

WITCHBLADE

#178



Laura Braga
2014

RON MARZ • LAURA BRAGA • BETSY GONIA

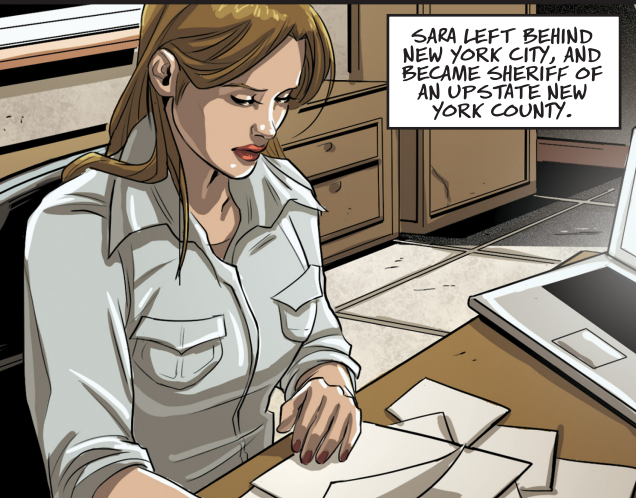
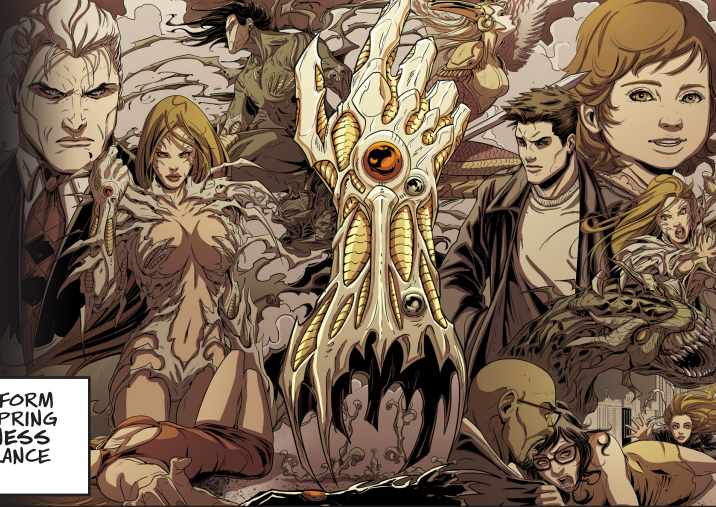
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PREVIOUSLY IN WITCHBLADE

SARA PEZZINI WAS A NEW YORK CITY POLICE DETECTIVE, BUT HER LIFE CHANGED FOREVER WHEN SHE CAME INTO POSSESSION OF A POWERFUL ARTIFACT CALLED THE WITCHBLADE.

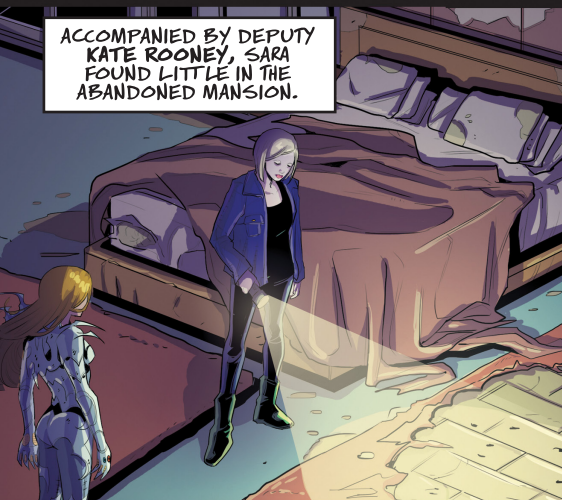
THOUGH THE WITCHBLADE MOST OFTEN TAKES THE FORM OF A MYSTIC GAUNTLET, IN TRUTH IT IS THE OFFSPRING OF THE UNIVERSE'S PRIMAL FORCES, THE DARKNESS AND THE ANGELUS, AND MEANT TO ACT AS A BALANCE BETWEEN THE DARK AND THE LIGHT.



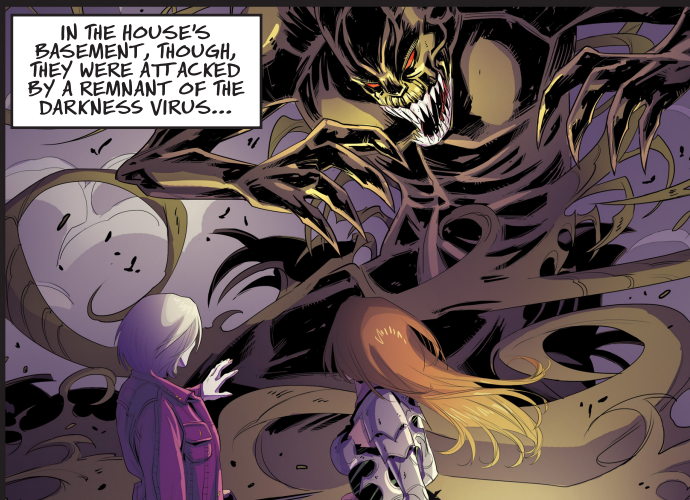
SARA LEFT BEHIND NEW YORK CITY, AND BECAME SHERIFF OF AN UPSTATE NEW YORK COUNTY.



HOWEVER, IN TRYING TO LEARN THE ORIGIN OF THE NEW ANGELUS INCARNATION, SARA WAS DRAWN BACK TO THE NEW JERSEY MANSION OF DECEASED DARKNESS HOST JACKIE ESTACADO.



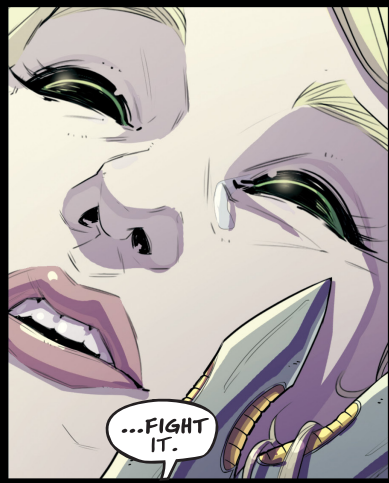
ACCOMPANIED BY DEPUTY KATE ROONEY, SARA FOUND LITTLE IN THE ABANDONED MANSION.



