

WITCHBLADE®

#183



POWER BROKER PART 2

RON MARZ • FRANCESCO MANNA • BETSY GONIA

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PART 2

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TROY PETERI • *letterer*

TROY PETERI • *letterer*

COVER B · STJEPAN SEJIC

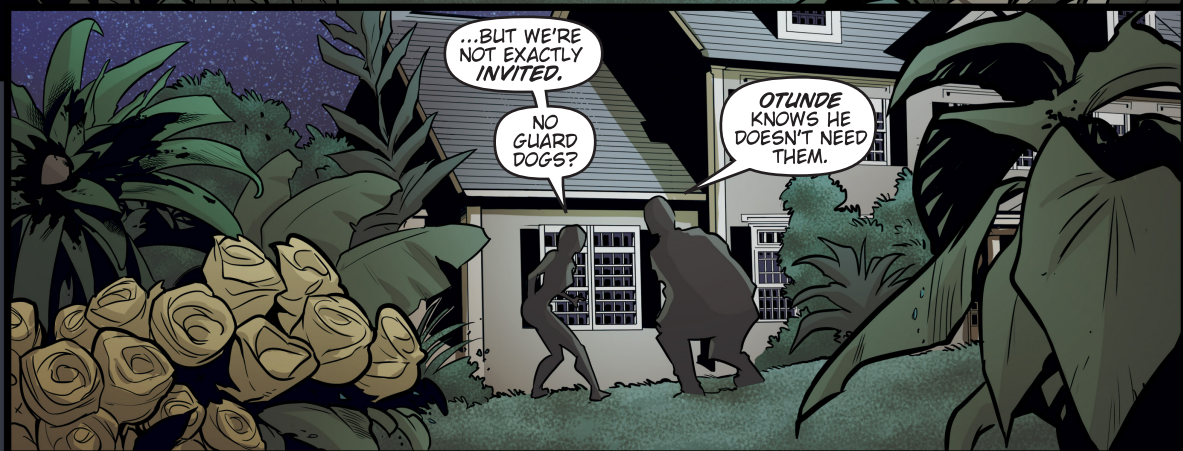


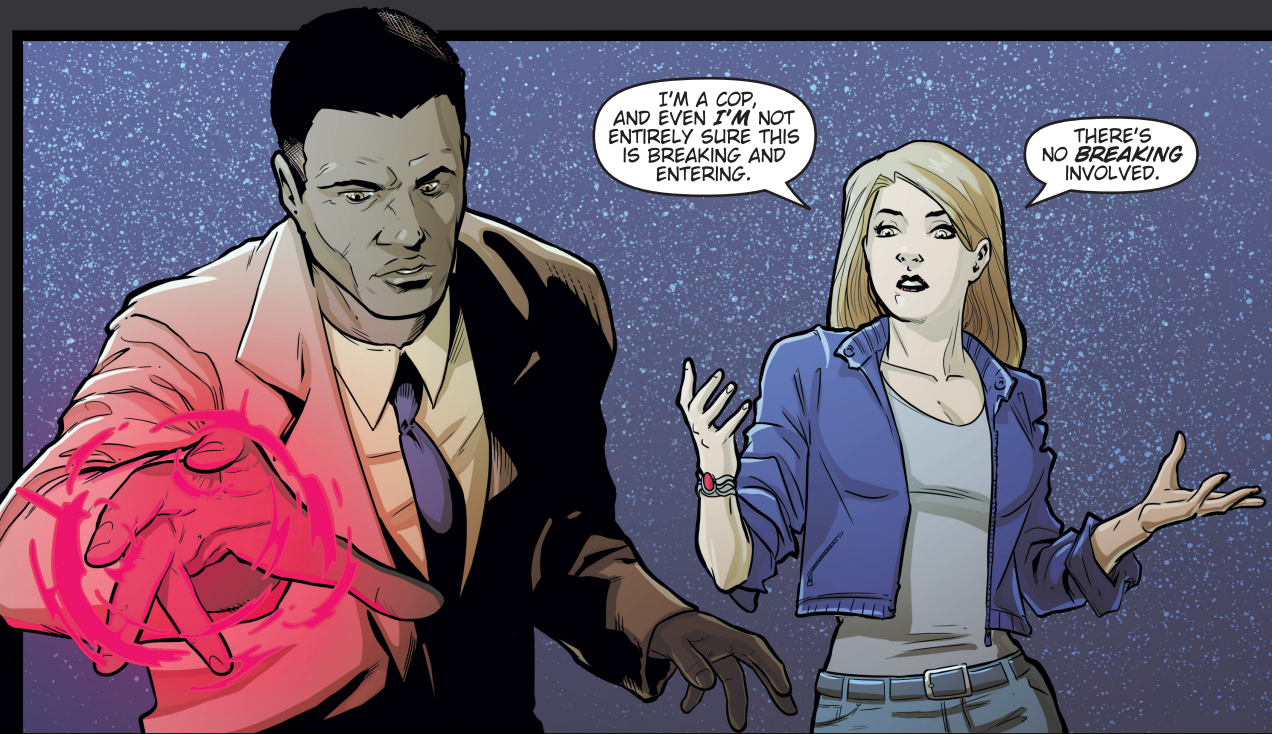
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I'M A COP,
AND EVEN *I'M* NOT
ENTIRELY SURE THIS
IS BREAKING AND
ENTERING.

THERE'S
NO *BREAKING*
INVOLVED.



IT MIGHT
BE LOW LEVEL
STUFF, KEENE,
BUT THAT *RUNE*
MAGIC COMES
IN HANDY.

AMARYLLIS
DIDN'T HIRE ME
JUST BECAUSE
I LOOK GOOD
IN THE *SUIT*,
PEZZINI.



HOPEFULLY
IT GETS US IN
AND OUT BEFORE
ANYONE KNOWS
WE'RE HERE.



BIG PLACE.

THE HOUSE DATES BACK TO THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY. OTUNDE'S BEEN HERE FOR AT LEAST A DECADE, AS FAR AS WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO ASCERTAIN. HE'S BEEN A **POWER BROKER** IN THE SUPERNATURAL COMMUNITY FOR LONGER THAN THAT.

