

ZATANNA KNEW HOW BEAUTIFUL MAGIC COULD BE. HER FATHER, ZATARA HAD MADE SURE OF THAT WHEN SHE WAS YOUNG.

EVEN IN THE MIDST OF TRAINING, WHEN HE SAW THE JOY OF THE CRAFT LEAVE HER EYES, HE WOULD WINK AT HER AND WHISPER A BACKWARDS PHRASE AND THE STAGE WOULD ERUPT IN NEON RAINBOW BUTTERFLIES.

MAGIC COULD BE DANGEROUS, YES, BUT IT WAS THE UNTAPPED CREATIVE POTENTIAL OF THE UNIVERSE.

IT WAS BEAUTY, AND HORROR AND ECSTASY ALL AT ONCE. WITHOUT IT, THE UNIVERSE WOULD BE A COLD DEAD PLACE, DEVOID OF MIRACLES.

THAT'S WHY IT NEEDED TO BE DEFENDED. THAT'S WHY SHE TRAINED EVERY WAKING HOUR FOR YEARS TO LIVE UP TO THAT ROLE.

SHE TOLD HERSELF THAT IF HE WERE STILL ALIVE, HER FATHER WOULD HAVE ANSWERED THE CALL TO WINTERSGATE MANOR.

I'VE HEARD SUCH FANTASTIC RUMORS, MORGAINE... SORCERERS BEING EATEN ALIVE BY THEIR OWN MAGIC.

HOW TEEKL AND I WOULD LOVE TO SEE IT WITH OUR OWN EYES...

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR, WITCH BOY... PARTICULARLY IN THIS COMPANY.

ANOTHER VOICE IN HER MIND REMINDED HER THAT HE ALREADY HAD.

AND PERISHED.

HEARD YOU LEARNED A NEW TRICK WITH A TOP HAT.

KLIK

DYING TO SEE IT, LOVE.

YOU'RE A PIECE OF CRAP, CONSTANTINE.

NEVER CLAIMED I WASN'T.



DID YOU FIND ANYTHING IN ZATARA'S THEATER?



NO. AND YOUR MAGIC'S GONE HAYWIRE LIKE ALL THE OTHERS'. ANOTHER BACKWARDS WORD AND THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT HORROR AWAITS.




ALL YOU HAVE ARE YOUR WITS AND WILL, AND IT'S TIME TO DECIDE WHERE YOU STAND.



I STAND WITH MAGIC, JOHN. THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.

YOU STAND ON THE SIDEWALK, ZEE. AND FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND, THERE'S MORE THAN ONE OPTION ABOUT WHO TO TAKE UP ARMS WITH.

THIS IS BIGGER THAN THE JUSTICE LEAGUE. BIGGER THAN WONDER WOMAN UNDERSTANDS.




AND YOU REALLY THINK THOSE GHOULS AND GOBLINS IN THERE HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON?

I THINK THEY'RE MY PEOPLE.

OUR PEOPLE.

MAYBE THEY'RE YOURS. I DIDN'T MAKE THE CUT, ACTUALLY. THEY'VE GOT THE IDEA I'M SOME SORT OF CON ARTIST.




ANYWAYS... BARON WINTERS HASN'T LET ME THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR SINCE I GOT THREE PEOPLE BURNED ALIVE AT HIS PARLOR TABLE.



YOU KNOW, THAT WAS PROBABLY VERY INSENSITIVE OF ME TO SAY.

WHAT? BRINGING UP THAT YOU USED OUR RELATIONSHIP TO CONVINCE MY FATHER TO FIGHT A COSMIC HORROR AND IT BURNED HIM ALIVE?

YEAH, JOHN. THAT WAS INSENSITIVE.

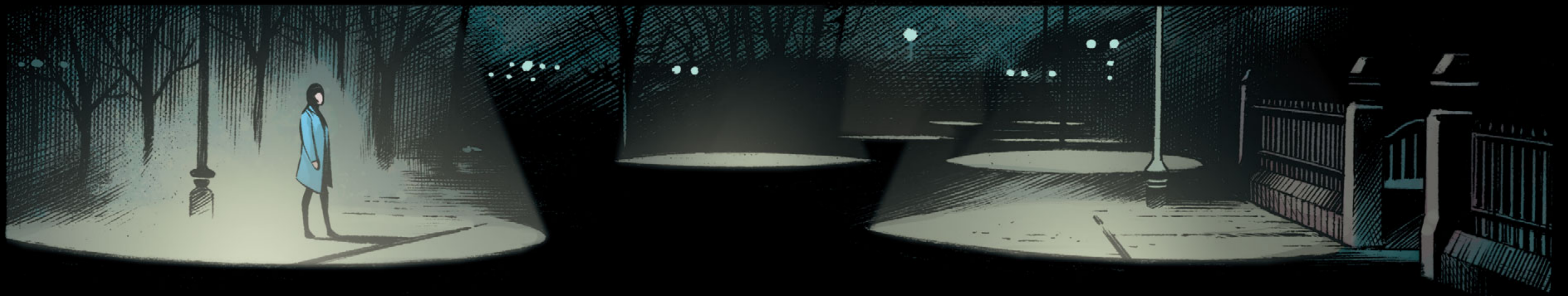


YOU THINK WE'RE GOING TO LOSE.

I THINK THINGS ARE GOING TO CHANGE, AND I THINK THAT SCARES THE CRAP OUT OF THEM. BUT I CAN HANDLE CHANGE JUST FINE.



CAN YOU?



SOMEWHERE TO THE LEFT OF REALITY SITS A POCKET DIMENSION, INSIDE OF WHICH THERE IS A BAR.

ONCE UPON A TIME, THE STEADFAST TAVERN SERVED THE ENTIRE MAGICAL COMMUNITY. IT EVEN OPERATED AS A BASE OF RESISTANCE IN A CLASH OF MULTIVERSES.

WONDER WOMAN HAD COME TO FIND THE GREAT MAGICAL HEROES WHO USED TO BE ITS REGULARS, AND RECRUIT THEM TO HER CAUSE.

BUT AS OF LATE, THE OBLIVION BAR HAS SAT EMPTY.

SO,  
uh...  
...WANT TO BUY A CHIMP A DRINK?

