

MARVEL

2

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WARHAMMER

40,000

PARENTAL
ADVISORY

MARNEUS CALGAR



WARHAMMER

40,000

MARNEUS CALGAR

FOR MORE THAN TEN THOUSAND YEARS, THE LIVING CORPSE OF THE EMPEROR HAS SAT IMMOBILE ON THE GOLDEN THRONE. THE IMPERIUM OF MAN IS BESET FROM EVERY SIDE. A MILLION SPACE MARINES DEFEND THESE MILLION WORLDS. IN THIS GRIM DARKNESS OF THE FAR FUTURE, THERE IS ONLY WAR.

MARNEUS CALGAR, CHAPTER MASTER OF THE ULTRAMARINES AND LORD OF MACRAGGE, HAS RETURNED TO NOVA THULIUM, THE PLANET OF HIS BIRTH, TO FIGHT THE LATEST BATTLE—A SURPRISE ATTACK BY FORCES OF CHAOS ON THIS AGRI-WORLD.

MEANWHILE, UNBEKNOWNST TO HIM, THE THREAT FURTHER UNFOLDS ON THE PLANET'S MOON—THE MOON WHERE HE AND HIS COHORTS WERE TAKEN FOR SPACE MARINE ASPIRANT TESTING CENTURIES AGO...

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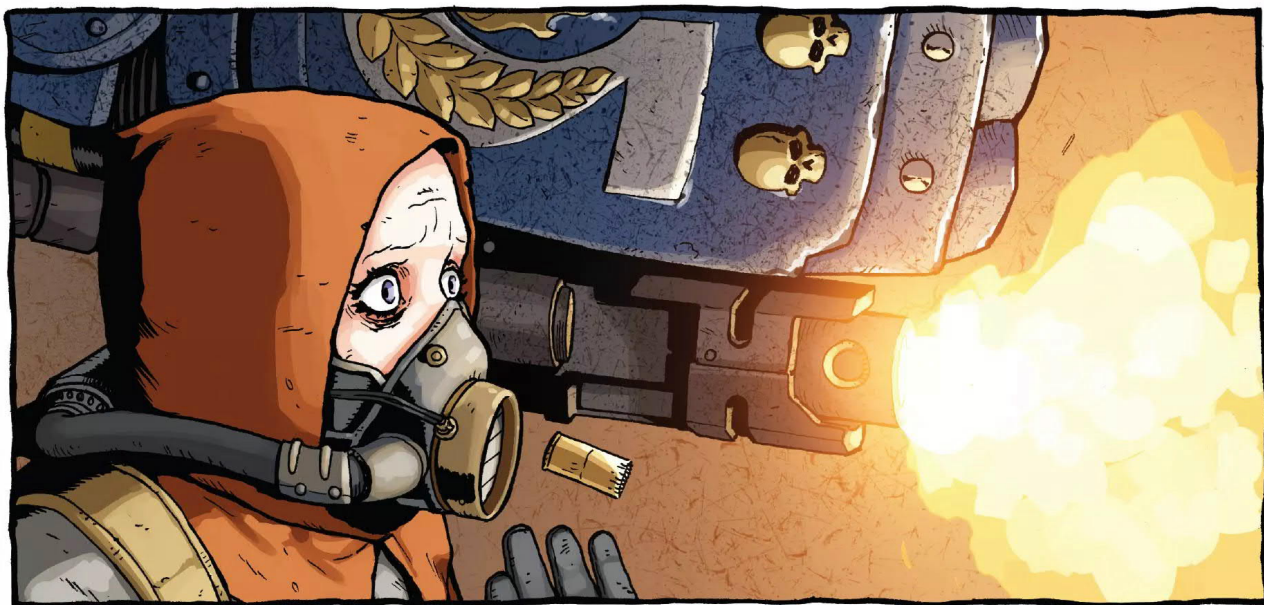
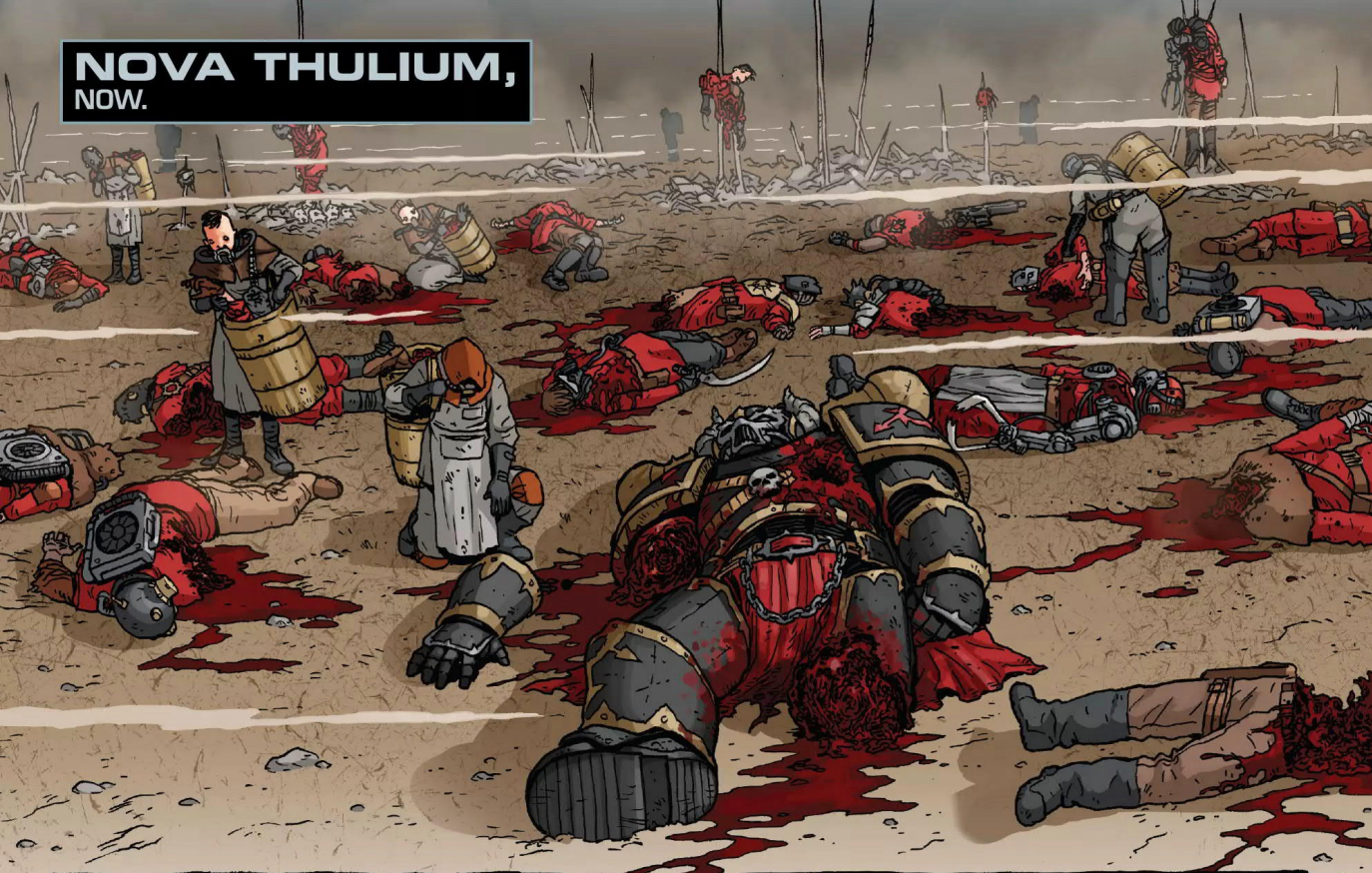
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THANKS TO GAMES WORKSHOP

