



# THE REVIVAL

CHAPTER 5  
HOMECOMING

# THE REVIVAL

Ego has gone mad.

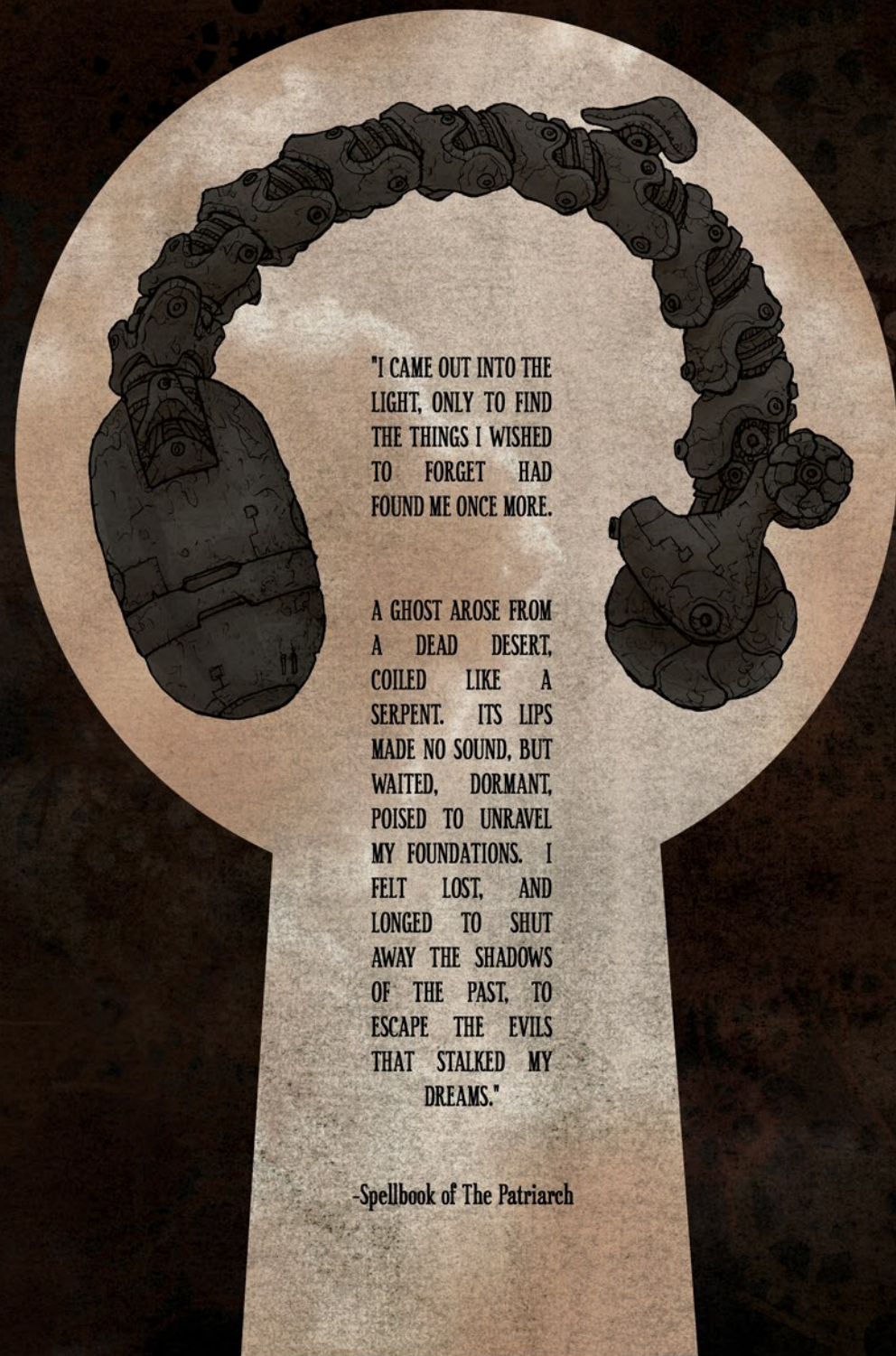
The blue pygmy, leader of the industrial complex known as The Engine, has laid waste to the world in pursuit of power. But he won't rest at complete control of the lands. In his metal tower, something else drives him. Something sinister.

