

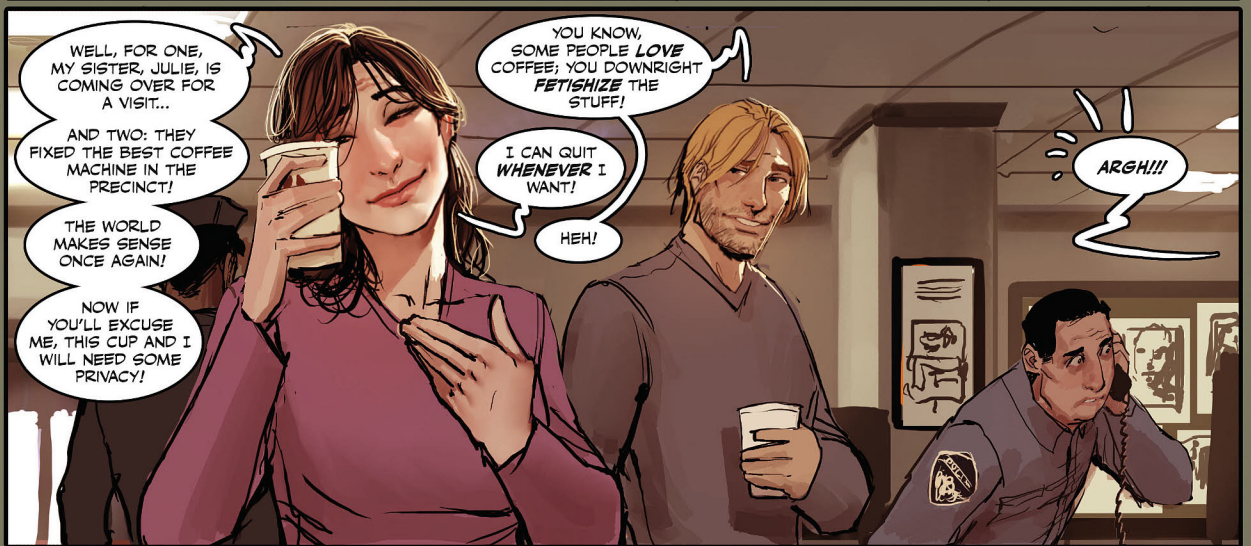
OH, HELL YES!



A HAPPY PEZZINI? IS THERE A PLANETARY ALIGNMENT THAT I'M MISSING?

COME ON, JAKE! DON'T MAKE ME SOUND LIKE SOME GRUMP! I HAD A **ROUGH** WEEK!

SO, WHAT CHANGED?



WELL, FOR ONE, MY SISTER, JULIE, IS COMING OVER FOR A VISIT...

AND TWO: THEY FIXED THE BEST COFFEE MACHINE IN THE PRECINCT!

THE WORLD MAKES SENSE ONCE AGAIN!

NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, THIS CUP AND I WILL NEED SOME PRIVACY!

YOU KNOW, SOME PEOPLE **LOVE** COFFEE; YOU DOWNRIGHT **FETISHIZE** THE STUFF!

I CAN QUIT **WHENEVER** I WANT!

HEH!

ARGH!!!



DAMN LINES!!!

SOMEONE GET ME **WILKINS!** I NEED HIM AND HIS SWAT TEAM READY NOW!



UM, JOE, WHAT'S GOING ON?

WHERE DO I EVEN **BEGIN?** SEEMS THAT THE **IRONS CITY GRID** CRASHED AGAIN, SO PEOPLE'S CALLS WEREN'T COMING THROUGH!

OKAY?

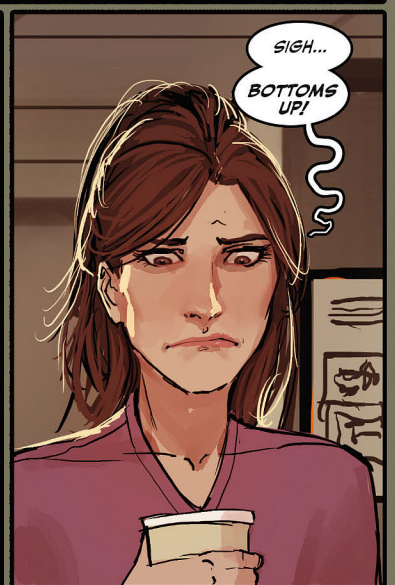


MEANWHILE, IT TURNS OUT THERE IS A FRIGGIN' BATTLE TAKING PLACE TWELVE BLOCKS AWAY!

