

WHEN A HORRIBLE CHEMICAL ACCIDENT FIRST TRANSFORMED HIM INTO A GROTESQUE MARSHLAND MONSTER, DOCTOR ALEC HOLLAND BELIEVED HIMSELF TO BE ON THE THRESHOLD OF A GREAT ADVENTURE...

HE EVEN TOOK UP THE MANTLE AS THE AVATAR OF THE GREEN, ITS PROTECTOR...

...ALL IN THE UNWAVERING CERTAINTY THAT HE WOULD ONE DAY AGAIN BECOME HUMAN.

HE TRAVELED THE WORLD, BATTLING MONSTERS, ALL MORE HIDEOUS THAN HE...

HE COMMUNED FOR A TIME WITH THE PARLIAMENT OF TREES, A GATHERING OF THOSE WHO HAD WALKED IN HIS SHAMBLING STEPS BEFORE HIM...

M-MATT, WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?!

NOW, THAT GLORIOUS DAWN HAS COME. ALEC HOLLAND IS AT LAST ONCE MORE A MAN...

BUT AS HE STARES IN OPEN-MOUTHED ASTONISHMENT AT THE PERSON WHO VOLUNTEERED TO REPLACE HIM AS THE...

WHAT DID YOU THINK WAS GOING TO HAPPEN?

SWAMP THING

Created by LEN WEIN and BERNIE WRIGHTSON

...HE REALIZES THAT HE HAD BEEN WRONG. HIS IS NOT A TALE OF ROUSING ADVENTURE.

IT'S A HORROR STORY!

BE CAREFUL! WHAT YOU WISH FOR!



JUST CALL IT **COSMIC EQUILIBRIUM**, ALEC. I KNEW WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN GOING IN.

THE UNIVERSE DEMANDS THERE MUST ALWAYS BE A **BALANCE**. ALWAYS BE A **SWAMP THING**.

IF IT COULDN'T BE YOU ANYMORE, GUESS IT HAD TO BE **ME**.



ZATANNA, THIS IS **UNACCEPTABLE**. I DEMAND YOU CHANGE US BACK-- **IMMEDIATELY!**

I WARNED YOU AT THE **BEGINNING**, ALEC. THERE IS NO **COMING BACK** FROM THIS.

WHAT'S DONE IS **DONE**.



I HAD ASSUMED YOU **KNEW** WHAT YOU WERE GETTING YOURSELF INTO WHEN YOU **AGREED** TO THE DEAL.

WE **TALKED** ABOUT IT.



WE TALKED **AROUND** IT.

NEITHER OF YOU EVER TOLD ME THE **PRICE** I'D HAVE TO PAY.

THE **PRICE** YOU'D HAVE TO PAY?



I'M **SERIOUS**, ALEC. DON'T SWEAT IT.

I'M **HAPPY** THIS WAY.



BUT YOU'VE NO IDEA THE **HORRORS...**

YOU CAN'T **BEGIN** TO IMAGINE THE **SACRIFICE...**



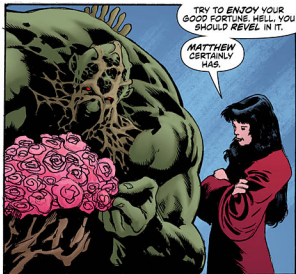
YOU SURVIVED IT.

I FIGURE THE ODDS ARE BETTER THAN EVEN THAT I CAN SURVIVE AS WELL.

YOU'RE GOING TO BE HUMAN FOR THE REST OF YOUR NATURAL LIFE, ALEC.

IT WOULD LITERALLY TAKE AN ACT OF GOD TO CHANGE YOU BACK.

SO YOU MAY AS WELL START GETTING USED TO IT.



TRY TO ENJOY YOUR GOOD FORTUNE. HELL, YOU SHOULD REVEL IN IT.

MATTHEW CERTAINLY HAS.

FOR YOU, M'LADY.

THANK YOU, KIND SIR.

BUT YOU, ALEC...?

ISN'T THERE SOMETHING YOU'VE REALLY MISSED SINCE BECOMING THE SWAMP THING?

SOMETHING ONLY A HUMAN ALEC HOLLAND CAN ENJOY?

NO. NOT REALLY. I CAN'T THINK OF A...

OH, WAIT. I GUESS THERE IS SOMETHING.



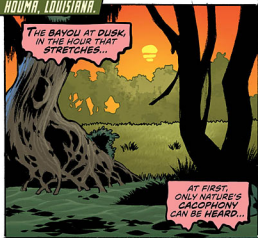
FANTASTIC! WHAT IS IT?

I CAN'T TELL YOU.

NO, SERIOUSLY... WHAT...?

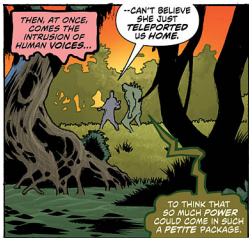






THE BAYOU AT DUSK,
IN THE HOUR THAT
STRETCHES...

AT FIRST,
ONLY NATURE'S
CACOPHONY
CAN BE HEARD...



THEN, AT ONCE,
COMES THE
INTRUSION OF
HUMAN VOICES...

--CAN'T BELIEVE
SHE JUST
TELEPORTED
US HOME.

TO THINK THAT
SO MUCH POWER
COULD COME IN SUCH
A PETITE PACKAGE.



IT STILL FEELS
SO STRANGE TO BE
HUMAN AGAIN.

THE AIR
FILLING MY LUNGS...
THE BLOOD
PUMPING THROUGH
MY VEINS...

I CAN WELL
IMAGINE.

I'M TRULY
HAPPY FOR
YOU, ALEC.



I'D FEEL A WHOLE
LOT HAPPIER IF YOU
HADN'T LIED TO ME,
MATTHEW.

LET ME ASK YOU A
QUESTION...



WOULD YOU
HAVE GONE THROUGH
WITH THIS IF YOU'D KNOWN
WHAT WAS GOING TO
HAPPEN?



OF COURSE
NOT!

I WOULDN'T
HAVE WISHED WHAT
HAPPENED TO ME
ON ANYONE, LET
ALONE MY BEST
FRIEND.



AND THAT'S
WHY I DIDN'T
TELL YOU.