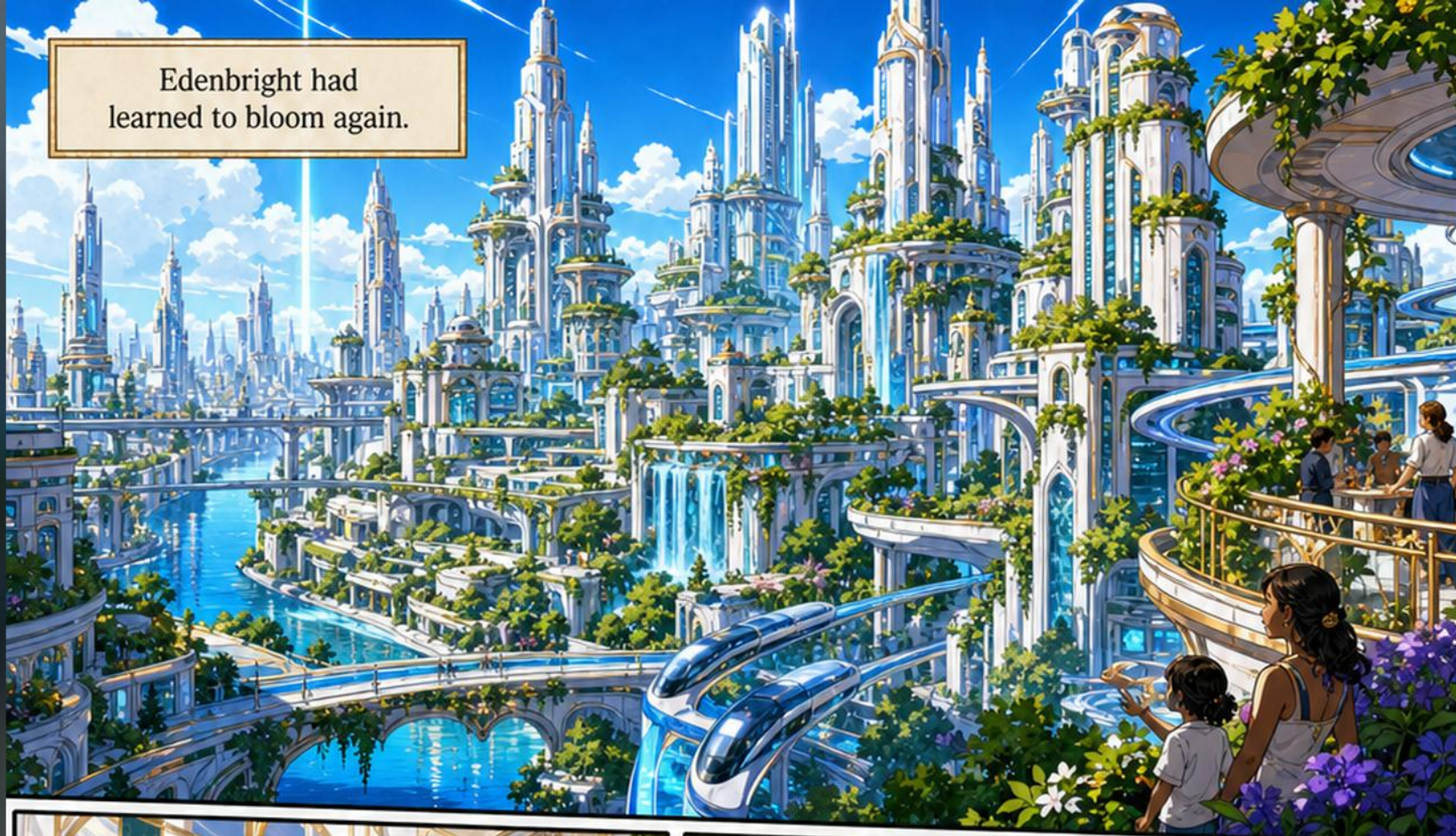
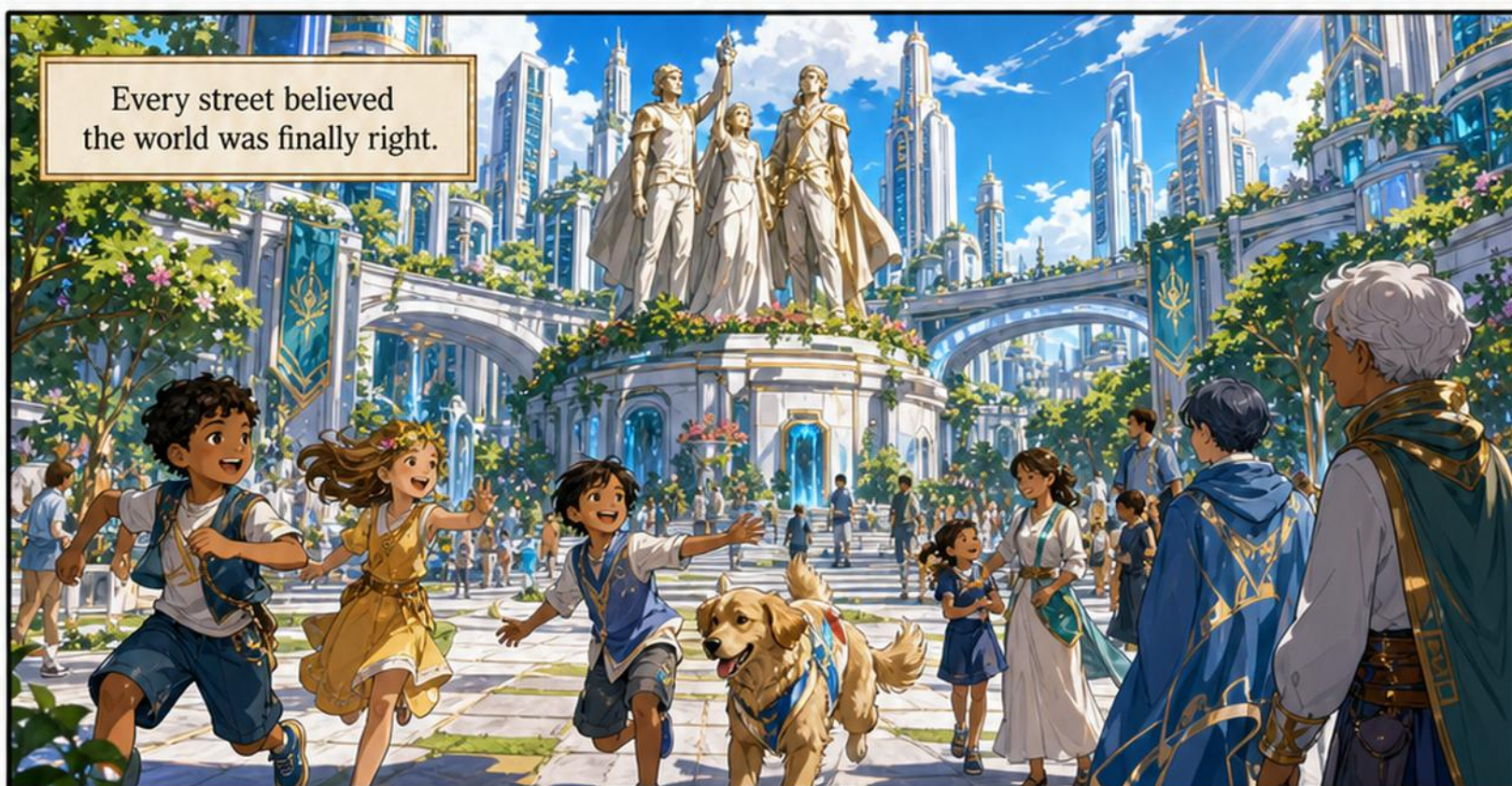




