



THAT GUY, HOLDING
THE GUN-- HE'S MY
BEST FRIEND, ZO.


ZO AND I HAVE BEEN
PRACTICALLY
INSEPARABLE SINCE
WE WERE FIRST BORN.

ME? I'M THE ONE HE'S
POINTING THE GUN AT.



I'M A MEMBER OF THE
ELITE COUNCIL, FROM
AN ANCIENT AND
RESPECTED FAMILY.

I'VE GOT AN INCREDIBLE
WIFE, AND TWO CHILDREN
WITH INFINITE POTENTIAL.



BUT NONE OF
THAT MEANS
ANYTHING
ANMORE...

...BECAUSE I'VE
MADE POOR
CHOICES.

I IGNORED THE PEOPLE I SHOULD'VE
BEEN LISTENING TO AND CARING FOR.
I LET MYSELF GET TOO CAUGHT UP IN
THINGS THAT REALLY DIDN'T MATTER.
I LOST PERSPECTIVE.

AND IT'S ABOUT TO
COST ME MY LIFE.

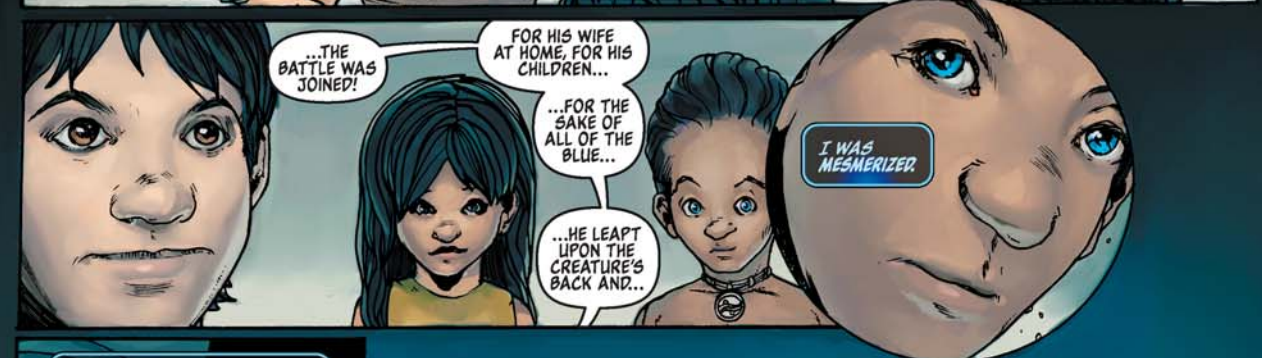


THERE'S SO MUCH I
NEED TO TELL YOU,
ASPEN, SO MUCH
YOU NEED TO KNOW.

BUT I HAVEN'T
MUCH TIME, AND
MY THOUGHTS
ARE CHAOTIC.

YOUR MOM'S THE GREAT
STORYTELLER, NOT ME.
BUT HOPEFULLY, YOU'LL
FIND THIS, AND HOPEFULLY
IT WILL MAKE SENSE.

I'LL SHARE
AS MUCH
AS I CAN...





...AND RESCUE
THE DAMSEL IN
DISTRESS.

THE SEA IS A DANGEROUS
PLACE, BUT THESE WERE
THE TWO PEOPLE I KNEW
I COULD ALWAYS TRUST
TO HAVE MY BACK.



WE NEVER SAID IT, BUT WE
ALL JUST KNEW THAT WE'D
BE FRIENDS FOREVER...

...THROUGH WHATEVER GREAT
CHALLENGES AND EPIC
ADVENTURES THAT LIFE AND
FATE MAY LAY BEFORE US.



DESPITE THE DANGER, WE ALL
LAUGHED HYSTERICALLY, HAVING
THE BEST OF TIMES, ENJOYING
THE ADVENTURE OF IT ALL.

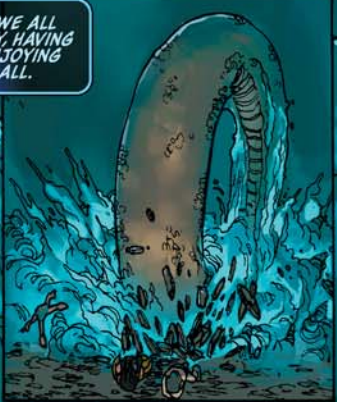
BUT THEN, ALL THAT EXPECTED
ADVENTURE AND EXCITEMENT
SLOWLY SLIPPED AWAY AS WE
GREW OLDER.

