



ASPEN, I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO PORTRAY THE IMMENSITY OF THIS PLACE, THIS MOMENT.


NONE OF US COULD BELIEVE THAT WE WERE ACTUALLY WALKING THROUGH THE ANCIENT, LEGENDARY CITADEL OF THE BLACK.



CANNON AND HIS TEAM LED THE WAY, ON GUARD FOR WHATEVER UNKNOWN TRAPS OR ATTACKS WE MIGHT FACE.



I WAS DESPERATE TO FIND YOUR MOTHER, TO BRING HER HOME TO YOU AND FINN.



ZO AND HIS MEN WERE STUDYING EVERYTHING WITHIN EYESHOT, GATHERING WHATEVER DATA THEY COULD.

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN, WEAPONS, INFORMATION, ANYTHING WE CAN USE.

I HOPED HE MEANT ITEMS THEY COULD USE FOR THIS MISSION, FOR RESCUING YOUR MOTHER. UNFORTUNATELY...



...THEY HAD  
MUCH DARKER  
GOALS IN MIND.



WHAT THE  
HELL ARE THOSE  
THINGS?

I DON'T  
KNOW. AND I  
DON'T WANNA  
FIND OUT.



WHAT'S  
THIS?



A BLUE SUN?



INTERESTING.



MAYBE YOU  
SHOULDN'T--



HSSSSSS







YAARRGGH!

