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ISSUE
15
COVER A
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TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES UNIVERSE

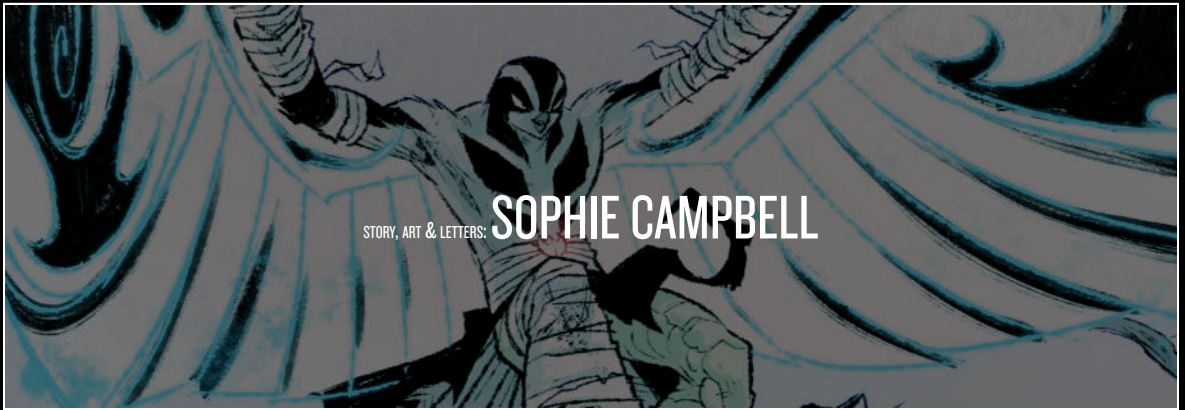


KARAI'S PATH
BURNHAM | CAMPBELL | PEER

THOMAS
Y. LAMARCA
Colwell



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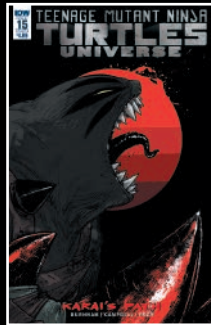
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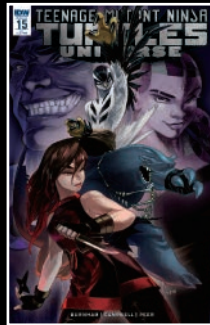
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Special thanks to Joan Hilty & Linda Lee for their invaluable assistance.

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HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO THE KIRA NO KEN—A WEAPON BLESSED BY THE GODS—WAS LENT TO MANKIND.

WHEN THE GODS DEMANDED ITS RETURN, MEN REFUSED. AND SO ITS BLESSINGS WERE TWISTED INTO A CURSE.

THE SWORD WAS EVENTUALLY SECRETED AWAY BY THE FOUNDER OF THE FOOT CLAN, AND THE MEMORY OF IT FADED, BECOMING JUST ANOTHER STORY.



<DO YOU
SUBMIT,
GUARDIAN?>

UNTIL NOW.



<I ADMIT
MY FAILURE.
I ACCEPT
MY END.>

<YOUR
END? NO.>

<I CAN
STILL MAKE
USE OF
YOU.>



<YOU WILL PROMISE ME YOUR LOYALTY AND SHOW US THE WAY OUT OF THIS CAVE.>

<IF YOU SERVE ME WELL, I'LL FIND A WAY TO FREE YOU FROM THIS FORM YOU HAVE BEEN TRAPPED IN.>



<DO WE HAVE AN AGREEMENT?>

...



IT'S ALREADY MORNING? WE WERE DOWN THERE THAT LONG?!

AT LEAST WE HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW FOR OUR TROUBLE.

A MAGIC SWORD, ANOTHER MUTANT... AND THAT SMALL CARVING YOU TOOK, KOVA. IS THAT... IS IT SHAPED LIKE A BIRD?



HOW DID—I MEAN, BE QUIET, IT WAS JUST A—



YOU MUST HAVE MADE A MISTAKE, BLUDGEON.

I—HM. MAYBE I DID.

HE MADE MORE THAN ONE.



I'M NOT A "MUTANT," SEA-BEAST. I AM YOKAI.

I WAS ONCE ABLE TO TAKE ANY FORM I WISHED... BUT NOW, THE BEST I CAN DO IS CHANGE MY TONGUE TO SPEAK YOUR LANGUAGE.

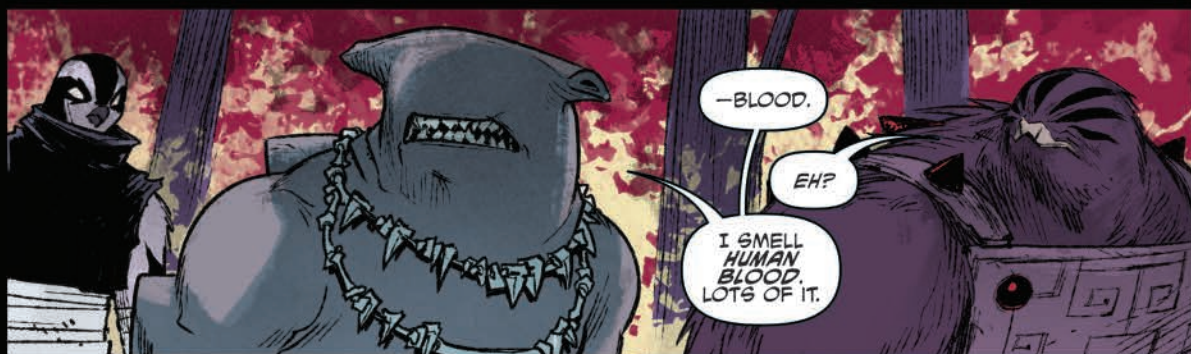
FREEDOM FROM THIS PRISON IS MY ONLY REASON FOR JOINING YOU.

