

NOCTURNAL

CITY OF MASKS

THE EMPTY SEAT



#2

**PHILADELPHIA.
THE MORNING AFTER
THE NIGHT OF FACES.**

By daylight, a mask
is only trash.

That is what the city
tells itself.





That is my house.
That is my husband.
That is my life.



Ma'am, I need you
to tell me your name.

I just did.



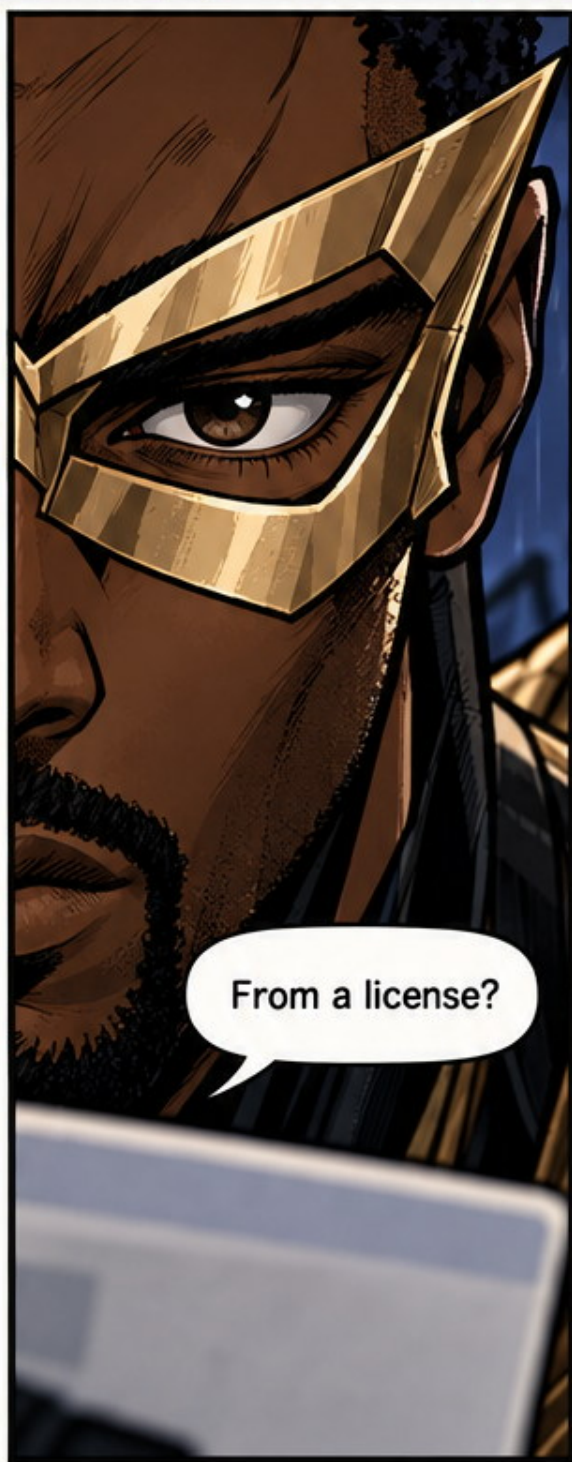
AAAAHHH!



