



# IIIRVA

## CHAPTER 1: Breath of the Ancestors

ISSUE 02 • Shadows of Iku Squad

# IJAYA

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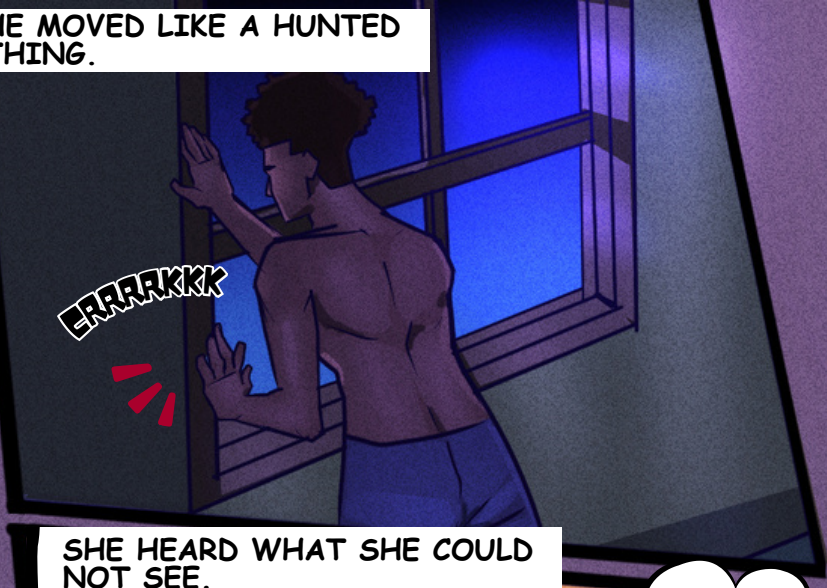
Speech Text & SFX

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THE HUNT WAS OVER.  
THE HERD WAS SILENT.

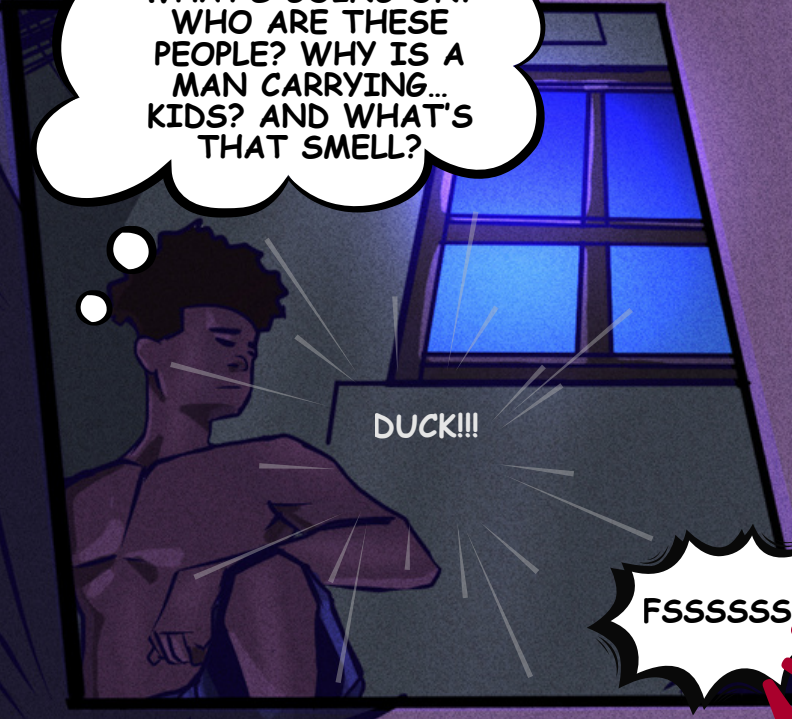
HE MOVED LIKE A HUNTED  
THING.



