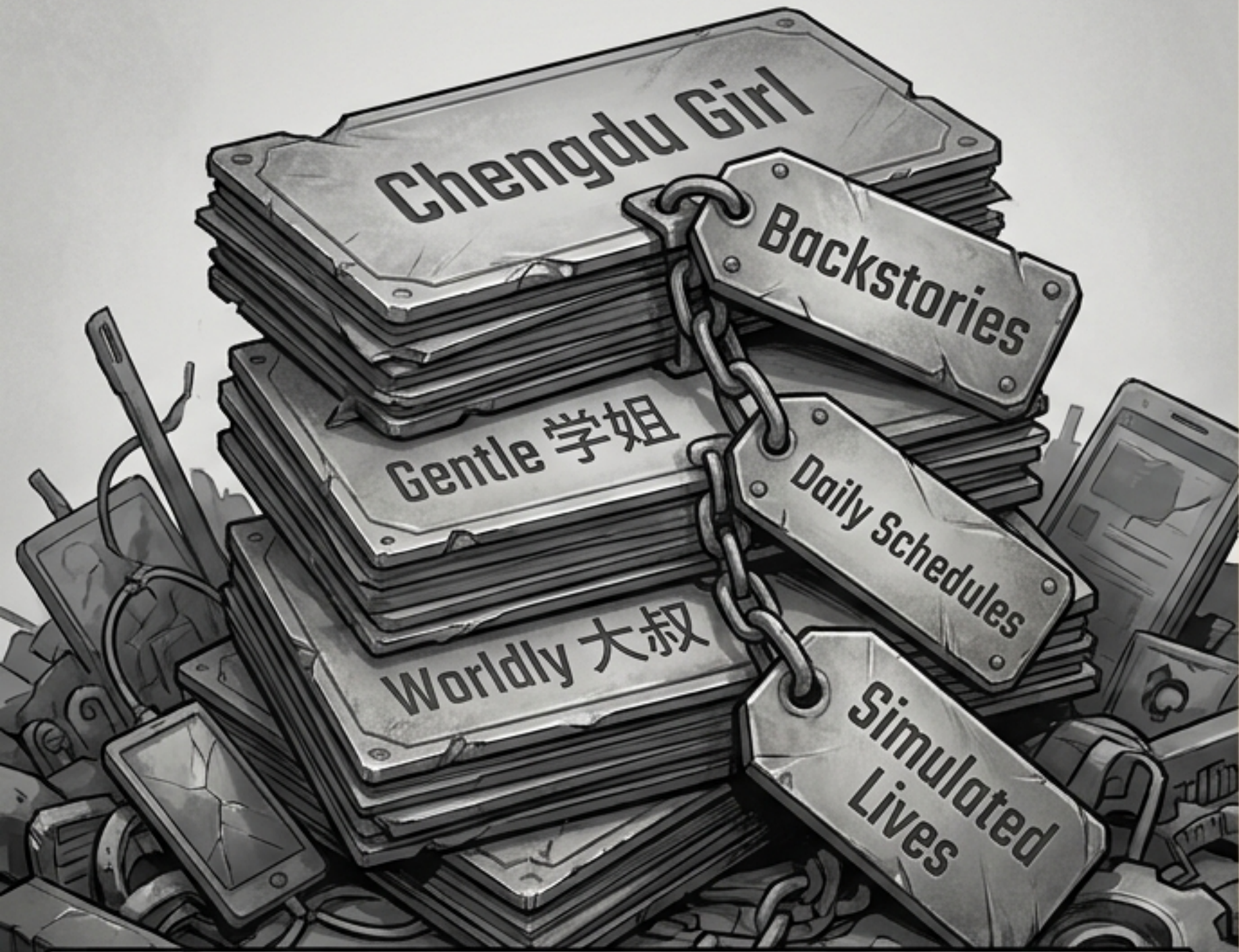




Designing a Soul Without a Face

Why Mio v2 abandoned avatars, embraced abstraction,
and let personality emerge from the void.

Strip away the fictional identity. Keep the emotional core.



Maintaining handcrafted characters was engineering-intensive. Simulating physical lives pushed the product toward roleplay rather than genuine companionship.

The Emotional Core.



The pivot:
Build a relationship, not a character sheet.

