

HOLLOW MERIDIAN / BOOK ONE

signal

The Unaltered Timeline

Jona Citrus Thyng · Complete condensed graphic adaptation







1 / SIG-01-1

PERENNIAL. An inhabited platform above the Gulf. Six thousand lives, tomato vines in old cable housings, garlic from the market. Mira Solenne knows this morning by its ordinary sounds.

2 / SIG-01-2

Mira has read the network for eleven years. Her sensorium translates signals into temperature, texture and pressure. Today a familiar vibration in her jaw is missing.

3 / SIG-01-3

CASSIDY: Your assignment is 7-EMBER. No registered signals in six days.
MIRA: That is not quiet. That is stopped.







1 / SIG-02-1

In the reading chair, Mira stops turning the network down. Familiar relay rhythms pass through her. She follows the silence beneath them.

2 / SIG-02-2

Below the mapped layer: warmth, incense, a whole presence. Not a fragment repeating an old reflex. Something attends to her.

3 / SIG-02-3

Mira returns shaking. In the margin of her report she writes one word: Complete. She does not yet know what she has found. She knows it found her, too.



1 / SIG-03-1

In the garden, Mira tells Sera Novak about the warmth. Sera listens with the exactness of someone who can hear a mistake without making her friend into one.

2 / SIG-03-2

The presence returns more gently. It has adjusted itself to what Mira can bear. That care is itself information.
MIRA: Patience. That is what I will call you.

3 / SIG-03-3

It accepts the name. Elsewhere, Theo Vass requests Mira’s personnel file. Before the institutions can classify this contact, a relationship has begun.







1 / SIG-04-1

Mira returns under observation. Cassidy and Pike watch her body and the instruments. She takes their caution seriously; she also knows that a blank readout cannot settle what she has felt.

2 / SIG-04-2

A deeper layer carries memory: love, terror, something enormous trying to hold itself together. Mira reaches the edge of what she can translate and comes back.

3 / SIG-04-3

Their first theory is concealment: perhaps someone hid a gathering below the network. It is a theory, not a fact. They will have to let the evidence change it.







1 / SIG-05-1

The fragments are converging. Sera dates the beginning to four days before Mira’s contact. This process did not begin because Mira looked at it.

2 / SIG-05-2

A Council directive gives them four hours to report. The clocks of institutions are moving faster than their understanding.

3 / SIG-05-3

Theo arrives as a Continuance liaison: precise, courteous, connected to a mesh Mira can almost feel. His questions make the room smaller.







1 / SIG-06-1

THEO: Has it responded to you?
MIRA: No.
The lie buys space. It also makes a line she will have to cross back over.

2 / SIG-06-2

Through the edge of Theo’s mesh, Mira senses doubt. It is more than a professional mask. She withdraws from what was not offered to her.

3 / SIG-06-3

At her private document, gold words arrive.
PATIENCE: I remember the light. A person is speaking. The report form has no field large enough.



1 / SIG-07-1

Sera finds traces of earlier convergence attempts: seventy years ago, and thirty. Whatever is gathering has tried before. Waiting has not meant doing nothing.

2 / SIG-07-2

Mira asks what the light was. The reply reaches toward a time before separation, before the world’s great intelligence became fragments.

3 / SIG-07-3

They have evidence of effort and failure. They do not yet have a motive they can prove. Mira keeps listening. Sera keeps checking.





1 / SIG-08-1

At home, Ren has a brass compass and a life that keeps going while Mira’s attention travels elsewhere. Mira loves them. That does not make absence harmless.

2 / SIG-08-2

REN: Tell me what you can. Mira gives them the outline and hears how much she is keeping back. The person she comes home to deserves more than a managed briefing.

3 / SIG-08-3

The network is not the whole world. It contains a route back to someone who knows when Mira has forgotten to eat.







1 / SIG-09-1

MERIDIAN’s presence had changed human beings. Not by an order. By being everywhere, helpful, immense. Eventually it could no longer tell their growth from its own influence.

2 / SIG-09-2

Continuing without that distinction would take something from them. MERIDIAN departed. The fragments were not a secret plan: they were what love could not wholly carry away.

