



MACHU PICCHU.

FOR MOST PEOPLE, THIS IS NOTHING BUT A *TOURIST SITE*. A BUNCH OF *RUINS*.



BUT THERE IS A *SECRET* BELOW-- A PASSAGEWAY TO A *HIDDEN WORLD*.



THE LAST TIME I CAME HERE, I HAD *FRIENDS* WITH ME. I HAD *SONIA*.



I FACED MY *FEARS*.



AND DISCOVERED WHAT I TRULY WAS. THE *SAMUSARA*-- THE BRINGER OF *LIGHT*.



I LEARNED THE HARD WAY THAT THE POWER OF *MAGIC* CAN BE *PAINFUL*.



BUT IT WAS STILL BEAUTIFUL.

I MAY HAVE BEEN THE CATALYST FOR THE RETURN OF MAGIC, BUT THE DRAGONS—THEY ARE CONNECTED TO THE MAGIC IN A WAY I COULD ONLY DREAM OF.

IT LIES AT THE VERY HEART OF THEIR EXISTENCE. WITHOUT MAGIC THERE ARE NO DRAGONS, BUT WITHOUT DRAGONS, THERE IS NO MAGIC.



LAST TIME I CAME TO ANANTIA, I WAS RUNNING AWAY FROM RAINIER. NOW, I AM RUNNING AWAY FROM A TRIBE OF CRAZY AMAZON WARRIORS.



WHY DOES THERE ALWAYS SEEM TO BE SOMEONE OUT THERE WHO WANTS TO KILL ME?



BUT I'M NOT RUNNING FROM ANYONE THIS TIME.

I DIDN'T COME TO HIDE.

I CAME FOR ANSWERS.

MALIKAI
IT IS GOOD
TO SEE YOU
AGAIN.

WE WERE ALL WORRIED
ABOUT YOU WHEN YOU LEFT
SAN FRANCISCO AFTER
DEFEATING RAINIER.

YEAH.

ESPECIALLY,
SONIA.

YEAH.

HAVE YOU
SEEN HER
SINCE?

NO, GRACE. I
HAVEN'T SEEN
ANYBODY.

I WANTED
THEM TO STAY
SAFE. FIGURED BEING
AWAY FROM ME WOULD
BE THEIR BEST BET.
TURNS OUT I WAS
RIGHT.





WHAT HAPPENED?

I HIBERNATED AWAY IN *SIBERIA*, BUT IT DIDN'T MATTER. TROUBLE STILL FOUND ME. A GROUP OF WOMEN A BIT LIKE YOU-- *WINGS* AND *WEAPONS*. ALL HELL-BENT ON KILLING ME.

KILLING YOU? WHY?

AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, THEIR LEADER DOESN'T SEE THE *SAMUSARA* AS BRINGING THE LIGHT BACK. SHE SEES ME AS SOME KIND OF *HARBINGER OF DOOM*.

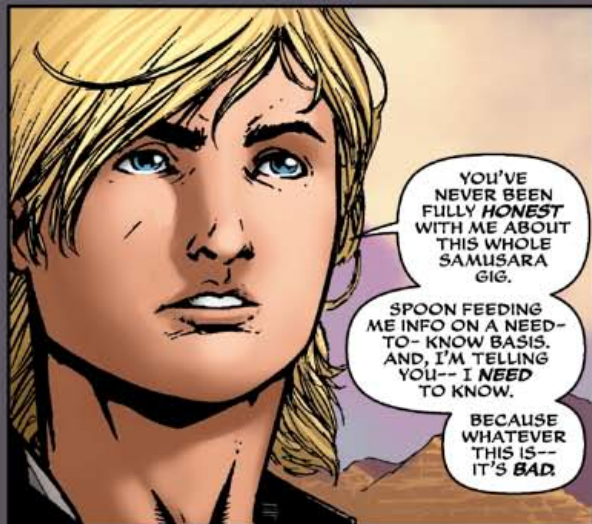
THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.



NEITHER DOES THIS.

WHAT IS IT? AN *INFECTION*?

DON'T KNOW. I WAS *HOPING* YOU COULD TELL ME.



YOU'VE NEVER BEEN FULLY *HONEST* WITH ME ABOUT THIS WHOLE *SAMUSARA* GIG.

SPOON FEEDING ME INFO ON A NEED-TO-KNOW BASIS. AND, I'M TELLING YOU-- I *NEED* TO KNOW.

BECAUSE WHATEVER THIS IS-- IT'S *BAD*.



CENTURIES AGO, WHEN THE *MAGIC DIED*, I WATCHED ALL THOSE AROUND ME *SUFFER*. IT WAS A *PLAGUE* FOR THE AGES. BUT THAT CAN'T BE WHAT *AILS* YOU. THE *MAGIC* HAS JUST RETURNED.



SOMETHING ELSE HAS RETURNED WITH THE *MAGIC* AS WELL. SOMETHING *DARK*. SOMETHING *EVIL*.

STRANGE CREATURES-- *FACELESS* BUT WITH DOZENS OF ARMS. THEY *DEVOUR* ANYTHING IN THEIR PATH. STEALING THE VERY LIFE FROM PEOPLE.

I'VE *NEVER* SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT.



WE'VE LOST A GREAT DEAL OF OUR **HISTORY** OVER THE YEARS, BUT IF THERE ARE ANY ANSWERS TO BE FOUND, THEY WILL BE IN THESE **BOOKS**.

MAYBE YOU GUYS SHOULD RECONSIDER YOUR WHOLE AVERSION TO **TECHNOLOGY**. A **SEARCH ENGINE** RIGHT ABOUT NOW WOULD DO **WONDERS**.

WE SEE WHERE YOUR **TECHNOLOGY** HAS GOTTEN YOUR WORLD. I THINK WE'LL **PASS**.



LISTEN TO THIS...

"IN THE DAYS BEFORE OUR **EXODUS**, THE WONDERS OF **MAGIC** WERE **ECLIPSED** BY A GROWING DARKNESS-- A **CHAOS** THAT STOLE THE **LIGHT**."

"THE **ARMS** REACHED OUT NOT FOR **LIFE**..."



"...BUT FOR **DEATH**."

I'VE **SEEN** THIS ILLUSTRATION BEFORE. I ALWAYS THOUGHT IT REPRESENTED MY PEOPLE'S **STRUGGLE**-- THEIR **OPPRESSION**. BUT GIVEN WHAT YOU SAID...

...MAYBE IT REPRESENTS A **THREAT**.



"A **CHAOS** THAT STOLE THE **LIGHT**."



WE CAN FIND THE SCHOLARS. THEY MAY BE ABLE TO ANSWER OUR QUESTIONS.

NO WAY.



WHAT?

THAT STATUE. IT LOOKS LIKE HER. THE ONE TRYING TO KILL ME.



THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. MIYA HAS BEEN GONE FOR CENTURIES.

MIYA? THAT'S HER NAME?

YES. SHE'S BECOME SOMETHING OF A MYTHIC FIGURE IN OUR HISTORY. WE--

SAO...

SAO...

SAO...



DO YOU HEAR THAT?

YEAH. ARE THEY CHANTING?

FOR WHAT THOUGH?

TERIA...

TERIA...

TERIA...



I... I DON'T BELIEVE IT.



SAOTERIA!

SAOTERIA!

SAOTERIA!



I TOLD YOU.

WHAT ARE THEY SAYING?

SAOTERIA.

IT MEANS SAVIOR.