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Written by Roye Okupe. Illustrated by Chima Kalu. Colors and cover by Godwin Akpan. Letters by SpooF Animation. Iyanu makes her way to the Source to save all of Yorubaland from an ancient curse. This time, however, she has help from her new friends: Biyi, a carefree adventurer; Toye, the bookworm; and Ekun, the magical and opinionated giant leopard!

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Join the heroes from across YouNeeK Studios’ YouNeeK YouNiverse as they unite for the first time in this epic graphic novel crossover event! When an unknown anarchist unleashes an army of extraterrestrial androids on the continent of Africa, Malika—legendary warrior queen of the fifteenth-century West African Empire, Azzaz—must put together a team of “unlike-minded” heroes to respond before it’s too late.

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By Roye Okupe. Illustrated by Samuel Iwunze. Colors by Toyin Ajetunmobi. Cover by Sunkanmi Akinboye & Etubi Onucheyo. Letters by SpooF Animation.

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Colors by Toyin Ajetunmobi. Letters by Spoof Animation.

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Warrior Queen



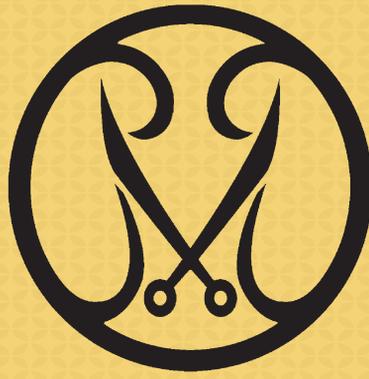
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ROYE
OKUPE

WITH
CHIMA
KALU
AND
RAPHAEL
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MALIKA™

Warrior Queen







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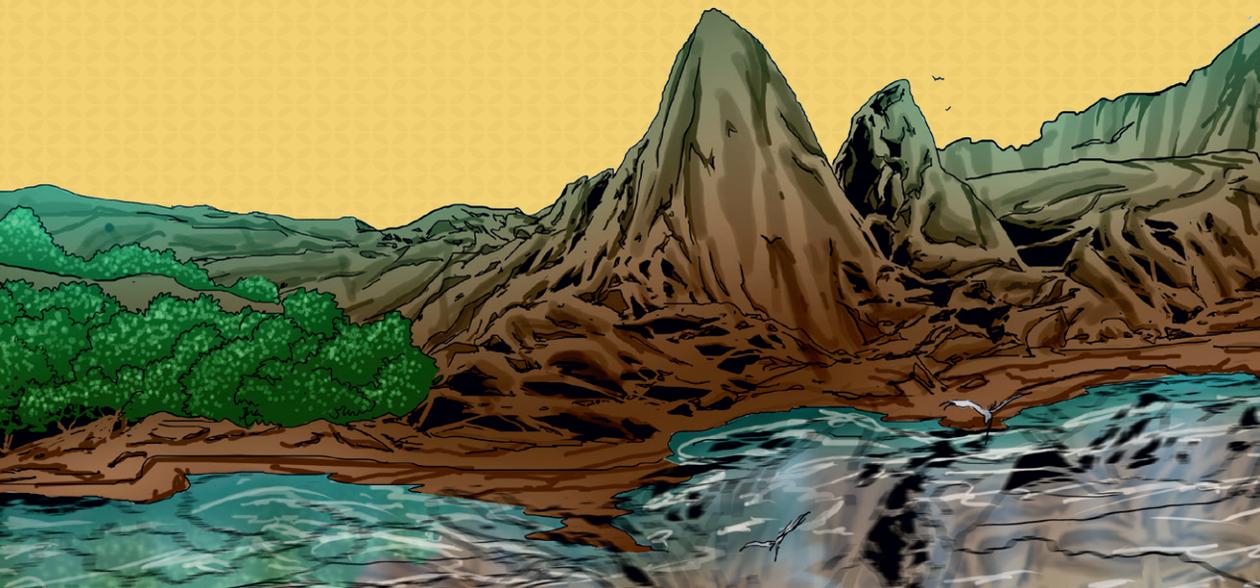
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MALIKA: WARRIOR QUEEN VOLUME 1

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This volume features all story pages from *Malika: Warrior Queen* Volumes 1 and 2 (published by YouNeek Studios in 2017 and 2018) with completely remastered and re-lettered story pages, and also collects the one-shot stories “*Malika: Dragon Trials*” (2017) and “*WindMaker: Birth of a King*” (2018), originally published by YouNeek Studios.

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HOUSE OF BAKWA FAMILY CREST



AZZAZIAN IMPERIAL CREST



CHAPTER ONE

EMPIRE OF AZZAZ

The empire of Azzaz is made up of five provinces, all of which surround the capital city at the center. Each province pays a tribute and as a result gets to elect a chief who both governs its people as well as represents them on the Council (commonly called “The Council of Five”). The Council, in turn, advises the ruler of Azzaz. Although not law, no Azzazian ruler can have absolute power over the Council.



ROYAL PALACE,
CITY OF AZZAZ.





IT IS OKAY, CHILD. I AM NOT UPSET. IN FACT, I AM IMPRESSED.

EVERY MORNING, I SNEAK INTO THE ARENA TO WATCH THE SOLDIERS TRAIN.



WHEN I GET BACK, I TRY TO PRACTICE EVERYTHING.

IMPRESSIVE. AND HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN DOING THIS?

MMMM... ABOUT A YEAR OR SO.



YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A CURIOUS ONE, HAVEN'T YOU? WELL, KEEP PRACTICING.

MAYBE YOU WILL MAKE A GREAT WARRIOR SOMEDAY.



MOTHER! MOTHER! NEXT TIME YOU GO TO BATTLE I WANT TO ACCOMPANY YOU.



SWEET THING, WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF BATTLE?

ASK ME ANYTHING...





VERY WELL. YOU HAVE TWO CAVALRY UNITS, SOME INFANTRY, AND SOME ARCHERS.

IN YOUR WAY IS A FORMIDABLE FOE WITH A HUGE NUMBER OF INFANTRY UNITS. WHAT DO YOU DO?

SIMPLE. I'D USE MY CAVALRY TO ATTACK BOTH FLANKS, MAKING THE ENEMY RAM INTO ONE ANOTHER AT THE CENTER.

THEN, I'D ORDER MY ARCHERS TO CONCENTRATE FIRE ON THEM DURING THE COMMOTION. THE REST IS QUITE EASY.

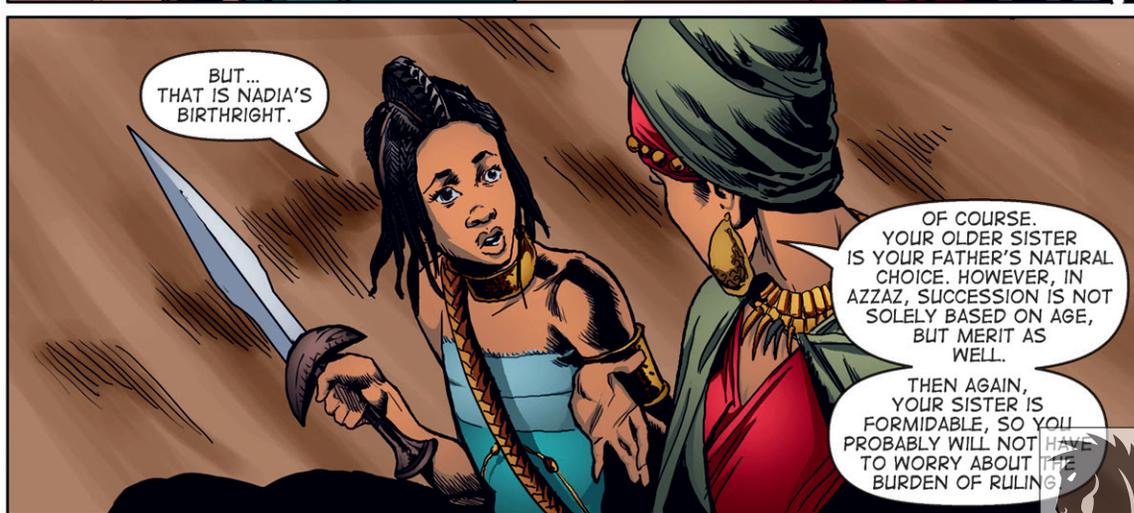


IMPRESSIVE... PERHAPS YOU WILL BE READY SOONER THAN I THOUGHT.



YES! FOR AZZAZ!

YOU WOULD MAKE A GREAT QUEEN, MY DEAR.



BUT... THAT IS NADIA'S BIRTHRIGHT.

OF COURSE. YOUR OLDER SISTER IS YOUR FATHER'S NATURAL CHOICE. HOWEVER, IN AZZAZ, SUCCESSION IS NOT SOLELY BASED ON AGE, BUT MERIT AS WELL.

THEN AGAIN, YOUR SISTER IS FORMIDABLE, SO YOU PROBABLY WILL NOT HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE BURDEN OF RULING.





QUEEN MALIKA, WE ARE ABOUT TEN KILOMETERS FROM THE BATTLEFIELD.

GOOD.

BORNJ PROVINCE, EMPIRE OF AZZAZ.



RAAAR



ABDUL, TO THE RIGHT.



I SEE, MY QUEEN. BEST WE KEEP MOVING. NOTHING WE CAN DO FOR HIM NOW. WE NEED TO HURRY TO--

ABANDON A HELPLESS CHILD? THE CHIVALRY TRULY SHINES FROM WITHIN YOU, ABDUL.

MY QUEEN, IT IS BAD ENOUGH THAT YOU ARE ALL THE WAY OUT HERE. IN THE FURTHEST REACHES OF YOUR EMPIRE. WE NEED TO FOCUS ON THE REBELS.



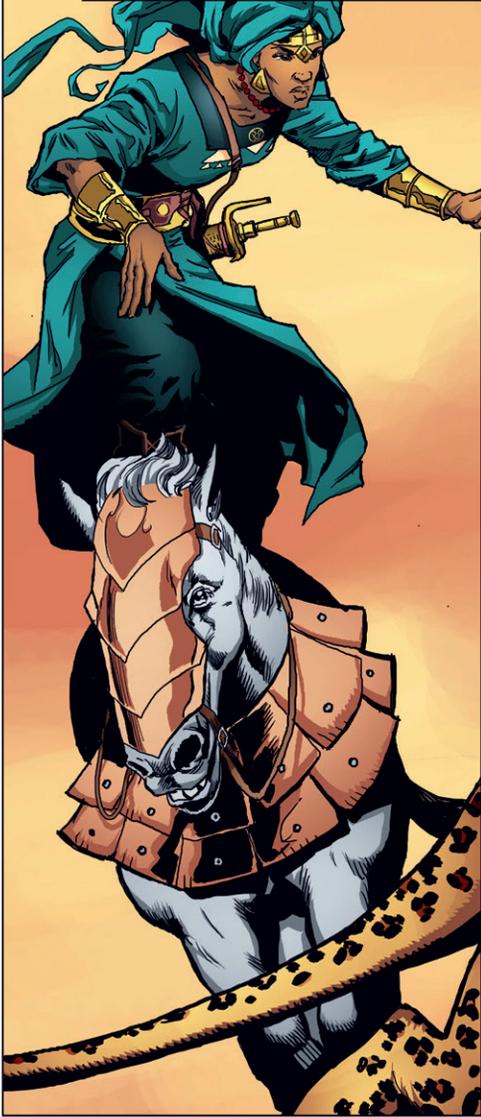
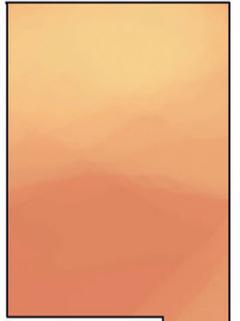
THE FURTHEST PART OF MY EMPIRE IS *STILL* MY EMPIRE. AND I WILL PROTECT ALL OF MY PEOPLE.

BESIDES, HIS KIND IS NOT THE ONE REBELLING AGAINST ME. IT IS MY GENERALS WHO CANNOT STAND TO SEE ME IN POWER...YOUR BOW.

NOT ALL YOUR GENERALS. SOME WILL FOLLOW YOU TO THE DEATH.

THOSE I KEEP CLOSE.







THANK YOU, MY QUEEN! THANK YOU!

RISE, LITTLE ONE. YOU ARE MOST WELCOME.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ALL THE WAY OUT HERE? SURELY YOU KNOW HOW DANGEROUS THESE FIELDS ARE.

I WAS SEARCHING FOR FOOD, YOUR MAJESTY.



THE SIEGE... IT HAS MADE THE LOCALS DESPERATE.

MY PEOPLE ARE HUNGRY. AND THE REBELS, THE ONES WHO CALL THEMSELVES THE SAVIORS OF AZZAZ, HAVE MADE LIFE MISERABLE.

THEY PUNISH AND ENSLAVE ALL THOSE WHO DO NOT JOIN THEM. INCLUDING CHIEF HAZAR.



THAT ENDS TODAY. I DID NOT UNITE AZZAZ AFTER A DECADE OF CIVIL WAR JUST FOR A FEW YEARS OF RELATIVE PEACE.

GET ON A HORSE, YOUNG ONE. TODAY WE TAKE BACK YOUR CITY.

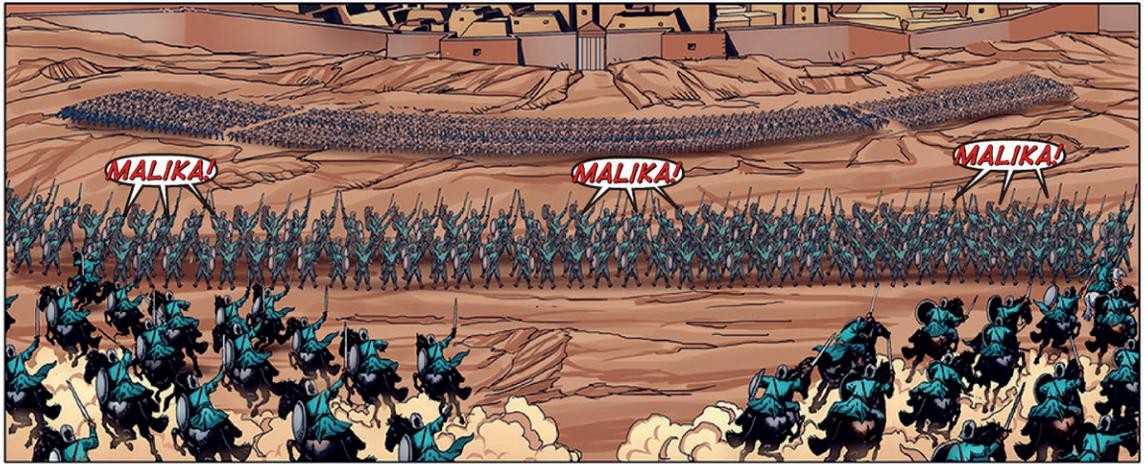


CITY OF BAGA,
BORNU PROVINCE.





ABDUL, LEFT FLANK.



MALIKA!

