

THE VALIANT

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FOR MILLENNIA, the Eternal Warrior has protected the Geomancers—enigmatic mystics who speak for the Earth and guide humanity to new heights. But on multiple occasions, the Immortal Enemy—an implacable force of nature—defeated the Eternal Warrior and killed a Geomancer, plunging humanity in a new dark age. Now, as Kay McHenry—a former PR hack for Zorn Industries—settles uneasily into her role as the latest Geomancer, the Immortal Enemy has returned after a centuries-long absence...with Kay in its crosshairs. But this time the Eternal Warrior will not be fighting alone...



GEOMANCER

Formerly a publicist for an environmentally destructive corporation, Kay McHenry struggles with the power and responsibility of her new role.



ETERNAL WARRIOR

A master of ancient and modern weaponry, Gilad Anni-Padda has wandered the Earth for millennia in service to the Geomancer.



THE IMMORTAL ENEMY

An unspeakable, everlasting evil that manifests itself as mankind's greatest fear. It hunts Geomancers, and each time it kills one, a new dark age falls over civilization.



BLOODSHOT

A nanite-infused soldier, Bloodshot was once used—against his will—as a weapon by Project Rising Spirit. While the rest of his past remains a mystery, he now fights on behalf of the U.S. and British governments.



NEVILLE ALCOTT

Little is known about the MI-6 liaison who pulls the strings of the most powerful beings on Earth—or about the mysterious package he recently sent Bloodshot to retrieve.



NINJAK

Calculating and mysterious, Ninjak is a combat and technology master. He pledges no allegiance to any country, preferring to work freelance for the highest bidder, but his personal ethics often align him with Neville Alcott and the Eternal Warrior.

**THE ARCTIC CIRCLE.
SIX HOURS AGO.**

I'VE BEEN LYING MOTIONLESS FOR TWELVE HOURS STRAIGHT. WAITING TO ESTABLISH EXACTLY WHAT THE SECURITY IS HERE.

IT'S THE SEEMING LACK OF SECURITY THAT HAS ME PARANOID.

I'VE SLOWED MY BREATHING AND MY METABOLISM.

MY SUIT PROTECTS ME FROM FROSTBITE, BUT I CAN FEEL THE COLD STARTING TO SEEP IN.

ONLY FOUR GUARDS AND ONE DOOR. SURPRISINGLY LIGHT. IT'S THE DOOR THAT'S GOING TO BE TRICKY.

INSIDE THAT DOOR IS THE OBJECTIVE. THE KEY THAT NEVILLE NEEDS TO (HOPEFULLY) UNLOCK THE MYSTERY BOX THAT BLOODSHOT (FINALLY) FOUND.

HE'S BEEN CHASING THAT BOX FOR A LONG TIME. LONG ENOUGH THAT NOW IT'S GOT ME CURIOUS AS TO WHAT'S INSIDE.

AND CURIOUS AS TO WHY NOTHING HE'S GOT ON HAND CAN OPEN IT.





THE DOOR IS KEYED TO SCAN THE UNIQUE SIGNATURE OF HIS BREATH. IF HE'S DEAD... HE CAN'T--

<BREATHE.>



<RUN.>



THE "KEY" IS ACTUALLY A MAN. ("LEGEND" IS A BETTER WORD.)

SOME KIND OF ANCIENT MASTER CODE-BREAKER. ACCORDING TO THE FILE, IF IT'S LOCKED, HE CAN OPEN IT.



<I DON'T NEED TO BE RESCUED. I CAN WALK OUT OF HERE WHENEVER I LIKE. I WON'T HELP YOU.>

THE ALLIES NEED YOUR HELP.



THE ALLIES?

YES, SIR.



I... I WILL HELP.



YOU'RE LOSING YOUR TOUCH.

