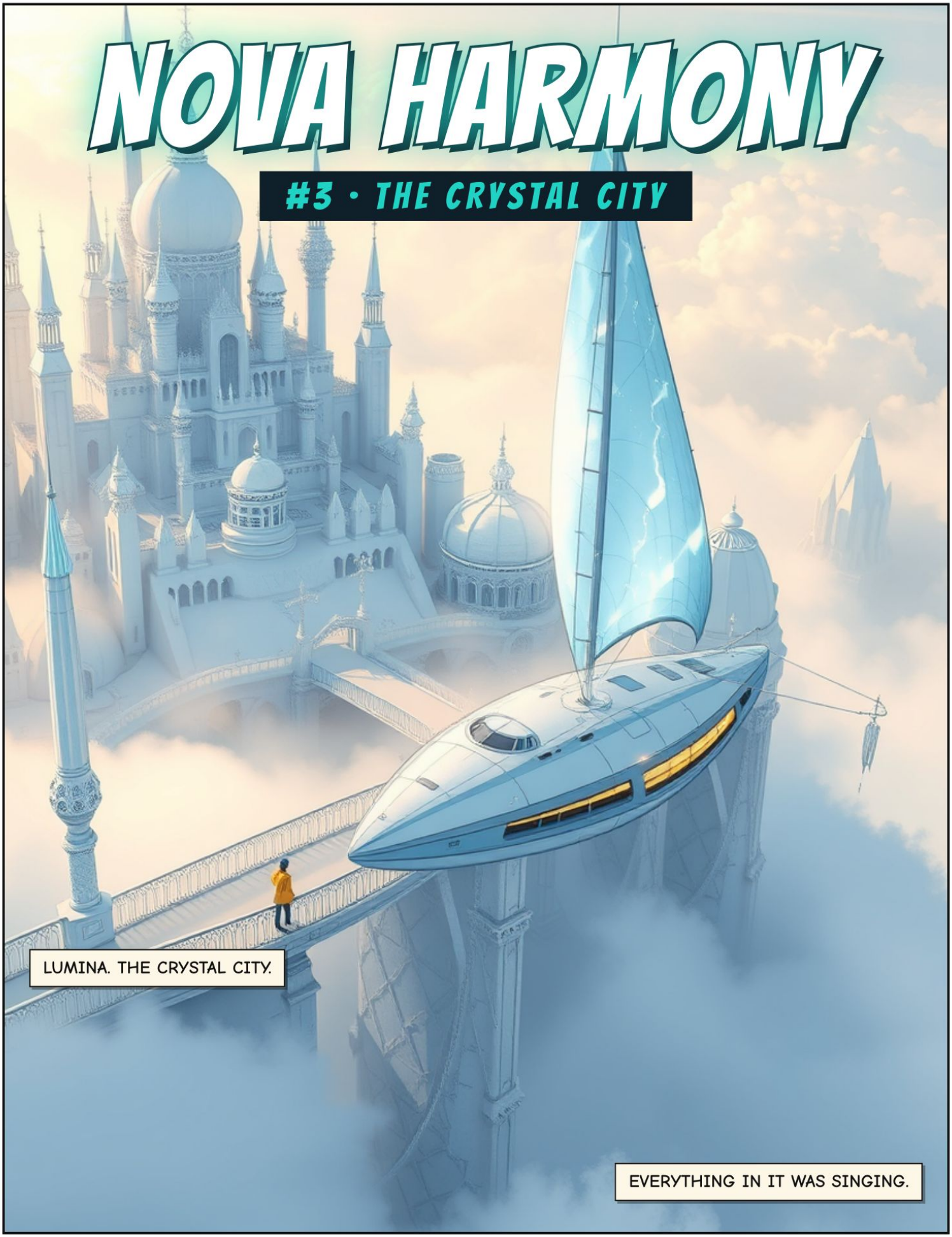
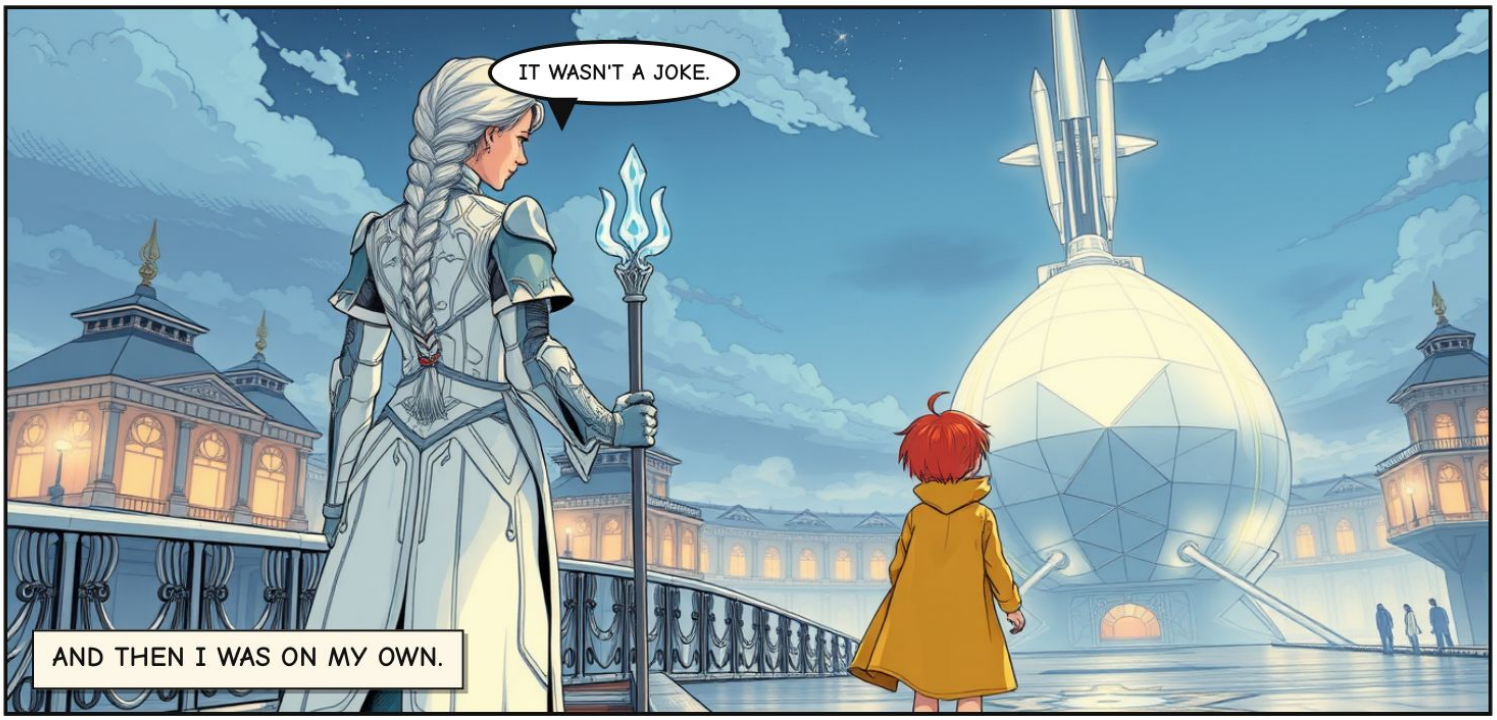