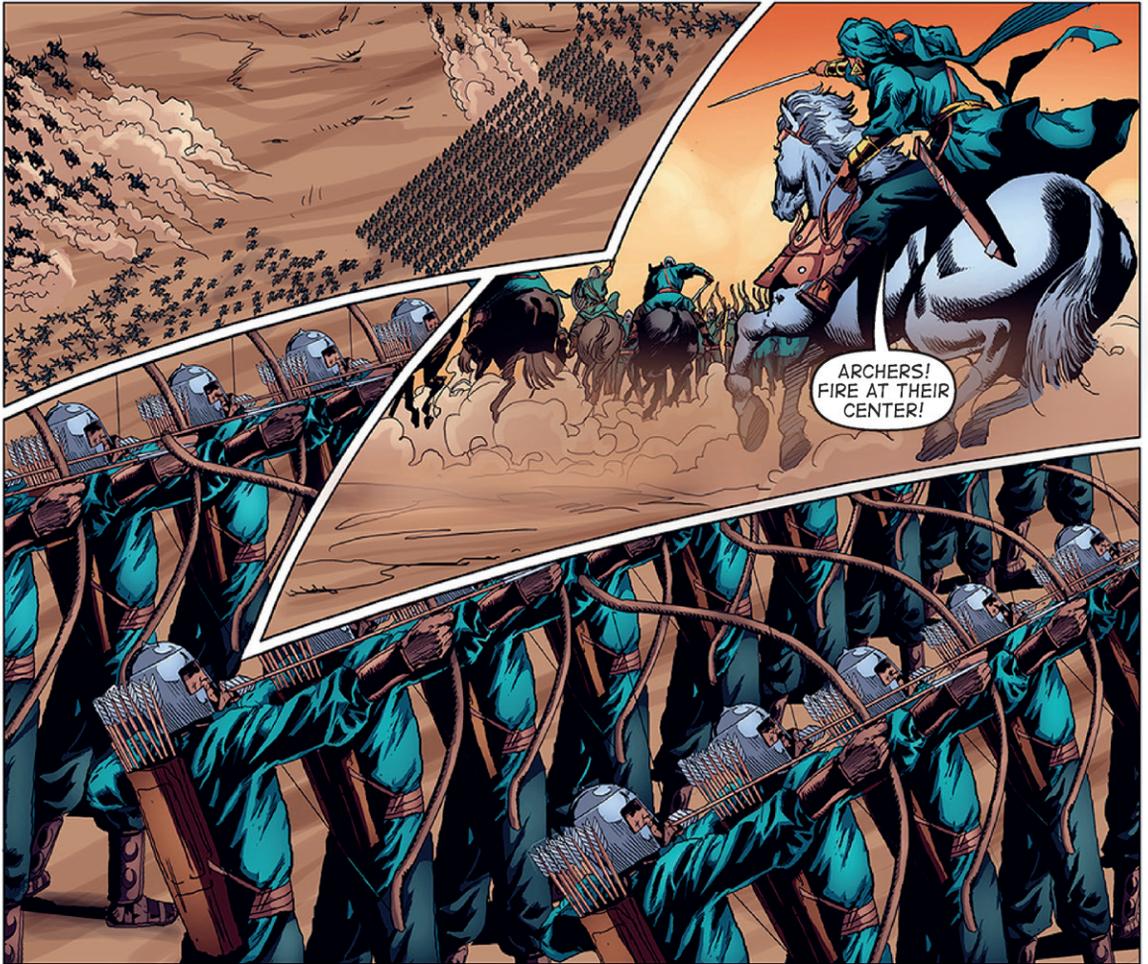
MALIKA!

MALIKA!



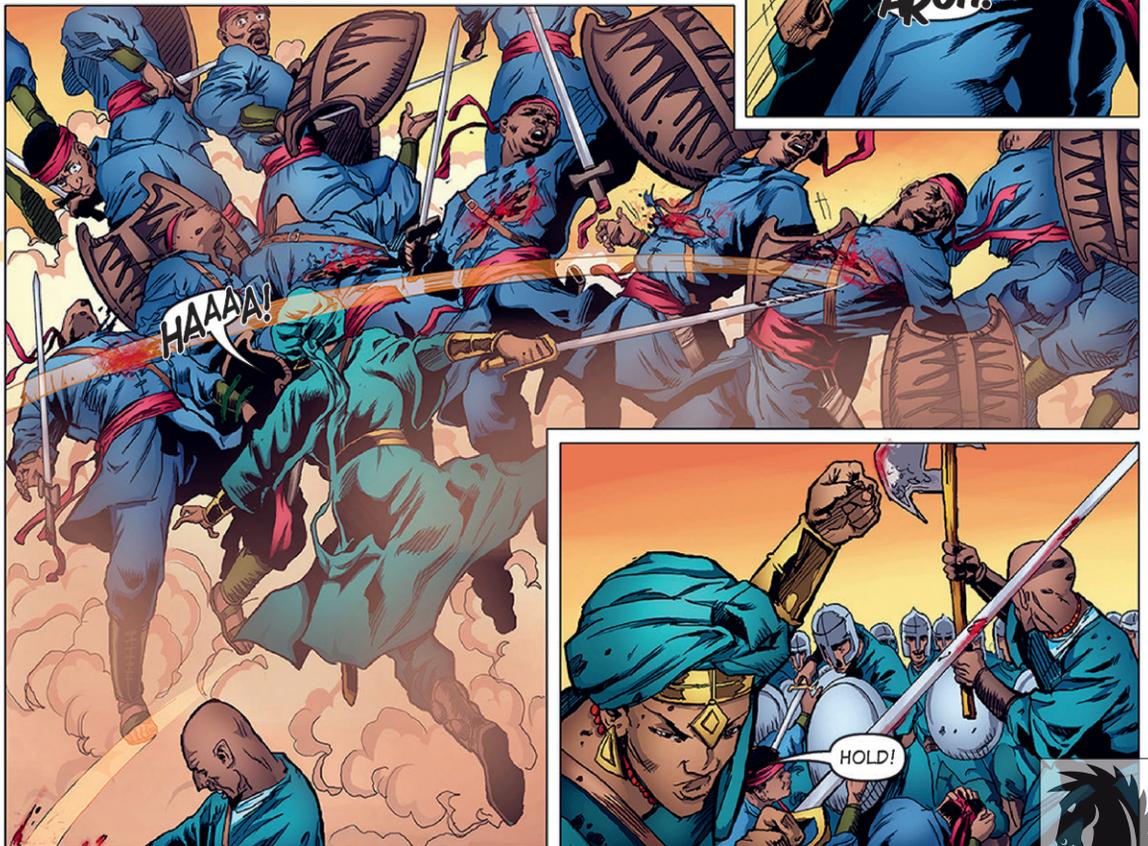
STEADY, YOU COWARDS!













COWARDS!
STAND AND FIGHT!
IF YOU FLEE I
WILL KILL YOU
MYSELF!

GENERAL RAS!
IT IS CLEAR YOUR
QUARREL IS WITH ME.
LET US NOT INVOLVE
INNOCENT AZZAZIANS
IN THIS PETTY
REBELLION.

INSTEAD,
YOUR MOTHER
DIVIDED THE
KINGDOM AFTER SHE
ILLEGITIMATELY
SEIZED THE
THRONE.

PETTY? YOU DO
NOT DESERVE THE
THRONE. AFTER YOUR
FATHER'S DEATH, IT WAS
SUPPOSED TO GO TO
YOUR UNCLE.

YOU TRULY
EXPECTED MY
MOTHER TO TURN OVER
MY FATHER'S KINGDOM TO
MY UNCLE? THE MAN
THEY CALLED BAKWA
THE BUTCHER...

A MAN WHO KILLED
WOMEN AND CHILDREN
FOR HIS AMUSEMENT?
THE SAME MAN THAT
MURDERED MY FATHER
FOR HIS THRONE?

HOW ABOUT
WE JUST GET TO
THE REAL REASON
BEHIND YOUR
REBELLION.

PROVE IT. I CHALLENGE
YOU TO SINGLE COMBAT.
PER OUR CUSTOMS,
WHOMEVER WINS GETS
THE OTHER PERSON'S
TERRITORIES.
NO NEED FOR ANY
MORE AZZAZIAN
BLOODSHED. YOU WIN,
YOU ARE KING, I WIN,
AND THIS REBELLION IS
OVER.

AN OVERSIZED
CAMEL FACE LIKE
YOU JUST DOESN'T
LIKE BEING RULED
BY A WOMAN.

YOU NEVER
DID.

MY QUEEN,
I MUST OBJECT--

THERE WAS
NO PROOF. THE
FACT REMAINS, IT
WAS HIS RIGHT
TO RULE.

MAN OR WOMAN,
YOUR RECKLESSNESS
WITH THE ATALIANS
CONFIRMED YOU ARE
UNFIT TO RULE.

IT IS
ALL RIGHT,
ABDUL.



KRAGGHHH!!





THE... SAVOR... THE SAVOR WILL DESTROY YOU...



SOMEONE PLEASE TAKE GENERAL RAS TO A HEALER BEFORE HE CHOKES ON HIS OWN BLOOD.

ALL HAIL QUEEN MALIKA! THE GREAT UNIFIER!



THE PROVINCE OF BORNU IS AT THE EDGE OF THIS EMPIRE, BUT YOU ARE STILL AZZAZIANS! AND EVERY AZZAZIAN DESERVES TO BE FREE.

YOU ALL KNOW ME TO BE A FAIR RULER, BUT I WILL NOT TOLERATE INSUBORDINATION.

ALL MEN AND WOMEN WHO PLEDGE THEIR ALLEGIANCE TO AZZAZ WILL BE SPARED AND THEIR CRIMES OF REBELLION FORGIVEN. I GIVE YOU MY WORD.

BUT IF YOU ARE NOT WITH ME, THEN YOU ARE AGAINST ME...WHICH ONE OF YOU STILL OPPOSES ME?



YOU COWARDS WOULD SO EASILY SURRENDER? SO BE IT...

THE REST OF US WILL STAY LOYAL TO THE SAVOR'S CAUSE.

I URGE YOU TO RECONSIDER...YOU MEN ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE PENALTY OF TREASON.

ARE YOU WILLING TO PAY THE ULTIMATE PRICE FOR A SENSELESS REBELLION?



THE SAVOR OF AZZAZ WILL AVENGE US!

VERY WELL.

MALIKA

ROYE OKUPE with GODWIN AKPAN



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CHILD OF WONDER

VOLUME ONE



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IYANUTM

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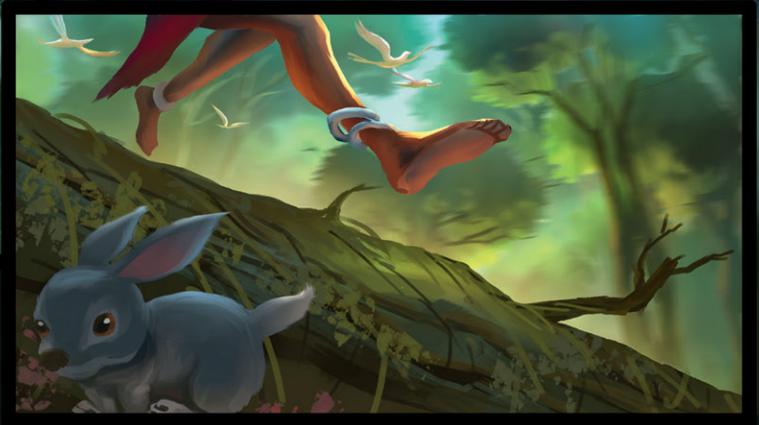
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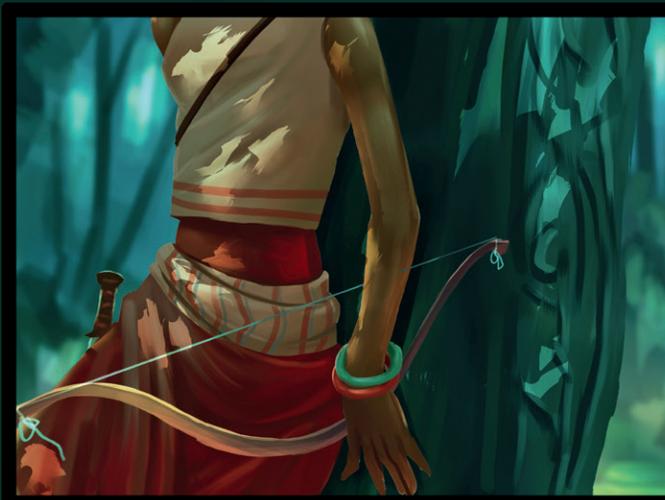


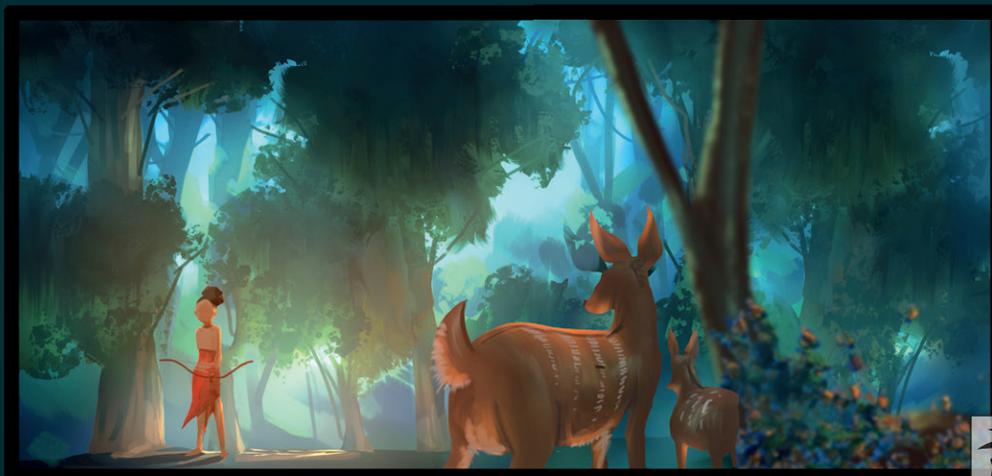
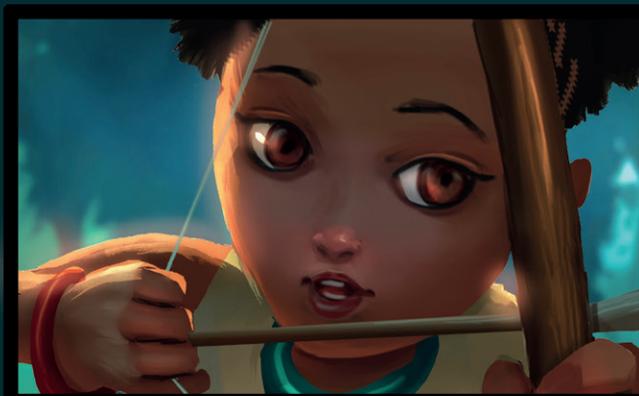
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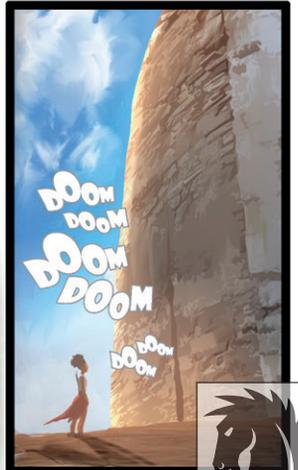
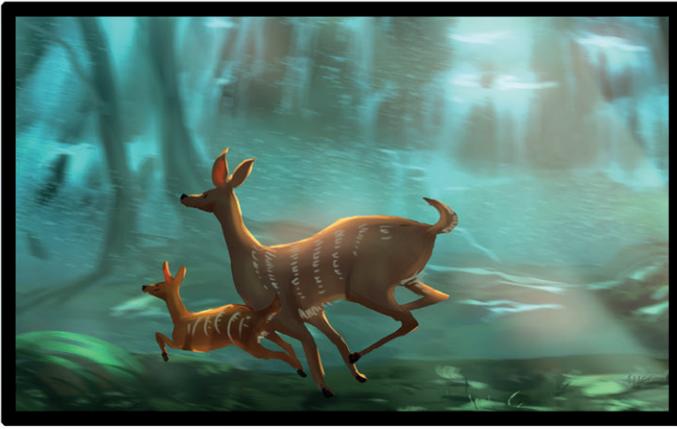


