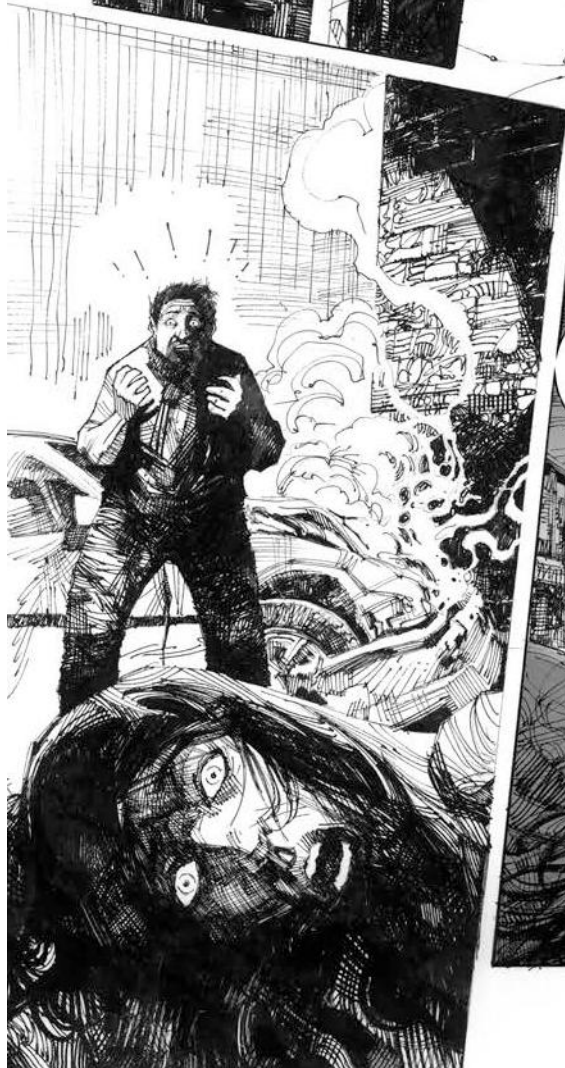


THE NIGHT WIND HOWLS
LIKE A WOUNDED,
DYING ANIMAL.



ONE MIGHT THINK
THE STREET WAS
MOURNING THIS
PARTICULAR
DEATH.



DO WE
TAKE AWAY
THE BODY
NOW?

NOT YET.
WAIT.

SHE'S
ON HER
WAY.

SIR? THE
SOCO'S ALREADY
COLLECTED ALL
THE IMPORTANT
EVIDENCE.







DID HE
TELL YOU THAT
WE ARE SIBAT -
THE HARPOON
CLAN!

WE ARE
THE BEST HUNTERS
ON LAND AND THE SEA!
WE'VE TRACKED DOWN
AND SLAUGHTERED
100-FOOT MARKUPO
AND THE SWIFTEST
SIRENA.

AND YOUR
FATHER KNEW WELL
ENOUGH TO STAY
AWAY FROM OUR
TERRITORIES.







WHAT'S SO FUNNY?!



STOP LAUGHING! I'LL RIP THIS MASK OFF-



UUHLPP!!!







HEHEHE.
OF COURSE I
REMEMBER HER. IT'S
NOT OFTEN THAT SOMEONE
COMES IN HERE ASKING FOR
MERMAID BONES AND ARE
WILLING TO GIVE THEIR
FIRST BORN CHILD AS
PAYMENT. HEHEHEH



I
NEED A
NAME.

DO YOU
REALLY THINK
THESE PURCHASES
HAVE OFFICIAL
RECEIPTS?

WHEN DID
SHE COME
HERE?

OH...
SHE CAME HERE A
MONTH AGO, I'D GUESS.
CAUSE IT TOOK US
THREE WEEKS TO HUNT
DOWN ENOUGH MERMAID
FOR THE AMOUNT
OF BONES THAT
SHE WANTED.

AND HOW
OLD WAS THE
CHILD?

HE TASTED
LIKE HE WAS JUST
FOUR MONTHS OLD.
THAT'S JUST A
GUESS OF
COURSE.

