

BUT THE SIGNAL BECAME FUZZY AND FADED AWAY AS I SAT IN THE OPPRESSIVE DESERT HEAT.

FINALLY WE'RE ONTO SOMETHING

MY RECEIVER PICKED UP A SIGNAL FROM AN UNNAMED SATELLITE I DISCOVERED WITHIN THE SPACE DEBRIS

... IT'S NOT YOUR FIGHT...

...I'LL SEE YOU IN THE AFTER LIFE...

MUSIC?!

I KEPT RECALIBRATING AND I HEARD A NEW VOICE

...AND THAT WAS AFTER LIFE FROM THE BAND LAST DINOSAURS! AT TOP OF THE HOUR WE HAVE THE NEWS, BUT FIRST WE'RE TAKING REQUESTS ON 1-213-322-1034



SHOCKED TO HEAR THE VOICE OF A BROADCASTER I DIALED IN QUICKLY, AFRAID THAT I WOULD LOSE THE SATELLITE. THOUGH WHEN THE LINE CONNECTED I DIDN'T HEAR ANY VOICES, THE LINE JUST BEEPED ONCE SO I SPOKE MY REQUEST. HOPING MY VOICE WOULD BE HEARD.

IT SEEMS THE CROWD WANTS AN ENCORE! BY POPULAR DEMAND WE'LL BE PLAYING AFTERLIFE BY LAST DINOSAURS AGAIN! STAY TUNED FOR MORE FROM LAST DINOSAURS!

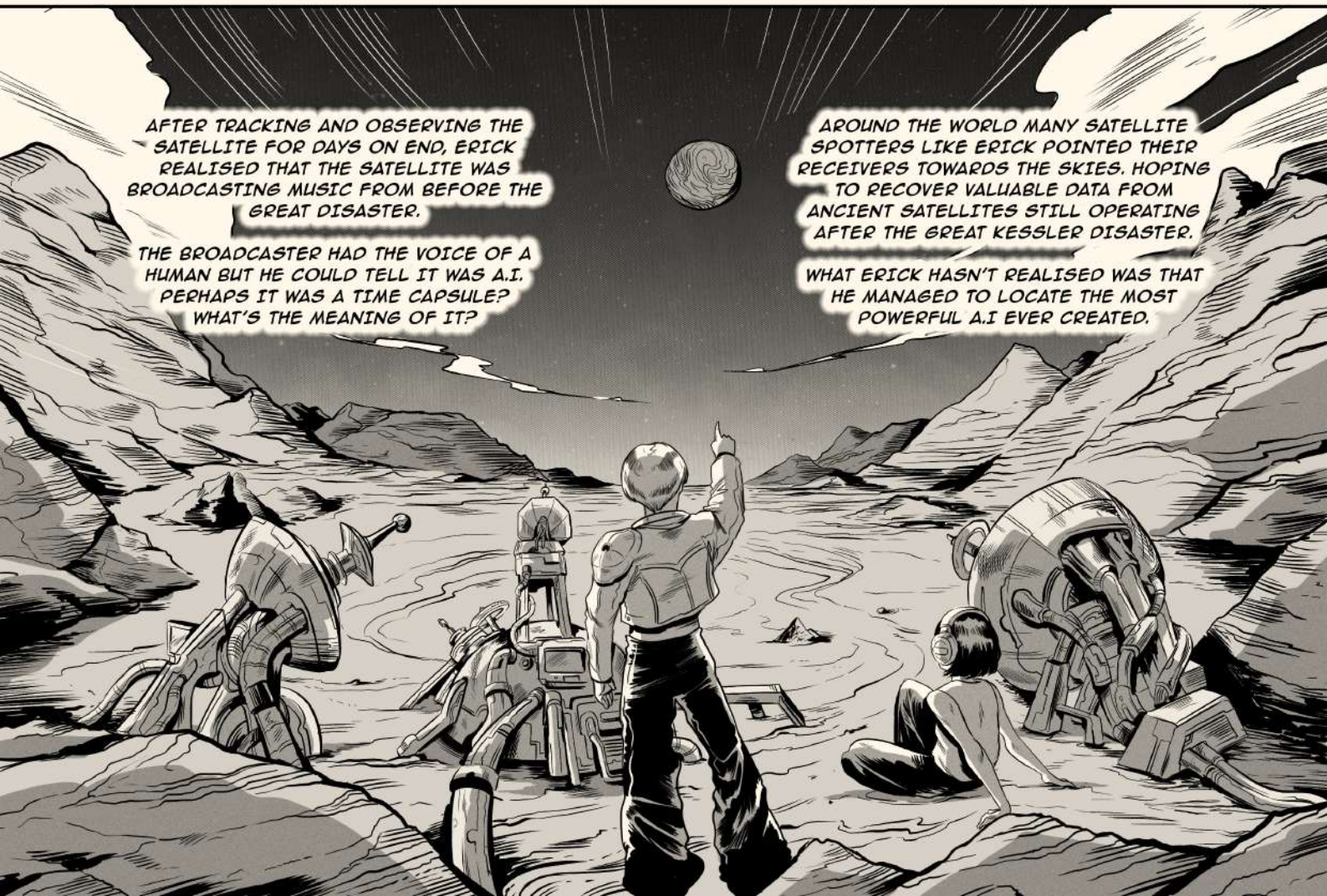
"THIS IS ERICK, AND I'D LIKE TO REQUEST AFTER LIFE BY LAST DINOSAURS."



