

AETHER TORRENT #15
"CIRRUS'S FAMILY"

Written by

Jack Duffe

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FADE IN:

EXT. RELTAWIST - DAY

A low-profile college town sprawls out around a university complex in the late afternoon. It has an open-air stadium.

EXT. LIBRARY - DAY

The university also hosts a four-story brick library. A large, obvious sign on a pavement island reads "LIBRARY."

INT. LIBRARY - SHELF MAZE - DAY

TORI slowly walks by one of many packed bookshelves in a large, low-ceilinged room with her head turned sideways.

Her eyes flick to her left and right, scanning the off-screen book spines for something. She stops abruptly.

CIRRUS (human) looks at Tori through a gap in the books, her head turned sideways too.

CIRRUS

This is why they invented card catalogs, y'know.

Tori turns a book sideways, blocking Cirrus's face.

Tori straightens and CRACKS her neck. Cirrus walks around the bookshelf, wearing a white tank-top and gray sweat shorts.

TORI

I need student ID for the catalog. And I thought I told you guys to stay at the hotel.

CIRRUS

We got bored, so we thought we'd help you figure out what Naur's disc says. Besides, I hear there's a big Air Lacrosse game today. Nobody's here to spot us.

GALLERY

NAUR's hand holds his 6" white spiral disc up to a glass display case. He lowers the disc to reveal a similar spiral disc, only brown with raizan script instead of pictographs.

Naur and AVANI stand in a museum of display cases somewhere in the library. Naur wears his black cloak with the hood up.

NAUR

Six hundred years old... could
this one be the same age?

Avani wears a whole new outfit: a long khaki denim skirt with a dark green placket-front shirt. The latter has gold stripes around the collar and sleeve hems.

AVANI

It's an intriguing mystery, all
right. I'm starting to see what
Tori likes about rare treasures.

NAUR

I care more about a treasure's
value than its mystery. Still, I
am glad to finally share one
with pleasant company.

Two SHADOWY MALE FIGURES hide behind a bookcase across the room from Avani and Naur. One looks at the other.

AVANI

My pleasure. It's the least I
could do after you took me
clothes shopping.

INT. BURIED CITADEL - CORRIDOR - DAY

SWEEPING sounds are heard in a dimly-lit corridor of West Granbridge's mostly-buried citadel.

CLEANER MOTILLIL, the lurutt janitor, sweeps dirt from a pile pouring from a tall window. His lantern provides the light.

CLEANER MOTILLIL

Ugly-ugly foreign contaminants...

HURRIED FOOTSTEPS suddenly approach. Motillil looks up from his sweeping. Flashlight beams focus on him and he squints.

Two East Ragloan AIRMEN point flashlights at him. LEVANter, the sharp-featured male wind tiger, walks between them with his arms crossed behind his back.

LEVANTER

Well well, another anarchist who
thought to hide in the ruins.
Add it to the others. If it's
useless, kill it.

The airmen advance on Motillil. Motillil holds his broom overhand like a spear.

A jade-on-beige arm PUNCHES through the dirt-packed window. The Airmen see it.

The arm flattens its well-manicured hand --

A BLAST OF MUD flies from the window and SMASHES the Airmen against the opposite wall.

Motillil grabs his head and gives a NASAL YELL at the mess.

Levanter merely pulls a flashlight from his flight jacket.

The light CLICKS ON off-screen, revealing YODAI. His clothes are torn, burnt, and filthy.

He PANTS for breath through his clenched teeth, looking ready to rip someone's throat out. He turns toward the light and his pupils shrink.

Levanter lowers his flashlight.

You dai's dangerous look lightens completely.

YODAI

Hey there.

INT. LIBRARY - GALLERY - DAY

Seen from the distance of the bookcase, Avani and Naur TALK indistinctly. The shadowy figures are jocks, DUDE and MAN. Dude wears a red-and-purple shirt reading "ASU" on the chest.

DUDE

Okay, man. You distract the big guy, I'll move in on the skirt.

MAN

No prob, dude. But I want first crack at her later.

CIRRUS (O.S.)

Excuse me, gentlemen.

