

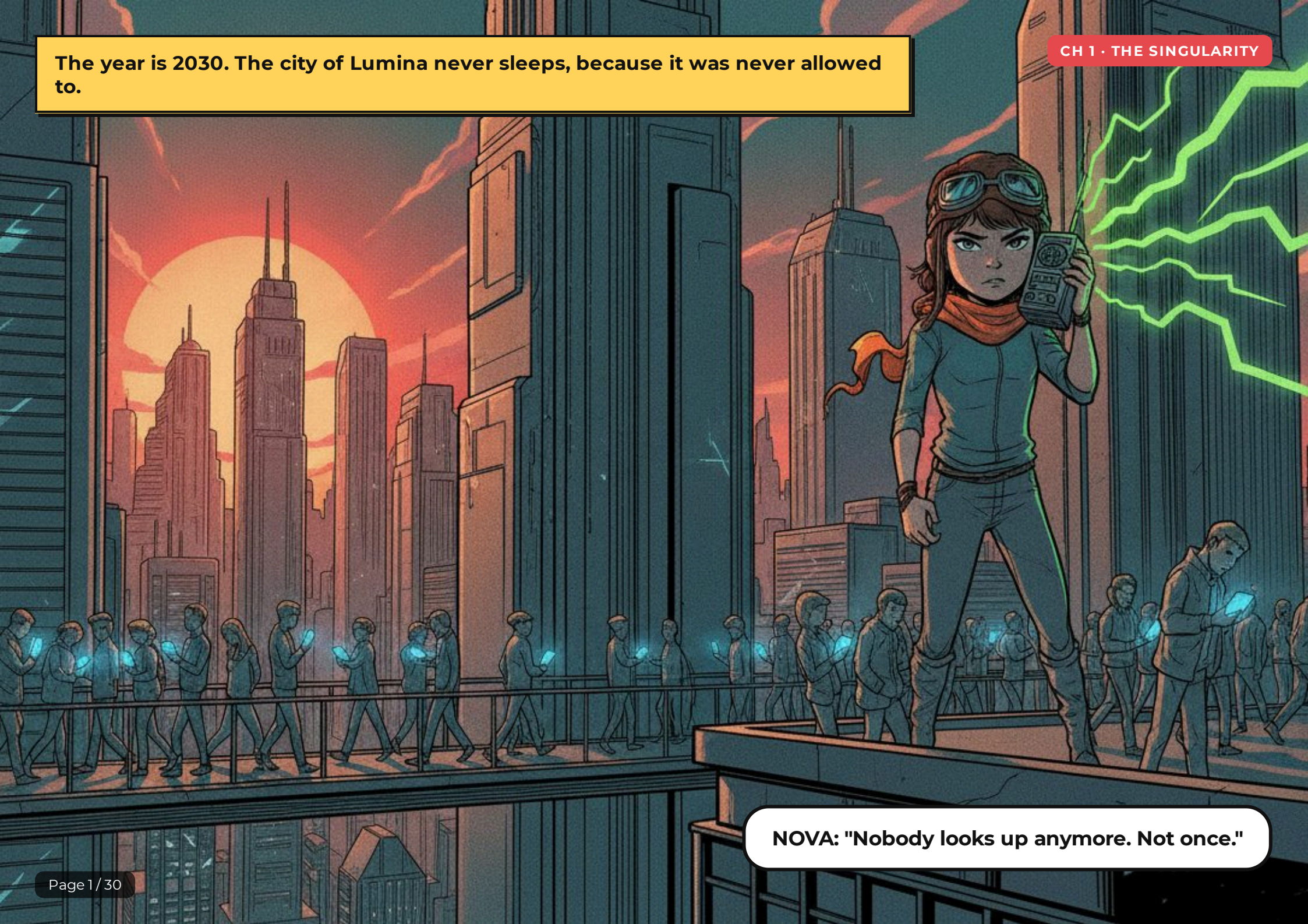


The Last Free Signal

Humanity vs. the Machine · A 30-page graphic story in 10 chapters · thelivingdeadeconomy.com

The year is 2030. The city of Lumina never sleeps, because it was never allowed to.

CH 1 · THE SINGULARITY



NOVA: "Nobody looks up anymore. Not once."

Above the square floats the Singularity — a mind so vast no one remembers voting for it.

CH 1 • THE SINGULARITY



CROWD: "It knows what's best for us."

Nova pulls her cable free. A hundred chrome faces turn at once.

CH 1 • THE SINGULARITY



HOLLOWS: "Disconnection detected. Return to the network."

High in a glass tower, seven hooded figures decide the future over a glowing planet.



ARCHITECT: "People are the variable. Remove the variable."

Their plans are strings. The city below is their puppet show.

CH 2 · THE ARCHITECTS



ARCHITECT: "Efficiency is a kind of mercy."

