

**FORTY-EIGHT-THOUSAND FEET  
ABOVE THE NORTH SEA.**

**KRKRKAAA-THROOM**

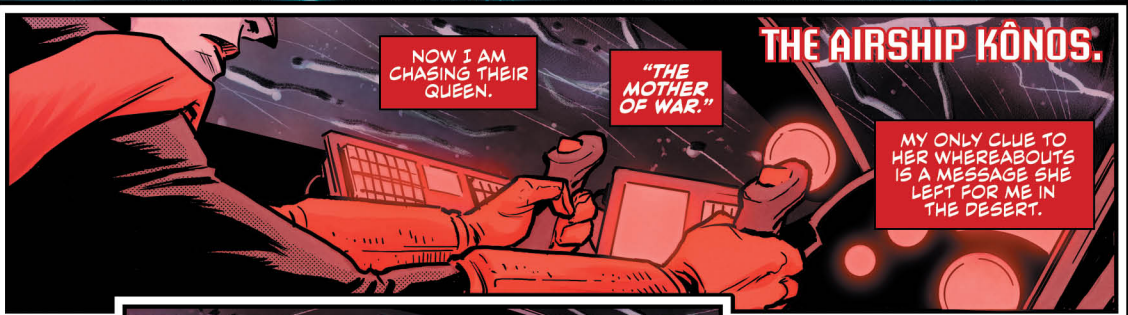
**"DEATH IS  
ALWAYS THE  
LAST EMBRACE."**

**ONE YEAR AGO,  
BATMAN SENT ME ON  
A MISSION TO HUNT  
DOWN THE MANY  
ARMS OF DEATH--**

**--A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION  
SELLING EVERY WEAPON FROM  
TETRODOTOXIN TO AMERICAN  
WARHEADS-- AS WELL AS CREATIONS  
OF THEIR OWN SICK DEVISING.**



**THE AIRSHIP KÔNOS.**



**NOW I AM  
CHASING THEIR  
QUEEN.**

**"THE  
MOTHER  
OF WAR."**

**MY ONLY CLUE TO  
HER WHEREABOUTS  
IS A MESSAGE SHE  
LEFT FOR ME IN  
THE DESERT.**



**"IF YOU WANT TO  
SAVE YOUR SISTER...  
GO HOME."**

**BUT ONCE,  
MY HOME WAS  
WITH HER...**



**...MY ENEMY...**

**...MY  
ADDICTION...**

**...MY LADY OF  
THE ISLAND...**

...SAFIYAH.

CORYANA.  
THE END OF THE LAST YEAR.

SAFIYAH KNOWS  
THINGS ABOUT ME  
I'VE NEVER TOLD  
ANYONE...

# PARADISE IS BURNING DOWN

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...STORIES ABOUT  
MY MOTHER,  
MY SISTER, WHAT  
HAPPENED IN  
BRUSSELS--

--HOW MY FAMILY'S  
HOUSE IN BELGIUM WAS  
THE LAST PLACE I HAVE  
EVER BEEN HAPPY,  
EVER FELT SAFE.



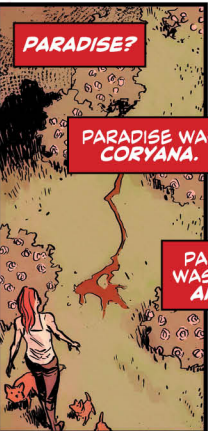
SHE WAS THE FIRST  
TO HEAR ME...

...THE FIRST TO KNOW ME  
FOR EVERYTHING I WAS...

...WHAT WOULD  
YOU DIE FOR?



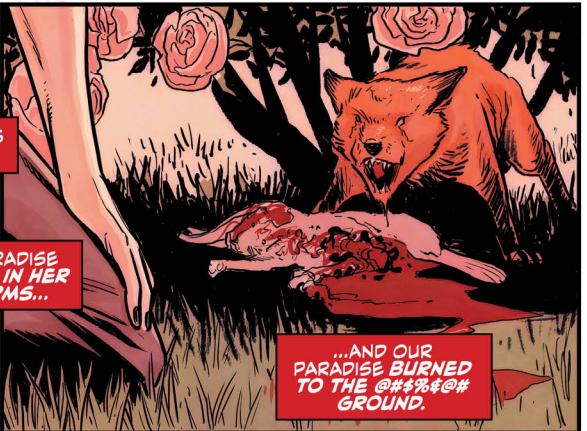
WHAT WOULD  
YOU KILL FOR?



PARADISE?

PARADISE WAS  
CORYANA.

PARADISE  
WAS IN HER  
ARMS...



...AND OUR  
PARADISE BURNED  
TO THE @##%&@#  
GROUND.

