

INBORN STORM
SCRIPT BY: Katie Marcum

Page 1

Panel 1: Top down view of a crowded sidewalk on a rainy night in Seattle. People are packed together, hoods up and umbrellas open. One person, Macha Quinn, is walking against the flow of traffic, making her stick out from the crowd. Her baseball cap is brightly colored under her hood, the bill helping to track her movement.

1. CAPTION: Seattle, 2022

Panel 2: The same top-down shot, but Macha is pushing through the crowd aggressively, running from the cop coming behind her. The crowd is parting for her but moving back together once she passes. His voice comes from off-page.

2. COP (OFF): Stop! Get back here!

Panel 3: The final top-down shot as the cop appears in frame. The crowd isn't parting as nicely for him, even as he's yelling. Macha turns, now cutting across the crowd to get to an alleyway.

3. COP: Somebody stop her!

4. COP: Get out of the way!

Panel 4: Full body shot of Macha as she presses against the wall of the alley. She's in her late teens and soaked from the rain. Her hat and hood are covering her partly, as well as a brown leather jacket. Her jeans are stylish but worn, and her shoes may have once been expensive, but they're splashed with mud, paint, and water stains. She is looking back out into the street with a relieved smirk, thinking she's gotten away.

Panel 5: The voice of the cop startles Macha, and she ducks behind a dumpster deeper in the alley. He's framed in the opening back out to the street.

5. COP: Come on, Macha. We can get this all sorted out.

Panel 6: Closer on Macha as she squeezes between the dumpster and the brick wall of the building. Moving the dumpster reveals a puddle of magical, glimmering liquid, reflecting a whole prism of color like an oil slick- the liquid is leaking from a rusted through spot. Macha doesn't notice this, focused more on the

flashlight shining into the alley, but her heel is right on the edge.

6. COP: Your case worker is already at the precinct.

7. MACHA: tch

Panel 7: As Macha leans back to hide from the cop, her heel doesn't find the concrete of the alley but instead the edge of a portal! She is tumbling backwards into the swirling magic, whisking her away to the realm of Primaterra.

8. MACHA: AAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!

Page 2

Panel 1: Macha falls backwards out of Seattle and into a large cauldron at the center of an idyllic cottage. The walls are covered in hanging herbs and ingredients, and the cauldron itself is half-full of something brewing. It makes a mighty splash and Macha tumbles butt-first into it.

1. CAPTION: Primaterra, At That Exact Moment
2. SFX: Splash!
3. MACHA: AAAAAAH!

Panel 2: Macha immediately tumbles sideways out of the cauldron, partially soaked and all kinds of freaked out.

4. MACHA: \$@%!?
5. ASTERIA (OFF): Oh? You have quite a mouth on you.

Panel 3: Standing over Macha is an older, smiling potion brewer. They have a bandolier of brewing supplies strapped across their chest and an iconic shawl of bottles over their shoulders. Asteria Jones, thirty years after the events of Potions, Inc., is smirking coyly down at Macha. The Seattleite, for her part, has raised an arm in surprise.

6. MACHA: This isn't happening!
7. ASTERIA: You have nothing to-

Panel 4: In a cloud of magical energy, Macha has disappeared, leaving Asteria to speak to an empty room. They're confused, naturally, but more curious than anything.

8. SFX: Poof!
9. ASTERIA: -worry about.

Panel 5: The reader is treated to a view robbed from Asteria-Macha coated in an invisibility spell inches along the wall behind the brewer. The wall of the cabin and all the knick knacks Asteria has gathered over the years bend and distort as she passes by, a light blue haze over a fish eye lens. She is disoriented and pretty freaked out, trying to be sneaky. Asteria has turned back to their cauldron with a quizzical expression.

10. ASTERIA: I suppose there is some overlap with this recipe and teleportation magic. Contact with the potion only partway brewed shouldn't cause such a reaction though..

Panel 6: Macha backs out the exit, pushing through the heavy cloth that operates as a door. However, she runs into something solid just past the cloth.

11. SFX: Thump

Page 3

Panel 1: Out in the beautiful sunlight of Primaterra, Macha is standing with her back against a massive creature. It has the body of a horse, the tail of a lizard, and the head of a bird of prey. Its beak is wide open, letting out a horrid screech, and Macha shutters back into visibility as she raises her arm to defend herself, an instinctive shield of magic protecting her.

1. BUTEQUIS: Screeeee!
2. MACHA: Gah!

Panel 2: Macha has yet again fallen back, this time with her shimmering magic shield up in front of her. The Butequis is reared back on its hind legs, as if to strike, but a potion bottle tossed by Asteria glints against its chest, a potion spilling out against it. Their feet are visible behind Macha.

