
#1
RED CAT
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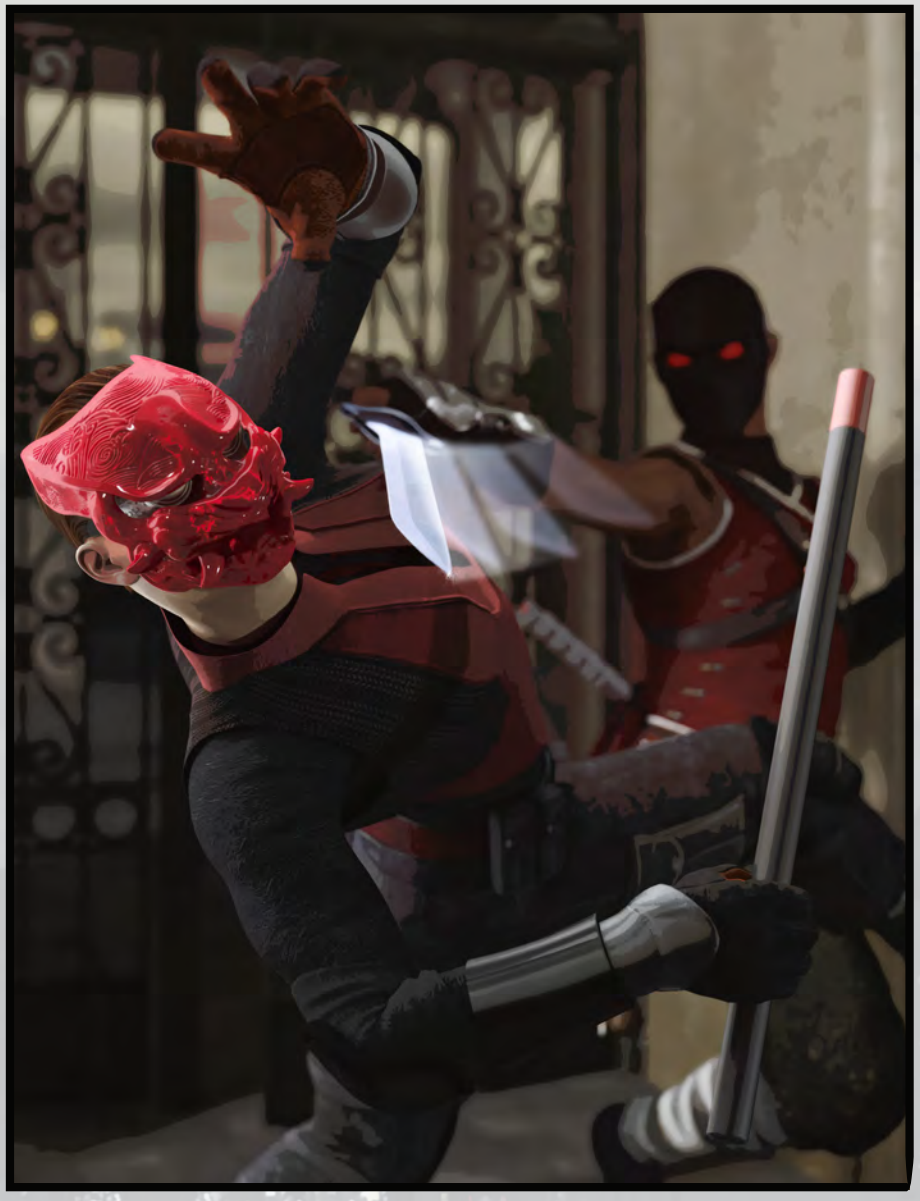
# RED CAT #01
## :CELEBRITY STATUS



FRONT COVER

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THIS ISSUE IS DEDICATED TO DAN SCUREK. HIS INCREDIBLY VALUABLE INSIGHTS INTO THE WRITING PROCESS CAN BE SEEN THROUGHOUT ALL MY PROJECTS. HE WAS VERY SUPPORTIVE AND WOULD HAVE BEEN THRILLED TO SEE THIS COME TO LIFE. HE'LL BE SORELY MISSED.

