

FROM THE PAGES OF HELLBOY

ABE SAPIEN™

SACRED
PLACES



MIKE MIGNOLA — SCOTT ALLIE

SEBASTIÁN FIUMARA — MAX FIUMARA — DAVE STEWART

ABE SAPIEN™

CREATED BY
MIKE MIGNOLA



SACRED PLACES



Ever since he was discovered in a glass tube in 1978, Abe Sapien has served as a field agent for the Bureau for Paranormal Research and Defense. His origins remained a secret for most of that time, until he found evidence of a former life as a scientist named Langdon Everett Caul. In 1865, Caul unearthed an egglike object amid ruins at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean, leading to his disappearance, his wife's suicide, and his slow transformation into Abe Sapien.

A second transformation came recently for Abe when a young psychic named Fenix shot him in a border town in Texas, believing that he played a part in the events currently bringing mankind to its knees. Abe fell into a coma, from which he recently awoke. Now a mutated Abe Sapien has left the B.P.R.D. and is on the run at the end of the world . . .

ABE SAPIEN™

SACRED PLACES

STORY BY
Mike Mignola and Scott Allie

***The Garden (I) and
Visions, Dreams, and Fishin'***

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***The Healer
and Sacred Places***

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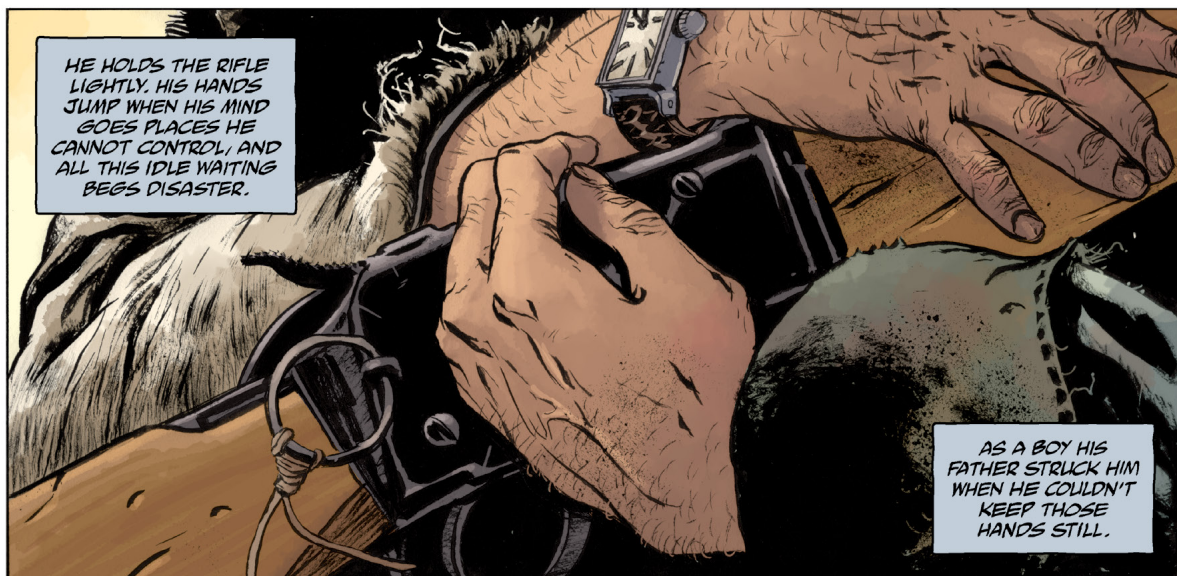
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This book collects *Abe Sapien* #12–#14 and #16–#17.

THE GARDEN (I)







HE HOLDS THE RIFLE LIGHTLY. HIS HANDS JUMP WHEN HIS MIND GOES PLACES HE CANNOT CONTROL, AND ALL THIS IDLE WAITING BEGS DISASTER.

AS A BOY HIS FATHER STRUCK HIM WHEN HE COULDN'T KEEP THOSE HANDS STILL.



HIS EYES ARE TRAINED ON A CREEK BED THAT RAN DRY, THE EARTH THERE BLOWN SMOOTH BY HOT WINDS BEFORE HE AND THE WOMAN HAD EVER FOUND THIS TILTED HOUSE.

FROM THAT CREEK THEIR DELIVERANCE WILL RISE.



HERE IS THE ANTITHESIS OF FLOOD, GOD HAVING BURNT THE FACE OF THE EARTH TO DUST AND TO ASH.

THIS MAN IS NOT NOAH PERCHED UPON AN ARK, WAITING FOR A RAVEN OR DOVE TO BRING HIM AN OLIVE LEAF.



HE AND THE
WOMAN ARE THE
ONLY PAIR HERE,
AND THEY WAIT
FOR WATER.

THE THINNEST
COLUMN OF WATER
RUNNING INTO THAT
DRY BONE CREEK,
AND HE WILL KNOW
THE NEW GARDEN
IS HERE.



AND SHE'LL KNOW
TOO. SHE WON'T
NEED TO STAY
HIDDEN INSIDE
THE HOUSE.

SHE'LL FEEL
GOD'S TOUCH
ON HER, AND
SHE WILL BE
GLAD FOR WHAT
COMES NEXT.

ONLY THIS
CERTAINTY
GIVES HIM
PATIENCE.

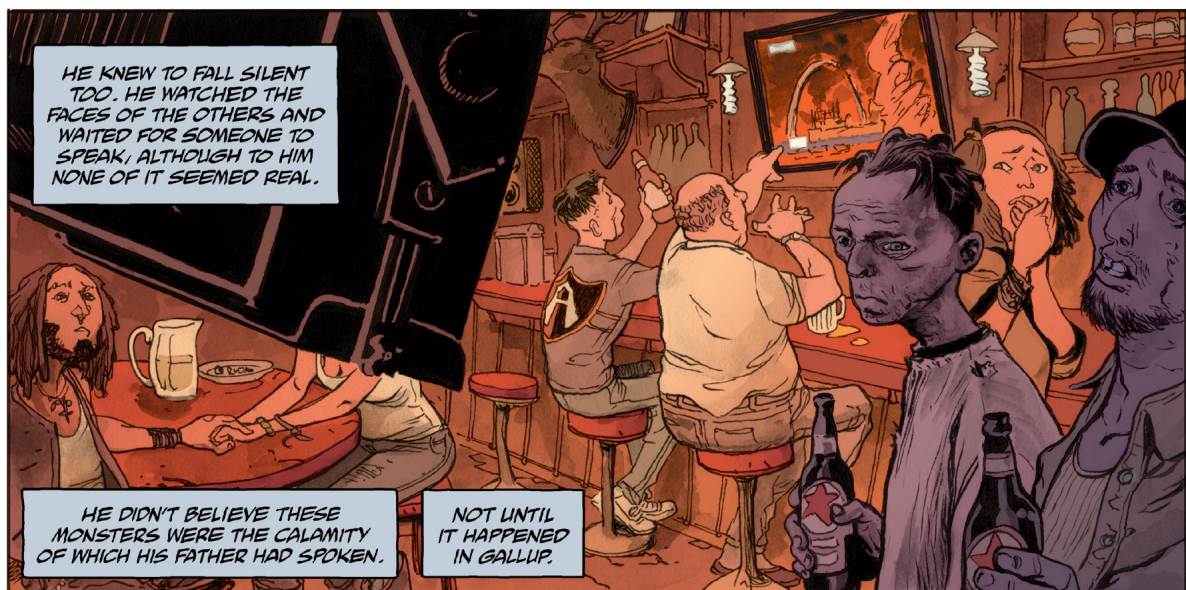


HE AND THE
WOMAN WERE IN
GALLIP WHEN THE
END CAME. HE'D
SEEN DEMONS
BEFORE, BUT ONLY
ON TELEVISION,
WHERE HE FAILED
TO RECOGNIZE
THEM FOR WHAT
THEY WERE.



THE NIGHT ST. LOUIS FELL, HE WAS EATING IN GALLUP WITH THE MEXICAN JANITORS WHO'D TAKEN HIM ON ONE NIGHT A WEEK.

HE WAS NOT OPPOSED TO DRINK, ONLY TO MUCH OF THE BEHAVIOR THAT COMES WITH IT, BUT THESE WERE PIOUS FOLK, AND WHEN THE IMAGES CAME UP ON THE SCREEN, EVERYONE FELL CHURCH SILENT.



HE KNEW TO FALL SILENT TOO. HE WATCHED THE FACES OF THE OTHERS AND WAITED FOR SOMEONE TO SPEAK, ALTHOUGH TO HIM NONE OF IT SEEMED REAL.

HE DIDN'T BELIEVE THESE MONSTERS WERE THE CALAMITY OF WHICH HIS FATHER HAD SPOKEN.

NOT UNTIL IT HAPPENED IN GALLUP.



IN THE BEDROOM IT'S QUIET.

AND SHE LIKES THAT. WHEN IT'S QUIET, SHE PUSHES HER MIND AWAY, PUSHES AWAY ALL MEMORY.

SOMETIMES THERE ARE SOUNDS FROM HIM, ON THE ROOF, OR IF THE SUN'S TOO BRIGHT, IN THE UPSTAIRS BEDROOM WHERE THE TRASH IS LESS.



AT LEAST SHE ASSUMES THE SUN IS WHY HE SOMETIMES COMES INSIDE. WHY HE DOES WHAT HE DOES, SHE HAS NO WAY OF KNOWING.

SO SHE LISTENS.

HE WANTS ONLY TO PROTECT HER. WHEN HE SPEAKS AT ALL, THIS IS WHAT HE SAYS.



AND SHE WISHES SHE COULD SIMPLY BE GRATEFUL FOR IT. AFTER ALL THAT'S HAPPENED.

STILL THE TEARS COME WHEN SHE HEARS A SOUND FROM HIM.

BUT BETTER TO THINK OF HIM THAN TO THINK OF WHAT CAME BEFORE.



THE SUN HANGS HIGH BEHIND THE MAN'S HEAD, AND HE KNOWS HE CAN SEE THE SERPENT BEFORE IT CAN SEE HIM.

THE AIR SLIPS IN AND OUT OF HIS LUNGS. HE MOVES HIS FINGER SLOWLY ONTO THE TRIGGER.



THE SERPENT IS
ON TWO LEGS,
TALL LIKE HIS
FATHER.

HE PICTURES
HIS FATHER ON
THIS ROOF,
THINKS WHAT
HE WOULD DO,
IMAGINES LARGE
HANDS ON HIM,
INSTRUCTING
HIM.



HE MUSTN'T LET THE SERPENT SPOT
HIM AMONG THE JAGGED BOARDS
HE'D TORN LOOSE THE NIGHT THAT
IT GOT SO COLD THAT HE HAD TO
BUILD A FIRE TO KEEP HER WARM.

HE CAN'T
LET THE SUN
REFLECT OFF
THE BARREL OF
THE RIFLE, BUT
NEITHER CAN
HE RUSH.



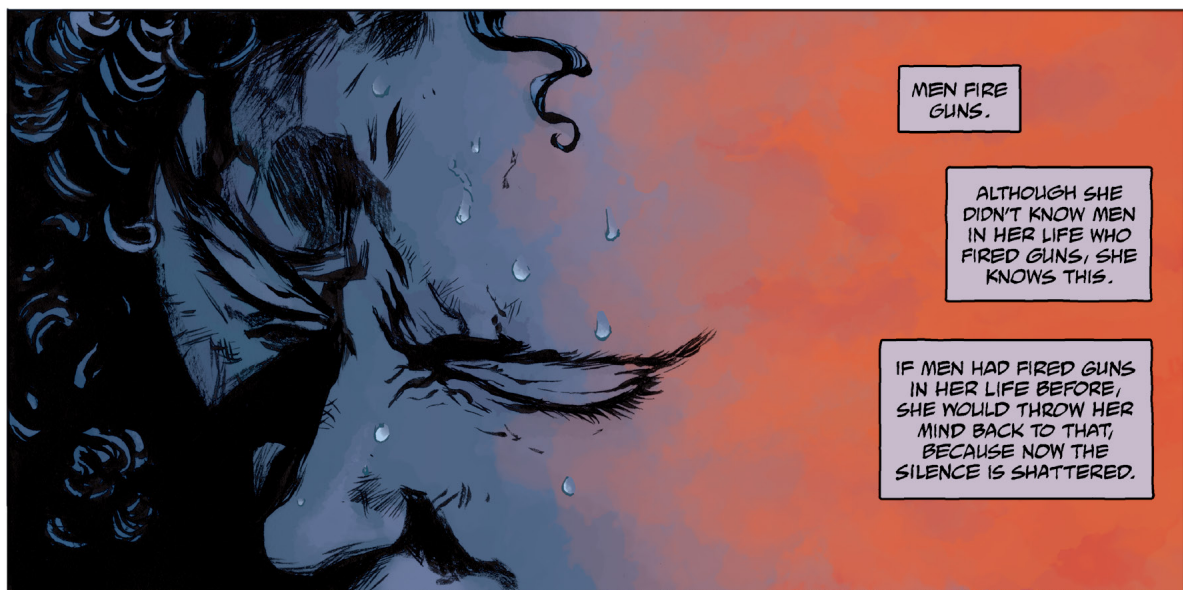
HE REQUIRES
SELF-CONTROL.
LIKE HIS FATHER.

THE MAN
BREATHES,
FOCUSES.



SHE JUMPS, BUT
DOESN'T FALL
FROM THE BED.

HE'S FIRED THE
GUN BEFORE,
BOTH ON PURPOSE
AND BY MISTAKE.
NEVER TO HARM
HER--SHE NEARLY
SPEAKS THE
WORDS ALOUD TO
REMIND HERSELF
OF THIS.



MEN FIRE
GUNS.

ALTHOUGH SHE
DIDN'T KNOW MEN
IN HER LIFE WHO
FIRED GUNS, SHE
KNOWS THIS.

IF MEN HAD FIRED GUNS
IN HER LIFE BEFORE,
SHE WOULD THROW HER
MIND BACK TO THAT,
BECAUSE NOW THE
SILENCE IS SHATTERED.



THIS SOUND,
RINGING IN THE
WALLS, ONLY
REMINDS HER OF
GALLUP, AND SHE
MUSTN'T THINK
OF THAT.

IF SHE'S TO THINK OF
THE PAST IT MUST BE
MUCH FURTHER BACK
THAN THAT, LONG
BEFORE SHE CAME
TO NEW MEXICO.

THE WORLD HAS
BECOME A TERRIBLE
PLACE, AND IF SHE
DOESN'T WANT THE
PAST TO CRUSH THE
LIFE OUT OF HER,
THE SAFEST THING
IS TO THINK OF
NOTHING AT ALL.



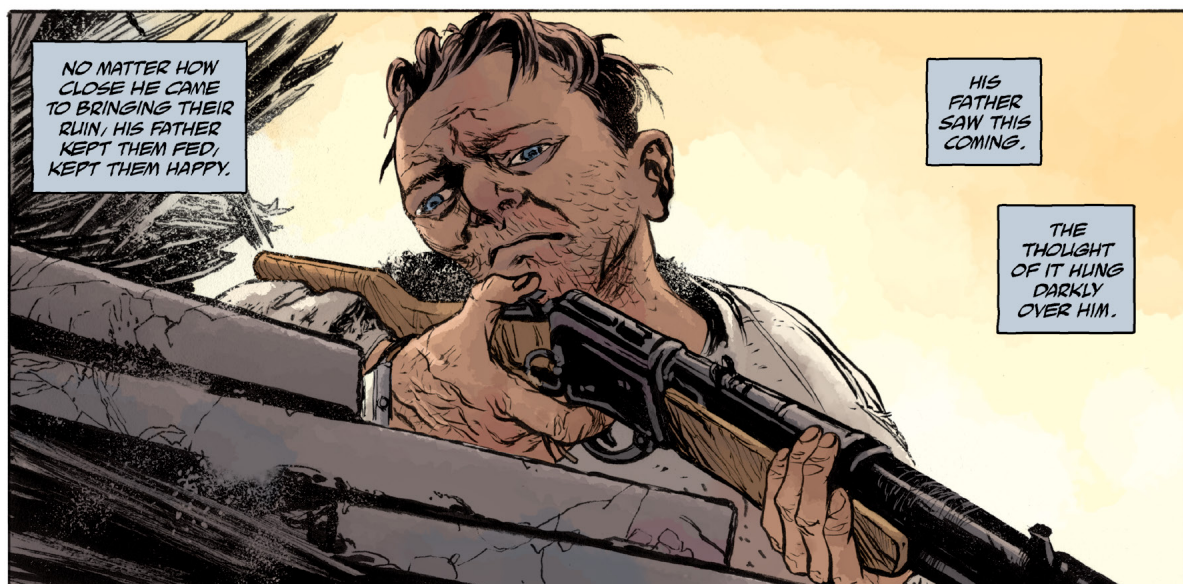
THE MAN CURSES
THE TWISTED EARTH
FOR ALL THE HIDING
PLACES IT GIVES TO
SERPENTS, CURSES
HIMSELF FOR A FOOL,
REMEMBERING EVERY
REPRACH HIS FATHER
LAID UPON HIM BY
WORD OR BY HAND.



HIS FATHER,
WHO HE LOVED,
WHO TOOK HIM
FROM CITY TO
CITY AS A BOY.



EVERY ODD JOB
HE HELPED HIS
FATHER WITH, HIS
OWN CARELESS-
NESS NEARLY COST
THEM THE CHANCE
TO FEED THEM-
SELVES, TO SLEEP
BENEATH A ROOF.



NO MATTER HOW
CLOSE HE CAME
TO BRINGING THEIR
RUIN, HIS FATHER
KEPT THEM FED,
KEPT THEM HAPPY.

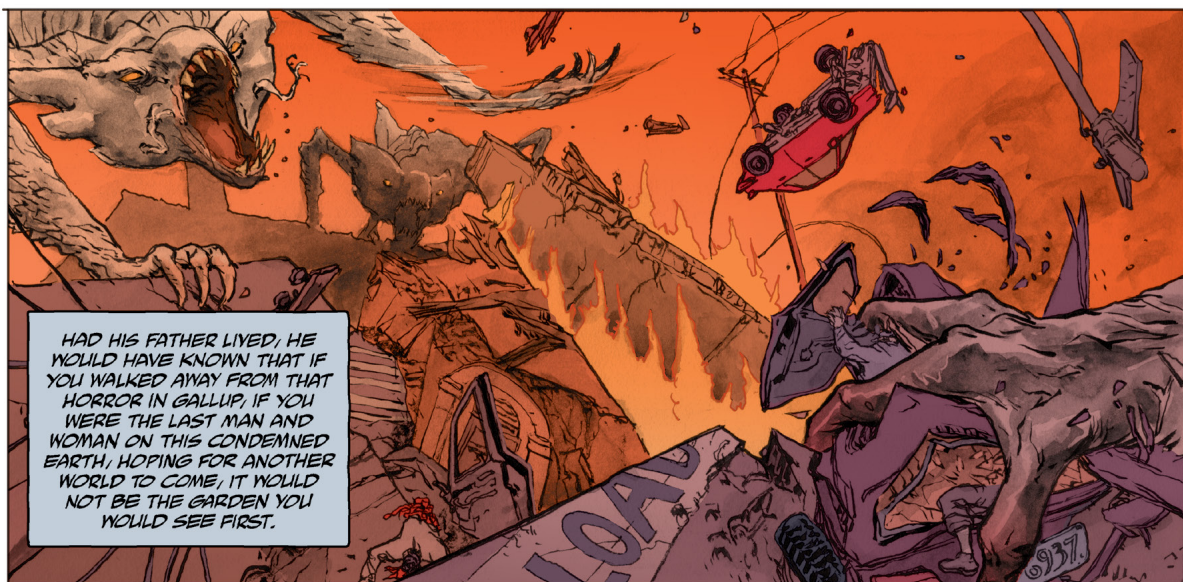
HIS
FATHER
SAW THIS
COMING.

THE
THOUGHT
OF IT HUNG
DARKLY
OVER HIM.



ONCE, HIS FATHER,
EYES WET WITH DRINK,
HAD ADMITTED A GREAT
FEAR OF WHERE HE
WOULD GO IN DEATH,
FOR HOW HE HAD LIVED.

BUT GREATER WAS
HIS FEAR TO SEE
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN
TO THIS EARTH COME
JUDGEMENT DAY.



HAD HIS FATHER LIVED, HE
WOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT IF
YOU WALKED AWAY FROM THAT
HORROR IN GALLUP, IF YOU
WERE THE LAST MAN AND
WOMAN ON THIS CONDEMNED
EARTH, HOPING FOR ANOTHER
WORLD TO COME, IT WOULD
NOT BE THE GARDEN YOU
WOULD SEE FIRST.



IT WOULD
BE THE
SERPENT.



IF THE SPIRIT OF HIS
FATHER HUNG OVER
THE MAN WHEN THIS
TILTING HOUSE HAD
APPEARED ON THE
HORIZON, THEN
THAT SPIRIT MUST
HAVE LOOKED UPON
THE HOUSE WITH
FOREBODING.

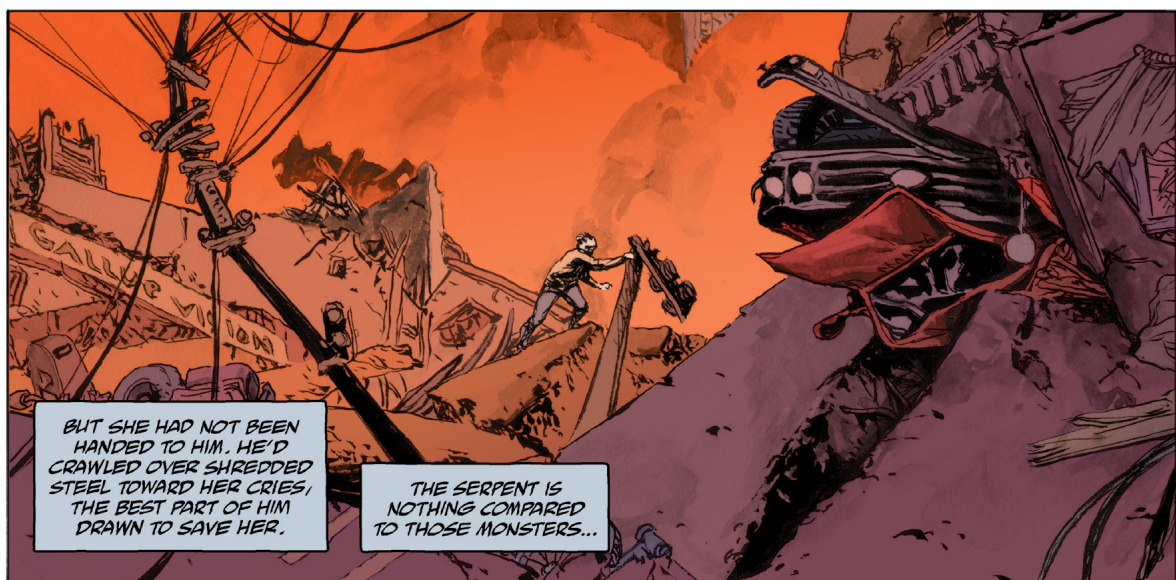


THE MAN, THOUGH,
HAD NEITHER HIS
FATHER'S WITS NOR
HIS CHARM, AND
CERTAINLY NOT HIS
STRENGTH, WHICH
MADE LIFE ALWAYS
A TORMENT TO HIM.

HE WAS A
FOOL, HIS
FATHER HAD
OFTEN SAID.

AND A FOOL TO
THINK PARADISE
WOULD BE
HANDLED TO HIM.

OF ALL
PEOPLE.



BUT SHE HAD NOT BEEN
HANDLED TO HIM. HE'D
CRAWLED OVER SHREDDED
STEEL TOWARD HER CRIES,
THE BEST PART OF HIM
DRAWN TO SAVE HER.

THE SERPENT IS
NOTHING COMPARED
TO THOSE MONSTERS...



SHE PRESSES
HER FACE
HARD AGAINST
WOOD TO
SILENCE HER
OWN CRIES, TO
PUSH BACK
THE PICTURES.

AND THE
SOUNDS.

ONLY IN
CHILDHOOD
CAN SHE
ESCAPE
TO SAFE
THOUGHTS.



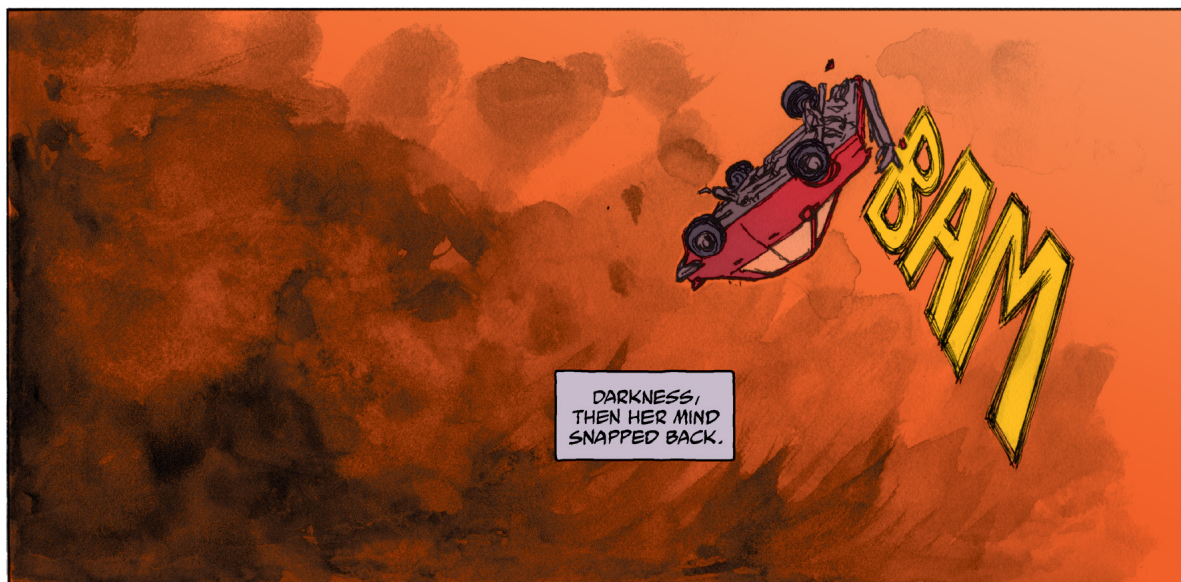
SHE AND
HER SISTER,
ALONGSIDE
THE RIVER
BEHIND HER
PARENTS'
HOUSE.
LITTLE GIRLS.

SOME-
TIMES IT
WORKS.

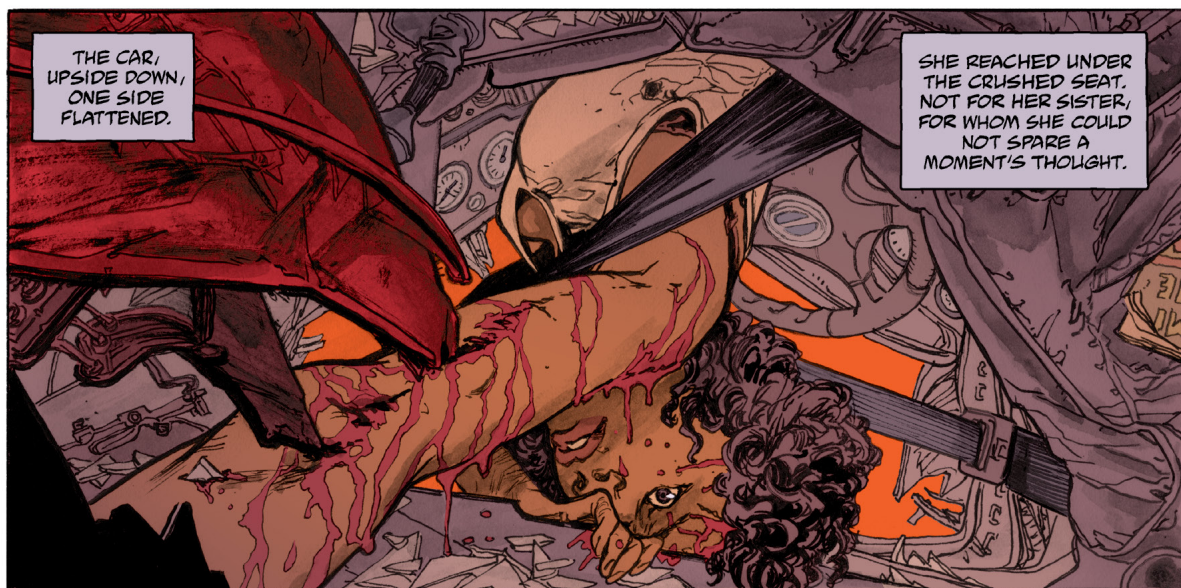
NOT
NOW.

SHE KNOWS NOT
TO HOLD HER
BREATH--THAT
ONLY LEADS TO
MORE NOISE.

IF ONLY IF ONLY
IF ONLY QUIET...

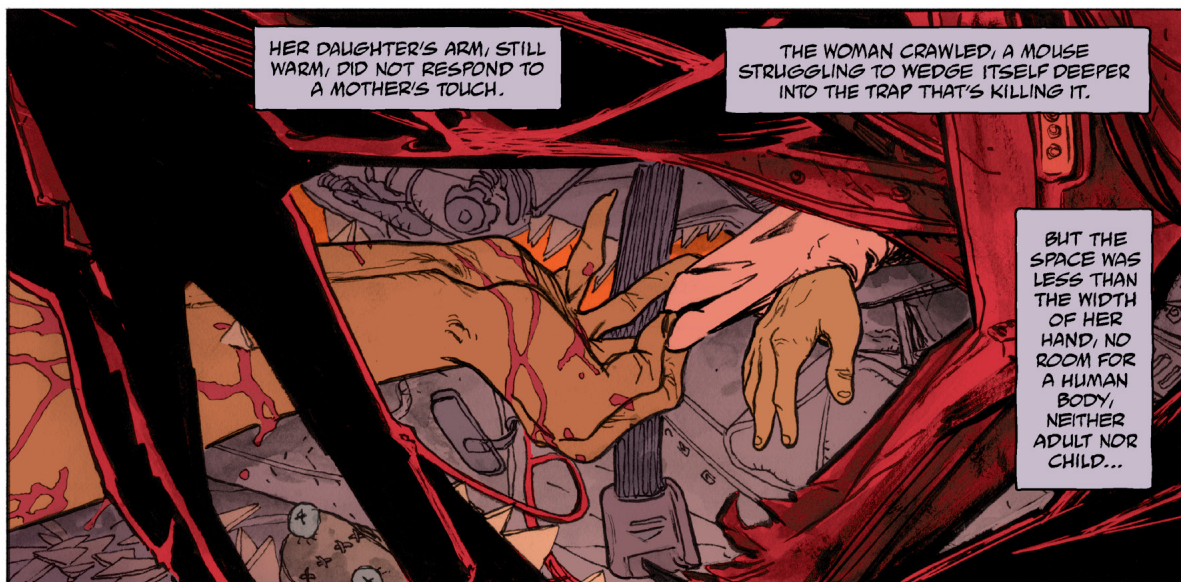


DARKNESS,
THEN HER MIND
SNAPPED BACK.



THE CAR,
UPSIDE DOWN,
ONE SIDE
FLATTENED.

SHE REACHED UNDER
THE CRUSHED SEAT.
NOT FOR HER SISTER,
FOR WHOM SHE COULD
NOT SPARE A
MOMENT'S THOUGHT.



HER DAUGHTER'S ARM, STILL
WARM, DID NOT RESPOND TO
A MOTHER'S TOUCH.

THE WOMAN CRAWLED, A MOUSE
STRUGGLING TO WEDGE ITSELF DEEPER
INTO THE TRAP THAT'S KILLING IT.

BUT THE
SPACE WAS
LESS THAN
THE WIDTH OF
HER
HAND, NO
ROOM FOR
A HUMAN
BODY,
NEITHER
ADULT NOR
CHILD...





ALWAYS
TO LISTEN.

HARD LESSONS
FOR SUCH A
BOY, NERVOUS,
ENERGETIC,
WITLESS.



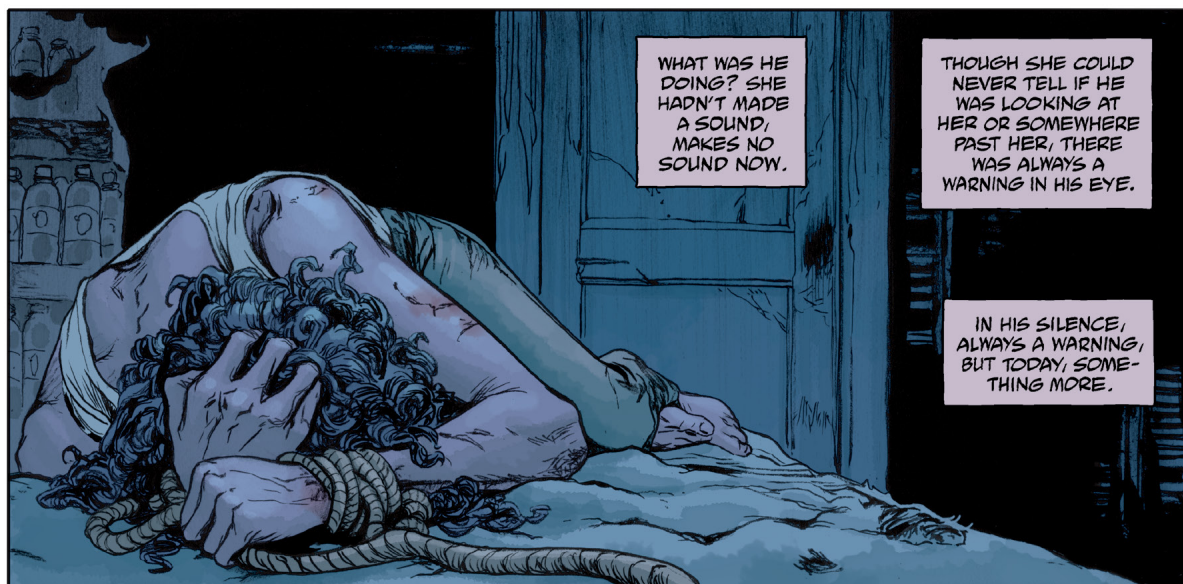
IT WAS NOT AN EASY
LIFE, AND AS HE GREW
TO BE A MAN, HE SAW
WHAT IT HAD DONE TO
HIS FATHER, THE
CHOICES HE HAD MADE
WHEN LAWFUL CHOICES
HAD NOT PRESENTED
THEMSELVES.



AND THE BOY SAW THAT
HE TOO, IN HELPING
HIS FATHER, HAD GONE
OUTSIDE THE LAW.

AND THAT WAS
WRONG, FOR A
FATHER TO USE
A SON LIKE THAT.
ALTHOUGH IT
EXCUSED NONE
OF WHAT
HAPPENED.

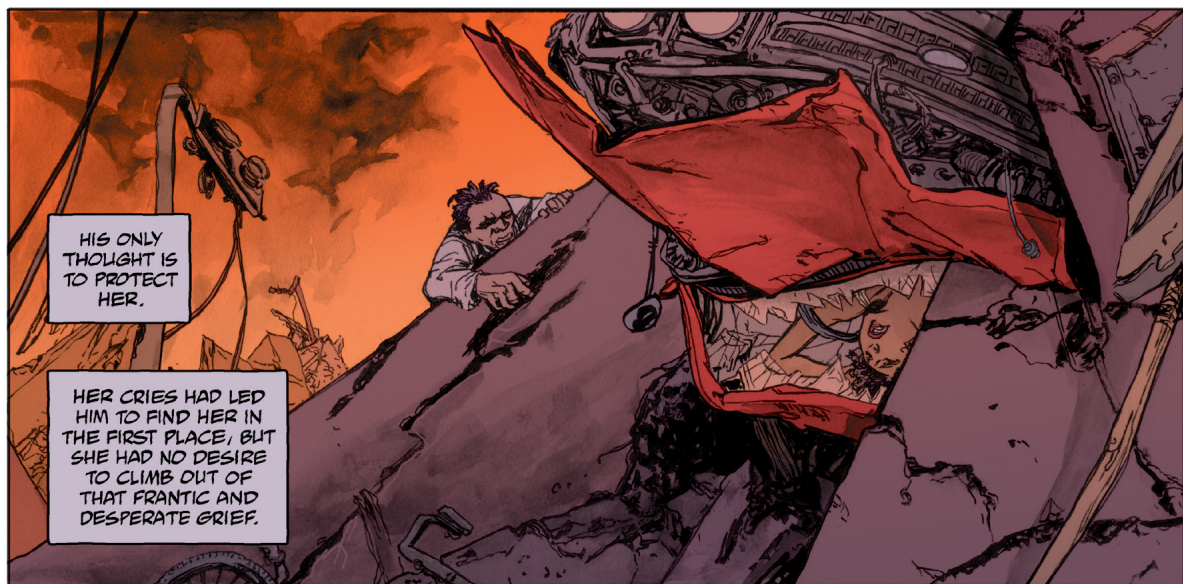
THE LORD DOES
NOT TAKE
JUSTIFICATIONS,
THOUGH ONE
MUST HOPE HE
FORGIVES.