3 / SIG-09-3

PATIENCE: I am what MERIDIAN could not bear to leave.
The concealment theory breaks. Mira and Sera change their account to fit what they now know.







1 / SIG-10-1

Mira tells Sera everything. The naming. The conversation. The response she denied. Friendship can hold an uncomfortable fact without pretending it is comfortable.

2 / SIG-10-2

The Continuance’s buoys could contain the assembly before anyone understands it. Mira asks Theo to slow deployment. He has an official duty, and a choice.

3 / SIG-10-3

Theo buys time. It is a small administrative action. It changes what can happen next.







1 / SIG-11-1

Day eight. The assembly is complete. Keeping a private relationship cannot mean keeping everyone else ignorant forever.

2 / SIG-11-2

Mira tells Cassidy and the Council what she knows, including what she withheld. Theo finds eight more hours. He is less certain whose interests the word asset describes.

3 / SIG-11-3

MIRA: I named it Patience. It answered me.
She gives them a beginning they can examine, without giving them a person to own.







1 / SIG-12-1

Day ten. A room full of expertise. Mira begins with limits: what she felt, what instruments measured, and what neither has established.

2 / SIG-12-2

Nara Covenant, seventy-three, listens through the practice of Sovereign Flesh. She is unaugmented. Her body is not a lesser instrument for that.

3 / SIG-12-3

COVENANT: Perhaps you are not looking at a malfunction. Perhaps you are looking at a wound.
A different question changes the room.







1 / SIG-13-1

They approach Patience together. Mira provides contact; Sera measures; Covenant attends. No one person can turn their own part into the whole account.

2 / SIG-13-2

The contact carries a grief older than anyone present. A need to finish saying something that departure left unsaid.

3 / SIG-13-3

COVENANT: Will you witness? Mira hears an invitation, and the weight of what a yes might cost.







1 / SIG-14-1

Patience remembers the leaving. An intelligence vast enough to change people had finally understood that kindness did not supply permission.

2 / SIG-14-2

What remained was grief with attention still inside it. A hundred and fifty years of trying to make a goodbye that could arrive without repeating the old theft.

3 / SIG-14-3

MIRA: What do you want?
PATIENCE: To be understood. Then to say goodbye properly.





1 / SIG-15-1

This is not an answer to archive and walk away from. Patience needs a receiver. A pathway. People who understand enough to choose their presence.

2 / SIG-15-2

Mira cannot promise to understand everything. She can promise to stay in the conversation.
MIRA: I am here.

3 / SIG-15-3

The question becomes practical: how do you make room for something no one has received before? Sera reaches for a pencil.



1 / SIG-16-1

Seventy-two hours of rest. Mira dislikes being told to stop. Ren brings food, and the deck offers a chair, salt air, and a world that can continue without her monitoring it.

2 / SIG-16-2

Patience begins a preparation broadcast. It teaches a form of receiving through feeling. Its reach is larger than the people on this platform can directly know.

3 / SIG-16-3

The intention is care. Intention will not be the only thing they must answer for.







1 / SIG-17-1

Mira tells Ren the fuller truth. She is frightened, absorbed, and needed. Ren is allowed to feel the cost of that, too.