RICK KELLY, STUNTMAN AND ASPIRING ACTOR, FINDS HIMSELF IN VANCOUVER WRAPPING UP SEASON 1 OF "NIGHTMASTER", THE HIT NEW SUPERHERO SHOW FROM TV+. MEANWHILE, A FLEDGELING VIGILANTE PATROLS THE STREETS, FIGHTING CRIME AND HUNTING FOR HIS ARCHNEMESIS. RICK'S BEEN WAITING FOR MONTHS TO CATCH A BREAK, EITHER ON THE SHOW OR THE CASE. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT, WELL, AS THEY SAY IN THE BUSINESS, "YOU JUST CAN'T WRITE THIS STUFF."

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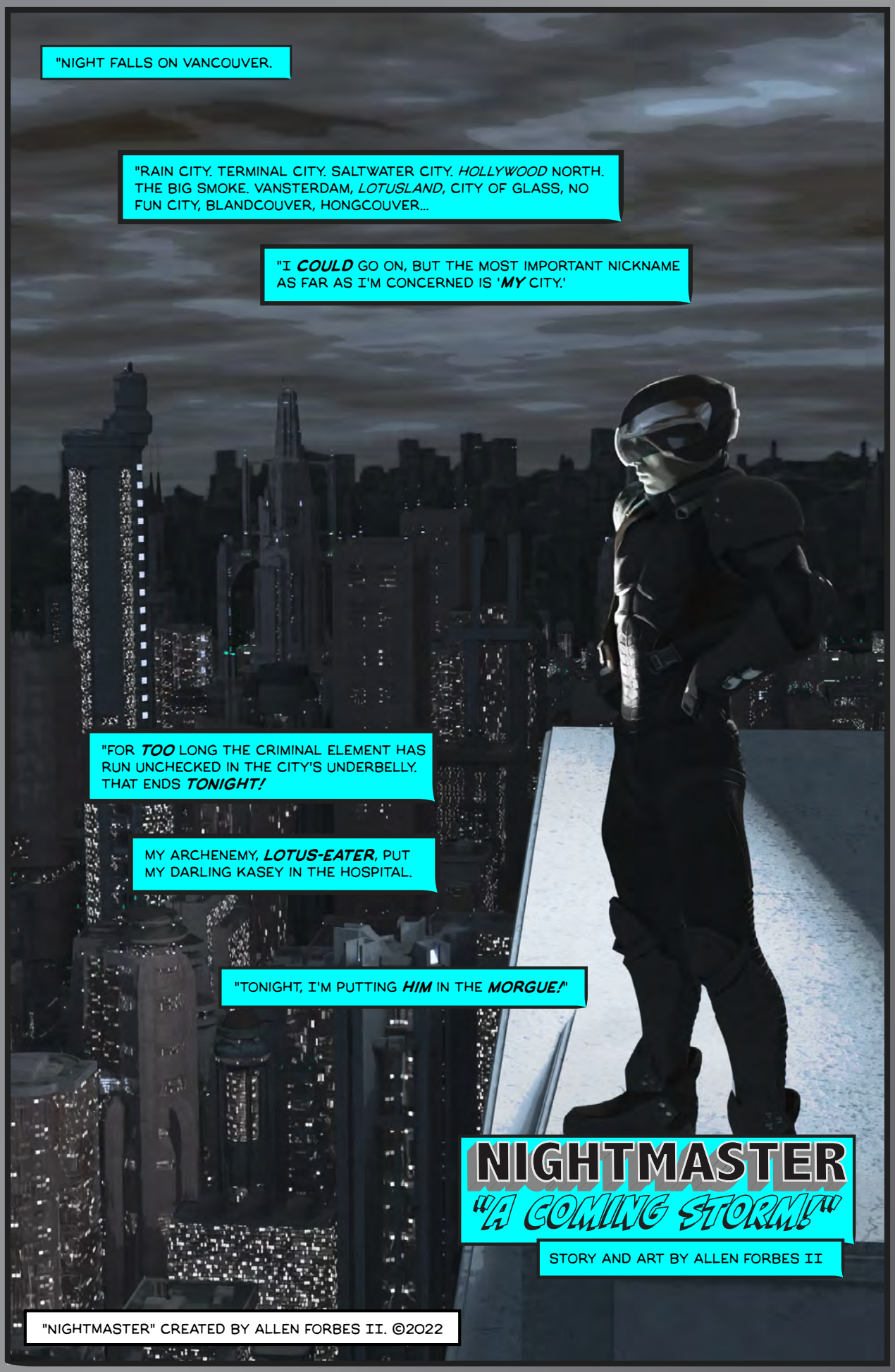
"NIGHT FALLS ON VANCOUVER.
"RAIN CITY. TERMINAL CITY. SALTWATER CITY. *HOLLYWOOD* NORTH. THE BIG SMOKE. VANSTERDAM, *LOTUSLAND*, CITY OF GLASS, NO FUN CITY, BLANDCOUVER, HONGCOUVER...
"I ***COULD*** GO ON, BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT NICKNAME AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED IS '***MY*** CITY.'
"FOR ***TOO*** LONG THE CRIMINAL ELEMENT HAS RUN UNCHECKED IN THE CITY'S UNDERBELLY. THAT ENDS ***TONIGHT!***
MY ARCHENEMY, ***LOTUS-EATER***, PUT MY DARLING KASEY IN THE HOSPITAL.
"TONIGHT, I'M PUTTING ***HIM*** IN THE ***MORGUE!***"
NIGHTMASTER
"A COMING STORM!"
STORY AND ART BY ALLEN FORBES II
"NIGHTMASTER" CREATED BY ALLEN FORBES II. ©2022