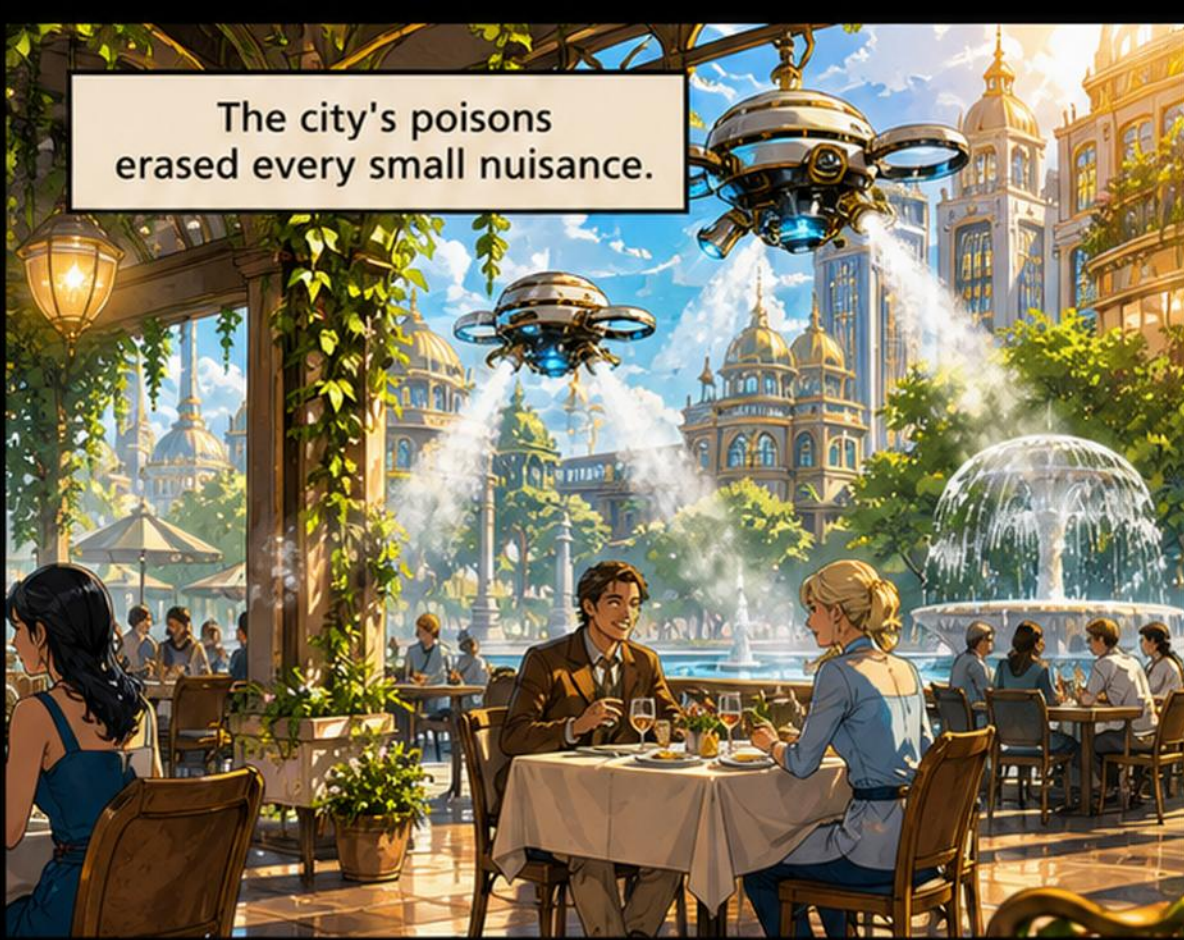
Edenbright had
learned to bloom again.



Every street believed
the world was finally right.



The city's poisons
erased every small nuisance.



