

WATKINS

A large, hairy Bigfoot creature with brown and black fur, a prominent white beard, and intense white eyes. It stands in a forest with tall trees and green foliage. The creature's right arm is raised, showing a large, clawed hand.

CHASING BIGFOOT

FIND THE BIGFOOT
SIGHTING AND UNRAVEL
THIS COLD CASE MYSTERY

Chapter 1: First Contact

The rain hammered against the windows of the small research cabin nestled deep within the Olympic National Forest. Dr. Thomas Wilson, senior investigator for the TFBI's nascent Y-Files division, adjusted his glasses and studied the unusual radiation readings from his equipment.

For three nights in a row, the sensors had picked up anomalous electromagnetic fluctuations in this remote section of Washington State.

Wilson checked his watch: 11:47 PM. The storm was intensifying, sheets of water cascading down the windows, occasional lightning illuminating the dense forest beyond. He made another note in his leather-bound journal, the same one that would eventually find its way into the hands of a young agent named Fox Meyer decades later.

October 17, 1974 - Electromagnetic disturbances continue to spike between 2300-0200 hours. Consistent with patterns observed at other contact sites. Temperature drops approximately 8°F during peak activity.

A sharp crack of thunder shook the cabin. The lights flickered, then went out completely. Wilson reached for his flashlight when a strange glow from outside caught his attention. Through the rain-streaked window, two piercing blue-green eyes stared back at him from the tree line. Wilson froze. The eyes were at least seven feet off the ground, set in a large silhouette unlike any animal native to these woods.



Lightning flashed, briefly illuminating a massive humanoid figure covered in dark fur.

"Impossible," Wilson whispered, reaching slowly for his camera.

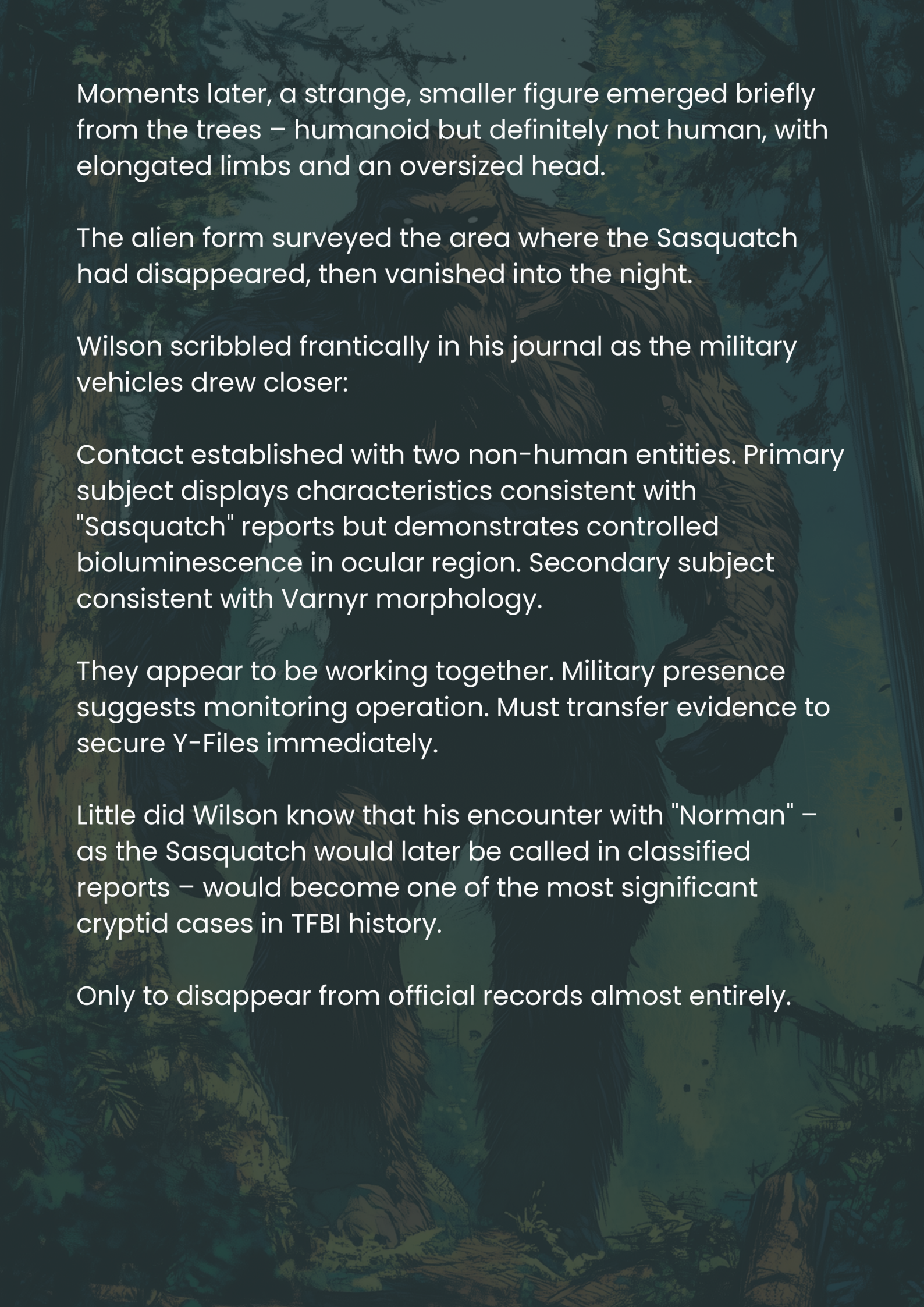
The creature tilted its head, studying Wilson with unmistakable intelligence. In the next lightning flash, Wilson noticed something extraordinary – the creature's eyes switched from their eerie blue-green glow to a normal, almost human appearance, then back again.

