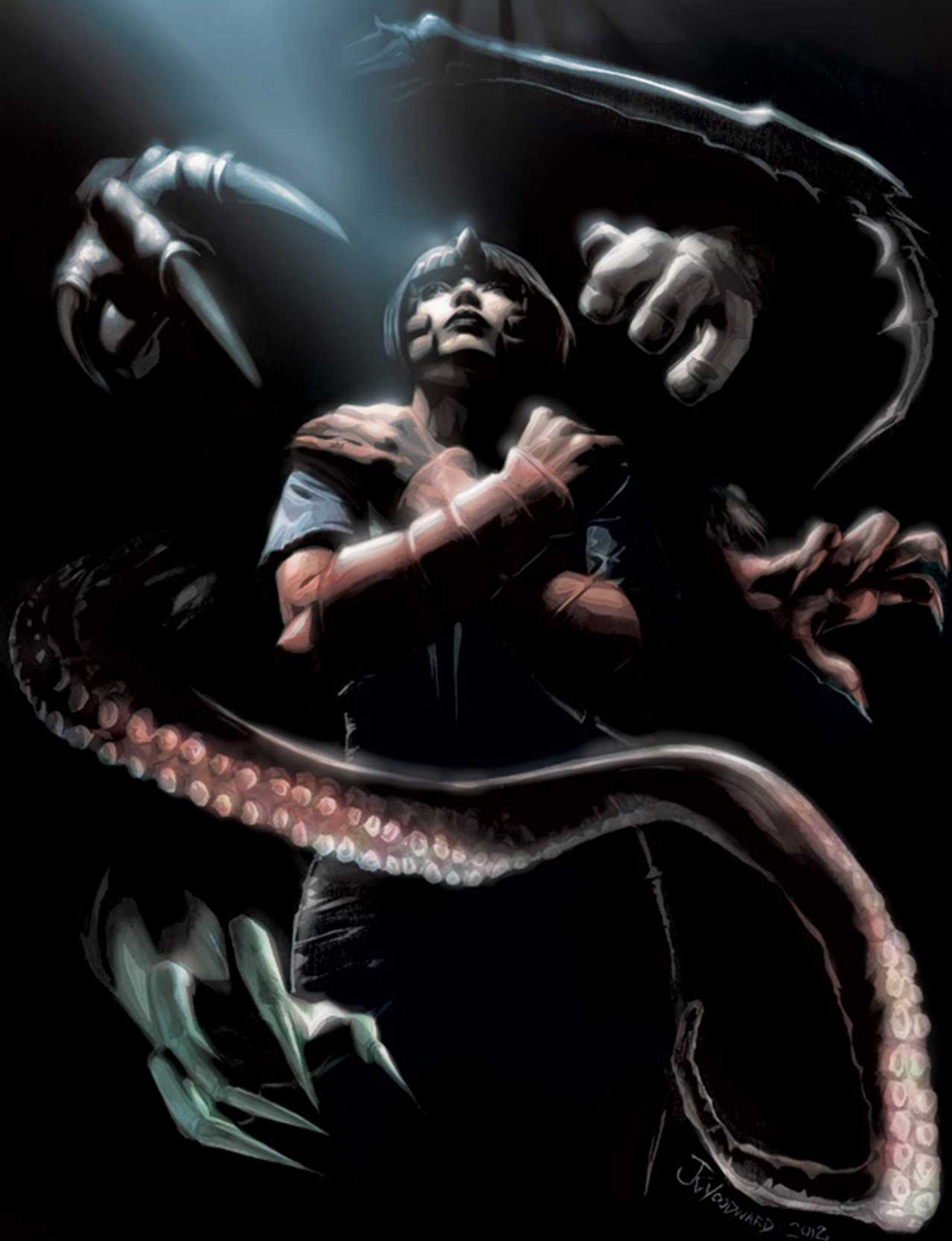


BEHEMOTH



BEHEMOTH

CHAPTER 1 – “THIS IS WHAT YOU ARE”

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ARTIST **J.K. WOODWARD**

LETTERER **JESSE POST**

BEHEMOTH CREATED BY CHRIS KIPINIAK AND J.K. WOODWARD



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"WHERE IS YOUR DAUGHTER?"

RE-UOL!

I'm sorry
I'm sorry I'm
sorry I'm --

AT A FRIEND'S
HOUSE -- !

SHE'S UPSTAIRS.