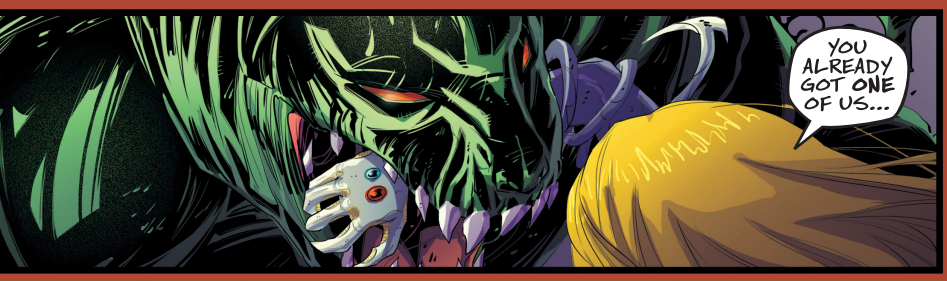
IN THE HOUSE'S BASEMENT, THOUGH, THEY WERE ATTACKED BY A REMNANT OF THE DARKNESS VIRUS...



...AND DEPUTY ROONEY WAS INFECTED.







YOU ALREADY GOT ONE OF US...



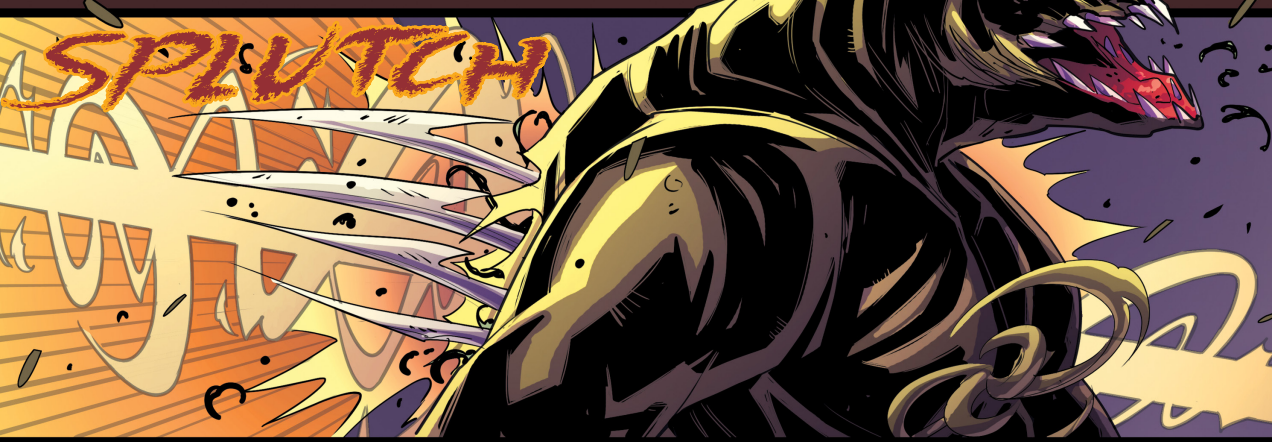
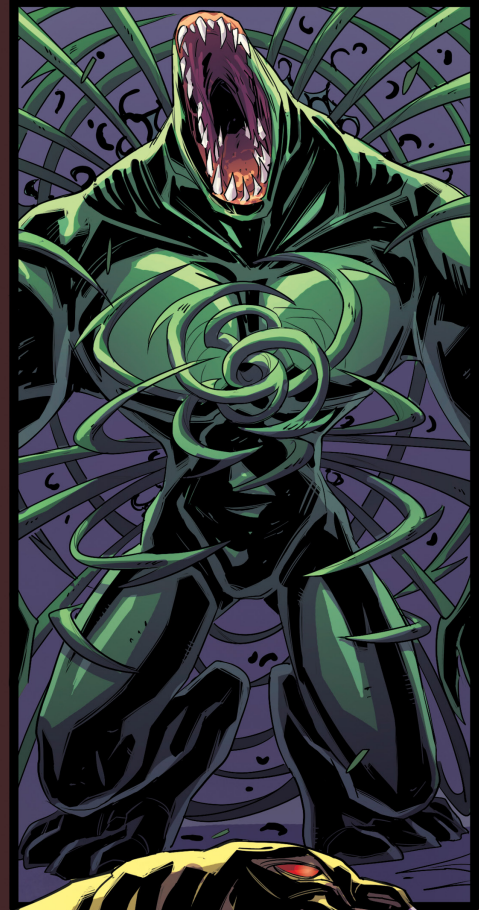
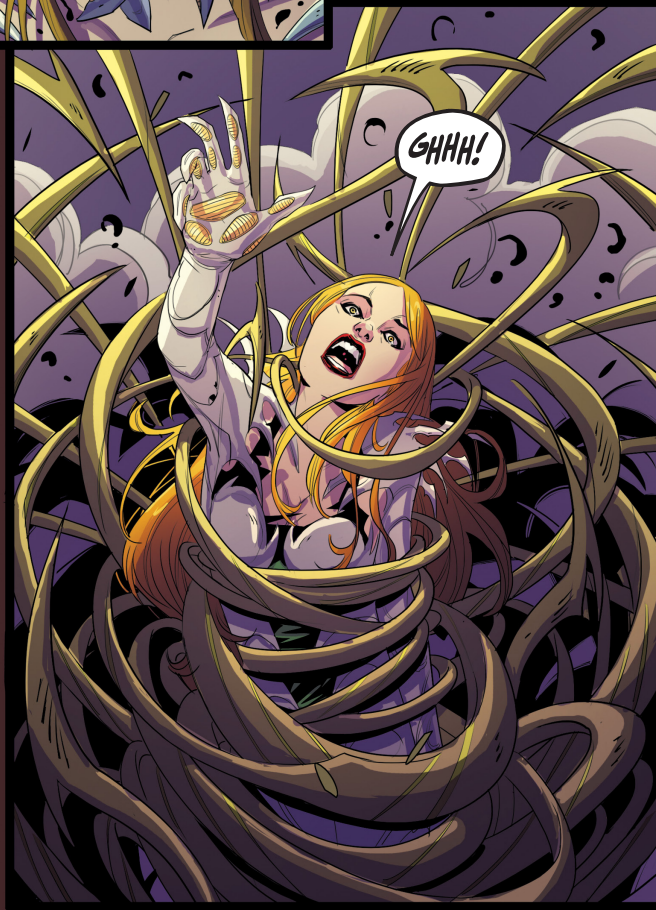
...YOU DON'T GET TWO!

