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55  
\$3.99

# MONSTRESS



*It's a mixed blessing,  
being hard to kill.*

*It means you keep  
getting second chances.*

*For some people, maybe most  
people, that would be an opportunity  
to become someone new.*

*Fix everything wrong with  
themselves, bit by bit.*

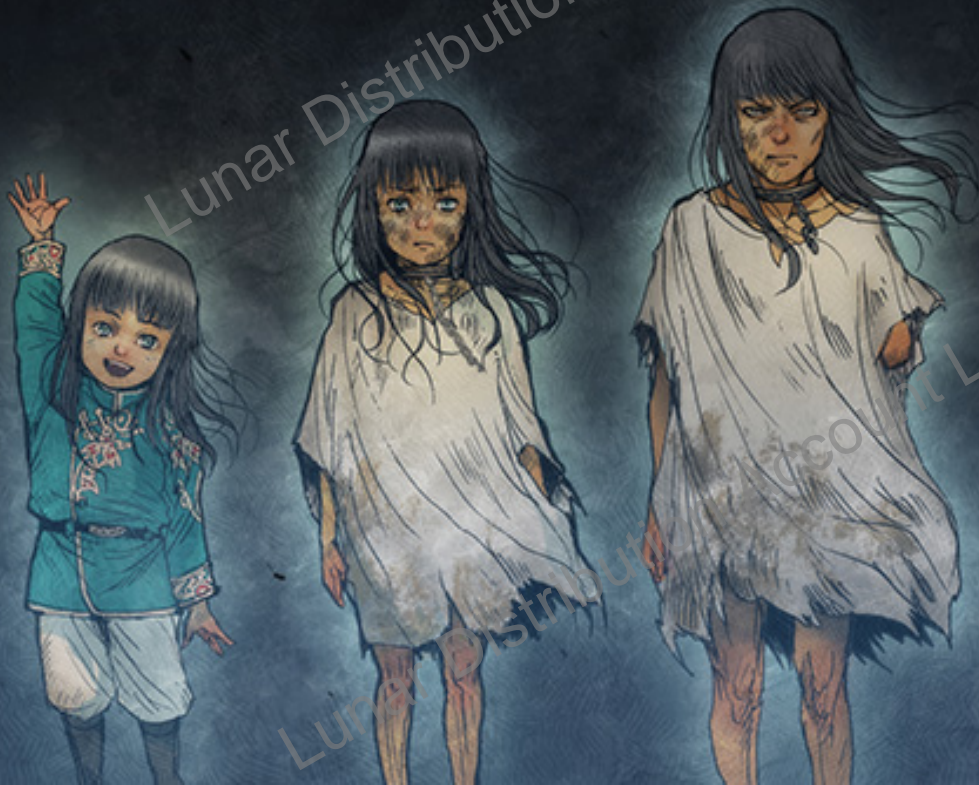
*But that's not how  
it works for me.*

*Every time I start to  
change, something bad  
gets in the way.*

*Part of me gets  
cut out -- or dies.*

*And I start over, just  
as I was before.*

*The girl with no heart.*



*I had a heart, a  
very long time ago.*

*Sometimes, I felt the echo  
of it...with Tuya...or Kippa.*

*Just enough to pretend that  
one day I might feel things  
the way other people do.*

*Kippa once told me it wasn't pretend -- that  
my heart was still there. Otherwise, why  
would I have so much anger? Or despair?*

*Should I have believed her?*

*Because this time...my  
death...my rebirth...  
was different.*

*I woke up without you, Zinn.*



*And now that you're gone...  
I have to look at myself.*

*I can't avoid it. I have nowhere to  
hide. I can't blame you anymore.*

*And what have I found?*

*Nothing. Truly, nothing.*

*I am empty inside.*

*Everything that defined me --  
even the hunger -- is gone.*

*And that echo of a heart I  
could pretend was mine...was  
that your heart, all along?*

*How much of me was you?*

