silhouettes. While his name echoes through the corridors of the world's fashion capitals, his influence runs deep in the labyrinthine streets of Avalidad. With every new collection, he paints an epic of sartorial stories, a visual narrative that unites people across cultures.

Yet, GivenXXX is much more than his designs. Enveloped in a cloud of mystique, GivenXXX is an eccentric man who loves to surprise. His unpredictable style, much like his sense of humour, knows no boundaries. One day he might be seen in a three-piece suit, the pinnacle of western elegance, and the next, he could don a colourful Japanese Montsuki, turning heads in the marketplace. His outfits, always a stunning

concoction of traditional and futuristic fashion, manage to outshine even the smartest fabrics that adorn the bodies of Avalidad's denizens.

GivenXXX is not just about aesthetics, though; he's about sentiment. His fascination with the 1940s and 1950s film noir is not just skin-deep, but a heartfelt tribute to the era. His fedora, perpetually perched at a rakish angle atop his head, serves as a reminiscence of those intriguing noir figures. His jackets, with their broad shoulders, reflect the style of detectives from the era of black-and-white cinema, narrating tales of smoky rooms and dark alleys.

The couturier's studios in Avalidad serve as an intersection for the city's melting pot of cultural influences. Here, kaftans mingle with Kimonos, Gandoras share racks with Tang suits, and Beizis flirt with Zhongshan suits. GivenXXX believes in the power of unison. In his world, the Chinese Hanfu can dance with the French Chiffon, the Japanese Yukata can serenade the Moroccan Djellaba, and the Western jeans can twirl around with the Northern African Takchita.



His creations offer a seamless fusion of various elements. He champions the versatility of Djellabas and their unisex nature, adapting them into chic trench coats or stylish overalls, while the comfort of a Gandora inspires him to design flowing robes that exude a laid-back luxury. Influenced by the Hanfu's Beizi, he crafts outer coats with dramatic, long sleeves, amplifying their charm with rich, iridescent smart fabrics.

Yet, GivenXXX's style is not confined to men's fashion alone. He skilfully transports the seductive charm of 1950s women's pin-up style into his couture, blending it with an array of international trends. Bubble dresses are reimaged in the traditional pattern of a Yukata, while cigarette pants are

given a refreshing twist with the elegance of the Qipao's form-fitting allure. His innovative designs for women often feature Northern African Kaftans transformed into flowing evening gowns, or the Takchita's two-piece structure applied to create layered power suits. A Ruqun's long skirt might be interpreted into a flared pant design, while the Mandarin dress' body-hugging silhouette inspires cocktail dresses that command attention.

GivenXXX's style transcends mere fashion. He architects cultures, emotions, and epochs into every stitch. His designs are stories whispered through the language of fabric, tales of unity amidst diversity, and odes to an era where noir was more than just a colour.

His style is a cipher, unravelling the complexity of Avalidad's cultural tapestry, a map to navigate its labyrinth of traditions and trends.

His personality, as enigmatic as his designs, makes him an enigma in the eyes of Avalidad. His intriguing quirks only add to his charm. From his pet chameleon that changes colours to match his mood, to his fascination with collecting vintage holographic advertisements, his eccentricities are as diverse as his designs.

Jean-Pierre GivenXXX, with his eclectic fashion sensibilities and his eccentric persona, serves as a living embodiment of Avalidad's spirit. A spirit that celebrates the old while embracing the new, honours its roots while reaching for the stars, and appreciates the individual while celebrating the collective.

Through his style, he voices the city's soul, a harmonious blend of multicultural influences, existing simultaneously in the past, present, and future.

HOLOVISION PRIME

Holovision Prime is the leading augmented reality company that has been revolutionising the world of broadcasting and cable television for the past 20 years. Founded by North American media mogul A.J. Bergen, Holovision Prime (or HoloVid) is headquartered in Avalidad and has become the go-to platform for viewers who want to experience the most cutting edge technological programming. As the first augmented reality company, Holovision Prime has a wide variety of shows that have become immensely popular with viewers all over the world.