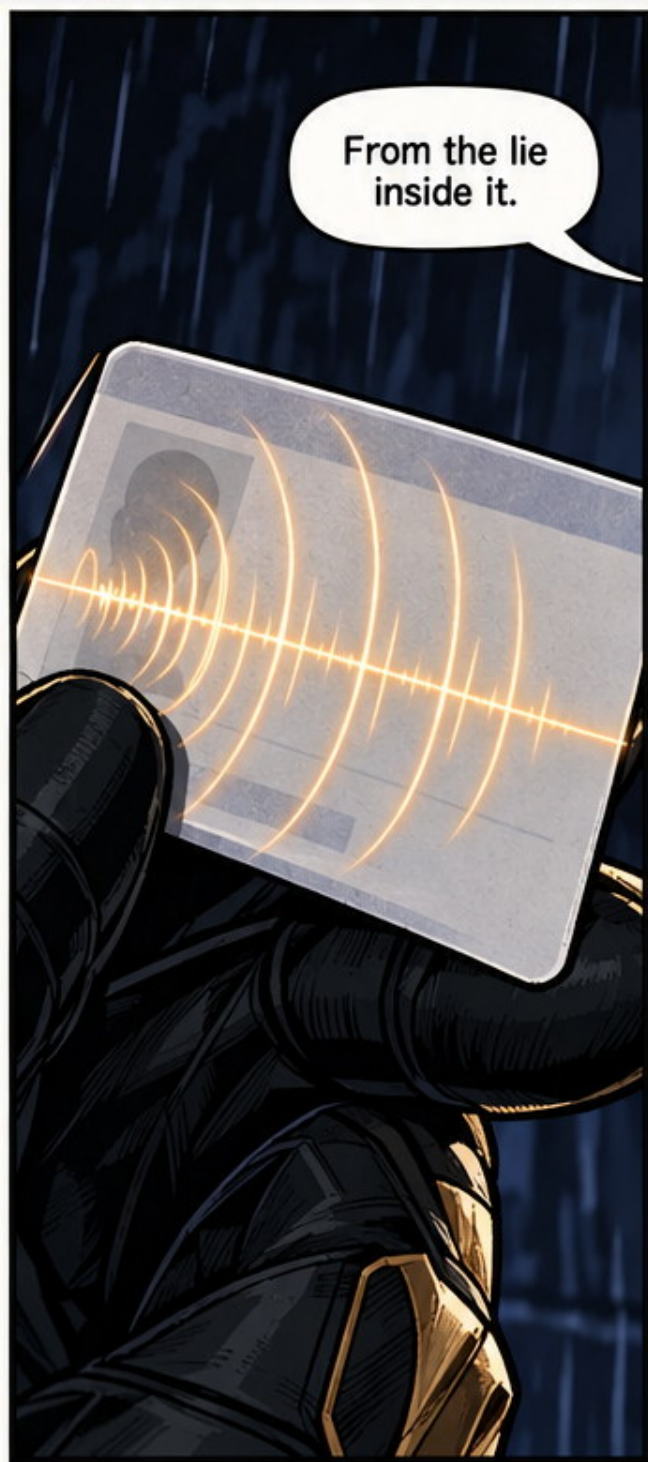
A printing press.
Old gears. Underground.



From a license?



From the lie
inside it.