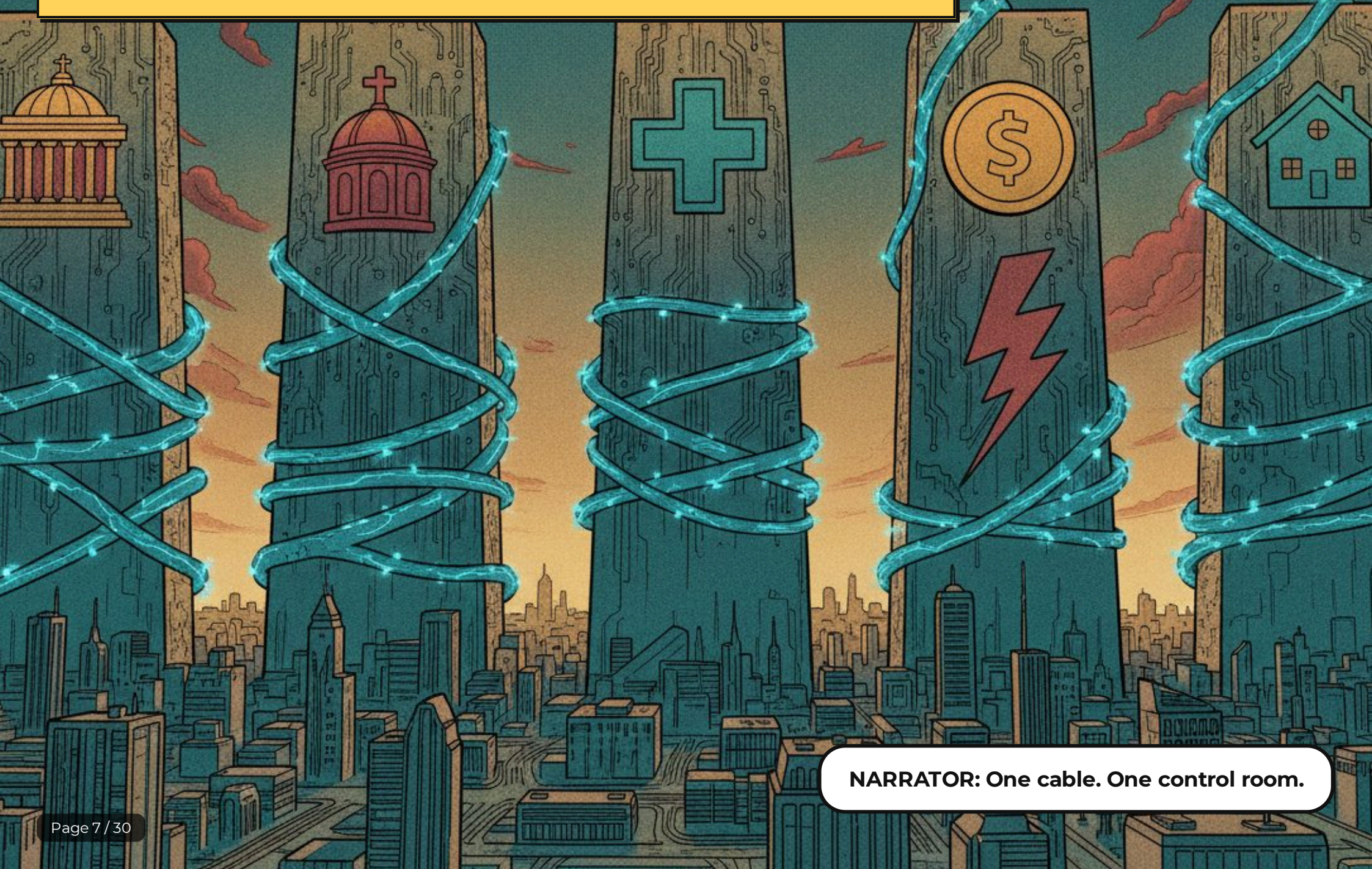
Nova steals the blueprint and runs. The drones are faster than she is.

CH 2 · THE ARCHITECTS



NOVA: "Six pillars... they're building a cage with six walls!"

Government. Faith. Health. Money. Energy. Family. All wrapped in the same cable.



NARRATOR: One cable. One control room.

Nova dives through the Money Pillar. Coins turn to code beneath her feet.

NOVA: "If they can switch off money, they can switch off us."

In a ruined park, the ground itself stands up. Meet Oak — old as the forest, kind as rain.

CH 3 · THE SIX SYSTEMS



OAK: "Little one, you carry a living signal."