THE SATELLITE PLAYED THE SONG AGAIN. IT WAS A STYLE OF MUSIC THAT SOUNDED ANCIENT BUT THE LYRICS WERE SO PERTINENT.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE I FELT LIKE I HAVEN'T BEEN WASTING MY TIME.

LIKE MAYBE ALL MY TIME SATELLITE SPOTTING HAD SOME MEANING AFTER ALL. WHO WAS BROADCASTING THIS STRANGE MUSIC AND WHY?



AFTER TRACKING AND OBSERVING THE SATELLITE FOR DAYS ON END, ERICK REALISED THAT THE SATELLITE WAS BROADCASTING MUSIC FROM BEFORE THE GREAT DISASTER.

THE BROADCASTER HAD THE VOICE OF A HUMAN BUT HE COULD TELL IT WAS A.I. PERHAPS IT WAS A TIME CAPSULE? WHAT'S THE MEANING OF IT?

AROUND THE WORLD MANY SATELLITE SPOTTERS LIKE ERICK POINTED THEIR RECEIVERS TOWARDS THE SKIES, HOPING TO RECOVER VALUABLE DATA FROM ANCIENT SATELLITES STILL OPERATING AFTER THE GREAT KESSLER DISASTER.

WHAT ERICK HASN'T REALISED WAS THAT HE MANAGED TO LOCATE THE MOST POWERFUL A.I EVER CREATED.

MY THERMAL CONTROLLED JACKET WAS ONLY GOING TO BE ABLE TO KEEP ME ALIVE FOR SO LONG, AND AS I STARED AHEAD AS THE SNOW FELL, I FELT SO ALONE, LIKE MAYBE THINGS WEREN'T GOING TO WORK OUT THIS TIME.

I LEFT MY UNRESPONSIVE ROBOT BEHIND WITH ALL THE EQUIPMENT IT WAS CARRYING. MY SATELLITE SPOTTING EQUIPMENT, MY TENT AND TOOLS, ALL STUCK WITH THAT USELESS ROBOT, I TRIED NOT THINKING ABOUT THAT THOUGH. THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERED WAS STAYING ALIVE WITHOUT ACCESS TO ANY OF MY THINGS. I WALKED ACROSS THE FROZEN LAKE ACCEPTING THAT I MIGHT DIE.



A BLACK BIRD THEN DOVE TOWARDS ME FROM THE FRONT AND I COVERED MY HEAD.



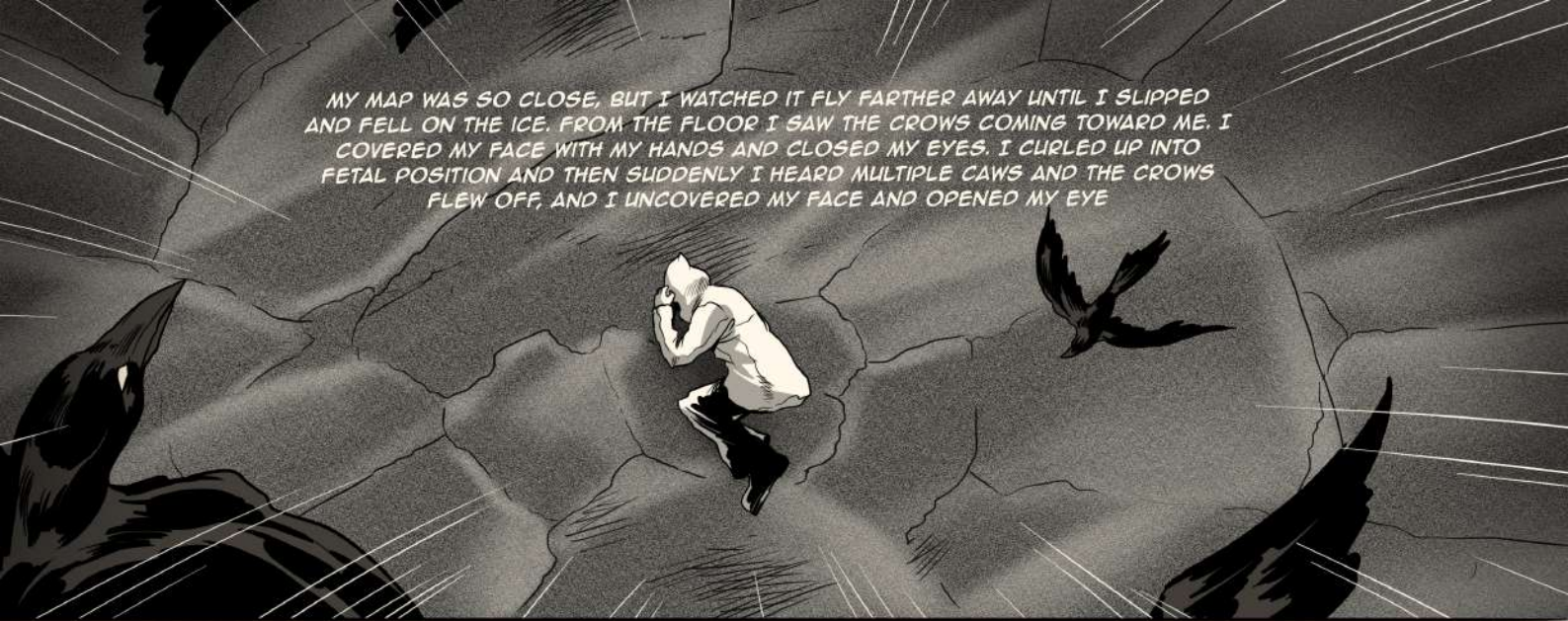
A CROW CAWED IN THE DISTANCE, BUT BEFORE I COULD TURN TOWARDS IT SOMETHING HIT MY BACK.



