



ICON VAULT
— COLLECTOR —

ISSUE No. 1

TWILIGHT *THUNDER*



THE HOUR BETWEEN

THE STORM BEGINS AT TWILIGHT

ICON VAULT COMICS PRESENTS



TWILIGHT THUNDER #1

THE HOUR BETWEEN

CREATED BY ICON VAULT COMICS

STORY • SCRIPT • ART DIRECTION • LETTERING: ICON VAULT COMICS

TWILIGHT THUNDER CREATED FOR THE ICON VAULT UNIVERSE

ALL CHARACTERS AND EVENTS IN THIS STORY ARE FICTIONAL.

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MERIDIAN CITY. 6:41 P.M.



A CITY SHOULD NOT HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN KEEPING ITS LIGHTS AND KEEPING ITS FUTURE. ZORA ELLIS BELIEVED THAT FIRST.



HE SAYS HER NAME LIKE A PROMISE. THAT IS HOW VOSS KEEPS HIM FROM ASKING QUESTIONS.



MALIK... SECOND PULSE. SAME SCAR AS LAST YEAR.



ONE YEAR EARLIER.

YOU ONLY LOVE IMPOSSIBLE THINGS AFTER
THEY BECOME EQUATIONS.

EQUATIONS STAY WHERE I PUT THEM.

PEOPLE DO NOT.

MALIK! DO NOT LET HIM CLOSE THE DOOR!

NOW.

ONE CLEAN LAUNCH. ONE ANSWER THAT IS
NOT: I AM SORRY.



FEAR IS INTELLIGENCE WITHOUT DISCIPLINE.



ZORA SAID ALMOST THE OPPOSITE.

ZORA MISTOOK HESITATION FOR CONSCIENCE.



THIS IS NOT DRIFT. SOMETHING INSIDE THE FIELD IS ANSWERING US.



YOU HAVE ALREADY GIVEN ME A YEAR.



THE REPORT SAYS HUMAN ERROR. IT NEVER SAYS WHOSE.

YOUR BROTHER SIGNED THE SEQUENCE.



MALIK SIGNS WHAT YOU PUT IN FRONT OF HIM.



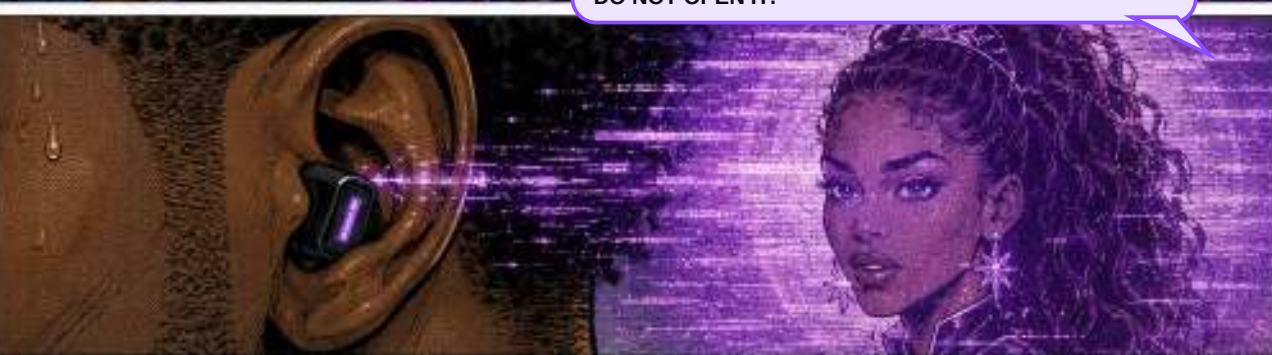
BOTH SIGNALS CARRY ZORA'S CALIBRATION PATTERN.

IF I STOP NOW, I DID NOT SPEND A YEAR FIXING IT. I SPENT A YEAR HIDING.

TEN SECONDS TO ACTIVATION.



MALIK, IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, HE FOUND THE DOOR.
DO NOT OPEN IT.



ZORA?



VOSS, TAKE YOUR HAND OFF THE OVERRIDE.



SHE WAS IN THE SIGNAL. YOU KNEW.



I KNEW GRIEF WOULD MAKE YOU LISTEN.



SHUT IT DOWN!

HISTORY ONLY REMEMBERS THE ONE WHO FINISHES.

