

FIGHT NIGHT. ONE LAST FIGHT.

AVALON 'ATLAS' REVULARY — MAIN EVENT, FIVE MINUTES! LAST FIGHT ON YOUR CONTRACT, CHAMP.

CROWD ROAR

HEARD THAT FOR NINE YEARS, LUIS. TAPE TIGHT, ENERGY STEADY.

RRRIP

I ONLY SHIFT WHAT I'VE TRAINED TO HOLD — NO SHORTCUTS.

DON'T BLOW IT TONIGHT. THAT'S HER — ELENA WARD. LOCKDOWN.

SHE BUILDS THE CAGES, ATLAS — HER FIELDS, HER RULES.

IF SHE CAME HERSELF, THIS ISN'T ABOUT THE PURSE ANYMORE.

THEN SHE WATCHES ME WIN. NO TRICKS, NO SHAPES, NOTHING FOR HER SCREENS TO KEEP.

KZZT — MONITOR HUM

LET HER WATCH. THIS LAST FIGHT, I GO OUT IN MY OWN FORM.

NOBODY ELSE'S. RING THE BELL, LUIS.

THUMP

PRELIM THREE. BETWEEN ROUNDS.

EYES ON ME, JOSS. IN — TWO, THREE. OUT — TWO, THREE. AGAIN, DON'T RUSH IT.

DING-DING — DISTANT BELL, CROWD MURMUR

THIRTY SECONDS LEFT.

PUPIL'S SLOW. RIB'S CRACKED, MAYBE TWO. HE DOESN'T GO BACK OUT.

CLIC

THE BOOKERS CAN WAIT.

PLEASE. IF I QUIT, THE BOOKERS CUT ME.

IF YOU DON'T, I MIGHT BE COUNTING BREATHS THAT STOP. CHOOSE LIVING, JOSS.

IN... OUT... —

NO ARGUMENT. NO DELAY.

THAT'S IT. I'M CALLING IT — MEDIC'S CALL.

YOU JUST COST ME A FORTUNE.

GOOD. SPEND THE SAVINGS ON BREATHING.

WHISTLE — REFEREE HALTS BOUT

NIA'S CORNER, WIN OR LOSE.

YOU COUNT EVERYBODY'S BREATHS LIKE THAT?

ONLY THE ONES LYING ABOUT THEM. THAT INCLUDES YOU, ATLAS.

THEN KEEP COUNTING TONIGHT.

CRACKLE — ICE PACK

THAT NIGHT — THE MAIN BOUT.

MAIN EVENT, HUH? BREATHE WHILE YOU CAN, ATLAS. WHEN I LOCK IN, EVERYBODY QUITS.

EVERYBODY? NIA, YOU COUNTING HIS EGO TOO?

DING! DING!

THERE IT IS. NICE AND TIGHT.

YEAH... REAL... COZY...

ATLAS — IN, TWO, THREE — YOU'RE LYING AGAIN. SLOW IT DOWN.

FOUR — WAIT. YOUR BREATH JUST CHANGED.

DIDN'T. SLIPPED.

WHAT —? NOBODY SLIPS THAT.

FSS— SLIP

YOU BENT. I FELT YOUR JAW BEND.

OOOH!

YOU FELT SWEAT, MAN. I'M SLIPPERY, NOT SPECIAL.

GRAB YOU AGAIN, I'LL FEEL IT TWICE.

THEN HOLD YOUR BREATH, FRIEND. NIA — STILL COUNTING?

STILL COUNTING. YOU'RE STILL HERE.

THE BOOTH — ABOVE THE FLOOR.

ELENA

BOOTH REPLAY, ATLAS. WARD HERE — LOCKDOWN, SAME WOMAN. WATCH YOUR JAW IN FRAME TWELVE.

I LIVED IT, ELENA. IT WASN'T GRACEFUL THE FIRST TIME.

VRRRP — REWIND

THE HEX FIELD HOLDS — FOR NOW.

SEALED. WHOEVER WANTS THIS BOOTH COMES THROUGH MY FIELD. AND MY FIELDS COST ME AIR.

COUNT'S STILL GOING, ATLAS. SO ARE WE.

THOOM — FIELD HOLDS

REPLAY — MINUS TWO SECONDS.

SEE IT? TWO SECONDS. YOUR JAW NARROWS, THE CHOKE SLIDES OFF.

NO TRICK OF SWEAT DOES THAT. WE KNOW IT.

