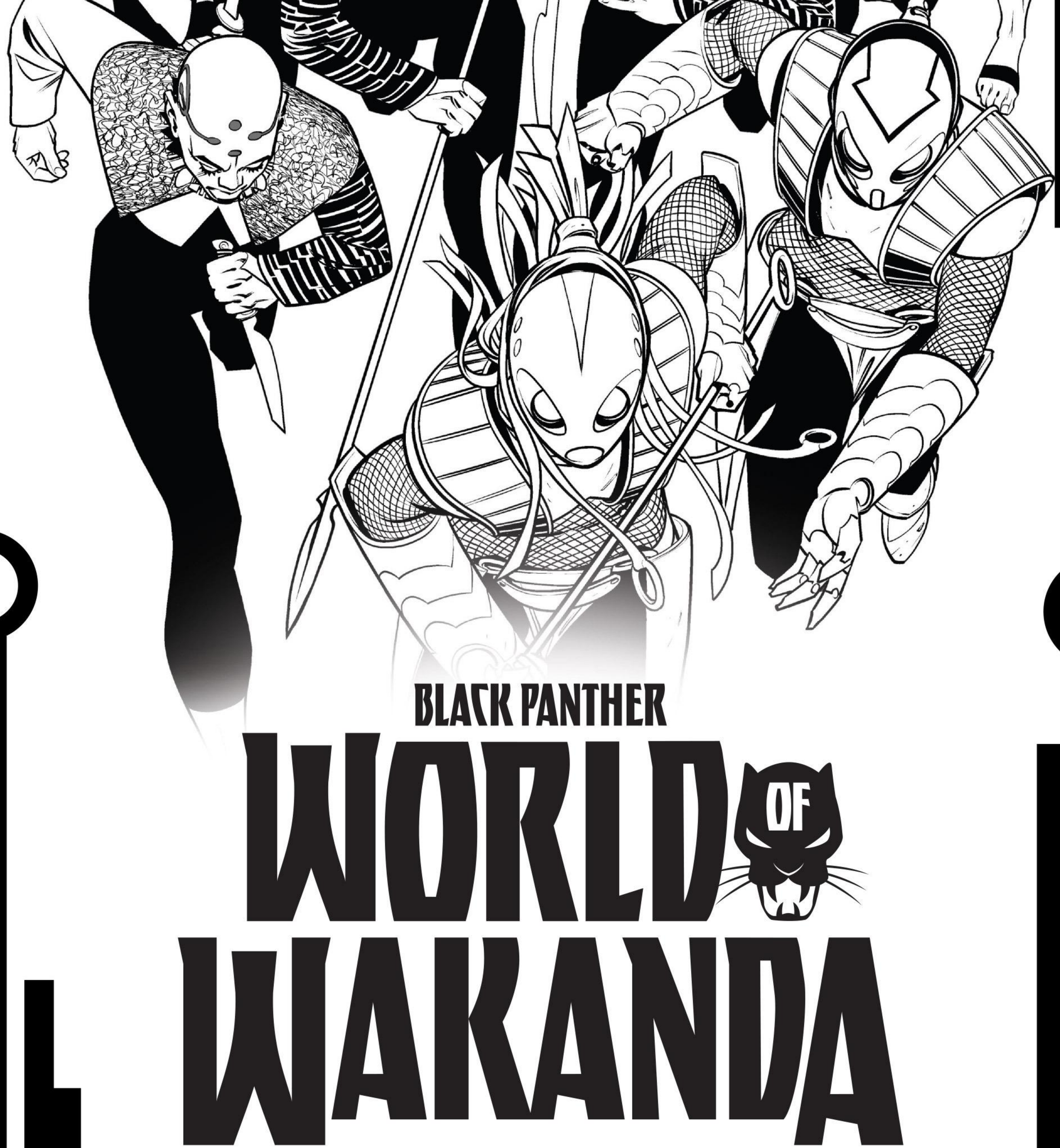
BLACK PANTHER®
WORLD OF WAKANDA™
#5
MARVEL
COATES
GAY
MARTINEZ
POGGI
ROSENBERG



The ***Dora Milaje*** (pronounced "DOR-ah muh-LAH-jay," and which means "Adored Ones") are the personal bodyguards of the Black Panther and the royal family, recruited from every tribe of Wakanda. An ancient tradition originally designed to help keep the peace among the rival tribes, the *Dora Milaje* used to also be potential wives-in-training for the king, but that aspect has since fallen by the wayside. And now the time has come for the *Dora Milaje* to perhaps evolve even further...

Following a devastating attack by Thanos and the Black Order, Wakanda is in chaos. The *Dora Milaje* struggle to balance their allegiance to the crown and responsibility for their own actions.

Two of the *Dora Milaje*, Ayo and Aneka, feel this pain acutely as their feelings for one another grow, forcing them to hide their relationship and calling their priorities into question. Though fellow *Dora Milaje* Folami already knows their secret, when Aneka is honor-bound to kill Folami's father, an abusive village chieftain, the conflict finally boils over...

[This story takes place concurrently with the events of **BLACK PANTHER #1**.]

DAWN OF THE MIDNIGHT ANGELS

part 5

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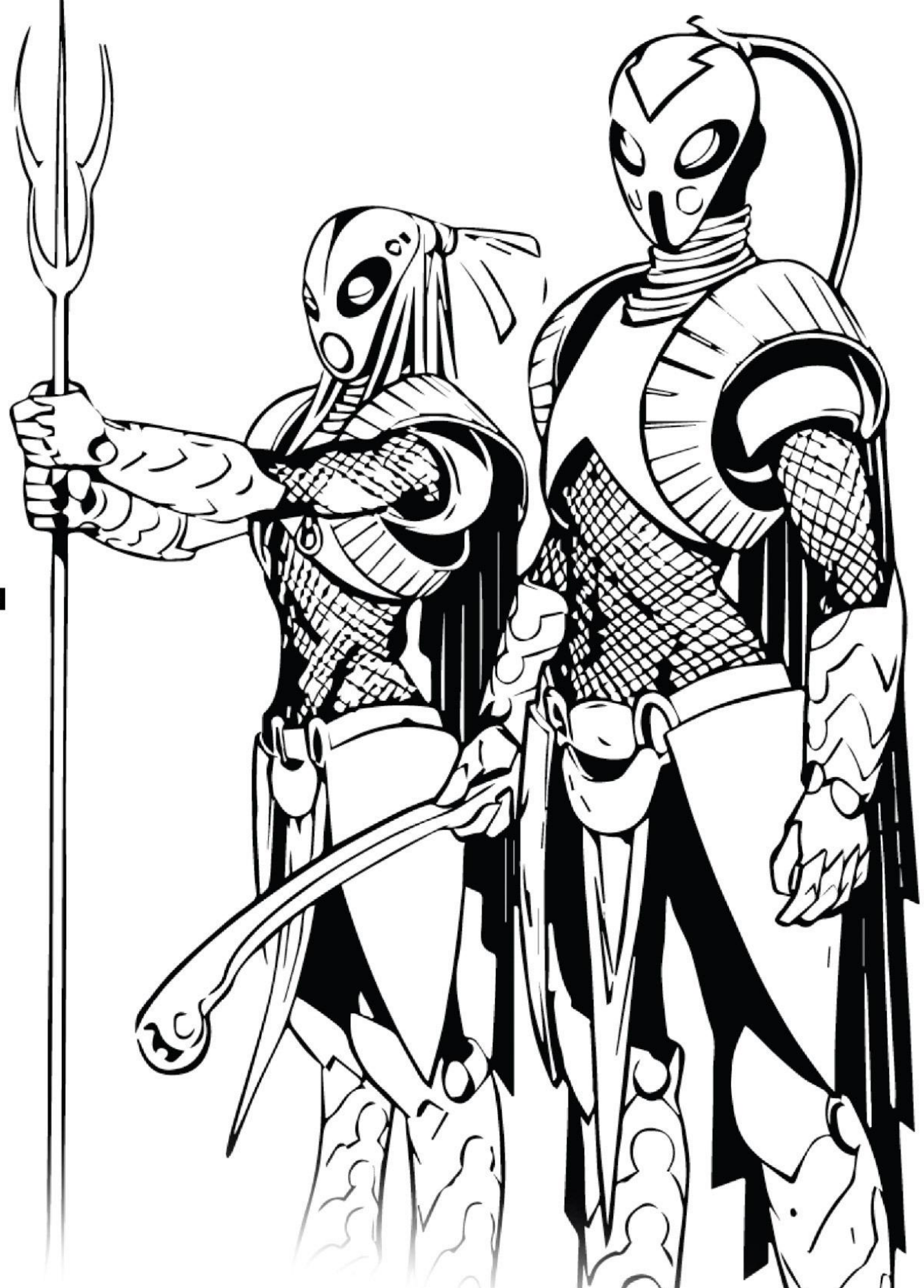

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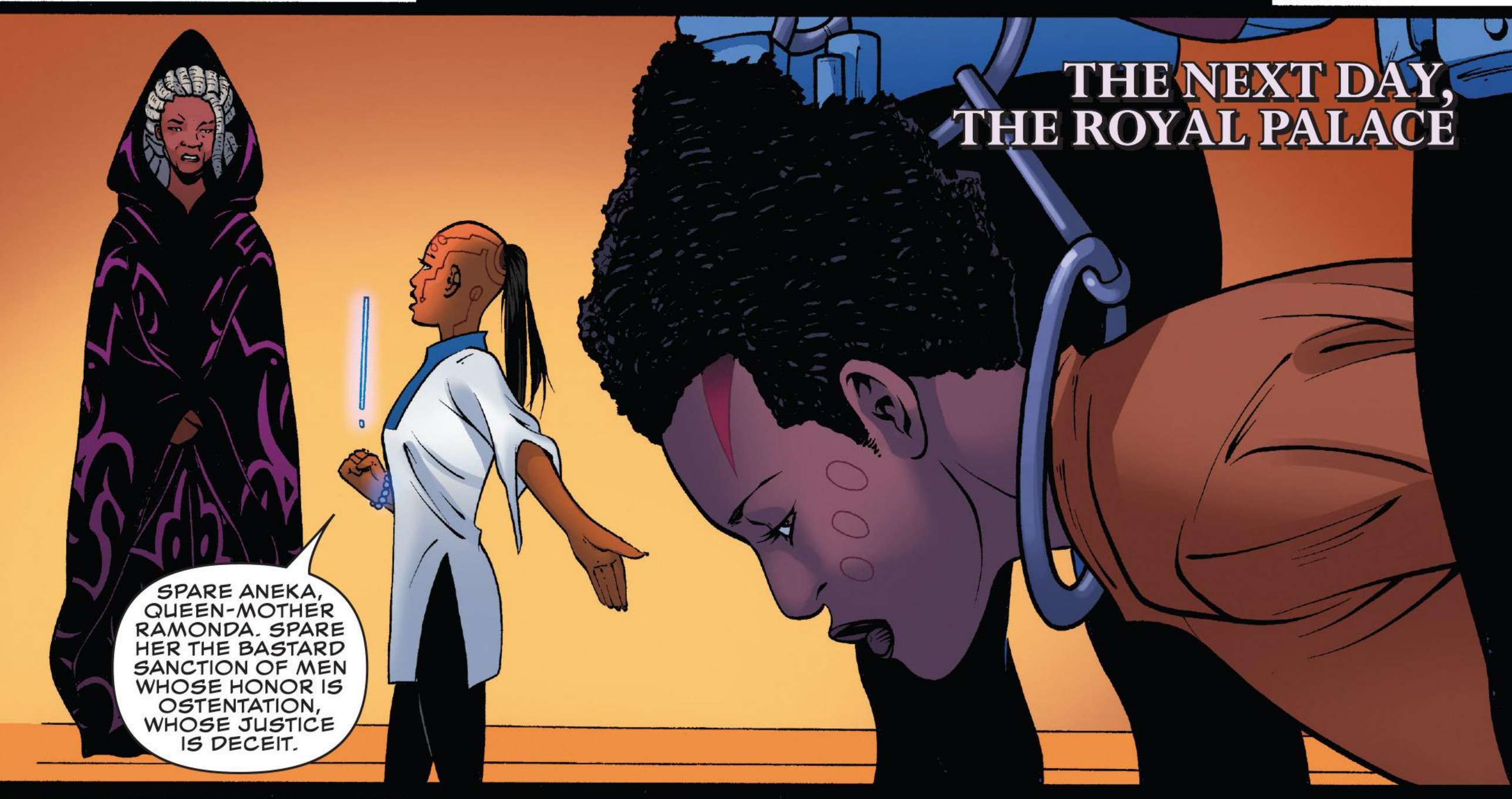
BLACK PANTHER created by **STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY**