WHUMP!


CUT!!!
CAN WE ADJUST THAT LIGHTING IN POST...?


NICE MOVES, RICK! YOU MAKE ME LOOK GOOD.
JUST DOING MY JOB, BRETT.


IT'S YOUR TURN NOW TO FINISH SELLING IT.
DIRECTOR


AT LAST, WE MEET AGAIN, LOTUS-EATER!
AND THIS TIME WILL BE THE LAST TIME!
FOR THERE WILL BE NO NEXT TIME!
... NO NEXT TIME. CHILLS EVERY TIME.


LATER ON...
FELIX, HEY...
YEAH, THE SEASON WENT WELL...


I'M GETTING IN MY CAR NOW...
TOO DERIVATIVE?
IT MIGHT NOT GET RENEWED?
THAT SUCKS.


SURE, I'LL LOOK AT THE SCRIPT.
SEND IT OVER.


DRIVEWAY MOTEL
#27


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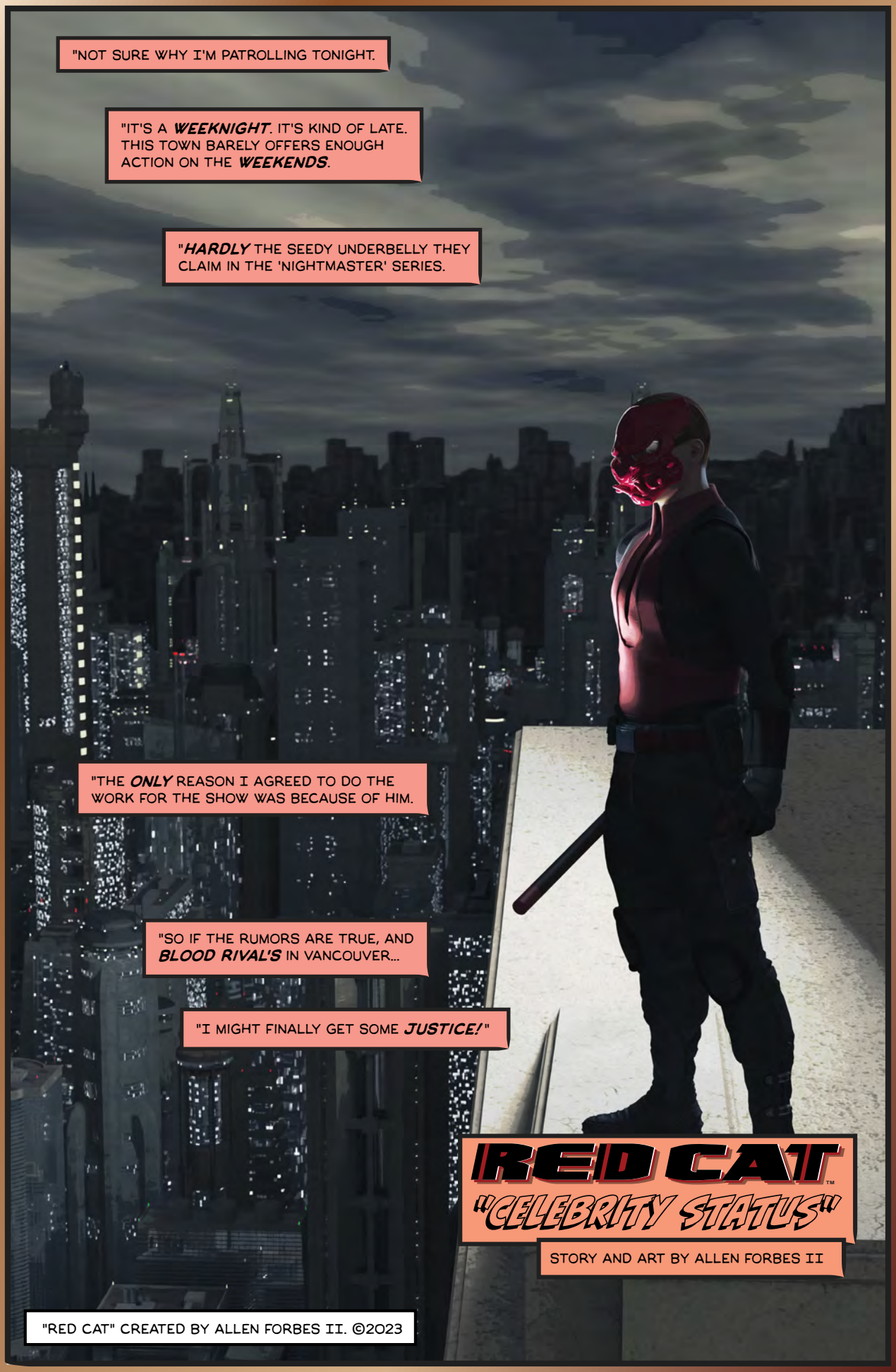
AKANEKO


"NOT SURE WHY I'M PATROLLING TONIGHT.
"IT'S A ***WEEKNIGHT***. IT'S KIND OF LATE. THIS TOWN BARELY OFFERS ENOUGH ACTION ON THE ***WEEKENDS***.
"***HARDLY*** THE SEEDY UNDERBELLY THEY CLAIM IN THE 'NIGHTMASTER' SERIES.
"THE ***ONLY*** REASON I AGREED TO DO THE WORK FOR THE SHOW WAS BECAUSE OF HIM.
"SO IF THE RUMORS ARE TRUE, AND ***BLOOD RIVAL'S*** IN VANCOUVER...
"I MIGHT FINALLY GET SOME ***JUSTICE!***"
RED CAT™
"CELEBRITY STATUS"
STORY AND ART BY ALLEN FORBES II
"RED CAT" CREATED BY ALLEN FORBES II. ©2023


... STUCK IN A TREE ON WEST...
FIRE.


... LOUD PARTY ABOVE...
POLICE.


... BADGER RUNNING LOOSE...
ANIMAL CONTROL.


... ROBBERY IN PROGRESS NEAR THE VANCOUVER CONVENTION CENTRE.
SUSPECTS CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS, PROCEED...
FINALLY! AND THAT'S CLOSE.


THIS MIGHT NOT BE SUCH A BORING NIGHT AFTER ALL!


I'LL JUST CUT THROUGH HARBOUR GREENS TO SAVE TIME!
AKANEKO




WHAT THE...?


CARSON WAS *RIGHT!*


DON'T JUST STAND THERE!
SHOOT!!!


FWUMP!


KLAANG!!!

