

NO 1 **FEB**
100
AKIO COINS **25**



Scan me!

AKIO

ETERNAL WARRIOR

*PREMIERE
ISSUE*

THE FIRST FRAGMENT

OF AETHERION EXO

"FRAGMENTED MEMORY"

I WAS THERE, OR MAYBE I DREAMED IT.

HHRRRRRRMMMMMM...

SOMETHING ...
WATCHED
ME
BURN.

THE
SHARD
CALLED
TO ME
OR
MAYBE
IT SCREAMED.



THAT
WAS
THE FIRST TIME
I HEARD THE HUM.

CHAPTER 1

THE FIRST FRAGMENT...



EARTH... DECADES AFTER THE **FALL**.

THE SKIES ARE QUIET, BUT THE WOUNDS OF WAR RUN DEEP.

WHEN THE ZALAXIANS CAME FROM THE STARS, THEY HUNTED

MORE THAN PLANETS—

THEY HUNTED **LEGENDS**.

THEIR TARGET: THE ETERNAL WARRIOR.

AKIO, LAST SURVIVOR OF FLEORA, HIDES AMONG THE RUINS OF HUMANITY.

WITH **HINA**, A GUARDIAN FROM LUMORA, AND **TENKO**, HIS SPIRIT COMPANION,

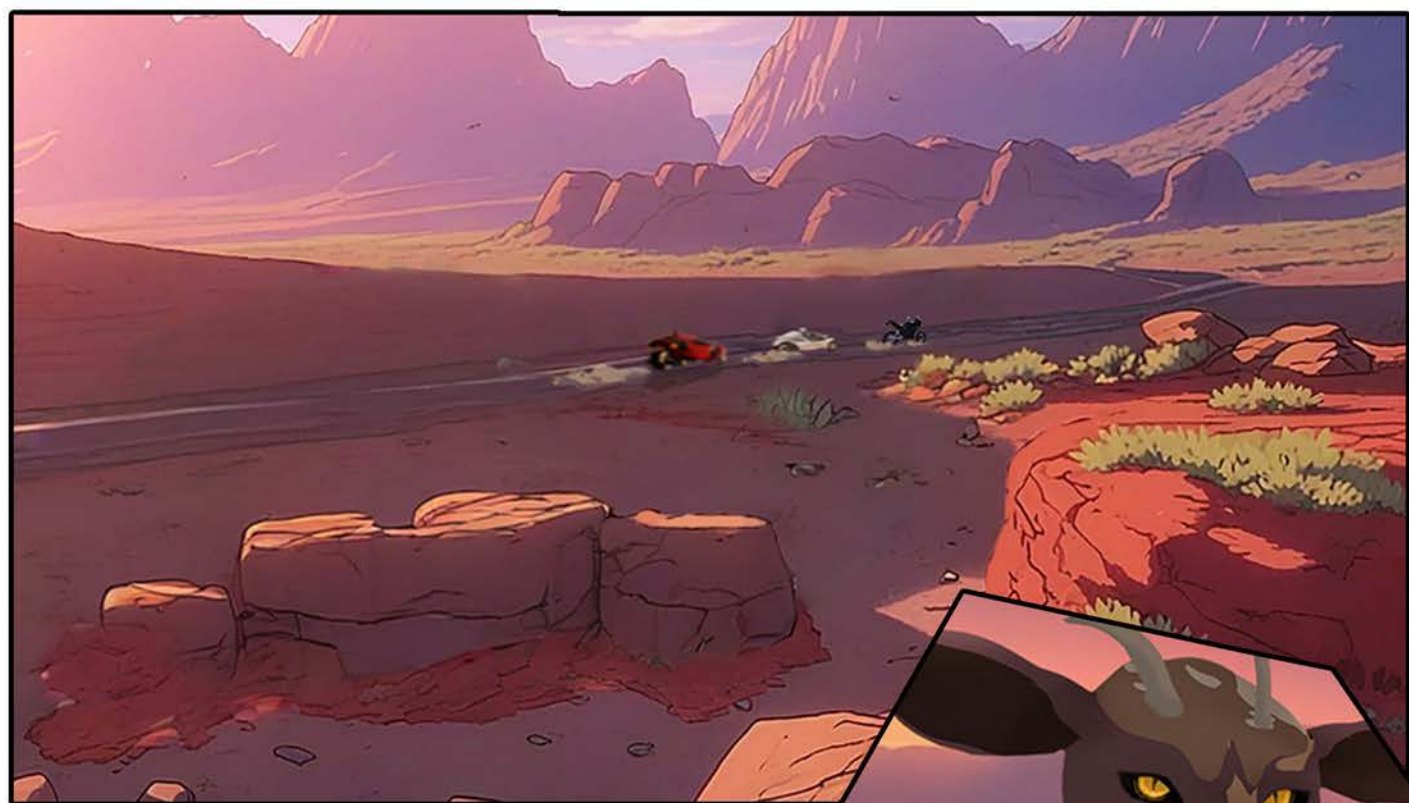
HE SEARCHES FOR FRAGMENTS OF A MYSTICAL ARMOR

THAT COULD TURN THE TIDE OF WAR.

HE NEVER WANTED TO BE A **HERO**.

BUT IF HE FAILS... NOTHING SURVIVES.

**A DESOLATE EARTH, FILLED WITH DEADLY TRAPS,
SHIFTING LANDSCAPES AND CREATURES OF MYTH.**



"AKIO RIDES A SLEEK 3-WHEEL SPORTS CAR,
ITS HEADLIGHTS CUTTING THROUGH THE EARLY MORNING MIST."



"I
CAN FEEL
IT.",
"THE AIR
IT
CARRIES
AN
ANCIENT
ENERGY."



I SENSE
SOMETHING

..

WE MUST
STAY CAUTIOUS.
NO RUSHING."



HINA MANEUVERS A 3-WHEEL ROADSTER,
ITS FRAME DARTING
THROUGH TIGHT, UNPREDICTABLE PATHS.

TENKO WATCHES FROM THE ROAD.
OUTSIDE, HIS ALL-TERRAIN E-BIKE MIRRORS HIS GAZE.



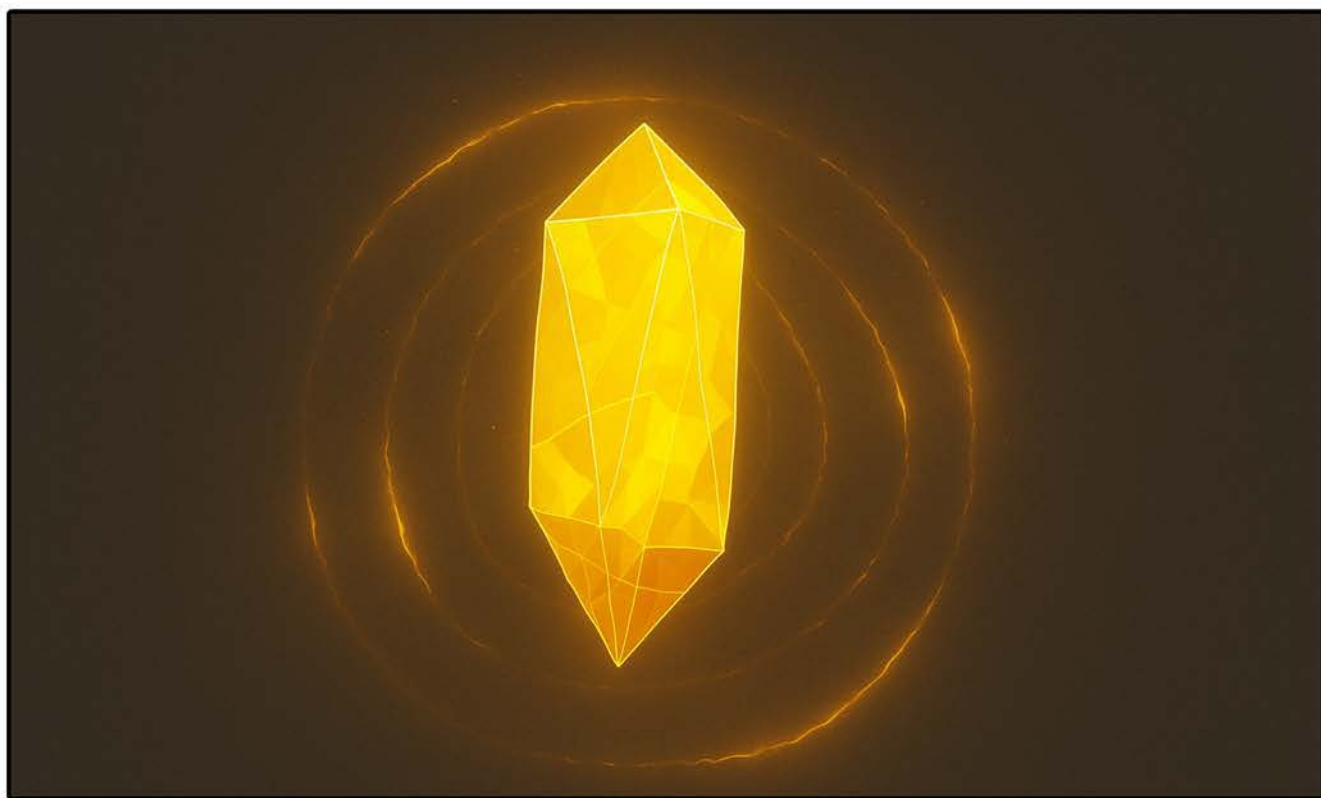
"KEEP CLOSE,
FOLLOW MY LEAD."



ALONG THE ROAD...
A MASSIVE STRUCTURE RISES FROM THE DUST—ANCIENT.
UNDISTURBED. WAITING.



THE FIRST CRYSTAL FRAGMENT ...
ITS ENERGY PULSING IN THE SILENCE



**AKIO AND HINA FREEZE. EYES WIDE. BREATH HELD.
THEY CAN'T LOOK AWAY.**

A close-up of Akio's eyes, which are wide open and looking directly forward. His eyes are a golden-yellow color with a dark, swirling pattern in the center of each iris. His black hair is visible at the top and sides of the frame.

**HERE
IT
IS...
THE
FIRST
FRAGMENT!**

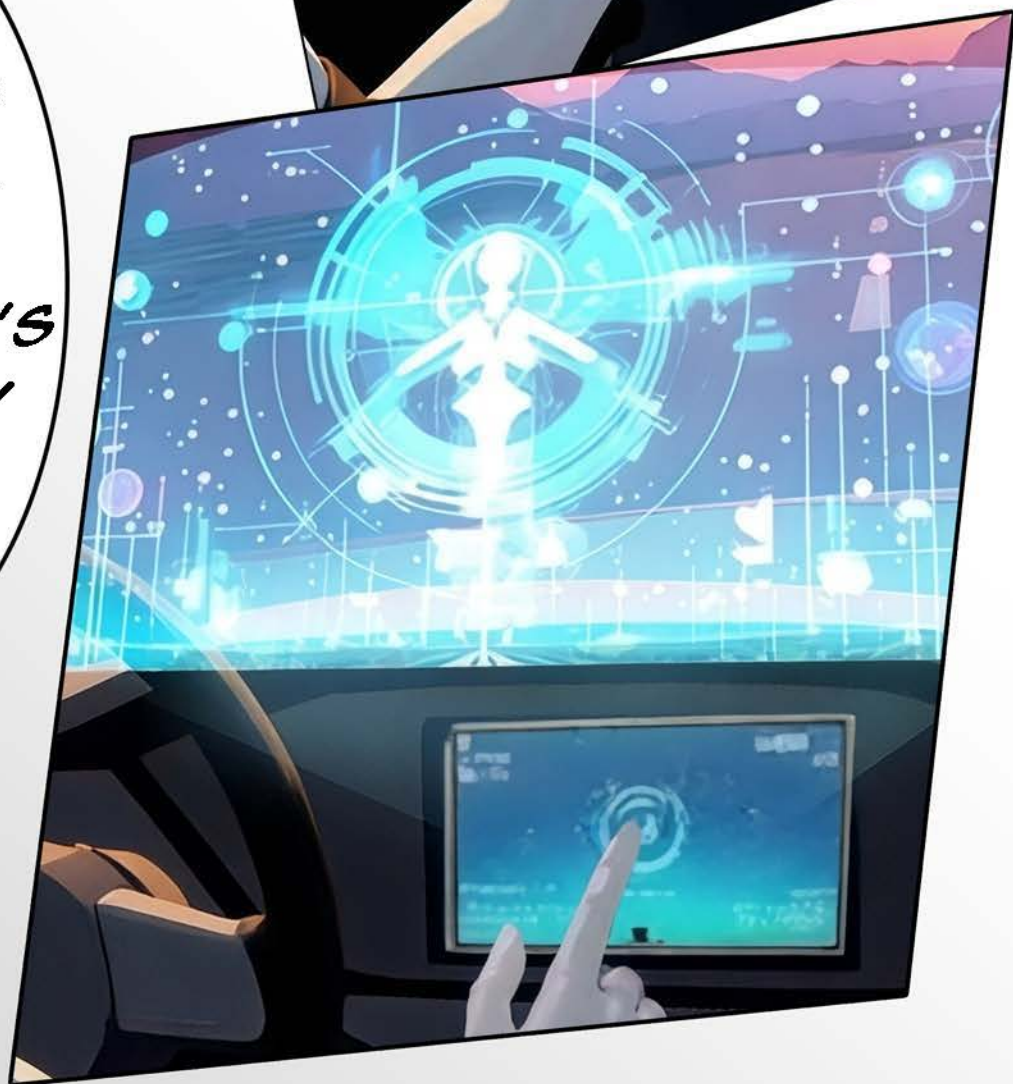
A close-up of Hina's eyes, which are wide open and looking directly forward. Her eyes are a bright blue color with a dark, swirling pattern in the center of each iris. Her light blue hair is visible at the top and sides of the frame.