It was controlling its vision somehow, toggling between normal sight and something else entirely.

Wilson managed to snap two photographs before the creature raised a massive hand in what seemed almost like a greeting. Suddenly, the Sasquatch's head turned sharply to the right, as if hearing something beyond human perception. From deeper in the forest, a strange light pulsed three times.

The Sasquatch responded with a series of low, resonant vocalizations before turning back to Wilson. It tapped its eyes and then pointed to the sky in a deliberate gesture. Communication.

The moment was shattered by distant engine sounds. Military vehicles, based on the distinctive rumble. The Sasquatch's eyes flashed in alarm, and it melted back into the forest with surprising grace for its size.



Moments later, a strange, smaller figure emerged briefly from the trees – humanoid but definitely not human, with elongated limbs and an oversized head.

The alien form surveyed the area where the Sasquatch had disappeared, then vanished into the night.

Wilson scribbled frantically in his journal as the military vehicles drew closer:

Contact established with two non-human entities. Primary subject displays characteristics consistent with "Sasquatch" reports but demonstrates controlled bioluminescence in ocular region. Secondary subject consistent with Varnyr morphology.

They appear to be working together. Military presence suggests monitoring operation. Must transfer evidence to secure Y-Files immediately.

Little did Wilson know that his encounter with "Norman" – as the Sasquatch would later be called in classified reports – would become one of the most significant cryptid cases in TFBI history.

Only to disappear from official records almost entirely.

Chapter 2: Rediscovered Files

"I don't believe it," Fox Meyer muttered, his finger tracing the faded handwriting of his mentor.

Shadow Wing cruised smoothly at 35,000 feet above the North Atlantic. Most of the SERPENT team was resting between missions, but Fox had been unable to sleep.

