

Secret Wars

The Multiverse was undone! Now all that remains is Battleworld, a massive, patchwork planet compos'd of the fragments of the worlds that have left this mortal plane, and maintained by its god and master, Victor Von Doom!

In one such fragment, Lord Doom's mightiest Witch Hunter, Angela, is on a quest to vanquish the vile evil of the Faustians—foul souls who have forg'd pacts of great power with the Enchantress of Faerie.

Thus, the Enchantress appear'd unto Angela pledging a vow of vengeance: that upon Angela's slaying of three Faustians, her dearest companion and fellow Witch Hunter, Serah, would be no more than ash and bone.

Unstirr'd by the wicked warning, Angela and Serah hath so far led two Faustians to Doom's final reckoning in death...and even now relentlessly pursue the third.



WITCH HUNTER ANGELA

Part Three, In Which Hearts Rend and Heads Roll

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Castle Caldecote,
Cumberland.

Oh, Angela, this is so promising.

I am certain this is the land of candied apples and kittens and we are not about to read "Thunder. Enter the Three Witches" at all.

Allusions, pet.

I know, I know, I *did* promise to cut back.

This is the castle where the Mother Abbess of Heven said the *third Faustian* might be found...

Serah, we can yet turn back. We have struck no bargain with them.

You need not make everything so dramatic, love. I intend our finale to be a *comedy*, not a tragedy.

And the missive you sent away with the Gardiner's Men, to Marlowe?

Never you fret, sweet. It would be sure to curl those lovely ribbons of yours and I *much* prefer them all wriggly.

Thank you for coming, sisters.

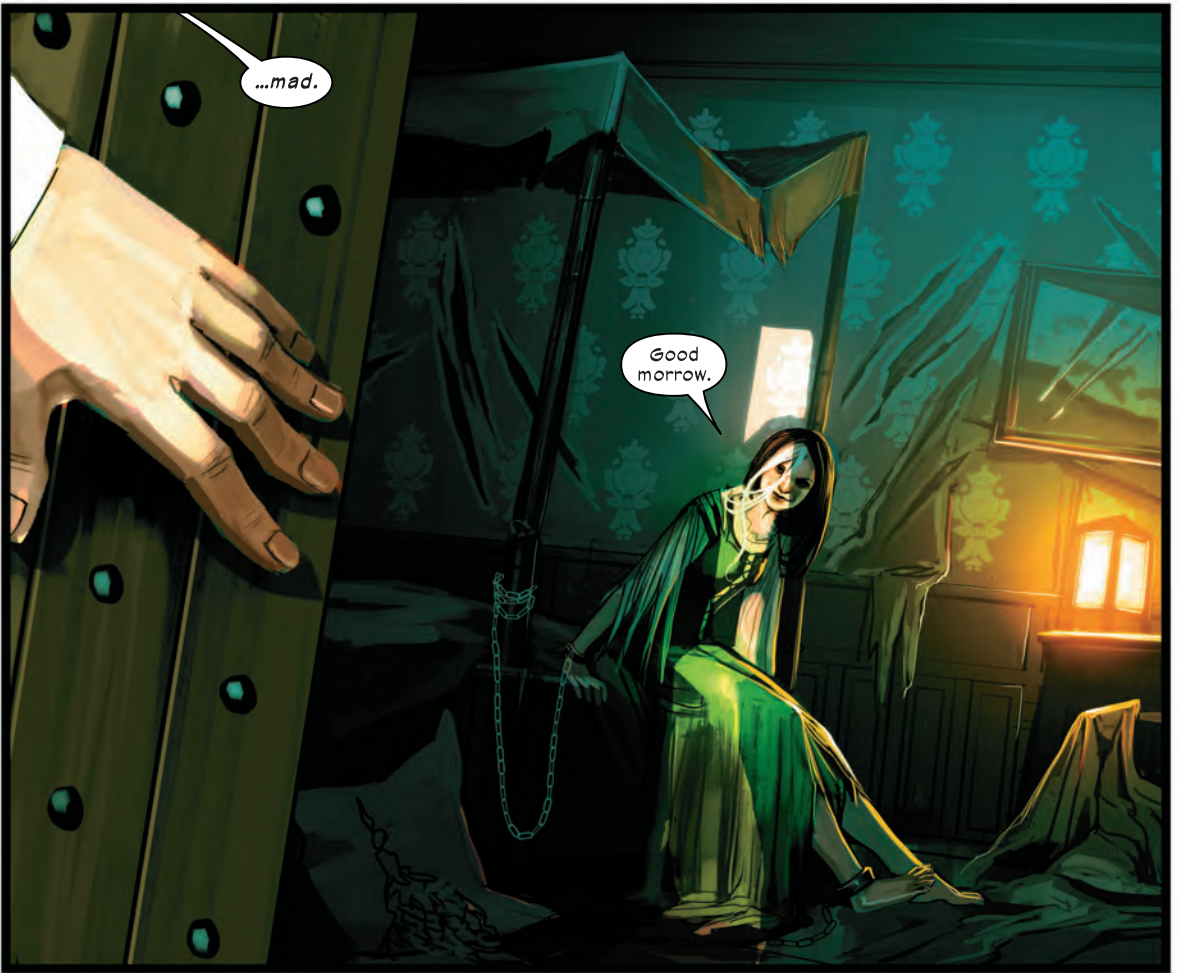
Our ward's name is *Anna Maria*--a wild girl, wayward, yet gold of heart--

