

FROM THE PAGES OF HELLBOY

ABE SAPIEN



A DARKNESS SO GREAT

MIKE MIGNOLA SCOTT ALLIE

MAX FIUMARA SEBASTIÁN FIUMARA DAVE STEWART

ABE SAPIEN™

CREATED BY
MIKE MIGNOLA



A DARKNESS SO GREAT



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™

A DARKNESS SO GREAT

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Published by Dark Horse Books
A division of Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
10956 SE Main Street
Milwaukie, OR 97222

First print edition: July 2015
ISBN 978-1-63008-235-2

Abe Sapien Volume 6: A Darkness So Great

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This volume collects *Abe Sapien* #18–#22.



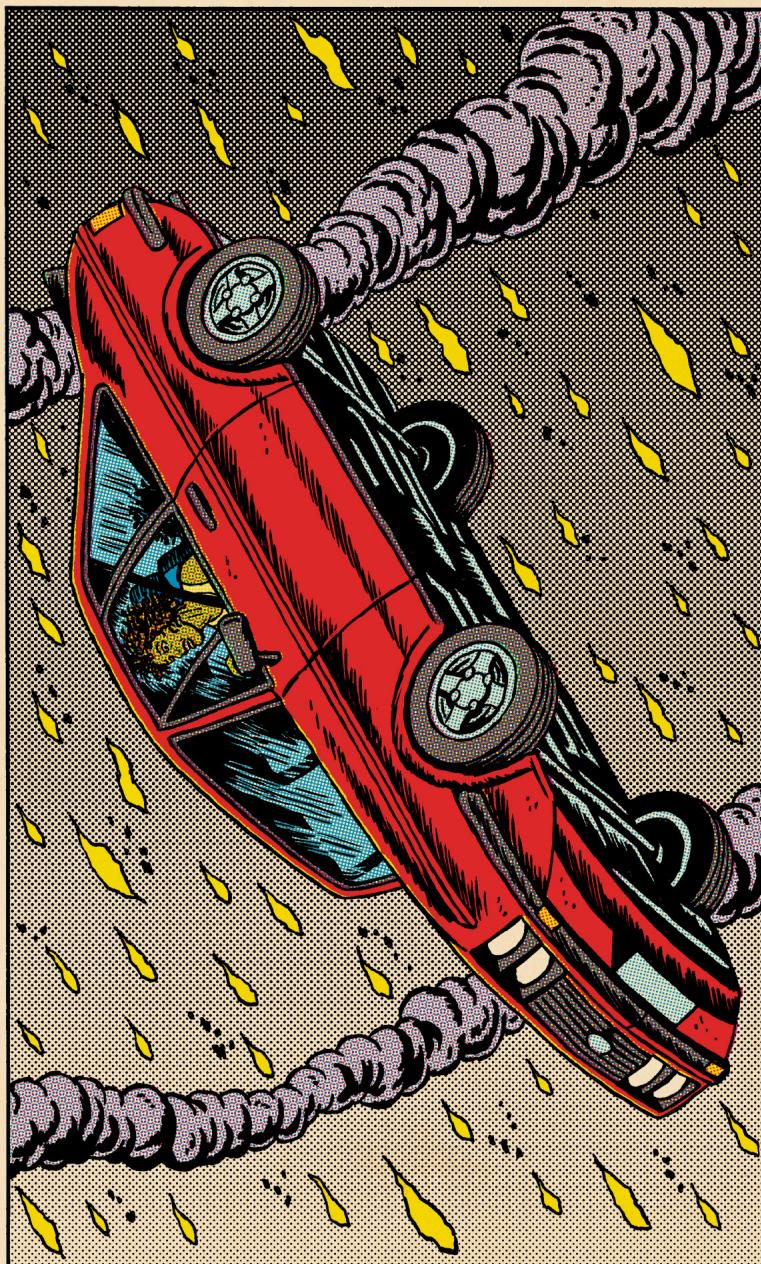
GRACE



After losing her family in Gallup, New Mexico, Grace was held prisoner in an abandoned house by a delusional man. She was rescued by Abe Sapien and followed him through Arizona into Texas, never revealing the extent of her tragedy. Now traveling with a small Santa Muerte cult, Grace hopes to find peace along the Texas Gulf Coast.

YOU WALKED AWAY FROM SOMETHING SO **TERRIBLE** THAT YOU CAN'T SPEAK OF IT. WHAT HAPPENED THERE LEFT ITS **MARK** ON YOU, BUT YOU CHASE THE THOUGHTS AWAY AS BEST YOU CAN. THIS IS HOW YOU'VE **SURVIVED**-- YOU'VE SEALED YOURSELF AWAY FROM THAT PAST, BUT OF COURSE YOU CARRY IT WITH YOU, A PAIN STILL SO **STRONG**...

A DARKNESS SO GREAT



SILENCE HAS BEEN YOUR RETREAT. YOU HAVEN'T SAID A **WORD** TO THE ONE YOU TRAVEL WITH, THOUGH IT'S ALL HE ASKS OF YOU-- YOUR **STORY**. HE RESCUED YOU FROM A LIVING **HELL**...

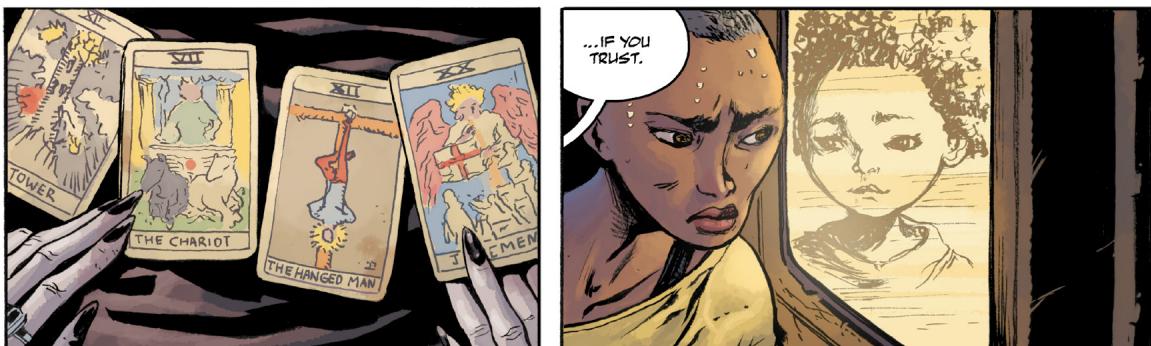
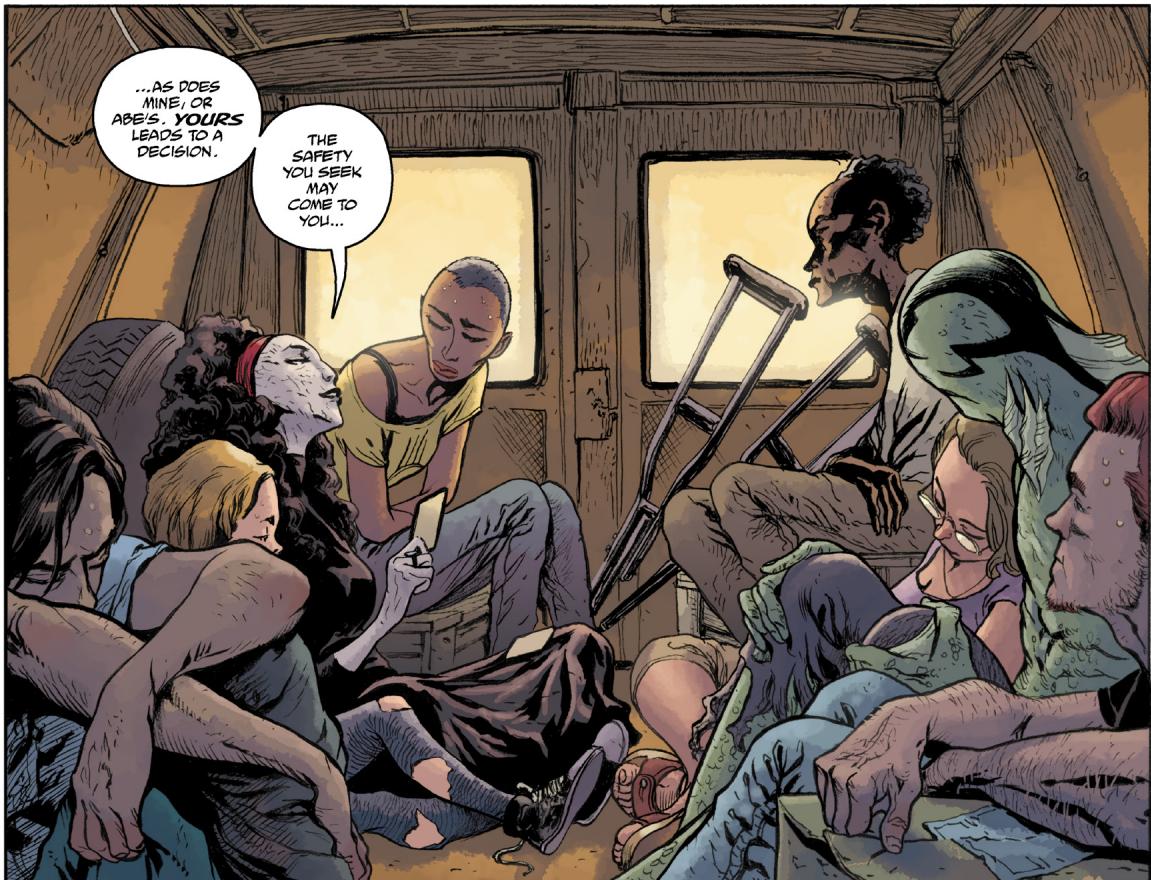


...AND WHAT HAPPENED THERE COULD EXPLAIN THE **SHADOW** THAT HANGS OVER YOU. BUT YOU SAY **NOTHING** TO HIM ABOUT YOUR SECRET TRAGEDY-- AND THERE'S A SHADOW OVER HIM AS WELL.



YOU THINK THAT **PEACE** MAY LIE AHEAD, IN THIS NEXT TOWN. WE ALL THINK THAT, BUT **YOUR** JOURNEY LEADS...



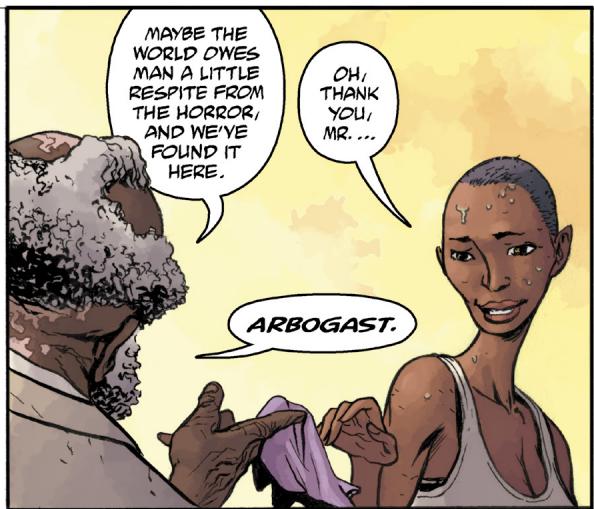
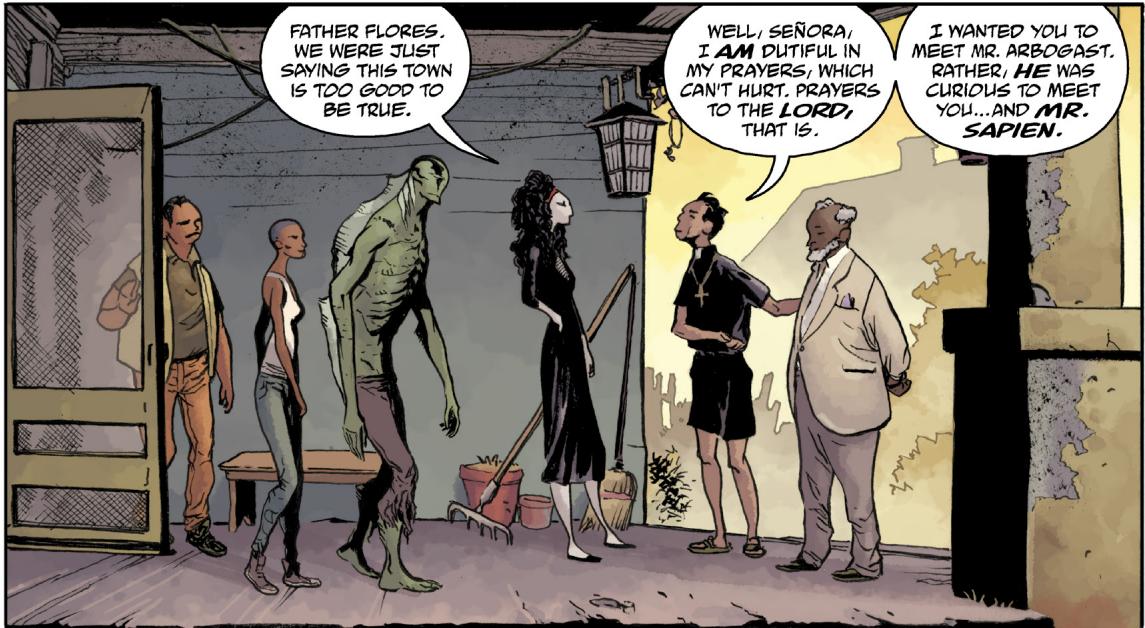


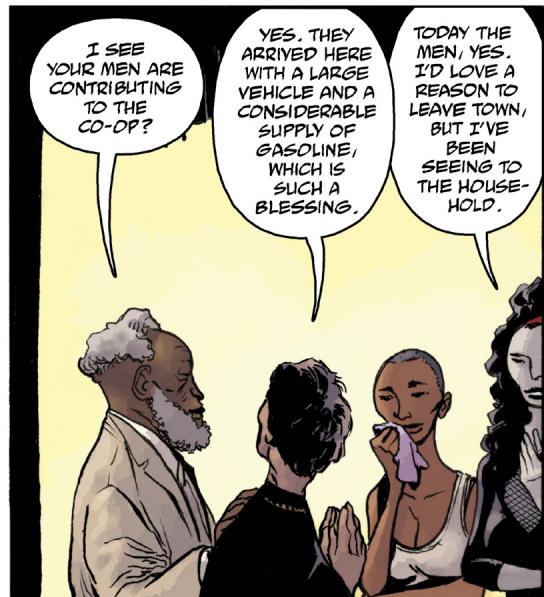


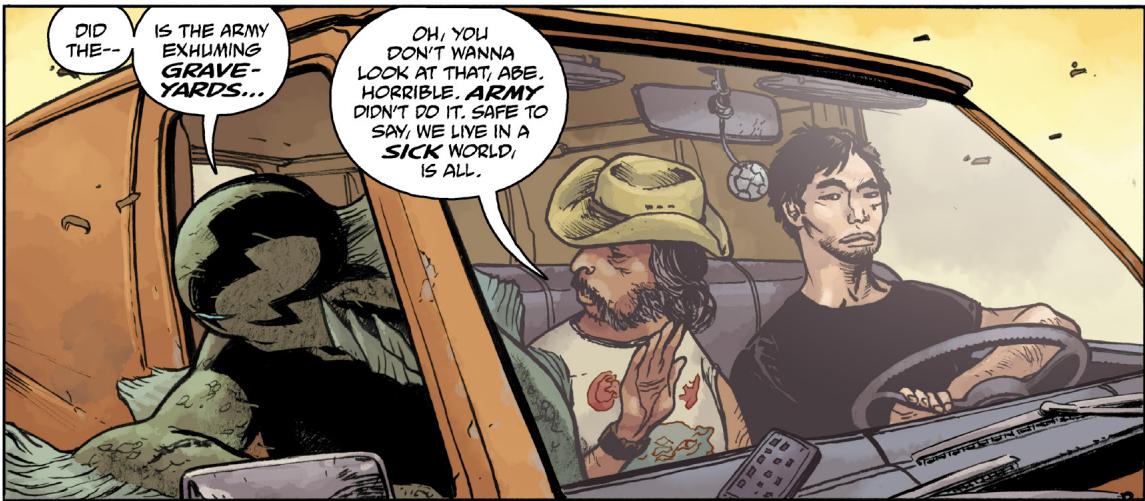
SIX DAYS
LATER.



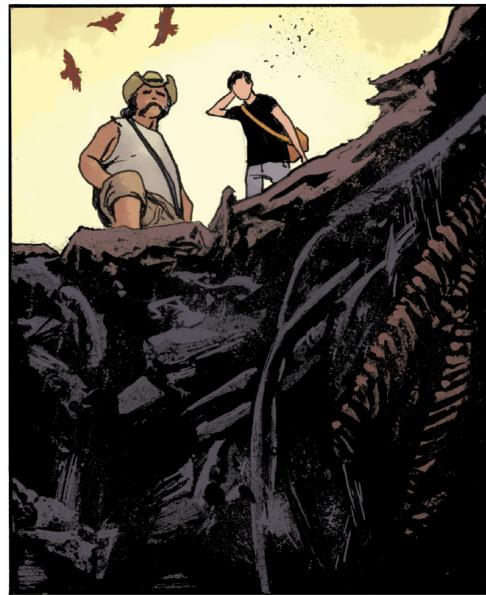












WE
SHOULD
TAKE THE ONES
THAT AREN'T
SHREDDED.

