



THE AIRSHIP
ANDALUSIA
RETURN TO SEVEN MOON CROSSING



LADY
Kanthippe's
DREAM

BOOK



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LADY *Koanthippe's* DREAM

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To all the poets, novelists, visionaries, and artists whose works have helped form my literary and artistic style ~ J.R.R Tolkien, Arthur C. Clark, Ray Bradbury, Issac Asimov, Andre Norton, Gregory Benford, George Orwell, Rudyard Kipling, Jules Verne, Alexander Pope, William Shakespeare, Dr. Stephen Hawking, John Byrne, Michael Golden, Philip K. Dick Poul Anderson, and David Brin ~ Thank you!

A special thank you to my parents, Philip and Barbara, for giving me the tools to create and the freedom to dream and to Polonius Neathergarden and Lady Penelope Genevieve Philpott-Neathergarden without whom this endeavor would not have been possible.

For Yvette, my forever love.

I FEEL IT.

THE GOSSAMER
CARESS OF DISTANT
TURMOIL. ENERGIES
EBBING, FLOWING,
BUILDING.

CAUSALITY IS
BEING MANIPULATED;
STRETCHED, PULLED,
TWISTED. SOMEONE IS
USING A TEMPORAL
ENGINE TO DISRUPT
THIS TIMELINE.

PERHAPS I
WILL FINALLY FIND THE
ALLIES I NEED.

LOOK LIVELY,
TWO. LADY XANTHIPPE
IS ON HER WAY.

I MUST FIND
THE SOURCE OF THIS
DISRUPTION AND ASCERTAIN
THE MOTIVES OF THOSE
WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE
FOR IT.

RIGHT, ONE!
THE PROJECTION LENS
APPARATUS IS READY
FOR HER.





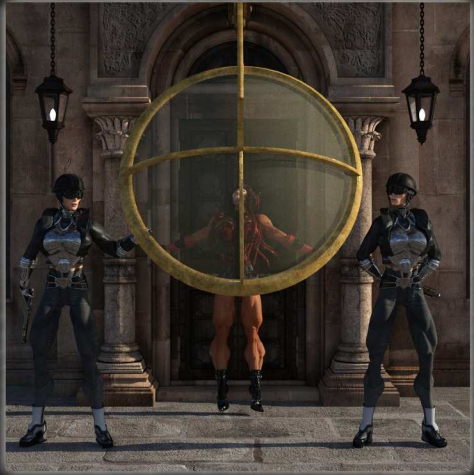
THERE ARE OTHER FORCES AT WORK, HERE.

THEY FIGHT TO CONTAIN THE CAUSAL UNCERTAINTY THAT IS SPREADING ACROSS THE TEMPORAL WAVEFORM FROM THE ORIGIN POINT OF THE DISRUPTION. INTERESTING.



I AM PREPARED. PLEASE LOWER THE LENS, ONE.

AS YOU WISH, M'LADY.



I AM READY TO DEPART. PLEASE ACTIVATE THE TIME KEY, TWO.

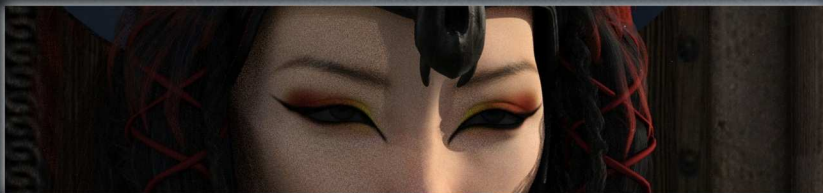
YES, M'LADY.



TIME KEY ACTIVATED. M'LADY!



TRANSITIONING ...



... TO MY
PROJECTED ASPECT
FORM.



NOW,
INTO THE QUANTUM
CURRENT.



THE QUANTUM CURRENT IS VERY STRONG HERE.



PULLING ME DOWN.



SOMETHING IS THERE BELOW ME. A STONE STRUCTURE WITH A...



... WEATHERVANE.

SOUNDS.
DOWN THERE.



I KNOW THIS PLACE.
IT IS THE IMPERIAL PALACE
IN THE SOVEREIGN CAPITAL
CITY. THE EMPEROR IS CLOSE.
I CAN FEEL HIS PRESENCE.
HIS ENERGY.

GUARDS,
BELOW ME.

