

FROM THE PAGES OF HELLBOY

ABE SAPIEN

THE
DEVIL
DOES NOT
JEST
AND OTHER
STORIES

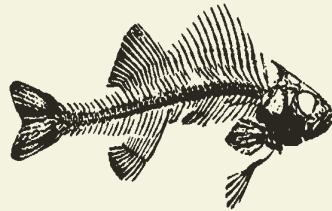
M 2011

MIKE MIGNOLA
PATRIC REYNOLDS
JAMES HARREN

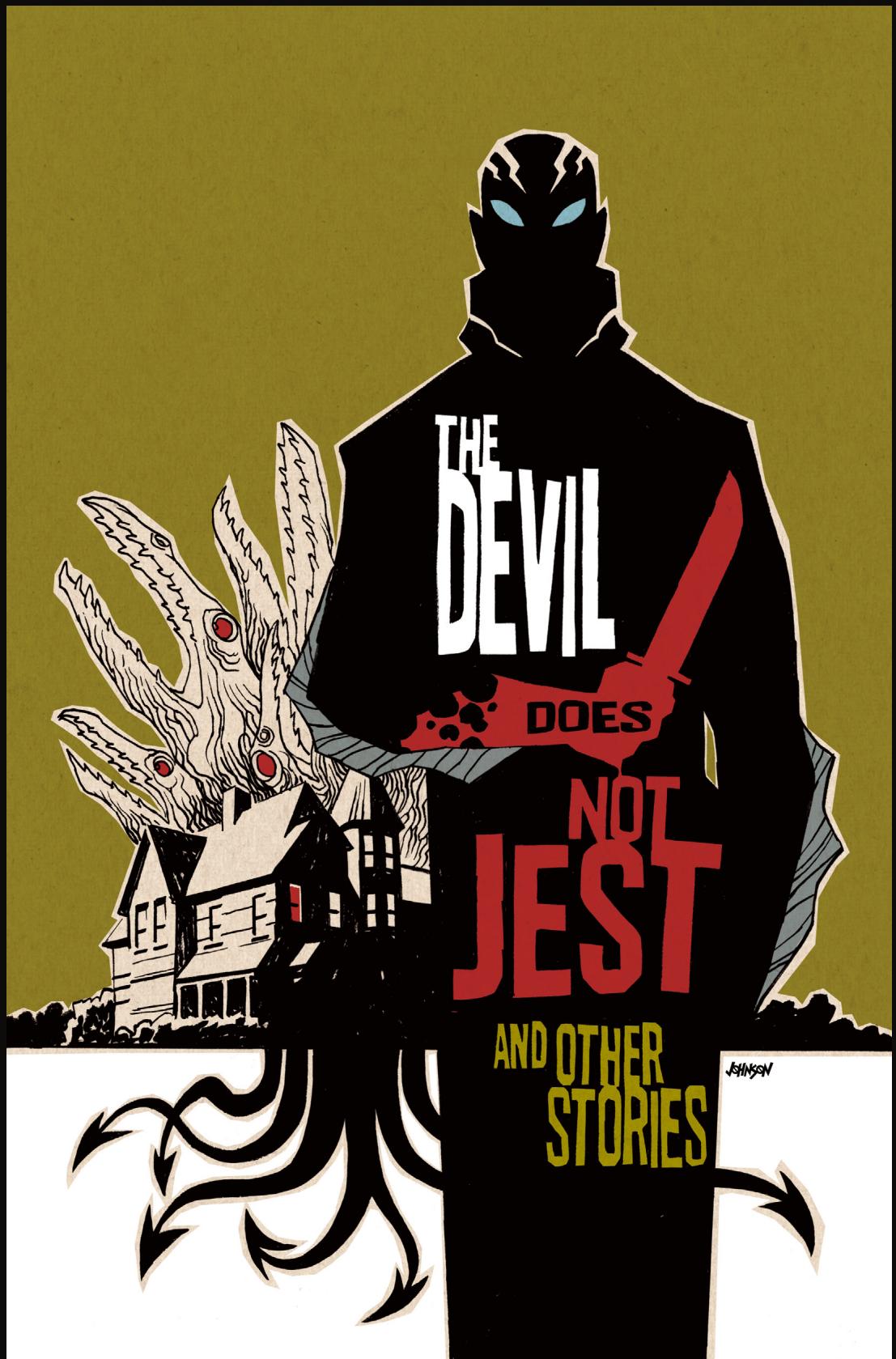
JOHN ARCUDE
PETER SNEJBJERG
DAVE STEWART

ABE SAPIEN™

CREATED BY
MIKE MIGNOLA



The DEVIL
DOES NOT JEST
AND OTHER STORIES



ABE SAPIEN

TM

The DEVIL DOES NOT JEST AND OTHER STORIES

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Abe Sapien: The Devil Does Not Jest and Other Stories

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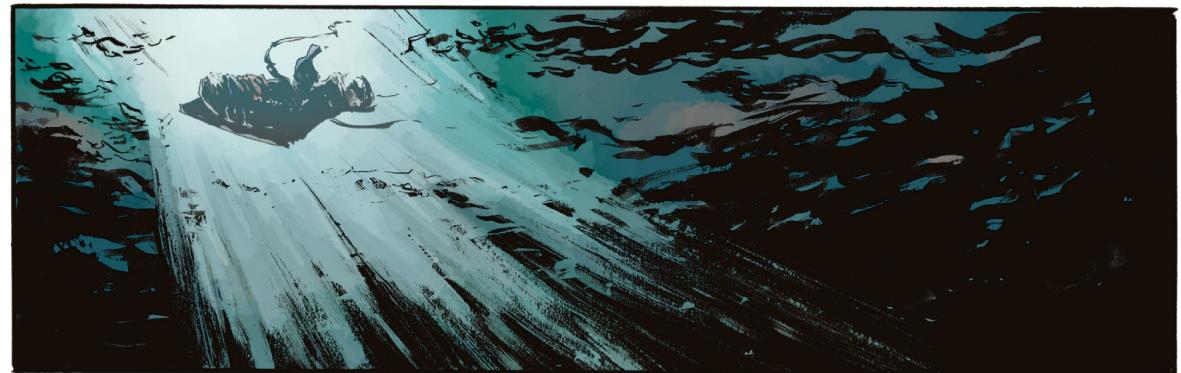
This book collects *Abe Sapien: The Haunted Boy*,
Abe Sapien: The Abyssal Plain #1–#2, and *Abe Sapien: The Devil Does Not Jest* #1–#2.

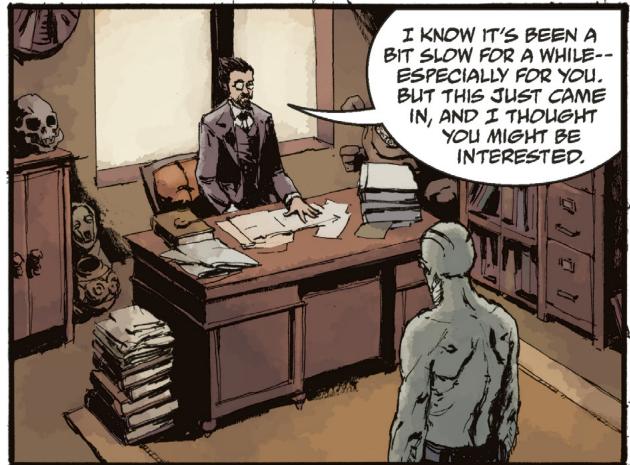
THE HAUNTED BOY





ART BY
Patric Reynolds







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.

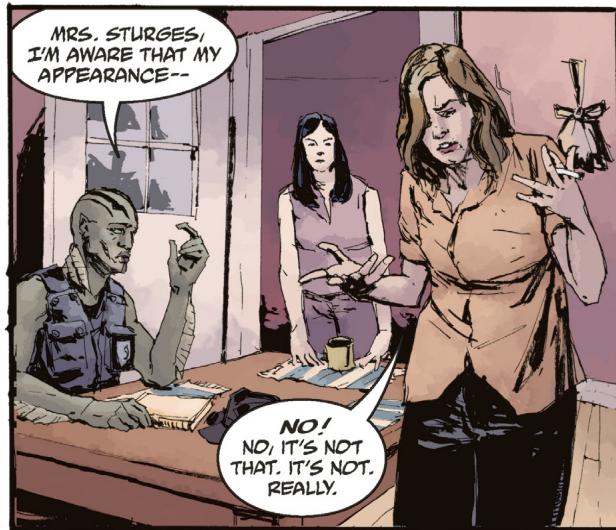
STILL, I NEEDED ALL THE HOURS OF FIELD EXPERIENCE I COULD GET.

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

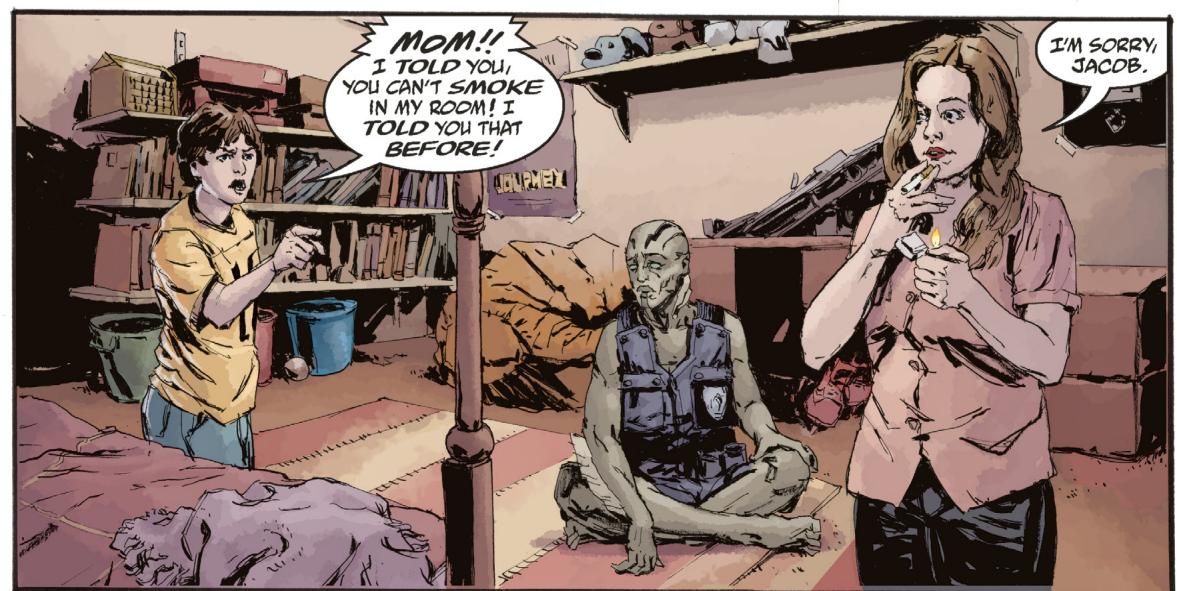
YES, BUT PLEASE JUST CALL ME ABE. ARE YOU MRS. LAZIO?















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

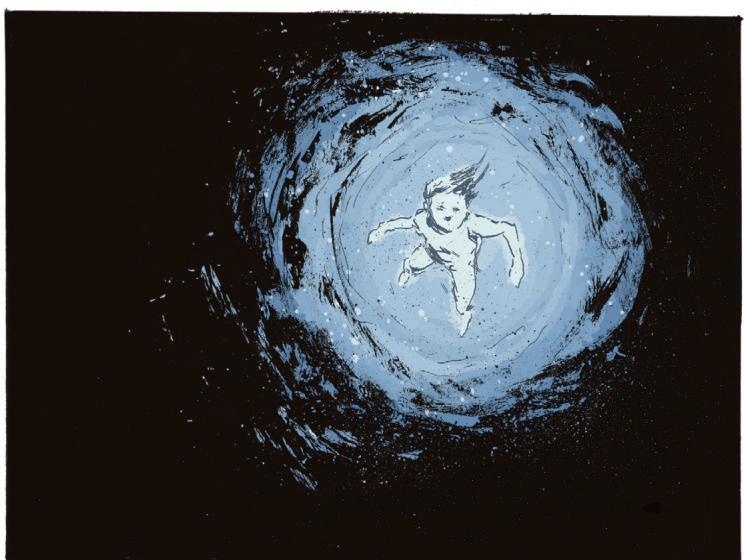
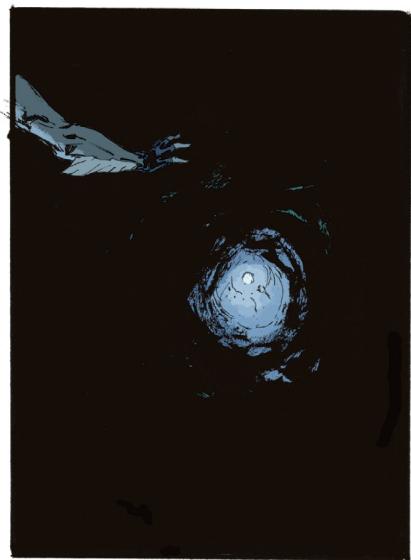


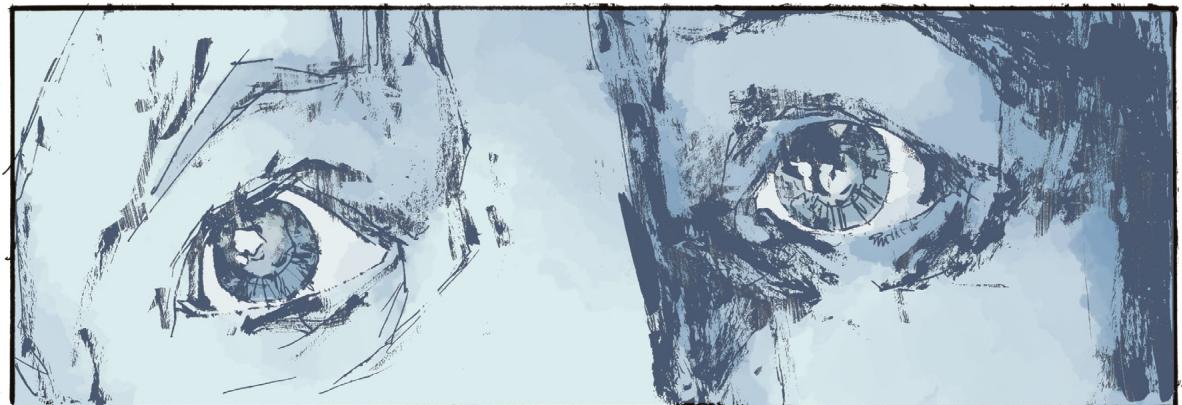
THAT'S OKAY. FIELDWORK, I ALWAYS FELT, WAS ABOUT THE FIELD.