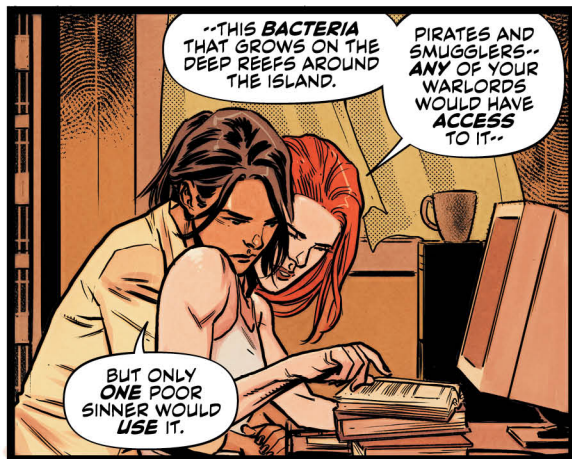
# THE MEDICAL HATCH.

IT BEGAN WITH THE FOXES.

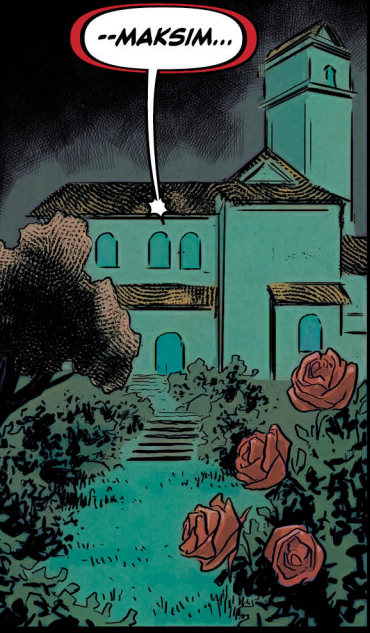
RAFAEL'S MEDIC TENT HAS EVERYTHING WE NEED TO TRACE THIS INFECTION, THIS--PLAGUE.

I WAS NEVER MUCH OF A STUDENT...

...BUT SURE AS GOD MADE SKEETERS IN HIGH SUMMER--I AM **STUBBORN**, AND I WILL GET US ANSWERS.



# THE DESERT ROSE.



--MAKSIM--



...WARLORD OF CORYANA--YOU STAND ACCUSED OF INFECTING THE DESERT ROSE'S FOXES WITH A DEADLY AGENT.

SHOOTING A MAN'S DOG IS MORE HONEST THAN TREACHERY LIKE POISON AND DISEASE.

HOW DO YOU ANSWER THESE CHARGES?

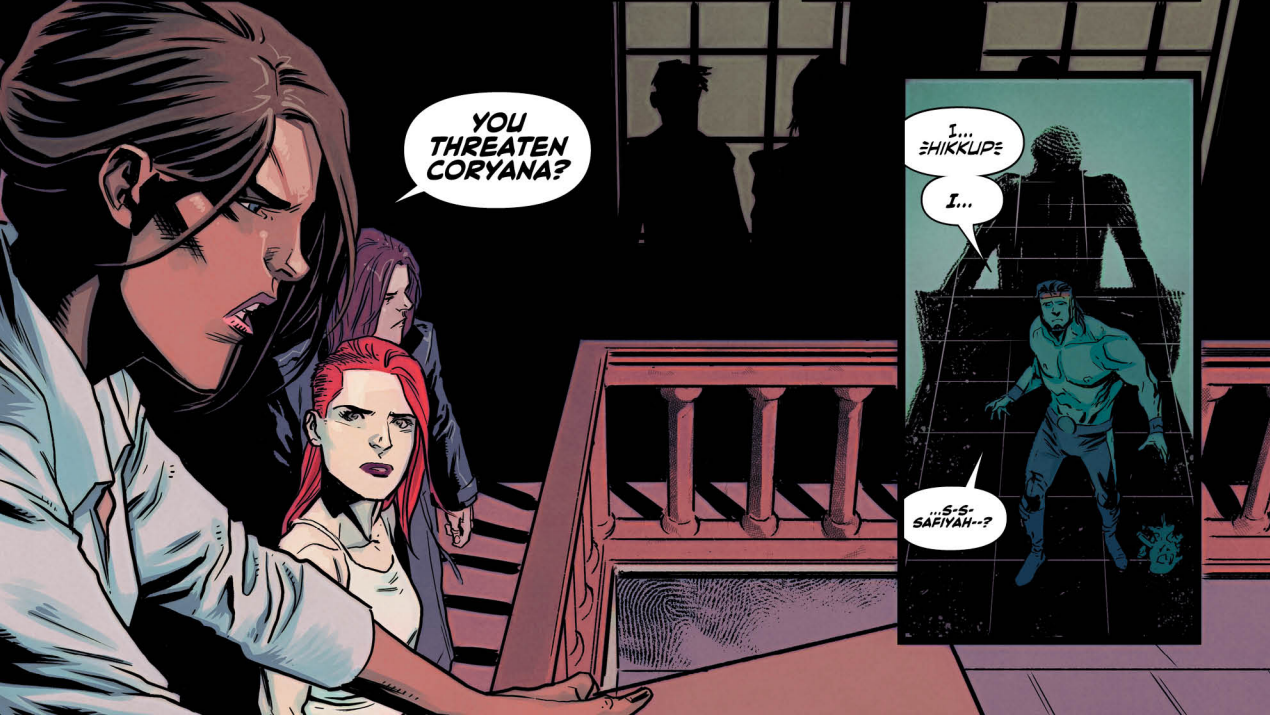
MOTHER OF WARLORDS--WHAT MOTHER ARE YOU, WHEN YOU LEAVE YOUR CHILDREN TO SQUABBLE WHILE THAT FOREIGN SIREN SUCKS YOUR SOUL OUT OF YOUR MOUTH?