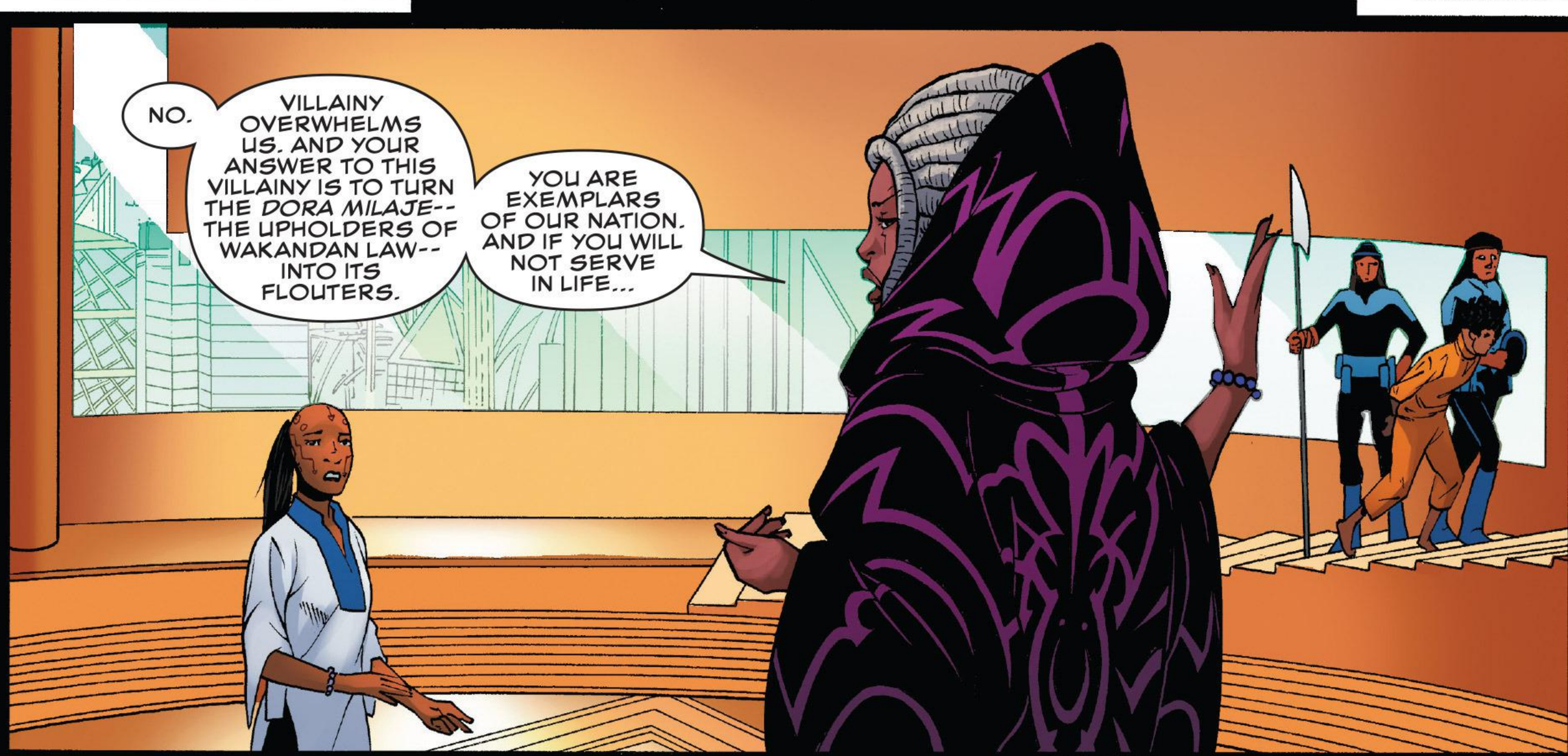
DETENTION FACILITY, THE GOLDEN CITY
FOLAMI, YOU HAVE RETURNED. BACK TO TAUNT ME YET AGAIN?
NO, MURDERER, I AM HERE TO GIVE YOU A LIFETIME OF SLEEPLESS NIGHTS.
LISTEN, FOLAMI, DO WHAT YOU WILL TO ME, BUT LEAVE AYO ALONE! SHE HAD NO PART IN WHAT I DID TO YOUR FATHER, NONE AT ALL.
DO NOT TIRE MY EARS WITH PLEAS FOR MERCY, ANEKA, FOR NOW I AM RAGE, AND RAGE HAS NO NEED FOR MERCY. RAGE HAS NO HEART.
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS, FOLAMI? WHAT IS THIS TABLET FOR? TELL ME!
TURN IT ON IN TWO HOURS OR SO...
...I PROMISE YOU WILL WANT TO WATCH...

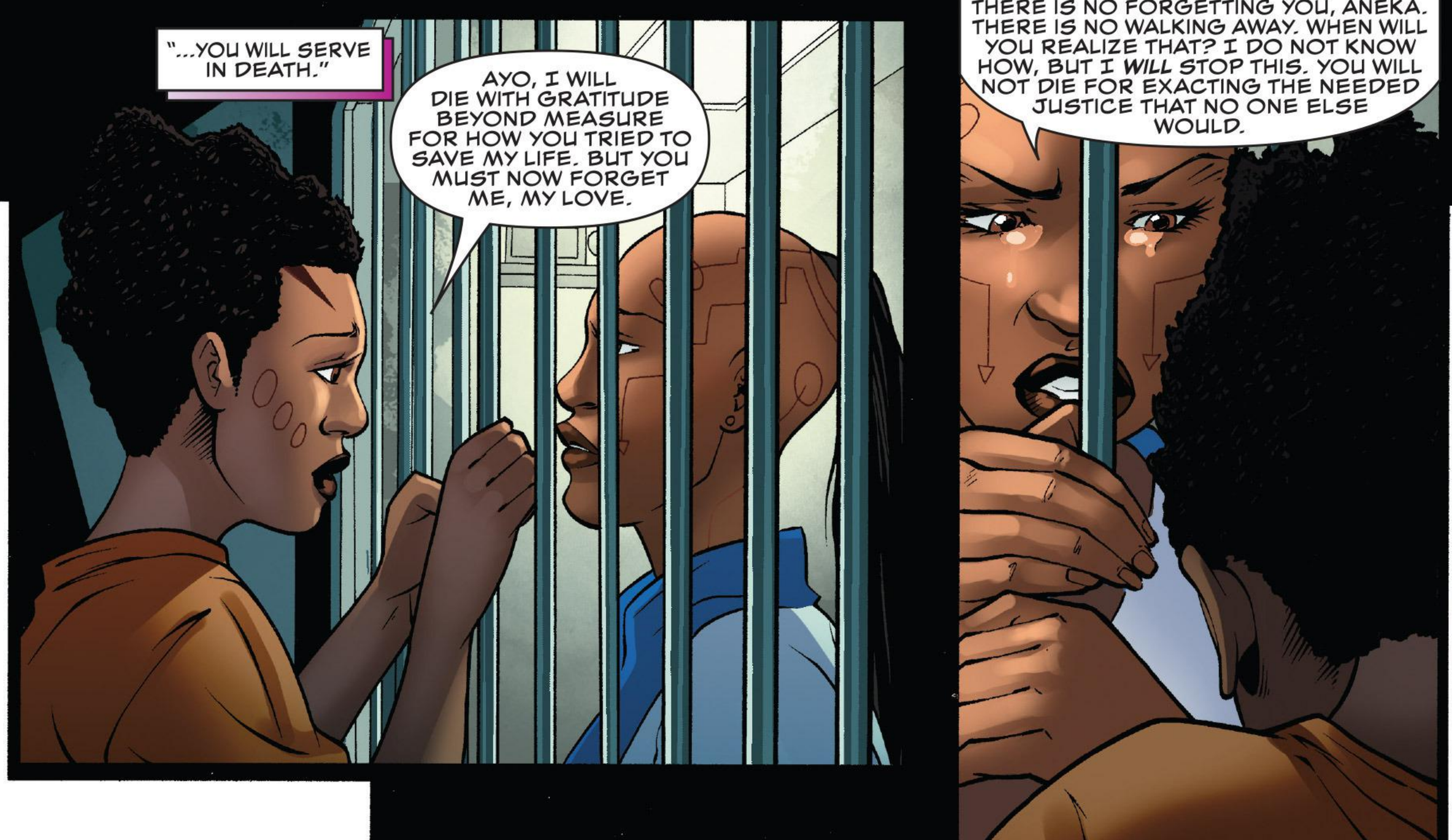
TWO HOURS LATER
GUARDS! SOMEONE, PLEASE HELP! MY COLLEAGUE... MY LOVE IS IN GRAVE DANGER!
NO! THIS CANNOT HAPPEN! AYO, MY LOVE, PLEASE WAKE UP.
GUARDS! GUARDS!

UNH!
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS, FOLAMI? AND I HOPE YOU BROUGHT MORE THAN JUST A *KNIFE* TO THIS FIGHT. YOU DO *NOT* WANT TO TRIFLE WITH ME.
I NEED ONLY MY *BARE HANDS* TO TEAR YOU APART! YOUR LOVER IS GOING TO PAY FOR MURDERING MY FATHER. *MY FATHER!!!*
YOU WILL NEED FAR MORE THAN THAT, FOLAMI. AND YOUR FATHER WAS BROUGHT TO JUSTICE. *HE* SHOULD BE THE OBJECT OF YOUR RAGE, NOT ANEKA.