CAMERAS LIE, WARD.

ASK ANYONE.

TICK — FRAME HOLD

THE DOOR LIGHT TURNS RED.

DOOR — SOMEONE'S TESTING IT. GLOVE UP, BOOTH'S MINE.

HEX FIELD, SEAL IT. MY CAGE, MY TERMS. I HOLD IT WHILE MY AIR LASTS.

WHMMM — HEX SEAL

HIS FORM STARTS TO SLIP.

ARM STILL WON'T FINISH THE SHIFT, ELENA.

I CONVERT ONLY WHAT I'VE TRAINED TO HOLD.

THEN DON'T FORCE IT BIGGER. STAY SMALL, STAY YOU.

CRACKLE — FZZT

THE MAIN DOORS.

DOORS — CHECK THE DOORS! SOMETHING'S SEALING THE HALL!

HEX LIGHT. THAT'S HER. EVERYBODY STAY CALM, STAY WHERE YOU ARE.

WHMMM — HEX SEAL

MAIN DOORS ARE SHUT, ATLAS. SIDE DOORS TOO.

THAT FIELD'S ACROSS EVERY EXIT I CAN SEE. IT DOES NOT GIVE.

BZZT — FIELD HU

THEN NOBODY RUNS. PANIC BREAKS MORE RIBS THAN FISTS DO.

YOU HEARD HER. CORNERS STAY TOGETHER. NOBODY CLIMBS, NOBODY PUSHES.

CONTAINMENT WHITE.

ELENA

GOOD EVENING. THIS ARENA IS NOW CONTAINED.

ELENA

REMAIN SEATED, REMAIN ORDERLY. NO ONE WILL BE HURT DISCOVERING WHY.

CLACK — HOUSE LIGHTS

YOU LOCKED A CROWD IN WITH A FIGHT, WARD.

I LOCKED A QUESTION IN WITH ITS ANSWER, MR. REVULARY.

THE CAGE OFFICE.

ATLAS — THE STRONGBOX. LOOK AT THE CAGE OFFICE.

I SEE IT. HEX BARS. SHE'S GOT THE WHOLE NIGHT'S PURSE SEALED.

WHMMM — FIELD HUM

ELENA

THE PURSE STAYS EXACTLY WHERE IT IS. UNTOUCHED, UNCLAIMED.

THAT'S YOUR DOOR OUT, CHAMP. LAST CONTRACT, CLEAN MONEY, GONE IF SHE KEEPS IT.

DON'T. I KNOW WHAT IT IS.

YOU'RE STARING, ATLAS.

COUNTING WHAT IT COSTS TO STARE TOO LONG. EYES UP. PEOPLE FIRST, PURSE LATER.

LOCKDOWN'S OFFER.

ELENA

I WILL MAKE THIS SIMPLE, AND SAY IT ONCE.

ELENA

NAME THE SHIFTER AMONG YOU, AND THE DOORS OPEN.

YOU'RE ASKING STRANGERS TO POINT AT NEIGHBOURS, WARD.

I AM ASKING THIS ROOM TO TRADE ONE SECRET FOR EVERYONE'S SAFETY.

ELENA

NAME HIM, AND YOU WALK. THE PURSE WALKS TOO — EVERY CONTRACT PAID, EVERY CORNER CLEARED.

SHE'S TURNING THE ROOM INTO A SEARCH PARTY.

MURMUR —

ROOMS TURN FAST WHEN THE DOOR'S LOCKED. WATCH THE EDGES, NIA.

ELENA

TAKE YOUR TIME. MY FIELDS ARE PATIENT.

SOMEONE HERE KNOWS SOMETHING!

AND THERE IT GOES.

THE WRONG MAN.

HIM! THE PRELIM KID — HIS HANDS WERE SHAKING WEIRD!

WHAT? NO — MY HANDS ALWAYS — PLEASE, I JUST GOT HIT.

STAY BACK FROM US, KID.

I DIDN'T SHIFT ANYTHING. I GOT CARRIED OUT. NIA CARRIED ME OUT, ASK HER!

HE'S CONCUSSED, NOT CHANGING. LOOK AT HIS EYES, NOT HIS HANDS.

CONVENIENT YOU'D SAY THAT, CHAMP.

TELL THEM, ATLAS. YOU SAW ME. I COULDN'T EVEN STAND.

I SAW YOU. HOLD ON TO THAT. I'M COMING.

ATLAS — THEY'RE CIRCLING HIM.