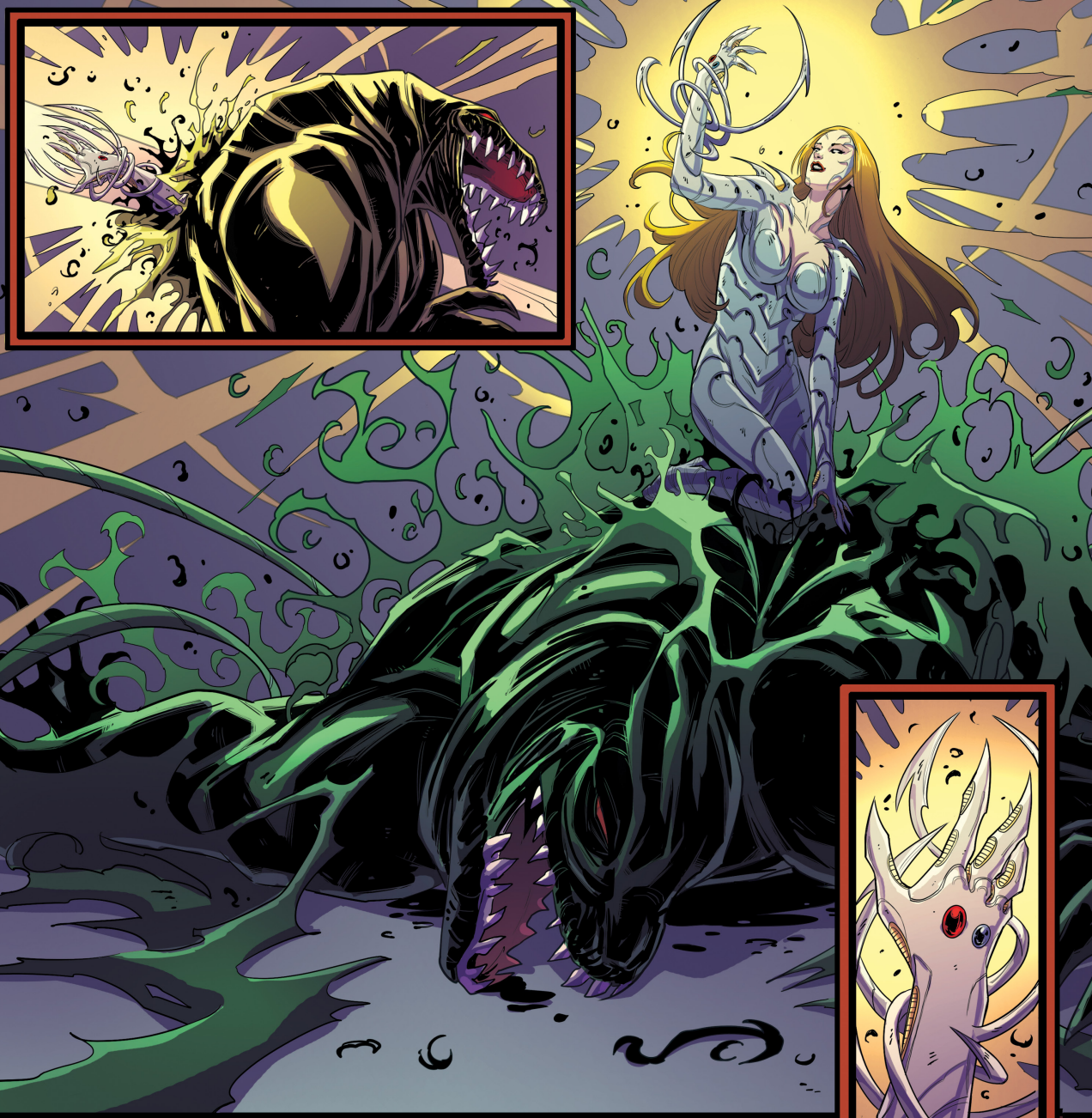


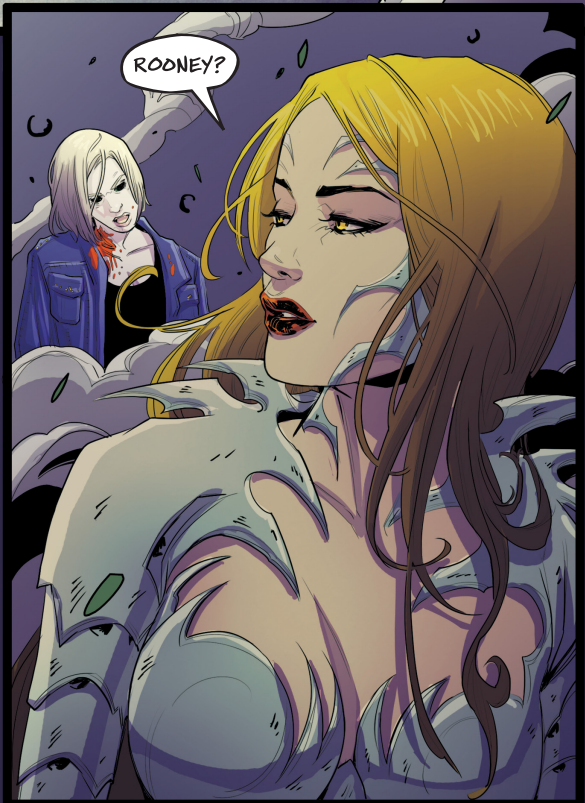
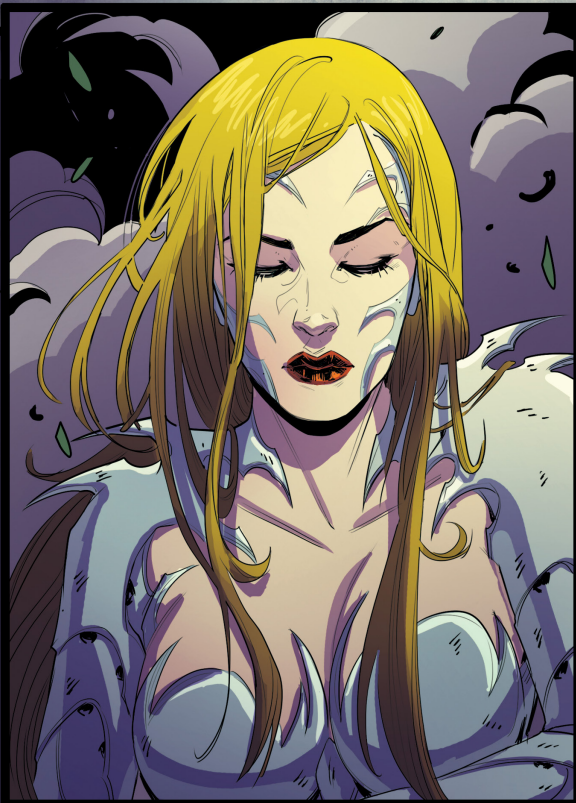
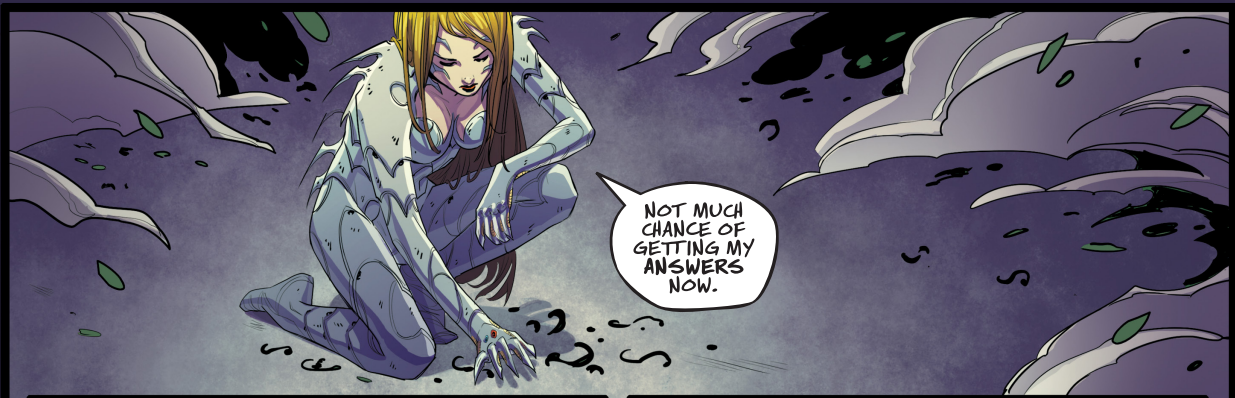
SHLUKT



YEAH...









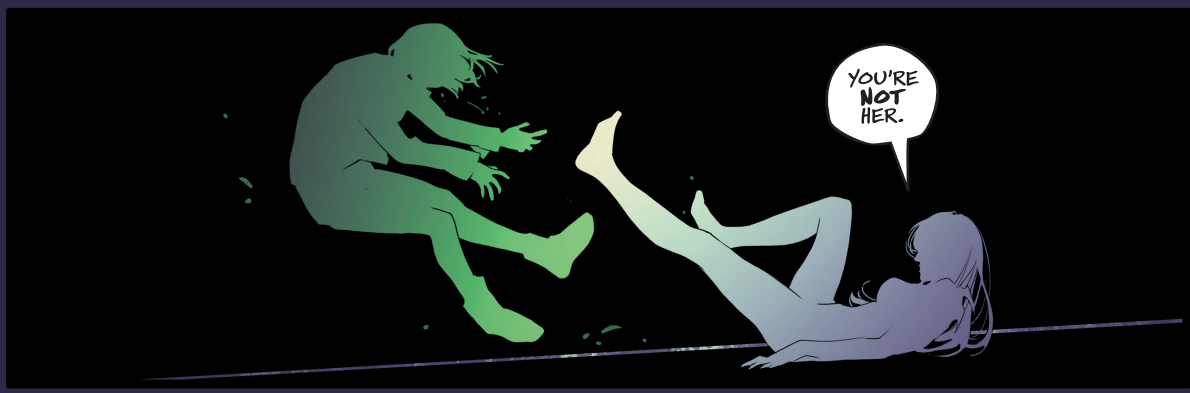
THIS ISN'T YOU, RODNEY!