DO NOT SPEAK AGAINST MY BELOVED FATHER'S MEMORY! DON'T YOU DARE.
YOU WERE NEVER THIS STRONG BEFORE.
SO THE RUMORS ARE TRUE, ARE THEY?
EVEN ENHANCED, YOU ARE STILL NO MATCH FOR ME, FOLAMI.
AAAAA!!
THIS IS SIMPLY ONE MORE THING FOR WHICH YOU WILL HAVE TO PAY.
I WILL HAVE MY VENGEANCE!
YOU CAN TRY, FOLAMI, BUT FOR NOW, BE GONE--
--THE DORA MILAJE IS BETTER TO BE RID OF THE DISGRACE OF YOU.
BAST BE PRAISED...


THE NEXT DAY, THE ROYAL PALACE
SPARE ANEKA, QUEEN-MOTHER RAMONDA. SPARE HER THE BASTARD SANCTION OF MEN WHOSE HONOR IS OSTENTATION, WHOSE JUSTICE IS DECEIT.


NO.
VILLAINY OVERWHELMS US. AND YOUR ANSWER TO THIS VILLAINY IS TO TURN THE *DORA MILAJE*--THE UPHOLDERS OF WAKANDAN LAW--INTO ITS FLOUTERS.
YOU ARE EXEMPLARS OF OUR NATION. AND IF YOU WILL NOT SERVE IN LIFE...


"...YOU WILL SERVE IN DEATH."
AYO, I WILL DIE WITH GRATITUDE BEYOND MEASURE FOR HOW YOU TRIED TO SAVE MY LIFE. BUT YOU MUST NOW FORGET ME, MY LOVE.
THERE IS NO FORGETTING YOU, ANEKA. THERE IS NO WALKING AWAY. WHEN WILL YOU REALIZE THAT? I DO NOT KNOW HOW, BUT I *WILL* STOP THIS. YOU WILL NOT DIE FOR EXACTING THE NEEDED JUSTICE THAT NO ONE ELSE WOULD.

LATER, UPANGA

MISTRESS ZOLA! WE ARE RECEIVING DOZENS OF MESSAGES.

CATCH YOUR BREATH, ONYEKA. SIT. MESSAGES FROM WHOM?

WOMEN! ALL OVER WAKANDA. THEY'VE HEARD OF WHAT ANEKA DID AND ARE NOW ALSO SEEKING OUR HELP.

THERE ARE *SO MANY*, MISTRESS! THERE IS TROUBLE EVERYWHERE.

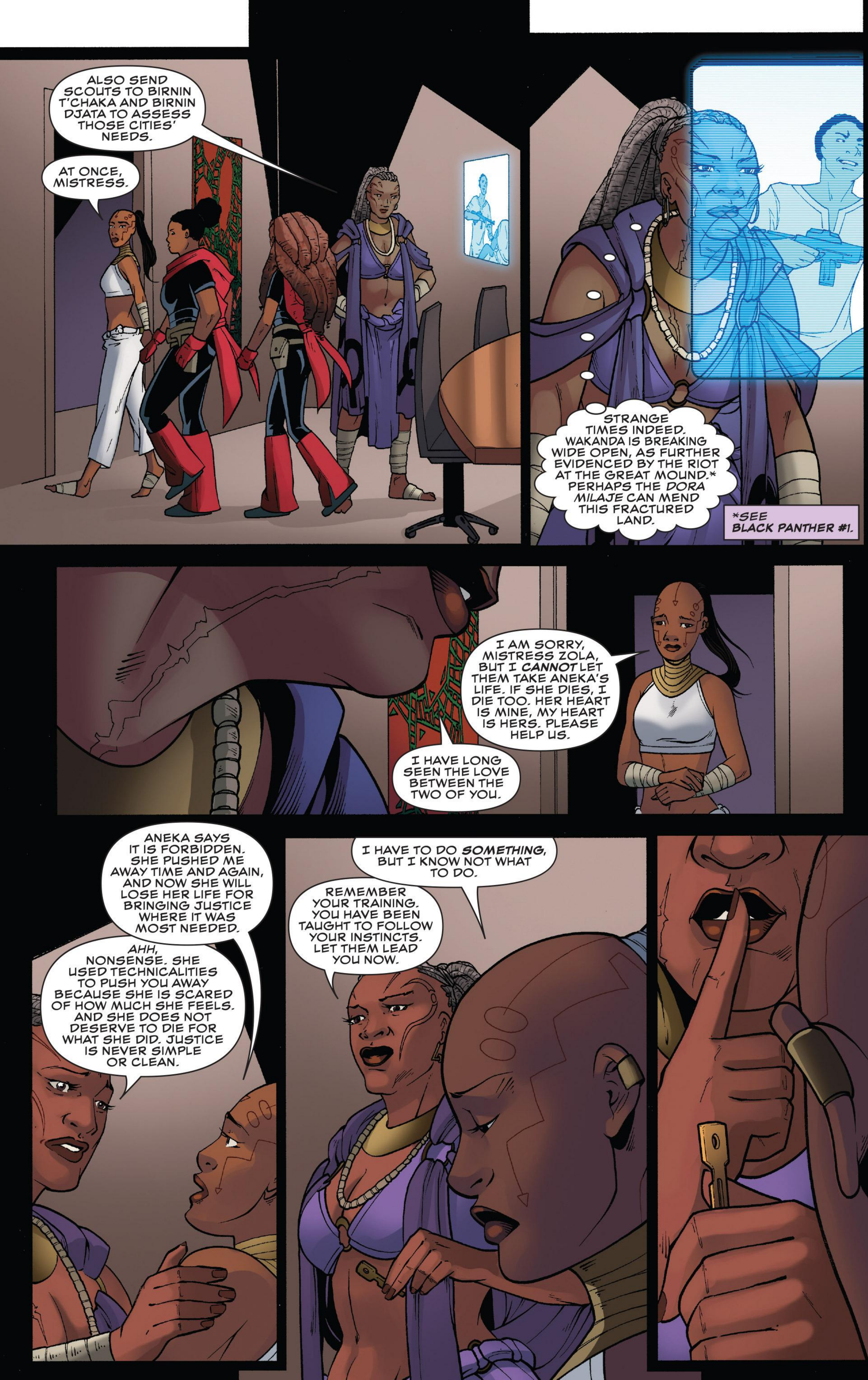
THAT THERE IS, NAILAH--

--BUT ANEKA DID WHAT SHE THOUGHT WAS NECESSARY AND SHE WILL LOSE HER LIFE FOR IT. I WILL NOT PLACE ANY OTHER *DORA MILAJE* IN SUCH DANGER.

WHAT ANEKA DID WAS RIGHTEOUS AND UNAVOIDABLE, BUT IT WILL NOT HAPPEN AGAIN. WE CANNOT SIT IDLY BY WHILE WAKANDANS NEED OUR HELP.

PERHAPS, PERHAPS. TELL ME, WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE WHO SO DESPERATELY NEED OUR HELP?

IN BIRNIN AZZARIA, THERE IS A GANG FORCING STREET VENDORS TO PAY A TARIFF FOR *PROTECTION*. THESE VENDORS ARE JUST TRYING TO SUPPORT THEIR FAMILIES AND CAN ILL AFFORD SUCH EXTORTION.
AND IN BIRNIN S'YAN, YOUNG WOMEN ARE DISAPPEARING AND LOCAL OFFICIALS FEAR TRAFFICKERS ARE TAKING THE WOMEN OUT OF WAKANDA, BUT THEY HAVE NO LEADS.
THERE IS ALSO TROUBLE IN BIRNIN BASHENGA. SUPPLIES ARE NOT REACHING THE CITY, REMOTE AS IT IS. SUPPLY-JACKERS, I SUSPECT. AND ALL OF THIS IS GOING UNANSWERED BECAUSE THE BLACK PANTHER IS DISTRACTED.
HEAVY IS THE HEAD THAT WEARS THE CROWN, MY FRIENDS, HEAVY IS THE HEAD. WE MUST HAVE PATIENCE AS OUR KING READJUSTS TO HIS ROLE, MOURNS THE LOSS OF HIS SISTER, AND DEALS WITH THE MANY BURDENS HE MUST SHOULDER.
BUT WHILE WE ARE BEING PATIENT, ZOLA, WE CAN ACT! WE ARE MANY, WE ARE FIERCE, AND WE ARE WELL TRAINED. SAY THE WORD, MISTRESS, AND WE WILL SERVE NOT ONLY THE BLACK PANTHER, BUT ALL OF WAKANDA IN HER TIME OF NEED!
THESE ARE STRANGE TIMES. BUT, YES, YOU ALL ARE RIGHT-- WE *CAN* DO SOMETHING.
AYO, IN ANEKA'S ABSENCE I AM ELEVATING YOU TO CAPTAIN. SEND TEAMS OF FOUR *DORA MILAJE* TO AZZARIA, S'YAN, AND BASHENGA TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUES THERE.


ALSO SEND SCOUTS TO BIRNIN T'CHAKA AND BIRNIN DJATA TO ASSESS THOSE CITIES' NEEDS.
AT ONCE, MISTRESS.
STRANGE TIMES INDEED. WAKANDA IS BREAKING WIDE OPEN, AS FURTHER EVIDENCED BY THE RIOT AT THE GREAT MOUND.* PERHAPS THE *DORA MILAJE* CAN MEND THIS FRACTURED LAND.
*SEE BLACK PANTHER #1.
I AM SORRY, MISTRESS ZOLA, BUT I ***CANNOT*** LET THEM TAKE ANEKA'S LIFE. IF SHE DIES, I DIE TOO. HER HEART IS MINE, MY HEART IS HERS. PLEASE HELP US.
I HAVE LONG SEEN THE LOVE BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU.
ANEKA SAYS IT IS FORBIDDEN. SHE PUSHED ME AWAY TIME AND AGAIN, AND NOW SHE WILL LOSE HER LIFE FOR BRINGING JUSTICE WHERE IT WAS MOST NEEDED.
AHH, NONSENSE. SHE USED TECHNICALITIES TO PUSH YOU AWAY BECAUSE SHE IS SCARED OF HOW MUCH SHE FEELS. AND SHE DOES NOT DESERVE TO DIE FOR WHAT SHE DID. JUSTICE IS NEVER SIMPLE OR CLEAN.
I HAVE TO DO ***SOMETHING***, BUT I KNOW NOT WHAT TO DO.
REMEMBER YOUR TRAINING. YOU HAVE BEEN TAUGHT TO FOLLOW YOUR INSTINCTS. LET THEM LEAD YOU NOW.

