



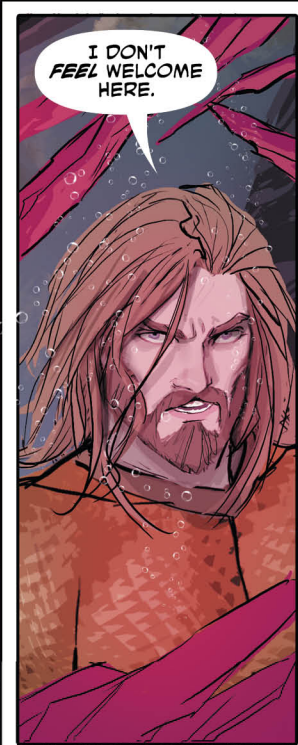
WHERE IS THIS?

MY PLACE. MY LAIR. DOWN A NAMELESS BACKSTREET IN THE NINTH TRIDE OF ATLANTIS WHERE NO ONE EVER LOOKS.

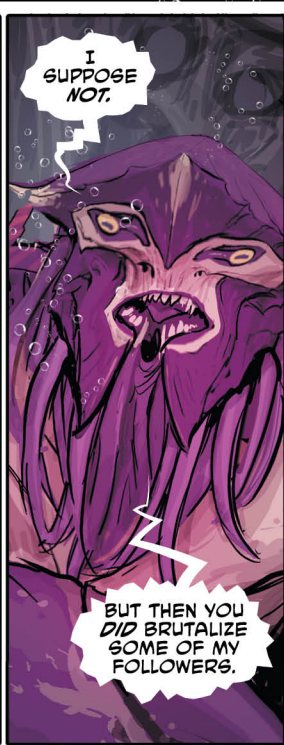
WELCOME... AQUAMAN.

KRUSHED

DAN ABNETT STORY STJEPAN SEJIC ART, COLOR AND COVER
STEVE WANDS LETTERING JOSHUA MIDDLETON VARIANT COVER
BRIAN CUNNINGHAM GROUP EDITOR HARVEY RICHARDS ASSOCIATE EDITOR
ANDY KHOURI EDITOR AQUAMAN CREATED BY PAUL NORRIS



I DON'T
FEEL WELCOME
HERE.



I
SUPPOSE
NOT.

BUT THEN YOU
DID BRUTALIZE
SOME OF MY
FOLLOWERS.



THEY WERE
ENFORCERS,
IMPOSING THE
RULE OF YOUR
CRIMINAL
EMPIRE AND--



BLZZT
--AAHH!

YEAH,
DON'T
TOUCH
THAT.

KADAVER'S
SORCERY
BURNS,
EVEN DOWN
HERE.

CRIMINAL
EMPIRE, EH?
THAT'S TOO
GRAND A
NAME.

DOWN IN THE
NINTH, WE DO WHAT
WE MUST TO SURVIVE.
SOMETIMES THAT'S
OUTSIDE THE BOUNDS
OF ROYAL LAW.

DO YOU
KNOW WHAT THEY
SAY ABOUT US?
WE'RE NOT *TRUE*
ATLANTEANS,
THAT'S WHAT
THEY SAY.

BECAUSE OUR FORMS HAVE
ALTERED FROM THE GENERATIONS
OF DEPTH-LIVING, THEY CALL US
TAINT-BLOODS. NICE, EH?

GENERATIONS
OF MONARCHS HAVE
TREATED US LIKE WE
DON'T COUNT.

IS IT ANY *WONDER*
WE GRAVITATE TOWARDS
CRIME TO PUT FOOD IN
OUR MOUTHS?

YOU'RE NO
NOBLE OUTLAW.
YOU RUN THE
NINTH LIKE A
GANG LORD.