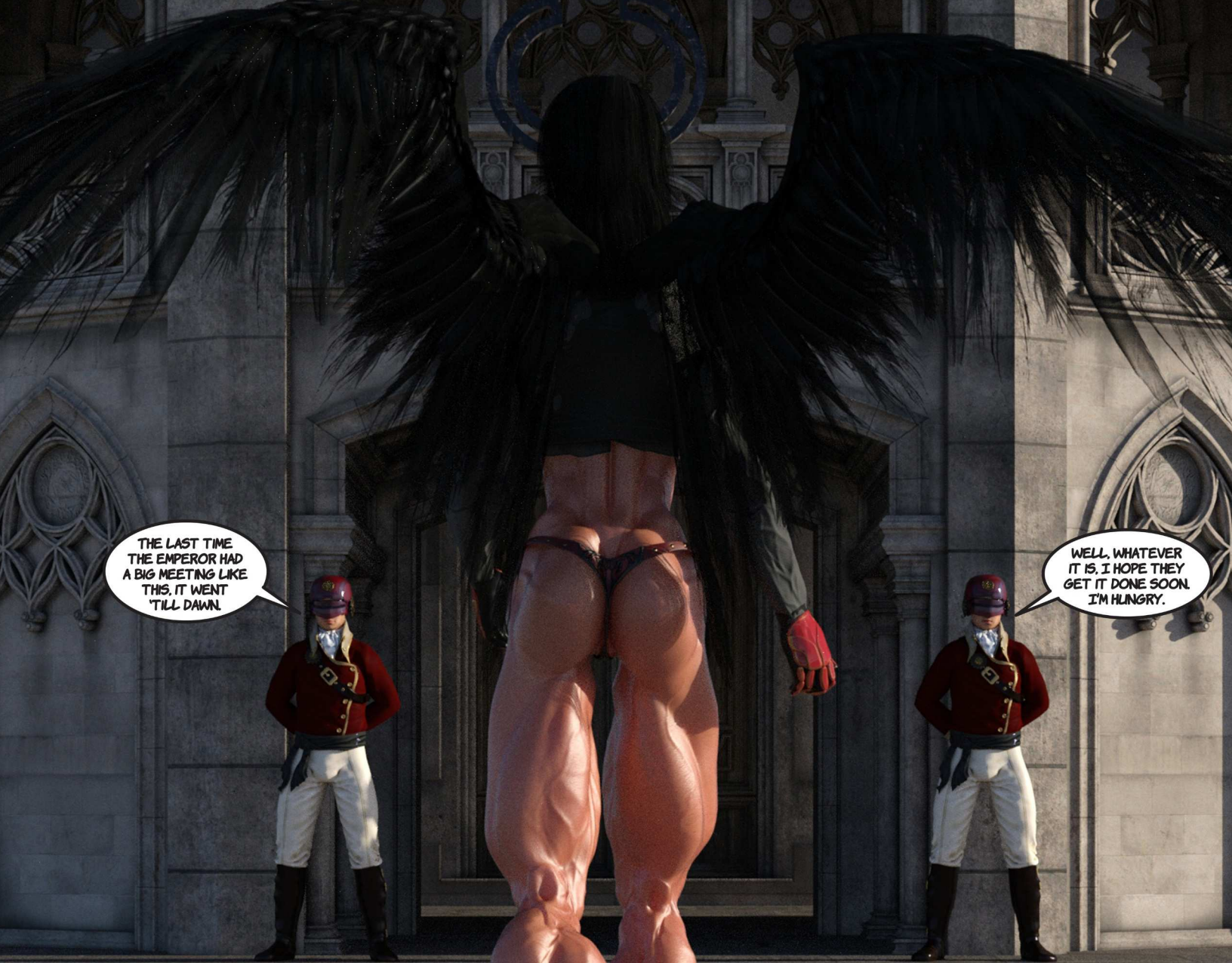


YOU KNOW
WHAT'S GOING ON
TONIGHT?



NOT SURE, BUT
THERE'S LOTS OF TOP
BRASS HERE WITH
THE EMPEROR.

WITH ALL THOSE
ADMIRALS, VICEROYS, AND
GENERALS, IT MUST
BE IMPORTANT.



THE LAST TIME THE EMPEROR HAD A BIG MEETING LIKE THIS, IT WENT 'TILL DAWN.

WELL, WHATEVER IT IS, I HOPE THEY GET IT DONE SOON. I'M HUNGRY.



THE GUARDS CANNOT SEE MY ASPECT.



THEY CANNOT HEAR ME, EITHER.



I HEAR THE
EMPEROR TALKING TO
HIS COMMANDERS. I SENSE
HIS FRUSTRATION. HE HAS LOST
CONTROL OF A SITUATION
AND HIS COMMANDERS
ARE NO HELP.

THEY CANNOT
FIND THAT WHICH THE
EMPEROR IS SO EAGER
TO POSSESS.

IT IS GOOD
THAT THERE ARE
THINGS BEYOND
HIS GRASP.



EVEN HIS POWER HAS LIMITS.