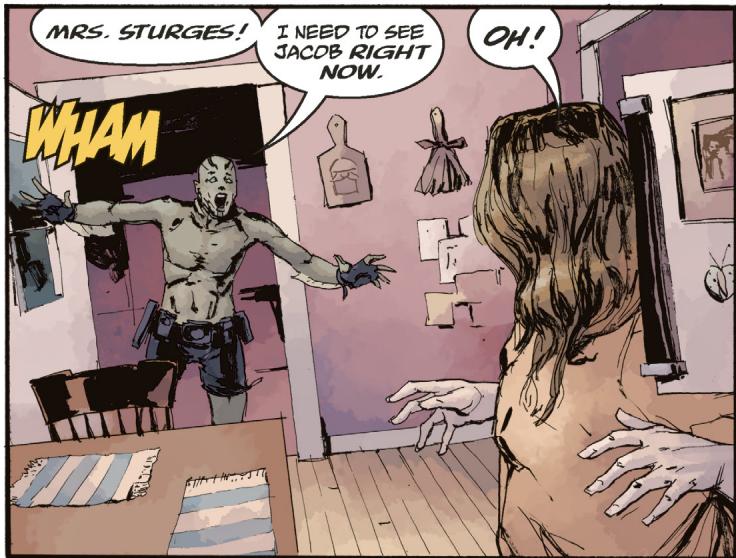


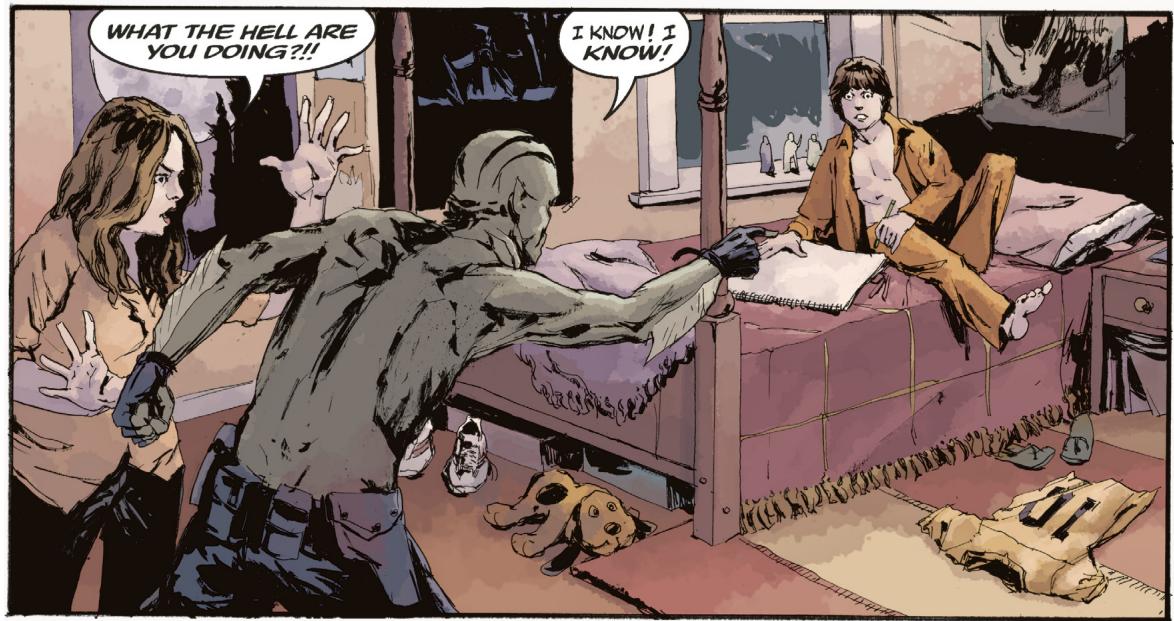
IF ANY.





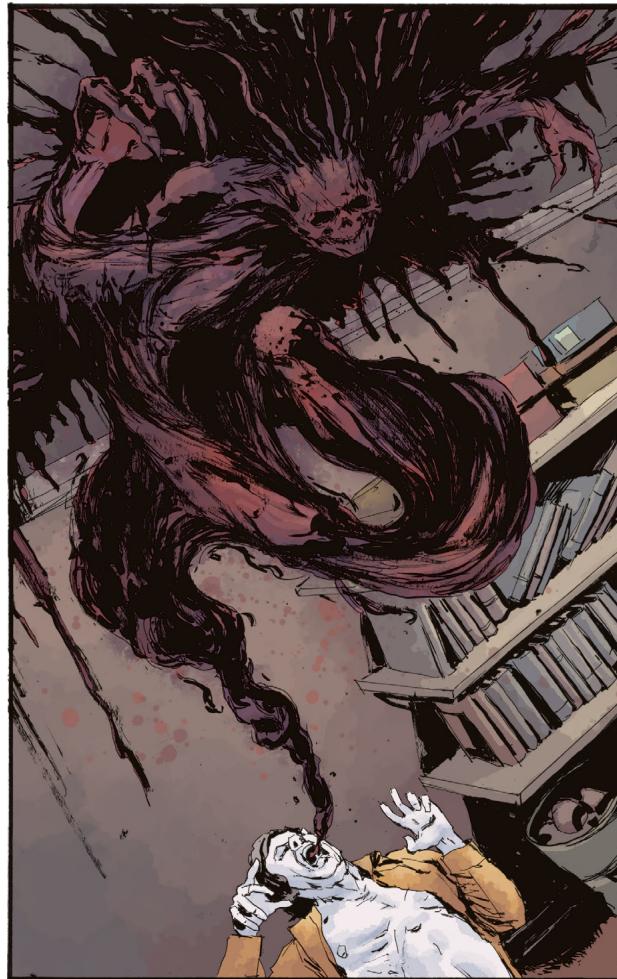






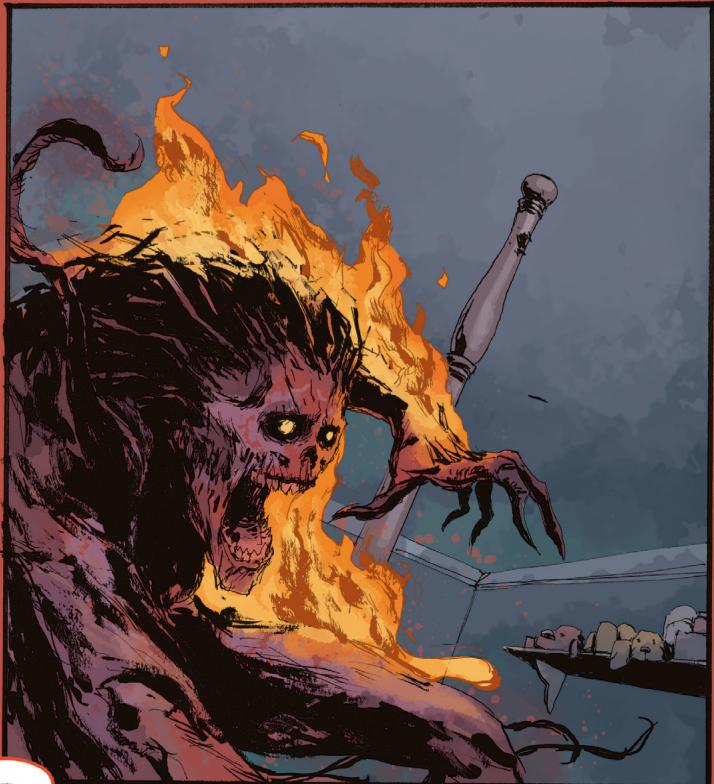








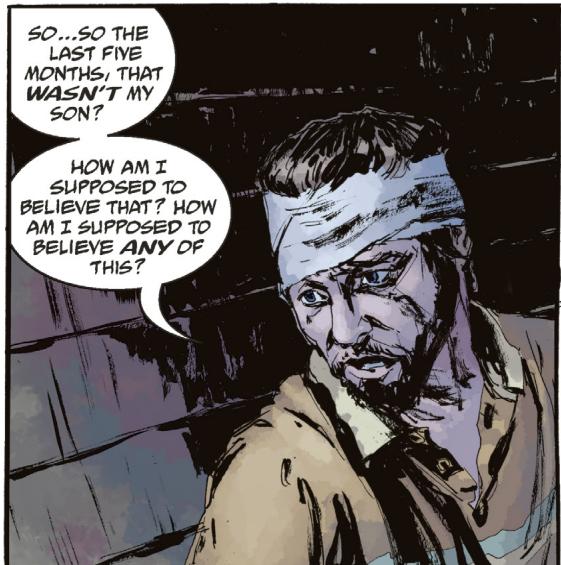


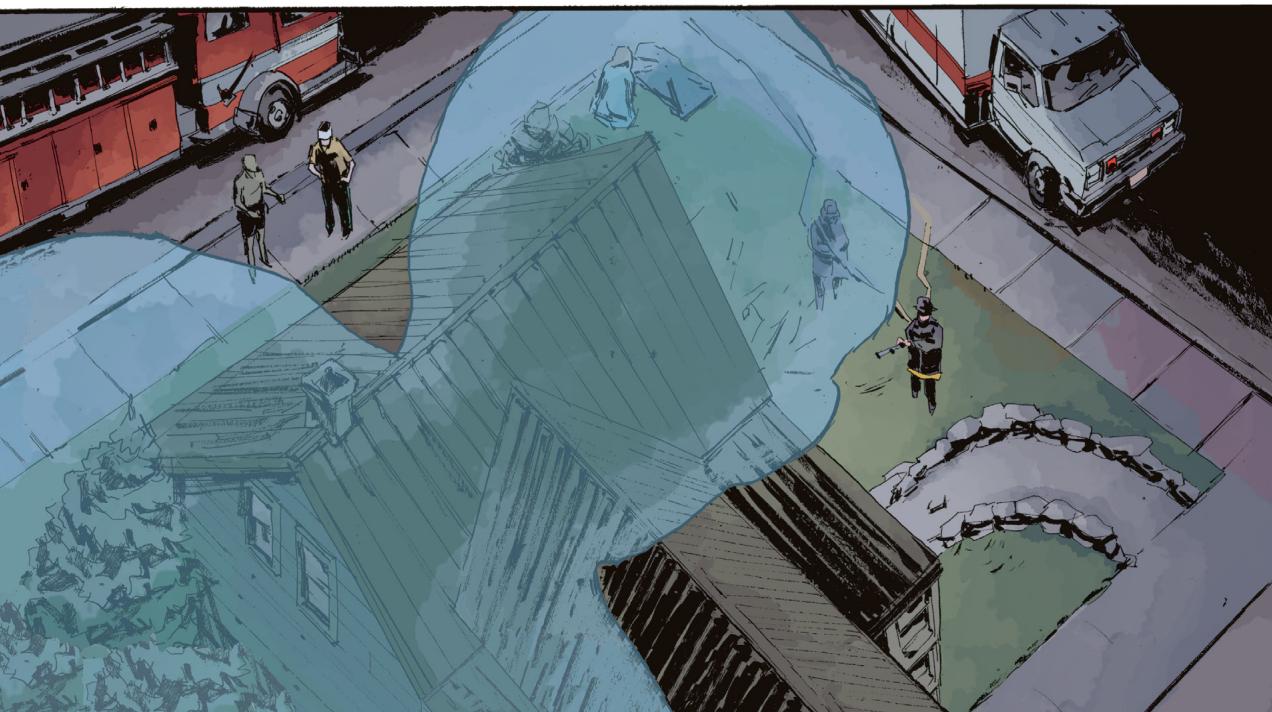


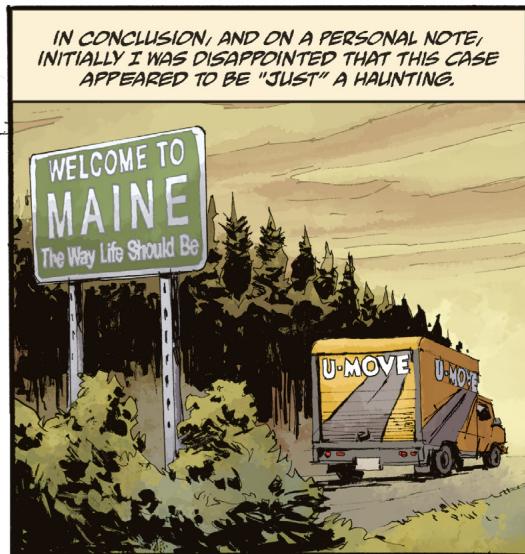
WHOOSH













THE ABYSSAL PLAIN





ART BY
Peter Snejbjerg

«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.»



