



STARLIGHT AMAZONS

The Sphere of Memories

NOT TO READER:

This is a storyboard and comic book outline NOT a book, its guidance for speech and drawings.

Please bear that in mind when reading

SPREAD 2 OPENING SPLASH SPREAD**FULL-SPREAD COMPOSITION****TOP HALF (DOMINANT IMAGE): THE SPIRE**

A colossal orbital Spire hangs in the void.

It is beautiful.

Victorian-industrial elegance: brass ribs, filigreed structural arches, vast glass domes glowing softly from within. Fine conduits of light trace along its length like veins. It looks curated, deliberate, loved.

There is no visible weaponry.

No overt threat.

The Spire feels like a monument to civilisation at its most confident.

BOTTOM HALF (MIRRORED IMAGE): THE PLANET BELOW

Directly beneath the Spire lies a world in ruin.

Oceans are partially drained into **geometric extraction scars**.

Coastlines are unnatural, angular, bitten away.

Former cities are faint skeletal grids beneath dust and salt.

The planet is not exploded or burned - it has been **used**.

Massive siphon marks glow faintly where water, energy, or something more fundamental has been taken.

The Spire's shadow cuts across the planet like a verdict.

CAPTION (SINGLE, RESTRAINED, CENTERED LOW)

"Civilization gleams... even as it consumes its hosts."

No other text.

No logos.

No credits.

Let the reader *sit* in it.

VISUAL RULES FOR THIS SPREAD

These are important and intentional:

*The Spire and planet should feel aesthetically related
(same geometry, same design language - one refined, one violated)*

The Spire must look desirable, not sinister

The planet must look emptied, not dramatic

No ships, no explosions, no motion cues

This is not action - it is context

WHAT THE READER SHOULD FEEL

Not shock.

Not excitement.

A quiet, unsettling admiration.

The kind that makes the reader think:

"...wait. What did it cost?"

That question is the engine of the entire book.



SPREAD 4 THE WEIGHT OF HER

PURPOSE OF THIS SPREAD Establish Neve's ethereal baseline. This is simply who she is. Show the crew's casual acceptance of her nature. Show something shifting. Worse than usual. Walk her onto the bridge naturally. End on the near-fade in front of the whole crew. No explanation. No dialogue about what she is. The image does the work.

PANEL 1 VOLUPTAS CORRIDOR, WIDE

A quiet moment between destinations. Neve moves through a brass corridor, floating fractionally above the floor. Translucent skin. Blue-gold light pulsing softly beneath the surface. Vashti nods a greeting as passes her with a tray. Doom glances up from a panel, nods, returns to work. Nobody reacts. This is just Neve.

CAPTION (LOW, RESTRAINED):

She had always been this way.

PANEL 2 Neve STOPS (MID-SHOT)

Neve pauses mid-corridor. Her hand drifts to the wall. Not for balance. Something else. The instrument panels nearby flicker faintly as she stills. A soft, momentary sync with her pulse. Her expression shifts. Not pain. Like hearing something very far away.

PANEL 3 KYRA ENTERS (WIDE)

Kyra rounds the corner, sees Neve. She doesn't rush. She doesn't call out. She simply crosses the distance and stands beside her. Close, steady. The gesture of someone who has done this a thousand times. Neve straightens. Determined to keep moving.

Neve (quiet):

"It's getting worse."

PANEL 4 UPPER BRIDGE (WIDE)

Neve walks onto the bridge, Kyra at her side. The line still hanging in the air. The crew at their stations look up. Hoshi. Calyx. Lucette. All of them. No panic. Just attention. They know this person. They know this look.

PANEL 5 THE FADE (FULL WIDTH)

In front of everyone. For one terrible moment Neve is less than she was. Her edges blur. The blue-gold pulse bleeds outward, her form uncertain, thinning. Kyra's arm is around her but holding less than it was a second ago. Every station on the bridge stills. Nobody moves. Nobody speaks.

PANEL 6 SHE RETURNS (CLOSE-UP)

Neve is back. Solid. Gasping slightly. Her eyes find Kyra's. Kyra's expression does everything words cannot.

No dialogue. Let the image carry it.

WHAT THIS SPREAD DOES Establishes Neve's nature without explaining it Moves her naturally from corridor to bridge The fade happens in front of the whole crew. More people, more weight, more silence Plants the instrument flicker. Seeds what Elara will later discover

THE PLAN

PURPOSE OF THIS SPREAD One problem, one solution, one decision. Kyra moves fast. No hand wringing. The purple nurse scans Neve on the bridge. Kyra tells Elara it is coming. The nurse sends it on Kyra's nod. The cover story forms from one throwaway line. Chi is volunteered for the right technical reasons. Everything on the bridge. This spread moves like a decision being made.

PANEL 1 BRIDGE, WIDE

The silence after the fade. Nobody quite sure what they just saw. Then the purple nurse steps forward from her station. Calm, professional. She moves to Neve without being asked. Her scanner already in hand.

PANEL 2 THE SCAN (CLOSE-UP INSERT)

The nurse's scanner reads Neve's pulse. The display shows something complex. Unusual. Wrong in ways that are hard to name. The nurse's eyes flick up briefly. She keeps her expression steady.

PANEL 3 KYRA AT COMMS (MID-SHOT)

Kyra is already on comms.

KYRA (comms, controlled):

"Elara. We are sending you Neve's scan now."

She glances at the nurse. A small nod.

NURSE:

"Sending now, Commander."

PANEL 4 ELARA ON COMMS (INSERT, SMALL)

Elara's face on the comm screen. Already studying the incoming data. Her expression tightening.

Dr ELARA:

"This isn't a heartbeat. Her vitals are oscillating in a perfect sine wave. It's a broadcast."

A beat.

"Get her here to Med-Wing 4B. And Kyra. Someone is going to notice. Come quietly."

PANEL 5 BRIDGE, THE PROBLEM (WIDE)

Kyra turns to the crew. The unspoken question in the air. The Nexus Spire. How do they get there without raising flags?

PANEL 6 CALYX, CASUAL (MID-SHOT)

Calyx doesn't look up from her navigation console. Completely matter of fact.

CALYX:

"The Spire? There's always a function on."

A beat.

"Never a quiet berth there."

PANEL 7 KYRA AND CHI (MID-SHOT)

Kyra looks at Chi. Chi looks back. She already knows what's coming.

CHI (internal):

Oh no.

PANEL 8 KYRA, DECISIVE (CLOSE-UP)

KYRA:

"You're going to a gala."

PANEL 9 CHI, REALISING (MID-SHOT)

Chi's expression moves through protest and resignation. Then something sharper clicks into place.

CHI:

"Daijoubu I can ghost us through their network from inside. Nobody will know the Voluptas is anything other than transport."

KYRA (small, satisfied):

"OK then... better get dressed."

SPREAD 6 THE DOCKING / THE DIAGNOSIS / THE LIE

PURPOSE OF THIS SPREAD Three beats, clean and sequential. The Voluptas docks. Chi disappears into the gala. Kyra gets Neve to Elara. The diagnosis lands hard. Then the world lies to itself on a broadcast screen. The two halves sit side by side without comment. Let the reader connect them. Still no spectacle. Still no action.

PANEL 1 EXTERIOR, THE SPIRE DOCKING (WIDE)

The Voluptas slides quietly into a berth at the Nexus Spire. One ship among many. Nothing to see here. Beyond the docking arm, through vast glass, the gala glitters.

PANEL 2 DOCKING CORRIDOR (MID-SHOT)

Chi moves through the docking corridor toward the Spire. Already in the silk gown. Already uncomfortable. She doesn't look back.

CHI (internal):

Iya, I fix systems. I do not attend galas.

PANEL 3 MED-WING 4B, NEXUS (WIDE)

Elara's territory. High-tier, pristine, impersonal. Kyra walks Neve in. Arm around her. Efficient, not gentle. Elara is already moving to meet them. Data scrolls faster than she likes on the screens behind her. She frowns. Then stills.

Add to background: an ACCORD Health & Vitality Department poster ("Strong Bodies Serve Longer" or similar) visible on Elara's wall, positioned near where Neve's diagnosis is happening, for ironic contrast.

PANEL 4 ELARA, CLOSE (MID-SHOT)

Elara studies the readings. Her expression tightening.

Dr ELARA (urgent):

"I knew it was wrong from the scan. I didn't know it was this wrong."

A beat.

"I am having to access secure systems just to read her."

A beat.

"If I am not careful someone will notice"

PANEL 5 KYRA, CLOSE (MID-SHOT)

KYRA (low, controlled):

"Then we make this quick. Chi can only make small talk for so long."

PANEL 1 V-SCREEN BROADCAST (BOXED, FULL FRAME)

A floating public broadcast fills the panel. A smiling ACCORD newscaster in immaculate attire.

Lirien D'Aurel - NEWSCASTER (cheerful):

"Orbital Command reassures citizens that extraction metrics remain well within sustainable limits."

PANEL 2 SMALL INSET PANEL (BREAKING THE FRAME)

A ground-level worker watches the screen from a dim space below. The broadcast glow reflects in tired eyes.

GROUND DWELLER (internal):

We barely afford to live.

SPREAD 8 THE DECEPTION BEGINS

PURPOSE OF THIS SPREAD

Introduce Mayara as a serious voice of reason.

Show the ACCORD leadership as arrogant and detached.

Establish Vane, Harlen, Seraphina, and Meilin's personalities.

End with the alert that pulls Mayara away.

PANEL 1 - WIDE SHOT, NEXUS RECEPTION HALL

The **Nexus Reception Hall**. Establish the "Gilded Cage"-brass ribs, crystal chandeliers, and elites in silks

PANEL 2

A small circle of ACCORD officials watch politely but without urgency.

MAYARA

"Your extraction rate is accelerating crustal failure."

"The mantle is destabilising."

She rotates the hologram.

"Your extraction rate is accelerating crust failure."

PANEL 3 - HARLEN'S FIRST RESPONSE

Harlen responds calmly, almost amused.

HARLEN:

"Ambassador Mayara... the ACCORD maintains a carefully regulated extraction schedule."

She gestures dismissively to the hologram.

PANEL 4 - MAYARA PUSHES BACK

She steps closer, frustrated.

MAYARA:

"This isn't a schedule problem."

It's planetary physics."

The hologram zooms to mantle fractures.

MAYARA:

"At this rate the lithosphere collapses within a century."

PANEL 5 - HARLEN REFRAMES THE ISSUE

Harlen barely reacts.

She takes a sip of her drink.

HARLEN:

"A century is not a crisis, Ambassador."

It is a planning horizon."

Small smile.

"The ACCORD manages sustained supply."



CHANCELLOR VANES DISMISSAL

PANEL 1

High Chancellor Vane watches the hologram calmly.
He looks at Mayara like she's being dramatic.

VANE:

"Planets are resources, Ambassador."

He glances at the crowd around them.

VANE:

"Resources are to be used."

PANEL 2

Vane smiles faintly.

VANE:

"Your passion for 'planetary health' is as striking as your silhouette."

Beat.

"But the ACCORD requires supply. Not a physics lecture."

PANEL 3 (wide)

Behind Vane stand their assistants, Seraphina and Meilin.
They whisper while watching Mayara.

SERAPHINA:

"Her head is as inflated as her chest."

MEILIN:

"Ambassadors are for the scenery... not the data."

PANEL 4 (Mayara Dismissed)

The officials begin drifting away.
Mayara shuts down the hologram in frustration.

PANEL 5 - THE ALERT (FINAL PANEL)

Close on her wrist-comm lighting up.

WRIST-COMM ALERT

"UNAUTHORISED DIAGNOSTIC: MED-WING 4B."

Mayara reads it, surprised.

MAYARA (internal)

"A ghost in my system..."

Beat.

"...someone is actually listening to the planet's heartbeat."

SPREAD 10 Chi's Gala

PANEL 1: GALA FLOOR WIDE

Lavish reception hall. Chandeliers. Music. Diplomats laughing and drinking. Chi stands stiffly among them in a tight formal dress, clearly uncomfortable. She holds a drink she hasn't touched.

CHI (internal)

"Kowai, sooooo many people!"

PANEL 2:

Two elegant guests chat near her. Chi takes a breath and steps toward them.

CHI (internal)

"Don't say anything weird."

CHI:

"So... do you come here often?"

PANEL 3 – ESCAPE

Chi quietly slips away from the crowd toward the massive glass wall of the Spire. The noise of the party fades slightly.

CHI (internal)

"Naze... Why did they pick me?"

PANEL 4 – RELIEF / DISCOVERY (MERGED)

Chi leans against the glass overlooking the planet.

She exhales in relief.

Then her fingers touch the glass.

Tiny vibration lines ripple faintly through the surface.

Her expression changes from relief to concern.

CHI

"Chigau...that's not right."

PANEL 5 – MAYARA ENTERS

Mayara approaches quietly from the crowd.

Her wrist-comm still shows the alert.

She stops beside Chi and looks out at the planet.

MAYARA (low)

"You can feel the harmonic variance in the glass, can't you?"

Beat.

"Fourteen hertz."

PANEL 6 – CHI CORRECTS

Chi jumps slightly, embarrassed to be caught.

CHI

"Twelve degree phase shift actually."

She tugs awkwardly at the tight dress.

CHI

"And I hate this dress."

MAYARA (soft)

"You look beautiful."

ACCORD ARROGANCE

PANEL 1 – TECHNICAL RECOGNITION

Both women now face the glass.
The party continues behind them.

CHI

“The Spire skin is resonating out of sync with the mantle frequencies.”

Beat.

“No one else here seems to notice?”

PANEL 2 – ACCORD ARROGANCE

Mayara glances back toward the gala crowd.
Politicians. Generals. Investors.

MAYARA

“They aren’t listening.”

Beat.

“They’re too busy staring at my boobs...”

Panel 3

She looks back to the planet.

MAYARA

“...to notice the planet dying.”

PANEL 4 – THE HANDOFF

Mayara slips a small data key into Chi’s hand.

MAYARA

“You’re the ghost in my network?”

PANEL 5 – THE WARNING

Mayara leans closer so only Chi can hear.

MAYARA (low)

“Please, get this and your ship off this station.”

Chi looks down at the key in her hand.

SPREAD 12 The Decision to Defect

The Gilded Cage Closes

Panel 1 (Close-Up):

Mayara's wrist-comm flashes amber.

SECURITY PROTOCOL DELTA: UNAUTHORISED DIAGNOSTIC FLAGGED.

Panel 2 (Mid-Shot):

Mayara looks at Chi, who struggles with the restrictive silk of her gown.

MAYARA

"An automated sweep just caught your doctor borrowing my medical encryption."

Beat.

CHI (putting it together fast):

"Yabai! So in thirty seconds this room will be full of Peacekeepers?"

Panel 3 – Tight Close-Up (Mayara)

No background. Just her face. Calm. Calculating.

MAYARA (quiet)

"Those are my protocols."

Beat.

"If I stay, I disappear."

Panel 4 – Same framing

Resolve settles.

MAYARA

"If I run..."

Beat.

"I burn everything."

Panel 5 (Action):

She turns toward the service exit.

MAYARA:

"The kitchen has a service elevator, if I'm right, it gets us close to the Med-Wing."

CHI (quietly, to herself):

"Yosh."

Panel 6 (Inset – Mayara tapping her comm mid-stride):

MAYARA:

"Gary. Pack everything. I'm going on a trip."

Systems Activate

Panel 1 (Gary – pristine penthouse interior):

Gary stands composed, already accessing systems.

GARY:

“Departure Madam?”

Panel 2 (Back to corridor – Mayara moving fast):

MAYARA:

“Immediate. Bay Nine. Discreet.”

Panel 3 (Gary – subtle drones activating behind him):

MAYARA (over comm):

“And Gary... Be careful.”

GARY:

“Always Ambassador, at your service”

Panel 4 (Action):

Mayara and Chi bolt through the service entrance. Music and laughter fade behind them. Metal doors slam shut.

SPREAD 14 Med-Wing 4B

Panel 1 (Wide):

Sterile, high-tier medical chamber. Monitors flashing red.

Panel 2 (Mid-Shot):

Elara leans over Neve. Blue-gold light under Neve's skin flickers jagged and unstable.

ELARA:

"It's not a fever."

Panel 3 (Screen Close-Up):

Two overlapping waveforms labeled:

PLANETARY EXTRACTION – SIPHON 01

PATIENT ALPHA

They are identical.

ELARA (off-panel):

"It's an echo."

Panel 4 (Kyra gripping the bed):

KYRA:

"You're telling me she's feeling the planet being drained?"

ELARA:

"As long as we're docked to this Spire, she's part of the circuit."

Panel 5 (Tight on Neve – energy surging):

ELARA:

"If we stay connected, she burns with the planet."

Panel 1 (Doors burst open):

Mayara and Chi rush in.

MAYARA:

“The Peacekeepers are two levels up.”

Panel 2 (Kyra lifting Neve into a fireman’s carry):

KYRA:

“WE move NOW.”

Panel 3 (Elara grabbing a portable unit):

ELARA:

“And we sever this connection.”

Panel 4 (Wide – group exits Med-Wing at speed):

Alarm lighting begins to pulse.

SPREAD 16 The Architect's Path

Panel 1 (Wide Corridor):

They sprint. Mayara in the lead, silk gown torn at the legs. Kyra carries Neve. Chi struggles but keeps pace.

Panel 2 (Opposing Corridor):

A squad of Peacekeepers rounds the corner ahead. Polished brass armor. Shock-staves ignite.

Panel 3 (Close on Mayara – no hesitation):

She slams a hidden wall panel.

MAYARA:

"The Peacekeepers follow the primary arteries."

Panel 4 (Wall hisses open):

A vertical maintenance chute revealed - brass pipes, pistons, dark depth.

MAYARA:

"We take the lungs."

Panel 5 (Chi looks at the chute, then at her gown):

CHI:

"Yosh! Finally."

Panel 6 (Action):

She rips the silk gown up to mid-thigh.

CHI:

"If I never see another yard of silk..."

Panel 1

(Peacekeepers advancing, staves crackling):

Panel 2

(Mayara grabbing the ladder rungs):

MAYARA:

"Gravity's unregulated. Hold the brass."

Panel 3

(Kyra descending one-handed, Neve over her shoulder):

Panel 4

(Chi follows, grease staining silk):

Panel 5

Peacekeeper at chute edge, too late:

They vanish into darkness.

SPREAD 18 DESCENT

Panel 1 (Vertical Shot Down the Shaft):

The group climbing through a cathedral of pipes and pistons.

Panel 2

(Close-Up – Chi's hand slipping on oil, catching a brass rung):

Panel 3

(Kyra's arm tightening around Neve):

Neve's skin flashes violently for a second.

Panel 4

(Mayara glances upward):

The circle of light above shrinking.

Panel 5

(Above – Peacekeeper silhouette at the hatch, unable to follow):

Panel 1

(Mechanical hum begins to build):

Panel 2 (Exterior Dock – Bay Nine):

The Voluptas powering up. Engines glowing softly in standby.

Panel 3 (Autonomous cargo sled gliding toward the ship):

Discreet. Efficient.

Panel 4 (Interior shaft – final descent):

Mayara lands lightly on a lower platform.

Panel 5 (She looks at the others as they regroup):

MAYARA:

“Dock Nine.”

Panel 6 (Final Wide Panel):

They disappear into the industrial underbelly toward the ship as alarms echo faintly above.

SPREAD 20 The Quiet After

Purpose: Show Mayara's transition into the crew through labor and reveal the ACCORD's "System Schedule."

Action: Reinforce the new team roles (Juno as the "hands" and Chi as the "mind") and deliver the big narrative hook:

Panel 1 (Wide):

The engineering deck. **Juno** is half-buried in a maintenance hatch. **Mayara** is kneeling beside her.

Panel 2 (Mid-Shot):

Juno slides out, wiping grease from her brow. Mayara hands her the wrench, looking at her own oil-stained palms.

MAYARA:

"In the Spire, we had sensors to predict failure and droids to fix it. I never actually... touched the machine."

JUNO:

"Machines don't care about your title, Ambassador. They just care if the bolts are tight."

Panel 3 (Chi's Station):

Chi is at a holographic table, watching a waterfall of cyan data.

CHI:

"Hull harmonics are holding. The phase-shift we created didn't just break the locks; it scrubbed the station's residual trace from our signature. We're invisible."

Panel 4 (Close-Up):

Mayara looks from her stained hands to Chi's monitors. Her face hardens as she remembers what she left behind.

MAYARA:

"They think anyone they can't measure is just noise. But the data never showed me that someone could hear a structural flaw through their fingertips."

Panel 5 (The Big Reveal):

Mayara leans in, her voice dropping.

MAYARA:

*"The data key I gave you... it's the **System Schedule**. They aren't just harvesting; they're preparing for a '**Final Draw**.' They're planning to evacuate the Spire and collapse the entire planetary grid for a century's worth of power in a single night."*

The Mission

Purpose: Connect the "System" reveal to Neve's new status and set the course.

Panel 1 (Mid-Shot):

Kyra and **Elara** in the med-bay. **Neve** is asleep, her breathing finally deep and regular. The blue-gold glow under her skin has settled into a soft, steady radiance

Panel 2 (The Monitor):

Elara studies a scan. The screen shows a beautiful, complex geometric waveform instead of a flatline or a fever.

ELARA:

"She's stable, Kyra. But it's like her mind caught a reflection of the planetary System before we broke the link. She's... dreaming in coordinates."

Panel 3 (Wide):

The whole crew gathers. **Kyra** holds the data key Mayara provided.

KYRA:

"We have the Architect's records of the collapse, and we have the location Neve pulled out of the resonance. We are the only record left."

Panel 4 (Close-Up):

Kyra looks at Mayara, testing her resolve.

KYRA:

"You're a long way from the Ambassador's suite, Mayara. There's no turning back once you've seen the 'Record.'"

MAYARA:

"The 'scenery' was a lie. I'd rather see the truth from out here."

Panel 5 (Action): Kyra turns to the controls.

KYRA:

"Lucette... plot a course for the coordinates. Hoshi.. Punch it."

SPREAD 22 DOUBLE PAGE SPLASH

FULL-SPREAD VISUAL

Now that they have the coordinates and the "System Schedule" motivation, you transition into your original double-page splash :

The Visual: The *Voluptas* hanging in the prismatic aether as the Harmonic Drive engages.

Caption: *"The universe listened."*

SMALL, LOW DIALOGUE (BOTTOM CORNER)

LUCETTE (measured, reverent):

Harmonic engagement achieved.

A fractional pause.

LUCETTE:

Ship is... in motion.

Estimated transit: thirty-seven hours.

Harmonic drift is within tolerance. The ship needs rest.

So do you.

VISUAL NOTES

No engine exhaust

No shockwave

No violence

Motion is implied by **geometry**, not speed.

The colors should feel:

beautiful

alien

faintly unsettling

WHAT THE READER SHOULD FEEL

Relief first.

Then a quiet question:

Was that supposed to work like that?

This page is the conclusion of the **Harmonic Jump** visual .

Visual: The right half of the *Voluptas* hanging in the prismatic aether .

Text (Centered/Low): * **CAPTION:** "The universe listened."

Note: There is no other dialogue on this page .

SPREAD 24 AFTER THE FOLD

This spread still does four things:

Crew decompresses after the Harmonic jump

Establishes the jump had *consequences*

Advances Neve's condition without explaining it

Keeps the mystery intact

No Sphere. No artefact. No shortcut.

PANEL 1 BRIDGE, WIDE:

The bridge is dimmer now. Systems hum at a new, unfamiliar pitch - not broken, but altered. Outside the forward view, space looks subtly wrong, like depth itself hasn't finished settling. No alarms. No pursuit.

PANEL 2 Hoshi, EXHALE (MID-SHOT):

Hoshi finally releases the breath she's been holding.

Hoshi:

"We're clear. No active pursuit."

PANEL 3 LUCETTE, STILL INTERFACED:

Lucette studies lingering harmonic echoes, her movements slower now.

LUCETTE:

"Residual distortion present. Navigation uncertainty elevated... but stable."

"I do not recommend repeating that manoeuvre."

PANEL 4 LUCETTE, STILL INTERFACED:

Lucette Concerned. Looking directly at Kyra.

"Also, be advised: System-wide resonance load has increased by 2.4% since departure. The Spire is already spooling up the primary conduits. At current acceleration... they move the Final Draw forward by weeks with every conduit they engage."

PANEL 5 - KYRA, TURNING FROM THE VIEW

Kyra gives a single nod.

No relief - just acceptance.

PANEL 6 - KYRA TO CAPTAIN

KYRA:

Calyx. Send word to the crew and passengers.

Anyone who needs to leave, we find them a port. No questions.

CALYX (dry):

No point, Commander.

A beat.

You know everyone on this ship. They'd be offended if you asked.

PANEL 1 MED BAY, QUIET (WIDE):

Neve lies on a medical couch. The room is dim, insulated, intimate. Elara adjusts sensors carefully. There are no external devices, no artefacts - just Neve.

