

WYND



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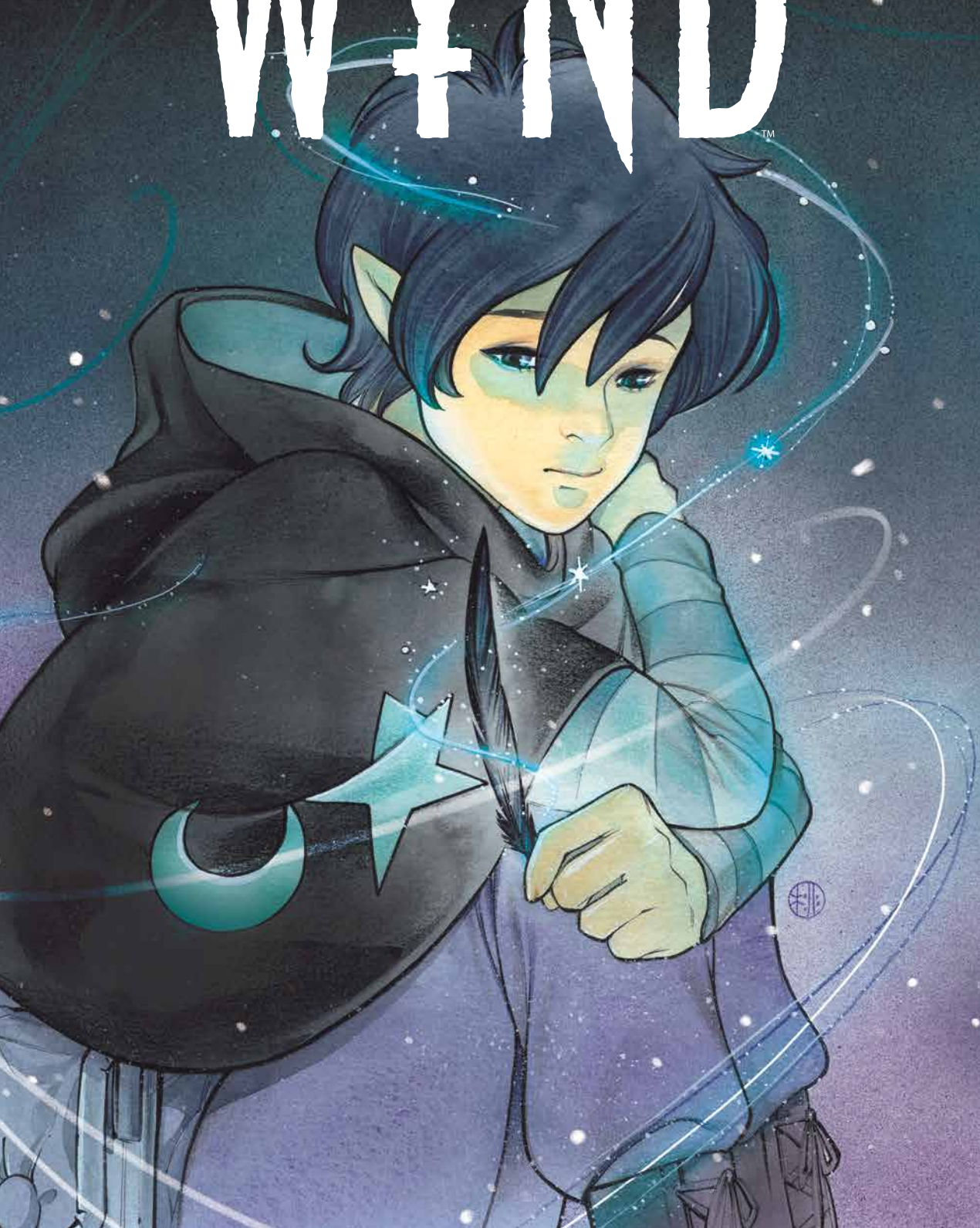
