

A METAPHYSICAL THRILLER BY JANE JENSEN

ACERUS

EMPIRE RISING

PROLOGUE

story by Jane Jensen
art by Andy Hoyos
and Lena Pigareva

South Africa 1987



Ten more minutes, children!

Do your best.

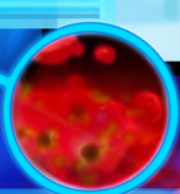
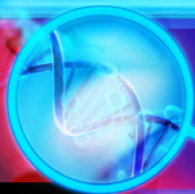
Test was easy.
I'm bored.

Ouch! You should
make needles that
don't hurt.

Maybe you'll
grow up and
invent one, eh?

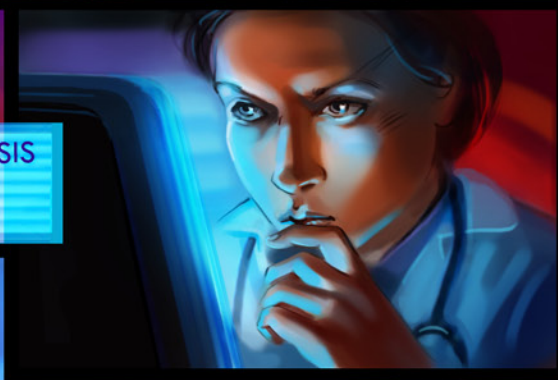


1000322 MALACHI RECTOR



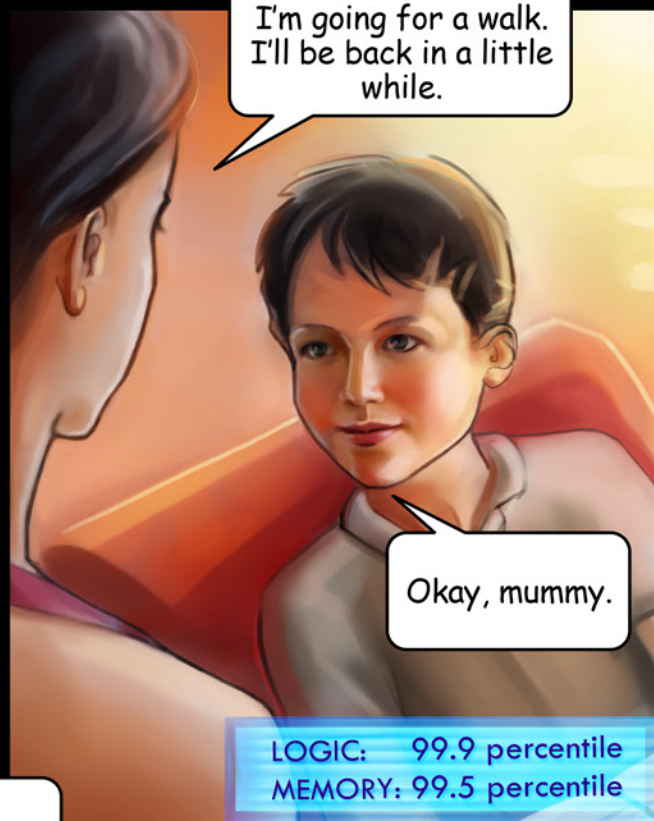
TEST RESULTS
IQ:175

FRONTAL LOBE ANALYSIS
Left Cortex 80%
Right Cortex 20%





Enjoying your books, Kye? You're such a good boy.



I'm going for a walk. I'll be back in a little while.

Okay, mummy.

LOGIC: 99.9 percentile
MEMORY: 99.5 percentile



Two hours later ...

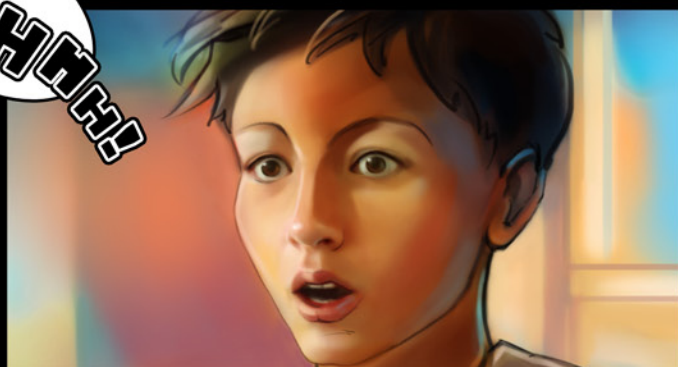
I have to go before I'm missed. Next week?

Mmm ... Your husband is a fool.

We're all fools.



