

THE EASTERN COASTLINE...

AIN'T NOTHIN' AS AMERICAN AS A RELAXING DAY AT THE BEACH!

UH, UNLESS YOU LIVE IN, I DUNNO, IDAHO? BUT... LOOK...GO WITH ME HERE.

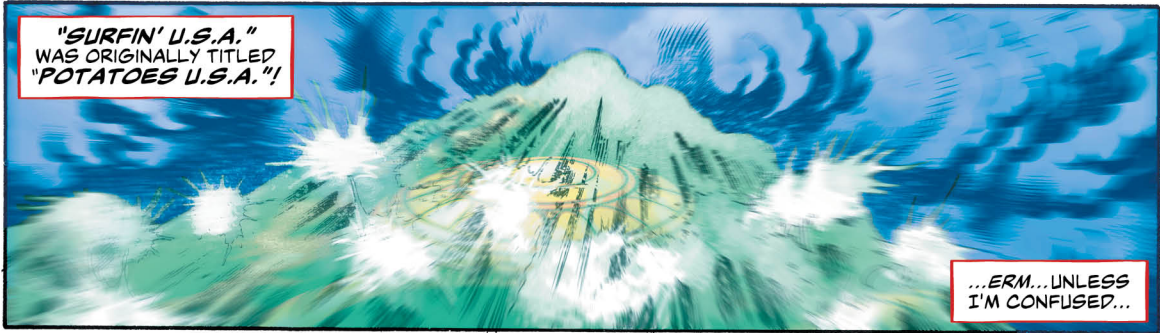
LITTLE-KNOWN QUINNFAC™! THE BEACH BOYS WERE ACTUALLY BORN AND RAISED IN IDAHO. TRUE STORY!

BUT THEY REALIZED CALLING THEMSELVES "THE ENDLESS, TEDIOUS LANDSCAPE THAT GOES ON FOREVER BOYS" WOULD POTENTIALLY HOLD THEIR CAREERS BACK.



"SURFIN' U.S.A." WAS ORIGINALLY TITLED "POTATOES U.S.A."!

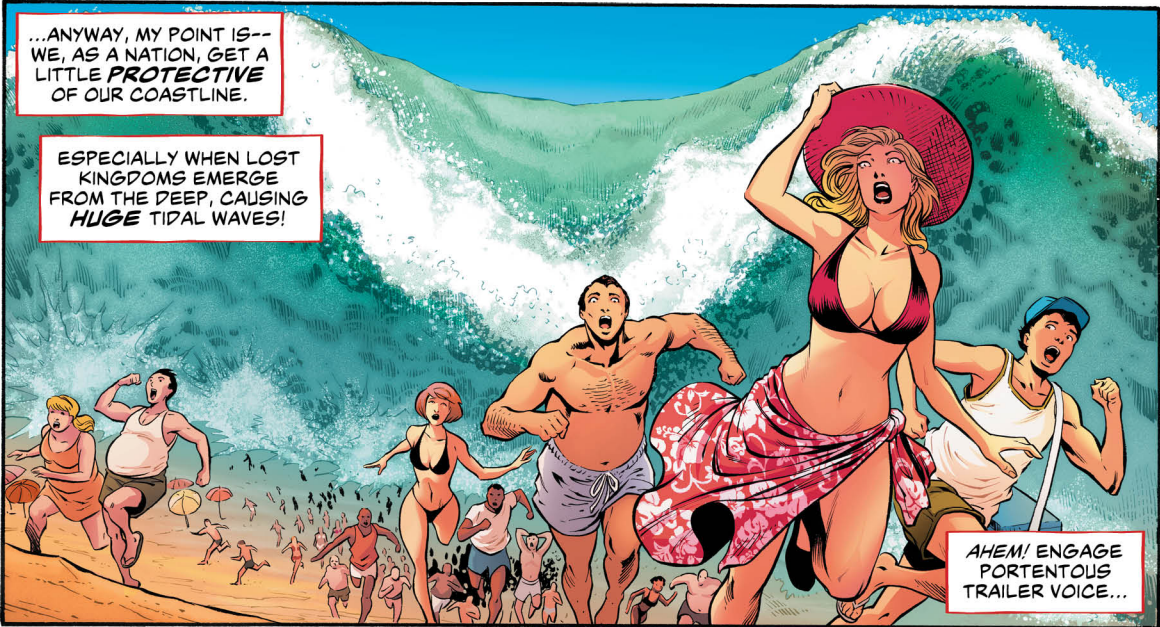
...ERM... UNLESS I'M CONFUSED...



