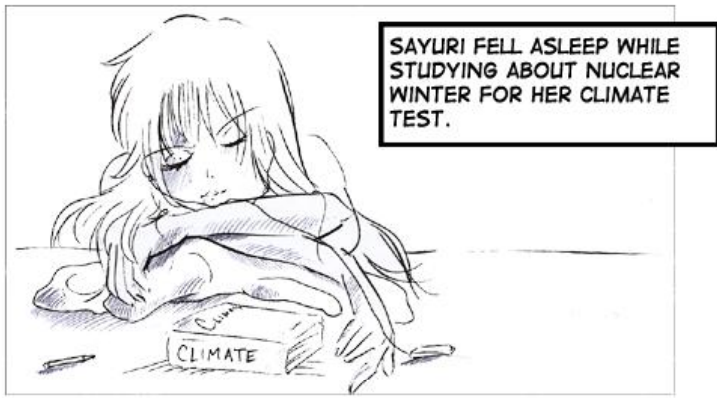


DREAMING OF A

nuclear
WINTER

STORY BY BEN HAYES
& PAUL THOMPSON

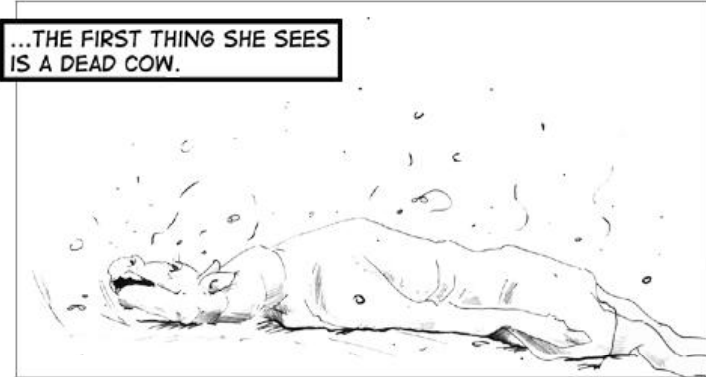
ARTWORK BY PAUL THOMPSON



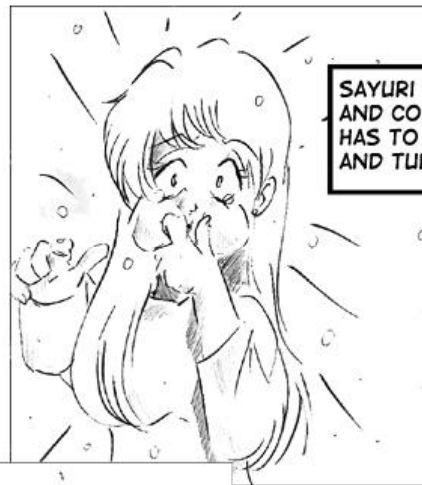
SAYURI FELL ASLEEP WHILE STUDYING ABOUT NUCLEAR WINTER FOR HER CLIMATE TEST.



IN SAYURI'S DREAM, SHE WAKES UP IN ANOTHER WORLD WHERE IT'S "SNOWING"...