I MUST LEARN THE NATURE OF THAT WHICH HAS CAUSED HIM SO MUCH CONSTERNATION. I AM CURIOUS.



THE BADLANDS ARE VAST. THERE IS SO MUCH UNCHARTED TERRITORY TO PATROL.

HOW HAS HE EVADED CAPTURE FOR SO LONG?

SOMEHOW, HE MADE SEVERAL MODIFICATIONS TO THE ANDALLUSIA, INCLUDING ADDING STEAM CANNONS TO THE AIRSHIP'S HULL.

WITH THAT MUCH FIREPOWER AT HIS FINGERTIPS, HE WILL BE DIFFICULT TO APPREHEND.

OUR FORCES AT SKY RIVER STATION WERE OVERPOWERED BY NEATHERGARDEN AND HIS ALLIES.

THE AIRSHIP NOW CARRIES MORE FIREPOWER THAN OUR ATTACK SHIPS.

SO, THEY ARE HUNTING SOMEONE. A RESISTANCE FIGHTER.



AN AIRSHIP WITH STEAM CANNONS? HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?

EVEN WITH HELP, HOW CAN THEY CONTINUE TO ELUDE US? WE ARE THE SOVEREIGN EMPIRE! OUR POWER IS GREAT AND OUR REACH IS VAST!

NEATHERGARDEN AND LADY PENELOPE ARE NOT ALONE. THE BITCH OF THE NORTH IS WITH THEM AND IT IS RUMORED THAT THE SPIRIT WALKER IS ALSO HELPING THEM.

YOUR RADIANCE, I HAVE AN IDEA FOR YOU TO CONSIDER. RATHER THAN CHASE THEM, WHY NOT FIND OUT WHERE THEY ARE GOING, BEAT THEM TO THEIR DESTINATION, AND SET A TRAP?



DO WE HAVE ANY ACTIONABLE INTEL AS TO THEIR DESTINATION?

ALL THIS FOR ONE MAN AND AN AIRSHIP?

NONE THAT I AM AWARE OF, YOUR RADIANCE.

NOT YET, HOWEVER, WE WILL KNOW SOON. LADY ALEKSA IS INTERROGATING A SOURCE, NOW.

WHAT DID THIS NEATHERGARDEN DO TO WARRANT SUCH ATTENTION?

I MUST KNOW.

USE WHATEVER MEANS NECESSARY TO EXTRACT THE INFORMATION YOU NEED FROM YOUR SOURCE. THEN, FIND NEATHERGARDEN!

I WANT HIM KNEELING BEFORE ME, BOUND IN CHAINS AND BEGGING FOR MERCY!

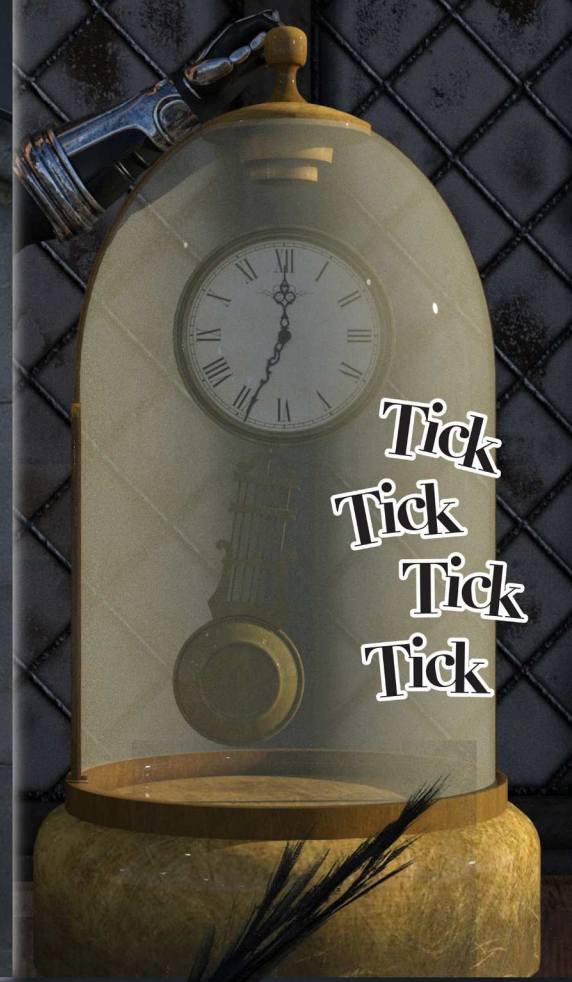




MY TIME WANES.

I MUST LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS NEATHERGARDEN.

HE COULD BE THE CATALYST WE NEED TO CHANGE THIS REALITY.



