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ASPEN UNIVERSE DECIMATION



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ASPEN UNIVERSE
DECIMATION
LIMITED EDITION VARIANT



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WORLD
COMICS

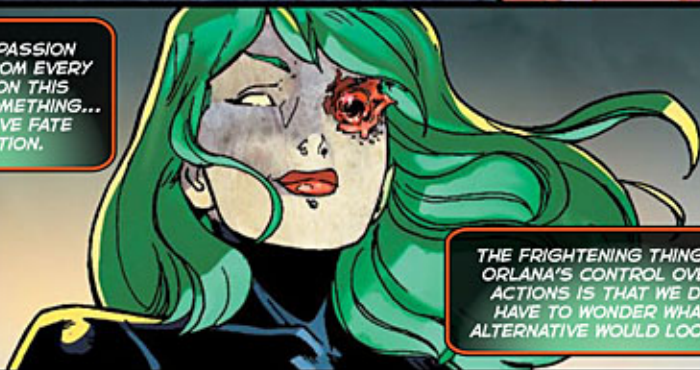
PAULO BARRIOS



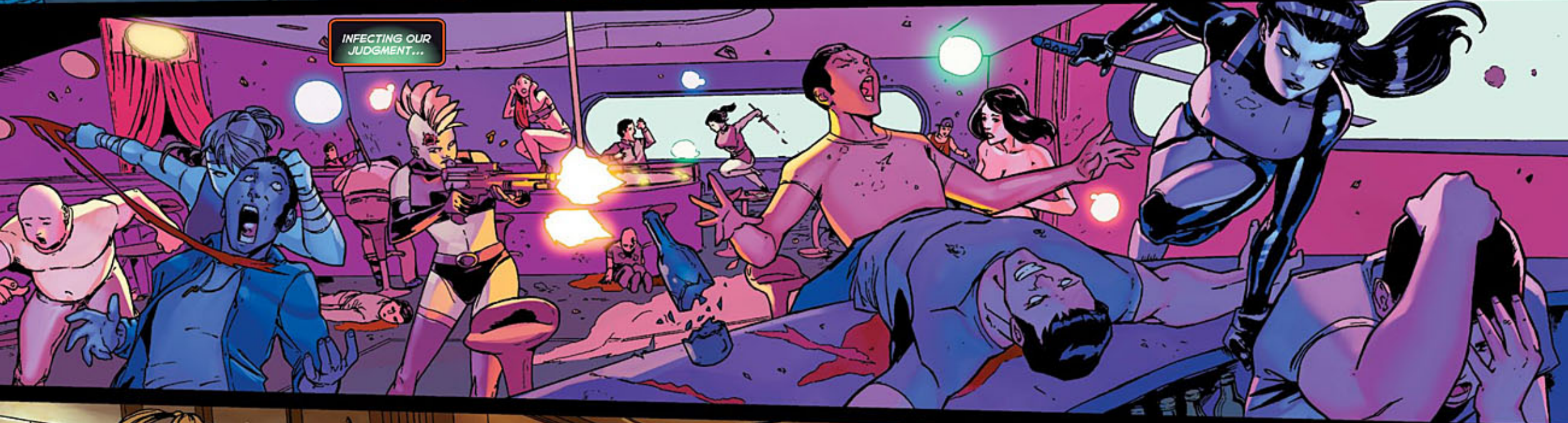
TO GROW UP AS ROYALTY,
IT IS HARD NOT TO LOOK
DOWN UPON EVERYONE YOU
ENCOUNTER AS A LESSER
BEING, TO CONSIDER
OURSELVES SIMPLY MORTAL.



...BUT, IT IS OUR COMPASSION
THAT SEPARATES US FROM EVERY
OTHER LIVING THING ON THIS
EARTH. IT MAKES US SOMETHING...
MORE. THE ALTERNATIVE FATE
WOULD BE DECIMATION.



THE FRIGHTENING THING ABOUT
ORLANA'S CONTROL OVER OUR
ACTIONS IS THAT WE DO NOT
HAVE TO WONDER WHAT THE
ALTERNATIVE WOULD LOOK LIKE...



