



VALIANT

#4



**THE TRUE
ORIGIN OF RAI!**

**MATT KINDT
CLAYTON CRAIN**



MATT KINDT | CLAYTON CRAIN



VALIANT

#4

TRAI

靈



VALIANT
FIRST



VALIANT

RAI

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The story so far...



The year is 4001—Japan is a Utopia. For two thousand years, construction rose higher and higher; and when the sky was no longer enough, the island nation—now an airtight, high-tech, self-sustaining ecosystem—detached itself from Earth entirely, and entered orbit three hundred miles above the planet. Under the benevolent eye of Japan’s enigmatic leader, an unseen authority called Father, the docile citizens of Japan live with PT’s—Positronic A.I. companions. There is no war, no want...and there hasn’t been a murder in a thousand years.

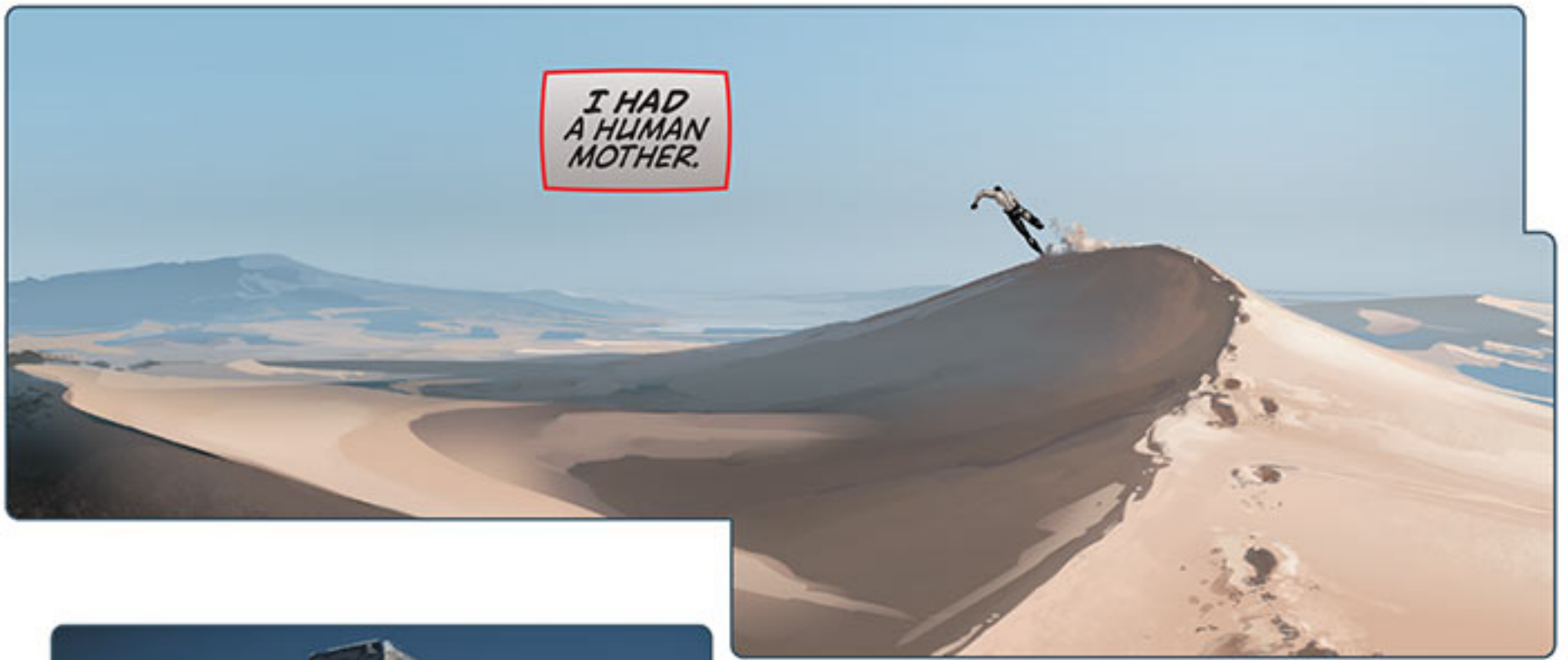
Until now.

