

FROM THE PAGES OF HELLBOY

B.P.R.D.TM

KING OF FEAR



MIKE MIGNOLA

JOHN ARCUDI

GUY DAVIS



KING OF FEAR

Created by MIKE MIGNOLA



ABE SAPIEN

An amphibious man discovered in a primitive stasis chamber in a long-forgotten subbasement beneath a Washington, D.C., hospital. Recent events have confirmed a previous life, dating back to the Civil War, as scientist and occult investigator Langdon Everett Caul.

DR. KATE CORRIGAN

A former professor at New York University, an authority on folklore and occult history. Dr. Corrigan has been a B.P.R.D. consultant for over ten years, now serving as special liaison to the enhanced-talents task force.

LIZ SHERMAN

A fire starter since the age of eleven, when she accidentally burned her entire family to death. She has been a ward of the B.P.R.D. since then, learning to control her pyrokinetic abilities and cope with the trauma those abilities have wrought.

JOHANN KRAUS

A medium whose physical form was destroyed while his ectoplasmic projection was out of body. A psychic empath, Johann can create temporary forms for the dead to speak to the living.

PANYA

An ancient Egyptian mummy who returned to life during an unrolling ceremony in the nineteenth century. After her resurrection, Panya was a prisoner first of the Heliopic Brotherhood of Ra, and later of the Oannes Society, until she made contact with and subsequently was freed by the B.P.R.D. She has demonstrated psychic abilities, although their precise nature and range remain unknown.

ANDREW DEVON

A relatively recent addition to the B.P.R.D., Devon earned his Ph.D. in modern and medieval languages from Cambridge. While growing up in St. Louis, Missouri, his interest in the supernatural was piqued when he read Kate Corrigan's case study of a demonic possession in Azerbaijan. His effort to debunk it drew the scholar into a world he never believed existed.

MIKE MIGNOLA'S

B.P.R.D.TM

KING OF FEAR

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This book collects the *B.P.R.D.: King of Fear* comic-book series, issues #1–#5,
published by Dark Horse Comics.



CHAPTER ONE



WASHINGTON, D.C.

A WHOLE BATTALION OF MEN. A BATTALION AND AN ARMORED COMPLEMENT.

JUST GONE.

WELL, AS WE OUTLINED IN OUR REPORT, THE THREAT MY AGENTS ENCOUNTERED WAS NOT THE ONE WE HAD ANTICIPATED.

THAT'S YOUR EXCUSE, DIRECTOR MANNING? "WE DIDN'T KNOW."

DOESN'T EXACTLY INSPIRE CONFIDENCE. YOU'RE THE EXPERTS ON THIS MONSTER BUSINESS. OR YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE.

WE CAN TALK ABOUT MY FAILINGS LATER. YOU HAVE THE ACCOUNTS OF THE MEN WHO SURVIVED THE BATTLE. YOU SAW WHAT HAPPENED IN MUNICH.

THE FROG MENACE IS BACK, AND WORSE THAN ANYTHING WE'VE SEEN.



THE ARMED FORCES HAVE SOMEWHAT MORE SOPHISTICATED MEANS TO ASCERTAIN THAT THAN YOUR BUREAU.

THAT'S JUST NOT-- LOOK, WHAT HAPPENED IN MUNICH WAS *REAL* ENOUGH.

AND WE'RE PREPARED IF IT HAPPENS AGAIN. OUR BASES IN GERMANY ARE ALL ON ELEVATED ALERT.

BUT IF ONE OF THOSE CRABS WANTS TO SET UP SHOP IN SIBERIA, THAT'S NOT OUR PROBLEM.

WHAT GENERAL MARSH IS SAYING IS THAT INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IS PROBLEMATIC. ON AN EMERGENT BASIS, IT CAN BE FACILITATED.

"EMERGENT BASIS"? YOU'RE GOING TO WAIT FOR ANOTHER ATTACK? IT COULD BE TOO LATE BY THEN. WE CAN STOP IT BEFORE IT HAPPENS.

DIRECTOR, THERE IS NO "WE" HERE.

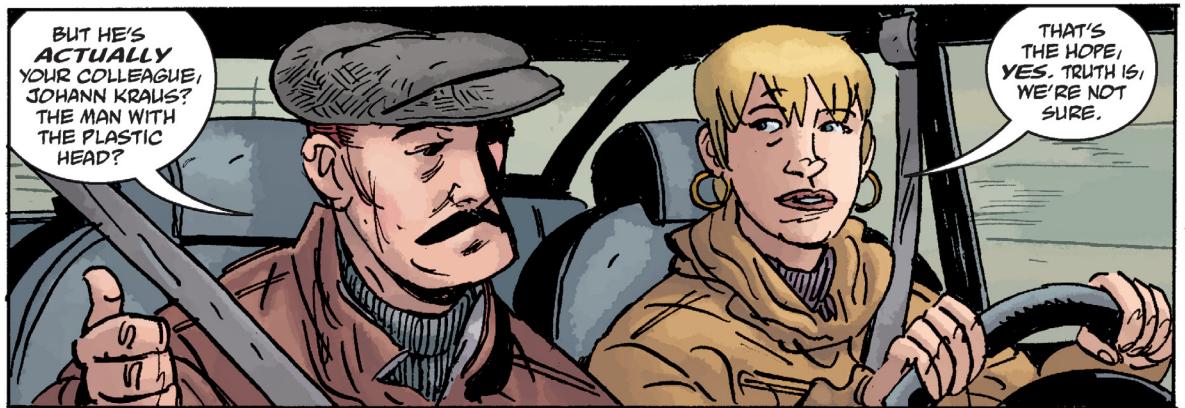
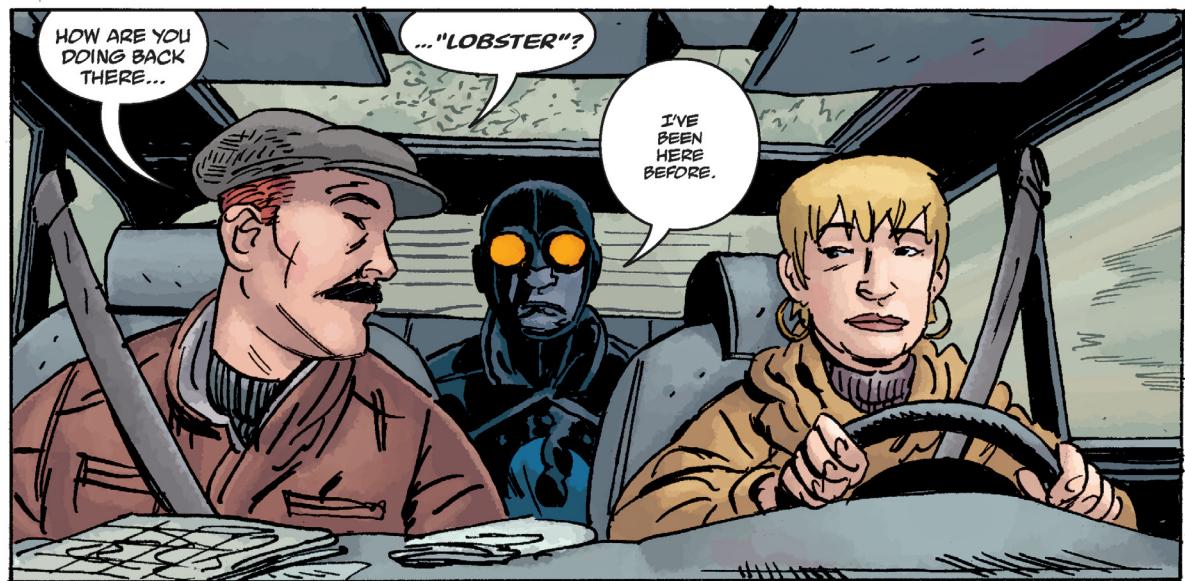
THE B.P.R.D. HAS NOT DEMONSTRATED AN ABILITY TO CO-MANAGE PERSONNEL IN A RESPONSIBLE MANNER.

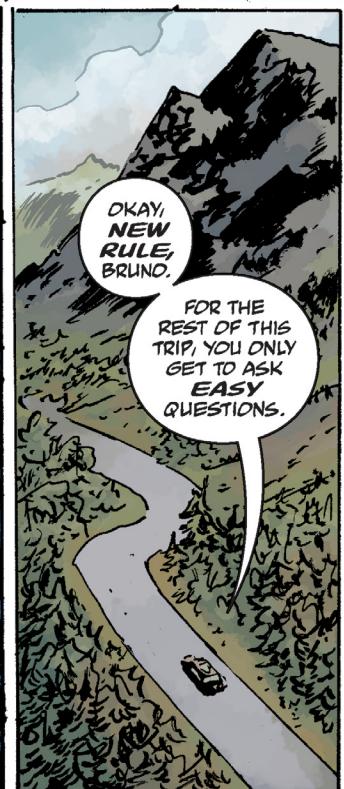
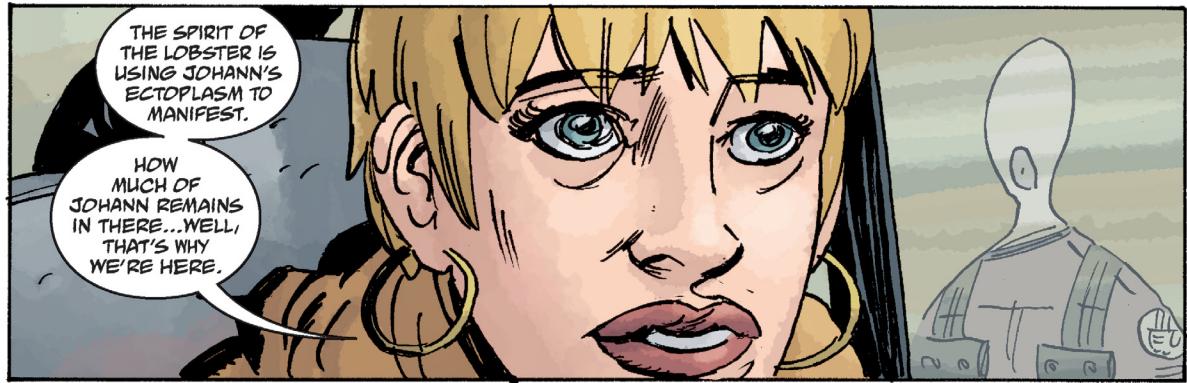
FEEL FREE TO OPERATE WITHIN THE PARAMETERS OF YOUR BUREAU'S CHARTER--

--BUT THE ARMED FORCES WILL NO LONGER BE AT YOUR DISPOSAL.







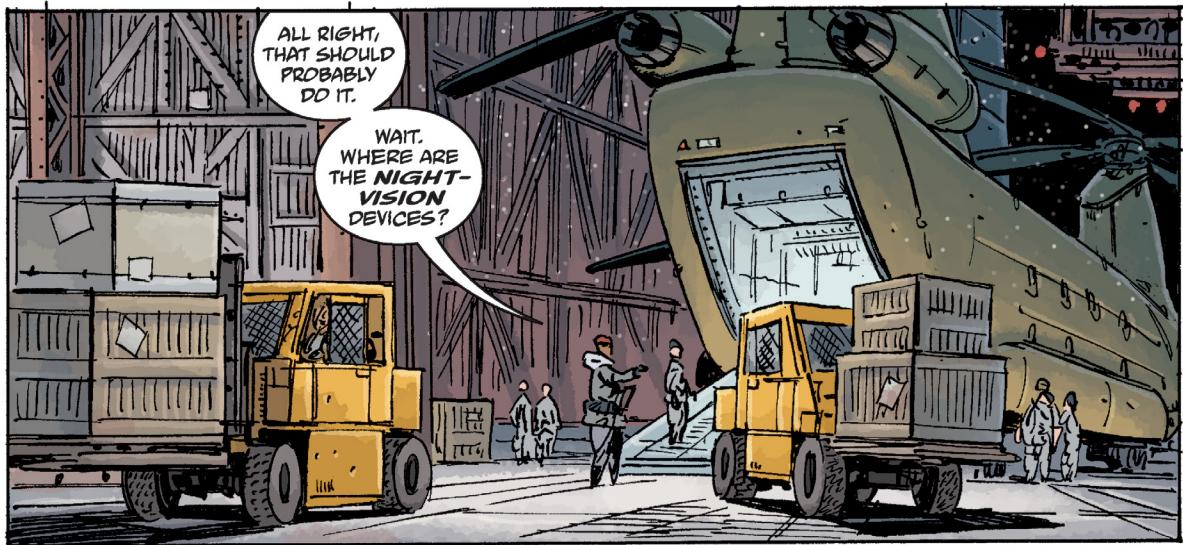


B.P.R.D.
HEADQUARTERS,
COLORADO.

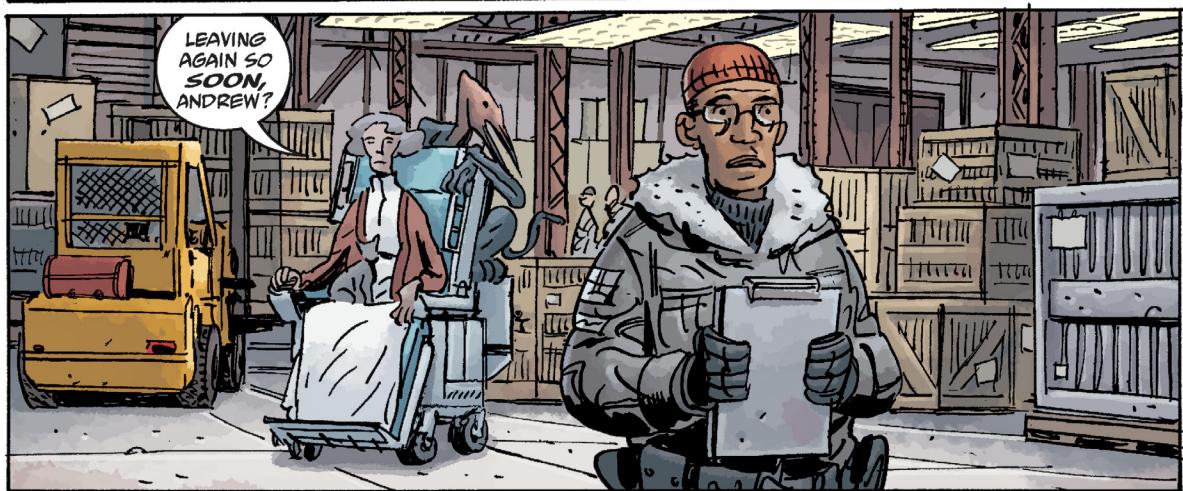


ALL RIGHT,
THAT SHOULD
PROBABLY
DO IT.

WAIT.
WHERE ARE
THE NIGHT-
VISION
DEVICES?

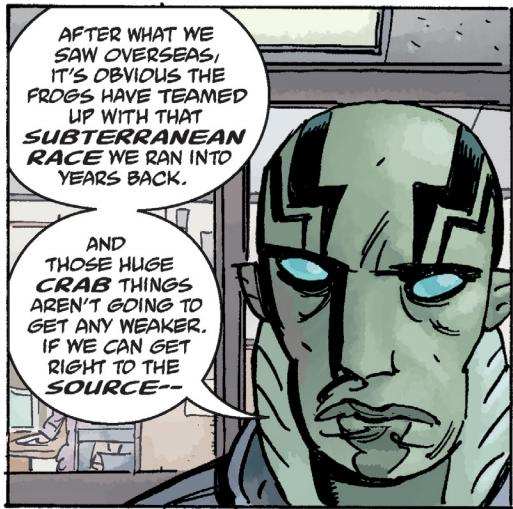


LEAVING
AGAIN SO
SOON,
ANDREW?



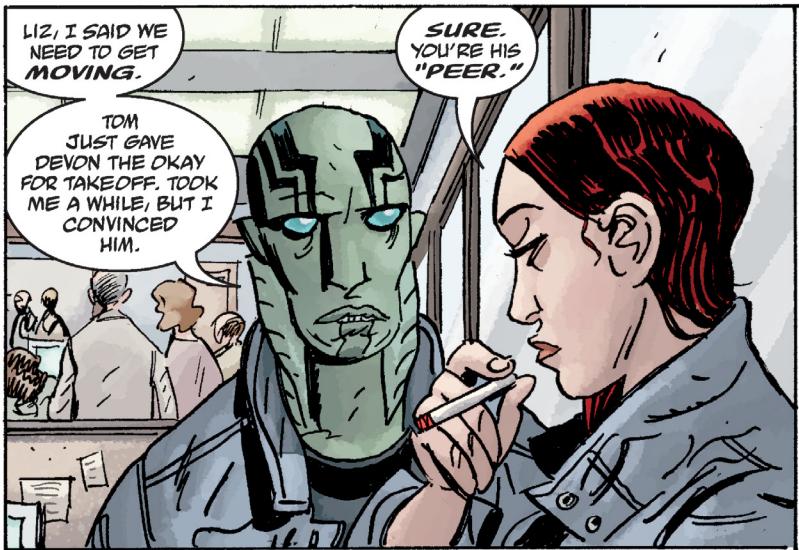


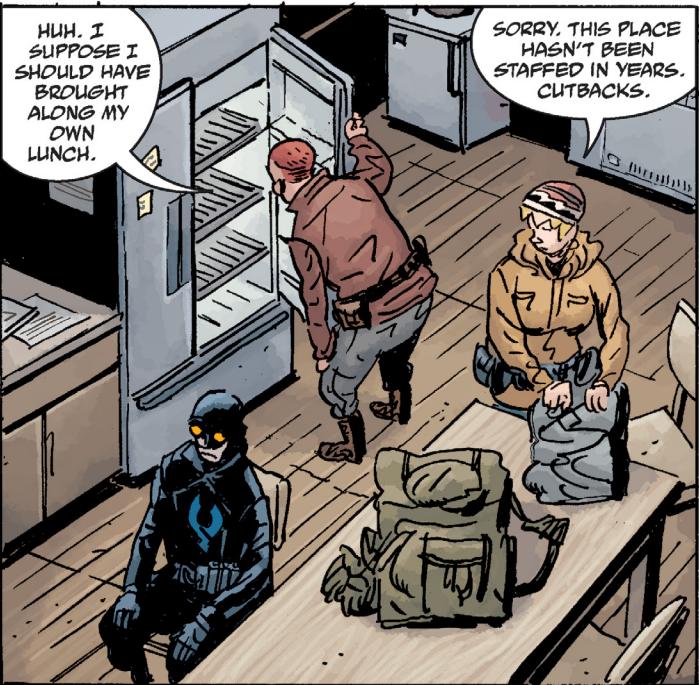




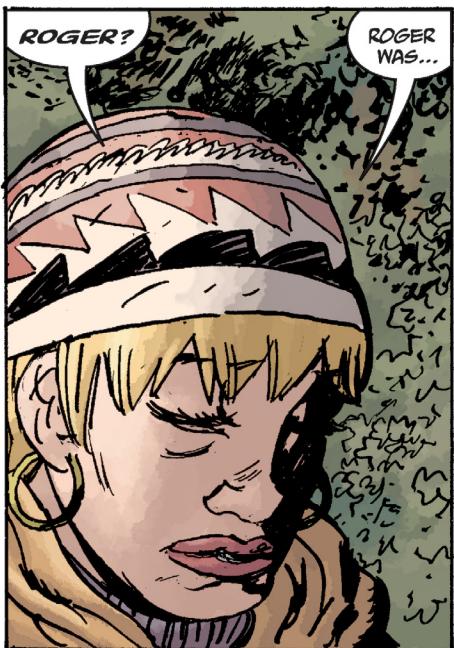


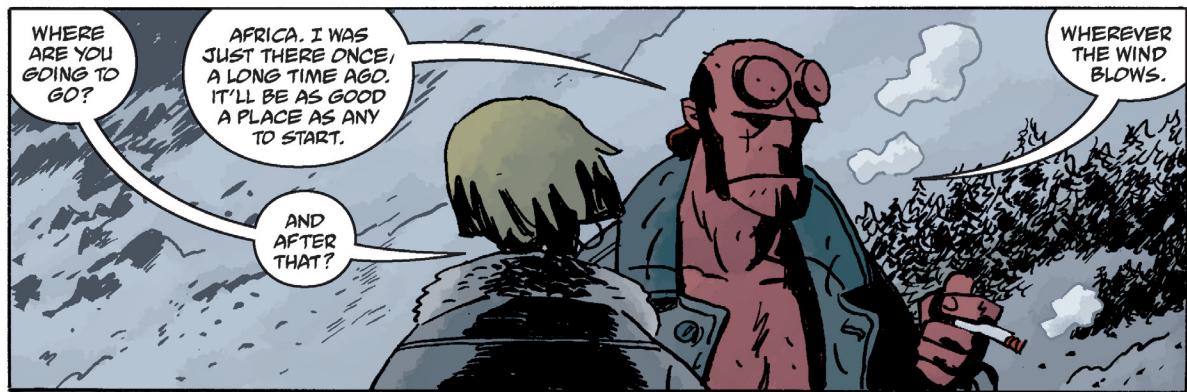
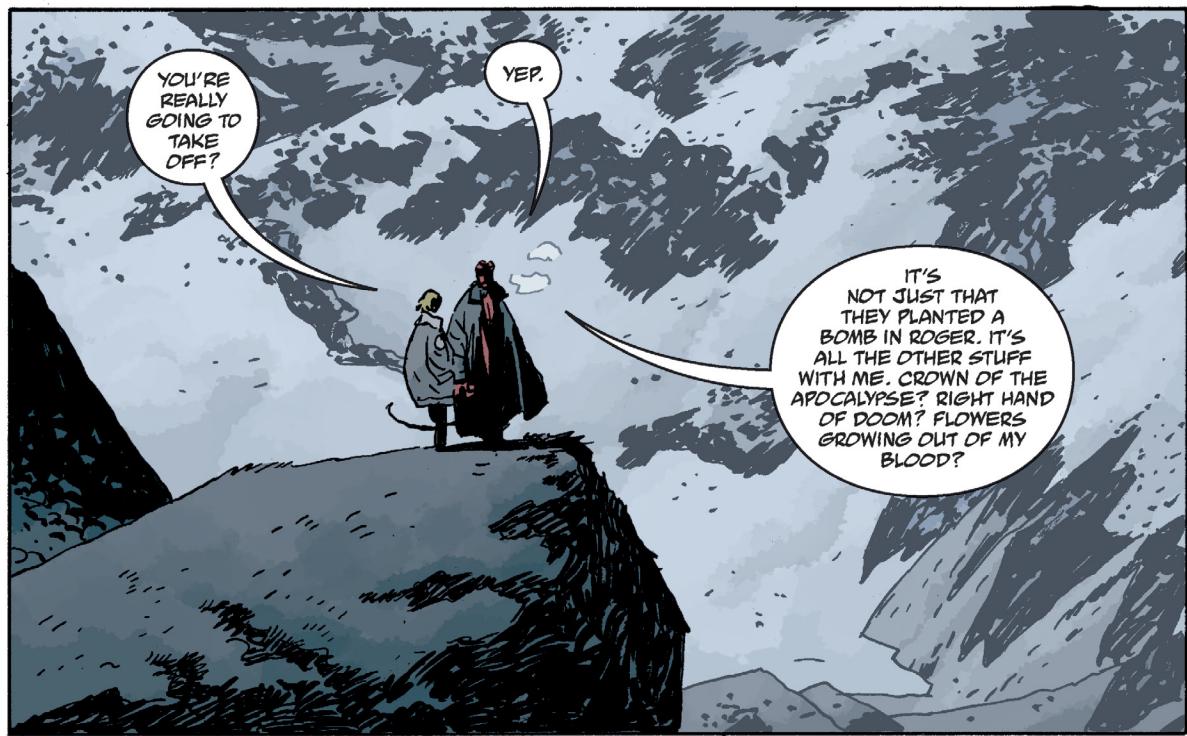


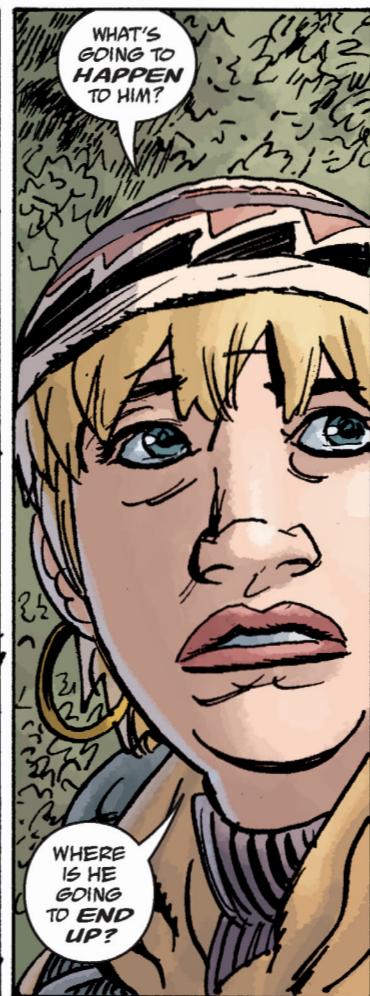


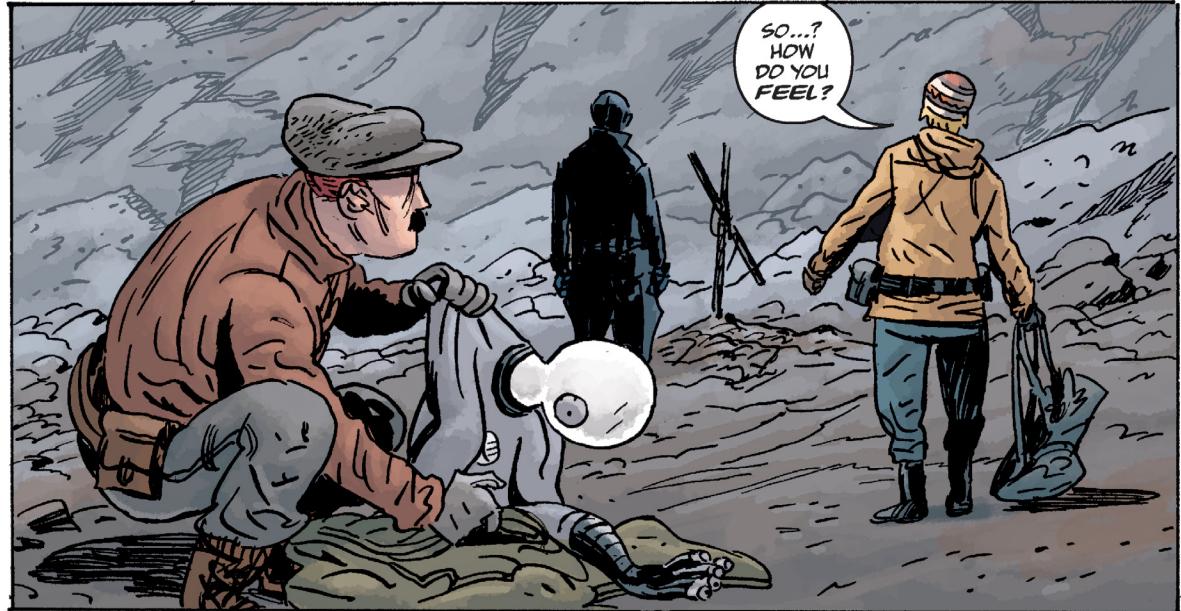
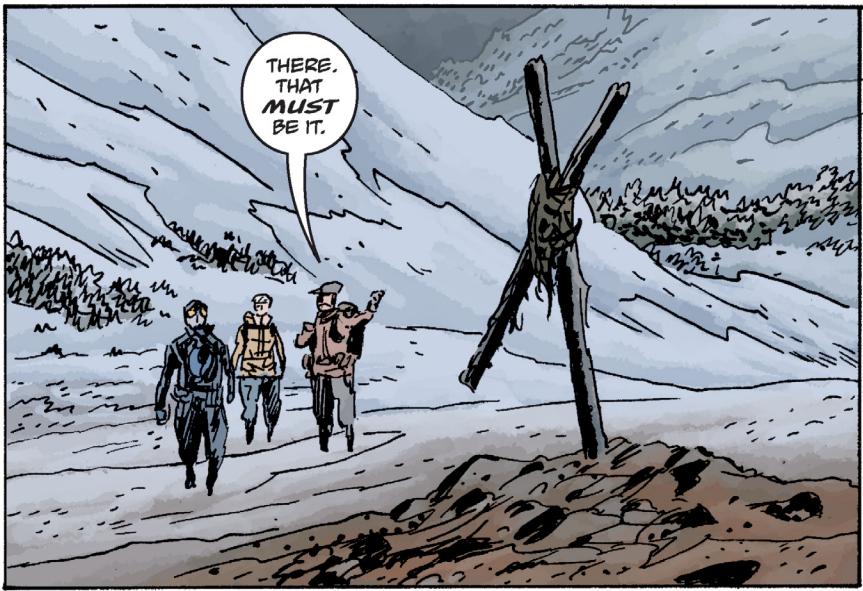


