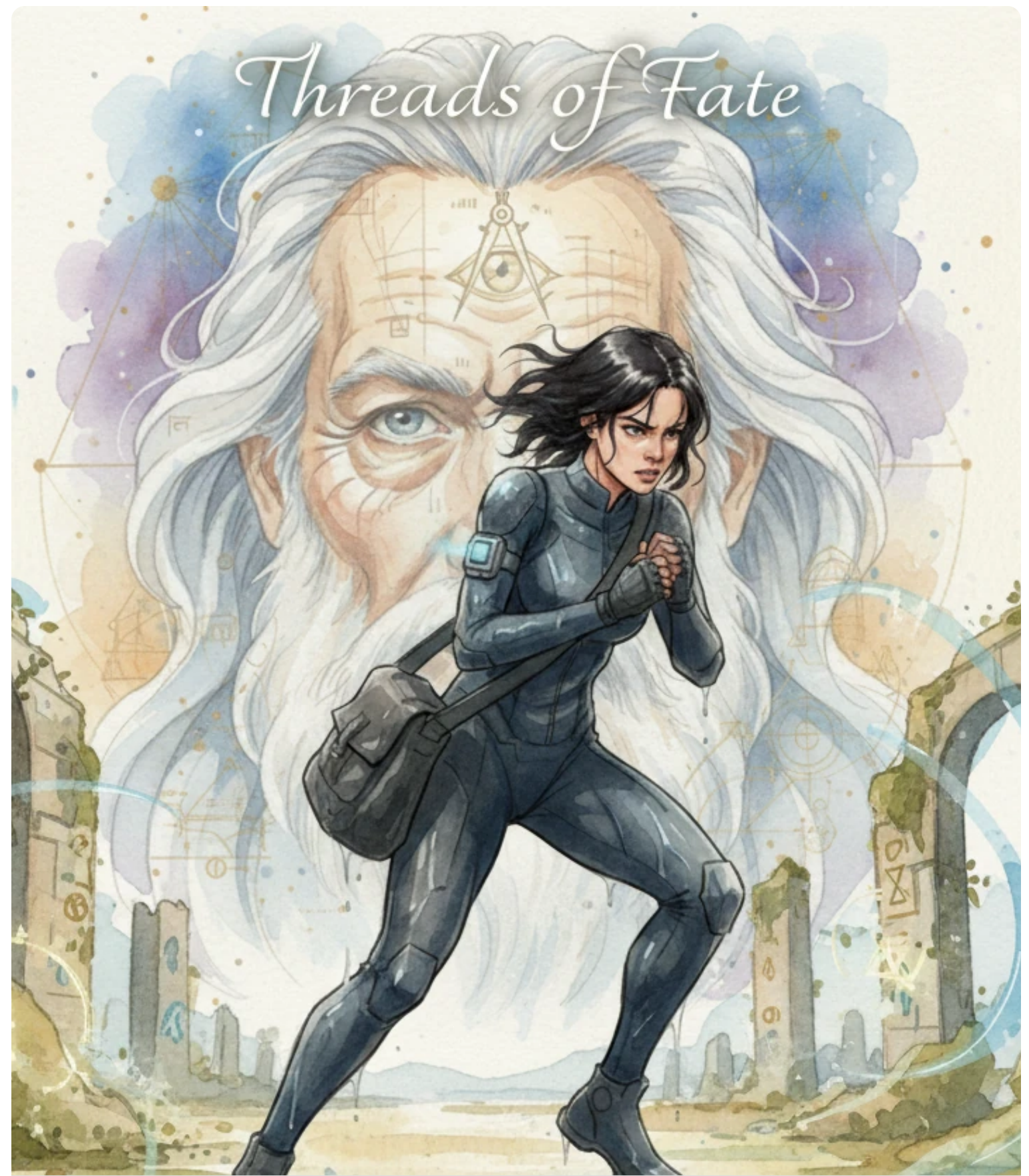


Threads of Fate



The Last Disconnect

Екатерина Федорцова

A story of escape and forgotten power



In the year 2150, neon lights will flicker over a city where every person will stare at a glowing screen. Citizens will scroll through endless social media feeds while drones deliver new gadgets to their doors every hour.



