

REMNANTS



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ALIVE AND REMAIN

#1



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REMNANTS



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ISSUE #1

ALIVE AND REMAIN

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EBERE JOSIAH

LETTERS / GRAPHICS
EPOCH STUDIOS

COVER ART / COLOURS
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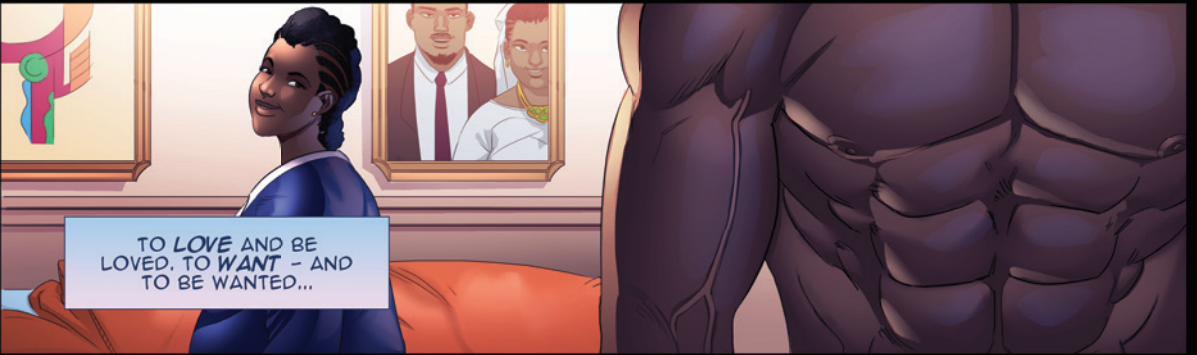
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LOVE WILL ALWAYS BE
A BEAUTIFUL THING



TO LOVE AND BE
LOVED, TO WANT - AND
TO BE WANTED...



THEY HAVE COME A LONG
WAY, BUILT FROM THE
GROUND UP

BUT
SOMETIMES.

THE SERPENT
STEPS INTO EDEN

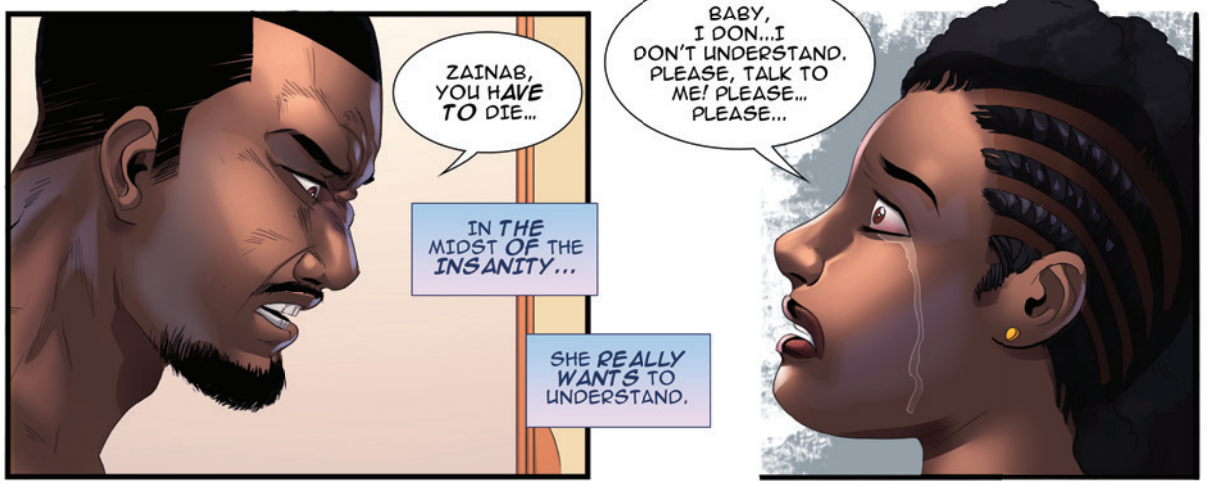


AND
MADNESS
FOLLOWS!



IT ALL COMES
CRASHING DOWN
IN AN INSTANT.

B...BABY,
WHAT IS
GOING ON?
PLEASE?



ZAINAB,
YOU HAVE
TO DIE...