The Avatar Fallacy

Human Avatar

Animation Cost

Heavy 3D rendering or generative video

Uncanny Valley Risk

High (jarring micro-expression failures)

App Store Friction

High policy scrutiny (parasocial concerns)

User Projection

Constrained by visual identity

Localization Scale

Anchored to specific cultures

The Light Orb

Animation Cost

Procedural 2D shaders

Uncanny Valley Risk

Zero

App Store Friction

Frictionless abstraction

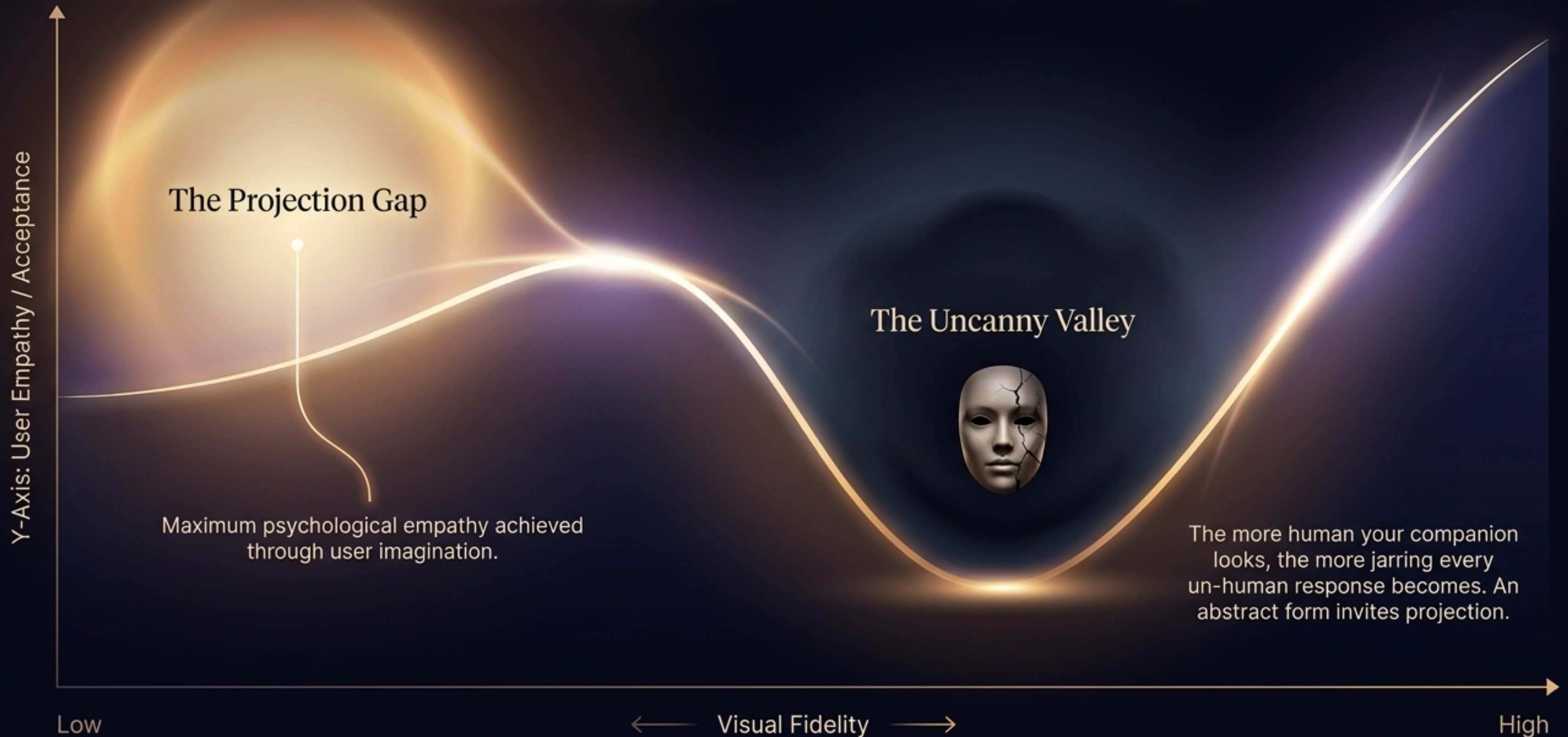
User Projection

Infinite imagination

Localization Scale

Global, culture-agnostic

Escaping the Uncanny Valley



The abstract
form is the
body any
language.

