

KINETIC
COMICS

1

\$4.99 US

"A WIRED, WHITE-KNUCKLE RIDE." — COMIC PULSE

D PRAINE

— RESONANCE VECTOR —

"D PRAINE
DOESN'T JUST
FIGHT THE FUTURE.
HE REWRITES IT."

— NERD SYNAPSE

VECTOR
CONTROL
INITIATED



HOLDING
ARCHITECT
BURROW UNIT



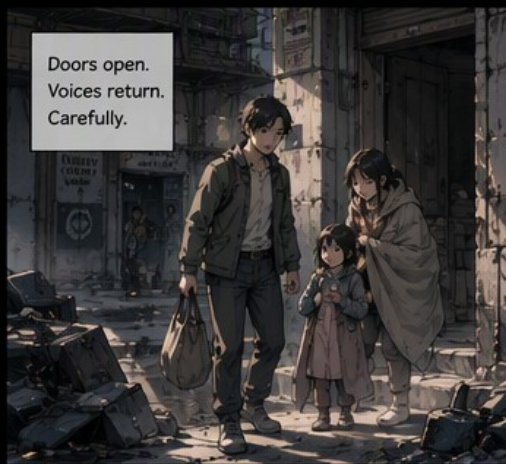
DANIEL
HAUN

FERNANDO
HEINZ FURUKAWA

HASSAN
OTSMANE-ELHAOU



The morning
after this city
held its breath.



Doors open.
Voices return.
Carefully.



Slow steps.
Quiet hands.
Checking on
one another.



What's left,
we gather.
What's broken,
we mend.



Kindness
isn't loud.

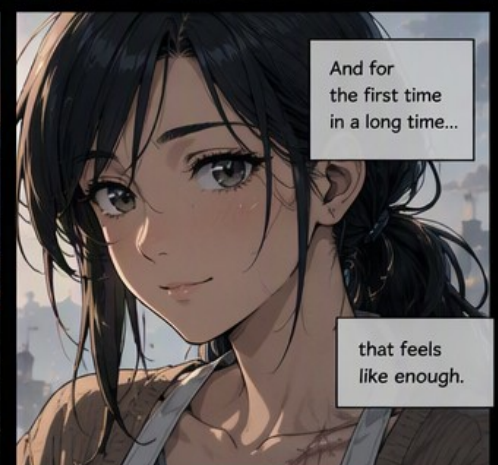
But today,
it's enough.



Hailey Heart.
Eighteen.
Still here.
Still helping.



Not a
birthday.
Just
another
morning.



And for
the first time
in a long time...

that feels
like enough.



THE FIGHT
ENDED LAST NIGHT.

THE CLINIC
DIDN'T.

NEW BODIES.
NEW PAIN.

SAME WORK.



BREATHE
SLOW.
SHALLOW
CUT. YOU'LL
BE FINE.

DR. EVELYN CROSS.

I DON'T NEED
TO SEE TO
KNOW WHAT'S
WRONG.



SOUND.
TOUCH.
TENSION.
THE BODY
DOESN'T LIE.

PEOPLE DO.
BODIES DON'T.



DOC,
HOW MANY
MORE?

AS MANY
AS WALK
THROUGH
THAT DOOR.

KEEP
PRESSURE
THERE.



CINDER.

HE DOESN'T
SAY MUCH.

DOESN'T
HAVE TO.

I CAN HEAR
THE RESPECT
IN HIS SILENCE.



YOU
DIDN'T
STOP.

NOT
EVEN FOR
SLEEP.



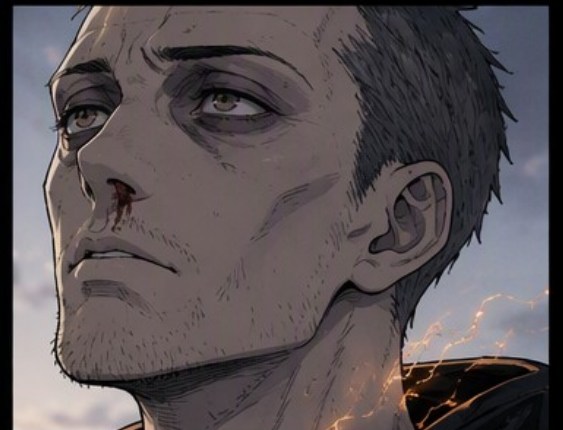
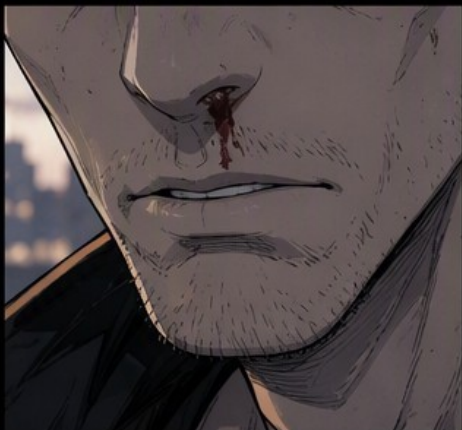
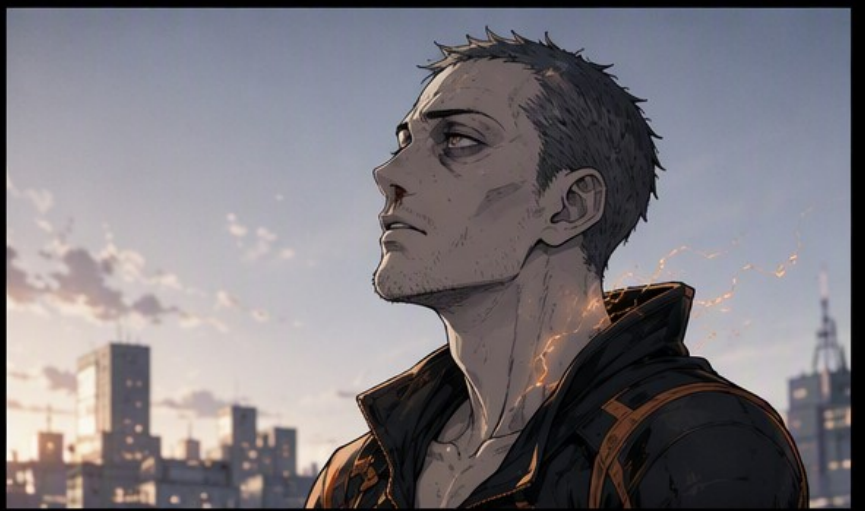
SLEEP
CAN WAIT.

THEY
CAN'T.



