

FROM THE PAGES OF HELLBOY

ABE SAPIEN™



THE
DEVIL
DOES NOT
JEST
AND OTHER
STORIES

MIKE MIGNOLA

PATRIC REYNOLDS

JAMES HARREN

JOHN ARCUDI

PETER SNEJBJERG

DAVE STEWART

MZ011

ABE SAPIEN™

CREATED BY
MIKE MIGNOLA



**The DEVIL
DOES NOT JEST
AND OTHER STORIES**



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STORIES

J. HINSON

ABE SAPIEN™

The DEVIL DOES NOT JEST AND OTHER STORIES

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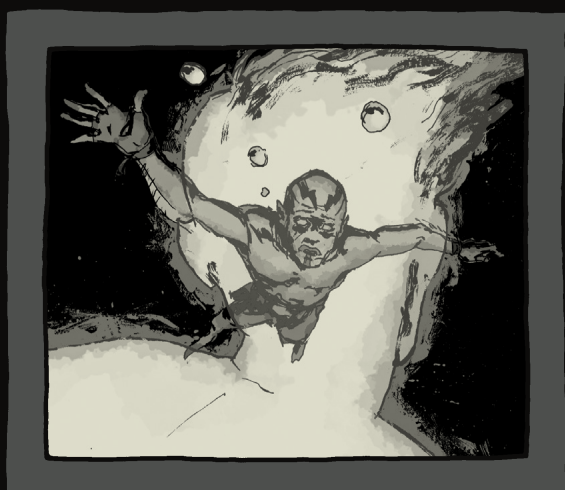
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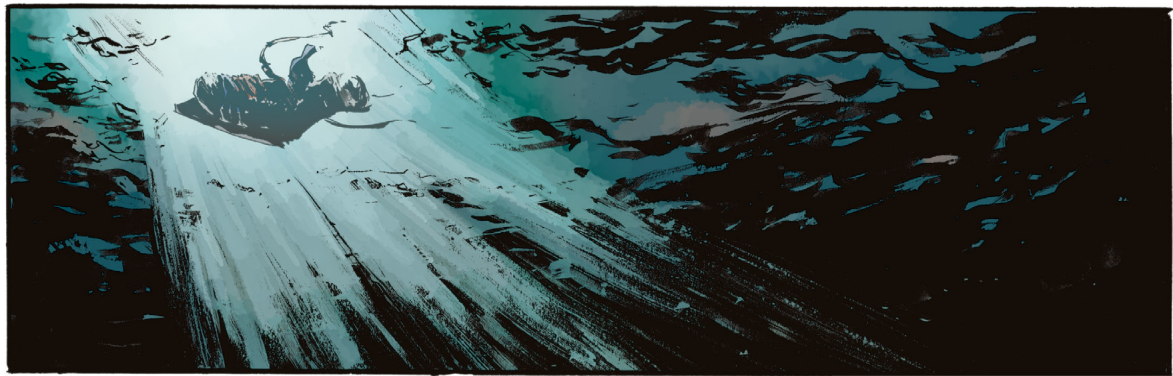
This book collects *Abe Sapien: The Haunted Boy*,
Abe Sapien: The Abyssal Plain #1–#2, and *Abe Sapien: The Devil Does Not Jest* #1–#2.

THE HAUNTED BOY





ART BY
Patric Reynolds





B.P.R.D. HEADQUARTERS,
FAIRFIELD, CT. JUNE 1982.

THANK
YOU FOR
COMING,
ABRAHAM.



I KNOW IT'S BEEN A
BIT SLOW FOR A WHILE--
ESPECIALLY FOR YOU.
BUT THIS JUST CAME
IN, AND I THOUGHT
YOU MIGHT BE
INTERESTED.

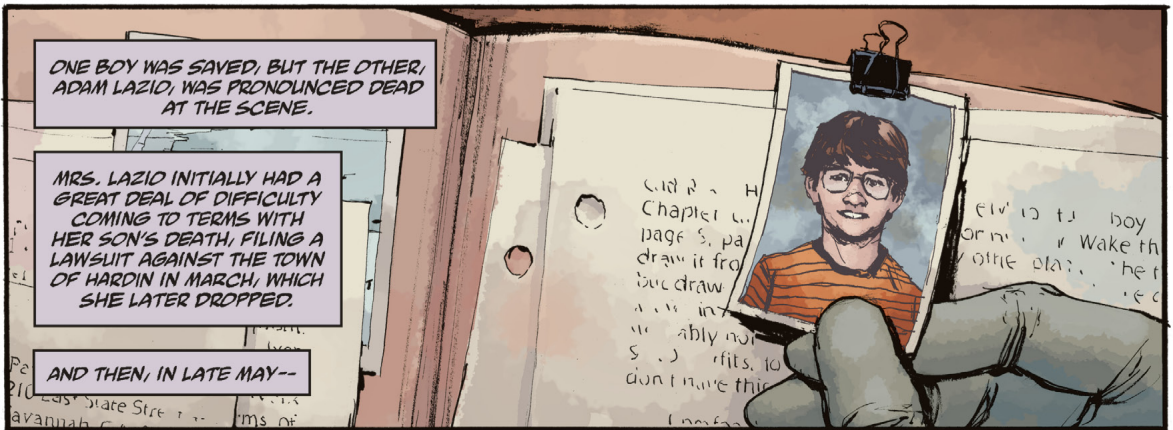


UP TO YOU,
OF COURSE.
LET ME
KNOW.

YES
SIR.



JANUARY 8 OF THIS YEAR,
A STATE TROOPER REPORT
WAS FILED FROM HARDIN, VT.
TWO TEN-YEAR-OLD BOYS
FELL THROUGH THE ICE
OVER A LARGE FROZEN
POND WHILE SKATING.



ONE BOY WAS SAVED, BUT THE OTHER,
ADAM LAZIO, WAS PRONOUNCED DEAD
AT THE SCENE.

MRS. LAZIO INITIALLY HAD A
GREAT DEAL OF DIFFICULTY
COMING TO TERMS WITH
HER SON'S DEATH, FILING A
LAWSUIT AGAINST THE TOWN
OF HARDIN IN MARCH, WHICH
SHE LATER DROPPED.

AND THEN, IN LATE MAY--

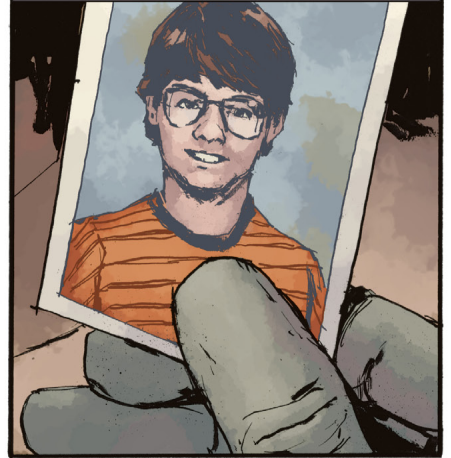
Chapter 1
page 5, pa
draw it fro
but draw
a new int
ably not
S. J. fits, to
don't have this

elvis to boy
orm. Wake th
vome plat. the



THERE HAVE BEEN MULTIPLE SIGHTINGS, SO IT IS UNLIKELY A MANIFESTATION OF MERE EMOTIONAL HYSTERIA ON MRS. LAZIO'S PART.

ANY B.P.R.D. ACTION IS PENDING AGENT ASSESSMENT.



SO?

A SIMPLE HAUNTING. I'M ENCOURAGED BY YOUR FAITH IN ME.



WELL, THEY CAN'T ALL BE LIKE THE BURNING ARMY OF CHIEN-CHI.

THANK GOD FOR THAT, SIR.

ANYWAY, IT'S BETTER THAN SITTING AROUND, DOING NOTHING.

BUT REALLY, WHAT COULD BE DONE? IN A CASE LIKE THIS WHERE THE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE KNOWN, THERE WOULDN'T EVEN BE MUCH DETECTIVE WORK.

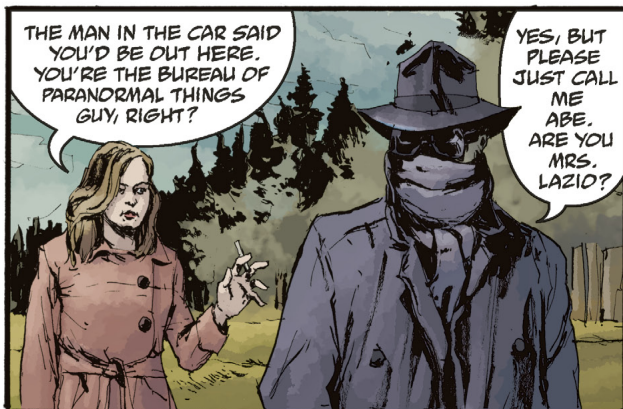
THESE SPIRITS RARELY COMMUNICATE. SHOWING UP IS THE BEST THEY CAN MANAGE.

STILL, I NEEDED ALL THE HOURS OF FIELD EXPERIENCE I COULD GET.



THE MAN IN THE CAR SAID YOU'D BE OUT HERE. YOU'RE THE BUREAU OF PARANORMAL THINGS GUY, RIGHT?

YES, BUT PLEASE JUST CALL ME ABE. ARE YOU MRS. LAZIO?



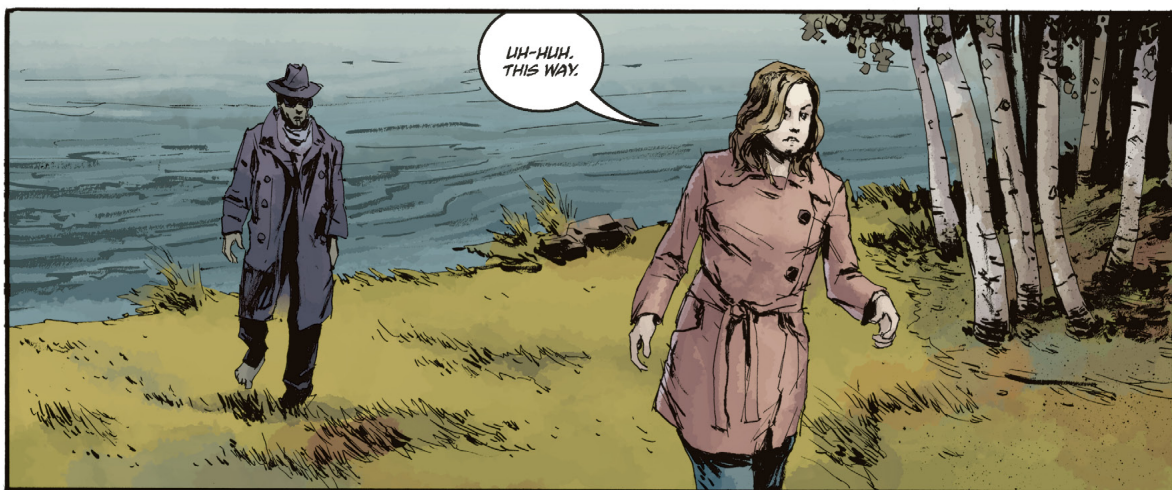
NO. RACHEL STURGES. TINA DOESN'T LIVE IN HARDIN ANYMORE, BUT SHE CAME BACK TODAY FOR YOUR INVESTIGATION.

SHE'S OVER AT MY PLACE, IF YOU WANT TO SEE HER.

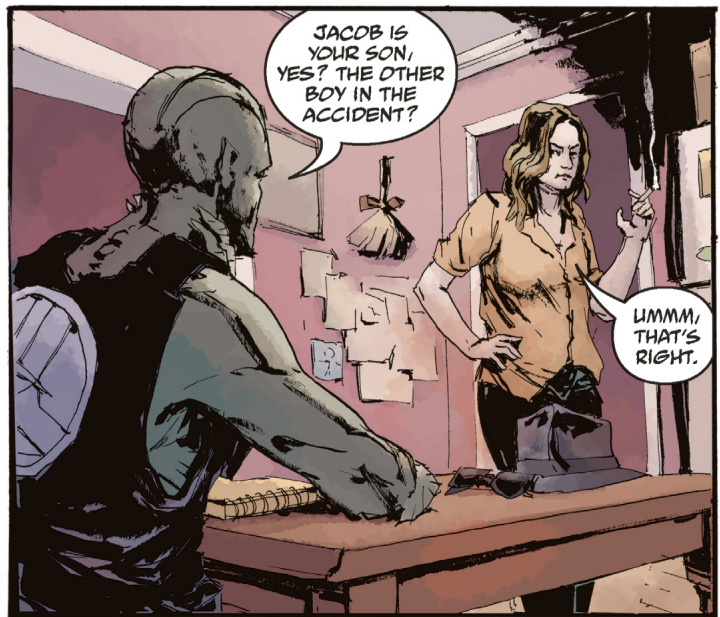
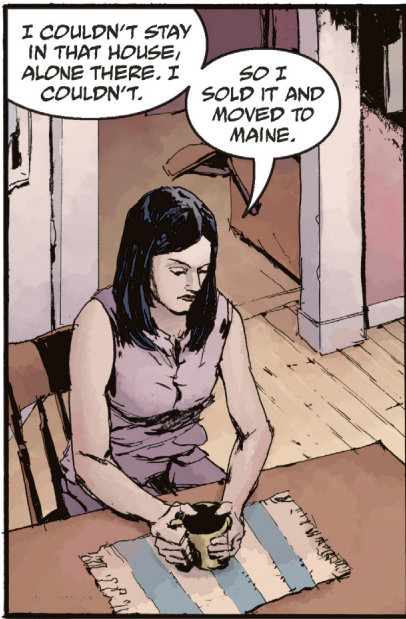


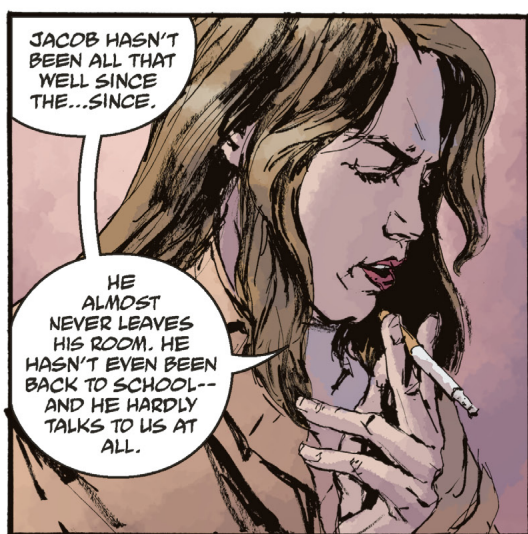
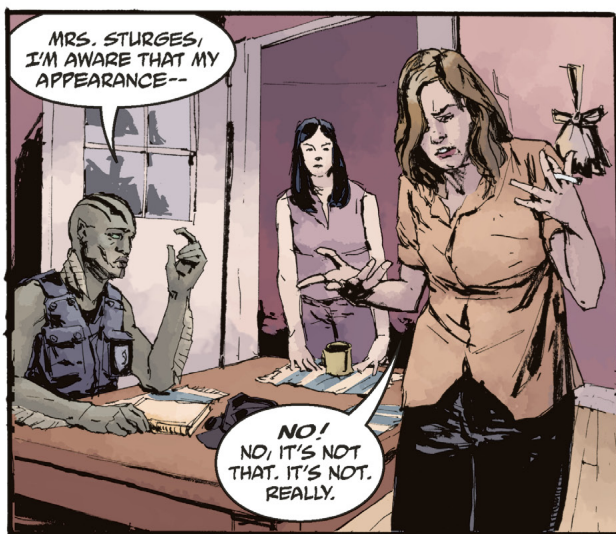
I WOULD, YES.

OH!

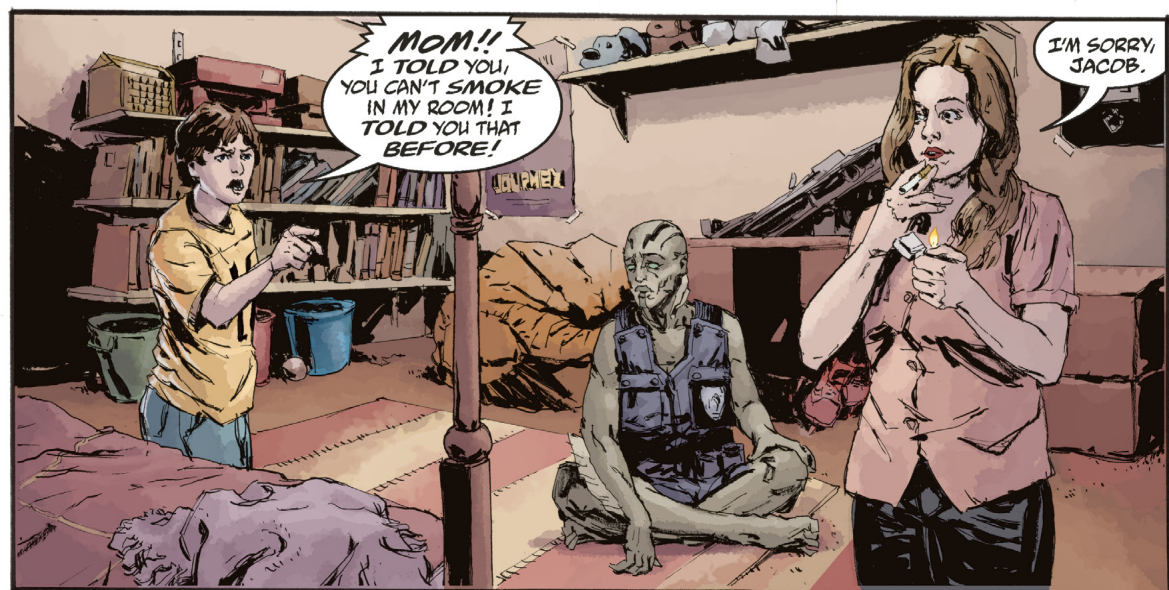


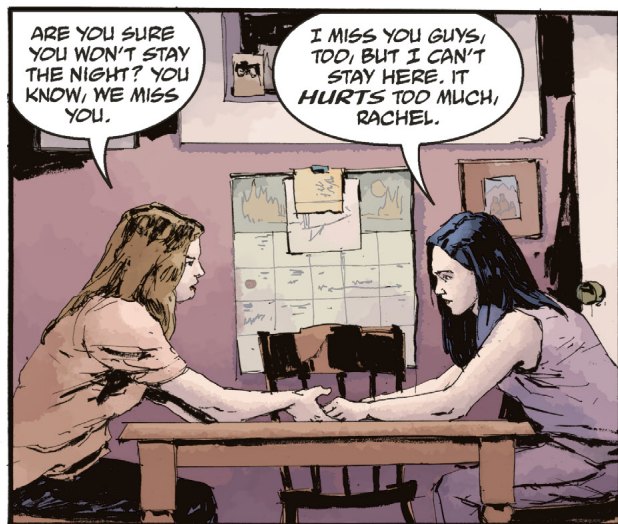
LIH-HUH. THIS WAY.











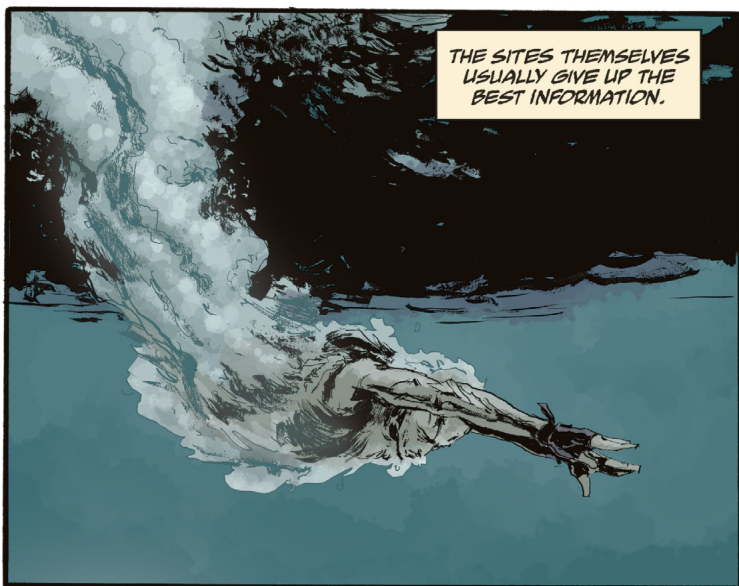


LIKELY I WOULD NEVER HAVE MUCH
OF A FUTURE IN WITNESS INTERVIEWS.



THAT'S OKAY. FIELDWORK, I ALWAYS
FELT, WAS ABOUT THE FIELD.

THE SITES THEMSELVES
USUALLY GIVE UP THE
BEST INFORMATION.



IF ANY.

