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# HEROES

## CHAPTER 66

# THE TEN BRIDES OF TAKEZO KENSEI

Over four hundred years old, Takezo Kensei  
has outlived entire lineages of families.

But what of his own?

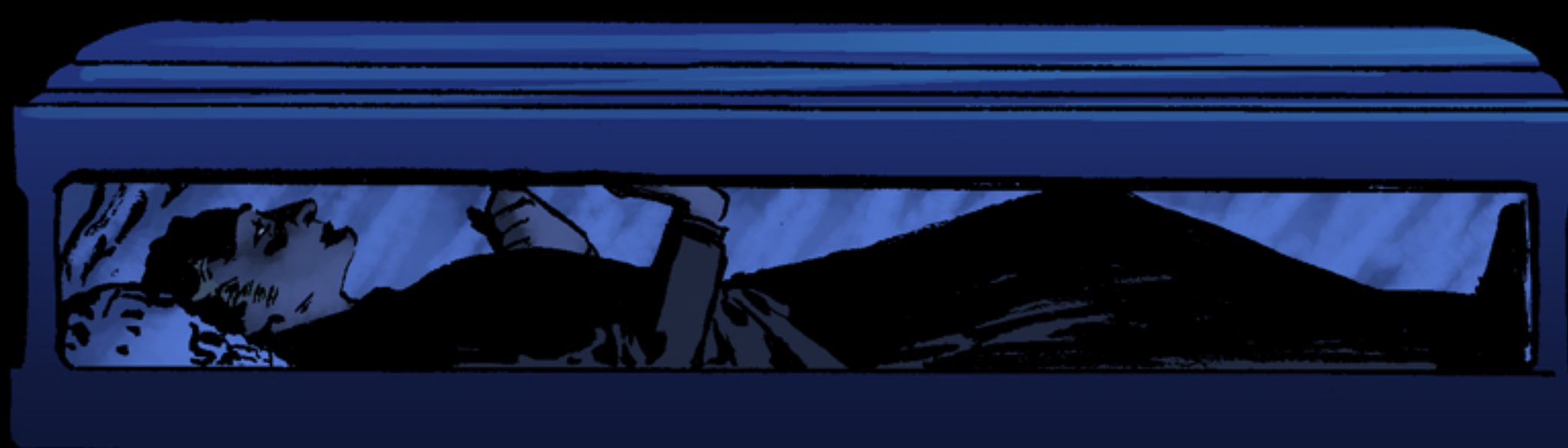
Who were the loves of Takezo Kensei?



KINGS AND QUEENS. WISE MEN  
AND LEADERS. PROPHETS AND  
WARRIORS. I'VE OUTLIVED THE  
GREATEST MEN AND WOMEN  
ON THE PLANET.

EVEN AMONG THOSE WHO  
COULD BEND STEEL WITH  
THEIR BARE HANDS. OR  
WIELD THE VERY ELEMENTS.  
I SURVIVED THEM ALL.

ALL EXCEPT  
*ONE*.



**HIRO  
NAKAMURA.**

THIS IS  
*TWICE* NOW  
THAT HE'S  
KILLED ME.



I'VE BEEN ON THIS EARTH  
FOR OVER FOUR CENTURIES.

BUT WHAT DO I HAVE  
TO *SHOW* FOR IT?

A FEW DOZEN *NAMES*?  
TAKEZO KENSEI?  
RICHARD SANDERS?  
ADAM MONROE?

