

NORMAN,
OKLAHOMA.

MEDJINE PARKER WAS BORN IN
PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI.
SHE'S BEEN IN THE UNITED STATES
FOR **EIGHT MONTHS**.

HER NEW FAMILY'S WHOLE **CHURCH**
HAD FUNDRAISERS FOR HER ADOPTION,
SO SHE DOESN'T WANT TO SEEM
UNGRATEFUL.

MEDJINE!

MEDJINE,
WHAT HAVE I **TOLD**
YOU ABOUT GETTING
DIRT ON YOUR SKIRT?
I SWEAR, YOU ARE
THE **DIRTIEST**
CHILD.

CARRIE,
TAKE HER TO
THE BATHROOM
AND DUST HER
OFF.

I
CAN DO IT
MYSELF.

IN THIS HOUSE,
WE **DON'T** TALK BACK.
HOW MANY TIMES DO I
HAVE TO REMIND YOU?
WE'LL TALK ABOUT YOUR
PUNISHMENT AFTER
CHURCH.

*"We must remember that
Satan has his miracles, too."
— John Calvin*

BUT SOMETIMES SHE CAN'T HELP WISHING
SHE WAS BACK IN THE ORPHANAGE WITH
HER BROTHER AND HER FRIENDS.

HER NEW FAMILY DOESN'T TREAT
HER LIKE THEIR **OTHER** KIDS.

THEY DON'T
THINK OF HER
LIKE THEIR
OTHER KIDS,
EITHER.

I THOUGHT
SHE'D BE A LITTLE GIRL,
BUT SHE'S PRACTICALLY A
WOMAN ALREADY.

I'M AFRAID
ONE OF OUR BOYS
IS GOING TO START
LOOKING.

THE **DEVIL'S**
USING HER TO GET
A FOOHOLD IN THIS
FAMILY.

THE BOSS
WANTED ME TO
MAKE SURE YOU
TWO HAVE A
NICE VISIT.

I'M SUPPOSED
TO TAKE YOU WHERE YOU
WANT TO GO, UNLESS IT'S
HIS CASTLE. IF YOU WANT
TO GO THERE, I'M SUPPOSED
TO TAKE YOU TO ONE OF THE
SOFT PLACES AND LEAD YOU
AROUND IN CIRCLES FOR
A THOUSAND YEARS.

OR DROP YOU
INTO A PARTICULARLY
NASTY DREAM.

SORRY.
IT'S NOTHING
PERSONAL.

DID
YOU SEE
THAT?

WE HAVE
COME FOR LILITH'S
COUNSEL.

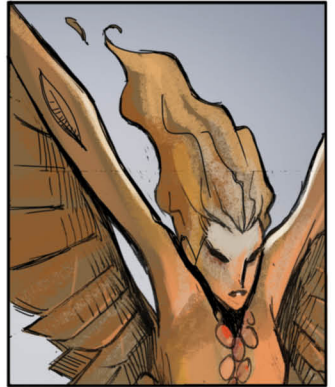
RIGHT-O.
THIS WAY.



EVE,
WE'RE
LOOKING
FOR--

LILITH, I
WOULD NEVER
HAVE EXPECTED TO
FIND YOU HERE.
WITH FER.

I MIGHT SAY
THE SAME OF YOU,
TRICKSTER.