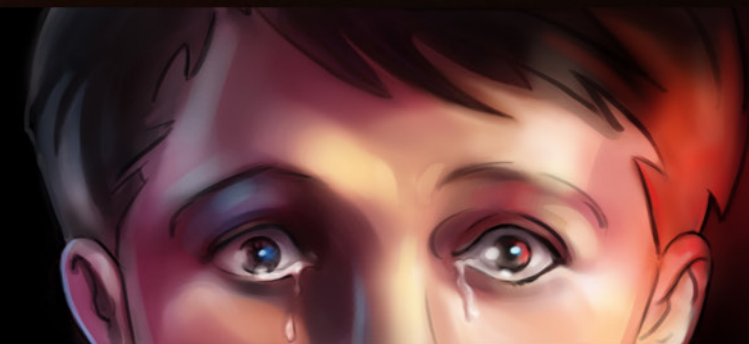
AAHHHHH!!







DNA sub-type:
LR-SD-23311



Flagged: Code Red

San Xoán, Spain

September 2013



I hear you have an exquisite eye. You're going to love this piece!

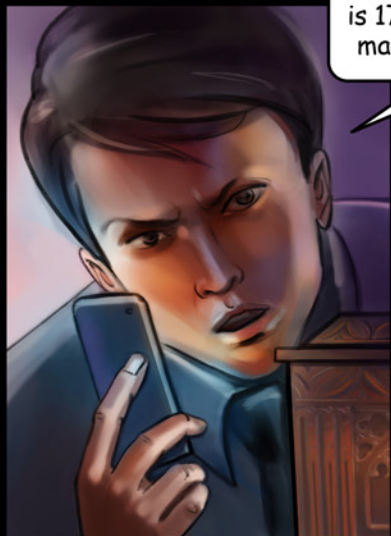
Señor Rector, your reputation precedes you.

It's magnificent! A treasure! I --

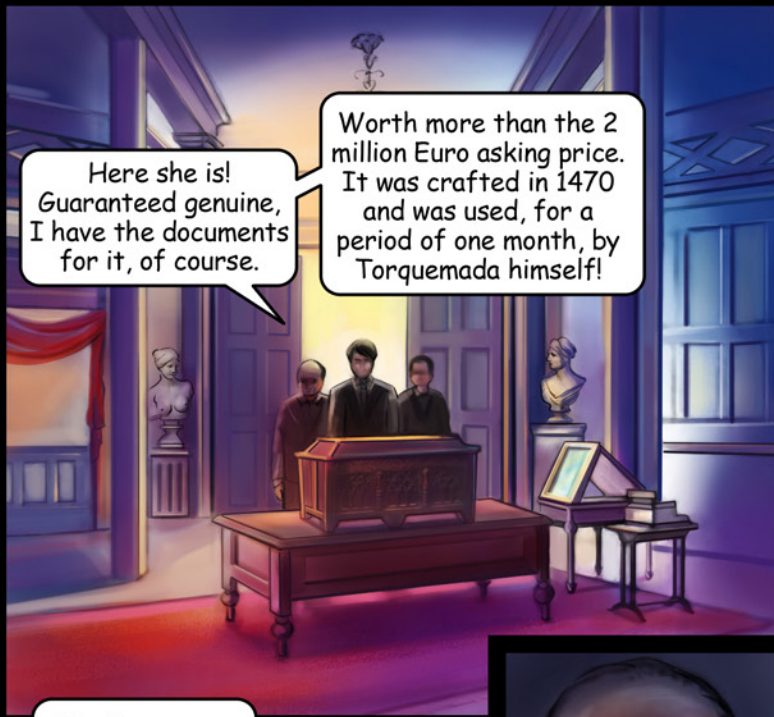
May I see the chest now?

Of course. It's upstairs. This way.





The chest itself is 17th century, made in Rome.

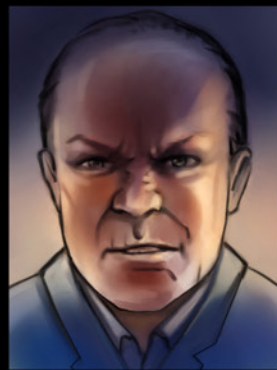


Here she is! Guaranteed genuine, I have the documents for it, of course.