THEN THE ROOM JUST MADE ITS CHOICE. I WON'T MAKE THE SAME ONE.

MURMUR — RISING

NIA STEPS IN.

BACK UP. ALL OF YOU. THIS BOY IS UNDER MY CARE.

MY CORNER IS NOT A COURTROOM.

HE'S HIDING SOMETHING!

HE'S HIDING A HEADACHE AND TWO CRACKED RIBS. YOU WANT A MONSTER, FIND A MIRROR.

NIA, YOU DON'T HAVE TO —

IN... OUT..

QUIET. BREATHING FIRST, PRIDE LATER. IN — TWO, THREE. I'VE GOT YOU, JOSS.

SHE SAID BACK UP.

DON'T HELP BY LOOMING, ATLAS. STAND NORMAL. NORMAL IS THE WHOLE POINT HERE.

ELENA

TOUCHING. THE MEDIC SHIELDS THE SUSPECT.

CALL HIM A PATIENT, WARD. WORDS MATTER WHEN ROOMS GET UGLY.

KZZT — SPEAKERS

THE CORNER, CAGED.

ELENA

STEP AWAY FROM A PATIENT? NOT IN THIS LIFE, WARD.

STEP AWAY FROM THE BOY, MEDIC.

WHMMM — HEX WALL

SOLID AS GLASS, AND TWICE AS COLD.

BZZT — FIELD HU

NIA — THE AIR FEELS THIN IN HERE. IS IT SUPPOSED TO FEEL THIN?

THE AIR IS FINE, JOSS. YOUR RIBS ARE LYING TO YOU.

IN... OUT...

IN — TWO, THREE. OUT — TWO, THREE. STAY WITH ME.

YOU CAGED A MEDIC AND A HURT KID, WARD.

I CAGED THE ROOM'S EXCUSE. NOW NOBODY HIDES BEHIND MERCY.

HEAR THIS, WARD. A CAGE AROUND MY CORNER CHANGES NOTHING.

SHE'S RIGHT. YOU JUST GAVE EVERYONE A WALL TO WATCH.

THE WAGER.

ENOUGH, WARD. STOP BILLING STRANGERS FOR MY SECRET.

CAREFUL, MR. REVULARY. CONFESSIONS CARRY IN A QUIET ROOM.

ONE ROUND. YOUR CAGE AGAINST ME, NOBODY ELSE. IF IT HOLDS ME, TAKE ME.

AND IF IT DOES NOT HOLD YOU?

I TOUCH THE FAR MESH, THEY ALL WALK. EVERY DOOR OPENS, EVERY CORNER CLEARS.

ATLAS — DON'T TRADE YOURSELF FOR A ROOM.

THAT'S YOUR FREEDOM ON THE TABLE, CHAMP. YOURS.

IT STOPPED BEING MINE WHEN SHE CAGED A KID, LUIS.

NO MORE WRONG MEN, WARD. NO MORE CORNERS. YOU WANTED THE SHIFTER?

I WANTED HONESTY. CONTINUE, MR. REVULARY.

THE WAGER ACCEPTED.

ELENA

AND THEIR FREEDOM ON MY TOUCH. SAY THAT PART ALOUD, WARD.

ACCEPTED. ONE ROUND, MY CAGE, YOUR WORD.

HE TOUCHES THE FAR MESH, THIS ROOM WALKS.

WHMMM — POST

HEARD BY EVERYONE! THE CHAMP TOUCHES FAR MESH, WE WALK!

TERMS HEARD, WARD. NO NEW CAGES MID-ROUND.

SHE HEARD YOU, NIA. EVERYBODY HEARD HER. THAT HAS TO COUNT.

WIN IT BORING, CHAMP. FEET, GUARD, PATIENCE.

FEET, GUARD, PATIENCE. AND SOMEBODY KEEP COUNTING MY BREATHS TONIGHT.

ONE CAUTION, MR. REVULARY. MY CAGE HAS NEVER BEEN TOUCHED FROM INSIDE.

THEN TONIGHT IT LEARNS SOMETHING NEW, WARD.

DING — SINGLE BELL

THE ROUND — WALLS.

MIND THE WALLS, MR. REVULARY. THEY ONLY MOVE ONE WAY.

SO DO I, WARD. MINE'S JUST QUIETER ABOUT IT.

WHMMM — WALLS RISE

THAT'S IT — PIVOT, DON'T PUSH! HANDS OFF THE LIGHT!