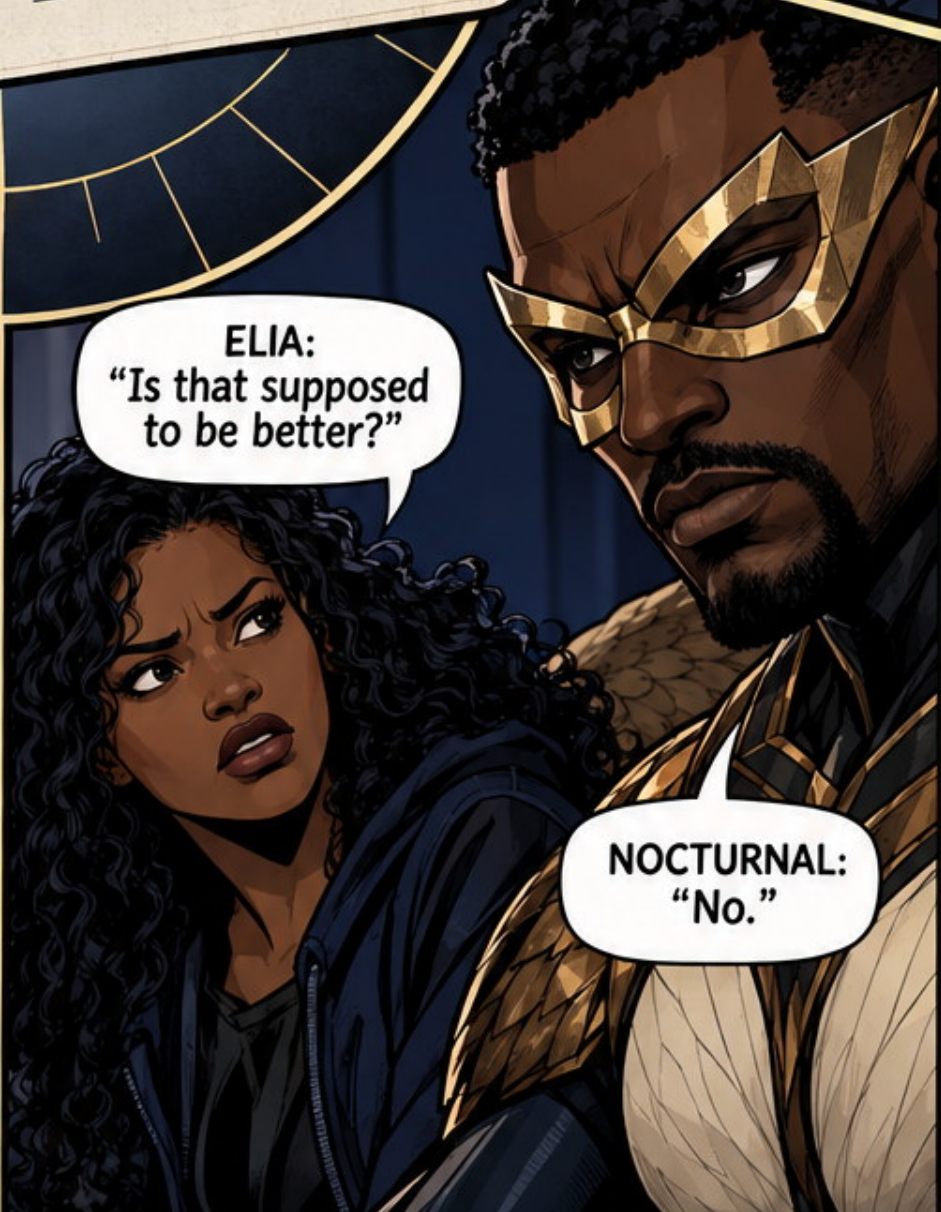




MARA:
"They did not
kill her."

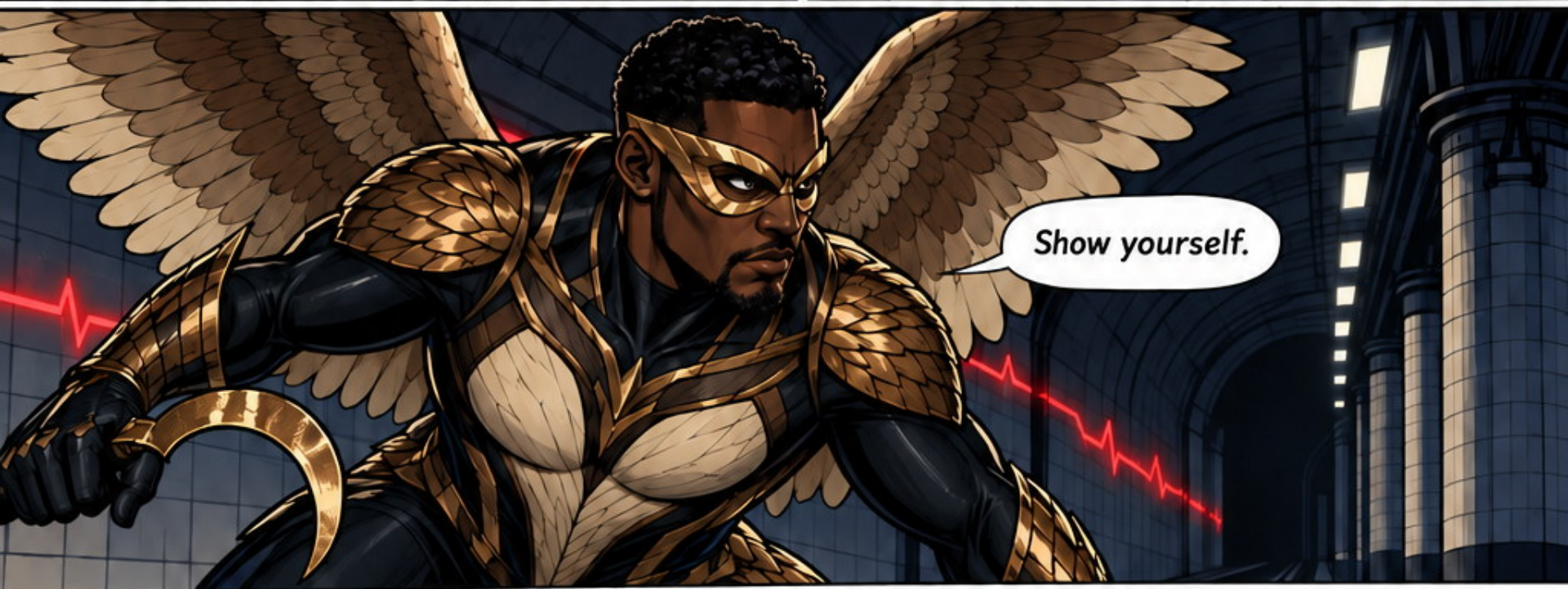


NOCTURNAL:
"They made the city
stop recognizing her."



