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ANNE RICE'S SERVANT OF THE BONES



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Azriel, the Servant of the Bones, saved the scholar Jonathan in his remote cabin one wintry night. He then tells him a tale of ancient Babylon, gods, kings, and secret rites. Able to see the great god of Babylon, Marduk, Azriel is sentenced to a terrible fate by his elders. But even he doesn't know the horror that awaits him in a secret chamber, or what the centuries of serving one master after another will turn him into...until he ends up in modern day New York City.



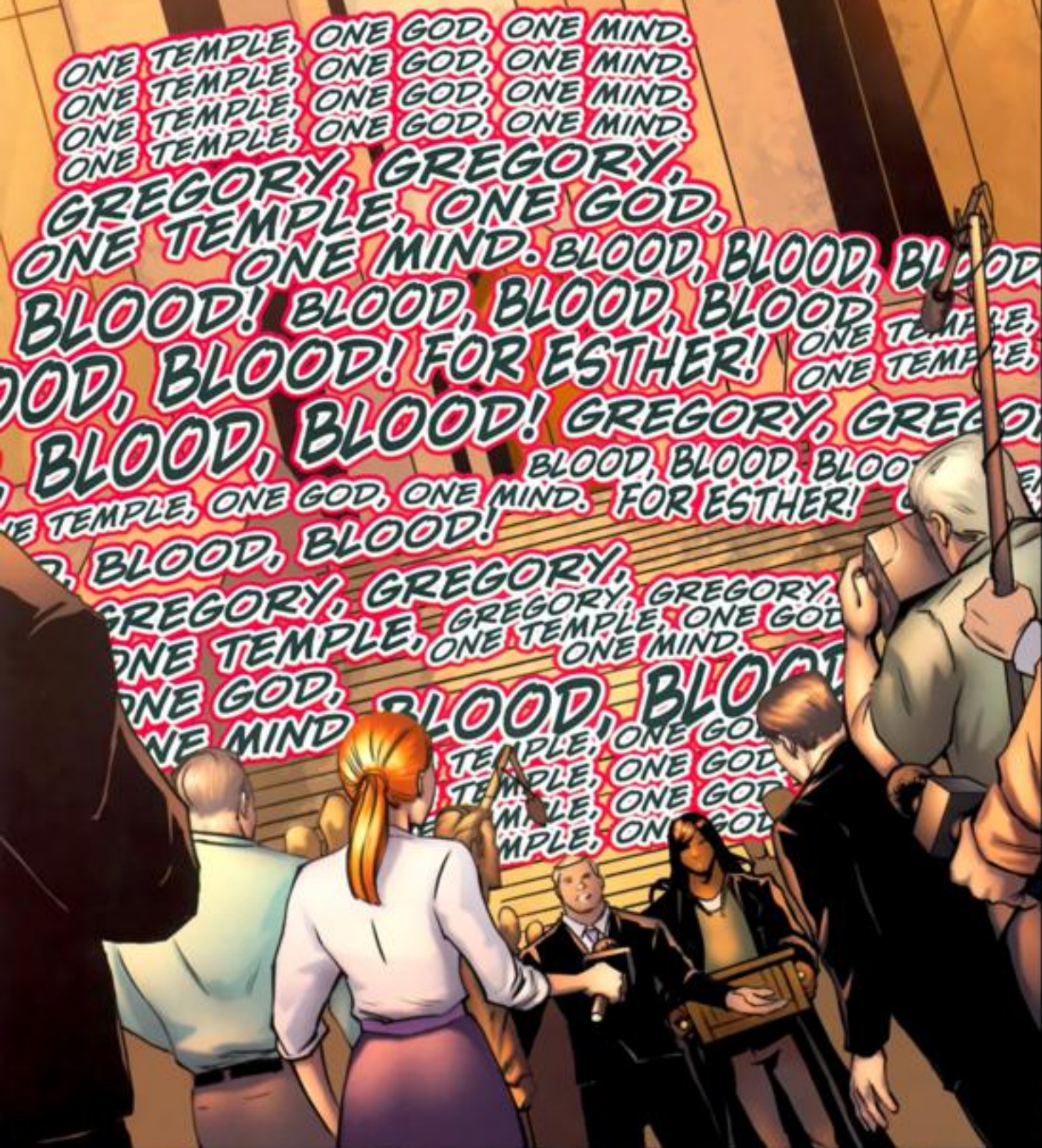
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"I LOOKED RIGHT INTO THE BLARING LIGHTS AND SCREAMING FACES. I SHOOK AWAY THE MANTLE OF SADNESS. THE CRIES DEAFENED ME."



BLOOD FOR ESTHER!

GREGORY,
WHO KILLED
HER?

GREGORY,
WHO IS THIS
WITH YOU?

SIR, ARE YOU
A MEMBER OF
THE TEMPLE?

TELL US
WHO YOU
ARE!