NOVA HARMONY
#3 • THE CRYSTAL CITY
LUMINA. THE CRYSTAL CITY.
EVERYTHING IN IT WAS SINGING.


INSIGHT. THE TEMPLE OF TRAINING. NOBODY ELSE WAS WEARING YELLOW.

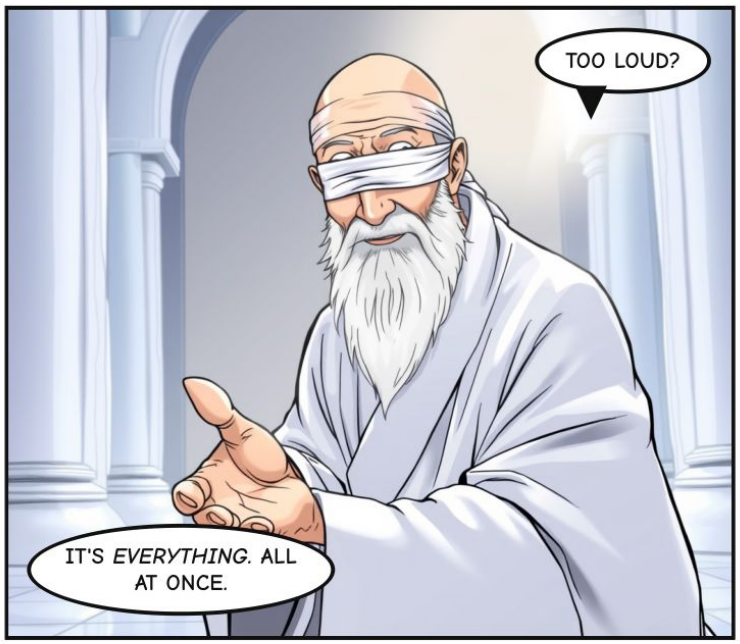

MASTER OREN WILL TAKE IT FROM HERE. TRY NOT TO BREAK ANYTHING.


