



STARCRRAFT®

HEART OF THE SWARM™

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HOPE AND VENGEANCE

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SUBJECT APPEARS
TO BE RESTING...

STILL.

ROOM: 74521
OCCUPANT: SARAH LOUISE KERRIGAN, AKA
GHOST NO. 24601, AKA QUEEN OF BLADES
TEST SEQUENCE: SERIES 3, FULL XENO BATTERY
OBSERVING: VALERIAN MENGSK
SECURITY: ALPHA

DESPITE
SOME COSTLY
SET-BACKS,
WE ARE GOING
TO PRESS AHEAD.
TRUTH WAITS
FOR NO MAN.

DAY 16:
BEGINNING
THIRD RUN OF
WHOLESALE
LIFE-FORM
ANALYSIS.

PREVIOUS TWO BATTERIES
PROVIDED MINIMAL DATA. THE
SUBJECT REFUSES TO RESPOND...
FAVORABLY...TO STIMULI.

SUBJECT HAS NOT
EATEN OR TAKEN FLUIDS
DURING THE TWO WEEKS
SINCE HER ARRIVAL.

SEEMS TO HAVE
ENTERED INTO A
DEEPLY COMATOSE
STATE. WHETHER
THIS IS WILLFUL OR
THE RESULT OF HER
WARRING ZERG
AND HUMAN
PHYSIOLOGIES
IS UNCLEAR.

OUR ATTEMPT TO APPLY
AN IV RESULTED IN A
VIOLENT PHYSICAL
RESPONSE THAT I
BELIEVE WAS INSTINCTIVE;
NO EVIDENCE OF
HIGHER-LEVEL BRAIN
ACTIVITY.



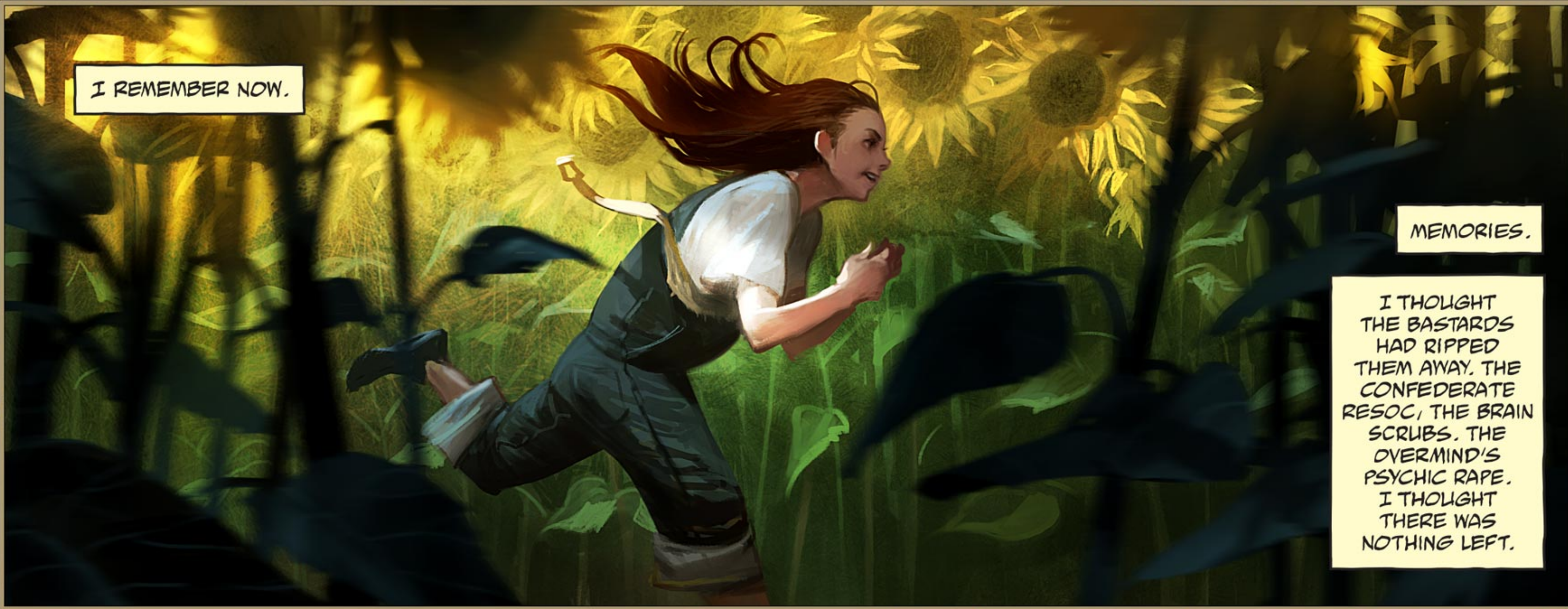
I AM SURE
THAT WOULD
BE SMALL
COMFORT TO
MY DEAD
ASSISTANTS.

