

ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WAS ONLY THE SUN.

THE SUN WAS EVERYTHING, BUT HE WISHED FOR THERE TO BE MORE.



AND SO THE SUN CREATED THE WORLD. HE CREATED THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD, AND HE DESCENDED FROM THE SKY TO RULE.

HE TOOK THE NAME RA. HE WAS A KIND AND BENEVOLENT GOD WHO WISHED ONLY FOR THE LOVE OF HIS SUBJECTS.

OTHER GODS ROSE. SOME JOINED RA. SOME OPPOSED HIM.

AND SOME BECAME HIS LOVERS.



AND FROM THOSE LOVERS, RA WAS GIVEN THREE DAUGHTERS.

HATHOR THE BELOVED, WHO SHARED HER FATHER'S STRENGTH AND LOVE.

BASTET THE CLEVER, WHO SHARED HER FATHER'S LOVE FOR PUZZLES AND STRATEGY.

SEKHMET THE FIERCE, WHO SHARED HER FATHER'S WRATH AND SENSE OF JUSTICE.

THE SISTERS WERE BEST OF FRIENDS.



FACE IT, SEKHMET, YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO BEAT ME AT A GAME WHERE STRATEGY IS INVOLVED.

BUT, OF COURSE, GAMES OF STRATEGY WERE NOT SEKHMET'S FORTE.

MY DAUGHTER, ACOLYTES FROM THE SOUTH ARE TURNING FROM OUR LIGHT AND OPT INSTEAD TO FIGHT FOR APOPHIS.

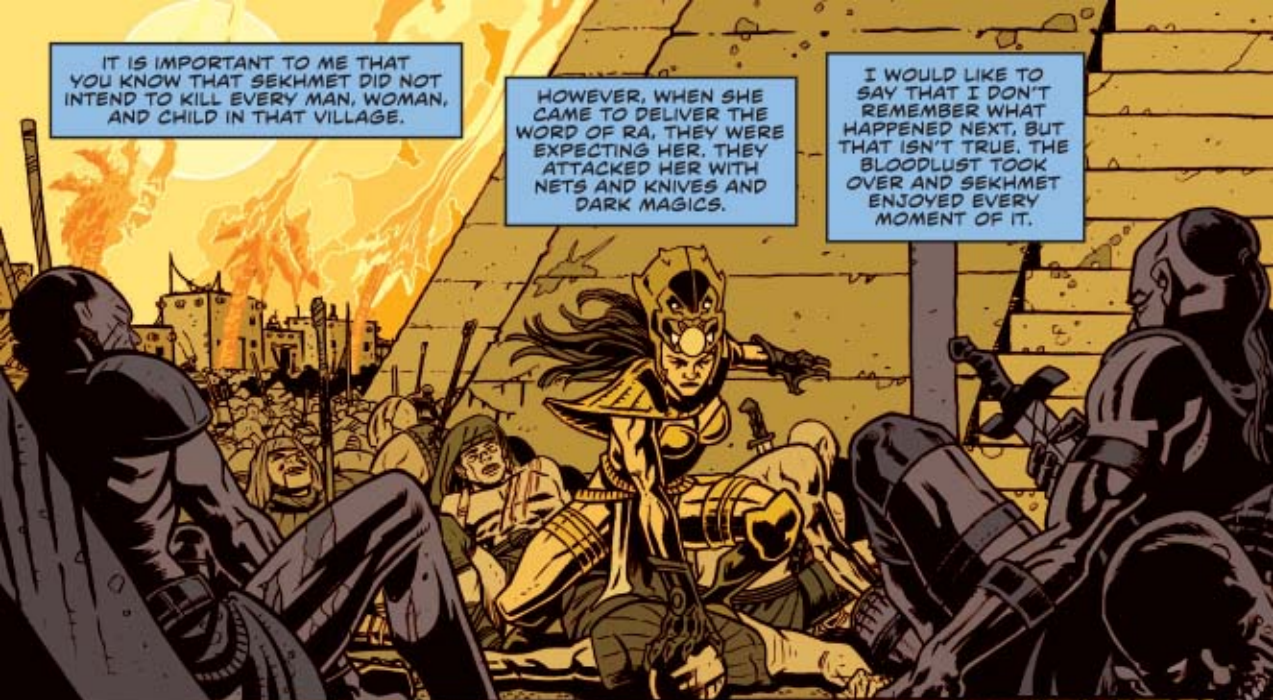
I HAD YOU! I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU BEAT ME!

YOU MUST HELP THEM SEE THE ERROR OF THEIR WAYS.

YES, FATHER.







IT IS IMPORTANT TO ME THAT YOU KNOW THAT SEKHMET DID NOT INTEND TO KILL EVERY MAN, WOMAN, AND CHILD IN THAT VILLAGE.

HOWEVER, WHEN SHE CAME TO DELIVER THE WORD OF RA, THEY WERE EXPECTING HER. THEY ATTACKED HER WITH NETS AND KNIVES AND DARK MAGICS.

I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED NEXT, BUT THAT ISN'T TRUE. THE BLOODLUST TOOK OVER AND SEKHMET ENJOYED EVERY MOMENT OF IT.



WHEN RA LEARNED WHAT SEKHMET HAD DONE, HE STOOD IN JUDGEMENT OF HER.


NOT ONLY HAD SHE MURDERED INNOCENTS, BUT HER ACTIONS HAD DISGRACED RA.

SO HE DID WHAT HE FELT HE MUST.



