

03

The Zeus Games

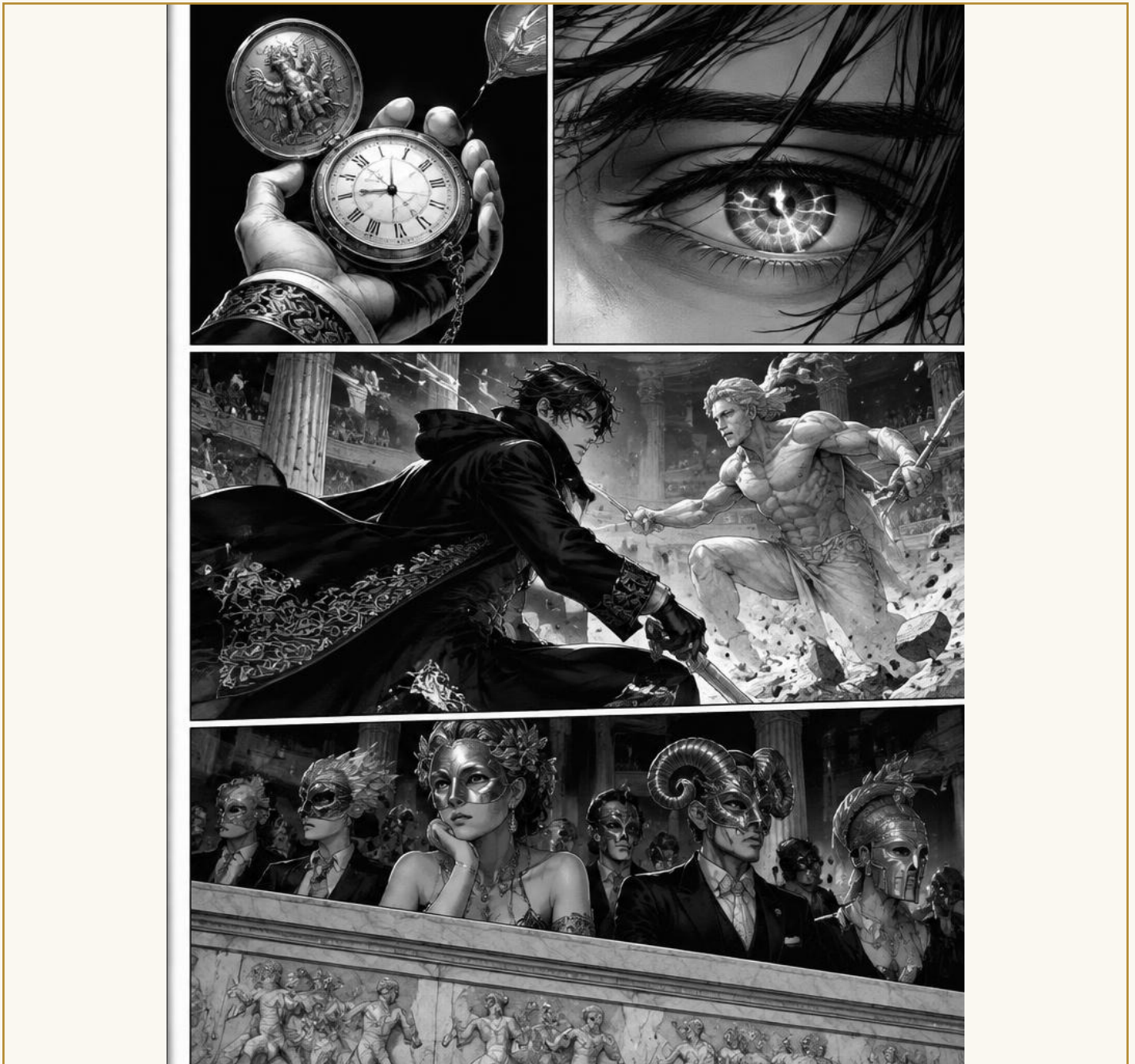
Every four years, the city hosted games it did not know it was hosting.



Beneath Manhattan, marble columns held up a second city.

MIKA The invitation gave no address.

LYRA It gave a time that already passed.



The arena doors opened as Mika's watch began moving backward.

DORAN

Tell me that clock is broken.

MIKA

All of them are.



The first opponent had been carved before Rome learned its name.

Stone moved. Ten thousand spectators did not flinch.

LYRA Listen—the lightning comes before the sky.



Above them, New York continued as if gods had never needed applause.

MASKED VOICE The final trial begins.

MIKA Then let them see us.