I HEARD ANOTHER CAW AND SAW A CROW FLYING OFF WITH MY MAP. I REACHED FOR THE BIRD'S BEAK BUT IT FLEW OFF, AND I STARTED CHASING IT. I CHASED THAT BIRD, CONVINCED THAT THE UNIVERSE WANTED ME DEAD, THAT IT DEEMED ME UNWORTHY, AND THAT THIS WAS ITS WAY OF TELLING ME THAT I WAS FINISHED.



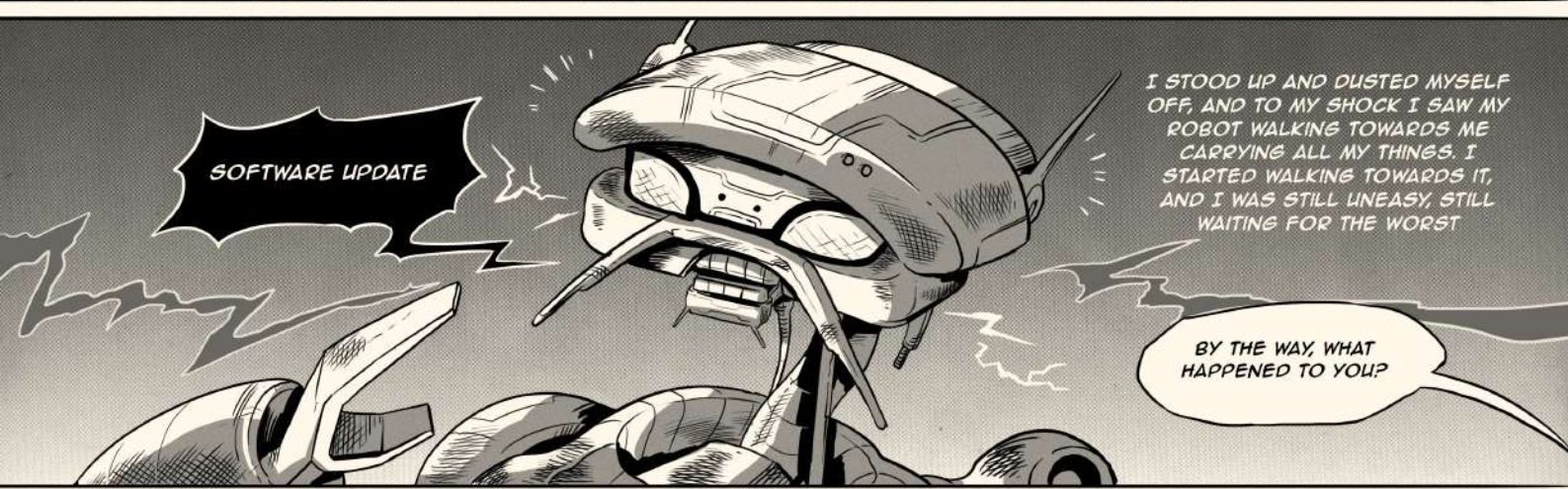
MY MAP WAS SO CLOSE, BUT I WATCHED IT FLY FARTHER AWAY UNTIL I SLIPPED AND FELL ON THE ICE. FROM THE FLOOR I SAW THE CROWS COMING TOWARD ME. I COVERED MY FACE WITH MY HANDS AND CLOSED MY EYES. I CURLED UP INTO FETAL POSITION AND THEN SUDDENLY I HEARD MULTIPLE CAWS AND THE CROWS FLEW OFF, AND I UNCOVERED MY FACE AND OPENED MY EYE



SOFTWARE UPDATE

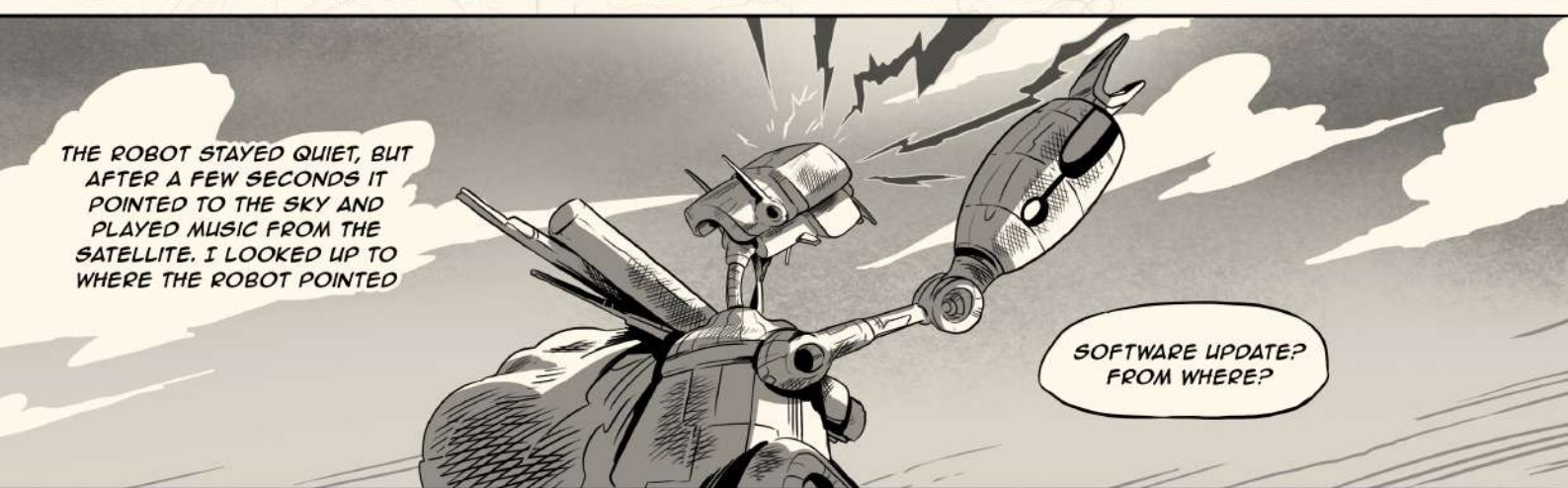
I STOOD UP AND DUSTED MYSELF OFF, AND TO MY SHOCK I SAW MY ROBOT WALKING TOWARDS ME CARRYING ALL MY THINGS. I STARTED WALKING TOWARDS IT, AND I WAS STILL LINEASY, STILL WAITING FOR THE WORST