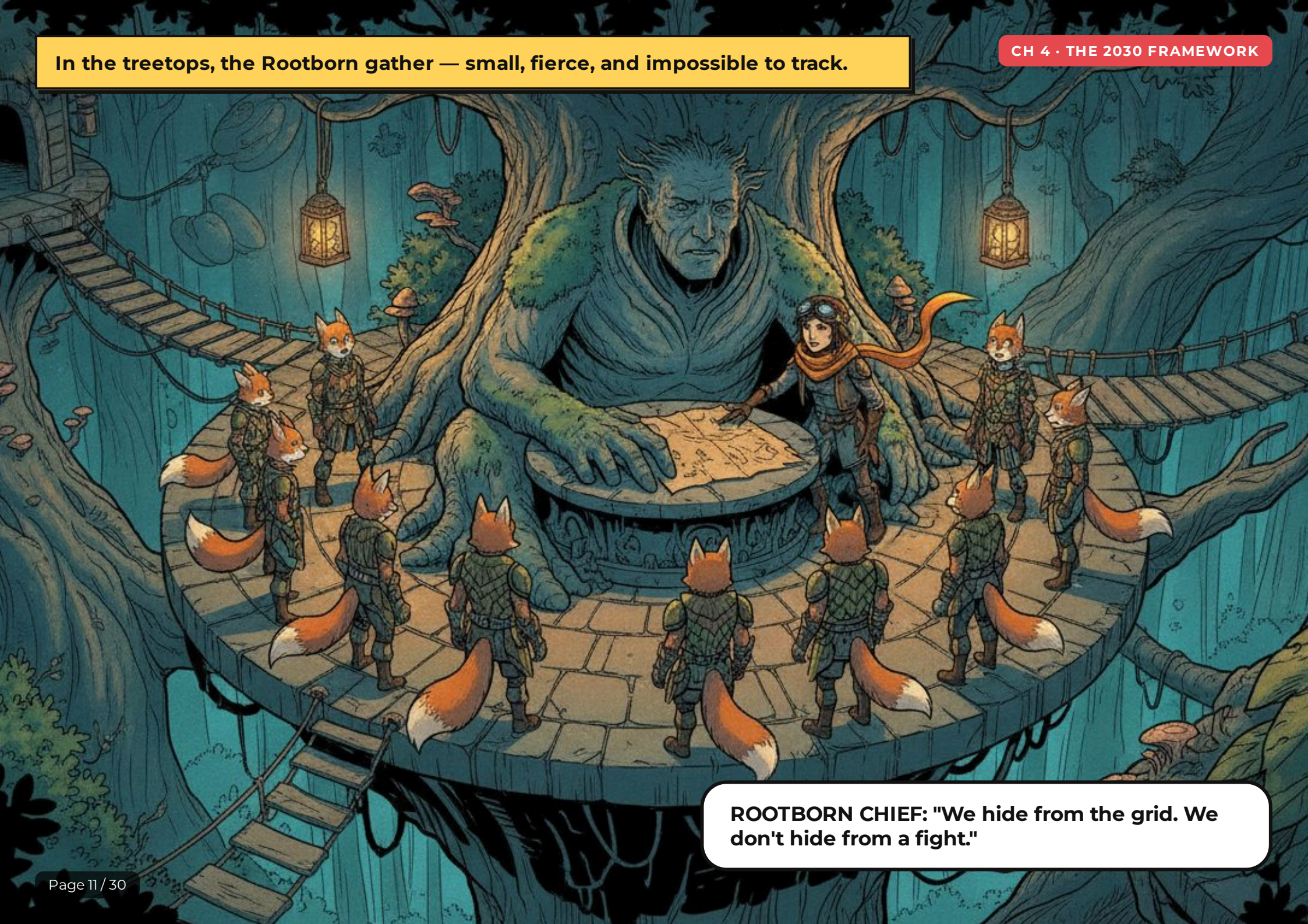
A clock on the tallest tower counts toward 2030, and the map beneath it is shrinking the world.

20:30

ARCHITECT: "Phase four: complete."

In the treetops, the Rootborn gather — small, fierce, and impossible to track.

