



# PROJECT: PATRON

3

## REVENGE AND RESURRECTION

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HEY, DIANA.  
IT'S **ME**,  
MORO.

I KNOW I MISSED A  
CHECK-IN, BUT THINGS  
AT PROJECT PATRON  
HAVE BEEN...

WELCOME  
BACK. I'M **BROWNE  
STEVENSSON**.

WE'VE GOT  
THE **SON OF '76**,  
LONGTIME CRITIC OF  
THE PATRON. AFTER HIS  
HIGHLY PUBLIC CRASH  
AND UNEXPLAINED  
DISAPPEARANCE...

...**SON OF '76**,  
SHOULD WE HAVE  
LISTENED TO YOUR  
FEARS ABOUT THE  
PATRON'S DISTANCE  
FROM THE  
SUPER-SERVICE  
COMMUNITY?



CNA  
NEWS

## SON OF '76 SPEAKS OUT

LONGTIME HERO GOES BAD?

INVESTIGATION OPENED INTO MISSING SPACE FORCE SURPLUS

CNA

6:09 AM PT

DO I  
EVEN HAVE  
TO SAY IT,  
**BROWNE?**


THE PATRON  
HAS **ALWAYS**  
ACTED LIKE HE'S  
**ABOVE** THE REST OF  
US, BLINKING OFF TO  
SOME UNTRACEABLE  
FORTRESS WITH  
SOMETHING TO  
**HIDE.**

WHY IS HE  
DODGING  
ACCOUNTABILITY  
FOR DESTROYING A  
MICHIGAN TOWN? IF  
THE PATRON CARES  
SO MUCH...  
WHERE IS  
HE?

...COMPLEX.







KONE'S BEEN GONE  
A WEEK. HE DIED IN  
THE PATRON'S  
PILOT CAPSULE...


...SO NONE  
OF US ARE  
EXACTLY  
**JUMPING**  
TO GET  
INSIDE.

SO...

...WE'VE TRIED  
**NOT** TALKING ABOUT IT.  
I KNOW I'M **NEW**, I KNOW  
WE'RE **WORKING** HIS  
CASE...

...BUT  
MAYBE LAST  
WEEK SHOULDN'T  
BE THE **LAST**  
WE SAY ABOUT  
COMMANDER  
KONE.

**EVERYBODY'S**  
GOT TO HAVE A  
STORY, RIGHT?



I'LL NEVER  
FORGET THE  
FIRST TIME I  
SAW HIM GO IN  
ON A BOWL,  
LENA.

"THE MISSION  
ISN'T BREAKFAST." HE  
WASN'T HERE TO ENJOY  
THE TASTE. MISSION  
ACCOMPLISHED WAS  
HIS **ONLY** GOAL.

NO MATTER  
THE CASE, KONE  
DIDN'T NEED THE  
DETAILS. HE LEFT  
THOSE TO  
ME.

HE  
TRUSTED ME TO  
GET US TO MISSION  
ACCOMPLISHED, TRUSTED  
MY KNOWLEDGE,  
INTUITION, AND MY  
EXPERIENCE.

KONE  
DIDN'T HAVE TO  
MICROMANAGE. HE  
BELIEVED IN EVERY  
PART OF THE TEAM  
HE'D BUILT.



KONE RAN THIS TEAM  
LIKE MONEYBALL...  
AND IT **WORKED**.

HE  
GOT THE  
**MOST** OUT  
OF US. NOW WE  
NEED TO DO  
THE SAME.

**EVERYONE**  
HERE COULD USE  
THAT THOUGHT, LENA.  
SHOULD WE BRING  
IN THE **TECHS**?





MEANWHILE,  
THE WORLD  
THINKS THE  
PATRON'S  
**ABANDONED**  
THEM.

THE  
**FIRST** THING  
I'D TELL YOU  
ABOUT CONRAD  
KONE IS...

...HE  
**LOVED**  
THIS  
CRAP.

**FLAVORLESS** SHIT MADE UP  
OF EGG WHITES, AVOCADO OIL,  
PSYLLIUM HUSK AND OATS.  
EVERYTHING YOU NEED...  
AND NO TIME  
WASTED.

YEAH,  
I MEAN,  
CONRAD  
WAS...

...YOU THREE,  
YOU'VE GOT THE  
WORDS...ALWAYS HAD  
THE WORDS. ME, I  
WAS NEVER THAT  
COMPLICATED.

I  
JOBBERD OUT  
OF EVERYTHING I  
EVER DID...BUT CONRAD  
SAW THE POTENTIAL.  
HE...REALLY **SAW** ME.

TRY AGAIN,  
KID...THE **GRIMES**  
EQUATION. THE MORE  
PEOPLE KNOW A SECRET,  
THE FASTER IT  
GETS OUT.

THE  
U.N. HAS OVERSIGHT  
BUT DOESN'T KNOW OUR  
LOCATION. THE TECHS  
ARE BASE MODEL  
REPLOIDS.