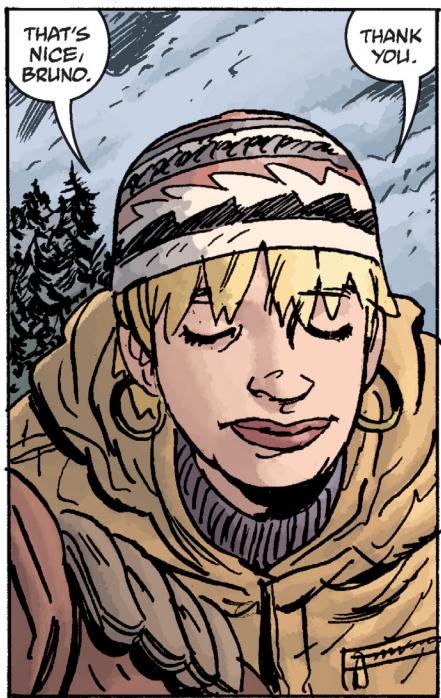




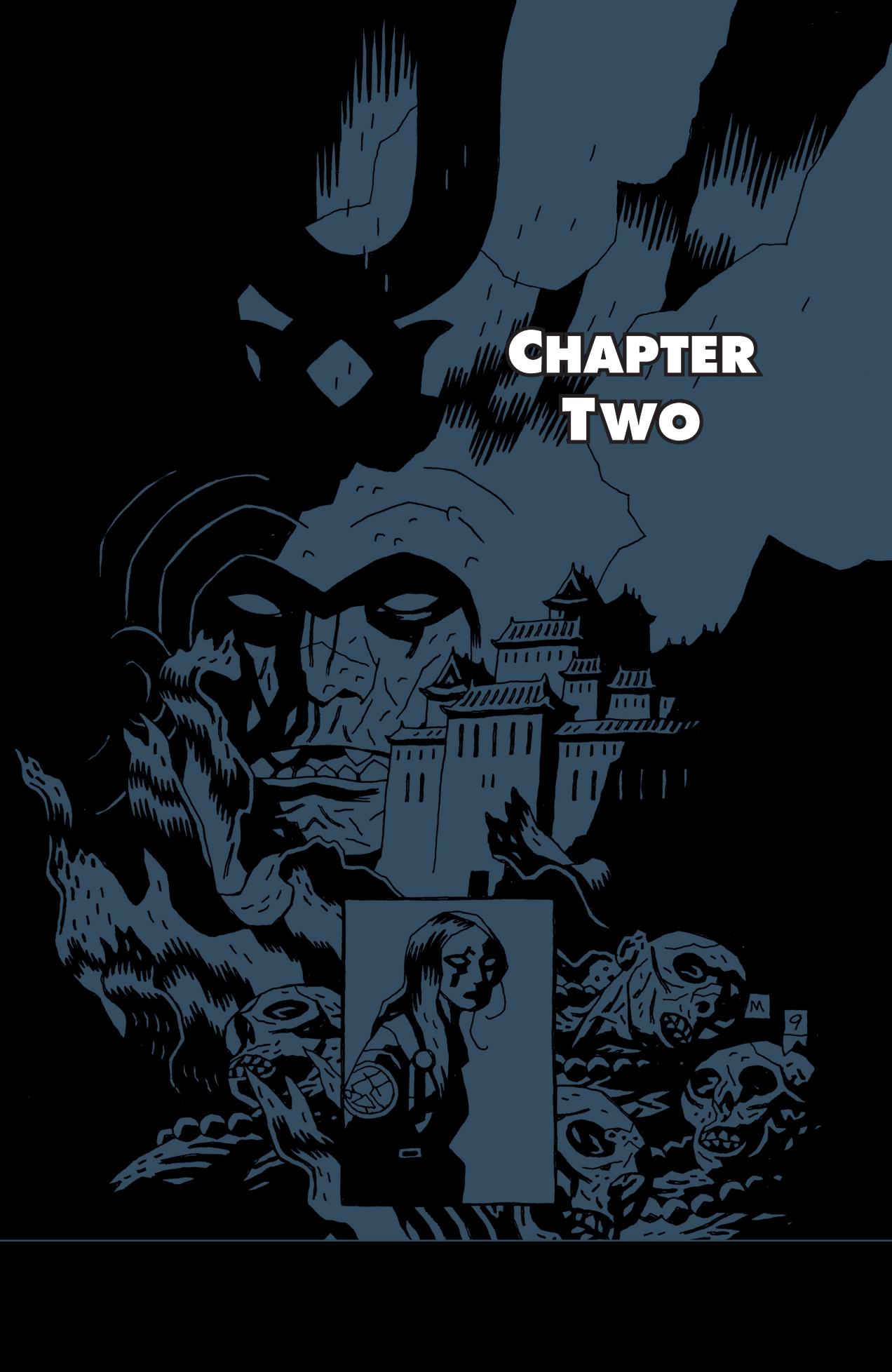












CHAPTER TWO





HEY, I JUST FOUND
ONE OF THOSE RED
DWARVES! MAYBE
WE SHOULD SEND
HIM BACK FOR
STUDY.

DEVON,
NOT NOW.



WHAT'S
WRONG, ABE?
THINK I'LL FLIP
OUT WHEN I SEE
THE LITTLE
BASTARD?



AND
THERE
HE IS.

YOU SCUM
KILLED A LOT
OF MEN THAT
DAY. A LOT OF
GOOD
MEN.



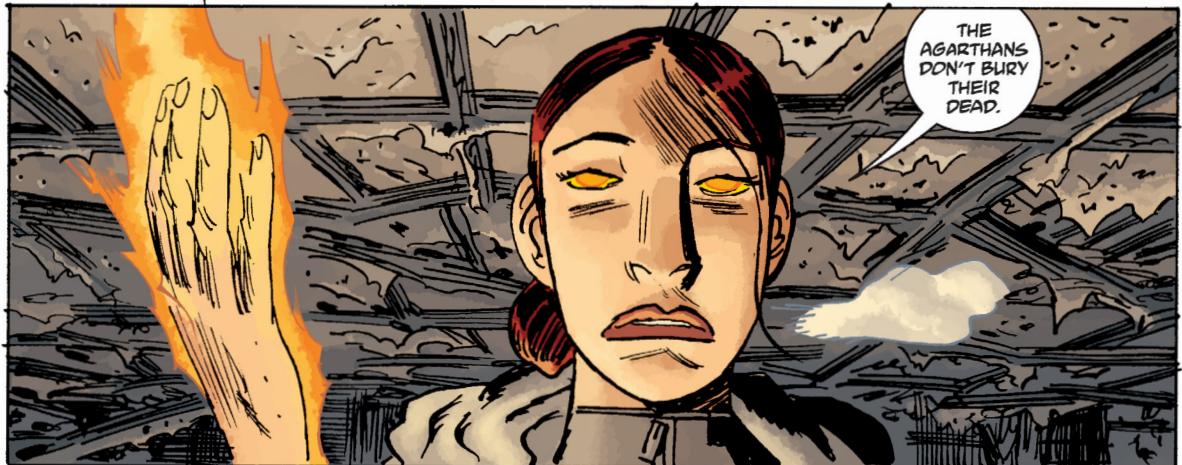
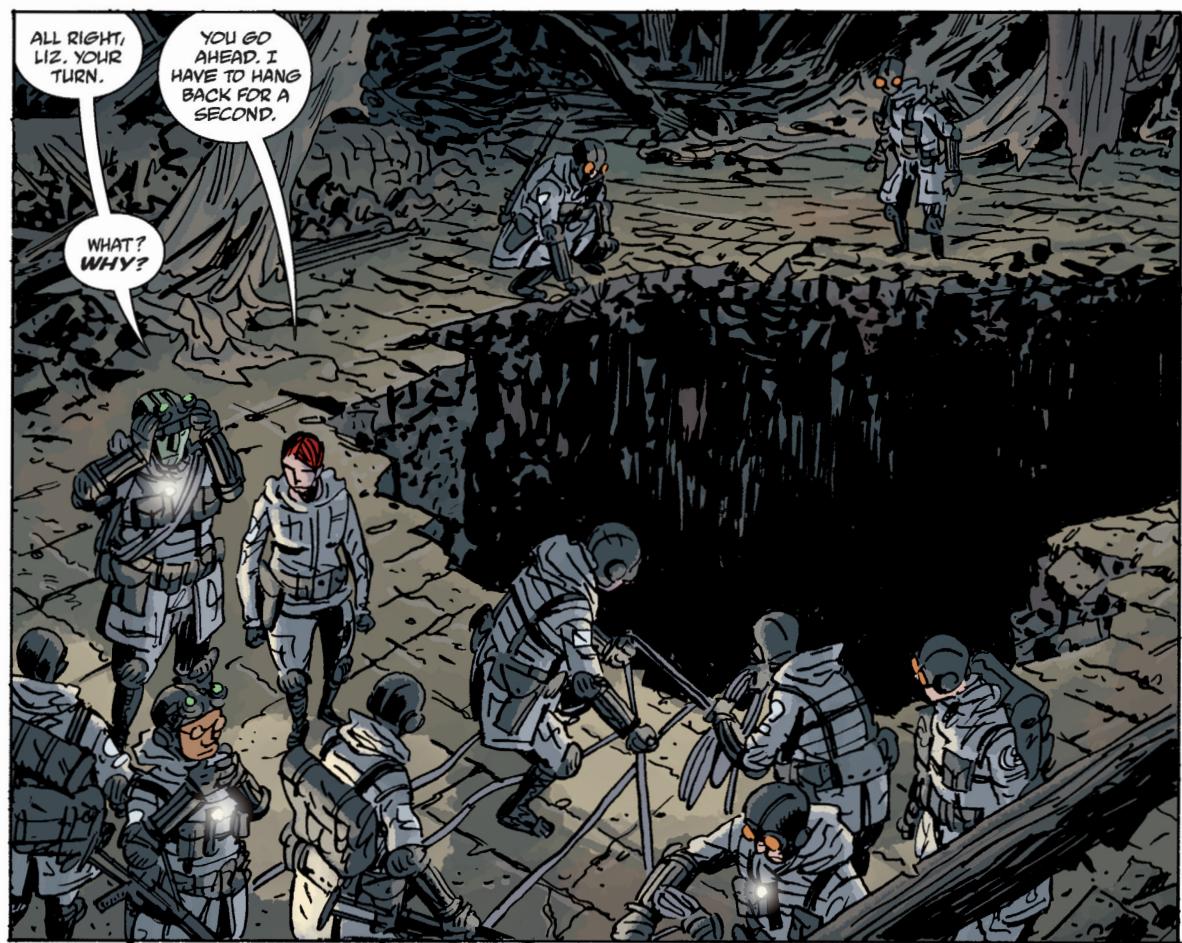
NOT SO
TOUGH NOW,
ARE YOU?

LOOK KINDA
LONELY.

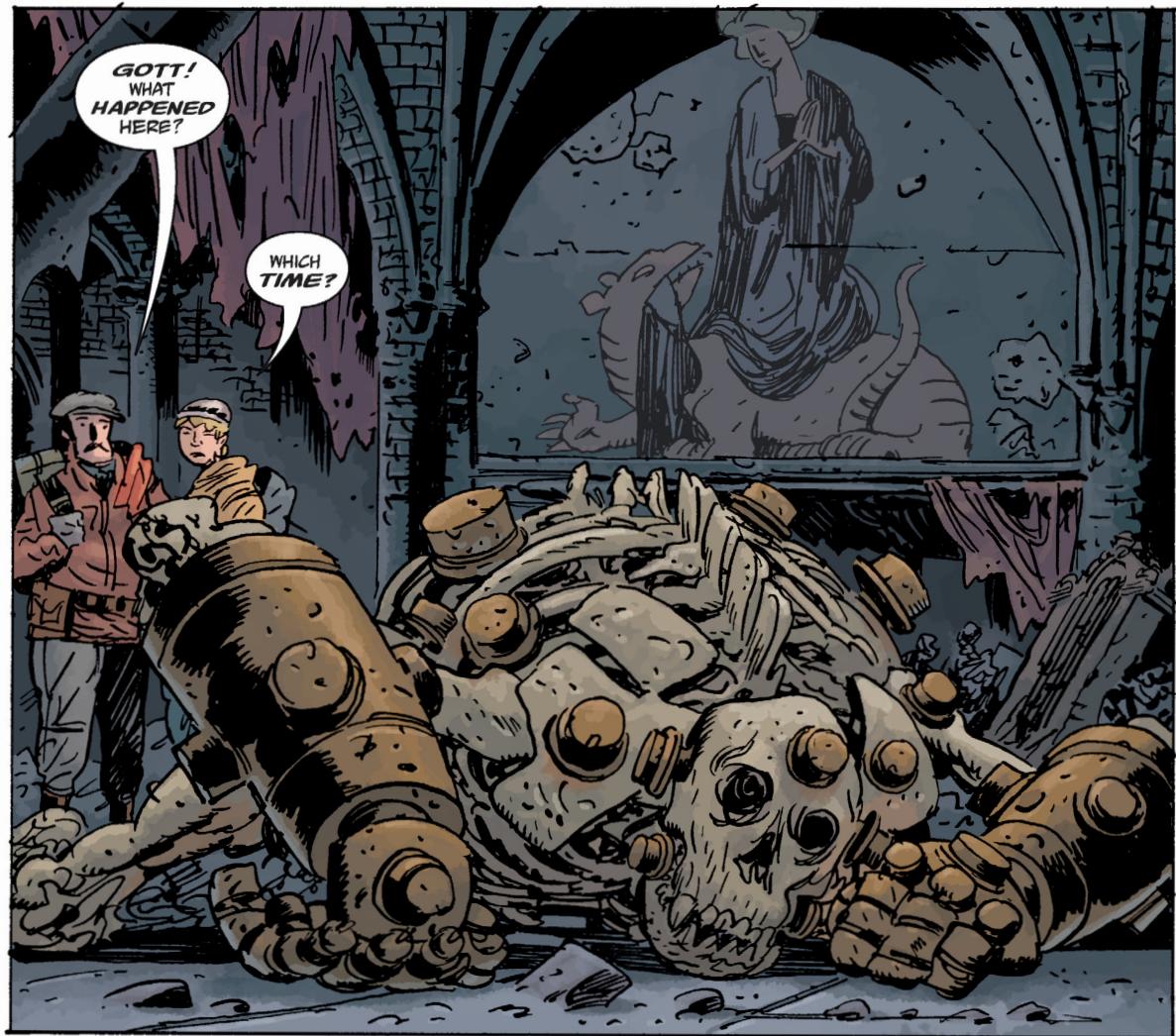


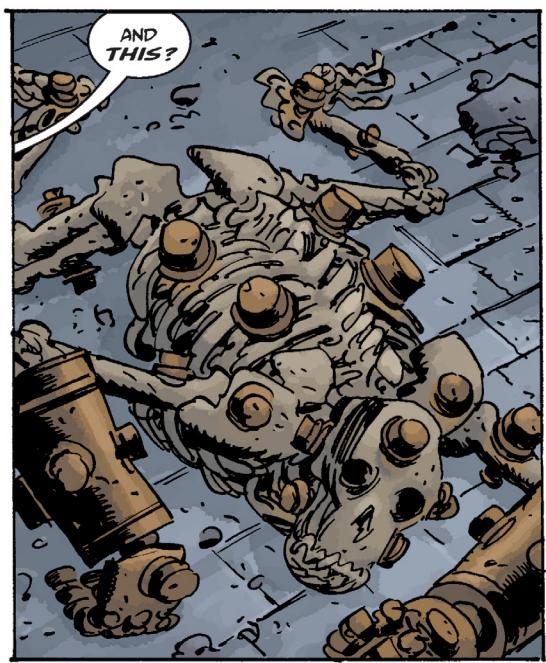
NOT FOR
LONG. I'M
SENDING ALL
YOUR FRIENDS
AFTER
YOU.







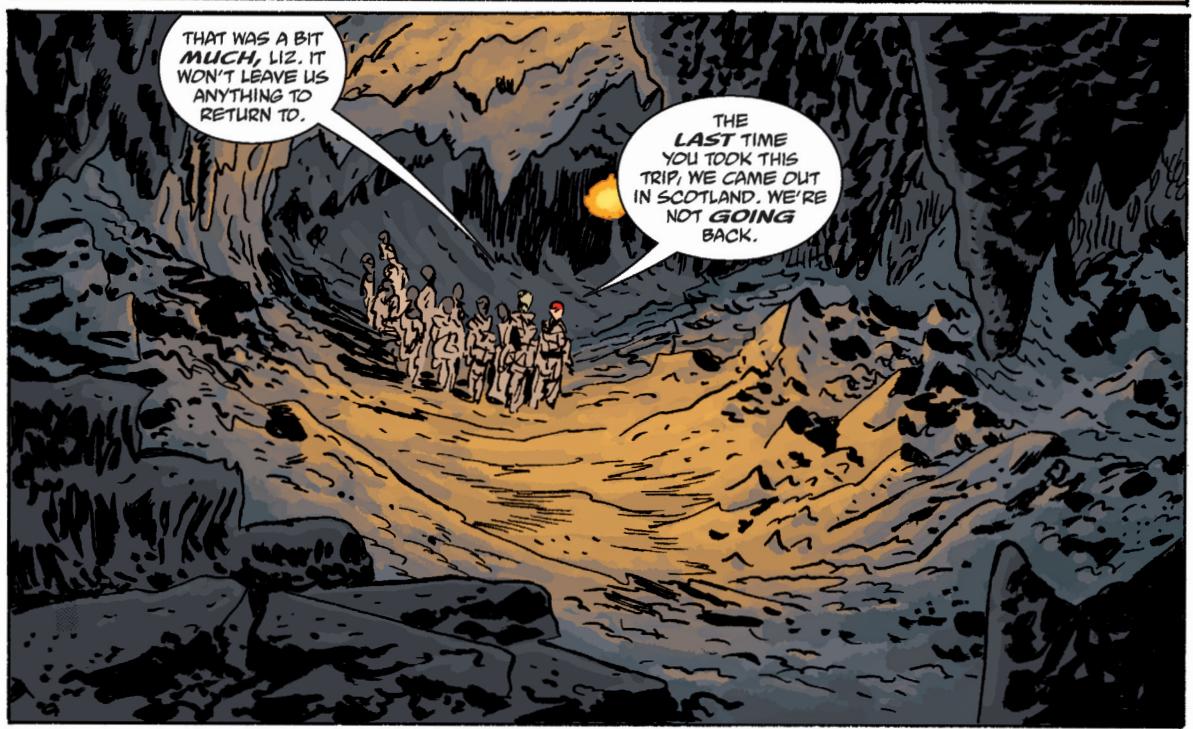
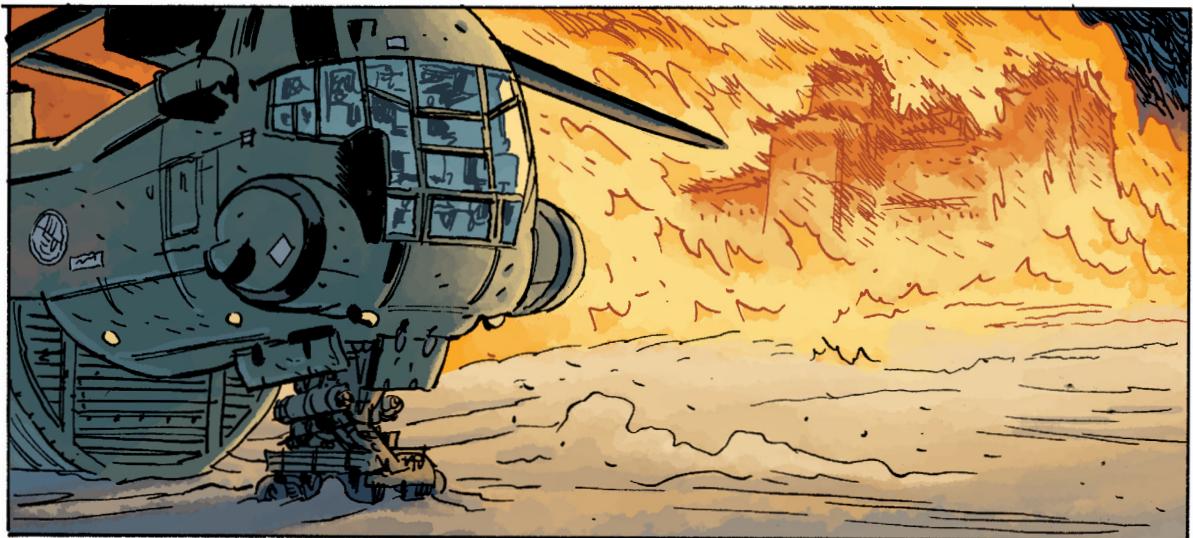














I'M SERIOUS,
AGENT SAPIEN.

LIZ IS A LITTLE
ANXIOUS.
THAT'S ALL. SO WE
GIVE HER SOME
SPACE FOR A FEW
MINUTES.

MAINTAINING VISUAL
WITH US MEANS SHE HAS TO
KEEP PACE, AND EVENTUALLY
SHE'LL REALIZE SHE'S NOT
REALLY GOING ANY
FASTER AT ALL—UNLESS
SHE'S STUPID.

I HEARD
THAT.

WELL,
COME BACK
THEN. YOU DON'T
WANT TO LOOK
STUPID, DO
YOU?

NO,
BUT I DON'T
WANT YOU TO
LOOK SMART,
EITHER.

LIZ, WHY
DID YOU PUT
YOUR FLAME
OUT?

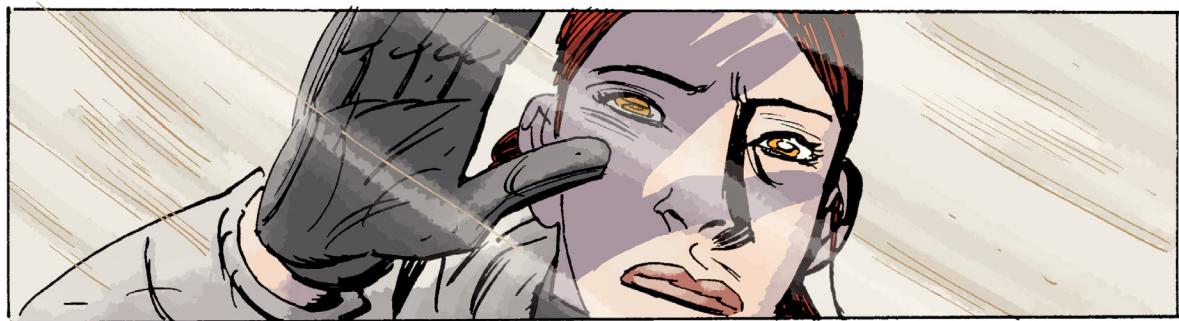
AND EVEN IF
I AM GOING
AT THE SAME
PACE--

LIZ, WE CAN'T
SEE YOU. PUT
YOUR FLAME
BACK ON.

--AT LEAST I DON'T HAVE
TO WEAR THOSE RIDICULOUS
GOOGLES.









COMING TO A HAUNTED CASTLE TO HELP YOUR GIRL TRY TO COAX A GHOST INTO THE NEXT LIFE SO THAT HER FRIEND CAN COME BACK AND FILL A SIXTY-POUND CONTAINMENT SUIT THAT, BY THE WAY, YOU HAULED FOR TWELVE MILES.

THAT SHOULD BE TOO MUCH.

KATE, YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO SCARE ME OFF SINCE WE WALKED IN HERE. WHY?

WHY AREN'T YOU SCARED?

WE MET IN THE MIDDLE OF A GIANT ROBOT WAR, AND HERE WE ARE BABYSITTING A GHOST WHILE I REMINISCE ABOUT HELLBOY AND ROGER SAVING THE WORLD.

THAT NAME AGAIN. "ROGER." IS HE AN OLD BOYFRIEND?

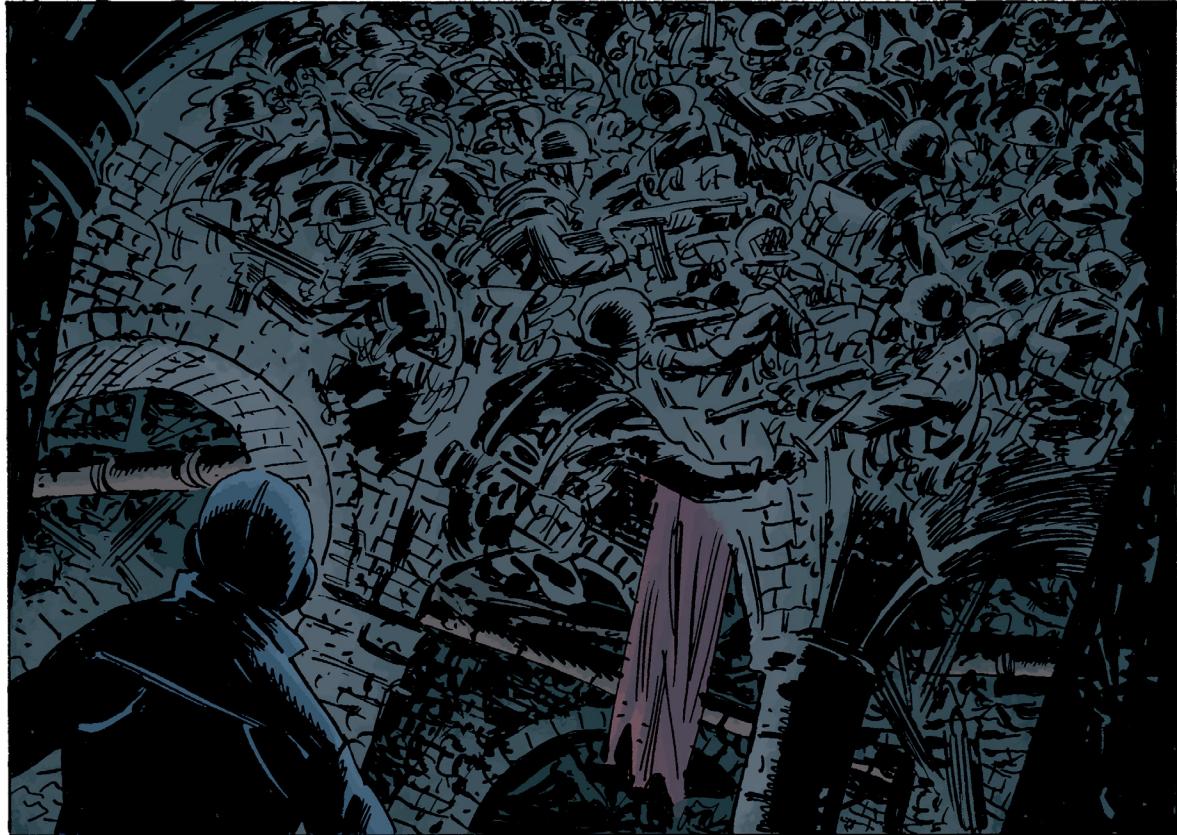
THAT.

THAT'S IT RIGHT THERE, ISN'T IT?

NORMAL WOMEN HAVE EXES. SOMEHOW, YOU STILL THINK I'M NORMAL.

