

ANGEL™

A HOLE IN THE WORLD



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THEN...



I DON'T SEE WHY IT HAS TO BE THIS WAY. THERE ARE PLENTY OF GOOD SCHOOLS IN THE AREA.

I KNOW. AND I HAVE A NICE ROOM AND I COULD MEET A NICE BOY AND WE COULD GET MARRIED AND LIVE IN MY NICE ROOM—

WELL, HE'D HAVE TO BE A SMALLISH FELLA.



— AND WE COULD HAVE SWEET LITTLE BABIES THAT COULD SLEEP IN THE DRAWER.

I DO NOT SEE A DOWNSIDE TO THIS PLAN.

DADDY, I LOVE YOU LIKE PANCAKES, BUT I'M GETTIN' THE HELL OUT OF HERE.

LANGUAGE.



SHE SHOULD SAY IT. THAT'S WHERE SHE'S GOING: HELL A.

IT'S LOS ANGELES, THE CITY OF ANGELS, REMEMBER?

AND IF YOU MEET ONE ANGEL THERE, I'LL EAT THE DOGS. A BUNCH OF JUNKIES AND SPOILED MOVIE ACTORS— THAT'S WHO YOU'RE GONNA MEET.



IN THE GRADUATE PHYSICS PROGRAM AT UCLA?

YOU DON'T KNOW.



SWEETIE, WHY DON'T YOU CHECK THE CHEVY ONE MORE TIME?

THE CHEVY'S FINE.

I SLEPT IN A DRAWER 'TIL I WAS THREE. DIDN'T STUNT ME NONE.



NOW...





WE GOT THE NEST.

THE OTHERS ARE FINISHING THE SWEEP. NASTY LITTLE BUGGERS.

KIND OF COOL, PHYSIOLOGICALLY. THEY REPRODUCE BY VOMITING UP CRYSTALS THAT ATTRACT AND MUTATE THE MICROBES AROUND THEM TO FORM EGGS.



ARE YOU TRYING TO TURN ME ON?

IT IS KIND OF ROMANTIC. A ROARING FIRE. A SNUG LITTLE NEST.



FUSS, FUSS. THE THING WAS ABOUT TO STRIKE. IT WAS ON YOUR BACK. WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO?



ASK ME TO TURN AROUND.

HEAT OF BATTLE. THERE WASN'T TIME.

YOU JUST LIKE STABBING ME.



I—I'M SHOCKED—SHOCKED THAT YOU'D SAY THAT. I MUCH PREFER HITTING YOU WITH BLUNT INSTRUMENTS.



YOU KNOW, WE ONLY ASKED YOU ALONG 'CAUSE WE FELT SORRY FOR YOU.

IF IT WEREN'T FOR ME, YOU'D BE BUG FOOD, SO STOP WHINING.



ANGEL?

AH, I'LL BE ALL RIGHT.



NO, I JUST WANT THE BUG. IT'S IN PRETTY GOOD SHAPE, AND I'D LIKE TO TAKE IT BACK TO THE LAB. I ALWAYS LIKE A NEW SPECIMEN.





"THREE LITTLE MAIDS WHO, ALL UNWARY, COME FROM A LADIES' SEMINARY, FREED FROM ITS GENIUS TUTELARY— THREE LITTLE MAIDS FROM SCHOOL!"



"THREE LITTLE MAIDS—"

—AH! WHAT'S UP?

I SHOULD ASK YOU. YOU SEEM UNUTTERABLY CHEERY.



I AM. LOOK, I GOTTA BE STRAIGHT WITH YOU 'CAUSE THIS IS KINDA BLOWIN' MY MIND.

TELL ME.



FRED AND I ARE GETTING BACK TOGETHER.



SHE WAS SO KEYED UP FROM LAST NIGHT'S FIGHT, SHE ASKED ME OVER. WE ENDED UP TALKING FOR HOURS LIKE OLD TIMES...





THEN, ALL OF A SUDD— I CAN'T EVEN KEEP THIS UP 'CAUSE YOUR FACE IS GONNA MAKE ME WEEP. WES, I AM SO MESSIN' WITH YOU.



I—OH...

COME ON. BROTHER GETS A DIG IN. THAT'S MY RIGHT.



SO, YOU KNOW ABOUT—

IT'S ON EVERY BLACKBERRY IN THE BUILDING. NO SECRETS IN THE HOUSE OF PAIN.

AND... IS THAT ALL RIGHT...WITH YOU? FRED AND ME?



LAST YEAR, YOU WOULDN'T ASK ME THAT QUESTION. THE MAN BECOMES CIVILIZED. IT'S COOL. OUR THING'S LONG DONE, AND I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT HER.

THANK YOU.

AND TO ADD THE NECESSARY BOILERPLATE, YOU EVER HURT HER, I'M GONNA KILL YA LIKE A CHICKEN.

ACCEPTABLE TERMS.



NOW, ON TO THE REAL FUN.

YES, YOU SEEMED LIKE SOMETHING WAS UP BEFORE YOU MADE THAT TASTELESS AND HORRIBLE JOKE AT MY EXPENSE.

LINDSEY MCDONALD.

YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS.



SETTLE FOR WAS— HE WAS LIVING HERE UNDER THE NAME OF DOYLE. THE WAY HE WAS MESSIN' WITH SPIKE AND ANGEL, COULD BE HE HAD SOME OTHER SCHEMES LAID OUT. SENIOR PARTNERS TOOK HIM OUT FAST. I DON'T EVEN THINK HE HAD TIME TO PACK.

WORTH CHECKING. NICE WORK. YOU SHOULD TELL ANGEL.



YOU CAN TELL HIM. I AIN'T GOIN' IN THERE.



IT'S BOLLOCKS, ANGEL! IT'S YOUR BRAND OF BOLLOCKS FROM THE FIRST TO LAST.

NO, YOU CAN'T EVER SEE THE BIG PICTURE. YOU CAN'T SEE ANY PICTURE!

I AM TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING PRIMAL, RIGHT? SAVAGERY. BRUTAL ANIMAL INSTINCT.



AND THAT WINS OUT EVERY TIME WITH YOU. YOU KNOW, THE HUMAN RACE HAS EVOLVED, SPIKE!

OH, INTO A BUNCH OF NAMBY-PAMBY, SELF-ANALYZING WANKERS WHO COULD NEVER HOPE TO—

WE'RE BIGGER. WE'RE SMARTER. PLUS, THERE'S A THING CALLED TEAMWORK, NOT TO MENTION THE SUPERSTITIOUS TERROR OF YOUR "PURE" AGGRESSORS!



YOU JUST WANT IT TO BE THE WAY YOU WANT IT TO BE.

IT'S NOT ABOUT WHAT I WANT!

SORRY. IS THIS SOMETHING WE SHOULD ALL BE DISCUSSING?



NO.

IT WAS MOSTLY... THEORETICAL. WE...

WE WERE JUST WORKING OUT A B—

LOOK, IF CAVEMEN AND ASTRONAUTS GOT INTO A FIGHT, WHO WOULD WIN?

IT JUST... SOUNDS A LITTLE SERIOUS.

AH. YOU'VE BEEN YELLING AT EACH OTHER FOR 40 MINUTES ABOUT THIS?

DO THE ASTRONAUTS HAVE WEAPONS?



NO!

NO!









I'M NOT ATTACHED.
I JUST DON'T HAVE ANYWHERE ELSE TO GO.



WHAT IF YOU DID? LOOK, WOLFRAM E HART HAS GOT OFFICES IN EVERY MAJOR CITY IN THE WORLD, AND A LOT MORE OUT OF IT. I'LL GIVE YOU THE RESOURCES YOU NEED TO GO ANYWHERE: CARS, GADGETS, EXPENSE ACCOUNTS.

YOU FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, BUT... IN STYLE. AND, IF POSSIBLE, IN OUTER MONGOLIA.



ROVING AGENT. SORT OF A 007 WITHOUT THE PONCY TUX. GO ANYWHERE I WANT?



ANYWHERE. EVERYWHERE.



HMM. ANYWHERE BUT HERE.



BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.

BUT THE CAVEMEN HAVE FIRE. THAT'S WHAT THEY LIVE WITH IN THEIR CAVES. THE ASTRONAUTS SHOULD AT LEAST HAVE SOME SORT OF WEAPON.

I JUST CALL IT LIKE I SEE IT.



HEY THERE.

I WAS JUST ON MY WAY TO THINKING OF AN EXCUSE TO COME AND SEE YOU.

AND HOW IS THAT WORKING OUT?

REALLY GREAT. WHERE ARE YOU COMING FROM?

OH, MEDICAL. I BREATHED SOME OLD MUMMY DUST. HAD TO MAKE SURE I DIDN'T DISCOVER ANY NEW GERMS.

YOU ALL RIGHT?

THEY SHOODED ME RIGHT OFF. MUMMY-FREE.



GOOD. I WAS HOPING TO TAKE YOU OUT TOMORROW NIGHT, AND I DON'T FEATURE YOU WRAPPED IN BANDAGES.

TAKE ME OUT WHERE?



CAN IT BE A SECRET?

OH, SHEESH. GET A BALCONY, YOU TWO, HUH?



YOU'LL STILL FIND ME FOR LUNCH, THOUGH, RIGHT?



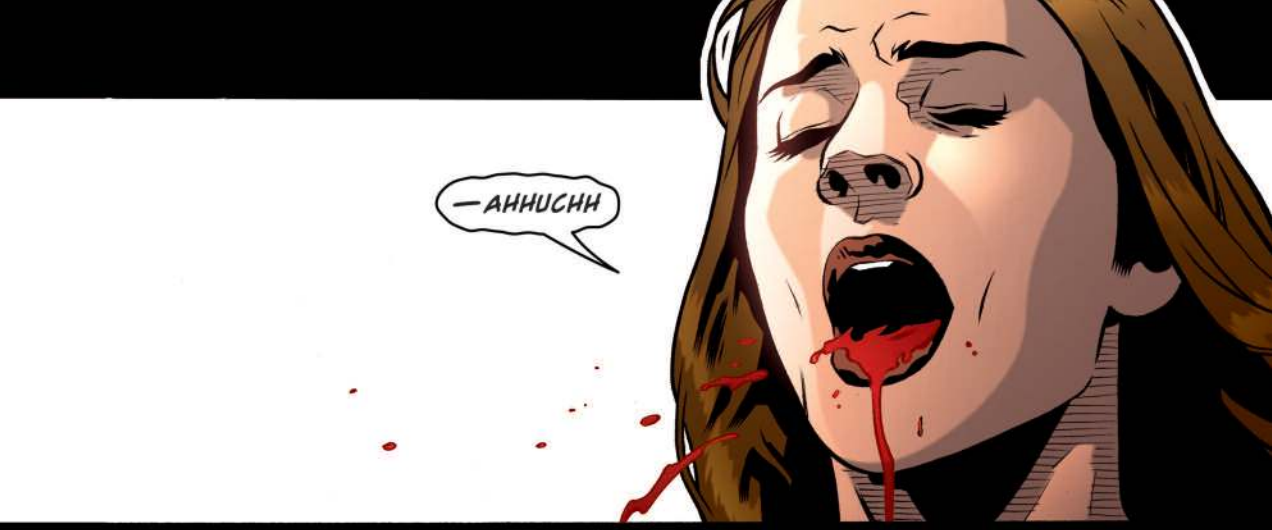
I'LL JUST LOOK WHERE THE SUN SHINES.

"YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE, MY ONLY SUNSHINE..."



"YOU MAKE ME HAPPY..."









I'M A MUMMY, AREN'T I?

I'VE FOUGHT PLENTY OF MUMMIES, AND NONE OF 'EM WERE AS PRETTY AS YOU. ALMOST NONE.

NOW Y'ALL ARE BEING TOO COMFORTING. WHAT'S REALLY UP?



YOU'RE SICK, AND YOU'RE MAKING IT WORSE BY WORRYING.

WE'VE GOT THAT SARCOPHAGUS UNDER THE SCOPE.

IF IT GAVE YOU ANYTHING, WE'LL ISOLATE IT IN A FEW HOURS.

SO, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS?



YET.

OKAY.

WE'RE GONNA WORK THIS. SHOULDN'T TAKE LONG.

HANDSOME MAN SAVES ME.



THAT'S HOW IT WORKS. LET'S GET CRACKIN'.



HMPH. "GET CRACKIN'." HE'S SUCH AN OLD FOGEY.

I KNOW YOU GOTTA GO BE BOOK MAN.

YES. JUST HIT THAT LINE—I'LL BE HERE IN A HEARTBEAT.