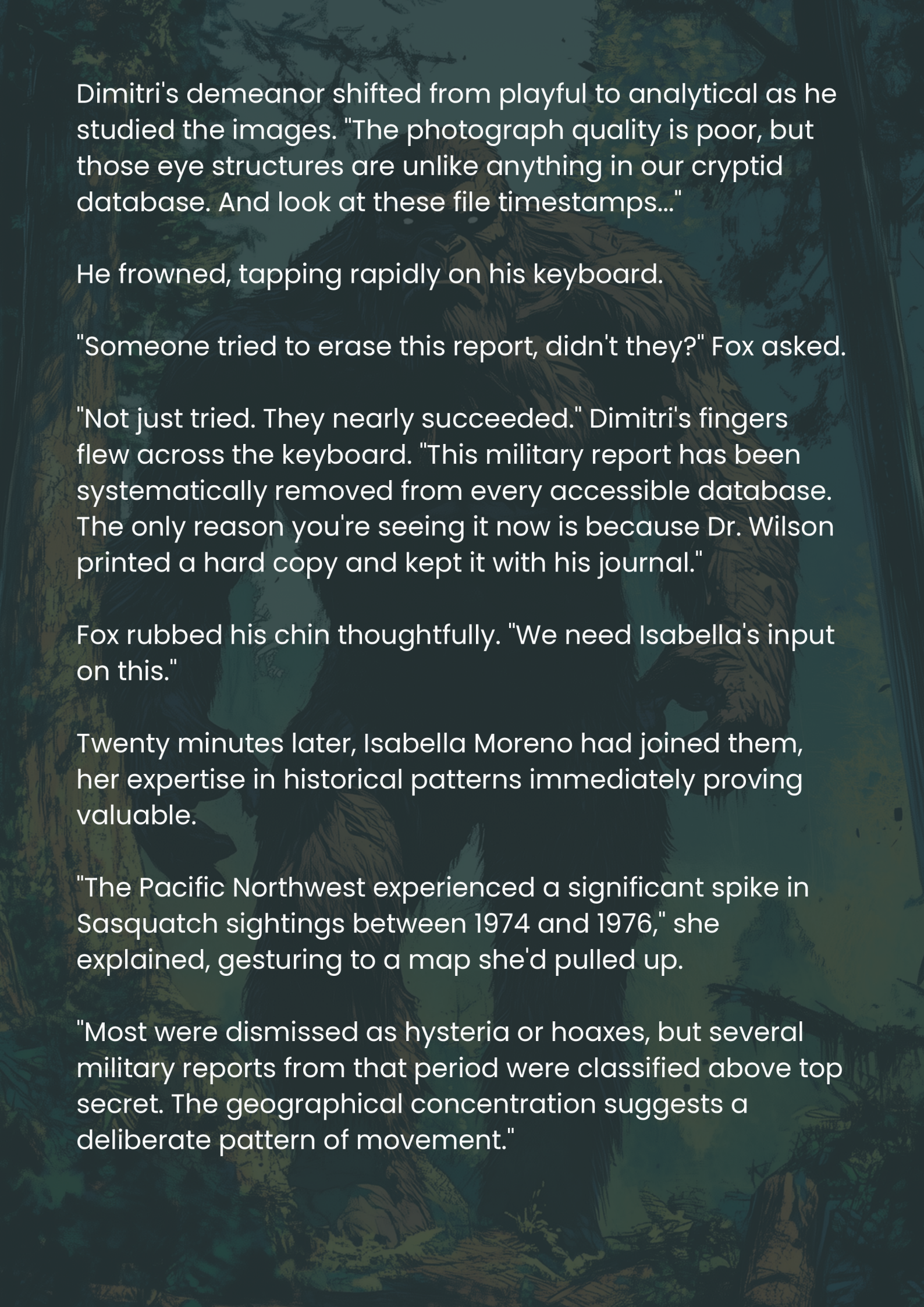
Instead, he'd decided to digitize some of the older Y-Files he'd inherited when Dr. Wilson retired from the TFBI. The particular journal entry he'd just uncovered sent a chill down his spine.

"Dimitri, you need to see this," Fox called across the cabin to where the Bulgarian tech specialist was tinkering with a prototype drone.

Dimitri Zechev set down his tools and ambled over, wiping his hands on his jeans. "What's so important that it interrupts my quality time with Baby Drone?"

"Look at this." Fox gestured to the digitized scan of Wilson's journal on his tablet, alongside a partially redacted military report from 1976.

"My predecessor documented an encounter with a Sasquatch that could control its night vision capabilities. And here, a military driver reported nearly hitting the same creature two years later outside a diner in the same region."



Dimitri's demeanor shifted from playful to analytical as he studied the images. "The photograph quality is poor, but those eye structures are unlike anything in our cryptid database. And look at these file timestamps..."

