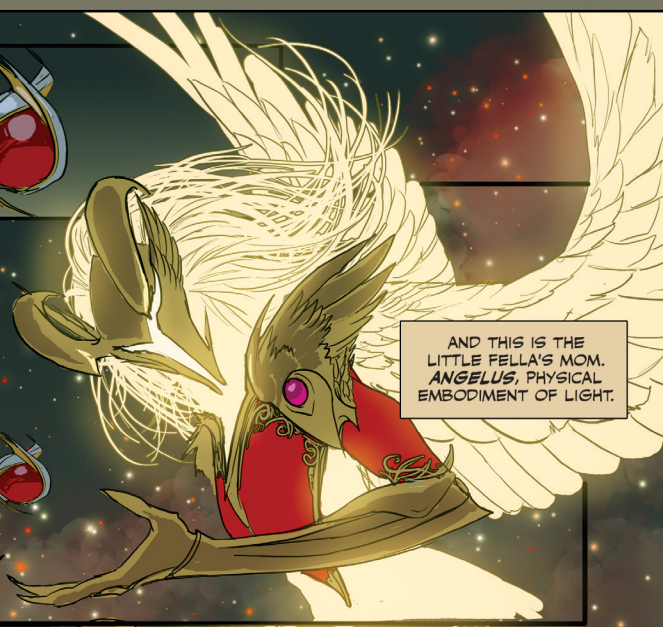




AWW, LOOK AT HIM, LITTLE WITCHBLADE. AIN'T HE CUTE? YEAH... TURNS OUT THAT'S A HE.

AND THESE ARE HIS PARENTS.


HIS DAD, THE DARKNESS, PHYSICAL EMBODIMENT OF THE...WELL... DARKNESS.



AND THIS IS THE LITTLE FELLA'S MOM. ANGELUS, PHYSICAL EMBODIMENT OF LIGHT.



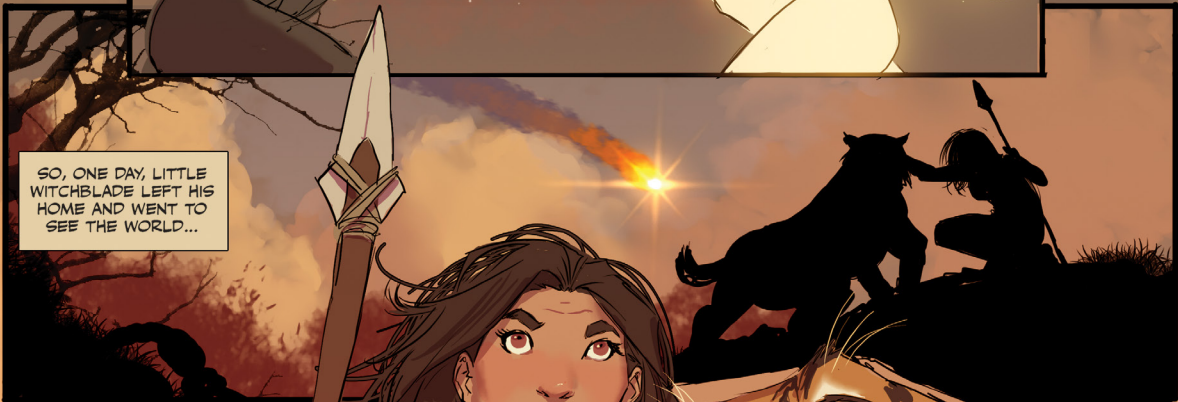
SO...UM, YEAH.



MOM AND DAD DIDN'T REALLY GET ALONG.

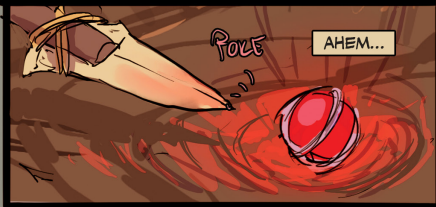


IT WAS...A DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY TO SAY THE LEAST.



SO, ONE DAY, LITTLE WITCHBLADE LEFT HIS HOME AND WENT TO SEE THE WORLD...

AND, TO FIND SOME FRIENDS.



AHEM...