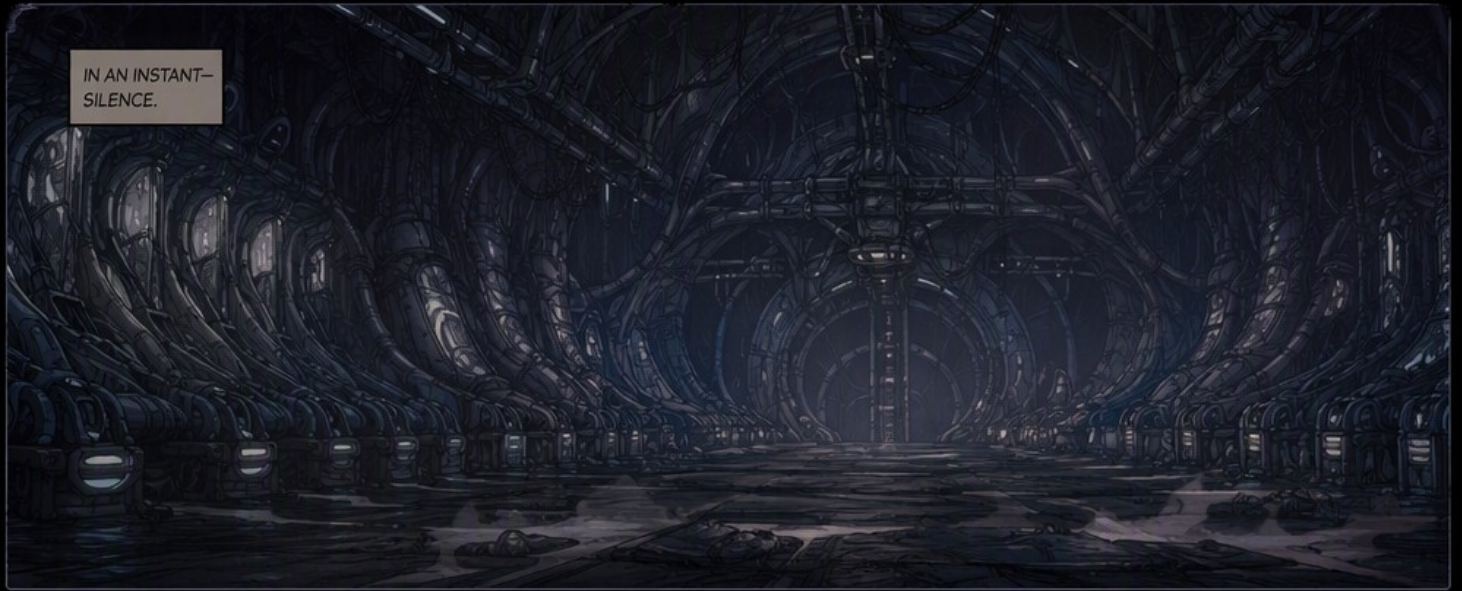
THIS PLACE
ISN'T HOME.

BUT IT'S
WHAT WE
HAVE.



FLASHBACK: PRAINE'S STRIKE
HARVEST BASE – IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH

IN AN INSTANT—
SILENCE.



THE LIGHTS FADE.
THE CONDUITS
GO DARK.



THE SONG
OF THE BASE
IS CUT.



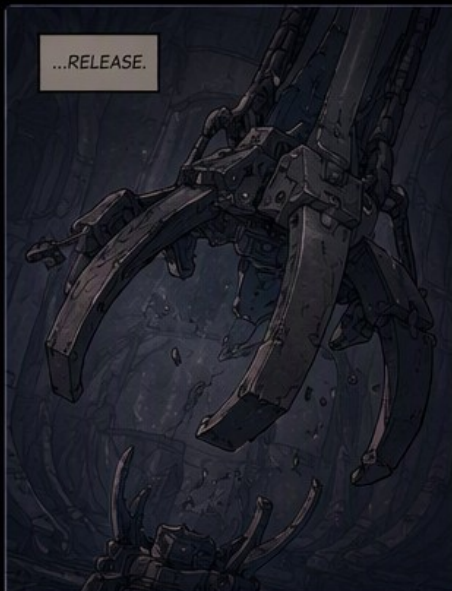
THE RESTRAINTS
THAT BOUND THEM
ALL...



...SLACKEN.



...RELEASE.



...AND
FALL
INTO
STILLNESS.



HARVEST BASE,
NOW DORMANT.

THREE DAYS AFTER
THE SILENCE.



THE SYSTEMS ARE
INERT. THE CONDUITS
ARE COLD.

BUT THEY'RE
STILL ALIVE.



AT VARIOUS STAGES.
AT VARIOUS COSTS.



WE TAKE THEM
AS WE FIND THEM.
GENTLY. CAREFULLY.

LIKE THEY'RE
ALREADY OURS.



THIS IS
RELAY TEAM SIX.

WE HAVE
MULTIPLE
RECOVERIES.

REQUESTING IMMEDIATE
MED-EVAC. PRIORITY ALPHA.

REPEAT—
PRIORITY ALPHA.



IT'S NOT OVER.
NOT BY FAR.

BUT FOR THE FIRST TIME
IN A LONG TIME—

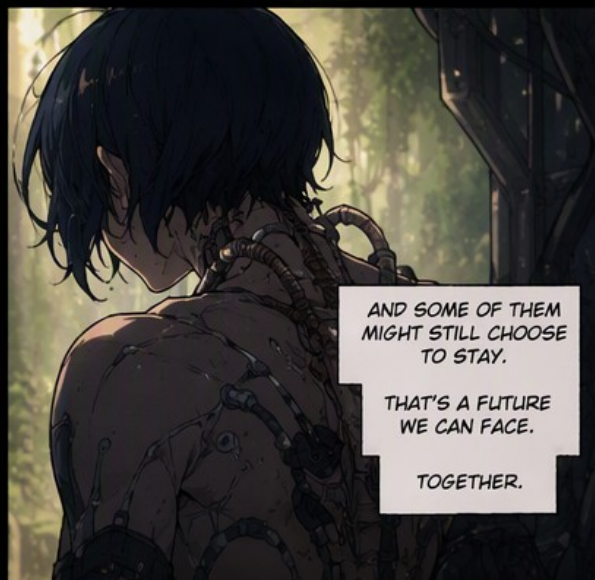
—WE'RE BRINGING
PEOPLE HOME.



AND SOME OF THEM
MIGHT STILL CHOOSE
TO STAY.

THAT'S A FUTURE
WE CAN FACE.

TOGETHER.



THE VALKENHOLD DEPTHS NORTHERN HEMISPHERE

PRANE'S STRIKE SILENCED
THE SYSTEM ABOVE...

...AND FOR THE FIRST TIME
IN YEARS, THE DOORS
COULD OPEN.

THEY WERE NEVER
FORGOTTEN.

ONLY BEYOND REACH.

FAMILIES.
CHILDREN.
ELDERLY.
SURVIVORS.
NOT STATISTICS.
PEOPLE.

SOME HAD STOPPED
HOPING.

WE'RE HERE
TO CHANGE
THAT.

THE ROAD
AHEAD IS LONG.

BUT TODAY...

TODAY,
WE BRING THEM
HOME.

BECAUSE
HUMANITY
IS MEANT TO
REACH FOR
ITS OWN.





NORTHERN ALTAI MOUNTAINS
ARCHITECT INSTALLATION 07-A



SUBTERRANEAN COMPLEX
ARCHITECT INSTALLATION 12-B



SOUTHERN HARBOR COAST
ARCHITECT INSTALLATION 21-C



CENTRAL CONTINENT
ARCHITECT INSTALLATION 33-D



DAY 2:
THE RESCUE
CONTINUES.

HUNDREDS MORE
COME OUT INTO
THE LIGHT.



SOME CAN WALK.
SOME CAN'T.



SOME NEED STRETCHERS.