ASSUMING I STILL HAVE ONE.

HUSH.



WES AND FRED?

YOU DIDN'T KNOW?



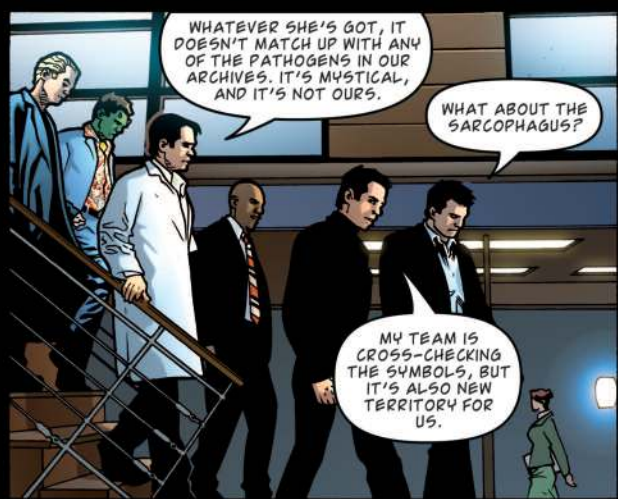
I DIDN'T KNOW.



HOW IS SHE HANDLING IT?

SHE'S SMARTER THAN ALL OF US PUT TOGETHER. SHE KNOWS IT'S BAD.

HOW BAD? WHAT DO WE KNOW?



WHATEVER SHE'S GOT, IT DOESN'T MATCH UP WITH ANY OF THE PATHOGENS IN OUR ARCHIVES. IT'S MYSTICAL, AND IT'S NOT OURS.

WHAT ABOUT THE SARCOPHAGUS?

MY TEAM IS CROSS-CHECKING THE SYMBOLS, BUT IT'S ALSO NEW TERRITORY FOR US.



ANGEL, WHAT EXACTLY IS HAPPENING TO HER? YOU TALKED TO THE DOCTOR.

THEY HAVE SOMETHING?



YEAH, I, UH— SOME PARASITIC AGENT IS WORKING ITS WAY THROUGH. I MEAN, AS NEAR AS THEY CAN TELL...

GET TO THE POINT.



HER ORGANS ARE COOKING. IN A DAY'S TIME, THEY'LL LIQUEFY.





I WAS LOOKING TO WORK THE STREETS, AND WE'VE GOT HIS ADDRESS. FOR ALL WE KNOW, HE'S PROBABLY SITTING THERE LAUGHING. AND IF THERE'S MUSCLE WORK TO DO...

LET'S MAKE IT TWICE AS FAST.

AND BABY MAKES THREE — IN CASE ANYBODY FEELS LIKE SINGING.



GOOD GUYS...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY IT.



I'LL SAY IT ANYWAY. WINIFRED BURKLE. GO.





I'M SORRY TO INTERRUPT. I JUST NEED TO KNOW IF THE HOLBINE CLAN HISTORY WAS HERE. IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE FAXED TO MY OFFICE.



IT CAN WAIT.

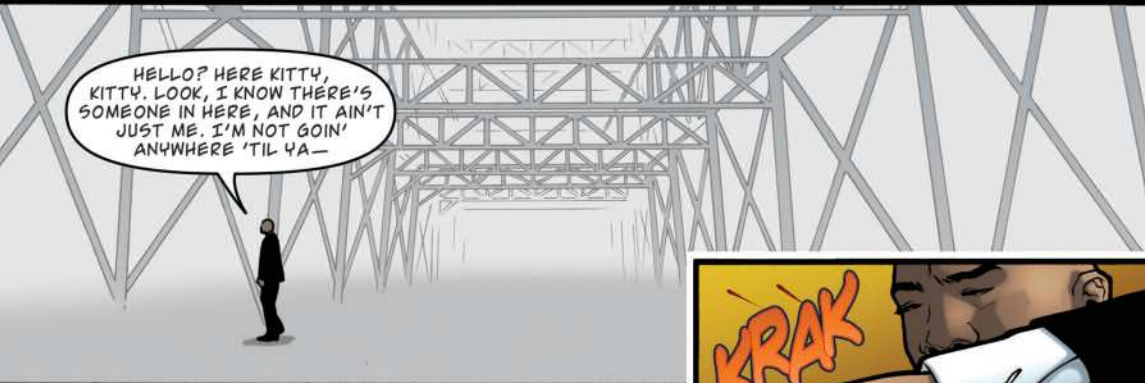


THESE GUYS ARE REALLY IMPORTANT. I JUST NEED—I MEAN, THE WHOLE COMPANY CAN'T BE WORKING MISS BURKLE'S CASE.

OF COURSE.



JENNIFER, PLEASE SEND ANYONE ELSE WHO ISN'T WORKING MISS BURKLE'S CASE TO ME.



HELLO? HERE KITTY, KITTY. LOOK, I KNOW THERE'S SOMEONE IN HERE, AND IT AIN'T JUST ME. I'M NOT GOIN' ANYWHERE 'TIL YA—



KRAK



WELL, WHADDAYA KNOW? IT IS JUST ME.



YOU DON'T WANT TO BE HERE.

I NEVER WANT TO BE HERE. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CAT?

THE PHYSICAL FORM OF THE CONDUIT IS DETERMINED BY THE VIEWER.



SO, I'M LOOKING AT ME BECAUSE, WHAT? WE GONNA PLAY A MIRROR GAME? GET OUR MIME ON?



YOU ARE FAILING.



KRAK



NO SIGN OF LINDSEY.

LOOK FOR PLANS.



WELL, I'LL BE DAMNED ALL OVER AGAIN.



DON'T TOUCH ME.

HIDING OUT FROM THE SENIOR PARTNERS, EVE? HOW MANY SICK DAYS DO YOU GET BEFORE THEY DOCK YOU?



FRED'S DYING. SOME MYSTICAL PARASITE. RING A BELL?

WHAT DO YOU WANT?



NO, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.



WHAT ABOUT YOUR BOYFRIEND, LUV? YOU GOT SOME WACKY SCHEME BREWIN'? SENDING COFFINS ABOUT?



YOU TWO STAY AWAY FROM ME.

LOOK, EVE, THIS HAPPENS QUICKLY OR VERY, VERY SLOWLY.

SARCOPHAGUS. OLDER THAN ANYTHING WE KNOW.



LINDSEY AND I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT. I'M NOT LYING. I—I'M NOT.

HAVE YOU...HEARD FROM HIM? ABOUT HIM?



OH, THIS IS TRULY POETICAL.

YOU'RE NOT SAYING WHAT WE NEED TO HEAR.

WHY WOULD WE DO ANYTHING TO FRED? WHY WOULD WE EVEN CARE ABOUT HER—?

KRAK



OOH. OH, I'M SORRY. THAT WAS A KNUCKLE-BUSTER. I'M JAKE LAMOTTA OVER HERE. IT'S PATHETIC. OH.

HERE'S THE THING, EVE: YOU'RE GOING TO SING FOR ME, AND I'M GOING TO READ YOU RIGHT NOW. AND HERE'S ONE MORE THING: WINIFRED BURKLE ONCE TOLD ME, AFTER A SINFUL AMOUNT OF CHINESE FOOD, AND IN LIEU OF ABSOLUTELY NOTHING, "I THINK A LOT OF PEOPLE WOULD CHOOSE TO BE GREEN.

YOUR SHADE, IF THEY HAD THE CHOICE." IF I HEAR ONE NOTE—ONE QUARTER-NOTE—THAT TELLS ME YOU HAD ANY INVOLVEMENT, THESE TWO WON'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO KILL YOU.



OH, AND ANYTHING BY DIANA WARREN WILL ALSO RESULT IN YOUR DEATH—WELL, EXCEPT "RHYTHM OF THE NIGHT."

I WANNA HELP. I SWEAR TO YOU. I'VE GOT NOTHING AGAINST FRED.

SAY IT...WITH A SONG IN YOUR HEART.

"PRETTY AS A PICTURE. SHE IS LIKE A GOLDEN RING."

SHE'S CLEAN.



YOU'VE BEEN WRONG BEFORE.

YEAH, AND I MIGHT BE NOW, BUT SHE READS CLEAN. HER FUTURE'S NOT TOO BRIGHT, BUT...



WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WELL, NOTHIN'S WRITTEN IN STONE—LATELY—BUT, UH, IF I WAS ABOUT TO FACE YOUR FUTURE, I'D MAKE LIKE CARMEN MIRANDA... AND DIE.



WAIT. PLEASE. ARE YOU GOING TO TELL THE SENIOR PARTNERS WHERE I AM—

HELL OF A BARGAINING CHIP.



NO, THEY CAN'T HELP YOU. I MEAN IT. IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT A SARCOPHAGUS THAT DOESN'T MATCH ANYTHING IN OUR RECORDS...THERE'S NOTHING THAT'S NOT IN OUR RECORDS EXCEPT WHAT CAME BEFORE. THE OLD ONES.



THE ORIGINAL DEMONS. BEFORE HUMANKIND. THEY WERE ALL DRIVEN OUT OF THIS DIMENSION.



THE ONES THAT WERE STILL ALIVE. BUT LONG BEFORE THAT, THEY WERE KILLING EACH OTHER ALL THE TIME, AND THEY DON'T DIE THE WAY WE DO.

WESLEY MAY NOT KNOW IT, BUT HIS SOURCE BOOKS CAN CONJURE UP ANYTHING, NOT JUST OUR OWN STOCK. TELL HIM TO LOOK FOR THE TEXTS THAT ARE FORGOTTEN, THE OLDEST SCROLLS. YOU NEED TO FIND THE DEEPER WELL.

IT'S CALLED ILLYRIA, A GREAT MONARCH AND WARRIOR OF THE DEMON AGE MURDERED BY RIVALS AND LEFT ADRIFT IN THE DEEPER WELL.

WHICH IS WHAT?

A BURIAL GROUND, A RESTING PLACE OF ALL THE REMAINING OLD ONES.

THIS ONE AIN'T RESTIN'.

NO. I DON'T THINK THIS IS MERELY AN INFECTION. FRED'S SKIN IS...HARDENING LIKE A SHELL. I THINK SHE'S BEING HOLLOWED OUT SO THIS THING CAN USE HER TO GESTATE, TO CLAW ITS WAY BACK INTO THE WORLD. THAT'S SPECULATION. EITHER WAY, SHE DIES.

I ALREADY HAVE. IT'S IN ENGLAND, IN THE COTSWOLDS. THAT'S THE LOCATION, TO THE INCH.

LORNE, TELL HARMONY TO PREP THE JET. WE CAN BE THERE IN 10 HOURS.

DO WE HAVE ANY CHANCE OF FINDING THIS DEEPER WELL?

YOU CAN BE THERE IN 4. WE HAVE REALLY GOOD JETS.

IT WILL HAVE A GUARDIAN, MAYBE SEVERAL.

LET 'EM SEND AN ARMY.

HOW DO WE KNOW GOIN' THERE'S GONNA DO SQUAT?

THE DEEPER WELL IS ALMOST LIKE A PRISON FOR THE DEAD. IF SOMETHING GETS OUT, IT'S WRITTEN IT CAN BE DRAWN BACK FROM THE SOURCE.

THAT'S OUR SHOT.

WE'LL KEEP WORKING HERE, BUT, YES, I THINK IT IS.

IF NOBODY THINKS IT'S TOO RIDICULOUS, I'M GOING TO PRAY.

NO, IT'S APPRECIATED. TIME IS NOT ON OUR SIDE.

NOBODY'S ON OUR SIDE.

COME ON. LET'S SAVE THE DAY.

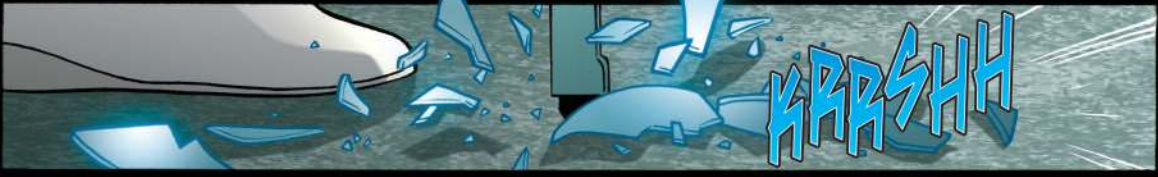


GASP!



LATER...

FRED?



KRASHH



FRED, YOU CAN'T BE DOING THIS.



PLEASE, WESLEY, I AM EXACTLY THE PERSON TO BE DOING THIS. SOMETHING COULD'VE BEEN MISSED.