THAT'S NOT FUNNY.

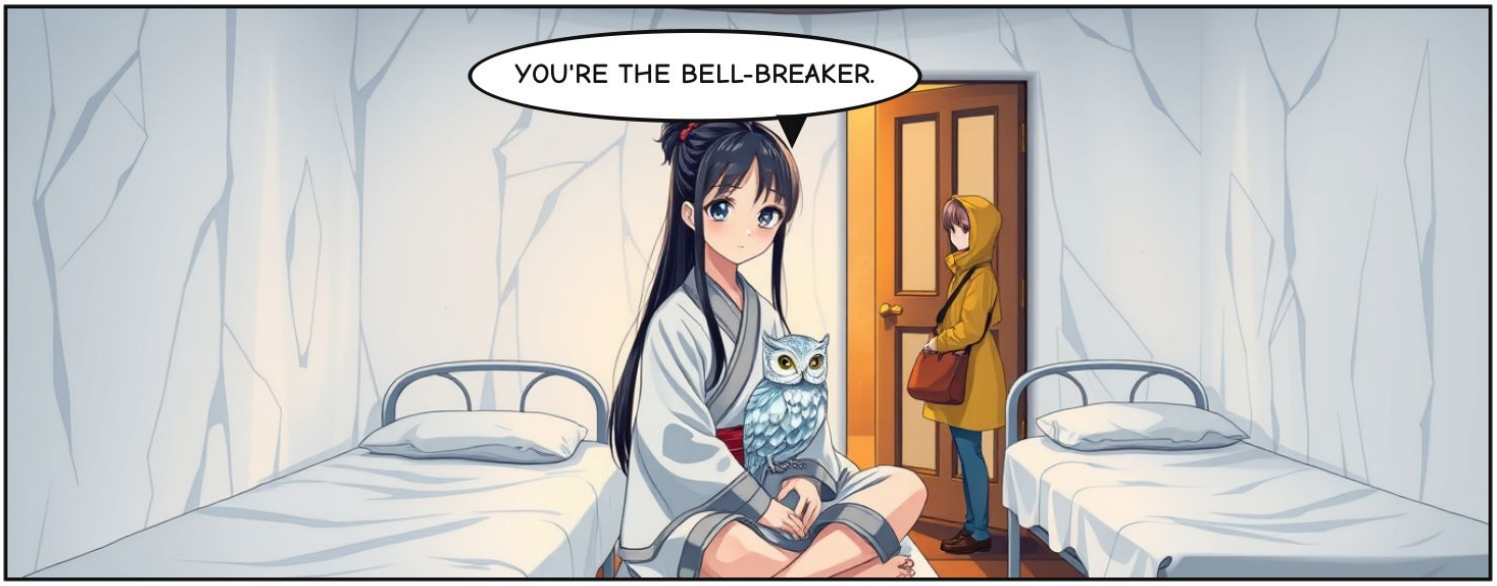

IT WASN'T A JOKE.
AND THEN I WAS ON MY OWN.


