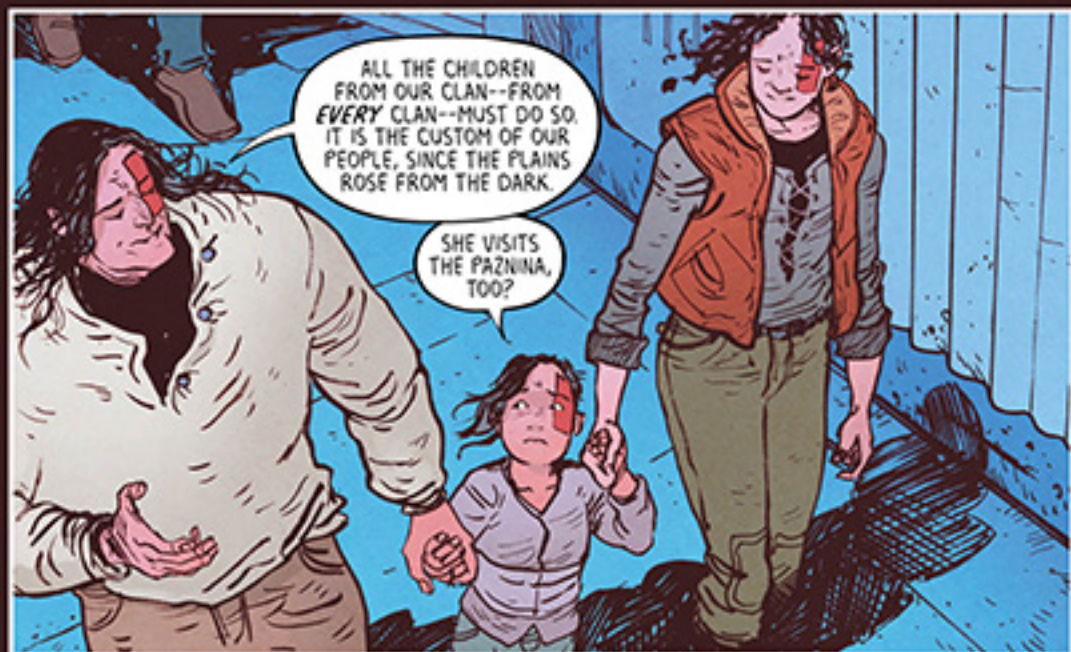


"BUT--WHY DO I HAVE TO GO?"

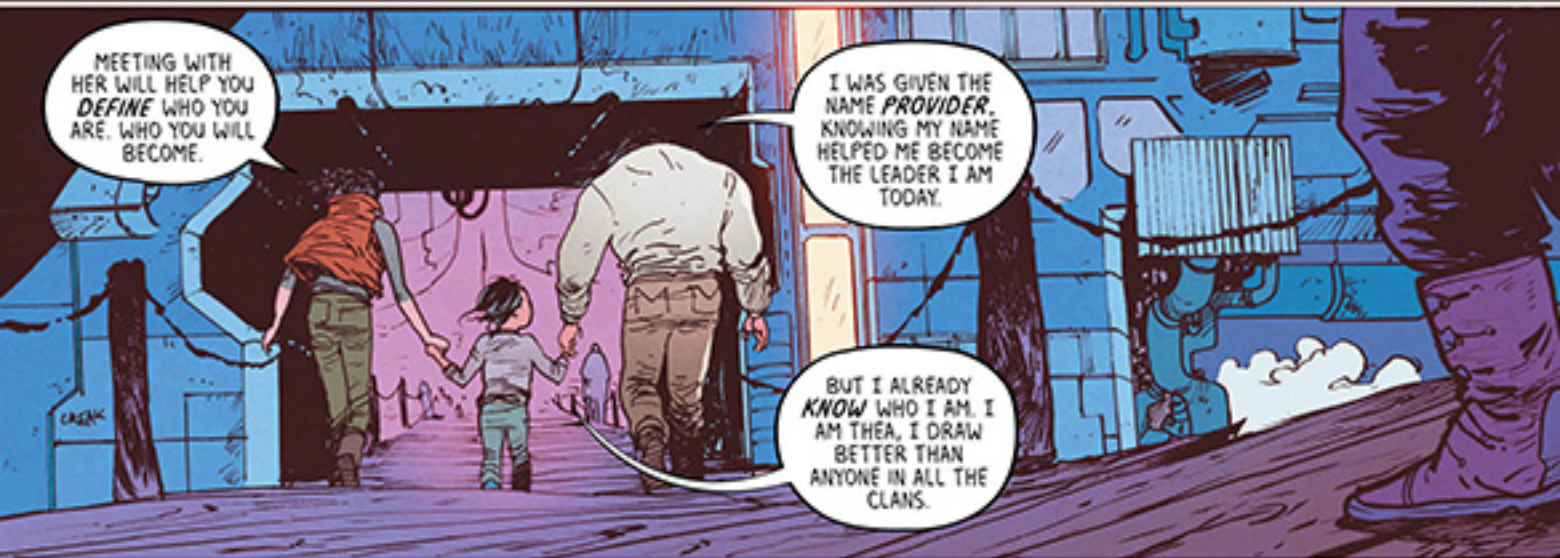


ALL THE CHILDREN FROM OUR CLAN--FROM EVERY CLAN--MUST DO SO. IT IS THE CUSTOM OF OUR PEOPLE, SINCE THE PLAINS ROSE FROM THE DARK.

SHE VISITS THE PAZMINA, TOO?



THE GREAT MOTHER HAS *NO* CLAN ALLEGIANCE. SHE COMES AND GOES AS SHE PLEASES TO BOTH SIDES. IT IS NOT OUR WAY, BUT WE RESPECT HER NONETHELESS.



MEETING WITH HER WILL HELP YOU DEFINE WHO YOU ARE. WHO YOU WILL BECOME.

I WAS GIVEN THE NAME PROVIDER. KNOWING MY NAME HELPED ME BECOME THE LEADER I AM TODAY.

BUT I ALREADY KNOW WHO I AM. I AM THEA, I DRAW BETTER THAN ANYONE IN ALL THE CLANS.



THAT'S TRUE, MY LOVE, AND I AM PROUD OF YOU FOR IT. BUT THERE WILL BE TIMES IN THE FUTURE WHEN YOU QUESTION EVERYTHING YOU ARE. HEARING YOUR NAME SPOKEN OVER YOU WILL HELP WHEN EVERYTHING FALLS AWAY.



GO NOW.



"DON'T BE AFRAID."

HELLO...



HAVE A SEAT, CHILD.



HELLO, GREAT MOTHER.

LIFT YOUR CHIN, SMALL ONE. LET ME SEE YOUR EYES.

MY NAME IS--

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE, *THEA* OF THE ROTO PLAINS. I RECOGNIZE THOSE EYES. THEY BURN THE SAME WAY YOUR FATHER'S DID, A LONG TIME AGO.



DRINK.



SLURP.



BLEAGH.



PLACE IT FACEDOWN IN MY HAND NOW. YES, THAT'S IT.