WHATEVER IT IS THAT'S HAPPENING, WE WILL STOP IT, I SWEAR TO YOU.



I HAVE TO WORK.

YOU HAVE TO LIE DOWN.



I AM NOT — I AM NOT THE DAMSEL IN DISTRESS. I AM NOT SOME CASE. I HAVE TO WORK THIS. I LIVED IN A CAVE FOR FIVE YEARS IN A WORLD WHERE THEY KILLED MY KIND LIKE CATTLE.

I AM NOT GOING TO BE CUT DOWN BY SOME MONSTER FLU. I AM BETTER THAN THAT!



BUT I WONDER... HOW VERY SCARED I AM.





I'VE NEVER FLOWN BEFORE.



I'VE BEEN IN A HELICOPTER. THEY DON'T... GO THIS HIGH.



BACK TO THE MOTHER COUNTRY. HEY, AFTER WE SAVE FRED, WE SHOULD HIT THE WEST END, TAKE IN A SHOW.

I'VE NEVER SEEN LES MIS.

TRUST ME, HALF-WAY THROUGH THE FIRST ACT, YOU'LL BE DRINKING HUMANS AGAIN.



CAN'T LOSE HER, SPIKE.

WE WON'T.



I LOST CORDY.





YOU'RE NOT HEARING ME. I KNOW YOU'VE GOT HEALERS WORKING FOR YOU. I DON'T CARE IF THE OLD ONES SCARE THEM. I DON'T CARE IF THE OLD ONES KILL THEM. GET THEIR ASSES DOWN HERE, OR YOU'RE GONNA BE IN A **WORLD** OF HURT. NO, I AM NOT TALKING ABOUT A LAWSUIT. I'M TALKING ABOUT BONES THAT GO **CRUNCH**, AND IF YOU THINK—



WE FREEZE HER. TAKE HER DOWN TO CRYOGENICS. IF WE CAN'T STOP THIS THING, MAYBE WE COULD JUST, YOU KNOW, FREEZE IT—IN ITS TRACKS 'TIL WE CAN COME UP WITH SOMETHING.



YOU KNOW FOR SURE YOU CAN DO THAT?



LET'S TEST IT OUT.



I FINALLY GET YOU UP TO MY BEDROOM, AND ALL YOU WANT TO DO IS READ.



YOU DOZED OFF. WAS I MAKING TOO MUCH NOISE?



NOT ENOUGH. I NEED NOISE TO KEEP ME HERE. IS IT TODAY? I MEAN...



YOU ONLY SLEPT FOR AN HOUR.

THAT'S AN HOUR I DON'T GOT NOW.

ANGEL AND SPIKE ARE ON THEIR WAY TO FINDING YOUR CURE, AND I SHOULDN'T LIKE TO BE THE THING STANDING IN THEIR WAY.



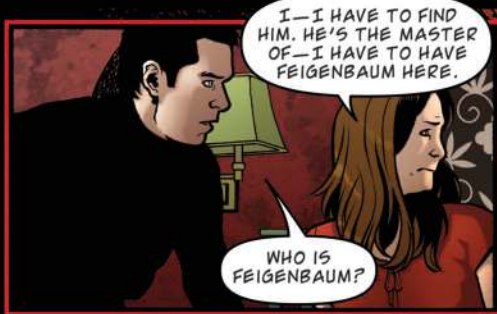
AND BOOK MAN?

BOOK MAN CAME THROUGH. I THINK I GAVE 'EM WHAT THEY NEED.



FEIGENBAUM.

WHAT?





CAN THAT BE ANY BOOK IN THE WORLD?

NAME ONE.



"SHE WAS SUCH A LITTLE GIRL THAT ONE DID NOT EXPECT TO SEE SUCH A LOOK ON HER SMALL FACE. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN AN OLD LOOK FOR A CHILD OF TWELVE, AND SARA CREWE WAS ONLY SEVEN.

THE FACT WAS, HOWEVER, THAT SHE WAS ALWAYS DREAMING AND THINKING ODD THINGS AND COULD NOT HERSELF REMEMBER ANY TIME WHEN SHE HAD NOT BEEN THINKING THINGS ABOUT GROWN-UP PEOPLE AND THE WORLD THEY BELONGED TO. SHE FELT AS IF SHE HAD LIVED A LONG, LONG TIME..."



WHEN IS A DOOR NOT A DOOR? WHEN IT'S NOT SODDIN'—WELL, THERE.



RIGHT THERE. YOU WANNA BET THAT'S THE ENTRANCE TO THE DEEPER WELL?

EITHER THAT, OR CHRISTMASLAND.



DO YOU EVER HAVE ANY FUN?

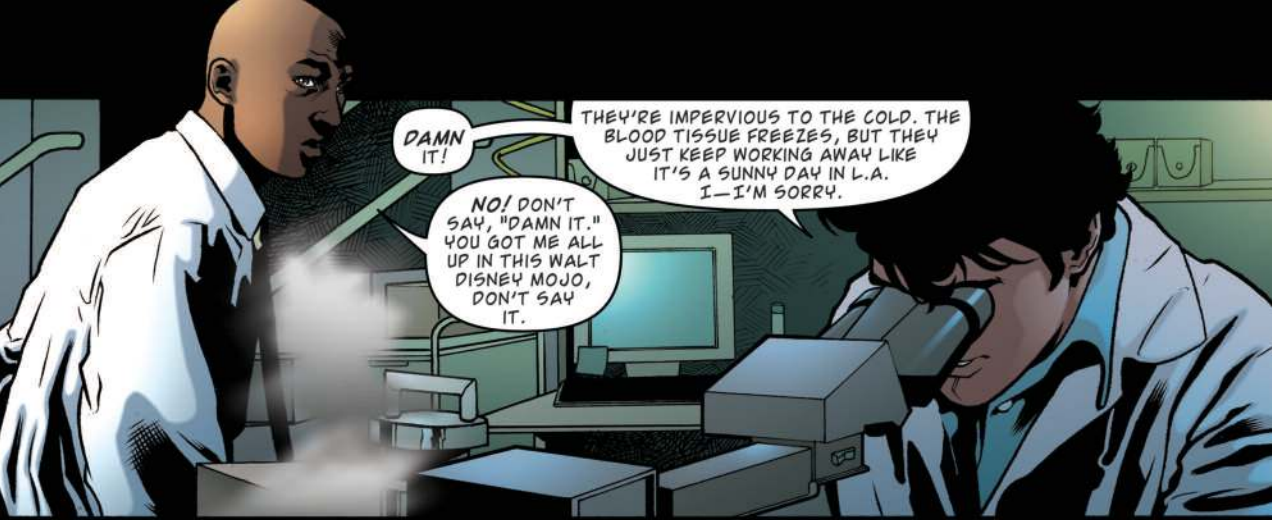


GRRRRRR

I'M ABOUT TO...







DAMN IT!

THEY'RE IMPERVIOUS TO THE COLD. THE BLOOD TISSUE FREEZES, BUT THEY JUST KEEP WORKING AWAY LIKE IT'S A SUNNY DAY IN L.A. I—I'M SORRY.

NO! DON'T SAY, "DAMN IT." YOU GOT ME ALL UP IN THIS WALT DISNEY MOJO, DON'T SAY IT.



OK, SO THAT'S A BUST. WHAT ELSE YOU GOT?



I DON'T, UM—GOD, I CAN'T THINK, I'M SO NERVOUS.

LOOK, I'D NEVER TELL HER THIS, BUT I—I CARE ABOUT FRED MORE THAN—SHE'S LIKE NO ONE I'VE MET, YOU KNOW?

I DO.

AND NOTHING WOULD MAKE ME HAPPIER THAN TO BE THE WHITE KNIGHT IN THIS SITUATION.



TO HAVE HER LOOK AT ME THE WAY THAT... I MEAN, I DON'T JUST CARE ABOUT FRED, I PRACTICALLY WORSHIP IT.



YOU SAID, "IT."

WHAT?

NOT "HER." YOU SAID, "I WORSHIP IT."



OOPS.



IS THAT ALL?
WE HAVEN'T EVEN
STARTED!



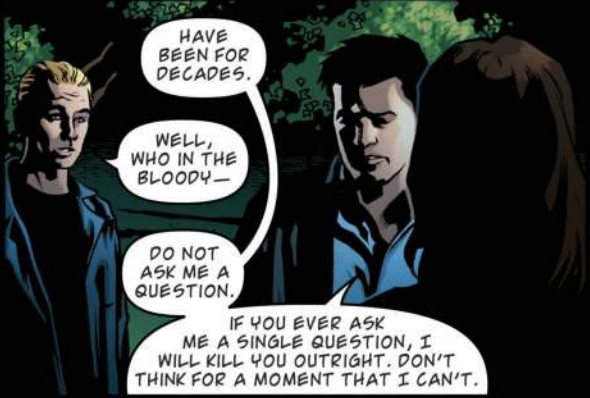
I'D SAY
THAT'S
ENOUGH.



DROGYN.

ANGEL.

YOU'RE THE
KEEPER OF THE
WELL.



HAVE BEEN FOR DECADES.

WELL, WHO IN THE BLOODY—

DO NOT ASK ME A QUESTION.

IF YOU EVER ASK ME A SINGLE QUESTION, I WILL KILL YOU OUTRIGHT. DON'T THINK FOR A MOMENT THAT I CAN'T.



HE CAN. HE WOULD.

EH?



YOU'RE HERE ABOUT ILLYRIA.

YES.

WALK IN.



BUT HOW—?



I JUST SAID TO YOU, NOT ONE MOMENT AGO, DON'T ASK.



SERIOUSLY. HE DOESN'T LIKE QUESTIONS.

WHY THE BLOODY HELL NOT?

HE CAN'T LIE.



YOU DID THIS. YOU DID ALL OF THIS!

TECHNICALLY, THAT'S NOT THE CASE. I JUST PLAYED MY PART.



WHY? YOU COULDN'T STAND THE THOUGHT OF WES WINNING HER, SO YOU KILL HER?

NO, I MEANT EVERYTHING I SAID ABOUT HER. I CHOSE FRED BECAUSE I LOVE HER, BECAUSE SHE'S WORTHY. YOU THINK I'D HAVE MY GOD HATCHED OUT OF SOME SCHMUCK?

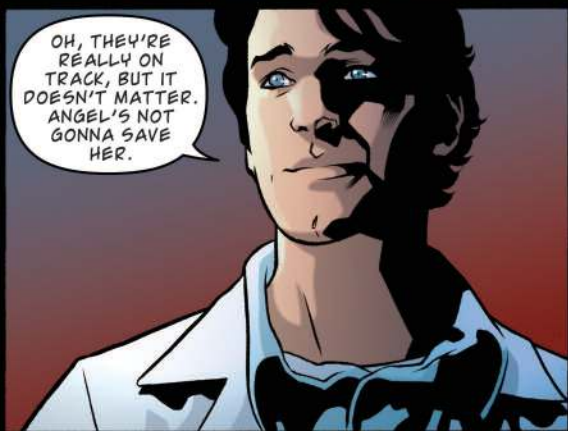


WHAT ARE Y—



THIS WAS ALL SET IN MOTION MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO, CHARLES, AND THERE'S JUST NO WAY TO STOP IT.

ANGEL AND SPIKE.



OH, THEY'RE REALLY ON TRACK, BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER. ANGEL'S NOT GONNA SAVE HER.



YOU DON'T KNOW ANGEL.



I'M NOT BEING CLEAR. I DON'T MEAN THAT ANGEL'S GONNA FAIL TO SAVE HER, I MEAN HE'S GONNA LET HER DIE.



WOULD YOU READ TO ME SOME MORE?



OF COURSE.

THE LIGHT...HURTS MY EYES, BUT I DON'T WANT YOU TO TURN IT OFF. BUT IT HURTS MY EYES.



EVERYTHING'S SO BRIGHT AND HOLLOW. CAVEMEN WIN. OF COURSE THE CAVEMEN WIN.



I WOULD NEVER HAVE THOUGHT YOU'D END UP HERE, ANGEL.

I COULD SAY THE SAME.

SO, YOU TWO KNOW EACH OTHER.

THAT WAS A STATEMENT. I ALREADY KNOW THAT YOU DO.

I'LL TELL YOU AS MUCH AS I CAN. THE OLD ONES WERE DEMONS PURE. THEY WARRER AS WE WOULD BREATHE — ENDLESSLY.

THE GREATER ONES WERE INTERRED, FOR DEATH WAS NOT ALWAYS THEIR END. ILLYRIA WAS FEARED AND BELOVED AS FEW ARE. IT WAS LAID TO DEATH IN THE VERY DEPTHS OF THE WELL... UNTIL IT DISAPPEARED A MONTH AGO.