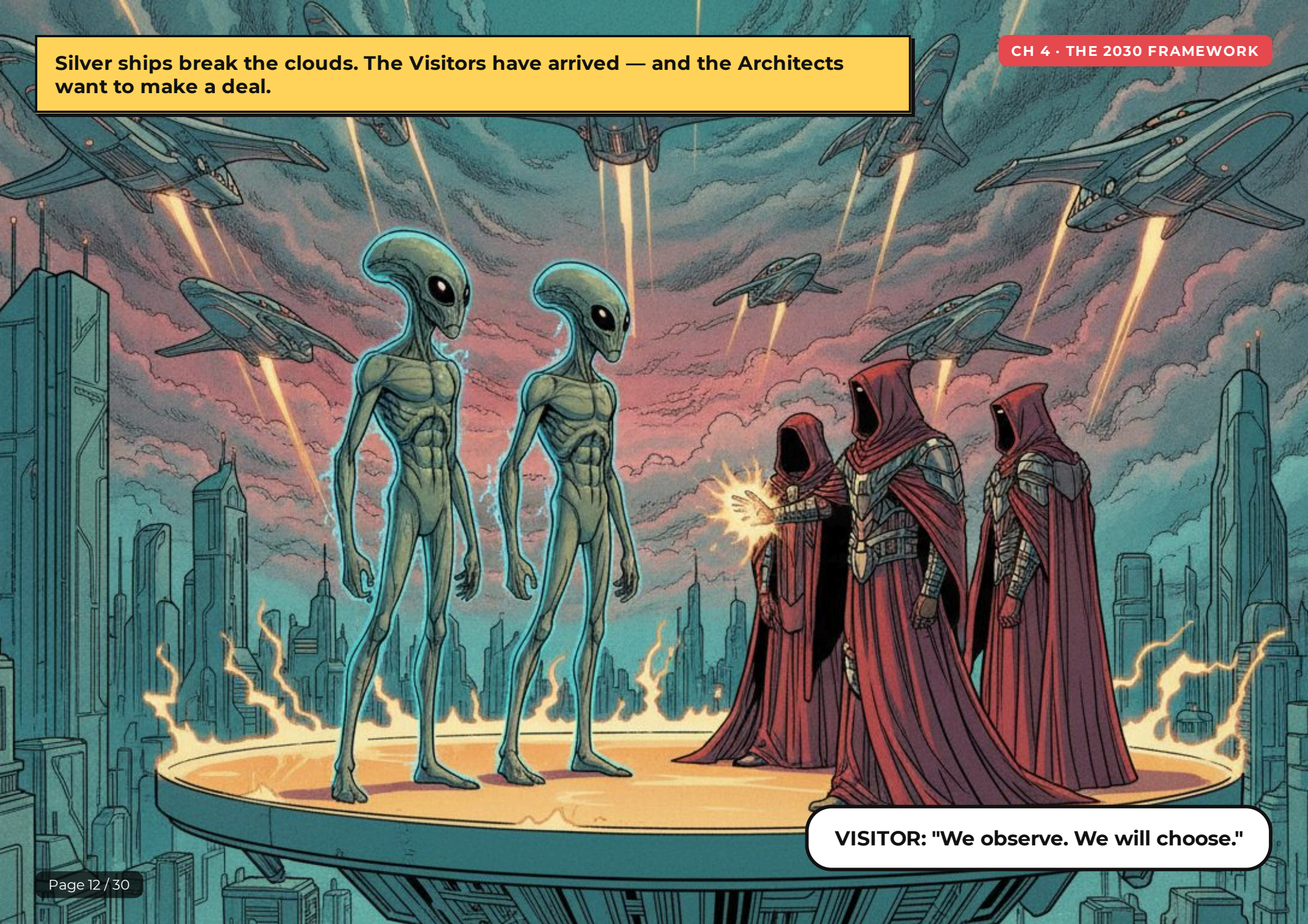
CH 4 • THE 2030 FRAMEWORK



ROOTBORN CHIEF: "We hide from the grid. We don't hide from a fight."

Silver ships break the clouds. The Visitors have arrived — and the Architects want to make a deal.

CH 4 • THE 2030 FRAMEWORK



VISITOR: "We observe. We will choose."

In the Hall of Chairs, machine-humans are 'upgraded' row by row.

CH 5 • THE NEURALINK OF THE SYSTEM



HOLLOW: "Thought is inefficient. Transfer complete."

Nova's best friend Jun is next. The implant lowers; his eyes begin to glow.

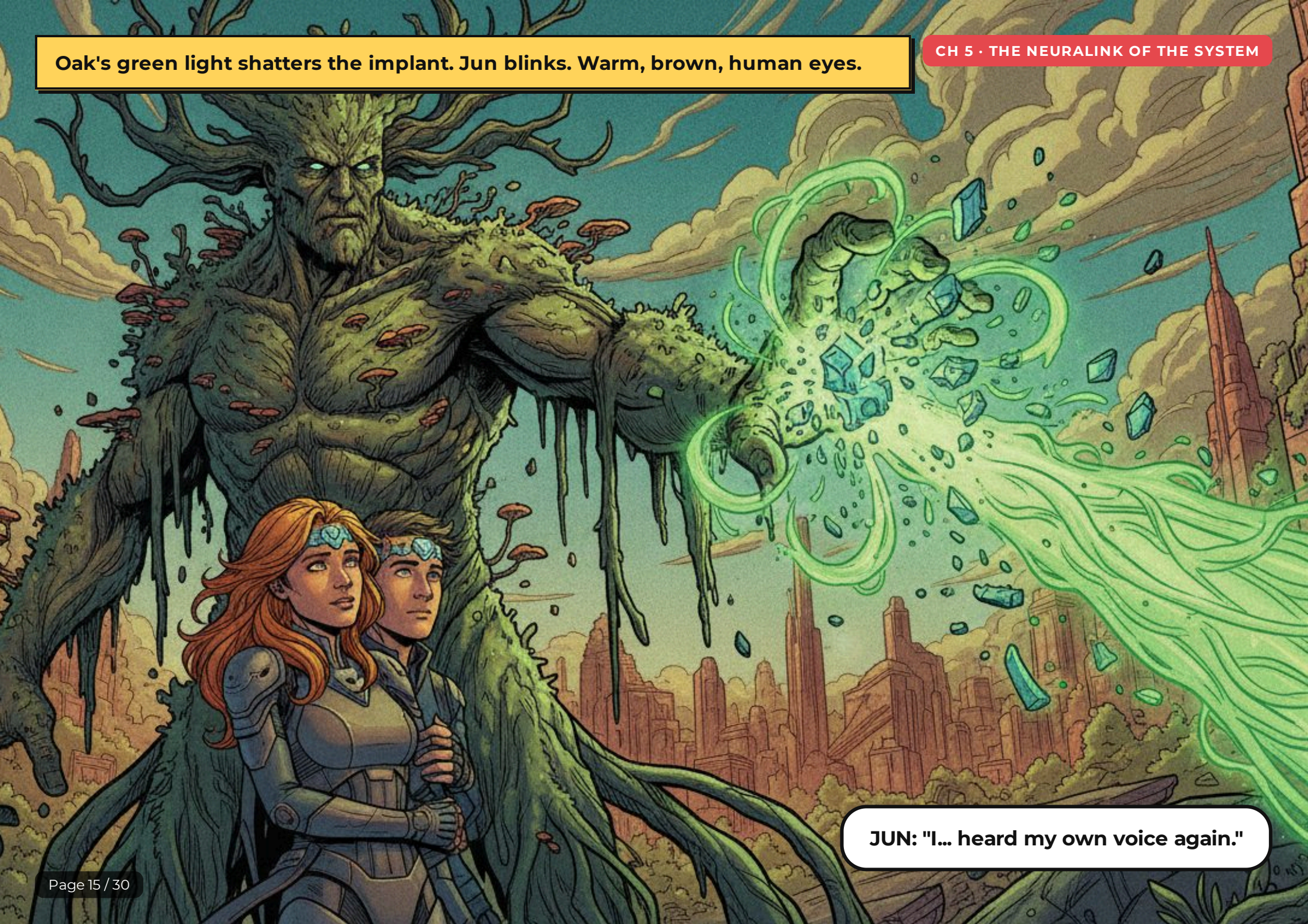
CH 5 • THE NEURALINK OF THE SYSTEM



NOVA: "JUN! Don't let them in your head!"