AT HOME, ONE BELL IN A TOWER. HERE, TEN THOUSAND CRYSTALS, ALL RINGING AT ONCE.
IIIIIINNNNNG

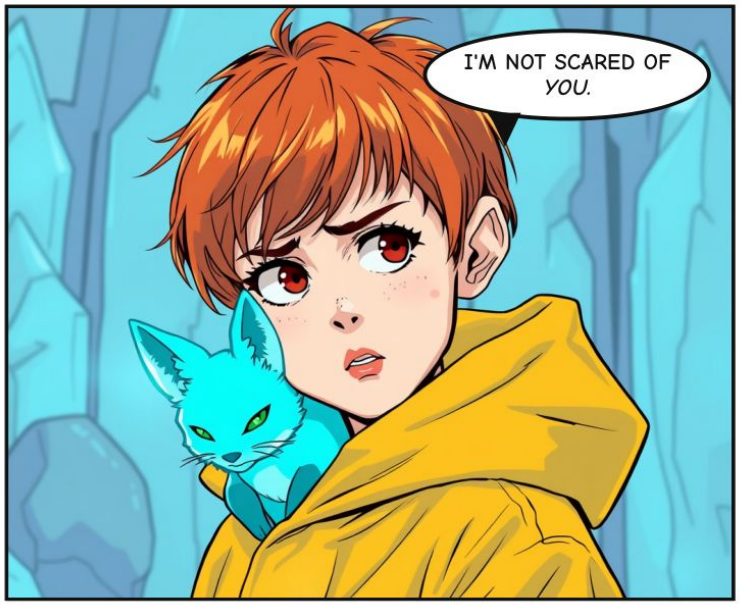

FOURTEEN YEARS OF NOTHING. NOW ALL OF IT.


TOO LOUD?
IT'S *EVERYTHING*. ALL AT ONCE.


GOOD. MOST PEOPLE HAVE TO LEARN TO *HEAR*.
YOU ONLY HAVE TO LEARN TO *LISTEN*.

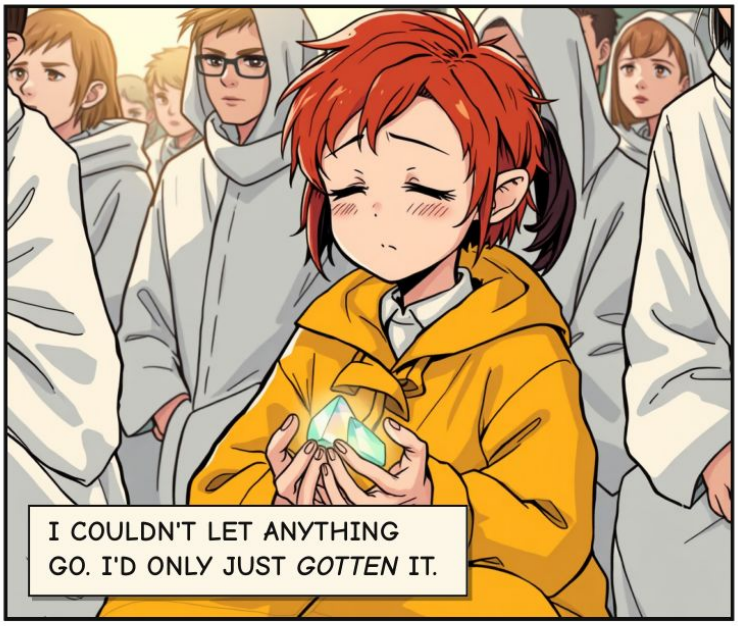

YOU'RE THE BELL-BREAKER.

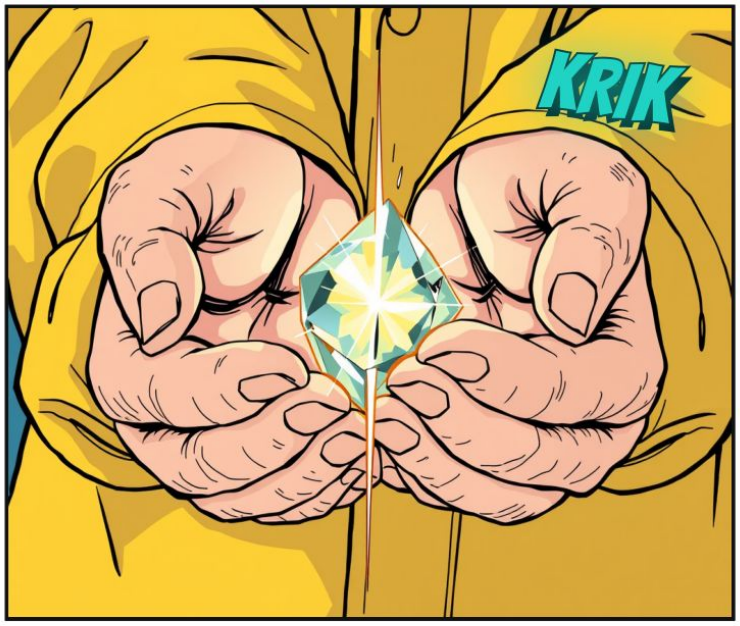

NOBODY TOLD ME. IT'S ALL *OVER* YOU.
ALSO YOU'RE SCARED OF THIS PLACE. AND A LITTLE OF ME.