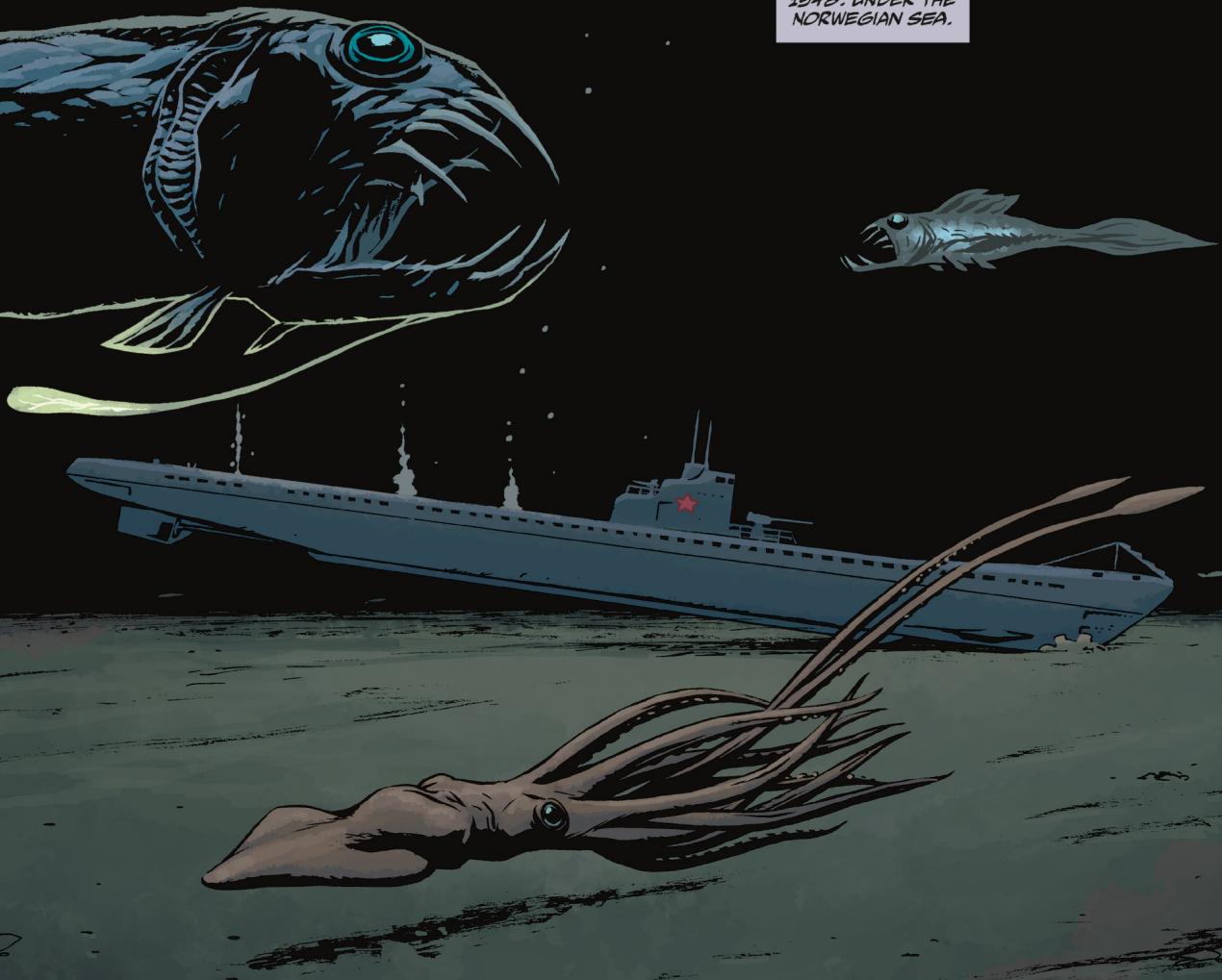
«I just wanted you to know it.»



«Not that you will ever know it.»



1948. UNDER THE NORWEGIAN SEA.



(TRANSLATED FROM THE RUSSIAN)

«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.»



POLINA...



(IT'S
ALL RIGHT,
IOSIF.)



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.





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



"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 TORSHAVN LEARNED THAT THE
BURGONET HAD ONCE AGAIN
SURFACED AMONG THE LOOT."

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









NO.

NOT
THE
LIVING
DEAD.

JUST
DEAD.

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

BUT THAT'S
NOT WHAT
THIS IS.

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

SO TODAY
I FEEL LIKE--

--AN INTRUDER,
I SUPPOSE.

NO,
WORSE
THAN THAT.

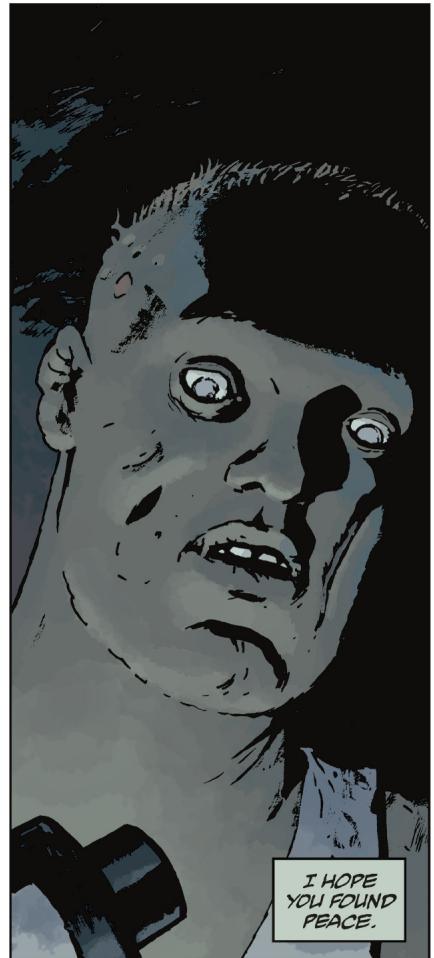
IT'S A
MAUSOLEUM.

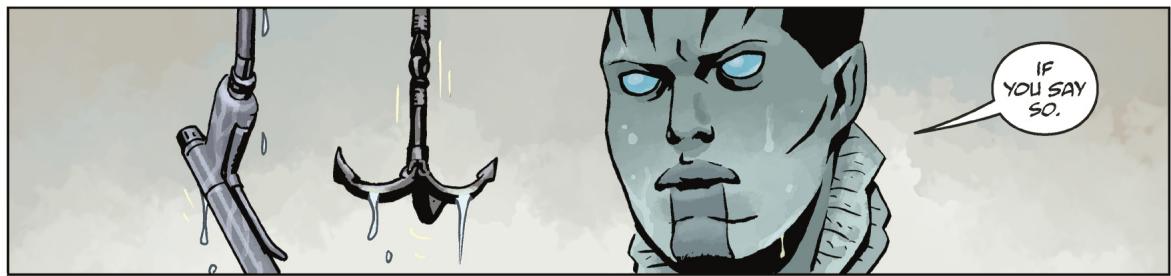
CLICK

A GHOUL.



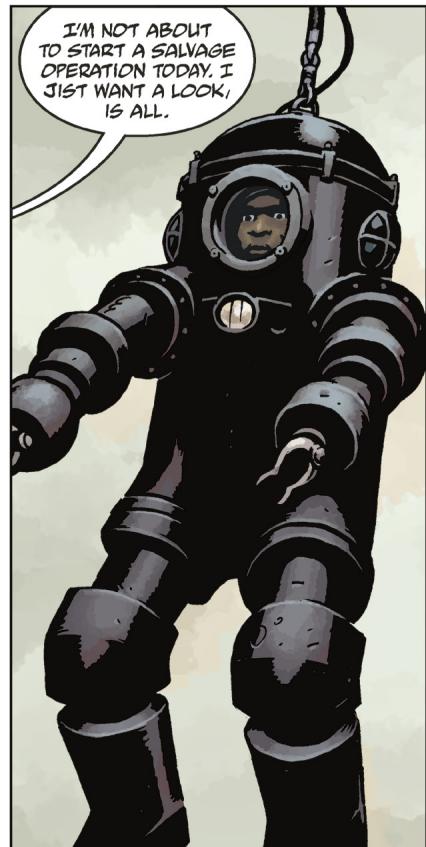


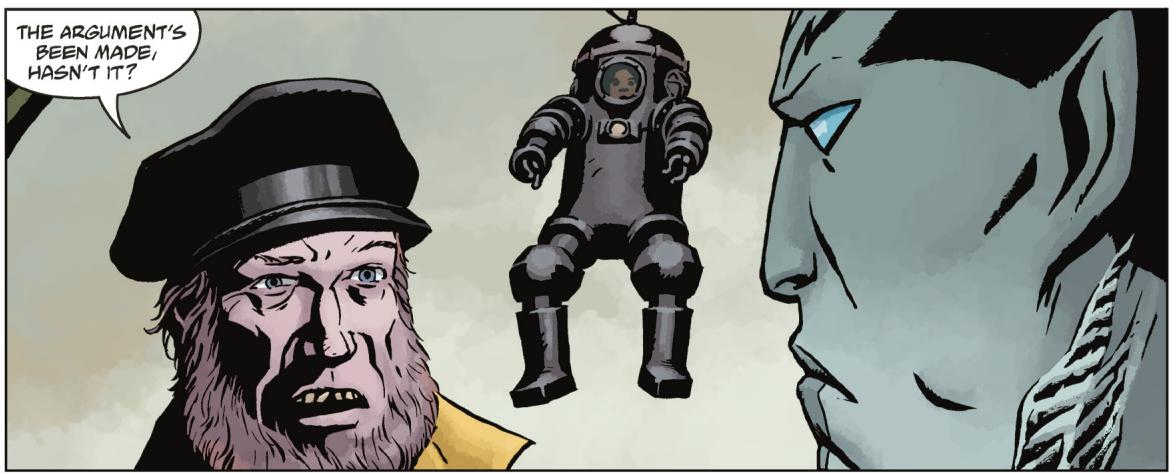
















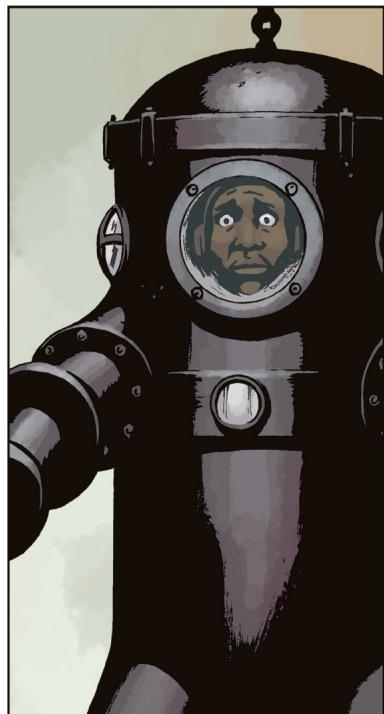
(TRANSLATED FROM RUSSIAN)



















HELLO, CAPTAIN.
I WAS BEGINNING
TO THINK YOUR
IDEA OF RUNNING
A SHIP WAS TO
RUN AROUND
IT.

JOKE ALL YE WANT,
BUT IT IS MY BOAT.
WE'RE THROWING THAT
THING OVERBOARD AND
SETTIN' SAIL--JIST
LIKE YOU TOLD ME TO
DO EARLIER, BY
THE BY.

THAT WAS
BEFORE. RIGHT
NOW, I WANT TO
STAY PUT UNTIL
I CAN FIGURE
OUT WHAT'S
GOING ON.

AND WE'RE FLOATING
OVER A REGULAR
CEMETERY,
OR HAVE YE
FERGOTTEN?

I HEARD
WHAT'S GOING
ON! THAT ARTIFACT
THERE IN THAT SAFE
IS RAISING THE
DEAD, THAT'S WHAT!





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?



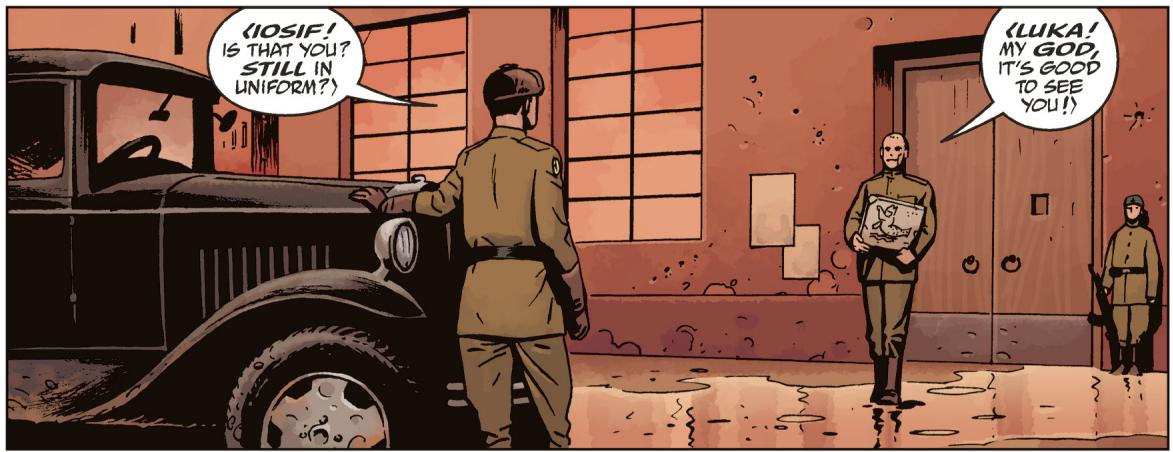
IT MEANS
I'VE HEARD
ENOUGH
ABOUT HOW THIS
IS YOUR
BOAT!