ROOM: 74521
OCCUPANT: SARAH
GHOST NO. 24601
TEST SEQUENCE:



SHE IS NOT HUMAN.

I AM
HUMAN.



I REMEMBER NOW.

MEMORIES.

I THOUGHT
THE BASTARDS
HAD RIPPED
THEM AWAY. THE
CONFEDERATE
RESOC, THE BRAIN
SCRUBS. THE
OVERMIND'S
PSYCHIC RAPE.
I THOUGHT
THERE WAS
NOTHING LEFT.

THE MEMORIES
OF A LITTLE GIRL.

HUMAN
MEMORIES.
A MOTHER.
A FATHER.

A LIFE
WITHOUT
WAR.

A LIFE
WITHOUT
HORROR.



A LIFE
WITHOUT...



...DEATH.

DEATH.

DEATH SEEMS TO FOLLOW HER.

I'M NOT SURE WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT, BUT OUR SUBJECT HAS DECIDED TO GRACE US WITH SOME DEGREE OF CONSCIOUSNESS.

DID SHE EMERGE FROM A PSYCHIC COCOON? GET BORED WITH HER COMA?

MAYBE SHE HAD A NIGHTMARE.

WHATEVER ITS CAUSE, HER AWAKENING SENT OUT A SHOCKWAVE THAT DESTROYED THE OBSERVATION CHAMBER AND KILLED THE ATTENDING TECHNICIAN.

ANOTHER ACCIDENTAL DEATH.

SHE HAS FORCED ME TO RELY ON OTHER MEANS FOR ANALYSIS.

MEANS WHICH CANNOT BE KILLED BY AN ERRANT THOUGHT

OR A BAD DREAM.

THE SUBJECT NOW HAS NO HUMAN INTERACTION.

I THINK SHE PREFERS IT THAT WAY.

VIOLENCE.

BETRAYAL.

HER CHILDHOOD TORN APART AS DORMANT POWERS BURST INTO SAVAGE, HUNGRY LIFE.

THE CONFEDERACY OF MAN WAS QUICK TO GRAB HER.

TO ISOLATE HER. TO SHAPE HER WITH ITS BLUNT, CLUMSY TOOLS.

THEY WANTED A WEAPON.

ALL SHE KNOWS OF HUMANITY IS PAIN.

I'VE SEEN THE FILES, WHAT WE WERE ABLE TO RECOVER FROM THE BURNING CONFEDERATE FACILITY.

SHE RESISTED. REFUSED TO OPEN HERSELF TO THE THING THAT HAD KILLED HER MOTHER.

THEY BROKE HER.