HE WAS
QUITE
TASTY.



BASTARD!

KRAK!







MY NAME IS ALEXANDRA TRESE. I AM NOTHING LIKE MY FATHER.



REMEMBER THAT, NEXT TIME I COME HERE.

HELLO CAPT. GUERRERO.



I NEED YOU TO FIND OUT IF ANY BABIES, THREE TO FOUR MONTHS OLD, HAVE BEEN REPORTED MISSING OR KIDNAPPED IN THE PAST COUPLE OF MONTHS.



CORRELATE THOSE NAMES WITH PEOPLE LIVING IN THE NEW MANILA AREA. START WITH WOMEN LIVING ON BALETE DRIVE ITSELF.



AND I'LL BE SENDING YOU A SKETCH OF SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE CONNECTED TO THE ACCIDENT.

YEAH.. YES, GOT IT FROM A RELIABLE SOURCE.



GOOD EVENING, CAPT. GUERRERO. THANKS FOR CALLING ME.



OF COURSE, IT'S NOT EVERYDAY A WHITE LADY IS FOUND DEAD, ESPECIALLY ON THIS STREET.

HELLO ALEXANDRA, I HAD A FEELING YOU'D WANT TO SEE THIS FOR YOURSELF.



SO, WHAT DO YOU KNOW SO FAR?

LOOKS LIKE YOUR TYPICAL AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT. UNTIL ONE OF THE NEIGHBORS IDENTIFIED THE VICTIM. HER NAME WAS GINA SANTOS.

AND??



THE NEIGHBORS SAID, AS FAR AS THEY REMEMBER, SHE DIED BACK IN THE 1960S.

INTERESTING.



MISS DE LA ROSA?

YES?

I'M CAPT. GUERRERO AND THIS IS MS. TRESE, OUR UMM, CONSULTANT. MAY WE COME IN?

MA'AM, FIVE WEEKS AGO, YOU REPORTED YOUR CHILD MISSING.

YES! YES! HAVE YOU FOUND HIM?

YES, MA'AM. IN FACT, YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHERE YOUR CHILD IS. YOU LEFT HIM AT THE TRIDENT BAR AT THE PIER AREA.

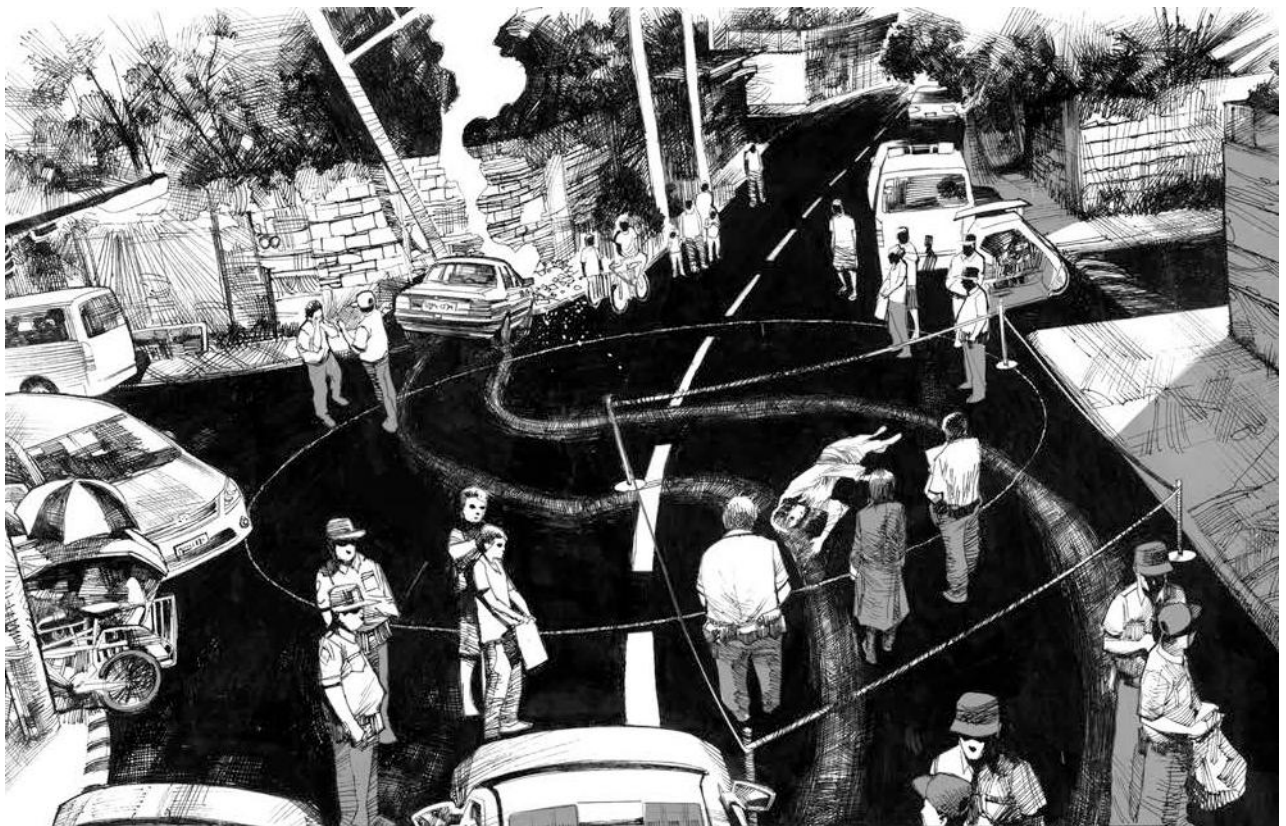
WHAT?! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? HOW DARE YOU!