KRAK-THOOM!



EVERYBODY DOWN!



THE SURGE JUMPED THE GRID. IT IS RIDING THE RAIL!



NO BRAKES. NO TRACTION.



MALIK, DO NOT MAKE ME LOSE YOU TOO.

MOVE THEM, TESS.





NO PLAN. NO TIME. STORY OF MY LIFE.



FOR ONE IMPOSSIBLE SECOND, THE SKY MISTOOK
GUILT FOR COURAGE.



THEN MAKE IT ENOUGH.

KRA-KOOM!



LOOK AT ME, NOT THE GROUND.



WE ARE GOING OVER!



I DO NOT KNOW WHAT I AM YET.

BUT I KNOW WHAT I AM HOLDING.



HE CAUGHT A TRAIN.

THUNDER...

THAT FACE. THAT STUPID I-AM-FINE FACE.

NOT HERE.

THE SUN SLIPPED BELOW THE HORIZON. THE POWER FOLLOWED.

ZORA... WAS THAT YOU?

THE NEXT EVENING.

FORTY-THREE SECONDS BEFORE SUNSET. THE CHARGE IS ALREADY RISING.

CONTROL THE CURRENT. DO NOT LET IT CONTROL THE--

KLANG!

STILL TURNING FEAR INTO HOMEWORK.

A full-body illustration of Storm in his blue and silver lightning-themed superhero suit. He is in a dynamic pose, with his right arm raised and a bright purple lightning bolt striking his hand. The background is a dark, industrial-looking space with more lightning bolts in the air.

WHOEVER YOU ARE, YOU KNOW MY NAME.

A close-up of Storm's lower body and legs, showing the details of his suit. He is standing on a glowing purple circular magical pattern on the floor, with a vertical column of purple sparks or energy rising from the center.

YOU KNEW MINE FIRST.

A full-body illustration of Zora in her black and silver ice-themed superhero suit. She has long, dark, curly hair and is looking down at a glowing purple circular magical pattern on the floor, similar to the one in the previous panel. The background is a dark, industrial-looking space.

ZORA...?

A close-up illustration of Storm and Zora facing each other. Storm is on the left, looking at Zora with a concerned expression. Zora is on the right, looking back at him. Both are wearing their respective superhero suits.

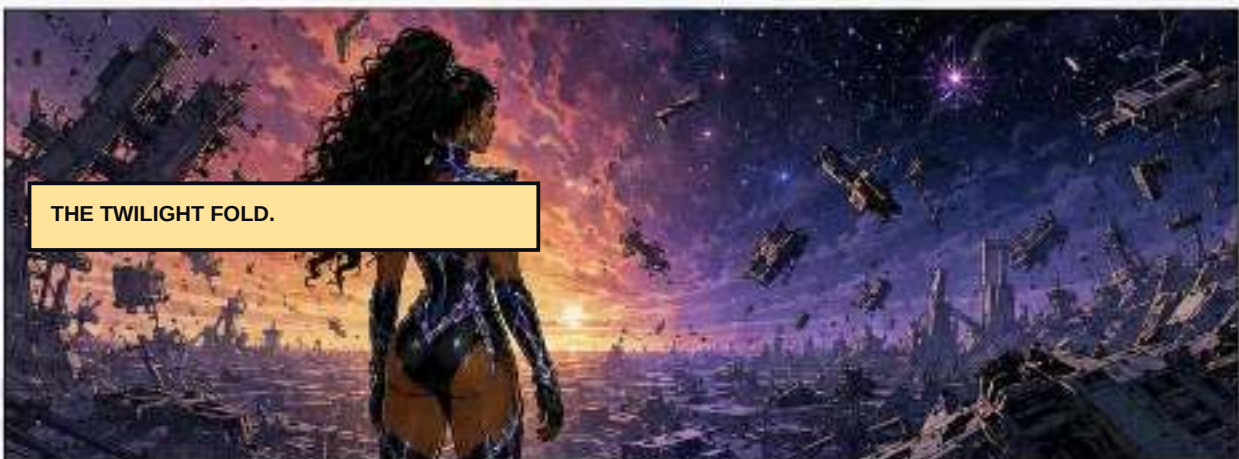
SAY IT LIKE YOU DID NOT BURY ME.