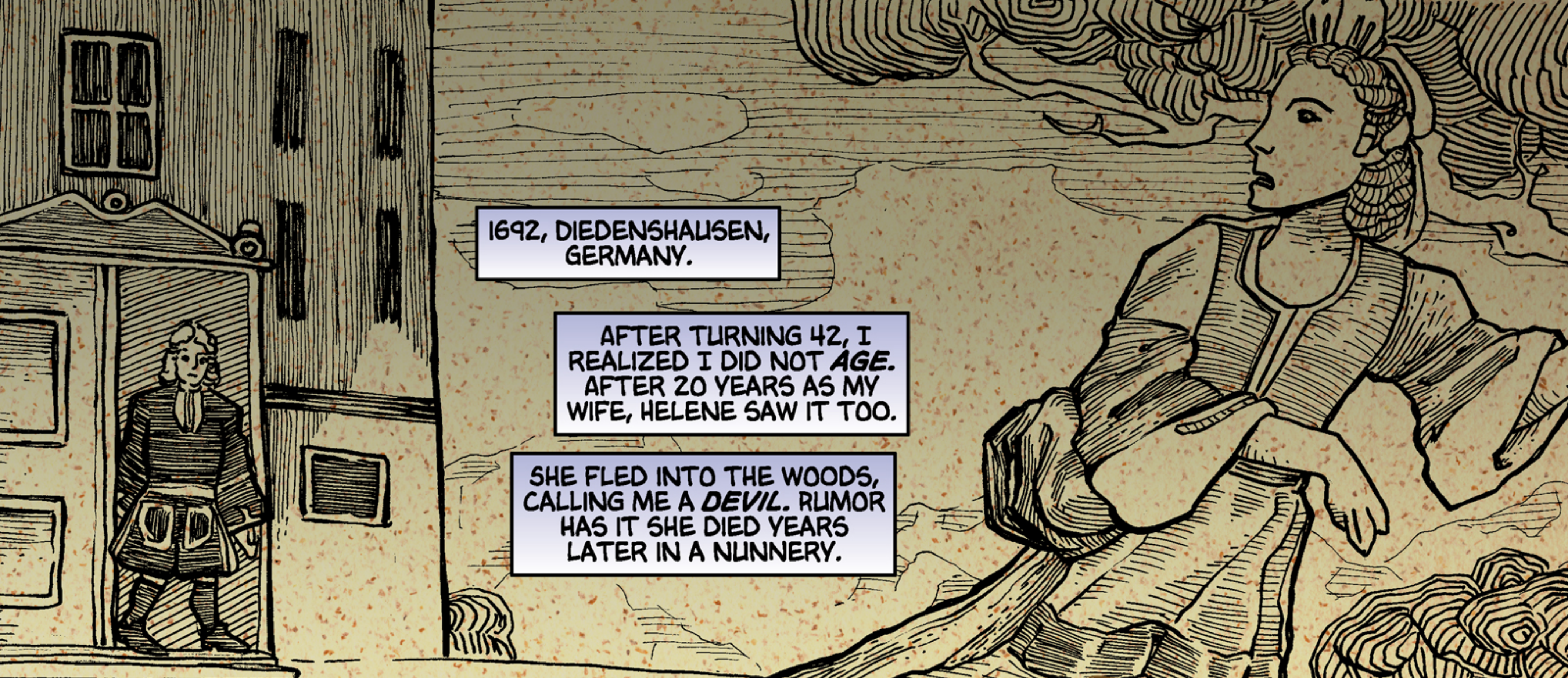
WHAT GOOD IS *IMMORTALITY*  
WHEN YOU'RE *BURIED ALIVE*?

WHEN THE  
*LOVES* OF  
YOUR LIFE ARE  
ALL *DEAD*  
AND *GONE*?

*The* **TEN BRIDES of  
TAKEZO KENSEI**  
**CHUCK KIM**   **PETER STEIGERWALD**  
*Writer*   *Art & Colors*  
**COMICRAFT** *Lettering*   *An ASPEN M.L.T. Production*