Tick
Tick
Tick
Tick



I WILL CAST MY SIGHT FURTHER. PERHAPS I WILL LEARN MORE.

WAIT!
I SENSE ...

BB////
KOY////NG
//YEE////
PF////HU!



... ASPECT
WRAITH!

THE TWISTED
REMNANTS OF A
CORRUPTED ASPECT.
DOOMED TO FEED
ON THE ENERGY
OF OTHERS.

EE/////CH
///GLH///
SSAA/////



IT WILL FIND
NO SUSTENANCE
HERE.



I AM NOT
A MEAL!

///SHN///
DFF/////NN
///HL///IG
/TE////
GM!

YOUR DARK
POWER HAS NO SWAY
OVER ME, WRAITH!
I AM LADY HELENA
XANTHIPPE!

THOK!

WK////OO
///ER////
KW////RR////
//SHN//

WHUD!



BE ...

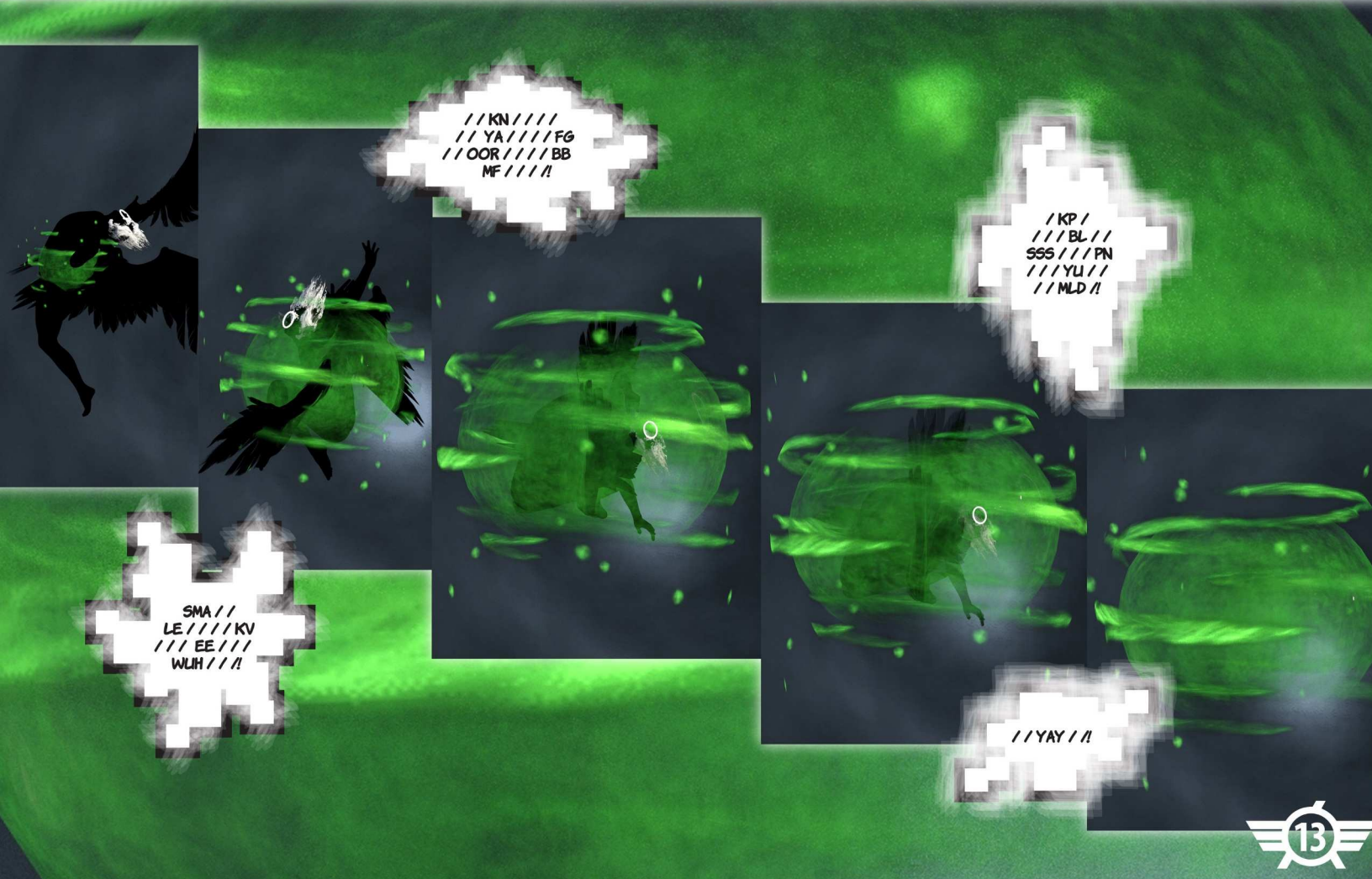
... AT ...