For Japan is not without unrest. Disgruntled revolutionaries called Raddies oppose Father and any technology whatsoever—and two Raddies have just conspicuously disposed of a woman’s body. For such a major crime, Father dispatched his legendary champion—the living weapon called Rai, built by Father to defend Japan. Some people say he doesn’t exist—that he’s a story made up by Father to keep the people of Japan docile. But those days of tranquility are over. Investigating the apparent murder led Rai to Doctor Silk, a centuries-old scientist and inventor who helped build Japan

itself, and to a man named Spylocke...the real-life version of Japan’s most famous fictional secret agent. Both men seem to know more about Rai—and his relationship to Father—than Rai does himself.

During his investigation, Rai befriended Lula Lee, a teenager from the sector where the body was found. Lula dreams of traveling up the entire height of Japan, and has collected stories and information about the different levels for years. But when Lula pieced information together and discovers Rai’s unknown true nature, she was nabbed by Spylocke. As Rai went to confront Silk, Spylocke—with Lula in tow—watched from a neighboring rooftop... through the scope of a sniper rifle.

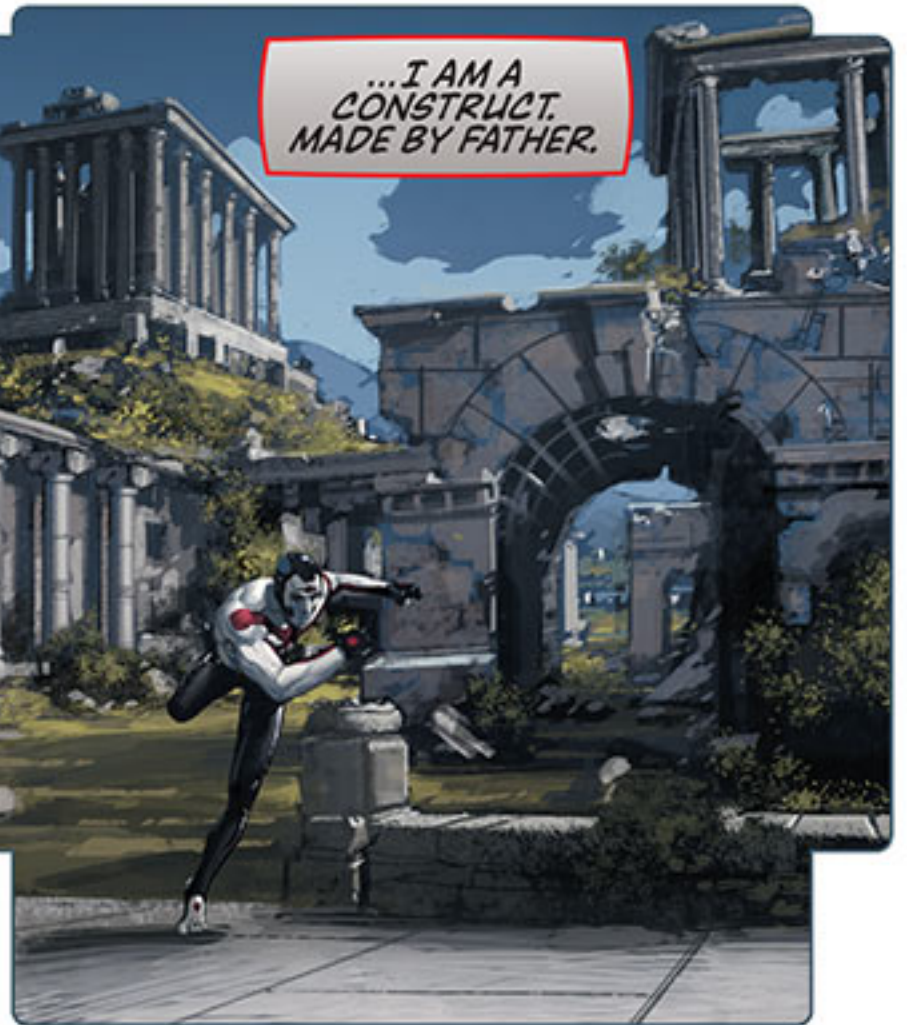
It was Silk who finally led Rai to the truth: he wasn’t the first Rai. And like the others before him, Rai was not merely built by Father...he was born to a human mother. Silk claims he and the Raddies tried to rescue her from Father, who kept her imprisoned and experimented on her. But they failed to save her, and now Rai’s mother is dead—the woman whose death Rai was investigating all along. And when each Rai before him learned the truth...he snapped.