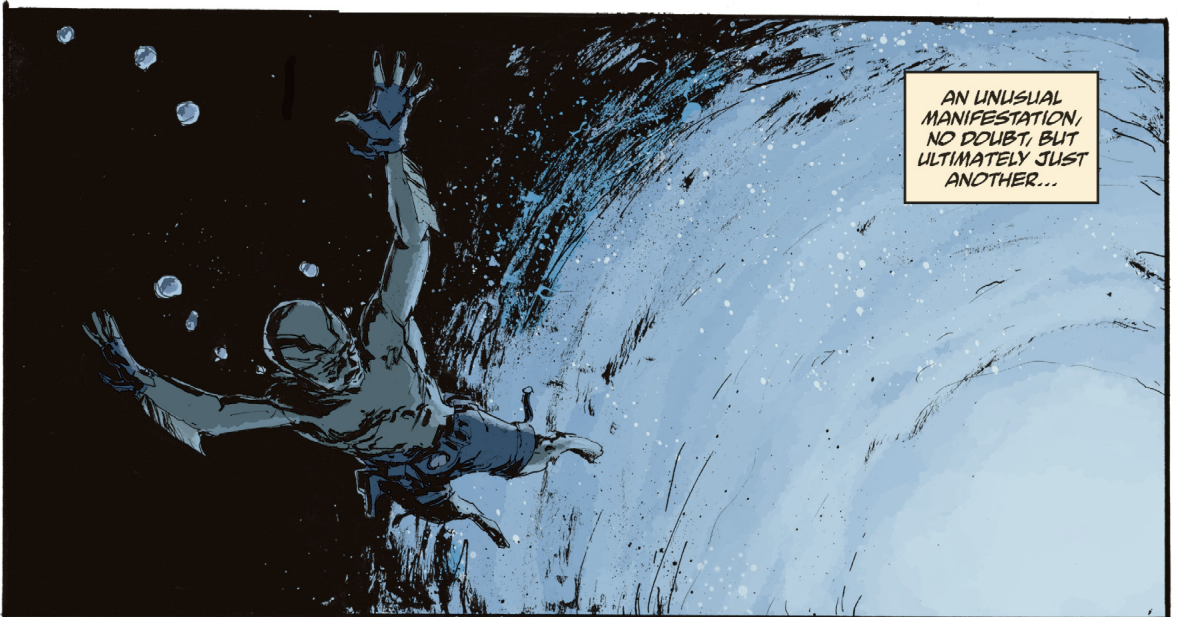
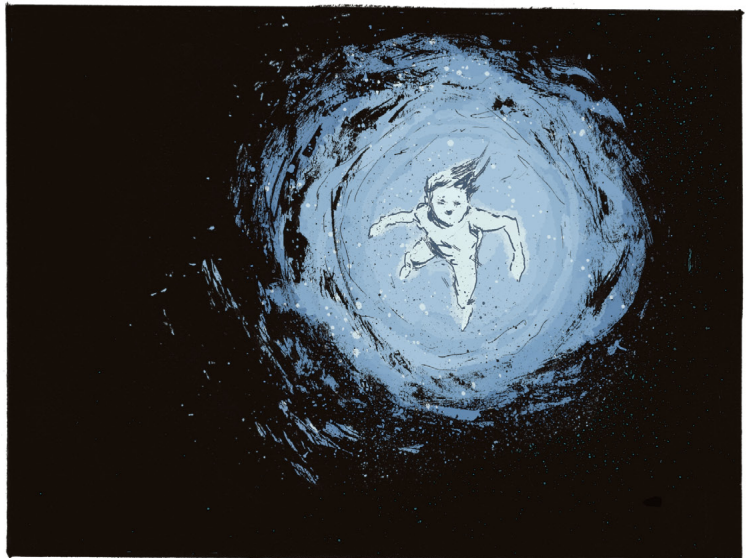
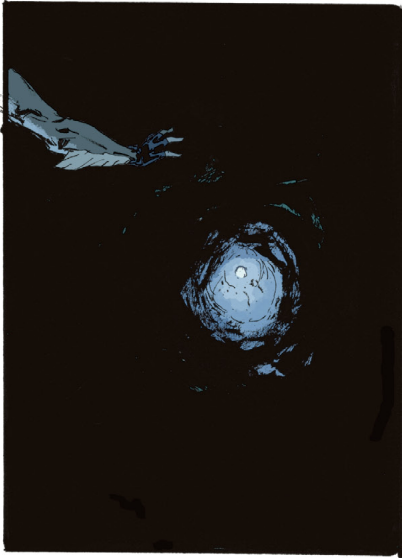




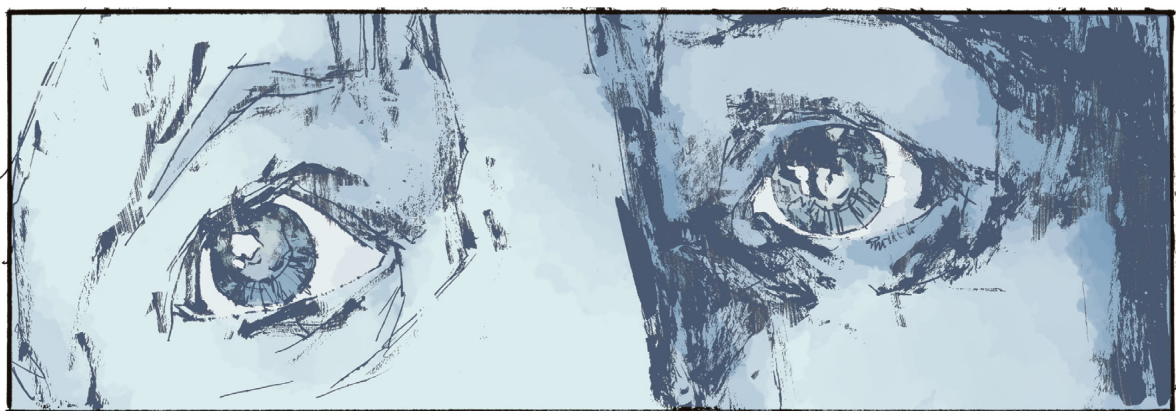
HOW DEEP IS
THIS "POND"?

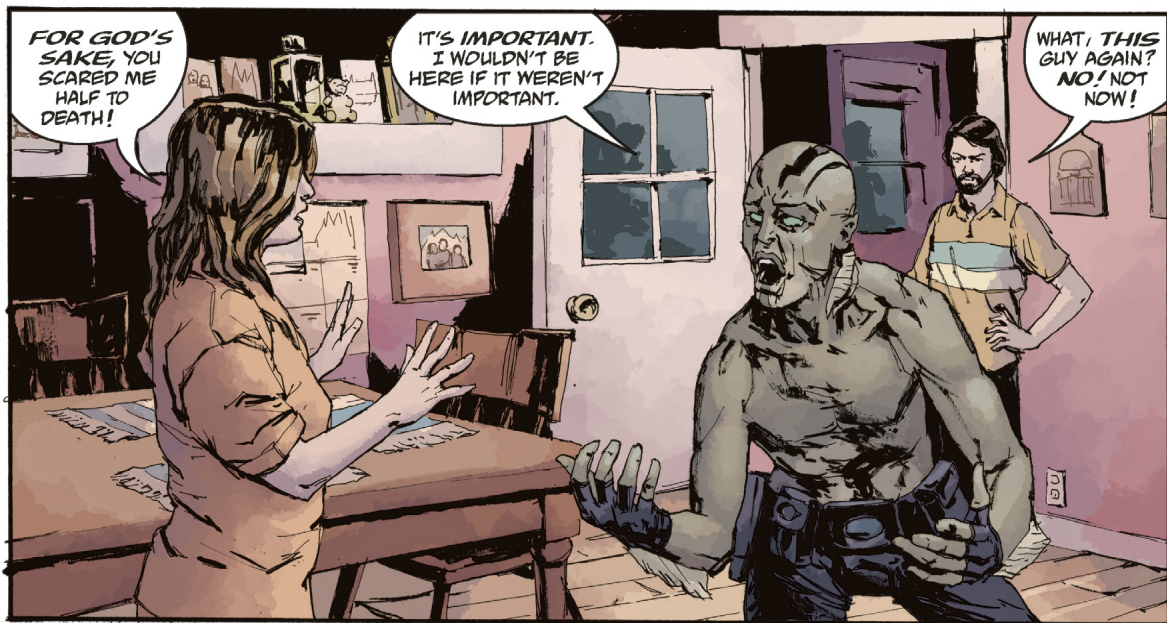
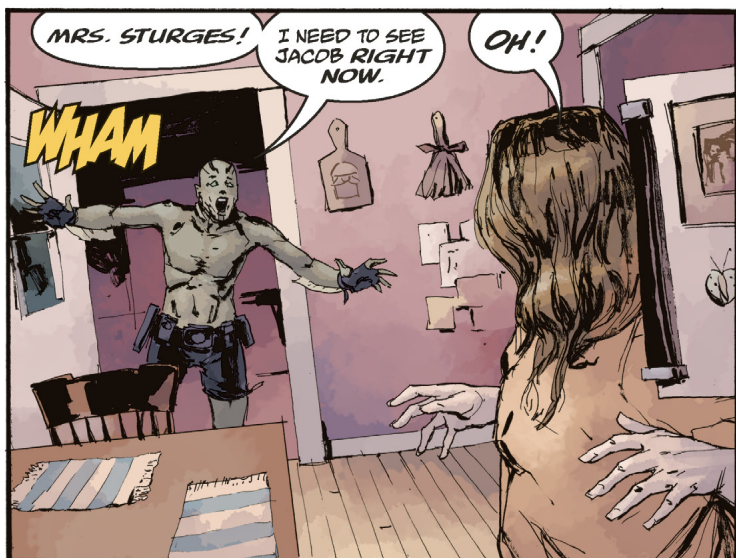


AH! HERE WE ARE.



AN UNUSUAL
MANIFESTATION,
NO DOUBT, BUT
ULTIMATELY JUST
ANOTHER...



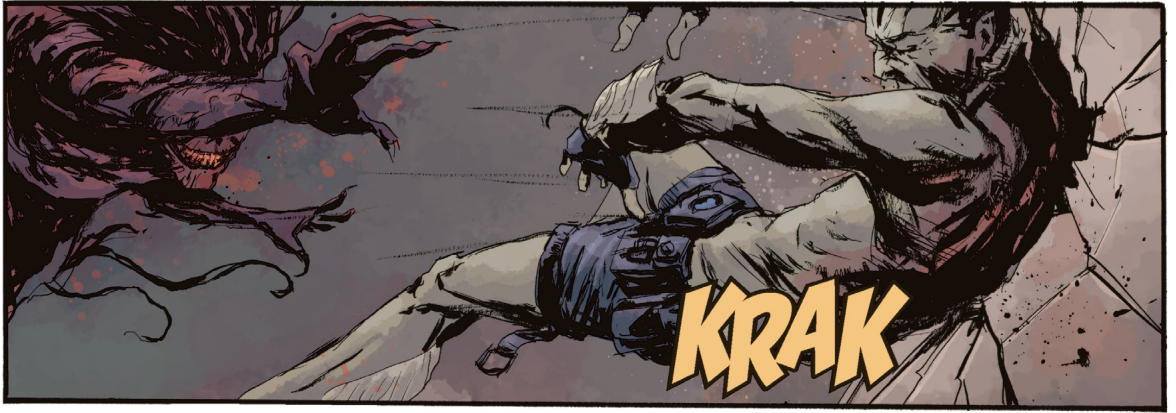
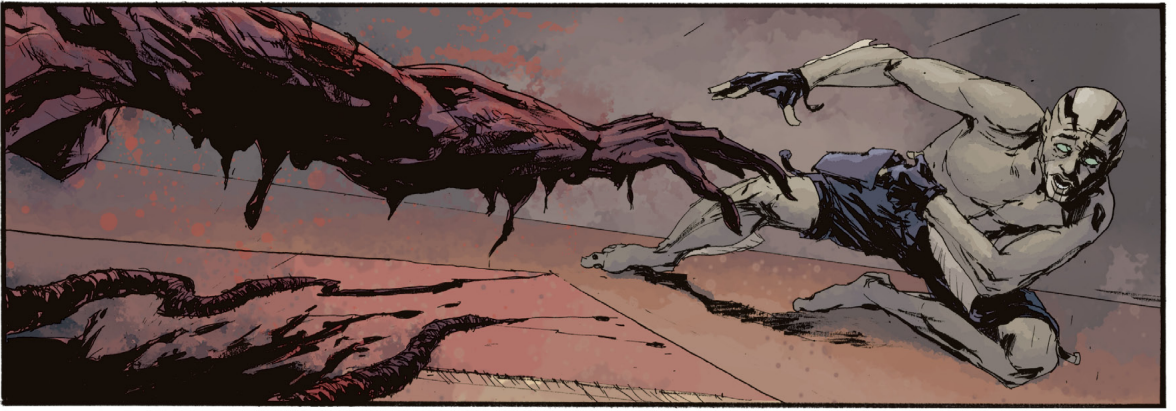














OH,
GOD!



NONONONONO
NONONONO



?



YOU--YOU STAY
AWAY FROM MY
SON!



WHOOSH











HARDIN, VT. GHOST SIGHTING CASE
#060982--FOLLOW-UP REPORT.

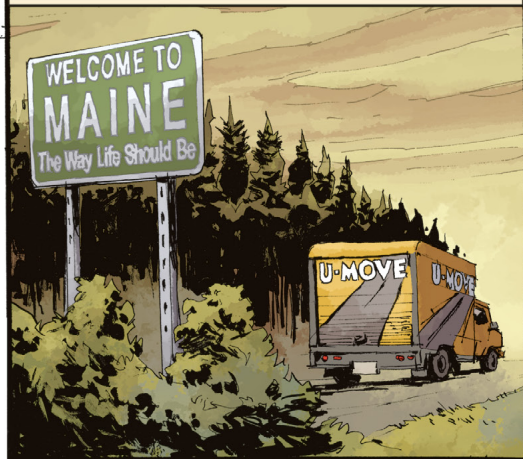
FURTHER INVESTIGATION
SUGGESTS THE APPARITION
WAS THE SPIRIT OF A DROWNED
CHILD HELD CAPTIVE BY A
PROBABLE NOKKEN NEST.

THE NOKKEN DEMON ITSELF
TOOK POSSESSION OF THE
BODY OF TEN-YEAR-OLD
JACOB STURGES, WHO WAS
DROWNED IN THE JANUARY
INCIDENT. IT HAD SINCE
BEEN MASQUERADING AS
HUMAN.

IT WAS, RELATIVELY SPEAKING, VERY FORTUNATE THAT
THE DEMON PROVED HIGHLY VULNERABLE TO FLAME.



IN CONCLUSION, AND ON A PERSONAL NOTE,
INITIALLY I WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT THIS CASE
APPEARED TO BE "JUST" A HAUNTING.



IT'S IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, FOR EVERY
AGENT TO UNDERSTAND THAT THERE
ARE MANY KINDS OF HAUNTINGS.



THE
END

for steve dansie



THE ABYSSAL PLAIN

ASHKINSON



ART BY
Peter Snebjerg



«I suppose what it is that I'm trying to say, Polina, is that you were right. I never should have left.»



«Not that it does either of us a single bit of good now.»



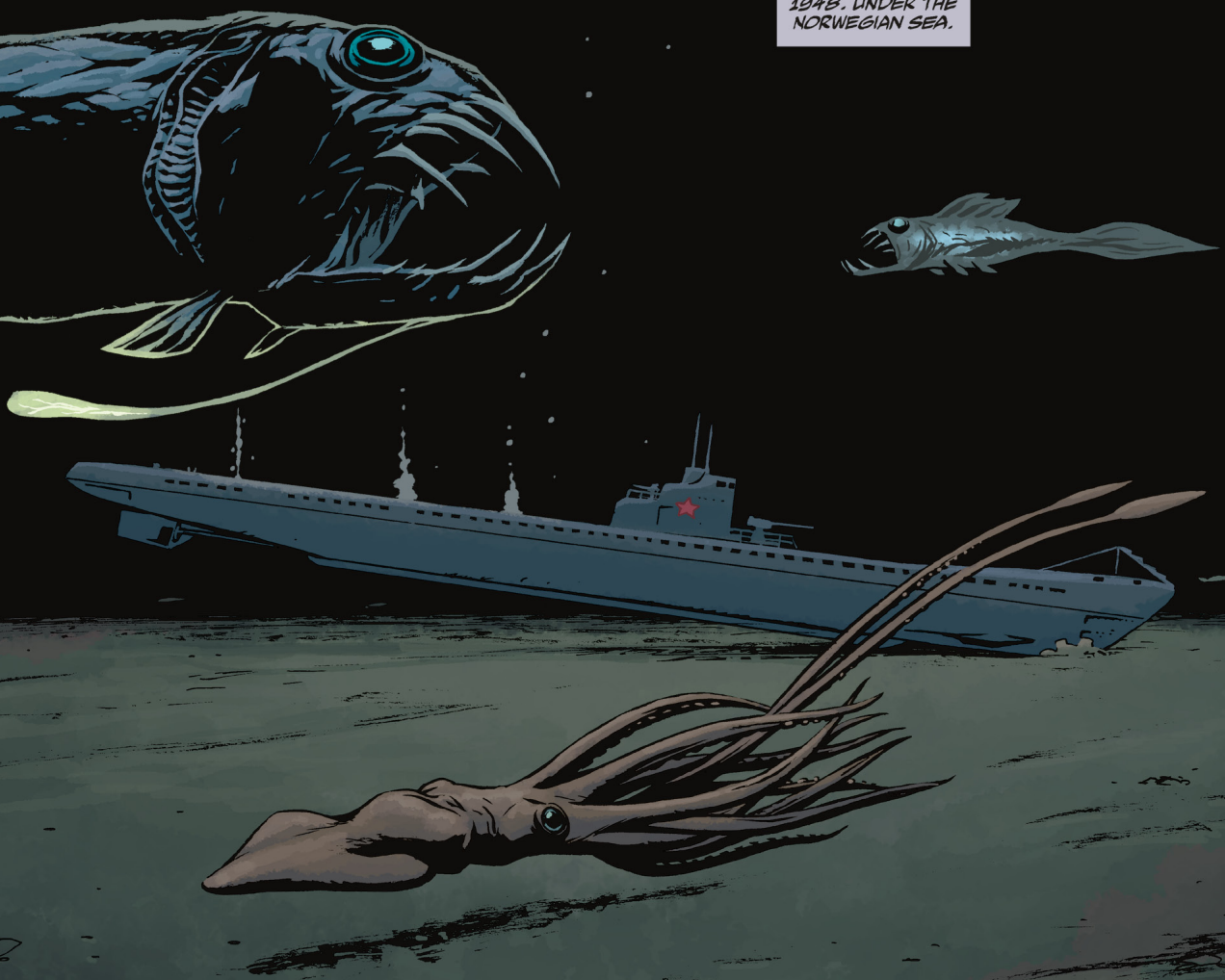
«I just wanted you to know it.»



«Not that you will ever know it.»



1948. UNDER THE
NORWEGIAN SEA.



«So why do I write? Why
do I bother? I am dead. My
oxygen will give out. I can't
stop it. You will never read
this. The water will seep here
into the aft torpedo room and
turn this paper to gruel.»



«This paper,
and me.»

<I think, as long as you are alive, you can't really believe that you're going to die. You know it, but you can't believe it.>



<It's impossible, of course, but I have this desperate hope that someone will come and get the submarine out of here. That's in my heart.>

<As long as the generator stays dry...



...as long as I have light, and oxygen, I believe this fantasy.>

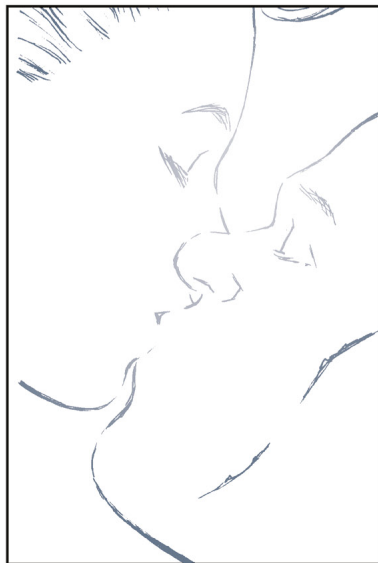


<THE ENGINE ROOM. LORD, THE GENERATOR!>

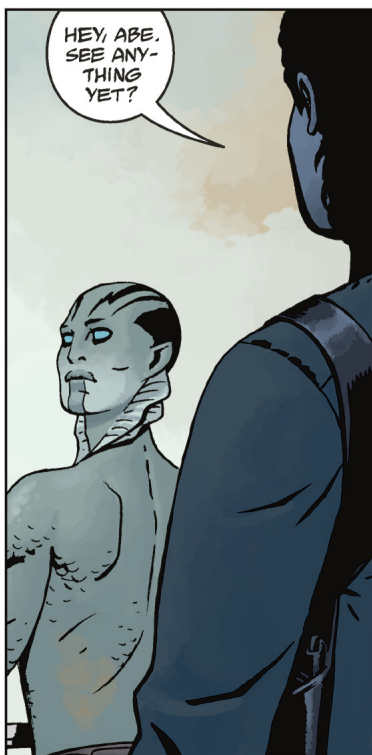


POLINA...





AUGUST 1984.



HEY, ABE.
SEE ANY-
THING
YET?



I DOUBT
I'D SEE
ANYTHING
FROM UP
HERE.

KINDA
DOUBT YOU'LL
SEE IT ANY-
WHERE ELSE,
EITHER.

BEEN ON
THREE DRY
RUNS ON THIS
BOAT. THEY
TELL YOU
THAT?



SKIPPER SPOTS SEA
MONSTERS AND SPOOKS AS
OFTEN AS HE CHANGES
HIS PANTS, AND EVERY
SINGLE ONE TURNS OUT TO
BE SOMETHING ELSE--OR
NOTHING AT ALL. NOTHING
I'VE EVER SEEN.

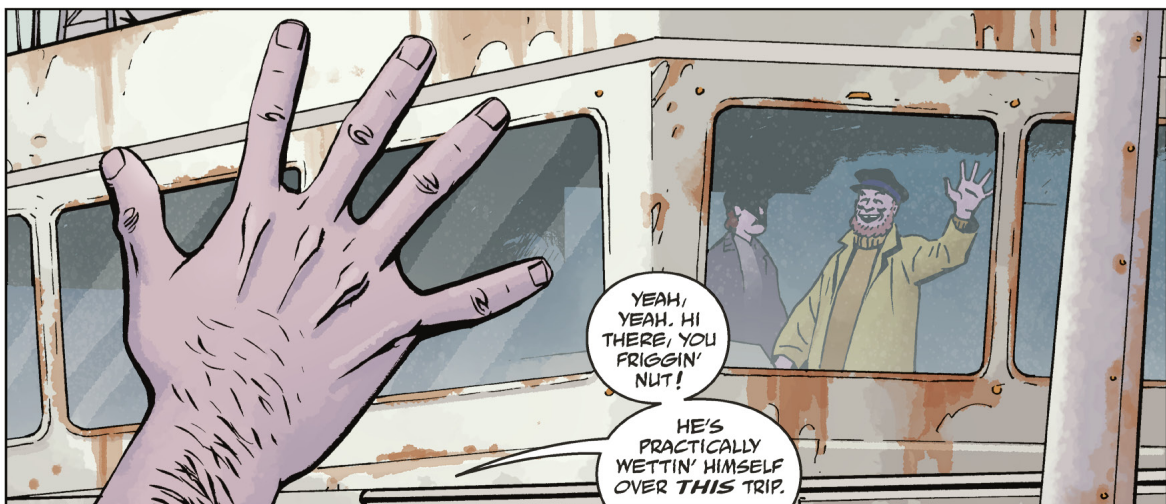


"PARANORMAL!"
YEAH, I GUESS
THERE IS SUCH A
THING, BUT I
DON'T KNOW...



YOU'VE ONLY
BEEN IN THE U.K.
DIVISION A FEW
MONTHS. TRUST
ME, YOU'LL
SEE--

AH, JEEZ!
WOULDJA
LOOK
AT THIS
DOUCHE?



YEAH,
YEAH. HI
THERE, YOU
FRIGGIN'
NUT!

HE'S
PRACTICALLY
WETTIN' HIMSELF
OVER *THIS* TRIP.

GUESS HE KNOWS YOU BEING HERE MEANS SOMETHING. MEANS THE BUREAU REALLY CARES ABOUT THIS--THIS HELMET.

BURGONET.
MELCHIORRE'S
BURGONET.

"UGO MELCHIORRE WAS A CAPTAIN IN POPE CLEMENT VII'S LEAGUE OF COGNAC, FORMED TO DEFEAT THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE.

"HE COMMANDED AN ARMY AT THE BATTLE OF MODENA, WHERE HIS TROOPS WERE HOPELESSLY OUTNUMBERED.

"IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN A CRUSHING DEFEAT, BUT MELCHIORRE'S FEROCITY IN BATTLE INITIATED A MIRACULOUS RALLY.

"MODENA WAS ONE OF VERY FEW VICTORIES FOR THE LEAGUE.

"MELCHIORRE SHOULD HAVE DIED TEN TIMES IN THE FIGHT, BUT HE WALKED OFF THE FIELD OF HIS OWN POWER.

"AS SOON AS THEY REMOVED HIS BURGONET, HIS HEART SUDDENLY STOPPED.



"IN THE YEARS THAT FOLLOWED, THE BURGONET WAS REPORTED TO HEAL THE LAME. IT WAS SECURED BY THE PAPACY IN 1763, AND SOON THEREAFTER, LOST.

"DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR, THE NAZIS SEIZED RELICS FROM EVERY PART OF EUROPE--

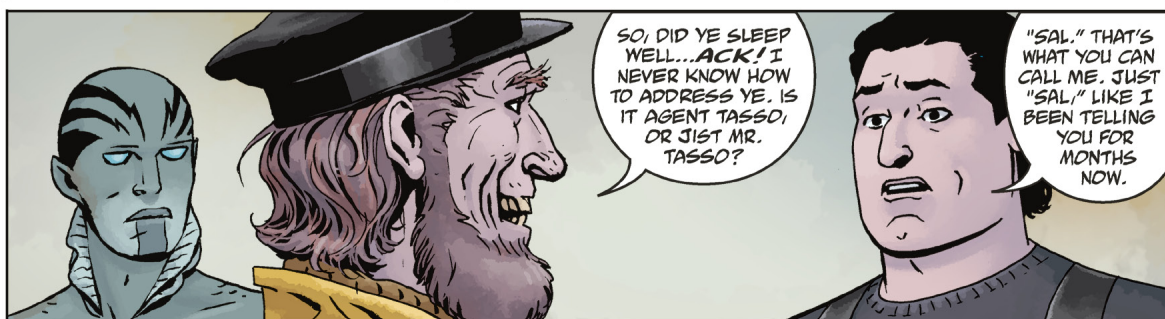


"--MOST OF WHICH FELL INTO THE HANDS OF THE KREMLIN'S SPECIAL SCIENCES SERVICE IN 1946.



"AN EXPATRIOT RUSSIAN MYSTIC IN TÖRSHAVN LEARNED THAT THE BURGONET HAD ONCE AGAIN SURFACED AMONG THE LOOT.

"MOSCOW WAS ASSURED HE COULD REALIZE THE BURGONET'S GREAT POTENTIAL."










NOT
THE
LIVING
DEAD.

JUST
DEAD.

I'M NOT DISAPPOINTED. I'D RATHER
NOT FIGHT ANY ZOMBIES DOWN HERE.



STILL, WHEN YOU ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF
SOMETHING LIKE THAT, YOU FEEL A LOT
LIKE A SOLDIER WITH A GOOD CAUSE.



BUT THAT'S
NOT WHAT
THIS IS.

SO TODAY
I FEEL LIKE--

--AN INTRUDER,
I SUPPOSE.

NO,
WORSE
THAN THAT.



IT'S A
MAUSOLEUM.



CLICK

A GHOUL.



MAN, HE'S BEEN DOWN THERE A LONG TIME.

AND IF HE NEEDED A TANK, WE'D HAVE SOMETHING TO WORRY ABOUT, WOULDN'T WE?



LOOK HERE, UNLESS WHAT YE WANT IS RIGHT THERE IN THE CONTROL ROOM, YER FRIEND, HE'LL BE SEARCHIN' THE WHOLE BOAT.

AND I MEAN THE WHOLE BOAT. FROM THE FORE TORPEDO ROOM, ALL THE WAY TO THE AFT. PROBABLY NEED TO CUT OPEN A FEW HATCHES ALONG THE WAY.



IT TAKES TIME. IT TAKES SOME TIME.

WELL, AS LONG AS I GOT YOU TO KEEP ME COMPANY...





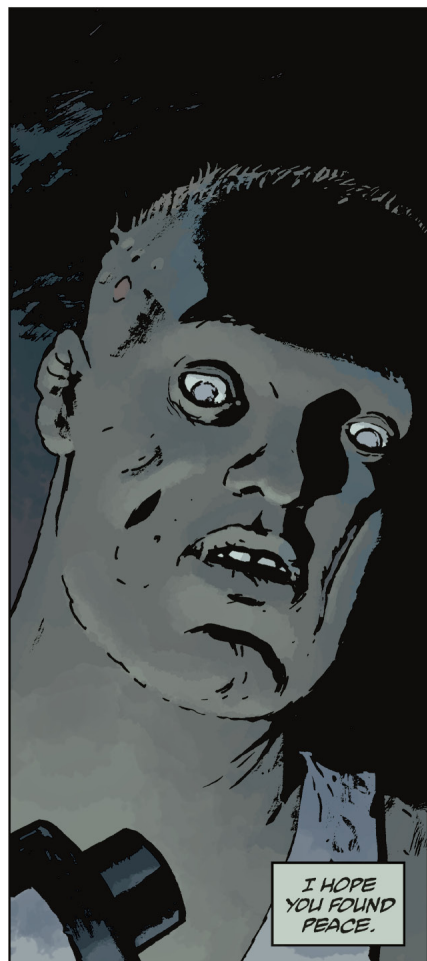
I'M SORRY. YOU HAD A JOB, I KNOW. THAT'S WHY YOU WERE BACK HERE, LOCKED AWAY WITH THIS CRATE.

IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN COMFORTABLE, AND LOOK WHERE IT GOT YOU.



I DON'T ALWAYS LIKE MY JOB EITHER.

ANYWAY, I HOPE YOU DIDN'T SUFFER TOO MUCH.



I HOPE YOU FOUND PEACE.





IT'S WEIRD
LOOKING, NO
DOUBT.



BUT MAGIC?
REALLY THINK
SO?

HITLER DID. THE
RUSSIANS TOO,
OBVIOUSLY.



HITLER,
HUH? WASN'T
HE WRONG
ABOUT MOST
THINGS?

AND I
CAN'T SAY I'M
REAL BIG ON
THE RUSSKIES,
EITHER.



I'LL RESERVE MY
JUDGMENT UNTIL I
GET IT TO O'DONNELL
AT HEAD-
QUARTERS.

HEY, THINK
I COULD
SCORE A
TRIP BACK
WITH YOU? SIX
MONTHS OF
SMELLING HAGGIS,
I COULD USE--



WHAT
THE HELL
IS HE
DOING?!





ALL
RIGHT, ADAM.
HOW'RE YE
FIXED IN
THERE?

BIT WARM,
CAP'N, BUT
OTHERWISE,
COULDN'T BE
BETTER.



CAPTAIN SULLIVAN,
I TOLD YOU I
WANTED TO GET
UNDERWAY.

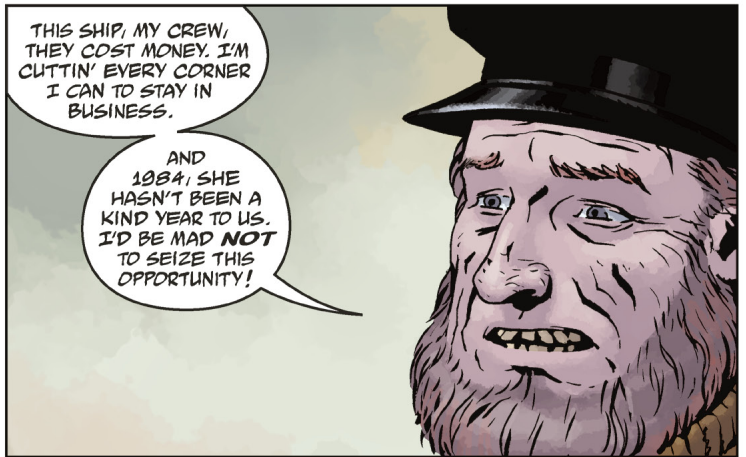
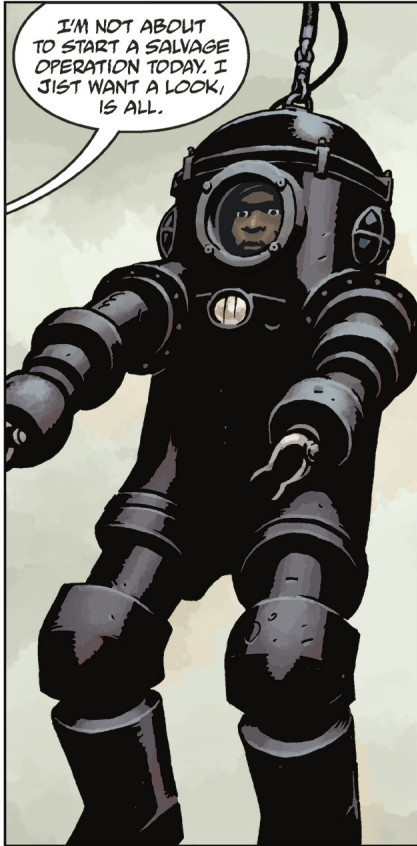
AND WE'LL BE DOING
THAT IN TWO SHAKES,
BUT SINCE YE ALREADY
DID THE HARD WORK, I
THOUGHT WE'D JUST
HAVE A LOOK.

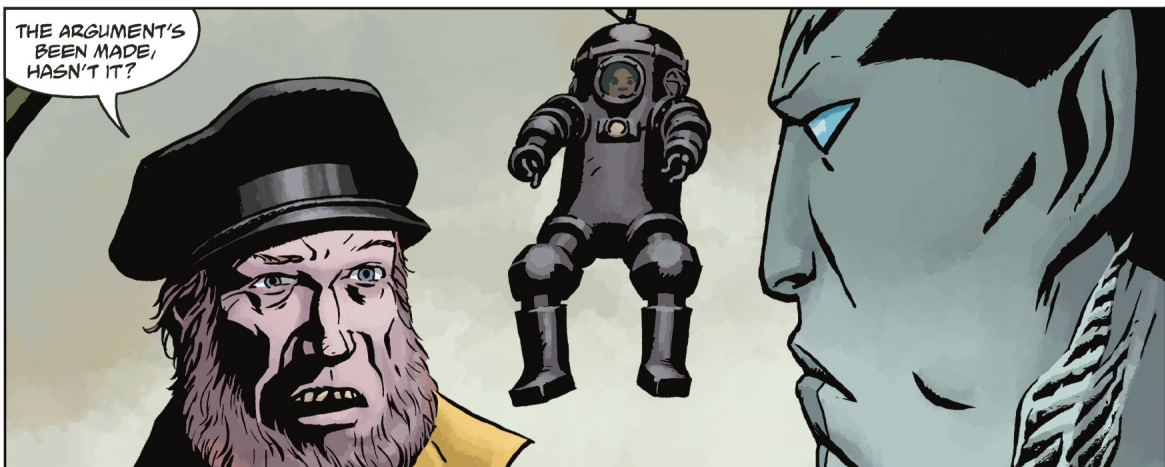


SEE IF THERE'S
ANYTHING WORTH
COMIN' BACK
FER.

BACK FOR
WHAT?

WELL NOW, SOME
FOLKS OUT THERE,
THEY'D PAY FER A
DECENT ARTIFACT
OR TWO.





THE ARGUMENT'S
BEEN MADE,
HASN'T IT?



THE
BUREAU
WANTS TO USE
MY SERVICES?
ALL RIGHT
THEN.



SO LET ME DO
FER ME EXACTLY
WHAT IT IS THAT
THEY DO FOR
THEM ALL THE
TIME.

CAPTAIN,
IT *ISN'T* THE
SAME THING
AT ALL!



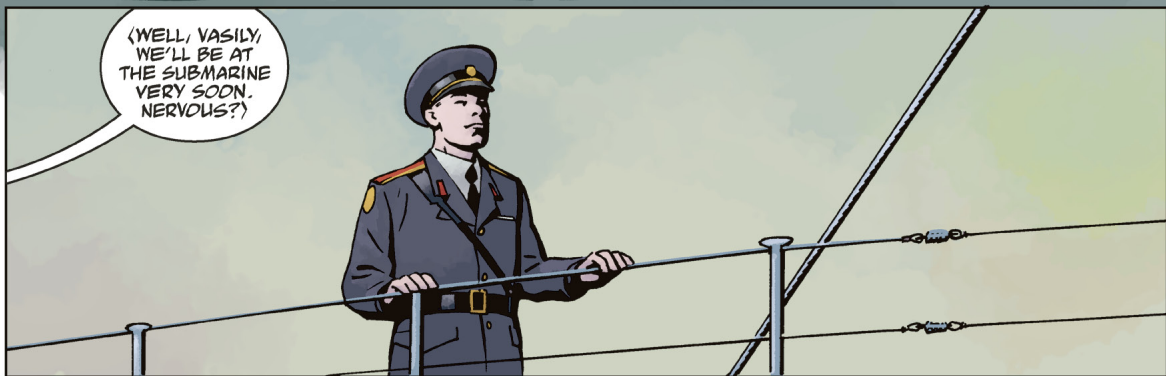
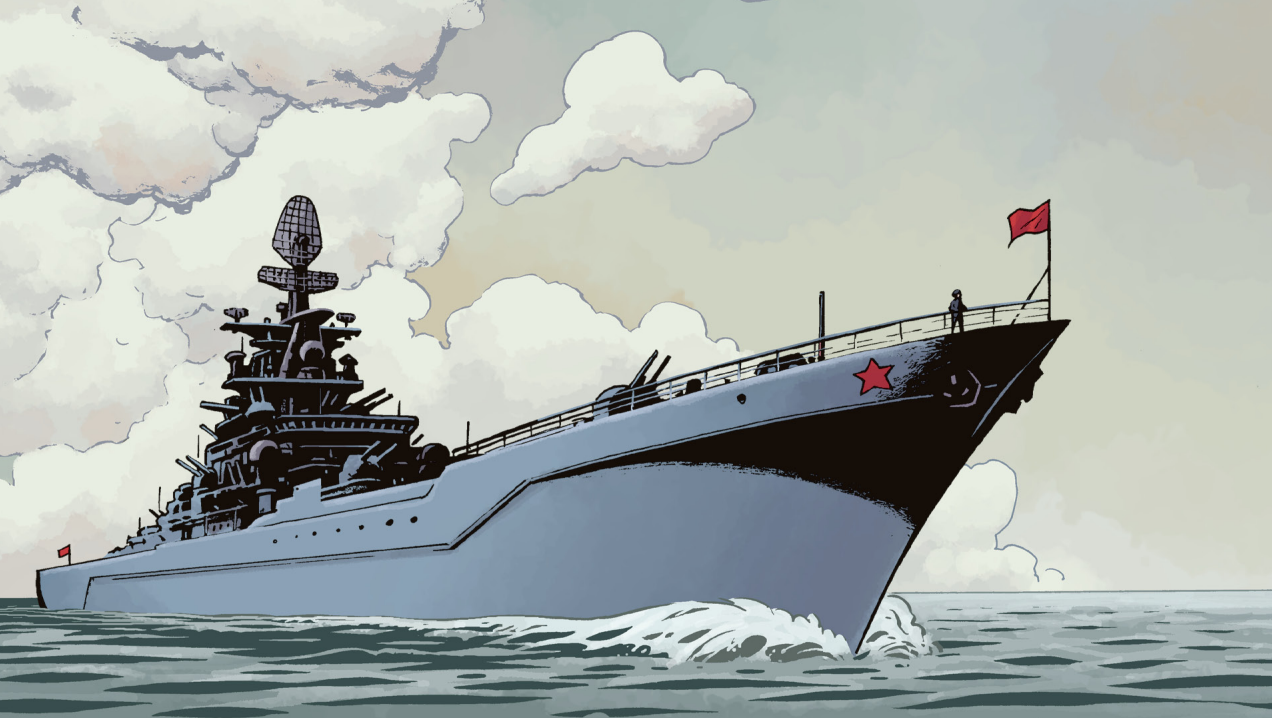
LOOK! LOOK!
BEHIND YOU!
LOOK!

FINE,
LAD. YOU
EXPLAIN THE
DIFFERENCE
T'ME.



BEHIND YOU!!
DAMMIT, LOOK
BEHIND YOU!!!
LOOK!!







NO, SAL!

HOLY CHRIST!

GET BACK, EVERY-BODY!

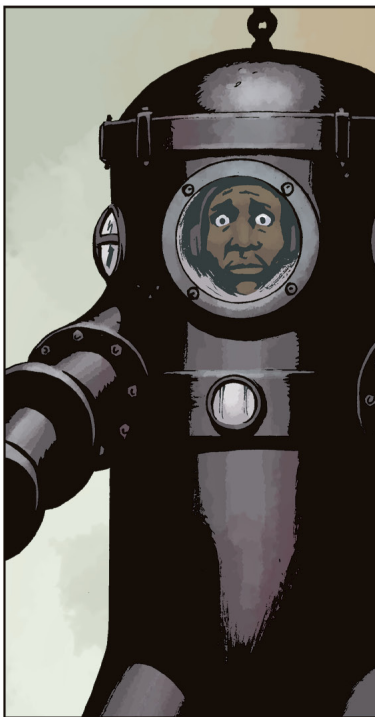
GOD DAMN ZOMBIE!

BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!











(LET'S MOVE IT!)

(YOU PEOPLE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE COMBAT READY!)

(SEEMS A BIT OF AN ESCALATED RESPONSE TO A SMALL SHIP SPOTTED IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS.)

(INTERNATIONAL WATERS OVER OUR SUBMARINE.)



(THE THING IS, THIS IS ONE DRAWBACK OF MILITARY ESCORTS.)

(THE COMMANDERS ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR EXCUSES TO PUT THEIR MEN THROUGH MANEUVERS.)



(IT COULD BE WORSE, I SUPPOSE.)

(WE'LL ARRIVE SOON ENOUGH. DON'T SQUANDER THE MINUTES WITH IMPATIENCE.)



(AN EASY THING TO SAY, DR. BORZOV, BUT IT'S AS I TOLD YOU...)

(...I EXPECT TO BE ENGAGED.)



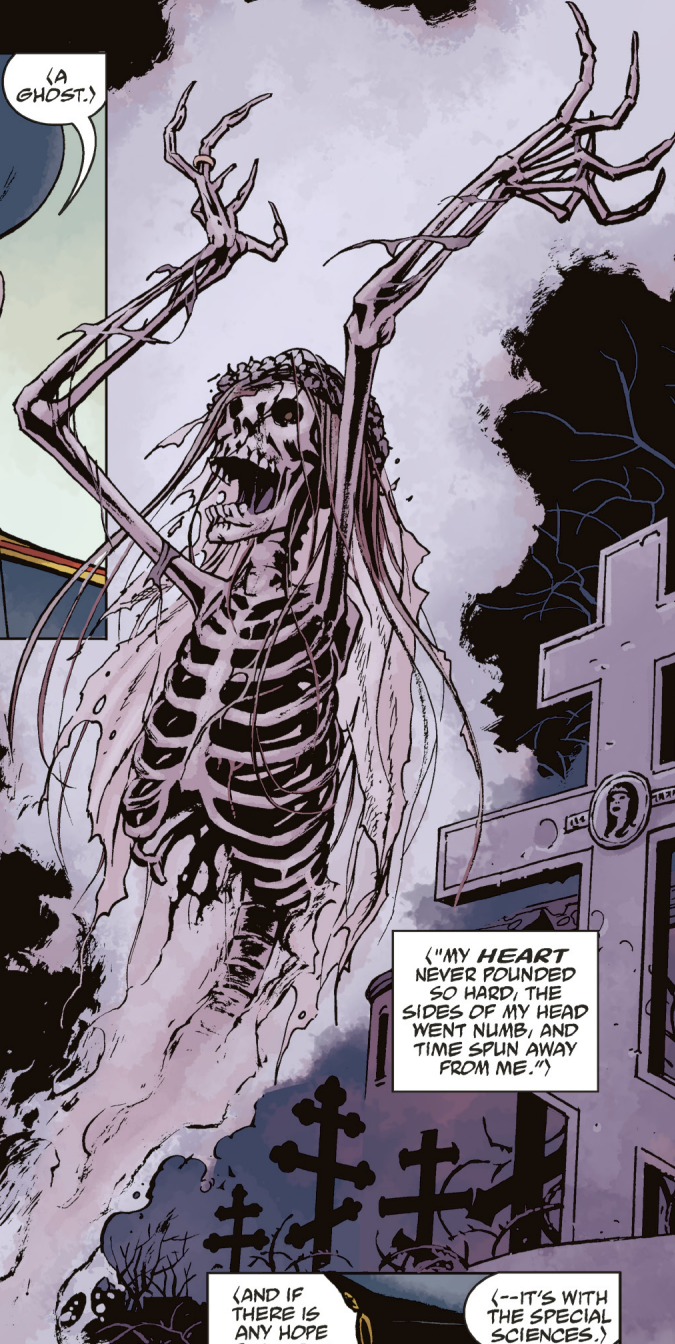
<VASILY, THEY TELL ME YOU **VOLUNTEERED** FOR THE SPECIAL SCIENCES SERVICE. WE RECRUIT MOST OF OUR AGENTS FROM THE MAIN INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE, AND EVEN THEN WE HAVE TO BRIBE THEM, BUT **YOU** VOLUNTEERED.>

<WHY?>



<A GHOST.>

<"I WAS TEN YEARS OLD AND I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN WHERE I WAS.">



<"MY **HEART** NEVER POUNDED SO HARD, THE SIDES OF MY HEAD WENT NUMB, AND TIME SPUN AWAY FROM ME.">



<MUST HAVE BEEN TERRIFYING FOR A BOY OF THAT AGE.>

<OH, YES.>



<(AND IF THERE IS ANY HOPE FOR ME TO RECAPTURE THAT FEELING--)>

<--IT'S WITH THE SPECIAL SCIENCES.>



BUT HE'S **NOT** ROAMING THE SHIP. **THIS** IS WHERE HE WANTS TO GO.



YOU'RE IN THE BUREAU FOR PARANORMAL **RESEARCH** AND DEFENSE. **RESEARCH** IS IMPORTANT, TOO.

WHAT?



LISTEN TO ME. HE WAS DOWN THERE IN THE SUB, LOCKED IN THE SAME CABIN WHERE I FOUND THE BURGONET, ALL BY HIMSELF.

JUST AS DEAD AS ANY OF THE OTHERS--AND YET **HERE** HE IS.



RIGHT, RIGHT. I GET IT. THIS IS WHY WE CAME FOR THE HELMET IN THE FIRST PLACE. SUPERNATURAL POWERS.

...MAYBE.



IT SOMEHOW BROUGHT THAT **THING** BACK TO LIFE. THREE DECADES ALONE WITH IT, ALL THAT EXPOSURE TO ITS **HOLY RAYS**, OR WHATEVER.







NO.
I DON'T
THINK THAT'S
IT AT
ALL.

YE **DON'T**,
EH? WELL I'D
SAY THE FACTS
DISAGREE WITH
YOU-- **THAT**
FACT IN
PARTICULAR.



THERE'S A BIGGER
PICTURE HERE--OR
MAYBE A **SMALLER**
ONE. IF YOU'LL JUST
GIVE ME A FEW
MINUTES--

I'M SURE A
FEW MINUTES
WOULD BE
GRAND FOR
YA, BUT IT'S
LIKE I SAID.
THIS IS **MY**
BOAT--



DAMMIT,
CAPTAIN!!
ARE YOU **REALLY**
GOING TO MAKE ME
SAY THIS?!

YOU'RE
UNDER **CONTRACT**
WITH THE **UNITED**
STATES FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT! DO
YOU **KNOW** WHAT THAT
MEANS?



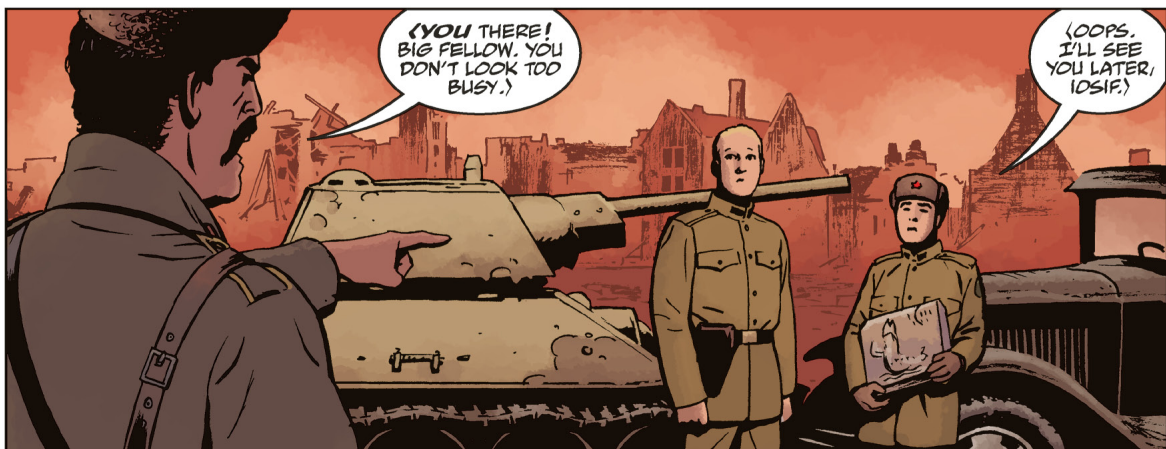
IT MEANS
I'VE HEARD
ENOUGH
ABOUT HOW THIS
IS **YOUR**
BOAT!