Dude and Man turn their heads toward us.

Cirrus crosses her arms menacingly. Tori stands back.

Dude looks particularly offended.

DUDE

Lady, those are *wrong* colors to wear to ASU today. Right, man?

MAN

(whispered behind hand)
Dude, be polite, she's a total MILF!

Cirrus's right eyebrow TWITCHES.

Dude and Man FLY past Avani and Naur in a WIND BLAST which BLOWS the back of Naur's cloak up and over his head.

The jocks SLAM against the wall, drop, and comically splay on the floor.

Cirrus and Tori approach, Cirrus CRACKING her knuckles. Naur scrambles with his cloak; his sleeveless dark-purple robe extends to his knees, so his dark-red-on-red skin is visible.

AVANI

What's going on? Who are they?

TORI

Not from Mom, that's for sure.

Naur finally flips his cloak around, pulling back the hood in the process. Dude sits up and excitedly points at Naur.

DUDE

Now *that's* how you bodypaint!

Naur JERKS his head toward Dude, hurriedly pulls the hood down and shyly hides behind Cirrus. Dude and Man stand up.

AVANI

Hey! He has a skin condition and he's shy about it. Apologize!

Man sneakily whispers behind his hand to Dude.

MAN

Dude. New idea. This guy's obviously a chick magnet. We take him to the game, we get a lot more, you follow me?

Cirrus narrows her eyes. She heard that.

Naur continues hiding behind her.

Cirrus glances back at him. Her expression melts into something soft and motherly.

DUDE (O.S.)

Hey, we're real sorry. How about--

CIRRUS

How about I take you to the game, Naur?

Dude and Man gape.

Tori, Avani and Naur merely look at her, confused.

CIRRUS (CONT'D)

It'll be good for you to get out of your cloak for once. You can't hide from people forever.

NAUR

I... but there is still my disc to study!

CIRRUS

The girls can stay and research
your disc.

(the Look)

Right?

Naur looks to Tori and Avani for help. They only exchange a
"what's up with her?" glance.

TORI

I, guess?

Naur GROANS like a child being dragged to church.

CIRRUS

(cheery)

Great! It'll be fun! And if I
smell either of you boys there
I'll collapse your lungs.

Dude and Man FLINCH.

EXT. BURIED CITADEL - DAY

Eight rigid airships and five larger, non-rigid airships
surround the citadel and the bridge-walker homes.

Many Airmen prod BRIDGE-WALKERS, WALLACE and EVELYN among
them, into small clusters.

CENTRAL WATCHTOWER

Levanter and Youdai stand atop the citadel's watchtower near
a newly-erected flagpole. Youdai is cleaned up, but his
clothes are still ruined. An off-screen flag FLAPS softly.

YUODAI

Well, mister Levanter, Father
won't care about a war as long
as you stay off his bridge. But
my curiosity tickles. Why *here*?

The rigid airships are painted brown and white like hawks.
Four of the non-rigids are white/gray/black like seagulls,
whereas one is white and light blue like a wind tiger.

LEVANTER

Simple. East Ragloa believes that any elementalist not under its thumb undermines its technological culture and elemental military.

Levanter CHUCKLES. He's barefoot and wears wide-leg slacks with his flight jacket.

LEVANTER (CONT'D)

The Beast of Air spent many years convincing them of that.

YOUDAI

(effeminate thinking pose)
Oh, you're with the Nexus too?

We finally see the flag at a dramatic angle above Levanter. A white triangle on the pole side tapers to the dividing line between an upper sky-blue and lower earth-brown field.

LEVANTER

I am. I will make Dorn suffer until its people adopt magic for their own safety. And then the war can truly begin. All useless life shall be chaff in the gale of elementalism.

Levanter balls a fist and the flag FLAPS violently.

You dai keeps thinking. He gets a devious look in his eyes.

YOUDAI

Too bad your Beast of Water thinks you can't handle it...

Levanter's scowl demands an explanation from You dai.

YOUDAI (CONT'D)

Oh, she gave me a kidnap-and-murder job. However, the targets were moving *inland*. She *had* to have known you were coming, so she must doubt your abilities.

