

FOURTEEN YEARS AGO...

MY FATHER HAS ALWAYS BEEN A MAN OF VISION.



AND PURPOSE.



INDOLENCE AND INSOUCIANCE ARE AFFLICTIONS FOR WHICH HE BEARS NO TOLERANCE.

FATHER SAYS THE WORKING CLASSES ARE ENSLAVED *NOT* BY THE YOKE OF ARISTOCRATIC OPPRESSION...



BUT BY A BRUTAL LACK OF IMAGINATION.



<WHY ARE YOU DOING THAT?>



<THE SCORPION DID NOTHING TO YOU.>

<WHAT? I...NOT FROM HERE. I...DON'T TALK SPANISH GOOD.>



ENGLISH? WHY YOU DO THAT?

ENGLISH, YES... BETTER.

WHAT ELSE IS THERE TO DO?

LOTS TO DO! WE CAN HUNT ARMADILLOS! ROLL ROCKS DOWN THE CLIFFS! CHASE TUMBLEWEEDS!

WHAT'S YOUR NAME? ARE YOU EVEN ALLOWED TO PLAY?



OF COURSE I AM! I'M HERE WITH MY FATHER ON A BUSINESS EXPEDITION.



MY NAME IS ALRIC LANGDON... AND I CAN DO WHATEVER I LIKE!



THEN COME ON!

HA-HA! LAST ONE TO THAT TALL ROCK IS A PILE OF BISON PLOP!

HEY! WAIT...!

GURKO LANGDON LEFT OUR HOMETOWN SEEKING A FUTURE BEYOND OLD WORLD RESTRICTIONS.

...AND TO THE NORTH ARE THE ESTATES OF DONS GUILLERMO DEL FONTANA AND VINCENTE GARCIA LOPEZ.

BOTH OF WHOSE CLAIMS WILL BE HONORED SHOULD THE ARIZONA TERRITORY EVER BECOME A STATE.

IN THE NEW WORLD, HE SET HIS SIGHTS AND HIS INGENUITY ON AN AREA NOT YET FULLY CLAIMED BY EITHER SPAIN OR THE UNITED STATES.

YES... THE TREATY OF HIDALGO-GUADALUPE. IT ASSURES ALL LAND GRANTS PREVIOUSLY MADE BY THE SPANISH CROWN?

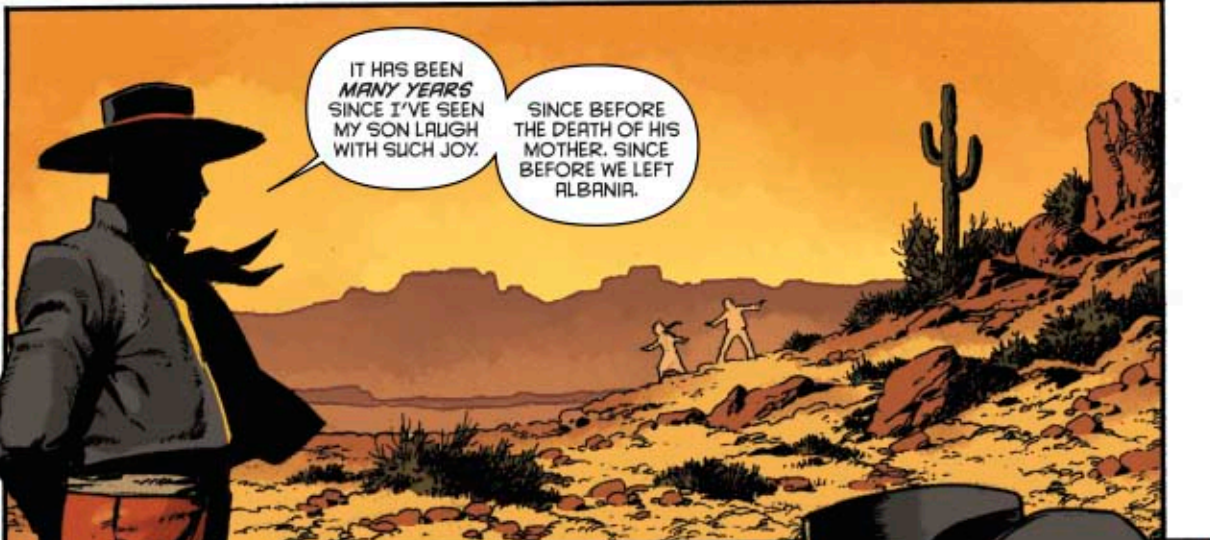
SI, SEÑOR.