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NOVA THULIUM,
NOW.

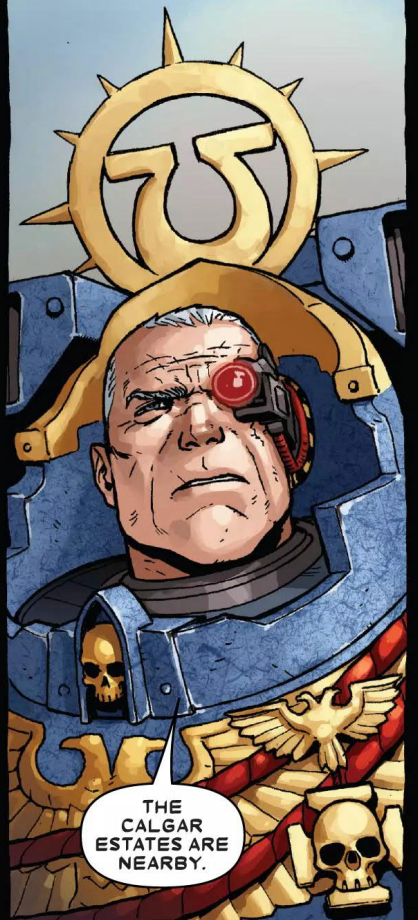




HERETICS DO NOT FIND THEIR WAY TO THE HEART OF ULTRAMAR SO EASILY. THEY CAME FROM **SOMEWHERE**. WE MUST LOCATE ITS ROOT, SEE WHAT TRACE OF THE INFECTION REMAINS AND SEAR IT SHUT.

I REQUIRE A BASE OF OPERATIONS.

HMM.



THULIUM MINOR, NOW.

LISTEN
CLOSELY, GEARED
CHATTERER.

RELAY TO YOUR ORDER THAT
YOU ARE SAFE. YOU ARE MERELY
DELAYED BY UNCOVERING
WHATEVER TECHNOLOGICAL
TRINKETS AMUSE YOU.
MAKE IT CONVINCING, AND
YOU MAY LIVE.

BUT...

WHAT
ABOUT--
WHIRRRRRRR--
HIM?

I FELT HIS MANNER
UNCONVINCING.

DO
BETTER.

ONE WAY
OR ANOTHER
YOU WILL SERVE.
OUR LORD IS ALL-
WELCOMING...

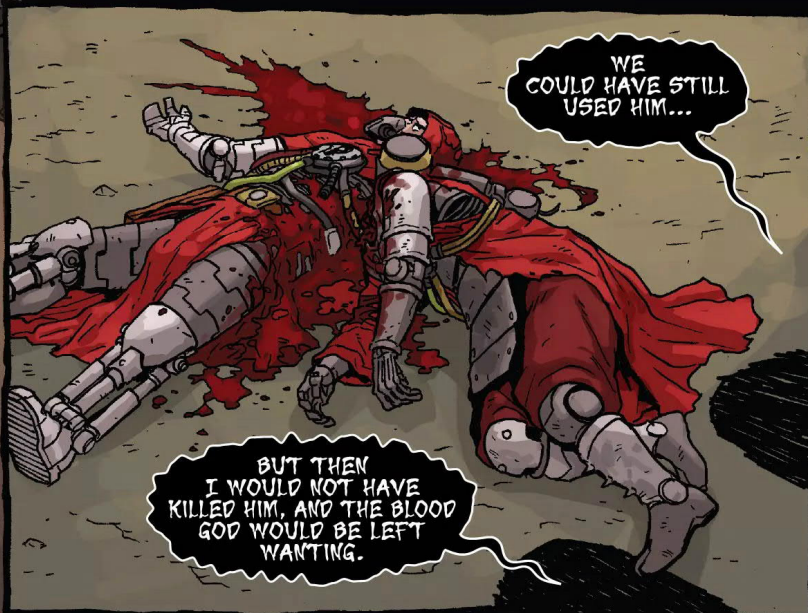
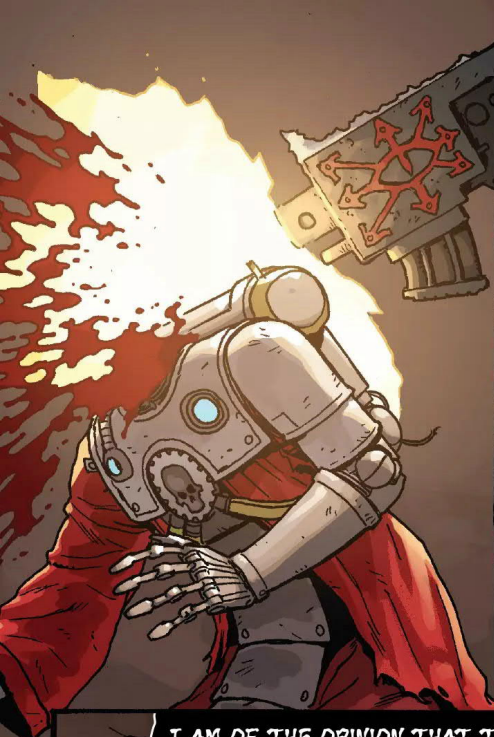
WHATEVER
FLUIDS PUMP IN
YOUR METAL HEART
COUNT AS BLOOD
TO HIM.

BLESSINGS BE TO THE OMNISSIAH!
PRAISE THE CANTICLES OF ETERNAL
REVOLUTION! OUR TECH-PILGRIMAGE
IS--WHIRRRRRRR--SHOWING
PROMISING RESULTS.