SOMEONE TOOK IT FROM UNDER YOUR NOSE A MONTH AGO, AND YOU DIDN'T MISS IT 'TIL NOW? THAT MAKES YOU QUITE THE CRAP JAILER, DOESN'T IT. ALSO A STATEMENT.

YOUR FRIEND LIKES TO TALK.

SO MUCH, HE'S EVEN RIGHT SOMETIMES. THE MAN I REMEMBER COULDN'T BE STOLEN FROM SO EASILY.



THE TOMB WAS NOT STOLEN.



IT DISAPPEARED. I BELIEVE IT WAS PREDESTINED TO AS PART OF ILLYRIA'S ESCAPE PLAN. AND AS FOR MY NOT NOTICING...





...WELL, MY CHARGES ARE NOT FEW.



BLOODY HELL.

HOW FAR DOES THIS GO DOWN?

ALL THE WAY. ALL THE WAY THROUGH THE EARTH.



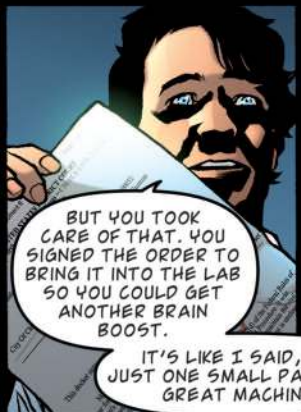
SO, THE COFFIN DISAPPEARED, TELEPORTED, BUT IT WAS BROUGHT TO US.

ILLYRIA WAS A GREAT POWER—SO GREAT THAT, AFTER MILLIONS OF YEARS DEAD, SOMEWHERE ON THIS EARTH IT STILL HAS ACOLYTES.



THERE'S ONLY A FEW OF US NOW. I CAME TO L.A. BECAUSE I KNEW THAT'S WHERE ITS KINGDOM HAS BEEN. IT WAS SUPPOSED TO TELEPORT BACK TO THE BASE OF ITS POWER, BUT THE CONTINENTS DRIFTED—WHICH THEY DO.

I HAD OTHERS HELP ME GET IT HERE, BUT THEN IT GOT STUCK IN—WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT—CUSTOMS.



BUT YOU TOOK CARE OF THAT. YOU SIGNED THE ORDER TO BRING IT INTO THE LAB SO YOU COULD GET ANOTHER BRAIN BOOST.

IT'S LIKE I SAID, I'M JUST ONE SMALL PART OF A GREAT MACHINE.



ANGEL'S GONNA SAVE HER.



WHAT HE'S FIGHTING AGAINST IS OLDER THAN THE CONCEPT OF TIME.

I COULDN'T STOP IT. THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO DO NOW, BUT WAIT.



WAIT AND TRY AND FIGURE OUT EXACTLY WHAT YOU WANT TO TELL YOUR—



KRAK







IT'S BEEN FREED — THE DEMON'S ESSENCE.



YEAH, IT'S BEEN FREED. WHY DO YOU THINK WE'RE HERE?



AND WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE COLOR? WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SONG? WHO'S THE GOALKEEPER FOR MANCHESTER UNITED?



AND HOW MANY FINGERS AM I HOLDIN' UP?



YOU WANNA KILL ME? TRY. BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR YOUR QUIRKS.





NO.



THAT'S MADNESS.



THIS IS A PLACE OF MADNESS.



I'LL PREPARE THE SPELL. YOUR CHOICE.



TO HELL WITH THE WORLD.



WHY DID WE GO THERE? WHY DID WE THINK WE COULD BEAT IT? IT'S EVIL, WESLEY. IT'S BIGGER THAN ANYTHING.



I DON'T BELIEVE THAT.



UGGH! I'M WITH HIM! HE WON'T LEAVE ME NOW. WE'RE SO CLOSE.



I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU.



HMPH. OH. Hmm. THAT WAS BAD, BUT IT'S BETTER NOW. YOU WON'T LEAVE ME?

I WON'T.



MY BOYS. I WALK WITH HEROES. THINK ABOUT THAT.



YOU ARE ONE.



SUPERHERO. AND THIS IS MY POWER: TO NOT LET THEM TAKE ME. NOT ME.

THAT'S RIGHT.



THAT'S RIGHT. HE'S WITH ME.



SPIKE...

THIS GOES ALL THE WAY THROUGH TO THE OTHER SIDE.

SO, I FIGURE, THERE'S A BLOKE SOMEWHERE AROUND NEW ZEALAND STANDING ON A BRIDGE LIKE THIS ONE, LOOKING BACK DOWN AT US. ALL THE WAY DOWN.



THERE'S A HOLE IN THE WORLD. FEELS LIKE WE OUGHT TO HAVE KNOWN.





WILL YOU KISS ME?



WOULD YOU HAVE LOVED ME?

I'VE LOVED YOU SINCE I'VE KNOWN YOU. NO, THAT'S NOT—I THINK MAYBE EVEN BEFORE.



I'M SO SORRY.

NO, NO, NO.

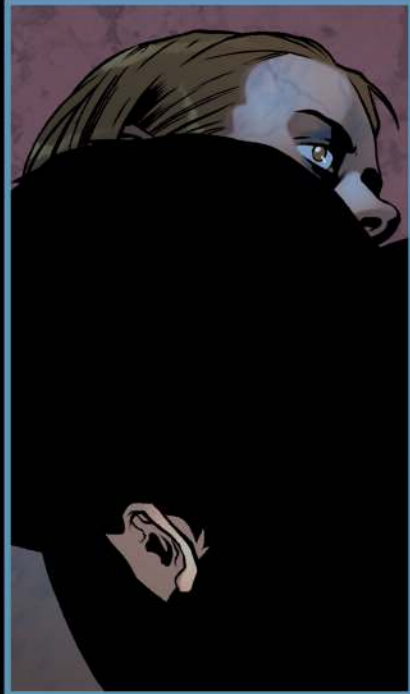


I NEED YOU TO TALK TO MY PARENTS. THEY HAVE TO KNOW I WASN'T SCARED, THAT IT WAS QUICK. THAT I WASN'T SCARED.



OH, GOD.

YOU HAVE TO FIGHT. YOU DON'T HAVE TO TALK, JUST CONCENTRATE ON FIGHTING. JUST HOLD ON.





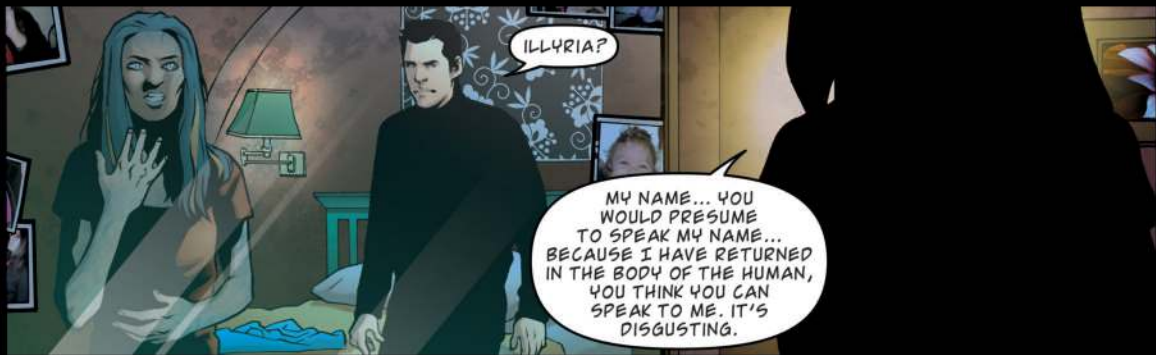
KRSH



THIS WILL DO.



FRED?





OH... NOW I REMEMBER. WINIFRED BURKLE IS THE SHELL I'M IN.

SHE'S THE WOMAN YOU KILLED.



THIS IS GRIEF. I'M WATCHING HUMAN GRIEF. IT'S LIKE OFFAL IN MY MOUTH.

IF YOU STAY HERE, YOU'LL TASTE IT EVERY DAY, EVERY SECOND. LOOK. HUMANS RULE THE EARTH. THEY WILL LAST FOR MILLENNIA... LIKE ROACHES CRAWLING EVERYWHERE.

CRYING AND SWEATING AND PUKING THEIR FEELINGS ALL OVER YOU.

GO BACK. SLEEP UNTIL THE HUMANS ARE GONE. THEY ARE STUPID AND WEAK.

THEY'LL KILL EACH OTHER OFF AND YOU CAN RETURN TO THE WORLD YOU DESERVE.



LEAVE THIS SHELL.



YOU SEEK TO SAVE WHAT'S ROTTED THROUGH. THIS CARCASS IS BOUND TO ME. I COULD NOT CHANGE THAT IF I CARED TO, BUT YOU HAVE OPENED MY EYES TO TRUTH. IF THE WORLD IS TRULY OVERRUN BY HUMANS...



...THEN I HAVE WORK TO DO.



CAN'T EVEN GET DRUNK. WHY WOULD ANYONE EVER MAKE A BOTTLE THIS SMALL? IT'S INHUMAN. THOUSANDS WOULD HAVE DIED IF WE'D SAVED HER.



YEAH. SHE WOULDN'T HAVE WANTED THAT.

YEAH. I TRIED CALLING WES. THERE WAS NO ANSWER.

I GUESS SHE'S GONE, THEN.

IT'S LIKE A BLOODY TEASE. IT'S LIKE, "HERE'S WHAT A BOTTLE OF JACK WOULD LOOK LIKE IF YOU ACTUALLY HAD ONE," OR, "HERE'S A DRINK, BUT IT'S VERY FAR AWAY."



WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? REALLY?

IT'S A PLAY ON PERSPECTIVE.



GONE. WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT SHE'S GONE?

IN THE WORLD OF MEN, A PERSON DIES, THEY STAY THAT WAY.

UNLESS YOU'RE A VAMPIRE.



OR THE GHOST OF ONE THAT SAVED THE WORLD.

OR BUFFY. DEATH DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THE END, NOT IN OUR WORLD. RULES CAN BE BROKEN. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO... IS PUSH HARD ENOUGH.



GONNA TORTURE HIM?

THINKING ABOUT IT.

CAN I HELP? I'M REALLY GOOD AT IT.



THANKS, BUT THIS IS KIND OF PERSONAL.

WHY DO YOU THINK I WANT TO HELP? BECAUSE I'VE GOT SOME KIND OF BLOOD LUST—WELL, OK, THAT, TOO, BUT FRED'S MY FRIEND. WE WENT OUT FOR DRINKS ALL THE... ONCE. AND IF POINDEXTER HERE HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH HURTING HER, THEN I'M IN FOR A BIG FAT POUND OF FLESH.

ANGEL?



HE'S ON HIS WAY BACK. HOW'S FRED?

YOU TIED KNOX UP.



WE'RE GONNA TORTURE HIM.



GOOD. WHY?

HE KNOWS WHAT'S HAPPENING. BEEN HIDING IT THE WHOLE TIME. I JUST NEED A FEW MINUTES ALONE.

HE'S INVOLVED IN THIS?

PRETTY SURE.



WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?

YEAH, BUDDY. WHY DIDN'T YOU?

SHUT UP.



I THOUGHT WE WANTED HIM TO TALK.

I CAN HANDLE THIS. WHATEVER HE KNOWS—

DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE. FRED'S GONE.



HEE HEE HEE!
I'M SORRY. IT'S
JUST... UM, IT'S
NOT WHAT YOU
THINK.

IT—IT'S—IT'S
BEAUTIFUL. TELL
THEM. TELL
THEM WHAT
HAPPENED.



THE INFECTION,
ILLYRIA, CONSUMED
HER. TOOK OVER
HER BODY.



THEN IT'S STILL
FRED, RIGHT? THIS
THING IS JUST
CONTROLLING—



SHE'S
GONE.

YOU
DON'T KNOW
THAT.



WAIT. I'M
CONFUSED.
IT LOOKS LIKE
FRED, BUT
IT'S NOT?



SHE'S SO MUCH
MORE THAN THAT
NOW. BEYOND FLESH.
BEYOND PERFECTION.
I LOVED FRED. I
REALLY DID.

SHE HAD A
WARMTH THAT TOOK
YOU IN AND HELD YOU UNTIL
EVERYTHING COLD AND DISTANT
MELTED AWAY. SHE WAS
THE MOST BEAUTIFUL,
PERFECT WOMAN I
EVER MET.

