



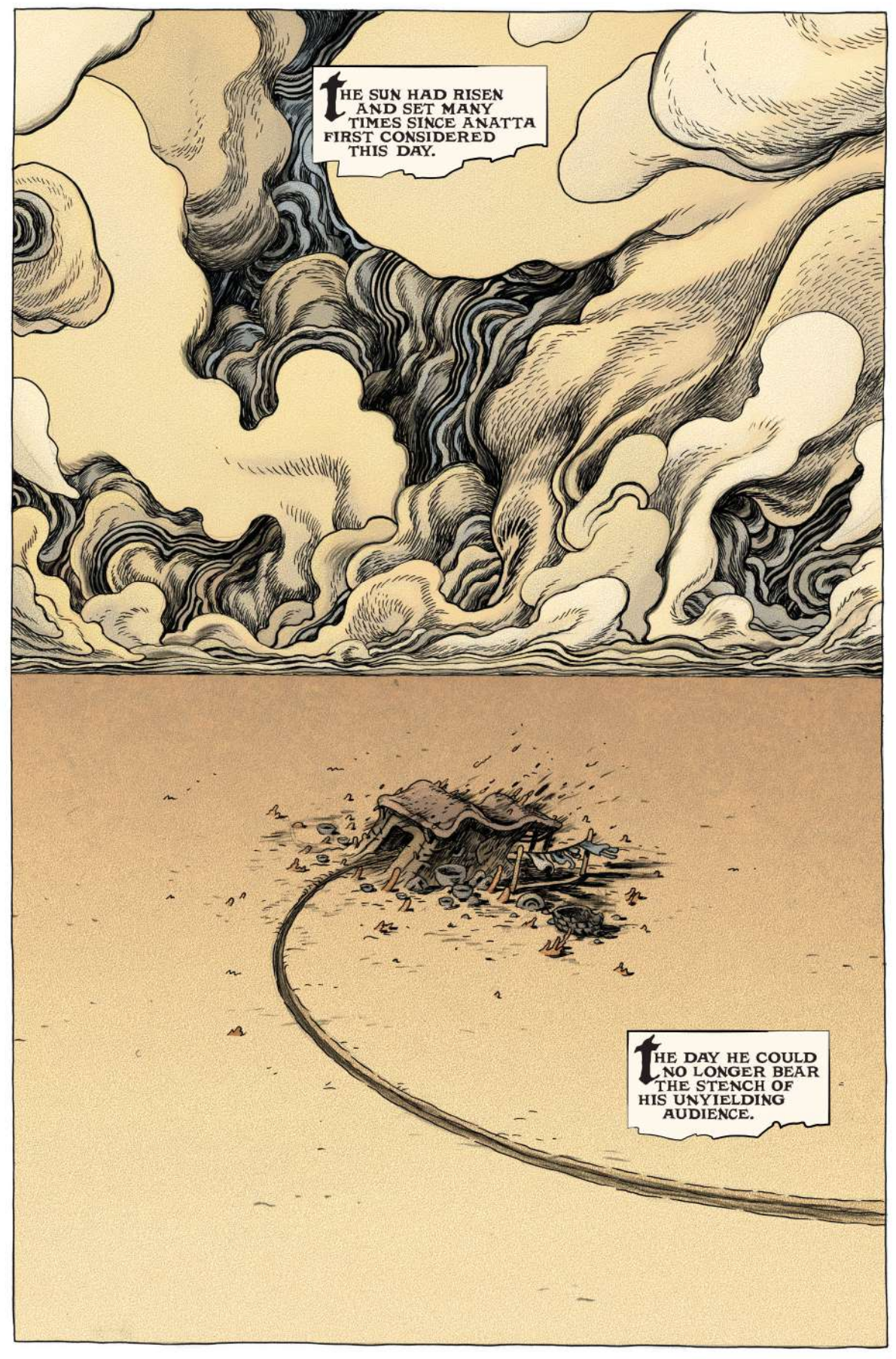
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US

THE Barman Blade™

- DARCY VAN POELGEEST
- IAN BERTRAM
- MATT HOLLINGSWORTH
- HASSAN OTSMANE-ELHAOU
- BEN DIDIER





THE SUN HAD RISEN
AND SET MANY
TIMES SINCE ANATTA
FIRST CONSIDERED
THIS DAY.

THE DAY HE COULD
NO LONGER BEAR
THE STENCH OF
HIS UNYIELDING
AUDIENCE.



THEIR MOONLIT GRINS,
WRIT IN PEARLS
YELLOWED BY STAINS,
AND BOUND BY LIPS
OF LEATHER.

THEIR SUNKEN,
UNFLINCHING
GAZE, CONSTANT
UPON HIM.

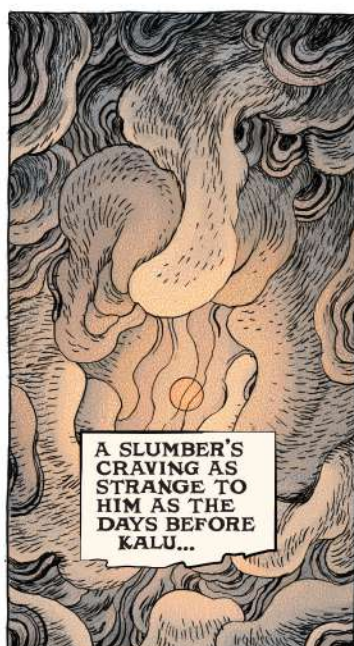


FOR A TIME, ANATTA
THOUGHT HIS KIN
MIGHT WAKE FROM
THEIR SPELL...

...OR PERHAPS
THAT HE MIGHT
WAKE FROM
HIS OWN.



BUT SUCH A DAY,
IT NEVER CAME.



THAT NIGHT,
ANATTA DREAMT
ONCE MORE OF
THE BLADE THAT
BECKONED HIM
FROM AFAR.

HE
DREAMSSs...

HE DREAMSS
THE FORBIDDEN
DREAM.

THE BLADE THAT
HAUNTED HIM.
IF EVER HE SHUT
HIS EYES.

THE BLADE WHICH
ASKS OF HIM.
TIME AND AGAIN...

