

STJEPAN SEJIC

# DEATH VIGIL #1



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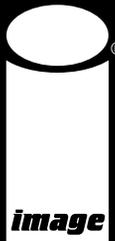
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HANG ON OFFICER! AMBULANCE IS ON THE WAY!

OFFICER?

OH YEAH...FUNNY STORY! SO IT WAS HALLOWEEN.

I WAS COMING FROM A COSTUME PARTY.



THIS GUY WAS TRYING TO ROB TWO GIRLS IN AN ALLEY.

I FIGURED I MIGHT SCARE HIM OFF. IT WAS DARK ENOUGH...

THE GUN I CARRIED WAS FAKE...



HIS...

WASN'T

OH GOD! HE'S BLEEDING LIKE A FAUCET!



MAYA!

THEY SAID IN FIVE MINUTES!



FIRST GIRL TO ACTUALLY PAY ATTENTION TO ME IN YEARS...

FIGURES...



STILL...THERE ARE WORSE WAYS TO DIE, I GUESS...

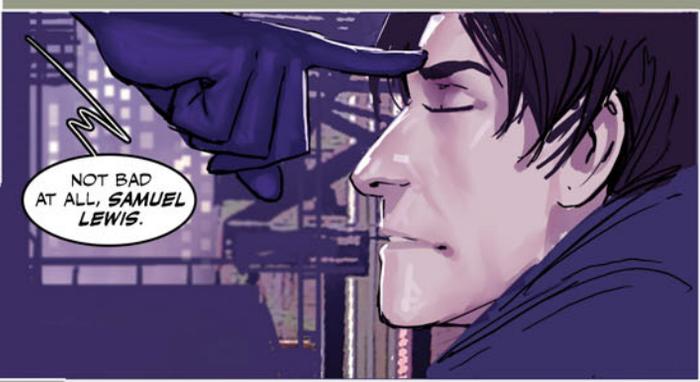


THIS...IS...

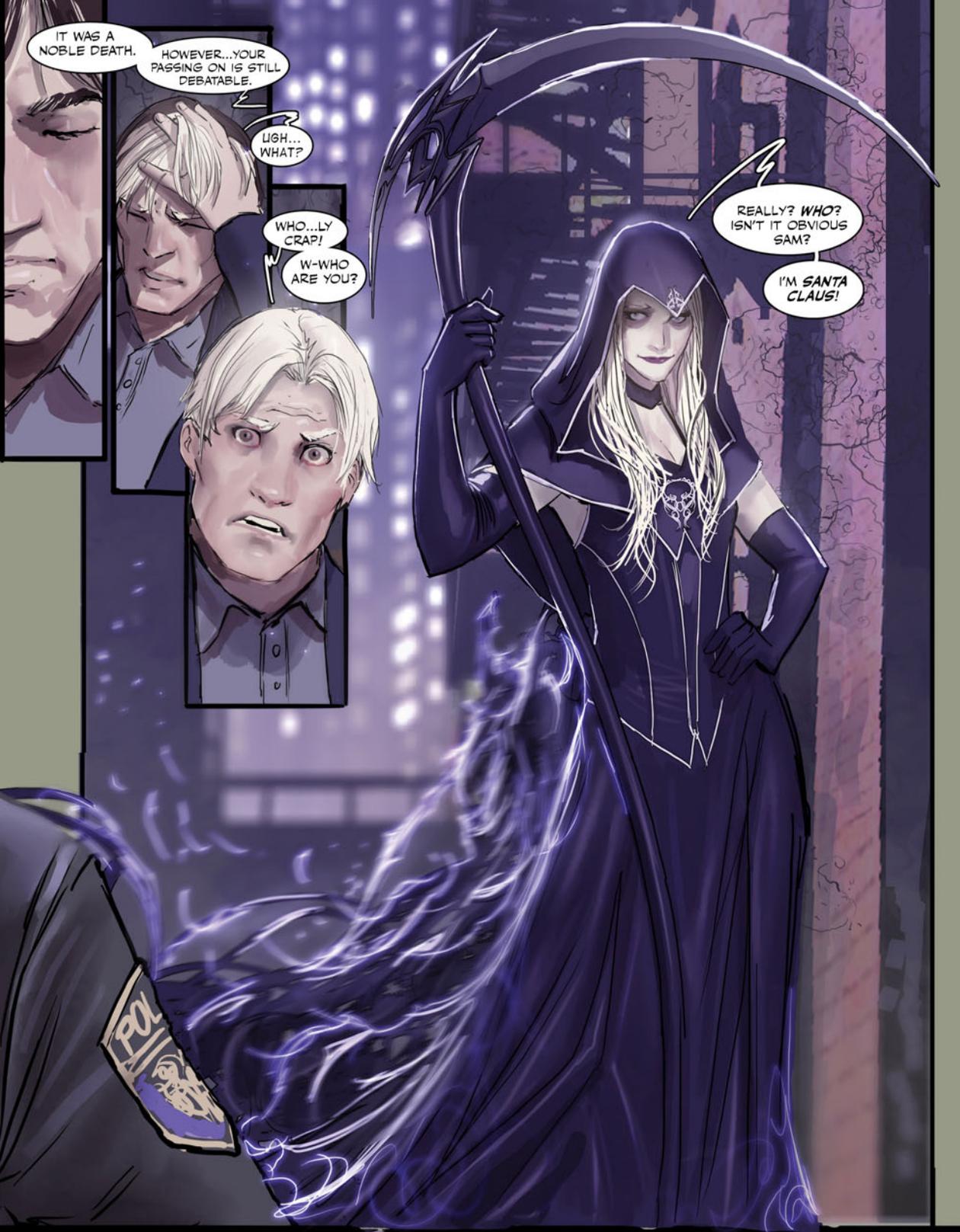
NOT...

SO...

OFFICER!?



NOT BAD AT ALL, SAMUEL LEWIS.



IT WAS A NOBLE DEATH.

HOWEVER...YOUR PASSING ON IS STILL DEBATABLE.

LIGH... WHAT?

WHO...LY CRAP!

W-WHO ARE YOU?

REALLY? WHO? ISN'T IT OBVIOUS SAM?

I'M SANTA CLAUS!

AND I'M HERE BECAUSE I'M IN *DIRE* NEED OF SOME ELVES!



# DEATH VIGIL

12 YEARS  
LATER



OH BLESSED  
REAPER WE CALL UPON  
THEE! BY THE **BLOOD** OATH  
OF THE SEVEN WE BIND  
YOU TO THE MORTAL  
REALM

SEALED BY  
**BLOOD**, SEALED  
BY **SPIRIT!**

SEALED BY  
**BLOOD**, SEALED  
BY **SPIRIT!**

SEALED BY  
**BLOOD**, SEALED  
BY **SPIRIT!**



PALE KEEPER  
OF...

SNORT!



PALE KEEPER  
OF THE SEV...

PFFFF  
BWAHAHA



OH, WHAT  
THE F%&K???

WHO'S THE  
CLOWN?





DO YOU FIND US AMUSING?



EXTREMELY!  
PLEASE, JUST IGNORE ME.  
CARRY ON!  
THIS STUFF IS PRICELESS!



THIS "STUFF" IS A BLESSED RITUAL.  
ANCIENT KNOWLEDGE PASSED ON FOR CENTURIES!  
OUR VIEWS ON ITS "PRICELESS NATURE" MAY DIFFER!



YUP! GRADE-A ANCIENT KNOWLEDGE THERE!  
KEEP IT UP!  
IT'S GONNA WORK GRRREAT!



AAAH... I SEE...  
WE HAVE A SKEPTIC HERE!  
A SAD, BLIND MAN WALKING IN HIS LITTLE WORLD, OBVIOUS OF THE ELDRITCH FORCES THAT RUN IT FROM THE SHADOWS.

I'M AFRAID YOUR PRESENCE HERE IS QUITE... UNDESIRABLE!



ELDRITCH  
FORCES?

KLANG



BOY, I  
COULD TELL YOU  
THINGS OF ELDRITCH  
FORCES THAT WOULD  
TURN YOUR HAIR  
WHITE!



UH...UM...  
WHO ARE YOU  
ANYWAYS? SOME  
SORT OF GRAVE  
DIGGER?



WHAT? BECAUSE  
OF MY TOOLS HERE?

NAH, I'M  
MERELY A... DIGGING  
ENTHUSIAST.



SO...WHAT'S  
IT GONNA BE  
SUNSHINE?

HOW DO  
YOU WANNA  
PLAY THIS?



BAH...LET'S  
GO...THIS PHILISTINE'S  
PRESENCE HAS DISRUPTED  
THE AETHER.



YEAH, NO,  
THAT'S WHAT  
IT WAS... DISRUPTED  
AETHER.



