PATIENT ONE

GOOD BOY. BAD OPTIONS.

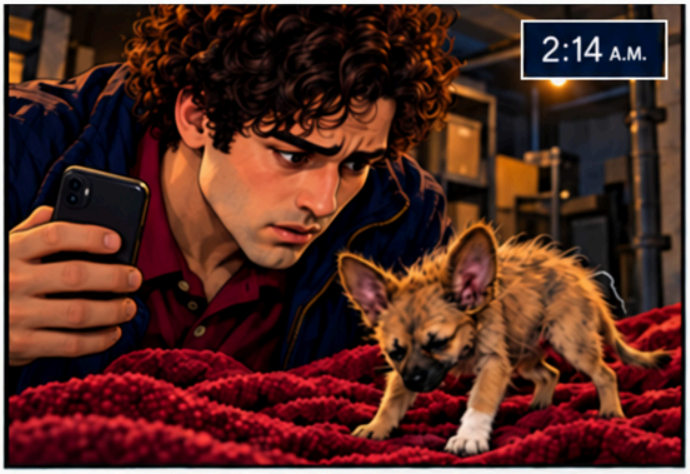
VOLUME 1 • ISSUE 2
CHURCH OF PEPTIDES



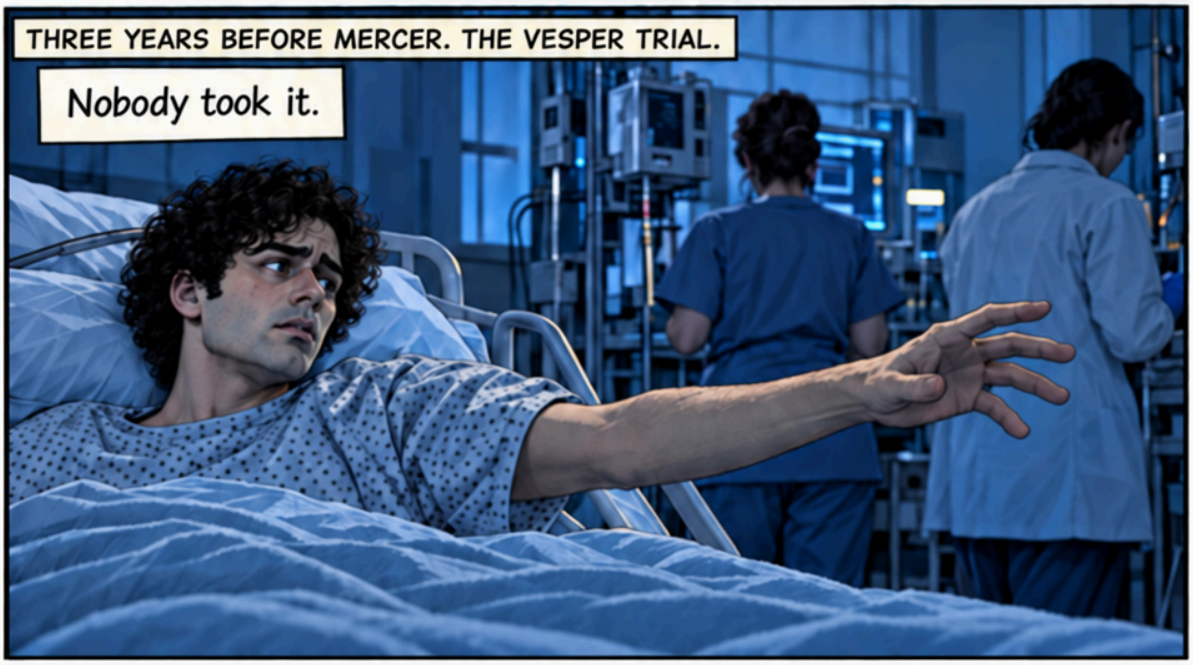
SOME DEBTS HAVE TEETH.


SIX WEEKS AFTER MERCER.
His owner surrendered the whole litter. Then he passed.
RESCUE
From what?
Nobody told us.
He'll need follow-up care. Experience with medical appointments?
Professionally.


Temporary arrangement.
That's not loot. That's my sock.
Placebo?
He makes me feel better. No idea how.
How long has he been shaking?
He's cold.
It's seventy-five in here. Vet. Tonight.


2:14 A.M.




THREE YEARS BEFORE MERCER. THE VESPER TRIAL.
Nobody took it.


Emergency vet? We're coming.

TESS / Emergency veterinarian




THE VESPER CLINIC. CLOSED LONG BEFORE MERCER.
RUTH BELL. DISCHARGE NURSE. HER NUMBER WAS ON MY AFTERCARE SHEET.
Even the website's been discharged.
page not found
MARA
Mercer's lawyers called again. You?
Ruth? You were there when I woke up.
Not on the phone. Meet me at the diner.


They told us you'd withdráwn.
I was unconscious. Apparently I was very decisive.
I packed the samples. Yours went to Tokyo. The others went in a shredder.
Dr. Emi Sato. She can identify your treatment and contact the team that continued it.
Why keep all this?
In case someone finally asked.
L. Wen..
She'll want your trial number.
The one thing they let me keep.
Take all of it. I'm done carrying it.
TRIAL P-0173
L. Wen..
TRIAL P-0173


ELIAS VOSS. TREATED AFTER MY TRIAL.
HE GOT THE PRIVATE ROOM.
You told me once I saved your life.
I sent you a yacht.
I sold it. Rent for two years.
Frugal.
Then Mercer. A man died while you watched.
And I paid his daughter's tuition. Through graduation.
I need a plane. And a vet who stays with him the whole way.
Sato? I'll arrange it.