... PEACE.

SUFFER NO MORE. ETERNITY AND THE SWEET EMBRACE OF THE SINGULARITY AWAIT YOU.



I RELEASE YOU.



//KN//
//YA//FG
//OOR//BB
MF//!!

/KP/
//BL//
SSS//PN
///YU//
//MLD//

SMA//
LE//KV
///EE//
WUH//

///YAY//



AH! VERY GOOD.
AN INSERTION POINT.
PERHAPS THE ANSWERS
I SEEK ARE CLOSER
THAN I THOUGHT.

WHAT IS
THIS PLACE?

IT FEELS VERY
OLD, YET THERE IS
A STRANGE ENERGY
THAT SURROUNDS
IT, PROTECTS IT,
CONCEALS IT.

WHAT
DOES HE
WANT?

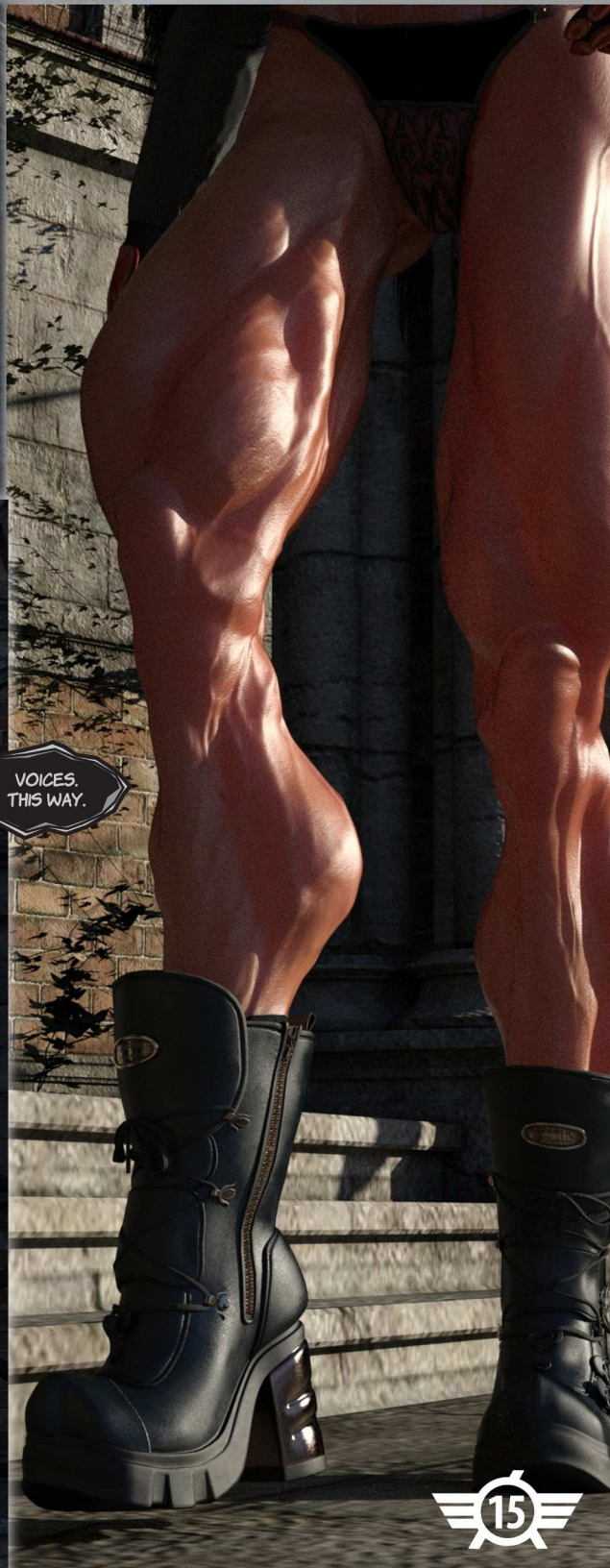
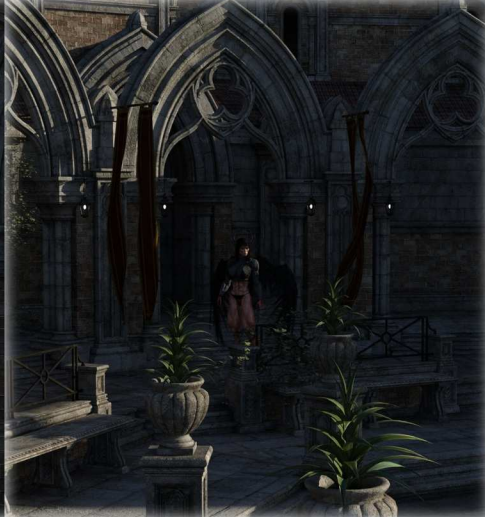
I'M NOT
SURE, HE WANTS
TO SEE US
BOTH.