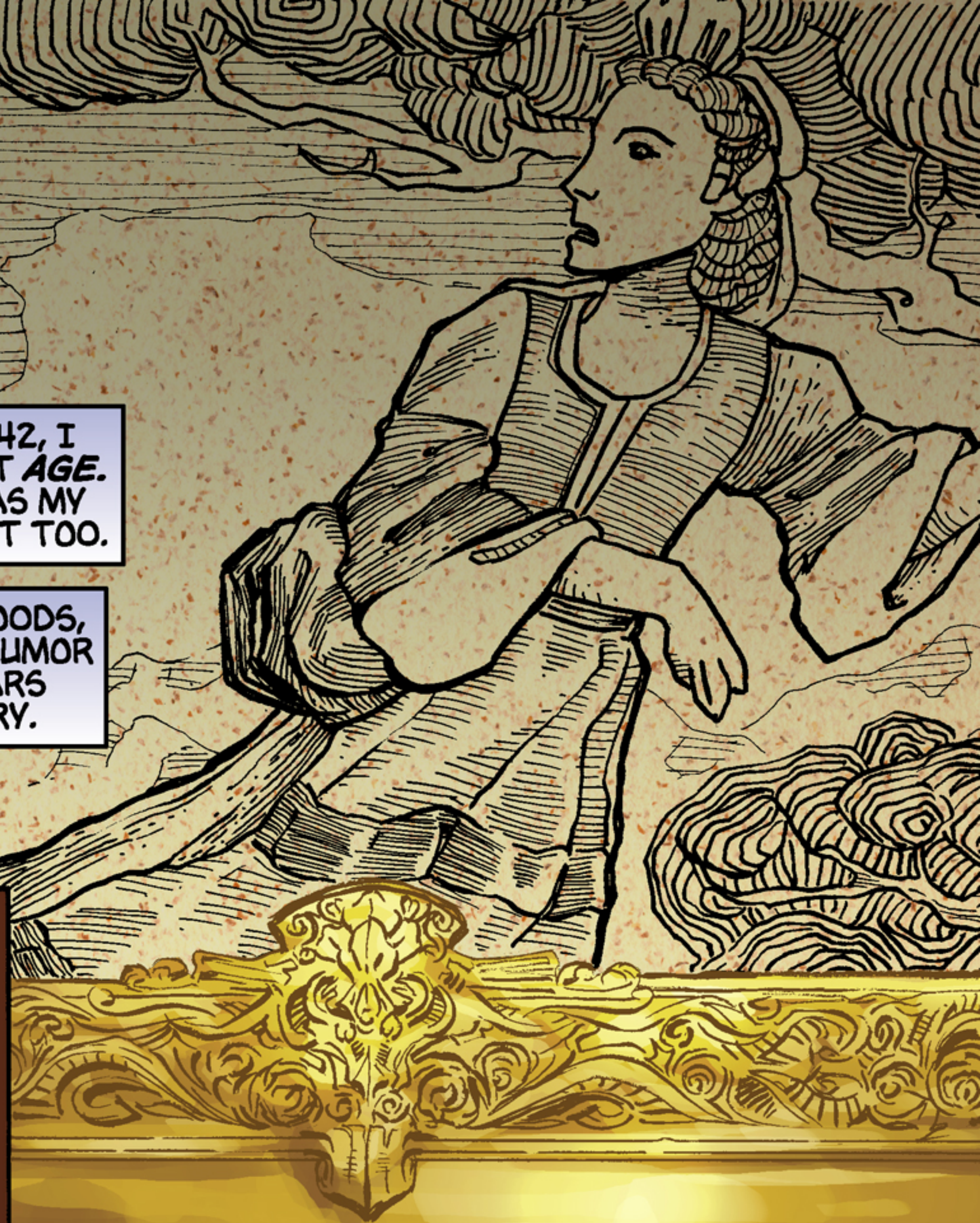




1692, DIEDENSHAUSEN,  
GERMANY.

AFTER TURNING 42, I  
REALIZED I DID NOT *AGE*.  
AFTER 20 YEARS AS MY  
WIFE, HELENE SAW IT TOO.

SHE FLED INTO THE WOODS,  
CALLING ME A *DEVIL*. RUMOR  
HAS IT SHE DIED YEARS  
LATER IN A NUNNERY.



1747, MILAN, ITALY.



MY SECOND WIFE,  
MARIA, BORE ME  
TWO SONS.

EVEN AFTER A  
CENTURY OF LIVING, I  
LEARNED SOMETHING  
*NEW* -- I DON'T LIKE  
CHILDREN.

I LEFT THEM WITH  
TWO SACKS OF COIN  
AND LEFT FOR THE  
NEW COUNTRY TO  
BEGIN AGAIN.

1782, I ABANDONED  
THE QUEEN'S FORCES  
FOR PARIS, FRANCE.

MY NEXT WIFE I  
MET AT A BALL AT  
THE VERSAILLES.



PROUD OF HER  
LOOKS, I NEVER SAW  
FREDERICA OUT OF  
HER FACE POWDER  
AND ROUGE.

IT WAS THAT LOVE  
OF LEAD-BASED  
COSMETICS THAT  
LED TO HER  
UNTIMELY END.



1784, JAPAN.

SEARCHING FOR  
DIRECTION, I  
RETURNED TO  
JAPAN TO FIND  
YAEKO'S  
DESCENDANTS.

I THOUGHT I  
COULD FIND  
FULFILLMENT  
BY WINNING  
HER HEART.  
OR HER GREAT  
GRANDDAUGHTER'S.

YUMI, WHILE  
BEAUTIFUL, WAS  
**NOT** YAEKO.  
I GREW BORED  
AND FAKED MY  
DROWNING WITH  
A CAREFULLY  
PLANNED  
ACCIDENT.

1787- THE  
NORTHWEST  
TERRITORY.

I TOOK A NEW NAME  
AND A NEW WIFE. OUT  
OF LOVE, I CONFESSED  
MY SECRET TO HER,  
THAT I CANNOT DIE.

ANGELICA AND I  
WERE TOGETHER FOR  
62 YEARS, TELLING  
PEOPLE I WAS HER  
HUSBAND. THEN SON.  
THEN GRANDSON.