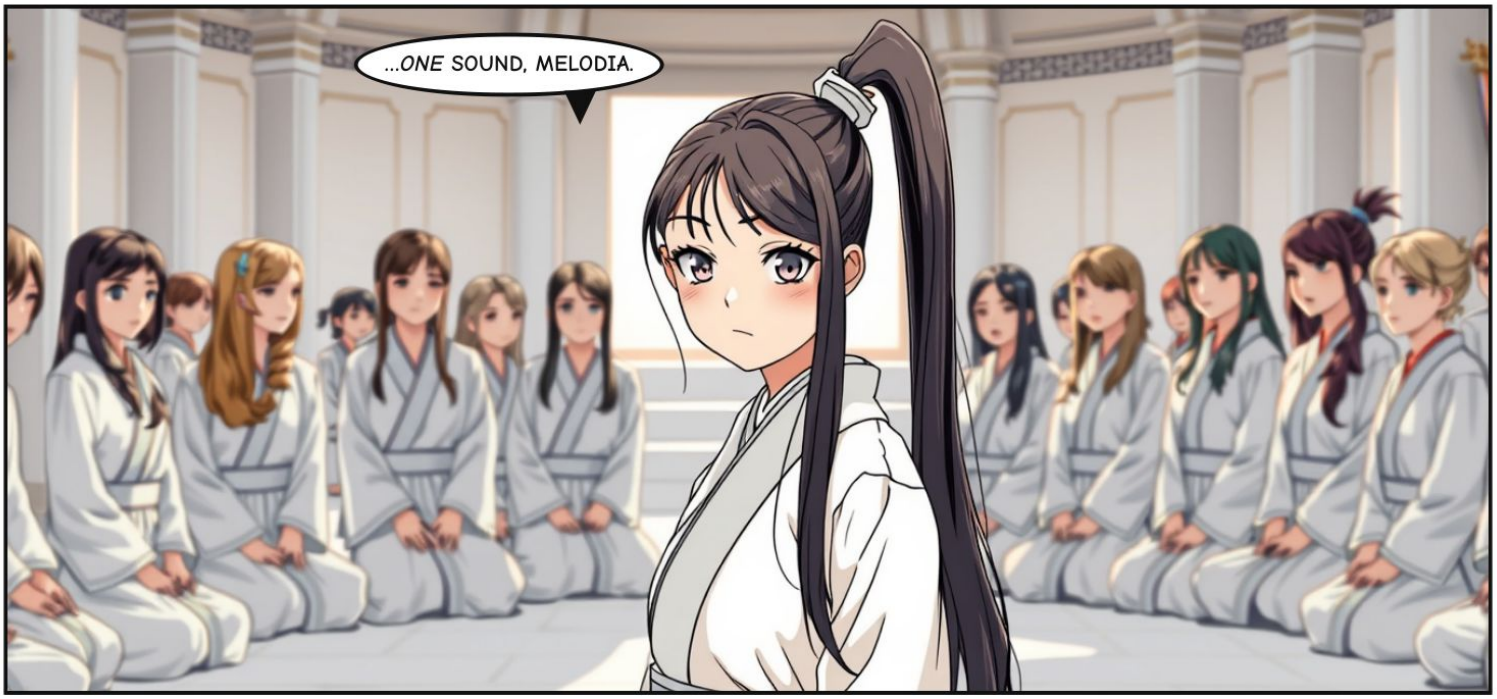

I'M NOT SCARED OF *YOU*.


THAT'S A LIE. IT'S FINE. EVERYONE LIES ON THE FIRST DAY.
LUMINA HAS A WORD FOR WHAT SHE DOES. TRUTH SENSING. I HAD A DIFFERENT WORD FOR IT.


FIND ONE SOUND. JUST ONE. LET THE REST GO.


I COULDN'T LET ANYTHING GO. I'D ONLY JUST *GOTTEN* IT.

