

FROM THE PAGES OF HELLBOY

ABE SAPIEN

TM

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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Abe Sapien™ Volume 5: Sacred Places

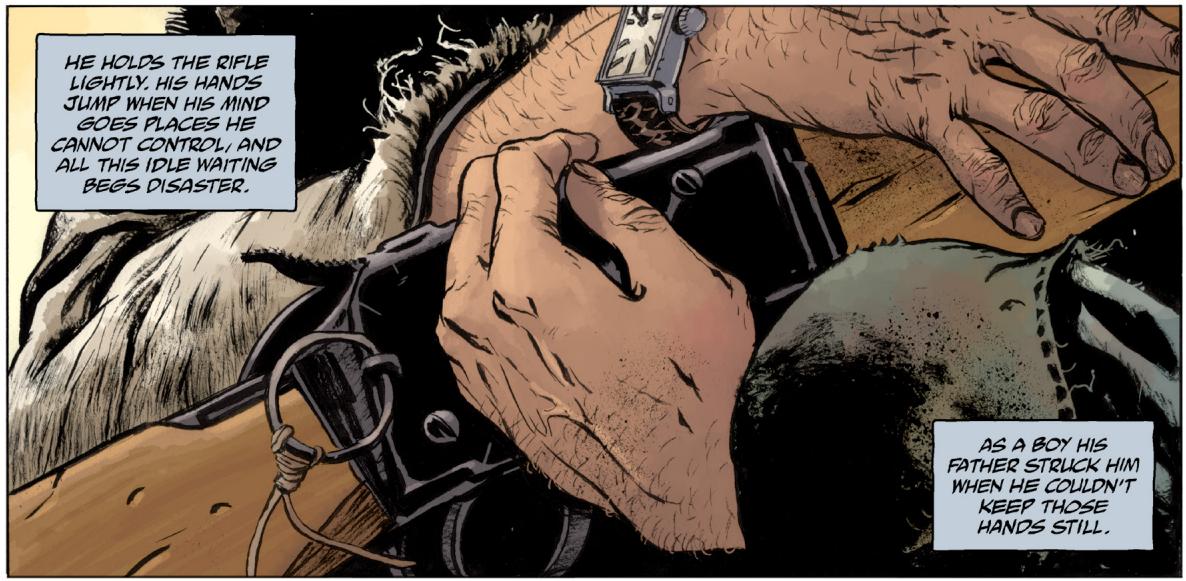
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This book collects *Abe Sapien* #12–#14 and #16–#17.

THE GARDEN (I)









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.

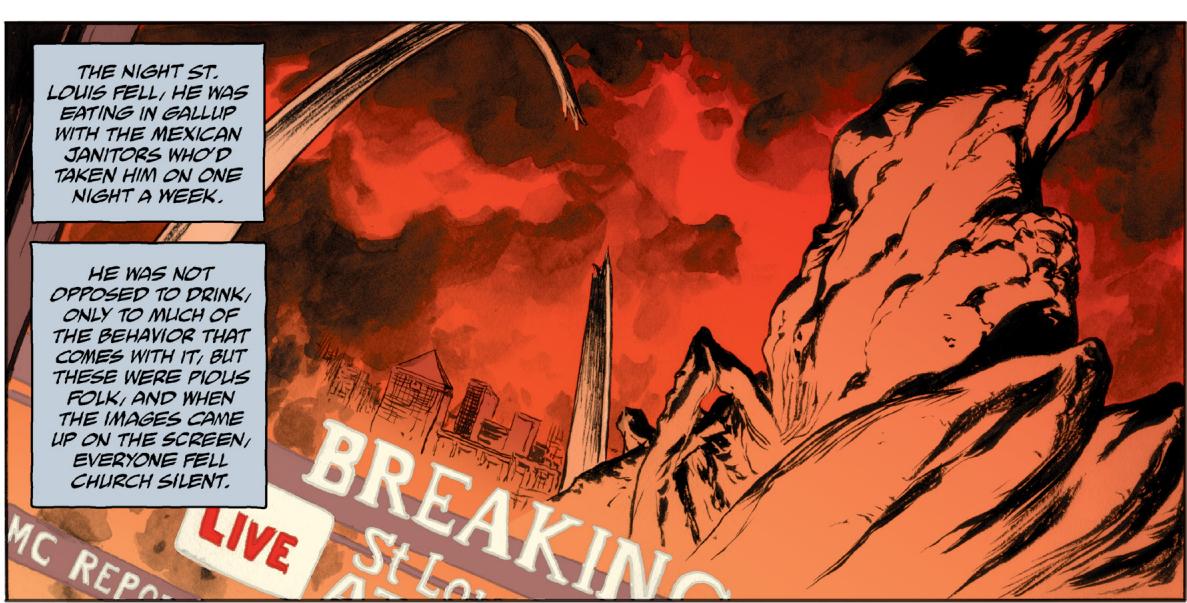
SHE'LL FEEL GOD'S TOUCH ON HER, AND SHE WILL BE GLAD FOR WHAT COMES NEXT.

ONLY THIS CERTAINTY GIVES HIM PATIENCE.



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 PIOLIS 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,
FOCUSSES.



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.



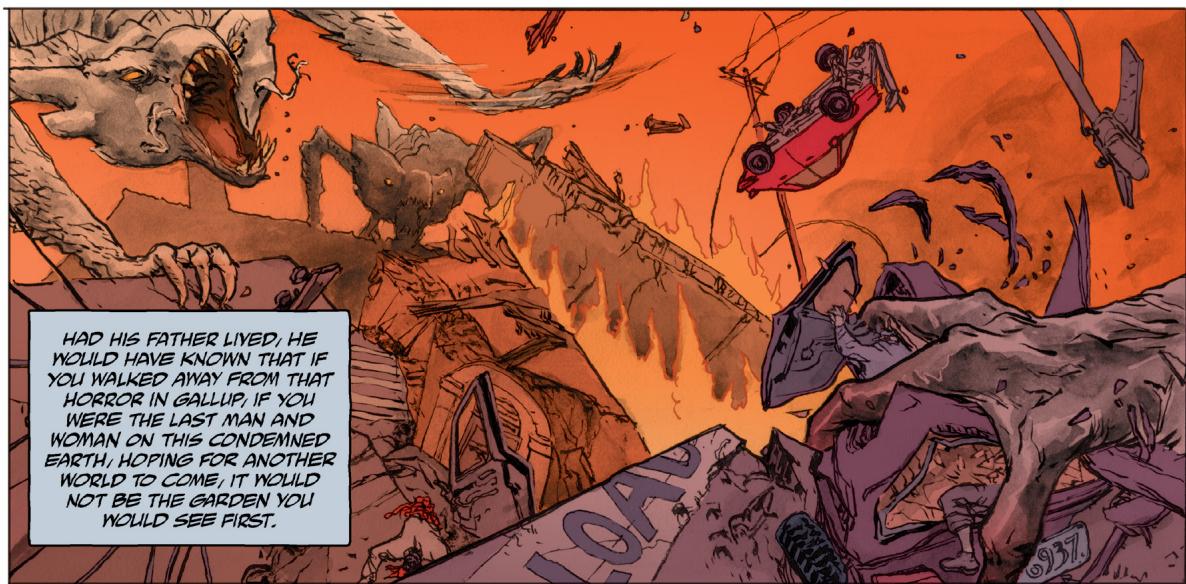
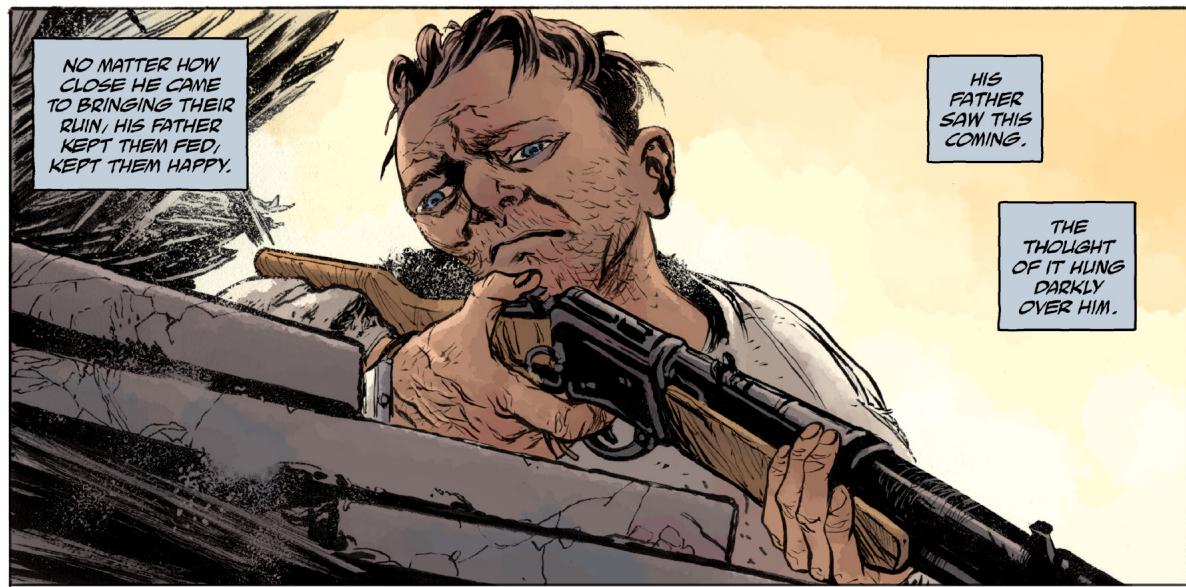
IF MEN HAD FIRED GUNS IN HER LIFE BEFORE, SHE WOULD THROW HER MIND BACK TO THAT, BECAUSE NOW THE SILENCE IS SHATTERED.



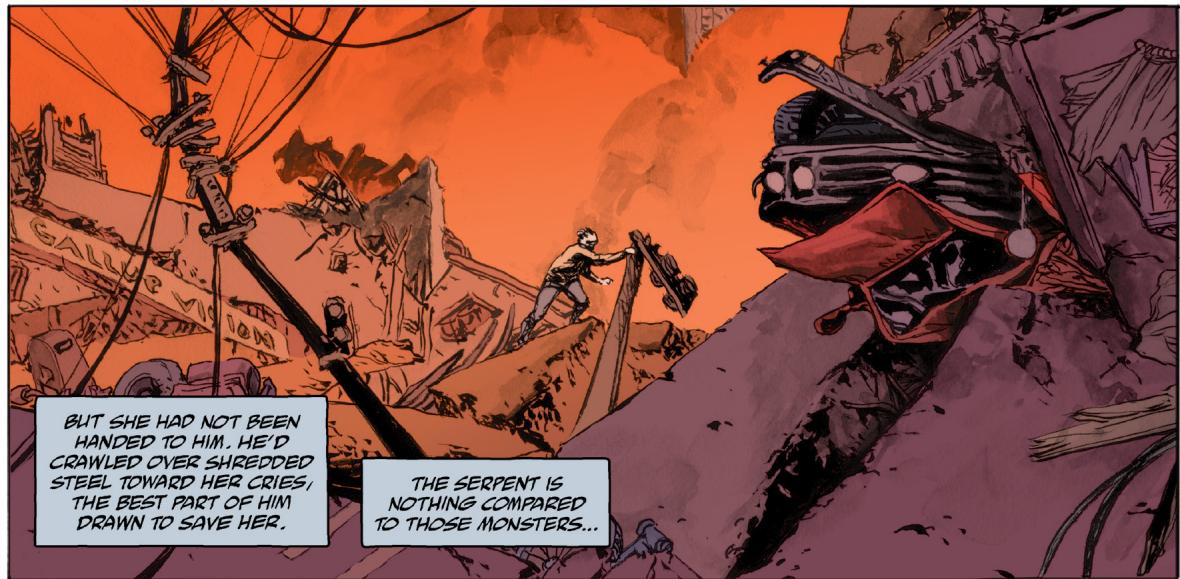


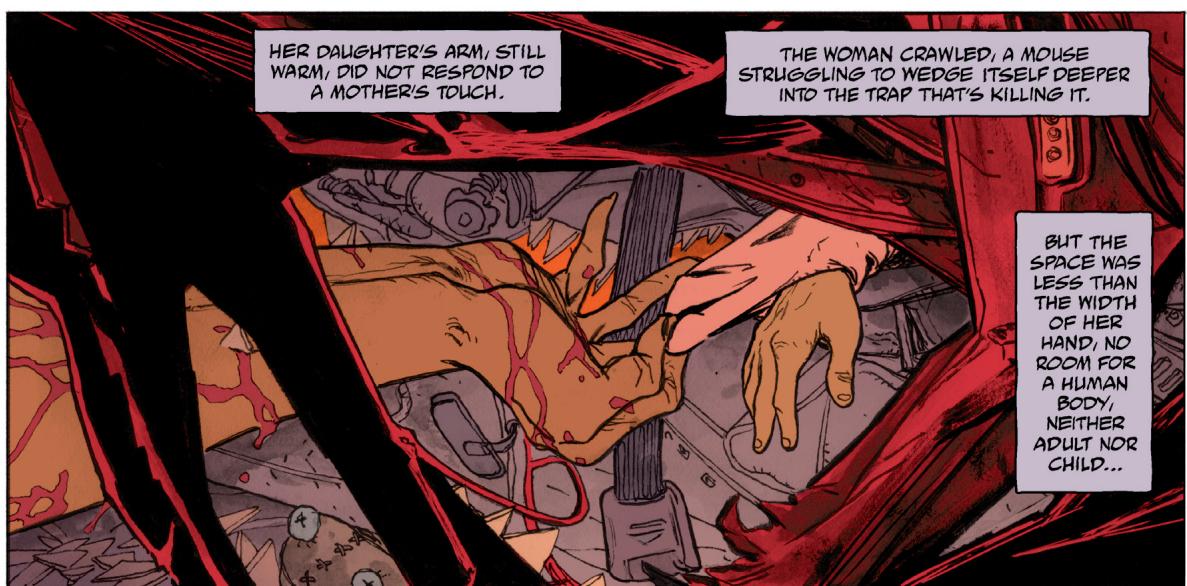
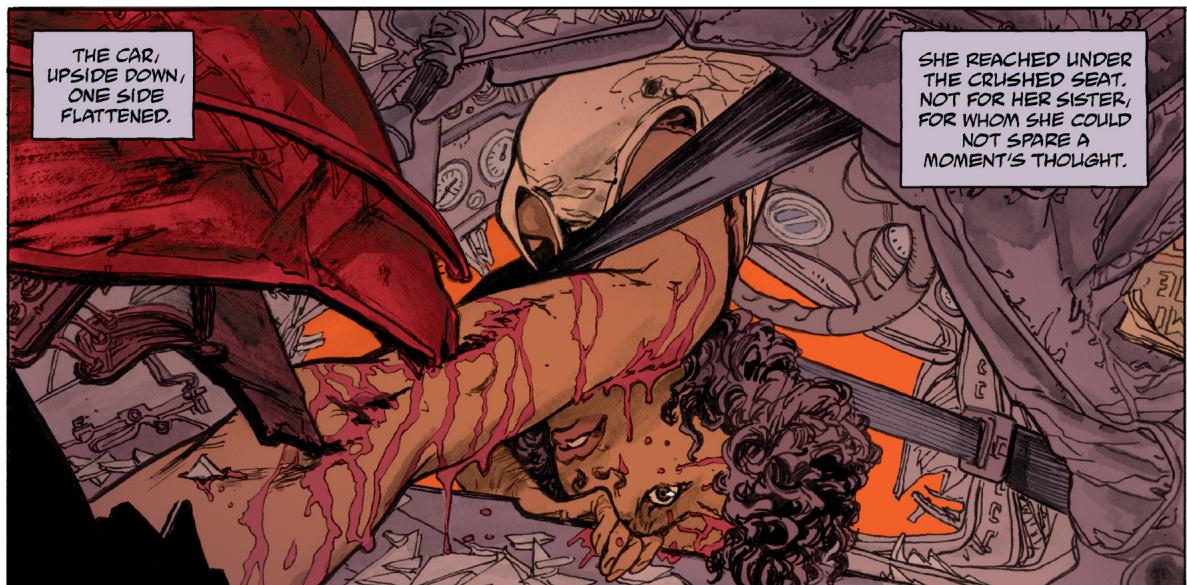
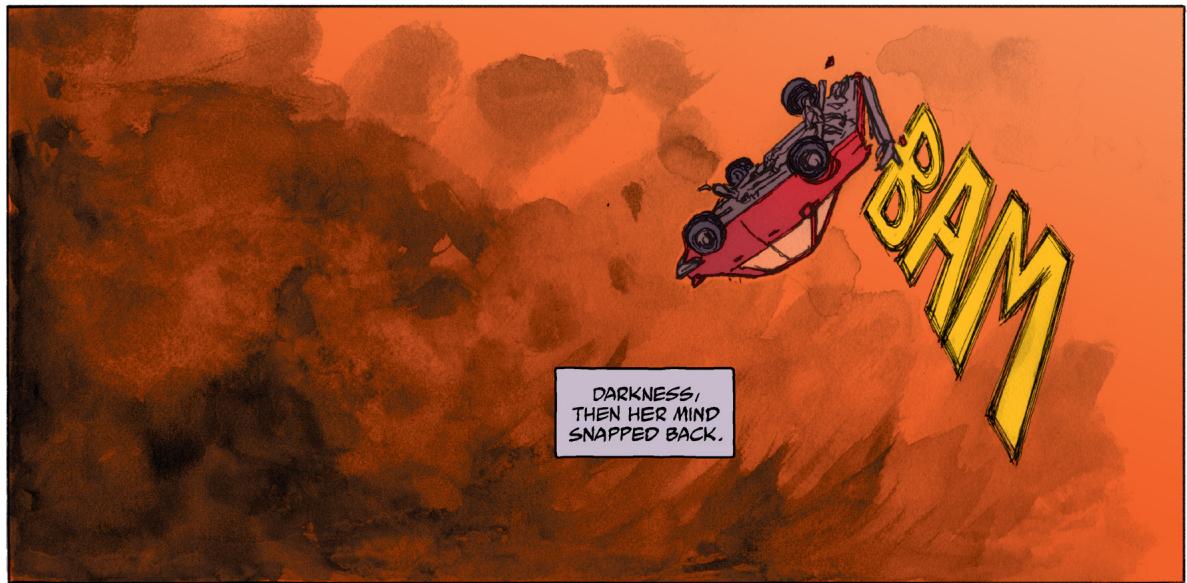
THE WORLD HAS
BECOME A TERRIBLE
PLACE, AND IF SHE
DOESN'T WANT THE
PAST TO CRUSH THE
LIFE OUT OF HER,
THE SAFEST THING
IS TO THINK OF
NOTHING AT ALL.



