

THE DARKEST STAR

Book 2



IRIS

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OUR LORD NAMRON,
THE LAST OF HIS KIND,
WALKED THE PATH ALONE
THROUGH THE ENDLESS
SILENT BATTLEFIELDS
OF BURNING WORLDS.



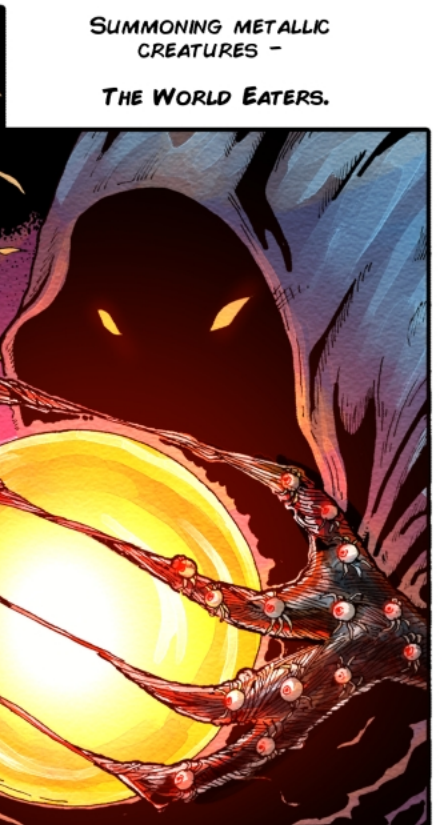
GROW!



SEIZING THE VAST POWER OF THE
STARS WITHIN HIS GRASP.



HE ENDURED AS THE FLAME BURNED
AWAY HIS FLESH.



SUMMONING METALLIC
CREATURES -
THE WORLD EATERS.

THEY MADE OUR LORD IMMORTAL.



AND GRANTED SANCTUARY FROM
THE APPROACHING STORM.



BREATHING LIFE INTO THE SACRED SHADOW RACERS
THAT FILLED THE HEAVENS.



FROM WHENCE WE SPAWNED TO FILL
THE LANDS OF ALL THREE WORLDS.

OUR LORD LOOKED UPON US
IN OUR TIMES OF CONFLICT

AND WHISPERED--

BEEP

BEEP

BEEP



THE LAST SIX YEARS HAD HAUNTED MARK. EVER SINCE HE LOST HIS CREW HE'D STRUGGLED TO SLEEP.



BEEP
BEEP
BEEP



YEAH ...
THAT'S NOT THE BEST CHOICE FOR A PILLOW ...

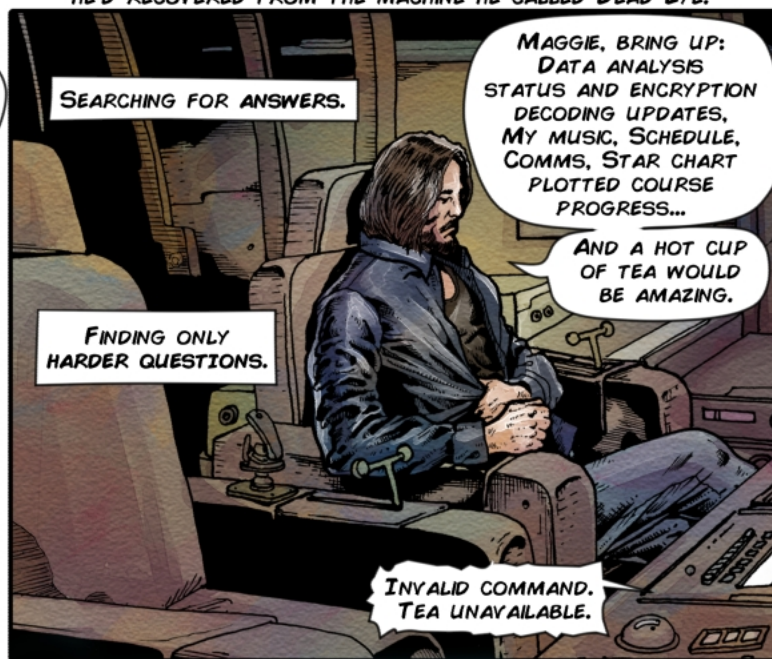
HE'D SPENT COUNTLESS HOURS DECODING AND STUDYING THE DATA HE'D RECOVERED FROM THE MACHINE HE CALLED DEAD EYE.