The only ones left to oppose him are a handful of survivors from the war, led by a stalwart woman they call Red. No longer content with merely scraping by, they now aim to put a stop to Ego's madness before it chokes out their very breath.

They are The Revival, and they're in for one *berry* rough day.

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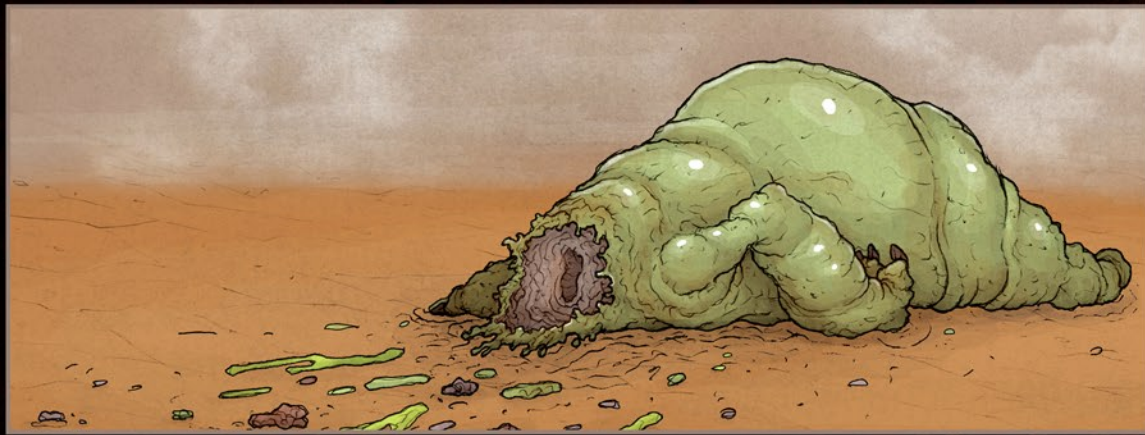


"I CAME OUT INTO THE  
LIGHT, ONLY TO FIND  
THE THINGS I WISHED  
TO FORGET HAD  
FOUND ME ONCE MORE.

A GHOST AROSE FROM  
A DEAD DESERT,  
COILED LIKE A  
SERPENT. ITS LIPS  
MADE NO SOUND, BUT  
WAITED, DORMANT,  
POISED TO UNRAVEL  
MY FOUNDATIONS. I  
FELT LOST, AND  
LONGED TO SHUT  
AWAY THE SHADOWS  
OF THE PAST, TO  
ESCAPE THE EVILS  
THAT STALKED MY  
DREAMS."

-Spellbook of The Patriarch

CHAPTER FIVE  
HOMECOMING



HOW MANY?

TWO THAT I CAN SEE. SMELLS LIKE THERE COULD B'MORE NEARBY.



I KNEW W'SHOULDA COME BACK DIF'RENT WAY.



THIS ISN'T GOOD. THEY USUALLY DON'T PATROL THIS FAR SOUTH.

I'VE SEEN THOSE UNIFORMS B'FORE. THEY'RE PART OF AN EXCAVATION UNIT.

SO THERE COULD BE MORE AROUND. WE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET PAST THEM WITHOUT BEING SEEN. NOT WITH THE CART.



TO HELL WITH THIS. I'LL GET 'EM.

NO. NO GUNS. WE HAVE TO DO IT QUIETLY.



OOOH! OOH! TEACHER, PICK ME!



NO, RAINBOW. THIS ISN'T A GAME. WE CAN'T GET NOTICED, ESPECIALLY IF THERE'S A LARGER GROUP NEARBY.



PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE!!! I'VE BEEN LUGGING THIS STUPID CART AROUND FOR A WHOLE STUPID ISSUE! PLEASE LET ME KILL SOMETHING!



CAN YOU DO IT QUIETLY?

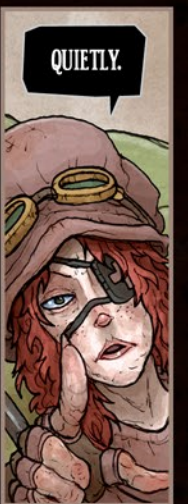
IF YOU GIVE ME A QUIET WEAPON.