...ANYWAY, MY POINT IS-- WE, AS A NATION, GET A LITTLE PROTECTIVE OF OUR COASTLINE.

ESPECIALLY WHEN LOST KINGDOMS EMERGE FROM THE DEEP, CAUSING HUGE TIDAL WAVES!

AHEM! ENGAGE PORTENTOUS TRAILER VOICE...



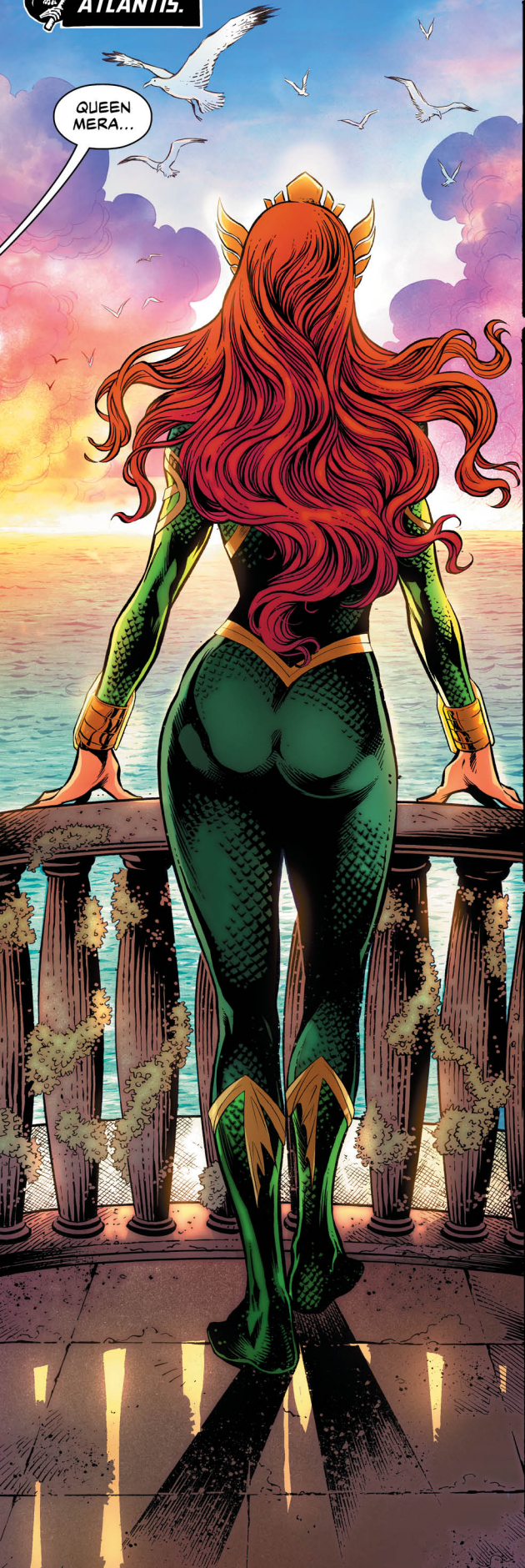
...AND LO! ATLANTIS HAS RISEN!



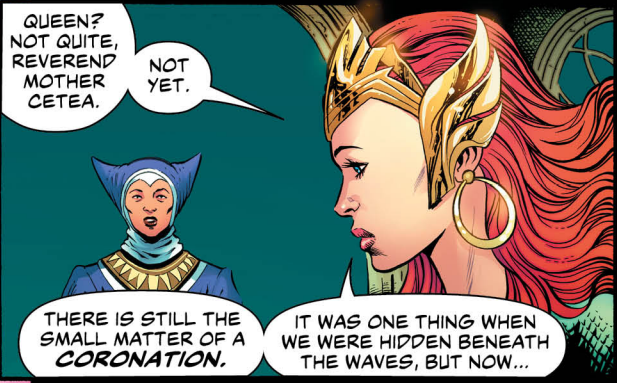
SINK ATLANTIS!

PART ONE

STORY: ROB WILLIAMS AND DAN ABNETT SCRIPT: ROB WILLIAMS PENCILS: JOSÉ LUÍS
INKS: JORDI TARRAGONA AND VICENTE CIFUENTES COLORS: ADRIANO LUCAS
LETTERS: PAT BROSSEAU COVER: RAFA SANDOVAL AND IVAN PLASCENCIA
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QUEEN MERA...