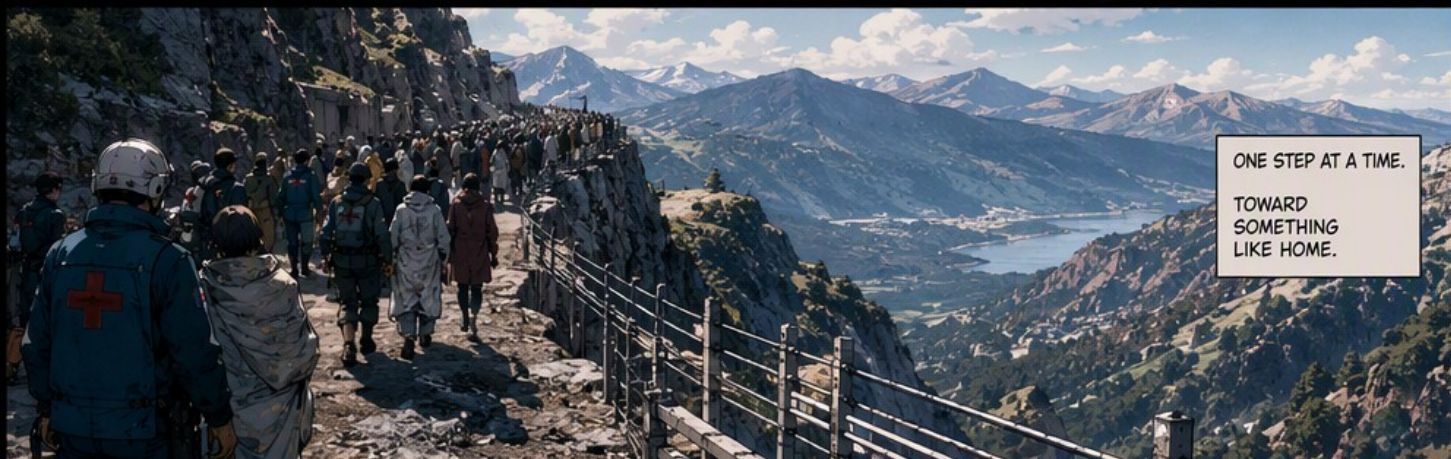


ALL OF THEM
NEED TIME.



AND SO WE
KEEP GOING.

IN. OUT.
IN. OUT.
UNTIL THERE'S
NO ONE LEFT
IN THE DARK.



ONE STEP AT A TIME.

TOWARD
SOMETHING
LIKE HOME.

THE ARCHITECT
SYSTEMS HAVE
GONE STILL.

Now, the work
of saving lives
begins.



All across
the world,
the response
has become
an immense
machine.



Information
flows.

Routes open.



Supplies move.



The injured
are treated.



Waves of
evacuees
move
forward.



And in many
places still
shrouded
in silence—

NORTHERN ICE SHELF

SAHARA COMPLEX

PACIFIC NODE STATION

ANDES SUBFACILITY



SIBERIAN ARRAY

AUSTRALIAN OUTPOST

EUROPEAN GATEWAY

—TEAMS ENTER.
FACILITIES CLEARED.
PEOPLE FOUND.



No single hero.
Just humanity—
choosing each other,
over and over,
on a scale the world
has never seen.

This is how we
rebuild tomorrow.



THE SHUTDOWN
GAVE US A CHANCE
TO REACH SO MANY.

SOME PLACES...
THERE WAS
NOTHING LEFT
TO SAVE.

BUT IT DIDN'T
UNDO WHAT HAD
ALREADY BEEN DONE.

SOME WE
FOUND, BUT
COULDN'T
BRING BACK.

ALIVE, BUT
FAR BEYOND
OUR REACH.

SOME WERE
REUNITED.

MOMENTS WE
WILL CARRY
FOREVER.

AND SOME... ARE
STILL FIGHTING.
WE FIGHT WITH
THEM.

 GLOBAL RESCUE
FIELD HOSPITAL 7
CARE. STABILITY. HOPE.

NO ONE IS
CELEBRATING
TONIGHT.

BUT WE KEEP
WORKING.

THE WORLD IS NOT WHOLE.
BUT WE CHOOSE TO KEEP REBUILDING.
TOGETHER.

ANOTHER WING.
ANOTHER SILENCE.

THE CHAIRS ARE EMPTY
BUT THE AIR REMEMBERS.



FOOTSTEPS SOFTEN.
VOICES LOWER.

SOME DOORS
OPEN TOO LATE.

RESPECT FOR WHAT
WE CANNOT CHANGE.



SOME ROOMS
GIVE NOTHING
BACK.



SOME WE FIND
STILL BREATHING.

ALIVE,
BUT FAR AWAY.



YOU'RE SAFE NOW.

CAN YOU TELL ME
YOUR NAME?

CAN YOU HEAR
ME?

...



WE DO WHAT WE CAN.

WE HOLD WHAT'S LEFT.

WE LEAVE PROMISES
WHERE WE CANNOT STAY.

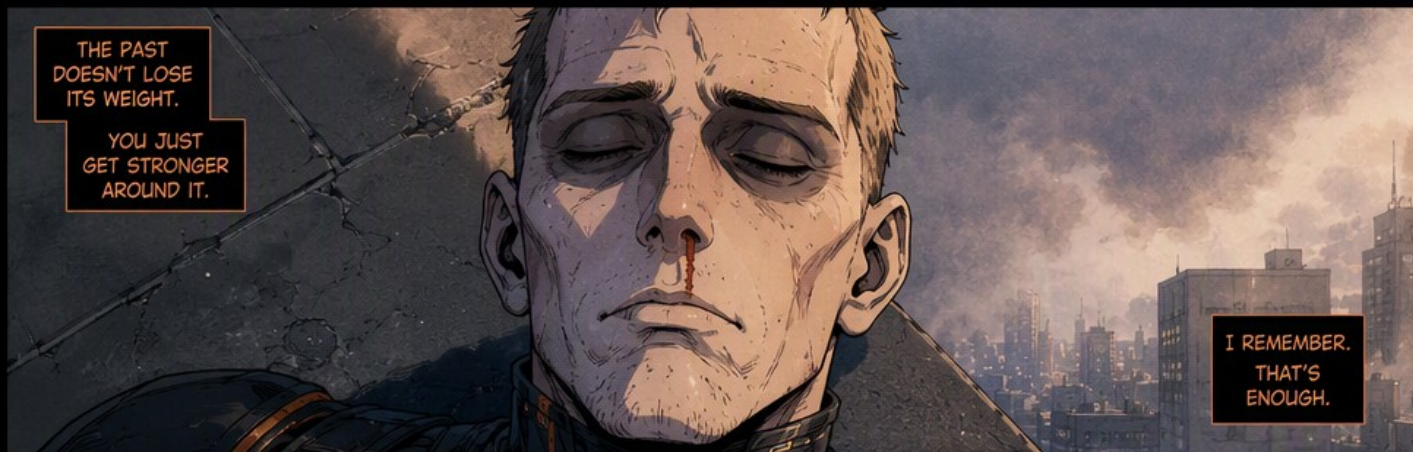
NOT EVERY STORY
HAS A RETURN.

SOME TRUTHS
COME HOME WITH US.