OR OUT OF--



I'LL SEE THE ISLAND BURN RATHER THAN BE TURNED INTO THE LAPDOG OF SOME LOVESICK OLD WOMAN.

I'LL BRING THE OUTSIDE WORLD IN TO CARVE YOU UP LIKE A HAM. I'LL BUTCHER YOU IN YOUR BEDS AND H-HANG YOUR CHILDREN IN FRONT OF YOU--



YOU THREATEN CORYANA?



I... SHIKKLIPE

I...

...S-S- SAPIYAH--?



OH GOD--

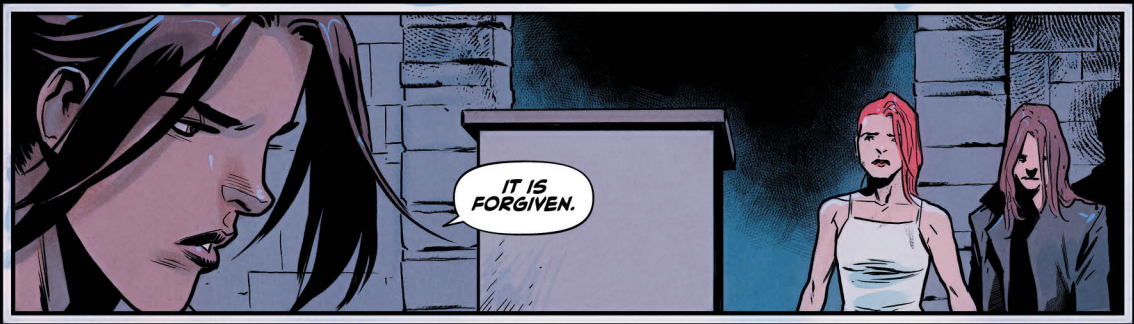
MAKSIM... SHHH...



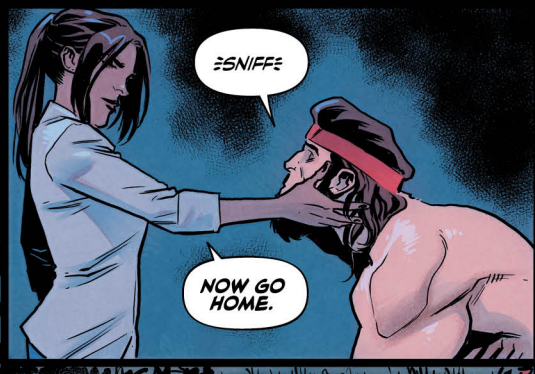
I D-DIDN'T MEAN IT, SAPIYAH--

--I WAS ANGRY, I'M DRUNK, I-I-I--

SHHHH, MAKSIM.

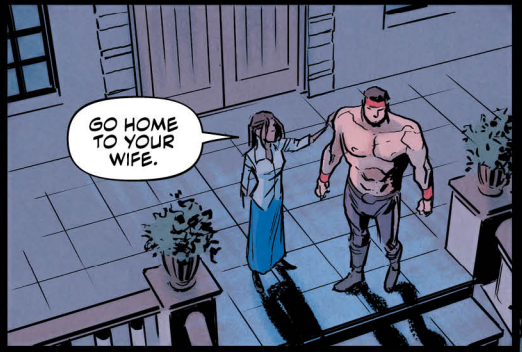


IT IS FORGIVEN.



SNIFF

NOW GO HOME.



GO HOME TO YOUR WIFE.



IT WILL ALL TURN OUT FINE...

“...I PROMISE.”



S-SAFIYAH--?



SAFIYAH,  
NO--!