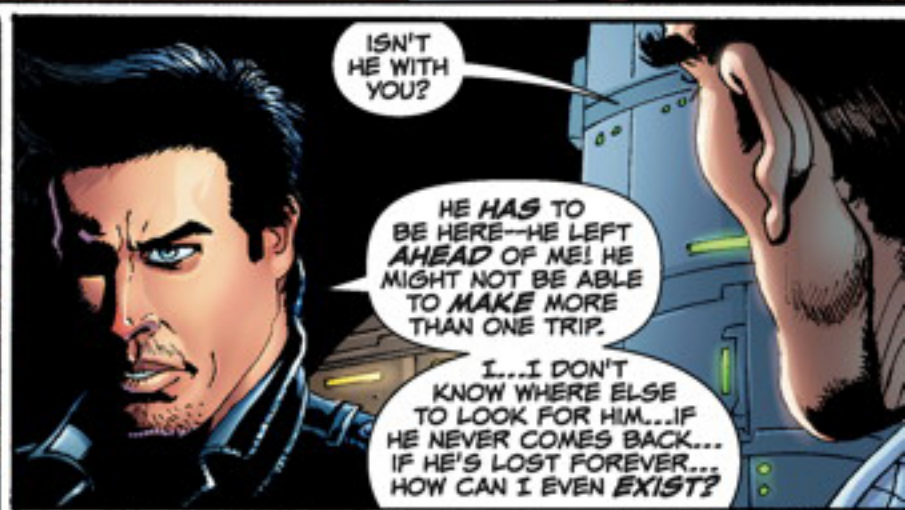




DEAR GOD!  
RESTIN! YOU  
FRIGHTENED  
ME WITH THAT  
THING!



WELLS?  
WHAT ON  
EARTH...?  
WHERE'S  
DANE?



ISN'T  
HE WITH  
YOU?

HE HAS TO  
BE HERE--HE LEFT  
AHEAD OF ME! HE  
MIGHT NOT BE ABLE  
TO MAKE MORE  
THAN ONE TRIP.

I...I DON'T  
KNOW WHERE ELSE  
TO LOOK FOR HIM...IF  
HE NEVER COMES BACK...  
IF HE'S LOST FOREVER...  
HOW CAN I EVEN EXIST?



CALM YOURSELF.  
TELL ME WHAT  
HAPPENED...PERHAPS  
WE CAN FIGURE  
THIS OUT...

I FOUND HIM,  
IN THE MORLOCK  
FUTURE. BUT WE  
WERE SEPARATED...  
THE MORLOCKS  
CAUGHT ME...

THEY  
THREW ME  
INTO A  
DEEP PIT.



"THERE I MET A *VERY*  
STRANGE MAN."

YOU CERTAINLY  
*SMELL* LIKE THE  
ROOK, AND YOU DO *LOOK*  
LIKE HIM. BUT THERE'S  
SOMETHING *OFF* ABOUT  
YOU. COULD IT BE YOUR  
ERA HOPPING HAS  
SOMEHOW *WARPED*  
YOU?

I'VE NEVER MET  
ENOUGH CHRONONAUTS  
TO HAVE FORMED A  
COHERENT HYPOTHESIS,  
AND MOST I'VE HAD TO  
KILL. WOULD YOU MIND  
IF I RAN SOME  
TESTS?

WHAT  
THE HELL  
IS *WRONG*  
WITH YOU?

IS *SNIFFING*  
GAUCHE IN YOUR ERA?  
I'VE LIVED IN  
CULTURES WHERE IT WAS  
THE ONLY APPROPRIATE  
FORM OF GREETING.

IF YOU  
INSIST ON  
BEING PROVINCIAL,  
TIME TRAVEL WILL  
ONLY DISTURB  
YOU.





I'M A PRISONER OF MONSTER CANNIBALS. HOW MUCH MORE DISTURBING CAN IT GET?

THERE MUST BE SOME KIND OF WAY OUT OF HERE.



TIME TRAVEL!