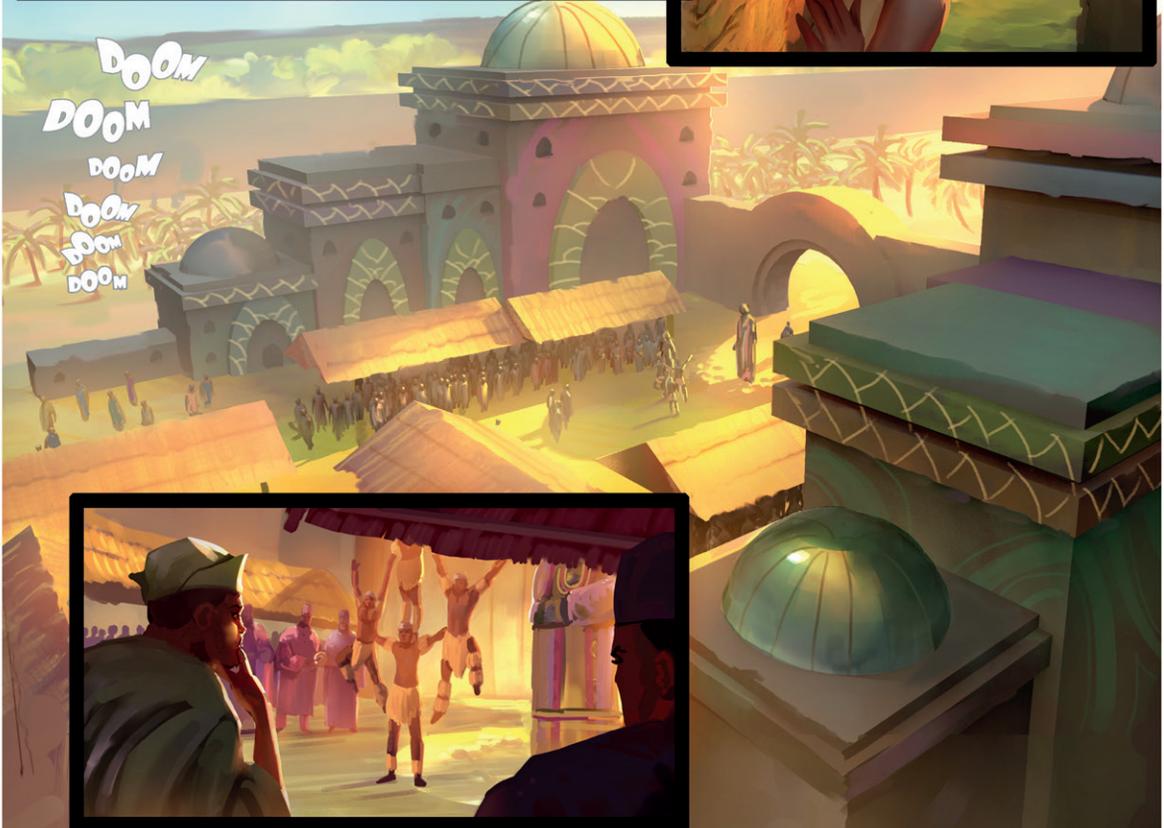
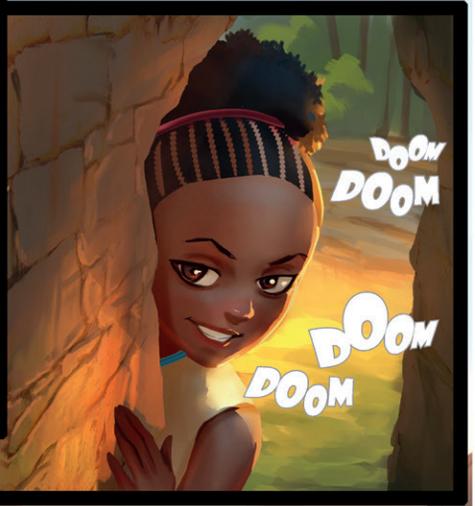
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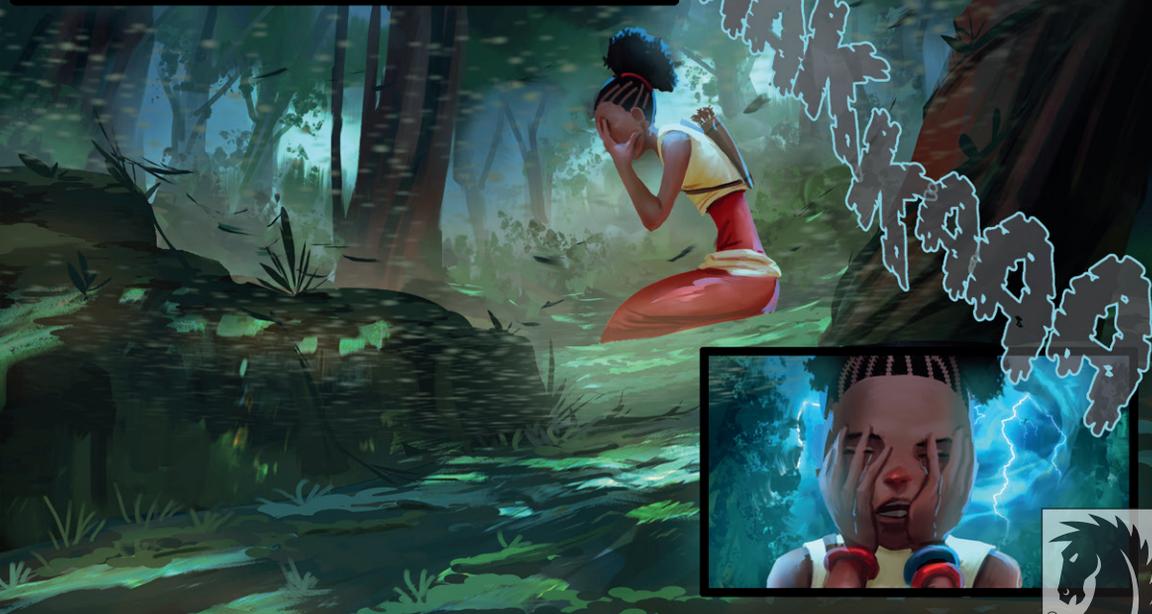
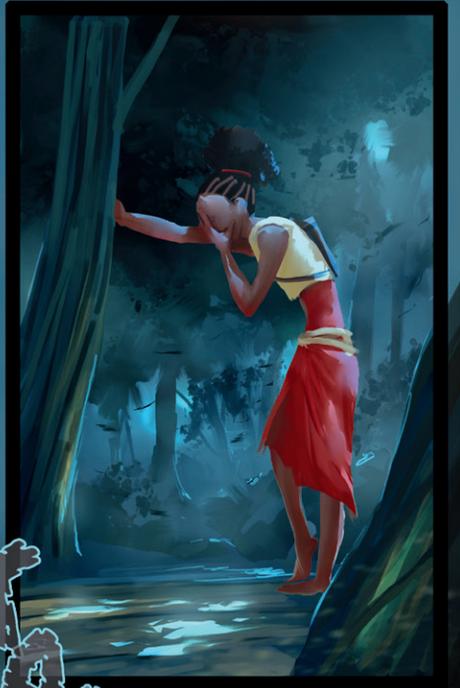
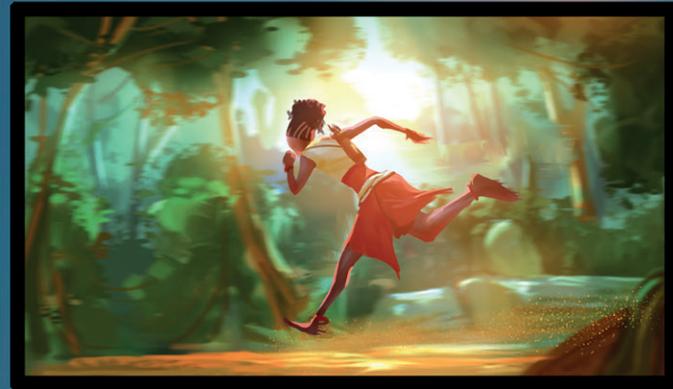
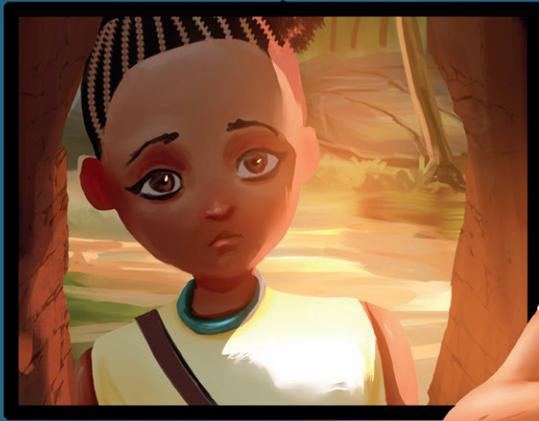


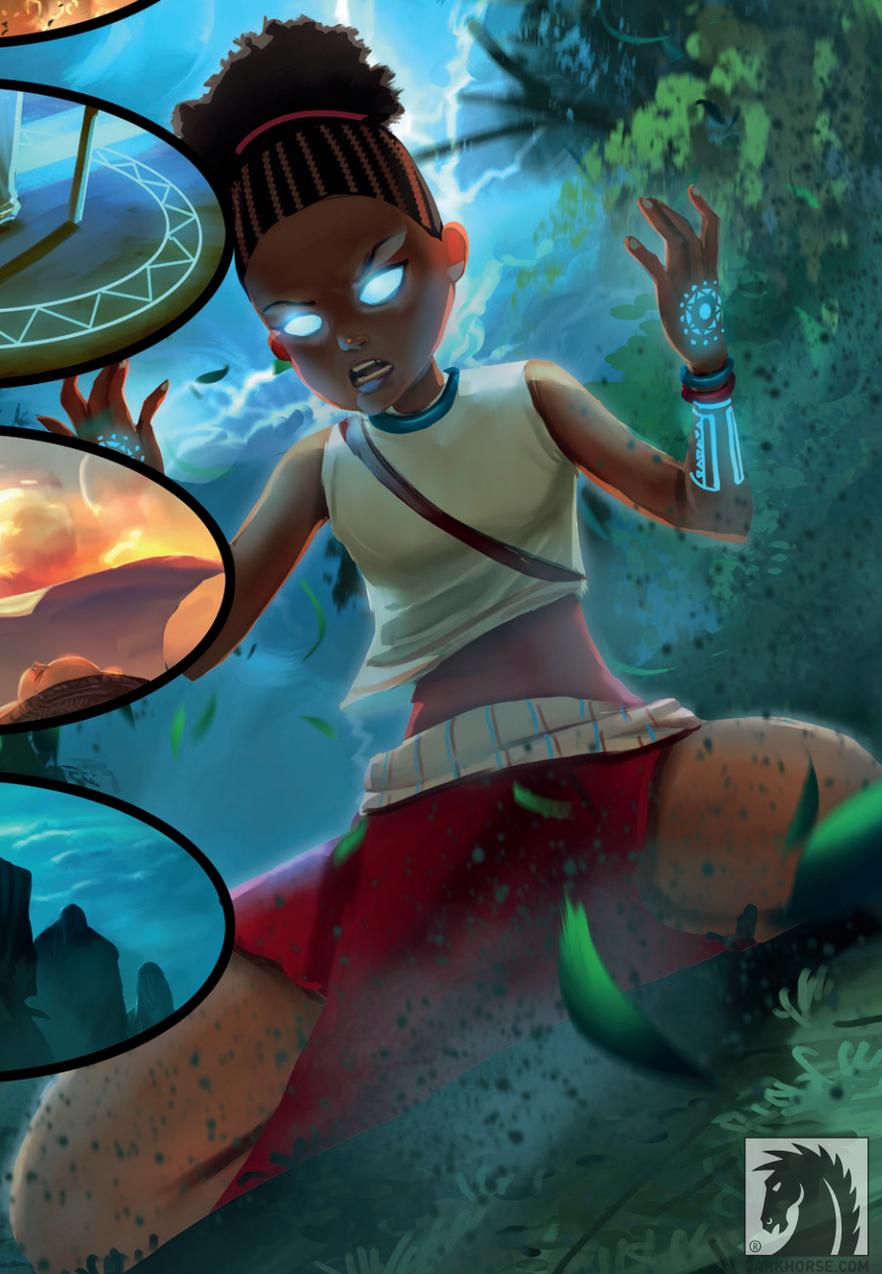


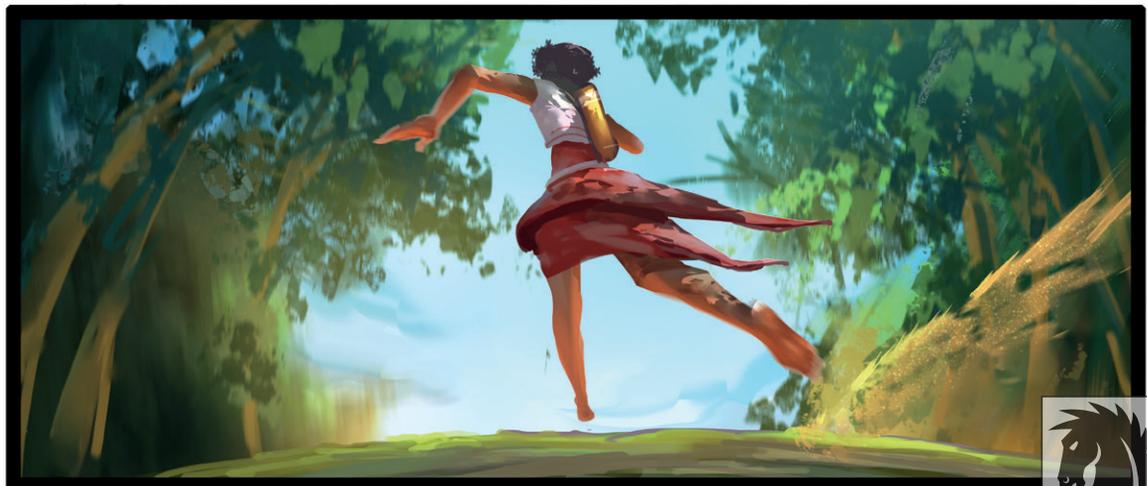


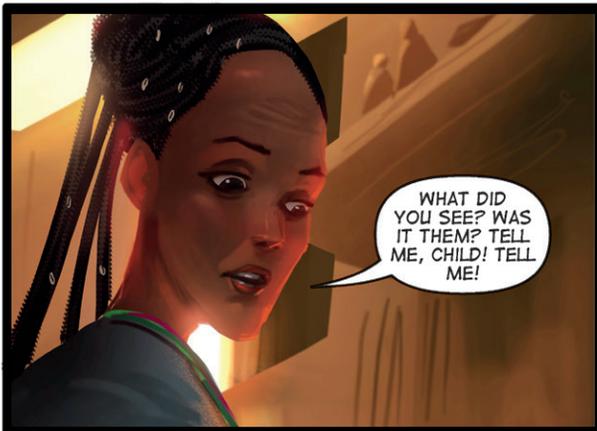
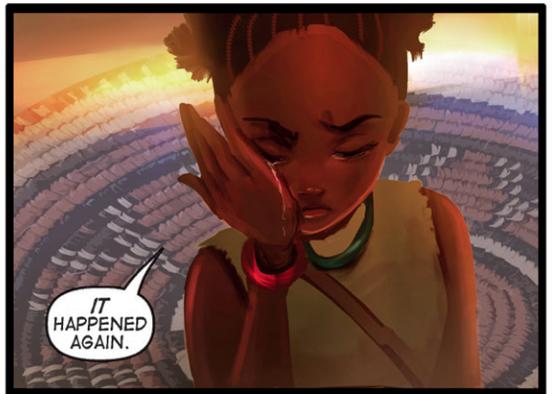
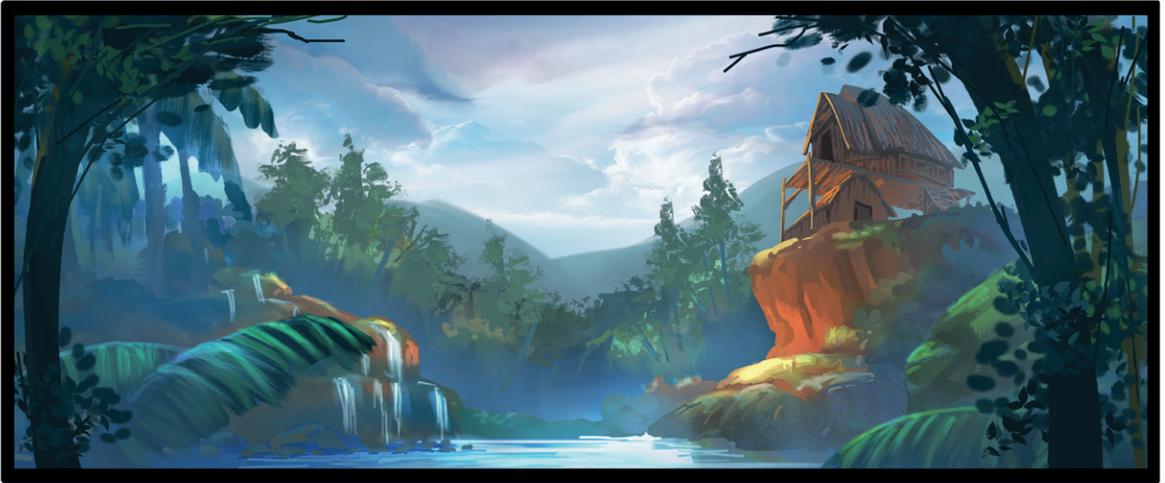
















THEY CALLED ME "FOREST GIRL."



ARE YOU A GIRL?

YES.

DO YOU LIVE IN THE FOREST?



YES.

WELL...



LISTEN, FROM THE MOMENT I FOUND YOU IN THIS VERY FOREST, FIVE YEARS AGO, I KNEW YOU WERE SPECIAL. A CHILD OF WONDER...

...BUT THE PEOPLE OF ELU WILL NEVER ACCEPT YOU. THEY WILL FEAR YOU. AND THAT FEAR WILL LEAD TO HATE.

IT WAS THAT SAME HATE THAT DROVE THEM TO CAST ME, THE LAST OF THE AGONI, OUT.



THE WORDS OF OTHERS ARE ONLY AS POWERFUL AS WE LET THEM BE.

WHAT TRULY MATTERS IS HOW YOU SEE YOURSELF, MY CHILD.



NOW, YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO GO ON A HUNT. BUT YET YOU HAVE RETURNED WITH NOTHING?

