



WANTED

#176



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FUN TIME!

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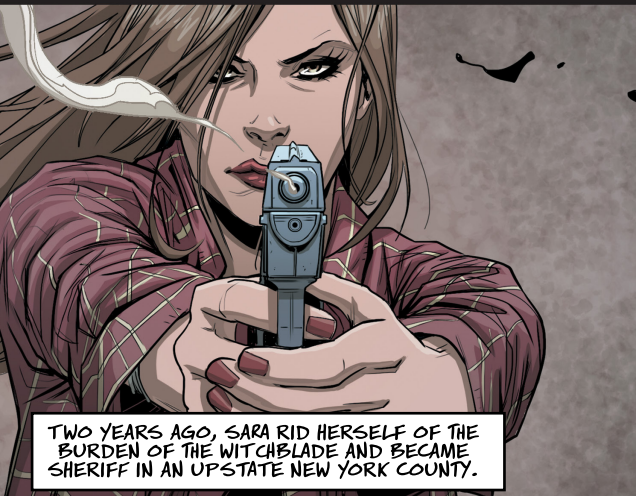
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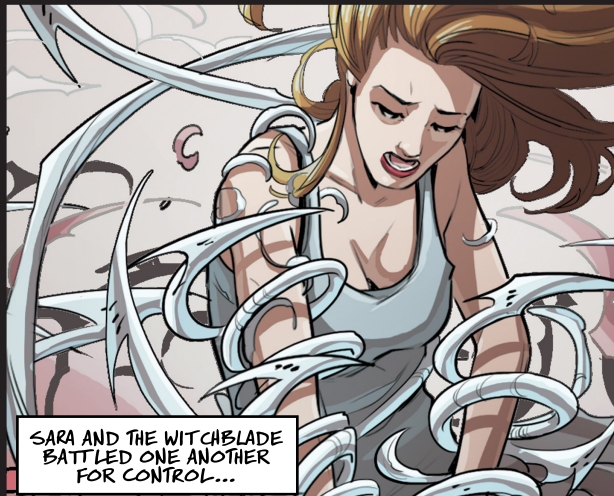
PREVIOUSLY IN WITCHBLADE

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.



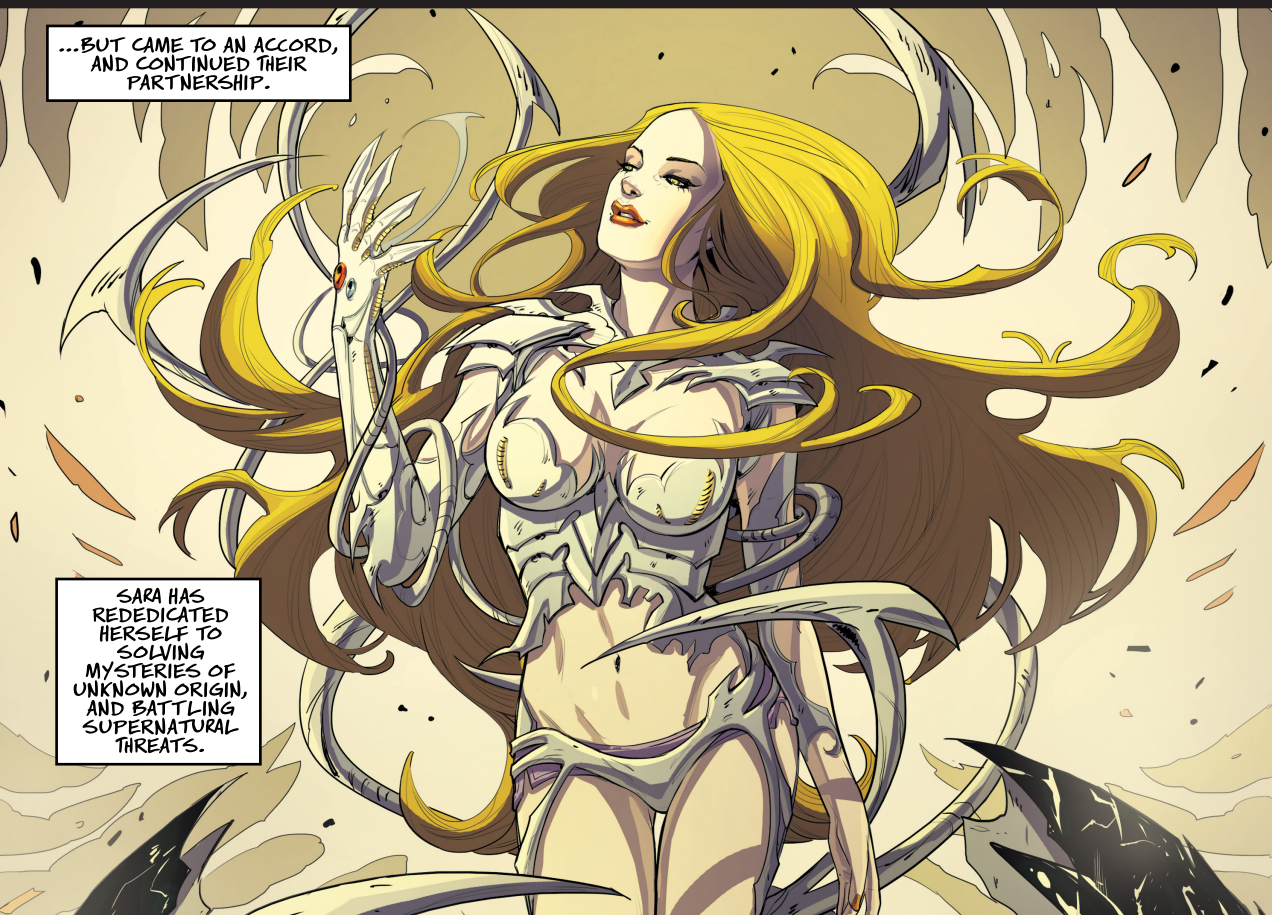
TWO YEARS AGO, SARA RID HERSELF OF THE BURDEN OF THE WITCHBLADE AND BECAME SHERIFF IN AN UPSTATE NEW YORK COUNTY.



