



**MARVEL
NOW!**

**BUNN
SLINEY
GANDINI**

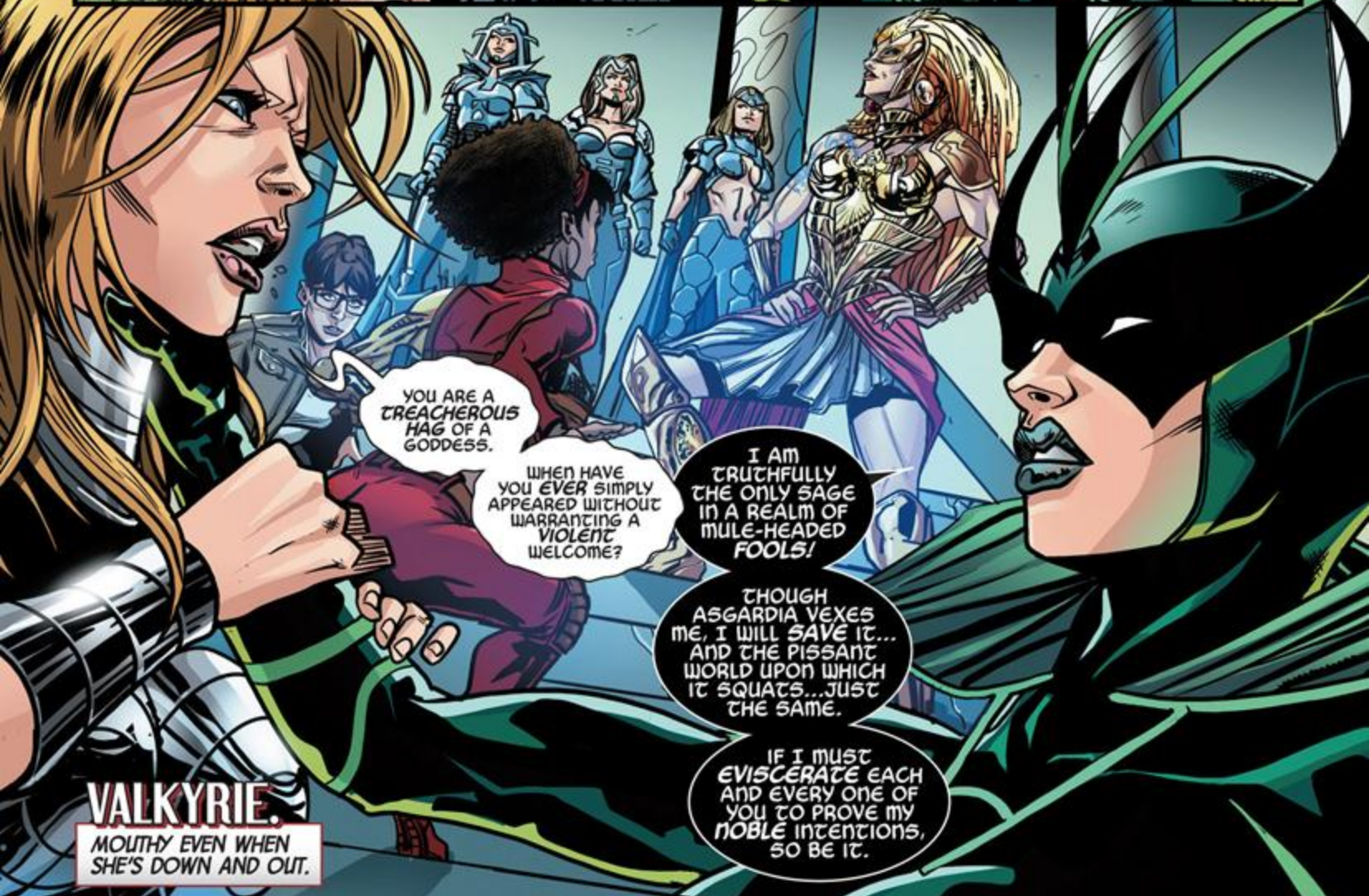
003



PETULANT CHILD!

HOW DARE YOU RAISE ARMS AGAINST ME WITHOUT CAUSE?

HELA.
QUEEN OF THE DEAD.



YOU ARE A TREACHEROUS HAG OF A GODDESS.

WHEN HAVE YOU EVER SIMPLY APPEARED WITHOUT WARRANTING A VIOLENT WELCOME?