I MUST
GET CLOSER!



THIS PLACE, I AM UNABLE TO DISCERN ITS LOCATION.

PERHAPS THE CONVERSATION BELOW WILL TELL ME WHAT I NEED TO KNOW.



THERE IS A DEEP AND ABIDING STILLNESS HERE; THE QUIET OF GREAT AGE AND POWER.

VOICES. THIS WAY.



THIS IS A MISSION OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE TO OUR ENDEAVOR.

WE ARE YOURS TO COMMAND, RABBAN.

WHAT KIND OF MISSION, SIR?

THEY ARE PLANNING SOMETHING. A MISSION.



THE SOVEREIGN HAVE CAPTURED AN ALLY OF OURS. THEY WILL BEGIN INTERROGATING HIM SOON. WE MUST FREE HIM BEFORE HE IS COMPROMISED BY THE ENEMY.

HE HOLDS INFORMATION THAT THEY MUST NOT OBTAIN.

WHERE ARE THE SOVEREIGN HOLDING HIM SIR?



HE AND A FELLOW FREEDOM FIGHTER ARE BEING HELD AT A SOVEREIGN DETENTION FACILITY WEST OF SKY RIVER STATION. ADMIRAL KRANE, THE BUTCHER OF BLACK METAL RIDGE, WILL BE OVERSEEING THE INTERROGATION, HIMSELF.

WE WILL ASSEMBLE A STRIKE TEAM AND DEPART IN THE MORNING, SIR.



TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE HERE. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU AND YOUR CREW DEPART AT ONCE.

YES, SIR! WE WILL LEAVE AS SOON AS WE HAVE OUR TEAM AND SUPPLIES ASSEMBLED.



GO NOW. DO NOT FAIL. MANY LIVES DEPEND ON YOUR SUCCESS.

WE WILL NOT FAIL YOU, SIR!



THE FORCES ARRAYED AGAINST US ARE TOO GREAT. THEY WILL PERISH UNLESS THEY HAVE YOUR HELP, M'LADY.

WAIT. WHAT?

WE NEED YOUR HELP, M'LADY.



YOU CAN SEE MY ASPECT? HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?



AT THIS TIME, IN THIS PLACE, THE 'WHY' IS FAR MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE 'HOW', M'LADY. IT'S ALL ABOUT ALIGNMENT.

YOU ARE SEEKING ALLIES IN YOUR FIGHT AGAINST THE SOVEREIGN.

YOUR PRESENCE HERE IS NO ACCIDENT. WE ARE THE ALLIES YOU SEEK.

BUT, WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW, M'LADY.

THE EMPEROR SEARCHES FOR A PIRATE NAMED NEATHERGARDEN. IS HE WITH YOU?

POLONIUS NEATHERGARDEN AND LADY PENELOPE PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN OUR ENDEAVOR.

WITHOUT THE NEATHERGARDENS, THEIR CREW, AND WHAT THEY CARRY ONBOARD THEIR AIRSHIP, OUR INSURRECTION WILL FAIL.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT THE NEATHERGARDENS THAT MAKES THEM SO IMPORTANT TO YOUR REBELLION?

THEY DO HAVE A UNIQUE SET OF SKILLS AND GIFTS. THEY ALSO POSSESS A SINGULARITY HARNESS, TEMPORAL DISPLACEMENT ENGINE, AND A LIGHTWAVE PISTOL, ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES THAT NO LONGER EXISTS HERE.

SO, THEY ARE THE CAUSE OF THE TEMPORAL FLUCTUATIONS I HAVE SENSED.

YES, THE CAUSALTY ENGINE THEY ARE USING CREATES MASSIVE WAVEFORM PERTURBATIONS.

THAT IS WHY THE EMPEROR IS SO INTENT ON APPREHENDING THEM.

POLONIUS
AND LADY PENELOPE
HAVE PROVEN THEMSELVES TO BE
A WILY AND RESOURCEFUL COUPLE,
OUTWITTING THEIR SOVEREIGN
PURSUERS AT NEARLY
EVERY TURN.

THEY HAVE ALSO
ASSEMBLED AN UNORTHODOX,
BUT HIGHLY SKILLED, CREW
FOR THEIR AIRSHIP,
THE ANDALUSIA.

YOU HOLD THEM
IN GREAT ESTEEM. YOU
MUST KNOW THEM
QUITE WELL.