A LAND HE DEEMED RIPE FOR A MAN OF HIS VERVE.

UNLESS, OF COURSE, THERE WAS A BEQUEST THAT SUPERCEDED ALL EXISTING CLAIMS. EH--?!

AND CUNNING.

HAHAHA!
HAHA!



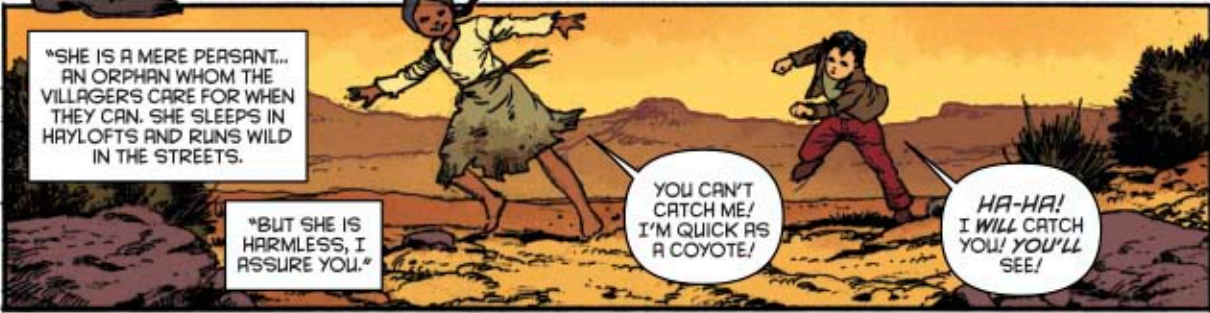
IT HAS BEEN
MANY YEARS
SINCE I'VE SEEN
MY SON LAUGH
WITH SUCH JOY.

SINCE BEFORE
THE DEATH OF HIS
MOTHER. SINCE
BEFORE WE LEFT
ALBANIA.



WHO IS THAT
GIRL WITH
WHOM HE'S
PLAYING?

SHE
IS CALLED
CONCHITA,
SEÑOR.



"SHE IS A MERE PEASANT...
AN ORPHAN WHOM THE
VILLAGER'S CARE FOR WHEN
THEY CAN. SHE SLEEPS IN
HAYLOFTS AND RUNS WILD
IN THE STREETS.

"BUT SHE IS
HARMLESS, I
ASSURE YOU."

YOU CAN'T
CATCH ME!
I'M QUICK AS
A COYOTE!

HA-HA!
I WILL CATCH
YOU! YOU'LL
SEE!



A "MERE
PEASANT"?

NO, MY FRIEND.
I ASSURE YOU...
SHE WILL PROVE TO
BE *VERY SPECIAL*
INDEED.

IT'S HARD TO SAY EXACTLY *WHEN* MY FATHER FIRST CONCEIVED OF HIS AUDACIOUS PLAN.



DID IT SPRING FROM HIS MIND FULLY FORMED, LIKE ATHENA FROM THE SKULL OF ZEUS?



OR DID HE PLOT AND HONE HIS INTRICATE DESIGN OVER TIME, LIKE DAEDALUS AND HIS LABYRINTH?

REGARDLESS, THE ACTUAL HATCHING OF HIS SCHEME TOOK *MANY* YEARS TO ACHIEVE.

AND I AM THE *ONLY* PERSON WITH WHOM HE SHARED THE DETAILS OF HIS DEEDS.



I AM, AFTER ALL, THE LEGACY OF THAT WHICH HE HOPED TO ACHIEVE.



MY FATHER IS A MAN OF VISION.