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PRESS

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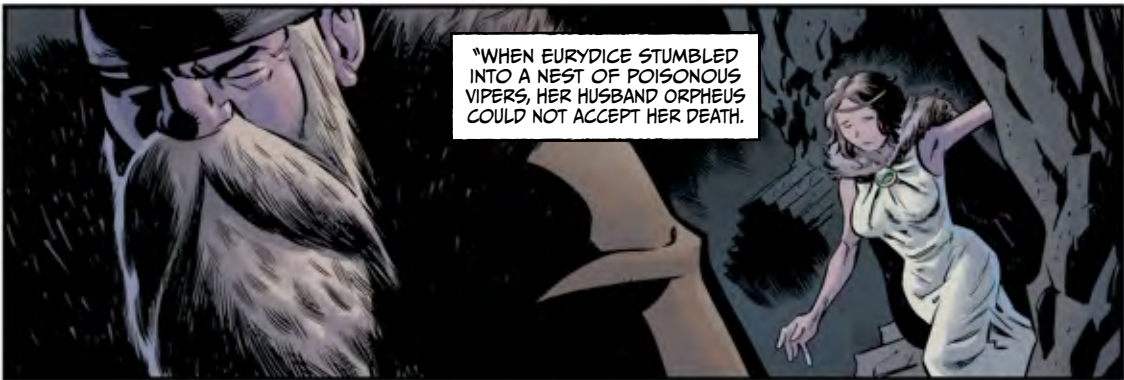


HELLBREAK!

BUNN CHURILLA STEWART *CHURILLA*



"DO YOU KNOW THE STORY OF ORPHEUS AND EURYDICE?"



"WHEN EURYDICE STUMBLED INTO A NEST OF POISONOUS VIPERS, HER HUSBAND ORPHEUS COULD NOT ACCEPT HER DEATH.



"SO STRONG WAS HIS LOVE THAT ORPHEUS VENTURED INTO THE UNDERWORLD TO FREE HER.

"HE PLAYED SUCH A MOURNFUL SONG UPON HIS LYRE THAT HADES AND PERSEPHONE AGREED TO FREE EURYDICE.



"THEY ALLOWED ORPHEUS TO LEAD HIS BELOVED WIFE BACK TO THE LAND OF THE LIVING.

"AND THEY GAVE HIM ONLY ONE CONDITION..."



"...A CONDITION HE FAILED TO MEET.

"HE WAS NOT ALLOWED TO LOOK BACK!"





HOLY LIGHT PRIORY.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA.

THERE ARE MANY INTERPRETATIONS OF THE ORPHEUS LEGEND, OF COURSE.

PLATO HIMSELF CONDEMNED ORPHEUS FOR PLAYING AT TRICKING THE GODS... AT BREAKING THE RULES... WHEN HE COULD HAVE SIMPLY DIED AND BE REUNITED WITH EURYDICE IN THE AFTERLIFE.

BUT I WONDER WHAT PLATO MIGHT HAVE SAID IF THE STORY HAD A HAPPIER ENDING?

WOULD HE HAVE BEEN SO DAMNING IF ORPHEUS HAD SUCCEEDED IN RAISING HIS WIFE FROM THE DEAD?

IT MUST SEEM STRANGE, YES?

SPEAKING OF MYTHOLOGY IN THE HOUSE OF GOD?

I'M NO PRIEST, THOUGH. I'M NO MONK.

I'M MORE OF A... *CONTRACTED EMPLOYEE*, YOU MIGHT SAY, AND THAT GIVES ME A CERTAIN DEGREE OF THEOLOGICAL FREEDOM.

MARIK PROCTOR,
SENIOR PROJECT
COORDINATOR,
KERBEROS
INITIATIVE.



ONE MIGHT EASILY SAY THAT THOSE OLD MYTHS ARE JUST DERIVATIVES OF WHAT WOULD BECOME MODERN CHRISTIANITY.



OR THAT CHRISTIANITY IS A DERIVATIVE OF SOMETHING GREATER... SOMETHING WE HAVEN'T DISCOVERED YET.



BUT YOU'RE NOT HERE TO DISCUSS PHILOSOPHY, ARE YOU?

DID YOU BRING THE ITEMS WE DISCUSSED?



YES, OF COURSE.

THE... UH...

THE TETHERS.