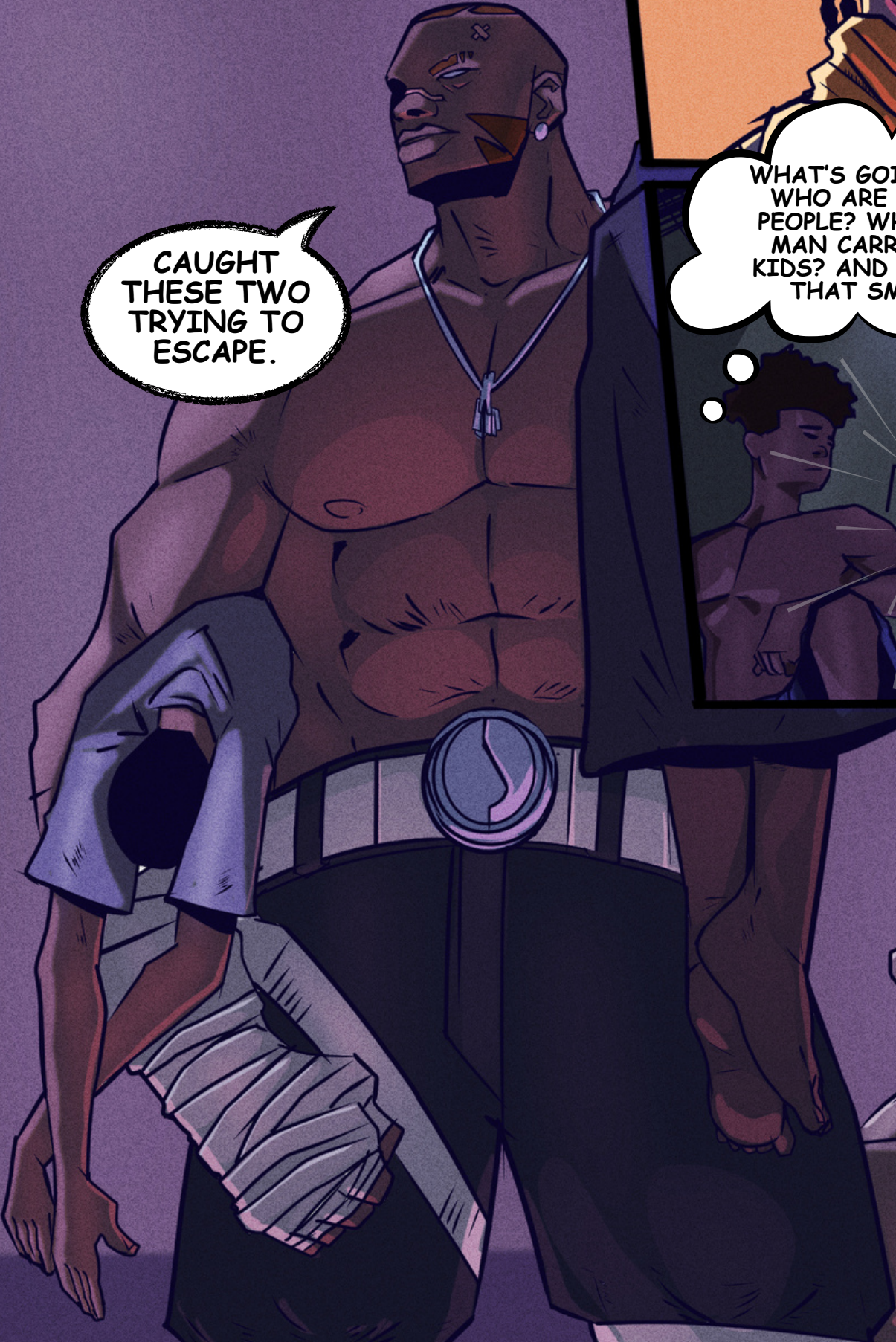
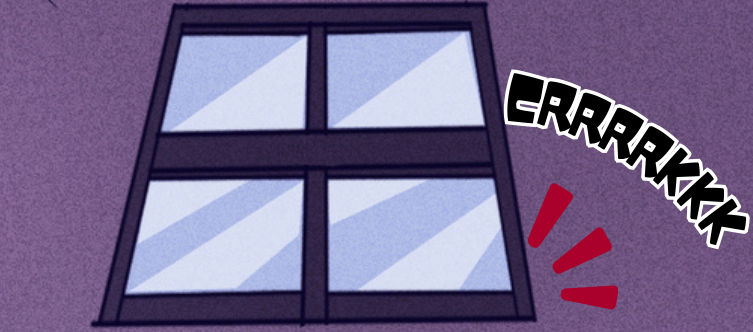
SHE HEARD WHAT SHE COULD  
NOT SEE.



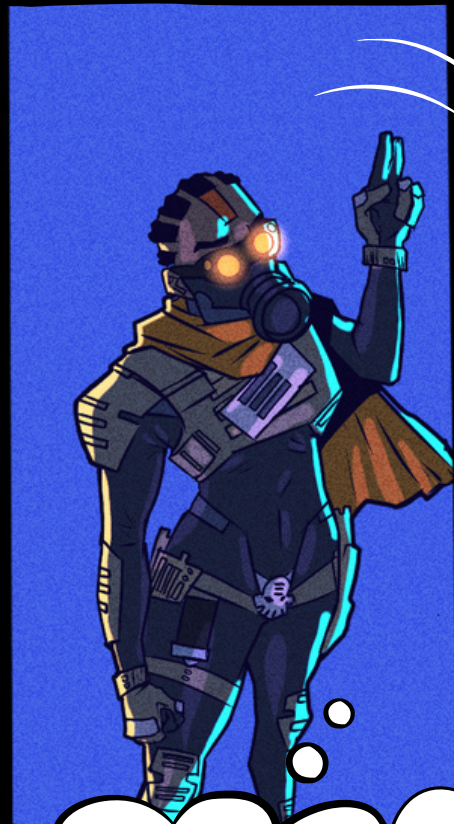
WHAT'S GOING ON?  
WHO ARE THESE  
PEOPLE? WHY IS A  
MAN CARRYING...  
KIDS? AND WHAT'S  
THAT SMELL?