I'M SORRY FOR YOUR FRUSTRATION, AND FOR YOUR PRESENCE.



MY SENSES TELL ME THERE IS SOMETHING OFF ABOUT YOU. IT'S KARAI'S DECISION, BUT I SUSPECT YOU'LL BRING US NOTHING BUT—

SNIFF
SNIR



—BLOOD.

EH?

I SMELL HUMAN BLOOD. LOTS OF IT.



-THIS WAY!



<THESE MEN—WHAT HAPPENED HERE?>



<CLEARLY IT WAS FATE, KARAI—>



<—FORCING ME TO FOLLOW YOU NORTH AFTER ALL.>

TOSHIRO?

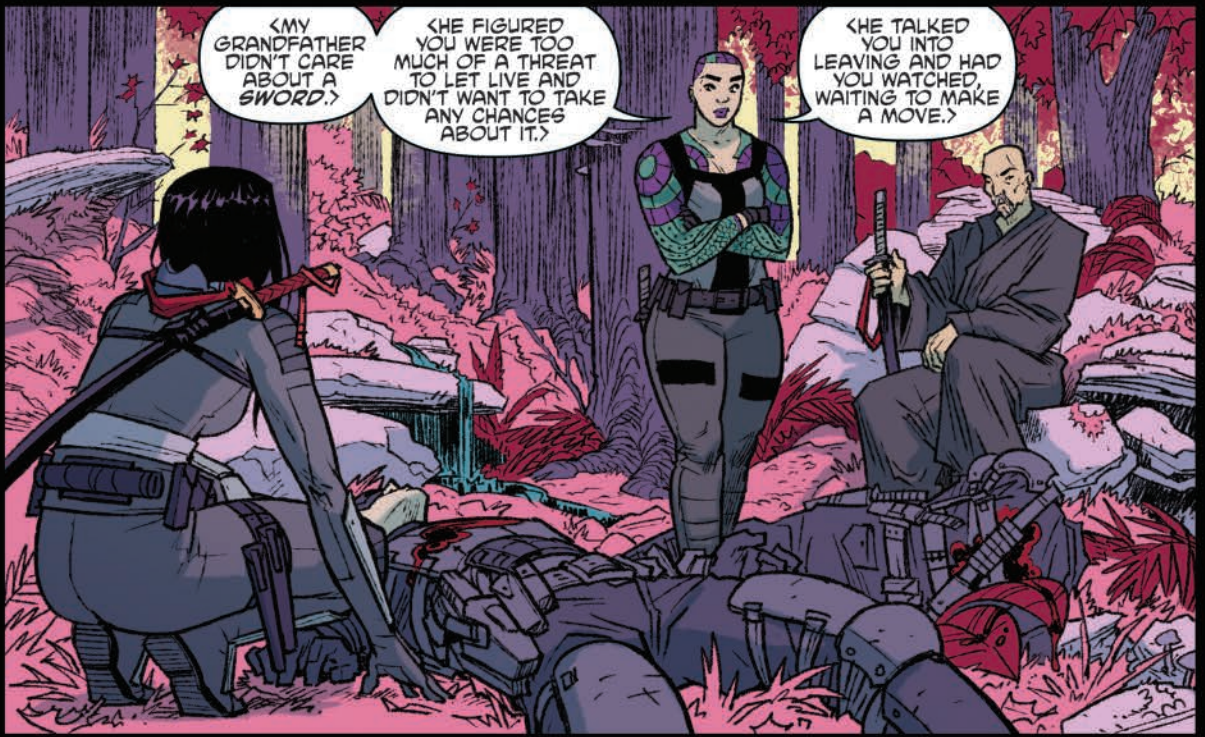
<... WHAT IS SHE DOING WITH YOU?>



<THESE MEN INTENDED TO AMBUSH YOU, KARAI.>

<IF NOT FOR THIS YOUNG WOMAN'S INTERVENTION, YOU MIGHT BE DEAD.>

<YEAH. UH... WELL... LIKE I TOLD HIM, I OWED YOU.>



<MY GRANDFATHER DIDN'T CARE ABOUT A SWORD.>

<HE FIGURED YOU WERE TOO MUCH OF A THREAT TO LET LIVE AND DIDN'T WANT TO TAKE ANY CHANCES ABOUT IT.>

<HE TALKED YOU INTO LEAVING AND HAD YOU WATCHED, WAITING TO MAKE A MOVE.>



<LOOK, IT JUST WASN'T HONORABLE, AND THAT CONCEPT STILL HAS SOME MEANING FOR ME... SO I FIGURE THIS MAKES US EVEN, RIGHT?>



<NOT QUITE.>

BLAM