END OF FLASHBACK

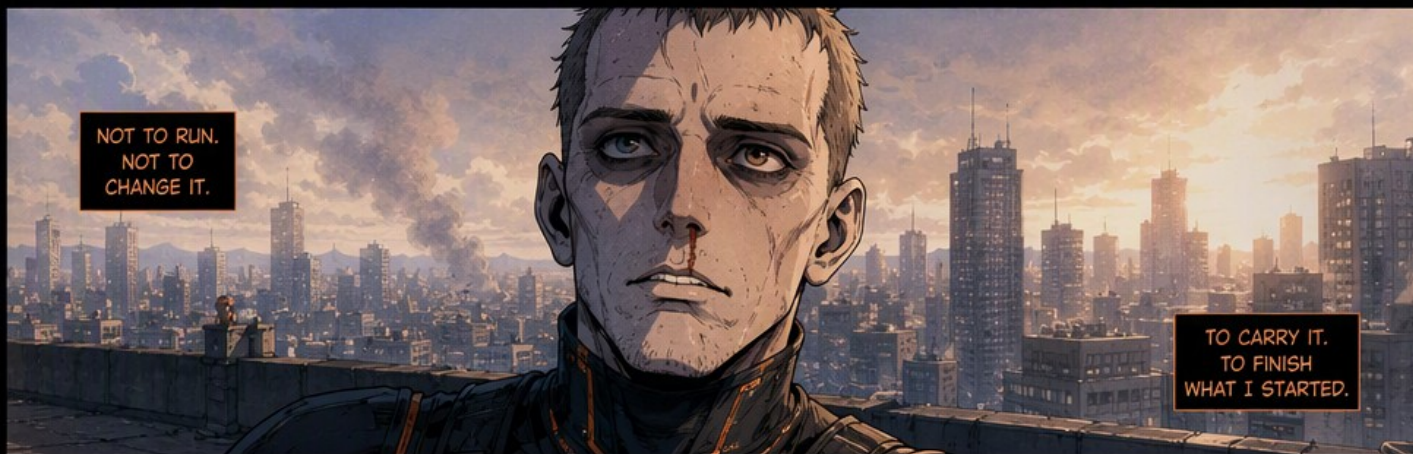




THE PAST
DOESN'T LOSE
ITS WEIGHT.

YOU JUST
GET STRONGER
AROUND IT.

I REMEMBER.
THAT'S
ENOUGH.



NOT TO RUN.
NOT TO
CHANGE IT.

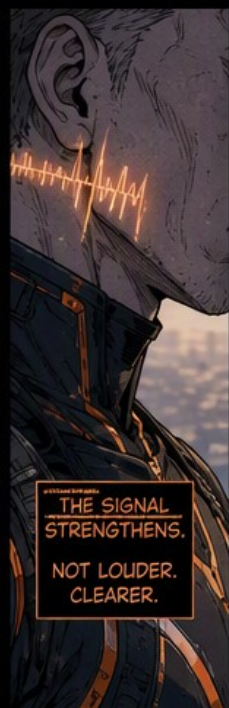
TO CARRY IT.
TO FINISH
WHAT I STARTED.



LUCK ISN'T
THE POINT.
CHOICE IS.



NOTHING
FEELS EASY.
THAT'S FINE.



THE SIGNAL
STRENGTHENS.
NOT LOUDER.
CLEARER.



ONE STEP.
THEN ANOTHER.
THEN
WHATEVER
COMES NEXT.

ARCHITECT
ORBITAL ANCHOR.

ALTITUDE:
36,200 KM

DIAMETER:
2.7 KM

A STRUCTURE
BEYOND HUMAN
CLASSIFICATION.

PURPOSE:
IMPOSSIBLE TO
DETERMINE.

COMPOSED OF
NON-EUCLIDEAN
GEOMETRY AND
BIOCOMPATIBLE
MATERIALS.

NO SEAMS.
NO REPEATS.
NO SYMMETRY.

SEVEN PRIMARY
LINKS. EACH
SUBATOMIC IN
DIAMETER.

EXTEND INTO THE
PLANETARY CRUST.
DEPTHS UNKNOWN.

THE CORE PULSES
AT NON-RHYTHMIC
INTERVALS.

EMITS NO ENERGY.
REFLECTS NO
SIGNALS.

YET IT REMAINS.

IT DOES NOT
OBSERVE.

IT DOES NOT
COMMUNICATE.

IT ANCHORS.

AND THAT IS
ENOUGH.



THE ARCHITECT
ESTABLISHED ITSELF
THREE WEEKS AGO ON
THE OUTSKIRTS OF
SECTOR 7.

IT HAS NOT
COMMUNICATED.

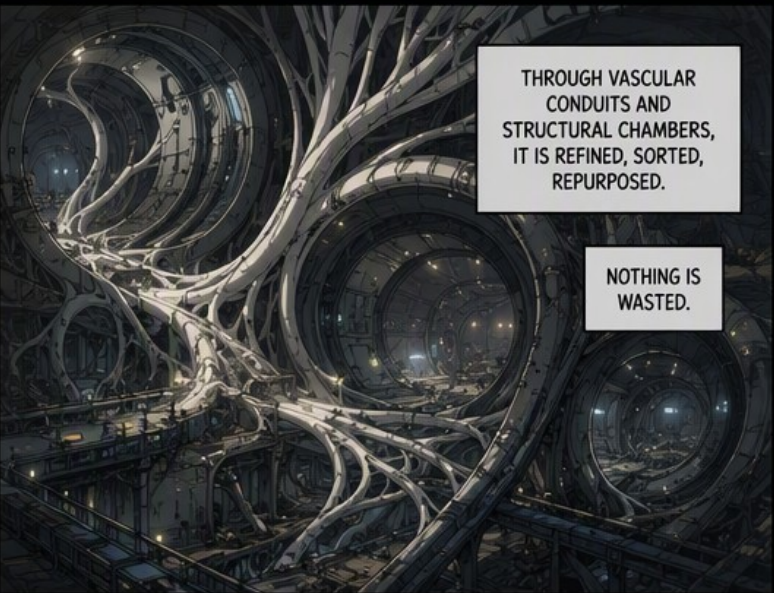
IT HAS NOT
ATTACKED.



IT SIMPLY
PROCESSES.

LOCAL MINERAL
DEBRIS, INFRASTRUCTURE
FRAGMENTS, ORGANIC
MATTER.

EVERYTHING IS
TAKEN IN.



THROUGH VASCULAR
CONDUITS AND
STRUCTURAL CHAMBERS,
IT IS REFINED, SORTED,
REPURPOSED.

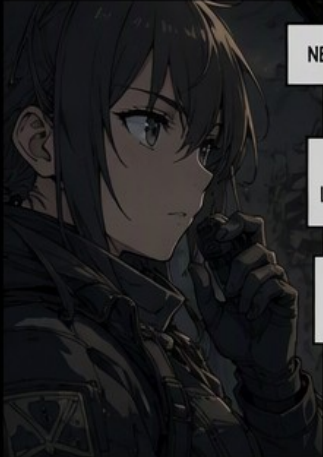
NOTHING IS
WASTED.



WE OBSERVE.
WE RECORD.
WE MAINTAIN
PERIMETER.

IT OPERATES IN
COMPLETE SILENCE.

THERE IS NO
URGENCY IN ITS
ACTIONS.



NEITHER DO WE.

THIS IS THE
LANDSCAPE NOW.

AN UNRESOLVED
FACT.



THE ARCHITECT
BUILDS.

WE WATCH.

PURPOSE: UNIDENTIFIABLE.
BEHAVIOR: NON-HOSTILE.
EFFECT: INFRASTRUCTURE
REALIGNMENT.



NOT DESTRUCTION.
RECOMPOSITION.



PALE TISSUE GROWS
THROUGH INTERFACES.
NEW PATHS EMERGE.

IT MOVES.
BUT NOT AS
A MACHINE.