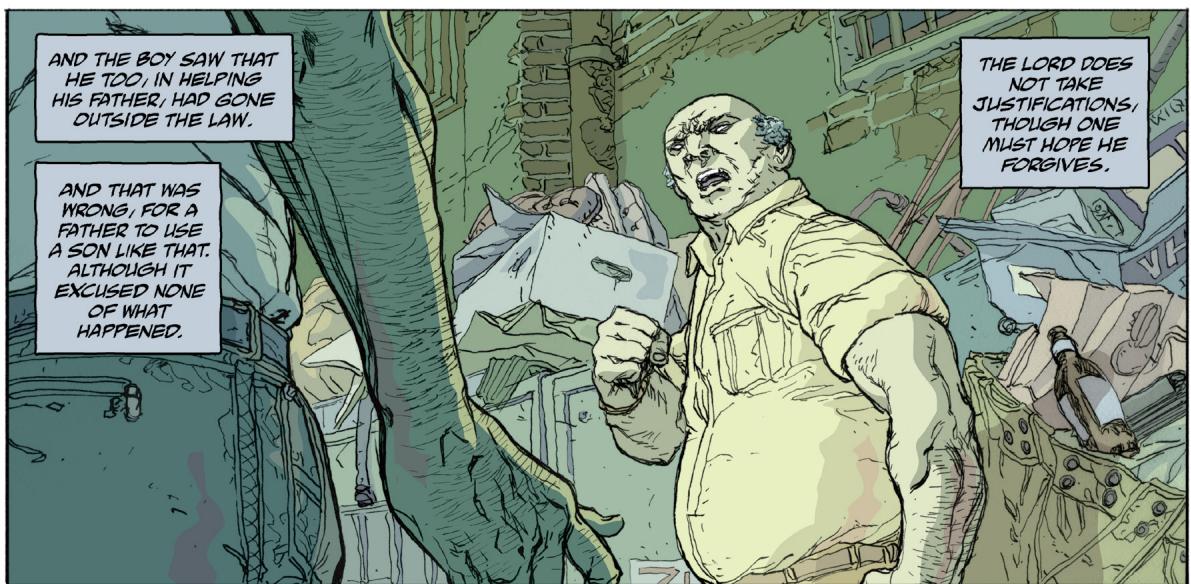


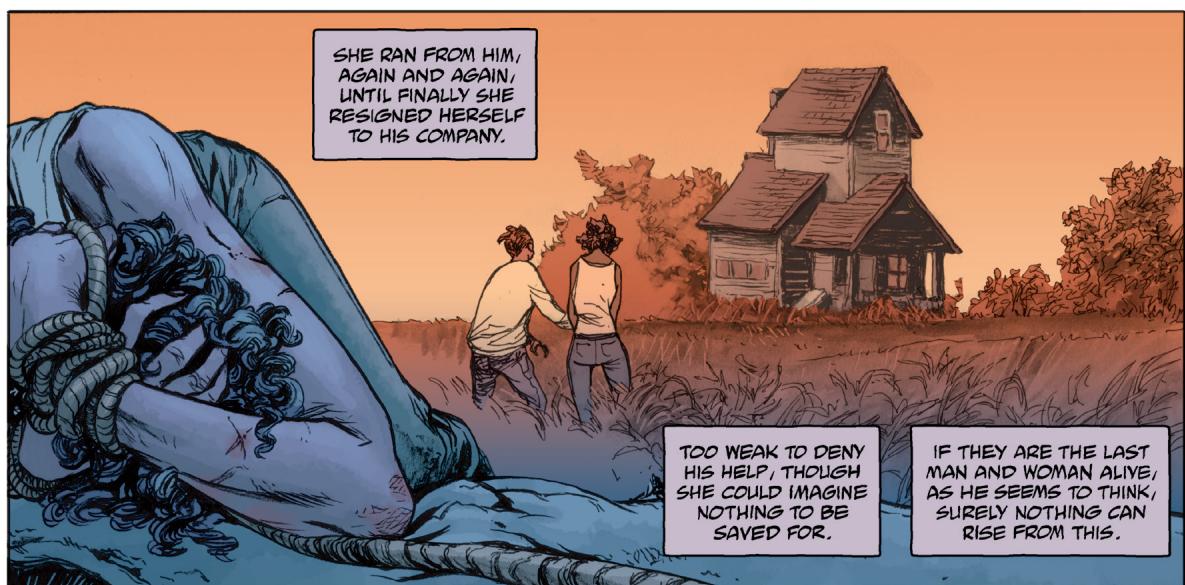
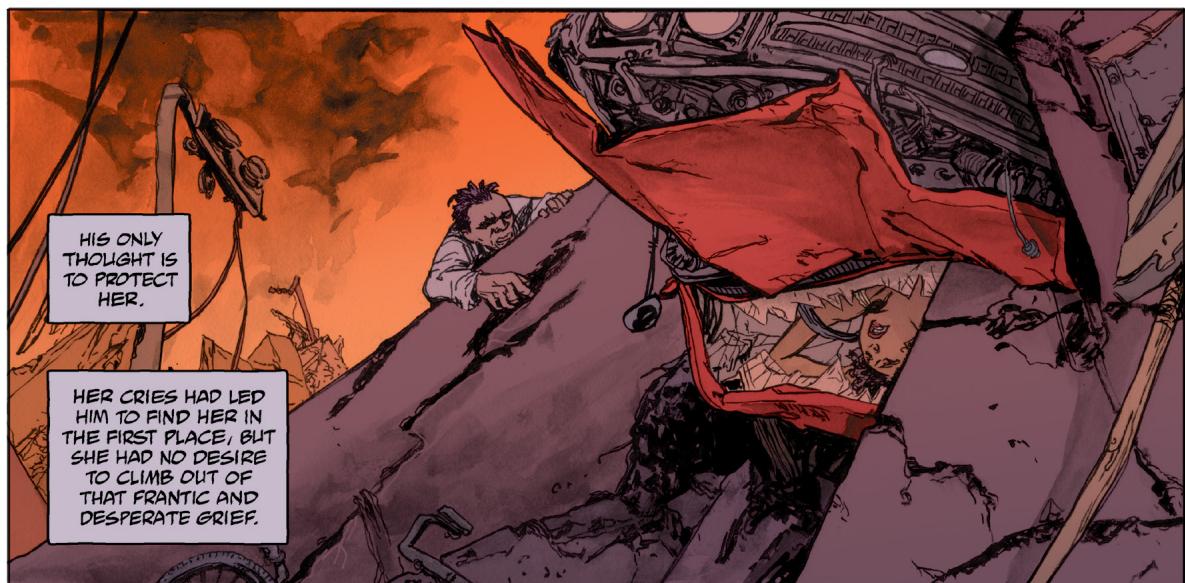














SHE HAD KNOWN COMFORT, AT EVERY STAGE OF HER LIFE.

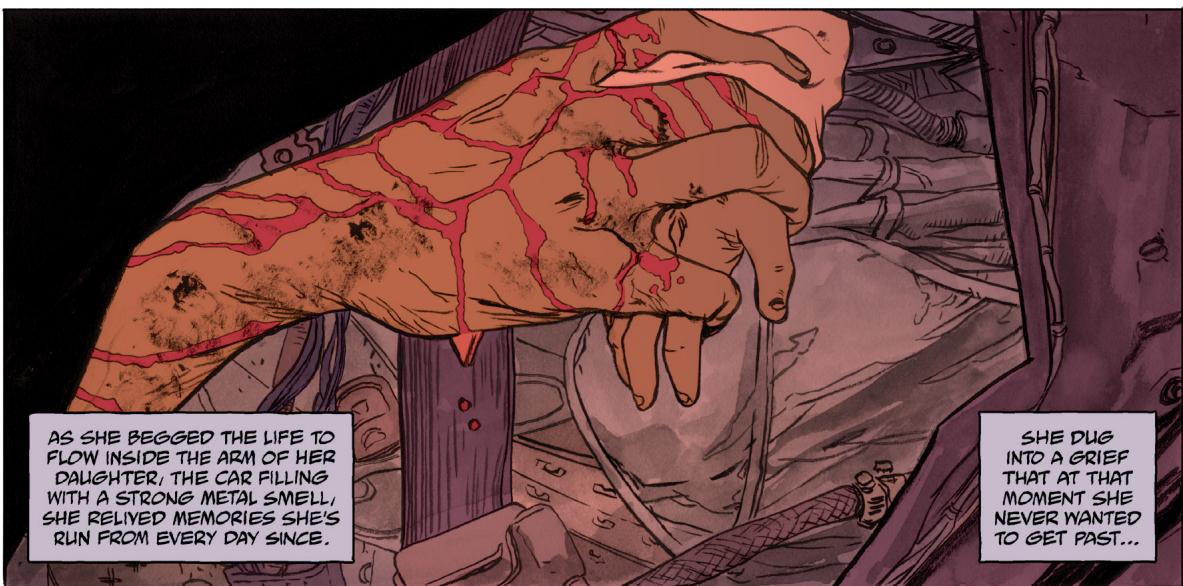
AS A CHILD, AND LATER WITH HER HUSBAND IN AN APARTMENT THAT WAS NEVER SMALL ENOUGH TO STIFLE THEIR JOY.

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



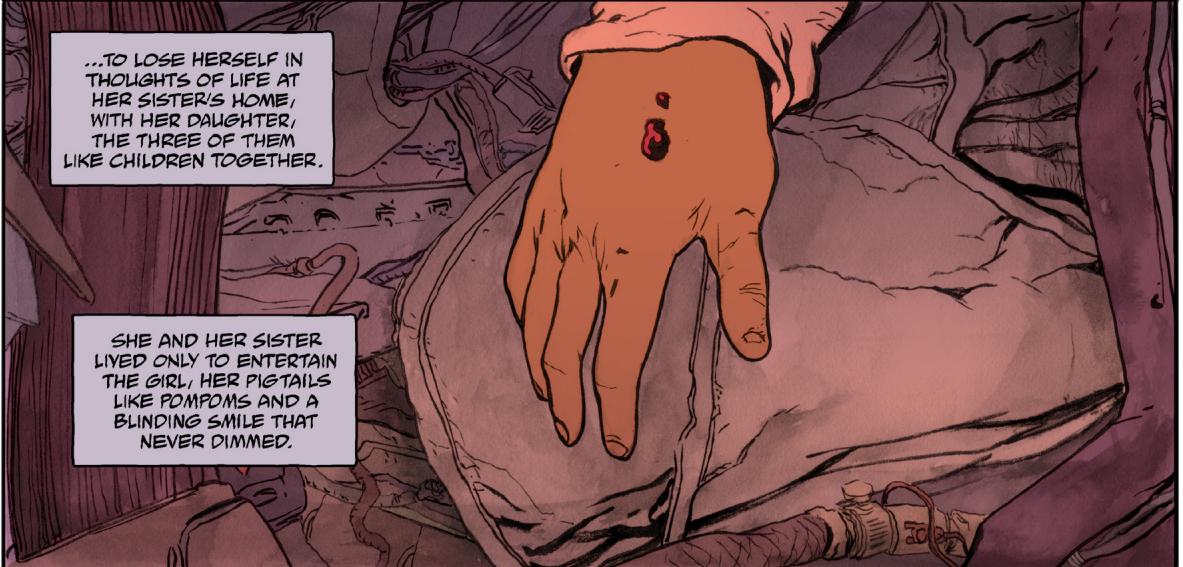
HER SISTER REMINDED HER SHE STILL HAD ALL THE FAMILY SHE NEEDED.

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...



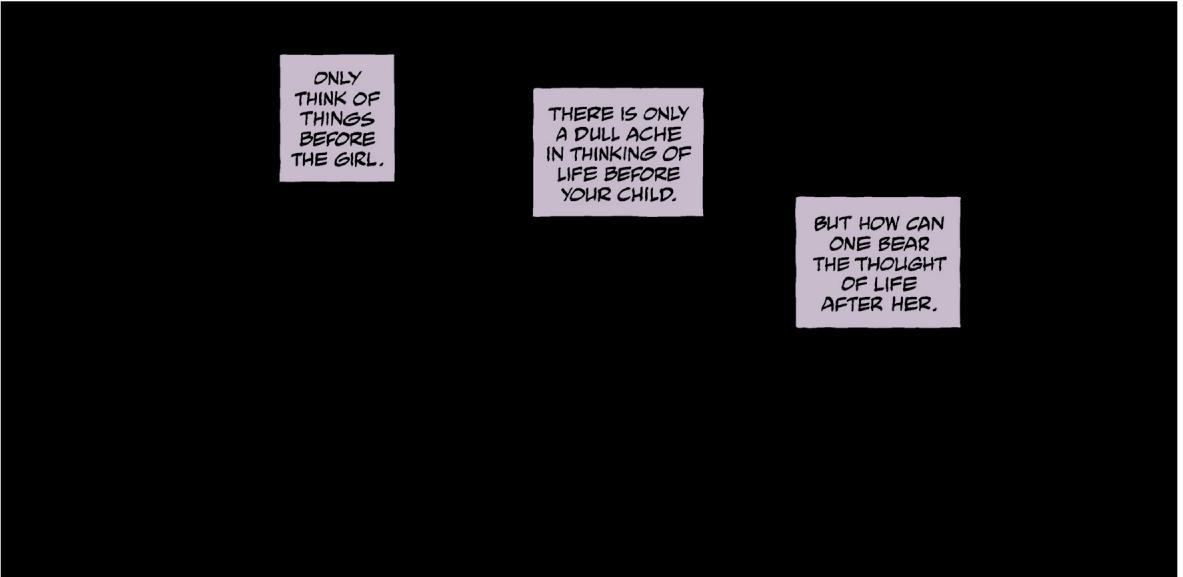
...TO LOSE HERSELF IN THOUGHTS OF LIFE AT HER SISTER'S HOME, WITH HER DAUGHTER, THE THREE OF THEM LIKE CHILDREN TOGETHER.

SHE AND HER SISTER LIVED ONLY TO ENTERTAIN THE GIRL, HER PIGTAILS 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 ACHE
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.

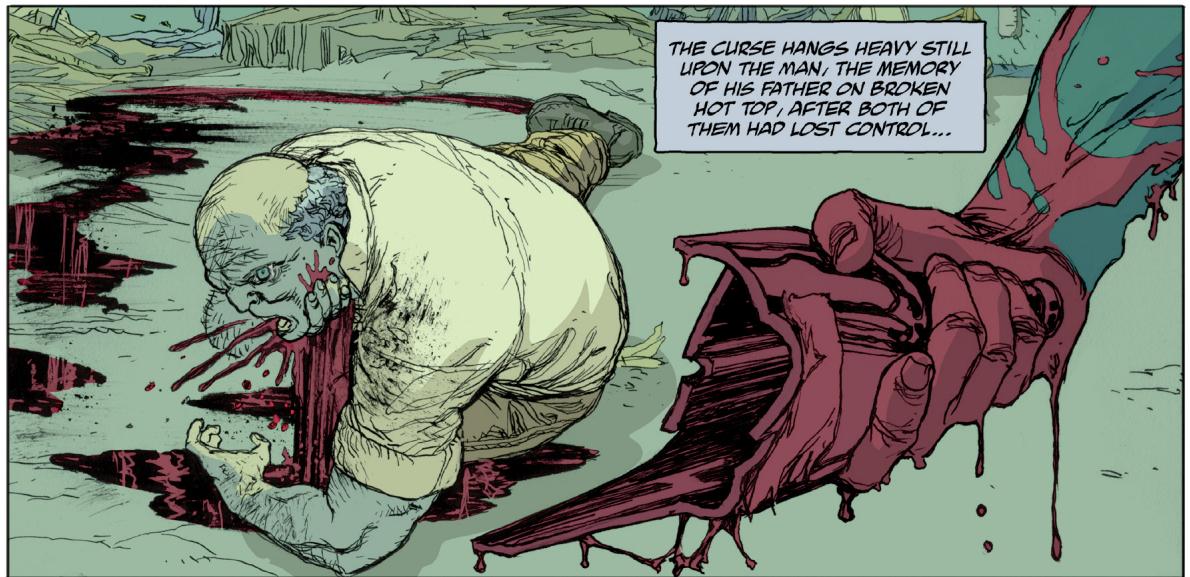
THIS HOUSE.

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.

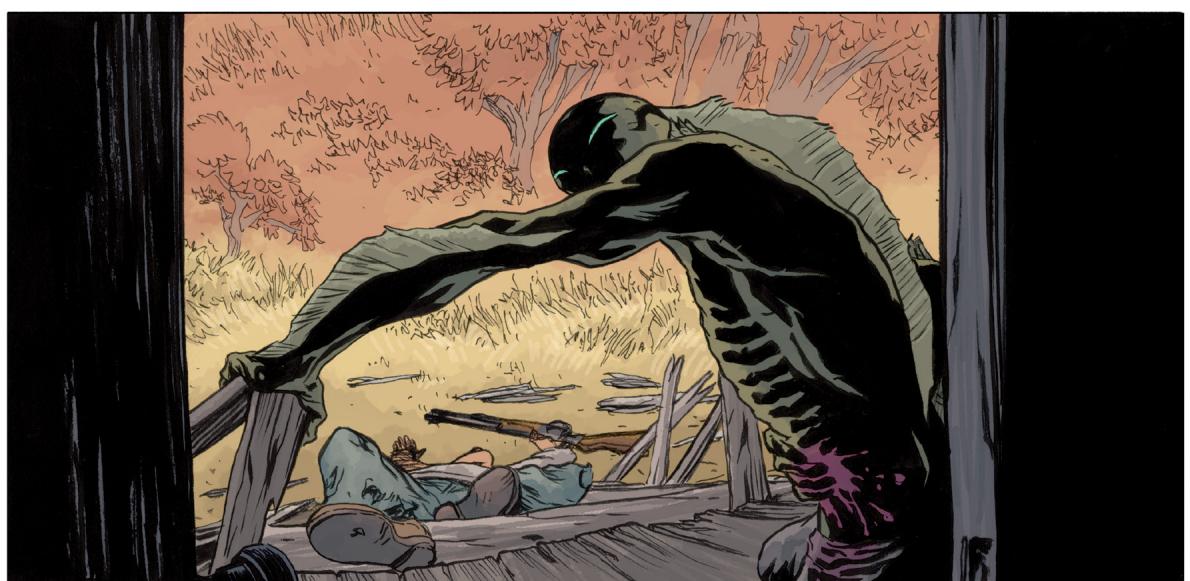


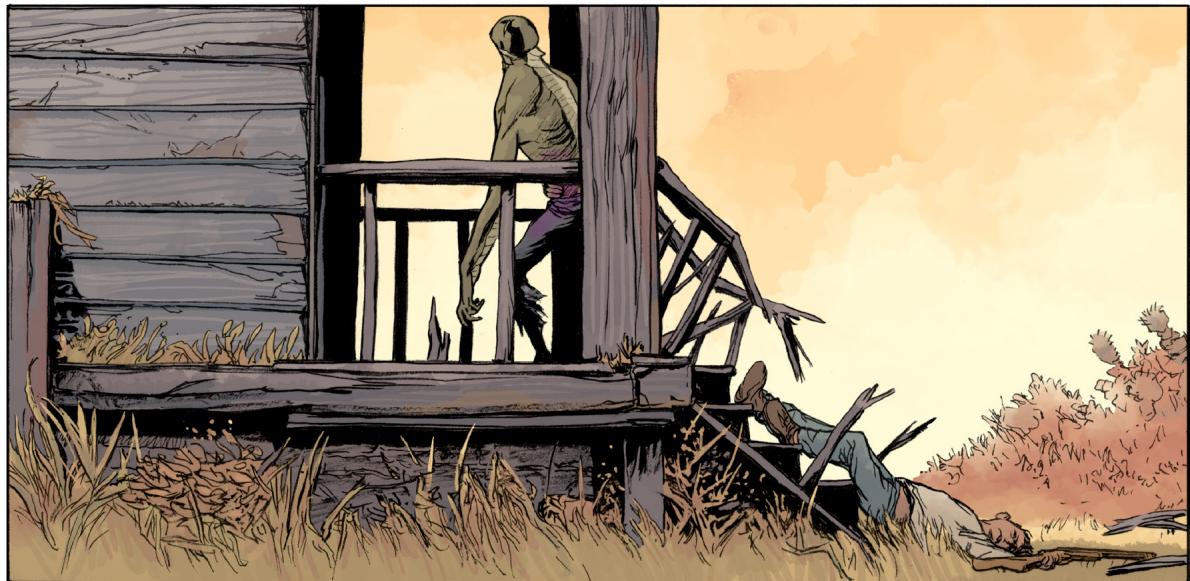
...THE MAN
THEN ALMOST
GROWN...

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

...BLENDING
BACK
TOGETHER
WHERE IT
FELL.









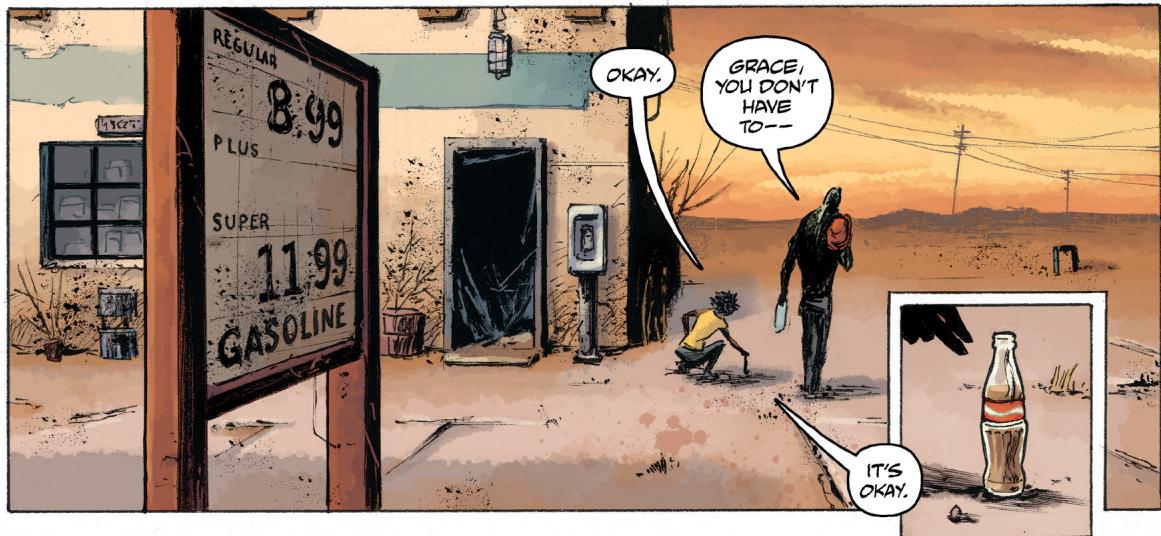
THE HEALER





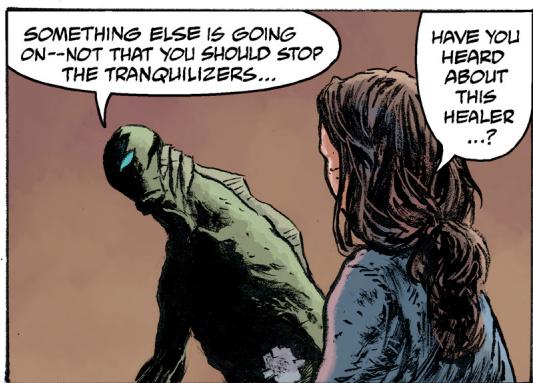
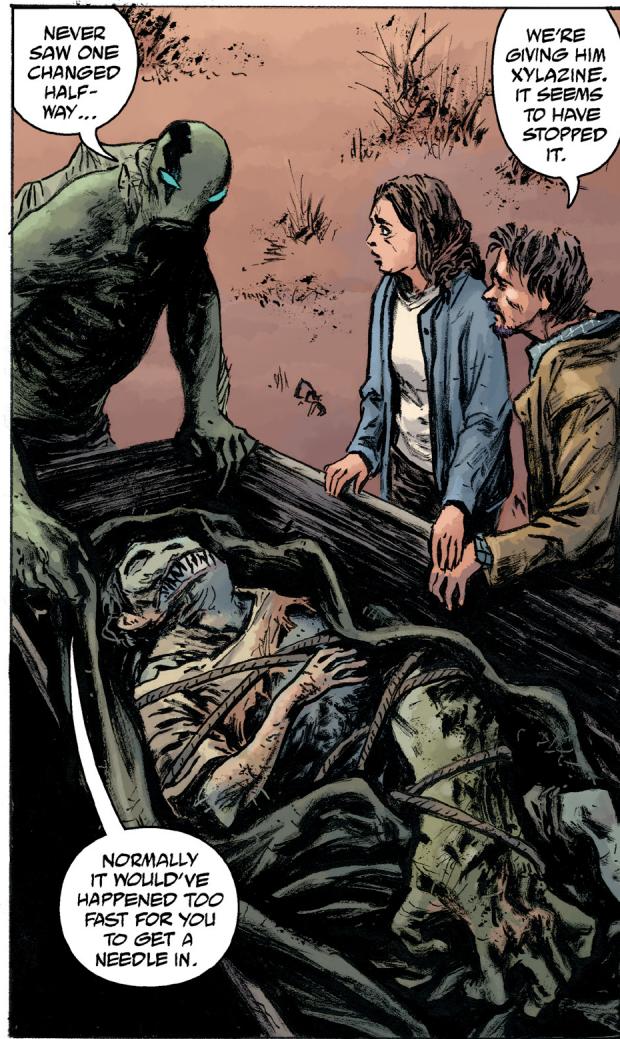














GUESS
IT PROBABLY
IS.