PANEL 2 ELARA, STUDYING READOUTS (CLOSE-UP):

The readings are stable... but wrong in subtle ways.

ELARA:

"Vitals stabilized during the jump. But her neural activity is elevated... synchronized."

PANEL 3 KYRA AND MAYARA, OBSERVING (MID-SHOT):

Kyra stands rigid, protective. Mayara watches Neve with a different intensity - recognition without certainty.

MAYARA (low):

"The Harmonic field didn't just move us. It listened."

"And the ACCORD is moving faster than the schedule predicted. At this rate, the planetary grid won't just collapse; it'll vaporise. We have even less time than I thought."

PANEL 4 Neve, STIRRING (CLOSE-UP):

Neve's eyes open. For a moment, she doesn't seem to be seeing the room.

Neve (soft, distant):

"It's... clearer now."

PANEL 5 FINAL PANEL, Neve'S HAND:

Close-up on Neve's hand resting on the sheet. Subtle, almost invisible ripples of condensation form in the air above her skin - like humidity responding to an unseen tide. No explanation. Just implication.

CAPTION: *"Something had followed them through the fold."*

SPREAD 26 TRANSIT: THE ASK

A beat stretches.

PANEL 1 - EXTERIOR, VOLUPTAS IN TRANSIT (WIDE)

The Voluptas glides through folded space.

The violence of the escape is gone now.

The ship moves steadily, almost gently.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

Time returned, slowly, cautiously.

PANEL 2 - INTERIOR COMMONS CORRIDOR (WIDE)

A quieter section of the ship.

Soft light. Distant machinery hum.

Mayara stands alone near a viewport, arms folded, posture relaxed but alert.

She looks completely at ease.

Chi approaches from behind... then slows.

PANEL 3 - CHI, STOPPING SHORT (MID-SHOT)

Chi hesitates.

She adjusts her sleeves.

Opens her mouth.

Closes it again.

CHI (internal):

Don't be stupid.

She's busy.

Yabai hito

A glance at Mayara's height. Her presence.

CHI (internal):

Dekai... She's enormous.

PANEL 4 - MAYARA, SENSES MOVEMENT (CLOSE-UP)

Mayara turns her head slightly.

Not startled. Just aware.

Her gaze settles on Chi - curious, neutral, unreadable.

PANEL 5 - CHI, VERY SMALL IN FRAME (WIDE)

Chi looks suddenly, painfully aware of herself.

The corridor feels too wide.

Her voice doesn't come out.

PANEL 1 - CHI, MUSTERING COURAGE (MID-SHOT)

Chi inhales - steadying herself.

She does not look Mayara in the eyes yet.

CHI:

I-um-

I don't know if you... if you have time-

She falters.

PANEL 2 - MAYARA, WAITING (MID-SHOT)

Mayara does not interrupt.

Does not lean in.

Does not soften the moment.

She simply waits.

That somehow makes it harder.

PANEL 3 - CHI, PUSHING THROUGH (CLOSE-UP)

Chi swallows and forces the words out, fast, before she can stop herself.

CHI:

Would you-

I mean-

Would you like a tour of the ship?

The words hang there, fragile.

PANEL 4 - SCALE SHOT (WIDE)

Mayara steps closer - not looming, just present.

The difference in their size is undeniable.

Chi freezes, half-expecting regret to hit.

PANEL 5 - MAYARA, SURPRISED (CLOSE-UP)

For the first time, Mayara looks... genuinely surprised.

Not amused.

Not calculating.

Interested.

PANEL 6 - MAYARA'S ANSWER (MID-SHOT)

A small, warm smile.

MAYARA:

I'd like that very much, Engineer.

PANEL 7 - CHI, RELIEF & PANIC (FINAL PANEL)

Chi blinks.

Her shoulders drop - then immediately tense again.

CHI:

Oh-

Okay. Yes. Right.

Um-this way.

She turns too quickly and almost walks into a bulkhead.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

Bravery rarely feels elegant.

SPREAD 28 THE SPINE

PURPOSE OF THIS SPREAD

This spread shifts Chi from **brave** to **competent**.

She's still nervous - but now she's on home ground.

The Voluptas stops being intimidating and starts being *hers*.

This is where Mayara begins to see Chi differently.

PANEL 1 - FORWARD SPINE CORRIDOR (WIDE)

They walk side by side through the **main spine of the Voluptas**.

The corridor is tall and ribbed, brass struts arcing overhead.

Warm light. A constant, reassuring vibration underfoot.

Chi gestures ahead, finding her rhythm.

CHI:

This is the spine.

Everything important runs through here. Power, data, life support.

PANEL 2 - MAYARA, LISTENING (MID-SHOT)

Mayara walks easily beside Chi, hands clasped behind her back.

She's listening - properly listening.

MAYARA:

It feels... deliberate.

Nothing wasted.

PANEL 3 - CHI, EXPLAINING (MID-SHOT)

Chi nods, a little more confident now.

CHI:

That's on purpose.

If something fails, you should feel it immediately.

She taps the bulkhead lightly.

CHI:

The ship talks. You just have to pay attention.

PANEL 4 - MAYARA, A DIFFERENT LOOK (CLOSE-UP)

Mayara studies Chi now - not the ship.

MAYARA:

And you listen.

It's not a question.

Chi flushes. Internal:

Mou... hazukashii...

PANEL 1 - VERTICAL JUNCTION, SCALE SHOT (WIDE)

They reach a junction where the ship opens up vertically.

Ladders, gantries, and walkways crisscross upward and downward.
Crew move through the space with practiced ease.

The Voluptas feels **huge** - and alive.

PANEL 2 - CHI, A LITTLE SELF-CONSCIOUS (MID-SHOT)

Chi gestures vaguely at the activity.

CHI:

It's... busy.

Juno keeps the heart running, but everything else depends on flow.

PANEL 3 - MAYARA, IMPRESSED (MID-SHOT)

Mayara looks out over the space, genuinely impressed.

MAYARA:

You didn't build a ship.

You built an ecosystem.

PANEL 4 - CHI, QUIET PRIDE (CLOSE-UP)

Chi smiles - small, real.

CHI:

We try not to break it.

PANEL 5 - END-OF-SPREAD PANEL: WALKING ON

They continue forward into the spine, conversation flowing more easily now.

Chi walks a fraction taller than before.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

Fear gave way to familiarity.

SPREAD 30 THE CONTRAST

PURPOSE OF THIS SPREAD

This spread introduces humanity and class contrast.

It shows:

why Chi values the Voluptas the way she does

how the crew actually lives

how Mayara reads power structures — and respects Chi's choices

This is also where Chi becomes slightly embarrassed, not by Mayara, but by exposure.

PANEL 1 - THE PERCH (WIDE, ESTABLISHING)

The Perch.

A warm, layered communal space. Brass railings curve around a sunken seating area. Soft amber light. Low music. The hum of the ship underneath it all.

Crew and performers share the space without hierarchy — lounging, talking, laughing.

This is not a lounge built for status. It's a place people stay.

Add to background: a wall screen showing a Sera broadcast segment, playing low, unremarked, the way ambient TV exists in any bar. Nobody in the scene reacts to or watches it directly.

Chi and Mayara enter from the edge of frame.

CHI: (off-panel, just ahead, casual):

This is the Perch

PANEL 2 - LIFE IN MOTION (MID/WIDE)

The space breathes.

nodding in greeting as moves through the room carrying drinks, mid-laugh, effortlessly commanding attention without demanding it.

A small troupe occupy part of the space — relaxed, expressive, bodies at ease.

Someone raises a mug toward Chi as she passes.

No one stops what they're doing.

No one performs for the newcomers.

PANEL 3 - CHI, PRE-EMPTIVE APOLOGY (MID-SHOT)

Chi fidgets with her **suit**, keeping a shy distance from Mayara.

CHI:

It's... lived in.

You don't have to dress up here.

I mean, you can, but..

She winces slightly at the word.

PANEL 4 - MAYARA, OBSERVING THE ROOM (MID-SHOT)

Mayara takes it in — not judging, not analysing for advantage. Just seeing it. People. Movement. Ease.

A quiet exhale.

MAYARA:

It's a relief.

It feels like a place where people actually breathe.

A beat

And enjoy one another

PANEL 1 - BAR EDGE, QUIET MOMENT (CLOSE-UP)

Chi's hand brushes a smooth, worn spot on the brass railing.

CHI:

I felt so uncomfortable back there.

On the Spire, in that gown...

PANEL 2 - CHI, PHYSICAL MEMORY (MID-SHOT)

Chi gestures awkwardly at her waist, remembering.

CHI:

I felt like I was wearing a cage.

I couldn't even walk right.

PANEL 3 - MAYARA, TURNING TO CHI (CLOSE-UP)

Mayara looks at Chi with a steady, knowing expression.

No teasing. No performance.

MAYARA:

You looked beautiful, Chi.

A small beat.

But I know the feeling. Gowns are my armour.

They keep the conversation where I want it.

PANEL 4 - CHI, CAUGHT OFF-GUARD (MID-SHOT)

Chi flushes, looking down at her suit

CHI:

I'll stick to this.

I'd rather just hear the ship than the rustle of silk

PANEL 5 - MAYARA, UNDERSTANDING (CLOSE-UP))

Mayara glances at Chi's attire with a quiet, appreciative nod.

MAYARA:

I agree. Besides... burgundy suits you.

SPREAD 32 THE PEAK

PURPOSE OF THIS SPREAD

This spread introduces luxury, excess, and vulnerability.

It is not about indulgence.

It is about **exposure**.

Chi reaches the edge of her comfort.

Mayara notices - and does *not* cross it.

This is restraint. This is trust.

PANEL 1 - STAIRWELL / LIFT SHAFT, UPWARD VIEW (WIDE, TALL PANEL)

They arrive at a vertical access point.

Above them:

Glass. Light. Reflections that ripple like water on the ceiling.

The ship changes character here.

Chi slows to a stop.

PANEL 2 - CHI, UNEASY (MID-SHOT)

Chi gestures upward, awkwardly.

CHI:

That's... the upper deck.

The Celestial Suite. ...yabai.

She avoids Mayara's eyes.

PANEL 3 - MAYARA, GLANCING UP (MID-SHOT)

Mayara looks upward, intrigued.

MAYARA:

Let me guess.

That's where the Voluptas stops pretending to be sensible.

PANEL 4 - CHI, DEFENSIVE HONESTY (CLOSE-UP)

Chi exhales.

CHI:

It's... mottainai,

unnecessary.

Pools. Observation glass. Water just sitting there.

A beat.

CHI:

It takes an absurd amount of power to keep it stable.

PANEL 1 - GLASS ABOVE, LUXURY TEASE (WIDE)

Through the glass above, we glimpse it:
 Water suspended in slow motion.
 Soft lighting. Curved architecture. A world apart.
 Beautiful. Excessive. Almost surreal.

PANEL 2 - MAYARA, THOUGHTFUL (MID-SHOT)

Mayara studies the structure - not with desire, but calculation.

MAYARA:

Beauty as proof of control.

She glances back to Chi.

MAYARA:

The ACCORD loves that.

PANEL 3 - CHI, QUIET DISCOMFORT (MID-SHOT)

Chi shifts her weight.

CHI:

I didn't design it.

I just... make sure it doesn't break.

PANEL 4 - MAYARA, AWARE (CLOSE-UP)

Mayara sees it now - the tension, the discomfort.
 She does not push.

MAYARA:

Then we don't need to go up there.

PANEL 5 - CHI, RELIEF (SMALL PANEL)

Chi lets out a breath she didn't realise she was holding.

CHI (internal):

...daijoubu.

PANEL 6 - END PANEL, TURNING AWAY (WIDE)

They turn back down the stairwell, returning to the heart of the ship.
 The luxury remains above them - untouched.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

The most important doors are the ones we wait to open.

SPREAD 34 SEPARATION

PURPOSE OF THIS SPREAD

This spread does three crucial things:

Ends the tour without payoff

Leaves the connection **unresolved but real**

Clears narrative space for the planet to intrude next

This is not rejection.

This is **containment**.

PANEL 1 - LOWER CORRIDOR, RETURNING (WIDE)

They walk back through a quieter corridor.

The ship's hum is steady now - settled.

Chi is relaxed... and then suddenly remembers herself.

PANEL 2 - CHI, REALISING (MID-SHOT)

Chi stops walking.

She rubs the back of her neck, flustered.

CHI:

I-

I should probably get back to systems.

A beat.

Make sure nothing explodes.

PANEL 3 - MAYARA, ACCEPTING (MID-SHOT)

Mayara nods easily.

No disappointment. No pressure.

MAYARA:

Of course.

PANEL 4 - CHI, TOO QUICK (SMALL PANEL)

Chi gives a short, awkward nod.

CHI:

Ano... It was-

I mean-

Thank you for coming.

She turns too fast and starts walking away.

PANEL 1 - MAYARA, STEPPING ASIDE (MID-SHOT)

As Chi turns to leave, Mayara steps half a pace aside - giving her space, not blocking her path.

A casual gesture, but intentional.

MAYARA:

Well... I'll leave you to it.

A beat - then, lightly:

MAYARA:

Daijoubu... Don't worry.

I know where my room is.

The line lands gently. No pressure. No tease sharpened into a blade.

PANEL 2 - CHI, CAUGHT BUT RELIEVED (MID-SHOT)

Chi pauses - just a fraction.

She nods, grateful.

CHI:

Right.

Good.

She leaves - still flustered, but not embarrassed.

PANEL 3 - MAYARA, ALONE NOW (WIDE)

Mayara watches Chi go.

Not hungry.

Not possessive.

Thoughtful.

PANEL 4 - MAYARA, INTERNAL (CLOSE-UP)

That same small smile - now with clarity.

MAYARA (internal):

Careful. Courage like that deserves patience.

SPREAD 36 FIRST DETECTION OF THALASSARA

PANEL 1 BRIDGE, LOW ACTIVITY (WIDE):

The bridge is calm. Hoshi at the helm. Lucette monitoring long-range projections. Kyra stands nearby, present but not tense. The ship hums, settled after transit .

PANEL 2 LUCETTE, PAUSE IN DATA (CLOSE-UP):

Lucette's projections hesitate. A ripple of distortion passes through the display .

LUCETTE:

"Long-range sensors registering anomaly."

PANEL 3 Hoshi, ALERT (MID-SHOT):

Hoshi straightens slightly .

Hoshi:

"Define anomaly?"

PANEL 4 LUCETTE, PRECISION (MID-SHOT):

Lucette refines the scan. The hologram resolves into faint, layered harmonic echoes.

LUCETTE:

"Gravitational and electromagnetic signatures overlapping. Consistent with a planetary mass... but unstable."

PANEL 5 KYRA, RECOGNISING PATTERN (CLOSE-UP):

Kyra studies the projection.

KYRA:

"That's not natural drift."

PANEL 6 MAYARA, THE ARCHITECT (MID-SHOT):

Mayara steps forward from the shadows of the bridge, her eyes fixed on the flickering blue hologram of the planet.

MAYARA (whispering):

"I remember the bathymetric surveys for this hemisphere. I told the Directors the oceanic crust couldn't handle the pressure of the siphons. They thanked me for the data... and doubled the drill speed."

PANEL 1 - MED BAY, Neve REACTS (MID-SHOT)

Neve stiffens on her medical couch.

Her hand grips the edge as if bracing against an unseen tide.

Neve:

It's-

It's louder.

PANEL 2 - ELARA, MOVING TO HER (MID-SHOT)

Elara is immediately at Neve's side.

ELARA:

Pulse is accelerating again.

Synchronisation spike.

PANEL 3 - Neve, FEAR & CLARITY (CLOSE-UP)

Neve looks up - eyes unfocused, listening to something no one else can hear.

Neve:

It's calling.

A beat.

It's hurt.

PANEL 4 - BRIDGE / MED BAY SPLIT PANEL (WIDE)

Left: the anomaly projection growing clearer.

Right: Neve's vitals spiking in rhythmic waves.

LUCETTE (O.S.):

Designation emerging from ACCORD star charts.

PANEL 5 - NAME REVEALED (FINAL PANEL)

The hologram resolves into a water-world silhouette.

Text overlays the image.

LUCETTE:

Thalassara.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

The journey had not ended.

It had only begun to choose them.

SPREAD 38 APPROACH VECTOR

PURPOSE OF THIS SPREAD

This is where:

Kyra takes ownership of the call

The crew aligns around a decision

Thalia's Sara stops being "a signal" and becomes a destination

Still no descent.

This is **commitment**.

PANEL 1 - BRIDGE, TENSION RISING (WIDE)

The bridge is no longer idle.

Lucette's projection of Thalassara rotates slowly, unstable layers flickering.

Hoshi's hands hover near controls.

Kyra stands at the center - quiet, decisive.

LUCETTE:

Magnetic fields are chaotic.

Atmospheric density suggests a water world under artificial stress.

PANEL 2 - LUCETTE, DETAILING RISK (MID-SHOT)

LUCETTE:

ACCORD extraction signatures detected in orbit.

PANEL 3 - Hoshi, PRACTICAL (MID-SHOT)

Hoshi exhales slowly.

Hoshi:

So not abandoned.

Just being emptied.

PANEL 4 - KYRA, DECISION FORMING (CLOSE-UP)

Kyra's jaw tightens.

She doesn't look at the crew - she looks at the planet.

KYRA:

That explains the pain.

PANEL 1 - MED BAY, Neve STRUGGLING (MID-SHOT)

Neve sits upright now, despite Elara's protests.
Her breathing is steady, but her focus is distant.

Neve:

*They're draining it.
Slowly. Carefully.*

She swallows.

Neve:

Its draining Me?.

PANEL 2 - ELARA, WARNING (MID-SHOT)

Elara holds Neve's wrist, firm. Her medical scanner is active, showing spiking biometrics.

ELARA:

*If we get closer, the resonance will spike again.
I can stabilise you... but not indefinitely.*

PANEL 3 - KYRA & Neve, LINKED (SPLIT PANEL)

Left: Kyra on the bridge.

Right: Neve in med bay.

Their expressions mirror each other - resolve answering pain.

KYRA:

We don't ignore that kind of call.

PANEL 4 - THE VOLUPTAS, LOW ALTITUDE (WIDE)

The *Voluptas* is terrifyingly close to the water, her engines kicking up massive plumes of spray. Giant waves crash against the lower hull. Above, the sky is choked with ACCORD siphons, but down here, it's a storm of white noise.

Hoshi:

We're invisible to their long-range scans as long as we stay in the spray.

But the moment we submerge the hull, we're a beacon. The ACCORD will pin us to the seabed before we hit a hundred fathoms.

PANEL 5 - THE HANGAR, NIPP-01 DEPLOYING (MID-SHOT)

The hangar doors at the bottom of the ship open, only meters above the churning white water. The Nipp-01 is lowered on a mechanical arm, its birdcage glass canopy reflecting the dark, violent ocean below

KYRA:

*The ship stays in the surf.
Prepare Nipp-01. It's a needle-drop. We go in deep, we find the source,
and we don't make a ripple.*

PANEL 6 - THE DESCENT (WIDE, END PANEL)

The tiny shuttle detaches and dives straight into a massive wave, disappearing into the dark blue. The *Voluptas* remains behind, a silent ghost hidden in the mist.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

Once the course was set, hesitation had no place.

SPREAD 40 SHUTTLE PREP

PANEL 1 - VOLUPTAS CARGO BAY, REAR RAMP (WIDE)

The **rear cargo bay ramp** of the Voluptas is open to space.
NIPP-01 rests in its cradle - compact, angular, purposeful.
A small thing inside a vast ship.
Crew move efficiently around it.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

Precision over scale.

PANEL 2 - Hoshi & JUNO, SHUTTLE WALK-AROUND (MID-SHOT)

Hoshi circles the shuttle, tablet in hand.
Juno leans out of an open service panel, grease on her cheek.

Hoshi:

Thrusters?

JUNO:

Balanced.

Pressure tolerance is better than advertised.

A grin.

JUNO:

She'll like the water.

PANEL 3 - CHI, SYSTEMS INTERFACE (CLOSE-UP)

Chi kneels beside a harmonic console connected to Nipp-01.
Data flows differently here - denser, stranger.

CHI:

Hydro-drive is stable.

Signal dampeners are compensating... barely.

A beat.

CHI (under her breath):

Chotto... strange.

PANEL 4 - KYRA, OBSERVING (MID-SHOT)

Kyra stands at the base of the ramp, watching everything.
Not impatient.
Not relaxed.
Waiting for the *right* moment.

PANEL 1 - MED BAY ACCESS / CARGO BAY ENTRY (MID-SHOT)

Neve enters the cargo bay with Elara.

Neve looks steadier than before - focused, intent.

ELARA:

Neve, we agreed-

PANEL 2 - Neve, CLEAR & RESOLUTE (CLOSE-UP)

Neve meets Elara's gaze.

Neve:

It's calling me.

If I stay aboard, I won't hear it properly.

A beat.

I need to be closer.

PANEL 3 - KYRA & Neve (MID-SHOT)

Kyra studies Neve - the pain, the certainty.

She nods once.

KYRA:

Then you're with me.

PANEL 4 - MAYARA STEPS FORWARD (MID-SHOT)

Mayara has been quiet until now.

She steps out of the shadows of the bay, voice controlled, professional.

MAYARA:

If the ACCORD is extracting something from that world,

I need to see how they're doing it.

A glance toward the shuttle.

MAYARA:

Not from up here.

Kyra considers - then nods.

PANEL 5 - CHI, REALISATION (MID-SHOT)

Chi looks up sharply from her console.

She's pale - not afraid, but *attuned*.

CHI:

The interference pattern...

I can tune around it better down there.

PANEL 6 - KYRA, FINAL TEAM CALL (WIDE END PANEL)

Kyra looks at them - the full group now assembled.

Kyra. Neve. Elara. Chi. Mayara.

KYRA:

That's the team.

She turns toward the control balcony.

KYRA:

Hoshi - you fly.

Kyra's gaze shifts instinctively to Lucette's interface.

KYRA:

Lucette, plot us a quiet approach.

Lucette's interface blooms - layered, alive.

LUCETTE:

Already calculating.

The planet is... resonant.

A beat. Chi feels it too.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

Some journeys required witnesses.

SPREAD 42 LAUNCH & WATER ENTRY

PANEL 1 - EXTERIOR, VOLUPTAS ABOVE THE OCEAN (FULL-WIDTH / HERO PANEL)

The Voluptas hangs low over Thalassara's endless ocean, engines holding her steady.

Mist churns beneath her hull.

Clouds part around her bulk.

She is **vast**, dominant, almost godlike - a city hovering over water.

This is the image you want people to remember.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

The Voluptas did not descend.

She arrived.

PANEL 2 - REAR CARGO BAY, RAMP OPEN (MID-SHOT)

Inside the Voluptas.

The rear cargo bay ramp is open - ocean mist rolling in.

Nipp-01 exits the cargo bay.

PANEL 3 - SHUTTLE INTERIOR, Neve REACTS (MID-SHOT)

Neve inhales sharply.

Neve:

It's right beneath us.

PANEL 4 - CHI, LISTENING (CLOSE-UP)

Chi tilts her head - listening past the instruments.

CHI:

The harmonics are clearer here. chigau...

The noise is... thinning.

PANEL 1 - KYRA, FINAL COMMITMENT (MID-SHOT)

Kyra's hands steady on the controls.

KYRA:

Lucette - keep us steady.

Lucette's response is felt, not seen.

PANEL 2 - WATER ENTRY (FULL-WIDTH END PANEL)

Nipp-01 slides cleanly into the ocean.

Not a crash.

A controlled breach.

Water envelopes the shuttle.

Light bends. Sound dies.

SPLASH - muted, immense.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

They crossed the surface.

SPREAD 44 DESCENT

PURPOSE OF THIS SPREAD

This is where:

the world becomes alien

sound and light are stripped away

Chi and Neve begin to synchronise

the shuttle stops feeling like a vehicle and starts feeling *intrusive*

No city reveal yet.

This is **approach through unease**.

PANEL 1 - THE PERCH, OBSERVATION LOUNGE (WIDE / FULL-WIDTH)

The Perch overlooks the endless ocean of Thalassara.

The Luipaard stands at the glass, fingertips resting lightly against it.

Vashti lingers nearby, relaxed, watching her with mild curiosity.

LUIPAARD:

What planet is this?

VASHTI:

"Thalassara."

LUIPAARD:

"...it's horrible."

Beat

"So much loss... so many memories."

PANEL 2 - EXTERIOR, SHUTTLE SUBMERGING (WIDE)

Nipp-01 sinks beneath the surface.

Above: fading light, broken by turbulence.

Below: endless dark blue.

The shuttle is a small, bright intrusion.

PANEL 3 - SHUTTLE INTERIOR, SYSTEMS ADJUSTING (MID-SHOT)

Lights dim automatically.

Displays switch to low-contrast aquatic modes.