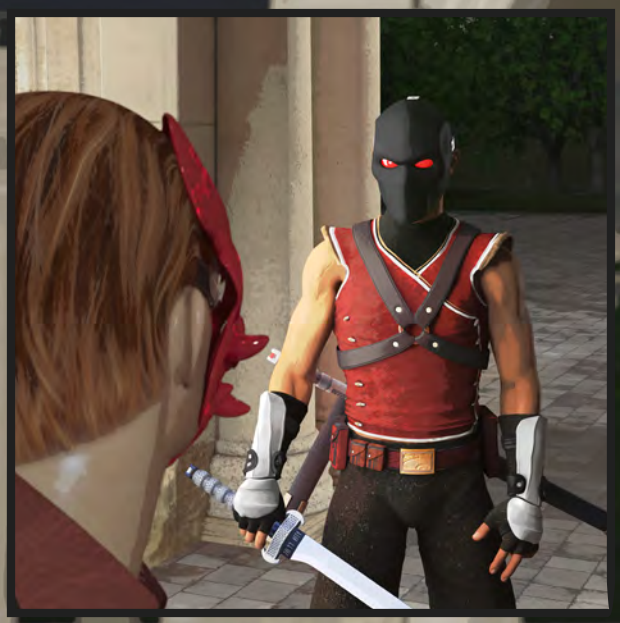

<WHAT...?>*
*TRANSLATED FROM JAPANESE.


KIYAH!!




CHNNG!!


AFTER
ALL THESE
YEARS...




<WHAT
YEARS?>




SSWISSH!
ZCHINNNG!!


SKREEESH!
KLAANG!!!


AT *LAST,* WE MEET *AGAIN,* BLOOD RIVAL!
AND *THIS* TIME WILL BE...
*AGAIN?*
WHO IS BLOOD RIVAL?
WHUMP!
MORE IMPORTANTLY...
WHO ARE *YOU?*


IT HASN'T BEEN *THAT* LONG.
DON'T...






JUST BECAUSE I DO NOT KNOW YOU DOES NOT MEAN I WILL LET YOU *STOP* ME.


THERE'S *NO* NEED FOR LIES BETWEEN US AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH.

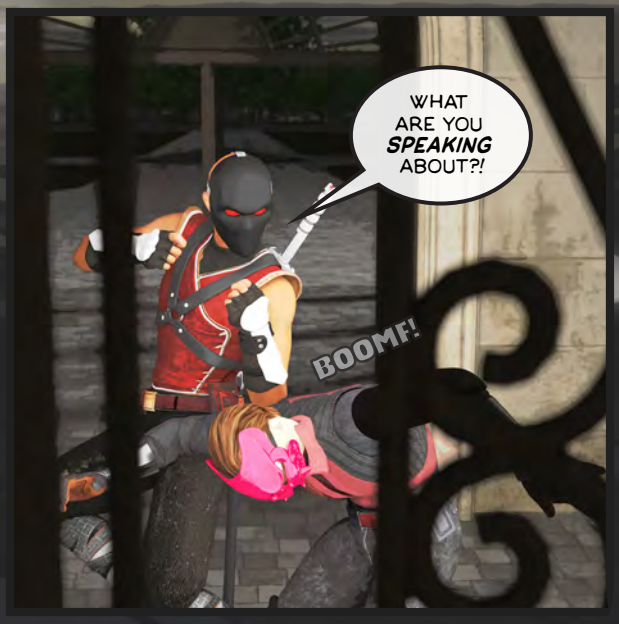

<DAMMIT! SHU'S GONE!>
SORRY, MY JAPANESE IS REALLY RUSTY.


AMERICAN PLEASE, DO NOT INSULT ME WITH AN ATTEMPT.
SEE? I KNEW YOU KNEW ME.


I PROMISE YOU WE HAVE NEVER MET.
BUT YOU AND I TRAINED UNDER THE SAME MASTER!


THE MASTER YOU KILLED BEFORE YOU RAN...


HE DIED IN MY ARMS!
<DON'T...>


WHAT ARE YOU SPEAKING ABOUT?!
BOOMF!