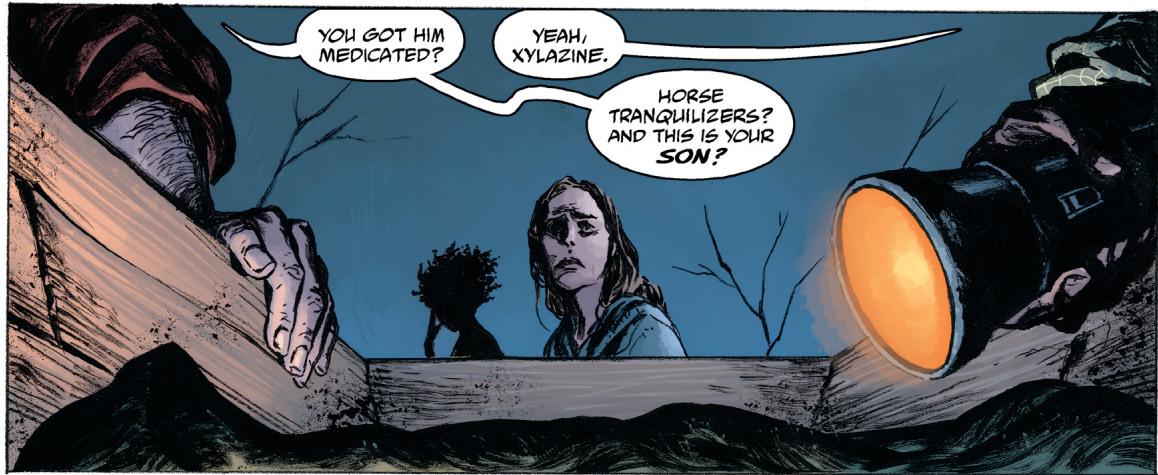
SORT OF
SURPRISED
TO SEE MORE
PILGRIMS. BUT
THE SHACK'S
MINE, AND
ONLY SLEEPS
ONE.

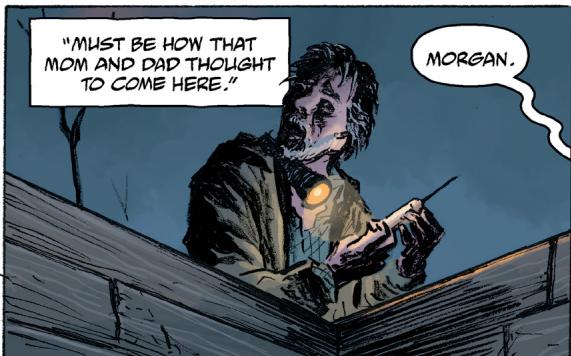
Y'ALL
SHOULD
STAY DOWN
HERE, OUT
OF THE
WIND.

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

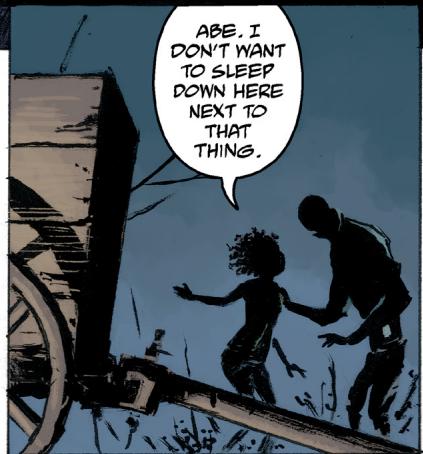
WE HEARD THERE
WAS A FAITH HEALER
OUT HERE WHO REALLY
HELPED PEOPLE. IS
THAT YOU? THEY
DIDN'T TELL US A
NAME...

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





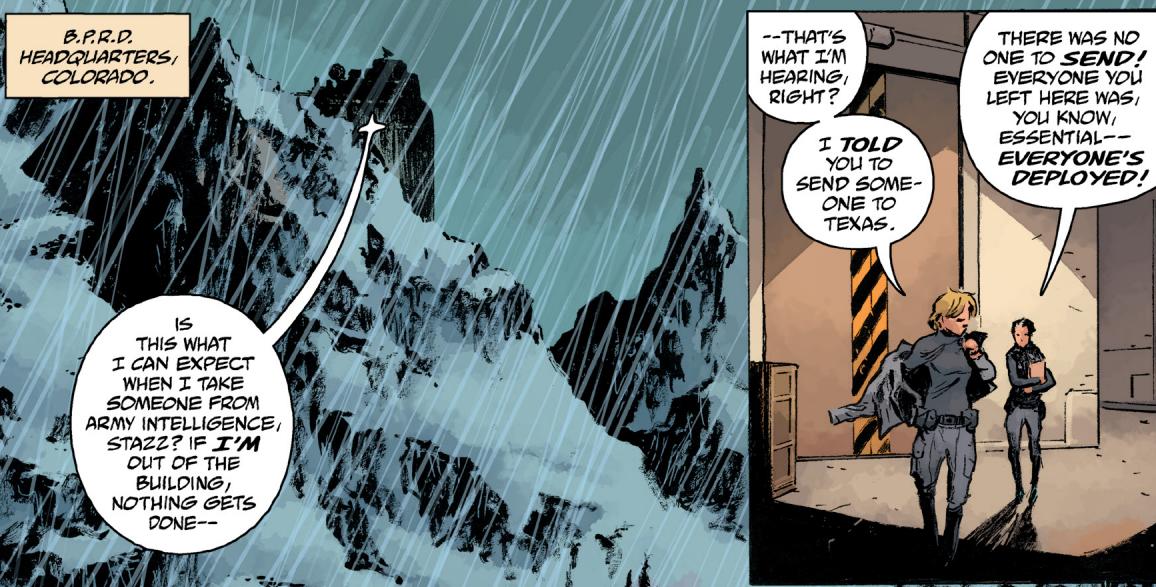






















CRACK

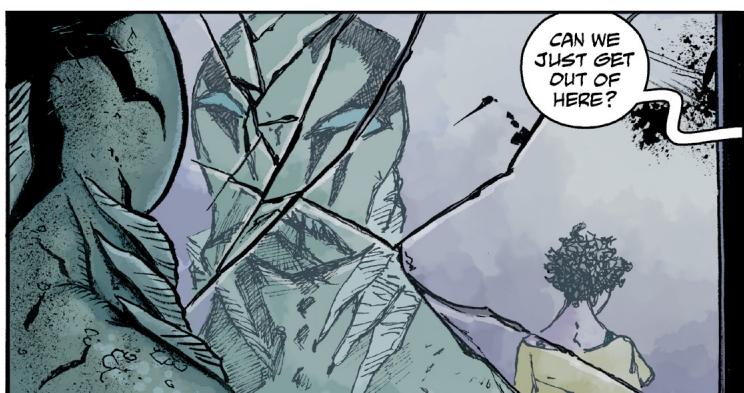


VISIONS, DREAMS, AND FISHIN'

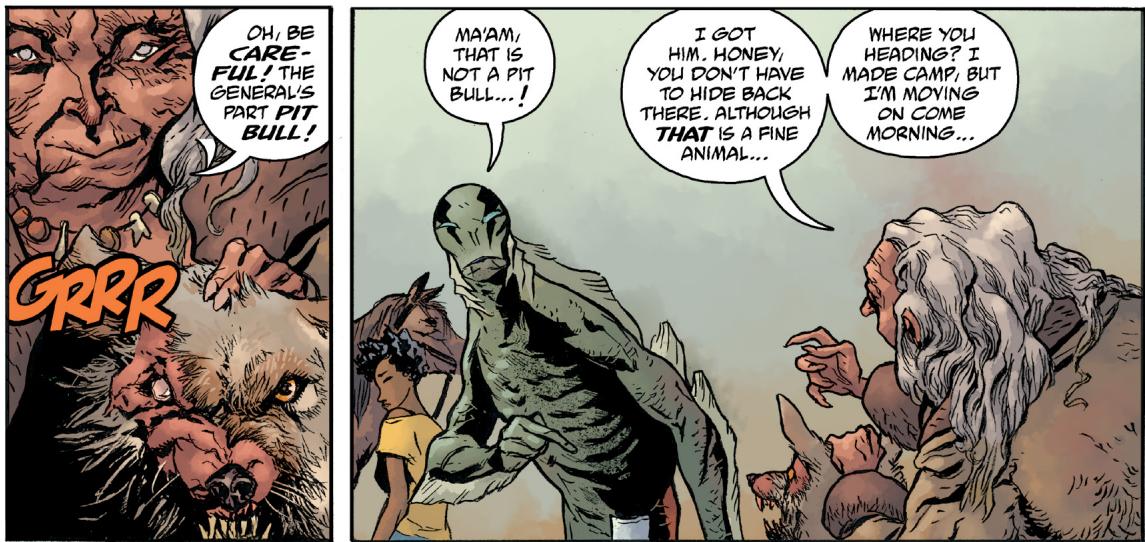














LET'S
GO THERE
TOGETHER!

YAP YAP

IS
THIS HOW
YOU WORE IT
BEFORE...?

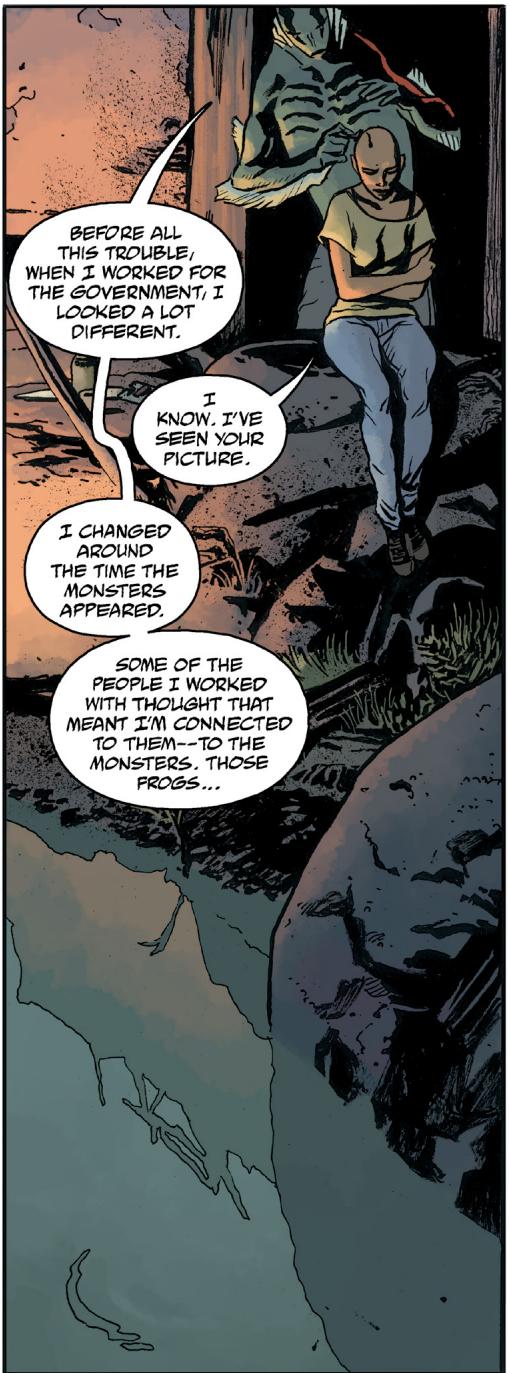
BEFORE
WHAT?

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!









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...

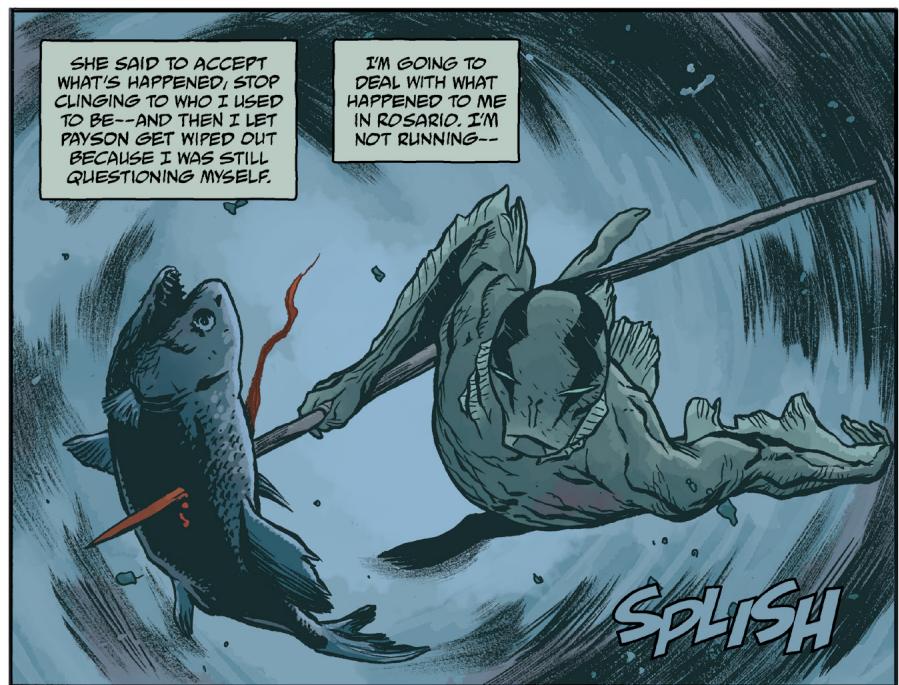
IF I KNEW WHAT HAPPENED TO HER I COULD HELP HER FACE IT HEAD ON...

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.

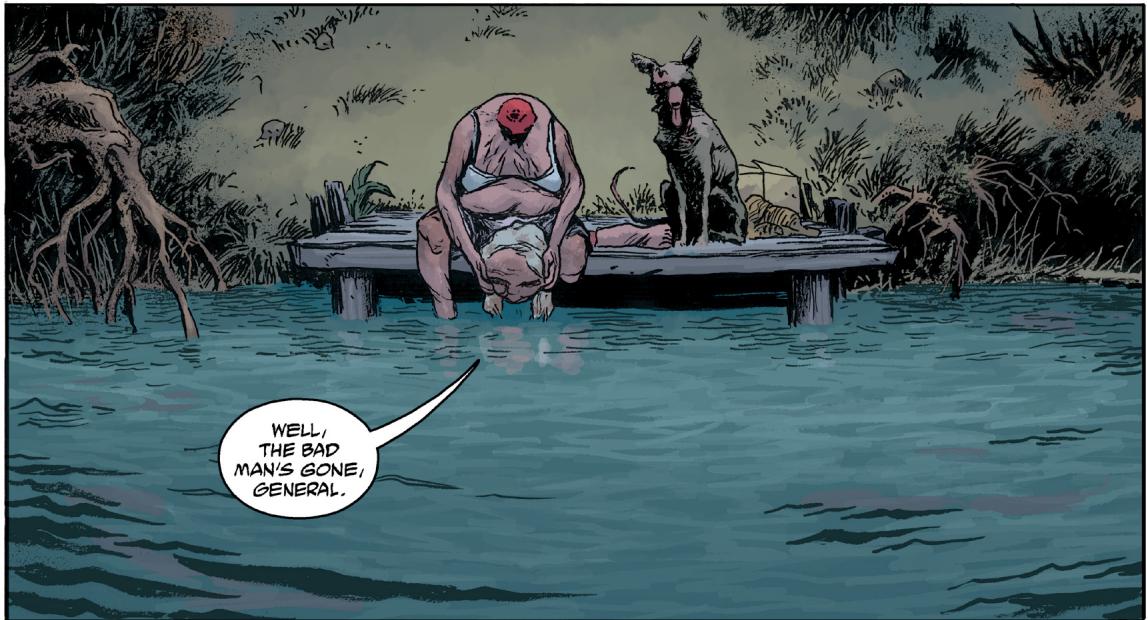








I TOOK
HIM FOR
BETTER THAN
THAT.

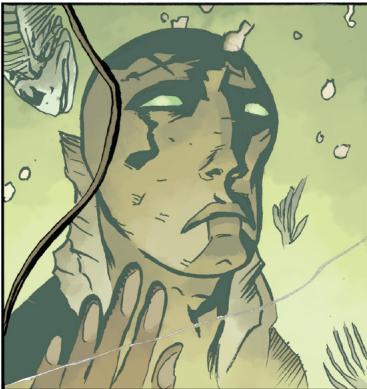


"THE TWO OF THEM'LL
THINK TWICE BEFORE
THEY TREAT ANOTHER
TRAVELER SO BAD.

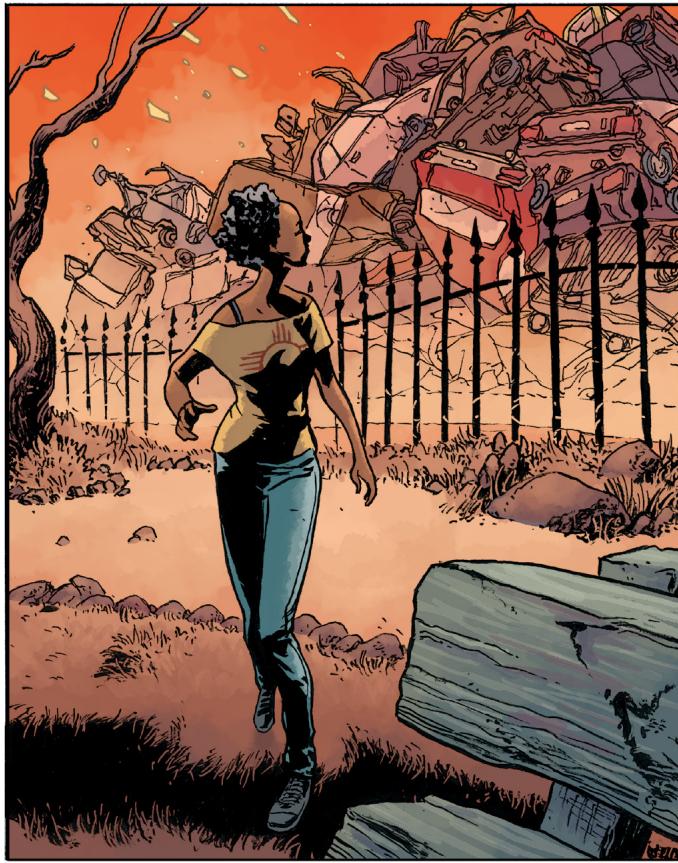


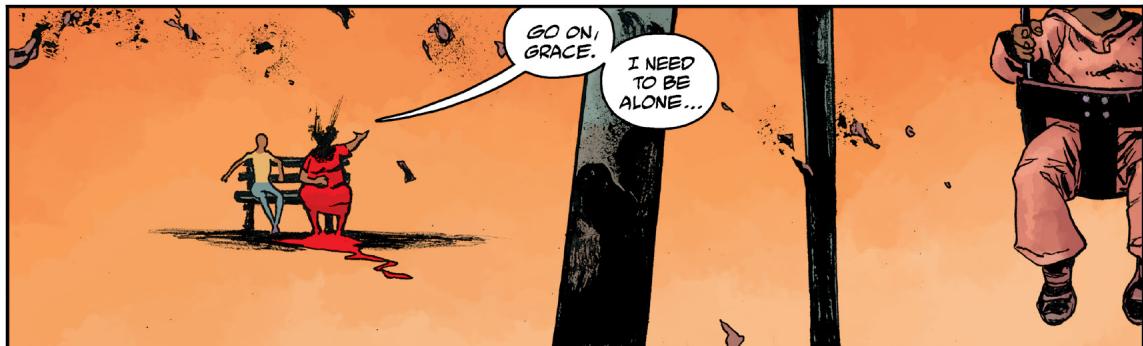
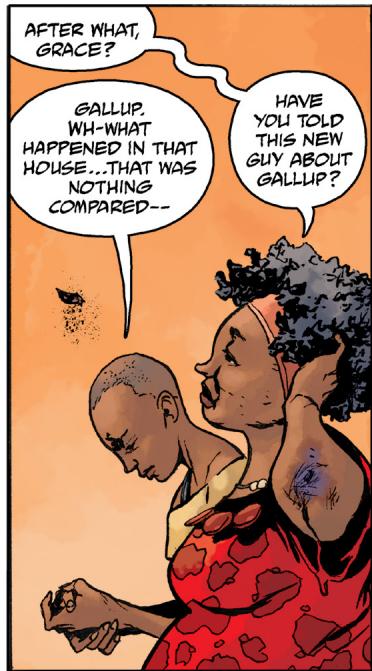
"THIS ROAD'S
HARD ENOUGH."

