

CREATED BY
JAMES TYNION IV & MICHAEL DIALYNAS

WRITTEN BY
JAMES TYNION IV

ILLUSTRATED BY
MICHAEL DIALYNAS

LETTERS BY
ED DUKESHIRE

COVER BY
MICHAEL DIALYNAS

DESIGNER
SCOTT NEWMAN

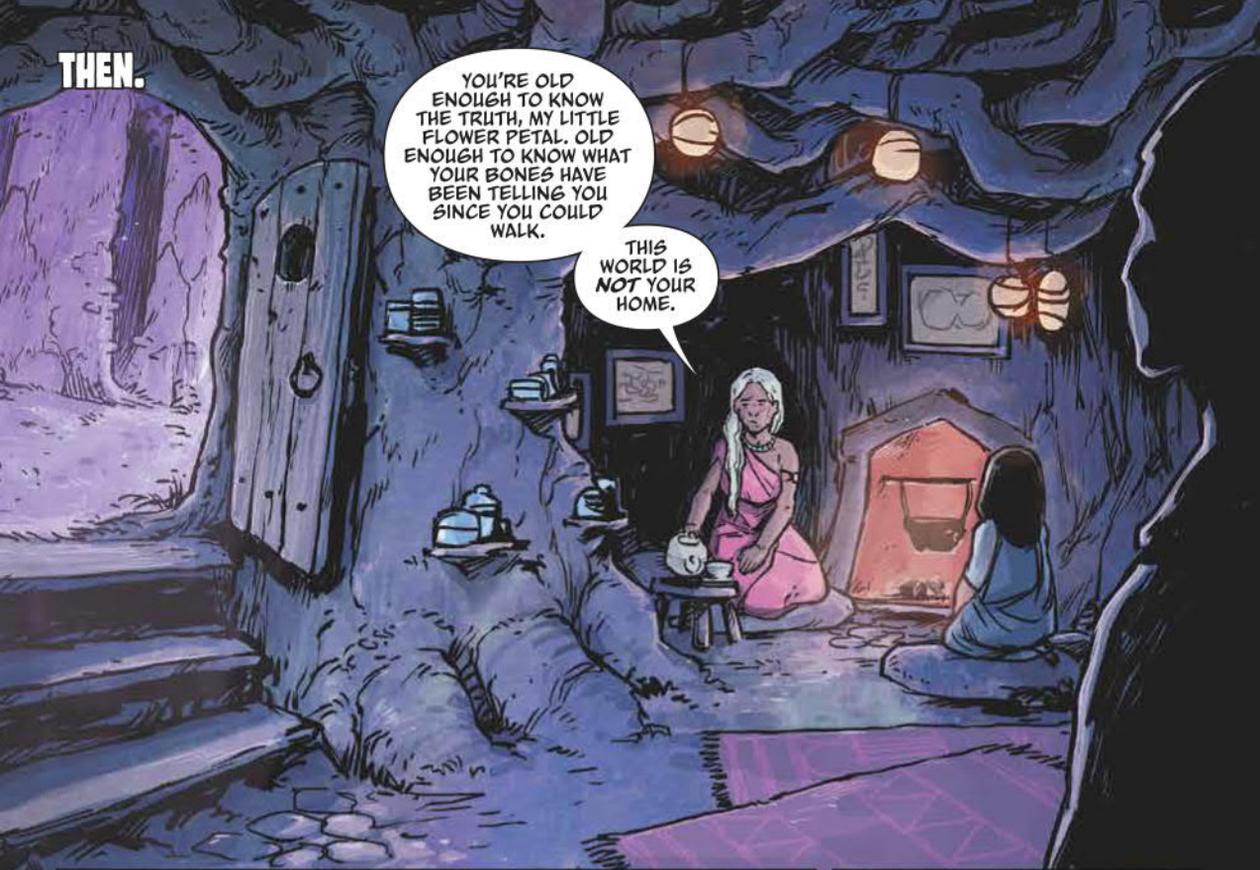
EDITORS
JASMINE AMIRI
ERIC HARBURN



THEN.

YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW THE TRUTH, MY LITTLE FLOWER PETAL. OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW WHAT YOUR BONES HAVE BEEN TELLING YOU SINCE YOU COULD WALK.

THIS WORLD IS NOT YOUR HOME.



MANKIND DOES NOT BELONG HERE ANY MORE THAN A FISH BELONGS IN A TREE, OR A BIRD BELONGS IN THE OCEAN.

WE WERE TAKEN TO THIS WRETCHED FOREST AGAINST OUR WILL.



THESE WOODS ARE A PRISON. BUT THIS IS YOUR TRUE HOME.



I WANT YOU TO PROMISE ME YOU'LL NEVER FORGET THAT, CASSANDRA.



NEVER.





I TOLD HER, TIME AND TIME AGAIN, TO COME INSIDE THE WALLS OF THE CITY...

SHE WAS FAR TOO STUBBORN FOR THAT. SHE LIKED HER INDEPENDENCE.

SHE LIKED THE CONFLICT. SHE LIKED NEVER BEING ABLE TO REST IN THIS PLACE.



SANDER. THERE YOU ARE. YOUR NANA LEFT YOU SOMETHING OF HERS. I KNOW SHE DID NOT UNDERSTAND YOUR... CHANGE... AS MUCH AS YOU WOULD HAVE LIKED. IF YOU'D RATHER WE BURIED IT WITH HER--

NO, OF COURSE I WANT IT.



WAIT.

I NEED YOU TO PROMISE ME SOMETHING, SANDER. PROMISE WITH ALL YOUR HEART.



THIS IS YOUR HOME. THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO LOVE YOU, AND THESE ARE THE CIRCUMSTANCES WE MUST LIVE WITH.

LIVE IN THE MOMENT AND ENJOY THAT LIFE. DON'T WASTE YOUR LIFE DREAMING AFTER THE IMPOSSIBLE.



...



IT WILL HURT.



I KNOW.

NO, YOU THINK YOU KNOW. YOU ARE WHAT? ALL OF FIFTEEN?

I AM OLD ENOUGH.



THIS IS THE DESIGN YOU WANT? WHAT IS IT? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?



IT MEANS THAT I FEEL LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG, DOWN DEEP IN MY BONES, AND I NEED TO MAKE SURE I DON'T FORGET IT, LIKE THE REST.



OKAY, THEN. LET'S GET STARTED.

NOW.





THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG, ISN'T THERE?

IT SHOULD.

IT'S THE SILENCE. IT'S FREAKING EVERYONE OUT.



THE ANIMALS, THEY'RE ALL ISAAC'S NOW.

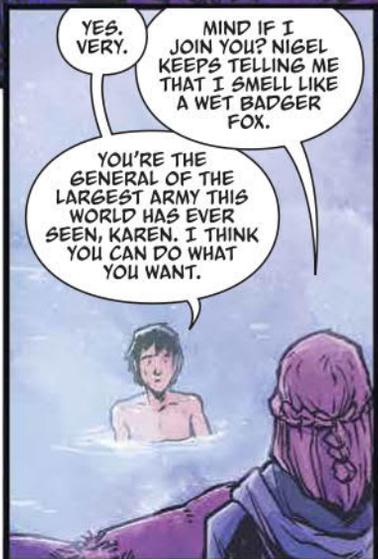
THE NEXT TIME WE HEAR THEM CRY OUT, IT WILL BE FOR OUR BLOOD. I'VE SENT ROCSTAR ON A RECONNAISSANCE MISSION, PARTLY TO SEE WHAT IS HAPPENING AROUND THE BLACK CITY, AND PARTLY TO ENSURE THAT HE DOESN'T RIP OUT MY THROAT IN MY SLEEP.



WE'LL NEED TO KILL THE DRAGONS AND THE GALLOPTEA WHEN WE RETURN TO NEW LONDON. ANYTHING BIG ENOUGH TO KILL EVEN ONE OF US ISN'T WORTH THE RISK.

THE TREES... THEY'RE OPENING UP AGAIN...IT'S LIKE THEY CAN ALREADY TASTE THE BATTLE, BEFORE IT'S EVEN BEGUN.

IS THE WATER WARM IN THERE?



YES, VERY.