COPY.

NO!

HOLD
STILL, MRS.
FOWLER.

"LEAVE HER ALONE!"

you're
okay ...

you're okay,
mom's okay ...

"PLEASE!"

everything's
gonna be o --

OUCH!

"SHE'S STILL MY
DAUGHTER!"

Why is this
happening?



**KNOCK
KNOCK**

THERESA?
YOU OKAY IN
THERE?



WE WERE JUST
FIXING UP YOUR MOM'S
ARM. IT'S NOT AS BAD
AS IT LOOKS.



SHE'S
FINE.

...
IS
SHE THERE? I
WANT TO TALK
TO HER.



SHE'S DOWNSTAIRS. THEY'RE
SEWING HER UP.

RE-UOL!

THERESA?



TALK TO
ME, THERESA.

WE'RE HERE
TO HELP.

NO...



WE'RE MADE.

KR EEEEESSHH



TARGET ON OFFENSIVE.

GODDAMNIT.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?



FUCKING SEDATE HER!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?!



GRRR
OOORR
RRRR!!!

TR-TR-TR-T





THERESA, I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T KNOW THEY'D --

MOM, WHAT'S HAPPENING? I CAN'T --

MRS. FOWLER, PLEASE --



YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND --

I'M HERE, SWEETHEART. I'M H--

RE-UO--



--REEARGH!

--AAAA!!!

GET HER IN THE GODDAMN TRUCK!



"Dear Mom . . ."

"I can't stop thinking about what I did. I am so sorry. I am sorry for everything."




They tell me not to blame myself because it wasn't me. Not really.

I know what they mean. But it was.

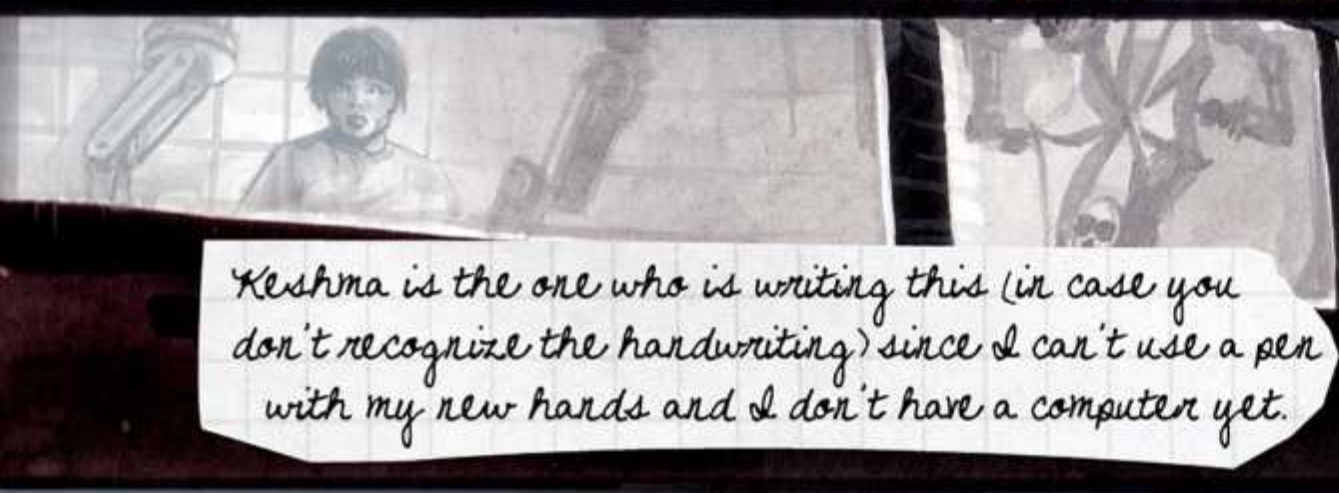
I remember feeling angry. I remember wanting to hurt you. I remember your blood in my mouth.

I couldn't control it. But it was still me.




This is a weird place.

They don't know what's making me change, but they say that I am not the only one.



I haven't seen any other kids — only doctors and soldiers. Some of the orderlies are really nice.

Keshma is the one who is writing this (in case you don't recognize the handwriting) since I can't use a pen with my new hands and I don't have a computer yet.



The doctors don't really talk to me.

OW.

Keshma says it's because they don't know what to say.

And doctors hate that.


CAN SOMEONE
TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE
LOOKING FOR?

HELLO?