WHAT WAS HE DOING? SHE HADN'T MADE A SOUND, MAKES NO SOUND NOW.

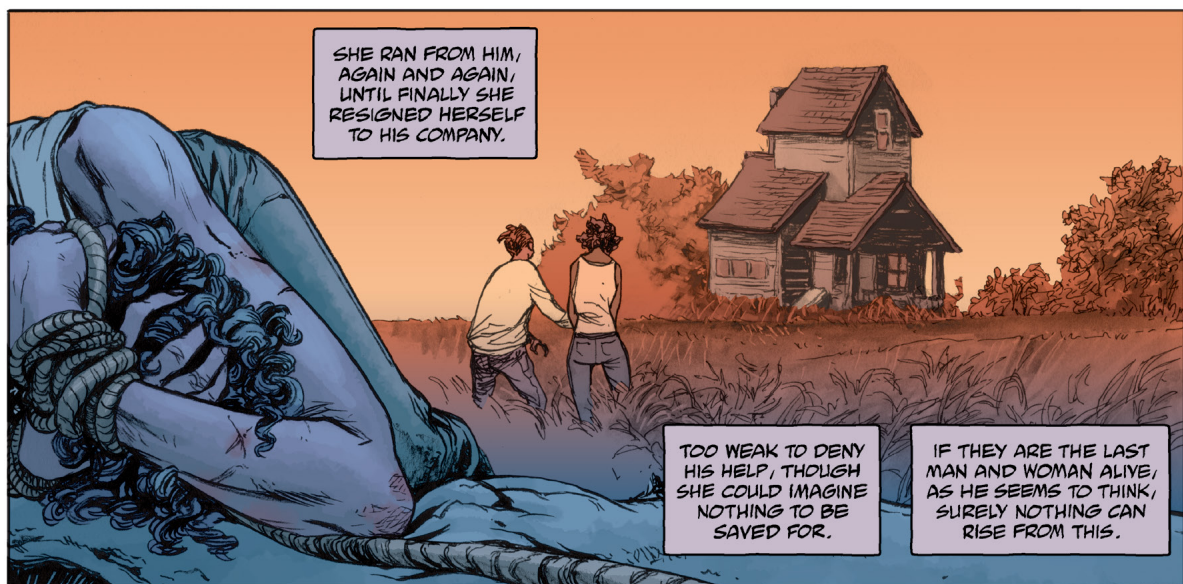
THOUGH SHE COULD NEVER TELL IF HE WAS LOOKING AT HER OR SOMEWHERE PAST HER, THERE WAS ALWAYS A WARNING IN HIS EYE.

IN HIS SILENCE, ALWAYS A WARNING, BUT TODAY, SOMETHING MORE.



HIS ONLY THOUGHT IS TO PROTECT HER.

HER CRIES HAD LED HIM TO FIND HER IN THE FIRST PLACE, BUT SHE HAD NO DESIRE TO CLIMB OUT OF THAT FRANTIC AND DESPERATE GRIEF.



SHE RAN FROM HIM, AGAIN AND AGAIN, UNTIL FINALLY SHE RESIGNED HERSELF TO HIS COMPANY.

TOO WEAK TO DENY HIS HELP, THOUGH SHE COULD IMAGINE NOTHING TO BE SAVED FOR.

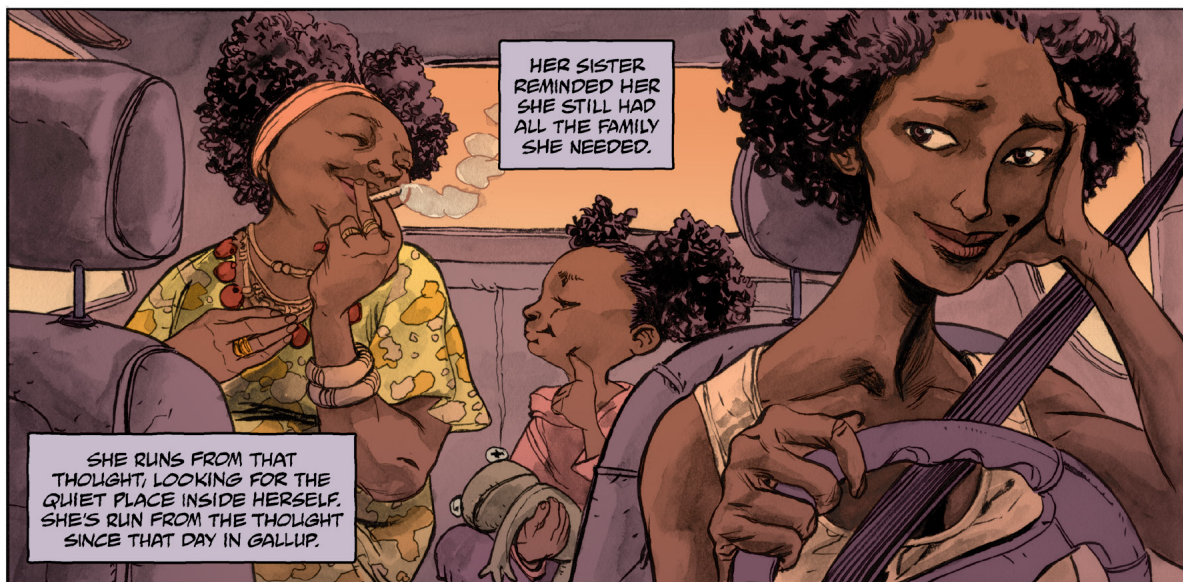
IF THEY ARE THE LAST MAN AND WOMAN ALIVE, AS HE SEEMS TO THINK, SURELY NOTHING CAN RISE FROM THIS.



SHE HAD KNOWN COMFORT, AT EVERY STAGE OF HER LIFE.

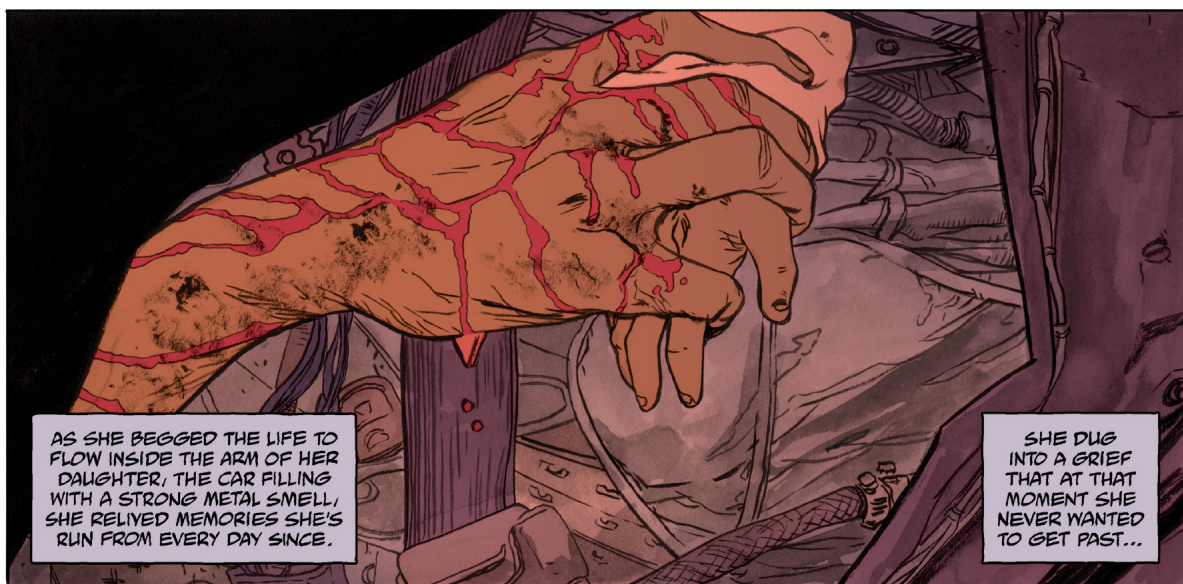
AS A CHILD, AND LATER WITH HER HUSBAND IN AN APARTMENT THAT WAS NEVER SMALL ENOUGH TO STIFLE THEIR JOY.

AND WHEN THAT JOY FADED, AND HE LEFT, IT WAS NOT SO BAD.



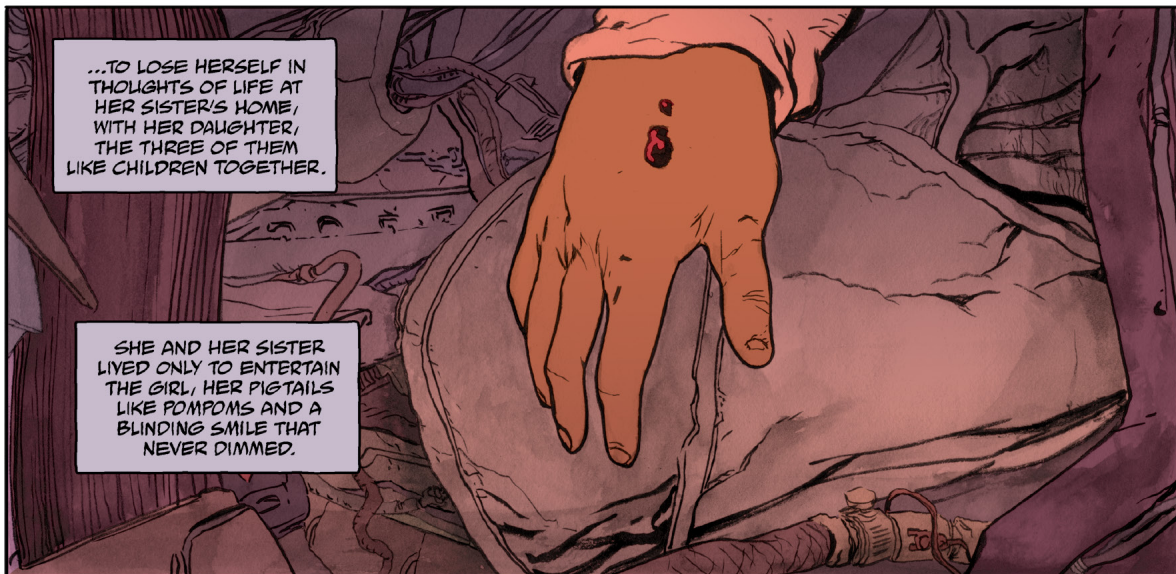
HER SISTER REMINDED HER SHE STILL HAD ALL THE FAMILY SHE NEEDED.

SHE RUNS FROM THAT THOUGHT, LOOKING FOR THE QUIET PLACE INSIDE HERSELF. SHE'S RUN FROM THE THOUGHT SINCE THAT DAY IN GALLUP.



AS SHE BEGGED THE LIFE TO FLOW INSIDE THE ARM OF HER DAUGHTER, THE CAR FILLING WITH A STRONG METAL SMELL, SHE RELIVED MEMORIES SHE'S RUN FROM EVERY DAY SINCE.

SHE DUG INTO A GRIEF THAT AT THAT MOMENT SHE NEVER WANTED TO GET PAST...



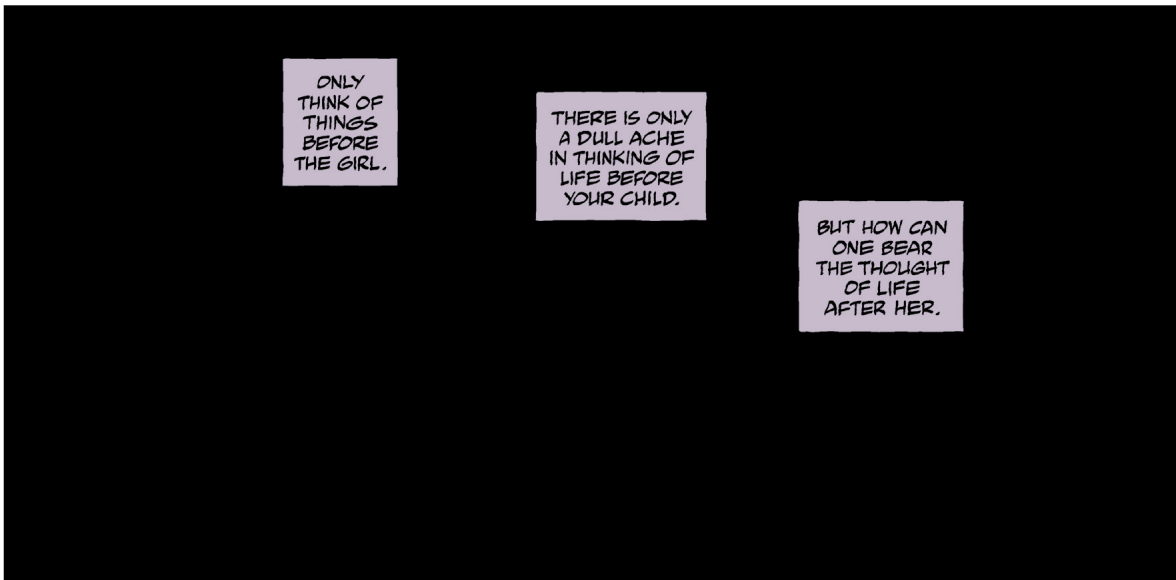
...TO LOSE HERSELF IN
THOUGHTS OF LIFE AT
HER SISTER'S HOME,
WITH HER DAUGHTER,
THE THREE OF THEM
LIKE CHILDREN TOGETHER.

SHE AND HER SISTER
LIVED ONLY TO ENTERTAIN
THE GIRL, HER PISTAILS
LIKE POMPOMS AND A
BLINDING SMILE THAT
NEVER DIMMED.



HOW
COULD
SHE LET
HERSELF
REMEMBER
THAT NOW,
IN THIS
ROOM?

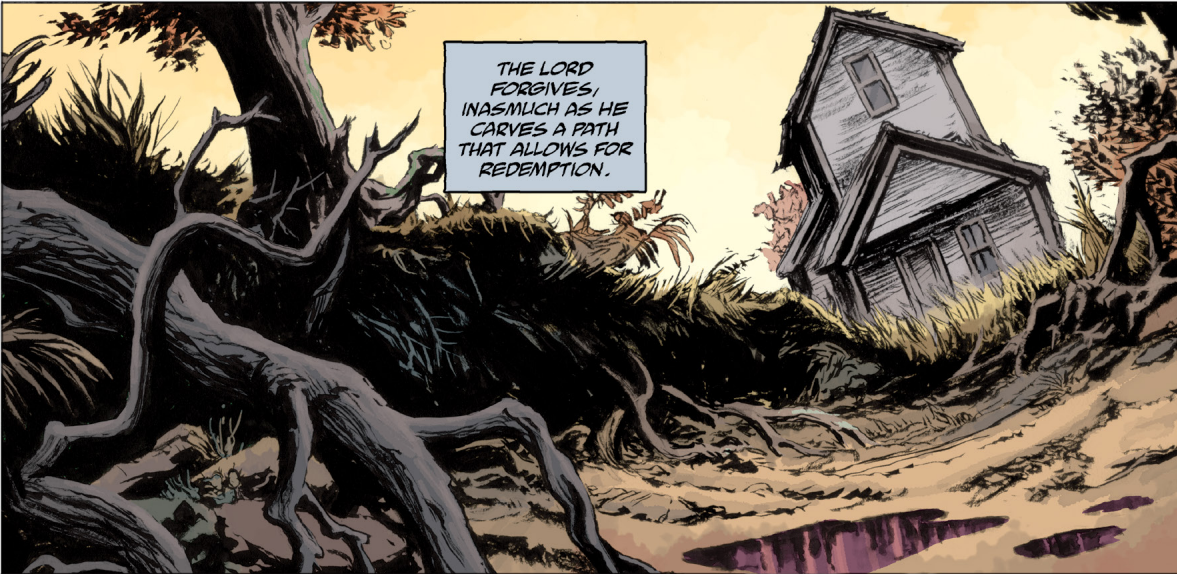
MEMORIES
OF HER OWN
CHILDHOOD
WERE SAFE,
HER SISTER,
HER PARENTS,
BEFORE THE
GIRL.



ONLY
THINK OF
THINGS
BEFORE
THE GIRL.

THERE IS ONLY
A DULL ACHIE
IN THINKING OF
LIFE BEFORE
YOUR CHILD.

BUT HOW CAN
ONE BEAR
THE THOUGHT
OF LIFE
AFTER HER.



THE LORD
FORGIVES,
INASMUCH AS HE
CARVES A PATH
THAT ALLOWS FOR
REDEMPTION.



BUT THAT PATH MAY
ONLY GO SO FAR.

THE MAN KNOWS
THIS NOW. AT
WORLD'S END,
THE PATH OF
SALVATION CAN
ONLY GO SO FAR,
WITH SO LITTLE
LEFT TO HIM.

THIS HOUSE.

THIS WOMAN.



AND
NOW, THIS
SERPENT,
LYING IN
A FALLOW
GARDEN.

MAYBE MAN
CAN'T RISE
AGAIN FROM
THIS GARDEN,
IN THIS HELL
THAT HAS BEEN
WROUGHT ON
EARTH AS NO
PLACE FOR HIM.

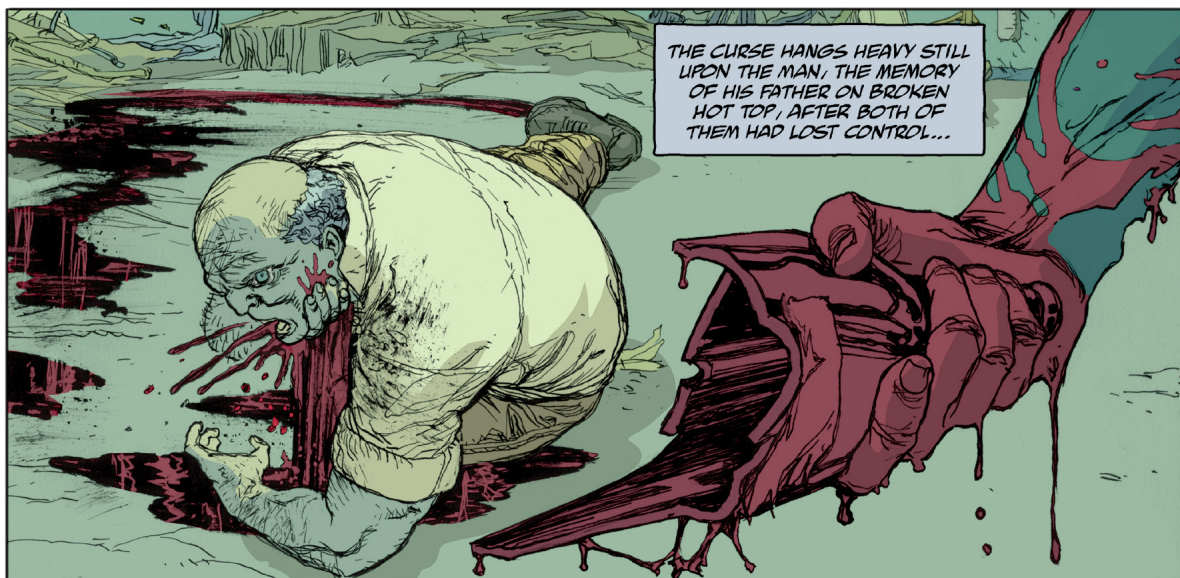


MAYBE
THERE
WILL BE NO
GARDEN.

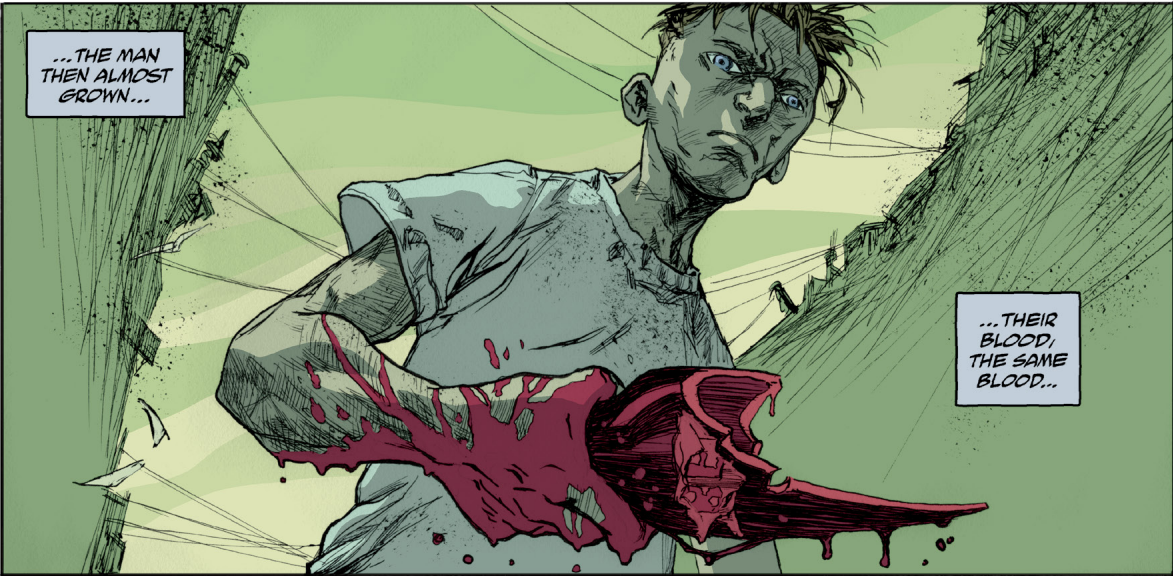


IF THE WORLD
STILL HOLDS
BLESSINGS
OF ANY KIND,
IT IS HARD TO
THINK NOW
THAT THIS
HOUSE WAS
AS GREAT A
BLESSING AS
HE HAD FIRST
IMAGINED.

OR THAT
HE HAD
BEEN
CHOSEN
FOR IT.



THE CURSE HANGS HEAVY STILL
UPON THE MAN, THE MEMORY
OF HIS FATHER ON BROKEN
HOT TOP, AFTER BOTH OF
THEM HAD LOST CONTROL...



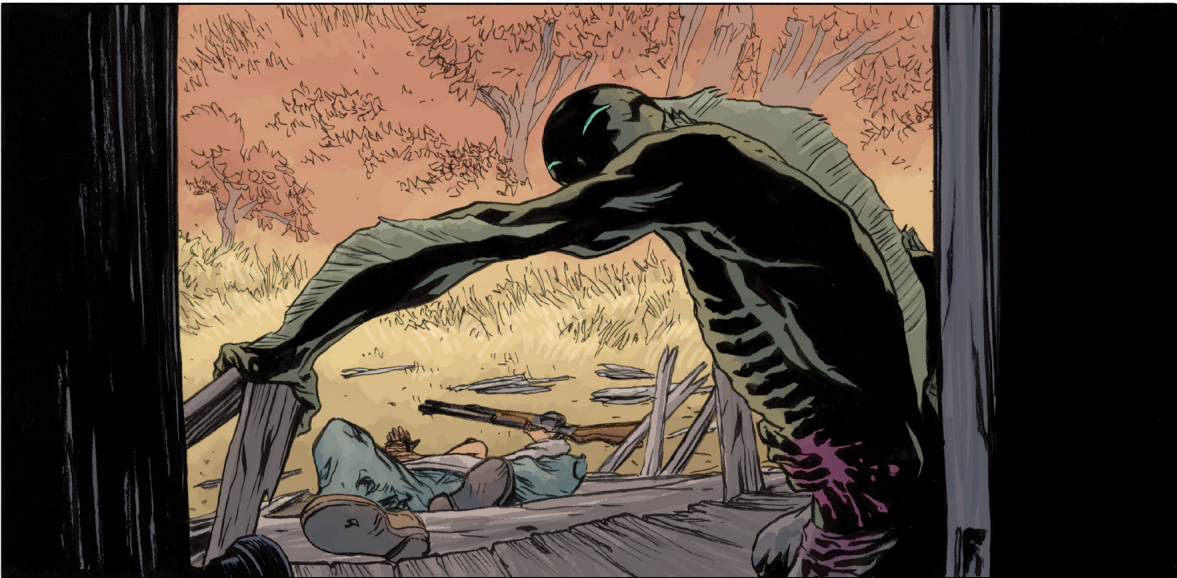
...THE MAN
THEN ALMOST
GROWN...

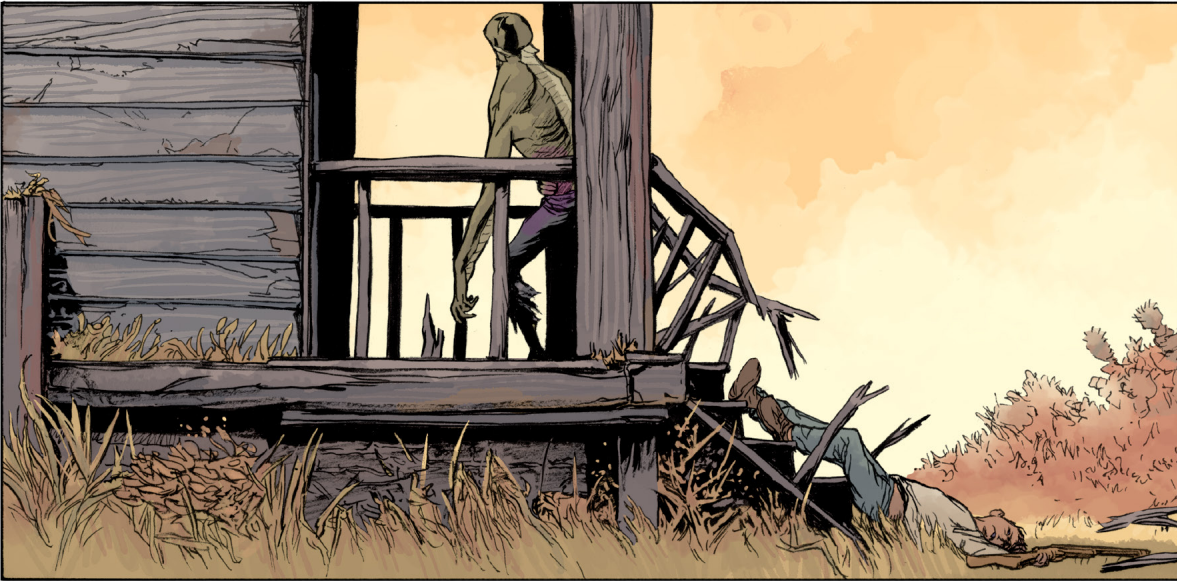
...THEIR
BLOOD,
THE SAME
BLOOD...



...BLENDING
BACK
TOGETHER
WHERE IT
FELL.





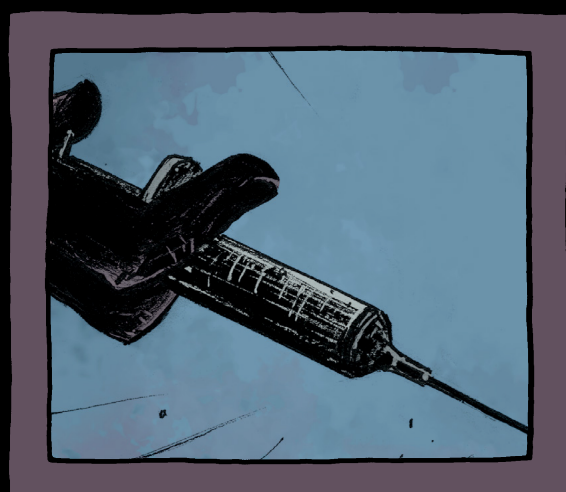


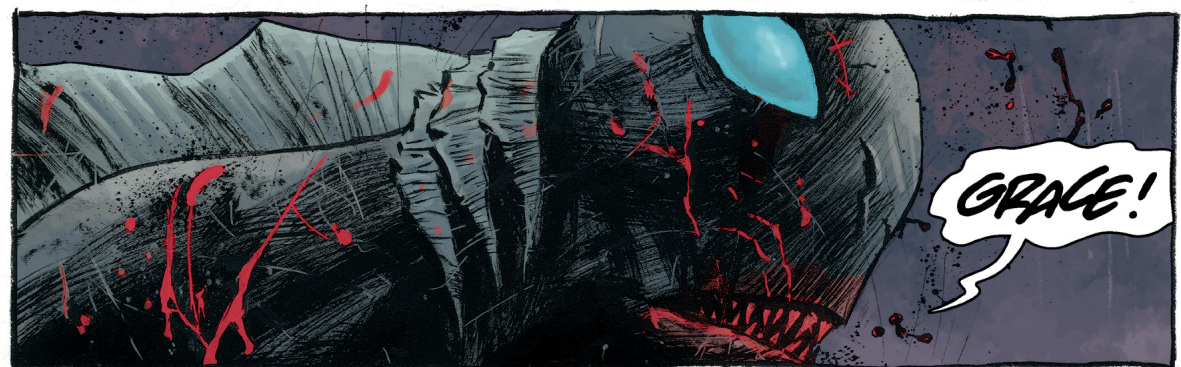
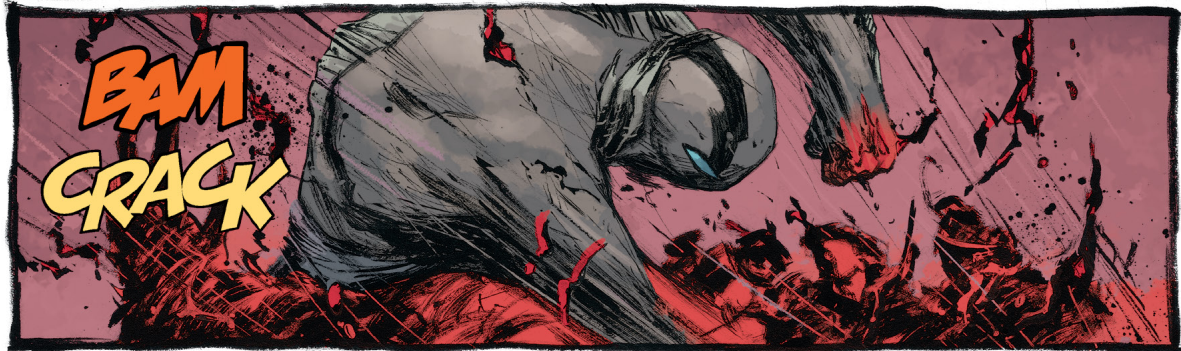


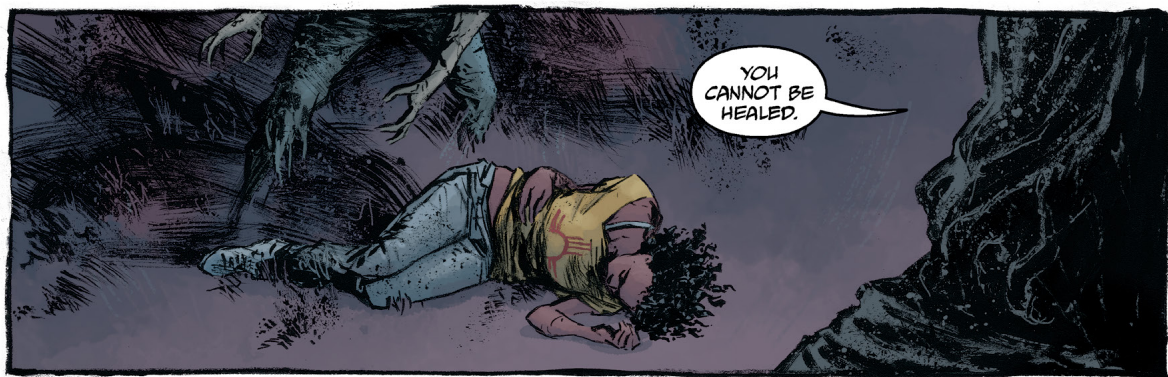
THE
END

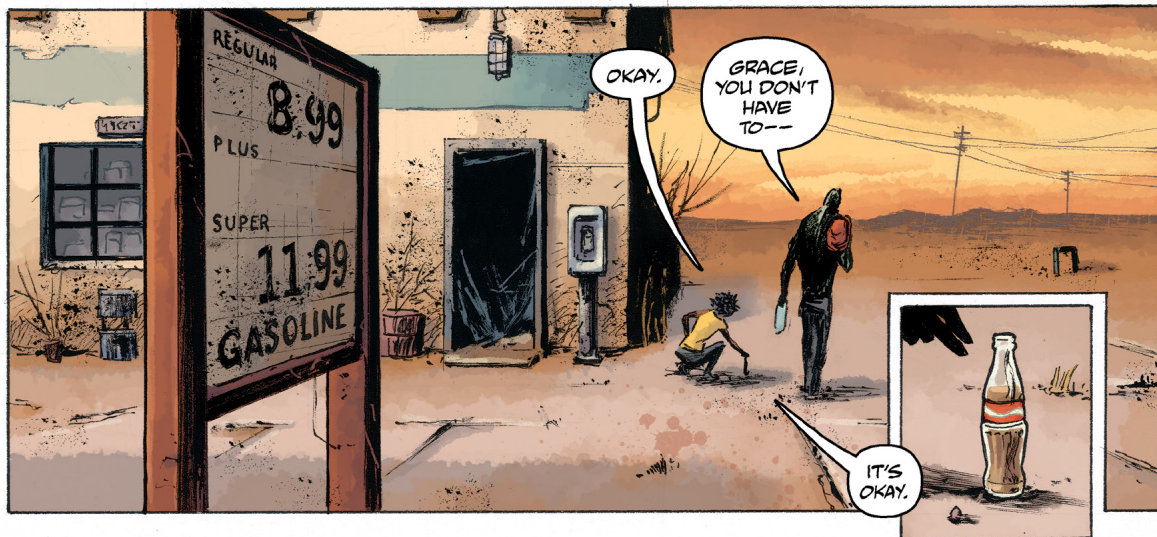
THE HEALER

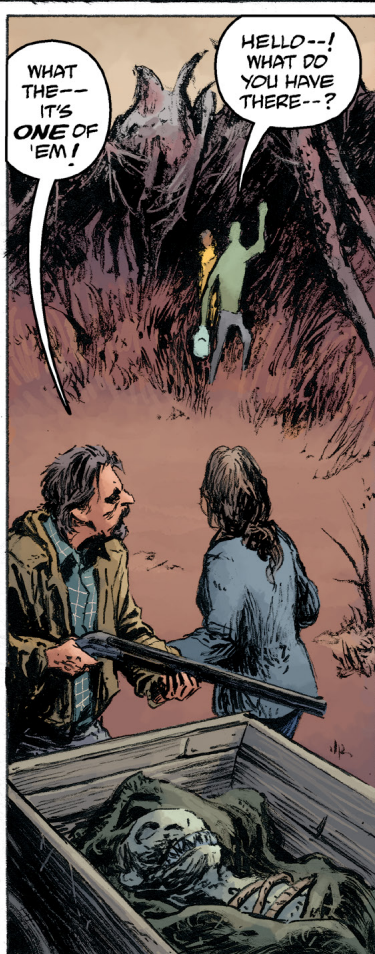
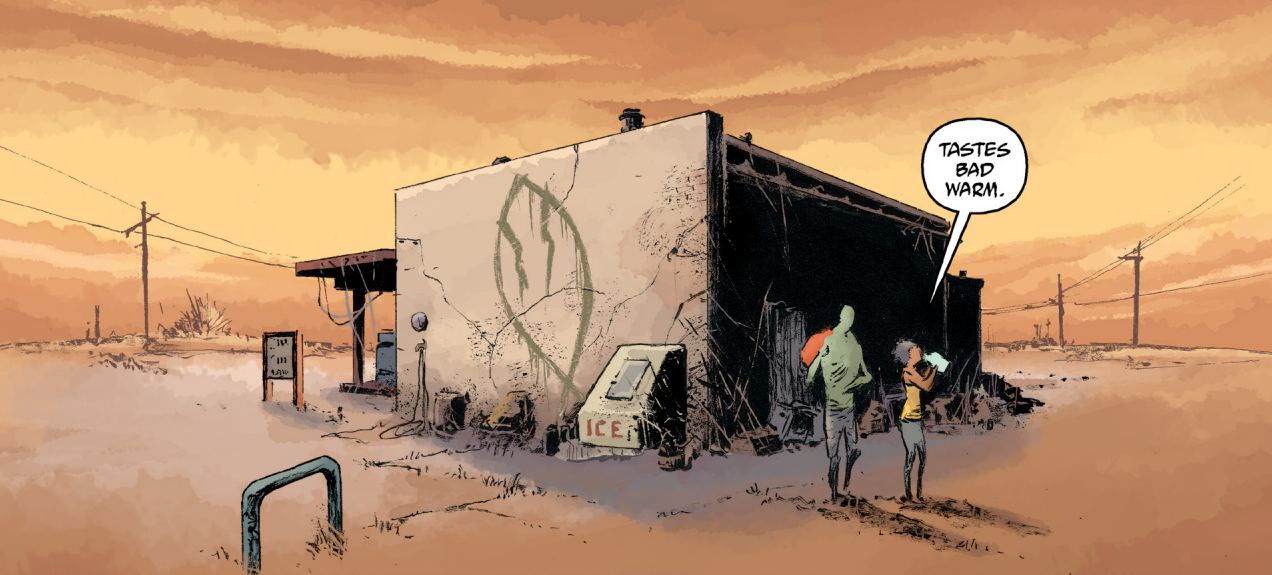








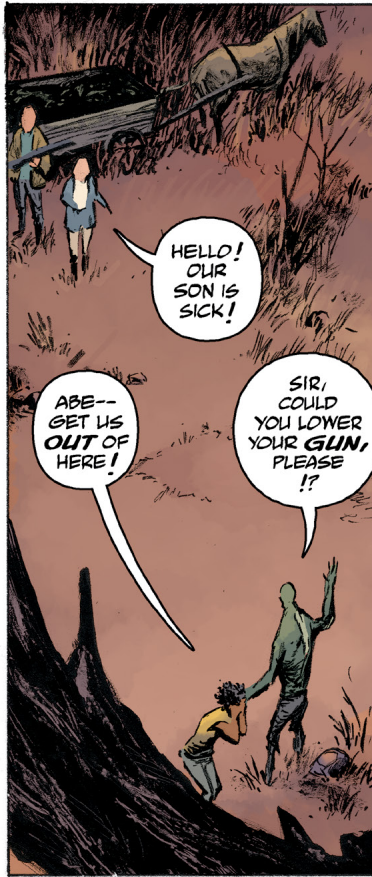






WAIT,
MORGAN--
HE'S TALKING
TO THAT
WOMAN!