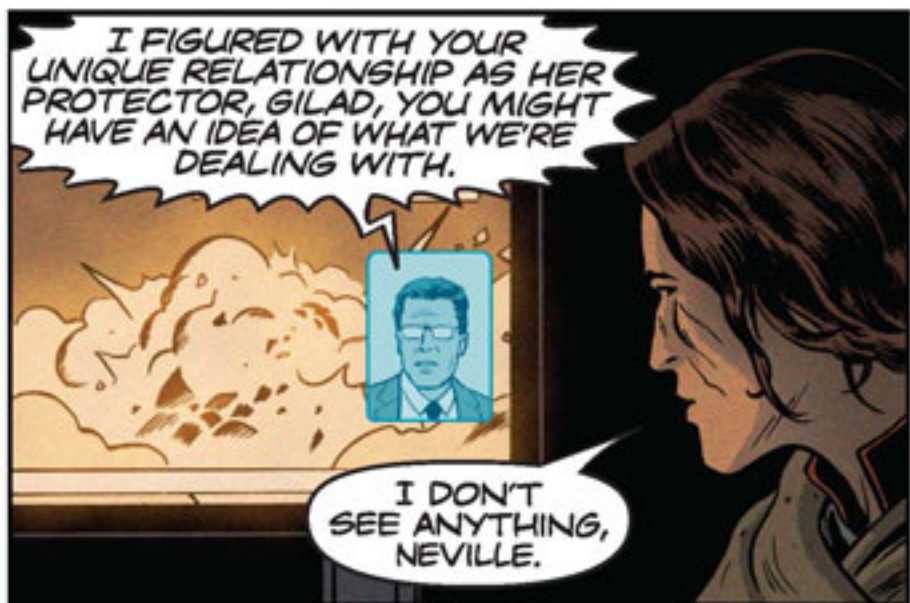




SORRY FOR THE SHORT NOTICE, GENTLEMEN. WE HAVE A QUICKLY DEVELOPING SITUATION.



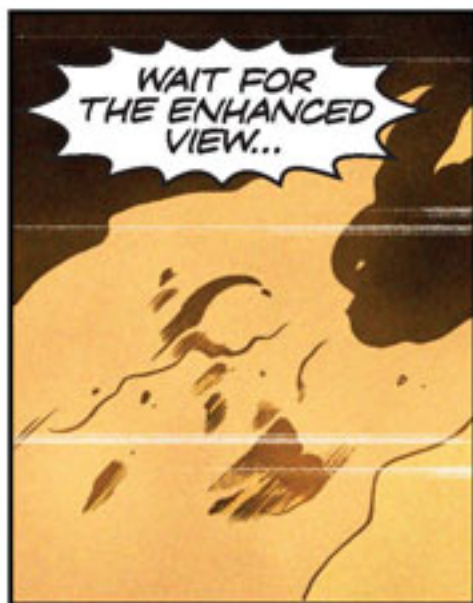
WE PUT A TRACER ON THE GEOMANCER AS YOU REQUESTED. AND NOW WE'VE GOT A LIVE FEED...



I FIGURED WITH YOUR UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP AS HER PROTECTOR, GILAD, YOU MIGHT HAVE AN IDEA OF WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH.



I DON'T SEE ANYTHING, NEVILLE.



WAIT FOR THE ENHANCED VIEW...



THERE.