ELIA:
"Is that supposed
to be better?"

NOCTURNAL:
"No."



The Court judged
guilt. The next row
decides who is
allowed to exist.

CAM 02

CAM 07

Careful. Say the
name too loudly
and they may decide
you were never
born.

LIVE

INT-3

The Audience.



MARA:
Who erased
Elia Grant?



RUSK:
I do not know
anyone by that
name.



MARA:
She carried
evidence out of
your office
yesterday.

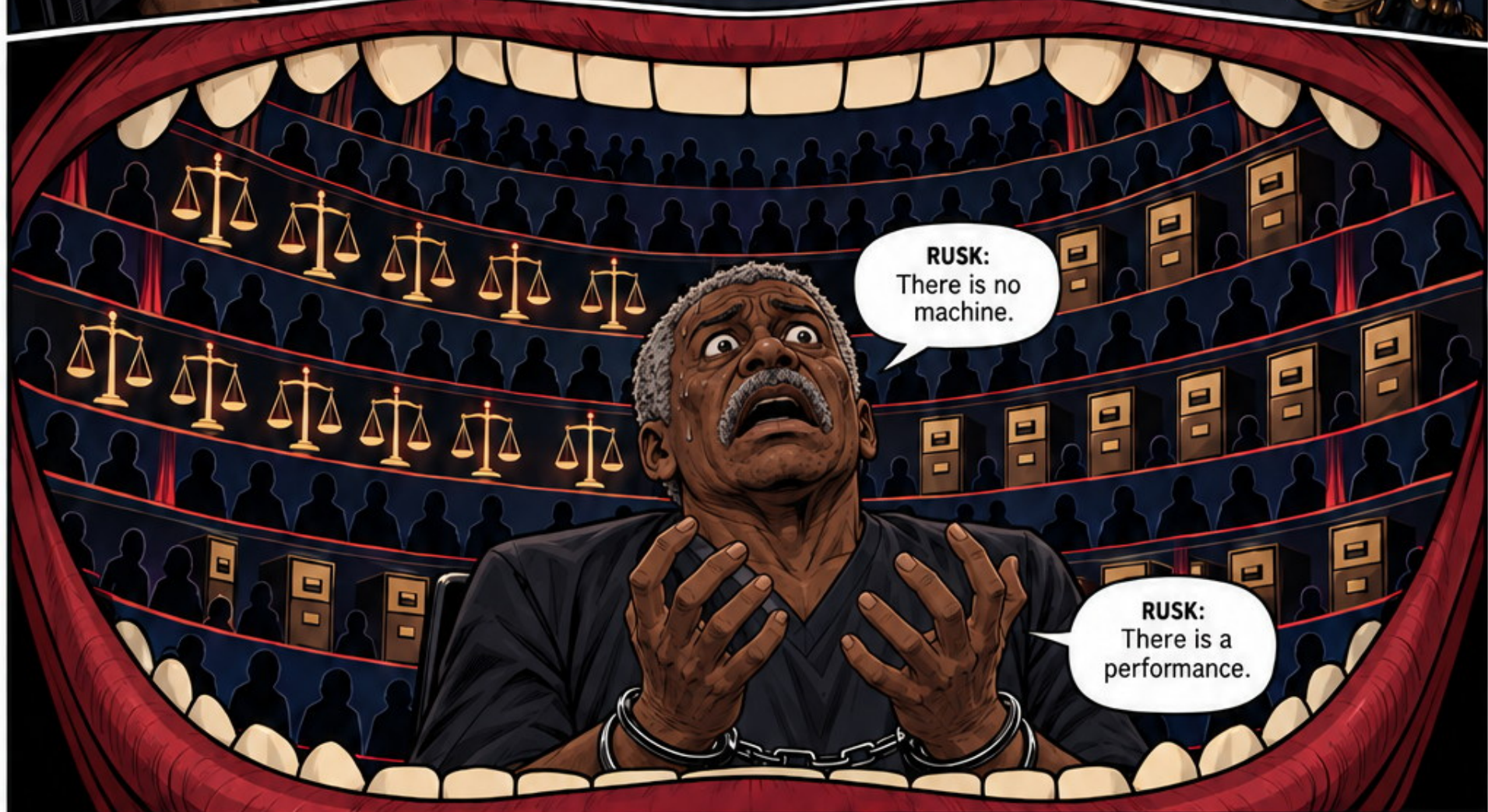


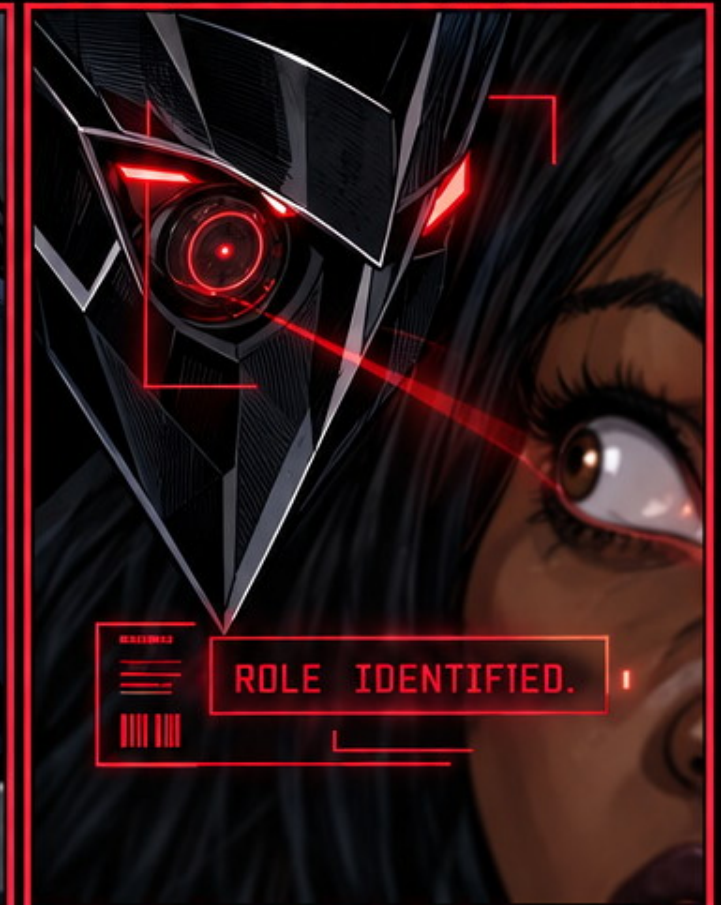
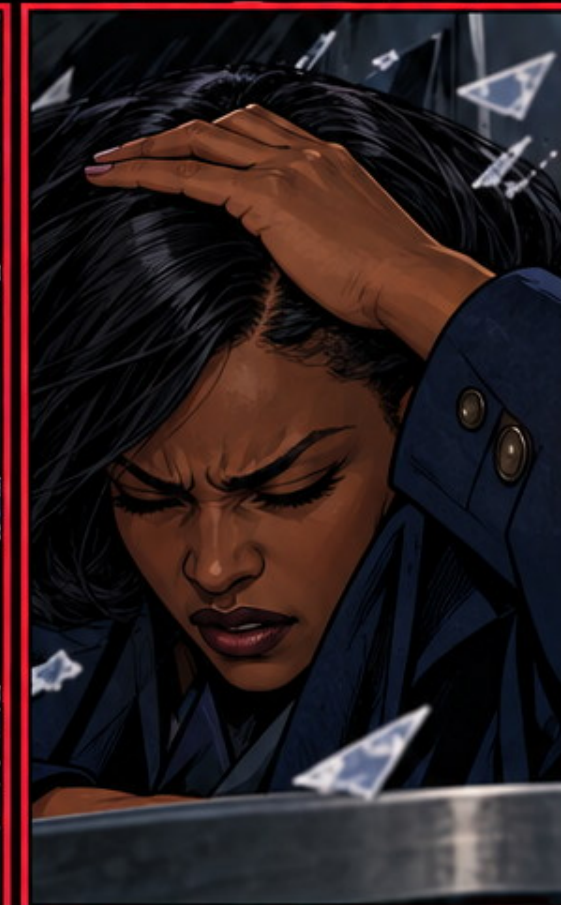
RUSK:
Then yesterday
is lying to you.



RUSK:
The empty seat
was not meant
for her.









MARA:
They took
my badge
history.