SHINK



DURSH



QUIETLY.



specimen is of a species un-  
documented in our logs. shows  
trace amounts of radiation.

specimen is the possible result of a  
nuclear mutation. more tests are  
required. preparing to acquire a sample.



CRITCH



IT SLICES! IT DICES! CUTS CABBAGE WITH EASE!



MORE...



...MORE? WHAT IF I INCLUDE THE  
POTATO PEELER AND THE MATCHING  
CLEAVER FOR FREE?



...AND IF YOU ACT NOW, I'LL THROW IN  
WHATEVER THE HELL THIS THING IS!  
NOW HOW MUCH WOULD YOU PAY?

WHAT IS SHE  
TALKING  
ABOUT?

CALL THE  
POLICE!



two hostiles detected.  
eliminate them.

URK!

TOUGH CROWD...



WHY YOU STABBIN'  
YOURSELF?



CATCH,  
BOSS!





MAY I HAVE THIS DANCE?

CLICK



C'MON! RING AROUND THE ROSIE!

ASHES, ASHES...



...WELL, YOU KNOW THE REST.

THAT COULD HAVE BEEN QUIETER.



IMPRESSIVE.

WE'RE CLEAR.

PESSIMIST, GRAB THE BODIES. WE CAN'T LEAVE ANY TRACE THAT WE WERE HERE.

WHADDYA WANT ME TO DO, BURY THEM?



NOT EXACTLY.



CLEVER.

WILL IT WORK?

HOPEFULLY. WE'VE EVADED DETECTION SO FAR, AND I WANT TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.



Unfortunately, not all of their battles are so easy to cover up.



A DYNAMITE HUSK. MUTANTS ARE NOT KNOWN TO USE EXPLOSIVES.



sir, these are the two rifles found in the bunker. the bullets in their magazines match those found in our soldiers inside.



INTERESTING.



At last, a familiar shape comes over the horizon. A welcomed sight for weary travelers.



NEARLY THERE.



THE VERY CLOUD MOUNTAIN ITSELF? YOUR BASE?



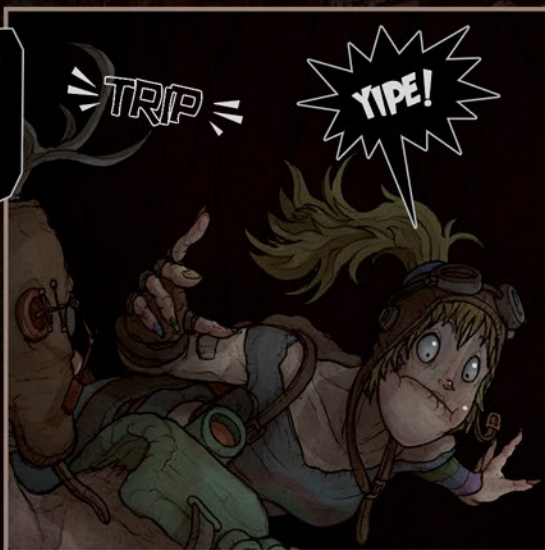
THE ENGINE'S MINING TEAMS HAVEN'T BEEN BACK SINCE THEY BLED IT DRY. WE'RE HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT.