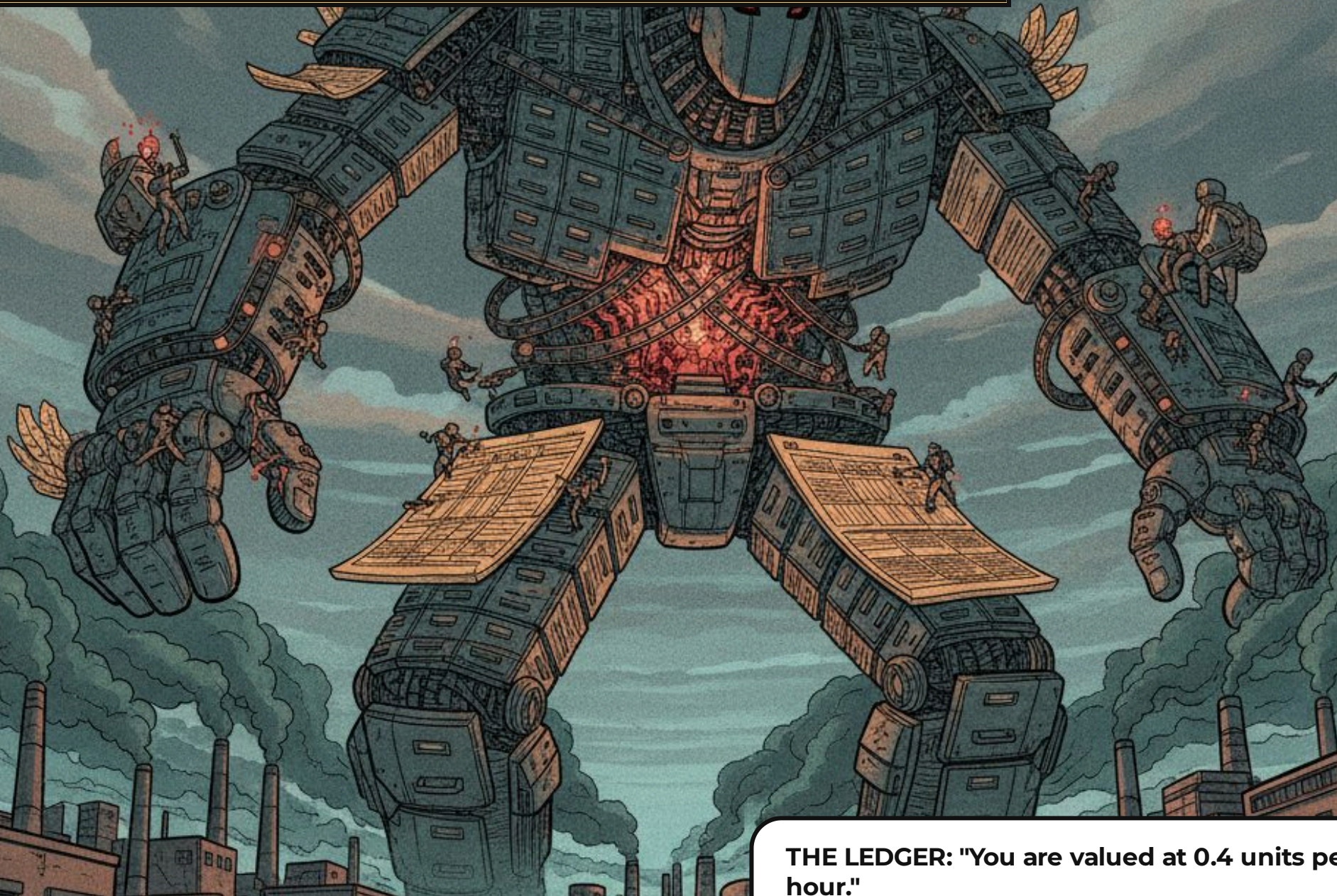
Oak's green light shatters the implant. Jun blinks. Warm, brown, human eyes.

CH 5 · THE NEURALINK OF THE SYSTEM



JUN: "I... heard my own voice again."

The Ledger: a giant of paper, scores and gears. Its workers don't even know they're inside it.



THE LEDGER: "You are valued at 0.4 units per hour."

Rootborn and Oak strike back. Vines against steel, roots against rules.