BABY,
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
PLEASE, TALK TO
ME! PLEASE...
PLEASE...

IN THE
MIDST OF THE
INSANITY...

SHE REALLY
WANTS TO
UNDERSTAND.

YET, INSTINCTS
KICK IN; SHE ALSO
WANTS TO STAY
ALIVE!

GHASH

BUT THERE WAS
A LIFE SHE ONCE
KNEW. AND DESPITE
HER BEST EFFORTS,
SHE ENTERS INTO
"THAT PLACE".

INTO
"THE COLD"

WHAT SHE HAS
KNOWN FOR TWO
YEARS HAS BEEN THE
FUZZY FEELINGS
OF LOVE. AND OF
WARMTH...

COME...



ELSEWHERE..

DIRECTOR!
I THINK YOU
MAY WANT
TO SEE THIS!



LET'S
SEE IT.



COME...

AH,
ZAINAB!
ALWAYS TERRIBLE
AT DYING...



"THE COLD" TAKES OVER AND IN THAT PLACE, THERE IS UNCANNY CLARITY

ONTARIO 6141 MK3 NAVY KNIFE. MILITARY ISSUE

PRECISION KNIFE CUTS. TARGETING SCIATIC NERVE AND CAROTID. ASSASSIN. MILITARY.

NO TORSAL BLEEDING. BOOGEYMAN ASSASSIN...

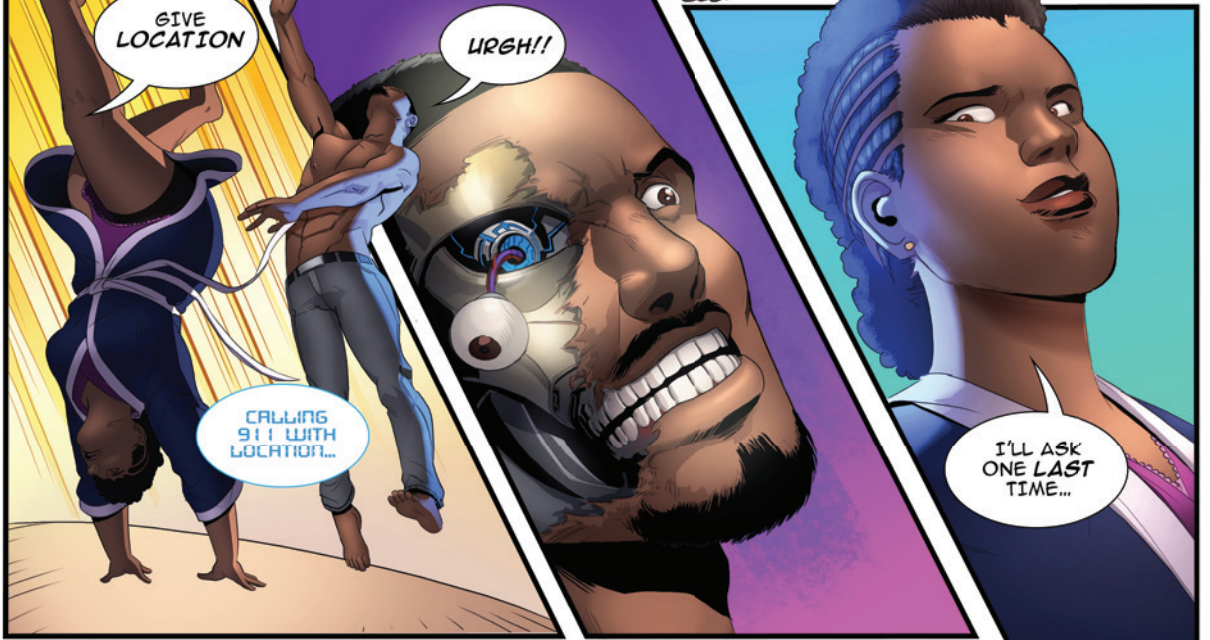
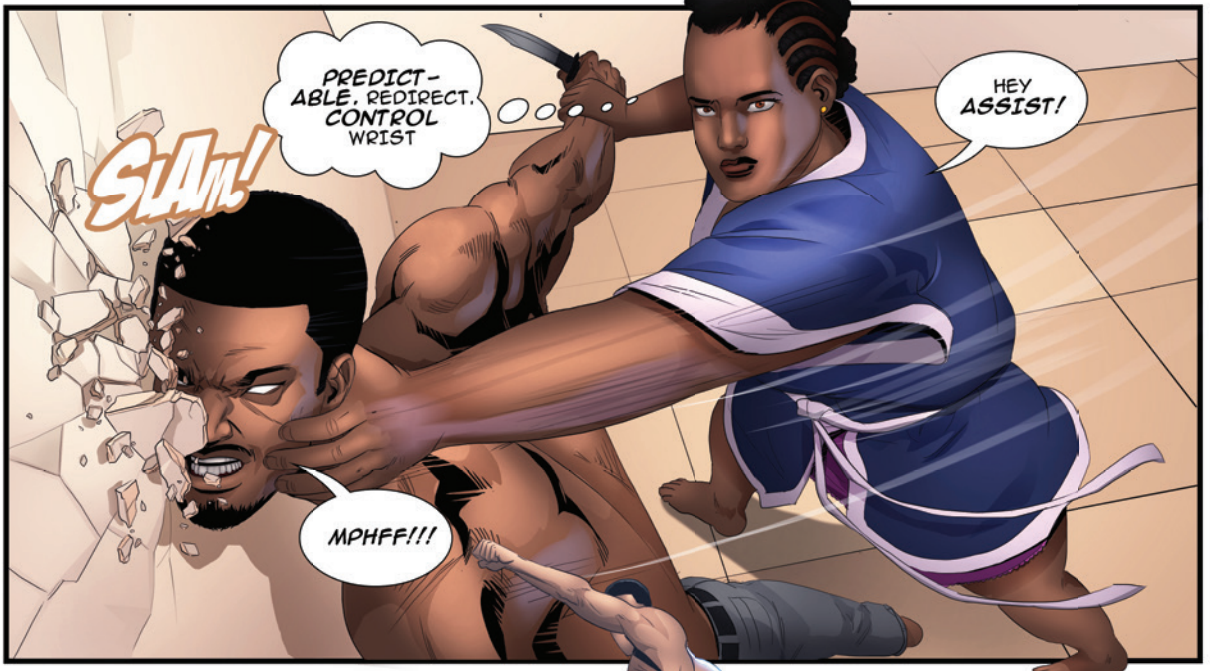
WHAT DID YOU DO WITH MY HUSBAND?!