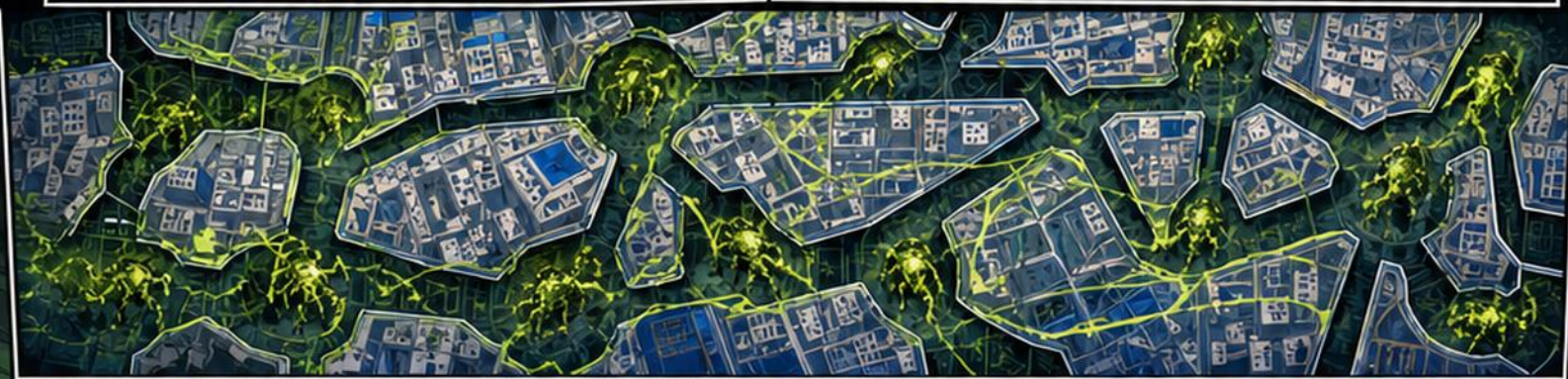
The few survivors
learned from the poison.

A detailed comic book illustration depicting a chaotic scene inside a high-end restaurant. Several large, black rats with glowing green eyes and sharp teeth are bursting through the floor and walls, surrounded by a green, toxic-looking substance. Debris, including broken tiles and gold fixtures, is scattered everywhere. In the foreground, a chef in a white uniform is recoiling in shock, holding a silver platter. To his right, a man in a blue suit is also recoiling. In the bottom right corner, a woman with long brown hair is crouching on the floor, looking up with a worried expression. The background shows other diners in a state of panic. The overall atmosphere is one of horror and chaos.

They came back larger
than hunger.

They remembered
every poison.

Walls became
doors for the
Pestborn Brood.



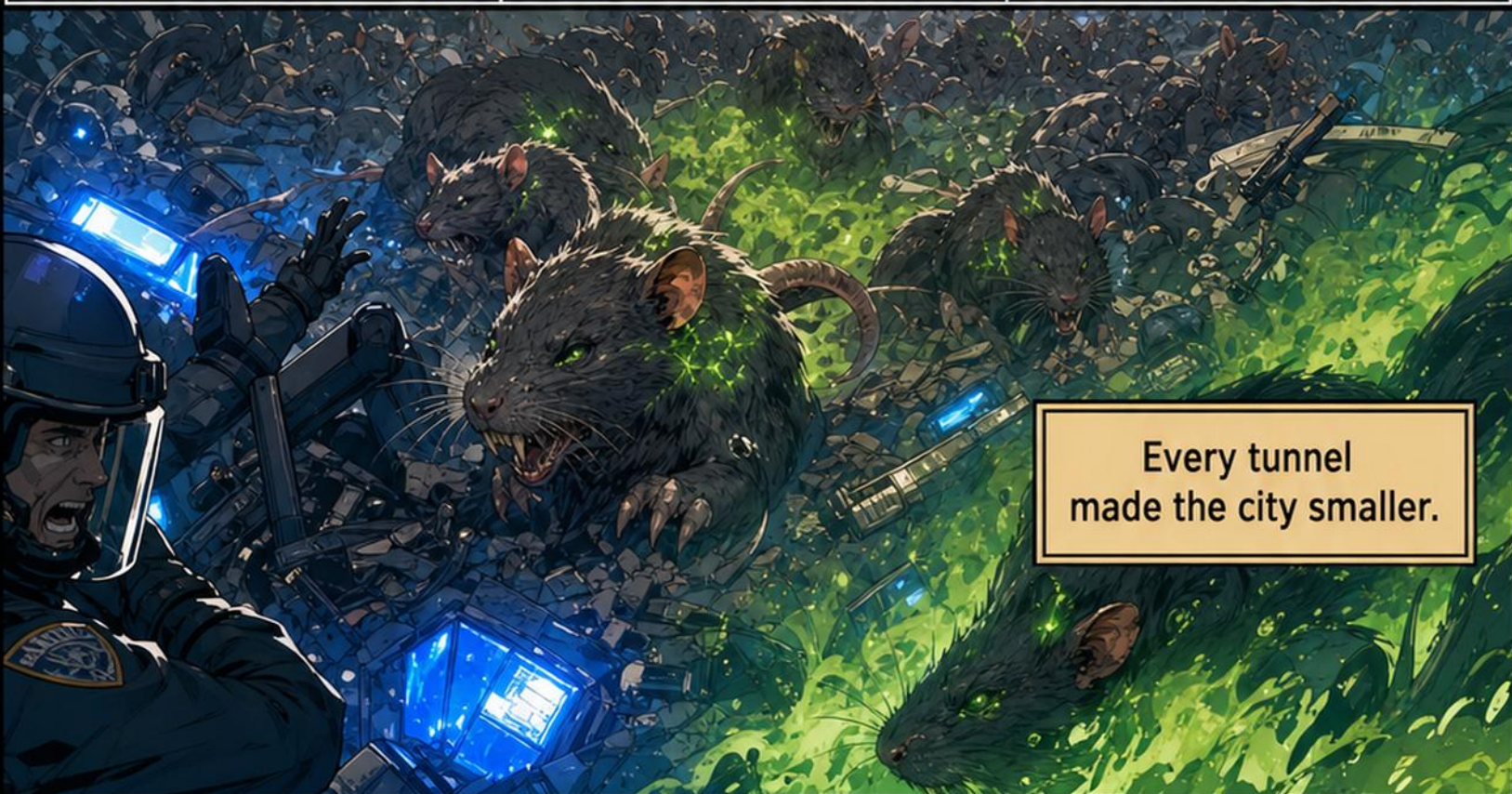
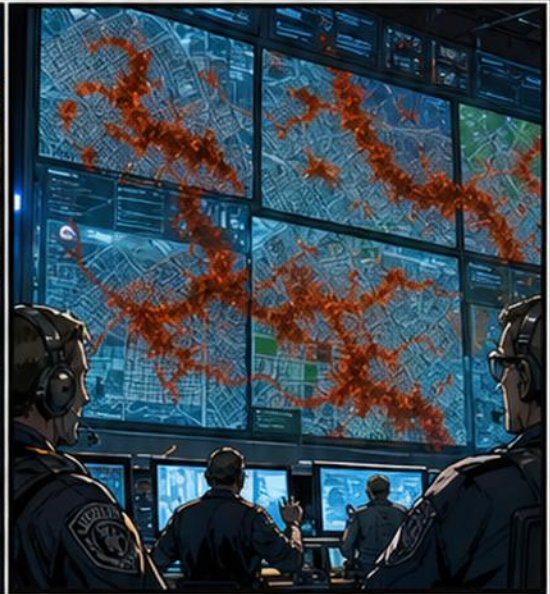
Where they passed,
sickness followed.