THAT CRAZY DREAM AGAIN.

ALL OF THIS ALIEN TECHNOLOGY IS MESSING WITH MY PRIMITIVE MONKEY BRAIN.

MUST BE SOME KIND OF GENESIS STORY TOLD BY AKUTSUKAI'S PEOPLE.



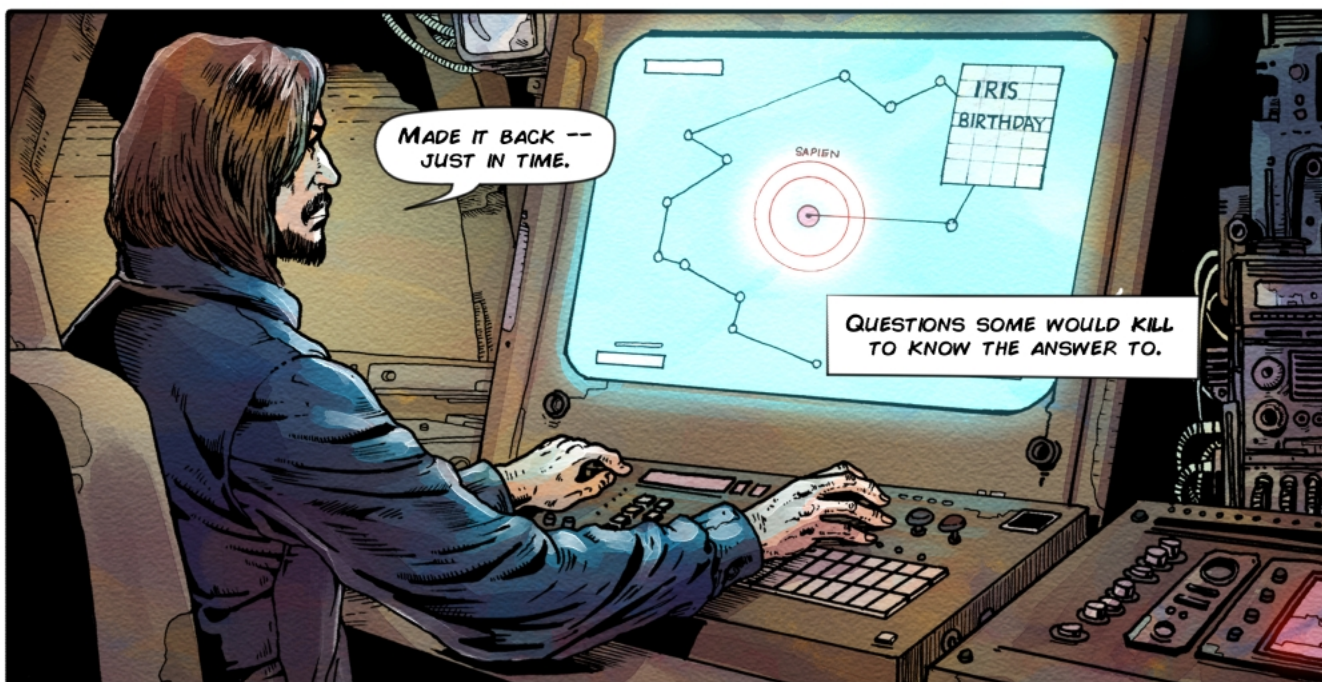
SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS.

MAGGIE, BRING UP: DATA ANALYSIS STATUS AND ENCRYPTION DECODING UPDATES, MY MUSIC, SCHEDULE, COMMS, STAR CHART PLOTTED COURSE PROGRESS...

AND A HOT CUP OF TEA WOULD BE AMAZING.

