

"LET US SIMPLY
CONSIDER THE **FACTS...**"

"...**CORUM RATH** HAS
SEIZED THE THRONE
OF ATLANTIS AND
NOW RULES AS A
TYRANT KING."

"HE HAS REINFORCED HIS
AUTHORITY WITH **OLD MAGIC OF
ATLANTIS**, MAGIC THAT HAS BEEN
FORBIDDEN FOR CENTURIES.

"HIS FIRST ACT WAS TO
CONTAIN THE ENTIRE
NATION UNDER AN
IMPENETRABLE DOME OF
SORCERY CALLED THE
CROWN OF THORNS."

"NOW, TRUE ENOUGH, THE
CROWN OF THORNS **PROTECTS**
ATLANTIS FROM EXTERNAL
THREAT...BUT IT ALSO **TRAPS**
US ALL IN HERE **WITH HIM.**"

"WHICH MEANS HE
CAN FOCUS ON THE
ELIMINATION OF
INTERNAL DISSENT."

BY ROYAL
DECREE, YOU ARE
DECLARED **TAINT-BLOODS**
AND **TRAITORS** TO THE
REALM OF ATLANTIS...

The
Trench
Tribe of
Atlantis.

"JUST THIS MORNING, THE
DRIFT, RATH'S **SECRET
POLICE**, BEGAN A
DEATH-TRAWL OF THE
CITY'S LOWER TRIDES.

"RATH BELIEVES THE
POOR AND THE OUTCASTS--
ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO
DISPLAY **SEA-CHANGE**
MUTATIONS--ARE **HARBORING**
RESISTANCE FACTIONS."

PLEASE!
PLEASE, DON'T
DO THIS! WE ARE **LOYAL**
SUBJECTS! WE **BEG**
OF YOU--

"RATH IS SENDING
A MESSAGE TO THE
POPULACE. HE WILL
CRUSH **ALL** OPPOSITION
TO HIS RULE."

SUB-COMMANDER?
ACTIVATE THIS
KILL-NET, PLEASE. I'M
NOT LISTENING TO **ANY**
MORE OF THIS
PATHETIC--

NHH! DAMN
FISH! BUZZ
OFF!

WHERE
HAS THIS DAMN
SCHOOL COME
FROM--

GAH!

"BUT THIS MORNING,
SOMEONE HAD
ANOTHER MESSAGE
TO SEND."

LET
THESE
PEOPLE
GO.

THE CROWN COMES DOWN

Part One

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THE
AQUAMAN!
ATLAN BLESS
US! IT IS THE
AQUAMAN!

I-I
THOUGHT HE
WAS J-JUST
A MYTH!

USE YOUR
EYES,
FRIEND--

"--THAT'S
NO MYTH!"

UGHKKKK!