I SETTLED INTO
THE ROUTINES OF
A NORMAL LIFE...

...LOST SIGHT OF THE PERSON
I HAD WANTED-- EXPECTED--

--DREAMED THAT
I WOULD BE.

YES, MY DREAMS
HAD DISAPPEARED,
BUT THINGS WERE
WORSE FOR YOUR
MOTHER. FOR HER,
LIFE HAD BECOME...





...A NIGHTMARE.

LEAVE...
ME...

...ALONE!



LOMA! IT WAS
ANOTHER NIGHTMARE...
THE BLACK--



ANOTHER
ONE?



IT'S JUST A
DREAM. BREATHE
DEEP, AND LET
IT FADE.



IT'S EVERY
NIGHT, LOMA. IT'S
GETTING WORSE. FOR
SOME REASON, OVER THE
LAST FEW WEEKS, IT'S
JUST-- I CAN'T TAKE
IT ANYMORE, I--



--IT'S OK.
YOU'RE RIGHT,
IT'S JUST A
DREAM.

I'LL BE
ALL RIGHT.
YOU SHOULD
GO BACK TO
SLEEP.



OK, BUT
WAKE ME IF
YOU NEED
ME.



I SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE BACK TO
SLEEP. I SHOULD'VE STAYED UP
WITH HER, COMFORTED HER, THAT'S
WHAT A GOOD HUSBAND WOULD DO.

BUT I WAS STILL HALF
ASLEEP, AND SO
DAMN TIRED, AND I
HAD TO BE AWAKE
EARLY, AND I KNEW I
SHOULDN'T, I KNEW IT
WAS NEGLECTFUL...



...BUT I JUST
NEEDED TO SLEEP.

THE NEXT MORNING
SEEMED LIKE ANY
OTHER DAY.

IT CERTAINLY
BEGAN IN
MUNDANE
ENOUGH
FASHION.

BUT THE WAY THIS
DAY WOULD END? I
COULD NEVER HAVE
POSSIBLY IMAGINED...

FATHER!

CAN WE GO TO
THE KELP MAZES
TODAY, FATHER?
PLEASE! PLEASE
CAN WE?

SERIOUSLY,
FATHER, WE HAVEN'T
BEEN IN--

OF COURSE
WE CAN!



HOORAY!
FATHER TIME!!

BUT...



...JUST NOT
TODAY.

I WOULD LOVE TO TAKE
YOU, MORE THAN ANYTHING.
BUT I CAN'T TODAY, MAYBE IN A
FEW MORE CYCLES, AS SOON AS
MY WORK AT THE COUNCIL
SLOWS DOWN, I'LL FINALLY
BE ABLE TO--



IT'S ALWAYS
A FEW MORE
CYCLES.



CHILDREN, PLEASE
UNDERSTAND. BEING ON
THE COUNCIL ISN'T LIKE IT
WAS IN THE TIME OF MY
FATHER, AND HIS FATHER,
AND THE GENERATIONS
PRIOR.

BACK THEN, IT WAS
LARGELY A CEREMONIAL POST.
THE COUNCIL DID LITTLE... THERE
WAS LITTLE THAT EVER NEEDED TO
BE DONE. BUT, TODAY? IT'S JUST--
DIFFERENT. THE ANGER, THE DESIRE
TO ENGAGE IN A SUICIDAL FIGHT
AGAINST THE HUMANS,
IT'S--

--I NEED TO BE
THERE. TO HELP BRING
SOME SANITY-- BUT
SOON. WE'LL GO
SOON. I PROMISE.



I HATED DOING
THIS. I HATED
THAT I WAS
CONSTANTLY
PUTTING THE
COUNCIL AHEAD
OF YOU, FINN
AND YOUR
MOTHER.

I KEPT TELLING MYSELF
THAT ONE DAY, ONE DAY
VERY SOON, I WAS GOING
TO MAKE A CHANGE. BE A
BETTER MAN. A BETTER
HUSBAND AND FATHER.
FIND A BETTER BALANCE
IN MY LIFE.



I'M STILL WAITING FOR
THAT DAY TO ARRIVE.