I AM TRUTHFULLY THE ONLY SAGE IN A REALM OF MULE-HEADED FOOLS!

THOUGH ASGARDIA VEXES ME, I WILL SAVE IT... AND THE PISSANT WORLD UPON WHICH IT SQUATS...JUST THE SAME.

IF I MUST EVISCERATE EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU TO PROVE MY NOBLE INTENTIONS, SO BE IT.

VALKYRIE.
MOUTHY EVEN WHEN SHE'S DOWN AND OUT.



SO...THIS IS ASGARDIA.

MY FATHER DIED HERE.

HIPPOLYTA.
DAUGHTER OF ARES.



SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS.

BUT IF YOU AND YOUR BOSS LADY DON'T STAND DOWN, YOU'RE--

MISTY KNIGHT.
BIONIC, KUNG FU PRIVATE EYE.



YES.

PLEASE DO ATTACK ME... SO I CAN WREST YOUR CLOCKWORK ARM FROM YOUR BODY AND BEAT YOU TO DEATH WITH IT.


I'LL SEND YOU BRUISED AND WHIMPERING TO JOIN WHATEVER HAREM MY FATHER HAS CREATED FOR HIMSELF IN THE AFTERLIFE.





"EVEN BEFORE THE LIBRARIES OF ASGARDIA BURNED, THE DOOM MAIDENS WERE A MYSTERY.

"THEY ARE NIGHTMARES FROM WHICH GODLINGS WAKE SCREAMING IN THEIR BEDS.



"CRUEL AND MERCILESS AND UNSTOPPABLE, THEY SWEEP ACROSS THE REALMS LIKE RAGNAROK MADE FLESH AND BLOOD.

"THERE WERE THOSE WHO STOOD AS BULWARKS AGAINST THE WHOLESALE DESTRUCTION THE MAIDENS WROUGHT.

"THE FROST GIANT JARLS OF JOTUNHEIM. THE ANCIENT WAR-MONGERS OF BREAKWORLD. THE TUATHA DE DANANN OF IRELAND.



"ENTIRE CULTURES DEDICATED TO WAR... RAVAGED FOR SPORT BY THE BLIGHTED HOST.

"ONLY THE INTERVENTION OF THE ALL-FATHER STOPPED THE DOOM MAIDENS."



THEY WERE FORGOTTEN-- YET ANOTHER DISGRACE FOR LORD ODIN TO SECRET AWAY IN HIS SHAME.

BUT MIDGARDIAN RATS SEEK TO USE THE MAGIC OF THE GOLDEN REALM TO WAKE THE MAIDENS.

THERE ARE ANCIENT INCANTATIONS THAT MIGHT DECIMATE ALL WE HOLD PRECIOUS SHOULD THEY BE SCRIBED IN ASGARDIAN BLOOD.

FOR THIS REASON, VALKYRIE, YOU MUST FORSWEAR THIS QUEST.



IT IS HIPPOLYCA OF THEMISCYRA WHO MUST STAND FOR US.



"I CALLED IN EVERY FAVOR I HAD AMONG THE COLLECTIVE GODS OF DEATH..."

"I MADE GHASTLY PROMISES..."

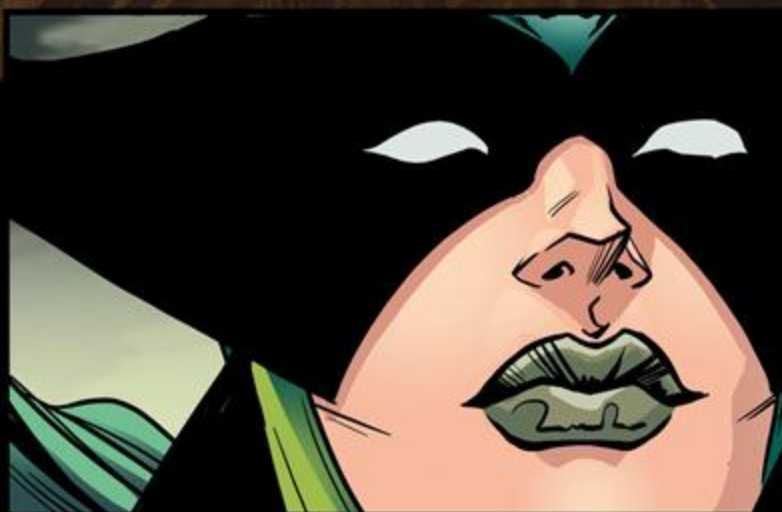
"...BUT THE MOST POWERFUL WARRIOR WOMAN NOW WALKS AMONG US AGAIN."



