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HYPER SLAYER

#6

THE END
OF THE
BEGINNING
PART 1



HYPER SCAPE

THE END OF THE BEGINNING | PART 1

It began with a dream of a new tomorrow—a dream that was dashed when Prisma’s CEO, Dr. Ivy Tan, murdered her partner, Mathieu Eiffel—and it became a nightmare when Dr. Tan forced a worldwide blackout that corrupted the digital clone of Eiffel, creating his shadow, the being called Tower.

Tower recruited an army of rulebreakers—Basilisk, Huo Shu, Berry, and Rook—and tasked them with retrieving his lost fragments. He needs them for his survival, but each fragment increases his power exponentially.

Meanwhile, Eiffel’s protégé, Simon, a digital ghost empowered by a Tower fragment, assembles a team to oppose Tower: Nahari, Javi, Mondragon, Ace, Amandine, and Paladin.

Prisma has been too slow to recognize Tower’s threat. The window to act is closing, and Simon knows it.

story

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HYPER SCAPE, THE KERNEL



SIMON

WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME...



IF I DON'T FIGURE OUT HOW TO RECONNECT THE GHOSTS TO THEIR PHYSICAL BODIES, THE LOST WILL STAY COMATOSE INDEFINITELY...

THEIR BODIES-- OUR BODIES-- WILL WASTE AWAY AND DIE...



D.Y.H.R.



PALADIN



JAVI



AMANDINE



I HAVE A PIECE OF MATHIEU EIFFEL INSIDE ME, A GLIMMERING FRAGMENT OF HIS BRILLIANT MIND...



BASILISK



MONDRAGON



TOWER IS A TWISTED, DARK REFLECTION OF EVERYTHING GOOD MATHIEU STOOD FOR.

IF WE DON'T STOP HIM, HE'LL CORRUPT THE ENTIRE HYPER SCAPE, AND THE LOST WILL NEVER RECOVER.



TOWER



ACE



ROCK



NAHARI



BUT THE FRAGMENT GIVES ME POWER, TOO. THERE IS LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS...



I HAVE TO FIND A WAY...



HUO SHU



BERRY

...BEFORE
IT'S TOO
LATE.

CEASE!
DESIST!

I WISH TO
ANSWER THE SURVEY
THAT I AM NO LONGER
HAVING FUN! THIS
EXPERIENCE IS NOT
ENJOYABLE.

HYPER SCAPE
CROWN RUSH MATCH

I PLAY CROWN
RUSH TO MAKE
FRIENDS AND
POSSIBLY HAVE AN
EXCITING CAREER
IN ESPORTS!

IF THAT'S
WHAT YOU WANT,
YOU'RE OUTTA
LUCK, PAL.

PING

ZZIT

PING









AARRGH!

¡PAPAÍTO!



I WANT TO LODGE A COMPLAINT! THIS IS NOT WHAT I SIGNED UP FOR!

SHUT UP. YOU'RE COMING WITH US.

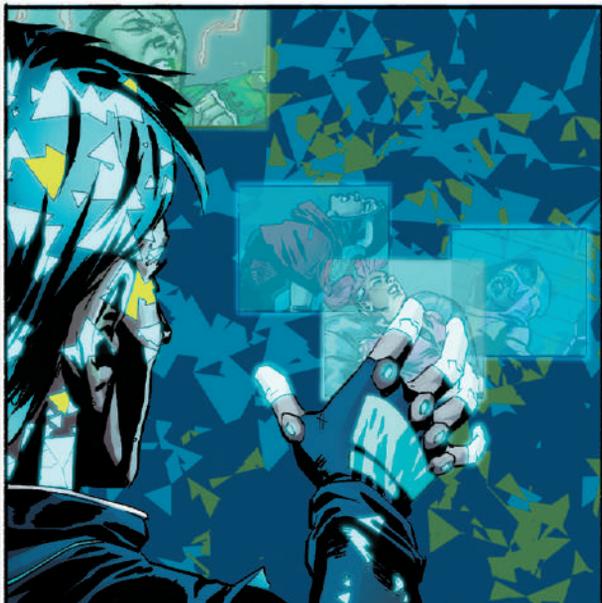


NO! LET ME GO!



THEY WON'T GET OUT OF THAT ANYTIME SOON.









SIMON!

ALLO, MA BELLE.