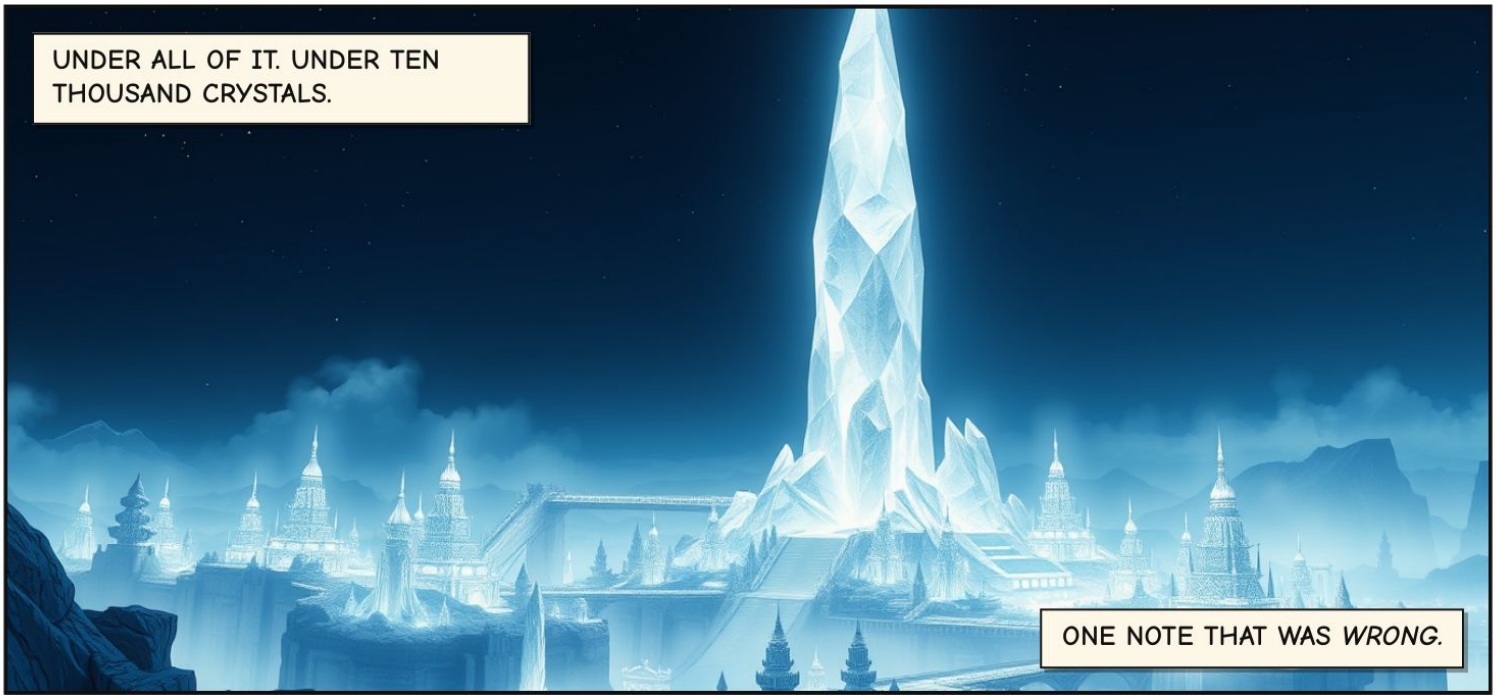

KRIK


...*ONE* SOUND, MELODIA.


LUMINA IS BEAUTIFUL AT NIGHT. IT'S ALSO VERY, VERY FAR FROM HOLLOWMERE.

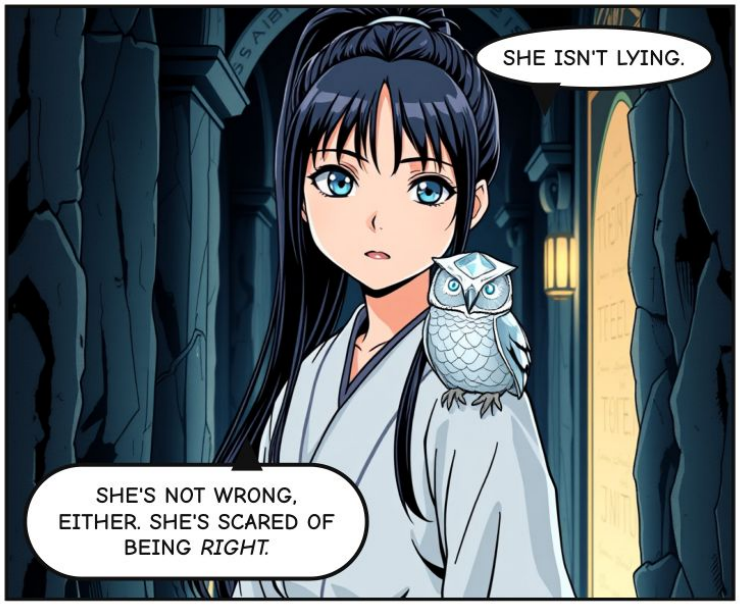

YOU'D HATE IT HERE, MRS. FENN. NOBODY HUMS.