BY THE WAY, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?



THE ROBOT STAYED QUIET, BUT AFTER A FEW SECONDS IT POINTED TO THE SKY AND PLAYED MUSIC FROM THE SATELLITE. I LOOKED UP TO WHERE THE ROBOT POINTED

SOFTWARE UPDATE?
FROM WHERE?



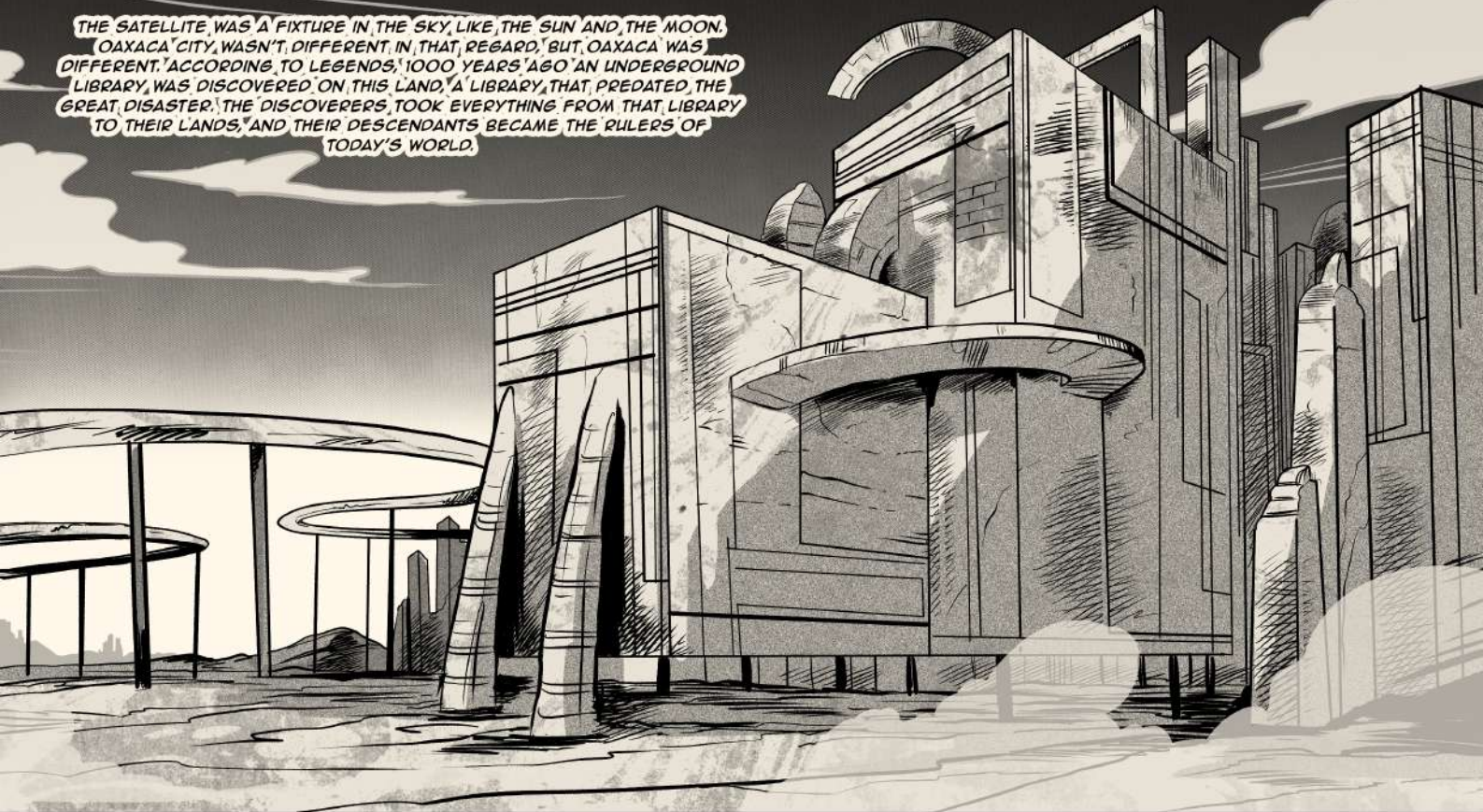
LET'S SET
UP CAMP.