MAYARA:

Pressure's climbing faster than predicted.

PANEL 4 - CHI, LISTENING HARDER (CLOSE-UP)

Chi closes her eyes briefly.

The hum of the shuttle fades behind something else.

CHI:

chotto matte... There's a pattern now.

It's not random.

PANEL 1 - Neve, RESPONDING (MID-SHOT)

Neve grips the harness - not in pain, but in recognition.

Neve:

It's singing.

Her voice trembles.

PANEL 2 - MAYARA, WATCHING THEM (MID-SHOT)

Mayara watches Chi and Neve - the way they're both listening.

Not fear.

Assessment.

MAYARA:

That isn't interference, is it?

PANEL 3 - CHI, ANSWERING WITHOUT LOOKING (CLOSE-UP)

CHI:

Kioku... No.

It's... memory.

She opens her eyes.

CHI:

Something old.

PANEL 4 - EXTERIOR, DEPTH INDICATOR OVERLAY (WIDE)

The shuttle descends past a faint, massive silhouette in the dark.

Too large to identify.

Too structured to be natural.

The lights haven't reached it yet.

PANEL 5 - FINAL PANEL, KYRA (MID-SHOT)

Kyra notices the readouts spike.

She leans forward slightly.

KYRA:

All right.

Whatever's down there just noticed us.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

The ocean was no longer empty.

SPREAD 46 THE DEAD CITY

PURPOSE OF THIS SPREAD

This is the awe → horror pivot.

The world is not just wounded - it has been **emptied**.

And the hand responsible is unmistakable.

This is where Mayara's presence becomes essential.

PANEL 1 - EXTERIOR, LIGHTS ENGAGE (FULL-WIDTH / SPLASH PANEL)

Nipp-01's forward lights flare on.

The darkness peels back to reveal it:

A **vast coral city**, once living, now calcified and broken.

Towering organic structures stand hollow, ribs exposed.

Bioluminescence flickers weakly - dying echoes of life.

The city stretches beyond the light cone.

KYRA (small, awed):

By the Gods...

PANEL 2 - SHUTTLE INTERIOR, SILENCE (MID-SHOT)

No one speaks.

The enormity of what they're seeing settles in.

Neve's breathing quickens.

PANEL 3 - MAYARA, RECOGNITION (CLOSE-UP)

Mayara leans forward, eyes sharp now.

Not wonder - pattern recognition.

MAYARA:

This wasn't a collapse.

PANEL 1 - EXTERIOR, ACCORD STRUCTURES REVEALED (WIDE)

Beyond the dead city:

Brutalist **ACCORD extraction towers** punch down into the seabed.

Conduits snake outward, embedded deep into the coral ruins.

They are active. Ruthless. Industrial.

PANEL 2 - MAYARA, CONFIRMING (MID-SHOT)

Mayara doesn't look away.

MAYARA:

Extraction lattice.

Scaled for long-term planetary siphoning.

A pause.

They've been draining this world for years.

PANEL 3 - Neve, OVERWHELMED (CLOSE-UP)

Neve clutches her head.

Her earlier clarity fractures.

Neve:

It hurts-

It doesn't remember itself anymore.

PANEL 4 - CHI, ALARMED (MID-SHOT)

Chi's console spikes violently.

CHI:

The harmonics are collapsing!

yabai... They're overpowering the native resonance!

PANEL 5 - END PANEL, KYRA (WIDE)

Kyra stares out at the city - anger replacing awe.

KYRA:

Then we're not visitors.

She sets her jaw.

KYRA:

We're witnesses.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

The crime was no longer theoretical.

SPREAD 48 Neve'S COLLAPSE / AMNESIA TRIGGER

PURPOSE OF THIS SPREAD

This spread does one devastating thing:

Neve's connection saves her life - and destroys her continuity.

This is not a fainting spell.

This is the **cost of witnessing the truth**.

We do **not** rush it.

We do **not** soften it.

PANEL 1 - SHUTTLE INTERIOR, ALARMS RISING (WIDE)

Warning tones ripple through Nipp-01.

Chi's displays spike and fracture.

Elara is already moving toward Neve.

CHI:

*Resonance feedback is escalating-
kuso... The city's harmonic field is collapsing in real time!*

PANEL 2 - Neve, OVERLOAD (MID-SHOT)

Neve's hands fly to her head.

Her earlier clarity shatters into pain.

Neve:

I-

I can hear everything-

Her voice breaks.

PANEL 3 - ELARA, URGENT (MID-SHOT)

Elara grips Neve's shoulders, trying to anchor her.

ELARA:

Neve, look at me.

Stay with me.

PANEL 4 - Neve, BREAKING POINT (CLOSE-UP)

Neve's eyes glaze - not unconscious, but **elsewhere**.

Neve:

It's not just dying...

It's being forgotten.

A beat.

Her breath catches.

PANEL 5 - SHUTTLE INTERIOR, SYSTEM SPIKE (SMALL PANEL)

A harmonic surge rips through the shuttle.

Lights flicker.

CHI (O.S.):

Kyra-this is too much-

She's syncing past safe thresholds!

PANEL 1 - Neve COLLAPSES (WIDE)

Neve goes limp in her harness.

Elara catches her just in time.

ELARA:

Neve!

PANEL 2 - MEDICAL READOUT OVERLAY (MID-SHOT)

Elara's scanner flickers wildly.

Vitals spike - then suddenly stabilise.

Too suddenly.

ELARA:

Pulse is steady...

But her neural patterns-

She stops.

PANEL 3 - Neve, AWAKENING (CLOSE-UP)

Neve's eyes flutter open.

They're clear. Calm.

Empty.

She looks at Elara - searching.

Neve:

I'm... sorry.

A pause.

Neve:

Do I know you?

PANEL 4 - ELARA, HIT HARD (MID-SHOT)

Elara freezes.

The words land like a physical blow.

She swallows, professional instinct barely holding.

ELARA:

It's okay.

You're safe.

Her voice trembles despite herself.

PANEL 5 - SHUTTLE INTERIOR, REACTIONS (WIDE)

Kyra grips the console, stunned.

Chi turns away, horrified.

CHI (internal):

Masaka... she doesn't know any of us.

Mayara watches Neve with new understanding - and fear.

PANEL 6 - FINAL PANEL, THE CITY OUTSIDE (FULL-WIDTH)

The dead coral city looms outside the shuttle windows.

Silent. Hollow.

Unremembered.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

To survive the truth, the mind let go of itself.

SPREAD 50 KYRA TAKES CONTROL

PANEL 1 (Wide):

The shuttle interior. Neve is secured in her harness, looking pale but breathing regularly. Elara is checking her scanners while Kyra stands over them, her hand hovering just an inch from Neve's cheek.

PANEL 2 (Mid-Shot):

Kyra finally touches Neve's shoulder. Neve flinches slightly, looking up at Kyra with a polite, distant curiosity that is far worse than fear.

Neve:

"You have a kind face... but should I know you?"

PANEL 3 (Close-Up):

A close-up of **Kyra's** face. The "Commander" mask slips for a split second, showing total, devastating heartbreak.

KYRA (voice tight):

"We're friends, Neve. We're the ones who are going to help you remember. Just... rest for now."

PANEL 4 (Mid-Shot):

Kyra pulls **Elara** aside into the small shadow behind the pilot's seat.

KYRA (whispering):

"Tell me this is temporary, Elara. Tell me the planet didn't just wipe her clean to save its own skin."

ELARA:

"I don't know. The resonance reset her neural buffers. Physically, she's stronger than ever. Mentally... we're starting from zero."

PANEL 5 (Action):

Kyra turns back to the cockpit, slamming her "Commander" mask back on. Her face is now stone.

KYRA:

"Then we don't have time for a mourning period. Chi, status on the wake. If we stay here, we're a sitting duck."

CHI:

"Yabai. The harmonics are still collapsing. We have to move now."

PANEL 6 (Final):

Kyra slides into the pilot's seat.

KYRA:

Then we move.

PANEL 1 - MAYARA, POINTING THE TRUTH (MID-SHOT)

Mayara brings up a schematic overlay.

Extraction towers. Conduits. A central convergence point.

MAYARA:

This isn't random damage.

Everything routes toward a single structure.

She highlights it.

MAYARA:

That's your source.

PANEL 2 - CHI, SEEING IT (CLOSE-UP)

Chi stares at the pattern.

Her breath catches.

CHI:

That's where the harmonics are strongest.

Masaka... if anything down here still remembers itself, it's there.

PANEL 3 - KYRA, NEW OBJECTIVE (MID-SHOT)

Kyra inputs a new course - slow, careful, indirect.

KYRA:

We don't go straight in.

We skirt the city, stay below their sensor cones.

She glances back at Neve.

KYRA:

We find the source.

PANEL 4 - EXTERIOR, SHUTTLE MOVING AGAIN (WIDE)

Nipp-01 begins to glide forward, lights dimmed.

It moves **around** the dead city - cautious, deliberate.

The extraction towers loom in the distance.

PANEL 5 - END PANEL, FOREBODING (FULL-WIDTH)

The shuttle slips into darker water, heading toward an unseen depth.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

They had come seeking answers.

Now they were heading for the heart of the crime.

SPREAD 52 “THEY DRANK US”

PURPOSE OF THIS SPREAD

To show, unmistakably:

the ACCORD are pumping water off-world
they don't understand (or care) what the water *is*
the harm is direct, physical, undeniable
No theory.
No abstraction.
Just theft.

PANEL 1 - EXTERIOR, ACCORD PUMP STRUCTURES (WIDE)

The shuttle passes a cluster of **massive pumping towers** anchored to the seabed.
Wide intake mouths gape open, dragging **entire volumes of ocean** upward.
The water around them churns unnaturally.
This is not careful extraction.
This is removal.

PANEL 2 - SHUTTLE INTERIOR, MAYARA (MID-SHOT)

Mayara recognises the configuration immediately.
Her voice is flat with disgust.

MAYARA:

Bulk water harvesting.
They're exporting it by the megaton.

A beat.

MAYARA:

Terraforming supply. Luxury worlds.
Anywhere dry enough to pay.

PANEL 3 - EXTERIOR, PIPELINES ASCENDING (SMALL PANEL)

Colossal pipelines vanish upward into the dark, carrying the planet's water away.
The surrounding reef is dead - not broken, just... gone.

PANEL 4 - CHI, STUNNED (MID-SHOT)

Chi stares at her readouts.

CHI:

They're not filtering it.
Not separating anything.

She swallows.

CHI:

Uso... they're just taking it all.

PANEL 1 - Neve, REACTING (MID-SHOT)

Neve stirs violently in her harness.

Her hand presses against the canopy, fingers splayed.

She doesn't understand - but her body does.

A whisper escapes her lips.

Neve:

They drank us...

PANEL 2 - ELARA, REALISING (CLOSE-UP)

Elara's scanner confirms the pattern.

Her face hardens.

ELARA:

Her condition spikes every time the pumps engage.

A beat.

ELARA:

It's not coincidence.

PANEL 3 - EXTERIOR, CORE ZONE BEYOND (WIDE)

Beyond the pumps, the ocean darkens.

Fewer machines.

Thicker intake lines.

Whatever remains is being consumed last.

PANEL 4 - KYRA, PLAIN TRUTH (MID-SHOT)

Kyra watches the pumps in silence.

KYRA:

This wasn't a harvest.

A beat.

KYRA:

It was a plunder

PANEL 5 - FINAL PANEL, SHUTTLE MOVING ON (FULL-WIDTH)

Nipp-01 slips past the pumping field, heading toward the untouched darkness beyond.

Behind them, the pumps continue - steady, indifferent.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

Extinction does not require hatred.

Only demand.

Why this version is right

- ✓ The ACCORD's crime is simple, scalable, believable
- ✓ "They drank us" lands as both literal and devastating
- ✓ The Core/Nixie's suffering is a **side effect of extraction**, not mythic targeting
- ✓ Water-as-life, water-as-memory, water-as-commodity all align
- ✓ No unnecessary complexity before the reveal

This also makes Nixie's later voice heartbreakingly clear:

She wasn't attacked.

She was **consumed**.

SPREAD 54 NIXIE: THE OCEAN REMEMBERS

PANEL 1 - EXTERIOR, CORE CHAMBER (WIDE)

The shuttle hovers above a vast, submerged chamber.

Pools of water surround exposed coral structures - ancient, eroded, wrong.

Ripples spread without cause.

PANEL 2 - WATER DISTURBANCE (CLOSE)

The surface of the pools **boils**, then stills.

Steam rises.

PANEL 3 - MANIFESTATION (WIDE)

From vapour and flowing water, a **humanoid silhouette** forms.

Liquid. Translucent. Suggestive rather than solid.

Nixie.

PANEL 4 - NIXIE SPEAKS (MID-SHOT)

Her voice is the sound of surf in hollow stone.

NIXIE:

Another harvest?

PANEL 5 - KYRA, GUARD UP (MID-SHOT)

Kyra instinctively shifts, hand moving toward controls.

KYRA:

We're explorers.

PANEL 6 - NIXIE, UNMOVED (CLOSE)

Her eyes glow faintly.

NIXIE:

That's what the first ones said.

PANEL 1 - ESCALATION (WIDE)

The surrounding pools churn violently.
Steam fills the chamber.
Alarms flicker.

(Let this panel breathe. This is the keystone.)

PANEL 2 - KYRA ORDERS RETREAT (MID-SHOT)

KYRA:

All stations - fall back. Now.

PANEL 3 - Neve REFUSES (MID-SHOT)

Neve steps forward, shaking but resolute.

Neve:

Wait-
She's not attacking.

A beat.

She's remembering.

PANEL 4 - STILLNESS (WIDE)

The water freezes.
Total calm.
Nixie studies Neve - then gestures toward the distant coral city.

PANEL 5 - ACCUSATION (CLOSE-UP, NIXIE)

NIXIE:

You walk through our bones.

PANEL 6 - KYRA, CONFUSED (CLOSE)

KYRA:

There are no bodies.

PANEL 7 - THE LINE (FULL-WIDTH, NIXIE)

Quiet. Absolute.

NIXIE:

We're water.
You drank us.

SPREAD 56 REVELATION & ALLIANCE

PANEL 1 - CORAL CITY, MEMORY OVERLAY (WIDE)

Beyond the chamber, the dead coral city **flickers**.

For a moment, it lives again.

Towering reef-structures glow softly.

Currents move with intention.

Figures made of liquid light drift through streets of coral and glass.

PANEL 2 - NIXIE WITHIN THE MEMORY (MID-SHOT)

Nixie stands amid the vision, her form half-blended with the water.

NIXIE:

We were not built.

PANEL 3 - MEMORY FRACTURE (TRANSITION PANEL)

The vision shatters.

Drilling towers descend.

Pipes puncture the seabed.

The glow drains away, replaced by churn and void.

PANEL 4 - NIXIE, TRUTH SPOKEN (CLOSE-UP)

Her expression is not furious - it is ancient, exhausted.

NIXIE:

You stole our breath.

Bottled it.

Called it power.

PANEL 5 - MAYARA, REALISATION (MID-SHOT)

Mayara watches the memory collapse.

Her voice is quiet, steady - shaken.

MAYARA:

Every luxury world above the Spire...

was paid for with this.

PANEL 1 - Neve, CHANGING (MID-SHOT)

Neve begins to glow faintly - the same hue as the living water from the memory.

Nixie notices.

Something in her softens.

PANEL 2 - NIXIE, RECOGNITION (CLOSE-UP)

NIXIE:

You carry her pulse.

PANEL 3 - Neve, CONFUSED BUT OPEN (CLOSE-UP)

Neve:

Whose?

PANEL 4 - NIXIE, THE TRUTH (MID-SHOT)

NIXIE:

The Spirit who made us all.

She has forgotten herself.

PANEL 5 - THE SPHERE FORMS (WIDE)

Between Nixie's hands, the water **condenses**.

Perfectly still.

A flawless sphere, glowing softly from within.

PANEL 6 - THE CLARIFICATION (MID-SHOT, INTIMATE)

Nixie holds the Sphere - not offering it yet.

NIXIE:

This remembers.

A beat.

NIXIE:

It holds memory... and essence.

Neve looks at the Sphere - then at Nixie.

Neve:

You?

Nixie nods once.

PANEL 7 - CHOICE, NOT SACRIFICE (CLOSE-UP, NIXIE)

NIXIE:

What I was cannot survive here.

(softer)

What I am... can move.

She glances toward the dead city, the drained sea beyond.

NIXIE:

I will be all right.

PANEL 8 - THE GIFT (FULL-WIDTH)

Nixie extends the Sphere toward Neve.

Not reverently.

Deliberately.

NIXIE:

Take it to the green world.

The roots there still dream of balance.

Neve accepts the Sphere - carefully, reverently, knowing the weight of it.

FINAL CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

Memory cannot heal itself.

It must be carried.

SPREAD 58 RENDEZVOUS WITH THE VOLUPTAS

PURPOSE OF THIS SPREAD

Scale, urgency, and consequence.

The Sphere is now aboard the shuttle - and *alive*

Nipp-01 must escape without revealing what they've taken

The Voluptas is reintroduced as a looming guardian presence

The ACCORD's indifference turns into suspicion

No speeches.

Just motion and pressure.

PANEL 1 - EXTERIOR, ASCENT (WIDE)

Nipp-01 rises through the dark water.

Below, the pumping towers continue their work - steady, uncaring.

Above, light filters down from the surface.

PANEL 2 - SHUTTLE INTERIOR, Neve & THE SPHERE (MID-SHOT)

Neve holds the Sphere in both hands.

The water inside shifts subtly - responding to her breathing.

She swallows, grounding herself.

PANEL 3 - CHI, MONITORING (MID-SHOT)

Chi scans rapidly.

CHI:

Matte... no active tracking yet.

Pressure readings are stabilising.

A beat.

"But they will notice the drop in flow."

PANEL 4 - MAYARA, PRACTICAL (MID-SHOT)

Mayara straps in, eyes already on the tactical display.

MAYARA:

Then we don't give them a window.

PANEL 5 - EXTERIOR, SURFACE BREAK (WIDE)

The shuttle bursts through the ocean surface.

Water cascades off its hull in sheets.

PANEL 1 - THE VOLUPTAS ABOVE THE SEA (FULL-WIDTH)

The **Voluptas** hangs low over the ocean, vast and impossible.

Twin engine pods hum softly.

Cargo bay doors are already opening.

The ship feels like shelter.

PANEL 2 - SHUTTLE APPROACH (MID-SHOT)

Nipp-01 arcs toward the rear cargo bay.

Guidance lights flicker on.

LUCETTE (COMMS):

Trajectory locked.

You're clear to dock.

PANEL 3 - CARGO BAY, LANDING (MID-SHOT)

The shuttle settles onto the deck.

Hydraulic clamps engage.

The bay doors begin to close.

PANEL 4 - INTERRUPTED CALM (CLOSE-UP, CHI'S DISPLAY)

A warning flashes.

CHI:

Okashii, Kyra. I'm seeing a delayed signal spike from the pumping grid.

A beat.

CHI:

They've realised something changed.

PANEL 5 - FINAL PANEL, SEALING THE BAY (WIDE)

The massive cargo doors **slam shut**.

Outside, the ocean churns - distant machinery shifting course.

Inside the bay, silence.

The Sphere glows faintly in Neve's hands.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

They had what the ocean could spare.

Now they had to leave before the price was named.

SPREAD 60 THE COST OF LEAVING

PURPOSE OF THIS SPREAD

This is the moment where consequences arrive **without explanation**.

The ACCORD does not rage - it **responds**

The Voluptas is powerful, but not untouchable

Kyra chooses escape over dominance

The ocean is left behind... watching

This is pursuit born of accounting, not vengeance.

PANEL 1 - VOLUPTAS, LOW ORBIT OVER THALASSARA (WIDE)

The Voluptas begins to rise, engines pushing gently.

Below, the ocean surface ripples - pumping towers reorienting.

Something is adjusting.

PANEL 2 - BRIDGE INTERIOR, Hoshi AT THE HELM (MID-SHOT)

Hoshi's hands move smoothly over the controls.

Hoshi:

Lifting to safe altitude.

Holding us just above the waterline.

PANEL 3 - LUCETTE, COURSE PROJECTION (MID-SHOT)

Lucette's holographic interface blooms into layered vectors.

LUCETTE:

Optimal departure corridor plotted.

Minimal sensor exposure if we leave now.

PANEL 4 - CHI, DETECTING ANOMALY (CLOSE-UP)

Chi stiffens.

CHI:

I'm seeing energy redirection from the pumping grid.

A beat.

CHI:

That's not a routine shutdown.

PANEL 5 - EXTERIOR, OCEAN SURFACE (WIDE)

Several distant structures breach the water - **automated defense pylons**, repurposed from industrial rigs.

Slow. Heavy. Unmistakable.

PANEL 1 - BRIDGE, KYRA TAKES COMMAND (MID-SHOT)

Kyra doesn't hesitate.

KYRA:

Hoshi, prepare evasive ascent.

Lucette - get us out clean.

PANEL 2 - FIRST SHOT FIRED (EXTERIOR, MID-SHOT)

A heavy energy lance fires from a surface pylon.

It slams into the Voluptas's rear shielding.

The impact is brutal - not precise, but powerful.

PANEL 3 - INTERIOR, DAMAGE RESPONSE (MID-SHOT)

The ship shudders.

Warning lights flash.

JUNO (COMMS, FROM ENGINEERING):

That hit scorched the outer plating.

We can take a few more - but I don't recommend it.

PANEL 4 - KYRA, DECISION (CLOSE-UP)

Kyra glances at the tactical display - then at Neve's feed.

The Sphere glows faintly.

KYRA:

No retaliation.

We're leaving.

PANEL 5 - FINAL PANEL, VOLUPTAS CLIMBING (FULL-WIDTH)

The Voluptas surges upward, engines flaring.

Below, the ocean recedes - vast, wounded, unreadable.

The defense pylons continue firing blindly into the sky.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

The ACCORD did not mourn the ocean.

It noticed a discrepancy.

SPREAD 62 THE JUMP AWAY

PURPOSE OF THIS SPREAD

This is the exhale after flight, but not relief.

Thalassara is left behind - unresolved

The Harmonic Drive reasserts the Voluptas' uniqueness

The Sphere reacts to transit

The crew begins to understand they are carrying *someone*, not something

Motion gives way to consequence.

PANEL 1 - BRIDGE, PRE-JUMP TENSION (WIDE)

The bridge is dimmed for jump.

Crew strapped in.

Holographic systems retract to minimal configuration.

Outside the viewports, the ocean world is shrinking fast.

PANEL 2 - Hoshi, FINAL CHECK (MID-SHOT)

Hoshi runs her hands across the controls, steady and precise.

Hoshi:

Jump corridor clear.

No active locks.

PANEL 3 - LUCETTE, HARMONIC ALIGNMENT (MID-SHOT)

Lucette's interface blooms - amber and cyan geometry spiraling.

LUCETTE:

Harmonic Drive synchronised.

Resonance stable... for now.

PANEL 4 - CHI, WATCHING THE SPHERE (CLOSE-UP)

Chi glances toward Neve's feed.

The Sphere pulses faintly - slightly out of phase with the ship.

CHI:

Okashii... that thing doesn't like moving this way.

PANEL 5 - KYRA, COMMITMENT (MID-SHOT)

Kyra grips the command rail.

KYRA:

Punch it!

PANEL 1 - HARMONIC DRIVE ENGAGEMENT (FULL-WIDTH)

The Voluptas folds into motion.

Amber and cyan light twist around the hull as space itself seems to *give way*.

Not a jump through space - a glide between states.

PANEL 2 - INTERIOR, IN-TRANSIT QUIET (MID-SHOT)

The violent motion is replaced by stillness.

Crew exhales - some shakily.

PANEL 3 - Neve & THE SPHERE (MID-SHOT)

Neve steadies the Sphere in her lap.

The water inside swirls, unsettled - then slowly calms.

PANEL 4 - THE SPHERE REACTS (CLOSE-UP)

For a brief instant, a **second shape** appears within the Sphere.

A suggestion of flowing hair.

A curve of a face.

Gone as quickly as it appears.

PANEL 5 - FINAL PANEL, THALASSARA GONE (WIDE)

The view behind the ship collapses into light.

Thalassara is no longer visible.

Only the Harmonic stream remains.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

The ocean's memory had left its world.

Now it had to survive the stars.

SPREAD 64 CHI'S QUARTERS

PANEL 1 - CHI'S QUARTERS, WIDE

Chi's quarters are small and utilitarian, **clearly overtaken by work**.

A narrow bunk is folded into the far wall, almost apologetic in its existence.

The opposite wall is dominated by a **fixed workbench**, bolted directly into the hull:

tools mounted on magnetic strips above it

datapads, loose components, and half-built devices spread across its surface

handwritten schematics taped to the bulkhead

cables snaking neatly at first... then less neatly

This space was designed for sleeping.