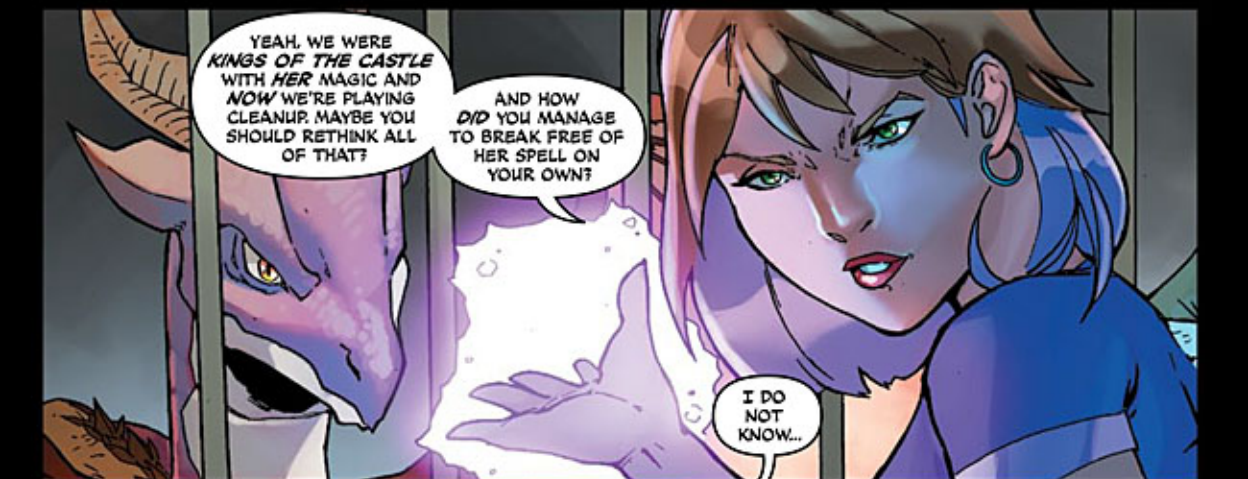


... DESTROYING THE MAGIC ALL AROUND US. WE MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE IN TAKING BACK OUR MINDS.

MAGIC, HUH? LAST I CHECKED YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE WATER PEOPLE, NOT ONE OF US.

THE WORD WAS NOT MEANT TO BE TAKEN LITERALLY.

BESIDES, IT WAS A POTENT FORM OF DARK MAGIC INFECTING ALL OF OUR MINDS. SO I BELIEVE I CAN SPEAK FROM EXPERIENCE IN THAT REGARD.



YEAH, WE WERE *KINGS OF THE CASTLE* WITH HER MAGIC AND *NOW* WE'RE PLAYING CLEANUP. MAYBE YOU SHOULD RETHINK ALL OF THAT?

AND HOW *DID* YOU MANAGE TO BREAK FREE OF HER SPELL ON YOUR OWN?

I DO NOT KNOW...



IN MY YOUTH I WAS QUITE HEADSTRONG TO BEGIN WITH. BUT I SUSPECT THERE ARE OTHER FORCES AT PLAY. I NEARLY DIED ONCE, AND WHEN I WAS RESURRECTED I CAME BACK... DIFFERENT... I CAN FEEL IT.

HMMPH. SO EVERYONE GETS TO LET LOOSE WITH THEIR POWERS AND REACH THEIR TRUE POTENTIAL BUT ME? I SEE HOW IT IS.

ONCE AGAIN YOU ARE WRONG. YOU CAN BE SOMETHING FAR GREATER THAN SIMPLY YOUR POWERS IF YOU JUST... GROW UP.

ALLOW ME TO PROVE IT TO YOU.



ONLY A
MERE SETHORU.
YOU ARE OUT OF
YOUR LEAGUE
OPPOSING ME.



MAYBE
SO, BUT I
WILL NOT
RETREAT.

OF COURSE YOU
WILL NOT. I HAVE TAKEN A
PEEK AT WHAT LURKS INSIDE
YOUR MIND. I MUST SAY-- YOU
HAVE CHOSEN YOUR ALLIES WISELY.
YOU ALL SHARE A PURITY OF
ANGER TOWARDS YOUR OWN
KIND THAT IS TRULY
UNHEALTHY.



YOU SHOULD
THANK ME FOR
TAKING YOU
OUT OF YOUR
MISERY.



ORLANA-- I
CAN'T BEAR TO
HEAR YOU SPEAK ANY
FURTHER! YOU CAN'T--
OR WON'T-- ENTER
EITHER OF OUR
MINDS--

SO
WE DO THIS THE
OLD-FASHIONED
WAY.



I PREFER
MY WAY.