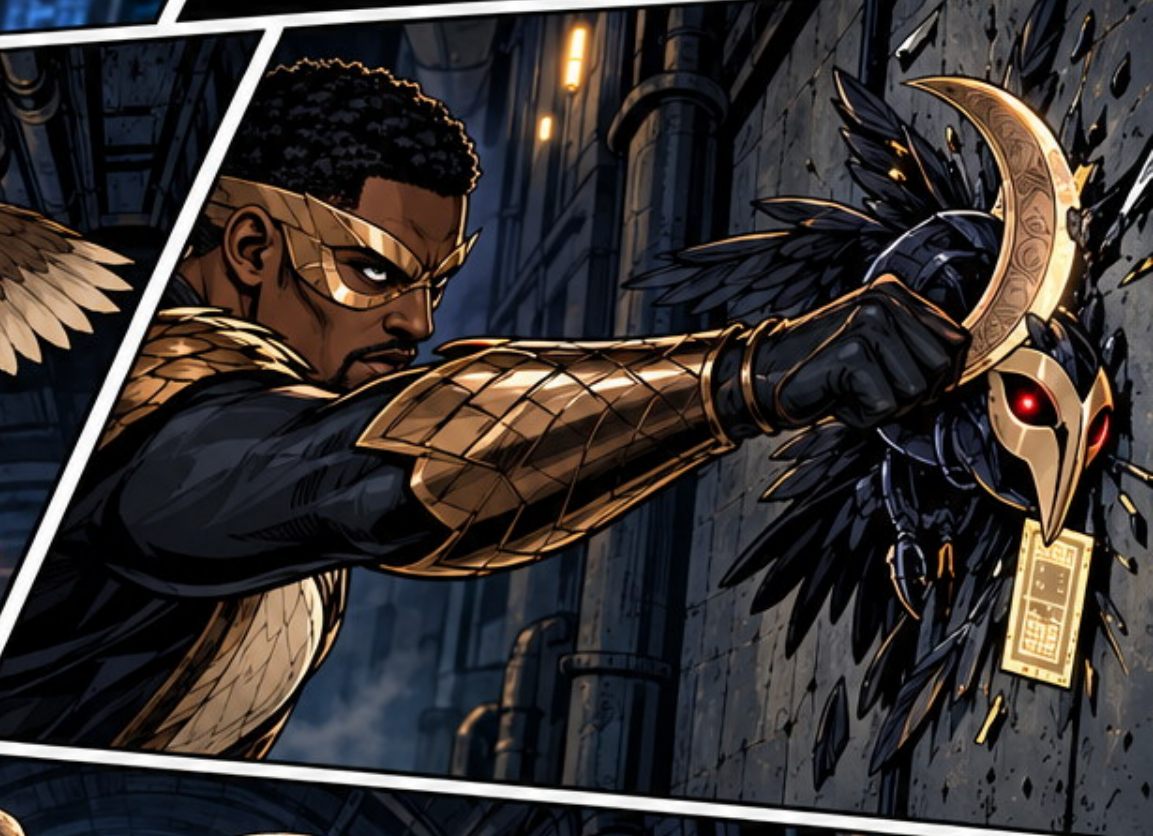
NOCTURNAL:
Not took.
Copied.



MARA:
For what?



JESTER:
Casting.



The city was never
their kingdom.