Chi has repurposed it for thinking.

PANEL 2 - CHI AT THE BENCH (MID-SHOT)

Chi works bare-armed at the wall-mounted bench, forearms marked with faint grease smudges and old heat scars.

Goggles sit pushed up into her hair.

A delicate mechanism clicks into place under her fingers.

She's calm here. Grounded.

PANEL 3 - CHI, EXHALE (CLOSE-UP)

She leans her forehead briefly against the bulkhead above the bench.

Just breathing.

PANEL 4 - DOORWAY (SMALL PANEL)

A shadow falls across the threshold.

PANEL 5 - MAYARA, AT THE HATCH (MID-SHOT)

Mayara leans casually against the open hatch, taking in the room.

Amused. Interested.

MAYARA:

So this is where you disappear to.

A beat.

MAYARA:

You missed the rest of your own tour.

PANEL 1 - CHI, FLUSTERED (CLOSE-UP)

Chi startles, then glances around the room - suddenly seeing it through someone else's eyes.

CHI:

Oh.

Hazukashii... sorry, it just happens

PANEL 2 - MAYARA STEPS INSIDE (MID-SHOT)

Mayara steps into the quarters without hesitation, careful not to disturb anything. She studies the wall-mounted bench, impressed.

MAYARA:

Don't apologise.

She gestures to the workbench.

MAYARA:

This tells me more about the Voluptas than the rest of the ship combined.

PANEL 3 - CHI, MATTER-OF-FACT (MID-SHOT)

Chi shrugs, a little embarrassed.

CHI:

The bed's just for sleeping.

A beat.

CHI:

This is where I think.

PANEL 4 - MAYARA, DECISION MADE (MID-SHOT)

Mayara smiles faintly, then straightens.

She glances down at her current outfit - practical, ship-ready.

MAYARA:

Terranova's next, isn't it?

PANEL 5 - MAYARA, EXITING (WIDE)

Mayara steps back into the corridor, already turning away.

She pauses just long enough to look back at Chi.

MAYARA:

I should probably choose something appropriate for plants.

A beat, amused.

MAYARA:

I know where my room is.

FINAL PANEL - CHI ALONE (WIDE)

Chi sits at her workbench, alone again.

She looks at the workbench.

Then - just for a second - smiles.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

Some people see a machine.

Others see the mind that keeps it alive.

SPREAD 66 MID-FLIGHT BRIEFING & STEALTH APPROACH

INTENT

Before Terranova is seen, the reader must understand:

Neve and the Sphere are no longer separable

Terranova is *chosen*, not stumbled upon

The Voluptas is hiding, not cruising

Everyone has a job, and the plan is fragile

This restores tension and logic before arrival.

PANEL 1 - BRIDGE / BRIEFING AREA, WIDE

The crew is gathered.

The Sphere's cradle is present, faintly glowing.

Neve stands close to it - calm, altered.

The mood is controlled, but tight.

Kassiopeia stands at the back of the room, arms folded.

PANEL 2 - ELARA, SERIOUS (MID-SHOT)

Elara addresses the crew, datapad in hand.

ELARA:

Neve is stable.

But the Sphere's influence is profound.

A beat.

ELARA:

Her vitals are now perfectly synchronized with its pulses.

It's a symbiotic link - not an infection.

PANEL 3 - Neve, CLOSE

Her eyes are present. Focused. Herself again.

Then Kyra, from across the room — no fuss, no drama, just warm and direct:

KYRA:

Good to have you back. That was... unsettling.

Neve: *(small, soft to kyra)*

I'm sorry I scared you

PANEL 4 - Neve, CLOSE

Neve considers this, then shakes her head slightly.

Neve:

It doesn't feel like it's inside me.

A beat.

Neve:

It feels like it's listening.

PANEL 5 - MAYARA & KYRA, MID-SHOT

Mayara brings up Terranova schematics.

Kyra leans in, strategic.

MAYARA:

Terranova. "Green World."

Automated ACCORD cultivators. Minimal personnel.

A beat.

Logistically, it's the best place to disappear.

A beat.

"We need to move fast. The ACCORD won't wait."

PANEL 6 - KYRA, FIRM (CLOSE-UP)

Kyra studies patrol arcs and transit lanes.

KYRA:

Or the best place to get quietly boxed in.

A beat.

The risk isn't them seeing the ship.

A beat.

It's them seeing why we came.

PANEL 1 - CHI & JUNO, MID-SHOT (ENGINEERING LINK)

Chi and Juno huddle over a projected drive profile.

Focused. Fast.

CHI:

Low-signature Harmonic jump.

JUNO:

Think of it as slipping through the aether's back door.

PANEL 2 - Hoshi & LUCETTE, BRIDGE MID-SHOT

Hoshi at the helm.

Lucette projects a clean, minimalist course - tight, deliberate.

LUCETTE:

Patrol probability reduced to near-zero if we hold this corridor.

Hoshi:

Then we fly like we're already being watched.

PANEL 3 - EXTERIOR, VOLUPTAS IN TRANSIT (WIDE)

The Voluptas glides through the Harmonic stream.

Muted glow.

Restrained profile.

A cathedral moving quietly.

PANEL 4 - Neve & THE SPHERE, CLOSE-UP

The Sphere gives a slow, heavy pulse.

Neve feels it.

Neve:

It doesn't want us noticed.

PANEL 5 - KYRA, DECISION (CLOSE-UP)

Kyra looks to Hoshi.

KYRA:

Then we wont be

A beat.

KYRA:

Take us in, fast enough not to be seen.

FINAL CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

They weren't heading for safety.

They were heading for cover.

SPREAD 68 TERRANOVA FROM ORBIT

INTENT

First true look at Terranova

Reinforce: cultivated ≠ healthy

Show ACCORD control without villains on screen

Let the Sphere react *quietly*

Set up the decision to risk a full Voluptas landing next

This is the breath before commitment.

PANEL 1 - EXTERIOR, TERRANOVA (FULL-WIDTH)

Terranova fills the viewport.

Green continents dominate - but not wild.

Growth follows vast geometric patterns.

Between cultivated zones: thinning forests, pale land, erosion scars.

A world engineered to look alive.

PANEL 2 - BRIDGE, Hoshi & LUCETTE (MID-SHOT)

Hoshi holds the Voluptas steady at high orbit.

Lucette's projections map cultivation grids, energy flows, atmospheric regulators.

LUCETTE:

Automated cultivator network confirmed.

A pause.

LUCETTE:

Soil regeneration is throttled across all zones.

PANEL 3 - MAYARA, ANALYSING (MID-SHOT)

Mayara studies the data, jaw tightening.

MAYARA:

They feed whole systems from this place.

A beat.

MAYARA:

Now it's struggling just to keep up.

PANEL 4 - Neve & THE SPHERE (CLOSE-UP)

The Sphere rests in its cradle.

The water inside moves slowly - heavy, reluctant.

Neve watches it, troubled.

PANEL 5 - Neve, SOFT (SMALL PANEL)

Neve:

It's... tired.

PANEL 1 - KYRA, CONTEMPLATING (MID-SHOT)

Kyra stands behind Hoshi, arms folded.
She watches Terranova turn beneath them.

KYRA:

They starved the ocean by force.

A beat.

KYRA:

Here, they just won't let life recover.

PANEL 2 - CHI, ENGINEERING READOUT (MID-SHOT)

Chi frowns at long-term planetary graphs.

CHI:

Every growth curve flattens just before recovery.

She looks up.

CHI:

Shimatta... that's not an accident.

PANEL 3 - EXTERIOR, ORBITAL INFRASTRUCTURE (WIDE)

Thin, elegant ACCORD satellites ring the planet.

Not warships.

Regulators. Monitors. Overseers.

Silent.

PANEL 4 - Neve, REALISATION (CLOSE-UP)

Neve presses a hand lightly against the Sphere's cradle.

The Sphere gives a faint pulse in response.

Neve:

Something's holding this world together.

A beat.

Neve:

And it's being forced to.

PANEL 5 - KYRA, DECISION (MID-SHOT)

Kyra straightens.

A choice made.

KYRA:

We don't skim this one.

She looks to Hoshi.

KYRA:

Keep us low, under their sensors.

FINAL CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

Terranova still lived.

But only because something beneath it refused to let go.

SPREAD 70 ATMOSPHERIC DESCENT & HOVER

INTENT

The Voluptas commits without ever *touching* Terranova

The planet reacts to proximity, not impact

ACCORD systems allow it - barely

The hover feels unnatural, heavy, restrained

This is dominance without violence.

PANEL 1 - EXTERIOR, UPPER ATMOSPHERE (FULL-WIDTH)

The **Voluptas** pierces Terranova's cloud layer.

Mist coils around its vast hull.

Moisture beads and slides away, never settling.

Below: exhausted green grids, irrigation scars, thinning canopy.

PANEL 2 - BRIDGE, Hoshi AT THE HELM (MID-SHOT)

Hoshi's hands move in controlled, minimal motions.

Hoshi:

Gravimetric repulsion field engaged.

A beat.

Hoshi:

She doesn't want to sit.

PANEL 3 - LUCETTE, SYSTEM RESPONSE (MID-SHOT)

Lucette's interface blooms with amber acknowledgements.

Not alarms.

LUCETTE:

ACCORD planetary regulators have registered our presence.

A pause.

LUCETTE:

They are... accommodating the field.

PANEL 4 - KYRA, READING THE SILENCE (CLOSE-UP)

Kyra watches the data scroll.

KYRA:

They're letting us hover.

A beat.

KYRA:

That's not permission. That's observation.

PANEL 5 - EXTERIOR, LOWER ATMOSPHERE (WIDE)

The Voluptas descends slowly.

Vegetation beneath it bends, flattening outward in concentric ripples.

The world yields without contact.

PANEL 1 - EXTERIOR, HOVER POSITION (FULL-WIDTH)

The Voluptas hangs above a vast circular clearing.

No struts. No anchors.

Just suspended mass, held inches above the soil by unseen force.

Dust and spores hover, trapped between ship and ground.

PANEL 2 - GROUND DETAIL (CLOSE-UP)

The soil beneath the ship fractures - not from pressure, but **repulsion**.

Fine cracks spider outward as if the planet itself is being pushed away.

PANEL 3 - REAR RAMP DEPLOYMENT (MID-SHOT)

The **rear cargo ramp** lowers slowly.

Its edge kisses the ground.

The *only* point of contact.

PANEL 4 - INTERIOR, SUBTLE VIBRATION (MID-SHOT)

A low harmonic hum passes through the Voluptas.

Crew members feel it in their bones.

The ship is balancing.

PANEL 5 - Neve & THE SPHERE (CLOSE-UP)

The Sphere pulses - slow, heavy, uneasy.

Neve exhales.

Neve:

It feels... pinned.

FINAL CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

The Voluptas never touched the world.

And the world never stopped pushing back.

SPREAD 72 - FIRST STEPS ON TERRANOVA

PANEL 1 - EXTERIOR, WIDE

The **Voluptas** hovers silently above a vast green valley.

No landing gear.

No exhaust.

Its immense hull hangs as if repelled by the planet itself.

Below, the forest stretches to the horizon - green, but uneven.

Growth is patchy. Strained.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

Terranova. A green world that never rests.

PANEL 2 - BRIDGE / CANOPY VIEW (MID-SHOT)

Through the rounded glass canopy, the scale of the forest is overwhelming.

Kyra studies it, uneasy.

KYRA:

This place should feel alive.

A beat.

KYRA:

It feels... managed.

PANEL 3 - ENGINEERING / HOVER CHECK (MID-SHOT)

Juno monitors the hover field.

Readouts are steady.

JUNO:

Hover is clean. No ground contact.

She glances up.

JUNO:

Like the planet doesn't want us touching it.

PANEL 4 - CARGO BAY, RAMP LOWERING (WIDE)

The **rear cargo ramp** lowers slowly.

Light spills into the bay.

At the edge stand Kyra, Kassiopeia, Mayara, Chi, and Lucette.

Beyond them: forest and silence.

Mayara smiles faintly.

MAYARA:

Well.

A beat.

MAYARA:

Subtle welcome.

PANEL 5 - EXTERIOR SPLASH

A wide, cinematic shot.

The Voluptas hangs above the trees, immense and vulnerable.

The ramp is the **only connection** to the world below.

Small figures step forward.

PANEL 1 - FIRST CONTACT (WIDE)

Boots touch soil.
 The ground compresses slightly - resilient, springy.
 No insects.
 No birds.
 Only wind through leaves.

PANEL 2 - LUCETTE, SENSORY STATE (CLOSE-UP)

Lucette stands still, eyes unfocused.
 Her body is present - her awareness elsewhere.

LUCETTE:

Geothermal flow is spiking.

A pause.

LUCETTE:

Something below us is cycling power.

Constantly.

PANEL 3 - MAYARA WATCHING LUCETTE (MID-SHOT)

Mayara watches Lucette closely.
 Not fear - calculation.
 She doesn't look at the forest.
 She looks *through* it.

PANEL 4 - THE DOME REVEALED (WIDE)

Through the trees, partially buried by roots:
 A massive brass dome.
 Ornate. Old. Overgrown.
 The forest has grown *around* it - not with it.

Kassiopeia:

That's not cultivation.

A beat.

Kassiopeia:

That looks like a tomb?.

PANEL 5 - ADVANCE (WIDE)

The team moves toward the dome through thick undergrowth.
 Behind them, the Voluptas hovers - unable to intervene quickly.
 Ahead: containment.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

They came looking for answers.

They found a lock.

SPREAD 74 WATER OPENS THE WAY

PANEL 1 - BASE OF THE DOME (WIDE)

The team stands before the brass dome.

Behind them, the **Voluptas rests at ground level**, rear ramp extended into the forest floor.

Up close, the dome's surface is ancient, etched - **unnaturally dry**.

Roots brace around it under tension.

PANEL 2 - Neve & THE DOME (MID-SHOT)

Neve steps closer, drawn.

She raises a hand and gently touches the brass.

PANEL 3 - Neve'S PAIN (CLOSE-UP)

Neve gasps, pulling her hand back.

Her eyes fill with tears.

Neve:

It hurts...

A breath, shaking.

Neve:

It's so sad.

PANEL 4 - THE TEAR (EXTREME CLOSE-UP)

A single tear falls.

It strikes the brass.

For a heartbeat, nothing-

Then a **thin green vein** spreads from the impact point.

A tiny sprout forces its way through a seam.

PANEL 5 - KYRA SEES IT (MID-SHOT)

Kyra pulls Neve close, protective.

Her eyes flick from Neve... to the sprout.

Understanding lands.

PANEL 1 - KYRA, DECISION (MID-SHOT)

Kyra looks back toward the Voluptas, still grounded.
She activates her comms.

KYRA (comms):

Hoshi - we need water.

A beat.

KYRA:

Lift off. Low hover only.

PANEL 2 - CHI & JUNO, ENGINEERING (MID-SHOT / INSERT)

Chi is already moving.

CHI (comms):

It's responding to moisture.

JUNO:

Juno nods, fingers flying.

Rerouting internal tanks to the aft bay.

A glance at the readouts.

JUNO:

Once we lift, we're visible.

PANEL 3 - EXTERIOR, WIDE

The **Voluptas lifts slowly** from the forest floor.

The ship settles into a **low hover**, just above the dome.

Leaves whip violently beneath it.

PANEL 4 - KYRA, COMMAND (MID-SHOT)

Kyra watches the dome, tense.

KYRA (comms):

Do it.

A beat.

KYRA:

Make it rain.

PANEL 5 - THE RAIN (ACTION PANEL)

Water pours from the Voluptas in a controlled cascade.

It floods the dome.

Roots darken, swell, and **drink**.

The ground exhales.

PANEL 6 - THE RESPONSE (WIDE)

The brass surface **shifts**.

Roots pull aside as an **ornate arched doorway** unfolds from the dome, lined with faint green light.

The way inside opens.

MAYARA (quiet):

That was just the door?

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

Water remembered the threshold.

SPREAD 76 INSIDE THE DOME / THE TREE REVEALED

PANEL 1 - THRESHOLD (WIDE)

The team stands at the newly opened archway.
 Warm, humid air spills out, carrying the smell of soil and rain.
 Light pulses faintly within.
 Kyra gestures forward.

PANEL 2 - ENTERING THE DOME (MID-SHOT)

They step inside.
 The interior is vast - far larger than the exterior suggested.
 The brass walls curve upward, disappearing into shadow.
 Water runs in thin rivulets along channels carved into the floor.

PANEL 3 - FIRST SIGHT OF THE TREE (WIDE)

The space opens.
 At the heart of the dome stands a **colossal Tree**.
 Its trunk is thicker than a city tower - ancient, calcified, split with deep scars.
 Most of it is grey, desiccated. Barely alive.
 Silence falls.
 High in the crown something moves. small, brief, gone.

PANEL 4 - KYRA (MID-SHOT)

Kyra's eyes track upward. Still watching.

KYRA:

We're not alone in here.

PANEL 5 - CHI, IN AWE (MID-SHOT)

Chi stares upward, breathless.

CHI:

That's not a power source...

A beat.

CHI:

It's alive, barley

PANEL 6 - LUCETTE, SENSING (CLOSE-UP)

Lucette's eyes unfocus again.
 Her voice is quiet, reverent.

LUCETTE:

This structure has been carrying the load for the entire planet.

A pause.

LUCETTE:

Alone.

SPREAD 77 THE PATH REVEALED

PANEL 1 - FULL SPREAD OF THE TREE (WIDE)

Full spread. The Tree in its entirety. Ancient. Vast. Barely alive. The team stands at its base — tiny against its scale. The first hint of the spiral staircase beginning to emerge from the trunk. High in the crown a faint glow.

No dialogue.

No caption.

SPREAD 78 THE ASCENT

PANEL 1 - KYRA, DECISION (MID-SHOT)

Kyra looks at the staircase.

Then at Neve.

Then upward.

KYRA:

All right.

A beat.

KYRA:

We go slow. Nobody rushes.

PANEL 2 - ASCENT BEGINS (WIDE)

The team steps onto the staircase.

It supports them effortlessly.

With each step, the Tree pulses faintly.

Alive.

PANEL 3 - LUCETTE, DISTURBED (CLOSE-UP)

Lucette falters.

Her voice is barely above a whisper.

LUCETTE:

There's something else ahead.

A pause.

LUCETTE:

Not sleeping... Waiting.

PANEL 4 - VERTICAL SCALE (EXTREME WIDE)

t feels planetary in scale. As they climb, the movement glimpsed below becomes clearer. Wings. Small. Purposeful. Not birds.

PANEL 5 - THE CROWN ABOVE (WIDE)

High above, partially obscured by mist and shifting light: A natural hollow opens in the Tree's crown. Ancient. Vast. Something glows faintly within.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

They had fed the root.

Now they faced the heart.

SPREAD 79 TOO LONG

PANEL 1 - THE CROWN OF THE TREE (WIDE)

The staircase opens into a vast natural hollow in the Tree's crown. Roots arch overhead like ribs. At the centre: a raised mound of pale, dusty soil, shaped vaguely like a human body. Still. Dry. Ancient. Around the mound tiny figures. move quietly. Each carrying something small.

PANEL 2 - THE FAIRIES (CLOSE-UP INSERT)

Five tiny women, each no larger than a hand. Wings catching the faint light. One kneels at the edge of the mound, tipping a thimble-sized vessel. A single drop falls onto the pale dust. Where it lands, a thread of colour pulses briefly. Then fades. She refills. Does it again.

PANEL 3 - LUCETTE, RECOGNITION (MID-SHOT)

Lucette stares at the effigy, then at the fairies. Her voice is quiet. Her voice is quiet.

LUCETTE:

They've been keeping her alive.

A beat.

All this time

PANEL 4 - MAYARA, UNDERSTANDING (MID-SHOT)

Mayara studies the dusty form, anger tightening her jaw.

MAYARA:

They didn't kill her.

A pause.

MAYARA:

They exhausted her.

PANEL 5 - KYRA & THE FAIRIES (MID-SHOT)

Kyra crouches low. Eye level with the tiny figures. One fairy stops. Looks up at her. Exhausted. Hopeful.

KYRA (quiet):

How long?

A beat.

PANEL 6 - FAIRY (CLOSE UP)

Looking exhausted

FAIRY:

Too long.

SPREAD 80 THE CALL

PANEL 1 - Neve & THE SPHERE (MID-SHOT)

Neve cradles the Sphere. Its light is dimmer now. She looks from the Sphere to the dusty form.

Neve:

She's still here.

A beat.

She just... ran empty.

PANEL 2 - KYRA, TAKING IT IN (WIDE)

Kyra stands. She looks at Ki's effigy. At the fairies still working. At the Sphere in Neve's arms. The math is obvious.

PANEL 3 - KYRA, COMMAND (MID-SHOT)

Kyra activates her comms. No hesitation.

KYRA (comms):

Hoshi. All tanks. Everything.

A beat.

Make it rain

PANEL 4 - CHI, REACTION (MID-SHOT / INSERT)

Chi looks up sharply.

CHI:

Commander, that's-

She hesitates, then grins despite herself.

CHI:

-actually... the pool finally has a use.

PANEL 5 - ENGINEERING, REACTION (MID-SHOT / INSERT)

Juno is already rerouting.

JUNO:

Draining recreational reserves.

Another control flips.

JUNO:

And the emergency tanks.

PANEL 6 - EXTERIOR / INTERIOR SPLIT (WIDE)

Exterior:

The Voluptas hovers low, releasing a **torrent** of water into the dome.

Interior:

The Tree drinks deeply.

Colour surges through the bark like blood returning to limbs.

Deep fissures close.

The structure creaks - not in pain, but in relief.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

This was no machine.

It was a being - starved, burdened, and finally fed.

PANEL 1 - THE FAIRIES (WIDE)

The torrent hits the crown. Water floods the hollow.

The fairies scatter upward in a burst of wings and light.

Not fleeing. Celebrating.

PANEL 2 - THE OFFERING (WIDE)

Neve kneels and gently places the Sphere against the effigy's chest.

The Sphere begins to vibrate.

PANEL 3 - THE SPHERE BREAKS (ACTION PANEL)

The Sphere **fractures**.

Water memory spills out - flowing across the dust like liquid light.

PANEL 4 - RESTORATION BEGINS (WIDE)

The soil **darkens**.

Cracks close.

The body's shape sharpens - limbs forming, weight returning.

Dust becomes skin.

PANEL 5 - KI FORMS (MID-SHOT)

A naked, statuesque woman now lies where the effigy was. Her body is earthen bronze and living stone. Her chest rises and falls. Slowly. Faintly.

PANEL 6 - FIRST BREATH (SPLASH PANEL)

Ki inhales deeply.

A long, shuddering breath - like ground settling after a quake.

Roots surge gently upward.

Leaves and moss bloom, weaving into her hair and forming living garments.

Her eyes open.

Ancient. Green. Exhausted.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

The Earth did not speak.

She breathed.

SPREAD 82 THE WORLD REACTS

PANEL 1 - THE TREE SHUDDERS (WIDE)

The Tree convulses.

Not in pain - in overload.

Water surges through channels that haven't carried it in centuries.

The entire structure **groans**, ancient fibres straining.

PANEL 2 - ROOTS ERUPT (EXTERIOR, WIDE)

Across the valley, massive roots burst from the ground.

They tear through soil and stone, surging outward in all directions.

Uncontrolled. Defensive.

PANEL 3 - KYRA, REALISING THE DANGER (MID-SHOT)

Kyra spins toward the exit.

KYRA:

Everyone back!

A beat.

KYRA:

Now!

PANEL 4 - LUCETTE, ALARMED (CLOSE-UP)

Lucette staggers, clutching her head.

Her voice fractures with overlapping signals.

LUCETTE:

The planet's reacting as a whole-

A spike of pain.

LUCETTE:

It doesn't know what's friendly!

PANEL 5 - KI, UNFOCUSED (MID-SHOT)

Ki sits upright, disoriented.

Her hands dig into the living floor.

Roots respond instantly, tightening around her.

Her breathing quickens.

PANEL 1 - THE SHIP IN PERIL (EXTERIOR, WIDE)

The **Voluptas**, hovering low above the canopy, is suddenly **snared**.
Thick, glowing roots coil around its hull and engines.
Metal screams under the strain.

PANEL 2 - BRIDGE, PANIC (MID-SHOT)

Hoshi fights the controls.
Alarms flare.

Hoshi (comms):

Kyra, we're caught!
Multiple anchor points - I can't lift!

PANEL 3 - INSIDE THE DOME, REALISATION (MID-SHOT)

Kyra hears the comms in her ear.
She turns sharply back toward Ki.

KYRA:

She's doing this!

PANEL 4 - Neve, UNCONSCIOUS KNOWLEDGE (MID-SHOT)

Neve freezes.
Her eyes widen - not fear, but recognition.
The name escapes her before she understands it.

Neve:

Ki!

The sound **lands**.
The roots hesitate.

