

THEN /

# GOSPEL OF DESTRUCTION

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...MERA...  
YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT.  
THERE WERE SO MANY OF THEM...

...MEN AND WOMEN...YOUNG AND OLD...

...THIS OTHER REALM THAT'S INVADING OURS...

...THERE ARE INNOCENT PEOPLE THERE...

...AND THEY NEED OUR HELP.

I CAN SAVE THEM.

WE CAN SAVE THEM...TOGETHER.

AND YOU CAME TO ME WITH THIS FIRST, ARTHUR?

MERA... OF COURSE, OF COURSE I DID.

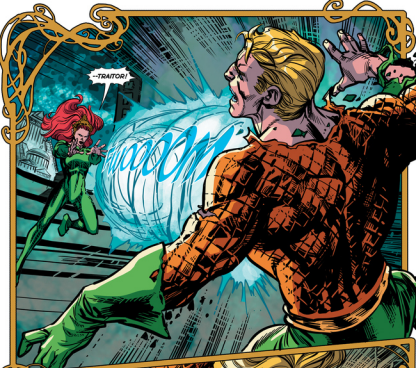
THERE'S GOING TO BE A LOT OF WORRY... A LOT OF FEAR.

I'LL NEED YOU BY MY SIDE WHEN I LET EVERYONE KNOW WHAT MUST BE DONE.

THESE PEOPLE NEED US, THOUGH.

AND TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR LIVES.

YOU--



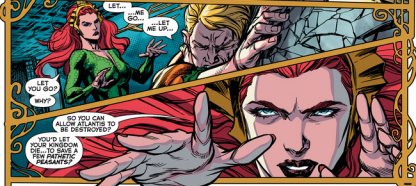
--TRAITOR!



M-MERA...

...WAIT...

...WHAT ARE YOU...



LET YOU GO?  
WHY?

LET...  
WE GO...

...LET ME UP...

SO YOU CAN ALLOW ATLANTIS TO BE DESTROYED?

YOU'D LET YOUR KINGDOM DIE... TO SAVE A FEW PATHETIC PEASANTS?

YOU MADE ATLANTIS MY SOLE RESPONSIBILITY WHILE YOU WENT OUT AND FOUND NEW SUBJECTS.

YOU MADE ME QUEEN!

AND IT IS THE DUTY OF A RULER TO PROTECT HER PEOPLE...

...NO MATTER THE COST!

W-WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?

THIS ISN'T--

YOU PUT ME ON THE THRONE.

MERA...

...STOP...

...PLEASE...

**Fwwwwwwwwwww!**

...DON'T DO THIS!

NOW.

WHAT...  
...IS THAT?

THAT, MY FRIEND...  
...IS THE REAL ENEMY!

THE BEHEMOTH STRIDES FORWARD LIKE SOMETHING FROM A LATE NIGHT HORROR FLICK...

...BLACK WAVES OF POISON SPREADING FROM IT...

...ON LAND JUST AS IT DOES UNDERSEA...





...A LIVING  
STRUCTURE...

...A TEMPLE  
TURNED WAR  
MACHINE...