**"AKIO!
BE READY—"**

HINA OVER COMMS,



"ENERGY
READINGS
... FAINT ...,
BUT
SOMETHING'S
DEFINITELY
HERE."



A LOW GROWL RUMBLES IN THE SILENCE. TENKO TENSES, MUSCLES TWITCHING.



growl



growl



"TENKO'S
ALERT.
TOO ALERT."



"WHEN
HE GETS
LIKE THIS...
SOMETHING'S
CLOSE."



AKIO'S FINGERS TIGHTEN ON THE CONTROLS."



THE ANCIENT RUINS ARE NOW WITHIN SIGHT—AN OMINOUS PRESENCE.





"TCH..
NO
POWER,

NO
ETHERIAL
ENERGY"...

SLAM!!!



SCAN FAILED



FINE,
WE DO
THIS
THE
OLD WAY!!!



CLAK!!



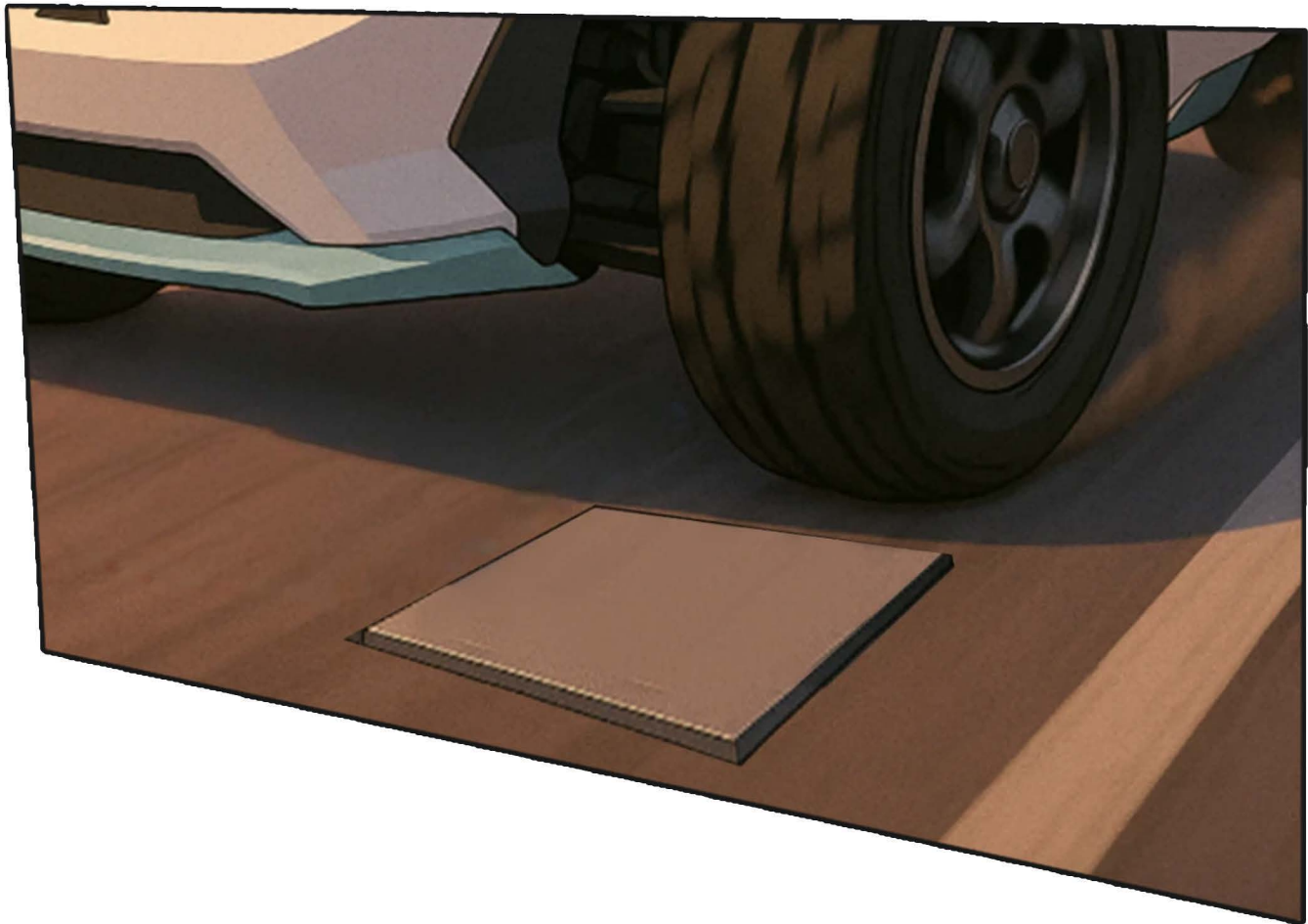
HERE
I
COME!
AETHERION
EXO!!

CHAPTER 2

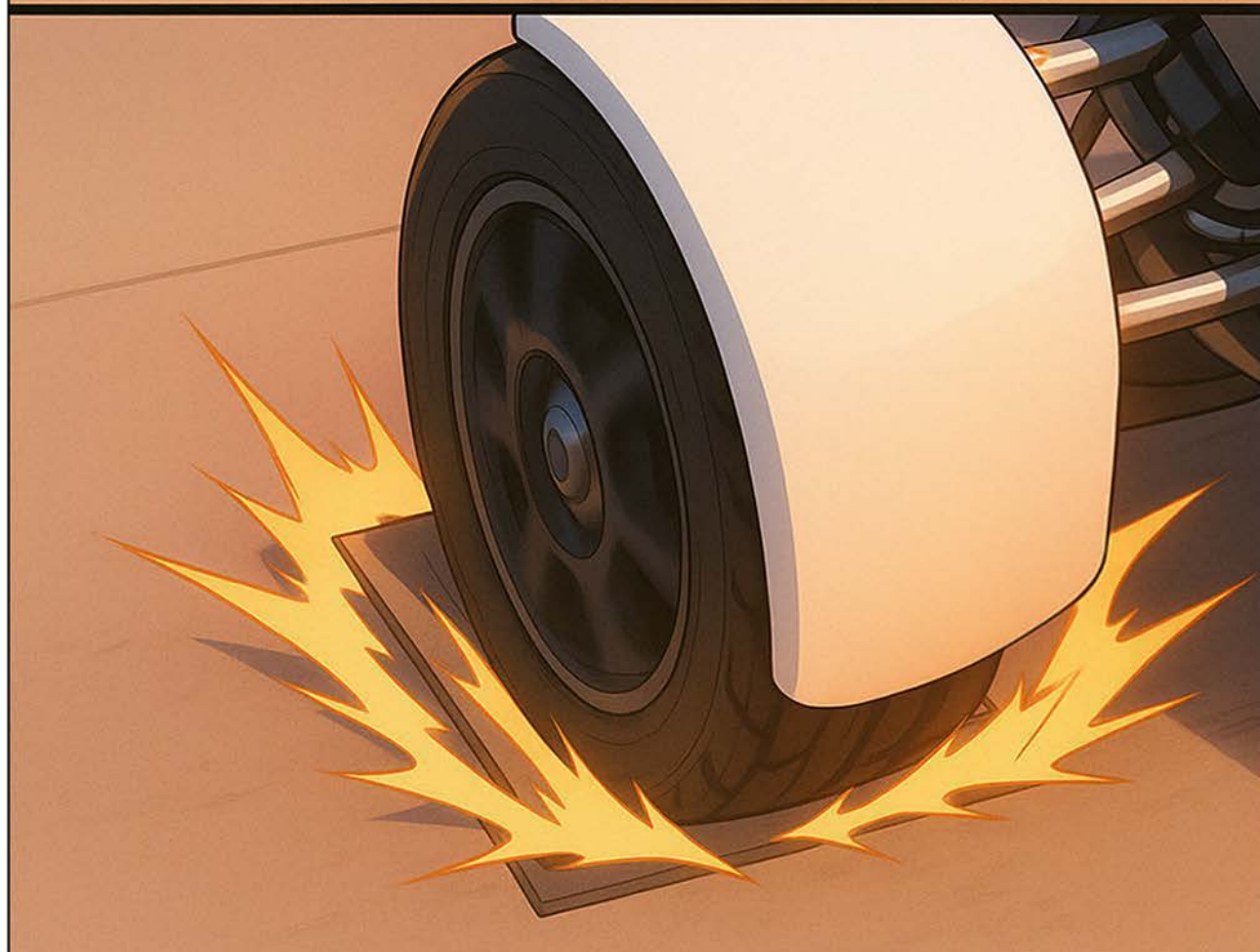
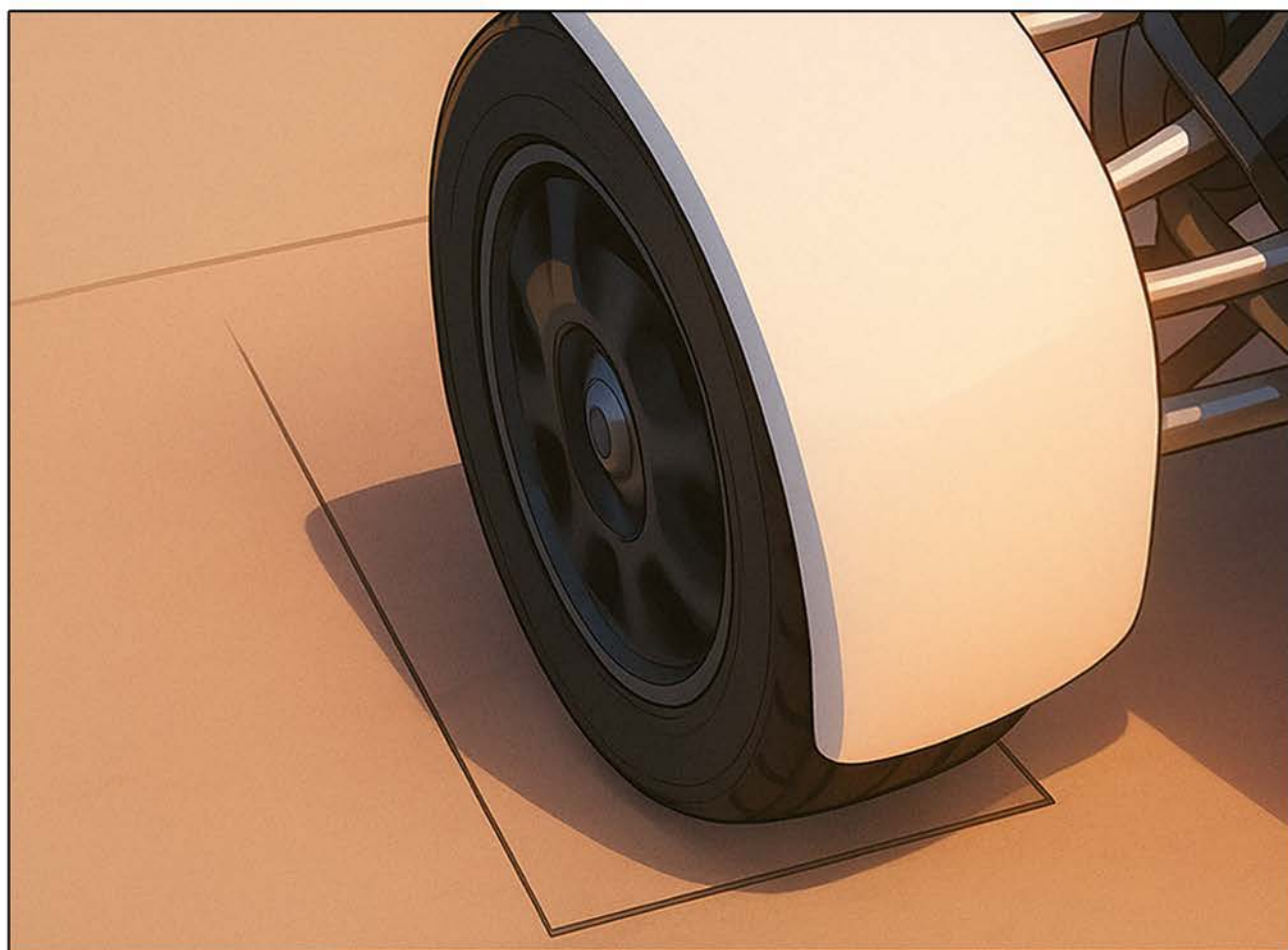
THE TRAPS AND PIT FALLS...

