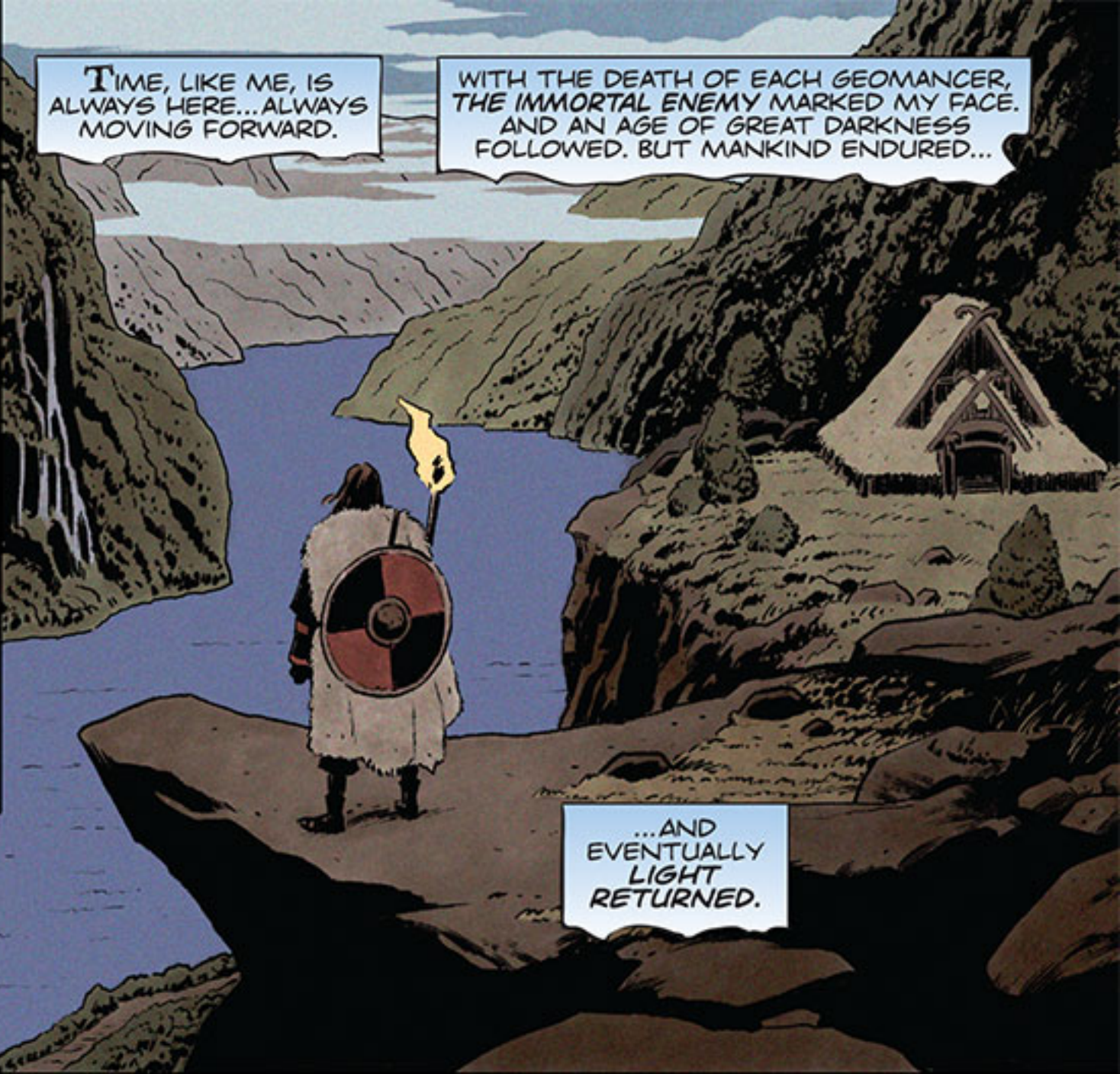




# BOOK ONE

TIME, LIKE ME, IS ALWAYS HERE... ALWAYS MOVING FORWARD.