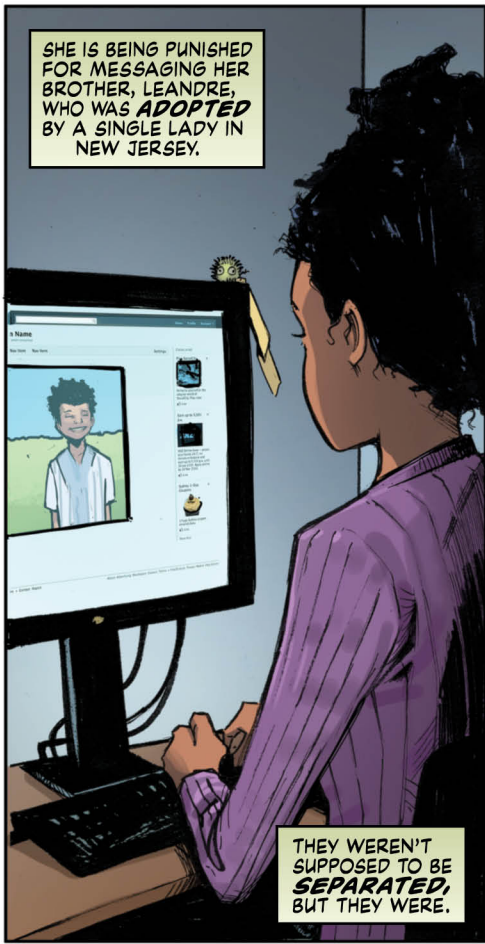




THIS IS THE SECOND NIGHT MEDJINE HAS TO **SLEEP** IN A **CLOSET**.

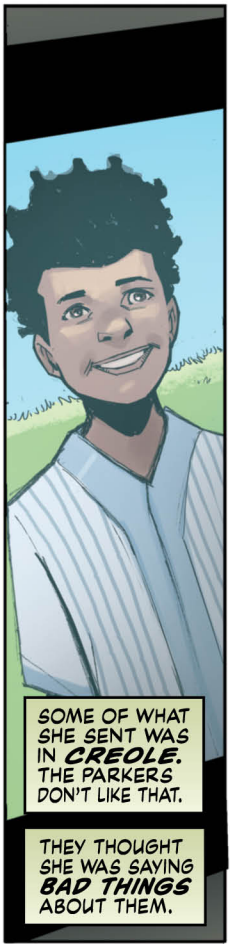
SHE CAN HEAR THE REST OF THEM HAVING DINNER. SHE CAN SMELL THE **CHICKEN** THEY'RE EATING.

SHE GOT A SANDWICH MADE WITH BREAD SOAKED IN WATER.



SHE IS BEING PUNISHED FOR MESSAGING HER BROTHER, LEANDRE, WHO WAS **ADOPTED** BY A SINGLE LADY IN NEW JERSEY.

THEY WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE **SEPARATED**, BUT THEY WERE.



SOME OF WHAT SHE SENT WAS IN **CREOLE**. THE PARKERS DON'T LIKE THAT.

THEY THOUGHT SHE WAS SAYING **BAD THINGS** ABOUT THEM.



THEY SWITCHED HER WITH A PIECE OF PLASTIC TUBING.

AFTER, FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD TOMMY PARKER ASKED IF THE **BRUISES** WOULD EVEN SHOW, SINCE HER SKIN WAS SO **DARK**.

SHE HAD TO **BITE** HER **TONGUE** TO KEEP FROM GETTING IN MORE **TROUBLE**.