W-WHAT!?

YOU HEARD ME! AND AGAIN, IT'S SOME GIRL FIGHTING SOME ARMORED...I DON'T KNOW...ANGEL!?

THE **HELL** IS GOING ON WITH THIS CITY?!



SIGH... **BOTTOMS UP!**

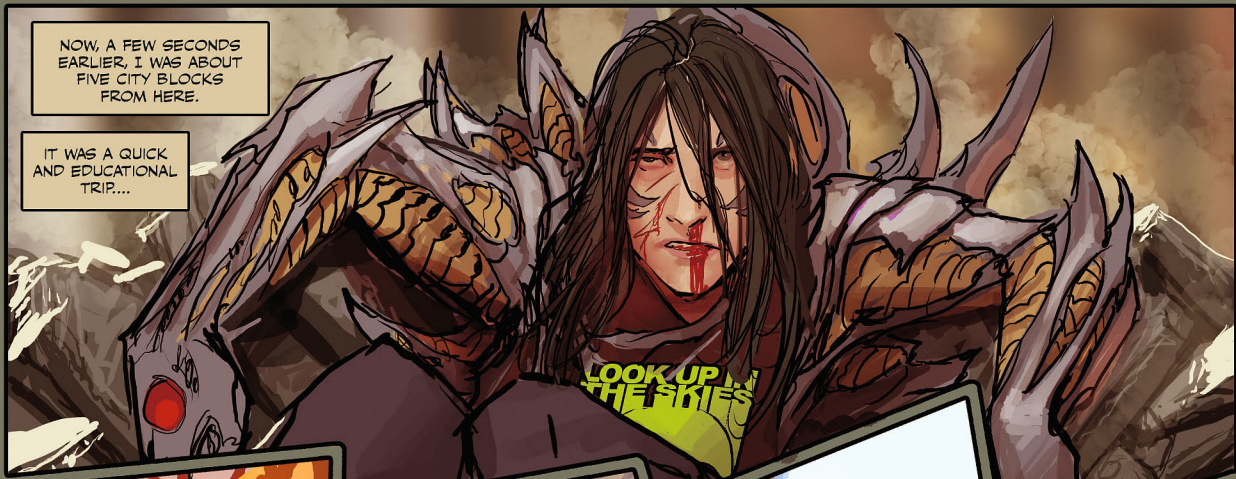






NOW, A FEW SECONDS EARLIER, I WAS ABOUT FIVE CITY BLOCKS FROM HERE.

IT WAS A QUICK AND EDUCATIONAL TRIP...



I LEARNED THAT THIS CELESTINE CAN BLAST ME FROM AFAR...

I LEARNED THAT SHE CAN FLY...



I ALSO LEARNED THAT EVEN WITH WITCHBLADE....



HITTING A CAR AT TERMINAL VELOCITY HURTS!

YEAH... SO THERE I WAS...

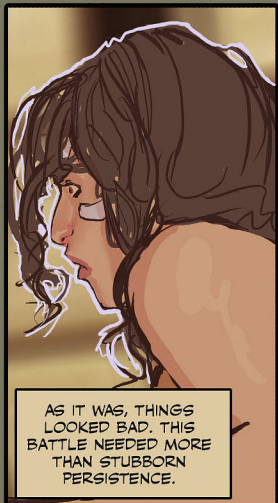
BRUISED, BLOODY, AND SITTING IN A PILE OF RUBBLE...

DEJA VU!