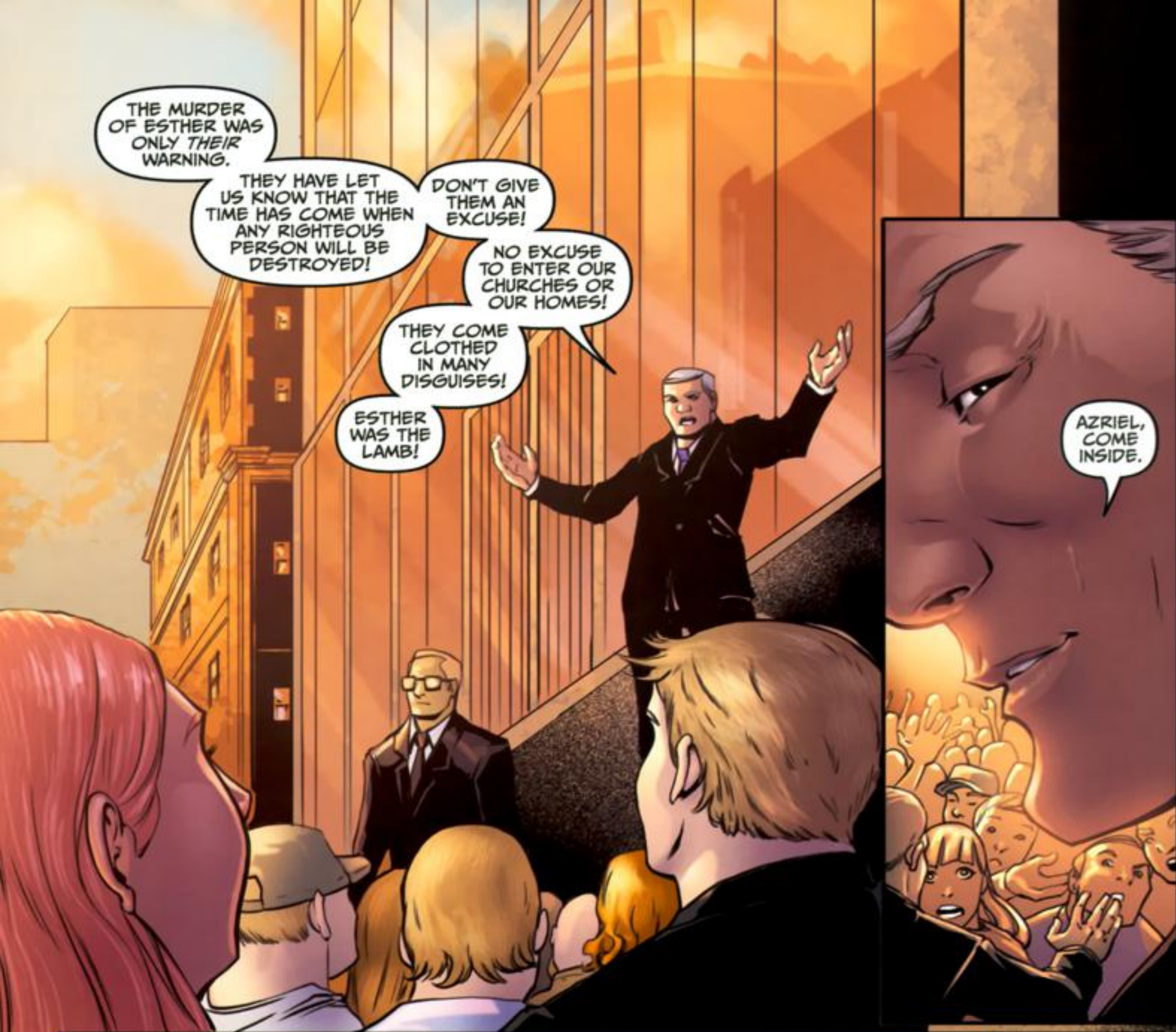
GREGORY,
WHAT WILL THE
CHURCH DO?

"IT WAS A
BABBLE OF
PEOPLE."



INDEED,
THEY DO
SEE YOU.







"WE WERE THRUST
INSIDE AN ELEVATOR.



"I REALIZED WE WERE
COMPLETELY ALONE. I SAW
MYSELF IN THE GLASS AS
WE BEGAN TO RISE.



"WE STARED AT
EACH OTHER IN A
FLOATING CABIN OF
MIRRORED LIGHT.

"WE COULD HAVE
BEEN BROTHERS.

"WE WERE HIGHER THAN
THE MIGHTIEST ZIGGURAT,
CASTLE, OR FOREST.

"WE WERE IN THE REALM
OF THE AIRY SPIRITS."

ESTHER... OH...
ESTHER...

MY HUMBLE
ABODE.

IT'S THE
MOTHER CRYING,
ISN'T IT? THE
MOTHER OF
ESTHER.





WE SHOULD GO TO HER.

WHY WOULD WE DO THAT?

BECAUSE SHE'S CRYING.



I WANT TO TELL HER THAT ESTHER DIDN'T SUFFER, THAT I WAS THERE.

ESTHER'S SPIRIT WENT UP SO LIGHT IT WAS LIKE AIR ITSELF IN THE PATHWAY TO HEAVEN.

I WANT TO TELL HER.



*I LOOKED AT THE CASKET. DIMNESS. GRIEF.

THERE CAME THE FAMILIAR REEK OF BOILING GOLD.



COME TO MY PARLOR. TALK TO ME. YOUR WORDS WON'T MEAN ANYTHING TO RACHEL ANYWAY.

I WANT TO SEE HER AND COMFORT HER.

WE'LL TALK TO HER, I PROMISE YOU.

SHE'S STILL CRYING, ISN'T SHE?



SHE'LL CRY UNTIL SHE DIES.



*WE PASSED
NUMEROUS DOORS.
ONE LAY OPEN.

*IT WAS HER
ROOM. SHE
WAS IN THERE.

*I PEEPED IN
RUDELY, THE SIGHT
AMAZED ME.

*SHE WAS
SURROUNDED BY
NURSES, HER HAIR
SILVERY, ALMOST
DECORATED WITH
GREATER AGE.

*BUT SHE WAS
NOT OLD.

"SHE SAW ME."

GREGORY!

*HE WALKED ON.

*I COULD NOT
BELIEVE HOW FAR
WE WERE ABOVE
THE EARTH.

*THE NIGHT
CAUGHT ME WITH
ALL ITS TIMELESS
SWEETNESS."



"WE SEEMED TO BE DRIFTING IN THIS PALACE. COMFORTED BY THE CITY IN AN ILLUSION."

"I DISGUISED MY DELIGHT, MY WEAKNESS, MY HUNGER FOR IT."

TELL ME, GREGORY. WHAT IS THE TEMPLE OF THE MIND THAT ITS HIGH PRIEST LIVES IN THIS SPLENDOR?

ARE YOU A THIEF, A CHARLATAN, AS YOUR GRANDFATHER SAID?



YOURS IS A RICH GOD, MIND OR NO MIND.

AND YOU A RICH PRIEST.

I'M NOT A PRIEST.



"HIS EXCITEMENT WAS PALPABLE. HE WANTED TO DRINK ALL THE KNOWLEDGE HE COULD FROM ME."