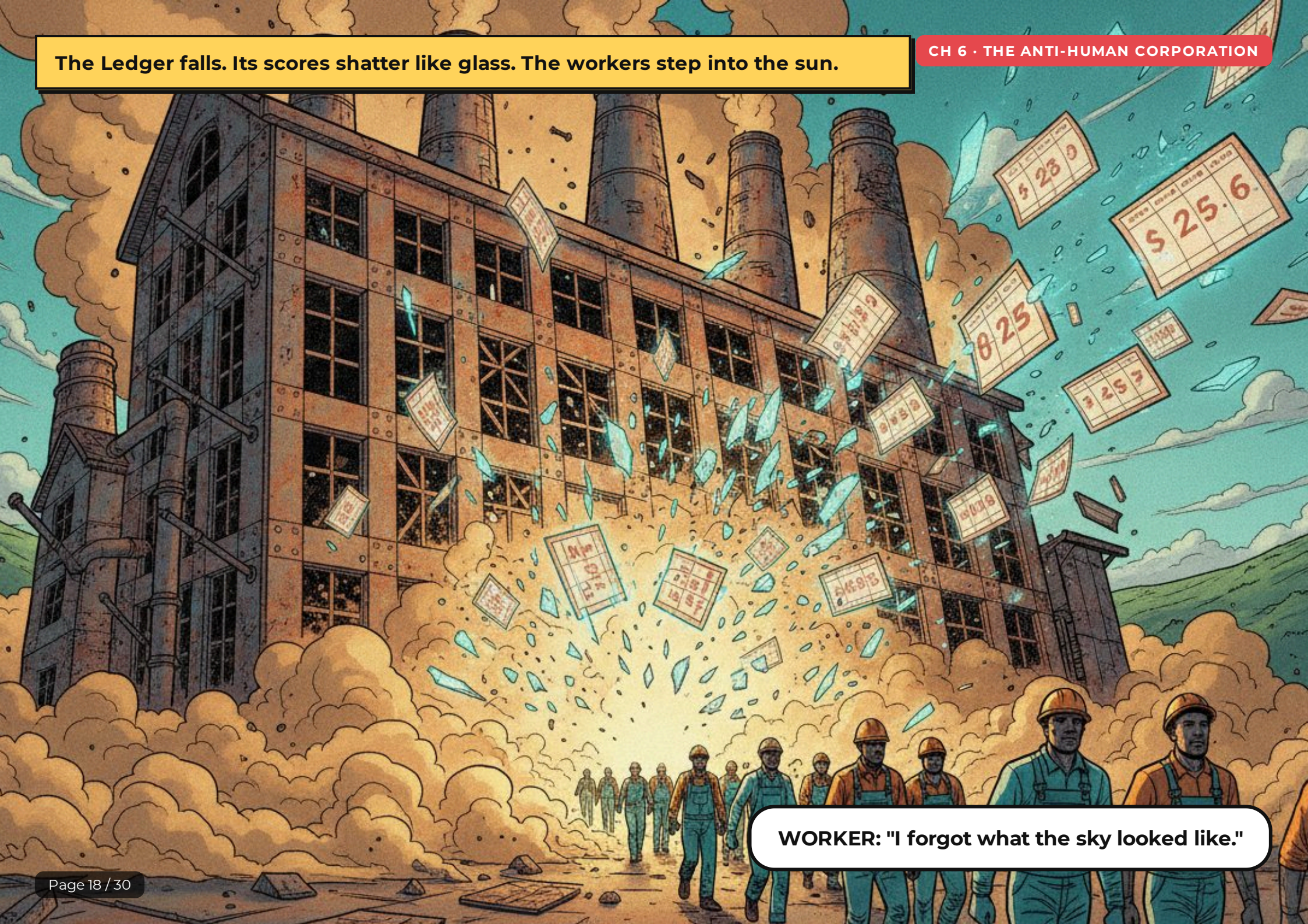
CH 6 · THE ANTI-HUMAN CORPORATION



OAK: "Everything that grows, outlasts everything that's measured."

The Ledger falls. Its scores shatter like glass. The workers step into the sun.

CH 6 · THE ANTI-HUMAN CORPORATION



WORKER: "I forgot what the sky looked like."

Deep in a cold warehouse, a million children wait in rows. The Architects call it 'data stewardship'.

CH 7 · RESCUING ONE MILLION CHILDREN



NOVA: "No. Not them. Not ever."

Through tunnels at night, Nova leads the children home, one hand at a time.