AS THEY APPROACH THE ANCIENT RUINS





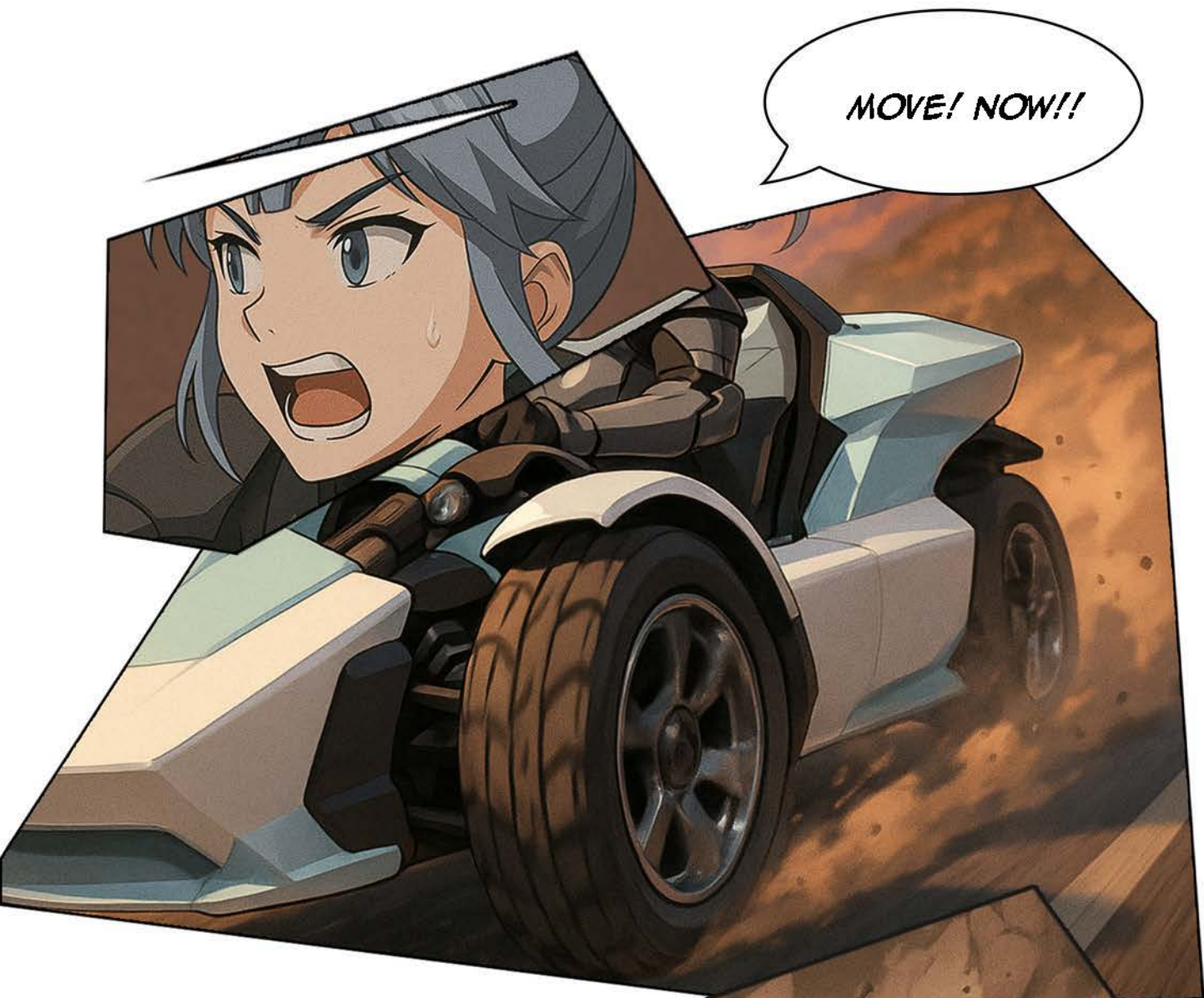
A HIDDEN PRESSURE PLATE CLICKS BENEATH HINA'S VEHICLE





**HINA !!
THE
GROUND,
WATCH
OUT!!**



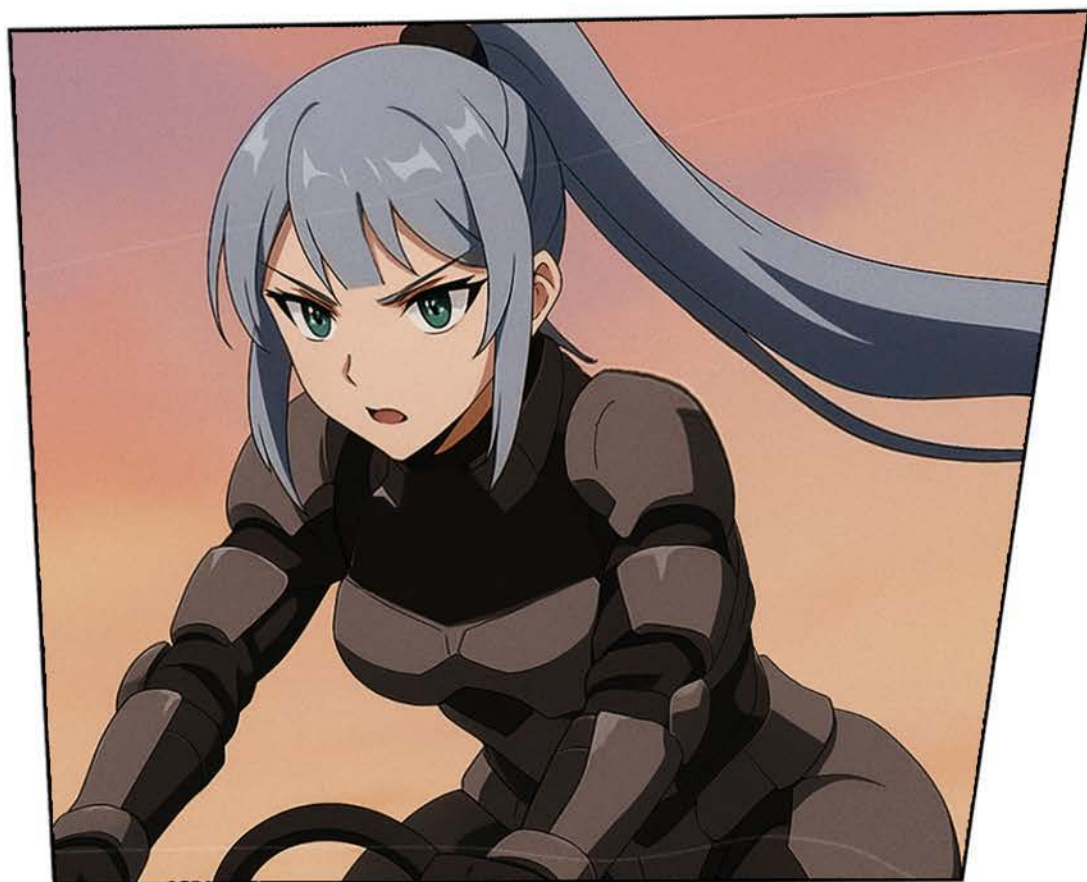




THUD-CRACK!!



