

# NEON



# NEON: Series Pitch Bible

An incredible cyberpunk story where the action takes place in the near future. Technology has been so tightly interwoven with people's lives that it started to gradually oust humans.

The plot develops around adventures of a 16-year-old orphan Lou who ran away from the orphanage and came to an ultra-modern metropolis in hopes of finding her family (or what remains of it). Lou plunges into temptations and dangers lying in wait for their victims behind every 10G tower. Thus, a sinister corporation immortIX tries to take over the world by introducing fully synthetic bodies into the market and duping people into transferring their consciousness into the artificial bodies the corporation controls. Meanwhile, there is a strong opposition, planting the seeds of rebellion against immortIX and preparing to strike back.

In the end, Lou finds her family: her only brother who is a faithful resistance fighter and her mother who turns out to be the head of the evil corporation. The girl has to choose between saving humankind and reconnecting with the mother she's been long searching for.

# Characters

Lou is a 16-year-old orphan, who grew up in an orphanage and barely remembers her parents. So her most cherished dream - to find her family - made her run away from the child welfare service and start searching for her relatives. The only clue she has is a pendant left by her mother. The search leads her to the »city«, where she decides to stay. Lou is incredibly inventive and agile. She's a born leader and has a strong inclination to science.



# LOU

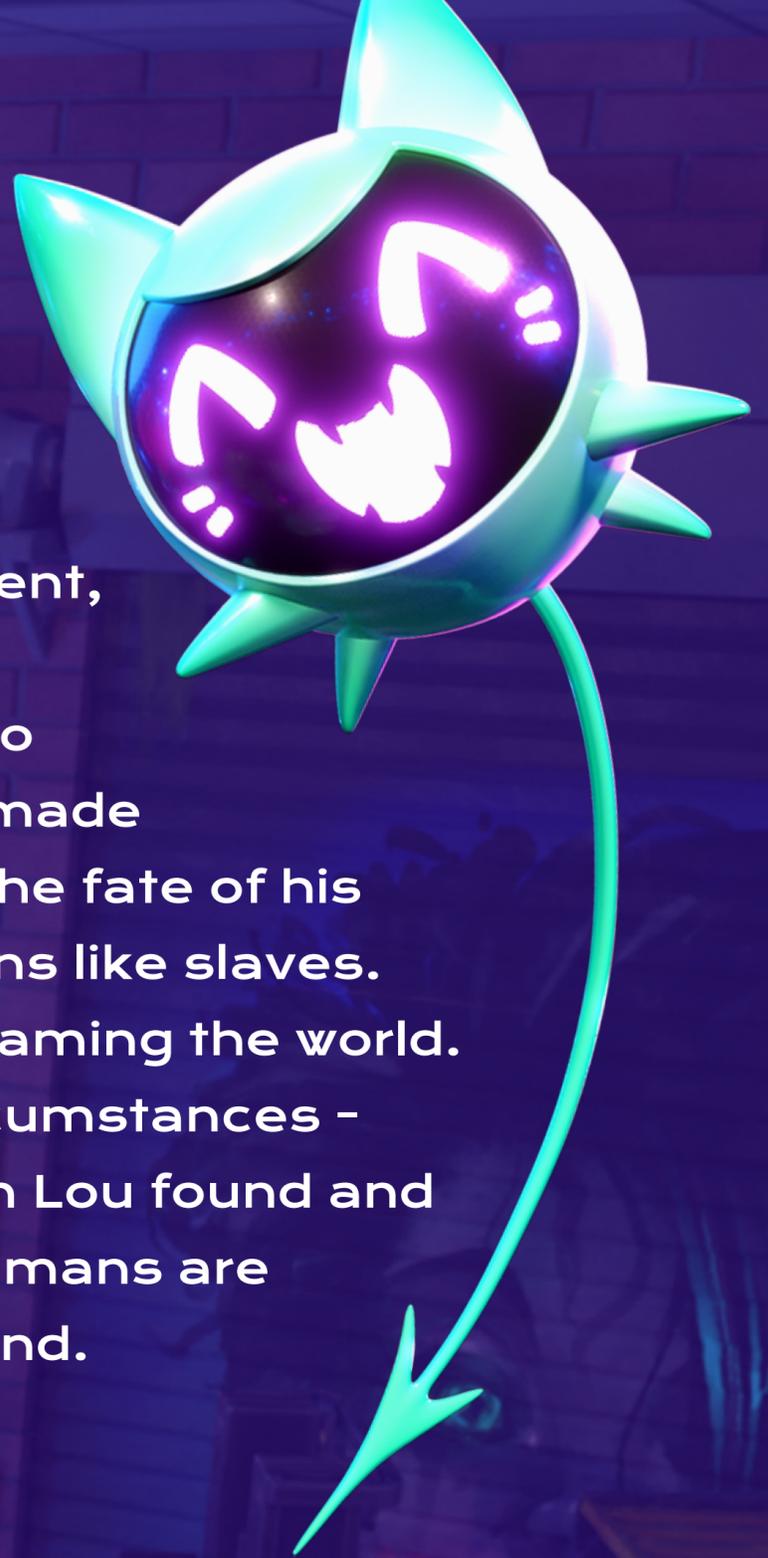
Axel is a resistance fighter who dedicated his life to the struggle against the evil corporation. From his early childhood, he's been studying martial arts and hacking. Fulfilling one of the missions, Axel got mortally wounded, so he had to transfer his consciousness into a synthetic cloned body to survive. During the transfer, however, he lost his memory and forgot the most important thing, namely, that Lou is his sister.