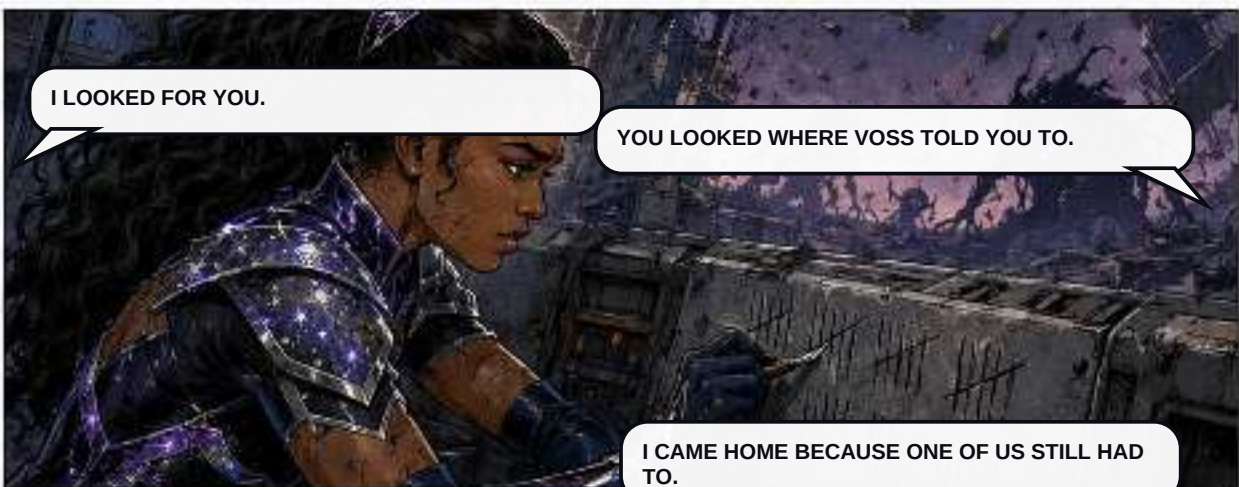
I WATCHED THEM LOWER AN EMPTY CASKET.



I WATCHED THREE HUNDRED AND TWELVE
SUNSETS CLOSE OVER ME.



THE TWILIGHT FOLD.



I LOOKED FOR YOU.

YOU LOOKED WHERE VOSS TOLD YOU TO.

I CAME HOME BECAUSE ONE OF US STILL HAD
TO.





HE LOCKED THE DOOR AFTER THE BREACH. I SAW HIM CHOOSE.



HE DRAGGED ME OUT.



HE SAVED THE INSTRUMENT HE STILL NEEDED.



STOP CLEANING THE CRIME SCENE FOR HIM.



EITHER I AM CONCUSSED, OR DEAD PEOPLE GIVE INCREDIBLE HUGS.



YOU KEPT THE LIGHT ON.



SAME SIGNATURE. VOSS'S OVERRIDE WAS ACTIVE BEFORE EITHER SYSTEM FAILED.



I DEFENDED HIM BECAUSE BLAMING HIM MEANT BLAMING MYSELF.



SHRAKKI!

THEY ARE NOT ATTACKING US. THEY ARE
RETRIEVING EVIDENCE.



LEFT DRONE. KEEP THE CASE BEHIND
YOU.



FOR ONCE, LET THE ENGINEER CARRY THE
EXPENSIVE THING.



STILL A BAD PLAN.

DESHAWN!



THEY ARE FOLDING THROUGH THE SAME WOUND.

VOSS!



AT LAST, YOU SEE THE PATTERN. SHAME IT TOOK LOSING HER TWICE.