THAT'S WHY I
CHOSE HER. SHE'S
THE ONLY ONE THAT
WAS WORTHY.



WES, DON'T. WE NEED
HIM. I KNOW HOW
YOU FEEL—



DO YOU KNOW?
YOU DIDN'T FEEL
HER DIE. SHE WAS
SHAKING WITH PAIN
AND TERRIFIED AND SO
BRAVE. AND SHE WAS
BETTER THAN ANYONE
I'VE KNOWN, AND
BETTER THAN...
AND SHE'S
GONE.



I KNOW.
NOW LET'S
GET HER
BACK.



SO THAT'S IT? ENGLAND WAS A BUST?

NOT ENTIRELY. WE FOUND OUT WHERE THE SARCOPHAGUS CAME FROM. THERE WERE THOUSANDS OF THEM.

MINUS ONE.

WHAT ABOUT THIS DROGYN CHARACTER? HE WOULDN'T HELP?

COULDN'T. WE WERE TOO LATE.

I SHOULD'VE SEEN IT. KNOX. HE SANG FOR ME AND I SHOULD'VE SEEN THIS.



IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.



IF I HAD CONCENTRATED HARDER, READ HIM BETTER, MAYBE FRED—



LOOK, THERE'S A LOT WE MIGHT HAVE DONE, ALL RIGHT?

STARTING WITH NEVER COMING TO WOLFRAM & HART IN THE FIRST PLACE. WE CAN BEAT OURSELVES UP OVER IT LATER, BUT RIGHT NOW—



I'M SORRY, ANGELCAKES. I, UM... I GOT NOTHING. I'M SORRY.



LORNE...

NO, LET HIM GO. IF HE'S DOUBTING HIMSELF, HE WON'T BE ANY GOOD TO US.

LORNE'S RIGHT. WE SHOULD HAVE SEEN THIS COMING.



AH, IT WOULDN'T HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE. DROGYN SAID THE SARCOPHAGUS WAS PREORDAINED TO BE RELEASED. NOTHING COULD HAVE STOPPED IT FROM ARRIVING.

THAT'S NOT COMPLETELY TRUE. I PLAYED A ROUND OF PINATA WITH LAB BOY WHILE YOU WERE GONE.

THE SARCOPHAGUS WAS STUCK IN CUSTOMS AND IT SHOULD HAVE STAYED THERE, BUT SOMEONE GOT IT OUT.



WHO?

I'M WORKING ON IT.



OH, YOU'RE WORKING ON IT? GOOD FOR YOU, CHARLES. NOT A MOMENT TO LOSE.



WES... I KNOW YOU'RE HURTING, BUT KEEP YOUR FOOTING. I NEED YOU SHARP, ALL OF YOU, FOR FRED'S SAKE.

THERE IS NO FRED ANYMORE.



YOU DON'T KNOW THAT.



I WATCHED IT GUT HER FROM THE INSIDE OUT.

EVERYTHING SHE WAS IS GONE. THERE IS NOTHING LEFT BUT A SHELL.



THEN WE'LL FIGURE OUT A WAY TO FILL IT BACK UP.

THE THING ONLY TOOK OVER HER BODY. JUST A TIP OF THE THEOLOGICAL.

IT'S THE SOUL THAT MATTERS.

TRUST US. WE'RE KIND OF EXPERTS.



WHAT ABOUT HER—IF HER ORGANS HAVE BEEN LIQUEFIED?



FLASH-FRIED IN A PILLAR OF FIRE SAVING THE WORLD. I GOT BETTER.

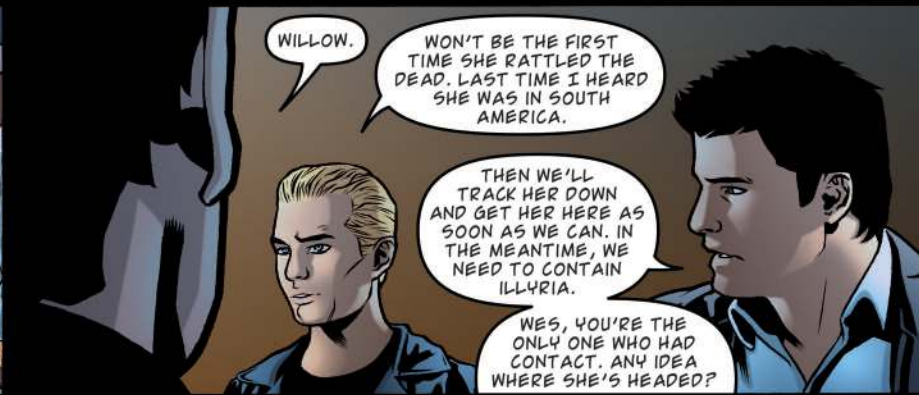


YOU REALLY BELIEVE THERE'S A CHANCE OF BRINGING HER BACK?



FRED'S SOUL IS OUT THERE SOMEWHERE. WE'LL FIND IT, AND WE'LL PUT IT BACK WHERE IT BELONGS.

THEN WE'LL MAKE EVERY SON OF A BITCH WHO HAD A HAND IN THIS PAY. WE ALL ON THE SAME PAGE?









HIMALAYAS?
I THOUGHT SHE
WAS IN SOUTH
AMERICA.

WE'VE GOT A
BRANCH IN TIBET?
HOW ABOUT A
COUPLE OF
SHERPAS?



ALL RIGHT,
LOOK-

-WHAT DO YOU MEAN SHE'S NOT ON
THIS PLANE? YOU JUST SAID ASTRAL
PROJECTION? WELL, IS THERE ANY
WAY TO GET HER ASTRAL OVER
TO L.A.? GILES, THIS IS AN
EMERGENCY.

NO. NO,
I'M NOT
GOING—DON'T
PUT ME ON
HOLD.



NEVER A
WITCH AROUND
WHEN YOU
NEED ONE.

IT'LL
WORK OUT.
IT HAS
TO.



I'VE BEEN UNREASONABLE... BECAUSE I'VE LOST ALL REASON.

BUT I SHOULDN'T BE TAKING IT OUT ON YOU. I KNOW YOU'VE DONE EVERYTHING YOU CAN. I'M SORRY.

SO AM I.



YEAH, I'M STILL AT WOLFRAM & HART.

WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH ANYTHING?

YEAH. I UNDERSTAND.



KRUNCH



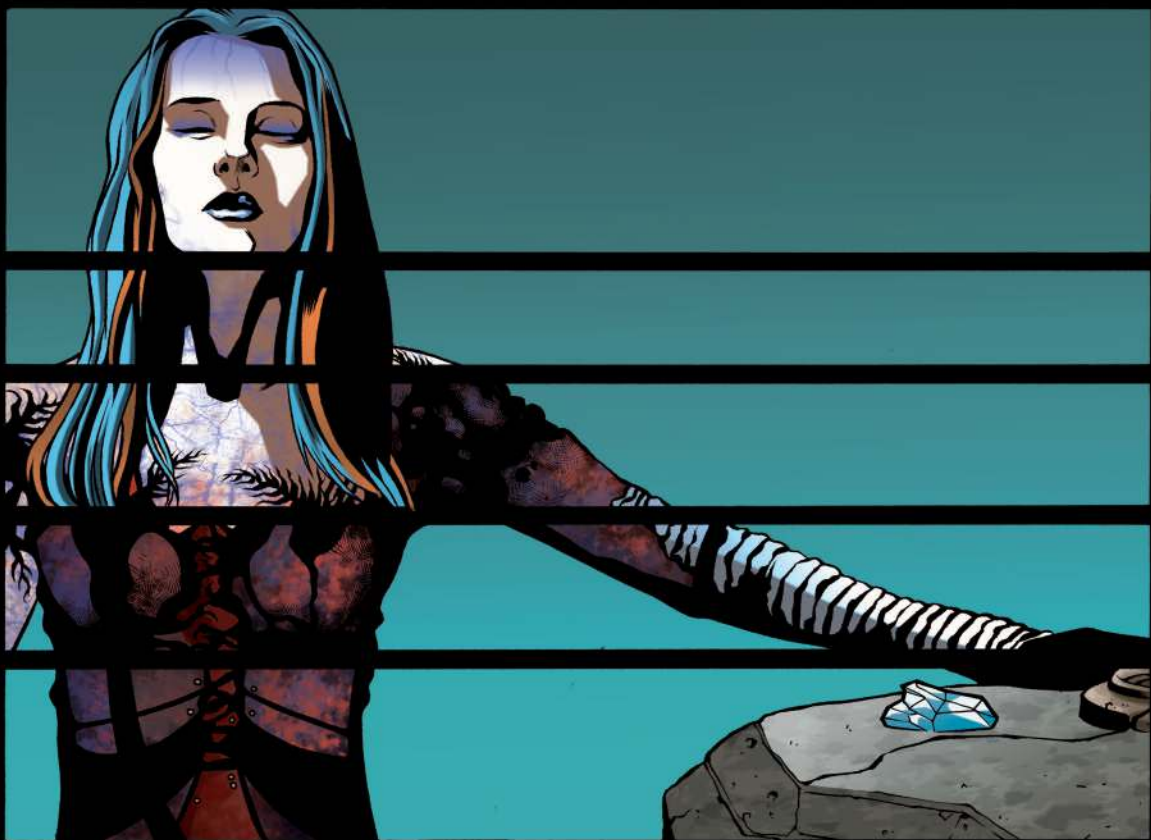
WE'RE ON OUR OWN.

GOOD, 'CAUSE I WAS WONDERING.



NOTHING'S CHANGED, ALL RIGHT? WE FIND ILLYRIA AND—

—SMACK HER A GOOD ONE FOR ME. THIS IS SO GONNA LEAVE A MARK.





OR WE
COULD JUST
HANG OUT.



A WARRIOR. I
WAS BEGINNING
TO WONDER IF THIS
WORLD WAS VOID
OF YOUR KIND.

PLENTY
OF US TO
GO 'ROUND,
LUV.



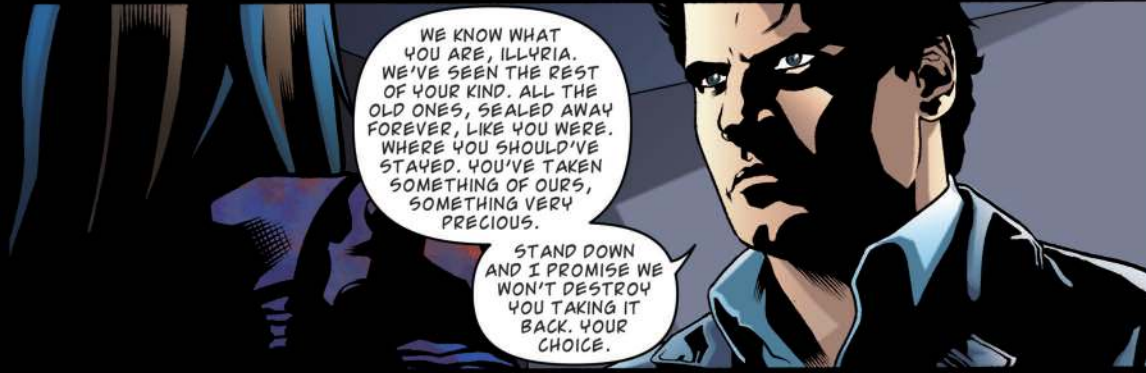
TWO
HALF-BREEDS
AND A BAND OF
PRIMITIVES. IS
THIS ALL THAT
CHALLENGES
ME NOW?

THAT, AND A
WHOLE LOT OF
BULLETS.

ENOUGH TO
TEMPORARILY
INCAPACITATE
EVEN YOU.

KLAK

KLAK



WE KNOW WHAT YOU ARE, ILLYRIA. WE'VE SEEN THE REST OF YOUR KIND. ALL THE OLD ONES, SEALED AWAY FOREVER, LIKE YOU WERE. WHERE YOU SHOULD'VE STAYED. YOU'VE TAKEN SOMETHING OF OURS, SOMETHING VERY PRECIOUS.

STAND DOWN AND I PROMISE WE WON'T DESTROY YOU TAKING IT BACK. YOUR CHOICE.



I DECLINE.







DING

UGGGHHH...

SORRY,
BOSS. MAYBE IF
I STOPPED HER
BACK IN GUNN'S
OFFICE.

DID SHE
TOSS YOU OUT
A WINDOW?

NO.

THEN
YOU'RE ONE
UP ON ME.



HEY,
WHAT DO
YOU GOT?

SMOKE AND
MIRRORS.



NO TRACE
OF EITHER
OF THEM.