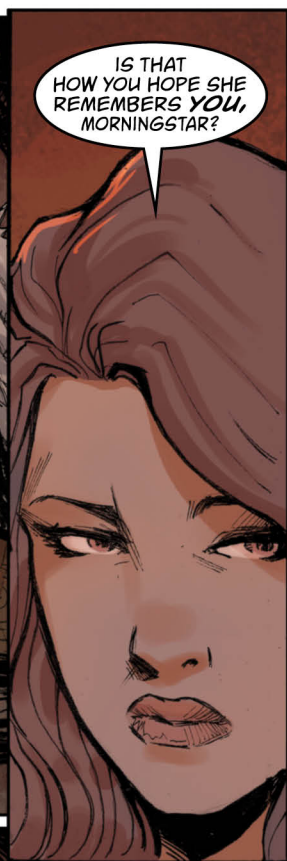
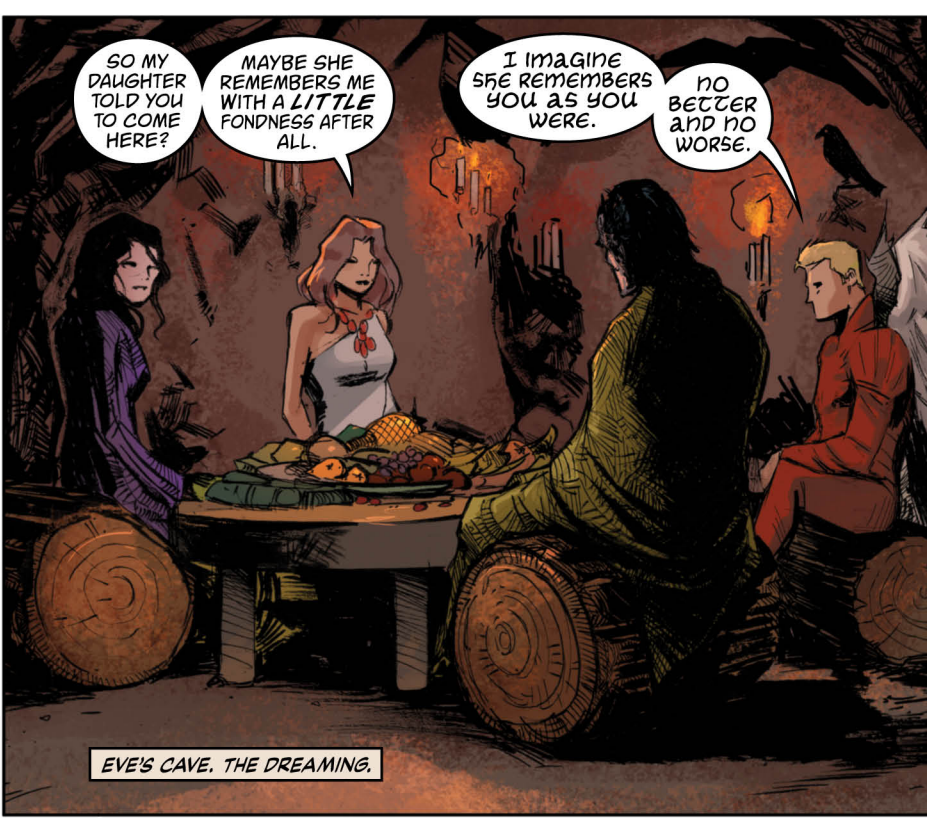


WHEN SHE ARRIVED AT THE PARKER HOUSE, SHE THOUGHT THEY WERE STRICT BUT BASICALLY **GOOD** PEOPLE.

YOU'VE GOT TO BE **GOOD** TO TAKE IN AN **ORPHAN**, RIGHT?

THE PARKERS BELIEVE THEMSELVES TO BE **GOOD** PEOPLE, TOO.

THEY CAN'T **STAND THE SIGHT** OF ANYONE WHO MAKES THEM **DOUBT** IT.



SO MY DAUGHTER TOLD YOU TO COME HERE?

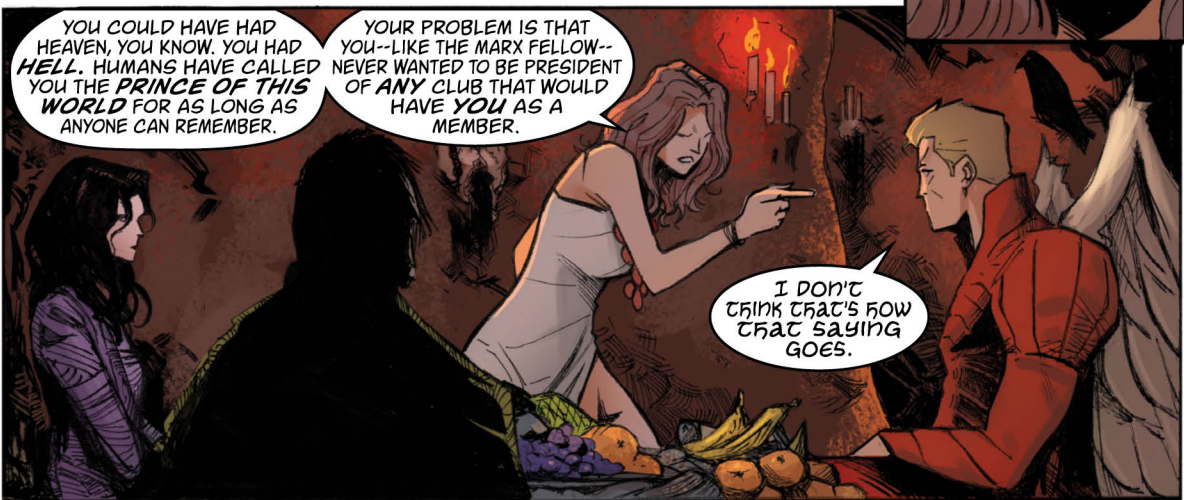
MAYBE SHE REMEMBERS ME WITH A **LITTLE** FONDNESS AFTER ALL.