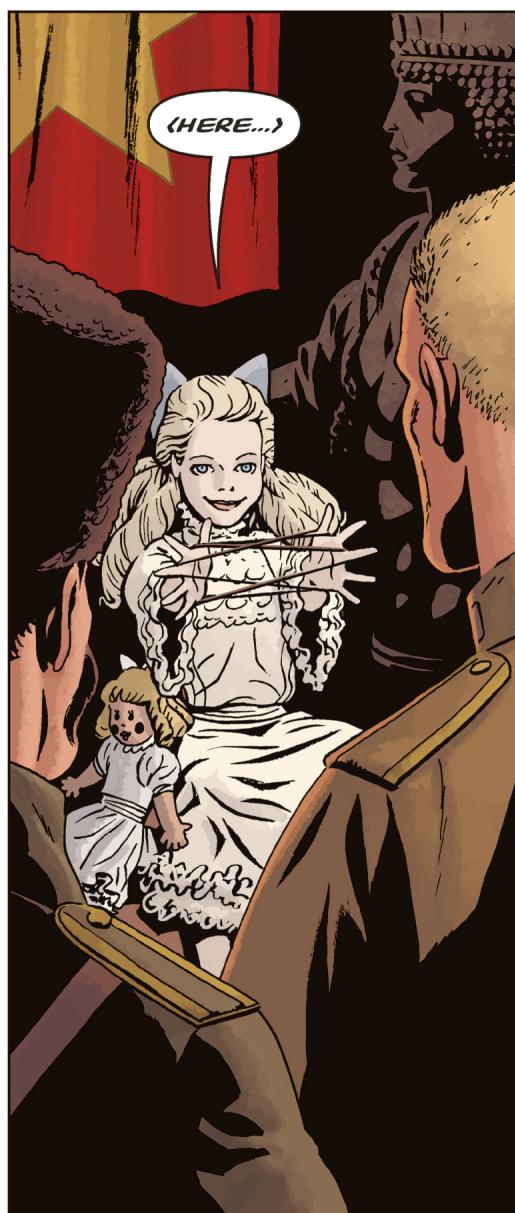


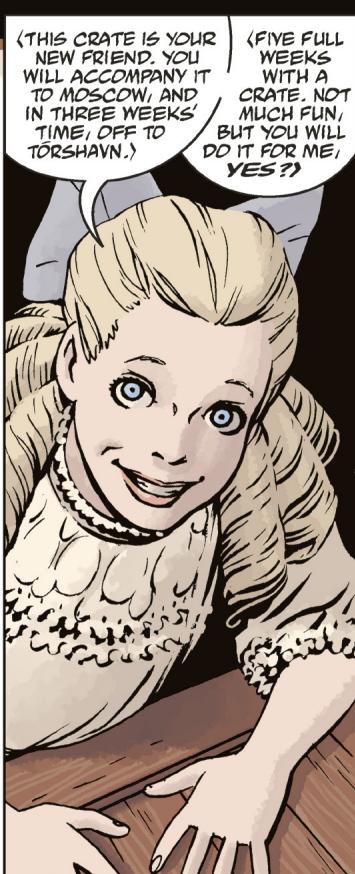
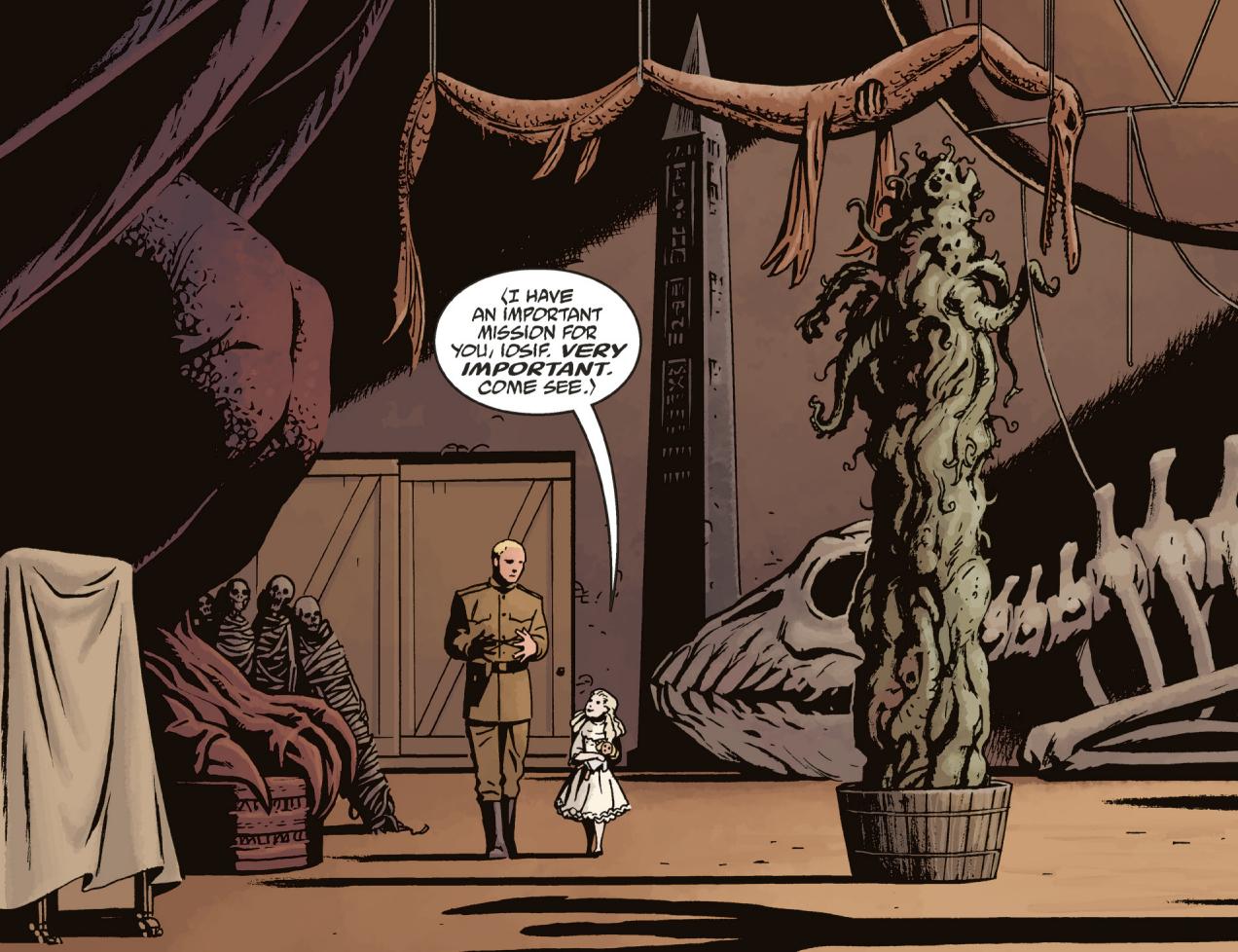
CAPTAIN,
WE JUST
GOT A HAIL
FROM A NAVY
CRUISER.

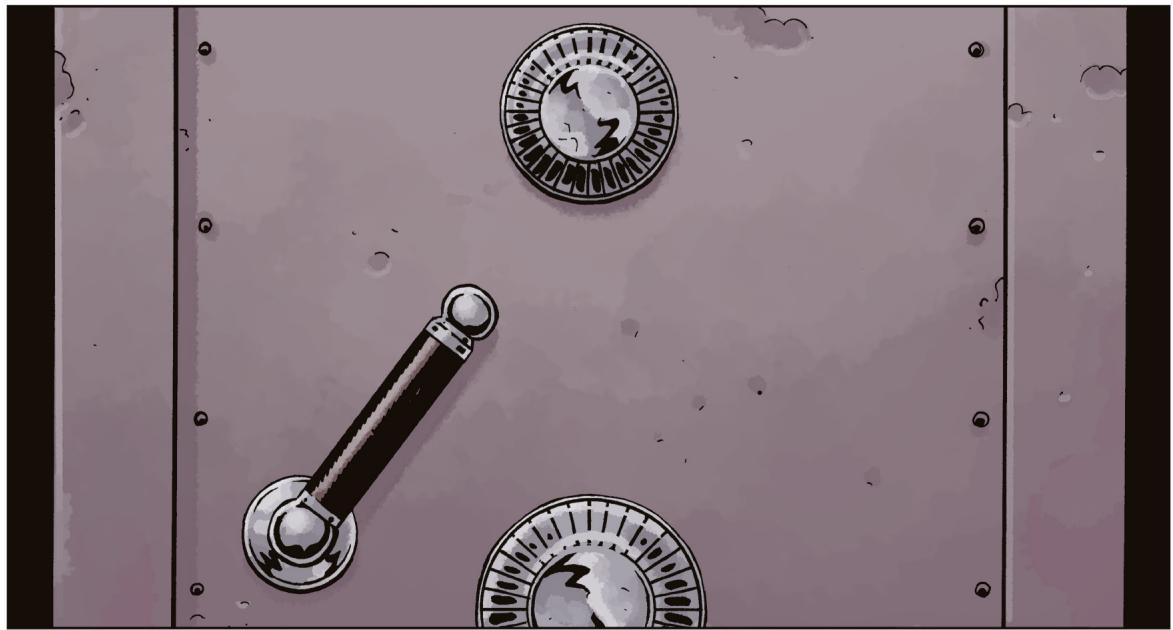
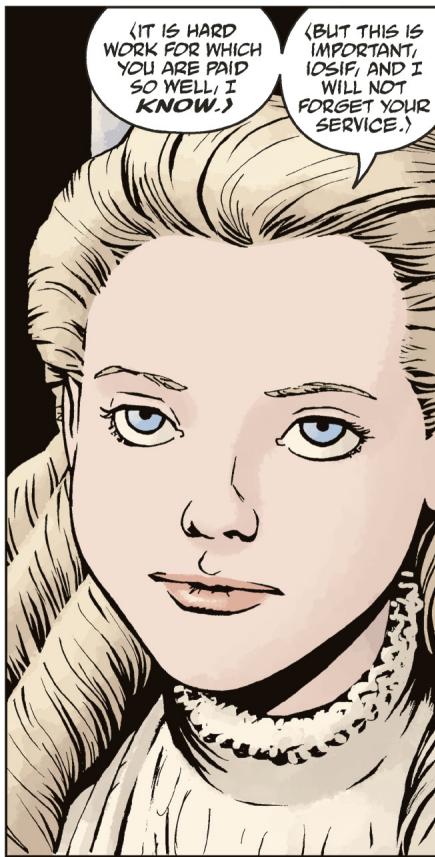


SOVIET
NAVY.











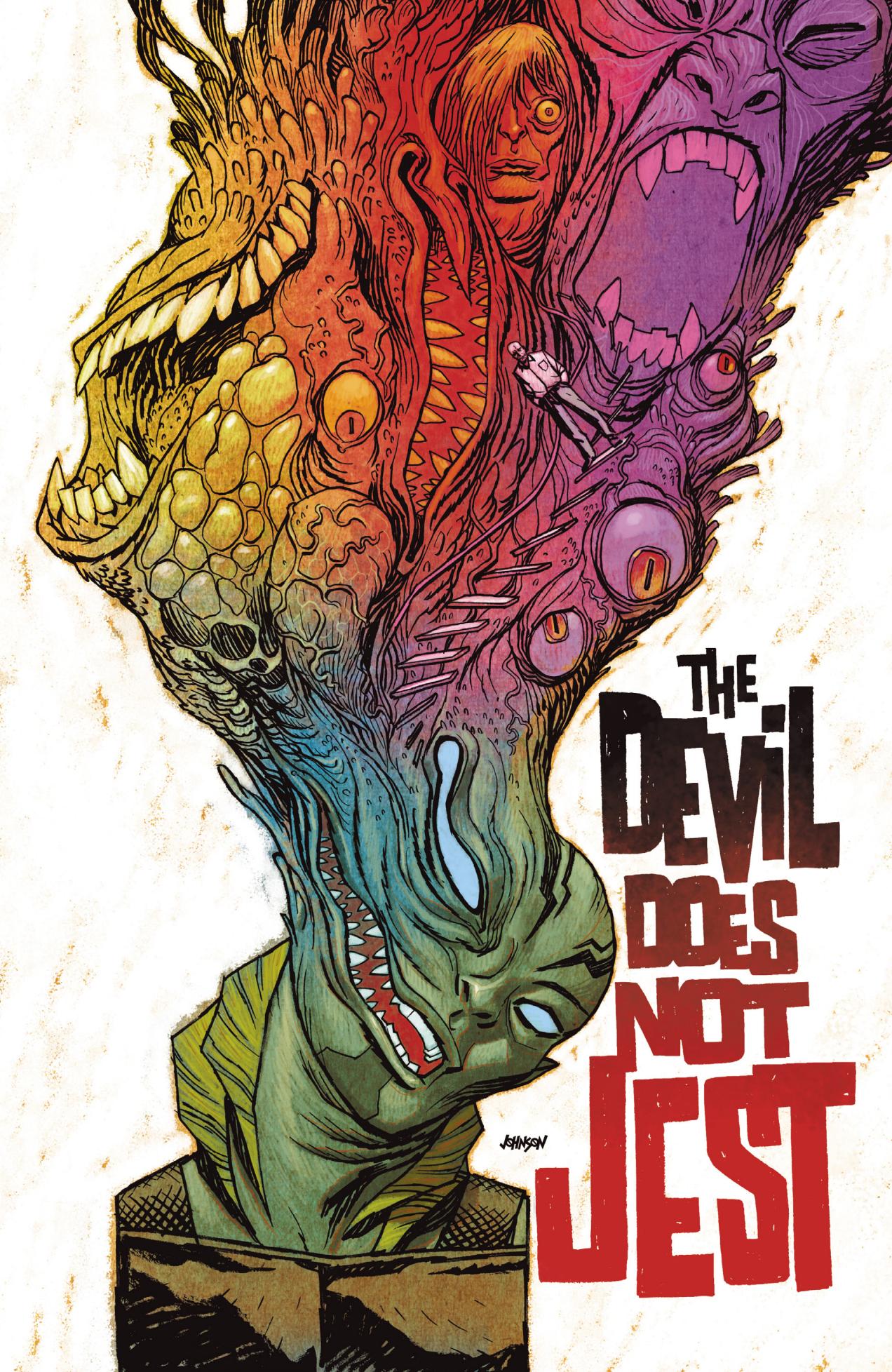










A surreal, multi-headed creature with various animal features and a woman's face.