I PUT
TACTICAL
ON
CODE BLACK. IF
ILLYRIA SHOWS
UP AGAIN—

SHE
WON'T. SHE
GOT WHAT
SHE CAME
FOR.



KNOX?



AND SOME
SPIFFY NEW
THREADS.







ANY THOUGHTS ON HOW WE'RE SUPPOSED TO TRACK FRED OR ILLYRIA OR WHATEVER THE HELL THAT THING WAS?

WE JUST DO IT, THAT'S ALL.



BACK IN THE LAB, SHE WAS STANDING RIGHT THERE IN FRONT OF ME, BUT THERE WAS NO SCENT. NOTHING.

IT'S LIKE SHE WASN'T EVEN THERE.



I KNOW.



LOOK... I WANT FRED BACK AS MUCH AS ANY OF US... BUT SEEING HER THERE, LIKE THAT... MAYBE SHE REALLY IS—



NO. I LOST CORDELIA BECAUSE SOME THING VIOLATED HER. IT CRAWLED INSIDE AND USED HER UP.



NO WAY IN HELL AM I LETTING THAT HAPPEN AGAIN.



NEVER TRUSTED THAT LITTLE NERD. THE RUMPLED HAIR, SOCKS THAT DIDN'T MATCH, THE CUTE LOPSIDED GRIN.

SO TOTALLY PLAYING IT UP. I MEAN, WHO DID HE THINK HE WAS FOOLING?



BESIDES ALL OF US. UM, SHOULDN'T YOU BE WEARING ONE OF THOSE MOON SUITS?



I THINK THIS HAS DONE ALL THE DAMAGE IT'S GOING TO.



RIGHT. MIND IF I PUT ONE ON?



SHE WAS CURIOUS. THAT'S WHY FRED DIDN'T PUT IT INTO CONTAINMENT IMMEDIATELY. HOW THINGS WORK. WHAT MAKES THEM SPECIAL. SHE WAS ALWAYS SEARCHING FOR WHAT OTHER PEOPLE COULDN'T SEE. SHE WAS JUST CURIOUS. I THINK I HATE HER A LITTLE FOR THAT.

WES...



HAND ME THE PRY BAR.

THE GIRL OF YOUR DREAMS LOVED YOU. THAT'S MORE THAN MOST PEOPLE EVER GET.



I KNOW. BUT IT ISN'T ENOUGH.



YES!

KRAK

STOP IT! YES!

I APPRECIATE THE URGE TO SMASH, BUT THAT'S NOT HELPING.

KRAK



NO. BUT THIS MIGHT.



I THOUGHT THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE UNBREAKABLE OR SOMETHING.



TIME. THE MARKINGS REFER TO A SERIES OF CONSECUTIVELY TIMED INTERVALS. THIS GEM IS THE FOCAL POINT OF THE SARCOPHAGUS. IT MIGHT BE USEFUL IF IT ISN'T ALREADY DRAINED.



GOT ME BEAT. ALL I FOUND WAS A CELL PHONE AND A CHEESE SANDWICH.

WAS IT KNOX'S?



IT HAD HIS NAME WRITTEN ON THE BAG WITH A LITTLE SMILEY FACE IN THE "O," THE BIG GIRL.

THE CELL PHONE, HARMONY.



OH, UM, I THINK SO. GOT A RICK SPRINGFIELD SCREEN SAVER, WHICH OPENS UP A WHOLE NEW SET OF QUESTIONS.

OUTGOING NUMBERS HAVE ALL BEEN DELETED. SAME FOR INCOMING CALLS.

WHAT ABOUT MISSED CALLS? KNOX COULDN'T HAVE ERASED 'EM IF HE DIDN'T HAVE HIS LADY PHONE ON HIM.



THREE IN THE LAST FEW HOURS. ALL FROM THE SAME PERSON.





ALWAYS MESSY WHEN YOU HAVE TO OPEN 'EM UP. THAT'S WHY I PREFER THE LESS INVASIVE PROCEDURES. NEVER GOT USED TO THE SIGHT OF BLOOD. UGH. STILL MAKES ME NAUSEOUS.

THEN THIS IS GONNA BE AN UNCOMFORTABLE CONVERSATION.



I'M DISAPPOINTED IN YOU, MR. GUNN. ALL THE KNOWLEDGE AND DEDUCTIVE REASONING WE'VE IMPLANTED IN YOUR BRAIN. AND IT'S TAKEN YOU THIS LONG TO SNIFF YOUR WAY BACK TO ME?



I'VE BEEN A LITTLE PREOCCUPIED.



AH, YES. MISS BURKLE. HOW IS SHE—?



YOU WANNA GET REAL STRAIGHT WITH ME REAL FAST.

OF COURSE. CUSTOMER'S ALWAYS RIGHT.



EVERYTHING YOU KNOW, OR THERE WON'T BE ENOUGH OF YOU LEFT TO STITCH BACK TOGETHER, FRANKENSTEIN.



THE SARCOPHAGUS CONTAINS THE ESSENCE OF AN OLD ONE, A RACE OF ANCIENT DEMONS DEAD AND BURIED FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS IN A PLACE CALLED THE DEEPER WELL.

NOT HEARING ANYTHING I DON'T ALREADY KNOW.

WHY DO YOU THINK I'M TELLING YOU?





THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO BRING BACK.

MISS BURKLE'S SOUL WAS CONSUMED BY THE FIRES OF RESURRECTION. EVERYTHING SHE WAS IS GONE.



FOREVER. FOR BETTER OR WORSE, YOU MADE A DEAL, MR. GUNN. I SUGGEST YOU LEARN TO LIVE WITH IT.



KRAK



IS THERE SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE TO TELL ME, CHARLES?



KNOX WAS IN CONTACT WITH A DOCTOR. BUT YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU?



YEAH, ONE OF MY SOURCES—



DON'T.
WHAT HE SAID... ABOUT FRED, ABOUT HER SOUL, IS IT TRUE? WHAT DID YOU DO, CHARLES?



IT WAS JUST A PIECE OF PAPER. I WAS LOSING IT. EVERYTHING THEY PUT IN MY HEAD, EVERYTHING THAT MADE ME DIFFERENT.

SPECIAL. AND HE COULD FIX IT. MAKE IT PERMANENT. SO I SIGNED A PIECE OF PAPER. IT WAS A CUSTOMS RELEASE FORM. I DIDN'T THINK ANYONE WOULD GET HURT.



NOTHING FROM WOLFRAM E HART IS EVER FREE. YOU KNEW THAT.



I COULDN'T GO BACK... TO BEING JUST THE MUSCLE. I—I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD BE ONE OF US. I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD BE FRED.



I UNDERSTAND NOT WANTING TO GO BACK...



...NOT WANTING TO BE WHO WE WERE. I UNDERSTAND IT. AND I CAN FORGIVE IT.



BUT YOU KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO HER. YOU KNEW WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE AND YOU DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING.



YOU LET HER DIE.



-HKK-



I'M LESS FORGIVING ABOUT THAT.




WHAT THE HELL DID YOU DO?



WHAT I HAD TO.




I DON'T REMEMBER SEEING "STAB GUNN" ON THE AGENDA THIS MORNING.




I AVOIDED THE MAJOR ORGANS. HE'LL PROBABLY LIVE.

IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MAKE IT ALL RIGHT?



NOTHING IS ALL RIGHT! NOTHING WILL EVER BE ALL RIGHT.

WE'LL GET HER BACK, WES.



NO, WE WON'T. FRÉD'S SOUL... HER SOUL WAS DESTROYED RESURRECTING ILLYRIA.



ARE YOU SURE?



WHAT ABOUT GUNN?

HE LET THE SARCOPHAGUS INTO WOLFRAM & HART. WHAT HE KNEW, WHEN HE KNEW IT, IT DOESN'T CHANGE WHAT HAPPENED! HE LET HER DIE.



SO DID I.

AT THE WELL IN ENGLAND, THERE WAS A WAY TO SAVE FRED, BUT ONLY IF THOUSANDS OF OTHERS DIED IN HER PLACE. AS MUCH AS I LOVE FRED, I COULDN'T LET THAT HAPPEN. LOOK, I NEED YOU TO BURY IT, WES.

EVERYTHING YOU'RE FEELING, EVERYONE YOU WANNA HURT. I NEED YOU TO PUT IT ASIDE AND FOCUS ON WHAT HAS TO BE DONE.



ILLYRIA.



WE NEED TO STOP HER BEFORE—

SHE UNLEASHES HELL ON EARTH?



WHAT'D YOU GET OUT OF THE DOCTOR?



SCREAMS. VARIOUS FLUIDS. AND A NAME: VAHLA HA'NESH.



VAHLA HA'NESH. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

IT'S HER TEMPLE. THIS IS WHERE SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE RESURRECTED.

THAT'S ILLYRIA.

IN ITS NATIVE FORM.



WHAT ARE THESE SMALLER BITS?

HER ARMY OF DOOM.

THERE'S A SHOCK.



THEY WERE ENTOMBED WITH HER.

WAITING FOR HER RETURN.



TO LOS ANGELES?



THIS IS WHERE HER TEMPLE WAS MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO, AND IT'S STILL HERE.



WELL, YOU'D THINK I WOULD'VE REMEMBERED SEEING SOMETHING LIKE THIS PARKED NEXT TO THE RALPH'S.



IT'S OUT OF PHASE WITH OUR TIME STREAM. ONLY ILLYRIA CAN OPEN THE GATEWAY.



ANY IDEA HOW WE STOP HER?



YOUR BREED IS FRAGILE. HOW IS IT THEY CAME TO CONTROL THIS WORLD?

OPPOSABLE THUMBS. UM, FIRE. TELEVISION. WHAT THEY LACK IN STRENGTH, THEY MAKE UP FOR IN EXTRAORDINARY SNEAKINESS.



YOU ARE DECEIVERS.

YES, ALL OF THEM. THEY DESERVE TO BE PUNISHED.



THEY? YOU DON'T CONSIDER YOURSELF PART OF YOUR RACE?

NOT ANYMORE. I'M WITH THE KING.



OPEN THE GATEWAY. RAISE YOUR ARMY. WASH HUMANITY FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH AND RECLAIM WHAT WAS LOST TO YOU SO MANY MILLENNIA AGO, WHEN THE WORLD WAS RULED BY—



BE SILENT.

RIGHT. SORRY. MY BAD.





THERE'S SOME STUFF YOU NEED TO SIGN.



I DON'T THINK ANGEL WANTS ME TO BE SIGNING ANYTHING RIGHT NOW.

YEAH. UM... THAT'S WHAT THESE ARE ABOUT.



NOBODY ELSE COULD STOMACH BRINGING THESE DOWN?



IS IT TRUE? WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT YOU?

I GUESS IT IS.



HOW COULD YOU DO THAT? TO YOUR FRIENDS? TO FRED?

BECAUSE I WAS WEAK. BECAUSE I WANTED TO BE SOMEBODY THAT I WASN'T.



BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW WHERE I FIT. BECAUSE I NEVER DID.

BECAUSE A THOUSAND OTHER REASONS THAT DON'T MEAN A DAMN 'CAUSE SHE'S GONE. SHE'S GONE... AND SHE'S NOT COMING BACK BECAUSE OF ME.



I DID THIS, AND I'M SORRY.



I'M SORRY.



SHOWTIME.

ANY SEATS LEFT?



IF NOT, WE COULD JUST STAND IN THE BACK.



GUYS, YOU SHOULD SCAN THE HEADLINES HERE. YOU CAN'T WIN THIS.



THEN WE ALL DIE TRYING.



WHY?



YOU WANT THE SHORT VERSION? LET'S START WITH YOU WALKING AROUND LOOKING LIKE THE WOMAN YOU MURDERED.



YOU THINK YOUR ACTIONS WILL RESTORE HER?

NO.

YET YOU SEEK A CONFRONTATION YOU CANNOT WIN.



WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO, RAISE YOUR ARMY, RECLAIM YOUR WORLD, INNOCENT PEOPLE WOULD DIE. LIKE FRED. I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN.

YOU ARE THE PROTECTOR OF THESE CREATURES?



YES.

YOU'D FIGHT FOR THEIR LIVES?



YES.



EVEN THIS ONE?

IS THAT AN ISSUE? IS MY LIFE IN PERIL, BOSS? KING?



YOU'RE ABOUT AS LOW AS IT GETS, KNOX, BUT YOU'RE A PART OF HUMANITY. THAT ISN'T ALWAYS PRETTY, BUT IT'S A HELL OF A LOT BETTER THAN WHAT CAME BEFORE.