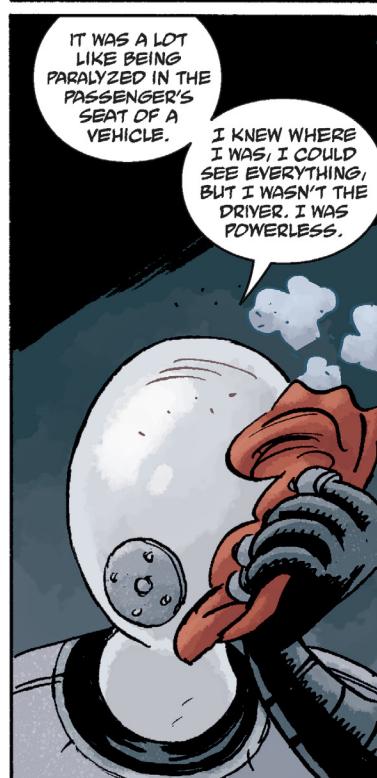


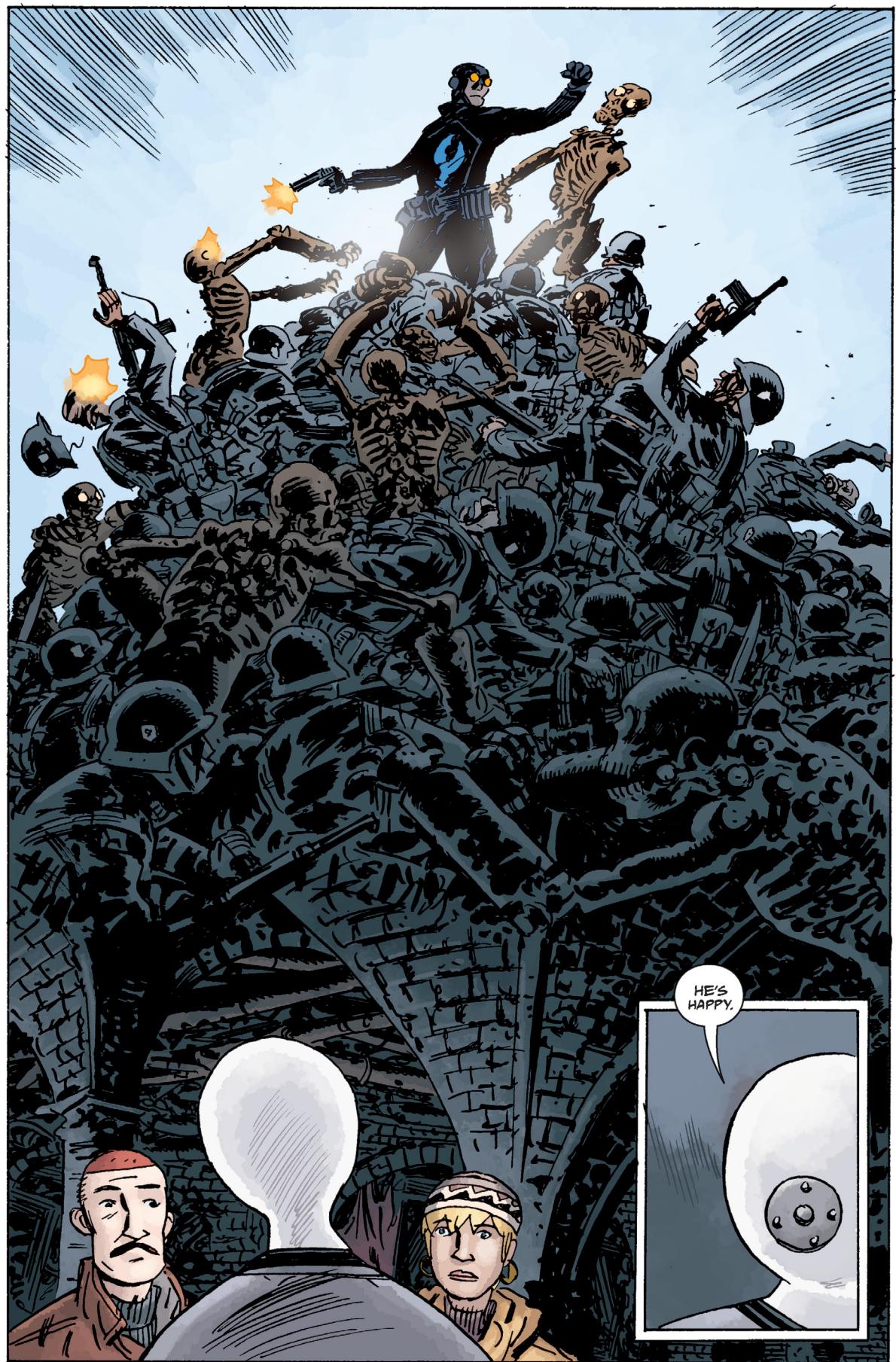
"I'M NOT
NORMAL!"













CHAPTER THREE

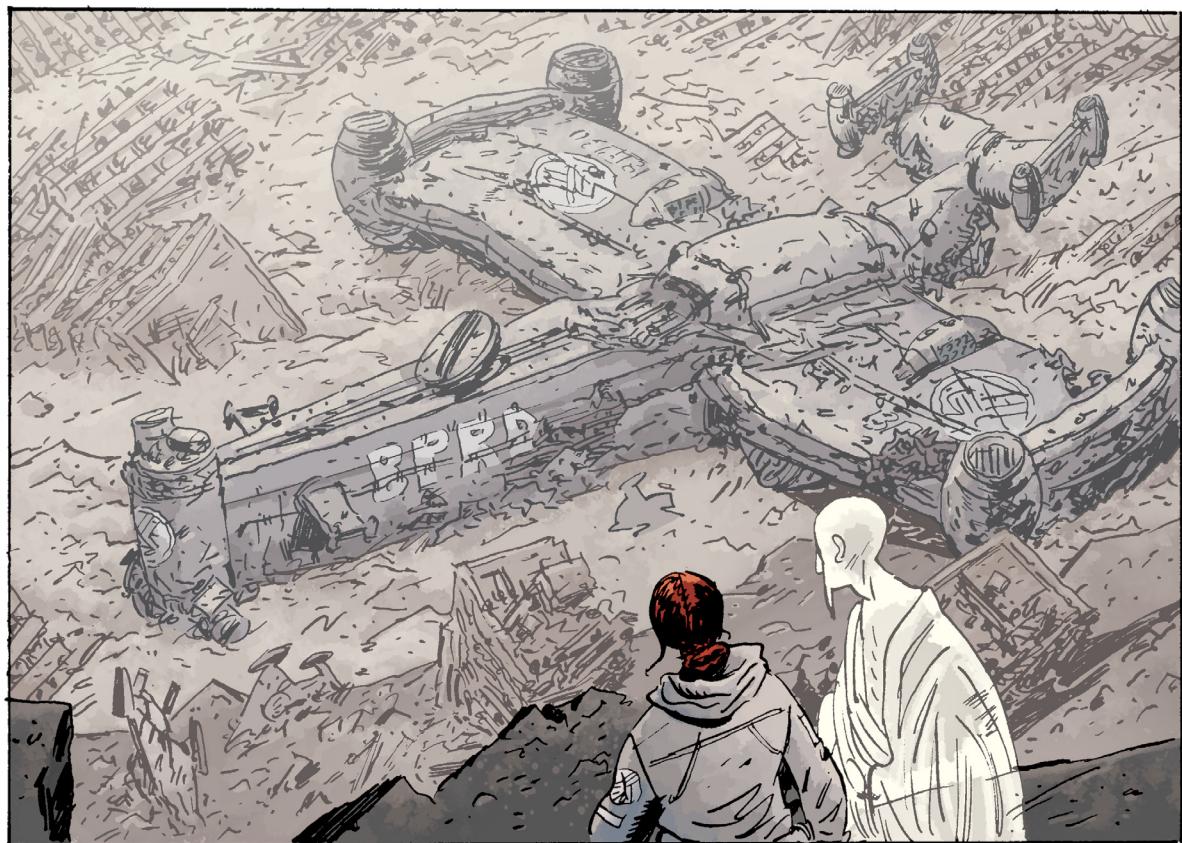
M













THE BLOOD OF WHAT WAS IS A LAKE OF GRIEF.



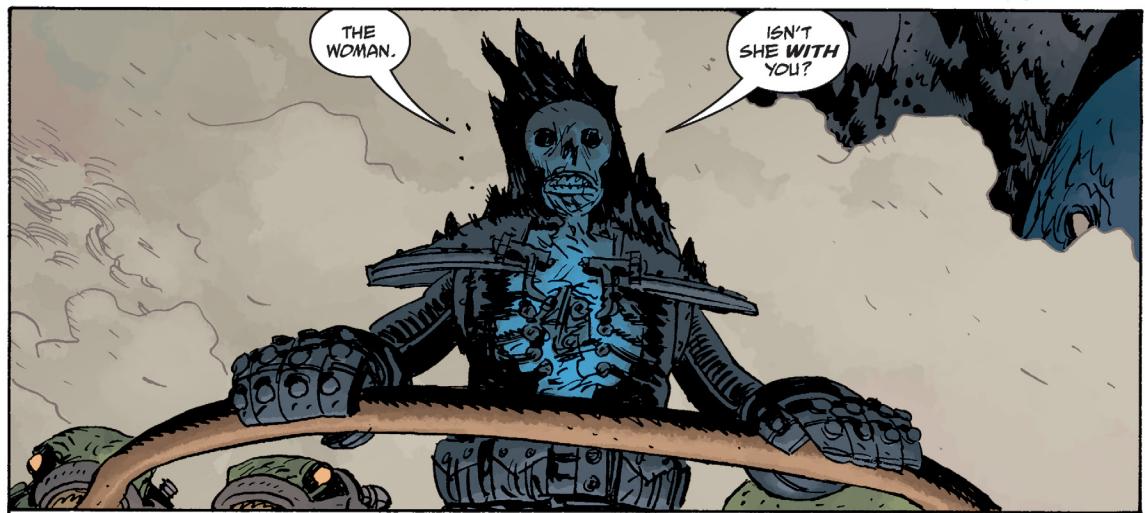
YOUR ARMS ARE WEARY FROM THE KILLING, AND THE KILLING, AND THE KILLING. ALL MY PEOPLE, CRUSHED UNDER YOU.

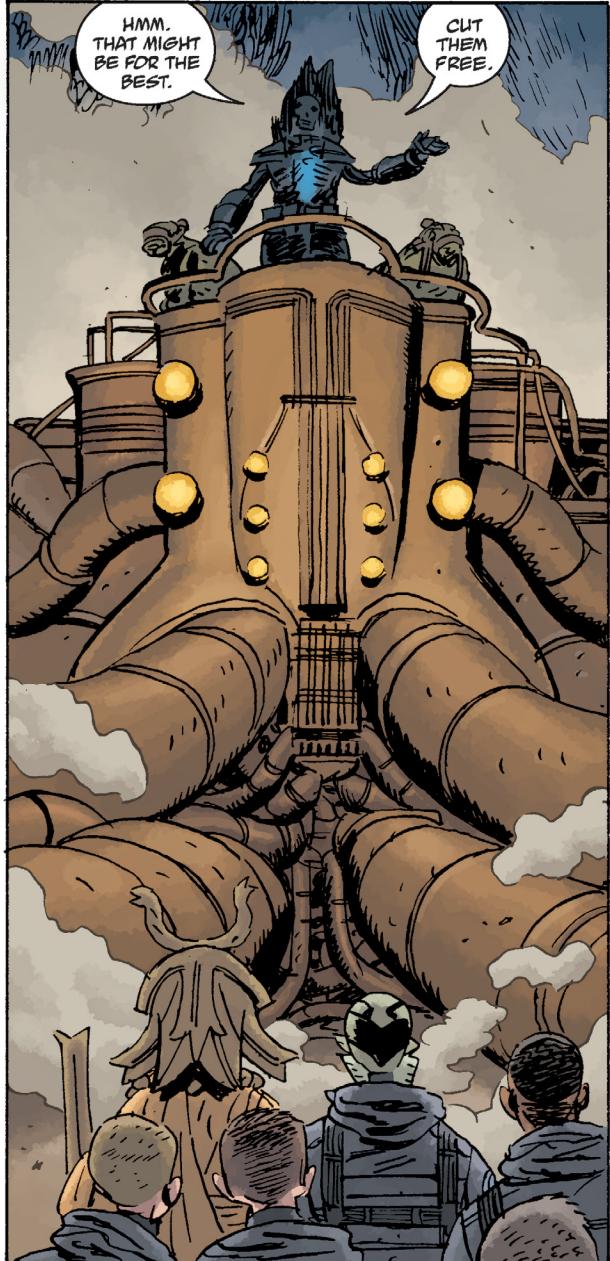
BUT LOOK! A YOUNG EMPIRE GROWS.





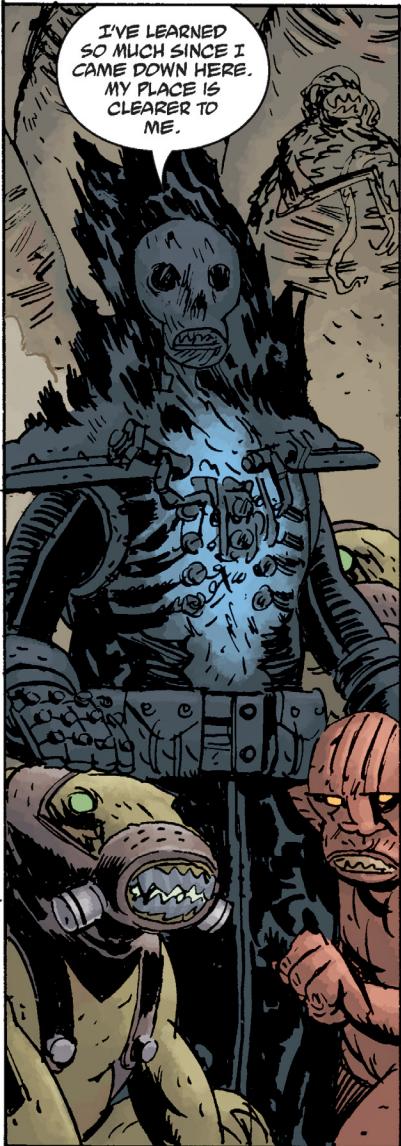






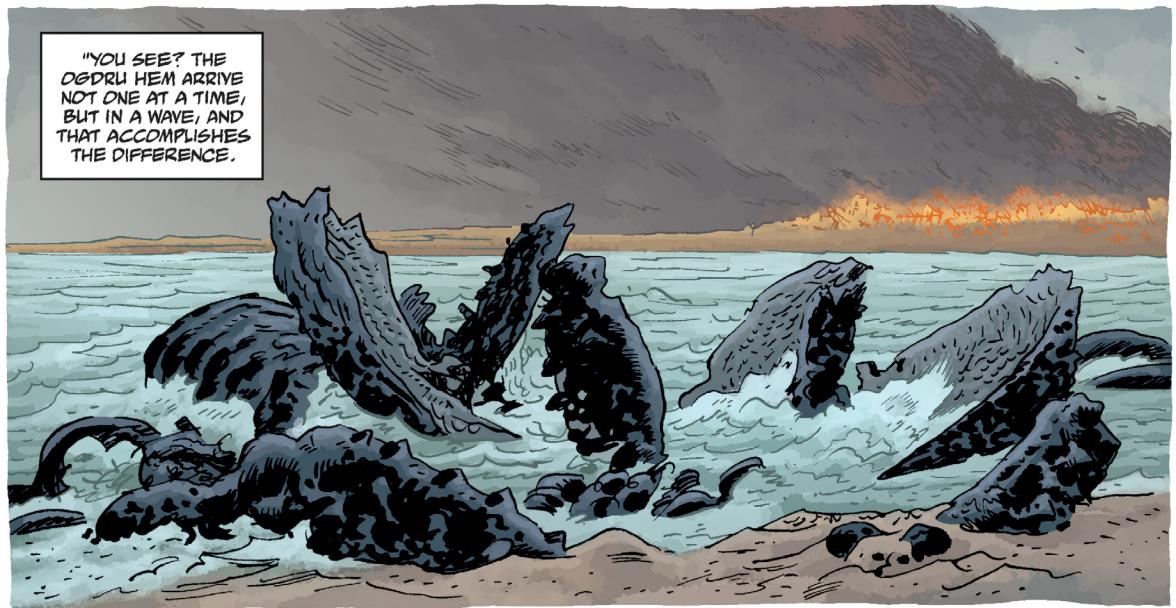






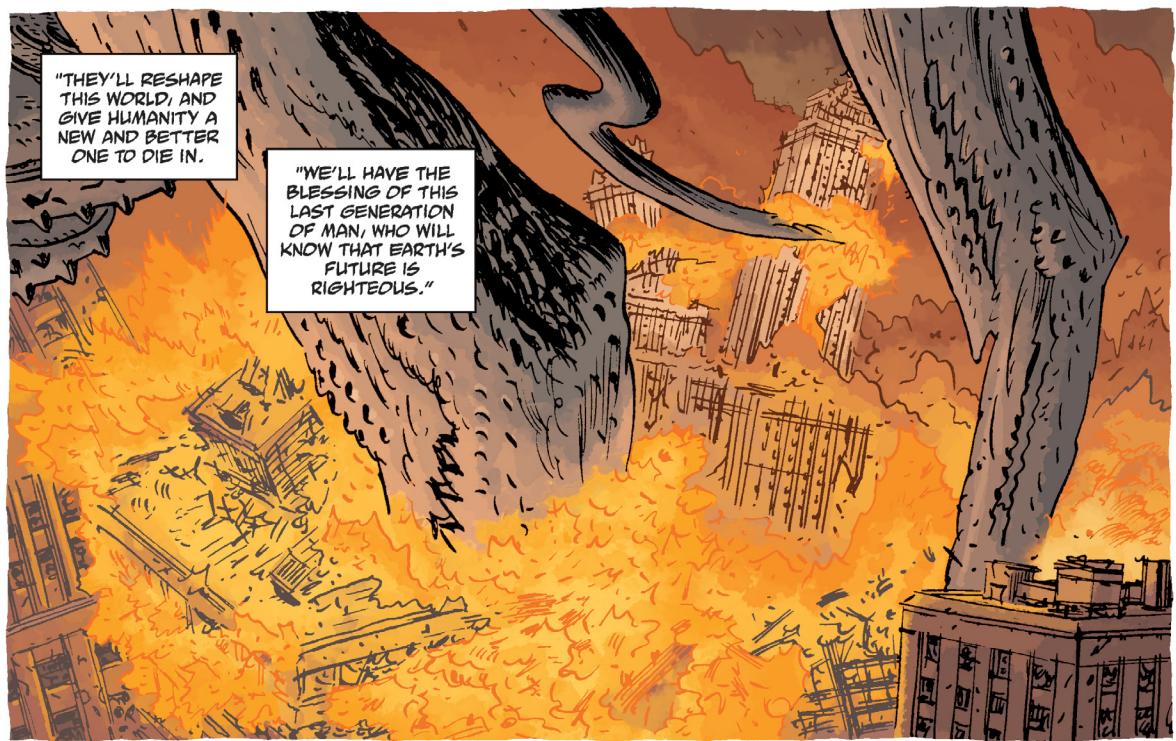


"YOU SEE? THE OGDRU'HEM ARRIVE NOT ONE AT A TIME, BUT IN A WAVE, AND THAT ACCOMPLISHES THE DIFFERENCE."



"THEY'LL RESHAPE THIS WORLD, AND GIVE HUMANITY A NEW AND BETTER ONE TO DIE IN."

"WE'LL HAVE THE BLESSING OF THIS LAST GENERATION OF MAN, WHO WILL KNOW THAT EARTH'S FUTURE IS RIGHTEOUS."



IF YOU EXPECT PEOPLE TO GO THAT QUIETLY, THEN YOU HAVEN'T STUDIED HISTORY VERY WELL.



666

AND
YOU ARE
NO STUDENT OF
RELIGION IF
YOU THINK THEY
WON'T.

FOR
HOW MANY
CENTURIES
HAVE PEOPLE
BEEN WARNED
OF THE END
TIMES?

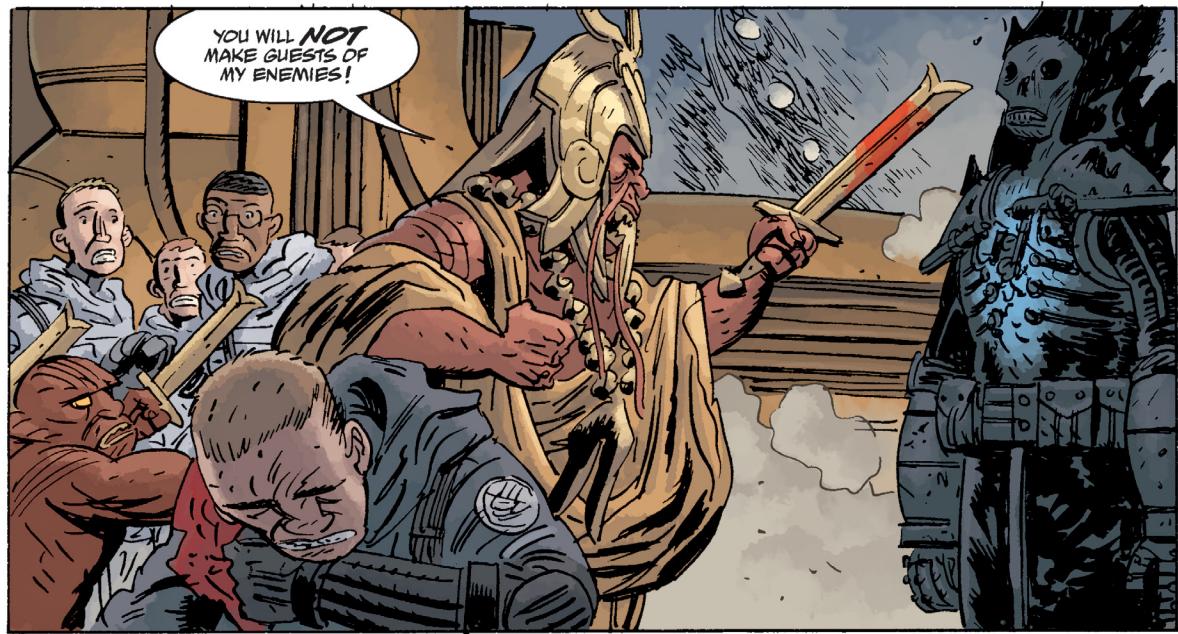
WHEN THEY
WITNESS THE NEXT
CREATION, THEY'LL
SEE IT ALL COME TO
PASS, JUST AS THEIR
PROPHETS TOLD
THEM.

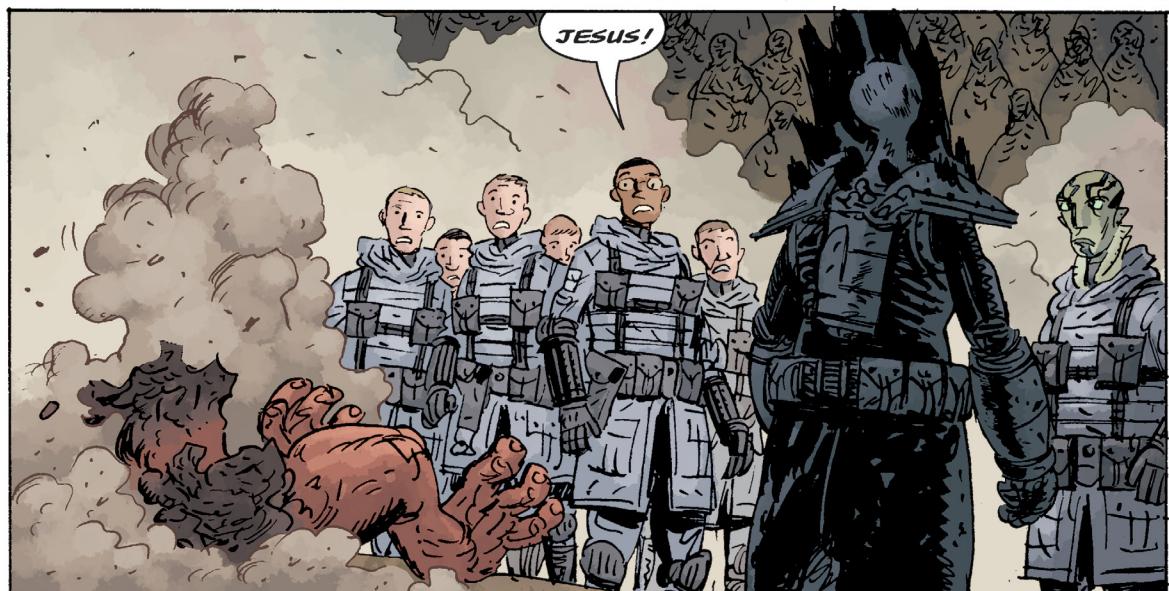
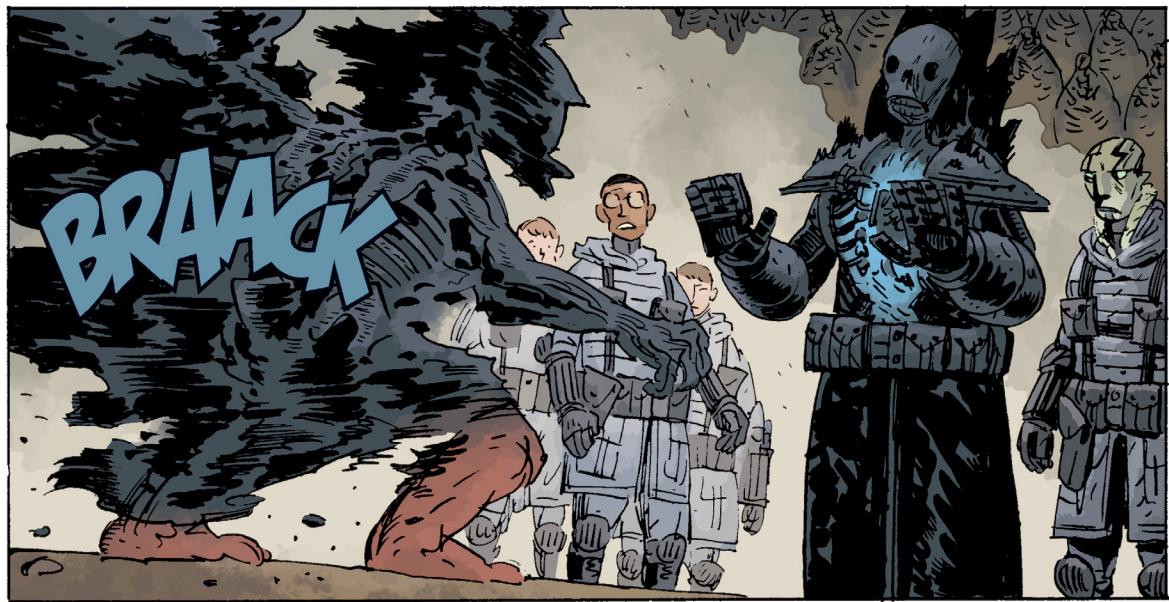
THEY'LL
SEEK SALVATION
IN ANY WAY
THEY'RE ABLE,
AND WE CAN
OFFER IT.













"I'M JUST
PREPARING IT
FOR YOU--"



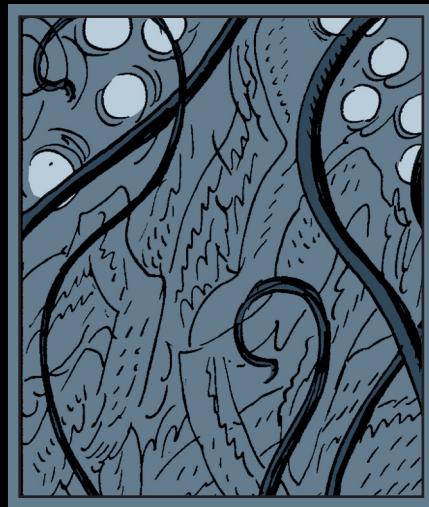
"--YOUR
NEW WORLD."

