





These are the memories you keep in a special place.



Camouflaged at the bottom of a trash can where no one will look—ready to be purged and forgotten at a moment's notice. But accessible when you need them.



Your brother is a fool. Easily manipulated. Easily practiced on. And you practice many things...many times.




Julianne! What are you doing?!

Your father is not a fool. He is a brutal authoritarian who has never understood you. You'll never be free of him. Your only choice is to...


ESCAPE

FROM NOVA ZEMBLA







You run away from home. Leaving your brother to suffer alone. You hate your father, and your mother turns a blind eye to your father's abuse.




In some ways that makes her worse than him. You feel a twinge of guilt as you realize that your brother is simply another weapon you use against your father.



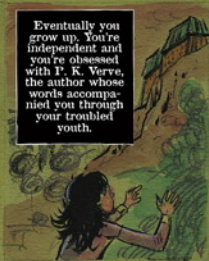
You turn to fantasy to help forget your reality. Stories become your escape.




Your father is more than happy to send you off to an experimental private school: Mind Management. He has no idea what it is or who runs it. And he doesn't care.



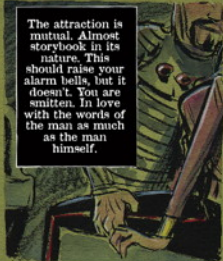
You don't last long. You cause trouble and they will kick you out if you don't run away first.



Eventually you grow up. You're independent and you're obsessed with P. K. Verve, the author whose words accompanied you through your troubled youth.



You finally arrange a meeting with Verve, not sure what to expect. Will he think you're crazy? Will you just blend in with the rest of his many fans?



The attraction is mutual. Almost storybook in its nature. This should raise your alarm bells, but it doesn't. You are smitten. In love with the words of the man as much as the man himself.

In the ultimate irony—or is it coincidence—Verve explains to you that he works for a clandestine government agency called Mind Management.

He explains that Mind Management has not given up on you. You have been under hypnotic preparation for years. Your potential is off the charts.

He is your husband and your instructor. You become disillusioned. Was his love for you real? Was this all part of a plan? Part of your training?

You proceed with the training, all the time questioning your marriage to Verve, and your grasp on reality...

...becomes strained...

Find your target's belief...find their faith in something simple...like the floor beneath their feet.

And wipe it away.

You try to put the doubts out of your mind.

Doubts about Verve's true intentions. Doubts about his true feelings for you. While you're unsure of the ground on which you stand...

You've always been good about forgetting.

Excellent, Julianne. Excellent.

You begin to trust that ground beneath your feet when the children are born. Tangible evidence of your relationship.



Their existence makes everything feel honest. Real. Normal. And for the first time since you can remember, you aren't angry at your father.



And then Verve's duplicitous nature brings everything crashing down.




You put all of those doubts out of your mind...but you begin to realize those doubts...




...might have been taken out of your mind for you.






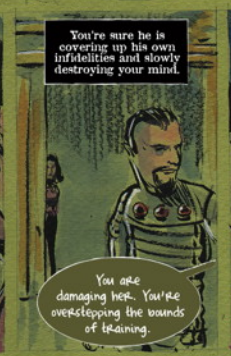
Verve is prepping you to be an Eraser. He is ideally suited to this task because Verve is an Eraser himself. He is one of the best.



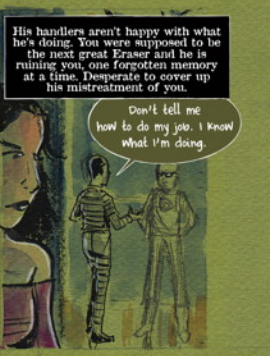
I told you it was too dangerous for you to go walking in the sentient gardens alone, Julianne.



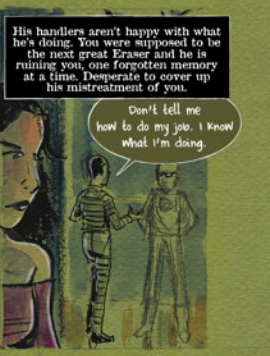
But Verve's relationship with you becomes complicated. You're sure he is abusive, although you can only guess based on telltale signs and circumstantial evidence.



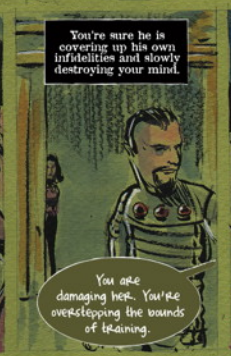
You're sure he is covering up his own infidelities and slowly destroying your mind.




His handlers aren't happy with what he's doing. You were supposed to be the next great Eraser and he is ruining you, one forgotten memory at a time. Desperate to cover up his mistreatment of you.



Don't tell me how to do my job. I know what I'm doing.




You are damaging her. You're overstepping the bounds of training.




You remember him arguing with his superiors. Trying to cover up the damage he is doing.



I'll train her as I please!



Verve is given an ultimatum. He has to stop erasing your memories...or...



You'll be forced into retirement if you don't do what you're told...