

THE PRESSURE CHANGE FROM THE RISE COMES WITH A MIND-NUMBING HEADACHE AND A MENTAL WEIGHTLESSNESS.

RUMINATING.

STUCK IN THIS HAZY DELIRIUM.

FIRST TIME I'VE HAD TO ABSORB THE SADNESS OF LOSING MARIK AND THE ELATION OF FINDING DELLA.

STILL...





...SHE'S NOTHING LIKE WHAT I REMEMBER.

HOLLOWED OUT FROM HER TIME IN VOLDIN.

ANGRY.

ALWAYS JUST SECONDS AWAY FROM AN OUTBURST.



YOU CAN'T GO THROUGH SUCH A HORRIBLE THING AND EXPECT TO COME OUT THE OTHER SIDE WHO YOU WERE.

BUT WITH SOME WORK...



...WHO KNOWS WHAT YOU CAN BECOME?

WHAT'S THAT?



ON OUR TENTH BIRTHDAY DAD GAVE US EACH A DROLN SHELL, HEIRLOOMS PASSED DOWN THROUGH OUR FAMILY FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS.

THEY ESTABLISH A BIOLOGICAL CONNECTION AND EMIT BIOLUMINESCENCE ACCORDING TO A NUMBER OF CHEMICAL REACTIONS IN THE HUMAN BRAIN.

MEANING?

THEY GLOW TO REFLECT THE TRUTH OF THE OWNER'S HEART.



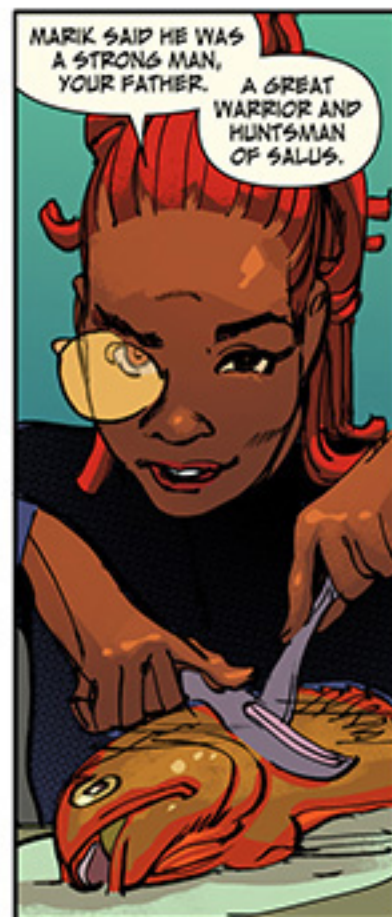
WHEN YOU KNOW  
WHAT YOU'RE DOING  
IS RIGHT AND TRUE  
IT GLOWS.

AND WHEN  
YOU'RE NOT IT  
GETS DARKER  
AND DARKER.



WELL, IT SEEMS  
TO BE GLOWING  
FAIRLY WELL  
RIGHT NOW.

IT HASN'T  
ALWAYS.



MARIK SAID HE WAS  
A STRONG MAN,  
YOUR FATHER.

A GREAT  
WARRIOR AND  
HUNTSMAN  
OF SALUS.



TO THE REST OF  
THE WORLD.

SALUS NEEDED  
A HERO, NEEDED  
SOMEONE TO  
BELIEVE IN.



BUT I  
SAW THE  
OTHER  
SIDE.



WERE YOU  
CLOSE?

VERY.



"WE BOTH  
SUFFERED  
THE SAME  
INSECURITIES."



"HE HELPED ME  
OVERCOME MINE  
BY BEING SO HONEST  
ABOUT HIS OWN.

"WHAT'S BRAVER  
THAN A TERRIFIED MAN  
PRETENDING HE'S  
STRONG FOR THE  
BENEFIT OF OTHERS?"

DON'T BEAT  
YOURSELF UP  
WITH NEGATIVE  
SELF-TALK.

IF YOU  
NEVER STOP  
TRYING...



"YOU'LL NEVER SINK."

TADJ IS A BIG SCARED BABY!



YOU LOVED HIM.

I IDENTIFIED WITH PRETENDING TO BE STRONG MORE THAN ACTUALLY BEING IT.



"PLUS, I COULD ALWAYS TELL THAT MOM THOUGHT I WAS MISSING SOMETHING.

"EVEN THOUGH I TRIED TO GET INTO THE SCIENCE STUFF WITH HER, SHE WAS JUST MORE DRAWN TO DELLA'S ENERGY."



"BUT MARIK..."



"HE WAS HER FAVORITE."



"I WAS SO MAD AT THEM FOR NEVER COMING TO FIND ME."



"BUT ONCE HE GOT HIS HANDS ON THE SHELL..."

"IT WAS BLINDING."



"HE DIED TO GET US OUT OF POLUMA."

"WHEN I TOOK THE SHELL BACK FROM HIM..."



...THE GLOW WENT AWAY.



THAT WAS WHEN I KNEW I COULDN'T ABANDON DELLA THE WAY THEY'D ABANDONED ME.

I HAD TO FIND MY SISTER.

IS THAT WHY YOU'RE GOING TO HELP YOUR MOM FIND THE PROBE?



TO SHOW THAT YOU'RE NOT "MISSING SOMETHING"?



PARTIALLY,  
YEAH, IF I'M  
HONEST.

AFTER  
EVERYTHING WE'VE  
BEEN THROUGH ALL I  
REALLY WANT IS TO HAVE  
WHAT'S LEFT OF MY  
FAMILY BACK.

IF WE CAN FIND  
A WORLD WHERE  
WE'D HAVE A  
FUTURE, BETTER  
STILL.



SO,  
DELLA...

WAS  
SHE ALWAYS  
NATURALLY  
BETTER AT  
EVERYTHING  
THAN YOU?

THAT  
EXPLAINS  
THINGS.

WHAT  
DO YOU  
MEAN?



NOTHING. ONLY,  
YOU KNOW, YOUR  
SISTER ALWAYS HAD  
EVERYTHING COME  
EASY TO HER, SHE'S,  
YOU KNOW...

SHE'S  
SORT OF A

DON'T  
TALK ABOUT  
HER LIKE  
THAT.

YOU AREN'T  
FAMILY  
ENOUGH.



I-I'M  
SORRY. BUT  
LOOK, SHE  
WOULDN'T LET ME  
PILOT MY OWN  
SUB, TAZO.

SHE  
THREATENED TO  
**BREAK MY HANDS**  
IF I ENTERED THE  
COCKPIT.

THERE'S A  
LOT ON THE LINE,  
LENA, AND WE  
BOTH JUST MET  
YOU.

SHE HAS  
A HARD TIME  
TRUSTING.



YEAH. I  
GET THAT.  
YOU'VE BOTH  
BEEN THROUGH  
A LOT.

BUT, I  
MEAN, YOU  
HAVEN'T SEEN  
HER IN OVER  
**TEN YEARS.**

HOW MUCH  
DO YOU KNOW  
ABOUT VOLDIN  
AND WHAT THEY  
BELIEVE IN  
THERE?



IT'S A  
HOPELESS  
PLACE WHERE  
ART AND  
LITERATURE ARE  
ILLEGAL.

THEY HAVE  
ARMIES  
WHOSE ONLY  
JOB IS TO  
CRUSH  
SPIRITS.

ANYONE EVEN  
**THOUGHT** TO BE  
HARBORING ANY  
KIND OF HOPE IS  
EXECUTED IN A  
PUBLIC SQUARE.