HA! An Amazon?

YOU BARGAINED WITH THE GODS OF DEATH TO BRING BACK AN AMAZON?

THE QUEEN OF THE AMAZONS.



HER PEOPLE BATTLED THE BLIGHTED HOST MILLENNIA AGO.

SHE KNOWS HOW TO FIGHT THEM.

AND AS SHE IS NOT A BEING OF ASGARD, SHE CANNOT BE USED AGAINST US.



WHAT GAME ARE YOU PLAYING?

WHAT DO YOU CARE IF THESE DOOM MAIDENS SCOUR MIDGARD AND ASGARD OF ALL LIFE?

WOULDN'T THAT ONLY BOLSTER YOUR OWN KINGDOM?



AND ONCE THEY HAVE DESPOILED THE REALM OF THE LIVING, WHERE DO YOU THINK THEY WILL TURN NEXT?

ALREADY, THIS ADVERSARY HAS DEMONSTRATED CONTEMPT FOR MY DOMAIN.

ONE OF MY VALKYRIE HAS BEEN ABDUCTED.



DANI MOONSTAR.



SHE HAS SERVED AS DEATH'S SHIELD MAIDEN FROM TIME TO TIME.

HER CONNECTION TO HEL MIGHT BE ENOUGH TO FUEL THE NECROMANCIES NEEDED TO AWAKEN THE DOOM MAIDENS.

BUT MY CHAMPION WILL--



YOU DO NOT SIT UPON THE THRONE OF ASGARDIA, HELA.

IT IS NOT YOUR PLACE TO DECIDE WHO WILL FIGHT OUR BATTLES.

THE INTERESTS OF ASGARDIA...AS WELL AS THE INTERESTS OF HEL...WILL BE REPRESENTED.



HIPPOLYTA WILL NOT UNDERTAKE THIS TASK ALONE.



THESE THREE WILL ACCOMPANY HER.

HOLD.

WAIT A SECOND.

DO WHAT NOW?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "THESE THREE?"

ANNABELLE RIGGS.

UNTIL FIVE SECONDS AGO, AN ORDINARY GIRL.

NOW...A SHIELDMAIDEN.



I'M SURE
YOU'RE PUTTING
ON A BRAVE FACE
SOMEWHERE UNDERNEATH
THAT STONE MASK,
DEAR.

BUT IT'S WHOLLY
UNNECESSARY.