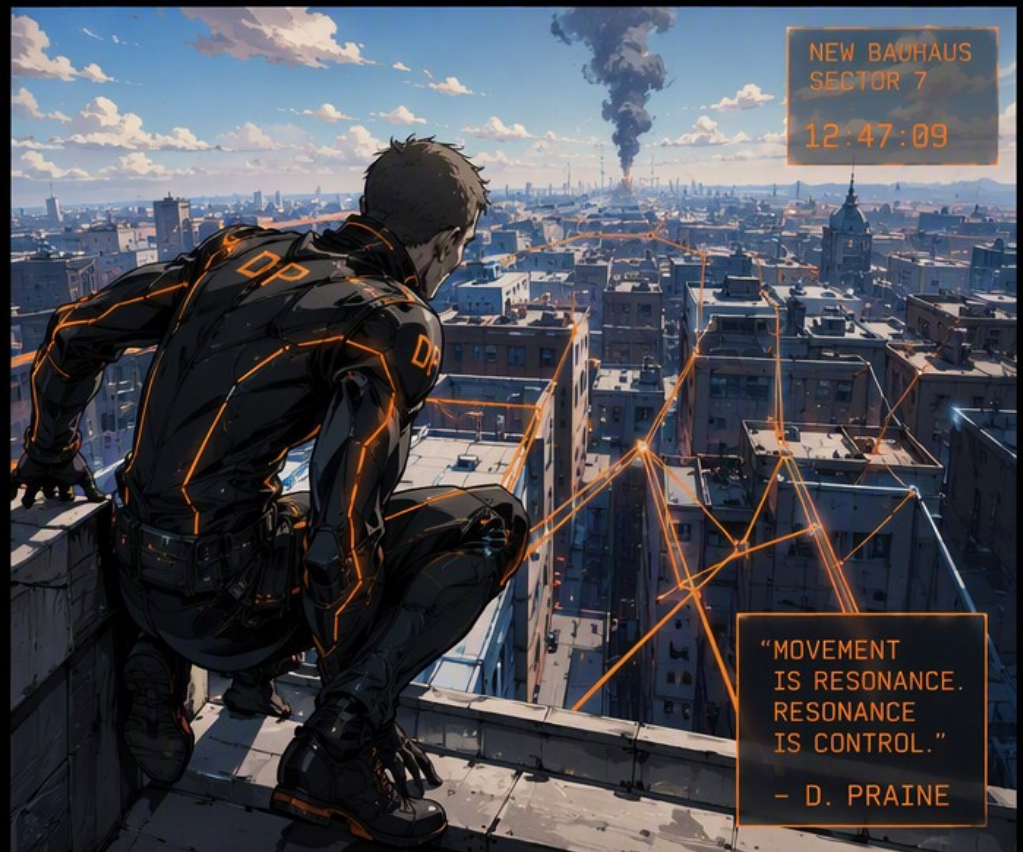
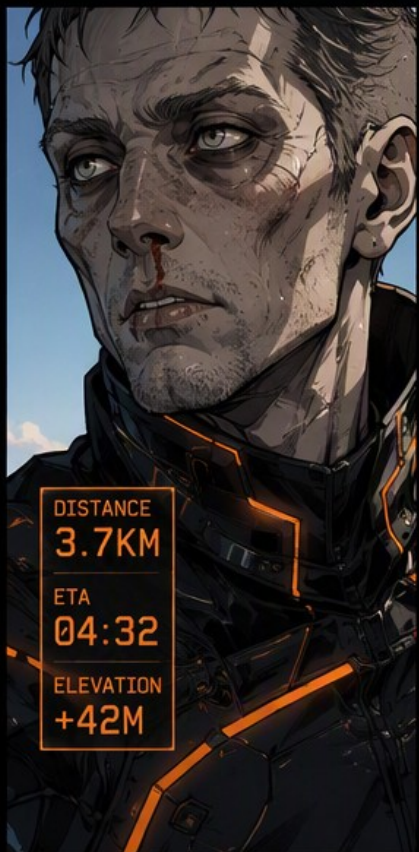
IT GROWS.
BUT NOT AS
A PLANT.

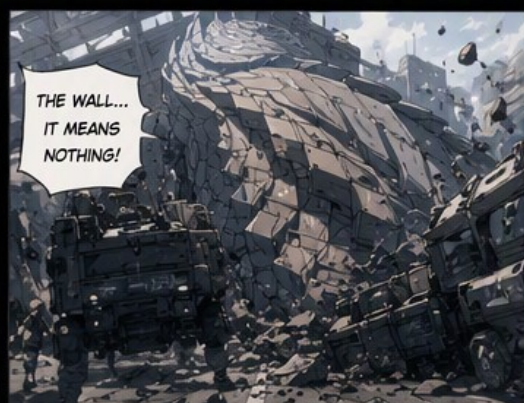
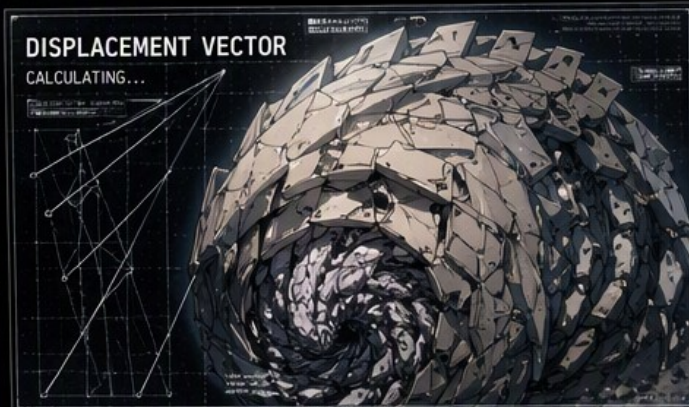
A comic book panel depicting a massive, organic, root-like structure growing over a city. The structure is composed of thick, gnarled, light-colored roots that branch out and spread across the urban landscape, which is filled with various buildings and infrastructure. In the foreground, three people are shown from behind, looking up at the towering structure. On the left, a man with dark hair and a backpack. In the center, a person with short, light-colored hair. On the right, a man wearing a white hard hat and a dark jacket. The scene is set in a city with various buildings and infrastructure visible in the background. The overall tone is one of awe and wonder.

WE WATCH
AS THE WORLD
IS GENTLY
REDRAWN.

NOT BY FORCE.
NOT BY DESIGN.
BUT BY SOMETHING
INCOMPREHENSIBLE.

ALL ANALYSIS CONVERGES ON ONE CONCLUSION:
WE ARE NOT WITNESSING AN INVASION.
WE ARE WITNESSING A RESTRUCTURE BEYOND OUR LANGUAGE.
WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND.
WE CAN ONLY ADAPT.