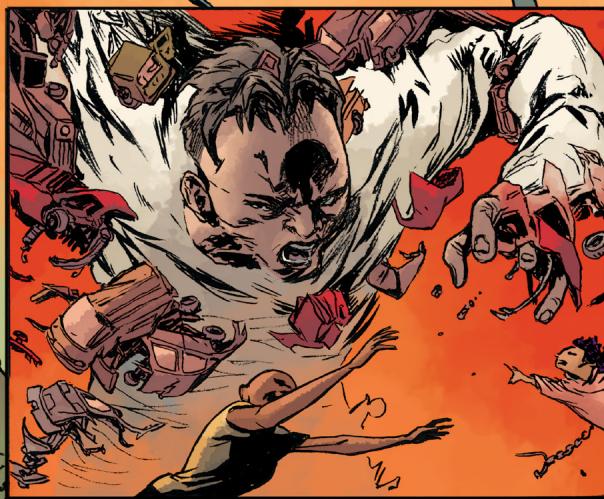
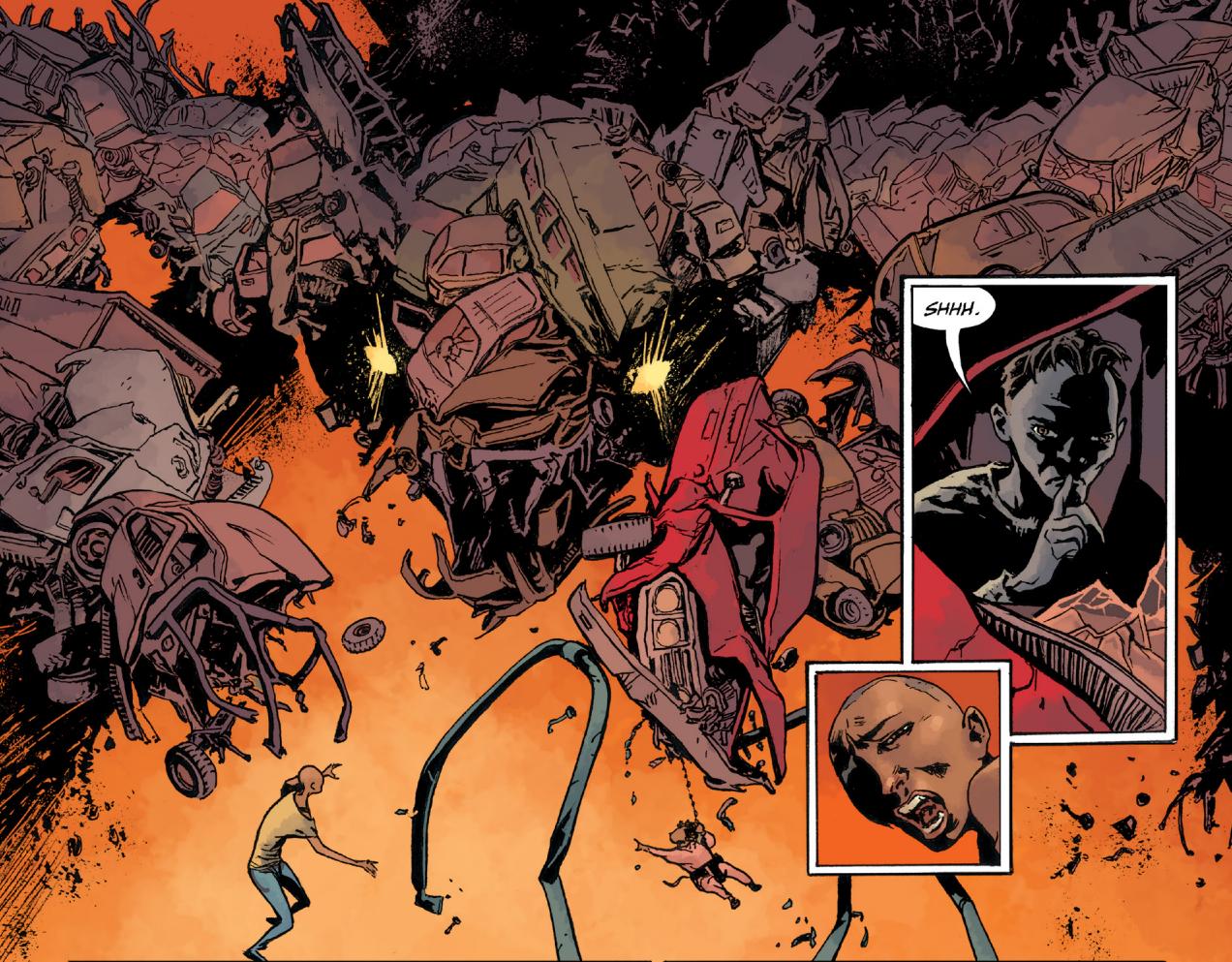






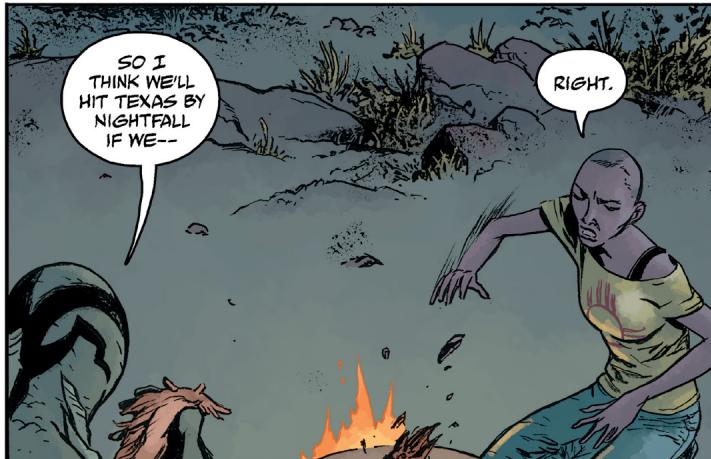
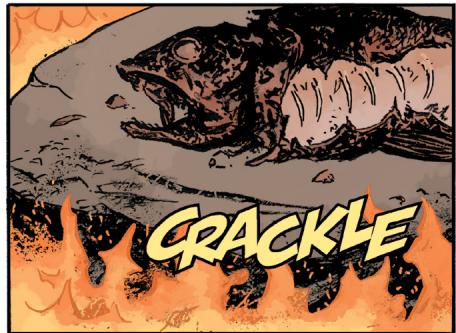














SACRED PLACES







"I ALWAYS IMAGINED MYSELF 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..."

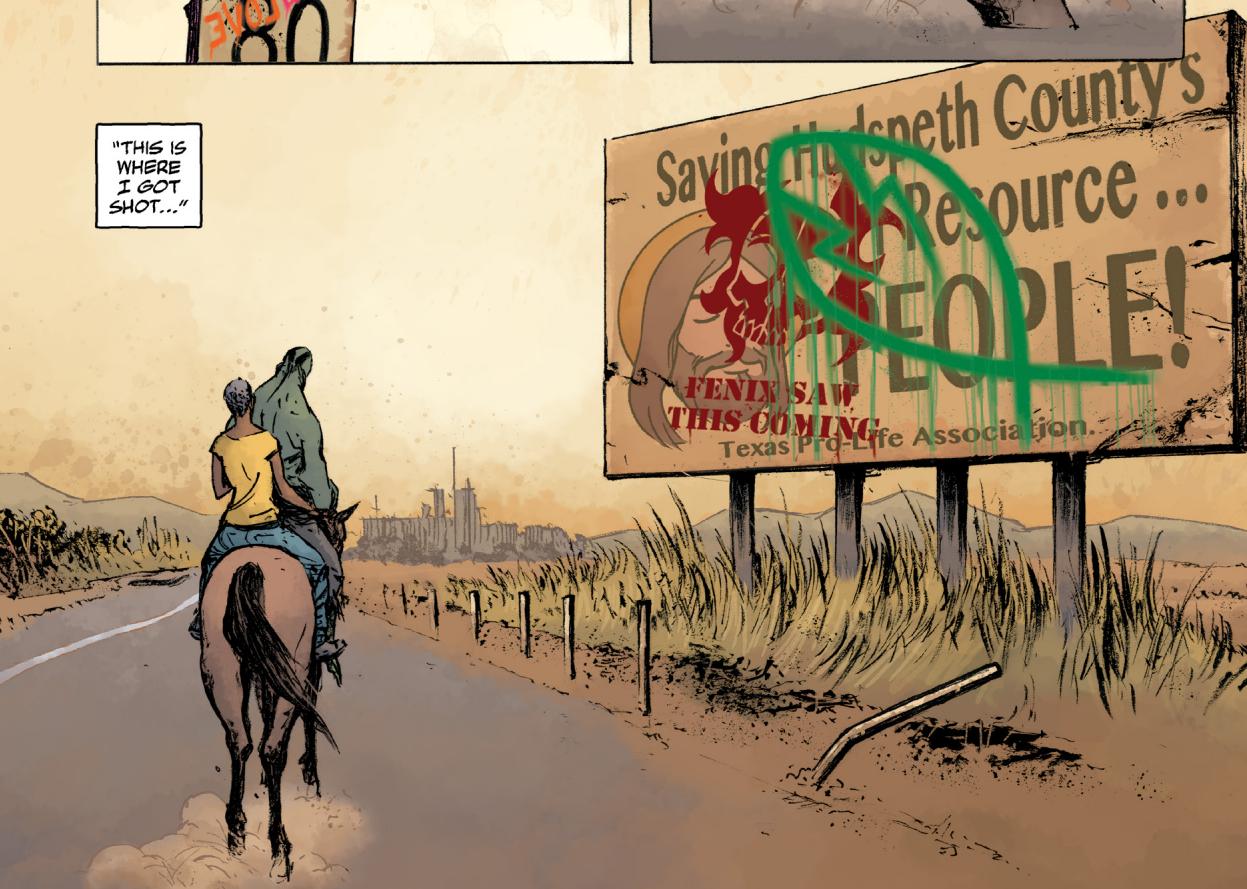


"...THOUGH I KNOW I HAVEN'T GOT FOREVER."



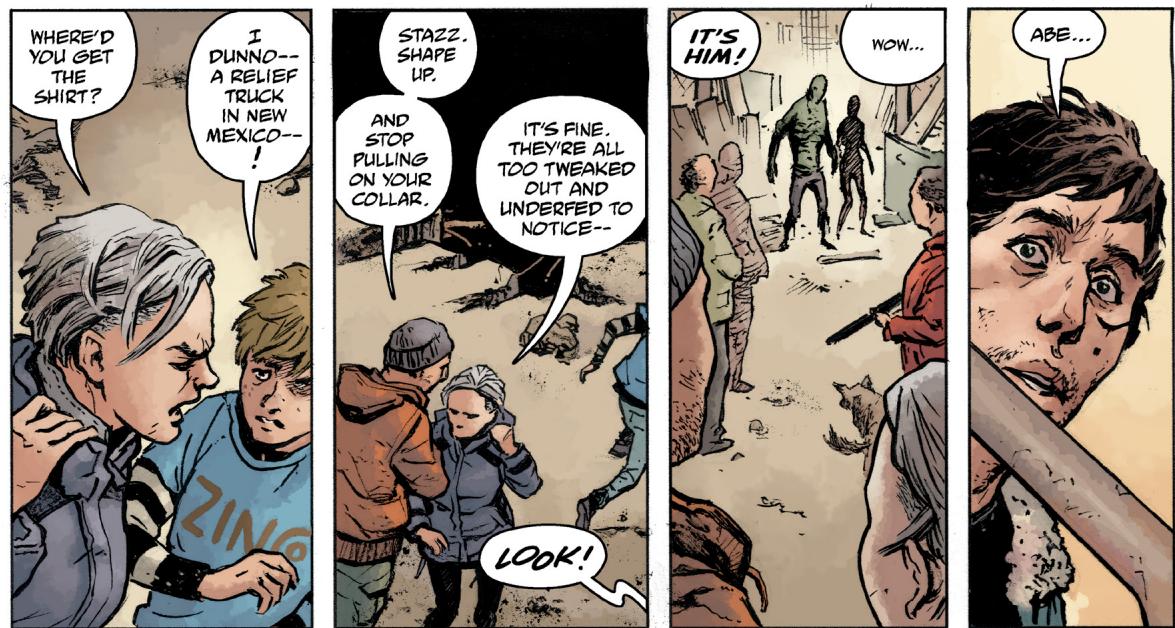
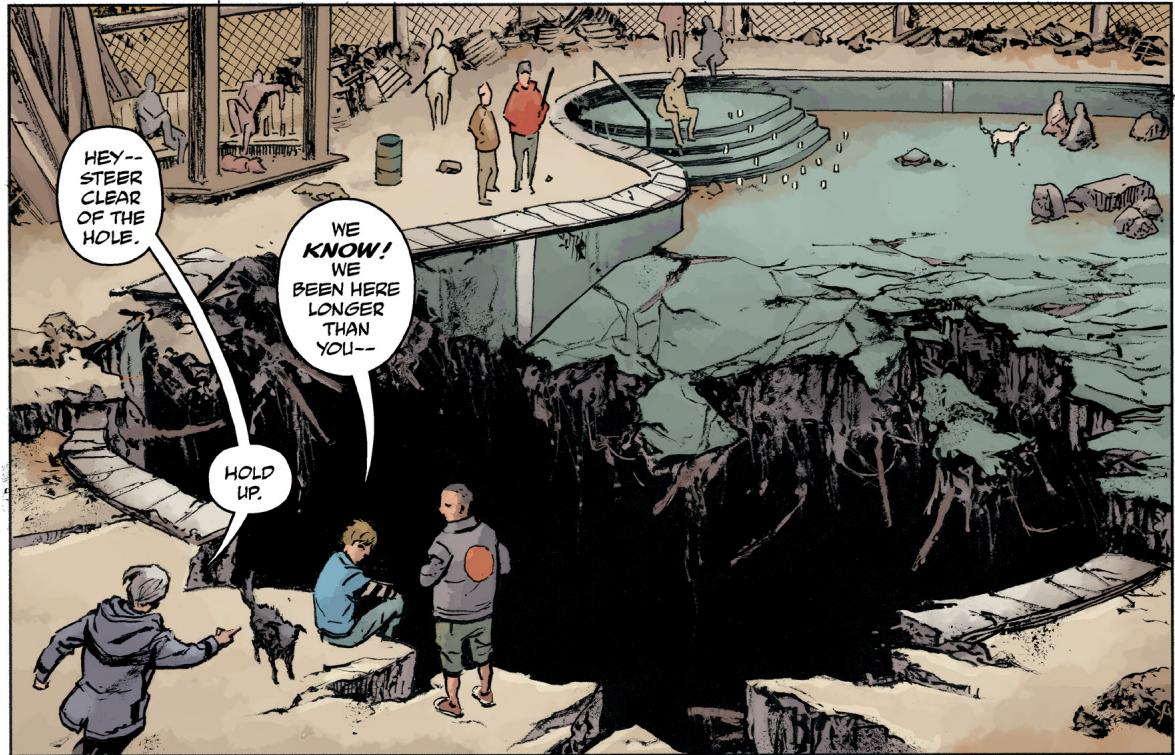
NORTH DAKOTA.





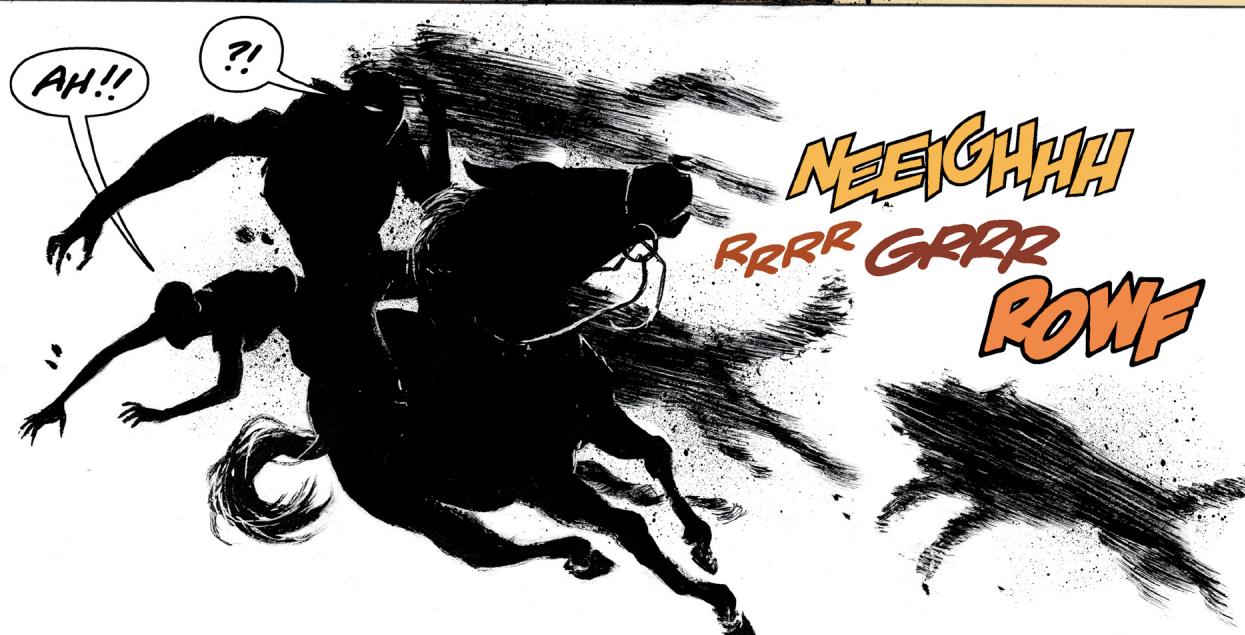
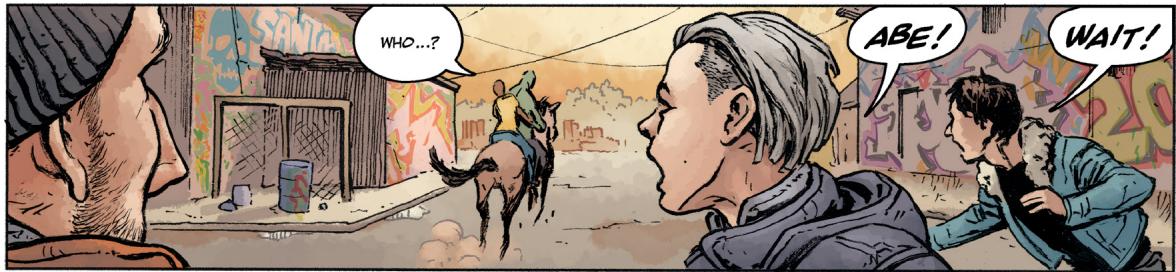