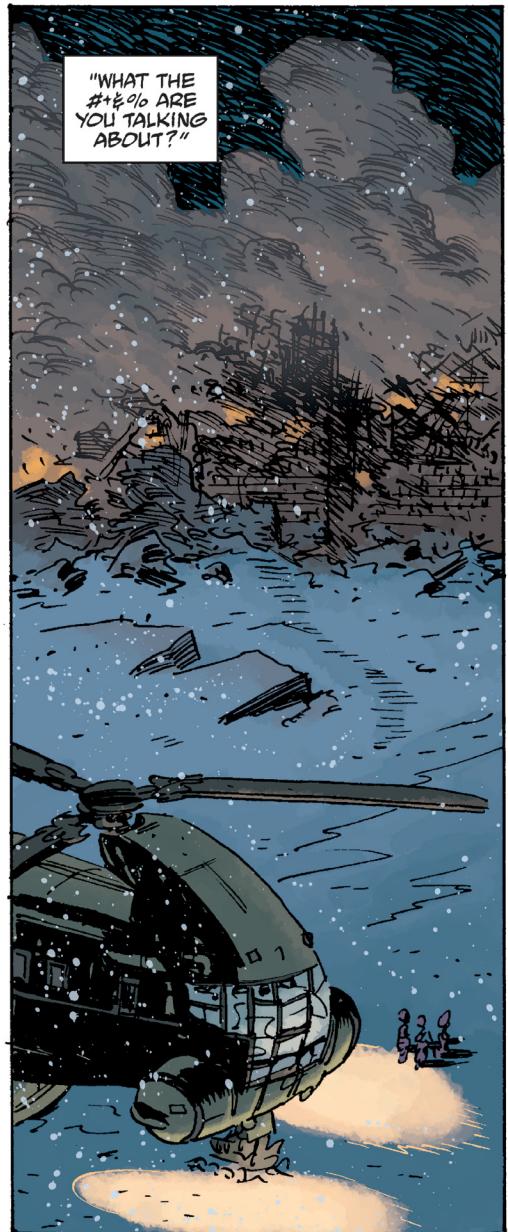


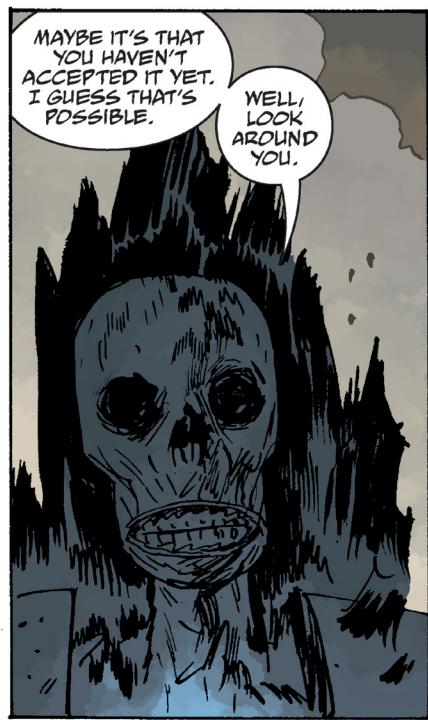


CHAPTER FOUR

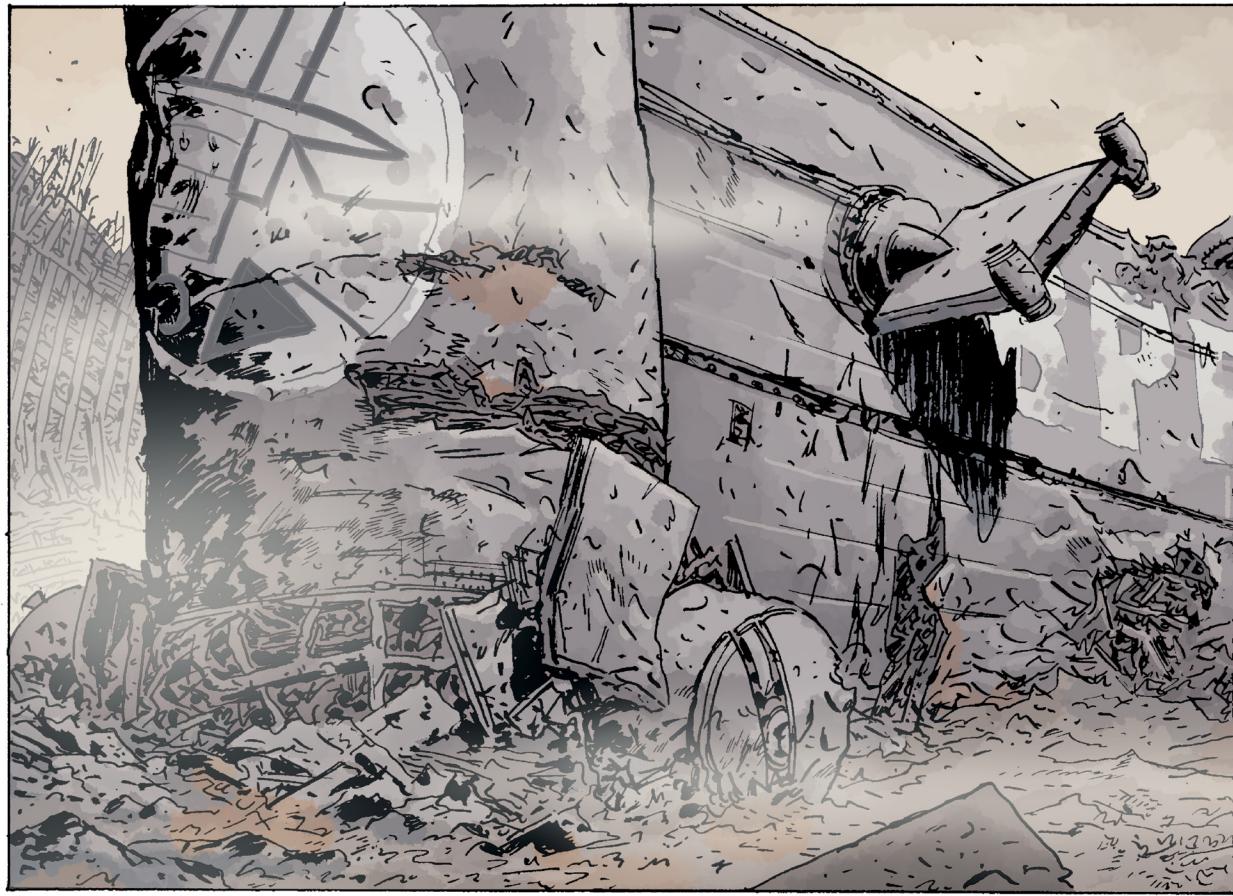


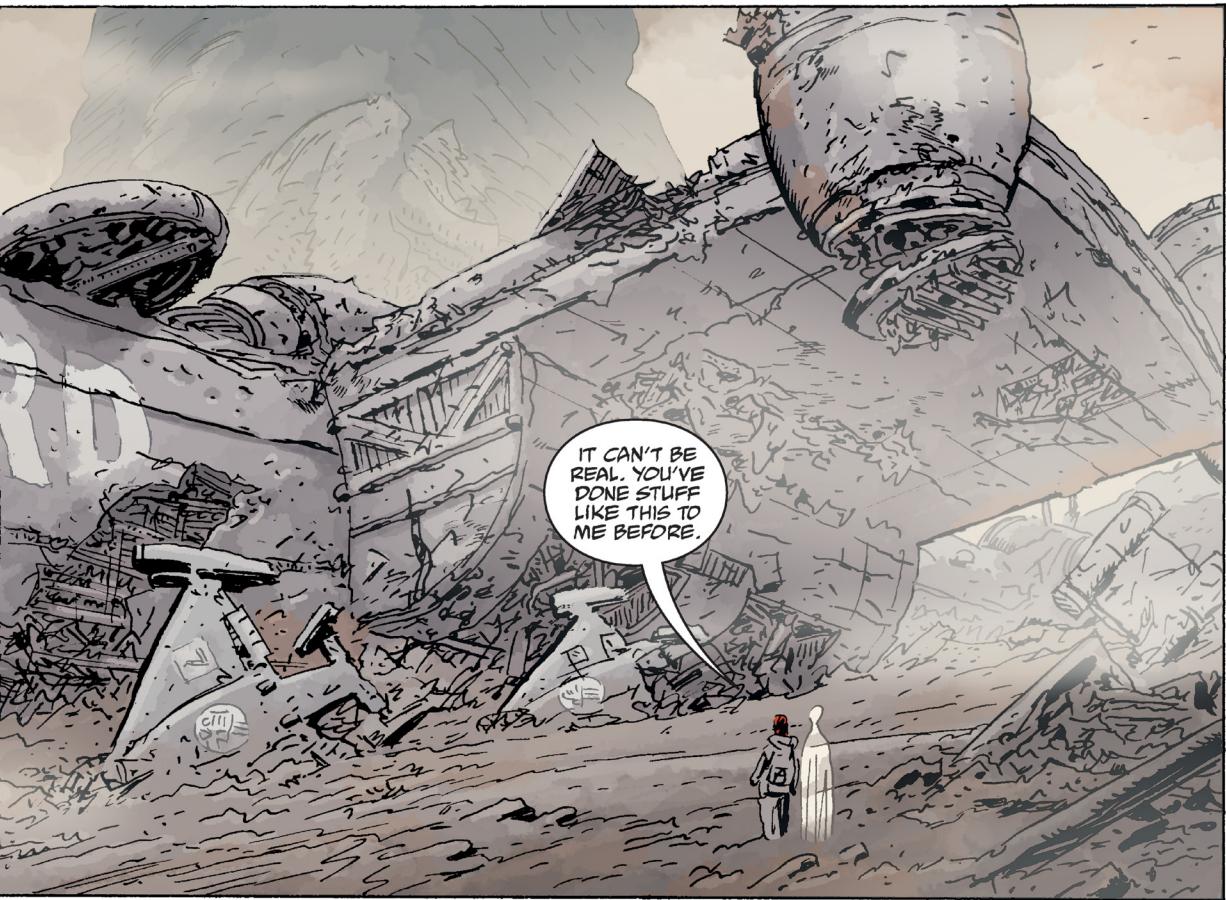


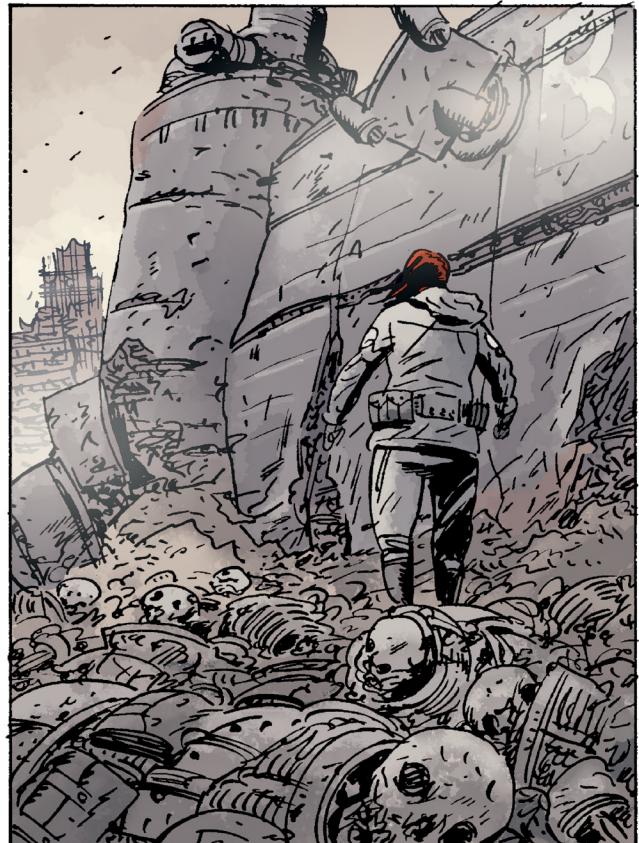
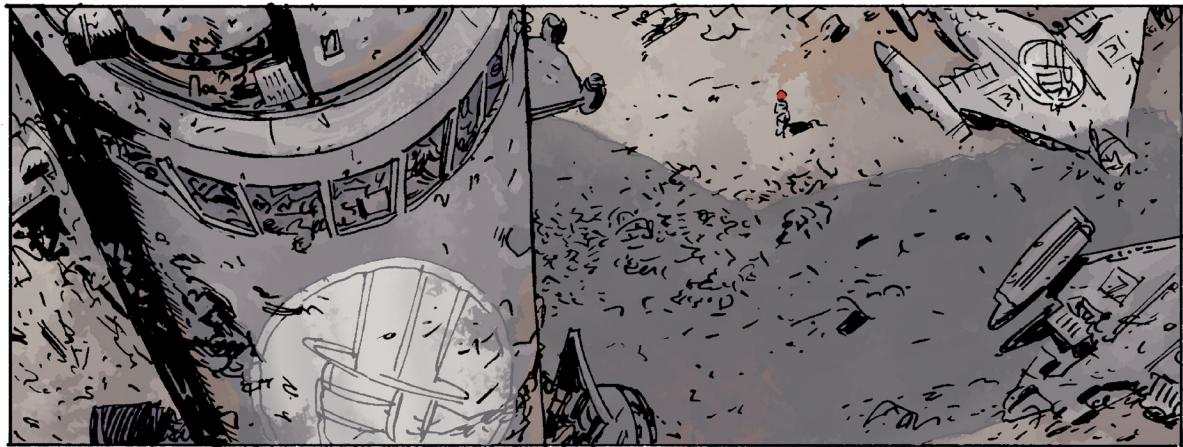












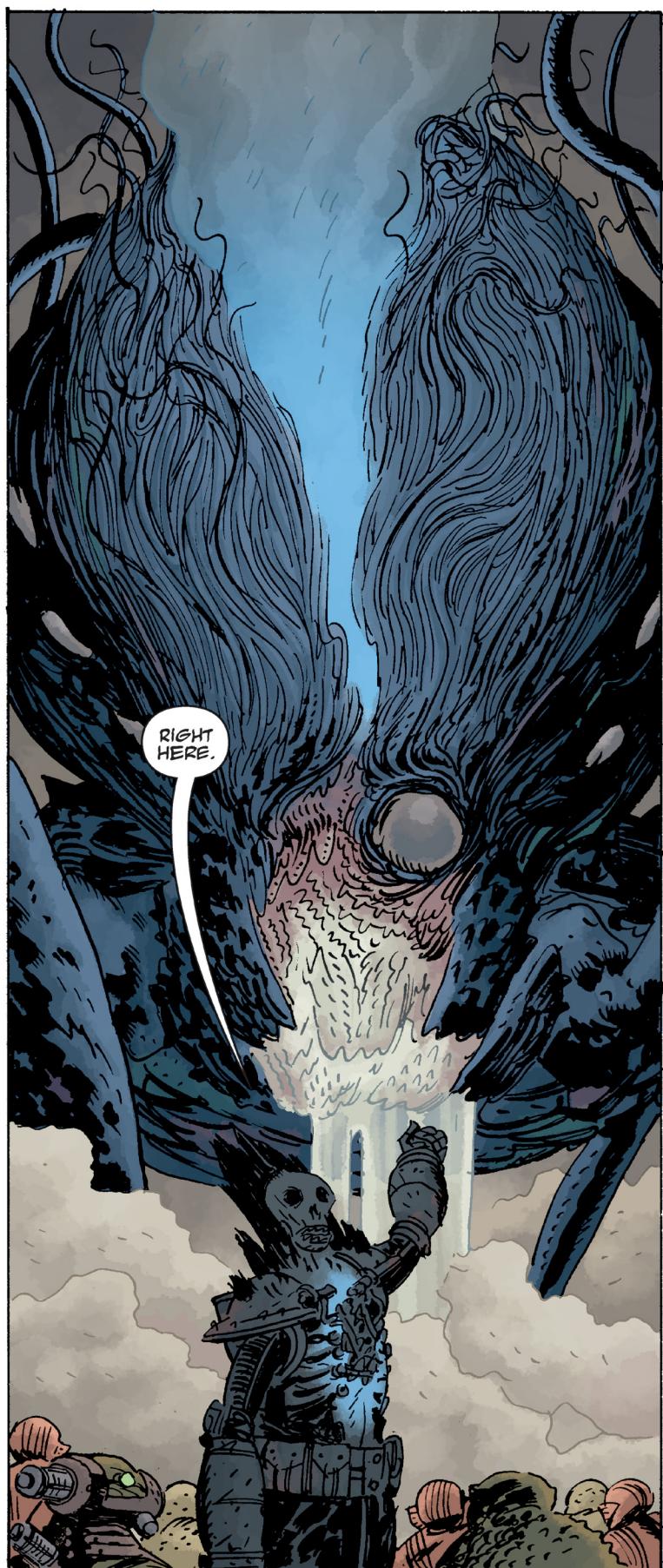
NEW MAN,
HUH?
WANT TO SEE
WHAT YOUR NEW
MAN THINKS OF HIS
"BROTHERS"?

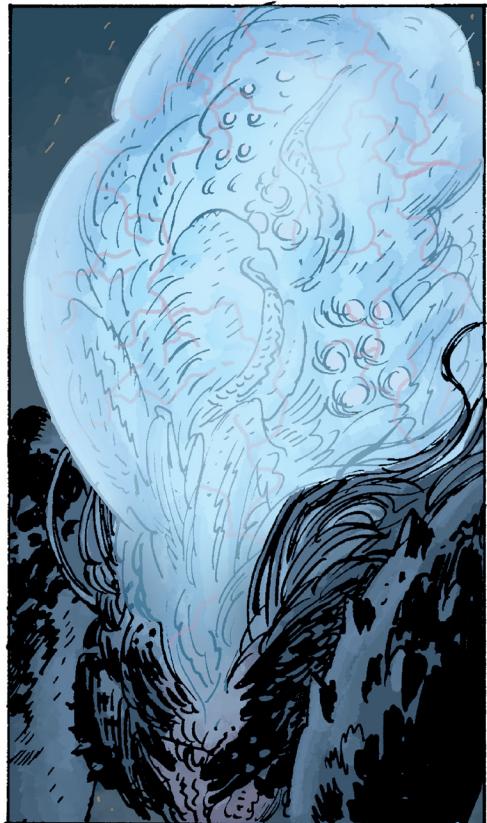
A KNIFE?
REALLY?
IS THIS
SOME SORT
OF SYMBOLIC
ACT OF
DEFIANCE?

YOU TELL
ME AFTER I KILL
A FEW THOUSAND
OF YOUR FUTURE
RACE.

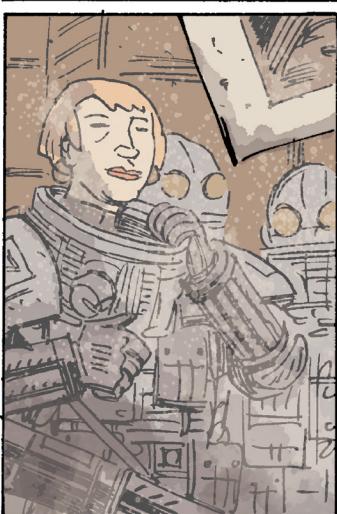
DO YOU
HAVE ANY
IDEA HOW
RIDICULOUS
YOU
LOOK?

PLEASE
STOP. I TOLD
YOU, THE NEW
WORLD IS
HERE.



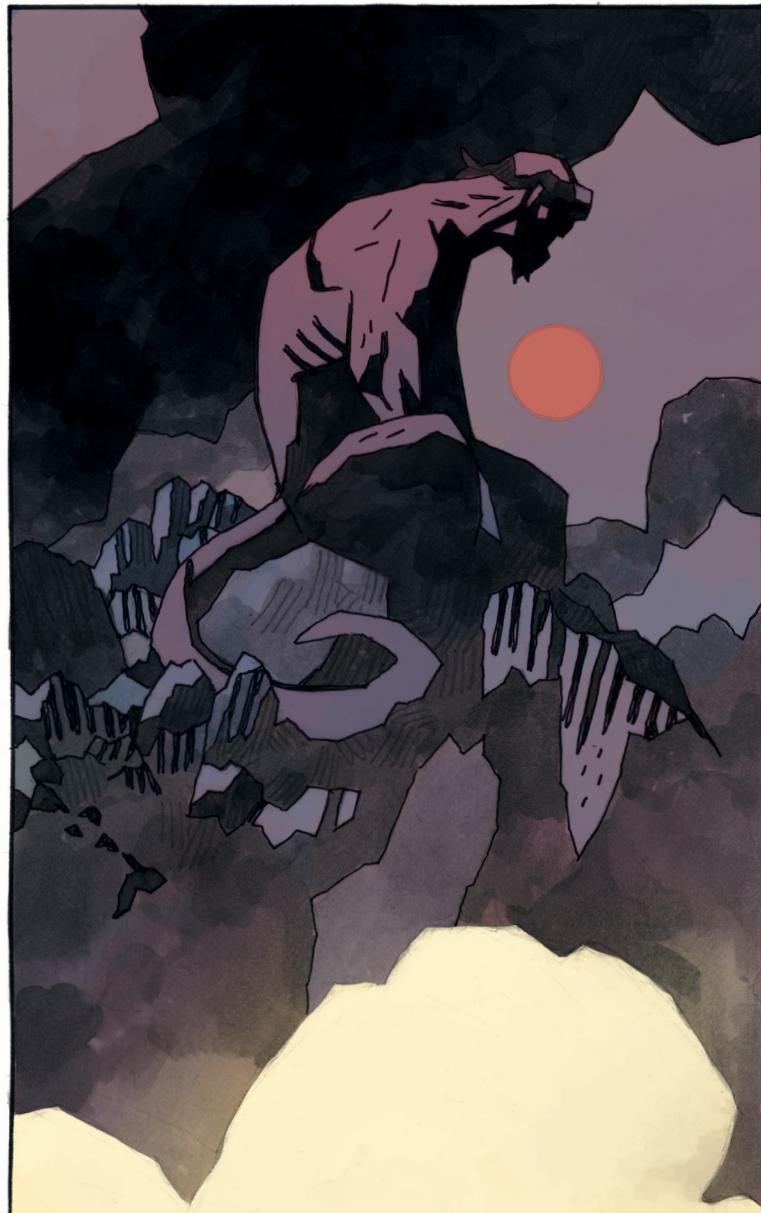








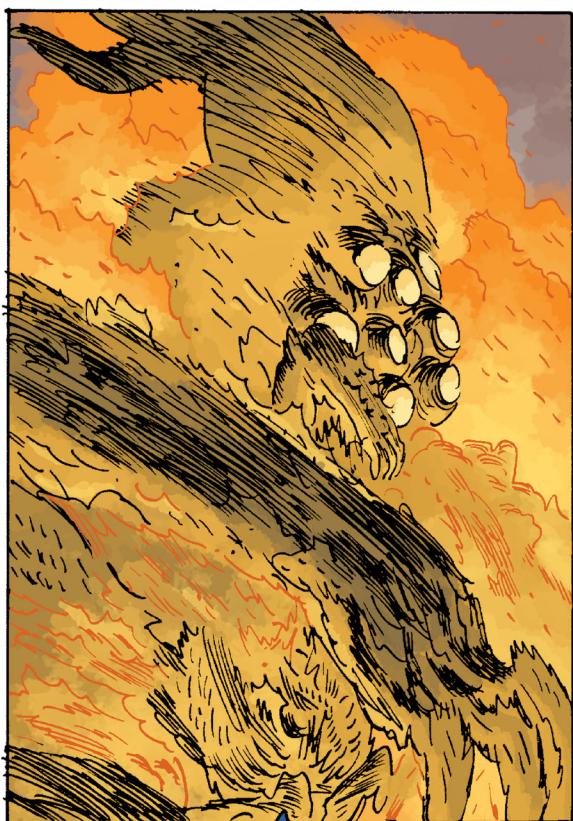
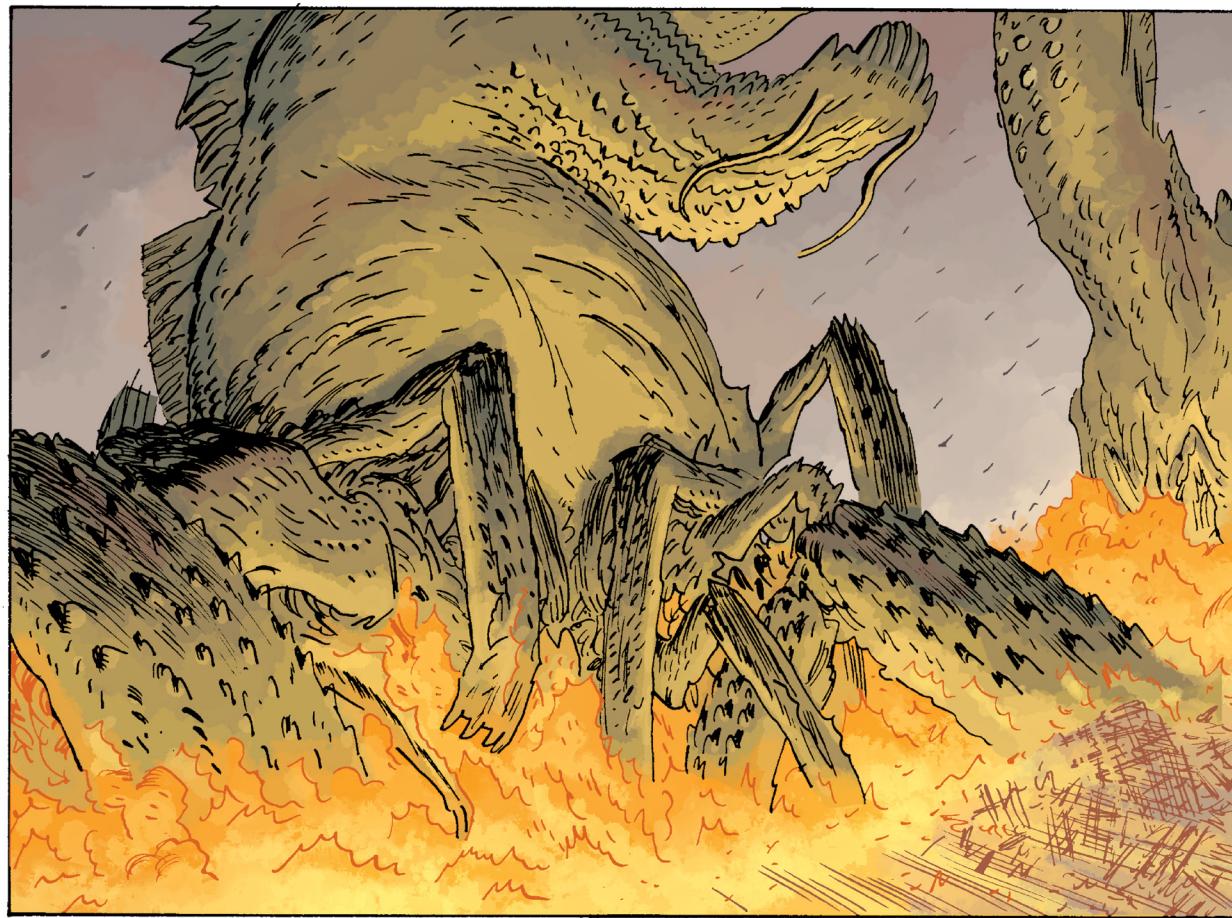


