

BEFORE

SHE IS CRUEL.

BEFORE ANYTHING

SHE IS CRUEL AND SHE CHANGES HERSELF LIKE BREATH. AND NOW SHE HAS A FONDNESS FOR YOU.

SHE GOES TO ATTEND THE ROYAL WEDDING. SHE WISHES TO TAKE YOU WITH HER AS A COMFORT IN THE CITY.

SHE WILL TAKE YOU TO HER CHAMBER.

SHE IS ELDEST AND YOU ARE OATHED TO HER. YOU WILL LOVE HER AT HER COMMAND. AND WHEN SHE TRIES TO DISGUST YOU--

--WHICH SHE SHALL--

DO.

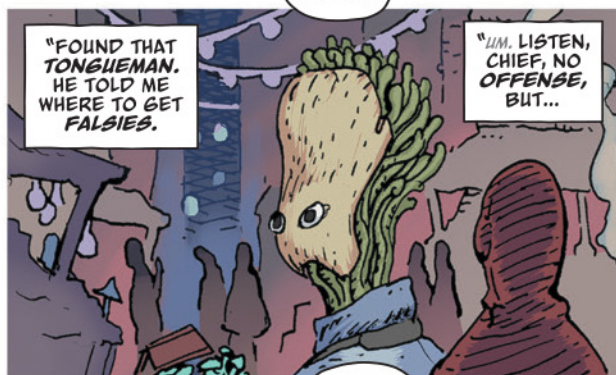
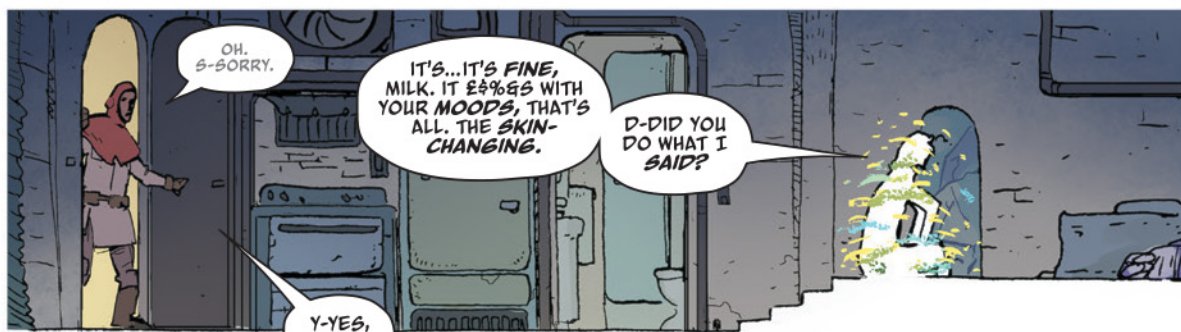
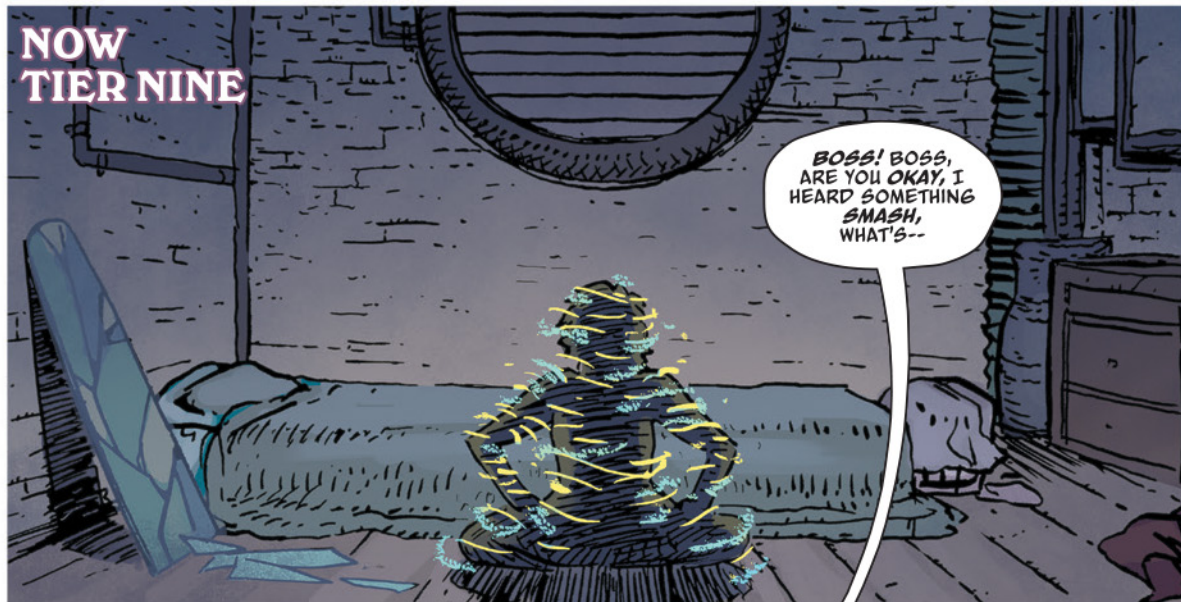
NOT.