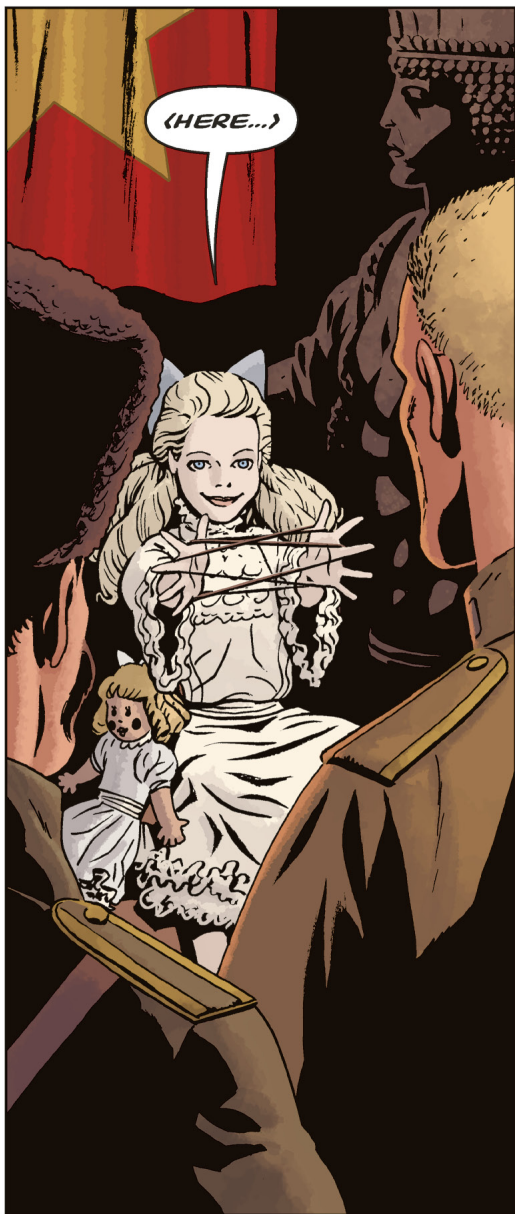
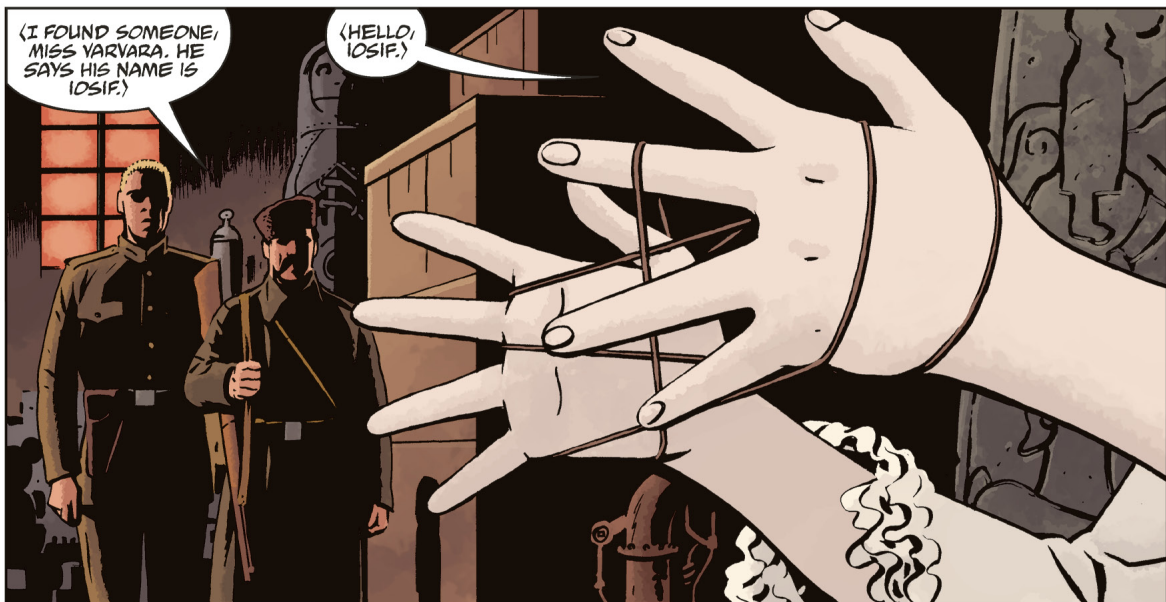


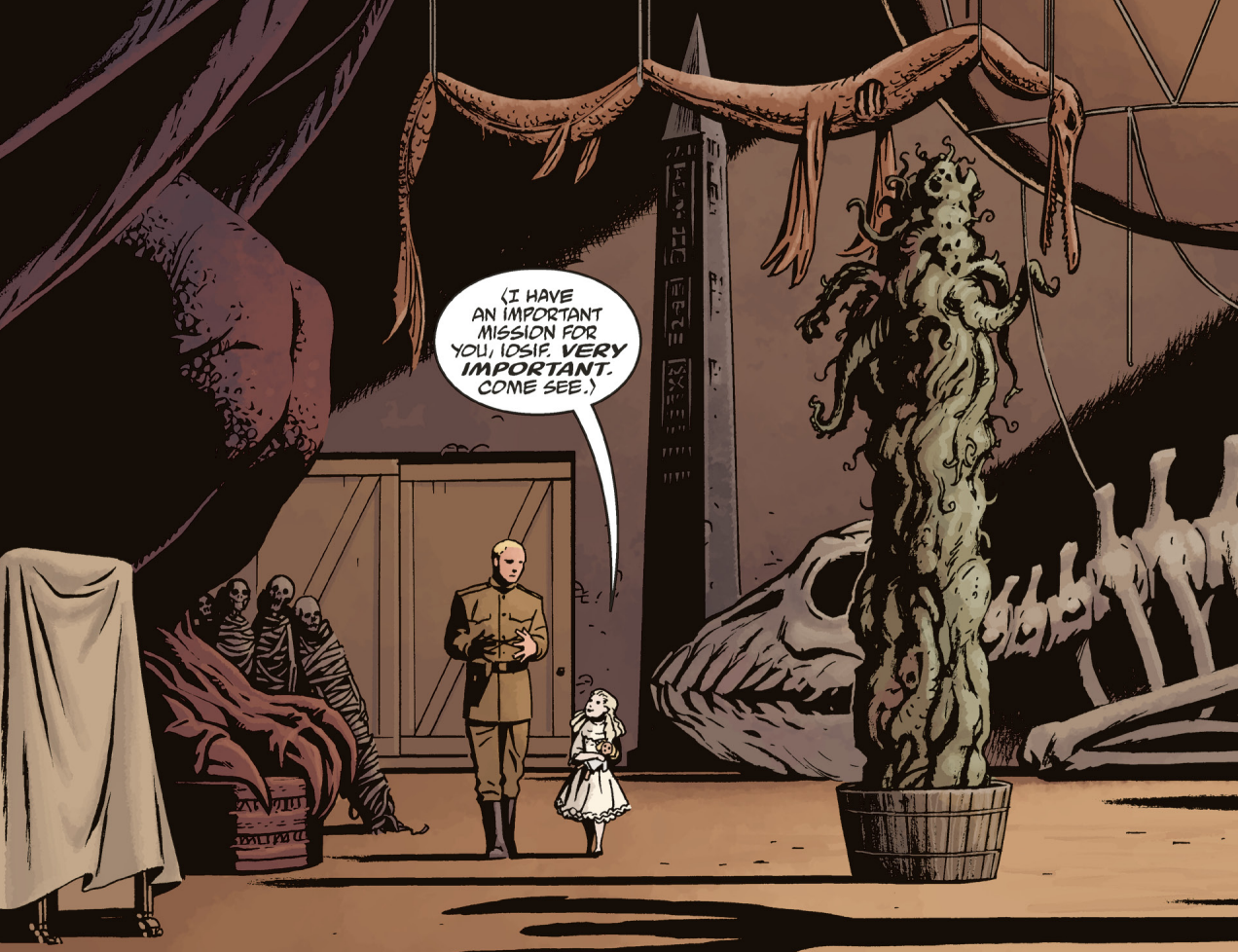
CAPTAIN,
WE JUST
GOT A HAIL
FROM A NAVY
CRUISER.



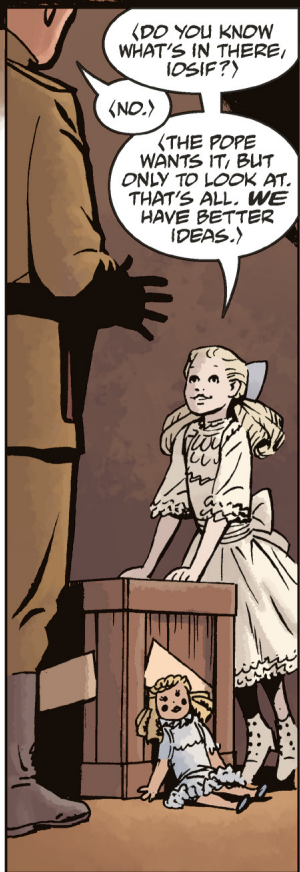
SOVIET
NAVY.







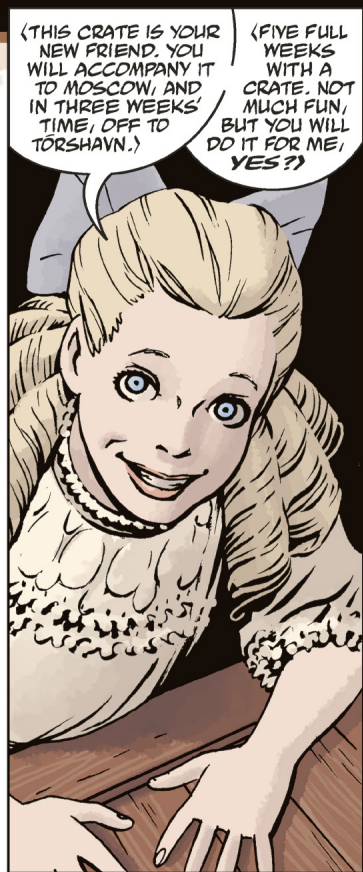
⟨I HAVE AN IMPORTANT MISSION FOR YOU, IOSIF. VERY IMPORTANT. COME SEE.⟩



⟨DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S IN THERE, IOSIF?⟩

⟨NO.⟩

⟨THE POPE WANTS IT, BUT ONLY TO LOOK AT. THAT'S ALL. WE HAVE BETTER IDEAS.⟩



⟨THIS CRATE IS YOUR NEW FRIEND. YOU WILL ACCOMPANY IT TO MOSCOW, AND IN THREE WEEKS' TIME, OFF TO TORSHAVN.⟩

⟨FIVE FULL WEEKS WITH A CRATE. NOT MUCH FUN, BUT YOU WILL DO IT FOR ME, YES??⟩

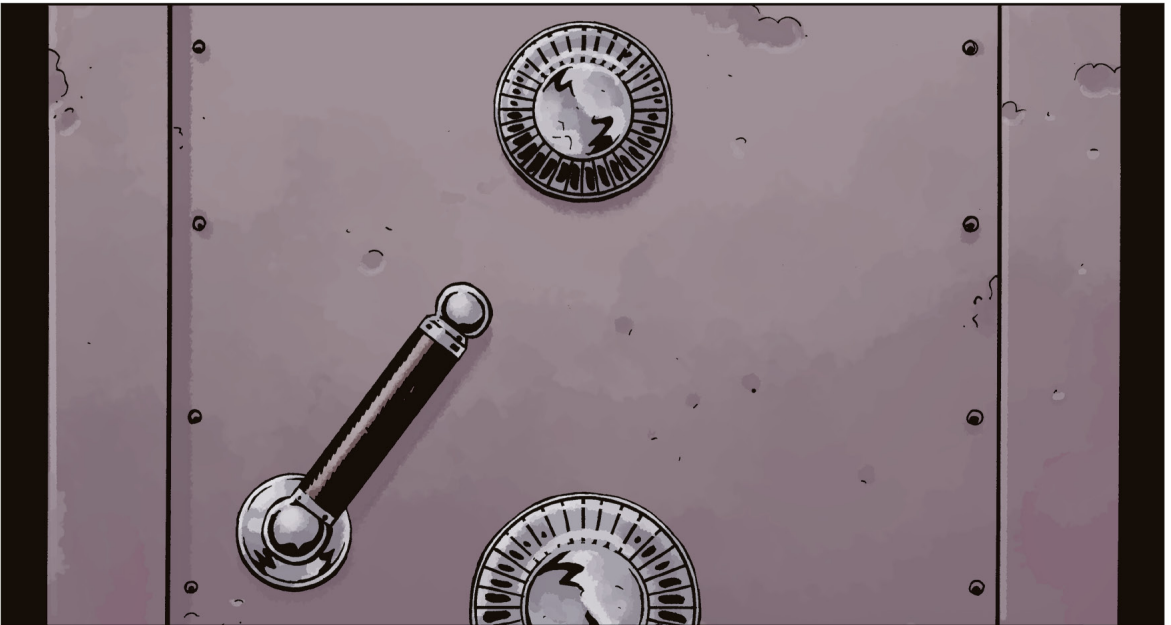
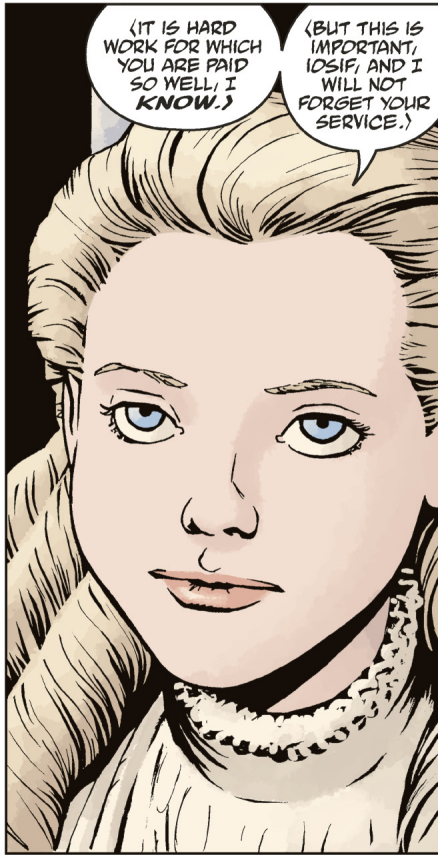


⟨FIVE WEEKS? BUT I HAVE A WEEKEND PASS NEXT MONTH. IT'S A SPECIAL OCCASION.⟩



⟨AH, YES, YOUR WIFE POLINA'S BIRTHDAY.⟩

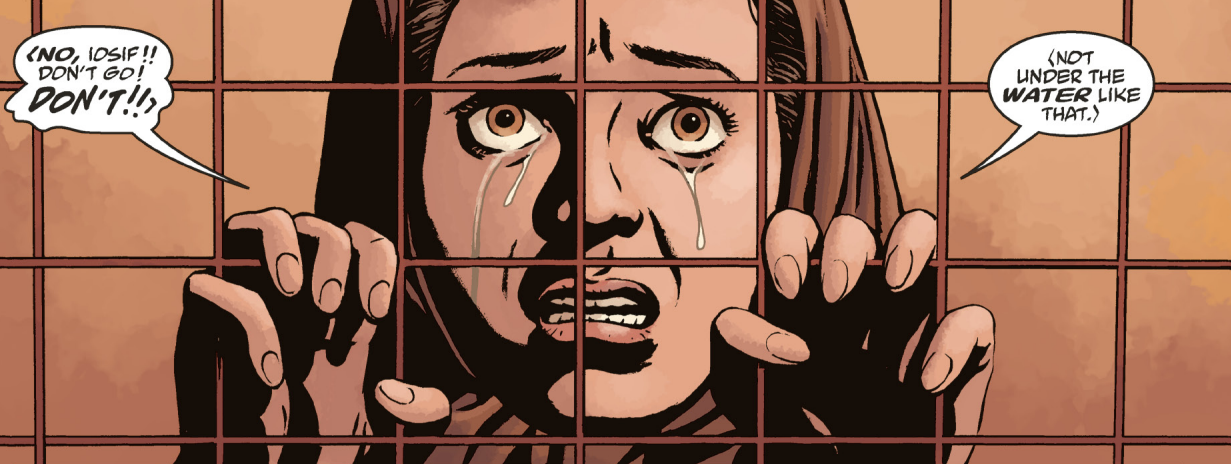
⟨DON'T WORRY. SHE CAN CELEBRATE WITH HER FATHER AND BROTHERS. I WILL SEND A BOX OF CHUCKELLA.⟩











(NO, IOSIF!!
DON'T GO!
DON'T!!)

(NOT
UNDER THE
WATER LIKE
THAT.)



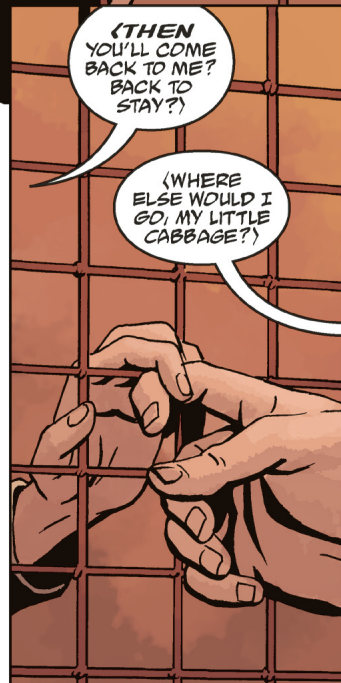
(IT'S NOT SO
DANGEROUS,
POLINA. ANYWAY,
I **HAVE** TO
GO. IT'S MY
DUTY.)

(YOU
AREN'T IN THE
ARMY ANYMORE.
YOUR ONLY DUTY
IS TO **ME**.
THAT'S WHY YOU
CALLED, ISN'T
IT?)



(I HAD TO TELL
YOU I WAS LEAVING,
OF COURSE, BUT I
ALSO SAID I
WOULD DO THIS
THING.)

(THEY
TOLD ME IT'S
IMPORTANT, AND
I SAID I WOULD
DO IT, AND SO
I MUST.)



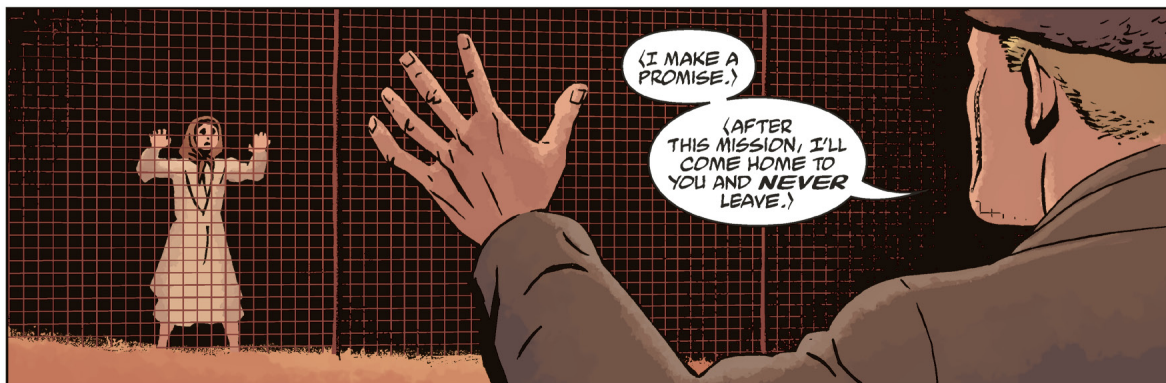
(**THEN**
YOU'LL COME
BACK TO ME?
BACK TO
STAY?)

(WHERE
ELSE WOULD I
GO, MY LITTLE
CABBAGE?)



(I MUST GET
BACK TO THE
BARRACKS OR
THEY WILL MISS
ME.)

(MAKE ME
A **PROMISE**
OF IT, IOSIF!!)



(I MAKE A
PROMISE.)

(AFTER
THIS MISSION, I'LL
COME HOME TO
YOU AND **NEVER**
LEAVE.)



I GOTTA SAY,
I FEEL KINDA
SORRY FOR
HIM.

YOU
HELD A VERY
DIFFERENT
OPINION THIS
MORNING.



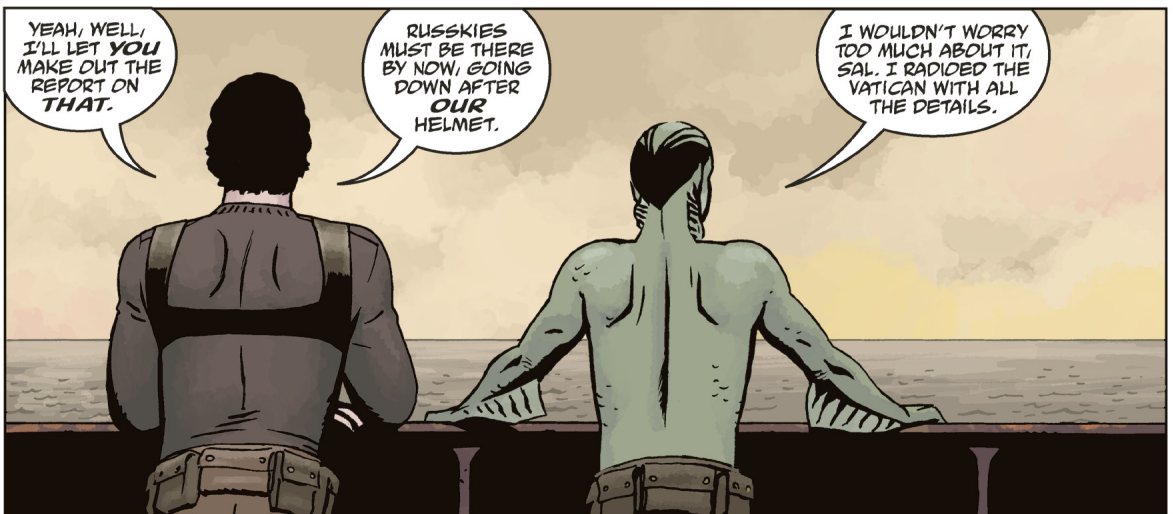
LOOK, I KNOW
YOU FELT YOU
HAD TO DO IT, BUT
THE WAY YOU
YELLED AT HIM,
WHAT YOU
SAID...

HE'S JUST A POOR
CAPTAIN OF AN OLD
RUST BUCKET.
YOU TAKE **THAT**
AWAY FROM HIM,
WHAT DOES HE
HAVE?



NOT A LOT, I
SUPPOSE.