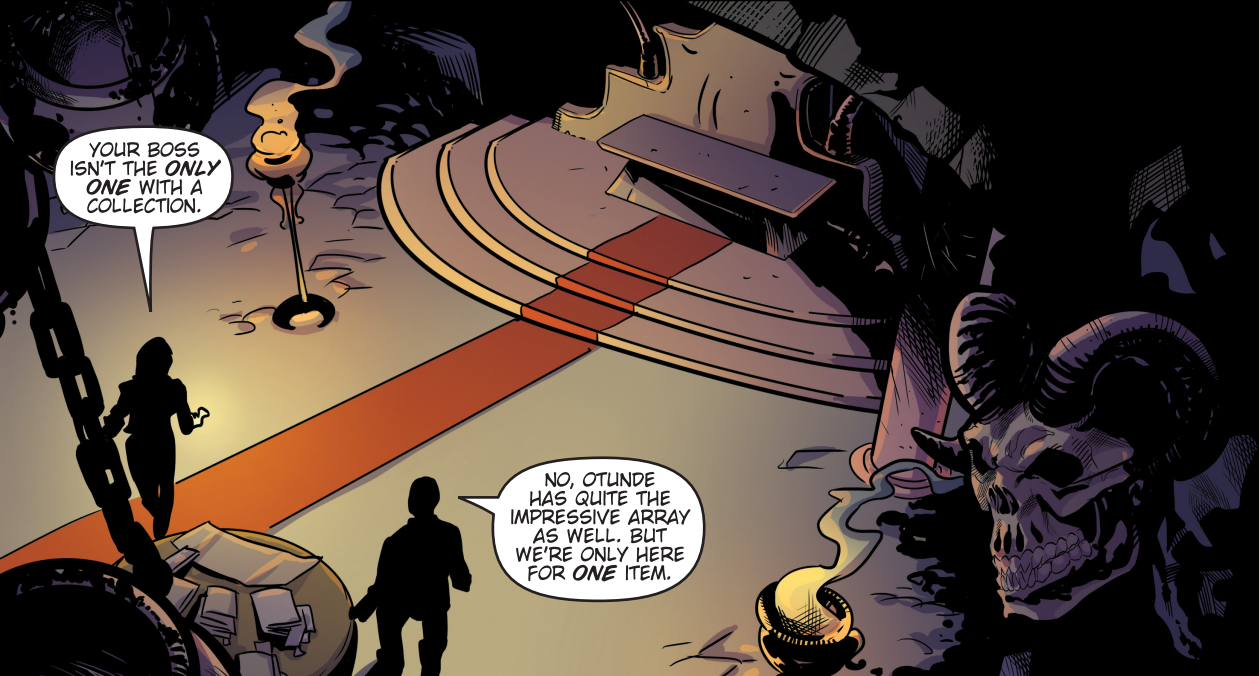


WE'LL HAVE TO RISK A **LIGHT** TO FIND WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR.

DON'T BOTHER...

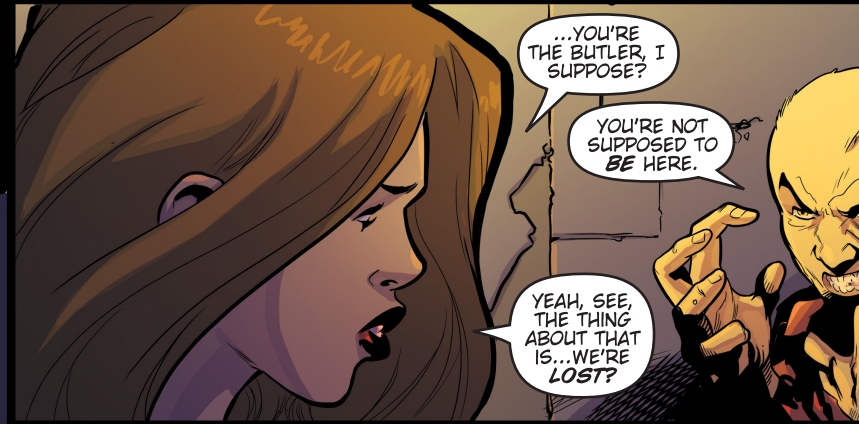


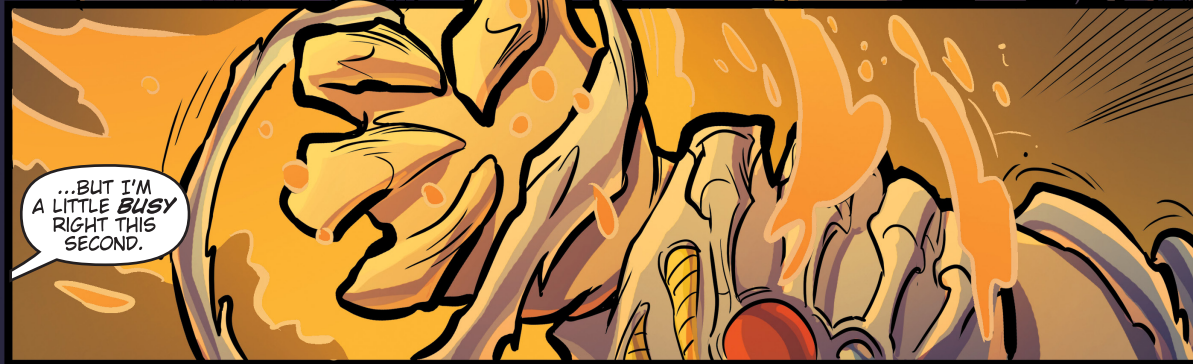
...I'VE GOT IT. **THIS** COMES IN HANDY TOO.



YOUR BOSS ISN'T THE **ONLY ONE** WITH A COLLECTION.

NO, OTUNDE HAS QUITE THE IMPRESSIVE ARRAY AS WELL. BUT WE'RE ONLY HERE FOR **ONE** ITEM.