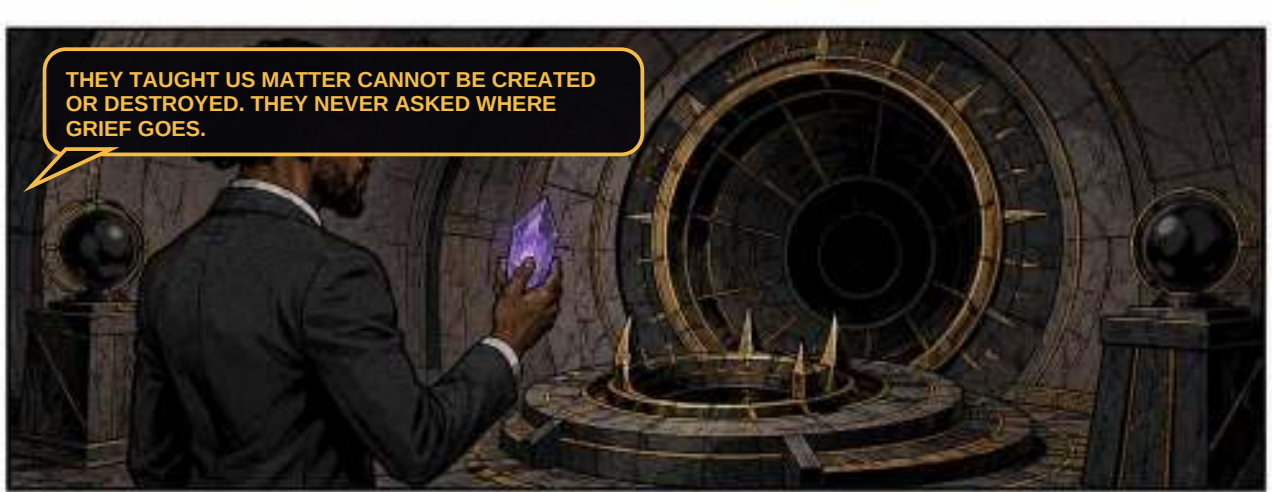


NO. I REMOVED THE LIMITS YOU MISTOOK FOR VIRTUE.



YOU DID NOT MAKE US.

ARGUE LATER. HE IS BENEATH THE GRID.



THEY TAUGHT US MATTER CANNOT BE CREATED
OR DESTROYED. THEY NEVER ASKED WHERE
GRIEF GOES.



IT BECOMES PRESSURE.



PRESSURE BECOMES POWER.



AND POWER BELONGS TO THE HAND WILLING TO
HOLD IT.



THE WORLD WASTES TWILIGHT EVERY DAY. I WILL TEACH IT TO REMAIN.



THE SUN IS NOT MOVING.

NEITHER IS THE FOLD. HE PINNED BOTH WORLDS TOGETHER.



EVERY LIFE BELOW...

IS THE FUEL.



WHY AM I SO TIRED?



BATTERY IS DEAD. BRAKES TOO!



CLEAR THE CROSSING!



ARE THE HEROES COMING?



THEY ARE. UNTIL THEN, WE ARE WHAT THIS CITY HAS. MOVE EAST. NOBODY DISAPPEARS ALONE.



HE IS RIGHT THERE.



AND THEY ARE HERE.



IF HE VANISHES, THIS HAPPENS AGAIN.

IF YOU CHASE HIM, IT DOES NOT HAVE TO.



I SPENT A YEAR CHOOSING THE MACHINE OVER THE PERSON. NOT AGAIN.



EYES ON ME. WALK, DO NOT RUN.



BRIDGE WEIGHT TRANSFERRED. I NEED THIRTY SECONDS.



YOU HAVE TWENTY AND SEVERAL HUNDRED WITNESSES.



I KNEW YOU BEFORE THE LIGHTNING.

YOU KNEW?

READY?

THIS TIME, YES.



THE GRID EXPECTS ONE CURRENT. GIVE IT TWO,
AND THE CORE HAS TO CHOOSE.

IT CHOOSES THE FOLD. SO DO I.



YOUR LIFE IS NOT THE PRICE OF MY MISTAKE.

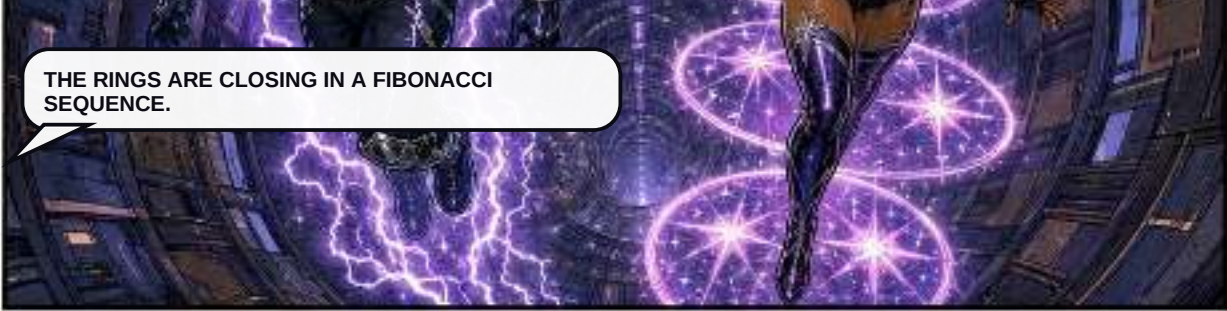


THEN STOP MAKING THE DECISION FOR ME.