**I HAD
A HUMAN
MOTHER.**



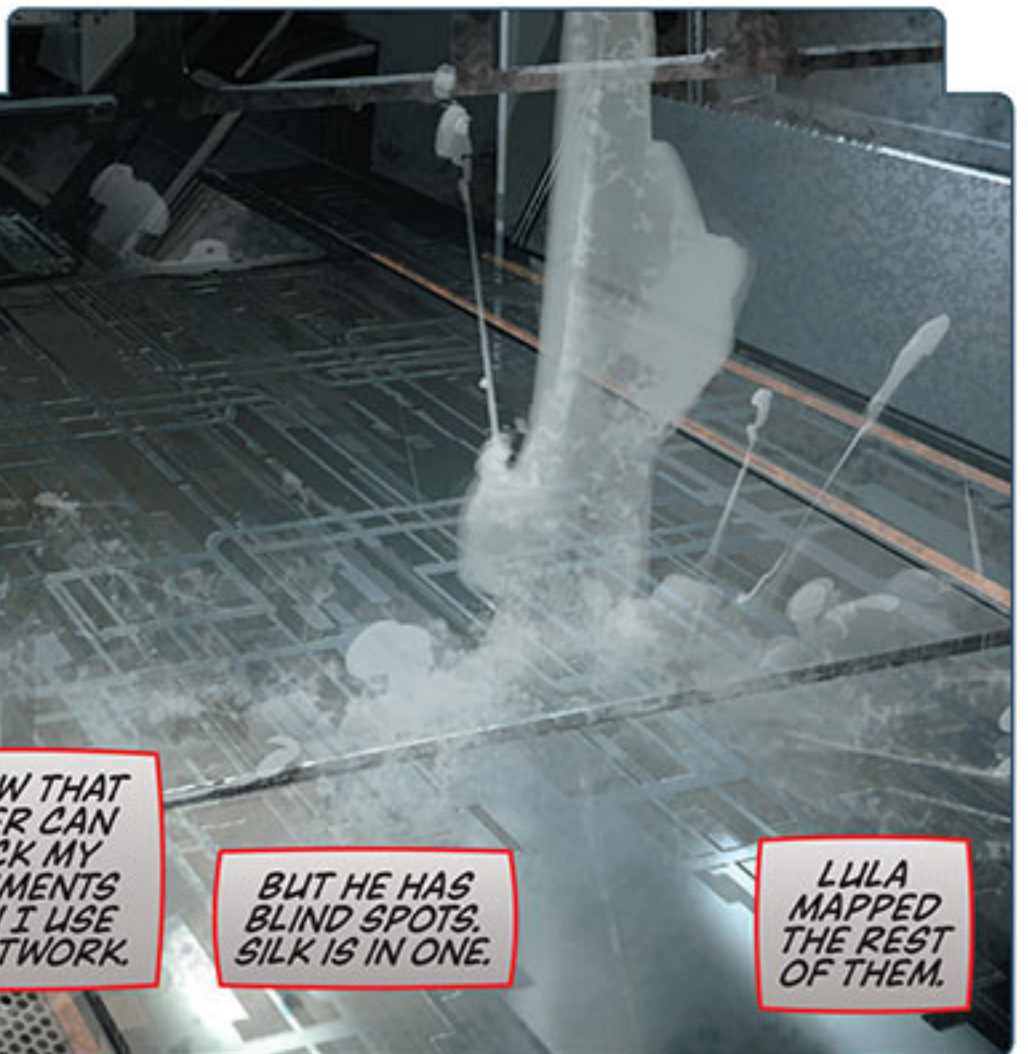
**WHAT AM I?
I AM JAPAN.
I AM...**



**...I AM A
CONSTRUCT.
MADE BY FATHER.**



**IS FATHER
REAL?**



**I KNOW THAT
FATHER CAN
TRACK MY
MOVEMENTS
WHEN I USE
HIS NETWORK.**

**BUT HE HAS
BLIND SPOTS.
SILK IS IN ONE.**

**LULA
MAPPED
THE REST
OF THEM.**



FOR THE FIRST TIME...
I'M AFRAID.



