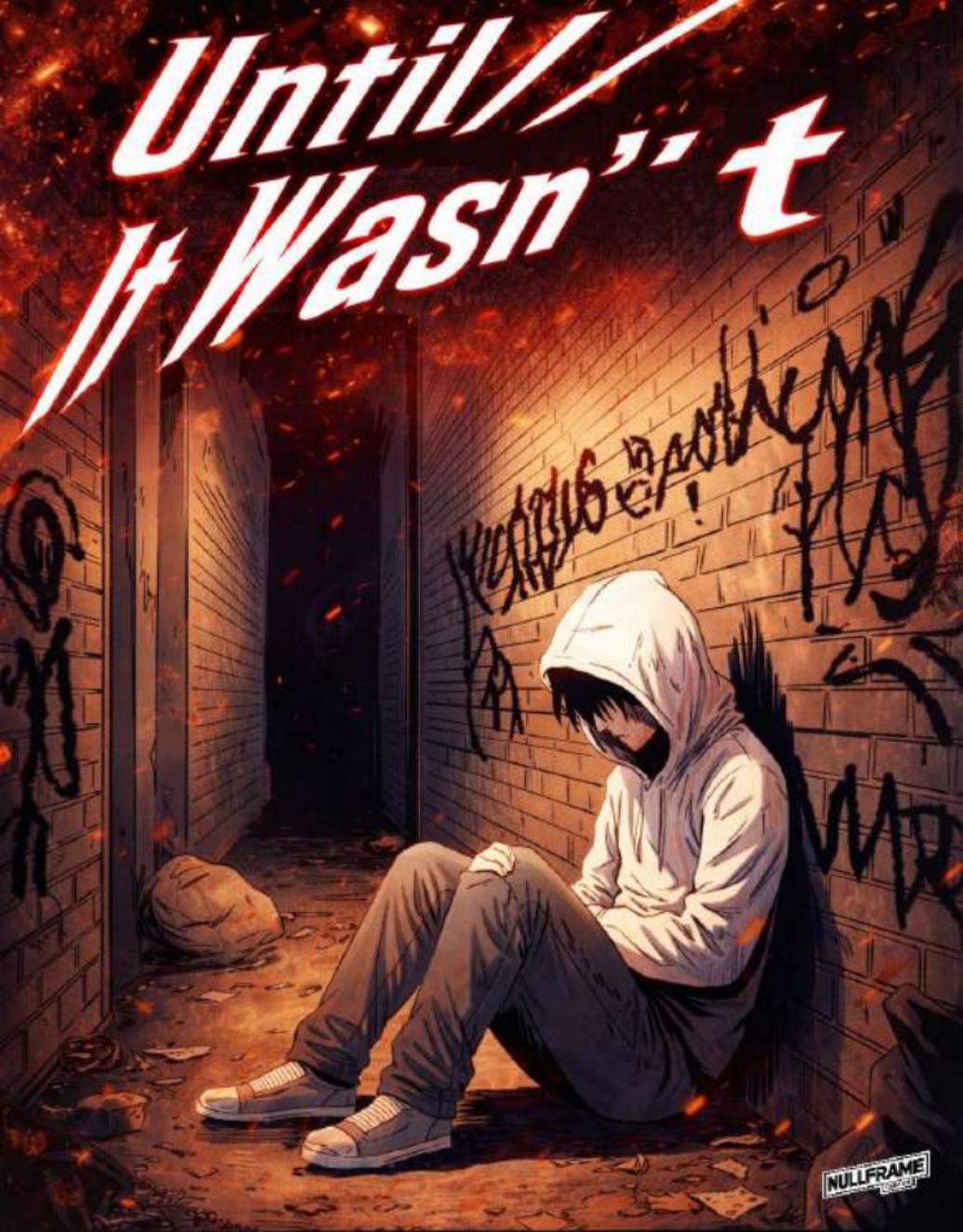


*Until
It Wasn't*



NULLFRAME
COMICS

CHAPTER
3

VANISH

PREVIOUSLY ON...

UNTIL IT WASN'T

KAI WAS NEVER MEANT TO SURVIVE.