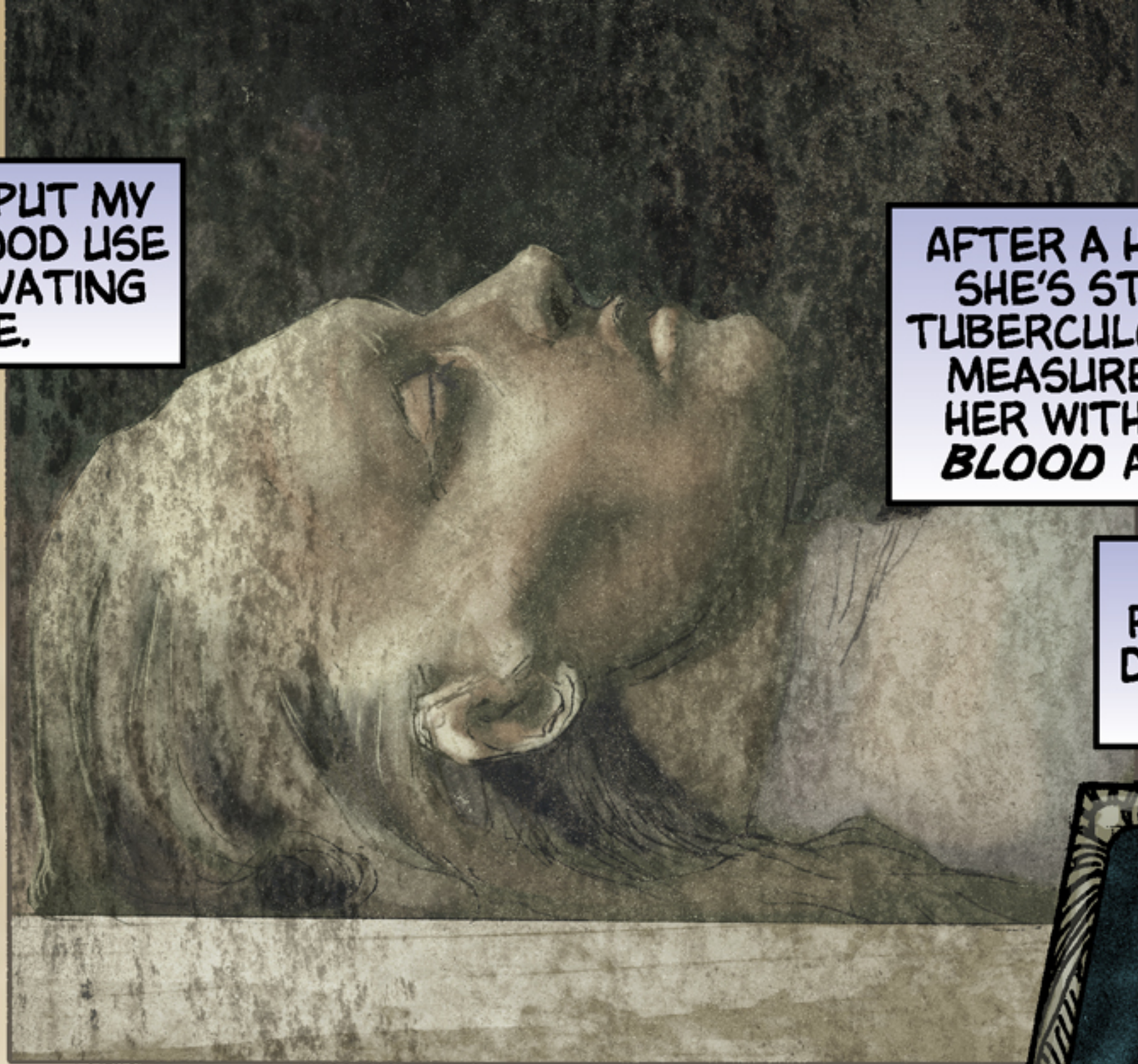
WE HELD HANDS AS SHE  
BREATHED HER LAST  
BREATH, AT AGE 87.

1864 - I MARRIED MY SECOND MARIA IN ATLANTA,  
AT THE ONSET OF THE CIVIL WAR, AS FATE WOULD  
HAVE IT, I CHOSE THE LOSING SIDE. **AGAIN.**

WHILE I FOUGHT ON THE BATTLEFIELD,  
SHE DIED IN A PLANTATION FIRE  
AFTER INHALING TOO MUCH SMOKE.



MONTREAL 1901 - I PUT MY FRENCH BACK TO GOOD USE AND MEET A CAPTIVATING BEAUTY: DIANE.