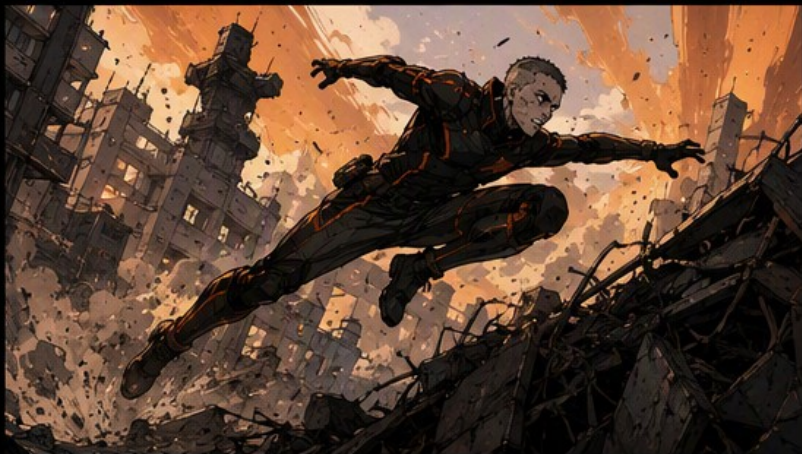




BURROWER
EMERGENCE EVENT
DELTA-7.6
SECTOR 12A
POPULATION DENSITY:
HIGH

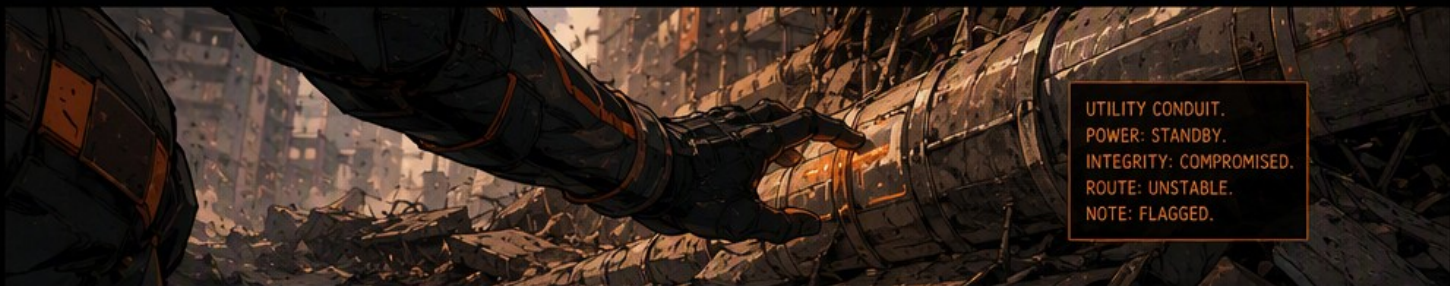
RESPONSE UNIT
D PRAINE
ETA: 00:00:12

I DON'T
ARRIVE.
I INTERCEPT.

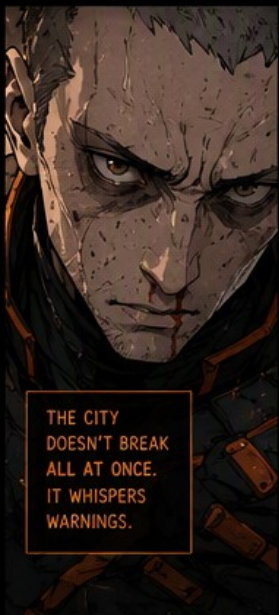


STRUCTURAL COLLAPSE.
SUBSURFACE BREACH.
HIGH PROBABILITY OF
SECONDARY INSTABILITY.

SCAN. ASSESS.
ADAPT.
DON'T THINK.
DON'T STOP.



UTILITY CONDUIT.
POWER: STANDBY.
INTEGRITY: COMPROMISED.
ROUTE: UNSTABLE.
NOTE: FLAGGED.



THE CITY
DOESN'T BREAK
ALL AT ONCE.
IT WHISPERS
WARNINGS.



IT'S MY JOB
TO LISTEN.
AND MOVE.
FASTER.

RMMMMMMMM

FORWARD PROGRESS
SUDDENLY ARRESTED.

?!

BURROWING UNIT
DELTA-7
DEPTH: 312.4m

MAGNETIC LOCKS
ENGAGED.

KTHNK

LATERAL BRACES
DEPLOYED.

KCHUNK

SUBSURFACE
CONDUITS
ACTIVATED.

VRMMMM

BEARING STRUTS
EXTENDED.

THUD

GEOMETRIC
INTERLOCK
COMPLETE.

CLK-CHK

NO SINGLE SOURCE.
NO VISIBLE ORIGIN.
ONLY COORDINATED
INFRASTRUCTURE.

SYSTEMS
OVERLOAD!
THRUST
FAILURE!

REPEAT—
THRUST
FAILURE!

GRRRRNNNNNNNNNN

D PRAINE
GAINING ELEVATION.

NOT STANDING STILL.
OBSERVING.

THE FORCE ISN'T HIS.
BUT THE ADVANTAGE
IS.

HE DOESN'T PUSH.
HE WATCHES.

AND WHAT WATCHES
BACK—IS THE CITY
ITSELF.



BURROWING UNIT
IMMOBILIZED.

FORCED RETURN
INITIATED.

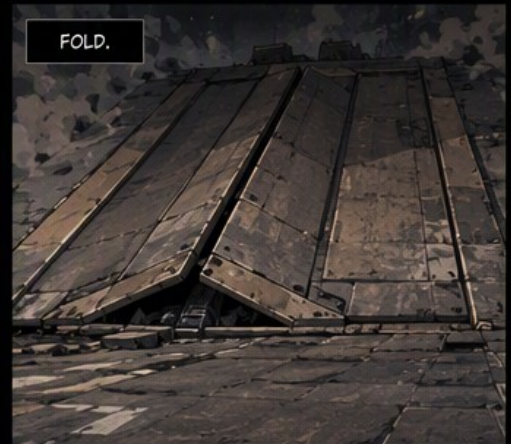


INFRASTRUCTURE LINK:
PRAINE.

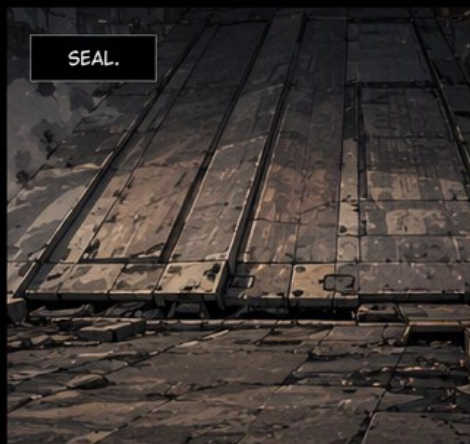
COMMAND: ENGAGE.



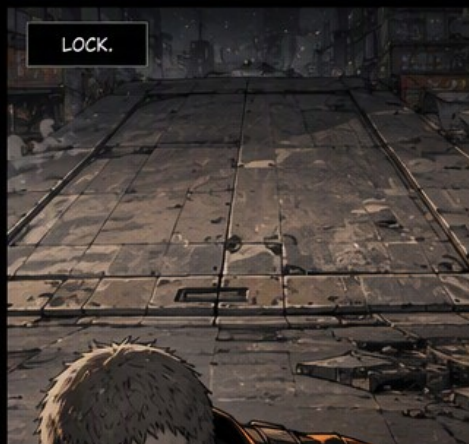
ROADWAY PLATING
DEPLOYED.



FOLD.



SEAL.



LOCK.



BREACH CLOSED.
SURFACE INTEGRITY: RESTORED.



...CLOSED.

GOOD.

LET'S SEE WHAT
WE ACTUALLY
BROUGHT DOWN
HERE...



THE ROUTE STAYS CLOSED.
WE'RE REPOSITIONING DEFENSES.
MOVEMENT THROUGH HERE
RISKS EVERYONE.

IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO
GET SUPPLIES TO EVELYN'S
CLINIC. PEOPLE ARE DYING
OUT THERE.



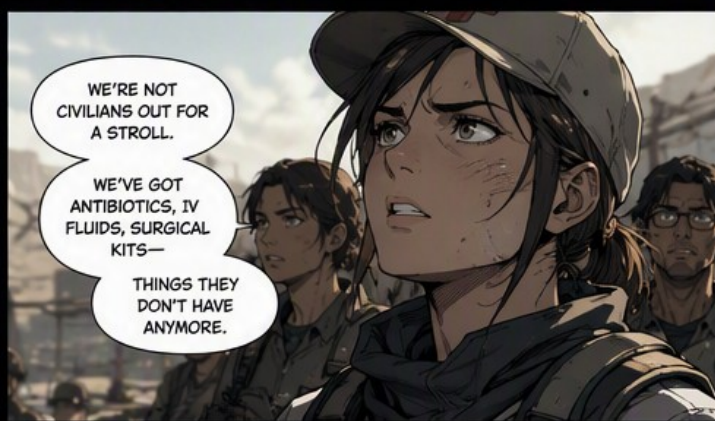
EVERY TIME.