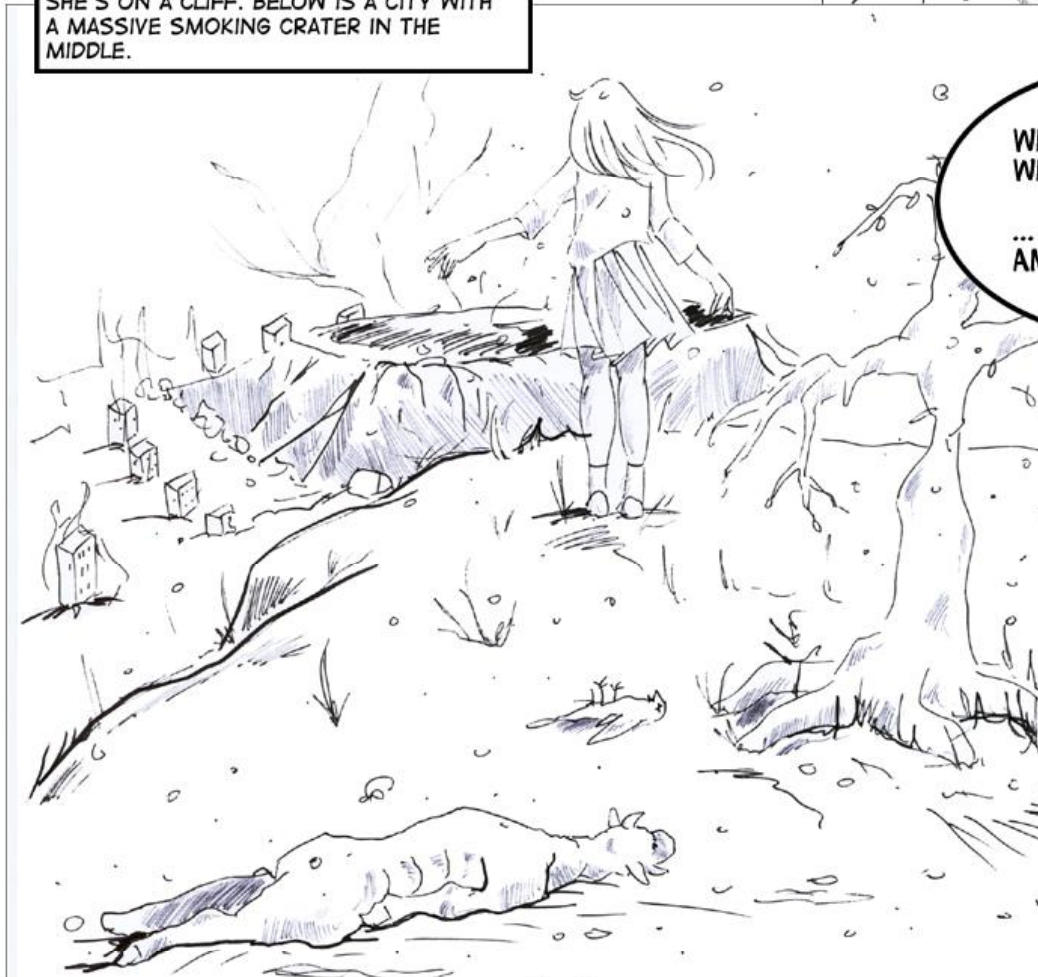


...THE FIRST THING SHE SEES IS A DEAD COW.



SAYURI IS DISGUSTED AND CONFUSED. SHE HAS TO LOOK AWAY, AND TURNS AROUND...

...SAYURI TURNS AROUND TO SEE THAT SHE'S ON A CLIFF. BELOW IS A CITY WITH A MASSIVE SMOKING CRATER IN THE MIDDLE.



WHAT HAPPENED?
WHERE AM I?
... DID EVERYONE DIE?
AM I ALONE?