HE *TOLD* ME WHAT YOU ***DID*** WITH HIS ***DYING*** BREATH.
THIS IS THE MOST ***FOOLISH*** THING I HAVE EVER *HEARD.*
LISTEN WELL TO ME, CRIMEFIGHTER.
WE HAVE NEVER MET, NEVER TRAINED TOGETHER.
I AM NOT YOUR ENEMY.
DO ***NOT*** END THIS DAY MAKING ME SO.
WHAT'S WITH ALL THE ***LIES?***
YOU STILL WEAR THE SAME MASK YOU WORE THAT NIGHT.
I CAN SEE THE ***SCAR*** WHERE MASTER PO STRUCK YOU.
WHO IS PO?
I HAVE THIS ***SCAR*** FROM A FISHING HOOK.
BESIDES, ***MY*** MASK IS PRACTICAL.
*YOURS* IS ***RIDICULOUS*** AND FAKE.
THIS IS THE ***MASK*** OF THE AKANEKO.
THE RED TIGER CLAN.
YOU ***KNOW*** THAT!
RED TIGER? YOU MEAN RED CAT.


WE ARE DONE.
I HOPE YOU FIND THE VENGEANCE YOU SEEK.
YOU WILL NOT FIND IT HERE.


YOU ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WERE BETTER THAN ME.
I AM BETTER.
I JUST PROVED THAT.


I WILL BEAT YOU ONE DAY, TEK!.
MARK MY WORDS.


WHERE DID YOU HEAR THAT NAME...?


<ANSWER ME NOW!>


<I *TOLD* YOU!>
<WE TRAINED IN JAPAN FOR *YEARS.*>
THUMP!
<WHO PUT YOU *UP* TO THIS?>
<WHO TOLD YOU MY NAME?>
<WHAT *IS* THIS?>
<LIKE I *SAID,* THIS IS JUSTICE FOR MASTER *PO!*>
<AND I *STILL* DON'T KNOW WHO THAT IS!>
<IF YOU'RE *NOT* MY SWORN ENEMY, THEN WHO *ARE* YOU?>
<SWORN ENEMY...?>
<...WHO *TALKS* LIKE THAT?>
<PLEASE STOP.>
<YOU SOUND LIKE YOU LEARNED JAPANESE FROM A *BOOK.*>
THEN TELL ME WHAT'S *REALLY* GOING ON.


I DO NOT KNOW.
YOU HAVE THIS STORY IN YOUR HEAD.
IT BEARS CINDERS OF TRUTH INSIDE A BONFIRE OF ***LIES.***


RED CAT, YOU ***MAY*** HAVE BEEN BRAINWASHED.
I HAVE SOME ***POWERFUL*** ENEMIES.
THIS COULD BE THEIR WORK.

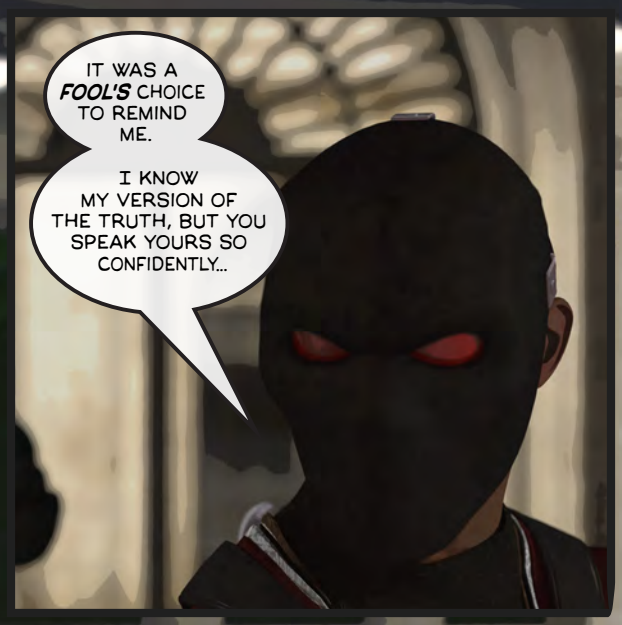

NOW ***THAT*** SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A COMIC BOOK.
THIS FROM A MAN WHO WAS TRAINED BY A *PANDA?*


FROM THE MOVIES?
VERY FUNNY.
HOW DID YOU EVEN ***MAKE*** THAT CONNECTION?