Dreamachine is one of the most popular programs ever broadcast on Holovision Prime. Led by Selene Kelyah, Nassima and Jared Hassani, Dreamachine relies heavily on trend-based programming and tailoring shows to specific audiences in different countries. As such, it has become the show of choice for many people trying to keep up with the latest tendencies. It has also become a widely influential show, even inspiring other companies to produce similar programming tailored to their audiences.

Beatfreak is another popular show on Holovision Prime that focuses on the music industry and other forms of entertainment. It is hosted by Nassima – who also co-hosts Dreamachine – and other presenters such as Leila Trellis, François Jourdain, Valeria Solano and Leonid Esquivel. Beatfreak is known for having a wide variety of topics, with each episode focusing on a different theme or artist. The show has become a beloved staple amongst viewers, with fans tuning in to hear news of their favourite artists and learn about the newest music releases.

Talk the Talk is yet another popular talk show on Holovision Prime. It is a more casual and off-the-cuff show than Dreamachine, and is tailored to specific audiences. It focuses on a wide variety of topics, such as current events, technology, and popular culture. It is hosted by five of Holovision Prime's seasoned presenters, Raoul Fontana, Brad McCall, Hiroshi Van Dyker, Ambar Wang and Rohit Tan. Talk the Talk is a fun and entertaining show that often provides viewers with some insight into the latest conversations and debates happening around the world.

Holovision Prime also has a number of other shows, such as The Ultimate Challenge and Prime Time, both of which focus on different aspects of augmented reality and entertainment. The Ultimate Challenge is a competition-based show that is hosted by some of Holovision Prime's most experienced presenters. Similarly, Prime Time is an entertainment-focused news show that provides viewers with up-to-date news and information about the latest developments in augmented reality.

Holovision Prime's shows have become immensely popular since the augmented reality movement began and have become beloved staples amongst viewers of all ages. The various shows offer something for everyone, from Dreamachine's trend-based programming to Beatfreak's music-focused content, and Talk the Talk's entertaining conversations. Holovision Prime has become a leader in augmented reality programming, and its various shows are sure to remain popular for years to come.

RANDOM EVENTS: MEDIOUNA, ROLL 1d20

1. A lavish gala event where the city's elite gather, showcasing extravagant fashion, gourmet cuisine, and live performances by renowned artists. Rub shoulders with influential figures and immerse yourself in the opulent atmosphere of high society
2. The grand opening of a prestigious art exhibition, featuring renowned artists and their latest masterpieces. Engage in conversations with art connoisseurs, collectors, and critics as you appreciate the beauty and creativity on display
3. A charity auction where rare and valuable items are up for bidding. Meet philanthropists and celebrities, all for a good cause. The stakes are high as fortunes are exchanged for unique experiences, luxury goods, and priceless artefacts
4. A culinary journey at a Michelin-starred restaurant, renowned for its innovative cuisine and impeccable service. Savour exquisite dishes crafted by world-class chefs, paired with the finest wines, and immerse yourself in the realm of gastronomic delight
5. A private fashion show where the latest haute-couture designs are unveiled. Sit front row alongside influential fashionistas and celebrities, witnessing the fusion of art and fashion as models grace the runway in stunning creations from renowned designers
6. An exclusive private club for a high-stakes poker game. Test your skills against wealthy entrepreneurs, professional gamblers, and influential figures in a tense atmosphere of strategic gameplay and calculated risks.
7. An extravagant party held in a luxurious yacht on the open seas. Dance the night away, surrounded by the city's elite, enjoying live music, premium cocktails, and breathtaking views of the coastline