WE END THE GRID, NOT EACH OTHER.

BOTH OF YOU COME BACK.



THE RINGS ARE CLOSING IN A FIBONACCI SEQUENCE.



OF COURSE HIS DEATH TRAP HAS BRANDING.



MOCKERY IS WHAT SMALL MINDS CALL SCALE.



PATH IS OPEN.



THEN LET US RUIN HIS LEGACY.



I THOUGHT THIS MACHINE COULD MAKE THE LOSS USEFUL.



LOSS IS NOT RAW MATERIAL, MALIK.



THEN LET IT BE LOSS.



AND LET US BE ALIVE.

GOODBYE, AURORA.



TOGETHER.

8:07 P.M. NIGHT, AT LAST.

WHEN THE LIGHT PULLED ME BACK, YOU LET GO OF THE GRID.

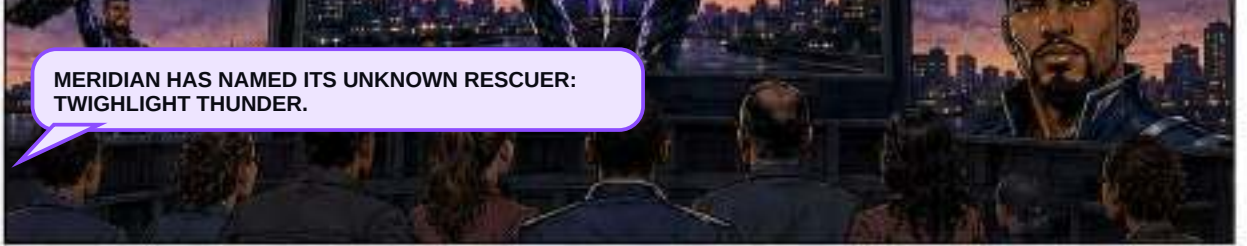
IT WAS NEVER WORTH MORE THAN YOU.

BEAUTIFUL. REPEAT IT WHERE A CAMERA CAN HEAR.

ABSOLUTELY NOT.

NEXT INVENTION GETS CORNERS.

MALIK SAVED THE CITY BY REFUSING TO SAVE HIS DREAM.



MERIDIAN HAS NAMED ITS UNKNOWN RESCUER:
TWILIGHT THUNDER.



NAMES ARE NOT IDENTITIES. WHOEVER HE IS, HE
BELONGS TO HIMSELF.



FOLD SENSOR. LESS EXPLOSIVE. MORE
JUDGMENTAL.

SO IT TAKES AFTER YOU.



THE SIGNAL IS NOT CALLING FROM THE FOLD.

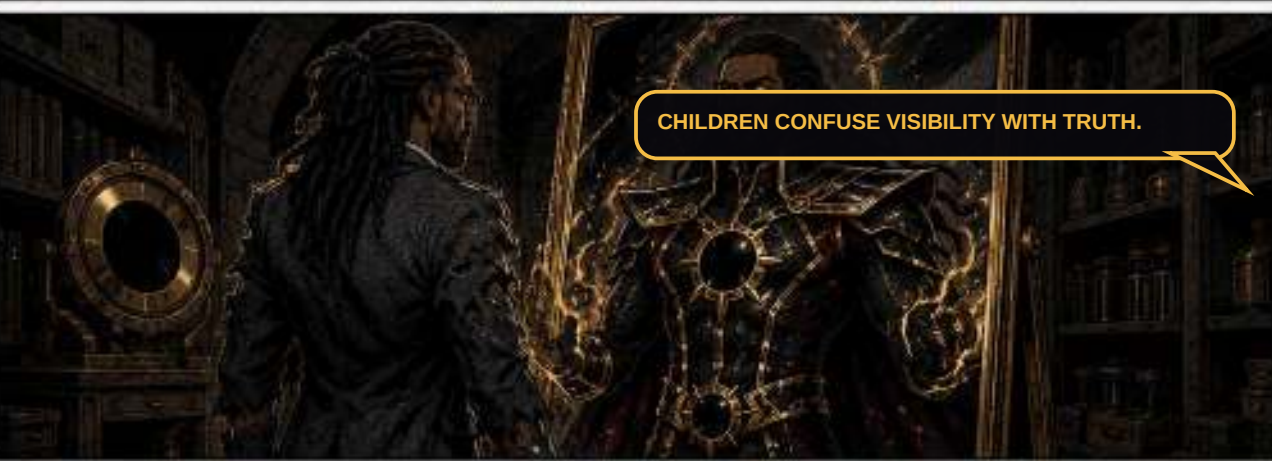
WHERE IS IT CALLING FROM?