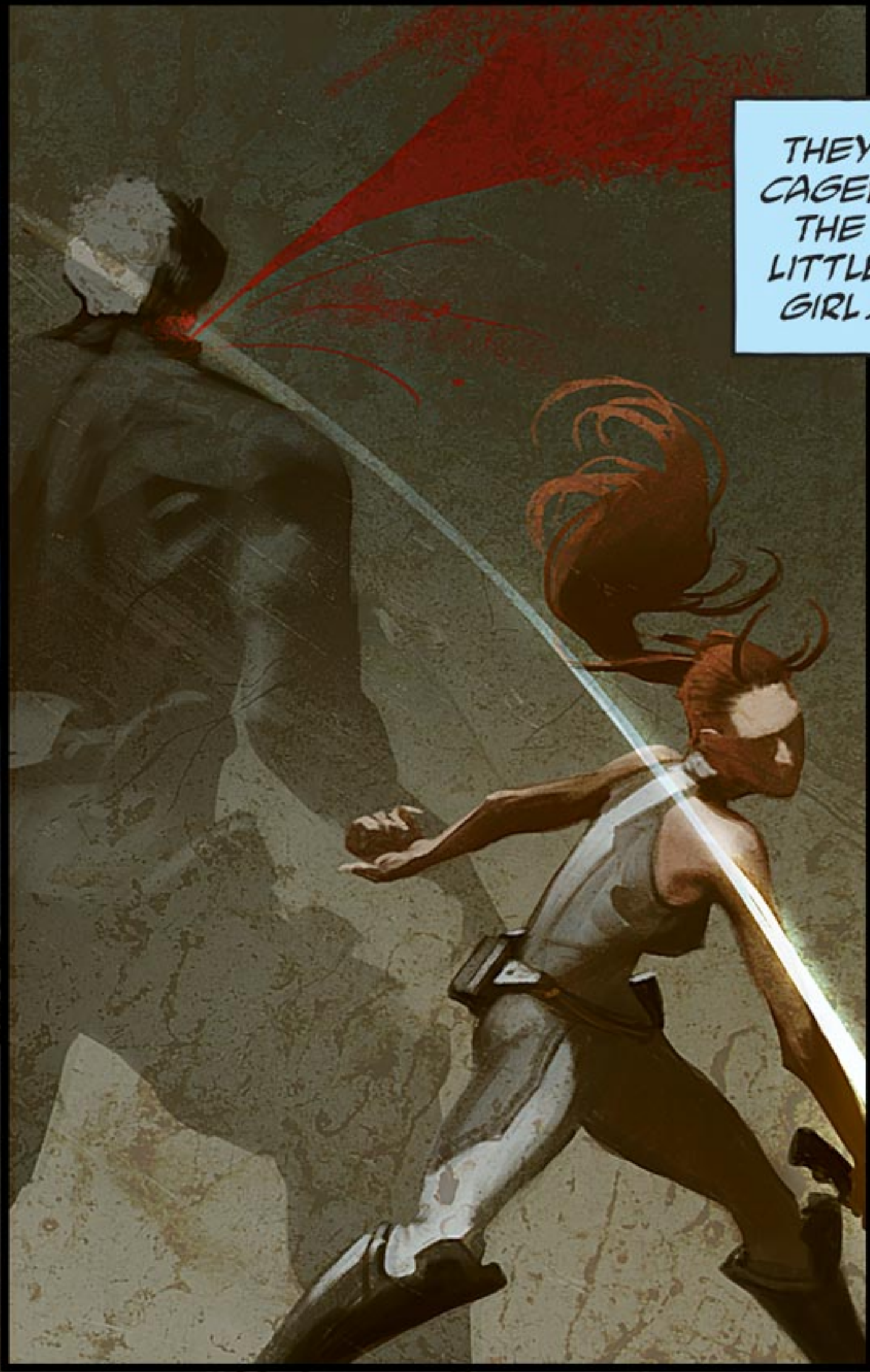
THEY MADE HER OBEY.



THEY MADE HER KILL.



THEY CAGED THE LITTLE GIRL.



THEY UNLEASHED THE MONSTER.



THEY UNLEASHED THE MONSTER.