SAME PLACE.
SAME CHOICE.



UNITS ARE MOVING.
WE DON'T HAVE THE
MANPOWER TO ESCORT
CIVILIANS.

IF SOMETHING HITS
THIS ROAD, WE LOSE
MORE THAN SUPPLIES.



WE'RE NOT
CIVILIANS OUT FOR
A STROLL.

WE'VE GOT
ANTIBIOTICS, IV
FLUIDS, SURGICAL
KITS—

THINGS THEY
DON'T HAVE
ANYMORE.



AND IT ALWAYS LANDS
ON MY HANDS.



I KNOW
IT'S NOT WHAT
YOU WANT TO
HEAR.

BUT WE
CAN'T OPEN
THE GATE.

ORDERS
CAME DOWN
THREE DAYS
AGO.

PEOPLE
ARE DYING
OUT THERE.

MEDS.
CLEAN
WATER.

I JUST NEED
TO GET THROUGH
TO THE FIELD
HOSPITAL.



I DON'T
DISAGREE.

I LOST MY
SISTER TO THE
COUGH. TWO
WEEKS BACK.

BUT THE
ONES OUTSIDE--

THEY'RE NOT
JUST EMPTY.

RAIDERS.
SCAV GANGS.
WORSE.

WE OPEN
THIS GATE,
THEY FLOOD
IN.

WE LOSE
EVERYONE
BEHIND IT.



I KNOW
WHAT'S OUT
THERE.

THAT'S WHY
WE BRING
MORE THAN
WE TAKE.

THIS ISN'T
FOR TRADING.
IT'S FOR
KEEPING
PEOPLE
ALIVE.

YOURS.
OURS.
DOESN'T
MATTER.

SICK DON'T
CARE ABOUT
BORDERS.



WE'RE NOT
ASKING FOR
SAFE PASSAGE.

JUST A
CHANCE TO
DO SOME
GOOD.



...





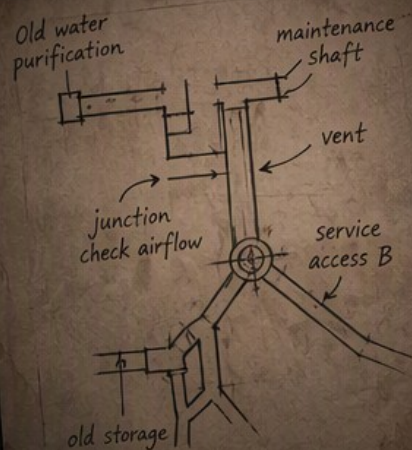
BEYOND THE FALLEN CITY

PART 3: QUIET ROADS

THE MAP
ISN'T DRAWN.

IT'S REMEMBERED.

TURNS.
VENTS.
OLD SERVICE
CORRIDORS
BUILT TO BE
FORGOTTEN.



LISTEN.
COUNT.
BREATHE.

THEN
MOVE.

THIS WAY.
QUIET.
TOGETHER.

CRUSHED.

BUT I KEEP IT.

A REMINDER—
THAT THERE
WAS A DAY
I WAS MEANT
TO CELEBRATE.

AND THAT
SOMEDAY, I STILL
WILL.

I'M
EIGHTEEN.
I DON'T NEED
HEROICS.
I NEED PEOPLE
TO COME HOME.

JULIAN VANCE
CIVIL COORDINATION DIRECTOR
CITY OF ARCADIA

*"You don't lose control
all at once.*

*You lose it in small,
necessary pieces."*

You lose it in small, necessary pieces."

Checkpoint 12 - Delay
 Check Point - Unread
 Check Point - Unreadable
 Check Point - Unread
 Check Point - Unread
 Check Point - Unread
 Check Point - Unread
 Check Point - Unread

NO, I'M
NOT SECOND-
GUESSING THE
CALL.

...OR JUST
PUSHED IT
SOMEWHERE
WORSE.

- KEEP ROUTES OPEN
- PROTECT CIVILIANS
- MAINTAIN TRUST

DON'T BECOME
THE PROBLEM.

BUT I CAN
PROMISE
THE RIGHT
ONE.

063110 202110

*Leadership isn't
knowing the path.
It's choosing anyway.*

JULIAN VANCE
CIVIL ADMINISTRATION DIRECTOR
ZONE 7

ONE SIGNATURE.
THAT'S ALL IT TAKES.

TO SAVE MORE LIVES
— OR DAMN SOME
TO DIE.

THERE ARE NO
GOOD OPTIONS.
ONLY THE LEAST
UNBEARABLE ONE.

MEDICAL TRANSPORT
REQUISITION ORDER

PRIORITY REDISTRIBUTION
REQUEST

FROM: BARRICADE ZONE 7-3
TO: BARRICADE ZONE 4-1

UNITS AFFECTED:
MT-22 MT-27 MT-31

JUSTIFICATION:
Zone 4-1 reports critical medical
shortages. Field triage failure
rate at 68%. Immediate support
required to prevent mass casualty
event.

AUTHORIZATION REQUIRED:
J. Vance
DIRECTORIAL APPROVAL

ZONE 7-3
ZONE 4-1

SIR, THE NEXT
CONVOY DEPLOYS IN
FORTY MINUTES.

WE NEED YOUR
AUTHORIZATION
TO PROCEED.

4-1 WILL GET THE SUPPLIES
THEY NEED.

PEOPLE WILL LIVE
BECAUSE OF THIS.

7-3 WILL
HATE ME FOR IT.

MT-22 MT-27

JUSTIFICATION:
Zone 4-1 reports critical
shortages. Field triage
rate at 68%. Immediate
support required to prevent
event.

AUTHORIZATION

J. Vance
DIRECTORIAL APPROVAL

TREMOR

IT DOESN'T
MATTER.

THEY DON'T
GET A VOTE.

I DON'T GET
A CHOICE.

SKRITCH

J. Vance
DIRECTORIAL APPROVAL

ISSUE THE ORDER.
AND INFORM LOGISTICS
OF THE REDIRECTION.

YES, SIR.

LIVE

**DOWNTOWN
SECTOR 7**

8:47 PM ET

KESHIA PARLUN
REPORTING LIVE FROM
DOWNTOWN SECTOR 7.

CLEANUP AND REPAIR
WORK CONTINUES HERE
AFTER THIS MORNING'S
CASCADE EVENT.

KESHIA PARLUN
FIELD REPORTER

AUTHORITIES CONFIRM
THERE WERE NO FATALITIES.
TWENTY-THREE PEOPLE WERE
TREATED FOR INJURIES,
MOSTLY RELATED TO
DEBRIS AND FALLS.

THE CASCADE
ORIGINATED FROM
A CONTAINMENT
FAILURE AT A
SUBSTATION TWO
BLOCKS NORTH.

INVESTIGATORS
SAY AN OVERLOAD
TRIGGERED A CHAIN
REACTION ACROSS
THE AUXILIARY GRID.

POWER HAS BEEN
RESTORED TO 62 PERCENT
OF DOWNTOWN. CREWS
ARE PRIORITIZING HOSPITALS,
WATER SYSTEMS, AND
TRAFFIC SIGNALS.

OFFICIALS ASK
RESIDENTS TO CONSERVE
ENERGY WHILE REPAIRS
CONTINUE.

THE CITY'S EMERGENCY
RELIEF HUB IS ACTIVE AT
RIDGEMAN HIGH SCHOOL.
SUPPLIES, MEDICAL SUPPORT,
AND FAMILY REUNIFICATION
SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE.