QUEEN? NOT QUITE, REVEREND MOTHER CETEA.

NOT YET.

THERE IS STILL THE SMALL MATTER OF A **CORONATION**.

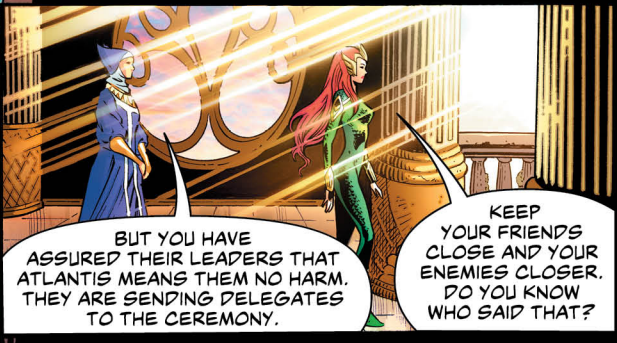
IT WAS ONE THING WHEN WE WERE HIDDEN BENEATH THE WAVES, BUT NOW...



INDEED. THERE IS AN UGLY HISTORY BETWEEN US AND THE SURFACE DWELLERS, AND NOW THAT WE SHARE THE SAME AIR AS THEM--

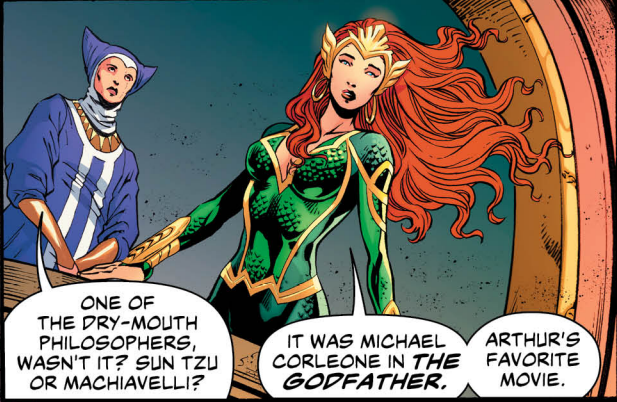
THEY ARE UNLIKELY TO REACT WELL TO A NATION-STATE SUDDENLY EMERGING ON THEIR DOORSTEP.

IT MAKES US **REAL**, CETEA. WHAT THEY HAVE FEARED FOR SO LONG IS NOW A **VISIBLE THREAT**.



BUT YOU HAVE ASSURED THEIR LEADERS THAT ATLANTIS MEANS THEM NO HARM. THEY ARE SENDING DELEGATES TO THE CEREMONY.

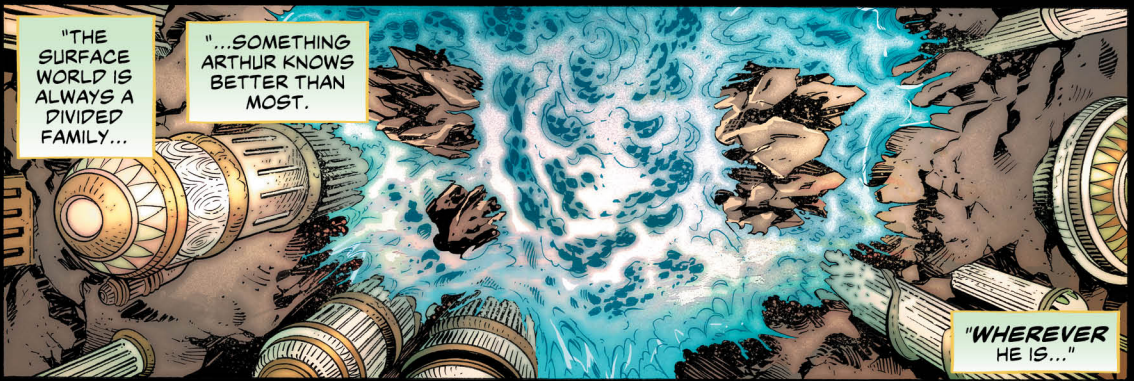
KEEP YOUR FRIENDS CLOSE AND YOUR ENEMIES CLOSER. DO YOU KNOW WHO SAID THAT?



ONE OF THE DRY-MOUTH PHILOSOPHERS, WASN'T IT? SUN TZU OR MACHIAVELLI?

IT WAS MICHAEL CORLEONE IN **THE GODFATHER**.