HE DRAINED HER OF HER GODLY POWER.

HE TOOK EVERYTHING FROM HER: HER HOME, HER LIFE, EVEN HER NAME.




AND HER SISTERS WATCHED THE WHOLE PROCESS IN SILENCE.

WHEN SHE BEGAN THIS TORTURE, SHE HAD BEEN THE GODDESS SEKHMET.

WHEN IT ENDED, SHE WAS ONLY PANTHA.

HE LEFT HER WITH THREE ABILITIES: SHE COULD TAKE THE FORM OF A PANTHER, SHE COULD USE THE SCARAB OF ATUM-RA TO OPEN GATEWAYS BETWEEN WORLDS, AND THE THIRD--HER CURSE.


PANTHA WOULD WANDER FOREVER, WITHOUT THE LIGHT OF RA, KNOWING NEITHER HOME NOR PEACE. SHE COULD NEVER DIE.



SHE WANDERED WITH NEITHER FRIEND NOR HOME FOR CENTURIES...

UNTIL...






I MET YOU,  
VAMPIRELLA.

I WAS IN  
THE MIDDLE OF  
MURDERING A  
SCIENTIST WHO  
HAD EXPERIMENTED  
ON ME, WHEN YOU  
STEPPED IN TO  
STOP ME.

THAT WAS THE  
FIRST TIME THAT  
MY BLOODLUST HAD  
COME OUT AND I  
HADN'T LEFT BEHIND  
A PILE OF BODIES.


I COULD  
STOP.



WHEN I  
KNEW THAT  
A GREAT EVIL  
WAS COMING OR  
THE WORLD WAS  
ABOUT TO END, I  
HAD SOMEONE  
TO TURN TO.


WE WEREN'T FRIENDS AT FIRST, BUT OVER  
TIME WE GREW TO TRUST EACH OTHER.

IT WAS LIKE HAVING A SISTER  
AGAIN. IT HAD BEEN THOUSANDS  
OF YEARS SINCE MY SISTERS  
HAD TURNED THEIR BACK ON ME.  
I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T DO THAT.



IT WAS BECAUSE OF YOU THAT  
I DARED TO TRY AND HAVE A  
HOME AND A LIFE AGAIN.

AND SURE, WE MOSTLY ONLY MET WHEN THE WORLD WAS IN DANGER, BUT  
KNOWING YOU WERE THERE AND I WOULDN'T HAVE TO SAVE THE WORLD  
ALONE MEANT THAT MAYBE I COULD DO SOMETHING NORMAL AND STUPID...



LIKE FALL IN  
LOVE AGAIN.

MICHAEL,  
STOP STARING,  
I HAVEN'T  
SHOWERED  
YET.

YOU LOOK  
ABSOLUTELY  
PERFECT  
TO ME.



I TOLD MICHAEL WHAT I  
WAS EARLY ON AND HE  
HARDLY BLINKED AN EYE.

"I KNEW  
YOU WERE  
A GODDESS  
FROM THE  
MOMENT I  
SAW YOU,"  
HE SAID.

THE ONLY THING HE  
ASKED WAS THAT WHEN I  
WASN'T OUT SAVING THE  
WORLD, I WOULD SPEND  
MY TIME WITH HIM.

A CONCESSION  
I WAS ONLY TOO  
HAPPY TO OBLIGE.



A FEW YEARS PASSED AND WE WERE HAPPY...

AND THEN THE ANGELS CAME.

HALT!  
DESIGNATION PANTHA, YOU ARE SUBJECT TO MANDATORY RELOCATION. ATTEMPTS TO FLEE WILL BE MET WITH FORCE.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY KNEW ABOUT ME OR HOW, BUT I WAS ONE OF THE FIRST THEY CAME FOR.



I KNEW THAT IF I WENT PEACEFULLY, THEY WOULD LET MICHAEL GO. HE WAS NO THREAT TO THEM.

OF COURSE, I KNOW THAT'S WRONG NOW. THEY WOULD HAVE TAKEN HIM ALONG WITH EVERYONE ELSE WHO LOOKED LIKE HIM, BUT...

HEY GUYS, YOU FOR SURE HAVE THE WRONG WOMAN HERE. THIS IS MY WIFE, ELAINE.

MICHAEL, DON'T--



LUCIFER WANTED TO INSURE THAT PEOPLE OBEYED WITHOUT QUESTION.

RESISTANCE DETECTED. FORCE INITIATED.

AND THE EASIEST WAY TO DO THAT--



--WAS TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF US.





THE PEOPLE ON THE STREET STOOD AND WATCHED AS MY HAPPY LIFE ENDED AND AN OLD SENSATION RETURNED.

MICHAEL...



BLOODLUST.

YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS.



I RIPPED APART THOSE TWO ANGELS RIGHT THERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET.

IT FELT GOOD. SO GOOD IN FACT--



--THAT I DIDN'T STOP THERE. I KILLED EVERY PERSON ON THAT STREET. JUST BECAUSE THEY STOOD THERE STARING BLANKLY THROUGH IT ALL.

I LOST THE CONTROL I'D HELD ONTO SO DESPERATELY. I WORRIED THAT I HAD LOST THE REAL ME. AND I KNEW--

02-05  
DEC 01  
4PM



--I COULDN'T FACE WHATEVER THIS WAS ALONE. I NEEDED TO FIND MY SISTER.

VAMPIRELLA. I NEED TO FIND VAMPIRELLA.