CAUGHT  
THESE TWO  
TRYING TO  
ESCAPE.



HER EYES SWEEP SHADOWS  
LIKE BLADES.



NOTHING SHOULD  
STILL BE MOVING BY  
NOW... BUT THIS  
SHOULD BE EASY. I  
WONDER WHY BOSS  
WAS WARY.

MOMO'S EYES AGAIN...  
ALWAYS CATCHING  
FLICKERS IN THE MIST.  
HMPH. NO ONE SHOULD  
STILL BE BREATHING IN  
THERE.



NOT THIS VARIANT. I  
REINFORCED IT WITH VISCERA  
MIST FROM VENOM-BLOOMS  
NEAR THE OGUN DELTA. BASE  
IS STILL NOX-3—BUT THE NEW  
ELEMENT? THAT'S THE  
BRILLIANCE.  
LUANAPHYLLIN.

MOMO'S ON EDGE... OVER  
ORPHANS? HAH.  
SOMETHING'S NOT ADDING  
UP. BUT ME? I LOVE WHEN  
THINGS STOP ADDING UP.  
THAT'S WHEN THE FUN  
STARTS.



MOMO'S VOICE SLID THROUGH THEIR COMMS  
LIKE STEEL THROUGH SILK.



LUANAPHYLLIN IS RARE AS SILENCE  
IN EKO... BUT ONCE INFUSED—IT  
BYPASSES THE USUAL RESISTANCE  
IN THE OLFACTORY NERVES. SLIPS  
STRAIGHT INTO THE  
HYPOTHALAMUS. THAT'S WHY THE  
FIRST FEW GASPS DON'T TRIGGER  
PANIC. JUST... STILLNESS.

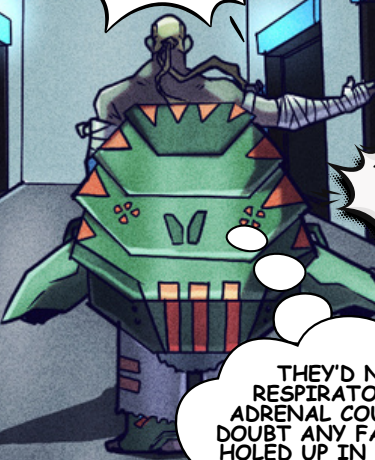
HALLWAY — THE ORPHANS  
LAY ASLEEP, SILENCED BY  
IJAKPA'S TOXIN. THE  
SQUAD MOVED THROUGH  
THE STILLNESS LIKE A  
SLOW, STEADY WAVE."

IJAKPA, ESE —  
SWEEP THE  
BUILDING.  
SOMETHING'S  
OFF. BE SHARP



MOMO'S  
REALLY PRESSING ON  
THIS... LIKE WE'RE  
HUNTING MONSTERS,  
NOT ORPHANS. HAH.  
MAYBE WE ARE.

CLEAR.  
BEGIN  
RETRIEVAL.



PSSHHHHH!!

PSSHHHHH!!

THEY'D NEED A FULL  
RESPIRATORY MASK AND  
ADRENAL COUNTER-AGENTS.  
DOUBT ANY FARMER OR PRIEST  
HOLED UP IN HERE HAS THAT.  
SLEEP, LITTLE ONES.  
NOTHING PERSONAL."

THE NIGHT WRAPPED THE ORPHANAGE IN BRITTLE SILENCE—TOO COMPLETE TO BE NATURAL.



EXTRACTION  
IN PROGRESS.  
PACKAGE  
SECURED.

!!  
C  
R  
K!  
K!

STARTS!!  
HUMMMMMMM  
MMMM!

OPERATION RETRIEVAL WAS  
UNDERWAY.



HUMMMMM  
MMMMMM!

NO ALARMS. NO CRIES. JUST THE QUIET  
SHUFFLE OF GHOSTS AT WORK.

SECOND  
LOAD'S  
READY.

THE AIR WAS STILL HEAVY...  
YET SHE BREATHED IT IN.

SOMETHING'S  
OFF... I CAN FEEL  
IT. THICKER THAN  
IJAKPA'S TOXINS.

YOU DON'T LEAVE LOOSE  
ENDS IN AKAMARA. THEY  
GROW TEETH.

HER LAST CONVERSATION WITH  
JAGUDA LINGERED LIKE SMOKE.

TEETH... OR  
WINGS.

UP THE STAIRS, THE HUNTER CLIMBED.

QUIET HALLS...  
PERFECT ECHOES.

PARTNERS IN SILENCE.

WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY IS  
MOMO WARY? MY TOXINS ARE  
UNSTOPPABLE... ONLY TRAINED  
KILLERS SHOULD STILL BE  
AWAKE NOW.

GROUND FLOOR CLEAR.  
MOVING TO SWEEP UPPER  
SECTORS.

OBELE DRIFTED INTO THE  
DARK... TROPHIES IN TOW.

DINNER'S  
SERVED...  
JUST  
NOT FOR  
THEM.

TO BE CONTINUED...

# CONTACT US



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