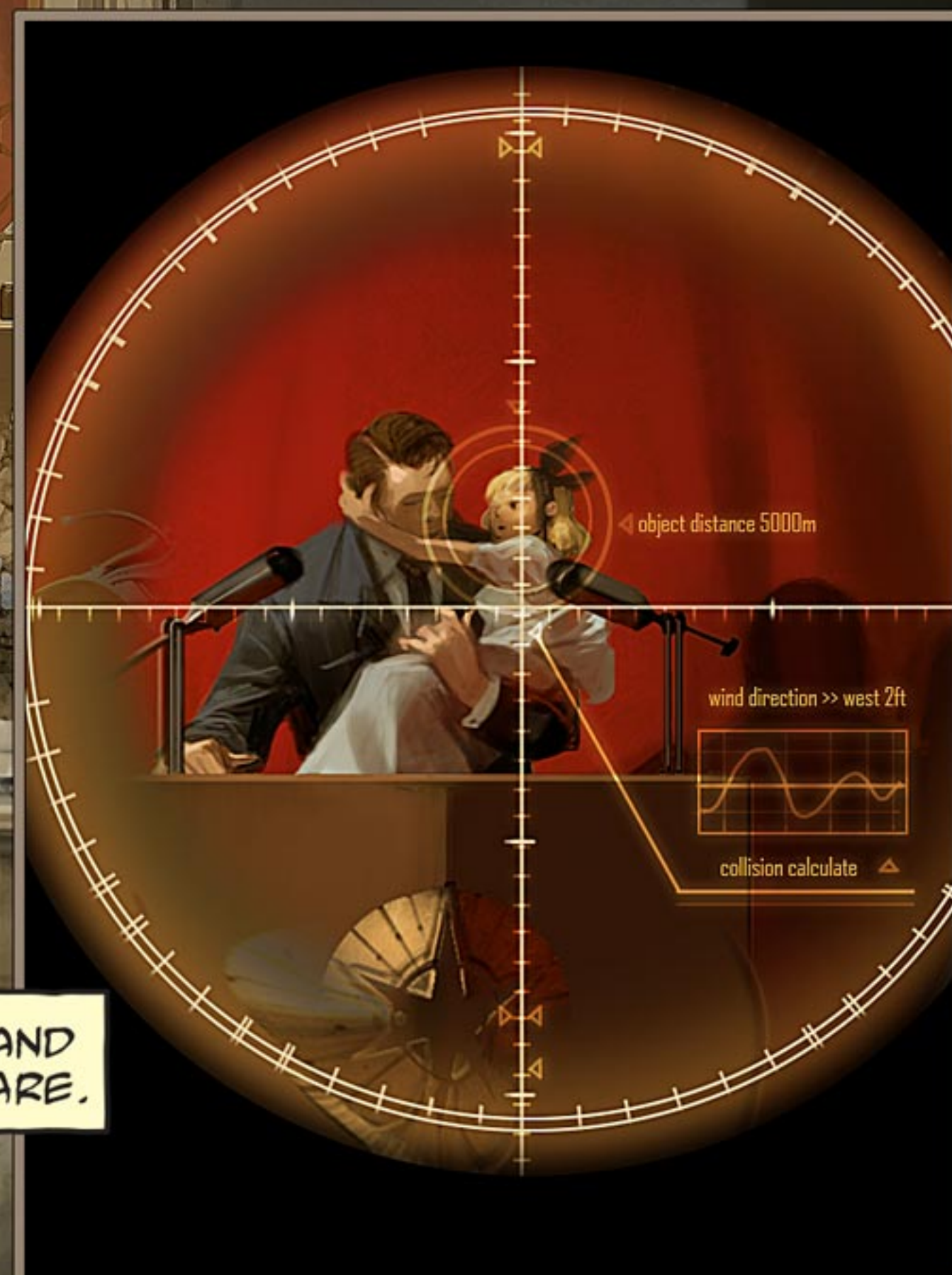


IT KILLED MY MOTHER, AND THEY DIDN'T CARE.



THEY UNLEASHED IT.

IT KILLED, AND IT DIDN'T CARE.