JACKASSES.



SIGH... THESE SAD LITTLE DWEBBS HAVE BEEN CRAWLING UNDER THE ROCKS MORE AND MORE RECENTLY...

READING THEIR LITTLE OCCULTISM R US BOOKS... CHANTING THEIR LITTLE NURSERY RHYMES...

HOPING BEYOND HOPE THAT THERE IS SOMEBODY AT THE OTHER END OF THAT LINE HEEDING THEIR CALL...



THEY WOULD PISS THEMSELVES IF THEY KNEW...

YOU WANT TO TEACH ME OF THE DARK THINGS IN THE SHADOWS?

HEH...

IF YOU EVER SAW WHAT LURKS BEHIND THE VEIL...

YOU WOULD FIND OUT THAT YOU CAN BE SCARED TO...

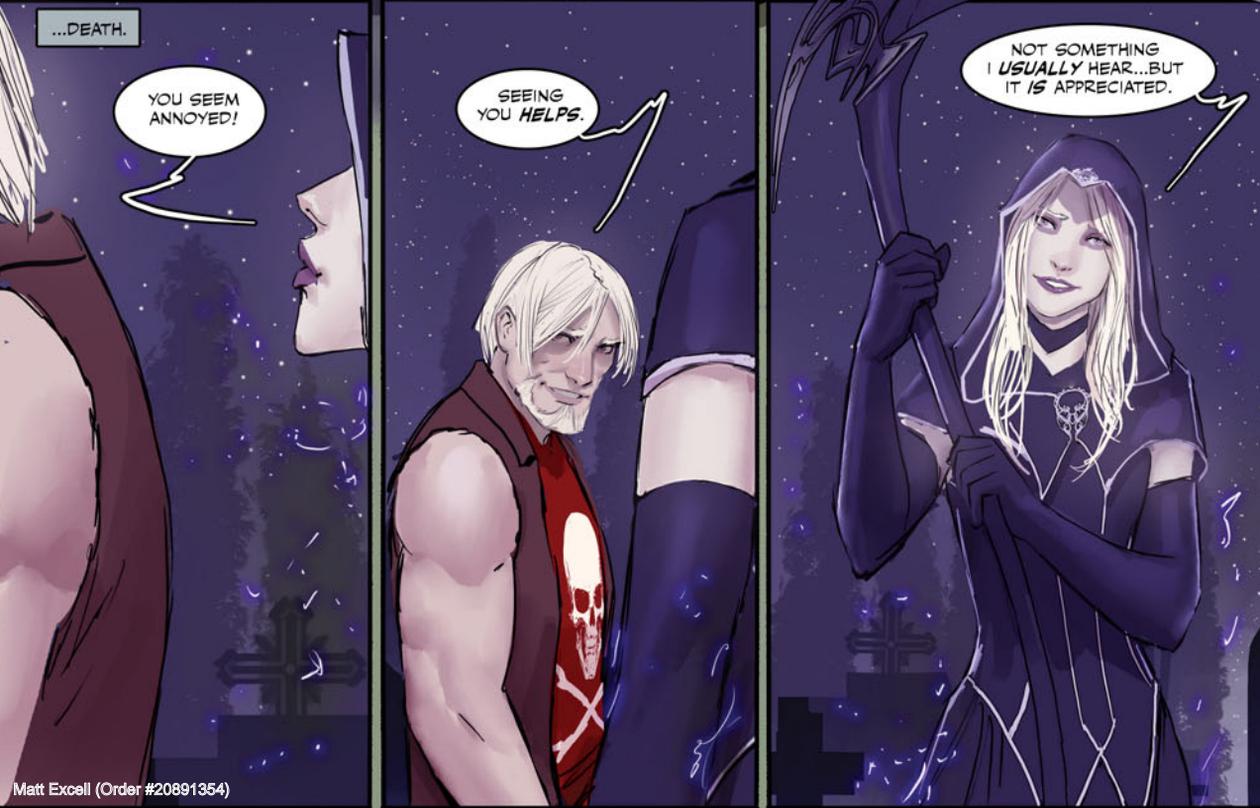


...DEATH.

YOU SEEM ANNOYED!

SEEING YOU HELPS.

NOT SOMETHING I USUALLY HEAR...BUT IT IS APPRECIATED.





SO? WHAT HAPPENED?

JUST...SOME WANNABE OCCULTISTS ANNOYED ME.

ANY OF THEM GIFTED?

NAH...

THEN WHY DWELL?

LISTENING TO THEM *GLORIFYING* THE ENEMY...

AND JUST AFTER WE LOST KAREN...

IT JUST FEELS LIKE THEY WERE SPITTING IN THE FACES OF OUR FALLEN.

I WAS *PLAYING* IT COOL AND ALL BERNIE, BUT I SWEAR...

I WAS HALF A STEP AWAY...

WEN LAO AND CRANSTON HAVE FALLEN, SAM...



W...WHAT? HOW?



IT WAS A WELL-ORGANIZED ATTACK.

NECROMANCERS SEEM TO BE TARGETING THE NEW RECRUITS... CLAIMING THEIR *VEILRIPPERS*...

I...HAD TO WARN YOU SAM...



**BERNARDETTE, THE REAPER.**

SHE IS OUR GENERAL IN THIS WAR.



GRIEF IS A LUXURY FOR HER.



IN THE LAST TWELVE YEARS I LEARNED THIS WELL...

SO I FOUND MY OWN WAYS OF HELPING HER.



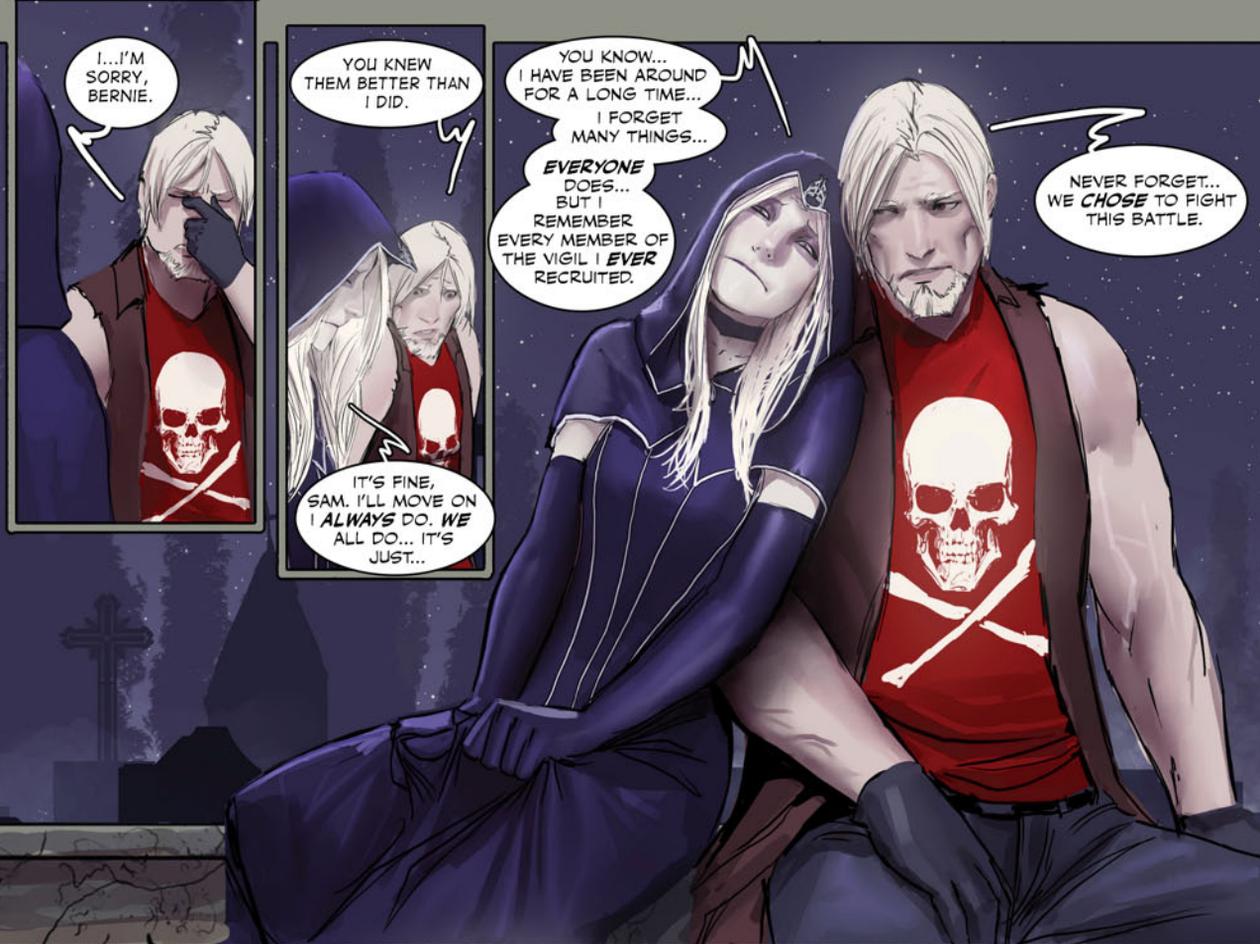
WELL, IF THOSE NECROMANTIC JACKASSES COME VISITING...I'LL *BURY* THEIR ASSES...I *HAVE* THE TOOLS!



