

FEEDING GROUND

LOGLINE:

When the cyborg founder of a tech corporation is found murdered, the corporation's strange response leads Detective Solano and the New Athens Special Police to unravel a greater conspiracy than they ever imagined.

SYNOPSIS:

Welcome to New Athens, 2048—a sprawling city-state occupying the territory once known as “Greece,” built by the world’s largest corporations shortly after the devastating flood of 2016. All that remains of “Greece” is the area that was once downtown Athens—now a barren wasteland called, simply, the Old City.

Young Detective Solano of the Special Police Division, SDX, visits the newest crime scene in a string of cyborg murders. The cyborg CEO of Hayashi Corp, New Athens’ largest tech corporation, has been murdered. Solano’s boss, the gruff Chief Gortyn, thinks that this is hit the killer has been working up to.

Before Solano and the Chief have had time to process the crime scene, however, representatives from Hayashi Corp step in to block their investigation. Luckily, SDX catches their first break in a while when a suspect matching the description of the killer is spotted heading for the Old City. Solano corners the suspect, discovering the culprit is an AI robot built by Hayashi Corp! Why would Hayashi Corp want to kill its own CEO?

Solano doesn’t have long to wait for a new lead. While on a detail with the Mobile Gun Unit—a team of young cops, led by the cocky Thermidor, who pilot flying robotic exoskeletons—the car of a politician in town from the lunar colony gets hacked! Not only do Solano and Thermidor discover the politician murdered in his car, they uncover a connection between his death and Hayashi’s AI lunar mech project.

Seeking answers, Solano and Thermidor go deep into the slums of the Old City to seek out a hacker contact. The hacker claims that within the Hayashi server there is reference to a file, one that does not appear on any of the servers. With the new intel, Chief Gortyn preps both units for a raid on a Hayashi Corp facility. Thermidor and Solano uncover a whole library of files and books. Sorting through, they find countless books on post-humanism and mind-uploading. Could this mean what they think it means? Was Hayashi experimenting with transhumanism? What if he’s not really dead after all?

When they uncover documentation of a secret Hayashi facility in the Old City, SDX and the Mobile Guns move in. Thermidor and her team hold off the lunar mech prototypes in order to give Solano time to sneak in. Once inside, Solano confronts what’s left of Hayashi. Having failed to completely upload his consciousness, Hayashi speaks to Solano through a torn apart robotic body. He admits to the murders, but all in the name of science. The building comes crashing down around them, and as Solano runs for the exit, Hayashi’s last words echo throughout the crumbling hallways.

The conspiracy is finally uncovered, but Solano knows that in this city the truth will probably never fully see the light of day. However, if there ever comes a day when the dark secrets of Hayashi come to prey on his city again, Solano and his teammates will be there to stop it.