PANEL 5 - THE FAIRIES & KI (CLOSE-UP)

The fairies swarm around Ki's face. Tiny hands. Familiar wings. Voices she knows. Ki's breathing slows.

PANEL 6 - Neve STEPS IN (CLOSE-UP)

Neve moves to Ki, placing a hand gently on her arm.
Grounding. Familiar. Ki's eyes focus. The roots release.

Neve:

It's us.

A beat.

Neve:

You're safe.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

Freedom came with reflex.
And reflex came with fear.

SPREAD 84 – CONTAINMENT ANOMALY

Purpose of this spread

- First ACCORD detection of the Ki disturbance
- Establish that the system should not fail
- Dispatch Terranova base patrol
- Introduce Meilin quietly observing
- Lead directly into the patrol encounter

PANEL 1 – SPIRE OPERATIONS ROOM (WIDE)

ACCORD monitoring chamber inside the Nexus Spire.

Large holographic displays show the extraction network across Terranova.

One console suddenly flashes amber.

TECHNICIAN

“...That can’t be right.”

PANEL 2 – SCREEN CLOSE-UP

Diagnostic window flashing.

CONTAINMENT FIELD ALERT
TERRANOVA EXTRACTION NETWORK

TECHNICIAN

“Containment variance?”

PANEL 3 – MID SHOT

Supervisor steps in behind the console.

SUPERVISOR

“Run it again.”

PANEL 4 – SENSOR SWEEP

Data scrolls rapidly.

TECHNICIAN

“Full scan running.”

Beat.

“...There was a contact.”

PANEL 5 – SENSOR TRACE

A faint ghost signal appears on the display.

TECHNICIAN

“Almost looked like a ship.”

Beat.

“But it’s gone.”

PANEL 1 – SYSTEM READOUT

Containment harmonic readings continue fluctuating.

TECHNICIAN

“Field harmonics are still drifting.”

PANEL 2 – SUPERVISOR

He studies the readings for a moment, then dismisses it as routine.

SUPERVISOR

“Notify Terranova Base.”

Beat.

“Have them send a patrol.”

PANEL 3 – BACKGROUND DETAIL

In the background of the operations room stands Meilin, reviewing a data slate.

She glances toward the containment readings, quietly making notes.

No one notices.

PANEL 4 – MEILIN CLOSE-UP

Calm. Observant.

MEILIN (internal)

“Minister Harlen will want to see this.”

SPREAD 86 THE SIGNAL / MISUNDERSTANDING

PANEL 1 - TERRANOVA SKY, WIDE

Low over Terranova's forest canopy. Towering turbine structures punch up through the atmosphere like industrial mountains. Moving between them — two ACCORD security fighters. Brutal. Utilitarian. Built for enforcement across the extraction zones.

No urgency. Just another routine patrol..

PILOT (COMMS)

"Terranova Base, patrol responding to containment alert."

BASE (COMMS)

"Understood. Confirm source of the disturbance."

PANEL 2 - BRIDGE, VOLUPTAS (MID-SHOT)

Hoshi (into comms, sharp):

"Kyra, two ACCORD security fighters just came into view."

PANEL 3 - KYRA, INSIDE THE DOME (MID-SHOT)

Kyra hears the report over comms.

She closes her eyes briefly.

KYRA:

Of course they noticed.

PANEL 4 - Hoshi, BRIDGE (MID-SHOT)

Hoshi watches the approach lines tighten on her HUD.

Hoshi (comms):

They're holding fire for now... but they're lining up like they own the sky.

PANEL 5 - EXTERIOR, WIDE

The Voluptas hovers low above the forest canopy.

Roots still coil around sections of its hull.

In the distance, faint contrails mark the ACCORD fighters approaching.

PANEL 1 - INSIDE THE DOME (MID-SHOT)

The Tree vibrates faintly.
Dust shakes loose from the ancient structure.
Ki stiffens - disoriented by the distant disturbance.
She turns toward Neve.

PANEL 2 - Neve, SENSING (CLOSE-UP)

Neve freezes.
Her breath catches - pressure, not pain.

Neve:

Something's wrong.

A beat.
She looks upward instinctively.

Neve:

They're lining up on the ship.

PANEL 3 - KI REALISES (MID-SHOT)

Ki's eyes widen in sudden horror. She feels the roots, wrapped around metal, alive with fear. Her hands rise reflexively. On her shoulder, two fairies cling tight. Frightened. Watching her face.

PANEL 4 - THE RELEASE (EXTERIOR, WIDE)

Outside-
The glowing roots **loosen**.
They withdraw from the Voluptas, uncoiling carefully, reluctantly.
The ship shudders - then steadies.
Free.

PANEL 5 - BRIDGE, VOLUPTAS (MID-SHOT)

Hoshi feels the controls respond.

Hoshi (comms):

Kyra - we're clear.

A beat.

Hoshi:

That wasn't us.

SPREAD 88 FIRST STRIKE

PANEL 1 - INSIDE THE DOME (MID-SHOT)

Ki lowers her hands slowly.

She exhales, shaken.

She looks to Neve - uncertain, searching.

Learning.

PANEL 2 - ORBITAL SPACE (WIDE)

The ACCORD fighter finishes aligning.

Its main emitter charges - slow, deliberate.

PANEL 3 - FIRST STRIKE (EXTERIOR, WIDE)

Without warning-

The first fighter fires.

A massive energy beam slams into the forest canopy near the Voluptas.

The blast tears through trees and earth.

PANEL 4 - INSIDE THE DOME, IMPACT (MID-SHOT)

The shockwave ripples through the Tree.

Ki staggers.

Neve cries out.

Neve:

They fired!

PANEL 5 - KI, THE TURN (CLOSE-UP)

Ki looks up.

Her confusion is gone.

What remains is clarity - and fury held barely in check.

The ground beneath her feet **begins to glow**.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

She released them.

They answered with fire.

PANEL 1 - CLEARING (WIDE)

The fighters circle like vultures.
Weapons recharge.

PANEL 2 - KI, RISING POWER (MID-SHOT)

The roots beneath the dome begin to move again.
This time-
with intent.

PANEL 3 - KYRA, REALISATION (MID-SHOT)

Kyra grips her weapon, eyes wide.

KYRA:

Everyone back.

A beat.

KYRA:

Now!

PANEL 4 - EXTERIOR, PLANETARY SCALE (WIDE)

Across Terranova, the land stirs.
Roots surge upward, no longer wild.
They are **aiming**.

PANEL 5 - FINAL PANEL (WIDE)

High above the canopy
One fighter stops mid-turn. Roots have it.
It isn't going anywhere.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

She woke to find her world starved.

Then they opened fire.

The Earth remembered why.

Now the Earth would answer.

SPREAD 90 THE FALL

PANEL 1 - ORBITAL DESCENT, WIDE

The remaining fighter descends aggressively. Too low. Too close. Weapons warming.

PANEL 2 - BRIDGE, VOLUPTAS (MID-SHOT)

Alarms flare.

Hoshi:

They're lining up for a saturation pass!

LUCETTE:

Trajectory intersects the dome.

PANEL 3 - INSIDE THE DOME, KI (MID-SHOT)

Ki stiffens.

She feels the intent - not hunger now, but eradication.

Her jaw tightens.

PANEL 4 - ACCORD STRIKE (EXTERIOR, WIDE)

The fighter fires.

Not at the Tree -

At the Voluptas.

The blast rips across its stern.

PANEL 5 - VOLUPTAS HIT (EXTERIOR, WIDE)

The ship lurches violently.

Engines sputter.

She begins to **drop**.

PANEL 1 - BRIDGE, LOSS OF CONTROL (MID-SHOT)

Hoshi fights the controls.

Hoshi:

We've lost lift!

JUNO (comms):

Structural failure on the mounts-

I can't hold her!

PANEL 2 - GROUND TEAM, REALISATION (WIDE)

Kyra and the team rush out of the dome entrance-

They look up.

The Voluptas is falling.

PANEL 3 - KI REACTS (MID-SHOT)

Ki turns sharply.

No thought.

No rage.

Just instinct.

She slams her hands to the ground.

PANEL 4 - THE CATCH (EXTERIOR, WIDE)

Colossal roots erupt upward.

They **cradle the Voluptas**, absorbing the fall.

The ship crashes through branches and stone-

-but **lands**, hard and intact.

PANEL 5 - AFTERSHOCK (WIDE)

Dust. Silence.

The Voluptas lies embedded in the forest floor.

Alive.

SPREAD 92 NO MORE HIDING

PANEL 1 - KI, LOOKING UP (MID-SHOT)

Ki slowly straightens.

Above her, the remaining fighter holds position

Unharmmed.

Watching.

PANEL 2 - KI'S CHOICE (CLOSE-UP)

Something breaks in her expression.

Not anger.

Resolve.

PANEL 3 - THE DOME SHATTERS (FULL-WIDTH PANEL)

With a violent upward surge-

Roots tear through the dome, ripping it apart.

Brass fractures. Stone explodes.

The Tree is exposed to the sky.

Now everyone can see.

PANEL 4 - SHARED SIGHTLINE (WIDE)

From the forest floor-

The crew sees the fighter above.

From the sky, the ACCORD sees the awakened Earth below.

No more hiding.

PANEL 5 - THE GRASP (WIDE)

Roots surge upward.

They seize the fighter.

It isn't going anywhere.

PANEL 1 - THE SMASH (WIDE)

The fighter is dragged straight down.

No struggle.

No delay.

It smashed into the clearing with a thunderous impact.

PANEL 2 - THE SURVIVOR (MID-SHOT)

The remaining fighter fires wildly.

PANEL 3 - WARNING (WIDE)

Roots rise again - blocking, not striking.

A clear message.

PANEL 4 - THE RETREAT (WIDE)

The fighter flees. Fast. Low. Gone.

PANEL 5 - FINAL PANEL, SILENCE

The forest stills.

The ruined dome smokes.

The Voluptas rests, wounded but alive.

Ki stands amid the destruction.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

The Earth had revealed itself.

There would be witnesses.

SPREAD 94 THE PRISONER

PANEL 1 - CRASH SITE, WIDE

A twisted **ACCORD Security fighter** lies half-buried in scorched earth and shattered roots.

Its hull is torn open but intact.

Smoke curls upward in slow, sickly spirals.

Emergency lights blink weakly inside the wreck.

PANEL 2 - GROUND TEAM APPROACHES (MID-SHOT)

Kyra advances cautiously, weapon raised.

Kassiopeia and Mayara flank her.

The shattered dome looms behind them.

KYRA:

Careful. She's alive.

PANEL 3 - FIGHTER CANOPY, INTERIOR (CLOSE-UP)

Inside the cockpit-

A female **ACCORD** officer, bloodied and restrained by a warped harness.

Her breathing is shallow.

Her eyes flick wildly, tracking every movement outside.

PANEL 4 - MAYARA, IDENTIFICATION (MID-SHOT)

Mayara studies the insignia on the fighter's interior.

Her expression hardens.

MAYARA:

Resource Division.

A beat.

MAYARA:

Senior clearance.

PANEL 5 - EXTRACTION (ACTION PANEL)

Kassiopeia wrenches the canopy free.

and pulls the officer out, dropping her hard onto the ground.

The officer gasps, coughing, collapsing to her knees.

PANEL 6 - Kassi close up

KASSIOPEIA (looking down at her, flat):

"You attacked us!"

PANEL 1 - THE OFFICER (CLOSE-UP)

The ACCORD officer looks up at them.

Defiant - but her composure is cracking.

ACCORD OFFICER:

You don't understand what you've done.

PANEL 2 - KI WATCHES (MID-SHOT)

Ki stands a short distance away, half in shadow.

She looks at the wrecked fighter.

At the torn earth.

At the people standing among the aftermath.

Her hands tremble slightly.

A fairy on her shoulder, A tiny hand against her cheek. She is not alone.

PANEL 3 - KYRA'S CONTROL (MID-SHOT)

Kyra kneels in front of the officer, voice calm and level.

KYRA:

You're breathing because she chose restraint.

A beat.

KYRA:

Don't waste it.

PANEL 4 - FINAL PANEL, THE WEIGHT (WIDE)

Wide shot of the clearing:

The ruined fighter

The damaged **Voluptas** resting in the forest

The shattered dome behind them

Everyone is standing.

No one feels victorious.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

Survival was never clean.

And mercy was never free.

SPREAD 96 CONTROL

PANEL 1 - THE OFFICER, RESTRAINED (MID-SHOT)

The ACCORD officer sits bound against a broken root.

Her breathing has steadied.

She looks past Kyra - calculating, defensive.

ACCORD OFFICER:

That structure wasn't sacred.

PANEL 2 - MAYARA, FLAT (MID-SHOT)

Mayara doesn't blink.

MAYARA:

Then explain the chains.

PANEL 3 - THE TRUTH (CLOSE-UP, OFFICER)

The officer exhales sharply.

ACCORD OFFICER:

Terranova was classified as a high-yield cultivation world.

A beat.

ACCORD OFFICER:

So we optimized it.

PANEL 4 - KI REACTS (MID-SHOT)

Ki's expression tightens.

Not anger.

Recognition.

PANEL 5 - OFFICER CONTINUES (MID-SHOT)

ACCORD OFFICER:

Crop cycles.

Soil conditioning.

Growth acceleration.

Her jaw sets.

ACCORD OFFICER:

Everything was pushed harder. Faster.

PANEL 1 - Neve, HORROR DAWNING (CLOSE-UP)

Neve looks out over the forest.
The struggling growth.
The exhausted land.

Neve:

You didn't cultivate it.

PANEL 2 - Neve FINISHES IT (MID-SHOT)

She turns back to the officer.

Neve:

You bled it dry.

PANEL 3 - OFFICER, DEFENSIVE (MID-SHOT)

The officer snaps back, brittle.

ACCORD OFFICER:

People needed food.

A beat.

ACCORD OFFICER:

Control ensures supply..

PANEL 4 - KI, QUIET UNDERSTANDING (CLOSE-UP)

Ki closes her eyes.
She places a hand against the ground.
The soil beneath her fingers is thin.
Tired.

KI:

You starved the roots.

OFFICER:

"We controlled growth"

PANEL 5 - FINAL PANEL, THE COST (WIDE)

Wide shot of Terranova:
Fields struggling.
Forests thinned.
Life persisting - but diminished.
Ki stands among it.

Not raging.
Mourning.

SPREAD 98 EARTH'S VENGEANCE

PANEL 1 -THE SILENCE (TOP STRIP, SMALL)

The forest goes **utterly silent**.

No wind.

No birds.

No movement.

As if the world is listening to only one thing.

KI:

"Not anymore."

PANEL 2 - THE TOUCH (TOP STRIP, SMALL)

"Ki gently touches the ground.

The soil curls around her fingers in response."

PANEL 3 - THE SEIZE (TOP STRIP, SMALL)

Roots coil around the officer's legs and waist and wrench her off her feet, screaming.

OFFICER:

"Wait!"

PANEL 4 - STRIPPED BARE (TOP STRIP, SMALL)

Vines tear at her uniform, shredding it away in violent strips as she is hauled upward, naked and helpless, clawing at nothing. Her scream rises, raw, animal, endless.

SFX: RIIIP-TEARRR-

PANEL 5 - VENGEANCE (LARGE DOMINANT PANEL)

THE ROOTS STRIKE.

Multiple thick, living vines **rip into her body at once**.

Her torso is torn apart.

Her limbs are **ripped free**.

Blood and viscera explode outward in a violent spray.

Her scream is cut off mid-sound.

SFX: CRRUNCH-SPLURT-THOOM

PANEL 1 - ERASURE (WIDE)

The earth pulls the remains down, swallowing them whole. Then the ground seals itself. Roots withdraw. Soil smooths. Leaves settle. No body. No blood. No sign anything happened. As if the forest never moved at all.

PANEL 2 - THE WRECKAGE (WIDE STRIP)

The wrecked ACCORD fighter is pulled beneath the surface. Twisted metal and scorched debris sink into the living soil. Nothing remains.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

The crime was not conquest.

It was consumption without restraint.

PANEL 3 - THE CREW (MID-SHOT)

Kyra stands frozen.

Kassiopeia stares, unmoving.

Mayara looks away too late.

No one speaks.

PANEL 4 - (WIDE)

Forest quiet again.

Nobody speaking. Just the crew staring at the ground.

PANEL 5 - CHI (CLOSE-UP)

Chi drops to her knees, gagging.

She retches violently, bile splashing onto the forest floor.

SFX: GURGLE-RETCH

Her hands shake uncontrollably.

PANEL 6 - (SMALL INSERT)

A fairy lands softly on Chi's shoulder.

She wraps her tiny arms around Chi's face. Hugging in comfort.

PANEL 7 - FINAL PANEL, AFTER (WIDE)

Ki stands alone amid the quiet clearing.

The forest breathes again.

Nothing else moves.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

The Earth took its due.

And then it was done.

SPREAD 100 AFTER THE FALL

PANEL 1 - THE CLEARING, WIDE

The forest is quiet again.

Insects resume. Leaves move.

The **Voluptas** rests in the clearing, damaged but intact.

The shattered dome smokes faintly in the distance.

The fight is over.

PANEL 2 - THE CREW, REGROUPING (MID-SHOT)

Kyra signals low and slow.

Weapons are lowered.

Kassiopeia checks the perimeter.

No one looks at the place where the officer died.

PANEL 3 - KI, COMPOSED (MID-SHOT)

Ki stands upright.

Still. Grounded.

Her presence is heavy, not unstable, not apologetic.

The land around her subtly aligns, as if taking cues.

PANEL 4 - KYRA & KI, THE COST (TWO-SHOT)

Kyra crosses to where Ki stands. She glances once at the smoothed earth, then back to Ki. Her voice is quiet. Not accusing. Just honest.

KYRA:

"There was no need for that."

Ki does not turn. She watches the forest settle.

KI:

"You see one life ended."

A beat.

"I felt every year they bled from me."

PANEL 5 - KYRA & KI, THE COST (TWO-SHOT)

KI (quieter):

"For that... this was a small thing."

Kyra holds her gaze. She does not agree. She does not argue.

KYRA (low):

"Maybe to you."

PANEL 6 - THE VOLUPTAS, STABILIZED (MID-SHOT)

Roots and vines brace the ship's hull, knitting fractures and reinforcing mounts.

Not elegant but Effective.

Juno runs a hand over the living supports, stunned.

PANEL 7 - NEVE FEELS THE SHIFT (CLOSE-UP)

Neve closes her eyes.

Her breathing evens.

The ache she's carried since Thalassara is gone.

Replaced by clarity.

PANEL 1 - Neve STEPS FORWARD (MID-SHOT)

Neve moves to stand beside Ki.
Not behind her.
Beside.
She looks out across Terranova.

PANEL 2 - Neve SPEAKS (MID-SHOT)

Neve's voice is steady.
Certain.

Neve:

This world will live.

A beat.

Neve:

Not as it was.

But enough.

Ki inclines her head - a simple acknowledgment.

PANEL 3 - KI, STATEMENT (CLOSE-UP)

Ki turns to Neve.
Her voice is calm. Absolute.

Ki:

Now, lets have a look at YOU?

PANEL 4 - THE CORE STIRS (MID-SHOT)

Near Neve, the **Sphere** (or its fragments) glows faintly.
Not whole.
Waiting.
Responsive to Neve's presence.

PANEL 5 - FINAL PANEL, DIRECTION (WIDE)

A thin filament of light lifts from the Core, angling skyward.
Neve watches it, understanding settling in.

Neve:

She's calling us forward.

Kyra looks to the sky.

KYRA:

Then we don't linger.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

The Earth stood its ground.
The journey moved on.

SPREAD 102 THE ONE WHO REMEMBERS

PANEL 1 - THE CLEARING, WIDE

Mist begins to gather between the trees.

Not fog.

Not smoke.

Moisture, drawn gently from leaf and soil.

The air cools.

PANEL 2 - Neve FEELS IT FIRST (CLOSE-UP)

Neve inhales sharply.

Not pain.

Recognition.

Her eyes soften.

PANEL 3 - WATER TAKES SHAPE (MID-SHOT)

Within the mist, ripples form in midair.

Contours suggest shoulders. Hair. A face.

Water learns how to be a body again.

PANEL 4 - NIXIE EMERGES (MID-SHOT)

Nixie stands where the mist thickens.

Translucent blue skin.

Hair flowing like slow currents.

Eyes deep with remembered oceans.

Whole. Calm. Unafraid.

She surveys the clearing - the wreckage, the ship, Ki.

PANEL 5 - NIXIE'S DRY HUMOUR (CLOSE-UP)

Nixie looks at Neve.

A faint, knowing smile.

NIXIE:

You always did carry too much.

THE CORE RETURNED

PANEL 1 - NIXIE, CLOSE (MID-SHOT)

Nixie looks down at herself.

For the first time, she seems... solid.

She draws her flowing, water-woven garment slightly aside her heart, revealing **depth**, as if her body holds tides within it.

PANEL 2 - THE CORE REVEALED (CLOSE-UP)

From within her chest, Nixie withdraws a **perfectly formed sphere**.

It is not liquid now.

It is glass-smooth, weighty, alive with slow-moving currents inside.

Water, remembered and held.

PANEL 3 - NIXIE TO Neve (MID-SHOT)

Nixie extends the Sphere toward Neve.

Her expression is gentle. Certain.

NIXIE:

This is what survived.

A beat.

NIXIE:

Not the sea.

The memory of it.

PANEL 4 - Neve RECEIVES IT (MID-SHOT)

Neve takes the Sphere with both hands.

It is heavier than it looks.

It settles against her palms as if it belongs there.

She exhales - relief, not awe.

PANEL 5 - KI COMPLETES IT (MID-SHOT)

Ki steps close.

She places her hand over Neve's, grounding the Sphere.

Green filaments bloom **inside** the Core - not overtaking the water, but **anchoring it**.

Earth gives the memory weight.

PANEL 6 - THE CORE, CHANGED (CLOSE-UP)

Inside the Sphere:

Blue currents turn slower.

Green structures form lattice-like roots.

Silver motes flicker faintly - distant, incomplete.

Balanced. Physical. Real.

FINAL PANEL - DIRECTION (WIDE)

Neve looks up from the Sphere.

The sky above Terranova stretches wide and still.

She doesn't smile.

She understands.

Neve:

Air won't come to us.

Ki nods once.

Nixie steps back, already fading into mist.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

Water remembered.

Earth endured.

The breath above still waited.

SPREAD 104 WHAT REMAINS**PANEL 1 - Neve (MID-SHOT)**

Neve stands. The Sphere is held close to her body, heavy, grounding.
She walks toward Kyra. There is no rush.

Neve (quiet):

Kyra. I'm stable.

Not whole.

PANEL 2 - THE CORE (CLOSE-UP)

The Sphere between them.

Inside: water slowed, earth anchoring it, faint silver motes.

Neve (off-panel):

But it's enough. For now.

PANEL 3 - KI ENTERS FRAME (MID-SHOT)

Ki steps forward. She places her hand briefly over Neve's.

KI:

*What you carry is what remained
when Water and Earth were taken apart.*

PANEL 4 - KI (CLOSE-UP)

Her hand withdraws. The weight stays with Neve.

KI:

I am free.

Balance is not.

PANEL 5 - KYRA (MID-SHOT)

Kyra looks past them - upward.

KYRA:

Air won't come here.

PANEL 6 - KI (PROFILE)

A single nod.

KI:

Aetherion.

PANEL 7 - WIDE, THROUGH THE BROKEN DOME

The damaged Voluptas hangs low above the forest.

KI (off-panel):

You freed me.... They will know.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

The Core endured.

The world did not exhale.

THE REPAIR BEGINS

PANEL 1 - EXTERNAL, WIDE

Ki stands beneath the Voluptas, hands raised. The earth moves around her, ore rising, hull plates pulling straight, cracks sealing into reinforced ribs.

PANEL 2 - JUNO IN ENGINEERING

Juno stares at diagnostics, disbelieving.

Add to background: a Sera poster bolted to the bulkhead among hazard signage and tool racks, faded and well-worn, clearly long-standing rather than new. No dialogue change.

JUNO:

Hull integrity exceeds original spec.

PANEL 3 - EARTH IN MOTION (DETAIL)

Lucette presses her palm to her interface panel.

LUCETTE (quiet):

She didn't just fix us.

PANEL 4 - HULL, CLOSE-UP

Warped plates pull straight.

Cracks flood with molten structure, cooling instantly into ribs.

The damage is not hidden.

It is being *built around*.

PANEL 5 - EXTERNAL, WIDE

The Voluptas rises cleanly. Ki watches it go, hands lowered, earth still.

KI (quiet):

I will not leave anything broken.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

Earth does not erase damage.

It endures it.

SPREAD 106 INTERLUDE: VOID TRANSIT**PANEL 1 - BRIDGE (MID-WIDE)**

The **Voluptas** glides through open void.

Stars pass in slow, steady silence.

Hoshi at the helm.