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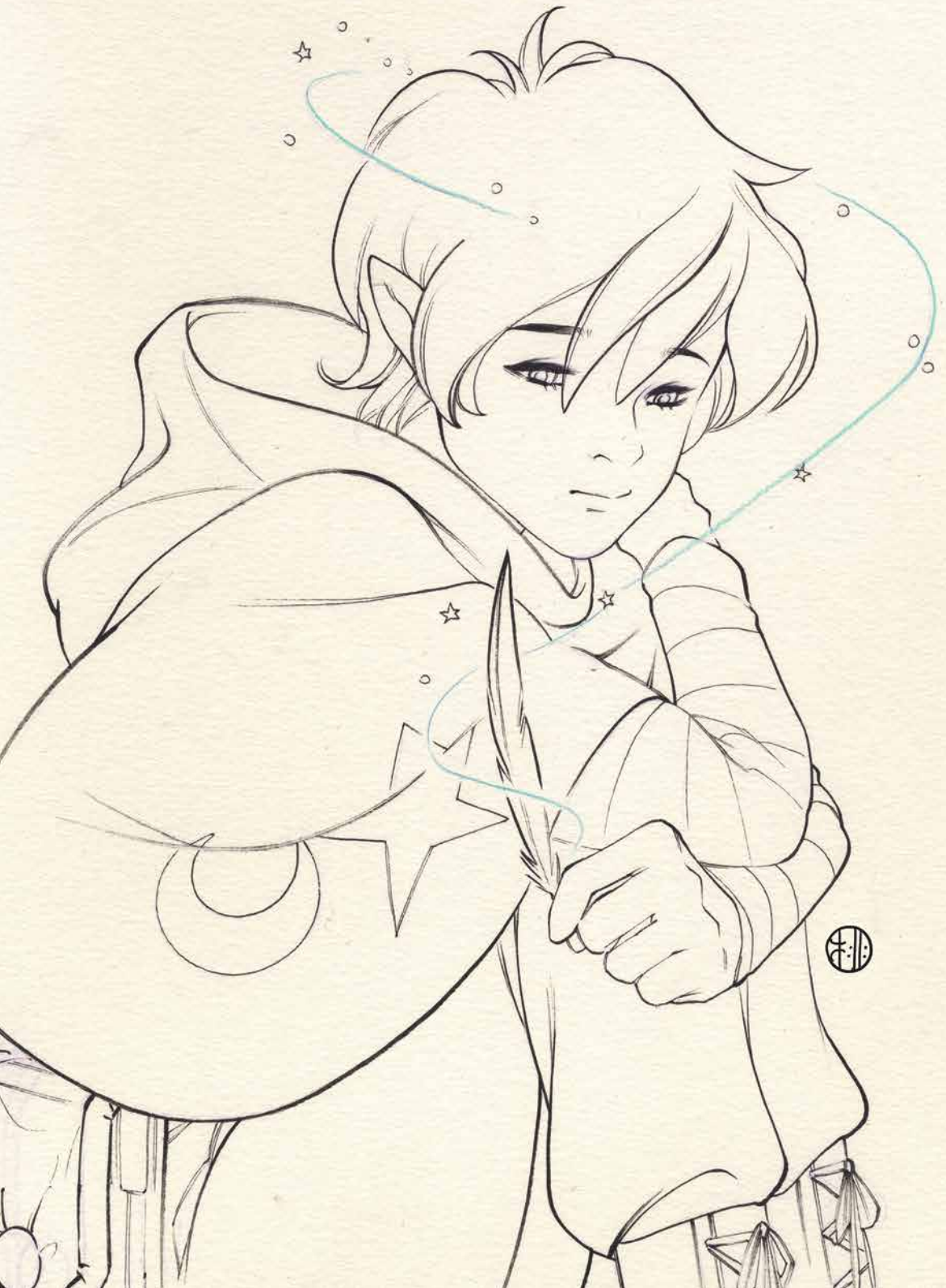
BOOM!
STUDIOS