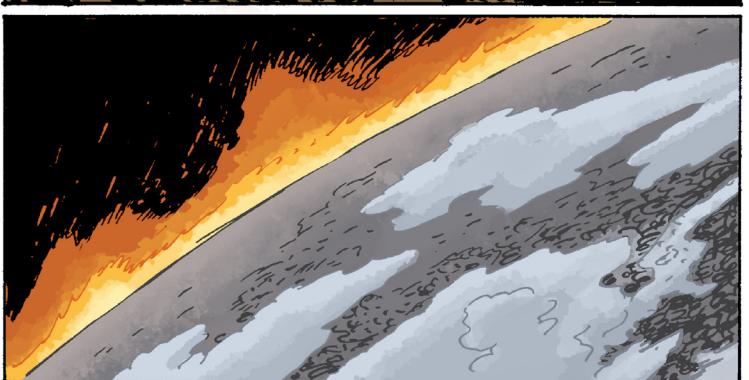
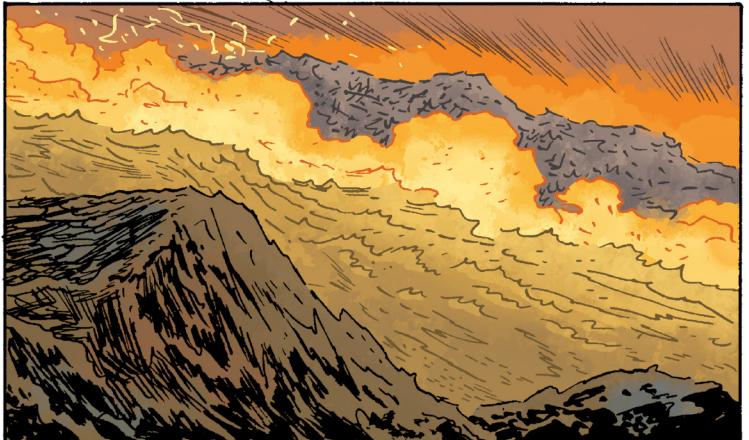
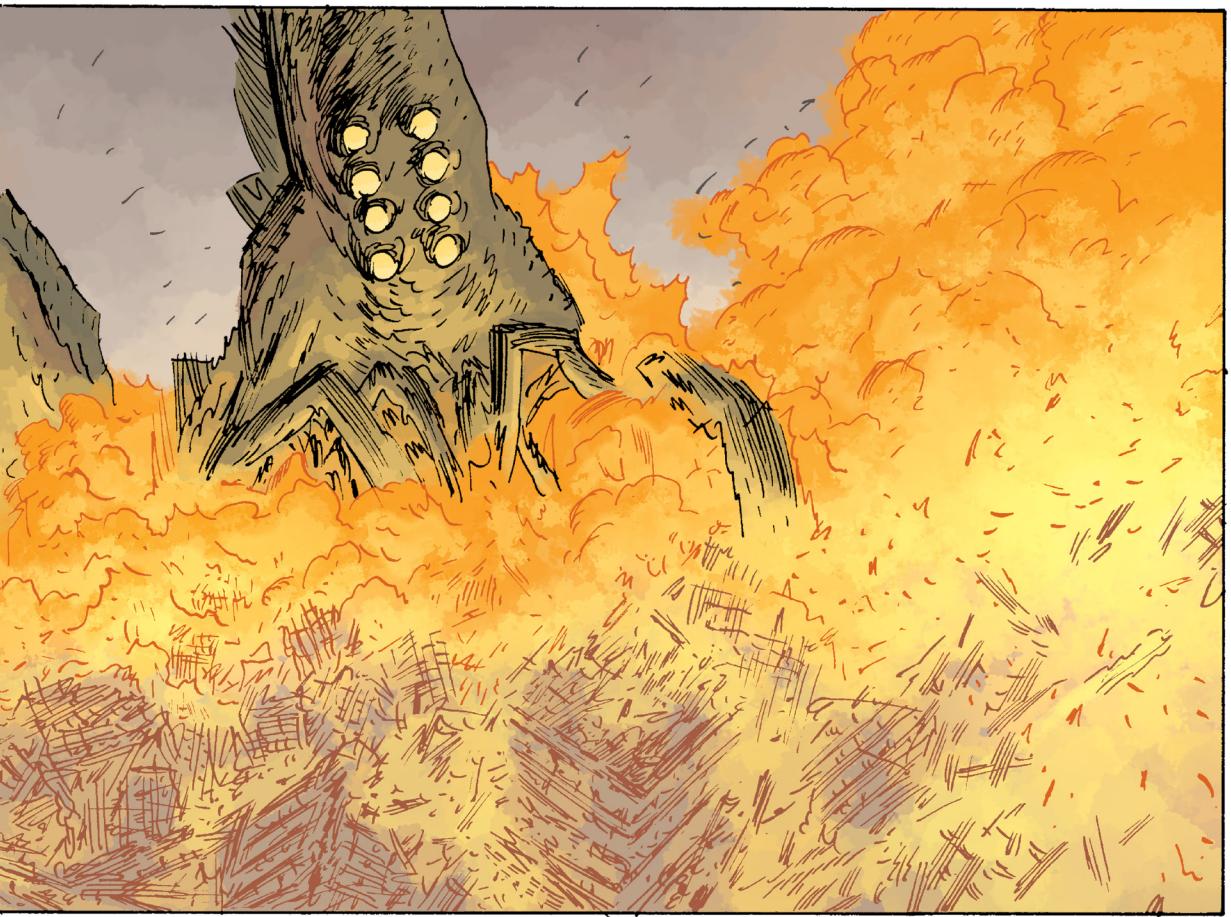














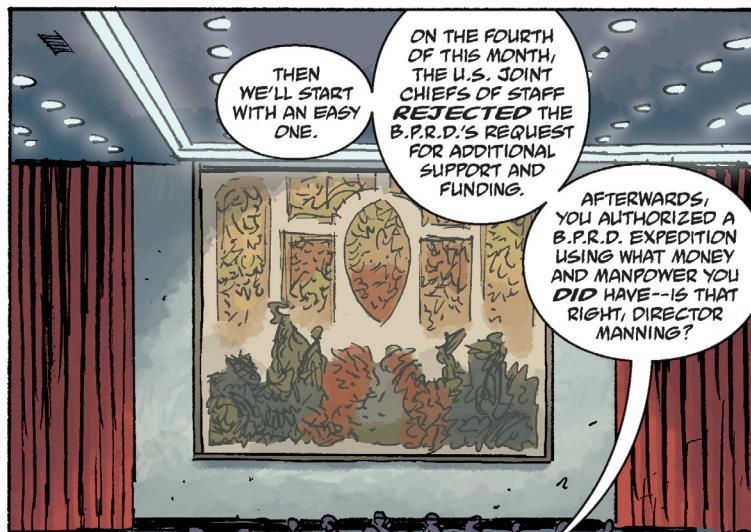






CHAPTER FIVE







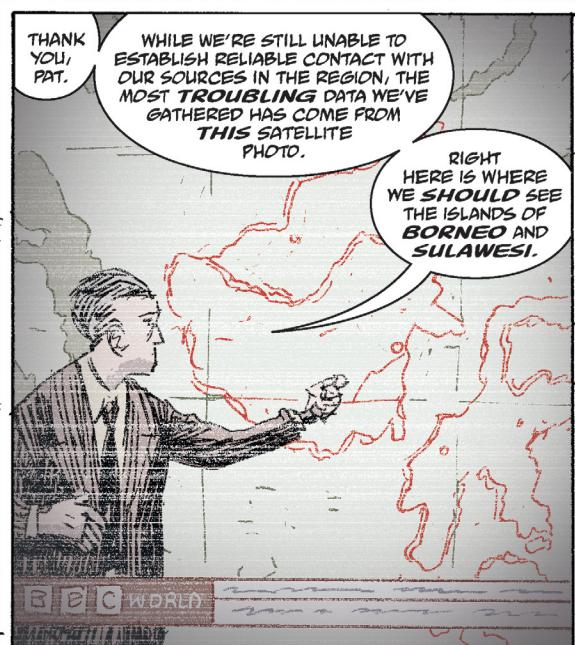
--REPORTS ARE STILL DIFFICULT TO VERIFY TWO DAYS AFTER THE VOLCANIC EVENTS THAT WRECKED GLOBAL HAVOC, AS COMMUNICATIONS ARE STILL DISRUPTED, ESPECIALLY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

THE MAGNITUDE OF DESTRUCTION AND LOSS OF LIFE, HOWEVER, IS BEGINNING TO BECOME CLEARER. STEVEN WALPOLE HAS AN UPDATE.

THANK YOU, PAT.

WHILE WE'RE STILL UNABLE TO ESTABLISH RELIABLE CONTACT WITH OUR SOURCES IN THE REGION, THE MOST TROUBLING DATA WE'VE GATHERED HAS COME FROM THIS SATELLITE PHOTO.

RIGHT HERE IS WHERE WE SHOULD SEE THE ISLANDS OF BORNEO AND SULAWESI.





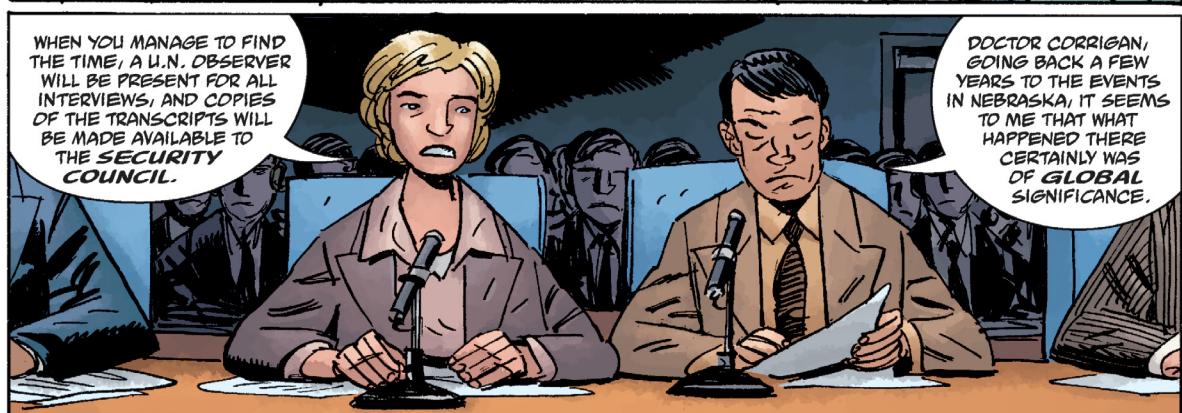
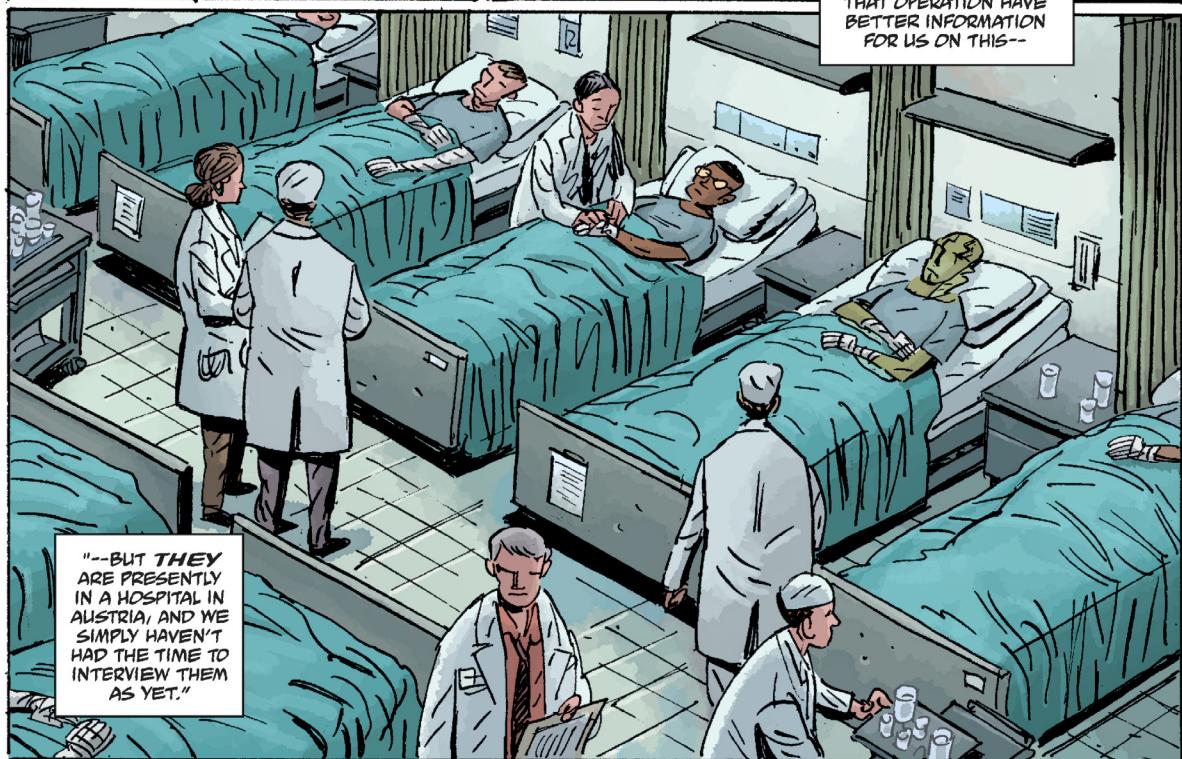
WE CAN'T RULE OUT A GLITCH IN THE SATELLITE IMAGING SYSTEM, BUT IF WHAT WE SEE HERE ACCURATELY REPRESENTS THE LOCAL GEOGRAPHY...MEANING THE LOSS OF--OF BOTH OF THESE ISLANDS...

I-I'M SORRY, PAT. IT'S A BIT OVERWHELMING.

I THINK OUR VIEWERS UNDERSTAND, STEVEN. THIS ISN'T EASY FOR ANY OF US.

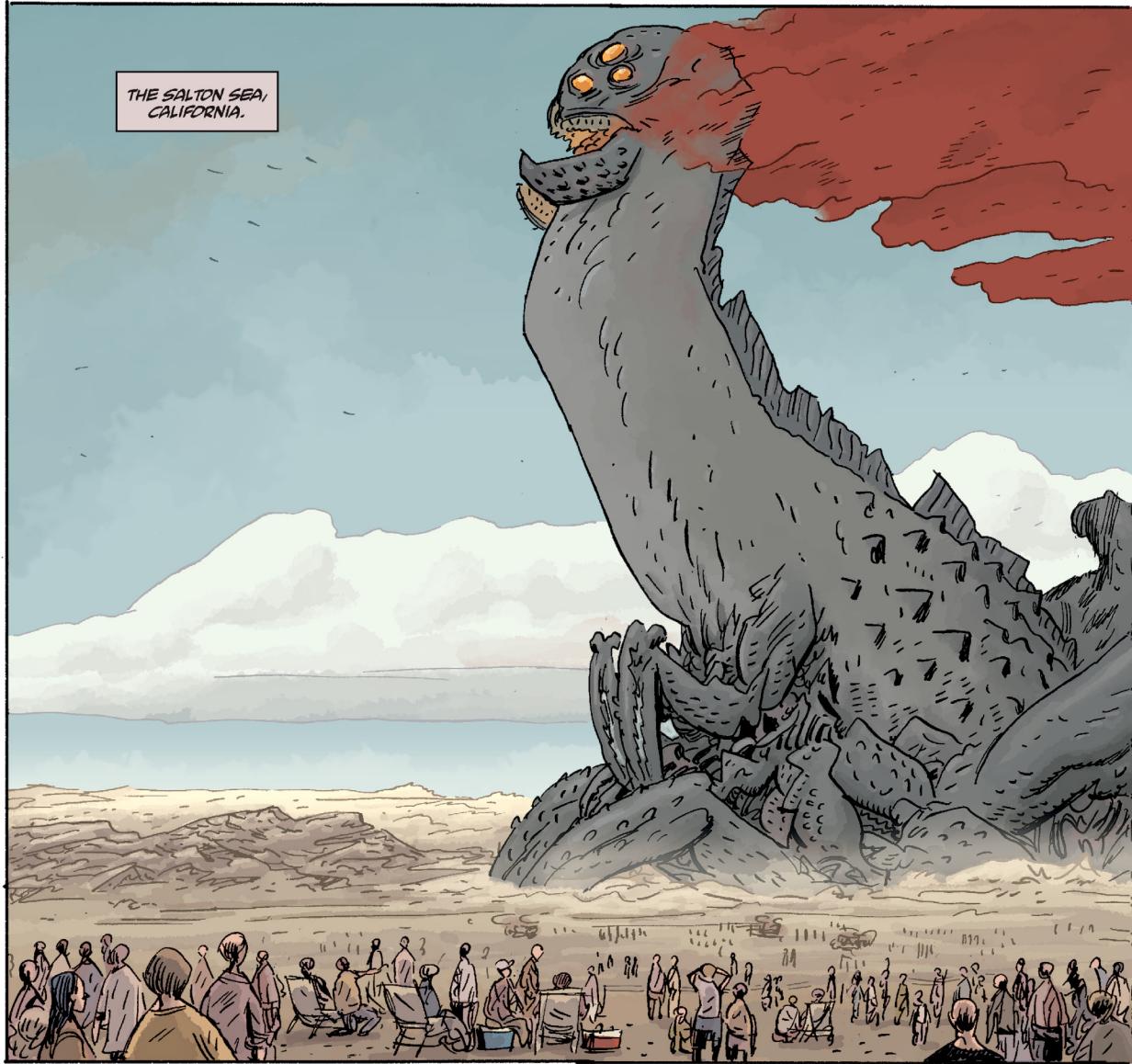
ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD--







THE SALTON SEA,
CALIFORNIA.



NO, NO EXPLOSIONS,
NO FIRE. MY HUSBAND
SAID THERE WAS
SMOKE, BUT I DIDN'T
SEE ANY.

THERE WAS A BIG
EARTHQUAKE, IS ALL,
BUT WE'RE USED TO
THOSE.

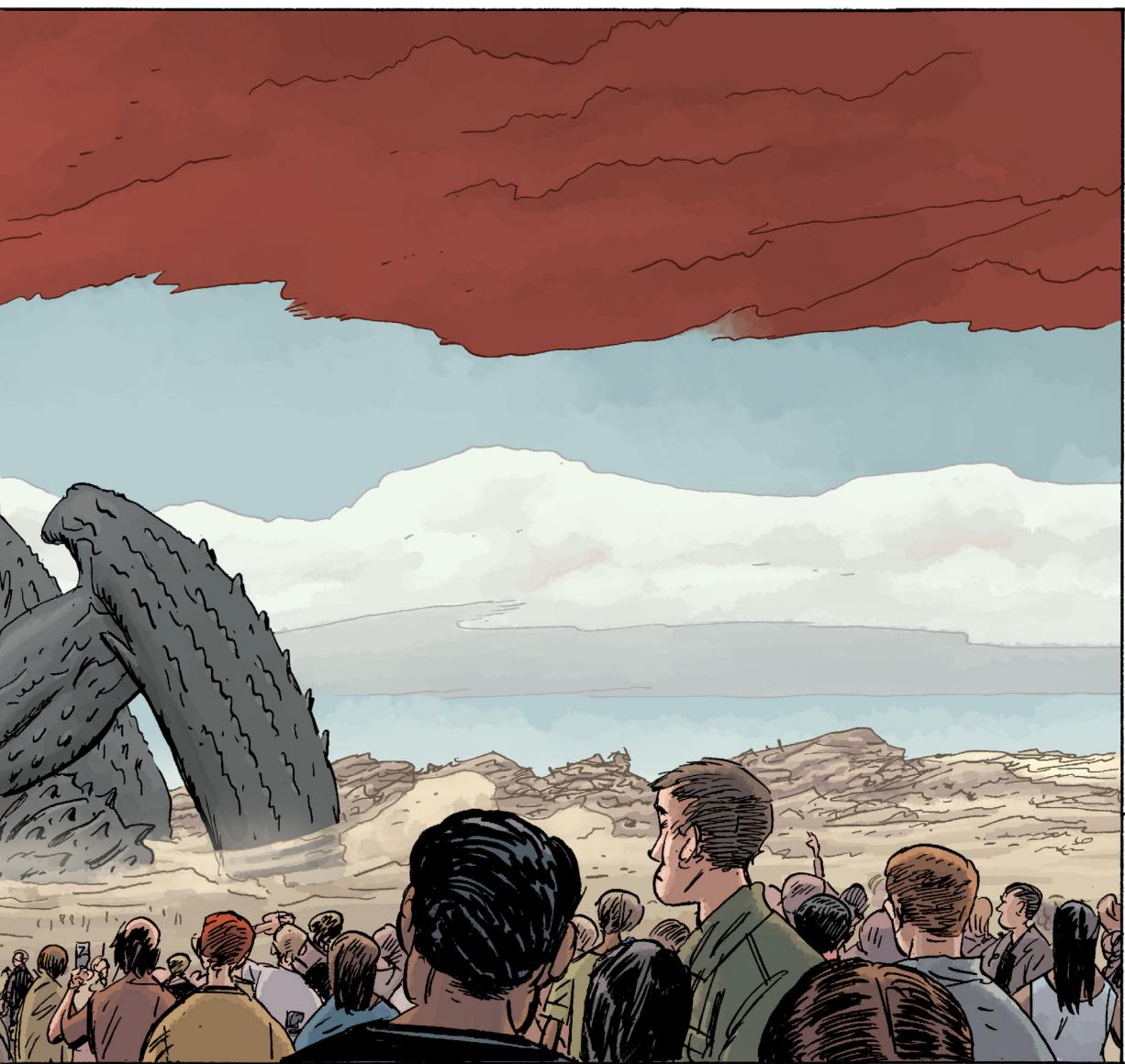


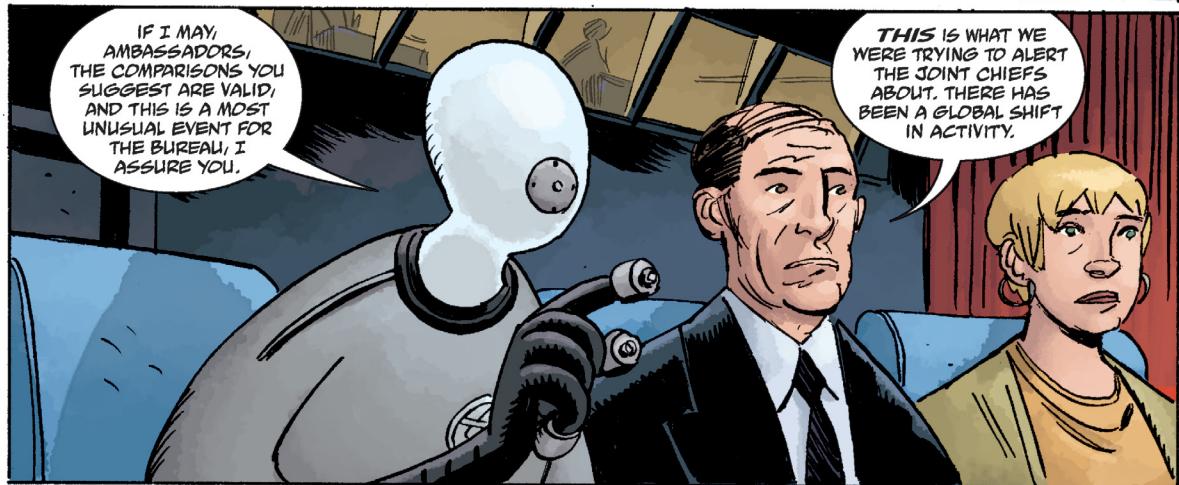
CNN

LIVE

AND THEN THAT
THING CRAWLS RIGHT
UP OUT OF THE
WATER--WELL,
WHERE THERE
USED TO BE
WATER.

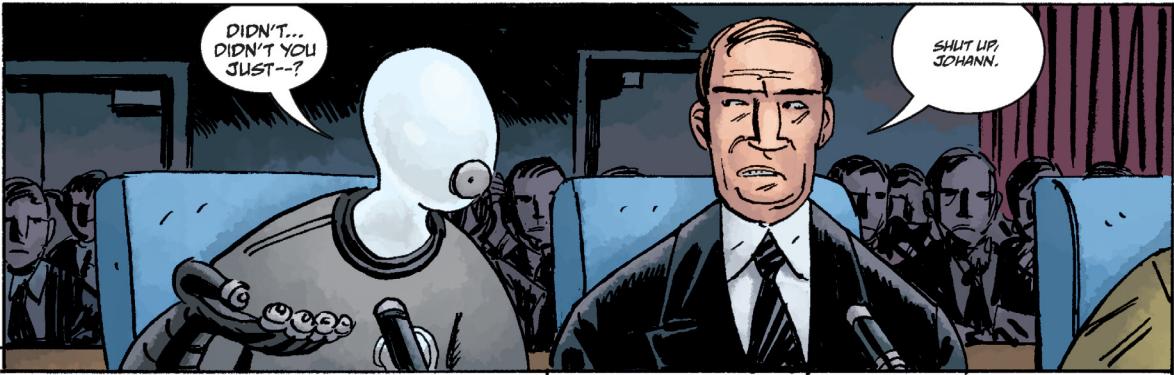
TROOPS
WON'T LET
US WITHIN
FIVE
MILES
OF IT.







GETTING BACK TO THE SALTON SEA INCIDENT, WHILE THIS CREATURE IS AGAIN ON AMERICAN SOIL, THE SECURITY COUNCIL CAN'T SEE THIS AS A DOMESTIC ISSUE ANY LONGER.



DIDN'T... DIDN'T YOU JUST--?

SHUT UP, JOHANN.



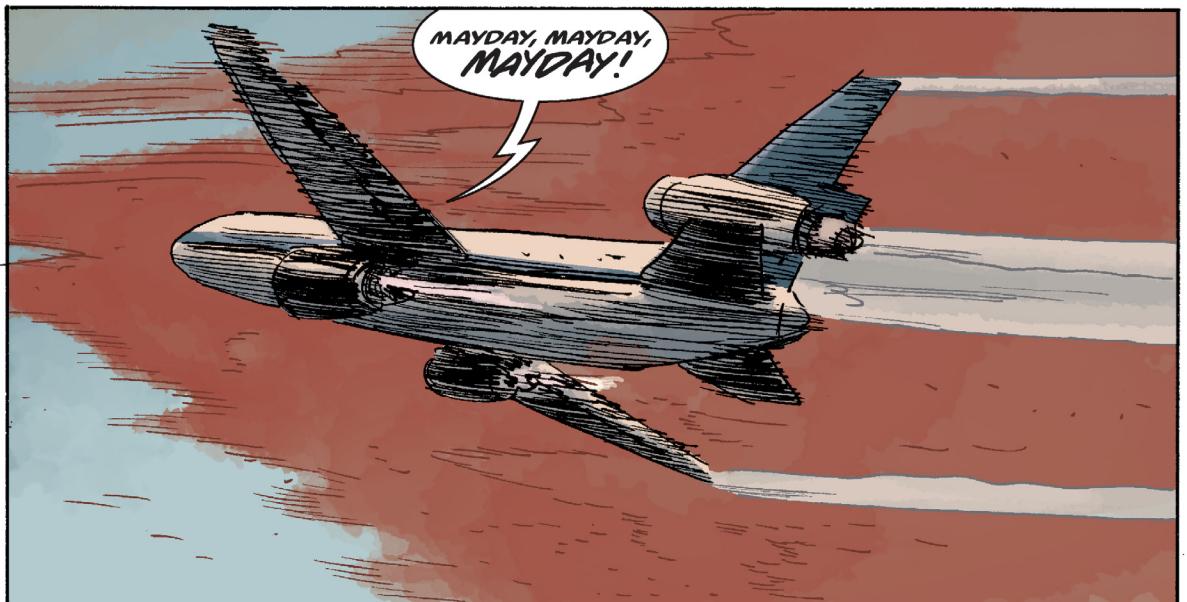
THE BIZARRE EMISSIONS FROM THE CREATURE ARE DRIFTING FOR MILES, SOMETIMES INTO MEXICO.

CONTAINMENT IS A PRIORITY UNTIL WE CAN DETERMINE WHAT EFFECTS THAT SMOG MAY HAVE ON PEOPLE AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT.



ACTUALLY, WE'VE JUST RECEIVED SOME PERTINENT INTELLIGENCE ABOUT THAT.





MAYDAY, MAYDAY,
MAYDAY!



THIS IS
FIRST AIR
180 HEAVY
TO ANY
AIRFIELD.

REQUEST
EMERGENCY
LANDING--
INSTRUMENTS
ACTING CRAZY--
CAN'T BREATHE--
LANDING--
LAND ANY-
WHERE!



FIRST AIR 180
HEAVY. THIS IS
BARSTOW-DAGGETT.
YOU ARE ONLY
EIGHTEEN
MILES EAST,
NORTHEAST.