THEN NOTICED THE BIRD THAT TOOK MY MAP DEAD ON THE FLOOR. I PICKED UP THE MAP.

I STARTED WALKING, WONDERING IF THOSE CROWS WERE A BAD OMEN AS THE ROBOT FOLLOWED ME.



THE SATELLITE WAS A FIXTURE IN THE SKY, LIKE THE SUN AND THE MOON. OAXACA CITY WASN'T DIFFERENT IN THAT REGARD, BUT OAXACA WAS DIFFERENT. ACCORDING TO LEGENDS, 1000 YEARS AGO AN UNDERGROUND LIBRARY WAS DISCOVERED ON THIS LAND, A LIBRARY THAT PREDATED THE GREAT DISASTER. THE DISCOVERERS TOOK EVERYTHING FROM THAT LIBRARY TO THEIR LANDS, AND THEIR DESCENDANTS BECAME THE RULERS OF TODAY'S WORLD.



I'LL BE FINE. I'M ACTUALLY SETTling HERE FOR A WHILE

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE GOING TO BE OKAY WITHOUT YOUR ROBOT?

I WALKED INTO THE TOWN'S MECHANIC SHOP. I GREETED THE MECHANIC AND HER SON.




IT SHOULD BE A LIGHTER LOAD, SO YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CARRY IT ON YOUR OWN NOW

I PUT EVERYTHING IN MY BAG AND TOOK A MENTAL NOTE OF WHAT SHE SAID, BECAUSE SATELLITE SPOTTERS ARE RARE, AND SPOTTERS GATHERING IN ONE PLACE WAS MUCH RARER.



THAT'S FUNNY, A LOT OF TRAVELERS HAVE BEEN COMING IN AND SAYING THEY'RE SETTling HERE.

MAYBE THAT SATELLITE IS DAMAGING YOUR HEADS, BECAUSE FOR SOME REASON THEY NEVER GIVE UP THEIR SATELLITE EQUIPMENT EITHER.




IF I HEARD OF A SATELLITE SPOTTER SELLING THEIR GEAR I'D RUN FOR THE HILLS!


THANKS FOR THE BUSINESS. I'LL BE SURE TO COME BACK IF I NEED ANYTHING

SURE, STAY SAFE

BYE! THANKS FOR YOUR BUSINESS!



I LEFT THE SHOP AND AS I WALKED OUTSIDE, I NOTICED THE DAY TURNING DARKER AND DARKER AT AN ABNORMAL RATE. I STOPPED AND LOOKED UP AND SAW THE MOON ATTENUATE THE SUN. A SURGE OF TERROR WENT DOWN MY SPINE LIKE A VIBRATION.



I LOOKED AROUND AND SCANNED EVERYONE ELSE'S REACTION. QUICKLY I RECOGNIZED SOMEONE WITHIN A CROWD.

SHE LOOKED TOWARDS ME, AND THEN I SAW THE ROBOT DOG THAT USED TO BE MINE, AND I SAW THE PERSON THAT STOLE IT.

SOPHIA...

ELTON! HEY BOY.

THE SUNLIGHT RETURNED AND THE CROWDS OF PEOPLE TALKED AMONGST THEMSELVES ABOUT THE ECLIPSE WHILE OTHERS WENT BACK TO THEIR BUSINESS. SOPHIA STOOD IN THE CROWD WITH MY ROBOT DOG.

ERICK!

RUN...

DEFINITELY BETTER...

THE WEATHERS A LOT BETTER HERE THAN THE DESERT, RIGHT?

WHAT'S WRONG?

RUN...


I...I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN HERE?

FOR--



AND EVERYTHING TURNED BLINDING BRIGHT. INSTINCTIVELY I GRABBED SOPHIA'S HAND AND RAN TOWARDS THE MECHANIC'S SHOP. I COULDN'T SEE ANYTHING AND ANOTHER EXPLOSION BLEW DUST TOWARDS US.




WE RAN FOR A BIT AS THINGS BECAME MORE VISIBLE, BEFORE WE COULD MAKE SENSE OF ANYTHING, RAYS OF LIGHT FLEW DOWN FROM THE SKY AND HIT RANDOM PLACES IN THE DISTANCE. ALL ROBOTS FROZE AND STARED AT THE SKY, AND BEHIND SOPHIA I SAW THAT ELTON WAS DESTROYED.



I DON'T KNOW, BUT LET'S GO."

YOU HEARD THE SATELLITE, DIDN'T YOU?



WE GOT UP AND STARTED RUNNING ACROSS TOWN. THE ATTACKS STOPPED, BUT ALL OVER THE CITY PEOPLE WERE PANICKED AND IN A FRENZY. I FELT DIZZY AS WE RAN, MY HEAD FELT STRANGE AND LIGHTEADED, AND THEN I FELT MY BODY FALL, AND I HIT THE FLOOR AS I HEARD SOPHIA'S FADING VOICE COMING CLOSER TO ME.

SHE CAME IN WITH HER ROBOT. MY ROBOT DOG ELTON JUMPED IN FRONT OF ME AS SHE CAME IN. I COULD TELL SHE WAS JUST TAKING SHELTER FROM THE SANDSTORM OUTSIDE, SO I INVITED HER TO EAT WITH ME WHILE WE WAITED FOR THE SANDSTORM TO PASS.