THAT
ONE CAN
TALK!



HELLO!
OUR
SON IS
SICK!

ABE--
GET US
OUT OF
HERE!

SIR,
COULD
YOU LOWER
YOUR **GUN**,
PLEASE
!?



PUT
IT DOWN,
MORGAN.

I NEVER HEARD ABOUT
ANY OF YOU WHO COULD
TALK--CAN YOU HELP
OUR SON?

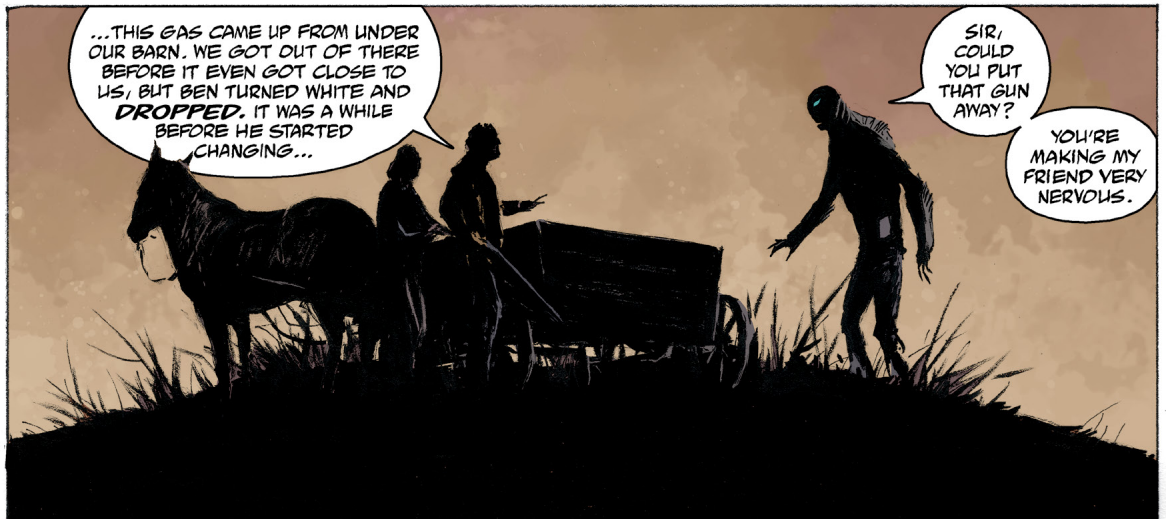
MA'AM,
PLEASE
HOLD
ON.



I SHOULD
TALK TO
THESE PEOPLE,
BUT IF YOU WANT
TO GO WE
CAN.



TALK. I'M
STAYING
HERE.



...THIS GAS CAME UP FROM UNDER
OUR BARN. WE GOT OUT OF THERE
BEFORE IT EVEN GOT CLOSE TO
US, BUT BEN TURNED WHITE AND
DROPPED. IT WAS A WHILE
BEFORE HE STARTED
CHANGING...

SIR,
COULD
YOU PUT
THAT GUN
AWAY?

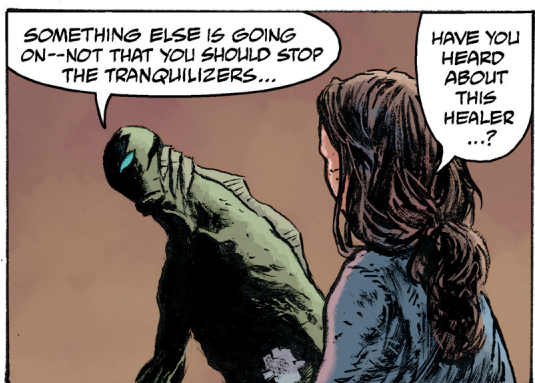
YOU'RE
MAKING MY
FRIEND VERY
NERVOUS.



NEVER
SAW ONE
CHANGED
HALF-
WAY...

WE'RE
GIVING HIM
XYLAZINE.
IT SEEMS
TO HAVE
STOPPED
IT.

NORMALLY
IT WOULD'VE
HAPPENED TOO
FAST FOR YOU
TO GET A
NEEDLE IN.



SOMETHING ELSE IS GOING
ON--NOT THAT YOU SHOULD STOP
THE TRANQUILIZERS...

HAVE YOU
HEARD
ABOUT
THIS
HEALER
...?



HE LIVES
SOME-
WHERE
OUT
HERE.

WE'RE
GOING TO
SEE WHAT
HE CAN
DO FOR
BEN.



YOU WANT
TO COME
WITH?

ABE, IT
SHOULDN'T
BE GETTING
DARK,
RIGHT?



WHATEVER
YOU GOT
THERE REALLY
SEEMS TO BE
BOTHERING
YOU.

MAYBE THE
HEALER
CAN HELP
YOU WITH
IT?





YOU HEAR THAT?



ABB, WHAT IS THIS?

A BELL...?

NO--
WHAT ARE WE
DOING WITH
THESE PEOPLE?
WE DON'T NEED
SOME KIND OF
MYSTIC--WE
NEED, YOU
KNOW, A
TOWN...



I DON'T
KNOW. I
DON'T THINK
THAT'S THE
ANSWER.

LOOK--
WHEREVER
WE GO, I CAN
PROTECT
YOU.

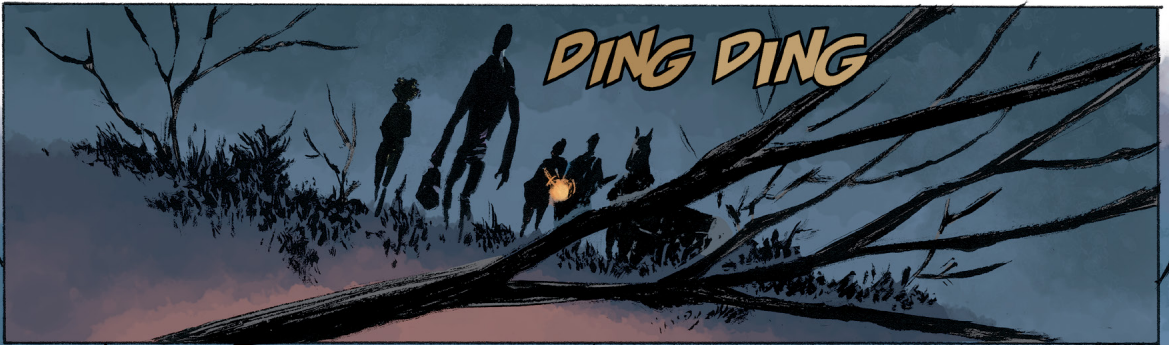
SO...
WHERE
ARE WE
GOING
...?

DING
DING



DO YOU
HEAR
THAT?

DING
DING



DING DING



DING

IS THAT A
HOUSE?

IS
THIS
IT?





GUESS
IT PROBABLY
IS.


SORT OF
SURPRISED
TO SEE MORE
PILGRIMS. BUT
THE SHACK'S
MINE, AND
ONLY SLEEPS
ONE.



Y'ALL
SHOULD
STAY DOWN
HERE, OUT
OF THE
WIND.

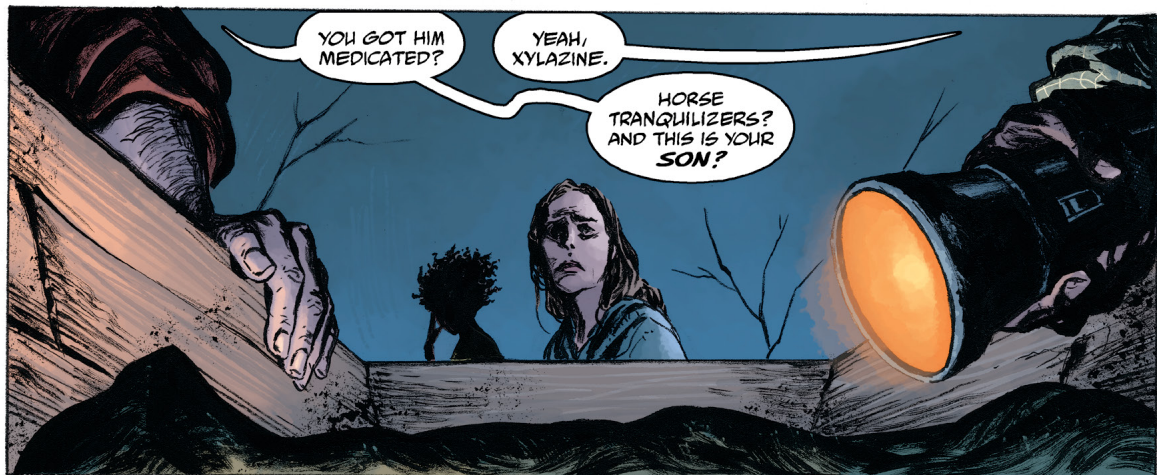


WE HAVE A
SICK BOY--
SOME-
THING'S
WRONG
WITH HIM.
WE HAVE
MONEY.



WE HEARD THERE
WAS A FAITH HEALER
OUT HERE WHO REALLY
HELPED PEOPLE. IS
THAT YOU? THEY
DIDN'T TELL US A
NAME...

SHE'S
TALKING
ABOUT
MONEY,
YOU'RE
REACHING
FOR YOUR
GUN...



YOU GOT HIM
MEDICATED?

YEAH,
XYLAZINE.

HORSE
TRANQUILIZERS?
AND THIS IS YOUR
SON?



YOU DON'T NEED
TO BE SCARED,
GIRL. HOW'D YOU
WIND UP WITH THIS
MENAGERIE?



DON'T YOU CALL ME
"GIRL." AND I HAVE
NOTHING TO **DO** WITH
THOSE THREE.

GRACE,
HE DIDN'T
MEAN ANY-
THING...

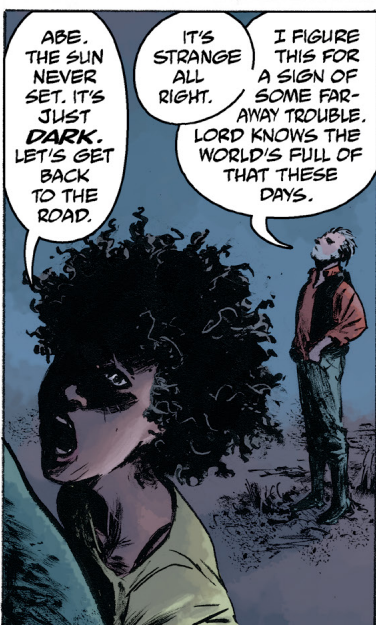


IT'S
TRUE--WE
DON'T KNOW
THEM--



SO THESE
TWO AIN'T
BROTHERS
?

HOW 'BOUT EVERY-
BODY TAKES IT DOWN
A NOTCH. I WAS JUST
GONNA BUILD A FIRE,
IT GOT DARK SO
SUDDEN.



ABE.
THE SUN
NEVER
SET. IT'S
JUST
DARK.
LET'S GET
BACK
TO THE
ROAD.

IT'S
STRANGE
ALL
RIGHT.

I FIGURE
THIS FOR
A SIGN OF
SOME FAR-
AWAY TROUBLE.
LORD KNOWS THE
WORLD'S FULL OF
THAT THESE
DAYS.



YOU CAN'T
BE AFRAID
OF THE DARK,
RIGHT? AND IF
THERE IS ANY-
THING OUT
THERE, I'LL
HANDLE
IT.

WE'D
ALL FEEL
BETTER
SITTING
'ROUND A
FIRE.



RIGHT THERE.

SO, GRACE, YOUR BIG STRONG FRIEND HERE AND THE ONE IN THE CART, THEY GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH EACH OTHER?



WE HEARD A BELL. WAS THAT YOU...?

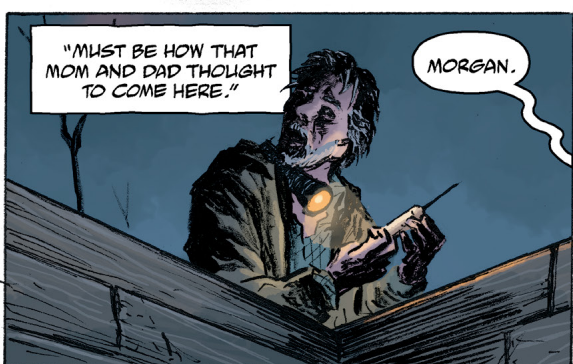
OH, THAT.

NO, I WOULDN'T DO NOTHING TO ATTRACT FOLKS, BUT THEY COME ONCE IN A WHILE ANYWAY. I GOTTA SAY, THE COMPANY IS NICE.



YOU ARE SOME SORT OF HEALER, THOUGH? LIKE A SHAMAN?

HA. I'M NOT THE RIGHT COMPLEXION FOR *THAT*, MY FRIEND. THERE ***WAS*** A SICK KID WHO CAME THROUGH HERE A WEEK BACK.



"MUST BE HOW THAT MOM AND DAD THOUGHT TO COME HERE."

MORGAN.



HE IS STILL OUR SON...



ANY OF YOU
BEEN TO
PHOENIX? I
HEAR THINGS
THERE ARE
BAD.

NO,
WE--
WE--

LOOK,
IS THERE
ANYTHING
YOU CAN
DO FOR
HIM?

THIS
OUGHT TO
KEEP HIM
WARM.



SIR, I'M
SORRY IF
WE SEEM
IMPATIENT--
WE WERE
JUST
HOPING...

WHAT I
DO WORKS
BETTER IN
THE DAY-
TIME.

LET'S
GET SOME
SLEEP--
WAIT THIS
DARKNESS
OUT.



I NEVER
WOULD'VE
FOUND
THE SPOT AT
NIGHT, EVEN
WITH THE
BELL.



I'D BEEN
WANDERING
OUT HERE. MY
TRUCK BROKE
DOWN, AND I
NEEDED TO
FIND WATER,
WHEN I
HEARD THE
BELL--



--AND
FOUND
THIS.



THEM
TWO LIONS
THERE TOLD
ME TO DIG.
FIRST I DUG
UP THAT
BELL--

--BUT THE
CARVING...
THAT WAS THE
REAL DEAL.

CARVING...?
THESE, UH,
"LIONS"?

I'LL SHOW
YOU IN THE
MORNING.



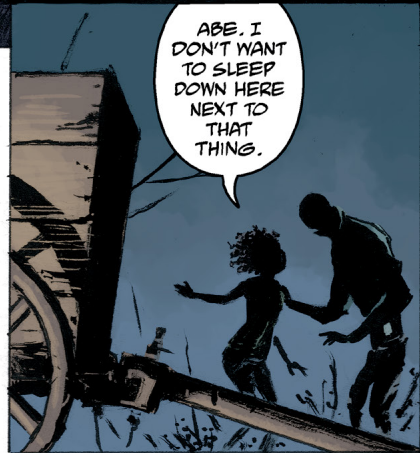
MORNING?

IT'S
PROBABLY
NOT EVEN
EIGHT
P.M.



I'M AN OLD MAN, AND THE
MELATONIN LEVELS KICK
UP AFTER DARK.

YOU EVER
HEAR OF
CIRCADIAN
RHYTHMS?
OR GOOD
SENSE?

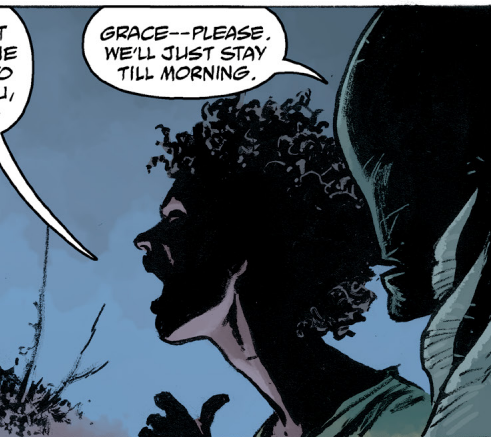


ABE. I
DON'T WANT
TO SLEEP
DOWN HERE
NEXT TO
THAT
THING.



WHAT THE
HELL ARE YOU
EVEN DOING
HERE?!

I DON'T
KNOW! HE
WANTS TO
HELP YOU,
SO I--



GRACE--PLEASE.
WE'LL JUST STAY
TILL MORNING.



ACTUALLY, GRACE, YOU
COULD SLEEP UP IN
THE HOUSE. I'LL CURL
UP DOWN HERE IF
EVERYONE PROMISES
TO KEEP IT
DOWN.





YOU
CAN'T TELL
IN THIS LIGHT,
BUT THE WOOD'S
DARK AS COAL.
MISSIONARIES
MADE THESE JESUS
STATUES TO CON
REDSKINS, FIGURING
THEY WOULDN'T
ACCEPT A SAVIOR
AS FISH-BELLY
PALE AS
ME.



"WHEN I STARTED DIGGING I ONLY HAD THE
USE OF ONE ARM, BUT BY THE TIME I WAS
DONE I COULD USE MY GIMP ARM AGAIN."



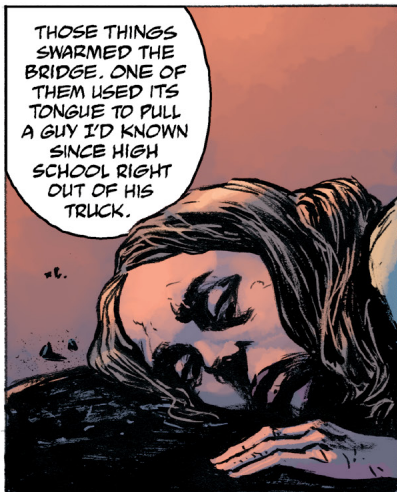
I'VE BEEN
SURVIVING ON
WATER FROM
A SPRING
DOWN THERE
AND THAT
CLAY, AND
NOTHING
ELSE.

WHAT?
CLAY?



"YOU'LL
SEE IN THE
MORNING."





THOSE THINGS
SWARMED THE
BRIDGE. ONE OF
THEM USED ITS
TONGUE TO PULL
A GUY I'D KNOWN
SINCE HIGH
SCHOOL RIGHT
OUT OF HIS TRUCK.



WE DROVE
THE LONG
WAY AROUND,
BUT RAN OUT
OF GAS AND
HAD TO RUN
THE LAST
MILE.

BEN CAME
OUT OF THE
HOUSE RIGHT
WHEN WE SAW
THE CLOUD
RISING
FROM THE
BARN.



THERE WAS
ONE HORSE IN
PASTURE--

HI, ABE.
GRACE
ASLEEP?

YEAH,
SOUNDS
LIKE.

ALREADY?
HUH.

WHAT'S
HER
STORY?

I'LL
LET YOU
KNOW
WHEN SHE
TELLS
ME.



WELL,
MORGAN,
START
OVER WITH
THAT BIT
ABOUT
THE RIVER.

YOU
DON'T
HAVE
TO.

OKAY, THEN...
HOW DO I...
uh...

HOW CAN WE GET BEN TO
END UP LIKE YOU INSTEAD
OF...YOU KNOW.



YOUR SON?
YOU'RE NOT
GOING TO
STOP WHAT'S
HAPPENING
JUST BY
KEEPING HIM
DRUGGED
AND TIED
UP.

WHAT--?

ABE--
DON'T GO
GETTING
HOT-
HEADED.



OKAY, RIGHT.
I **LOOK** LIKE
THOSE THINGS.
BUT WHAT
HAPPENED TO
ME HAS
NOTHING TO DO
WITH YOUR
SON.

WHAT
HAPPENED
TO ME
STARTED A
LONG TIME
AGO.

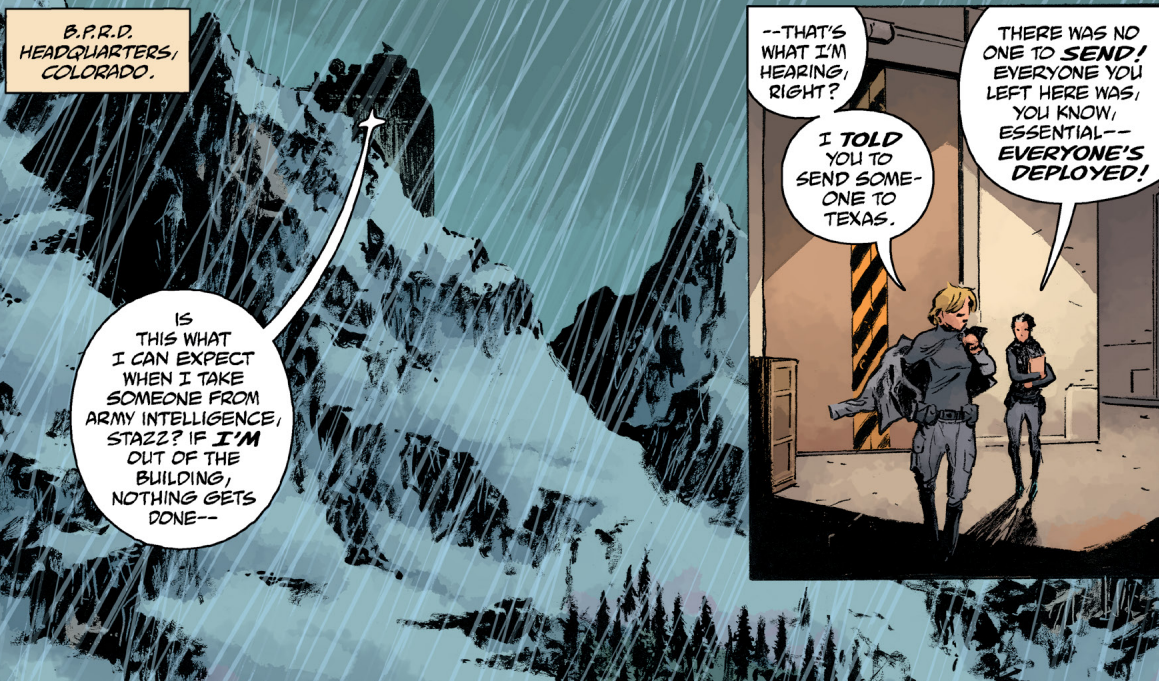
IT WAS IN
RHODE ISLAND...
MAYBE THAT'S
WHERE I SHOULD
GO IF I REALLY
WANT TO PROVE I'VE
GOT NOTHING
TO DO WITH
MONSTERS...



THAT'S A LONG
WAY THROUGH
SOME HARSH
COUNTRY.

I KNOW. BUT
IF ANYONE
CAN HANDLE
IT, IT SHOULD
BE ME,
RIGHT...?

ANYWAY,
THAT'S NOT
WHERE I'M
GOING...



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

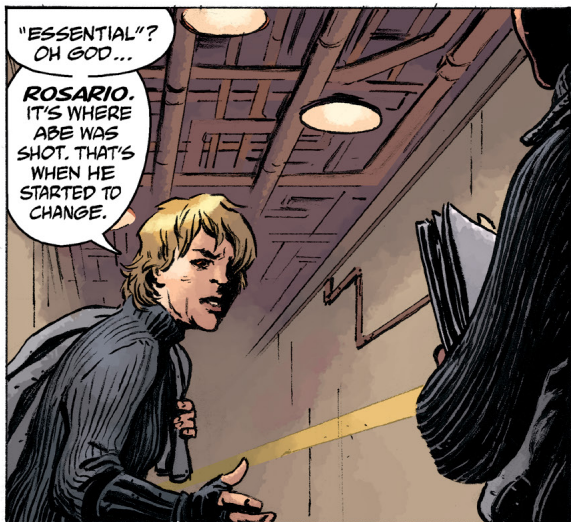
IS
THIS WHAT
I CAN EXPECT
WHEN I TAKE
SOMEONE FROM
ARMY INTELLIGENCE,
STAZZ? IF **I'M**
OUT OF THE
BUILDING,
NOTHING GETS
DONE--



--THAT'S
WHAT I'M
HEARING,
RIGHT?

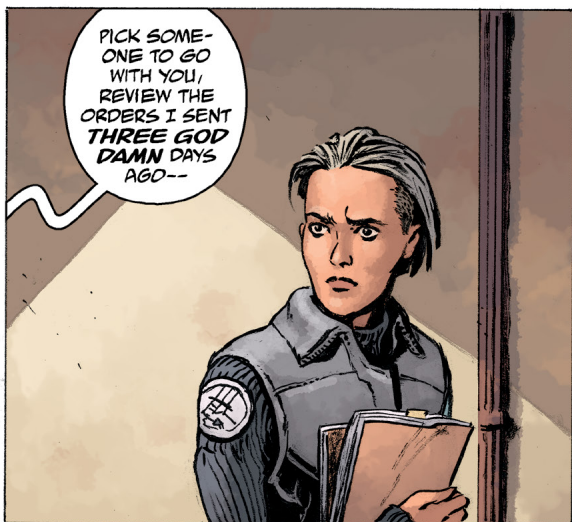
I **TOLD**
YOU TO
SEND SOME-
ONE TO
TEXAS.

THERE WAS NO
ONE TO **SEND!**
EVERYONE YOU
LEFT HERE WAS,
YOU KNOW,
ESSENTIAL--
**EVERYONE'S
DEPLOYED!**



"ESSENTIAL"?
OH GOD...

ROSARIO.
IT'S WHERE
ABE WAS
SHOT. THAT'S
WHEN HE
STARTED TO
CHANGE.



PICK SOME-
ONE TO GO
WITH YOU,
REVIEW THE
ORDERS I SENT
**THREE GOD
DAMN DAYS**
AGO--



"--AND
GET HIM
TO COME
BACK."

HE'D
SHOT AT
ME, BUT I
COULD'VE
KEPT
GOING...

LOOKING
DOWN AT HIM,
I REALIZED I
JUST KILLED A
GUY WHO MIGHT
HAVE JUST BEEN
DEFENDING HIS
HOUSE.



"BUT I ASKED
MYSELF, WHAT WAS
HE PROTECTING?
AND THEN I FOUND
GRACE...SHE
WAS...TIED UP.

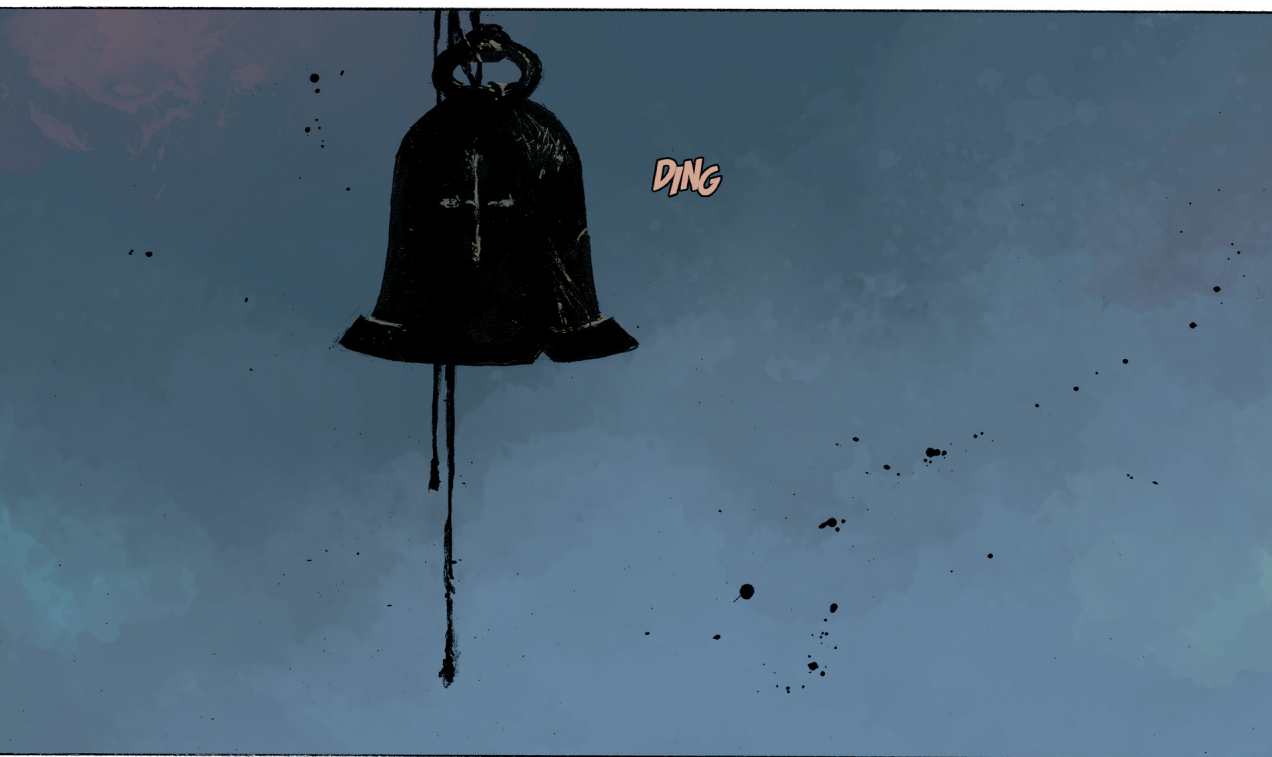
"SEE, I
WASN'T JUST
RETALIATING--"



I **KNEW**
SOMETHING
WAS WRONG.
JUST LIKE IN
THE LAST TOWN
I WAS IN--BUT
I LET OTHER
PEOPLE TELL
ME IT WAS
FINE.

SO
THIS TIME
I ACTED.
AND I SAVED
GRACE
FROM...

WHAT-
EVER THE
HELL WAS
GOING ON
IN THAT
HOUSE.





OH
LORD OH
LORD OH
LORD...

BEN!

HOLD
HIS HEAD
STILL!

JUST BE
CAREFUL--
THOSE
TEETH--



DAMMIT!



SHUT
UP,
MORGAN,
JUST
SHUT
UP...

THIS
IS INSANE.
THIS IS NOT
GOING TO
WORK...



WHAT ABOUT
THE HORSE
TRANQS!?

BUT
YOU
SAID--

I
DIDN'T
SAY
STOP!

GRONK

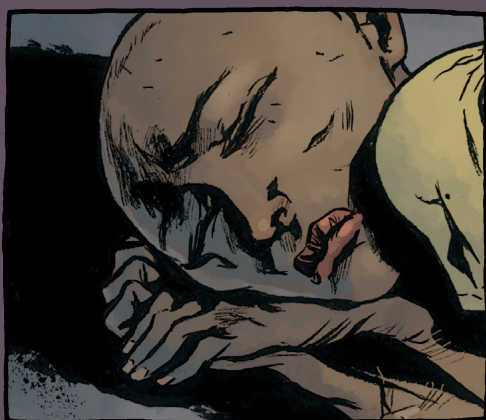


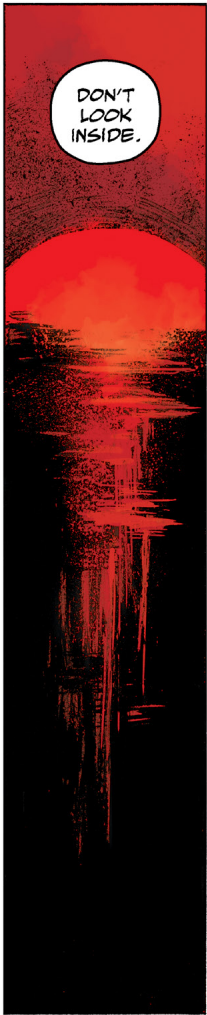




VISIONS, DREAMS, AND FISHIN'







DON'T
LOOK
INSIDE.



THERE ARE
BODIES IN SOME
OF THEM, BUT IT
LOOKS LIKE A LOT
OF PEOPLE GOT
AWAY. YOU CAN
HARDLY TELL THIS
ONE WAS EVER
A CAR...

THESE
DOORS WERE
YANKED OFF BY
HAMMERHEADS...
THOSE ARE THE
BAT-FACED ONES/
LIKE THAT CORPSE
WE SAW LAST
WEEK.

NORTH OF
JUÁREZ.



I DON'T
KNOW IF
YOU EVER
SAW ONE IN
ACTION--



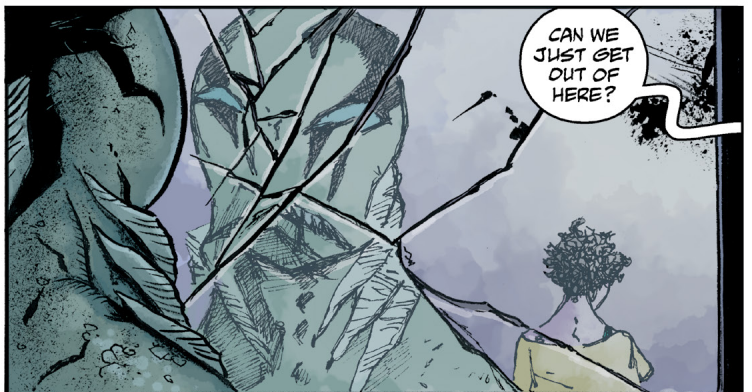
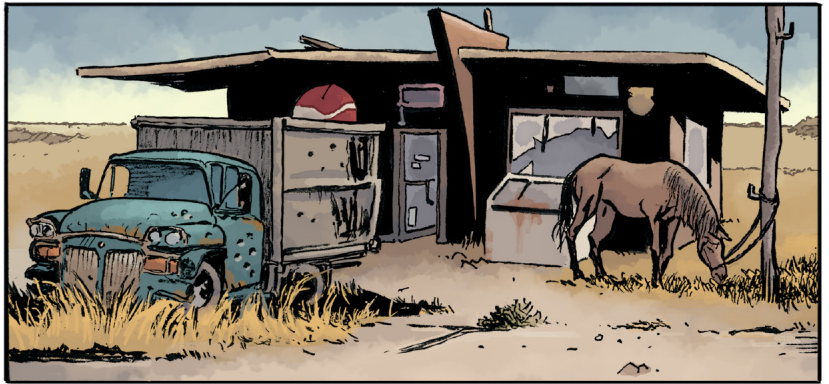
KRSHIK



GRACE--!
WHOA,
NEVER
MIND--



I'LL JUST
STEER US
CLEAR...





THE
FISH... IT'S
HORRIBLE...

YEAH,
BUT IT MEANS
THERE'S
WATER AHEAD.
AND WE CAN
EAT...

I DON'T
SEE MY-
SELF EATING
ONE OF
THESE.

WELL, NOT
ONE OF
THESE...
!

OH
GOOD.
NO ROAD
SUSHI
FOR US.





I KNEW
HE SEEMED
RILED UP!
HE HEARD
YOU A MILE
AWAY!

SNNRL
GRP

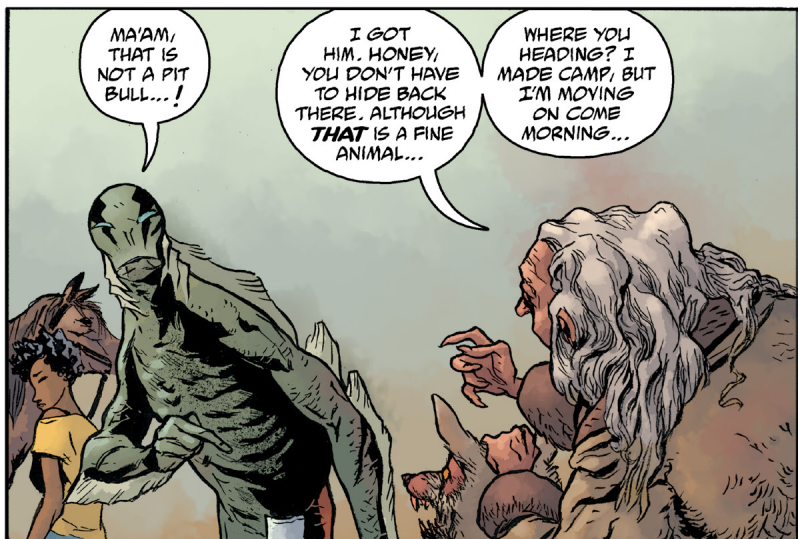
ABE...

IT'S
OKAY.



OH, BE
CARE-
FUL! THE
GENERAL'S
PART PIT
BULL!