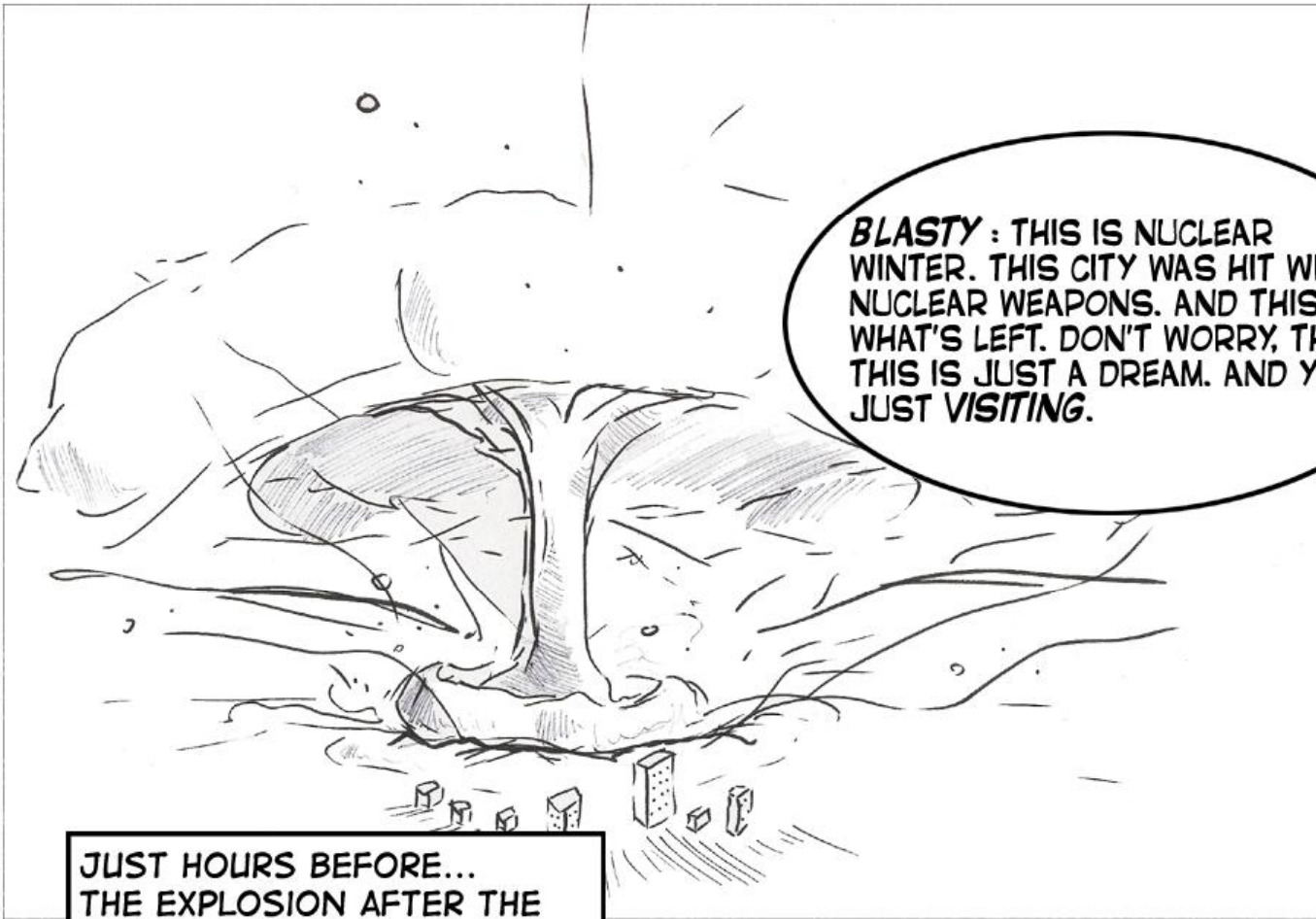
A SMALL VOICE IS HEARD AND SAYURI LOOKS TO HER SIDE.



NO, YOU'RE NOT ALONE! I'M BLASTY, THE FRIENDLY NUCLEAR WARHEAD. I'M HERE TO TEACH YOU ABOUT NUCLEAR WINTER!



WHAT HAPPENED HERE? WHERE AM I?



BLASTY : THIS IS NUCLEAR WINTER. THIS CITY WAS HIT WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS. AND THIS IS WHAT'S LEFT. DON'T WORRY, THOUGH. THIS IS JUST A DREAM. AND YOU'RE JUST VISITING.

JUST HOURS BEFORE... THE EXPLOSION AFTER THE IMPACT.



SAYURI: WAIT! WHAT ABOUT MY PARENTS? ARE THEY OKAY?

BLASTY: NOPE, THEY'RE DEAD. OR WOULD BE IF THIS REALLY HAPPENED.



SAYURI: ... OKAY, BUT WHAT ABOUT MY DOG?

BLASTY: ... UM, IF HUMANS WERE TO DIE, I'M PRETTY SURE YOUR DOG WOULD, TOO.

PAUL THOMPSON 2006



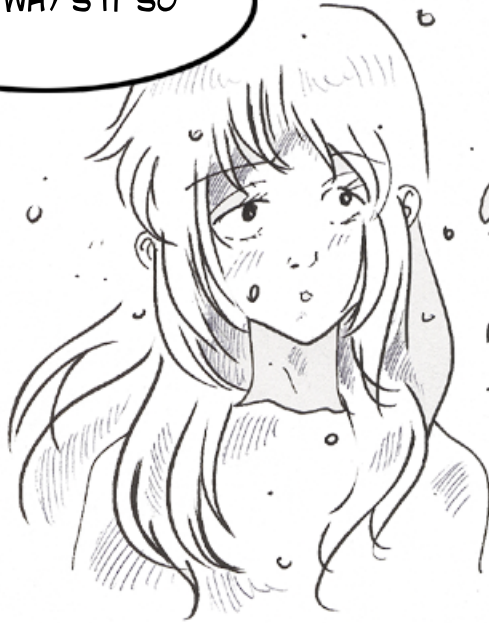
BLASTY: IN FACT, THE ONLY ANIMALS TO SURVIVE WOULD BE BUGS. ESPECIALLY COCKROACHES.