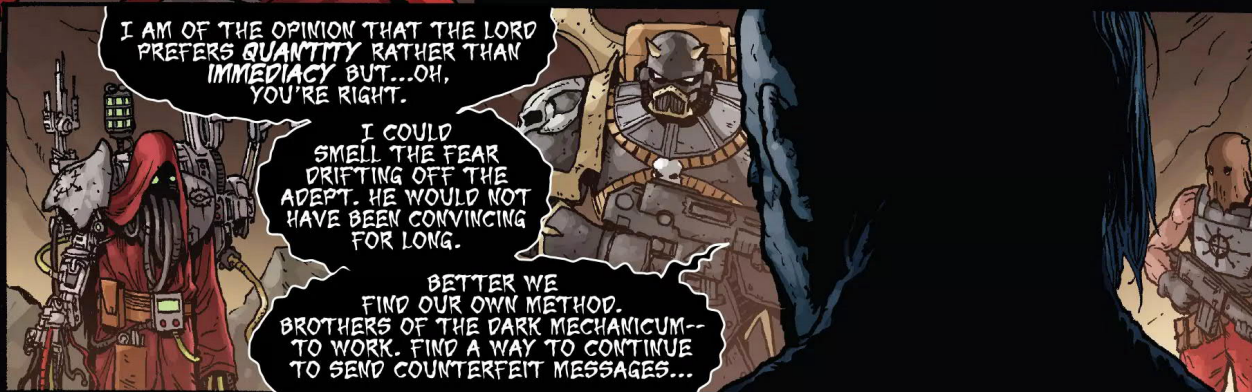
WE WILL
REQUIRE MORE
TIME TO COMPLETE
OUR RITUALS.
OUT!

SUFFICIENT?

[0010K]?



BUT THEN
I WOULD NOT HAVE
KILLED HIM, AND THE BLOOD
GOD WOULD BE LEFT
WANTING.



YOUR
LONG WAR'S END
APPROACHES!



A SHORT HISTORY OF THE LONG WAR

C.M30: THE CREATION OF THE SPACE MARINE LEGIONS AND THE GREAT CRUSADE

THE EMPEROR OF MANKIND EMERGES THEN UNIFIES EARTH ("TERRA"). HE CREATES 20 **SPACE MARINE LEGIONS** TO LEAD **THE GREAT CRUSADE** TO REUNITE THE GALAXY. IT SUCCEEDS.



C.M31: THE HORUS HERESY

HALF OF THE SPACE MARINE LEGIONS REBEL AGAINST THE EMPEROR TO FOLLOW THE WARMASTER HORUS. **THE HORUS HERESY** RAPIDLY CONSUMES THE IMPERIUM AND THE TRAITORS ARE COAXED INTO WORSHIPPING THE TERRIBLE WARP ENTITIES KNOWN AS **THE CHAOS GODS**. THE HERESY ENDS WITH THE DEATH OF THE REBEL WARMASTER AND THE NEAR DESTRUCTION OF THE EMPEROR. MUTE AND IMMOBILE, HE IS CONFINED TO THE SUSTAINING MACHINERY OF THE GOLDEN THRONE ON TERRA.



C.M31: THE LONG WAR BEGINS

THE MAJORITY OF THE SURVIVING TRAITOR SPACE MARINE LEGIONS RETREAT TO THE MASSIVE WARP RIFT KNOWN AS THE EYE OF TERROR. THEY ARE INCREASINGLY CONSUMED BY THE FORCES OF CHAOS AND DAEMON WORSHIP AS THEY BEGIN WHAT THEY DUB "**THE LONG WAR**"—ENDLESS RAIDS AGAINST THE IMPERIUM.



C.M31: THE FIRST BLACK CRUSADE

THE LARGEST OF THESE OFFENSIVES ARE KNOWN AS **BLACK CRUSADES**. ABADDON THE DESPOILER LAUNCHES THE FIRST, DOES ENORMOUS DAMAGE BUT IS ULTIMATELY REPULSED. THE LONG WAR CONTINUES.



C.M41: THE THIRTEENTH BLACK CRUSADE

THE THIRTEENTH BLACK CRUSADE RESULTS IN ABADDON THE DESPOILER'S COVETED CRIMSON PATH TO TERRA AND CREATES THE GREAT RIFT—A RENT INTO THE WARP THAT SPLITS THE GALAXY IN TWO. THE LONG WAR CONTINUES. THE HERETICS' VICTORY INCHES EVER CLOSER.



"You have to admire the heretics. They've got persistence. 13 Black crusades? I'd have given up at the eighth."

—Last words of [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED], prior to his summary execution.

CALGAR ESTATES.



LORD MARNEUS.

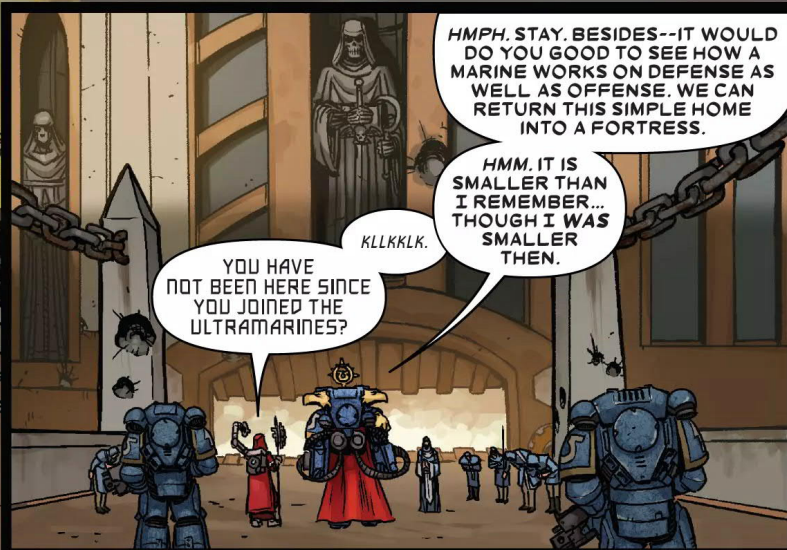
YOU HONOR THE HOUSE OF YOUR NAME.

THE HOUSE'S NAME HONORS ME.

KLLKKLK, KLLKKLK, KLLKKLK?

I CAN LEAVE YOU AND COLLECT DATA FROM MY ADEPTS FROM THEIR TECH-PILGRIMAGES, SOME HAVE BEEN SLOW TO RESPOND, BUT I SEE THEY ARE REPORTING.

DATA UPDATING, UPDATING...