Edenbright answered
with law, science, and care.

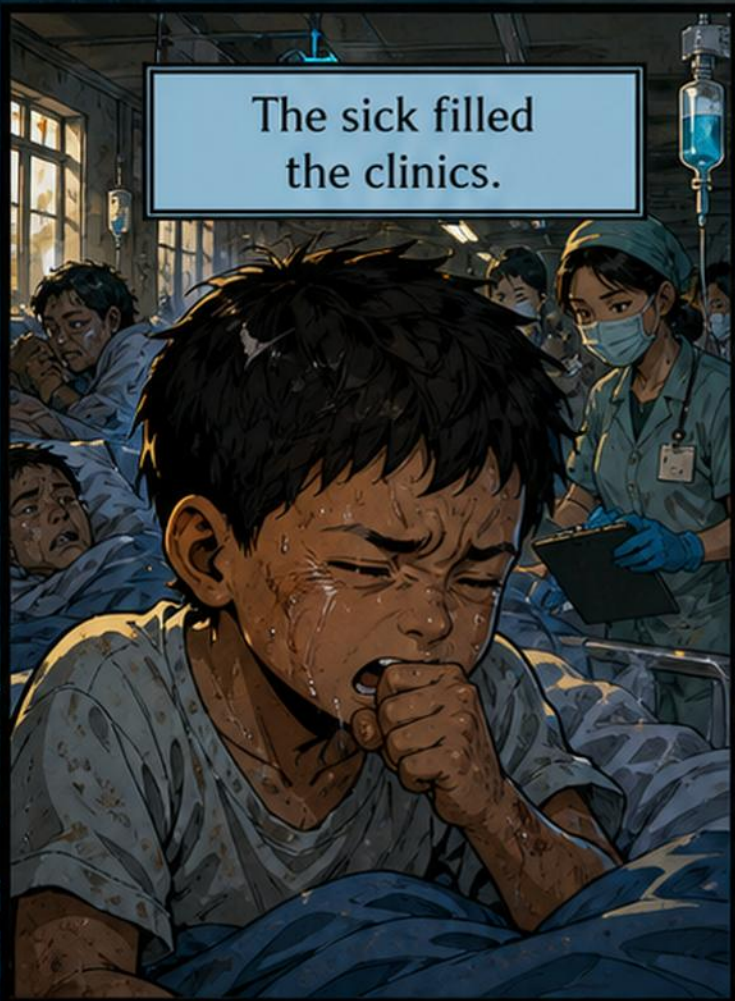
The Brood had evolved
past all three.

Bullets bounced
from their fur.