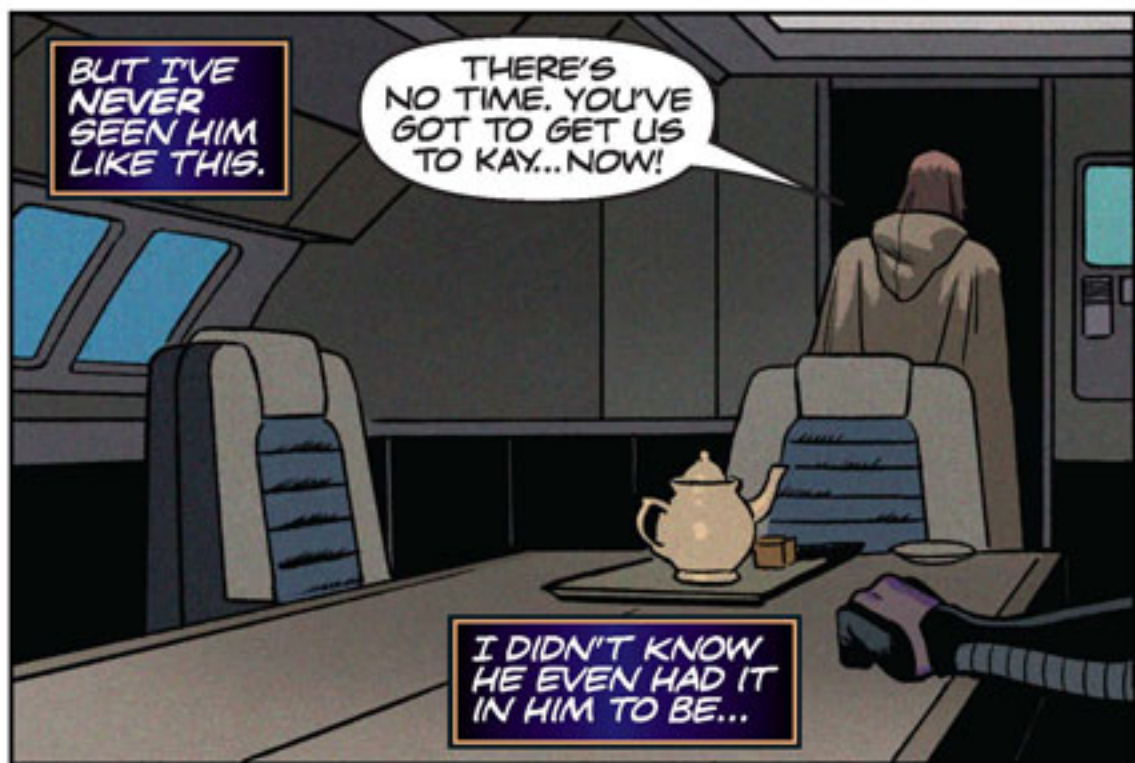
NEVILLE-- I THOUGHT WE'D HAVE MORE TIME.

WE'RE GOING TO NEED ARIC. NOW.

WHAT? WHAT IS IT? GILAD? ARIC'S AVAILABILITY IS LIMITED. I THINK HE MIGHT BE OFF-PLANET. MAYBE WE CAN--



I'VE WORKED WITH GILAD FOR YEARS NOW. I'VE SEEN HIM A THOUSAND DIFFERENT SHADES OF ANGRY AND PISSED.



BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM LIKE THIS.

THERE'S NO TIME. YOU'VE GOT TO GET US TO KAY... NOW!

I DIDN'T KNOW HE EVEN HAD IT IN HIM TO BE...

...AFRAID.



WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL, NOTHING TERRIFIED ME MORE THAN A MAN NAMED MR. FLAY.

MY DAD USED TO READ TO ME EVERY NIGHT AND MY FAVORITE BOOK WAS THE LITTLEST PRINCESS AND THE TWILIGHT KINGDOM.



I WAS TERRIFIED OF IT, BUT FASCINATED AT THE SAME TIME.



THE PRINCESS IS LEFT ALL ALONE WHEN HER FATHER, THE KING, GOES OFF TO FIND HER MOTHER.



BUT LITTLE DOES THE KING KNOW THAT HIS OLDEST ENEMY MR. FLAY, A SADISTIC OLD BASTARD, IS DETERMINED TO HAVE THE KINGDOM TO HIMSELF. HE SETS OUT TO TORTURE AND TERRIFY THE PRINCESS.

I WAS TERRIFIED OF THE BOOK. I WAS TERRIFIED OF MR. FLAY. BUT I SWEAR I NEVER KNEW WHAT REAL FEAR WAS. NOT UNTIL TODAY. NOT UNTIL THIS MINUTE.

EVEN AS A LITTLE GIRL I KNEW THAT MR. FLAY WASN'T REAL... JUST A STORY.