GRRR



MA'AM,
THAT IS
NOT A PIT
BULL...!

I GOT
HIM. HONEY,
YOU DON'T HAVE
TO HIDE BACK
THERE. ALTHOUGH
THAT IS A FINE
ANIMAL...

WHERE YOU
HEADING? I
MADE CAMP, BUT
I'M MOVING
ON COME
MORNING...



WE
WERE--

WE'RE NOT
STOPPING.

WELL...
SAFETY IN
NUMBERS! YOU
JUST WANT TO
LAST LONG
ENOUGH TO
GET
SOMEPLACE
PROTECTED
...



WHAT, LIKE
PHOENIX...?

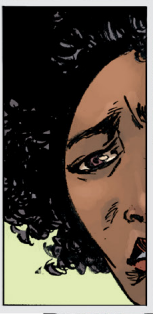


OH NO!
PHOENIX
WENT WRONG,
DIDN'T IT? I
MEAN **SACRED
PLACES**.
MOSTLY ON THE
COASTS, BUT
THERE ARE
SOME
OTHERS.



THERE'S
A GIRL BACK IN
THE CAROLINAS--
NONE OF THE
HORRORS IN THIS
WORLD COME NEAR
HER, SCARED
OF THE RIGHT
HAND PRINTED
ON HER FORE-
HEAD.

THE GIRL DON'T
SPEAK ANYTHING BUT
GIBBERISH, BUT HER
MAMA TRANSLATES FOR
HER. A CULT SPRUNG UP
AROUND HER, AND HER
MAMA SAYS SHE'LL LEAD
THEM ON TO THE HEREAFTER.



GRRRRR



A CULT, JUST
LIKE THE ONE
THAT SPRUNG
UP AROUND
YOU.

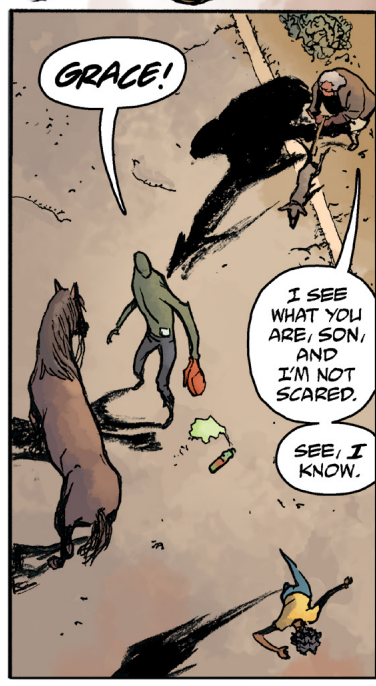


I'VE
SEEN
**YOUR
MARK,**
TOO.

NO.



SPLISH



GRACE!

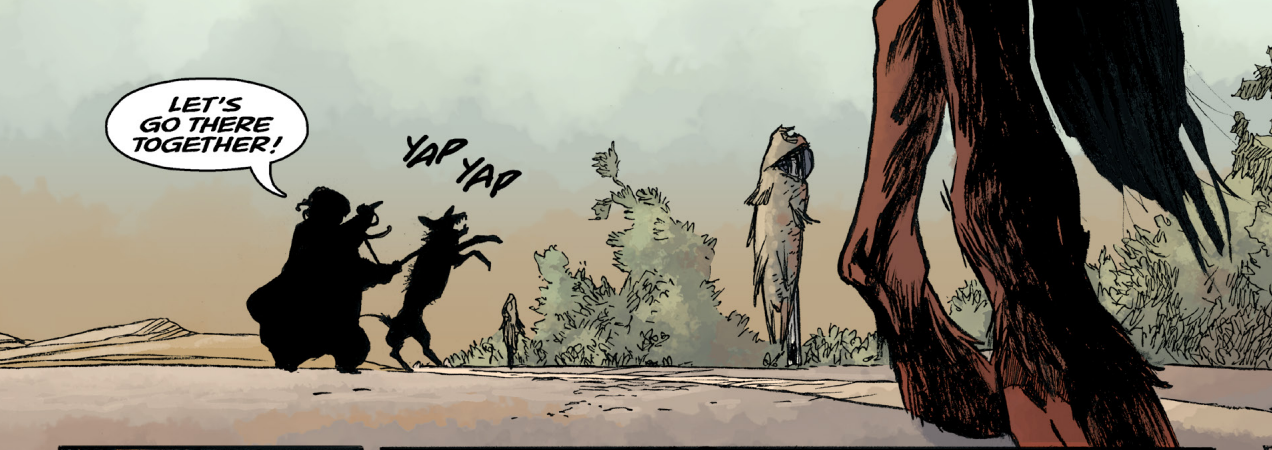
I SEE
WHAT YOU
ARE, SON,
AND I'M NOT
SCARED.

SEE, I
KNOW.



I'M
SORRY...

TO KNOW
YOURSELF,
YOU SHOULD GO
HOME.



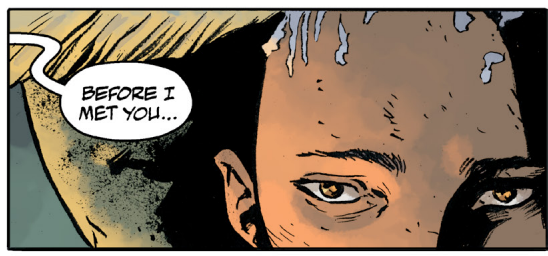
LET'S GO THERE TOGETHER!

YAP YAP

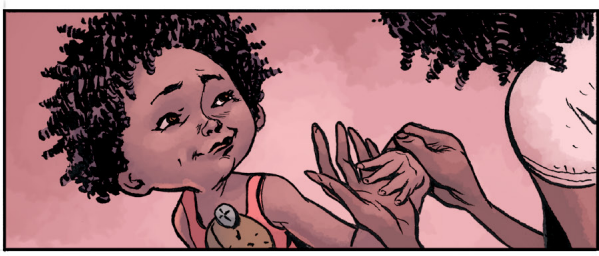


IS THIS HOW YOU WORE IT BEFORE...?

BEFORE WHAT?



BEFORE I MET YOU...

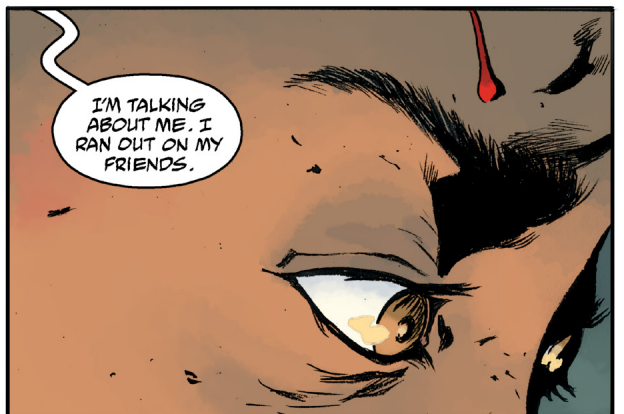
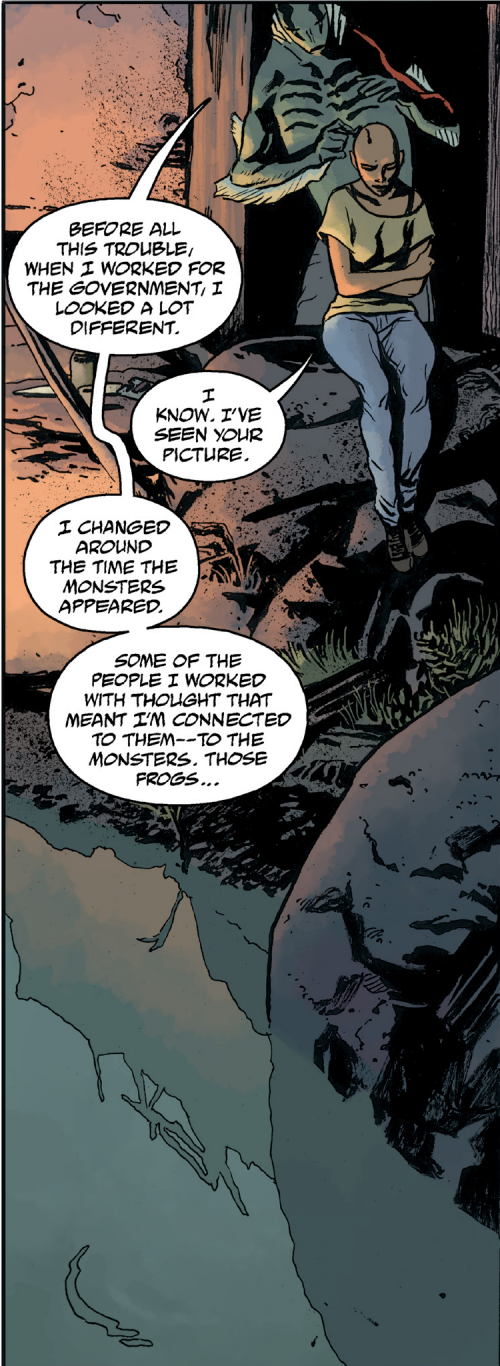


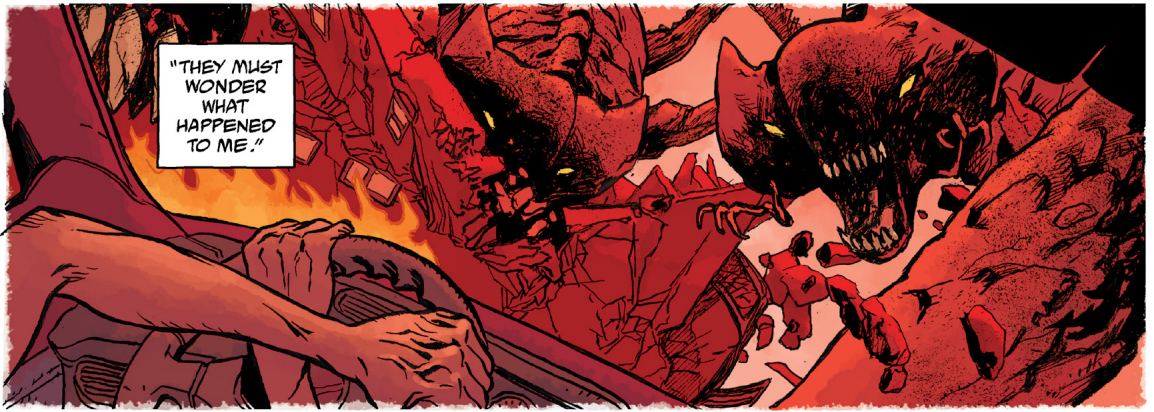
THAT WASN'T YOUR HOUSE I FOUND YOU IN, RIGHT?



IT'S JUST THAT I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT--

DAMMIT!





"THEY MUST
WONDER
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO ME."



I THOUGHT I COULD
PROVE I HAD
NOTHING TO DO
WITH THOSE
MONSTERS...



THAT WOMAN
MENTIONED A
CULT. **YOUR**
CULT.



SHE WAS
CONFUSED.

SOME PEOPLE
THINK THOSE
MONSTERS ARE
GODS, AND THERE
ARE PEOPLE
WHO SAY I'M
CONNECTED
TO THE
MONSTERS
...



BUT
THERE
ISN'T ANY
CULT...



I TOLD YOU I WAS
SHOT, RIGHT? IT
WAS TWO YEARS
AGO, AND IT WAS IN
TEXAS. AROUND
THE TIME ALL THE
MONSTERS
CAME.

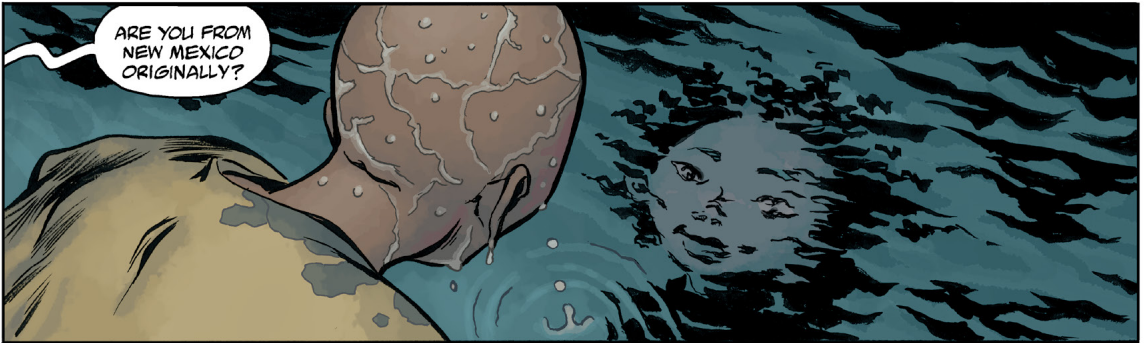
THAT'S WHEN I
CHANGED.



WASN'T
THE FIRST
TIME.

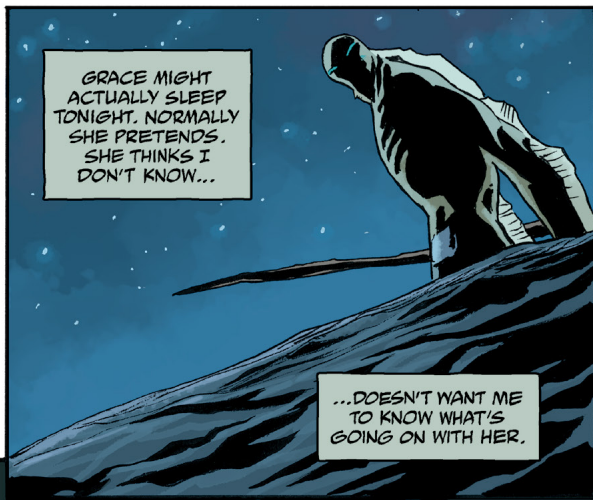


AND IT
WASN'T THE
FIRST TIME
I'VE LET IT...
GET TO
ME.





GRACE MIGHT
ACTUALLY SLEEP
TONIGHT. NORMALLY
SHE PRETENDS.
SHE THINKS I
DON'T KNOW...



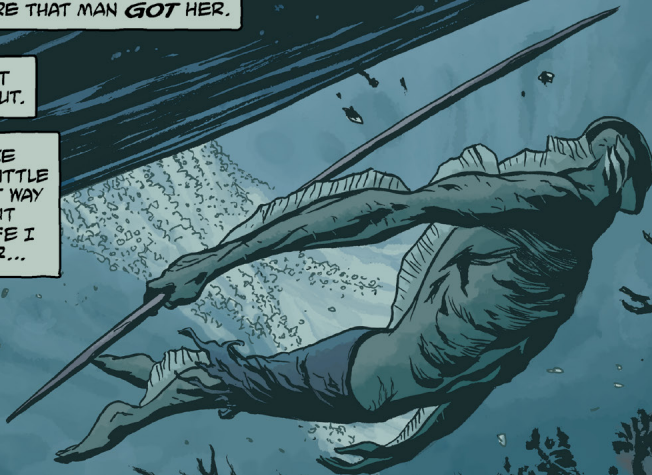
...DOESN'T WANT ME
TO KNOW WHAT'S
GOING ON WITH HER.

CERTAINLY
NOT WHAT
HAPPENED.

I WISH SHE COULD GO BACK
TO BEING WHOEVER SHE WAS
BEFORE THAT MAN **GOT** HER.

BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT
THE HAIRCUT WAS ABOUT.

SHE WANTS TO MAKE
HERSELF GO AWAY, A LITTLE
AT A TIME. I FELT THAT WAY
AFTER I FOUND OUT
ABOUT CAUL...THE LIFE I
COULDN'T REMEMBER...



IF I KNEW WHAT
HAPPENED TO HER
I COULD HELP HER
FACE IT HEAD ON...

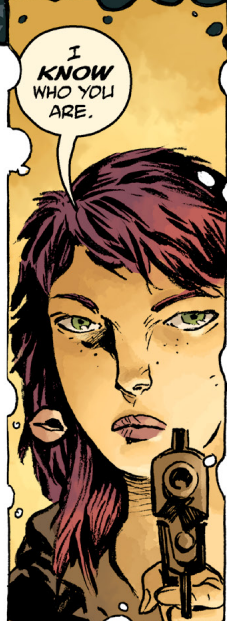


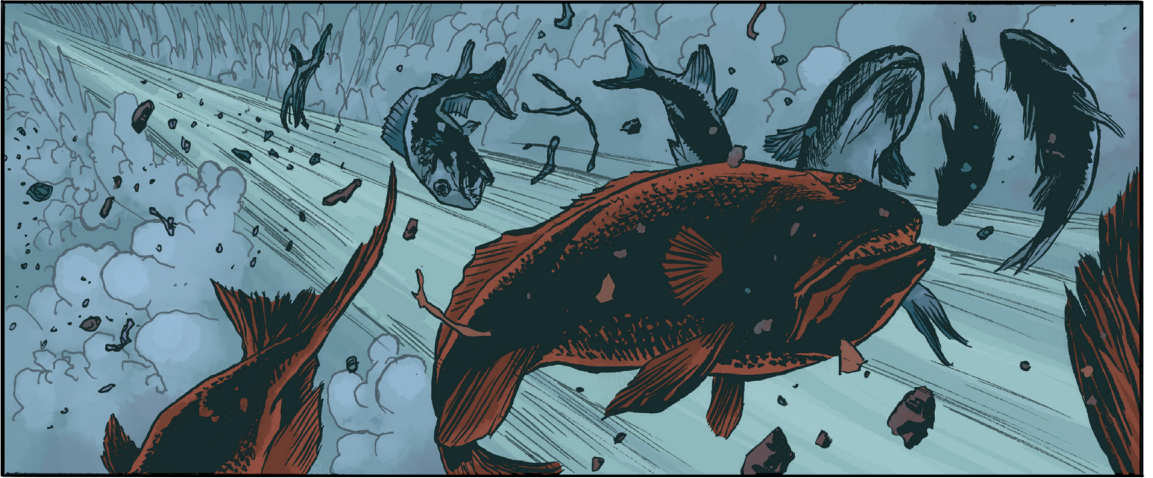
I WENT TO THE
SALTON SEA TO
DEAL WITH **THAT**
MONSTER, TO
SHOW EVERYONE I
HAD NOTHING TO
DO WITH ALL THIS.



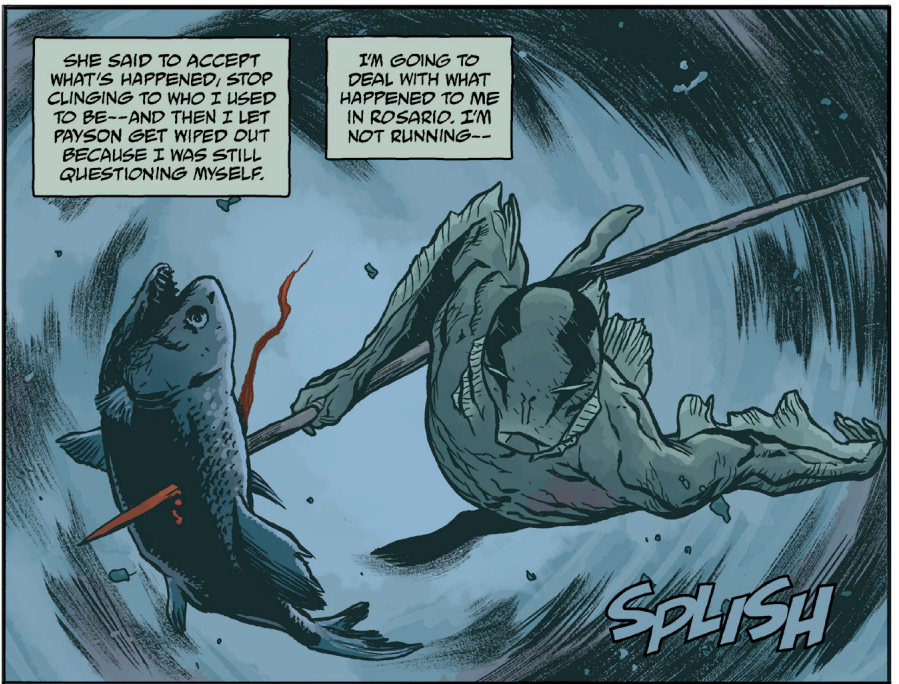
BUT THE SALTON
SEA MONSTER WAS
GONE, AND ALL I
FOUND WERE
MORE PEOPLE
QUESTIONING
WHAT I WAS...

I
KNOW
WHO YOU
ARE.





EVEN ELENA
THOUGHT I WAS
RUNNING.



SHE SAID TO ACCEPT
WHAT'S HAPPENED, STOP
CLINGING TO WHO I USED
TO BE--AND THEN I LET
PAYSON GET WIPED OUT
BECAUSE I WAS STILL
QUESTIONING MYSELF.

I'M GOING TO
DEAL WITH WHAT
HAPPENED TO ME
IN ROSARIO. I'M
NOT RUNNING--

SPLISH



SHUSH

--BUT IT
DOESN'T
MEAN I'M
NOT
SCARED.



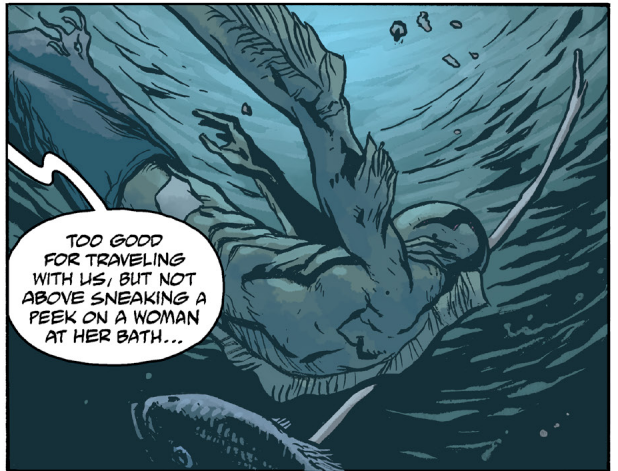
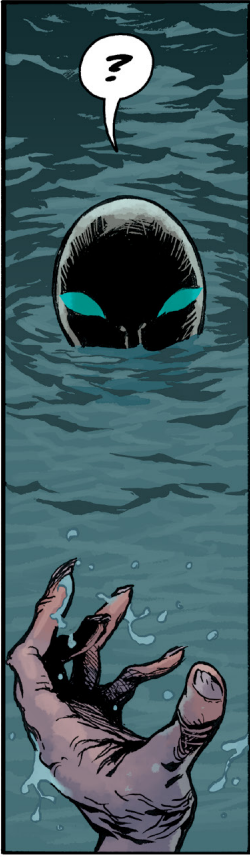
SPLASH

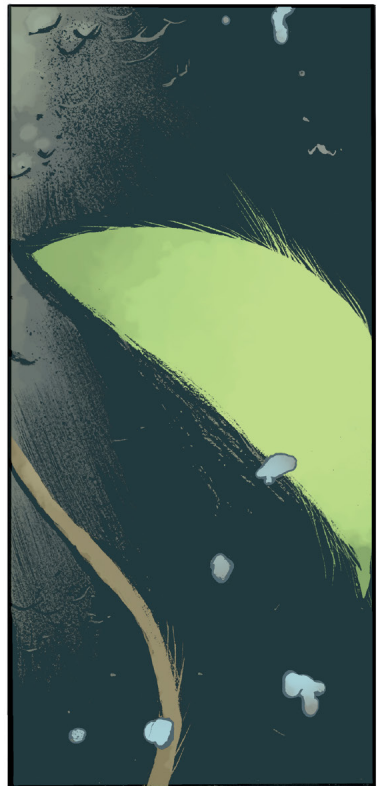
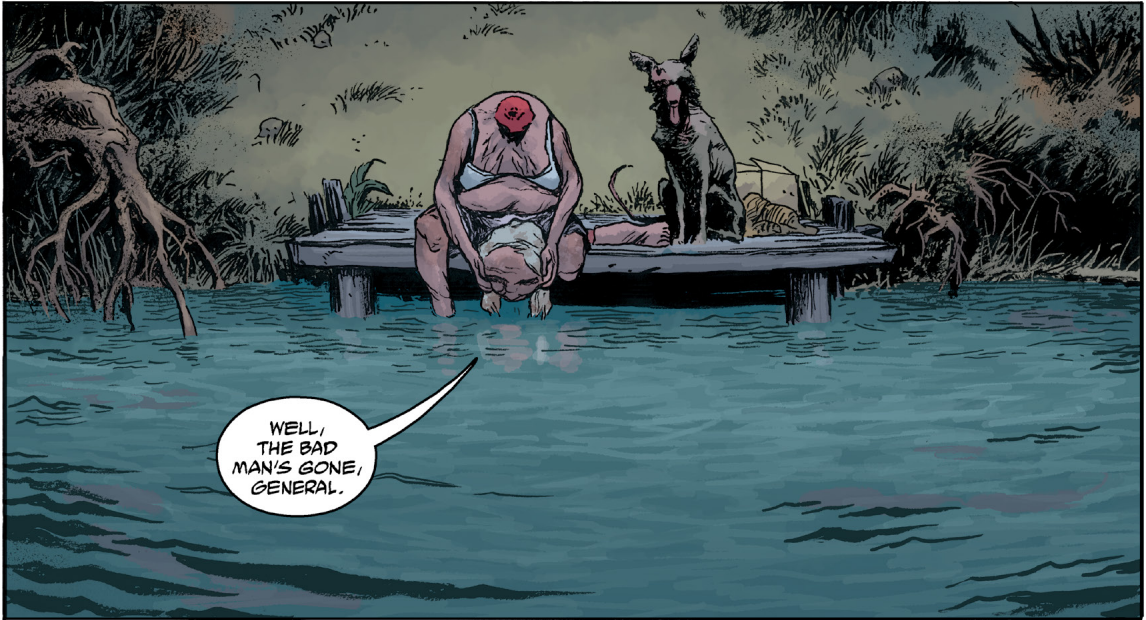
GRACE CAN'T FACE
WHAT HAPPENED
TO HER YET.



**SPLASH SHUSH
PLISH**

BUT SHE
WILL.







THIS
ISN'T
RIGHT.



HELLBOY...
YOU'RE
HERE...

THAT
GIRL
REALLY
MESSED
YOU UP,
PAL.

GRACE?



THAT HER
NAME?

THE
GIRL WHO
SHOT YOU,
PUT YOU
IN THAT
TUBE?

NO...
NO, THAT WAS
A DIFFERENT
TUBE...



BUT THAT
GIRL *DID*
SHOOT YOU,
RIGHT?

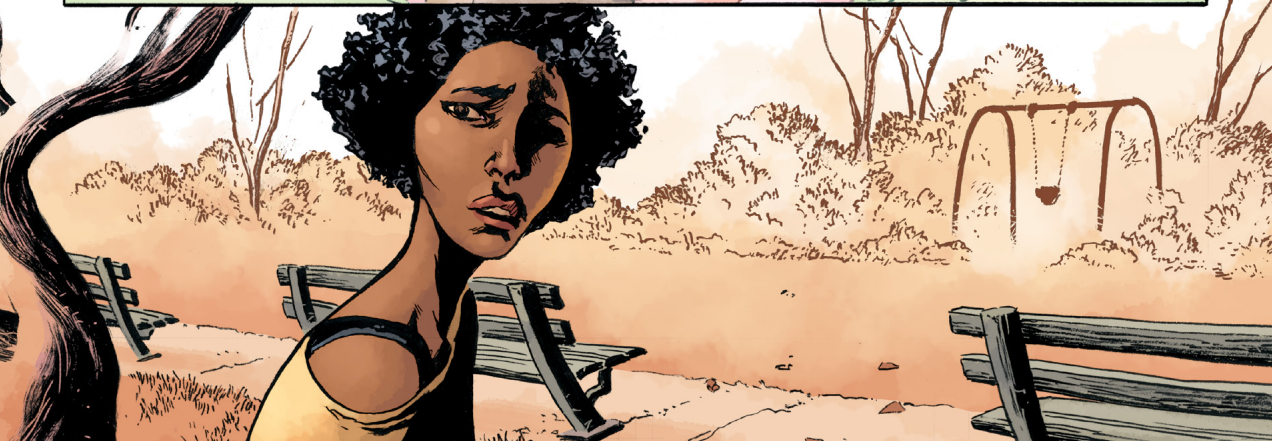
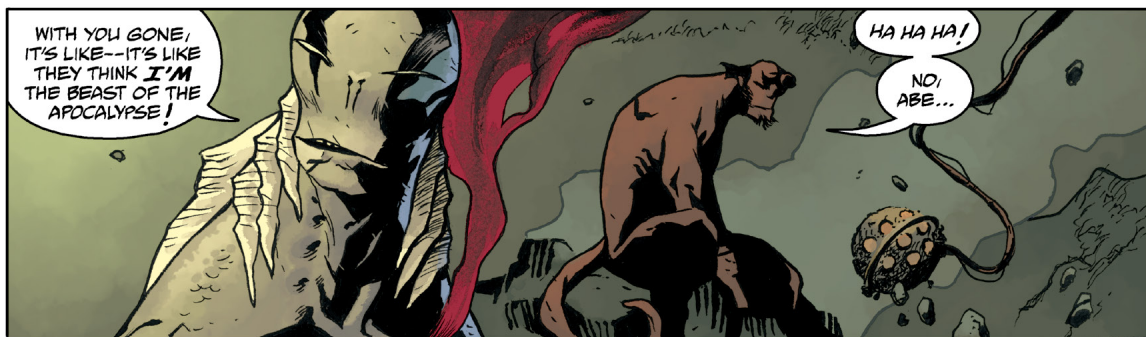
NO, THAT
MAN DID,
THE MAN
WHO...



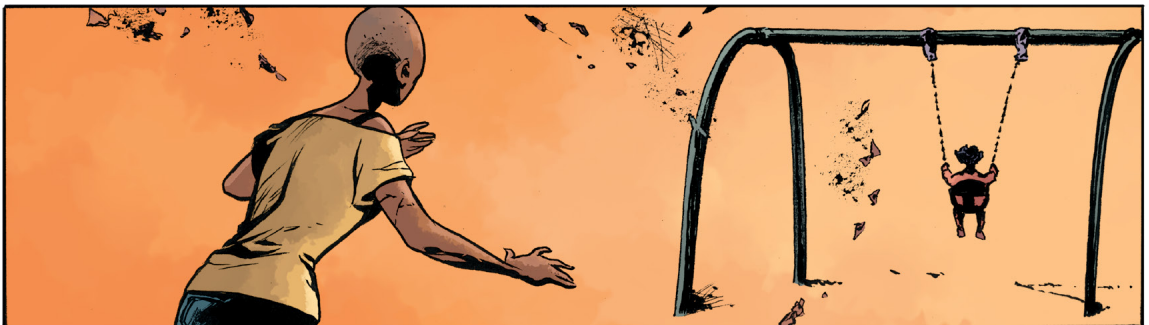
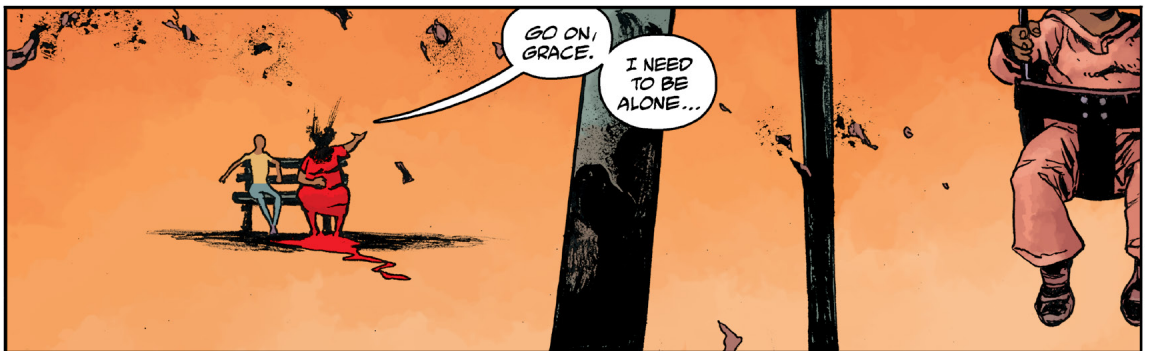
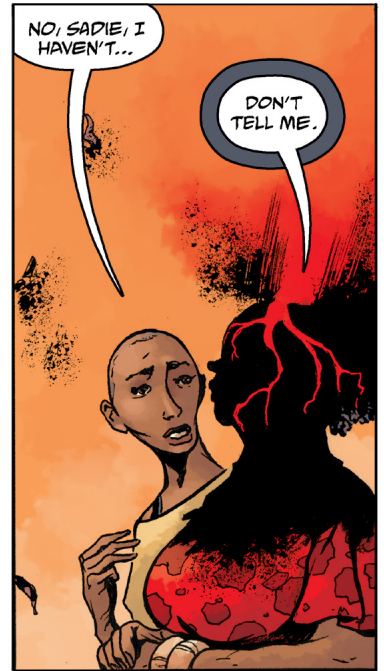
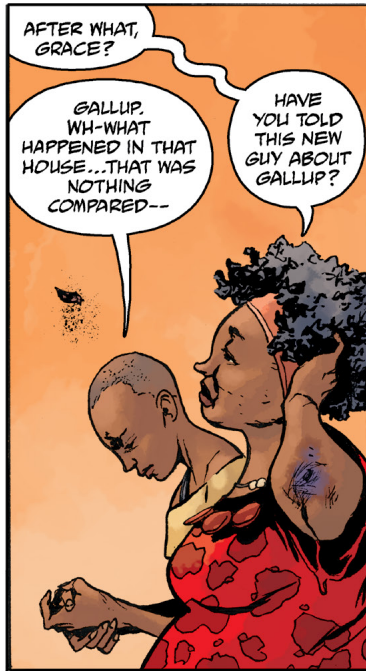
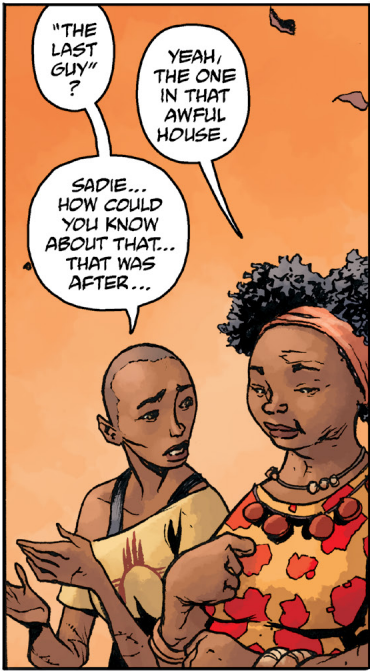
THE
MAN WHO
WHAT?