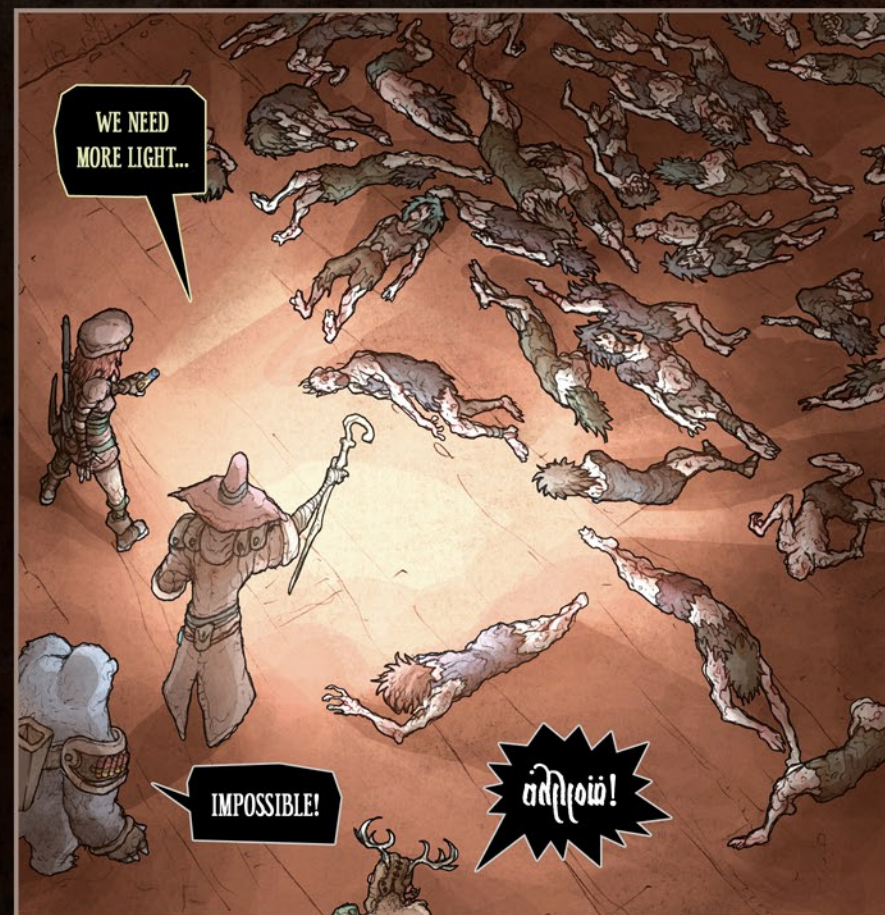
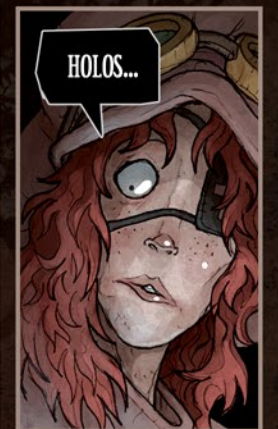
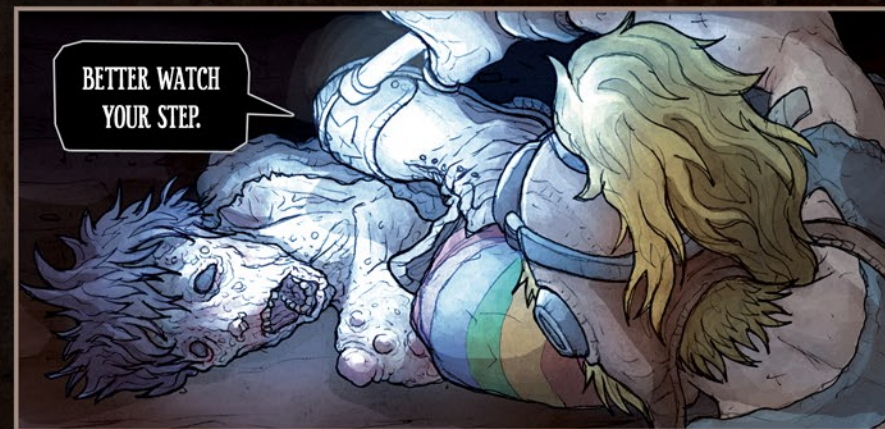
NO QUALMS ABOUT LIVING IN THE REMAINS OF YOUR LIEUTENANT'S MOUNTAIN HOME? DOES HE NOT FEEL HAUNTED BY IT? THE VERY TUNNELS HE TOILED IN?



I LIKE IT, WIZARD. IT KEEPS ME ANGRY.



TRIP!





TATER?! TATER,  
ARE YOU HERE?!



OH, THANK THE MATRIX...

RED! OVER HERE! WE'RE  
FINE! EVERYTHING'S FINE.



TATER, WHAT'S GOING ON?  
WHERE'S KITTY???



SHE'S FINE.  
SHE'S ASLEEP.

