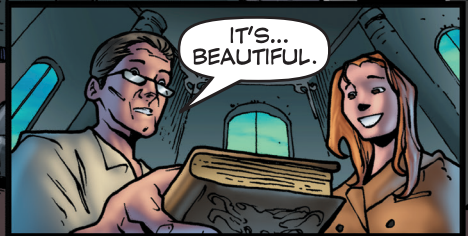


**THE ANCIENT CASTLE
RUINS OF KANDAR...**

AFTER YEARS OF GRUELING
FIELD WORK, MY FATHER
AND I HAD JUST FOUND
THE EX-MORTIS. AN ANCIENT
BOOK OF THE DEAD.

IT WAS THE BIGGEST
ARCHEOLOGICAL FIND
OF HIS LIFE. I'D NEVER
SEEN HIM SO HAPPY.

HE WAS HELL-BENT ON STARTING
THE TRANSLATION SO HE LEFT ME
THERE TO CONTINUE DIGGING WHILE
HE FOUND A QUIET PLACE TO WORK.



IT'S...
BEAUTIFUL.

MY FATHER WAS
IN THIS CABIN IN
THE WOODS...

...I DIDN'T PLAN
ON DYING ON THAT
DAY IN THE CABIN.

DEAD BY
DAWN! DEAD
BY DAWN!

WE ARE
THE THINGS
THAT WERE
AND SHALL
BE AGAIN!

I MEAN—
I HAD BIG
PLANS.

I WANTED
TO MAKE A
NAME FOR
MYSELF.

ME. ANNIE
KNOWBY.

NOW, BOTH
MY PARENTS
WERE DEAD.

ASH— THAT WAS HIS NAME. HE CLAIMED MY PARENTS WERE POSSESSED BY SOME KIND OF DEMONIC FORCE. I KNOW, RIGHT?

WELL, HE WAS RIGHT. HE HAD ALREADY CUT OFF HIS OWN HAND TO RID HIMSELF OF THE DEMON'S POWER.



I'LL SWALLOW YOUR SOUL!

I'LL SWALLOW YOUR SOUL!

NOW IT WAS INFECTING EVERYTHING AROUND ME.

MY FATHER UNWITTINGLY USED THE BOOK TO UNLEASH AN ANCIENT EVIL AND IT POSSESSED HIM AND MY MOTHER.



WHEN ASH WASN'T TURNING INTO ONE OF THOSE THINGS, HE WAS MY SAVIOR.

IT WAS BECAUSE OF HIM I WAS ABLE TO DO WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE.