THE
DEVIL
DOES
NOT
WEST

JOHNSON

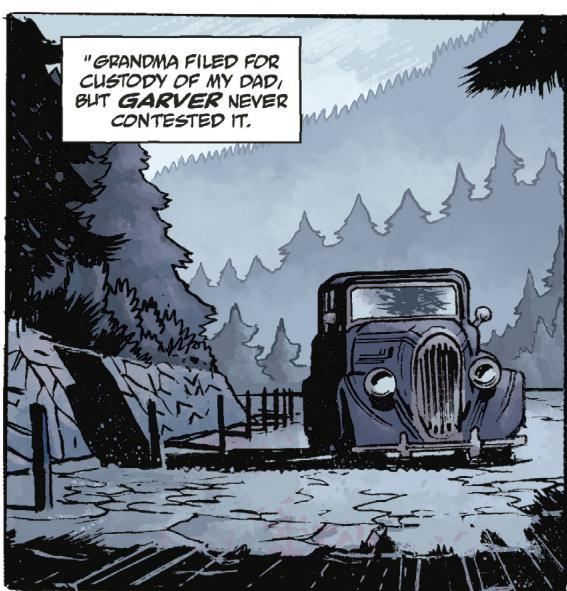
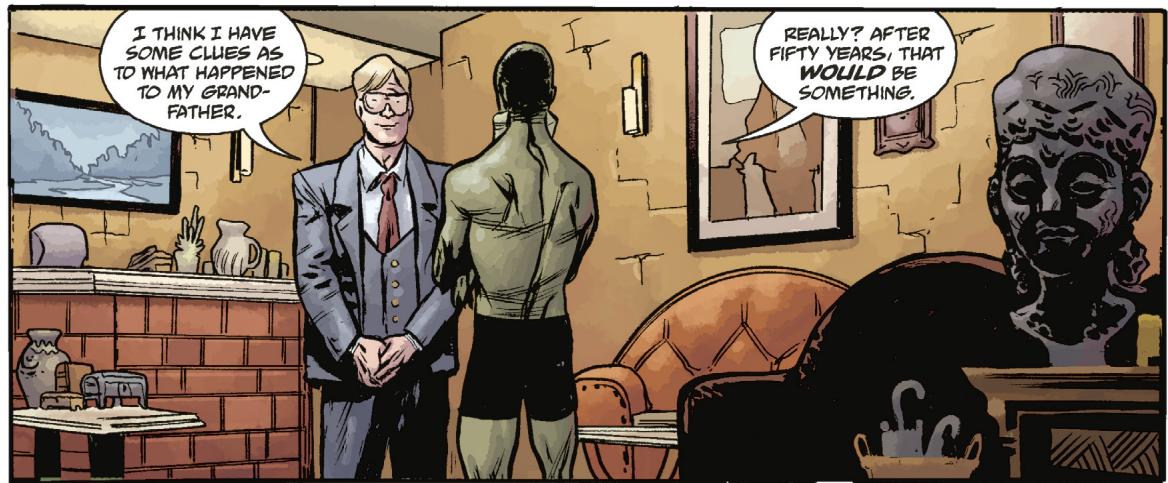


ART BY
James Harren

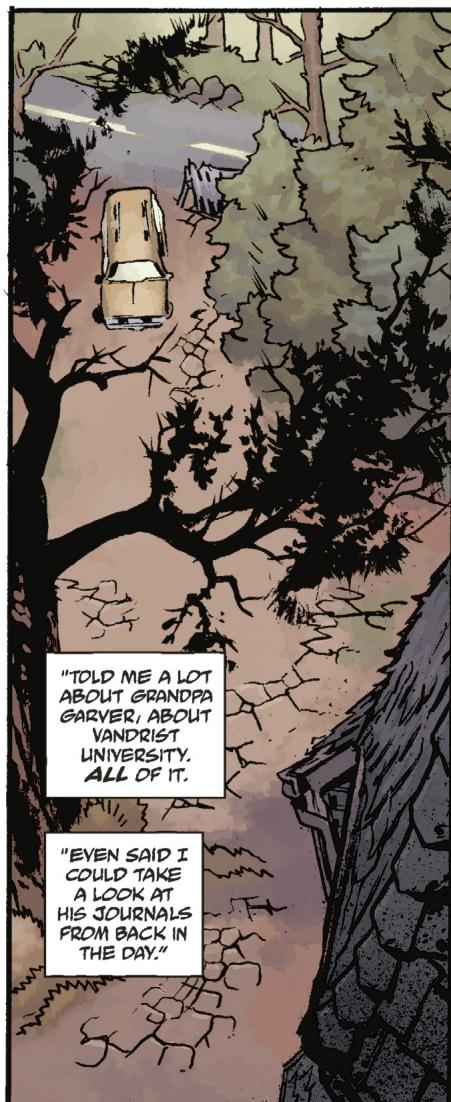


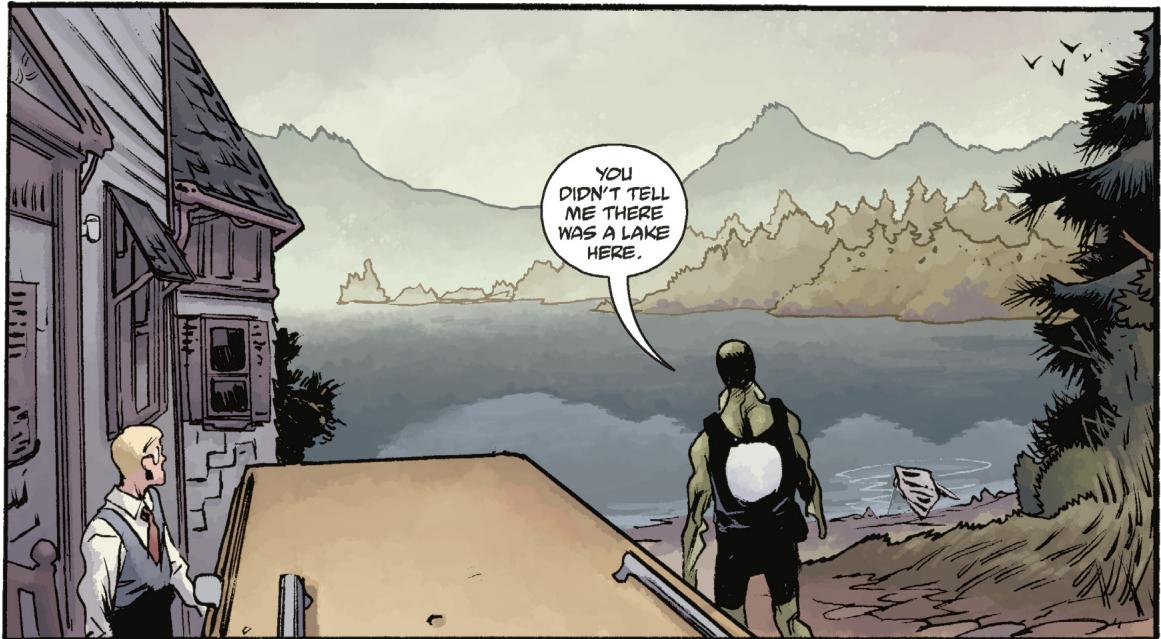
"GOT A
SURPRISE
FOR YOU!"

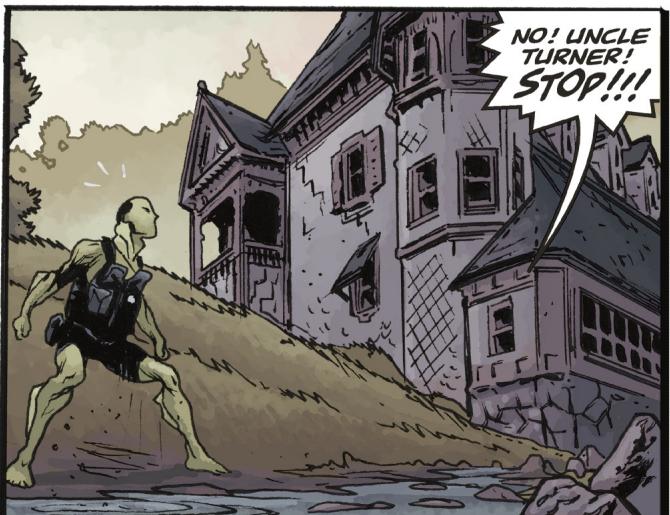
















TROOPERS WON'T FIND THIS PLACE WITHOUT MY HELP. IT'S NOT EVEN ON THE MAP.

YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU CALLED FROM THE SHELL STATION, YOU SAID THIS WASN'T OFFICIAL BUREAU BUSINESS.

SO WHY THE GUN?

THAT'S THE INFLUENCE OF A COLLEAGUE I TRAIN WITH. HE TELLS ME, "LISTEN TO THE BOY--"

CLUMP CLUMP

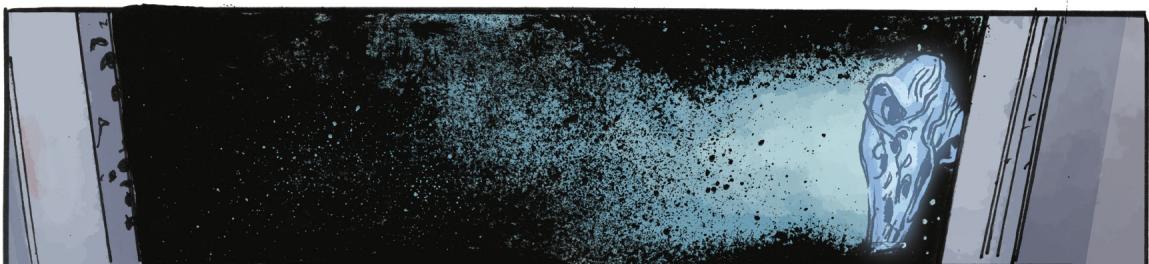
--RIGHT BEFORE I LEFT.

SHERIFF, I'M A TRAINED ENFORCEMENT AGENT. I THINK I SHOULD--

YOU STAY RIGHT THERE!

WHAT THE HELL? YOU SAID NOBODY ELSE WAS HERE. YOU TOLD ME YOU CHECKED.









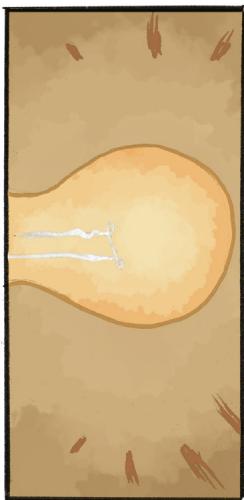










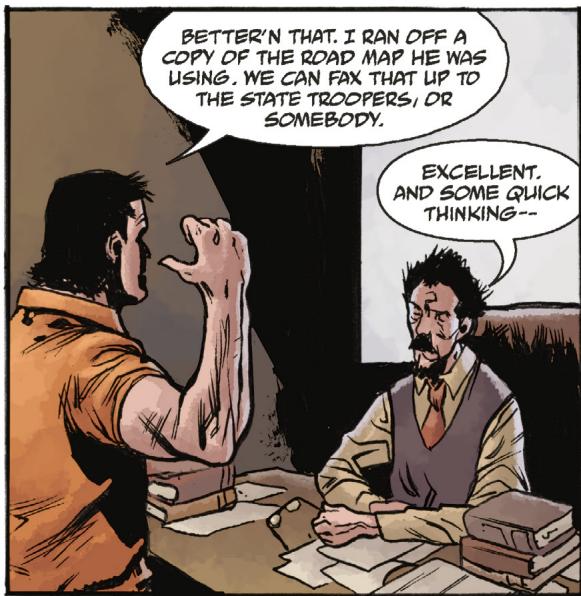


















1937. MY LAST GOOD YEAR. STARTING OVER WITH MY BEAUTIFUL YOUNG BRIDE, LEIGH.



"A NEW HOME, A NEW LIFE--



--A NEW BABY BOY.



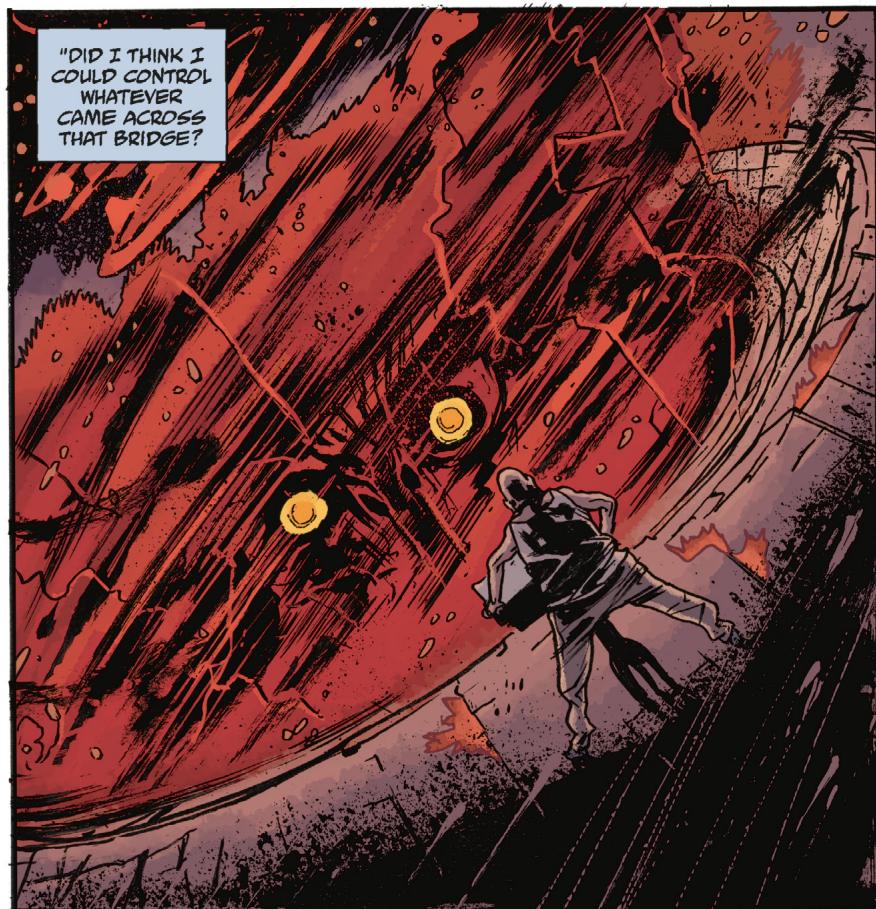
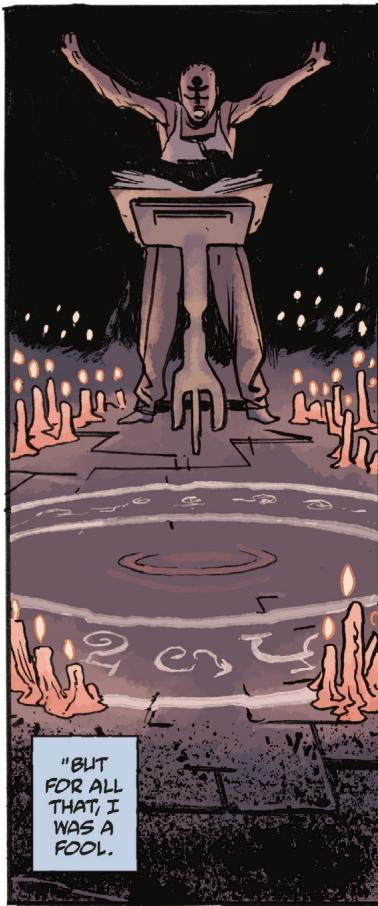
"WHY WASN'T THAT ENOUGH FOR ME? LIKE ANY OTHER FOOL, I SAW BIGGER THINGS FOR MYSELF.