...SHE WANDERED OFF INTO  
THE TUNNELS. I SEARCHED  
FOR HER ALL NIGHT... THEN  
THE HOLOS FOUND US...



...TATER, WHAT  
HAPPENED IN  
THERE? WHAT...  
*DID* THAT TO  
THEM?



HE CALLED HIMSELF...  
RENAISSANCE.



WHO IS HE?  
*WHERE* IS HE?



I... DON'T KNOW. HE LED  
US BACK TO THE DOOR...  
THEN HE VANISHED.







...IT'S OKAY. EVERYTHING'S UNDER CONTROL.

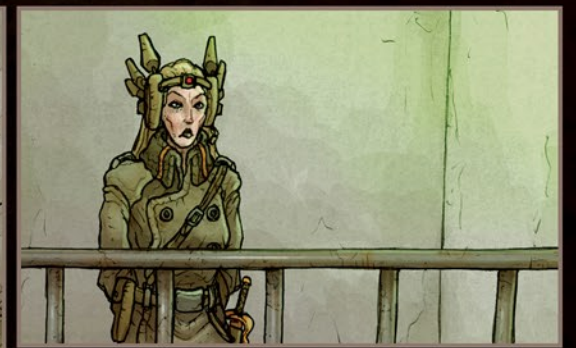
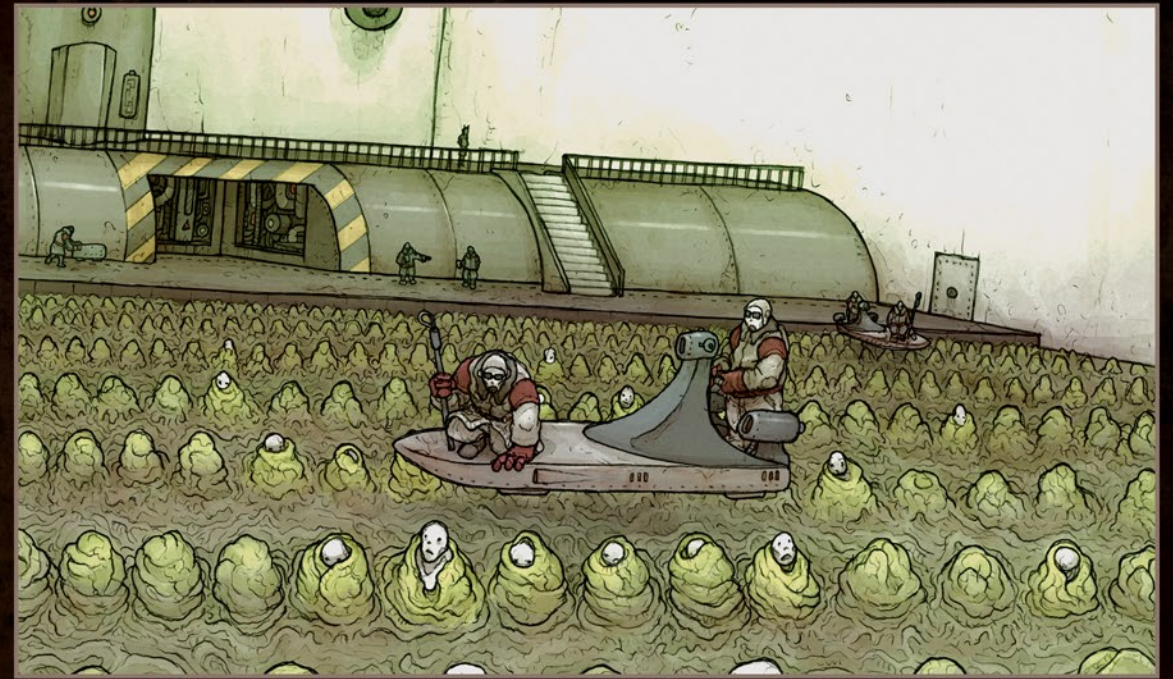
NECROMANCER,  
I'M SORRY--