ALPHA UNIT TO BIRNIN AZZARIA, BRAVO UNIT TO BIRNIN BASHENGA, DELTA UNIT TO BIRNIN S'YAN. GOOD LUCK, SISTERS, AND KEEP ME POSTED.
YES, CAPTAIN.
I CANNOT DO NOTHING. I CANNOT FORGET MY LOVE. I CANNOT ABANDON HER TO THIS CRUEL FATE SHE HAS NOT EARNED.
ARMORY
ANEKA, MY LOVE, I AM COMING...

BIRNIN AZZARIA
NO MORE EXCUSES. YOU CAN EITHER PAY *US* OR YOU CAN PAY THE *CONSEQUENCES*...
Sale
THERE WILL BE NO MORE OF THIS EXTORTION.
THE PEOPLE OF AZZARIA ARE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE BLACK PANTHER AND THE *DORA MILAJE*.
THEY ALWAYS HAVE BEEN, BUT CLEARLY A REMINDER IS NEEDED. TODAY, YOU HAVE BEEN REMINDED.
AND WE WILL BE *WATCHING*.
Sale

THERE THEY ARE.
JUST OUTSIDE BIRNIN BASHENGA
QUICK, BEFORE THEY ATTACK THE TRUCK.
SKREEE CRUNCH
TSK, TSK. DID NOT YOUR MOTHERS AND FATHERS TEACH YOU IT IS WRONG TO TAKE WHAT ISN'T YOURS?

BIRNIN S'YAN POLICE STATION
WHAT DO YOU MEAN THERE ARE NO LEADS? DO THE LIVES OF THE WOMEN OF WAKANDA MEAN SO LITTLE TO YOU?

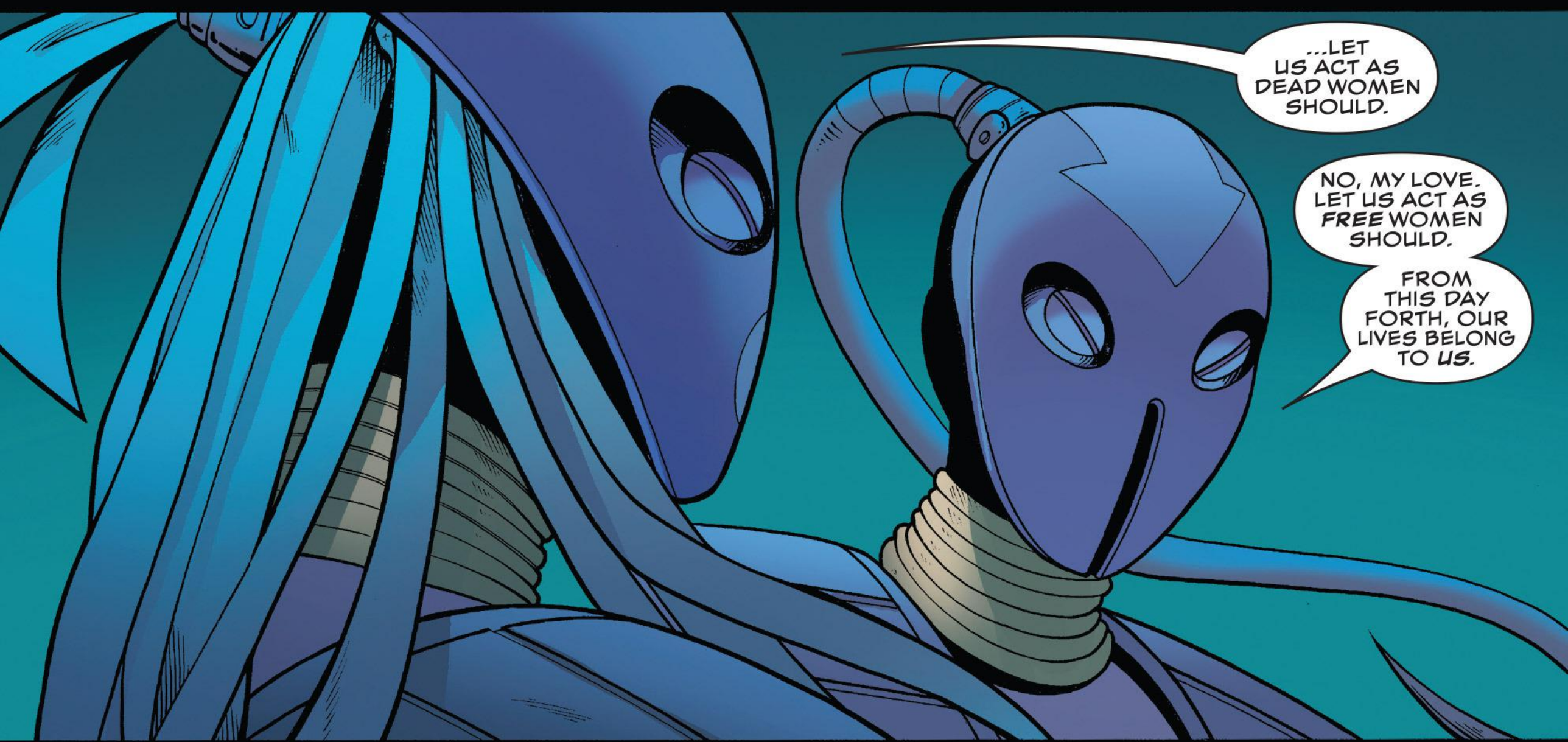
I WILL NOT BE SPOKEN TO LIKE THIS. I AM A *LIEUTENANT*. YOU ARE A...A GLORIFIED *SERVANT*.

AHHHHHHH!!! MY ARM!
FORGIVE ME, LIEUTENANT, I AM JUST A GLORIFIED SERVANT. BUT GLORIFIED AS I AM, I MUST INSIST ON SEEING ALL THE CASE FILES ON THE MISSING GIRLS. FOR IF YOU CANNOT DO YOUR JOB...

"...THE *DORA MILAJE* WILL."

I HAVE TRACKED FOLAMI TO THIS HOTEL. SHE IS MY RESPONSIBILITY, AND NOW I WILL BRING HER TO HEEL.
KRK
FOLAMI--
--YOU HAVE GONE TOO FAR. YOU ARE NOT YOURSELF. IT IS TIME TO OVERCOME YOUR THIRST FOR VENGEANCE. LET ME HELP YOU. LET ME BRING YOU BACK TO WHAT YOU TRAINED TO BE.
ONLY BLOOD WILL QUENCH MY THIRST, ZOLA. ONLY BLOOD.
THERE IS NOTHING THAT CAN QUENCH THE THIRST OF VENGEANCE, NOT EVEN BLOOD.
WE WILL SEE ABOUT THAT.
ARGH!!!
FAREWELL, MISTRESS.
I HAVE TASTED BLOOD, BUT MY THIRST IS NOT YET QUENCHED. IT WILL BE, THOUGH. IT WILL BE...

THE PRISON CELLS OF FORT HAHN
BACK AWAY FROM THE WALL, ANEKA.
AYO? NO. DON'T DO IT.
FOR ONCE IN YOUR STUBBORN LIFE, DO AS I SAY. BACK AWAY!
DON'T RUIN YOUR LIFE TO SAVE WHAT'S LEFT OF MINE, BELOVED.
WAIT, AYO, BEHIND YOU!
GET DOW-- NNNH!
"ONLY YOU WOULD BE SO MAD AS TO STEAL THE MIDNIGHT ANGEL PROTOTYPES. NOW THEY ARE GOING TO KILL US BOTH. WELL THEN..."


...LET US ACT AS DEAD WOMEN SHOULD.
NO, MY LOVE. LET US ACT AS *FREE* WOMEN SHOULD.
FROM THIS DAY FORTH, OUR LIVES BELONG TO *US*.

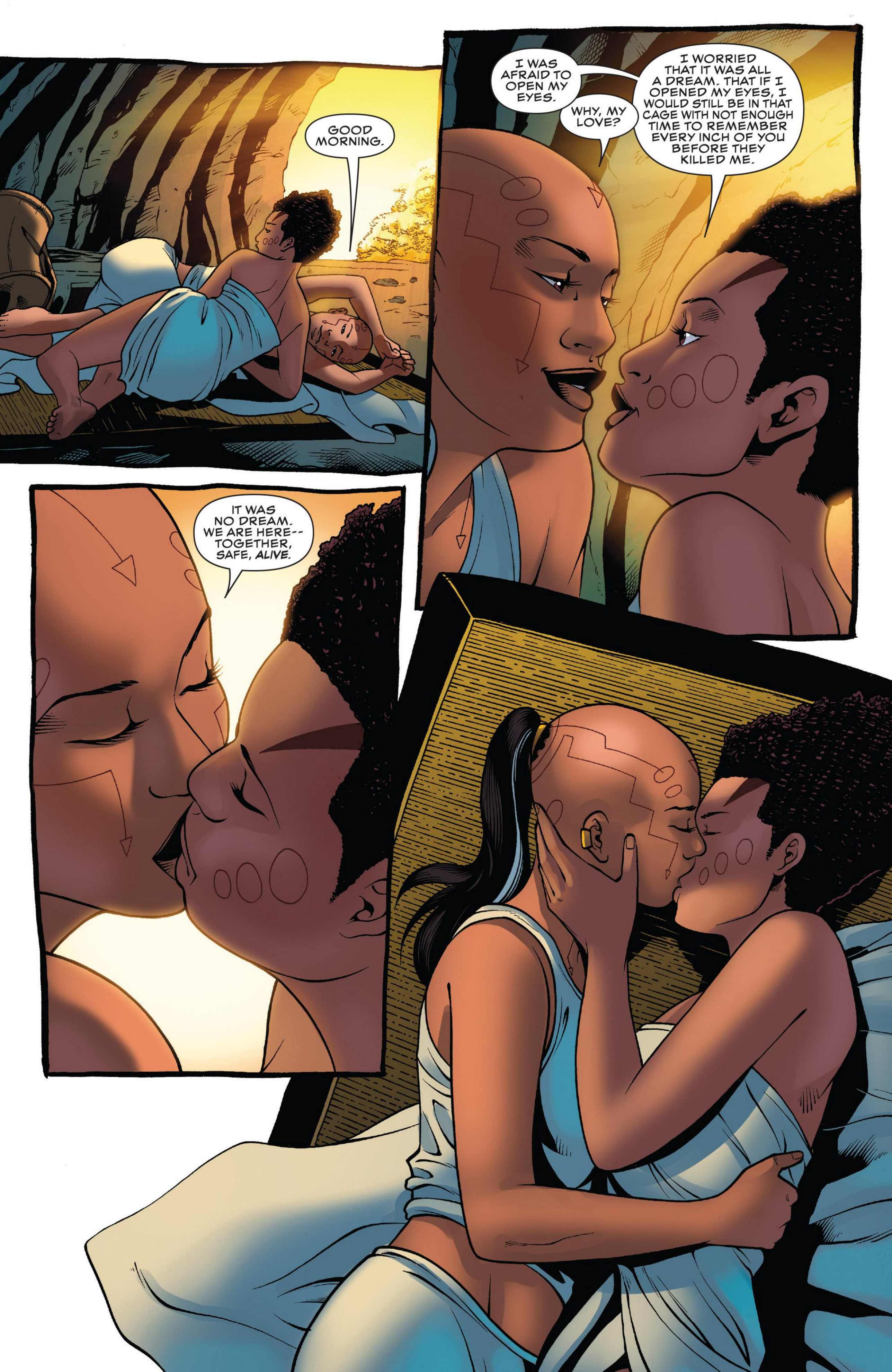
THIS WOULD GO MUCH FASTER IF WE USED THE SUITS' ABILITY TO FLY, ANEKA, MY LOVE.
NOT UNTIL THERE IS MORE DISTANCE BETWEEN US AND THE GOLDEN CITY. THEY ARE LOOKING FOR US. WE MUST STAY HIDDEN... FOR NOW.