WHO CALLED YOU? WHO BROUGHT YOU OUT OF THE BONES?

YOU HAVE TO TELL ME, I AM THE MASTER NOW.

"I FELT NO WEAKENING IN MYSELF AS I RESISTED HIM."

"WHAT IF THE WORLD WAS MY MASTER NOW?"



IT WOULD BE NOTHING FOR ME TO KILL YOU. DON'T TAKE SUCH A FOOLISH TACK.

MAY I SET DOWN THE BONES, HERE, ON YOUR TABLE?



"I FELT A RIPPLE OF SENSATION, I SAW A FIRE, NOT OF THE WORLD, BUT OF THE GODS."

"WHAT IF EACH AND EVERY HUMAN BEING WAS MY MASTER NOW?"

"I DID NOT WANT TO BE TAKEN BEFORE I UNDERSTOOD THIS."



"THE BONES WERE AS BRILLIANT AS THEY HAD BEEN THE DAY I DIED."

THE DAY I DIED, AM I TO REMEMBER EVERYTHING NOW? IS THAT PART OF THE PLAN?

WHEN WAS IT? WHAT MADE YOU A GHOST? WHAT PLAN?



I DON'T KNOW THOSE ANSWERS. I WOULDN'T BOTHER WITH YOU IF I DID. THE REBBE TOLD YOU MORE THAN I KNOW.

NOT BOTHER WITH ME! DON'T YOU SEE THAT IF THERE IS A PLANE, EVEN GREATER THAN THE ONE I DEvised, YOU ARE PART OF IT?

HOW COULD ESTHER HAVE SEEN YOU? WHEN DID YOU FIRST COME?



IF I WAS SENT TO SAVE HER, I FAILED.

WHY DID YOU CALL HER THE LAMB? WHY DID YOU USE THOSE WORDS?

YOU'LL LEARN SOON ENOUGH.

WE'RE SURROUNDED BY ENEMIES. ALL WE HAVE TO DO TO ROUSE THEM IS SHOW A LITTLE POWER, RESIST THE PLAN WHICH THEY HAVE LAID WITH ALL THE SOLEMNITY OF GOD.

PLANS WHICH ARE ONLY ROUTINE, THE RITUAL, THE LAW, THE NORMAL, THE SANE...

...I HAVE GONE AGAINST THEM AND THEY WOULD COME AGAINST ME. ONLY I'M TOO POWERFUL! I HAVE DREAMS THAT DWARF THEIR PETTY EVIL!



MY, BUT YOU SPEAK WITH A SILKEN TONGUE.

YOU GIVE SO MUCH IN YOUR WORDS. WHY ME?



BECAUSE YOU'RE A SPIRIT, A GOD, AN ANGEL SENT TO ME. YOU WITNESSED HER DEATH. YOU CAME WHEN SHE DIED. DON'T YOU SEE?

YOU CAME AS IF A GOD CAME TO RECEIVE A SACRIFICE!

I HATED HER DEATH. I SLEW THE MEN WHO KILLED HER.

YOU DID THAT?

BECAUSE I HAD FAILED HER. WHAT SACRIFICE DO YOU SPEAK OF? YOU'RE A FOOL IF YOU THINK I'M A GOD.

I HATE GOD, ALL GODS. I HATE THEM.

"IF HE WAS GUILTY OF KILLING HIS DAUGHTER, HE GAVE NO CLUE.

"I SMILED, THEN...

"...I WAS GLAD I COULD NOT SEE THIS MYSELF. I FELT SORRY FOR HIM."

WHY DID YOU CALL HER THE LAMB? WHY DID THE REBBE SAY YOU KILLED HER?

AZRIEL, WHATEVER HAPPENS AFTER, WHATEVER HAPPENS, THE WORLD IS OURS. THE WORLD, AZRIEL.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

STOP IT!

I MEAN THE WORLD AS ALEXANDER THE GREAT MEANT THE WORLD TO BE. NO ONE HAS THE FORCE OF ALEXANDER, NO ONE DARES KILL LIKE PETER THE GREAT KILLED.

THE WORLD IS SO FILLED WITH WONDERS, BUT NO ONE HAS THEIR POWER!

"I HAD CONTROL OF IT. I FELT PROUD AND WICKED SUDDENLY."

YOU HAVE LEADERS, YOU HAVE TALK, YOU HAVE THE RICH BEING KIND TO THE POOR. YOU HAVE MEN WORLDWIDE WHO FEAR EVIL AND WANT GOODNESS.