FINDING ONLY HARDER QUESTIONS.

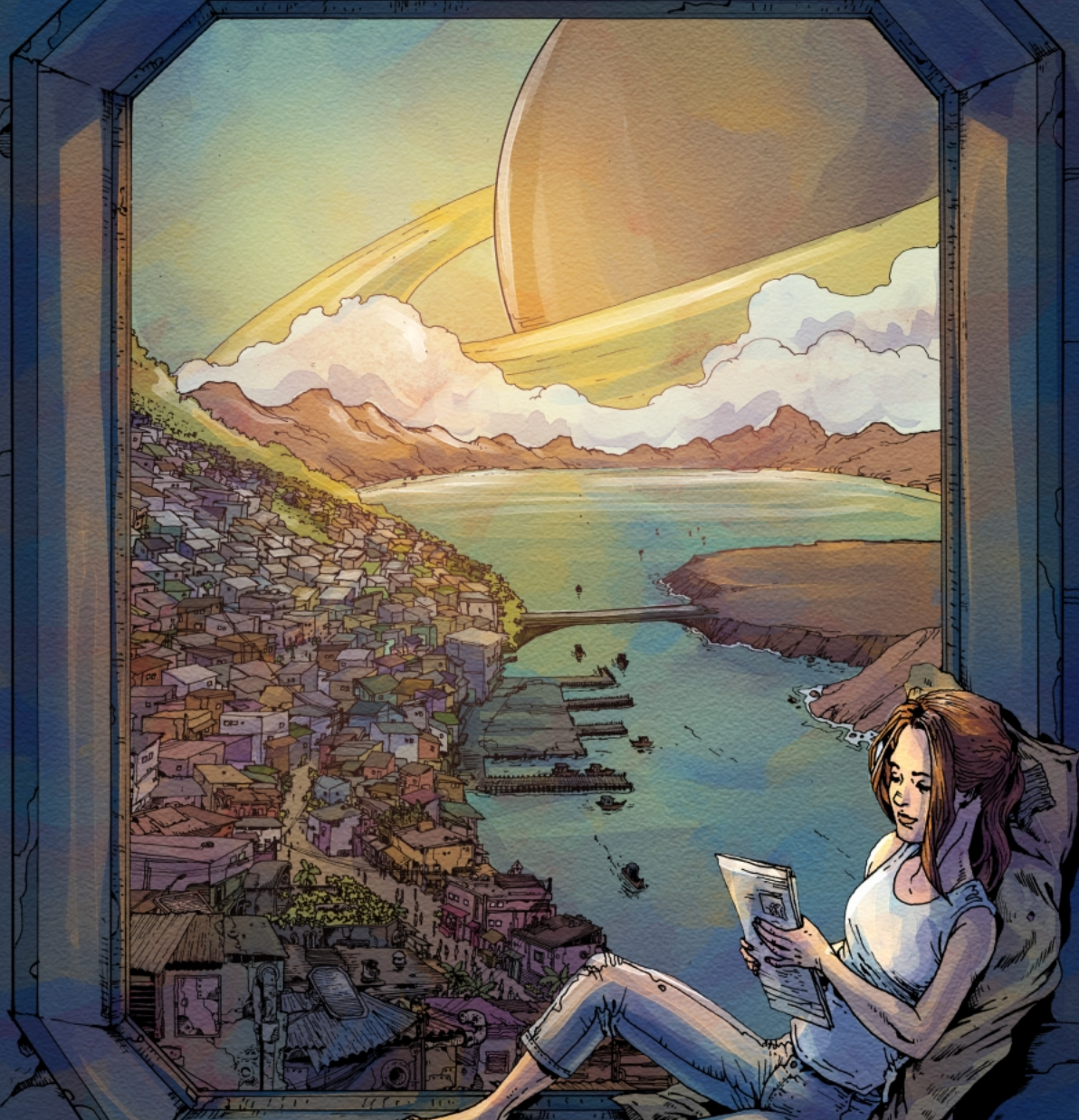
INVALID COMMAND. TEA UNAVAILABLE.