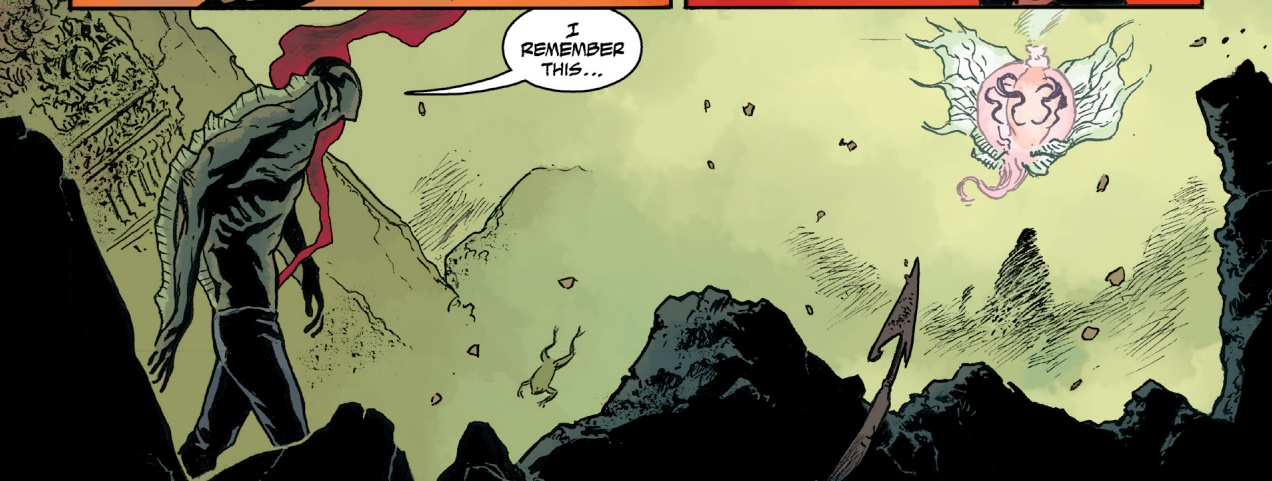
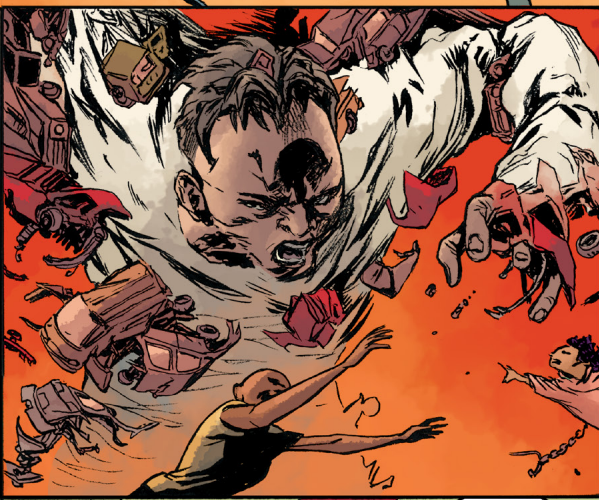
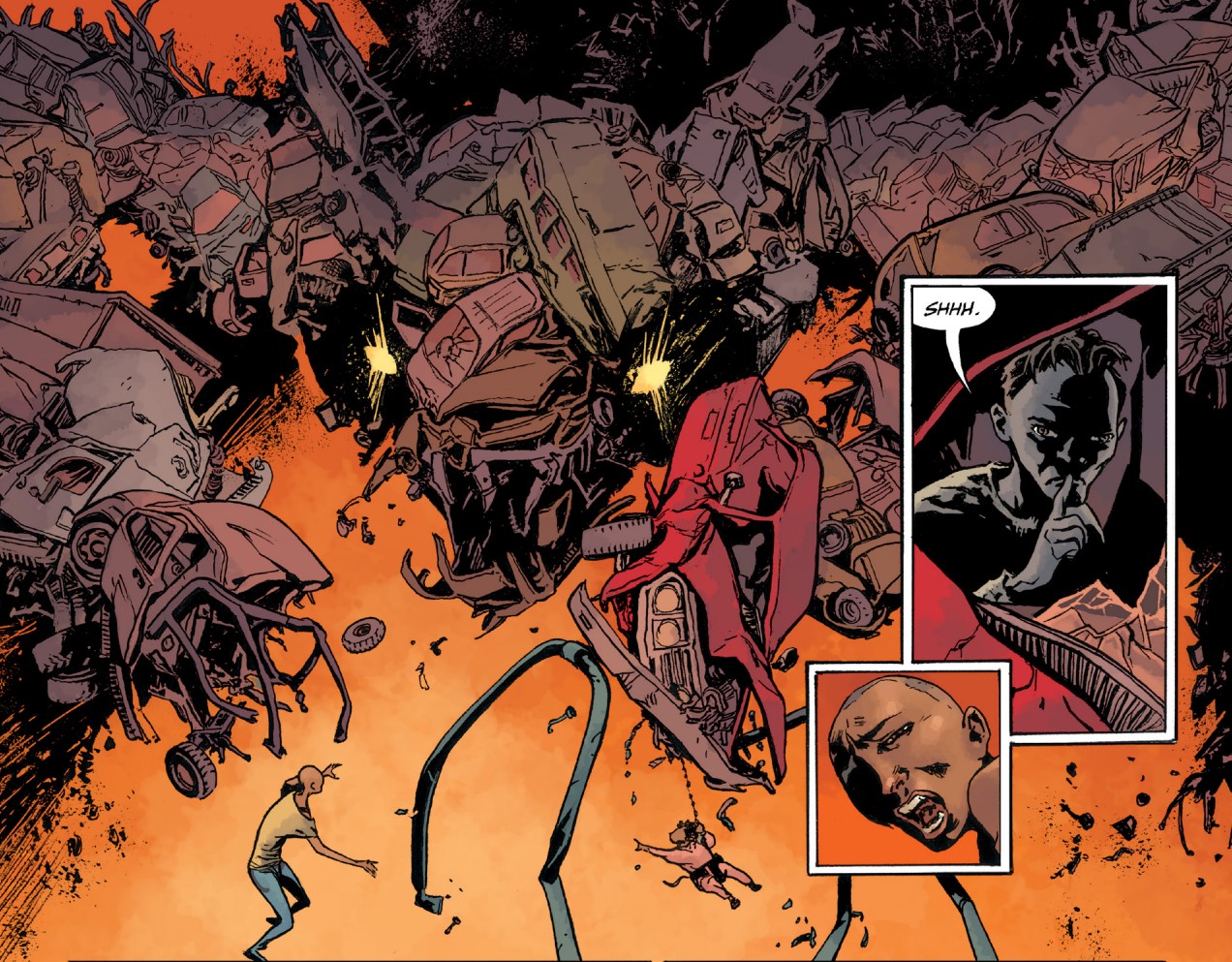
I
GUESS I
DON'T KNOW
WHAT HE
DID...

ABE?

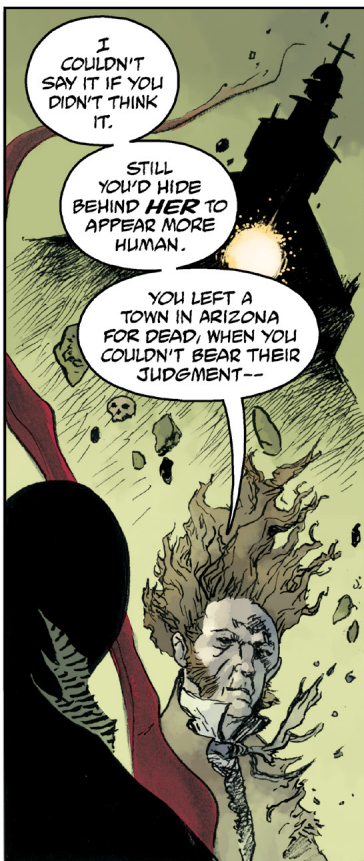
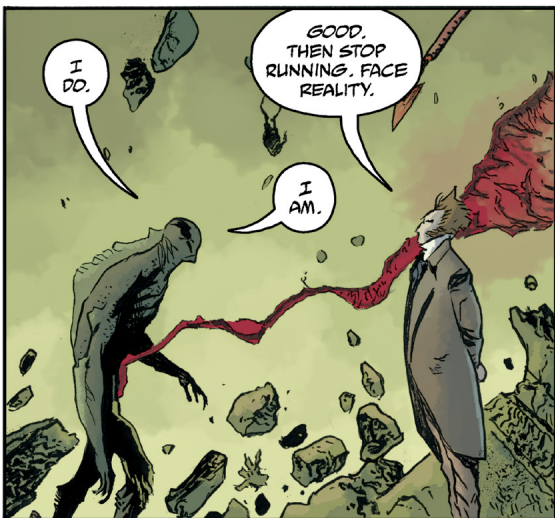
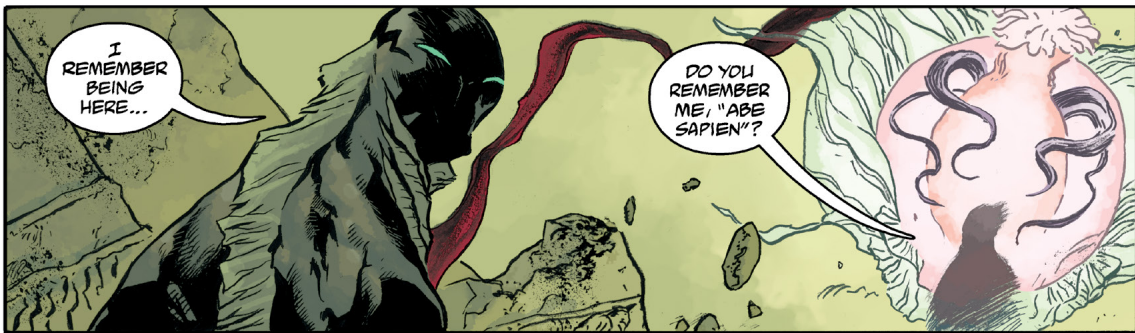


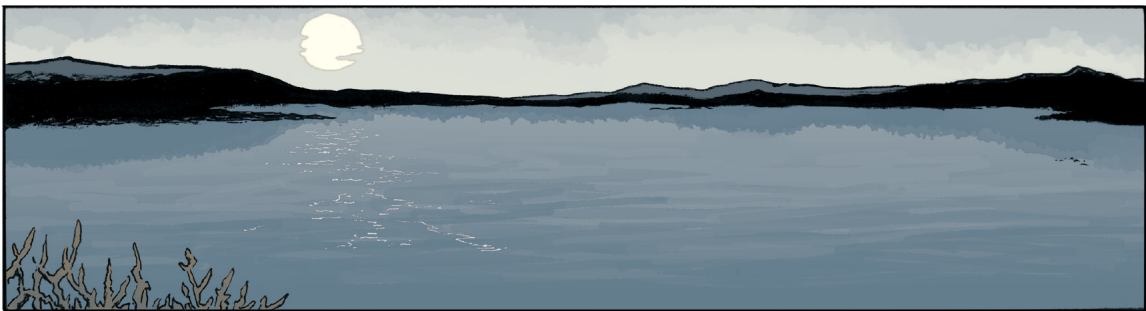


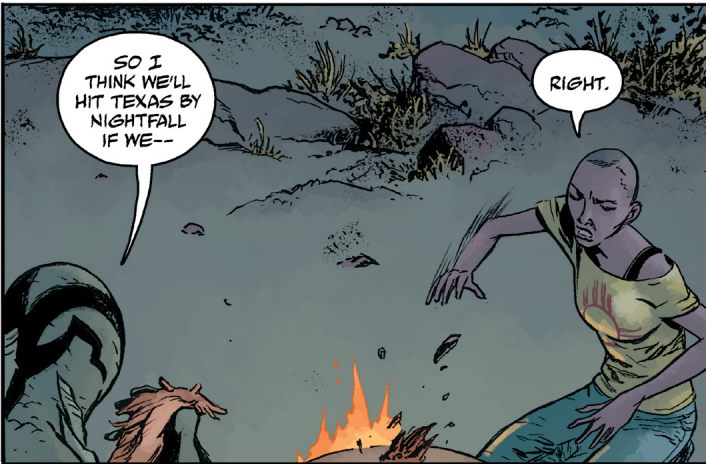
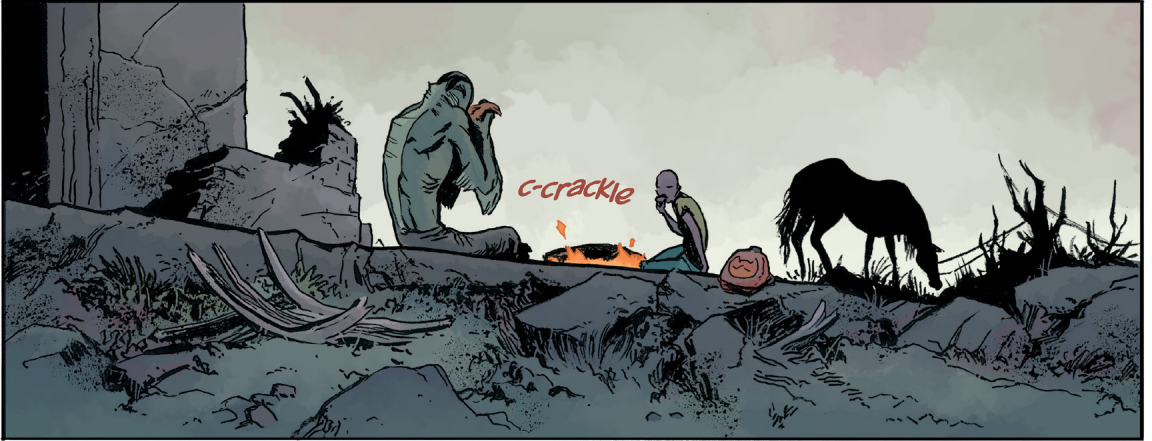
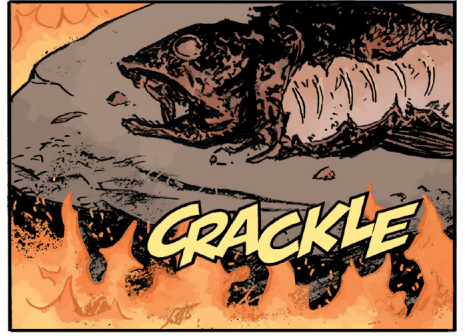
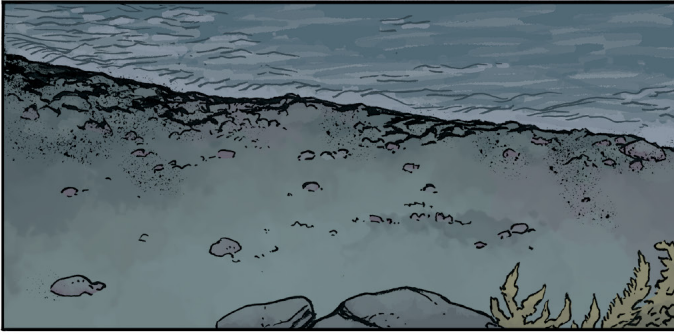




I REMEMBER THIS...









WE'RE ALL VULNERABLE, RIGHT? THE WORLD'S GONE CRAZY. EVERYONE'S DEALING WITH UNCERTAINTY.

SO YOU OPEN UP ABOUT IT, YOU WANT ME TO OPEN UP?



I JUST THOUGHT YOU'D WANT TO KNOW WHY WE'RE GOING INTO TEXAS...



I WANT SOMEONE TO RELY ON.



I HAVE ENOUGH UNCERTAINTY FOR BOTH OF US.

GRACE...



STOP IT.

LOOK, MAYBE I JUST LIKE YOU BETTER KICKING THE CRAP OUT OF SCARY WOODEN JESUSES THAN SHARING ALL YOUR ANGST.



THE END

SACRED PLACES







"I ALWAYS IMAGINED MY-
SELF MARCHING ACROSS
A DEAD EARTH..."



"...A GENERAL IN THE
SERVICE OF SATAN, **HIS**
ARMIES STRIDING BEHIND
MY CHARIOT. THINGS
HAVE NOT TURNED OUT
AS I IMAGINED, TRUE,
BUT I STILL INTEND TO
FIND MY STATION."

"THAT'S HOW I OCCUPY
MY MIND, ON THESE LONG
QUIET STRETCHES,
SOLDIER. I PICTURE A
LEGION OF THE DAMNED
FOLLOWING US..."



"...THOUGH
I KNOW I
HAVEN'T GOT
FOREVER."

NORTH
DAKOTA.



I'D HEARD OF THE
YRIL ENERGY, OF
COURSE, BUT
THOUGHT IT WAS
A MYTH.

HA.
"THE DEVIL'S
FINEST TRICK WAS
TO CONVINCE US HE
DOES NOT EXIST."
YOU KNOW THE
PHRASE?



"THE 'SECRET FIRE'
DID A FAR BETTER
JOB OF CONCEALING
ITSELF THAN SATAN
EVER COULD.

"IS THAT WHY **HE**
LOST DOMINION OVER
THE EARTH, ALLOWING
THESE HORRORS TO
CLAIM IT? IN THEIR
SERVICE TO THAT
SECRET POWER, AS
ANTONIS TELLS IT..."



SOLDIER...
GO TO THE
CARRIAGE...

GET
HIM.

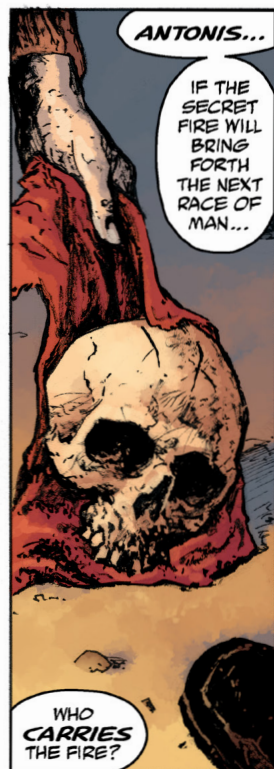


PERHAPS THE FIRE-WIELDING
WOMAN YOU SPOKE OF HAS
A PART IN THIS. I KNOW THE
FISH MAN BEARS SOME
SIGNIFICANCE...

YET
YOUR
BUREAU
KNOWS SO
LITTLE
ABOUT
EITHER OF
THEM...



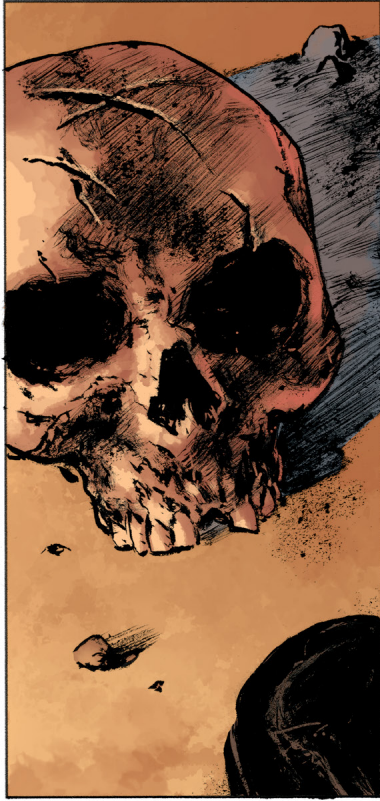
IF I CANNOT
RECONNECT TO
HELL, ONE OF
THEM MAY
HOLD THE
ANSWER...



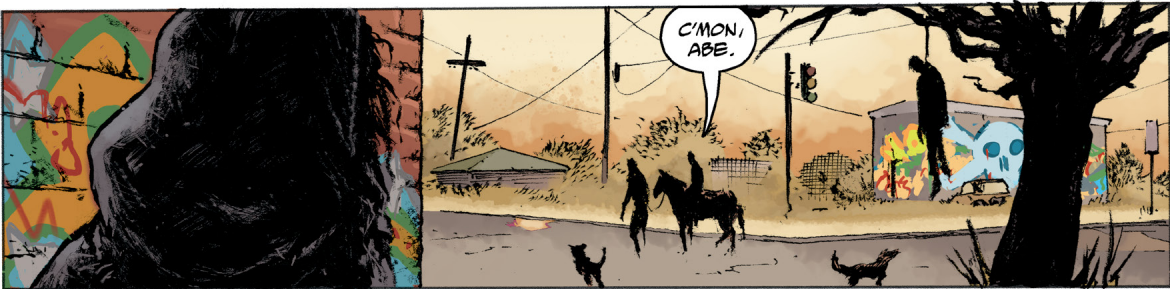
ANTONIS...

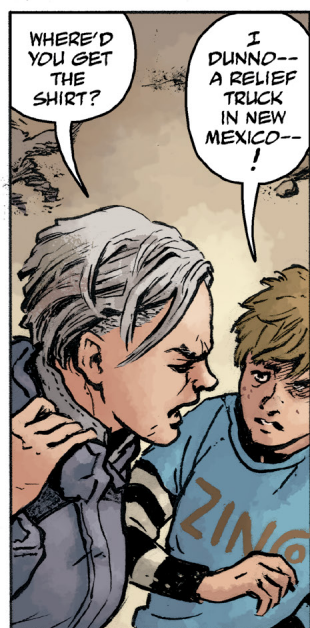
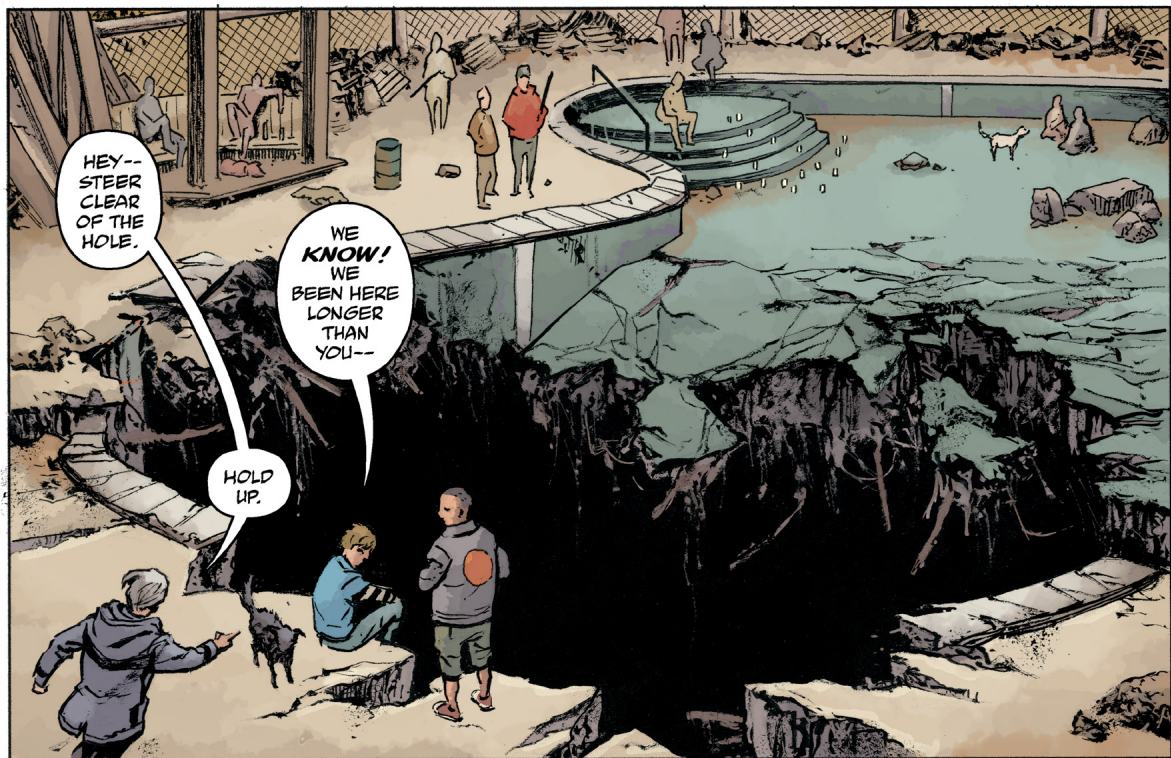
IF THE
SECRET
FIRE WILL
BRING
FORTH
THE NEXT
RACE OF
MAN...

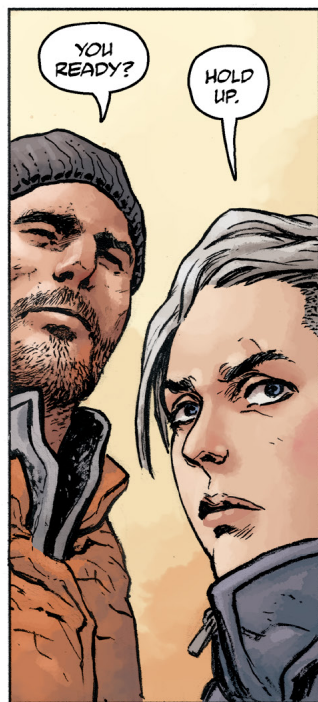
WHO
CARRIES
THE FIRE?



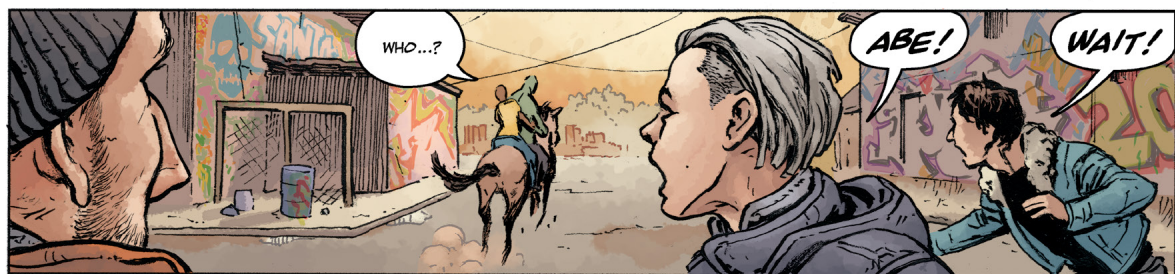




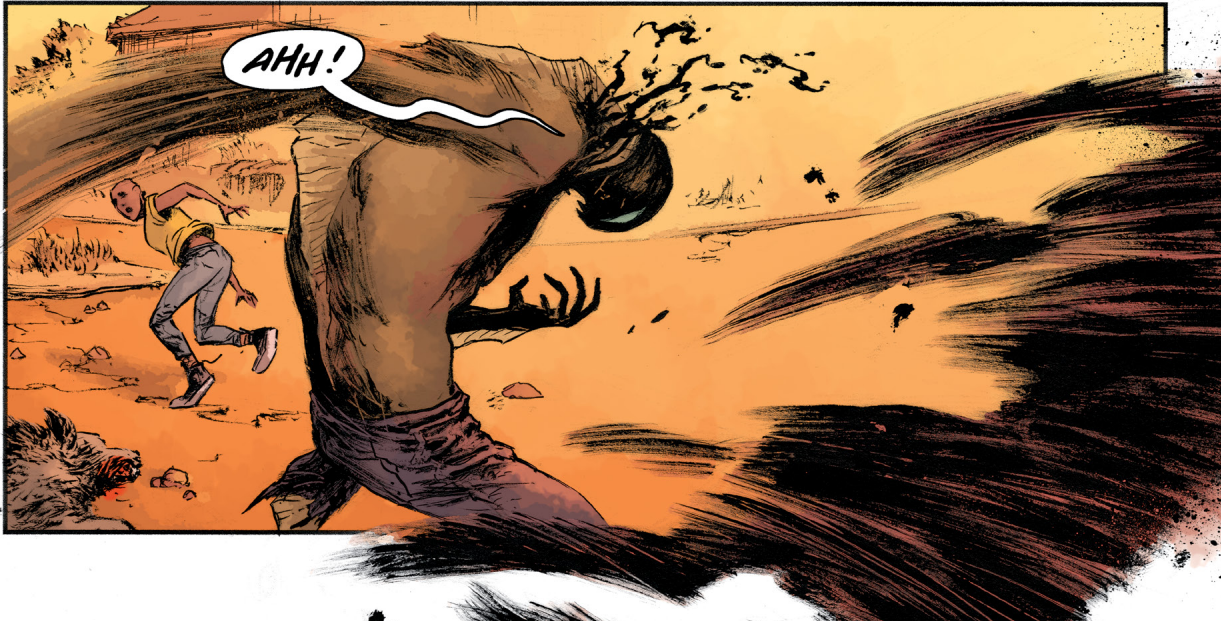
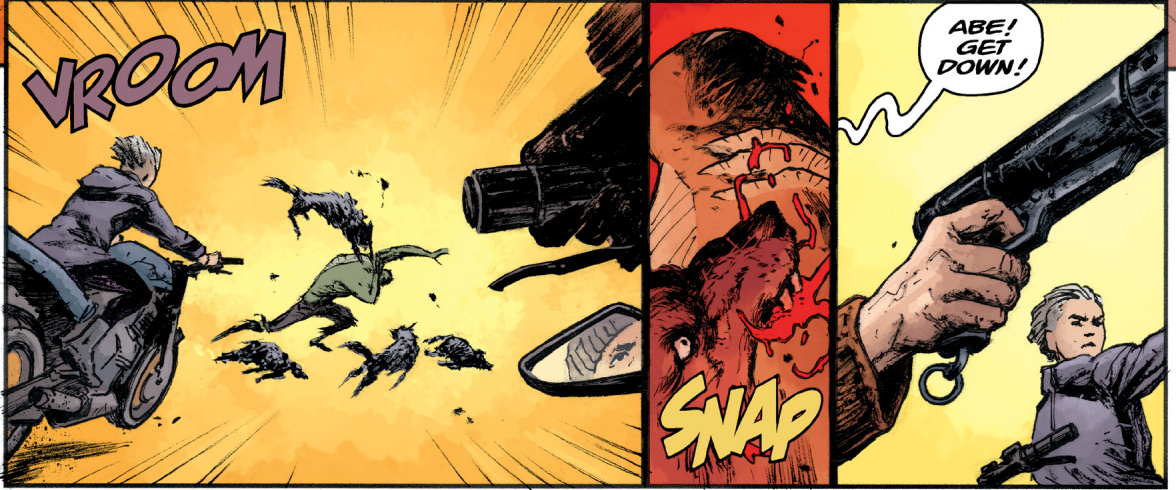


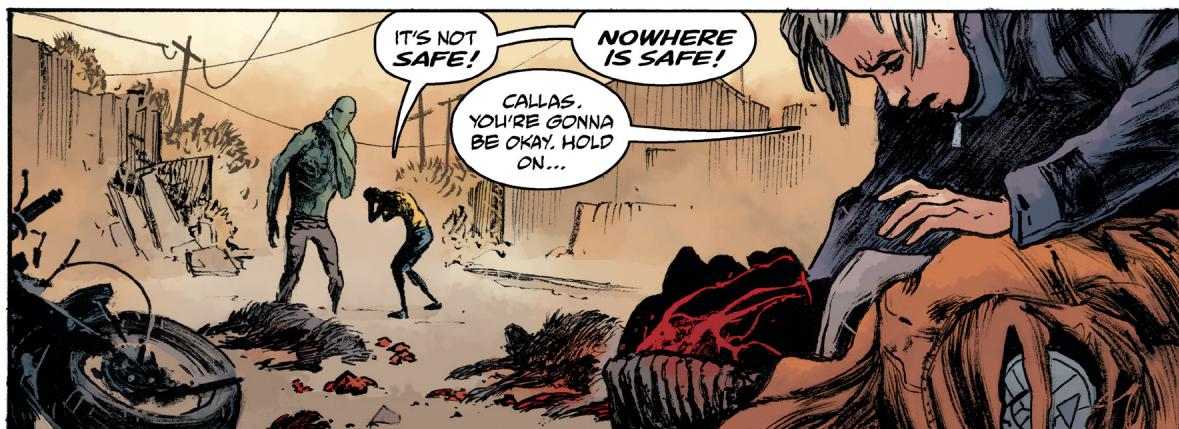


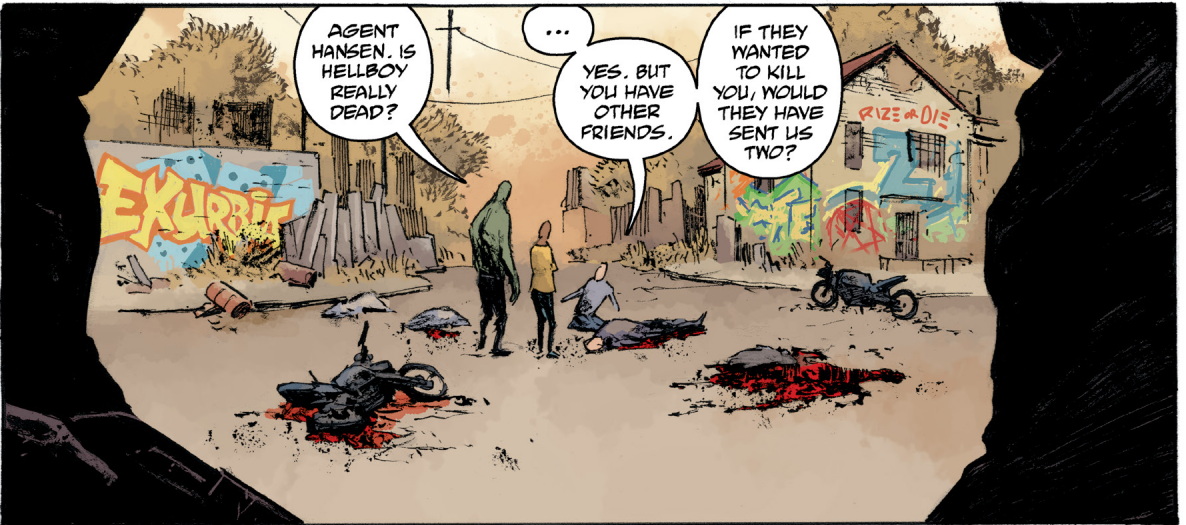
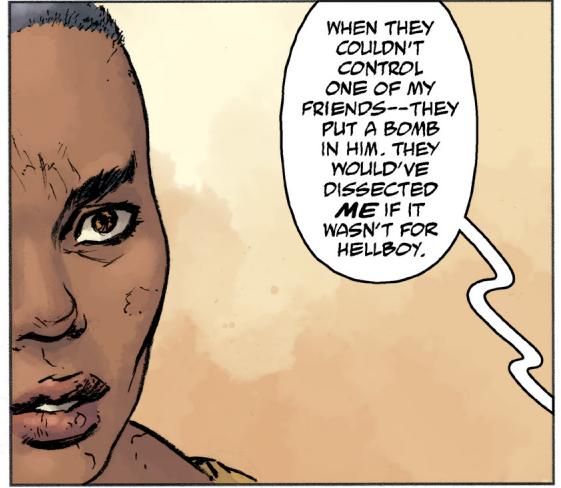
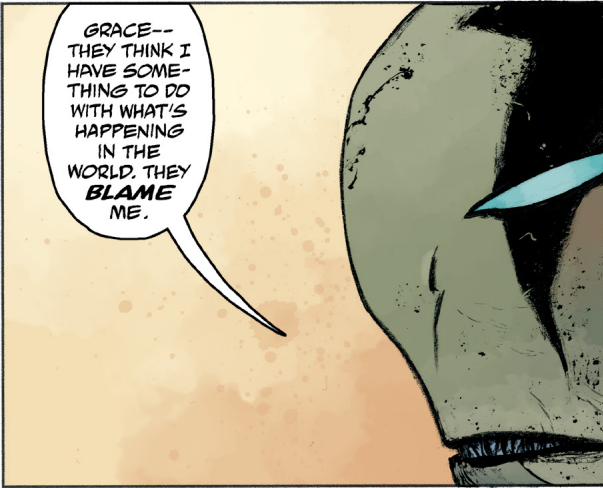


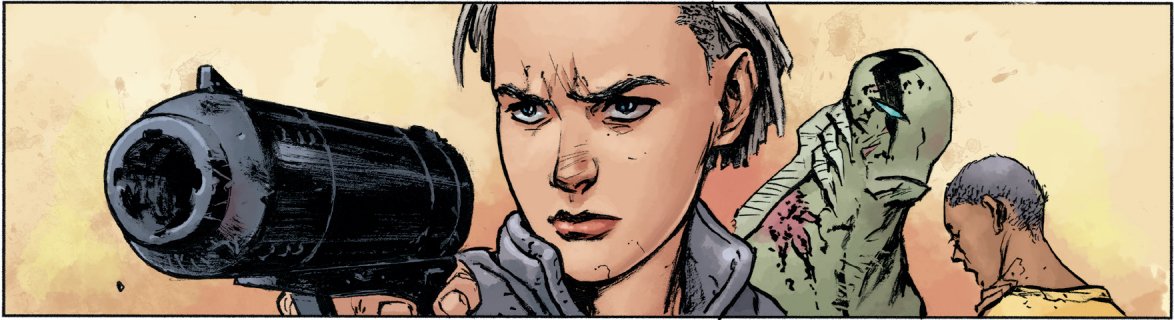


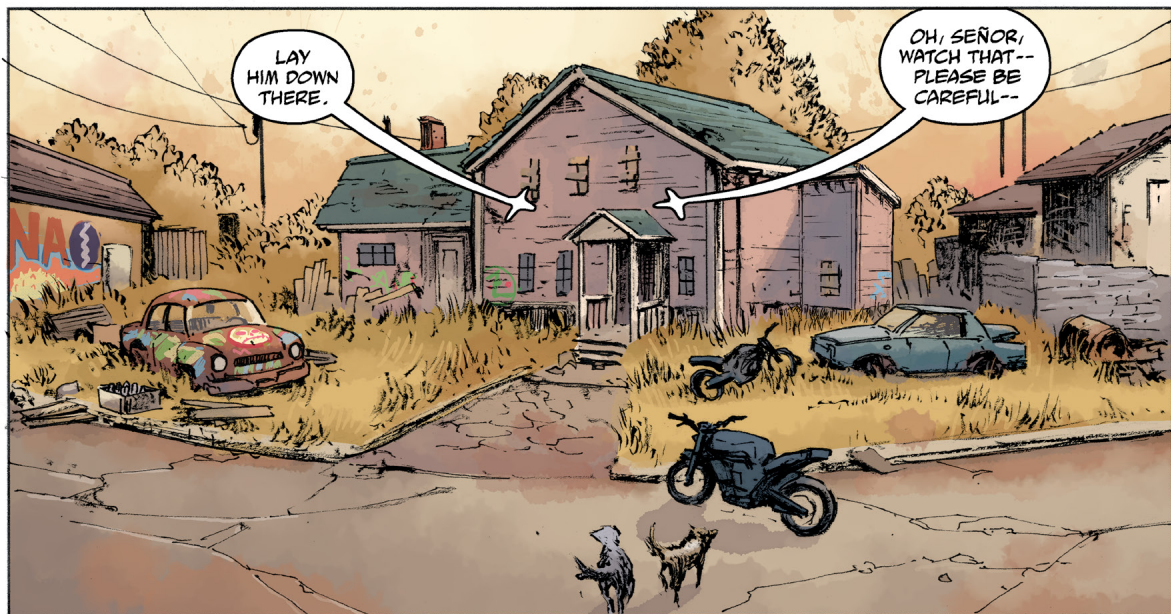
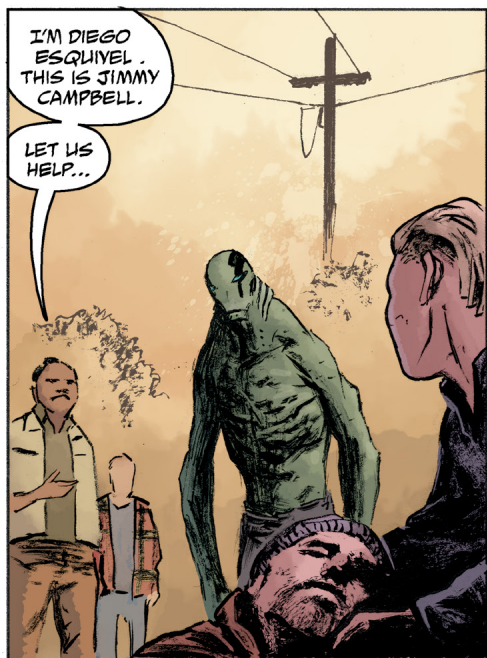


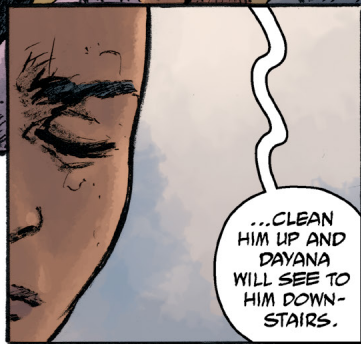
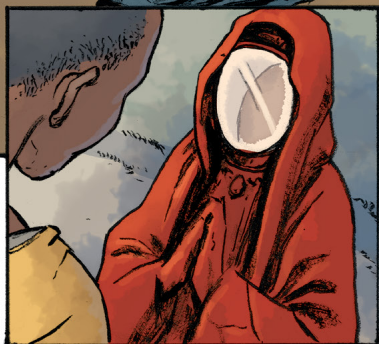


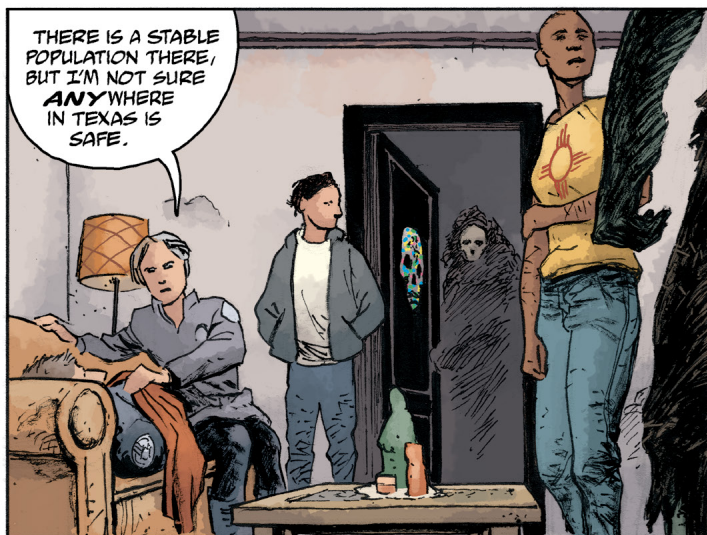
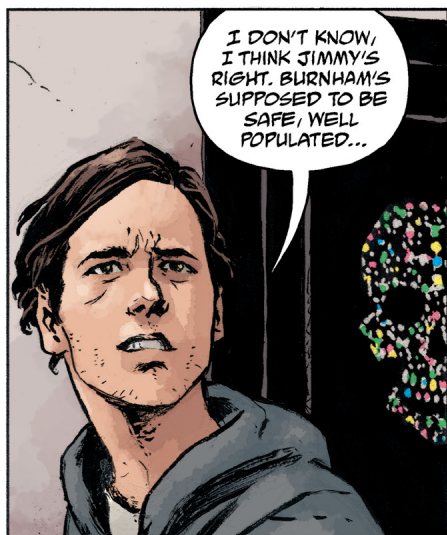














I'LL
GET
HIM...