JAMES TYNION IV + MICHAEL DIALYNAS

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WYND™





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Wh-what?
What is this
place...?


Am I
stepping in
poop?

Oakley,
I *swear*, if
I'm stepping
in poop...




Oh, sorry.
I'm kinda *used*
to the dark.

There.
Is that
better?




I mean,
maybe? What's
going on,
Oakley?

I overheard
one of the other
workers whispering
at lunch. About the
catacombs under
the *Old Temple
to the Four
Winds*.



They said
that that's where
the *weirdbloods*
were hiding.



Weirdbloods...
Why would I
want...?



He said the rumor was there was *somebody* down in the tunnels.

Somebody who could take the weird *out* of their blood.

Some kind of *witch*.



That sounds like a *bedtime* story.

Yeah, I thought so, too...

But then I went to the *pipe system* right above where we are now...



And I could hear *whispers*.



Do...Do you see that?





Sorry! We know we shouldn't be--

No, no... I didn't mean to scare.

But the *story*... Do you know it?



I...They told us in school... But...

You are on the *right path*. I'll walk with you a ways, if you don't mind...

I can make sure you get to her. Get to the *witch*.




Thank you so much--


Please... I do not care for the light. Just keep walking ahead of me.



There were once four great races of *human-kind*, and by the grace of the *Winds*, our species ruled over this world.



"The North Men ruled over the frosty forests of the Borean Waste, by the grace of the **North Wind** and all its cold, powerful tempests.



"The West Men ruled over the Sunset Peaks, by the grace of the **West Wind** and its warm, calming breezes.



"The East Men ruled over the Skydrenched Isles, by the grace of the *East Wind* and its cooling, life-bringing rains.

"And the South Men ruled over the scorching deserts of the Notunlands, by the grace of the *South Wind* and its sandstorms..."


"Once a **generation**, the Winds would call their children together from the **four corners** of the world, to meet on the island they called their home.

"**Esseriel.**"

"They were **proud** of what their respective empires had built, and so they shared the **fruits** of their kingdoms, and their latest **discoveries** of the world..."

"These meetings brought a **great peace**, and a dream of a united world, where all races of man would come **together** on Esseriel and rule it.

"They say the Winds promised to give their children the **gift of flight**, and mastery over the air, should they come home to them."



"But the *Empires of Man* had more to explore, more to discover, and so, time after time, they set off back to their corners of the world.

"And so the *Winds* let their children go forth into a world, not knowing the *danger* that awaited them.

"Because there was *another* force in this world. A darker, *stranger* force...


"A god of the *wild wood*, who envied the freedom of man to go from place to place...

"And envied the *Winds* most of all. For their power, and for the *devotion* man had bestowed upon them."




"And so the God of the Wild Wood unleashed his *wrath* upon the world.

"He corrupted all growing things so that they would *spawn* its monstrous children.




"The terrible *Sprytles*, who with a single touch could twist a man's blood into something strange... Something *weird*. Marking them of the earth and not of the air.

"And so new races were born...




"The *Faerie* of the deep forest, with their monstrous claws and terrible wings...

"And the *Vampyre* of the rock-strewn deserts, with their pale skin and razor teeth.



"The human kingdoms began to *fall*, one by one, across the world.

"In time, the Men of the East and the West *stopped coming* to the meetings on Esseriel."



"The Four Winds implored the Empires of the North and South to *retreat* to their embrace. To *fortify* with their power. To become their *children* as they had long promised.


"But the men were proud. They had built great wealth and power and wanted to *keep* it. They decided to fight.

"But the God of the Wild Wood was too strong...