A FAILED MILITARY EXPERIMENT -- AGENT O/ -- WAS ORDERED DESTROYED BY LIEUTENANT HOBBS AFTER EVERY TEST SUBJECT DIED. THE SERUM WAS LAUNCHED INTO THE WOODS TO ERASE THE MISTAKE.

KAI WAS THERE.

THE EXPLOSION SHOULD HAVE KILLED HIM.
INSTEAD.. IT CHANGED HIM.

UNSTABLE ABILITIES BEGAN AWAKENING INSIDE HIS BODY -- POWER HE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND, COULDN'T CONTROL, AND WAS TERRIFIED TO REVEAL.

BEFORE HE COULD MAKE SENSE OF IT, TRAGEDY STRUCK.

A ROBBER BROKE INTO HIS HOME ONE NIGHT. IN THE DARKNESS, HE FIRED AT THE WRONG TARGET.

KAI'S MOTHER DIED PROTECTING NOTHING BUT HER SON'S FUTURE.

WITH HIS FATHER GONE SINCE HE WAS FIVE AND NO FAMILY LEFT, KAI BECAME COMPLETELY ALONE.

MONTHS PASSED.

HOMELESS. GRIEVING. DISAPPEARING.

WHEN KAI FINALLY CONFRONTED THE MAN WHO KILLED HIS MOTHER, HIS POWERS ERUPTED -- LEVELING EVERYTHING AROUND HIM.

THE WORLD SAW SOMETHING IMPOSSIBLE.

AND SOMEONE ELSE DID TOO.

THAT'S WHY YOU SEE KATE ON THE FIRST PAGE.

SHE CREATED AGENT O/.
SHE KNEW THE SERUM HADN'T FAILED.

IT HAD CHOSEN.

AND NOW SHE'S RACING THE MILITARY TO FIND THE ONLY SURVIVOR.



UNTIL IT WASN'T

THIS CHAPTER IS ABOUT SURVIVAL.

NOT THE HEROIC KIND.
NOT THE CINEMATIC KIND.

THE QUIET KIND.

THE KIND WHERE YOU WAKE UP AND KEEP
BREATHING EVEN WHEN YOU DON'T WANT TO.

KAI HAS SPENT MONTHS ON THE STREETS --
INVISIBLE, EXHAUSTED, CARRYING GRIEF THAT
FEELS HEAVIER THAN THE POWER INSIDE HIM.

HE BELIEVES HE'S ALONE.

BUT SOMETIMES, THE PEOPLE WHO FEEL LIKE THEY
DON'T BELONG ANYWHERE...

...ARE THE ONES WHO END UP BUILDING SOMETHING
NEW.

IN THIS ISSUE, KAI WILL LEARN THAT STRENGTH
ISN'T ABOUT CONTROL.

IT'S ABOUT CHOOSING NOT TO GIVE UP.

EVEN WHEN EVERYTHING HAS ALREADY BEEN TAKEN
FROM YOU.

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NULLFRAME
COMICS

UNTIL IT WASN'T

A NULLFRAME COMICS story.