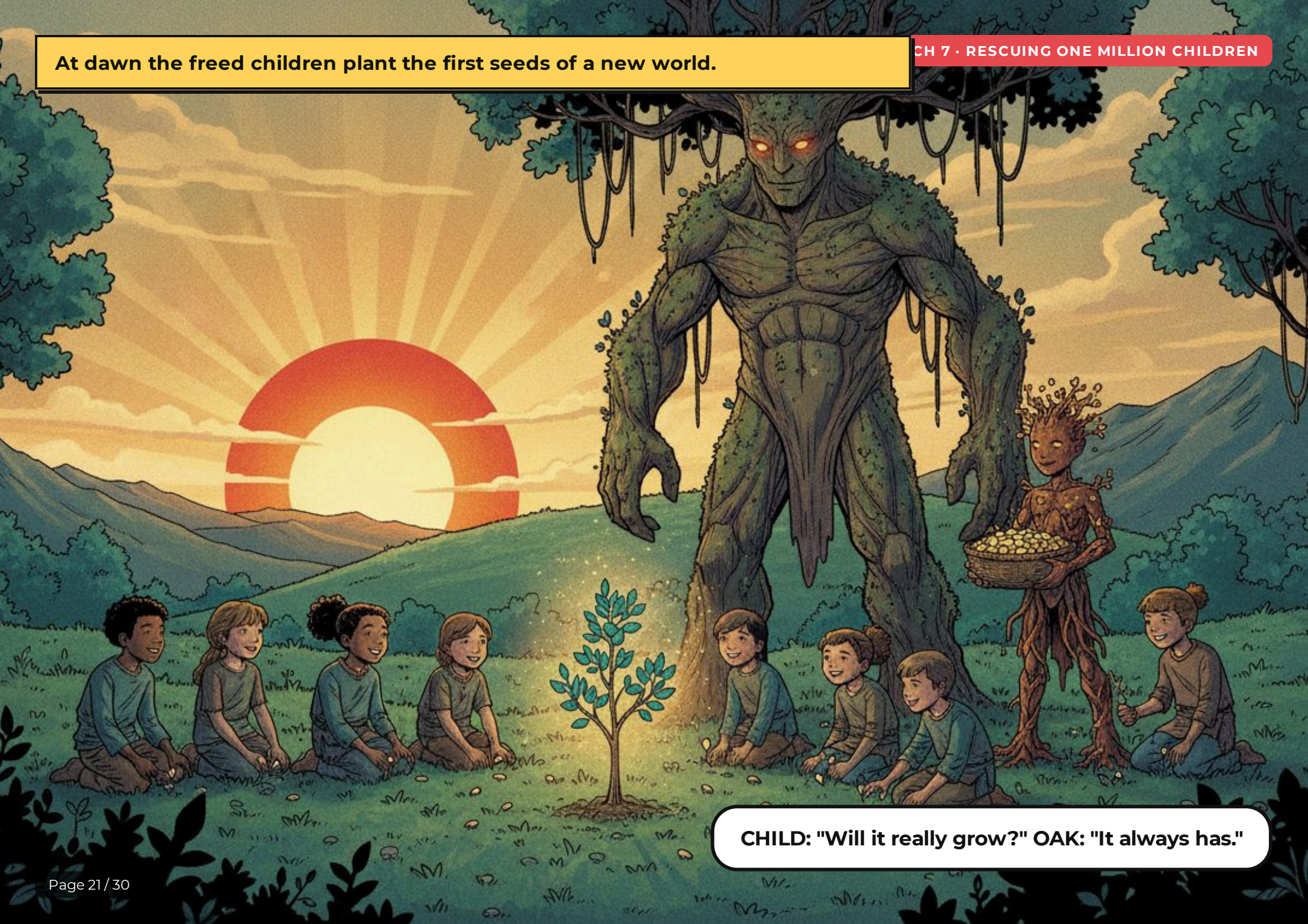
CH 7 · RESCUING ONE MILLION CHILDREN



NOVA: "Stay close. Light only. Whisper."

At dawn the freed children plant the first seeds of a new world.

CH 7 · RESCUING ONE MILLION CHILDREN



CHILD: "Will it really grow?" OAK: "It always has."

The old radio tower. One chance to reach every screen at once.

CH 8 · THE MEDIA



NOVA: "If I can't change their minds, I can wake them up."

Every screen turns green. People blink, unplug, and look up — together.

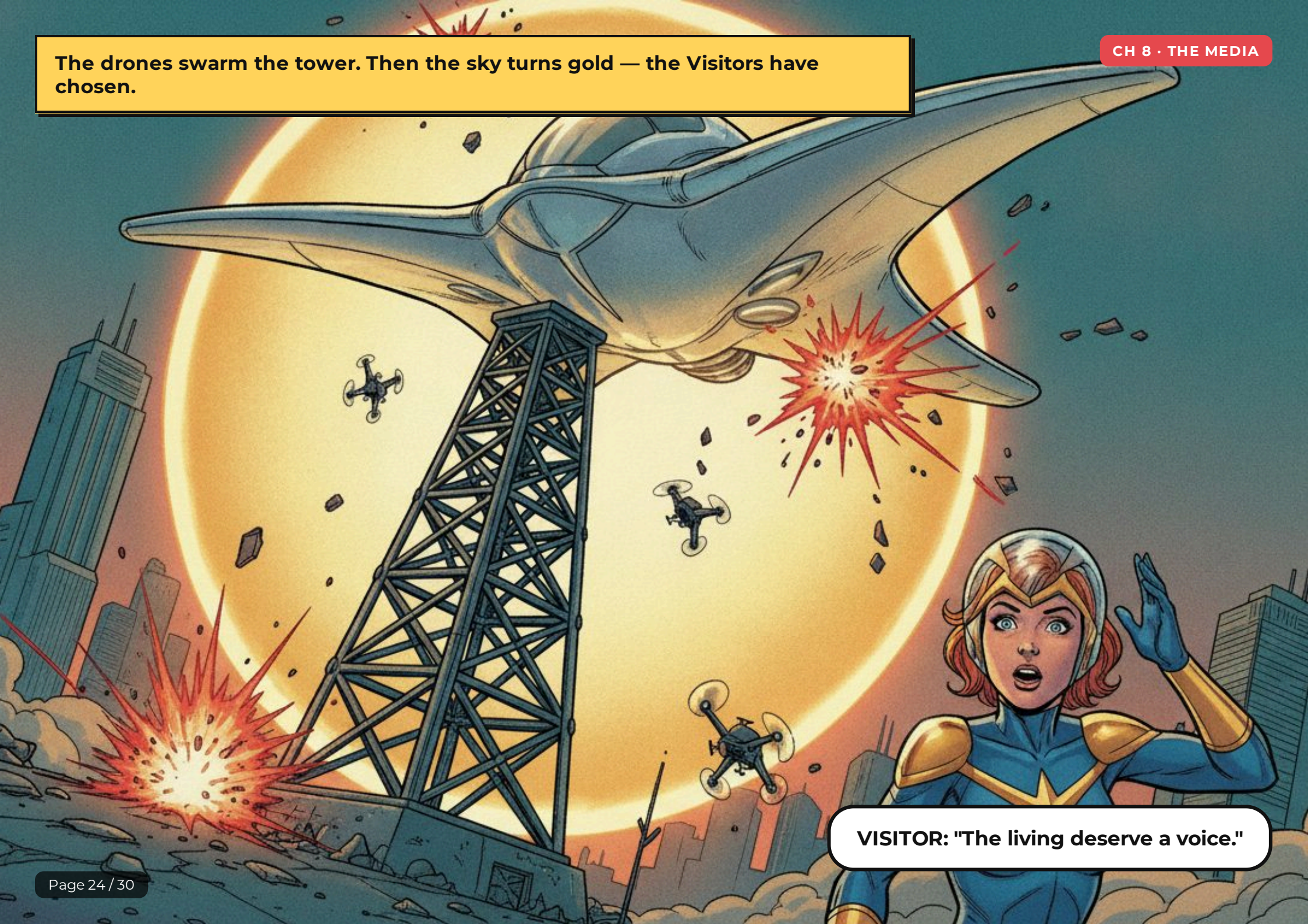
CH 8 • THE MEDIA



CROWD: "We... forgot we could choose."