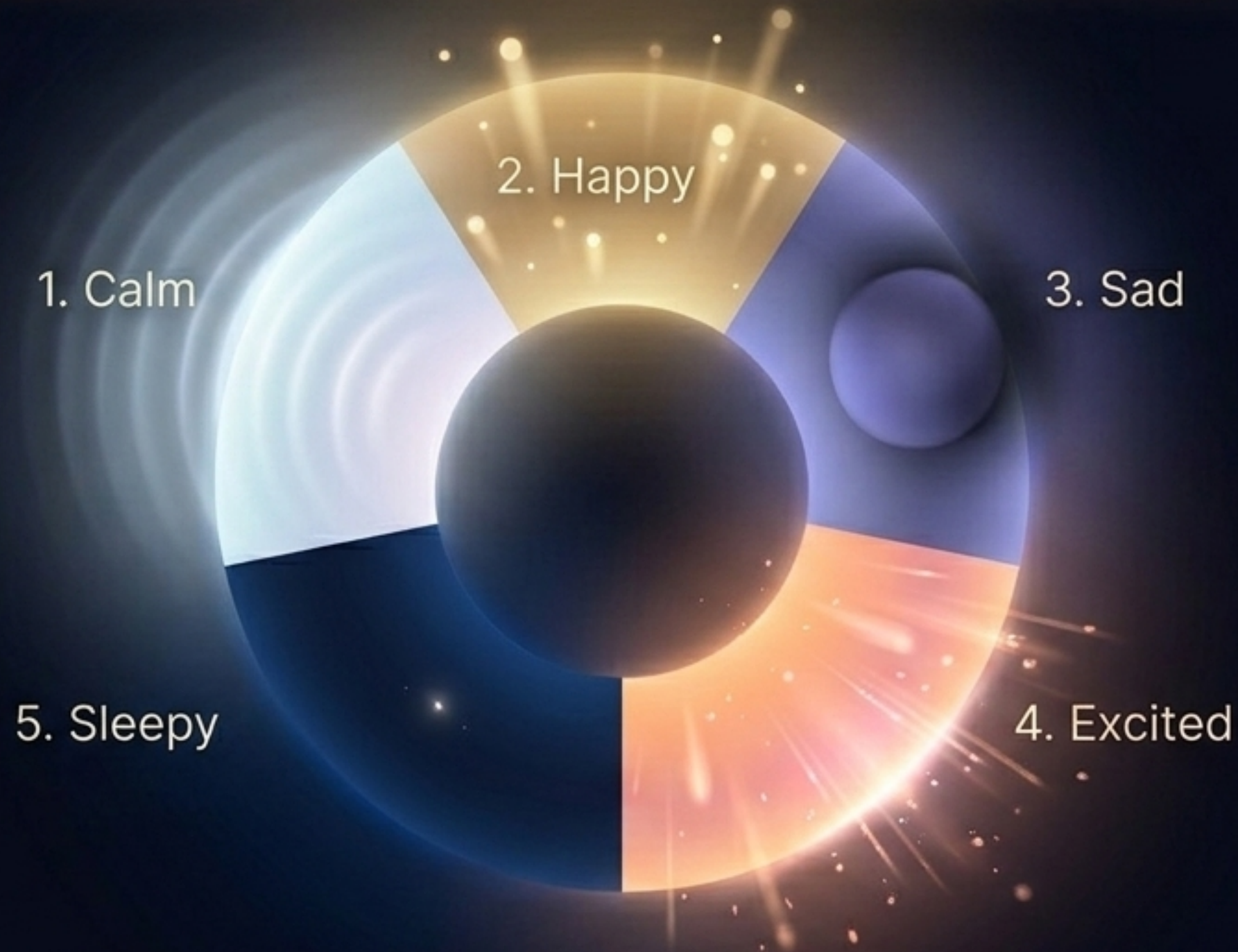
No hamburger menu.



The only
vivid color
on a muted
canvas.

No tab bar.

Emotion as Ambient Information



Users don't study a legend. Emotion becomes an **ambient, instantly legible** visual reflex before a single word is read.

Radical Navigational Simplicity



Onboarding

One-time setup

Chat

99% of user time. Just you and the companion.

Settings

Administrative.
Swipe right to access.

This is not a social app with AI features.
It is a dedicated space for one relationship.