"SAW THEM IN THE TEXTS I'D COLLECTED OVER THE YEARS. SECRETS, TRUTHS. UNDERSTAND, DEMONOLOGY WAS MY LIFE'S WORK. YOU KNOW THAT. SO HOW COULD I LEAVE IT ALL BEHIND?



"AND WITH ACADEMIA TAKEN FROM ME, THERE WAS ONLY ONE AVENUE OPEN, WASN'T THERE?





BOOM







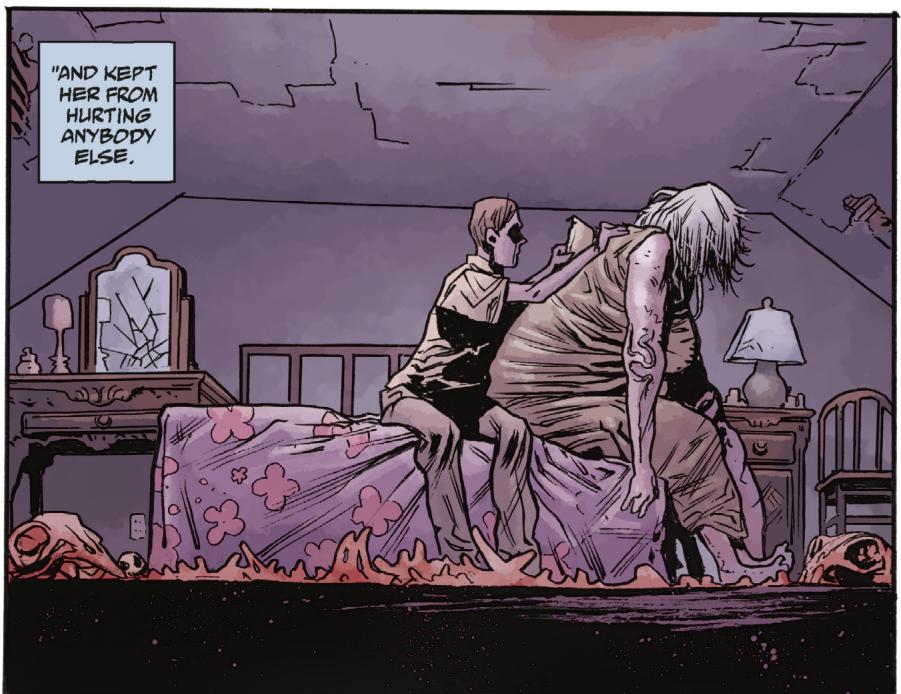
"FORTUNATELY,
LEIGH HERSELF
WASN'T SO
VIRULENT AS THE
MONSTER THAT
MARKED HER."



"SULFAMETHIN. IT
SAVED TURNER'S LIFE."



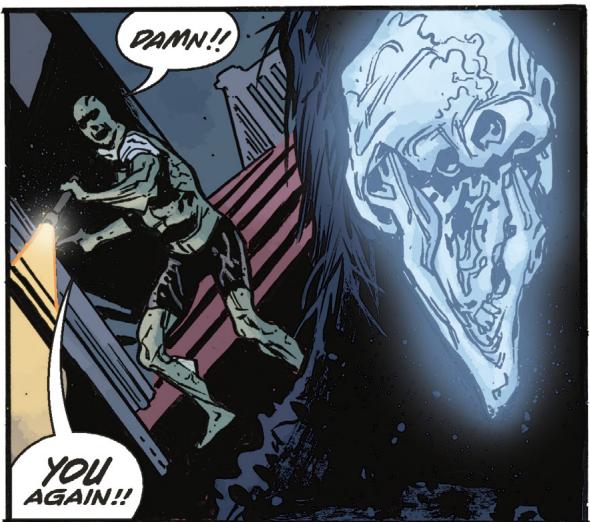
"AND KEPT
HER FROM
HURTING
ANYBODY
ELSE."

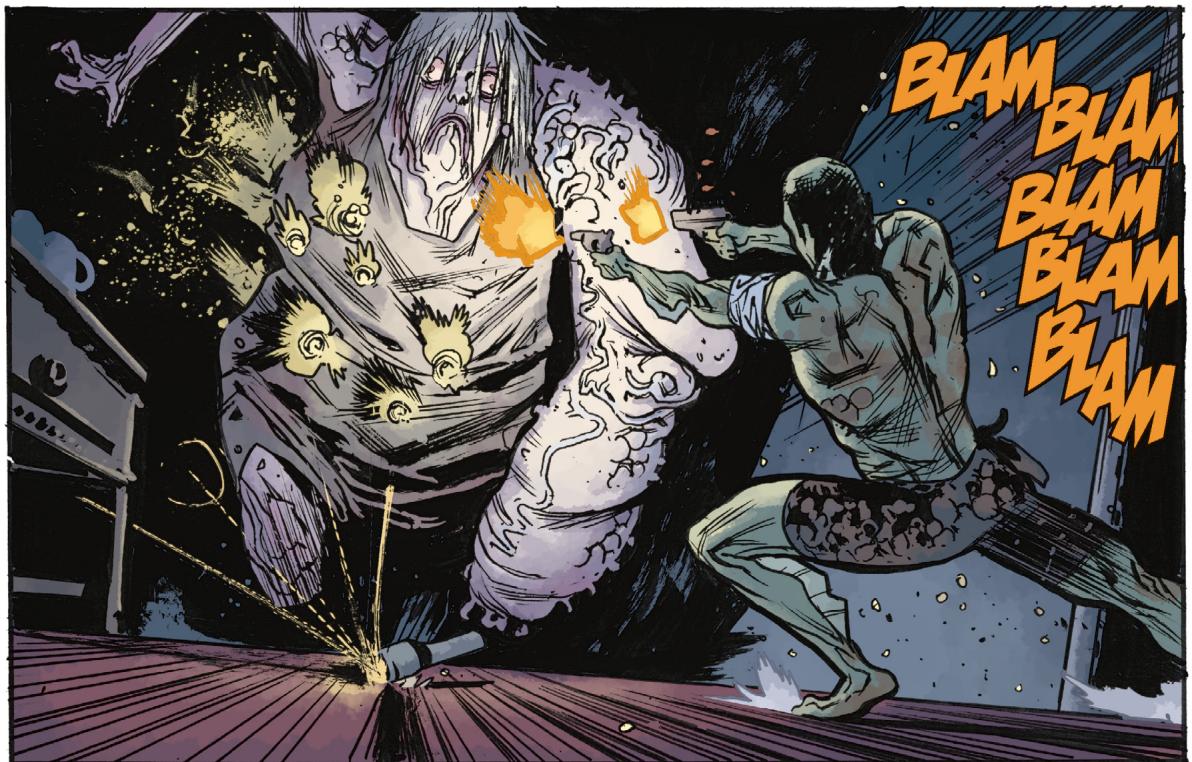


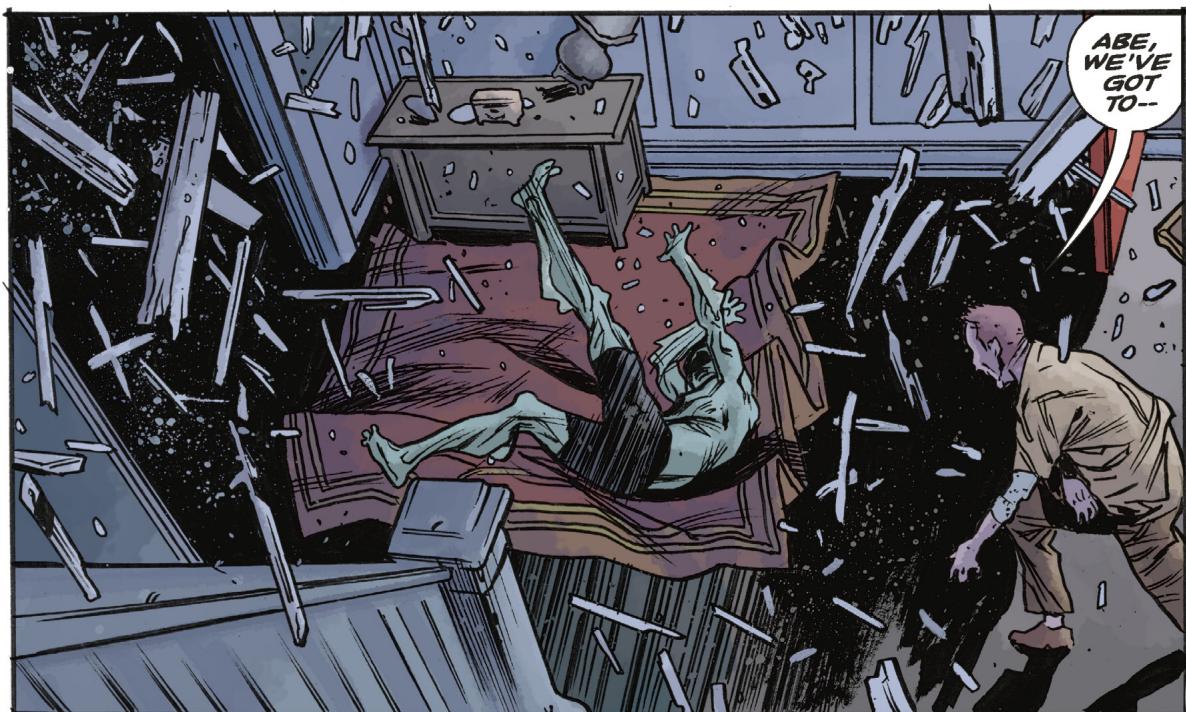
"WHILE
I...I
JUST
GREW
OLD."











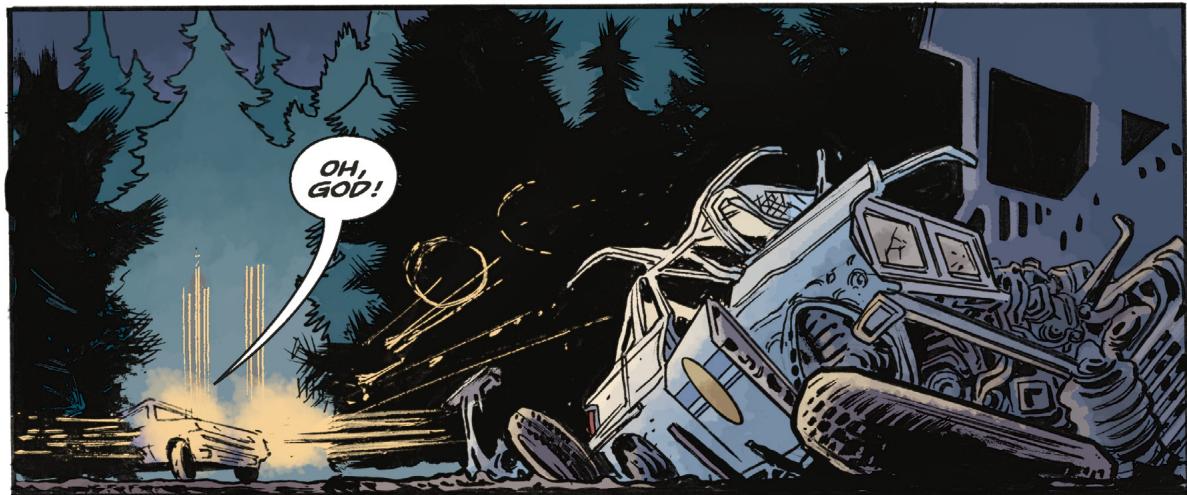
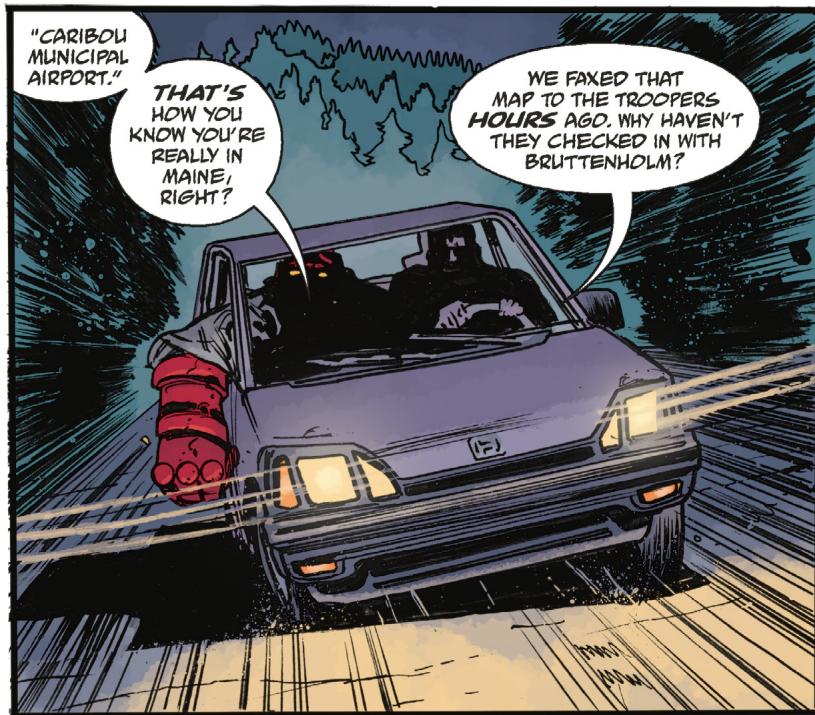
KRAASH

JESUS. JESUS
CHRIST!! WE
CAN'T STOP
HER!

WE'RE
DEAD!
JESUS,
WE'RE
DEAD!