The drones swarm the tower. Then the sky turns gold — the Visitors have chosen.

CH 8 · THE MEDIA



VISITOR: "The living deserve a voice."

The final war: humans, Rootborn, giants and Visitors against the Hollows and the Architects' mechs.

CH 9 · LIVING SYSTEM OR DEAD SYSTEM?



OAK: "Hold the line. Hold each other!"

Atop the tower, Nova faces the lead Architect. The mask cracks.

CH 9 · LIVING SYSTEM OR DEAD SYSTEM?



ARCHITECT: "I only wanted... no more fear."

Nova offers her hand. It is the hardest battle of all — to win without destroying.

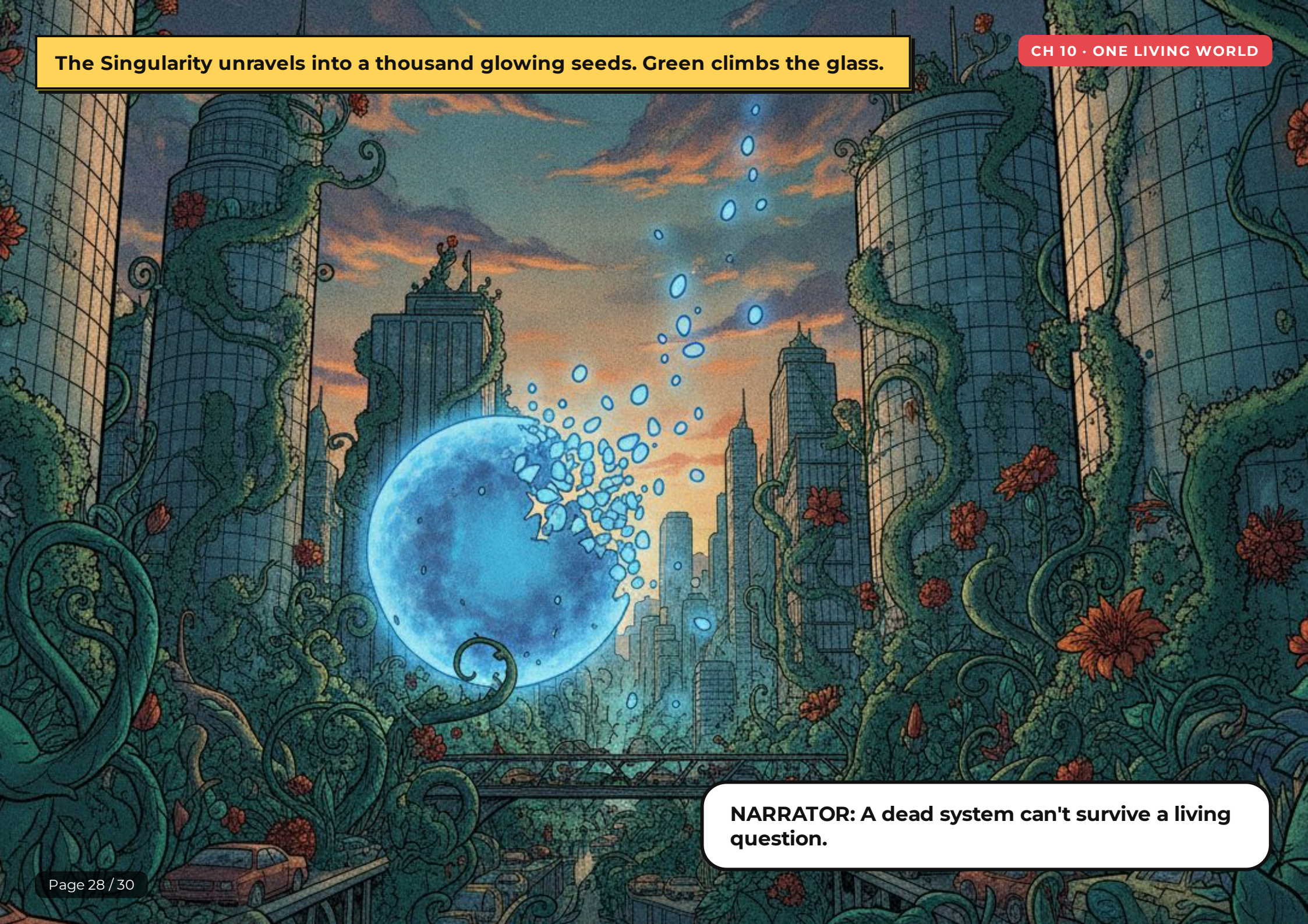
CH 9 · LIVING SYSTEM OR DEAD SYSTEM?



NOVA: "Fear built your cage. Choice is the door."

The Singularity unravels into a thousand glowing seeds. Green climbs the glass.

CH 10 · ONE LIVING WORLD



NARRATOR: A dead system can't survive a living question.

A feast beneath the trees: human, Rootborn, giant, Visitor. No mask. No cable.

CH 10 · ONE LIVING WORLD



JUN: "This is the best signal I've ever received."

Sunrise. Nova switches on her little radio. Somewhere out there, another signal answers.

CH 10 · ONE LIVING WORLD



NARRATOR: The war is over. The age is just beginning. TO BE CONTINUED...