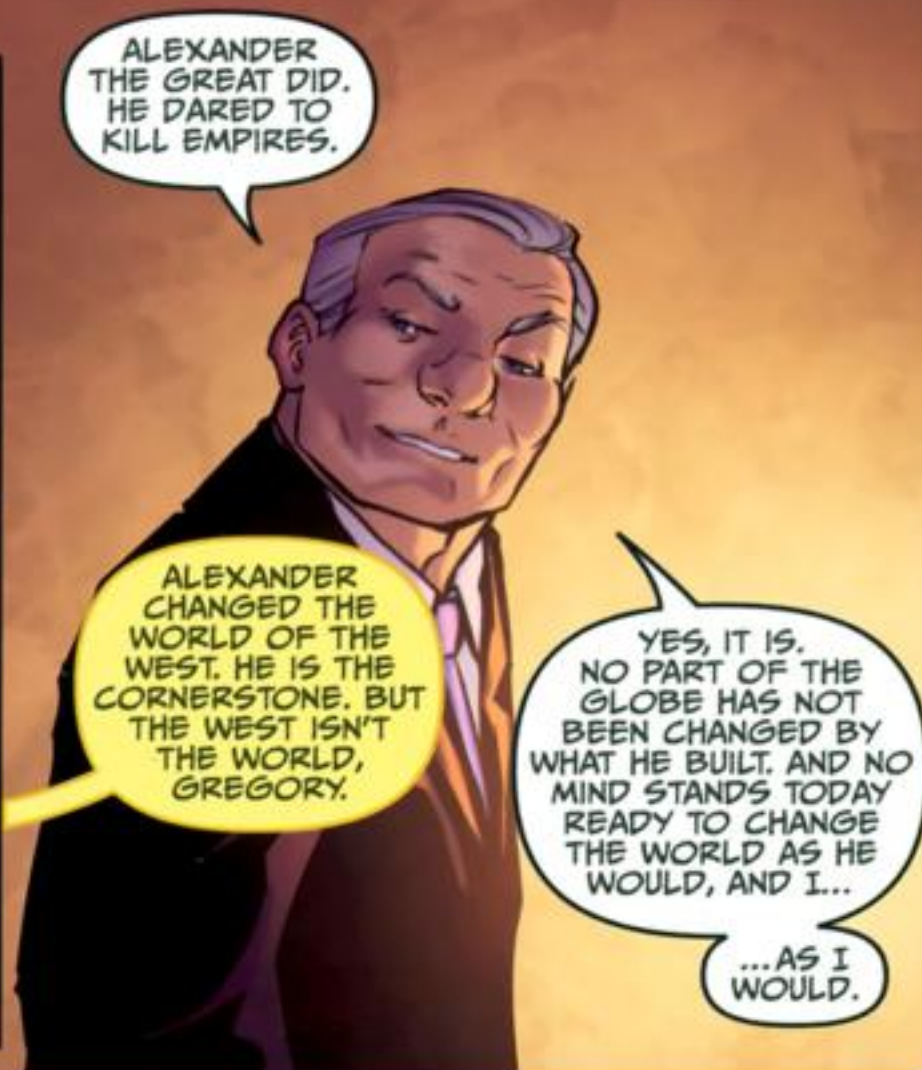
WE HAVE MADNESS!



IS THIS THE MISSION OF YOUR CHURCH, TO GAIN CONTROL OF THE WORLD? IS THAT WHAT DRIVES YOU AS THE OLD MAN ASKED? YOU WANT THAT POWER?

I WANT TO CHANGE EVERYTHING.

WHO REALLY CHANGED THE WORLD? WHO CHANGED IT MORE THAN ANY OTHER MAN?



ALEXANDER THE GREAT DID. HE DARED TO KILL EMPIRES.

ALEXANDER CHANGED THE WORLD OF THE WEST. HE IS THE CORNERSTONE. BUT THE WEST ISN'T THE WORLD, GREGORY.

YES, IT IS. NO PART OF THE GLOBE HAS NOT BEEN CHANGED BY WHAT HE BUILT. AND NO MIND STANDS TODAY READY TO CHANGE THE WORLD AS HE WOULD, AND I...

...AS I WOULD.



WHY ARE YOU TESTING ME?

YOU'VE BEEN SENT TO ME, DON'T YOU SEE? YOU'VE BEEN SENT ON THE EVE OF THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD. YOU WERE A SIGN!

AS WAS KING CYRUS OF OLD.



SPEAK OF ALEXANDER IF YOU WILL, BUT DON'T SPEAK OF CYRUS. YOU KNOW NOTHING OF THOSE TIMES!

DO YOU?

I WANT TO KNOW WHY I AM HERE NOW. I DON'T ACCEPT YOUR PROPHECIES. DID YOU KILL ESTHER? DID YOU SEND THOSE MEN TO KILL HER?



I LOVED HER. I DIDN'T WANT FOR HER TO DIE. BUT THE GREATER GOOD CALLED FOR HER DEATH.

"THAT WAS A BRITTLE LIE."

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF I TOLD YOU, YES, I DID KILL ESTHER?

FOR THE WORLD, I KILLED HER. FOR THE WORLD THAT WILL RISE FROM THE ASHES, THE WORLD THAT IS KILLING ITSELF WITH SMALL DREAMS AND SMALL MEN AND SMALL EMPIRES?

I SWORE I'D AVENGE HER DEATH.

NOW I KNOW YOU'RE GUILTY, I'LL KILL YOU.

BUT NOT NOW.

YOU THINK YOU CAN?

OF COURSE. I HAVE KILLED THOSE WHO HAVE CALLED ME BEFORE.

BUT I DIDN'T CALL YOU! IT WAS THE PLAN, IT WAS THE WORLD! IT WAS THE DESIGN! YOU WERE SENT TO ME BECAUSE I NEED YOU, AND CAN USE YOU.

YOU WILL DO WHAT I WILL YOU TO DO.

"IT WAS THE WORLD. BUT WAS IT TO BE GREGORY'S WORLD?"

I NEED YOU TO WITNESS. TO UNDERSTAND.

YOU MUST HELP ME. I DON'T NEED TO BE YOUR MASTER BUT I NEED YOU!

YOU LOVED ESTHER, DIDN'T YOU?

VERY MUCH. BUT SHE HAD NO VISION. AND NEITHER DOES HER MOTHER, RACHEL.

THAT'S WHY YOU'VE COME. YOU WERE MEANT TO APPEAR BEFORE ME. THAT'S WHY YOU WERE GIVEN TO OUR PEOPLE.

YOU ARE THE WITNESS. "HE WHO WILL UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING."

YOU HAVE YOUR CHURCH. WHAT DOES ESTHER HAVE TO DO WITH IT? WHAT AM I TO WITNESS?

YOU WERE MEANT FOR ME. YOU'RE WORTHY OF ME, MY TIME, MY BRILLIANCE, MY EFFORT.

ALL THOSE MEN WHO KEPT YOU THROUGH GENERATIONS, IT WAS FOR ME.

YOU HAVE THE PRIDE AND DECISIVENESS OF A KING.

OF COURSE I DO. WHAT DO YOUR MASTERS USUALLY SAY TO YOU? WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER?

NOTHING. I WOULDN'T BE WITH YOU IF I COULD REMEMBER.

I ONLY STAY WITH YOU NOW TO REMEMBER AND TO KNOW. I SHOULD KILL YOU NOW.

NO, THAT WON'T HAPPEN. IF GOD WANTED ME TO DIE, ANYONE COULD DO IT.

YOU DON'T REALIZE THE SCALE OF MY DREAMS.

I AM NOT YOURS.