MIND IF I JOIN YOU? NIGEL KEEPS TELLING ME THAT I SMELL LIKE A WET BADGER FOX.

YOU'RE THE GENERAL OF THE LARGEST ARMY THIS WORLD HAS EVER SEEN, KAREN. I THINK YOU CAN DO WHAT YOU WANT.

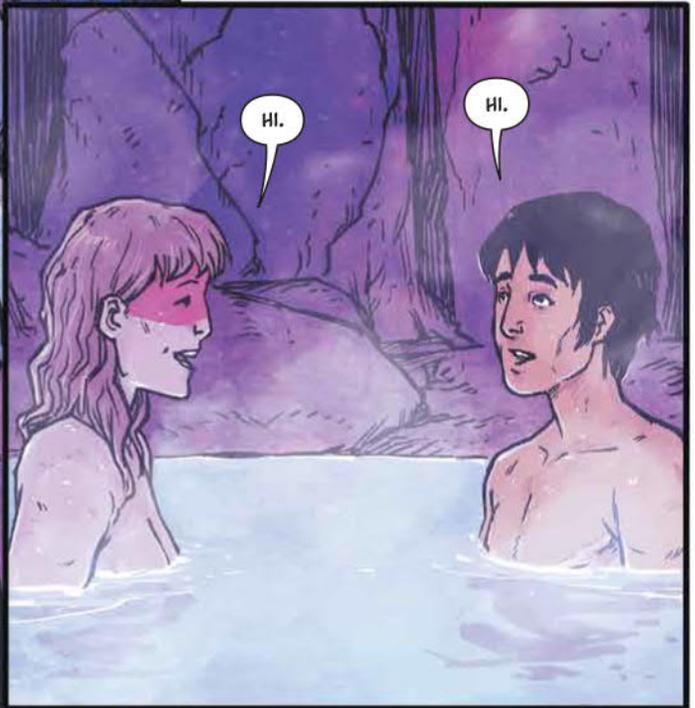


AND YOU'LL BE FIGHTING RIGHT BY MY SIDE, SO I DON'T WANT TO OVERSTEP MY BOUNDARIES.



IT'S FINE.

OKAY, GOOD.



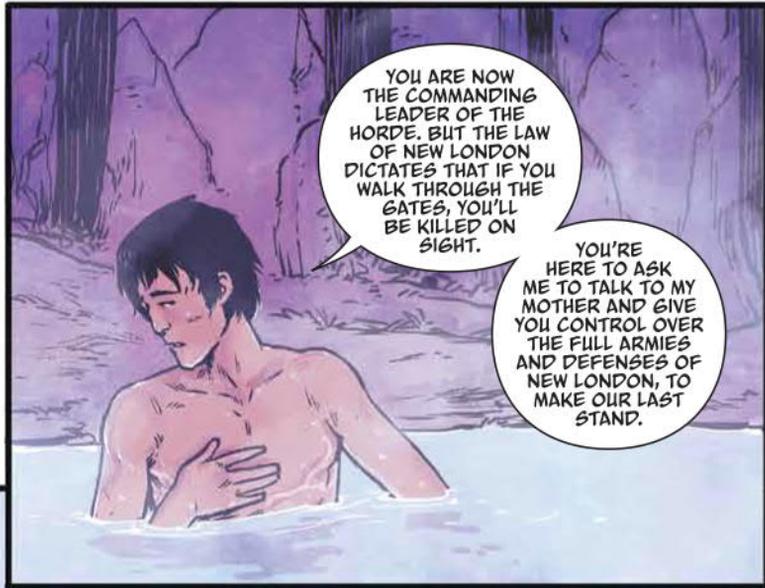


I'M THINKING THAT YOU ALWAYS SEEM TO CARE THE MOST ABOUT ME WHEN YOU NEED SOMETHING FROM ONE OF MY PARENTS.

AND I'M WISHING I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.



SANDER...



YOU ARE NOW THE COMMANDING LEADER OF THE HORDE. BUT THE LAW OF NEW LONDON DICTATES THAT IF YOU WALK THROUGH THE GATES, YOU'LL BE KILLED ON SIGHT.

