




FOR MOST OF HIS LIFE, MALIKAI THOUGHT VERY LITTLE OF HIMSELF. AN ORPHAN. A DRIFTER. A KID.

BUT THE TRUTH WAS THAT HE WAS PART OF SOMETHING MUCH BIGGER. AN EPIC STRUGGLE TO BRING MAGIC BACK TO THE WORLD.



AND WHILE MANY FOUGHT ON ONE SIDE OR ANOTHER, SEEKING TO PROTECT OR CONTROL THE POWER...



...MALIKAI HAD HIS OWN MISSION. HIS OWN DESTINY. FOR HE IS THE SAMUSARA. A UNIQUE SOUL CONNECTED TO THE MYSTICAL POWER ITSELF. ONE WHO COULD BE THE CATALYST TO RETURN MAGIC TO THE WORLD.



GRACE GUIDED HIM ALONG ON HIS JOURNEY, THEN SEEMED TO BETRAY MALIKAI WHEN HIS SITUATION LOOKED MOST DIRE.

BUT, IT WAS HER ACTIONS THAT UNLEASHED MALIKAI'S TRUE POTENTIAL, FOR HIS SOUL WAS INDEED WORTHY.



AND THIS SPARKED THE NEXT GREAT AGE OF MAGIC.



I DON'T GET IT.



WHAT'S NOT TO GET? GRACE AND HER FORCES USED THE MAGIC TO KILL ALL TECHNOLOGY AT THE SCENE OF THE BATTLE. A MYSTICAL E.M.P.*

THAT I GET, MAL. MY ARM WAS ONE OF THE PIECES OF TECH FRIED. REMEMBER?

*ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE.



I'M TALKING ABOUT *BENOIST*. THESE MILITARY FOOLS DRAGGED HIM OFF THE FIELD. SO, WHY ARE WE SITTING IN HERE, WHEN WE SHOULD BE OUT THERE LOOKING FOR HIM?



BECAUSE WE DON'T KNOW WHERE WE ARE, WHERE THEY ARE KEEPING HIM, OR WHAT HIS CONDITION IS.

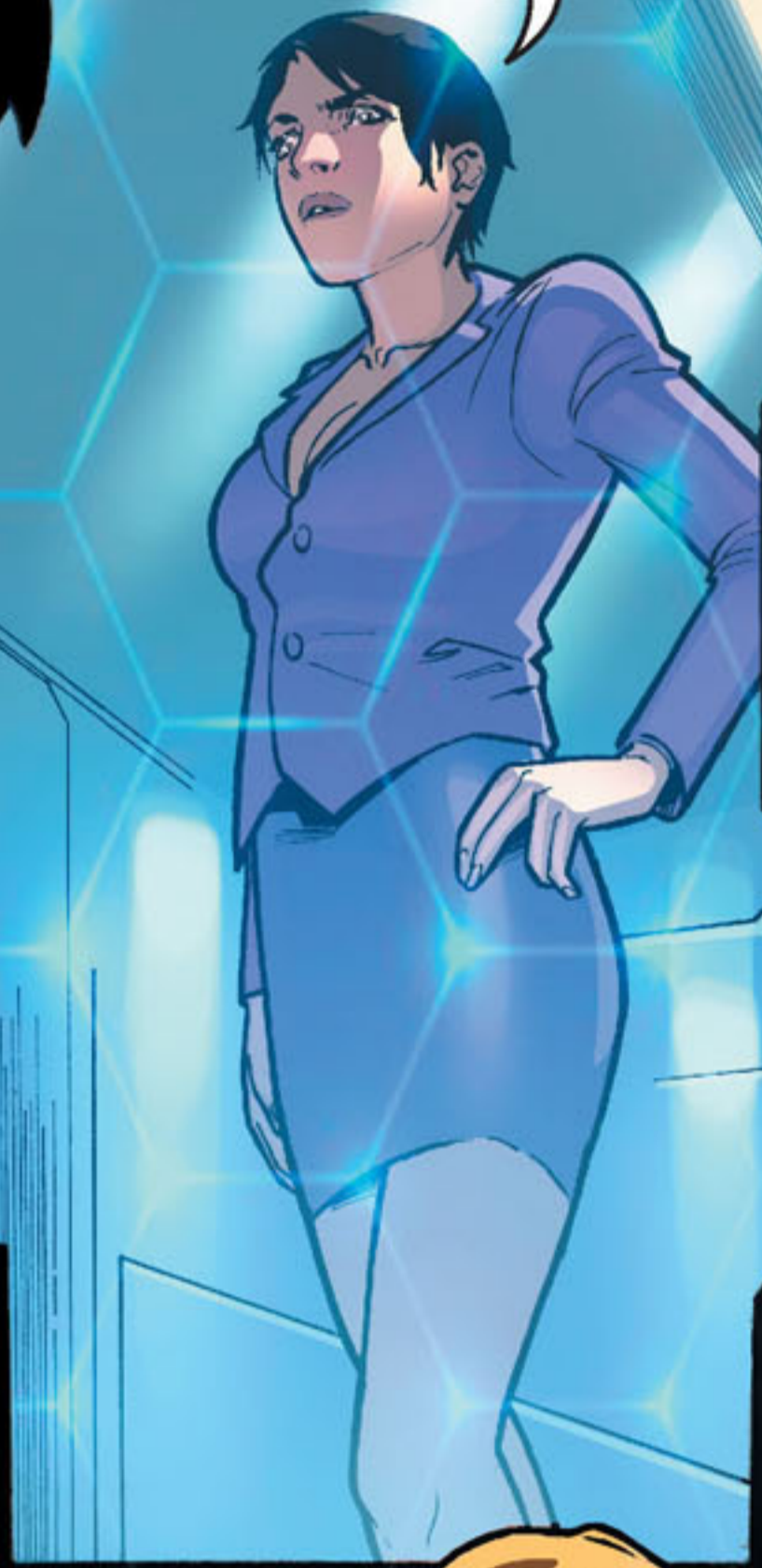
WE DON'T NEED OUR FREEDOM RIGHT NOW, P.J. WE NEED ANSWERS.



THAT MAKES TWO OF US.

WHEN THEY FIRST TOLD ME THEY FOUND A COUPLE OF KIDS IN THE MIDDLE OF EVERYTHING, I FIRST THOUGHT YOU WERE NOTHING BUT A FEW UNLUCKY HIKERS IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME.

BUT, THERE'S MORE TO YOU THAN THAT, ISN'T THERE?



WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT? WHERE'S OUR FRIEND?

I'M DEFENSE MINISTER CORDELLA.

AS FOR THE REST OF YOUR QUESTIONS, I THINK YOU ARE MISTAKING WHO IS ON WHICH SIDE OF THIS PRISON CELL WALL, KID.

ACTUALLY, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MADE A MISTAKE IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO BENOIST.



I THOUGHT YOU WERE ONE OF THEM. THEN, HOW IS THE BIG GUY YOUR FRIEND? WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON?



IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE.

BUT, YOUR CHOICE IS. BLAST YOUR WAY FREE, AND EVERYONE IN THIS INSTALLATION WILL TRY TO KILL YOU.

OR?

PUT YOUR SPARKLERS AWAY, ANSWER MY QUESTIONS, AND I'LL LET YOU SEE YOUR FRIEND.



TAKE US TO BENOIST, FIRST. ONCE WE SEE HE'S OKAY, THEN WE'LL TALK. AGREED?



THAT DEPENDS...