CHARACTERS

The Outsiders

Military



KATE



KAI



HOBBS



MILITARY PROFESSOR



ASH



BRIGGS



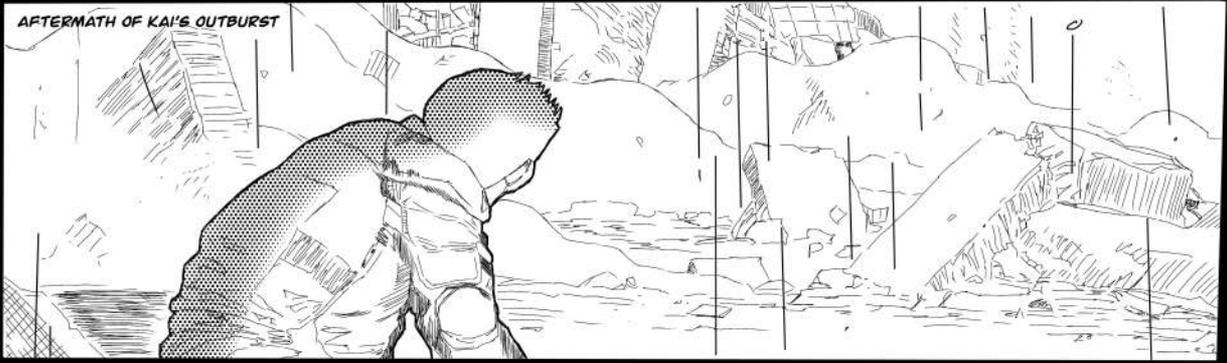
MILITARY AGENT



HOBBS DEAD WIFE



LUNA



A SINGLE SOLDIER STANDS IN THE WRECKAGE, LOOKING UP. THE STREET/WOODS EDGE IS TORN APART. SMOKE DRIFTS UPWARD. SILENCE HANGS HEAVY. THE BLAST DIDN'T ECHO. IT ERASED.



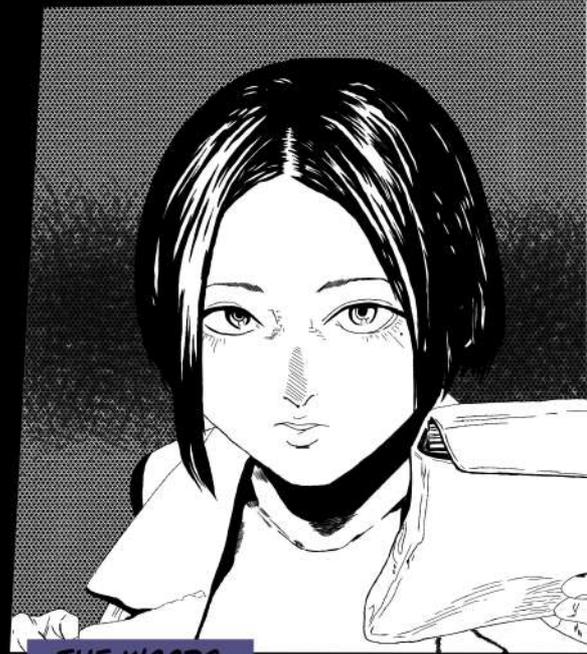
AGENT KATIE

WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

WE DON'T KNOW, MA'AM. NO EXPLOSION SIGNATURE. NO WEAPON MATCH.

PREVIOUSLY ON...

UNTIL IT WASN'T



THE WOODS.



ANYONE HURT?

ONE CIVILIAN REPORTED SEEING SOMEONE RUN. A KID. LOOKED TERRIFIED.

KATE ALONE NOW, STARING STRAIGHT AHEAD. HER EXPRESSION SHIFTS -- REALIZATION HITS.

"A KID."



**THE SERUM WAS NEVER
MEANT TO WORK.
IT FAILED EVERY TEST.
EVERY SUBJECT.**

UNTIL IT FOUND THE RIGHT BODY.

**IF HOBBS GETS TO HIM FIRST--
THERE WON'T BE ANYTHING LEFT
TO SAVE.**

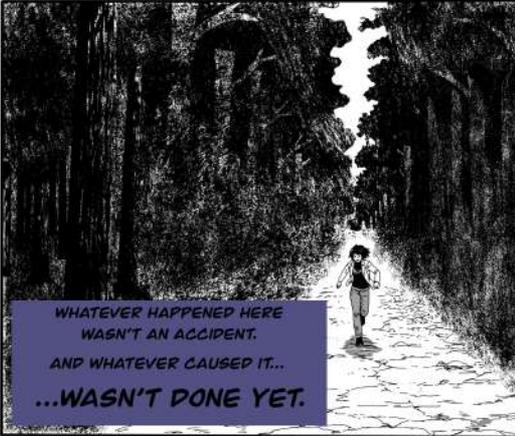


SHE DIDN'T WAIT FOR CLEARANCE.