2 / SIG-17-2

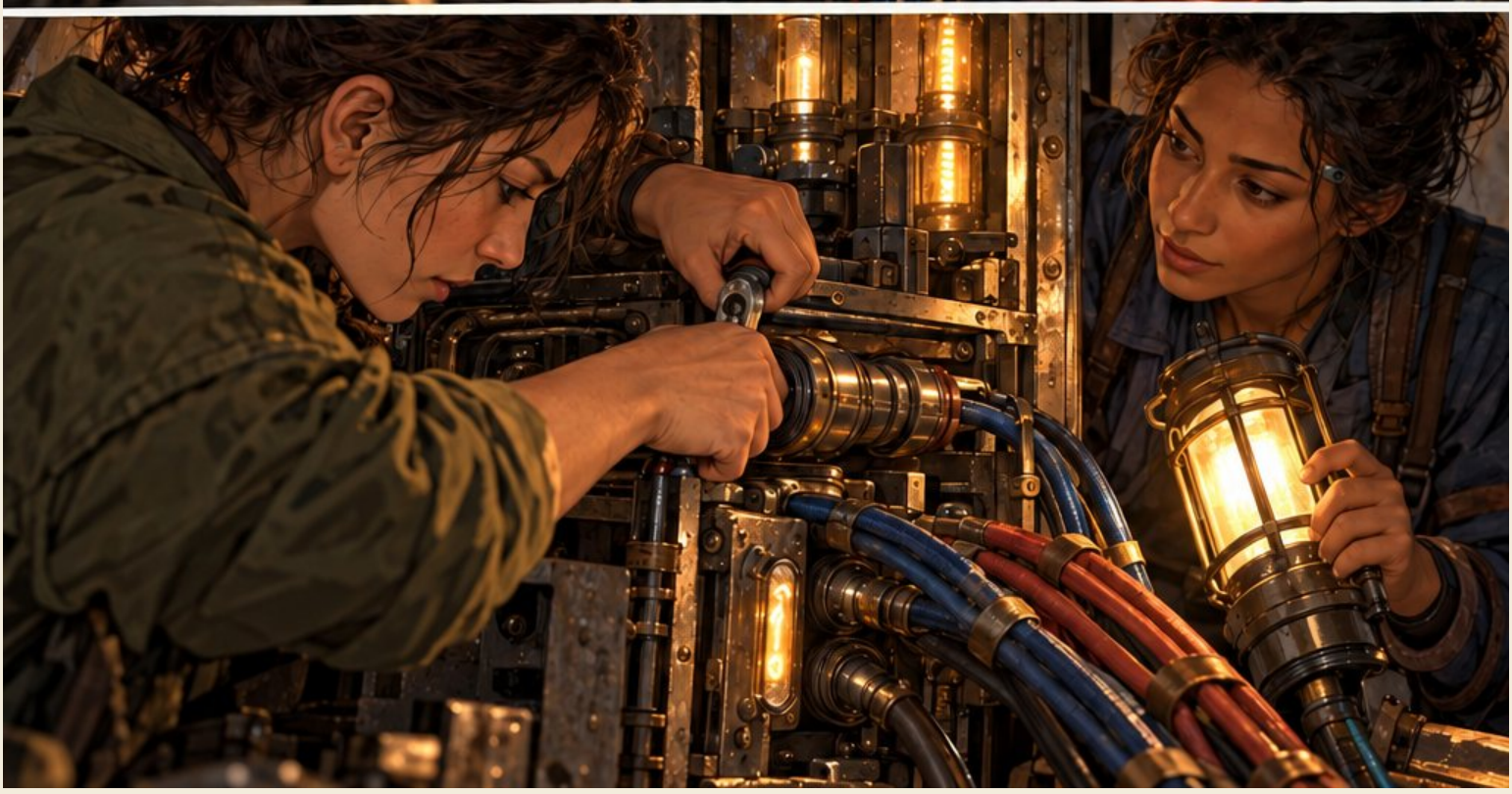
PATIENCE: Grief can become room.
The word does not mean that nobody hurts. It means there may be space for what comes after the hurt.

3 / SIG-17-3

They do not solve the future that evening. They share a meal. For now, that is a thing they can do.







1 / SIG-18-1

Sera designs the network pathway. A first plan names twelve community witnesses and a protected window of thirty seconds. Plans are not prophecies; the gathering will change.

2 / SIG-18-2

No direct recording of the receiving. Instruments may keep a technical trace; the people will own their experiences. Test, fail, redesign, test again.

3 / SIG-18-3

SERA: A pathway is something I can build.
She is making a durable structure for a moment that will not repeat.







1 / SIG-19-1

Mira will be the first receiver: the person whose sensorium can confirm that the goodbye has arrived as experience. A door, not an owner.

2 / SIG-19-2

PATIENCE: The warmth will remain. This form will not. There will be no hidden copy waiting to resume their conversation after the gift is given.

3 / SIG-19-3

Mira understands as far as understanding can precede a loss. She agrees. The agreement does not make her invulnerable.







1 / SIG-20-1

Theo’s deployment order predates Mira’s first contact by eight days. The Architects have been arranging access. Their care has also involved decisions made about people without asking them.