BUT LET US REST FOR A SPELL. I AM NOT YET BACK TO MY OLD SELF.
VERY FUNNY, BELOVED.
NOW ARE YOU READY TO FLY?

THEN LET US REST IN THERE. WE WILL MAKE CAMP IN THAT CAVE.

I COULD WATCH YOU SLEEP AND BE CONTENT FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE. I WOULD NEVER LEAVE YOU TO BE MURDERED BY THE VERY PEOPLE WHO SHOULD HAVE HONORED THE JUSTICE YOU EXACTED. NEVER.

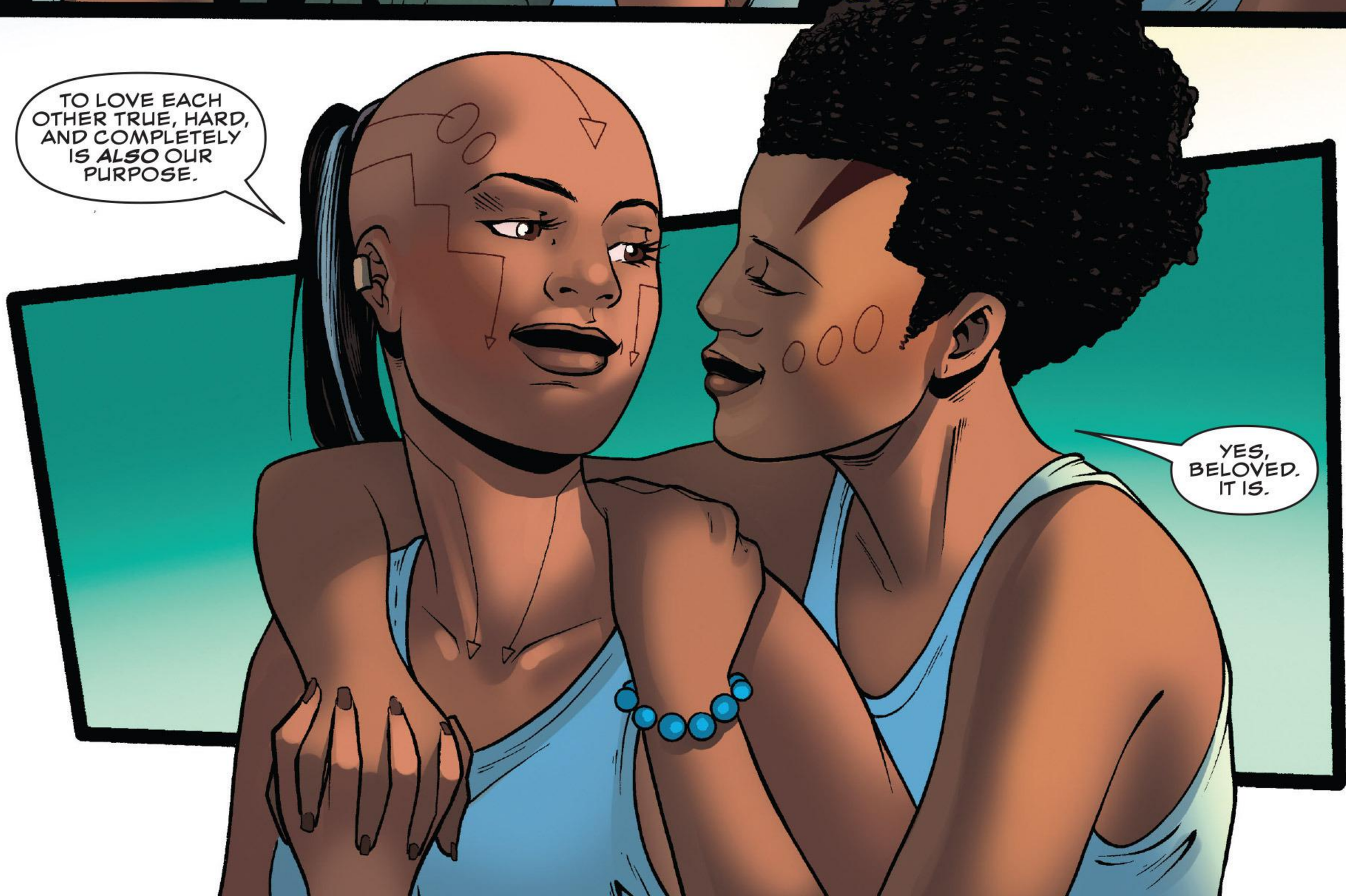
KNOCK KNOCK
FOLAMI, YOU LOOK LIKE THE WORLD HAS RISEN AGAINST YOU. WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR EYE? SHALL I REPLACE IT WITH AN ENHANCED PROSTHETIC?
33
NO. I ONLY NEED ONE EYE TO SEE WHAT I NEED TO SEE. INJECT ME WITH MORE NANITES. I NEED TO BE *INVINCIBLE* FOR THE DAYS AHEAD.
YOU'VE ALREADY RECEIVED AN INCREDIBLY POTENT INJECTION OF NANITES. I FEAR YOUR BODY COULD NOT HANDLE MORE. YOU ARE ONLY HUMAN, AFTER ALL.
I DID NOT ASK YOU FOR AN OPINION.
I CAN ALREADY FEEL HOW MUCH MORE POWERFUL I HAVE BECOME. I AM RAGE, BUT I WILL TAKE DOWN FAR MORE THAN AYO AND ANEKA.
THESE NANITES COME TO YOU COURTESY OF *ZEKE STANE*. AND HE ASKS OF YOU A FAVOR IN RETURN.
AND WHAT MIGHT THAT BE?
HELP GIVE POWER BACK TO THE WAKANDAN PEOPLE, NOT THIS BLACK PANTHER WHO HOARDS POWER ONLY FOR HIMSELF.
THIS I CAN DO. YOUR ENEMIES AND MINE ARE NOTHING BUT THE WALKING DEAD. I WILL *BRING THEM TO THEIR KNEES.*

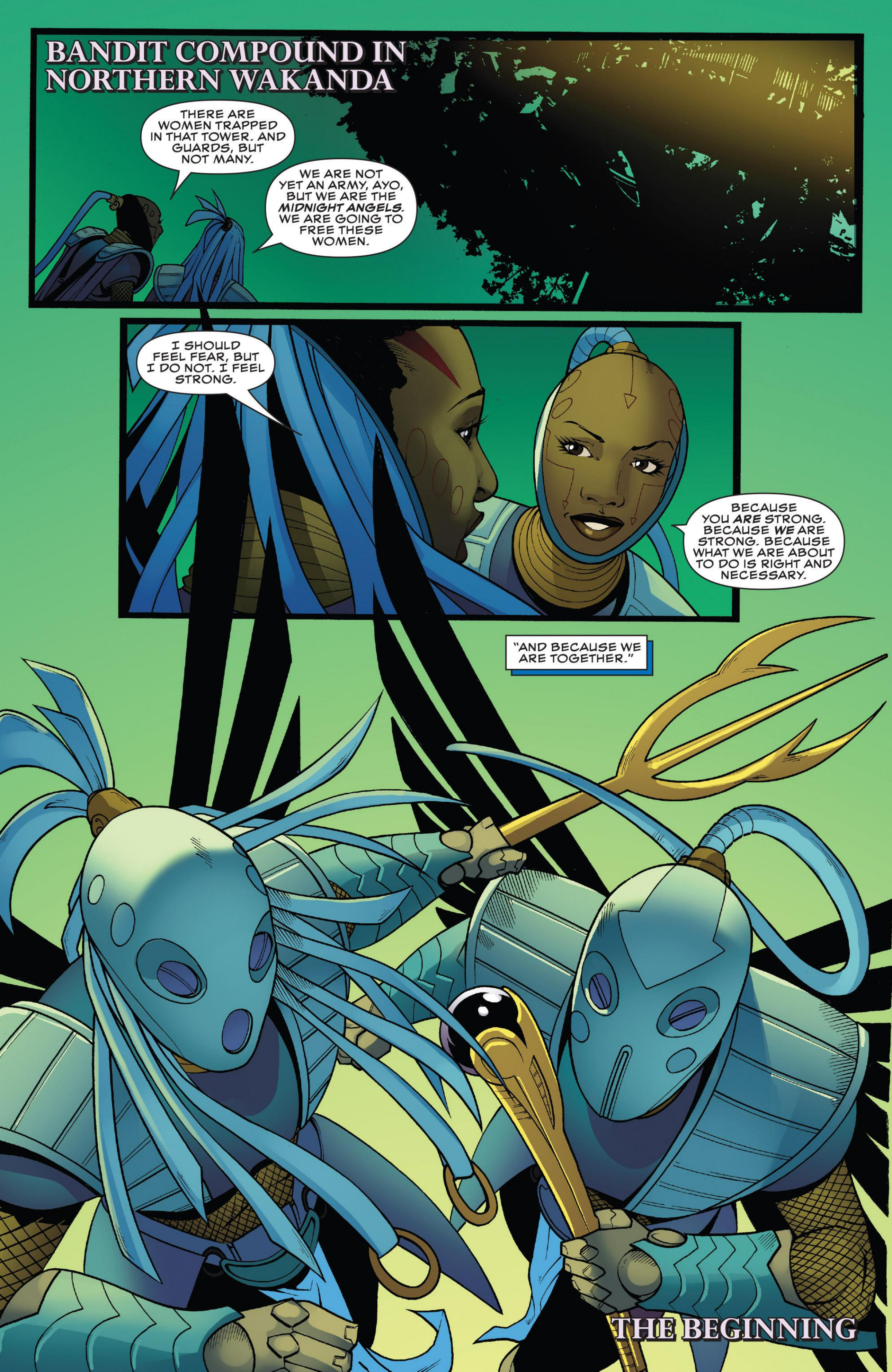

GOOD MORNING.
I WAS AFRAID TO OPEN MY EYES.
WHY, MY LOVE?
I WORRIED THAT IT WAS ALL A DREAM. THAT IF I OPENED MY EYES, I WOULD STILL BE IN THAT CAGE WITH NOT ENOUGH TIME TO REMEMBER EVERY INCH OF YOU BEFORE THEY KILLED ME.
IT WAS NO DREAM. WE ARE HERE-- TOGETHER, SAFE, ALIVE.