YOU'RE HERE TO ASK ME TO TALK TO MY MOTHER AND GIVE YOU CONTROL OVER THE FULL ARMIES AND DEFENSES OF NEW LONDON, TO MAKE OUR LAST STAND.



AND SO, YOU OFFER A LITTLE AFFECTION, AND I BLUSH AND DO WHATEVER YOU SAY BECAUSE I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU, AND YOU KNOW IT.



THAT'S NOT FAIR.

NO, IT ISN'T.

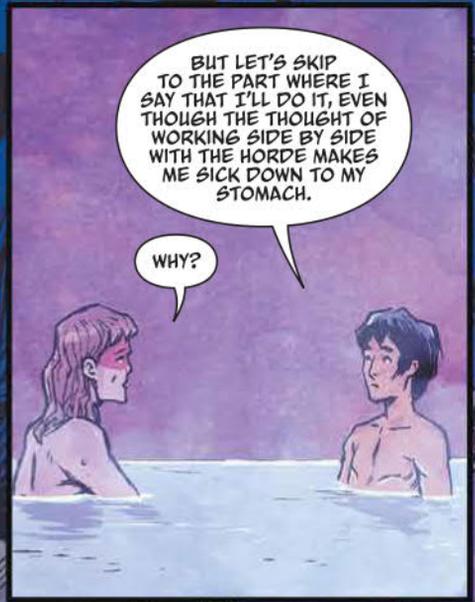


I DIDN'T... THAT'S NOT WHAT I SET OUT TO DO...IT'S NOT, LIKE, CALCULATED...

I KNOW.

I DO WANT TO BE HERE, RIGHT NOW, WITH YOU.

I KNOW.



BUT LET'S SKIP TO THE PART WHERE I SAY THAT I'LL DO IT, EVEN THOUGH THE THOUGHT OF WORKING SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE HORDE MAKES ME SICK DOWN TO MY STOMACH.

WHY?



BECAUSE MY ENTIRE LIFE, THERE HAVE BEEN TWO PATHS... ONE PATH ALWAYS HURT MORE THAN THE OTHER, BUT THAT WAS ALWAYS THE PATH I COULD LIVE WITH BETTER THAN THE OTHER.

"MY GRANDMOTHER, SHE NEVER MOVED FROM NEW BOMBAY TO NEW LONDON, AFTER THE HORDE DESTROYED IT. SHE BUILT A SHACK OUT IN THE FOREST, AND LIVED THERE. FOUGHT OFF UNSPEAKABLE MONSTERS, NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, UNTIL ONE DAY SHE COULDN'T HOLD THEM BACK ANY LONGER.

"SHE FORGOT THAT THIS WORLD IS JUST A PRISON FOR A MOMENT. SHE HAD ALLOWED HERSELF TO GET COMFORTABLE IN THE CAPTIVITY OF THIS PLACE, AND WHEN THE WORLD'S TRUE NATURE ASSERTED ITSELF, IT ALMOST DESTROYED HER.





"I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO GET COMFORTABLE IN A LIE ABOUT YOURSELF, EVEN IF DEEP DOWN YOU KNOW IT'S WRONG. YOU KNOW IT'S HURTING YOU."

"THE MOMENT I TOLD MY PARENTS I WAS CASSANDER, NOT CASSANDRA, THAT WAS ME PUSHING BACK AGAINST THE LOT I HAD BEEN GIVEN."



THE MOMENT I TURNED ON MY CITY TO HELP YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS, I PUSHED BACK.

AND THE MOMENT I WALK INTO THAT ROOM AND TELL MY MOTHER THAT WE'RE GOING TO WAR ALONGSIDE OUR GREATEST ENEMIES, BECAUSE WE ARE ALL HUMAN IN THE END, AND THIS IS NOT OUR HOME...



I'LL BE MAKING MY GRANDMOTHER PROUD. I'LL BE MAKING MY SPECIES PROUD. I'LL BE HELPING TO BRING US HOME.

DID YOU REALLY THINK IT WAS ALL ABOUT A LITTLE PUPPY LOVE?



YOU'RE INCREDIBLE. I HOPE YOU KNOW THAT. YOU REALLY ARE INCREDIBLE.