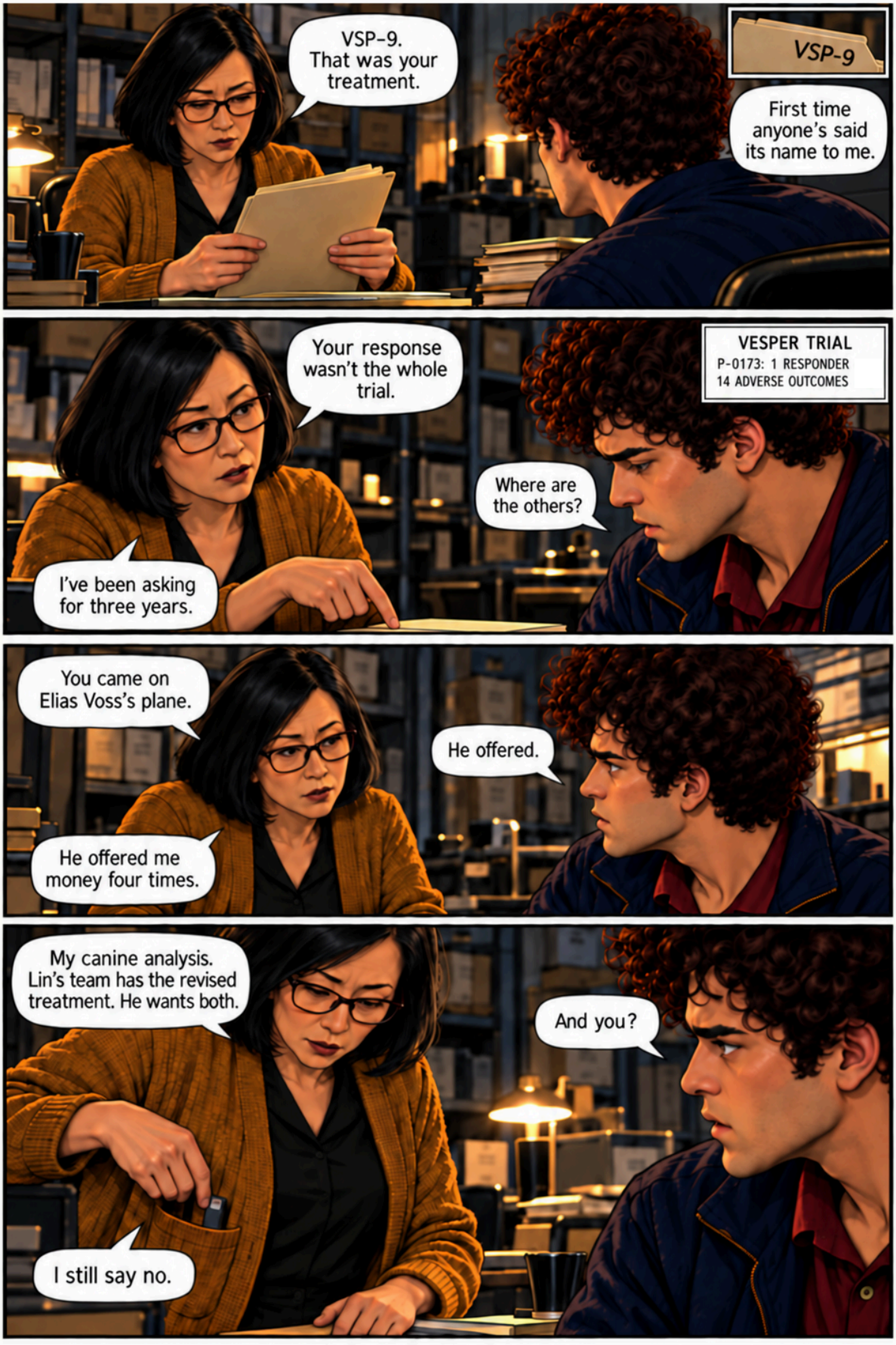

The Tokyo meeting is confirmed.
And if she refuses again?
Get me the research. Quietly.


FOUR DAYS OF SUPPORTIVE CARE AND TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS.
Stable enough to travel with me. Not cured.


The cat will deny knowing me, Doctide.
Come back in one piece. Ideally the same one.
DOCTIDE / Johnny's neighbor


You get the window.
Who is this guy?
Someone I owe less than he thinks.


TOKYO.
Back soon.
We'll be here.
I remember your samples.
Most people remember my face.
Your samples were less argumentative.
My dog's dying.


VSP-9.
That was your treatment.
VSP-9
First time anyone's said its name to me.
Your response wasn't the whole trial.
VESPER TRIAL
P-0173: 1 RESPONDER
14 ADVERSE OUTCOMES
Where are the others?
I've been asking for three years.
You came on Elias Voss's plane.
He offered.
He offered me money four times.
My canine analysis. Lin's team has the revised treatment. He wants both.
And you?
I still say no.


We're closed.
You.
How's the shoulder?
She said no. Four times.
Then she's had practice.
CRASH.


Bill him for that.
The drive.
Wait—
BANG