REACT.

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA

SMASHHHHH

NOW TIER NINE





SPEAKING OF WHICH, DID YOU SEE THE MEDUSI BEFORE THEY LEFT?

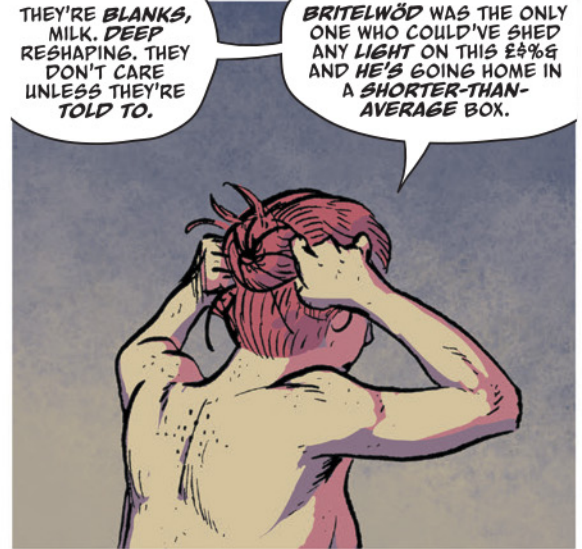
YES, MA'AM. THERE'S ONLY A HALF-DOZEN GOING BACK TO THE SMOKEWOOD ANYWAY. REST BEEN DRAFTED INTO THE BARRACKS.



"I... I GAVE 'EM THAT PACKAGE. TOLD 'EM YOU'D TRY TO HELP THE ONES LEFT BEHIND. THEY, UH..."

"THEY DIDN'T BELIEVE ME. WOULDN'T SAY NO MORE ABOUT THAT 'SOULBREAKER' THING NEITHER."

"TRUTH IS, THEY DIDN'T SEEM TO CARE."



THEY'RE BLANKS, MILK. DEEP RESHAPING. THEY DON'T CARE UNLESS THEY'RE TOLD TO.

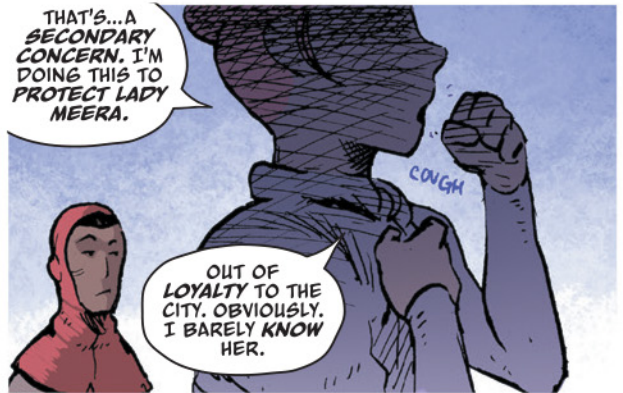
BRITELWÖD WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD'VE SHED ANY LIGHT ON THIS ~~SHIT~~ AND HE'S GOING HOME IN A SHORTER-THAN-AVERAGE BOX.



ALL RIGHT. I'M READY.

PUT HER IN A CELL. A NICE ONE, AND WATCH THE PRECINCT WHILE I'M GONE.

BOSS, IS THIS REALLY NECESSARY? COULDN'T WE JUST FIND OUT ABOUT THIS "EZEK" BLOKE SOME OTHER WAY?



THAT'S... A SECONDARY CONCERN. I'M DOING THIS TO PROTECT LADY MEERA.

OUT OF LOYALTY TO THE CITY. OBVIOUSLY. I BARELY KNOW HER.