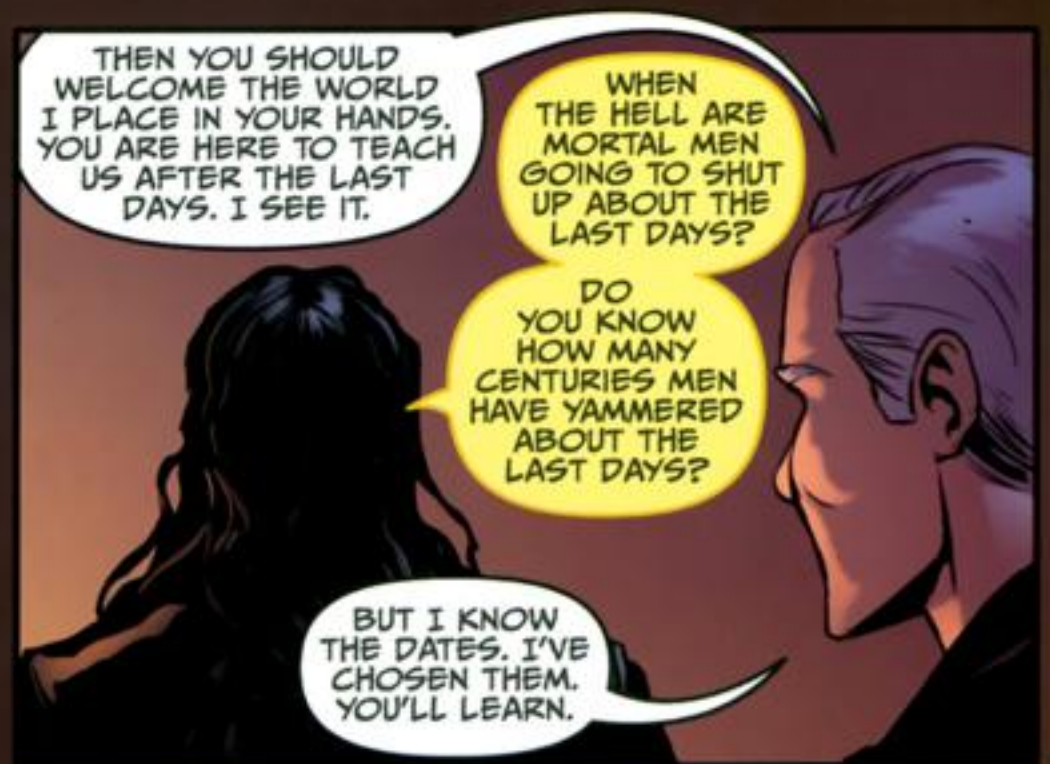
I DON'T WANT TO KILL YOU WITHOUT KNOWING WHY YOU HAD ESTHER MURDERED.

I AM NOT YOURS, NOT MEANT FOR YOU. NOT NECESSARILY MEANT FOR...

...ANYTHING.

"SOMEWHERE THE MOTHER WAS CRYING AGAIN."

DO AS I SAY.



RIGHT. THE REBBE WAS MERELY THE INSTRUMENT. HE HAD NO IDEA IT WAS FOR ME THAT HE KEPT THE BONES.

ESTHER GAVE ME THE LINK AS SHE DIED. HER WORDS SENT ME TO HIM TO FIND YOU.

YOU ARE DESTINED FOR ME. WORTHY OF ME.

ESTHER'S DEATH WAS INEVITABLE, NECESSARY. I DIDN'T REALIZE IT MYSELF.

SHE WAS THE LAMB. SHE BROUGHT YOU TO ME.

YOU WOULD SEDUCE ME TO LOVE YOU, WOULDN'T YOU?

I LOVE WHEN I SEE MY GRAND SCHEME EVER EXPANDING. I WANT THE WORLD.

I HAVE TO HAVE IT. I HAVE TO HAVE THE LOVE AND RECOGNITION OF MILLIONS. I LOVE IT. I LOVE WHEN THE CAMERA'S SHINE ON ME.

WELL, MAYBE YOU WON'T GET IT FROM ME. BEFORE I SAW ESTHER DIE I WAS TIRED OF SERVING MASTERS.

YOU SAW YOUR OWN MURDER. PERHAPS NOW YOU WILL COME TO SEE THE REASON FOR IT.

LISTEN, YOU MISERABLE CREATURE. I'VE BEEN HERE FOREVER. I SLEEP. I DREAM. I WAKE.

I DON'T REMEMBER. MAYBE I WAS MURDERED. MAYBE I WAS NEVER BORN. I'M SICK OF THIS HALF DEATH.

OH, ESTHER. WHO WERE YOU, MY DARLING? WHAT DID YOU WANT OF ME?

YOU ASK THE WRONG PERSON. SHE DOESN'T WANT VENGEANCE. WHAT CAN I DO TO CONVINCE YOU, YOU WERE MEANT FOR ME?

TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT OF ME. WHAT I AM TO WITNESS? WHAT, ANOTHER MURDER?

YES.

"THERE WAS SOMETHING DEEPLY HORRIBLE IN HIM. SOMETHING FIERCELY DESTRUCTIVE I HAD NEVER ENCOUNTERED BEFORE IN ANY HUMAN BEING."

I WON'T SERVE YOU. I WON'T EVEN STAY HERE WITH YOU.

MAYBE YOU ARE NOT WORTHY OF ME. I COULD DESTROY YOU AS OTHERS HAVE.

WHAT ARE YOU TO ME WHEN I WANT THE WHOLE WORLD?

YOU'RE NOTHING!

"HE WAS ABHORRENT TO ME.

"I LOOKED DOWN AT THE GRINNING SKULL THAT STILL HAD ME IN IT SOMEHOW."

YOU WOULDN'T DARE BURN IT.

I WOULD.

"HE HELD OUT A FLAME. IT WAS SO PRETTY. I MEANT IT, I WOULD LET THE BONES BURN. GREGORY WAS HORRIFIED."

NO!

