



SAN DIEGO, CA.

HISTORY HAS A CURIOUS  
WAY OF REPEATING ITSELF.

ALTHOUGH NOT IN  
THE WAYS THAT  
WE OFTEN EXPECT.

YEARS AGO, I WALKED DOWN  
THE GANGWAY OF THIS SHIP  
AND MY LIFE WAS...SIMPLE.

COMPARATIVELY SPEAKING,  
I WAS AN ORPHAN RESCUED  
BY A VERY COMPASSIONATE  
CAPTAIN VACATIONING ON  
THIS VERY SHIP. THANKFULLY,  
I LIKE TO THINK SOME OF HIS  
HUMANITY RUBBED OFF ON ME.

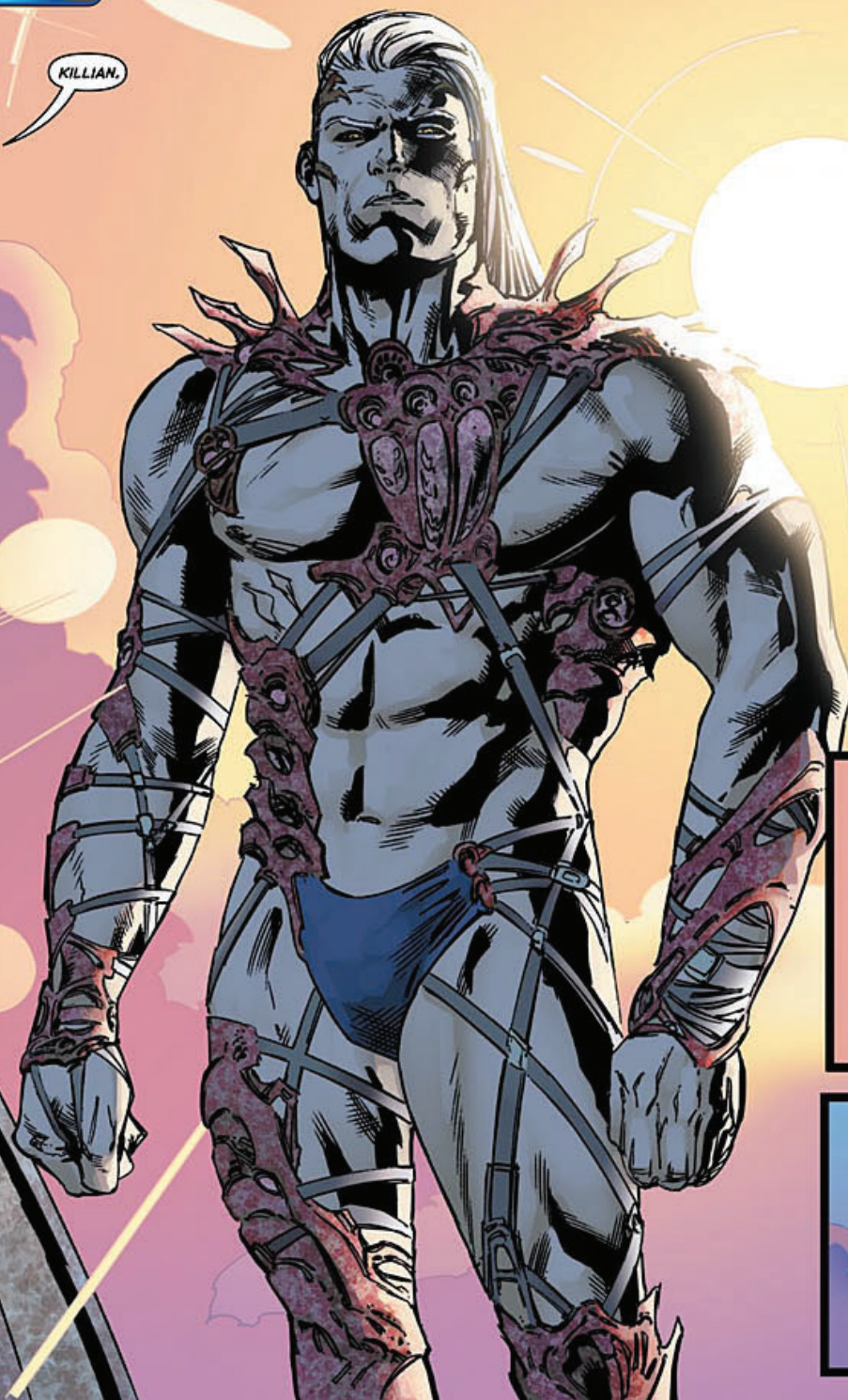
BUT, THE TRUTH IS...NOTHING  
ABOUT MY LIFE COULD EVER  
BE CONSIDERED NORMAL.

THE ONLY CERTAINTY I'VE  
BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO...



...IS THAT EVERYTHING  
IS ALWAYS UNCERTAIN.

KILLIAN.



YOUR  
PRESENCE  
IS CULPABLE,  
ASPEN. I COULD  
SENSE YOUR  
ARRIVAL.

YOUR ELITE  
ESSENCE.

YOU SENT WORD TO  
MY FATHER, CAPTAIN  
MATTHEWS. IT'S NOT  
INTUITION.

YOUR FATHER?

WHY ARE  
YOU ABOVE  
LEVEL?



YES,  
FATHER.

AFTER  
EVERYTHING  
WE'VE BEEN  
THROUGH. THE WAR.  
THE FALLOUT. THE BLUE  
AND HUMANS BEGINNING  
TO WORK TOGETHER  
ON THEIR OWN...MY  
PRIORITIES HAVE  
SHIFTED.