SKRR — BOOTS

HANDS OFF, FEET HONEST. SHE WANTS A SHAPE. SHE GETS FOOTWORK.

NO. NOT YET. A JAW TRICK BUYS ME TWO SECONDS.

THEN BREATHE, ATLAS. IN — TWO, THREE. I AM STILL COUNTING.

OBSERVE, EVERYONE. NO TRICKS, NO SHAPES. JUST A MAN, AND LESS ROOM EVERY SECOND.

COME ON, CHAMP — MOVE!

THERE. YOU BREATHE BEFORE YOUR WALLS MOVE, WARD.

WHMMM — W

IMPRESSIVE. MOST MEN ONLY LEARN THAT LESSON HELD DOWN.

CORNER'S FINE. I HAVE FOUGHT OUT OF WORSE ROOMS.

BREATHE OUT OF THIS ONE TOO, ATLAS. SLOW AND STUBBORN.

THE HELD FOREARM.

ONE GAP — ONE CLEAN —

HELD. EXACTLY WHERE I WANTED THAT HAND, MR. REVULARY.

WHMMM — SNAP SHUT

STRUGGLING ONLY TIRES YOU. THE FIELD IS PATIENT.

BZZT — FIELD

WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT STRUGGLING? A HELD THING CAN STILL LOOK AROUND, WARD.

HELD IS SAFE, MR. REVULARY. NOTHING TEARS, NOTHING BREAKS.

SAFE FOR WHO, ELENA? MY ARM, OR YOUR EVENING'S THEORY?

THERE. THE FIELD PULSED WITH YOUR BREATH, WARD.

PULSE — ON H

MY CYCLE, NOT ITS WEAKNESS. IT HOLDS AT FULL STRENGTH.

ATLAS — YOUR BREATHING JUST WENT QUIET.

QUIET IS ME LISTENING, NIA. HER CAGE TALKS. I AM LEARNING ITS ACCENT.

THE OBSERVATION.

YOUR CHEST LIGHT DIMS EVERY FOURTH BREATH, ELENA.

EQUIPMENT CYCLES. IT SIGNIFIES NOTHING, MR. REVULARY. NOTHING AT ALL.

AND YOUR VISOR FOGS AT THE SEAM, SAME RHYTHM.

STOP NARRATING MY EQUIPMENT, AND ATTEND TO YOUR OWN SITUATION.

MY CAGE JUST CYCLED. YOU DROPPED IT TO BREATHE, ELENA.

BZZT – SHE C

I SAW IT, ATLAS. THAT RHYTHM IS HERS. HERS ALONE.

MAINTAINING YOUR FIELDS DRAINS YOUR OXYGEN, ELENA. EVERY WALL COSTS YOU BREATH.

A THEORY. SPOKEN BY A MAN INSIDE MY CAGE.

EVERY CAGE IN THIS ROOM IS ONE WOMAN BREATHING.

THEN HER CLOCK IS TICKING TOO. COUNT IT WITH ME, ATLAS.

THE TEST.

WATCH THE SHOULDER, WARD. HERE COMES THE BIG ESCAPE.

BY ALL MEANS. COMMIT TO SOMETHING, MR. REVULARY.

NO. JUST VISITING. TWO KNUCKLES, ONE SIDE, NOTHING HEROIC.

TOK — TWO KNUCK

A TAP. YOU SPENT A FEINT ON A TAP?

SOMETHING RAN ACROSS IT, ATLAS. A RING, HAIRLINE THIN.

FSSS — HAIRLI

IT HELD, NIA. ONE SIDE HOLDS. WRITE THAT DOWN SOMEWHERE SAFE.

WHATEVER YOU ARE CALCULATING, THE CAGE DISAGREES.

THE CAGE ANSWERED HONESTLY, ELENA. ONE SIDE HOLDS. NOTED, FILED, REMEMBERED.

THE ROOM'S AIR.

THERE. ONE CAGE, WHOLE RING, NO SEAMS LEFT.

YOU BUILT A ROOM INSIDE A ROOM, WARD. RENT MUST BE MURDER.

WHMMM — CAGE CLOSES

SIT, ALL OF YOU. SAVE YOUR AIR, SAVE YOUR LEGS.

HEAR THAT? EVEN HIS OPPONENTS ARE IN HIS CORNER NOW.

YIELD THE SHAPE, MR. REVULARY. SHOW THEM, AND THIS ENDS GENTLY.

