

AND WHY
ARE THERE CHAINS
ON SOME OF THE
COFFINS?

AND TO
THINK I SUSPECTED
YOU DEPRIVED OF
SPEECH, CHILD.

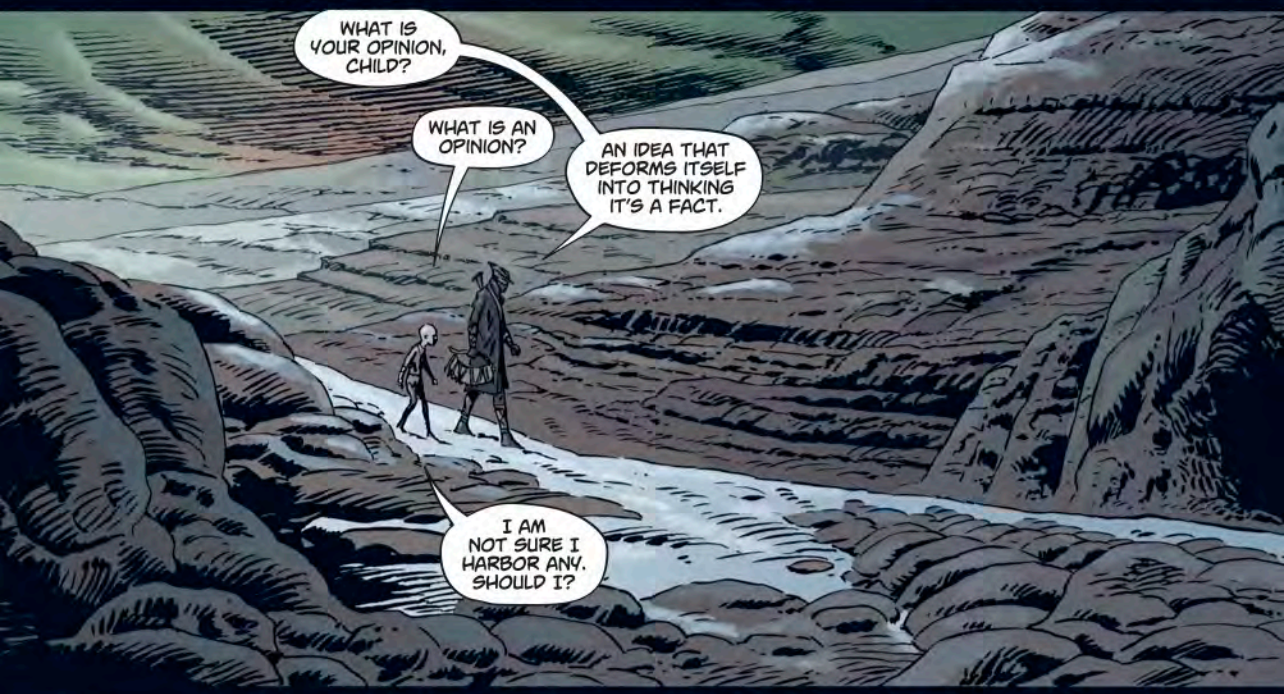
I APOLOGIZE,
HUNTER.

NOTHING TO
APOLOGIZE FOR. IT'S
A GOOD QUESTION. THE
ANSWERS DIVIDE, AND I
AM NOT ONE TO ASSIGN
CERTAINTY TO PATTERNS
WHICH ESCAPE THE
WHOLENESS OF
PERCEPTION.



SOME SAY IT'S BECAUSE WEALTHIER CITIZENS LOCK THE COFFINS OF THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS SO THE CHURCH CAN NOT GET IN AND USE THE BODIES OF THEIR BELOVED FOR THEIR RITUALS.

OTHERS SAY IT'S BECAUSE THEY DON'T WANT THE BEASTS TO GET OUT.



WHAT IS YOUR OPINION, CHILD?

WHAT IS AN OPINION?

AN IDEA THAT DEFORMS ITSELF INTO THINKING IT'S A FACT.

I AM NOT SURE I HARBOR ANY. SHOULD I?