3. ASTERIA (OFF): Calm down now!
4. SFX: Schlorp!

Panel 3: Asteria pulls Macha up by her non-shielded arm. They have a smile on their face as they look her up and down.

5. ASTERIA: Save the hooves for a real intruder. I believe what we have here is a guest.
6. MACHA: What is that thing! It's some sort of-

Panel 4: Macha catches a much smaller version of the beast as it pounces at her chest. It's the size of a small dog now, with its tongue lolling out the side of its mouth adorably. Asteria is lifting Macha's other arm, watching as the magic fizzles away.

7. MACHA: -monster?
8. ASTERIA: It's a Butequis. One of my recipes. You aren't dressed like a Primaterran. And you smell like a wet dog.

Panel 5: Macha pulls her arm back defensively, finally getting a good look at her host.

9. MACHA: I don't know how I got here. I'm from Seattle. I need to get back.

Panel 6: Asteria laughs as Macha starts to walk away.

10. ASTERIA: Getting back to Earth is no easy task.
11. ASTERIA: But I know the way.

Panel 7: Macha turns back, looking defeated and annoyed as she returns to Asteria. Over her shoulder, a shadowy figure is watching from the bushes with glowing eyes.

12. MACHA: This better not be some trick to put me back in your pot.

13. SHADOW (spookily): innnnbornnnnn

Page 4

Panel 1: Asteria and Macha are each riding a Butequis into the Blossings Grand Market. They've been riding all day, and the sun is starting to set. Macha looks uncomfortable on her mount, but Asteria is right at home on theirs.

1. CAPTION: Blossings Grand Market, That Evening
2. MACHA: So your potions take longer to make and need ingredients, unlike a spell from a wand.
3. ASTERIA: That's right.
4. MACHA: So why would you ever use a potion?
5. ASTREUS (OFF): Yeah, Asteria, why would you ever use a potion?

Panel 2: Astreus, aged but still sporting boyish charisma, stands with his arms crossed as he looks at his sibling and their guest. Asteria glares at their brother as they dismount their Brutequis.

6. ASTERIA: Your imagination never was your strongest magic. Alchemy takes intelligence, patience, and-
7. ASTREUS: Who's your friend?
8. ASTERIA: -absolute focus.

Panel 3: Macha follows suit, dropping to the cobbles next to Astreus. His flirty affect has faded into more of a fatherly warmth over the years, but there is still a cockiness beneath it all.

9. MACHA: Macha. And if you'd stop bothering us, Asteria is going to make a potion to send me back to Seattle.
10. ASTREUS: Oh, are they? I don't recall them ever stepping up to open the portal when Ran comes home.

Panel 4: Asteria is dumping a potion on top of the two creatures, rolling their eyes as they dismiss the beasts. Macha is looking behind her as the twins bicker. Something caught her attention.

11. ASTERIA: I just need to pick up the right ingredients, and I can send her back.
12. ASTREUS: And you just so happened to be out of those ingredients and had to come to the Market, where I am?

Panel 5: Macha takes a hesitant step back towards the edge of town. In the crowd of the market, the shadowy figure is staring directly at her.

13. SHADOW: innnbornnnn

14. ASTREUS (OFF): Macha? Where'd she go?

Panel 6: Macha reels back as the figure charges through the crowd towards her, growing in size and bestial form as it does. White teeth shine from the inky black figure and wicked claws reach out to grab and tear. It's somewhere between a wolf and a bear, but made completely of shadow.

15. SHADOW: INNNBORNNN!

Page 5

Panel 1: The Shadow swipes with its claws, but the attack is cut off by Astreus, holding his wand aloft. Magic flashes between him and the beast, and he's straining to hold the massive weight at bay. He smiles back at Macha, though, strained from the magic but still confident and comforting.

1. ASTREUS: Only been here a day and made friends with two of the meanest things on Primaterra.
2. ASTERIA (OFF): Hey!

Panel 2: Astreus uses his shield magic to throw the Shadow to the side. It crashes through a small market stall, sending magical fireworks rolling all over the place. Macha is running away from him, back towards Asteria.

3. ASTREUS: Hyah!

Panel 3: Astreus has his back to the creature and his hands on his hips, confident he took the creature out.

4. ASTREUS: Good thing I was here. You two would have been in real trouble if that thing attacked you on the road.

Panel 4: The Shadow rises up behind Astreus. Its maw is full of fireworks, all with little sparks coming out of the business end. Asteria tosses him a potion from off-panel, which he fumbles with a surprised expression, spilling it on his chest.

5. ASTERIA (OFF): Yeah, good thing.

Panel 5: The Shadow bears down on Astreus, who turns with a shocked expression. The liquid from the potion is covering his chest and starting to puff up like foam.