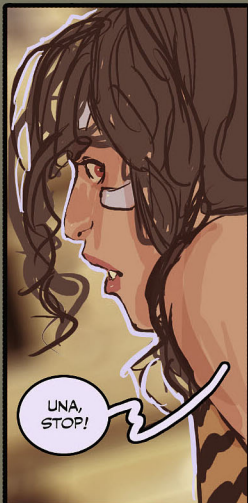
UNA WAS FRUSTRATED... HER ANGER OVERRIDING MY OWN FEAR...

ON HER OWN SHE COULD HAVE **POUNDED** CELESTINE!

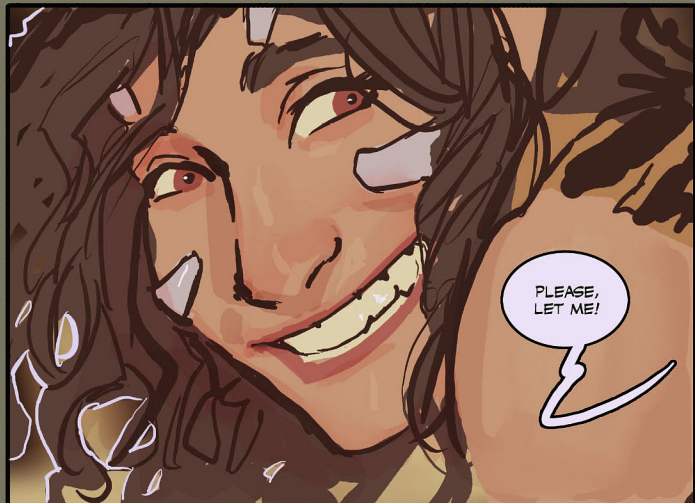
BUT, WELL... CHANNIELED BY A SCRAWNY TEENAGER AND ALL THAT.



AS IT WAS, THINGS LOOKED BAD. THIS BATTLE NEEDED MORE THAN STUBBORN PERSISTENCE.



UNA, STOP!



PLEASE, LET ME!



AND JUST LIKE THAT, THE PRIMAL ANGER SUBSIDED.

UNA LEFT, AND THE TINGLING STARTED IN ANOTHER PART OF MY MIND...

IT FELT DIFFERENT. CLEVER...AWARE...

WISE!

CAN YOU HEAR ME, GIRL?

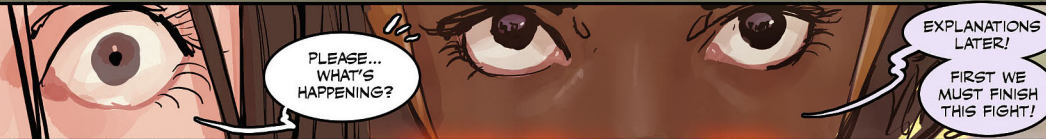
Y-YES?



PLEASE... WHAT'S HAPPENING?

EXPLANATIONS LATER!

FIRST WE MUST FINISH THIS FIGHT!



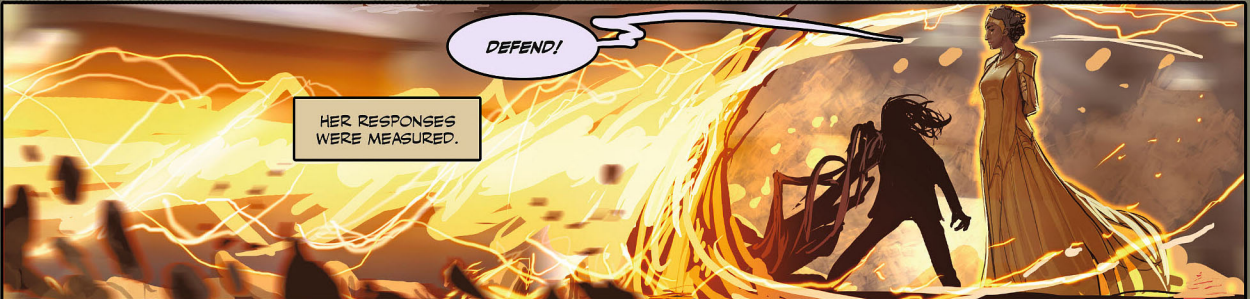
IT WAS AMUSING, BUT YOUR TIME IS UP!