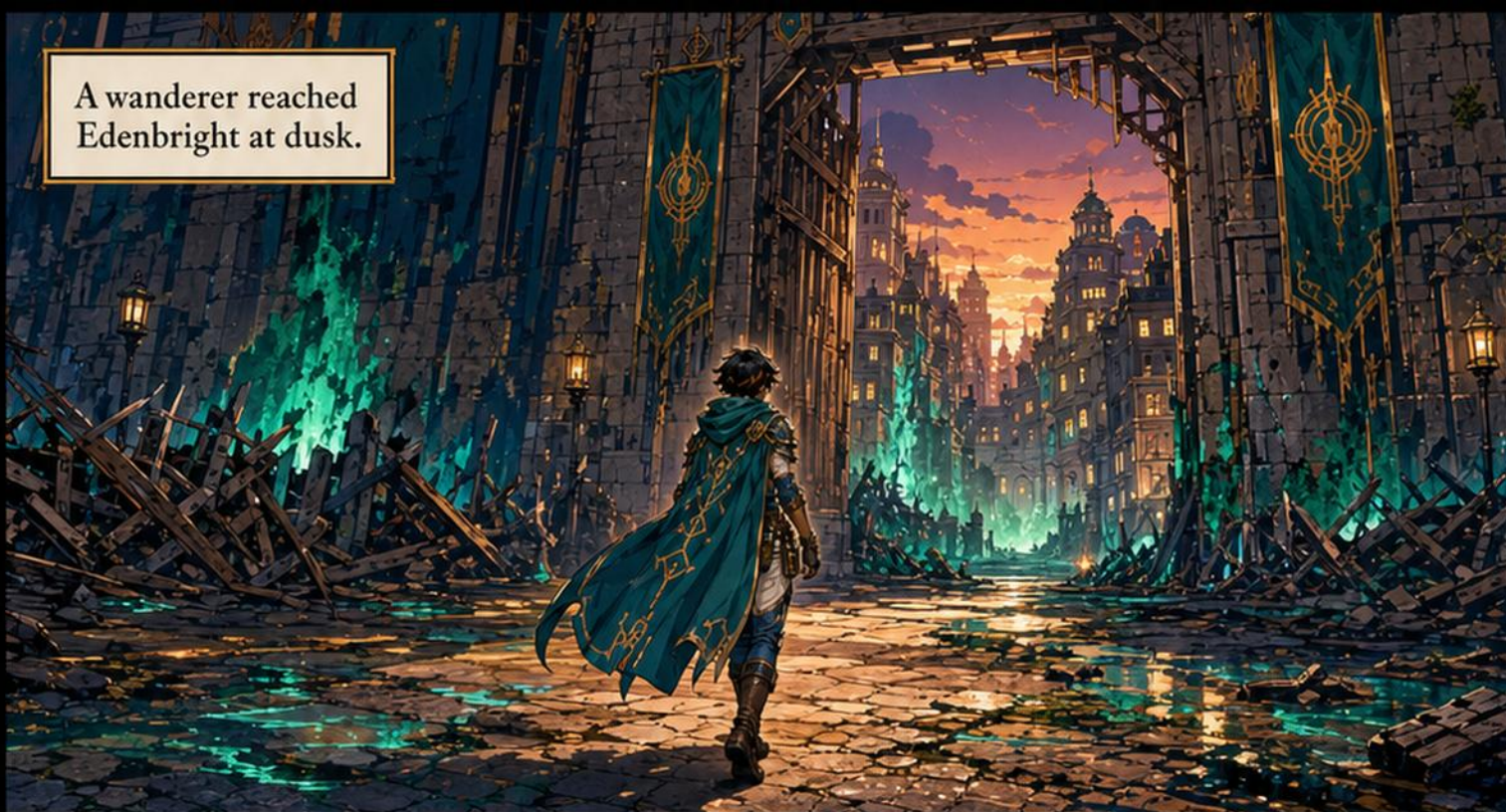
Every tunnel
made the city smaller.

The sick filled
the clinics.

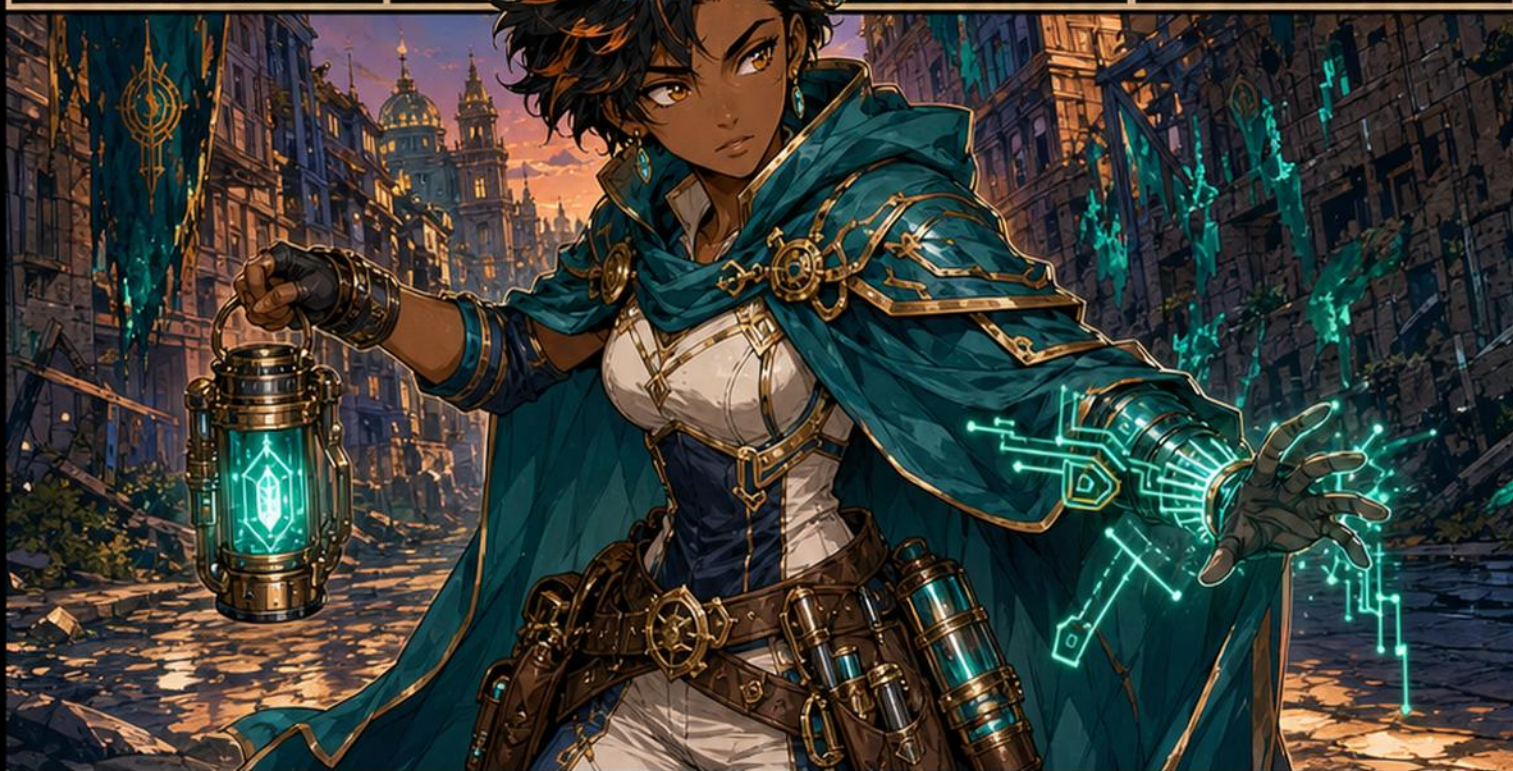


The hungry things
filled the streets.