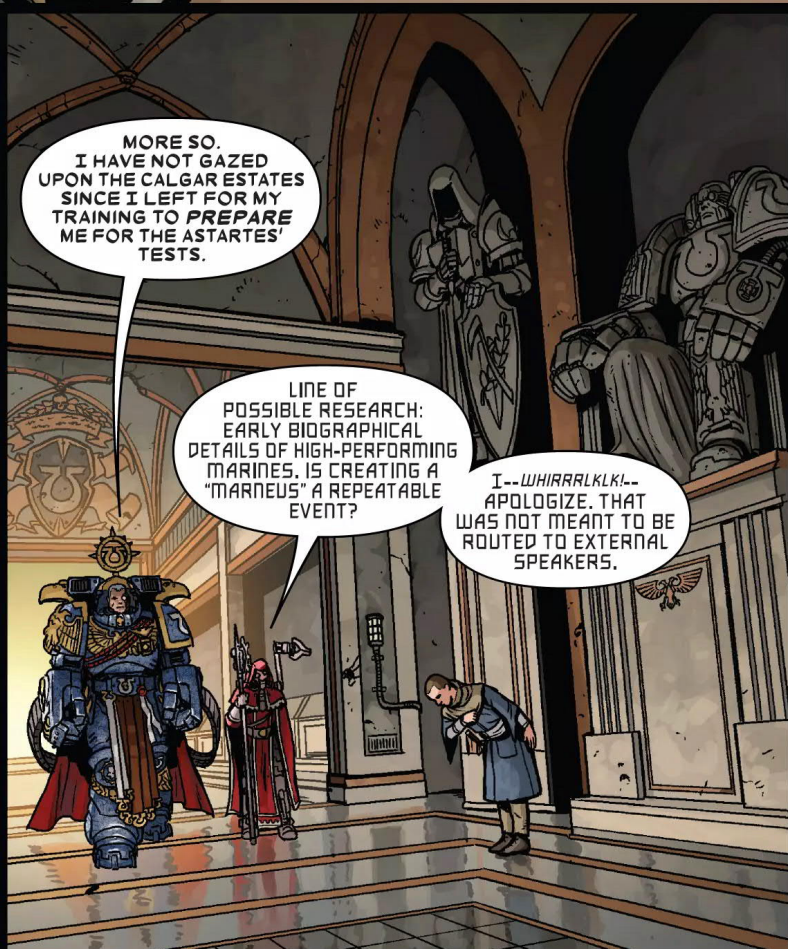


HMPH. STAY BESIDES--IT WOULD DO YOU GOOD TO SEE HOW A MARINE WORKS ON DEFENSE AS WELL AS OFFENSE. WE CAN RETURN THIS SIMPLE HOME INTO A FORTRESS.

HMM. IT IS SMALLER THAN I REMEMBER... THOUGH I WAS SMALLER THEN.

KLLKKLK.

YOU HAVE NOT BEEN HERE SINCE YOU JOINED THE ULTRAMARINES?



MORE SO. I HAVE NOT GAZED UPON THE CALGAR ESTATES SINCE I LEFT FOR MY TRAINING TO *PREPARE* ME FOR THE ASTARTES' TESTS.

LINE OF POSSIBLE RESEARCH: EARLY BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF HIGH-PERFORMING MARINES. IS CREATING A "MARNEUS" A REPEATABLE EVENT?

I--WHIRRAKLLK!-- APOLOGIZE, THAT WAS NOT MEANT TO BE ROUTED TO EXTERNAL SPEAKERS.

NO. IT IS A REASONABLE QUESTION. WHAT MAKES A MAN?

WELL, QUINTUS...I WAS FIRST TAUGHT BY A TRAINER CALLED CRIXUS, UP ON THE MOON.

ON THE FIRST NIGHT, HE HAD US RUNNING FROM AN AMBULL...



"KATO SUGGESTED HIDING IN THE TUNNELS, BUT I REMEMBERED LEARNING SOMETHING ABOUT IT BORING THROUGH THE EARTH TO FIND ITS PREY.

"IT GAVE US AN IDEA. WE TRIED TO FIND SOMETHING *ELSE* IT'D EAT. WE RAN RIGHT THROUGH A DEN OF WOLVES.

"THEY WENT FOR US, BUT THE AMBULL WENT FOR *THEM*. WE GOT AWAY, MOSTLY INTACT...

IT'S YOUR FAULT, MARNEUS!



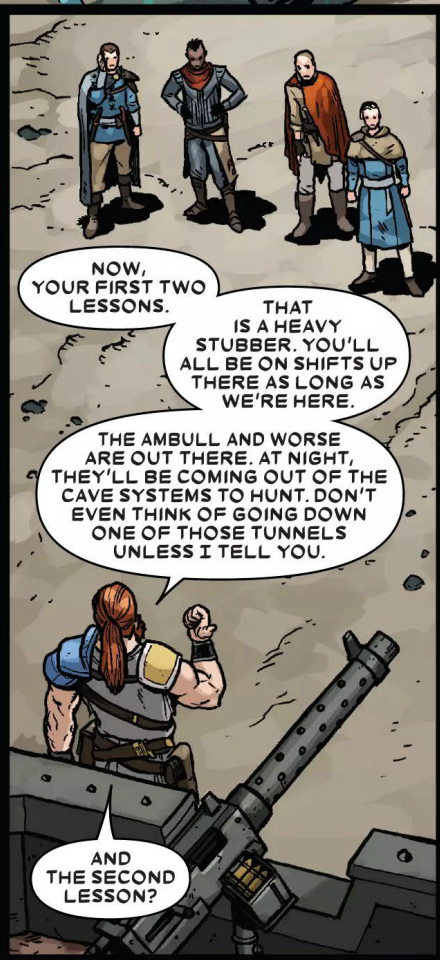
SEVERAN! IS YOUR MIND SICK? IF MARNEUS HAD NOT PULLED YOU FREE, IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN YOUR *ENTIRE* FACE.

OF COURSE YOU DEFEND HIM, TACITAN. YOU'RE HIS PET. YOU SAW IT, KATO.

AYE! AND I SAW HOW SLOW MARNEUS WAS. LEAVING IT *JUST* LONG ENOUGH TO CUT POOR SEVERAN TO THE BONE...

STOP COMPLAINING. NO ONE IS A WARRIOR WITHOUT A FETCHING SCAR. YOU'RE JUST GETTING YOURS A LITTLE EARLY.

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU FOUR. ALL SURVIVING IS RARE. PERHAPS THIS WORLD OF WHEAT HAS A HARVEST OF WARRIORS AFTER ALL.



NOW, YOUR FIRST TWO LESSONS.

THAT IS A HEAVY STUBBER. YOU'LL ALL BE ON SHIFTS UP THERE AS LONG AS WE'RE HERE.

THE AMBULL AND WORSE ARE OUT THERE. AT NIGHT, THEY'LL BE COMING OUT OF THE CAVE SYSTEMS TO HUNT. DON'T EVEN THINK OF GOING DOWN ONE OF THOSE TUNNELS UNLESS I TELL YOU.