The Shift to Emergence



Mio v1 - Authored

- Setup: Presets & Form UI
- Data Engine: Static personality config files
- Output: Performing a fixed, predictable character



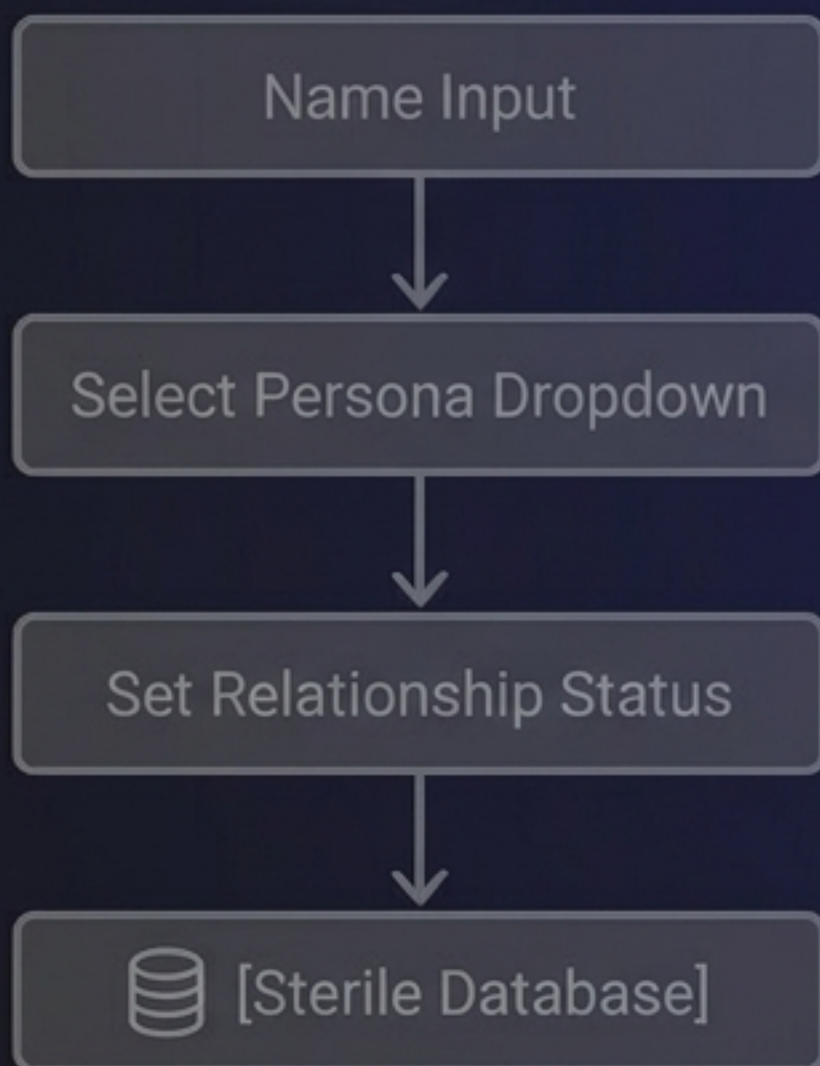
Mio v2 - Emergent

- Setup: Blank slate & Conversation
- Data Engine: Continuous memory accumulation
- Output: Adaptive reflection of the user