HISS

SHHHFLE

THNNK

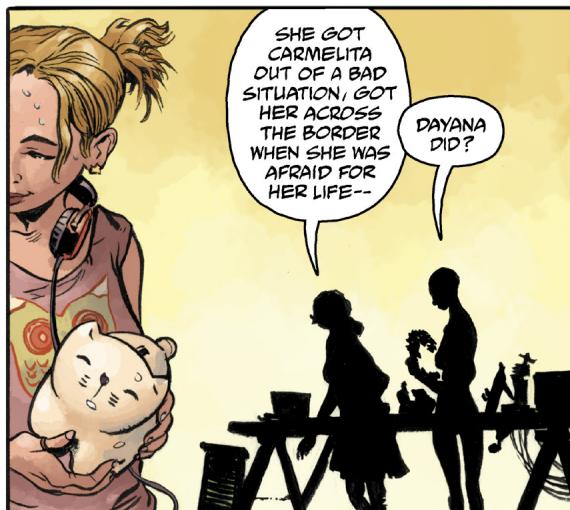
SHHFE
SHRUK

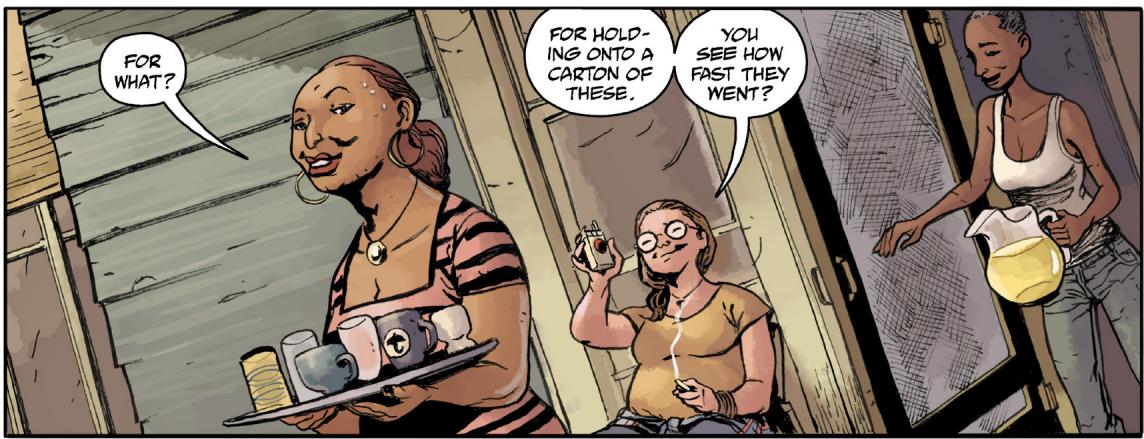
SHFFF

SHREEE
SHHHK

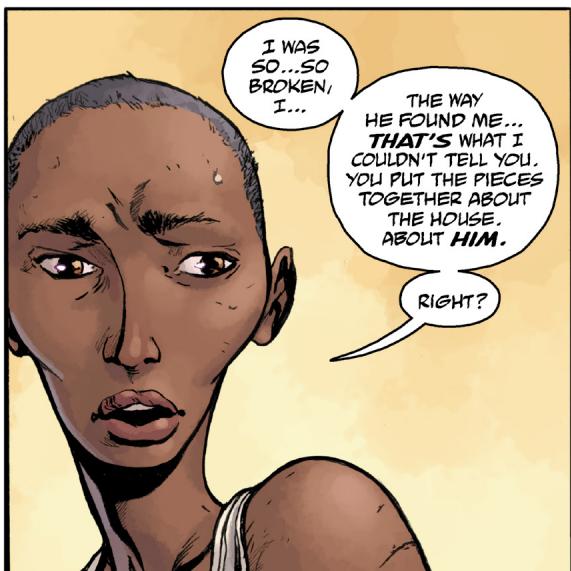
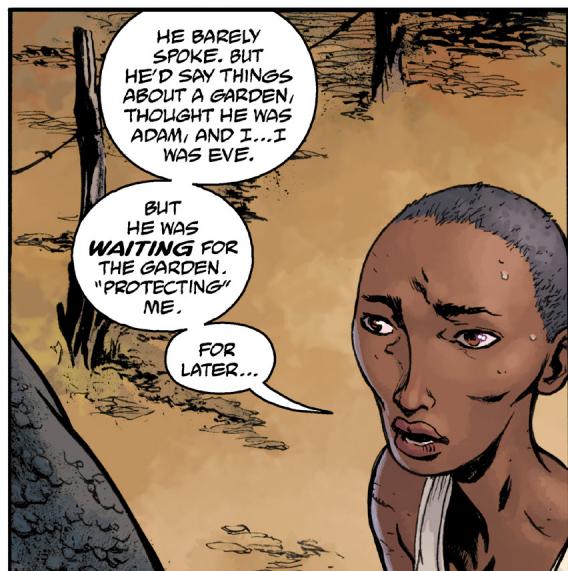
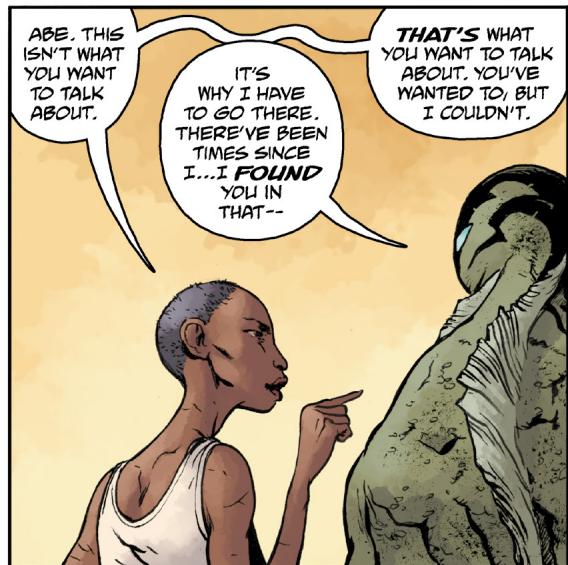
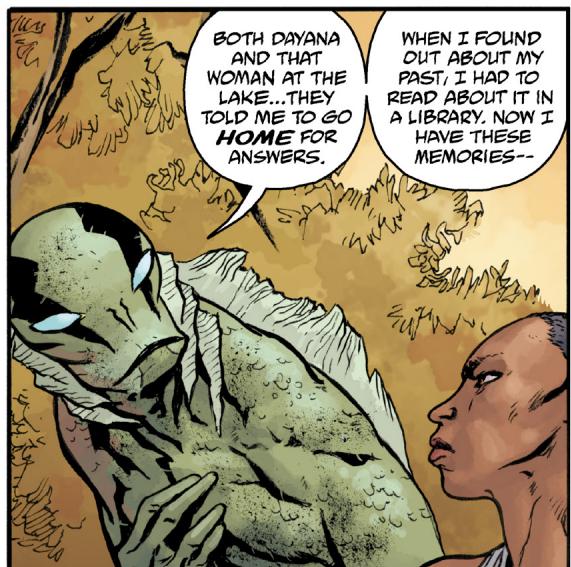
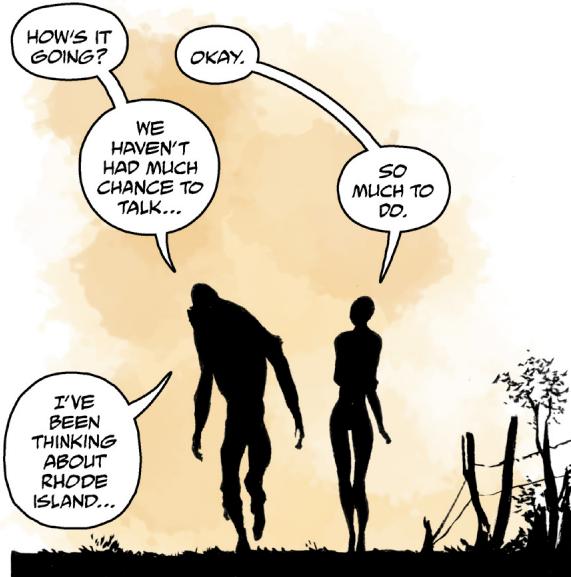


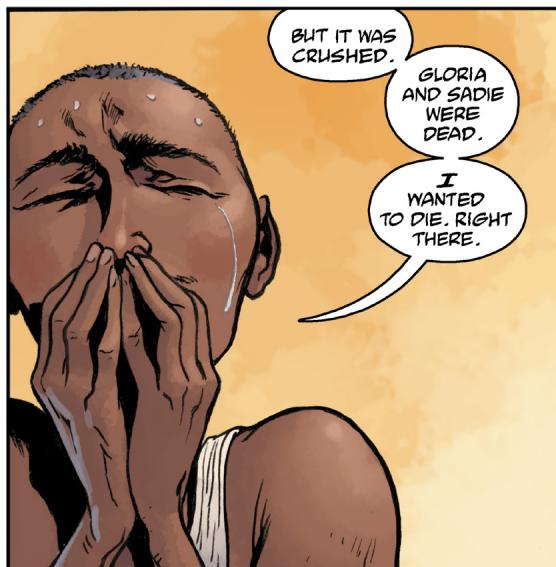
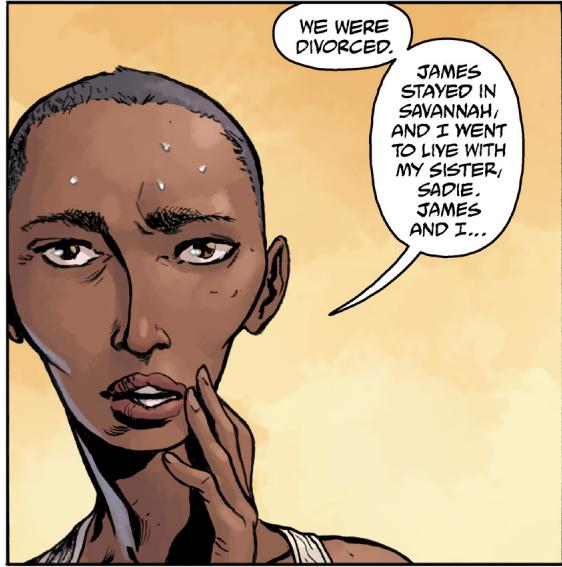
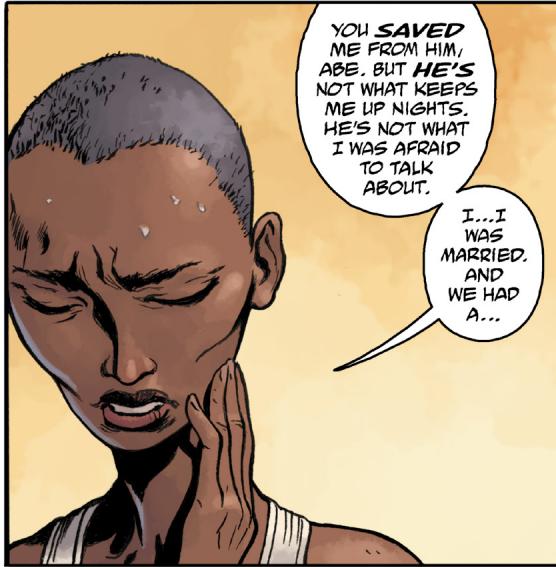










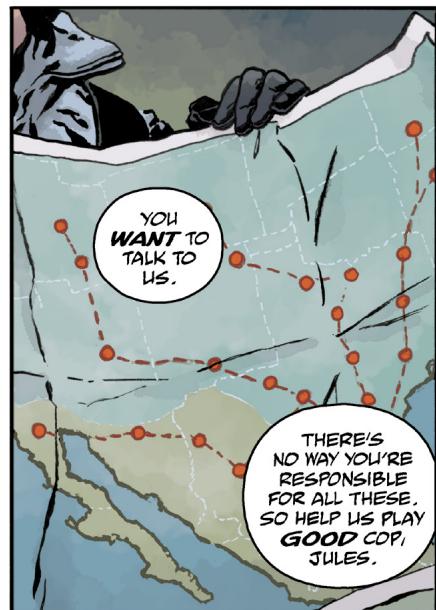


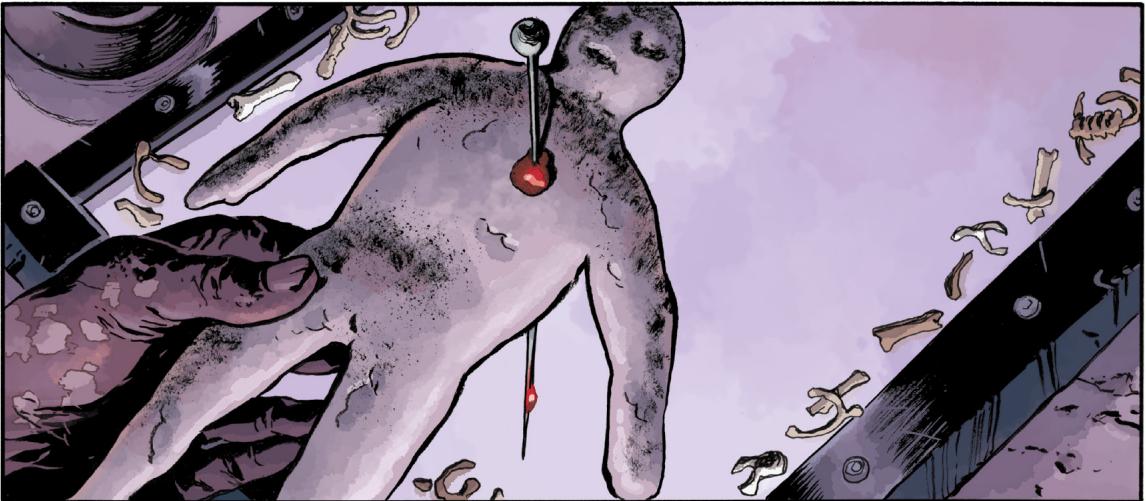


"YOU AND THAT PACK OF BEDOUINS SHOULD FIND **AMPLE** OPPORTUNITY. I THINK I'VE ALREADY MET YOUR REPLACEMENT..."











DAYANA



With the guidance and protection of la Santa Muerte, Dayana has kept her extended family together in the face of the worldwide crisis. But her adopted hometown on the Texas-Mexico border finally grew too dangerous. Now, with Abe Sapien, she's brought her small group to a stable town on the otherwise-devastated Texas Gulf Coast.



WE NEVER
WOULD HAVE
COME TO
BURNHAM IF
IT WEREN'T
FOR YOU.







...BUT WE
NEED TO BE
PATIENT.

"IT'S
STRANGE...
THE WAY
WE CLING
TO THE
FLESH."

IT DOESN'T
MATTER HOW
THIS CREATURE
CAME TO LIE
HERE...ONE WAY
OR ANOTHER,
IT WAS
INEVITABLE.

BUT AS
A FAWN, DID
ITS PARENTS
NOT PROTECT
IT? DID IT NOT
FEED AND WATER
ITSELF FOR
YEARS, JUST
FATTENING
ITSELF FOR
WORMS?

Hnn.

EVEN
THIS ISN'T SO
BAD.

ROUTE 17,
ONTARIO.

I'VE BEEN IN
WORSE SHAPE
MYSELF, TWICE BEFORE.

BUT EVEN WITH
MY FAULSTIAN
ARRANGEMENT, I
NEVER IMAGINED
I COULD PUT
THIS OFF
FOREVER.

AND YOU,
SOLDIER.
LOOK HOW
YOU ACCEPT
THE LIFE
YOU'VE BEEN
GIVEN.

I TOLD YOU
WHEN WE
FIRST SET OUT
TOGETHER THAT
LOYAL SERVICE
COULD EARN
YOU **TRUE**
LIFE ONCE MORE--

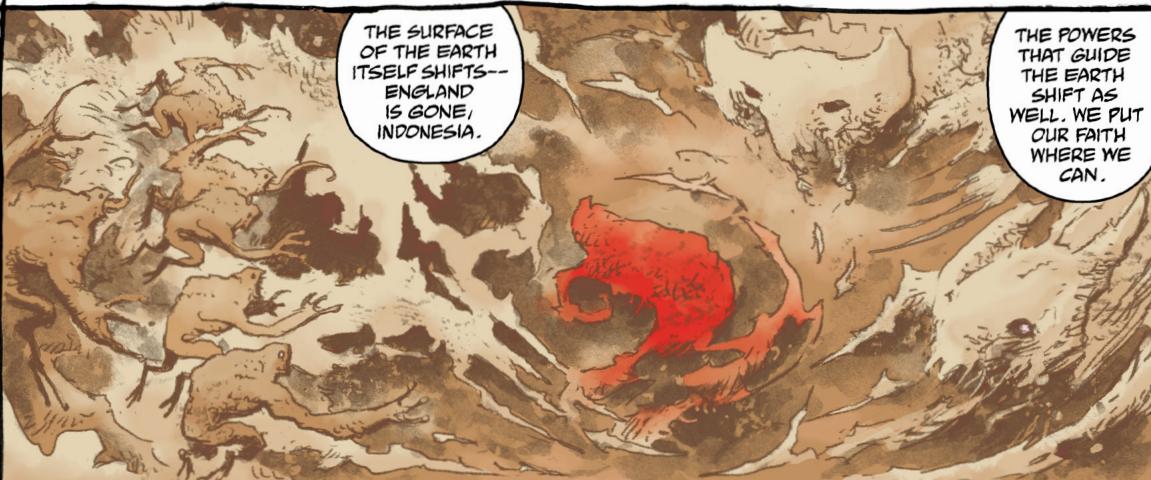
KRAK!

--YET
YOU'VE
SHOWN
NO MORE
CURIOSITY
ABOUT
THAT THAN
ABOUT
YOUR
FISH-MAN
FRIEND.









THE SURFACE
OF THE EARTH
ITSELF SHIFTS--
ENGLAND
IS GONE,
INDONESIA.

THE POWERS
THAT GUIDE
THE EARTH
SHIFT AS
WELL. WE PUT
OUR FAITH
WHERE WE
CAN.



BUT WE'D
BE FOOLS
TO HOPE TO
REMAIN AS WE
WERE, OR TO
AVOID THE
STRUGGLE.



EVEN
HERE?

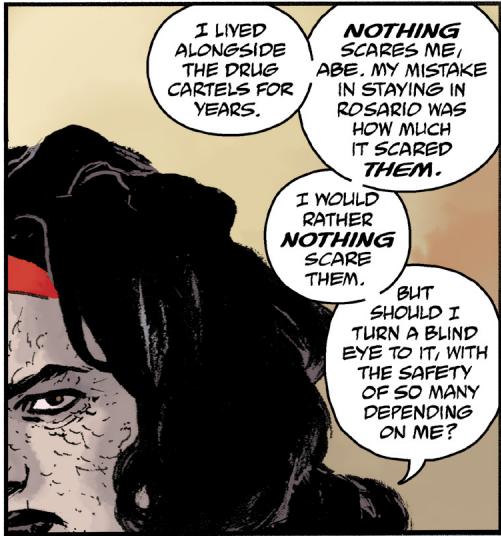
MEGAN,
WOULD YOU
RINSE THIS OUT,
AND FILL IT WITH
WATER? MAKE
SURE IT'S
PERFECTLY
CLEAR.



WHY DO YOU
THINK THIS
PLACE IS
SAFE?

YOU
MEAN YOU
DON'T?

I DO.
BUT WHAT IS
MAKING IT
SAFE?



"IF I CAN'T GET THEM TO GO WITH ME NOW, SOMEONE'S GONNA RUN 'EM OUT."



WELL, TONY, I SUSPECT YOU CAN JUST TELL THEM YOU HAVE A POT FARMING COUSIN OUT OF STATE, AND THEY'LL FOLLOW YOU ANYWHERE.

SO, WE HEAD UP TO DALLAS BEFORE GOING EAST--



NO, PAST DALLAS. DON'T GO WITHIN A HUNDRED MILES OF HOUSTON. AND NO CEMETERIES UNTIL YOU REACH MISSISSIPPI...

...BUT THERE ARE STILL A FEW THINGS TO DO FIRST.

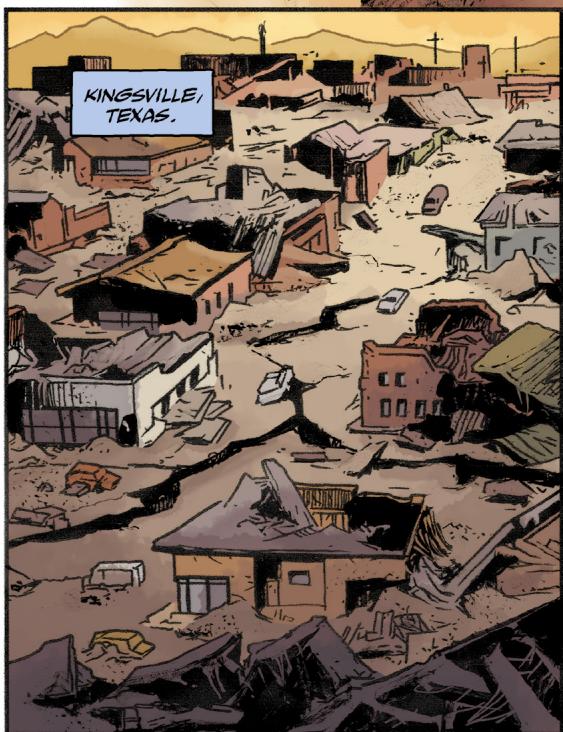
WELL, I'VE GOT THIS PART DOWN.

