

HELLO?
ANYBODY--

OH, HI.
I THOUGHT
I SMELLED
COFFEE...

GOOD
MORNING, MILO!
WANT SOME? TIGER
PREFERS TEA, BUT
I NEED COFFEE
FIRST THING.



PLEASE,
THANK YOU.
UH, THIS IS
REALLY A NICE
PLACE YOU
HAVE HERE,
MA'AM.

CALL ME
RIKKI.



DID YOU SLEEP
WELL... AFTER
YOUR HEROICS
YESTERDAY?

TIGER
TOLD ME HOW
YOU SAVED HIM
FROM THAT
DEMON.*

*SEE BLACKOUT #4.



I DIDN'T DO
THAT MUCH, MA--
UH, RIKKI, I'M
SORRY AGAIN
ABOUT
HITTING--

HEY! YOUR
FOREHEAD...
WHAT HAPPENED
TO THE CUT?

TIGER
HEALED IT
RIGHT UP.



IT'S
SOMETIMES
HANDY HAVING
A SORCERER
FOR A
BOYFRIEND.

HE'S UP
IN THE TOWER
RIGHT NOW--



HE'S UP
IN THE TOWER
RIGHT NOW--





SHORTLY...

SO, ARE YOU CLEAR ON THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TADAIRO AND THE SUKETAKA BLADES?

I'M NEVER GOING TO REMEMBER THOSE NAMES...

WHAT'S SO DIFFICULT? ONE WAS MADE BY HIZEN OMI DAIJO TADAIRO...

...AND THE OTHER BY OZAKI MINAMOTO GEN GOEMON OZAKI SUKETAKA.

COULDN'T WE JUST CALL THEM "BROWN HANDLE" AND "GREEN HANDLE"?



?sigh?

MAYBE THIS WASN'T THE BEST IDEA I'VE EVER HAD.

NO! THIS WILL WORK...

I'M LIKE YOUR *CADDY* WHEN YOU GO INTO BATTLE. I CAN DO THAT!

IT'LL TAKE ME TIME TO REMEMBER ALL THE NAMES, BUT YOU CAN COUNT ON ME TO BACK YOU UP.



I'VE SEEN ACTION BEFORE. I WON'T RUN OUT ON YOU.

I STUCK WITH YOU *YESTERDAY* WHEN IT GOT WEIRD.

IT MIGHT GET *WEIRDER* THAN THAT...





BRING IT!
YOU SAW HOW I
HANDLE A KNIFE
-- WAIT TILL YOU
SEE ME WITH
A GUN!

I'M SURE YOU
ARE QUITE SKILLED,
BUT IN MY LINE OF WORK,
THE BULLETS MUST BE
FIRED WITH THE PROPER
KNOWLEDGE...



...THE CORRECT
INTENT. OTHERWISE
THEY ARE JUST...
BULLETS.

THE
BULLETS -- JUST
LIKE THE SWORDS
AND ARROWS -- ARE
AN EXTENSION OF
MY POWER...



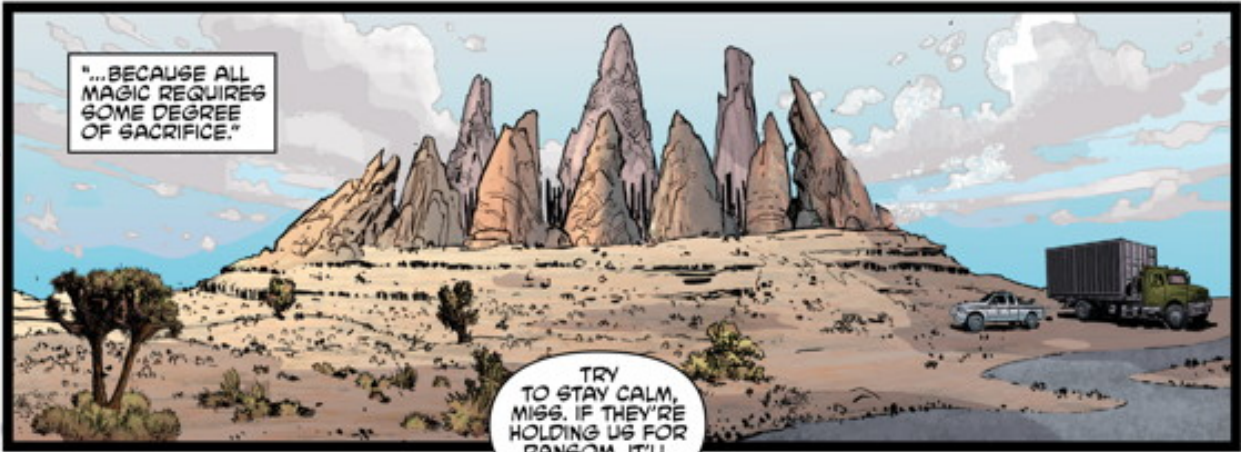
...MY
MAGIC, IF
YOU WILL.

YOU THINK I
COULD LEARN
THIS "*MAGIC*"?



I THINK
YOU WOULD
REGRET THE
TOLL IT TOOK
ON YOU,
MILO.

YOUR
LOSS MIGHT
BE GREATER
THAN YOUR
GAIN...



TRY TO STAY CALM, MISS. IF THEY'RE HOLDING US FOR RANSOM, IT'LL GET PAID...