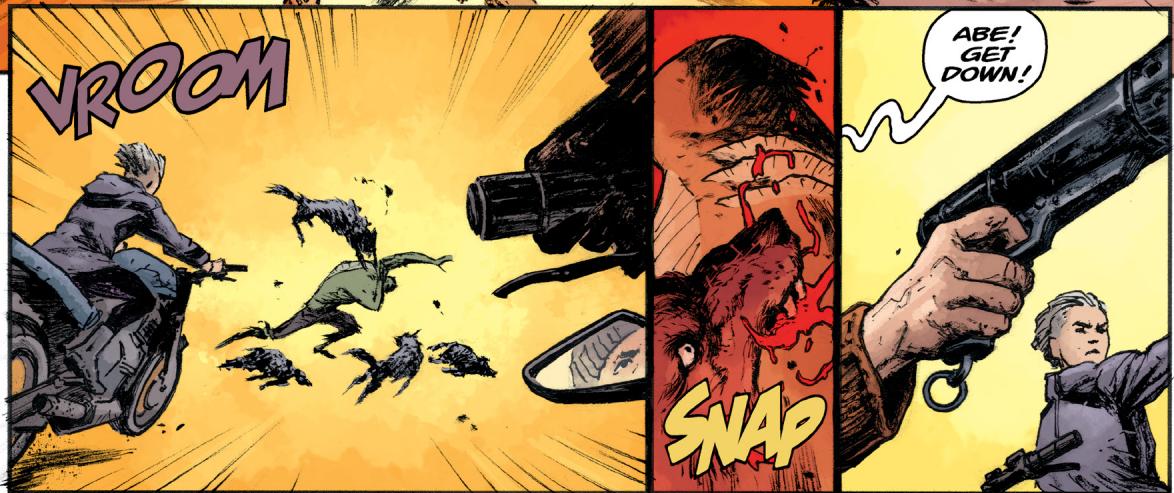


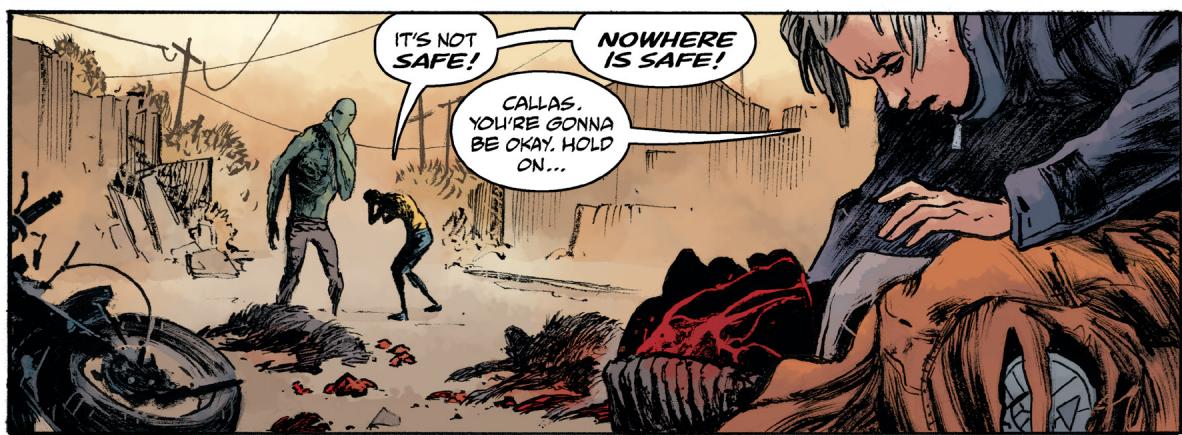


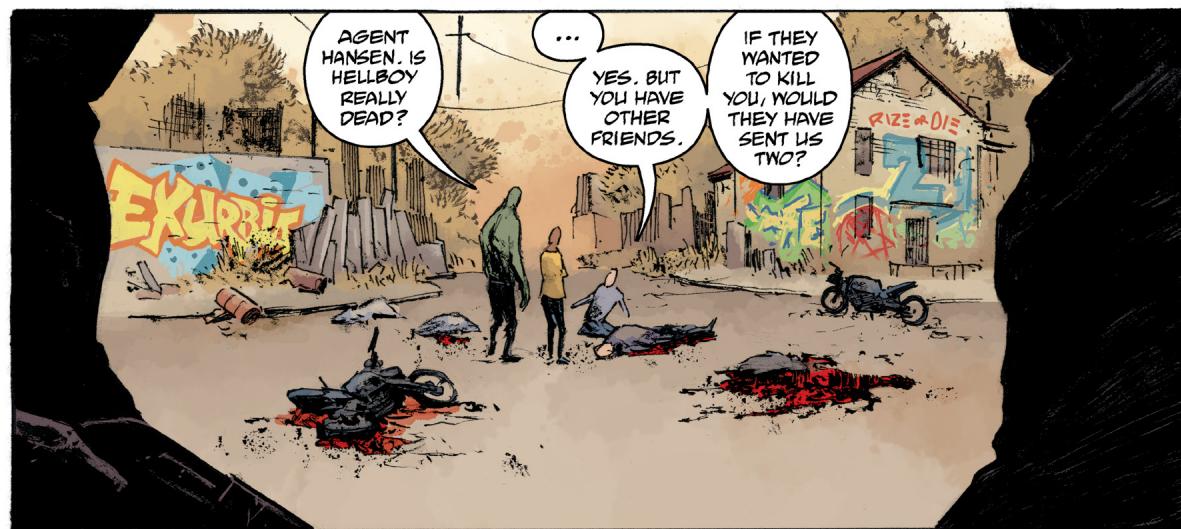
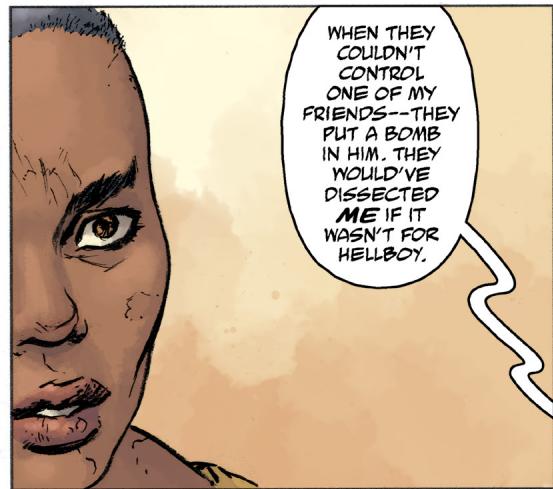
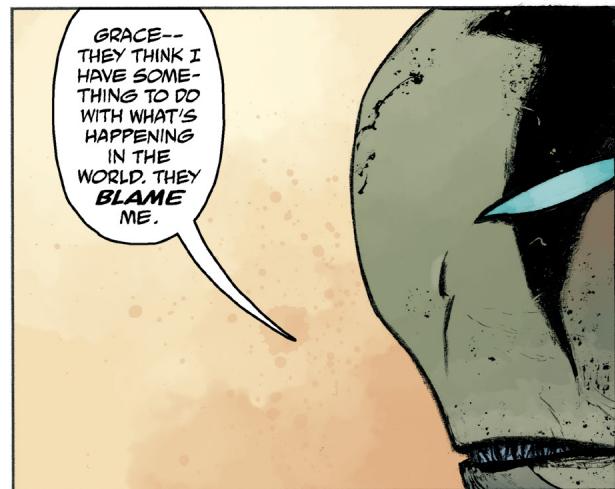


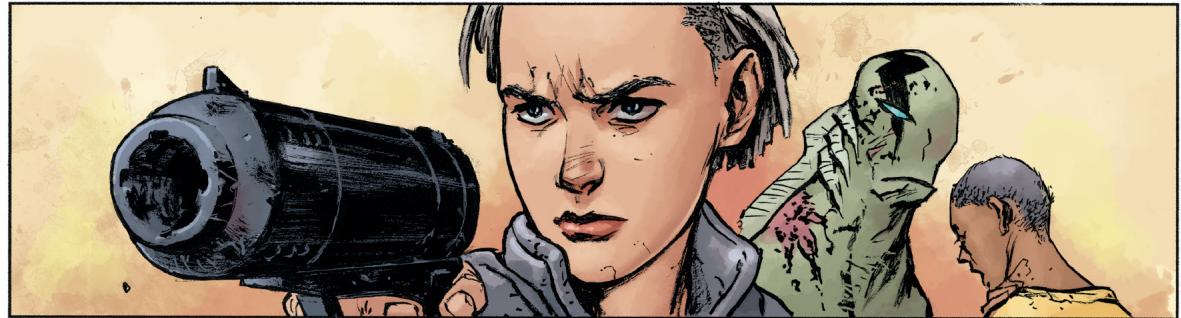


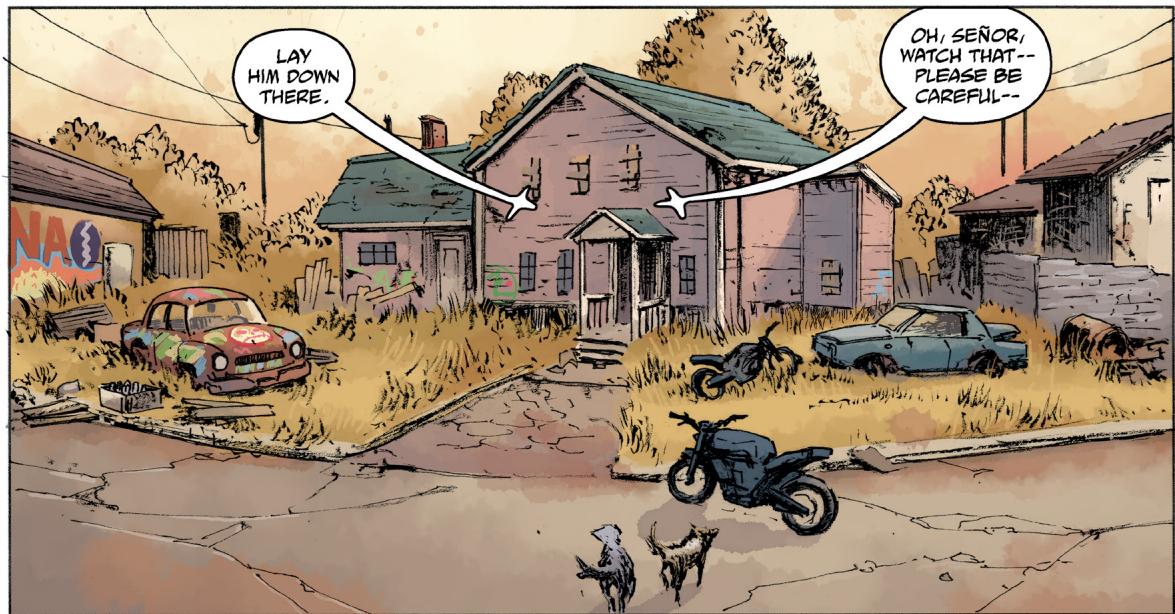
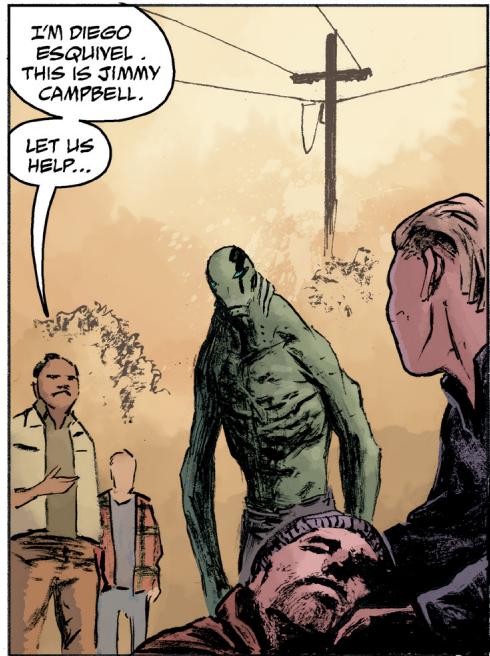




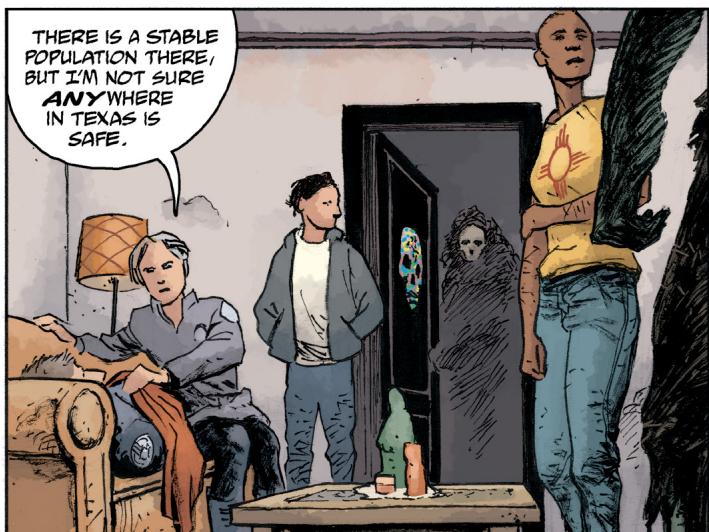




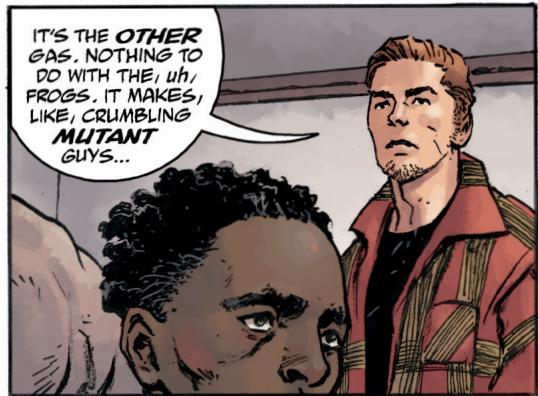












DIEGO
DIDN'T SAY I
MISS MY
HUSBAND--JUST
THAT IT WAS HARD,
AT FIRST, TO
PAY FOR THIS
PLACE.

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.

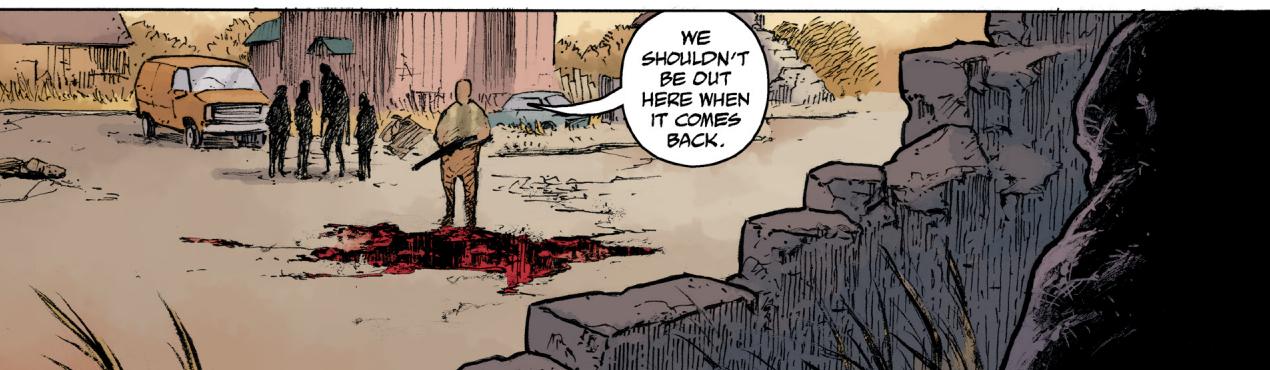
I DON'T THINK
YOU WANT TO
BE AROUND
ANYONE BUT
ME.

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

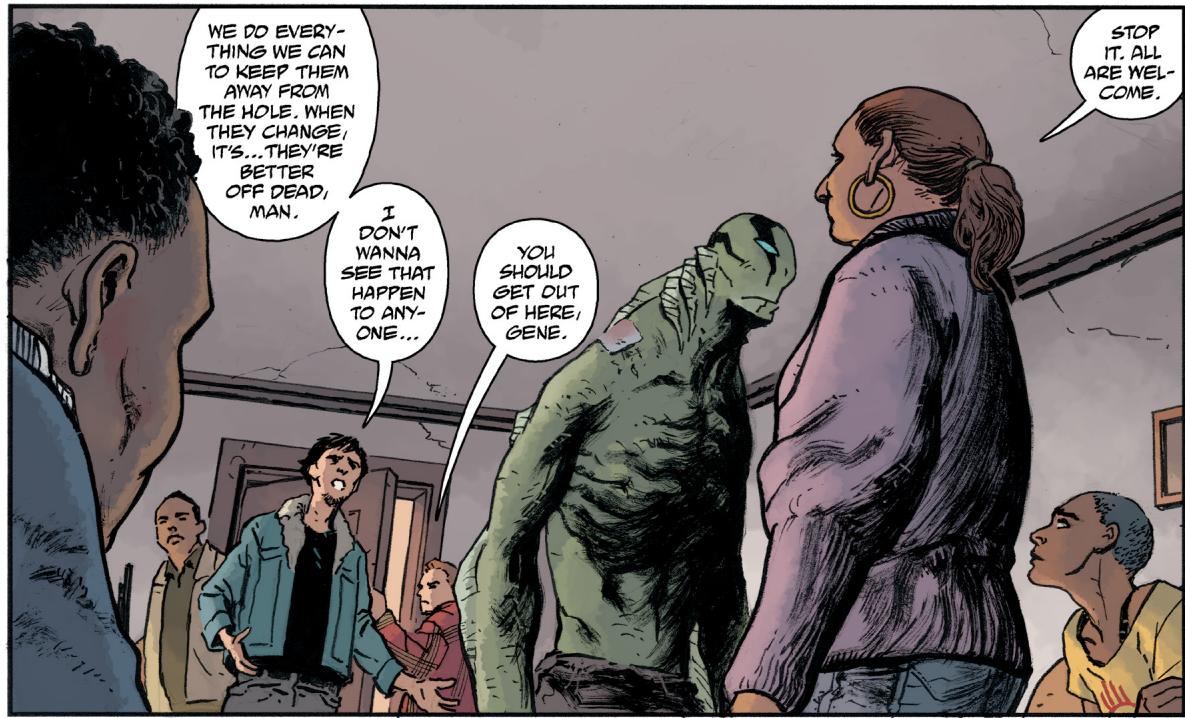
THEY
HAD A
MONSTER.
YOU WANTED
TO HELP THEM.
ANYONE WANTS
TO HELP US!
YOU WANT TO
RUN.

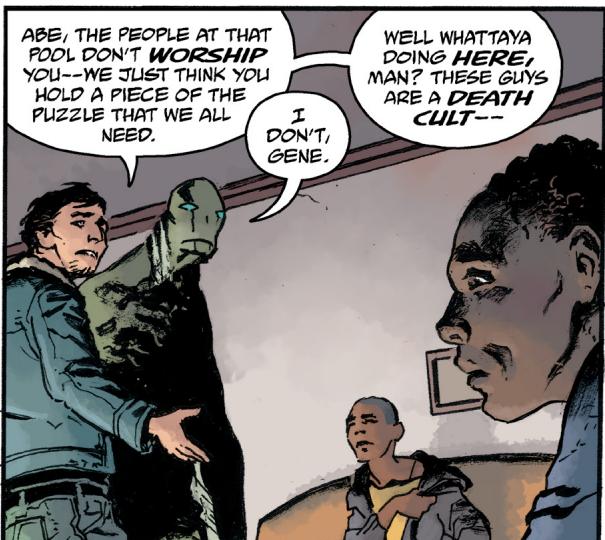
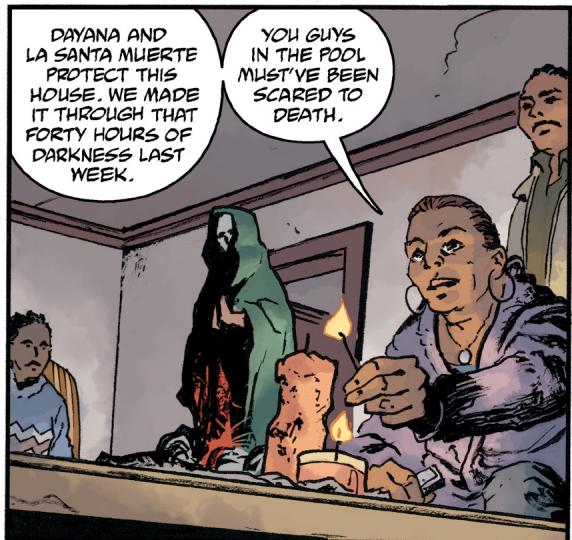
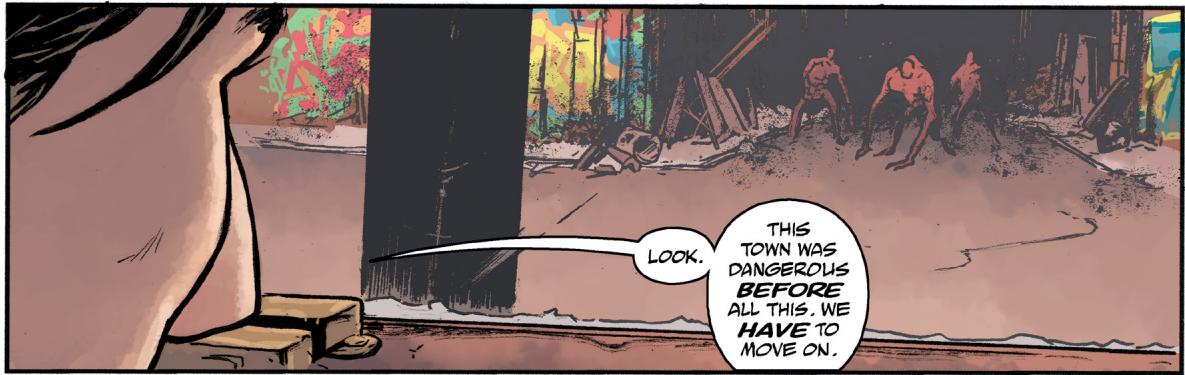
GRACE.
I CAN TAKE
CARE OF
US.

