Atop the Tantamount building, Lady Illuminous, Queen of the crystal city, stood again. Below her, her city full of followers bowed to her. Only one section, a city block covered in a black dome, was not hers. All the rest covered in crystalline light. Beautiful. Perfect.

So enthralled, she didn’t notice the shadow that slid under the door to the roof. It silently rose from the floor, and unlocked the door and then gained a dimension as it took the form of Dark Horse. Moving silently through the door, Shot in the Dark, Shadow, and Black Hat (whom had been revived by the healing powers of Nabu), crept through. They moved in to ambush her. Black Hat’s stern face changed, his mouth agape. Memories flashed in his brain.

“You crystal bugged bitch, you took my world!” he shouted, surprising foe and ally alike. Black pistols formed in his hands, as he raised them to fire.

The beautiful visage of the Lady changed as she recognized her old foe. Six thin multi jointed limbs sprouted from her back, each tipped with a scythe like blade. Her face elongated as razor teeth sprouted. Her whole body grew, and hunched over, her skin giving way to chitin, her legs and arms shriveling to nothing.

One bladed limb shot forward, slashing into Black Hat’s arm, his other arm firing, cracking her shell with it’s dark bullets.

The others moved in quickly. Shot fired globs of blackness, as Shadow moved like oil, trying to surround her. Dark horse turned to shadow as a blade slashed at him. More legs erupted from her now bulbous body, now numbering around a dozen, slashing in all directions.

Shadow continued to flow over her, trying to work between joins, and she howled in pain. She sent out a shriek to call for her followers…for her children, but neither would be coming. Several legs bit into Shadow, causing black blood to drop. Shot fired both darkness and bullets, as Black Hat rolled away after sliding the bladed leg out of his shoulder, firing the whole time. Dark Horse had made it to her back, and slammed his fists into her shell.

She turned on Shot, her mouth opening impossibly wide, teeth as long daggers, glowing white light. Shot attempted to duck into the shadows and teleport away. He had forgotten Carl’s warning. Surely there were always shadows somewhere. Not on a building that exuded light from every crevasse. As he dove, three legs sprang and pinned him to the ground, through his leg, lung, and stomach. Acid leaked into his body. Despite all of the light, his world went black.

As it did for everyone else on the roof. Pitch black. The temperature dropped sharply. Those left on the roof could still see, through various means. The drop in temperature made it easy for Black hat to make out the warmer form of the Lady who had turned to face a new person. The ally that Shot had mentioned? A pair of glowing green eyes pierced the darkness, and everyone else stepped back in fear. Irrational fear.

The lady acted quickly, striking the new form, stabbing into it. The green eyes looked down, as his hands grabbed a leg each. The hands glowed the same sickly green, and the lady shrieked, as her legs rotted and fell off.
Reflexes kicked in, and Shadow, Black Hat, and Dark horse pounced. The cold darkness pouring out of this new ally had made the Lady sluggish and weak, screaming at each blow.

After many blows, and numerous wounds, she had slowly reverted back to the beautiful woman, laying unconscious on the roof. The darkness on the roof lifted, and the heroes could make out a pale skinned man entering an inky portal. Black Hat looked down at the seeming fragile form of this woman. And lifted his gun slightly, and fired into her head.

As if a mirror had broken, shards of light shattered over half the city. Returning it to Darian once more.