6. SHADOW: Grrrrrrrrrrrr
7. ASTREUS: Wha-

Panel 6: An explosion of fireworks blinds Macha and Asteria, who both bring up their arms to block their faces from the force of the blast.

Page 6

Panel 1: Macha looks back towards the road out of town as the dust cloud dissipates. Magic is crackling on her fingertips as her stress builds. It looks almost like rainfall, soaking her sleeves and summoning tiny arcs of lightning. Asteria is already at Astreus's side, turning him over.

Panel 2: Astreus's chest is covered in cloud-like foam. His face is soot-streaked, but he's smiling and laughing as Asteria is pulling him to his feet. Instead of booking it for the woods, Macha turns back and reaches towards Astreus's goop-covered chest.

1. MACHA: What is that?
2. ASTERIA: Versatility.
3. SHADOW (OFF): innnnbornnnn

Panel 3: The three of them face the Shadow, watching as it drags itself to its feet. The explosion rocked it but didn't take it out.

4. ASTREUS: It's after Macha, isn't it?
5. ASTERIA: Work on opening that portal. I'll hold it off.

Panel 4: Asteria pulls a selection of potions from their shawl, glowering at the Shadow. Macha tries to mirror their confidence but looks more queasy than battle-ready.

6. ASTERIA: You have to believe in your magic. Our brother started off useless, and now he's more powerful than anyone I've met.

Panel 5: Asteria looks over to Macha, now looking a bit queasy herself.

7. ASTERIA: Don't tell him I said that.
8. ASTERIA: Or Astreus.
9. SHADOW (OFF): Grah!

Panel 6: The Shadow pounces at Macha, and Asteria spikes a potion bottle with a twisted vine tag into the ground.

Panel 7: Thick vines burst up from the ground in front of the two of them to tangle the creature in place.

Page 7

Panel 1: Asteria uncorks a bottle that looks like it's filled with smoke. The smoke trickles up from the neck, and they give it a mighty blow. The Shadow, held in place by the plants, recoils back as best it can.

Panel 2: Hit by the smoke, the Shadow stops thrashing in the plants.

Panel 3: The great beast's snout twitches.

1. SHADOW: sniff

Panel 4: It's eyes flutter shut as it starts to sneeze.

2. SHADOW: Ah-

Panel 5: With a mighty sneeze, Macha and Asteria are blown back from the beast and up into the air. Asteria is already bringing a potion to her lips.

3. SHADOW: Ah-Chooooo!

4. MACHA: AHHHHHH!

Panel 6: Asteria poofs into a Vultarise while keeping their own head, bat wings flapping as they scan the sky for Macha.

5. SFX: Poof!

Panel 7: Close shot on Macha's hands as the magic grows around them, rain thundering out of nowhere and lightning crackling at her fingertips.

6. MACHA (OFF): I don't know what I'm doing here.

Panel 8: Her feet are hovering inches above the ground and the rain splatters on the cobbles.

7. MACHA (OFF): Or what you are.

Page 8

Panel 1: Macha is practically flying forward, rearing a lightning cased fist back. The Shadow is galloping towards her as well, having broken free of the plants.

1. MACHA: But I'm done running!
2. SHADOW: Your magic is mine, inborn!

Panel 2: Astreus is circling his wand, the portal back to Earth finally open. Asteria is landing next to him, still in their half-vulturise form. Their brow is furrowed.

3. ASTREUS: The portal is ready!
4. ASTERIA: It's after her magic?

Panel 3: Macha pulls up short of punching the beast and brings her hands in front of her in a resounding thunderclap. The Shadow is thrown back towards Astreus and Asteria.

5. SFX: THOOM!

Panel 4: Astreus and Asteria dive to either side, the portal closing as Astreus drops his wand. The Shadow is already flying through, though.

Panel 5: Macha runs up to the twins with a wide smile. They both look concerned as they regard the spot where the portal just had been.

6. MACHA: I got rid of it! It's gone!
7. ASTERIA: It was hunting you for your inborn magic.
8. ASTREUS: The same kind of magic Ran has.

Panel 6: Shot of Macha's face, contorting in horror as she realizes what the twins are saying.

9. MACHA: And I just sent it to Seattle.

Panel 7: A door stands ajar in the alleyway from page 1, and an older but still identifiable Randelgast Jones is cast in the light from Potions, Inc. He has a black garbage bag in one hand, and the other is above his head casting an umbrella spell. Ran is looking down at the faded magic puddle with a bewildered grimace.

10. CAPTION: Seattle, Later

Panel 8: As conspicuously inconspicuous as one can be, Ran pushes the dumpster back against the wall, whistling and looking anywhere but the magic leak.