

"YOU WERE *DEAD*, JOE. YOUR BODY *DIED* BACK IN THE WAKING WORLD.

"THE REST OF YOU BECAME A *SHADE*, MADE UP OF WHATEVER TRACES OF YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS AND RESIDUAL MEMORIES WERE CAUGHT ON THIS SIDE OF THE LINE."



NO, THAT'S... THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE, I --



WHAT?

THE ENHANCED DREAMER WHO CAME IN HERE AND STARTED TEARING UP THE DREAMSCAPE --




I HAVE THE KEYS TO THE UNIVERSE!


"-- THE ONE BLEW OUT HIS BODY BACK IN THE WAKING WORLD."




DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT HE SAID WHEN WHAT WAS LEFT OF HIM BECAME A SHADE?




...I KNOW YOU, I... CAN SEE YOU, I...




THE WAY HE SAID IT, THE WAY HE LOOKED AT ME... I ALWAYS FELT THERE WAS SOMETHING MORE TO IT.




PROBABLY BOUNCED AGAINST THE PART OF YOU THAT HAD BEEN WHERE HE WAS.




NO, WAIT, HANG ON A MINUTE --



-- WHEN A DREAMER DIES IN THE WAKING WORLD AND WHAT'S LEFT OF HIM BECOMES A SHADE, THERE'S NO COMING BACK FROM THAT. NO ONE HAS EVER BEEN PUT BACK TOGETHER AGAIN, *NOBODY*.



THAT'S RIGHT, FRANK. *NOBODY* EVER DID, NOT IN THE WHOLE HISTORY OF THE DREAMSCAPE.



EXCEPT HIM. HE'S THE *ONLY* ONE EVER GOT BROUGHT BACK.

IF A DREAM POLICE BREAKS THE RULES, OR ONE OF THE DREAMS OF THE MAD GET OUT OF CONTROL, WE SEND THEM INTO THE DARK FOR ALL TIME.

BUT AS YOU KNOW, WHEN SOMEONE BECOMES A SHADE THROUGH NO FAULT OF THEIR OWN, WE CAN'T DO THAT, CAN'T HURT THEM LIKE THAT.

"WE LEAVE THEM BE...AS THEY SPEND CYCLE AFTER CYCLE, YEAR AFTER YEAR, WANDERING THE EDGES OF THE DREAMSCAPE, LOOKING FOR A WAY OUT.

"TRYING TO FIND THEIR WAY HOME AGAIN. JUST LIKE JOE."

...MARY...MARY, I CAN'T... I CAN'T HEAR YOU...WHERE DID YOU...MARY...?

"SOMETIMES HE'D WANDER INTO THE HEART OF THE 'SCAPE, LOST, SEARCHING."

...I CAN'T FIND...CAN YOU HELP, I... I CAN'T FIND MARY, CAN YOU...CAN YOU HELP ME FIND HER...?

...CAN YOU HELP ME...PLEASE...?

I JUST...I JUST WANT TO GO HOME...

"FINALLY, I COULDN'T TAKE IT ANY MORE.