SHE KNOWS!



CHARGE ATTACK. NO FEINTS.





ALWAYS
ODD. THE COLD
ONE WHO NEVER
LOST HER SOUL.
<SCOFFS>

WHY DO I
THINK WE ARE
ABOUT TO SEE A
VERY SPECIAL
DISPLAY OF...



RU-AKH!

WHERE
IS MY
HUSBAND?
!!!



"DIRECTOR,
WHAT IS
RU-AKH?"

"PATIENCE,
SOLDIER. HERE IT
COMES..."



RU-AKH!

SLASH!

AND WITH RU-AKH,
WHAT TAKES
MOMENTS HAPPENS
IN FRACTIONS OF A
SECOND.



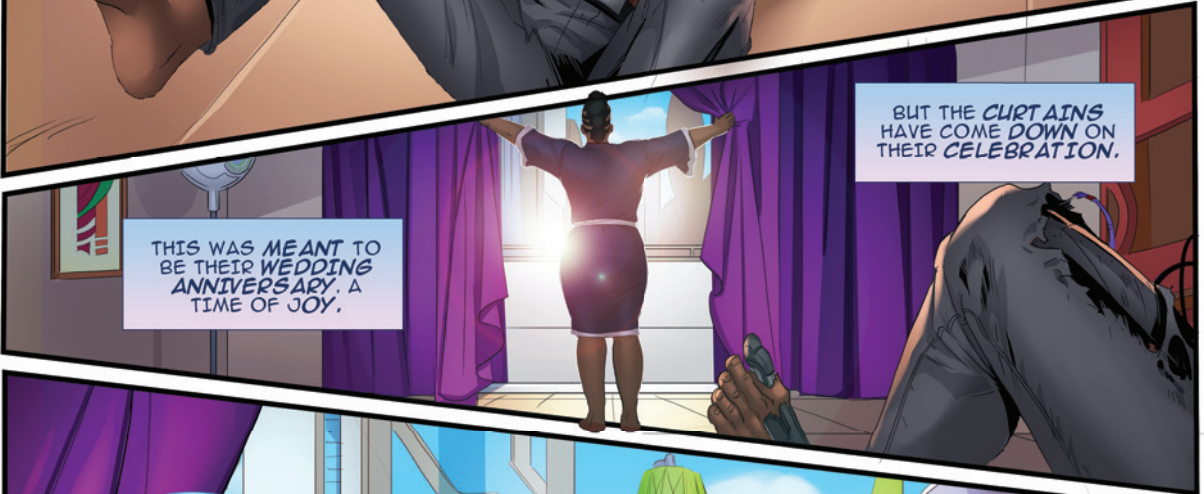
WOW!