I FOUND... SOMETHING... BUT I MISSED.



I'VE SEEN YOU STRIKE A RABBIT FROM DISTANCES EVEN SOME OF THE *ESO* CANNOT. WHICH MEANS YOU SPARED ANOTHER ANIMAL.

HER BABY WAS RIGHT THERE! I COULDN'T.



À PA ÀÌMÌ DÈLÈ NÌ KÒ JẸ KÌ A MỌ PÈ OLÓGBÒ NẸ QDE.*

*IT'S PENCHANT FOR NOT BRINGING HOME ITS GAMES IS WHY THE CAT IS NOT KNOWN FOR HUNTING.



LUCKY FOR YOU, I PREPARED YOUR FAVORITE. POUNDED YAM AND GOAT MEAT.



ROYAL PALACE.
INNER WALLS.



DEAR
ELDERS OF THE
ELLI MESI...

...COUNCIL
MEMBERS WHO HAVE
ADVISED EVERY OBA
SINCE OUR ANCESTORS
BUILT THE WALLS FIVE
HUNDRED YEARS AGO...

...WE ARE
GATHERED HERE FOR
OUR VERY FIRST MEETING
SINCE THE PASSING OF
MY DEAR **UNCLE** AND
PREDECESSOR: OBA
ADENIYI.



AS SUDDEN
AND HEARTBREAKING
AS HIS DEATH IS, FOR THE
SAKE OF **ELLI**, FOR THE SAKE
OF OUR PEOPLE, FOR THE
SAKE OF WHAT IS LEFT OF
YORUBALAND, WE MUST
FORGE AHEAD.

OBA...I, **NURO**,
CHANCELLOR AND
BASORUN OF THE **ELLI
MESI**, ASSURE YOU
THAT WITHOUT A
DOUBT, WE STAND
BEHIND YOU.

THE TRAGIC
DEATH OF OBA
ADENIYI'S HEIR YEARS
AGO LEFT HIM WITH
NO HEIRS.

THE
SELECTION RITUAL
LEFT NO DOUBT.
YOU ARE THE RIGHTFUL
AREMO. THE TRUE HEIR
TO THE THRONE
OF **ELLI**.





LET US BEGIN.



OBA, IF I MAY?



BEFORE HIS DEATH, ONE OF THE THINGS **OBA ADENIYI** HAD SPOKEN TO ME ABOUT WAS LIFTING THE BAN ON CITIZENS EXPLORING BEYOND THE **WALL**.

WE COULD ACCESS MORE RESOURCES, BUILD MORE, AS WELL AS HELP OTHER SETTLEMENTS. IT WAS A HEAVY DESIRE OF HIS TO--



BLASPHEMY! IN FIVE HUNDRED YEARS, ONLY THE ESO HAVE BEEN PERMITTED OUTSIDE THE WALLS.

AND FOR TWO REASONS ONLY. TO COLLECT THE OBA'S TRIBUTES AND TO KEEP **THE CORRUPT** AT BAY.



WITH GREAT RESPECT, ELDER **LAGUNA**, WE HAVE DONE THE SAME THINGS FOR FIVE HUNDRED YEARS AND WHAT DO WE HAVE TO SHOW FOR IT BUT OVERPOPULATION, SQUALOR, AND STARVATION WITHIN THE OUTER WALLS?

AS AMBASSADOR OF ELLI, PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL IF YOU VISITED THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE BEYOND THE INNER--



CAREFUL HOW YOU SPEAK, **LIWA**. YOU ARE ONLY PERMITTED TO THIS COUNCIL MEETING BECAUSE YOU HAVE ROYAL BLOOD.





MCHEEW! YOU WILL BE DEAD IN MINUTES. *EKUN*, THE WORST OF ALL THE *CORRUPT* LURKS CLOSER AND CLOSER EACH FORTNIGHT. HE HAS TAKEN THE LIVES OF MANY OF MY MEN.

LEGEND HAS IT HE SEARCHES FOR THE CHOSEN.

ELDER ALAPANI, THAT IS THE VERY REASON YOU AND THE ESO MUST--

ENOUGH! I WILL HEAR NO MORE ABOUT FUTILE EXPEDITIONS AND IGNORANT FAIRY TALES.

OBA ADEYINKA, WITH YOUR PERMISSION, I WILL BRING A MORE PRESSING MATTER TO THE COUNCIL.

GO AHEAD.

YEARS AGO, WE ALL MADE A PACT WITH OLORI. IN EXCHANGE FOR HER KNOWLEDGE, WE HAVE ALLOWED HER AND HER APPRENTICE TO REMAIN WITHIN THE EXTREMITIES OF THE OUTER WALL. THE FOREST REGION.

BUT I FEAR SHE HAS LONG OVERSTAYED HER WELCOME. SHE CAN NO LONGER BE TRUSTED.

BUT SHE IS THE LAST OF THE *AGONI*, THE CARRIER OF OUR TRADITION AND HERITAGE. HOW DO WE *CLEANSE* MORE OF THE *CORRUPT* IF SHE IS GONE?





I AM WORKING ON A PLAN AS WE SPEAK...

ARE YOU READY?



WHY DO WE CLEANSE THE CORRUPT?



SWOOSH!

WE DO WHAT WE DO FOR THE GOOD OF ELU.



WHO ARE THE AGONI?

KEEPERS OF SECRETS, PROTECTORS OF THE HISTORY OF YORIBALAND.



WHY DO WE TAKE AN APPRENTICE?

TO PASS ON KNOWLEDGE. TO KEEP HOPE ALIVE THROUGH THE WISDOM OF OUR ANCESTORS.



YOU ARE GETTING MUCH BETTER...



...BUT YOU STILL HAVE MUCH TO LEARN.





PATIENCE, MY LITTLE WONDER.



YES, OLORI.



OLORI...



ARE YOU ABOUT TO ASK ME YET AGAIN THE SECRET TO *CLEANSING* THE CORRUPT?

YES, OLORI.



YOU ARE NOT READY. IN TIME, I WILL TELL YOU THAT, AND MORE.

WE DO ALL THIS... YET THE *INNERS* HATE US SO MUCH. TREAT US LIKE OUTCASTS. WHY? WHAT DID THE AGONI DO TO THEM?

HAVE YOU NOT ENOUGH LOVE OUT HERE IN THE FOREST WITH ME?

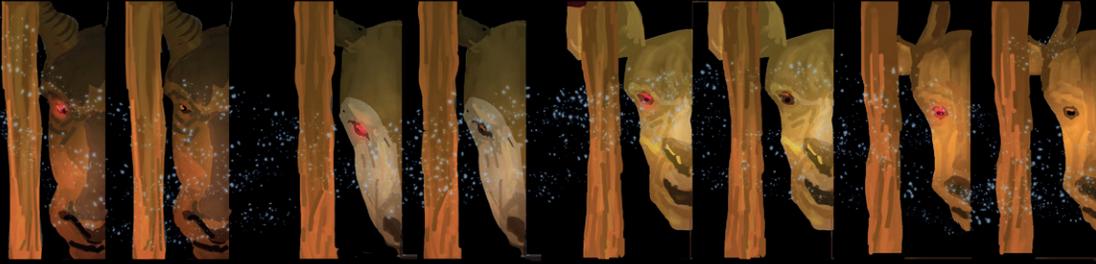
I DO, OLORI...IT'S JUST THAT YOU NEVER TALK TO ME ABOUT--



THEN THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH. I WILL TELL YOU MORE WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT.



ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW RIGHT NOW IS THAT WE ARE SYMBIOTIC...



THEY NEED US, AND WE NEED THEM.



AND WHAT ABOUT MY PAST?

IYANU, YOU KNOW THIS STORY. I FOUND YOU IN--



IN THE FOREST, I KNOW. BUT I DIDN'T JUST APPEAR FROM NOWHERE. WHERE DID I COME FROM? WHO ARE MY REAL--



IYANU! BÍ ÈKÚTÈ BÀ FARA BALÈ, À JẸ NÍNÚ OWÒ OLÒGBÒ.*

PATIENCE.

YES, OLORI.

*IF THE RAT CAN BE REASONABLY CALM AND PATIENT, IT WOULD HAVE A TASTE OF THE CAT'S WEALTH.



NOW, GO AND GET US THE HERBS WE NEED TO PREPARE OUR FOOD TONIGHT.

YES, MA.

END OF CHAPTER ONE



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EXO.

THE LEGEND OF WALE WILLIAMS

VOLUME ONE

ROYE OKUPE



SUNKANMI AKINBOYE



RAPHAEL KAZEEM



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THE LEGEND OF WALE WILLIAMS



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THE LEGEND OF WALE WILLIAMS

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E.X.O.: THE LEGEND OF WALE WILLIAMS VOLUME 1

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This volume features all story pages from E.X.O.: *The Legend of Wale Williams* Volumes 1 and 2 (published by YouNeek Studios in 2016) with completely remastered and re-lettered story pages, and also collects the one-shot story "Malika: Creed & Fury," originally published by YouNeek Studios for Free Comic Book Day 2018.

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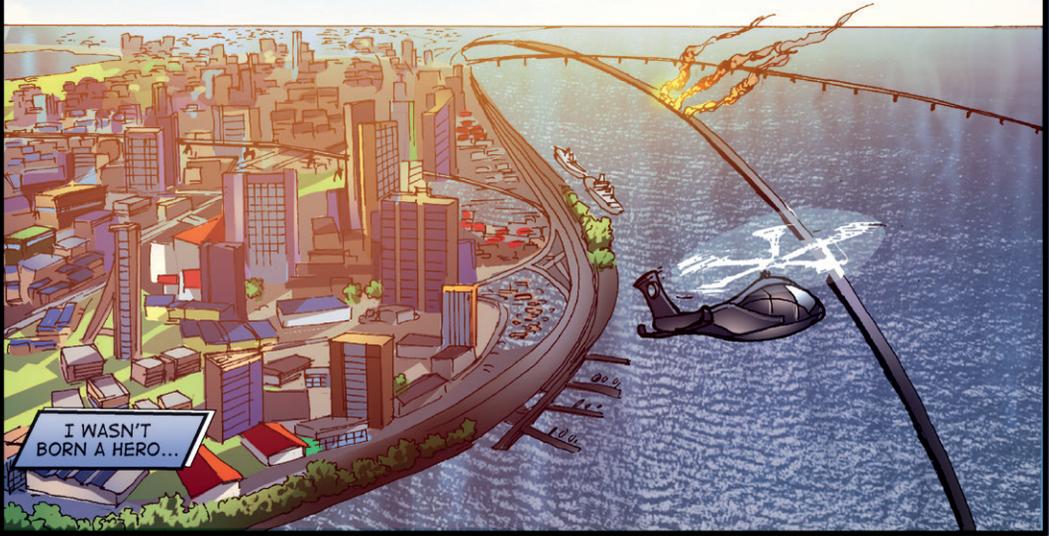




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Arise, O Compatriots,
Nigeria's call obey
To serve our Fatherland
With love and strength and faith.
The labour of our heroes past,
 shall never be in vain
To serve with heart and might,
One Nation bound in freedom,
 peace, and unity.
—NATIONAL ANTHEM OF NIGERIA

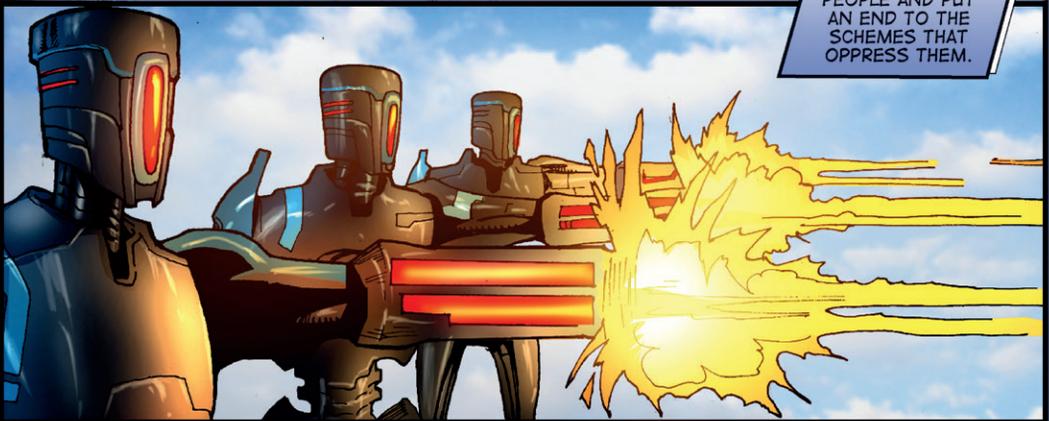
**LAGOON CITY,
LAGOS, NIGERIA, 2025.**



I WASN'T
BORN A HERO...

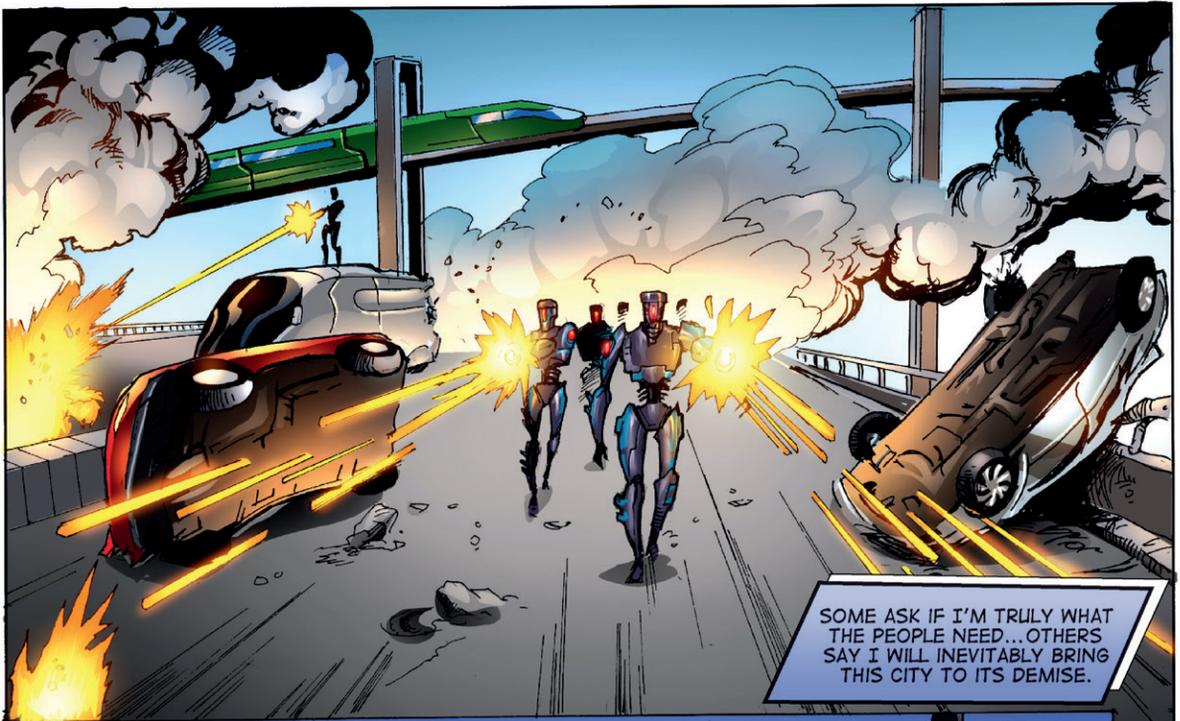


...I HAD TO
BECOME ONE...



...TO PROTECT MY
PEOPLE AND PUT
AN END TO THE
SCHEMES THAT
OPPRESS THEM.

