

A shocking truth revealed, and the world is changed forever. But who is the real enemy, and what is the purpose of the hidden AI? Melody and her allies continue the fight to find the final answers.

OUTSIDERS: Vol. II

By W. C. Collier

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OUTSIDERS

VOL. II



W.C. COLLIER

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Chapter 36

“Zero-Two, Zero-One.”

Silence.

“Zero-Two, Zero-One. How do you hear?”

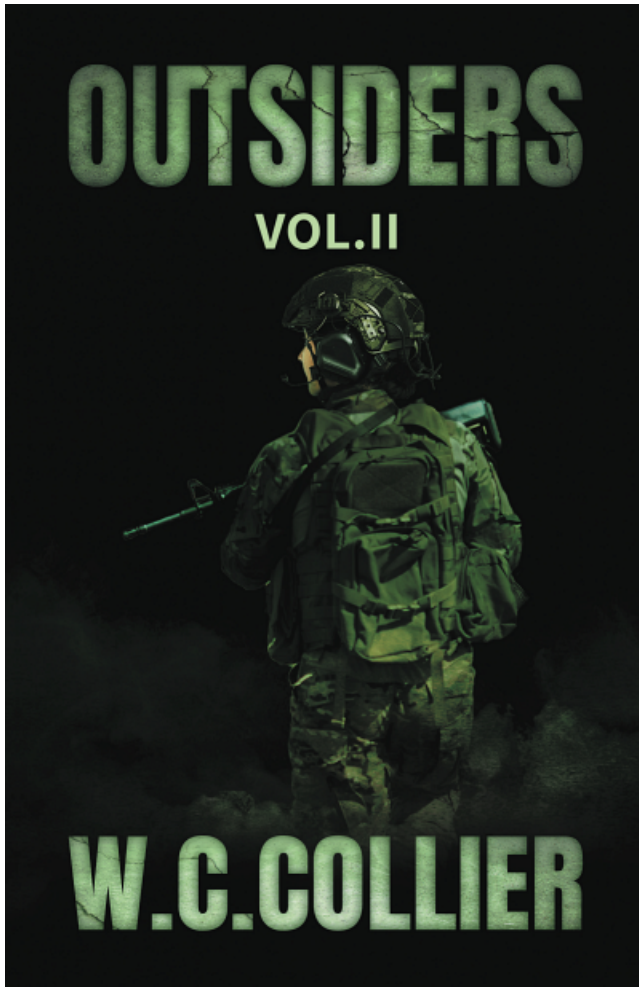
Silence.

“Zero-Two, say status!” Silence.

“Frell! God damn it! Come in, man. Say something.”
Silence.

Torgax had seen it. He suspected the aircrews of the other aircraft at this altitude had seen it, too, if they had been looking in the right direction. It had not been much to see, not brilliant, not stunning. It had been faint, a broad column of ever-so-delicate brighter blueness in the sky, connecting heaven to earth at a slight angle. There had been no substance to it. There was nothing within that column of space which emitted light or reflected light, so far as the eye could discern. Only by looking through and around the effect could one make it out by its edges, between which everything was just a little bit bluer. It had not appeared so much as it had crept upon his

consciousness. Only once he had known to look did he perceive it, so ethereal was it, and so tracelessly had it stolen into being. It had lasted several minutes—excruciating minutes, for Torgax, who understood what his eyes even then could only barely detect—during which span it had tilted, swinging across the sky like the beam of a searchlight anchored far down below on the ground. Then it had faded away.



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