MADE IT BACK -- JUST IN TIME.

QUESTIONS SOME WOULD KILL TO KNOW THE ANSWER TO.

Part 1: Memory



BZZ
BZZ

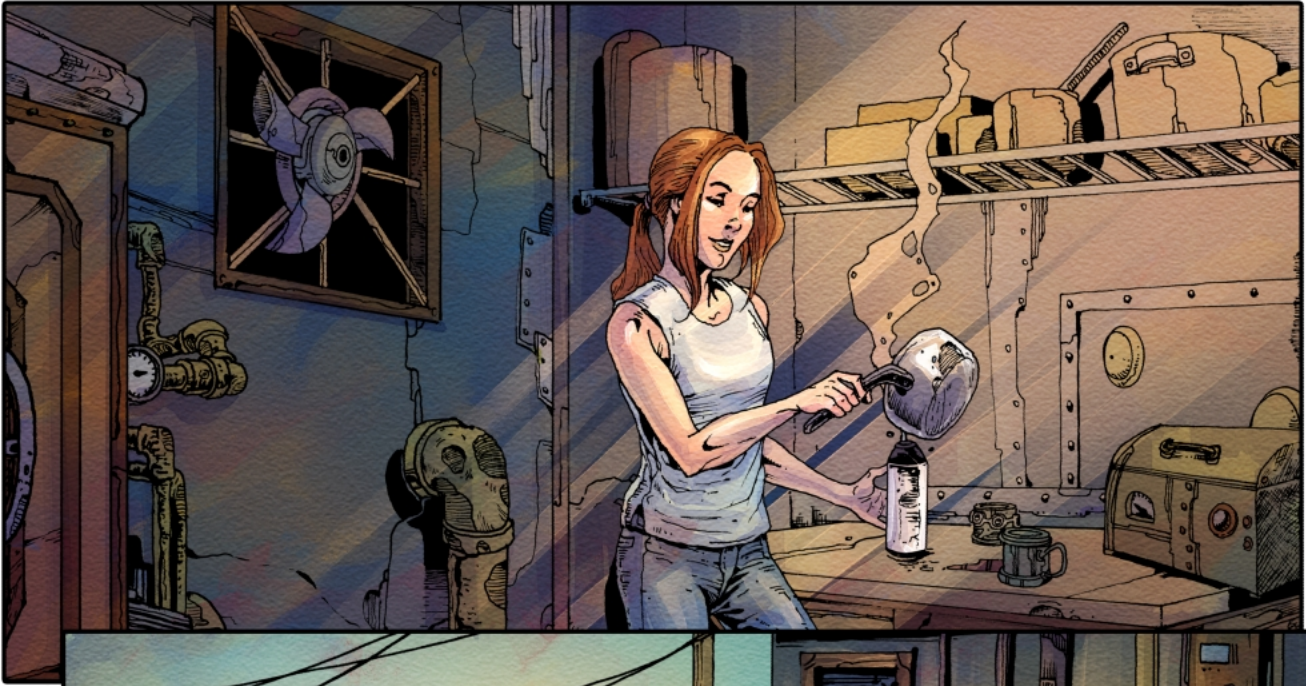


HAPPY BIRTHDAY,
IRIS.

I CAN'T BELIEVE
YOU'RE 16 ALREADY.

I SHOULD BE LANDING
IN ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES.
I HAVE A SURPRISE FOR YOU.

SEE YOU SOON!



DAD'S AWAY WITH HIS WORK A LOT OF THE TIME. TINA IS LIKE A GRANDMOTHER AND EVERYONE ELSE HERE IS LIKE FAMILY. WE ALL LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER.

GOOD MORNING, TINA!



OH HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MISS KEEGAN!



I BAKED SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR YOU.

HERE, TAKE THIS GROUND NUT PASTRY WITH YUMMY ORANGE BERRY JAM.



THANKS! I'VE GOTTA RUN, THE MAGPIE WILL BE BACK ANY MINUTE NOW.