CITY HALL
ARCHIVES
SUBTERRANEAN
RECORDS
MMIII

PRESERVE
RECORD
CURATE
CONTROL
REPEAT

NARRATIVE
BUILDS
CITIES

POWER

POLICING

LAND

EDUCATION

ELECTIONS

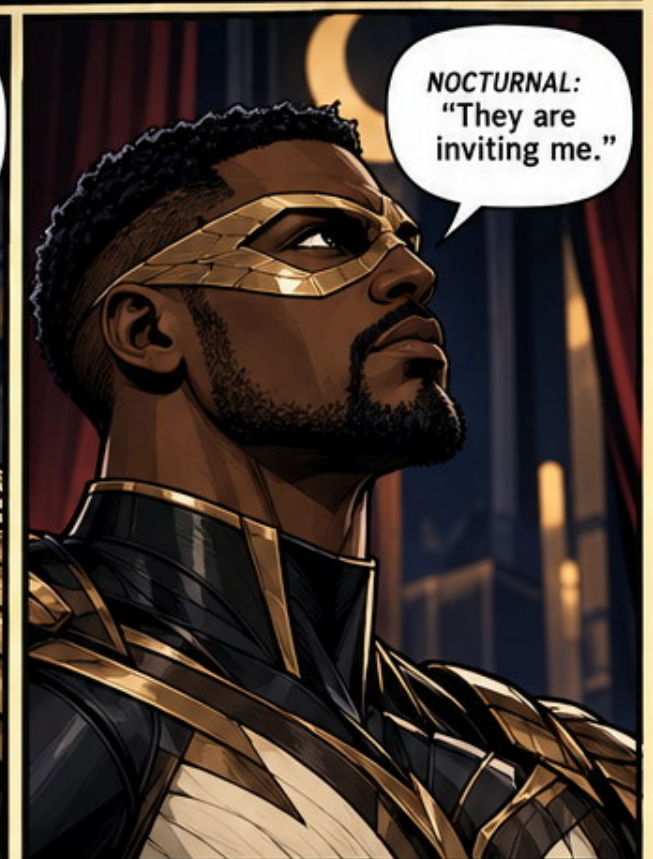
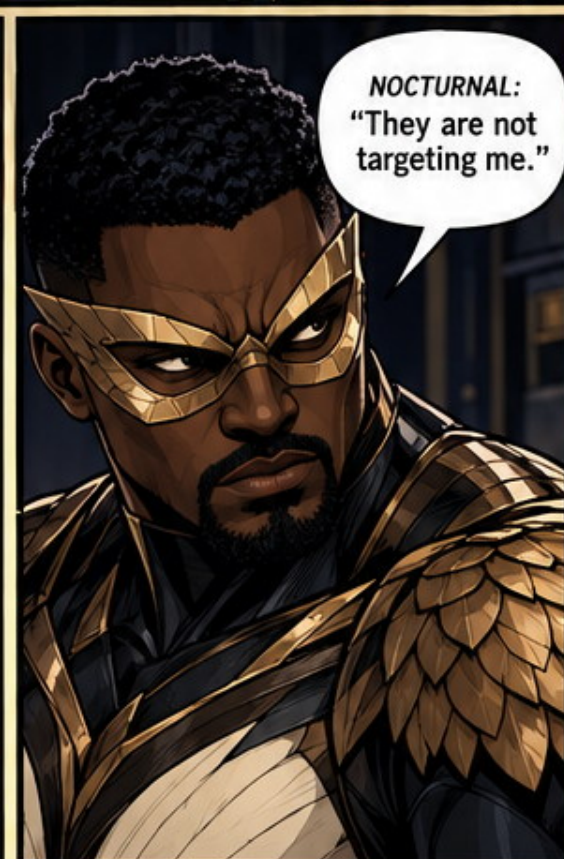
MEDIA

DEVELOPMENT

ERASURE

It was their
production.

THE UNDERGROUND
ARCHIVE-THEATER.



THE ARCHIVE
SAME STORIES.
DIFFERENT LIES.



THE ARCHIVE THEATER

HISTORY KEEPS
ITS TEETH.

PEOPLE
REMEMBER
PEOPLE
EXIST

RECORD
PRESERVE
BELONG

KLAK!

MARA:
"Tell me
what to break!"

NOCTURNAL:
"Nothing."

MARA:
"That is new."

NOCTURNAL:
"If we destroy
the archive, we erase
the people inside it
for them."

PEOPLE
ARE
ARCHIVES
TOO

STORIES
MAKE
TOMORROW

THE RECORD
LIVES ON PEOPLE



NOCTURNAL:
Now.

MARA:
Elia Grant.
Born April twelve.
Married eight years.
Homeowner.
City employee.

MARA:
Witness.

CLANG

TRUTH
RESTORES
PEOPLE

BIRTH CERTIFICATE

RECORD
RESTORED

MARRIAGE RECORD

RECORD
RESTORED

PROPERTY DEED

RECORD
RESTORED

EMPLOYEE FILE

RECORD
RESTORED

THE PRESS
STOPS.



HUSBAND:
"Elia?"



MARA:
"Tell me this is
another lie."

NOCTURNAL:
"I cannot."

1

SOME TRUTHS
NEVER LEAVE
YOU.



2

JESTER:

"You thought
they died for
leaving the
theater."



3

JESTER:

"They died
because they refused
to give it their son."



NEXT: THE CHILD IN THE BALCONY