AT MOST TIMES I CAN CHEER HER UP.



NOT ALWAYS.



I...I'M SORRY, BERNIE.

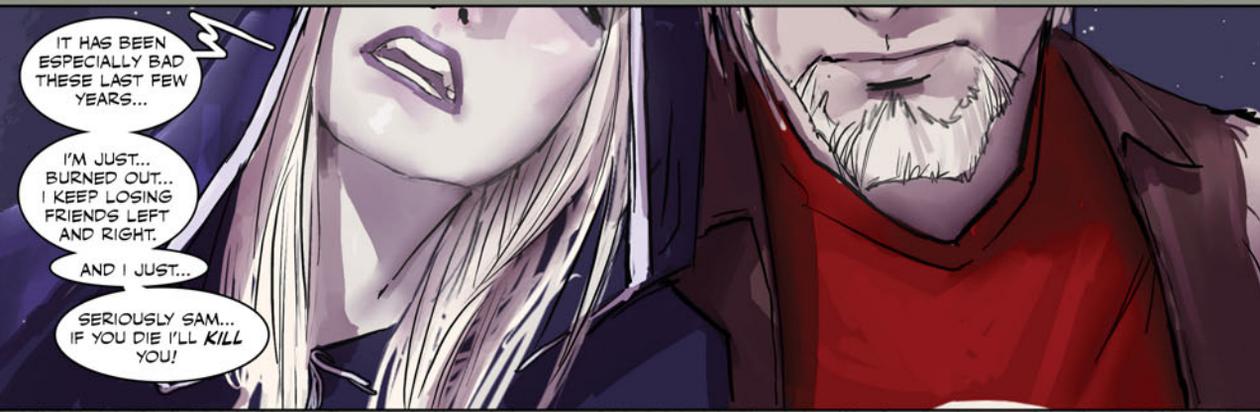
YOU KNEW THEM BETTER THAN I DID.

YOU KNOW... I HAVE BEEN AROUND FOR A LONG TIME... I FORGET MANY THINGS...

EVERYONE DOES... BUT I REMEMBER EVERY MEMBER OF THE VIGIL I EVER RECRUITED.

NEVER FORGET... WE *CHOSE* TO FIGHT THIS BATTLE.

IT'S FINE, SAM. I'LL MOVE ON I ALWAYS DO. WE ALL DO... IT'S JUST...



IT HAS BEEN ESPECIALLY BAD THESE LAST FEW YEARS...

I'M JUST... BURNED OUT... I KEEP LOSING FRIENDS LEFT AND RIGHT.

AND I JUST...

SERIOUSLY SAM... IF YOU DIE I'LL KILL YOU!



BERNIE....DURING MY SECOND YEAR I TOOK DOWN A JANUS SINGLE HANDEDLY...

I KNOW.



MY FOURTH YEAR I WENT EASTWOOD ON TWO KROONS AND LIVED... NOT EVEN ANUBIS CAN MAKE THAT CLAIM.

AS YOU KEEP REMINDING HIM.

DAMN RIGHT!





JUST...BE CAREFUL!

PLEASE BERNIE...

I EAT NECROMANCERS FOR....

BERNIE...  
MORTAL PEOPLE STILL CAN'T SEE YOU, RIGHT?  
YUP!  
THEN HOW THE HELL DID YOU GET THAT PLAYER?  
IT'S A BIRTHDAY GIFT FROM MARLENE.



W...WHAT? YOU HAVE A BIRTHDAY?

I DO NOW... MARLENE WAS AN ORPHAN YOU KNOW. HER ADOPTED PARENTS GAVE HER A BIRTHDAY, SO SHE FELT LIKE GIVING ME ONE.



UM...WELL, HAPPY BIRTHDAY THEN!

THANK YOU SAM.



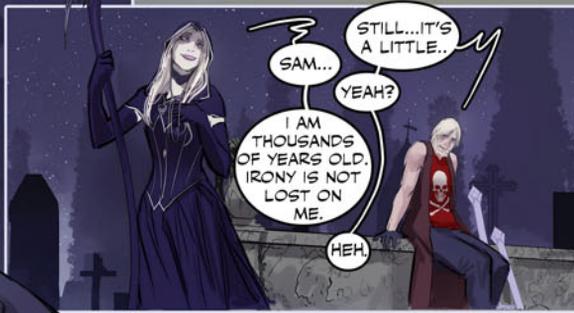
STILL...IT'S A LITTLE..

SAM...

YEAH?

I AM THOUSANDS OF YEARS OLD. IRONY IS NOT LOST ON ME.

HEH



I MUST GO WARN THE OTHERS NOW...

STAY VIGILANT SAM.

YES "MOM"!

BY THE WAY YOU WERE TOTALLY FIGHTING FOR THAT "HAPPY BIRTHDAY".



MAYBE!









I GUESS IT HAD TO BE THIS DAY.



HUH?



NEVER MIND. I WAS ACTUALLY THINKING OF VISITING HIS GRAVE... I MEAN... YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO.



OF COURSE I'LL GO, JON!



YOU REALLY ARE ONE OF A KIND, CLARA!



HE SAID, WITH ALL THE ENTHUSIASM OF A MAN ABOUT TO SEE A PROCTOLOGIST WITH COLD HANDS.



SORRY... MY MIND IS IN A DARK PLACE.. YES. PLEASE GO WITH ME.



BETTER! SO? WE GOING OR WHAT?



VERY WELL MY LOVE, LET'S GO!

MY LOVE... WOW...HEH... THAT WILL TAKE SOME GETTING USED TO.



JON?

SORRY. A BUNCH OF THINGS ON MY MIND.

LIKE?

LACK OF COURAGE...

LACK OF STRENGTH.

JUST..THIS IS THE ONE PLACE WHERE I KNOW MY DAD IS GONE...

ANYWHERE ELSE... I CAN PRETEND THAT HE IS JUST...YOU KNOW, AWAY.



BUT HERE THERE IS NO PRETENSE. HERE MEMORIES AWAKEN.

HE WAS ALWAYS THERE FOR ME WHEN I NEEDED HIM.

BUT IN HIS HOUR OF NEED I COULD DO NOTHING. CANCER WAS EATING HIM FROM WITHIN.

I WAS POWERLESS...



I CAN'T PRETEND TO KNOW HOW YOU FEEL...I'M BARELY ON SPEAKING TERMS WITH MY OWN FAMILY.



DAMN SHOVELHUMPING ASSHOLE...

DUDE, JUST LET IT GO.

A GOOD PARENT CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE.

SO CAN A BAD ONE...



THERE HE IS...



HEY DAD...  
BEEN A WHILE!



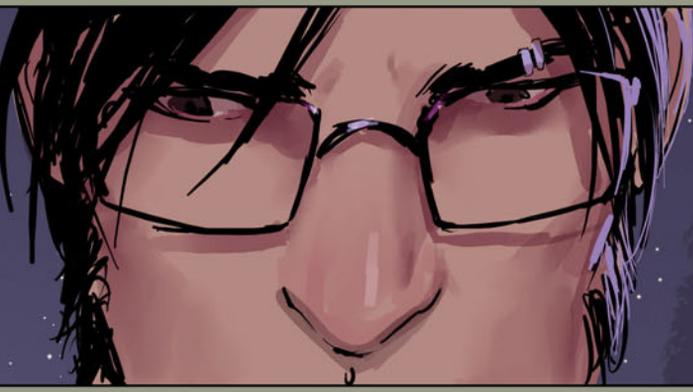
UM... JON...  
SOMEONE DREW  
SOMETHING IN FRONT  
OF THE GRAVE.



I DID  
THAT.



OH?



IT IS AN OLD  
SYMBOL... FROM  
THE AGE OF  
SOLOMON.



SO...LIKE  
YOUR TATTOO?

HEH...YOU  
HAVE BEEN PAYING  
ATTENTION...

YES... SIMILAR  
TO MY TATTOO...  
BUT MUCH MORE  
POWERFUL...



WHAT DO  
YOU MEAN BY  
POWERFUL?

...

JON?



IT'S JUST  
AN OLD MYTH  
MY PROFESSOR  
TAUGHT ME...