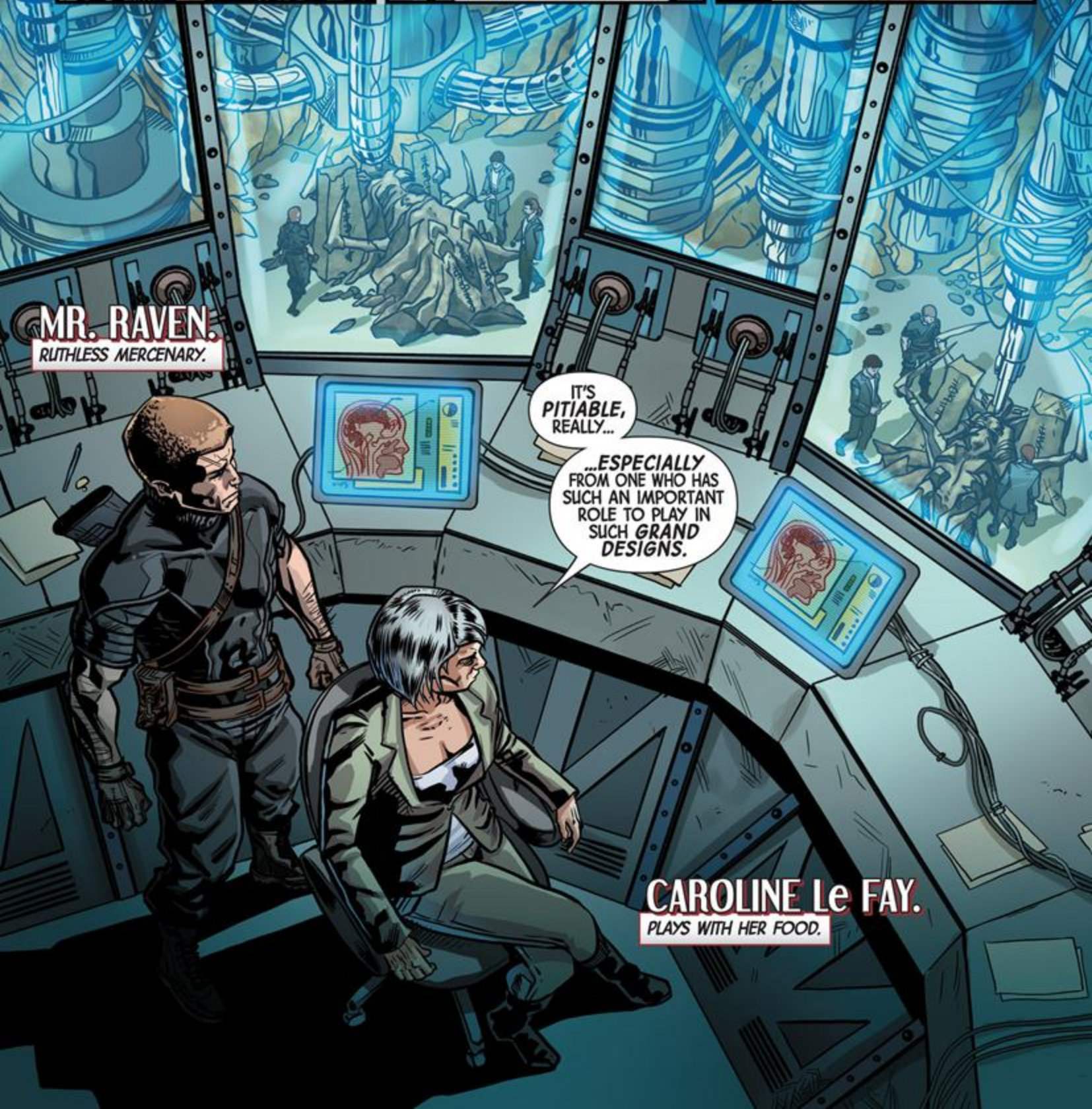
I CAN
ONLY IMAGINE THE
TERRIFIED THOUGHTS RUNNING
THROUGH YOUR MIND.



"WHERE
ARE WE?"

AND
"PLEASE SET
ME FREE."

AND
"WHY ME?"



MR. RAVEN.
RUTHLESS MERCENARY.

IT'S
PITIABLE,
REALLY...

...ESPECIALLY
FROM ONE WHO HAS
SUCH AN IMPORTANT
ROLE TO PLAY IN
SUCH GRAND
DESIGNS.

CAROLINE Le FAY.
PLAYS WITH HER FOOD.



"WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?"



DO YOU KNOW... I ONCE FELT THE WAY I IMAGINE YOU'RE FEELING RIGHT THIS VERY SECOND.

ALONE AND SO VERY, VERY AFRAID.

OF COURSE, THAT WAS WHEN I WAS *ONLY* FIVE YEARS OLD, AND THE WOMAN WHO CALLED HERSELF MY MOTHER BEAT ME *SEVERELY* WHENEVER SHE WAS IN ONE OF HER FREQUENT BOUTS OF *SELF-LOATHING*.



I WAS TOO SCARED OF HER TO STAND UP FOR MYSELF.

I USED TO PRAY THAT THE WORLD WOULD *END*, JUST SO SHE WOULD DIE, TOO, AND THE BEATINGS WOULD STOP.



OF COURSE, I EVENTUALLY *OUTGREW* MY FEAR OF THE @#\$.%

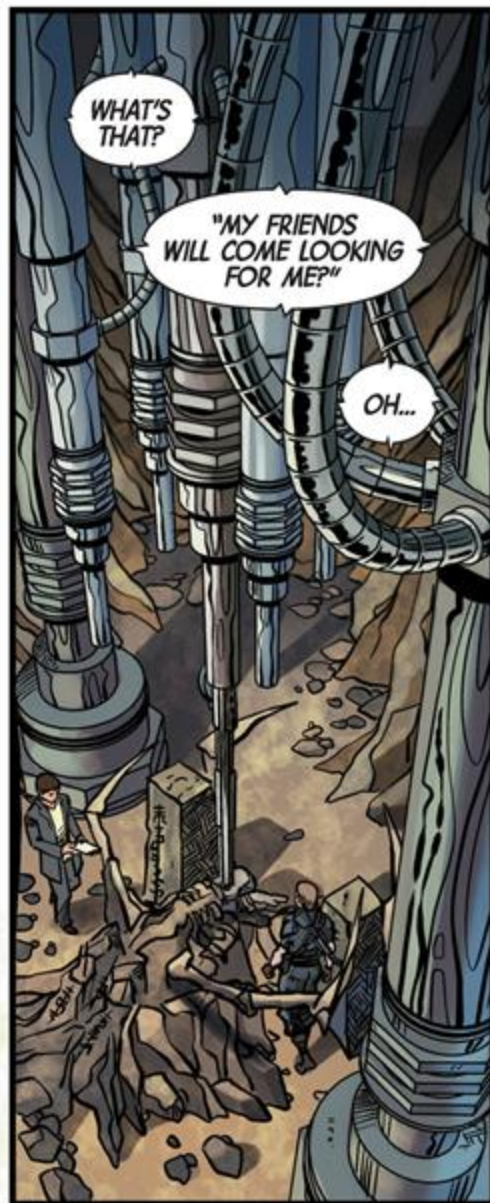
I FED HER PIECE BY PIECE TO THE HOUSEKEEPER'S CATS.

