

DUDE, WE SHOULD JUST TAKE OVER THE WORLD!

NO, HEAR ME OUT! SO, THE REAPER IS NOW OUT OF THE PICTURE, RIGHT?

AT ANY PREVIOUS POINT, IF WE WERE TO POWER UP INTO FULL ON LICHES, THE VIGIL COULDN'T DO ██████ TO US, BUT THEIR MOMMY WOULD ONE-SHOT OUR ██████!

GO?



THE PALE KING WOULD DISAGREE.

SO, NOW WE CAN EASILY WIPE OUT THE LAST FEW OF THE VIGIL AND LIVE LIKE KINGS!

ABYSS? MAN, F9K THAT WORM! MARIA HAS THE SCYTHE NOW!

IN FACT, DOES SHE EVEN NEED US HERE ANYMORE? NOT LIKE ANYONE WILL JUST WANDER INTO AN ABANDONED MILITARY FACILITY.



WE OWE HER! IF IT WASN'T FOR HER SIGILS, WE WOULD STILL BE LOW LACKEYS OF THE PALE COURT.

SIGH...I'M NOT SAYING ABANDON HER! I'M JUST SAYING I WANT TO STRETCH OUT MY POWERS!

SO? WHAT ABOUT YOU? DIDN'T YOU EVER WONDER WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO BE A LICH?

IT FEELS LIKE...CANCER.



WAIT, SO YOU...

JUST ONCE... IT WAS...

HUH?

I SENSE IT TOO!



WELL, WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT -- A LONE VIGIL!

A DYING BREED!



STAND BACK, MICHAELS! TIME FOR ME TO TRY OUT SOME OF THAT CANCER!



YEAH, SURE! HOLD THAT THOUGHT!

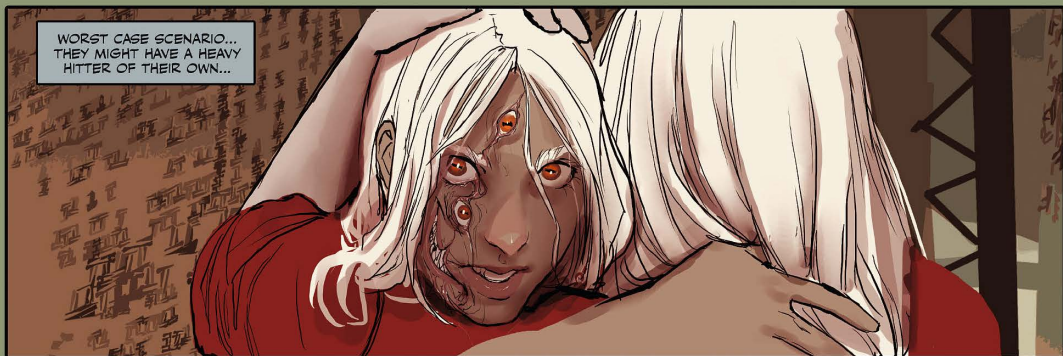


SO?! WHO'S UP FOR SOME GIRL SCOUT COOKIES?!

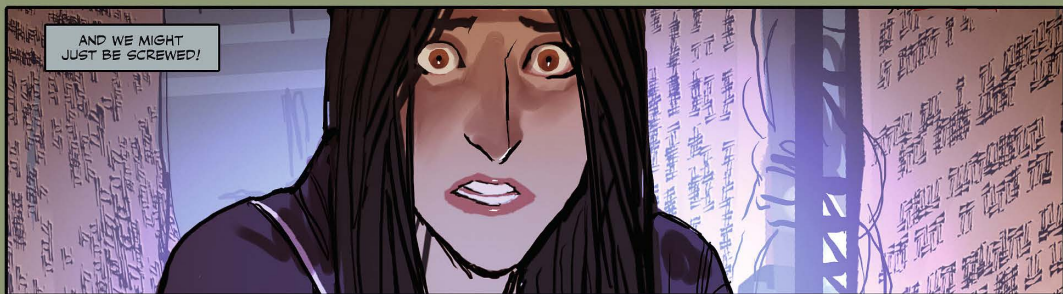
IT'S A DESPERATE PLAN. WE HOPE THAT CLARA WOULD PROVIDE US THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE...AND MIA WOULD BE OUR ELEMENT OF INTIMIDATION.

SHE IS OUR HEAVY HITTER... BUT CLARA SAW IT IN JON'S MIND...MARIA AND WULF'S INTENT.

WORST CASE SCENARIO...
THEY MIGHT HAVE A HEAVY
HITTER OF THEIR OWN...



AND WE MIGHT
JUST BE SCREWED!