AND IN RETURN, YOU GOT A JAR FULL OF THIS.

MISS DE LA ROSA, AND IT STILL IS 'MISS', RIGHT? THE FATHER OF YOUR CHILD WAS A HERBERT TOMAS.

ALMOST A YEAR AGO, YOU TWO GOT INTO A CAR ACCIDENT. HERE, ON BALETE DRIVE.





AND IT SEEMS LIKE, AS USUAL, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS A CLUE ON WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT.

ACTUALLY, I DON'T KNOW, BUT I'LL LOOK INTO IT.

THANKS.



TABI TABI PO. GOOD EVENING PO.

PSSSSST!

NOBODY STAYS THERE ANYMORE.





NOT A GOOD PLACE TO STAY. ALWAYS LOTS OF LITTER. GARBAGE! NOT GOOD AT ALL.

GOOD EVENING, SIR. CAN I ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS?

DEPENDS WHO'S ASKING.



MY NAME IS ALEXANDRA TRESE AND--

AHHH! YOU'RE ANTON'S SPAWN! OKAY! OKAY! WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?



DID YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENED HERE TONIGHT?

NO- NO-- I TRY NOT TO GET INVOLVED IN SUCH THINGS.



THIS WAS ON THE STREET. DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS?

HMMM... YES. SALTY... ANCIENT...



SO, WHAT IS THIS POWDER?

IT'S MERMAID. THE BONES OF A MERMAID. GROUND TO DUST. FINE. VERY USEFUL IF ONE WANTS TO TRAP SPIRITS. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. BETTER THAN IODIZED SALT. HEHEHE

AND WHERE DOES ONE FIND GROUND-UP MERMAID BONES?

SORRY. I WOULDN'T KNOW. NOT MY TERRITORY. DON'T LIKE THE SEA SO MUCH. THAT WOULD BE A GOOD PLACE TO START. THE SEA.



GOOD NIGHT, LITTLE TRESE!



CAREFUL WHERE YOU TREAD.





TRYING TO COVER ALL POSSIBLE SOURCES, TRESE STARTS HER SEARCH WITH ALING TERRIE IN QUIAPO.



WHICH LEADS HER TO CHINATOWN...



...AND FINALLY TO THE PIER AREA.



HER FATHER ONCE TOLD HER OF A PLACE BY THE PIER RUN BY ASWANG. THIS MUST BE THE ONE.



WHAT DO YOU WANT?

MERMAID. MERMAID BONES TO BE EXACT.