**HINA SLAMS ON THE BRAKES AND JUMPS CLEAR
JUST AS THE STONE BENEATH HER CRUMBLES.**

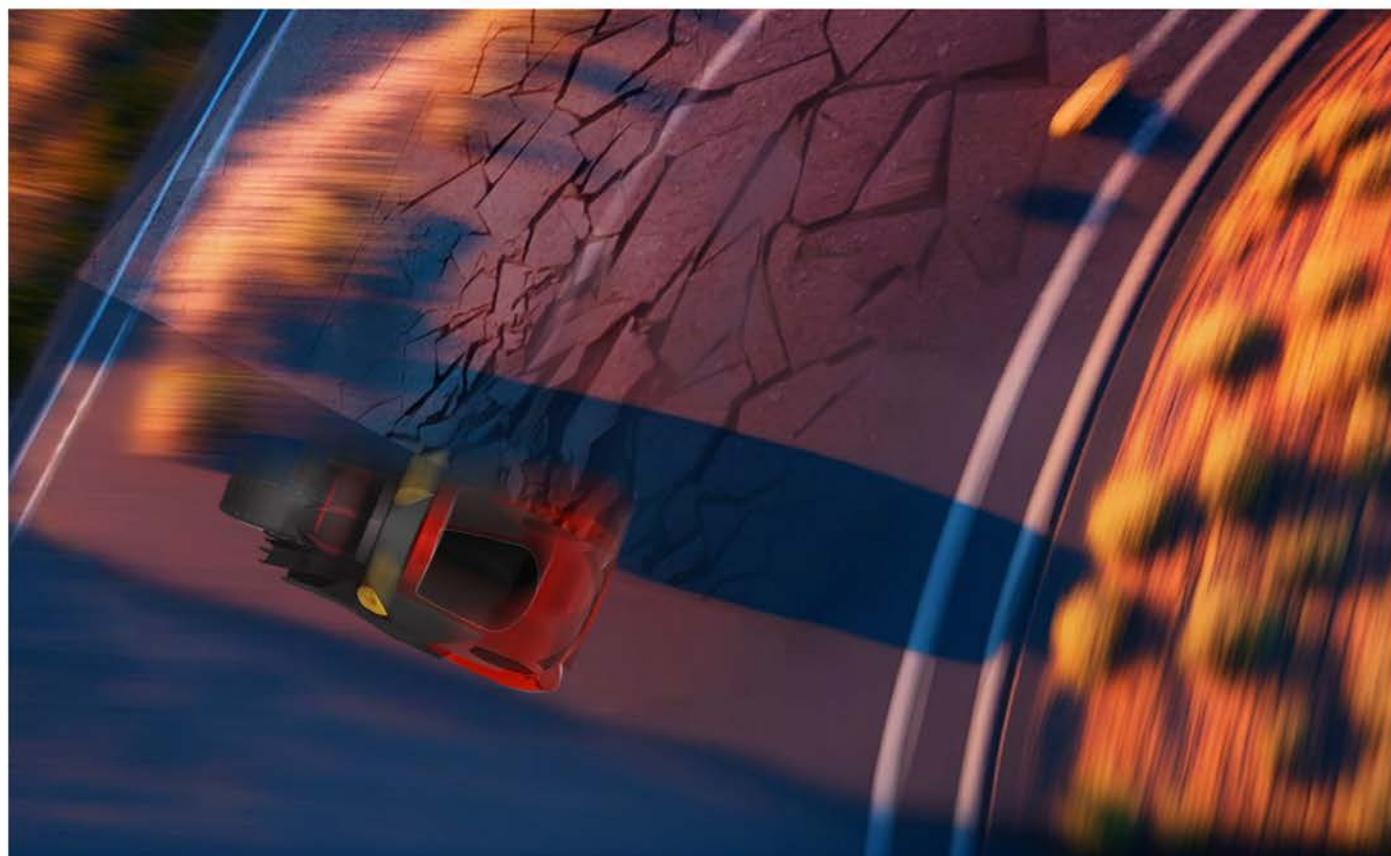


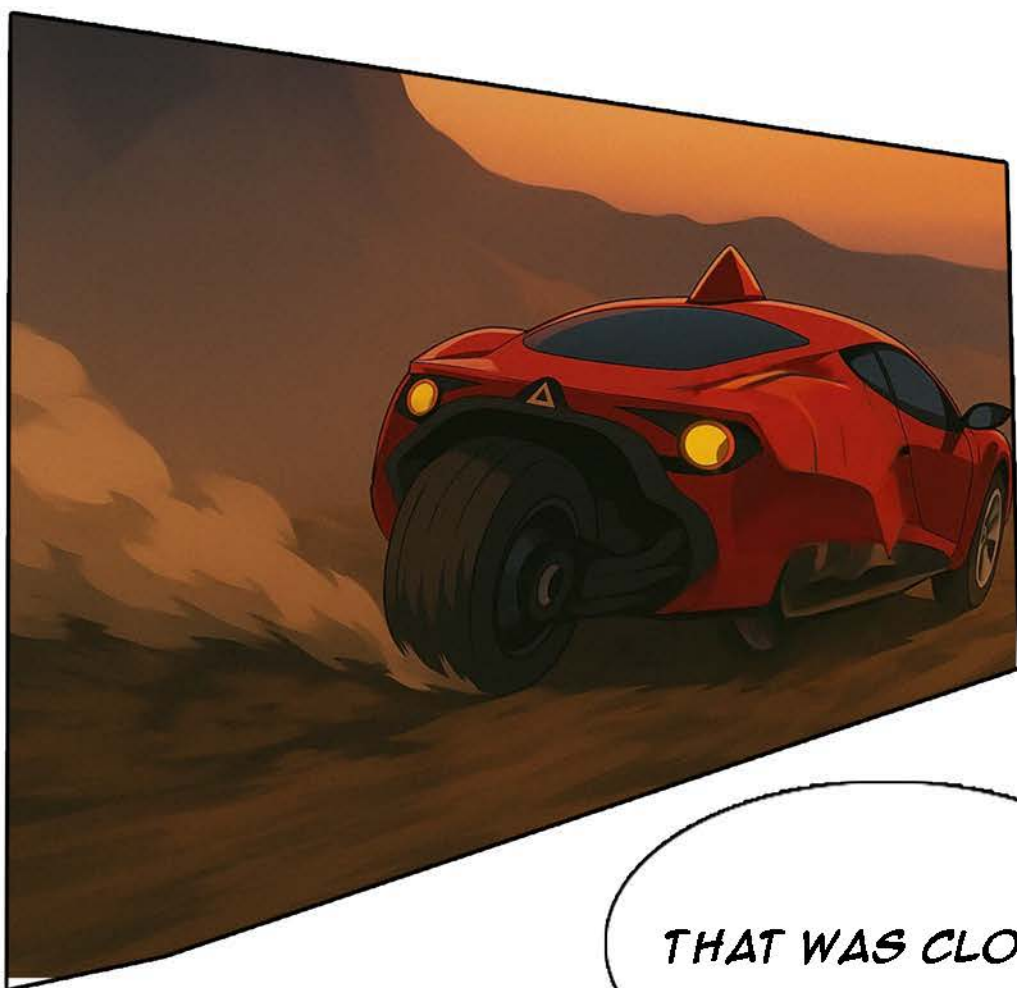


TENKO SKIDS TO A HALT.
HIS EARS TWITCH.
HE GROWLS—LOW,
UNSETTLED. PACING. AGITATED.



SKRRREE-KSSHH!!





THAT WAS CLOSE!



THEY MOVE IN SLOWLY. JUST AHEAD—



AT THE HEART OF THE RUINS... A PIT YAWNS OPEN BEFORE THEM.



WIDE, DEEP, GLOWING WITH BLUE RUNES PULSING FAINT LIGHT.

WHAT...
IS
THIS
PLACE?

SOME
KIND OF ETHEREAL
SUPPRESSION FIELD.
IT'S
DESIGNED
TO
SCRAMBLE
ANYTHING HIGH-TECH...

...BUT
WE'RE
STILL
RUNNING
STRONG.

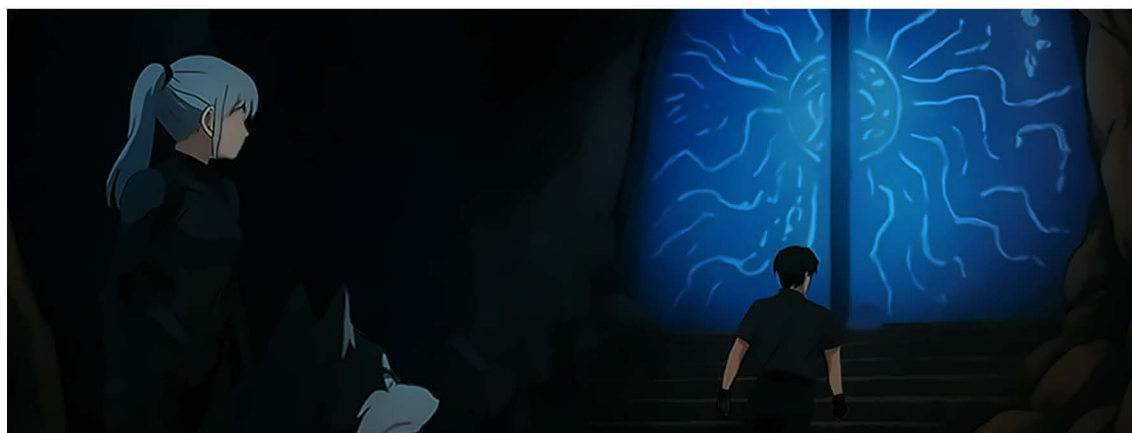
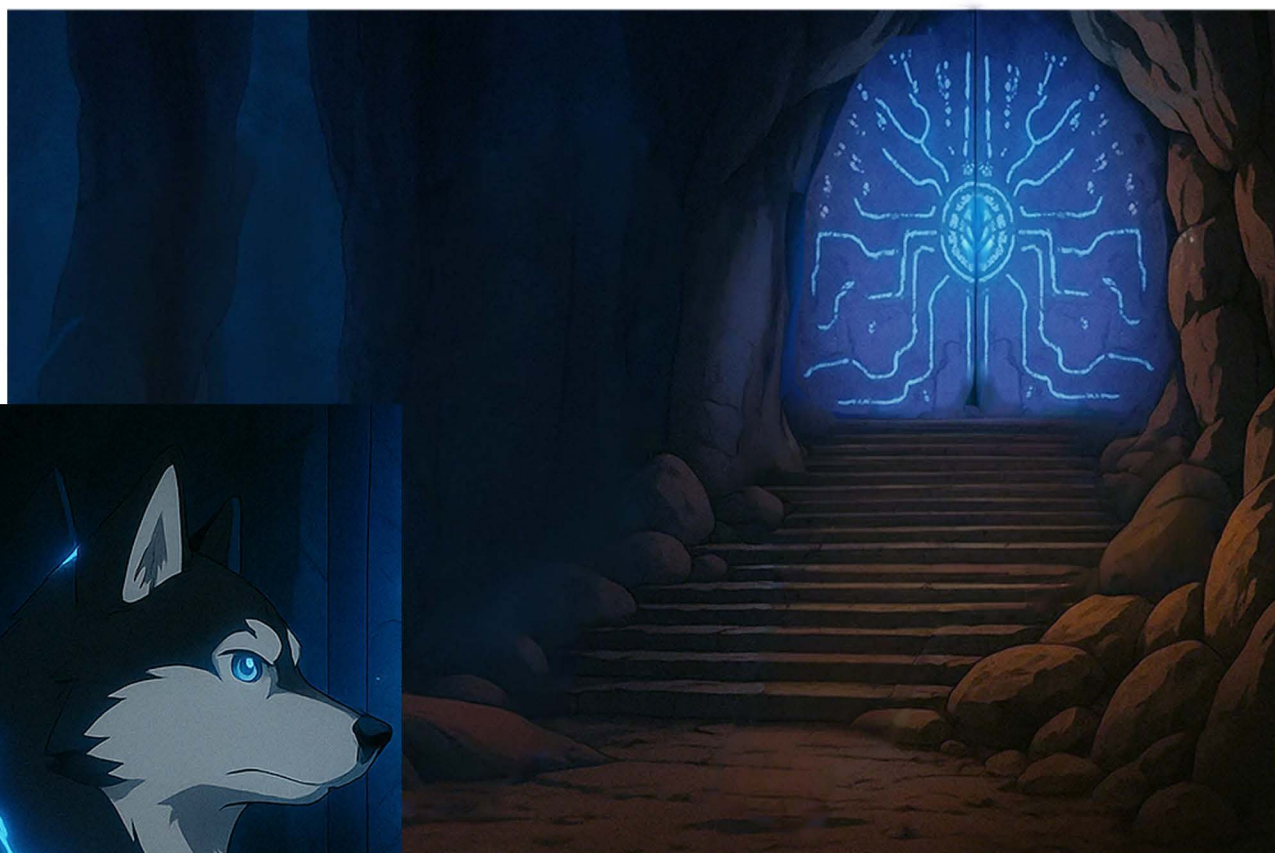




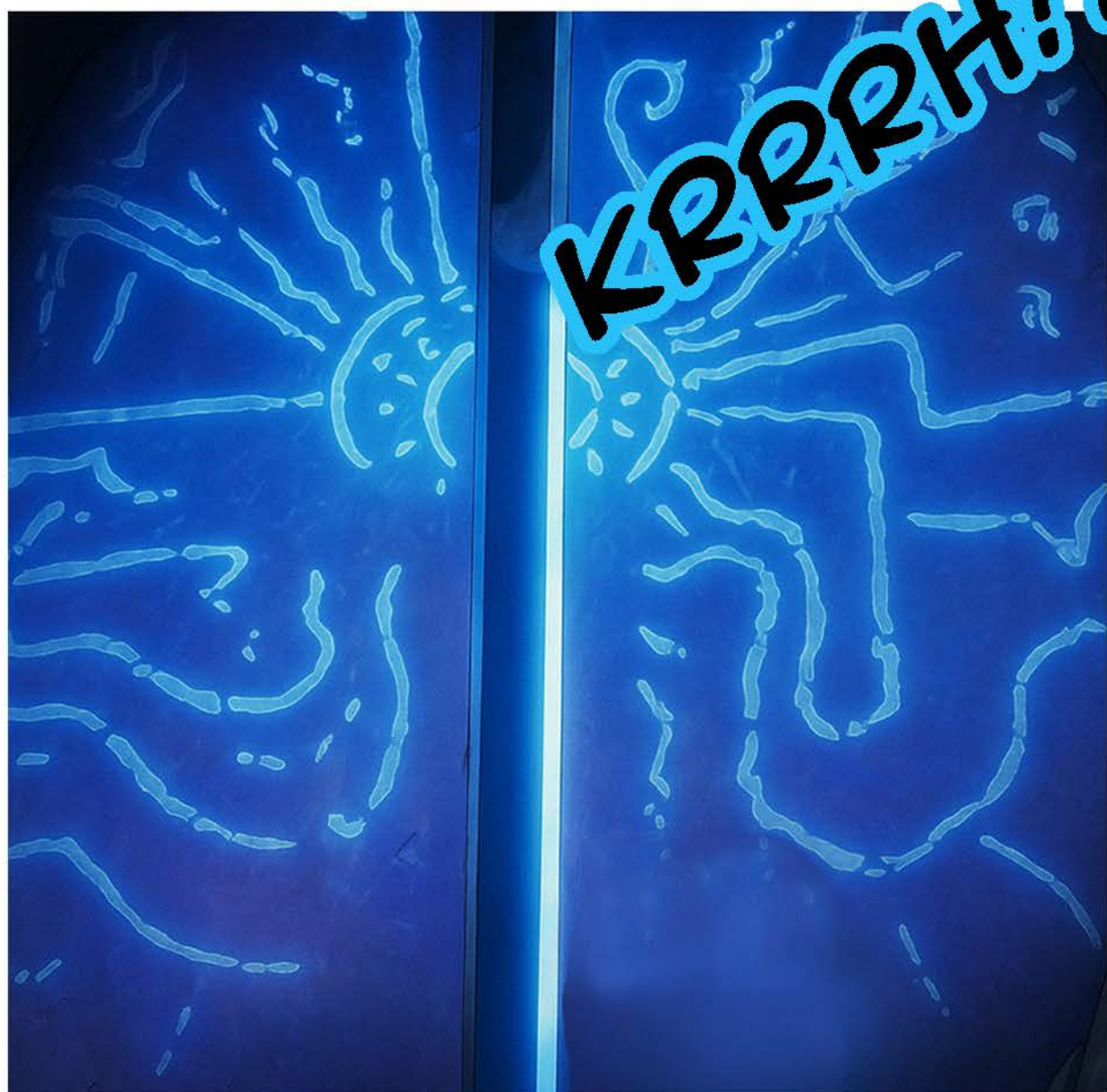
THEY STEP CAUTIOUSLY INTO THE RUINS...











INSIDE: MECHANICAL BEASTS—STONE AND MAGIC, DORMANT—BEGIN TO STIR



RUNES ACROSS THEIR BODIES FLICKER TO LIFE.



VRRRRMMMMM...



KRAAHHHHH!!