Levanter crosses his hands behind his back and stares contemplatively at the sky.

LEVANTER

She is too wise for that.

Levanter GRINS. His mouth completes a face of sharp features.

LEVANTER (CONT'D)

Describe these targets to me.

INT. LIBRARY - READING ROOM - DAY

Tori peruses a book at a long table in the corner of a spacious reading room. Two or three STUDENTS read here too. The windows show that this is an upper floor.

Tori uses Naur's disc as a paperweight for her book. A foot-high stack of thick reference books WHUMPS on the table, jostling the disc.

The students turn and look at Avani. The size of the books and Avani's total lack of fatigue hints at her strength.

TORI

How'd you find these so fast?

Avani produces a black and white card from a skirt pocket.

AVANI

Oh, one of those students we met gave me his library card.

(turns card over)

He wrote an address on it, too. I think he's a florist. He asked me if you, Cirrus and I were interested in a daisy chain.

Tori BURSTS OUT LAUGHING. The students turn and SHUSH her.

AVANI (CONT'D)

(clueless)

What?

EXT. AIR SPACE - DAY

Clouds float serenely in the air. A tiny high-speed projectile BLASTS through them with a SONIC BOOM.

Levanter (wind tiger) flies at over Mach 1 inside an oval air bubble. He wears aluminum bracelets on his front ankles and holds his pants and jacket in his mouth.

LEVANTER (V.O.)

A tall, butch-looking female wind tiger, he said.. it's been so long, but it could *only* be you!

Levanter speeds away. Wind ROARS in his wake.

EXT. STADIUM - DAY

Many specks of people flock to the campus stadium.

EXT. STADIUM - BLEACHERS - DAY

Thousands of SPECTATORS fill most of the seats. Cirrus and Naur sit by the aisle. Naur, cloakless, is scared stiff.

NAUR

I fail to see the merit of this.
These people could discover me.

CIRRUS

You're here to learn that they don't care. Your skin is camouflage today.

(points at field)

Ooh! Watch that guy!

Two teams totaling twenty human PLAYERS play what at first appears to be normal Field Lacrosse. One team is red and purple while the other is blue and white.

A red-and-purple attacker HURLS the ball past two blue-and-white defenders towards the latter team's goalie --

The goalie SPINS his stick, summoning a WIND BLAST that SHOOTS the ball up and away.

A blue-team attacker deftly WHIRLS his stick for a wind-assisted LEAP and SNAGS the ball out of the air.

Cirrus CLAPS once. The crowd GOES WILD.

CIRRUS (CONT'D)

Yeah! Nice one!

(leans to Naur)

See, in Air Lacrosse you have to... hey, you're not even watching!

NAUR

(jaw trembling)

Please, miss Cirrus, can we go? Someone could throw something at me and then the whole crowd would too. I just know it!

Cirrus smiles at him.

CIRRUS

Calm down and I'll tell you something. I mentioned how I have a pair of cubs I haven't seen in forever? Well, right now you remind me of my son.

EXT. SYLVAN GLEN - DAY

A creek babbles through a forest. An ADORABLE WIND TIGER CUB tumbles through the air and SPLASHES into an ungraceful landing. He rights himself and SHAKES his head.

The cub has sharp tendrils. A thrown rock suddenly PELTS him in the head. He YELPS.

CIRRUS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

One day when he was very young, he got away from me and a human brat threw rocks at him.

A SNOT-NOSED KID in overalls hurls small rocks at the cub from the cover of a tree.

Cirrus (wind tiger) LANDS in front of the brat, mad as we've ever seen her, and ROARS like a tornado.

The brat SCREAMS and scrambles away, BAWLING.

The cub WHIMPERS sadly. Cirrus hurries over to the cub and nuzzles him. The cub hides underneath her.

CIRRUS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

After that, he was scared stiff
of people he didn't know.

EXT. STADIUM - BLEACHERS - DAY

The CHEERING of the crowd has been MUFFLED somehow.

Naur still looks nervous. He and Cirrus continue watching the game. A candy bar wrapper flutters toward them, hits an invisible barrier and slides down.