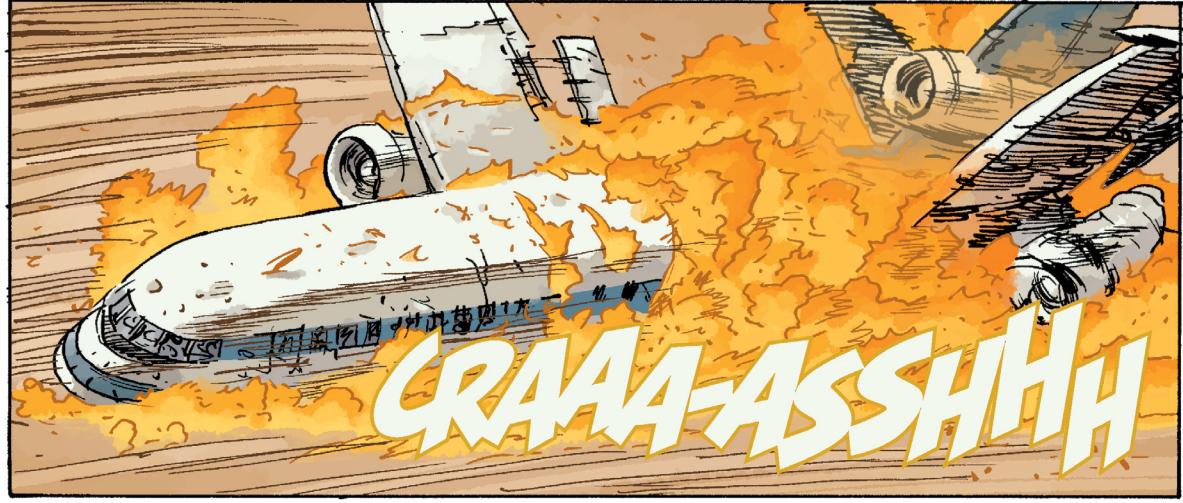


"WE'LL CLEAR THE FIELD AND
PREPARE FOR EMERGENCY LANDING."



IT'S
COMING
IN!





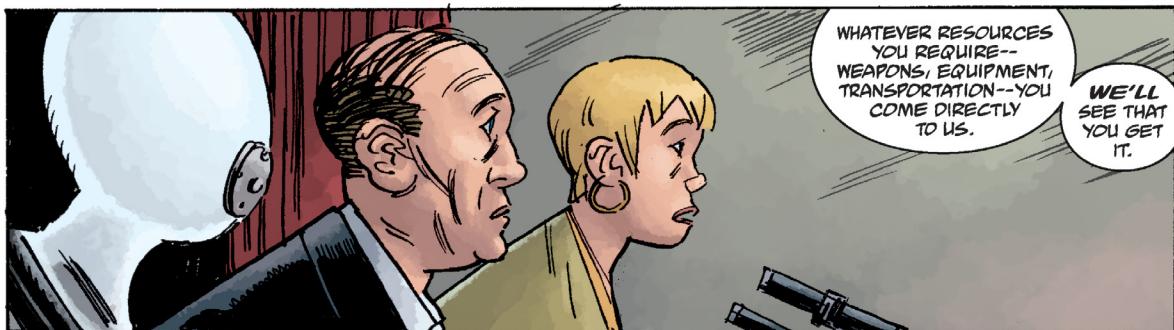
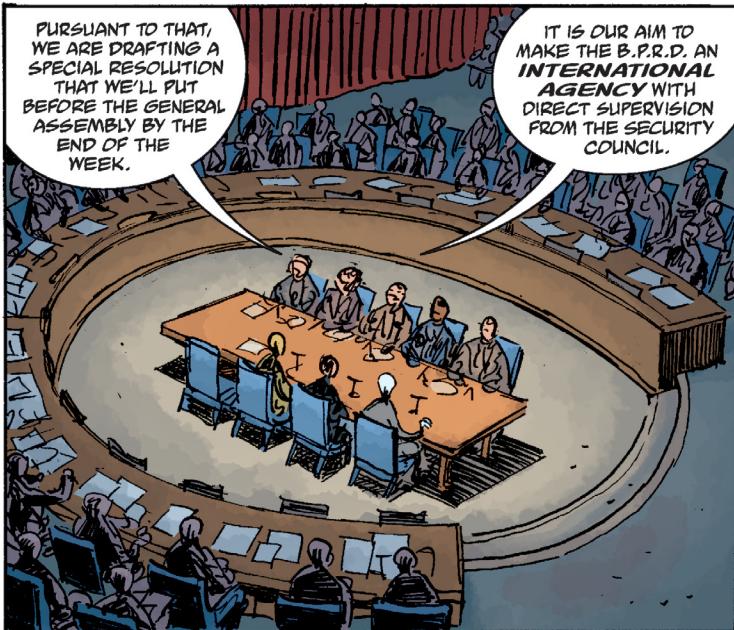
CRAAA-ASSHHH



AS I WAS SAYING, THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL UNDERSTANDS THAT THE BUREAU--THE B.P.R.D.--SHOULD HAVE AN EXPANDED ROLE IN THIS CRISIS.

PURSUANT TO THAT, WE ARE DRAFTING A SPECIAL RESOLUTION THAT WE'LL PUT BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY THE END OF THE WEEK.

IT IS OUR AIM TO MAKE THE B.P.R.D. AN INTERNATIONAL AGENCY WITH DIRECT SUPERVISION FROM THE SECURITY COUNCIL.





"THERE'S
NOBODY
THERE."

WANT
TO HEAR
SOMETHING
FUNNY?

WHEN I
SUBMITTED THE
REQUEST FOR YOUR
MEDICATION, THE H.R.
REP ASKED ME IF THE
PATIENT WAS A WOMAN
OF SIXTY-FIVE
YEARS OR
OLDER.

I
THOUGHT
YOU'D LIKE
THAT.

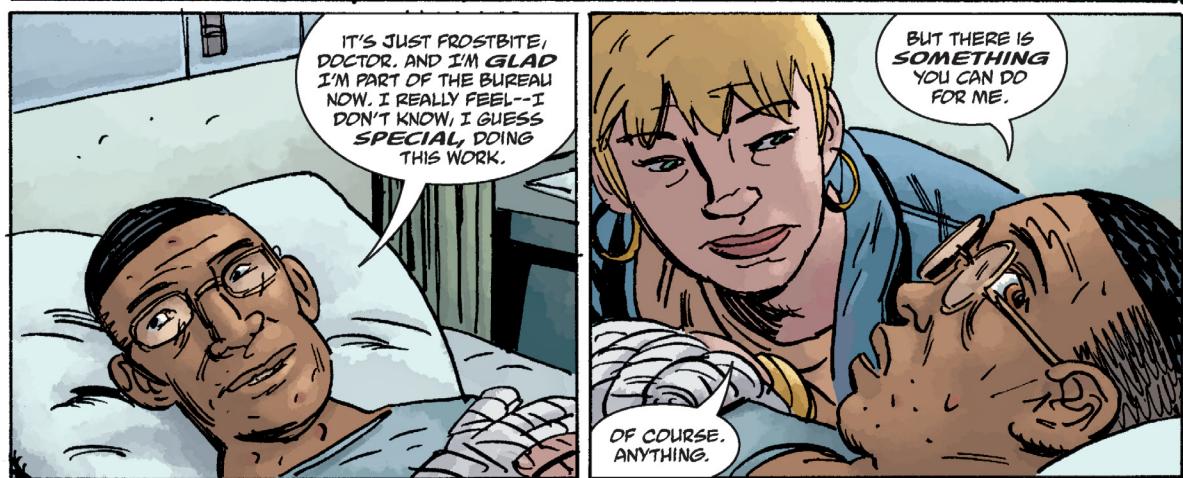
HA HA!

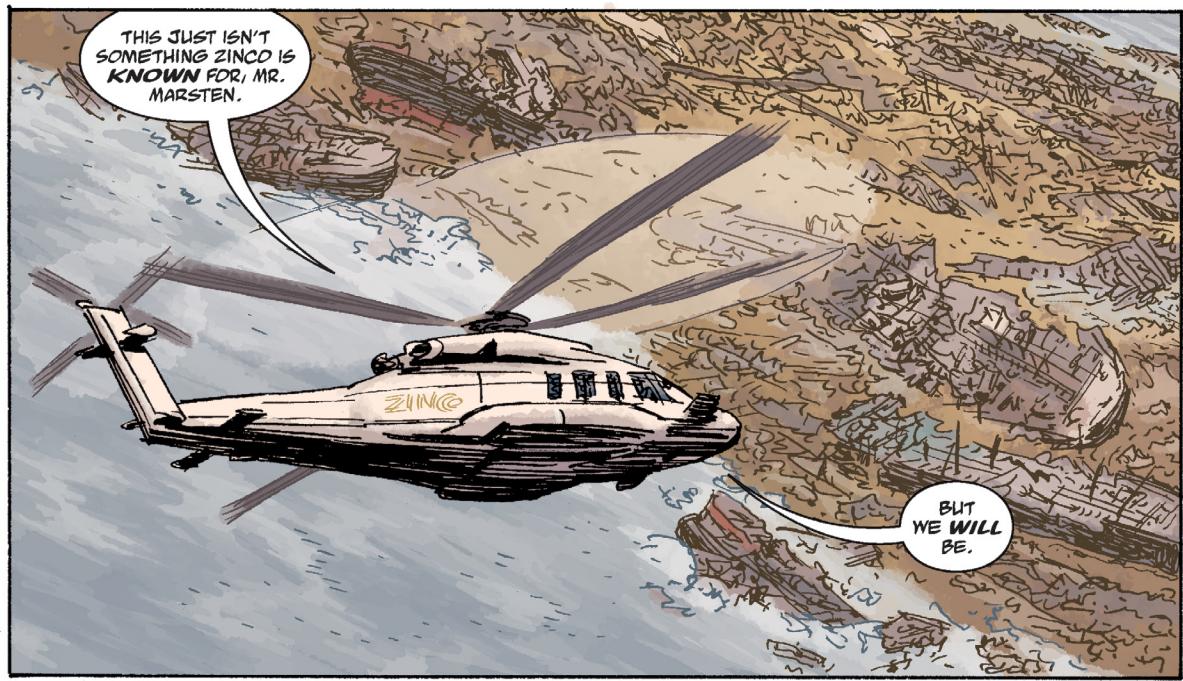


HONESTLY I
DON'T REMEMBER
MUCH BETWEEN
THOSE EVENTS.

WE WERE UNDER-
GROUND WITH THAT
CRAZY ROBOT-SKULL
GUY, AND THEN WE
WERE SUDENLY IN THE
KARWENDEL
MOUNTAINS.







WE ALSO HAVE THE CHEAPEST DESALINATION TECHNOLOGIES OF ANY MULTINATIONAL, AND THE PEOPLE HERE HAVE AN EXIGENT NEED OF POTABLE WATER RIGHT NOW.



WHAT HAPPENED HERE IS MORE TERRIBLE THAN MOST COULD EVEN IMAGINE, BUT ZINCO INDUSTRIES CAN MAKE THINGS BETTER.

BEYOND THAT, WE CAN HELP RESHAPE THE ECONOMIES OF THESE NATIONS, MAKE THEM STRONGER. WE LITERALLY HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY HERE TO CHANGE THE WORLD.

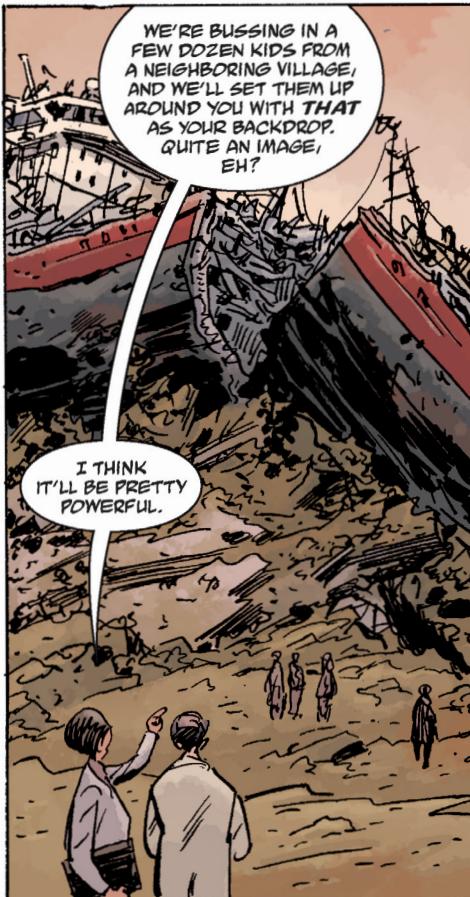


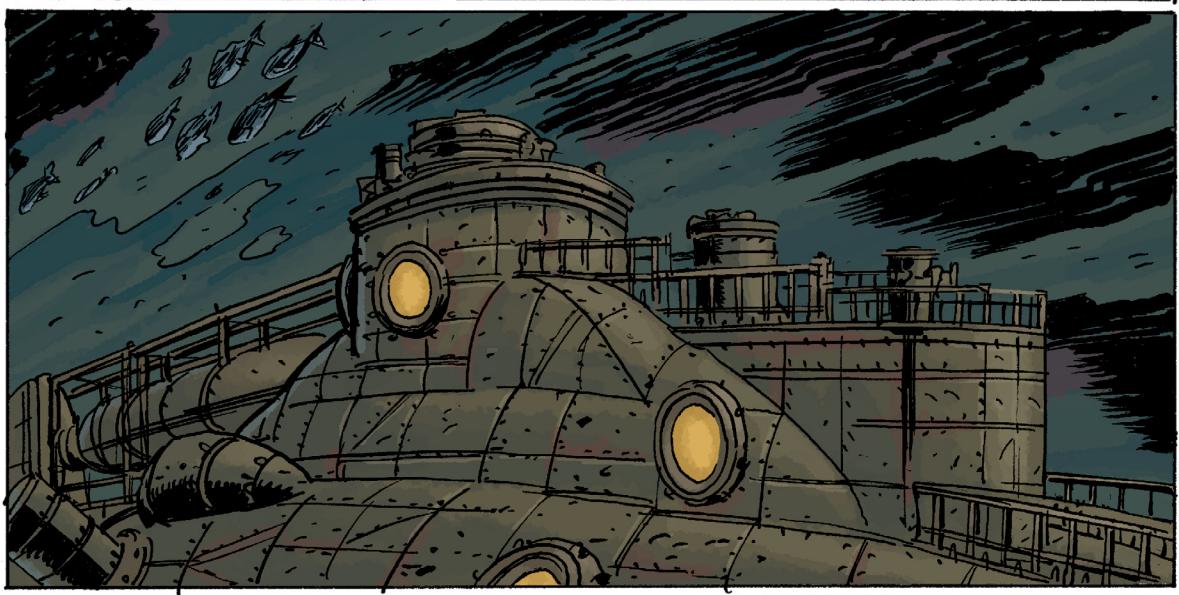
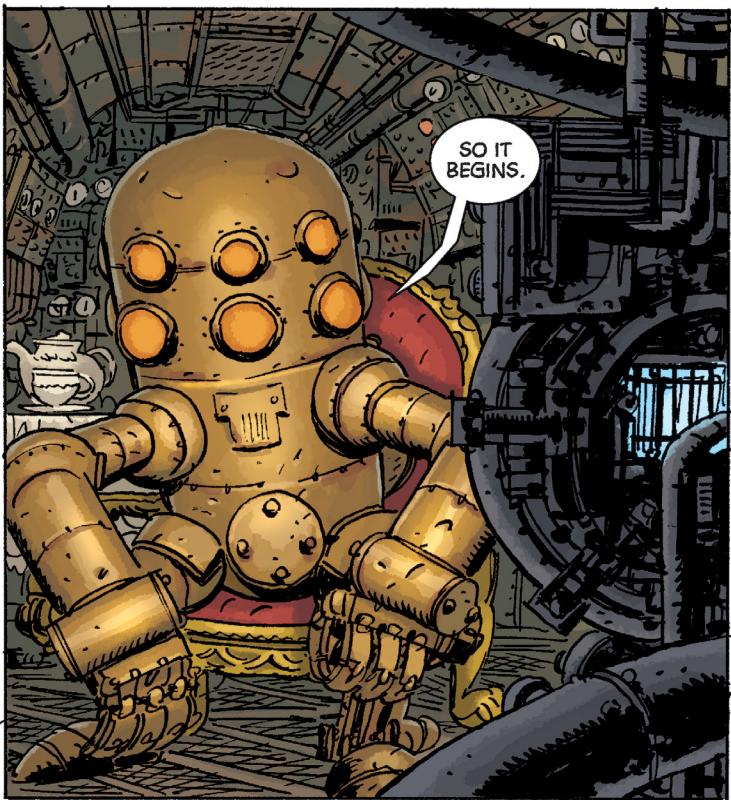
PERFECT, SIR. JUST PERFECT.

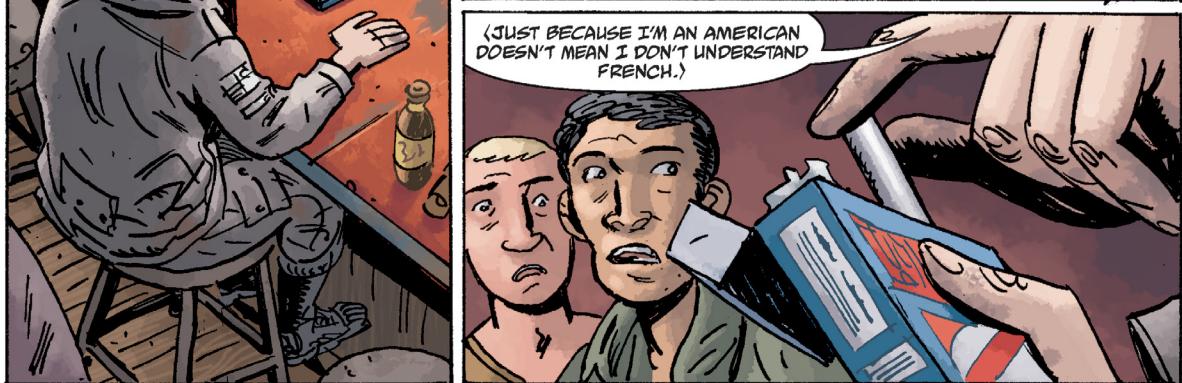
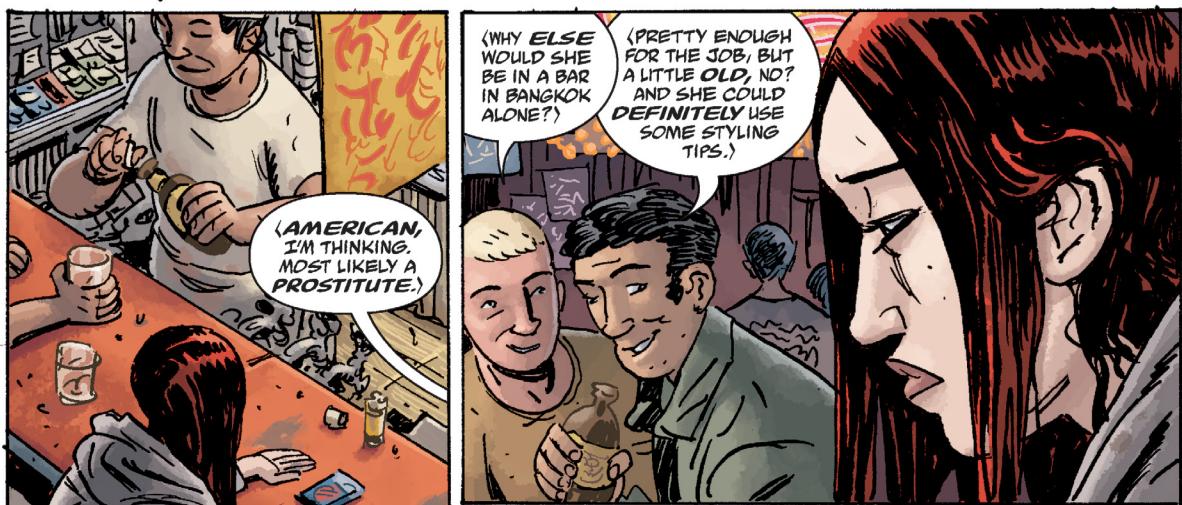
IF WE CAN GET THE INTERVIEW RECORDED ON THE FIRST TAKE, C.N.N. WILL HAVE A COPY BY THE E.S.T. MORNING CYCLE.

WE'RE BUSSING IN A FEW DOZEN KIDS FROM A NEIGHBORING VILLAGE, AND WE'LL SET THEM UP AROUND YOU WITH THAT AS YOUR BACKDROP. QUITE AN IMAGE, EH?

YES. VERY POWERFUL.









AFTERWORD

The book you're holding is the final volume in the first cycle of *B.P.R.D.* stories—so now I guess it's safe to admit that when this whole thing started I had no idea where it was going to go.

Volume 1 (*Hollow Earth and Other Stories*—way back in 2003) was a pretty good story. It introduced those subterranean guys, and there was that nice bit of prophecy about “a new king of fear hastening the arrival of the charnel house of time,” but I had no idea any of that would be important later on. Volume 2 (*The Soul of Venice and Other Stories*) was a bunch of short stories by different creative teams, all very nice, but none of them gave any indication where the series might go. One of them *did* bring us the great Guy Davis, and that worked out pretty well, but really it wasn't till volume 3, *Plague of Frogs*, that this thing really started to go someplace. I feel like an ass writing that, since *Plague* was the only *B.P.R.D.* book I wrote all by myself, but reintroducing those frog monsters (there were a couple of them in the first Hellboy series) was a good idea. I also gave Abe his origin, and eventually that would lead to a living mummy and Victorian cyborgs, but it was the frogs that finally gave the series its direction.

With volume 3 we were starting to go someplace and in volume 4 (*The Dead*) we picked up speed—new headquarters, new leader, an attempt to get Roger to wear pants, and (most important) new writer: John Arcudi. Technically, I am credited as cowriter, but right away I felt that he was the real driver of this thing. I'm sort of a back-seat driver. Sometimes I lean over the seat and give directions, but I rarely try to climb into the front seat. A lot of the time I get to just sit back and enjoy the ride—chasing those frogs, past the rise and fall of the Black Flame, the death of Roger, the evolution/devolution of Daimio—

Pause to make a phone call.

I had to call John to see if *he* knew when we knew where this book was going. He says he started to see it when we introduced the Memnan Saa character in *The Black Flame* (volume 5). Really? I don't remember seeing it way back then. Maybe I was napping in the back seat, but now that I think about it, he is the character (responding to the frog problem) who sort of draws us through the rest of the series, eventually steering us back to all that Hyperborean stuff and the King of Fear, back to where all this started. And he set the stage for what's to come. Funny. I just thought we needed a Fu Manchu kind of guy. I've said it before—sometimes it really feels like you create these characters, wind them up, put them on the board, and they go where they're gonna go.

So here ends the first cycle of *B.P.R.D.* stories. We are going to refer to everything we've done up to now (except *B.P.R.D.: 1946* and *1947*) as *Plague of Frogs*. The next cycle is called *Hell on Earth* and begins with the appropriately named miniseries *New World*. Maybe I didn't know where we were going when this all started, but I know where we are going now. John and I don't know all the twists and turns ahead (it wouldn't be any fun writing this stuff if you knew *everything* that's going to happen), but we know the big story, and . . . well, it's big. Really big. Trust me. Big changes have just happened and bigger ones are on the way. With John in the driver's seat and Guy sitting next to him (trying to find Jack Benny on the radio), I am very content to help steer from the back seat. And from here on out everybody should be sure to wear their seat belts.

There you go—



B.P.R.D.TM

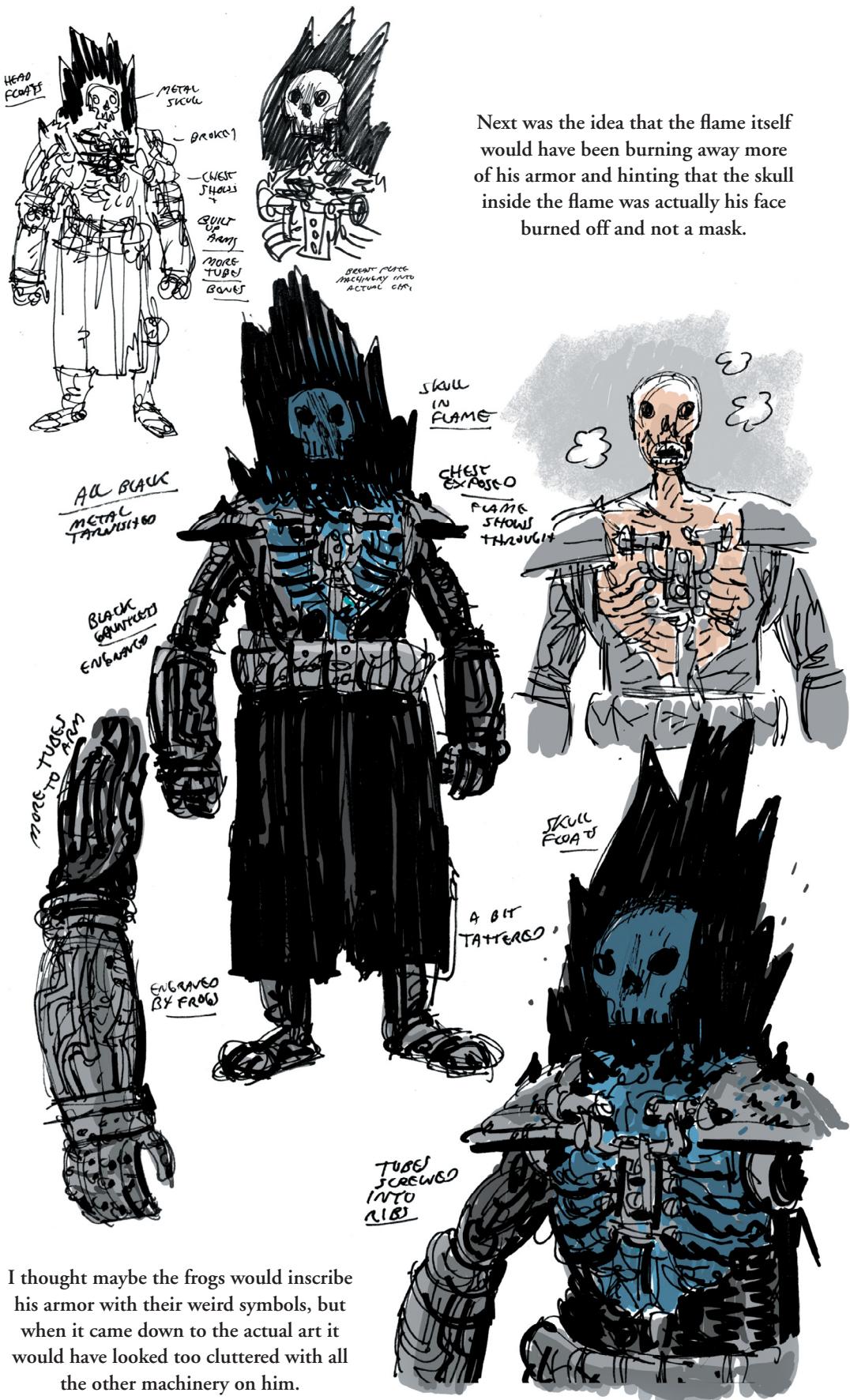
SKETCHBOOK

Notes by Guy Davis

I knew way back at the end of *The Black Flame* that we'd be seeing him again and I couldn't wait to revisit the character. Back before we started on *The Warning* we kicked around different ideas of how he would look after all this time underground with the legion of frog monsters—one idea was that his armor might mutate and become fleshlike, similar to the robot monsters in the series . . .