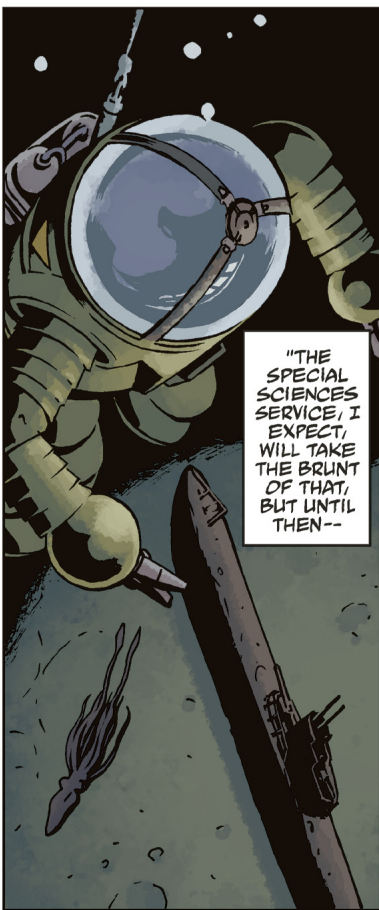
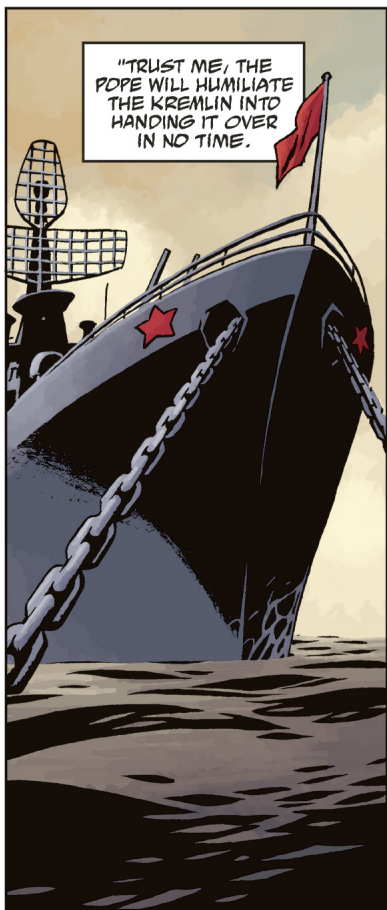
BUT
THEN, **WE**
DIDN'T COME
AWAY WITH
MUCH
EITHER.

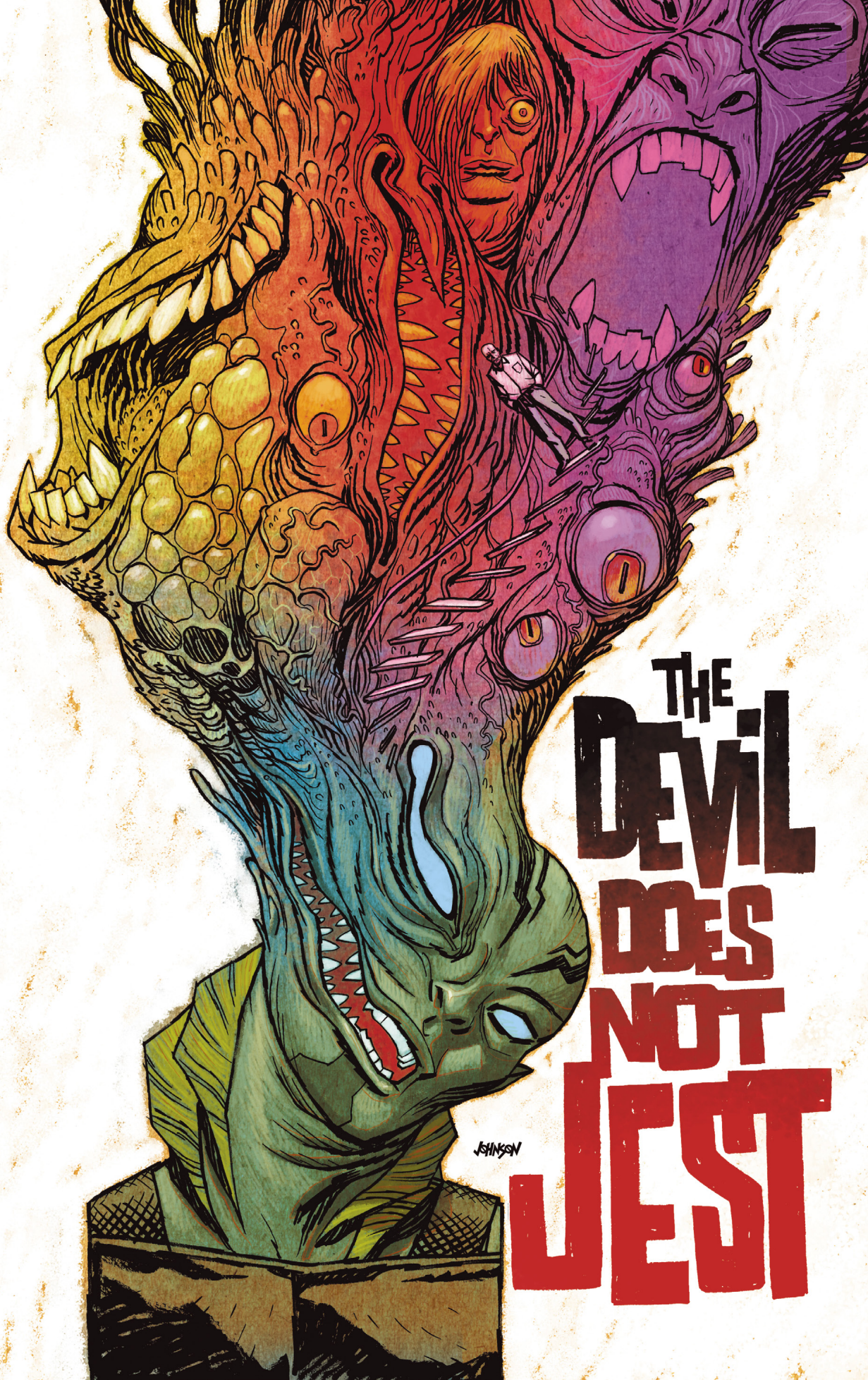


YEAH, WELL,
I'LL LET **YOU**
MAKE OUT THE
REPORT ON
THAT.

RUSSKIES
MUST BE THERE
BY NOW, GOING
DOWN AFTER
OUR
HELMET.

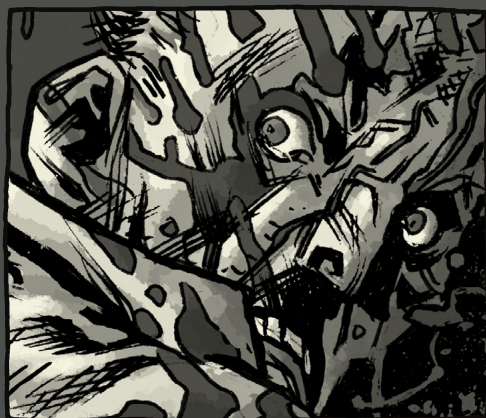
I WOULDN'T WORRY
TOO MUCH ABOUT IT,
SAL. I RADIOED THE
VATICAN WITH ALL
THE DETAILS.





THE
**DEVIL
DOES
NOT
JEST**

JOHNSON

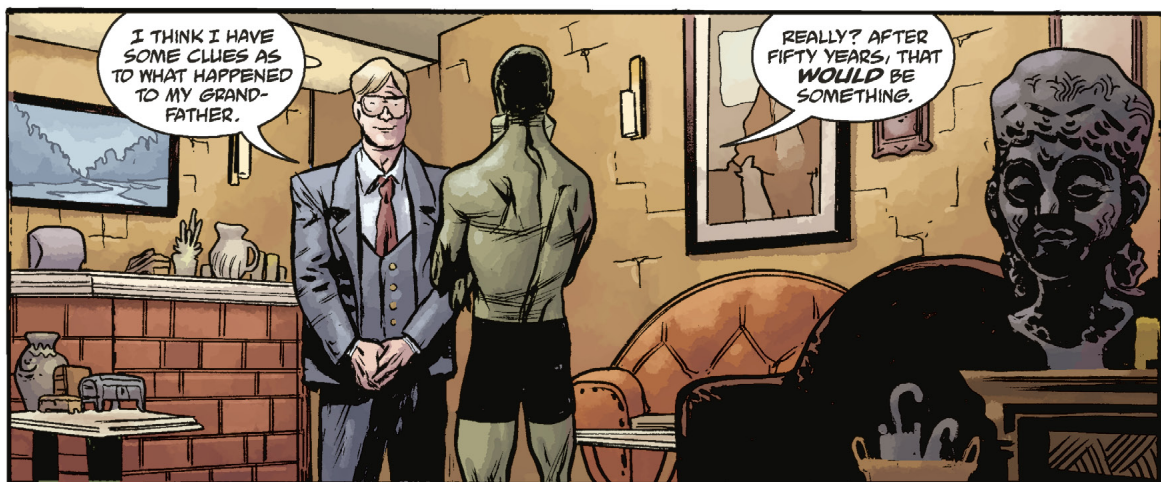


ART BY
James Harren



"GOT A
SURPRISE
FOR YOU!"





I THINK I HAVE SOME CLUES AS TO WHAT HAPPENED TO MY GRANDFATHER.

REALLY? AFTER FIFTY YEARS, THAT **WOULD** BE SOMETHING.



TELL THAT TO THE SHERIFF UP IN DENA, MAINE-- THAT'S WHERE MY GRANDFATHER'S HOUSE IS.

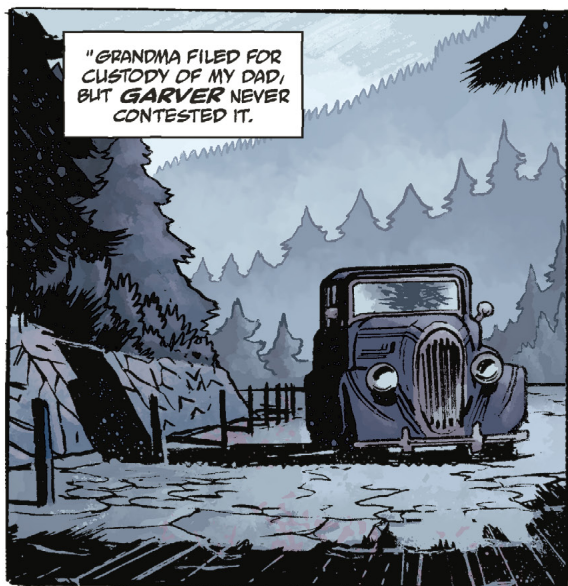
AS **MISSING PERSONS** CASES GO, THIS IS PRETTY STALE, YOU KNOW?

WELL, YOUR GRANDFATHER'S WORK IN DEMONDOLOGY HAS INTERESTED ME FOR YEARS, SO I'M GLAD YOU CAME HERE.



BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND. **MAINE?** HE LIVED IN **OHIO**, RIGHT?

THAT WAS BEFORE HE LEFT GRANDMA FOR ONE OF HIS GRAD STUDENTS.



"GRANDMA FILED FOR CUSTODY OF MY DAD, BUT **GARVER** NEVER CONTESTED IT.



"HE'D ALREADY STARTED HIS NEW LIFE."





"UNCLE TURNER'S NOT A BAD GUY. BIT KOOKY...WELL, A LOT KOOKY."

"BEEN LIVING IN THE HOUSE ALONE ALL THESE YEARS, APPARENTLY."



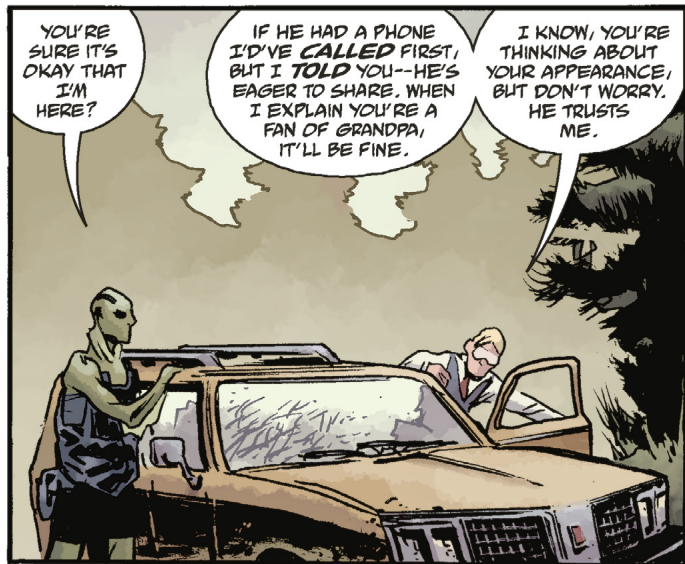
BOY, WAS **HE** HAPPY TO MEET **ME**. TO HAVE "KIN," AS HE PUT IT. FINALLY SOMEONE TO SHARE THE FAMILY **SECRETS** WITH.

HE WAS EMBARRASSED BY THE MESS IN THE HOUSE, BUT WE TALKED ON THE PORCH FOR HOURS.



"TOLD ME A LOT ABOUT GRANDPA GARVER, ABOUT VANDRIST UNIVERSITY. **ALL** OF IT."

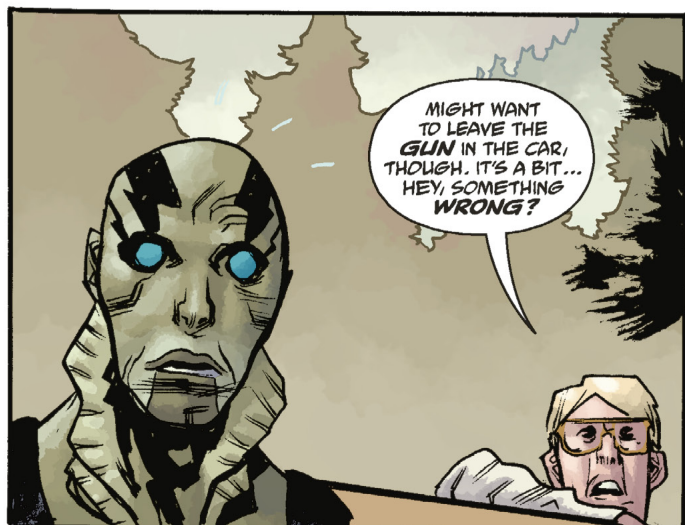
"EVEN SAID I COULD TAKE A LOOK AT HIS JOURNALS FROM BACK IN THE DAY."



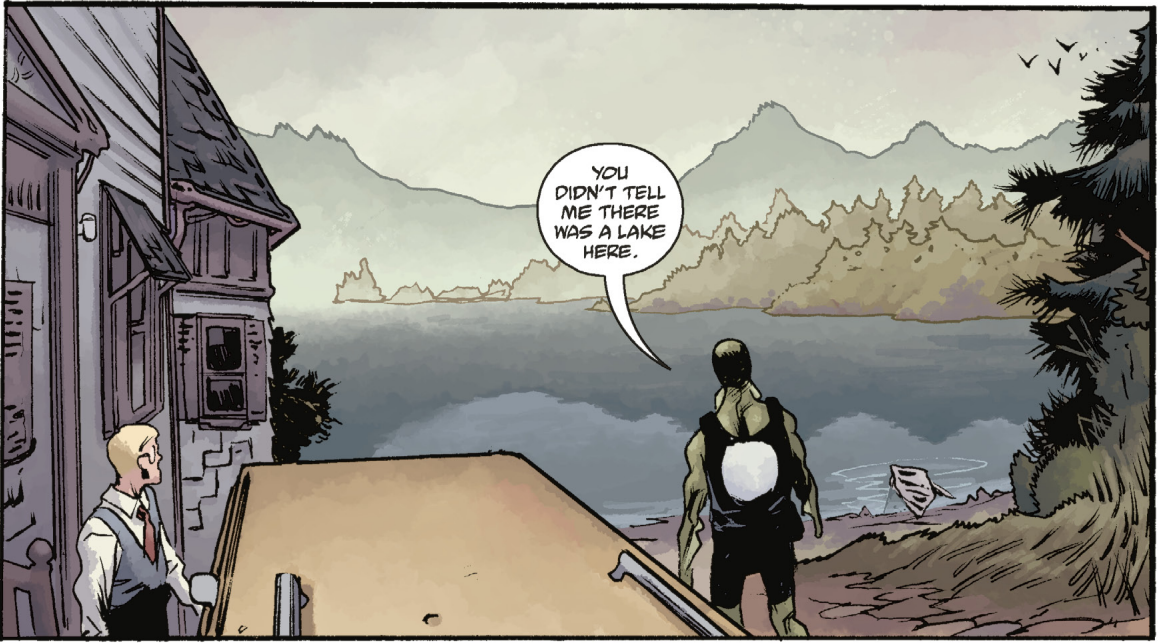
YOU'RE SURE IT'S OKAY THAT I'M HERE?

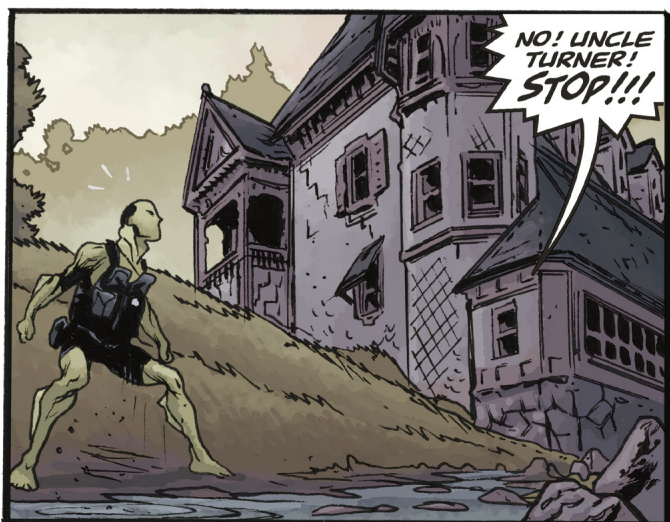
IF HE HAD A PHONE I'D'VE **CALLED** FIRST, BUT I **TOLD** YOU--HE'S EAGER TO SHARE. WHEN I EXPLAIN YOU'RE A FAN OF GRANDPA, IT'LL BE FINE.

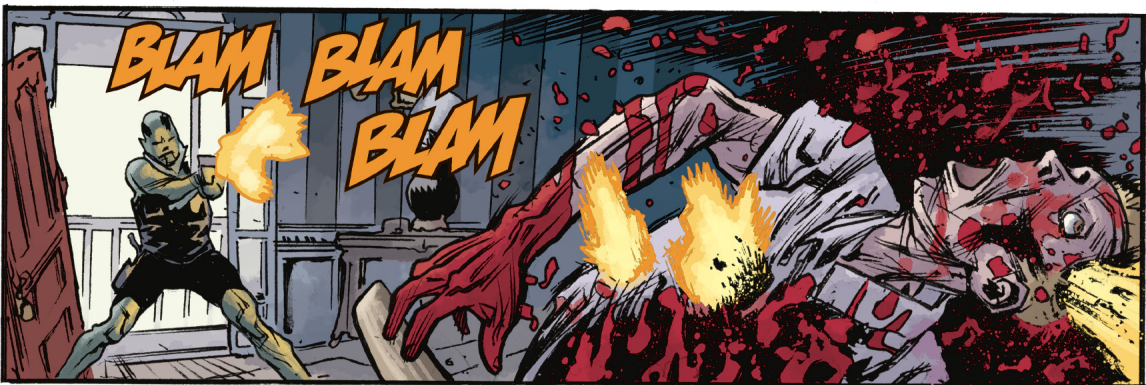
I KNOW, YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT YOUR APPEARANCE, BUT DON'T WORRY. HE TRUSTS ME.

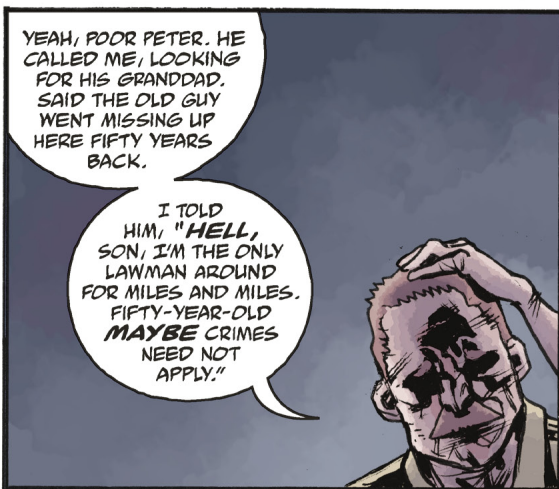


MIGHT WANT TO LEAVE THE **GUN** IN THE CAR, THOUGH. IT'S A BIT... HEY, SOMETHING **WRONG**?