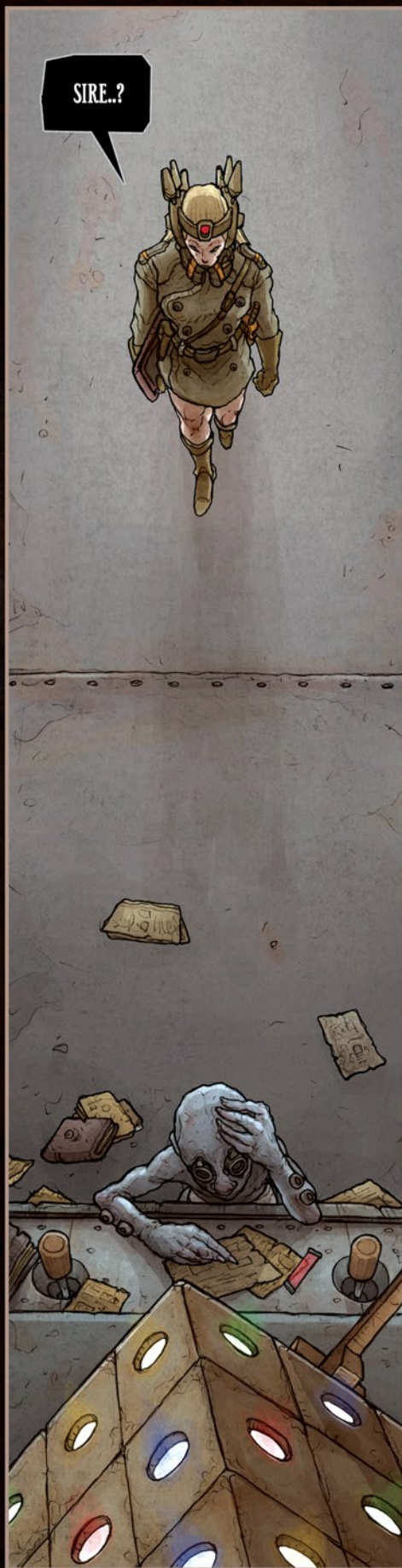


WOODS, SHOW OUR GUEST TO HIS QUARTERS.  
GIVE HIM THE STORAGE ROOM IN THE EAST  
HALL. RAINBOW, PESSIMIST, GRAB THE CART.  
I'LL BE THERE SHORTLY.



C'MON, TATER. YOU  
NEED SOME REST.





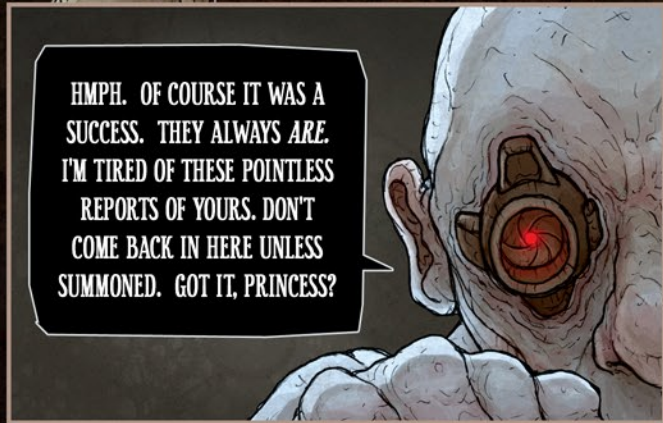
SIRE..?



WHAT? I'M BUSY.



THE NEW CROP OF SOLDIERS IS A SUCCESS. ONCE THE HARVESTING IS COMPLETE, THEY SHALL BE PROGRAMMED IMMEDIATELY.