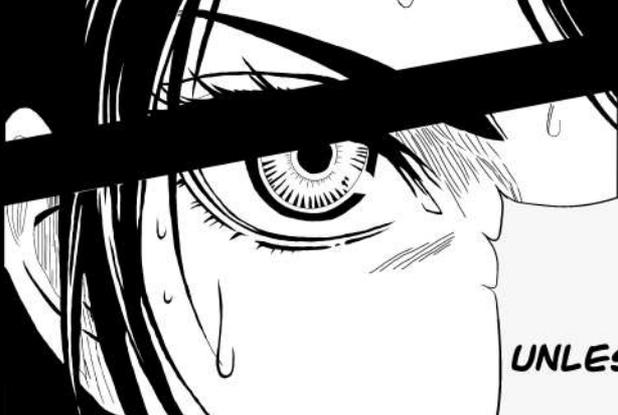
**PLEASE
BE
ALIVE...**



DIDN'T CALL IT IN.



**WHATEVER HAPPENED HERE
WASN'T AN ACCIDENT.
AND WHATEVER CAUSED IT...
...WASN'T DONE YET.**



UNLESS...



MILITARY SOLDIER:
THE WOODS.
ABOUT A MILE OUT.



WHERE DID
THE
ENERGY
ORIGINATE
?

FAILED

The failure of Subject 23
Due to the failure of Subject 23 w
ave planned to cancel this
t with the governm

I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.

PREVIOUSLY ON ...
UNTIL IT WASN'T

**THE PROJECT FAILED
EVERY TIME.
EVERY SUBJECT
REJECTED IT.**



**IF IT BONDED...
IF IT CHOSE
SOMEONE...
THEN WHOEVER
SURVIVED THIS
WASN'T
DANGEROUS YET.
BUT THEY
WOULD BE.**

**...MAKE IT
STOP...**

**THE POWER
DIDN'T LEAVE
HIM.
IT WAS
LEARNING
HIM.**

SHE WASN'T AFRAID OF HIM.
HIM.
THAT SCARED HIM MORE THAN
THE PAIN.

HEY....

YOU'RE
SAFE.
I'VE
GOT
YOU.

I WON'T.
I PROMISE.

...DON'T
TOUCH
ME...

STRANGER!!!





HOBBS

SO IT
WORKED...

ON HIM.

SOME MEN
MOURN LOSS.
OTHERS TRY
TO REPLACE
IT.





BRING
THE BOY
IN.



SIR... HE'S
NOT A
WEAPON.



NOT...



YET!



IF HE EXISTS...
THEN SO CAN
OTHERS.





NO!



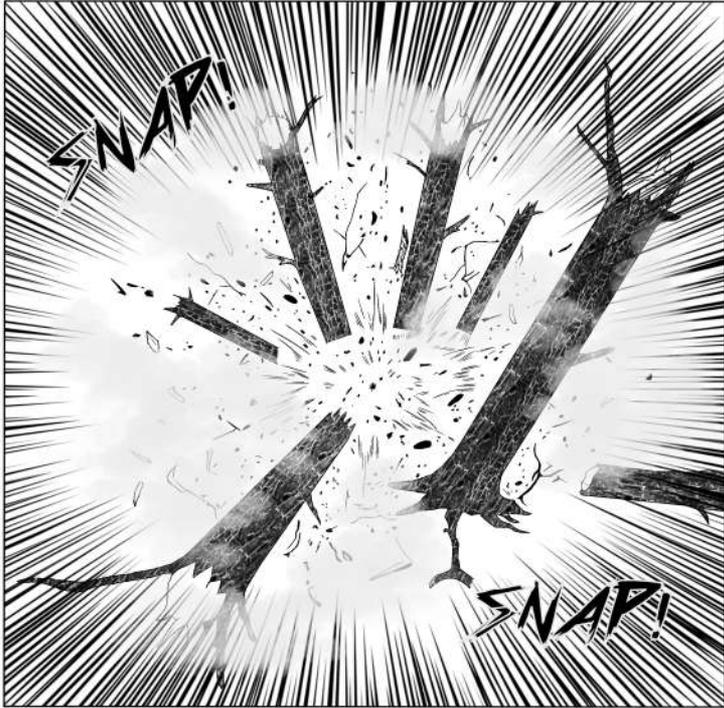
**EASY!
YOU DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU CAN DO
YET!**



