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opening extract from

The Spider Moon

written by

Kate Brown

published by

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THE ^{★ ★} SPIDER MOON



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FICKLING
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THE SPIDER MOON

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IN THE FAR NORTH, THERE ARE ANCIENT CAVES, WITH MURALS PAINTED BY LONG-DEAD HANDS...



THEY TELL A PROPHECY OF OUR HOMELANDS BEING CRUSHED BY THE FALLING SKY.

THAT FATE HAS BEEN A SHADOW OVER OUR PEOPLE EVER SINCE.



TO ESCAPE, SOME TRIED
CROSSING THE MOUNTAINS
TO THE WEST, TO
UNCHARTED PARTS
OF THIS WORLD.

OTHERS SAILED TOWARDS
THE RISING SUN IN THE EAST.

NONE RETURNED.

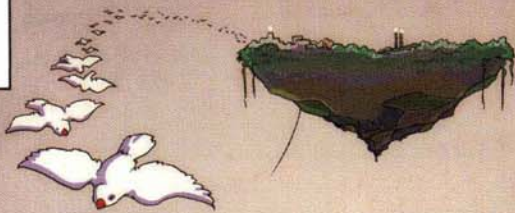
TIME PASSED, AND WE WAITED
FOR THE SIGNS TO COME.

THEN, A YEAR AGO, THE STARS BEGAN TO FALL. JUST LIKE THE MURALS SHOW.

THE END HAS BEGUN ... IN MY LIFETIME.

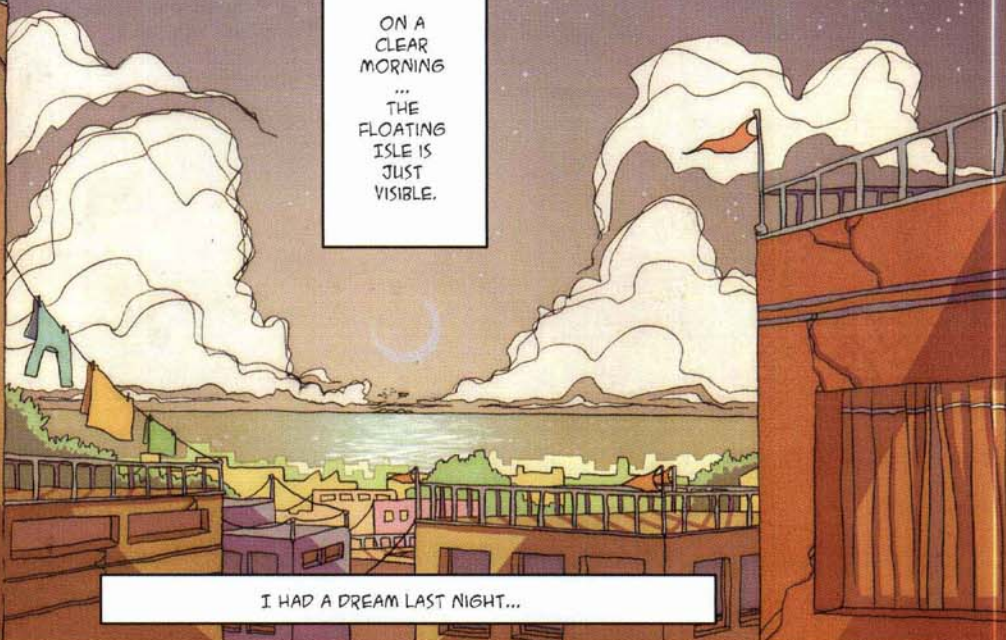
THE SPIDER MOON

BUT NOW
WE HAVE
HOPE.



ONE
CHANCE
OF
ESCAPE!

ON A
CLEAR
MORNING
...
THE
FLOATING
ISLE IS
JUST
VISIBLE.