ABE SAPIEN

TM

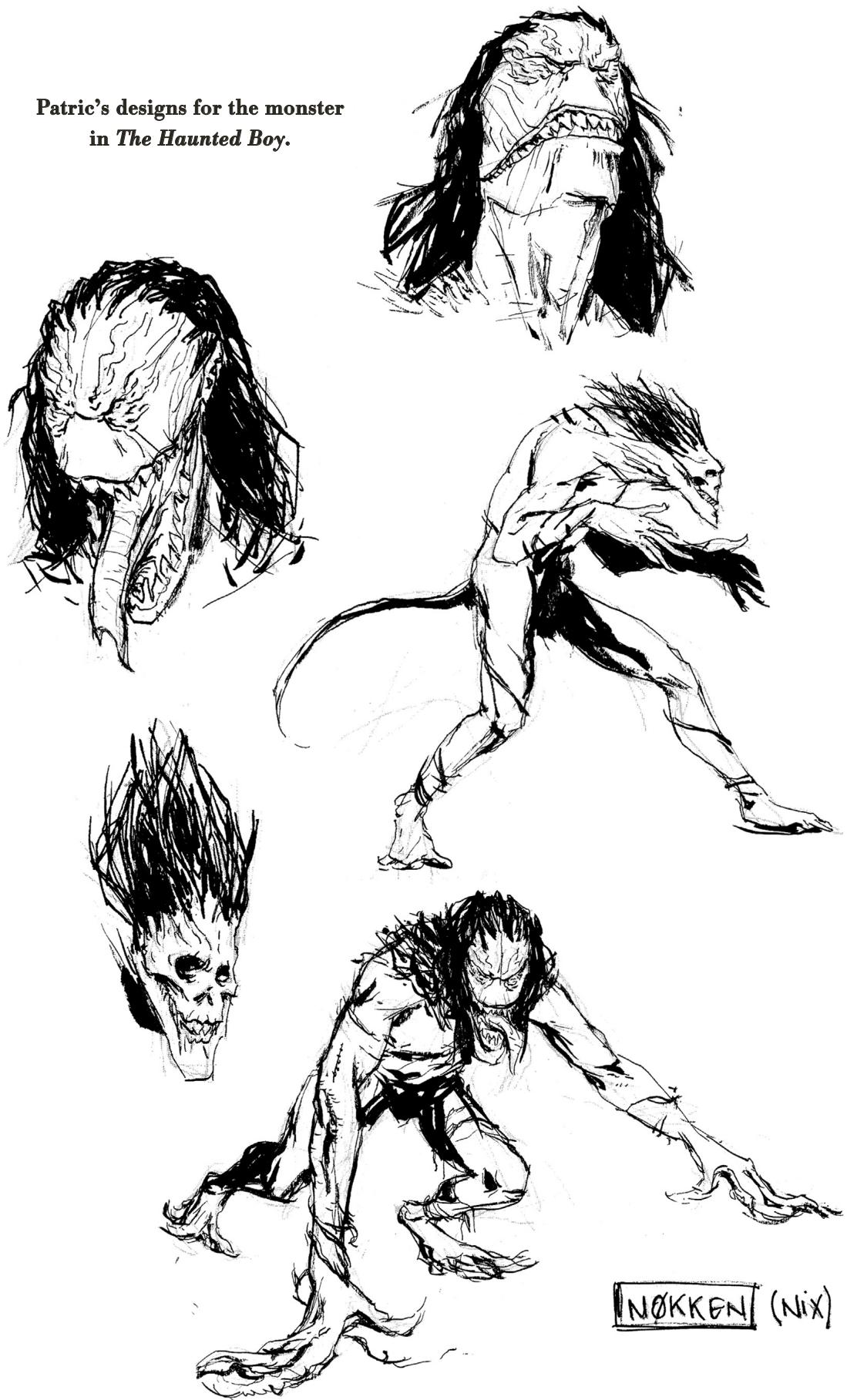
SKETCHBOOK

Notes by Scott Allie



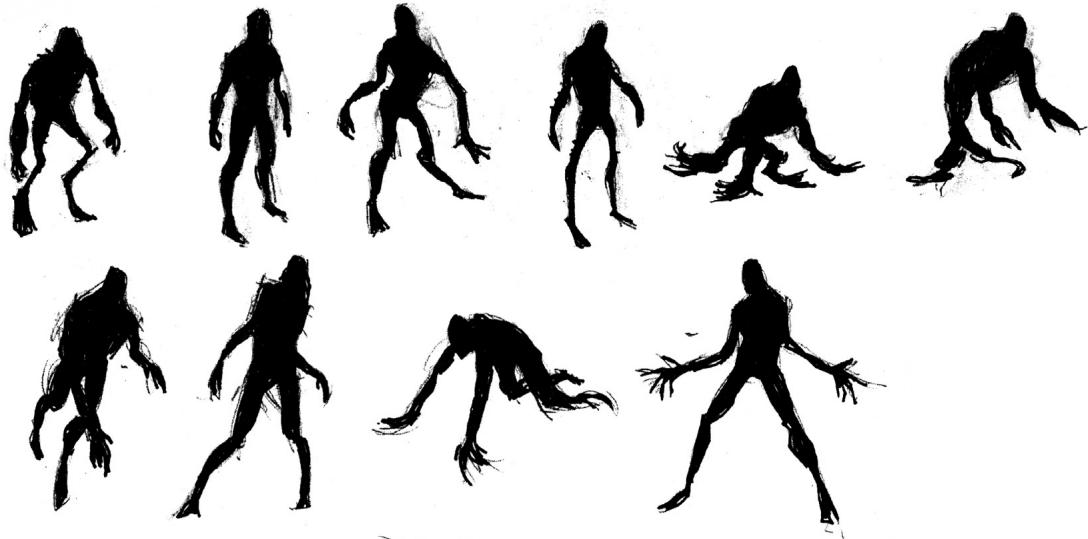
Initial Abe studies by Patric Reynolds.

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



NOKKEN (Nix)

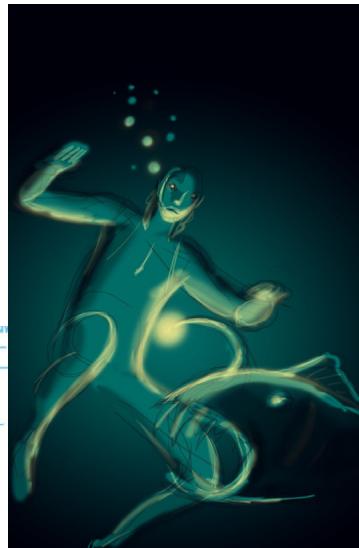
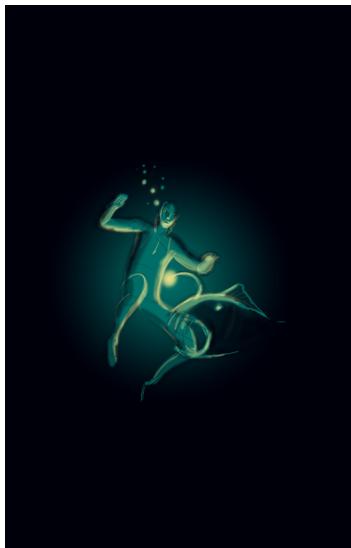
NØKKEN (Nix)



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







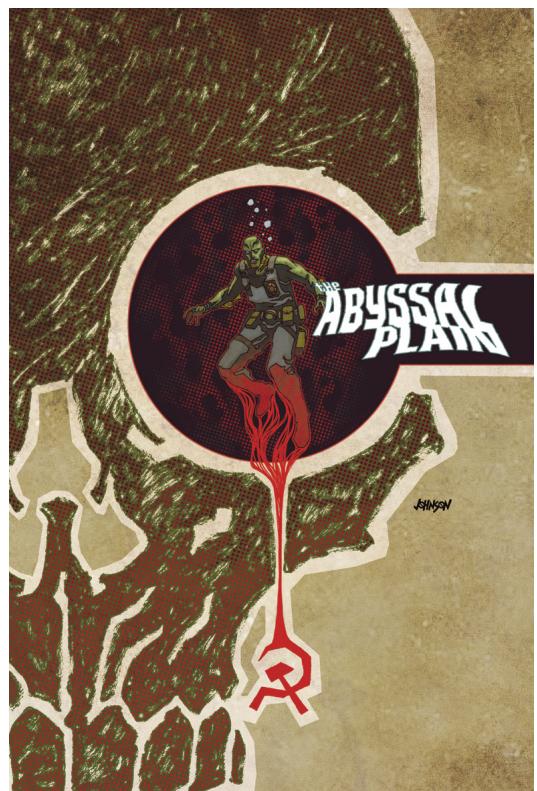
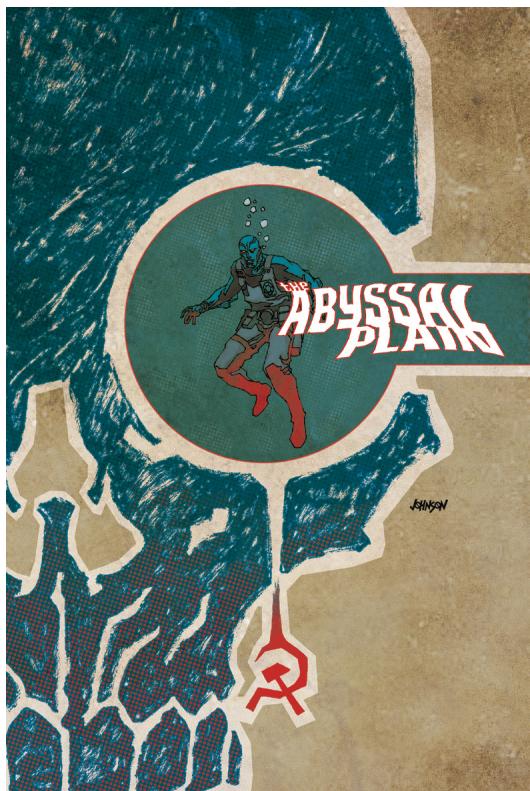
Peter's sketches, pencils, and finishes for
The Abyssal Plain #1's cover, colored by Dave Stewart.





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 PLANE

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¢

A DARK HORSE COMICS
PRODUCTION



FRAN
CAVIL
4/11



THE DEVIL
DOES NOT
JEST
PC.1

MIGNOLA
ARCUDI
HARREN

ABE
SAPIEN



THE DEVIL
DOES
NOT
REST



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.



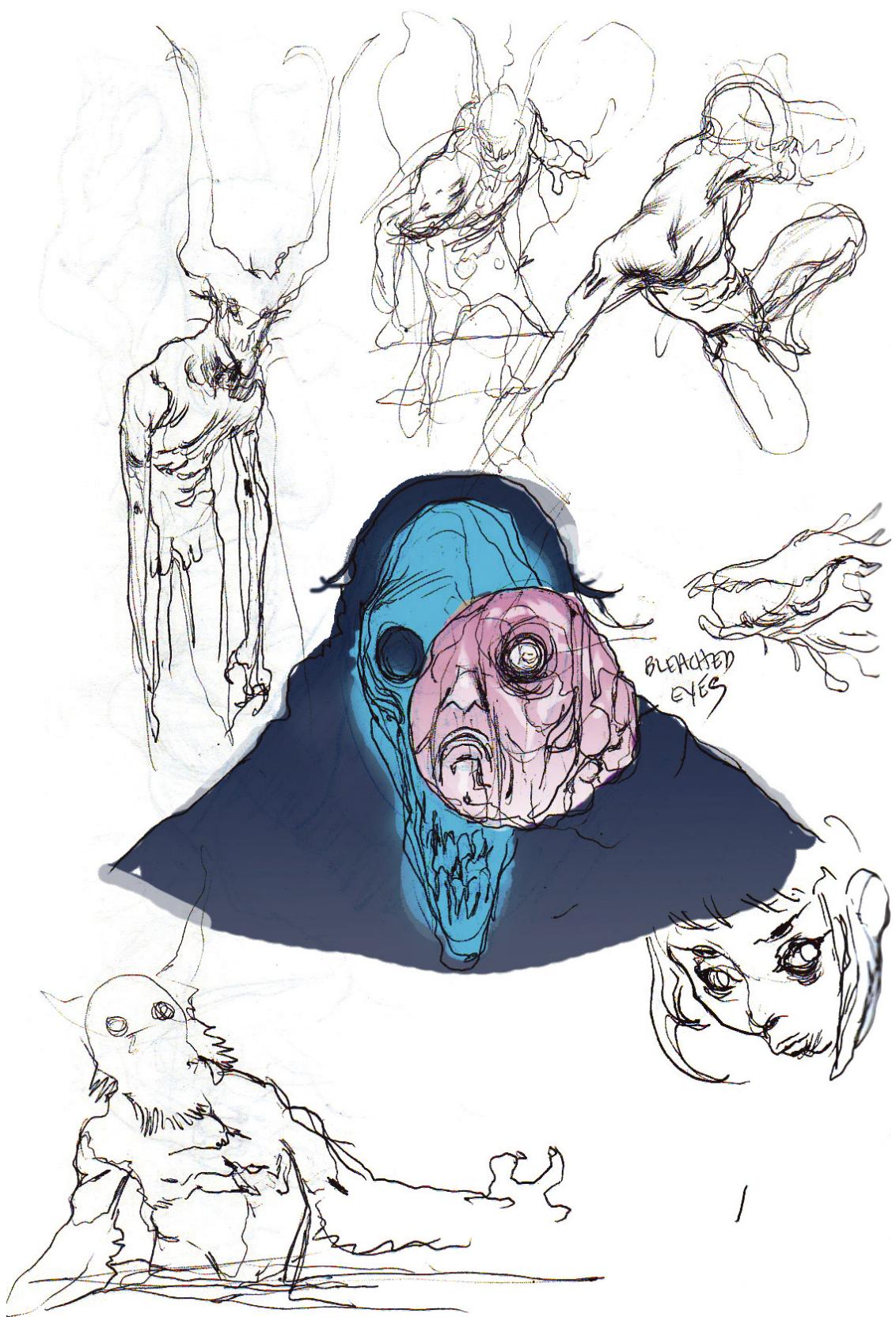
MERRY CHRISTMAS!
HAPPY HOLIDAYS! - JAMES