IS
ANYONE
THERE?



**ANSWER
ME!**



*One doctor talks to me
sometimes . . .*




Theresa, you're losing control --

She's the only one.

I want to know what you've found! I want to know --

Nothing. We've found nothing.



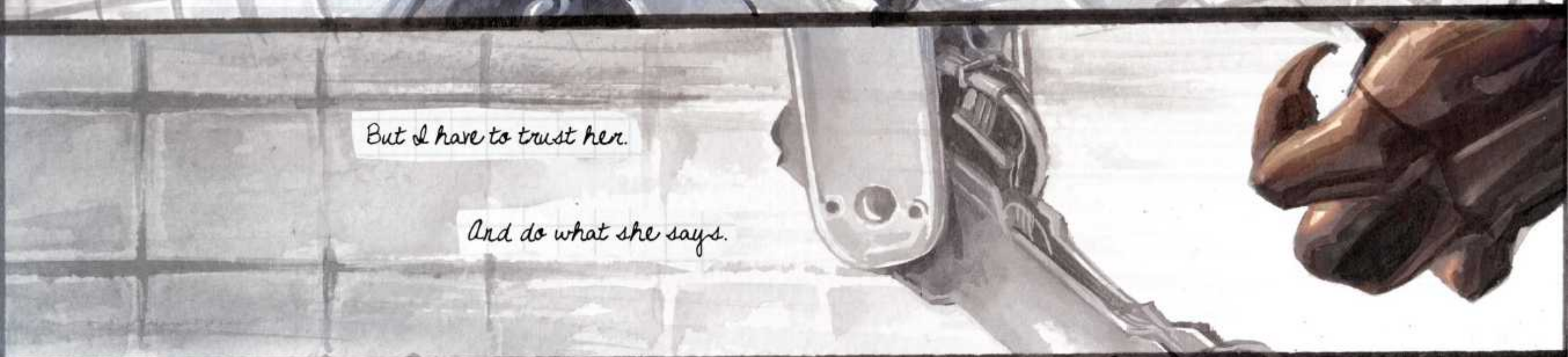
She says there's hope.

I'm sorry, Theresa, but I told you: this is a very new phenomenon. We don't have a lot to go on.

I can either spend my time trying to help you or I can spend it calming you down. Which is it going to be?


But I have to trust her.

And do what she says.




What do I have to lose?

Thank you, Theresa.




After tomorrow's tests they are moving me to where the other kids are staying.

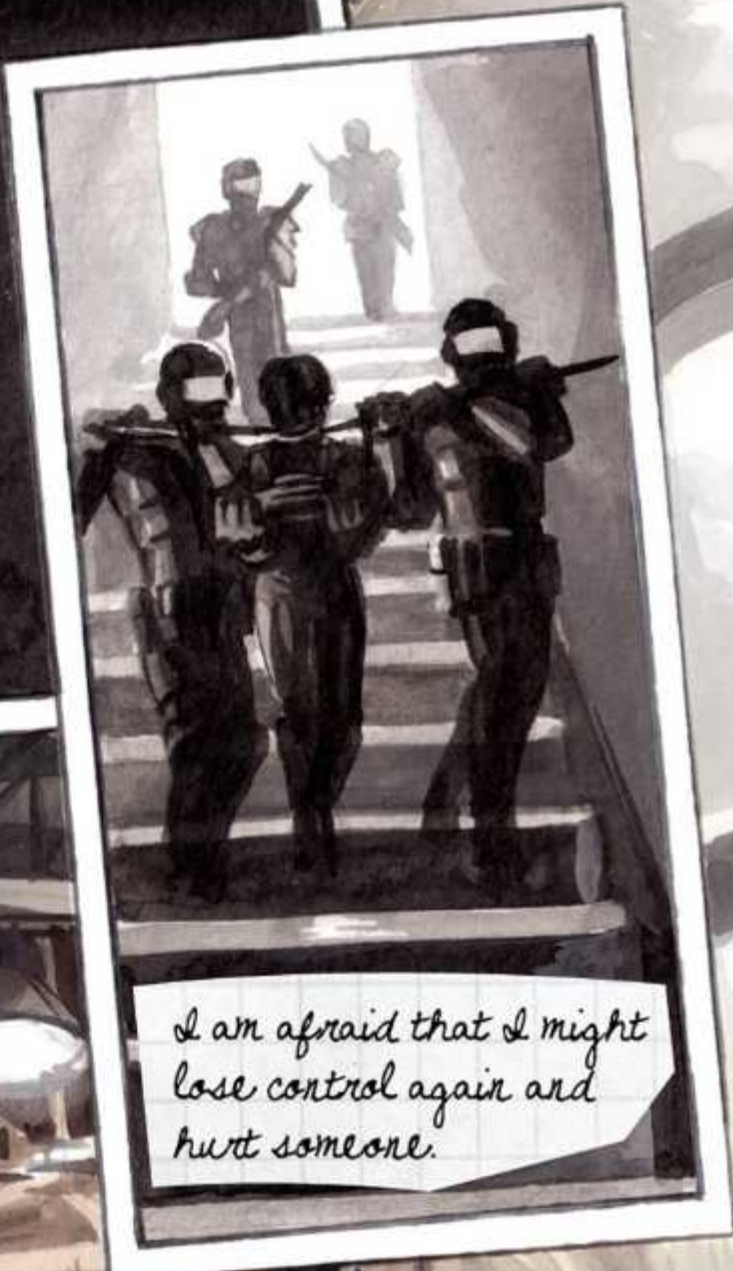
I hope my roommate and I get along.




