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THE SACRIFICERS™

VOLUME FOUR





Once upon a time, there was
a girl born into splendor.

Born to power.

Promised immortality.

She never knew
why, nor the price.

Only that nothing
could harm her.



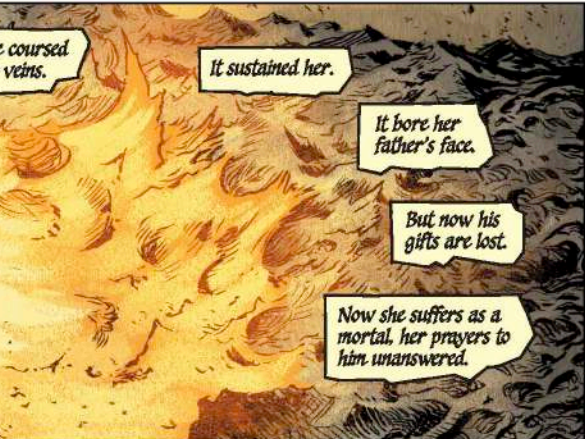
Not death.

Not hunger.

Not cold.

Not fire.

For the fire was
her blood.




Fire coursed
her veins.

It sustained her.

It bore her
father's face.

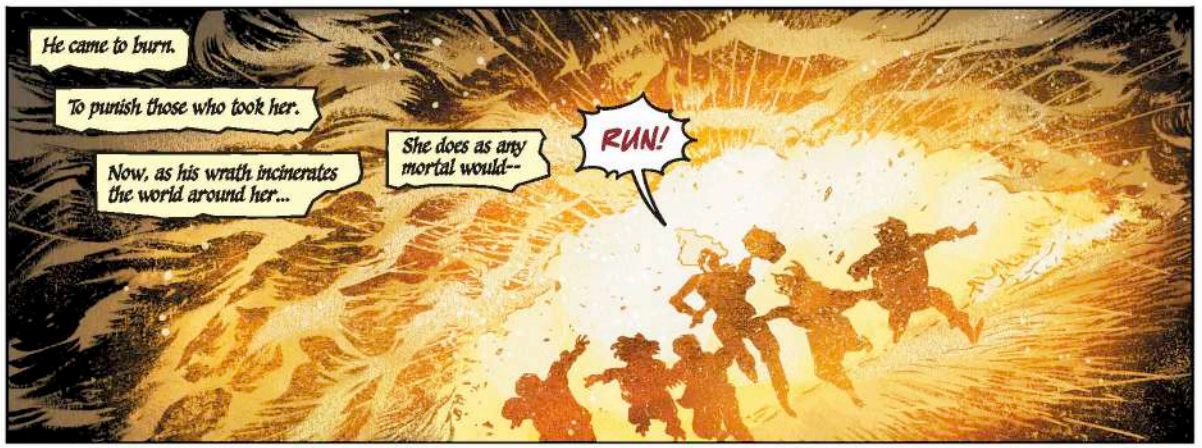
But now his
gifts are lost.

Now she suffers as a
mortal, her prayers to
him unanswered.



As the sky burned upon his
arrival, her relief quickly
gave way to dread.

For Rokos, the Sun God,
had not come to save...



He came to burn.

To punish those who took her.

Now, as his wrath incinerates
the world around her...

She does as any
mortal would--

RUN!



The dead woods
ignite around them.

The sky rips open.

The air scorches like
a blast furnace.

**HURRY--
INTO THE
CAVE!**



She prays the cave
will protect the
children in her care.

AIEEEE--!

The fire does not
heed her plea.

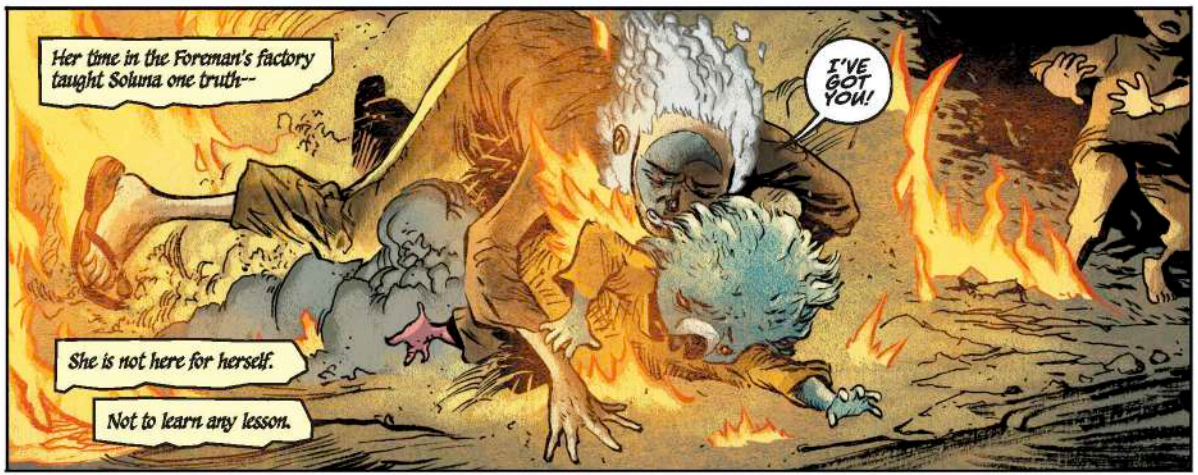


The children's
screams echo--

--bleating calves
led to slaughter.