"**QUITE A MESSAGE, IN FACT. KING RATH WAS GIVEN NOTICE THAT HIS TYRANNY WOULD *NOT* GO UNCHALLENGED...**



"...**THAT THE REBEL MOVEMENT CALLED *THE UNDERCURRENT* HAD A *NEW LEADER*...**

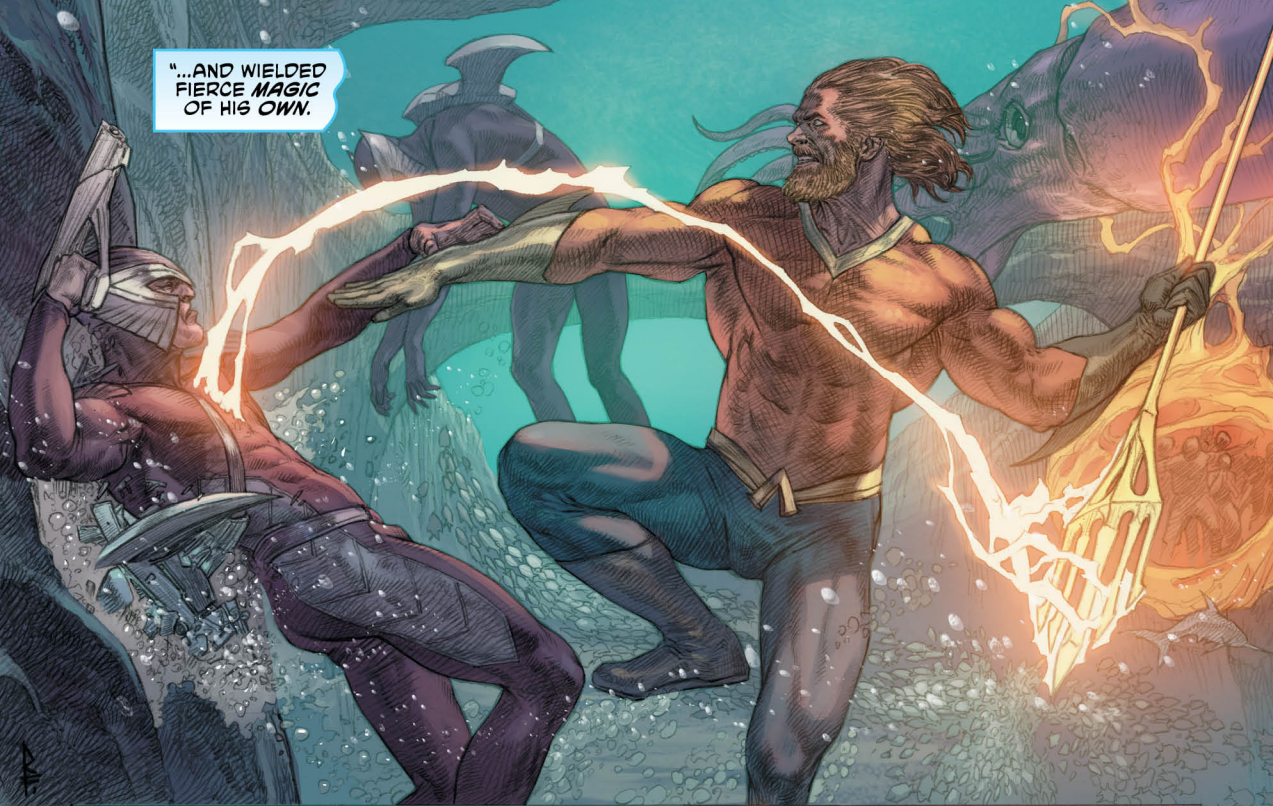
"...**AND THAT LEADER WAS THE *REVENANT GHOST* OF THE KING WHO RATH *MURDERED* TO SEIZE THE THRONE.**



"**AND HOW COULD THEY TELL IT WAS A GHOST?**

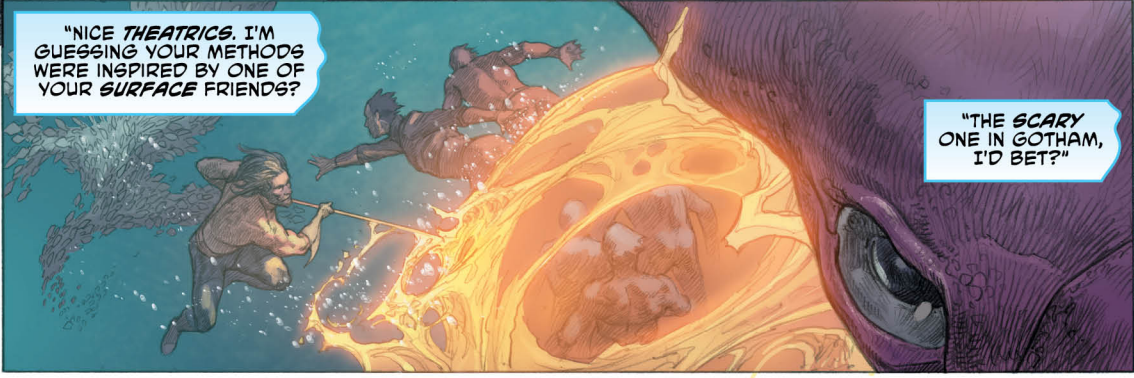
"**WHY, BECAUSE THIS PHANTOM, 'THE AQUAMAN,' APPEARED FROM *NOWHERE*...**"

"...AND WIELDED FIERCE MAGIC OF HIS OWN.



"NICE THEATRICALS. I'M GUESSING YOUR METHODS WERE INSPIRED BY ONE OF YOUR SURFACE FRIENDS?"

"THE SCARY ONE IN GOTHAM, I'D BET?"



NO TIME TO TALK.

SPREAD THE WORD.



JUSTICE IS COMING.

"GOOD LINE..."