OVER THE
MONTHS THAT I HAVE
BEEN GUIDING THEM, I
HAVE COME TO ADMIRE THEIR
RESPECT AND LOVE FOR EACH
OTHER. IT IS A VERY RARE
RELATIONSHIP; A DEEP
AND ABIDING LOVE.

THEY ARE THE
IDEAL CARETAKERS
OF THE ARTIFACTS THAT
HAVE BEEN GIVEN
TO THEM.

THE EMPEROR
CANNOT BE ALLOWED
TO ACQUIRE THEIR
TECHNOLOGY!



THIS IS WHY WE NEED YOUR HELP, M'LADY. THE SOVEREIGN HAVE CAPTURED TWO OF OUR ALLIED FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND INTEND TO EXTRACT VITAL INFORMATION FROM THEM.

WE CANNOT ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN WITHOUT YOUR HELP. THIS MISSION WILL FAIL.

VERY WELL. I WILL HELP YOU. THE EMPEROR'S PLANS MUST BE THWARTED!




Tick
Tick
Tick
Tick



THE DURATION OF MY FARSIGHT CAST IS NEARLY EXPIRED. I MUST RETURN TO MY CORPOREAL FORM.

GO NOW, M'LADY. I WILL SEND A COURIER TO YOU WITH THE LOCATION WHERE THE SOVEREIGN ARE HOLDING OUR FREEDOM FIGHTERS.

A high-angle photograph of a woman with long black hair, wearing a black top and orange pants, with large black wings. She is standing in a gothic courtyard with stone buildings and a potted plant. A shadow of her is cast on the ground to the left.

I WILL MARSHALL
OUR FORCES AND AWAIT
YOUR COURIER.

MAKE HASTE,
LADY XANTHIPPE AND
BEWARE THE EMPEROR.
HE IS A POWERFUL
ENEMY.

I SENSE HE
MOVES AGAINST
US EVEN NOW.

THE EMPEROR
MAY BE POWERFUL BUT
I HAVE YET TO SUCCLIMB
TO HIS NEFARIOUS
MACHINATIONS!

HE WILL
NEED TO WIELD A
FAR GREATER POWER
TO VANQUISH ME,
SPIRIT WALKER.

RETURN TO
YOUR BODY QUICKLY,
MLADY. I FEAR YOU MAY
ALREADY BE TOO
LATE.

THE EMPEROR!
HE IS NEAR. I MUST
REACH THE TRANSITION
POINT BEFORE HE
INTERFERES.



WHERE ARE
YOU GOING, PRETTY
LITTLE BIRD?

MY TIME IS
NEARLY DONE! I
WILL NOT BE TRAPPED
IN THIS REALM ONLY TO
BECOME AN ASPECT
WRAITH!

DON'T FLY
AWAY. I WANT TO
CATCH YOU!

NO MATTER
HOW FAST OR FAR
YOU FLY, I WILL
CATCH YOU.

YI/////MM
//SG//VZ//
///HRM///
SLZ/////GG
TT!

MY WRAITHS
WILL ENSURE THAT YOU
DO NOT ESCAPE.

DID YOU
TRULY BELIEVE THAT
I WOULD NOT DETECT
YOUR EAVESDROPPING
ON OUR MEETING?
HMMM?

IT IS OF NO
CONSEQUENCE. SOON
YOU WILL BE A WRAITH
UNDER MY CONTROL.
HOW PLEASANT.

//YE
//SS//
MM!

BRING HER
TO ME.

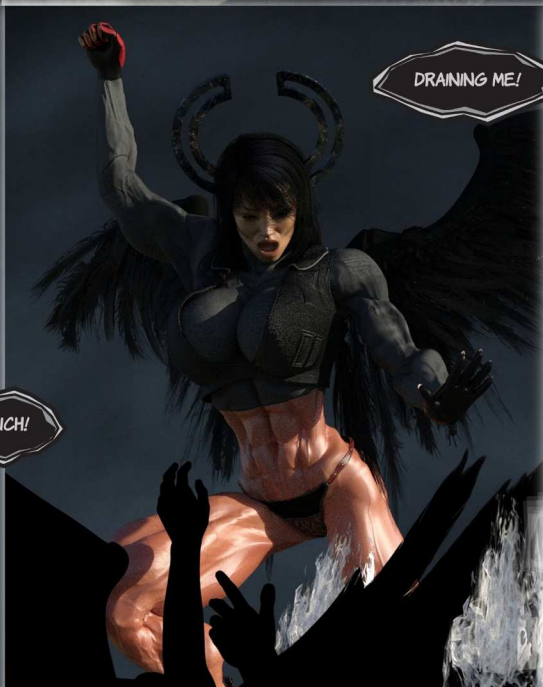
I MUST GET TO THE TRANSITION POINT BEFORE THEY CATCH ME OR ALL WILL BE LOST!

