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KILL SHAKESPEARE

PROLOGUE: *Juliet*



KILL SHAKESPEARE

PAST IS PROLOGUE: *Juliet*

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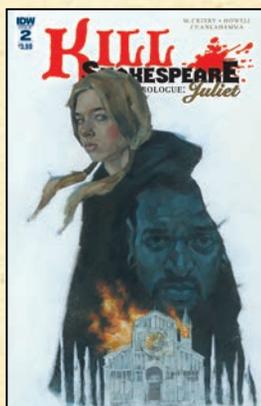
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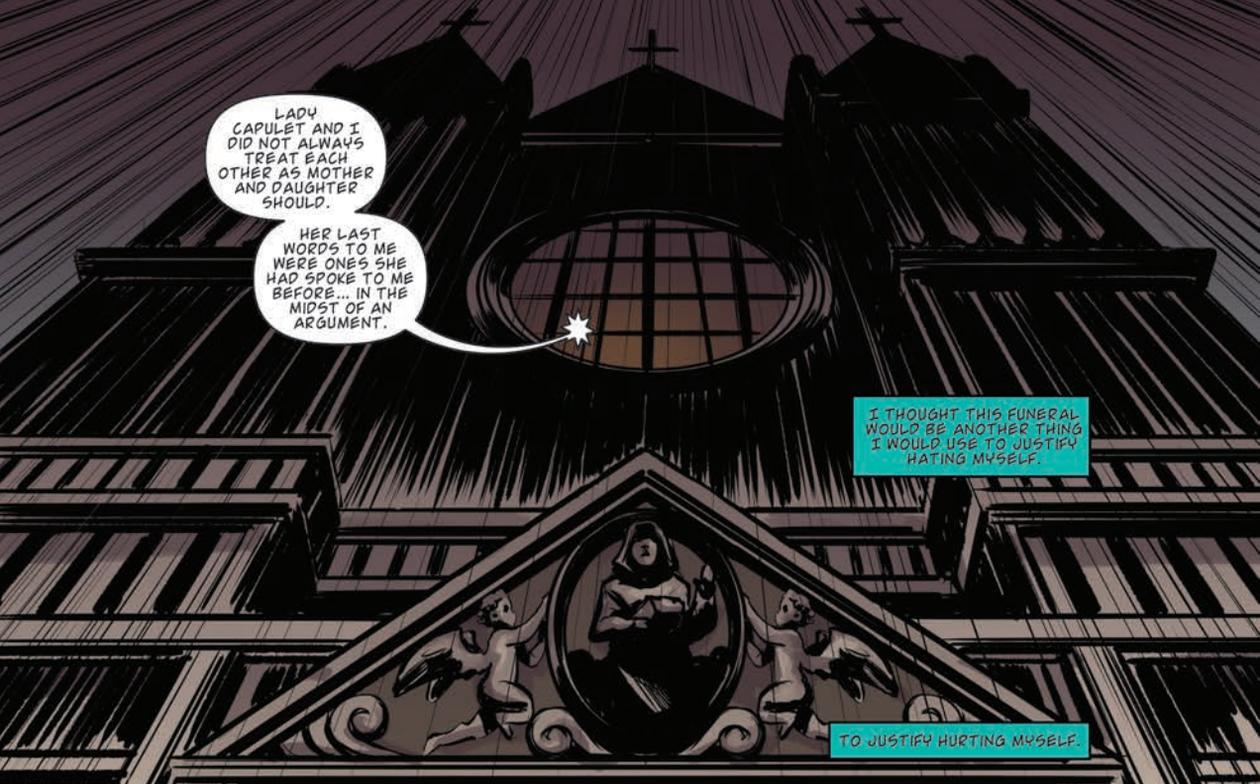
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LADY
CAPULET AND I
DID NOT ALWAYS
TREAT EACH
OTHER AS MOTHER
AND DAUGHTER
SHOULD.

HER LAST
WORDS TO ME
WERE ONES SHE
HAD SPOKE TO ME
BEFORE... IN THE
MIDST OF AN
ARGUMENT.

I THOUGHT THIS FUNERAL
WOULD BE ANOTHER THING
I WOULD USE TO JUSTIFY
HATING MYSELF.

TO JUSTIFY HURTING MYSELF.



I THOUGHT
SHE WAS
HEARTLESS TO
REPEAT THEM. SO I
POURED FORTH MY
OWN CRUEL WORDS
UPON HER.