WITH THE DEATH OF EACH GEOMANCER, THE IMMORTAL ENEMY MARKED MY FACE. AND AN AGE OF GREAT DARKNESS FOLLOWED. BUT MANKIND ENDURED...



...AND EVENTUALLY LIGHT RETURNED.

**Krkt**



WHO GOES?! SHOW YOURSELF!



GILAD, IT-- IT'S ONLY ME.



NASI! WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?! YOU NEED TO BE INSIDE WITH YOUR FATHER AND HIS MEN! IT IS NOT SAFE!



IT--THE GRENDDEL, IT'S COMING SOON ISN'T IT? COMING FOR ME?

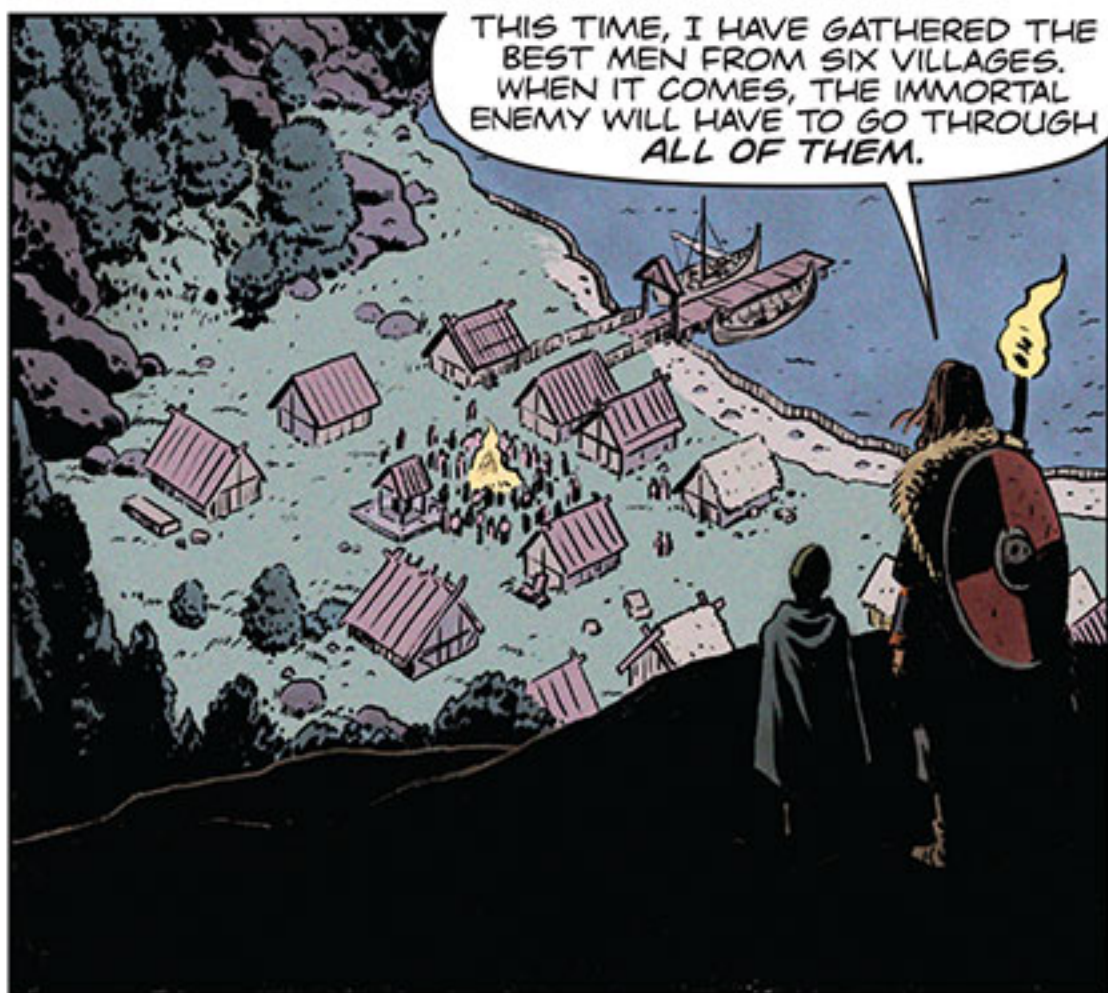


HE IS NOT GRENDDEL. THAT IS JUST A STORY... BUT YES, SOMETHING BAD IS COMING. SOMETHING WORSE THAN ANY STORY. BUT WE ARE READY THIS TIME. I AM READY.