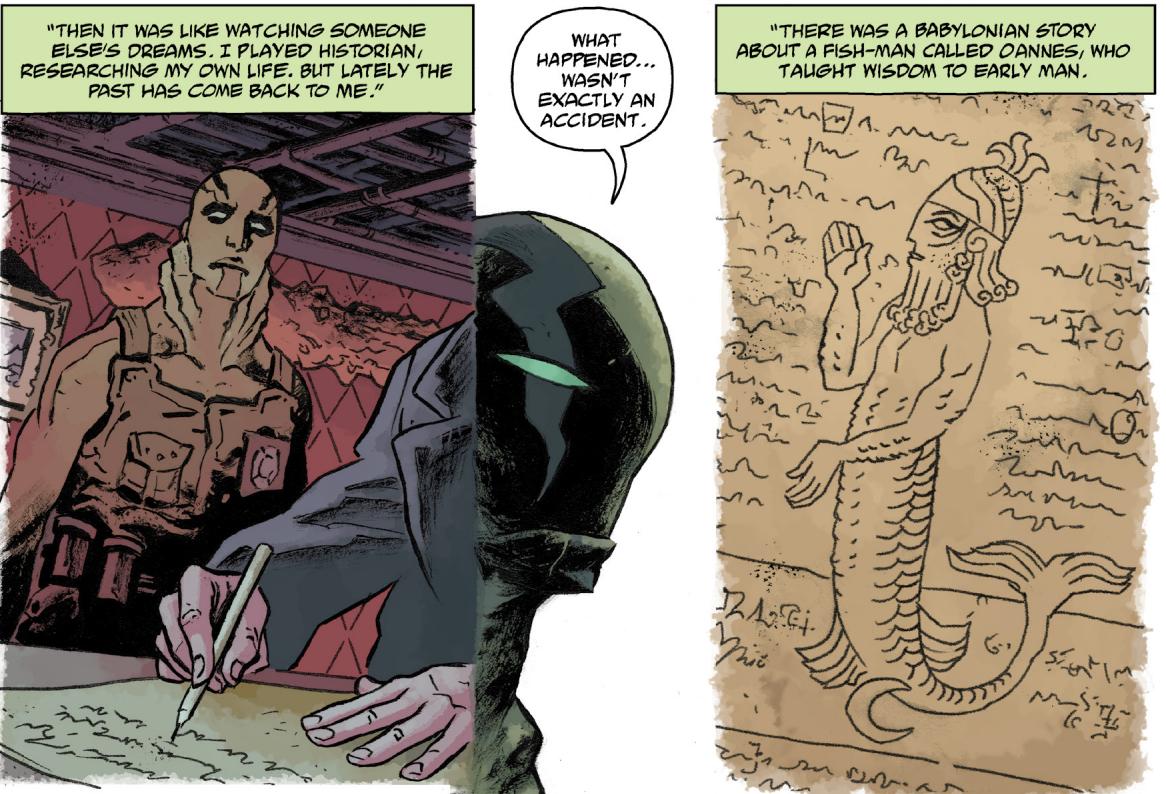


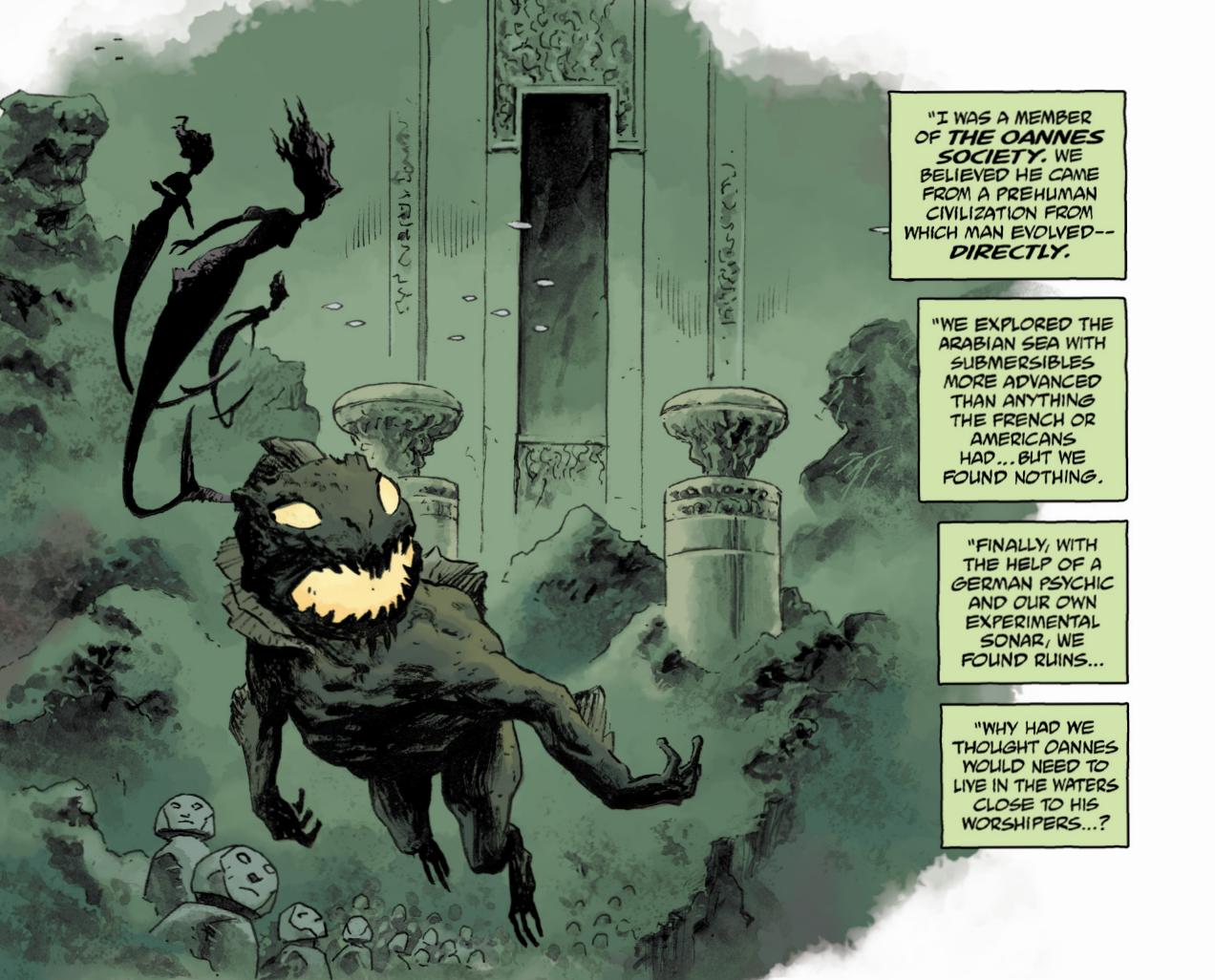
PERHAPS, TONY. WE'LL NEED TO TEST IT, TO BE--

KOFF KOFF





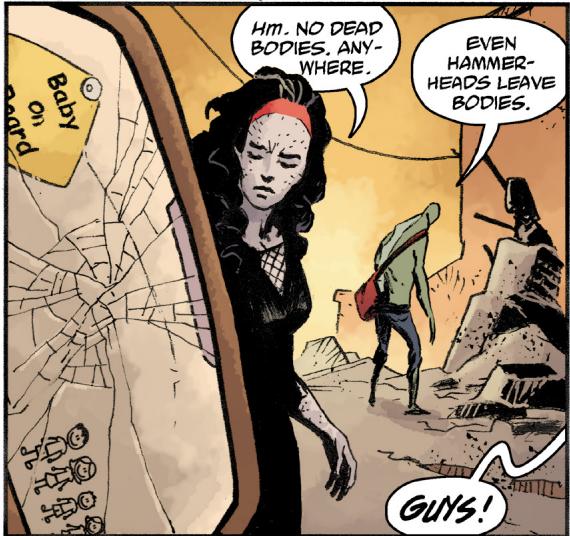


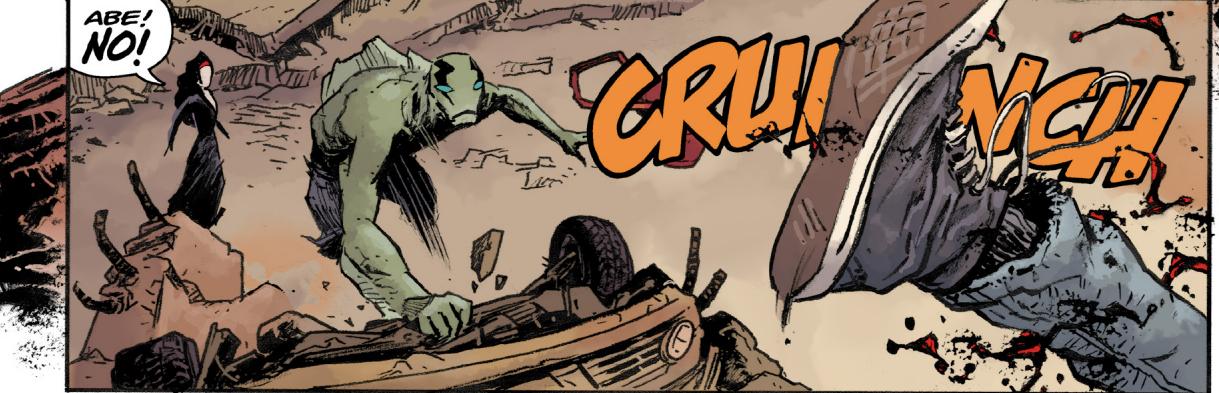


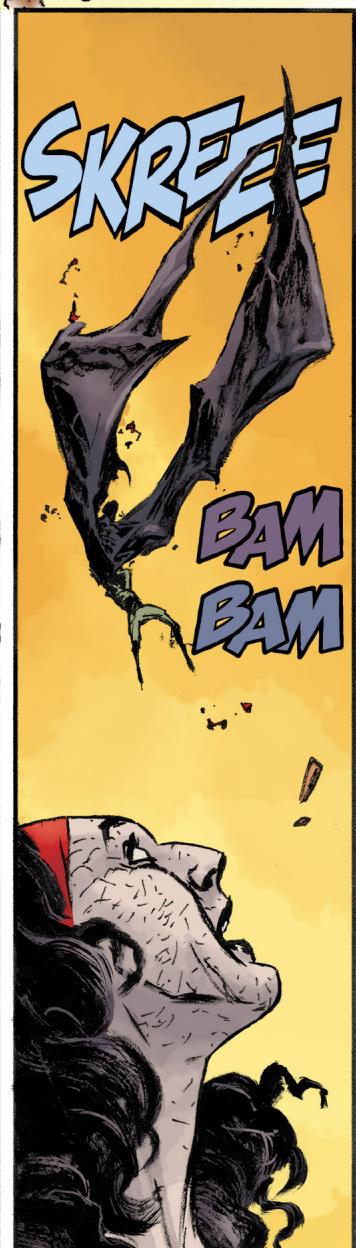
"WE LOCATED THE REAL **ATLANTIS** DEEP IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN, CLOSER TO AMERICA THAN EUROPE. WE JUST HAD TO GET DOWN THERE..."

"MY WIFE AND I FOUGHT--SHE WAS SURE I'D NEVER RETURN. AND SHE WAS RIGHT. WE WENT LOOKING FOR OANNES..."









THE HEAVENS
BELONG TO MY
LORD AND TO
LA SANTA
MUERTE...

SSHREE





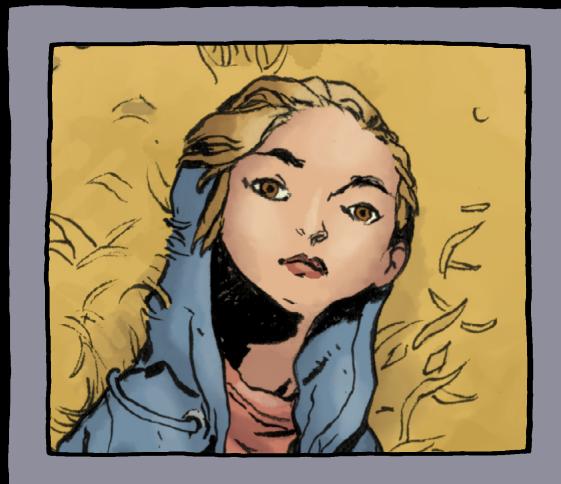




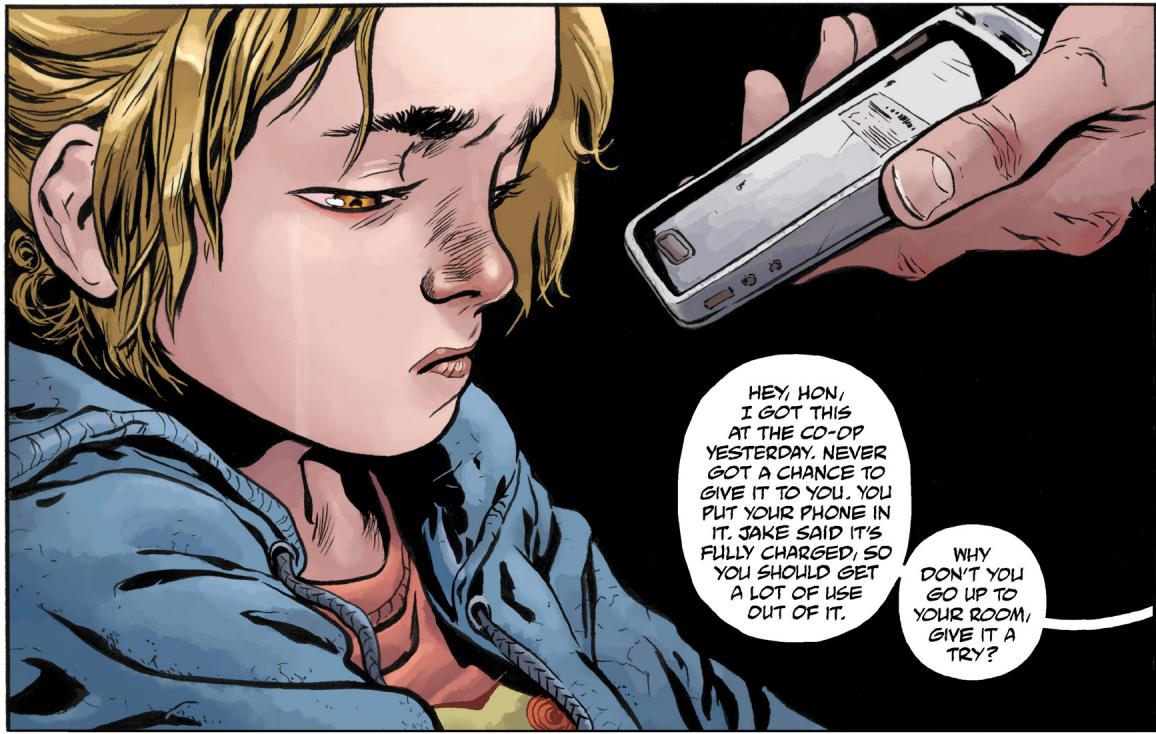




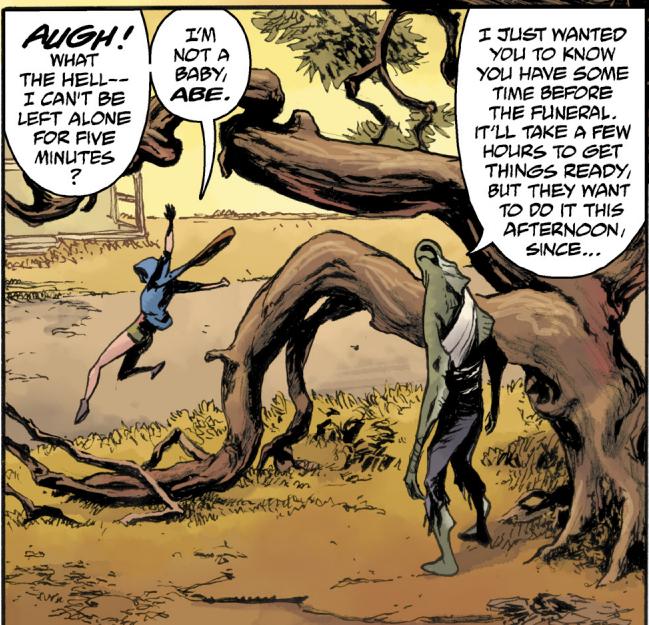
MEGAN

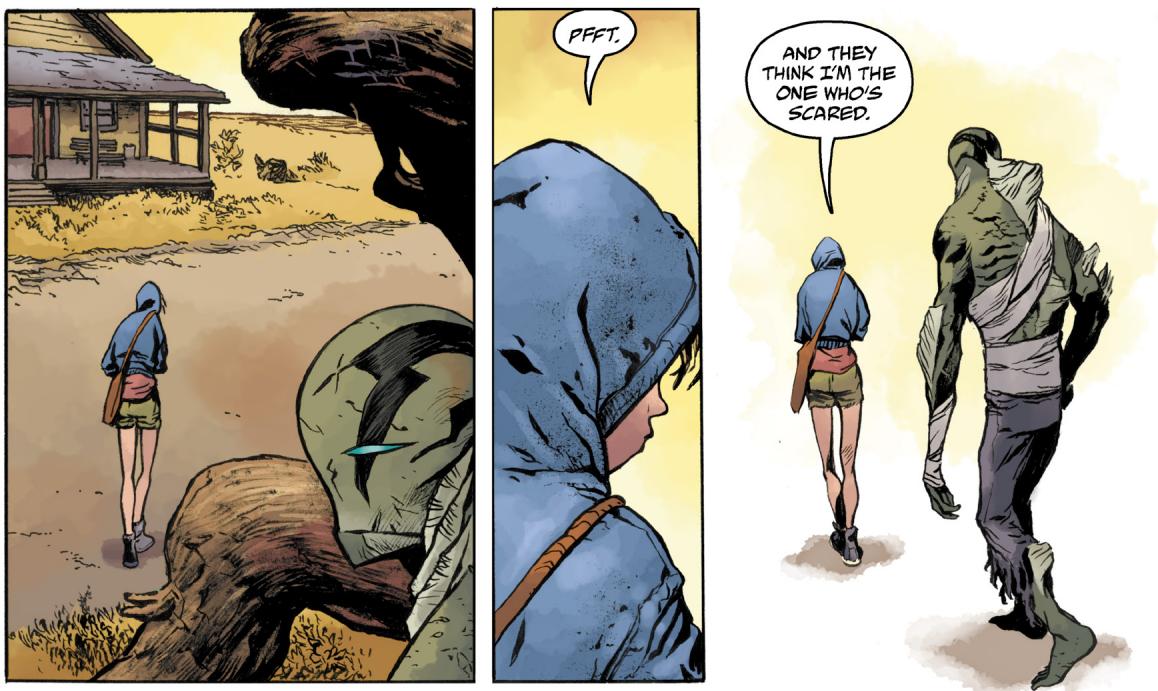
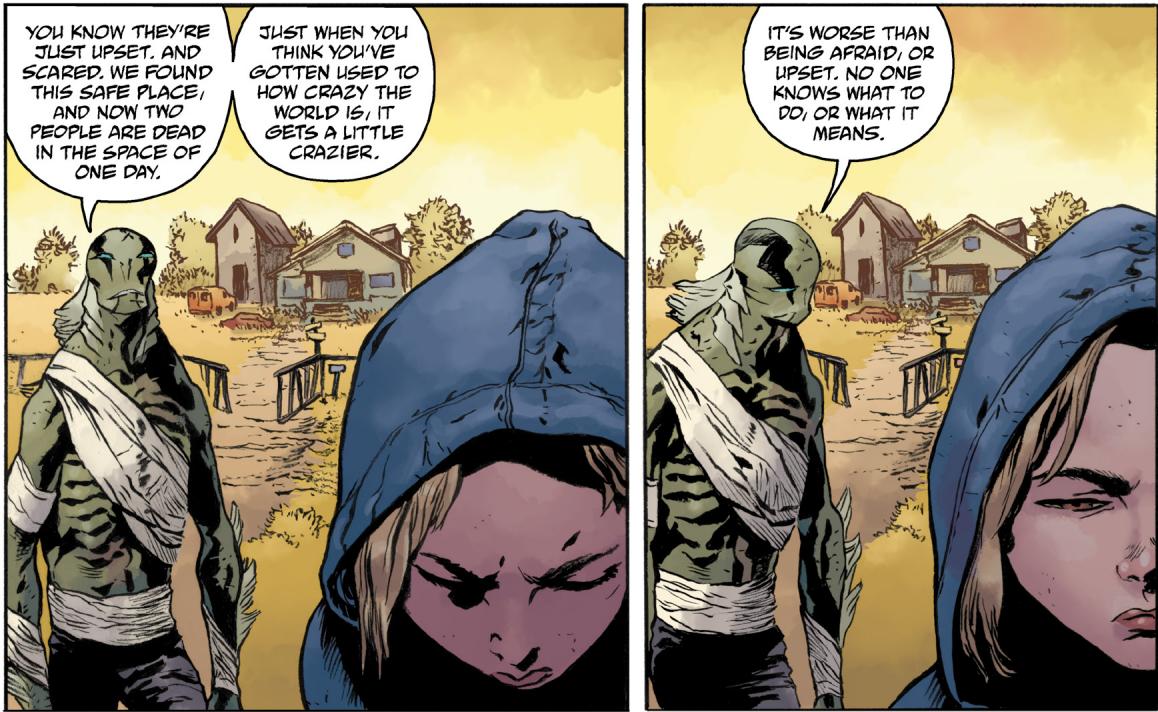


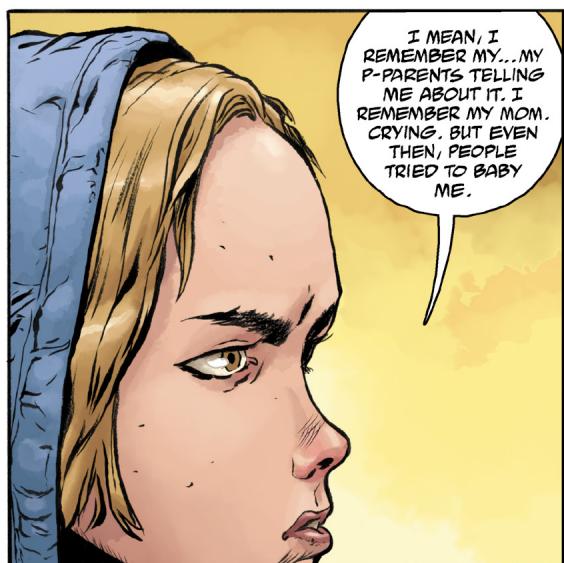
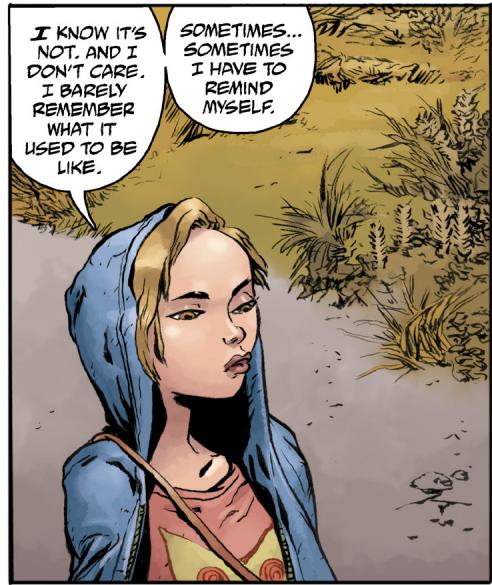
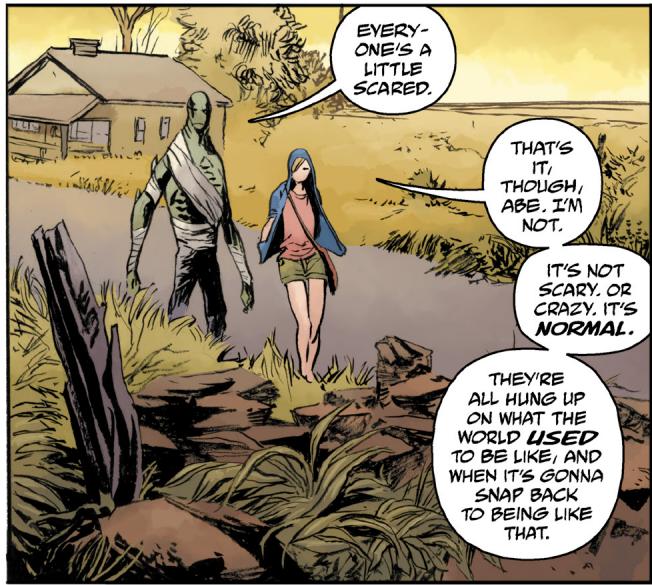
Megan grew up in Rosario, Texas, a middle-class kid in an impoverished border town with few friends and a world defined by her parents and her mother's brother. She can barely remember that normal life now, after her parents were killed by hammerheads and her uncle has exposed her to one end-of-the-world cult after another.