AND THE SECOND LESSON?

HOW TO SEAL A WOUND.

"THAT WAS THE START OF IT. THERE WAS NO END.



"CLOSE COMBAT IN A DOZEN DISCIPLINES. WE WERE ALREADY WELL VERSED IN BLADES."

"OUR UNDERSTANDING OF 'BLADES' EXPANDED TO INCLUDE ANYTHING WITH A SHARP EDGE, AND WHAT TO DO WHEN THERE WAS NO EDGE AT HAND."

"WE BECAME CONNOISSEURS OF BLUDGEONS."



"THE HONING OF MARTIAL SKILLS WERE OUR HAPPY TIMES. IT WAS THE HARDENING OF THE SOUL THAT HURT, PAIN TO BURN AWAY PAIN."

"TASKS TO MAKE US STRONG. TASKS TO MAKE US STAND STRAIGHT TOGETHER."



"WE WERE LEFT OVERNIGHT. ONE EXPOSED TO THE COLD, TO SURVIVE. THE OTHER TO GUARD THEM, KNOWING THAT THEY'D SWAP PLACES THE NEXT NIGHT..."

"AS THE MONTHS WENT ON, OTHER WOULD-BE ASPIRANTS CAME--AT LEAST, THOSE WHO OUTRAN THE AMBULL."

"ONES AND TWOS JOINED OUR CIRCLE."



"ONES AND TWOS DIED."



"STILL, THE NUMBERS SLOWLY GREW, AND THOSE WHO SURVIVED GREW STRONG..."

"...AND GREW TOGETHER..."



"...WHILE WE WERE BEING LEFT BEHIND."

AND BRINGING UP THE REAR, WE HAVE MASTER MARNEUS AND TACITAN!

THIS WAS NOT A TEST OF WHETHER YOU KNOW WHERE A REARGUARD IS POSITIONED.

NOW, FOR THIS FAILURE, YOU'LL HAVE TO REPEAT THE RUN. I'M SURE THE **SECOND** WILL BE EASIER THAN THE FIRST. YOU'VE HAD THE PRACTICE, AFTER ALL...

GET TO IT...



I THINK THE GOLDEN CHILD IS LOOKING SOMEWHAT TARNISHED, SEVERAN.

BROKEN. SOON DEAD. NO WARRIOR, HE.

YOU LEAVE MARNEUS BE OR YOUR INSULTS WILL BE COMING FROM BEHIND BROKEN TEETH!

TACITAN. DON'T.



ONE'S STRENGTH SHOULD BE SPENT FIRST ON THE BATTLES YOU **MUST** FIGHT RATHER THAN THE BATTLES YOU **CHOOSE**.

HAH. STILL QUOTING SCRIPTURE...



...BUT THERE IS SCRIPTURE UNKNOWN TO OH-SO-CLEVER MARNEUS!

"THE RUN WAS BAD ENOUGH WHEN WE ALL RAN TOGETHER.

"BUT WITH JUST TWO?"



"WE SOON
ATTRACTED
COMPANY."



I'M SLOWING YOU DOWN. YOU
COULD MATCH SEVERAN AND
KATO WITHOUT ME. I'M
SURE OF IT.

WHEN THE
MOMENT COMES
THAT MY STRENGTH
FAILS, LEAVE
ME.



MY STRENGTH
IS MY BROTHER
BESIDE ME.

WHAT MARINE
WOULD LEAVE A
BROTHER?



YOU ARE
A BORN LEADER,
MARNEUS.

I
COULD FAIL
MYSELF...



...I
CAN'T FAIL
YOU.



"WE WOULD
HAVE DIED IF IT
WEREN'T FOR
EACH OTHER."





WE FOUND SPIRITUAL STRENGTH, BUT SEVERAN AND KATO'S LITTLE GANG FOUND A STRENGTH MORE PHYSICAL.

WE TRIED OUR BEST TO COMPETE. HAVING RIVALS LIKE THAT WAS GOOD FOR US, EVEN...



KRRRRRRRK.

THE ADVANTAGE OF THIS KATO AND SEVERAN IS INTRIGUING. IS IT ONE WHICH WE COULD REPLICATE IN TRAINING?

NO.

STILL, BEFORE WE KNEW THE TRUTH...



"...WE DID ASK CRIXUS...

IF YOU WOULD SHARE YOUR BROTHERS' GIFTS, YOU SHOULD ASK YOUR BROTHERS.

THEY HAVE DONE WELL. THERE IS NO SHAME IN TRYING TO LEARN FROM THEM.



"I'M NOT SURE WHAT KEPT US JOINING SEVERAN AND KATO'S MOB. PRIDE? IT COULD BE.

"THE ONCE-BOOKISH KATO LOOKED LIKE A KILLER AND SEVERAN WAS A TRUE BEAST. IT WAS WRONG.

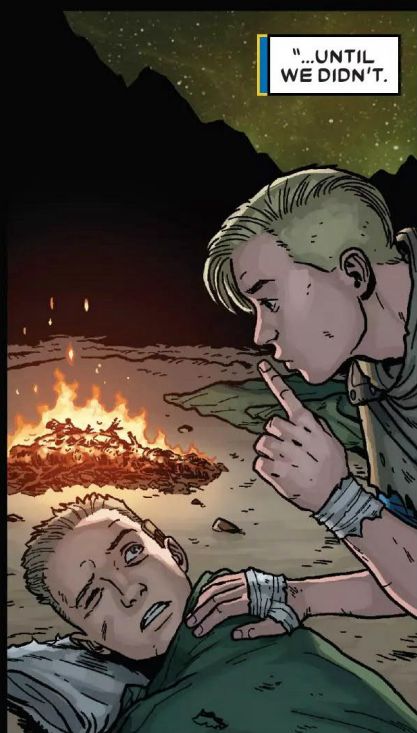
"WE JUST FELT IT. I COULD BARELY LOOK AT THEM AND NOT SHUDDER."



WE ONLY DISCOVERED THE TRUTH THE NIGHT BEFORE THE ANGELS OF DEATH WERE TO BEGIN THE ACTUAL ASPIRANT SELECTION.

WE HAD STAYED UP LATE, TALKING ABOUT WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO FIRST SEE ONE OF THEM...