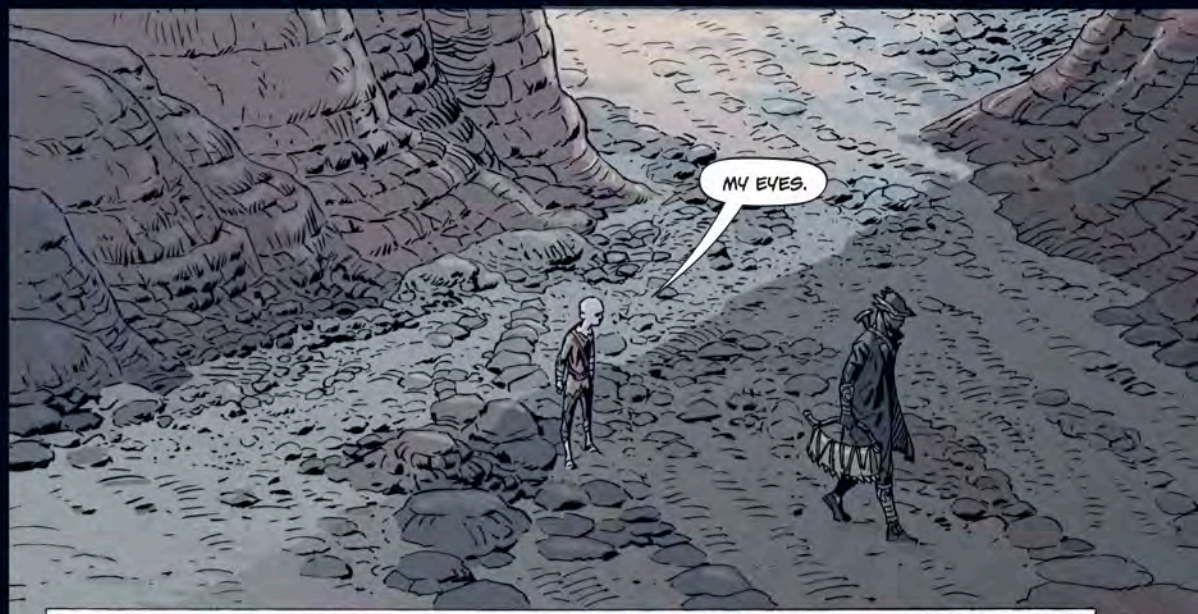


I SUSPECT YOU ARE FINE THE WAY YOU ARE.



HUNTER.
MAY I BORROW
A CLOTH?

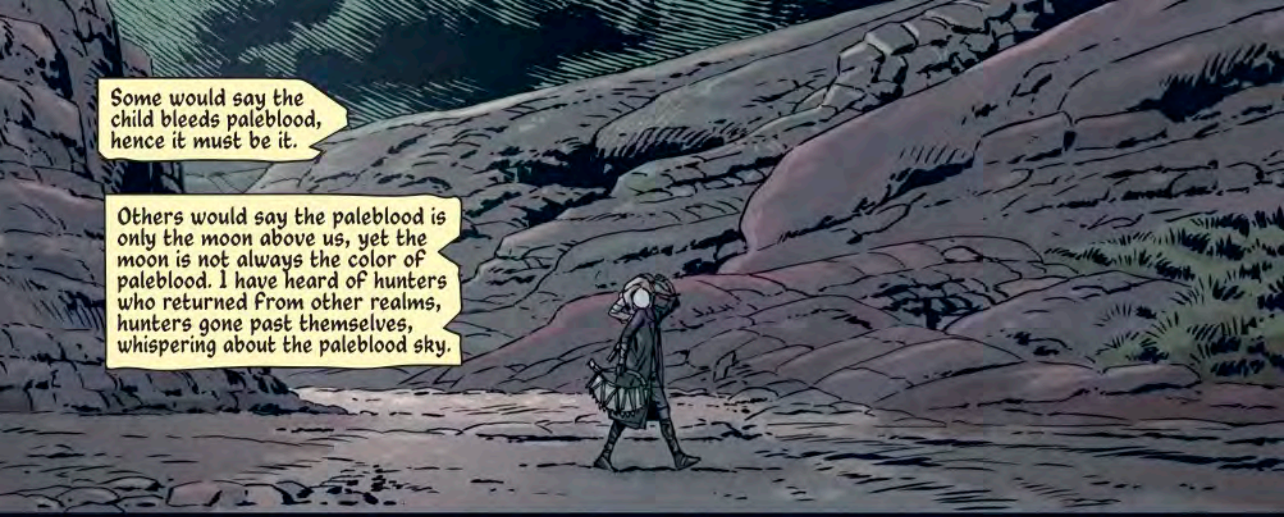
OF COURSE.
WHAT IS IT YOU
NEED A CLOTH
FOR?