SARA AND THE WITCHBLADE BATTLED ONE ANOTHER FOR CONTROL...

...BUT CAME TO AN ACCORD, AND CONTINUED THEIR PARTNERSHIP.

SARA HAS REDEDICATED HERSELF TO SOLVING MYSTERIES OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN, AND BATTLING SUPERNATURAL THREATS.

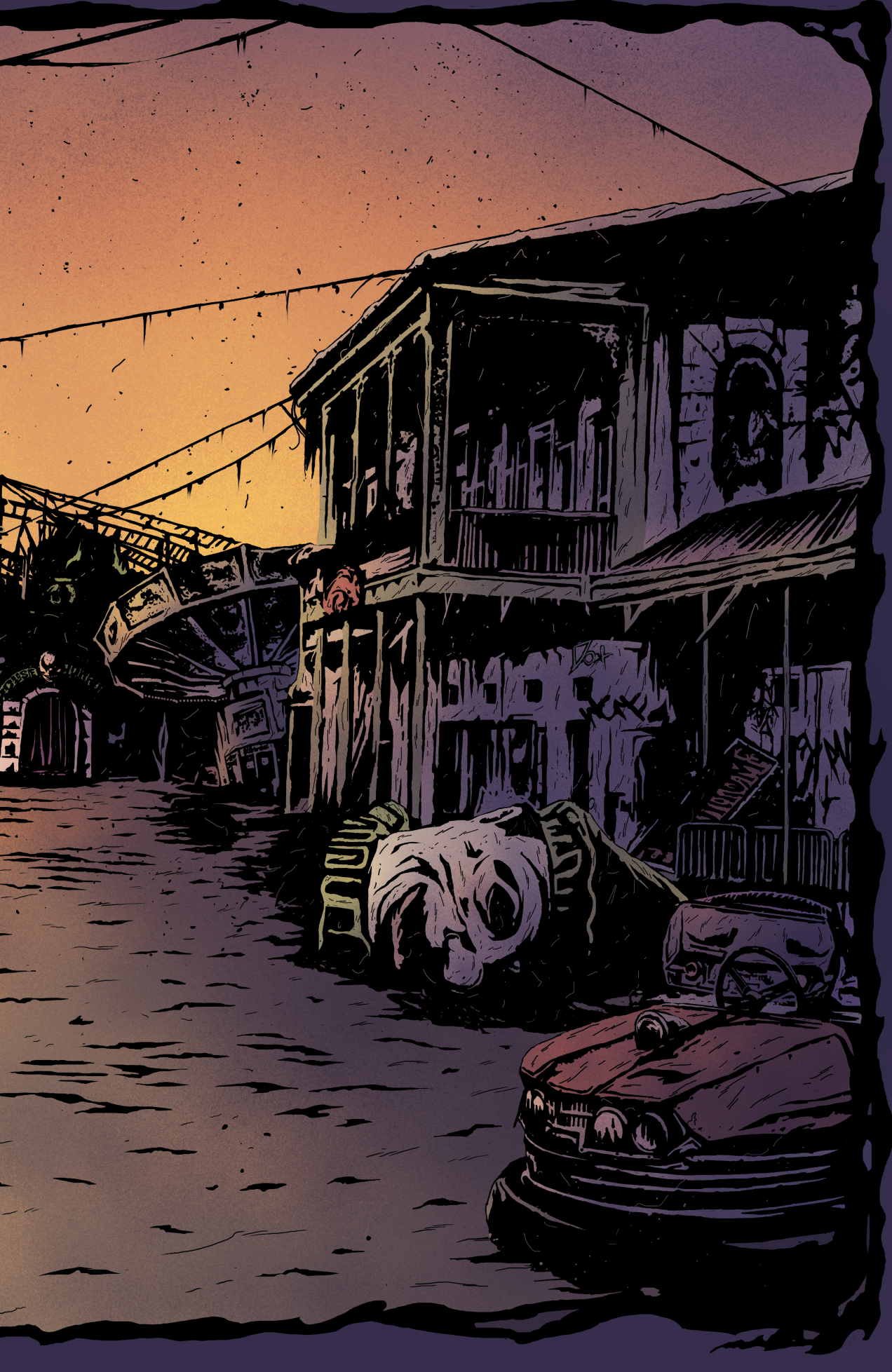




STEP
RIGHT
UP...

OLD DAYS

No entry
No return

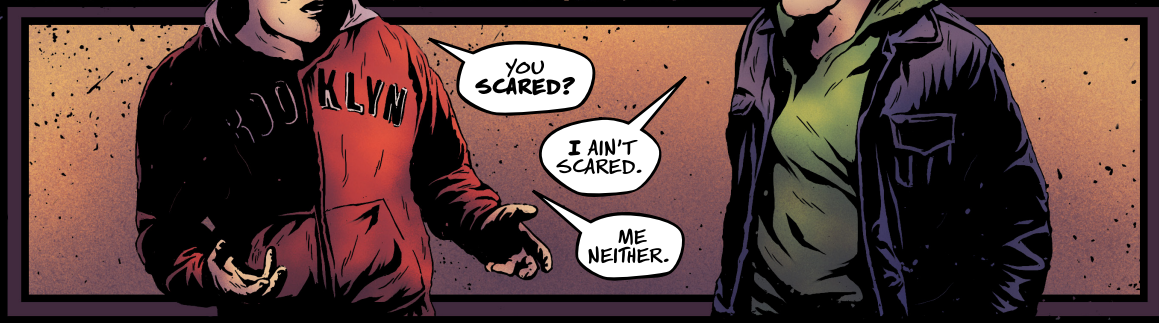




...DON'T BE SHY.