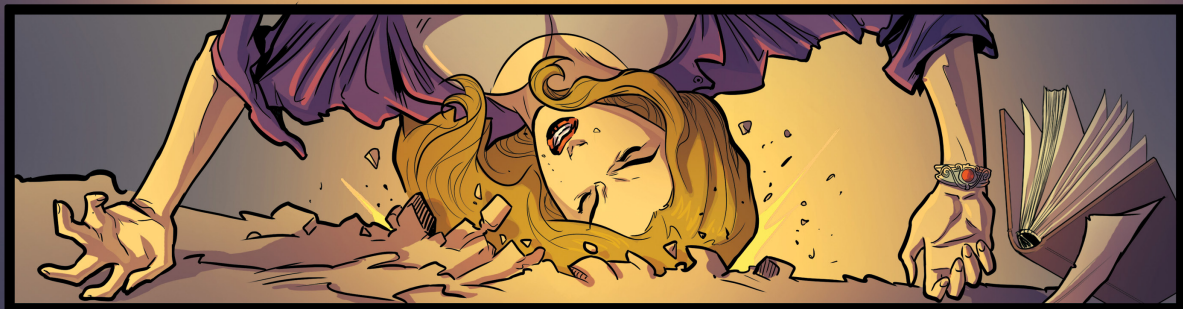


THIS DOES NOT *PLEASE* ME.

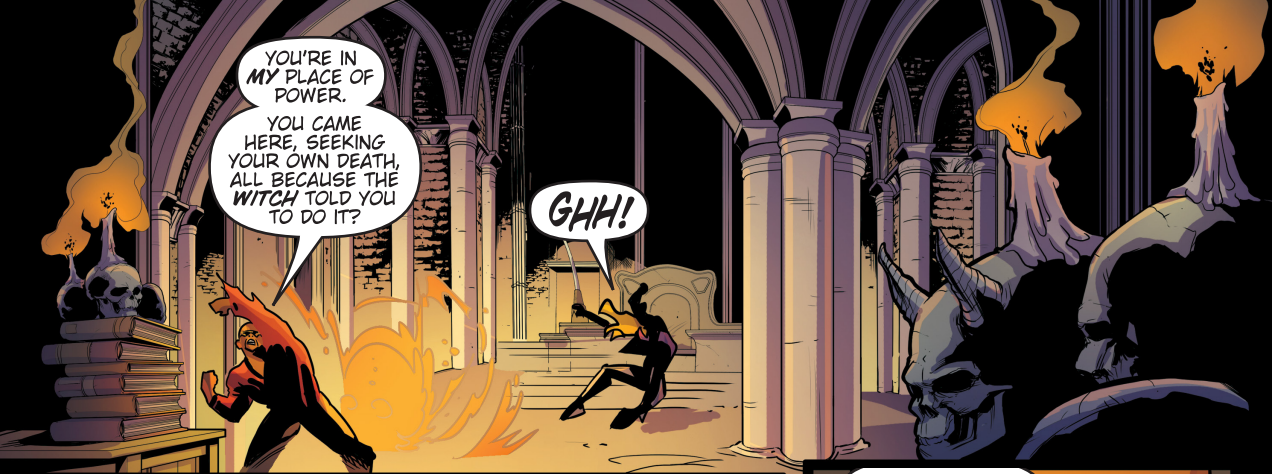
THE SLAUGHTER OF MY *SERVANT* PLEASES ME EVEN LESS.

OTUNDE?

WHO ARE YOU, THAT YOU *DARE* STEAL FROM OTUNDE?!







YOU'RE IN
MY PLACE OF
POWER.
YOU CAME
HERE, SEEKING
YOUR OWN DEATH,
ALL BECAUSE THE
WITCH TOLD YOU
TO DO IT?

GHH!



NNFFF

BECAUSE
SHE WANTS...
ROGUES LIKE
YOU... UNDER
CONTROL...



ARE YOU SO NAIVE
TO TRULY BELIEVE
THAT?



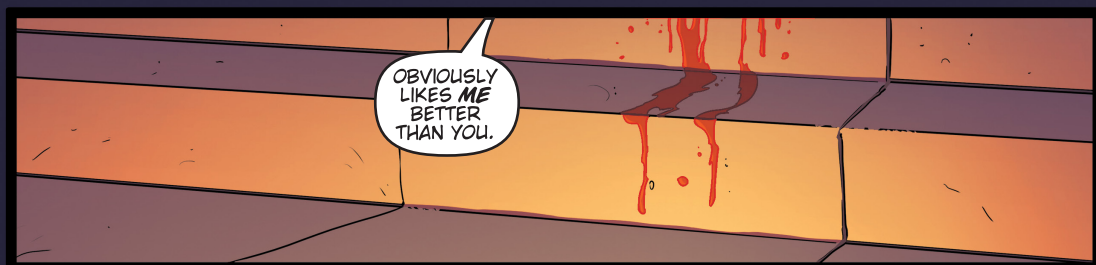
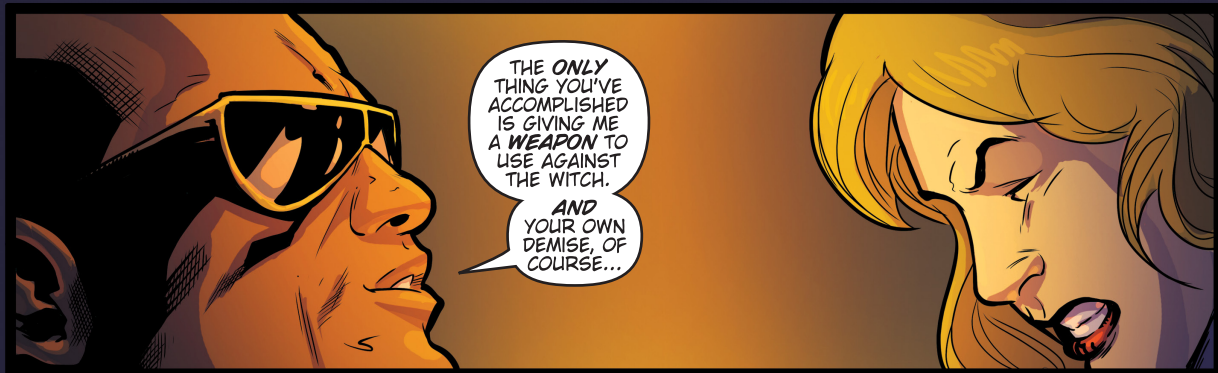
DO YOU HAVE
ANY IDEA WHO
YOU'RE WORKING
FOR?