I IMAGINE SHE REMEMBERS YOU AS YOU WERE.

NO BETTER AND NO WORSE.

IS THAT HOW YOU HOPE SHE REMEMBERS **YOU**, MORNINGSTAR?

EVE'S CAVE. THE DREAMING.



YOU COULD HAVE HAD HEAVEN, YOU KNOW. YOU HAD **HELL**. HUMANS HAVE CALLED YOU THE **PRINCE OF THIS WORLD** FOR AS LONG AS ANYONE CAN REMEMBER.

YOUR PROBLEM IS THAT YOU--LIKE THE MARX FELLOW-- NEVER WANTED TO BE PRESIDENT OF **ANY CLUB** THAT WOULD HAVE **YOU** AS A MEMBER.

I DON'T THINK THAT'S HOW THAT GOES.



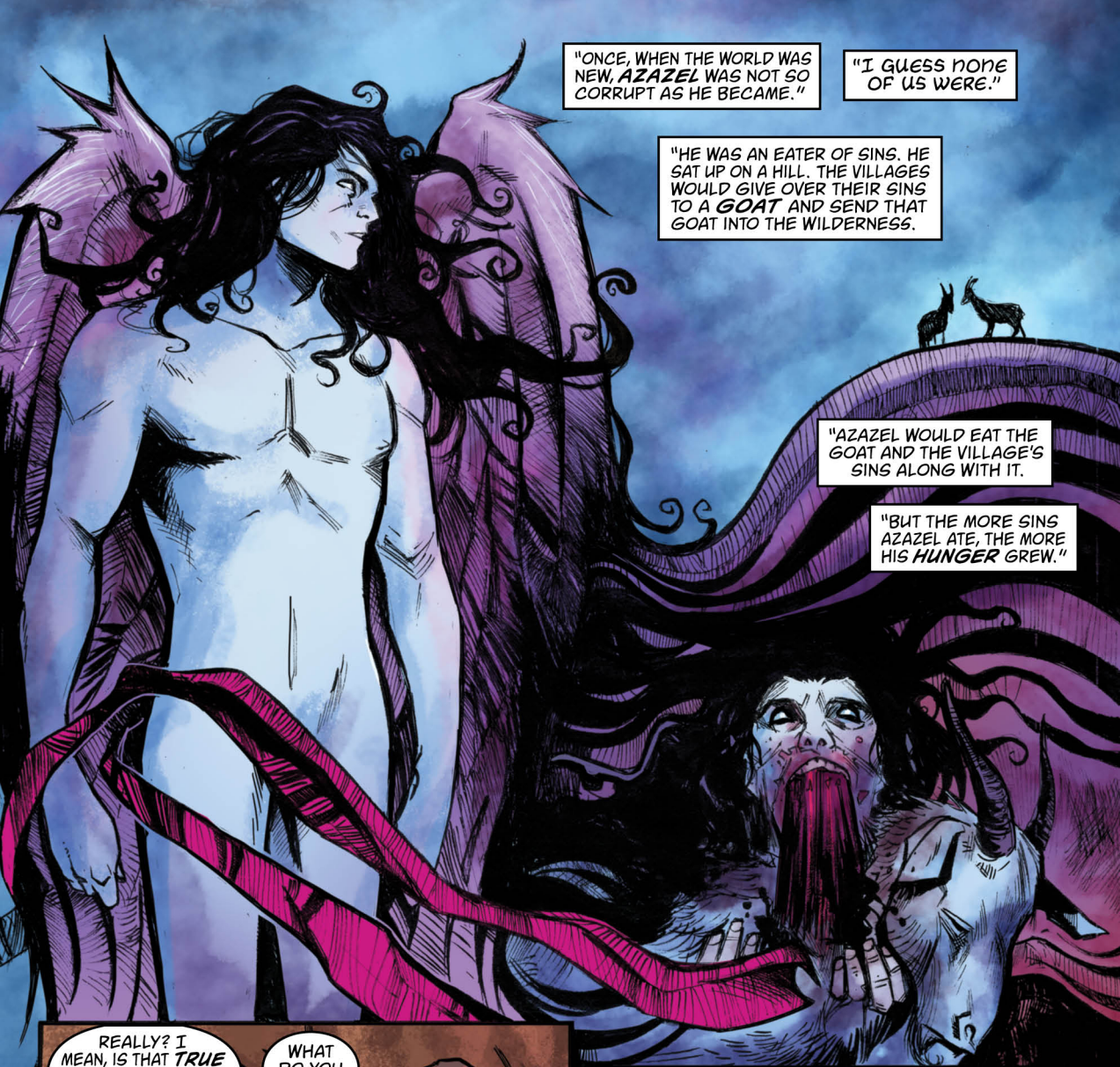
YOU WANT WHAT YOU CAN'T HAVE. TOO BAD YOU'VE ALREADY HAD **EVERYTHING**.