Please write. But don't visit.




*I want to see you and Dad
and Patrick again, but not
while I'm like this.*



*I am afraid that I might
lose control again and
hurt someone.*




*I love you and I am
so sorry for the pain
I caused.*



*But I am going to get better
and come home and I will be
a better daughter than ever.
You'll see.*



*Love,
Theresa*



**"HER BODY IS CHANGING A LOT
FASTER THAN HER MIND."**



MENTAL FACULTIES ARE
SUBLIMATED BY STRESSORS, BUT
RETURN FULLY WHEN STRESSORS
ARE REMOVED.

I
LIKE HER FOR
BEHEMOTH.



ARE YOU SURE?

SHE'LL BE
HARD TO TRAIN. THE
CAPACITY FOR REGRET
IN THAT LETTER --

IT'LL
PASS.



I KNOW
WHAT SHE DID TO
THE EXTRACTION
TEAM.

THAT SURVIVAL
INSTINCT IS MORE USEFUL
THAN ANY TRAINING WE
COULD GIVE HER.



YOU CAN'T FORCE
HER TO JOIN.

NO, I CAN'T. I'LL MAKE
IT CLEAR THAT THE CHOICE
IS HERS.



THEN MAKE
SURE SHE CHOOSES
CORRECTLY.



310 ... 311 ...
312 ...



HELLO?
IS ANYBODY,
UH...?