EXPLORE A LITTLE.

EVERYTHING YOU CAN IMAGINE IS RIGHT THROUGH HERE.



YOU SCARED?

I AIN'T SCARED.

ME NEITHER.



THAT'S RIGHT, HAVE A LOOK AROUND.



HOW 'BOUT THIS ONE?

I WILL IF YOU WILL.



YOU FIRST.





WHAT IS THIS PLACE?



FUN TIME, JUST LIKE THE SIGN SAYS.

THIS PLACE WAS ACTUALLY OPEN WHEN I WAS A KID, SARA. EVERYBODY AROUND HERE WENT TO IT.

IT CLOSED UP WHEN I WAS IN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, AND TURNED INTO... THIS.

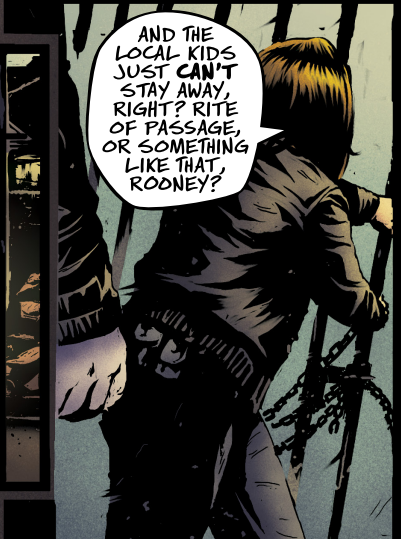
MAYBE I SHOULD'VE BROUGHT PILCHER INSTEAD.



NOW IT'S KIND OF A JUNKYARD FOR AMUSEMENT AND CARNIVAL EQUIPMENT. THE GUY WHO RUNS THIS PLACE BUYS UP STUFF WHEN PLACES GO UNDER.



WHEN PARKS NEED REPLACEMENT PARTS, THIS IS WHERE THEY GET THEM. OR SO THE STORY GOES.



AND THE LOCAL KIDS JUST CAN'T STAY AWAY, RIGHT? RITE OF PASSAGE, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT, RODNEY?

PROBABLY THE SAME ALL OVER, HUH? KIDS SNEAK IN, TRY TO STEAL A LITTLE SOMETHING TO SHOW THEIR FRIENDS.

WE'VE NEVER HAD ANYONE GO MISSING, THOUGH.

THERE WAS A MISSING KIDS CASE A WHILE BACK WHEN I WAS IN VERMONT WITH MY OLD PARTNER, GLEASON. THE ONE YOU MET.

KIDS JUST DISAPPEARED IN THE WOODS. IT WAS...

...SOMETHING OTHER THAN WHAT WE THOUGHT.

SO WHERE'S THE GUY WHO RUNS THIS PLACE?

GRRRR

RRRRR

NICE DOGGIE...

RRARRRARK



SARA!

I WAS
A DOG
PERSON...

...UNTIL
ABOUT
FIVE
SECONDS
AGO.

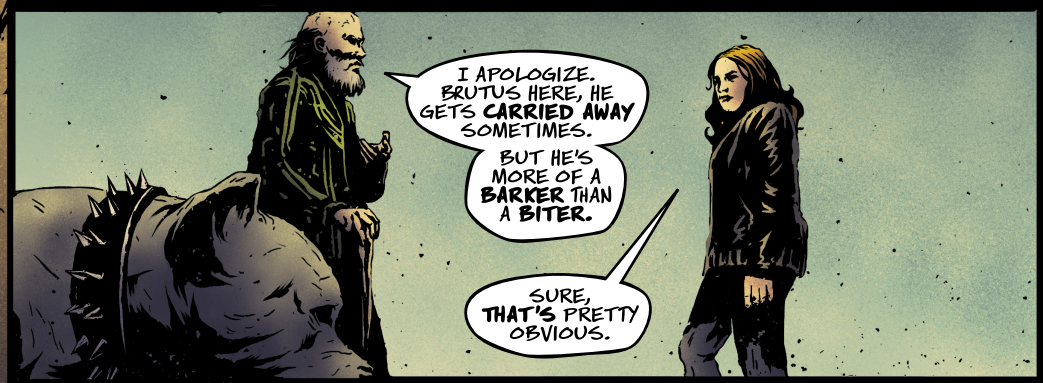


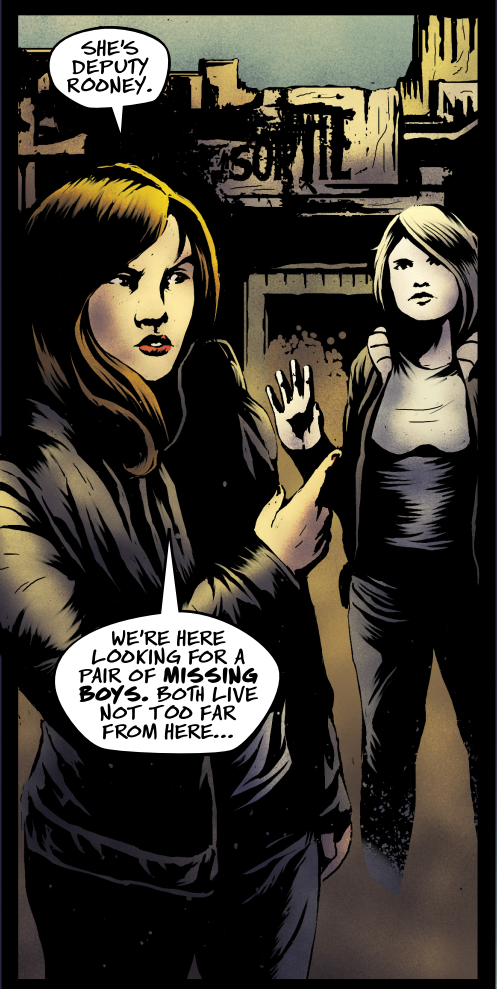
BRUTUS!