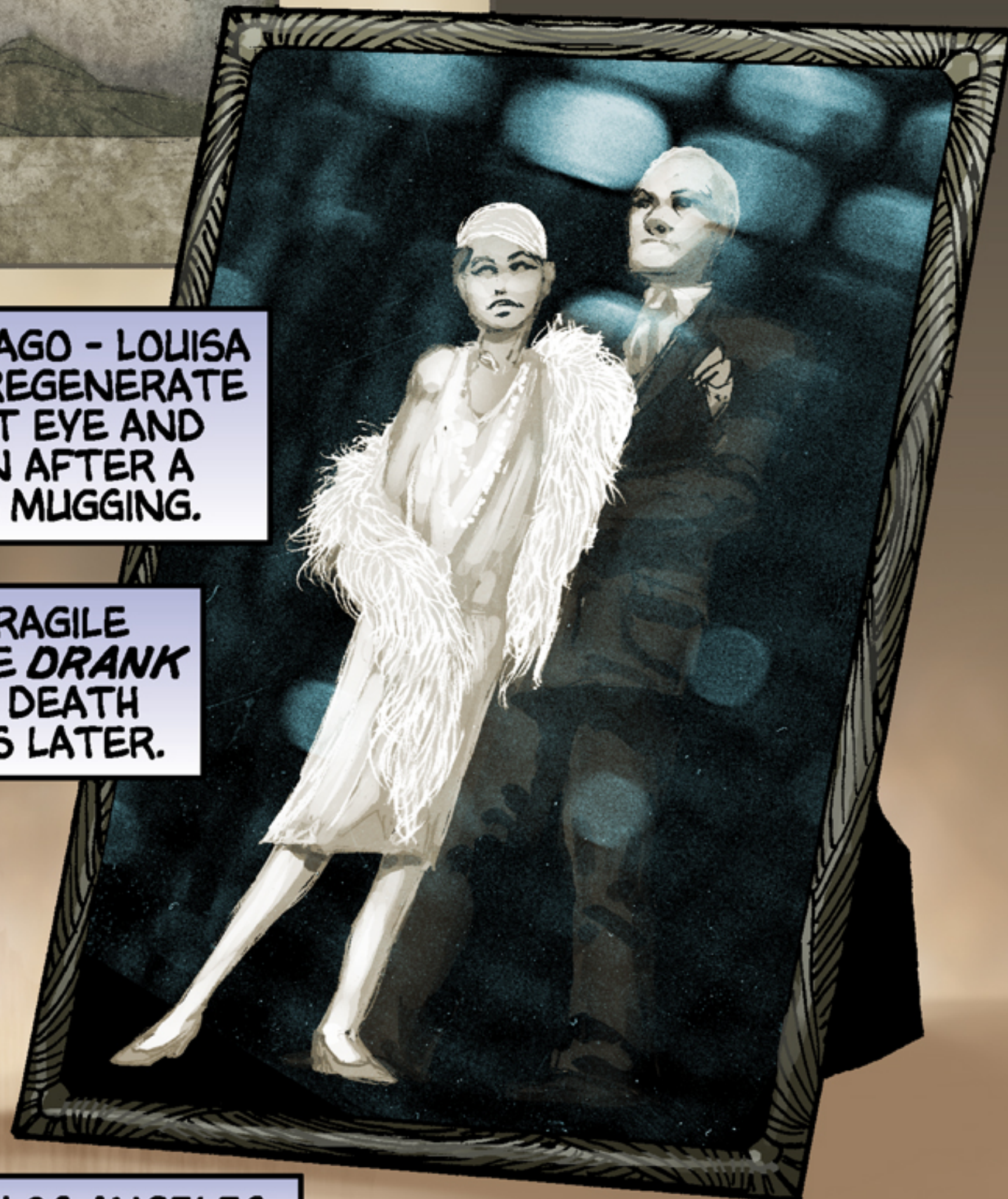


AFTER A HARSH WINTER, SHE'S STRICKEN WITH TUBERCULOSIS. AS A LAST MEASURE, I INJECTED HER WITH A VIAL OF MY **BLOOD** AS SHE SLEPT.

THE DOCTORS CALLED HER RECOVERY A **MIRACLE**. SHE DIED A HAPPY AND PEACEFUL DEATH, 20 YEARS LATER.

1926, CHICAGO - LOUISA SAW ME REGENERATE MY LEFT EYE AND SPLEEN AFTER A VICIOUS MUGGING.