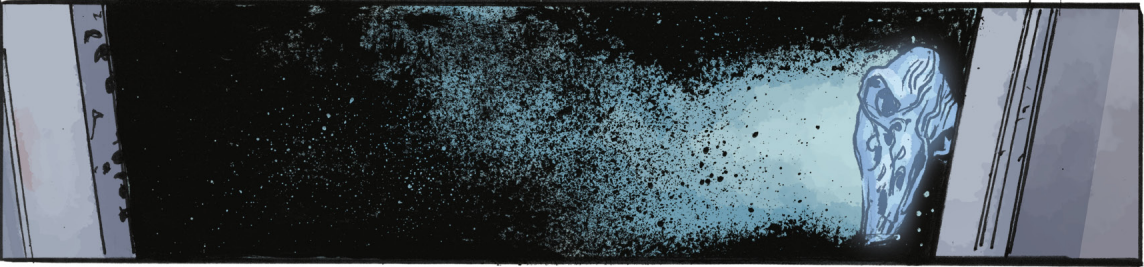


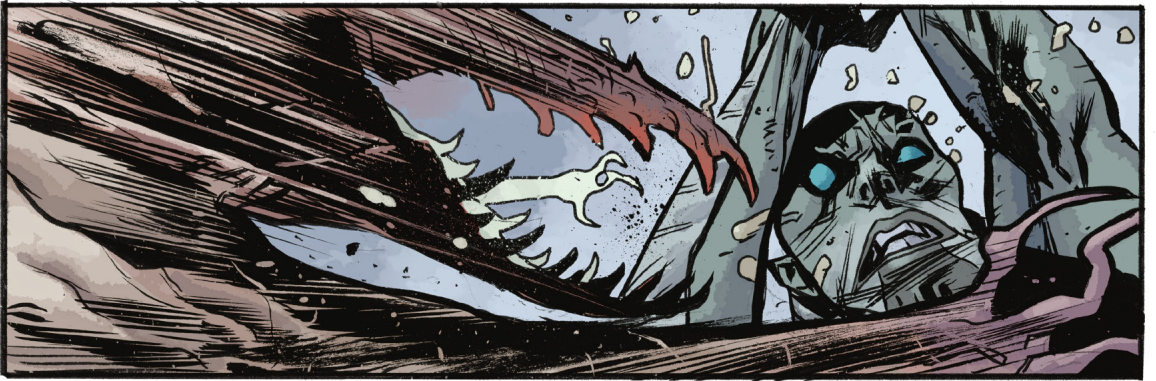


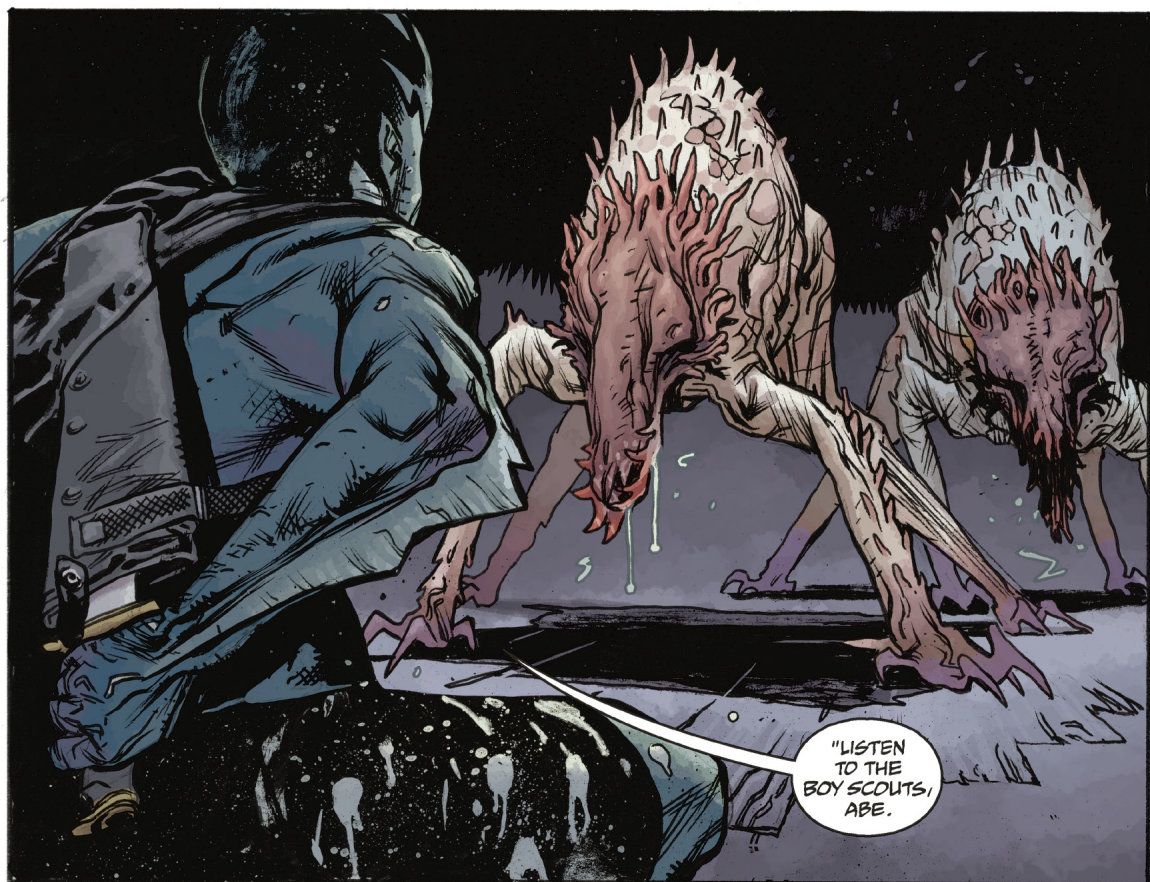




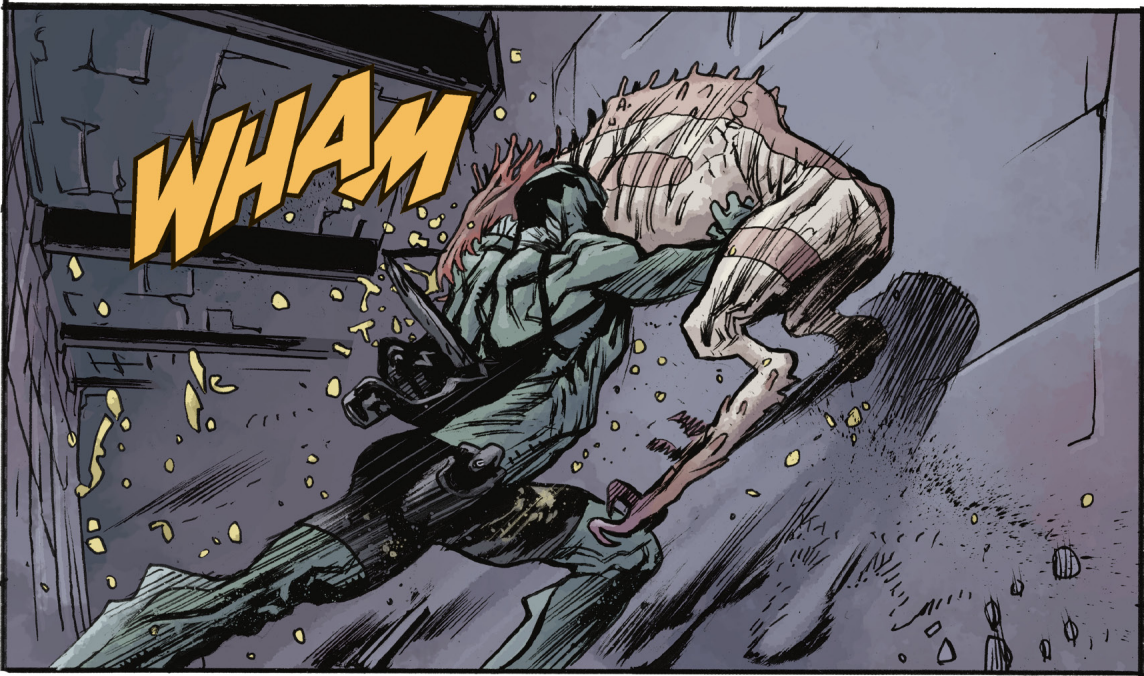


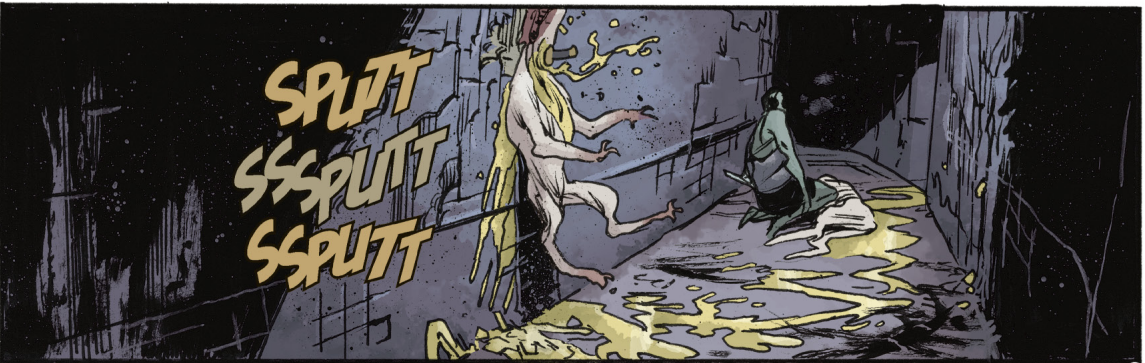


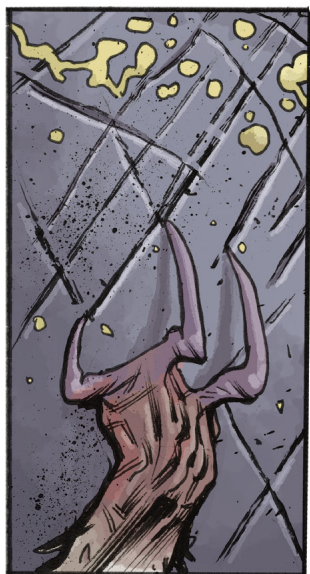




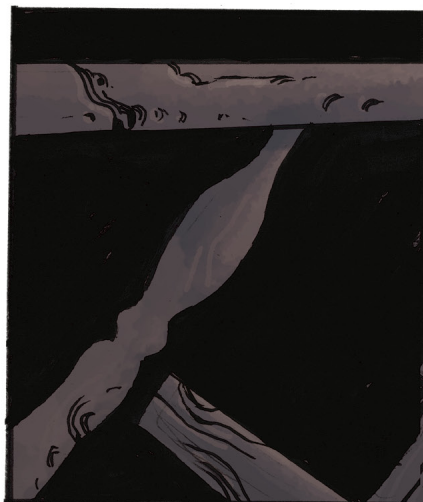


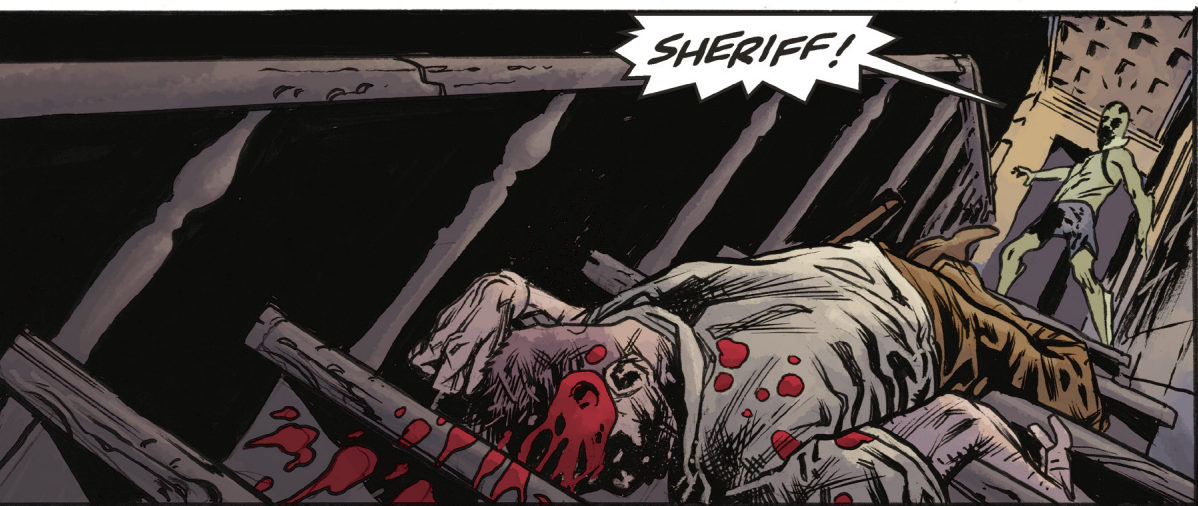


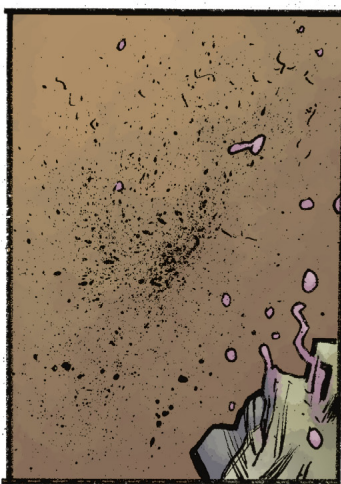




















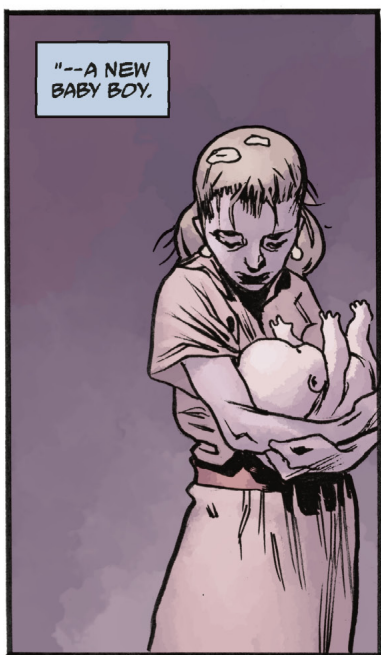
NOT DEAD YET.
AH, THERE, THERE,
YOU'VE GOT AN EYE
OPEN. I'D HAVE
TO CALL THAT
PROGRESS.

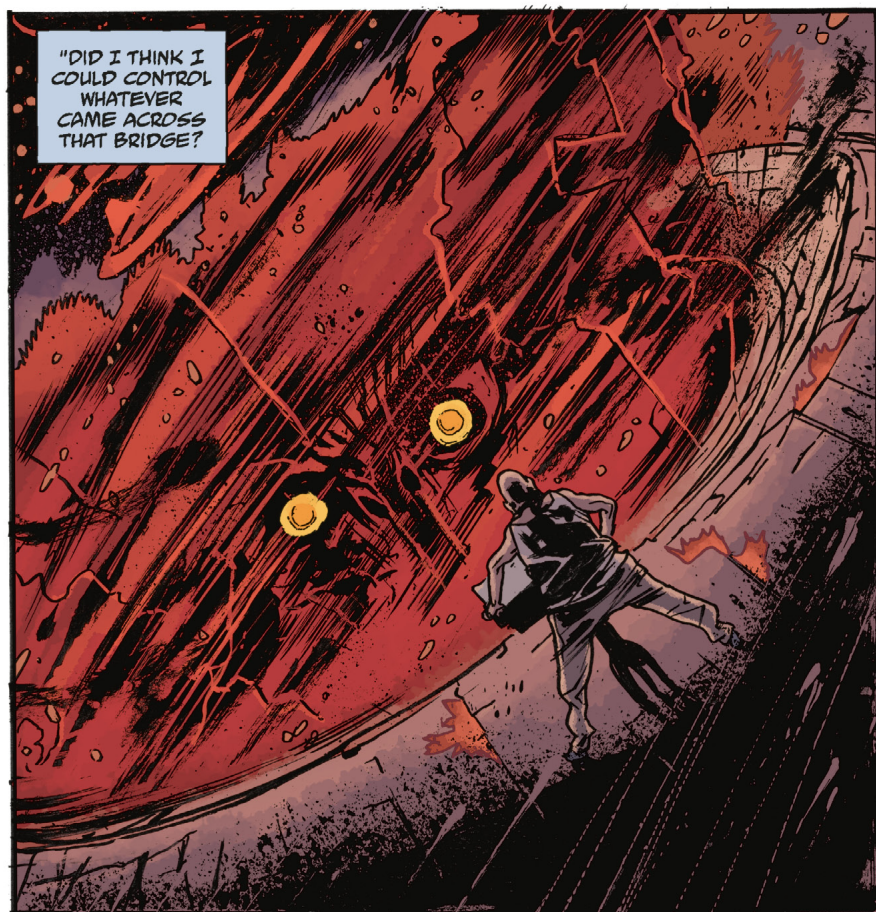
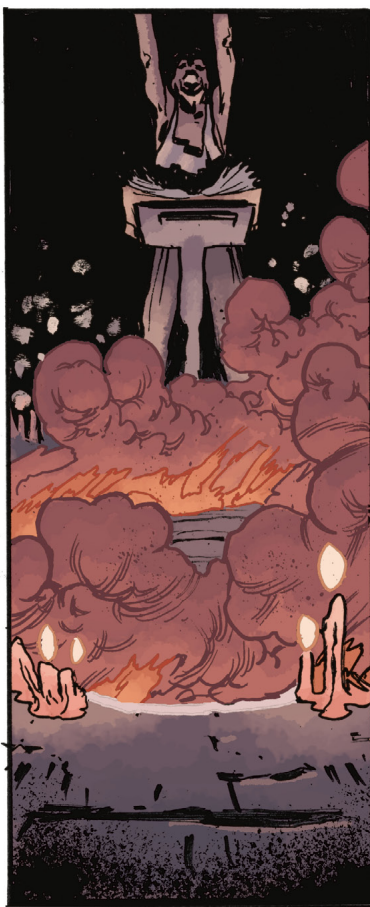
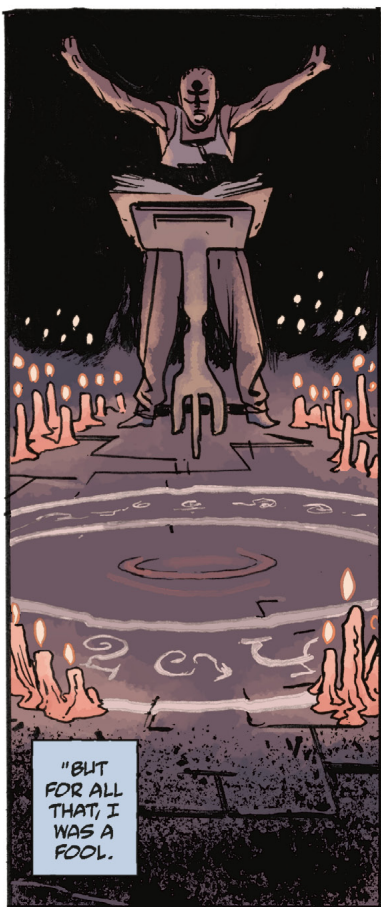


WHAT DO YOU
THINK, SON?
CAN WE GET
STARTED?
NOT MUCH
TIME.

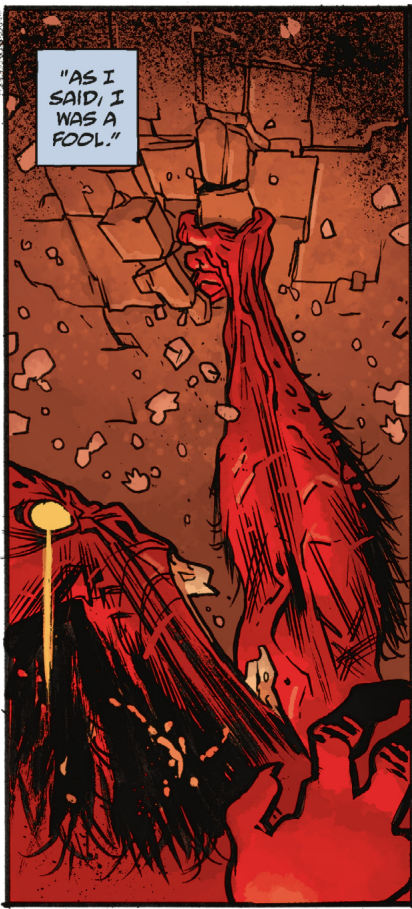
ABOUT THE AUTH
MINIMUMIMUM
MINIMUMIMUM
MINIMUM





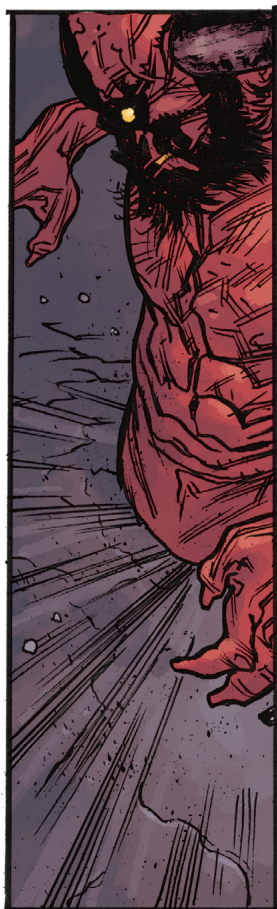








"BUT ALL I FOUND
THERE WAS THE
POWER TO TRAP.

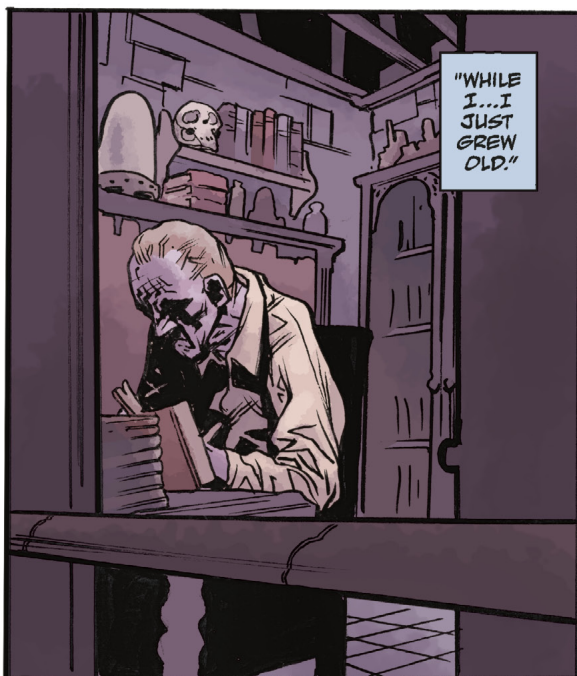
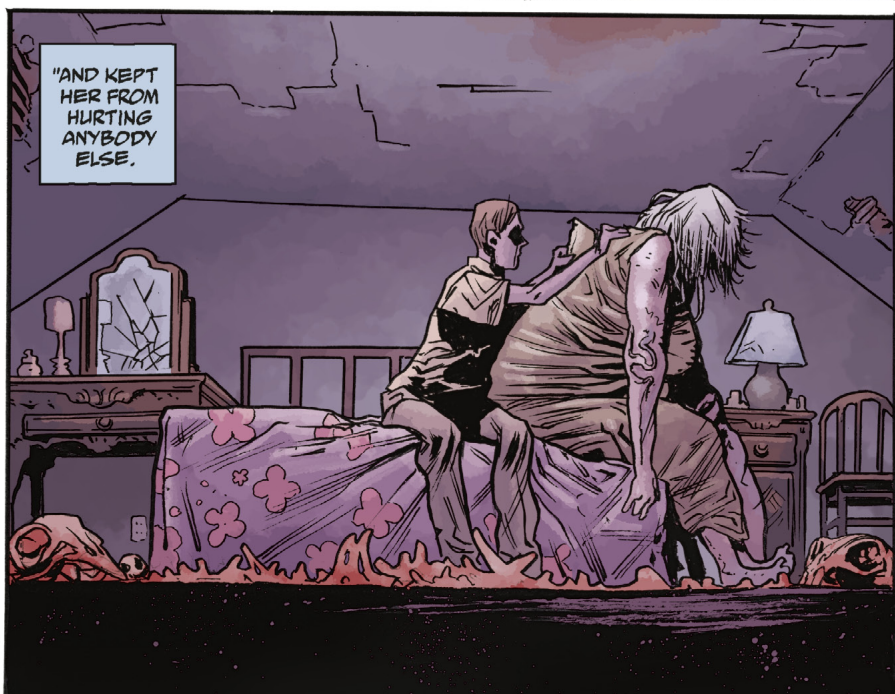
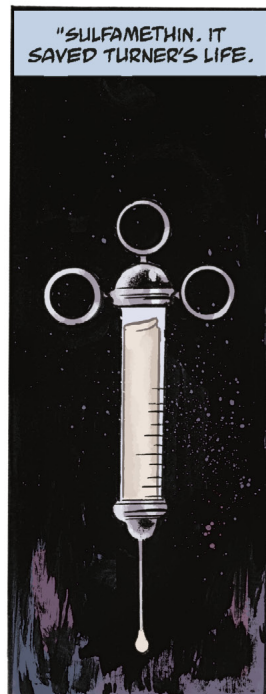


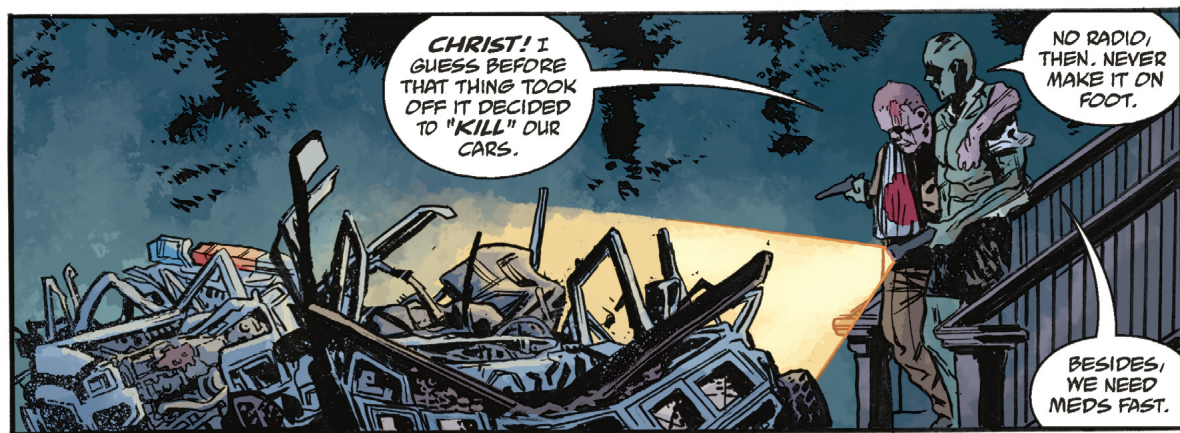
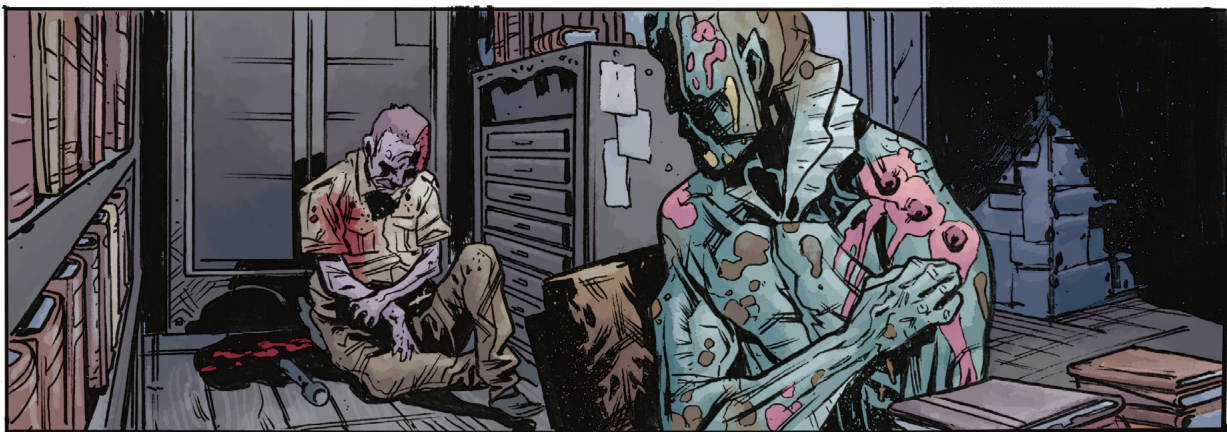
"TO
HURT.