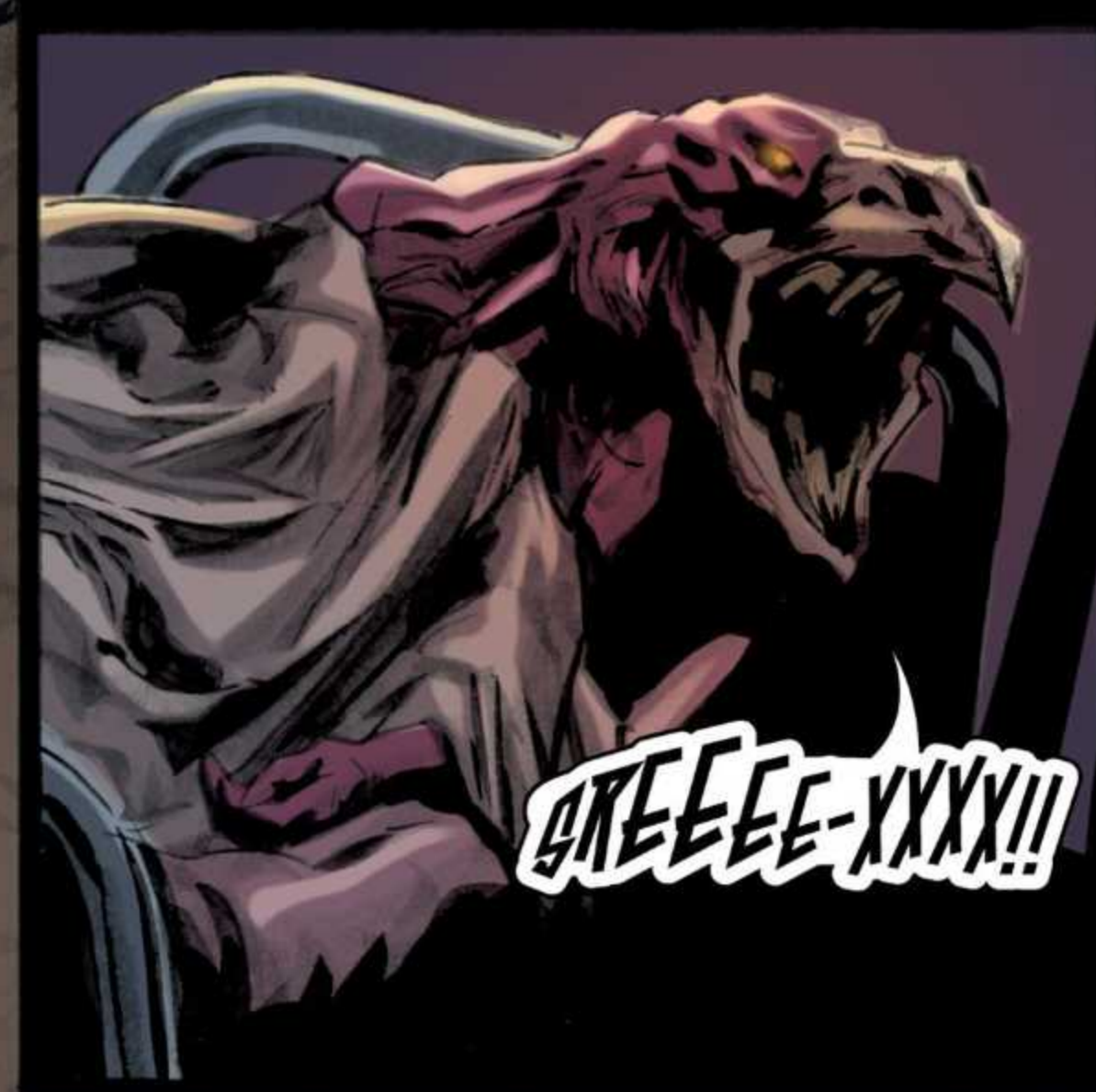
HELLO?
IS ANYBODY
HERE?

OH, I'M
SORRY --



ARE YOU
ASLEEP?

I'M YOUR
NEW ROOMMATE. MY
NAME IS --



EEEEEE-XXXX!!!



AAAAAH!

ACK-ACK-ACK!!!







When did I sprout this?

It must look so gross...

KRRRK



SOMEONE THERE?



HELLO?

GHAAAAAAAA



AAAH!

WHO ARE YOU? WHY ARE YOU -- ?

HELP!!

EEEEEE-YYYY!!





SHHHHHHHHHH!!!

ACK-
ACK-ACK!!!



KRRSH

ACK-A --



SHE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING! WHAT DO YOU -- ?!

ALL RIGHT, BREAK IT UP!



FIND OUT WHICH BARRACKS THESE --

PLEASE HELP ME! I WAS TRYING TO SLEEP AND THESE --

HOLY SHIT! CHECK OUT WHAT THIS ONE DID!

HAA. HAAAAAAAAAAAAA.

GET GOING. AND SHUT HER UP.

OKAY, OKAY, I SEE IT.

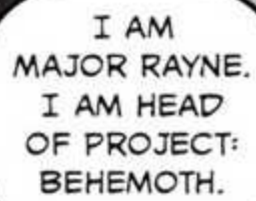
GET IT OFF ME! ARE YOU LISTENING?!

MMMMMMM!!!!

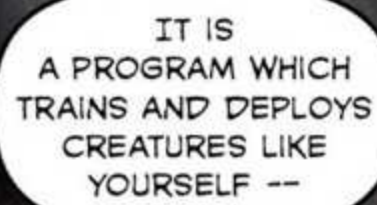




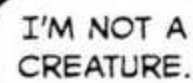
LOOK AT ME. BE QUIET.



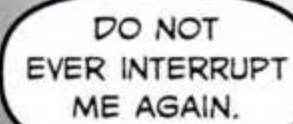
I AM MAJOR RAYNE. I AM HEAD OF PROJECT: BEHEMOTH.