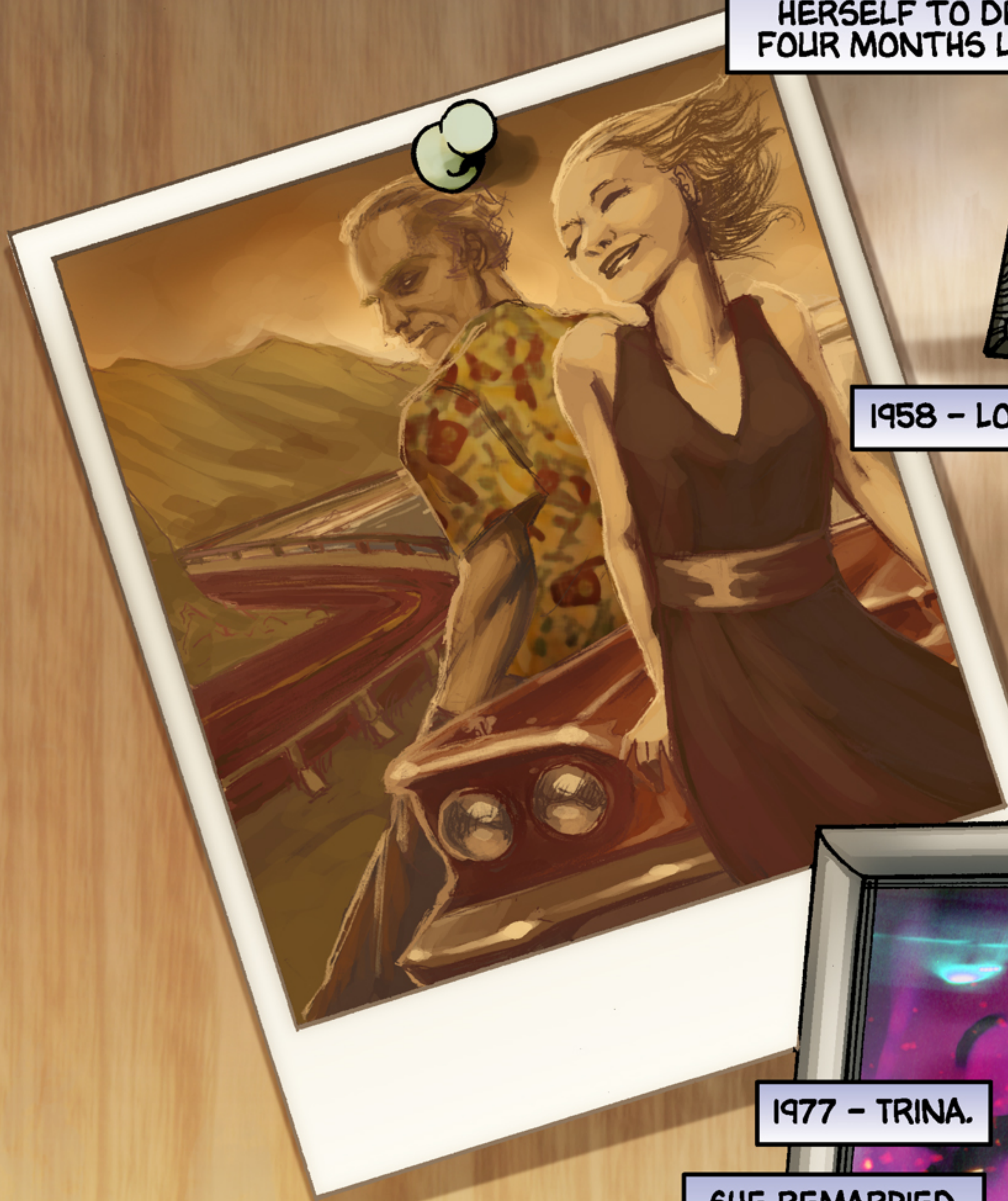
EVER THE FRAGILE CREATURE, SHE **DRANK** HERSELF TO DEATH FOUR MONTHS LATER.



1958 - LOS ANGELES.

THERESA NEVER LOVED ME. I LEARNED THIS WHEN SHE AND HER LOVER SHOT ME TWICE IN THE CHEST. THEN DUMPED MY BODY OFF A CLIFF.

BY MORNING, I SWAM BACK TO SHORE AND KILLED THEM AS THEY SLEPT.