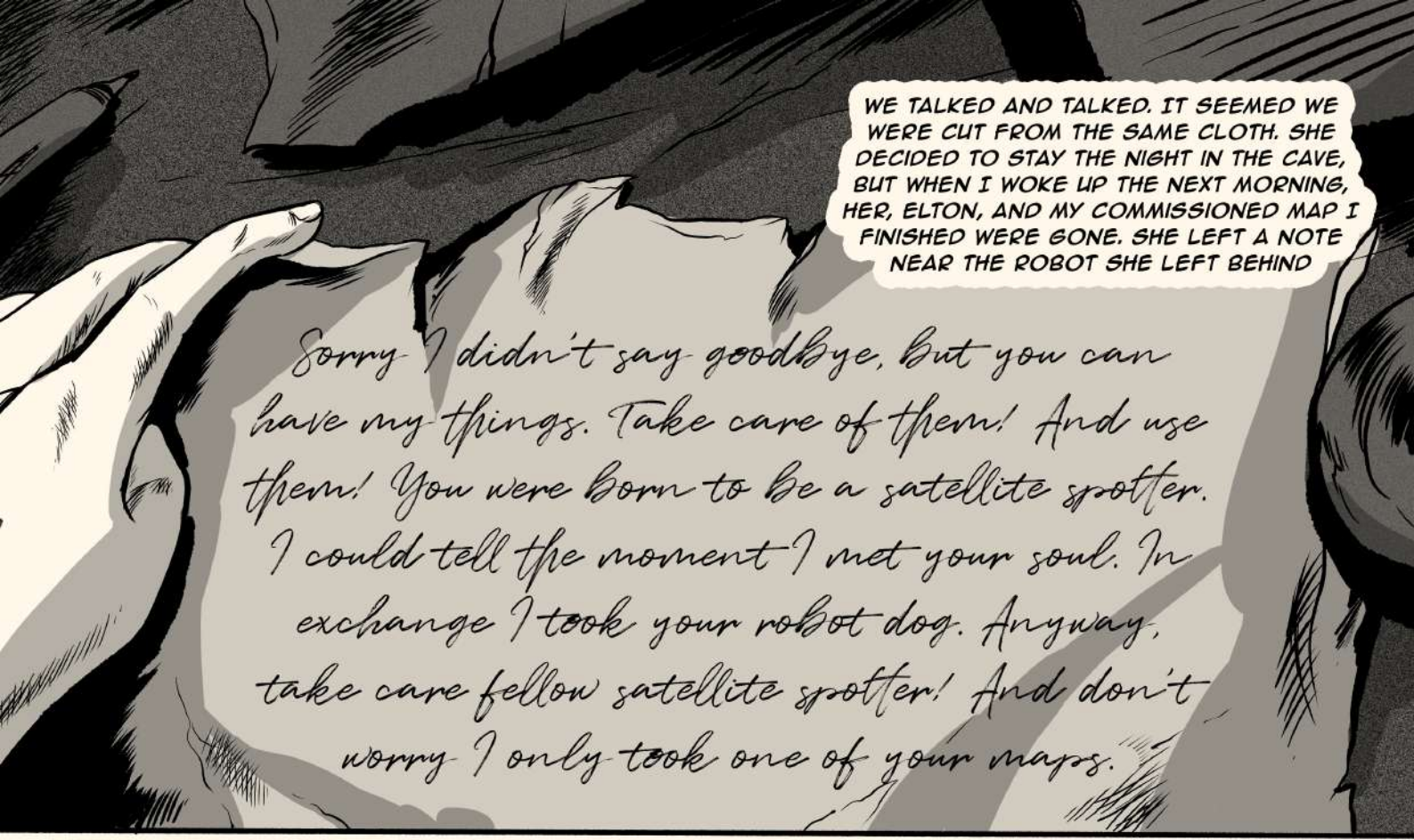
I MET SOPHIA OVER A YEAR AGO. SHE WAS THE FIRST SATELLITE SPOTTER I HAD EVER MET. I WAS A MAP MAKER AT THE TIME, CHARTING THE DESERT FOR A CLIENT FROM OAXACA. THE DAY I FINISHED MY MAP WAS THE DAY SHE CAME INTO THE CAVE THAT I SET UP CAMP IN.



SHE TOLD ME ABOUT THE LEGENDARY LIBRARY THAT WAS SUPPOSEDLY THE SOURCE OF ALL MODERN KNOWLEDGE, AND ABOUT THE LOOSE COLLECTION OF PEOPLE SHE WAS A PART OF THAT WANTED TO ESCAPE THE BARRIER CREATED BY THE SPACE DEBRIS.


SHE HAPPILY JOINED AND WE SHARED STORIES. I FOUND IT EASY TO TALK TO HER, AND WHEN I TOLD HER I WAS LEAVING TO OAXACA TO DROP OFF A MAP HER EYES WIDENED. APPARENTLY, SHE KNEW A LOT ABOUT OAXACA. SHE TOLD ME ABOUT THE HISTORY OF SATELLITE SPOTTING, ABOUT HOW IT BEGAN THERE.