CIRRUS (CONT'D)

Then one day I dragged him out
to see a game. As he sat and
watched, he got so caught up in
the action, he forgot the crowd.

NAUR

How? Were they not all around
him? That is impossible to
ignore!

Cirrus pats Naur on the knee.

CIRRUS

No, it isn't. My son learned,
like I knew he would, to focus
on *one* thing at a time.
Concentrate on a single action
and the rest of the world drops
away, jerks and all.

(chuckle)

From what I've seen, I'm sure
Tori and Avani know that too.

(points at eye level)

They *fix* on something. It could
really help you if you tried it.

Naur looks at his hand and closes it into a loose fist.

INT. LIBRARY - READING ROOM - DAY

A female student does some homework in a binder with several spare pencils on standby. She STRETCHES and leaves her table. Tori sneaks up, steals a pencil and rips out some paper.

Tori WRITES FURIOUSLY and TURNS PAGES dramatically. (Take animation cues from the anime series *Death Note*.) Naur's disc serves as a paperweight again.

Avani approaches with a vending-machine bag of potato chips.

Tori takes a potato chip and SNAPS it in her teeth --

And dramatically SWEEPS her pencil to make a final mark.

Tori EXHALES in relief and slumps in her chair. Avani looks over Tori's shoulder at her work.

AVANI

I never expected you to be so...
studious.

TORI

I'll take that as a compliment.
Mom's tutoring style really
taught me how to focus.

EXT. RELTAWIST - DAY

Levanter STOPS SHORT in midair over the city. Wisps of clouds caught in his wake RUSH past his air bubble.

Levanter tosses his head back, the cloud bits SWIRL --

And both they and the bubble dissipate, revealing Levanter fully clothed. He hovers, pulling the wrists of his jacket over his aluminum bracelets. They're looser in human form.

LEVANTER

All in one blow...

Levanter raises his arms and DROPS straight down.

INT. LIBRARY - READING ROOM - DAY

Tori arranges her notes. The first two pages are chaotic scribbles in raizan pictographs, raizan script, and English. The third is lines of pictographs with English above them.

TORI

The good news is, I translated the disc. It was a cinch once I got it from ancient raizan to modern.

Tori sets the disc on an uncluttered part of the table and idly rotates it. Avani sits across from her.

AVANI

And the bad news?

TORI

I read that raiza haven't made spiral discs for anyone but tourists for hundreds of years. And ancient raizan went *extinct* before they discovered ceramics.

AVANI

Then the disc is...?

Tori leans back in her chair and rubs her eyes, exhausted.

TORI

A cheapo souvenir made to look important. The pictographs are even *less* rare. They're part of a famous raizan poem.

Avani picks up the third page and reads it. The italicized words are spelled in English phonetically.

AVANI

"South in *Ch-uh-tor*, a tower climbs to a view of unmatched beauty. The greatest treasure, beyond all desire, rests at the top, shadowed by *Ah-bow-ah-ku*."

Avani lowers the page, clearly thinking about something. Tori links her fingers behind her head and rocks a bit in her leaning. Tori's knees lock her to the table.

TORI

It rhymes in raizan. *Abaoaqu* is a monster who follows you to the "greatest treasure" to take it for itself.

(dismissive wave)

Just some poetic fable about not trusting strangers.

After Avani's second sentence, Tori ceases rocking and she stares at the ceiling.

AVANI

Maybe it isn't. I've been to an island called *Djittor* before. It's in the far north of Dorn, which would be south of the raizan continent. And there are ruins everywhere. The locals believed them to be cursed, despite my *insistence* that--

Tori de-leans and SLAMS her hands on the table.

TORI

--*We gotta find Cirrus!* We're heading there next!

The students elsewhere in the room turn and SHUSH her.

AVANI

(much quieter)

But it's literally on the other side of Dorn.

TORI

So what? It'll be an extended treasure run.

EXT. LIBRARY - SIDE PARKING SPACES - DAY

Tori and Avani exit the library on the shady side of the building. Tori stops short.

TORI (CONT'D)

Hey! You!