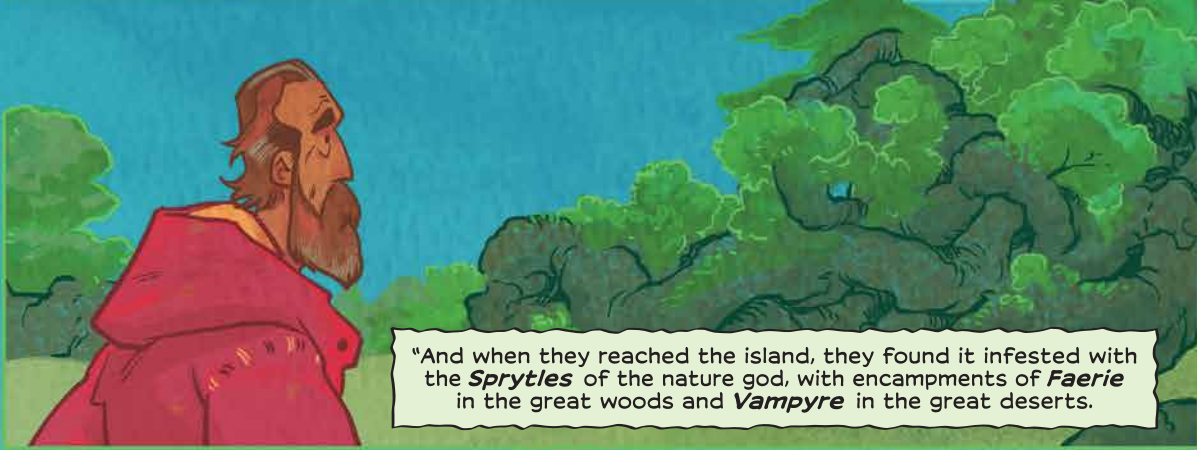
"And in time, the last cities fell..."




"One last ship from the **Northern Empire** and one last ship from the **Southern Empire** set forth for Esseriel.




"They **prayed** to their Winds, hoping to be gifted with the **power** they had long been promised. But there came no answer...



"And when they reached the island, they found it infested with the **Spytles** of the nature god, with encampments of **Faerie** in the great woods and **Vampyre** in the great deserts.



"The great city on the **Windshorn Peak** was abandoned. The Four Winds were nowhere in sight. They had **fallen** to their rival."



"The remnants of the two empires built a great walled city to **protect** them from the corrupting wild nature of the world.

"What we now call *Pipetown*, but is known formally as the *Last Empire of Man*.

"The children of the two dynasties wed and created the **bloodline** that sits on the throne to this day, with the great *King Yossar* and his son, *Yorik*.

"And those of magic blood were **banned** from the city to protect the last **true humans** in this world."



Is that...
Is that all
real?

So they
say. That is why
the King holds the
Blood Laws
so dearly. That is why
I have come here
tonight.



Do you have...
Are your *ears*
pointy, too?



Yes, child...
My ears are
pointed...



Quite a bit *more* than that, too.



Anyways...



We're here.







I, uh...
I want to
see her. The
witch.

Affliction?
You don't seem
like much...



It's a...
It's my ears.
But that's just
the *start*,
right?



Trying to
catch it early.
Yes. It's wise...

You
have the
fee?



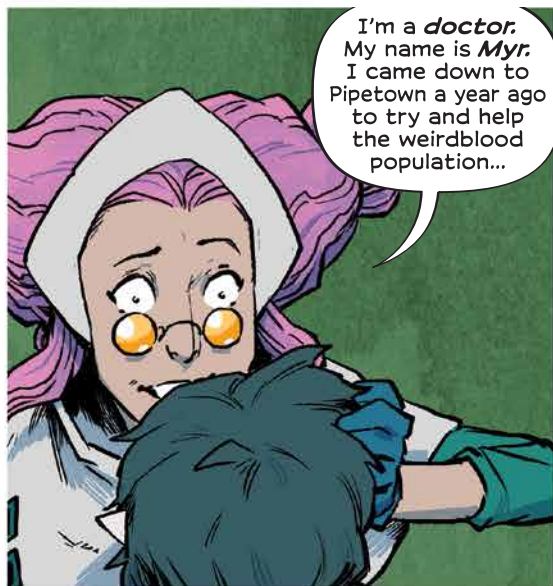
Fee?
I don't
have
any...









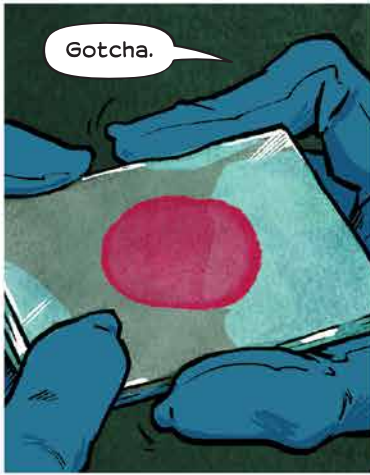




Here, I can **test** you.