IF I HAD ACCESS RIGHT NOW, DON'T YOU THINK I'D USE IT?



NO, NO, NOT THAT. MY EXPERIMENT. THIS ISLAND WAS A STERILE ENVIRONMENT UNTIL SOMEONE GOT IN, AND I COULDN'T FIGURE OUT HOW.

BUT OF COURSE! TIME TRAVEL! WAS IT YOU?

NO. WHAT DO YOU MEAN, EXPERIMENT?



ALL THIS. THESE CREATURES. EVOLUTION HALTED FOR HUMANITY A LONG TIME AGO.



I THOUGHT TO GIVE IT A PUSH, SEE WHAT MIGHT BRANCH OFF. IT HARDLY MATTERS NOW. THE SAMPLE WAS CONTAMINATED. BEHAVIORS HAVE RAPIDLY CHANGED...THOUGH THAT'S QUITE FASCINATING IN ITS OWN RIGHT...

YOU HANDED THE WORLD OVER TO THESE CREATURES? YOU'RE MORE OF A MONSTER THAN THEY ARE!

DO YOU NOT LISTEN? NOT THE WORLD. THIS ISLAND. I LOST INTEREST IN "THE WORLD" A QUARTER OF A MILLION YEARS AGO.

WHATEVER'S BECOME OF HUMANITY ELSEWHERE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.



I'D FORGOTTEN WHAT A VIOLENT BUMPKIN YOU CAN BE. THAT'S SOMETHING ELSE YOU SHOULD WORK ON.

NOW, IF YOU STILL WISH TO LEAVE THIS PIT...







I DON'T TRUST YOU.

I'M DEVASTATED. DID I USE THAT PROPERLY? I'M OUT OF PRACTICE IN JABBERING WITH JUDGMENTAL NITWITS.

AH. HERE WE GO.



YOU KNEW THERE WAS A DOOR AND YOU STILL STAYED HERE?



IF YOU'D RATHER I LEFT WITHOUT YOU, I STILL CAN.

PLEASE PUT SOME MUSCLE INTO THIS, WOULD YOU?



AH. WONDERFUL.

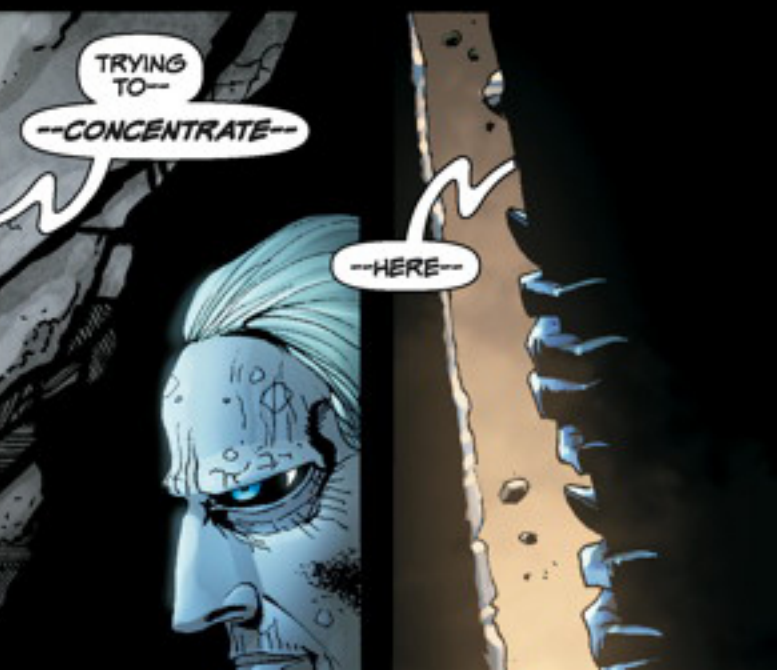
UNDERSTAND THAT TIME AND I HAVE AN ODD RELATIONSHIP. IT'S FUNNY-- I REMEMBER MY PARENTS' FACES-- LOVELY CREATURES-- LIKE THEY WERE HERE WITH US.