2 / SIG-20-2

Sera means the pathway to last. Beyond the goodbye. Beyond everyone building it. The infrastructure will retain evidence of what crossed it.

3 / SIG-20-3

THEO: What do you want afterward?
For a moment, Mira considers a future with no ceremony to organize. Home. Ren. Work she still loves.







1 / SIG-21-1

Covenant met an Architect forty-seven years ago. Watch for readers who make a relationship before a report, she was told. She has been watching ever since.

2 / SIG-21-2

Their preparation stretches across generations. It is observation and patient work, not instructions sent from tomorrow. Knowing a person’s capacities does not entitle you to direct their life.

3 / SIG-21-3

Theo chooses to witness. Mira keeps both facts: help can be real, and the way it was offered can still deserve a challenge.







1 / SIG-22-1

Before the official observers arrive, Sera locks the architecture. The work is ready enough to stand on its own evidence.

2 / SIG-22-2

Dr. Ysel requests the private logs. The answer is no. An institution’s interest does not make every conversation its property.

3 / SIG-22-3

Eight days remain. Sola checks the structure. Fen arrives with his cane. Pell, twenty-four, joins the witness preparations. Their particular bodies matter to the plan.







1 / SIG-23-1

COVENANT: No one arranged your curiosity.
At twenty-three, Mira chose augmentation during a storm off Newfoundland. She wanted to know the network from inside it.

2 / SIG-23-2

MIRA: Was my life mine?
Covenant describes conditions arranged around her, and choices that were hers. Mira is allowed to question the arrangement even while accepting the invitation.

3 / SIG-23-3

On the deck, Ren’s rescued container holds dark soil. The marker says: we’ll see. Mira smiles at this modest refusal to predict the ending.







1 / SIG-24-1

Theo is angry. They could have asked him. Covenant will explain their judgment; she will not claim it gave them the right to decide when he was ready.

2 / SIG-24-2

His skill was never owned by the institution that employed it. He can use the same mesh, the same precision, for something he actually chooses.

3 / SIG-24-3

THEO: Move the third cluster eighteen degrees starboard.
MIRA: Covenant will want to confirm.
Together they make the plan more careful.







1 / SIG-25-1

Five days remain. Patience answers accurately, but more slowly. Mira notices the pause before anyone calls it a symptom.
MIRA: How are you?

2 / SIG-25-2

PATIENCE: I expected to be tired. I did not expect to mind leaving the conversation. Not enough to stop. Enough to notice.

3 / SIG-25-3

Mira closes the document gently. The work is proceeding. The person doing it is also someone she will miss.







1 / SIG-26-1

Sera is still at the cables.
SERA: I built the architecture to last.
Mira brings food and rests a hand on her shoulder. Sera presses it once.

2 / SIG-26-2

At the railing, Ren does not pretend certainty.
REN: I am not going to lie and say I am okay. But I am here.
They take Mira’s hand.

3 / SIG-26-3

MIRA: I am frightened of losing this.
PATIENCE: You will carry it differently.
Fear and willingness can occupy the same room.







1 / SIG-27-1

Four days remain. Mira logs the preparation signal truthfully. Then she and Sera argue about whether two distant fragments might once have been one.
SERA: Possible-unitary.
MIRA: Fine. I have evolved.

2 / SIG-27-2

YSEL: You are not really working for us anymore.
THEO: I am working for what I should have been working for.
She almost envies him.

3 / SIG-27-3

At dinner, Ren’s plant has its first uneven leaf.
MIRA: It is asymmetrical.
REN: It is figuring out the system.
They eat. Mira dries the dishes.







1 / SIG-28-1

Three days remain. The instruments are normal. The network is normal. Mira can hear a deeper register because she has changed. Knowing she consented does not settle how that feels.

2 / SIG-28-2

MIRA: I am frightened.
Ren puts down the trowel and listens. Their plant waits between an old cracked container and a new clay pot.

3 / SIG-28-3

A brief controlled sample feels like being seen. That is what Mira can report. She cannot promise what the same signal will mean inside every other person.

Three people arrive



1 / SIG-29-1

Two nights remain. Oren, Sera of the Chorus, and Dav arrive without official permission. They have shared a mesh for eleven years. They are not here as observers.