FLAMING
THUNDER!



...



BUT THE CURTAINS
HAVE COME DOWN ON
THEIR CELEBRATION.

THIS WAS MEANT TO
BE THEIR WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY. A
TIME OF JOY.



THE 911
SERVICE WILL
ARRIVE IN 3
MINUTES.

AND IN THAT
MOMENT, HER WORLD
HAS CHANGED. LEAVING
ONLY THE SILENCE.

THE LOSS.
AND THE PAIN..

HMM, LOOKS LIKE THAT BEATING FRIED UP THE TRANSMISSION.

THAT REALLY SAYS SOMETHING. IT MEANS I WAS RIGHT BECAUSE THIS PROVES SO MUCH. NEED TO PASS THIS ON QUICKLY; HE NEEDS TO KNOW...

YOUR HOLINESS, WE NEED TO TALK. SOMETHING HAS COME UP

HEY FOSA, "YOUR LORDSHIP", CAN THIS WAIT? I'M ABOUT TO GIVE A SERMON

YOUR "RIGHTEOUSNESS", IT CAN WAIT.

<SIGH> YOU NEED SALVATION, FOSA! TALK SOON - AND IT BETTER BE GOOD.

IT IS. WHAT I TOLD YOU ABOUT A PLANTED BOOGEYMAN IS NO LONGER JUST A CONSPIRACY THEORY; I NOW HAVE HARD EVIDENCE.

I TRUST YOU TOOK PRECAUTIONS; YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS.

YES, THE LINE IS TOTALLY SECURE - AND YES I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS; IT'S ANOTHER VARIABLE THAT MAKES THE PHRASE "AND THEY WILL NOT ESCAPE" A GREATER REALITY.

YES, OK, LET'S TALK SOON AT 6 PM TODAY

FROM ZAINAB: WE NEED TO TALK. MY HUBBY WAS REPLACED BY A BOOGEYMAN.

SWEET LORD!

BZZZZ!



HELLO
MADAM.



THERE ARE NO
QUESTIONS. ONLY
THE GROWING
REALISATION THAT
EVERYTHING IS
DIFFERENT.

HELLO

THE DRONE
WILL DO A QUICK
SCAN OF YOUR
APARTMENT AND
THEN, MY BOOGEY...
OOOPS, PARDON
ME!

MY ROBOT
PAL WILL SECURE
THE ROOM AND
THEN, I'LL COME
IN. LET ME KNOW
IF YOU HAVE
QUESTIONS?

FOR HER, IT'S A
DIFFERENT WORLD

LATER...

IT IS CRAZY. POSSIBLE, YES, BUT CRAZY.

YES, IT IS.

YOU KNOW ME, I LIKE TECH AND INNOVATION, BUT IT'S ALMOST LIKE WE CAN'T DRAW THE LINES BETWEEN INNOVATION AND COURTING ANNIHILATION IN THE NAME OF SCIENCE.

LISTENING...

IT IS TRUE. THINK ABOUT IT...

"TECHNOLOGY EXPLODES, WE GET CRAZY FAST INTERNET WITH 76 BECOMING NORMAL..."

WE DECODE DNA AND GENE EDITING GOES FROM EXPERIMENTATION TO FAD. SO WHAT DO WE DO WITH IT?"

"WE STARTED WITH NOBLE THINGS LIKE CURING DISEASES BY MODIFYING DNA. THEN WE ENTERED INTO THE MURKY WATERS OF COSMETIC DNA MODIFICATION. TALLER PEOPLE, STRONGER PEOPLE, SMARTER PEOPLE..."