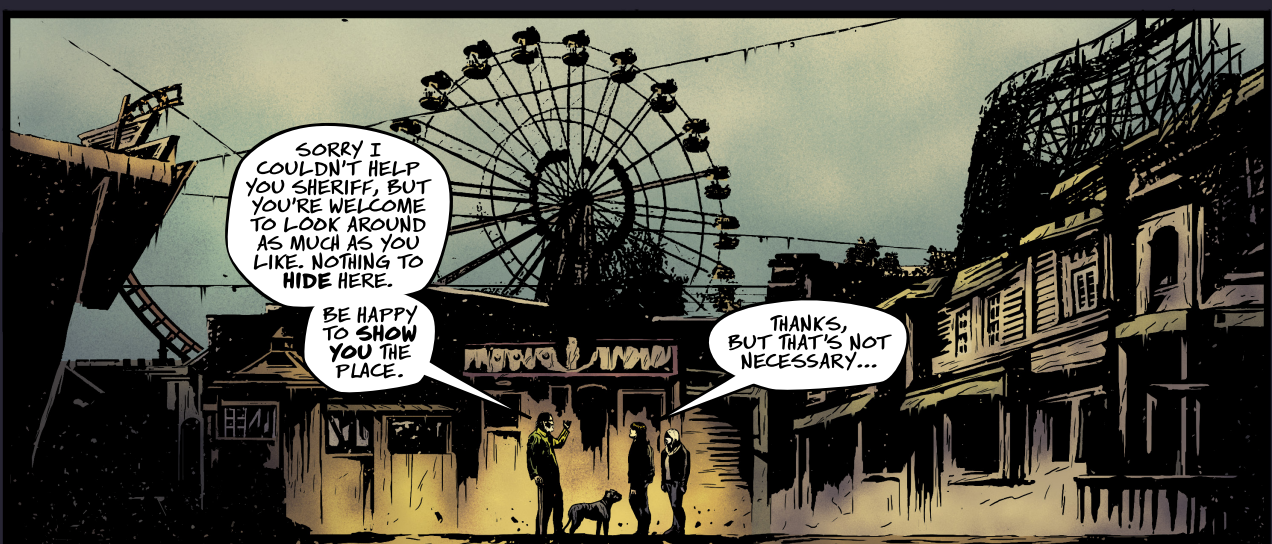


BAD
BOY.

YOU KNOW BETTER THAN THAT.







SORRY I COULDN'T HELP YOU SHERIFF, BUT YOU'RE WELCOME TO LOOK AROUND AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE. NOTHING TO HIDE HERE.

BE HAPPY TO SHOW YOU THE PLACE.

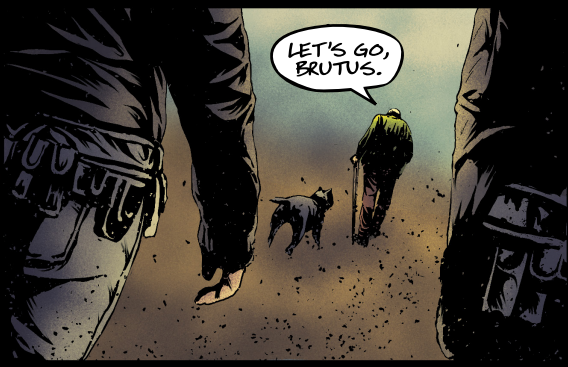
THANKS, BUT THAT'S NOT NECESSARY...



...WE'LL MANAGE ON OUR OWN.

SUIT YOURSELVES.

GOOD LUCK FINDING THOSE BOYS.



LET'S GO, BRUTUS.



YOU BELIEVE HIM?

NOT SO MUCH THAT WE WON'T HAVE A GOOD LOOK.



WE'LL COVER MORE GROUND BY SPLITTING UP. YELL IF YOU FIND SOMETHING.

WILL DO.



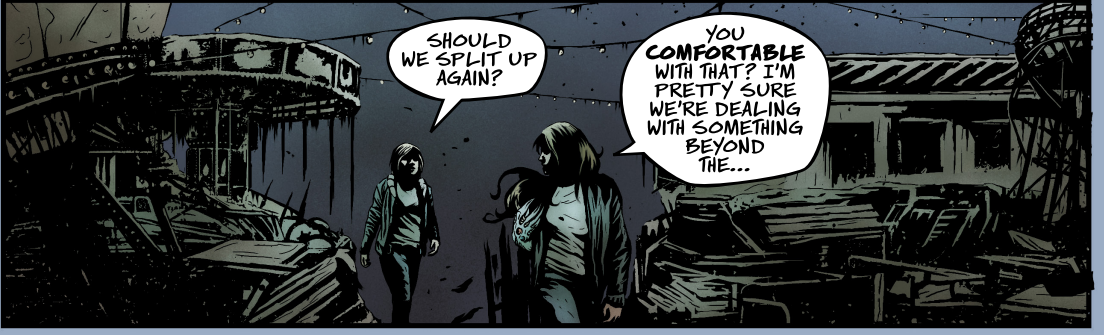


GUESS THE
POOCH IS
SNOOZING.



SHOULD
WE SPLIT UP
AGAIN?

YOU
COMFORTABLE
WITH THAT? I'M
PRETTY SURE
WE'RE DEALING
WITH SOMETHING
BEYOND
THE...



...ORDINARY.