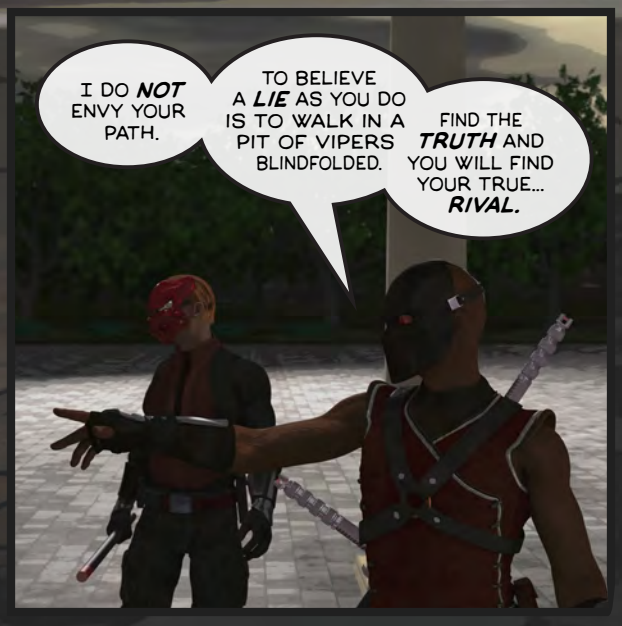

I FLY COACH... A LOT.


NONE OF THIS MAKES ***SENSE!***


ESPECIALLY THE PART WHERE YOU GO EASY ON THE GUY WHO COST YOU YOUR ***MARK!***


IT WAS A ***FOOL'S*** CHOICE TO REMIND ME.
I KNOW MY VERSION OF THE TRUTH, BUT YOU SPEAK YOURS SO CONFIDENTLY...


I ***WILL*** FINISH WHAT I STARTED.
DO ***NOT*** INTERFERE AGAIN.


I DO ***NOT*** ENVY YOUR PATH.
TO BELIEVE A ***LIE*** AS YOU DO IS TO WALK IN A PIT OF VIPERS BLINDFOLDED.
FIND THE ***TRUTH*** AND YOU WILL FIND YOUR TRUE... ***RIVAL.***


WHAT JUST HAPPENED...?

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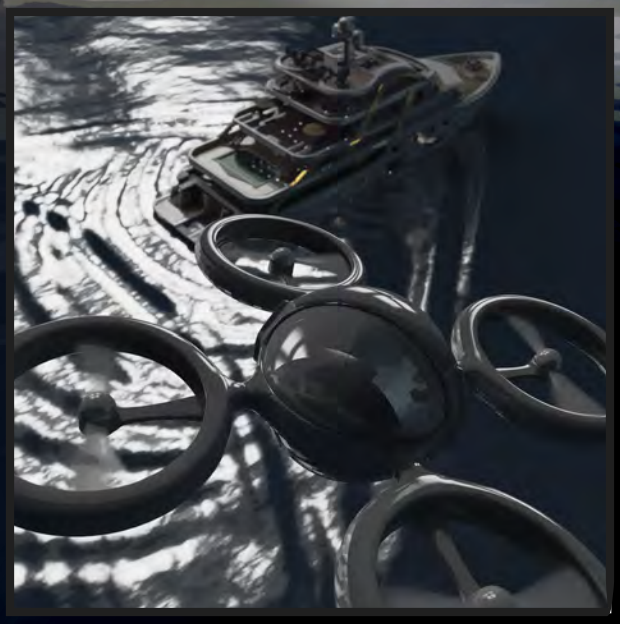












HEAD FOR SEATTLE *IMMEDIATELY.*
THIS RED CAT *FAILED* HIS MISSION.
WE *MUST* REPORT IN...


...AND PREPARE FOR WHAT'S *NEXT!*
TO BE CONTINUED.