LET ME THROW THEM IN THE FIRE. I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW. I'M AFRAID, BUT YOU KNOW WHAT I SUSPECT.

THAT THIS TIME IT DOESN'T MATTER ABOUT THE BONES. BUT THEY HAVE COME TO ME! THEY HAVE COMPLETED THEIR JOURNEY.

"I DIDN'T WANT TO GO INTO DARKNESS AND NOTHINGNESS. BUT I WOULD NOT SERVE HIM."

NO!

HELP ME! YOU, PLEASE, HELP ME!

"SHE GAVE OFF A DEEP AND RICH PERFUME OF DEATH AND DECAY. DEATH WAS ALL AROUND HER."

HELP ME GET OUT OF HERE!





"MY WORDS STOPPED HER GRIEF, BUT I COULDN'T TELL WHAT SHE MADE OF THIS REVELATION OR OF ME."

"AS THE DOORS OPENED WE SAW AN ARMY BROUGHT OUT AGAINST HER."

GET MY CAR NOW.

AND GET OUT OF OUR WAY.

"THEY DIDN'T DARE TO REFUSE."



"CAMERA'S APPEARED LIKE GIANT INSECTS. GREAT CLUSTERS OF PEOPLE CRIED IN MOURNING, BOWING TO RACHEL."

COME, MRS. BELKIN. LET HER PASS.

TAKE ME TO MY PLANE, RITCHIE. IT'S WAITING AND I'M GOING.



"HER EYES WERE FOR ALL TIME."

"I PUT MY ARM AROUND HER AND I FELT LOVE FOR HER."



"A TREMENDOUS NEED TO HELP HER."

I'M DYING, OF COURSE.

HE HAS THAT ON HIS SIDE, BUT HE WANTS ME DEAD NOW.

I'M HERE.



WHY DID MY DAUGHTER SAY YOUR NAME? YOU SAW HER DIE?

HER SPIRIT WENT STRAIGHT INTO THE LIGHT. DON'T GRIEVE FOR HER.

I KILLED THE THREE MEN. I AM HERE PARTLY TO AVENGE HER DEATH.



WHY WOULD YOU HAVE BEEN THERE? WHAT WERE YOU DOING WITH GREGORY?

THEN YOU DON'T BELONG TO GREGORY IN ANY WAY?

YOU'RE TELLING ME THIS BODY HERE IS NOT REAL?

I'M A SPIRIT.

NO. YOU SAW ME DEFY HIM.



*SHE ASTONISHED ME. HER LIPS WERE HOT AND DAMP.

*I FELT A DEEP PANG OF DESIRE FOR HER.

SHE HAD THE PASSION OF A YOUNG WOMAN, DYING OR NOT.

WHY DID YOU DO THAT?

WHATEVER YOU ARE, WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER. I TRUST YOU.

*SHE GAVE A TERRIBLE OUTCRY OF GRIEF.

*I LOVED HER AND HER DAUGHTER, BECAUSE THEY WERE GOOD. PEOPLE HAD DONE CRUELTY TO THEM AND IT MADE ME WANT TO HURT.



*SHE TOLD ME OF ESTHER'S FIGHT WITH GREGORY. SHE WAS DRUGGED BUT IT HAD TO DO WITH HIS BROTHER, NATHAN.

AND SHE KNEW GREGORY HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH HER DAUGHTER'S DEATH.



GET OFF THE GROUND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. TAKE ME HOME. MIAMI.



I COULDN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF HER. I WANTED HER.

YOU ARE HUMAN.

I WILL PROVE TO YOU THAT I'M A SPIRIT.

I'LL FIND OUT WHAT GREGORY IS UP TO. I'LL LEAVE YOU NOW AND COME BACK.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?
MIAMI? I WILL MEET YOU
THERE. AND I WILL BRING
YOU THE SCARF ESTHER
WAS WEARING.

HOW DO YOU
KNOW ABOUT
THAT? IT'S IN HER
ROOM IN THE
TEMPLE.

IN A
GESTURE OF
LOVE I WILL
BRING IT TO
YOU.

"I KISSED HER AND HER
PASSION PASSED THROUGH
ME. IT BURNED ME.

"I VANISHED.

"IN THE WIND I FELT
OTHER SOULS.

"I CALLED TO THE BONES
AND THE LIGHTS OF NEW
YORK CITY SPREAD OUT
BEFORE ME. THE BONES
WERE BEFORE ME, TINY,
DISTANT, AND GOLDEN.

"I COULD HEAR
GREGORY'S VOICE.

"I REALIZED FOR THE FIRST
TIME THAT THE BUILDING
ITSELF WAS THE TEMPLE
OF THE MIND OF GOD. IT
THROBBED WITH PEOPLE.

"THE BONES LAY IN
THE VERY MIDDLE
OF A ROOM.

YOU'RE NOT
LISTENING TO ME!
TREAT THIS AS
PRICELESS!

"MEN SURROUNDED
GREGORY. PHYSICIANS,
LEARNED, HE WAS
TELLING THEM THEY MUST
BE ANALYZED IN EVERY
CONCEIVABLE WAY."

"I APPROACHED THE BONES
AND FELT NOTHING. WAS I
FINISHED WITH THEM NOW?

"WAS MY SOUL
LOCKED WITHIN
THEM?

"GREGORY
KNEW I WAS
THERE.

"HE WAS
PETRIFIED."

BE CAREFUL
WITH THEM!

EVERYTHING
IS GOING
SPLENDIDLY—

SOMETHING
COULD STILL
GO WRONG—

"I BECAME
VISIBLE."