THAT'S JOBO. IT WAS ALWAYS DESMOND'S FAVORITE TOY... EVER SINCE HE WAS A LITTLE BOY.



AND HE... UH... WON THIS IN A PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST. HE ALWAYS LOVED PHOTOGRAPHY.

HE WAS SO PLEASED WITH HIMSELF.

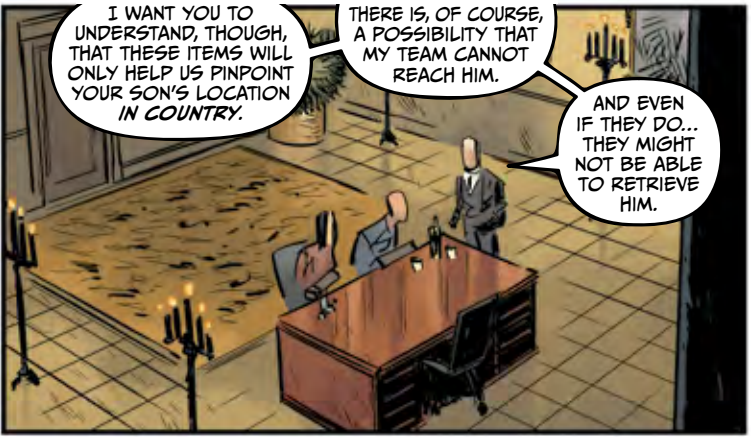
MAYBE THAT SEEMS SILLY TO YOU.





NOT AT ALL. IF DESMOND WAS *PROUD* OF THE TROPHY... IF HE *LOVED* THIS DOLL... THEN THEY ARE PERFECTLY SUITABLE TETHERS.

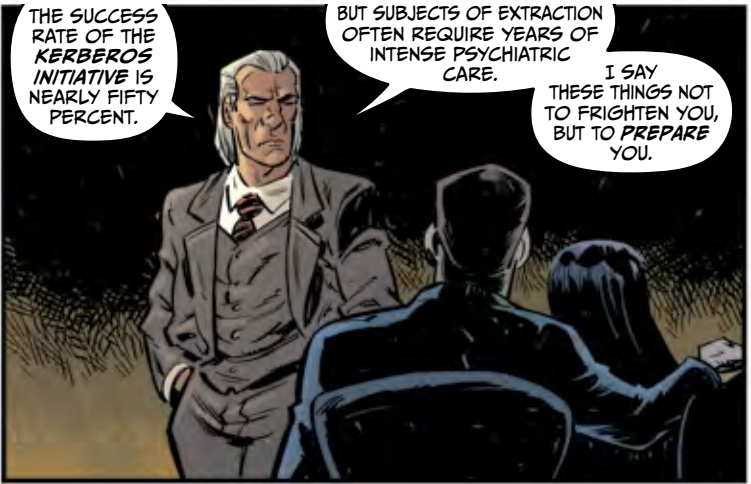
I'D ALSO LIKE MY TEAM TO COLLECT HAIR SAMPLES AND FINGERNAIL CLIPPINGS FROM BOTH OF YOU AS WELL AS FROM DESMOND. SOMETIMES, THE CONNECTION TO ONE OR BOTH OF THE PARENTS CAN SERVE AS AN ADDITIONAL TIE TO THIS WORLD.



I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND, THOUGH, THAT THESE ITEMS WILL ONLY HELP US PINPOINT YOUR SON'S LOCATION *IN COUNTRY*.

THERE IS, OF COURSE, A POSSIBILITY THAT MY TEAM CANNOT REACH HIM.

AND EVEN IF THEY DO... THEY MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO RETRIEVE HIM.



THE SUCCESS RATE OF THE *KERBEROS* INITIATIVE IS NEARLY FIFTY PERCENT.

BUT SUBJECTS OF EXTRACTION OFTEN REQUIRE YEARS OF INTENSE PSYCHIATRIC CARE.

I SAY THESE THINGS NOT TO FRIGHTEN YOU, BUT TO *PREPARE* YOU.



YOUR SON'S CONDITION IS... *CURABLE*... IF MY TEAM CAN RETURN WITH HIM IN TIME FOR THE... *FOREIGN INTRUDER* TO BE REMOVED.



IF YOU'LL FOLLOW ME.



I ADMIT, MY APPROACH TO OUR MISSION CAN BE SOMEWHAT *PRAGMATIC*.

BUT HERE... OF ALL PLACES...