KLAUSER leans into the scratching that Levanter provides to his feathery throat. Klauser's saddle is roped to a parking meter. Levanter's flight jacket is unzipped.

LEVANTER

Cities have so many smells, but
nothing smells like a dire kiwi.
There's even a hint of wind
tiger on him -- and you too.

Tori pulls out her knife.

AVANI

Tori?

TORI

You smell suspicious. That's a
flight jacket. You're with the
Air Force, aren't you?

Levanter holds up his hands.

LEVANTER

Please! They don't know I came
here. For years I've searched
for someone named Cirrus, and I
followed her scent here!

TORI

(narrows eyes)

Why.

LEVANTER

She is my mother.

Tori lowers her knife. She and Avani are both dumbstruck.

LEVANTER (CONT'D)

(innocent smile)

Where I can find her?

EXT. STADIUM - DAY

Down on the field, one blue-team midfielder passes the ball to another --

A red-and-purple midfielder TWIRLS his stick and SWINGS it down, summoning a quick AIR STREAM --

Which BLASTS the ball mid-flight into the net end of another red-and-purple midfielder's stick.

Cirrus stands and CHEERS with the crowd. Naur sits and politely CLAPS.

CIRRUS

Get up, that was a great move!

NAUR

(stands, lifts fist)

Hooray?

CIRRUS

Come on, give it some spirit!

Naur hesitates. He raises his fist higher and gives a CHEER, BREATHING FIRE for the short duration of it.

Many of the surrounding spectators see him and CHEER supportively.

Naur smiles bashfully. Cirrus pats him once on the shoulder, quickly pulls her hand away and blows on it.

CIRRUS (CONT'D)

Feeling okay with them now?

NAUR

(smile)

No. But I do feel better. I wish my mother were like you.

CIRRUS

Aww, you're too much.

Naur stares up at something. Cirrus follows his gaze.

STADIUM AIR SPACE

Levanter (wind tiger) hovers over the stadium, carrying Tori and Avani on his back. Avani holds his clothes. Tori points at the specks of Cirrus and Naur in the bleachers.

TORI

There they are!

LEVANTER (V.O.)

Good. Now, hope she catches you.

Levanter SPINS, dropping the girls. They YELL OUT.

BLEACHERS

Cirrus's face is a storm of hate.

Cirrus BOLTS out of frame, BLASTING wind behind her. Her wake FLAPS people's hair and clothes and BLOWS AWAY their snacks.

Her shirt and shorts smack into Naur's face.

FIELD

Tori pulls her knife and slowly summons water onto the blade. Avani reaches in her pocket with one hand and fights to keep her skirt down with the other.

Cirrus (wind tiger) flies low enough to buzz the players and summons an UPWARD GUST to stall Tori and Avani's plummet. She circles around a player and catches the girls on her back.

BLEACHERS

Cirrus lands in the aisle. Tori and Avani let go and drop. Naur frets among the wind-blasted spectators.

AVANI

Cirrus! Your son tried to kill
us!

Cirrus SMACKS Avani upside the head with a front paw.

CIRRUS (V.O.)

How old do you think I am?! He's
not my son, he's my ex-husband!

STADIUM AIR SPACE

A WHIRLING mass of air surrounds Levanter.

His human-form arms slip into his flight jacket. The sleeves roll back to reveal his bracelets.

Levanter (human) THROWS his arms downward.

BLEACHERS

Dozens of basketball-sized white swirls RAIN DOWN on the spectators and players and EXPLODE into WIND BLASTS, rag-doll tossing at least five people with each one.

The bleachers SHATTER into debris under the punishment. We see at least a few spectators STRUCK in non-immediately-lethal places by flying chair pieces and wood panels.

The spectators PANIC. Cirrus tenses her body and an air bomb SLAMS against a previously invisible air bubble around her, Tori, Avani, and Naur.

TORI

Sorry, you never told us your
age so we thought--

CIRRUS (V.O.)

--*Forty-four!*

Cirrus FLIES UP. Spectators SHOVE past the girls and Naur.

STADIUM AIR SPACE

Cirrus flies for Levanter.