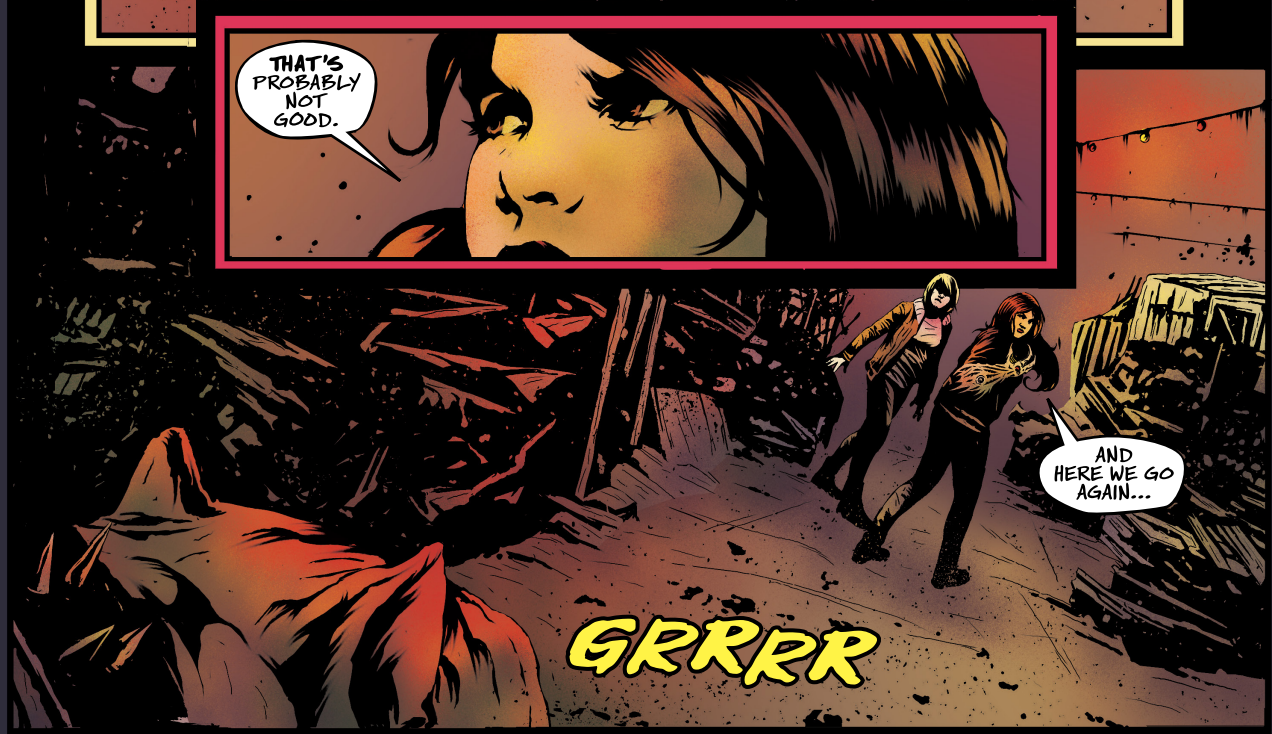


THAT'S
PROBABLY
NOT
GODD.



AND
HERE WE GO
AGAIN...

GRRRR



RRRR



RRRR

RRAAAR



I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL HE'S BEEN FEEDING YOU...



...BUT I HOPE IT WASN'T BOYS.



OFF!



SARA, DO WE SHOOT DOGS NOW?!



DON'T WASTE THE BULLETS.



URRK!



MAN



BUT IN GENERAL, YES, THAT'S THE KIND OF DOG YOU SHOOT, RODNEY.

SO WHERE DO YOU THINK THE OLD MAN IS?

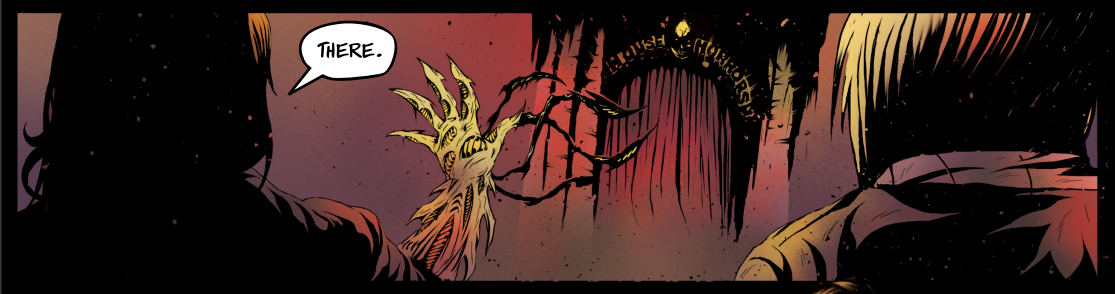


I THINK I HAVE SERIOUS DOUBTS THAT HE ACTUALLY IS AN OLD MAN.

BUT RIGHT NOW I'M MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THOSE TWO BOYS. PRETTY OBVIOUS THERE'S A BIG DOSE OF THE SUPERNATURAL HERE...



...SO WE LET THE WITCHBLADE SNIFF IT OUT.



THERE.

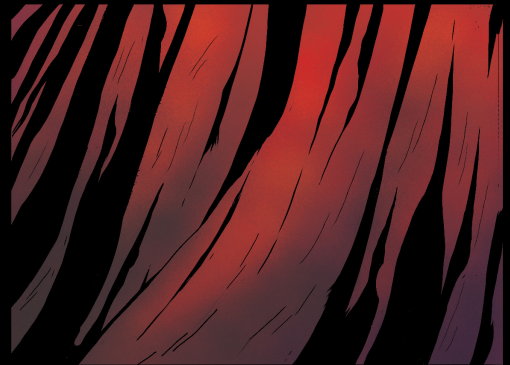


THAT'S PROBABLY NOT JUST A CARNY ATTRACTION, HUH?

YOU'RE GETTING USED TO THIS. BUT NOT SO USED TO IT THAT I'D LET YOU GO IN THERE.



DON'T FOLLOW ME.



WHUH?



WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU?!



HAPPY.