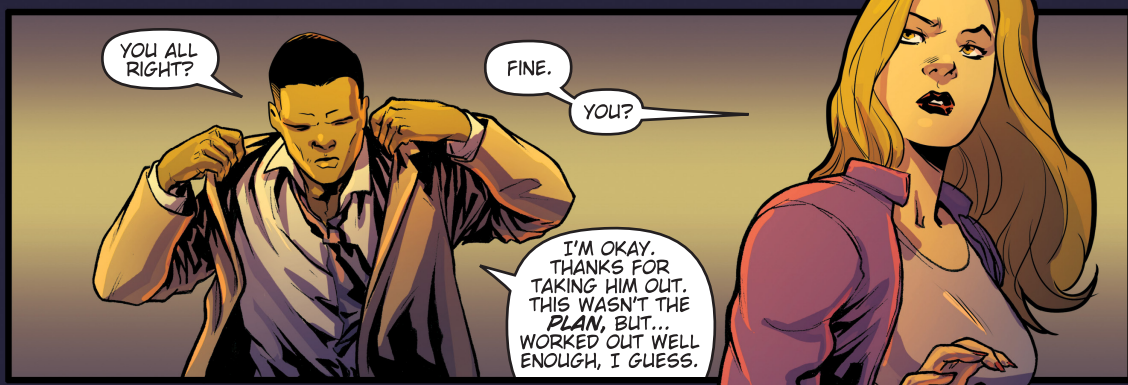
NO, YOU
PROBABLY
DON'T.
BUT SHE'S
SENT ME A RARE
PRIZE IN THE
WITCHBLADE.



I'LL FIND
GREAT USE
FOR IT.





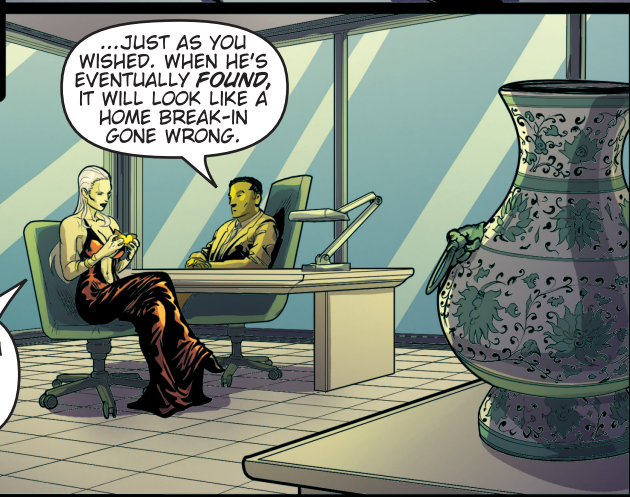




NO DIFFICULTIES?

NO COMPLICATIONS?

NONE WE DIDN'T *PLAN* FOR. OTUNDE'S DEAD...



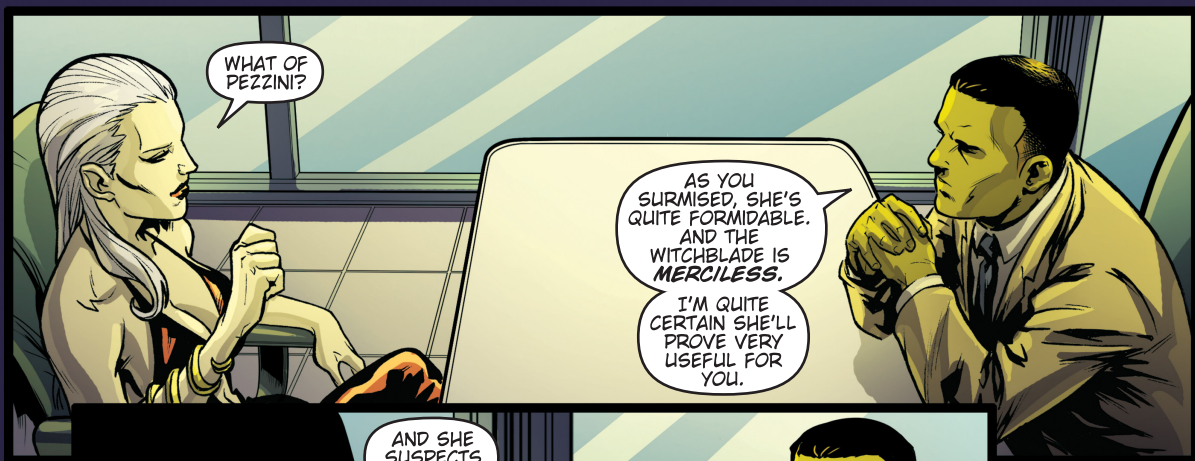
...JUST AS YOU WISHED. WHEN HE'S EVENTUALLY *FOUND*, IT WILL LOOK LIKE A HOME BREAK-IN GONE WRONG.

REMOVING OTUNDE FROM THE BOARD HAS BEEN A *LONG TIME* IN COMING.

WE JUST NEEDED THE RIGHT *PAWN* TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.