POKE

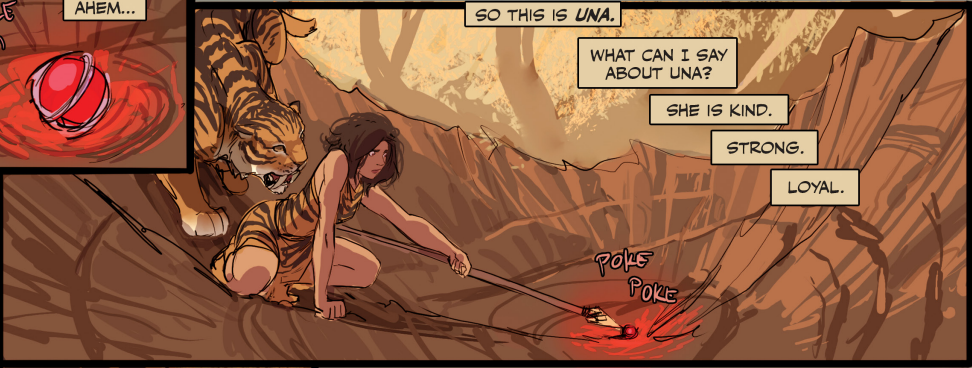


WHAT CAN I SAY ABOUT UNA?

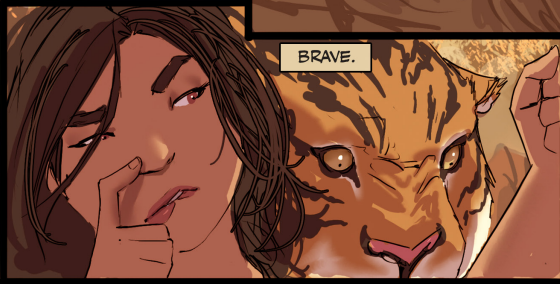
SHE IS KIND.

STRONG.

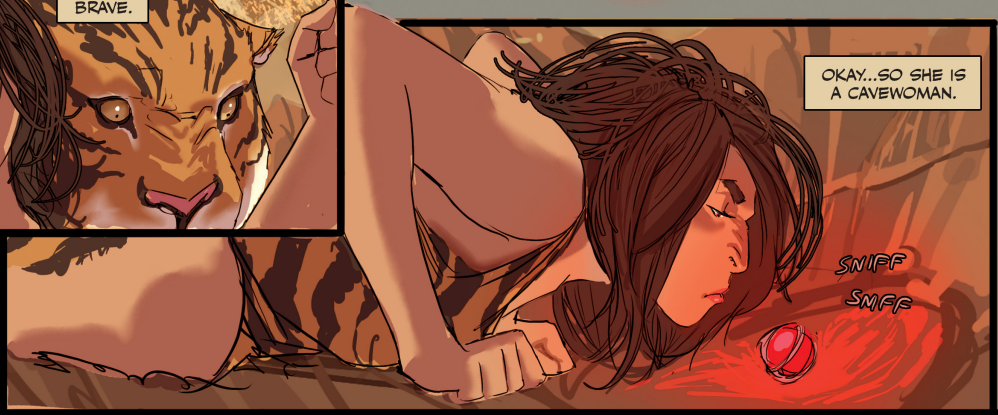
LOYAL.



SO THIS IS UNA.

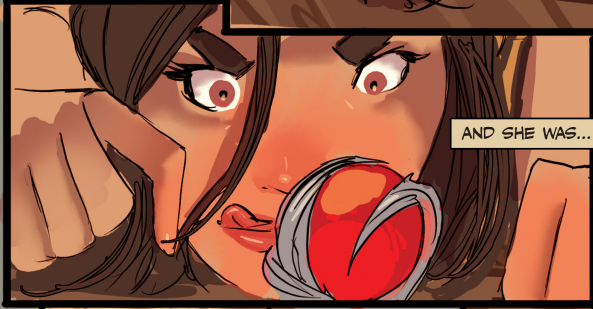


BRAVE.

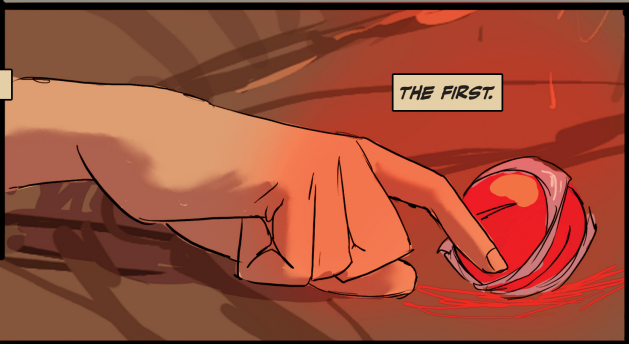


OKAY...SO SHE IS A CAVEWOMAN.

SNIFF  
SNIFF



AND SHE WAS...



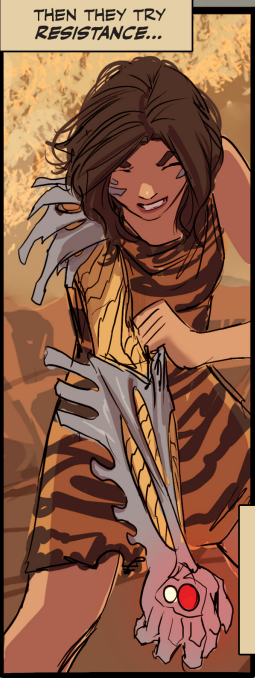
THE FIRST.