NO, LITTLE GIRL, NO TOUCHING.



I THINK I LIKED YOU BETTER WHEN YOU LOOKED LIKE SANTA CLAUS.



I'M MORE FUN THAN SANTA.



LET'S HAVE FUN.



IS THAT WHERE THE OTHER LITTLE GIRL WENT?

SHE'S HAVING AN ADVENTURE.



SARA?

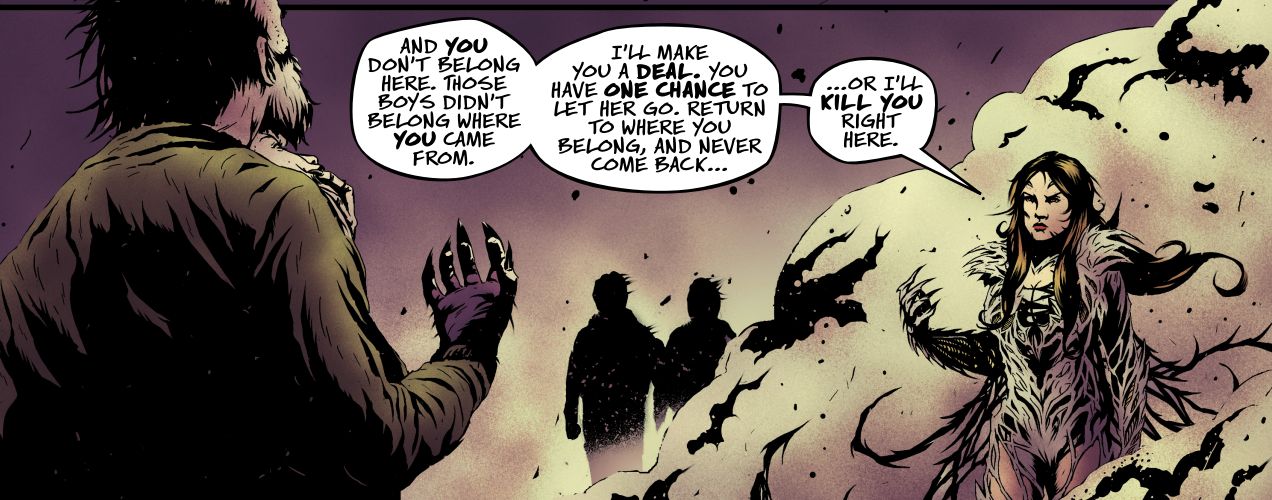
IS THAT...?



IT'S ME. AND THEM.



NO ONE'S SUPPOSED TO COME BACK FROM THERE.



AND YOU DON'T BELONG HERE. THOSE BOYS DIDN'T BELONG WHERE YOU CAME FROM.

I'LL MAKE YOU A DEAL. YOU HAVE ONE CHANCE TO LET HER GO. RETURN TO WHERE YOU BELONG, AND NEVER COME BACK...

...OR I'LL KILL YOU RIGHT HERE.



YOU COULDN'T KILL ME.
YOU'RE NOT ENOUGH.



MAYBE.
YOU WILLING TO FIND OUT?
I AM.



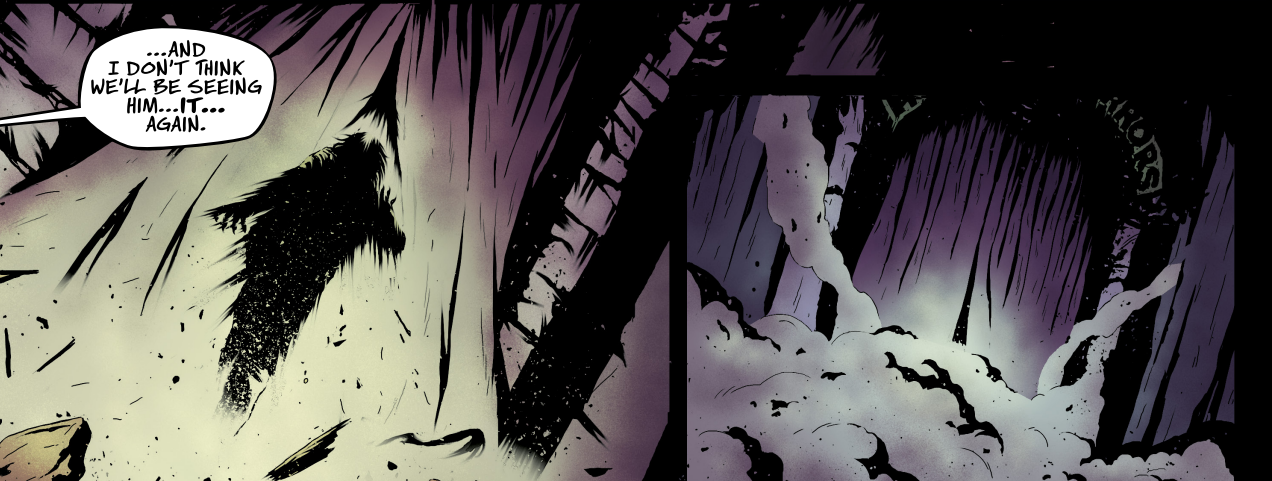
HAVE HER!
UFF!



GOTCHA.



YOU'RE SAFE...