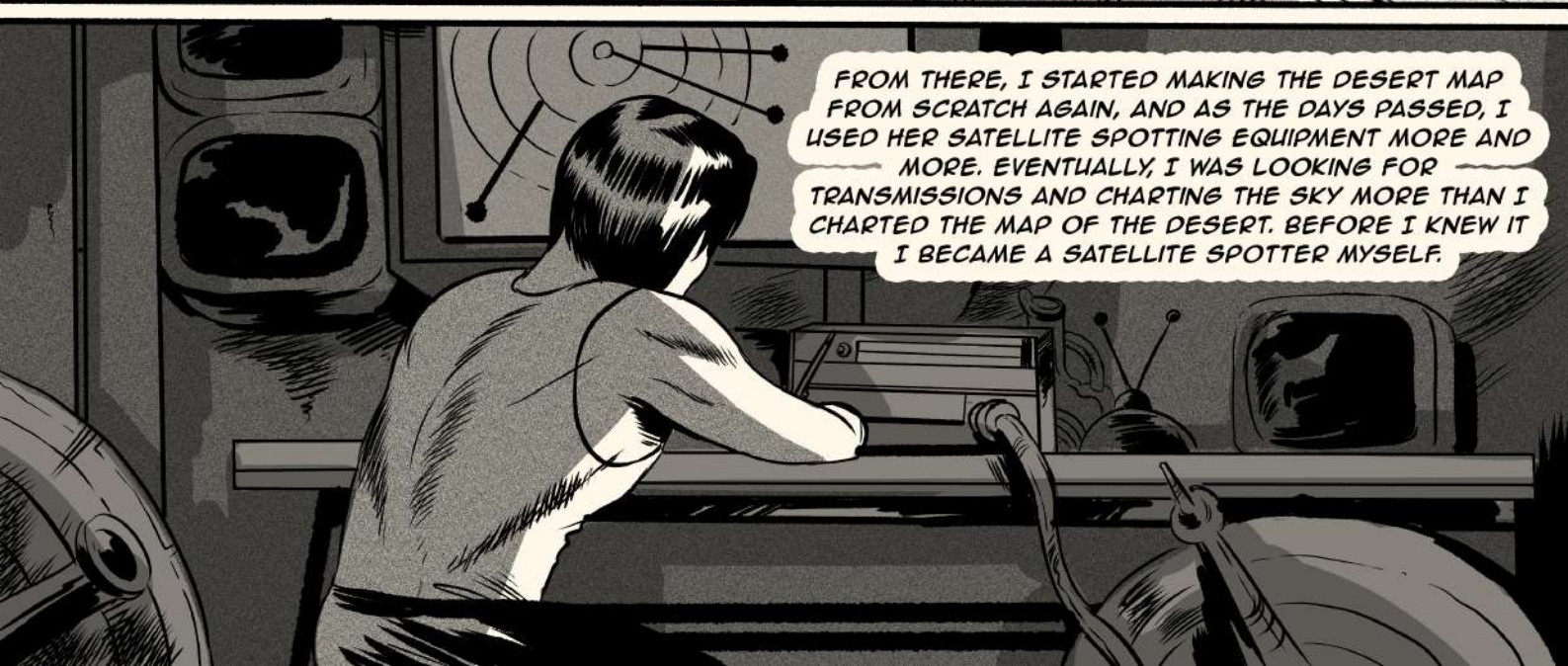


WE TALKED AND TALKED. IT SEEMED WE WERE CUT FROM THE SAME CLOTH. SHE DECIDED TO STAY THE NIGHT IN THE CAVE, BUT WHEN I WOKE UP THE NEXT MORNING, HER, ELTON, AND MY COMMISSIONED MAP I FINISHED WERE GONE. SHE LEFT A NOTE NEAR THE ROBOT SHE LEFT BEHIND

Sorry I didn't say goodbye, but you can have my things. Take care of them! And use them! You were born to be a satellite spotter. I could tell the moment I met your soul. In exchange I took your robot dog. Anyway, take care fellow satellite spotter! And don't worry I only took one of your maps.



I CRUSHED UP THE NOTE, BUT I TRIED TO FIND COMPOSURE TO CONTROL MYSELF, BECAUSE I FIGURED THINGS WERE AS THEY SHOULD BE, AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT MY GUT WAS TELLING, BUT I WAS STILL ANNOYED AND ANGRY. LUCKILY, I WAS ABLE TO SEND A MESSAGE TO MY CLIENT WITH THE ROBOT SHE LEFT, INFORMING THEM OF THE SITUATION..



FROM THERE, I STARTED MAKING THE DESERT MAP FROM SCRATCH AGAIN, AND AS THE DAYS PASSED, I USED HER SATELLITE SPOTTING EQUIPMENT MORE AND MORE. EVENTUALLY, I WAS LOOKING FOR TRANSMISSIONS AND CHARTING THE SKY MORE THAN I CHARTED THE MAP OF THE DESERT. BEFORE I KNEW IT I BECAME A SATELLITE SPOTTER MYSELF.

SHE GAVE ME BACK MY MAP THAT SHE TOOK THE DAY WE FIRST MET

YOU WERE THE ONE THAT GAVE THAT ROBOT A SOFTWARE UPDATE?

I'M SORRY ABOUT ELTON AND THE MAP BUT I HAD TO BRING YOU HERE BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE.



IT TOLD ME TO RUN, I WONDER WHERE THOSE RAYS OF LIGHT CAME FROM.



I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE YOU DIE BEFORE MAKING IT HERE,

WHAT DID THE SATELLITE SAY BACK THERE BY THE WAY?