You say she is the natural daughter of a bishop, Master Coulson? Who has ordered that she never be touched?

Aye, m'lady. He pays for her keep and care. And she were secret and safe from the world, 'til she run off last new moon...

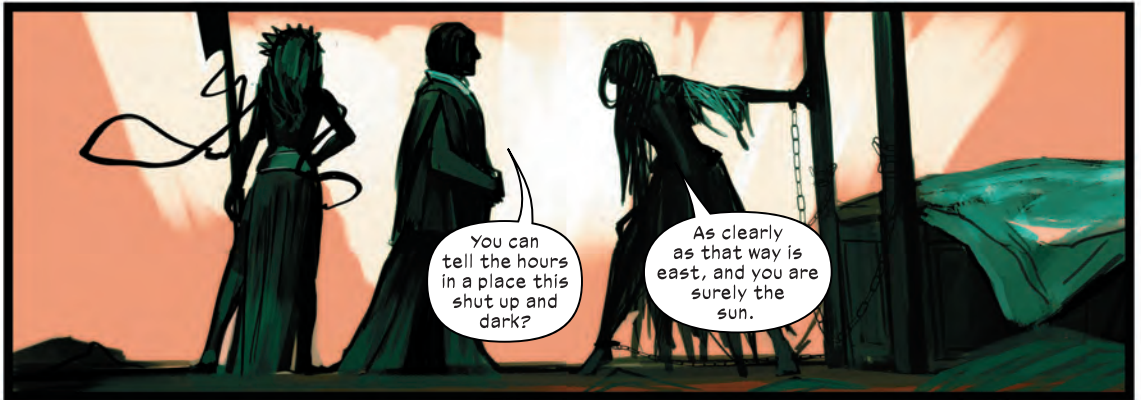
Now, our Anna Maria is--





...mad.

Good morrow.



You can tell the hours in a place this shut up and dark?

As clearly as that way is east, and you are surely the sun.



Oh, I like her.

If you like that...



...what of this?!

fwadash

Heh.



The Faerie Queen that rises in my skin...I think she knows you, Sister Angela. I hear her laughing...

She says she offered you a deal.



We'll handle this one, lads. Give us the keys.

Lady Serah! It is forbidden--

If the girl wasn't mad when you chained her up, you'll drive her mad keeping her locked in this gaudy prison.

Keys. Now.

And go cook up some sausages--this is Cumberland, isn't it?

She says the deal yet stands.

Enchantress promised I would be naught but ash and bone when the third Faustian died.

We might save the life of this curious girl, and with it...my own.