WHERE DO WE GO NOW? WHAT DO WE DO?
DOES MY CAPTAIN LOOK TO ME FOR GUIDANCE?
YOUR CAPTAIN LOOKS TO YOU FOR EVERYTHING.

WELL, WHILE YOU WERE ENJOYING A LIFE OF LEISURE IN THAT CELL, THE *DORA MILAJE* WERE BUSY. WE'VE BEEN GETTING MESSAGES FROM ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY ABOUT PEOPLE WHO NEED OUR HELP.

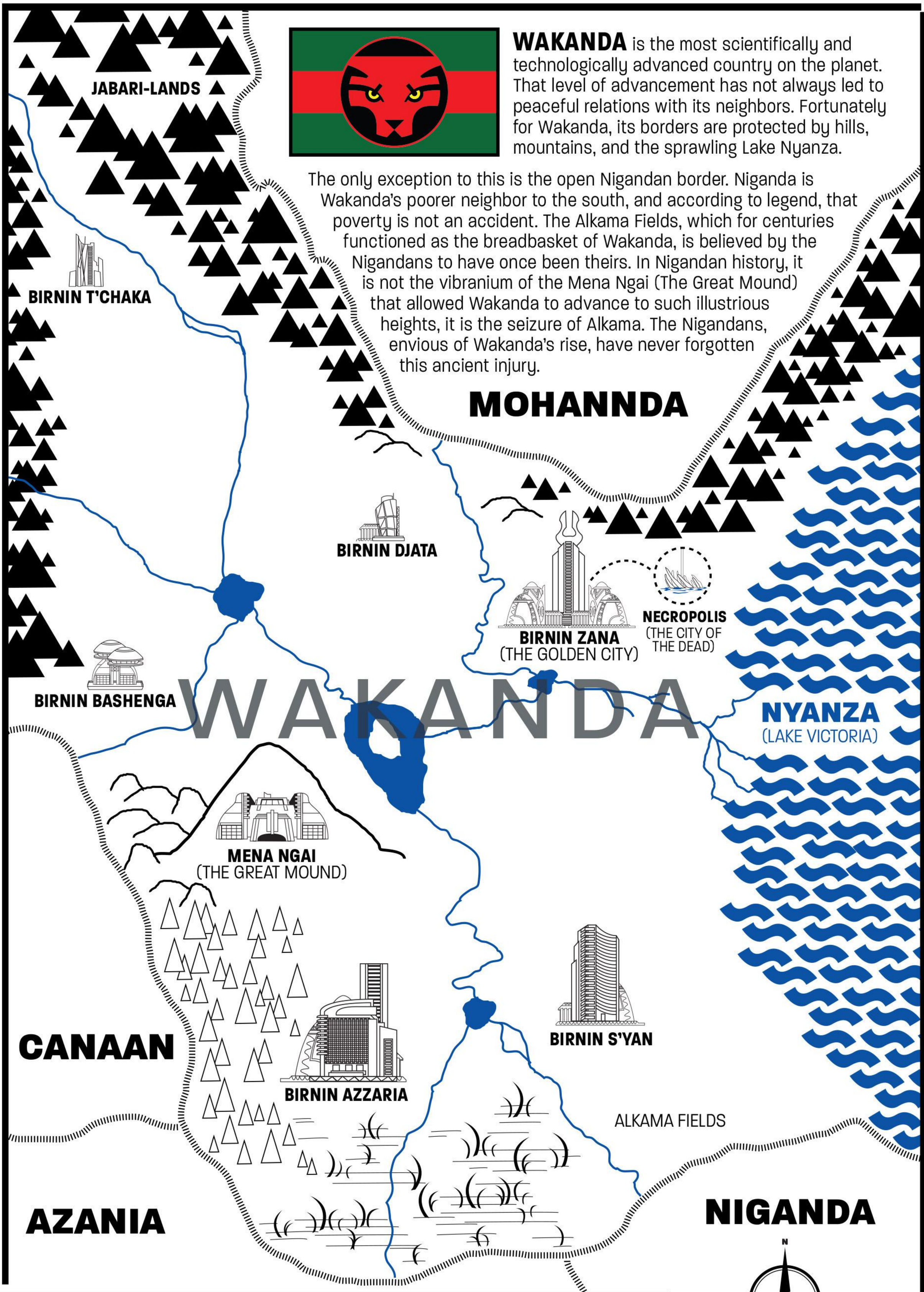
THIS IS VERY GOOD. THIS IS OUR *TRUE PURPOSE*, SERVING NOT ONE MAN BUT ALL THE MEN AND WOMEN OF WAKANDA. THIS IS WHAT WE WILL DO, FOR AS LONG AS WE CAN STAY FREE.


TO LOVE EACH OTHER TRUE, HARD, AND COMPLETELY IS *ALSO* OUR PURPOSE.
YES, BELOVED. IT IS.


BANDIT COMPOUND IN NORTHERN WAKANDA
THERE ARE WOMEN TRAPPED IN THAT TOWER. AND GUARDS, BUT NOT MANY.
WE ARE NOT YET AN ARMY, AYO, BUT WE ARE THE MIDNIGHT ANGELS. WE ARE GOING TO FREE THESE WOMEN.
I SHOULD FEEL FEAR, BUT I DO NOT. I FEEL STRONG.
BECAUSE YOU ARE STRONG. BECAUSE WE ARE STRONG. BECAUSE WHAT WE ARE ABOUT TO DO IS RIGHT AND NECESSARY.
"AND BECAUSE WE ARE TOGETHER."
THE BEGINNING

WAKANDA is the most scientifically and technologically advanced country on the planet. That level of advancement has not always led to peaceful relations with its neighbors. Fortunately for Wakanda, its borders are protected by hills, mountains, and the sprawling Lake Nyanza.

The only exception to this is the open Nigandan border. Niganda is Wakanda's poorer neighbor to the south, and according to legend, that poverty is not an accident. The Alkama Fields, which for centuries functioned as the breadbasket of Wakanda, is believed by the Nigandans to have once been theirs. In Nigandan history, it is not the vibranium of the Mena Ngai (The Great Mound) that allowed Wakanda to advance to such illustrious heights, it is the seizure of Alkama. The Nigandans, envious of Wakanda's rise, have never forgotten this ancient injury.



On this map are various cities beginning with the appellation "Birnin" -- Wakandan for "city." Each city on this map is named after a famous Black Panther, and each is actually more like a fortress than a city, protecting the entryways into Wakanda.

Wakanda was navigable mostly by a system of rivers, and the political geography of the country is still dominated by this fact.

MAP BY TA-NEHISI COATES & MANNY MEDEROS

BLACK PANTHER

WORLD OF WAKANDA LETTERS PAGE

So the origin of Ayo and Aneka becoming the Midnight Angels (and becoming a couple!) has come to a close. Our sincere thanks to Roxane Gay and Alitha E. Martinez for this beautiful, exciting story! Hopefully we'll see them around this neck of the MU again sooner than later! Here's Roxane to answer some of your letters.

Hello Ms. Gay and team,

I just got into comics last summer and wanted to let you guys know that within these first three issues, this has definitely become one of my favorites so far! I love this story and I'm glad we get to learn the history of the Midnight Angels. I'm 19 years old and as a young, black, bisexual woman the story of Ayo and Aneka is very important and special to me. These last few months I've been reading some great comic series, but it still feels a bit unfulfilling because I feel left out due to the struggle of finding representation. So I just wanted to thank you so much for providing us such a beautifully written story about these wonderful characters!

Tiara
Atlanta, GA

Hi Tiara,

Thanks so much for writing in! The main reason I said yes to Marvel when they came calling was so that young women like you might see something of themselves in comics. It means the world to know that you're enjoying WORLD OF WAKANDA!

Cheers,
Roxane

The first time I heard of Roxane Gay, it was maybe a year or so ago, and I was saying something rude to her on Twitter. I don't remember what it was, but it was some wide-ranging Twitter argument. I said something rude to her, and she blocked me. I didn't think anything of it, because I didn't know who she was.

But now I wish I hadn't done that, because I want to reach out to her and tell her how much I'm enjoying WORLD OF WAKANDA. She's killing it on the book, as creating a story that makes the story in BLACK PANTHER make more sense. When I started reading BP, I was a lapsed reader for a lot of Marvel books (AMAZING SPIDER-MAN was the only one I was really up on), so I didn't know what was going on. There were a lot of characters and situations that I wasn't familiar with. WORLD OF WAKANDA updated me on what had been happening in the time I'd missed, plus helped color in some of these issues that people have with T'Challa.

But really, the relationship between Ayo and Aneka is what keeps me coming back. There's so much going on there and it's all so relatable. The pressures that Aneka is feeling between the upheaval at work and her new relationship with an impatient subordinate that she's kinda being pressured to reveal, while her boss is sitting over there like, "Who you fooling right now, Aneka?" Yeah, it's all good stuff.

So to Roxane Gay, I'll be reading this book as long as you're writing it and I apologize for whatever it was I said on Twitter. I hope you can forgive me, and even if you don't, I'm still gonna keep giving you my four bucks every month because the story is too good.

Thank you for your time,
Thaddeus Martin
Grayson, GA

Hi Thaddeus,

Sometimes on Twitter I have a trigger finger. There are so many people yelling at me and being cruel that I find blocking to be the best way of maintaining my chill. I am glad, though, that you're reading WORLD OF WAKANDA. I've loved writing the relationship between Ayo and Aneka, the push and pull, the tensions between them as they try to find solid ground together and stay true to the *Dora Milaje*.

I have no idea what you said on Twitter, but of course you're forgiven. Thanks for reading!

Roxane

Good evening,

My name is La Manda Davis. I'm 34, and I attend Los Angeles Film School, earning my degree in Entertainment Business.

I have your comic book from a classmate who did their presentation on your Marvel books. As he was generous, we were able to take one for ourselves. WHAT A GREAT FIND!! I chose BLACK PANTHER: WORLD OF WAKANDA. Today it was raining and I just finished class, had a moment to read and snuggle up with my first comic book at my local coffee shop.

I. AM. HOOKED!! The moment I started reading, I was actually "hearing" what the characters were saying and it blew my mind, because I could RELATE it to my life, personally.

Thank you for writing material I can enjoy, to escape and relate to another world that can RECOGNIZE me and SHOW me WHO I am now.

Thank you for bringing me COURAGE to see myself as POWERFUL, beautiful, and a WARRIOR. You're definitely doing an EXCELLENT job.

Best,
La Manda Davis
North Hollywood, CA

Hello La Manda,

Thank YOU for reading, and stay fierce.

Roxane

Hey Roxanne,

Firstly I would like to congratulate you and the team for this lovely issue of BLACK PANTHER: WORLD OF WAKANDA. You have no idea how it feels to read something that actually happens in an African culture, and to make it even cooler, the fact that this whole concept of Africans is now a part of the Marvel Universe.