POOR SPOILED LUCIFER. **DADDY'S FAVORITE**. NO HILL LEFT TO CLIMB?

POOR GHOST. SO MUCH TEMPEST, SO LITTLE TARGET.



YOU CAME FOR A STORY ABOUT A **SHARD**. WELL, I'LL GIVE YOU ONE.



"ONCE, WHEN THE WORLD WAS NEW, AZAZEL WAS NOT SO CORRUPT AS HE BECAME."

"I GUESS NONE OF US WERE."

"HE WAS AN EATER OF SINS. HE SAT UP ON A HILL. THE VILLAGES WOULD GIVE OVER THEIR SINS TO A GOAT AND SEND THAT GOAT INTO THE WILDERNESS."

"AZAZEL WOULD EAT THE GOAT AND THE VILLAGE'S SINS ALONG WITH IT."

"BUT THE MORE SINS AZAZEL ATE, THE MORE HIS HUNGER GREW."

REALLY? I MEAN, IS THAT **TRUE** OR DID THEY ONLY **THINK** THEIR SINS WERE GONE?

WHAT DO YOU CARE?

I DON'T KNOW. IT'S A **STORY**. I WANT TO KNOW. IT MAKES A **DIFFERENCE** TO THE STORY. IS AZAZEL A **CON ARTIST**? DOES HE WANT TO **HELP** PEOPLE?

I MEAN, THE STORY IS ABOUT **HIM**, RIGHT?

WHY DON'T YOU JUST WAIT AND FIND OUT?

WHY WON'T YOU JUST **TELL** ME? IS HE THE HERO OR THE VILLAIN?

THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM IN A NUTSHELL, EVE. YOU WANT EVERYTHING SIMPLE. YOU WANT TO BE SPOON-FED.

AND **YOUR** PROBLEM IS THAT YOU NEVER ASK THE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS.

WHEN THE SNAKE OFFERED YOU A BITE FROM THE FRUIT OF KNOWLEDGE, **YOU** WERE PROBABLY ALL "OH, NO THANKS, I KNOW EVERYTHING ALREADY."