Levanter JETS straight up. Cirrus BANKS and follows him, but he JETS back down again as if on a pole.

LEVANTER

It's been so long, Cirrus my
love! Come, let's dance.

Levanter's legs spread out as if standing on the field below. The last of the players vacates the field.

Levanter lifts his arms and JOLTS a few feet downward. He LEAPS aside as if on a surface to dodge a DIVE from Cirrus.

BLEACHERS

Tori and Avani crouch in one of the rows. Naur ducks and covers. Tori blinks, shakes her head and holds her ear.

TORI

Crap, my ears just popped. He's screwing with the air pressure!

A random spectator runs over the chairs and Naur ducks lower reflexively. His voice-over echoes and layers on itself.

NAUR (V.O.)

Don't hurt me, keep still and they won't, I'm sorry, stay quiet, please don't, I didn't...

STADIUM AIR SPACE

Cirrus dives at Levanter again --

Levanter THRUSTS his palms up --

And BLASTS her with enough force to ricochet her.

Levanter LAUGHS and AIR-SHOVES her further away in-flight, jumping from point to point on the non-surface of his air bubble.

LEVANTER

High-grade aluminum augmenters, dear! The *least* of the gifts you gave up when you left me!

Cirrus FLAPS her wings and HALTS her airborne tumble. She SHOOTs straight back at him.

CIRRUS (V.O.)

I don't need them and I didn't need *you!*

Air around Cirrus SPINS like a drill. Some of it turns white.

Levanter shows a hint of concern, holds out his arms --

And CATCHES Cirrus's body-drill head-on. His legs brace as if on solid ground.

Cirrus is motionless inside her air drill. The deflected wind ROARS AWAY, but the voices come through clearly.

LEVANTER (V.O.)

All you had to do was retrieve the Lahar girl, and instead you travel with her? Useless.

CIRRUS (V.O.)

You don't know what you're doing. The redhead down there--

LEVANTER (V.O.)

--Is the Beast of Water's famous daughter? I deduced it already! *Nankil'slas* will be thrilled to see Karrun thwarted!

Levanter tenses his arms and the drill EXPLODES OUTWARD, blowing Cirrus back.

Levanter drops another five feet.

BLEACHERS

Tori FLINCHES and holds her head. A random spectator runs over the chairs behind her and Avani.

TORI

Agh! That's it. Avani, can y--

Tori's lips keep moving, but all sound GOES MUTE.

The spectators hear their own silence and panic harder.

Avani bows her head and lays her hands on the ground. Tori jostles her shoulder and mutely shouts something at her.

Naur looks up from his duck-and-cover. He doesn't panic.

NAUR (V.O.)

What happens? It is so quiet...

Naur stands up, not noticing Tori as she mutely shouts at Avani, points at the field and frantically pantomimes a volcano erupting. Spectators panic all around him.

NAUR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I cannot be dead, I still feel
warm... is this what she meant by
focus? But what action is there?

STADIUM AIR SPACE

Levanter PUNCHES the air repeatedly, firing out long air
drills --

Which BURST around Cirrus and shove her in mid-flight even as
she dodges them.

CIRRUS (V.O.)

You impossible idiot! Kill Tori
and Karrun will eat your *bones!*

LEVANTER

(laughing)
You think you'll be around to
tell her I did it?!

Cirrus THROWS her body to her left --

A vibrating, transparent crescent flies from the wake of her
collarbone wing. It SHOOTs OFF and leaves a vapor trail.

Levanter grits his teeth --

He THRUSTS his fingertips at the crescent and it EXPLODES
into strong enough wind to FLAP his jacket.

Cirrus hovers. Four miniature whirlwinds surround her legs.
Her last line trails off in rage.

CIRRUS (V.O.)

You will not kill me and you
will not hurt them. They're the
closest thing to a family I've
had in years. Ever since you...

LEVANTER

Aw, still so upset about my
taking the cubs? Do you want to
know where they are right now?

Cirrus flinches.

Levanter grins sharply. It's the only way he grins.

He CLENCHES his toes.

BLEACHERS

Tori stops in the middle of her charades to grip her ears.
Avani blinks and taps her ear.

