

MARJORIE LIU

SANA TAKEDA

MONSTRESS

image

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\$3.99



"LISTEN, I'M BEGGING YOU
TO PUT ASIDE YOUR
FEELINGS ABOUT THE OLD
GODS AND HELP ME.

"I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU
WANT IN RETURN -- DEVOTE
MYSELF TO BECOMING A
WORLD-WALKER -- BUT
JUST GIVE ME THIS."



I KNOW UBASTI LOVES
HER IDIOTS, BUT YOU
REALLY ARE TAKING THE
CAT'S TAIL.

A
NEKOMANCER
EXORCISING AN
OLD GOD?

THAT'S
CRAZY. IT'LL
NEVER
WORK.

OR WORSE,
WHAT IF IT GOES
WRONG AND YOU
SOMEHOW
SET IT FREE?

THEN
YOU'LL BE
THERE TO
DESTROY
IT.

WHY
WAIT?

BETTER TO
ELIMINATE THE OLD
GOD AS SOON AS
WE CAN, WHILE THEY
ARE INSIDE A
MORTAL FORM.

APOLOGIES,
REN, BUT I
AGREE. THIS
IDEA OF YOURS
COULD COST
LIVES.



REN, YOU
STILL DON'T
UNDERSTAND.

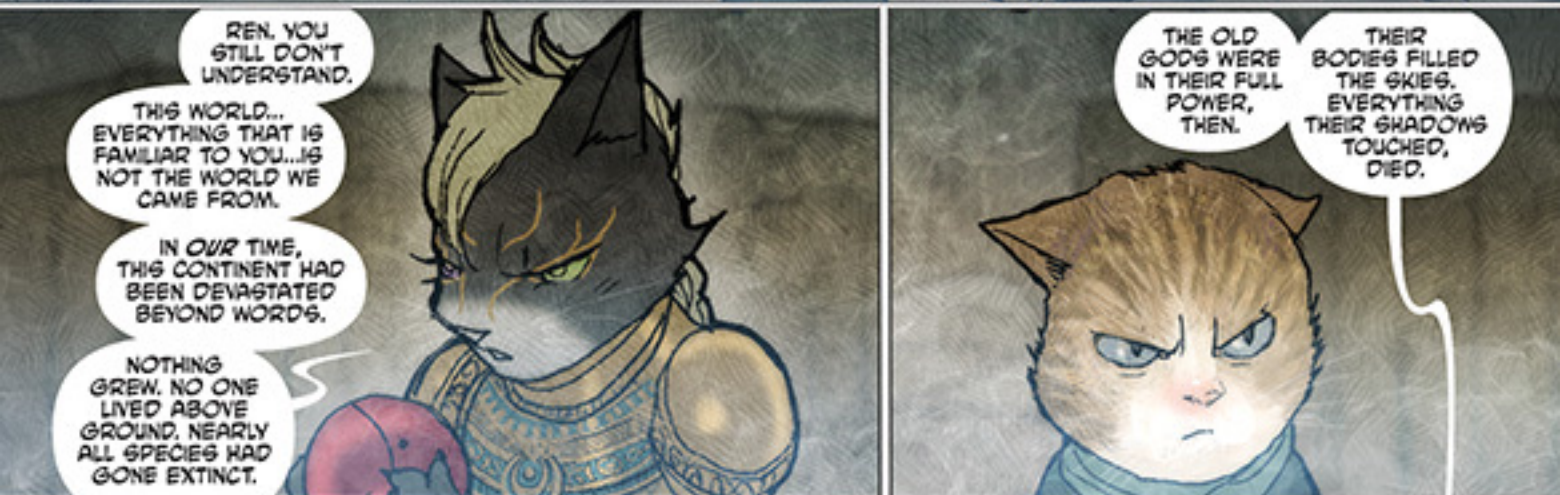
THIS WORLD...
EVERYTHING THAT IS
FAMILIAR TO YOU...IS
NOT THE WORLD WE
CAME FROM.

IN OUR TIME,
THIS CONTINENT HAD
BEEN DEVASTATED
BEYOND WORDS.

NOTHING
GREW. NO ONE
LIVED ABOVE
GROUND. NEARLY
ALL SPECIES HAD
GONE EXTINCT.

THE OLD
GODS WERE
IN THEIR FULL
POWER,
THEN.

THEIR
BODIES FILLED
THE SKIES.
EVERYTHING
THEIR SHADOWS
TOUCHED,
DIED.



BUT ON GOLGA,
IT SEEMS THE OLD
GODS CHANGED
THEMSELVES.

SURE. ON
GOLGA. BUT IF
THEY RETURN TO
THIS WORLD?

FEW EVER
REMEMBER THE
BENEFITS OF
SELF-CONTROL.

EVEN WHEN
THEY KNOW IT
IS THE ONLY
WAY TO STAY
ALIVE.



