

I RUN.

THE EXHAUSTION FROM  
THE ENDLESS FEAR  
HAS TAKEN A TOLL.

I CAN  
FEEL IT.

I CAN'T KEEP LIVING  
UNDER ITS STRAIN.

ALL SUFFERING  
IS BORN FROM THE  
SIN OF CARING.

FLOSH

APATHY IS THE  
SOLUTION.

RELIEF FROM  
THE ILLUSION  
OF A BETTER  
TOMORROW.

NO--THEY'RE  
COUNTING ON ME--

THEY DON'T  
EVEN KNOW  
YOU'RE  
ALIVE.

THEY DON'T  
CARE.


THEY HAD  
NO FAITH IN  
YOU.

SPLSH


I'M THE ONLY ONE  
WHO CAN SAVE THEM.

A MESSIAH  
COMPLEX, A  
DELUSION USED  
TO TORTURE  
YOURSELF.

YOU FAILED  
YOUR FAMILY,  
STEL...



...BUT YOU  
CAN STILL  
HELP MINE.



WHILE YOU  
SERVE GHOSTS,  
MY DAUGHTER  
DIES.

IS SHE NOT  
DESERVING OF  
YOUR HOPE?



YOU  
THINK I'M  
JUST GOING TO  
LET YOU FEED  
ON ME?



YOU'VE ALLOWED  
THE ENTIRE WORLD  
TO FEED ON YOU,  
STEL CAINE.

SHE'S RIGHT.

HER POOR CHILD...



WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MY BRIGHTNESS?



ALWAYS LETTING EVERYONE DRAIN YOU OF EVERYTHING.

SHE NEEDS MY HELP, JOHL.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR NEEDS?

WHY DO OTHERS ALWAYS COME FIRST?



I'VE MISSED YOU.

I HAVEN'T MISSED YOUR LECTURES.

YOU'VE ALWAYS HAD AN OVERDEVELOPED SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY.



SHH-- DON'T SPOIL THIS.

I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT THEM.

BUT IT IS YOUR PARENTS' FAULT.



MORE INTERESTED IN THE SENATE THAN THEIR BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER.

THEY DID THEIR BEST.

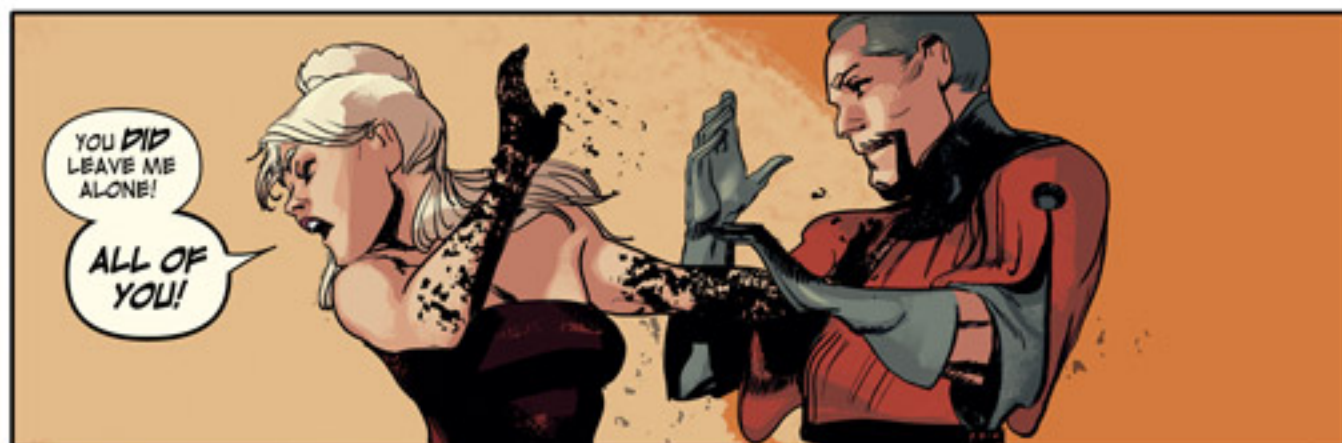


THEY LEFT YOU PETRIFIED THAT YOU WERE UNLOVABLE.

ALWAYS GIVING EVERYTHING YOU HAD TO EARN LOVE.

ALWAYS SO AFRAID IF YOU DIDN'T YOU'D BE LEFT ALONE.





YOU DID  
LEAVE ME  
ALONE!  
ALL OF  
YOU!



LEAVING YOU  
TO LEARN TO CARE  
FOR YOURSELF.  
THE ONE  
PERSON YOU'VE  
NEGLECTED.



YOU FEEL  
GUILTY EVEN  
CONSIDERING  
IT.  
BUT  
YOU DESERVE  
HAPPINESS.



ALL THE LOVE  
YOU GIVE,  
STEL...

YOU WORRIED  
SO MUCH ABOUT  
US, HOW TO GIVE  
US HOPE.



BUT IF YOU'RE  
GOING TO SURVIVE  
THIS, IF YOU'RE GOING  
TO GET TO THAT  
PROBE AND SAVE  
MANKIND...



...IT CAN'T  
BE FOR  
THEM.



CAN'T BE  
FOR US...

"...DO IT FOR YOURSELF."



STOP--

MMMM



LET GO OF ME!

THE SOFT HALLUCINATION WAS FOR YOUR BENEFIT--



--TO KEEP YOU CALM.



GAKK--

WE PREFER YOUR BLOOD NOT TAINTED WITH FEAR--



--BUT WE WILL DRINK IT REGARDLESS.

JOHL WAS RIGHT--