Chi stands beside her, focused on a **data pad** dense with live system readouts.

Hoshi (dry, satisfied):

Whatever Ki did...

the ship's flying like she shed ten thousand tons.

CHI (scrolling, incredulous):

Hull harmonics are absurdly stable.

The reinforcement isn't just holding stress - it's redistributing it before failure even forms.

On the pad, Lucette's sigil pulses softly.

LUCETTE (via pad, calm):

Correction.

I am no longer generating structural tension.

Hoshi lets out a short breath.

Hoshi:

...that explains the handling.

PANEL 2 - BRIDGE DETAIL (CLOSE-UP)

Chi's pad shows overlapping lattice diagrams - Earth-grown reinforcement integrated into the Voluptas' frame.

CHI (quiet, to herself):

It's like the ship finally knows where her weight is.

Lucette's sigil pulses once, almost amused.

PANEL 3 - MED BAY (MID-SHOT)

Neve sits upright on the edge of a medical couch.

The **Sphere** rests in its cradle nearby - inert, heavy, unmistakably present.

Dr. Elara checks a scanner, precise and clinical.

DR. ELARA:

Your vitals are synchronised.

The Earth element is stabilising the Water imprint.

PANEL 4 - MED BAY (CLOSE-UP)

Elara lowers the scanner and meets Neve's eyes.

DR. ELARA:

You're not healed.

But you're no longer deteriorating.

Neve exhales - relief without celebration.

Neve:

Well I'll take that.

PANEL 5 - MED BAY, WIDE

Neve glances toward the Sphere.

It does not glow. It does not respond.

It waits.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

Stability was not safety.

But it was time.

CONNECTION

PANEL 1 - MAYARA'S QUARTERS (MID-SHOT)

Mayara stands alone, adjusting a half-finished outfit laid across a chair.
She activates a comm.

MAYARA (calm, casual):

Chi?

I need technical assistance with a... morale-critical issue.

A beat.

MAYARA (softer):

Could you come by?

PANEL 2 - QUARTERS DOORWAY (MID-SHOT)

Chi steps inside, instantly flustered.
Her eyes flick to the glamorous outfits, then away.

CHI (trying to stay professional):

Ano... I, I don't think this is an engineering problem?

Mayara turns to face her. No teasing. No armour.

MAYARA:

No.

It's a people problem.

PANEL 3 - CLOSE TWO-SHOT

Mayara lowers herself slightly, bringing their gaze to eye level.

MAYARA (quiet, direct):

When everything broke...

you were the one I ran back for.

Chi freezes. Then breathes.

CHI:

I didn't know if I was allowed to hope that meant something?

PANEL 4 - CLOSE-UP, MAYARA

A small, sincere smile.

MAYARA:

You are.

PANEL 5 - THE KISS

Mayara closes the distance and kisses Chi.

It is gentle. Unrushed.

Not celebratory - **anchoring**.

Chi's hands hesitate... then rest against Mayara's chest, steadying herself.

No dialogue.

FINAL PANEL - EXTERNAL, WIDE

The **Voluptas** moves through the void - scarred, reinforced, carrying an unfinished Core.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

After chaos, connection.

After silence, breath.

SPREAD 108 APPROACHING AETHERION, THE STORM THEY EXPECT

PANEL 1 - EXTERIOR, LONG SHOT

Aetherion fills the forward view: an **endless planetary storm**.
Towering cloud bands spiral. Lightning threads constantly.
It looks uninhabitable.

PANEL 2 - BRIDGE (MID-WIDE)

Warnings strobe. Shield readouts spike.
Hoshi leans forward, tight with lived caution.

Hoshi:

This is bad weather stacked on bad design.
We nearly lost her once today.
I'm not doing that again.

PANEL 3 - INSERT: CHI'S PAD / MODELS (CLOSE-UP)

Violent turbulence cones. Failure arcs. Red probability bands.

CHI:

ACCORD atmospheric models are... hostile.
They're routing us straight through the worst of it.

Lucette's sigil pulses on the pad.

LUCETTE (via pad):

Those models assume continuous instability.
I am not convinced that assumption is true.

PANEL 4 - IMPACT (WIDE)

The Voluptas commits. Shields flare as she **punches into the storm wall**.

SFX: FZZZ-SHHHH

THE STILL SKY THEY GET

PANEL 1 - SILENCE (WIDE)

Everything stops.

The ship emerges into a sky that is **perfectly still**.

No wind. No drift. No weather.

PANEL 2 - EXTERIOR, WIDE

Below: immense, sterile turbine fields rotating in flawless synchrony.

Alignment without life.

CHI (O.S.):

That's... too clean.

PANEL 3 - BRIDGE, Neve & THE CORE (MID-SHOT)

Neve stands near the Sphere's cradle.

The Core emits a faint, cold glow.

Neve (quiet):

It was never a storm.

PANEL 4 - LANDING PLATFORM (WIDE)

A vast sterile platform waits - prepared, empty, expectant.

The Voluptas descends.

KYRA (low, controlled):

Slow and quiet.

FINAL PANEL - KYRA (CLOSE-UP)

Kyra looks out across the unmoving sky.

KYRA:

This isn't peace.

It's a cage.

SPREAD 110 THE WORKING SKY

PANEL 1 - PLATFORM EXIT, WIDE

The crew steps out onto the platform.

Above them, the sky is almost entirely obscured by **colossal turbine rings**, stacked in layers, rotating in perfect synchrony.

Air howls constantly through vast intake corridors.

This is not weather.

It is infrastructure.

SFX: WHOOOOOM-THRUM-WHOOOOOM

PANEL 2 - LOW ANGLE, TURBINES

The blades turn with mathematical precision, forcing air into lanes, compressing it, accelerating it.

The wind never stops.

PANEL 3 - MID-SHOT, CREW

Capes, hair, loose fabric are pulled in the same direction.

CHI (raising her voice slightly):

This isn't a storm.

It's extraction.

PANEL 4 - Neve & THE CORE (DETAIL)

The Sphere vibrates faintly in its cradle.

Neve (uneasy):

It's being pulled.

Not drained.

Redirected.

SYLPH

PANEL 1 - MIST IN WIND

Mist near the platform doesn't scatter.

It slips sideways, moving *against* the dominant current.

Something small and fast is moving inside it.

PANEL 2 - SYLPH FORMS

Sylph condenses out of the mist **inside the wind**.

Barely four feet tall.

Ancient. Constantly moving. Dancing along pressure gradients no one else can feel.

Her simple top and skirt flutter wildly, responding to forces she ignores.

SYLPH (bright, chiming):

Visitors...

after so long?

PANEL 3 - KYRA

Kyra steps forward, feet planted.

KYRA:

We expected a storm?

PANEL 4 - SYLPH, SPINNING

Sylph twirls once. The wind tightens instinctively around her.

SYLPH (laughing):

You're standing in one.

FINAL PANEL - WIDE

The turbines continue to turn.

The wind roars.

CAPTION:

Air was not absent.

It was captive.

SPREAD 112 LIFE IN THE CAGE

HOW SHE LIVES

PANEL 1 - SYLPH IN MOTION

Sylph darts between wind lanes, laughing softly.

The turbines automatically adjust around her.

She is not resisting.

She is coexisting.

SYLPH:

They don't mind me...

as long as I don't change anything.

PANEL 2 - TURBINE RESPONSE

Sensors flare briefly as she passes. The system compensates instantly.

CHI (O.S.):

They didn't build these to monitor the wind. They're tuned to her specific frequency-they're siphoning the kinetic energy of her very breath.

Hoshi (O.S.):

It's a high-pressure harness. The only breathable air down here exists because she keeps it moving. If the blades stop, the surface thins out in minutes.

PANEL 3 - CHI & Hoshi

CHI:

She's not imprisoned.

Hoshi:

She's managed.

PANEL 4 - SYLPH, PERCHED

Sylph hovers upside down near a turbine strut, looking at the massive blades.

SYLPH:

*They built all of this just to catch me. Without my breath, these big wings are just **cold metal and silence.***

WHY SHE STAYS

PANEL 1 - Neve & SYLPH

Neve:

You could leave? If you're the source... just stop

Sylph tilts her head, puzzled.

PANEL 2 - SYLPH CLOSE

Sylph looks at the massive, spinning blades with a hollow expression.

SYLPH:

I tried. If I blow harder, they just build more wheels to catch me. I grow... and the cage grows with me.

PANEL 3 - WIDE, SYSTEM

The turbines turn.

The wind howls.

SYLPH (O.S.):

The wheels stop. The air goes still. And I can't breathe a sky that doesn't move.

PANEL 4 - SYLPH, RAISING A FINGER

She looks at Neve with a desperate kind of challenge.

SYLPH:

See? I'm the one keep them alive... so they can keep me small.

FINAL PANEL - THE FINGER STAYS STILL

The air around her hand begins to shimmer unnaturally.

CAPTION:

The cage was not built to hold her. It was built to **need** her.

SPREAD 114 THE TRAP

WHY FORCE FAILS

PANEL 1 - TURBINE DETAIL

CHI (O.S.):

If she fights back... if she blows harder-

PANEL 2 - CHI FINISHES

CHI:

She just feeds the expansion. Shimatta... They'll build a thousand more rings to harvest the anger.

PANEL 3 - SYLPH,

MATTER-OF-FACT

SYLPH:

My storms only make them richer.

PANEL 4 - SYLPH RAISES HER HAND (MID-SHOT)

To show them, Sylph goes still. The wind around her dies.

PANEL 5 - SYSTEM FAILURE (LOW ANGLE, WIDE)

The turbines turn into dead air. Their roar drops to a grinding, failing groan.

SFX: WHRRR-KLANK-GRROOOAN

THE INTERRUPTION

PANEL 1 - THE AIR THINS (WIDE)

The wind dies and the thin atmosphere goes still. Without the turbines driving it, there is barely enough to breathe. The Amazons stagger where they stand by the rear ramp, chests heaving.

Neve (struggling):

There's no air...

PANEL 2 - JUNO MOVES (MID-SHOT)

Juno is already lunging for the bay controls.

JUNO:

Everyone into the cargo bay. Shields are automatic.

PANEL 3 - SEALED IN (WIDE)

The team falls back up the ramp. A shimmering shield snaps across the bay mouth, holding the ship's own air inside. They drag in deep breaths.

PANEL 4 - SYLPH, WEAKENING (CLOSE)

Out in the open, Sylph's glow dims. She feels it too, she is starving the very air she is made of.

SYLPH (faint):

If I stop... we all die. That's why I can't stay still.

PANEL 5 - WIND SLAMS BACK (WIDE)

Sylph lets go. The turbines spin up, the wind roars back, and the surface air floods in again.

SFX:

WHOOOOOM

CAPTION:

*The trap was not walls. It was **breath**.*

SPREAD 116 THE PLAN

PANEL 1 - CHI

CHI:

If there's no air-

PANEL 2 - SYLPH CATCHES ON

SYLPH:

-the machines starve.

PANEL 3 - Neve & THE CORE

Neve holds the Sphere, the water and earth inside swirling with potential.

Neve:

You can hide. Inside this. It's a memory of a world... not a machine.

PANEL 4 - SYLPH, SERIOUS FOR ONCE

Sylph looks at the Sphere with narrow eyes, suspicious.

SYLPH:

*I've lived in 'perfection' before. It usually has **locks** on the outside.*

PANEL 1 - KYRA

Kyra looks at the massive turbines, then back to the small girl.

KYRA:

*It's your choice. But if you step inside, the machines will think the wind has died. They'll fight for a breath that isn't there until they **break**.*

PANEL 2 - LUCETTE (VIA PAD)

Lucette's sigil pulses, confirming the "blind spot" the Core provides.

LUCETTE:

*The Core is a sanctuary. Once you are inside, the ACCORD's sensors will find only **emptiness**. The system will starve in seconds.*

PANEL 3 - SYLPH SMILES

She looks at the machines with a mischievous glint-realizing she's about to pull the ultimate prank.

SYLPH:

So I hide... the big wheels starve... and then I come back out to play?

A beat.

SYLPH:

I've always wanted to see them fall.

PANEL 4 - THE HAND-OFF

Sylph reaches toward the Sphere.

SYLPH:

*Okay then. Let's give them a taste of **nothing**.*

FINAL PANEL - DECISION

The wind is at its absolute peak, a final scream of power.

CAPTION:

*Freedom required **absence**.*

SPREAD 118 COLLAPSE & ESCAPE

PANEL 1 - SYLPH ENTERS THE CORE (CLOSE-UP)

Sylph presses her hand to the Sphere. Her form unspools into a ribbon of moving air and pours inside. The Core flares once, then settles, holding her light within.

SYLPH (fading, delighted):

Watch this.

PANEL 2 - THE WIND DIES (WIDE)

Across the platform the endless roar simply stops. The air goes utterly still for the first time. Dust, loose fabric, hair, all of it drops at once.

CAPTION (small):

No source. No breath.

PANEL 3 - THE TURBINES STARVE (LOW ANGLE)

The colossal rings keep turning into dead air, biting on nothing. Their roar grinds down into a failing, mechanical groan.

SFX: WHRRR-KLANK-GRROOOAN

PANEL 4 - SYSTEM PANIC (SCREEN INSERT)

Chi watches the great rings grind down, satisfied.

CHI:

It's working. Without atmosphere, there's nothing for the blades to catch.

The turbines can't run without air.

PANEL 1 - FALL BACK (WIDE)

The crew pulls back to the grounded Voluptas as the first ring shears loose from its mounts. They do not run for the sky. They shelter behind her.

KYRA:

Hold here. Shields up. We ride it out.

PANEL 2 - THE SKY COMES DOWN (WIDE, DRAMATIC)

Turbine rings crash across the platform around the ship. The Voluptas holds her ground, shields flaring as debris breaks against them.

SFX: THOOM

PANEL 3 - THE VOLUPTAS HOLDS (EXTERIOR, WIDE)

The structure fails around the unmoving ship. She stays planted on the platform, weathering it. The Core glows steady in Neve's hands. Sylph waits inside.

PANEL 4 - THE STILLED SKY (WIDE, FROM THE PLATFORM)

The collapse settles. Aetherion's turbine fields stand crumpled and motionless for the first time in centuries. No wind. No motion. Stopped.

CAPTION:

The sky... stopped working.

SPREAD 120 – THE PATTERN

Purpose

- Pay off Meilin noticing Terranova earlier
- Reveal Aetherion collapse
- Realisation something systemic is happening
- End with them going to Vane

Panel 1 – Spire corridor (wide

Meilin walking quickly through the administrative levels, reading Terranova data.

MEILIN (internal):

Containment variance... patrol signal lost...

Panel 2 – Harlen's office

MEILIN:

Minister Harlen...

I believe we have a containment anomaly on Terranova.

Panel 3 – Harlen interrupts

Harlen activates a projection.

HARLEN:

Not just Terranova.

Panel 4 – system map

Terranova dark.

Aetherion flashing unstable.

HARLEN:

Aetherion's turbine network just collapsed.

Panel 1 – Meilin realises

MEILIN:

Two primary nodes... in the same cycle?

Panel 2

HARLEN:

That should not be possible.

Panel 3

Meilin showing the sensor readouts.

MEILIN:

Terranova reported a transient contact before the patrol vanished.

Beat.

Possibly a vessel.

Panel 4 – escalation

Harlen closes the projection.

HARLEN:

The High Chancellor will need to see this.

Panel 5 – final panel

Meilin and Harlen walking quickly down the Spire corridor.

MEILIN (quiet):

Minister... this doesn't look like a failure.

HARLEN:

No.

Beat.

It looks like interference.

SPREAD 122 – VANE

Purpose

Introduce Vane and interrupt the sleazy moment.

Panel 1

Seraphina sits on the edge of Vane's desk with her back to the viewer, facing him.

Her panties discarded on the desk nearby.

Her skirt is hitched up and her legs wide open, as she leans forward toward him, posture confident and deliberate.

Vane watches her, clearly distracted.

SERAPHINA:

“So... about that promotion.”

Panel 2

Doors burst open.

HARLEN:

“High Chancellor.”

Panel 3

Vane startled, pushing Seraphina off the desk.

Panel 4

Seraphina pulling her skirt straight.

Panel 5

Vane straightening his jacket.

VANE:

“Minister Harlen”

Panel 6

Vane annoyed.

VANE:

“This had better be important.”

Panel 1

Harlen activates the holographic map.

HARLEN:

“It is.”

Panel 2

Terranova dark on the map.

HARLEN:

“Terranova containment failure.”

Panel 3

Aetherion turbine grid flashing.

HARLEN:

“Aetherion’s turbine array collapsed.”

Panel 4

Seraphina casually.

SERAPHINA:

“Thalassara had a systems failure the other day.”

(a Beat)

“Didn't I tell you?”

Panel 5

Meilin looking at the display.

MEILIN:

“That would make three systems.”

Panel 6

Vane watching the map as error lights spread across multiple sectors.

SPREAD 124 – THE RESPONSE

Purpose

Reveal the hidden ship and trigger the ACCORD response.

Panel 1

Meilin examining the readings.

MEILIN:

“Each site recorded faint ship signatures before the disturbances.”

Panel 2

Sensor trace on the map.

MEILIN:

“Extremely well concealed.”

Panel 3

Vane thinking

Panel 4

Vane realisation.

VANE:

“Someone is sabotaging ACCORD infrastructure.”

Panel 5

Harlen.

HARLEN:

“You believe it’s deliberate?”

Panel 1 Full page

Massive ACCORD fleet yards.
Cruisers powering up.
Strike wings launching.
Dock structures glowing with energy.
A full sense of imperial scale.

INSET PANEL – VANE

Small inset over the fleet image.
Vane calm. Cold. Standing at his desk fists clenched.

VANE:

Find that ship.

Beat.

Whoever... or whatever it is. Destroy it.

SPREAD 126 RELEASE - THE OFFER

PANEL 1 - OPEN SKY, WIDE

Aetherion beneath a stripped sky.

The turbines are dead - twisted, silent, half-buried.

Dust and industrial residue lie scattered and unmoving.

The atmosphere is gone.

Still.

PANEL 2 - Neve & THE CORE (MID-SHOT)

Neve stands alone on the platform, protected by the ships shields, holding the Sphere in both hands.

It feels lighter now.

Quieter.

She looks up - not at the sky, but *through* it.

PANEL 3 - Neve (CLOSE-UP)

No incantation.

No command.

Just an instinctive choice.

Neve lifts the Core **aloft**, arms steady.

PANEL 4 - THE CORE RESPONDS (WIDE)

Silver currents inside the Sphere surge upward, drawn toward open space.

The Sphere brightens - not violently, but **eagerly**.

The sky trembles.

AIR RETURNS

PANEL 1 - SYLPH EMERGES (WIDE, ENVIRONMENTAL)

Sylph flows out of the raised Core like breath finally released.
She reforms in midair - unclothed, unconcerned, reborn.
Air remembering shape.
She laughs, delighted.

SYLPH:

Oh! That's much better.

PANEL 2 - CLEANING THE WORLD (WIDE)

Sylph moves freely now.
With broad, joyful sweeps, she pushes debris, dust, and industrial residue away,
clearing the planet like leaves from stone.
Not fury.
Not vengeance.
Maintenance.

PANEL 3 - SYLPH & Neve (MID-SHOT)

Sylph settles near Neve, hovering easily.
Neve exhales - her posture loosens, the strain gone.

SYLPH (bright, teasing):

You still don't know what that thing is, do you?

She taps the Sphere lightly.

PANEL 4 - Neve (MID-SHOT)

Neve:

I know what it does?

Sylph grins wider.

PANEL 5 - SYLPH (PLAYFUL, CLOSE)

SYLPH:

That's not the same.

PANEL 6 - SYLPH (wide)

SYLPH: *(tapping the Core lightly, breezy):*

"I've left a little of me in there."

A beat,

suddenly sincere beneath the grin.

"Carry me with you?"

Neve looks down at the silver motes drifting inside the Core. Then back up at Sylph.

She smiles. Just that.

A beat.

SYLPH (mock-serious):

Oh and No spoilers.

Hestya wouldn't like that.

PANEL 7 - DEPARTURE (WIDE)

The Voluptas lifts away from a quiet, cleared world.
Aetherion rests under a thinning sky, waiting to grow again.

SYLPH (O.S., laughing, carried on the new wind):

Bring snacks!

I recommend marshmallows.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

Air returned by choice.

The Heart learned where to go next.

SPREAD 128 VOID TRANSIT (TOWARD FIRE)

THE DISTANCE

PANEL 1 - EXTERIOR, VOLUPTAS (WIDE)

he *Voluptas* moves through deep void.

Ahead, a thin golden filament stretches toward a **distant, pulsing ember**.

The **glow** is far. Far enough to think.

PANEL 2 - BRIDGE (MID-WIDE)

Hoshi pilots with slow, deliberate inputs.

No alarms. No urgency.

Hoshi (quiet):

That's not a planet. The mass readings are... shifting.

PANEL 3 - CHI (MID-SHOT)

Chi studies the projection, uneasy.

CHI:

Kowai... it doesn't wait for us to arrive.

It just keeps feeding. Look at those output spikes

PANEL 4 - LUCETTE (VIA SYSTEM, SOFT)

LUCETTE:

Pyrithra is not a standard celestial body. It is a focus of intense radiation that has been... bound.

Silence settles heavier than fear.

WHAT COMES NEXT

PANEL 1 - ENGINEERING (MID-SHOT)

Juno wipes her hands.

JUNO:

We're flying toward something that eats pressure and treats heat like a conversation.

PANEL 2 - MED BAY CORRIDOR (MID-SHOT)

Neve walks slowly, grounding herself on the ship's railings.

Dr. Elara watches.

ELARA:

You're stable.

Neve:

That's not the same as ready.

FINAL PANEL - Neve (CLOSE-UP)

Through a viewport, the distant **red glow**

Neve (quiet):

Fire decides.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

The void gives time.

Fire does not.

SPREAD 130 VULNERABILITY & CONFESSION

PANEL 1 - BRONZE CORRIDOR (MID-SHOT)

Chi walks alone through a softly lit corridor.

A towel is draped over her shoulder.

She looks inward. Calculating something she can't diagram.

CHI (internal):

I can calculate thrust vectors to a micro-degree...

but I can't model this.

I need quiet.

I need bubbles.

PANEL 2 - JACUZZI (MID-WIDE)

Chi lowers herself into the water.

Steam rises. The hum is constant, reassuring.

Her shoulders finally drop.

PANEL 3 - DOOR OPENS (MID-SHOT)

The door slides open.

Mayara enters - **already wrapped in a towel**, hair dry.

She stops when she sees Chi.

MAYARA (light, honest):

...Well.

That saved me a speech.

Chi startles, sinking slightly into the water.

CHI (flustered):

Uso, Mayara! I thought I was alone!

HONESTY

PANEL 1 - POOLSIDE (MID-SHOT)

Mayara sits on the edge of the jacuzzi.
The towel stays on. Her presence is calm, intentional.

MAYARA:

You look like someone carrying too much math.

PANEL 2 - CHI (CLOSE-UP)

Chi hesitates - then speaks carefully, precisely.

CHI:

*You move through rooms like they were designed for you.
People listen before you finish speaking.*

A beat.

CHI:

*I live in places no one notices unless something fails.
And I don't know how to translate between those two worlds.*

She finally looks up.

CHI:

I don't know how to reach you, without breaking something.

PANEL 3 - MAYARA (CLOSE-UP)

Mayara listens fully.
When she speaks, it's not soothing - it's exact.

MAYARA:

You're not supposed to reach me.

Chi blinks.

MAYARA:

I came to you.

PANEL 4 - wide shot of them both

MAYARA:

*I don't need someone who fills a room.
I need someone who notices when the room is about to tear itself apart.*

Her voice softens - just slightly.

A beat.

*That's not intimidation, Chi.
That's selection.*

SPREAD 132 INTIMATE REPAIR - CHOICE

PANEL 1 - CHI (MID-SHOT)

Chi exhales - tension releasing for the first time.

CHI (small, honest):

...I don't know how to do this?

PANEL 2 - MAYARA STANDS (MID-SHOT)

Mayara rises.

She unties the towel - **plain, unceremonious** - and lets it fall.

This is not display.

It is equality.

MAYARA:

Good.

A beat.

MAYARA:

Neither do I.

STAYING

PANEL 1 - THE JACUZZI (MID-WIDE)

Mayara steps into the water.

They face each other - close, calm, bubbles rising between them.

No rush. No spectacle.

PANEL 2 - CLOSE, SHARED SPACE

Steam thickens.

Their shoulders touch.

MAYARA (low, certain):

I'm not out of your grasp.

She meets Chi's eyes.

I chose where to stand.

FINAL PANEL - STEAM & SILENCE (WIDE)

The water hums.

Outside the hull, the distant star burns patiently.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

*Between Air and Fire,
the crew chose warmth.*

SPREAD 134 PYRITHRA REVEALED

The Living Forge

PANEL 1 - EXTERIOR, WIDE

The *Voluptas* exits void transit.