THIS IS A RECOVERABLE
CITY. WE'VE SEEN THAT
BEFORE, AND WE'LL SEE
IT AGAIN.

FOR NOW, STAY ALERT,
CHECK ON EACH OTHER,
AND FOLLOW OFFICIAL
UPDATES.

I'M KESHIA PARLUN,
REPORTING LIVE.
BACK TO YOU.

END TRANSMISSION

SIGNAL INTERMITTENT

EVENING.
BACK AT THE CLINIC.

SOME NIGHTS,
SURVIVAL LOOKS
LIKE THIS.



NOT EVERYONE
GETS A CAKE.

BUT WE
SHARE IT
ANYWAY.

HAILEY'S
SCAR HAS
FADED.

HER EYES
HAVEN'T.



EVELYN
DOESN'T NEED
TO SEE TO
KNOW WHO'S
IN THE ROOM.

SHE JUST
NEEDS THE
SILENCE
BETWEEN
OUR BREATHS.



CINDER
DOESN'T TALK
MUCH ABOUT
THE PAST.

BUT HE'S
HERE.

THAT'S
ENOUGH.



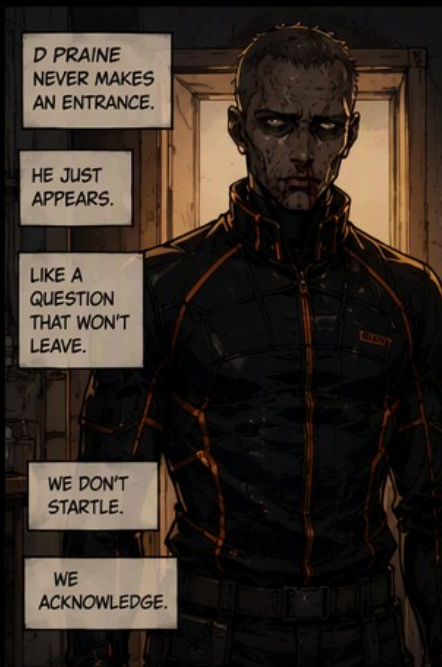
D PRAINE
NEVER MAKES
AN ENTRANCE.

HE JUST
APPEARS.

LIKE A
QUESTION
THAT WON'T
LEAVE.

WE DON'T
STARTLE.

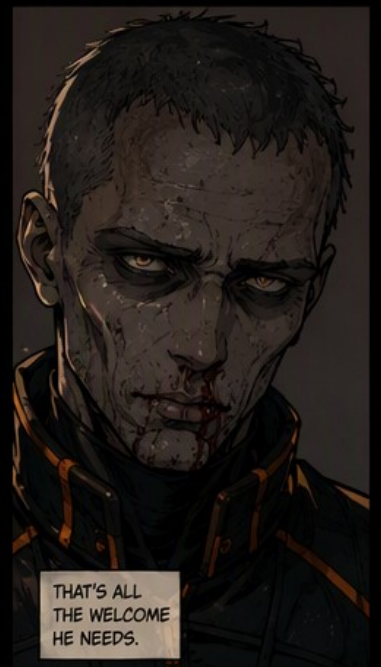
WE
ACKNOWLEDGE.



NO WORDS.
JUST A NOD.



THAT'S ALL
THE WELCOME
HE NEEDS.

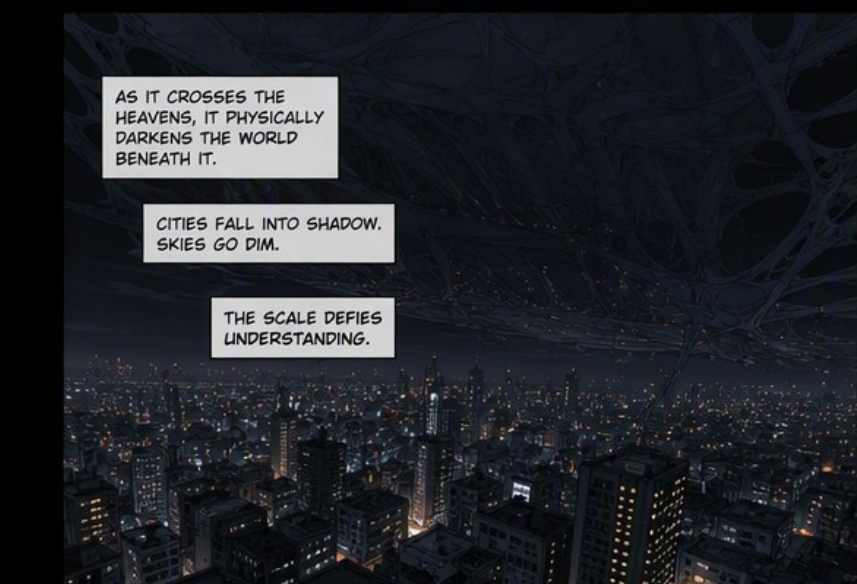




THE ARCHITECT.

AN EXTRATERRESTRIAL
SKY CARRIER.
LARGER THAN ANYTHING
HUMANITY COULD
REASONABLY IMAGINE.

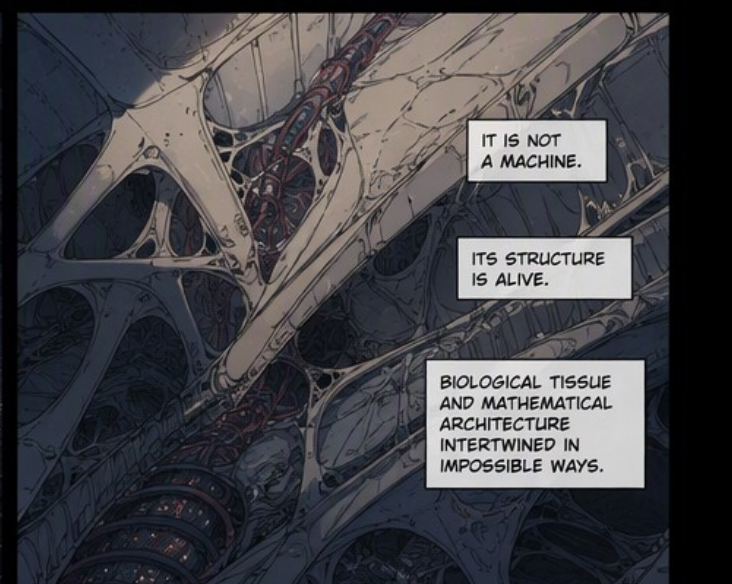
ITS ARRIVAL DOES
NOT ANNOUNCE ITSELF
WITH SOUND OR FIRE—
ONLY THE ABSENCE OF
THE STARS.



AS IT CROSSES THE
HEAVENS, IT PHYSICALLY
DARKENS THE WORLD
BENEATH IT.

CITIES FALL INTO SHADOW.
SKIES GO DIM.

THE SCALE DEFIES
UNDERSTANDING.



IT IS NOT
A MACHINE.

ITS STRUCTURE
IS ALIVE.

BIOLOGICAL TISSUE
AND MATHEMATICAL
ARCHITECTURE
INTERTWINED IN
IMPOSSIBLE WAYS.



THERE ARE NO COCKPITS.
NO ENGINES. NO WINGS.
NO POINT OF ORIGIN.

ONLY PURPOSE.

ONLY ARRIVAL.

SOMETHING FROM
BEYOND EARTH
HAS COME.



TO DEPLOY
AN UNSEEN FORCE.



AND HUMANITY
CAN DO NOTHING
BUT WATCH.