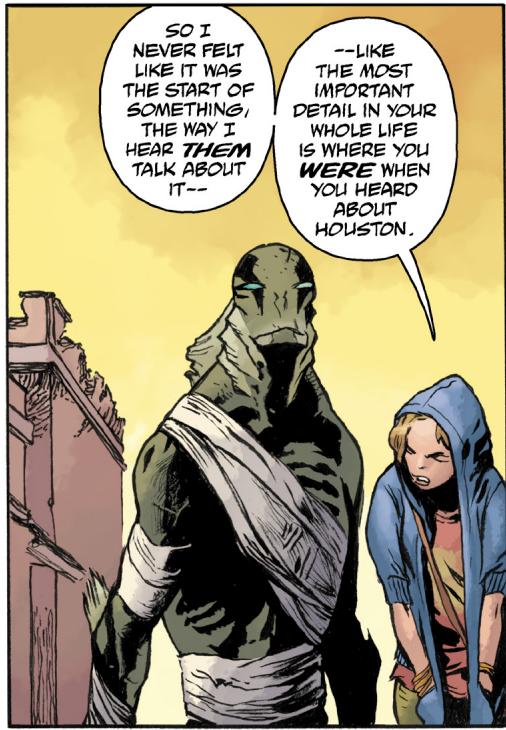


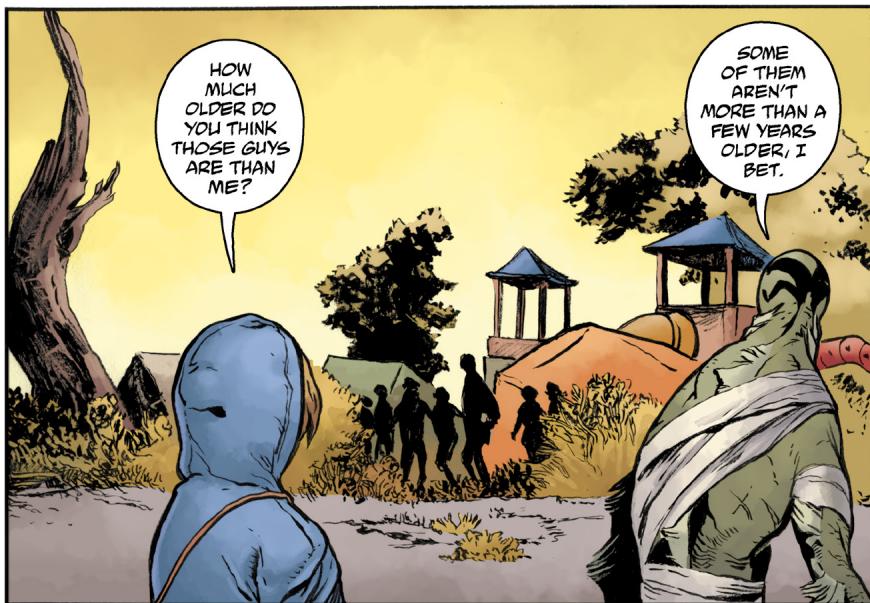


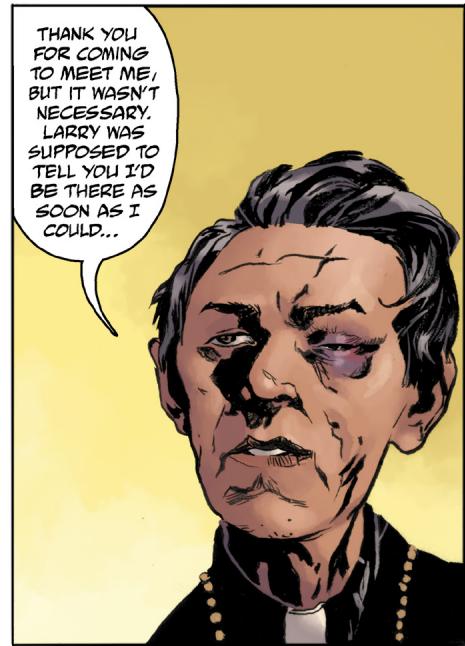
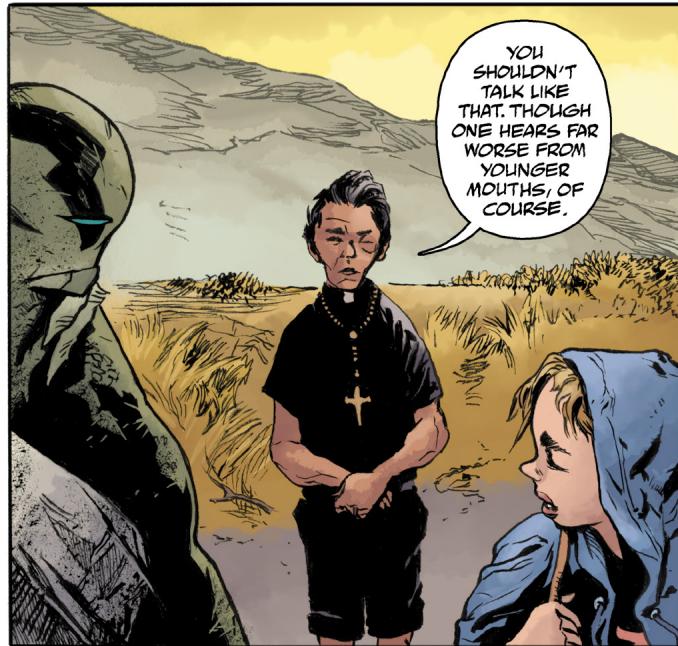


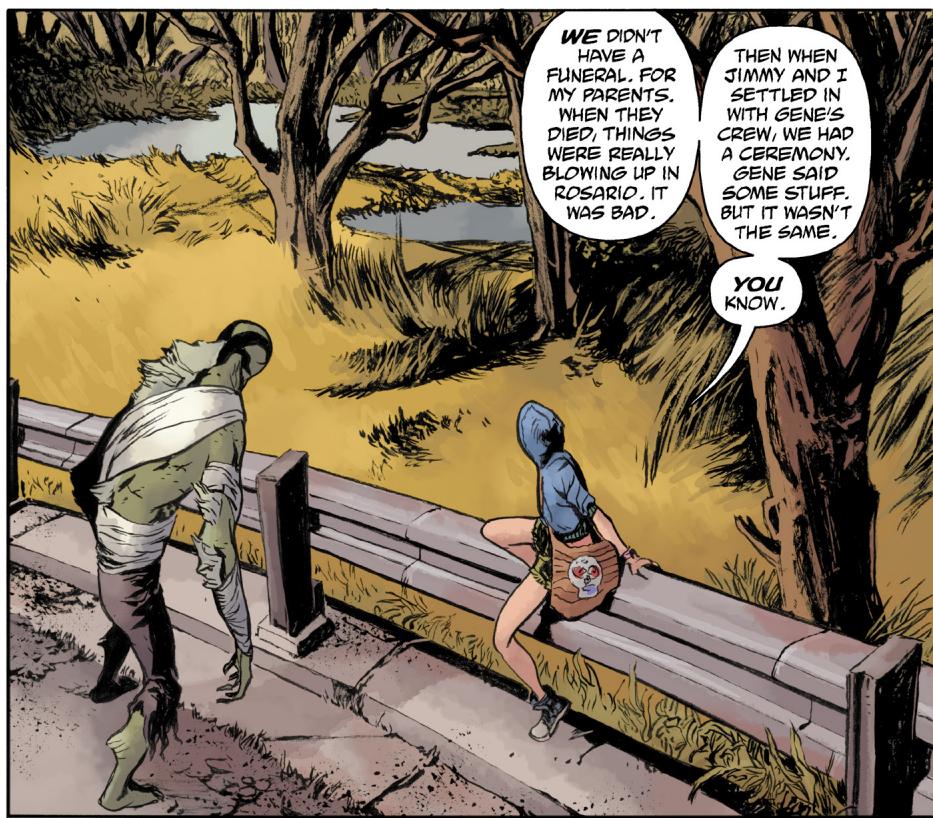


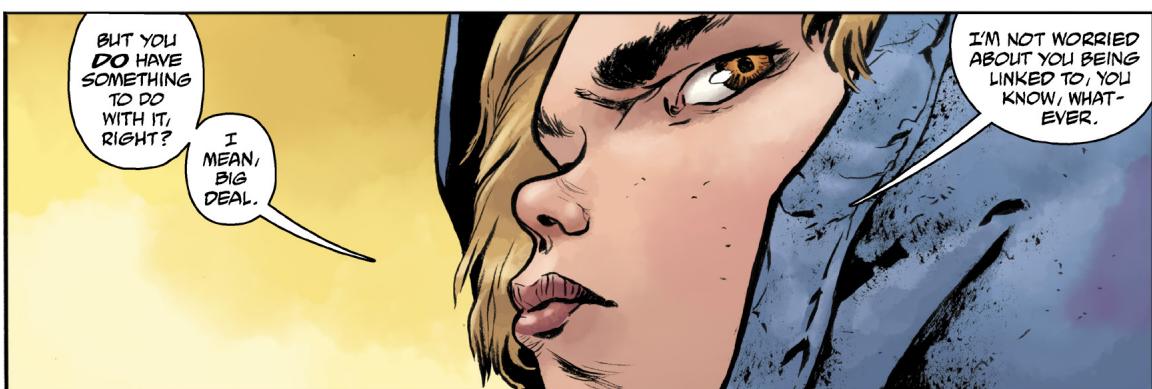




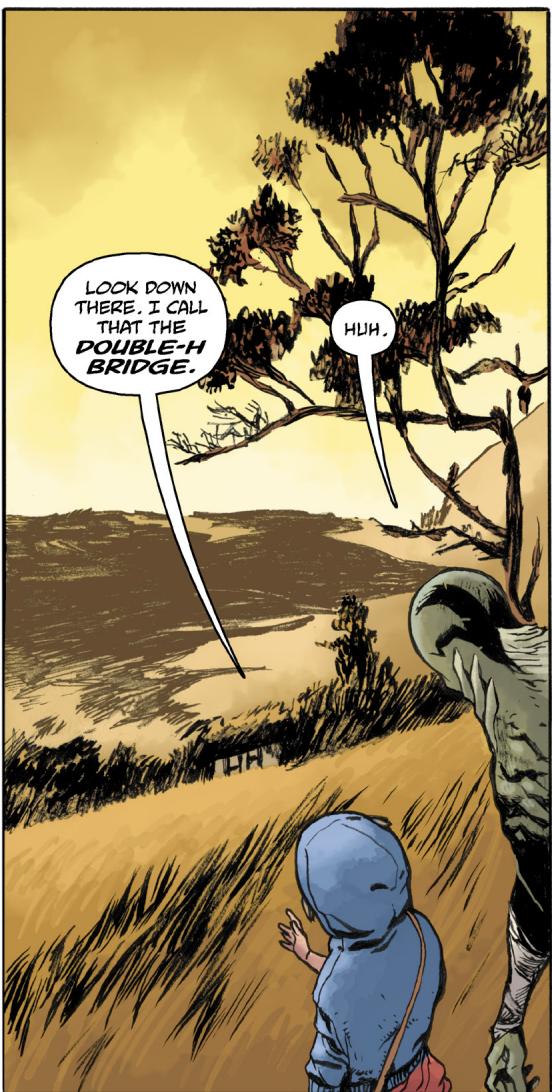


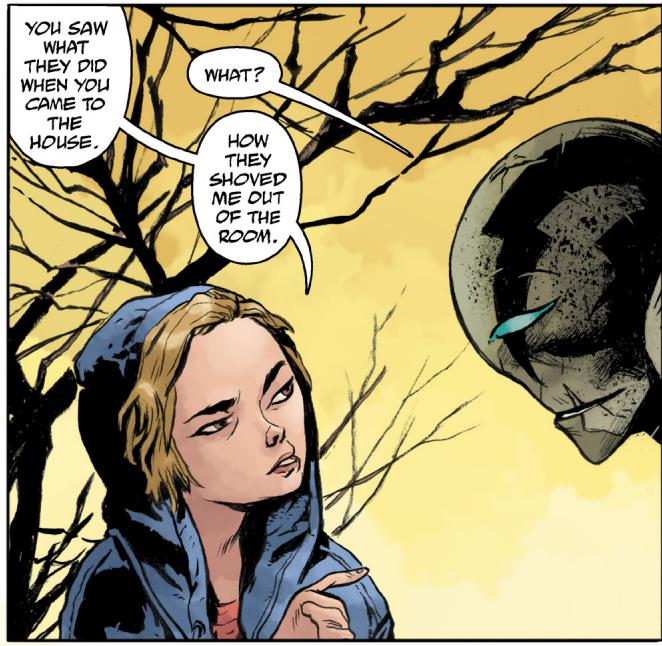
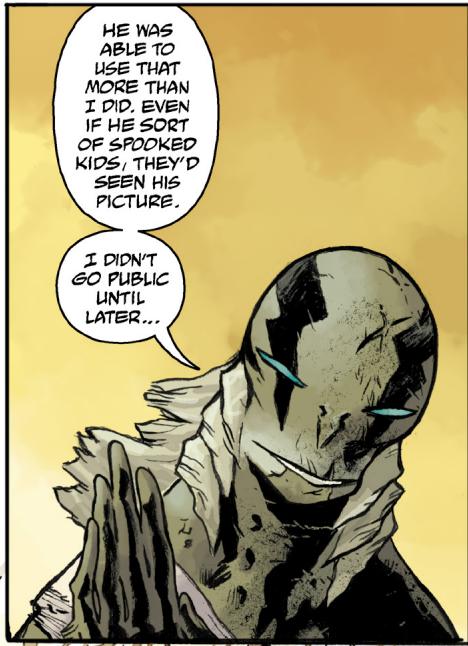


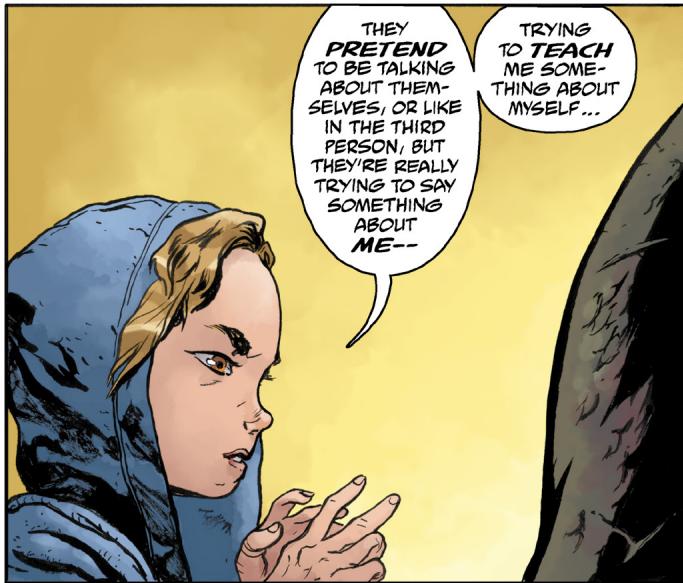


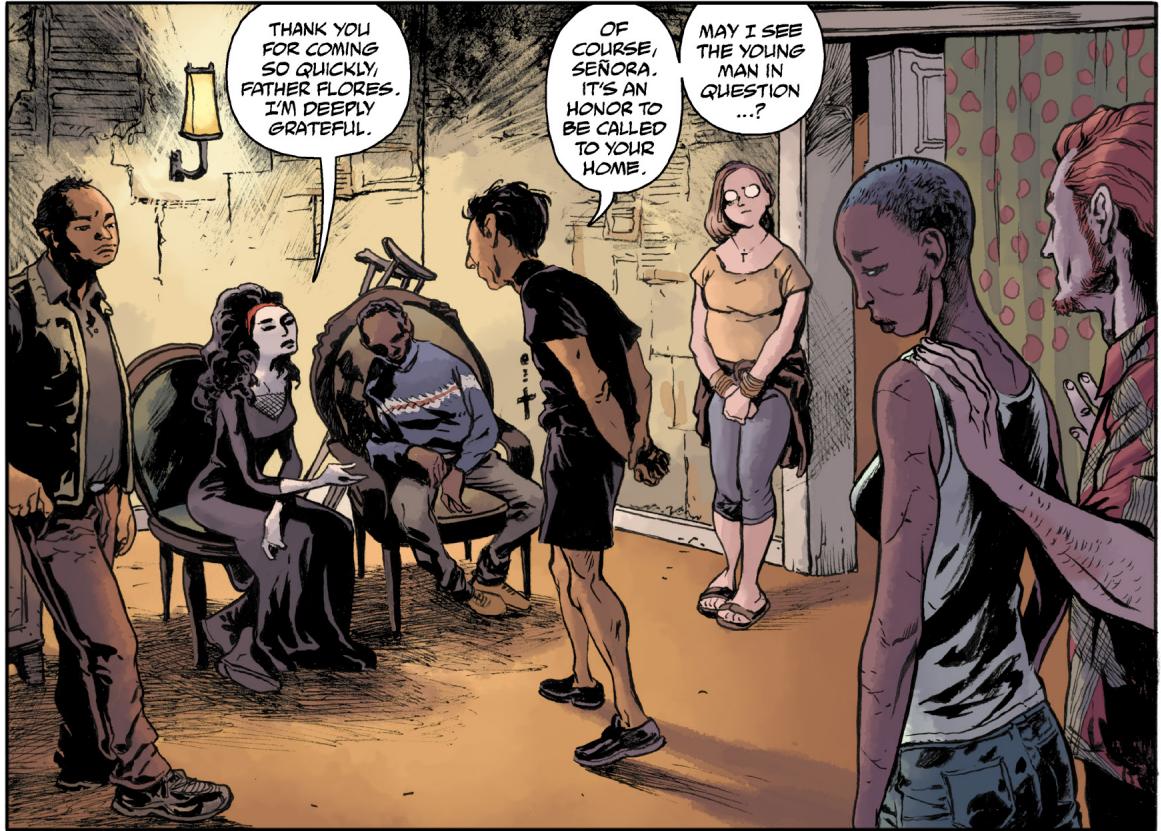
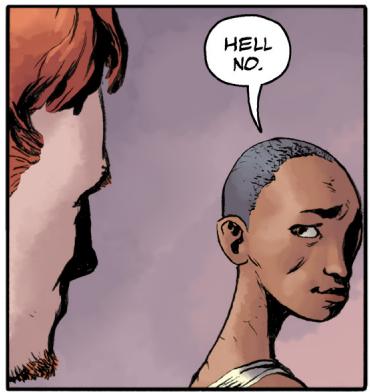
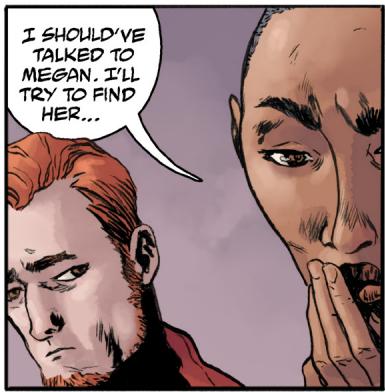