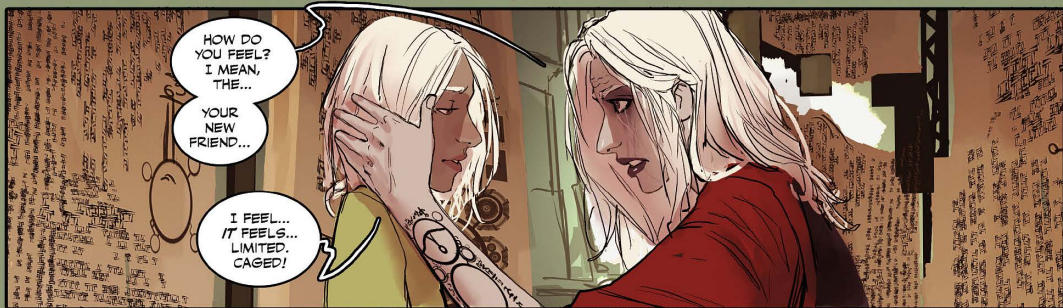
OH GOD!
ALICIA! MY
LITTLE ALICIA!
IT...IT WORKED!
IT REALLY
WORKED!



HOW DO
YOU FEEL?
I MEAN,
THE...

YOUR
NEW
FRIEND...

I FEEL...
IT FEELS...
LIMITED.
CAGED!



BUT...
STABLE?

UH-HUH...
SO...THIS IS
THE KEY?

YES, HONEY!
YOU ARE NOW **JUST**
LIKE MIA. YOU CARRY
THE **POWER** IN YOUR SIGIL
AND I, LIKE MIA'S DAD, AM
HERE TO HELP YOU
CONTROL IT.





CONTROL...

YES, HONEY.

HMM...



OKAY, SO WULF SAID THAT, TO FINISH THE PROCESS, WE'LL NEED TO CREATE YOU A VEILRIPPER.



NOW, HOLD ON TO THE SCYTHE, HONEY!



AND THERE IT IS...

SUCH A SMALL, IMPORTANT THING...



MARIA!!!



OH, FOR CRYING... WHAT?!



THE SCYTHE PULLS FROM THE MEMORIES OF THE RISEN!

IT USES THOSE MEMORIES TO CREATE BOTH THE VEILRIPPER AND THE CLOTHES...

LOOK AT HER VEILRIPPER! IN FACT, LOOK AT HER CLOTHES! THAT HOSPITAL GOWN IS THE FIRST AND ONLY CLOTHES SHE... NO, IT HAS EVER TRULY KNOWN!



WHAT ARE YOU TALK--



MOTHER... THE BEAST APPROACHES!

OKAY...SO
HOW LONG 'TIL
THE KID HERE STARTS
SPEWING PEA SOUP?

I MEAN, I
HAD MY CREEPY MOMENT
BACK IN THE DAY, BUT
COME ON!

MIA?
CLARA?

BERNIE???
HOLY CRAP, I DIDN'T
EVEN RECOGNIZE
YOU!

HANG IN
THERE, WE'LL GET
YOU OUT IN A
SECOND!

LOVE THE
HAIR BY
THE WAY!

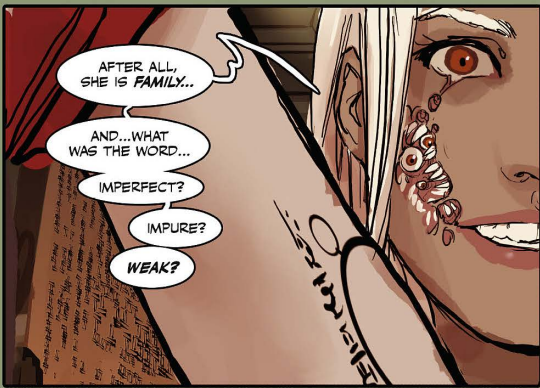
STOP RIGHT
THERE!!!

I DON'T
CARE THAT YOU
ARE A PRIMORDIAL!
YOU COME NEAR MY
LITTLE GIRL
AND I'LL--

EVERYTHING
IS FINE, MOTHER.

CLARA,
WHAT--

JUST...
BE READY!



AFTER ALL, SHE IS **FAMILY**...

AND...WHAT WAS THE WORD...

IMPERFECT?

IMPURE?