Naur stands in the row, a surprisingly serene figure in all
the silent chaos.

NAUR'S P.O.V.:

White swirls superimposed on the world flow down from
Levanter in the air and form a bubble over the stadium.

NAUR (V.O.)

The pressure increases... I see!
The center of the action!

Naur closes his eyes, calming himself further. He lifts his
arms up at an angle.

STADIUM AIR SPACE

CIRRUS (V.O.)

(reverberating)
Where. Are. My. Cubs.

Levanter crosses his hands behind his back. A whirling ball
of air, an air bomb, grows tighter and tighter until it
distorts light.

LEVANTER

Did you hope to free them from
some backwater outpost? Don't
count on it. The Nexus took very
good care of them. They're the
personal guards of the Beast of
Air, *Nankil'slas the Sun-thief!*

Cirrus's world goes numb.

Levanter sees his opening --

SWINGS his hand containing the air bomb forward --

BLEACHERS

Naur opens his eyes and TENSES his fingers simultaneously.

STADIUM AIR SPACE

A FIERY EXPLOSION erupts under Levanter's feet, setting his pants ablaze. Levanter SCREAMS --

The air bomb BURSTS in Levanter's hand, SNAPPING his fingers and his hand backwards with sheer force.

Levanter SCREAMS LOUDER.

Cirrus flies at him, surrounded by swirling wind.

Her human-form hands grasp Levanter's bracelets --

Cirrus (human), censored by the wind and fire, KICKS Levanter in the chest, leaving the ring bracelets in her hands.

Levanter flies back a few yards, but stops as if skidding.

Cirrus, still conveniently censored, grasps the aluminum rings in her left hand --

And BOLTS forward, SMASHING her right fist into his chest with an airy BANG of impact.

BLEACHERS

Levanter immediately sails down at incredible speed and CRASHES into the bleachers.

Sound returns, mostly from the few remaining PANICKING spectators. Naur lowers his hands from his neck to his belly and exhales slowly.

TORI (O.S.)

*--And then you make the sharp
end rise really fast to--*

AVANI (O.S.)

Okay! I can hear you now!

EXT. LIBRARY - SIDE PARKING SPACES - DAY

Klauser sleeps peacefully in his parking space.

Cirrus (human), dressed and lugging Tori and Avani under each arm and Naur on her back, LANDS very close to him. Klauser awakens with a GWARK.

CIRRUS
(straining)
Off. Now.

Naur hops off and Cirrus stands the girls on their feet. Avani mounts Klauser's saddle and Tori fusses with the rope. Cirrus wears Levanter's bracelets.

CIRRUS (CONT'D)
Let's hurry back to the hotel
and get the hell out of here.
Levanter won't be down for long.

Tori gets frustrated with the rope, pulls out her knife and cuts it.

TORI
No argument here. We can tell
you what we found on the way. We
can thank you on the way too.

Cirrus slides one of her new bracelets up and down her arm. Naur touches her on the shoulder.

NAUR
Cirrus. I, I want to thank you
right now. Without you, I might
never have--

CIRRUS
(pats his hand)
--I know, kiddo.

Cirrus walks out of frame. Naur remains, smiling.

EXT. STADIUM - FIELD - DAY

Levanter stands in the center of the lacrosse field.

At least a hundred broken and/or debris-struck spectators remain on the field or in the bleachers. Not all are dead.

Levanter lifts his good hand. His pants are burned.

LEVANTER

This has not been a failure. I
am not useless. Suffering... I
have succeeded in making them
suffer.

Levanter balls his fist. Wind begins encircling him at a wide
radius -- wide enough to encompass some victims and bodies.

LEVANTER (CONT'D)

The fear. The suffering. I shall
spread it. I shall spread it!

The wind picks up speed. Levanter shifts quickly to wind
tiger form as debris passes him.

Levanter CACKLES madly. The wind speed increases.

Some of the victims begin moving along with the wind.

EXT. STADIUM - DAY

A low TORNADO rises out of the stadium and begins ripping it
apart. Levanter's LAUGHING can be heard in the WINDY ROAR.

FADE OUT