I HAVE LIVED AMONG YOUR PEOPLE FOR YEARS, WAITING AND PLANNING. YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR, LITTLE GEOMANCER.



THIS TIME, I HAVE GATHERED THE BEST MEN FROM SIX VILLAGES. WHEN IT COMES, THE IMMORTAL ENEMY WILL HAVE TO GO THROUGH ALL OF THEM.



ALL THE WHILE, YOU WILL BE FORTIFIED HERE IN THE HALL WITH YOUR FATHER AND HIS BEST MEN. AND IF IT WERE TO MAKE IT THIS FAR, IT WOULD STILL HAVE TO GO THROUGH ME.



I-- I DON'T WANT TO DIE, GILAD. PROMISE ME... PROMISE ME YOU WON'T LET IT HURT ME.



I PROMISE, BOY. IT WON'T HURT YOU... NO MATTER WHAT.



COME NOW... LETS GET YOU INSIDE WHERE IT'S SAFE.





F-FATHER!



GET BACK!



AH, GILAD...  
YOUR RESISTANCE  
IS PART OF THE WAY  
OF THINGS. LIKE  
THE RISING  
SUN...



NOT THIS  
TIME.



I, TOO, AM  
IMMORTAL,  
BEAST.

BUT I  
LEARN  
FROM MY  
MISTAKES.



GILAD!

DO YOU, GILAD? OR DO YOU SIMPLY DELAY THE INEVITABLE?



NO!!

--GGK!



I AM THE ONE WHO WALKS IN SHADOWS. I AM THE BALANCE. I AM THE IMMORTAL ENEMY.

NO NO NO...



AND AGAIN I KNEW FAILURE.

AND AGAIN...



...DARKNESS FOLLOWED.

NOT JUST FOR  
THE AGE OF MY  
FAILURE. BUT FOR  
MANY AGES TO  
FOLLOW.