FAREWELL, YOUNG BEARER!



DEFEND!

HER RESPONSES WERE MEASURED.

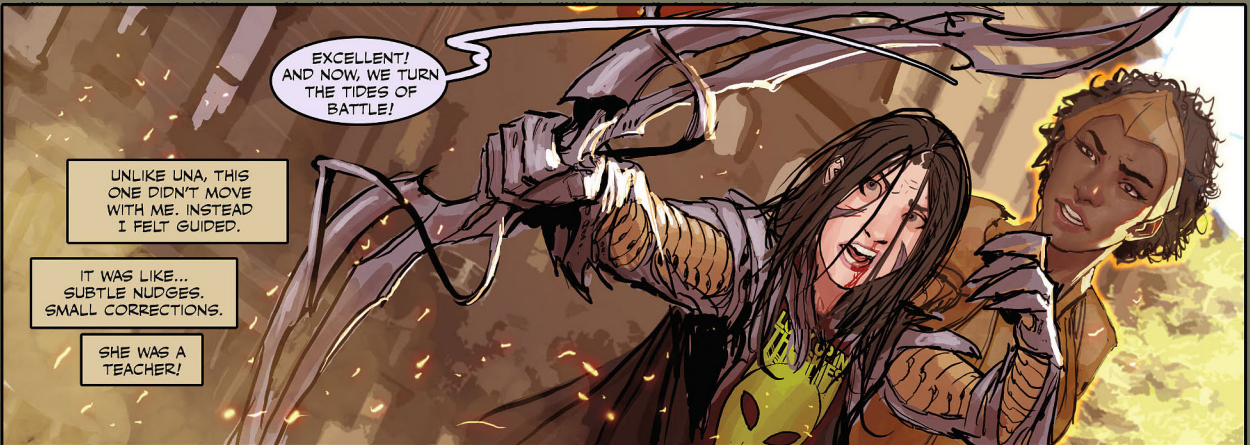


EXCELLENT! AND NOW, WE TURN THE TIDES OF BATTLE!

UNLIKE UNA, THIS ONE DIDN'T MOVE WITH ME. INSTEAD I FELT GUIDED.

IT WAS LIKE... SUBTLE NUDGES. SMALL CORRECTIONS.

SHE WAS A TEACHER!







HUH!?

UH -- I -- I NEVER HELD A BOW IN MY LIFE!

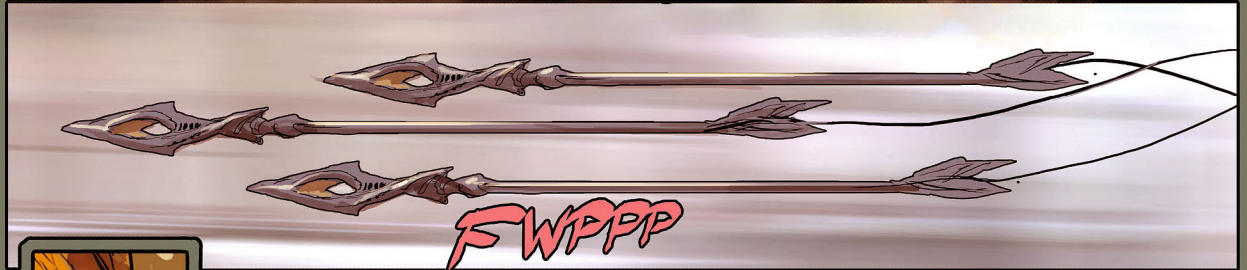
THEN LET'S MAKE THIS THE FIRST OF MANY TIMES!

MAYBE IT WAS HER WARM TONE OF VOICE...

