





# HEROES

## CHAPTER 09 LIFE BEFORE EDEN

Eden McCain, posing as a friend to Mohinder Suresh, has actually been spying on him for the Man in Horned Rimmed Glasses. She recently brought Isaac Mendez to HRG's facility, hoping his paintings could help them find Sylar. A simple whisper in his ear was all it took to break Isaac's will. And where Peter had failed, she captured Sylar, possibly the most dangerous man on the planet...

Once upon a time...

...a Little Girl does her best to tune out an argument that's been going on for as long as she can remember.

In this household long filled with shouting, the Little Girl decided some time ago that it'd be best if she just kept quiet.

In fact, hardly a peep ever escaped her lips.

SLAM

LOOK WHAT YOU MADE HIM DO.

Her father didn't return that night, or any other.

"My Stepmother's right," she thought. "It is my fault."

"Not telling someone to stay is just like telling someone to leave."

She held on to the hope that her father might one day return --

-- though she was soon told that she did so in vain.

And as immediately as her stepmother spoke, she was put to work.

Her life became an endless repetition of tasks carried out in silent servitude.

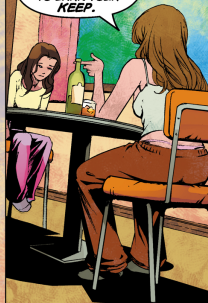
"Maybe if it's perfect," she thought. "Maybe then he'll come back..." And so she kept on.

YOUR FATHER AIN'T *EVER* COMIN' BACK, SO YOU JUST PUT THAT *OUT* OF YOUR LITTLE OL' HEAD.

IF YOU'RE GONNA GO ON LIVIN' UNDER *THIS* ROOF, YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO EARN YOUR *KEEP*.

EVERY DAY, RIGHT AFTER SCHOOL, YOU COME HOME AND GET RIGHT TO YOUR CHORES.

FIRST THING YOU DO IS VACUUM THE CARPETS.



As most adults know, life lived under the strict routine of work can pass you by in the blink of an eye --





-- and the lonely Little Girl found herself to be a Young Woman before she knew it.

Then one night came where everything changed...

The Young Woman's stepmother woke from her usual spirited slumber in a fit of ire.

HE LEFT CAUSE'A YOU. YOU ALWAYS CAME BETWEEN US.

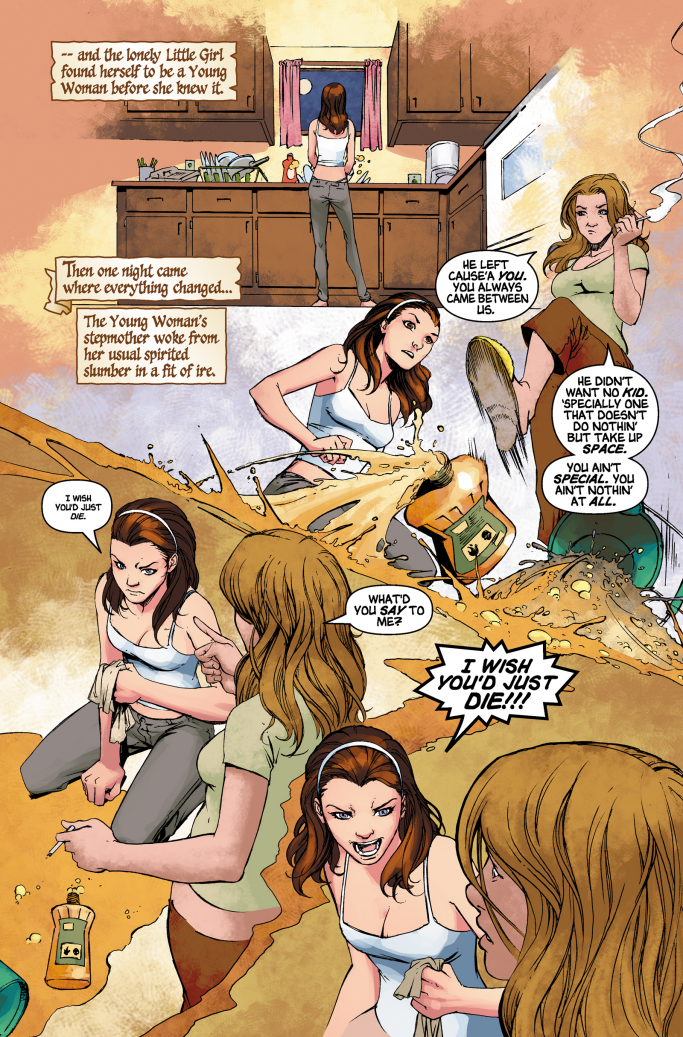
HE DIDN'T WANT NO KID. 'SPECIALLY ONE THAT DOESN'T DO NOTHIN' BUT TAKE UP SPACE.

YOU AIN'T SPECIAL. YOU AIN'T NOTHIN' AT ALL.


I WISH YOU'D JUST DIE.

WHAT'D YOU SAY TO ME?

I WISH YOU'D JUST DIE!!!







All those years of suppressing her voice, keeping it deep down inside, made it so that when she finally spoke, no one could help but listen.

Her Stepmother's heart certainly listened, and stopped pumping the instant the command was uttered.

The Young Woman didn't know what power her voice held. She had changed in the course of an instant.

And nothing would be the same for her again.

Like her father had done those few years before, she left herself behind in that house now set ablaze.

"Move! You have to get out of here! Wake up!" she'd commanded.

But no matter what she said, she could not compel her Stepmother to move.

For what she ordered could not be undone.



And as she wiped away her tears, she wiped away her past.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?  
I'M GONNA CALL THE POLICE.

NO.  
JUST TAKE ME AWAY FROM HERE.

She had changed into someone else. Someone with a special gift.

WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?

WEST.

And to sever her new world of possibilities from the old, she decided to rename herself... **Eden.**

# LIFE BEFORE EDEN

PIERLUIGI COTHMAN    MARCUS TO  
Story    Art  
MARK ROSLAN    PETER STEIGERWALD Colors  
Digital into    COMICRAFT Lettering  
An ASPEN MLT INC. Production