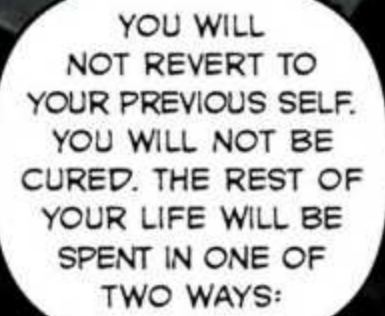
IT IS A PROGRAM WHICH TRAINS AND DEPLOYS CREATURES LIKE YOURSELF --



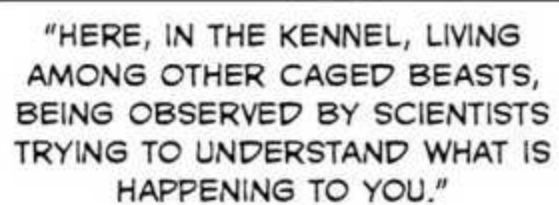
I'M NOT A CREATURE.



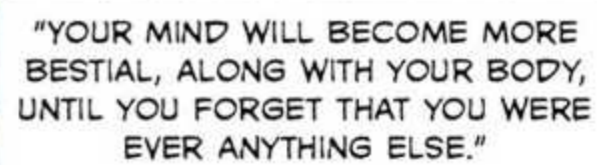
DO NOT EVER INTERRUPT ME AGAIN.



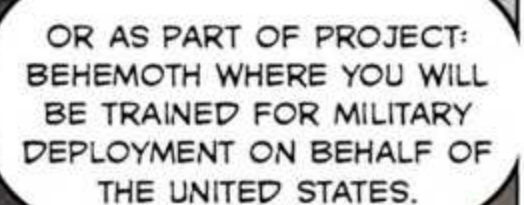
YOU WILL NOT REVERT TO YOUR PREVIOUS SELF. YOU WILL NOT BE CURED. THE REST OF YOUR LIFE WILL BE SPENT IN ONE OF TWO WAYS:



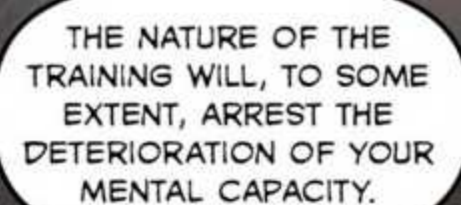
"HERE, IN THE KENNEL, LIVING AMONG OTHER CAGED BEASTS, BEING OBSERVED BY SCIENTISTS TRYING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IS HAPPENING TO YOU."




"YOUR MIND WILL BECOME MORE BESTIAL, ALONG WITH YOUR BODY, UNTIL YOU FORGET THAT YOU WERE EVER ANYTHING ELSE."



OR AS PART OF PROJECT: BEHEMOTH WHERE YOU WILL BE TRAINED FOR MILITARY DEPLOYMENT ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES.



THE NATURE OF THE TRAINING WILL, TO SOME EXTENT, ARREST THE DETERIORATION OF YOUR MENTAL CAPACITY.




YOU WILL STAY MORE HUMAN FOR LONGER. THAT IS THE BEST YOU CAN HOPE FOR.

THOSE ARE YOUR CHOICES.



DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

I AM NOT A CREATURE.




LOOK AT YOURSELF.

THIS IS WHAT YOU ARE.



THE DOCTOR SAID THERE'S HOPE --

SCIENTISTS ARE DREAMERS.



I AM NOT.

I WILL LEAVE YOU TO DECIDE.



I HATE HIM. I HATEHATEHATEHATE-
HATEHATEWANNAEATHIS...

NO --



I DON'T EAT PEOPLE. I'M NOT A
MONSTER.

I'M A PERSON. PEOPLE DON'T
EAT PEOPLE. (EXCEPT IF
THEY'RE REALLY WEIRD.) I
JUST HATE HIM.



AND IT'S NORMAL TO HATE SOMEONE
WHO'S A FUCKING ASSHOLE!

FUCKINGKILLTHATPIECE-
OFSHITRRRRRRR



ASSHOLE OR NOT ... DO
I BELIEVE HIM?

EVEN IF THERE IS A CURE,
THE DOCTOR SAYS IT WILL
TAKE TIME.



DO I HAVE
TIME?

