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TOP GUN
PRODUCTIONS, INC.

DEATH VIGIL



STJEPAN SEJIC

DEATH VIGIL

PREVIOUSLY...

AFTER A HIGH-STAKES BATTLE WITH SOME EXTREMELY DANGEROUS NECROMANCERS, **CLARA JENKINS** FOUND HERSELF DRIFTING BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH. BUT IT WAS NOT **BERNIE'S** HEALING MAGIC THAT SAVED HER -- IT WAS THE NECROMANTIC SIGIL ON HER OWN BACK, TATTOOED THERE WHEN HER LATE BOYFRIEND ATTEMPTED TO USE HER AS A SACRIFICE. SOMETHING REACHES OUT THROUGH THE SIGIL, AN OUTER GOD CALLING ITSELF 'DREAMER.' DREAMER PROMISES ITS INTENTIONS ARE PEACEFUL, THAT IT WANTS TO WORK WITH **CLARA** TO STOP OTHER LICHES AND NECROMANCERS FROM ENDING THE WORLD. CLARA ISN'T 100% CONVINCED, BUT SHE PROMISES TO KEEP **DREAMER'S** PRESENCE A SECRET -- A PROMISE SHE DOESN'T REGRET WHEN MIA STRUGGLES TO CONTAIN HER OWN LICH, AND **BERNIE** NEARLY EXECUTES HER ON THE SPOT!

STRUGGLING TO UNDERSTAND BERNIE'S VEHEMENCE (IT'S CLEARLY PERSONAL!), CLARA USES HER QUILL TO PEER INTO BERNIE'S PAST...

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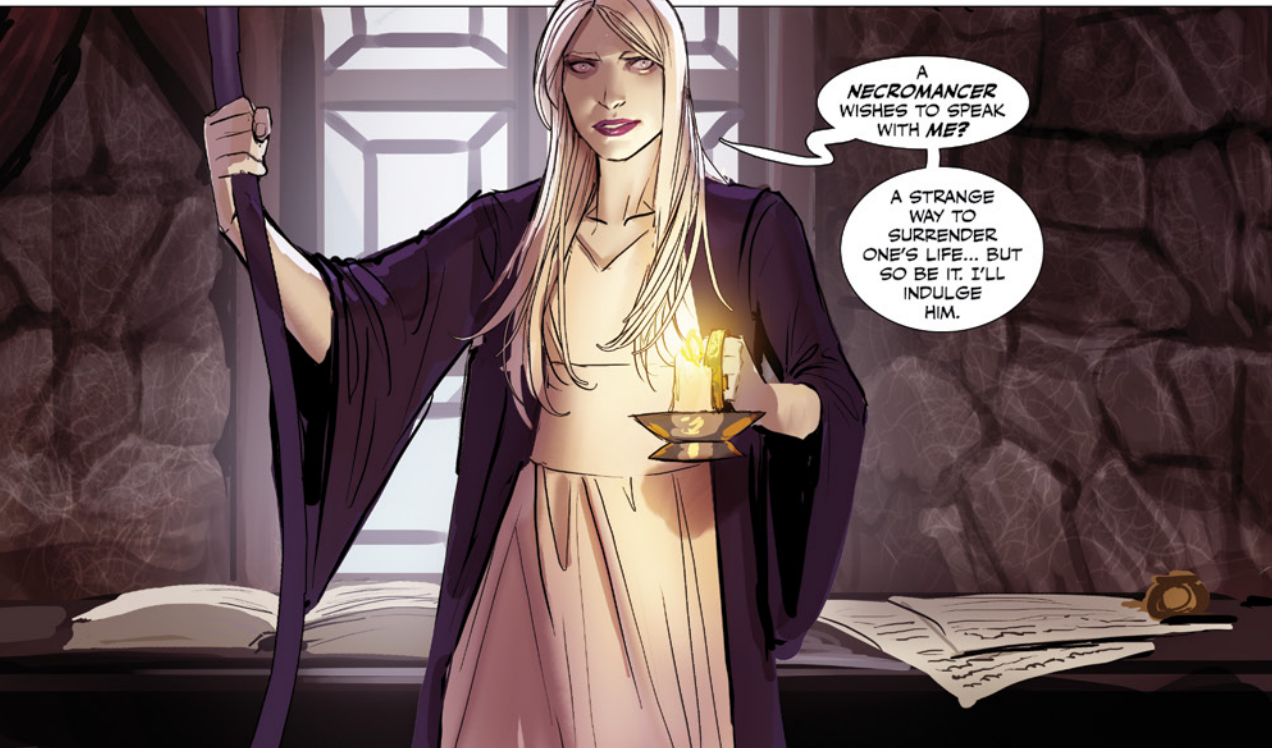
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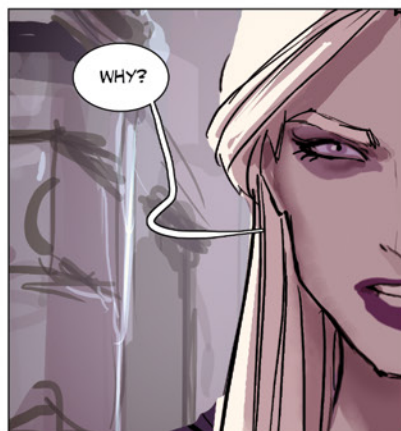








AND NOW THERE HE WAS, A MEMBER OF THEIR ORDER FREELY OFFERING INFORMATION -- A TEMPTING OFFER, BUT ONE THAT WAS HARD TO BELIEVE.



WHY?



WHY, WHAT?



WHY WOULD YOU BETRAY THE SERAPHIM? FROM WHAT I KNOW ABOUT THEM, THEY HAVE PLAYED PEOPLE ALIVE FOR MUCH LESSER TRANSGRESSIONS.