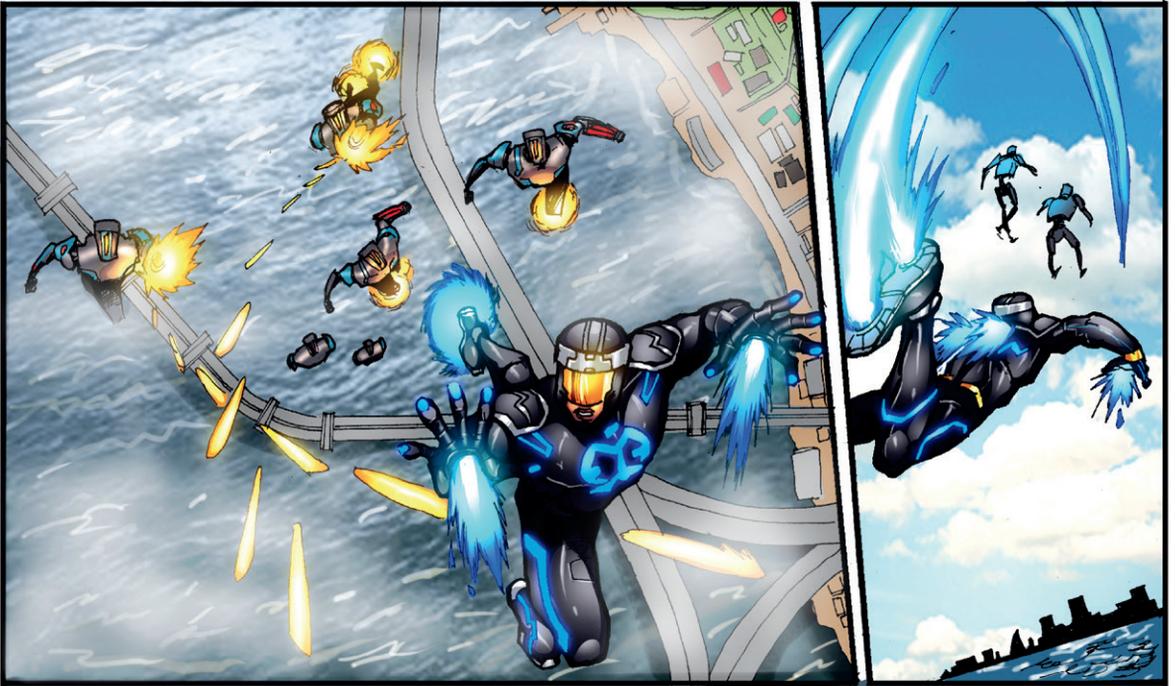


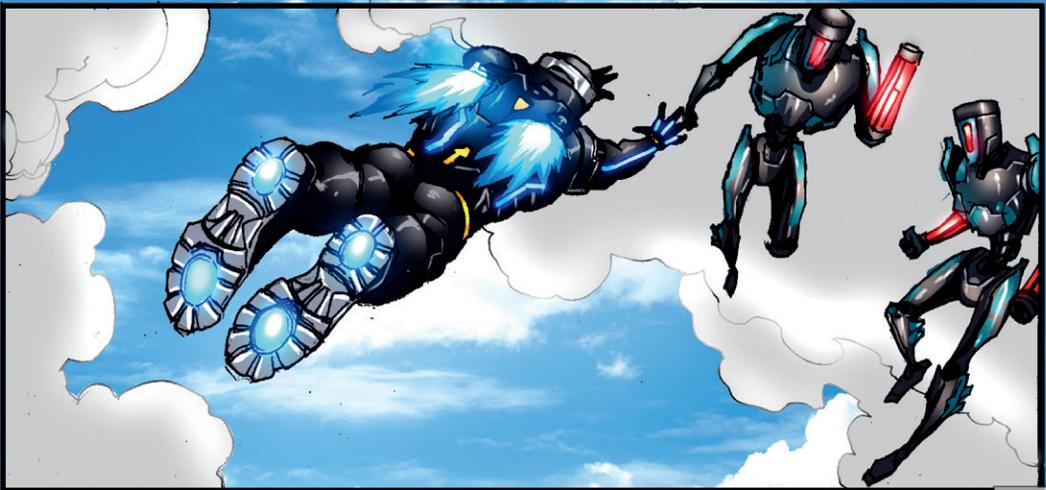


SOME ASK IF I'M TRULY WHAT THE PEOPLE NEED... OTHERS SAY I WILL INEVITABLY BRING THIS CITY TO ITS DEMISE.





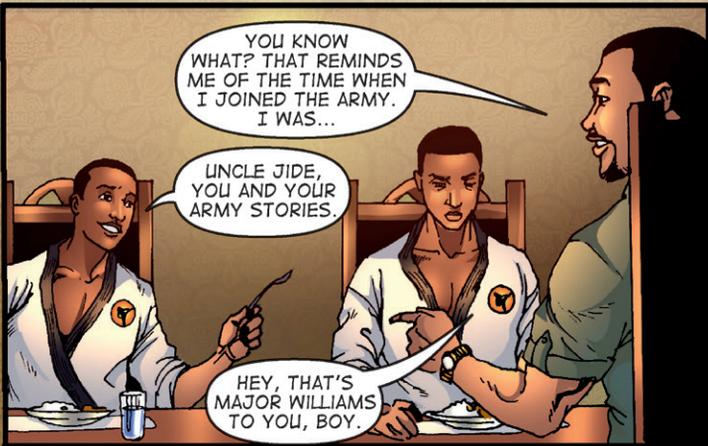






**WILLIAMS ESTATE.
FIVE YEARS AGO.**

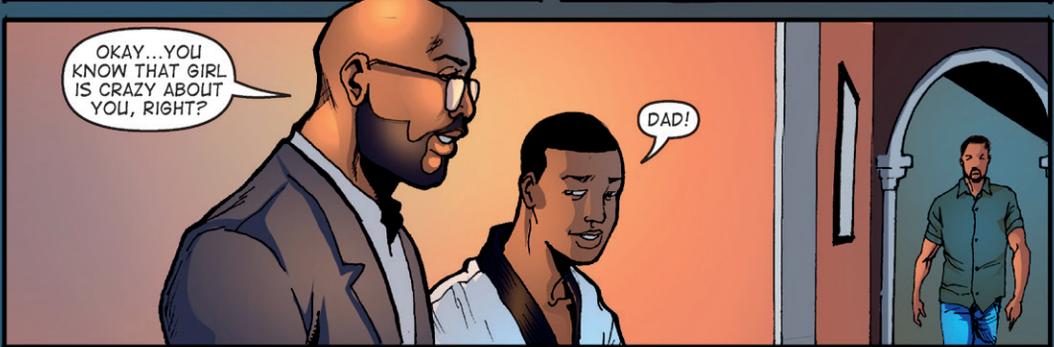
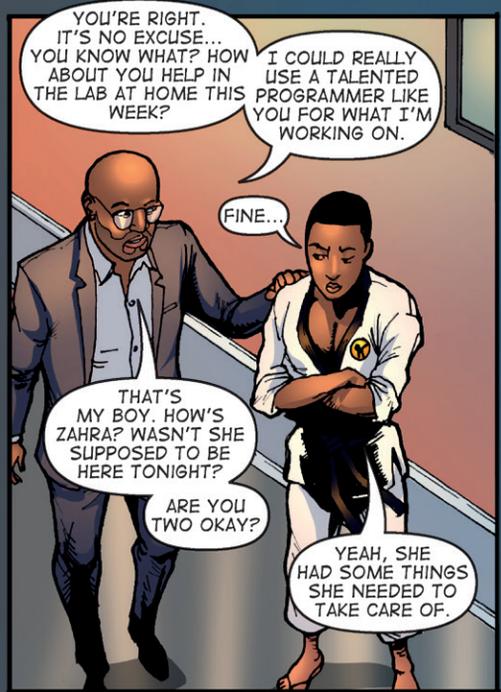


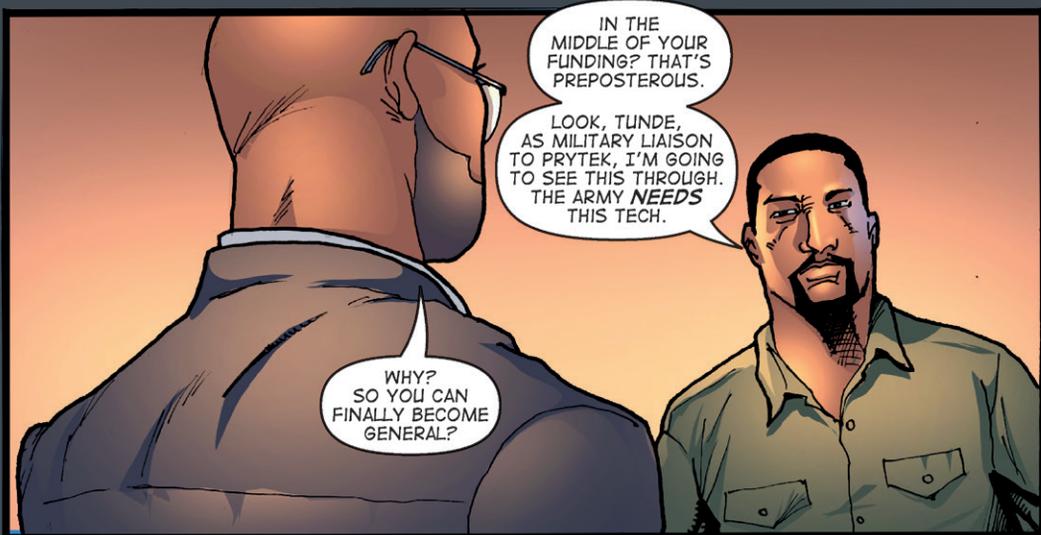


EVENING, EVERYONE! MY APOLOGIES FOR BEING LATE. WORK WAS SO BUSY TODAY.









IN THE MIDDLE OF YOUR FUNDING? THAT'S PREPOSTEROUS.

LOOK, TUNDE, AS MILITARY LIAISON TO PRYTEK, I'M GOING TO SEE THIS THROUGH. THE ARMY *NEEDS* THIS TECH.

WHY? SO YOU CAN FINALLY BECOME GENERAL?



I NEED YOUR HELP WITH THIS, TUNDE.

IT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN, JIDE. BESIDES, MAYBE YOU CAN DO THIS ON YOUR OWN.

YOU'RE STILL A SCIENTIST, YOU JUST WEAR A *DIFFERENT* UNIFORM.

IT'S YOUR *HYPOTHESIS*. YOU KNOW IT WOULD TAKE ME TEN TIMES *LONGER* TO COMPLETE. WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

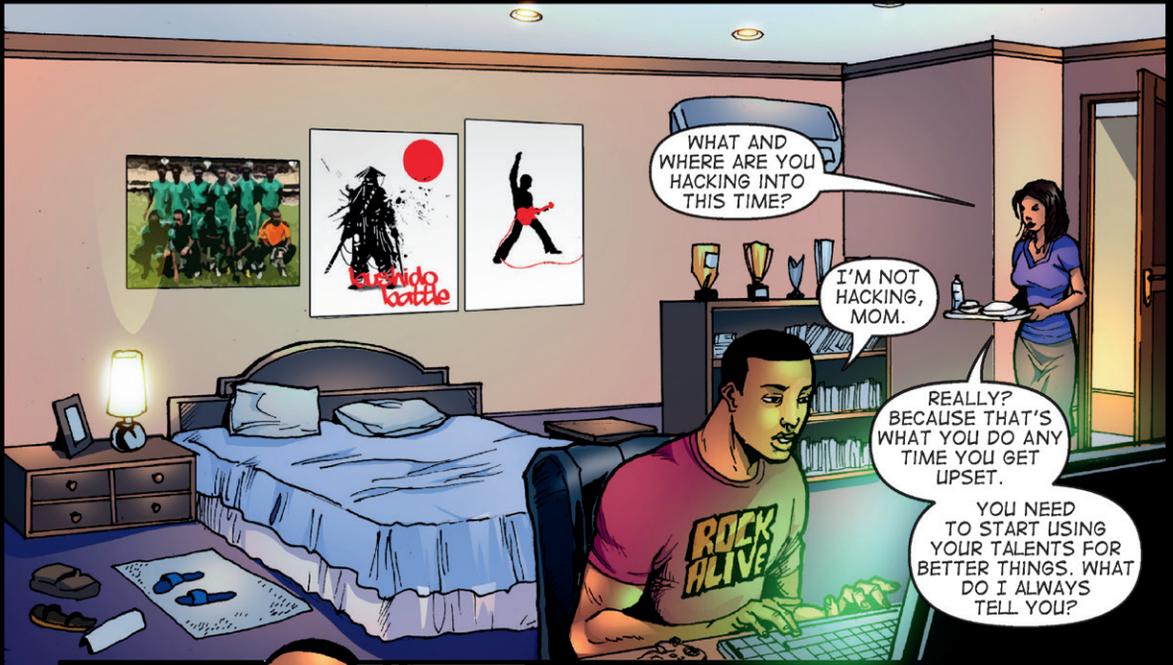


BECAUSE I WARNED YOU NOT TO GET INVOLVED WITH SHADY *POLITICIANS*. YOU GUYS HAVE TURNED MY RESEARCH INTO SOMETHING ELSE.



AND IF YOU THINK I'M GOING TO BE A PART OF IT, YOU MIGHT AS WELL "*LIAISE*" YOUR WAY OUT OF MY HOUSE!





WHAT AND WHERE ARE YOU HACKING INTO THIS TIME?

I'M NOT HACKING, MOM.

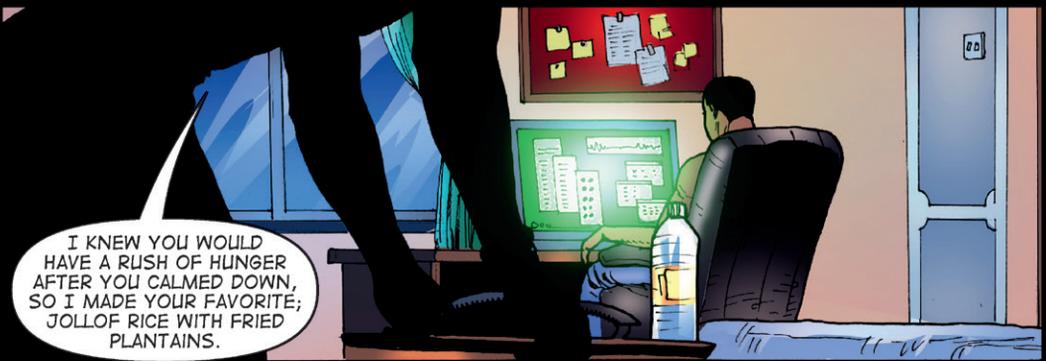
REALLY? BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT YOU DO ANY TIME YOU GET UPSET.

YOU NEED TO START USING YOUR TALENTS FOR BETTER THINGS. WHAT DO I ALWAYS TELL YOU?



"I'M MEANT FOR BIGGER AND GREATER THINGS."

EXACTLY. GIVE YOUR DAD A BREAK. HE'LL COME AROUND.



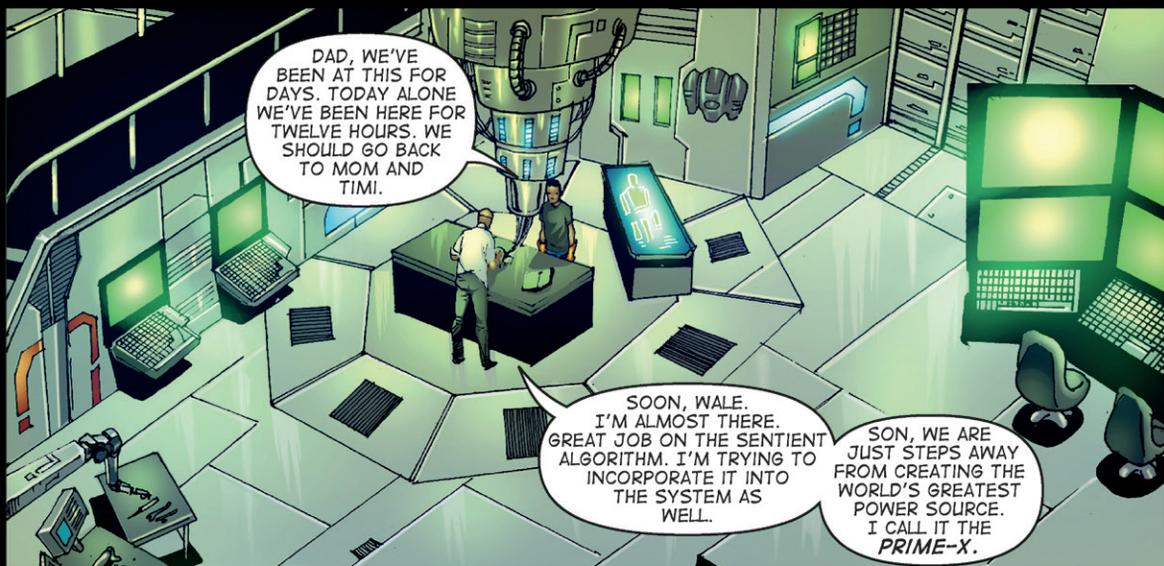
I KNEW YOU WOULD HAVE A RUSH OF HUNGER AFTER YOU CALMED DOWN, SO I MADE YOUR FAVORITE; JOLLOF RICE WITH FRIED PLANTAINS.



I LOVE YOU MORE, SWEETHEART.

WHAT WOULD I DO WITHOUT YOU, MOM... LOVE YOU.