GENTLY. YOUR BREATHING DISAGREES WITH YOUR OFFER, ELENA.

EVERYONE WHO CAN HEAR ME — BREATHE WITH HIM. IN — TWO, THREE.

IN... OUT... — HUNDREDS BREATHING

IN — TWO, THREE. OUT — TWO, THREE.

THERE — YOU CYCLED THAT WALL TO BREATHE, ELENA.

WHMMM — W

A BREATH IS NOT A BREACH, MR. REVULARY.

IT CHANGES THE CLOCK, WARD. AND ONCE A ROUND, IT OPENS A DOOR.

THEN BE STANDING AT IT, ATLAS. BREATHING SLOW, READY.

CHOICE TWO — THE REVEAL.

ALL RIGHT, WARD. CAMERAS UP. EVERYONE WATCHING? GOOD.

WHATEVER YOU ARE ABOUT TO DO, DO IT KNOWING IT KEEPS.

I HID BEHIND A KID TONIGHT. BEHIND A MEDIC. NEVER AGAIN.

ATLAS. WHATEVER IT COSTS — I AM COUNTING. KEEP BREATHING.

HIS ARM — LOOK AT HIS ARM GO!

SHLORP — ELON

THERE IT IS. GOD HELP HIM, THERE IT FINALLY IS.

ONE ARM OUT. ONE ARM COILED. BOTH MINE, BOTH TRAINED.

FWLIP — COILING

STOP. WHATEVER GEOMETRY YOU ARE BUILDING — STOP IT NOW.

HOLDING TWO IS LIKE HOLDING MY BREATH TWICE.

THEN DO NOT HOLD LONG, ATLAS. IN — TWO, THREE. FINISH IT BREATHING.

LET THEM SEE IT, WARD. I AM DONE BEING ALMOST CAUGHT.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU HAVE JUST GIVEN ME.

KZZT — EVERY CAMERA TURNS

THE OUTSIDE STRIKE.

HER LIGHT JUST DROPPED, ATLAS. THERE — THAT IS YOUR WINDOW.

SEEN IT. TIMED IT. ON HER BREATH, NOT MINE.

OUTSIDE HAND'S LOADED, CHAMP. THE WHOLE ROOM JUST WENT QUIET.

QUIET'S GOOD. QUIET MEANS EVERYONE'S COUNTING WITH ME.

OUTSIDE? NOBODY STRIKES MY FIELDS FROM OUTSIDE!

KRAKOOM —

CONTACT, WARD. AND IT STAYS THERE. HELD, NOT HIT.

IT BLOOMED WHITE, ATLAS, BUT IT IS STILL STANDING!

FSSS — RINGS F

ONE SIDE IN CONTACT, NIA. HELD. THIS MOMENT IS NOT FINISHED.

HOLD YOUR BREATH, WARD. THIS INSTANT HAS TWO FACES.

DO NOT — MR. REVULARY, DO NOT RELEASE THAT ARM!

THE SPRING RELEASED.

SAME INSTANT — BOTH SIDES, ONE HEARTBEAT!

I FELT THAT THROUGH THE FLOOR, ATLAS! THROUGH THE FLOOR!

MORPH — SPRING RELEASE

IMPOSSIBLE. MY FIELDS DO NOT —

YOUR FIELDS SHATTER, ELENA. STRUCK TOGETHER, OPPOSITE SIDES. YOU BUILT THE LIMIT IN.

SHATTER — HEX

DOORS! THE DOORS ARE OPENING! LUIS, TELL ME THOSE DOORS ARE OPENING!

THEY ARE OPENING, FRIEND. EVERY LAST BEAUTIFUL ONE.