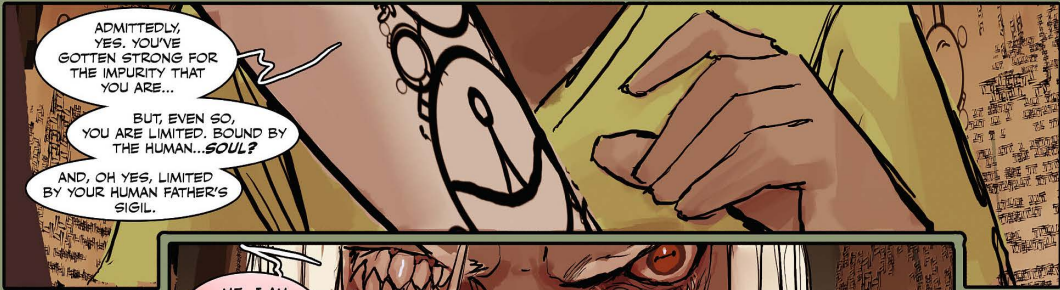
WEAK?



CHILD...I HAVE EIGHT HUNDRED YEARS OF FIGHTING EXPERIENCE.

AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY...I SPENT THOSE EIGHT CENTURIES **FEEDING!**

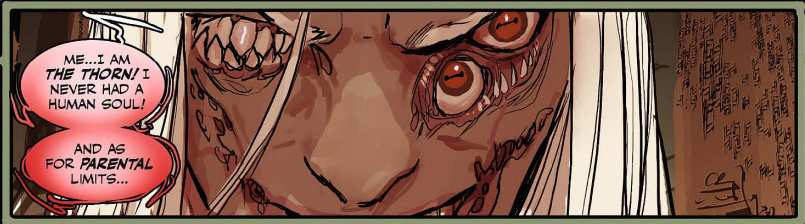
AND...I'M STILL PECKISH.



ADMITTEDLY, YES, YOU'VE GOTTEN STRONG FOR THE IMPURITY THAT YOU ARE...

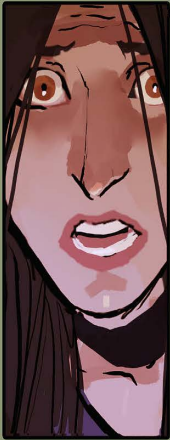
BUT, EVEN SO, YOU ARE LIMITED, BOUND BY THE HUMAN...**SOUL?**

AND, OH YES, LIMITED BY YOUR HUMAN FATHER'S SIGIL.



ME...I AM **THE THORN!** I NEVER HAD A HUMAN SOUL!

AND AS FOR PARENTAL LIMITS...



I HAVE **NONE!**



ALICIA...
GHK!
WHY?

OH, MOTHER...

YOU DON'T
MIND ME CALLING
YOU MOTHER DO YOU?
I HAVE GROWN FOND
OF THE PRETENSE.

PUH...GHHH...
PRETENSE?!



WE ARE THE THINGS
REACHING OUT FROM THE ABYSS.
UNABLE TO CLIMB OUT OURSELVES...

ALL WE NEED IS
SOME HELP...A HAND
TO PULL US OUT.

IT HELPS TO PUT
ON A FAMILIAR FACE...

BUT SOON WE WON'T
NEED THIS CHARADE!

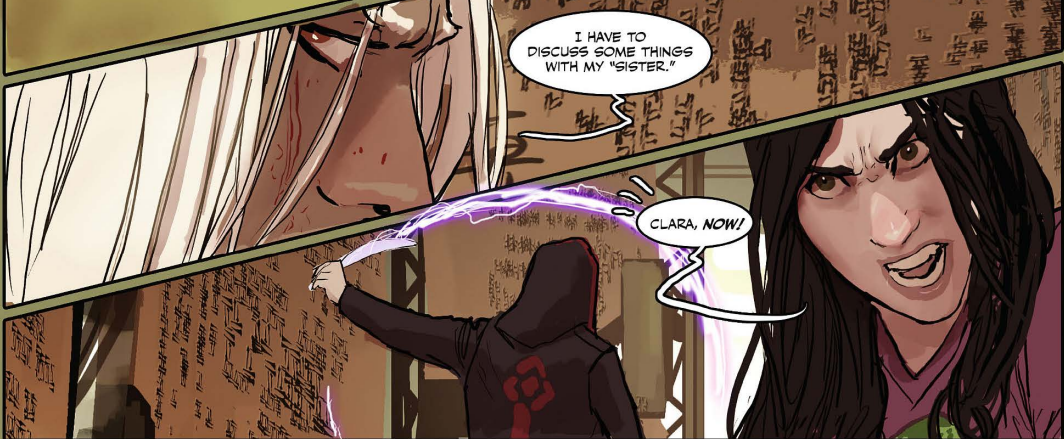
BECAUSE
OF YOU, THE TOWER
SHALL RISE
AGAIN...

AND SOON,
MY FAMILY WILL BE
HERE.

SPEAKING
OF FAMILY...



I HAVE TO
DISCUSS SOME THINGS
WITH MY "SISTER."



CLARA, NOW!