BUT...WHY  
IS IT ON YOUR  
FATHER'S  
GRAVE?

CLARA, DO YOU BELIEVE IN AN AFTERLIFE?

I...DON'T REALLY KNOW...

PEOPLE WHO MADE THIS SIGIL DID. IN FACT IT WAS MORE THAN MERE BELIEF!

THEY KNEW IT FOR A FACT.

THEY MADE CONTACT WITH AN OLD POWER... AND LEARNED MUCH...



FOR INSTANCE... WE KNOW THAT LIFE IS FRAGILE, FLEETING.



AND DEATH... FINAL.



I USED TO THINK THIS WAS INEVITABLE.



BUT SHE TAUGHT ME BETTER! REVEALED THE TRUTH ABOUT DEATH, AND THE PALE COURT!



SHE?

PALE COURT? JON...WHAT ARE YOU...



I DO LOVE YOU CLARA!

STRANGELY... THAT WAS NEVER A PART OF OUR PLAN.

JON YOU ARE FREAKING ME OUT HERE...



STILL, IT CHANGES NOTHING... THIS IS BIGGER THAN BOTH OF US...



GHK!

SHOKK

I ASK NO FORGIVENESS BUT I AM SORRY.

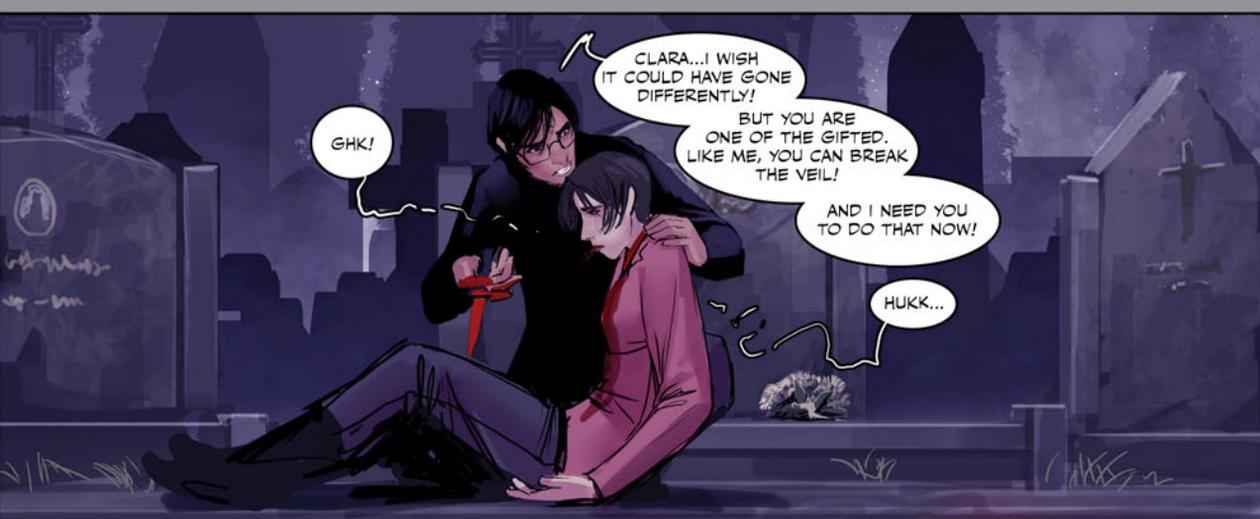
I KNOW IT HURTS CLARA!

IT HURTS ME *JUST* AS MUCH!

BUT THE PAIN *WILL* END SOON!

YOU ARE A PART OF SOMETHING *BIGGER* NOW.

AGH...KHH HKK...JOGHH..



GHK!

CLARA...I WISH IT COULD HAVE GONE DIFFERENTLY!

BUT YOU ARE ONE OF THE GIFTED. LIKE ME, YOU CAN BREAK THE VEIL!

AND I NEED YOU TO DO THAT NOW!

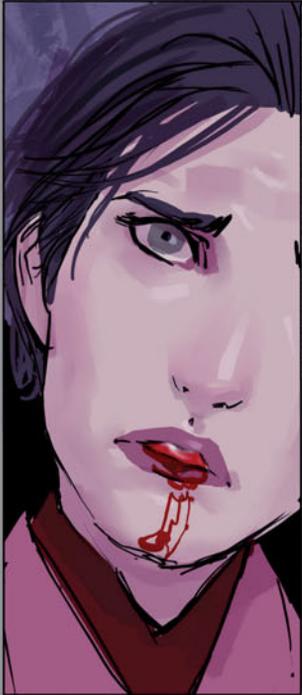
HUKK...



GHK...  
JHHN...



DO IT DAMN YOU! I HAVE BROKEN YOUR BODY AND HEART! RELEASE YOUR HATRED!!!



THANK YOU...

NOW COME FOR ME VIGIL!!! I KNOW YOU ARE CLOSE! FACE ME!  
FACE US!

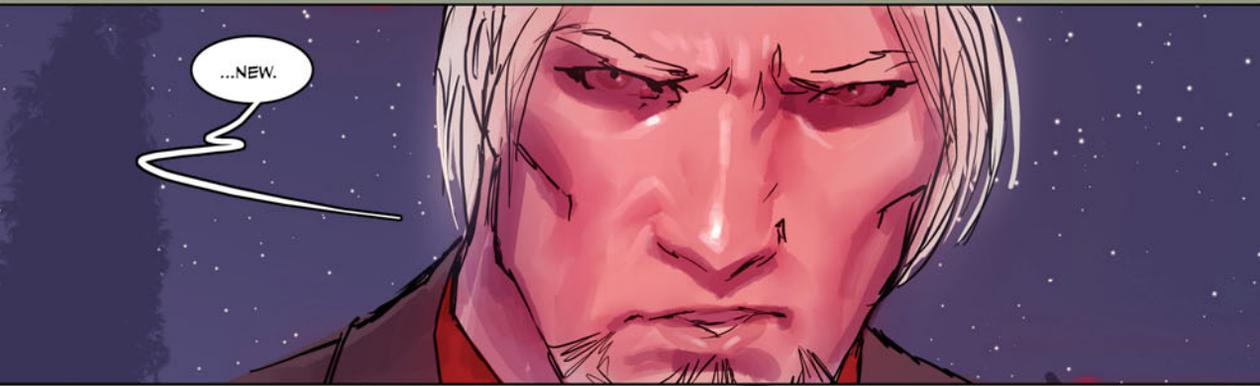


COME VIGIL!  
I CAN SMELL YOUR  
PRESENCE!

HEY NOW!  
THAT'S...



THAAAT'S...



...NEW.



YOU RANG,  
NECROMANCER?



AND THERE  
IS OUR PREY!



OH FOR CRYING  
OUT LOUD, THIS CRAP  
AGAIN? WHAT IS IT WITH YOU  
NECROMANCER GUYS AND  
YOUR OBSSIVE NEED TO  
TAKE YOUR SHIRTS OFF  
AROUND ME?



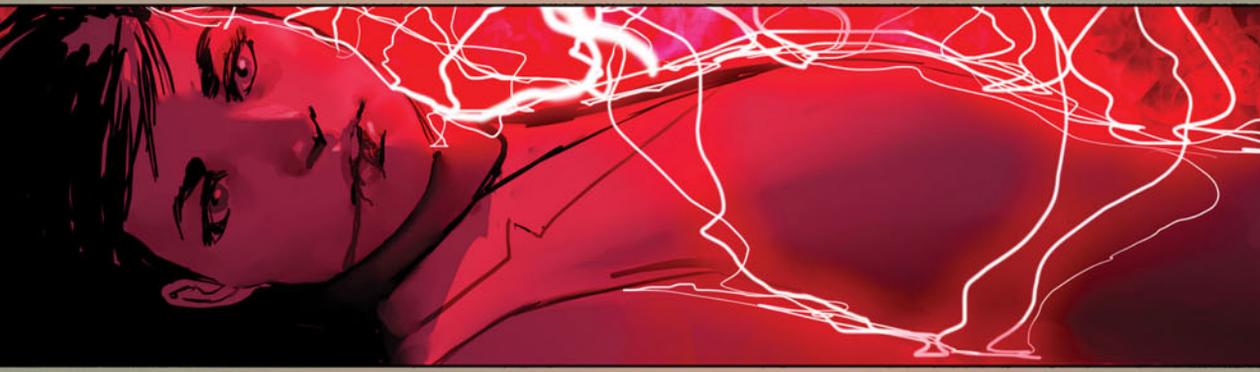
I'M GUESSING  
YOU ARE THE ONE  
CALLED THE  
DIGGER?



WHAT  
GAVE IT  
AWAY?