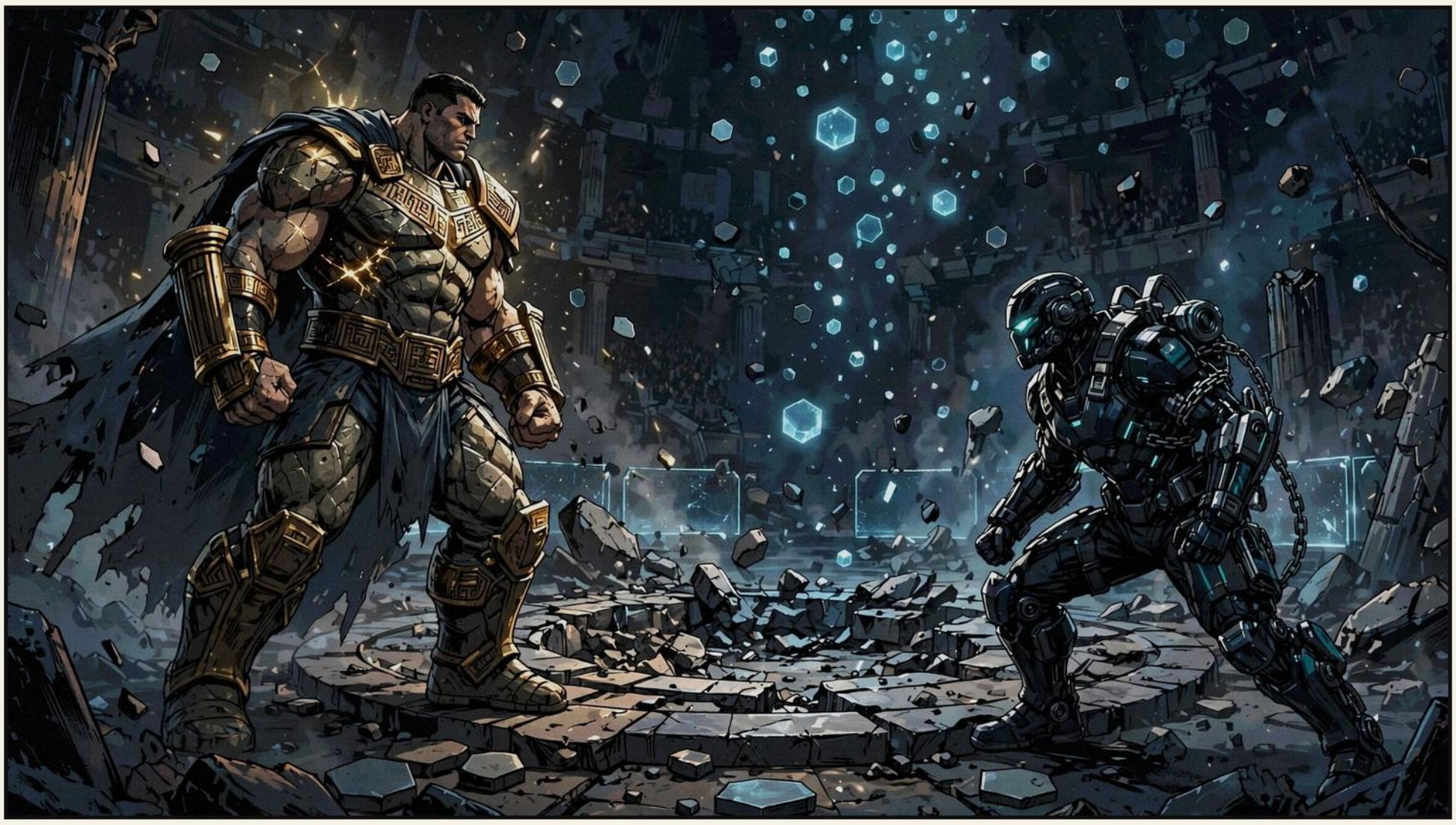
WHMMM — CAGE LIG

TERMS, WARD. I TOUCHED MORE THAN THE MESH. THEY WALK.

TERMS ARE TERMS, MR. REVULARY. I KEEP MINE. THEY WALK.

YOU HEARD HER, EVERYONE. OUT, SLOW AND BREATHING. NOBODY RUNS.

SLOW AND BREATHING. BEST ADVICE IN THIS BUILDING ALL NIGHT.







RESOLUTION.

EASY OUT, FOLKS. ONE DOOR, NO PUSHING, NIGHT'S OVER.

RIBS, COATS, BREATHING. IN THAT ORDER, EVERYONE. MOVE ALONG.

CHAMP. THE PURSE IS RIGHT THERE. YOUR WHOLE DOOR OUT.

IT STOPPED BEING A DOOR TONIGHT, LUIS. LEAVE IT CAGED.

YOU GAVE THEM YOUR FACE TONIGHT, ATLAS. ON PURPOSE.

I GAVE THEM THE TRUTH. THE FACE WAS ALWAYS MINE ANYWAY.

ELENA

ELENA

RUN IT BACK. FRAME BY FRAME, ALL OF IT.

THE CAGE WAS NEVER THE POINT. I NEEDED HIM SEEN.

TICK — FRAME HOLD