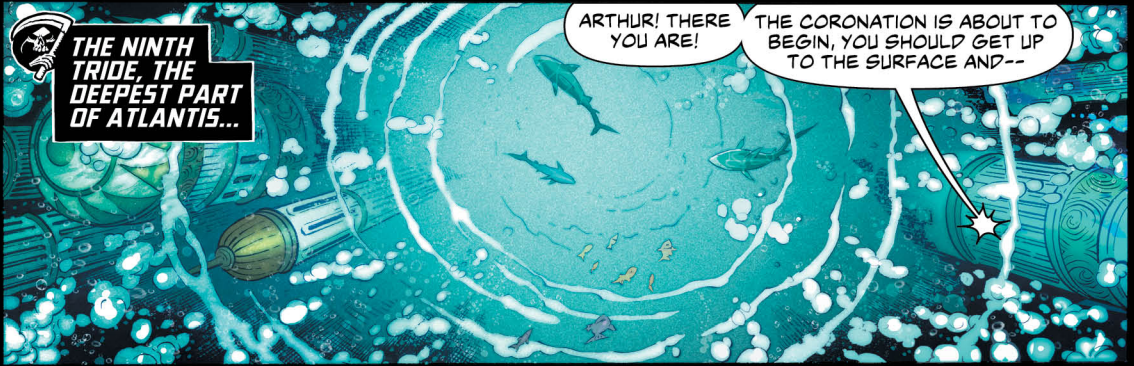
ARTHUR'S FAVORITE MOVIE.



"THE SURFACE WORLD IS ALWAYS A DIVIDED FAMILY..."

"...SOMETHING ARTHUR KNOWS BETTER THAN MOST."

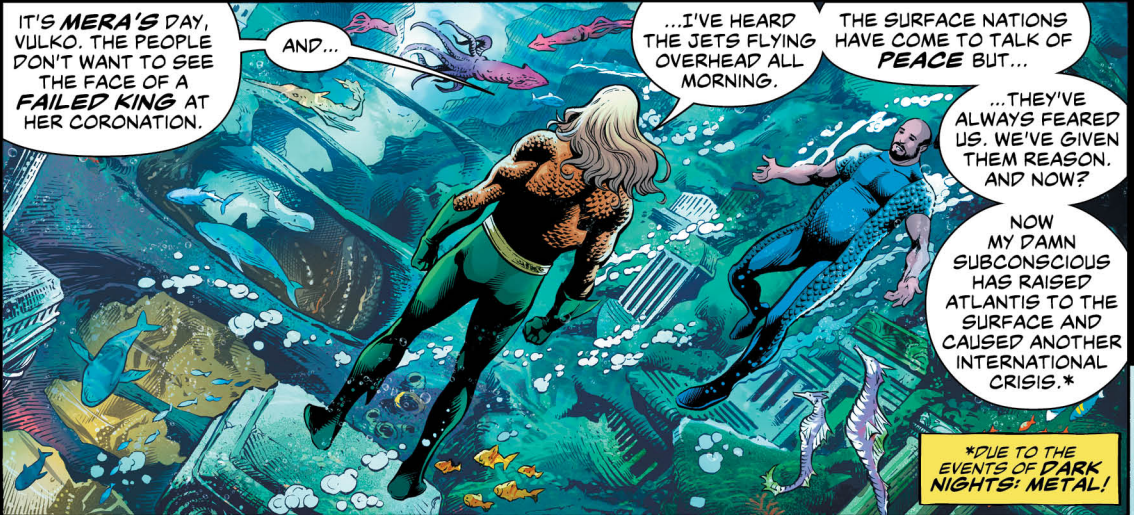
"WHEREVER HE IS..."



THE NINTH TRIDE, THE DEEPEST PART OF ATLANTIS...

ARTHUR! THERE YOU ARE!

THE CORONATION IS ABOUT TO BEGIN, YOU SHOULD GET UP TO THE SURFACE AND--



IT'S MERA'S DAY, VULKO. THE PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO SEE THE FACE OF A FAILED KING AT HER CORONATION.

AND...