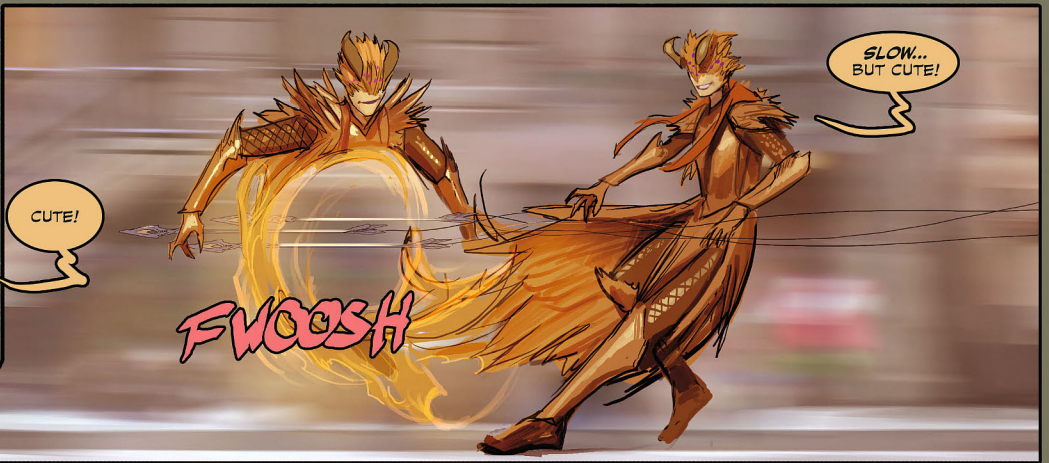
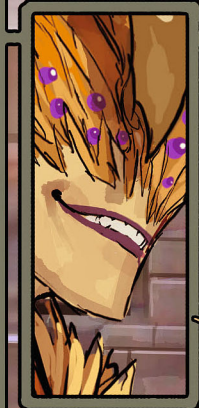
BUT MY PANIC WAS ONCE AGAIN GONE.

WITH *UNA* IT WAS REPLACED BY *COURAGE*...

WITH THIS WOMAN...IT WAS *DETERMINATION*.



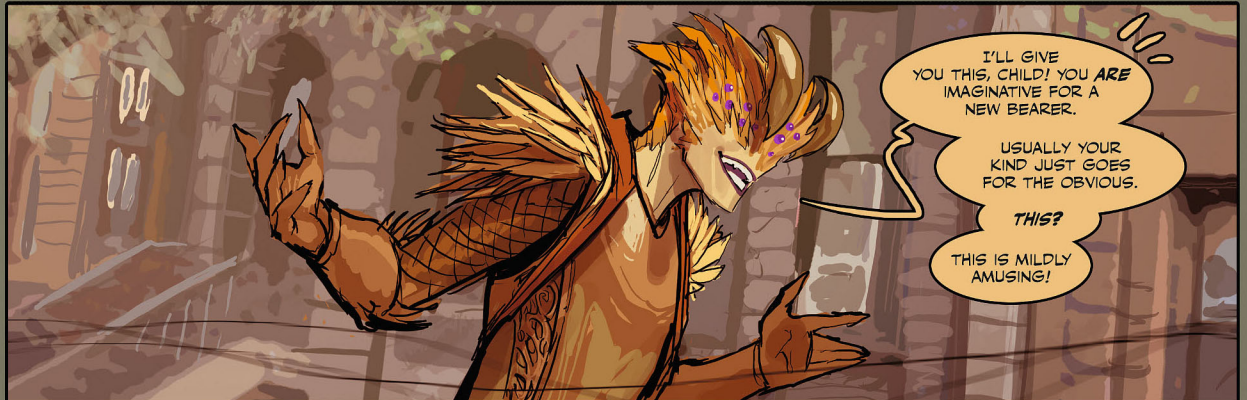
**FWPPP**



CUTE!

**FWOOSH**

SLOW... BUT CUTE!



I'LL GIVE YOU THIS, CHILD! YOU *ARE* IMAGINATIVE FOR A NEW BEARER.

USUALLY YOUR KIND JUST GOES FOR THE OBVIOUS.

*THIS?*  
THIS IS MILDLY AMUSING!





I WASN'T SURE IF THE IDEA WAS MINE, OR HERS.

