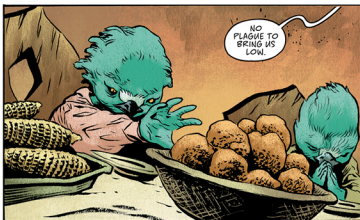




NO EVIL TO THREATEN.

NO TEMPTATION TO LURE.



NO PLAGUE TO BRING US LOW.



ACCEPT OUR GRATITUDE, OBEEDIENCE, AND HUMBLE SACRIFICE.

GLADLY GIVEN...



IN RETURN FOR OUR TIME ON YOUR PERFECT WORLD.

KRTCH





YOUR MISTRESS TEACHES BEST WHAT SHE MOST NEEDS TO LEARN.

I DIDN'T KNOW THE ANNUAL GALA WAS TOMORROW.

WHY WOULD YOU?



I'M 18...

AND?

AND IT'S TIME THAT I JOIN.



WHEN YOU'RE OLDER.

MUCH OLDER.



DEAR GIRL, THERE IS GOOD INTENTION AND WISDOM BEHIND MY DECREE.

DON'T TELL ME WHAT'S BEST FOR ME.



I MEAN IT AS A FATHER LOOKING TO PROTECT HIS DAUGHTER.



HOW CAN YOU STILL NOT UNDERSTAND THAT ONE WAY OR ANOTHER...



I GET WHAT I WANT.



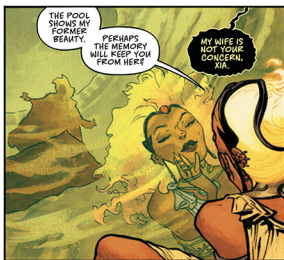


...LATE
AND JUST
BEFORE YOU'RE
SCHEDULED TO
WORK.

BY
DESIGN

DO I
BORE
YOU?

THIS
CONVERSATION
DOES.



THE POOL
SHOWS MY
FORMER
BEAUTY.

PERHAPS
THE MEMORY
WILL KEEP YOU
FROM HER?

MY WIFE IS
NOT YOUR
CONCERN,
XIA.



YOU VISIT
HER SOME
CYCLES MORE
THAN OTHERS.

THE PLEASURE
OF HAVING A
MISTRESS IS THE
FREEDOM
FROM PESTERING
INQUIRY.

WE LIVE IN
PERCEPTION, MY
LOVE. YOU
ARE THE
PERCEPTION...



PLAYING
THE ROLE
OF THE
BETRAYED
RUINS IT.

SHE IS
THE ICE THAT
EXTINGUISHERS
THE FLAME YOU
IGNITED.

AND
YET YOU
RETURN
TO HER...