BUT NOW I
REALIZE SHE
HAD FORGOTTEN
SHE HAD EVER
SPOKE THEM.

MAYHAPS THAT OLD
CLOWN WAS RIGHT.



PERHAPS I DID JUST
NEED A CAUSE.

WE ARE TOLD
WE KNOW WHO
WE ARE, BUT
KNOW NOT WHAT
WE MAY BE.

I LEARNED WE
KNOW NOT WHO
OTHERS ARE, INSTEAD
WE TELL OURSELVES
TALES TO EXPLAIN
THEIR ACTIONS.

THOSE DOORS
DID NOT NAIL
THEMSELVES.

MOTHER. I
AM SORRY THAT I
TOLD MYSELF SUCH
SPITEFUL STORIES
ABOUT THEE. I AM
SORRY I TURNED
MY BACK TO THY
LOVE.

MY CAUSE IS TO
FIND WHO DID.



WELL SPOKE—THAT WAS RARE HONESTY.

THANK YOU.

WELL SPOKE? FIE, BENVOLIO...



...THE NEW LADY CAPULET WAS ELOQUENCE ITSELF.



YOU FLATTER ME, MASTER CORNWALL. MY THANKS TO YOU FOR COMING.

HOW COULD I NOT? YOUR DEAR MOTHER AND I WERE SO CLOSE.



WHEN MY FATHER DISAPPEARED, CORNWALL WAS FIRST IN LINE.

WHATEVER SUSPICIONS I HAD ABOUT SHYLOCK'S MOTIVE, CORNWALL'S WAS CLEAR—HE CARED NOTHING FOR MOTHER.



WOULD YOU DO ME THE HONOUR?

OF COURSE.

WHEN HE SAW RICHARD WOULD WIN THE WAR, CORNWALL TURNED ON LEAR, HIS OWN FATHER-IN-LAW. RICHARD STRIPPED HIM OF HIS TITLE, BUT CORNWALL WAS GIVEN LAND, AND BUSINESS.

IT'S NO SECRET HE WANTS MORE. MY MOTHER'S NAME WOULD HAVE BEEN VALUABLE TO HIM.





I WOULD BE CAREFUL LEST YOU FOLLOW TOO CLOSELY YOUR MOTHER'S PATH.

SHE UNDERESTIMATED THE DANGERS OF BUSINESS. IT WOULD GO POORLY FOR YOU IF YOU DID THE SAME.

AND IN THAT MOMENT I KNOW. CORNWALL WAS BEHIND THE FIRE.



BASTARD!

SMACK

JULIET!



CALM THYSELF!

IT SEEMS THE NEW LADY CAPULET IS O'ERCOME WITH GRIEF. LET US NOT JUDGE HER TOO HARSHLY.



IT SHALL BE YOU WHO ARE JUDGED, CORNWALL.

FORGIVE ME, MASTER CORNWALL. AS YOU SAID—



—I LOST MYSELF TO WOMANLY DESPAIR.

AND I WILL FIND ONE TO BE YOUR EXECUTIONER.



M'LADY, WE SHOULD NOT BE IN SUCH A PLACE, CORNWALL IS VILE, NO DOUBT, BUT A MURDERER?



'T WAS IN HIS EYES, BENVOLIO. EVEN IF HIS HANDS DID NOT HOLD THE TORCH, CORNWALL WAS BEHIND THAT FIRE.

JULIET, EVEN IF IT WERE TRUE.

IT IS TRUE.

EVEN IF IT IS TRUE CORNWALL'S A MURDERER, YOUR ANSWER IS TO HIRE ANOTHER?



IF IT PUTS A STAIN ON YOUR CONSCIENCE, YOU NEED NOT ACCOMPANY ME.



I PROMISED YOUR MOTHER I WOULD KEEP YOU SAFE. I WON'T BREAK THAT VOW.

BARKEEP, I NEED TO HIRE A MAN WHO IS GOOD WITH A BLADE AND CAN KEEP HIS MOUTH CLOSED.



YOU'RE IN THE WRONG PLACE, GIRL.

AM I?



WHEN MY FATHER HAD... PROBLEMS IN BUSINESS, HE FOUND THE MEN HERE MOST CAPABLE OF SOLVING THEM.

BRAVO FOR HIM. GO HOME GIRL. THIS IS NO PLACE FOR A LITTLE SLIP LIKE YOU.



WAIT! I CAN PAY!

PERHAPS I CAN HELP THEE.