AND IF IT COMES DOWN TO A CHOICE BETWEEN YOU AND HIM, THEN YES, I WOULD FIGHT FOR HIS LIFE, JUST LIKE ANY OTHER HUMAN'S. BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE DO. THAT'S WHAT MAKES US—

BLAM



WERE YOU EVEN LISTENING?



YOU'VE DESTROYED MY QWA'HA XAHN.



YEAH, OKAY, BUT YOU GOTTA ADMIT, HE HAD IT COMING.



IT OFFENDS ME THAT YOU THINK HE MATTERS.



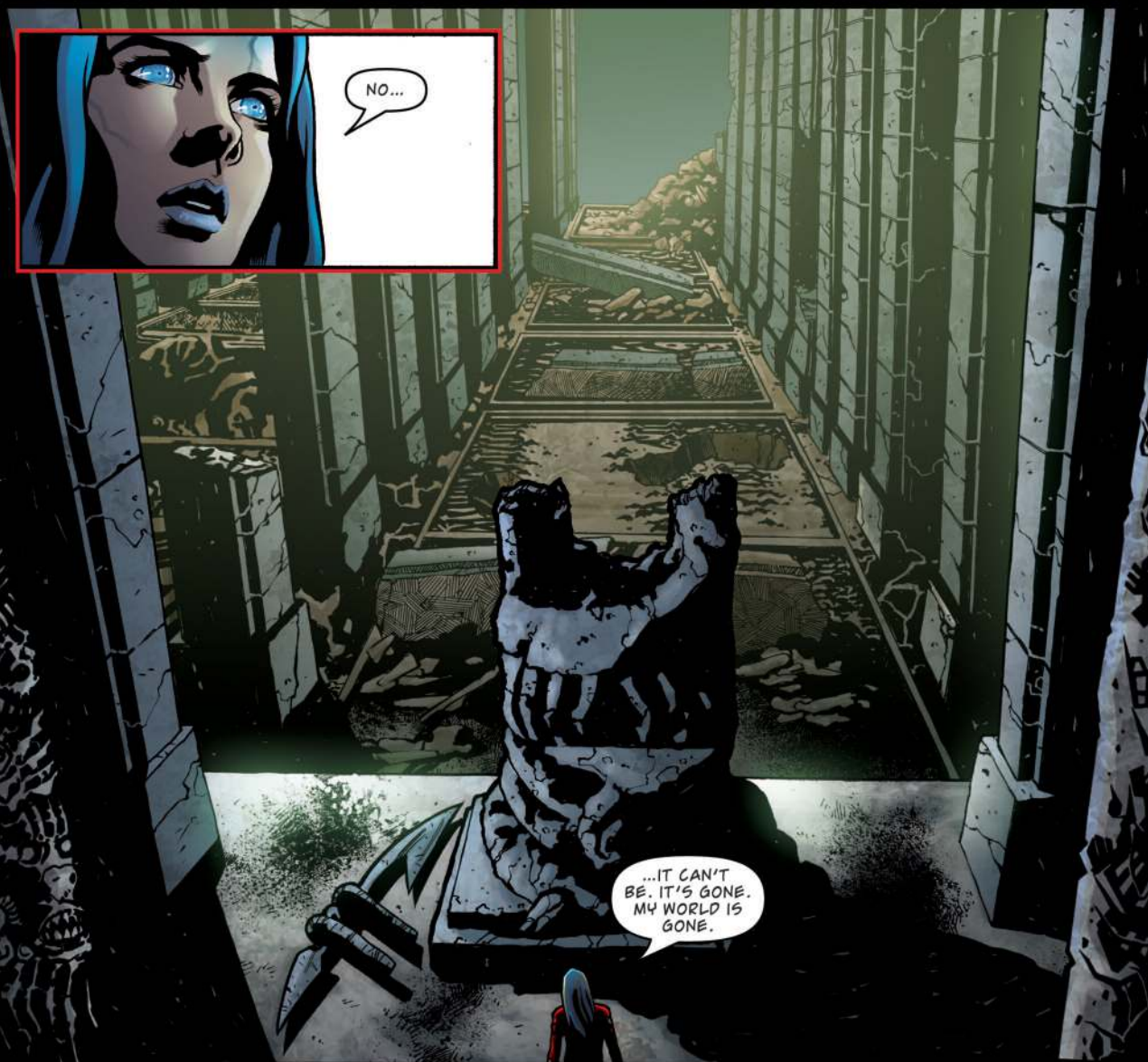
YOU'RE RIGHT. HE'S NOT THE PROBLEM. YOU ARE.













WOLFRAM & HART

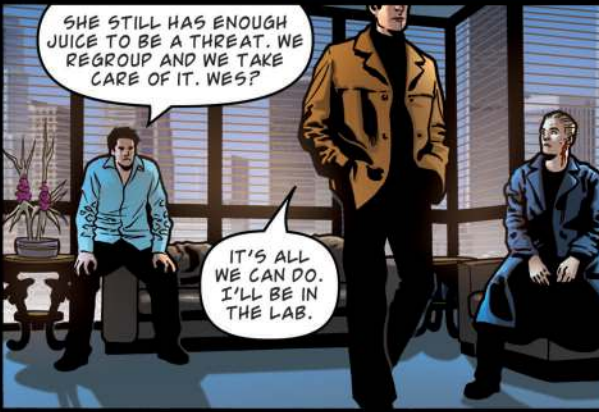
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



NO ARMY OF DOOM SCORCHING THE EARTH. HUIZZAH FOR OUR SIDE.

WE NEED TO CLOSE THE GATEWAY TO ILLYRIA'S TEMPLE. PERMANENTLY. I DON'T WANT ANY MORE SURPRISES.

WHAT ABOUT THE LEATHER QUEEN?



SHE STILL HAS ENOUGH JUICE TO BE A THREAT. WE REGROUP AND WE TAKE CARE OF IT. WES?

IT'S ALL WE CAN DO. I'LL BE IN THE LAB.



LONG DAY.

THAT OFFER STILL GOOD? SEND ME ABROAD, ROVING AGENT AND ALL?

YEAH, IT'S STILL GOOD.



GREAT. MAYBE WE SHOULD SEND GUNN... BEFORE WES HAS ANOTHER POKE.

YOU'RE NOT LEAVING?



THIS IS WHAT SHE WOULD HAVE WANTED.

IT'S WHAT I WANT. I DON'T REALLY LIKE YOU. SUPPOSE I NEVER WILL. BUT THIS IS IMPORTANT, WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE. FRED GAVE HER LIFE FOR IT. THE LEAST I CAN DO IS GIVE WHAT'S LEFT OF MINE.



THE FIGHT'S COMIN', ANGEL. WE BOTH FEEL IT... AND IT'S GONNA BE A HELL OF A LOT BIGGER THAN ILLYRIA. THINGS ARE GONNA GET UGLY. THAT'S WHERE I LIVE.



YOU GRIEVE STILL... FOR A SINGLE LIFE.

WHY ARE YOU HERE?



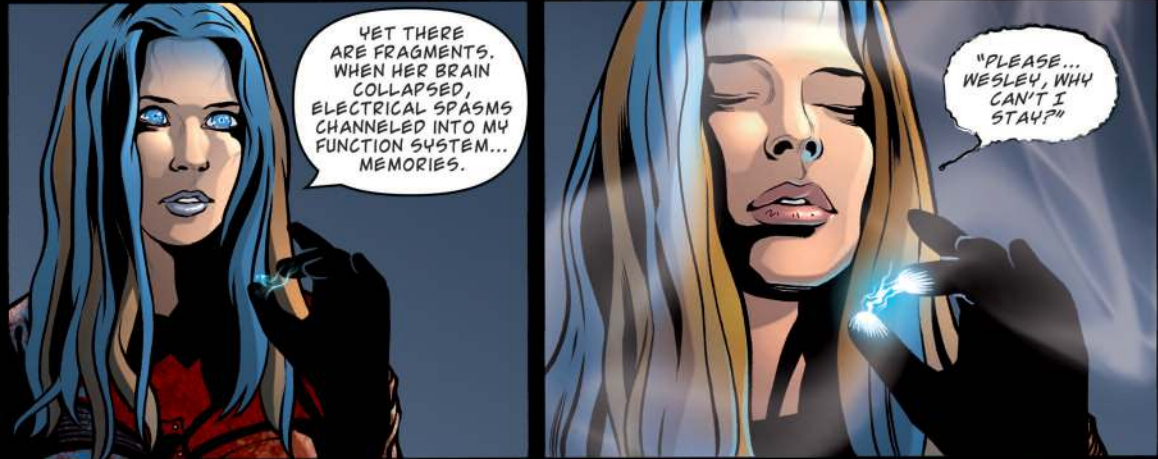
I... I'M UNCERTAIN. THIS PLACE... WAS PART OF THE SHELL.

DON'T CALL HER—

THE WOMAN YOU KILLED HAD A NAME.

THIS IS IMPORTANT TO YOU. THINGS HAVE NAMES. THE SHELL... WINIFRED BURKLE... SHE CAN'T RETURN TO YOU.

I KNOW.



YET THERE ARE FRAGMENTS. WHEN HER BRAIN COLLAPSED, ELECTRICAL SPASMS CHANNELLED INTO MY FUNCTION SYSTEM... MEMORIES.

"PLEASE... WESLEY, WHY CAN'T I STAY?"



NO. LEAVE.




I'VE NOWHERE TO GO. MY KINGDOM IS LONG DEAD. LONG DEAD. THERE'S SO MUCH I DON'T UNDERSTAND. I'VE BECOME OVERWHELMED. I'M UNSURE OF MY PLACE.



YOUR PLACE IS WITH THE REST OF YOUR PEOPLE: DEAD AND TURNED TO ASH.

PERHAPS... BUT I EXIST HERE. I MUST LEARN TO WALK IN THIS WORLD. I'LL NEED YOUR HELP... WESLEY.



IF I WERE TO HELP YOU FIND YOUR WAY... YOU HAVE TO LEARN TO CHANGE. YOU MUSTN'T KILL.


YOU KILLED THE QWA'HA XAHN IN DEFIANCE OF YOUR LEADER.



HE MURDERED THE WOMAN I LOVE.



AND THAT MADE IT JUST.



NO. IT WASN'T JUST. I'M PROBABLY THE LAST MAN IN THE WORLD TO TEACH YOU WHAT'S RIGHT.



BUT YOU WILL. IF I ABIDE, YOU WILL HELP ME.

YES.



BECAUSE I LOOK LIKE HER?

YES.



IS THAT ENOUGH? IS THAT ENOUGH TO LIVE ON?





"SHE'S GONE... AND SHE'S NOT COMING BACK BECAUSE OF ME."



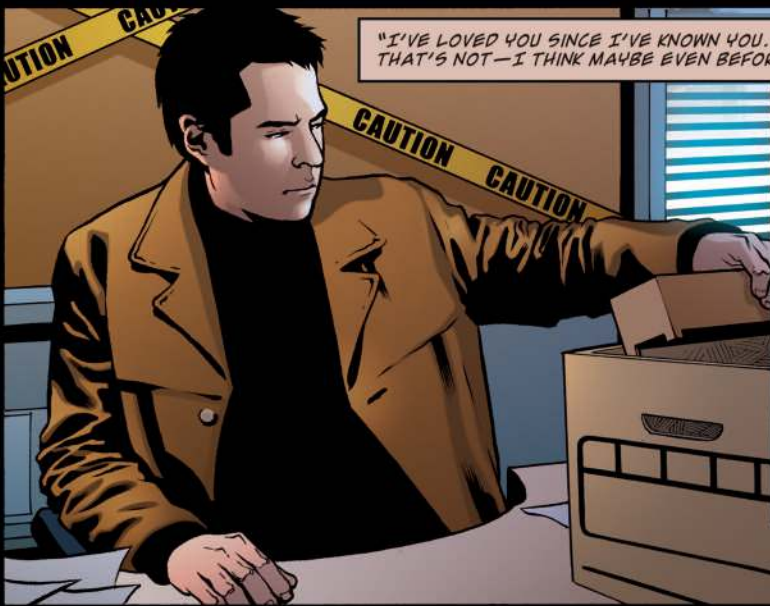
"...FRED'S MY FRIEND. WE WENT OUT FOR DRINKS ALL THE... ONCE."