I TOOK  
MY LIFE  
BACK.

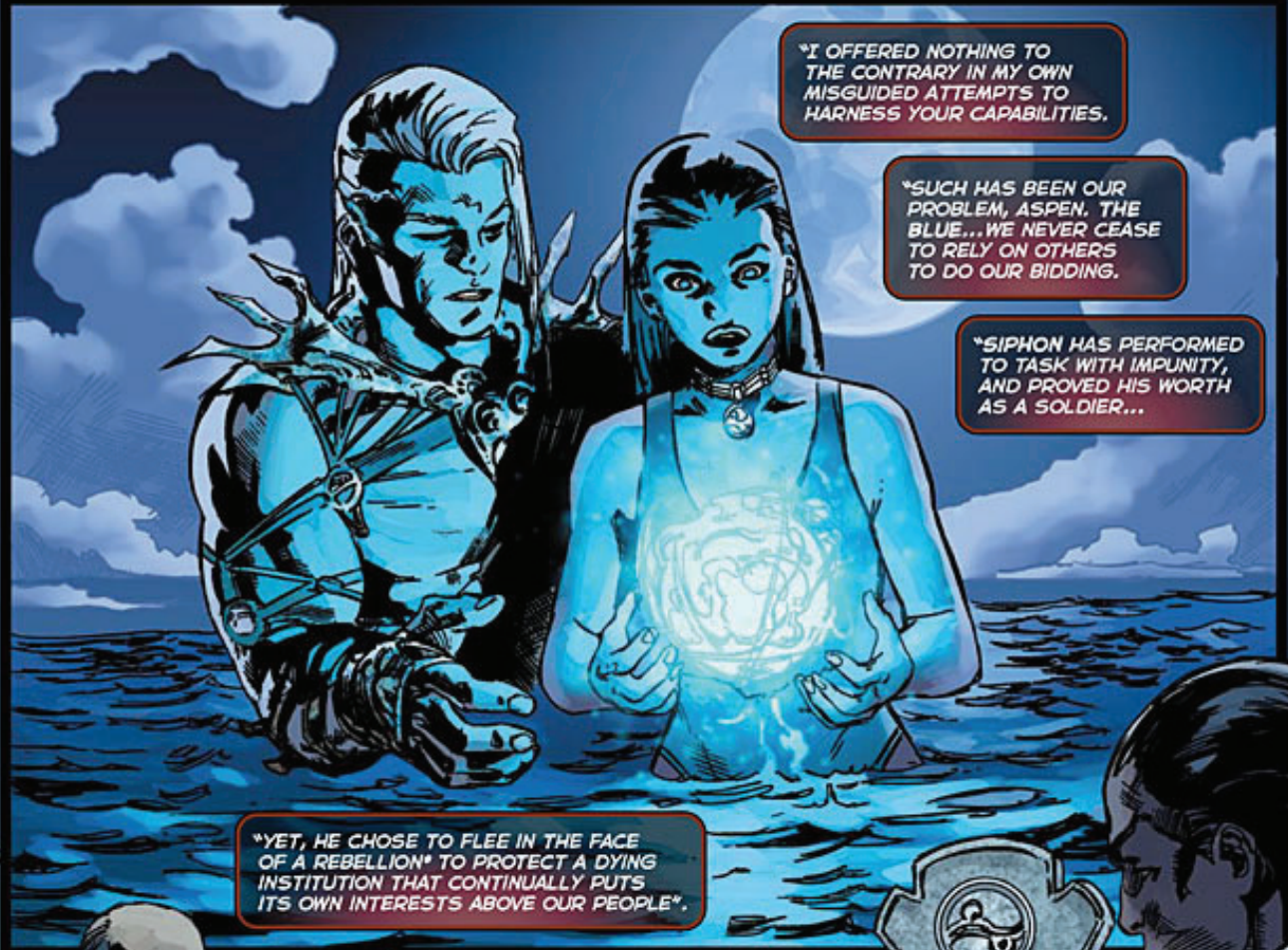


THAT HAS ALWAYS  
BEEN YOUR MISTAKE.  
YOU THINK PROGRESS  
IS CHANGE. THAT WE  
ARE ABOVE REPROACH  
AND EVERYONE ELSE  
MUST DEAL WITH THE  
REPERCUSSIONS...

YOU THINK YOU  
HAVE A CHOICE IN THE  
SHAPING OF ENTIRE  
CIVILIZATIONS.







"I OFFERED NOTHING TO THE CONTRARY IN MY OWN MISGUIDED ATTEMPTS TO HARNESS YOUR CAPABILITIES."

"SUCH HAS BEEN OUR PROBLEM, ASPEN. THE BLUE... WE NEVER CEASE TO RELY ON OTHERS TO DO OUR BIDDING."

"SIPHON HAS PERFORMED TO TASK WITH IMPUNITY, AND PROVED HIS WORTH AS A SOLDIER..."

"YET, HE CHOSE TO FLEE IN THE FACE OF A REBELLION\* TO PROTECT A DYING INSTITUTION THAT CONTINUALLY PUTS ITS OWN INTERESTS ABOVE OUR PEOPLE\*."



"HE SAVED THE ELITE COUNCIL. ALL OF THOSE BLUE CITIZENS-- THEY COULD'VE BEEN KILLED IF THEY DID NOT FLEE FOR REFUGE. I SAW THE DAMAGE FIRSTHAND\*."



"BUT, AT WHAT COST TO THE GREATER PICTURE?"

"THE BLUE WERE NEVER MEANT TO COWER. WE ARE MORE."

\*EDITOR'S NOTE: SEE FATHOM VOLUME 7.