I LOOKED AROUND AND BACK AT HER. I WAVED MY HAND IN FRONT OF SOPHIA'S FACE, BUT SHE WAS FROZEN. THEN I FELT MY BODY VIBRATE AND I HEARD A LOUD BUZZING SOUND

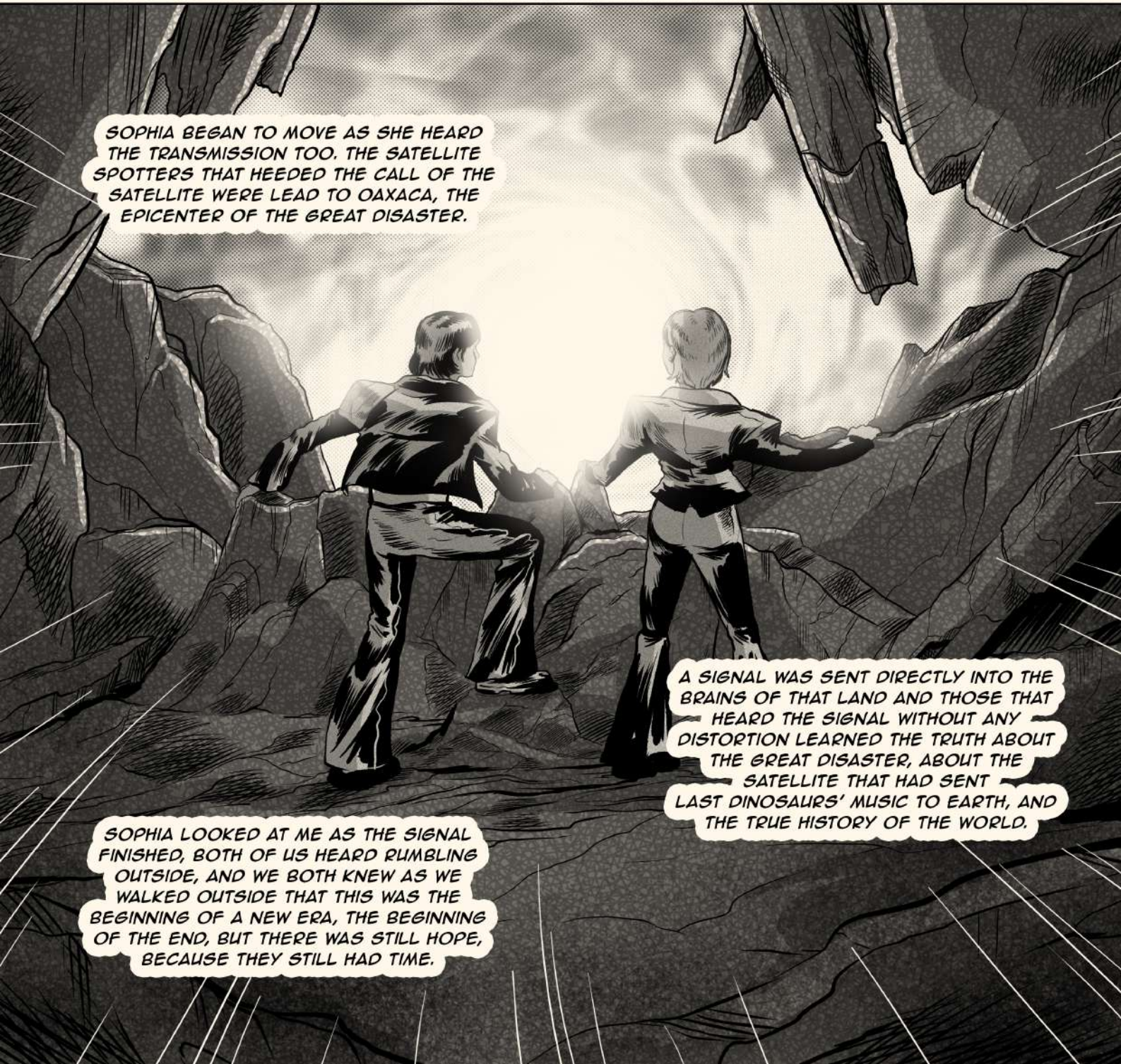
SOPHIA?



**WE'RE FINALLY
CONNECTED."**

THE NUCLEAR BATTERY IN THE SATELLITE IS GOING TO DIE SOON...AND THE ENTITY WE'RE AT WAR WITH WILL INEVITABLY CONSUME THIS SOLAR SYSTEM AND EVENTUALLY...

SOPHIA WILL CONNECT TO THE TRANSMISSION SOON...TODAY THOSE THAT HAVE MANAGED TO MAKE IT HERE WILL LEARN THE HISTORY OF YOUR ANCESTORS...



SOPHIA BEGAN TO MOVE AS SHE HEARD THE TRANSMISSION TOO. THE SATELLITE SPOTTERS THAT HEADED THE CALL OF THE SATELLITE WERE LEAD TO OAXACA, THE EPICENTER OF THE GREAT DISASTER.

A SIGNAL WAS SENT DIRECTLY INTO THE BRAINS OF THAT LAND AND THOSE THAT HEARD THE SIGNAL WITHOUT ANY DISTORTION LEARNED THE TRUTH ABOUT THE GREAT DISASTER, ABOUT THE SATELLITE THAT HAD SENT LAST DINOSAURS' MUSIC TO EARTH, AND THE TRUE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.

SOPHIA LOOKED AT ME AS THE SIGNAL FINISHED, BOTH OF US HEARD RUMBLING OUTSIDE, AND WE BOTH KNEW AS WE WALKED OUTSIDE THAT THIS WAS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA, THE BEGINNING OF THE END, BUT THERE WAS STILL HOPE, BECAUSE THEY STILL HAD TIME.