I am an African from Zimbabwe (and yes we do get comics on this side of the world, too). I really feel connected to the characters, not only as a fan but as an African, and I can't wait to see more of Africa in this series.

KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK.
Bravington Mazengwe

Hello Bravington,

It is thrilling to know WORLD OF WAKANDA is being read in Zimbabwe. I hope we are doing justice to an African story and you can best believe there is more story to be told. Stay tuned!

Roxane

Come back next month for a story about Kasper Cole, the once (and future?) Black Panther from Christopher Priest's beloved BP series, written by New York Magazine's Rembert Browne, with art by fan-favorite Joe Bennett!

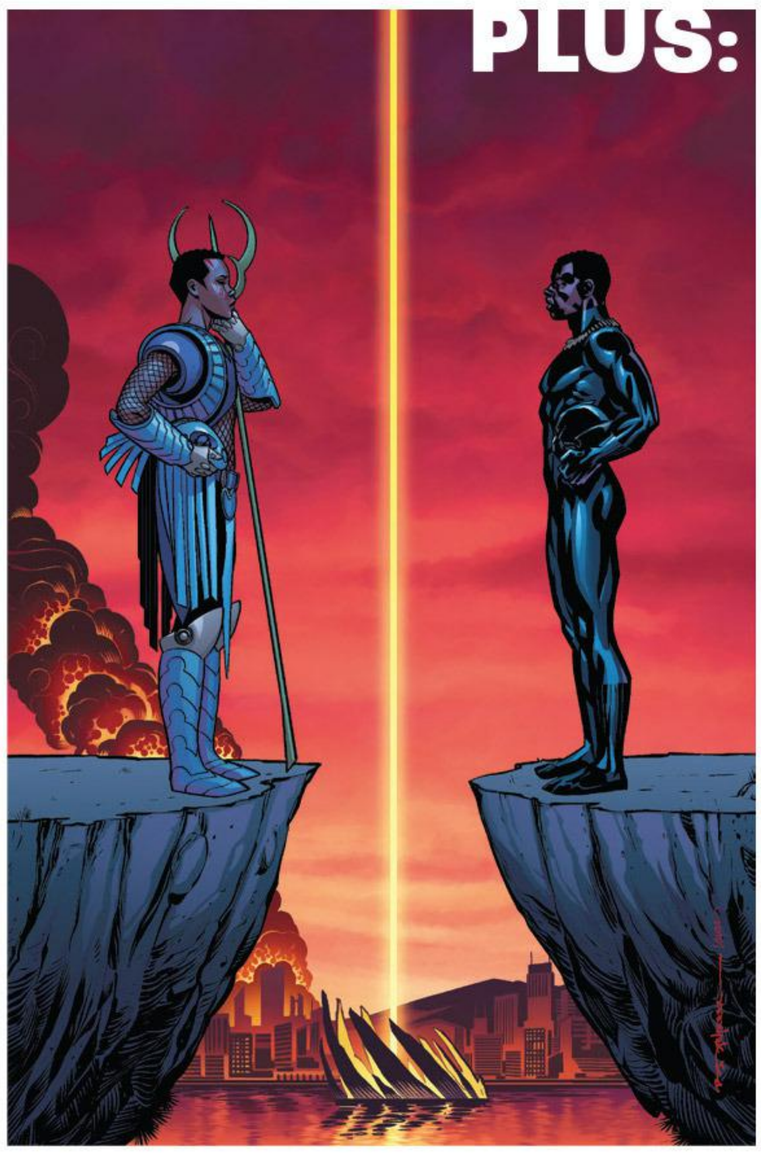
- Wil

BLACK PANTHER: WORLD OF WAKANDA #6
ON SALE IN APRIL!

NEXT:

BLACK PANTHER #12
ON SALE IN MARCH!

PLUS:



Send your emails to
mheroes@marvel.com
and mark them
"okay to print."

THE PEOPLE FOR THE PEOPLE

Alongside Tetu, the mysterious **Zenzi** leads The People, a group currently trying to topple the Wakandan monarchy. An experimental treatment in her native country of Niganda gave Zenzi the ability to control and amplify people's emotions, a power she has used to great effect in stirring up the citizens of Wakanda. But who was Zenzi before the experiment? And how did she go from lab rat to revolutionary?

THE NIGANDAN BORDER REGION
EVEN IN THEIR FINAL HOURS, MY PARENTS HAD HOPE.
WE'VE FAILED THE LEADER. AND NOW WE MUST CLEAN UP THIS MESS.
YES. BUT AT LEAST THESE ARE THE LAST OF THEM.
ONCE, THEY HAD PUT THEIR HOPE IN WAKANDA. NOW, THEY PUT THEIR HOPE IN KILLMONGER. KILLMONGER WHO WOULD MAKE NIGANDA GREAT, GREATER THAN EVEN WAKANDA.
HE PROMISED THEM POWER AND A COUNTRY GREATER THAN ANY COUNTRY IN AFRICA. THEY WERE BLINDED BY THEIR DESPERATE FAITH.
BLINDED BY THEIR HOPE.
THEY DO NOT KNOW...

...WE'RE GOING TO DIE HERE.
DO NOT QUESTION MY AUTHORITY. THE POWER-TRANSFERENCE FAILED. THESE PEOPLE ARE OF NO USE. MAKE HASTE AND GET RID OF THEM.
YES, SIR. WE ARE TAKING CARE OF THE SITUATION.

CEASE YOUR STRUGGLES, YOUR TIME HAS COME.
THIS PLACE HAS BECOME THEIR BURIAL GROUND...

...BUT NOT MINE.

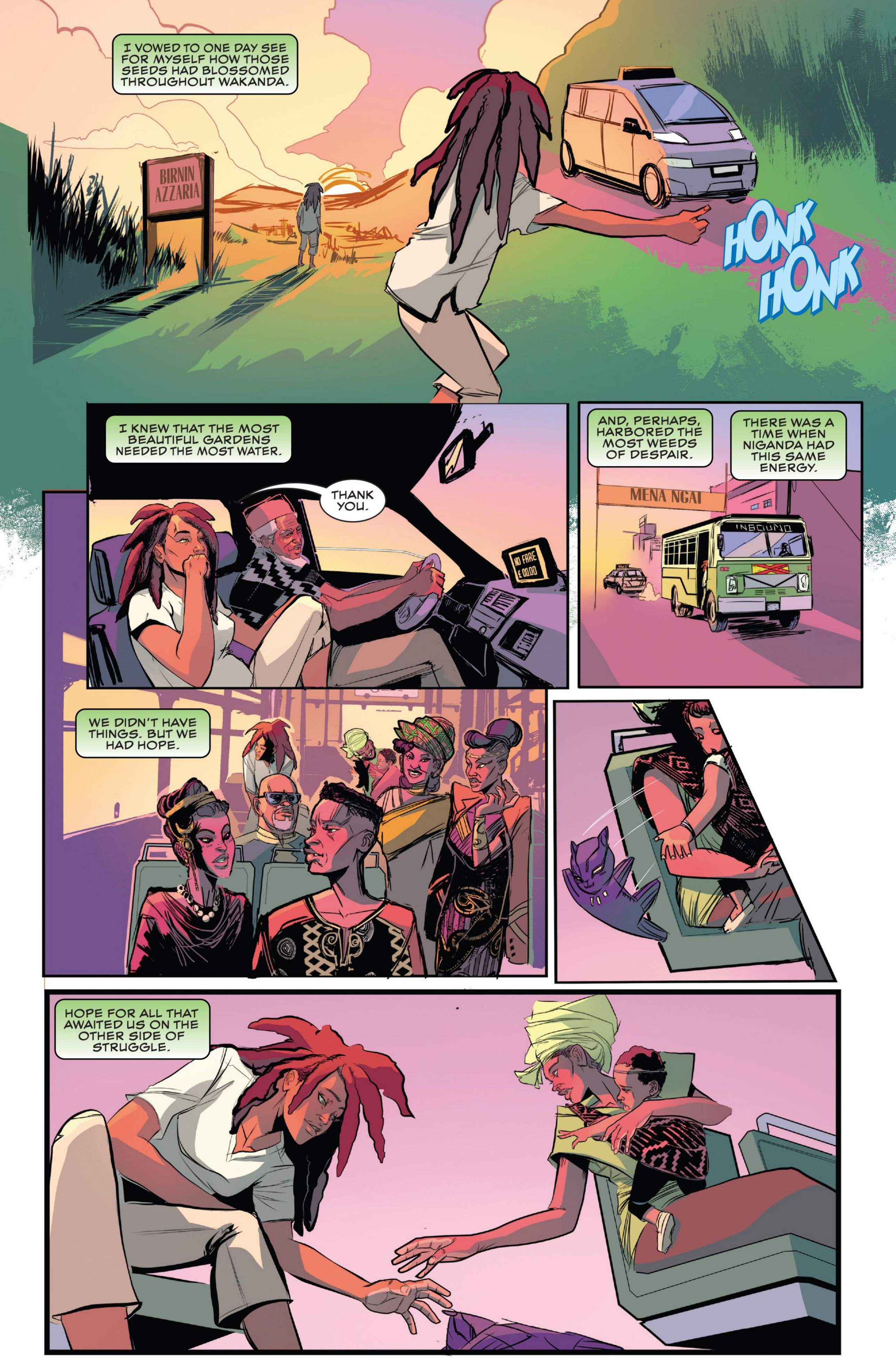
ALKAMA FIELDS
AS A CHILD, I LOVED THE ALKAMA FIELDS JUST BEYOND THE NIGANDA/ WAKANDA BORDER.
I WOULD HIDE AND SEEK AMONG THE GOLDEN STALKS WITH OTHER CHILDREN.
GOTCHA!
HAHA HA!
BUT SOME TRIED TO CONVINCE ME I HAD NO RIGHT TO THIS PLACE.