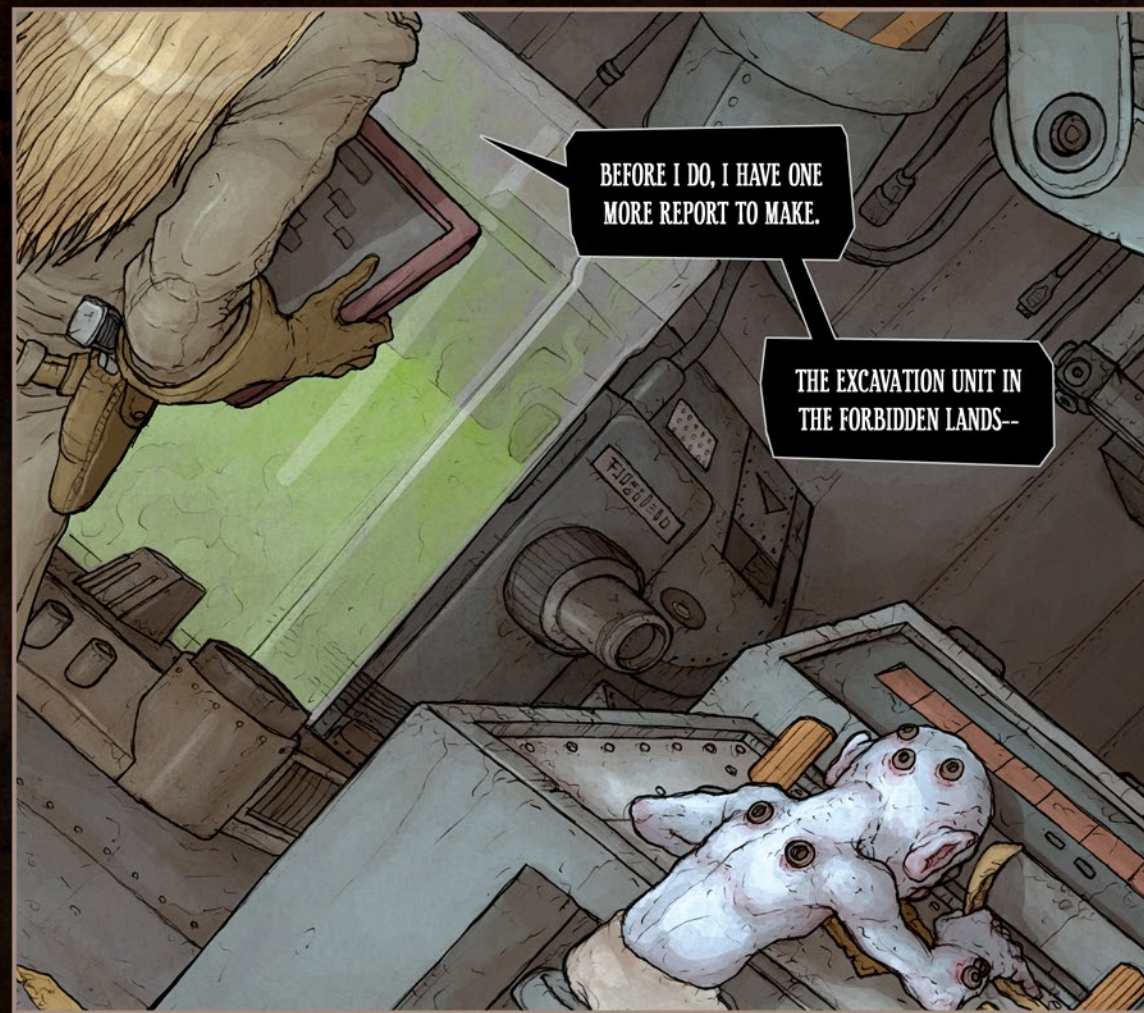
HMPH. OF COURSE IT WAS A SUCCESS. THEY ALWAYS ARE. I'M TIRED OF THESE POINTLESS REPORTS OF YOURS. DON'T COME BACK IN HERE UNLESS SUMMONED. GOT IT, PRINCESS?



...I AM STILL NO LONGER A PRINCESS.



LEAVE. NOW.



BEFORE I DO, I HAVE ONE MORE REPORT TO MAKE.

THE EXCAVATION UNIT IN THE FORBIDDEN LANDS--



DON'T CALL IT THAT! IT'S JUST A STUPID DESERT. PATRIARCH'S SUPERSTITION HAS NO PLACE HERE.



...THEY FOUND SOMETHING FOR YOU.



WHAT?! WHERE IS IT? BRING IT TO ME!



I SHOULD NOTE THAT NOT ALL UNITS HAVE REPORTED IN YET. SOME HAVE LOST CONTACT.

WHO CARES? I HAVE A NEW TOY! WOW... LOOK AT IT...



BEAUTIFUL! IT'S OF ARCHITECT DESIGN... WELL PRESERVED...



WHAT SECRETS COULD IT HOLD FOR ME?