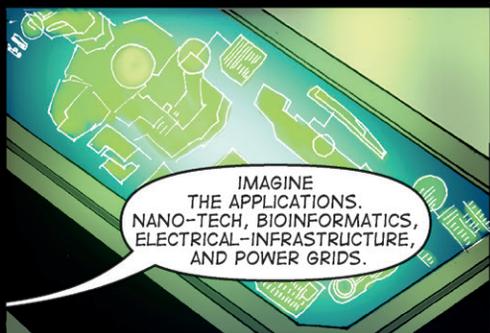




DAD, WE'VE BEEN AT THIS FOR DAYS. TODAY ALONE WE'VE BEEN HERE FOR TWELVE HOURS. WE SHOULD GO BACK TO MOM AND TIMI.

SOON, WALE. I'M ALMOST THERE. GREAT JOB ON THE SENTIENT ALGORITHM. I'M TRYING TO INCORPORATE IT INTO THE SYSTEM AS WELL.

SON, WE ARE JUST STEPS AWAY FROM CREATING THE WORLD'S GREATEST POWER SOURCE. I CALL IT THE PRIME-X.

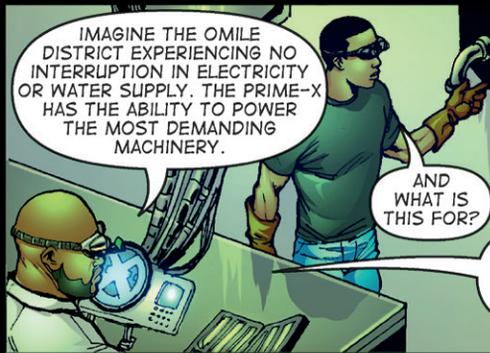


IMAGINE THE APPLICATIONS. NANO-TECH, BIOINFORMATICS, ELECTRICAL-INFRASTRUCTURE, AND POWER GRIDS.



BUT, DAD, WHY AREN'T YOU DOING THIS AT PRYTEK? YOU WORK FOR THEM.

THEY PLAN TO USE MY RESEARCH IN WAYS I DO NOT APPROVE. I'M BUILDING THIS POWER SOURCE TO *HELP* THIS COUNTRY, NOT HARM IT.



IMAGINE THE OMILE DISTRICT EXPERIENCING NO INTERRUPTION IN ELECTRICITY OR WATER SUPPLY. THE PRIME-X HAS THE ABILITY TO POWER THE MOST DEMANDING MACHINERY.

AND WHAT IS THIS FOR?

I FEAR THAT SOME OF MY RESEARCH MAY HAVE ALREADY BEEN COMPROMISED...

A DAY MAY COME WHEN SOMEONE NEEDS SOMETHING, A DETERRENT, TO PROTECT AGAINST THE NEFARIOUS OUTCOME OF THAT MISTAKE.



DAD, THIS HAS TO STOP. I SEE WHAT YOU ARE TRYING TO DO, BUT YOU'RE DOING IT AT THE *EXPENSE* OF YOUR FAMILY.

IT'S NOT *FAIR*. HOW LONG WILL WE TAKE A BACK SEAT TO YOUR *AMBITIONS*?



WALE, I JUST NEED SOME *MORE* TIME. BEAR WITH ME.





TUNDE! YOU GUYS HAVE BEEN HERE FOR *HOURS*. I WAS FINE WHEN YOU DID THIS ALONE, BUT NOW YOU HAVE DRAGGED WALE INTO THIS.

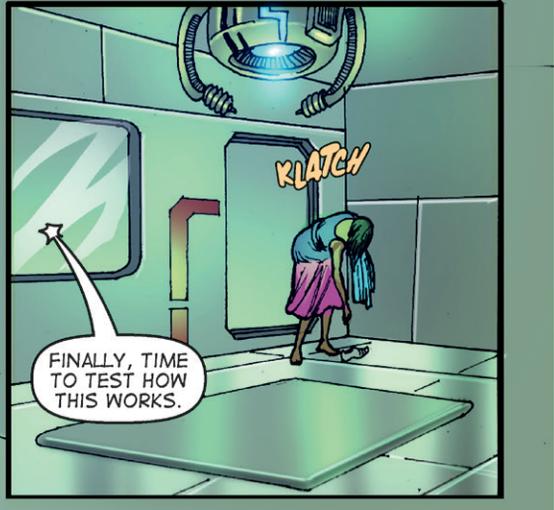
LOLA, THAT'S NOT FAIR. YOU KNOW THE BOY IS HERE OF HIS OWN VOLITION.

TUNDE, YOUR SON IS HERE BECAUSE HE FEELS THIS IS THE ONLY WAY HE CAN BE CLOSER TO HIS FATHER.

IT'S OKAY, DARLING. WE'LL BE UP SOON. WE'RE ALMOST DONE.



DO I HAVE TO CLEAN UP AFTER EVERYONE IN THIS HOUSE?



KLATCH

FINALLY, TIME TO TEST HOW THIS WORKS.



DAD, NO! WAIT! MOM IS--

NOT NOW, WALE! WE'LL GO UPSTAIRS IN A SECOND.



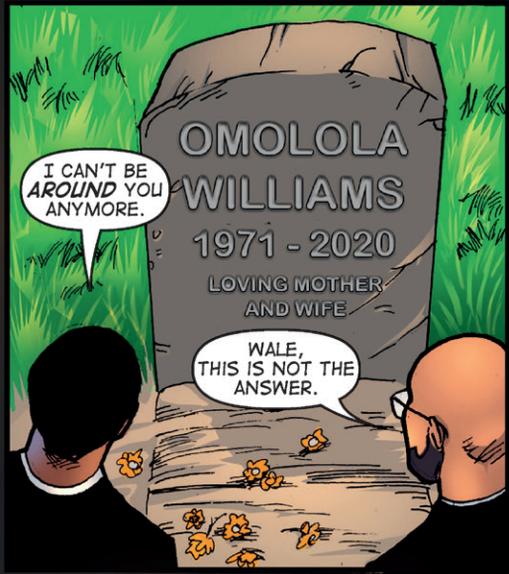
MOM!!!



ARGHHHH







END OF CHAPTER ONE



WINDMAKER™

VOLUME ONE



ROYE
OKUPE

with
SUNKANMI
AKINBOYE

and
TOYIN
AJETUNMOBI



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WINDMAKER™

VOLUME ONE

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ROYE OKUPE

ART
SUNKANMI AKINBOYE

COLORS
TOYIN “MORBY” AJETUNMOBI

LETTERS
SPOOF ANIMATION

COVER ART
SUNKANMI AKINBOYE *with*
colors by **GODWIN AKPAN**

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WINDMAKER VOLUME 1

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"LADIES AND GENTLEMEN... TODAY, I AM HERE TO TELL YOU A STORY UNLIKE ANY OTHER... A STORY THAT YOU WOULD MORE THAN LIKELY DOUBT.

"TRUTH BE TOLD, WERE I IN YOUR SHOES, I CANNOT SAY I WOULD DO DIFFERENTLY.

"BE THAT AS IT MAY, IT IS A STORY I MUST TELL NONETHELESS.

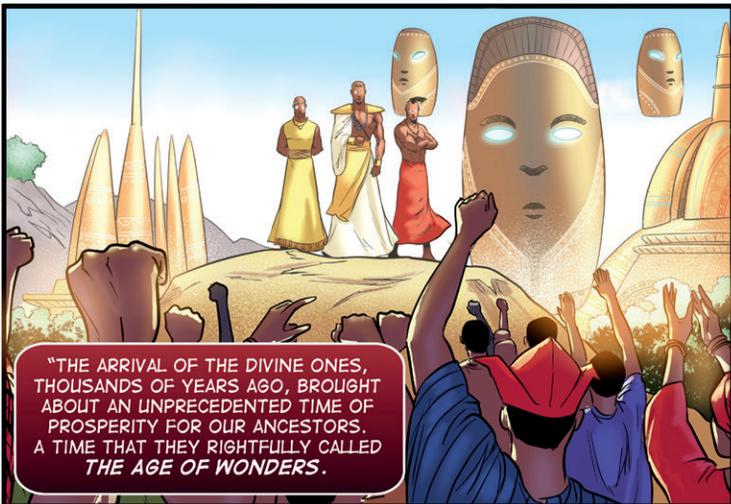


"TO DO SO, I MUST FIRST GO BACK TO THE GENESIS OF OUR BELOVED NATION. THE TRUE HISTORY OF ATALA.

"FOR BEFORE IT BECAME *THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF ATALA*, THIS PLACE WAS A HOLY LAND... A KINGDOM RULED BY OUR 'FABLED DEITIES'... *THE DIVINE ONES*...



"...A KINGDOM NAMED AFTER THE GREATEST OF THEM ALL, *ATALA*, *THE FIRST FATHER*.



"THE ARRIVAL OF THE DIVINE ONES, THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO, BROUGHT ABOUT AN UNPRECEDENTED TIME OF PROSPERITY FOR OUR ANCESTORS. A TIME THAT THEY RIGHTFULLY CALLED *THE AGE OF WONDERS*.



"UNFORTUNATELY, PEACE AND PROSPERITY WERE SOON REPLACED BY CHAOS AND TREACHERY AS THE *OLON JIN*...

"A SECT OF THE DIVINE ONES WHO CRAVED THE IMMENSE POWER DARK MAGIC HAD TO OFFER, CORRUPTED THE HEARTS OF MANY WITH A VERY *POWERFUL WEAPON*. THUS, *THE DIVINE WARS* BEGAN.



"AND EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE DEFEATED, CURSED, AND *BANISHED* TO AN *ISLAND* NO ONE KNOWS WHERE, NEVER TO SET FOOT ON ATALIAN SOIL AGAIN, THEIR TREACHERY STILL PLAGUES US TO THIS VERY DAY.

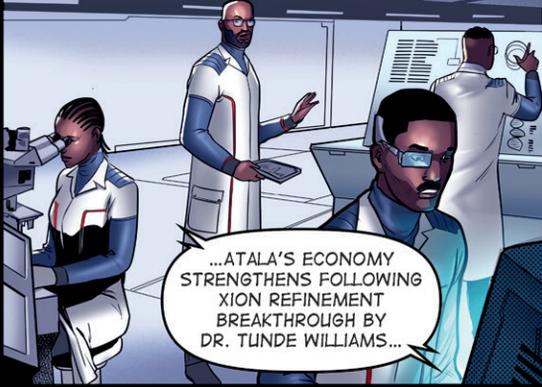
"IN ITS EARLY YEARS, THIS GREAT NATION DID NOT HAVE ITS SHORTAGE OF CONFLICT...BUT THANKFULLY, NEITHER DID IT HAVE A SHORTAGE OF CHAMPIONS.



"AND NO ONE EXEMPLIFIES THIS MORE THAN MY PREDECESSOR, KING BASS KAZAAR, THE LEGENDARY WINDMAKER AND THE LAST KING OF ATALA...

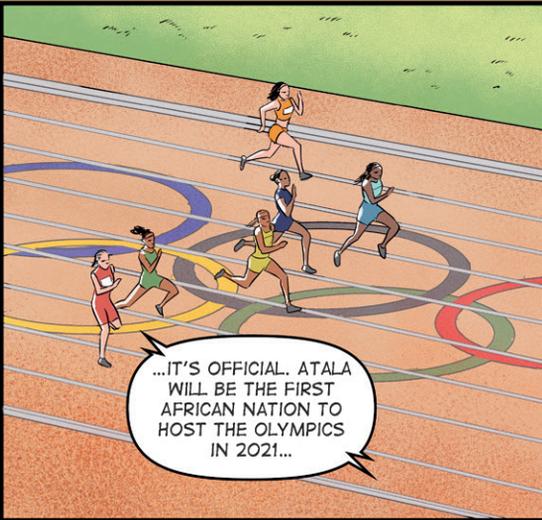
"...WHO IN THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY, DESPITE OVERWHELMING ODDS, WAS ABLE TO DRIVE OFF THE INVADING ROGUE GENERAL CHENG OF THE MIGHTY MING DYNASTY.

"AN ACT THAT WOULD SOW THE SEED OF CENTURIES OF PROSPERITY..."



"...ATALA'S ECONOMY STRENGTHENS FOLLOWING XION REFINEMENT BREAKTHROUGH BY DR. TUNDE WILLIAMS..."

"...SPECTACULAR BEACHES, HISTORICAL SITES, AND EPIC MONUMENTS ARE AMONG THE MANY REASONS ATALA IS NOW NUMBER TWO ON THE LIST OF THE MOST VISITED PLACES IN THE WORLD..."

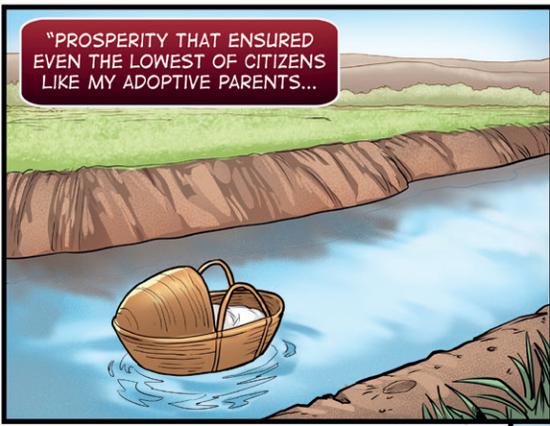


"...IT'S OFFICIAL. ATALA WILL BE THE FIRST AFRICAN NATION TO HOST THE OLYMPICS IN 2021..."



"...ATALA'S AGRICULTURAL BOOM PUSHES ITS GDP TO NUMBER SEVEN..."

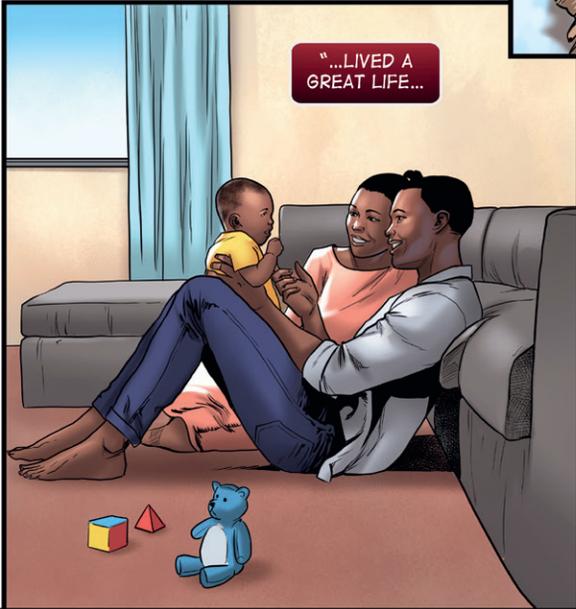




"PROSPERITY THAT ENSURED EVEN THE LOWEST OF CITIZENS LIKE MY ADOPTIVE PARENTS..."



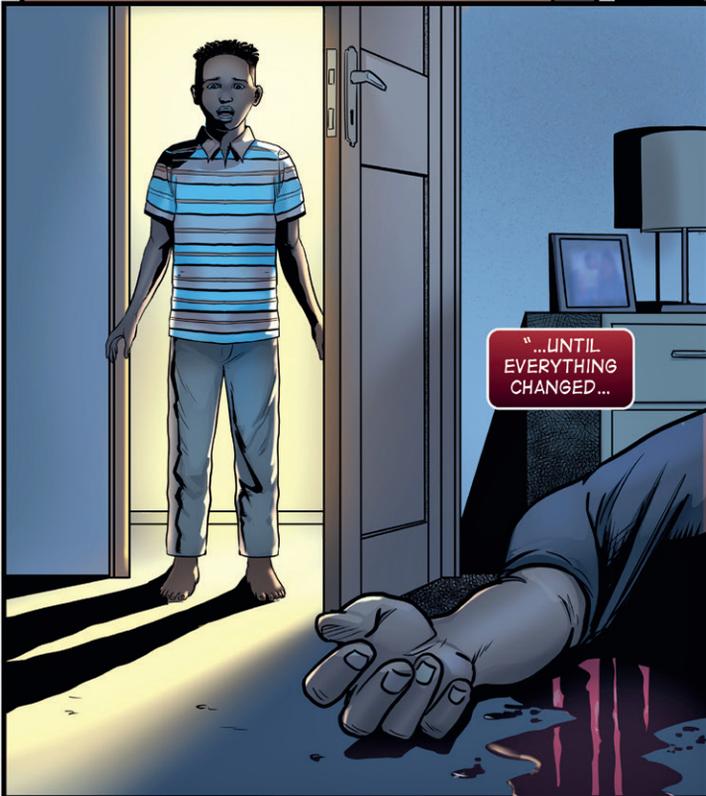
"...MODEST FARMERS WHO LIVED IN THE COUNTRYSIDE..."