NOW, MIND  
TELLING ME  
WHY YOU ARE...OH  
WHAT THE...



SIGH...  
BOY...



I WILL  
F%\$KING  
BURY YOU!

YOU  
WILL  
TRY!



OH I'M NOT  
BIG ON TRYING!!

**STONK**



**SKAK**



NOW, ABOUT  
THAT WHOLE "BURYING  
YOU" BUSINESS...

**RRAPPPP**



NO, NO!  
BY ALL  
MEANS...

**KEEP  
DIGGING!**



THAT SURE IS A FINE  
POSSE YOU GOT THERE  
KIDDO...

THAT  
ALL OF  
THEM?

WELL...THE  
IMPORTANT  
ONES ARE  
FASHIONABLY  
LATE.

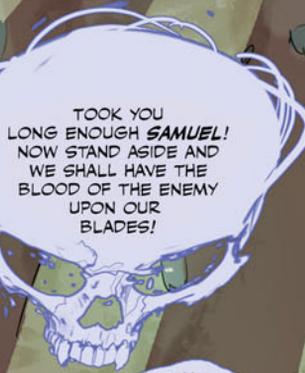
PITY!

BECAUSE,  
NECROMANCER...

IT'S TIME  
TO SAY HI TO  
MY BOYS!



THEY WILL MISS AN **AMAZING** ASSWHOOPING!



TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH **SAMUEL!** NOW STAND ASIDE AND WE SHALL HAVE THE BLOOD OF THE ENEMY UPON OUR BLADES!



THAT NECROMANCER HAS A FINE NOSE! I SHALL TAKE IT!





ONE AT A TIME, MEN! THERE IS ENOUGH BLOODBATH FOR EVERYONE.

YOU TALK NONSENSE SAMUEL!



THERE IS BARELY ENOUGH BLOODBATH HERE TO WASH MY ARMPITS!

GOOD TO KNOW, GUNNAR.

GROSS...BUT GOOD TO KNOW!



AND NOW THAT EVERYONE HAS A DANCE PARTNER...



SHALL WE ?



WE HAVE RISSSEN!

MIND IF I LEAD?

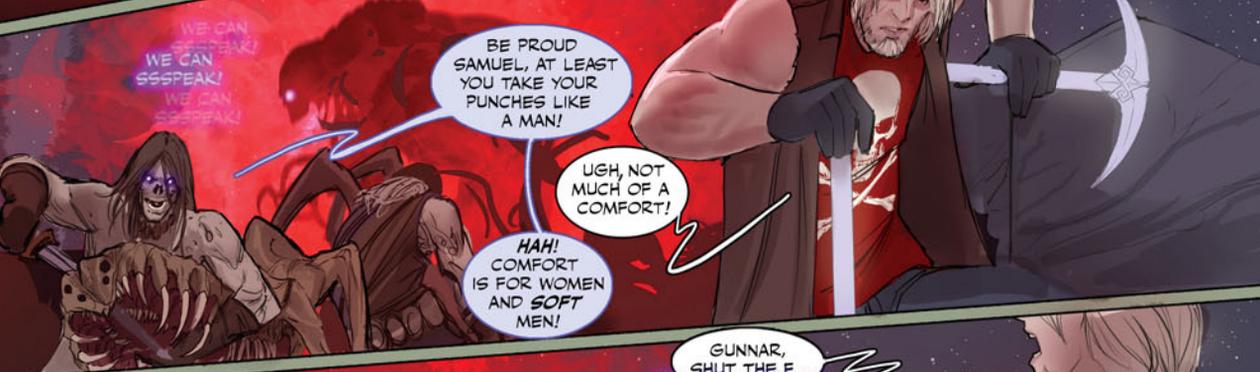


WE HAVE THOUGHT!  
WE HAVE THOUGHT!  
WE HAVE THOUGHT!

WE HAVE PURPOSES!!!  
WE HAVE PURPOSES!!!  
WE HAVE PURPOSES!!!

WE HAVE VOICES!!!  
WE HAVE VOICES!!!  
WE HAVE VOICES!!!

YOU HAVE WORK TO DO!



WE CAN SSSPEAK!  
WE CAN SSSPEAK!  
WE CAN SSSPEAK!

BE PROUD SAMUEL, AT LEAST YOU TAKE YOUR PUNCHES LIKE A MAN!

UGH, NOT MUCH OF A COMFORT!

HAH! COMFORT IS FOR WOMEN AND SOFT MEN!

GUNNAR, SHUT THE F...



WE CAN SSSING!

OH CRAP! EVERYONE, TAKE COVER!!!

FROM THAT? YOU ARE A FUNNY MAN SAMUEL! I SHALL WEAR ITS SKULLS AS A...



GUNNAR, YOU OKAY?

GIVE ME A WEEK AND I WILL BE WHOLE AGAIN!



THIS BEAST IS AFTER YOU NOW, AND THERE IS LITTLE GLORY IN DYING A FOOL.

SAMUEL, SUMMON HER!



UGH... I PROBABLY SHOULD.





OH SHUT THE HELL UP ALREADY!

WE HUUURT  
WE HUUURT  
WE HUUURT



NGH

BE SSSLOW  
BE SSSLOW  
BE SSSLOW

SHINY THING  
SHINY THING  
HURT USS

NOW WE HURT  
NOW WE HURT  
BACK

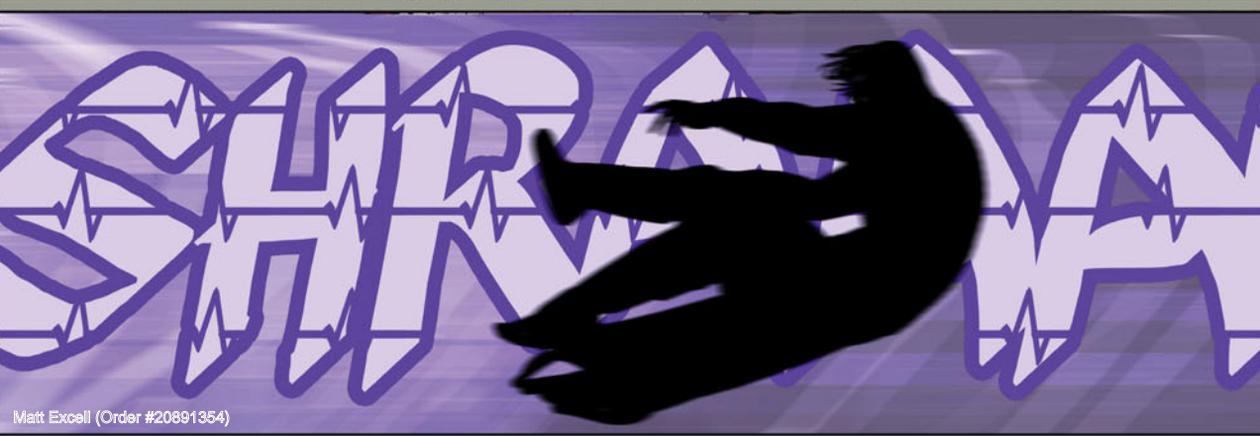


WE SSSING  
WE SSSING  
WE SSSING

YESS...  
YESS...  
YESS...

OH YOU MOTHER-

WE SSSING IT  
TWE SSSING IT  
THE LASST SONG!  
WE SSSING IT  
THE LASST SONG!



WELL AIN'T THIS  
JUST TOO DAMN  
FAMILIAR...

LEANING AGAINST  
SOME WALL AND  
ABOUT TO DIE...

I HATE BANSHEES... GOT HIT BY A  
LESSER ONE ONCE. MY EARS WERE  
RINGING AND I COULDN'T WALK  
TILL **BERNIE** FIXED IT... A SINGLE  
TOUCH FROM HER AND I WAS  
GOOD AS NEW.

AND BOY COULD I USE  
THAT TOUCH RIGHT  
ABOUT NOW.

**BERNIE...**

I NEED YOU...

NOW WOULD  
BE GOOD!

NO FEAR

WE WILL  
TAKE YOU

MAKE  
YOU US

THIS IS WHERE  
IT ENDS DIGGER

PARTY  
AIN'T OVER YET,  
**NECROMANCER.**

LOOK  
BEHIND YOU!



HUGIN,  
DESTROY THAT  
ABOMINATION!

GLADLY!



BEEN A WHILE  
SINCE I FEASTED ON  
SOME BANSHEE!



DAMN...  
SO EASY TO  
FORGET JUST  
HOW POWERFUL  
HUGIN REALLY  
IS...

YUP!



I MEAN...I DID  
WEAR THAT  
BANSHEE OUT.

HMPF...AND...  
THANK YOU.

WHY YESH  
YOU DID.