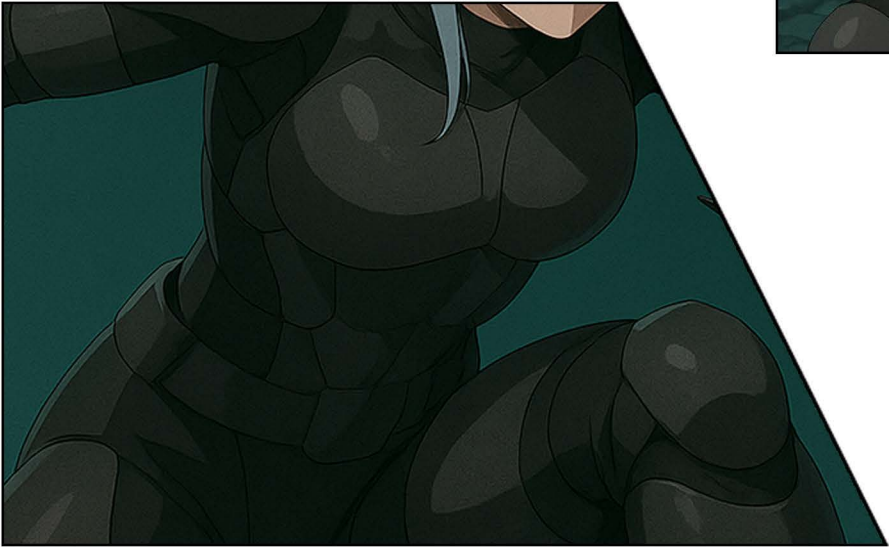
LOOKS
LIKE
WE'RE
NOT
ALONE
IN
HERE...

CHAPTER 3

THE GUARDIANS AWAKEN: VEHICLES AS WEAPONS

INSTOPPABLE FORCES AWAKEN.







NO TECH,
NO POWERS...
BUT
THE VEHICLES
SHOULD STILL
WORK...
THEY'RE DIFFERENT."







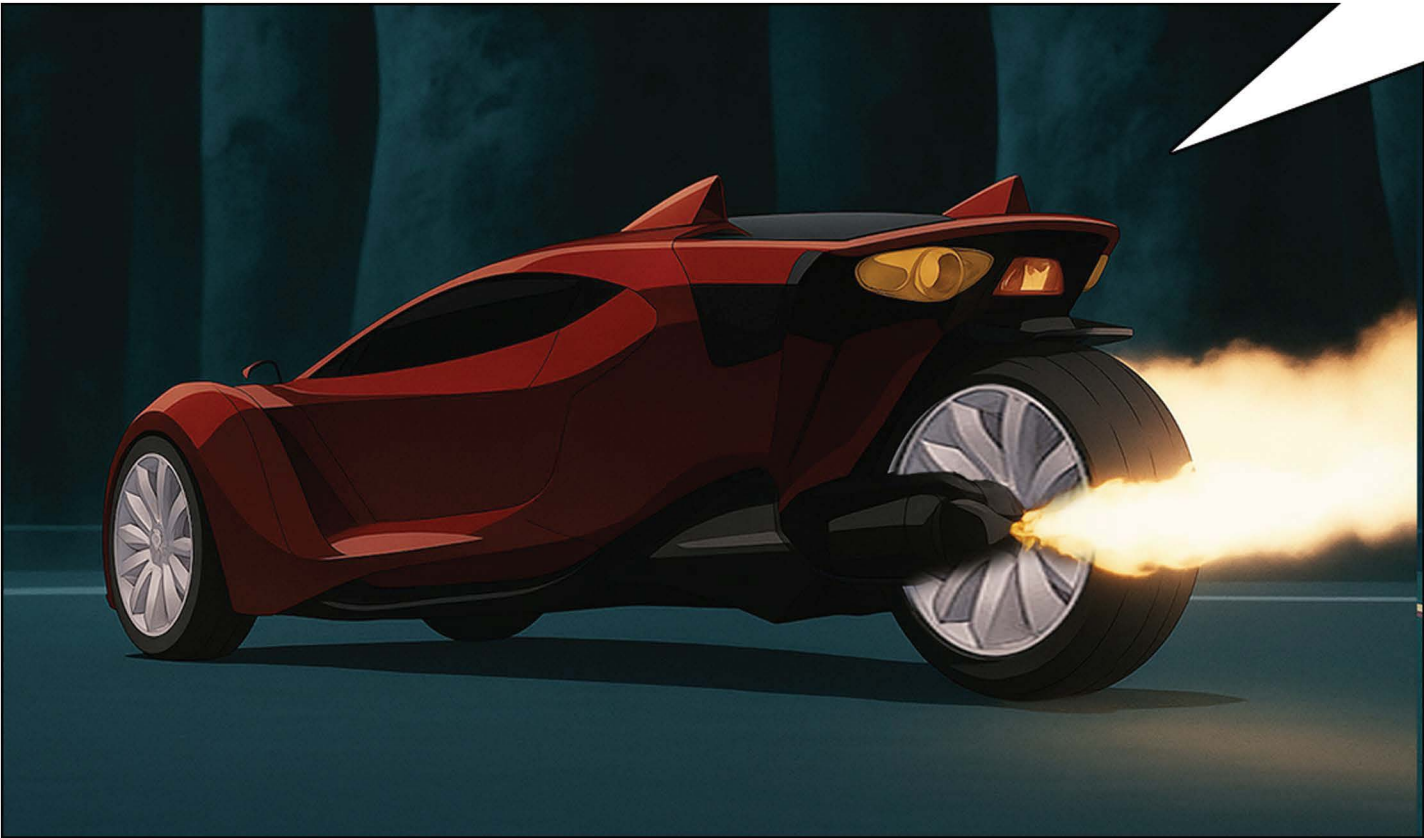
"BZWWRRMMM!!!"

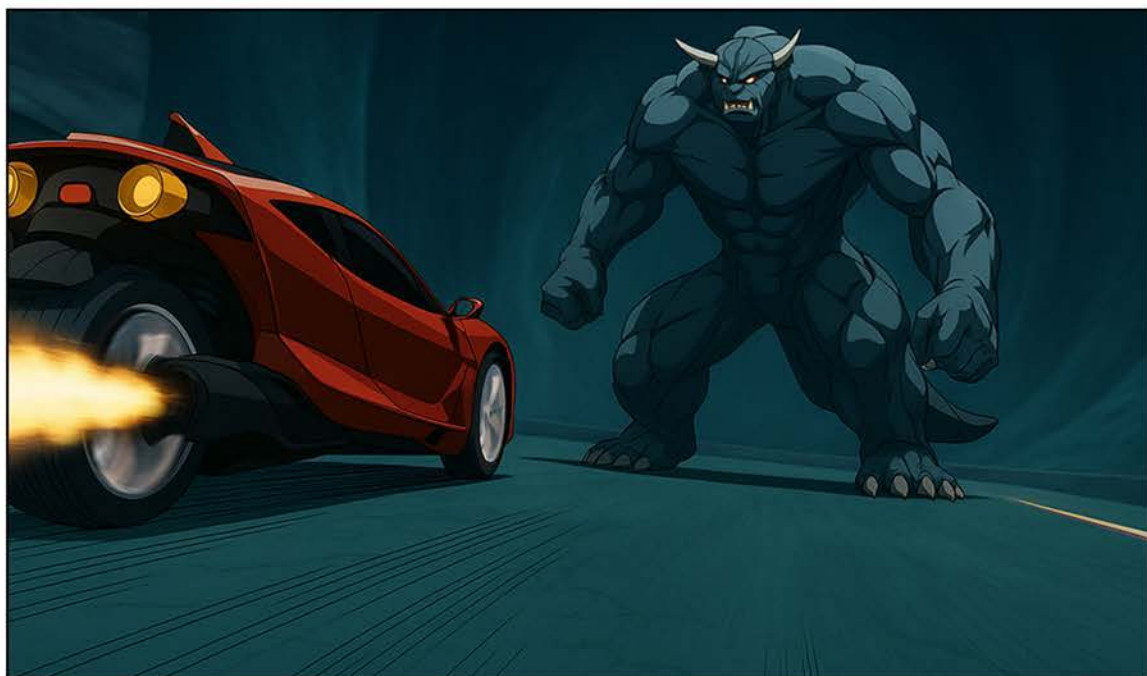




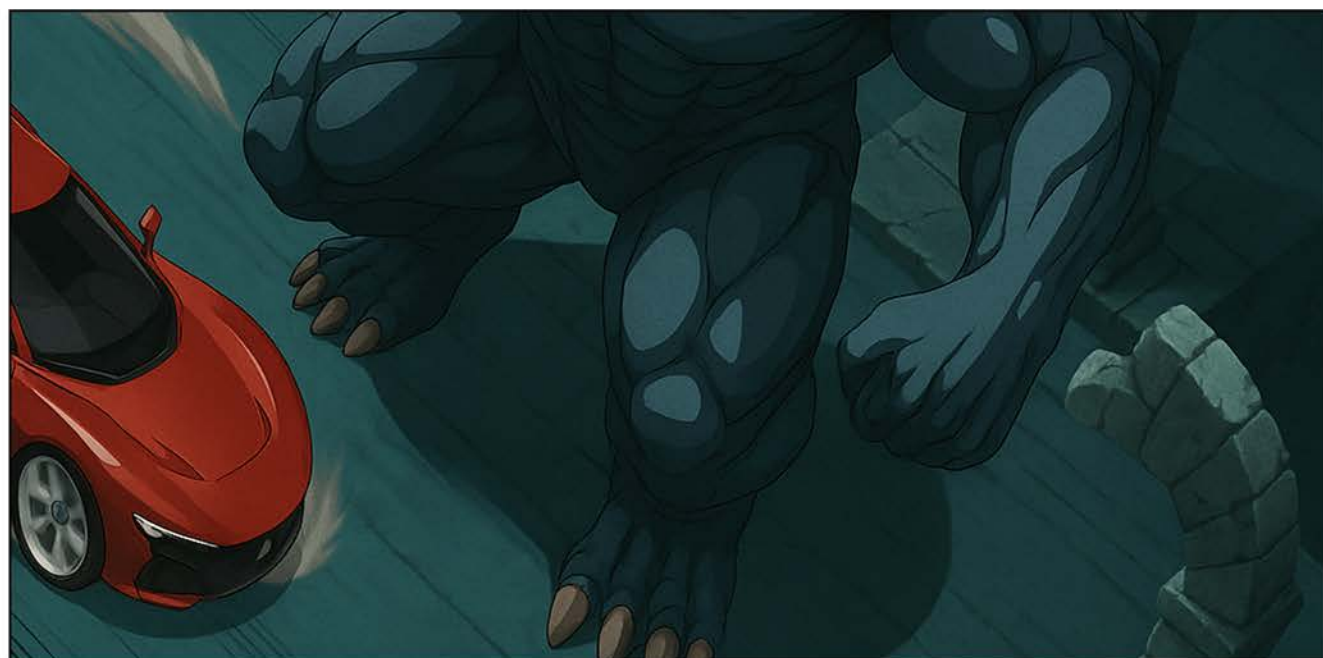
LET'S MOVE.