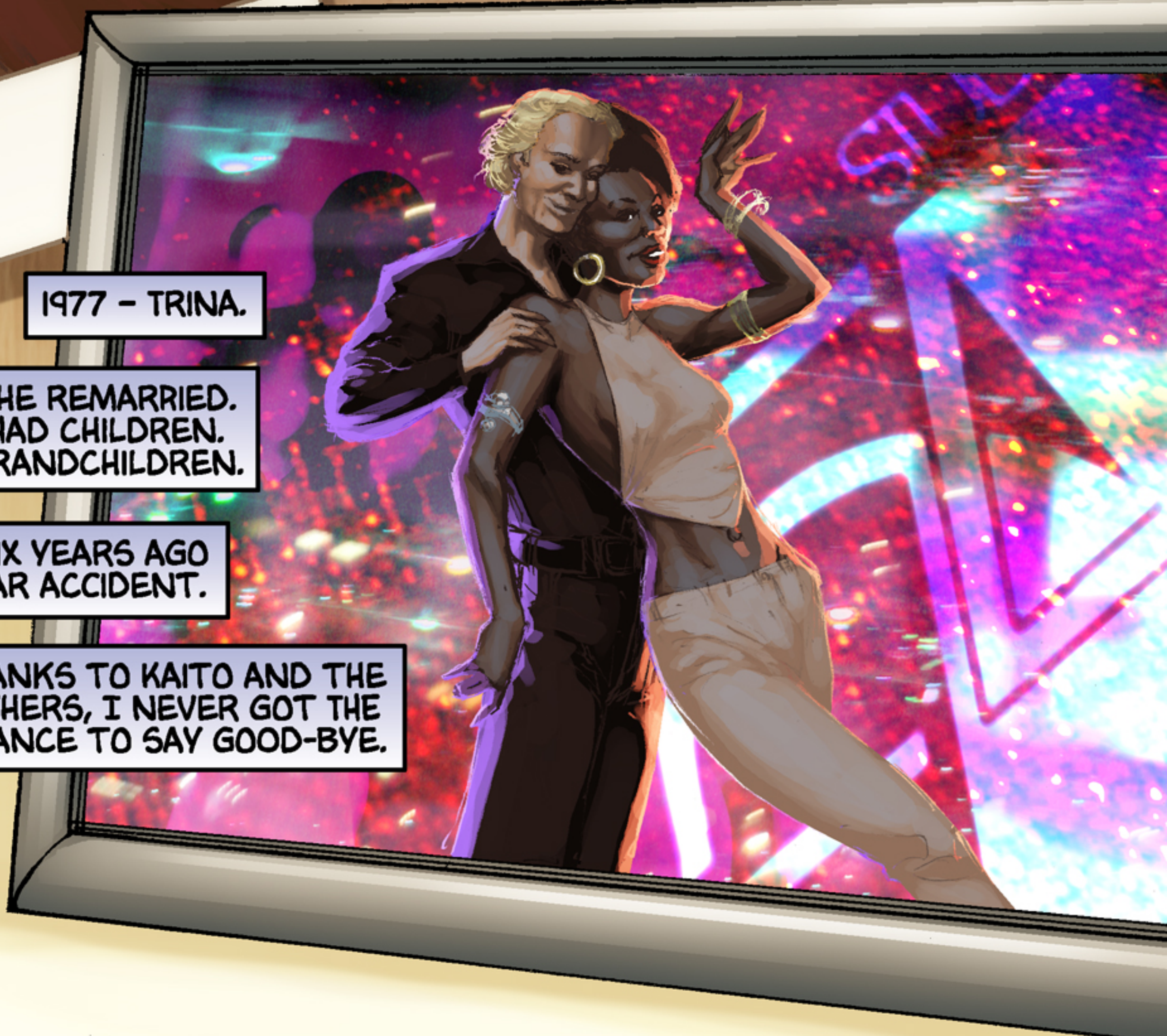


1977 - TRINA.

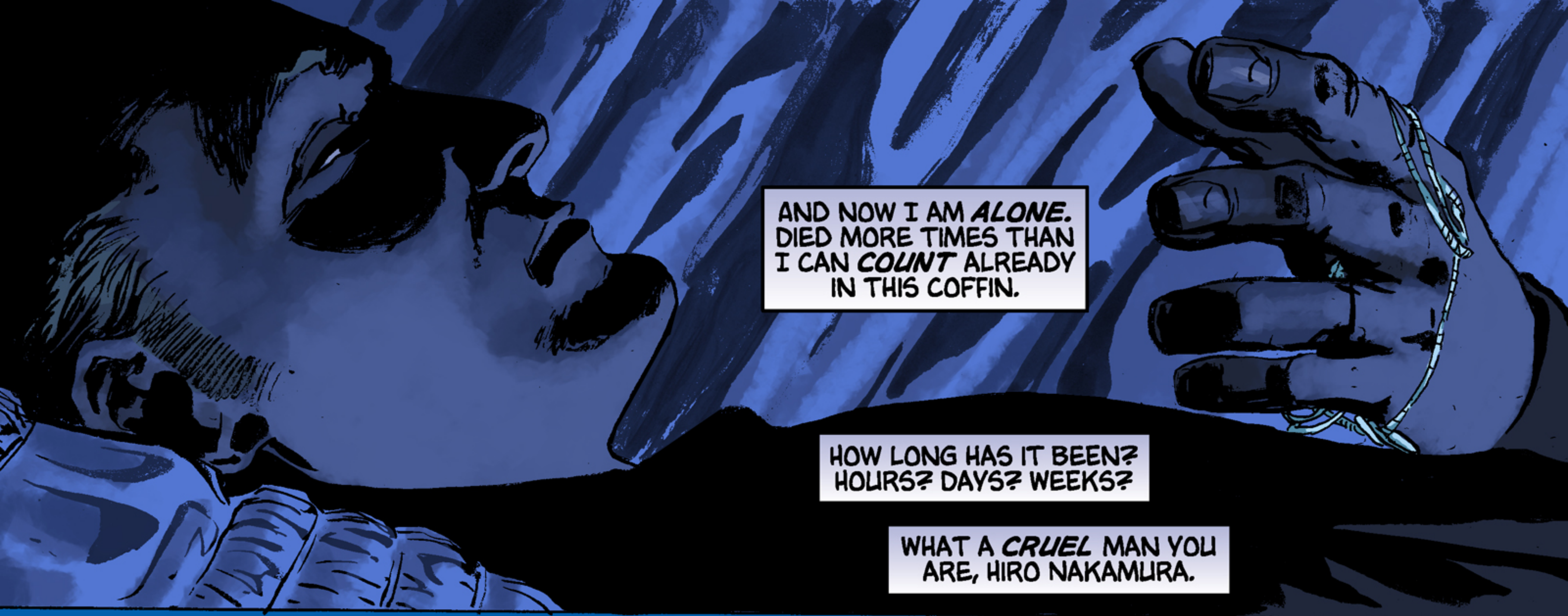
SHE REMARRIED. HAD CHILDREN. GRANDCHILDREN.