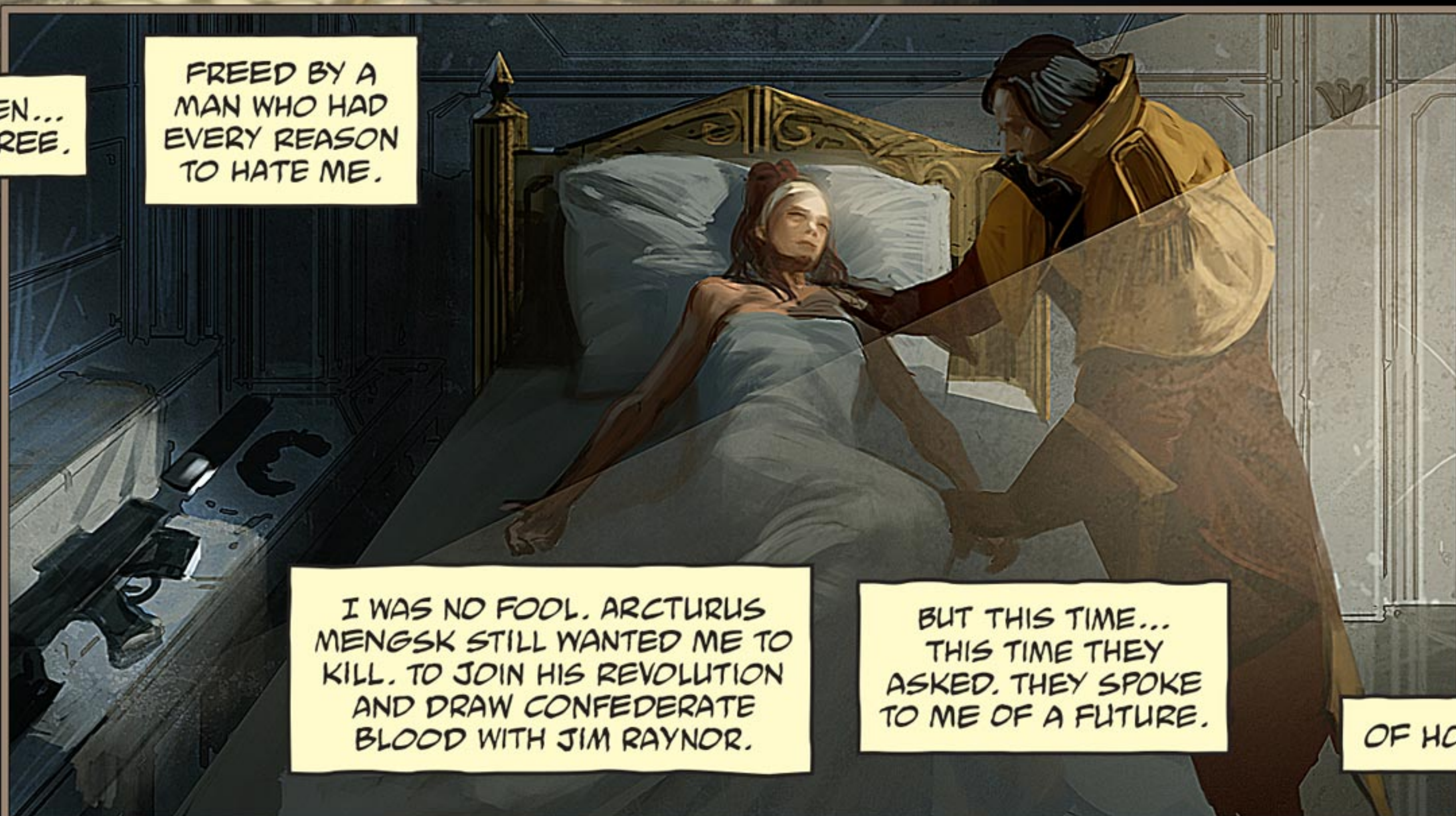


I KILLED, AND I DIDN'T CARE.



AND THEN... I WAS FREE.

FREED BY A MAN WHO HAD EVERY REASON TO HATE ME.



I WAS NO FOOL. ARCTURUS MENGSK STILL WANTED ME TO KILL. TO JOIN HIS REVOLUTION AND DRAW CONFEDERATE BLOOD WITH JIM RAYNOR.

BUT THIS TIME... THIS TIME THEY ASKED. THEY SPOKE TO ME OF A FUTURE.

OF HOPE.

THEY TOLD ME THAT MY EFFORTS WOULD BRING DOWN THOSE WHO HURT ME.

THEY SPOKE OF VENGEANCE.



HOPE AND VENGEANCE. THE WORDS MEANT NOTHING TO ME. I FINALLY HAD A PURPOSE. A CHOICE.

I CHOSE TO BE THERE. I CHOSE MY ACTIONS. FOR THE FIRST TIME, I WAS WHERE I WANTED TO BE.



I BEGAN TO FEEL. TO CARE.



I BEGAN TO TRUST.