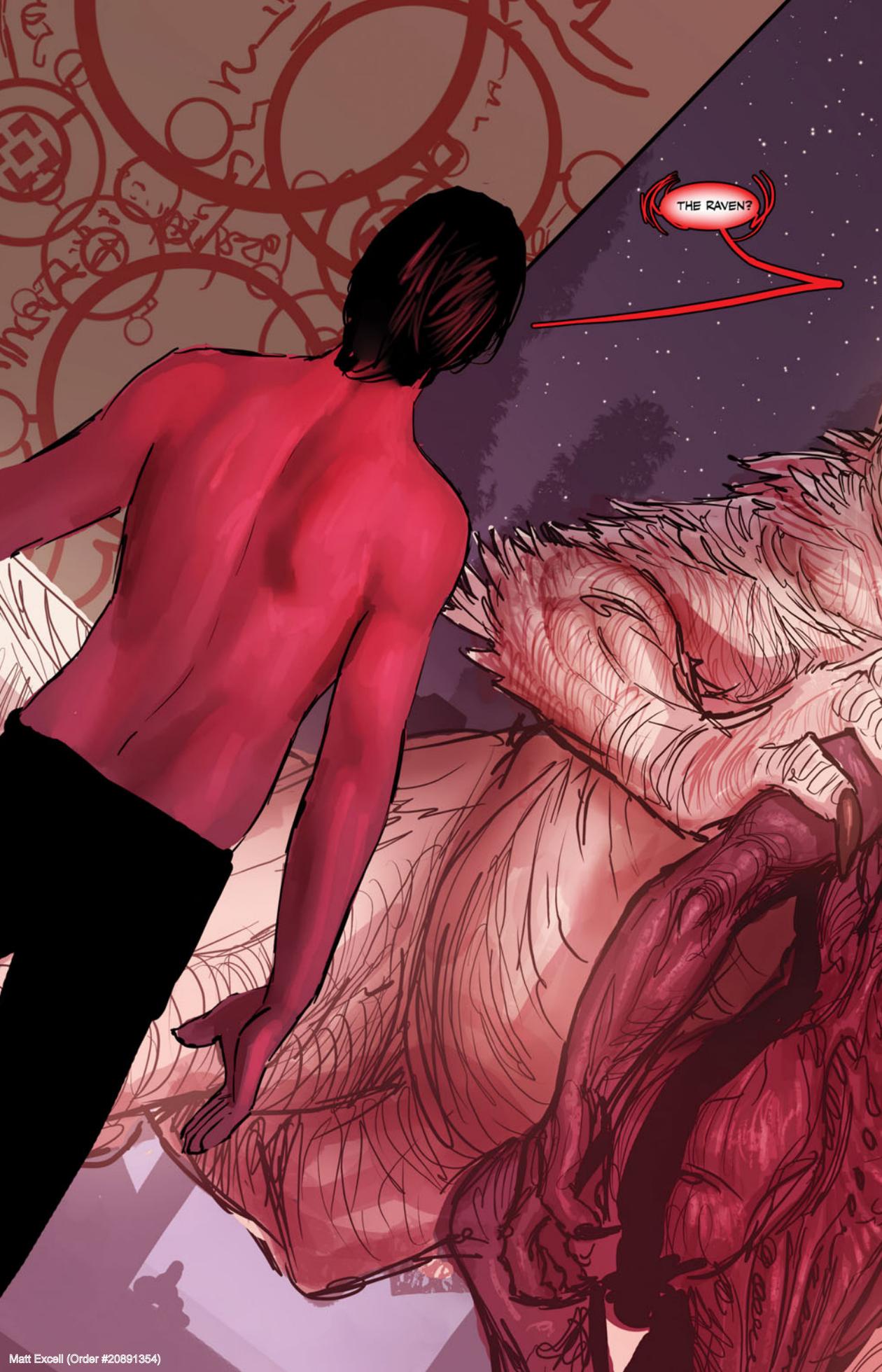
ANYTIME  
SAM!



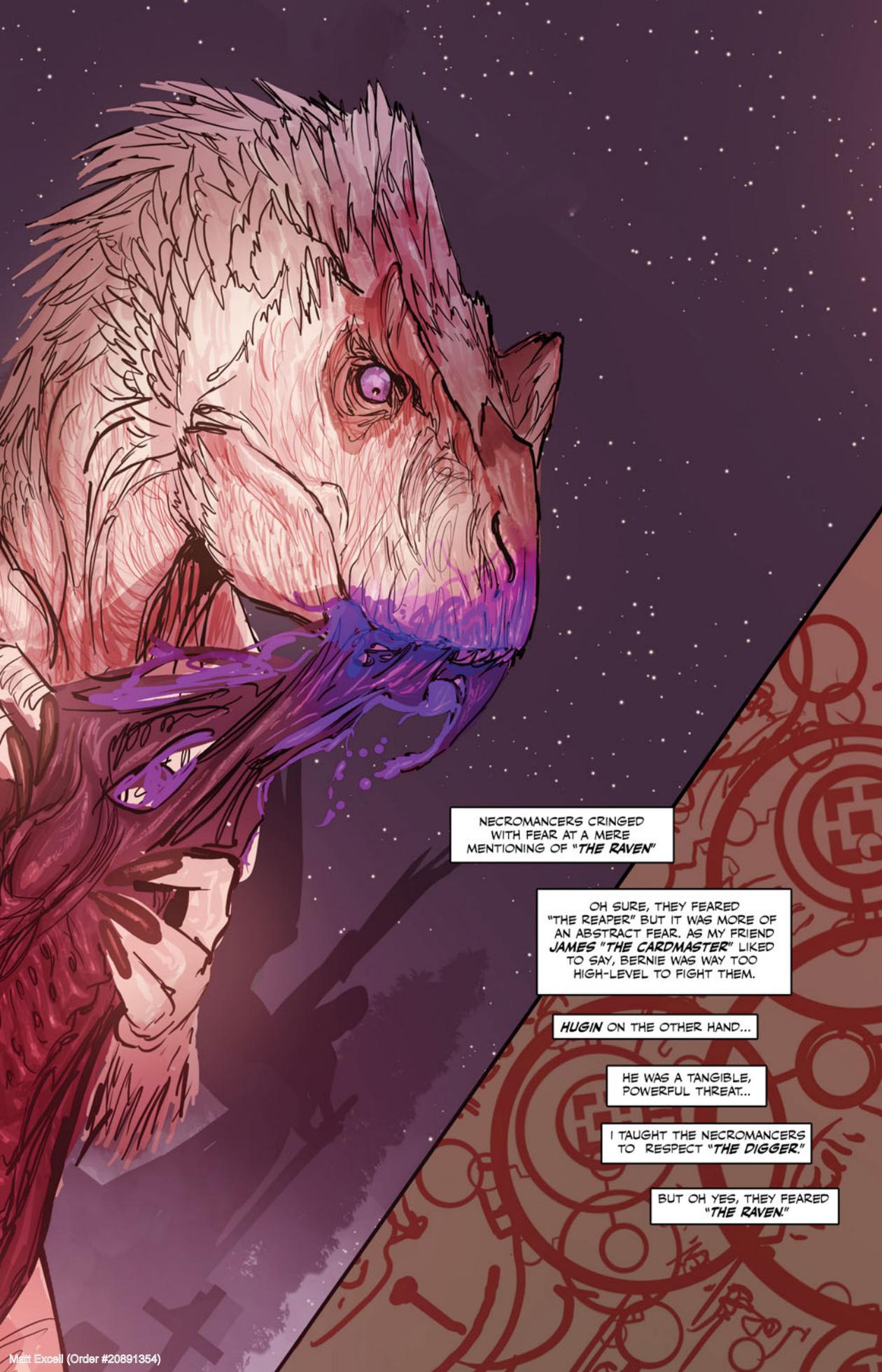
THAT...



THAT...



THE RAVEN?



NECROMANCERS CRINGED  
WITH FEAR AT A MERE  
MENTIONING OF "THE RAVEN"

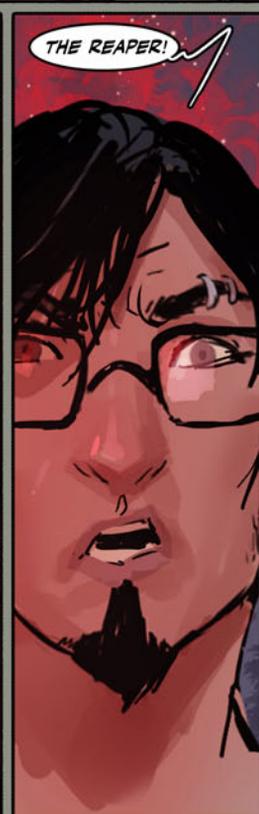
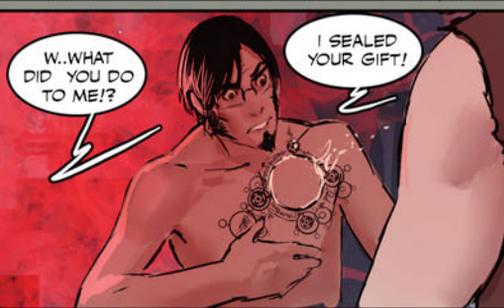
OH SURE, THEY FEARED  
"THE REAPER" BUT IT WAS MORE OF  
AN ABSTRACT FEAR. AS MY FRIEND  
JAMES "THE CARDMASTER" LIKED  
TO SAY, BERNIE WAS WAY TOO  
HIGH-LEVEL TO FIGHT THEM.