Axel

# CAT

Cat is Lou's pet droid. He's a result of production fault: by some sinister accident, bugs in his operating system made Cat a fully conscious being, with the ability to think and to contemplate. The «error» made the poor droid realize how miserable is the fate of his robot brethren who have to serve humans like slaves. Disappointed with his life, Cat started roaming the world. Soon he found himself in desperate circumstances - penniless and homeless. That was when Lou found and adopted him. Cat realized that not all humans are alike and became the human's best friend.



# Larry

Larry is the owner of an antique store. He's a pretty stout man in his late forties. He has terrible manners and lacks any kind of decency. Larry is excessively fond of artificial implants, that is why 60% of his body is made of metal, plastic, and synthetic fiber. Due to his upgrade, he's often mistaken for a cyborg, which sends him into a rage. Larry hired Lou as a stalker to get him expensive antiquities from the "old city." Though the girl does her job well, the aging villain always finds a reason to pay her less than he promised.

# Hikikomori

Hikikomori is the best agent of the evil corporation. A 12-year-old Japanese girl suffering from agoraphobia, she spends all her life in her room, and never leaves her home. Connected to virtual reality, she controls her Avatar (looking so much like herself that they're hard to tell from one another, though the Avatar has almost supernatural strength and is able to regenerate any damage).

Hikikomori's Avatar is a perfect battle machine (robot) armed with deadly weapons. However despite all her skills and superpowers, at heart she's a vulnerable kid with a tragic fate.

# Head of Corporation

Head of Corporation — once an incredibly talented young scientist, Lou and Axel's mother, together with her husband, founded the Corporation and became an implant pioneer. However, everything changed when she was diagnosed with a terminal illness. She decided to cheat death and started experimenting on transferring consciousness into an artificial body. A series of unsuccessful experiments altered her personality and she vowed to do whatever it takes to make her dream - living an eternal life - come true.

# The Biker Brothers

The Biker Brothers are twin brothers who are madly in love with their motorbikes. They're not the brightest minds, but possess uncanny physical stamina and innate cruelty. The brothers loathe robots and everything associated with them. They spend their free time hunting down homeless bots, disassembling them, and selling for spare parts. Since Lou once dared to steal one of their bikes, the brothers chase her seeking revenge.

## Crush

Crush is Lou's friend who's madly in love with her but afraid of confessing it. He comes from the town destroyed by acid rains; the deadly environmental disaster turned his whole family into mutants. Crush hasn't changed much on the outside, but got uncanny abilities. His shyness and fear of being rejected make him hide his powers and backgrounds. Lou has a deep affection for Crush and waits for him to make the first move.

# Main locations:

Lou's apartment — a humble one-room apartment located in a futuristic ghetto which Lou shares with Cat.



## Antique store

Larry's store in which he sells 20th and 21st century antiques. Actually, Larry isn't good at history, so he prefers to improvise guessing what those things were made and used for. That's how a toilet brush got a plaque that says "1990 toothbrush" and a hairdryer was labeled "foot dryer."

## Abandoned town

Ruins of the old city. The whole district of the city that was abandoned by the dwellers at the beginning of the 21st century after a government-involved scandal. Rumor has it that beneath the town, there's a secret lab where they are still conducting nuclear energy experiments. The ruins have a high background radiation, but nobody has yet discovered the reason for that. Any investigations in that regard are cut short by the secret service.

## Secret lab

The place where clones (synthetic bodies) are being grown. The lab is a labyrinth of endless corridors lined with capsules containing clones.

## Arena

A place where wild underground fights are held among cyborgs, robots, mutants, and humans.