"...LIVED A GREAT LIFE..."



"...AND ENJOYED PEACE..."



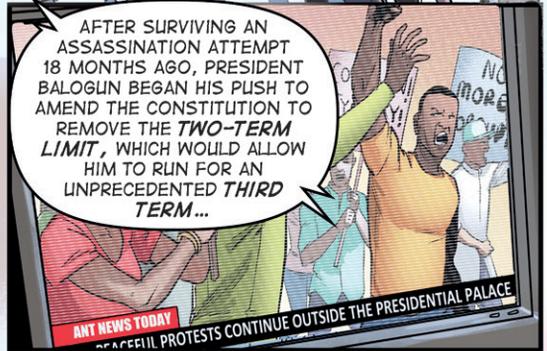
"...UNTIL EVERYTHING CHANGED..."

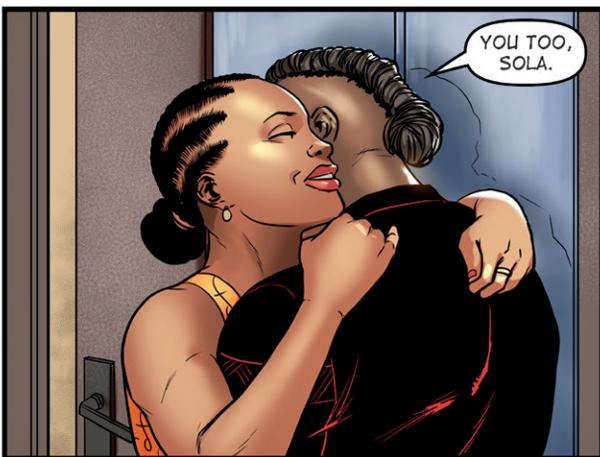
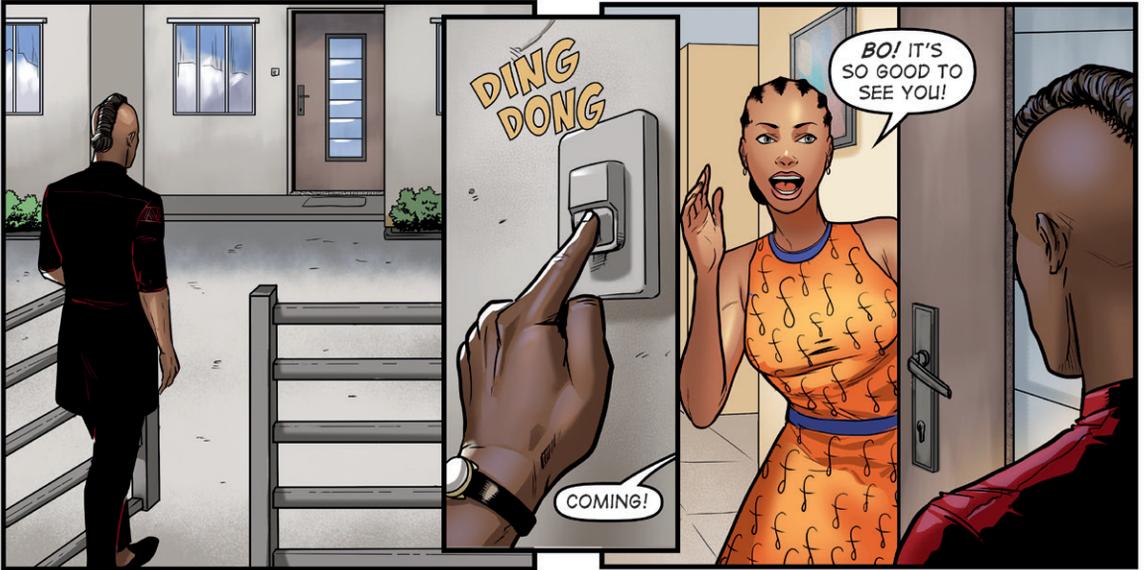


"...FOR THE WORSE..."



THE REPUBLIC OF ATALA.
2025.







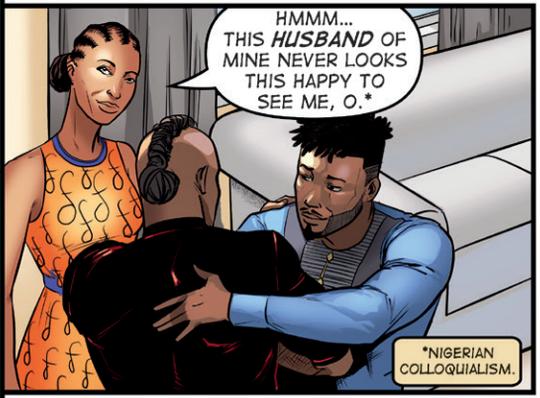
DAYO HAS BEEN WAITING PATIENTL--



BRO!!!



DEE-BOY!



HMMM... THIS HUSBAND OF MINE NEVER LOOKS THIS HAPPY TO SEE ME, O.*

*NIGERIAN COLLOQUIALISM.



*YORUBA VERNACULAR TO ADD EMPHASIS TO THE STATEMENT. PRONOUNCED "JAH-REH."



STOP BEING JEALOUS, JARE.* JUST BE HAPPY HE CAME.

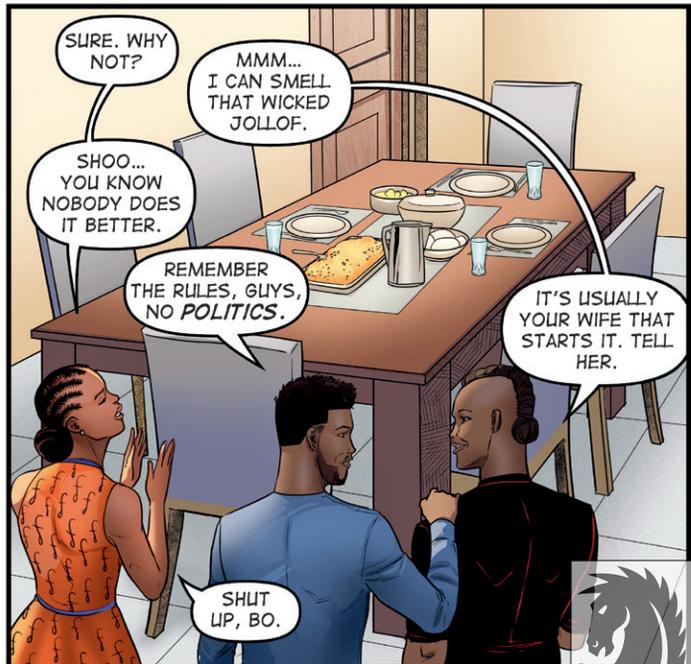


ABI O.* IT'S NOT EVERY DAY WE HAVE THE PRESIDENT'S HEAD OF SECURITY, A.K.A. DIRECTOR OF THE RED KNIGHTS, IN OUR HOUSE.

DON'T FORGET THE "YOUNGEST" DIRECTOR EVER.

WHATEVER! CAN WE EAT PLEASE? I'M HUNGRY.

*YORUBA VERNACULAR USED TO EXPRESS AGREEMENT. PRONOUNCED "AH-BEE-OH."



SURE. WHY NOT?

MMM... I CAN SMELL THAT WICKED JOLLOF.

SHOO... YOU KNOW NOBODY DOES IT BETTER.

REMEMBER THE RULES, GUYS. NO POLITICS.

IT'S USUALLY YOUR WIFE THAT STARTS IT. TELL HER.

SHUT UP, BO.

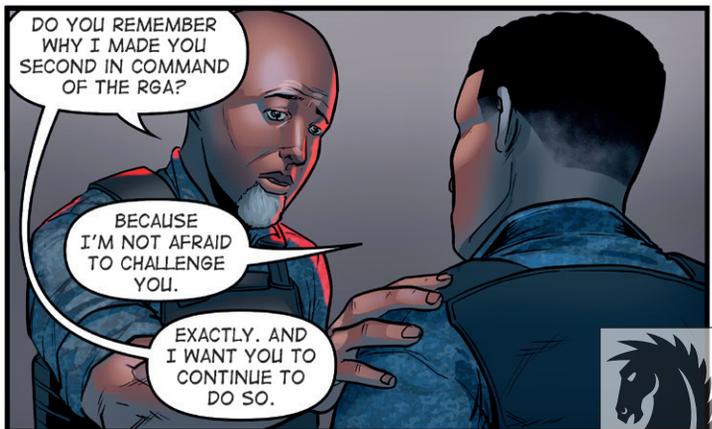


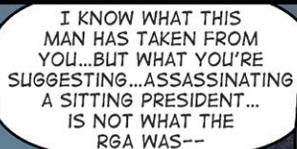
RGa SECRET BASE.
SOMEWHERE IN ATALA.

GENERAL,
YOU ARE TOO
EXPOSED HERE IN
THE CAPITAL. WE NEED
TO GET YOU BACK TO
STRONGHOLD
ASAP.

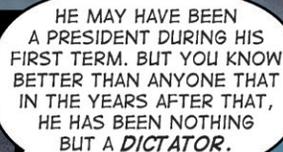
I KNOW, BUT
THERE'S SOMETHING
IMPORTANT
I MUST--



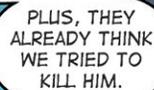




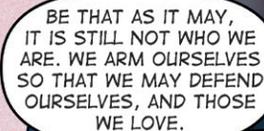
I KNOW WHAT THIS MAN HAS TAKEN FROM YOU...BUT WHAT YOU'RE SUGGESTING...ASSASSINATING A SITTING PRESIDENT... IS NOT WHAT THE RGA WAS--



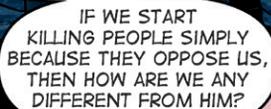
HE MAY HAVE BEEN A PRESIDENT DURING HIS FIRST TERM. BUT YOU KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE THAT IN THE YEARS AFTER THAT, HE HAS BEEN NOTHING BUT A *DICTATOR*.



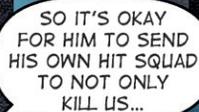
PLUS, THEY ALREADY THINK WE TRIED TO KILL HIM.



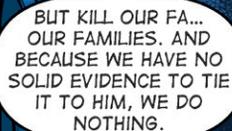
BE THAT AS IT MAY, IT IS STILL NOT WHO WE ARE. WE ARM OURSELVES SO THAT WE MAY DEFEND OURSELVES, AND THOSE WE LOVE.



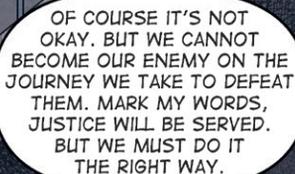
IF WE START KILLING PEOPLE SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY OPPOSE US, THEN HOW ARE WE ANY DIFFERENT FROM HIM?



SO IT'S OKAY FOR HIM TO SEND HIS OWN HIT SQUAD TO NOT ONLY KILL US...



BUT KILL OUR FA... OUR FAMILIES. AND BECAUSE WE HAVE NO SOLID EVIDENCE TO TIE IT TO HIM, WE DO NOTHING.

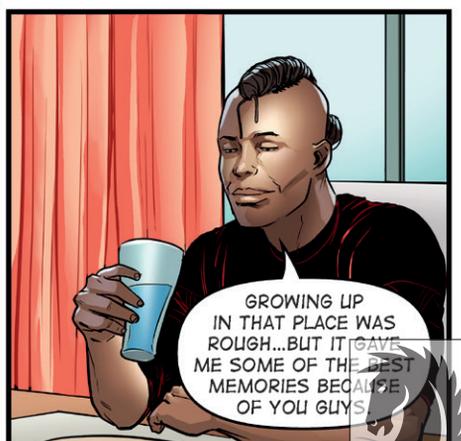
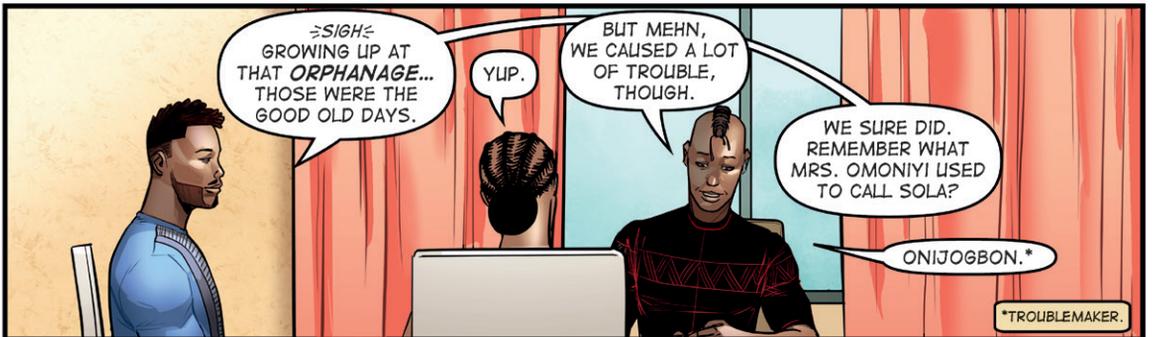
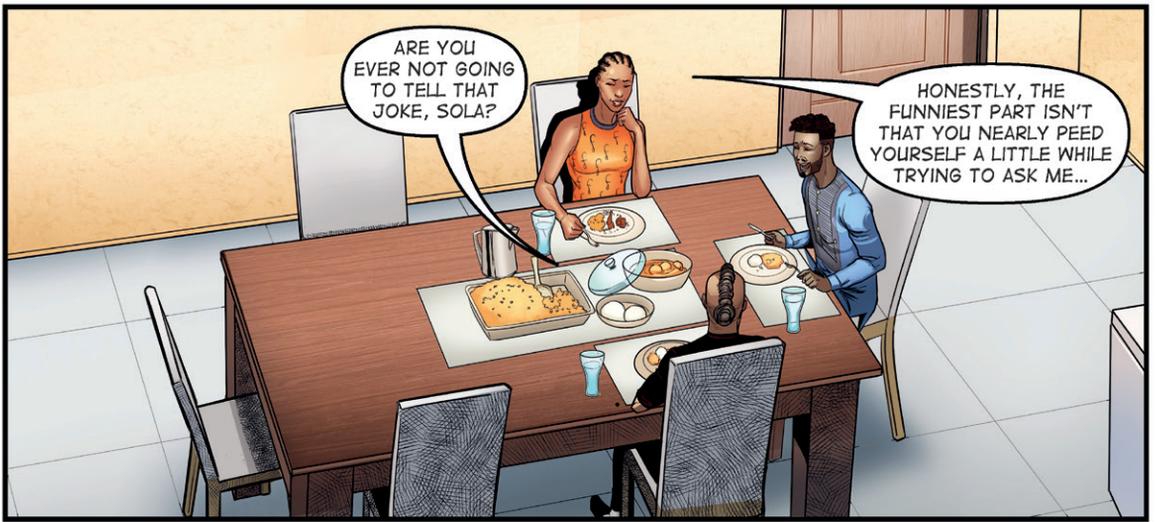


OF COURSE IT'S NOT OKAY. BUT WE CANNOT BECOME OUR ENEMY ON THE JOURNEY WE TAKE TO DEFEAT THEM. MARK MY WORDS, JUSTICE WILL BE SERVED. BUT WE MUST DO IT THE RIGHT WAY.



UNDERSTOOD.







UNTIL MR. PRESIDENT--WELL, VICE PRESIDENT AT THE TIME--CAME AND SCOOPED YOU UP FOR THE ACADEMY.

TECHNICALLY IT WAS THE NOW **FIRST LADY**, SINCE SHE BOTH DESIGNED AND RAN THE ACADEMY PROGRAM THEN.



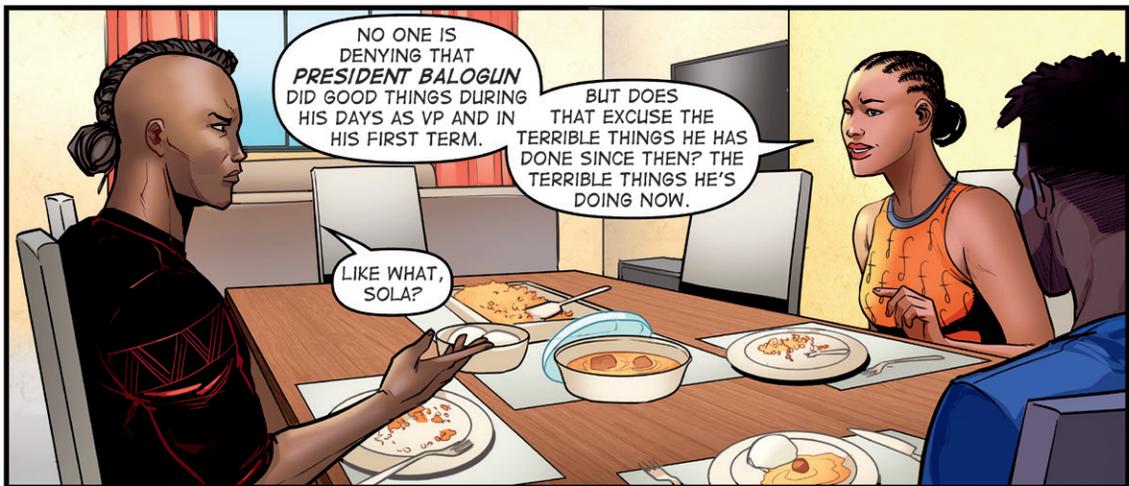
I HAD NO CHOICE, GUYS. BOTH OF YOU WERE ADOPTED THE YEAR BEFORE. I WAS ABOUT TO **AGE OUT** AND FIND MYSELF BACK ON THE STREET.