WHERE THE HELL ARE WE?

WHAT ABOUT OUR BODIES? ARE THEY SAFE?



YOUR BODIES ARE SAFE. FREE FROM BASILISK'S TRAP.

BUT THEY CAPTURED THE SPECIAL D.Y.H.R. UNIT AND ARE TAKING IT TO TOWER AS WE SPEAK.



WHAT'S "TOWER"?

HE IS THE REAL ENEMY. A DISTORTED CONSTRUCT OF MATTHIEU EIFFEL.

TOWER WANTS TO CONTROL THE HYPER SCAPE. WITH EACH FRAGMENT HE RECOVERS HE IS ABLE TO RESTORE MORE OF HIS LOST CODE AND PROTOCOLS.



HIS POWERS ARE ALREADY VAST, BUT WE'RE NOT HELPLESS.

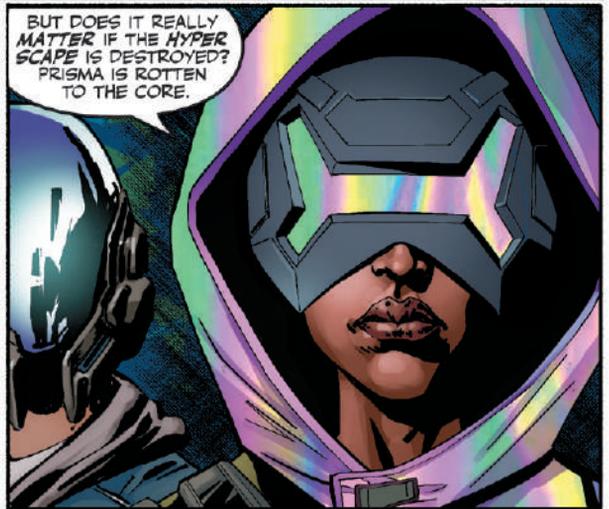
WE HAVE ALL OF YOU. WE HAVE JAVI--



--TO HELP US BEND THE RULES. BUT WE NEED TO KEEP HER SAFE. TOWER MUST NOT GET HER FRAGMENT.

AND I GUESS WE ALSO HAVE ME, AND MY...SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE.

BUT IT MIGHT NOT BE ENOUGH TO STOP THE HYPER SCAPE FROM BECOMING AN EXTENSION OF TOWER'S WILL.



BUT DOES IT REALLY MATTER IF THE HYPER SCAPE IS DESTROYED? PRISMA IS ROTTEN TO THE CORE.



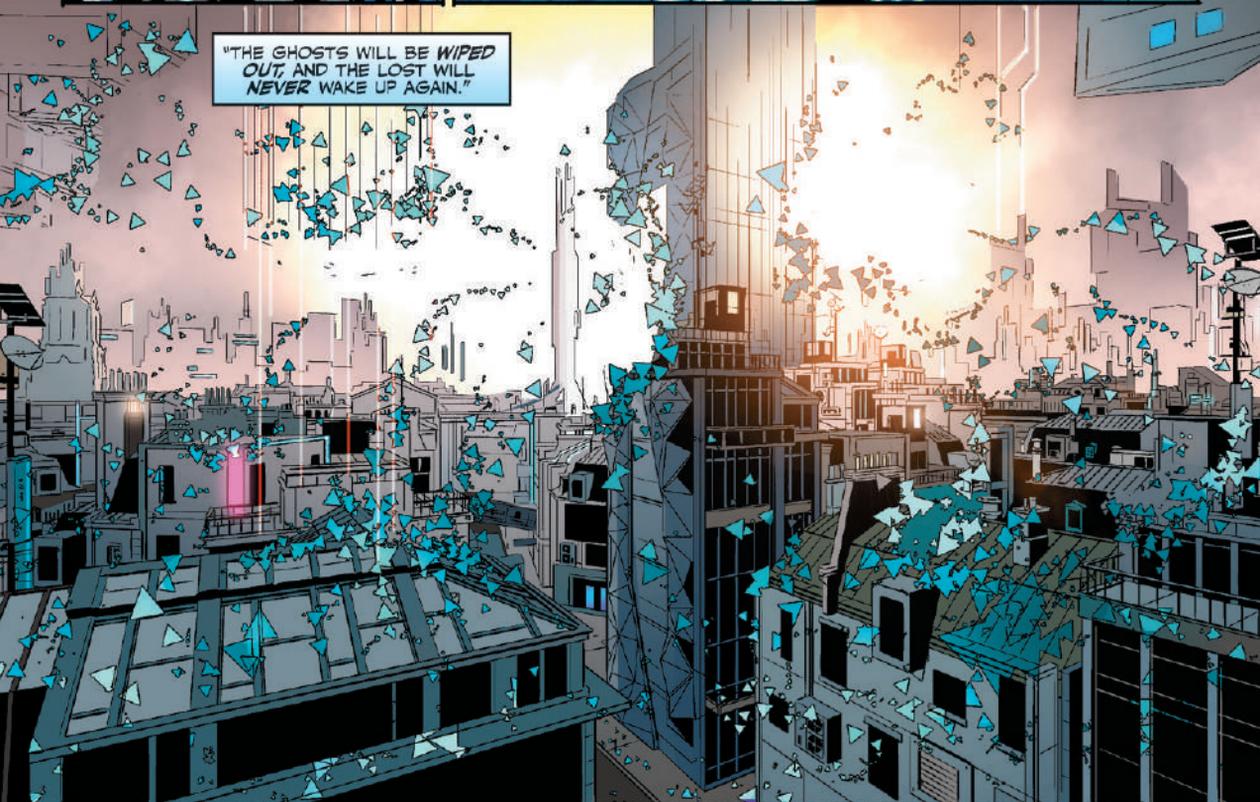
THE HYPER SCAPE WON'T BE DESTROYED, BUT IT WILL BE UTTERLY CORRUPTED AND REFORMATTED IN HIS IMAGE.