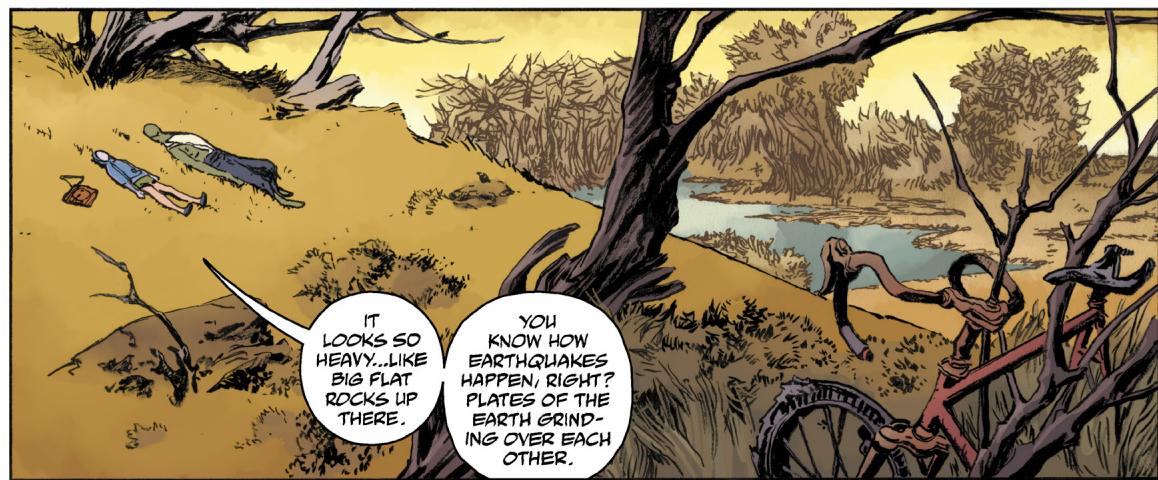










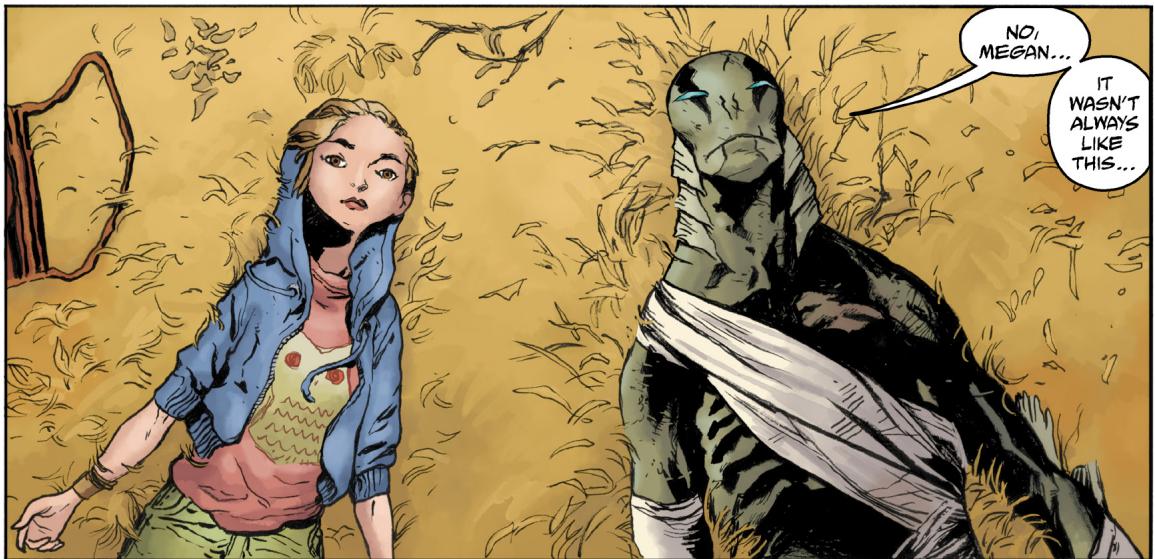


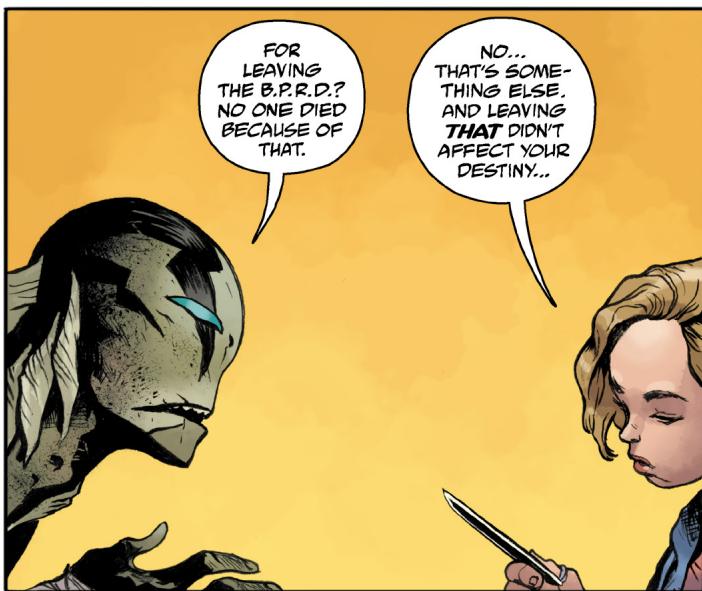
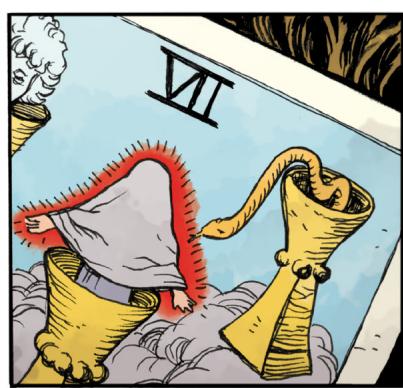
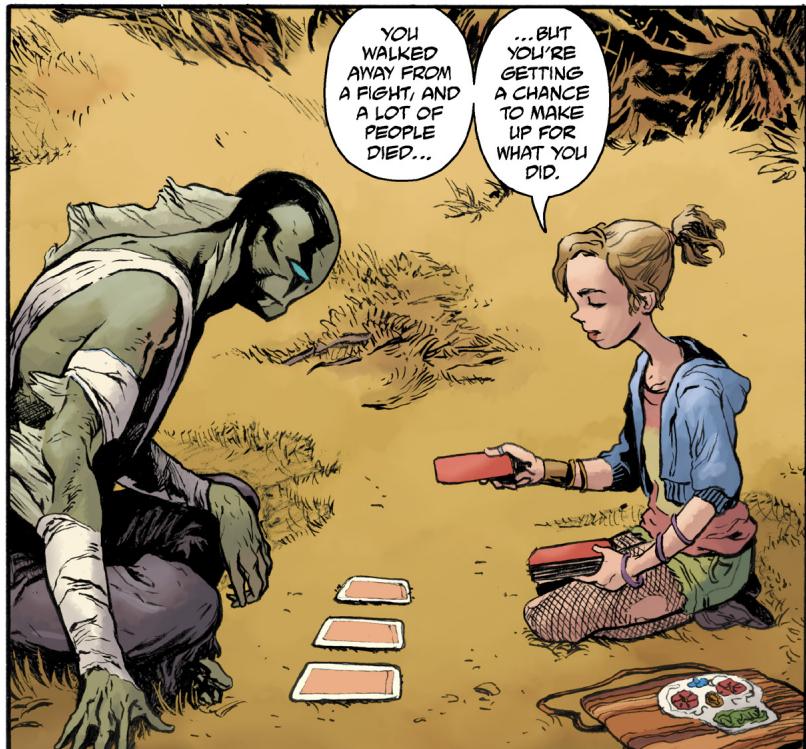
"WHEN I WAS LITTLE, MY PARENTS TOOK ME ON A ROAD TRIP TO OKLAHOMA. THE ROAD WAS THREE OR FOUR LANES.

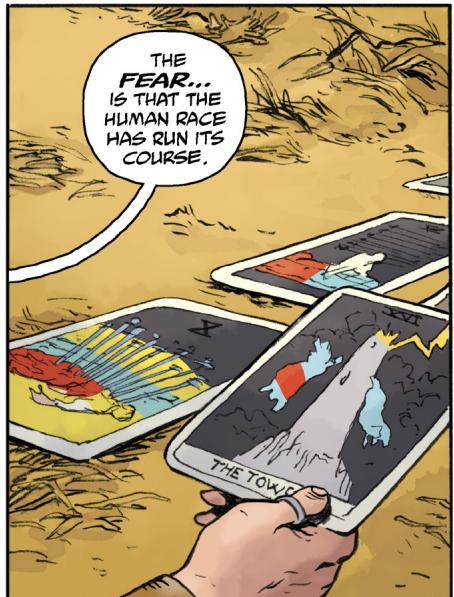
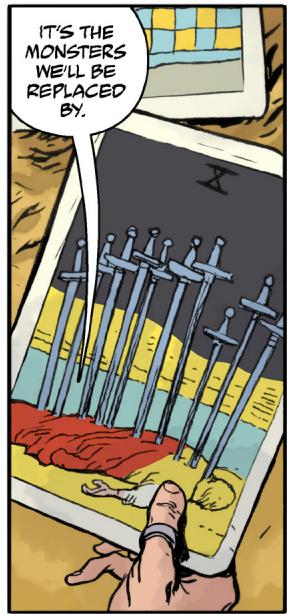
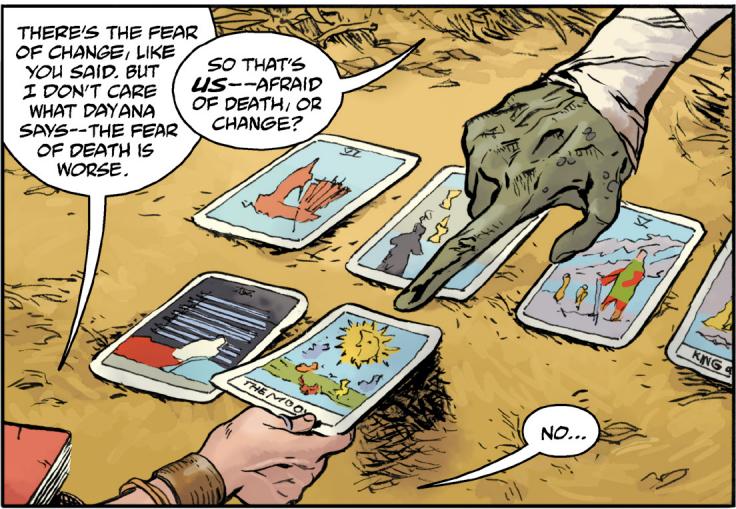
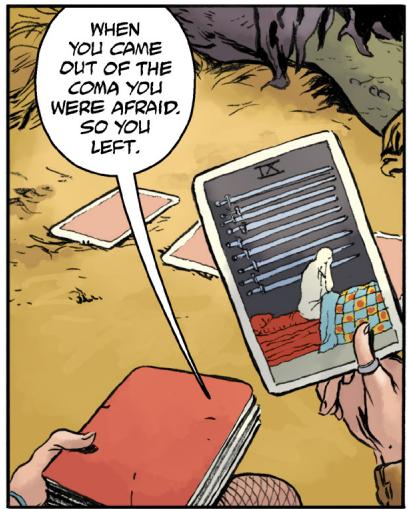
"WE GOT STUCK BETWEEN A COUPLE TRUCKS--THE LONG ONES, WITH A BUNCH OF TRAILERS--ON EITHER SIDE OF US.

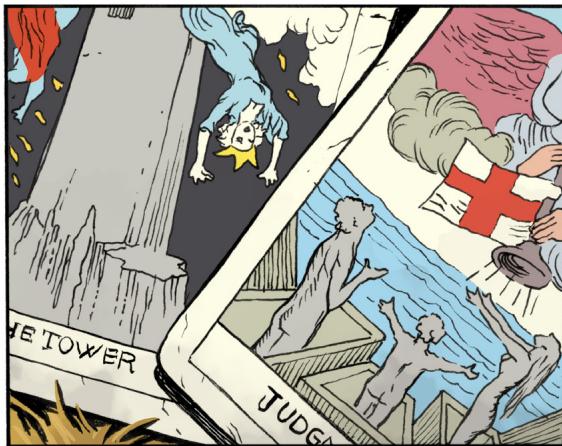
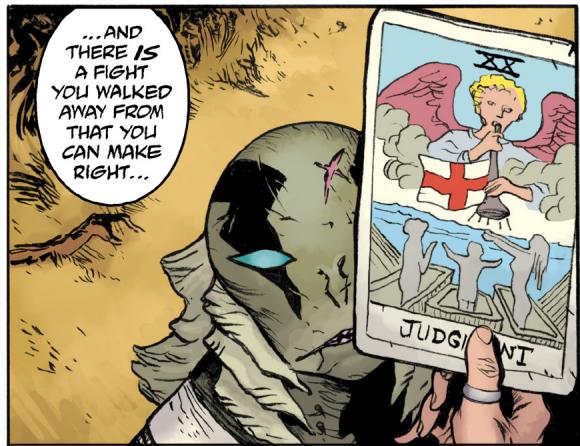
"IF ONE HAD DRIFTED JUST A LITTLE TOO FAR OVER, WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT IT, WE'D BE SQUISHED..."













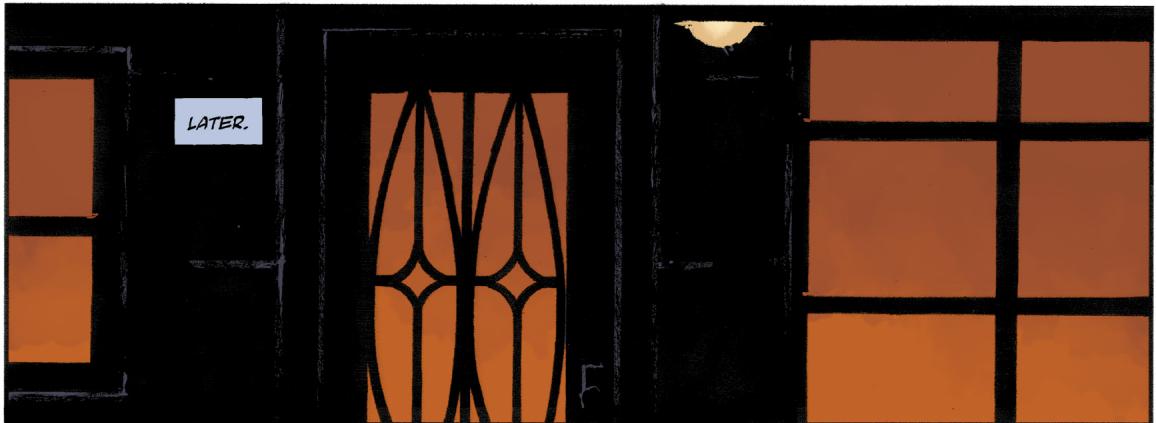
ARBOGAST



Born in 1942 in Lake Charles, Louisiana, Arbogast has lived in every state on the Gulf Coast from Florida to Tamaulipas, Mexico, and outlived three wives while producing no children. His last wife died in her hometown of Burnham, Texas, where the two met in 1999. Since 2010 he's recruited young people into a secret cult, under a veil of Haitian voodoo . . .









SORRY I'M LATE!
I WAS DOWN AT
THE PARK WITH
THOSE KIDS, MAN,
THEY ARE RIPE
FOR THE...

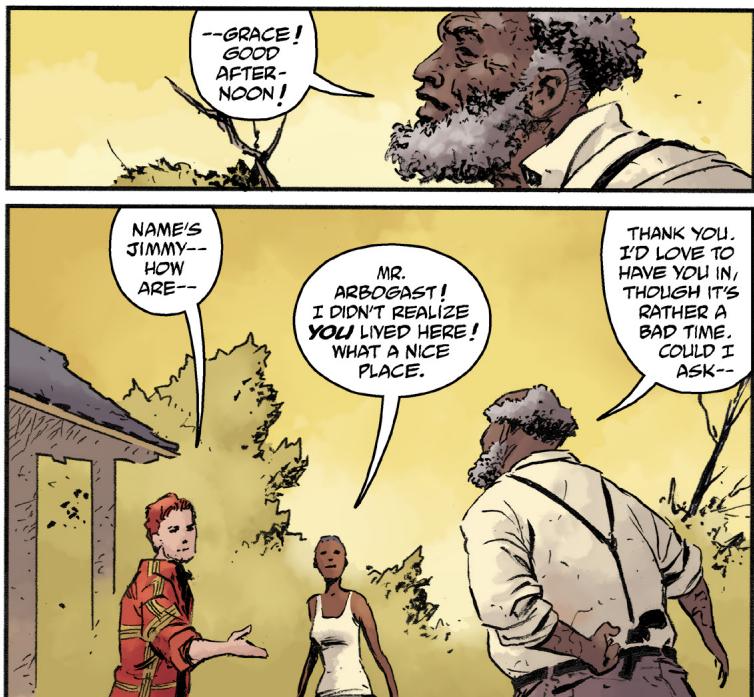
YOU OKAY, MR.
ARBOGAST?

YES, TONY...
I'M JUST
THINKING...

WELL, WE
HAVE THAT
PRACTICE
RITUAL,
RIGHT? THE
TRIAL?

I'M
READY,
SIR!





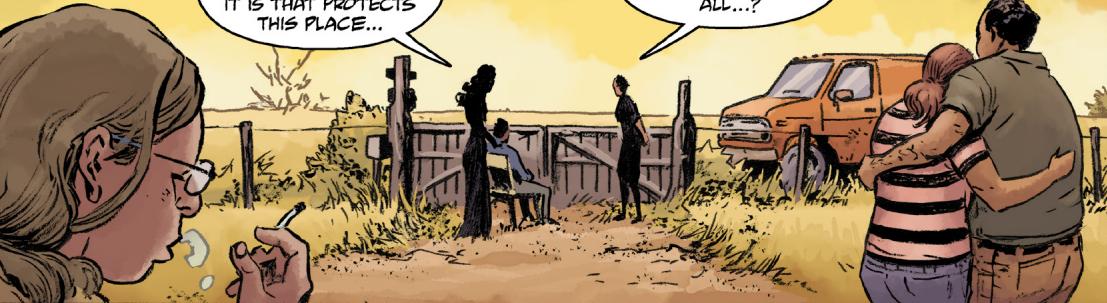




"I'D GUESSED THAT SOMETHING HIDDEN PROTECTED THIS TOWN..."

ABE ASKED WHY I WOULD STAY, IF I DISTRUSTED WHATEVER IT IS THAT PROTECTS THIS PLACE...

DO YOU THINK BURNHAM HAS SOME MONSTER AFTER ALL...?



NO, THAT'S JUST IT, FATHER. THOUGH I SUSPECTED SOME PRESENCE, I ACCEPTED ITS PROTECTION.

SO WHY DID IT DO THIS TO TUCK?



TO SCARE YOU AWAY?

YOU HEARD IT. IT KNOWS SOME-
THING ABOUT ME. IT MUST KNOW I
WILL PROTECT MY FAMILY.

ALL IT'S DONE
IS ANNOUNCE
ITSELF. WHY
TAUNT ME WITH
SUCH A...A
POINTLESS
GESTURE?

SI.

YOU
THINK...YOU
THINK IT WANTS TO
TRICK YOU INTO
ATTACKING?



BUT WHAT-
EVER IT IS, IF IT
DOESN'T COME
AT ME...



"...PERHAPS
IT CAN'T..."



“GLURGLE!”









NNH!

"HE'S JUST
A NICE OLD
MAN, JIMMY."

SPLASH

Uh-huh.
YOU
KNOW WHAT
NICE OLD
MEN LIKE,
RIGHT?

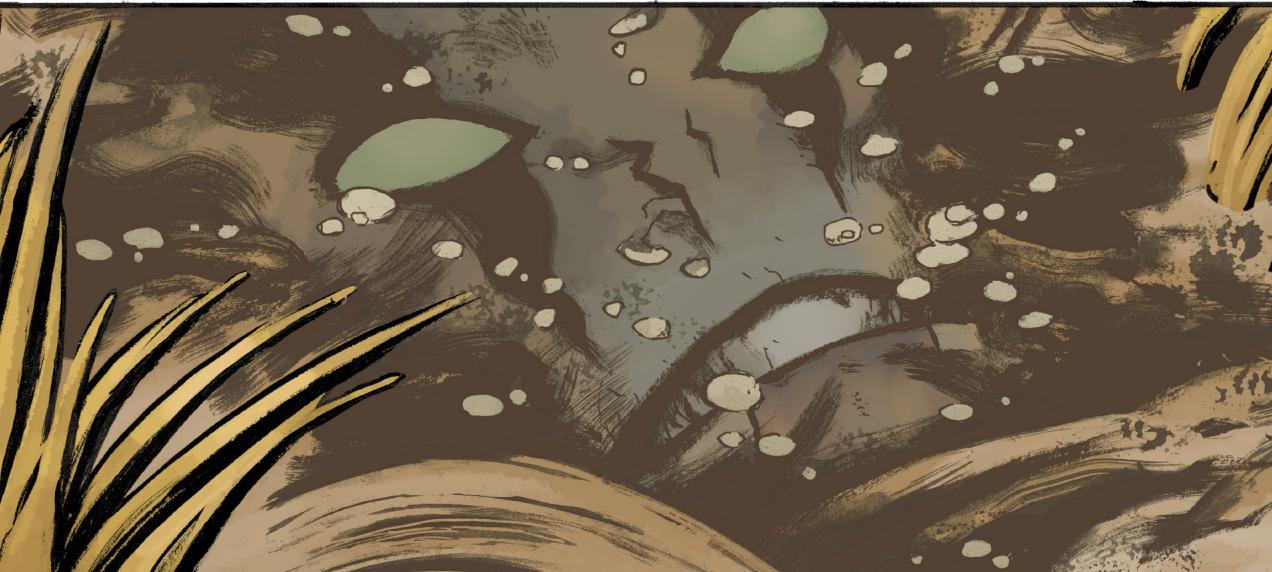
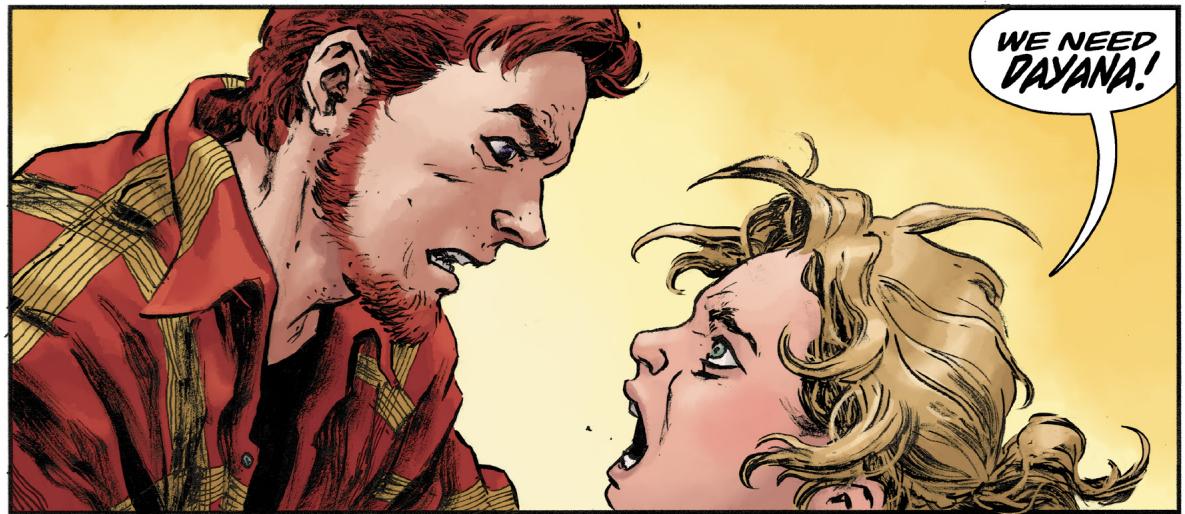
NICE YOUNG
WOMEN.