# Season conception and development:

The season has a spiral structure. Each episode is a complete story covering one of the topics of the series' innate idea. Though each episode is independent, it has its own storyline permeating the entire series plot. This plot is set up in the first episode, while the climax covers the last two episodes.

Between the beginning and the finale there are a number of storylines that reveal the characters and their personal dramas. Structurally, episodes mirror one another: each time the main characters clash with the antagonist (Hikikomori) who tries to stop them. Such repetitions help to follow the main plotline, so a viewer can start watching the series from any episode and be able to understand what's going on at once.



# What the season is about:

The protagonist of the first season is a girl named Lou. She's an orphan, and the only thing she has that belonged to her parents she barely remembers, is a pendant of peculiar shape. Inside the pendant, there is an incredibly detailed map of the abandoned town. Thanks to the map Lou easily finds her way through the ruins and picks up antiquities for sale.

Lou receives a request from her boss (an aging antiquities dealer Larry). This time she is to bring him a weird artifact reminding our spinner. While on her assignment Lou discovers a hidden door in the atrium of an abandoned shopping mall. Her pendant suddenly functions as a key and opens the door to the secret lab for growing clones. Lou accidentally turns off the life support system and gets one of the clones (Axel) out of his capsule. The clone turns out to possess a conscious mind but suffers from memory loss. Lou and the clone escape the lab, taking the spinner she was sent for, that oddly enough was found in the clone's body. The head of the corporation, who owns the lab, sends her agent (Hikikomori) to retrieve the clone.

Axel (the clone) finds himself in a world completely new to him. It's a world where sentient robots, cyborgs, mutants, volatile artificial intelligence and human beings coexist. Lou helps Axel to get around and does everything to help him recollect who he is and where his home is. Axel is haunted by flashbacks from his previous life, and they gradually develop into a full-fledged story like a puzzle. Meanwhile Lou does her best to earn and save as much money as she can to start searching for her family. Axel gladly helps her in her work. Hikikomori prevents them from carrying out their plan (since she is a loyal agent of the corporation) trying to catch Axel and return him to the capsule.

In the end, Axel's memory eventually returns: he recollects that he was a human trained in a rebel camp since childhood. He was to sneak into the secret lab to unleash a destructive blow at the corporation (which by that time had monopolized the entire human life and was planning experiments on transferring the human consciousness into artificial bodies). Axel also recalls that the "spinner" is a kind of a boot disk that stores a virus meant to disrupt the work of the corporation's main server and undermine their experiments. Unfortunately, Axel failed his mission: the lab's security guard shot and gravely wounded him. To save his life, he had to transfer his consciousness into the body of a clone, which resulted in a loss of his memory. The protagonists make another attempt to stop the corporation. In the course of the mission, they find out that Lu and Axel are actual siblings, and the head of the corporation is their mother.



## Episode titles:

### “Easy money”

Lou receives a request from her boss Larry: she is to get him a weird artifact reminiscent of an object we know as spinner. She goes to the old city, but instead of the spinner, she discovers a door into the secret lab. Inside the lab, she stumbles upon capsules containing clones. Accidentally, Lou gets one of them free. The clone turns out to be sentient but doesn't remember anything. The alarm goes off, police droids rush into the lab and a shootout ensues. Lou, Cat, and Axel have to escape. Having left the pursuers behind, Lou decides to hide in Larry's antique store with her friends. The cunning dealer tries to boot them out hinting at brushes with the law. To his own surprise, Larry notices the spinner he wanted to get stuck in Axel's body.

Having learned that one of her clones was kidnapped, the head of the corporation sends her best agent (Hikikomori) to find the intruders and retrieve the clone. Larry pays Lou for the spinner and kicks her and her friends out of the store. At the store's entrance, Lou, Cat, and Axel encounter the bikers, who demand payment for the motorbike Lou has stolen from them. The bikers take Cat hostage and give Lou a few hours to find the money. Lou and Axel go to the arena and take part in a series of underground fights (where Axel's forgotten fighting skills return to him). They proceed to the final and claim the main prize. Then Hikikomori darts into the arena. Lou and Axel manage to escape and take all the money. They find the bikers, give them the prize money, and retrieve Cat. Exhausted after the adventures, the friends go back home.

## “Oh no! Something has gone wrong”

Axel is gradually getting used to living in the city. He gets interested in advertising billboards with new and shiny implants on them (evil corporation produce). He spends his last money to buy a head microchip to access the Internet and implants it into his head. Soon he gets annoyed by pervasive ads (ad windows chaotically pop before his eyes) and harmful viruses. To solve this problem, Axel installs an antivirus that literally drives him insane. The antivirus takes control over his body. Lou and Cat have to remove the implant out of Axel's body and simultaneously fight off Hikikomori. In the end, they manage to escape her again and rescue their friend.