ALMOST THERE!



OH NO!

TOUCH!



DRAINING ME!



FALLING!
FADING! NO!

EE ///
/// YA ///
UF /// KL
/// NG !!



YES, GIVE IN.
THERE IS NO NEED
TO STRUGGLE.
YOU ARE MINE!



F-FADING!

EXCUSE ME,
THERE WILL BE
NO PRIZE FOR YOU
TODAY, FREDDY.

YOUR INSOLENCE
IS YOUR DEATH SENTENCE.
SPIRIT WALKER!

THERE ARE
NO PRIZES FOR BAD
BOYS AND YOU HAVE
BEEN A VERY BAD
BOY, FREDDY!

YOU MAY
HAVE FREED LADY
XANTHIPPE, BUT THAT WILL
NOT SAVE YOUR INSIPID
UPRISING. I WILL
DESTROY YOU
ALL!

PLEASE ACCEPT
MY HUMBLE APOLOGIES
FOR BEING LATE, M'LADY.
I WILL HANDLE THE WRATHS
WHILE YOU TRANSITION
TO YOUR CORPOREAL
FORM. IT IS TIME.

THANK YOU,
SPIRIT WALKER!
I AM FOREVER IN
YOUR DEBT.

THIS IS
WHAT ALLIES DO.
M'LADY... HELP
EACH OTHER.

I MADE IT!

TRANSITIONING ...

THE CLOCK HAS STOPPED. MLADY'S CAST TIME IS COMPLETE. ONE!
GET READY! THE RETURN TO HER CORPOREAL FORM IS IMMINENT!

Tick
Tick
Tick

I HAVE **RETURNED!**

MLADY!



OH! MY LADY XANTHIPPE! ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

WE HAVE YOU NOW, MLADY. YOU ARE SAFE.

I AM WEAKENED. MY ENCOUNTER WITH THE EMPEROR WAS ... TAXING.

IF THE SPIRIT WALKER HAD NOT INTERVENED, I WOULD NOW BE A WRAITH.

WE WILL NEVER BE SAFE UNTIL THE EMPEROR IS VANQUISHED.

TWO, SUMMON LORD RULIHL. TELL HIM TO MAKE HASTE AND MEET ME ON THE OBSERVATION DECK.

YES, RIGHT AWAY, MLADY!



WE HAVE STAYED HIDDEN IN THE SHADOWS FOR FAR TOO LONG. WE MUST COME INTO THE LIGHT.

THE TIME TO EMERGE IS NOW! WE HAVE WILLING AND RESOURCEFUL ALLIES WAITING FOR OUR ASSISTANCE.



LORD RULIHN APPROACHES! ONE AND TWO, PLEASE STAND CLEAR OF THE DOORS.



OOOF!

OUT OF MY WAY, TURDS! HER LADYSHIP REQUIRES MY IMMEDIATE PRESENCE!

HHEY! YOU CANT ...!

THUNK!

KLONK!

YES, M'LADY. WE ARE SAFELY OUTSIDE OF HIS LORDSHIP'S *AHEM* BLAST RADIUS.

BY LORD
NESTOR'S HARRY
NAVEL! RULIHN IS
HERE, MLADY!

KA-BOOM!

MLADY,
LORD RULIHN
HAS ARRIVED.

AND, ONCE
AGAIN, YOUR
CHAMBER DOORS
WILL REQUIRE
REPLACING.

LORD RULIHN.
IT IS GOOD TO
SEE YOU.

I NEED
YOUR HELP AND
WISE COUNSEL,
MY FRIEND.

COMMAND
ME, M'LADY. SAY
THE WORD AND IT
SHALL BE
DONE!

OUR WORLD,
OUR VERY REALITY,
IS IN GREAT DANGER.
WE MUST ACT NOW TO
CHANGE IT OR IT
WILL ALL BE
LOST.

GATHER
OUR FORCES.
LORD RULIHN.

RECALL
OUR AIRSHIPS
AND RANGER GROUPS.
PUT OUT THE CALL TO ALL
AIR PATROL UNITS AND
BORDER OUTPOSTS.
SCOUTS, TOO.

I SWORE
AN OATH TO YOUR
FATHER TO PROTECT AND
GUIDE YOU WHERE
I AM ABLE.

BY LORD
CORNISH'S LAZY
EYE, IT IS MY SOLEMN
AND SACRED DUTY TO
KEEP YOU OUT OF
HARM'S WAY.



WE HAVE
WORK TO DO,
MY LORD.



THE DUALITY OF LIGHT, THE SINGULARITY OF DARKNESS



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STORY AND ART BY
**AARON
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