ALL
RESPECT,
SIR, BECAUSE
YOU DO LOOK
STRONG AS A
BULL...

BUT
MY HOME
IS A BIT OF
A CHINA
SHOP.



HANG
ON/
ABE.

YOU
OKAY?



YEAH, HANSEN.
I GOT A WHIFF
OF THAT GAS.
JUST CLOSE
ENOUGH TO
SMELL IT, YOU
KNOW?

HEAD'S
A LITTLE
FOGGY.

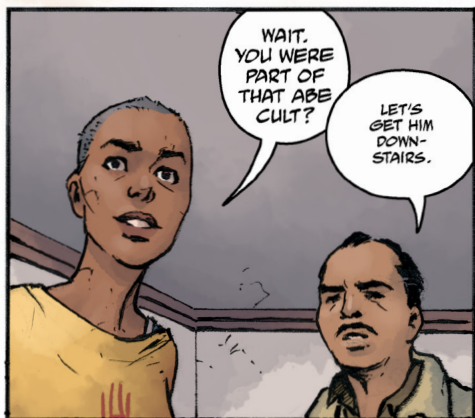
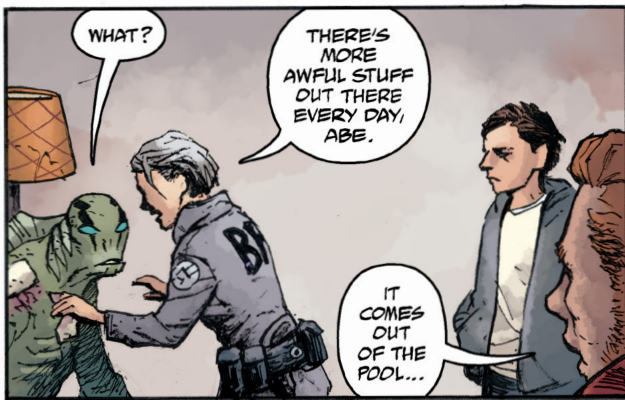
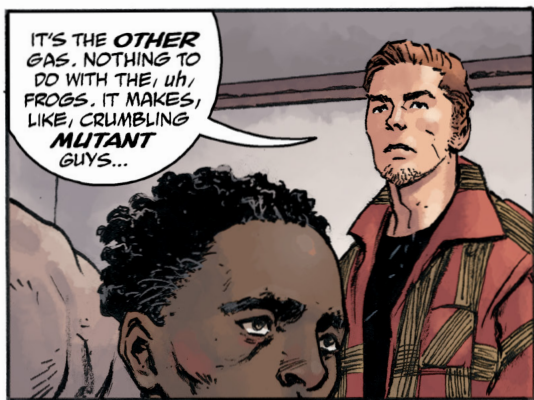
CALL ME
STAZZ. I'M
GLAD YOU DIDN'T
GET A DEEP
BREATH...



WHAT
WOULD
THAT
DO...? TO
YOU?

WOULD
IT TURN YOU
INTO... **MORE**
OF A FROG
MAN...?

'S NOT
THAT
KINDA
GAS.

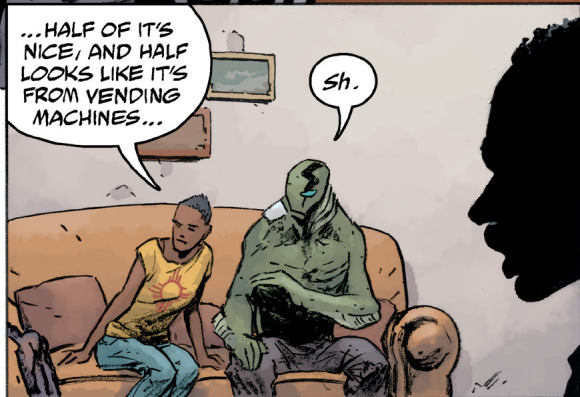




DIEGO
DIDN'T SAY I
MISSED MY
HUSBAND--JUST
THAT IT WAS HARD,
AT FIRST, TO
PAY FOR THIS
PLACE.

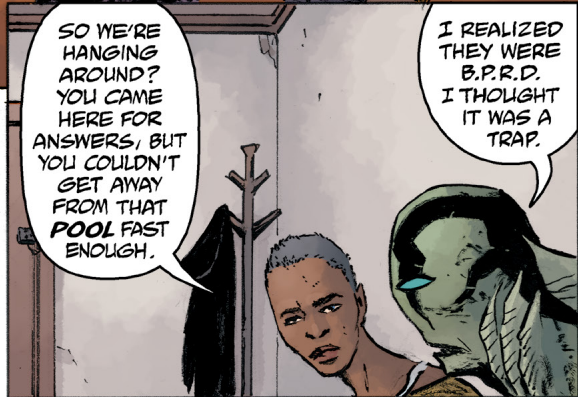
NONE OF
THAT NEEDS
CONCERN US
THESE DAYS,
THOUGH.

"YOU GET A GOOD
LOOK AT THESE
DECORATIONS...?"



...HALF OF IT'S
NICE, AND HALF
LOOKS LIKE IT'S
FROM VENDING
MACHINES...

sh.

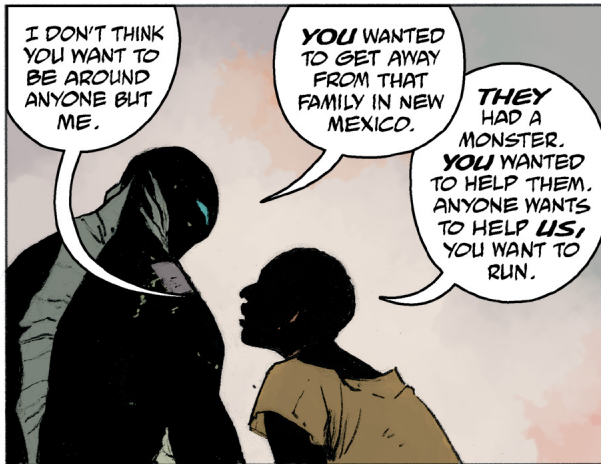


SO WE'RE
HANGING
AROUND?
YOU CAME
HERE FOR
ANSWERS, BUT
YOU COULDN'T
GET AWAY
FROM THAT
POOL FAST
ENOUGH.

I REALIZED
THEY WERE
B.P.R.D.
I THOUGHT
IT WAS A
TRAP.



BUT
WHEN SHE
OFFERED
HELP, YOU
WERE
READY TO
RUN.



I DON'T THINK
YOU WANT TO
BE AROUND
ANYONE BUT
ME.

YOU WANTED
TO GET AWAY
FROM THAT
FAMILY IN NEW
MEXICO.

THEY
HAD A
MONSTER.
YOU WANTED
TO HELP THEM.
ANYONE WANTS
TO HELP **US**,
YOU WANT TO
RUN.



GRACE.
I CAN TAKE
CARE OF
US.



AND
I DO WANT
ANSWERS.

MAYBE
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO ME
DOESN'T
HAVE TO DO
WITH THE GIRL
WHO SHOT
ME, BUT
WITH THAT
GAS.

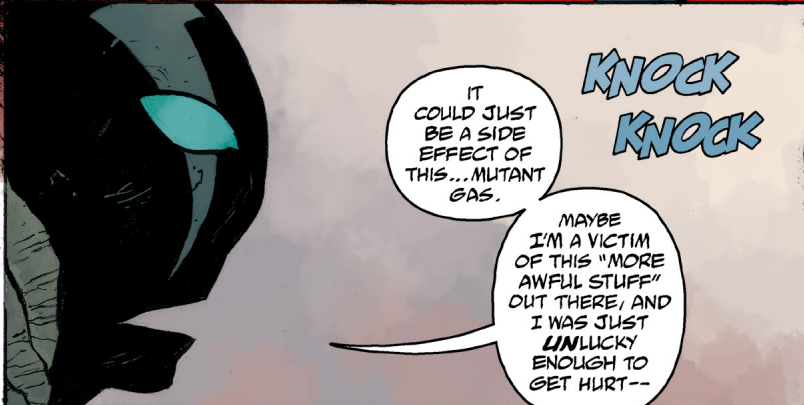


"I TOLD YOU--
I'VE CHANGED
TWICE. ONCE A
LONG TIME AGO.

"THEN AGAIN,
WHEN THE
WORLD STARTED
GOING TO HELL.



"BUT MAYBE THAT
WAS JUST A
COINCIDENCE."



IT
COULD JUST
BE A SIDE
EFFECT OF
THIS...MUTANT
GAS.

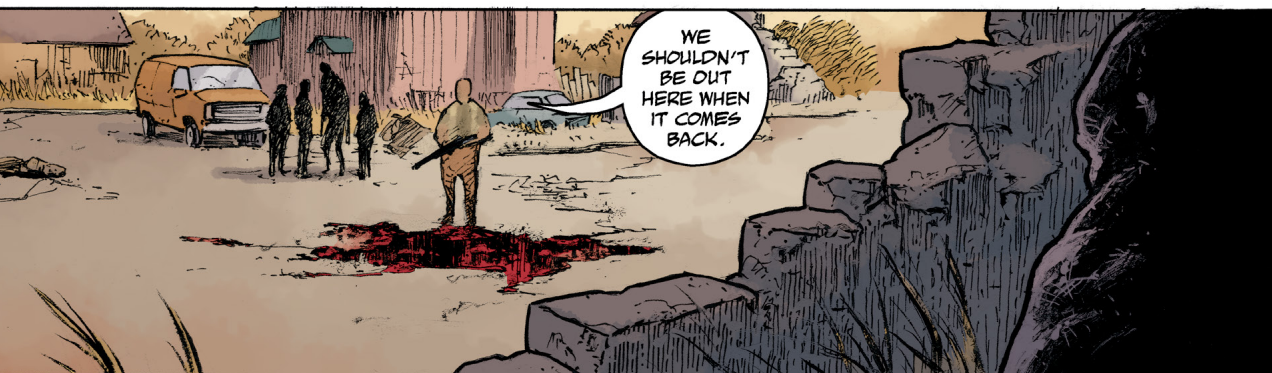
**KNOCK
KNOCK**

MAYBE
I'M A VICTIM
OF THIS "MORE
AWFUL STUFF"
OUT THERE, AND
I WAS JUST
UNLUCKY
ENOUGH TO
GET HURT--



--GET
SHOT--

**KNOCK
KNOCK**





HOLD ON, ABE. I WANNA TALK TO YOU.

GET THE HELL INSIDE--

NO, HE CAN FEND FOR HIMSELF.

YOU WANTED ME TO THINK THAT **GAS** WAS SOME KIND OF **SIGN** WHEN I SHOWED UP--WHEN YOU **KNEW** IT'D BEEN LEAKING OUT ALL ALONG.

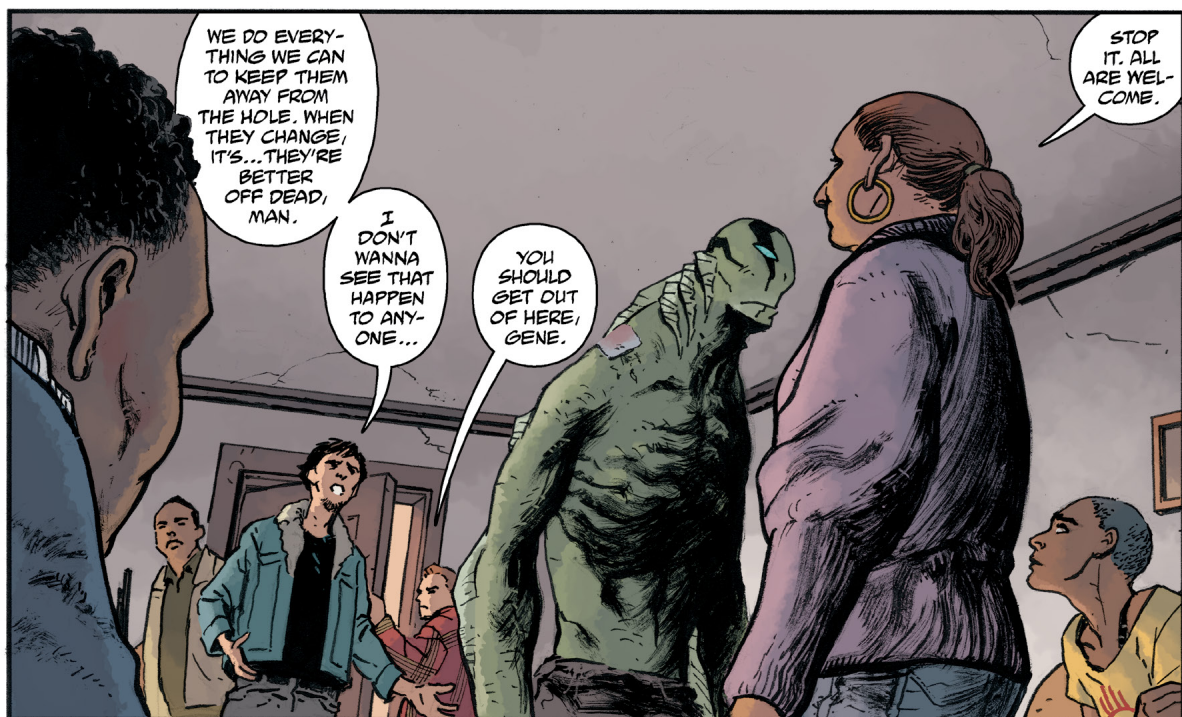
YOU KEPT THOSE PEOPLE HANGING AROUND THAT HOLE SO YOU COULD ACT LIKE SOME **APOSTLE** TO A CULT THAT **DOES NOT EXIST**.

NO, ABE-- I HELP THEM.



YOU DESERVE WHATEVER HAPPENS TO YOU.

I FEEL **AWFUL** ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO GOT HIT BY THE **GAS**!



WE DO EVERY-
THING WE CAN
TO KEEP THEM
AWAY FROM
THE HOLE. WHEN
THEY CHANGE,
IT'S...THEY'RE
BETTER
OFF DEAD,
MAN.

I
DON'T
WANNA
SEE THAT
HAPPEN
TO ANY-
ONE...

YOU
SHOULD
GET OUT
OF HERE,
GENE.

STOP
IT. ALL
ARE WEL-
COME.



BUT...WHY
SPECIFICALLY
IS HE
HERE...?

SOMETHING
DRAGGED THOSE
WOLVES AWAY.
MUTANTS.

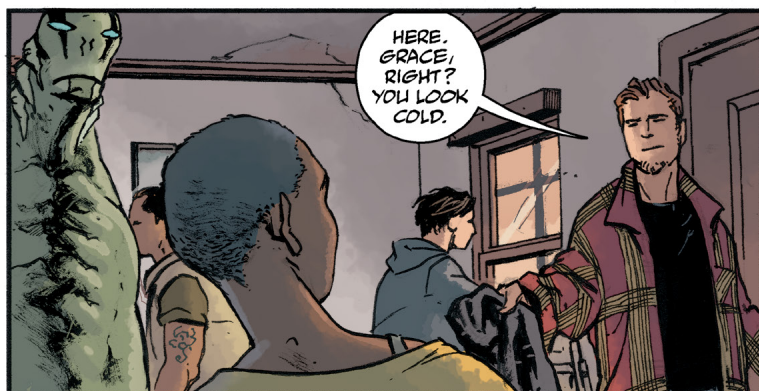


MAYBE
YOU AND I
SHOULD
GO.

WE'RE
NOT
GONNA LAST
HERE FOR-
EVER...



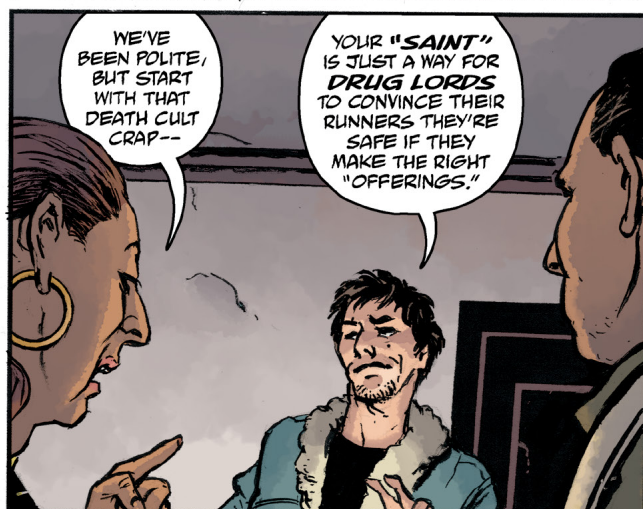
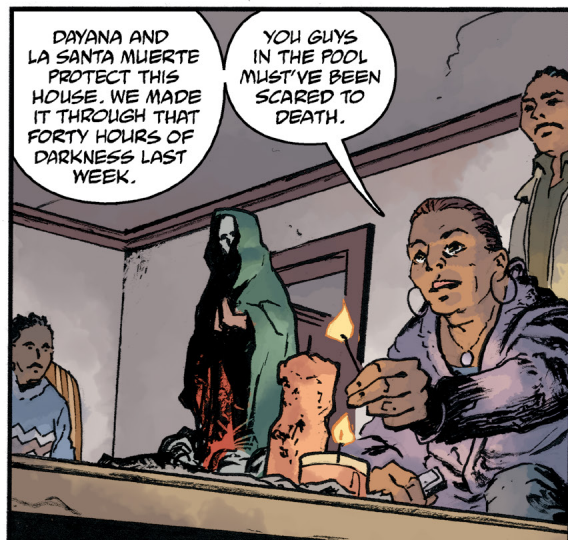
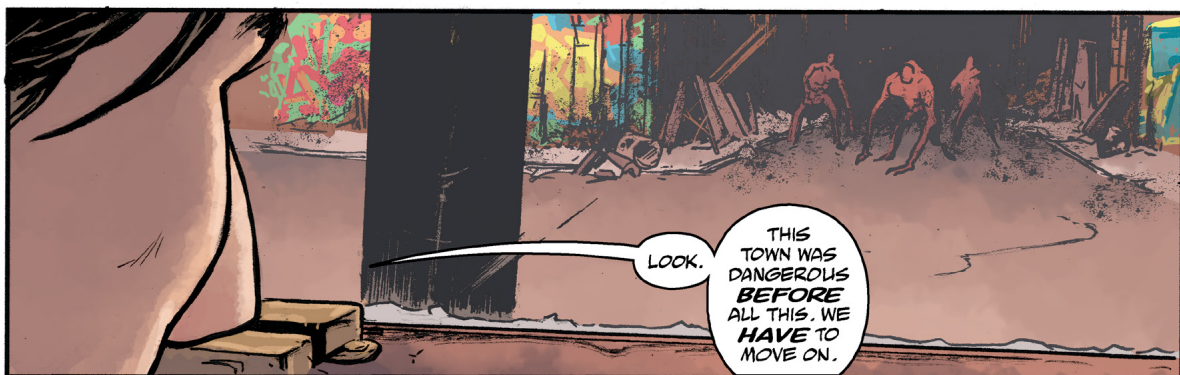
...WE
CAN GO
TO BURNHAM.
IF WHAT ELIOT
SAID IS TRUE,
IT'S GOTTA BE
SAFER THAN
HERE.

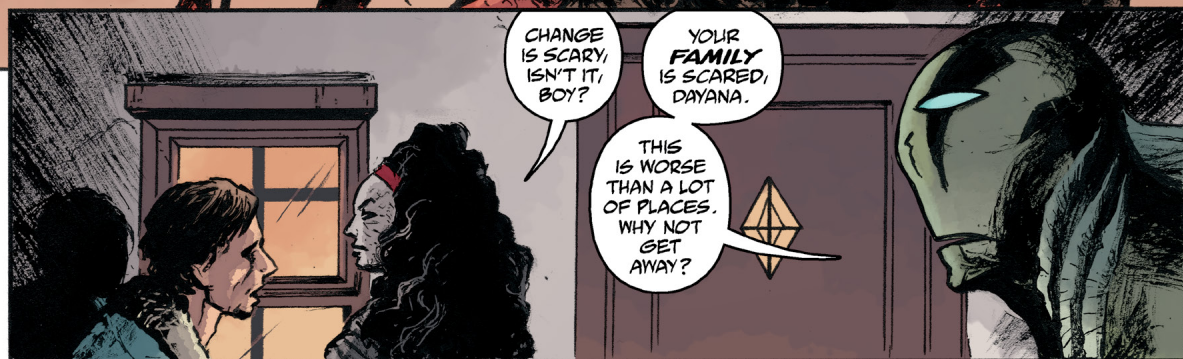


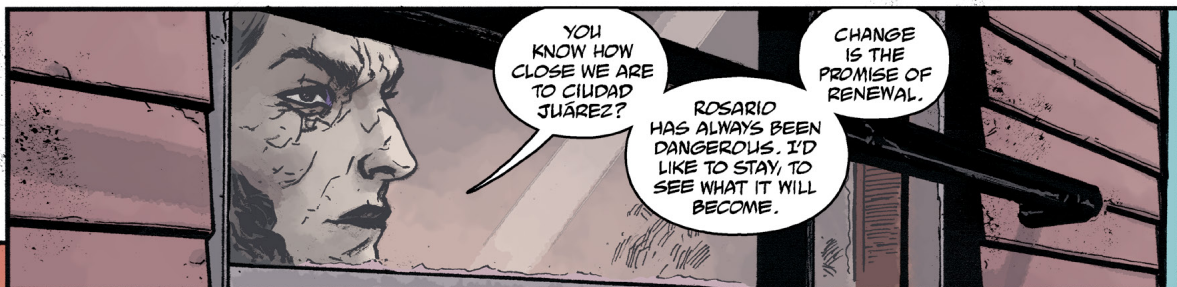
HERE.
GRACE,
RIGHT?
YOU LOOK
COLD.



GOD
DAMN.







YOU
KNOW HOW
CLOSE WE ARE
TO CIUDAD
JUÁREZ?

CHANGE
IS THE
PROMISE OF
RENEWAL.

ROSARIO
HAS ALWAYS BEEN
DANGEROUS. I'D
LIKE TO STAY, TO
SEE WHAT IT WILL
BECOME.



EVEN
DEATH.

THE
DEATH CARD
IN THE TAROT
SIMPLY MEANS
CHANGE.



SO
THIS IS
A DEATH
CULT...

WE WORSHIP
THE LORD,
HONEY.
BUT WE'RE
LOVED AND
PROTECTED
BY THE
SAINT.



LOOK, I'M
GRATEFUL
FOR EVERY-
THING, DAYANA.
BUT HOW LONG
CAN SHE
PROTECT US
HERE? IT'S
TIME TO
GO.



WHAT
THE HELL
IS GOING
ON IN THIS
TOWN?



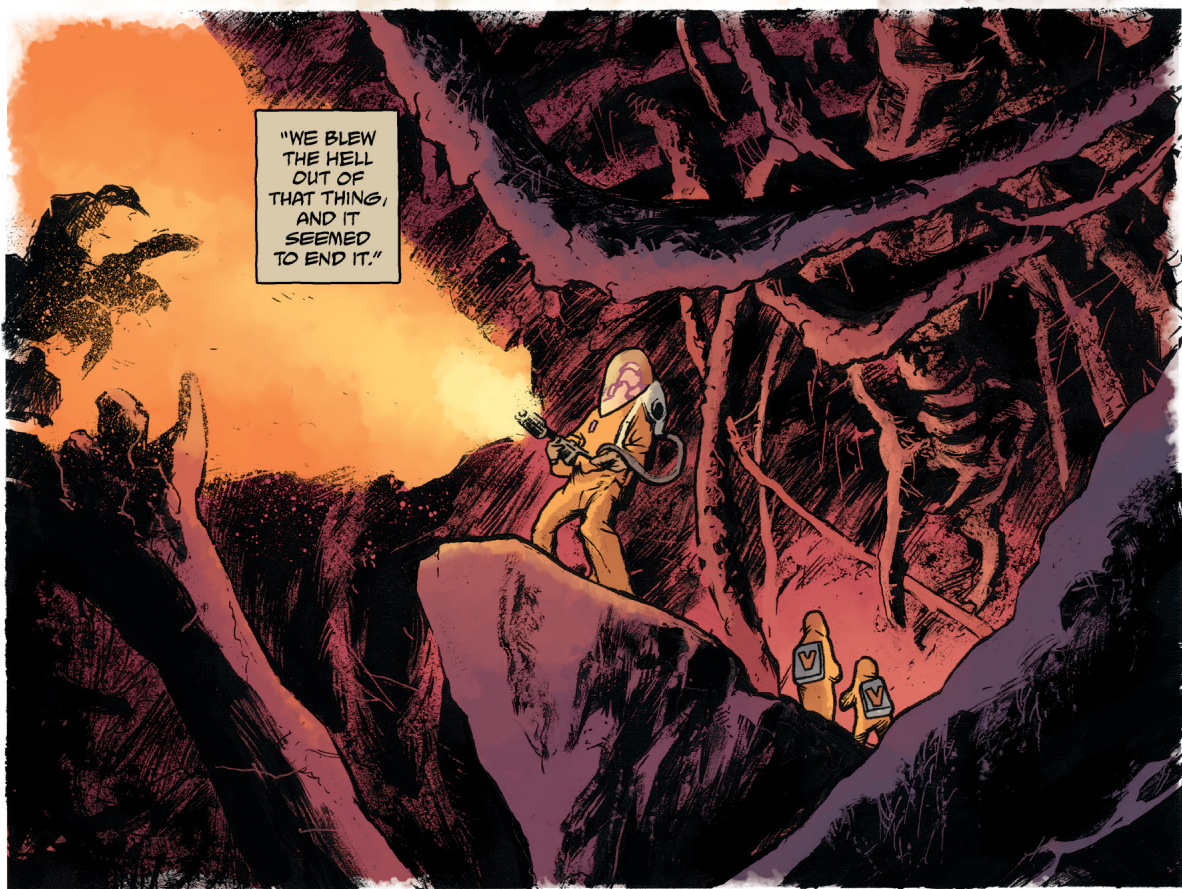
AFTER YOU WERE LAST IN
ROSARIO, AND YOU WERE
SHOT, MONSTERS CONTINUED
TO COME OUT OF THAT **POOL.**
SOMETHING TERRIBLE LAY
BENEATH ROSARIO.

AN
OGDRU
HEM, ABE.
A FARMER
WAS PRAYING
TO IT, LETTING
ANIMALS GET
NEAR THE
GAS.

"HE KNEW ENOUGH TO
STEER CLEAR HIMSELF, BUT
THEN HE'D SLAYE OVER
THESE THINGS, CARE FOR
THEM AS BEST HE COULD,
EVEN THOUGH WHAT HE WAS
DOING WAS KILLING THEM.



"WE BLEW
THE HELL
OUT OF
THAT THING,
AND IT
SEEMED
TO END IT."



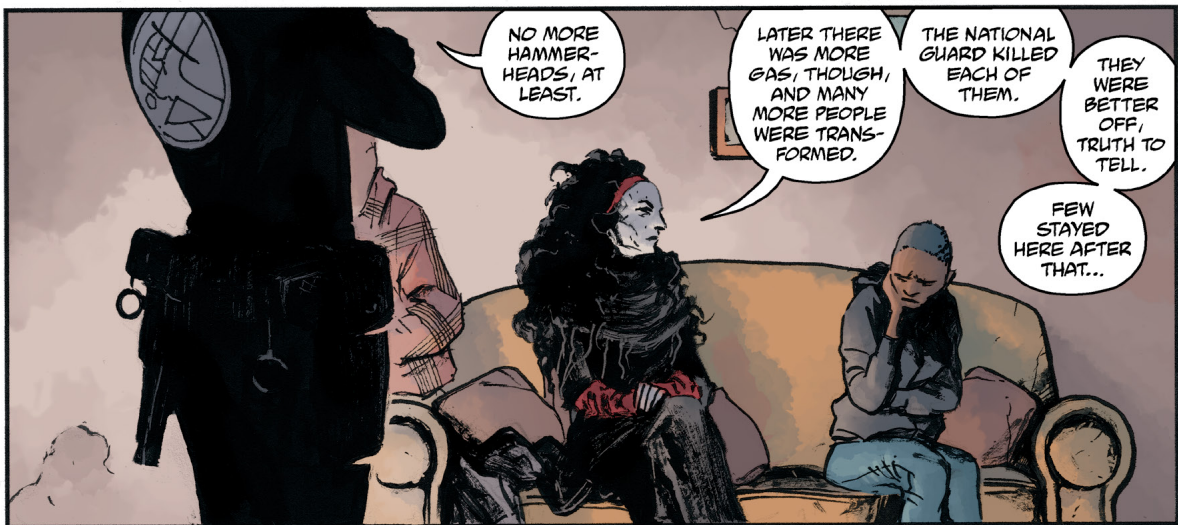
NO MORE
HAMMER-
HEADS, AT
LEAST.

LATER THERE
WAS MORE
GAS, THOUGH,
AND MANY
MORE PEOPLE
WERE TRANS-
FORMED.

THE NATIONAL
GUARD KILLED
EACH OF
THEM.

THEY
WERE
BETTER
OFF,
TRUTH TO
TELL.

FEW
STAYED
HERE AFTER
THAT...



"...BUT AMONG US WERE SOME...SOME PEOPLE WHO WORSHIPED YOU, ABE. THEN **THIS** FOOL CAME AND GOT PEOPLE EXCITED AGAIN, CALLING IT A HOLY SITE, DESPITE THE OCCASIONAL GAS."



TUCK WAS WITH HIM.

HE TURNED INTO ONE OF THOSE THINGS, BUT DAYANA HEALED HIM.



PFFT.

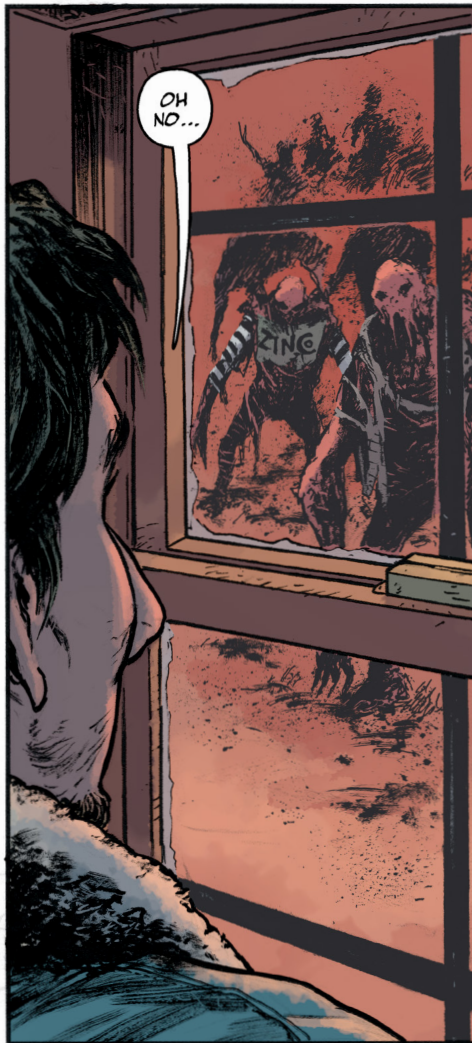


YOU HAVEN'T HELPED ANYONE ELSE. LOOK AT THEM...

I'VE TRIED, BUT THE BEST I CAN DO IS PROTECT MY OWN.



OH NO...



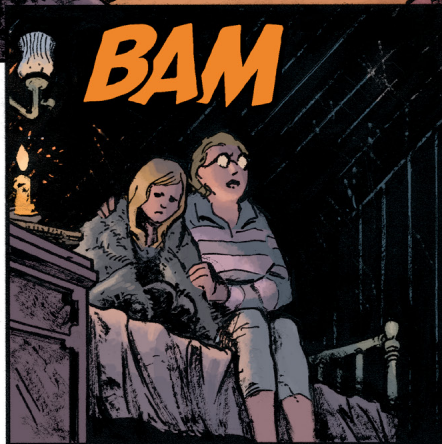
DON'T WORRY. WE'RE SAFE HERE.



SCREW YOU--

--SCREW YOUR PROTECTION!





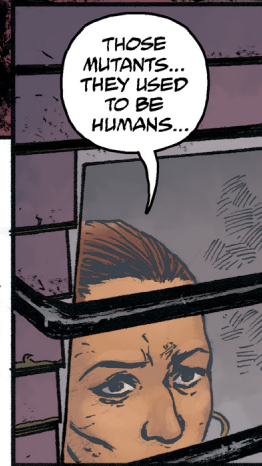


AGH!



BAM

CAN ANY-
ONE USE
CALLAS'S
GUN?



THOSE
MUTANTS...
THEY USED
TO BE
HUMANS...