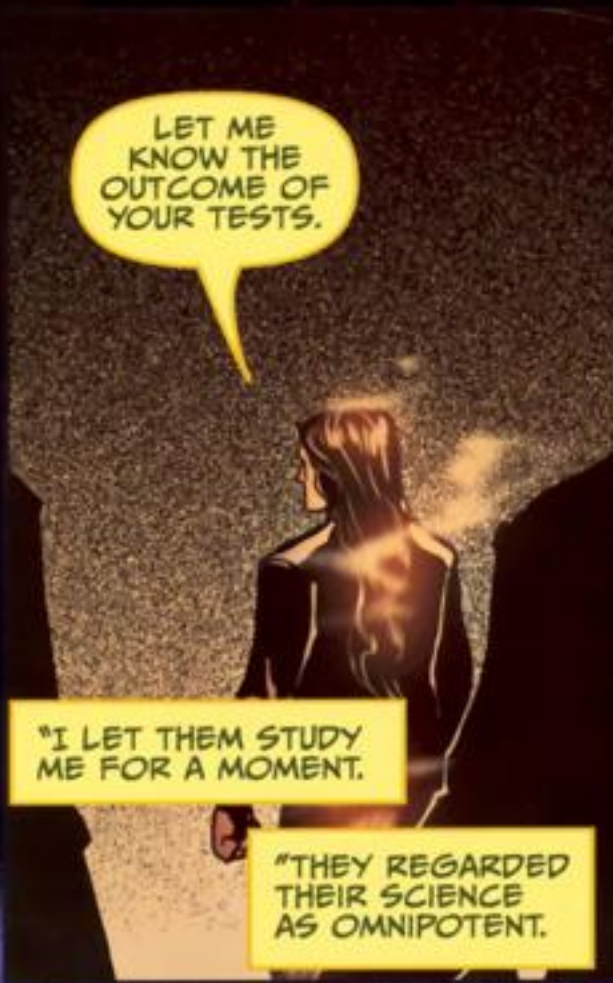


REMEMBER, I AM WATCHING YOU.



WHEN YOU GIVE ME YOUR REPORTS, TELL ME EXACTLY HOW THESE BONES CAN BE DESTROYED.

"I LAUGHED. I HAD ACCOMPLISHED MY PURPOSE."



LET ME KNOW THE OUTCOME OF YOUR TESTS.

"I LET THEM STUDY ME FOR A MOMENT.

"THEY REGARDED THEIR SCIENCE AS OMNIPOTENT.



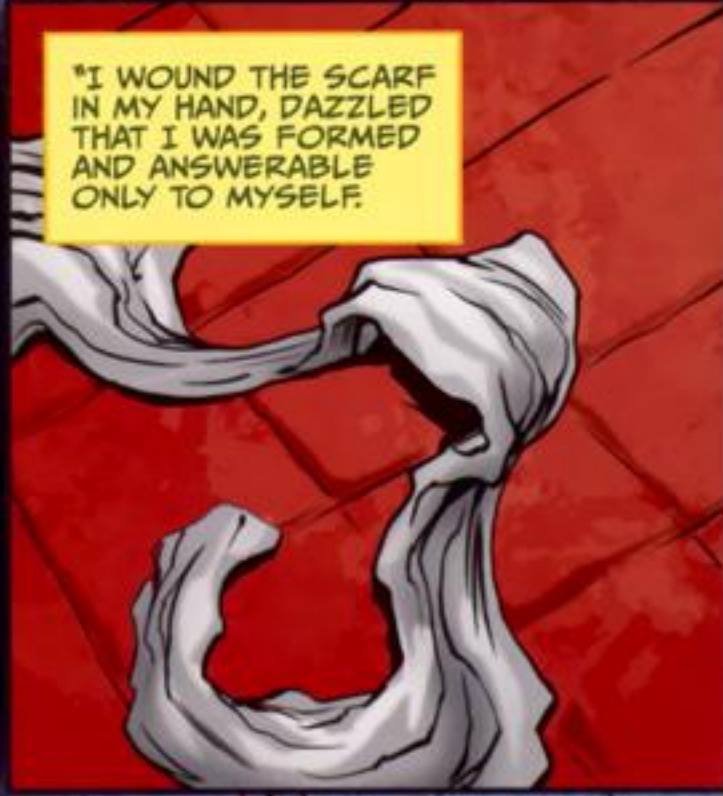
"ANYTHING I DID THEY WOULD PERCEIVE AS SCIENCE BEYOND THEIR UNDERSTANDING. THEY WERE MATERIALISTS WHO BEHELD THEIR SCIENCE AS MAGIC.

"I HAD BEEN MADE BY THOSE WHO BELIEVED THAT MAGIC HAD THE POWER OF SCIENCE IF YOU JUST KNEW THE RIGHT WORDS. THE IRONY WAS VERY FUNNY TO ME.



"I SAW HUNDREDS OF OFFICES, LABORATORIES. THEN I CAME TO ESTHER'S ROOM.

"HERE SHE HAD SLEPT, DREAMT.



"I WOUND THE SCARF IN MY HAND, DAZZLED THAT I WAS FORMED AND ANSWERABLE ONLY TO MYSELF.

"THEN I WAS IN THE FRESH NIGHT AIR AGAIN.

"I PICTURED RACHEL. I FELT CLOSE TO HER.



"SHE MOVED THROUGH THE NIGHT AS SWIFTLY AS I DID.

"I FOLLOWED HER PLANE. IT LED ME LIKE THE TINY FIREFLY IN THE DARK."

"IN MIAMI THE WARM AIR WAS GRAND, EXHILARATING. I ALMOST CRIED FOR THE SWEETNESS OF IT.

"I COULD SEE RACHEL'S BUILDING ON THE HILL.

"BUT AROUND IT, THE SEA STRETCHED ON FOREVER. DREAMY, BEAUTIFUL WATER.



"I LOVED THIS WORLD.

"I WENT TO HER."



IT'S ONLY ME, I'VE COME BACK. I SAW GREGORY, I KNOW WHAT HE'S UP TO.

THAT'S THE SCARF THAT WAS ON RACHEL'S BED.

I HAVE NEVER FAINTED IN MY LIFE. BUT I THINK I MIGHT NOW.

BUT IF YOU NEED TO FAINT, I'LL CARRY YOU.



DO YOU BELIEVE ME NOW?

TAKE ME TO BED.



"THE PLACE WAS FULL OF THE SCENT OF FLOWERS."

DON'T BE AFRAID.

HOLD ME. BE WITH ME.



"I HAD TO HAVE HER. I HAD TO MAKE HER HAPPY."