THEN I HEARD IT.

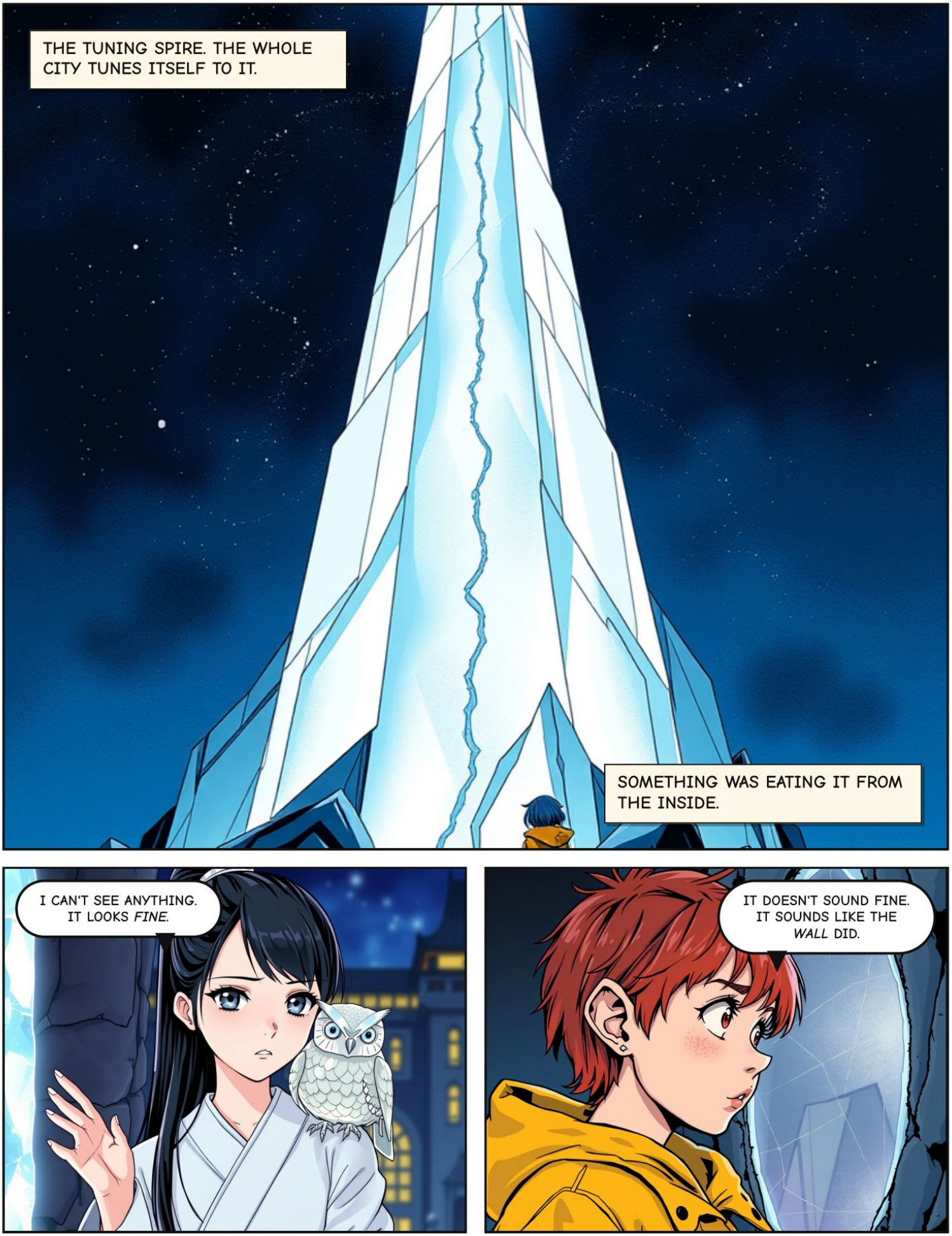

UNDER ALL OF IT. UNDER TEN THOUSAND CRYSTALS.
ONE NOTE THAT WAS *WRONG.*


SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH THE SPIRE! CAN'T YOU *HEAR* IT?


THE MASTERS CHECK THE SPIRE EVERY DAWN. BED, SEEKER.