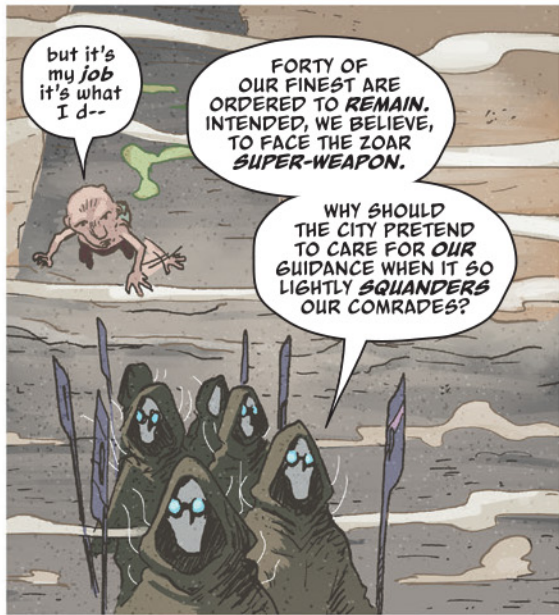
ALL THE SAME. IF ANYONE ASKS FOR ME WHILE I'M GONE--



"--TELL THEM I'M CHASING A LEAD!"

hey hey you guys **WAIT** I'm a'sposed to be escorting y--

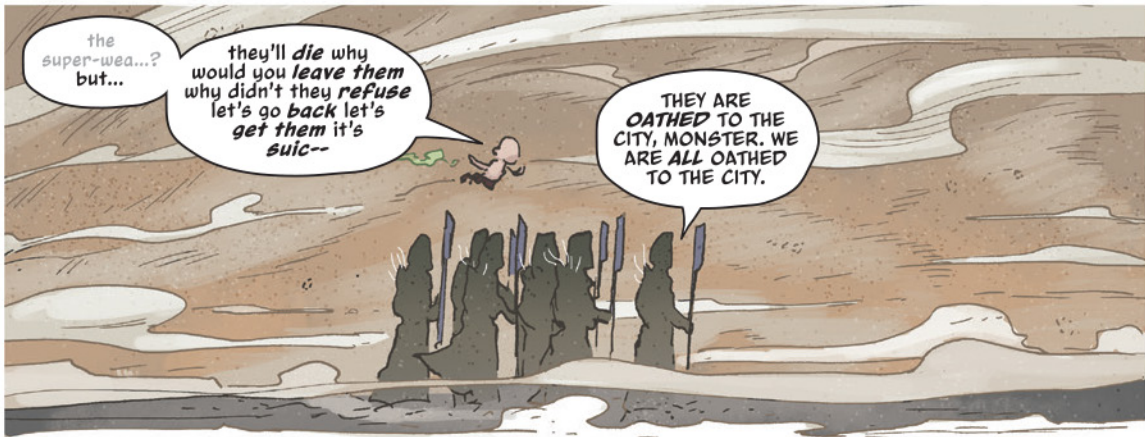
GO BACK. WE WANT NO **HELP** FROM THE CITY THAT HAS **CURSED** US.



but it's my **job** it's what I d--

FORTY OF OUR FINEST ARE ORDERED TO REMAIN. INTENDED, WE BELIEVE, TO FACE THE **ZOAR SUPER-WEAPON.**

WHY SHOULD THE CITY PRETEND TO CARE FOR **OUR** GUIDANCE WHEN IT SO LIGHTLY **SQUANDERS** OUR COMRADES?



the super-wea...? but...

they'll **die** why would you **leave** them why didn't they **refuse** let's go **back** let's **get** them it's **suic--**

THEY ARE **OATHED** TO THE CITY, MONSTER. WE ARE ALL **OATHED** TO THE CITY.



YOUR FRIEND: THE EXILE SHA. SHE HAS PROMISED TO TRY AND **HELP** THEM.

huh **yeah** well no **offense** but I wouldn't exactly put much **trust** in h--

WE THOUGHT THE **SAME.**



BUT SHE PROMISED ALSO THAT YOU WOULD COME TO GUIDE US, AND IN YOUR **GOODNESS** WOULD STAND **SYMPATHETIC** TO OUR CAUSE.

SO PERHAPS THERE IS **HOPE** IN HER **HONESTY.**

"goodness"?

SHE LEFT YOU **THIS.**