"IF I LOST ALL POWER IN HER ARMS, SO BE IT."

LOVE ME.



"IT WAS A LUSCIOUS KISS, FULL OF PASSION AND UTTER YIELDING."



UNDRESS ME, PLEASE.

"MY BODY WAS AN ENGINE OF DESIRE."

"THERE WAS THE SMELL OF DEATH, RISING SWEET LIKE A CRUSHED LILY."

"IT WAS NOT THAT DEATH ATTRACTED ME."

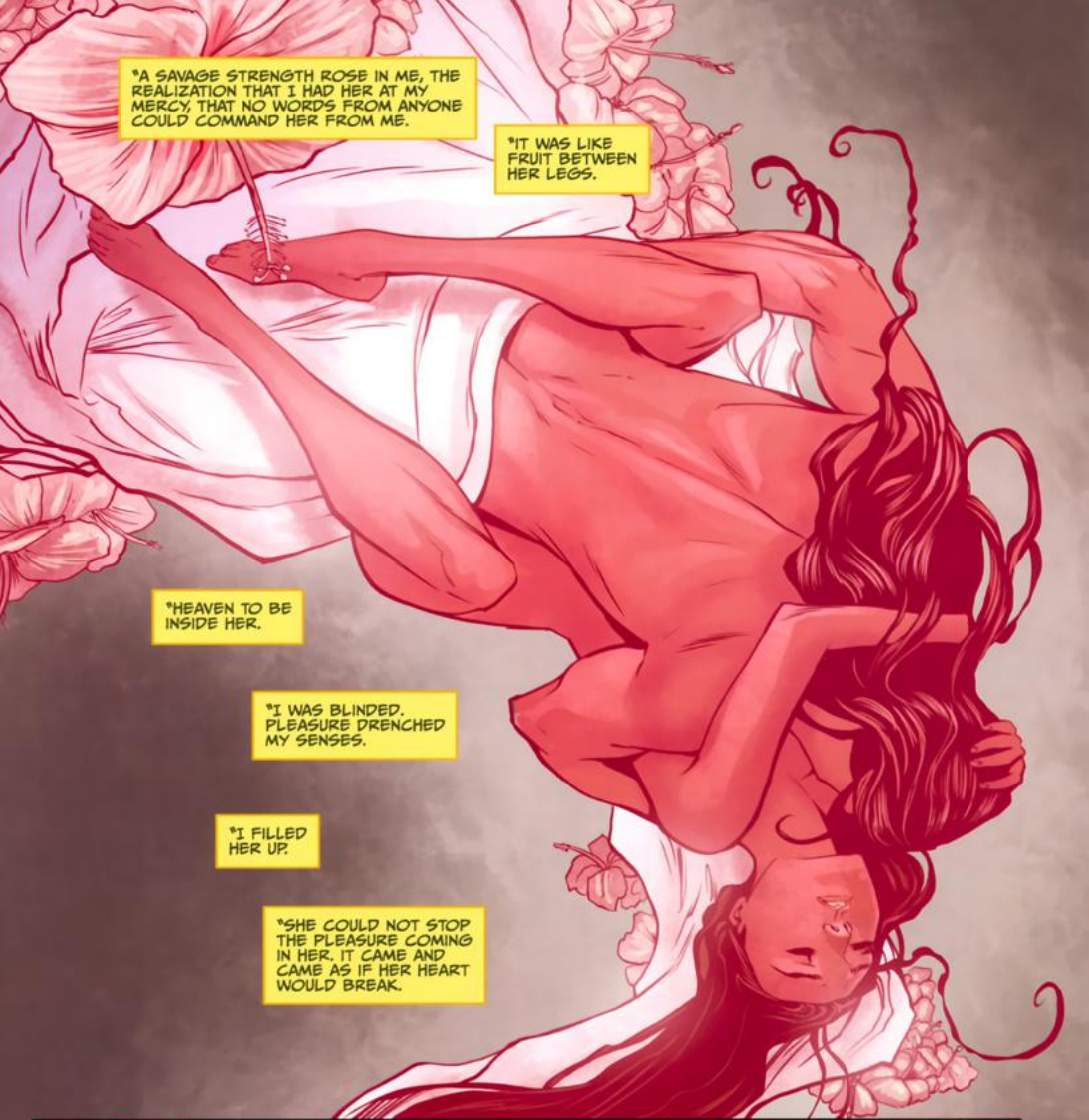


"BUT IT MADE HER MORE PRECIOUS, SOMETHING TO BE LOST IN A MOMENT."



YOU ARE SPLENDID.

"HER BODY WAS LIKE A YOUNG GIRL'S, PINK AND FIRM."

A woman with long, wavy brown hair is lying on her back, wearing a red, form-fitting dress. She is surrounded by large, pink, ruffled flowers and dark, swirling vines. Her eyes are closed, and she has a serene expression. The background is a soft, greyish-blue.

*A SAVAGE STRENGTH ROSE IN ME, THE
REALIZATION THAT I HAD HER AT MY
MERCY, THAT NO WORDS FROM ANYONE
COULD COMMAND HER FROM ME.

*IT WAS LIKE
FRUIT BETWEEN
HER LEGS.

*HEAVEN TO BE
INSIDE HER.

*I WAS BLINDED.
PLEASURE DRENCHED
MY SENSES.

*I FILLED
HER UP.

*SHE COULD NOT STOP
THE PLEASURE COMING
IN HER. IT CAME AND
CAME AS IF HER HEART
WOULD BREAK.

A close-up of a man and a woman's faces. The man is on the left, looking down at the woman on the right. They are both smiling and appear to be in a romantic embrace. The background is a soft, pinkish-purple.

*THERE WAS TOO MUCH HUMAN
HEAT HERE FOR ANYTHING BUT
LOVEMAKING NOW."

TO BE CONCLUDED...

ANNE RICE'S SERVANT OF THE BONES



Azriel continues his tale of dark destiny and betrayal as he learns about Gregory Belkin's horrifying plans for the world, and meets the murdered girl's dying mother, Rachel.

Cover by Renae DeLiz

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