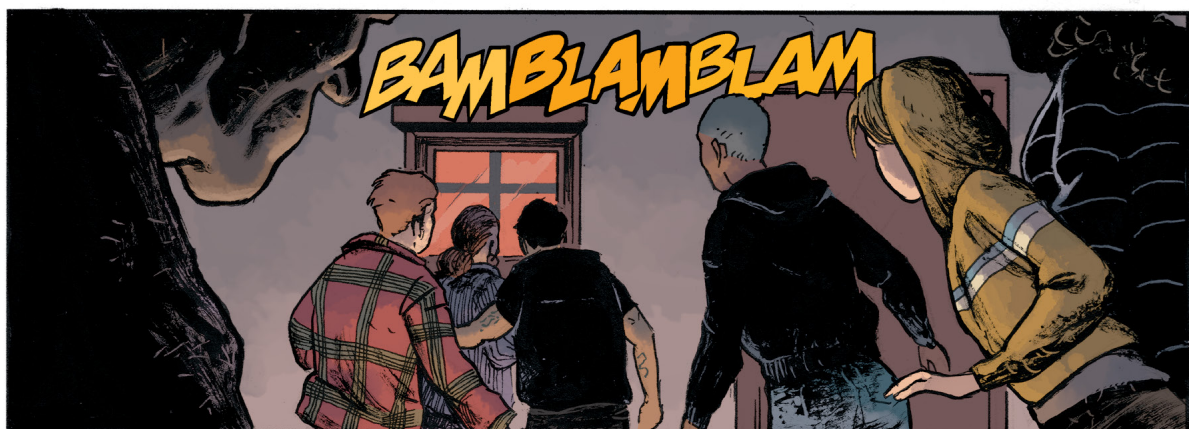
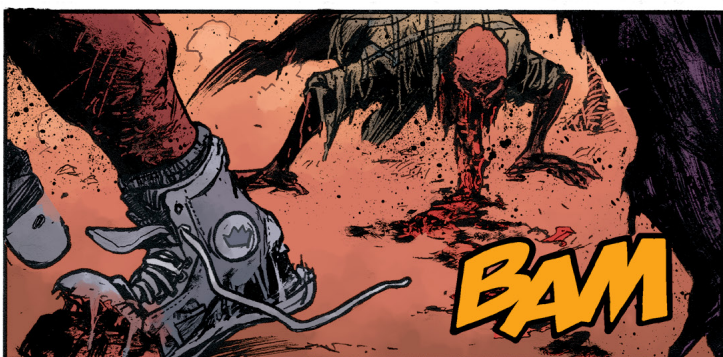


SO
WAS
ABE.



CRACK

BAM





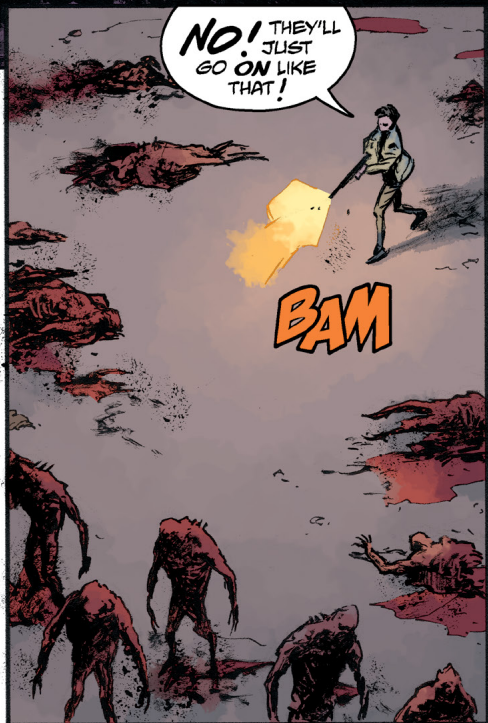


YOU
BLASPHEMIES!

YOU
KNOW
THIS TO
BE SACRED
GROUND!

IN HER
SAINTED
NAME--

I CAST
YOU OUT!



NO! THEY'LL
JUST
GO ON LIKE
THAT!

BAM

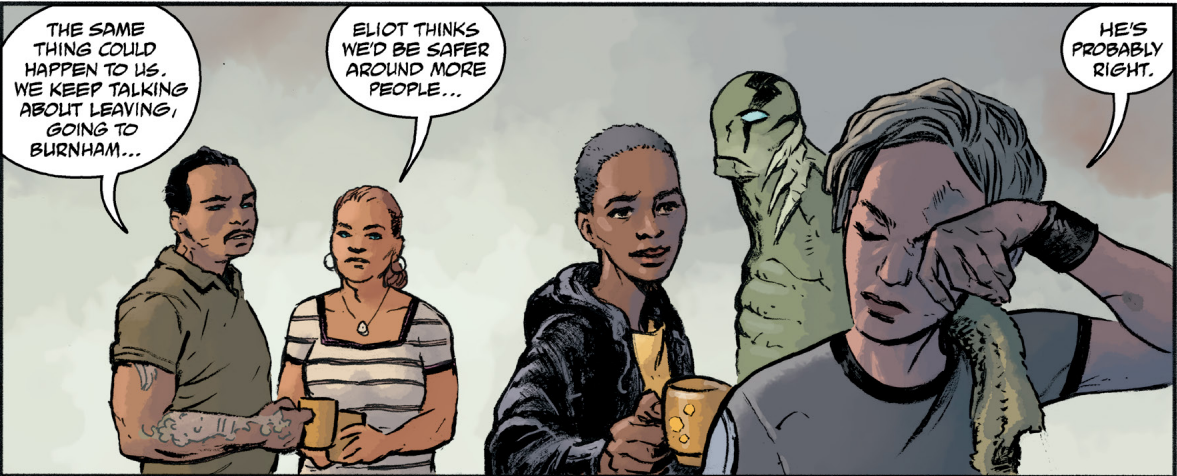
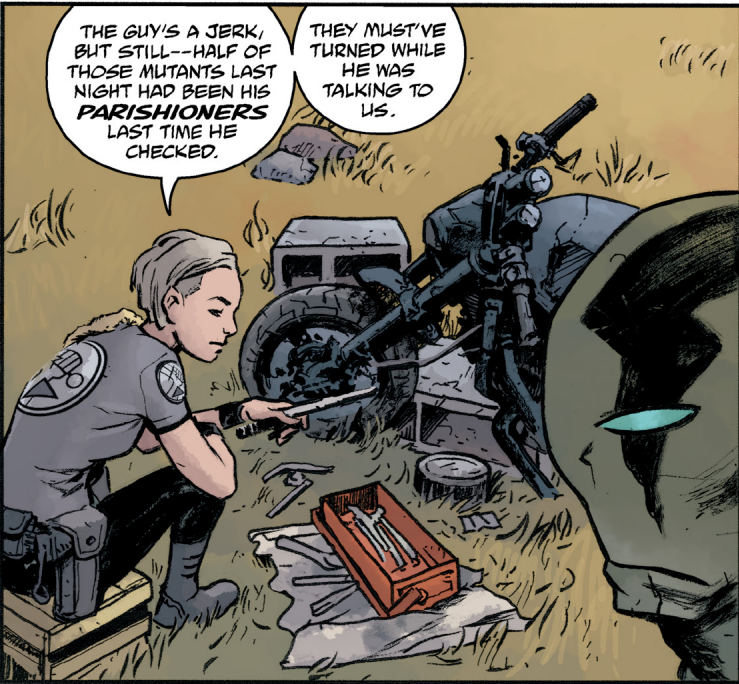
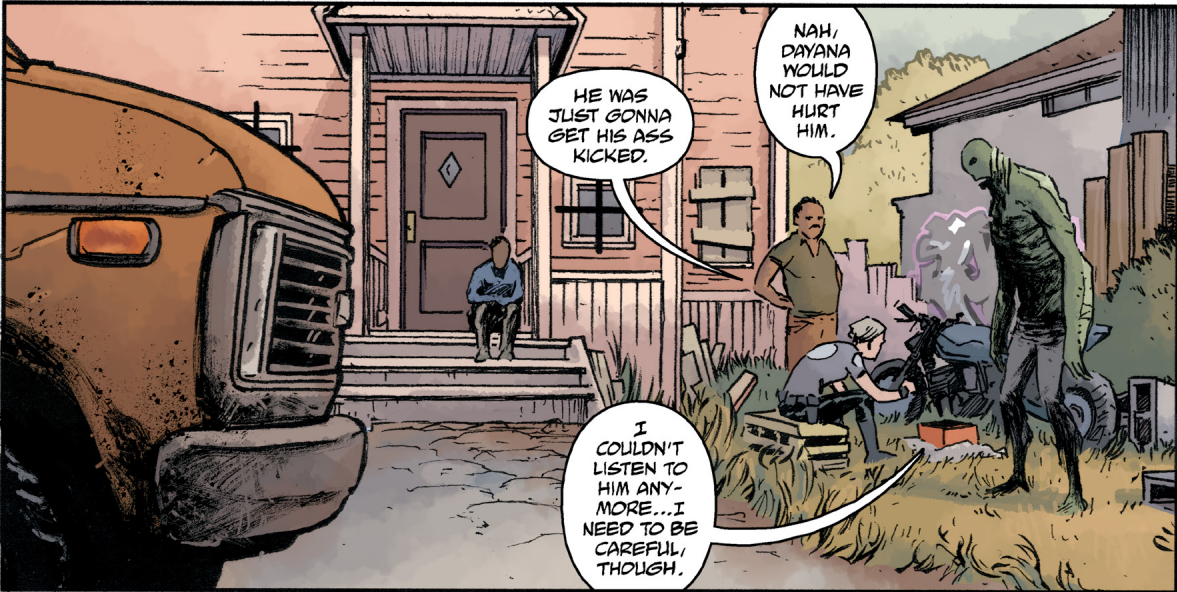


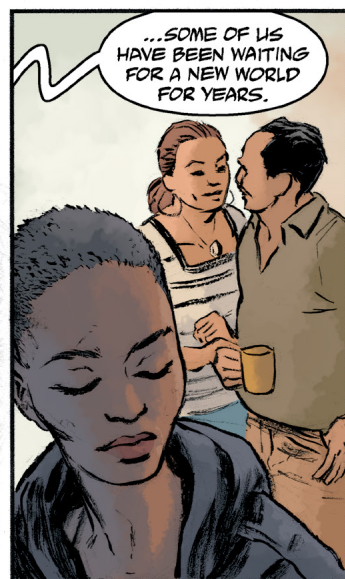
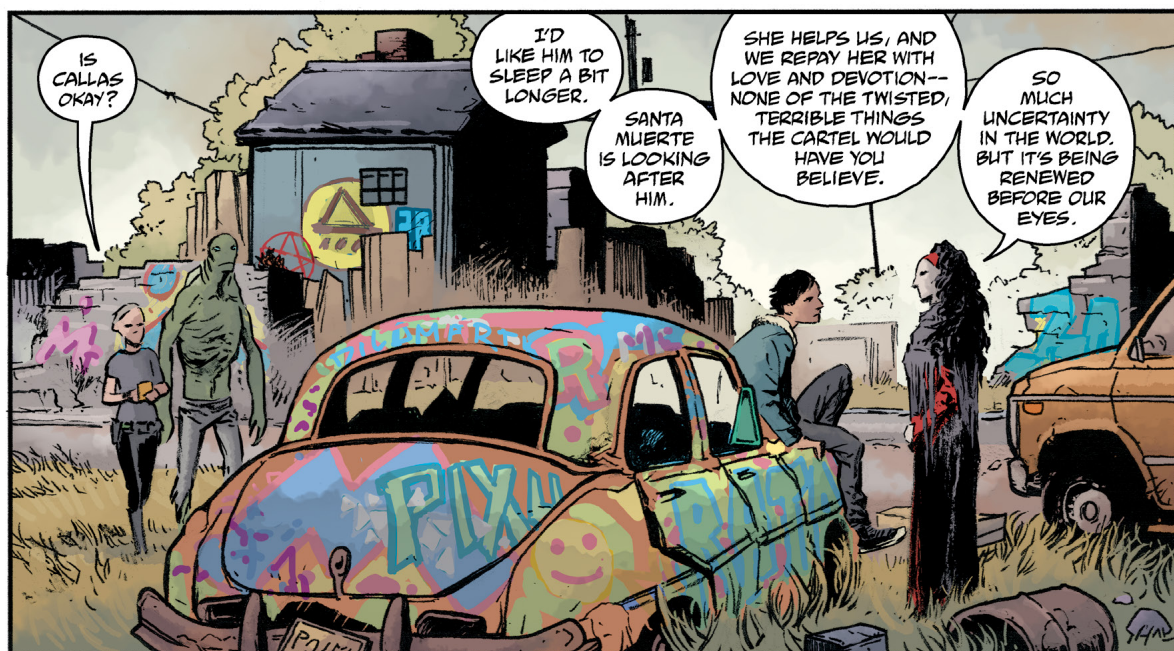
YOU SAID
YOUR-
SELF
THEY'RE
BETTER
OFF
DEAD!

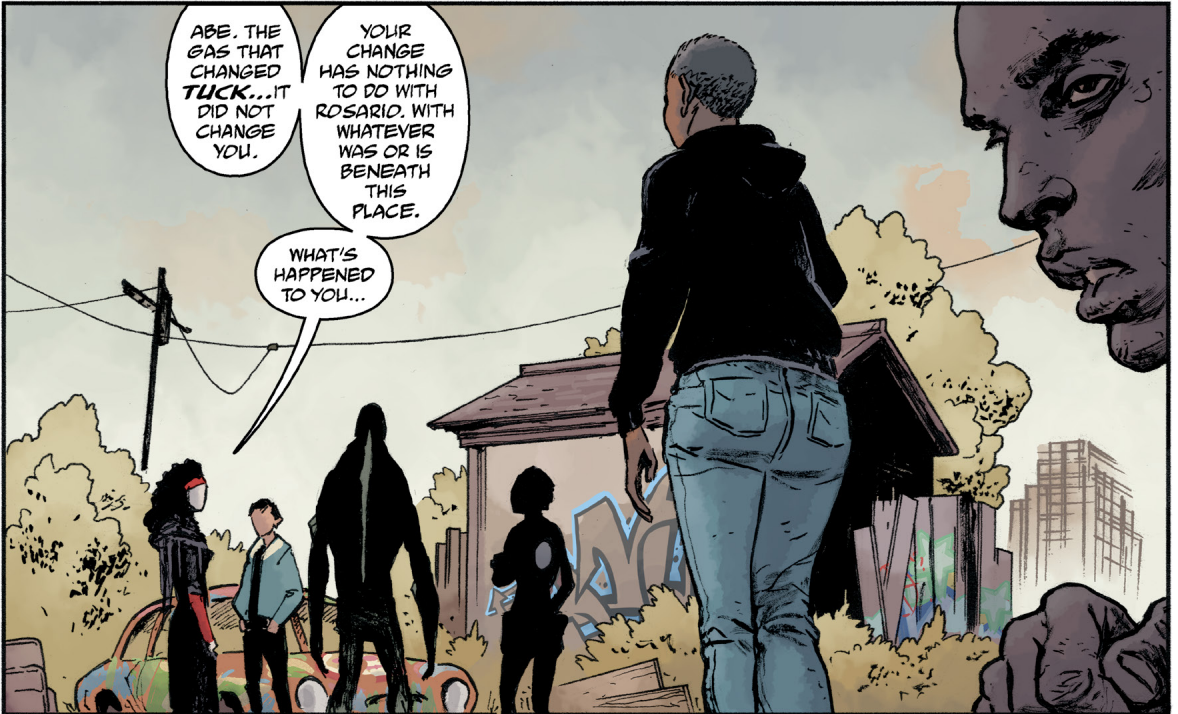
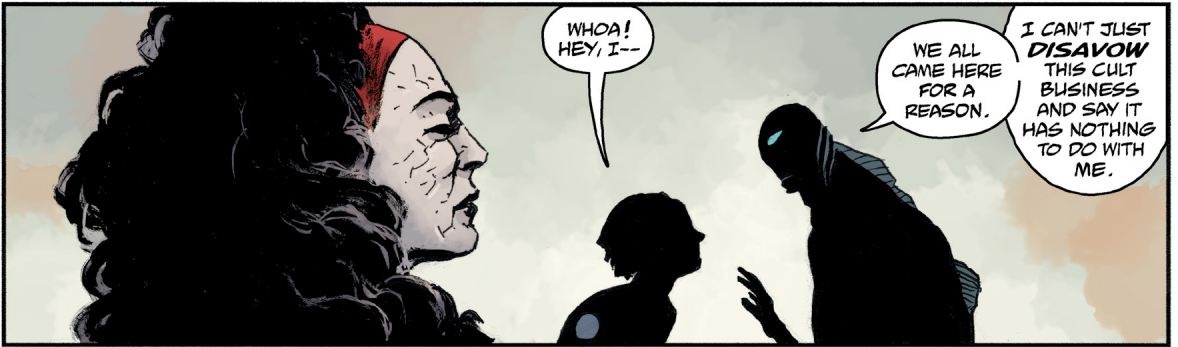
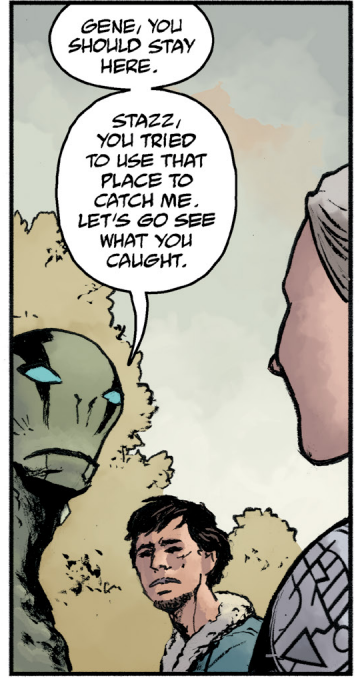


DO YOU LIFT
A FINGER
TO HELP--
TO END
IT--?

WAK









IT'S FAR
BIGGER THAN
ROSARIO.

IF YOU WANT
TO KNOW, YOU
SHOULD GO
HOME.

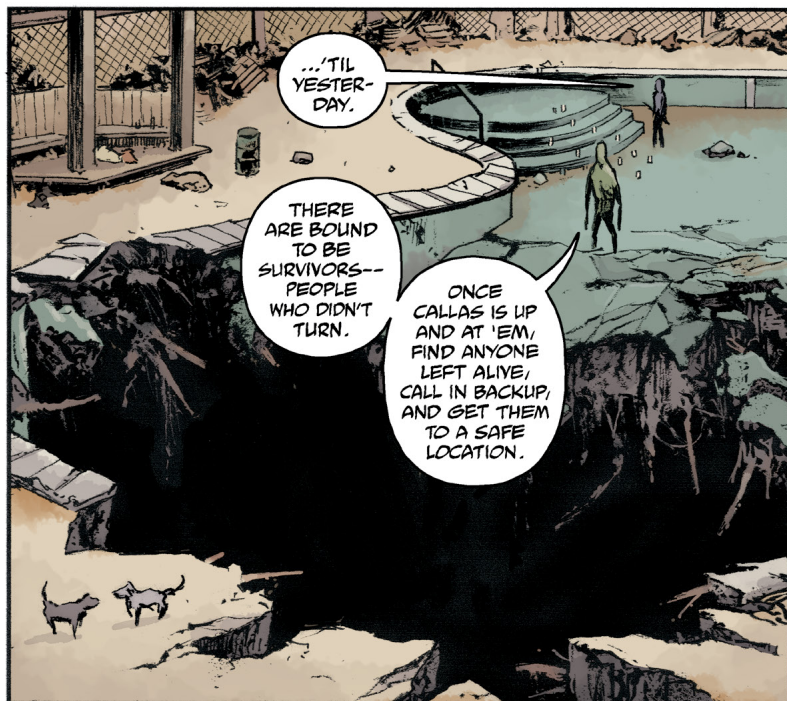


SO
I'M AS
BAD AS
GENE?

NO,
STAZZ.

DID
WE EVER
MEET
BEFORE
YESTER-
DAY?

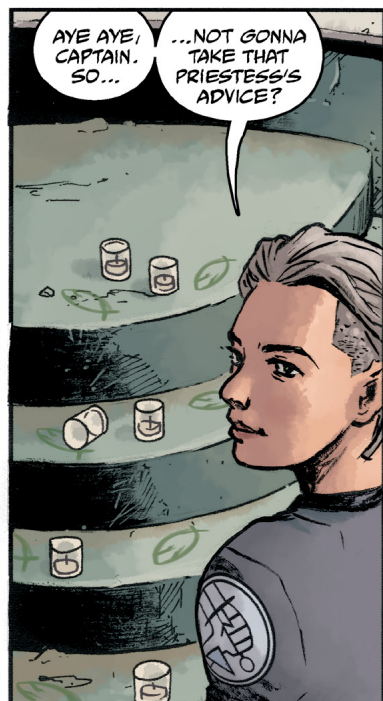
ONLY
ONCE. I WAS
PRETTY GREEN
WHEN YOU CAME
HERE THE FIRST
TIME. I NEVER
SAW YOU IN
ACTION...



...TIL
YESTER-
DAY.

THERE
ARE BOUND
TO BE
SURVIVORS--
PEOPLE
WHO DIDN'T
TURN.

ONCE
CALLAS IS UP
AND AT 'EM,
FIND ANYONE
LEFT ALIVE,
CALL IN BACKUP,
AND GET THEM
TO A SAFE
LOCATION.



AYE AYE,
CAPTAIN.
SO...

...NOT GONNA
TAKE THAT
PRIESTESS'S
ADVICE?



YOU THINK SHE MEANT GO HOME TO THE BUREAU?

YOU TELL KATE SHE MEANS THE WORLD TO ME, BUT I'M NOT COMING BACK.

AND LIZ?



SHE'S THERE?

STRONGER THAN EVER. I MEAN...WHOA!



SO YOU DON'T NEED ME.

DID THEY RECOVER HELLBOY'S BODY? FROM ENGLAND?



NO. ENGLAND'S GONE, ABE. THERE WAS NOWHERE TO LOOK.

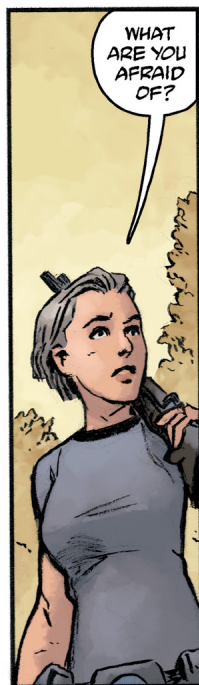
THEY DIDN'T FIND THE HAND.

WHAT?

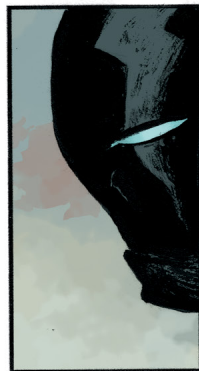


I FEEL LIKE I'M JUST ONE MORE MONSTER THAT CRAWLED OUT OF A HOLE. THERE'S THIS RAGE I'VE NEVER FELT BEFORE...

I'M ANGRY BECAUSE OF WHAT I'M AFRAID OF, AND BEING ANGRY JUST MAKES ME MORE AFRAID.



WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?





"WHAT DO I CHANGE INTO NEXT?"

WE DON'T **NEED** TO SIPHON GAS-- YOU SAW HOW MUCH GENE HAS IN THE VAN.

STARTING A FIRE?

HITTING THE ROAD. DAYANA SAYS IT'S TIME TO MOVE ON.

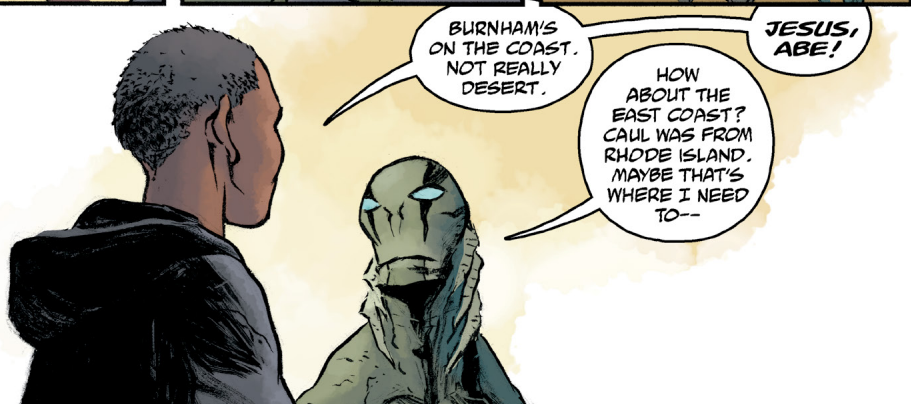
WE'RE RELOCATING TO THE COAST.

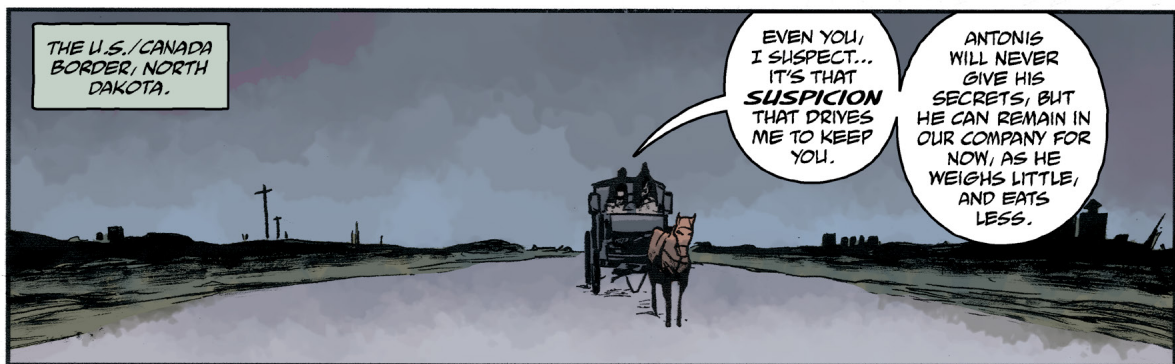
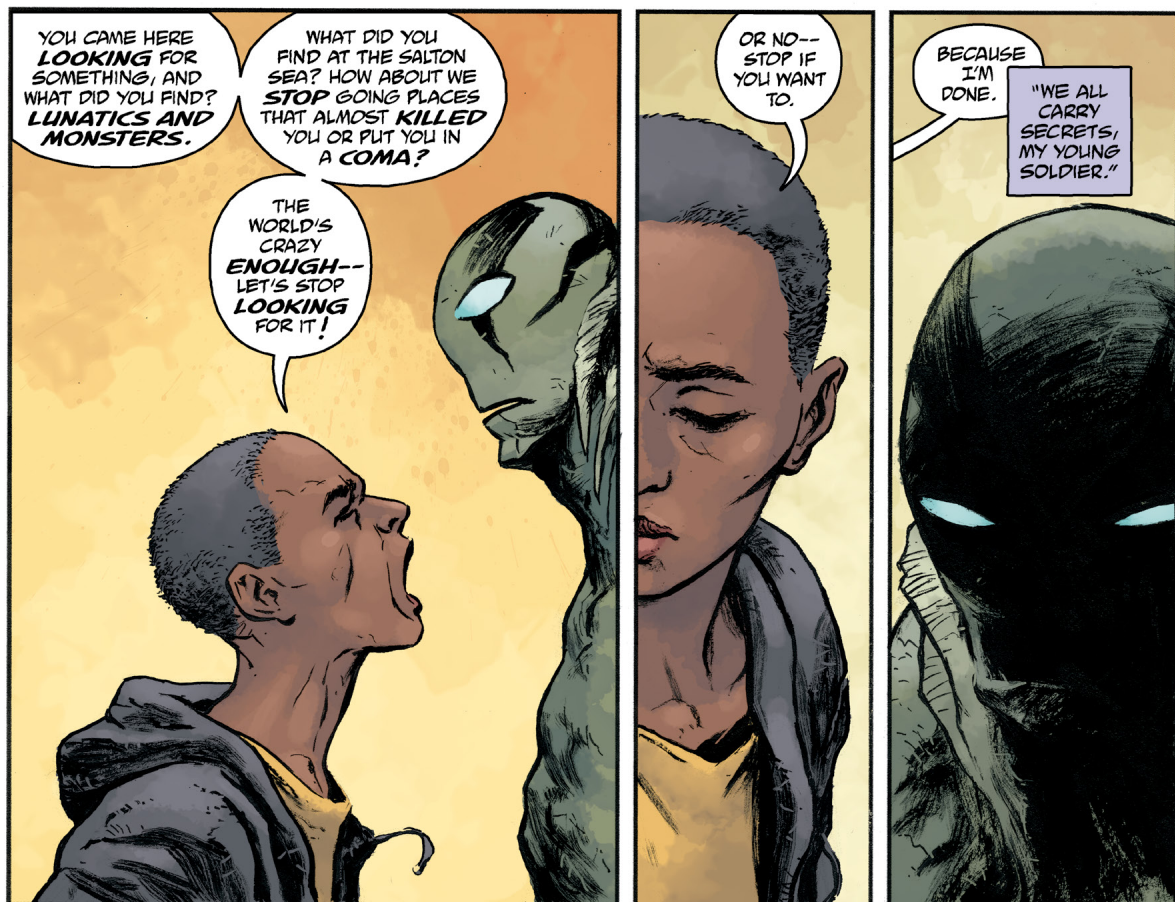
I WAS THINKING ABOUT GOING WITH THEM IF YOU'D DITCHED ME.

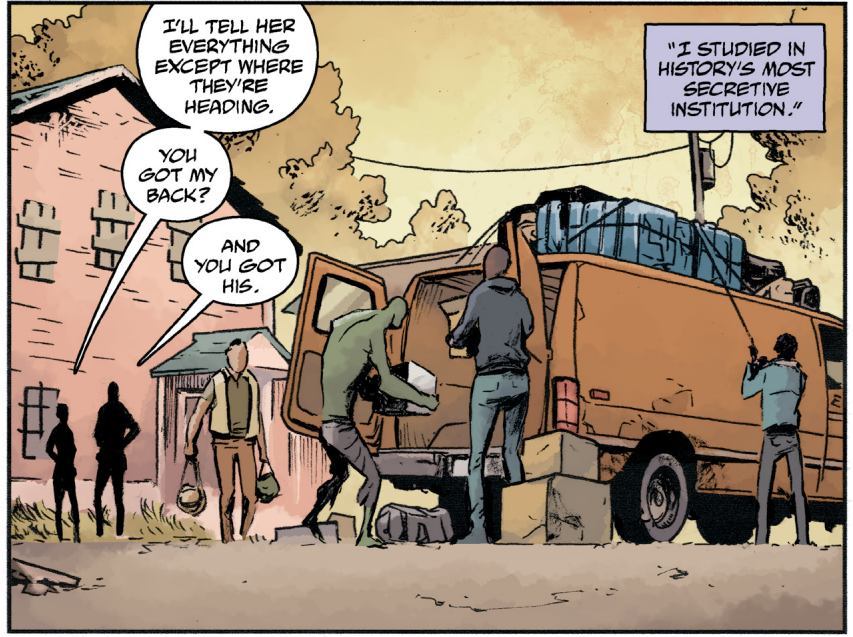
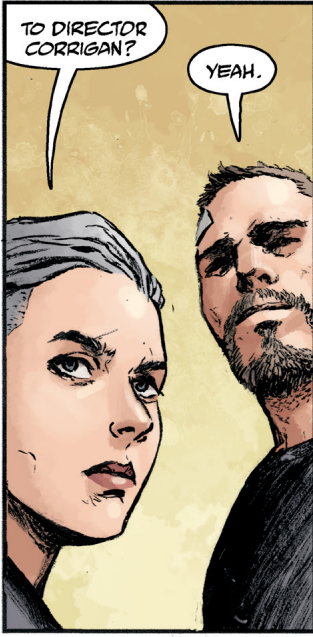
CALLAS!

AGENT CALLAS...!

I CAN'T APOLOGIZE ENOUGH--









"BUT
THIS
IS THE
SECRET.

"THE
HEAD-
MASTER
LET
THOSE
BOYS
GO.



"WHEN IT WAS
MY TURN TO
RUN, TO TRY
TO ESCAPE, I
STOOD MY
GROUND."



AND
THERE
MY REAL
LEARNING
BEGAN.

