



DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'VE DONE?

DO YOU HAVE THE SLIGHTEST IDEA?



I TOLD YOU THE LAST TIME, THIS... THIS... FANTASY OF YOURS WAS OVER!

FINISHED!



FOR ONCE, VICTOR, JUST LISTEN TO ME!



LISTEN TO WHAT? ANOTHER SCHEME? SOME BIG, MASTER PLAN?



I SHOULD JUST HAND YOU OVER TO HER, RIGHT THIS SECOND.



DO YOU HAVE THE SLIGHTEST CLUE WHAT THE MORGUE DID TO ME? WHAT SHE'S HOLDING OVER MY HEAD NOW?

WELL MAYBE IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU HAD SOMETHING AT STAKE, TOO!



DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT IT'S LIKE, WATCHING YOU, YEAR AFTER YEAR, WITH THE WORLD AT YOUR FINGERTIPS?



YOU CAN FLY, VICTOR. YOU CAN HOLD FIRE IN YOUR HAND LIKE I HOLD AN APPLE. YOU COULD MOVE MOUNTAINS IF YOU WANTED.

BUT YOU THROW PARTIES. YOU CONJURE UP MUSIC, WINE, PRETTY LIGHTS. WHATEVER IT TAKES TO OUT DO THE LAST ONE. AND YOU CALL ME PATHETIC?



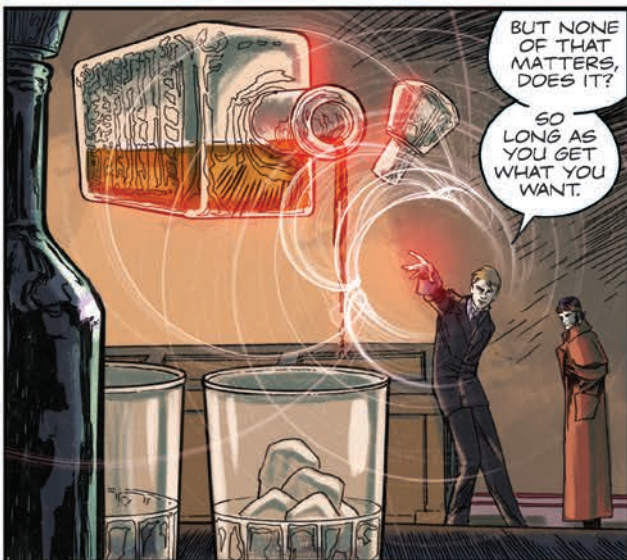
SHE'S GOT MY SOUL, CINDER! MY SOUL! YOU COULD AT LEAST PRETEND LIKE THAT MEANS SOMETHING TO YOU.



I... I DIDN'T MEAN FOR YOU TO...



THEN YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE SET FOOT IN MY TOWER. YOU MUST HAVE KNOWN WHAT YOU'D BRING WITH YOU.



BUT NONE OF THAT MATTERS, DOES IT?

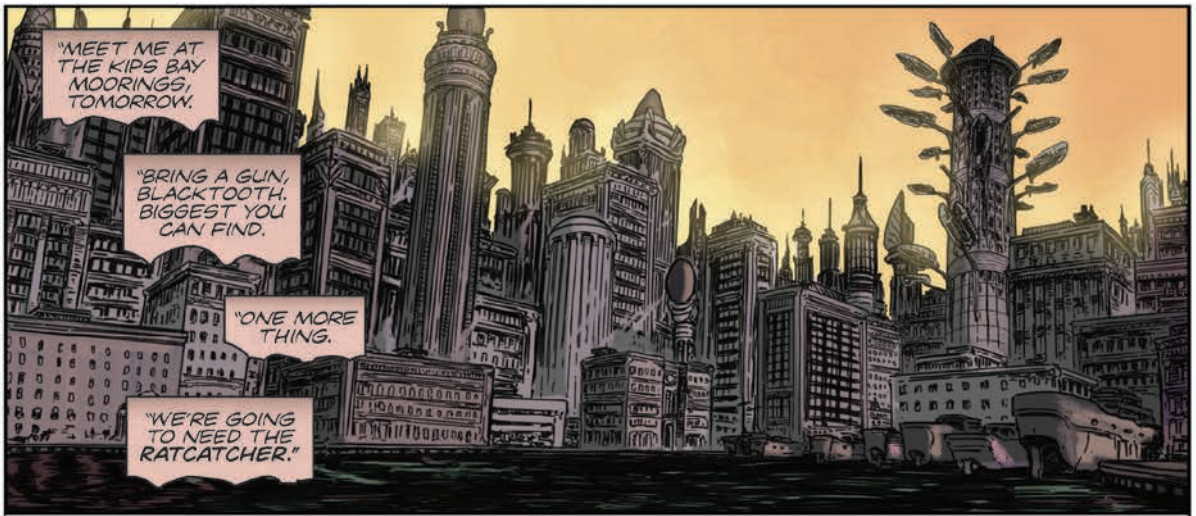
SO LONG AS YOU GET WHAT YOU WANT.



WELL, WHAT I WANT IS YOU OUT OF MY LIFE. FOR GOOD.

I'M GOING TO FINISH THIS DRINK.





"MEET ME AT THE KIPS BAY MOORINGS, TOMORROW."

"BRING A GUN, BLACKTOOTH. BIGGEST YOU CAN FIND."

"ONE MORE THING."

"WE'RE GOING TO NEED THE RATCATCHER."



WHERE'D YOU GET THAT THING?

I KNOW A GUY.

BULL.



THERE'S MAYBE A DOZEN OF THOSE IN THE CITY. YOU RIPPED IT OFF.

DID NOT.

YOU DID. CRAWLED THROUGH ONE OF YOUR STINKING GOBLIN TUNNELS AND RIPPED IT OFF LIKE A COMMON THIEF.



I TOLD YOU, I KNOW--

EXCEPT YOU DON'T. OH, YOU ACT LIKE IT.

LIKE IF YOU SAY IT ENOUGH, IT'LL BE TRUE.



BUT ANYONE WORTH KNOWING IN THIS TOWN DON'T DO BUSINESS WITH YOU FILTHY LITTLE GREEN--



SHUT UP, 'CATCHER.





YOU'RE HERE TO DO A JOB, NOT TO BE A PRICK.



NOW GET TO IT.



"MAKE IT LOOK GOOD."

PUBLIC HEALTH MATTER, BOYS, RAT INSPECTION.

THERE'S PLAGUE ABOUT, N'ALL.



RATS? PLAGUE? WE GOT OUR OWN WARDSMAN FOR THAT SORT OF THING.

I SEE, AND THIS WARDSMAN WAS SANCTIONED BY THE RATCATCHERS GUILD TO DEAL WITH MATTERS OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND INFESTATION?



FURTHER, I SUPPOSE YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH THE GUILD'S POLICY ON SITES THAT REFUSE AN OFFICIAL INSPECTION?



BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY, THAT'S THE MOTTO WHEN PLAGUE'S ABOUT.

I'D STAND WELL BACK, IF I WERE YOU.