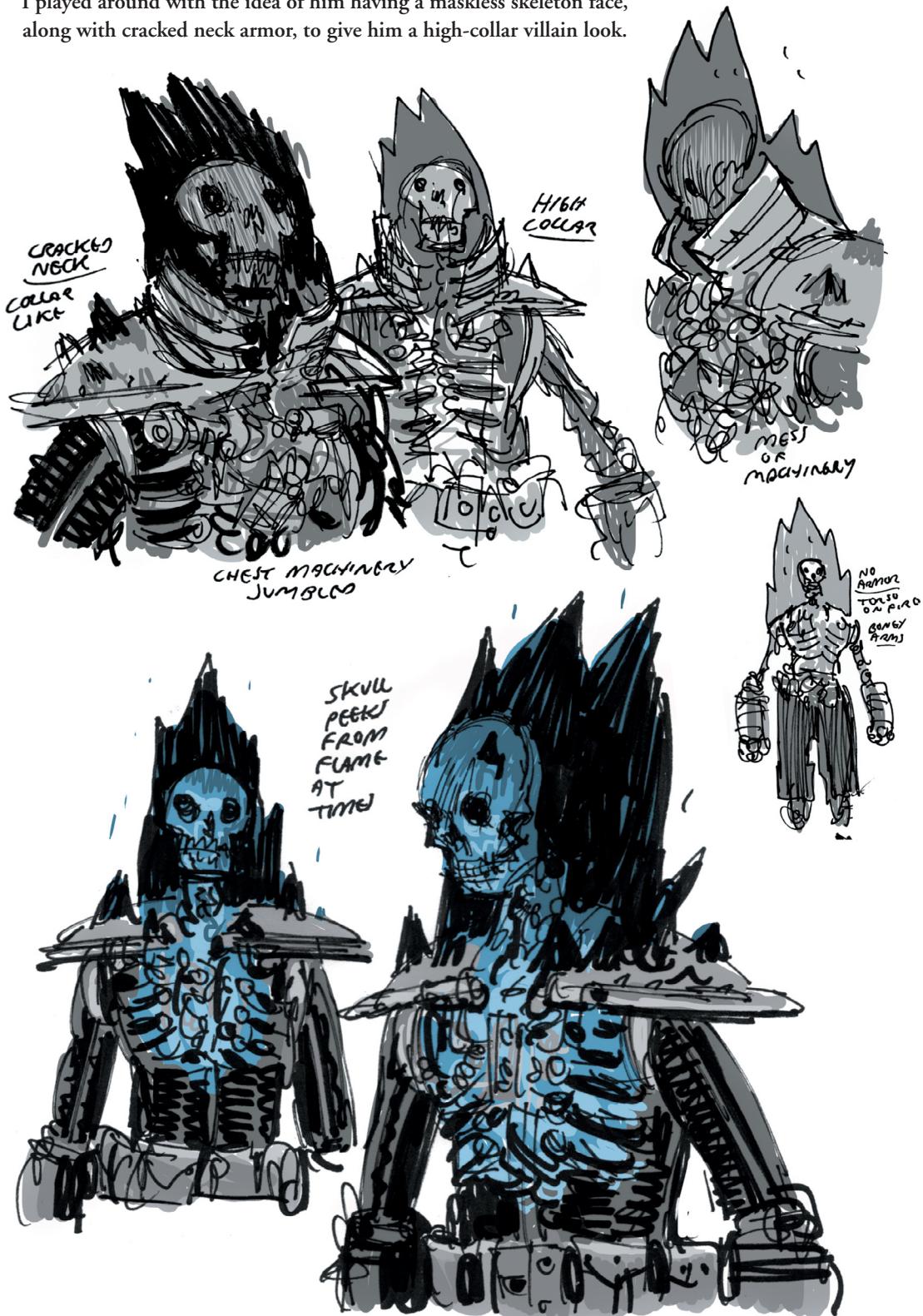
. . . but that didn't feel right. We didn't want it to look like his power was now coming from the technology of the suit.



I thought maybe the frogs would inscribe his armor with their weird symbols, but when it came down to the actual art it would have looked too cluttered with all the other machinery on him.

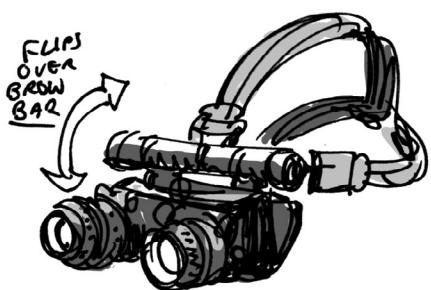
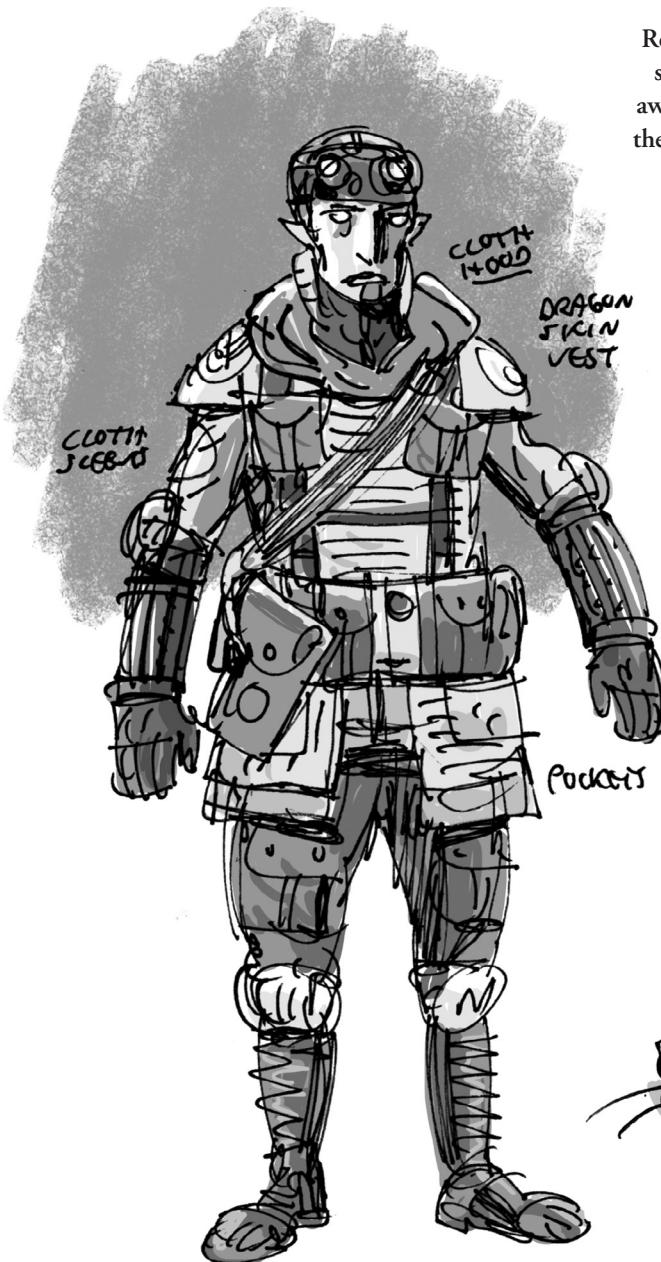
Next was the idea that the flame itself would have been burning away more of his armor and hinting that the skull inside the flame was actually his face burned off and not a mask.

I played around with the idea of him having a maskless skeleton face, along with cracked neck armor, to give him a high-collared villain look.



The final design. There is no doubt his face is now just a skull and his body burns with the Black Flame—but before I drew the pages, Mike did the cover for #3 and made his face look mummified instead of like a skull. Which was a great idea to give him more character, so I went that route with the inside art.

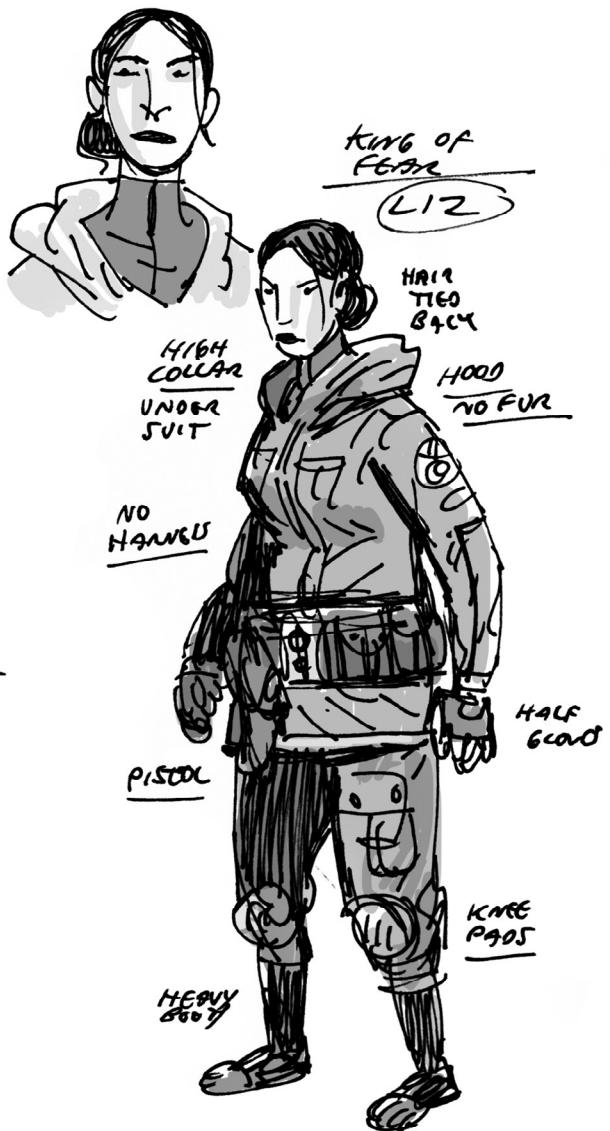
Reworking some of the B.P.R.D. battle gear seen in *The Warning*. Mike wanted to get away from the military look, so we got rid of the shoulder pads and also Abe's helmet so he stood out against the rest of the agents.

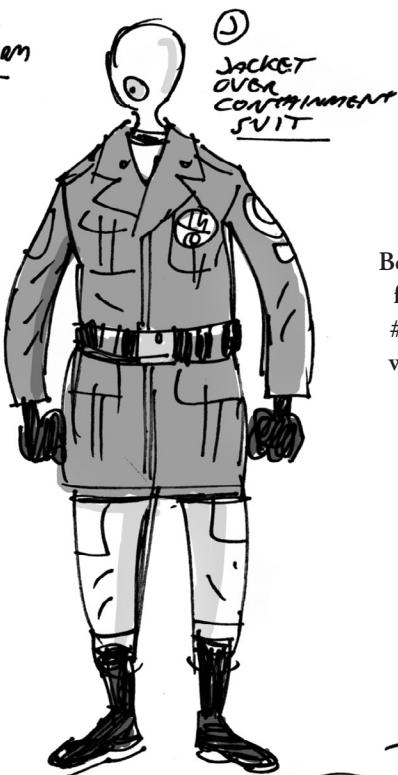
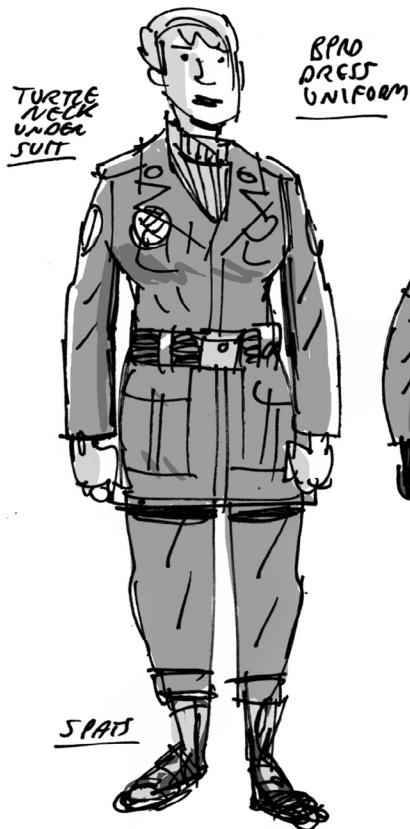


John knows his technical army stuff and would ask for specific objects incorporated into the story, like infrared goggles! I'll usually reference those types of objects, but still take liberties on their design so they work with the actions of the script.

Liz loses even more of the military dress for exploring the Hollow Earth.

Below: I liked the idea that the ghosts of the dead would be dressed differently depending on the individual person. I played around with that a bit at the end of *Killing Ground*. I don't know why, but it seemed right to stick Memnan Saa in the same robes that the monks and Liz wore in *The Black Goddess*.

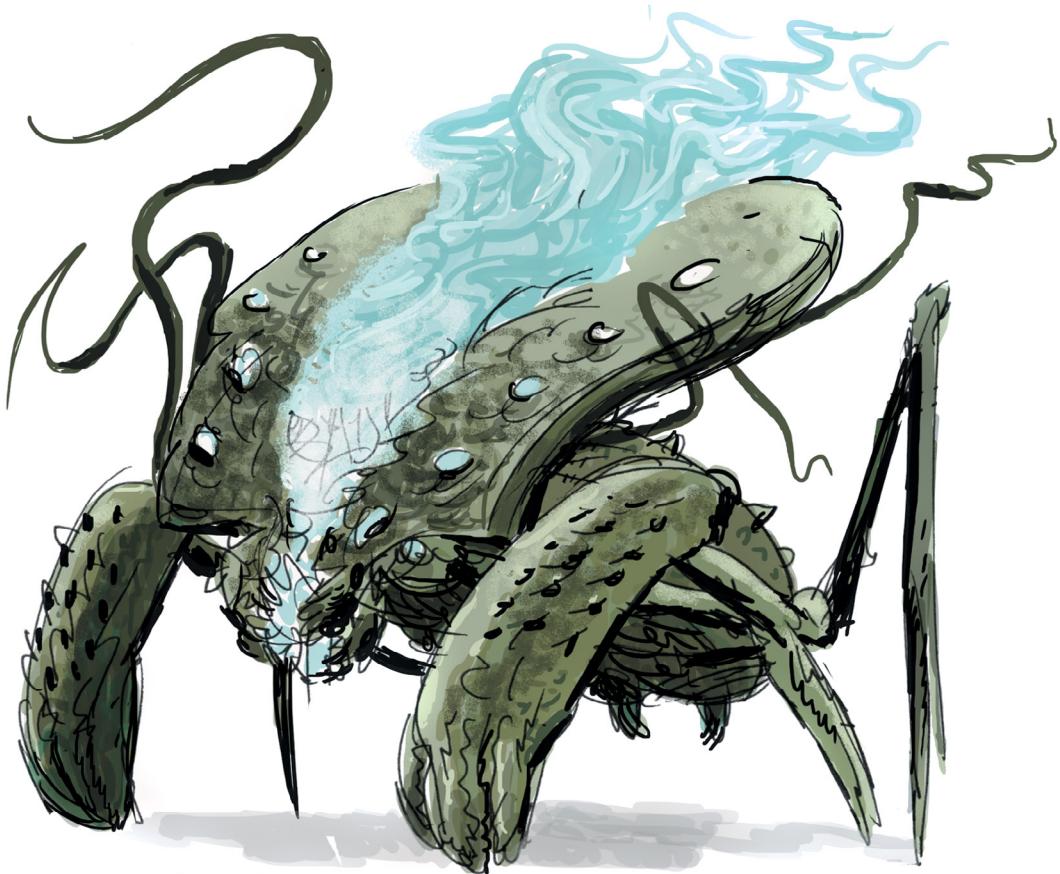




An idea for some B.P.R.D. dress uniforms that didn't make it into the last issue with Kate, Johann, and Manning at the U.N.

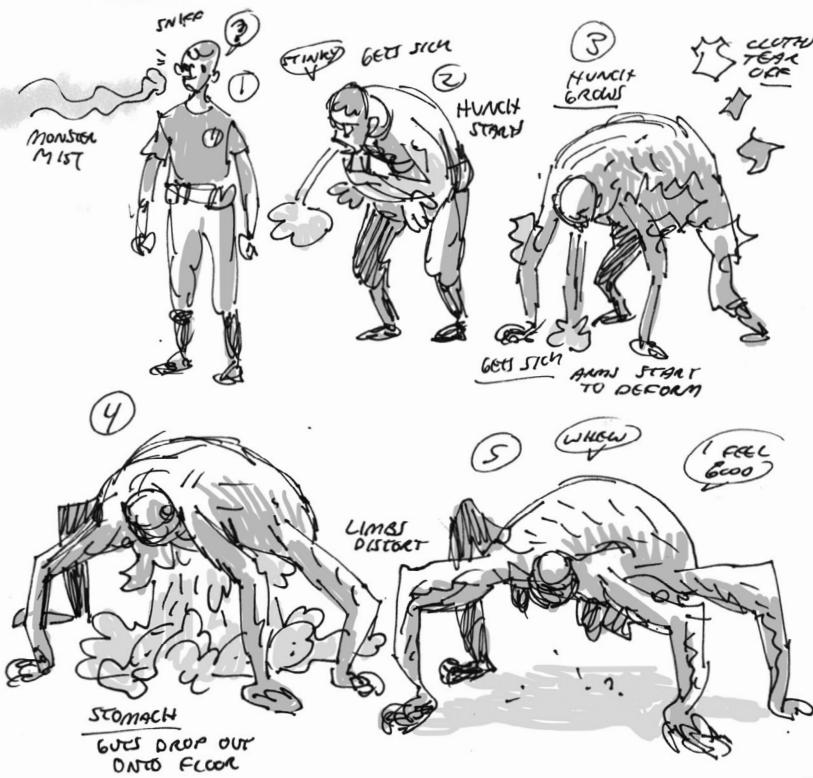
Below: A bunch of character faces for the military leaders in issue #1—which actually worked out with the first round of sketches. If only they all were that easy.





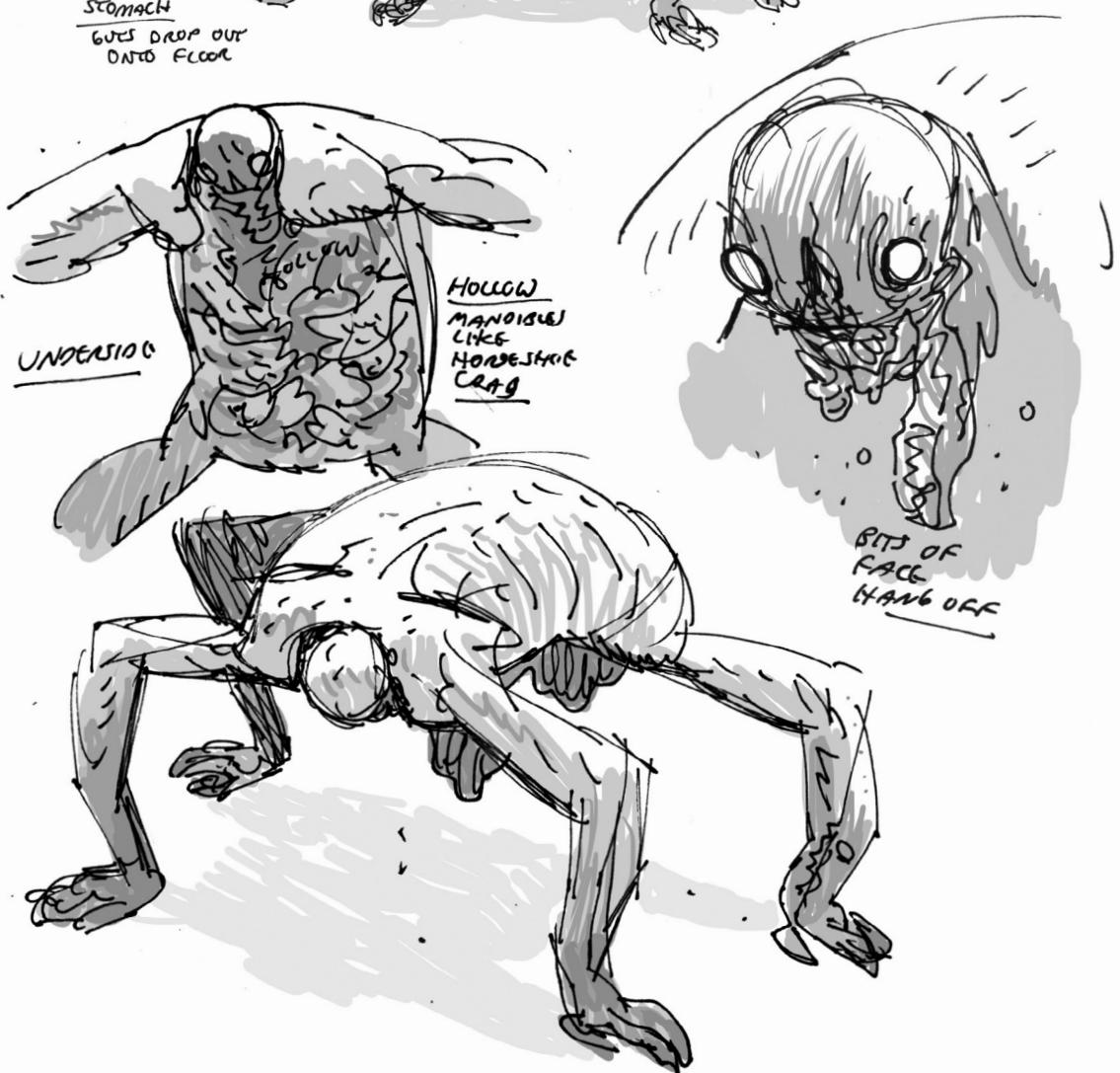
The robot monsters' purpose gets revealed! Before I read the script for the first issue I thought of their heads falling back so they could crawl through tight caverns. Below: Some designs on the final transformations and birth!

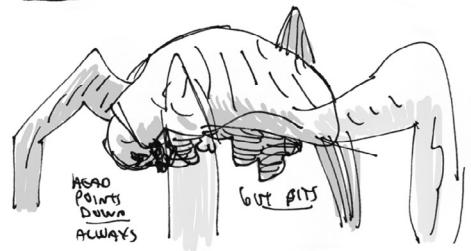
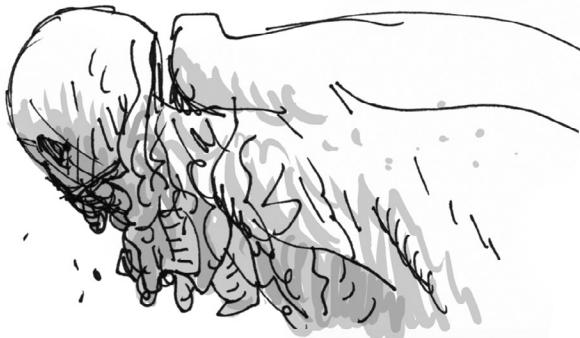




Oh boy! Time for some new creature designs.

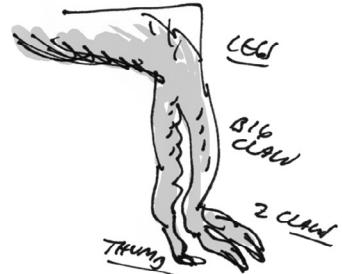
For the airline passengers that transform after being exposed to the "mysterious gas," I worked out the entire transformation so it didn't just seem like they faded into the creatures like in an old movie. Mike said the guts falling out was "just gross," which I take as a compliment, but too gross for *B.P.R.D.*, so it was left out.



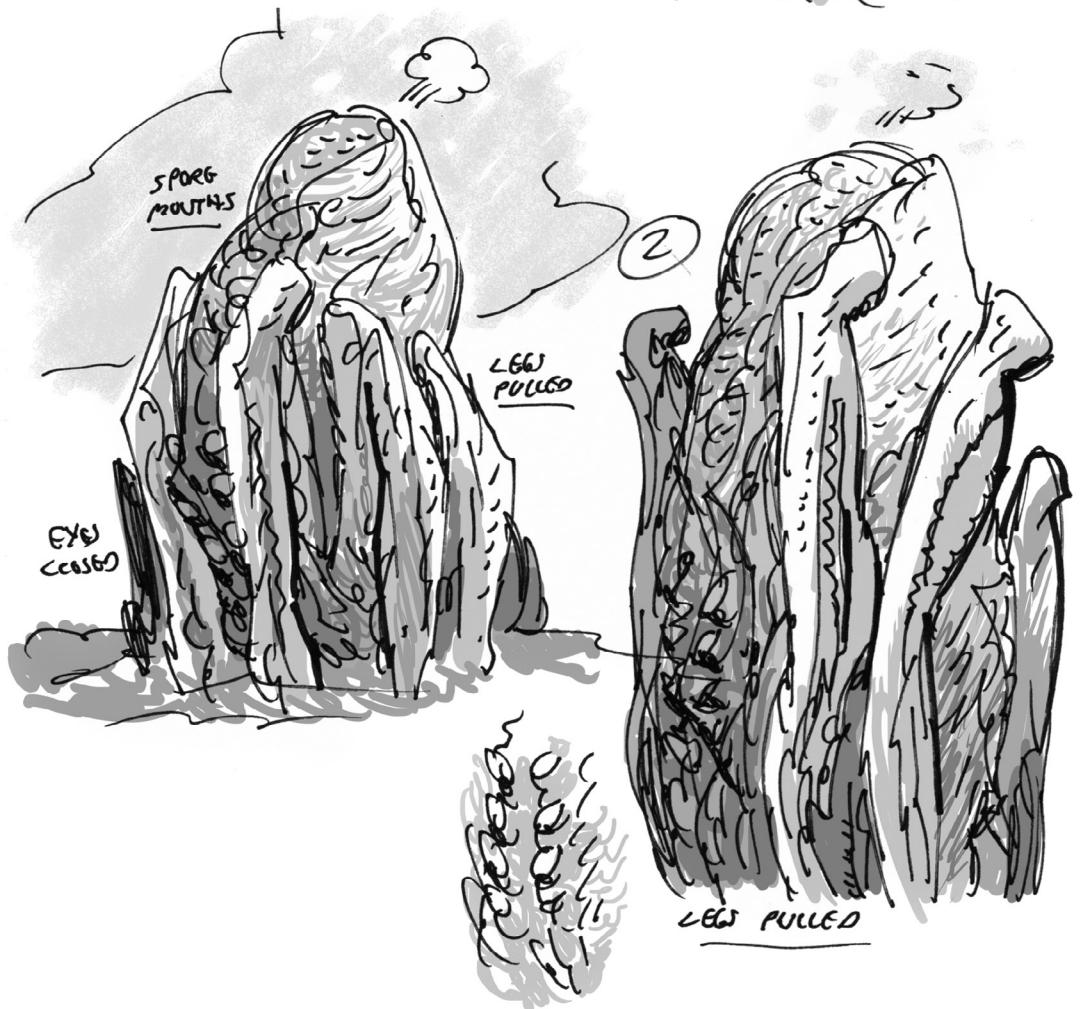


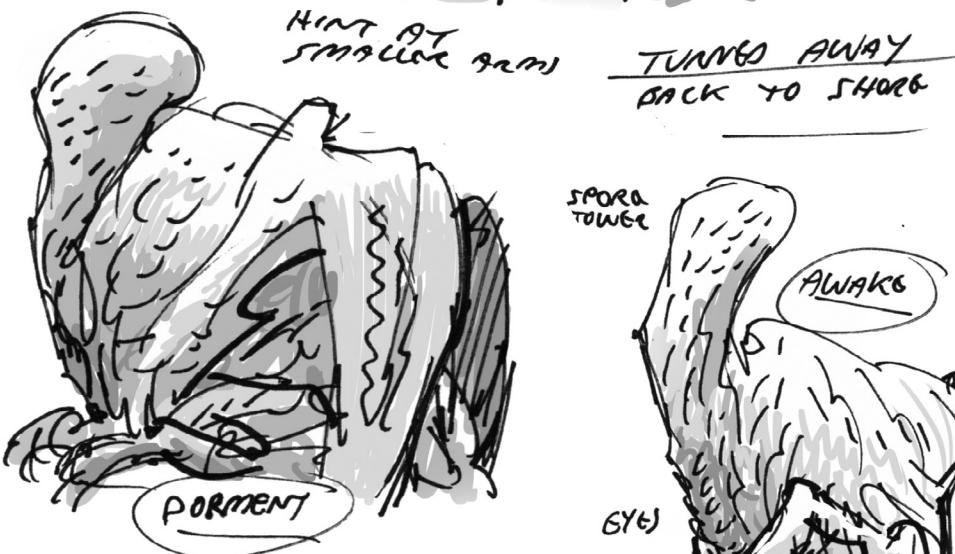
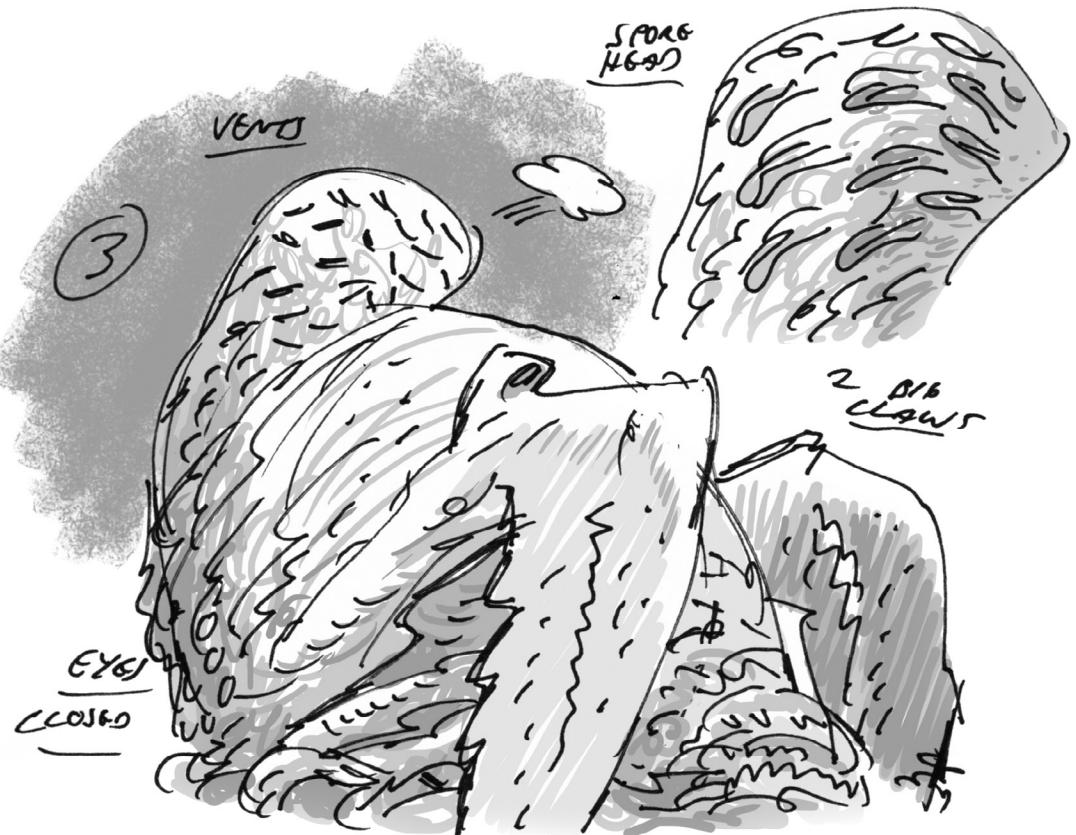
Working out more of the final transformation design, which Mike pointed out looked too much like a regular person walking weird and not a monster. He did like the split-arm design and carried that over to his cool final designs below.