BUT I NEVER COULD SHAKE MY MORE... *APOCALYPTIC* PROCLIVITIES.

THE END OF THE WORLD... THAT'S SOMETHING I *STILL* WANT TO SEE.



SO, LET'S GET *STARTED*, SHALL WE?



WHAT'S THAT?

"MY FRIENDS WILL COME LOOKING FOR ME?"

OH...





OR NOT.
WHERE IS
EVERYONE?
DOESN'T
ANYONE ELSE
THINK THIS
IS--

CREEPY.
DEFINITELY
CREEPY.



TAKE TO
THE SKIES,
ARAGORN.

I'LL
CALL WHEN
I NEED
YOU.



HELA TRACKED THE
RESONANCE OF THE
ANCIENT RITUALS TO
THIS PLACE?

GIVE ME
ARMIES TO CRUSH!
GIVE ME FOES TO
COW!

GIVE ME A
KINGDOM TO
RAZE OR TITANS
TO DESPOIL!

THIS--THIS!--
IS BUT A GHOST
TOWN.



AT THE VERY
LEAST, THERE COULD
BE A VINEYARD.

I HAVE
A POWERFUL
THIRST.

OVER
HERE!

YOU MIGHT
WANT TO TAKE
A LOOK AT
THIS!



JUST WHEN
YOU THOUGHT THIS
COULDN'T GET ANY
WEIRDER.



ODIN'S
BEARD!

AS NEAR AS
I CAN TELL, WE'RE
IN SOME KIND OF
REPLICA TOWN...THE
KIND USED DURING
NUCLEAR
TESTING.

ONLY...THE
MANNEQUINS
ARE ALL DRESSED
AS **SUPER**
HEROES.

SO...THE
QUESTION IS...
WHO WOULD
DO SOMETHING
LIKE THIS...



...AND **WHAT**
THE HELL ARE THEY
TESTING?



GOTTA
SAY...

...WALKING THROUGH
A TOWN FILLED WITH
TARGET DUMMIES DRESSED
AS THE SUPER HERO
COMMUNITY...

...ACCOMPANIED
BY A TRIO OF SPARTAN
CROSS-DRESSERS...

THIS IS A LEVEL
OF **CRAZY** THAT I
DON'T ENJOY.



YOU
DON'T HAVE
TO MAKE FUN,
MISTY.

I FEEL
LIKE AN **IDIOT**
WEARING THIS.

nonsense.

THE
LOOK **SUITS**
you.





DO YOU FEEL THAT?

I DON'T FEEL A THING.

VALKYRIE...

...MAYBE WE SHOULD WAIT A SECOND...

CRRREEEAK

IT COMES FROM BELOW.

STAY CLOSE.



VAL...
SOMETHING'S
NOT RIGHT.

WHERE ARE
THE GUARDS? DON'T
YOU THINK WHOEVER
IS TRYING TO PERFORM
THIS RITUAL WOULD
PROTECT IT?

LET'S
THINK ABOUT
THIS. WAIT...



WE CANNOT
AFFORD TO
WAIT.

I CAN FEEL
IT IN MY BONES. THE
RITE HAS ALREADY
BEGUN.



THAT'S ALL THE MORE
REASON TO TAKE THIS
SLOW, ISN'T IT?

WE DON'T
KNOW IF...HOW...
THIS MAGIC MIGHT
AFFECT YOU.



IF THE DOOM
MAIDENS ARE
AS TERRIBLE AS WE
BELIEVE, WE CANNOT
CHANCE EVEN
ONE OF THEM
WAKING.

