



WHERE ARE YOU FROM, MISTER HOOK?

PLEASE. IT'S SOREN. ORIGINALLY FROM NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, THEN MOVED DOWN TO MIAMI.

HEY, I NOTICED FOR A CRUISE SHIP, IT'S PRETTY EMPTY.

YEAH, WE HAD MAINTENANCE UPDATES TO TAKE CARE OF. WE'RE HEADING TO KEY WEST TO START A WEEKLONG TRIP.

I HAVE TO ASK, WAS THERE ANYONE ELSE ON BOARD THE VESSEL?



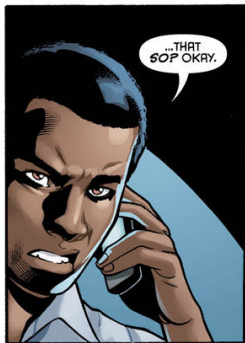
NO, LIKE I SAID EARLIER, I WAS ALONE.

WEGGGG WEGGGG

EXCUSE ME A SECOND.



THIS IS MILLER.



...THAT SO? OKAY.



GOOD TO KNOW.



YES, SIR, I UNDERSTAND.

YES.

DAMN, I WAS HOPING IT WOULDN'T COME TO THIS.



THE NAME OF THE BORT ON THE DEBRIS GAVE IT AWAY, huh?

WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL THE PEOPLE ON THAT BORT?

THEY'RE ALL DEAD.

JUST LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO BE IN ABOUT FIVE SECONDS.



DON'T FIGHT ME. HAND ME THE WEAPON.

THAT'S AN ORDER.

DAD? WHAT THE...?!



KEY WEST



BY LAND
AND BY SEA

AMANDA CONNER & JIMMY PALMIOTTI: WRITERS
EMANUELA LUPACCHINO: PENCILS

RAY MCCARTHY: INKS
HI-FI: COLORS TOM NAPOLITANO: LETTERS
AMANDA CONNER & PAUL MOUNTS: COVER
DARWYN COOKE: VARIANT COVER
PAUL KAMINSKI: EDITOR EDDIE BERGANZA: GROUP EDITOR
STARFIRE CREATED BY MARV WOLFGAN & GEORGE PÉREZ



I AM ALMOST DONE. ARE THESE TRIBUTE STATUES OF FAMOUS HUMANS?

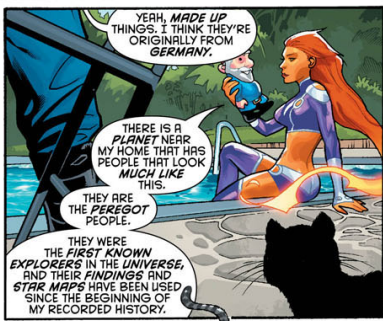
ANYTHING BUT THAT.

THEY'RE GARDEN GNOMES.

THEY'RE FOR DECORATION.

THERE WAS A LOT OF "GNOMING" GOING ON A FEW YEARS BACK AND WE GOT LEFT WITH A FEW DOZEN OF THESE LITTLE FELLAS.

SO THEY ARE FANTASY FIGURES?



YEAH, MADE UP THINGS. I THINK THEY'RE ORIGINALLY FROM GERMANY.

THERE IS A PLANET NEAR MY HOME THAT HAS PEOPLE THAT LOOK MUCH LIKE THIS.

THEY ARE THE PEREGOT PEOPLE.

THEY WERE THE FIRST KNOWN EXPLORERS IN THE UNIVERSE, AND THEIR FINDINGS AND STAR MAPS HAVE BEEN USED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF MY RECORDED HISTORY.



WHAT A BEAUTIFUL CAT.

IS HE YOURS?

HE BELONGS TO THE ISLAND. HE'S A DESCENDANT OF THE HEMINGWAY CATS. YOU CAN TELL BECAUSE HE HAS SIX TOES.



WOW! WAS HEMINGWAY THE VERY FIRST CAT WITH EXTRA TOES?

Heh. ACTUALLY, HEMINGWAY WAS A HUMAN, A FAMOUS WRITER.

HE WAS GIVEN A POLYDACTYL CAT BY A SHIPMASTER A LONG TIME AGO.

NOW THERE ARE A BUNCH OF THOSE CAT DESCENDANTS ALL OVER THE ISLAND.

WAY BACK WHEN, IN EUROPE, THEY USED TO KILL THESE CATS 'CAUSE PEOPLE THOUGHT THEY WERE ASSISTANTS TO WITCHES.



WHY WOULD ANYONE KILL A CREATURE LIKE THIS? DO PEOPLE EAT THEM?

WHAT? NOT AT ALL...

...OR AT LEAST THEY'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO.

DO THEY LIKE TO SWIM?

THAT'D BE A BIG FAT NO.



I WOULD LIKE TO LEARN AS MUCH AS I CAN ABOUT THIS PLACE AND ITS HISTORY.

THIS HEMINGWAY, ARE THERE BOOKS ABOUT HIM?

YES, ONES ABOUT HIM AND ONES WRITTEN BY HIM. I HAVE A FEW IN YOUR NEW PLACE.

LET'S GO CHECK IT OUT.



SOL, MAY I ASK YOU A QUESTION?

SURE, SHOOT...I MEAN, GO AHEAD AND ASK. SORRY.

YOU ARE NOT HAPPY ABOUT ME MOVING HERE, ARE YOU?

WHAT?

I HEARD YOU AND YOUR SISTER STELLA QUARRLING ABOUT IT.



I WILL DO MY BEST TO FIND ANOTHER PLACE SOON.

NO, IT'S NOT YOU PERSONALLY, KORI.

THIS PLACE... I HAVE A LOT OF, Y'KNOW... MEMORIES HERE. HOPES AND DREAMS THAT GOT SHATTERED.

HAVING SOMEONE ELSE HERE... IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN.



I SENSE YOUR PAIN AND HOPE IN SOME WAY I CAN GAIN YOUR TRUST AND CONFIDENCE.

UNTIL THEN, I WILL NOT CONTINUE TO ASK.

I WISH OTHER PEOPLE WERE AS UNDERSTANDING AS YOU.



THIS IS A LOVELY PLACE. KNOWING YOU AND STELLA ARE RIGHT ACROSS FROM ME IN THE LARGER HOUSE MAKES ME VERY HAPPY.

SPEAKING OF STELLA, DID SHE MENTION ANY RENT AMOUNT?



YES, IT COSTS MONEY TO BE HERE AND I HAVE TO "COVER" THE WATER AND ELECTRICITY.

SHE SAYS I HAVE ENOUGH FOR NOW, BUT I STILL MUST FIND A JOB.