

"I MUST ADMIT,  
I'M IMPRESSED."

"IT'S TRUE THAT MY  
BODY IS COMING  
UNDONE. MY MAGICKS  
ARE ALL BUT SPENT."

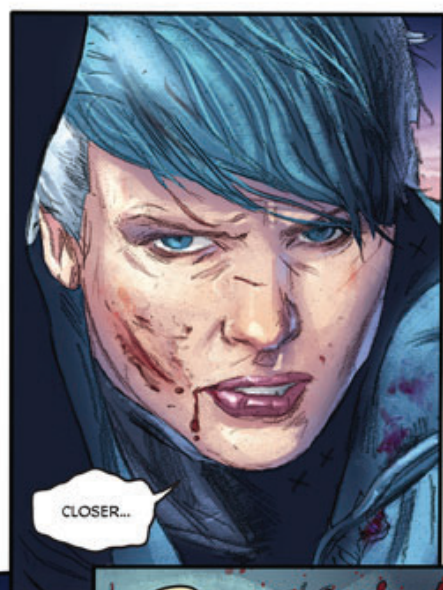


"BUT YOU'VE GIVEN  
ME *REAL SPORT*,  
AND I THANK YOU  
FOR THAT."

"YOU CAN BE PROUD OF  
THE STAND YOU'VE TAKEN  
HERE TODAY, BUT WE BOTH  
KNOW IT'S AT AN END."

"SO PLEASE, MAKE IT  
EASY ON YOURSELF  
AND ANSWER ME THIS  
ONE QUESTION..."









YOU'RE BACK.

...  
MOST OF ME, YES.

NO CREEPY ALIEN KID?

LONG STORY.

SO I GUESS THAT'S IT THEN.

WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?

I CAN SEE YOU.

OH? OH! RIGHT.

YEAH, THIS SOMETIMES HAPPENS AFTER TRIPS TO THE DEADSIDE.

IT'LL PASS IN A COUPLE WEEKS.

*SIGH:*  
"A COUPLE WEEKS". FANTASTIC.

WHERE'S TAMA?





GILAD,  
WE HAVE A NEW  
PROBLEM.

WHERE'S  
SHAN? SHE'S  
PROMISED SHE  
WOULDN'T...

SHE'S IN  
BIG  
TROUBLE.



SHE'S DOWN THERE  
FIGHTING SOME...  
*CREATURE*.

MMM.  
IMPERATRIX  
VIRAGO.

NOT FAR  
OFF.

SOUNDS LIKE  
AN *INTESTINAL*  
PARASITE.

GILAD, SHAN'S AS TOUGH  
AS THEY COME BUT THIS IS  
SOMETHING ELSE *ENTIRELY*.

YOU'RE IN  
*NO CONDITION* TO  
HELP. SHOULDN'T WE  
*CALL* SOMEBODY?



I'VE HAD  
WORSE,  
BELIEVE  
ME.

OH, TAMA,  
WHAT HAVE  
THEY DONE  
TO YOU?

SHE'S BEEN  
FADING IN  
AND OUT.

... HAS SHE SAID  
ANYTHING?



SHE'S  
BEEN CALLING  
FOR YOU  
MOSTLY.

I HEARD.