Before the
thunderous
roar mercifully
smothers their
cries.



Her time in the Foreman's factory taught Soluna one truth--

I'VE GOT YOU!

She is not here for herself.

Not to learn any lesson.



Her duty is to these children.

Bound for sacrifice.

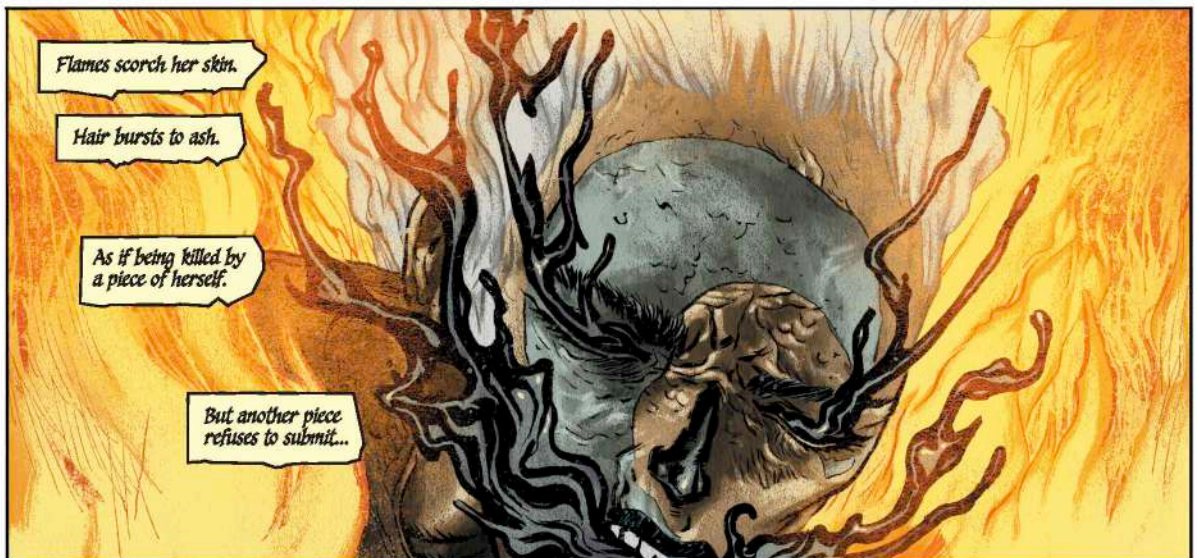
Fodder for the gods.

HOLD ON.



As she prepares to die, a new fire rises in her.

It burns for them.



Flames scorch her skin.

Hair bursts to ash.

As if being killed by a piece of herself.

But another piece refuses to submit...



The spore rises, an inky black shield.

One command hums at its core--

"Keep this pawn alive."



"She is the key to our plans."

The fire consumes it, but it clings.

Its pain shared with the cursed princess.

YERAGHH--!



A curse that guarded her more faithfully than blood.

GET CLOSE!

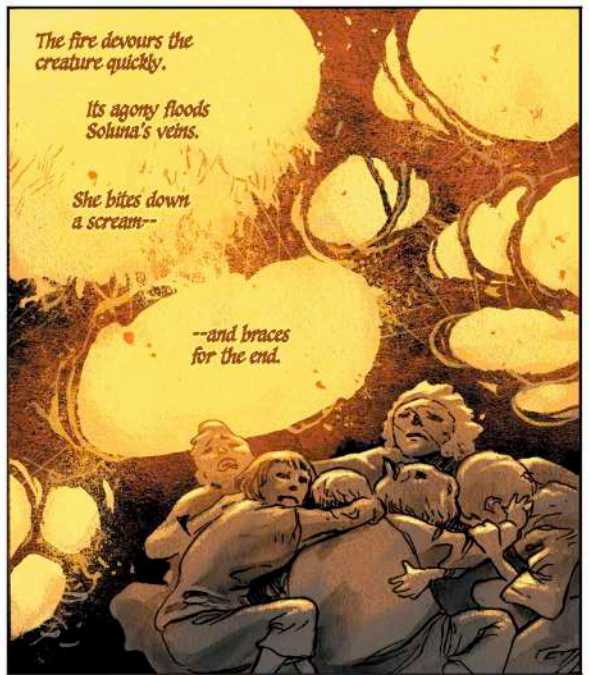


They fold into each other beneath the burning parasite.

None mistake this for salvation.

A respite.

A handful of searing breaths.



The fire devours the creature quickly.

Its agony floods Soluna's veins.

She bites down a scream--

--and braces for the end.