
M1SCH1EF
COMICS
THE
HOLLOW HOARD
03
THE COUNTERFEIT CROWN


The last king's memories. Preserved for a thousand years.
A thousand years. Conveniently hard to verify.
Inspection. Evidence. Out. In that order.
They'll come back. Try not to eat my hinges.


Initial the provenance. Keep your copy.
No. 4173
Vey Collection.
No. 4173
VEY COLLECTION
We have an audience.
Then keep yours busy.


Calder. We need a reliable signature.
A salary. Proper tools. No quay fees.
Confirm the age. Start tomorrow.
Let me see what I'm signing.


Something's moving.
Do that again.
Is this part of your valuation?
It isn't remembering a king. It's reflecting you.


There's an animal inside.
A living optic. Historically accurate craftsmanship.
You advertised memories. You knew people would hear something else.
IMPORT MANIFEST
Decorative Specimen
Optical Curiosity
Ceremonial Piece
People are paying for a story, Calder.
SALARY OFFER


Then they deserve the true one.
Ask it to show an event from before we entered.
Then what am I bidding on?
End the inspection.

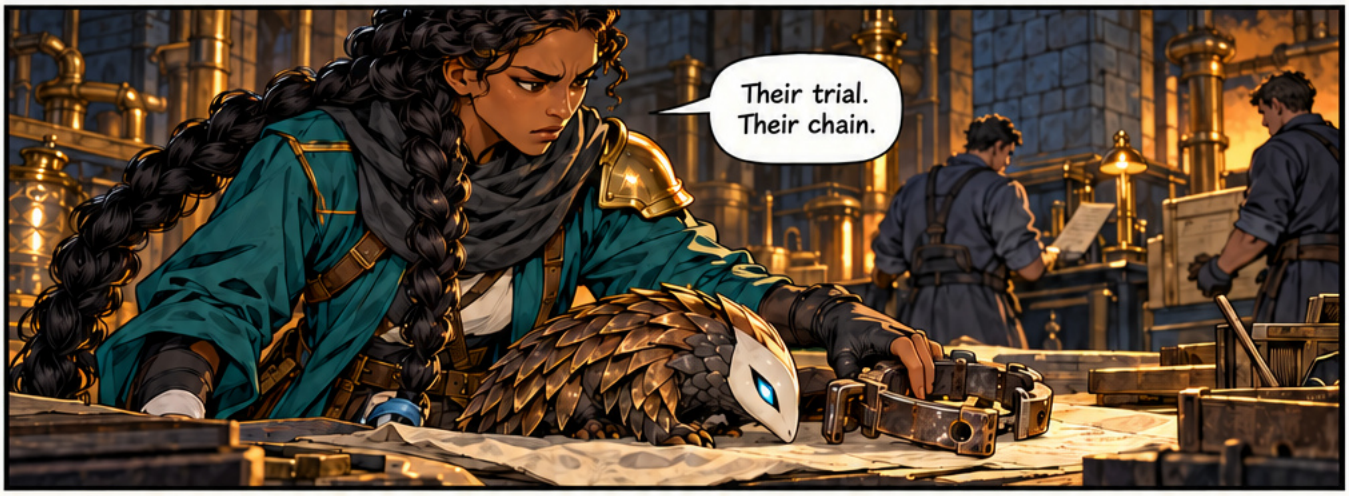

Transport clearance.
Pull the feed first.
CLICK
Your choice. This way.


You certified this.
Back. Give him room.
Ren. Exit.
That offer won't come again.
I know.

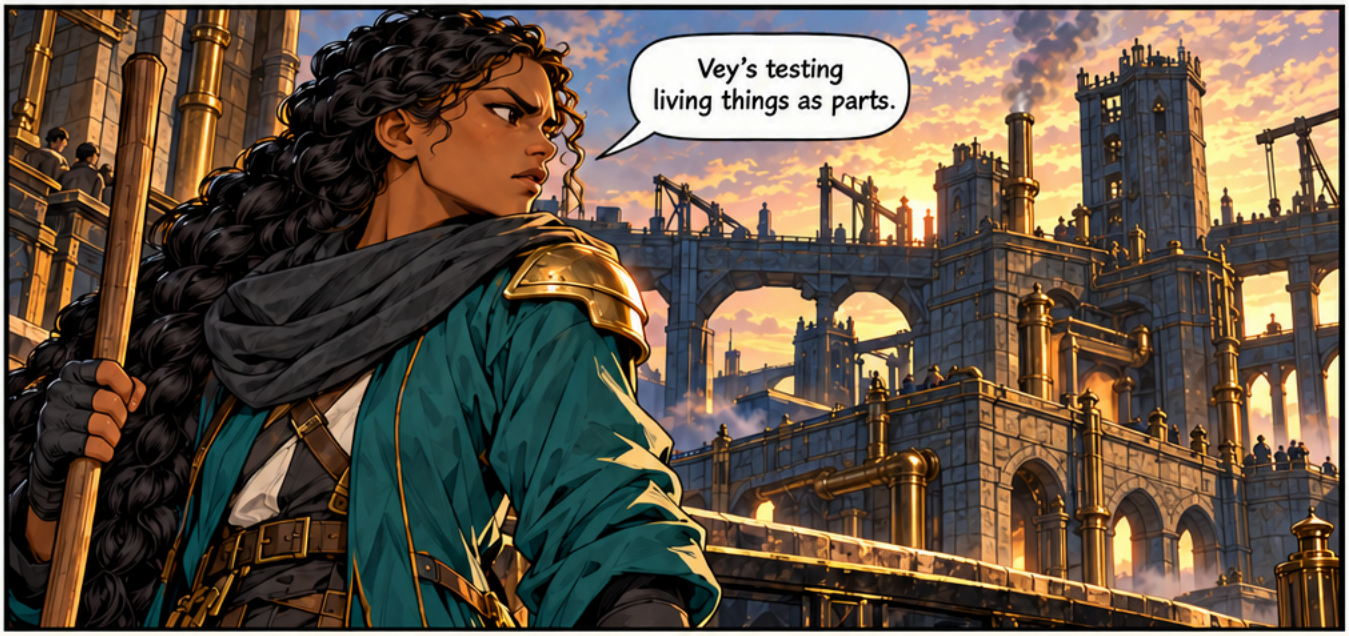

Any other jobs you want to decline today?
They've decided for me.
Calder released the specimen. Tell Vey.
You kept the records?
The copy they gave me.


One more.
Still no menagerie.
It keeps
what it just saw.
Not ancient
memories.
Not even
yesterday.
Let it rest.


Specimen nine.
Coastal warden trial.
Return pending.
Specimen 009
Coastal warden trial.
Return pending.


Their trial.
Their chain.


They left it there.
Then hired us to fetch it.
Date
Transfer / Notes
7 Mar
Specimen 009 — Coastal warden trial. Return pending.
18 Mar
—
3 Apr
Contract posted — Brass key retrieval.


Vey's testing living things as parts.


Another transfer. Today.
003
Bell Row Pump Station
Sundown. We can still make it.
He wouldn't certify it.
Then remove his access.
NEXT: THE BEAST BENEATH BELL ROW.