HUGIN ON THE OTHER HAND...

HE WAS A TANGIBLE,  
POWERFUL THREAT...

I TAUGHT THE NECROMANCERS  
TO RESPECT "THE DIGGER."

BUT OH YES, THEY FEARED  
"THE RAVEN."





WHAT'S HAPPENING?

I FEEL...

LIKE I'M ERODING.



I AM SORRY ABOUT YOUR FATHER, BUT YOU ARE *MISTAKEN* ABOUT ME.



I DO NOT *TAKE* LIVES.



I *GUARD* THEM.



UNGH..WHAT DID..WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME?

YOUR LINK WITH *THE ENEMY* HAS BEEN SEVERED.



YOUR *GIFT* WAS TAKEN AWAY AND WITH IT YOUR SOUL WAS DAMAGED...

AN UNFORTUNATE YET INEVITABLE CONSEQUENCE.



SAM!

YEAH?



WAS HE THE ONLY NECROMANCER HERE?

UH HUH.



THEN WHY IS THIS *TEAR* IN THE VEIL NOT CLOSING?



IT'S CERTAINLY NOT *THE BANSHEE* THAT'S KEEPING IT OPEN.

HAD A GOOD MEAL?

SCRUMPTIOUS.



HUGIN, HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A TEAR LIKE THIS ONE?

NOT SINCE *HEINRICH'S UPRISING*. THIS DOES FEEL SIMILAR.

SO IT'S NOT JUST ME THEN.



WHAT ARE WE TALKING HERE?

GIRL'S SOUL IS LINKED TO THE TEAR. SHE IS KEEPING IT OPEN.



HOWEVER... SHE IS *GIFTED*.

SO CAN YOU BREAK THE LINK?

YES!

I CAN CLAIM HER FOR THE *DEATH VIGIL*.

IF I DON'T, THIS TEAR WILL DESTROY HER.



YOU KNOW...  
IF ANYONE SAW THIS...

YEAH, IT  
WOULD BE AWKWARD.  
BUT SHE WOULD FREAK  
OUT IF I WAS TO WAKE  
HER IN THE MIDDLE  
OF THAT RIFT.



CLARA,  
AWAKEN.



I ALWAYS  
LOVED HOW  
YOU CAN TOUCH  
SOMEONE AND  
KNOW THEIR  
NAME...

MNNHH.



IT'S A GOOD  
ICEBREAKER.

THAT  
IT IS!

HUH?



WHAT...WHAT  
HAPPENED?



CLARA JENKINS!  
DON'T BE SCARED,  
I AM HERE FOR YOU!





CLARA...

AAAAAAAAAAAAAF%&KNOGETAWAYFROMME!!!

HUH?



PLEASE, CALM DOWN! LET ME EXPLAIN.

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!!

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!!

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!!



"DRAG HER OUT OF THAT RIFT SAM". "DON'T WANT HER TO GET FREAKED OUT..."

YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN WHEN WE BROUGHT BACK JAMES... SHE ENDED UP CHASING HIM FOR TWELVE CITY BLOCKS.



OKAY LOOK!

DO I LOOK ANYTHING LIKE THIS??? SERIOUSLY CLARA! CALM...DOWN!



JUST... LISTEN...

OH GOD!

OH GOD!

THIS IS REAL...



I'M... DEAD?



YES.



HE KILLED ME!



HE DID.



IT... GETS WORSE...



I DON'T KNOW HOW HE DID IT...



BUT SOMEHOW YOUR SOUL IS USED TO FEED THAT TEAR AND KEEP IT OPEN.

FEED? YOU MEAN...

IT WILL DESTROY YOU.



WH...HUK...



CLARA?

HHHHNNGGG



HUAGGGGHHH!!!



I CAN'T VOMIT... CAN I?

NO...

SHIT!

THAT EITHER.

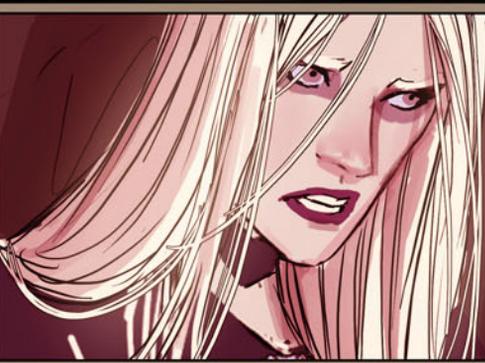
EVEN THE DEAD HAVE THEIR STAGES OF DEALING WITH DEATH...BUT IN THE END WE DO JUST THAT...

WE DEAL WITH IT.

WE HAVE TO.

I AM SORRY, CLARA. YOU GOT DRAGGED INTO OUR WORLD...INTO OUR WAR.

CAN I LEAVE? LIKE, IF I GO FAR FROM THIS...TEAR THING?



I...DON'T THINK SO... THERE IS A WAY TO BREAK THE LINK THOUGH.

I CAN CLAIM YOUR SOUL AND MAKE YOU ONE OF THE VIGIL!

WHAT'S THE VIGIL?



WE ARE THE DEATH VIGIL, GIRL. SAFEKEEPERS OF ALL LIFE.

W...HAT? THIS BIRD JUST SPOKE?



BIRD HAS A NAME! I AM HUGIN! ELDER OF THE VIGIL!





?



YOU KNOW...  
I MISS BEING ABLE TO PUKE...  
I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD EVER MISS THAT...  
BUT I DO.



AAAND MY HAIR IS NOW WHITE...SIGH... WHY NOT?  
OKAY, SO WHAT'S THE DEATH VIGIL?



ANCIENT LEAGUE OF IMMORTAL PROTECTORS BURDENED WITH DUTY OF PREVENTING THE PRIMORDIAL ENEMY FROM ESCAPING THE UNDERPLANE OF EXISTENCE AND DEVOURING ALL LIFE.



IS DEVOURING THE RIGHT WORD?  
DRINKING IT UP?  
SUCKING UP LIKE SPAGHETTI!  
NEVER TRIED THAT.  
YOU ATE WORMS...



THIS IS NOT A F#CKING JOKE!!!



OH...



NO TEARS...



I'M SORRY, CLARA, RIGHT?  
YES.  
CLARA, I'M SAM, AND I HAVE BEEN WITH THE VIGIL FOR TWELVE YEARS NOW...  
TRUST ME, WE HAD NO INTENTIONS OF BELITTLING YOUR SHOCK OR FEAR. IT'S JUST...



WITH VIGIL YOU SEE A LOT OF REAL CRAZY STUFF...  
SO AFTER A WHILE YOU LEARN TO JUST KIND OF...ROLL WITH IT.



IT'S...NOT YOU...



IT'S HIM!



YOU STUPID...



PIECE OF SHIT!!!



YOU SCUM-GARGLING...



CRAP-CHEWING...



SON OF A BITCH!!!



WHAT'S... WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?

YOU MIGHT SAY HE IS NOW DEAD ON THE INSIDE. HE HAS BEEN SEALED. IT'S...NOT PRETTY BUT IT IS INEVITABLE.



I KNOW IT'S NOT MUCH...BUT IF YOU JOIN US, YOU WILL BE CORPOREAL SO YOU CAN KICK HIM IN THE BALLS PROPERLY.



HEH! IT IS TEMPTING...



SO PRESUMING I SAY YES, WHERE DO WE TAKE IT FROM HERE?

FIRST I'LL CLAIM YOU FOR THE VIGIL AND SEAL THIS TEAR BEFORE...



WHAT THE HELL IS THAT??

UGH... BEFORE THAT...



ISHTADHUUL AN HAGRU! VIN HADRE DUNNUM KHARED SIIIN!!!!

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!!!  
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!!!

YEAH...THIS GUY MAY BE A BIT OUT OF MY LEAGUE.

AGREED.



CLARA, COULD YOU PLEASE CLOSE YOUR EYES FOR A MINUTE?

WHAT? BUT WE MUST...

PLEASE.

I DON'T WANT YOU TO SEE ME LIKE THIS.