I BROUGHT MY PARTNER HERE...



...I WANT HER BACK.



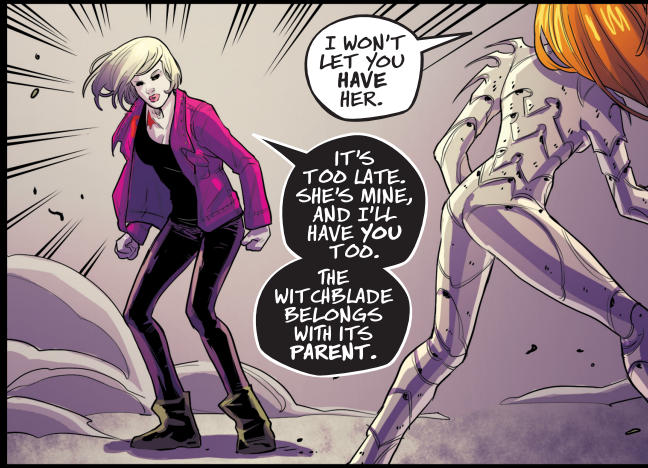
YOU'RE NOT HER.



YOU'RE A VIRUS.
 NOTHING MORE THAN A REMNANT OF WHAT THE DARKNESS USED TO BE.

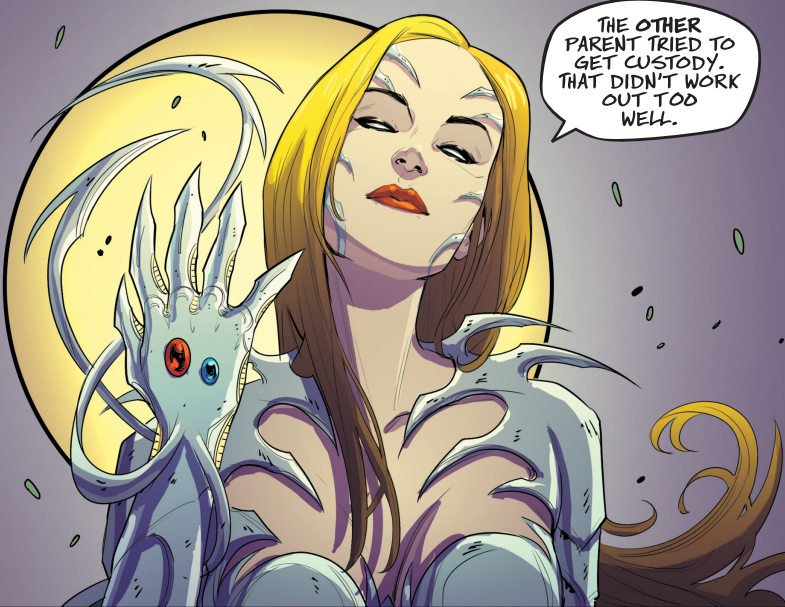


I AM.