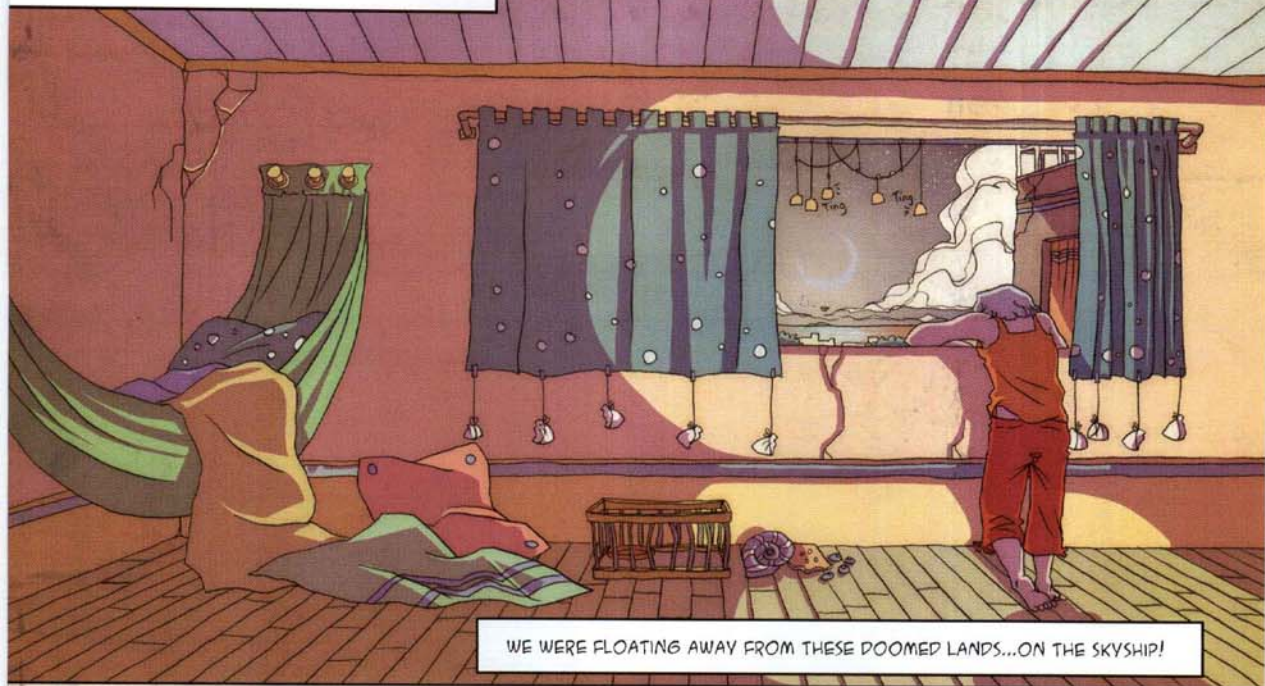


I HAD A DREAM LAST NIGHT...



...THAT WE WERE ALL UP THERE ON IT...

ITS ENGINES HAD BEEN COMPLETED..



WE WERE FLOATING AWAY FROM THESE DOOMED LANDS...ON THE SKYSHIP!



STUPID STARS.



WELL! I'M NOT GONNA LET THEM STOP ME, SO -



BEKKA!

AH!
YEAH!
I'M
COMING!



BEKKA, KAY'S
WAITING
OUTSIDE.

I KNOW,
MUM!



I'LL GO
AND TELL
HER YOU'RE
COMING,
THEN.

NO,
NO,
NO!
MUM! THERE'S
NO NEED!
I'M REALLY
REALLY
NEARLY
READY!



TODAY IS MY DIVING EXAM!

MY DIVING "SISTER" IS K -

BEKKA!

...KAY LAU.

(NMF!)

I'VE BEEN TRAINING
WITH HER FOR
WEEKS AND WEEKS!



...Fii?!



(Fii?)

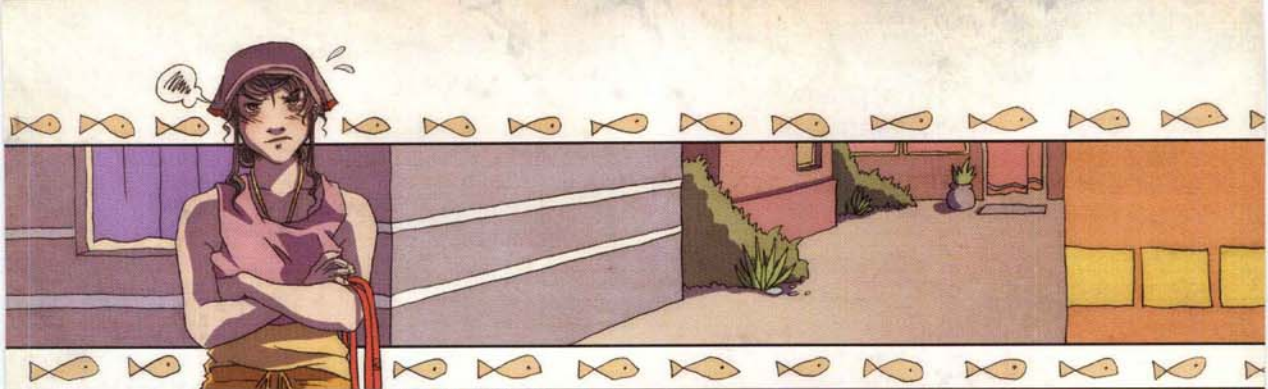
(Fii..?)

TODAY IS MY ONE CHANCE TO PROVE I CAN BE A GREAT DIVER!



IF I MESS UP, I'LL NEVER GET TO DIVE AGAIN. THAT'S THE RULES.





BUT, I WON'T MESS UP! I CAN DEFINITELY, DEFINITELY DO THIS!



I'LL BE A GREAT DIVER. I'VE GOT TO ... TO HELP US ALL SURVIVE...