He frowned, tapping rapidly on his keyboard.

"Someone tried to erase this report, didn't they?" Fox asked.

"Not just tried. They nearly succeeded." Dimitri's fingers flew across the keyboard. "This military report has been systematically removed from every accessible database. The only reason you're seeing it now is because Dr. Wilson printed a hard copy and kept it with his journal."

Fox rubbed his chin thoughtfully. "We need Isabella's input on this."

Twenty minutes later, Isabella Moreno had joined them, her expertise in historical patterns immediately proving valuable.

"The Pacific Northwest experienced a significant spike in Sasquatch sightings between 1974 and 1976," she explained, gesturing to a map she'd pulled up.

"Most were dismissed as hysteria or hoaxes, but several military reports from that period were classified above top secret. The geographical concentration suggests a deliberate pattern of movement."



"A migration?" Fox suggested.

"Or a search operation," Isabella replied. "These sightings follow river systems and avoid major population centers, except for this anomalous report near the diner."

"Norman," Fox murmured, reading the name scrawled in the margin of the military report. "The report refers to the subject as 'Norman.'"

Something clicked in Fox's memory. "Klumgongyn mentioned a bioengineering program from that era. I need to speak with him immediately."

The secure communication chamber aboard Shadow Wing was rarely used for non-emergency situations, but Fox insisted. When Klumgongyn's distinctive features appeared on the screen, Fox immediately noted the Volrac's unusual tension.

"Fox Meyer, your transmission is unexpected—" Klumgongyn began, but stopped abruptly when Fox held up the photograph of the Sasquatch with its glowing eyes.

"You recognize this individual, don't you?" Fox asked.

Klumgongyn's large eyes blinked rapidly – a sign of agitation in his species. "Where did you obtain this image?"

The background of the text is a dark, moody illustration of a Sasquatch-like creature standing in a forest. The creature is covered in thick, brown fur and has a large, muscular build. It is positioned in the center of the frame, with its head slightly tilted. The forest around it is dense with trees and foliage, rendered in dark, muted colors. The overall tone is mysterious and somewhat ominous.

Fox explained about Wilson's journal and the rediscovered military report. With each detail, Klumgongyn's posture became more rigid.

"Norman was not merely a Sasquatch," Klumgongyn finally admitted. "He was part of an early collaborative program between my species and his. The Sasquatch people have coexisted with humans for millennia, retreating deeper into wilderness areas as human civilization expanded."

Dimitri and Isabella exchanged glances as Klumgongyn continued.