MORE EVOLVED

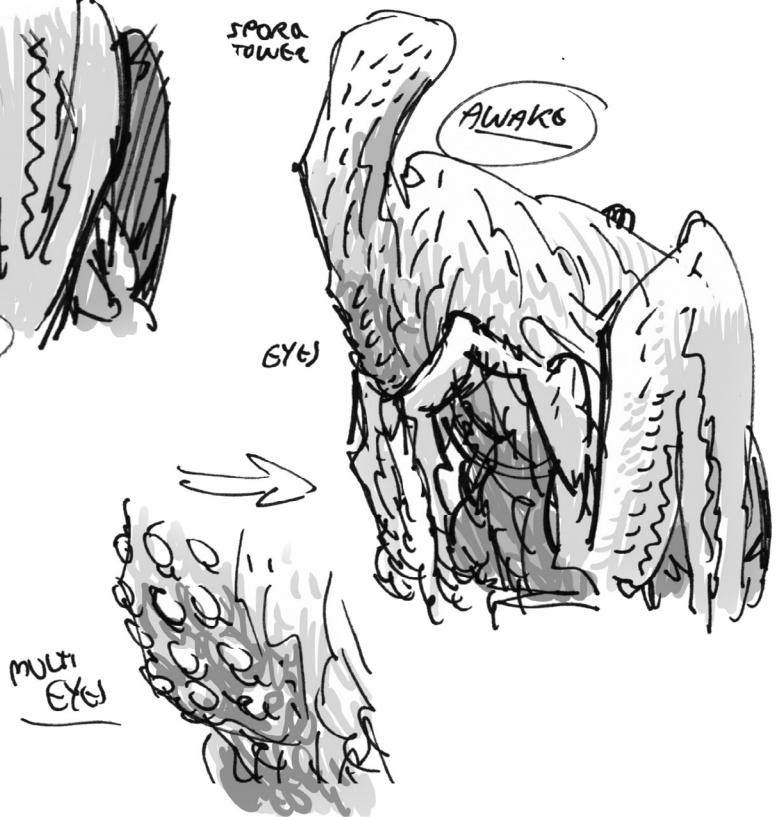


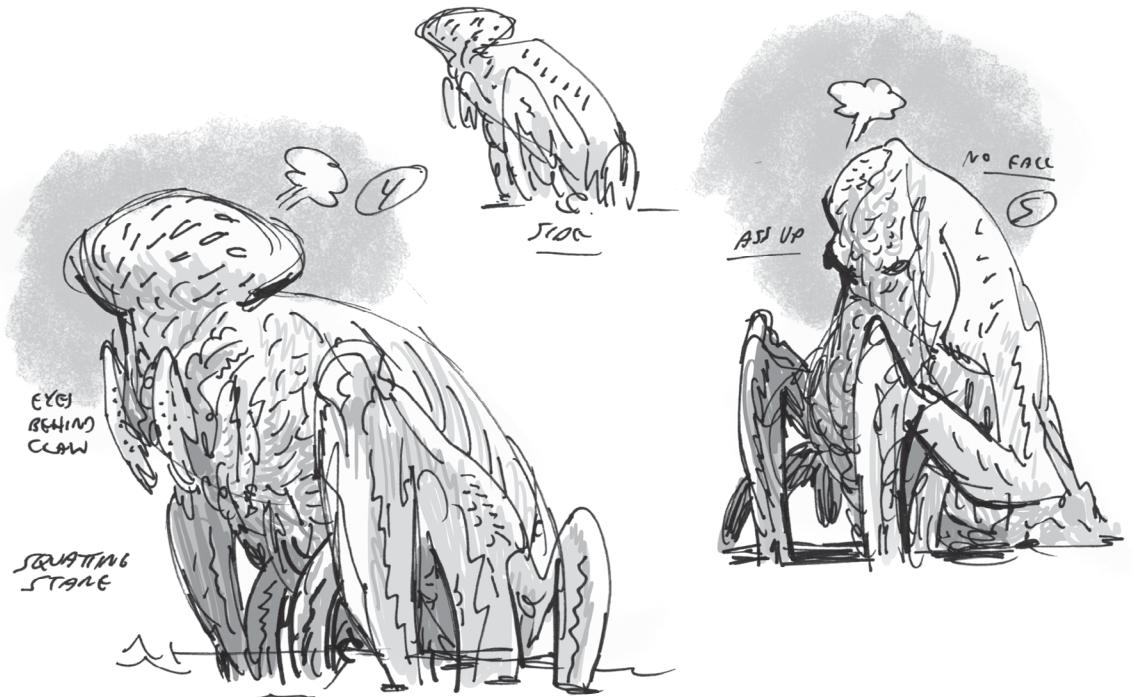
The biggest design work for *King of Fear* was figuring out the huge slumbering creature at the end. The script was not specific on any details to how it should look (aside from spouting gas), so I just started drawing a few ideas off the top of my head.

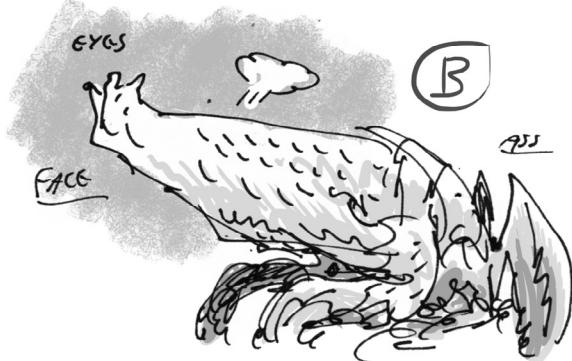




I liked the idea of something that would look curled up and then change form when awake, but a big problem with that was the "slumber" version was usually a pretty boring-looking lump.



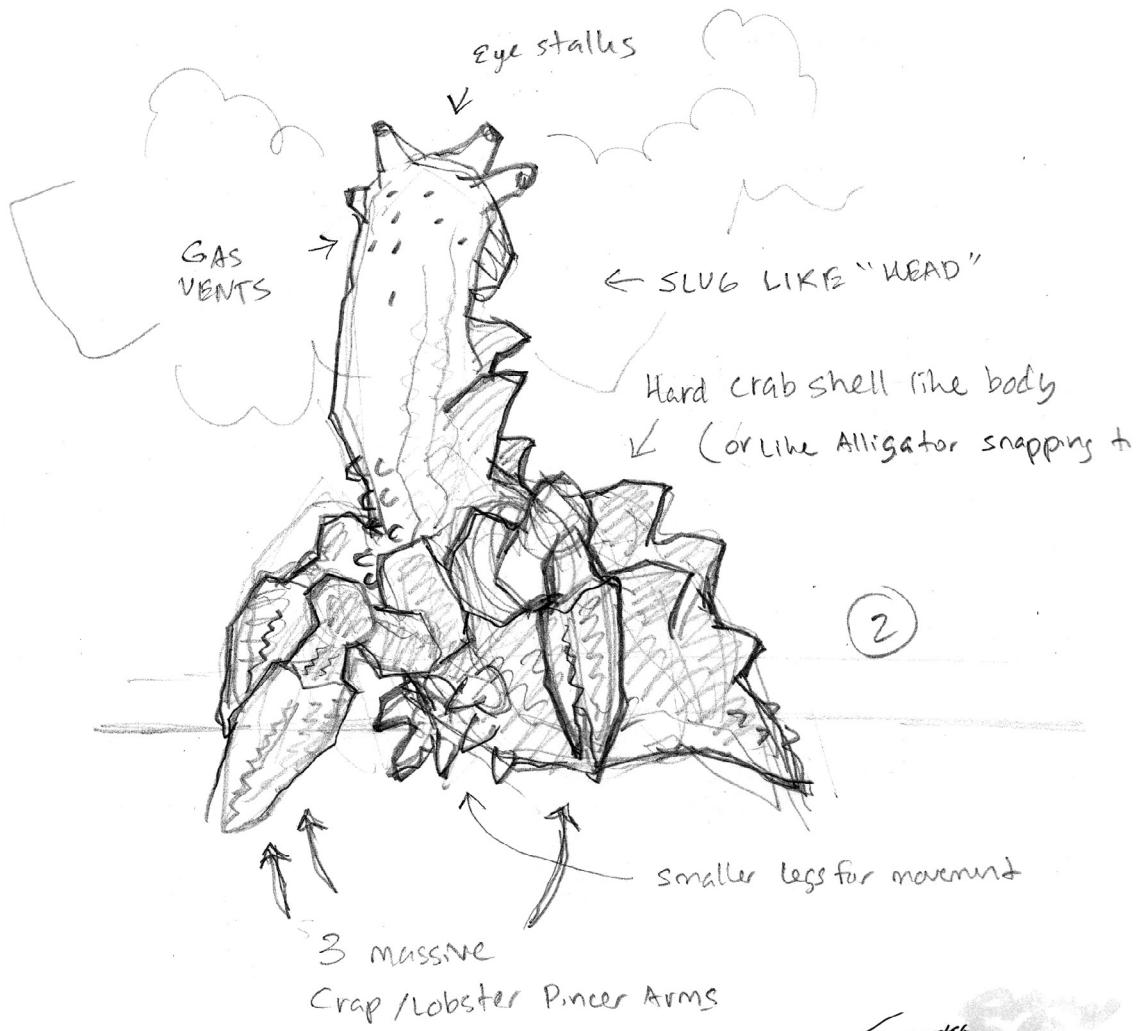




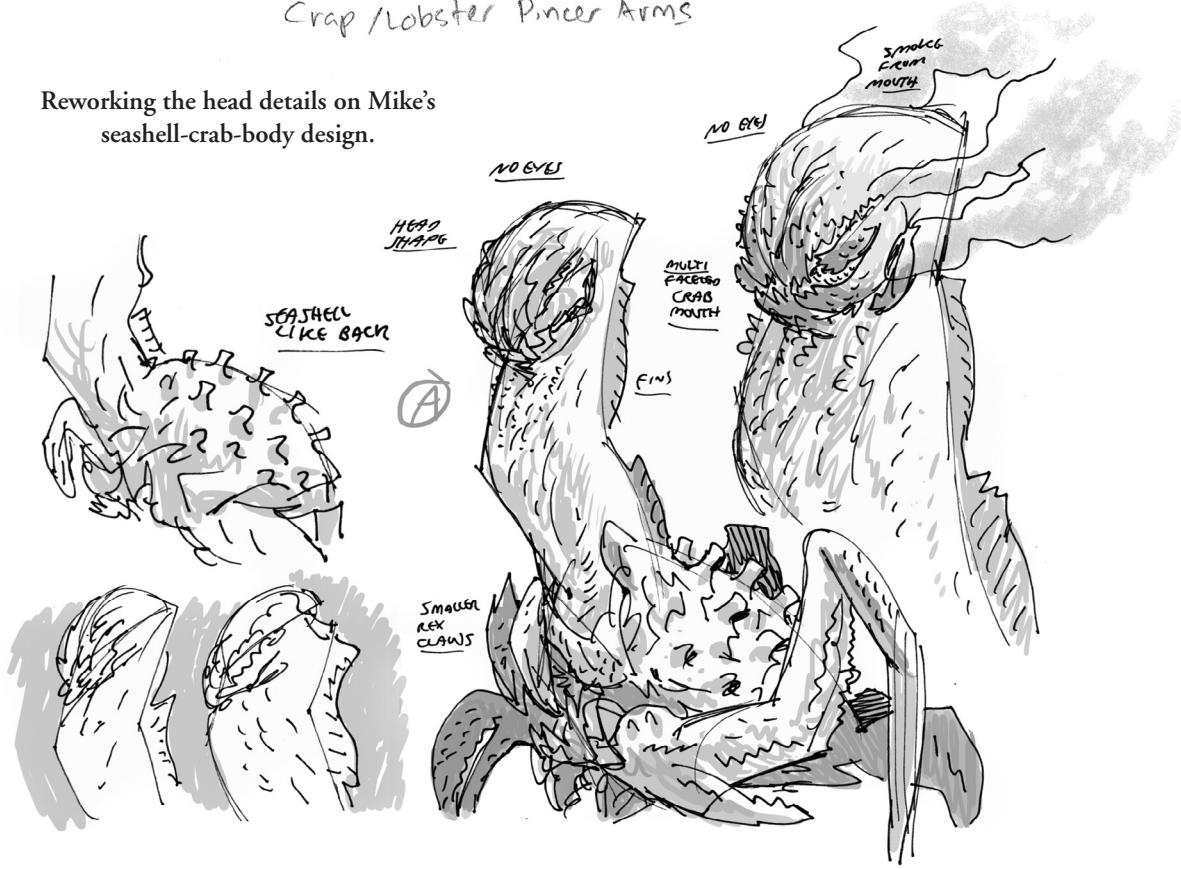
I really liked Mike's idea of it being like a lighthouse while sleeping, and played with the head-stalk a bit with these sketches above.

NO
eyes, but
gas vents are
lit when
open.



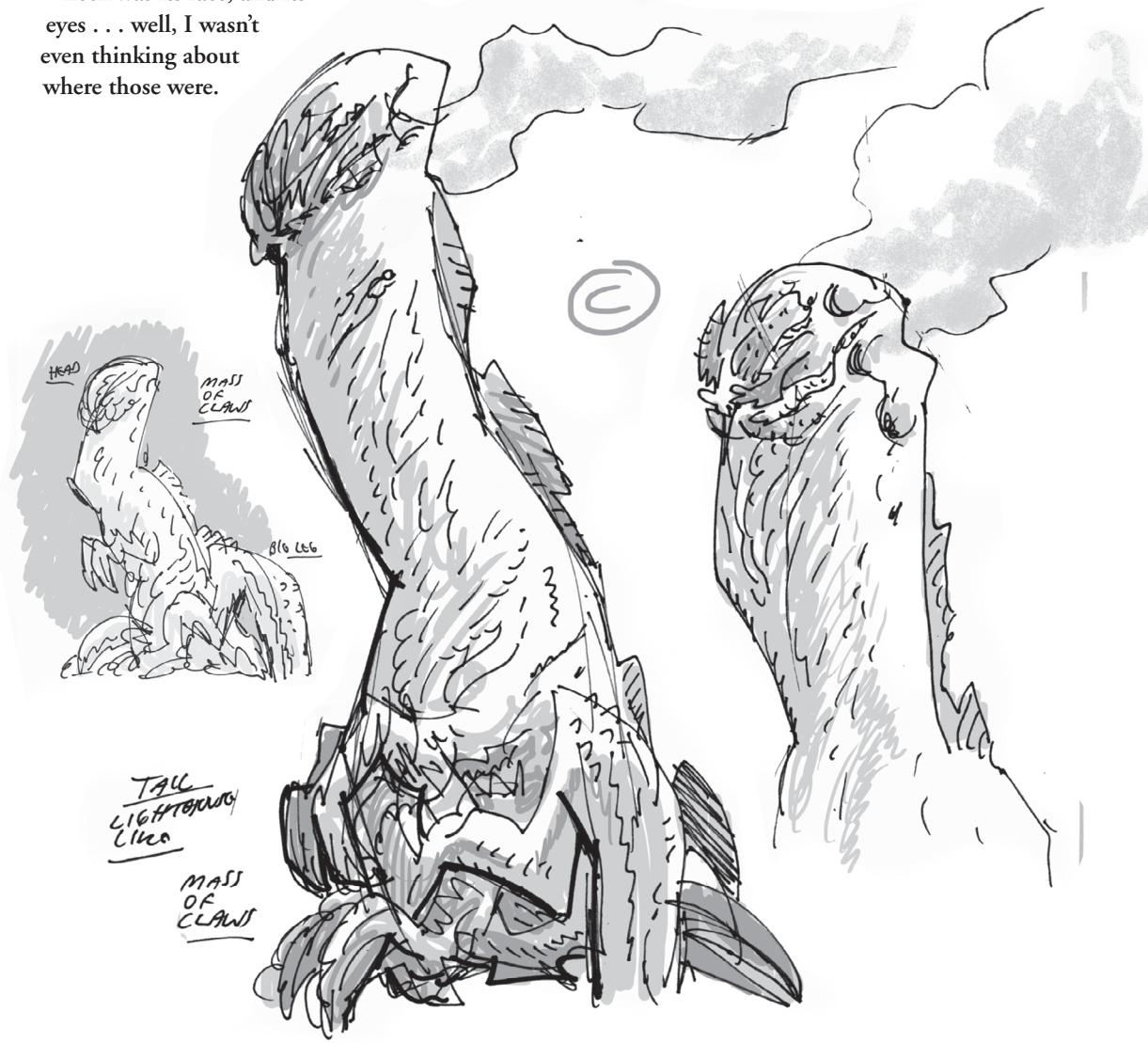


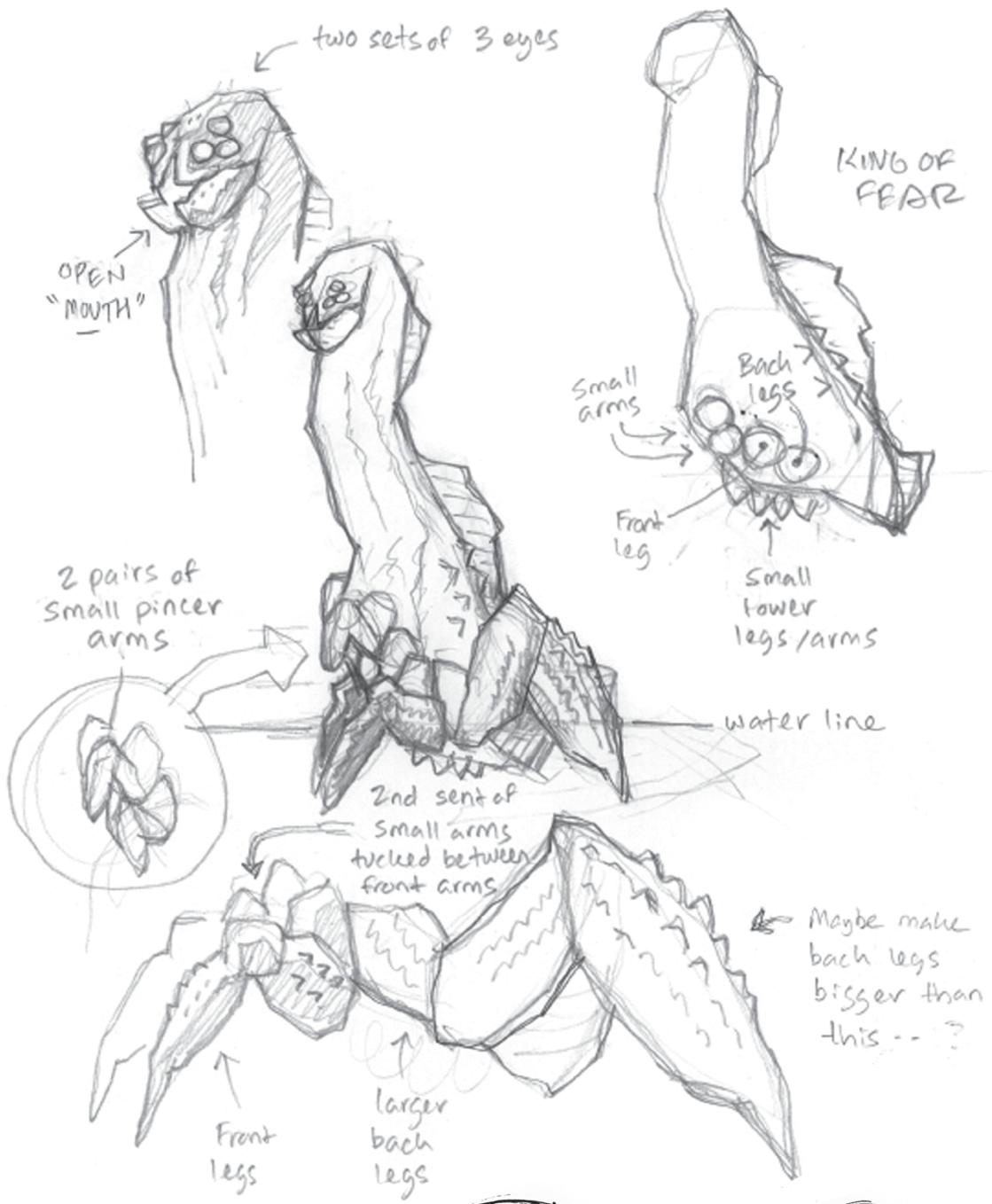
Reworking the head details on Mike's
seashell-crab-body design.





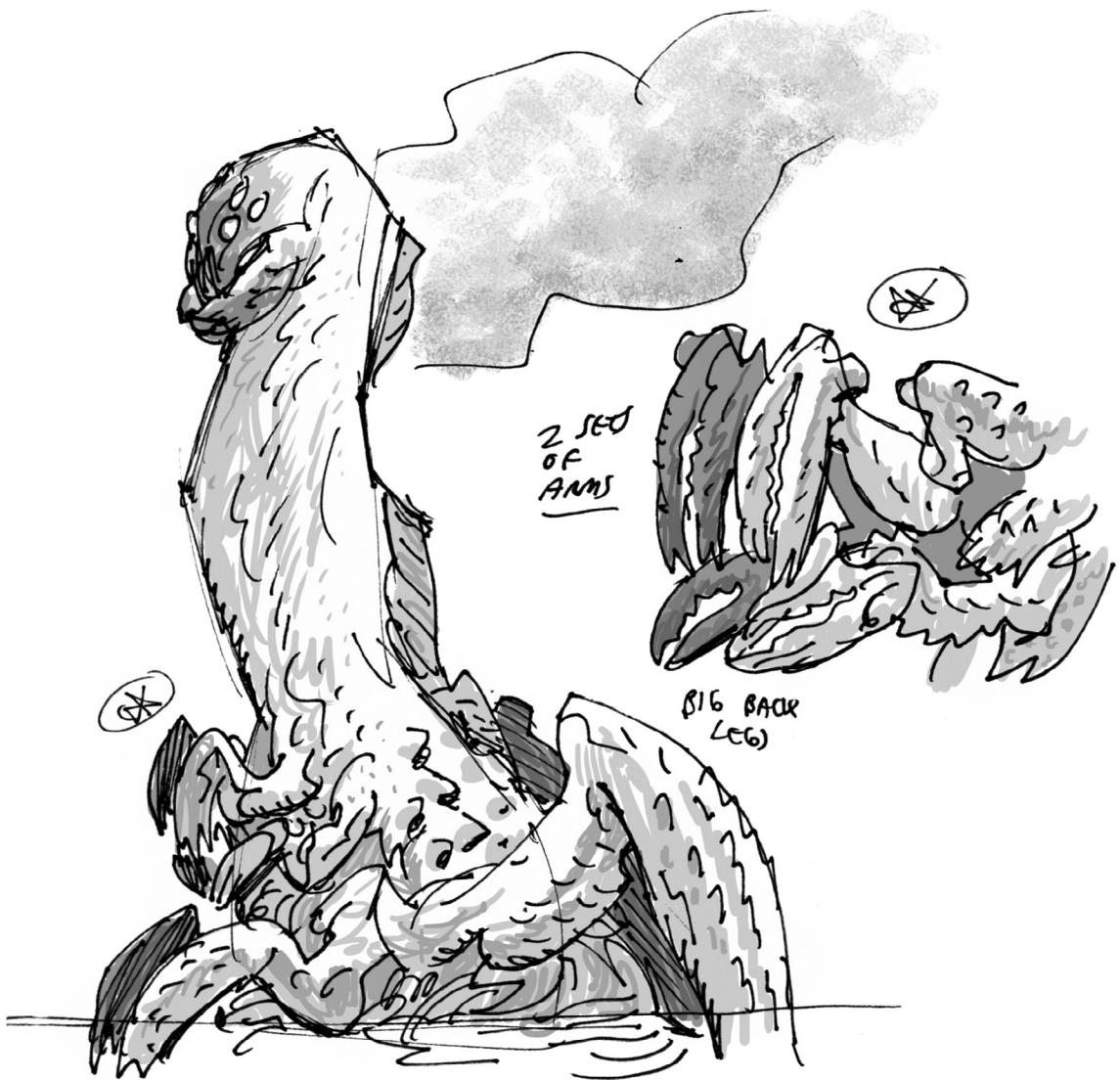
It's getting closer to the finished design with the "lighthouse" body, but the head still wasn't right. I played around with the idea that the head wasn't really its actual head, but a curled-up jaw that would open at some point. So the whole neck was its face, and its eyes . . . well, I wasn't even thinking about where those were.





Mike nails the final design and again shows why he's the best! Before drawing the creature in the actual comic, I did a few sketches to flesh out some details and to make sure I captured the feel of it in my style.





The finished design of the creature (whom I call Farfel) based on Mike's sketch, with some of the smaller forearm details worked out, along with the open smokestack mouth that Mike drew for the cover of *King of Fear* #5. And with that beastie, the huge run that started with *Plague of Frogs* ends, with more *Hell on Earth* to come!

Guy Davis
Crab Point, Michigan

Facing: Mike's unused cover for issue #5.







A story that began in the first issue of *Hellboy* concludes with the B.P.R.D. set to permanently wipe out a subterranean colony of frog monsters. With Memnan Saa dead, agents Liz Sherman and Abe Sapien take on the powerful King of Fear—who reveals that it is the agents themselves who will lead the world to apocalypse.



B.P.R.D.

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