A DEAD WHALE ON A BEACH SOMEWHERE.

BLASTY: EVEN SEA ANIMALS WOULD DIE. THE WATER IS IRRADIATED. AND SINCE IT'S DARK, ALL THE PLANKTON WOULD DIE.



WHAT'S WITH ALL THE SNOW? WHY'S IT SO COLD?

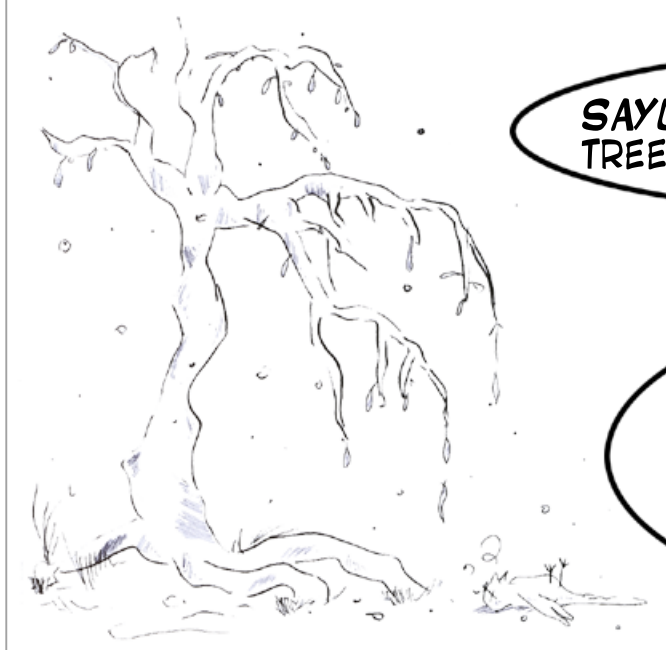


THIS ISN'T SNOW! IT'S DEBRIS FROM EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE DESTROYED IN THE EXPLOSION AS WELL AS DUST THROWN UP BY THE BLAST!



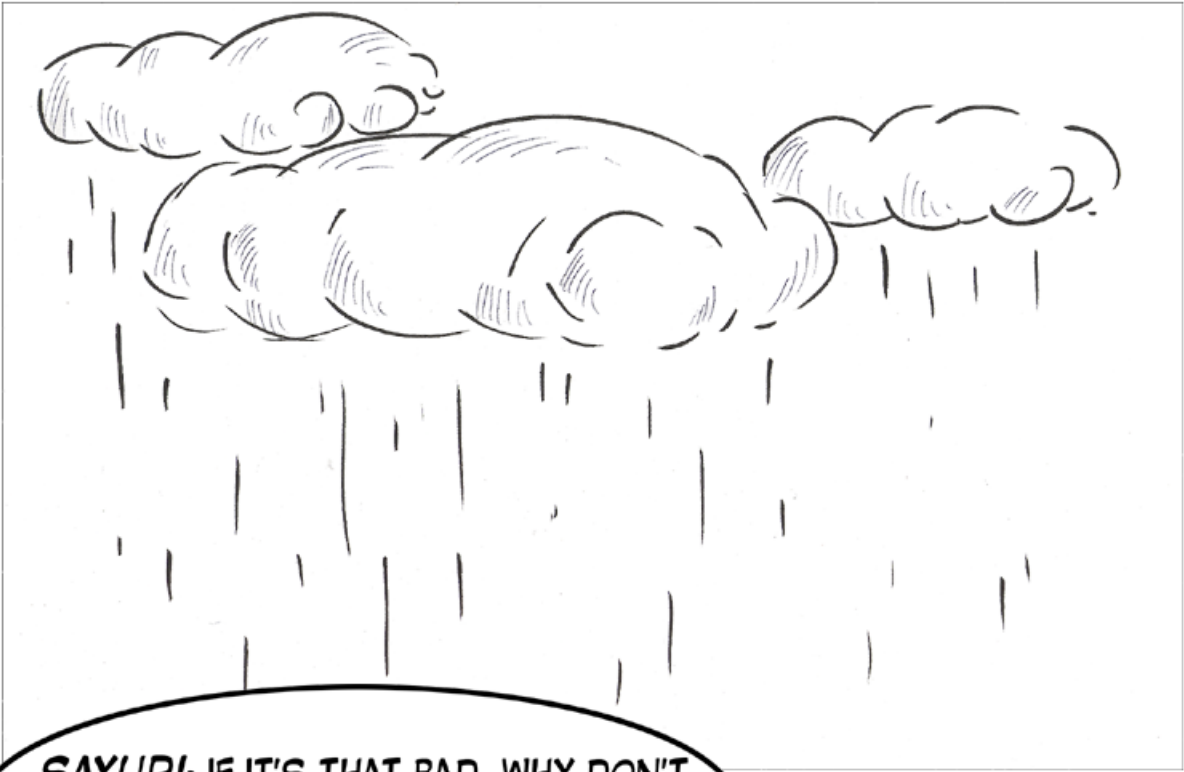
BLASTY: THE EXPLOSION THROWS DUST IN THE AIR, AND THE WINDS WILL CARRY IT AROUND THE EARTH. THAT'LL FORM A DENSE CLOUD THAT WILL BLOCK OUT SUNLIGHT ACROSS THE EARTH. THE BLAST ALSO PUNCHED A HOLE IN THE OZONE LAYER.