I WON'T LET YOU HAVE HER.

IT'S TOO LATE. SHE'S MINE, AND I'LL HAVE YOU TOO.
 THE WITCHBLADE BELONGS WITH ITS PARENT.



THE OTHER PARENT TRIED TO GET CUSTODY. THAT DIDN'T WORK OUT TOO WELL.

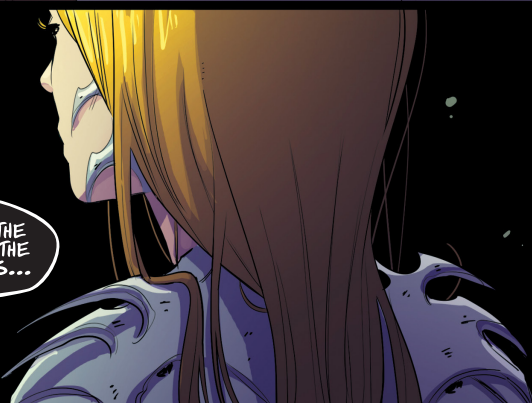


THE ANGELUS WAS HERE.



TELL ME, SO I CAN GO DESTROY THE ANGELUS.

THIS WAS THE PLACE OF THE DARKNESS...

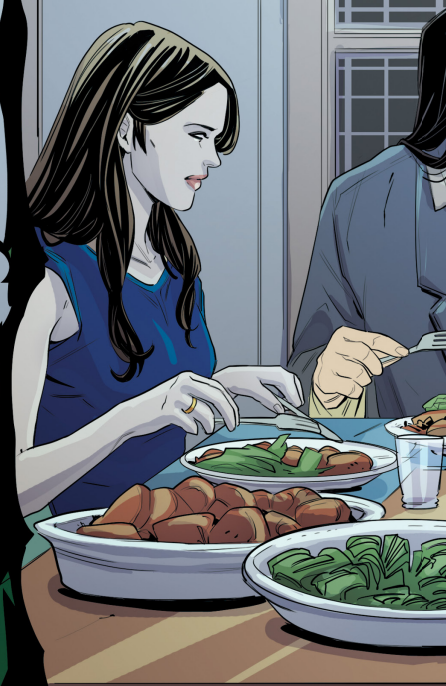


"...BUT SHE WASN'T OF US.

"ESTACADO WANTED HER, HIS JENNY, SO HE BROUGHT HER BACK.



"HE WANTED WHAT HE'D NEVER HAD. HE WANTED A FAMILY.



"...AND TOOK HER.




"JENNY BECAME HOST FOR THE ANGELUS, BUT SHE IS A PUPPET TO THE LIGHT.





"SO HE MADE HIMSELF A PERFECT LIFE, WITH HIS PERFECT WIFE, AND HIS PERFECT LITTLE GIRL."



"BUT HIS MISTAKE WAS NOT DESTROYING THE ANGELUS WHEN HE HAD THE CHANCE. THE LIGHT WAS WEAK, AT HIS MERCY, BUT ESTACDO MERELY SUNDERED IT TO PRESERVE THE ETERNAL BALANCE."

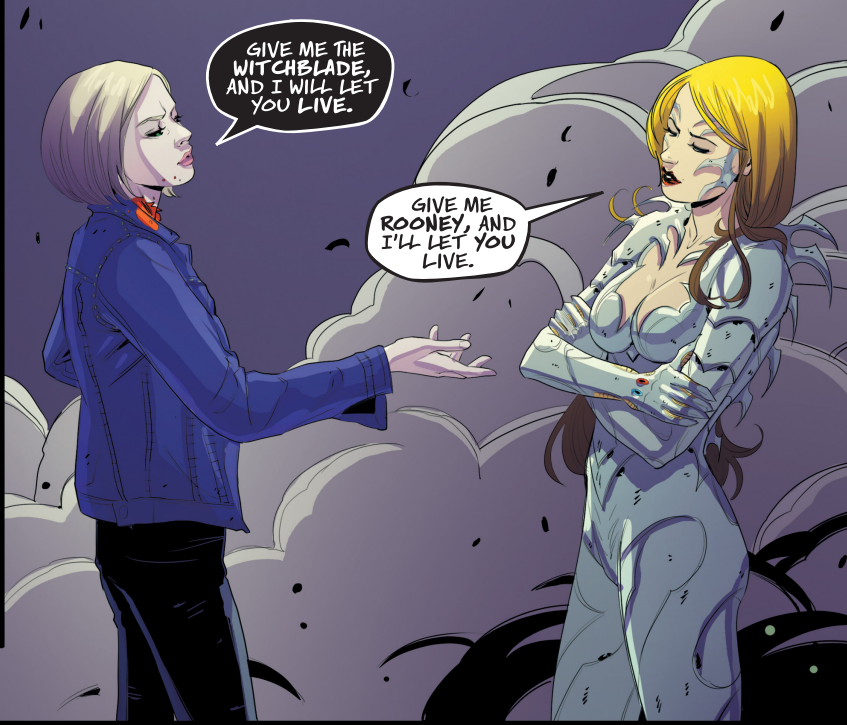
"SO THE ANGELUS FOUND HIM. FOUND JENNY..."



"THE LIGHT FLOURISHES, AND ESTACADO IS NO MORE..."



...BUT THERE MUST ALWAYS BE A DARKNESS.



GIVE ME THE WITCHEBLADE, AND I WILL LET YOU LIVE.

GIVE ME ROONEY, AND I'LL LET YOU LIVE.



YOU ARROGANT BITCH...