8. A secluded spa retreat, where relaxation and rejuvenation await. Indulge in pampering treatments, from soothing massages to revitalising facials, in a serene oasis of tranquillity catered to the discerning tastes of high-class clientèle
9. An exclusive golf tournament at a prestigious club. Tee off alongside business tycoons and influential personalities, showcasing your skills on meticulously manicured fairways while networking with fellow participants
10. A private opera performance in an intimate theatre setting. Be captivated by the enchanting melodies and powerful voices of world-class opera singers, surrounded by an audience of cultured aficionados
11. Immerse yourself in the world of luxury gastronomy with a caviar tasting experience. Sample exquisite varieties of caviar and fine champagne, guided by an expert sommelier who shares insights into this delicacy's nuanced flavours
12. A wine tasting event hosted by a renowned sommelier. Explore a curated selection of rare and aged wines, savouring the complex bouquets and discussing the nuances of each vintage with fellow enthusiasts.
13. An intimate gathering with a world-famous fashion designer. Engage in conversations about style, trends, and the creative process, gaining exclusive insights into the fashion industry from the visionary mind behind iconic collections.
14. A showroom exhibiting the latest models of high-end luxury cars. Admire the sleek designs, advanced technology, and precision engineering of prestigious automotive brands, and perhaps even arrange a test drive in your dream vehicle
15. An intimate concert featuring a world-renowned musician or band. Enjoy an exclusive performance in an elegant venue, surrounded by a select audience who appreciates the artistry and talent of the featured artist

16. A thrilling polo match at a prestigious club, surrounded by a refined and sophisticated crowd. Witness skilled equestrians compete in this noble sport while enjoying the ambiance of luxury and prestige
17. A fashionable gala event for a charitable cause. Witness a stunning fusion of fashion and philanthropy as models strut the runway in designer creations, raising funds and awareness for a meaningful endeavour
18. An indulgent wine and cheese tasting experience, curated by passionate experts. Sample a selection of fine wines and artisanal cheeses from around the world, discovering the intricate flavours and harmonious pairings
19. The exclusive première of a highly anticipated holo vid, walking the red carpet alongside renowned actors, directors, and industry insiders. Immerse yourself in the glamour and excitement in the company of Avalidad's elite.
20. A pool party. Bask in the sun, swim and enjoy live music, gourmet cuisine, and exquisite cocktails in a luxurious setting, away from prying eyes



NutKicker - The Future of Energy
Drinks

HOLOVISION SHOWS TABLE, ROLL 1d20

1. Dreamachine

Presented by Selene Kelyah, Nassima, Jared Hassani, et al. Dreamachine is one of the most popular programs in the history of broadcast television. With no specific theme or genre, it showcases the latest trends and must-watch content tailored for specific audiences in different countries

2. Beatfreak

Hosted by Nassima, the main anchor of the show, Beatfreak dives into the music industry and covers various forms of entertainment. From music releases and artist interviews to behind-the-scenes insights, Beatfreak keeps

viewers up-to-date with the latest happenings in the world of music and entertainment. Other hosts include Leila Trellis, François Jourdain, Valeria Solaro, and Leonid Esquivel

3. Talk The Talk

A popular talk show with a diverse range of topics, Talk The Talk shares some similarities with Dreamachine, tailoring its content for specific audiences. Hosted by charismatic presenters such as Raoul Fontana, Brad McCall, Hiroshi Van Dyke, Ambar Wang, and Rohit Tan, the show features engaging discussions, interviews with notable guests, and thought-provoking debates