MY EYES.




I CAN'T
SEE.



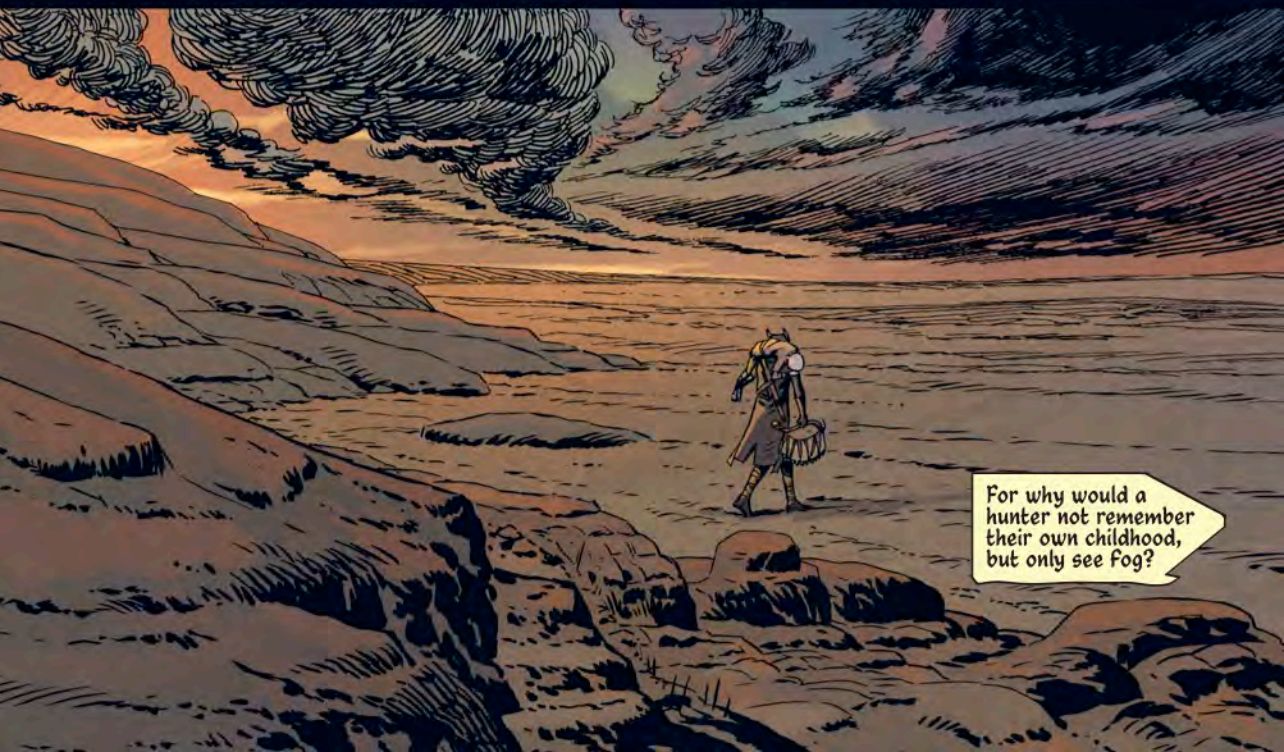
Some would say the child bleeds paleblood, hence it must be it.

Others would say the paleblood is only the moon above us, yet the moon is not always the color of paleblood. I have heard of hunters who returned from other realms, hunters gone past themselves, whispering about the paleblood sky.



When the red moon hangs low, the line between man and beast is blurred, they say. But even with the moon, pale as it is above me now, I wonder--what separates us from beasts now?

On the run, hunted like monsters, and beastly in our demeanor ourselves. For how could a mere child deter a horror ten times its size?



For why would a hunter not remember their own childhood, but only see fog?