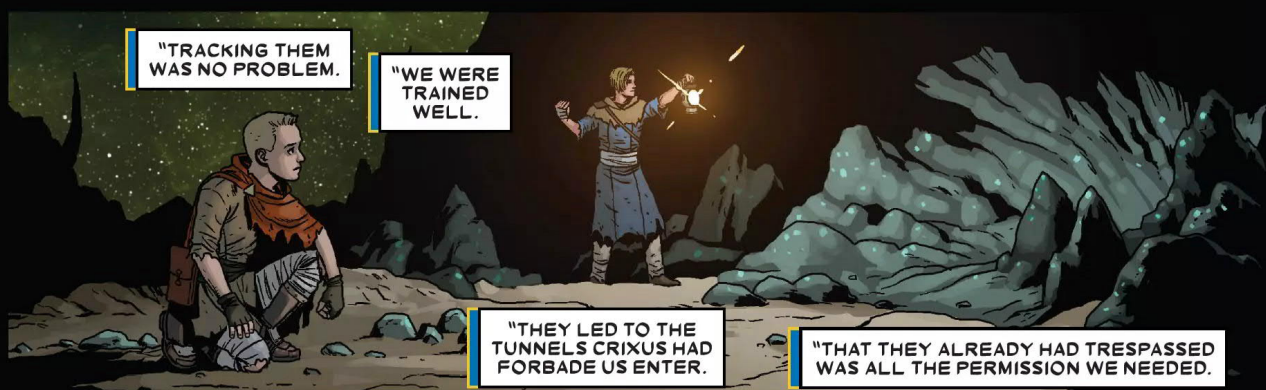
EVENTUALLY WE SLEPT...



"...UNTIL
WE DIDN'T."



"OUR PEERS
WERE GONE."

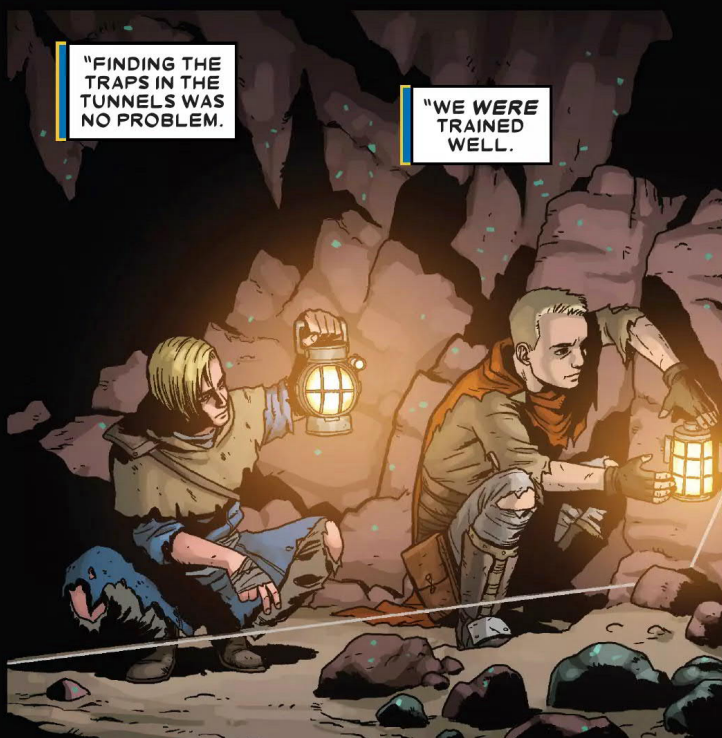


"TRACKING THEM
WAS NO PROBLEM."

"WE WERE
TRAINED
WELL."

"THEY LED TO THE
TUNNELS CRIXUS HAD
FORBADE US ENTER."

"THAT THEY ALREADY HAD TRESPASSED
WAS ALL THE PERMISSION WE NEEDED."



"FINDING THE
TRAPS IN THE
TUNNELS WAS
NO PROBLEM."

"WE WERE
TRAINED
WELL."



"TRAINED WELL,
BUT STILL TRAINED
INSUFFICIENTLY."

"FINDING THE
TRAPS SHOULD
HAVE BEEN OUR
FIRST CLUE."



"WE WENT DEEPER INTO THE TUNNELS, THINKING OF CRIXUS' WARNINGS OF THE CREATURES THAT LURKED DOWN THERE.

"SOON THE ROCKY WALLS GAVE WAY TO CORRODED BLASTED METAL...



"WAS IT AN OLD BASE, DISCARDED, LONG FORGOTTEN?

"SOME CHUNK OF A BURIED SHIP FROM AN ANCIENT AGE?

"AT FIRST WE HAD NOTHING BUT QUESTIONS.

"SOON, WE REALIZED THAT WE HAD NO DESIRE FOR THE ANSWERS.



"WE HAD BEEN TAUGHT HOW TO PLACE A KNIFE BETWEEN RIBS. HOW TO PLACE FINGERS IN EYES, OUR OWN BODY BEHIND COVER.

"WE HAD BEEN TAUGHT TO PLACE OUR HEARTS IN A SAFE FORTRESS IN OUR HEAD WHERE THEY COULD NOT BE TOUCHED BY THE HORROR OF WAR.



"WE HAD NOT BEEN TAUGHT ANY OF THIS.



"WE PASSED THROUGH THE ANCIENT CORRIDORS, FOLLOWING THE TRAIL DOWN TO A DEEPER CAVERN SYSTEM.

"AND THERE WE FOUND THE TRUTH...

"WE WERE NOT AWARE OF
THE FULL CURRICULUM."



ABOMINATION.



"SUFFICE TO SAY, OUR TRAINER CRIXUS WAS SHOWING HIS TRUE NATURE."

THE MARINES REJECTED ME. ME! I WAS THE FINEST WARRIOR IN MY YEAR. I PASSED EVERY TEST OF WAR.

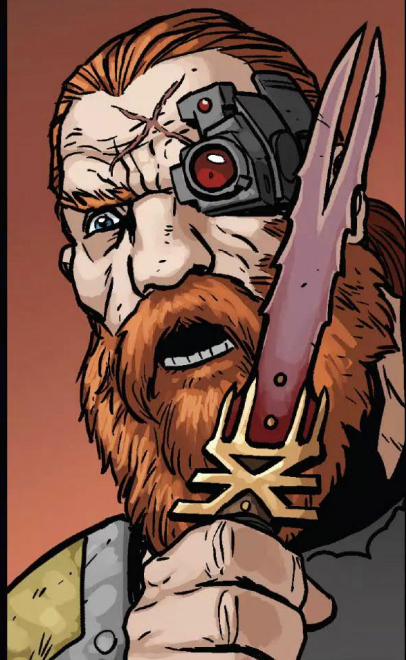
THEY REJECTED ME! THEY THOUGHT ME TOO PURE A KILLER. JEALOUS COWARDS!

I AM GLAD, IF THE MARINES TOOK ME, I WOULDN'T HAVE FOUND THE GREAT TRUTH OF LORD KHORNE.



FOR DECADES I TRAINED WARRIORS FOR THE FALSE EMPEROR, BUT THEN...THE VISIONS CAME. TOLD ME THE TRUTH...