WE KNOW, BO...WE'RE JUST MESSING WITH YOU.



LOOK... I KNOW HOW YOU GUYS FEEL ABOUT THE PRESIDENT. BUT THE ACADEMY GAVE ME STRUCTURE AND, EVENTUALLY, A HOME, AFTER I SIGNED UP WITH THE **RED KNIGHTS**.

BEING A PART OF THE PRESIDENT'S SECURITY DETAIL ALL THESE YEARS, BEING EXPOSED TO ALL THE GOOD THAT HAS COME OUT OF HIS ADMINISTRATION AND GETTING THE CHANCE TO--



NO ONE IS DENYING THAT **PRESIDENT BALOGUN** DID GOOD THINGS DURING HIS DAYS AS VP AND IN HIS FIRST TERM.

BUT DOES THAT EXCUSE THE TERRIBLE THINGS HE HAS DONE SINCE THEN? THE TERRIBLE THINGS HE'S DOING NOW.

LIKE WHAT, SOLA?



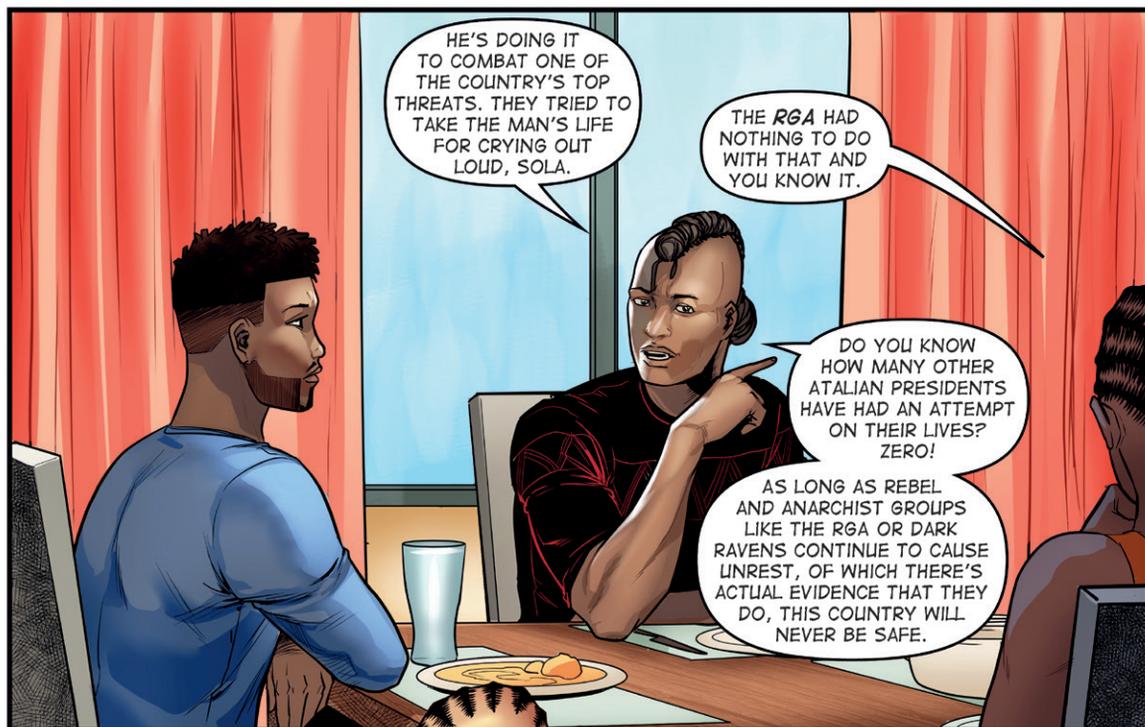
LMM... WHERE DO I START? POLICE BRUTALITY, LACK OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH, LACK OF POLITICAL FREEDOM, LACK OF CIVIL LIBERTY...SHOULD I GO ON? BECAUSE I CAN.

BUT WHERE'S THE EVIDENCE?

REALLY? YOU CAN'T BE THAT NAIVE, BO. LOOK, I KNOW YOU LOVE THE MAN, HE BASICALLY RAISED YOU AS A SON, BUT C'MON, BO...

EVERYONE KNOWS THE MAN IS A GENIUS AT COVERING HIS TRACKS SO HE CAN CONTINUE TO APPEAR LIKE A SAINT TO THE REST OF THE WORLD.







OKAY! OKAY!
ENOUGH! MEHN...WITH
YOU TWO IT'S LIKE DROPPING
MENTOS INTO A BOTTLE OF
COKE WHEN IT COMES
TO THE PRESIDENT.

THAT'S WHY I
SPECIFICALLY SAID
NO POLITICS.



FINE...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
TODAY IS SUPPOSED
TO BE ABOUT FRIENDSHIP
AND GOOD MEMORIES.
I'M RUINING IT,
SORRY.



YES,
YOU ARE. TALK
ABOUT LIVING UP TO
YOUR NAME, ONIJOGBON.
I WISH MRS. OMONIYI
WAS HERE TO PUT YOU
IN YOUR PLACE.



THAT
WOMAN WAS
WICKED, SHA.*

WICKED IS AN
UNDERSTATEMENT.

DO YOU GUYS
REMEMBER
"THE HAND OF
GOD"?

SHEESH. JUST
THINKING ABOUT
HER KNOCKING MY
HEAD IS GIVING ME A
HEADACHE.

AS IN...

*NIGERIAN SLANG. IN
THIS CONTEXT, USED
AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR
THE WORD "THOUGH."



MOMENTS LATER...

GUYS,
THANK YOU SO
MUCH. THIS WAS
MAD FUN.

YES, SIR.
ANYTHING WE CAN
DO TO MAKE YOUR DAY
OFF AWESOME, MISTER
YOUNGEST DIRECTOR OF
THE RED KNIGHTS,
SIR.



WHATEVER...



SERIOUSLY
THOUGH. I KNOW
WE'RE ALWAYS PULLING
YOUR LEG AND WE DON'T
SEE EYE TO EYE CONCERNING
THE PRESIDENT, BUT IT
DOESN'T MEAN WE AREN'T
PROUD OF YOU.

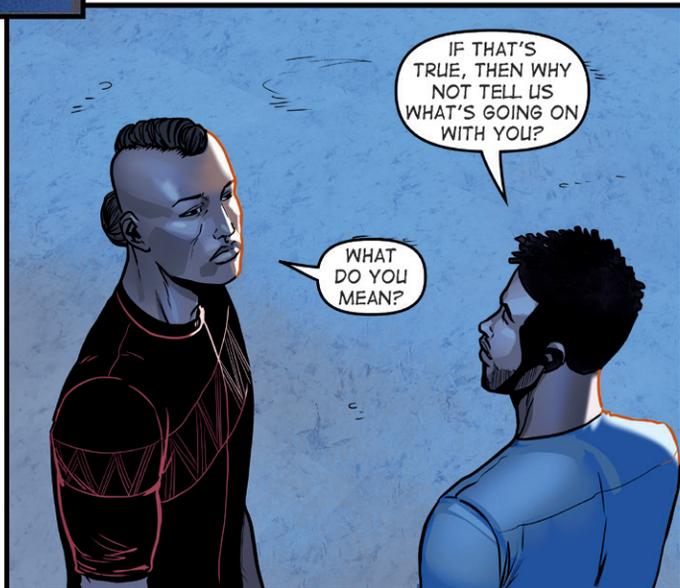


I KNOW.
WE'RE FAMILY.
NO MATTER
WHAT...



IF THAT'S
TRUE, THEN WHY
NOT TELL US
WHAT'S GOING ON
WITH YOU?

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?



BO...
WE'VE KNOWN
EACH OTHER SINCE
WE WERE SIX.

YOU CAN
LAUGH AND PRETEND
LIKE EVERYTHING IS FINE
WITH EVERYONE ELSE, BUT
WE SEE THROUGH IT. AND
YOU KNOW IT.

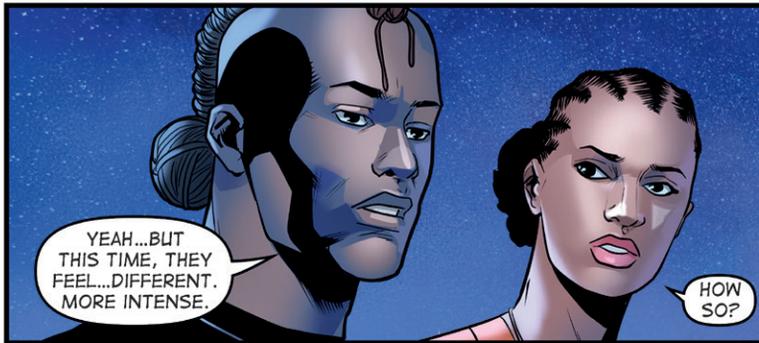


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IT'S THE NIGHTMARES, ISN'T IT? YOU'VE STARTED HAVING THEM AGAIN, ABI?*

*CORRECT?



YEAH...BUT THIS TIME, THEY FEEL...DIFFERENT. MORE INTENSE.

HOW SO?



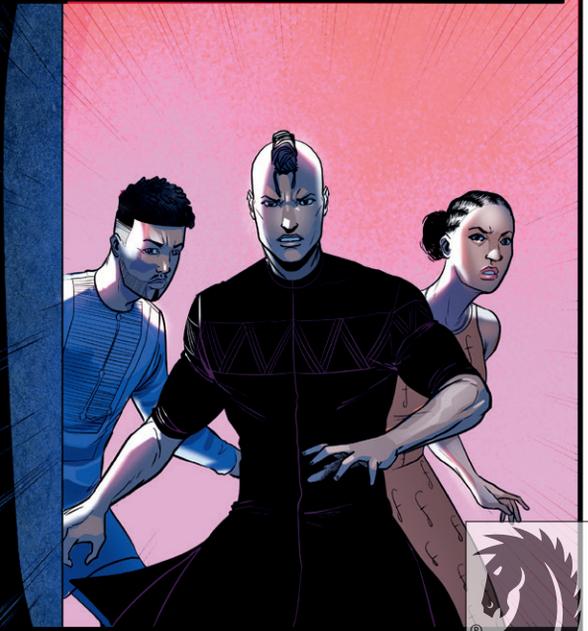
LIKE---

LEAVE ME ALONE!

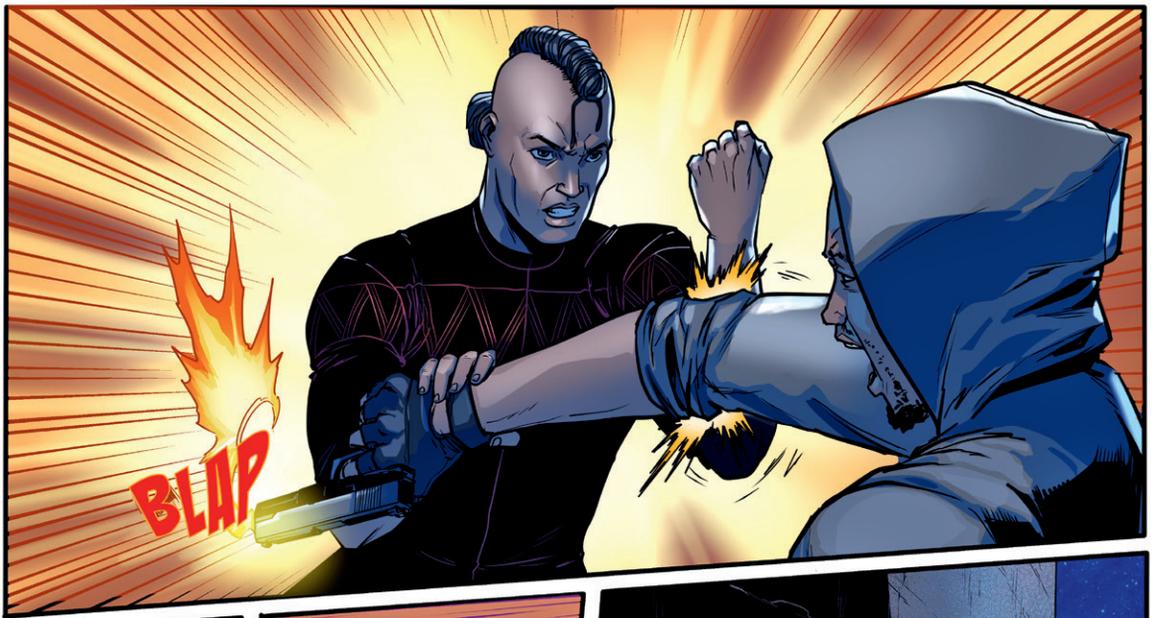


DID YOU GUYS HEAR THAT?

YEAH, IT CAME FROM THERE.













MA,
ARE YOU
OKAY?!



LEAVE ME
ALONE!



I KNOW
WHO YOU ARE...
TRAITOR!

IT'S BECAUSE
YOU CONTINUE TO
SUPPORT THAT DEVIL
IN OFFICE THAT
THUGS LIKE HIM
EXIST.

YOU
HAVE HELPED
THAT MONSTER
DESTROY THIS PLACE.
AND YOU WILL HELP
HIM DESTROY THIS
COUNTRY.



GO BACK TO
YOUR PALACE,
TRAITOR.



I GUESS...
YOU'RE
WELCOME?



SORRY, BRO,
PEOPLE HERE ARE
JUST REALLY HAVING
A TOUGH TIME
AND--

IT'S FINE. I
GET IT. YOU DON'T
HAVE TO EXPLAIN.
TO THEM, I'M
THE ENEMY.

BO, C'MON,
THAT'S NOT--





I'M MORE CONCERNED ABOUT HOW HE WAS ABLE TO GET THIS.



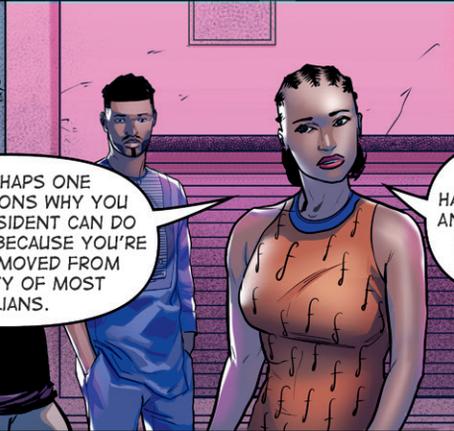
ATALA HAS SOME OF THE BEST GUN LAWS IN THE WORLD THANKS TO BALOGLIN CRACKING DOWN ON GUN VIOLENCE DURING HIS FIRST TERM...

BUT THE IRONY IS THE FALLOUT OF HIS ACTIONS LATELY HAS CAUSED A SURGE IN ILLEGAL GUN OWNERSHIP.



I MEAN NO DISRESPECT...

BUT PERHAPS ONE OF THE REASONS WHY YOU FEEL THE PRESIDENT CAN DO NO WRONG IS BECAUSE YOU'RE TOO FAR REMOVED FROM THE REALITY OF MOST ATALIANS.



YOU'RE OUT OF TOUCH WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE GROUND. AND I MEAN THAT LITERALLY. YOU LIVE IN THE SKY AND HAVEN'T EVEN VISITED IN OVER A YEAR.

THAT'S WHY WE INVITED YOU... SO YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF JUST HOW BAD THINGS HAVE GOTTEN.



AND I SUPPOSE YOU THINK THE RGA IS THE ANSWER?

WHAT IF THEY ARE, BO?



REALLY, SOLA? YOU SERIOUSLY THINK *ERI* AND HIS REBELS ARE READY TO LEAD AN ENTIRE NATION?



SOMETIMES WE HAVE TO TAKE A LEAP OF FAITH AND DO THINGS, EVEN THOUGH WE FEEL WE AREN'T READY OR QUALIFIED ENOUGH TO DO THEM.