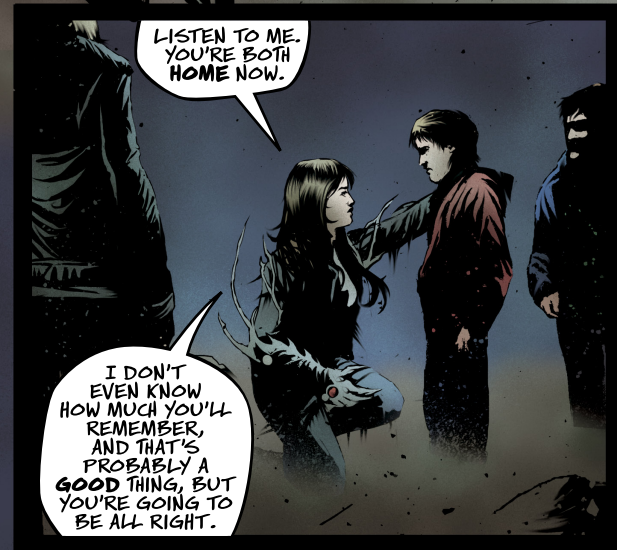


...AND I DON'T THINK WE'LL BE SEEING HIM...IT... AGAIN.



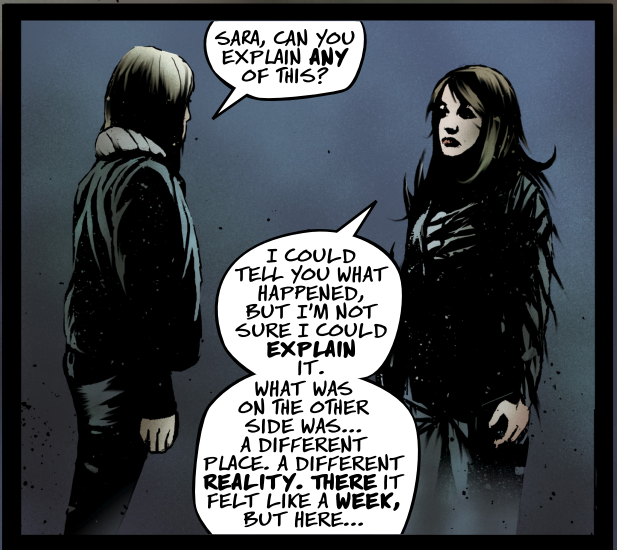
THANKS FOR SAVING MY ASS.
I'M GLAD YOU WEREN'T GONE LONG.

I GUESS IT DIDN'T SEEM LONG TO YOU.



LISTEN TO ME. YOU'RE BOTH HOME NOW.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW MUCH YOU'LL REMEMBER, AND THAT'S PROBABLY A GOOD THING, BUT YOU'RE GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.



SARA, CAN YOU EXPLAIN ANY OF THIS?

I COULD TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED, BUT I'M NOT SURE I COULD EXPLAIN IT.
WHAT WAS ON THE OTHER SIDE WAS... A DIFFERENT PLACE. A DIFFERENT REALITY. THERE IT FELT LIKE A WEEK, BUT HERE...



A FEW MINUTES.

WHY DID IT HAPPEN HERE?

I DON'T KNOW...



...UNLESS SOMETHING ATTRACTED IT.

NEXT: **JERSEY DEVILS**

Next Issue: "Jersey Devils"

WITCHBLADE[®]

#177



Rise of the Magi

ISSUE #1 PREVIEW

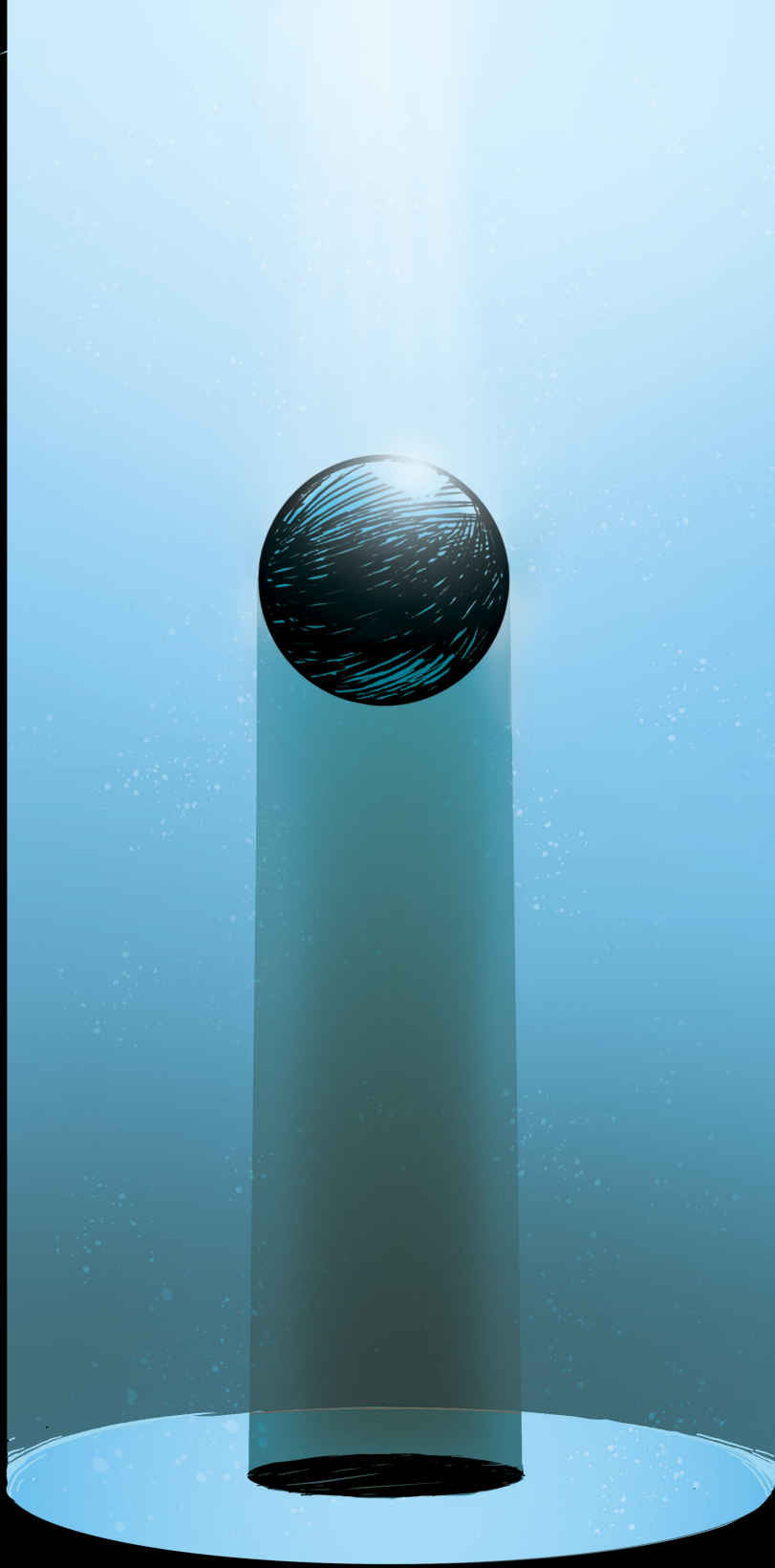
FOR THOSE WHO MISSED
ISSUE #1, CHECK OUT THE
PREVIEW OF MARC SILVESTRI'S
RISE OF THE MAGI IN THE
FOLLOWING PAGES!