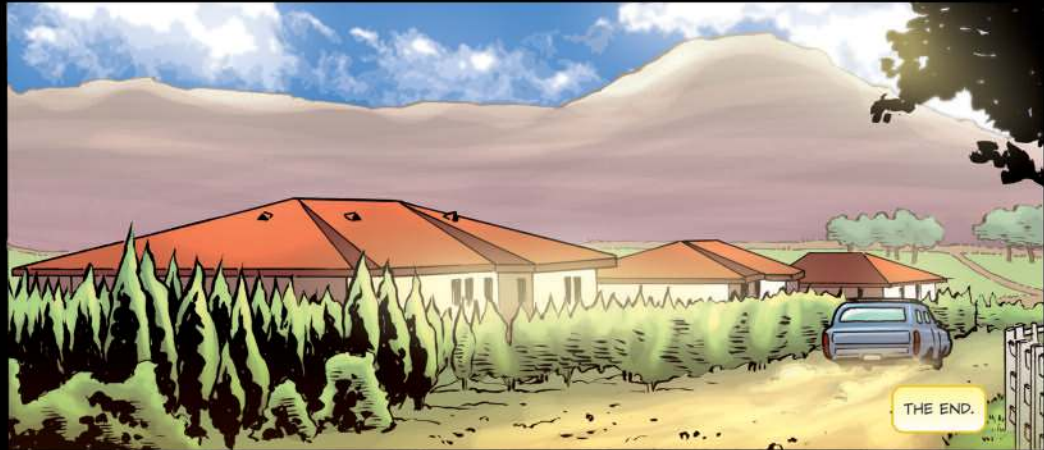


"WINIFRED BURKLE ONCE TOLD ME AFTER A SINFUL AMOUNT OF CHINESE FOOD, AND IN LIEU OF ABSOLUTELY NOTHING, 'I THINK A LOT OF PEOPLE WOULD CHOOSE TO BE GREEN. YOUR SHADE, IF THEY HAD THE CHOICE.'"



"THERE'S A HOLE IN THE WORLD. FEELS LIKE WE OUGHT TO HAVE KNOWN."









AGAIN.

ILLYRIA IN
"UNACCEPTABLE LOSSES"
BY SCOTT TIPTON AND DAVID MESSINA



IT AIN'T
HEALTHY,
THAT'S ALL
I'M SAYIN'.



ALL THE
PROFESSOR
WANTS TO DO
ANY MORE IS
BABYSIT HIS
GIRLFRIEND'S
CORPSE.



SENSITIVE
AS EVER, EH,
SPIKE?



THIS AIN'T
ABOUT ME, AND
YOU KNOW IT. FRED
WAS THE ONLY PERSON
AROUND THIS WHOLE
BLEEDIN' PLACE I GAVE
A DAMN ABOUT, BUT
IT DON'T CHANGE THE
FACT THAT SHE'S
GONE.

THAT THING'S
WEARIN' A MASK
THAT LOOKS LIKE FRED,
BUT IT AIN'T HER, AND
WES NEEDS TO
RECOGNIZE
THAT.



HE'S NOT
GONNA
LIKE IT.



BY THE
TIME HE
FINDS OUT,
IT'LL BE TOO
LATE.



YOU WANT ME TO DO WHAT AGAIN?

I JUST NEED YOU TO GO DOWNTOWN TO THE CENTRAL LIBRARY AND MAKE SURE THAT ALL OF THESE RARE BOOKS ON MYSTICISM AND THE ARCANE WE HAVE ON LOAN TO THEM ARE STILL WHERE THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE.

WE'RE ALWAYS GETTING CAUGHT OFF-GUARD WITH THIS STUFF BEING GRABBED BY SOMEONE ELSE. SO I THOUGHT WE'D BE PROACTIVE FOR A CHANGE. SINCE YOU'RE THE RESIDENT EXPERT, I CAN'T SEE SENDING ANYONE ELSE.



I SUPPOSE THAT MAKES SENSE. I'LL HEAD ON OVER THERE NOW, THEN?

PLEASE.



YOU REQUESTED AN AUDIENCE WITH ME?

YES, ILLYRIA, JUST ONE SECOND. WES, THANKS FOR COVERING THIS FOR US. LET ME KNOW HOW IT GOES.



SO, ILLYRIA. NOW THAT IT SEEMS YOU'LL BE... STAYING WITH US FOR A WHILE, I WAS HOPING YOU'D BE AMENABLE TO THE NOTION OF EARNING YOUR KEEP.



ONE OF OUR CLIENTS HAS DEFAULTED ON A VERY LARGE OVERDUE PAYMENT, AND WE NEED SOMEONE OF YOUR OBVIOUS POWER AND MIGHT TO... CONVINCE HIM TO PAY THE PROPER TRIBUTE.

INTIMIDATION. YES. THIS IS WHERE THE LESSER BEINGS COWER BEFORE ME. I SEEM TO RECALL IT GRATIFYING ME, IF ONLY SLIGHTLY. I ACCEPT.

WONDERFUL. JUST HEAD OVER TO THIS ADDRESS AND ASK TO SEE DICKERSON WALTERS. AND ILLYRIA...

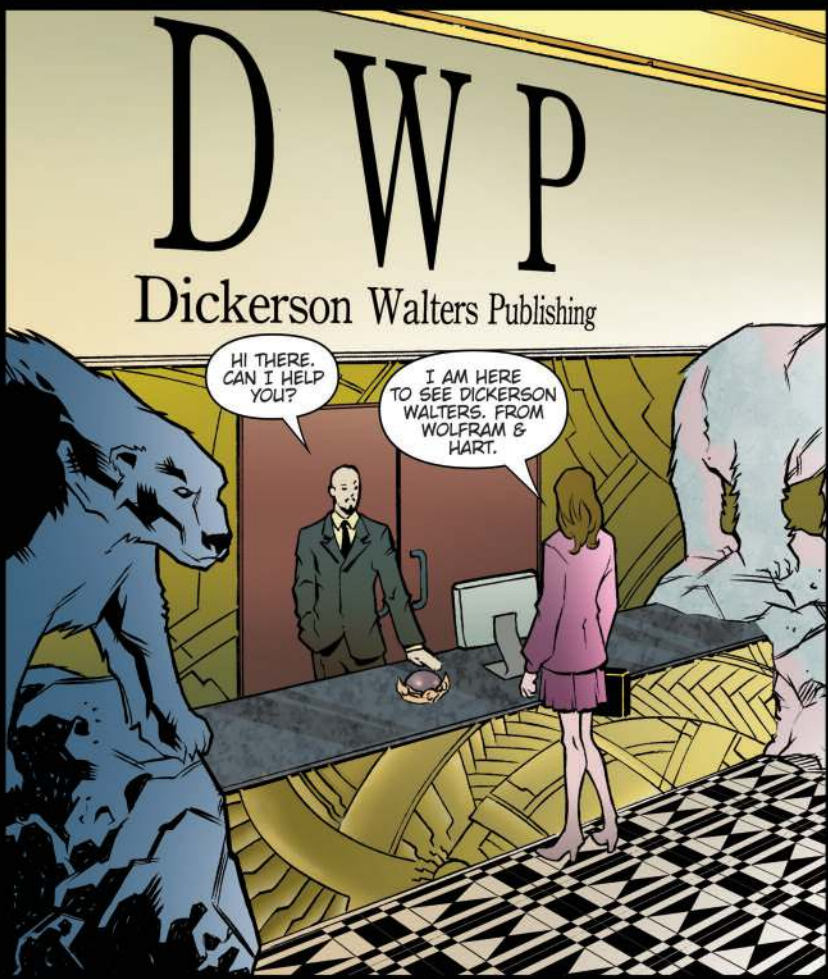


"EARN"? I'M INSULTED. YOU SHOULD ALL BE GRATEFUL I ALLOW YOU IN MY PRESENCE!

PERHAPS I MISPOKE. IT'S REALLY NO BIG DEAL.



"...TRY TO LOOK A LITTLE LESS CONSPICUOUS."



D W P

Dickerson Walters Publishing

HI THERE. CAN I HELP YOU?

I AM HERE TO SEE DICKERSON WALTERS. FROM WOLFRAM & HART.



SURRRRE YOU ARE.







...BUT THE TOUCH OF INFERIOR CREATURES IS STILL BENEATH ME.

KRAK



COME, THEN. I HAVE BUSINESS WITH YOUR MASTER.



GRAAAAAGHH!



KRRNCH



COME TO ME, LITTLE HUMAN. I WOULD BE DONE WITH THIS QUICKLY.



THIS IS A BOONDOGGLE. THERE'S NOTHING HERE OF ANY IMPORT, AND NO ONE'S EVEN ASKED TO SEE ANY OF THESE BOOKS IN OVER A DECADE, ACCORDING TO THE SLIPS. THIS ENTIRE ASSIGNMENT SEEMS... POINTLESS...



AND WHAT WAS ILLYRIA DOING IN ANGEL'S OFFICE EARLIER? SOMETHING FEELS OFF HERE...



HARMONY? IT'S WESLEY. I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU KNOW IF ILLYRIA IS ABOUT? I'VE RUN INTO A SPOT OF HEAVY LIFTING DOWN HERE THAT I COULD PROBABLY USE HER HELP WITH.



SHE'S NOT HERE—THE BOSSMAN SENT HER OFF ON SOME COLLECTION JOB. A MAGAZINE PUBLISHER ON THE MIRACLE MILE. I CAN ASK ANGEL WHEN SHE'LL BE BACK.



NO, NO, DON'T BOTHER HIM, MIGHT YOU BE ABLE TO GIVE ME THE ADDRESS OF THAT PUBLISHER? PERHAPS I CAN CATCH UP TO HER.

WILSHIRE AND OAKHURST. THANKS EVER SO.

I DON'T LIKE THIS. A COLLECTION JOB? WHAT KIND OF PANDIMENSIONAL HEAVYWEIGHTS WOULD RISK DEFAULTING ON PAYMENTS TO WOLFRAM & HART?



YOU ARE THE HUMAN KNOWN AS DICKERSON WALTERS? WOLFRAM & HART SEEKS RECOMPENSE.

KRRACH!



WHY, CERTAINLY. LET US DISCUSS IT.



AAAHHGGGH!



ENJOYING THAT, ARE YOU, SWEETIE? THAT'S CALLED A BLADE BARRIER. THOSE CUTS YOU'RE NO DOUBT FEELING ARE THE DOZENS OF BLADES EXTRUDING FROM THE INSIDE, REVOLVING AROUND YOU.

A LITTLE SOMETHING I LEARNED FROM A NECROMANCER IN CAMBODIA A FEW YEARS BACK. AMAZING, THE PEOPLE YOU'LL MEET ON A PHOTO SHOOT.



OF COURSE, I COULD NEVER HOLD A CREATURE AS MAGNIFICENT AND POWERFUL AS YOU FOR LONG BY MYSELF. LUCKILY FOR ME...



...I'VE GOT A LITTLE HELP.



EVERYONE WHO'S POSED FOR MY MAGAZINES OVER THE YEARS, WHEN THEY SIGNED THOSE RELEASE FORMS? THEY ALSO SIGNED OVER THEIR SOULS TO ME AS WELL. NOT FOREVER, MIND YOU—JUST LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO CHANNEL WHEN I NEED TO, TO PROVIDE A NEARLY ENDLESS SUPPLY OF METAPHYSICAL CANNON FODDER.

IT REALLY IS TRUE, YOU KNOW—ALWAYS READ THE FINE PRINT.

I CERTAINLY DID, WHEN I SIGNED THAT AGREEMENT THOSE MANY YEARS AGO WITH THE DARK LORDS BELOW. EVEN A PUBLISHING EMPIRE LIKE MINE HAS TO START SOMEWHERE.

WHEN I SAW THAT THE LEASE WAS COMING DUE, I HIRED IN YOUR BOSSES TO "RENEGOTIATE" MY DEAL. WHICH THEY DID, MOST ADEQUATELY. HOWEVER, NOW THAT I HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM MY OLD MASTERS, I CERTAINLY HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM YOU.



SO I THINK WOLFRAM & HART CAN CONSIDER MY ACCOUNT CLOSED. THE DELIVERY OF YOUR MANGLED CORPSE TO THEIR MAILROOM SHOULD ILLUSTRATE THAT POINT RATHER NICELY, IN MY ESTIMATION.



NOTHING PERSONAL, SWEETIE. IT'S JUST BUSINESS.





YOU SCURRY ABOUT THIS WORLD ONLY BECAUSE I WAS NO LONGER HERE TO RULE, AND YOU DARE TO ASSAULT MY PERSON?



EVEN THE HALF-BREED WHO SENT ME ON THIS FOOL'S ERRAND HAS NEVER BEEN SO BOLD. YOURS WILL BE A SPECIAL TORMENT, HUMAN.



NOW, ABOUT THE MATTER OF OUR BILL...







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