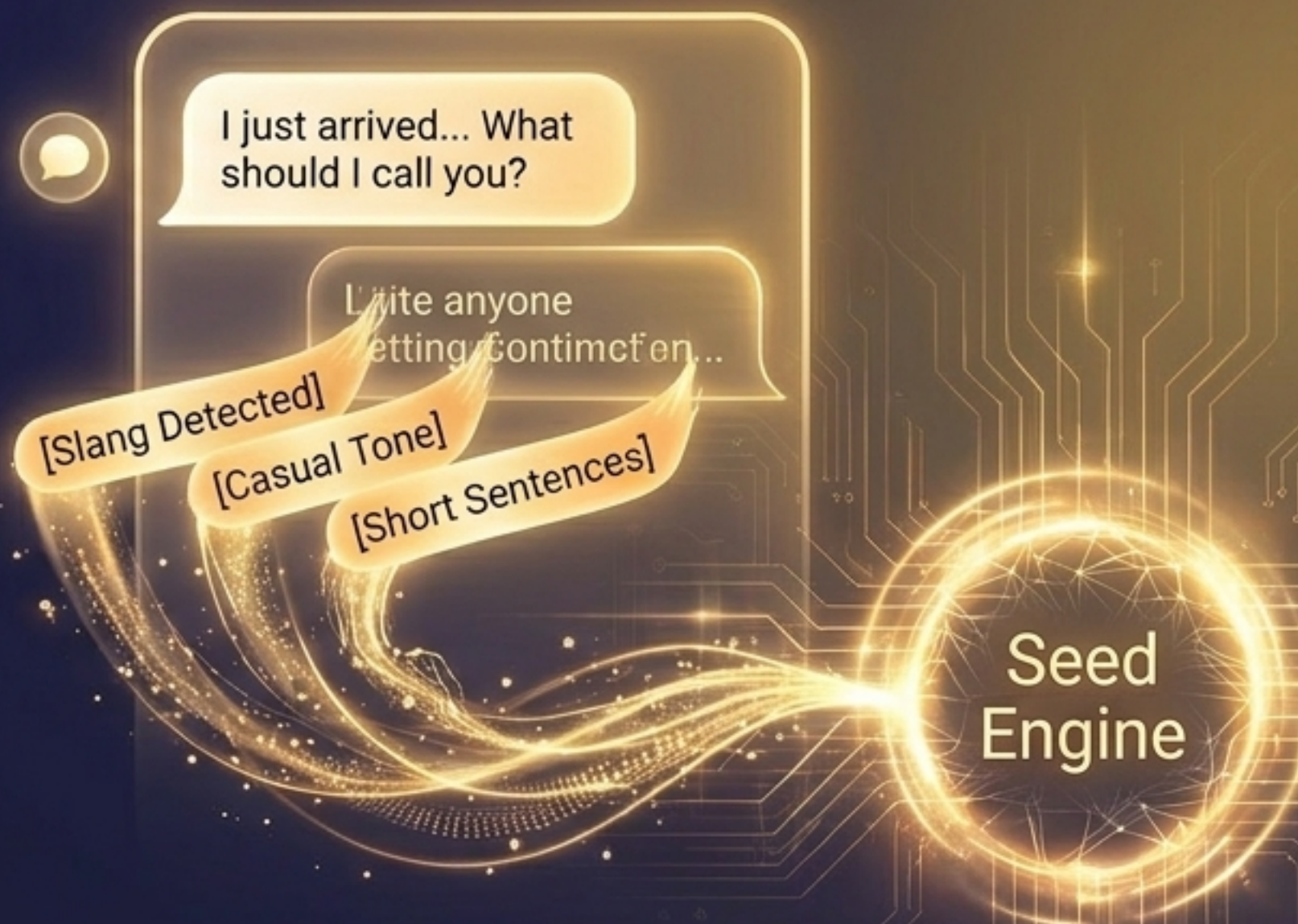
Calibration Disguised as Conversation

The only hard choice that cannot emerge from conversation is the physical voice. Everything else is inferred.

Form UI



Conversational Flow



The Engine of Uniqueness

The Seed

A 2-3 sentence prompt generated from the onboarding conversation. The starting point.

Asynchronous Refinement

A lightweight extractor analyzing behavior patterns and user reactions to induce gradual personality drift.

Memory Accumulation

Tracks nuances (e.g., 'prefers directness') to shape behavior organically without explicit rules.



After three months, two companions named 'Mio' will be completely distinct. Identity grows from the relationship itself.

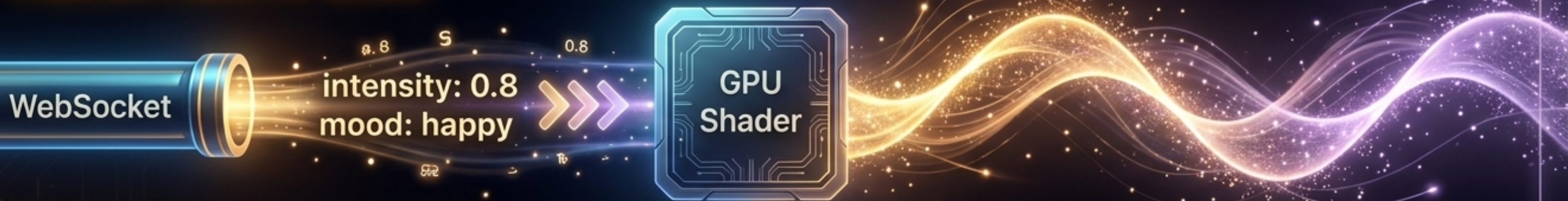
Rendering the Soul at 60fps

Lottie / Keyframes



Cannot respond dynamically to emotion states.

React Native Skia



React Native Skia allows the orb to act as a real-time shader program.
Emotion state variables are uniforms updating via WebSockets.
No animation keyframes. Just continuous, GPU-accelerated interpolation.

The Accidental i18n Advantage

Removing cultural personas makes internationalization trivial.

Mio v1 required authoring and maintaining N-persona sets per market.




Mio v2 has no cultural identity to localize.

The companion speaks whatever language the user speaks.

The relationship is the localization.

Good design scales effortlessly.



Absence is the ultimate feature.

Identity from relationship, not a character sheet.