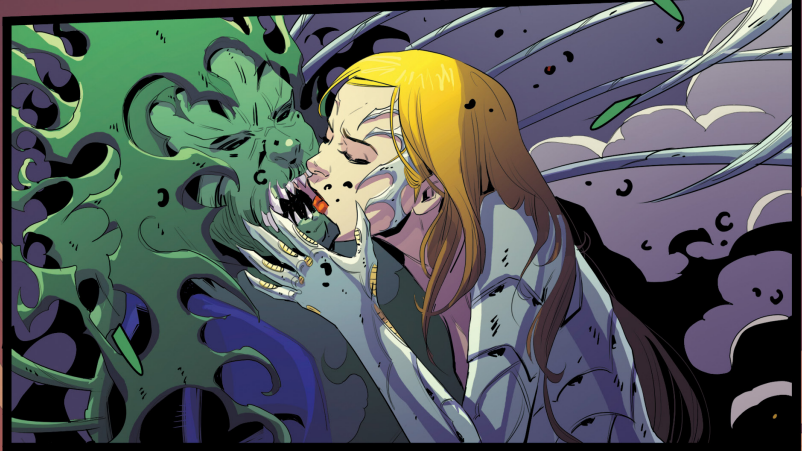
...I'LL TAKE IT FROM YOUR CORPSE!



YOU WANT ME?



COME AND GET ME.

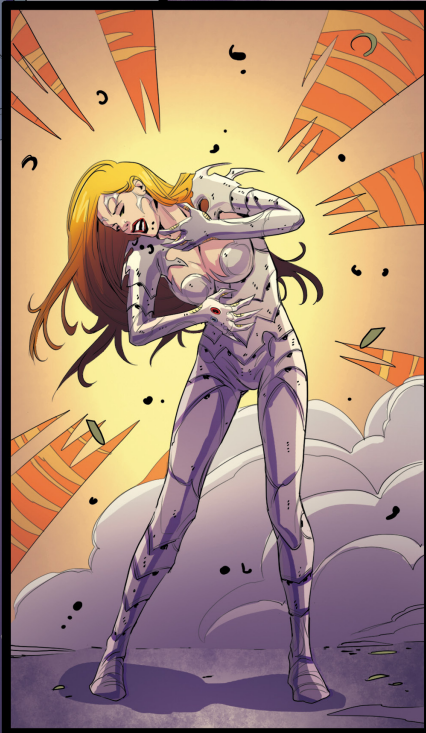
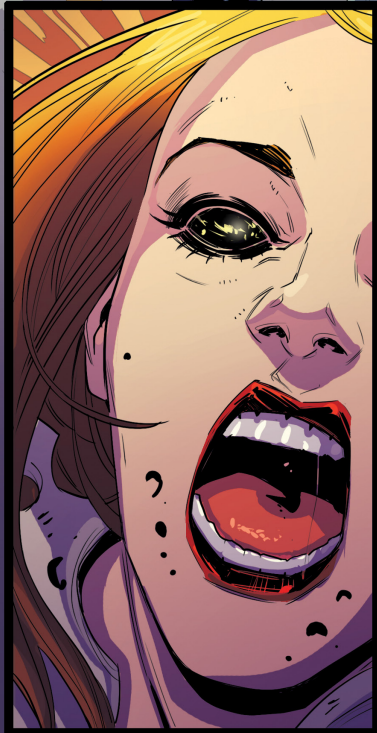
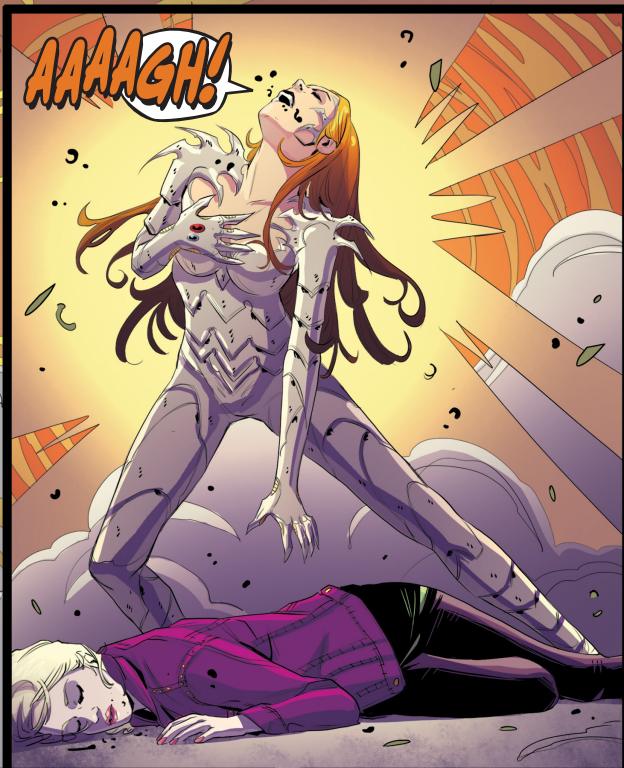


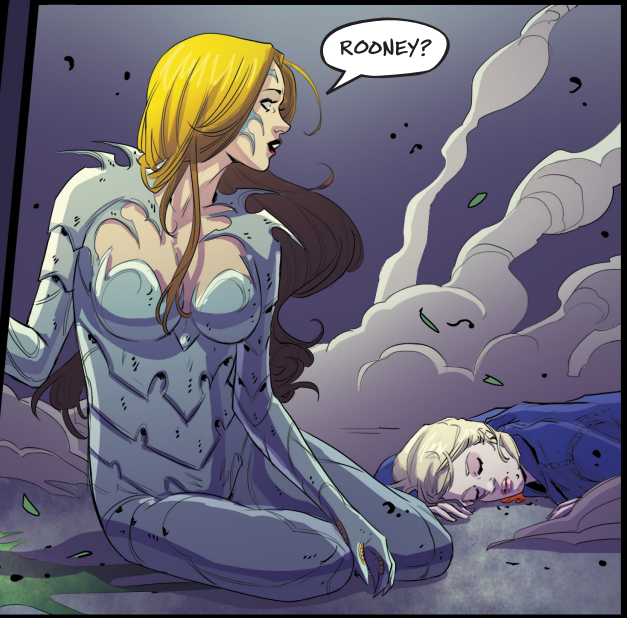
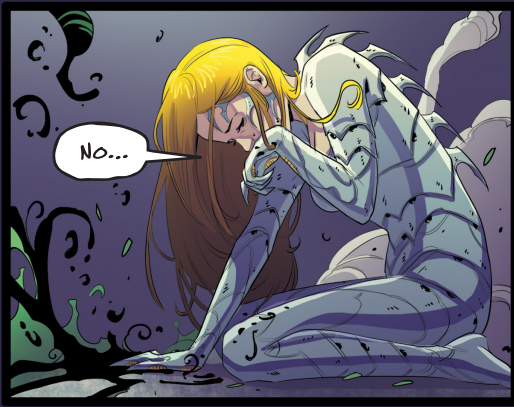
GHH...