GOD DAMN THEM; I BEGAN TO TRUST.

NEVER AGAIN.



NEVER AGAIN.

NEVER AGAIN WILL I RISK HUMAN LIVES TO CODDLE THIS... THIS THING.

MY OWN FATHER PLAYED A BLOODY ROLE IN HER CREATION, AND I WILL BE DAMNED IF I AM GOING TO TAKE ANOTHER BIT PART IN HER DANSE MACABRE.

I WILL LEARN WHAT I CAN FROM HER.

BUT I HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO THOSE WHO HAVE JOINED ME; A RESPONSIBILITY TO UPHOLD.

I WILL DO WHAT I CAN TO FIND SOME SEMBLANCE OF HUMANITY INSIDE THE FALLEN QUEEN OF BLADES...

...IF THERE IS ANY.

I HAVE PROMISED RAYNOR THAT MUCH.

I AM NOT MY FATHER.

BUT I WILL PUT HER DOWN THE SECOND SHE PROVES OTHERWISE.

A RECOVERING SOLDIER IS ONE THING.

A RESURGENT GODDESS IS ANOTHER THING ENTIRELY.



WHY DID THE ZERG OVERMIND SPARE HER?

DID IT KNOW THAT IT WAS PREPARING THE VERY INSTRUMENT THAT WOULD HELP TO BRING ABOUT ITS OWN DESTRUCTION?

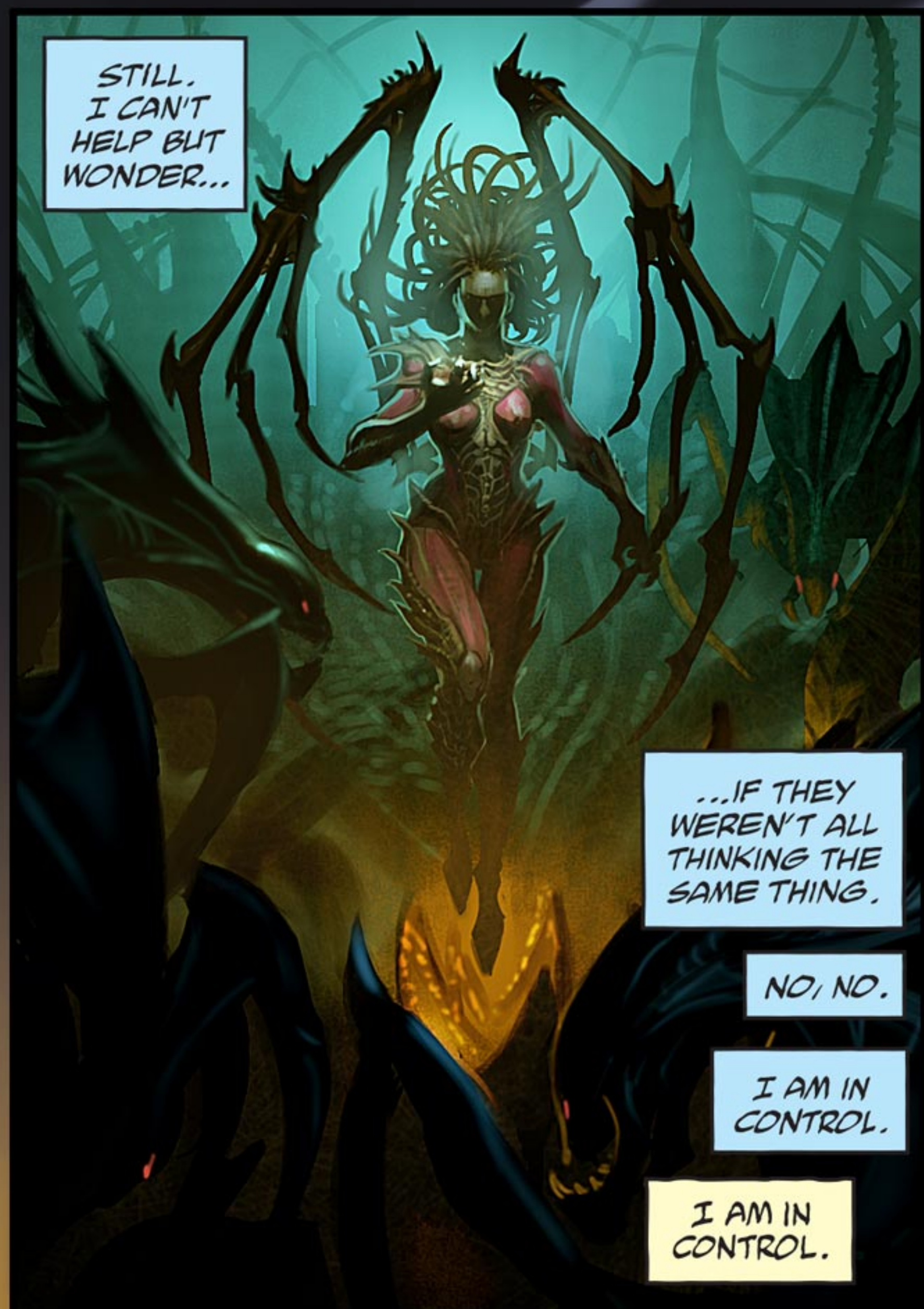
HELL, DID THE CONFEDERACY KNOW?