BUT YESTERDAY COULD BE A HUNDRED YEARS AGO. I'M NO LONGER ABLE TO TELL.

ONLY BY CONTRAST WITH BEINGS SUCH AS YOU CAN I--

SHUT! UP!



TRYING TO--  
--CONCENTRATE--

--HERE--





THAT'S FINE. YOU REST. SURELY NO SAVAGE BEAST MEN COULD ARRIVE AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE.

Y'KNOW, YOU'RE MAKING IT VERY DIFFICULT TO NOT WANT TO KILL YOU IF I CAN EVER STAND UP AGAIN.



OH, IF ONLY THAT WERE TRUE. BUT IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'VE NEVER TRIED.

TELL ME, HOW MANY TIME TRIPS HAVE YOU TAKEN?

DOES IT MATTER?



OFTEN ONE NEVER TRULY KNOWS WHAT MATTERS UNTIL AFTER THE FACT.

TRUST ME, YOU WANT TO ANSWER THE QUESTION.

THIS IS MY THIRD. WHY?



HERE'S TO MANY MORE. I SUPPOSE IT'S BEST WE SEND YOU ON YOUR WAY.

YOU MIGHT NEED THIS.

I'M NOT LEAVING. THE MORLOCK IN CHARGE--HE'S GOT MY GUN. AND THERE'S SOMEONE I HAVE TO SAVE.



OF COURSE THERE IS. YOU CAN'T EVER JUST DO SOMETHING SIMPLY, CAN YOU?

DON'T TALK LIKE YOU KNOW ME.

WAIT, DID YOU SAY YOU'VE BEEN ALIVE 250,000 YEARS?



NOWHERE NEAR...

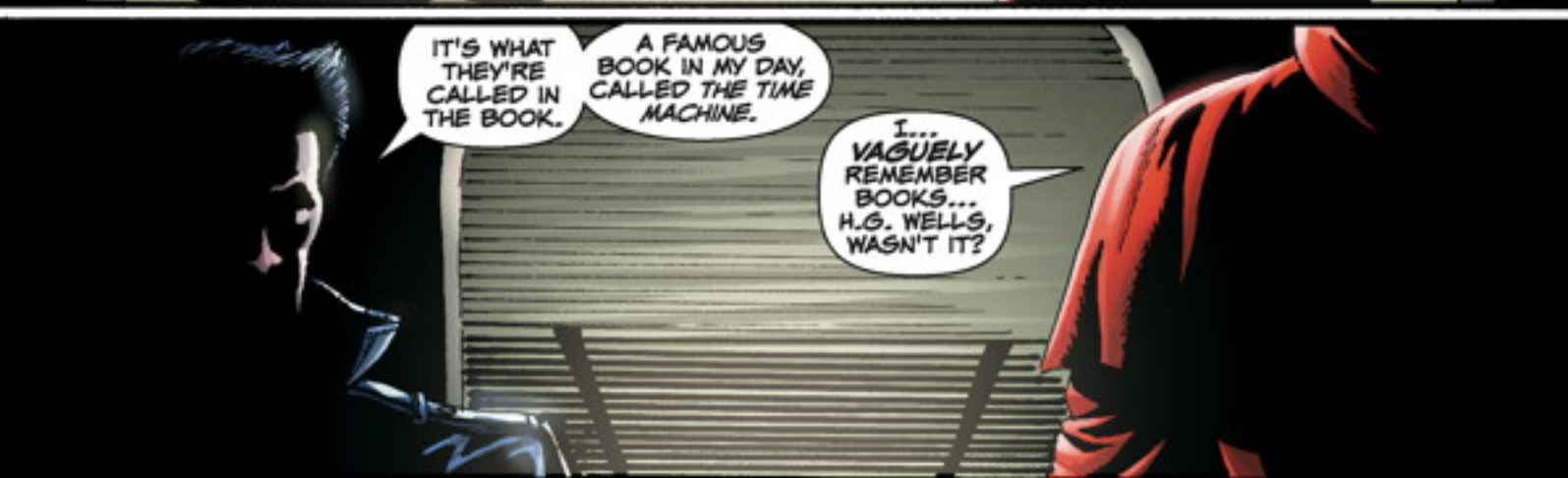




AREN'T WE SITTING DUCKS FOR MORLOCKS DOWN HERE?