THROUGH IT, TOWER WILL BE ABLE TO AFFECT THE REAL WORLD. HE'LL CONTROL ALL CONNECTED DEVICES AND SYSTEMS--



--EVERY OPERATING ROOM, AUTO-TAXI, DRONE CAMERA, NEWS OUTLET, FINANCIAL TRANSACTION, EVERYTHING...

WITH MORE FRAGMENTS, HE'LL BE ABLE TO REWRITE THE RULES OF THE HYPER SCAPE. MAKE IT INTO A REFLECTION OF HIS OWN UNHINGED MIND.



"THE GHOSTS WILL BE WIPED OUT, AND THE LOST WILL NEVER WAKE UP AGAIN."



MAIS SIMON... NON!

MA...

BUT WE'RE NOT THERE YET. WE STILL HAVE A CHANCE.



WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?

WE HAVE TO STOP TOWER FROM ABSORBING D.Y.H.R.'S FRAGMENT.

TEMPLE OF TOWER.

BUT THIS IS OUTSIDE THE CITYSCAPE LEVEL CONSTRAINTS! HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?!

DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO SHUT UP?



WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS TO ME?

...

LOOK WHAT WE CAUGHT, BOSS!

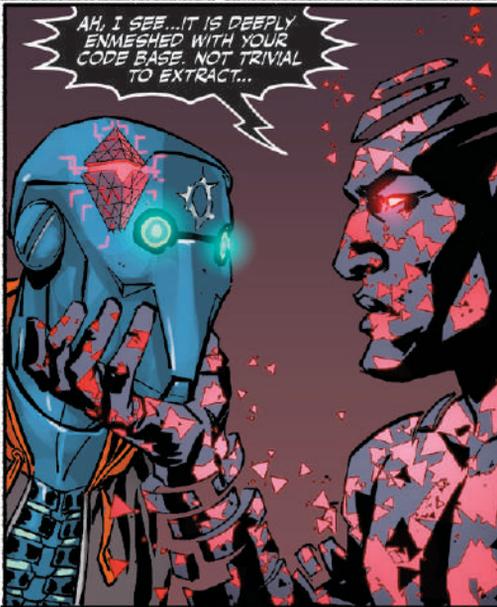
MY FAITH IN YOU WAS NOT MISPLACED... LITTLE SNAKE...



NEARLY ALL OF MY WAYWARD FRAGMENTS ARE RETURNED.



SOON I WILL BE COMPLETE.



AH, I SEE... IT IS DEEPLY ENMESHED WITH YOUR CODE BASE. NOT TRIVIAL TO EXTRACT...



BUT NO MATTER. I WILL GET IT OUT.

TO BE CONTINUED...