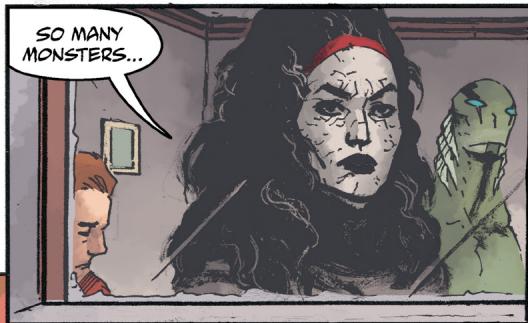


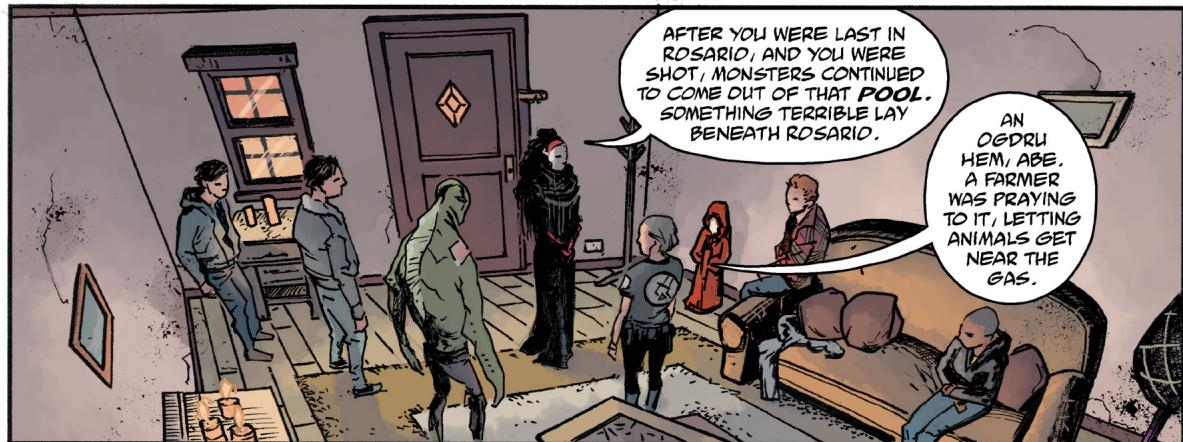
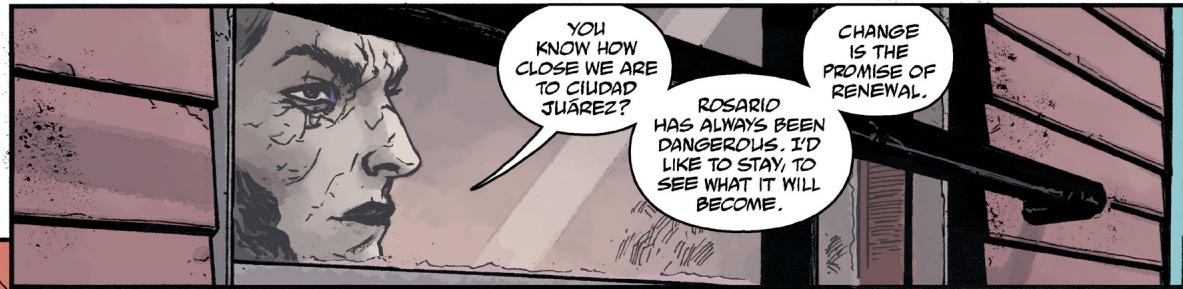








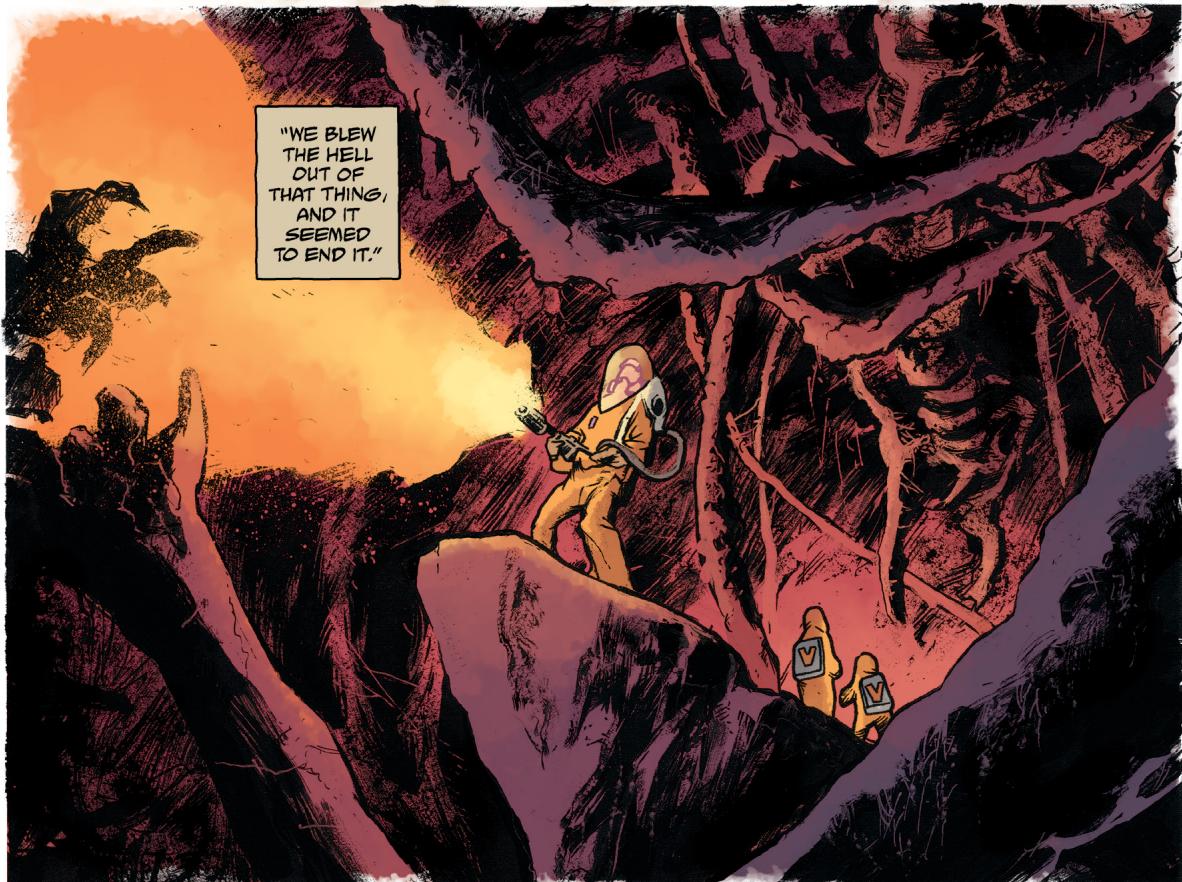




"HE KNEW ENOUGH TO STEER CLEAR HIMSELF, BUT THEN HE'D SLAVE OVER THESE THINGS, CARE FOR THEM AS BEST HE COULD, EVEN THOUGH WHAT HE WAS DOING WAS KILLING THEM."



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



NO MORE HAMMERHEADS, AT LEAST.

LATER THERE WAS MORE GAS, THOUGH, AND MANY MORE PEOPLE WERE TRANSFORMED.

THE NATIONAL GUARD KILLED EACH OF THEM.

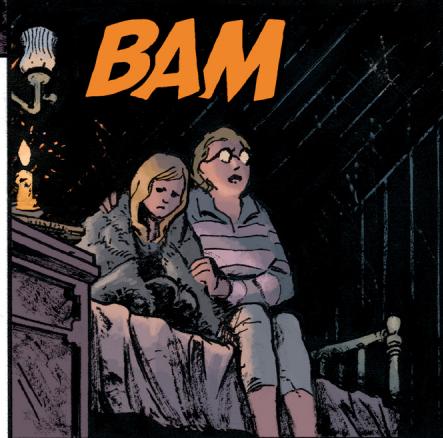
THEY WERE BETTER OFF, TRUTH TO TELL.

FEW STAYED HERE AFTER THAT...

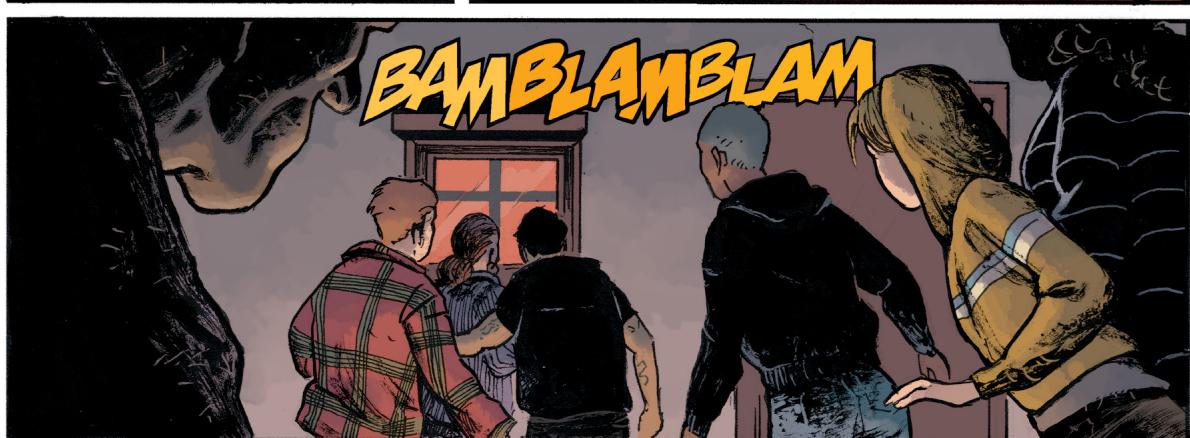
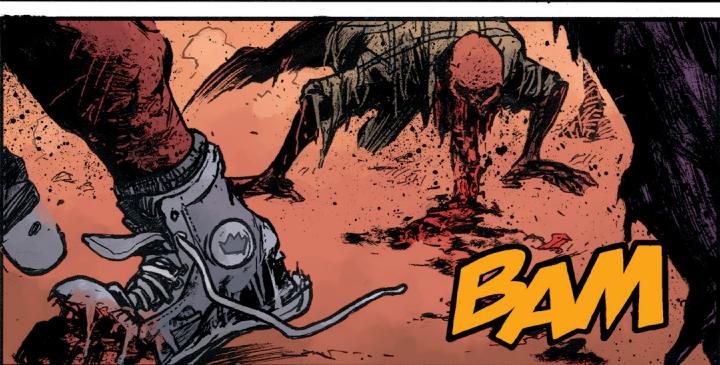


"...BUT AMONG US WERE SOME...SOME PEOPLE WHO WORSHIPED YOU, ABE. THEN THIS FOOL CAME AND GOT PEOPLE EXCITED AGAIN, CALLING IT A HOLY SITE, DESPITE THE OCCASIONAL GAS."











YOU
BLASPHEMIES!

YOU
KNOW
THIS TO
BE SACRED
GROUND!

IN HER
SAINTED
NAME--

I CAST
YOU OUT!

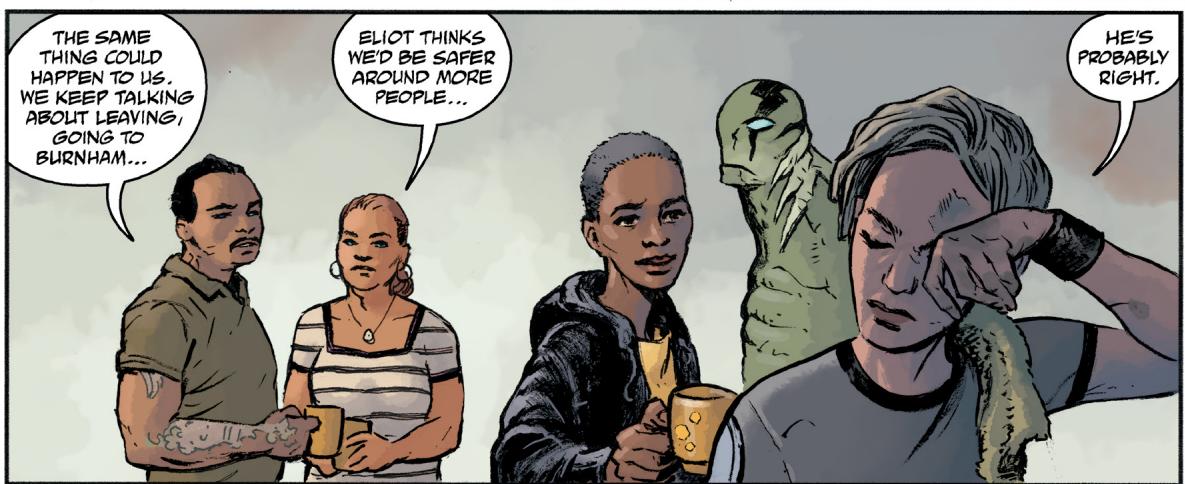
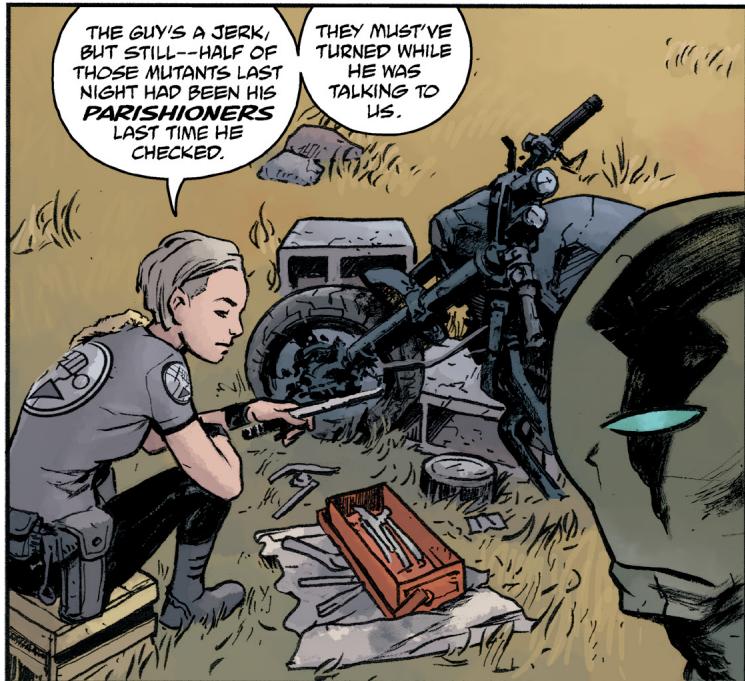
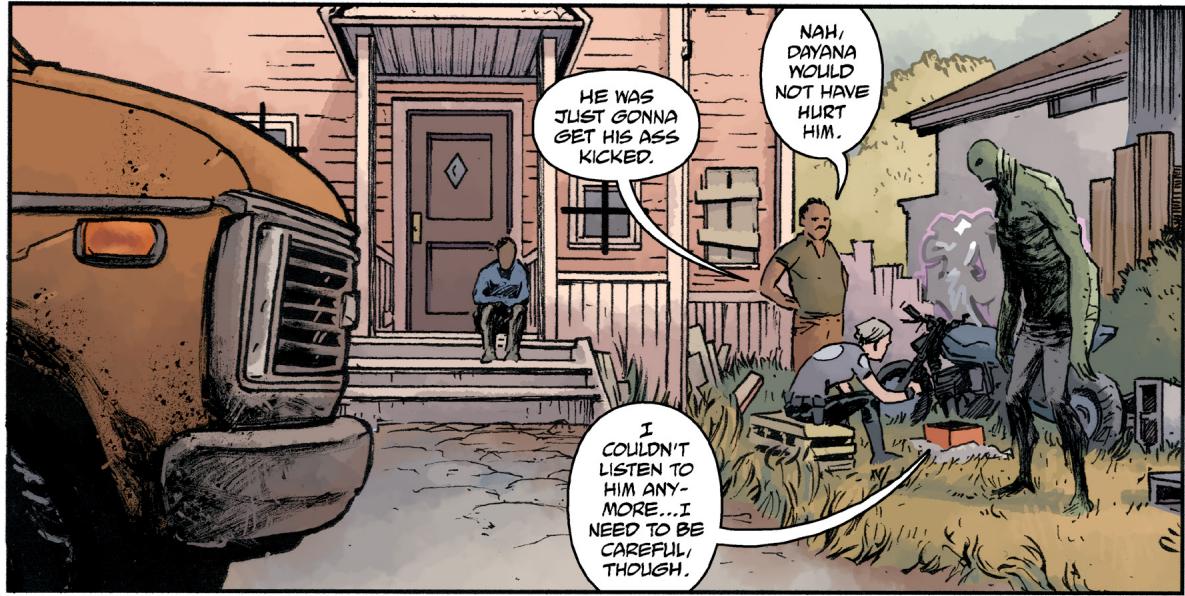
NO! THEY'LL
JUST
GO ON LIKE
THAT!

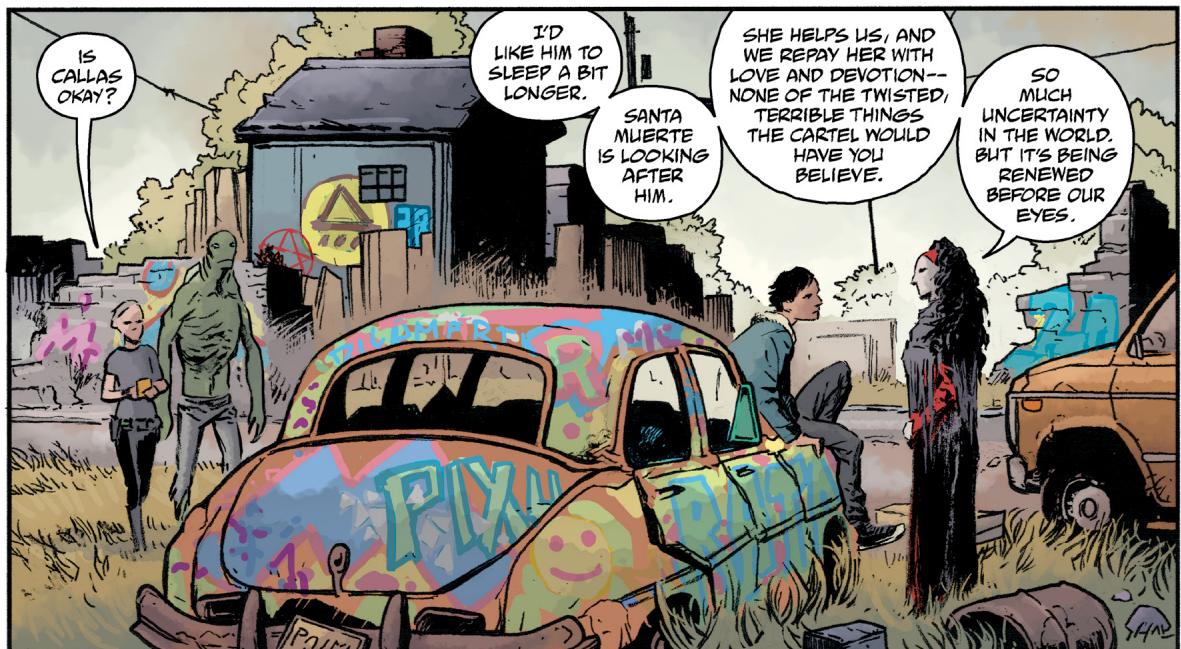
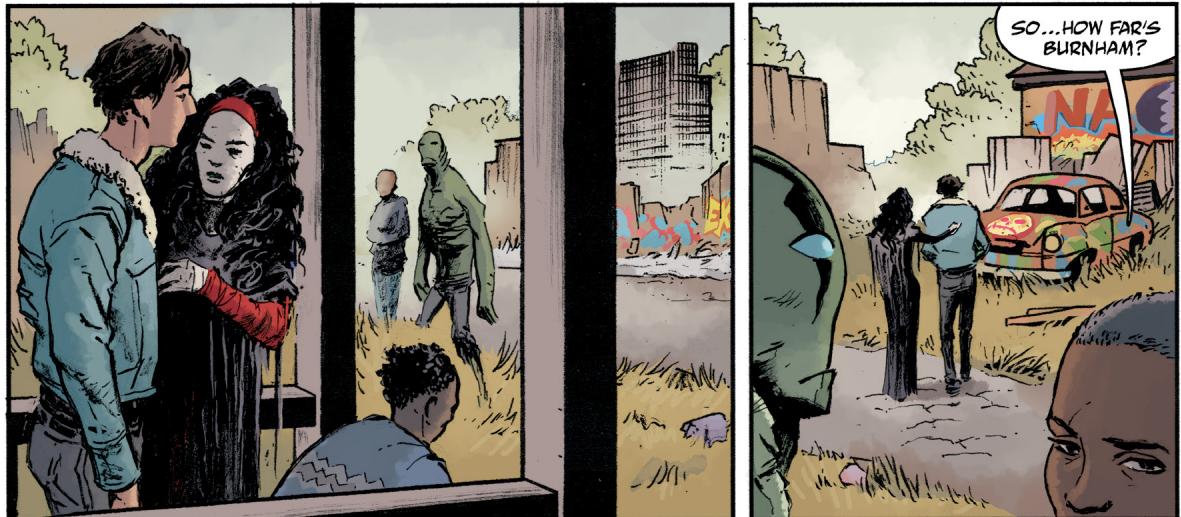
YOU SAID
YOUR-
SELF
THEY'RE
BETTER
OFF
DEAD!

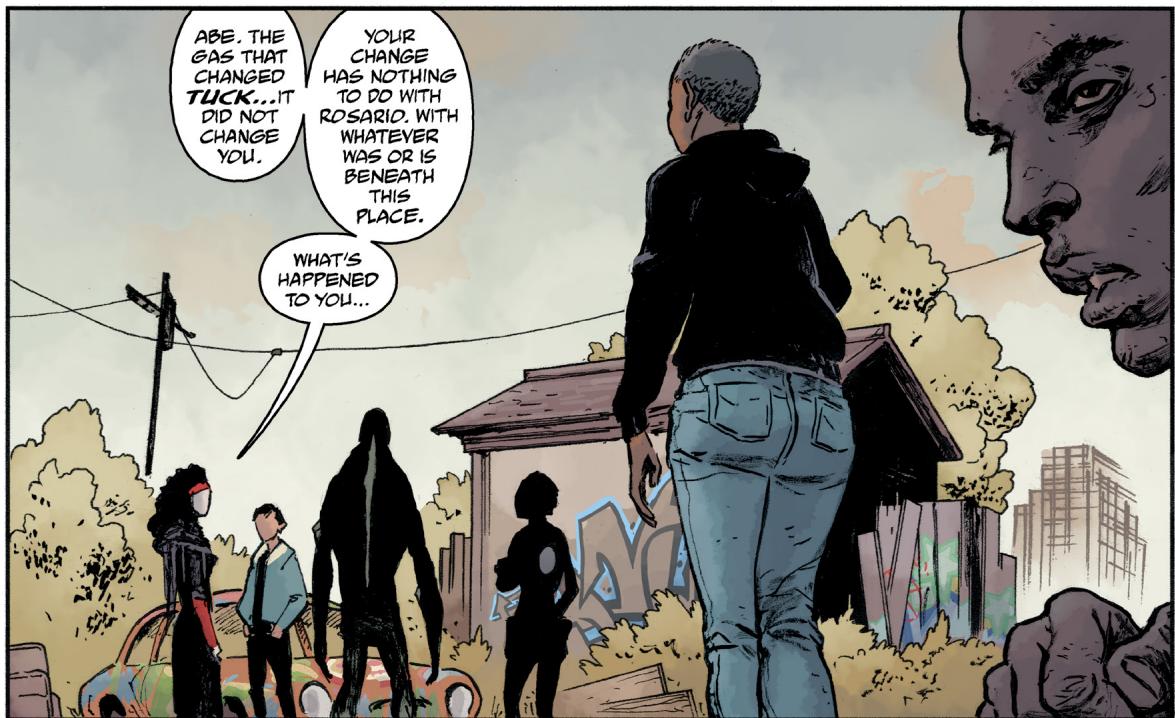
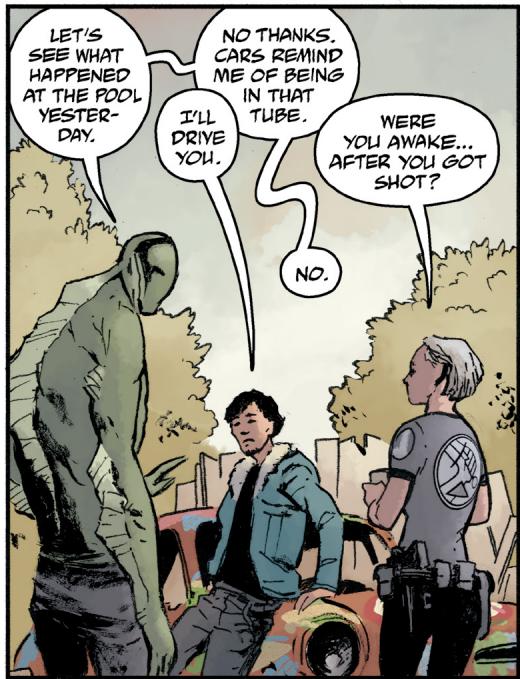
DO YOU LIFT
A FINGER
TO HELP--
TO END
IT--?