WOULD I KNOW?

NO, THIS IS DIFFERENT. I AM TRYING TO HELP.

I'M NOT USING HER. I'M LEARNING FROM HER.



STILL. I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER...

...IF THEY WEREN'T ALL THINKING THE SAME THING.

NO, NO.

I AM IN CONTROL.

I AM IN CONTROL.

WHATEVER PAIN I HAD FELT, I RETURNED A THOUSANDFOLD. I TOOK THE SWARM THROUGH BLOOD AND LIES, AND I TURNED IT ON THOSE WHO HAD BETRAYED ME.



I WAS A BILLION CLAWS.

A BILLION FANGS.

I WAS IN CONTROL.

I KILLED.

AND KILLED.

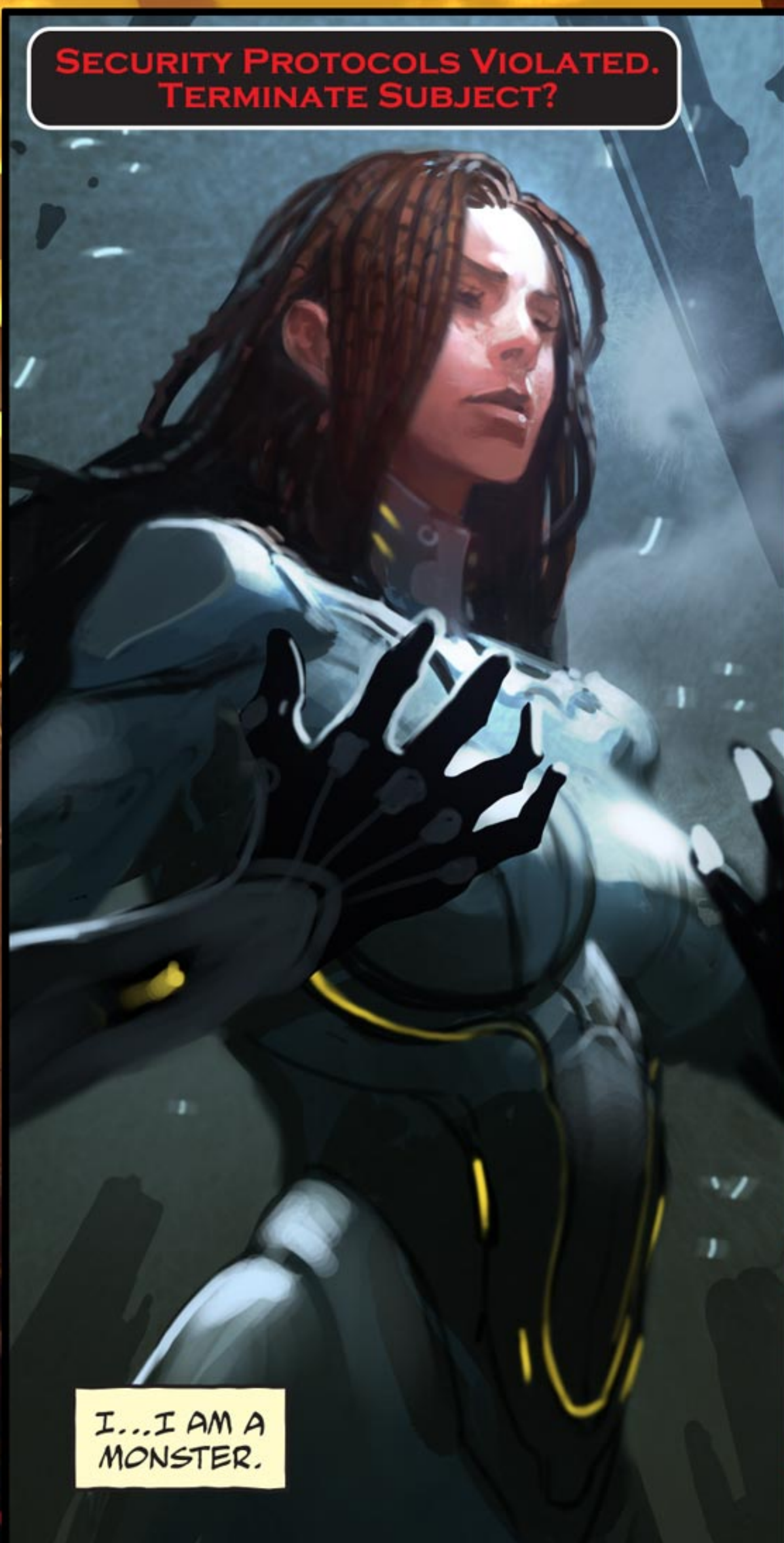
I WAS IN CONTROL.