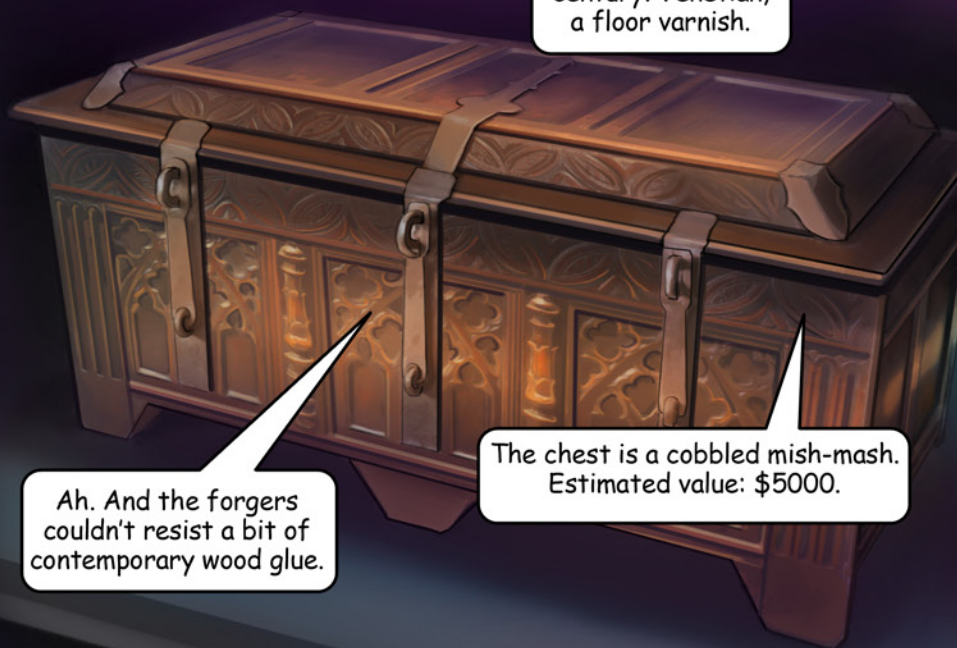
Worth more than the 2 million Euro asking price. It was crafted in 1470 and was used, for a period of one month, by Torquemada himself!



The hinges are rusted but the front latch isn't.

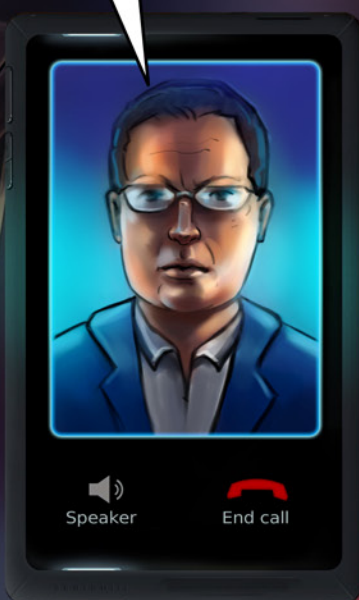


The hinges were taken from a 15th century dresser.



The varnish is 16th century. Venetian, a floor varnish.

Thank you, Mr. Rector. Your fee will be deposited immediately.



Ah. And the forgers couldn't resist a bit of contemporary wood glue.

The chest is a cobbled mish-mash. Estimated value: \$5000.



How dare you insult my honor!

You are lying. That was all made up!



No one could possibly know such things with just one look, no one!

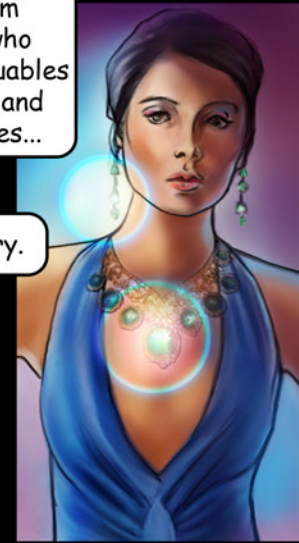


Who do you think you are?



I think I'm someone who appraises valuables for a living and that includes...

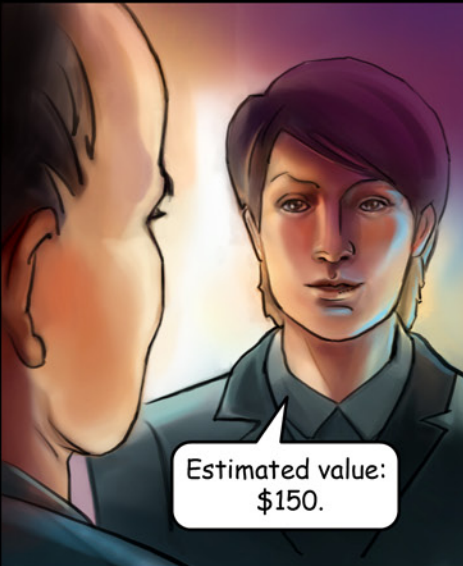
Jewelry.



Green glass. Portugal.

Cubic zirconium. American.

10 carat gold plating over aluminum.



Estimated value: \$150.



No! No, no, no! Querida, he is a liar!

¿Me has tomado el pelo con unas baratijas? ¡No me jodas!





A METAPHYSICAL THRILLER BY JANE JENSEN

MOEBIUS

EMPIRE RISING

Malachi Rector is a genius. With one glance he can size up artifacts, and even people, to distinguish a genuine treasure from a cheap fake. This talent has made him rich in the world of high-end antiques. But it also gets him in trouble.

When a secretive government agency enlists Malachi for an unusual project, he realizes there's more to his uncanny talent than he knew. His discerning eye, his aloof personality, the childhood trauma that shaped who he became—all of these have a meaning and a purpose. And Malachi's about to meet a man in his travels who holds the key. Coincidence, or fate?

Find out in Jane Jensen's *Moebius: Empire Rising*, coming to PC, Mac, Linux, iPad, and Android in 2014.

www.moebiusthegame.com