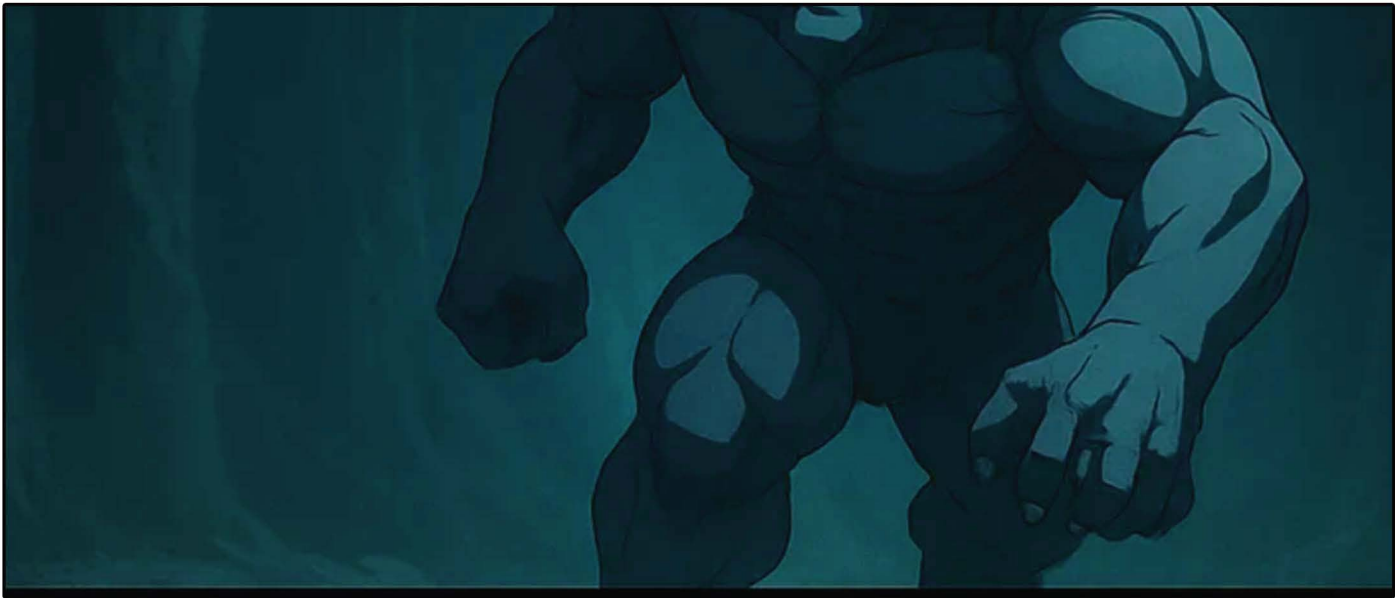


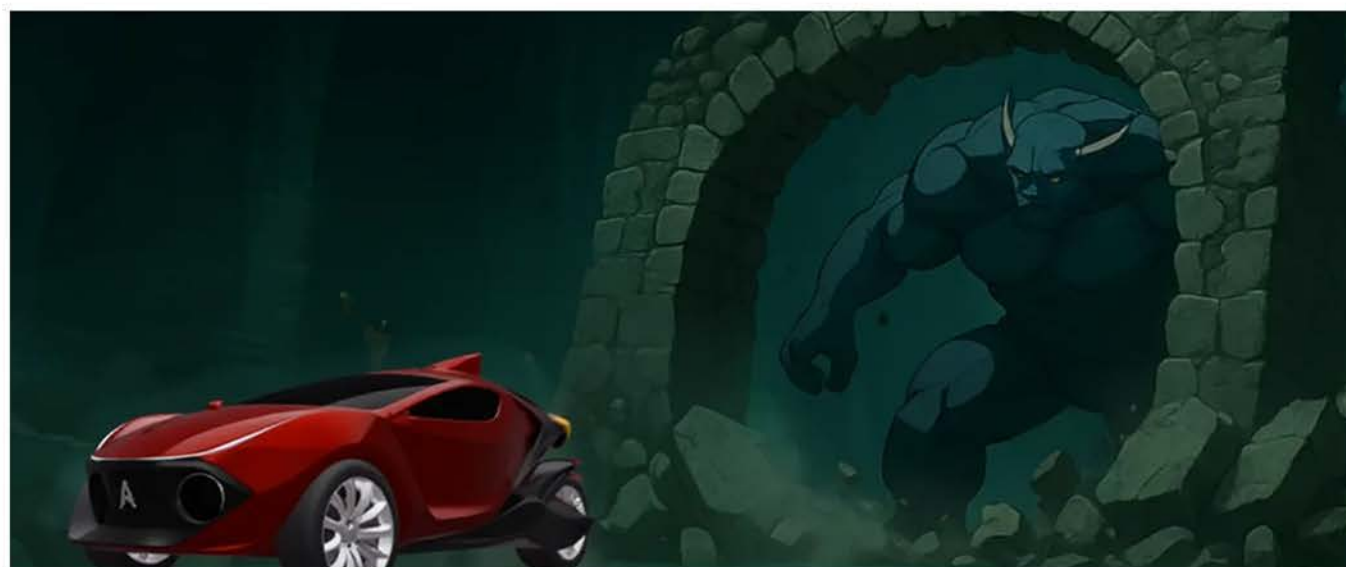




DRIFT. DODGE. WEAVE









THE BEAST'S SAVAGE STRENGTH...
CRUSHED UNDER THE MERCILESS COLLAPSE!



EVASIVE MANELIVERS...NO ROOM TO BREATHE!









"OFF-ROAD MODE ENGAGED!
ADAPT AND STRIKE!"

"CLICK"

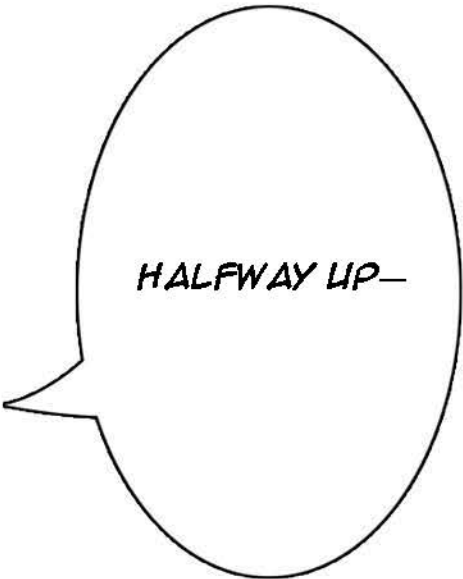




THE BIKE BLASTS TOWARD THE CREATURE,
AND TENKO MENTALLY DIRECTS IT UP A ROCKY INCLINE."



TENKO PUSHES FORWARD, GUIDING THE BIKE'S ADAPTIVE TIRES



THE BIKE LURCHES FORWARD,
SLAMMING INTO A BRITTLE RIDGE ABOVE THE BEAST





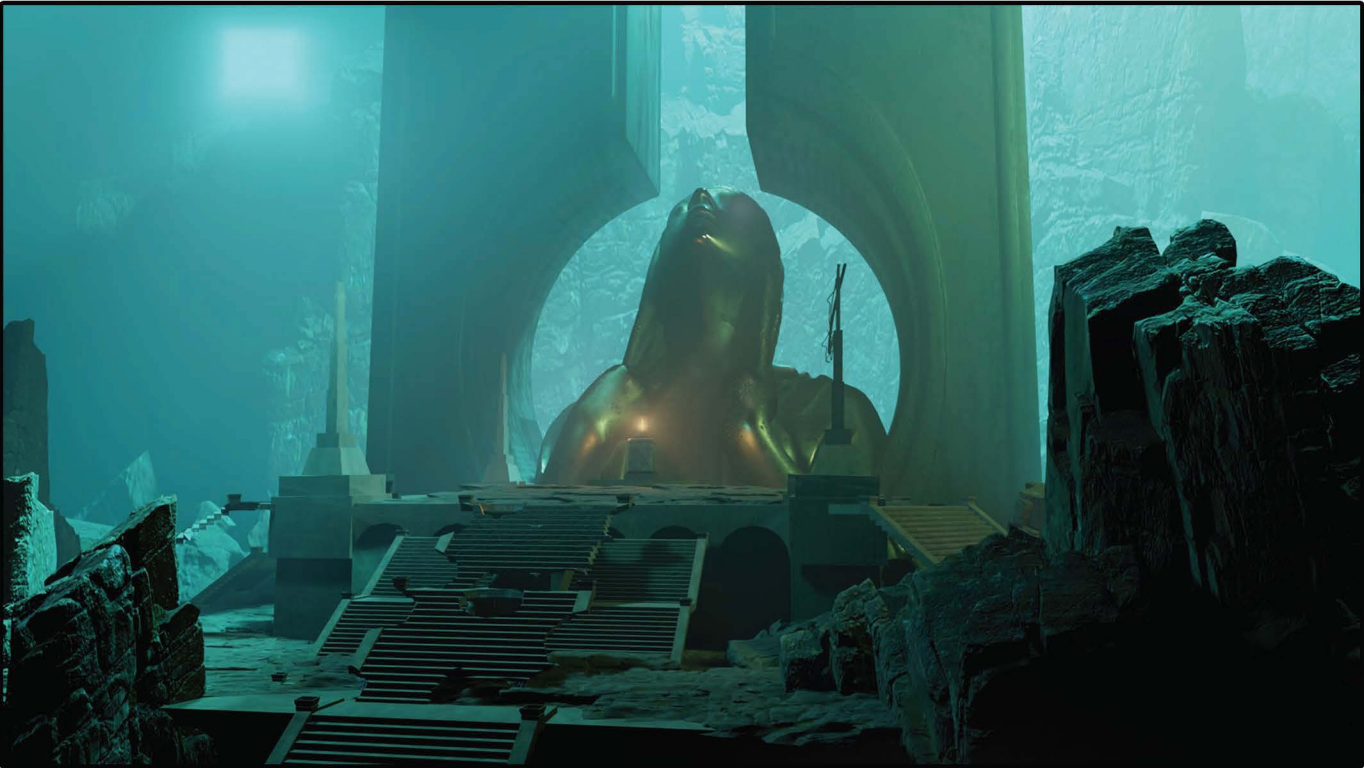
AN AVALANCHE OF DEBRIS CRUSHES DOWN, BURYING THE CREATURE UNDER TONS OF ROCK."



THAT'S
WHY
I
LIKE
THE
CLASSICS!

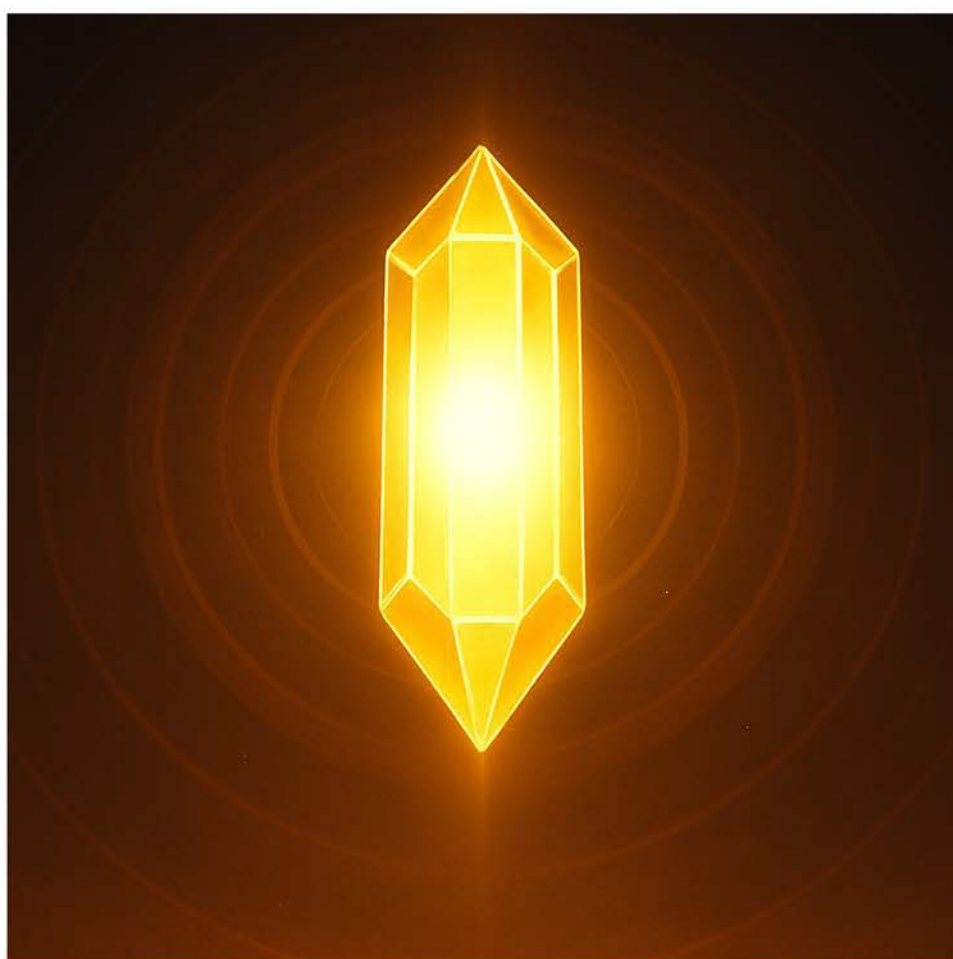
CHAPTER 4

THE FIRST FRAGMENT





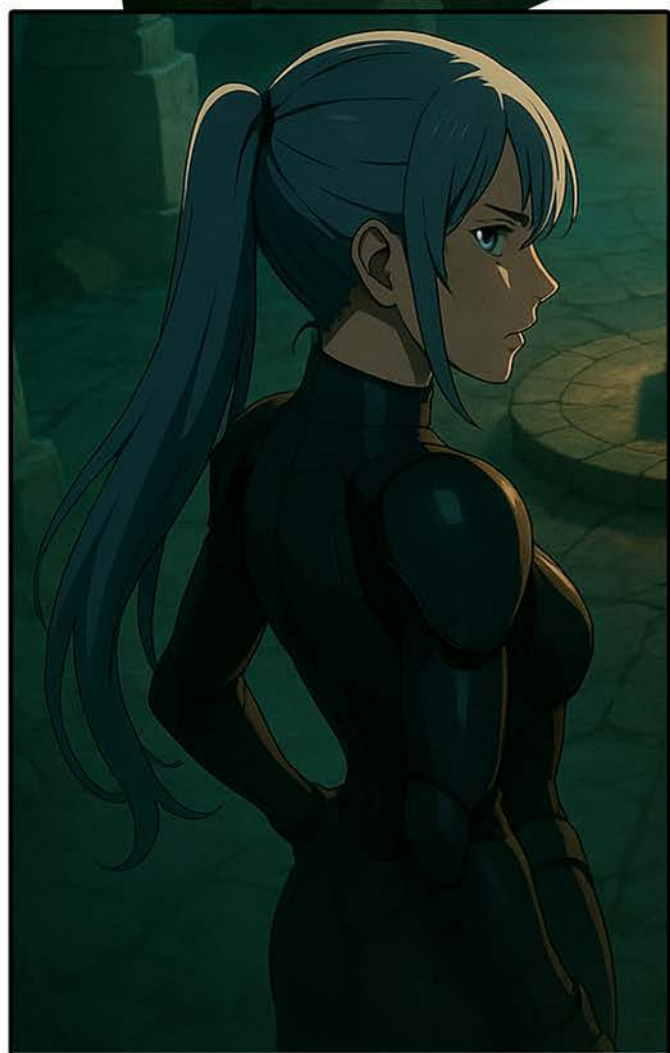
A CRYSTALLINE CORE HOVERS—ITS LIGHT PULSING LIKE A HEARTBEAT.