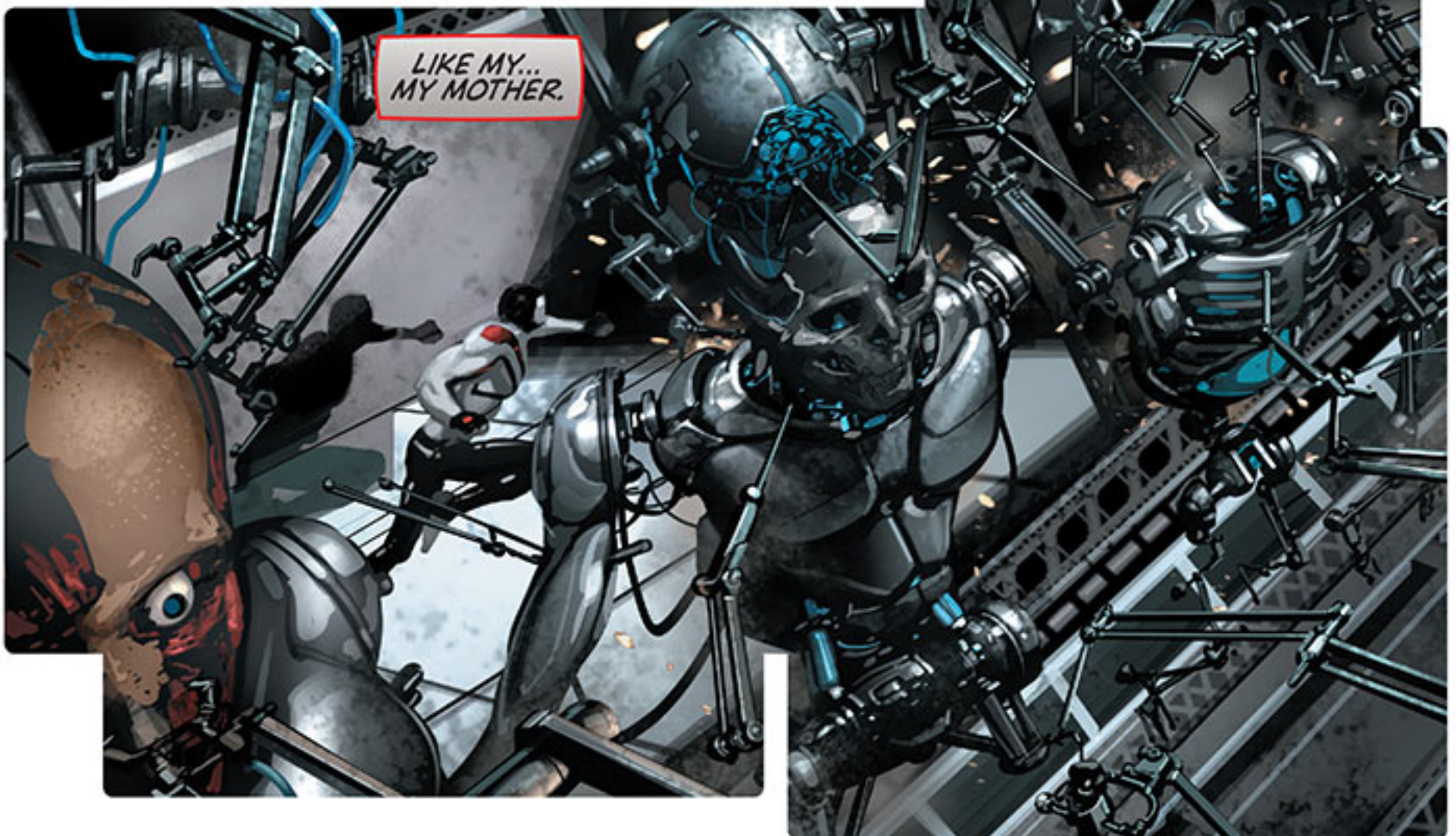
AFRAID OF
FATHER.

AFRAID OF
JAPAN.

I'M AFRAID IF I GO
INTO THE NETWORK...
FATHER WON'T LET ME
COME OUT AGAIN.

I'M AFRAID.
AFRAID OF...

I'M AFRAID
OF DYING.



LIKE MY...
MY MOTHER.



I'M AFRAID OF
TURNING INTO
NOTHINGNESS...



OF NOT
EXISTING.



I'VE NEVER SEEN
YOU, FATHER. I'VE
NEVER LITERALLY
HEARD YOUR
VOICE.

BUT A CHILD'S
MAP HAS SHOWN
ME THE WAY.

THERE ARE GAPS IN
MY KNOWLEDGE OF
THE GEOGRAPHY
OF JAPAN.