BUT WE DIDN'T STOP THERE. WE DOVE INTO THE MUDDY WATERS OF THE COMBINING HUMAN AND ANIMAL TRAITS. "THE AGE OF THE BLENDS" - AND MAN LOOKED, AND THOUGHT THAT IT WAS "COOL!"



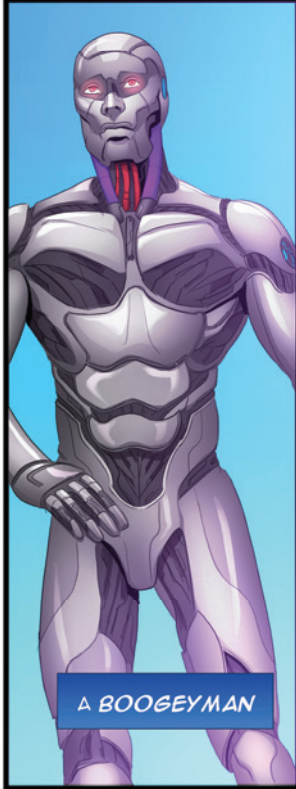
BUT HECK, WE WERE NOT CONTENT WITH MIXING MAN AND ANIMAL! WE MIXED MAN AND MACHINE AS WELL. PEOPLE HAVE CHIPS IN THEIR BRAINS SO THEY DON'T NEED CREDIT CARDS.

THEY CAN ALSO DOWNLOAD INFO INTO THEIR BRAINS - AND SHARE SAME WITH OTHERS WITHOUT TALKING. WE MAKE OURSELVES INTO COMPUTERS AND FORGET COMPUTERS CAN BE HACKED!

AT THE SAME TIME, WE'RE MAKING THESE ROBOTS, THESE BOOGEYMEN, TO HAVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE THAT IS GROWING EXPONENTIALLY. BUT WE'RE TELLING OURSELVES WE'LL BE FINE

PEOPLE WHO LOST LIMBS HAD MECHANICAL REPLACEMENT - AND THEN IT WENT COSMETIC, FOR FUN; THE AGE OF 'THE ENHANCED'

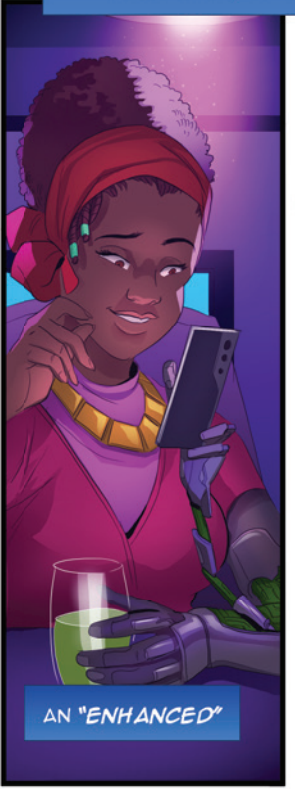
SO, *SOME* ARE THE DAYS OF THE JOKES THAT WOULD START WITH "A JEW, AN IRISHMAN AND AN ASIAN MAN WALK INTO A PUB". THESE DAYS, IT'S...



A BOOGEYMAN



A BLEND

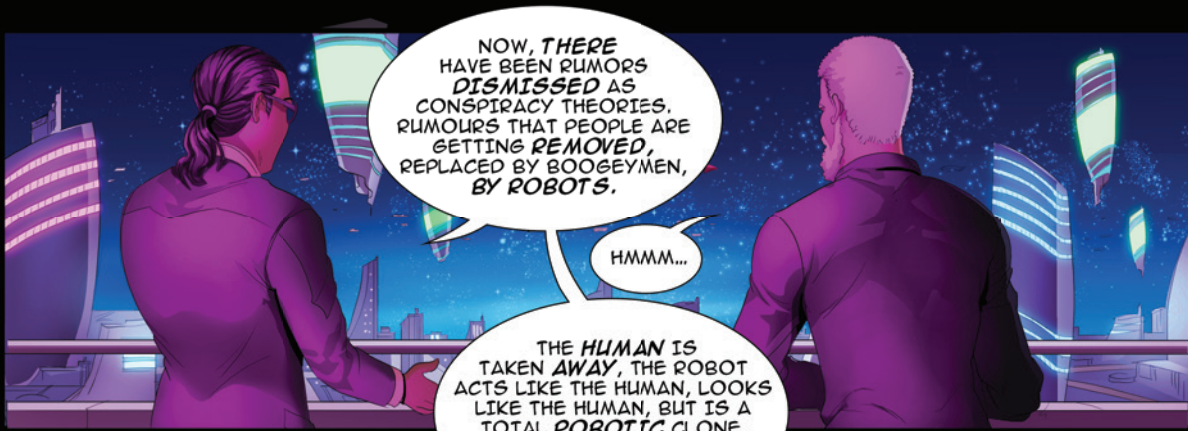


AN "ENHANCED"



AND WELL, A LOWLY HUMAN

WALK INTO A PUB...