NOW, AFTER THIS POINT, THINGS GO EERILY SIMILARLY FOR BEARERS. THERE'S SHOCK...

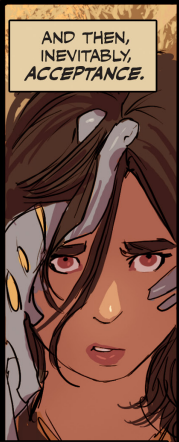


FEAR...

THAT GROWS INTO ALL OUT PANIC.



THEN THEY TRY RESISTANCE...



AND THEN, INEVITABLY, ACCEPTANCE.

MIGHT AS WELL CALL THEM THE "FIVE STAGES OF DEALING WITH THE WITCHBLADE." AND OVER TIME... SO MANY WENT THROUGH THEM.

UNA WAS THE FIRST.

MANY FOLLOWED.

QUEENS.

WARRIORS.

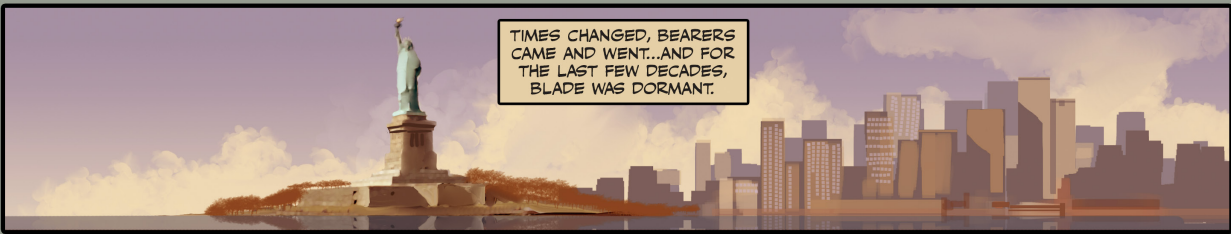
SCHOLARS.

ADVENTURERS.

ALL EXCEPTIONAL WOMEN  
IN THEIR OWN WAY, AND  
ALL POSSESSING A  
HEART OF COURAGE.

AND EVERY SINGLE ONE  
OF THEM, A BEARER  
OF THE WITCHBLADE.  
SO, YEAH...BLADE HAD  
HIGH STANDARDS.





TIMES CHANGED, BEARERS CAME AND WENT..AND FOR THE LAST FEW DECADES, BLADE WAS DORMANT.



AND THEN IT FELT THE CALL.



A NEW BEARER WAS READY.

THE TIME WAS RIGHT!

THE WITCHBLADE KNEW THAT THE BEARER WAS TO BE AN EXCEPTIONAL WOMAN...



LIKE THOSE BEFORE HER.

A PARAGON OF COURAGE...

EXCEPTIONAL WILLPOWER...



AND, MOST LIKELY, GREAT BEAUTY.



SO...WHY DID IT CHOOSE ME?

I HAD MY THEORIES, BUT THE ONE I SETTLED WITH -- AT LEAST FOR A WHILE -- WAS: YOU EAT ENOUGH STEAK, AND AFTER A WHILE YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF CRAVING A BURGER.

AS IT HAPPENS, I WAS WRONG ON THAT ONE, BUT WE'LL GET THERE LATER.



HEY, MARY!!! SPACIN' OUT?

YAAAHHH!!!



THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU, RUDY? JEEZ!

HAAAAHA! OH MAN, TOO EASY... ALSO, SEE WHAT I DID THERE? SPACIN' OUT? PRICELESS.

I...HAVE A THING FOR UFOLOGY.

RUDY THOUGHT IT WAS DUMB.

I REGRET NOTHING!



MMYEAH... A REAL KNEE SLAPPER THERE.

AW, COME ON! BY THE WAY, SINCE WHEN DO YOU WEAR BEANIES? I BARELY RECOGNIZED YOU!

IT'S A NECESSITY -- NOT A FASHION CHOICE.



YOU ROCKIN' A BALDSPOT?

ON THE CONTRARY... NOT HIDING A LOSS.

WHATCHA COVERING THEN?



A FRIGGIN' HORN, OKAY???



EW...UM...ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, YOU JUST PROVED THAT UNICORNS EXIST.

I BELIEVE IN EXTRATERRESTRIALS, NOT FAIRYTALES!

AND THE DIFFERENCE IS?

I HATE YOU!