THE GAPS YOU'VE
LEFT IN MY
KNOWLEDGE ARE
THE PATH.



THE BLIND SPOTS
HAVE BECOME
BEACONS.

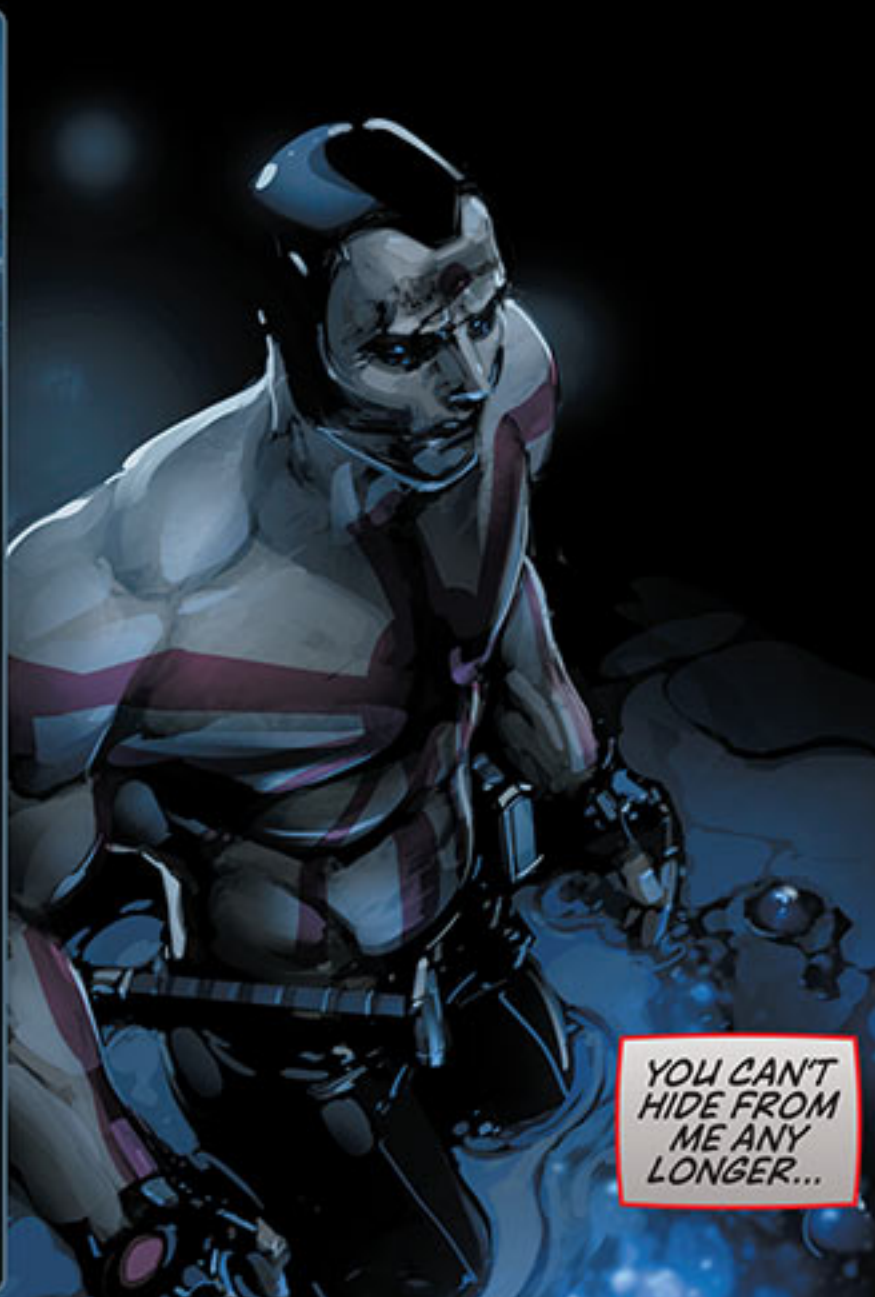


I KNOW WHERE YOU ARE, FATHER.
AND YOU WON'T SEE ME COMING.
NOT UNTIL I WANT YOU TO.



THIS IS IT.

I'VE FOUND YOU. YOU ARE
NOTHING... NOTHING BUT
A POOL OF LIVEWIRE...



YOU CAN'T
HIDE FROM
ME ANY
LONGER...



...FATHER.