TOMORROW.

A man in a dark suit and tie stands in a dimly lit room with bookshelves. He holds a glowing, dark sphere in his outstretched hand. Another man, seen from the back, is partially visible on the left.

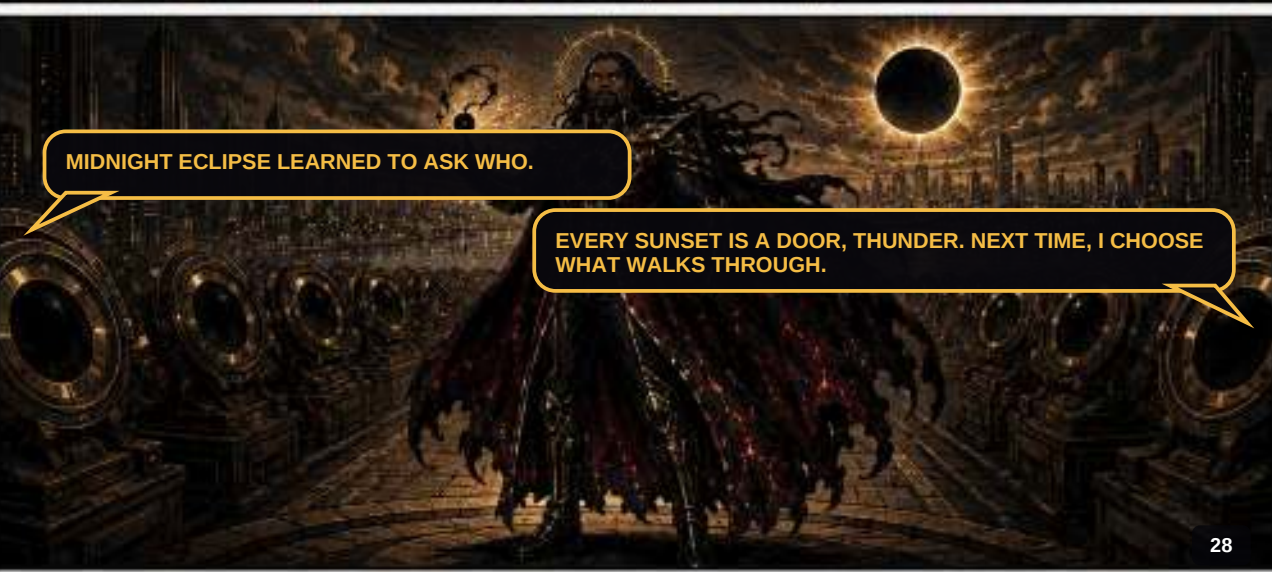
THEY BELIEVE NIGHT RETURNED BECAUSE THE STARS ARE VISIBLE.

A man in ornate, dark armor with glowing golden patterns and a dark sphere on his chest. He has a halo-like glow around his head. He stands in the same room as the first panel, facing the man in the suit.

CHILDREN CONFUSE VISIBILITY WITH TRUTH.