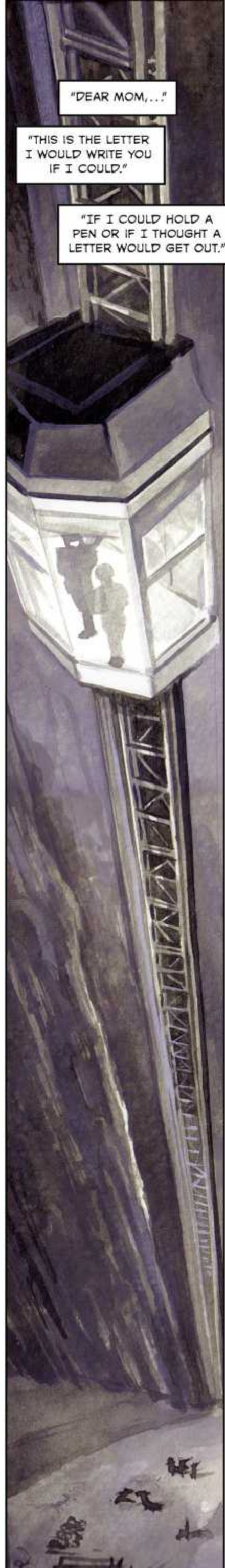


OKAY!
I'VE MADE MY
DECISION!



I'M IN!





"DEAR MOM..."

"THIS IS THE LETTER I WOULD WRITE YOU IF I COULD."

"IF I COULD HOLD A PEN OR IF I THOUGHT A LETTER WOULD GET OUT."



"YOU DIDN'T GET MY LETTERS, DID YOU?"

"YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING."

"I THINK MAYBE THAT'S BEST."



DESIST!
LINE!



I SAID, LINE!!!
KRAAT



BEHEMOTH!

THERE IS A NEW MEMBER OF YOUR PACK. HER NAME IS THERESA.

HI --

SHE IS ONE OF YOU NOW.



COURSE, RED BALLS. HERE.

GO!

"I DON'T WANT TO BECOME LIKE THEM..."



"LIKE THE ONES I SAW BEFORE."



AM I SUPPOSED TO --?



GO!



"SO, TO STAY THE SAME..."

"... I HAVE TO BECOME SOMETHING ELSE."



"DOES THAT MAKE SENSE?"



AGAIN! GREEN!
GO!



ant-pant



"I DON'T KNOW."



HEY. ARE YOU -- ?

rrrrr...



RRROOOWRRR!!

TAKE IT EASY ...



JUST TRYING TO HELP.

YOU... YOU CAN TALK?

REX! THERESA! LINE!



YEAH. DRIVES RAYNE UP THE WALL.

I SAID, LINE!



YOU! GET IN THE GODDAMN --



C'MON.



YOU'RE ONE OF US, NOW.

ABOUT THE CREATORS



CHRIS KIPINIAK is an actor and writer based in New York. He's appeared in plays on and off Broadway, around the U.S. and internationally, and on the web series, "Real Actors Read . . .". He's written the comics *Nightcrawler*, *Amazing Fantasy*, and *Marvel Adventures: Spider-Man* for Marvel comics, and multiple issues of the *MediKidz*. He wrote and co-produced the short film, *Love Life*, which is currently on the festival circuit. Other writing includes the super hero play, *Save the World*, as well as the plays *liinsaaaaaaaaane!*, *Change the Be*, *Stalled*, and others. He co-hosts the podcast, *Arts & Crap*. You can find more at www.chriskipiniak.com and you can follow him on Twitter at [@ckipiniak](https://twitter.com/ckipiniak).



J.K. WOODWARD started his professional comics career in 2003 and went on to work on several titles for IDW, BOOM! Studios, Archaia, Dark Horse, Heavy Metal Magazine, and Marvel. He's worked on such titles as *X-Men Origins: Beast*, *Star Trek*, *Mars Attacks*, and more. He currently illustrates *Peter David's Fallen Angel* as a reoccurring miniseries for IDW as well as various cover and sequential work for multiple publications. His recent projects include a *Star Trek/Doctor Who* 8-issue mini-series, *Assimilation 2*, and *Star Trek: Harlan Ellison's City on the Edge of Forever: The Original Teleplay*.



JESSE POST is a comics editor, letterer, and publishing consultant who dreams of a day when self-published authors and small press books dominate the sales charts. He lettered the multiple Eisner Award-nominated graphic novel, *Johnny Hiro* by Fred Chao (Tor Books), edited comics for *Disney Adventures* and *Comic Zone* (the two best-selling comics magazines in the country at the time), and currently edits a line of children's titles for Joe Books. The first thing he ever read in his life was a comic, and the rest is history.