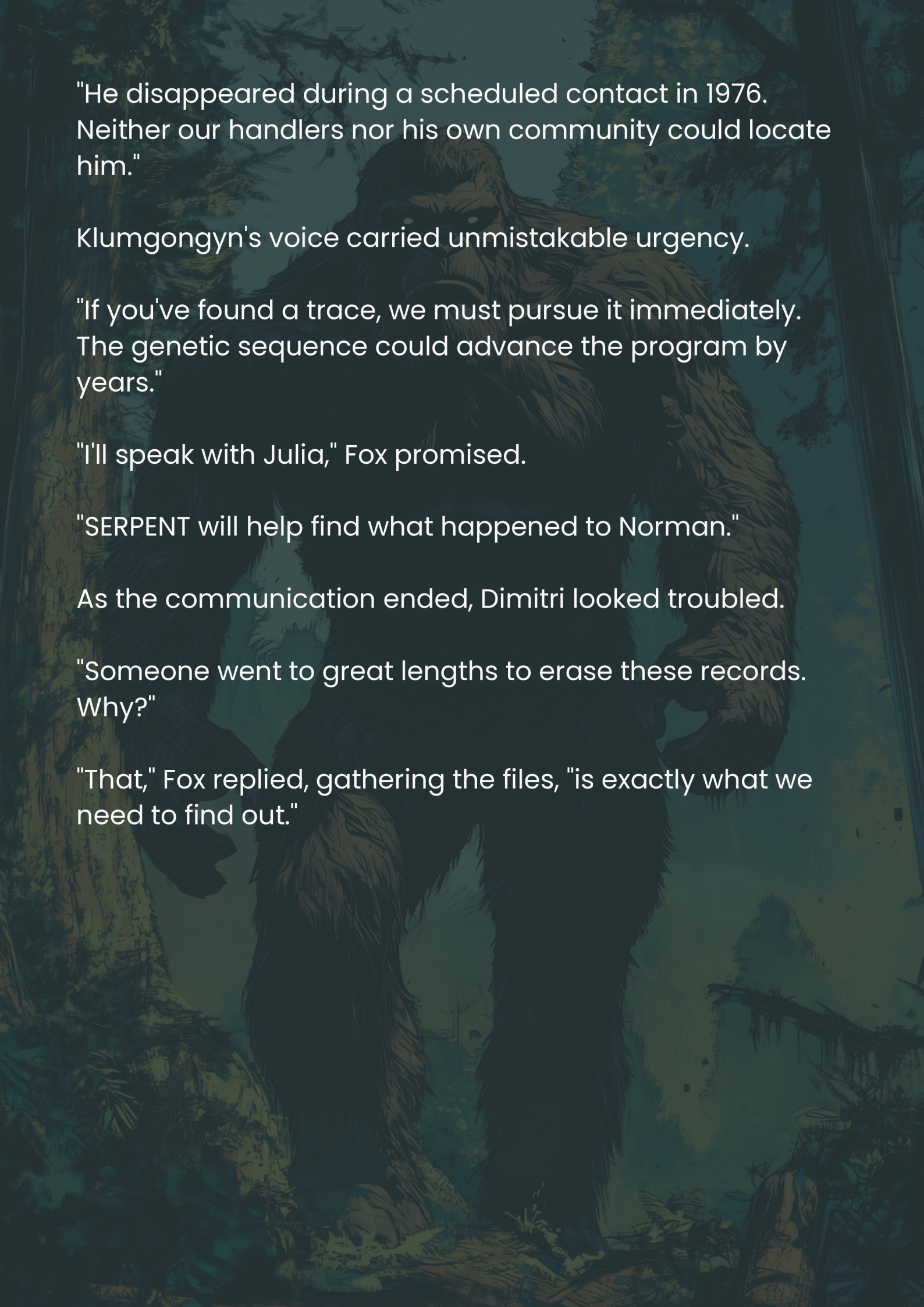
"Norman possessed a rare genetic mutation that allowed him to modulate his ocular structure, effectively toggling between standard vision and advanced nocturnal capability. This ability is precisely what our biotech researchers have been attempting to replicate for decades."

"For what purpose?" Isabella asked.

"The 'Future Soldier of 2030' program," Klumgongyn replied.

"A joint human-Volrac initiative to enhance natural capabilities rather than relying on external technology. Norman's genetic ability would eliminate the need for night vision devices."

Fox leaned forward. "What happened to him?"



"He disappeared during a scheduled contact in 1976. Neither our handlers nor his own community could locate him."

Klungongyn's voice carried unmistakable urgency.

"If you've found a trace, we must pursue it immediately. The genetic sequence could advance the program by years."

"I'll speak with Julia," Fox promised.

"SERPENT will help find what happened to Norman."

As the communication ended, Dimitri looked troubled.

"Someone went to great lengths to erase these records. Why?"

"That," Fox replied, gathering the files, "is exactly what we need to find out."

Chapter 3: Assembling the Team

"This goes beyond simple cryptozoology," Julia Sharpe stated, her British accent more pronounced as it always was when she was strategizing.

"If the Klumgon are this invested in finding Norman, there's more at stake than scientific curiosity."