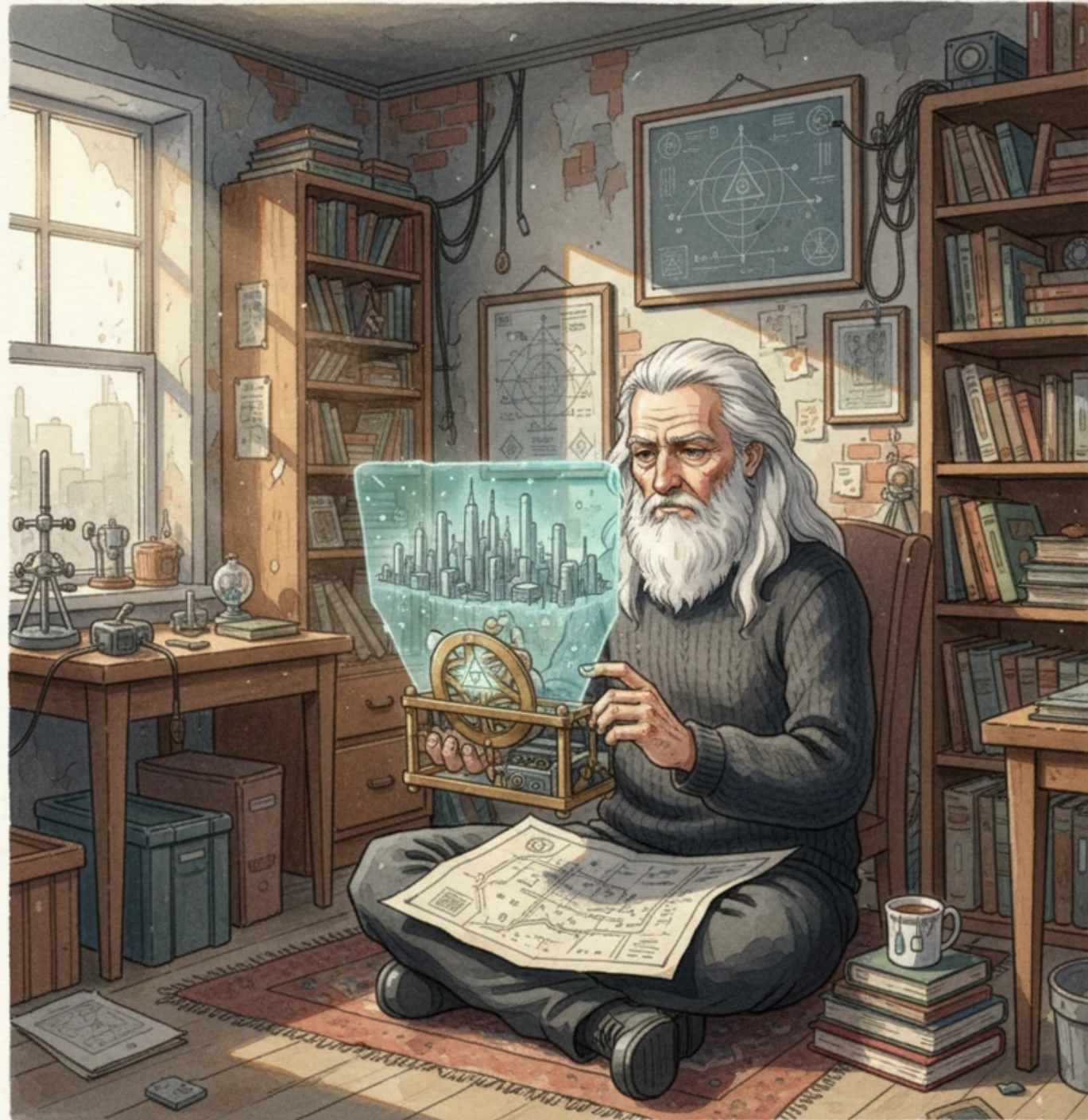
Elara will sit at her metallic desk, where her fingers will tap rapidly on a holographic keyboard to organize digital files. She will spend her day moving every folder into the central system, ensuring the government will know every thought she has.



A giant monitor in the city square will display the face of the Great Architect, who will remind everyone to stay connected. The speakers will play a constant hum of advertisements, and no one will ever experience the beauty of true silence.



One evening, Elara will find a strange, heavy device hidden under a pile of discarded chargers in a dark, forgotten alley. It will be an ancient laptop, a dusty relic from a time before the world became a single, giant network.



She will take the device to her small apartment and search for a way to turn it on without using a username or password. When the screen finally glows, she will realize it does not have Wi-Fi and will never connect to the watchful Cloud.



Elara will browse through local files that contain photos of real green trees and blue skies, things she has never actually seen. She will click on a hidden link that leads to a secret map, showing a place where the internet signal will not reach.



Suddenly, a red icon will flash on her personal tablet, warning her that a virus of curiosity is spreading through her mind. The system will track her location, and her heart will race as she realizes the authorities will arrive to reset her soon.



She will grab her bag and install a custom blocking software to hide her digital footprint from the city's many sensors. She will run through the acid rain, avoiding every camera that will try to scan her face and log her movements into the database.



At the edge of the city, Elara will find the main server cable and will finally click the button to disconnect her soul from the machine. She will delete her social media profile and leave her tracking device behind in the glowing, electronic dust.



Elara will walk into the dark forest where the air is fresh and the only sounds will come from the rustling wind. She will finally be free from the screen, and the Great Architect will never find her in the quiet world beyond the wires.