...WHAT'RE YOU WAITING FOR, A COOKIE? GO!



NOW... WHERE'S THE "ON" SWITCH?



I APPRECIATE THE HELP, AND THE QUARTERS.

DON'T THANK US. WE ASKED YOU TO JOIN US... IT'S THE LEAST WE CAN DO.

YOUR MECHANIC... WILL HE BE ALL RIGHT? TATER, YOU SAID HIS NAME WAS?

HE'LL BE FINE. JUST A BIT SPOOKED AFTER HIS ORDEAL. HE'S GETTING SOME MUCH-NEEDED SLEEP.

HE SEEMS A STAUNCH MAN. A GOOD MAN. I ASSUME HE LIVED IN THE VILLAGE BEFORE THE WAR..?

YES. WITH HIS FAMILY. A WIFE AND SON.

...HE LOST THEM IN THE WAR.



A SHAME, INDEED. BUT YOUR GROUP HAS BECOME AS A FAMILY, YES? NO DOUBT HE FINDS SOLACE IN THAT.

HE DOES. WE ALL DO. IT'S ALL WE HAVE NOW.





WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP, SWEETIE?  
DID YOU HAVE A BAD DREAM?



C'MON, LET'S GET  
YOU BACK TO BED.



SORRY ABOUT THAT.



RED, TELL ME  
ABOUT THE CHILD.



WE CALL HER *KITTY*. WE FOUND HER  
ABOUT A YEAR AFTER THE WAR, IN THE  
RUINS OF THE CITY. SHE WAS UNDER A  
PILE OF RUBBLE, UNCONSCIOUS, NEXT TO  
ANOTHER CHILD. A BOY... PROBABLY HER  
BROTHER... BUT HE WAS DEAD.



SOME DEBRIS MUST HAVE COLLAPSED ON THEM WHILE THEY  
WERE SCAVENGING. WE HAVE NO IDEA WHERE THEY CAME FROM,  
OR HOW THEY MANAGED TO SURVIVE THE WAR ON THEIR OWN.

DOES SHE NOT SPEAK?

NOT A WORD SINCE WE FOUND  
HER, AND SHE BARELY SHOWS  
ANY EMOTION. SHE MUST HAVE  
BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH...

CHILDREN ARE  
RESILIENT. GIVE  
HER TIME.



...IT HAS BEEN A VERY LONG DAY  
FOR US ALL. PLEASE, GET SOME  
REST. I AM NEARLY DONE WITH  
THESE THINGS.



Necromancer is right. It has been a long day, full of more questions than answers.

Here, atop the mountain, things are quiet. A false sense of peace, but a sense of peace nonetheless.



It's broken by a strange feeling. She's not alone.



WHO'S--



...THERE..?



I AM THE RENAISSANCE.



I... AM RED. I SHOULD THANK YOU... FOR SAVING THEM IN THE TUNNEL.



THE MUTANTS... YOU KILLED THEM ALL? BY YOURSELF?



THEY WERE ALREADY DEAD. I MERELY LAID THEM TO REST.



WHO ARE YOU? WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?

I DO NOT KNOW. I SIMPLY AM.

YOU HAVE NO MEMORIES?

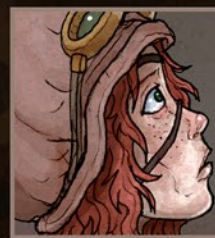
I AWOKE IN THE DUST.

...WHAT DO YOU WANT? WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?

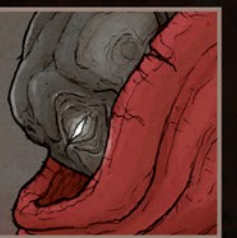
THERE IS ONLY ONE SIDE.



I DON'T UNDERSTAND... DO YOU MEAN TO HELP US?



I WILL BE WHERE I AM NEEDED.





NEXT CHAPTER: PAY DIRT

FOR EVERY  
STORM...



A RAINBOW

1:0/2:1/3:1/4:2/5:1/6:0/7:3/8:1/9:0/10:0/11:0/12:0/13:1/  
14:0/15:0/16:1/17:1/18:0/19:1/20:0/21:0/22:1/23:0/24:0