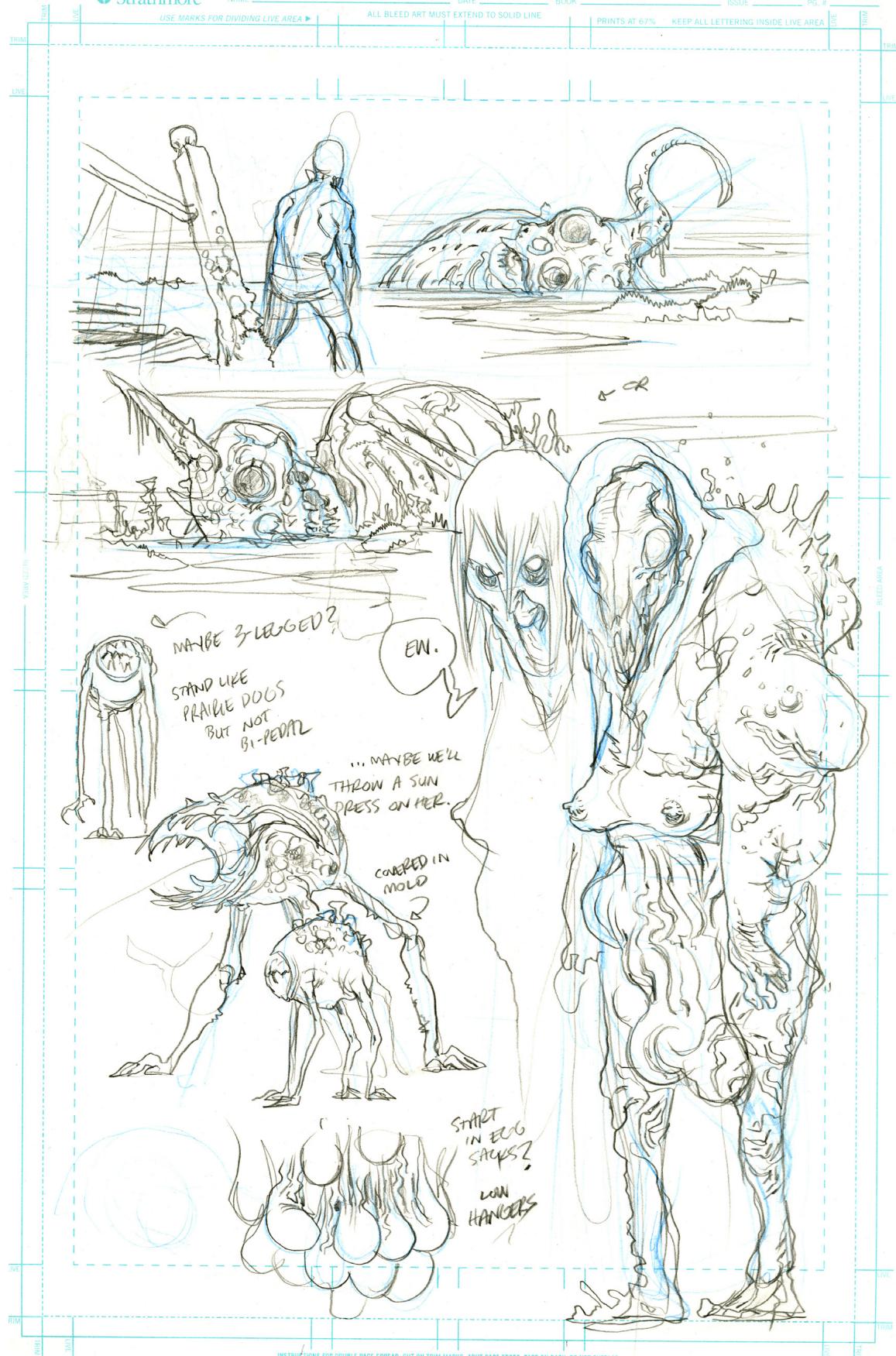


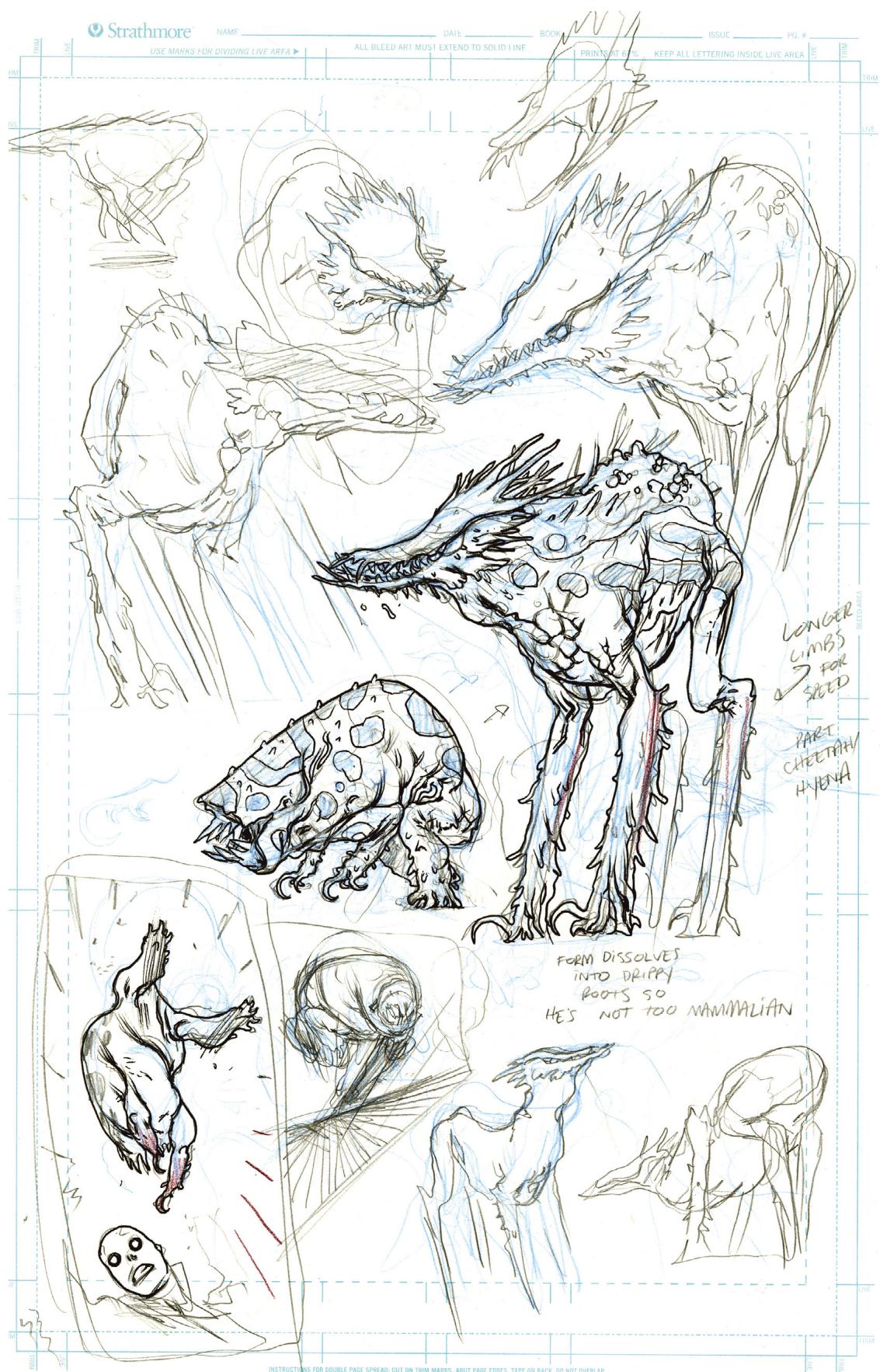
Facing: James Harren's 2011 season's greetings.

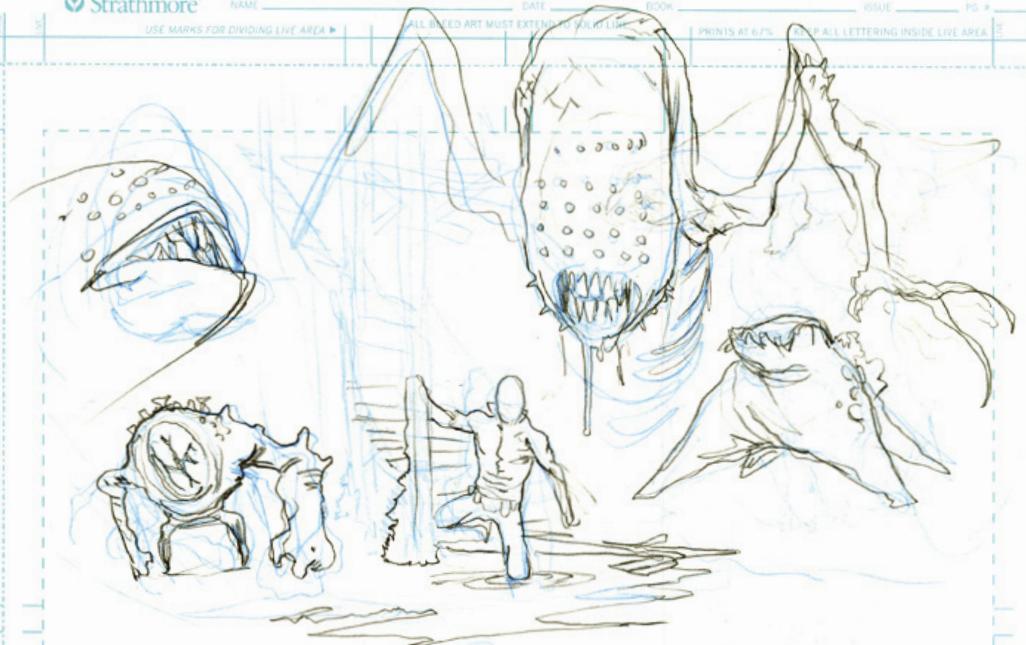
James's designs for the "Momster," the creature in the basement, and, on the following pages, other horrible things from *The Devil Does Not Jest*.







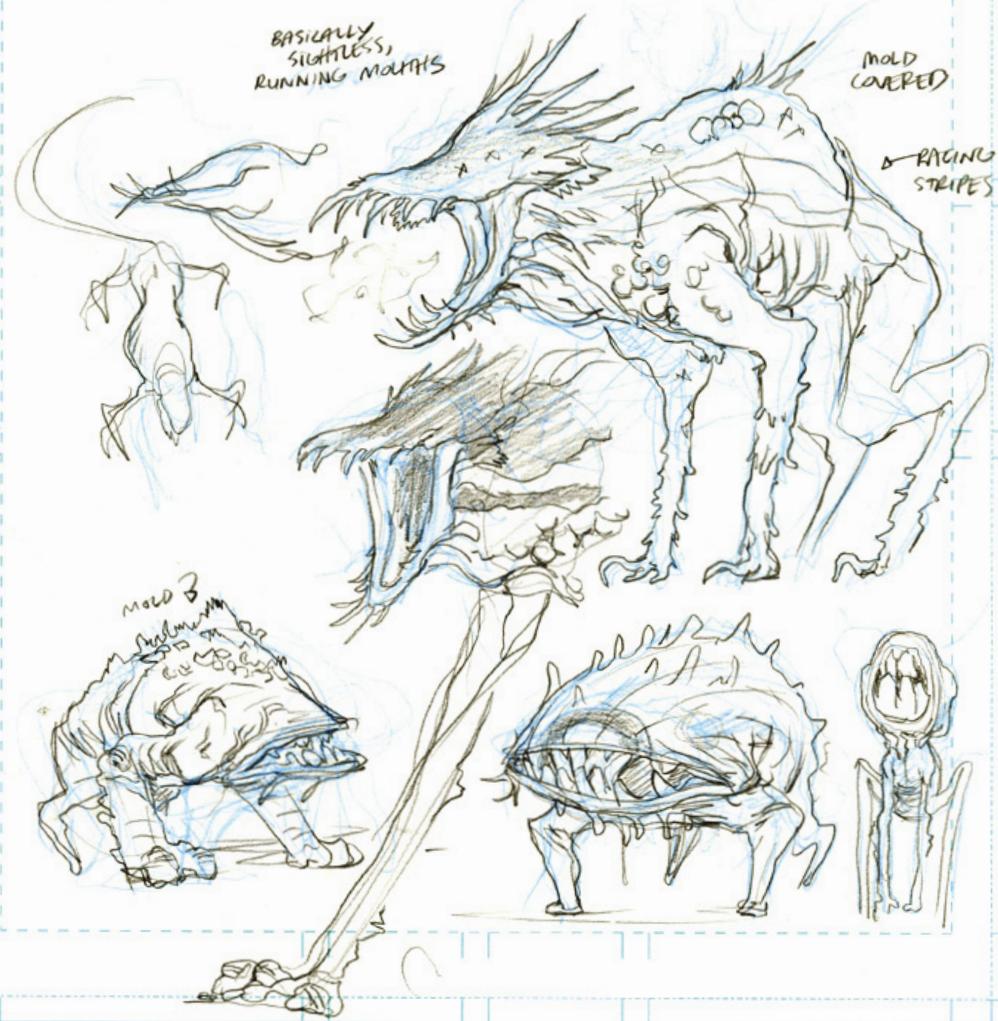




BASICALLY,
SIGHTLESS,
RUNNING MOUTHS

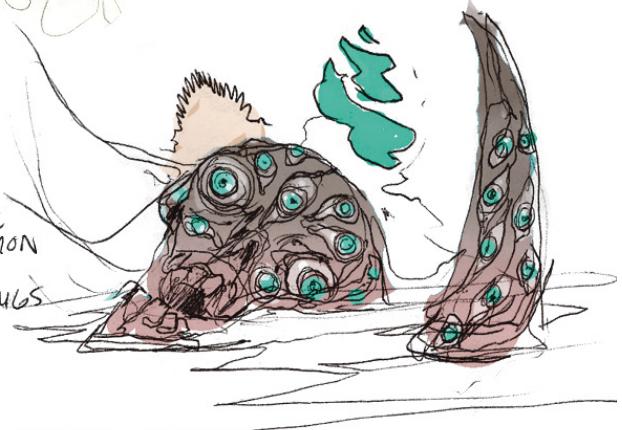
MOLD
COVERED

Δ RAGING
STRIPES





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*).



B.P.R.D.