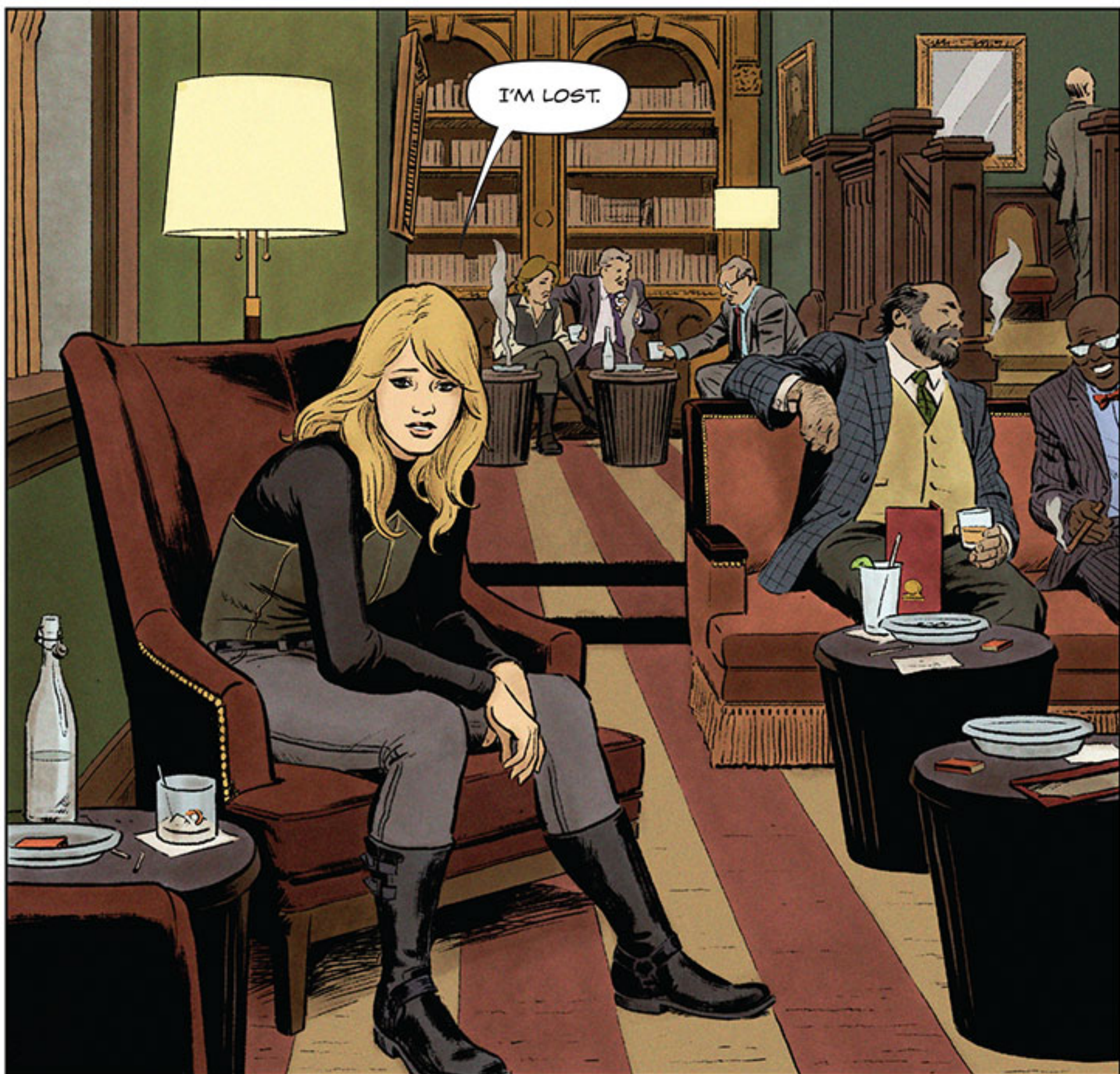


A REMINDER...

...OF MY  
ETERNAL  
FAILURE.

# THE VALLIANT

JEFF LEMIRE - MATT KINDT - PAOLO RIVERA  
JOE RIVERA DAVE LANPHEAR KYLE ANDRUKIEWICZ WARREN SIMONS



I'M LOST.



APPARENTLY, I'M THE GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTER OF BUCK McHENRY. THE MOST SUCCESSFUL GEOMANCER EVER. YEAH. NO PRESSURE.



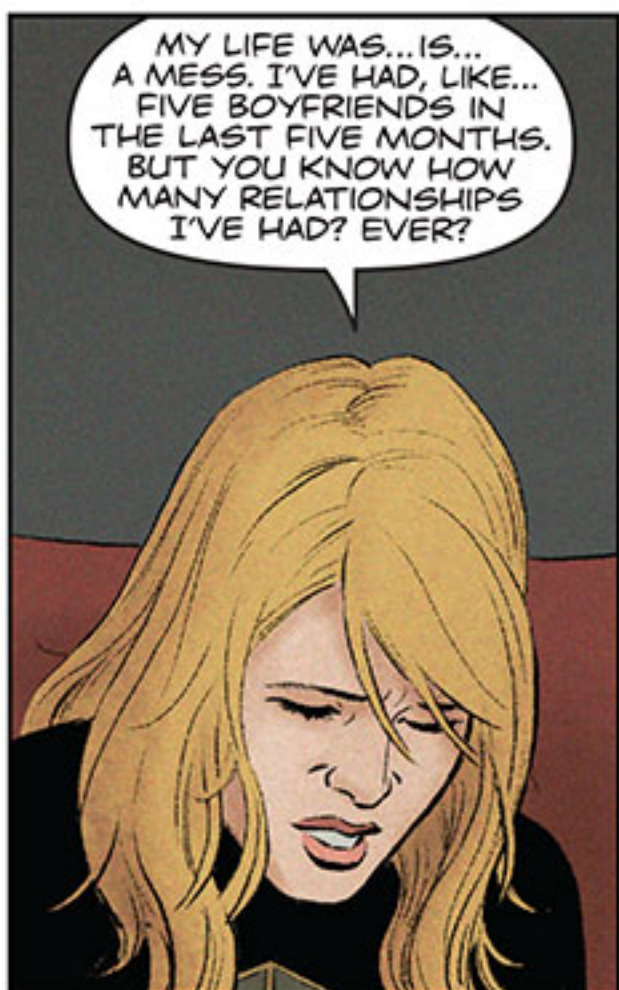
ALTHOUGH, HOW DO YOU GRADE GEOMANCERS? I FEEL STUPID EVEN SAYING "GEOMANCER." TRUST ME, I'M THE QUEEN OF MADE-UP TERMS BUT THAT ONE... YEEESH.