C'MON! IF I'M
NOT WORRIED
ABOUT HIM, HE'S
GOTTA BE
PRETTY
HARMLESS.

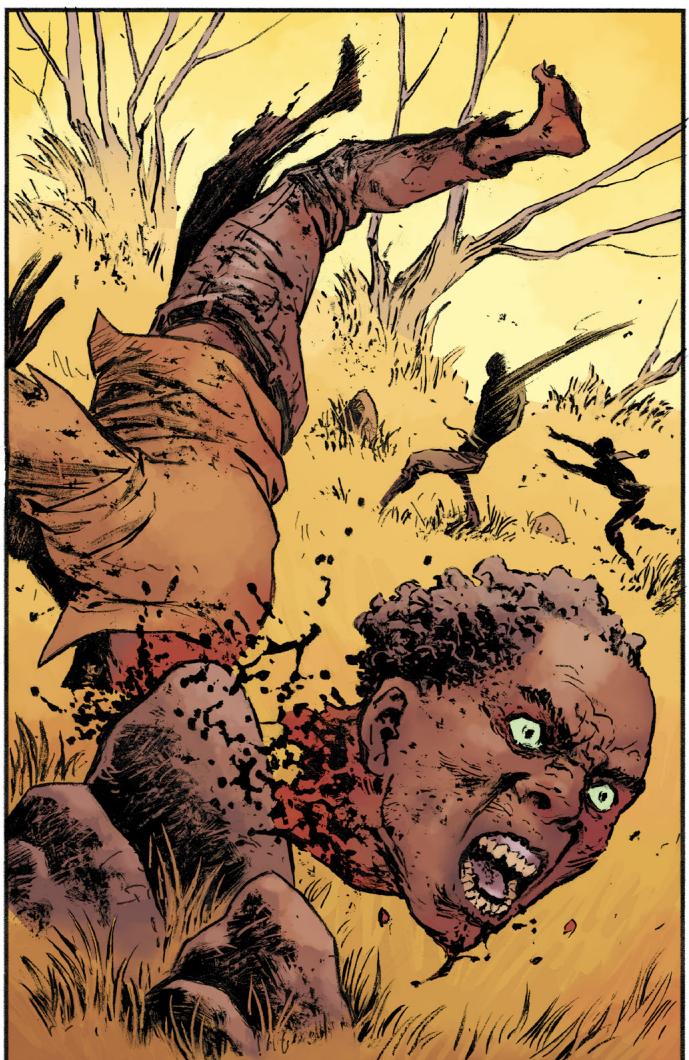
JIMMY!

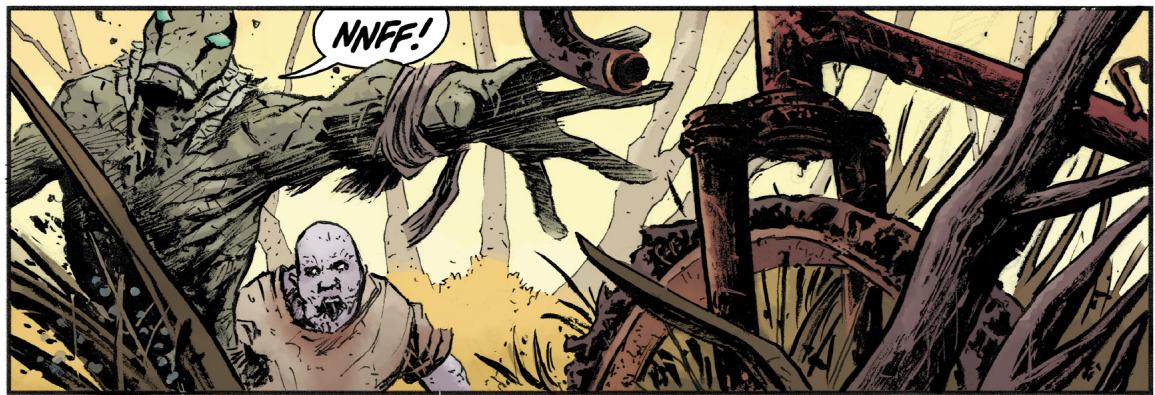
BAM

MEGAN--?!











BAM





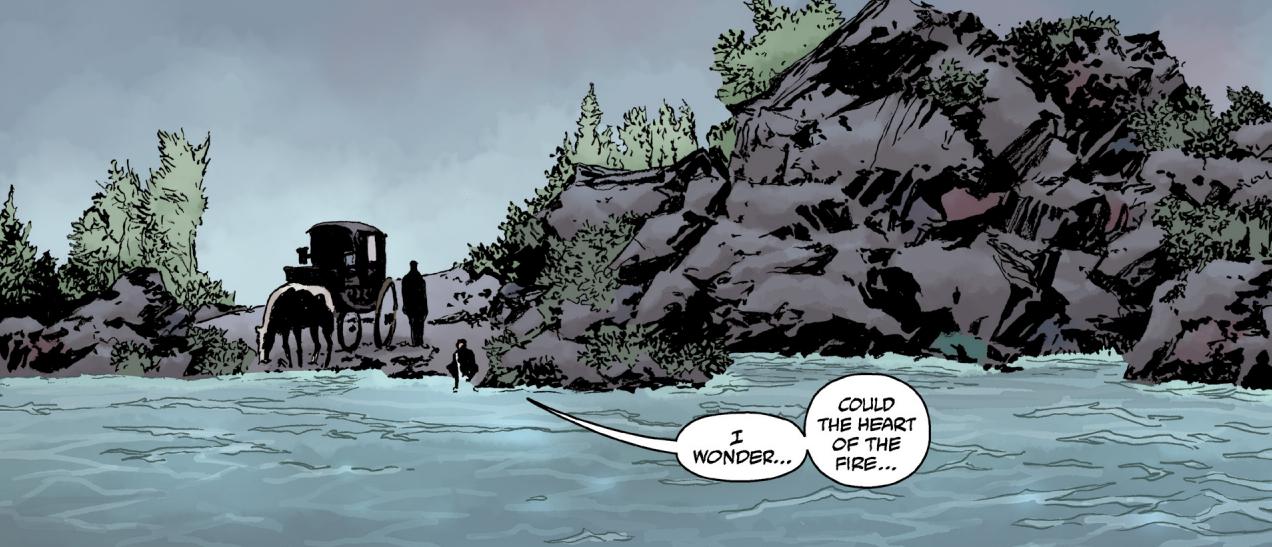




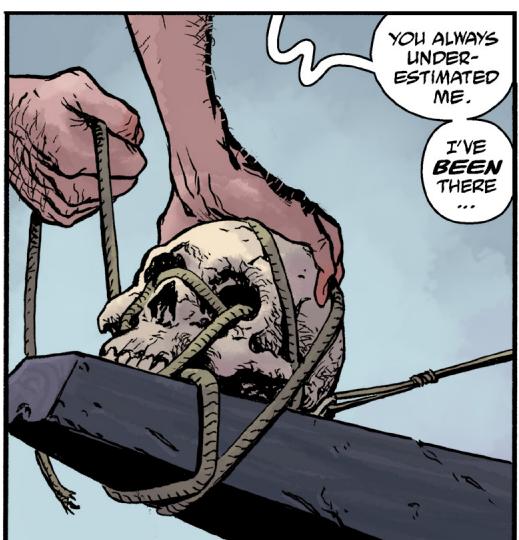
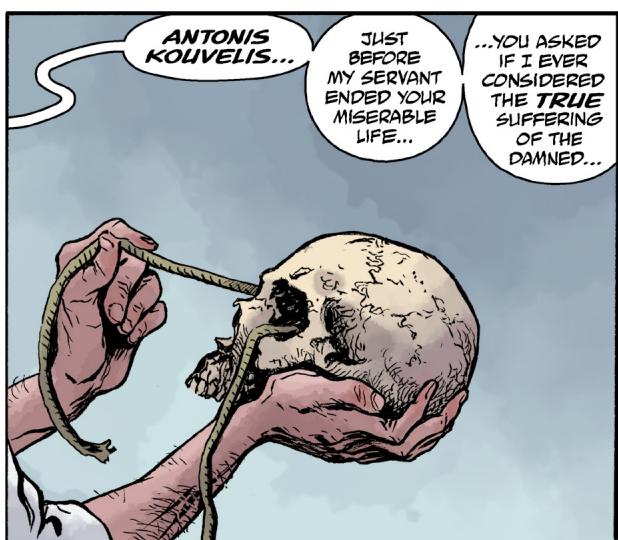
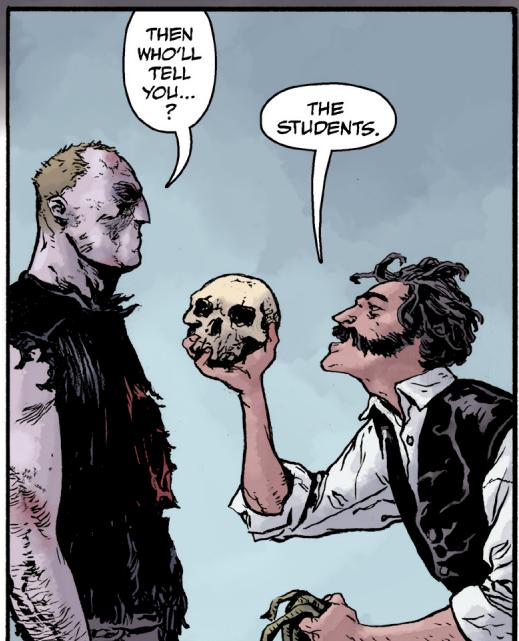
ABE



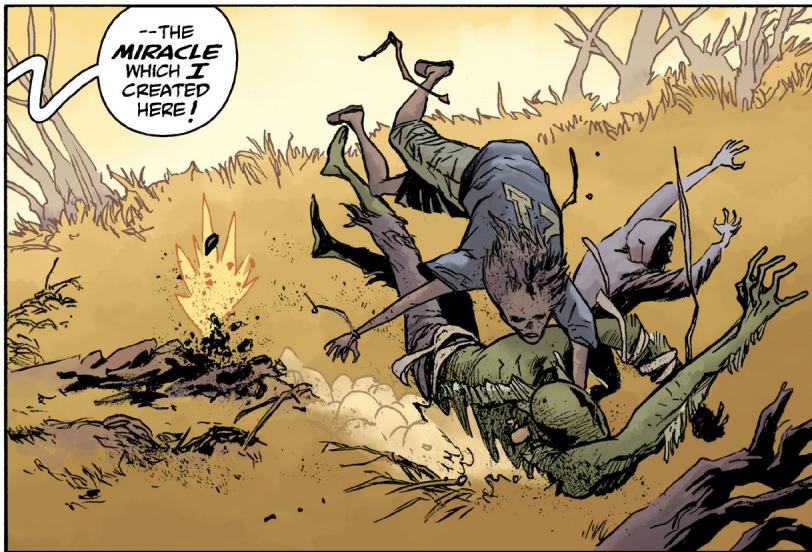
Abe Sapien was an agent with the BPRD for over twenty years before uncovering his origins as a Civil War-era scientist transformed by an undersea relic. As strange creatures spread across the earth, questions arose about similarities between Abe and the new monsters. Running from those suspicions, Abe took up with a Santa Muerte cult in Texas, settling in a peaceful coastal town harboring horrible secrets . . .





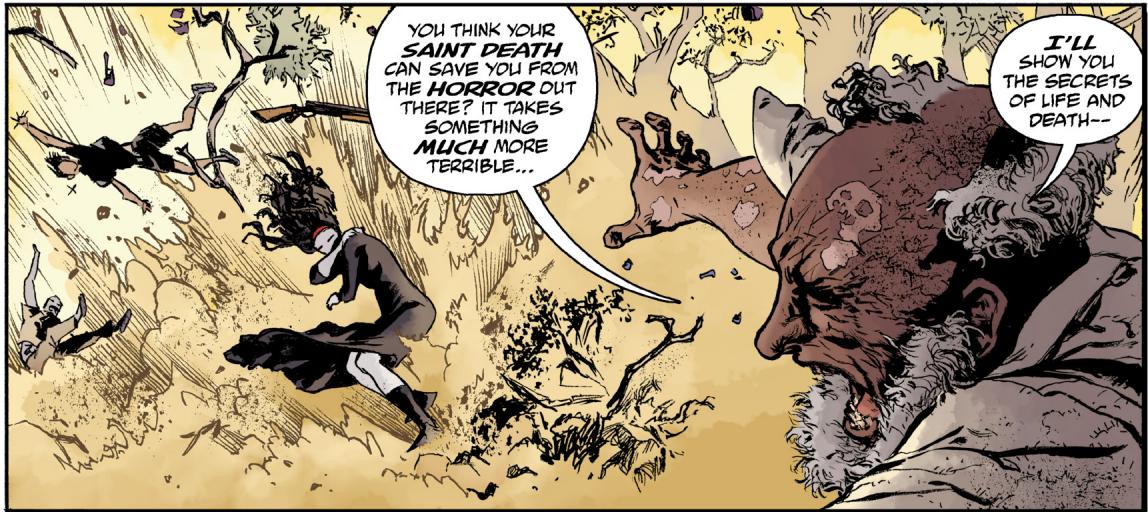


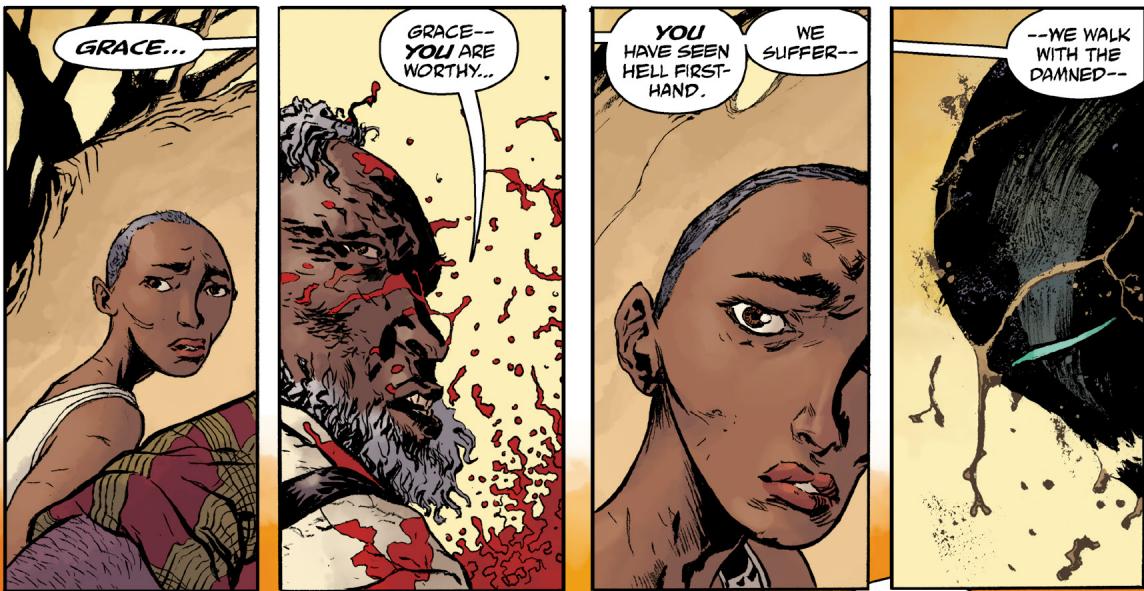




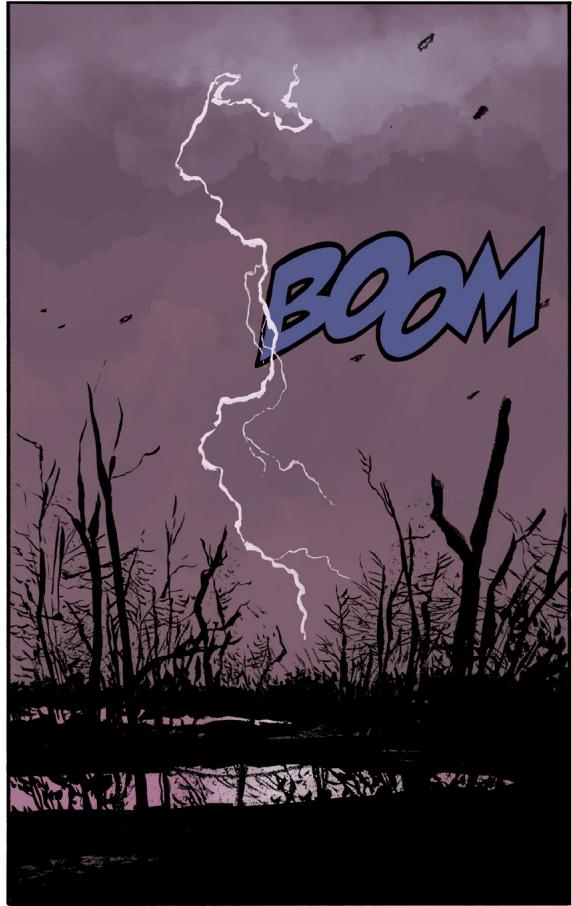




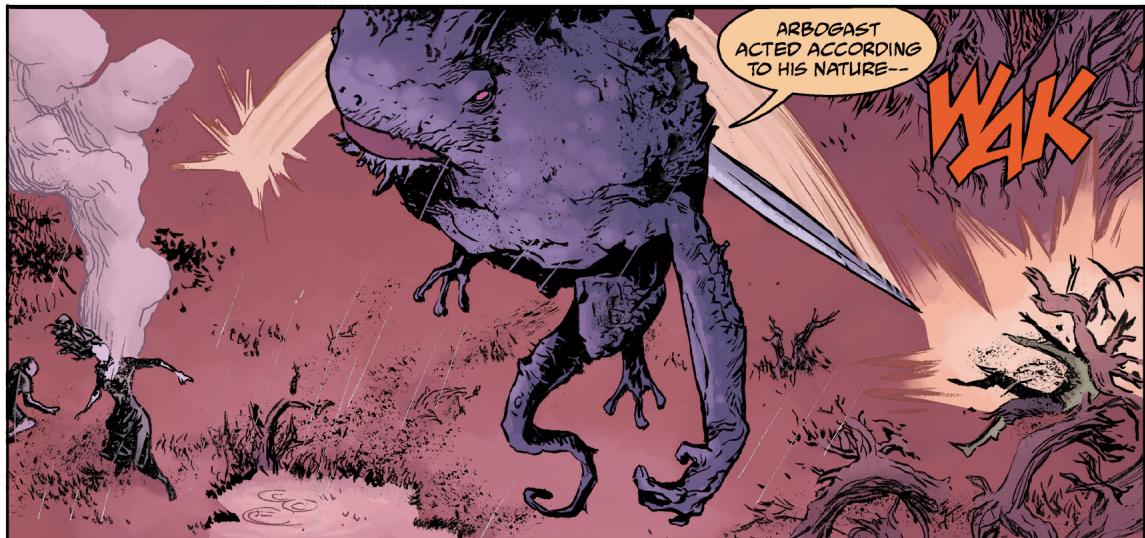
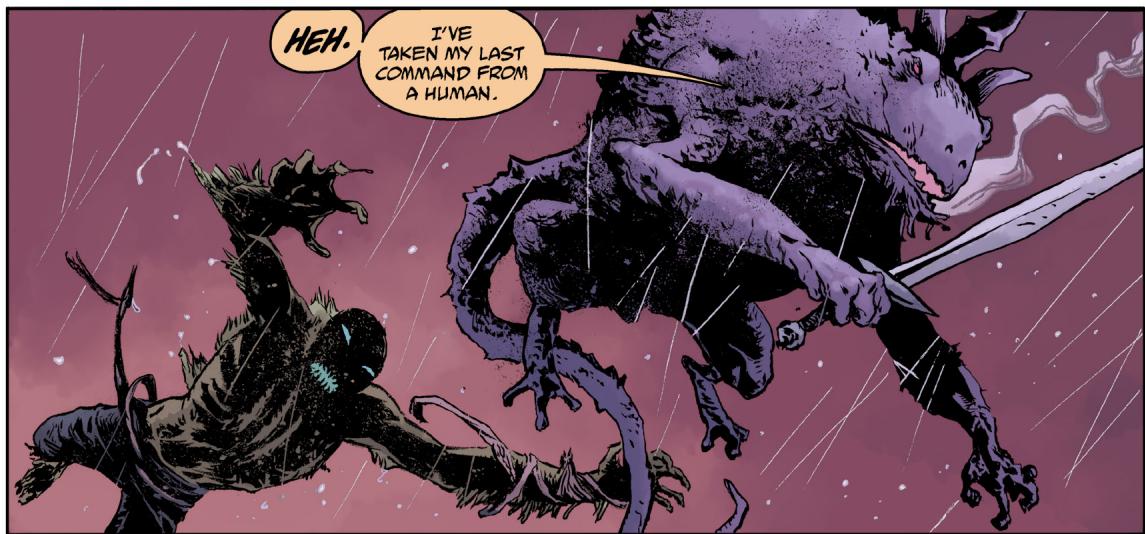