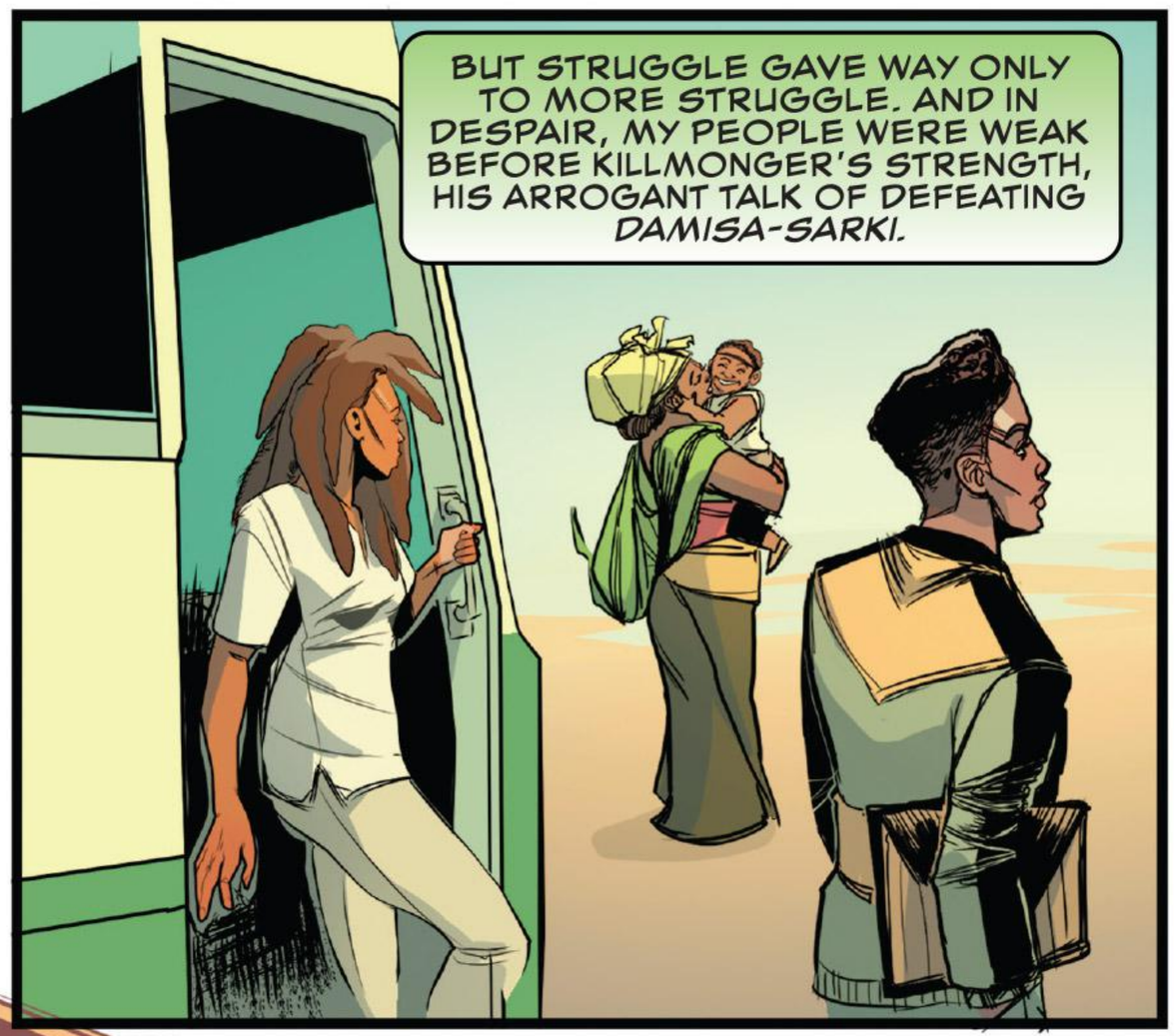
AMINA, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? LOOK AT YOU, YOU'RE ALL DIRTY!
MOTHER, I'M SORRY.

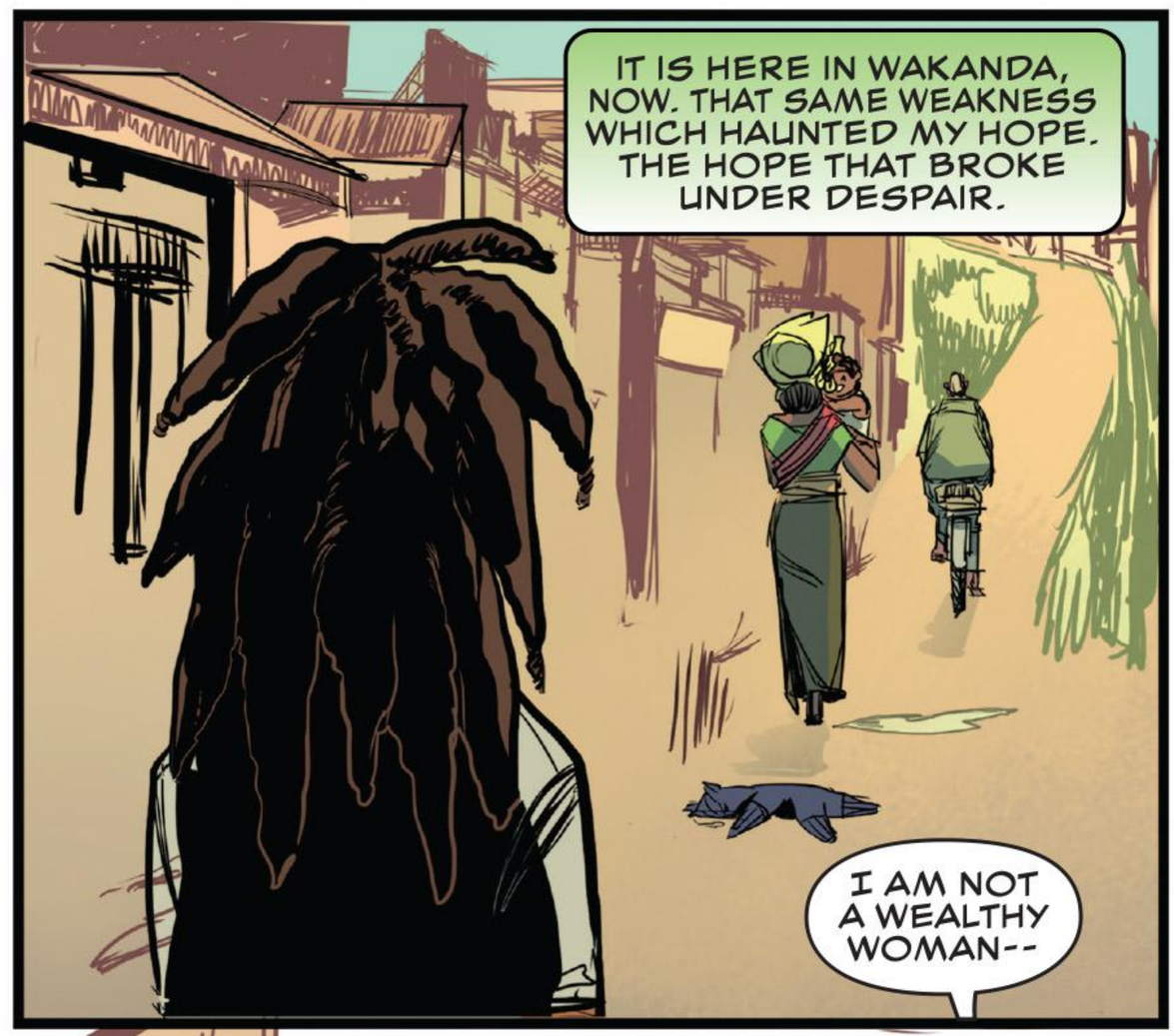
AND HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM THAT FILTHY NIGANDAN GIRL?

I ASKED MY MOTHER WHY AMINA COULD PLAY IN ALKAMA FIELDS, BUT I COULD NOT. BUT SHE DISMISSED MY QUESTION WITH A QUESTION.
HOW DID I RAISE SUCH A STUBBORN GIRL? WE SHOULD ADMIRE WAKANDA'S STRENGTH, MY CHILD.

I DID NOT. I SOUGHT A DIFFERENT ANSWER. I KNEW THE STORY OF ALKAMA.
I KNEW THE WAKANDANS HAD TAKEN WHAT WAS OURS, AND THAT THIS THEFT WAS THE SEED OF THEIR STRENGTH.


I VOWED TO ONE DAY SEE FOR MYSELF HOW THOSE SEEDS HAD BLOSSOMED THROUGHOUT WAKANDA.
BIRNIN AZZARIA
HONK HONK
I KNEW THAT THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GARDENS NEEDED THE MOST WATER.
THANK YOU.
NO FARE £ 00.00
AND, PERHAPS, HARBORED THE MOST WEEDS OF DESPAIR.
THERE WAS A TIME WHEN NIGANDA HAD THIS SAME ENERGY.
MENA NGAI
WE DIDN'T HAVE THINGS. BUT WE HAD HOPE.
HOPE FOR ALL THAT AWAITED US ON THE OTHER SIDE OF STRUGGLE.





--BUT AT SOME POINT, I HAD TO PULL THIS PLACE TOGETHER ON MY OWN.

ON YOUR OWN?

BEG PARDON, FRIEND. WITH THE HELP OF MY NEIGHBORS. BUT THE POINT IS, AFTER NAMOR'S DEVASTATION, WE PULLED OURSELVES UP. WITHOUT *DAMISA-SARKI.*

ARE YOU SAYING WE CAN NO LONGER RELY ON KING T'CHALLA?

I'M JUST WONDERING. WHY NOT--

--RELY ON OURSELVES.

LATER

BE CAREFUL, MY CHILD. TAKE THESE CLOTHES WITH YOU. I INSIST.

COMMUNITY MEETING & FOOD DRIVE

YOU'VE BEEN SO KIND, ZAINABU. I'LL HOLD FAST AND WALK TALL WITH ALL THAT YOU'VE TAUGHT ME.

AND FOR A WHILE, AS I WALKED, THE DESPAIR LESSENED.
YOU! HEY, YOU THERE.
PRETTY WOMAN, WAIT. WHY ARE YOU WALKING ALONE?
YES, DON'T YOU KNOW WE CAN PROTECT YOU?
OH, I SEE, THE PRETTY WOMAN DOES NOT SPEAK, EH?
MAYBE WE SHOULD MAKE HER UNDERSTAND THE DANGERS OF THIS PLACE? CLEARLY, SHE DOES NOT KNOW.
I DIDN'T NEED ANYONE'S PROTECTION.
I FOUND MY HOPE WITHIN. AND ALL MY ENEMIES DESPAIRED.

I TOOK MY OWN PATH, DECLARED MY OWN RIGHTS.
SAVED MYSELF.
BUT IT WAS NOT ENOUGH.
MY NEW POWERS EXHAUSTED ME.
AND I FELT DESPAIR STALKING ME.

AND I MUST FACE IT ALL ALONE.
I SAW WHAT YOU DID...
...WHAT YOU DID TO YOUR ATTACKERS BACK THERE. I SAW YOU MAKE THEIR FEARS COME TRUE.
BUT I HAVE NO FEARS. I HAVE JOURNEYED THROUGH THE DARKEST WOOD AND FACED MY NIGHTMARES DOWN. I HAVE LIBERATED MYSELF.

WOULD YOU NOT LIKE TO BE LIBERATED, TOO?
SINCE YOU'VE BEEN FOLLOWING ME, YOU KNOW I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF. I WILL NEVER PUT MY FAITH IN ONE MAN AGAIN.
YOU NEED NOT PUT YOUR FAITH IN ME OR ANY MAN.
THE ONLY TRUE LIBERATION IS WITHIN YOU.
I APOLOGIZE. I POSED THE QUESTION WRONG.
WOULD YOU NOT LIKE TO LIBERATE YOURSELF, TOO?
NOT JUST MYSELF...BUT A NATION.
THE BEGINNING