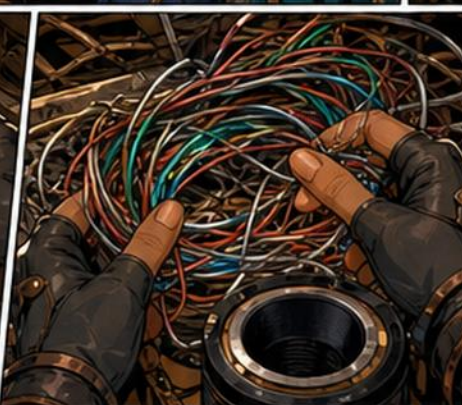
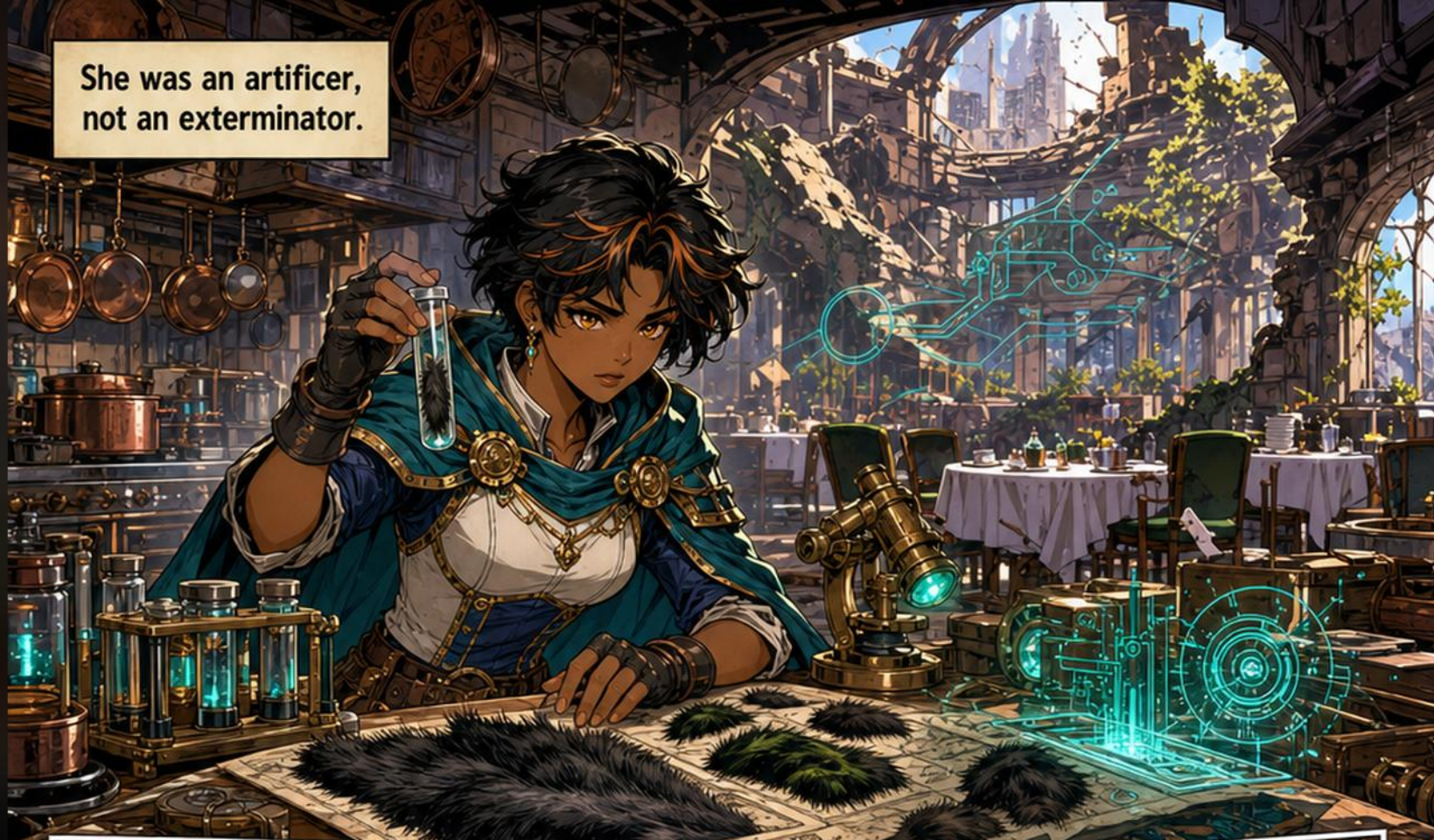
A wanderer reached
Edenbright at dusk.



Aria Flint listened
before she drew a weapon.



She was an artificer,
not an exterminator.



A monster with a mind
could be reached.

The device turned
squeals into meaning.



The Brood were afraid,
clever, and cruel.

The law asked her
to wait.



The plague did not.

She made the city
speak in a language
below words.



Every rat
heard it at once.



The broadcast
named what
they had done.