Ahead: Pyrihtra.

A colossal, spherical mass wrapped in incandescent structures and orbital containment rings.

Everything glows. Nothing flickers.

Heat radiates even through vacuum visuals.

PANEL 2 - BRIDGE (MID-WIDE)

Warning indicators bloom across the displays - not alarms, but sustained thresholds.

Hoshi (steady, clipped):

Thermal saturation rising across all hull quadrants.

We're still outside the danger envelope.

A beat.

But not by much.

PANEL 3 - LUCETTE (SYSTEM OVERLAY / HUMANOID FORM PARTIAL)

Lucette's presence sharpens - not panicked, but strained.

LUCETTE:

"Pyrihtra is broadcasting constant energy release. This is not natural instability."

*"The output signature matches the '**System Schedule**' Mayara provided. They aren't just using the star for power; they're overclocking the containment lattice. They are prepping the grid for the **Final Draw** right now."*

PANEL 4 - Neve & THE CORE (MID-SHOT)

Neve stands near the Sphere's cradle.

The Core hums louder now - not frantic, but urgent.

The ember seen before is brighter - distorted, stretched, no longer perfectly spherical.

Neve (quiet):

It knows we're here.

HEAT WITH PURPOSE

PANEL 1 - EXTERIOR DETAIL (WIDE)

Massive conduit lattices arc around the central body, channeling plasma and radiant output into distant relays.

This is not mining.

It's forced labour.

PANEL 2 - CHI (MID-SHOT)

Chi's hands hover over her pad - she doesn't touch anything yet.

CHI:

They're not siphoning energy randomly.

They've tuned the output to a grid.

She looks up, unsettled.

CHI:

The ACCORD didn't just cage Fire.

They put it to work.

PANEL 3 - KYRA (MID-SHOT)

Kyra watches Pyrithra burn.

KYRA:

And Fire agreed?

PANEL 4 - Neve (CLOSE-UP)

Neve doesn't look away.

Neve:

Fire doesn't agree.

A beat.

It endures.

Until it breaks.

FINAL PANEL - EXTERIOR, WIDE

The *Voluptas* holds position at the edge of survivable range.

Pyrithra glows on - volcanic, vast, contained, furious.

The scale is immense.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

Air needed space.

Fire was never given the choice.

SPREAD 136 HEAT SPEAKS

PANEL 1 - EXTERIOR, WIDE

A pulse rolls outward from Pyrithra.
Not an explosion.
A pressure change.
Containment rings flex, compensating instantly.

PANEL 2 - BRIDGE (MID-WIDE)

Heat indicators spike - not redlining, but testing.

Hoshi (tight, controlled):

*Thermal surge across the bow.
Not enough to damage...
enough to warn.*

PANEL 3 - LUCETTE (SYSTEM PRESENCE, STRAIN DEEPENING)

Lucette's voice drops half a register.

LUCETTE:

*Signal interpretation:
This was intentional.*

A beat.

*Magnitude constrained.
Parameters chosen.*

PANEL 4 - Neve & THE CORE (MID-SHOT)

The Sphere hums in response - the ember flaring brighter, then settling into a new, imperfect shape.
Neve steadies herself, hand on the cradle.

Neve (low):

It's not angry.

She swallows.

It's making sure we survive noticing it.

THE COST OF BEING NOTICED

PANEL 1 - ENGINEERING (MID-SHOT)

Juno grips a console as heat bleeds through the ship's structure.

JUNO:

Hull expansion just exceeded tolerance.

If that pulse had lasted another second-

She doesn't finish.

PANEL 2 - CHI (MID-SHOT)

Chi watches her readouts flatten again - barely.

CHI:

That wasn't force.

That was calibration.

She looks up.

CHI:

IT chose a limi?.

PANEL 3 - KYRA (MID-SHOT)

Kyra stands firm, eyes on the planet.

KYRA:

Then we don't flinch.

A beat.

We came to listen.

PANEL 4 - EXTERIOR DETAIL (WIDE)

Another ripple moves across Pyrithra's surface - slower this time.

Measured.

The containment lattice tightens, not in panic, but habit.

FINAL PANEL - Neve (CLOSE-UP)

Heat beads on Neve's skin.

Not pain.

Allowance.

Neve (quiet, resolute):

It knows I'm carrying something that doesn't belong to me.

A beat.

And it chose not to take it back.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

Fire does not shout.

It measures what it refuses to destroy.

SPREAD 138 - THE LANDING

PANEL 1 - EXTERIOR, WIDE

Pyrithra fills the frame.

A bound star wrapped in colossal containment structures - turbines, conduits, heat exchangers the size of cities.

The Voluptas approaches a **single exposed platform**, anchored to the lattice like an afterthought.

PANEL 2 - BRIDGE (MID-WIDE)

Hoshi's hands are steady, jaw tight.

Hoshi:

That platform wasn't built for ships like ours.

A beat.

But it's the only solid ground in range.

PANEL 3 - LUCETTE (SYSTEM PRESENCE)

Lucette's voice is focused, intent.

LUCETTE:

The platform is stable - for now.

Heat levels are extreme but contained.

A beat.

This is as close as the star will allow.

PANEL 4 - Neve & THE CORE (MID-SHOT)

The Sphere hums harder.

The ember inside flares - approving, expectant.

Neve (quiet):

It wants us close.

Not inside.

Just close.

TOUCHDOWN

PANEL 1 - EXTERIOR, WIDE

The Voluptas descends.

Thrusters scream against heat distortion.

The ship **lands hard** on the platform - metal groaning, systems straining.

PANEL 2 - ENGINEERING (MID-SHOT)

Juno grips a rail as the hull shudders.

JUNO:

We can sit here.

A beat.

But not for long.

PANEL 3 - RAMP / GROUND TEAM (MID-WIDE)

The ramp lowers. Heat rolls in like a living thing. Crew brace themselves. Hoshi's voice comes through comms, calm and clipped.

HOSHI:

"I'll keep the engines hot. If the platform shifts, we leave immediately."

LUCETTE:

"I will hold position and monitor hull stress. I cannot follow you further than this."

PANEL 4 - KYRA (MID-SHOT)

Kyra is already moving. She looks at Neve.

KYRA:

"Then this is where we walk. Together."

FINAL PANEL 5 - EXTERIOR, WIDE

The Voluptas rests on the platform, dwarfed by the burning structures above.

Heat ripples the air. Pyriethra looms, silent, immense.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

Fire does not open doors.

It gives you ground - and watches what you do with it.

SPREAD 140 WHAT FIRE WANTS

PANEL 1 - Neve STEPS FORWARD (MID-SHOT)

The team steps off the ramp onto the platform. They are impossibly small against the burning structures above. The heat hits them like a wall. Neve stops. The Core vibrates sharply against her chest.

PANEL 2 - CHI (MID-SHOT)

Chi stares at her instruments, then slowly looks up.

CHI:

The heat isn't escalating.

She looks up.

CHI:

It's... waiting.

PANEL 3 - Neve (MID-SHOT)

Neve exhales slowly, hand over the Core.

Neve:

Fire doesn't want permission.

A beat.

It wants us to stay.

PANEL 4 MAYARA (CLOSE-UP)

Mayara looks straight ahead into the blazing interior. Jaw set.

MAYARA:

Then we don't make it wait.

FULL PANEL

The team advances across the platform toward the blazing interior.

They are tiny against the colossal burning structures of Pyrithra. Heat distortion tears the air around them.

The Voluptas waits behind them, engines idling, hull creaking, dwarfed by the forge above.

Pyrithra fills everything. Immense. Patient. Watching.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

Fire does not invite.

It endures - and expects the same.

SPREAD 142 THE FORGE ENTRANCE

PANEL 1 - EXTERIOR TO INTERIOR TRANSITION (WIDE)

The ground team advances from the platform into a colossal intake structure.
Above them: turbines the size of cities, rotating slowly, drawing stellar plasma through armored channels.

Below: a lattice of heat sinks glowing white-hot.

This is not reverence.

This is industry.

PANEL 2 - MAYARA (MID-SHOT)

Mayara takes it in, jaw tight.

MAYARA:

They didn't just bind it.

A beat.

MAYARA:

They built a factory around it.

PANEL 3 - CHI (MID-SHOT)

Chi's instruments jitter - not failing, struggling to keep up.

CHI:

Every structure here is designed to resist change.

Heat, pressure, flare - all redirected, normalised.

She looks unsettled.

They're not afraid of Fire.

They're confident it will keep working.

PANEL 4 - Neve & THE CORE (MID-SHOT)

The Sphere hums sharply now.

The ember inside stretches again - pulled thin, compressed by unseen load.

Neve (quiet):

It hurts.

A breath.

Not pain... Compression.

THE WEIGHT OF WORK

PANEL 1 - INTERIOR, DEEPER (WIDE)

The team moves along a narrow gantry.
Below them, plasma rivers roar through reinforced channels.
The air itself shimmers with heat distortion.
Deep within the flow, a denser region holds - fire moving *around* something it cannot leave.

PANEL 2 - KYRA (MID-SHOT)

Kyra moves carefully, eyes always forward.

KYRA:

Stay close.

If anyone stumbles, we pull them back. No heroics.

PANEL 3 - LUCETTE (COMMS, QUIET)

Lucette's voice comes through, low and steady.

LUCETTE:

Hull stress is increasing.

I can hold - but not indefinitely.

A pause.

You are not alone.

PANEL 4 - Neve (CLOSE-UP)

Sweat beads on Neve's skin.
She grips the Core tighter.

Neve:

It knows what they did.

A breath.

And it has been carrying it a very long time.

FINAL PANEL - WIDE, FORGE DEPTHS

Ahead, the gantry opens into a vast chamber.
At its center: a dais of living flame, restrained by rings of machinery and siphon arrays.
Within the fire, something holds shape by refusal alone - not free, not raging.
Working.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

Fire was never silent.

It was made useful.

SPREAD 144 FIRE SPEAKS, ATTENTION

PANEL 1 - THE DAIS (WIDE)

The restrained flame shifts.

Not higher.

Not brighter.

Focused.

The machinery around it compensates instantly - valves adjusting, conduits tightening.

PANEL 2 - Neve & THE CORE (MID-SHOT)

The Sphere reacts before Neve does.

The ember inside stretches, thinning into a filament of light that points toward the flame.

Neve (low):

It sees us.

PANEL 3 - CHI (MID-SHOT)

Chi watches her instruments fall silent - not dead, *irrelevant*.

CHI:

The systems stopped correcting.

A beat.

CHI:

It's not pushing anymore.

PANEL 4 - MAYARA (MID-SHOT)

Mayara squares her stance.

MAYARA:

Then this is the moment.

WITHOUT WORDS

PANEL 1 - HEAT WAVE (WIDE)

A wave of heat passes through the chamber.

Not enough to burn.

Enough to strip pretence.

Armor seams creak.

Breath shortens.

PANEL 2 - KYRA (MID-SHOT)

Kyra doesn't shield her face.

KYRA:

We're not here to take.

A pause.

We're here because they already did.

PANEL 3 - THE FLAME (CLOSE-UP)

Within the fire, a **shape** becomes visible - not a body, not yet.

A presence, compressed.

The machinery screams softly as output spikes.

PANEL 4 - Neve (CLOSE-UP)

Neve steps forward, alone.

She lifts the Sphere.

Neve:

You don't owe us anything.

Her voice is steady.

But you deserve to be whole.

FINAL PANEL - WIDE

The fire answers.

Not with sound.

The siphon arrays **stutter** - just for a fraction of a second.

Enough to notice.

Enough to be deliberate.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

Fire did not ask who they were.

It asked what they were willing to endure.

SPREAD 146 HESTYA, THE NAME RETURNS

PANEL 1 - THE FLAME SHIFTS (WIDE)

The restrained fire tightens inward.

Machinery strains to compensate - turbines scream, conduits glow brighter.

The shape inside the flame becomes clearer.

Not humanoid yet.

Intentional.

PANEL 2 - Neve & THE CORE (MID-SHOT)

The Sphere grows hot in Neve's hands - not burning, *alive*.

Silver motes flicker, unstable.

Neve (quiet, certain):

Hestia.

The name lands like weight.

PANEL 3 - CHI (MID-SHOT)

Chi freezes.

CHI:

That name... it predates the ACCORD.

She looks up slowly.

CHI:

It predates maps?!

PANEL 4 - MAYARA (MID-SHOT)

Mayara's voice is careful now.

MAYARA:

You didn't vanish.

A beat.

MAYARA:

You were buried.

THE ANSWER

PANEL 1 - THE FLAME RESPONDS (WIDE)

The fire flares - not outward, but **downward**.

The dais beneath it cracks, molten lines spreading like veins.

The machinery panics - alarms beginning to rise.

PANEL 2 - HESTYA (FIRST FORM, PARTIAL)

Within the flame, a figure begins to resolve.

Not flesh.

Not light.

A being shaped by pressure and refusal.

HESTYA (voice layered, resonant):

I did not vanish.

The words vibrate the chamber.

PANEL 3 - KYRA (MID-SHOT)

Kyra doesn't raise her voice.

KYRA:

Then they lied.

PANEL 4 - HESTYA (CLOSE-UP, FIRE-VEILED)

HESTYA:

They feared what Fire remembers.

A beat.

So they made me work until memory became pain.

FINAL PANEL - WIDE

The forge chamber trembles.

Siphon arrays scream as output spikes again.

The fire does not grow wild.

It grows **angry**.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

Fire does not forget.

It survives until it can speak.

SPREAD 148 - THE CRIME NAMED, WHAT THEY BUILT

PANEL 1 - HESTYA, PARTIALLY FORMED (WIDE)

Hestya's shape stabilises inside the flame - still bound, still threaded with conduits.

The machinery around her is no longer background.

It is **embedded**.

HESTYA (voice steady, terrible):

They did not come to ask.

PANEL 2 - INSERT: THE MACHINES (CLOSE-UP)

Siphon arrays bite into the fire, pulling plasma into controlled channels.

HESTYA (O.S.):

They measured me.

They carved me into outputs.

PANEL 3 - Neve (MID-SHOT)

Neve grips the Core harder, jaw tight.

Neve:

They said the grid needed stability.

PANEL 4 - HESTYA (CLOSE-UP)

HESTYA:

They always say that.

A beat.

Stability is what you call it

when you are standing somewhere else.

WHAT IT COST

PANEL 1 - WIDE, MEMORY WITHOUT FLASHBACK:

The forge darkens slightly as output is rerouted.

HESTYA:

"They bled me slowly. Not to kill me... To keep me useful."

PANEL 2 - CHI (MID-SHOT):

Chi's hands tremble.

CHI:

"YOU are powering half the ACCORD's expansion."

PANEL 3 - HESTYA (MID-SHOT):

HESTYA:

"Every jump gate. Every clean sky they sold as progress. All of it burned through me."

PANEL 4 - MAYARA (EDITED STEP 19):

Mayara's voice is controlled, lethal. She looks at the glowing siphons.

MAYARA:

"The 'Final Draw' in the Schedule... I thought the numbers were theoretical projections. But this is a terminal harvest. They're going to drain you until there's nothing left but a cold husk."

PANEL 5 - HESTYA (CLOSE-UP):

Hestya looks at the machinery, then back to Mayara.

HESTYA:

"They already have. Every time I reached for the sky, they tightened the rings. They called it 'containment.' I call it an anniversary."

FINAL PANEL - WIDE, THE FORGE STRAINING:

The entire chamber groans as if remembering. The fire does not surge. It endures.

SPREAD 150 WHY WE ARE HERE

PANEL 1 - HESTYA (WIDE)

Hestya burns steadily.

The machinery strains to contain her - not failing, compensating.

HESTYA:

You didn't come to free me.

A beat.

You came because something is failing.

PANEL 2 - Neve (MID-SHOT)

Neve stiffens - the truth landing.

Neve:

I'm... holding.

She exhales.

But I won't forever.

PANEL 3 - CHI (MID-SHOT)

Chi doesn't soften it.

CHI:

The Core is compensating.

Not stabilising.

She looks at Hestya.

Without relief, the load will tear her apart.

PANEL 4 - HESTYA (CLOSE-UP)

HESTYA:

So.

A pause.

*You brought me a wound
and asked me to close it.*

PANEL 1 - Neve (CLOSE-UP)

Neve meets the flame.

Neve:

I didn't choose this.

A beat.

But I won't let it break the others.

PANEL 2 - HESTYA (MID-SHOT)

HESTYA:

Fire does not heal.

She leans forward slightly - pressure increases, machinery reacts.

Fire finishes things.

PANEL 3 - KYRA (MID-SHOT)

Kyra steps in, grounded, direct.

KYRA:

Then tell us the cost.

No challenge.

No plea.

PANEL 4 - HESTYA (CLOSE-UP)

HESTYA:

If I touch that Core

The containment rings shudder.

there is no version of this where you leave unchanged.

FINAL PANEL - WIDE

The forge vibrates, heat climbing.

HESTYA (O.S.):

Are you here to cure her?

A beat.

Or to let her change?

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

Fire does not promise relief.

It promises consequence.

SPREAD 152 THE TRUTH OF FIRE

PANEL 1 - HESTYA (WIDE)

The fire steadies.

The machinery begins to strain - not from force, but irrelevance.

HESTYA:

You misunderstand me.

A beat.

HESTYA:

Fire was never meant to live in one place.

PANEL 2 - Neve (MID-SHOT)

Neve listens - not pleading, not afraid.

Neve:

Then what happens to me?

PANEL 3 - HESTYA (CLOSE-UP)

HESTYA:

You are not broken.

A pause.

You are.... unfinished.

PANEL 4 - THE STAR (WIDE)

The star's surface shifts - containment rings recalibrating, not exploding.

Protocols fail quietly.

HESTYA (O.S.):

Fire belongs between things.

Not trapped inside them.

WHAT IT COSTS / WHAT IT GIVES

PANEL 1 - Neve & THE CORE (MID-SHOT)

Neve holds the Sphere.

The ember inside resonates - unstable, overfull, seeking release rather than union.

Neve:

If you touch it...

what happens to me?

PANEL 2 - HESTYA (MID-SHOT)

HESTYA:

You stop carrying Fire.

A beat.

You become its passage.

PANEL 3 - CHI (MID-SHOT)

Chi exhales - understanding dawning.

CHI:

A regulator.

Not a container.

PANEL 4 - HESTYA (CLOSE-UP)

HESTYA:

The Core will finally breathe.

She looks directly at Neve.

And so will you.

FINAL PANEL - WIDE

Outside, the star begins to open - ordered containment giving way to controlled radiance.

Energy streams outward along long-dormant paths toward distant systems.

The *Voluptas* rides the surge, engines stabilised by Lucette.

Nothing explodes.

Nothing is finished.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

Fire does not end.

It redistributes - and demands motion.

SPREAD 154 CALCULATION

No dialogue.

PANEL 1 - FORGE CHAMBER, WIDE

The fire has settled into a steady burn.

Machinery hums through the chamber - draining, regulating, enforcing function.

Hestya stands at the center of it all - present, composed, waiting.

Neve steps forward with the Sphere.

PANEL 2 - Neve & THE CORE (MID-SHOT)

Neve studies the Sphere's fractured seams, the unstable glow fighting to organise itself.

Neve (controlled, precise):

The structure isn't failing randomly.

It's compensating.

She looks up at Hestya.

PANEL 3 - Neve (CONTINUED)

Neve holds the Sphere out - not pleading, not afraid.

Neve:

Every elemental system we've encountered stabilised once the set was complete.

Air. Water. Earth.

A breath.

Neve:

Fire is the last variable.

If the Core receives Fire again - fully - the strain should resolve.

The word *should* hangs in the air.

PANEL 4 - HESTYA (CLOSE-UP, SILENT)

Hestya does not answer.

The fire around her tightens - not flaring, not dimming.

Holding.

Behind her, conduits embedded in the world continue to drain energy.

She lets it happen.

Her gaze shifts briefly to the machinery.

Then back to Neve.

ERROR

PANEL 1 - HESTYA (MID-SHOT)

Hestya steps closer.

The fire shifts with her - responding to presence, not command.

HESTYA (quiet, dangerous):

You still calculate this as a simple elemental formula.

PANEL 2 - HESTYA (CLOSE-UP)

Her eyes burn - not with rage, but with exhausted contempt.

HESTYA:

You still believe there are only four elements in this universe?

PANEL 3 - Neve (REACTION, MID-SHOT)

Neve falters - just slightly.

Neve:

The Sphere is broken because it's incomplete-

PANEL 4 - HESTYA (INTERRUPTING, ACTION START)

Hestya moves.

Too fast.

SPREAD 156 THE SNATCH

PANEL 1 - ACTION (MID-WIDE)

Hestya snatches the Sphere from Neve's hands.
Neve stumbles backward, shocked, off balance.

SFX: SHHHNK!

PANEL 2 - Neve (MID-SHOT)

Neve catches herself against the gantry.

Neve:

Hestya-!

PANEL 3 - HESTYA (MID-SHOT)

Hestya holds the Sphere in one hand.
Fire coils around it instinctively - protective, possessive.

HESTYA (low, lethal):

Enough.

PANEL 4 - MAYARA & KASSIOPEIA (REACTION)

Mayara steps forward, alarmed.
KASSIOPEIA's hand goes to her weapon without thinking.

KASSIOPEIA (shouting):

Hestya, STOP!

TRUTH WITHOUT MERCY

PANEL 1 - HESTYA (MID-SHOT)

Hestya turns the Sphere slowly, examining the fractures.

HESTYA:

This was not damaged by absence.

PANEL 2 - INSERT: THE SPHERE (CLOSE-UP)

Fire traces the seams - revealing forced channels, extraction geometries, scars burned into the Core's structure.

HESTYA (O.S.):

They drained my essence.

They siphoned my Fire.

PANEL 3 - Neve (CLOSE-UP)

Neve's horror is immediate, personal.

Neve (whisper):

The damage...

the damage wasn't accidental.

PANEL 4 - HESTYA (FINAL, COMMANDING)

Hestya looks back at Neve - no longer patient.

HESTYA:

No. The Sphere became a conduit of abuse.

She raises it slightly.

Not to threaten.

To claim.

SPREAD 158 THE FORGING

PANEL 1 - FORGE CHAMBER, WIDE

The chamber reacts - not violently, but *instantly*.

Machinery strains as energy flow destabilises, struggling to reassert control over the Sphere in Hestya's grasp.

The fire around her brightens.

Not flaring.

Focusing.

PANEL 2 - HESTYA (MID-SHOT)

Hestya raises the Sphere.

Fire does not lash outward.

It bends inward - drawn toward her will.

HESTYA (voice rising, absolute):

The ACCORD made this my prison.

They came here not for counsel -

but for conquest.

PANEL 3 - INSERT: THE CORE (CLOSE-UP)

The Sphere trembles in her grasp.

Its fractured seams glow hotter, wider - resisting coherence.

Fire presses against it.

PANEL 4 - HESTYA (CLOSE-UP)

Her expression hardens - wrath sharpened by certainty.

HESTYA:

They drained my essence.

They siphoned my energy -

and poisoned the collective Core...

The fire surges.

MANIFESTATION

PANEL 1 - MASSIVE PANEL (THE FORGING) SINGLE, GIANT PANEL

Extreme close-up on the Sphere in Hestia's fiery hands.

A torrent of Fire pours from her - not chaotic, not wild -
intentional.

The Sphere **collapses inward**, molten light folding, compressing, screaming as
form overwrites violation.

At its center, something new locks into place:

A singular, rapidly pulsing, heart-shaped CORE - radiant, alive, undeniable.

HESTYA (CAPTION, THUNDEROUS):

I give my Fire and my knowledge.

THE HEART OF THE UNIVERSE IS FORGED!

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

*In the fusion of Fire and the remaining elements,
the Heart was made manifest.*

SPREAD 160 THE VIOLENT IMPACT

PANEL 1 - ACTION (MID-WIDE)

Hestya turns.

The forged **Heart** pulses in her fist - too bright, too alive to look at directly.

Neve is still half-kneeling where she fell, disoriented, exposed.

Hestya does not hesitate.

PANEL 2 - HESTYA & Neve (MID-SHOT)

Hestya steps in close.

She draws her arm back.

Fire coils tight around her forearm, condensing.

Neve looks up - recognition flashes across her face.

Neve:

Wait-

PANEL 3 - THE STRIKE (CLOSE-UP)

Hestya punches the Heart straight into Neve's chest.

The impact is brutal, absolute.

Fire detonates outward from the point of contact.

SFX: KRA-KOW!

PANEL 4 - CONTACT HELD (MID-WIDE)

Hestya's arm is buried to the forearm in light and flame.

The Heart drives inward - **locking**.

Neve arches violently as fire tears through her body.

Her scream begins.

Neve (SCREAM):

GNNNNH-AAAA-

RELEASE

PANEL 1 - THE WITHDRAWAL (CLOSE-UP):

Hestya pulls her hand free. Light snaps back into Neve's chest.