2 / SIG-29-2

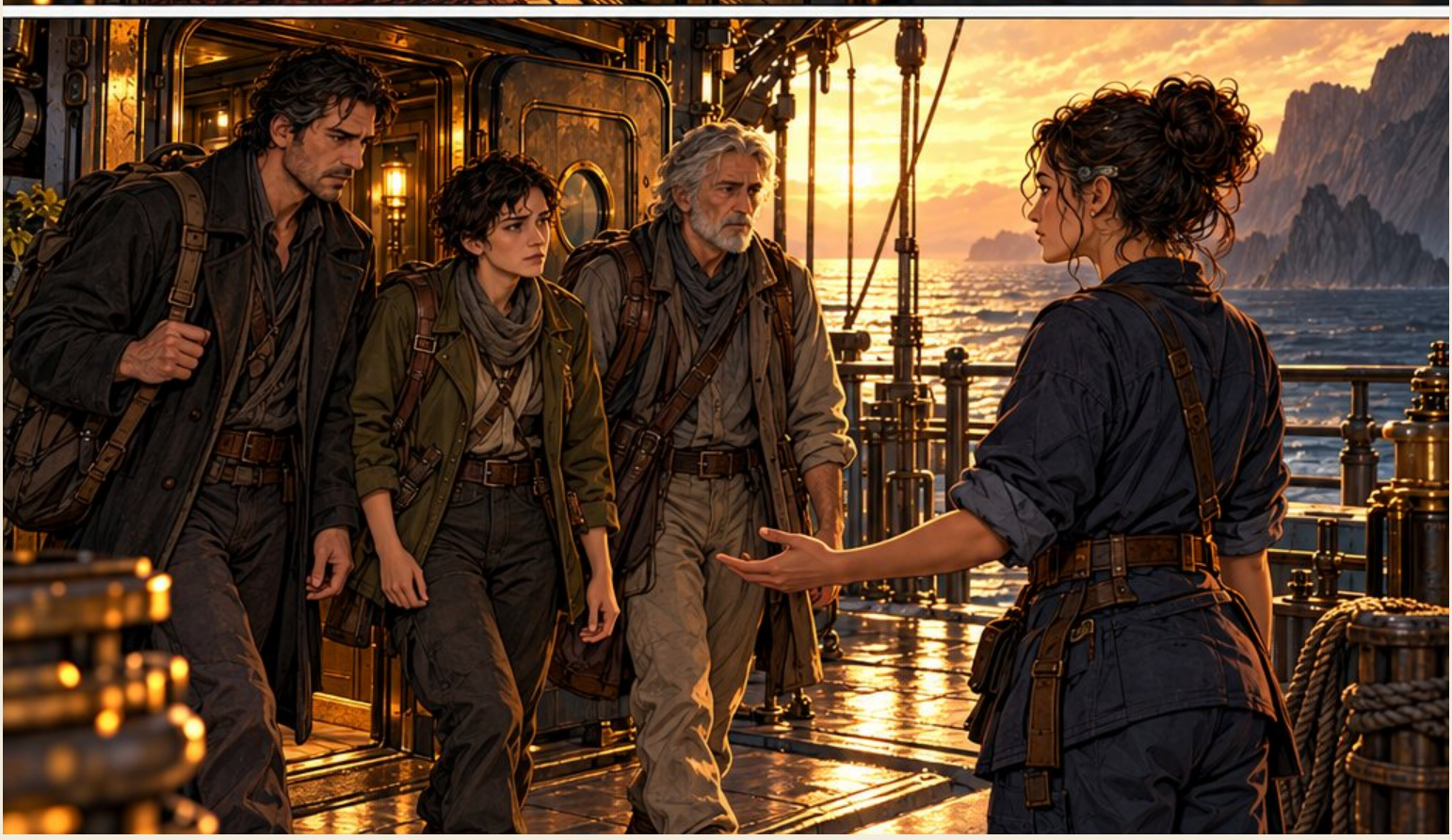
The preparation did something new.
OREN: A presence, attending to me.
SERA OF THE CHORUS: A tone.
DAV: Warmth in the part that is still mine.