OH, AND BEFORE YOU ANSWER... ANUBIS!



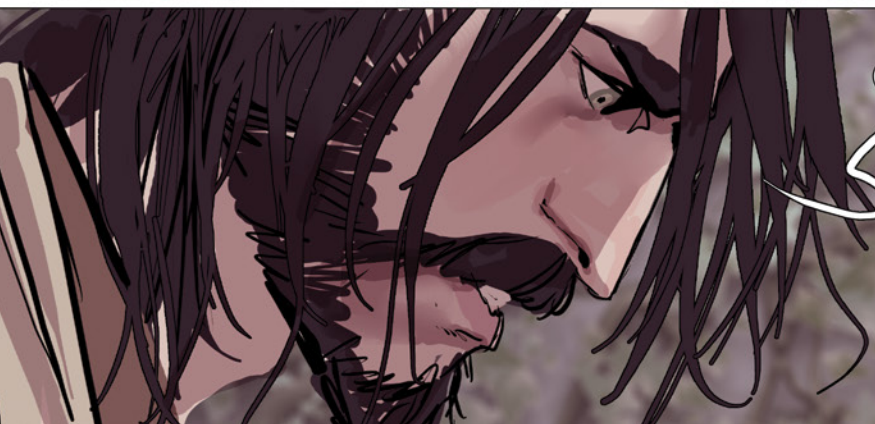
BY YOUR TRUTH MAY YOU BE JUDGED!

HEY!



WE MAY NOT POSSESS THE ABILITY TO READ EACH OTHER'S MINDS HERE IN THE VIGIL, BUT ANUBIS IS EXTREMELY PROFICIENT AT JUDGING THE TRUTHFULNESS OF YOUR WORDS.

NOW... CARRY ON!

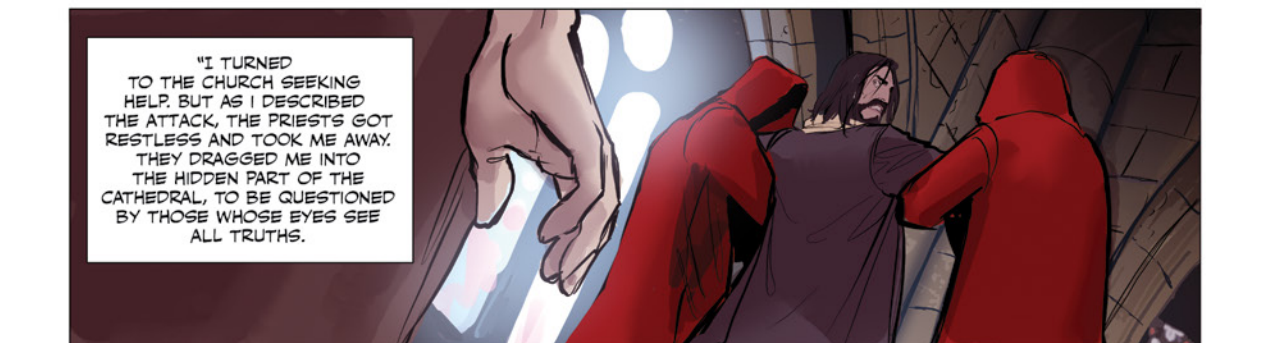


RIGHT... "THE TRUTH."

MY TRUTH IS... I NEVER MEANT TO JOIN THEM. I WAS A TOYMAKER.



"I LIVED
IN PARIS FOR A WHILE
WITH MY DAUGHTER, MIA,
AFTER HER MOTHER DIED.
ONE NIGHT WHILE WORKING
LATE I HEARD SOME NOISE
AND WENT OUT TO
WITNESS A **DEMON**
KILLING A MAN.



"I TURNED
TO THE CHURCH SEEKING
HELP. BUT AS I DESCRIBED
THE ATTACK, THE PRIESTS GOT
RESTLESS AND TOOK ME AWAY.
THEY DRAGGED ME INTO
THE HIDDEN PART OF THE
CATHEDRAL, TO BE QUESTIONED
BY THOSE WHOSE EYES SEE
ALL TRUTHS.



"I WAS BROUGHT BEFORE THE
ORDER. THEY TESTED ME FOR
DAYS. ONCE THEY WERE SATISFIED,
THEY GRANTED ME THEIR
GIFT. THEY SAID I WAS WORTHY
TO HOUSE THE **ESSENCE OF
GOD!**

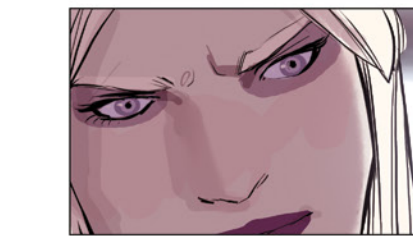


"AND THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE
THEY SAID. THEY TOLD ME THAT I
WAS PRECIOUS TO THEM. THAT I
POSSESSED THE **EYES OF SOLOMON**,
WAITING TO BE OPENED.



"SOON, THEY TOOK ME TO THEIR VAULTS.
THERE, THEY TOLD ME TO READ AND STUDY
THEIR HISTORIES, BUT MORE THAN ANYTHING
ELSE TO STUDY THE GREAT ANCIENT
TABLETS STORED WITHIN THOSE WALLS.

"TO SEE THE **SECRETS**
THAT LAY HIDDEN
WITHIN."



TABLETS?



MASSIVE OLD
THINGS, FILLED WITH STRANGE
WRITING. THEY SAID THEY WERE
FROM BEFORE THE FALL OF
BABYLON. CALLED THEM THE
DREAMER'S CODEX...

