

The counter knew every hand that moved. It did not know why one stopped.

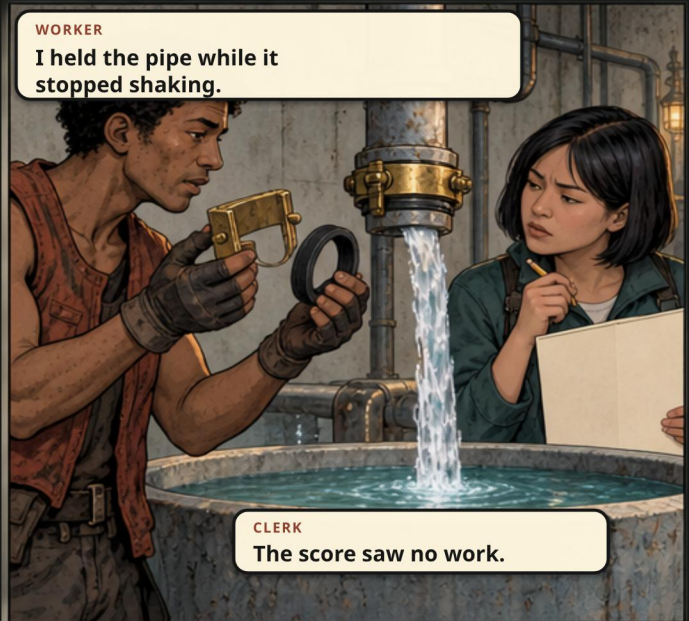


COUNTER STRIP
HAND 4 – BELOW LINE

CLERK
Tomorrow's shift removed.

WORKER

I held the pipe while it stopped shaking.



CLERK
The score saw no work.

The judgment kept the copy that could explain it.



WORKER
Let me see mine.

COUNTER STRIP
RECORD INTERNAL

MECHANIC

If it cuts a hand, the hand gets the cut in writing.



CLERK
The machine does not need agreement.

MECHANIC
Then it does not need authority.

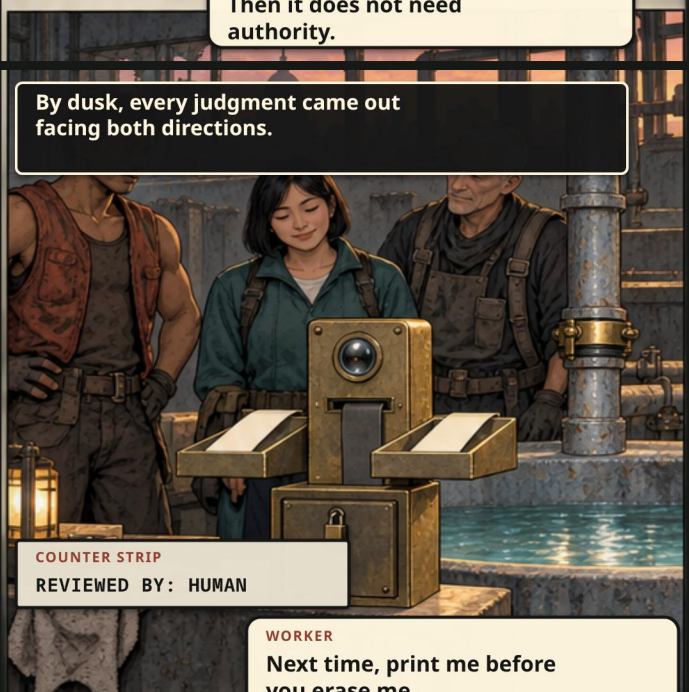
WORKER
Five minutes holding tomorrow.

CLERK
I heard the blank. I missed the hands.



MIRROR STRIP · WITNESSED CORRECTION
HELD CRACKED COUPLING
DURING DEAD FIVE

By dusk, every judgment came out facing both directions.



COUNTER STRIP
REVIEWED BY: HUMAN

WORKER
Next time, print me before you erase me.