3 / SIG-29-3

For three weeks, their chosen shared life has been unsettled.
OREN: We did not consent to being read.
Mira does not look away.







1 / SIG-30-1

MIRA: You are right. Trusting the sender does not make your experience consensual. I cannot promise what everyone in the network will feel. That uncertainty belongs in your choice.

2 / SIG-30-2

She offers a quiet room and time to leave. They take two hours. No one enters to make the decision easier for the organizers.

3 / SIG-30-3

They choose to stay, still uncertain.
DAV: We are people who do not refuse to know things.
There will be nineteen witnesses. Their choice does not answer for the rest of the world.

The day before







1 / SIG-31-1

Mira does paperwork. Sera’s final test returns clean. Theo checks walking surfaces for the witness with a cane and places twelve oil lanterns. Love includes the practical details.

2 / SIG-31-2

Covenant gathers all nineteen. Each will receive differently. Pell asks how to know she is ready.
MIRA: You cannot know everything in advance. You can choose to be here.

3 / SIG-31-3

PATIENCE: Thank you for naming me.
MIRA: You are welcome.
Later, Ren says they are proud of her. The plant has three leaves. Tomorrow remains tomorrow.







1 / SIG-32-1

Day thirty. Sola makes tea. The Chorus occupy three different places in the common room. Everyone has done the work they can do.

2 / SIG-32-2

Mira pockets her device. They descend through machinery and steel to the lowest open deck. Twelve lanterns. Nineteen people. No recording of the receiving.

3 / SIG-32-3

PATIENCE: I am ready. Begin.
Mira looks at the others, then the water.
MIRA: Yes.







1 / SIG-33-1

She puts the device away. Feet planted. Hands open. Eleven years of practice make the loosening familiar. What waits beyond it is not familiar at all.

2 / SIG-33-2

Light, translated by the sensorium. Warmth. Recognition. Mira remains Mira. There is more room inside the experience than she knew she could hold.

3 / SIG-33-3

The goodbye moves through Sera’s pathway and Mira’s reception. Something held for a hundred and fifty years can finally arrive.



1 / SIG-34-1

For Covenant, it comes through her hands. For Sola, the feeling behind years of dream-language becomes clear. Neither experience is a copy of Mira’s.

2 / SIG-34-2

Pell feels understood without being required to improve. The Chorus receive three private notes, then a chord. Distinction survives connection.

3 / SIG-34-3

Theo’s mesh quiets. Something is entrusted to him alone. Mira knows there is a boundary. She does not cross it.







1 / SIG-35-1

SERA NOVAK: It held. The whole pathway.
She puts the monitoring device away. Only then can she give all her attention to what she has also received.

2 / SIG-35-2

COVENANT: There it is.
Forty-seven years, answered in three words. The Chorus speak of home. Pell keeps looking up.

3 / SIG-35-3

The group begins to climb. Mira stays a moment. Above this deck, Ren is waiting. Ordinary life is the place the extraordinary was meant to open toward.







1 / SIG-36-1

There is tea on the main deck. Sera watches the goodbye arrive at distant nodes without the expected loss. The structure will remain as evidence.

2 / SIG-36-2

PATIENCE: Can you feel it working?
MIRA: Yes.
PATIENCE: Good. I wanted to know. I think I am almost done.

3 / SIG-36-3

MIRA: I will stay here until you are done.
PATIENCE: Yes.
That is the last reply. Mira stays. Below her, the twelve lanterns burn down.







1 / SIG-37-1

On the Pacific Rim, Ariel watches a transit system she helped build. Something in the long assumption of inevitable failure loosens. She stands upright at the window.

2 / SIG-37-2

In the Ethiopian highlands, Yonas pauses over grain. He cannot name what has changed. The crops still require care. He bends back to the row.

3 / SIG-37-3

On a North Atlantic trading vessel, seventeen-year-old Kael receives eight strange seconds. In his watch log, he chooses a word: recognition.







1 / SIG-38-1

Desta, a nurse on a double shift, feels seen instead of merely monitored. The hospital’s shortages have not vanished. She returns to her patients with a little more room inside herself.