NOW I PREPARE BLADES FOR THE TRUE GOD OF WARRIORS!



YOU ARE TOUCHED BY MADNESS. WHY THESE GAMES?

IF YOU STILL HAD YOUR SENSE, YOU'D HAVE SLIT OUR THROATS ON ANY GIVEN NIGHT!

IF I HAD KILLED YOU, I WOULD HAVE NO FINAL TEST FOR MY FINE AND BLOODY LADS.

COULD THEY LURE THE FATTED CALVES TO THE ALTAR AND SO EARN THEIR FULL REWARD?

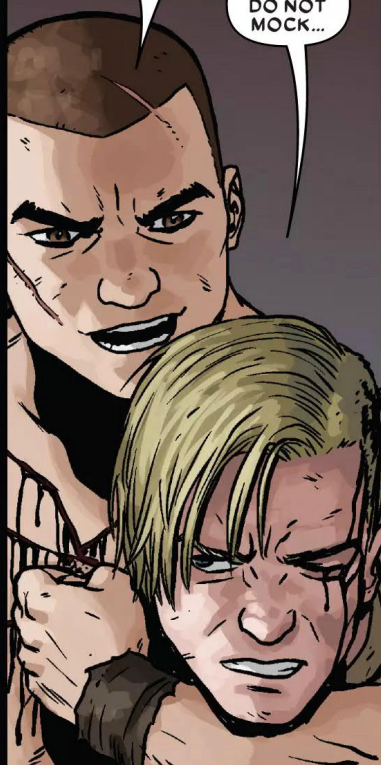


PERHAPS IF YOU BEG, I WILL MAKE IT QUICK, MARNEUS.

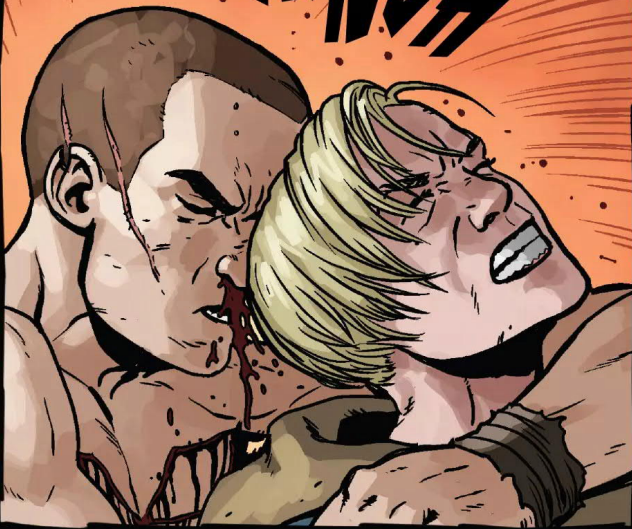
MARINES DO NOT BEG.

MARINE? WHO WOULD BE A MARINE? WHY BE A CHILD OF GOLD WHEN YOU CAN BE A CHILD OF BLOOD?!

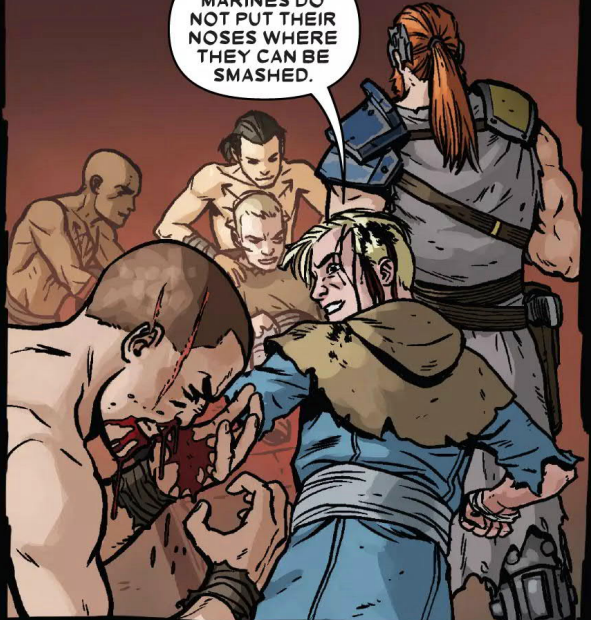
MARINES DO NOT MOCK...



CRUNCH



...AND MARINES DO NOT PUT THEIR NOSES WHERE THEY CAN BE SMASHED.



"WAS IT HIS REJECTION BY THE ASTARTES THAT LEFT CRIXUS THIS WAY?"



"OR WAS THAT FLAW WHY HE WAS REJECTED?"



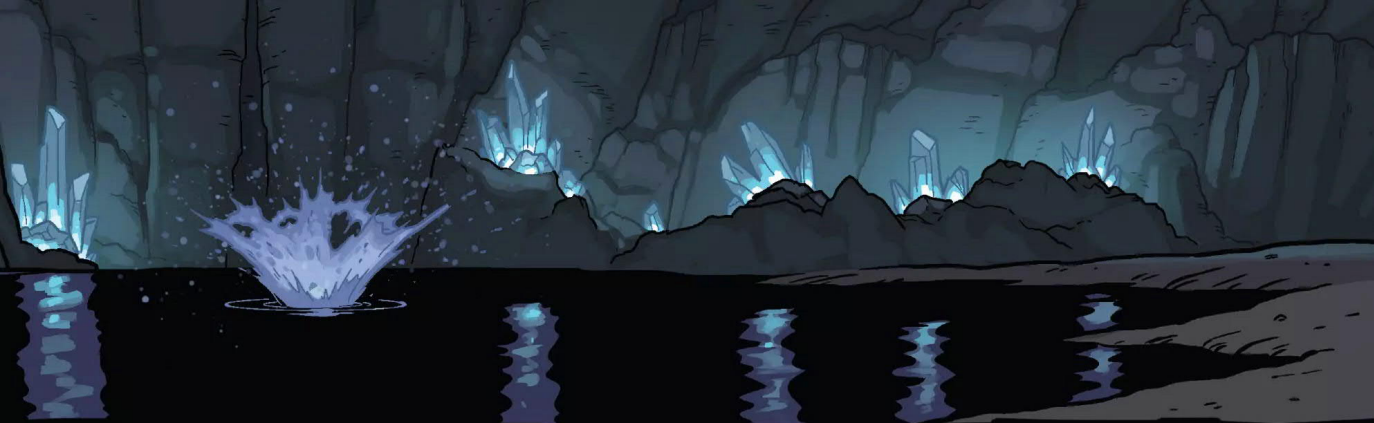
"IT IS POINTLESS SOPHISTRY TO PONDER QUESTIONS WHERE THE ANSWERS MATTER NOT."