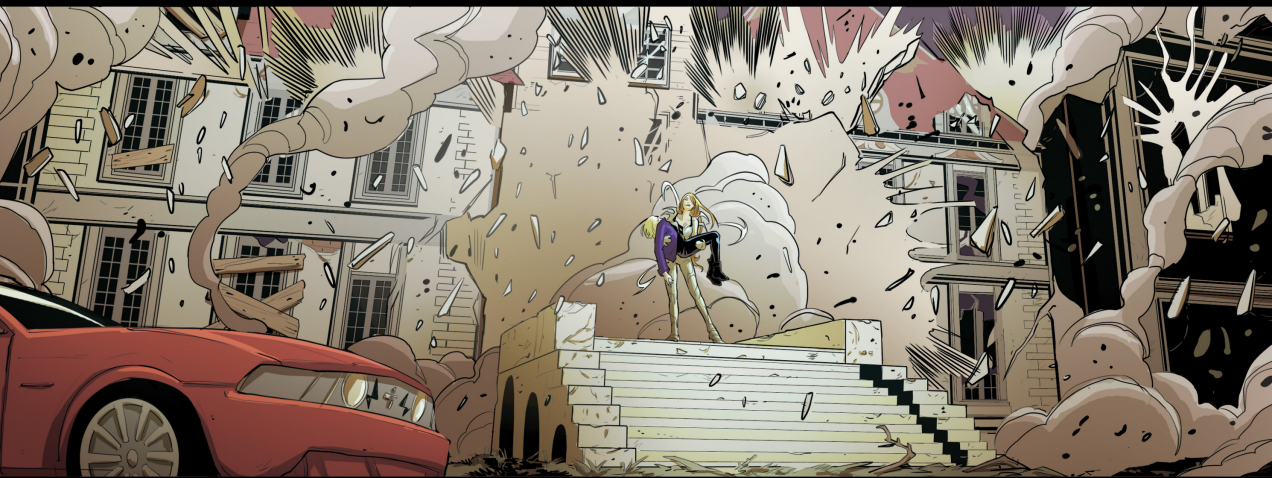


...GHHLK!







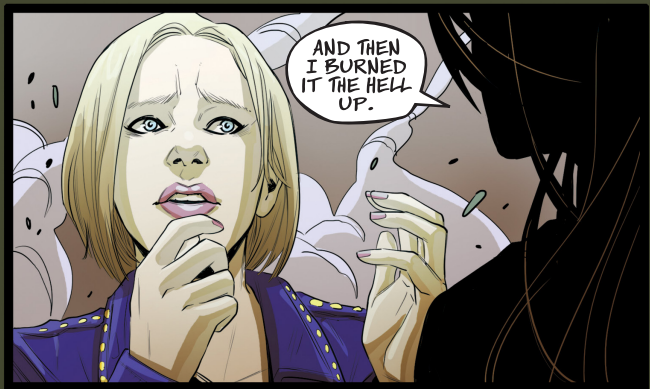




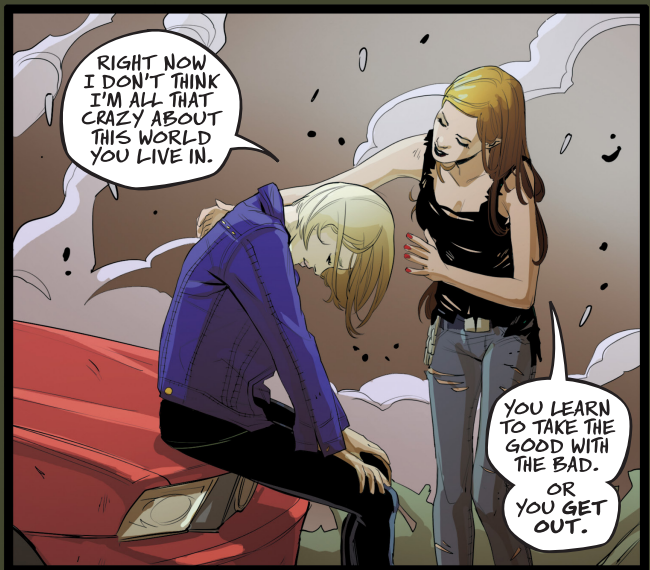
I ONLY REMEMBER A LITTLE OF IT. I REMEMBER THAT THING, AND THEN IT GOT INSIDE OF ME.

BUT IT'S GONE NOW. IT'S OVER.

I HAD TO TAKE IT OUT OF YOU AND INTO MYSELF, BUT I WAS ABLE TO REJECT IT.



AND THEN I BURNED IT THE HELL UP.



RIGHT NOW I DON'T THINK I'M ALL THAT CRAZY ABOUT THIS WORLD YOU LIVE IN.

YOU LEARN TO TAKE THE GOOD WITH THE BAD. OR YOU GET OUT.



AND WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE.

THIS PLACE DESERVES IT, BUT THE COLLAPSE IS GOING TO ATTRACT MORE ATTENTION THAN WE WANT TO DEAL WITH.

DID YOU FIND WHAT YOU CAME FOR?



I FOUND ENOUGH OF IT TO KNOW THAT MY PAST IS BURIED.

COME ON...

"...LET'S GO HOME."

WELCOME TO SARATOGA COUNTY



ROLL DOWN THE WINDOW PLEASE, SIR.



IS THERE A PROBLEM, OFFICER... PILCHER?