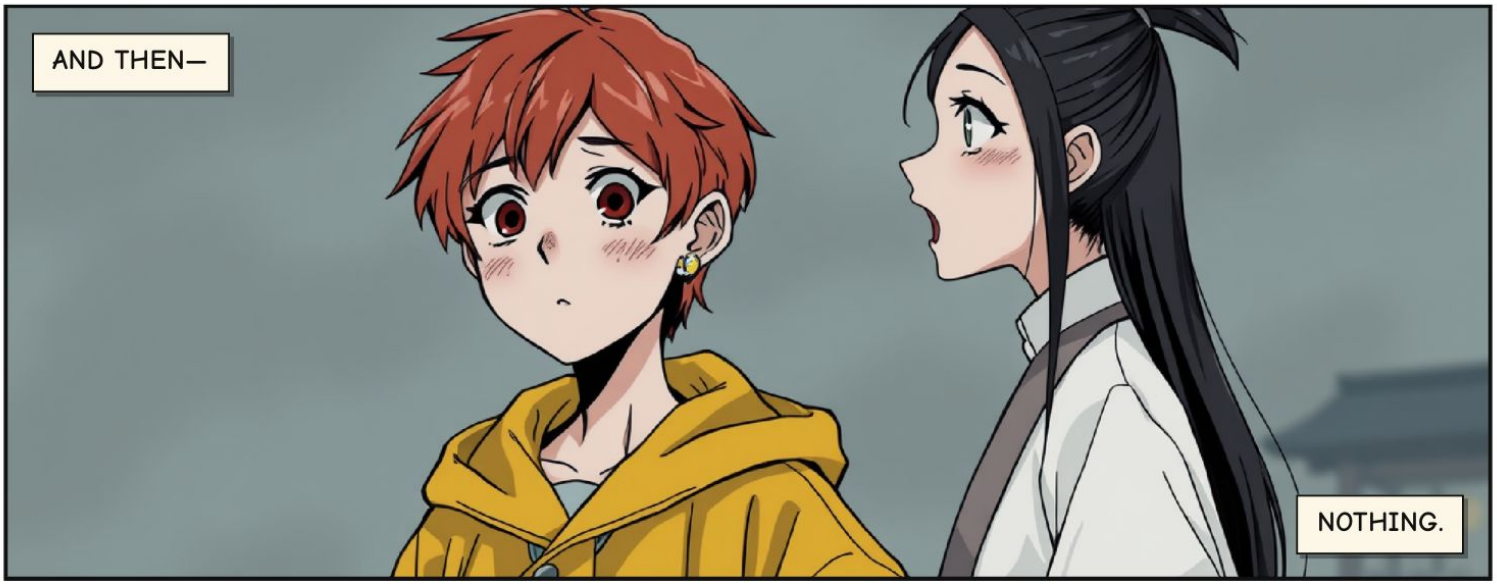

SHE ISN'T LYING.
SHE'S NOT WRONG, EITHER. SHE'S SCARED OF BEING *RIGHT*.


SO... WE GO?
WE GO.


THE TUNING SPIRE. THE WHOLE CITY TUNES ITSELF TO IT.
SOMETHING WAS EATING IT FROM THE INSIDE.
I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING. IT LOOKS *FINE*.
IT DOESN'T SOUND FINE. IT SOUNDS LIKE THE *WALL* DID.


KRRZZT
THE BURST WAS RIGHT THERE.
DON'T! YOU'LL CRACK THE WHOLE SPIRE!
OPENNESS, NOT DEMAND. I'D DONE THIS ONCE. I COULD DO IT TWICE.
♪ MMM— MMMM ♪
LOWER. LEFT. *THERE.*


THE GREY CAME OUT OF THE CRYSTAL LIKE A SPLINTER.
♪ MMMMMM ♪


AND THEN—
NOTHING.


TAVI? *TAVI.*
...I CAN HEAR YOU. I CAN HEAR YOU.
WE TEACH SEEKERS TO FILTER OUT WHAT DOESN'T MATTER.
SOMETIMES WE FILTER OUT WHAT *DOES.*
AND THIS DIDN'T COME FROM OUTSIDE ANY BARRIER.





TEN THOUSAND CRYSTALS, AND I COULD HEAR EVERY ONE OF THEM.

FOR ONCE, THAT WAS THE POINT.



NEXT ISSUE **THE QUIET INSIDE**