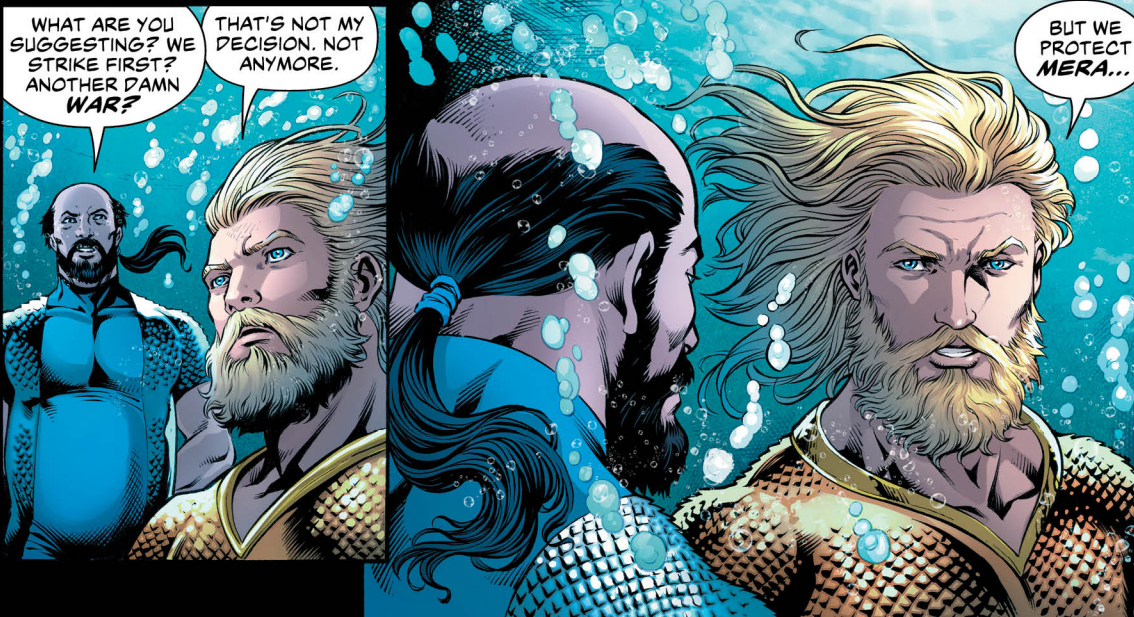
...I'VE HEARD THE JETS FLYING OVERHEAD ALL MORNING.

THE SURFACE NATIONS HAVE COME TO TALK OF PEACE BUT...

...THEY'VE ALWAYS FEARED US. WE'VE GIVEN THEM REASON. AND NOW?

NOW MY DAMN SUBCONSCIOUS HAS RAISED ATLANTIS TO THE SURFACE AND CAUSED ANOTHER INTERNATIONAL CRISIS.*

***DUE TO THE EVENTS OF DARK NIGHTS: METAL!**



WHAT ARE YOU SUGGESTING? WE STRIKE FIRST? ANOTHER DAMN WAR?

THAT'S NOT MY DECISION. NOT ANYMORE.

BUT WE PROTECT MERA...

"...NO
MATTER
WHAT."

WASHINGTON, D.C.

ARE YOU
INSANE?

THEY JUST APPEARED IN THE ATLANTIC--PRACTICALLY ON OUR DOORSTEP--AND HAVE MADE NO MOVE TO RETREAT!

THEY SAY THEY CAN'T.

I DON'T GIVE A RAT'S ASS.

THEY'RE A FOREIGN NATION THAT JUST INVADDED AND SENT HIGHLY DESTRUCTIVE TIDAL WAVES INTO OUR TERRITORY.

AND WE'RE JUST GOING TO, WHAT? WAVE AT THEM AND ASK HOW WE CAN HELP?

ADMIRAL MEDDINGHOUSE. WE HAVE GOOD COMMUNICATION CHANNELS WITH ATLANTIS, AND WE HAVE ZERO INTEREST IN ANGERING A NATION WITH AN ARMY OF DAMN SEA MONSTERS.

WE'LL KEEP DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS OPEN AND SEND OUR AMBASSADOR TO THE UPCOMING ATLANTEAN CORONATION AS PLANNED.

THEY JUST APPEARED WITHIN DIRECT STRIKING DISTANCE OF US AND NOW THEY'RE CROWNING THEIR QUEEN?

ATLANTIS IS A MAJOR THREAT TO THE UNITED STATES. MY FEELINGS ON THIS ARE WELL-KNOWN. AS IS MY PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THE ATLANTEANS.*

CAN'T YOU SEE THIS IS AN INVASION?!

DAMMIT!

THEY ARE LAUGHING AT US! YOU CAN'T BE STUPID ENOUGH TO--

*BACK IN AQUAMAN #12