PANEL 2 - FALLING (MID-SHOT):

Neve's body goes limp, dropping back to the gantry floor. Steam rises from her chest.

PANEL 3 - HESTYA (MID-SHOT):

Hestya steps back. She does not reach for Neve. She watches.

PANEL 4 - THE AFTERMATH (WIDE):

Neve lies still. The orange fire in the room is receding.

PANEL 5 - KYRA & Kassiopeia:

Kassiopeia aims her weapon at Hestya. Kyra stops her.

KYRA:

Wait. Don't.

Kassiopeia:

She just tried to kill her!

PANEL 6 - HESTYA'S VERDICT:

Hestya looks at the gun, then back to Neve.

HESTYA:

If she dies, she was too small for the truth. But if she breathes... the ACCORD has already lost.

SPREAD 162 THE NEW RESONANCE

PANEL 1 - Neve STIRRING (CLOSE-UP):

Neve's hand twitches. The light in her chest isn't just Fire now-it's a swirling mix of Blue (Water), Green (Earth), and Gold (Fire).

PANEL 2 - CHI'S DATA (MID-SHOT):

Chi looks at her pad. It's glowing.

CHI:

She's not dying. She's... calibrating?

PANEL 3 - LUCETTE (COMMS / SYSTEM OVERLAY):

Lucette's voice cuts in, colder and more urgent than ever.

LUCETTE:

Resonance confirmed. They saw the pulse. Fleet-scale mobilisation detected. They are deploying everything.

PANEL 4 - HESTYA LOOKS UP: Hestya smiles into the heat.

HESTYA:

Of course they are.

THE CATALYST

PANEL 1 - Neve RISES (MID-WIDE):

Neve hovers or stands up slowly. The air around her ripples with all three elemental colors.

PANEL 2 - TRANSFORMATION (CLOSE-UP):

Her eyes open. They are no longer human; they are deep, layered light.

PANEL 3 - THE LINE (MID-SHOT):

Neve looks at her hands, then at Kyra.

Neve:

*The memories... they aren't fighting me anymore. They're **answering***

PANEL 4 - CERTAINTY (CLOSE-UP):

She touches the pulse in her chest.

Neve:

I am the Core.

PANEL 5 - HESTYA'S CHALLENGE:

Hestia points to the ceiling, toward the incoming fleet.

HESTYA:

Command.

SPREAD 164 FIRST COMMAND

PANEL 1 - Neve (MID-SHOT)

Neve stands very still.

The forge trembles around her - heat, pressure, systems all straining toward response.

She closes her eyes.

Not in fear.

In focus.

PANEL 2 - Neve (CLOSE-UP)

Light gathers behind her eyes - layered, vast.

When she speaks, her voice is calm.

Certain.

Neve:

I won't let them take this again.

PANEL 3 - HESTYA (MID-SHOT)

From the dais, drained but watchful, Hestya nods once.

Not approval.

Recognition.

PANEL 4 - Neve (WIDE, COMMAND GIVEN)

Neve raises one hand.

She does not point outward.

She places it over her chest - over the Heart.

Neve:

Show me where we are meant to go.

THE ANSWER

PANEL 1 - THE HEART (ABSTRACT / CLOSE-UP)

The Heart pulses.

Not brighter - **deeper**.

Light compresses, then releases as a single, precise thread.

PANEL 2 - THE PATH (WIDE, VERTICAL)

A **luminous filament** of white-gold light erupts upward from Neve - piercing rock, fire, containment, and sky as if they are suggestions, not barriers.

The Path of the Ember.

PANEL 3 - THE WORLD RESPONDS (WIDE)

The forge convulses.

Containment structures scream as the Path tears through them - not destroying, **ignoring**.

The planetary shell fractures along lines it was never designed to resist.

Scale breaks.

PANEL 4 - HESTYA (MID-SHOT)

Hestya looks up at the blazing filament.

Fire reflects in her eyes - not rage.

HESTYA:

The Heart remembers its shape.

FINAL PANEL - Neve (CLOSE-UP)

Neve stares upward along the Path - breath steady, resolve setting.

Neve:

Then we follow it.

SPREAD 166 THE QUESTION

PANEL 1 - HESTYA (MID-SHOT)

Hestya stands at the dais, fire drawn inward.
The forge trembles.
The Path of the Ember burns upward behind her.
She does not move to follow it.

PANEL 2 - KYRA (MID-SHOT)

Kyra steps forward, voice steady, grounded.

KYRA:

*We helped the others.
You shouldn't have to stay here.*

A beat.

KYRA:

Tell us how to free you.

PANEL 3 - HESTYA (CLOSE-UP)

Hestya looks at Kyra - surprised.
Then something like approval.

HESTYA:

You still think freedom means leaving?

PANEL 4 - Neve (MID-SHOT)

Neve looks between them, light pulsing beneath her skin.

Neve:

If you don't come with us-

She stops.

She already knows.

THE ANSWER

PANEL 1 - HESTYA (WIDE)

Hestya rises fully.

She lifts one hand.

Not in farewell.

In recognition.

PANEL 2 - COSMIC RESPONSE (WIDE / SILENT)

Across the exposed sky beyond the broken shell-

every star pulses once.

A single, unified heartbeat of light.

Then normality resumes.

PANEL 3 - THE CREW (MID-SHOT)

No one speaks.

This is not metaphor.

This is scale.

PANEL 4 - HESTYA (MID-SHOT)

Hestya lowers her hand.

HESTYA:

I am not IN the stars.

A beat.

HESTYA:

I AM the stars.

FINAL PANEL - HESTYA & Neve (CLOSE)

Fire meets Heart.

HESTYA:

This prison ends today.

SPREAD 168 THE LIE BREAKS

PANEL 1 - STRUCTURAL FAILURE / CUTAWAY (WIDE)

The Path of the Ember tears upward through the containment shell.

The shell **splits and peels back** along engineered fault lines.

A hollow world is exposed:

colossal lattices, siphon rings-

wrapped around something incandescent.

This was never solid.

It was built around Fire.

PANEL 2 - CHI (MID-SHOT)

Chi stares at her readouts, too in the red.

CHI:

Uso... this isn't a volcanic body. It never was.

Her voice drops.

CHI:

It never was.

PANEL 3 - LUCETTE (COMMS / SYSTEM OVERLAY)

Models collapse and re-form.

LUCETTE:

Correction accepted.

Stellar-scale energy source confirmed.

PANEL 4 - HESTYA (MID-SHOT)

Hestia looks upward.

HESTYA:

They called this a planet because it was easier.

A beat.

HESTYA:

This is a star.

NO TIME LEFT

PANEL 1 - FORGE WIDE

Containment rings fracture.
Heat surges without permission.
The star brightens-no longer moderated.

PANEL 2 - KASSIOPEIA (MID-SHOT)

Already moving.

KASSIOPEIA:

That's our cue.

Move!

PANEL 3 - KYRA & Neve (MID-SHOT)

Kyra grips Neve's arm.

KYRA:

Can you hold the Path?

PANEL 4 - Neve (MID-SHOT)

Neve nods once.

Neve:

I can.

A beat.

But we have to go. Now.

SPREAD 170 THE SCRAMBLE, GET TO THE SHIP

PANEL 1 - GANTRY / CHAOS (WIDE)

Heat rolls through collapsing structures.

The forge screams.

The team runs.

PANEL 2 - Hoshi (COMMS / MID-SHOT)

Hoshi's voice snaps in.

Hoshi:

Voluptas is hot and ready.

You have minutes. Maybe less.

PANEL 3 - MAYARA (MID-SHOT)

Mayara pulls KASSIOPEIA clear of falling debris.

MAYARA:

Do not stop!

PANEL 4 - HESTYA (WIDE)

Hestia remains behind.

Fire gathers around her-not containment now, **choice**.

She does not look back.

LAST EXIT

PANEL 1 - PLATFORM / SHIP (WIDE)

The Voluptas looms through heat distortion.

PANEL 2 - JUNO (ENGINEERING)

Systems redline.

JUNO:

*If you're not aboard in ten seconds-
We're leaving anyway!*

PANEL 3 - KYRA (MID-SHOT)

Kyra shoves Neve up the ramp.

KYRA:

Go!

FINAL PANEL (FULL-WIDTH / CLOSE-UP)

Hestya stands alone at the heart of the collapsing forge.

Fire roars around her now - no containment, no machinery, no restraint.

The star behind her is beginning to tear itself apart.

She looks upward - not in defiance.

In certainty.

HESTYA (THUNDERING):

*FIRE WILL ALWAYS LIVE ON!
TIME FOR THIS STAR TO DIE!*

The light swells, drowning the chamber.

SPREAD 172 GET CLEAR

PANEL 1 - EXTERIOR / PLATFORM (WIDE)

The Voluptas rips free from the platform.

The structure beneath it **shears apart**, molten metal and shattered containment plates tumbling into the glowing void below.

Heat distortion tears the image.

PANEL 2 - BRIDGE (MID-WIDE)

The ship bucks violently.

Warning lights cascade across the consoles.

Hoshi (shouting over the noise):

All thrust, no margins!

I don't care what it does to the frame!

PANEL 3 - ENGINEERING (MID-SHOT)

Juno is braced against a rail, sparks raining down.

JUNO:

Hull temperature is climbing fast!

If we stay this close-

She doesn't finish.

PANEL 4 - Neve (MID-SHOT)

Neve grips the console, light pulsing beneath her skin in unstable waves.

She is reacting - not directing.

Her breathing is ragged.

THE ACCORD MOVES

PANEL 1 - EXTERIOR, WIDE (SYSTEM SCALE)

ACCORD warships drop into the system in hard flashes of blue-white light.

Too many.

Perfect formation.

They waste no time.

PANEL 2 - ACCORD ATTACK (WIDE)

Energy lances streak toward the fleeing **Voluptas**.

Containment debris is vaporised mid-flight.

The ship jolts violently - shots passing close enough to scorch the hull.

PANEL 3 - BRIDGE (MID-SHOT)

The ship shudders as a glancing hit tears across the shields.

LUCETTE (tight, precise):

Impact on the aft quarter.

Shield integrity collapsing.

A pause.

LUCETTE:

They are attempting to disable, not destroy.

PANEL 4 - Hoshi (MID-SHOT)

Hoshi's jaw is locked, hands flying.

Hoshi:

They're trying to pin us here.

She throws the ship into a brutal roll.

Hoshi:

Not happening.

FINAL PANEL - EXTERIOR, WIDE

Behind the battle, the star continues to **brighten**, containment fully failing now.

In front of it:

ACCORD ships attacking

the Voluptas running

space filling with fire, debris, and incoming light

The window to escape is closing fast.

SPREAD 174 STRAIGHT LINE

PANEL 1 - EXTERIOR, WIDE

The **Voluptas** accelerates in a **dead-straight vector**, engines burning white.

It does not juke.

It does not return fire.

It commits.

PANEL 2 - BRIDGE (MID-WIDE)

Hoshi is locked in, posture rigid.

Hoshi:

Holding course.

PANEL 3 - LUCETTE (SYSTEM OVERLAY)

Predictive arcs bloom and collapse.

LUCETTE:

Enemy interception probability declining.

A pause.

LUCETTE:

They are attempting to reposition.

PANEL 4 - Neve (MID-SHOT)

Neve grips the console as the light inside her **stabilises** - not brighter, *steady*.

She exhales.

THE BREATH IN

PANEL 1 - THE STAR (WIDE)

The star contracts.

Violently.

Silently.

Its surface pulls inward, light folding back on itself.

Containment remnants are dragged down like debris into a drain.

This is not death yet.

PANEL 2 - ACCORD FLEET (WIDE)

ACCORD ships scramble, thrusters flaring.

They turn too late -

now facing away from the coming release.

PANEL 3 - THE REBOUND (MASSIVE PANEL)

The star rebounds.

A blinding eruption tears outward -

matter, radiation, and fire unleashed in a single, terminal wave.

The supernova is born.

PANEL 4 - EXTERIOR, WIDE (DUAL ACTION)

The **Voluptas** rides the leading edge of the shockwave, engines screaming, frame barely holding.

Behind it-

ACCORD ships are **shredded**, hulls peeling open, formations erased, light consumed by light.

FINAL PANEL - SILENT, WIDE

The system dissolves into expanding brilliance.

One ship is already beyond it.

SPREAD 176 AFTERSHOCK

PANEL 1 - EXTERIOR, WIDE

The supernova continues to expand behind the **Voluptas** - incandescent, unstoppable.

At its core, space begins to **warp inward**.

Light bends.

Debris curves back.

Something dense is forming.

PANEL 2 - BRIDGE (MID-WIDE)

Alarms change pitch - deeper, heavier.

LUCETTE (precise, urgent):

Gravitational shear increasing.

Core collapse imminent.

A beat.

LUCETTE:

This event will not disperse.

PANEL 3 - CHI (MID-SHOT)

Chi stares at the data, horrified.

CHI:

*If we stay in-system-
we get pulled back in.*

PANEL 4 - KYRA (MID-SHOT)

Kyra snaps into command.

KYRA:

Plot a course.

We need far-

FASTER THAN COMMAND

PANEL 1 - Hoshi (MID-SHOT)

Hoshi's hands fly over the controls.

Hoshi:

No clean exits.

Only one option-

PANEL 2 - LUCETTE (SYSTEM OVERLAY / INTERRUPTING)

Lucette cuts in - already acting.

LUCETTE:

Emergency Jump initiated.

PANEL 3 - BRIDGE (WIDE)

The deck lurches as space around the ship **resonates**, not tearing - *aligning*.

No countdown.

No warning.

Just motion.

PANEL 4 - Neve (CLOSE-UP)

Neve's eyes widen - then close.

The light in her chest holds steady.

Not guiding.

Not resisting.

Enduring.

FINAL PANEL - EXTERIOR, WIDE

The **Voluptas** vanishes in a harmonic flare as space collapses inward behind it.

The forming singularity finds nothing left to take.

SPREAD 178 SILENCE AFTER

PANEL 1 - Hoshi (MID-SHOT)

Hoshi loosens her grip on the controls for the first time.
She exhales - slow, controlled.
The stars outside are unfamiliar

Hoshi:

We're... actually clear!

PANEL 2 LUCETTE, SYSTEM OVERLAY:

Lucette's presence steadies. Her report is short, delivered with a heavy stillness.

LUCETTE:

Jump complete.

A beat

But the relay echoes are terminal. The ACCORD triggered the Final Draw before we jumped. Back at the Spire, the grid is already lit. The extraction system just went dark.

PANEL 3 JUNO, MID-SHOT:

Juno wipes soot from her hands, her eyes fixed on the deck. The relief of being alive is fighting with the weight of the news.

JUNO:

"The engines held. We didn't vaporise."

A beat

as she looks at the darkened map.

JUNO (quieter):

"But that's a hell of a price for a clean getaway."

PANEL 4 - CHI (CLOSE-UP)

She's looking at Mayara, off guard, the words arriving before she's decided to say them.

CHI:

Aishiteru.

A beat.

Her eyes widen, the moment catching up with her mouth.

I, erm, that's not, I didn't mean to say that out loud.

PANEL 5 - MAYARA (CLOSE-UP)

Something shifts in her expression, unguarded in a way the High Envoy never allows herself to be in public.

MAYARA (quiet):

Don't worry. I love you too.

PANEL 6 - CHI (WIDE-EYED)

CHI:

You understood that?

PANEL 7 - WIDE

Mayara pulls Chi in close, no further explanation needed. Chi relaxes into her, half embarrassed, half delighted.

MAYARA:

There's a lot you don't know about me yet.

A beat.

But you're going to.

IS SHE WITH US

PANEL 1 - ELARA, MEDICAL BAY (MID-SHOT)

Elara is wrapping a brace around a crew member's wrist, calm and efficient. Her comm chirps.

KYRA (comms):

Elara, status report. Everyone accounted for?

PANEL 2 - ELARA (MID-SHOT)

She finishes the wrap without breaking rhythm.

ELARA (comms):

Bumps and bruises across the board. Nothing we can't patch up.

A beat.

How's Neve?

PANEL 3 - KYRA, BRIDGE (MID-SHOT)

Kyra glances over at Neve, who stands at the viewport, light still moving under her skin.

KYRA (comms):

That's what I want you to tell me.

PANEL 4 - ELARA, MEDICAL BAY (MID-SHOT)

Elara hands the brace off to a second crew member to finish, already gathering her kit.

ELARA:

On my way.

PANEL 5 - CORRIDOR, WIDE

Elara moves quickly through the brass corridor, kit in hand, passing crew still cleaning up from the chase. She nods to a couple of them without slowing.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

Bumps and bruises were the easy part.

SPREAD 180 NEVE 2.0

PANEL 1 - FLIGHT DECK, WIDE

Elara arrives on the flight deck slightly out of breath. The crew gives her room without being asked. Neve stands at the forward window, light pulsing slow and steady beneath translucent skin, watching the unfamiliar stars.

PANEL 2 - ELARA, SCANNER (MID-SHOT)

Elara runs her scanner over Neve in a slow arc. The display flickers, resettles.

ELARA:

Hold still a second.

Neve doesn't move. She wasn't going to anyway.

PANEL 3 - THE READOUT (LARGE INSERT)

The scanner's display: four distinct waveforms, blue, green, white, gold, locking around a fifth signal at the center. For a moment it holds, coherent, almost beautiful.

PANEL 4 - THE OVERFLOW (CLOSE-UP, SCREEN)

The trace keeps climbing. It runs straight off the top of the chart and the screen strobes, unable to hold it.

ELARA (quiet):

Four signatures. Converging on a fifth.

A beat.

And that's as far as I can read. It just... keeps going.

PANEL 5 - ELARA, LOWERING THE SCANNER (MID-SHOT)

She looks up from the dead instrument to Neve herself, properly, for the first time.

PANEL 1 - NEVE (CLOSE-UP, WIDE EYES)

Neve's gaze has gone distant, listening to something only she can hear.

NEVE:

I can feel it. All of it.

PANEL 2 - NEVE (CLOSE-UP, CONTINUED)

NEVE:

Everything. Everyone. Everywhere.

PANEL 3 - NEVE (MID-SHOT, NAMING THEM)

She looks down at her own hands, light moving beneath the skin.

NEVE:

Nixie. Ki. Sylph. Even Hestia.

A beat.

They're all me now.

PANEL 4 - KYRA, CROSSING TO HER (MID-SHOT)

Kyra closes the distance, steady, searching her face.

KYRA:

Hey. Are you okay?

PANEL 5 - CHI, IN THE DOORWAY (MID-SHOT)

Chi has arrived partway through, taking it in, the realisation landing on her face.

CHI:

Sugoi... Neve, you ARE everything.

A beat, quieter, almost to herself.:

No wonder the ACCORD locked it all away.

FINAL PANEL - FULL WIDTH

Neve looks back out at the stars, the light beneath her skin settling into something steadier. Kyra stays close beside her, watching her now instead of any readout.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

Patched up. Watched. Not the same thing as understood.

SPREAD 182 WHAT REMAINS

PANEL 1 - CHI, BRIDGE (MID-SHOT)

Chi studies the long-range scans. The data settles, final.

CHI:

The star's gone. There's nothing left to chase us.

PANEL 2 - MAYARA (MID-SHOT)

Mayara doesn't move from the map, eyes fixed on the wreckage field.

MAYARA:

Chi. That looked like the whole fleet. Surely some got away?

PANEL 3 - CHI (CLOSE-UP)

Chi checks the scan again, hoping for a different answer. There isn't one.

CHI:

No.

A beat.

They were heading in to what they thought was a planet. There was no time to turn and run.

PANEL 4 - CHI (CONTINUED, CLOSE-UP)

Her hands have gone still on the console.

CHI:

Kami-sama... all those people.

PANEL 1 - MAYARA, MID-SHOT

She lets out a slow breath, the weight of it visible. Not detached. Carrying it.

MAYARA:

They were following orders. Most of them never knew what the ACCORD actually was.

PANEL 2 - KYRA, MID-SHOT

Kyra crosses to stand near them, her voice quieter than command, for once.

KYRA:

Soldiers aren't the ones who decided to drain a world dry.

PANEL 3 - MAYARA (CLOSE-UP)

She nods, but it doesn't sit easy.

MAYARA:

No. They just paid for it.

PANEL 4 - SILENCE (WIDE)

The bridge sits with it a moment. Nobody rushes to fill the quiet.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

Some debts get paid by the people who never signed for them.

SPREAD 184 THE LONG GAME

PANEL 1 - MAYARA, AT THE MAP (MID-SHOT)

Mayara straightens, the moment of silence passing into something steadier. She studies the dark quadrants again, differently now.

MAYARA:

*The ACCORD will log this as a containment failure. A resource loss.
Nothing more.*

PANEL 2 - MAYARA (CONTINUED, CLOSE-UP)

MAYARA:

That's what they do. Drain a world dry, then move on to the next one. They don't even look back.

PANEL 3 - CHI, MID-SHOT

Chi looks up from her console.

CHI:

There'll be another Thalassara. Another Aetherion. Somewhere out there, right now.

PANEL 4 - CHI (CONTINUED, CLOSE-UP)

CHI:

And we'd never know where to look. Not in time.

PANEL 5 - NEVE, ENTERING (WIDE)

Neve steps further onto the bridge, drawn into the conversation, the light beneath her skin steady.

NEVE:

I would.

FINAL PANEL - CLOSE-UP, NEVE

Her eyes are clear, certain, somewhere far beyond the bridge.

NEVE:

I know where it all is.

PANEL 1 - KYRA, CROSSING TO NEVE (MID-SHOT)

She comes to stand beside Neve at the window, voice low.

KYRA:

We aren't just witnesses anymore. Are we.

PANEL 2 - NEVE, MID-SHOT

Neve looks tired but steady, the light glowing slow beneath her skin.

NEVE:

No.

PANEL 3 - NEVE (CONTINUED, CLOSE-UP)

NEVE:

It's not just feeling anymore. I can locate it. Every place they're draining dry right now. Every one.

PANEL 4 - NEVE (CONTINUED, MID-SHOT)

Something darker crosses her expression, a thought she's been circling.

NEVE:

This is why Hestya stayed broken. Why she let herself be split off and caged for so long.

PANEL 5 - NEVE (CONTINUED, CLOSE-UP)

NEVE:

The ACCORD could contain one spirit at a time. Fire. Earth. Water. Air. Separate, they were manageable.

PANEL 6 - NEVE (CONTINUED)

She looks down at her own hands, the light moving beneath them.

NEVE:

I was never whole until they were together. That's why I was fading. That's what has been wrong with me for my whole life.

FINAL PANEL - WIDE, THE CREW

Kyra's hand finds Neve's shoulder. The whole crew listening now, the weight of what she's saying settling over the bridge.

NEVE:

We can't let them get this back. Whatever it costs.

CAPTION (NARRATIVE):

The ACCORD had spent a century learning how to contain a single element.

They had no idea what they were about to be up against.

SPREAD 186 SOMETHING NEW

PANEL 1 - MAIN VIEWER (WIDE)

Space ahead is empty - then subtly **not**.
A faint, luminous filament begins to resolve.
Not a tunnel.
Not a road.
A direction.

PANEL 2 - LUCETTE (SYSTEM OVERLAY)

Lucette's voice carries a note of wonder.

LUCETTE:

Detecting a persistent harmonic structure.

A pause.

LUCETTE:

It is... not a plotted route.

PANEL 3 - CHI (MID-SHOT)

Chi leans closer to the display.

CHI:

It doesn't look like navigation data.

She looks at Neve.

CHI:

Do you know where it leads?

PANEL 4 - Neve (MID-SHOT)

Neve places a hand over her chest. The glow responds - gently.

NEVE:

No.

A beat.

NEVE:

But I know we have to follow it.

ORIENTATION

PANEL 1 - KYRA (MID-SHOT)

Kyra studies the filament stretching into the dark.

KYRA:

Can we follow it?

PANEL 2 - Hoshi (MID-SHOT)

Hoshi runs a quick check, then nods.

Hoshi:

It's stable.

We won't tear ourselves apart trying.

PANEL 3 - Neve (CLOSE-UP)

Neve closes her eyes. Not searching. Listening. She opens them again, resolved, but not certain.

PANEL 4 - BRIDGE, WIDE

The crew framed against the vastness ahead. The luminous Path stretches forward into the unknown.

NEVE:

I am the Heart now. And something out there is calling to it.

A beat.

NEVE:

I don't know what. Not yet.

PANEL 4 - BRIDGE, WIDE SPLASH

looking into the lower flight deck from outside. close up of Neve central, she glowing with all the elemental colours shifting over her, her heart gleams bright intense white, Kyra directly behind, her hand on Neves shoulder. Neve looking back at Kyra.

KYRA:

No, but we're going to find out.

CAPTION:

STARLIGHT AMAZONS - The Sphere of Memories

END OF BOOK ONE

THE END...