Larry's antique store has gone bankrupt. Collector robots break into the store and demand payment for a “remote control chip” he bought on credit (Larry has recently acquired a chip that allows him to control all home appliances without rising from his chair). The collectors take the chip back. Larry is learning to live anew. He has to clean the house himself and cook his own dinner. But soon he starts to enjoy the pleasures of “natural” human life without chips and implants. Lou, Axel, and Cat organize a grand sale, helping Larry get his business back. When the store reopens, he impatiently buys the chip again and plunges into blissful idleness.

## “Love online”

Lou finds a virtual friend (they got acquainted in a new social network). She falls in love with him. Axel and Cat are skeptical about this friendship, but Lou is sure that “the guys” are simply jealous. The virtual boyfriend asks Lou out on a date. Axel and Cat decide to follow them. However it turns out that it was Hikikomori who pretended to be Lou’s virtual boyfriend to lure her into a trap and catch her. A stiff battle breaks out. Axel and Cat leave their cover and help Lou to cope with Hikikomori. The fight over, the friends go to a café to take a breather and here they meet the guy (Crush) whose face Hikikomori used in the fake account as avatar. There’s a spark between Lou and Crush.

Crush makes up his mind and calls Lou for a “friendly hangout”. Axel and Cat don’t trust him and latch onto them. The friends want to go to a new 33D movie, but their rating is too low and the security guards don’t let them in. So they decide to persevere and boost their rating whatever it takes. To do it, they need to gather a record-breaking number of likes and do as many “good deeds” as possible. At the last moment, when they’re almost done, Hikikomori appears and tries to catch them again. During the battle, Lou and her friends almost destroy the entire city, and their rating drops to zero and below.

## “Friends until the last breath”

It's a story about Cat before he met Lou. Assembly defect accidentally gave Cat the ability to think. Cat couldn't live among “brainless” cats of the same model and decided to go to the city to meet his destiny. He had a dream to become the overall winner of the arena and prove his superiority over humans. He started fighting at the underground arena and won the champion title really fast. His fame spread far and wide. Once he was offered a huge sum of money for losing in the final round. Cat agreed, but his pride made him win. He knocked out his opponent and had to escape. Cat hid from his pursuers in the old city and was ready to meet his end (his battery drained to almost zero). And that was when Lou found him. She warmed him, recharged his battery and restored his faith in human love.

Hikikomori realizes that she won't achieve success with brute force alone, so she uses trickery: goes to a cyborg beauty salon for an upgrade. Now Hikikomori looks exactly like Lou. She earns Axel's trust and tries to lure him into a trap. At the last moment, the real Lou appears and exposes the villain.

## “Rise of the machines”

Lou and Cat have their first full day off in six months. They decide to stay home and devote the whole day to their favorite activities: Lou makes a creative mess while Cat tries to make the whole house shine. The day off turns into a real challenge, but with Axel's arrival the situation spirals out of control altogether. Axel and Lou tap into virtual reality and rip the whole house apart. The cat takes it as a personal insult; he vows vengeance to all mankind.

Cat watches his robot brethren serving humans as slaves with a heavy heart. He started giving pep talks on the streets, which results in the rise of robots. They make Cat their leader, but he's not ready for such a responsibility.

## “Family reunion”

Lou and Axel go to the “remembrance salon” (a place where one can plunge into artificial slumber and restore erased memory fragments). Axel recollects that he was once a resistance soldier, and that he went to the secret lab to install a virus program into the corporation’s main server and destroy it. Fulfilling the mission, he sustained a mortal wound and had to transfer his consciousness into the artificial body of a clone to survive. He also recalls that the spinner Larry took from his body is not just a toy but a boot disk with the virus. Still, the most important thing Axel recalls is that Lou is his sister.

Axel and Lou go to the antique store to find it closed due to quarantine. It turns out that Larry has been taken to a hospital. They sneak inside the store to get the spinner. Lou and Axel find out that Larry is also a member of the resistance movement (actually it was Larry who developed the virus). They decide to go to the lab (the secret lair of the corporation) and complete the mission. Crush and Cat go with them. They find an abandoned subway tunnel and sneak through it to the main server of the corporation (which stores all the data). They try to install the virus program, but get surrounded by the security guards with Hikikomori in the lead. The head of the corporation comes out of the shadows. Lou and Axel learn that she is their mother.