I've been **classifying** the different **breeds**... Hold out your finger.

My **finger**?



Gotcha.



Now let's see what kind of **weirdblood** you've got.



This is all so **gross** I can't even handle it.

I can deal with gross if it means I can stay here. In Pipetown. Live **openly** with you and Miss Molly.



This is everything I ever **dreamed** of.

Thank you, Oakley. Thank you **so much** for finding this place. I don't know what I would do without you.





When the King alerted me that the Prince had been *kidnapped* from the castle, I suspected we'd find some secret *encampment*.

I promised him I would *find* it. And I am a man of my *word*.

I knew there was a *stink* coming up through the *cracks*...

You should have tried to *leave*. I likely would have caught you, but a few of you might have gotten over the walls.

Some of you may have even been able to *dodge* my riflemen. But thankfully you rounded yourselves up, nice and easy.



Orders, sir?



Kill them. All the weirdbloods and their foul handlers. We cannot risk *contamination* spreading.



Wynd,
take my
hand...



But Myr...

No buts.
We have to
GO!



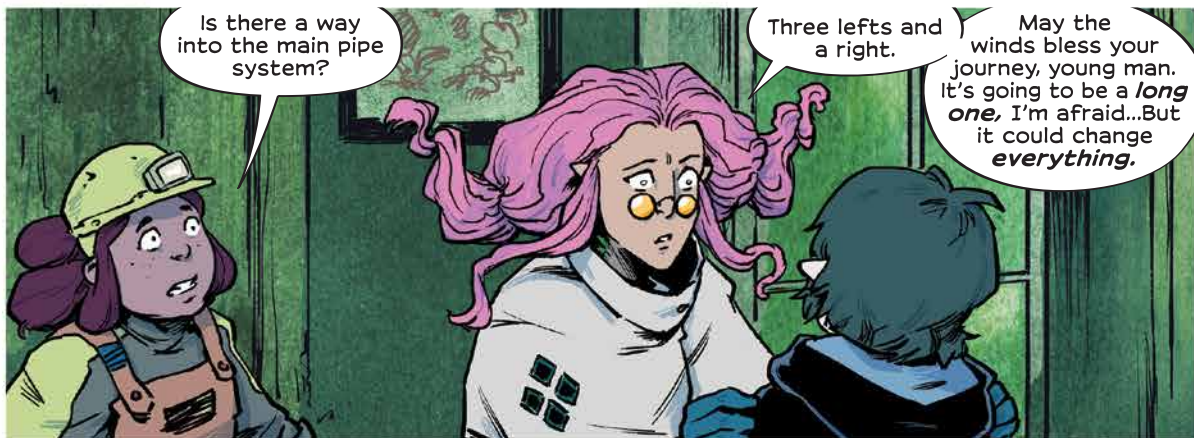
She's right.
You need to
go, **now**.

And we
need to get as
many people
out of here as
we can...



We need to **collapse**
the tunnels. **Lock** them
away from us.

Yes,
Myr. At
once.





We can't just let them die!



I can't save them, but I can save *you*, if we leave *now*.

I can take us through the secondary line, back to the Dark Spout. It's going to be grimy but I can get us there.



...Okay.



Okay, let's go.























Let's not go there, love. We need to make *quick strides* if we're going to make it to Southport by *sunrise*. I've packed the boat already.

The Duke's Men will take them out to sea. Our *contact* should be waiting at the mouth of the tunnel.



You've been with the *Duke's Men* all this time.



Not as long as I *should* have been.

We'll have a nice long chat about it when I'm back, and then you can *apologize* to me for being so cruel.



Wynd, I packed a few things for you. I'm *sorry*. There's no time to swap them out. We need to leave now.



Oakley, you'll have to make your *goodbye* quick...





Yes.
Someone
is.