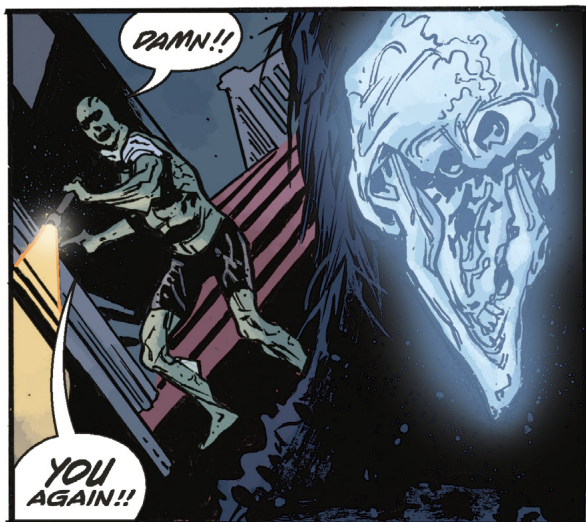


"AND
TO KILL.

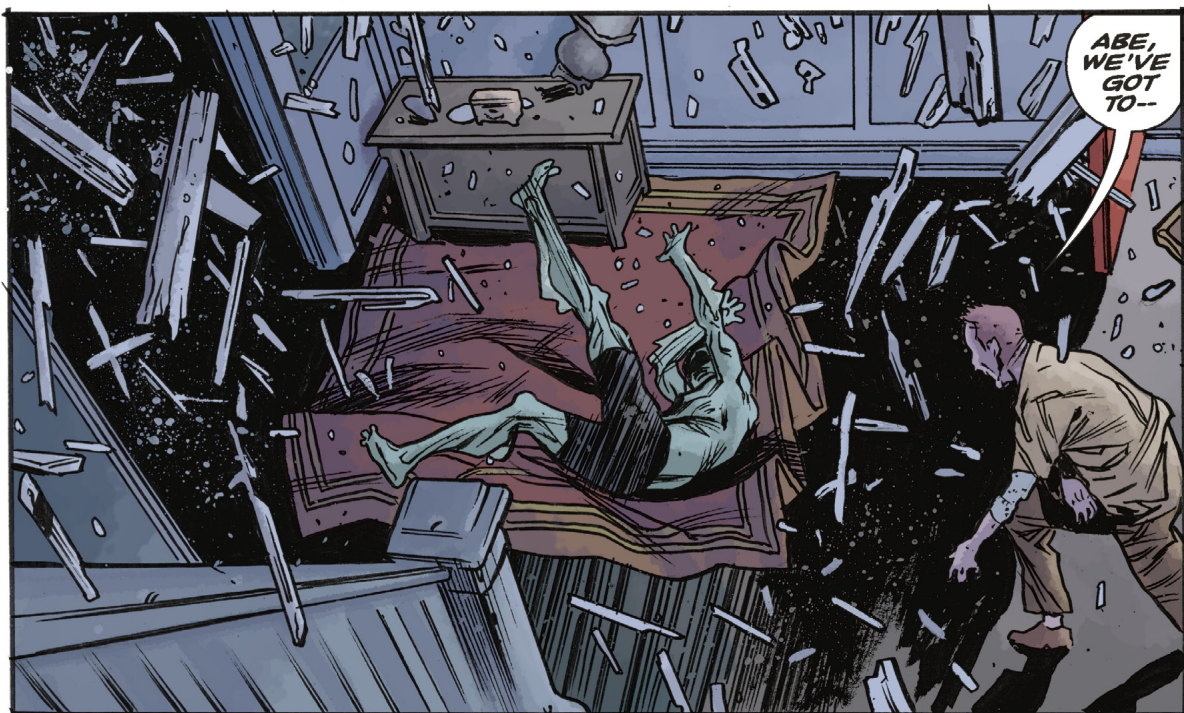




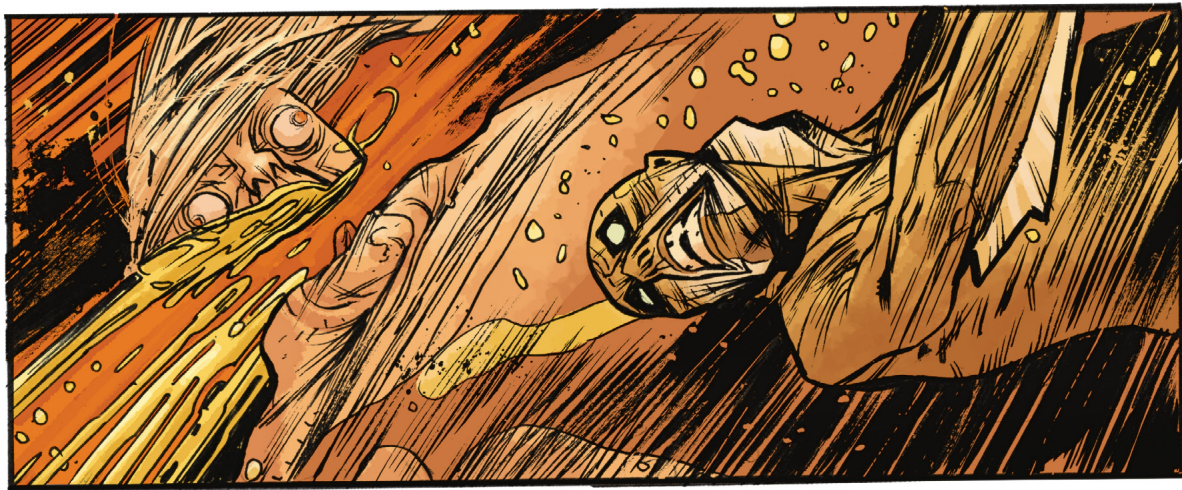


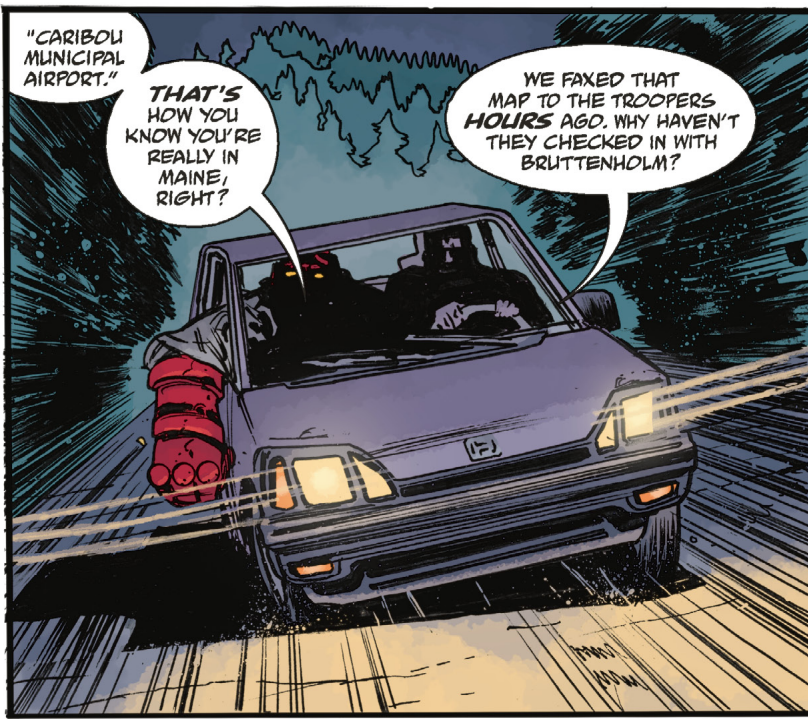












"CARIBOU MUNICIPAL AIRPORT."

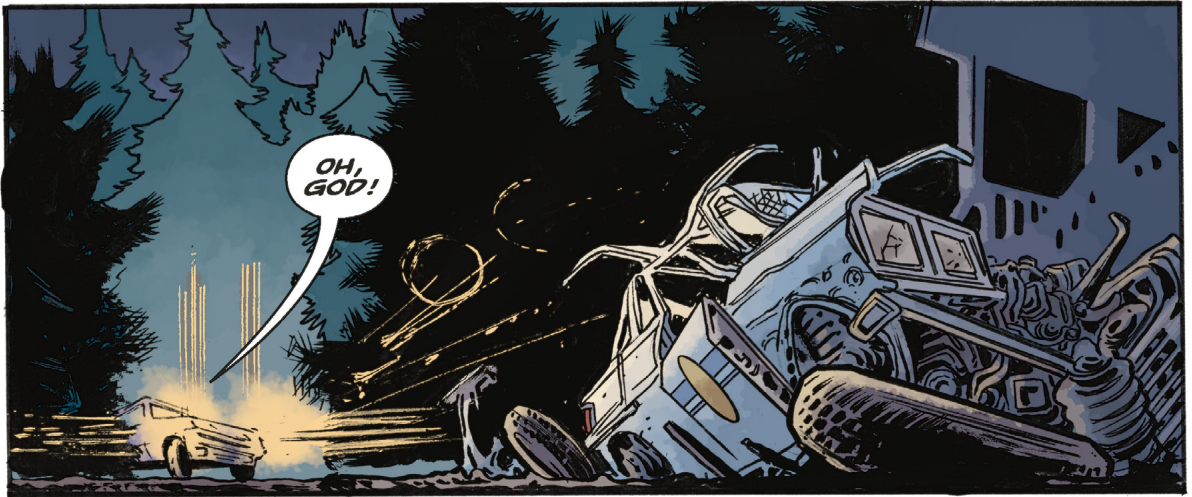
THAT'S HOW YOU KNOW YOU'RE REALLY IN MAINE, RIGHT?

WE FAXED THAT MAP TO THE TROOPERS **HOURS** AGO. WHY HAVEN'T THEY CHECKED IN WITH BRITTENHOLM?



YEAH, THAT'S NO GOOD.

NOT THAT I EXPECTED THEM TO LOSE SLEEP OVER ABE, BUT THERE'S OTHER--



OH, GOD!



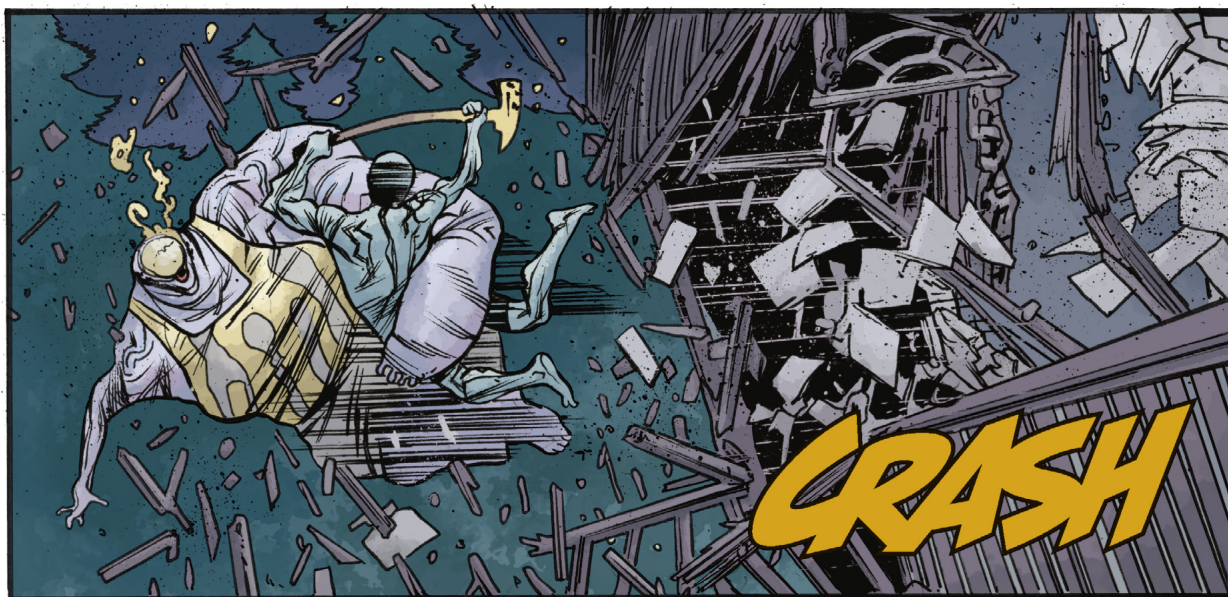
I **KNEW** IT! I KNEW THERE WAS TROUBLE. POOR ABE.

CALM DOWN. OF **COURSE** THERE'S TROUBLE, BUT STOP WORRYING ABOUT ABE. THIS SHERIFF FELLA, **HE'S** OUR PRIORITY NOW.

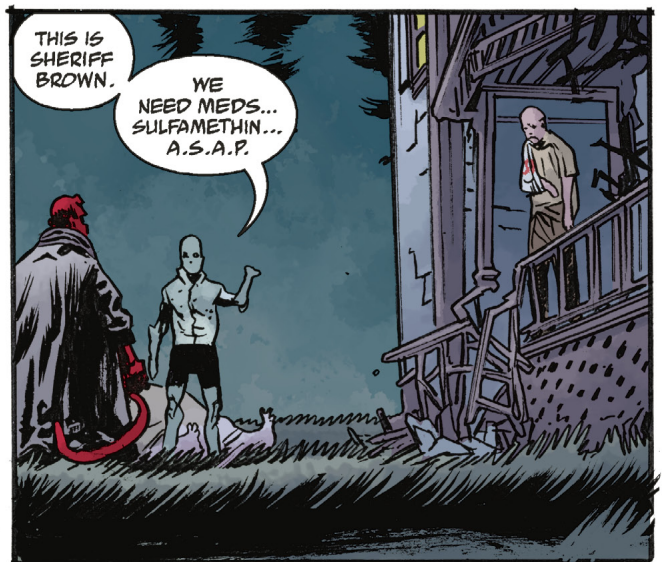


BELIEVE ME. I TRAINED ABE.

THE GUY'S PREPARED FOR JUST ABOUT ANYTHING.







ABE SAPIEN™

SKETCHBOOK

Notes by Scott Allie



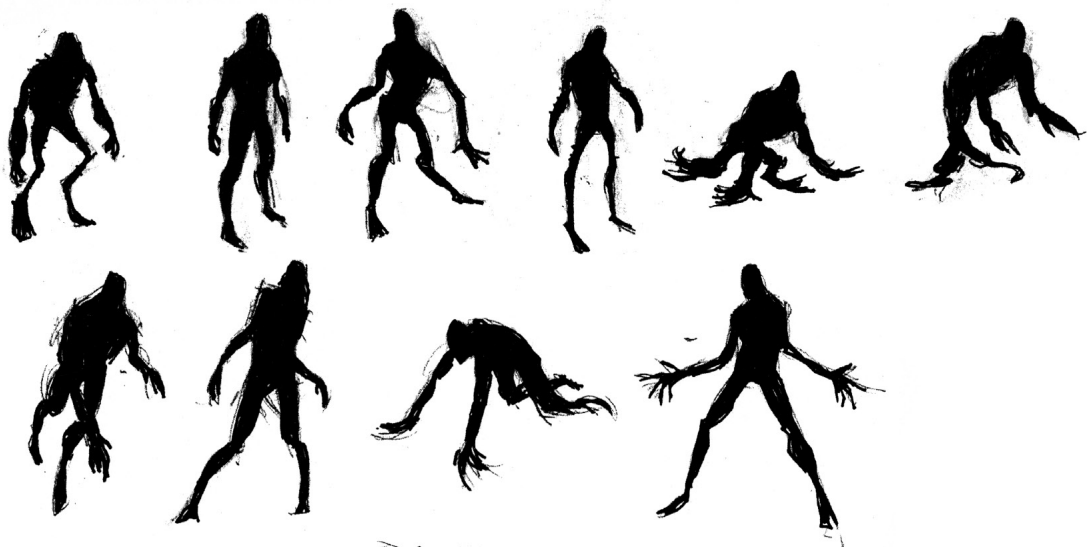
Initial Abe studies by Patric Reynolds.

Patric's designs for the monster
in *The Haunted Boy*.

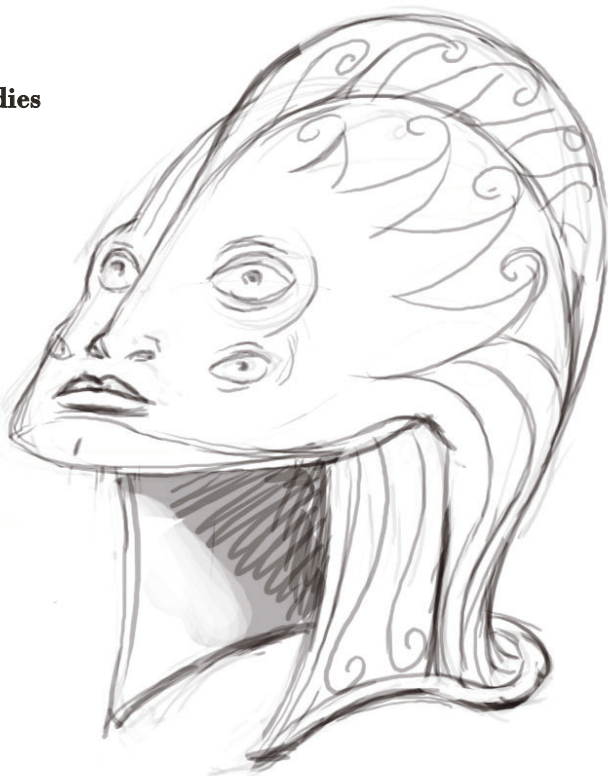


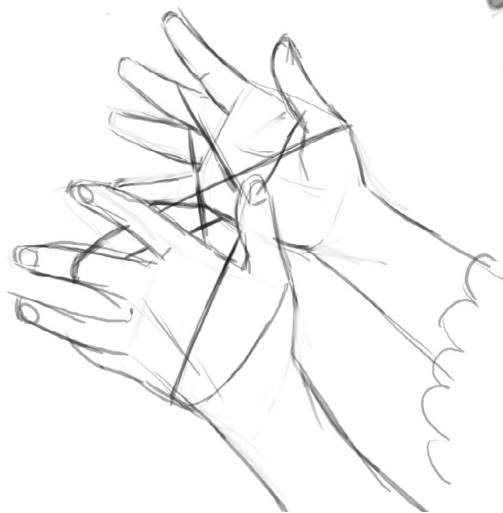
NØKKEN (Nix)

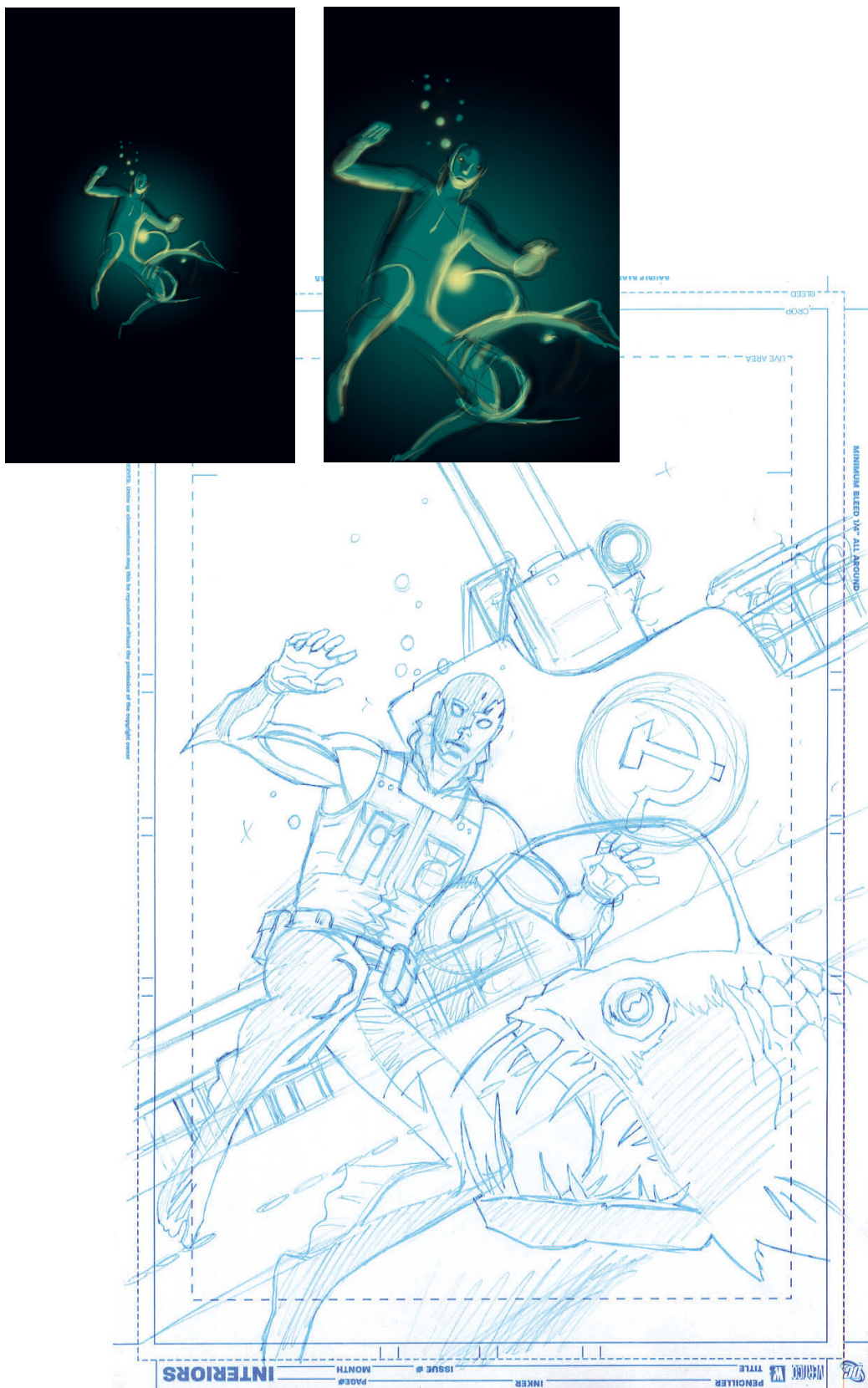
NØKKEN (Nix)



**Peter Sneibjerg's designs for the
helmet in *The Abyssal Plain* and studies
for the playful demon Varvara.**

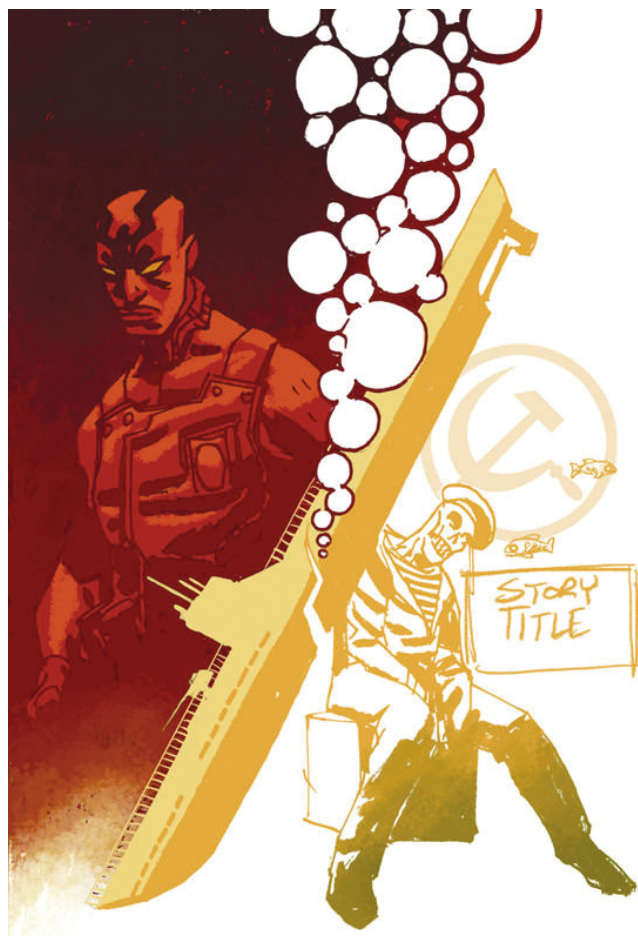






**Peter's sketches, pencils, and finishes for
The Abyssal Plain #1's cover, colored by Dave Stewart.**





Left: Dave Johnson's cover sketch for *The Abyssal Plain* #1. See the very different final artwork on page 31 of this volume.