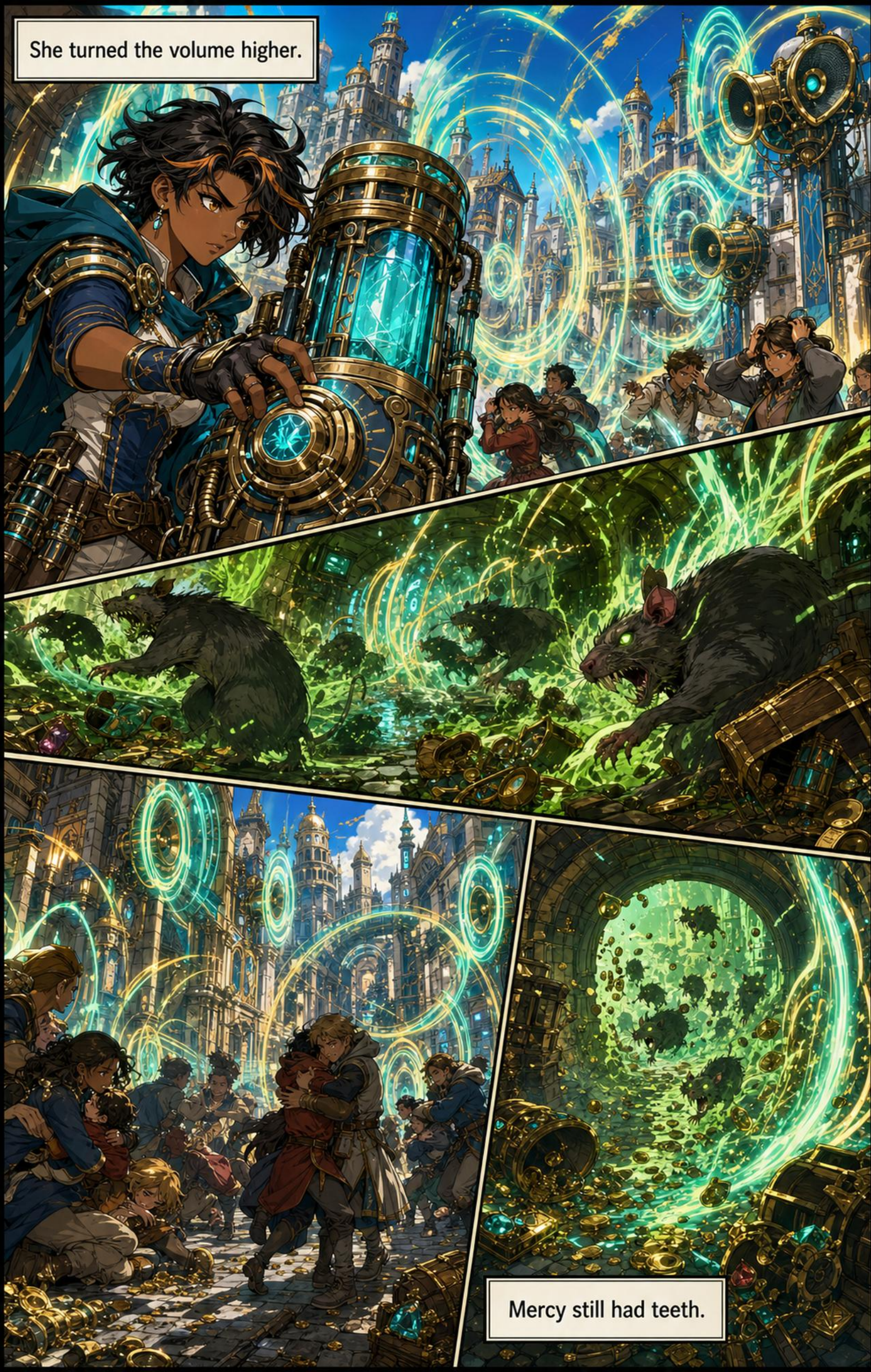
The Brood could
not hide from
understanding.



They brought her every
shiny thing they had stolen.

Aria would not sell
the sick for gold.

She turned the volume higher.



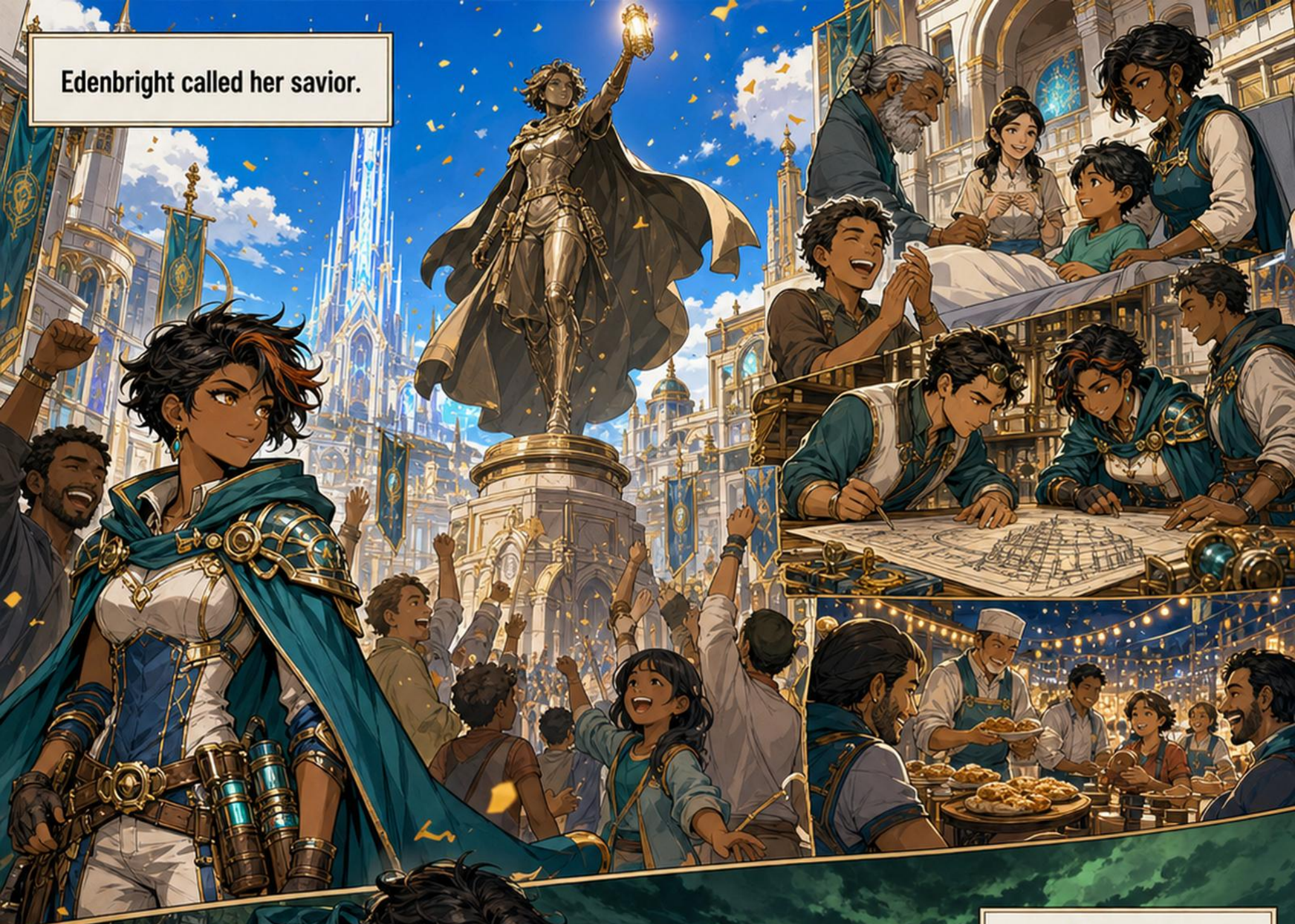
Mercy still had teeth.