BAM

WAK







IT'S FAR
BIGGER THAN
ROSARIO.

IF YOU WANT
TO KNOW, YOU
SHOULD GO
HOME.

PRIVATE
POOL

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.

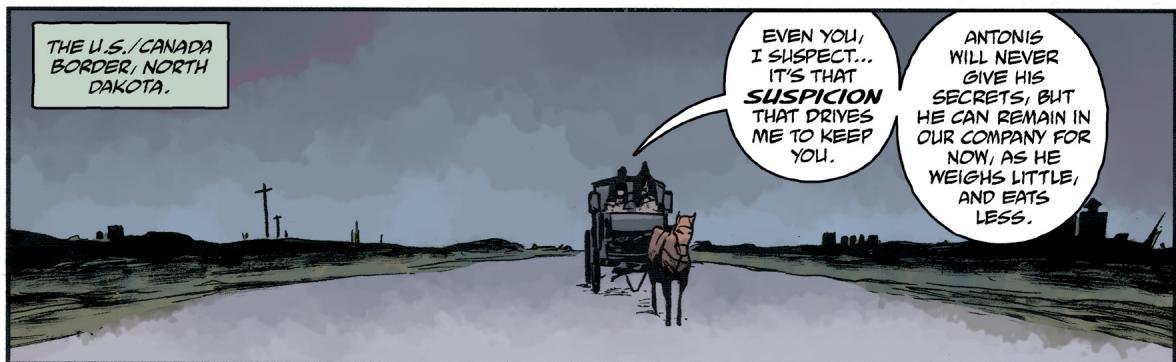
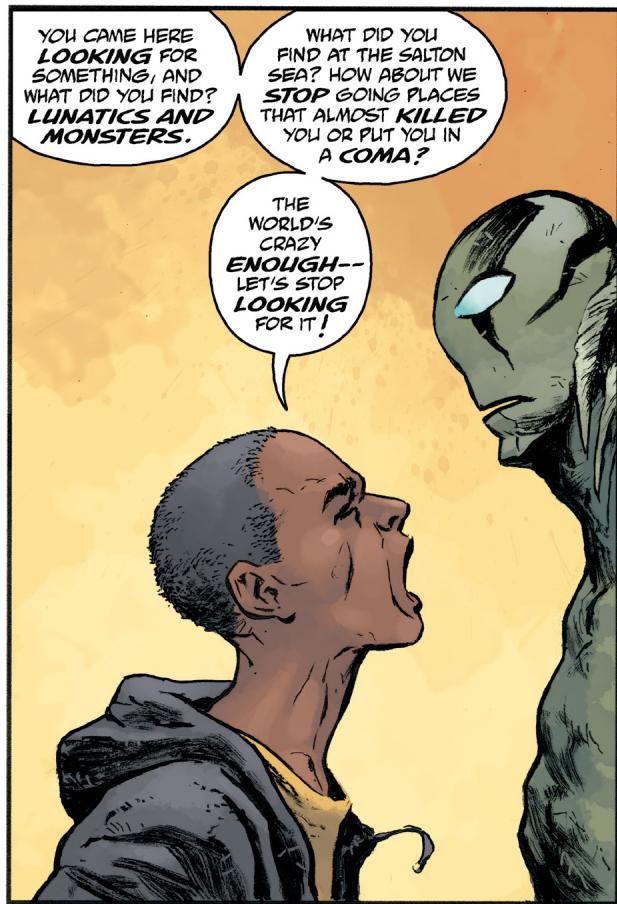
AYE AYE,
CAPTAIN.
SO...
...NOT GONNA
TAKE THAT
PRIESTESS'S
ADVICE?

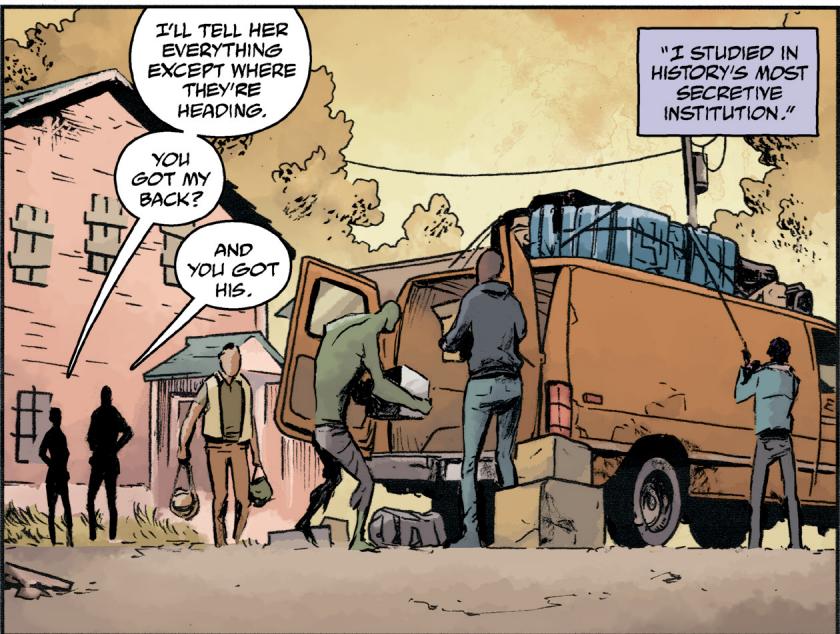












"BUT
THIS
IS THE
SECRET."

"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.

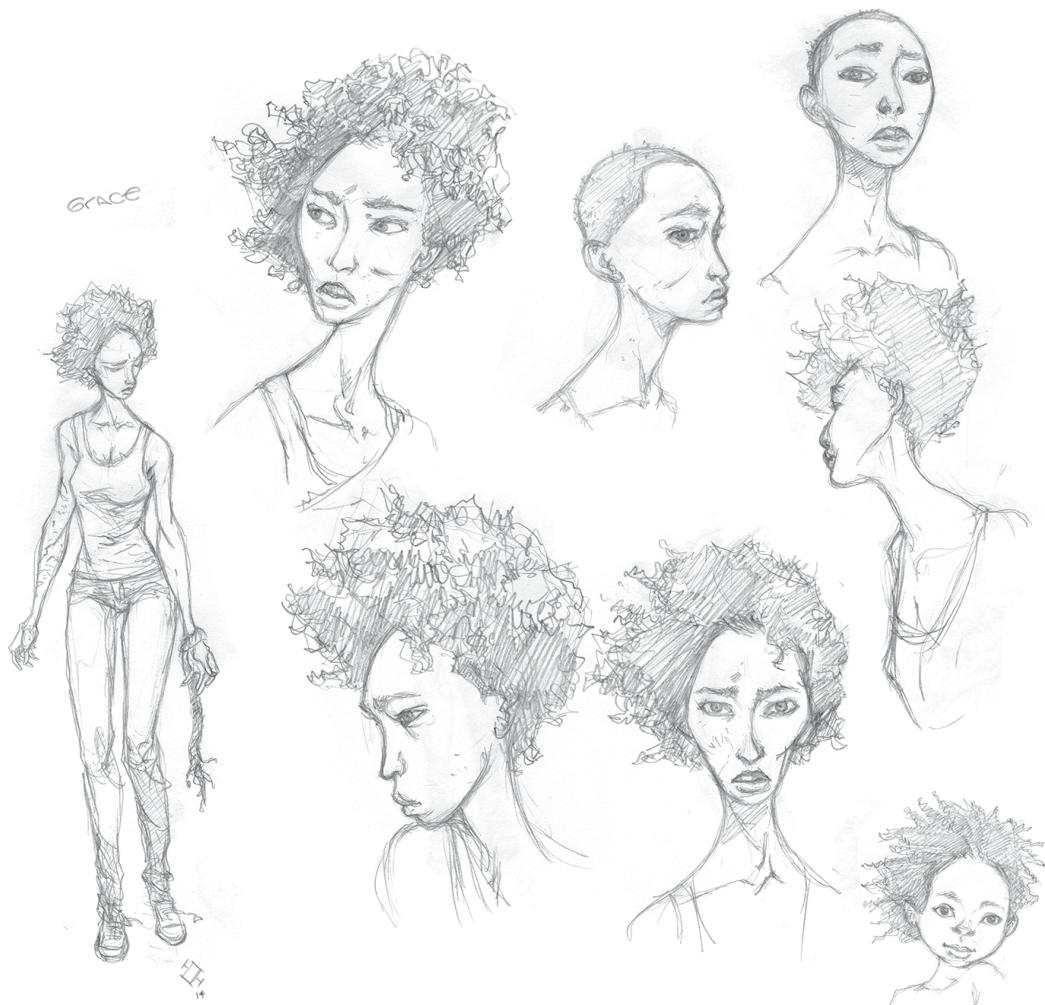
THE
END

ABE SAPIEN™

SKETCHBOOK

Notes by

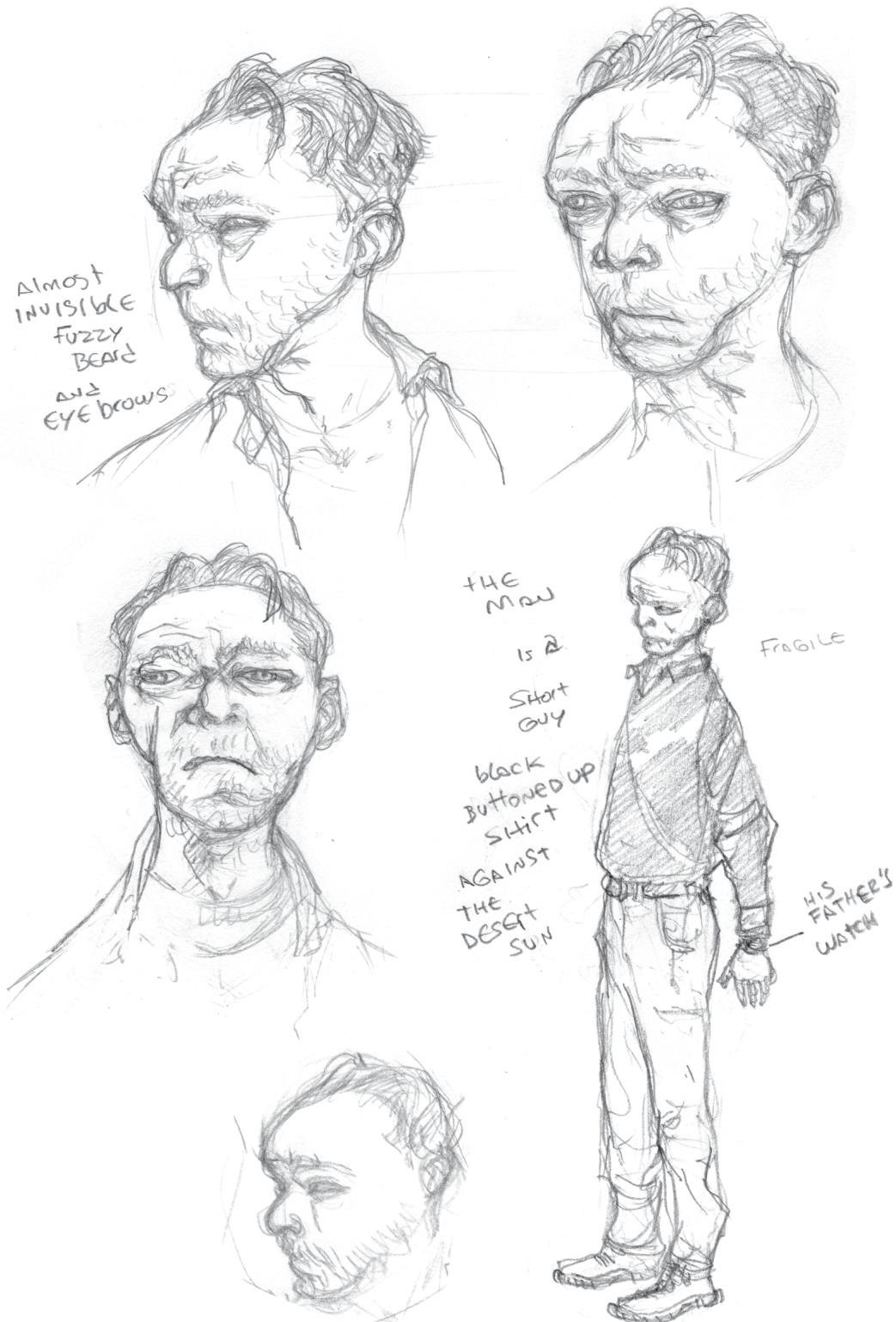
Max and Sebastián Fiumara





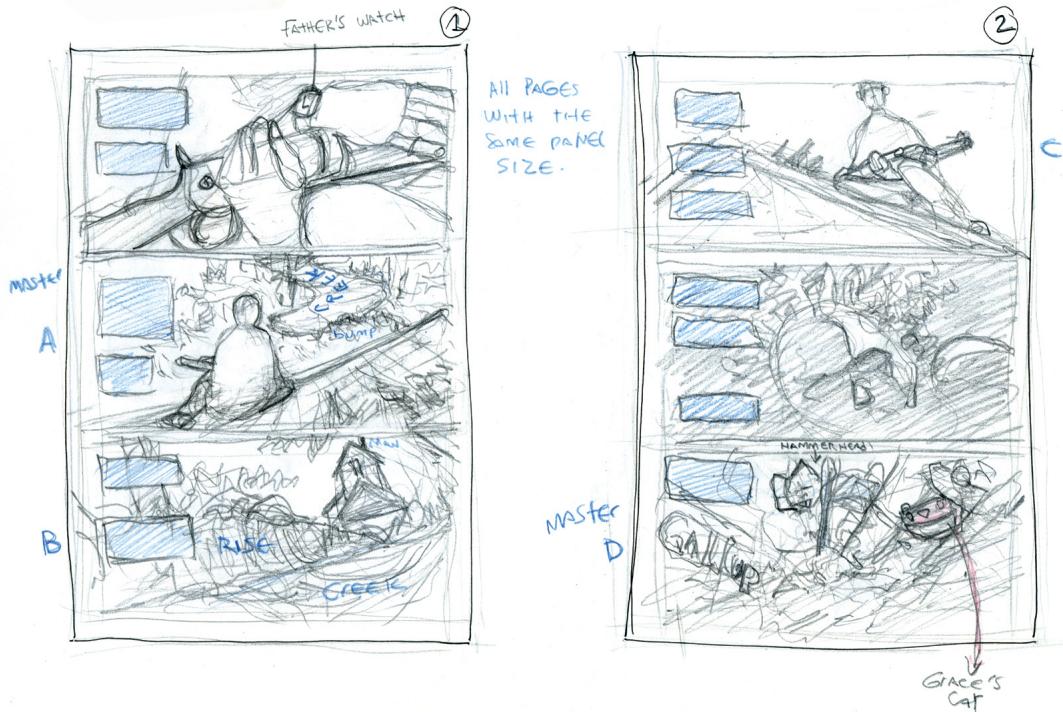
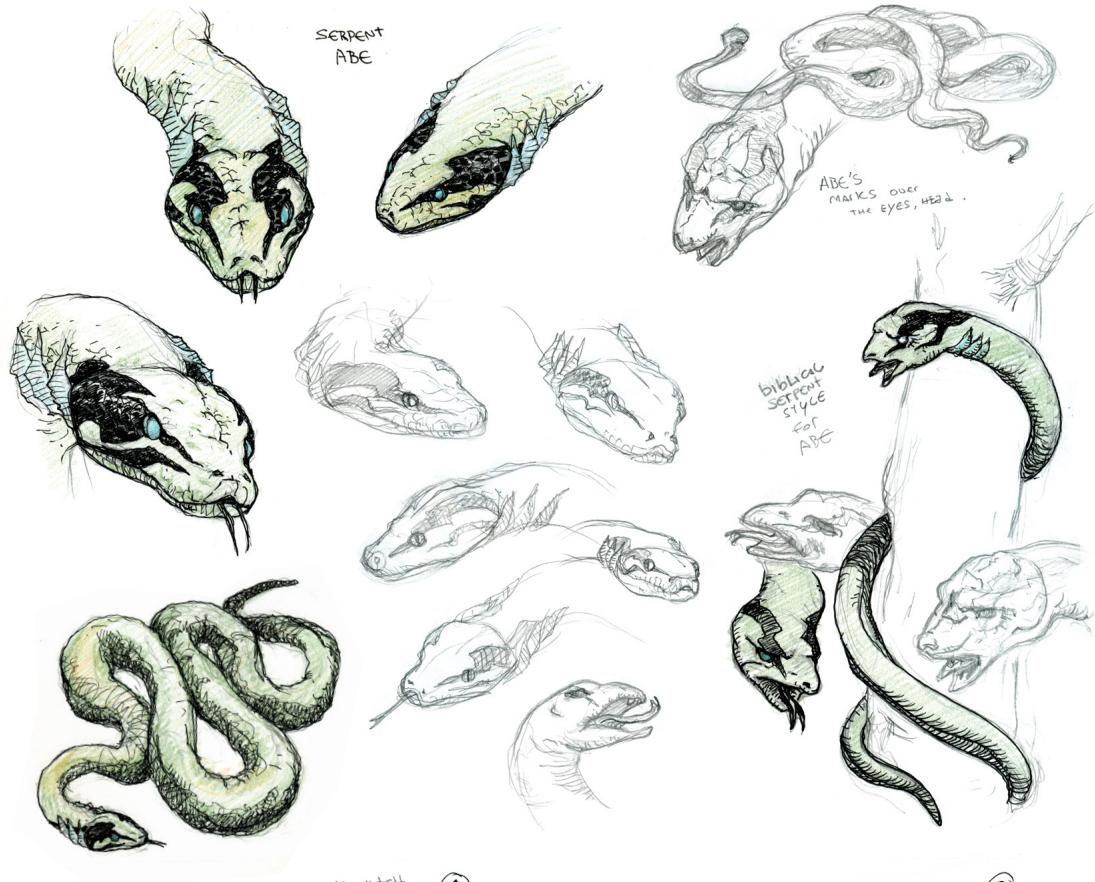
Max Fiumara: These are some attempts at the design for "the Man" in *The Garden*. This guy was tricky, because he is the one that is leading the whole story and he's in most of the panels, so I wanted to make him as iconic as possible.