4. **HoloQuest**
Join a group of adventurers as they embark on thrilling quests in virtual reality. HoloQuest combines cutting-edge technology and immersive storytelling to transport viewers to fantastical worlds filled with magic, monsters, and mystery. Each episode presents a new quest, challenging the protagonists to overcome obstacles and uncover hidden treasures
5. **Reality Check**
Reality Check takes reality television to new heights. Contestants from different walks of life compete in physical and mental challenges, vying for a grand prize. The show pushes participants to their limits, testing their skills, resilience, and strategic thinking. Viewers get a front-row seat to the drama, alliances, and unexpected twists that unfold throughout the competition
6. **FutureTech**
This show delves into the latest advancements in technology, exploring futuristic inventions, groundbreaking research, and innovative ideas shaping the world. Hosted by renowned tech enthusiasts and experts, the show provides in-depth analysis, interviews with visionaries, and glimpses into a world driven by cutting-edge technology
7. **Cosmic Chronicles**
Join a team of space experts as they venture into the far reaches of the galaxy. Stellar Explorers offers a captivating glimpse into the wonders of space exploration, showcasing breathtaking visuals, scientific discoveries, and the challenges faced by astronauts as they push the boundaries of human exploration.
8. **Beyond Borders**
Beyond Borders is a travel and cultural exploration show that takes viewers on a journey to different corners of the world. From ancient ruins to megalopolis, the show immerses viewers in different cultures, traditions, and lifestyles.

9. **Comedy Hour**
Non-stop laughter with a line-up of hilarious stand-up comedians, sketch comedy shows, and sitcoms. Expect witty jokes, clever satire, and light-hearted entertainment
10. **Game Changers**
This show rofiles remarkable individuals who have made a significant impact in various fields, from science and technology to arts and sports. Through in-depth interviews and inspiring stories, the show celebrates the visionaries and innovators who have reshaped the world in meaningful ways
11. **Crime Files**
A voyage to the world of true crime, unravelling complex cases, and exploring the minds of criminals and the dedicated individuals who work tirelessly to bring them to justice. Each episode provides a gripping narrative, combining suspense, investigative journalism, and expert analysis
12. **Supersports**
Supersports covers the adrenaline-fuelled world of professional sports, from thrilling matches and championships to exclusive athlete interviews and behind-the-scenes stories. Whether it's football, basketball, racing, or extreme sports, Supersports keeps fans on the edge of their seats
13. **Chef's Showcase**
This show invites renowned chefs from around the world to showcase their culinary skills and creativity. From gourmet dishes to culinary experiments, the show tantalises viewers' taste buds and offers a glimpse into the artistry of fine dining
14. **DocuMinds**
Thought-provoking documentaries that shed light on pressing social issues, historical events, and human stories from around the globe. The show aims to inform, educate, and ignite meaningful conversations about the world we live in

15. SciTech Now

A science and technology program that presents the latest breakthroughs, research, and discoveries from the fields of science, engineering, and innovation. From space exploration to medical advancements, the show showcases the incredible progress humanity is making

16. Fashion Forward

The world of haute couture and cutting-edge fashion trends. Hosted by industry experts, the show offers a glimpse into the glamorous world of fashion, featuring runway shows, designer interviews, and insights into the latest fashion collections

17. Home Renovators

Follow homeowners as they embark on renovation projects, transforming their houses into dream homes. From stunning interior design to innovative architectural solutions, the show provides inspiration for those seeking to revitalise their living spaces

18. Nature's Wonders

Explore the beauty and wonders of the natural

world. Through stunning cinematography and in-depth storytelling, the show takes viewers on awe-inspiring journeys to witness the diversity of wildlife, ecosystems, and breathtaking landscapes

19. Musical Talent

A platform that showcases emerging and established musicians from various genres. From solo artists to bands, the show provides a stage for talented performers to captivate audiences with their music, melodies, and unique artistic expressions

20. Mind Matters

Travel into the mysteries of the human mind, exploring psychology, neuroscience, and psionics. The show delves into topics such as memory, emotions, perception, and the recent developments in the way of psionic abilities

**THIS ISSUE OF WRETCHED VERSES CONTAINS THE FIRST
PART OF A SERIES OF FICTIONALISED ACCOUNTS OF A
WRETCHED NEW FLESH GAME, A MORE DETAILED
DESCRIPTION AND A RANDOM TABLE OF ENCOUNTER FOR THE
MEDIOUNA HIGH-CLASS NEIGHBOURHOOD OF AVALIDAD AND
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT HOLOVISION PRIME AND
ITS SHOWS.**