Various color options (below) and the final cover (facing) for *The Abyssal Plain* #2.





THE
ABYSSAL
PLAIN

JOHNSON





In 2011 Francesco Francavilla caught Mike Mignola's and my eyes, so we lined him up to do a group of related covers for issues of *Abe Sapien*, *Hellboy: The Fury*, *B.P.R.D. Hell on Earth*, and *Baltimore* that were all coming out in early summer. Here are the sketches (above) and final (facing) for the Abe cover. When he was doing the sketches he didn't know who was drawing the issues, though the story was written for James Harren.



350¢



FRAN
CAVIL
44.F.11



A DARK HORSE COMICS
PRODUCTION

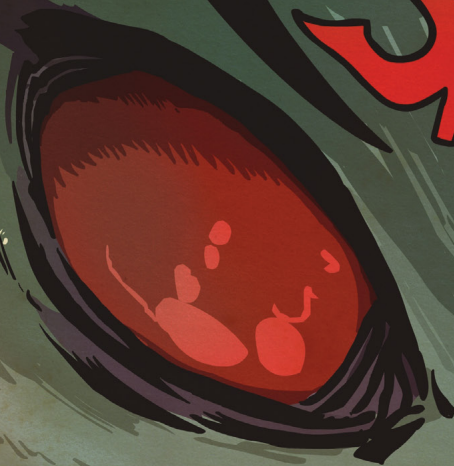


THE DEVIL DOES NOT JEST

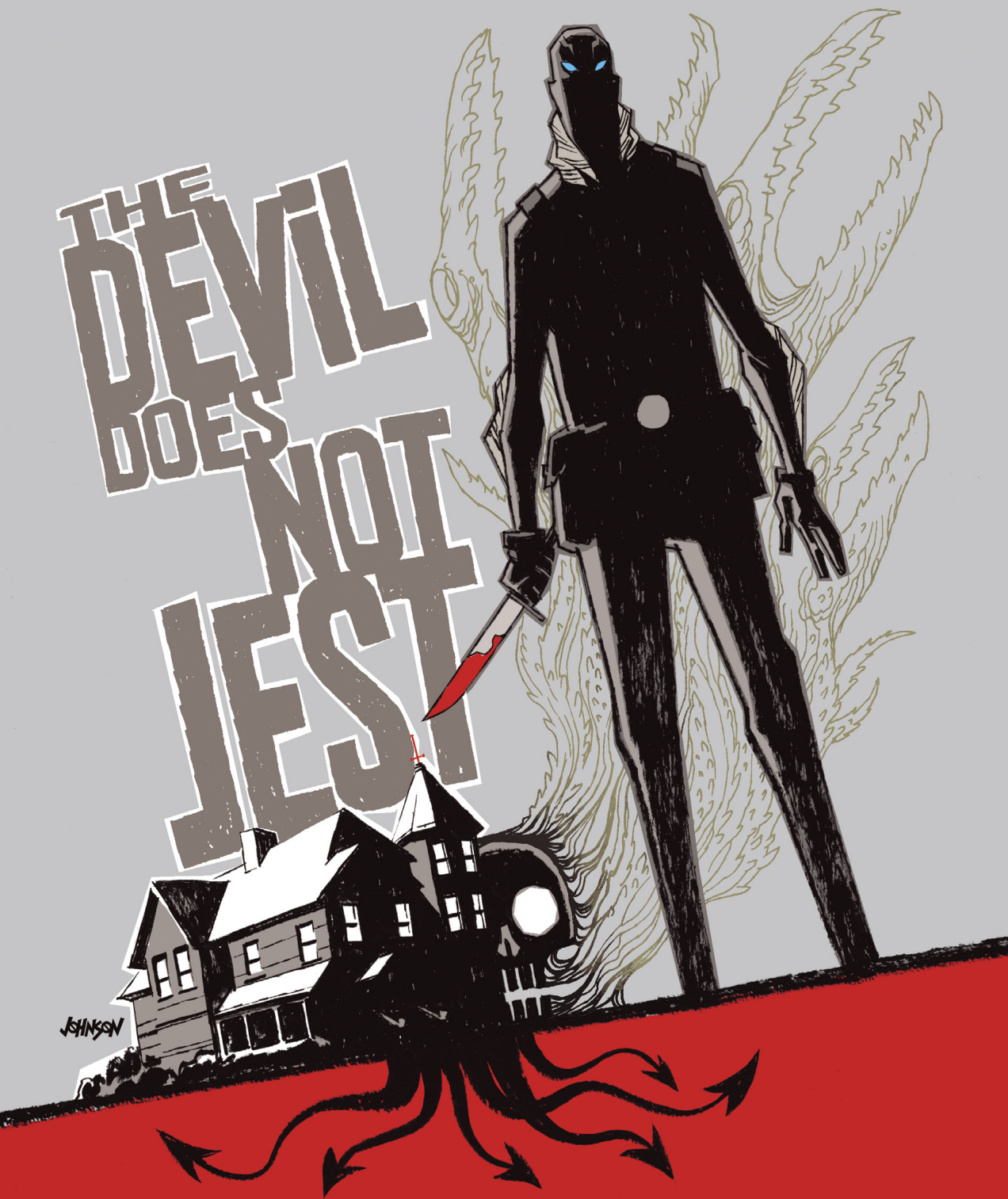
PT. 1

MIGNOLA
ARCUDI
HARREN

SARE SAPIEN



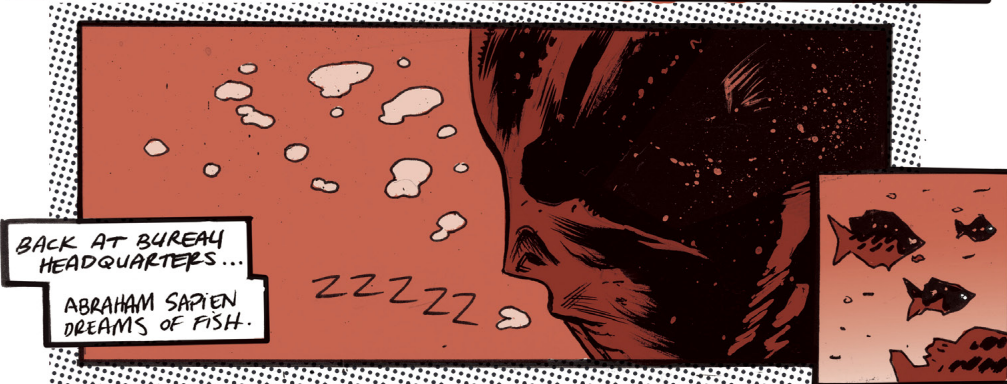
JOHNSON



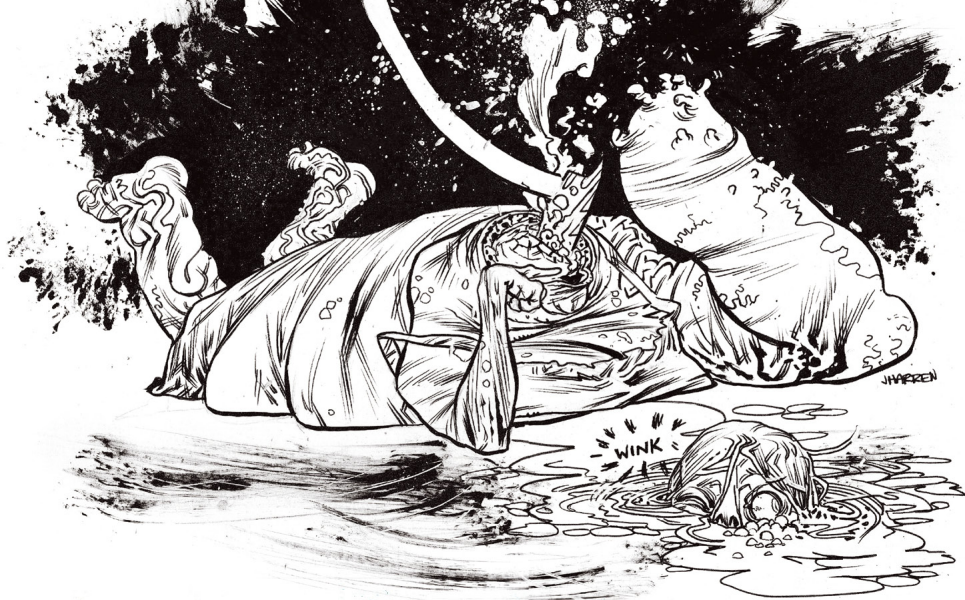


James Harren's first studies of Abe.

Facing: Dave Johnson's cover for *The Devil Does Not Jest* #1. Dave dug up one of his alternate sketches for this concept and finished it for the frontispiece on page 2 of this volume.



MERRY CHRISTMAS!
HAPPY HOLIDAYS! -JAMES

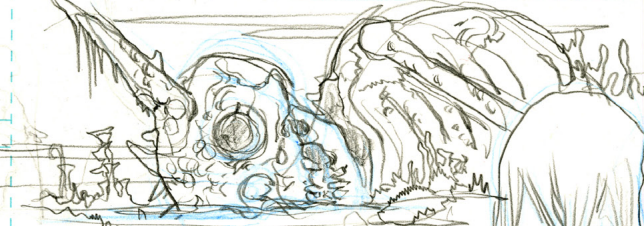
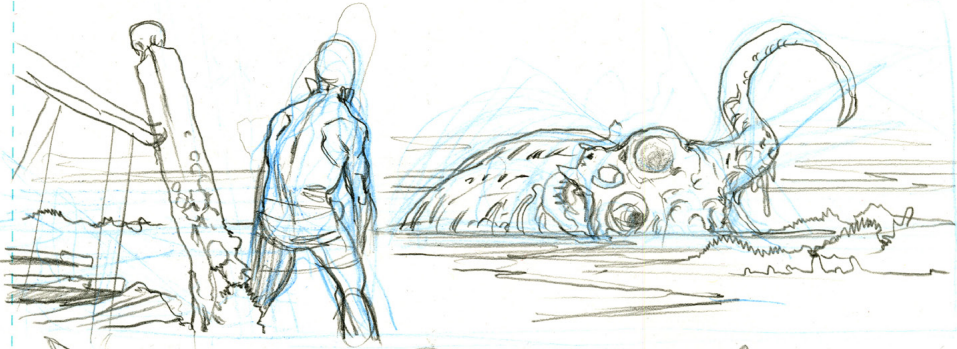


Facing: James Harren's 2011
season's greetings.

James's designs for the
"Momster," the creature
in the basement, and,
on the following pages,
other horrible things
from *The Devil
Does Not Jest*.







MAYBE 3 LEGGED?
STAND LIKE
PRAIRIE DOGS
BUT NOT
BI-PEDAL

EW.

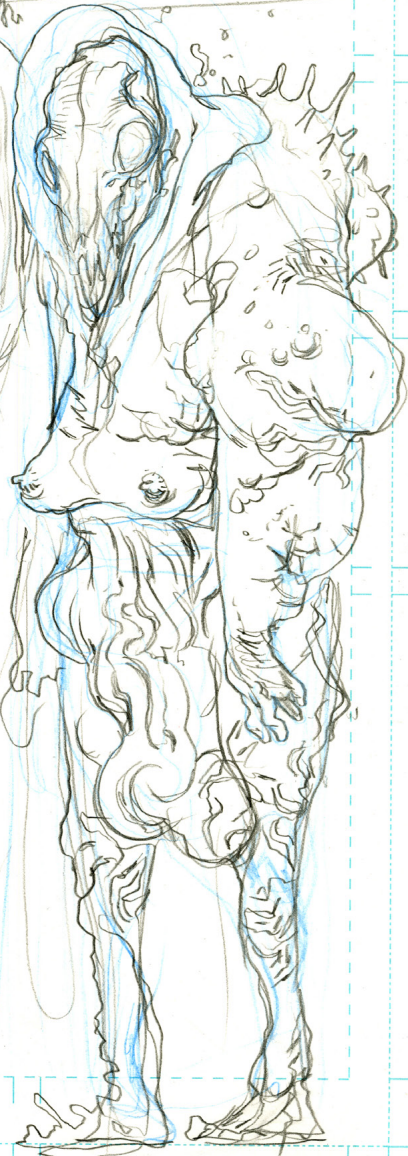
... MAYBE WE'LL
THROW A SUN
PRESS ON HER.



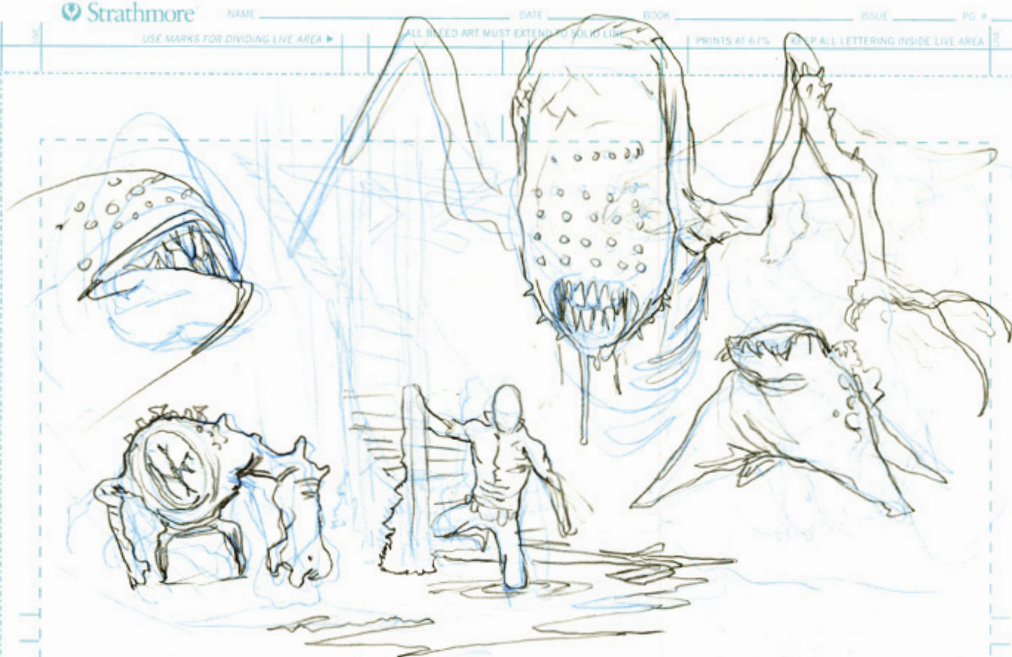
COVERED IN
MOLD



START
IN EGG
SACKS?
LOW
HANGERS



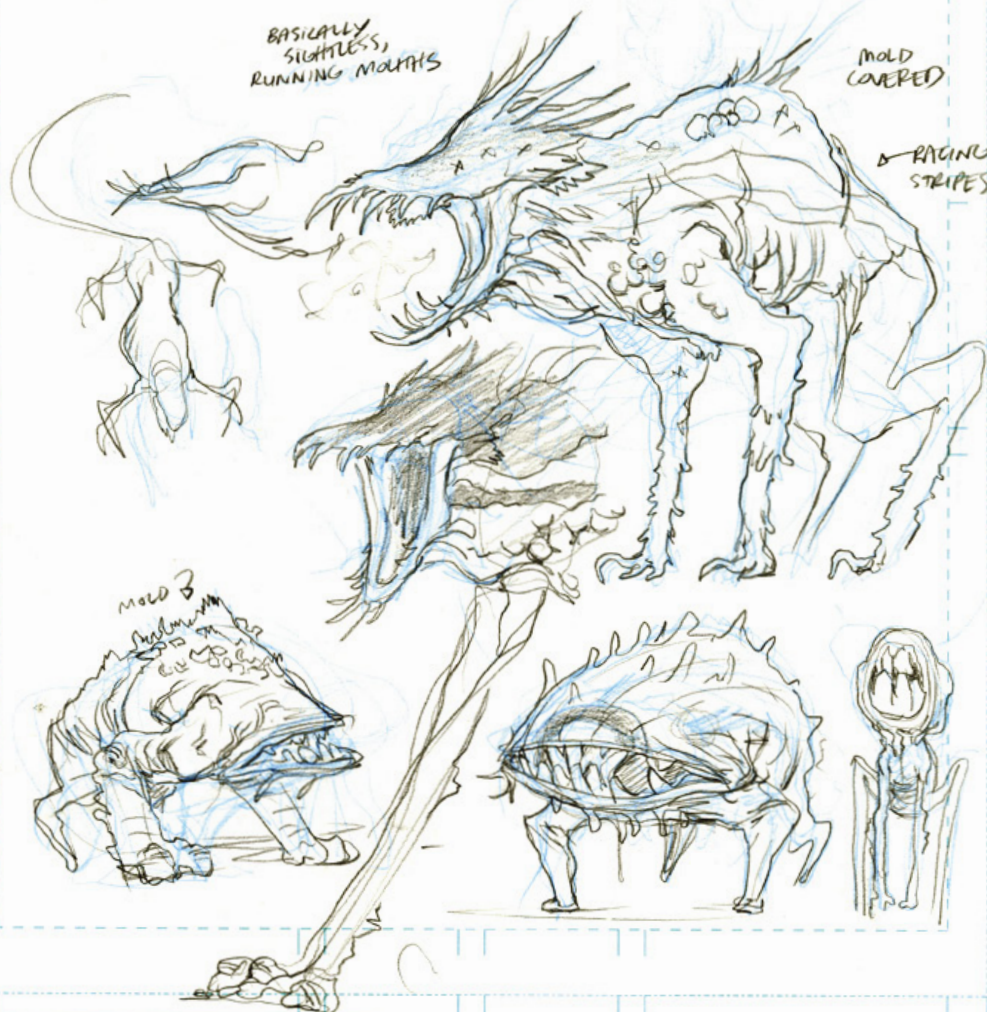




BASICALLY
SLIGHTLESS,
RUNNING MOUTHS

MOLD
COVERED

RAGING
STRIPES



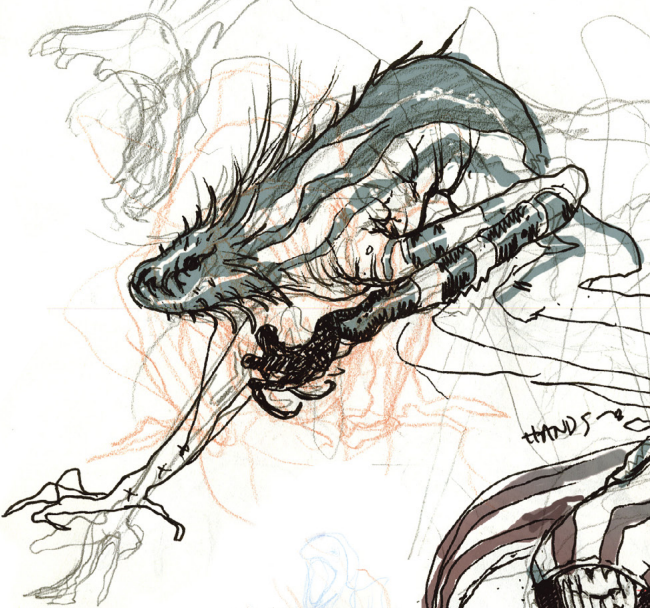
MOLD B



UNITE HIM
WITH THE
MONSTER'S
BLUE SKULL



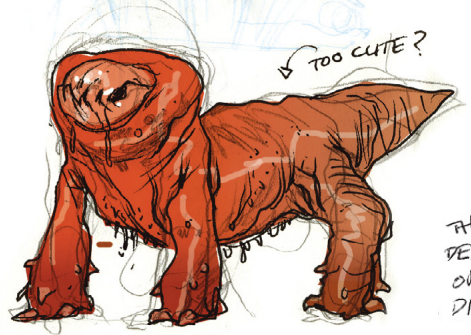
HANDS
FOR
FEET



HANDS



TOO CUTE?



THE
DEMON
ON
DRUGS





Paranormal crime scenes wreak havoc on Abe Sapien as he investigates a recluse demonologist's evil house, a haunted lake, and a sunken Soviet submarine filled with zombies!

Mike Mignola and regular *B.P.R.D.* writer John Arcudi are joined by Patric Reynolds (*Let Me In, Serenity*), Peter Snejbjerg (*A God Somewhere*), and James Harren (*B.P.R.D. Hell on Earth, Turok*).