"CRIXUS WAS
A MONSTER."

"THAT'S ALL
THAT MATTERS."





"MARNEUS
WAS RIGHT.

"THE IDEA WAS
UNBEARABLE.

"I WOULD
BE A
MARINE.

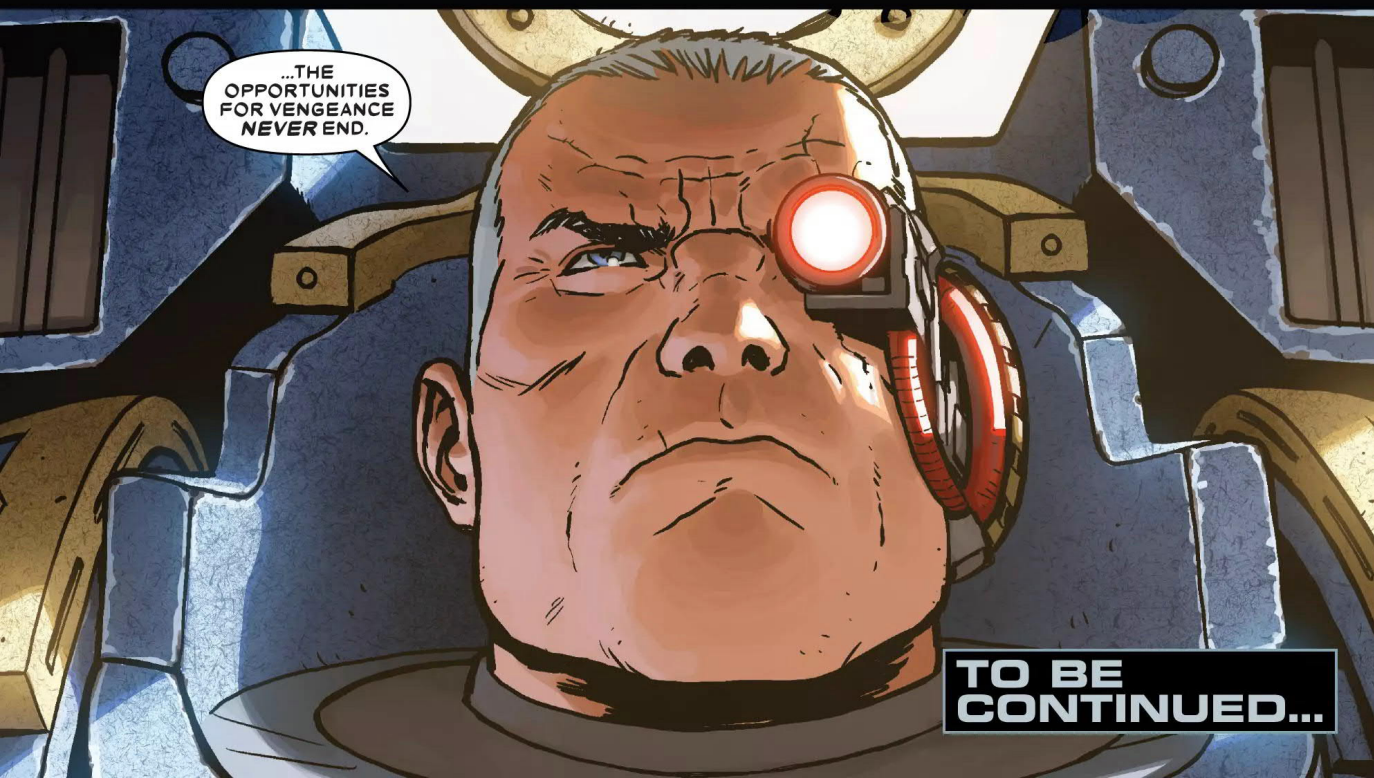
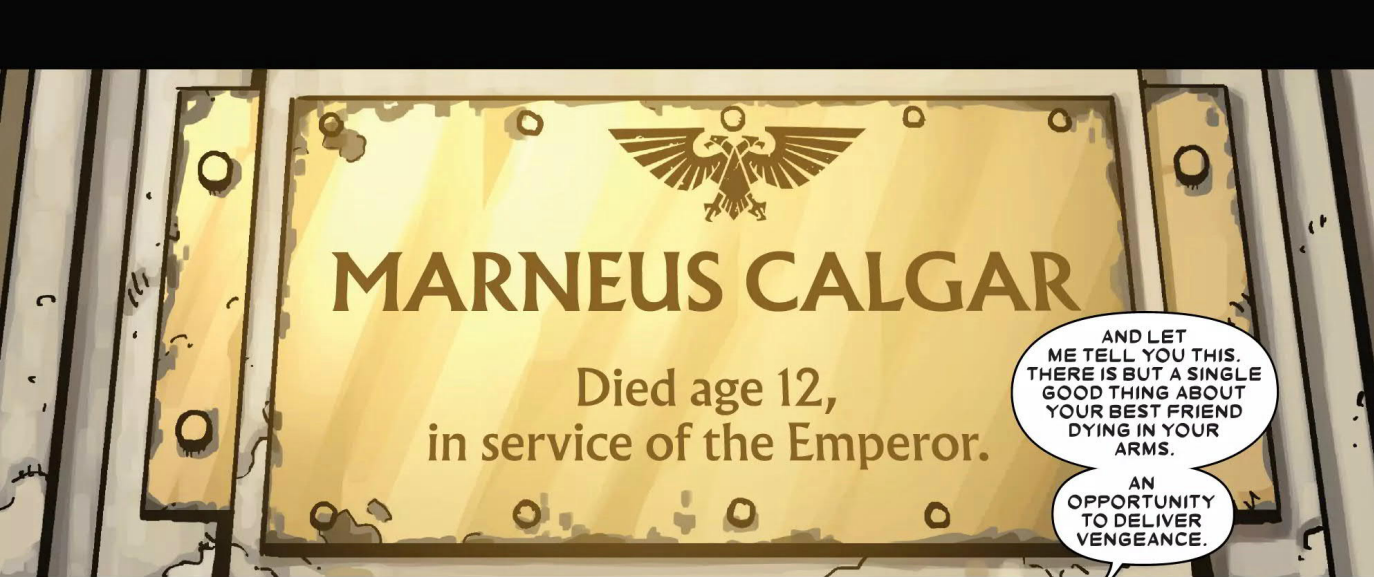
"TACITAN
WOULD BE
MARNEUS
CALGAR.

"HE GAVE HIS LIFE FOR
ME SO MANY TIMES.

"MY LIFE WOULD
HONOR HIS. MY NAME
WOULD HONOR HIS.

"TACITAN
WAS DEAD.

"MARNEUS
WOULD
LIVE."



NEXT