I
UNDERSTAND.

BUT WE
HAVE NO IDEA
WHAT WE'LL--



OH.

WE'RE
ALREADY TOO
LATE.



HERMOTHA.
MAIDEN OF FILTH.

ARNLEIF.
MAIDEN OF SEDUCTION.

BALDA.
MAIDEN OF SLAUGHTER.

ALDVI.
MAIDEN OF DECEIT.

DAGGAERD.
MAIDEN OF TORTURE.

SIGOTTA.
MAIDEN OF VERMIN.

DISTHORA.
MAIDEN OF INSANITY.

NEDRA.
MAIDEN OF CARRION.

THEY'VE
ALREADY
ROUSED
THEM.

ALL OF
THEM.



EXCELLENT!

THE
HOURS SINCE MY
RETURN HAVE BEEN
AGONIZINGLY
DULL!

AND I MUST
ADMIT...PUMMELING
A VALKYRIE...EVEN A
FALLEN ONE--



--SOUNDS
LIKE FUN!

SHAKON



HA!

PERHAPS TIME
HAS SWEETENED
THE MEMORY
OF BATTLES
GONE BY!

KR-REEE



BUT I REMEMBER
YOU INSANE VALKYRIE
BEING MUCH
TOUGHER!

VRRRAASSH

IS THIS WHAT
YOU EXPECTED,
MA'AM?

NOT
QUITE, MR.
RAVEN.

THE
VALKYRIE, YES,
BUT NOT HER
FRIENDS.

STILL, IT IS
BUT A MINOR
COMPLICATION.

"THE END RESULT
WILL BE THE SAME."

WHAT'S THE
PLAY HERE?

FIRST THINGS
FIRST--

--DUCK!

unnggh!

RRRAAGH!

I DON'T KNOW
THAT I LIKE WHAT
I'M SEEING.

I WOULD
HAVE EXPECTED THE
VALKYRIE AND HER ALLIES
TO BE DEAD BY
NOW.

PATIENCE.

THE DOOM
MAIDENS HAVE BEEN
CATATONIC FOR A FEW
THOUSAND YEARS.



"GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO
BRUSH THE **SLEEP** FROM
THEIR EYES."

THERE!

THAT'S
WHERE DANI IS
BEING HELD!



I'VE GOT
YOU COVERED,
ANNABELLE.

READY TO
PLAY SUPER
HERO?



I'VE GOT
HER!

NNNN



NOW CAN WE
PLEASE GET OUT
OF HERE?



MOONSTAR'S
BEEN RELEASED.

DON'T
WORRY.

THE DAMAGE
HAS BEEN DONE. THE
RITUAL IS **MOSTLY**
COMPLETE.



"THE GIRL MIGHT STILL PROVE USEFUL, ONLY IN A DIFFERENT CAPACITY."

BAH!

HOW COULD YOU **WRETCHED** CREATURES HAVE GIVEN ME SO MUCH TROUBLE IN MY YOUTH?



HIPPOLYTA!

IF YOU'RE DONE **GLOATING**, I COULD USE YOUR HELP!



HA!

YOUR PLEAS FOR HELP ARE SUCH A SWEET SOUND!

IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU...

....ADMITTED...



WHAT...

OH...I...

OH, MY...



LOOK AT THAT.

SEE HOW THEY WORK TOGETHER?

IT'S ALMOST SWEET.

LIKE A **FAMILY**...

"...ALTHOUGH
INCOMPLETE!"

I...

I...

THERE'S
A GOOD GIRL.

GIVE
YOURSELF OVER
TO ARMLEIF.

YIELDING TO
PLEASURE IS SO
MUCH BETTER
THAN FIGHTING,
ISN'T IT?

PSSH!

AMAZONS!

THE RITUAL OF
AWAKENING...BROKEN
OR NOT...**THUNDERS**
IN MY BLOOD.

BUT...WHAT
COULD IT BE
CALLING TO?

AM I NOT
ALREADY
AWAKE?

RAAAAGGGHH!

CR-A-KOOM!

RRRRRR

NOW, THIS...

THIS...



"...IS INTERESTING."

RRRRRRR



FORGIVENESS!



WE BEG
OF THEE.

WE DID NOT
RECOGNIZE YOU
UNTIL NOW.

BUT IT IS
GOOD TO SEE YOU
ONCE AGAIN...



...SISTER.

TO BE CONTINUED...