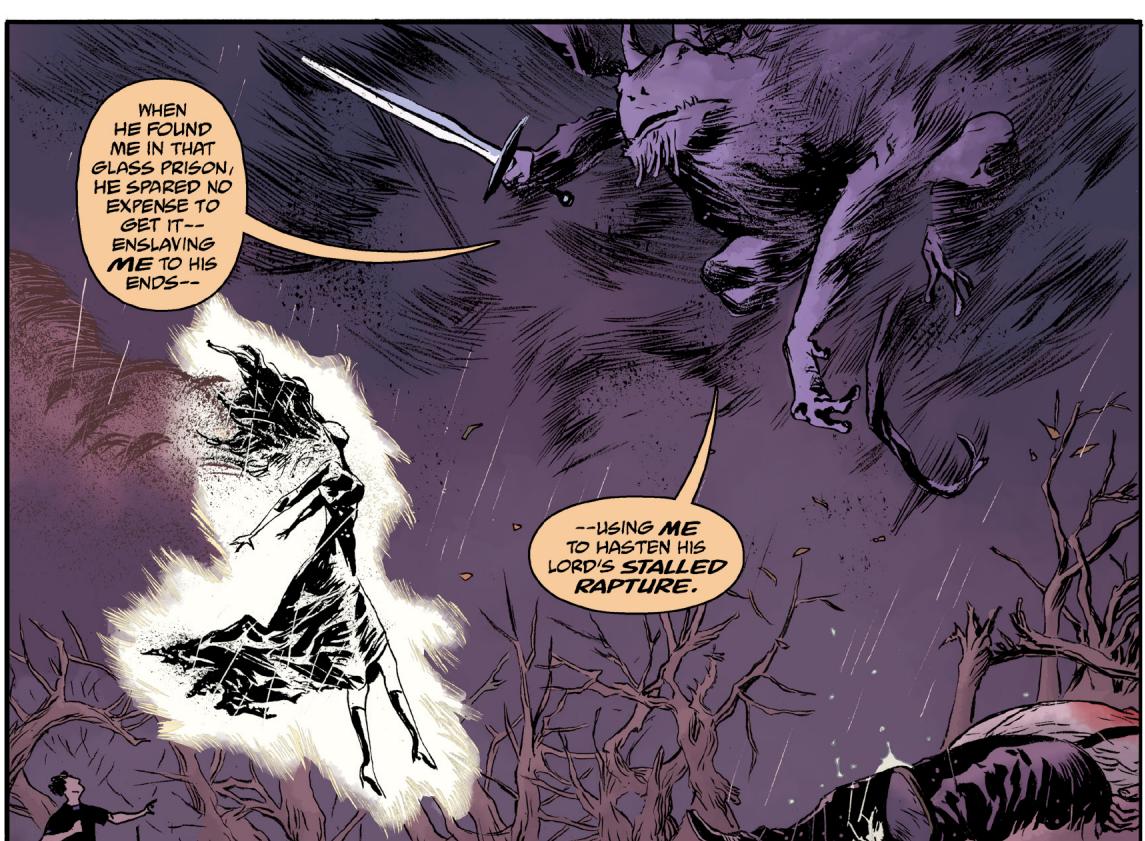






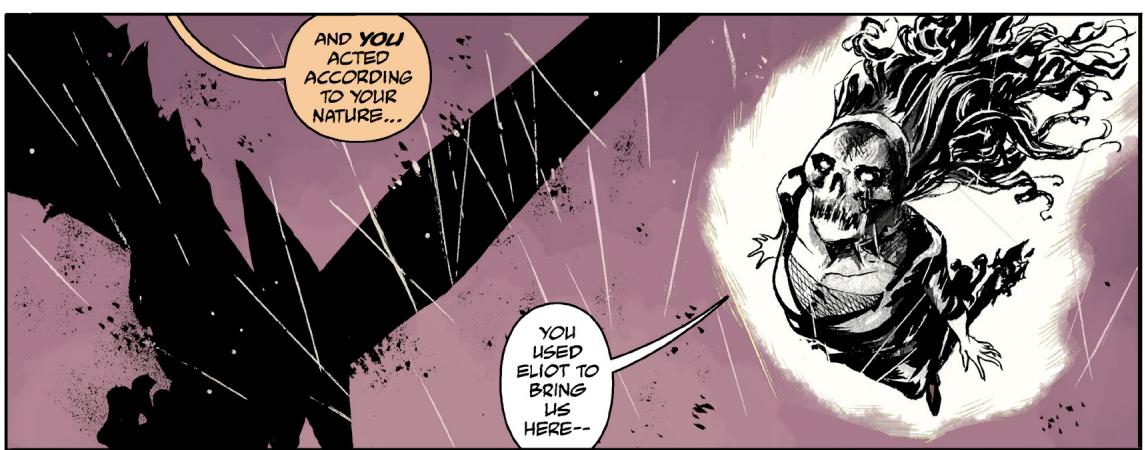






WHEN
HE FOUND
ME IN THAT
GLASS PRISON,
HE SPARED NO
EXPENSE TO
GET IT--
ENSLAVING
ME TO HIS
ENDS--

--USING ME
TO HASTEN HIS
LORD'S STALLED
RAPTURE.



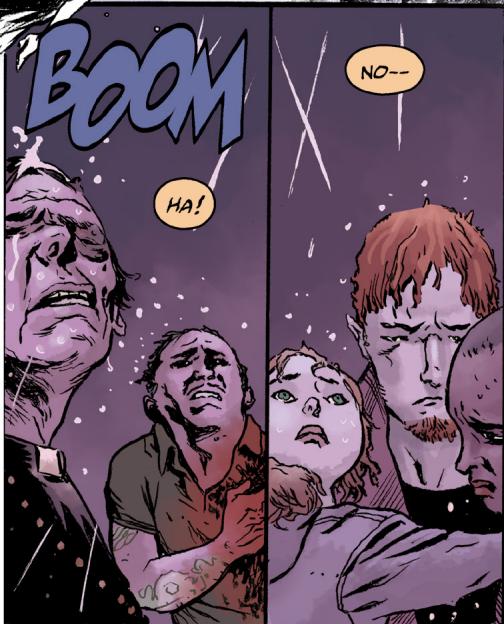
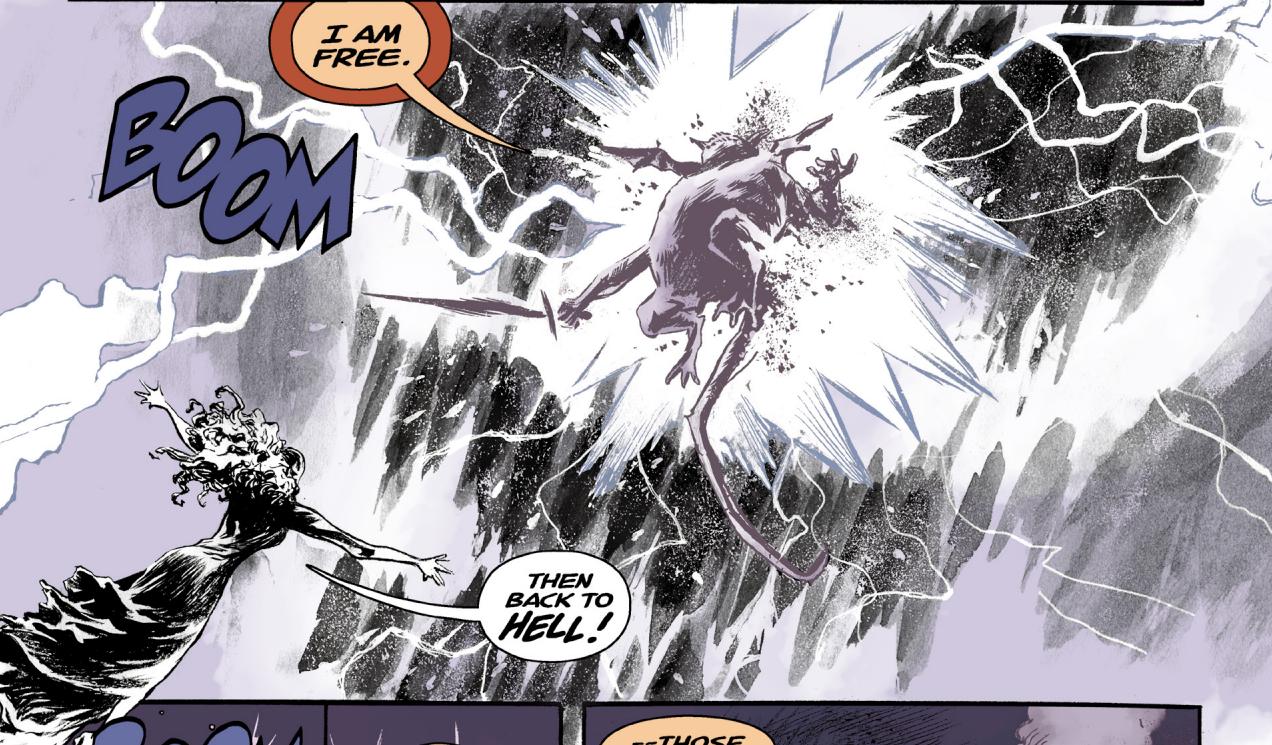
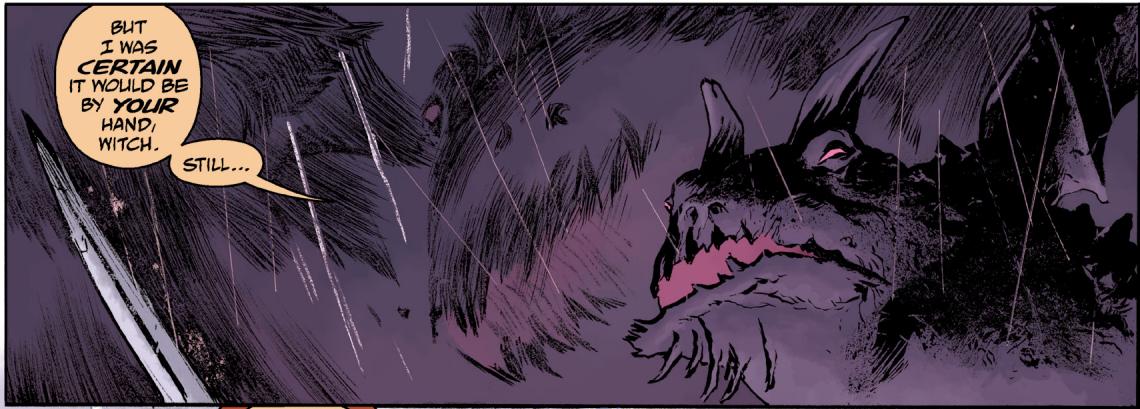
AND YOU
ACTED
ACCORDING
TO YOUR NATURE...

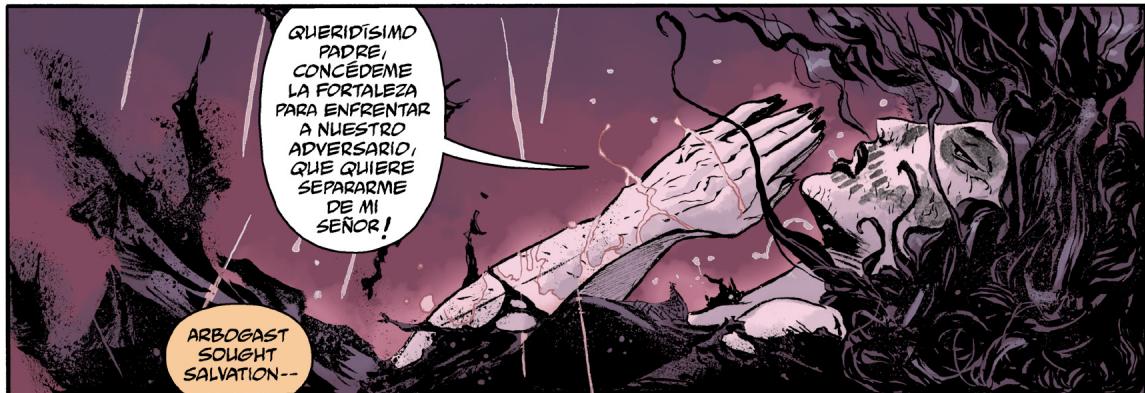
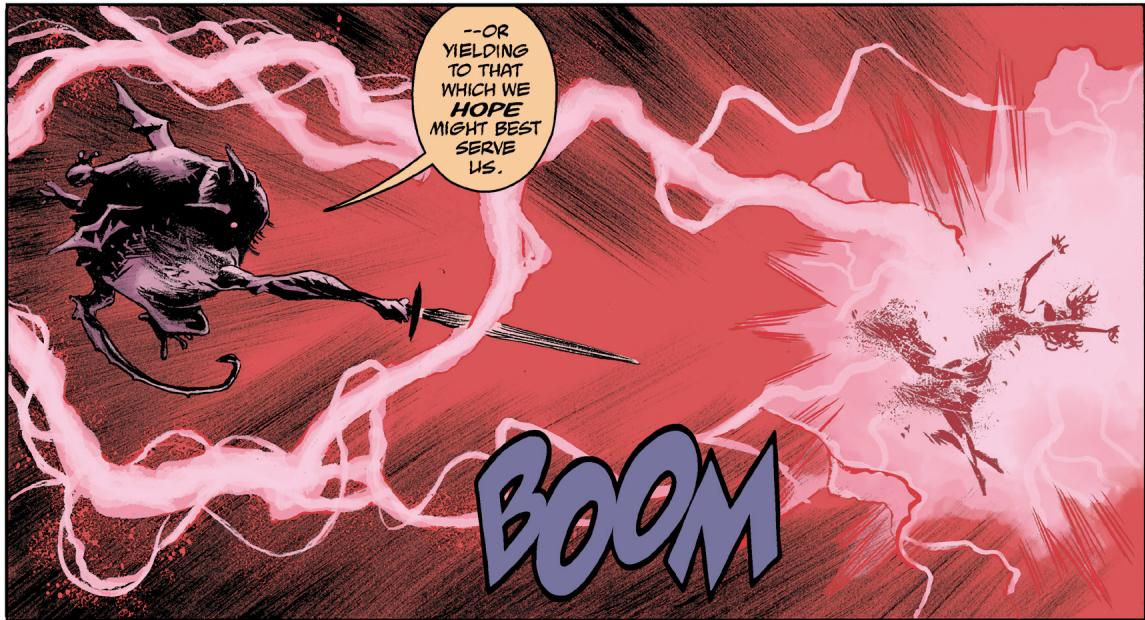
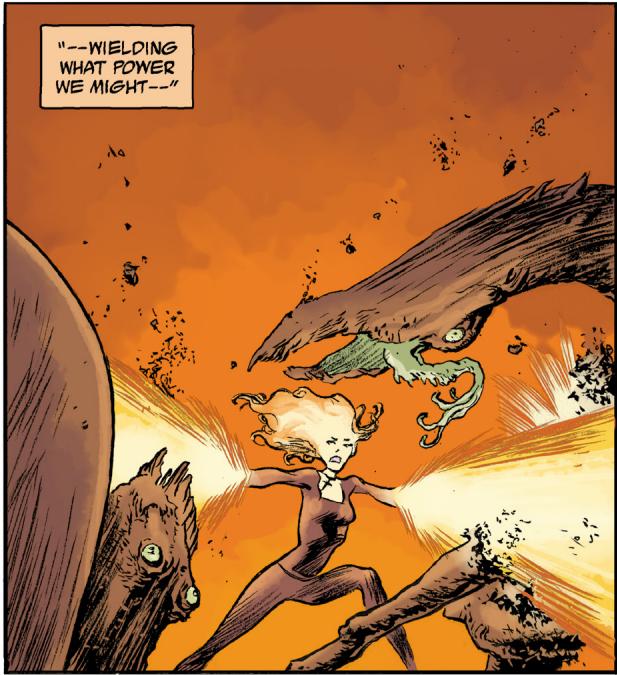
YOU
USED
ELIOT TO
BRING
US
HERE--

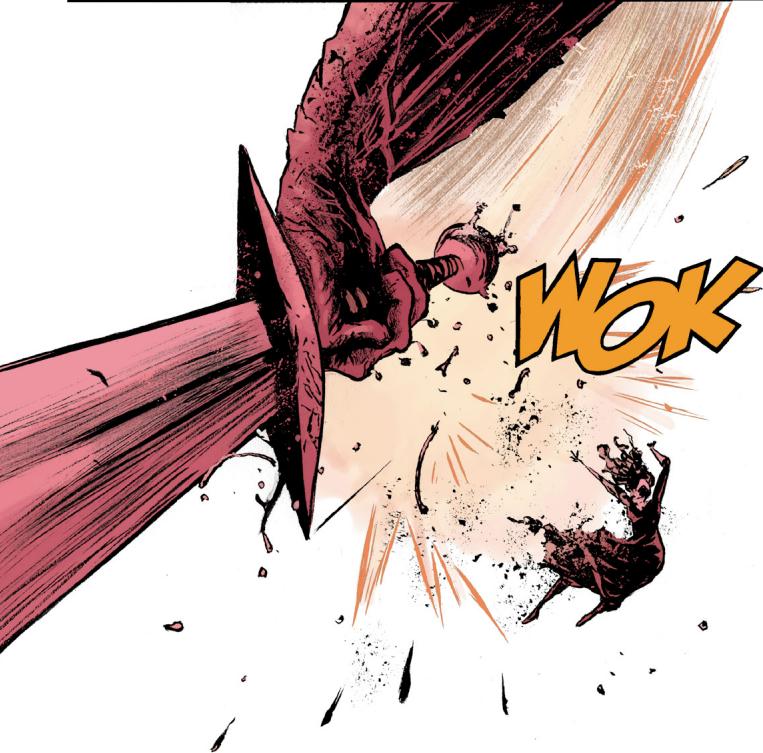


AND YOU
KILLED
ARBOGAST.