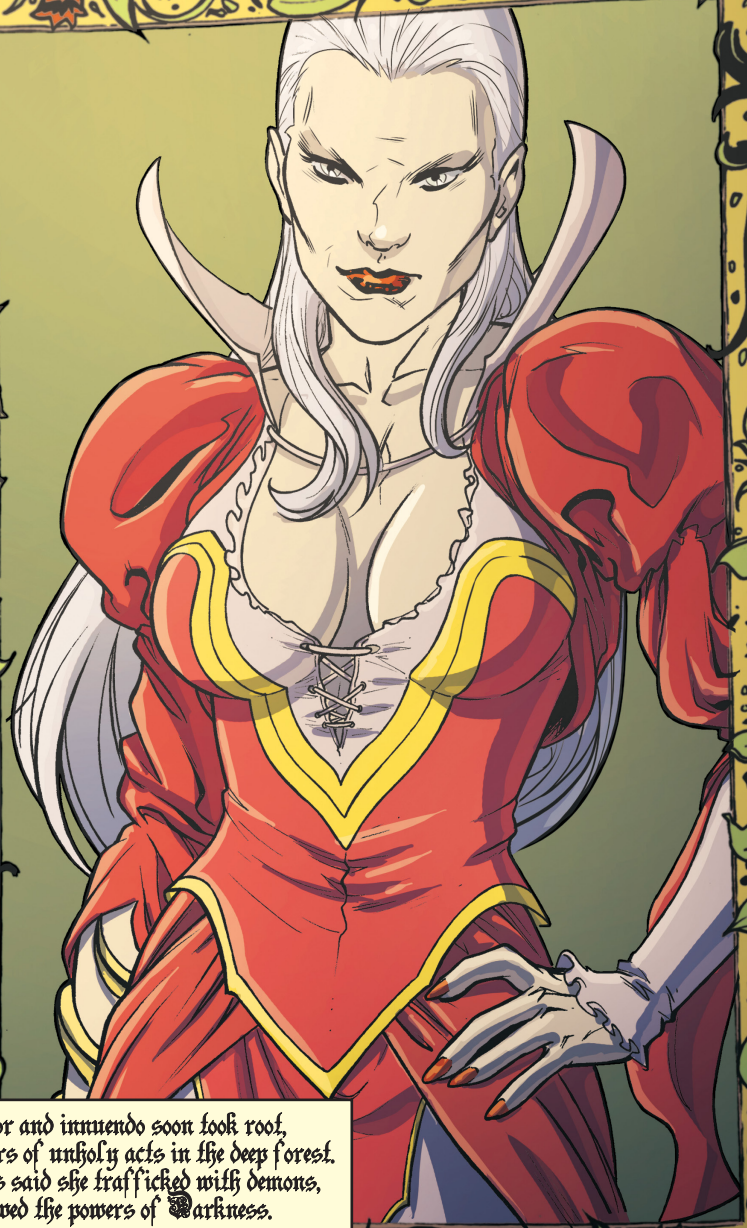


PUT THIS WITH EVERYTHING ELSE YOU BROUGHT BACK.



The woman called herself Maryllis when she appeared in the village of Dame-les-Messieurs in the year of our Lord 1613.

She was long of limb and ripe of body,
with hair the color of new-fallen snow.



Rumor and innuendo soon took root,
whispers of unholy acts in the deep forest.
It was said she trafficked with demons,
and served the powers of Darkness.

Mary in the village fell
under her sway. Those that
did not meet curious fates, or
simply disappeared.



Those who remained bowed down before her in supplication and subjugation.

Maryllis extended her domain into neighboring villages, placing them under her thrall as well.

Word eventually reached Paris, and the King's regent dispatched knights good and true to strike down the evil that had infested the land.

The king's servants arrived in Vanne-les-Messieurs, and a great battle ensued, as the witch brought to bear her dark arts and servants of perfidious nature.

Many brave knights lost their lives in the conflict, but the witch was harried and driven to ground.

Yet before her evil could be extinguished, she sprouted wings of demonic mien, and escaped into the air.

She was never again
seen in the region.

SHE'S NOT
WHO OR WHAT
SHE SAYS
SHE IS.

IF IT
TAKES A
KNIGHT...

...I
CAN BE
THAT.

TO BE CONTINUED!

NEXT ISSUE

WITCHBLADE

#184

New York
368 miles



TOP COW IS PROUD TO PRESENT:
2013 TALENT HUNT RUNNERS-UP STORY

SOME DAY ONE DAY

JEFFERY BRIDGES & SUSAN BRIDGES • *Writers*

LUIGI CRISK • *Artist*

ROSS CAMPBELL • *Colorist*

TROY PETERI • *Letterer*

BETSY GONIA • *Editor*

EVER WANT SOMETHING
SO BAD THAT EVERY
FIBER OF YOUR BEING
CALLS OUT FOR IT?

EVER WANT SOMETHING SO
MUCH THAT YOUR SOUL
SCREAMS IN AGONY EVERY
SECOND YOU'RE DENIED
YOUR DESTINY?

WHAM

FOR
ANGELLUS!
PROTECT HER
REALM!

IN MY SINGLE-MINDED PURSUIT OF A GOAL, I MADE A MISTAKE. I DID SOMETHING THAT PRECLUDES ME FROM EVER HAVING THAT WHICH I DESIRE.

I HAVE ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD, AND STILL IT ELUDES ME. SOME DAY...

WE CANNOT EVEN APPROACH THE CREATURE. DOOM IS UPON US. I HAVE FAILED YOU.

THE BEAST CONSUMES TIME. TO DEFEAT IT, ONE MUST BE ABLE TO RESIST ITS PULL.

IT IS BEYOND MY REACH. BUT THERE IS ANOTHER.

SHE CANNOT BE TRUSTED! SHE WOULD TURN ON YOU AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE!

WE HAVE NO CHOICE. GO. NOW. BEFORE THERE IS NO TIME.

THE ANGELUS REQUIRES YOUR ASSISTANCE, SABINE.

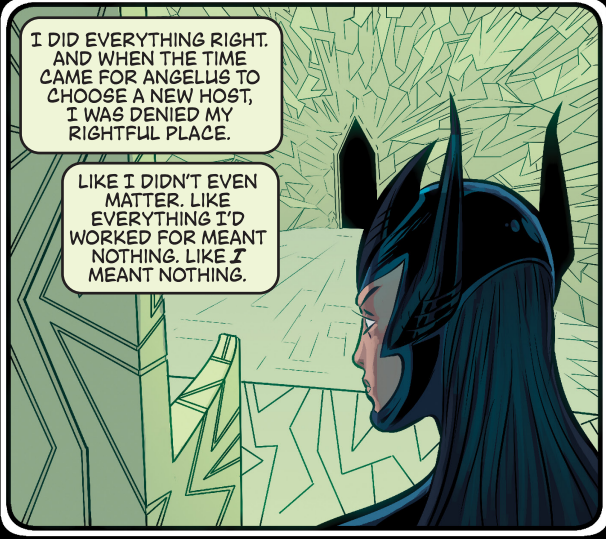
IT'S AMAZING THE "FRIENDS" YOU MAKE THE MOMENT YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING THEY WANT.