"THIS...
THIS IS IT."





KRRNNN THUD

"THE SKY RUMBLES AND DARKENS..."







***DRAWN TO THE FRAGMENT'S ENERGY...
A SWARM OF ZALAXIAN BIO- DRONES DESCENDS***





FWOOOOOSH!!





THE TEMPLE BEGINS TO COLLAPSE.





"INCOMING!!"



CHAPTER 5

THE AETHERION SKYRIDER

THE FIRST WAVE DESCENDS.

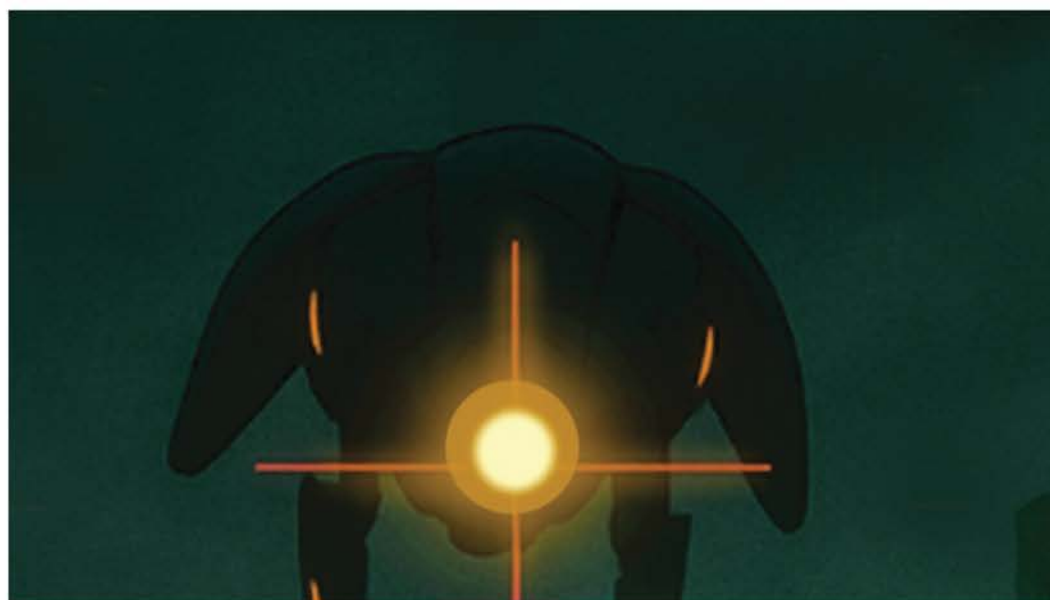


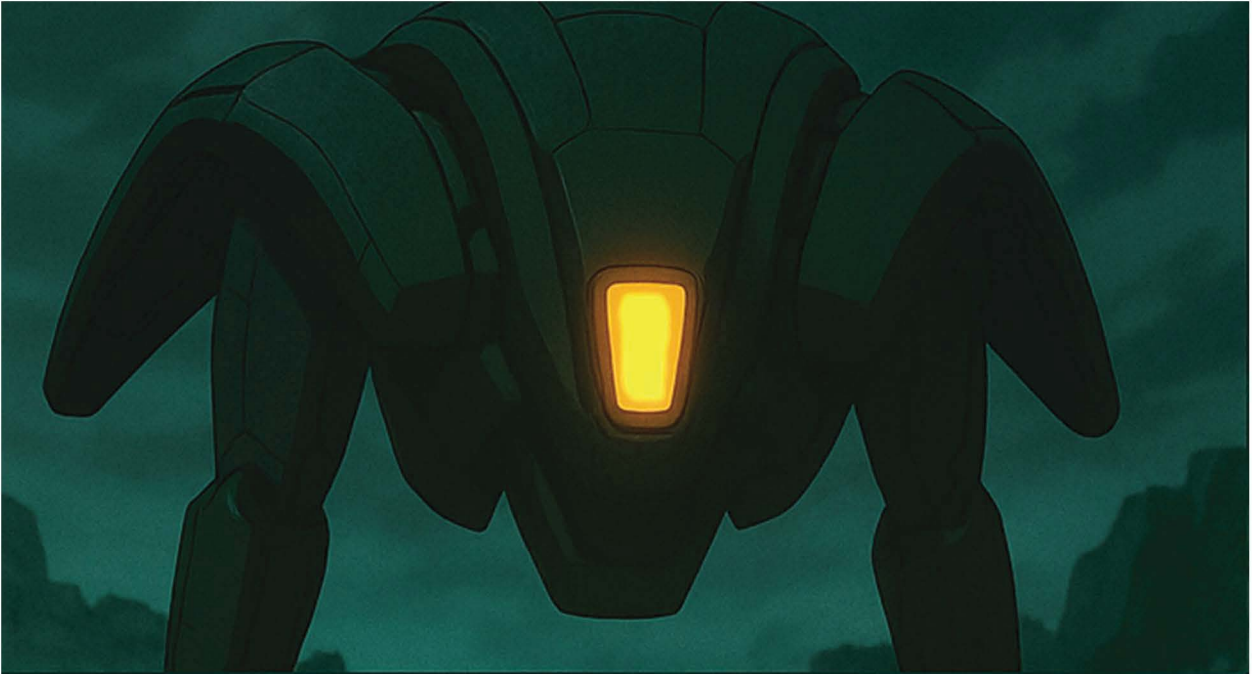
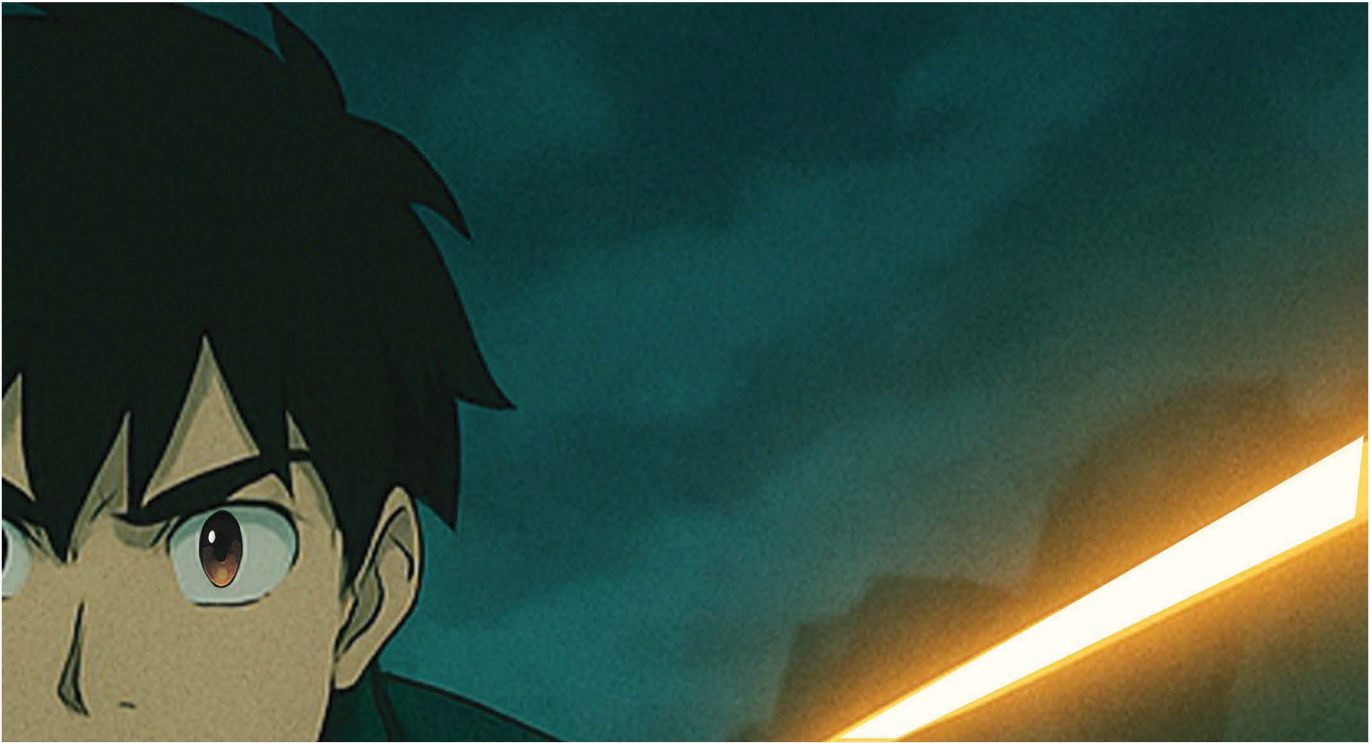
"WE'RE
SURROUNDED—"

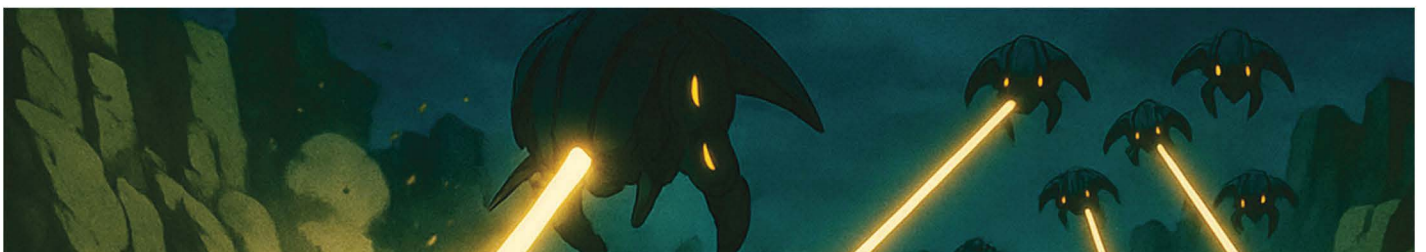


A MASSIVE DRONE TARGETS AKIO.