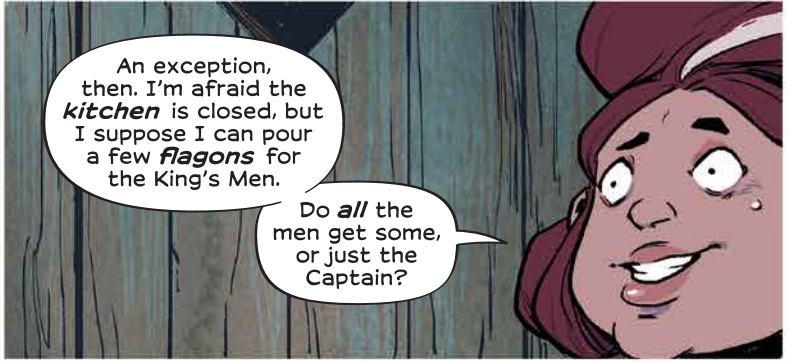


I'm...I'm
afraid we're
closed for the
evening.



Oh, I'm sure
we could make an
exception, couldn't
we?

We've been
at it *all night*,
and I'm rather
parched.



An exception,
then. I'm afraid the
kitchen is closed, but
I suppose I can pour
a few *flagons* for
the King's Men.

Do *all* the
men get some,
or just the
Captain?



Oh, let's
make it a
party.



We could
even invite
whoever's *spying*
on us from the
doorway.



Sorry...
I heard
voices.



It's okay,
dear. These kind
men just needed
a *drink*. There's
nothing to worry
about.

I...I can
help.



No...Oakley,
my sweet. I'm
going to need you
to do me a *big
favor*, while I help
these men.



I think I'm
not going to be
able to run that
errand I was
talking about
after all.

Why
don't you
take care
of it for
me?



Mom.



That wouldn't be a *problem* now, would it?

She just needs to run down and get the *package* from the pantry. Then she'll be on her way.



Oh, certainly. We wouldn't want to *inconvenience* you.



I'm not sure I know the way.

Oh, I'm sure you'll *manage*. You're a bright girl.



That's why I *love* you so much.



I'll...I'll be right back up, then.









See. This is my *favorite* part.



I'm sorry?



It's the *chase*. It's no fun when they know they can't get away. No *thrill* to the hunt.

You need to offer a little *hope*, that they might see tomorrow.

Otherwise there's no *art* to it. It's just *blood*.



I...I don't know what you're talking about.



Oh, I think you *do*.

THUMP!



TO BE
CONTINUED...

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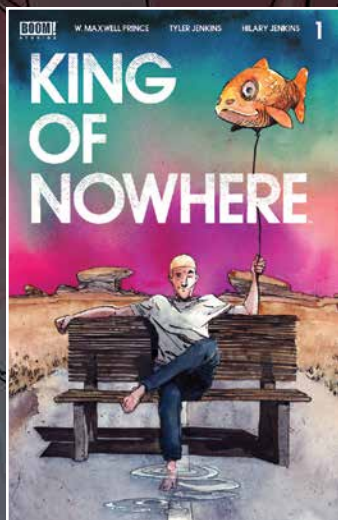
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STOPPED.”**

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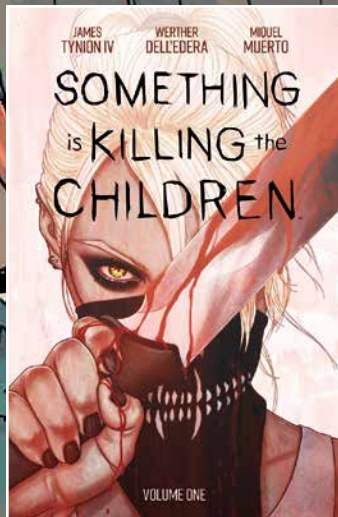
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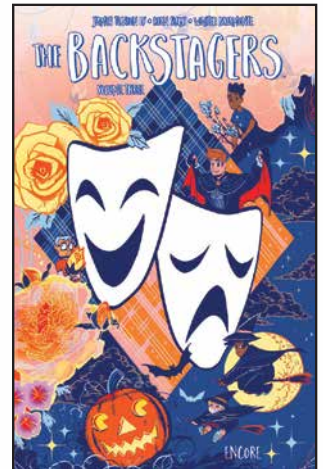
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**MAKING FRIENDS WITH AN
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