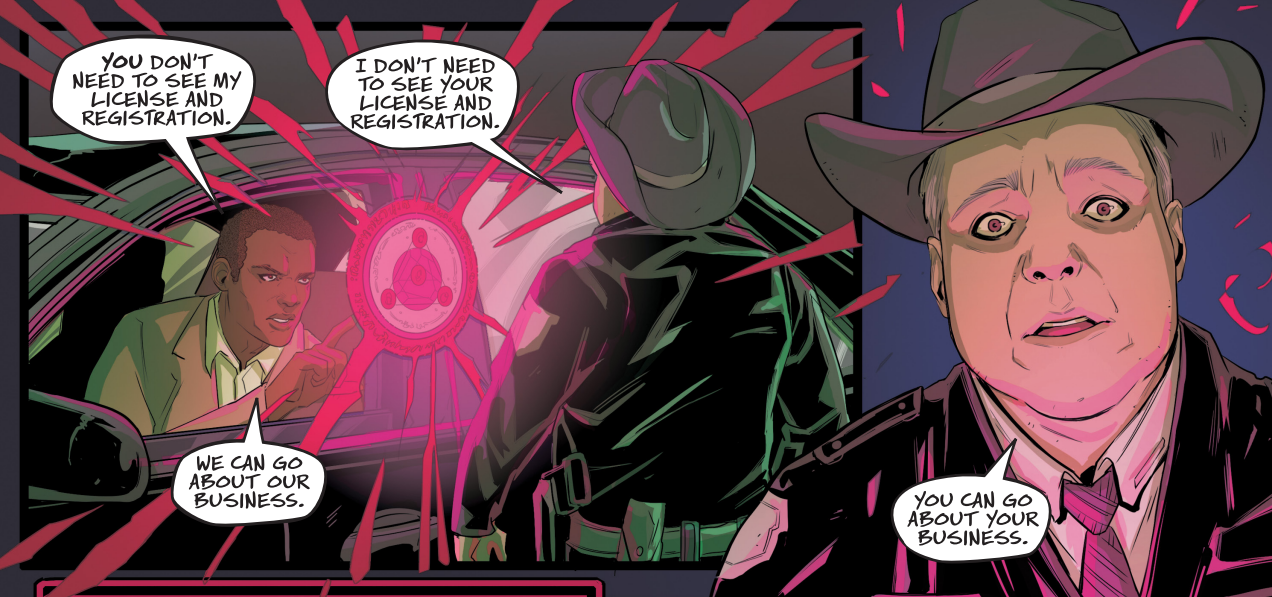


OR AM I BEING PULLED OVER FOR DRIVING WHILE BLACK?



THAT'S NOT THE WAY YOU WANT TO START OFF THIS CONVERSATION.

LET'S SEE YOUR LICENSE AND REGISTRATION.



YOU DON'T NEED TO SEE MY LICENSE AND REGISTRATION.

I DON'T NEED TO SEE YOUR LICENSE AND REGISTRATION.

WE CAN GO ABOUT OUR BUSINESS.

YOU CAN GO ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS.



YOU NEED TO GO BACK TO YOUR CAR AND HAVE A NAP.

I NEED TO GO BACK TO MY CAR AND HAVE A NAP.



OH, MAN, I LOVE IT WHEN YOU DO THAT OBI-WAN SHIT!
WHY DIDN'T YOU MAKE HIM CLUCK LIKE A CHICKEN?



BECAUSE THAT'S NOT WHY WE'RE HERE.

WE NEED TO FIND SARA PEZZINI.

TO BE CONTINUED!

IT CALLS ITSELF SARA... BUT WE CALL IT **DEATH!**

OUR MOST POWERFUL
LIGHTS HAVE
NO EFFECT!

NEXT ISSUE

BEWARE THE

WITCHBLADE!!!

#179

STARRING
RON
MARZ

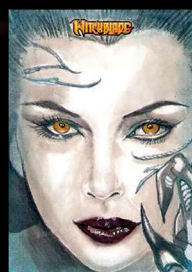
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GONERS



#GETGONE
OCTOBER 2014

JORGE
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POISONED. BEATEN. STABBED. SHOT. DROWNED.

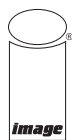
STILL KICKIN'!



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OCTOBER
SOMETHING WICKED
THIS WAY COMES

w y t c h e s

witch (wich) *n.* [ME *wicche* < OE *wice*, fem. of *wieca*, sorcerer, akin to Ndu *wiccan*, to use magic < IE *be-¹weik-*, to separate (hence *separate* or *relieve* as *weaken*)] both *wiehs*, holy. OB *wig*, id. 1 a neopagan man having supernatural power as by a compact with good or evil spirits. 2 a person, esp. an ugly and ill-tempered old woman, who is supposed to practice magic or of follower of white magic or of WICCA 4 Uniform 5 *short for WATER WITCH* (see *water*) -vt. 1 to put a magic spell on; bewitch 2 (arch) to charm; fascinate -vi. DOWSE -wit h'-like' adj. -wits' -diz' -w'ch' -er. witch'-est

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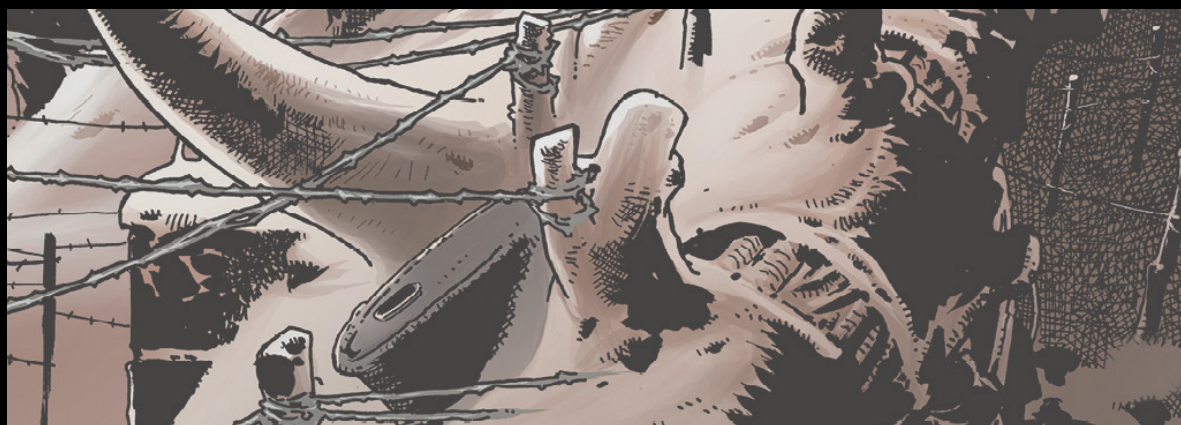


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