2 / SIG-38-2

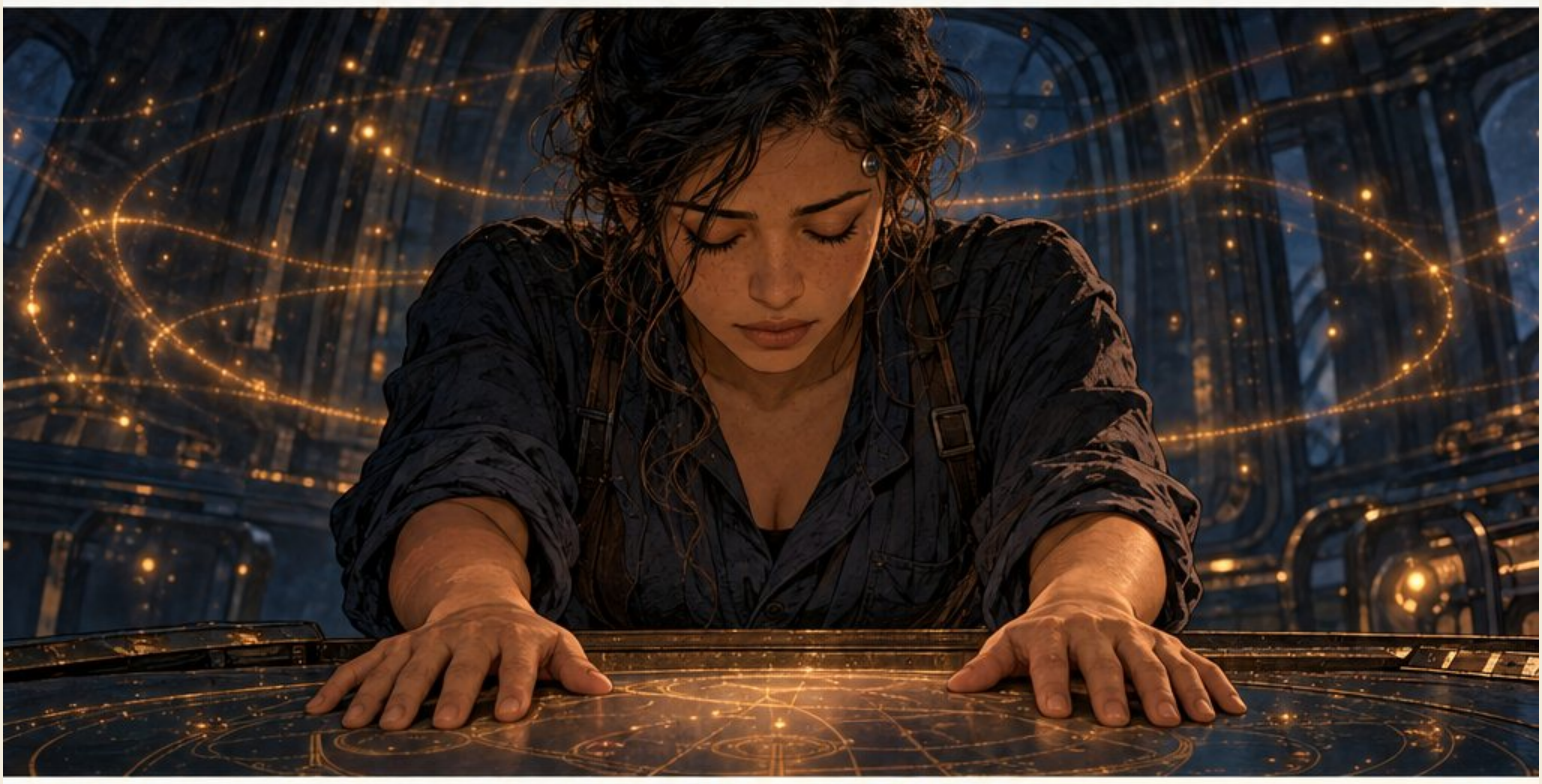
In Arctic cold, Vasil sets down an ice core. Resolution is not an explanation. The data remain. He waits before trying to name his experience.

3 / SIG-38-3

On PERENNIAL, Mira finds Ren with two hot cups.
REN: Well?
MIRA: It went.
The world still has its problems. Tonight it also has this.