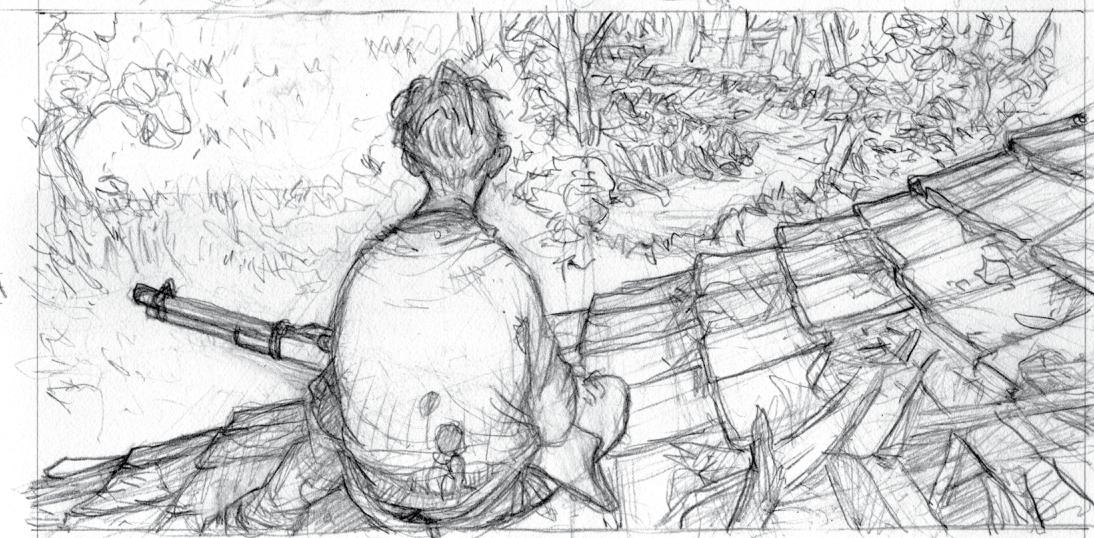
MF: I was never satisfied with any of these different faces, not even the chosen design on this page. I didn't think it played well with how Scott wrote him. It only started to make sense once I drew him on the pages. Sometimes it doesn't work until you put the character in context and make him interact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



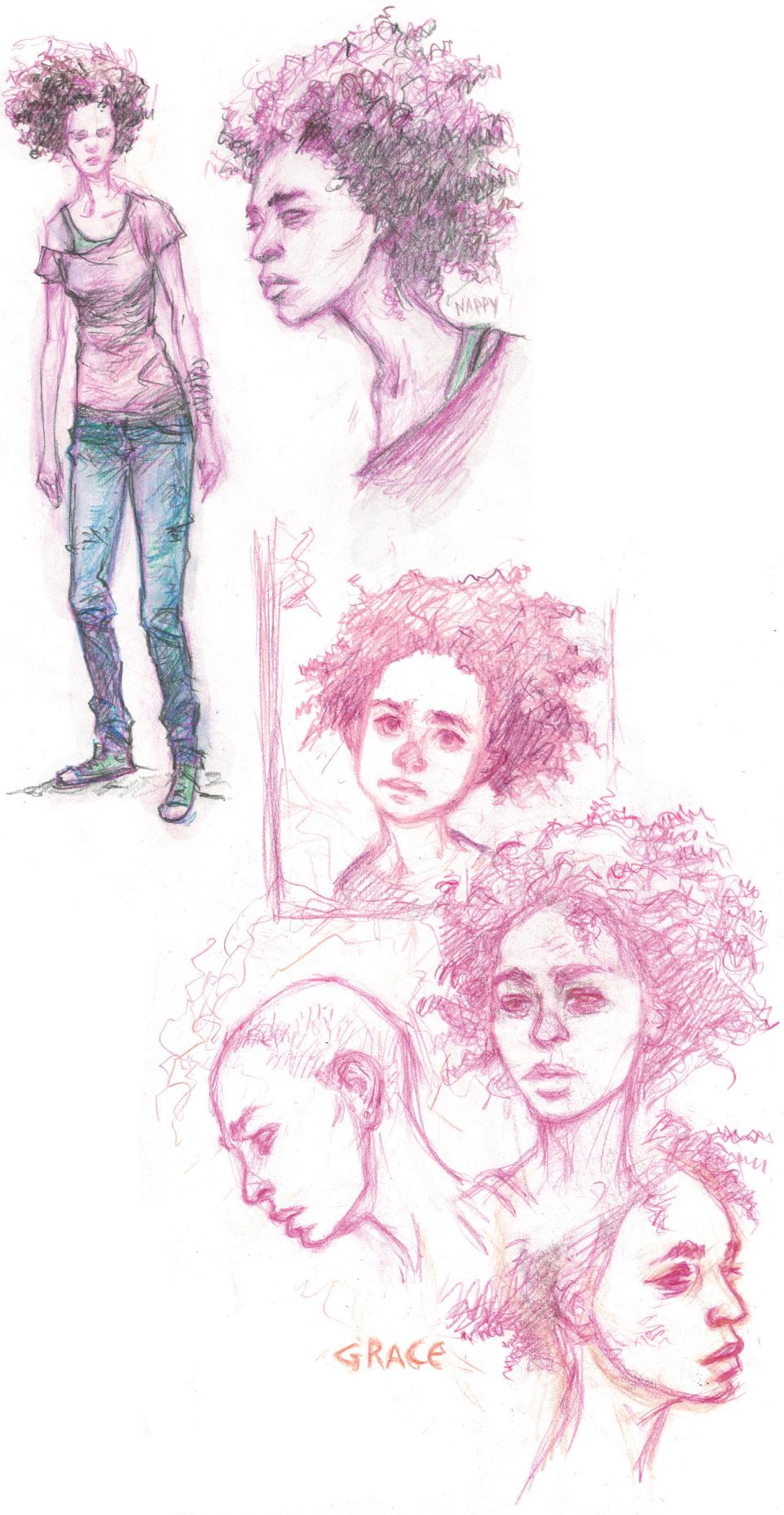
MF: There was a lot of talk about whether or not to depict Abe as a serpent, since the Man sees him as the serpent in the Garden of Eden. Finally we decided to draw the serpent in a very important, climactic panel, and it worked really well.

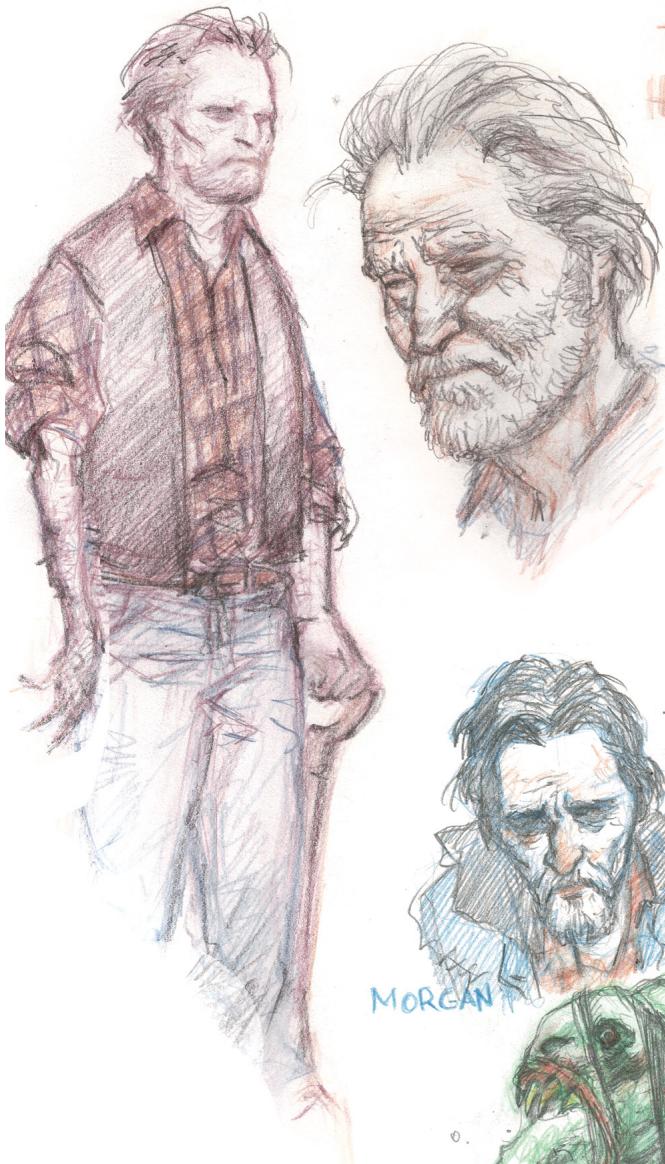
Here are designs for the serpent Abe, some more realistic and some more like biblical depictions. The realistic snake was the one we used for the story.





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!

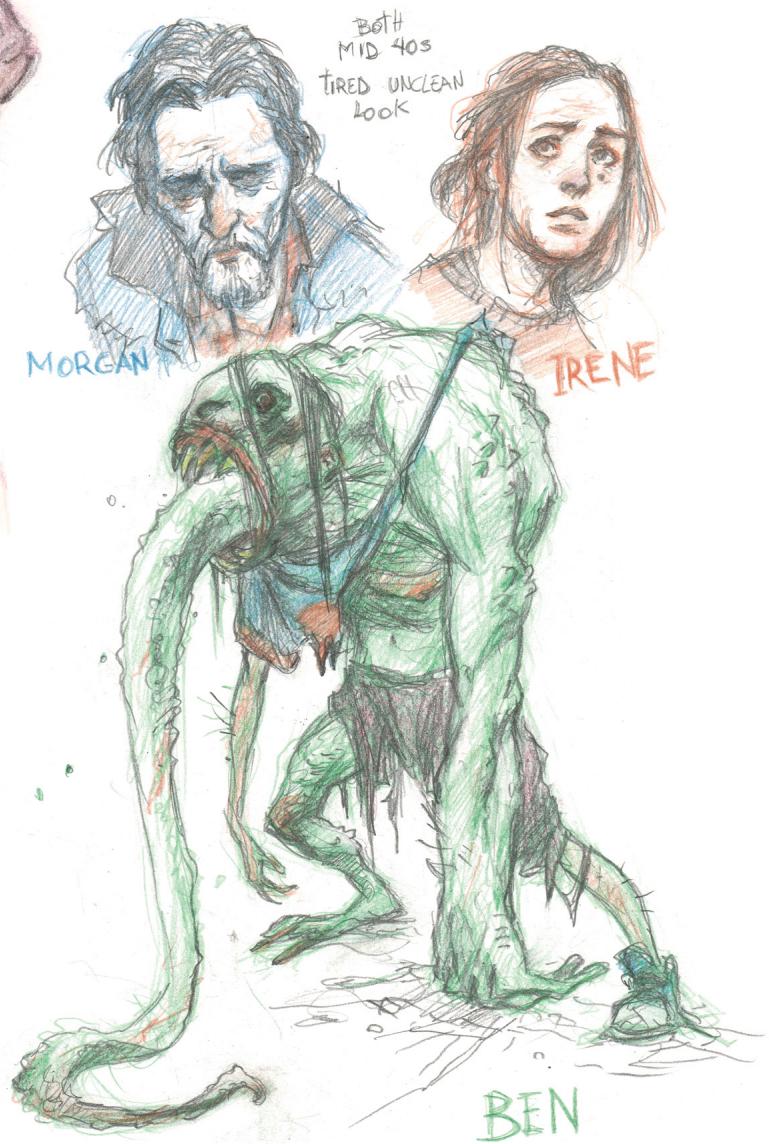




THE
HEALER

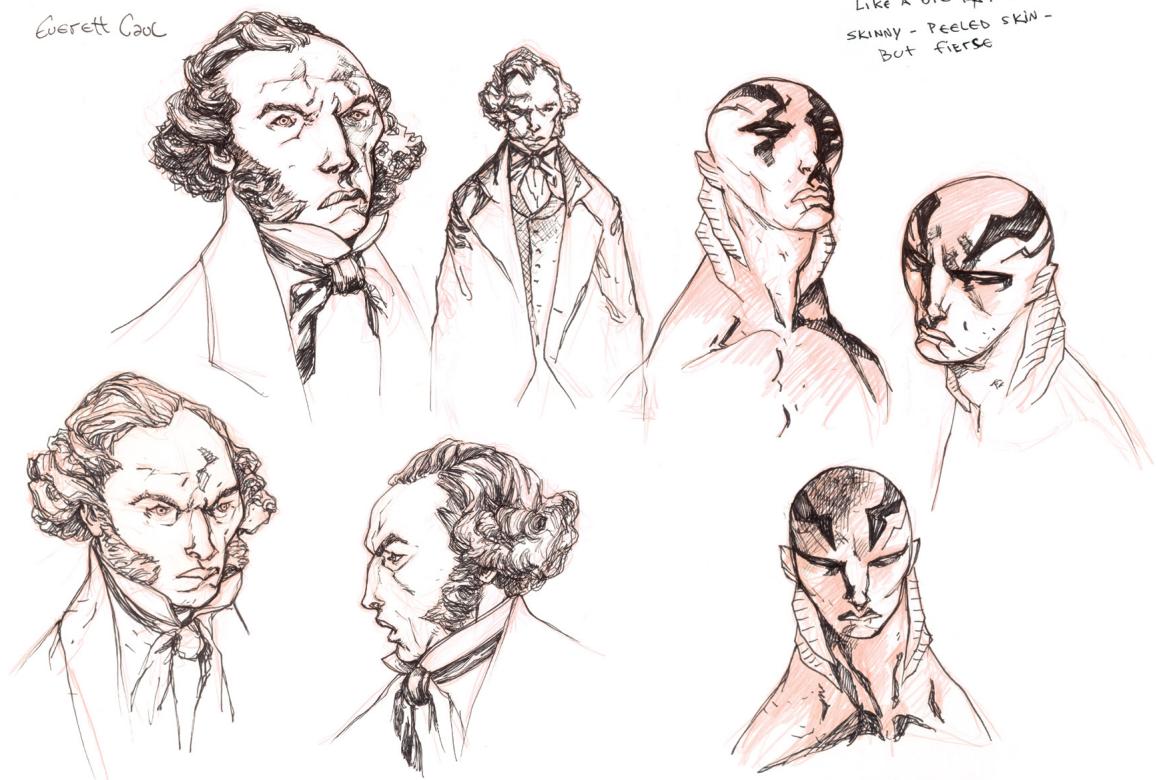
Sebastián's character designs for *The Healer*.

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

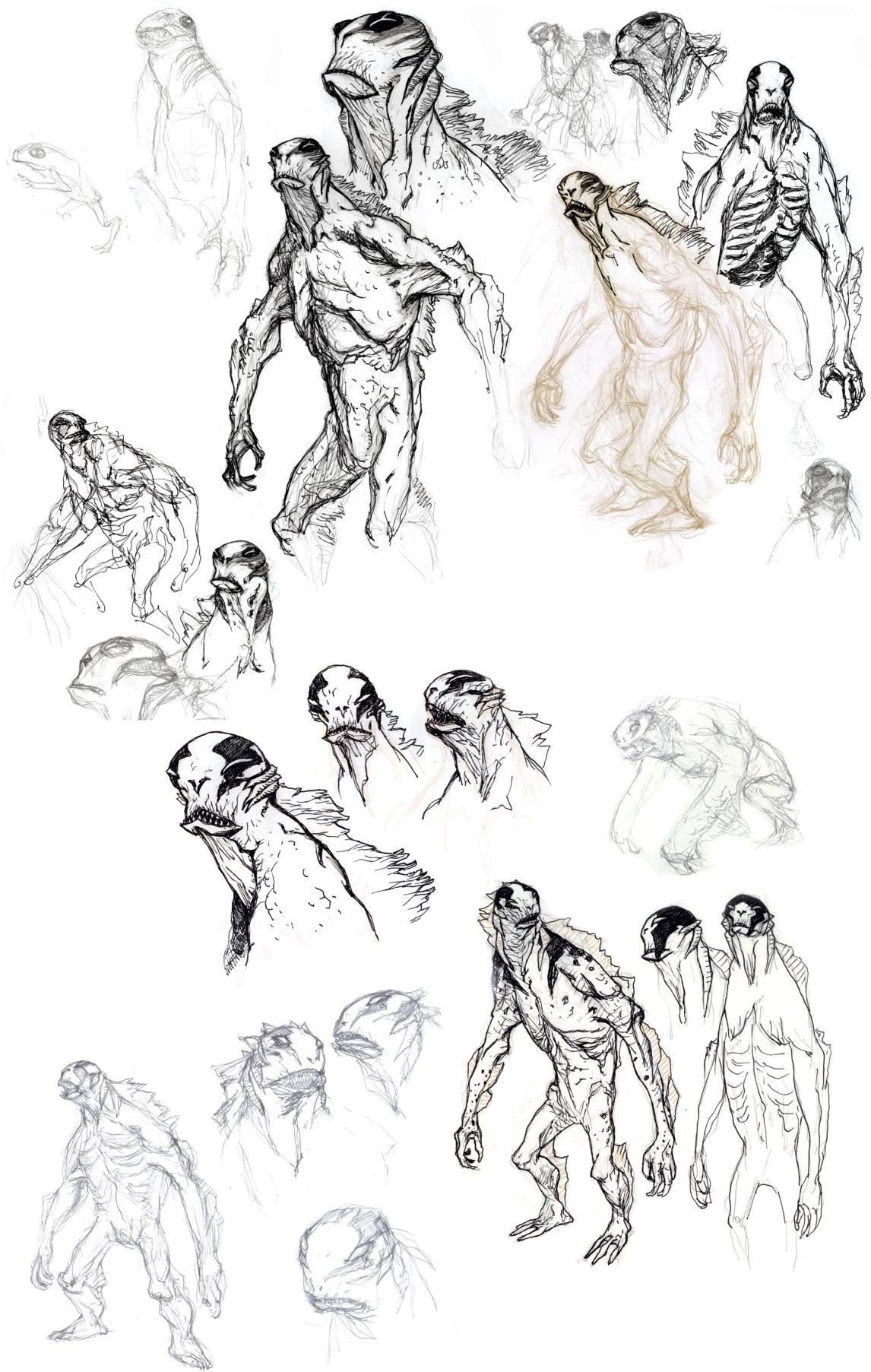


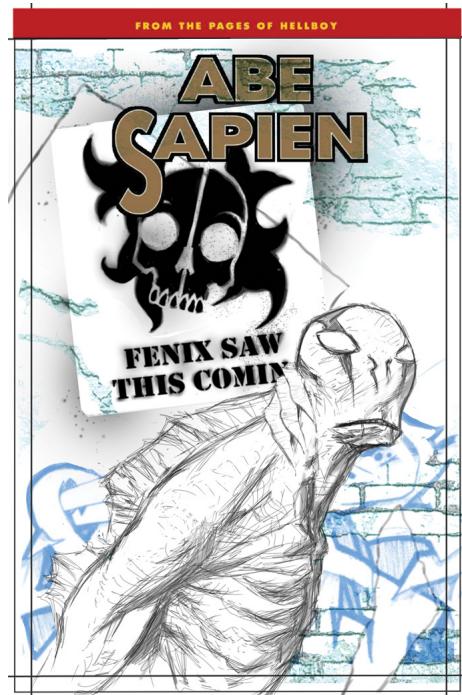
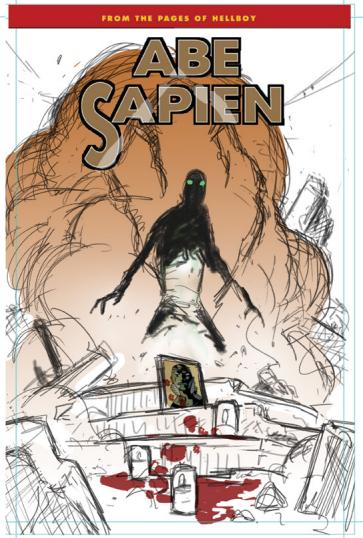
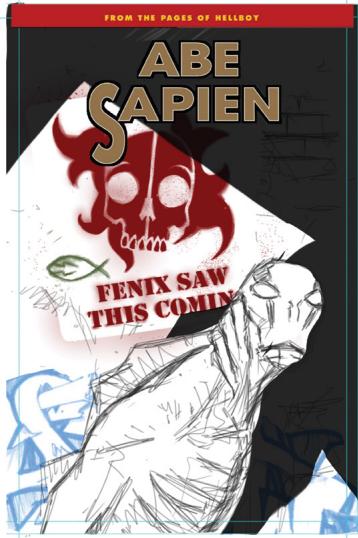
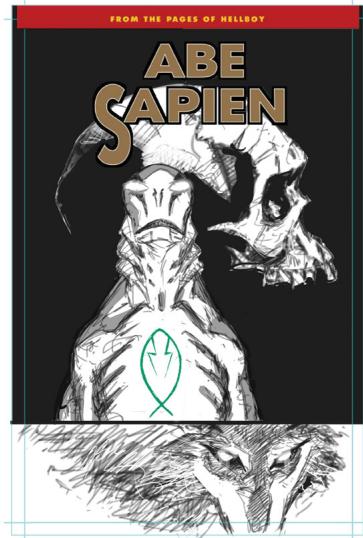






MF: Caul was a lot of fun. I loved him in every *B.P.R.D.* story he was featured in, and it was great to draw him in this story. Classic Abe is hard to do. I feel like the Abe that I'm doing in this series is the Abe for me; I can relate a bit more to him. Drawing classic Abe is trying to make him look 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.



DARK HORSE COMICS ART BOARD

TITLE: ABE SAPIEN

ISSUE: 16

ARTIST:

TIUMARA S.

PAGE: COVER





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.



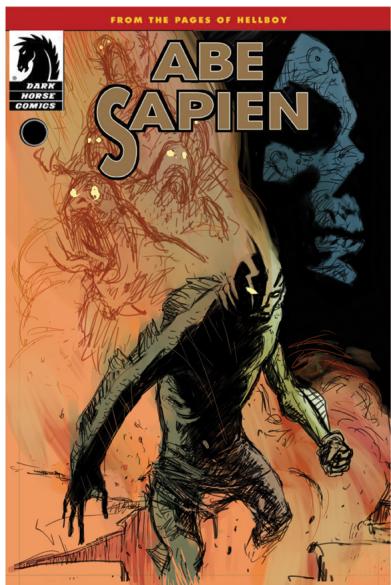
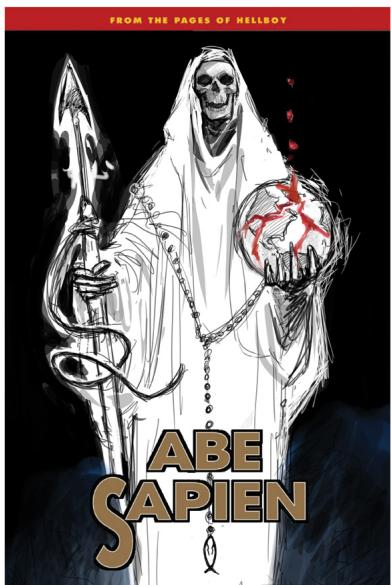
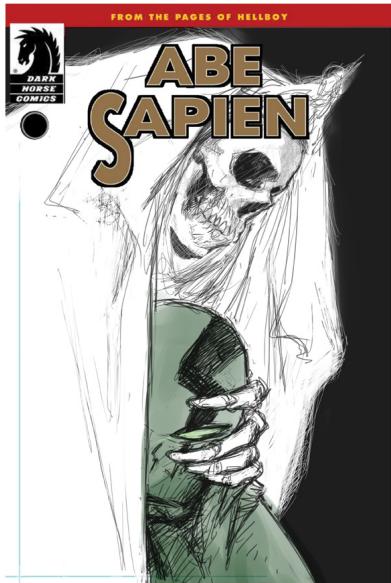
BATO

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