I TOLD YOU, THEY'RE CHANGING. THEY SPEND LESS AND LESS TIME IN THE DARK NOW. STILL...WELL, THAT'S WHY I HAVE YOU, ISN'T IT?

WHY DO YOU CALL THEM MORLOCKS?



IT'S WHAT THEY'RE CALLED IN THE BOOK.

A FAMOUS BOOK IN MY DAY, CALLED THE TIME MACHINE.

I... VAGUELY REMEMBER BOOKS... H.G. WELLS, WASN'T IT?



HOW WOULD YOU--?

I SEE. IT WASN'T FICTION. THIS PERSON YOU INTEND TO SAVE-- IT'S WELLS'S TIME TRAVELER, ISN'T IT?

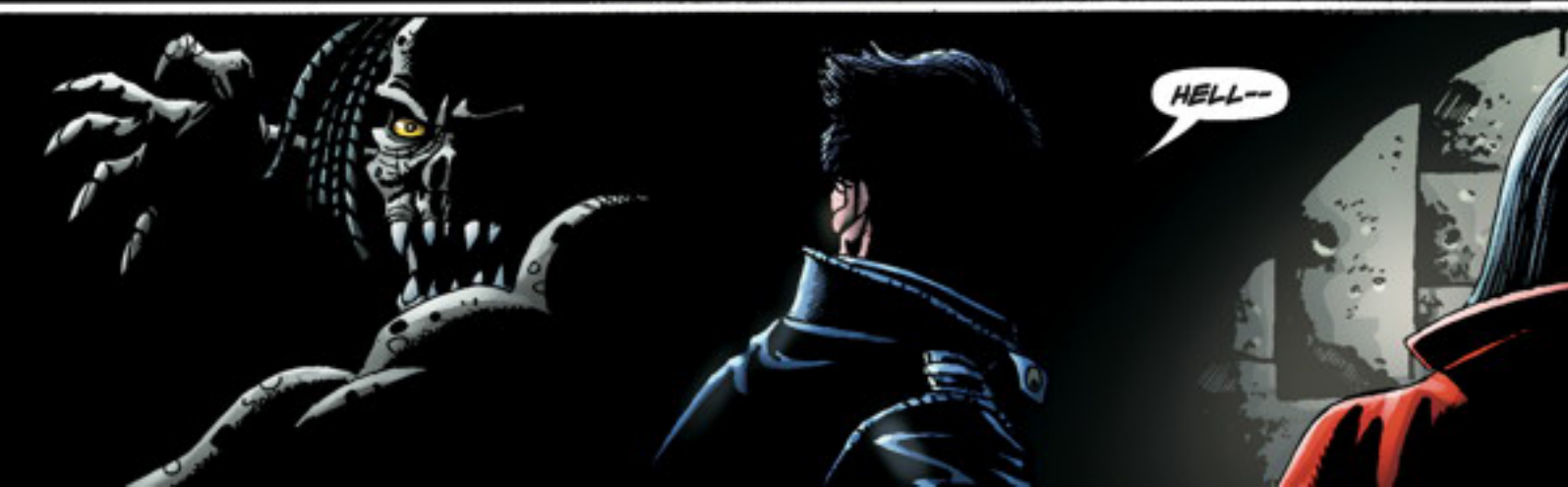
IT WAS HE WHO RUINED EVERYTHING!



WHO ARE YOU?

YOU HAVE A LIFETIME OF SURPRISES AHEAD OF YOU, ROOK. LET'S NOT SPOIL THEM ALL AT ONCE.

BY THE WAY, YOU MAY WANT TO USE THAT.



HELL--