I SERVED.
I OBEYED.



I KILLED.



I DID EVERYTHING RIGHT.
AND WHEN THE TIME
CAME FOR ANGELUS TO
CHOOSE A NEW HOST,
I WAS DENIED MY
RIGHTFUL PLACE.

LIKE I DIDN'T EVEN
MATTER. LIKE
EVERYTHING I'D
WORKED FOR MEANT
NOTHING. LIKE I
MEANT NOTHING.



THE ANGELLUS
SHOULD BE MINE.
SHE HAS THE
AUDACITY TO SEND
YOU HERE? TO ASK
FOR *MY* HELP?

DIE.



CAN'T
YOU SEE WHAT'S
HAPPENING?!

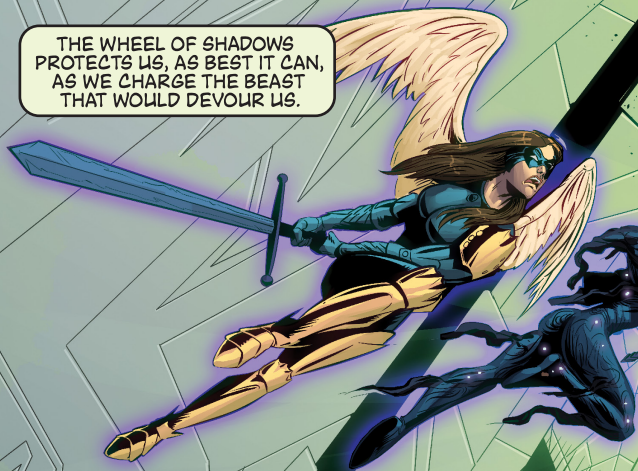
I'M
NOT THE
ONE WHO'S
BLIND.

LOOK
AROUND
YOU!



IF
YOU DON'T
HELP US, IT'S
THE END OF
EVERYTHING.
INCLUDING
YOU.

THE WHEEL OF SHADOWS
PROTECTS US, AS BEST IT CAN,
AS WE CHARGE THE BEAST
THAT WOULD DEVOUR US.



CRACK

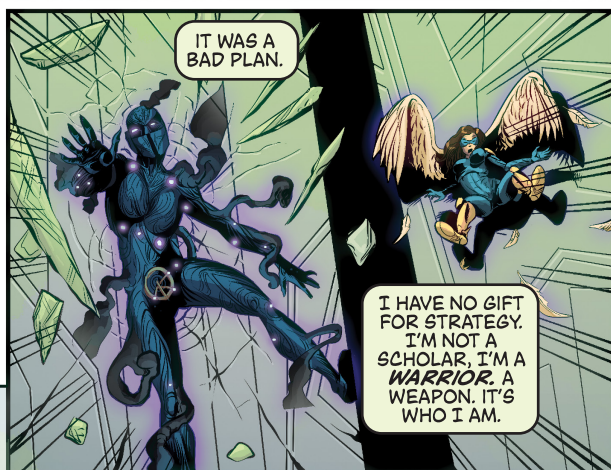


THE ANGELUS REALM. IT FEELS LIKE...
HOME. I CAN'T REMEMBER THE LAST
TIME *ANYWHERE* FELT THAT WAY.

AT TIMES IT'S
DIFFICULT TO EVEN
REMEMBER WHO
I USED TO BE.



IT WAS A
BAD PLAN.



I HAVE NO GIFT
FOR STRATEGY.
I'M NOT A
SCHOLAR, I'M A
WARRIOR. A
WEAPON. IT'S
WHO I AM.

THE WHEEL IS FRACTURING.
ITS GRIP ON ME...
LOOSENING. I CAN'T
REMEMBER THE LAST TIME
I FELT THIS MUCH JOY.

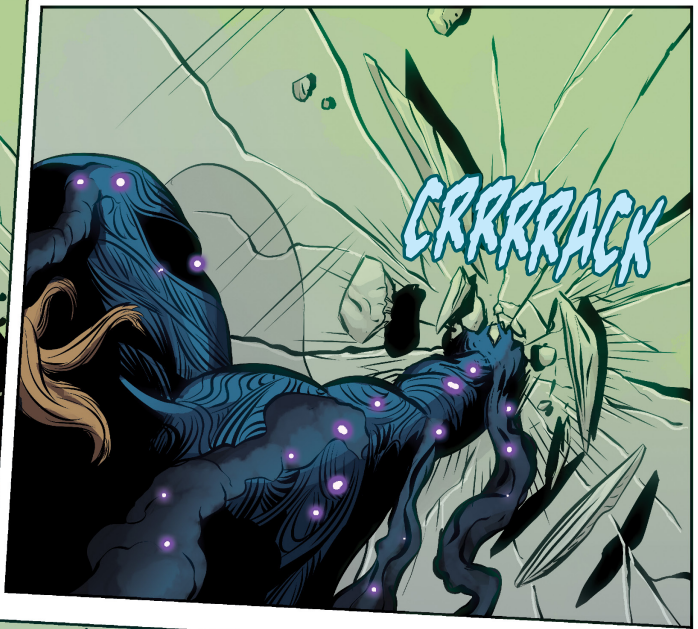
SO MUCH HAS
CHANGED...I DON'T
EVEN RECOGNIZE
MYSELF ANYMORE.