SAYURI: WHAT ABOUT PLANTS? LIKE THAT TREE OVER THERE.

BLASTY: THE SURFACE TEMPERATURE WILL DROP 18 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT EVERYWHERE AND FREEZE *EVERYTHING*. THERE'D BE MUCH LESS SUNLIGHT, AND PLANT LIFE WILL DIE. THAT'S WHY A LOT OF ANIMALS WOULD DIE. NO PLANTS TO EAT!




SAYURI: IF IT'S THAT BAD, WHY DON'T WE JUST WAIT FOR THE RAIN TO WASH AWAY THE DUST?

BLASTY: NOPE, THAT WOULDN'T WORK! BECAUSE IT'S SO COLD, THERE'S LESS PRECIPITATION. NORMAL WEATHER PATTERNS WOULD BE COMPLETELY DISRUPTED. THERE PROBABLY WOULDN'T BE ANY RAIN FOR MONTHS OR EVEN YEARS.



SAYURI: I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND. SOME PEOPLE WOULD SURVIVE, RIGHT?

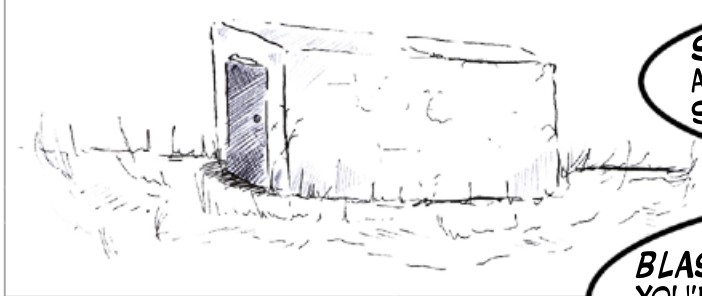


BLASTY: WELL, JUST THINK OF THE DINOSAURS AND HOW THEY WERE KILLED BY A METEOR. THE METEOR CAUSED THE SAME THING TO HAPPEN, AND THE DINOSAURS DIED. THE HUMAN RACE WOULD PROBABLY SUFFER A SIMILAR FATE.

SAYURI: UGH, I FEEL SICK AFTER ALL THIS TALK. MAYBE I NEED SOME FOOD. I'D KILL FOR SOME FRIES.

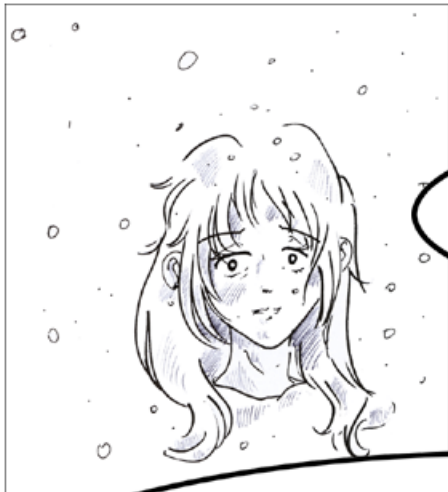


BLASTY: I WOULDN'T RECOMMEND THAT. BETWEEN THE FALLOUT AND THE HOLE IN THE OZONE, ALL FOOD IS CONTAMINATED. WATER, TOO!