MARC SILVESTRI
WRITER

SUMEYYE KESGIN & MARC SILVESTRI
ARTISTS

BETSY GONIA
COLORIST

TROY PETERI
LETTERER



This is all the **MAGIC** that exists, past, present, and future. There is no more.

In this form, it isn't very impressive. But when wielded by a skilled hand, it can create truly amazing things...like the universe for example.

There were once many of these small, black spheres. But that was long ago. Now there is only this. The last orb before this one was protected by beings not qualified to do so. The mistake they made resulted in a very big explosion, an explosion now commonly known as 'THE BIG BANG'.

This black sphere contains all the magic that holds our universe together. If anything were to happen to it, everything would cease to exist. The areas of **BLACKNESS**, devoid of life and stars in our night sky, are the holes left when magic is misused.

"The Orb" as it's called, resides on a world called **RUNE**, and is protected by an ancient spell. That spell was believed unbreakable...until now.

Crystal City,
the world of Rune,
a few hours ago...

GOOD MORNING,
FRIENDS, AND WELCOME TO
CRYSTAL CITY! FIND A GOOD
SPOT AND SETTLE IN,
BECAUSE WE'RE JUST
MOMENTS AWAY FROM THE
WORLD FAMOUS 'CHANGING
OF THE GUARD'!

BUT I WANT
MY LOLLIBOMB
NOW!

WE'LL GET
YOU ONE LATER.
YOU DON'T WANT TO
MISS THE SHOW,
DO YOU?

NOOOO,
I WANT IT
NOWWWW!

LATER.

I SAID, I WANT IT
NOWWWWWWW--

THE RIBBON
RIDERS OF
THE 102ND
AIRBORNE!

SKRRRAAW

OOOOOOOOOH!



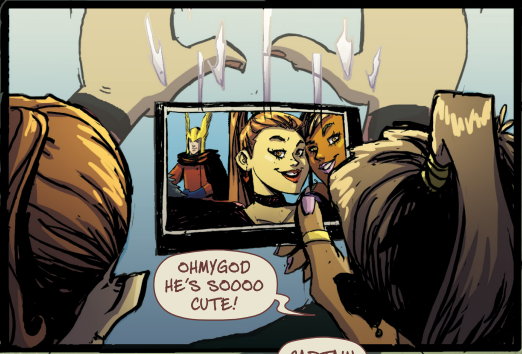


AND PLEASE GIVE A BIG CRYSTAL CITY WELCOME TO THE ROYAL MOUNTED SPELL GUARD!

THE SPELL GUARD TODAY IS LEAD BY DECORATED WAR HERO CAPTAIN RAYE STONE AND HIS MIGHTY EQUUS, BA-TU!

THERE HE IS! OHMYGODOHMYGOD OHMYGOD! QUICK DEEDA, TAKE A PICTURE!

K, SMILE! "CLICK!"



OHMYGOD HE'S SOOOO CUTE!

CAPTAIN STONE...



I'VE BEEN INFORMED THAT THE ORB SPELL WILL BE UNDERGOING ROUTINE MAINTENANCE FOR THE NEXT FEW HOURS...

YOU AND YOUR MEN GO TO THE STABLES AND WAIT ON MY ORDER.



SIR?

NOW, CAPTAIN.

YES, COMMANDER GORE, OF COURSE.





AH...

PLEASE... WATER.

YVOOOO



FINALLY!



MY NEW PARTNER HAS INDEED DELIVERED AS PROMISED. EXCELLENT. BRING THE TALIS-MAN. IT'S TIME FOR ME TO LEAVE THIS WRETCHED EXISTENCE FOREVER...



"AND I WILL PLAY ANY MAN THAT DARES TO STAND IN MY WAY."

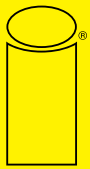
ROUTINE SPELL MAINTENANCE-- WHAT A LOAD OF TROLLS&#! WE TOOK AN OATH, ALL OF US. THE ORB IS NEVER TO BE LEFT UNGUARDED!

AYE, RAYE, THAT WE DID. BUT GORE HAS COMMANDED THE SPELL GUARD FOR TWENTY YEARS. TO GO AGAINST HIS ORDER--



I'LL WORRY ABOUT FACING THE TRIBUNAL LATER. GORE IS UP TO SOMETHING, AND I'M GOING TO FIND OUT WHAT.

"ZERO-ONE-ZERO-ZERO-ZERO-ZERO-ONE-ONE-ONE..."



IS FOR ICONIC



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**CAN A CARPET REPAIR BOY
AND A FROG**

**BE HEROES OF THE
UNIVERSE?**

ONGOING

MARC SILVESTRI | SUMEYYE KEGSIN

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the
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