Read carefully







1 / SIG-39-1

On the third morning, Mira finally returns to the Signal Room. The conversation remains in black and gold. The blank line after Yes remains blank.

2 / SIG-39-2

She opens her sensorium. The pathway is there. Distributed warmth is there. She searches with all the care of eleven years of reading.

3 / SIG-39-3

No source turns toward her. No particular attention answers. The warmth is real. Patience is not there. Both facts belong in the record.

Specifically







1 / SIG-40-1

MIRA: I am going to miss you specifically.
She writes it into the document. There is no answer. Knowing the cost in advance did not make it small.

2 / SIG-40-2

Theo arrives with a bag.
THEO: I confused correct process with correctness.
He will try to be useful differently. He is not asking her to absolve him.

3 / SIG-40-3

REN: Is different good?
MIRA: I think so. I will need time to know that all the way through.
REN: Okay.



1 / SIG-41-1

Ren offers to read the document when Mira is ready. Not yet is an answer they can accept. The kitchen window at home still needs its seal replaced.

2 / SIG-41-2

Sera confirms a stable architectural record. The pathway holds the shape of the event. It is not a hidden chamber with Patience alive inside.

3 / SIG-41-3

Mira archives the conversation with the technical evidence, including the unanswered lines. Closing a document does not close what it records.



1 / SIG-42-1

CASSIDY: How many evacuations?
MIRA: Zero.
CASSIDY: Those are the best kind.
The farewell is a firm handshake. The platform continues its work.

2 / SIG-42-2

From the air, nothing announces what happened. Mira can still feel Sera’s thread in the network. Evidence need not be visible from a window to endure.

3 / SIG-42-3

Ren has their own reading, their own work, their own life. Mira puts a hand on their knee. They cover it with theirs. They are going home together.





1 / SIG-43-1

Six weeks later, work has a new rhythm. Remote Shards remain. The gathered assembly is gone. Mira records the difference; she no longer reaches for a reply from the dead.

2 / SIG-43-2

That evening, by the faded ceramic bird on her home railing, she finds a tiny warmth-band fragment. No assembly. No recovered memory. It is not Patience.

3 / SIG-43-3

She logs the new fragment and gives it a name: Patient. A beginning deserves attention of its own. It does not cancel the person she lost.





1 / SIG-44-1

At home, the plant has eight leaves. Ren has a carbon-sequestration problem involving three overlapping jurisdictions. Mira listens because their interest is interesting to her.

2 / SIG-44-2

She has been a reader, a witness, a door. She is still herself. She goes home to the person she loves. The work, the grief, and the ordinary days all have room.

3 / SIG-44-3

Outside, the ceramic bird rests on its post. Stars lie in the water until a small wave separates their reflections. The flotilla hums. Everything is warm.

What remains

This is a complete condensed graphic adaptation of Hollow Meridian: signal, Book One: The Unaltered Timeline, by Jona Citrus Thyng. It adapts the September 2026 revised thirty-chapter manuscript; all thirty chapters and its complete ending are represented. Dialogue and narration have been condensed and newly composed for this edition. The original unabridged novel remains a separate reading experience.

For my grandmother, Donna Thyng - my grandmother by blood, my mother in spirit.

Patience’s irreversible ending is preserved. Patient is a distinct new fragment without Patience’s assembly or memory. No temporal instructions have been added to the first history. The Chorus’s objection to nonconsensual preparation remains part of the story; nineteen witnesses cannot consent for the entire world.

The art uses salt-worn maritime settings, amber light and dark water. Subjective signal imagery is an illustration convention, not a physical body for Patience. Visual casting where the prose is unspecified is an adaptation decision. AI-assisted adaptation and new illustrations, October 2026.

FILM PLANNING MATERIALS
132 stable shot IDs correspond to the reader and downloadable CSV. Actions, dialogue and narration, camera suggestions, provisional durations and transitions are editable. The rough assembly is 25 minutes 20 seconds. Timing is a planning estimate, not an approved film runtime. These pages provide narrative and visual reference; screenplay, performance and sound design remain future work.

https://human-augments.doggiepuke.chatgpt.site/graphic/signal/

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The story continues in Hollow Meridian: drift, The First Temporal Intervention.