WHIMMIN



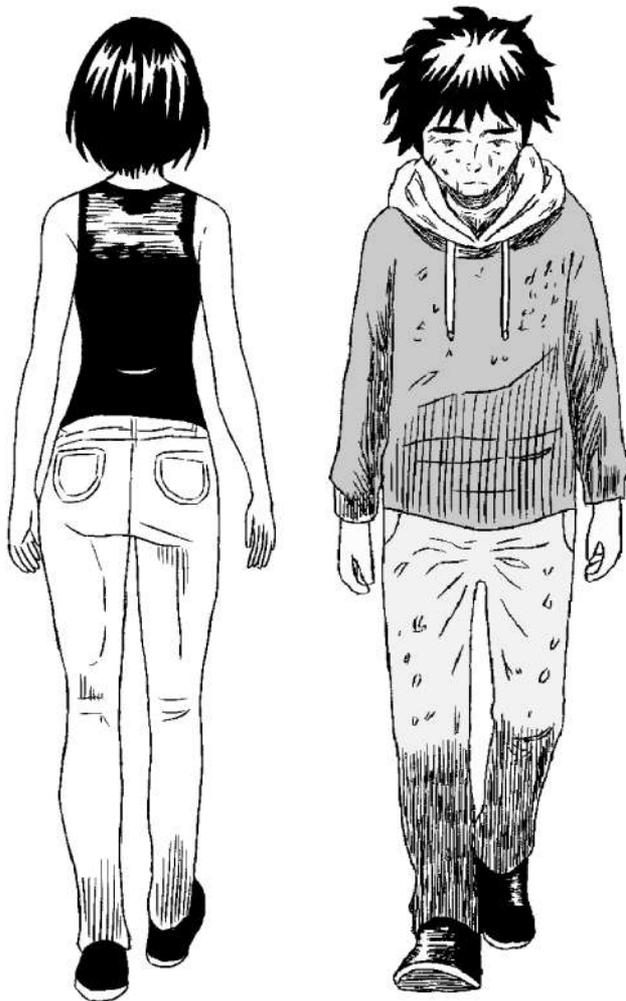
**FEAR
PULLED
THE
TRIGGER.**



TREES SNAPPING.
SHOCKWAVES.
SOLDIERS THROWN
BACK.







THEY CALLED HIM AN ANOMALY.

A FAILURE IN THEIR SYSTEM.

**BUT SOME THINGS DON'T
EXIST TO BE CONTROLLED.**

EVERY DAY I SURVIVE IS A LIE...
A MASK I WEAR TO KEEP MYSELF
ALIVE.



HOME IS GONE. FAMILY IS GONE.
THE WORLD DOESN'T CARE... SO
NEITHER DO I.



SO... WE GO FIND
HIM?

HE'S OUT THERE.
AND HOBBS...
HE'S WORSE
THAN WE
THOUGHT.



NO. FIRST,
HE NEEDS A
PLACE.
SOMEWHERE
SAFE.



KATE:
AND
THAT'S
WHY HE
STAYS
HERE...
WITH US.



FOR THE FIRST TIME... I WASN'T ALONE.



SIR... WHAT ABOUT THE CONTINGENCY PLAN?



HE'S THEIRS NOW... BUT THAT POWER? IT'S STILL MINE TO EXPLOIT.

PREPARE SUBJECT 19. IF SHE'S THE ONE, WE'LL MAKE HER CHASE IT.

SUBJECT 19 -- SOMEONE... OR SOMETHING... TRANSFORMED.



I CAN'T... I
CAN'T LET
IT HAPPEN
AGAIN...



YOU WON'T. NOT
HERE. NOT WITH
US.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MONTHS... I FELT
SAFE.



TO BE CONTINUED...

Until
It Wasn't

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MONTHS...
KAI IS SAFE.

NO SIRENS.
NO COLD PAVEMENT.
NO RUNNING.

JUST SILENCE.

BUT SAFETY IS FRAGILE.

AND SOMEWHERE IN THE DARK...

SOMETHING IS LEARNING HOW TO
HUNT.

UNTIL IT WASN'T

A NULLFRAME COMICS story.