DIED SIX YEARS AGO IN A CAR ACCIDENT.

THANKS TO KAITO AND THE OTHERS, I NEVER GOT THE CHANCE TO SAY GOOD-BYE.



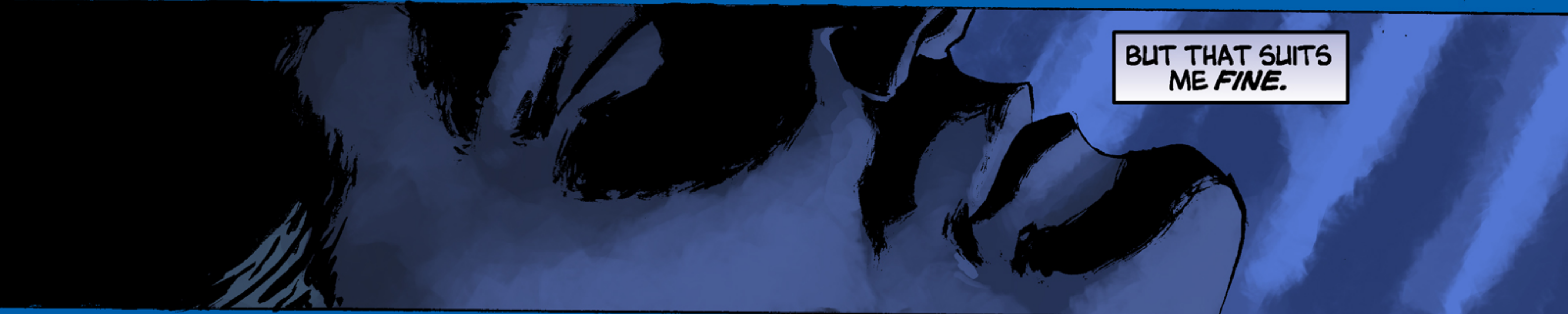




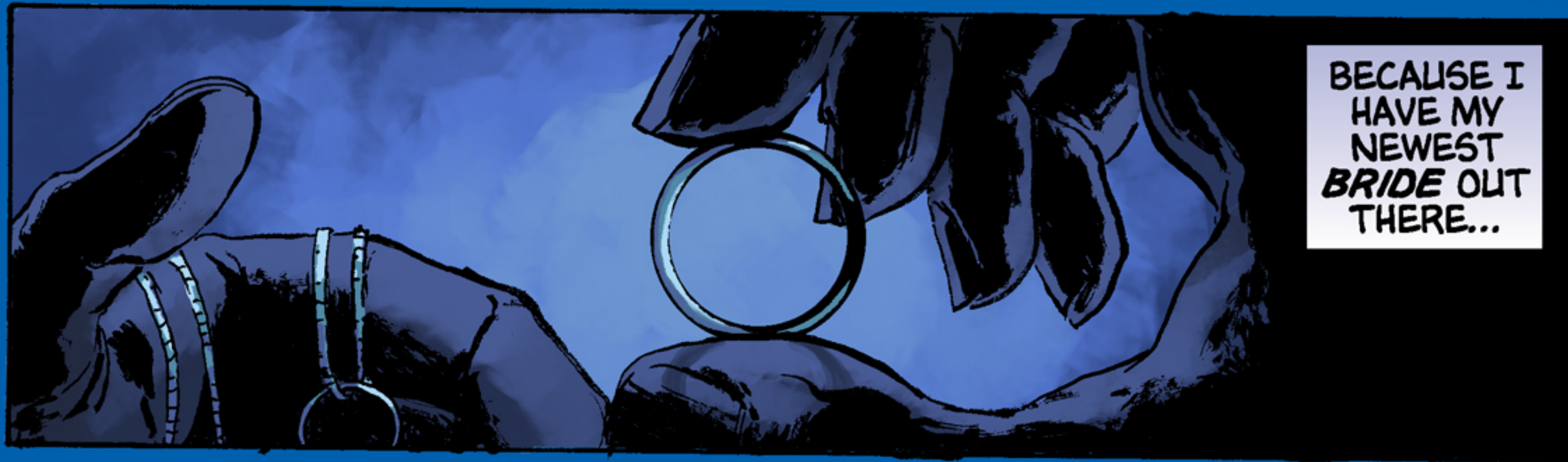
AND NOW I AM *ALONE*.  
DIED MORE TIMES THAN  
I CAN *COUNT* ALREADY  
IN THIS COFFIN.

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?  
HOURS? DAYS? WEEKS?

WHAT A *CRUEL* MAN YOU  
ARE, HIRO NAKAMURA.



BUT THAT SUITS  
ME *FINE*.



BECAUSE I  
HAVE MY  
NEWEST  
*BRIDE* OUT  
THERE...

...AND I'M  
CERTAIN SHE'LL  
*FIND* ME.



*End*