SHIN KHADRA BAR HAZOO.

VERANAAA!!!!

ERED HRAKATOON  
INDRA DU BABEL!

PARE VERANHUN!

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAARRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRGGGGGGHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH

WELL.. THAT'S THE END OF THAT

CLARA!



YOU MAY OPEN YOUR EYES NOW, CLARA.

WHAT? WHERE IS IT?

TAKEN CARE OF... FOR NOW.

BUT WE MUST BREAK YOUR LINK TO THE TEAR, CLARA.

AND I ONLY KNOW OF ONE WAY TO DO THAT.

IF I JOIN...THE...

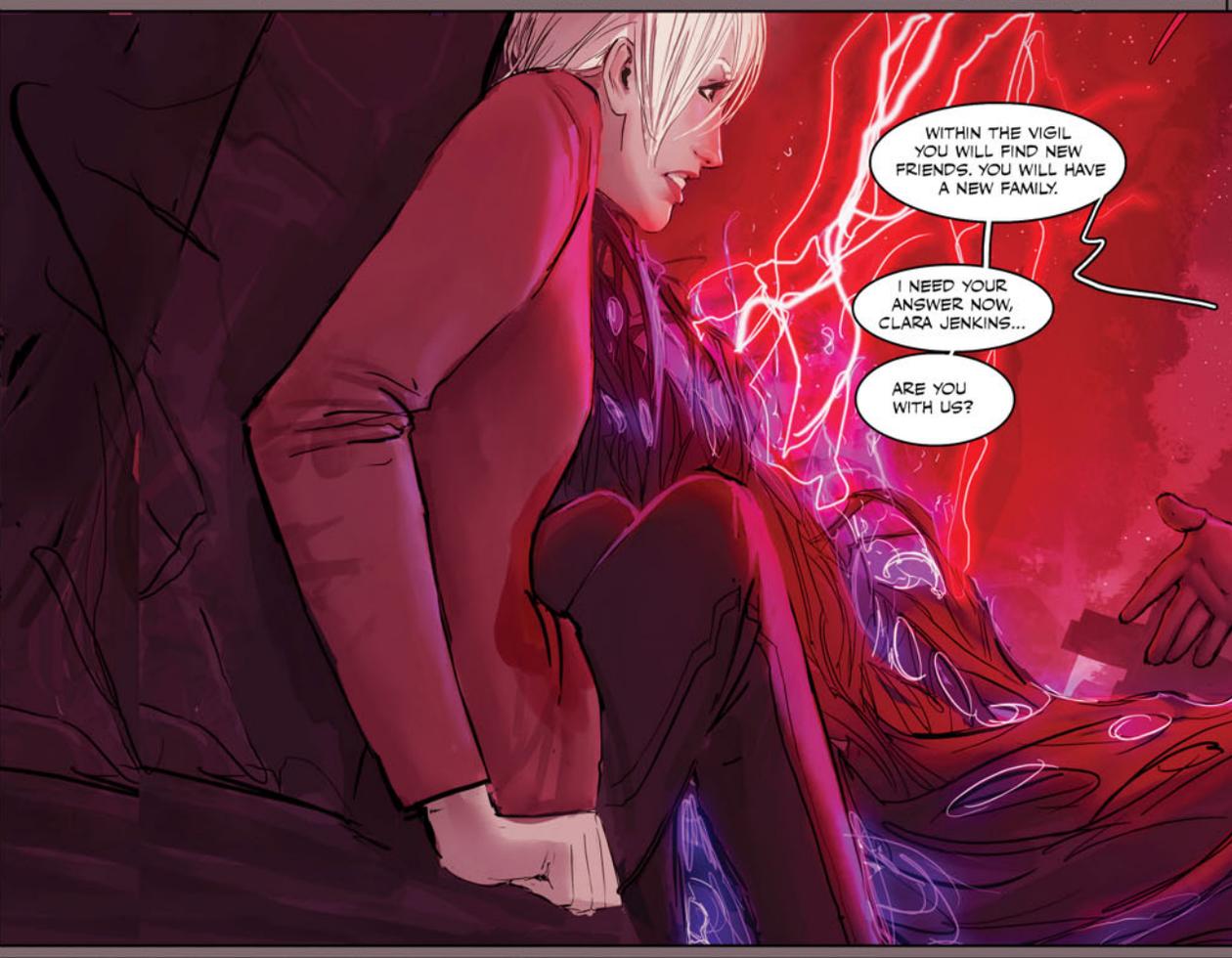
VIGIL, RIGHT!...YOU FIGHT THESE... THINGS?

VIGIL.

YES.

I CAN'T FIGHT!

YOU CAN LEARN.



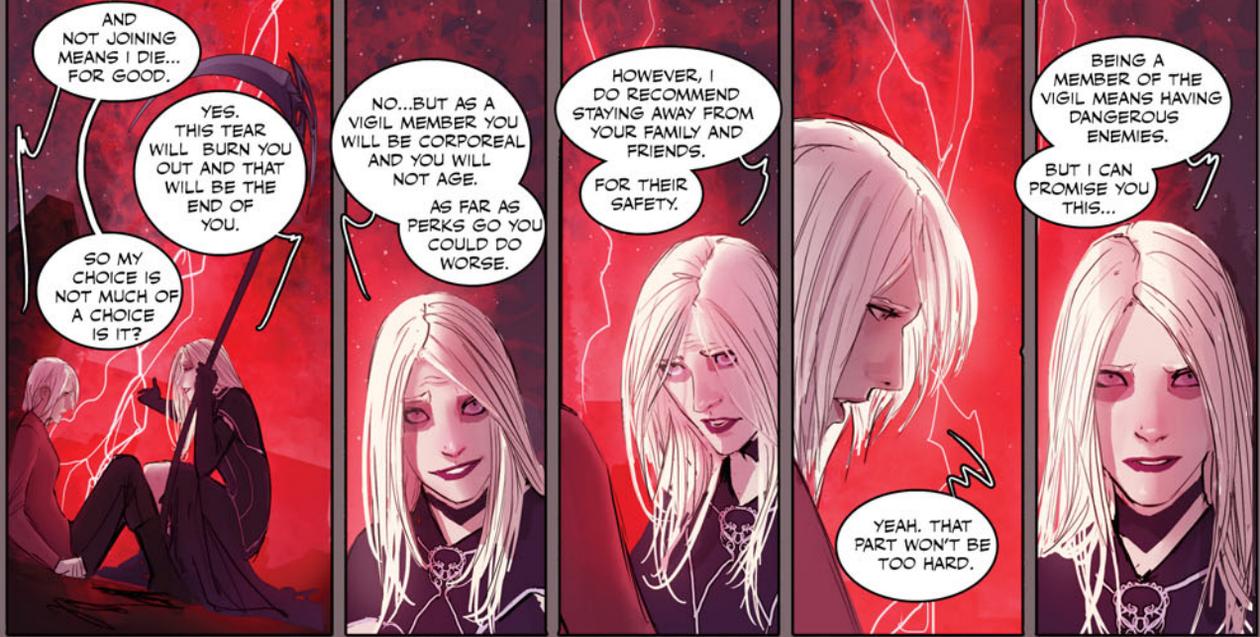
WITHIN THE VIGIL YOU WILL FIND NEW FRIENDS. YOU WILL HAVE A NEW FAMILY.

I NEED YOUR ANSWER NOW, CLARA JENKINS...

ARE YOU WITH US?



YEAH, NO, YOU HAD ME AT YOU WON'T BE DEAD!



AND NOT JOINING MEANS I DIE... FOR GOOD.

YES. THIS TEAR WILL BURN YOU OUT AND THAT WILL BE THE END OF YOU.

SO MY CHOICE IS NOT MUCH OF A CHOICE IS IT?

NO...BUT AS A VIGIL MEMBER YOU WILL BE CORPOREAL AND YOU WILL NOT AGE.

AS FAR AS PERKS GO YOU COULD DO WORSE.

HOWEVER, I DO RECOMMEND STAYING AWAY FROM YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

FOR THEIR SAFETY.

BEING A MEMBER OF THE VIGIL MEANS HAVING DANGEROUS ENEMIES.

BUT I CAN PROMISE YOU THIS...

YEAH. THAT PART WON'T BE TOO HARD.



COME ON, JOIN US! HOW MANY GROUPS YOU KNOW THAT HAVE TALKING RAVENS?

I MUST AGREE WITH SAMUEL...WE DO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF COMPANY.







WE STILL  
NEED SIX  
MORE...



NEXT ISSUE:

# DEATH WALK #2



# WITCHBLADE<sup>®</sup>

IT MIGHT  
FORGIVE

BUT IT  
WON'T  
FORGET

RON MARZ • LAURA BRAGA

Ongoing Monthly

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