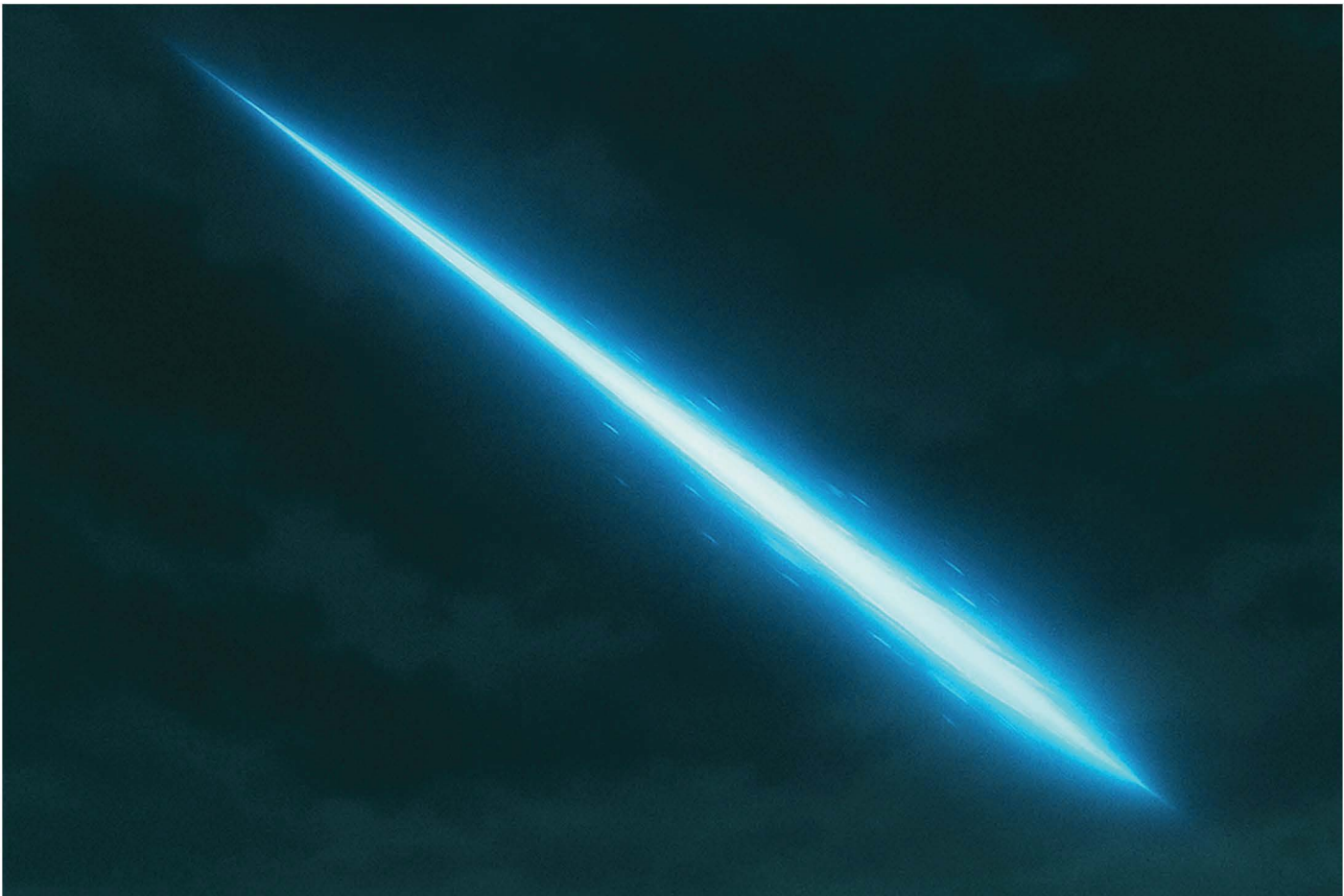














THE SKYRIDER ENTERS THE FRAY.

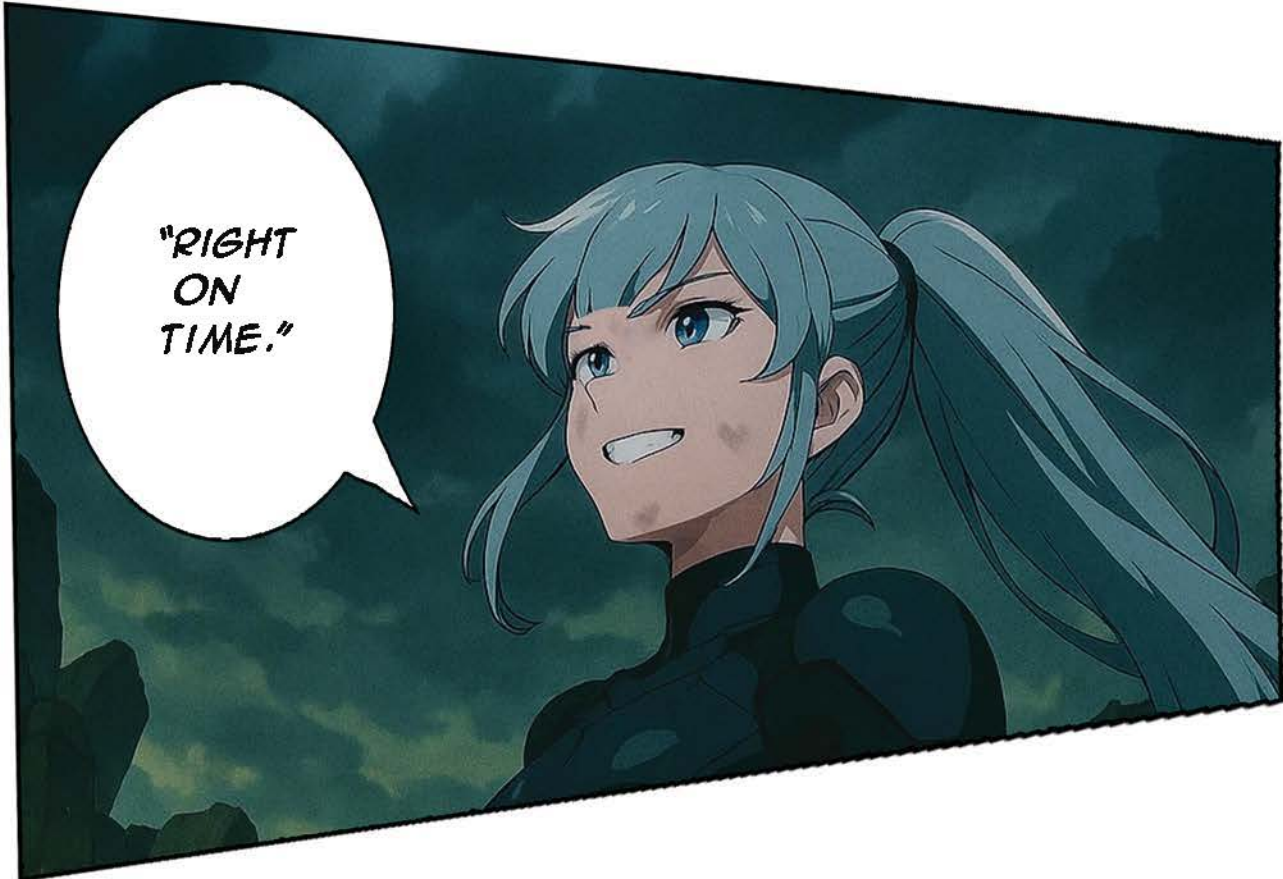
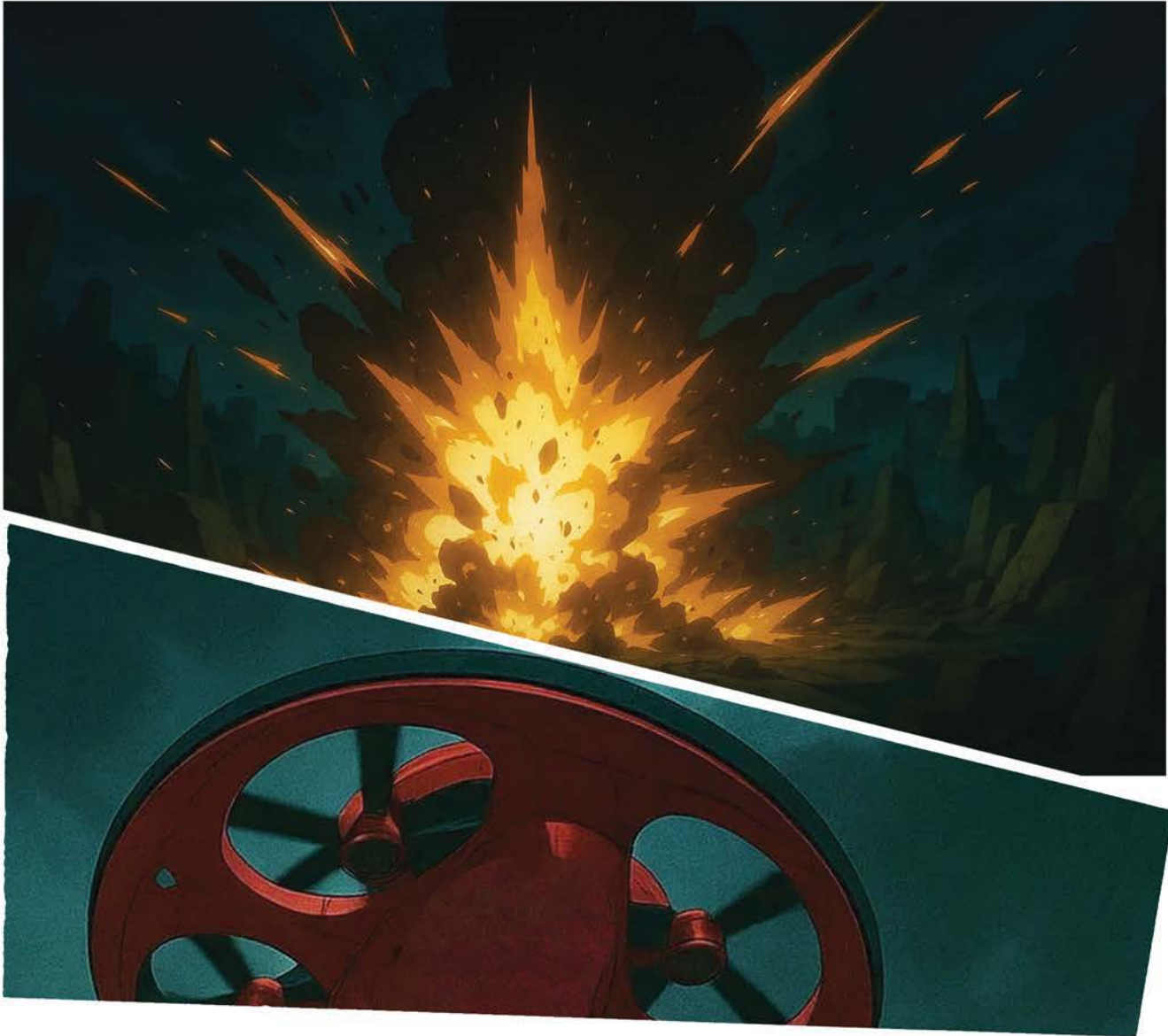




ZZZZTTT-KRAKKK!!



A BURST OF FLAME AND METAL.



"RIGHT
ON
TIME."

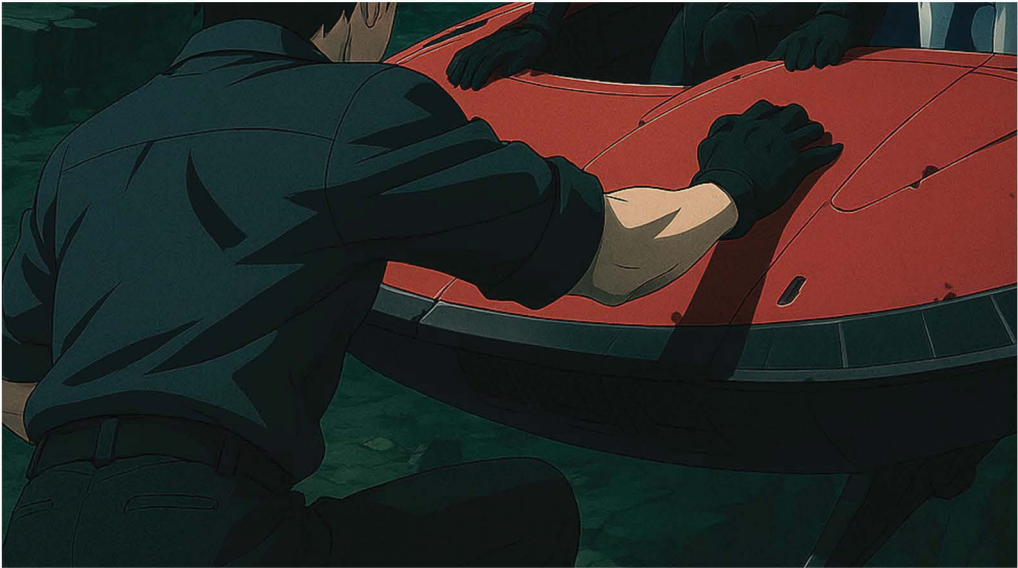


"IF
WE
HAD COME HERE
AT FULL
POWER...
IT
WOULD'VE BEEN
A DEATH TRAP."



"LUCKY US."









NOW, PREDATORS BECOME PREY.



THE
HUNT
BEGINS.



BOOM!!



BOOM!!

EPILOGUE -

"THE FIRST SPARK"



**ONCE LOST TO THE GALAXY'S EYES...
NOW HUNTED BY FORCES THAT WON'T REST.**

AKIO HOLDS THE FIRST FRAGMENT—
A SPARK OF HOPE AND A BEACON OF PERIL.

**THE SEARCH IS ON. THE STAKES ARE HIGHER THAN EVER.
AND THIS RELUCTANT WARRIOR MUST RISE ,
OR FALL BENEATH THE DARKNESS CHASING HIM.**



ONE PIECE DOWN.
COUNTLESS MORE
TO
GO.
BUT THE AETHERION
DOESN'T
JUST AWAKEN
POWER...
IT
AWAKENS
EVERYTHING.



WE
WEREN'T
READY.
NOT FOR
WHAT WE FOUND...
...AND DEFINITELY
NOT
FOR WHAT
FOUND US.





LET THEM CHASE FRAGMENTS.
EACH ONE ONLY BRINGS THEM CLOSER... TO ME.