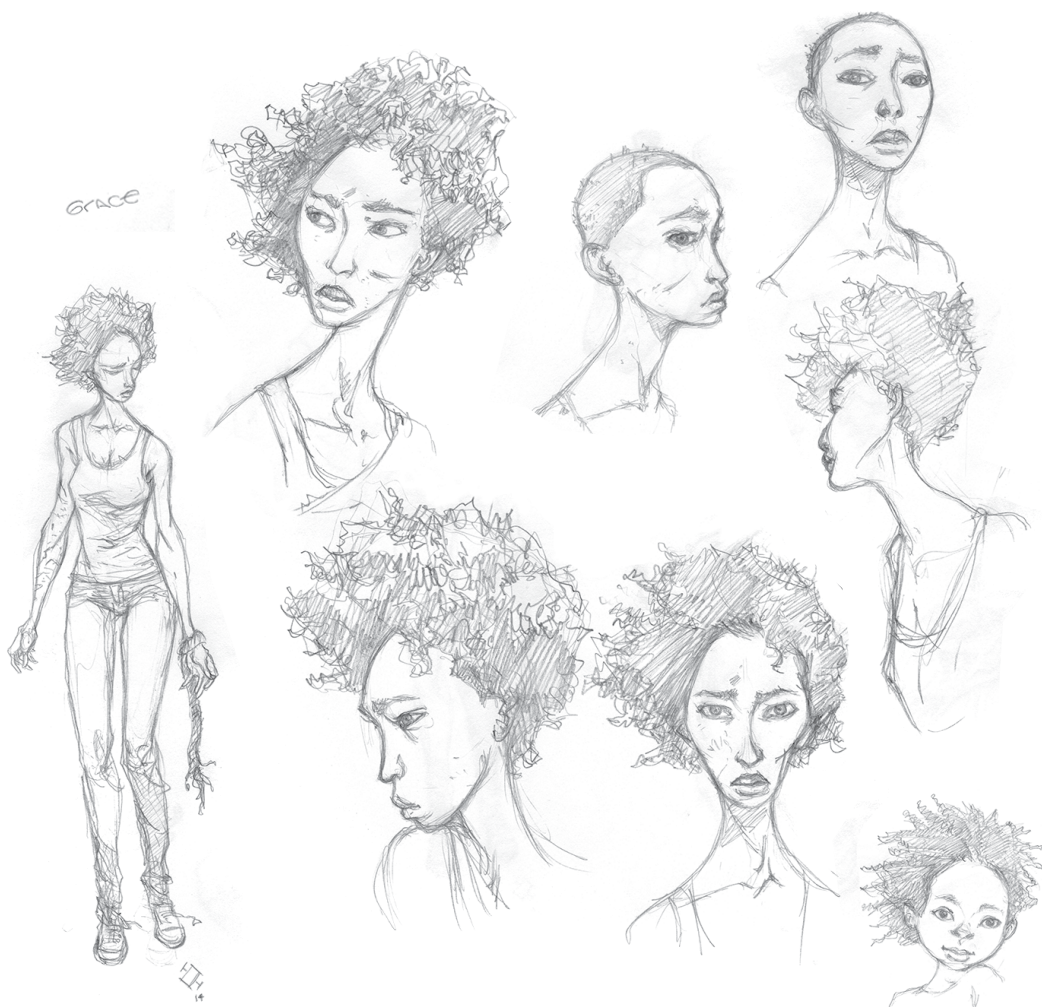


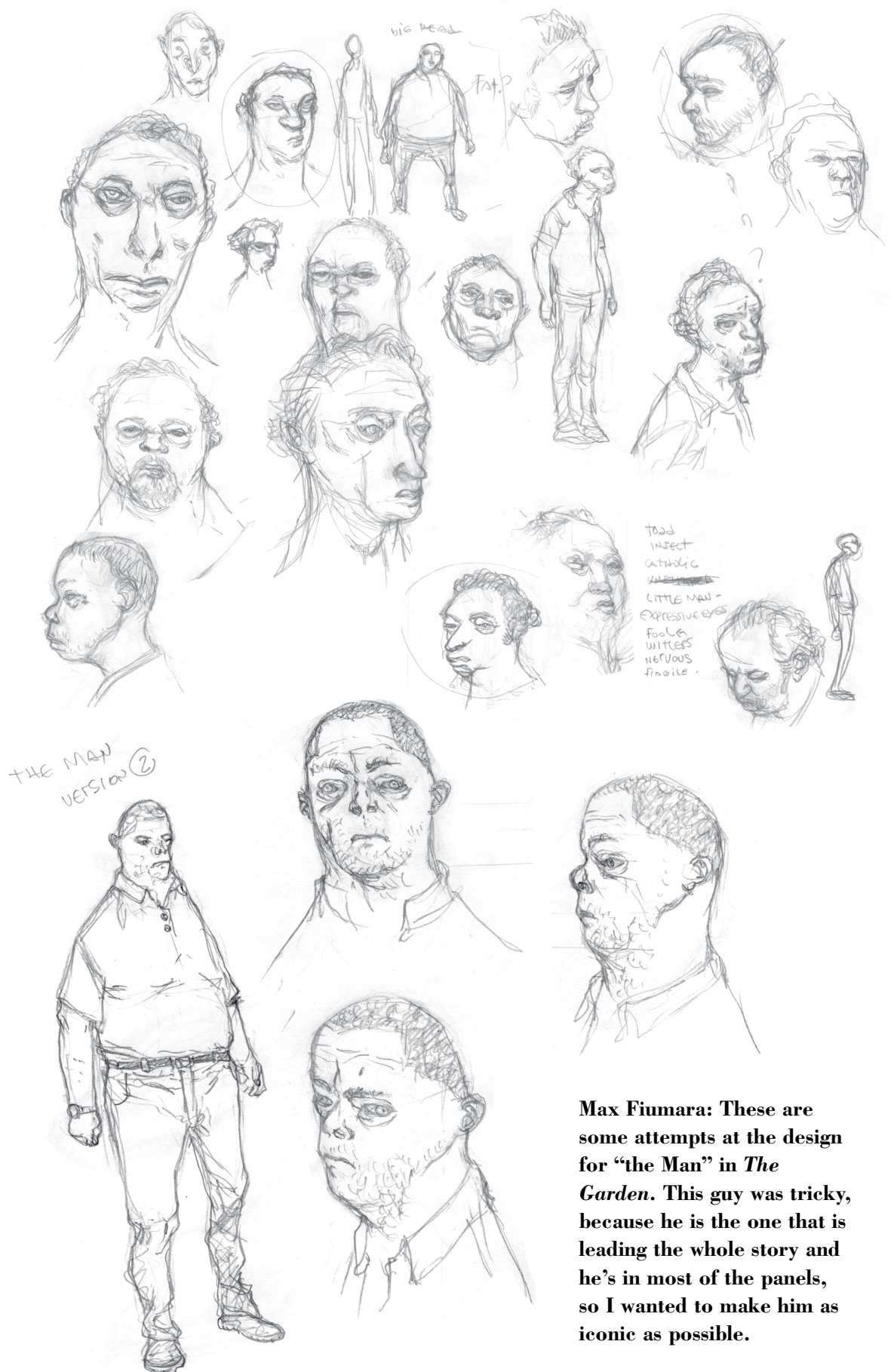
THE
END

ABE SAPIEN™

SKETCHBOOK

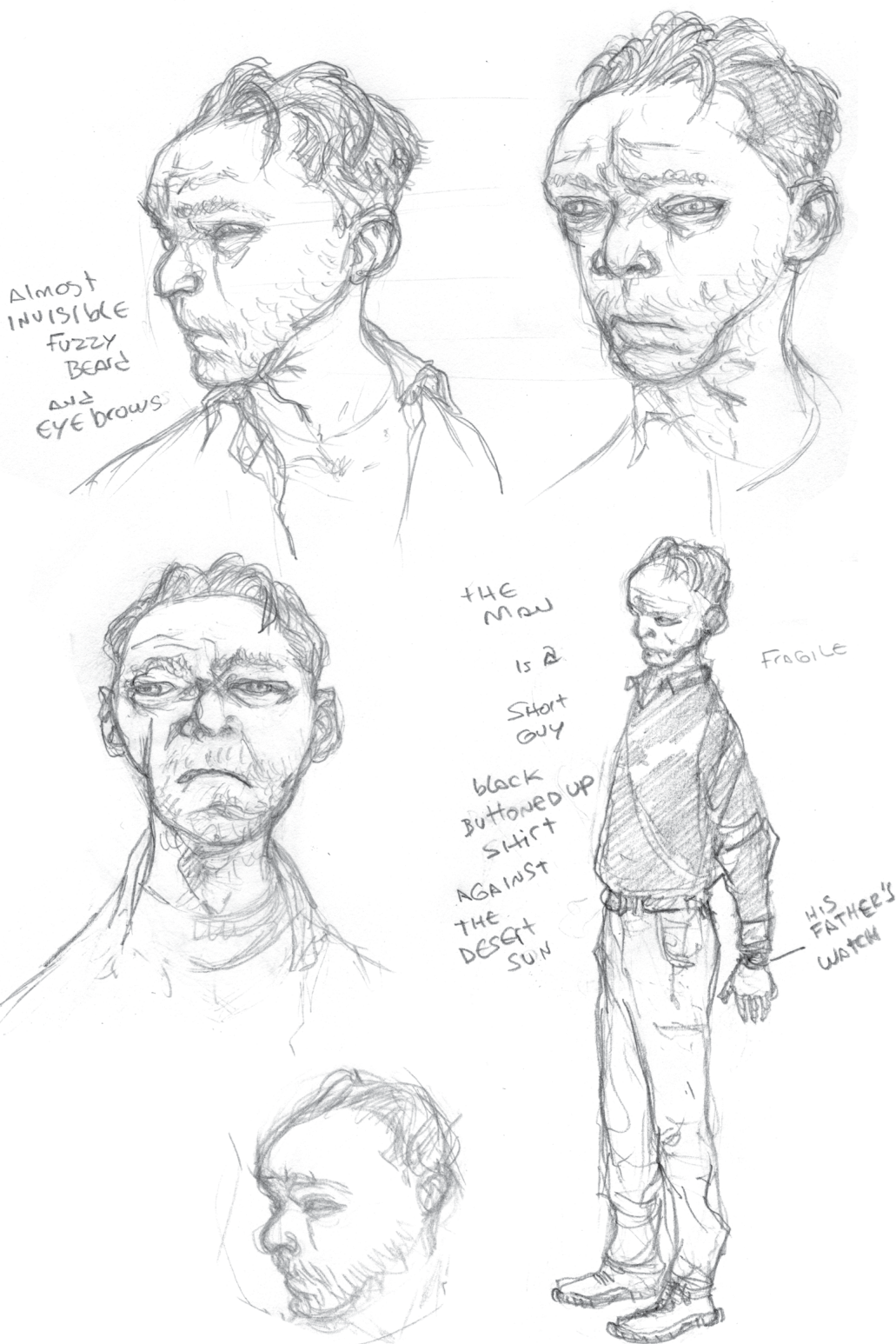
Notes by
Max and Sebastián Fiumara





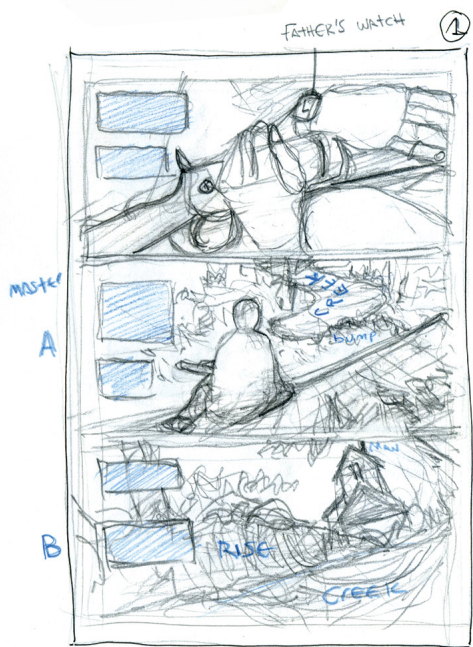
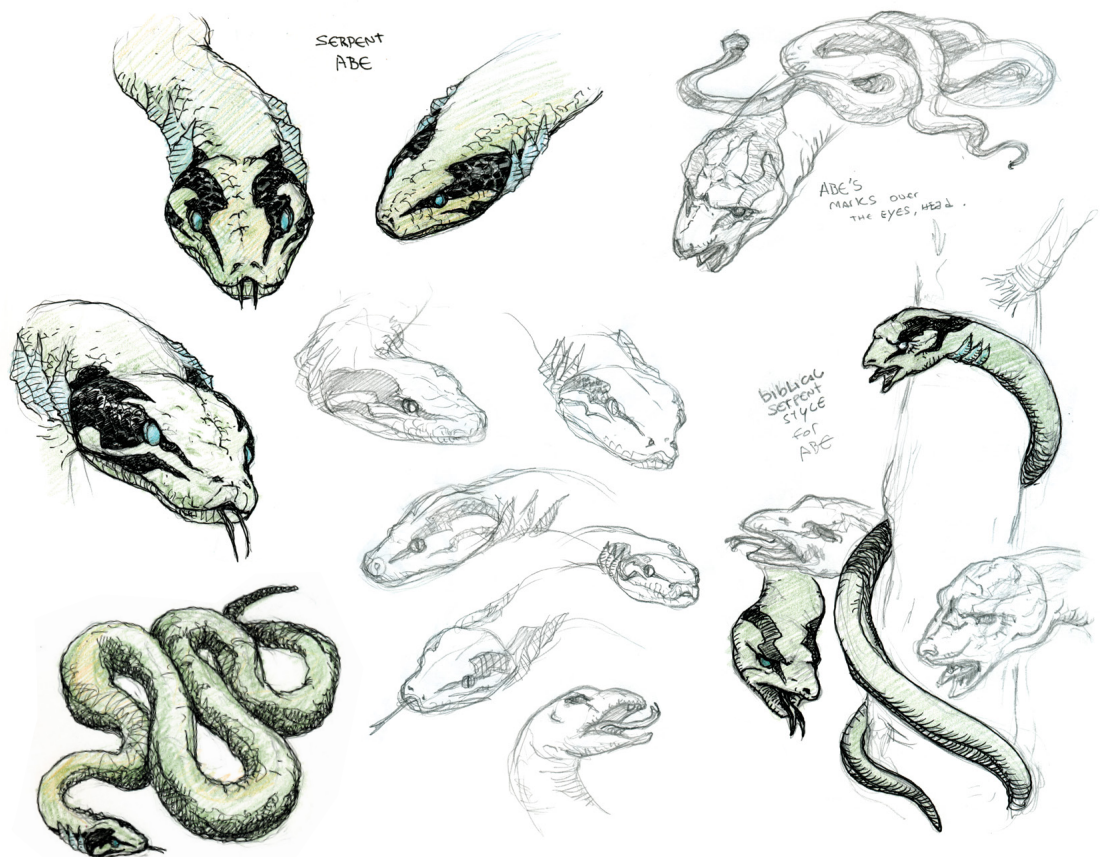
Max Fiumara: These are some attempts at the design for “the Man” in *The Garden*. This guy was tricky, because he is the one that is leading the whole story and he’s in most of the panels, so I wanted to make him as iconic as possible.

MF: I was never satisfied with any of these different faces, not even the chosen design on this page. I didn't think it played well with how Scott wrote him. It only started to make sense once I drew him on the pages. Sometimes it doesn't work until you put the character in context and make him interact with the backgrounds and the other characters; then it comes alive.

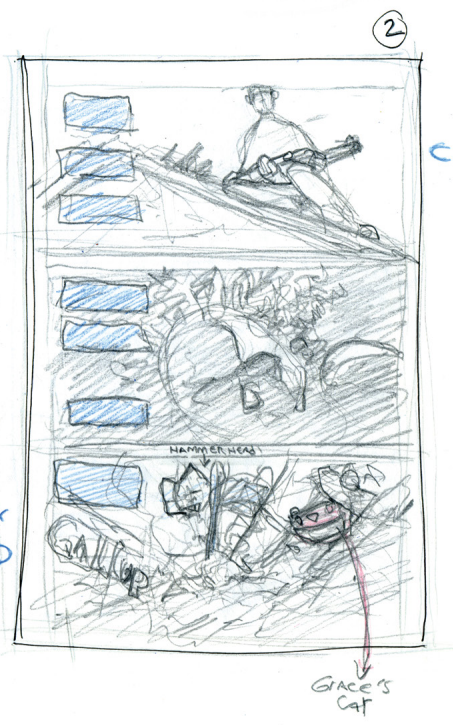


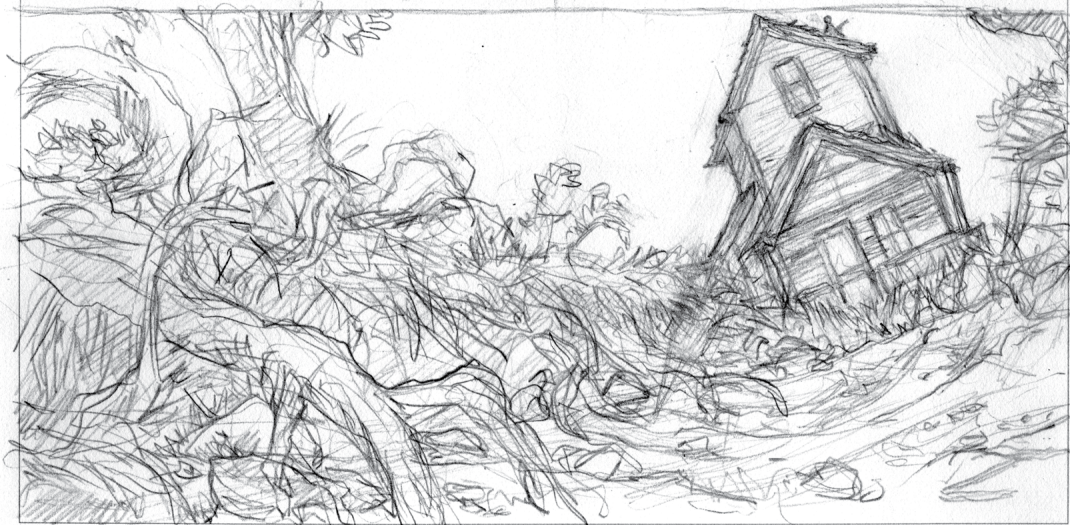
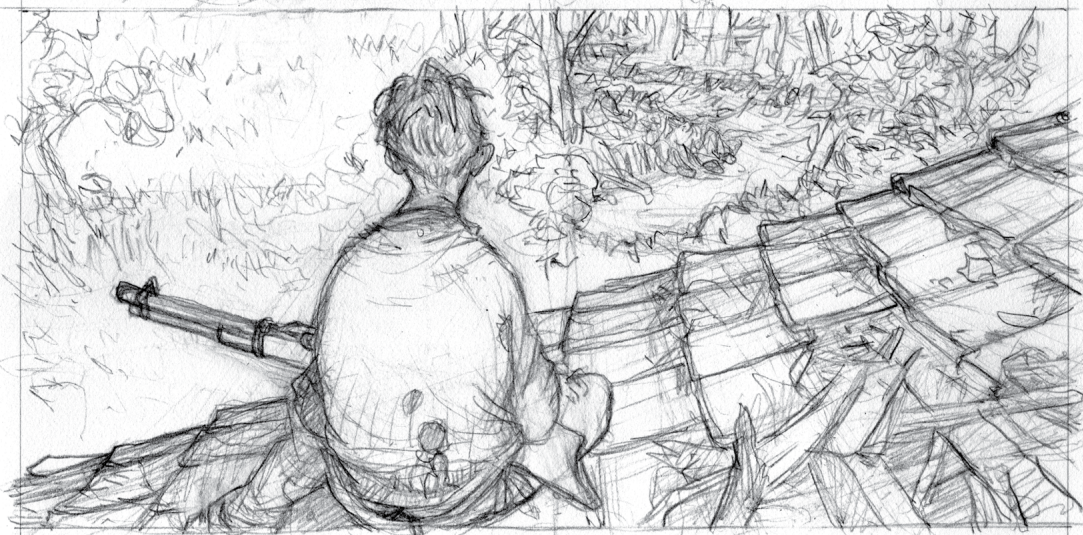
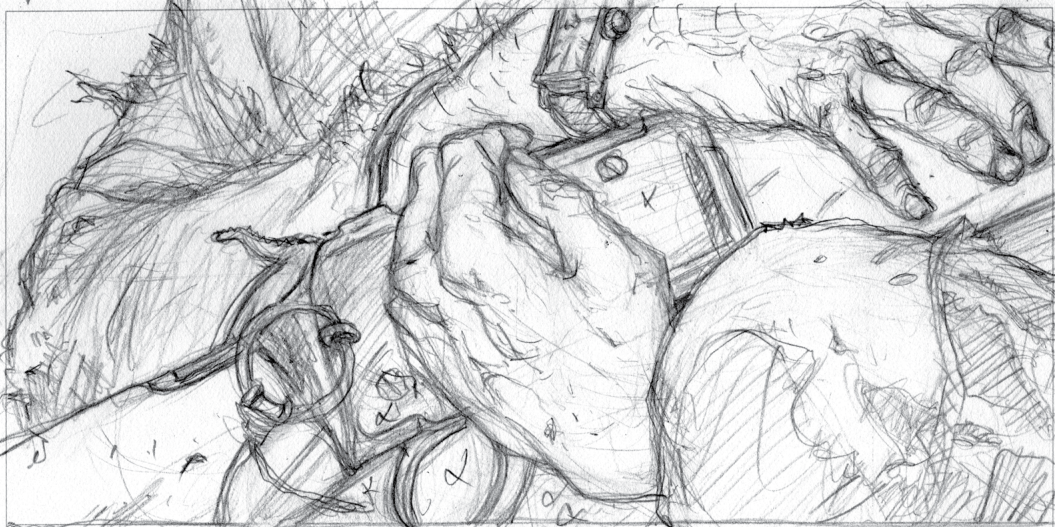
MF: There was a lot of talk about whether or not to depict Abe as a serpent, since the Man sees him as the serpent in the Garden of Eden. Finally we decided to draw the serpent in a very important, climactic panel, and it worked really well.

Here are designs for the serpent Abe, some more realistic and some more like biblical depictions. The realistic snake was the one we used for the story.

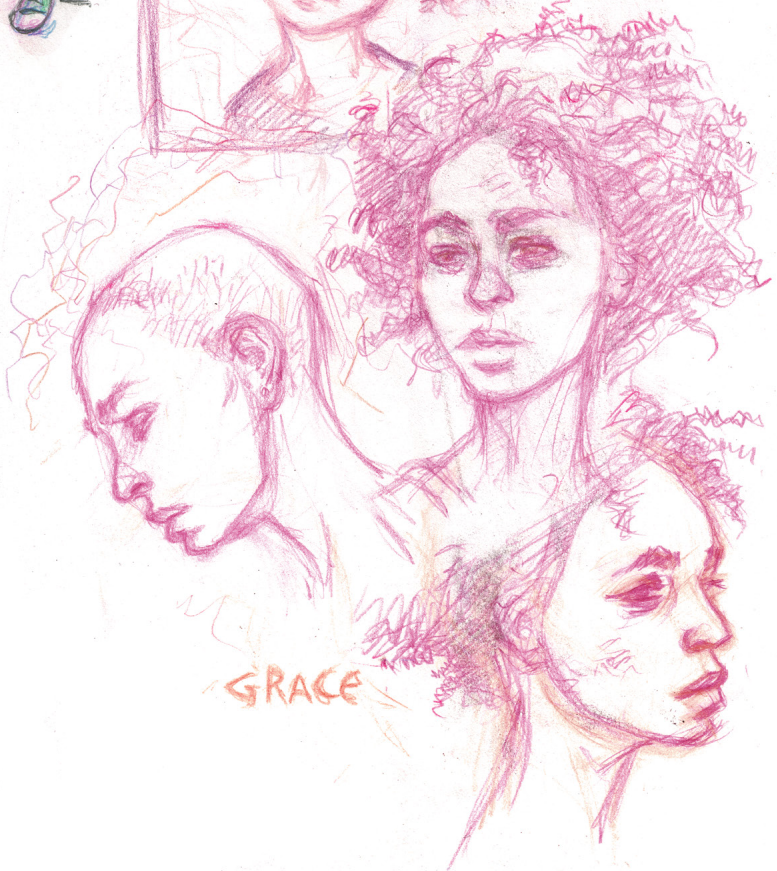


ALL PAGES WITH THE SAME PANEL SIZE.





MF: This particular issue was a lot of fun, since I had the chance to draw really big pictures. Every page layout was made up of three panels that helped to depict the different time periods in the story. This allowed me to expand a bit more and play with compositions and details. I loved it!

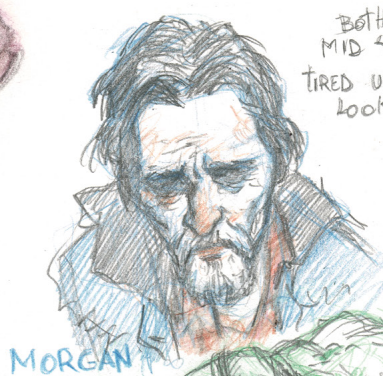




THE
HEALER

Sebastián's character
designs for *The Healer*.

Following: raw scans
of his inks for a page
of *The Healer*, and
the cover for *Visions*,
Dreams, and *Fishin'*.

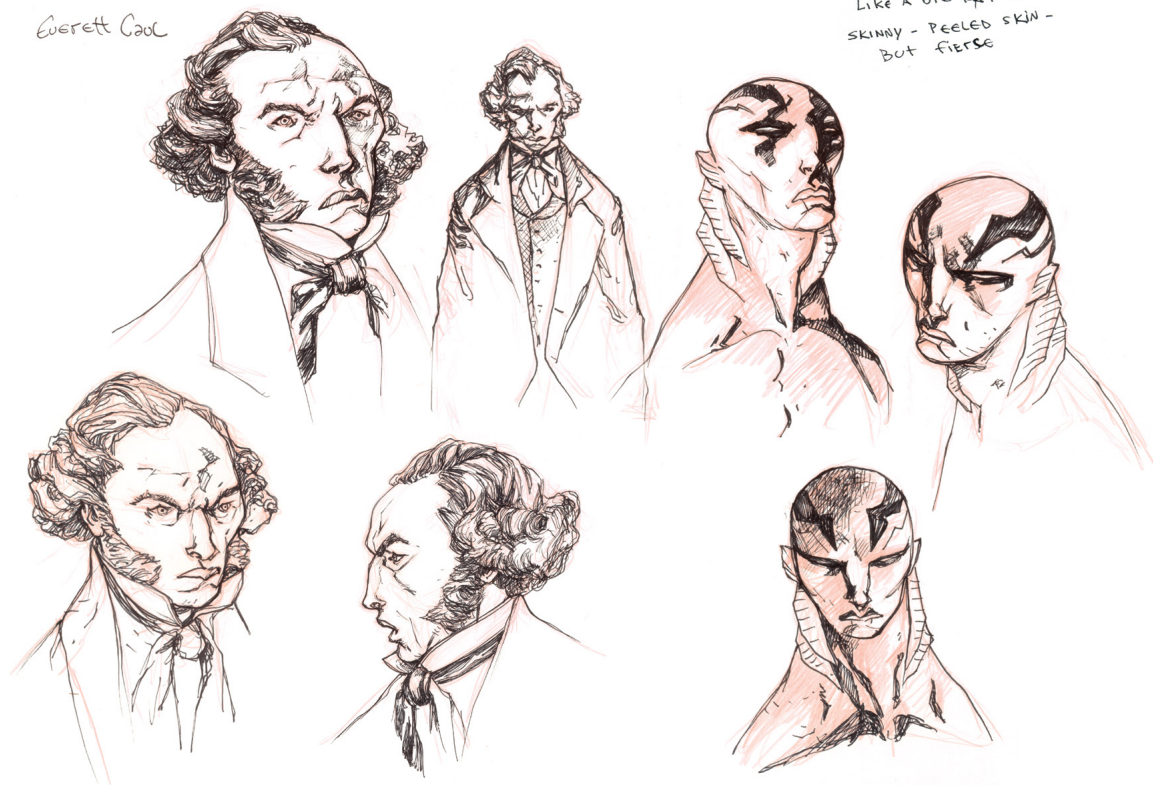


BOTH
MID 40S
TIRED UNCLEAN
LOOK

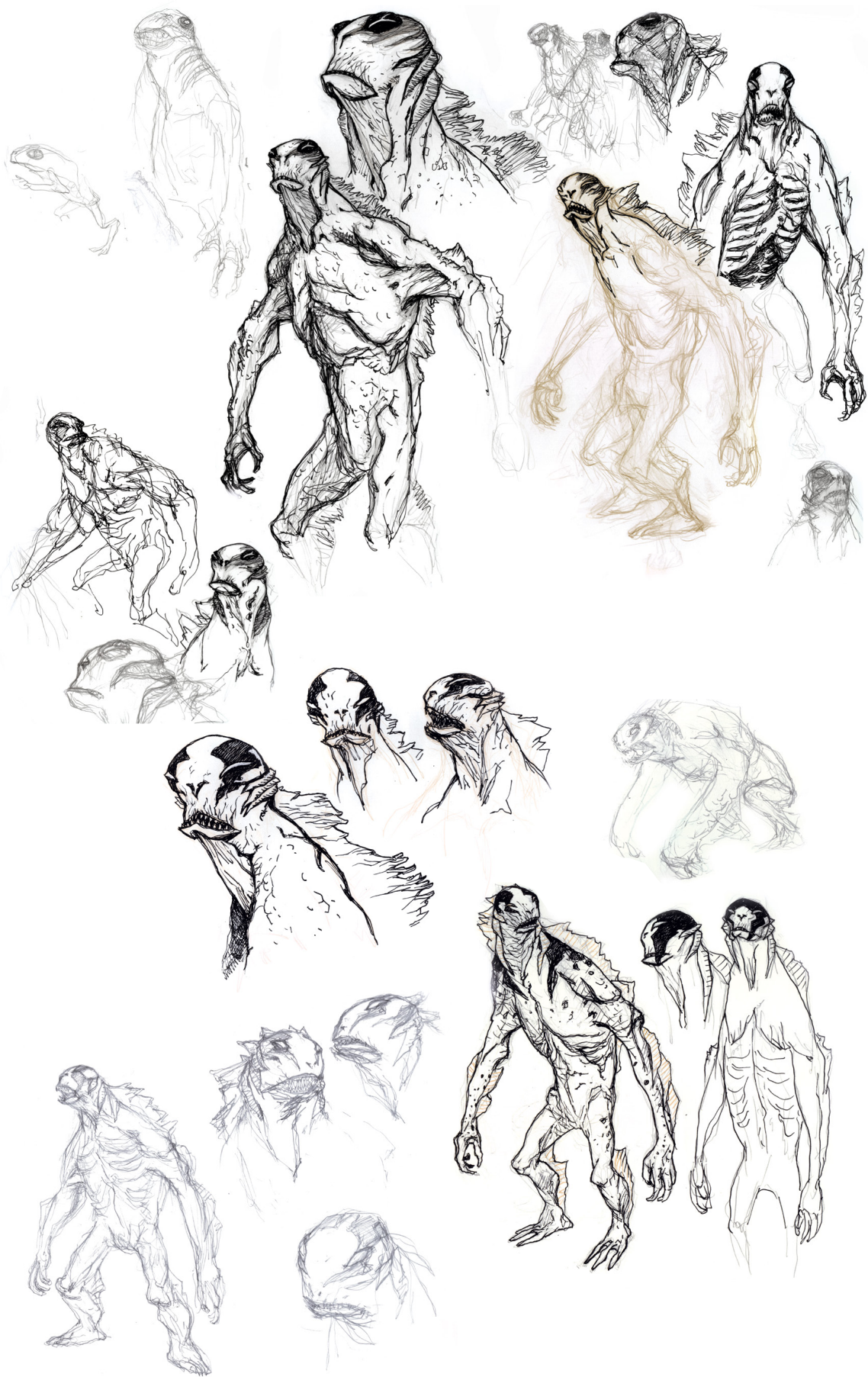


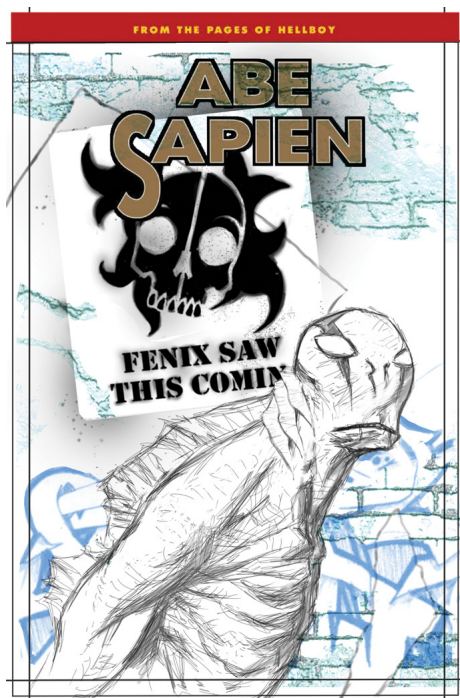
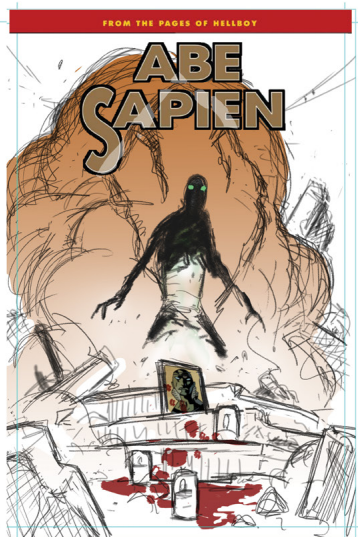
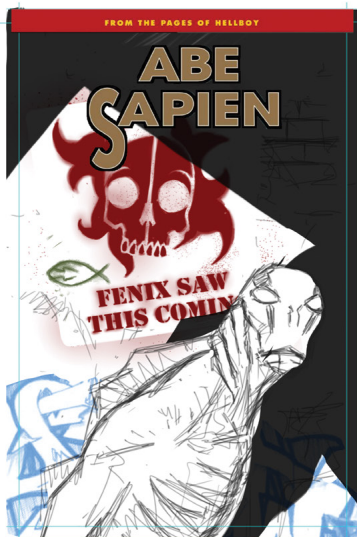
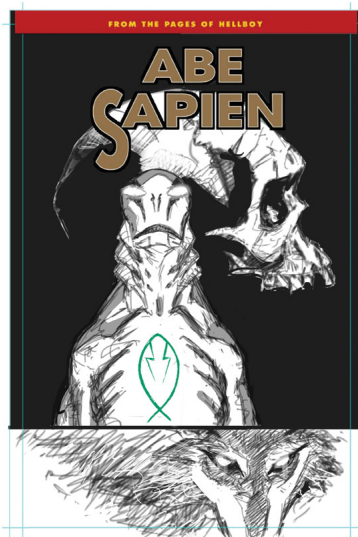






MF: Caul was a lot of fun. I loved him in every *B.P.R.D.* story he was featured in, and it was great to draw him in this story. Classic Abe is hard to do. I feel like the Abe that I'm doing in this series is the Abe for me; I can relate a bit more to him. Drawing classic Abe is trying to make him look as good and as alive as when Mignola draws him. Needless to say, that doesn't happen.





Sebastián Fiumara: In issues #16 and #17, Scott wanted to try showing a town covered in graffiti. For both the covers and the interior pages, I designed the graffiti digitally while I was working on the pencils. Once they were approved, the graffiti was applied to the inks in separate layers and then sent to Dave for coloring.

Facing: A raw scan of the cover inks.





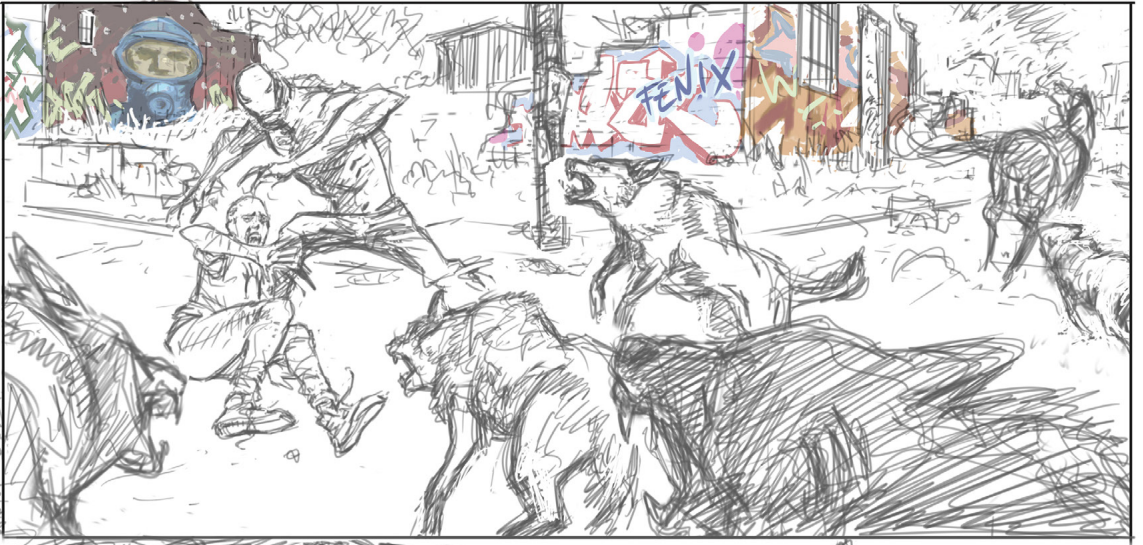
STAZZ

B.P.R.D. Dragon
Armor under
jacket.



CALLAS

Regular B.P.R.D. T-shirt
with waist gear belt
and holster under
jacket.



TUCK

Uses badly shaped
wooden crutches
after the
healing.



Eliot

Black hoodie.
Hands inside pockets
all the time.



Jimmy

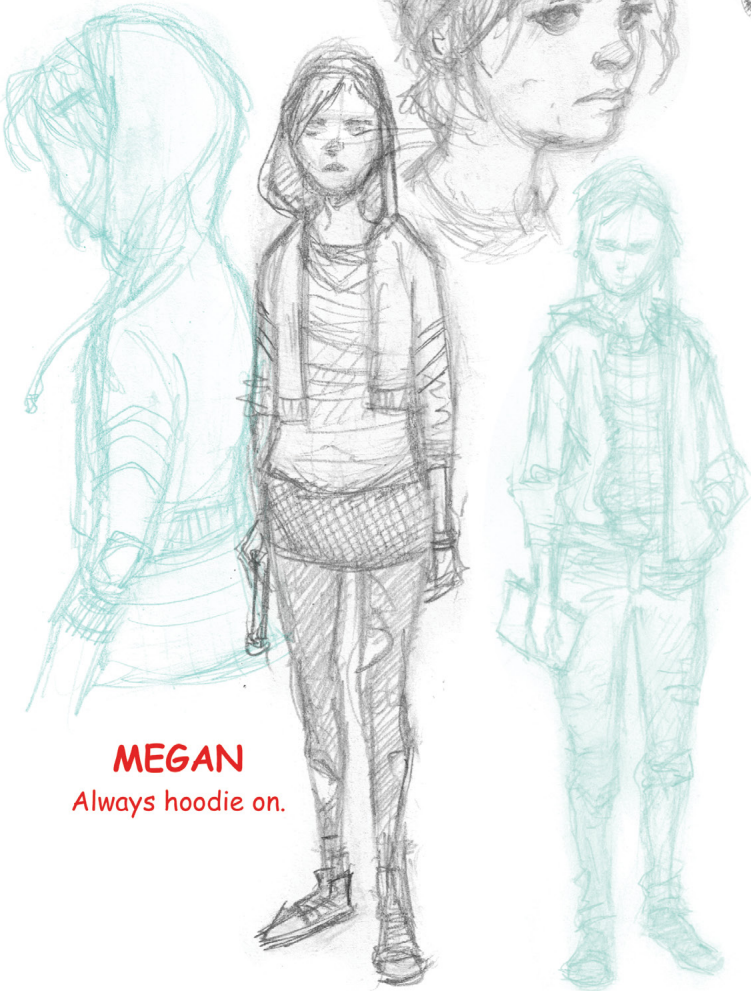


DIEGO



CARMELITA

Dyed blonde hair.



MEGAN

Always hoodie on.



BATO

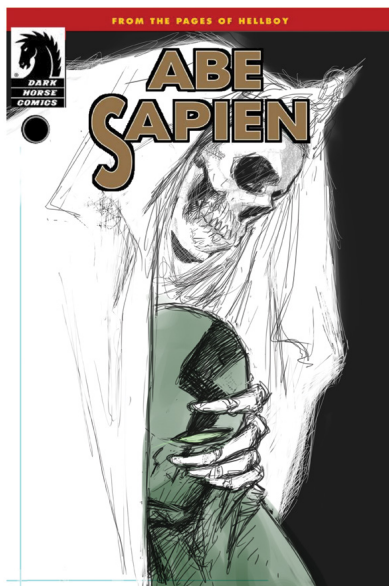
Dayana

Heavy pale make up on her face (it should look like a decolorized skin) Black lipstick- Deep skin marks.

Silver half moon earrings. And silver rings with black stones on her fingers.

Dia de los Muertos Skull
(Silver pin Jewelry)



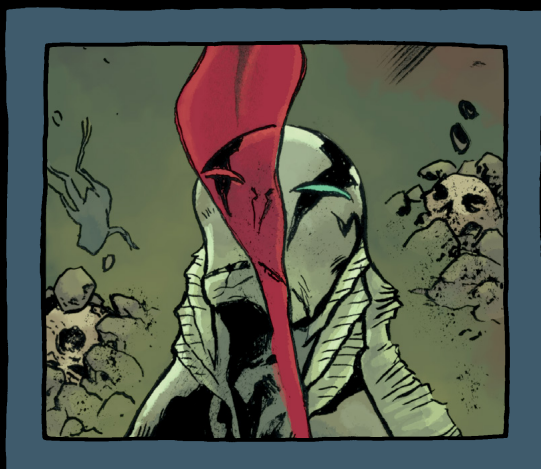


SF: Playing around with the new look for Grace and the Abe symbol.

Facing: The design for Dayana came pretty easily; we all love thoughtful, dark characters. She only had a minor fix to get a less-fancy look.







Haunted by the deaths he's seen and the ones he's caused, Abe returns to the place where his latest transformation began. His path is blocked by one damned soul after another, who all seem to think Abe is either the answer to or the cause of the worldwide crisis.

"You'd be a fool to miss out on Abe Sapien—fine comics indeed."

—Bloody Disgusting

"A story filled with such a tense ambiance you don't fully realize it until you exhale after reading."

—Comics the Gathering

"A superbly written, drawn, and inked comic that resonates emotionally with adult readers. Abe Sapien being granted his own ongoing series (at long, long last) has lived up to expectation."

—Geeked Out Nation