WE'RE THE  
**ONLY** LIVING PEOPLE  
HERE. BEST WAY TO  
PROTECT A LIE?

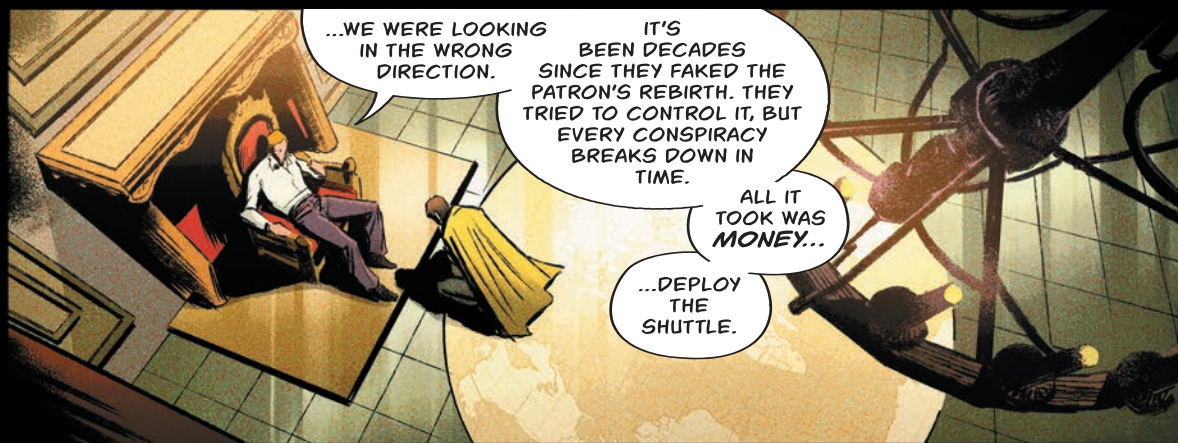




"BE THE **ONLY**  
**ONE** TO KNOW IT."

YOU'VE  
**FOUND** IT,  
FATHER?

OF  
COURSE. ALL  
THESE YEARS  
**SEARCHING** DEEP  
BENEATH THE  
EARTH...



...WE WERE LOOKING  
IN THE WRONG  
DIRECTION.

IT'S  
BEEN DECADES  
SINCE THEY FAKED THE  
PATRON'S REBIRTH. THEY  
TRIED TO CONTROL IT, BUT  
EVERY CONSPIRACY  
BREAKS DOWN IN  
TIME.

ALL IT  
TOOK WAS  
**MONEY...**

...DEPLOY  
THE  
SHUTTLE.



UMPF...

PATIENCE AND  
PAYMENT BROUGHT  
ME MY GREATEST  
FOE'S TRUTH.

THE LEVERAGE FOR  
THAT TRUTH CAME  
**COSTLY**. BUT WITH  
ONLY A SLIGHT ASTRAL  
INTERVENTION, A TOOL  
LONG-DEAD...  
WILL LIVE.



AND AS  
FOR THE  
PATRON'S  
SECRET. I'VE  
KEPT IT,  
YES...

...YOU  
DON'T BURN  
EVERY ASSET  
RIGHT AWAY.  
YOU WAIT...



"...UNTIL IT'LL  
YIELD THE  
GREATEST  
RETURN."

DAMN  
IT!

THERE  
HAS TO  
BE SOME-  
THING.

YOU WERE  
SURE OF IT,  
KONE. YOU **KNEW**  
IT WAS MAMMON, IN  
YOUR GUT. I WAS  
SUPPOSED TO BE  
THE **BRAINS**,  
BUT...

...THIS  
ISN'T A BREAK-  
THROUGH. IT'S A  
**MESS**. YOU'RE  
DEAD, AND I'M  
HERE...

...PICKING  
UP THE  
**PIECES**.

THE  
**BUFFERS**  
REFORMAT THE  
PATRON'S  
EXTRA-SENSES  
FOR **SAFE**  
**CONSUMPTION**  
BY A HUMAN  
MIND.

THE TECHS  
CHECKED THE  
OUTPUT REACHING  
**YOU**, KONE. BUT  
WHAT DID THEY  
LOOK LIKE  
**BEFORE?**

LAB? DISPLAY **RAW**  
**SENSORY OUTPUT** FROM  
THE **CASINO JOB**. RUN  
IT AS **BINARY**, DON'T  
WANT TO BLOW MY  
**EYES OUT**.

THE  
AUDIO AND  
VISUAL...IT WAS  
ENCODED BEYOND  
HUMAN PERCEPTION  
LEVELS. WHEN THE  
**BUFFERS** HIT, SOME OF  
THE DATA BECAME  
INVISIBLE.

A **TROJAN**  
IDEA. YOU DIDN'T  
KNOW WHAT YOU  
WERE **REALLY**  
LOOKING AT,  
KONE. YOU...

BUT  
WHAT **WERE**  
YOU LOOKING  
AT?