

COLD

written by

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PANEL 1

EXTERIOR, NIGHT. WIDE SHOT of a FROZEN WASTELAND. In the distance we see frozen trees and mountains. Far behind them maybe frozen remnants of collapsed skyscrapers. Closer to us, somewhere on the ground just outside the frozen tree line, there is a GLIMMER OF LIGHT.

CAPTION I should say that I'm **cold**.

I mean, my elders were always saying how **cold** they were.

PANEL 2

We go CLOSER to the light source. It's a BONFIRE. It's strong right now, but soon it will start to lose its battle with the cold.

CAPTION Truth is, I don't really understand what that **word** means. What else is supposed to be there than the cold.

PANEL 3

Even closer to the BONFIRE. Now we see a YOUNG GIRL sitting next to it, 15, maybe 16 years old. Her heavy clothes protecting her from the cold are made from a mixture of regular clothes and what looks like animal fur or skin, yet it's hard to really tell what animal or animals it has been made from.

Next to the girl is a long STAFF with a DIY SHOVEL buried deep in the snow on one end, and a SPEAR on the other. The SPEAR could be made out of STONE, but it almost looks more like a CLAW or a TOOTH. But what kind of creature has teeth as big as these? Maybe the same one the parts of the girl's clothes are made of?

CAPTION I know **warmth**. Warmth of a fire, but that never lasts. It never replaces the cold.

But I guess the warmth of the World the elders lived in didn't last either.

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PANEL 1

CLOSEUP of the GIRL, watching the FLAMES of the bonfire. Her mouth is covered to protect her from the extreme cold, but we do see her EYES, reflecting the flames in front of her.

CAPTION

They told me how warm the World used to be and how warmth was the thing they feared more than the cold.

How the whole World started to become **warmer and warmer**, making it more and more difficult for people to live in it.

PANEL 2

SIMILAR PANEL, though now it almost looks like we can see images warped in the FLAMES. Images of WAR, EXPLOSIONS, and weird BATTLE MACHINES.

CAPTION

They became so scared of the warmth that they started fighting each other. In the biggest war the World has ever seen, they used machines build for battle and terrible weapons that in the end made the sky go black. That made the sun disappear.

That made the warmth... cold.

PANEL 3

LARGEST PANEL on the page, similar to the previous one, but with a heavier focus on the FIRE. Now we also see something new in the FLAMES. Some weird, terrifying CREATURES. But it's hard to say anything more specific. After all, it's just a fiery glimpse of imagination.

CAPTION

But it wasn't just the cold that made the elders fight for their lives. There was also **something else**.

Something hidden **so deep** beneath the ground that the elders never knew it was even there.

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PANEL 1

The CREATURES in the FLAMES are now more visible, taking more concrete shapes.

CAPTION Something that got **awoken** by rumblings of the terrible weapons and by the cold that came after the destruction they created.

PANEL 2

The GIRL is standing up. With one hand leaning on the STAFF and with the other REACHING FOR SOMETHING on her BELT. The FIRE is now again just a fire. Slowly dancing and withering away in the windy cold. In the darkness, we see several SMALL RED LIGHTS, like eyes watching, waiting for the fire to die out.

CAPTION The elders are **gone now** and so is the memory of the World they knew. All I know is the cold, the machines the elders left behind..

PANEL 3

CLOSER LOOK at the RED EYES in the snowy darkness.

CAPTION **...and the things that replaced them.**

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PANEL 1

SMALL PANEL, a CLOSEUP of the THING on the GIRL'S BELT. It's a weird ELECTRIC BOX with a blue light and several buttons on it. The girl is pressing one of them.

SFX: CLICK

CAPTION We soon discovered the machines need heat to work, but also that **too much heat** can break them.

The good thing is that there is never **too much heat** out here.

PANEL 2

SLIGHTLY BIGGER PANEL. We are looking directly on the GIRL'S FACE. Pale from the constant cold, but her eyes glowing, still reflecting the heat of the fire. We see two things, one on each side BEHIND HER. ON ONE SIDE there are the RED EYES, taking shape and emerging from the darkness, clearly belonging to the creatures the girl was talking about. But on the OTHER SIDE, there are BLUE LIGHTS and undistinguished parts of MACHINERY, rising from beneath the snow.

CAPTION So let's heat them up.

PANEL 3

The BIGGEST PANEL of the page and of the whole comic. The GIRL is now holding her SPEAR with both hands. She's standing in an attack position, waiting for a battle against the CREATURES with RED EYES that are emerging from the dark and attacking her. BEHIND HER, there are several MACHINES, robots with BLUE LIGHTS, prepared to fight the monsters and protect the girl that summoned them. The battle has begun.

CAPTION **Just enough to fight the cold.**