

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON.  
TWENTY-SEVEN MONTHS AFTER THE EVENT.

"THIS DOESN'T  
FEEL LIKE VICTORY.

"SURE, WE SAVED  
THE WORLD.

"BUT WAS THE  
CURE WORSE  
THAN THE  
DISEASE?"





"HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN TO THEM THAT THIS LIFE IS BETTER THAN THE ONE THEY WOULD HAVE HAD IF WE'D LOST? THAT WINNING MEANS SIMPLY SURVIVING?"



IS THIS ALL THERE IS?

'FRAID SO, CAROL. PICKINGS HAVE BEEN THIN LATELY, AND WITH THE WEATHER CLOSING IN, IT'S RISKY TO GO TOO FAR OUT.



WE'LL TRY AGAIN, BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH THERE IS LEFT TO SCAVENGE. THE CUPBOARD'S PRETTY BARE.



HERE, TAKE MINE, FOR THE CHILD.

OH, I... I COULDN'T.

PLEASE, I HAVE EATEN ENOUGH MEALS TO LAST ME A LIFETIME. MISSING ONE MORE WILL NOT HURT.



IT'S OKAY. I'LL SHARE WITH MY GRANDFATHER. HE EATS LIKE A BIRD ANYWAY.

MY NAME'S KIM, BY THE WAY, KIM WU.



MAYBE WE SHOULD THINK ABOUT MOVING OUT OF THE CITY?

WHERE? WE'VE GOT SHELTER HERE AND WE KNOW THERE ARE MARAUDERS OUT THERE.

OR WORSE!



AGAIN WITH THIS, REALLY?

HOW CAN YOU NOT ADMIT WHAT YOU SAW? IT WAS ON TV, THE INTERNET! IT WAS ALL OVER THE WORLD!

THERE WERE ACTUAL MONSTERS AND SUPER-HEROES! IT WAS LIKE A GODDAMN MOVIE! EXCEPT THE DEATHS WERE REAL!



HEY, CHARLIE, MAN, WATCH IT! WE'VE GOT KIDS HERE. YOU'RE SCARIN' 'EM.




I'M NOT SCARED. I WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. WHY IS IT LIKE THIS?


WHY?



BECAUSE THERE WAS A WAR UNLIKE ANY OTHER.



"THE SHADOW LORD, THE MAD DEMIGOD GARGOS, SEALED IN THE ASTRAL PLANE BY THE GUARDIANS, HAD LONG VIEWED THIS WORLD WITH HUNGRY EYES.



"THROUGH THE POWER OF HIS MIND ALONE, HE BREACHED THE DIVIDE AND ENGAGED AVATARS AND ACOLYTES TO SEEK WAYS TO GIVE HIM EGRESS.



BUT SOMETHING IS NOT RIGHT. THE WORLD IS BROKEN. IT SICKENS INSTEAD OF HEALING. ITS LIGHT AND LIFE IS BEING DIMINISHED.



"THE GATEWAY BETWEEN THE WORLDS WAS BREACHED AND GARGOS CAME TO CLAIM DOMINION OVER THE EARTH."

"BUT HIS TRIUMPH WAS SHORT-LIVED. THE EARTH WAS DEFENDED. GARGOS WAS DESTROYED, HIS FORCES ROUTED AND SCATTERED."



OKAY THEN, THAT WASN'T WEIRD IN THE SLIGHTEST.



WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

TELLING THEM THE TRUTH, IS THAT SO WRONG?

THERE'S A TIME AND PLACE, THIS ISN'T IT.