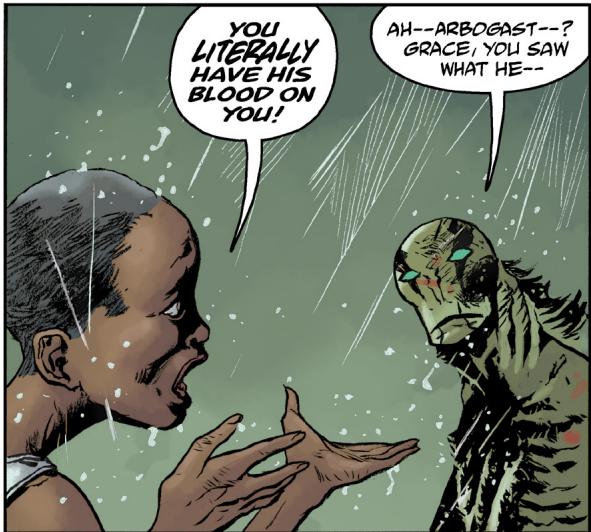




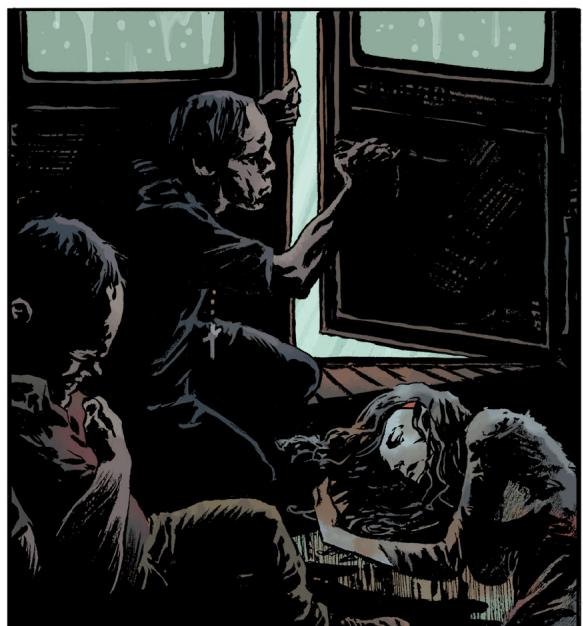


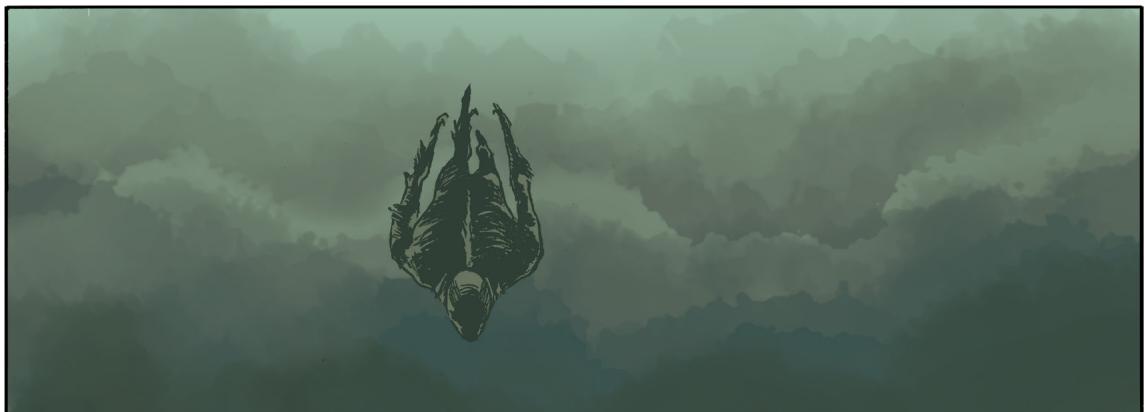












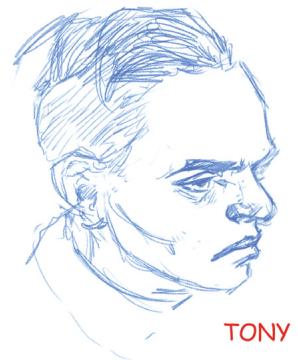
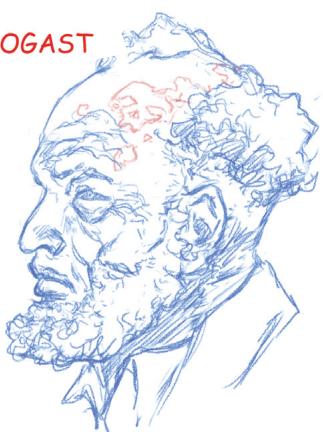
THE
END

ABE SAPIEN™

SKETCHBOOK

Notes by Scott Allie

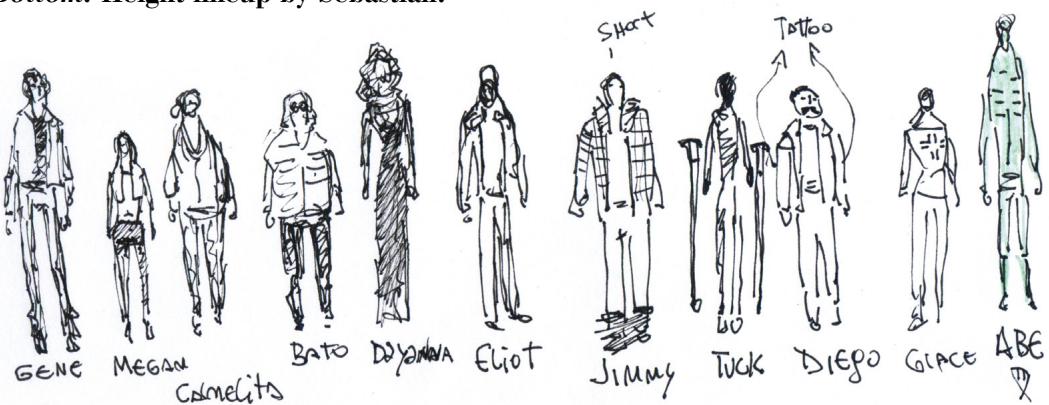
ARBOGAST



TONY

Most of the characters were designed in the previous story, *Sacred Places*, except for Arbogast and Tony, drawn here by Sebastián.

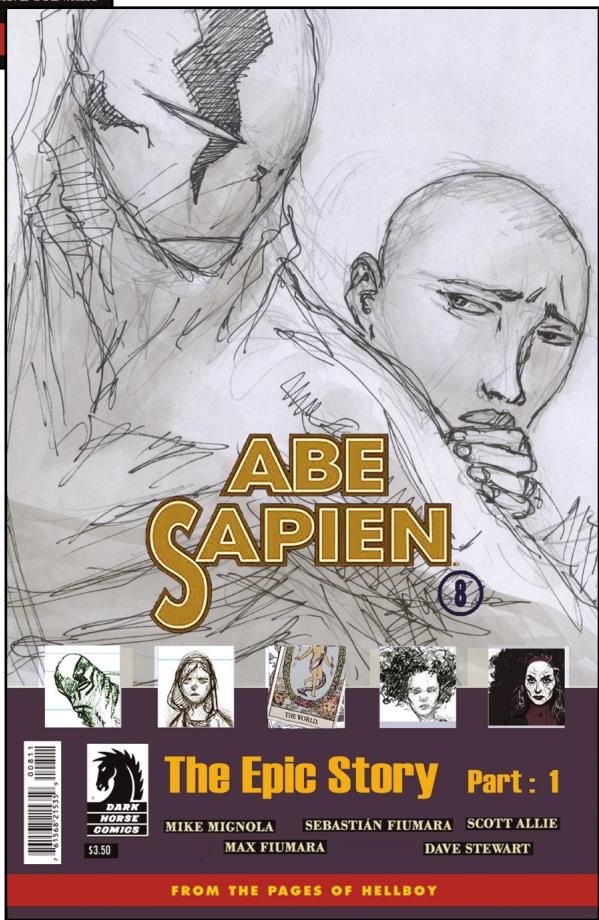
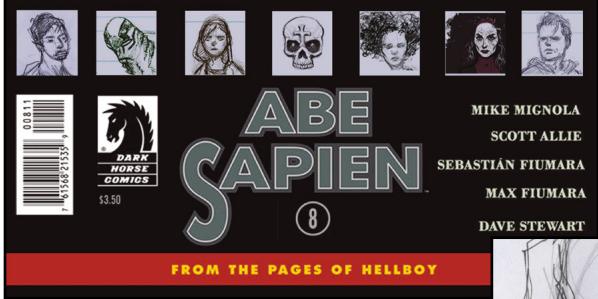
Bottom: Height lineup by Sebastián.





Max took inspiration for these covers from movie posters from the 1970s and '80s, including *The Poseidon Adventure* and *The Swarm*, which feature headshots in the insets.

Sketches and pencils for the first issue's cover.







Seba designed the cult members for the preceding story. Here Max warms up on the characters.

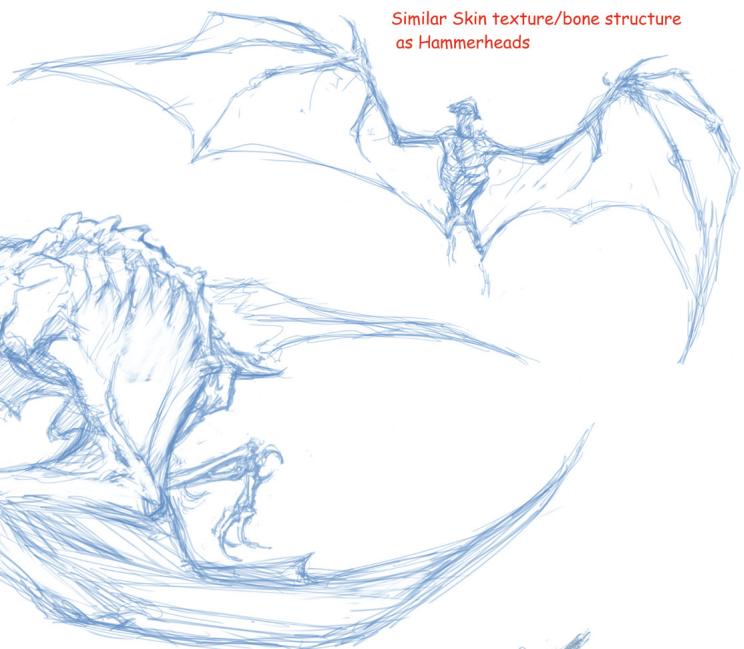
***Facing:* Seba's layouts, blue pencils, and inks and Dave's colors for the end of chapter 2.**



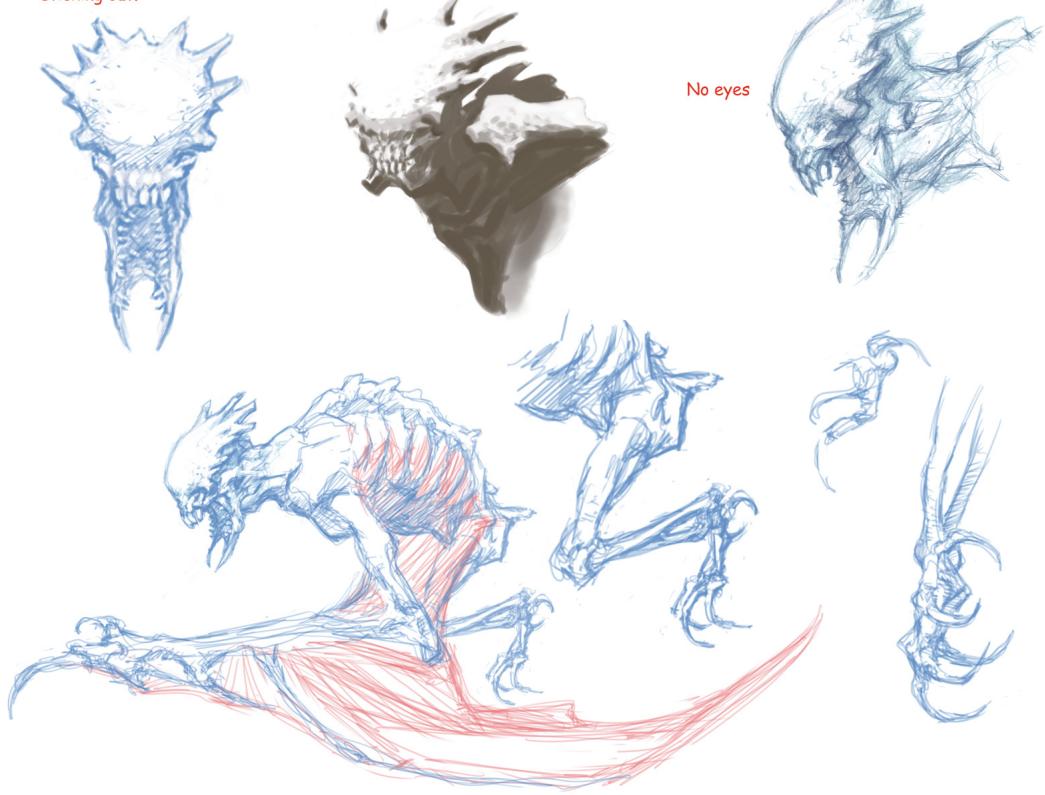
CONTINUED...

The flying monster in chapter 2 was Seba's idea. It was meant to be related to a hammerhead.

Following: Raw scans of Seba's inks from chapter 2.



Random number of spikes sticking out.







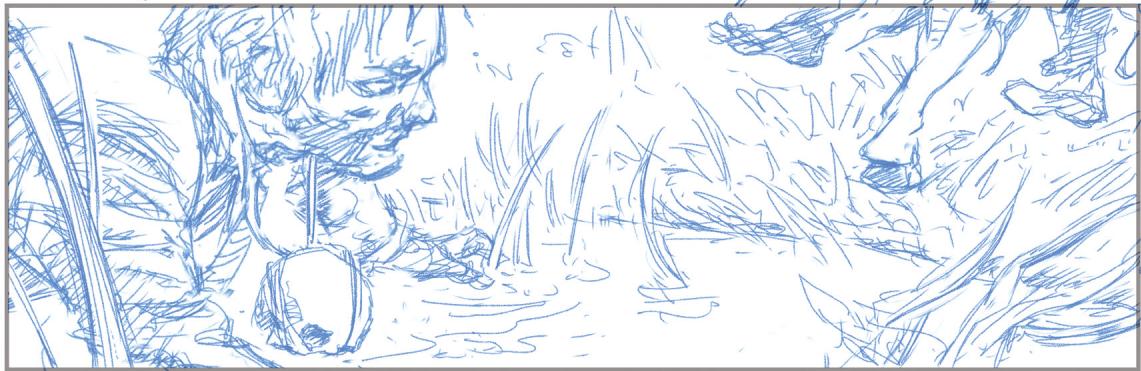


Max's cover sketches for the second issue. He wanted to include Seba's monster without spoiling it.



Seba's layout for part of chapter 4's extended zombie fight, which was also his idea.

Following: Pencils and inks. Note the change to panel 2 from layout to pencil.



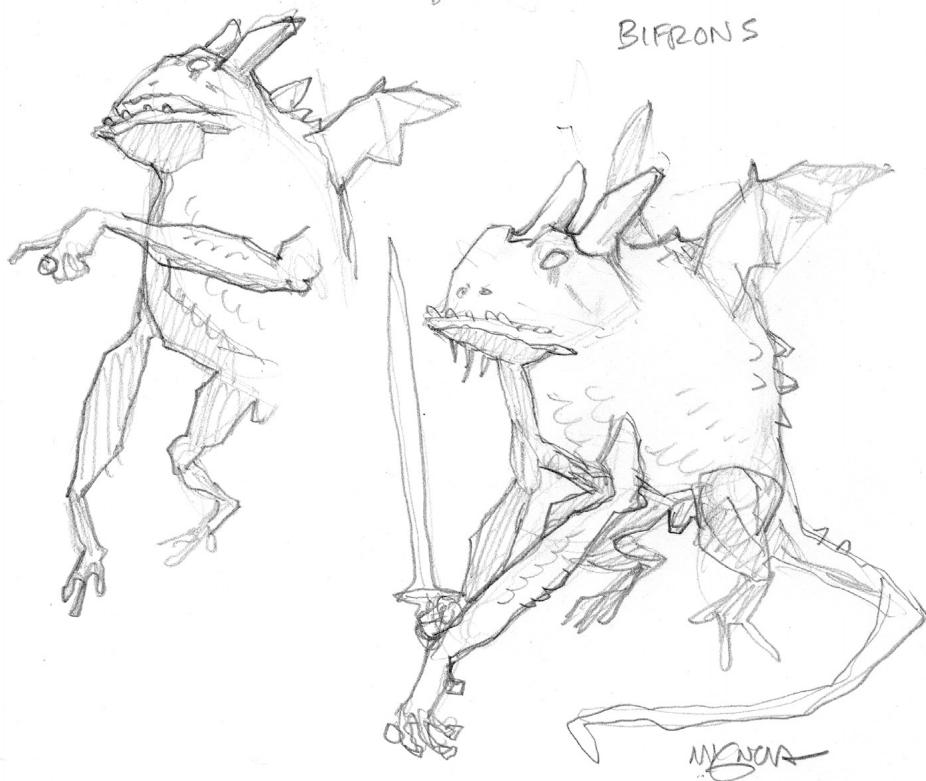




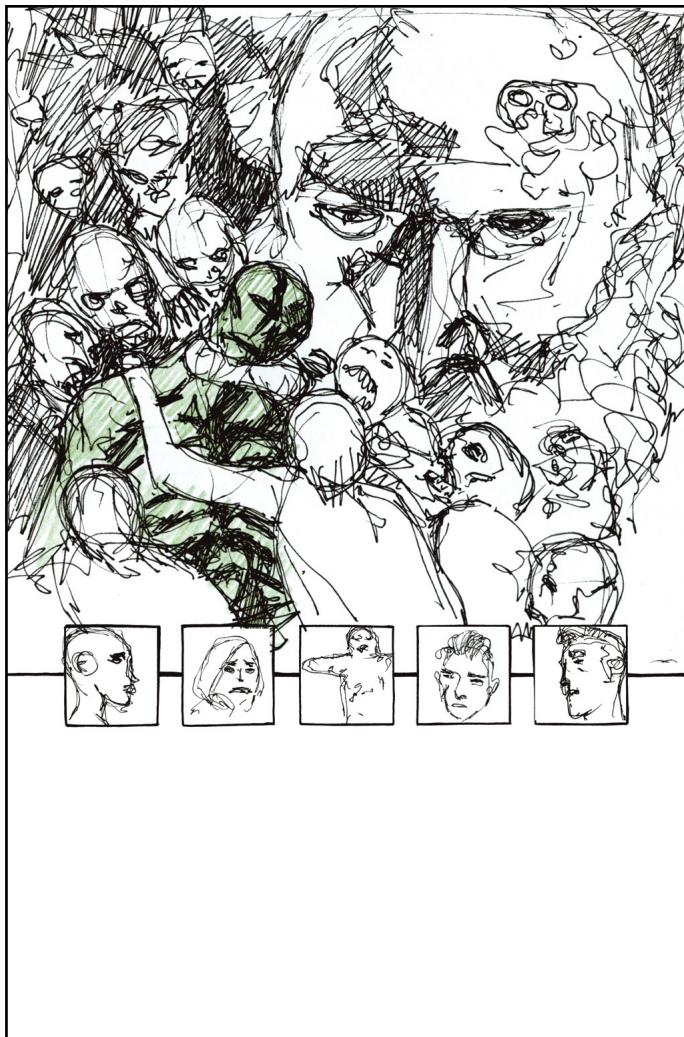
The demon in the story has a vague description in *The Lesser Key of Solomon*, so Max wanted to create something very alien. In Mike's mythology, though, demons from Hell have certain characteristics.

Facing: Mike's version of the demon.

Following: Max pumped it up after Mike's design.

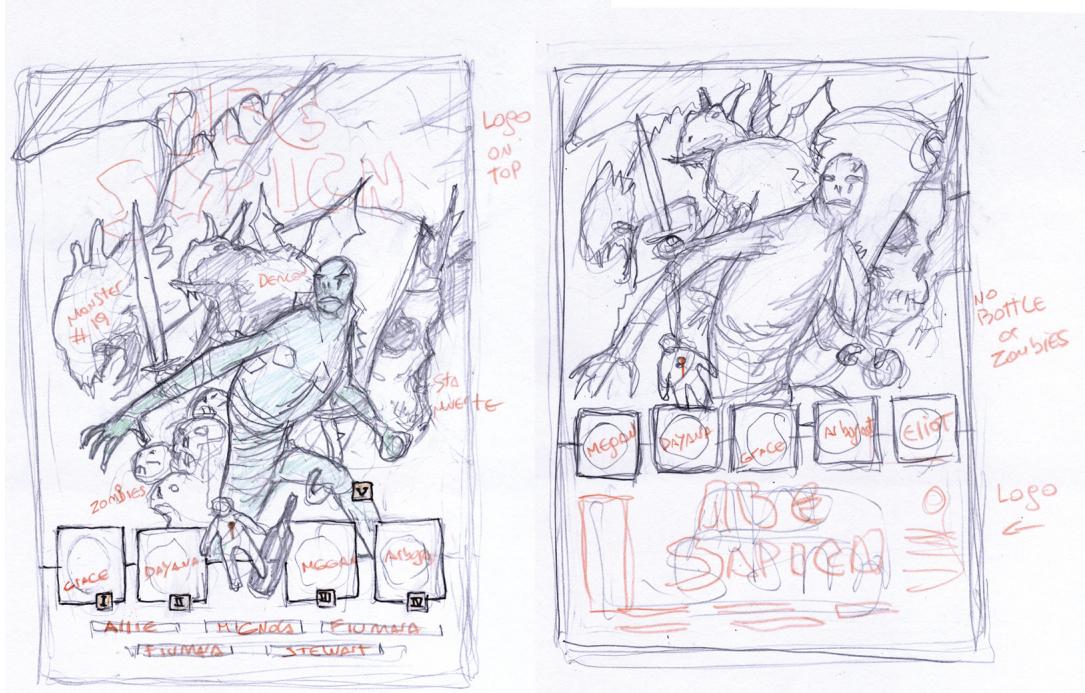






Max's first sketch for the collection didn't include the demon, but we liked the final character design so much we had to add it.

Following: Pencils and inks for the collection cover.





R J X

P Q







Abe Sapien stands accused of bringing about the end of the human race. He hits the devastated Gulf Coast, where the infestation of monsters began and a volcano leveled Houston, driving out most of the population. Taking refuge with a Mexican death cult in a strangely preserved south Texas town where demons dwell and the dead walk, Abe stands to lose what little he has left.

“From the cover to the closing panel the raw sketchiness of the art infused with a realistic gritty look keeps my face glued to the pages.”

—Bloody Disgusting

“Even if you don’t have much familiarity with the Dark Horse regulars of Hellboy or B.P.R.D., I’d highly recommend giving Abe Sapien a look.”

—Capeless Crusader

“This is one of the most suspenseful stories I’ve read in a while with just enough flashes of violence to probably give me nightmares tonight!”

—Comics: The Gathering

“It’s not often a comic can deliver this kind of emotion.”—Comic Vine



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