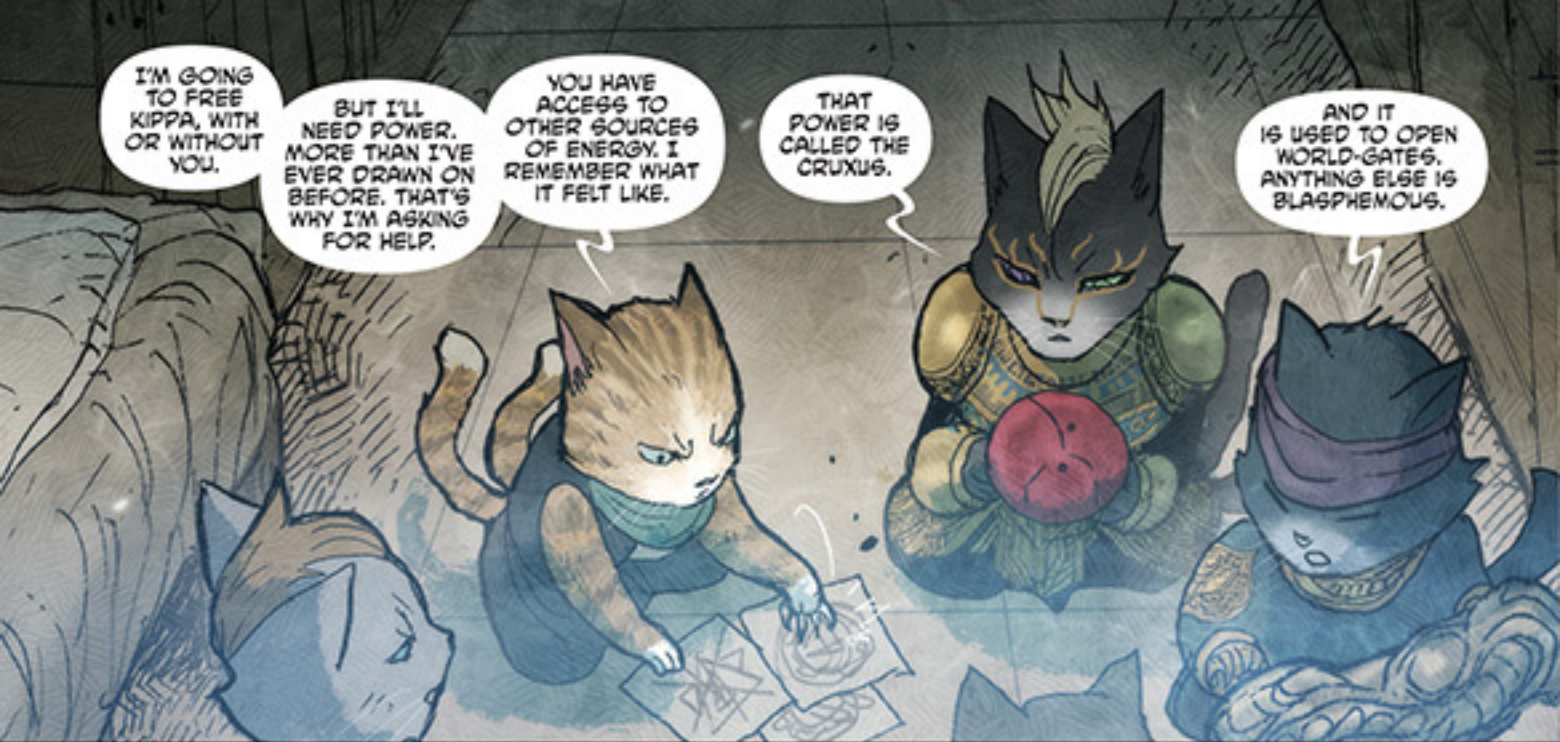
I'M GOING TO FREE KIPPA, WITH OR WITHOUT YOU.

BUT I'LL NEED POWER. MORE THAN I'VE EVER DRAWN ON BEFORE. THAT'S WHY I'M ASKING FOR HELP.

YOU HAVE ACCESS TO OTHER SOURCES OF ENERGY. I REMEMBER WHAT IT FELT LIKE.

THAT POWER IS CALLED THE CRUXUS.

AND IT IS USED TO OPEN WORLD-GATES. ANYTHING ELSE IS BLASPHEMOUS.



WHATEVER.

UNLESS YOU WANT ME FUMBLING AROUND WITH...CRUXUS...AND BLOWING OPEN A HOLE TO ANOTHER UNIVERSE... YOU'LL HELP.



REDEEMER... DO I SHOOT HIM DEAD?

FIGHT ME CLAW TO CLAW, LIKE A REAL CAT, AND WE'LL SEE WHO --

NO.

WE MUST ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT WE WERE BROUGHT TOGETHER FOR A PURPOSE.

UBASTI'S WAYS ARE A MYSTERY.



I'LL HELP YOU WITH YOUR... EXORCISM.

BUT WE WILL TAKE OUR OWN NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS.

YOU WON'T TOUCH A HAIR ON KIPPA'S HEAD, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS.



THEN YOU BETTER BE THE BEST FUCKING NEKOMANCER EVER BORN, REN.



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ZZZZT -- END
TRANSMISSION --
ZZZZT

I THOUGHT
CHORD-CODE WAS
ABANDONED A
HUNDRED YEARS
AGO.

THE
WAR-MASTERS
KEEP IT ALIVE.
WE PASS THE CODE
DOWN TO OUR
SUCCESSORS, AND
NO ONE ELSE.

AND WE
ONLY USE IT IN
EMERGENCIES.

THIS
QUALIFIES. IT'S
A BOLD MOVE
THE BEAST IS
MAKING.



DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT -- OF COURSE I WAS TAUGHT CHORD-CODE.

WHAT'S
HAPPENED?

A COUP
AGAINST MY
FATHER.



GODDESS,
SOME
DISCRETION --

CLEARLY
ENACTED WITHOUT
MUCH PLANNING, AN
ACT OF
DESPERATION.

-- THOSE
WORDS
WEREN'T USED.
VERY LITTLE
WAS SAID
AT ALL.

BUT SILENCE
SPEAKS. AND
THAT'S WHAT
THOSE SILENCES
SAY.