AT MY WORD, MOUNTAINS FLED. OCEANS DRIED UP. PLANETS DIED.

I WAS IN CONTROL, AND I WAS THE MONSTER.

VENGEANCE RULED ME JUST AS STERNLY AS THE CONFEDERACY HAD.

NOW I UNDERSTAND VENGEANCE. WHEN DO I UNDERSTAND HOPE?



SECURITY PROTOCOLS VIOLATED. TERMINATE SUBJECT?

I...I AM A MONSTER.

RETINAL ID
CONFIRMED:
VALERIAN
MENGSK

A MONSTER...WITH
DIRTY FINGERNAILS.

DETONATION IN 16 SECONDS.

AND A MONSTER THAT INSPIRED JAMES
FEKKING RAYNOR TO FIGHT HIS WAY
ACROSS HALF THE GALAXY JUST TO
PULL ME FROM THE JAWS OF DEATH.

IF THAT CYNICAL BASTARD CAN
HOLD ON TO SOME HOPE FOR ME, I
SURE AS HELL CAN GIVE IT A SHOT.

ARMING FOCUSED CHARGES.
DETONATION IN 20 SECONDS

TURN IT OFF,
VALERIAN.

YOU ARE
NINE SECONDS AWAY
FROM CARRYING ON
THE MENGSK FAMILY
TRADITION OF SNEAKY,
UNDERHANDED
COWARDICE.

DETONATION IN 09 SECONDS

DETONATION
IN 07 SECONDS.

AND I HAVE
TAKEN THE LIBERTY
OF RESHAPING THE
CHARGES AROUND
YOUR LITTLE SPY
NEST...

DETONATION IN
03 SECONDS.

...JUST IN CASE
YOU WERE KIDDING
ABOUT NOT WANTING TO
FOLLOW IN YOUR OLD
MAN'S FOOTSTEPS.

DETONATION
CANCELLED.

THE CAMERAS ARE STILL
WORKING...I CAN STILL--

NO.

NO MORE
CAMERAS,
VALERIAN.
NO MORE
SCANS.

NO
MORE SILLY
PUZZLES.

I...
I WILL PUT
TOGETHER A
NEW BATTERY
OF TESTS
TONIGHT.

WE WILL...
START AGAIN,
SARAH.

YOU WANT TO
SEE WHAT YOU CAN LEARN
FROM ME? I DON'T THINK
YOU CAN KEEP UP.

I AM NOT
HUMAN.