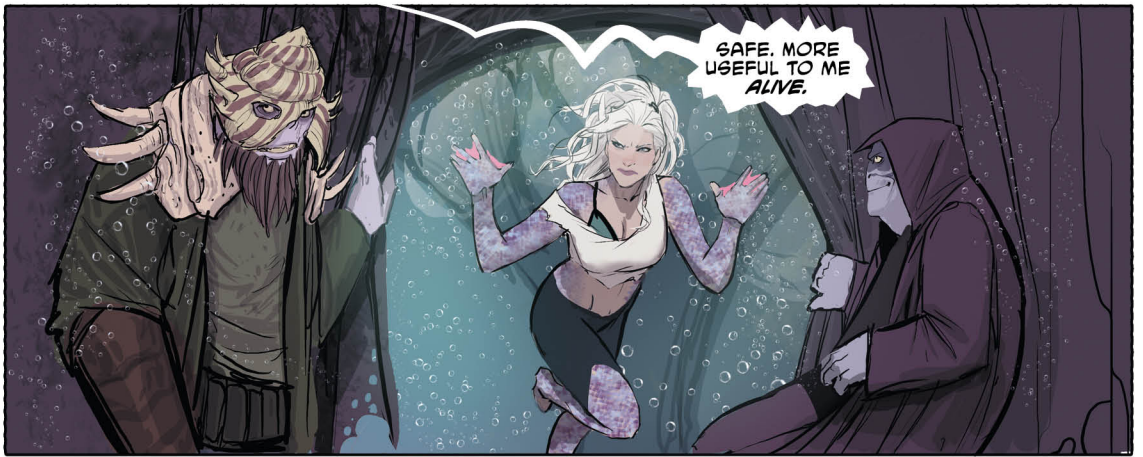
AND YOU'RE
NO SIMPLE
HADALIN.

THEY CALL YOU
THE AQUAMAN. YOU
LOOK LIKE THE OLD,
DEAD KING.

IF YOU'RE WHO
I *THINK* YOU ARE,
YOU'RE JUST ONE
MORE HIGH-BORN
LORD WHO'S DRIVEN
MY KIND INTO THE
FRINGES OF
SOCIETY.

I'M
NOT.

WHERE'S
THE GIRL?
WHERE'S
DOLPHIN?



SAFE. MORE USEFUL TO ME ALIVE.



YOU ACT LIKE SOME CHAMPION OF THE OPPRESSED, KRUSH, BUT YOU'RE NO BETTER THAN THE KINGS YOU MOCK.

WELL, LIFE'S NOT FAIR, LET'S FACE IT.

YOU THREATEN. YOU EXTORT. YOU LIVE OFF THE VERY PEOPLE YOU CALL YOUR OWN KIND.

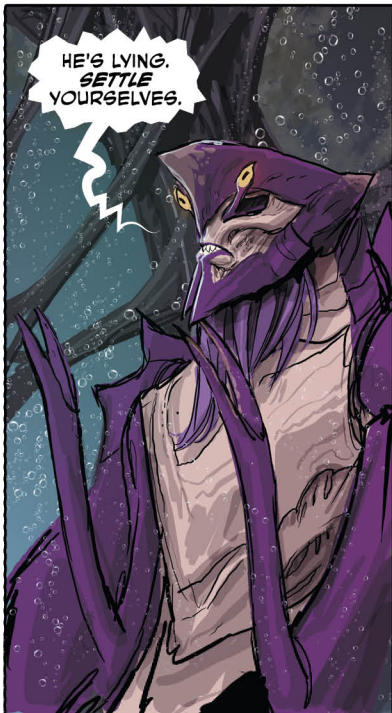
YOU'VE GOT TO GET ON TOP TO SURVIVE.



I THINK YOU REIGN HERE WITH KING RATH'S UNGIVEN PERMISSION.

WHAT?!

!GASP!



HE'S LYING. SETTLE YOURSELVES.

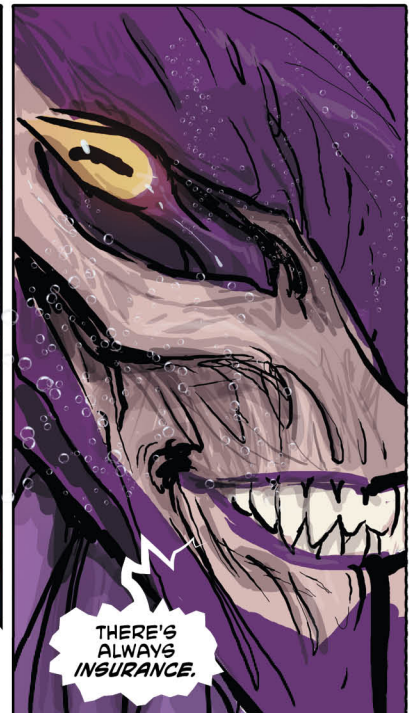


AM I? THE DRIFT DOESN'T TOUCH YOU.

HOW DOES IT WORK? YOU KEEP THE PEACE DOWN HERE AND HE LEAVES YOU ALONE?

RATH WANTS MUTANTS PURGED, BUT HE USES YOU TO DO HIS DIRTY WORK.

THERE'S A WORD FOR THAT. COLLABORATOR. HE'LL COME FOR YOU, TOO, EVENTUALLY. YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?



THERE'S ALWAYS INSURANCE.