SAYURI: NO FOOD? NO WATER?
AND IT'S COLD! HOW CAN ANYONE
SURVIVE NUCLEAR WINTER?

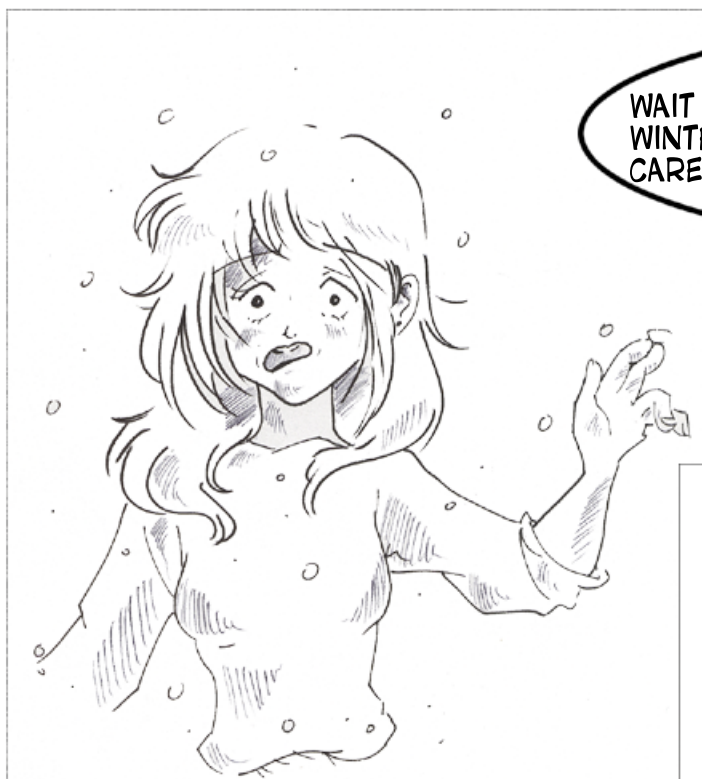
BLASTY: A FALLOUT SHELTER WOULD HELP, BUT
YOU'D EVENTUALLY HAVE TO COME OUTSIDE. AND
THEN YOU'D GET IRRADIATED. WHAT A BUMMER!



SAYURI: ... BUT I COULD JUST WAIT IT OUT IN THE
SHELTER, RIGHT? AND EVERYTHING WOULD BE OKAY
AFTER?

BLASTY: NOT QUITE. THERE'S ALWAYS NUCLEAR SUMMER.
AFTER THE DUST SETTLES, TEMPERATURES RISE AGAIN AND THE
HOLE IN THE OZONE WOULD ALLOW MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF UV
RADIATION TO GET THROUGH. AS TEMPERATURES RISE, THERE
WOULD BE MORE WATER VAPOR IN THE AIR SO YOU WOULD SEE
A *SUPER* GREENHOUSE EFFECT.

WAIT A MINUTE. MY PROFESSOR SAID THAT NUCLEAR
WINTER IS ONLY HYPOTHETICAL. WHY SHOULD WE
CARE? IT MAY NEVER HAPPEN.



WELL, IT HELPS US STUDY SIMILAR
SITUATIONS. LIKE VOLCANIC ERUP-
TIONS THAT THROW MILLIONS OF
TONS OF ASH INTO THE ATMO-
SPHERE AND BLOCK OUT THE SUN,
FOREST FIRES, OR MAN-MADE
DISASTERS LIKE BURNING OIL
FIELDS.





WELL, IT'S TIME TO SEND YOU BACK SO YOU CAN TAKE THAT TEST. REMEMBER EVERYTHING I TAUGHT YOU!

SAYURI IS IMMEDIATELY SENT BACK TO HER WORLD.



WAIT! I WANT TO LEARN MORE!

SAYURI WAKES UP.



WOW, WHAT A WEIRD AND SCARY DREAM. I'M GLAD NONE OF IT WAS REAL.

PAUL THOMPSON 2006

**THE
END**