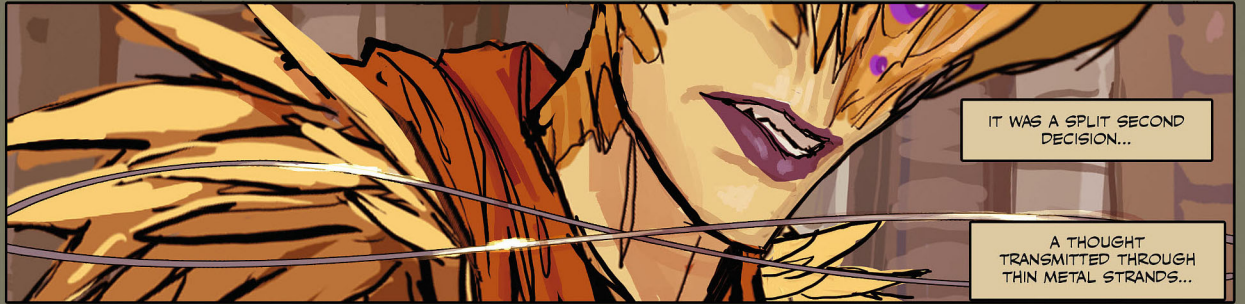
MAYBE IT WAS A BIT OF BOTH...

THOUGH IT WAS PROBABLY HER.

POINT IS... I *KNEW* WHAT TO DO!

NOW!

UNRAVEL!

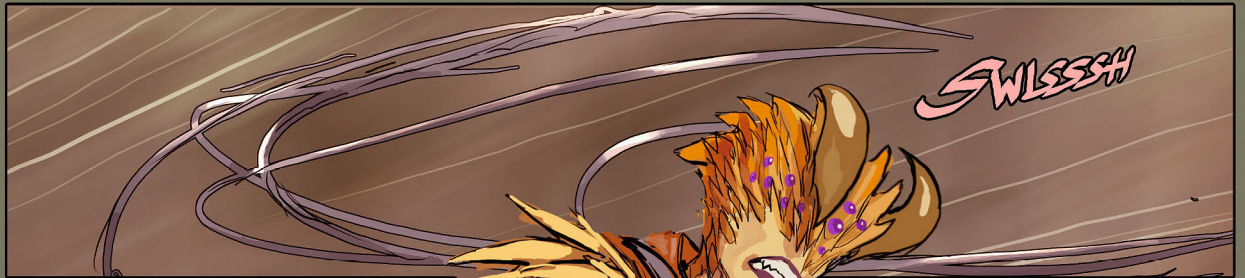


IT WAS A SPLIT SECOND DECISION...

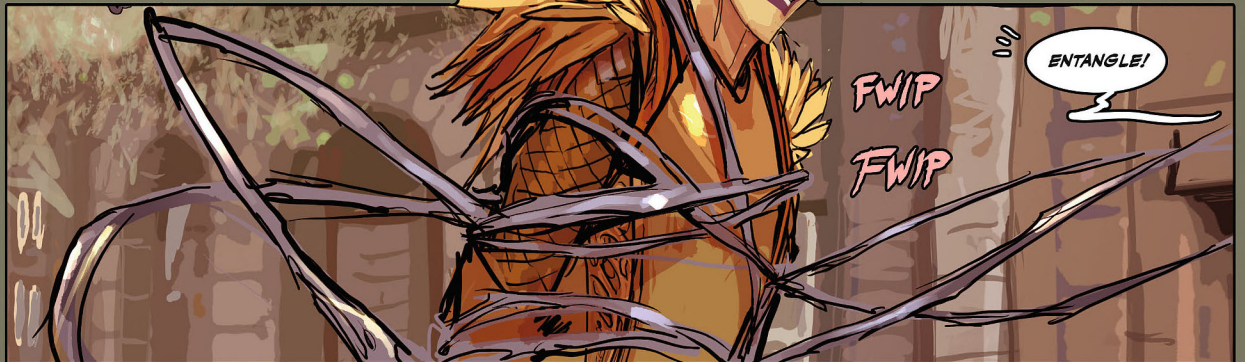
A THOUGHT TRANSMITTED THROUGH THIN METAL STRANDS...



AND, ON MY COMMAND, ARROWS UNRAVELLED.



SWISSSH



FWIP  
FWIP

ENTANGLE!