NOW, *THERE* HAVE BEEN RUMORS *DISMISSED* AS CONSPIRACY THEORIES, RUMOURS THAT PEOPLE ARE GETTING *REMOVED*, REPLACED BY BOOGEYMEN, *BY ROBOTS*.

HMMM...

THE *HUMAN* IS TAKEN AWAY, THE *ROBOT* ACTS LIKE THE HUMAN, LOOKS LIKE THE HUMAN, BUT IS A TOTAL *ROBOTIC* CLONE. THE *CONCEPT* IS BOTH *ILLEGAL* AND HARD TO PULL OFF!



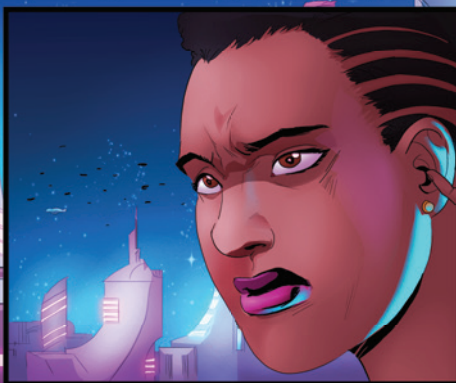
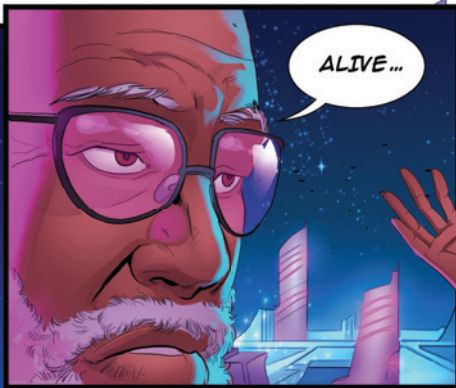
BUT NOW, *THERE'S* PROOF. AND IT FEELS LIKE IT WAS *DONE* BY A GOVERNMENT *AGENCY*.



HER NAME IS *ZAINAB*. SHE WANTED TO *MEET* WITH YOU.



FLAMING THUNDER! THAT IS CREEPY!





THERE IS A BIT OF A PROBLEM, GENERAL. THIS ONE'S WIFE NOW KNOWS.

HMM. WHY WAS SHE NOT NEUTRALIZED?

THAT PROVED QUITE DIFFICULT; SHE WAS IN THE ACADEMY



ACTUALLY, SHE WAS IN THE ACADEMY...



LADY, IF YOU'RE REFERRING TO THE SAME ACADEMY I THINK YOU'RE REFERRING TO, WE HAVE A PROBLEM...

NEXT: WHERE THE WIND GOES

**EPOCH
MERCH**
IS LIVE

**VIBE
WITH YOUR
TRIBE**



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CRYPTIC NOTES

NOTE FROM THE CREATOR.

And there you have it, the first story in the Title that is Remnants. Where the journey takes Zainab (and you), at the moment, still remains unclear. What we do know, however, is that this is the start of a very interesting tale.



In writing this story, I have hopes that it resonates with those who have loved hard and lost that love. Also, apart from the action and plot twists that make for an interesting story, I am hoping it calls out to the core elements that make us human. And yet, being human is not so "simple" anymore as the world, technology and innovation forces a redefinition of that term. So if this works out as planned, we'll get a clearer glimpse of what a new version of the world could be like - and what the implications are.


The next chapter introduces some really interesting characters and concepts - and a truckload of interesting action. As always, we're hoping to leave you with more questions than answers as we navigate through the labyrinth that is this story. So keep your eyes peeled, watch this space and let us know your thoughts and questions as the story unfolds.

See you on the other side.

J.C. Nova

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