I WAS A PUBLICIST. MY JOB WAS TO LOOK PRETTY ENOUGH THAT YOU'D LOOK AT ME... AND THEN JUST SMART ENOUGH THAT YOU'D LISTEN TO WHAT I SAID.

AFTER THE T.V. CAMERAS AND MICROPHONES TURNED OFF?



MY LIFE WAS... IS... A MESS. I'VE HAD, LIKE... FIVE BOYFRIENDS IN THE LAST FIVE MONTHS. BUT YOU KNOW HOW MANY RELATIONSHIPS I'VE HAD? EVER?



YEAH. DEPRESSING. I TAKE A PILL TO WAKE UP AND ANOTHER COUPLE TO STAY AWAKE AND THEN A HANDFUL MORE TO GET A FEW HOURS' SLEEP BEFORE I START ALL OVER AGAIN.



I'M... I WAS... A PROFESSIONAL B.S.-ER. AND, WHILE I WAS A TRAIN WRECK, THAT WAS THE THING I WAS GOOD AT.



LISTEN. I COULDN'T KEEP A HOUSEPLANT ALIVE. FOR REAL. AND NOW I'M SUPPOSED TO BE THE GUARDIAN OF THE EARTH SOMEHOW?



DON'T GET ME WRONG. I LOVE THE IDEA. TRUST ME WHEN I TELL YOU, THE COMPANY I WAS RUNNING PR. FOR? DISGUSTING. THEY LITERALLY FIND NEW WAYS TO TEAR THE EARTH APART AND TURN A PROFIT FROM IT.



I JUST... I JUST... HOW OFTEN DO YOU ACTUALLY REALIZE YOU'RE AT A CROSSROADS IN YOUR LIFE? I MEAN, I AM SUPER CONSCIOUS OF IT. AND THAT'S WHAT SCARES ME. I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...



WELL...? DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY?



# THE VALIANT



## ETERNAL WARRIOR

For ten thousand years, the Eternal Warrior has walked the face of the Earth. A master of ancient and modern weaponry, he's sworn his life to defend the Geomancers, the long line of oracles born with the power to speak for the Earth itself.



## GEOMANCER

The latest in a line of enigmatic mystics guided by the Earth, Kay McHenry struggles in her new role as the Geomancer.



## 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.



## ARMSTRONG

The Eternal Warrior's brother, Armstrong has walked the face of the Earth for more than ten millennia. He's been sober for at least four of them. Well-traveled and a fan of poetry, he's a surprisingly wise and loyal confidant.



## NEVILLE ALCOTT

The MI-6 liaison for the world's elite superteam Unity, little is known about the man who pulls the strings of the most powerful beings on Earth.



## X-O MANOWAR

Aric of Dacia was a fifth-century Visigoth warrior and heir to the throne before he was stranded in our time with a sentient suit of powerful alien armor. After a difficult period of adjustment, Aric became an unlikely hero and Earth's greatest champion.