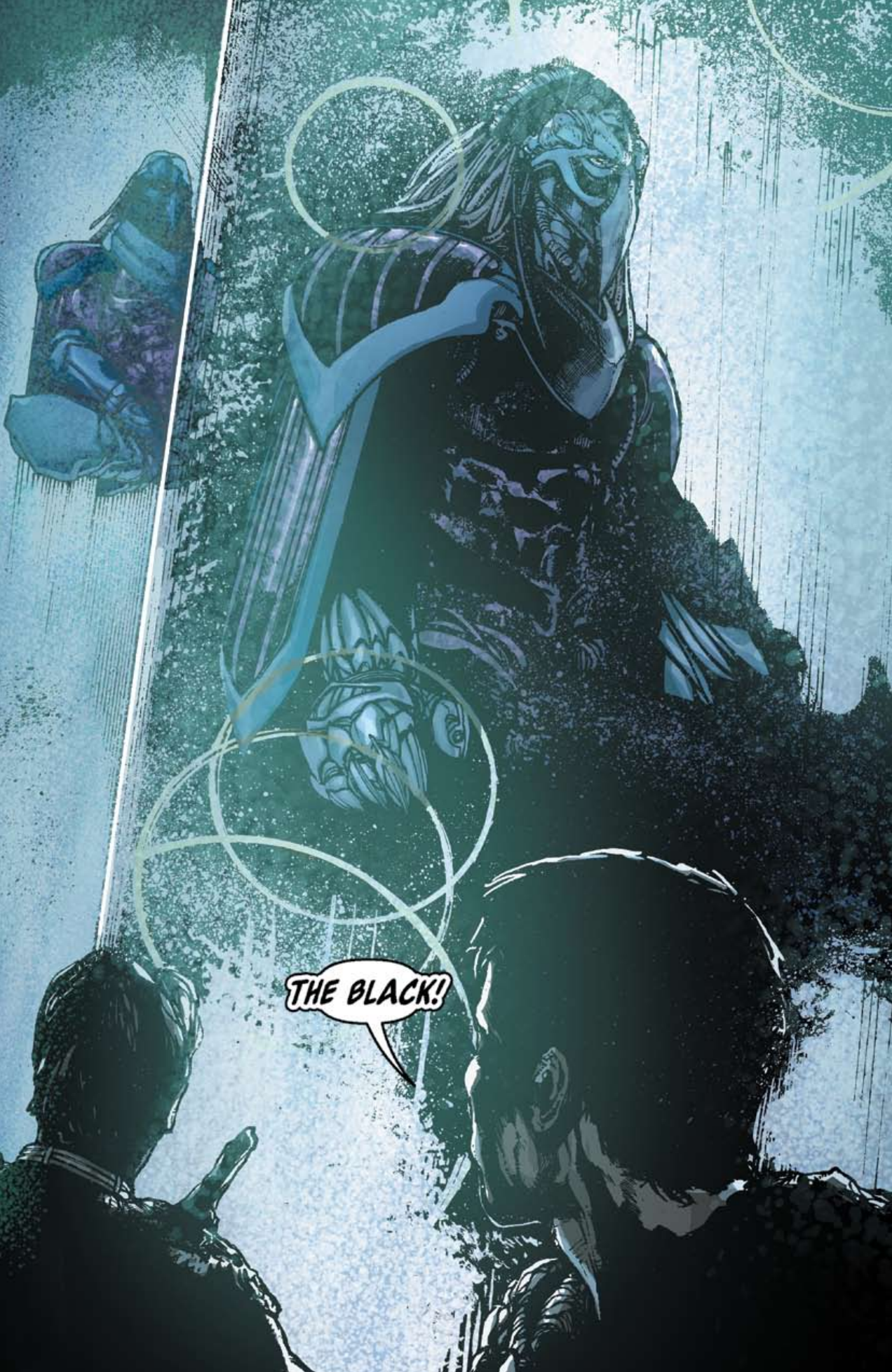


...NO ONE ELSE JABS AT THE CEILING CREATURES.









**THE BLACK!**





EVERYONE  
KEEP BACK!



ARE THEY  
ALIVE?

THEY'RE NOT  
MOVING.



GOOD. THIS WILL  
BE EASY. WE CAN FAN  
OUT, TAKE OUR TIME  
LOOKING FOR WEAPONS  
OR INFORMATION,  
AND--

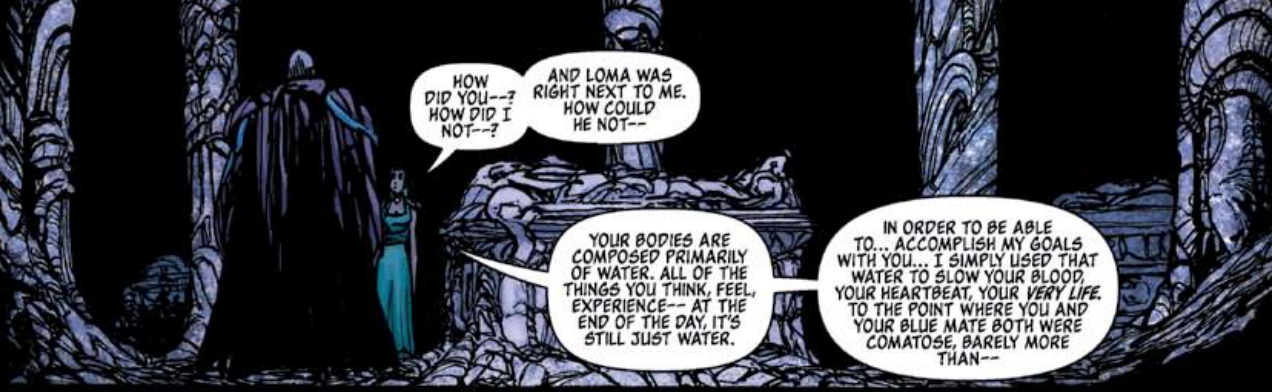


WAIT...



...I HEAR  
HER.





HOW DID YOU---? HOW DID I NOT---?

AND LOMA WAS RIGHT NEXT TO ME. HOW COULD HE NOT---

YOUR BODIES ARE COMPOSED PRIMARILY OF WATER. ALL OF THE THINGS YOU THINK, FEEL, EXPERIENCE--- AT THE END OF THE DAY, IT'S STILL JUST WATER.

IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO... ACCOMPLISH MY GOALS WITH YOU... I SIMPLY USED THAT WATER TO SLOW YOUR BLOOD, YOUR HEARTBEAT, YOUR *VERY LIFE*. TO THE POINT WHERE YOU AND YOUR BLUE MATE BOTH WERE COMATOSE, BARELY MORE THAN---



--THAT'S SICK. DEPLORABLE--



--DESPERATE.

IT'S THE ACT OF A BEING DESPERATE TO SAVE HIS RACE, HIS PLANET. YOU WOULD'VE DONE AT LEAST AS MUCH HAD IT BEEN ASPEN OR FINN'S LIVES, OR THE LIVES OF ALL THE BLUE, AT STAKE.



EILAH, HAVE YOU EVER HAD TO WATCH YOUR LOVED ONES DYING AT YOUR FEET? TO HOLD YOUR MATE AS THEY EXPIRED IN YOUR ARMS? TO SEE YOUR *OWN CHILDREN* WASTE AWAY BEFORE YOU, SIMPLY BECAUSE THE HUMANS ARE CALLOUSLY KILLING OUR PLANET AND ALTERING OUR WATERS?



I'VE EXPERIENCED ALL OF THAT. MY FELLOW BLACK HAVE EXPERIENCED IT. YOU SEE THE EVIDENCE BEFORE YOU HERE.

MY TASK IS TO FIND A FUTURE FOR OUR PEOPLE, TO REPOPULATE A DYING RACE.



THAT'S NOT FAIR.

YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO MAKE ME FEEL SORRY FOR YOU.

NOT AFTER WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO US.





YOU AND YOUR MATE ARE BUT TWO SMALL BEINGS.

WE ARE AN ENTIRE SOCIETY.

SOMETIMES, THE ENDS DO JUSTIFY THE MEANS.



DO THEY? THE BLUE REVERE YOU AND ALL THAT YOU STAND--

--ALL THAT WE *THOUGHT* YOU STAND FOR. HAD YOU SIMPLY *ASKED*...

...DO YOU NOT THINK THAT WE WOULD HAVE--



I'M SORRY, BUT WHAT'S DONE CANNOT BE UN-DONE. EVEN MY POWER CAN'T CHANGE MY PAST. IF IT COULD, THEN THERE WOULD BE MUCH EASIER SOLUTIONS TO ALL OF THIS.

I'M RAPIDLY... WEAKENING, AND MUST STOP TO REGENERATE SOON.

SO, LET US NOT WASTE OUR TIME NOW, SPEAKING OF THINGS THAT ARE ALREADY WRITTEN.



THERE WILL BE MORE THAN ENOUGH TIME FOR THAT LATER.

WE'RE HERE, NOW, TO FIND A FUTURE. TO DEFINE A NEW WORLD. AND I... WE... CAN OFFER YOU A LIFE YOU NEVER IMAGINED, A LIFE BEYOND YOUR WILDEST DREAMS...



EILAH!



I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU FOR QUITE A LONG TIME, EILAH. EVER SINCE I REALIZED THAT YOU WERE THE ONE I KEPT TRACK OF YOU, WATCHED OVER YOU.



WATCHED AS ASPEN, OUR DAUGHTER, GREW INTO AN INCREDIBLE, POWERFUL CHILD. A MIX OF THE BEST THAT BOTH RACES HAVE TO OFFER. SHE HAS MY STRENGTH, MY FIRE, AND THE POWER OF THE BLACK.



THE POWER OF HER TRUE FATHER.

WHAT?!!



BUT, THANKS TO YOU AND HER ADOPTIVE FATHER, SHE ALSO HAS THE KINDNESS AND SERENITY OF THE BLUE.

ASPEN'S THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA--

--THE FIRST CHILD TO BE BORN OF A BLUE MOTHER AND A BLACK FATHER.

WE OF THE BLACK ARE... EXCITED.. BY THE POSSIBILITIES THAT SHE HOLDS FOR US ALL.