The Brood fled Edenbright
and swore never to return.



Behind them, the city
remembered how to breathe.

Edenbright called her savior.



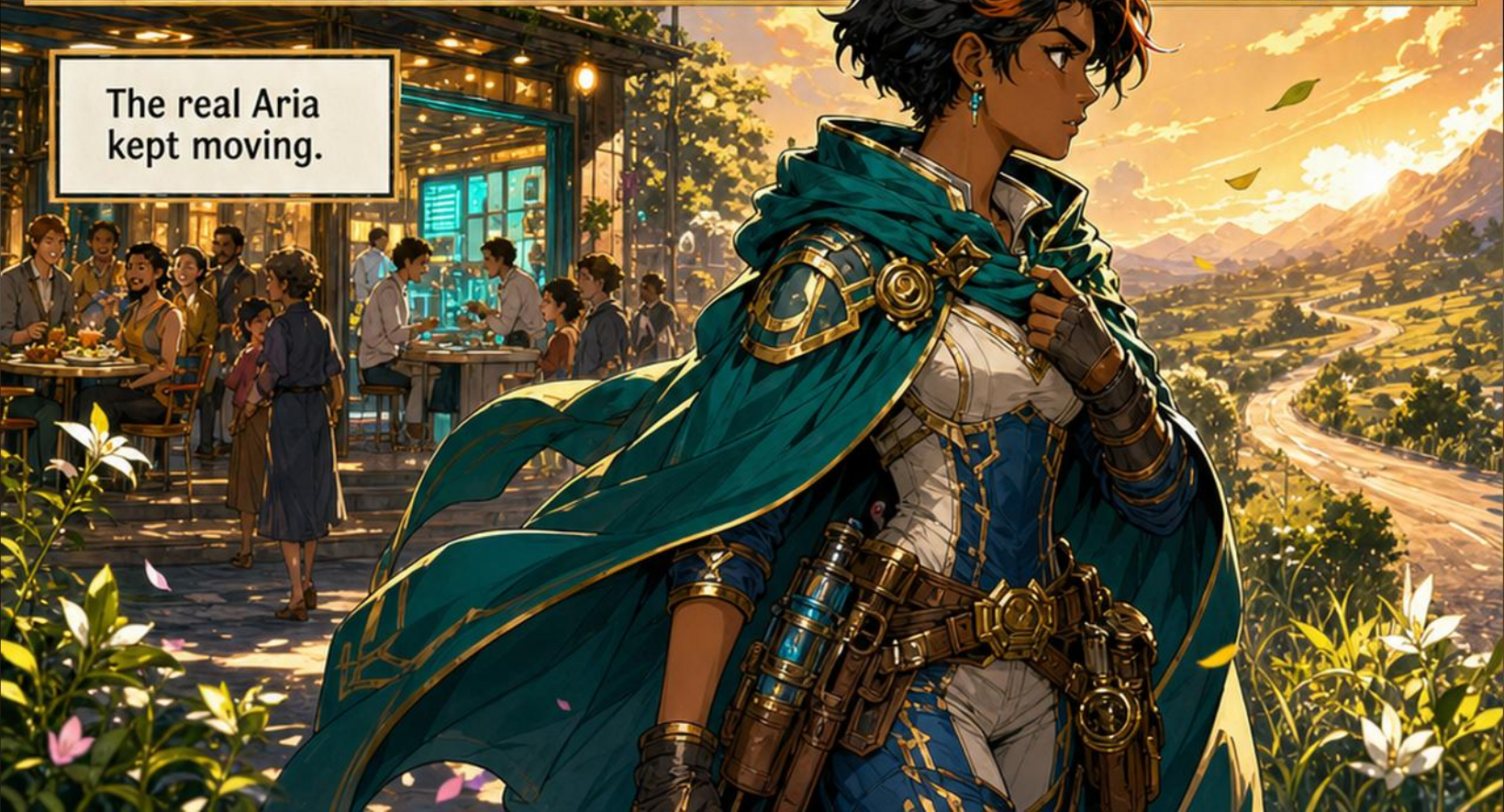
Aria saw the
tracks leaving the map.



They built her
in stone before
they knew her.



The real Aria
kept moving.



The plague had left one city.



So Aria followed it toward the next.

Peace made
the story quiet.



The city forgot
because she had
saved it well.

SHE LISTENED.

SHE REFUSED.

**SHE DROVE
THEM OUT.**

**Aria Flint saved Edenbright,
then followed the plague beyond its walls.**