

# Neuromancer - Straylight Run

*William Gibson, 1984*

The Villa Straylight was a parasitic structure, most of it, a crazy quilting of preexisting modules, domes, and geodesics, a genuine highrider's fantasy of escape. The cores of the two towers were rooted in the most massive single structure in all of Freeside.

Case jacked in. The matrix unfolded around him, a vast transparent grid stretching to infinity. Data towers rose like luminous stalagmites in the electric darkness. He could feel the icebreaker beside him, the Chinese virus program waiting like a coiled spring.

"Okay," he said, "let's do this."

The icebreaker struck the wall of the Tessier-Ashpool ice and Case felt the shock of it, a loss of certainty that was like falling. The Chinese virus bored in, a glowing thread of logic that penetrated the ice like a hot wire through wax. Somewhere in the real world, Molly was making her way through the corridors of Straylight, her scalpel blades catching the dim light of the hallways.

Case watched the virus work. It was a beautiful thing, in its way. A work of art.