


**MIDJOURNEY CHRONICLES · EPISODE 23**

# Every face has a secret.

Who's in your noir?

`--sref 3791308093`

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# The idea

One noir SREF, one person in every frame. Change who they are, where they stand and what lights them — the hard shadows, smoke and night stay. The same code can come back as a photoreal film still or as a flat graphic poster, which is why it is fun to push.

## Parameters

| | |
|---|---|
| `--sref 3791308093` | the noir style |
| `--chaos 20` | variety in the grid: photo vs. poster |
| `--stylize 300` | how strongly the style is applied |
| `--ar 4:5` | portrait frame |
| `--v 8.2` | always set it — no --v means your account default |

## Starter prompt

```
Noir Portraits: [WHO] in [WHERE], [ONE LIGHT SOURCE] on their face, [ONE DETAIL: smoke, rain, blinds]; --chaos 20 --ar 4:5 --stylize 300 --sref 3791308093 --v 8.2
```

## Filled in

```
Noir Portraits: a young woman in leather gloves behind the wheel of a 1950s sedan parked in a dark alley, headlights from a passing car cutting across her face; --chaos 20 --ar 4:5 --stylize 300 --sref 3791308093 --v 8.2
```

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# 01 · The Getaway

Car · medium shot



The cleanest result: photoreal, the light lands right across her eyes.

```
Noir Portraits: a young woman in leather gloves behind the wheel of a 1950s sedan parked in a dark alley, headlights from a passing car cutting across her face; --chaos 20 --ar 4:5 --stylize 300 --sref 3791308093 --v 8.2
```

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# 02 · The Client

Portrait · close-up



Pearls, smoke, desk lamp and blind shadows — classic noir in one frame.

```
Noir Portraits: a woman with a pearl necklace in a private eye's office, half her face lit by the desk lamp, cigarette smoke curling past her eyes; --chaos 20 --ar 4:5 --stylize 300 --sref 3791308093 --v 8.2
```

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# 03 · The Street

Location · wide shot



A beautiful street photo — but MJ dropped the saxophone. Prompts are suggestions, not orders.

```
Noir Portraits: a lone saxophone player under a streetlamp on a cobblestone street in old Mexico City, long shadow stretching across the wet stones, fog in the distance; --chaos 20 --ar 4:5 --stylize 300 --sref 3791308093 --v 8.2
```

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# 04 · The Informant

Portrait · medium shot



Same code, but chaos 20 pushed it into a colour poster with orange and teal.

```
Noir Portraits: an old Mexican bartender polishing a glass in a smoky cantina at 2 a.m., one bare bulb overhead, deep shadows under his eyes; --chaos 20 --ar 4:5 --stylize 300 --sref 3791308093 --v 8.2
```

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# 05 · The Witness

Animal · close-up



The graphic side of the SREF: a cartoon-sharp cat with glowing eyes on a dripping fire escape.

```
Noir Portraits: a black cat sitting on a fire escape at night, staring into the camera, a lit apartment window behind it, rain dripping from the iron rail; --chaos 20 --ar 4:5 --stylize 300 --sref 3791308093 --v 8.2
```

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# The cover

```
Noir Portraits: a woman in a dark coat and veiled hat waiting on an empty train platform at night, behind her a large wide departure board close to the camera, huge bold lettering filling the whole board reading "MIDJOURNEY CHRONICLES" on the top line and "EP. 23" large below it, steam and hard side light, the whole board fully visible in the frame; --chaos 5 --ar 4:5 --stylize 300 --sref 3791308093 --sw 300 --v 8.2 --no credits, small print, fine print, billing block, watermark, signature, logo, repeated text, duplicate letters, cropped sign
```

## Tips

• Chaos 20 is the switch here: the same grid can hold a film still and a flat poster. Want only photos? Drop to --chaos 5.

• For text on a sign, drop chaos to 5 and use --sw 300. If the letters break, try --sw 150.

• A subject can cover part of the sign — leave room by saying where they stand.

• Give every portrait one light source (headlights, a desk lamp, a bare bulb). Noir is about where the light stops.

• Always add --v 8.2. Without it you get your account default.

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# Cheat sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Who** | detective, singer, getaway driver, bartender, a black cat |
| **Where** | alley, cantina, office, train platform, cobblestone street |
| **Light** | headlights, desk lamp, bare bulb, neon through rain, streetlamp |
| **Detail** | smoke, rain, venetian blinds, steam, wet stones |
| **Photo look** | --chaos 5 keeps it closer to a film still |
| **Poster look** | --chaos 20+ lets it turn graphic and sometimes add colour |

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# Your turn

Challenge: put someone from your own city into a noir portrait — a taxi driver, a street vendor, your neighbour. One light source, one secret.

Bonus: run the same prompt with --chaos 5 and --chaos 40 and post both. Photo or poster?