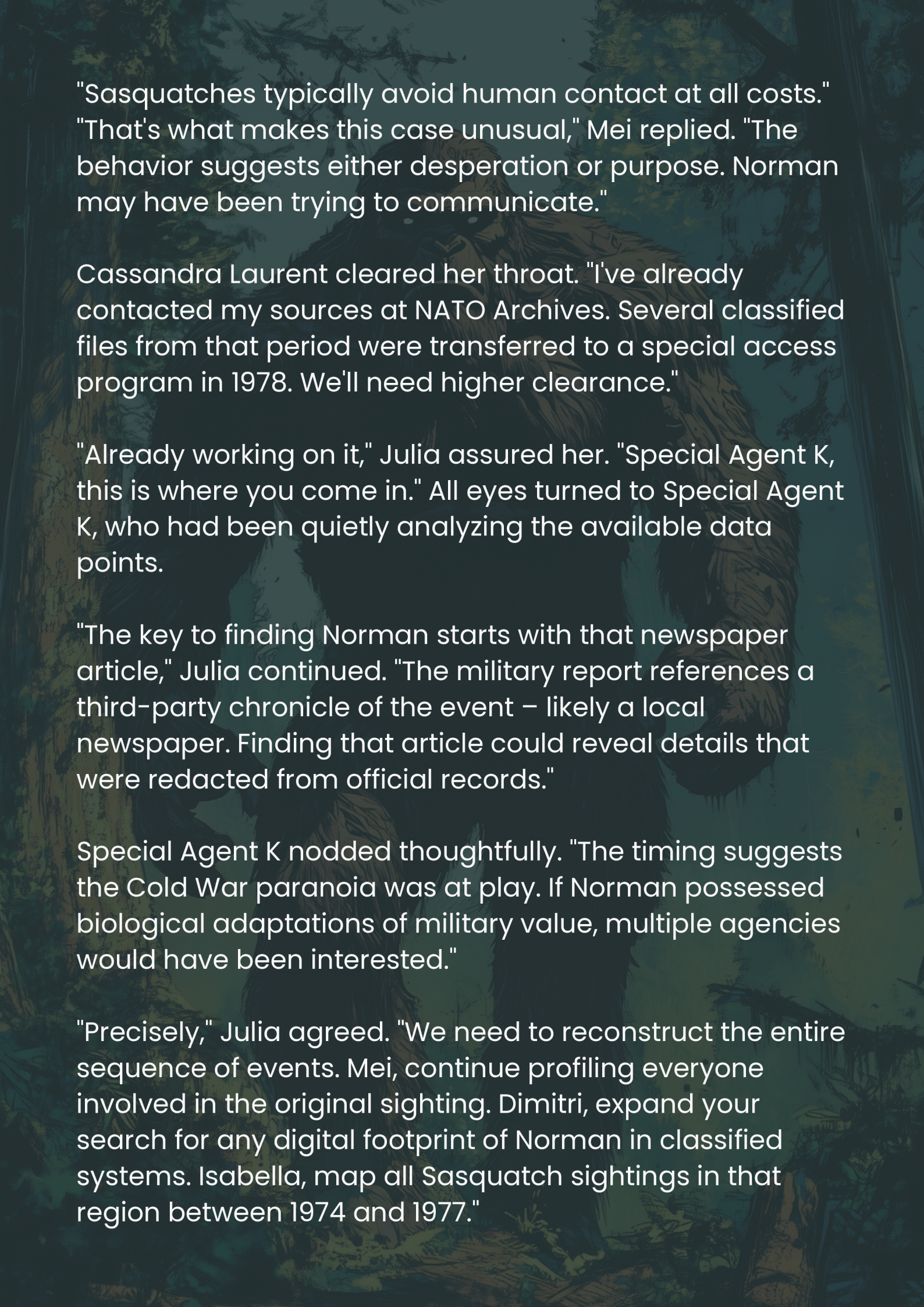
The Overseer's private office aboard Shadow Wing was rarely used for full team meetings, but the urgency of Klumgongyn's request had prompted Julia to call in key personnel.

Fox had just finished briefing them on the rediscovered files and his conversation with their alien liaison.

Mei Huang, SERPENT's psychology and linguistics expert, tapped her tablet thoughtfully.

"I've analyzed the language patterns in both Dr. Wilson's journal and the military report. The soldier who nearly hit Norman with his vehicle exhibited genuine shock but no fear. He described the encounter as 'peaceful' despite the circumstances."

"Any indication why Norman would approach a human vehicle?" Gabriel Adams asked, the BTRU team leader's tactical mind already working through scenarios.



"Sasquatches typically avoid human contact at all costs." "That's what makes this case unusual," Mei replied. "The behavior suggests either desperation or purpose. Norman may have been trying to communicate."