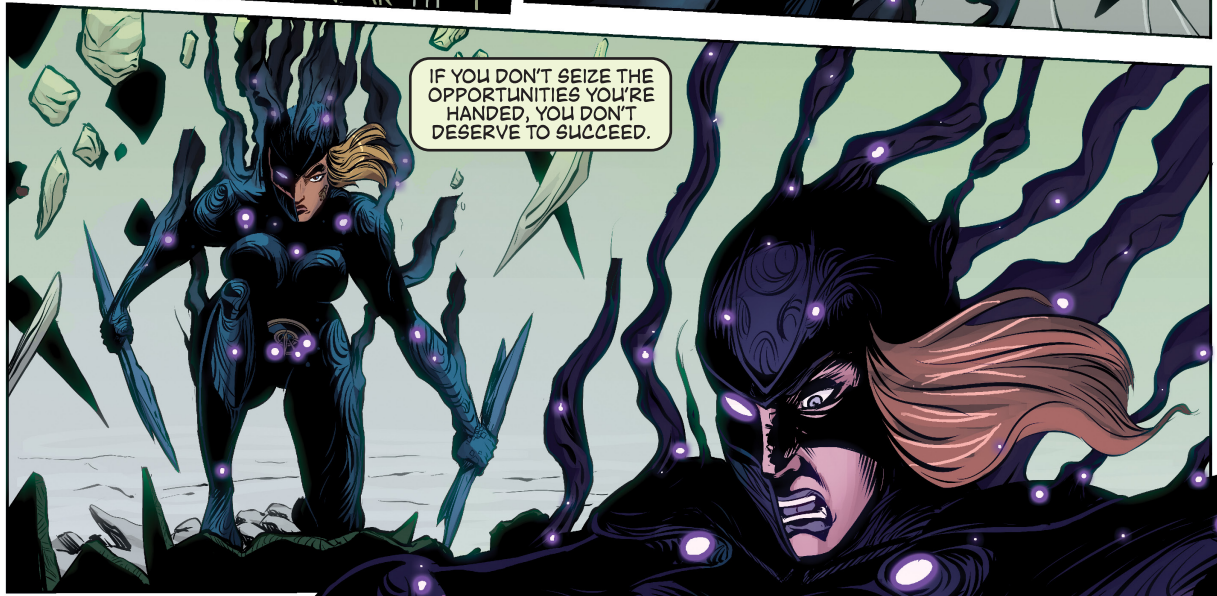


FREEDOM. THE THOUGHT IS SO OVERWHELMING. MY HEART POUNDS IN MY CHEST. OR WOULD, IF I HAD ONE.

NOT SURE IF I EVER DID.



CRRRRACK



IF YOU DON'T SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITIES YOU'RE HANDED, YOU DON'T DESERVE TO SUCCEED.



THE WHEEL TOOK EVERYTHING FROM ME.

HAVING HAD AN ETERNITY TO PLAN, HAVING PAID FOR IT IN BLOOD, THE ANGELLUS WILL FINALLY BE MINE.

THIS IS MY TIME.

FUNNY THING ABOUT
TIME. YOU'VE GOT ALL
OF IT IN THE WORLD.
UNTIL YOU DON'T.

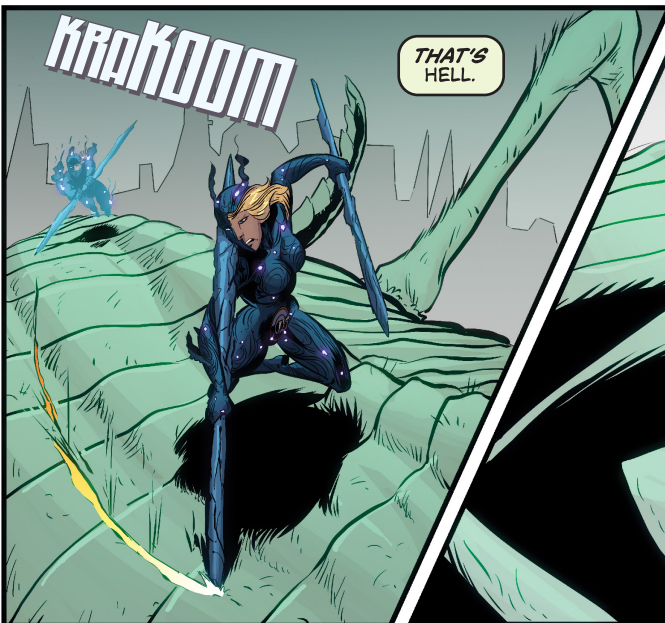


WHEN YOU REALIZE THAT
THE ONLY CHANCE YOU
HAVE IS TO GIVE UP ON
YOUR DREAM... JUST SO
YOU *MIGHT* HAVE A
CHANCE TO GET IT BACK...
SOME DAY...



KRAKOOOM

THAT'S
HELL.