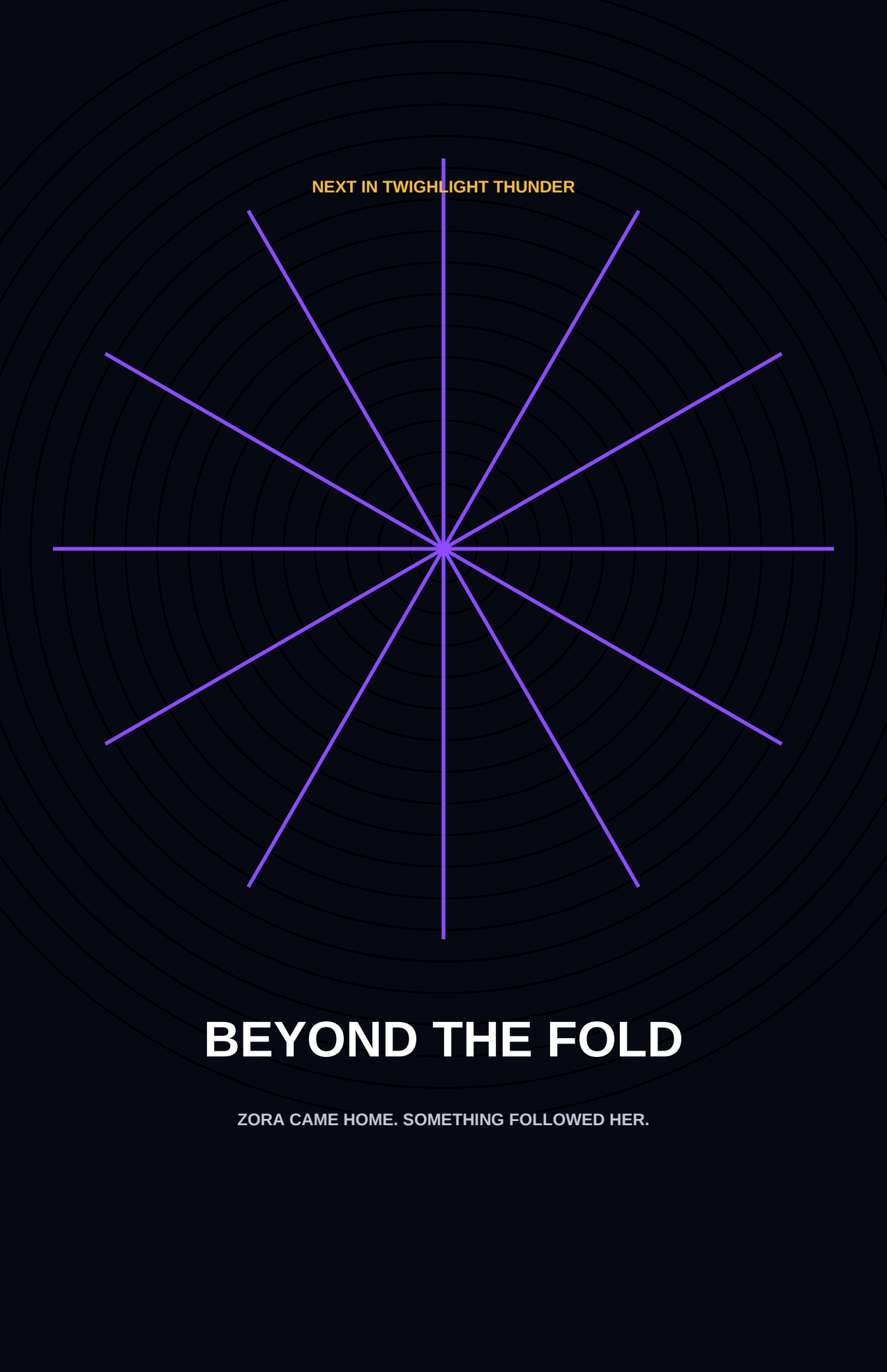
A man in ornate, dark armor with glowing golden patterns and a dark sphere on his chest. He has a halo-like glow around his head. He stands in the same room as the first panel, facing the man in the suit.

AMARI VOSS ASKED WHAT LAY BEYOND THE FOLD.

A man in ornate, dark armor with glowing golden patterns and a dark sphere on his chest. He has a halo-like glow around his head. He stands in the same room as the first panel, facing the man in the suit.

MIDNIGHT ECLIPSE LEARNED TO ASK WHO.

EVERY SUNSET IS A DOOR, THUNDER. NEXT TIME, I CHOOSE WHAT WALKS THROUGH.



NEXT IN TWILIGHT THUNDER

BEYOND THE FOLD

ZORA CAME HOME. SOMETHING FOLLOWED HER.



EVERY WORLD HOLDS AN ICON.

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