Cassandra Laurent cleared her throat. "I've already contacted my sources at NATO Archives. Several classified files from that period were transferred to a special access program in 1978. We'll need higher clearance."

"Already working on it," Julia assured her. "Special Agent K, this is where you come in." All eyes turned to Special Agent K, who had been quietly analyzing the available data points.

"The key to finding Norman starts with that newspaper article," Julia continued. "The military report references a third-party chronicle of the event – likely a local newspaper. Finding that article could reveal details that were redacted from official records."

Special Agent K nodded thoughtfully. "The timing suggests the Cold War paranoia was at play. If Norman possessed biological adaptations of military value, multiple agencies would have been interested."

"Precisely," Julia agreed. "We need to reconstruct the entire sequence of events. Mei, continue profiling everyone involved in the original sighting. Dimitri, expand your search for any digital footprint of Norman in classified systems. Isabella, map all Sasquatch sightings in that region between 1974 and 1977."



Gabriel stood up.

"BTRU will prepare for possible field deployment. If we locate promising search areas, we should be ready to move."

"What about the Klumgon angle?" Fox asked. "Klungongyn seemed unusually anxious."

Julia's expression was measured. "The technology implications are significant. Bioengineered night vision would revolutionize military operations worldwide. It's also exactly the kind of technology that would strengthen our collaboration with the Volracs."

She straightened her blazer and addressed the room.

"This operation takes priority. The contract is ours, and Special Agent K will lead the OSINT investigation. Find that newspaper article, and we find our path to Norman."

As the team dispersed to their respective stations, Julia beckoned Special Agent K to remain behind. Once they were alone, she pulled up a secure file on her terminal.

"There's one more thing you should know," she said, her voice lowered. "Dr. Wilson's final journal entry mentioned that Norman appeared to be fleeing from something – not just human military, but potentially Klumgon handlers as well."



She slid a USB drive across the desk.

"The official briefing I'm about to give you contains what Klumgongyn wants us to know. This drive contains what we've pieced together independently. Use both, but trust your instincts."

Julia stood, signaling the end of their private conversation.

"Come with me, Special Agent. It's time for your official briefing on Contract: Norman."

The Overseer led the way to the briefing room, where the formal mission parameters would be laid out – the very briefing that would set Special Agent K on the trail of a Sasquatch with extraordinary abilities and a mysterious disappearance that had implications for both human and alien interests.

Briefing

Greetings Special Agent.

After starting our collaboration with Klumgongyn and his species, a lot of the earth's mysteries have cleared up. One such mystery is Bigfoot/Sasquatch. These creatures roam the American heartland and far north. Sasquatches evolved alongside humans but retreated to rugged wilderness while we chose Swedish furniture comfort. The Klumgon have been using Sasquatches to monitor human reactions to foreign species.

During the 1970s, a US Armed Forces member reported "Driver has close sighting of Bigfoot" while returning from a late-night diner. This Sasquatch, named "Norman," was never seen again, even disappearing from Klumgon handlers. Norman possessed a unique genetic ability to toggle nocturnal vision.

The Klumgon need Norman to reverse-engineer this ability for their "Future Soldier of 2030" biotech program. This would replace clunky NVGs with enhanced eyes and a microchip—valuable technology for our collaboration. Your assignment: Find the article where this soldier's encounter is chronicled by a third party. This will be your investigation's starting point.

As always, Special Agent, the contract is yours, if you choose to accept.

Materials

The internet, the truth is out there...

Answer Instruction

Use the answer to unlock the flagfile, this will reward you with your badge.

The answer is the full URL for the article.

Example answer:

<https://www.website.com/article>

Flagfile

Be advised, the flagfile is an encrypted ZIP. Make sure your OS supports the ZIP format. Ensure the password contains no hidden characters or formatting.

PS: Don't forget to claim your Coins and XP, by posting your card in the [#card-brag](#) channel in Discord.

<https://discord.hacktoria.com>

Write-Up

There is an attached file called a write-up, this will give you the answer in case you get stuck.

Acknowledgements

This challenge was made by Frank Diepmaat.