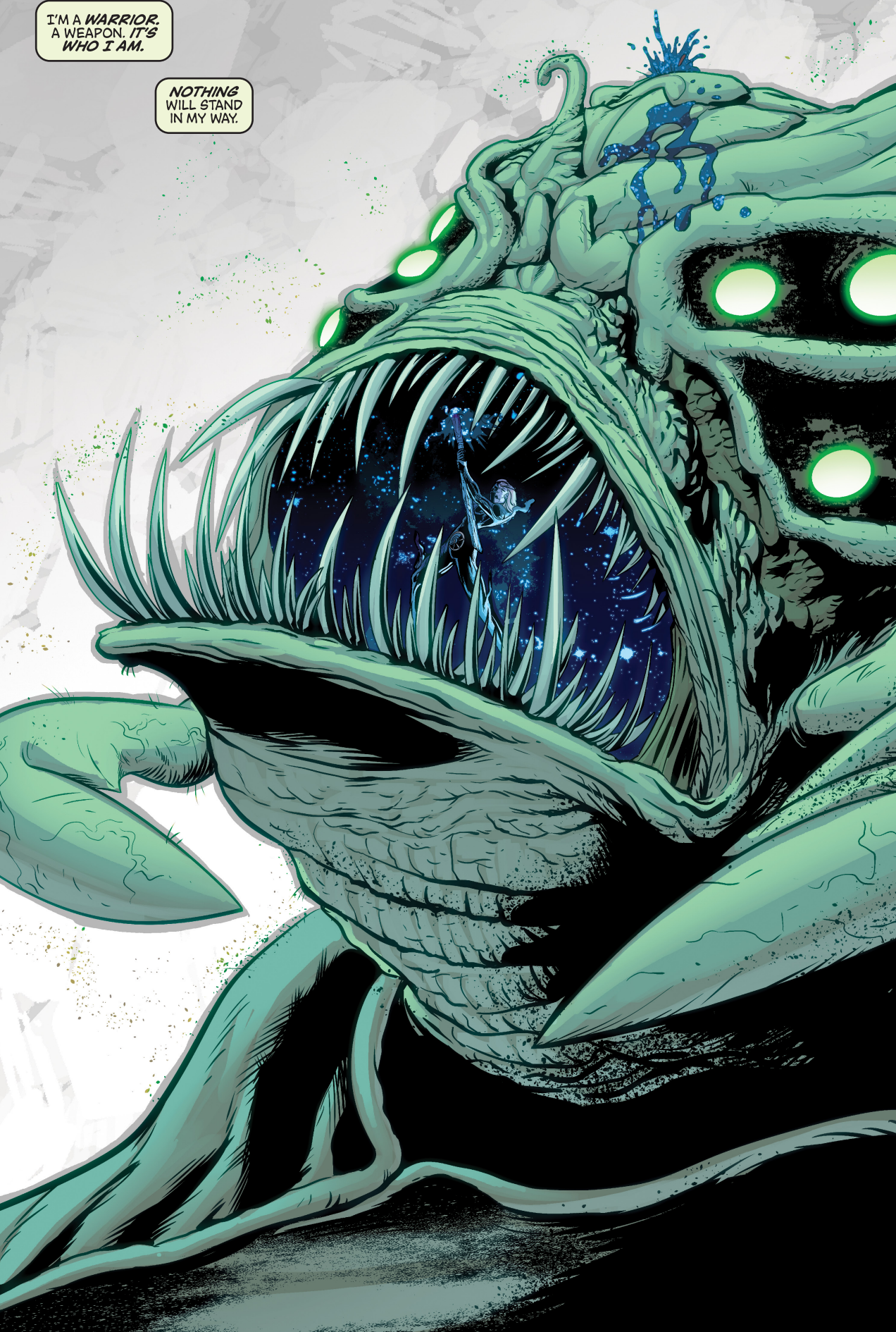
BUT I REMIND
MYSELF...

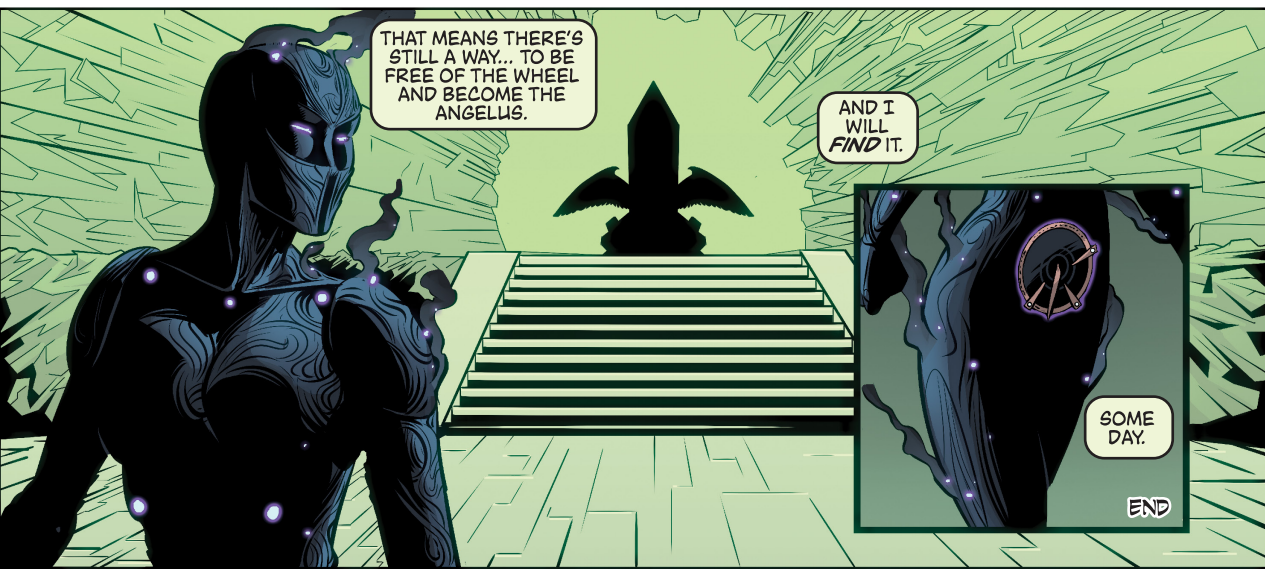
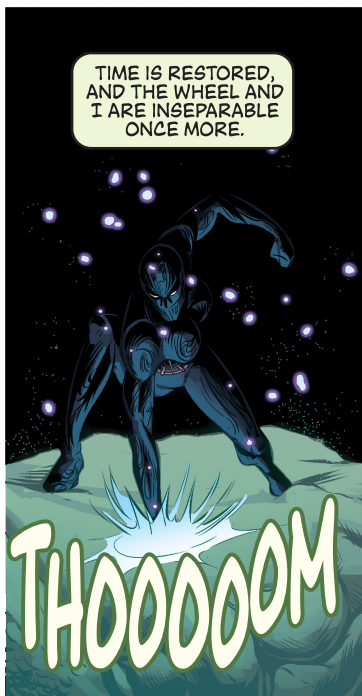
FSSSSSHHHHH



I'M A *WARRIOR*.
A *WEAPON*. IT'S
WHO I AM.

NOTHING
WILL STAND
IN MY WAY.





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A promotional poster for the TV show Mr. Robot. It features a close-up, high-contrast photograph of a man (Rami Malek) wearing a dark hoodie, looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background is dark, and the lighting highlights his face and eyes.

OUR
DEMOCRACY
HAS BEEN
HACKED

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RATED **T+** / TEEN PLUS

MR. ROBOT 6 | 24 

WhosMrRobot.com