

FROM THE PAGES OF HELLBOY

B.P.R.D.TM

HOLLOW EARTH & OTHER STORIES



M
12

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CHRISTOPHER GOLDEN

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RYAN SOOK

CURTIS ARNOLD

BRIAN McDONALD

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MATT SMITH





HOLLOW EARTH & OTHER STORIES

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Published by
MIKE RICHARDSON

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This book is collected from *Hellboy: Box Full of Evil*, *Abe Sapien: Drums of the Dead*, *B.P.R.D.: Hollow Earth*, and the *Dark Horse Extra*, published by Dark Horse Comics.

HOLLOW EARTH



HOLLOW EARTH



Story by

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Pencils by

RYAN SOOK

Inks by

RYAN SOOK & CURTIS ARNOLD

Colors by

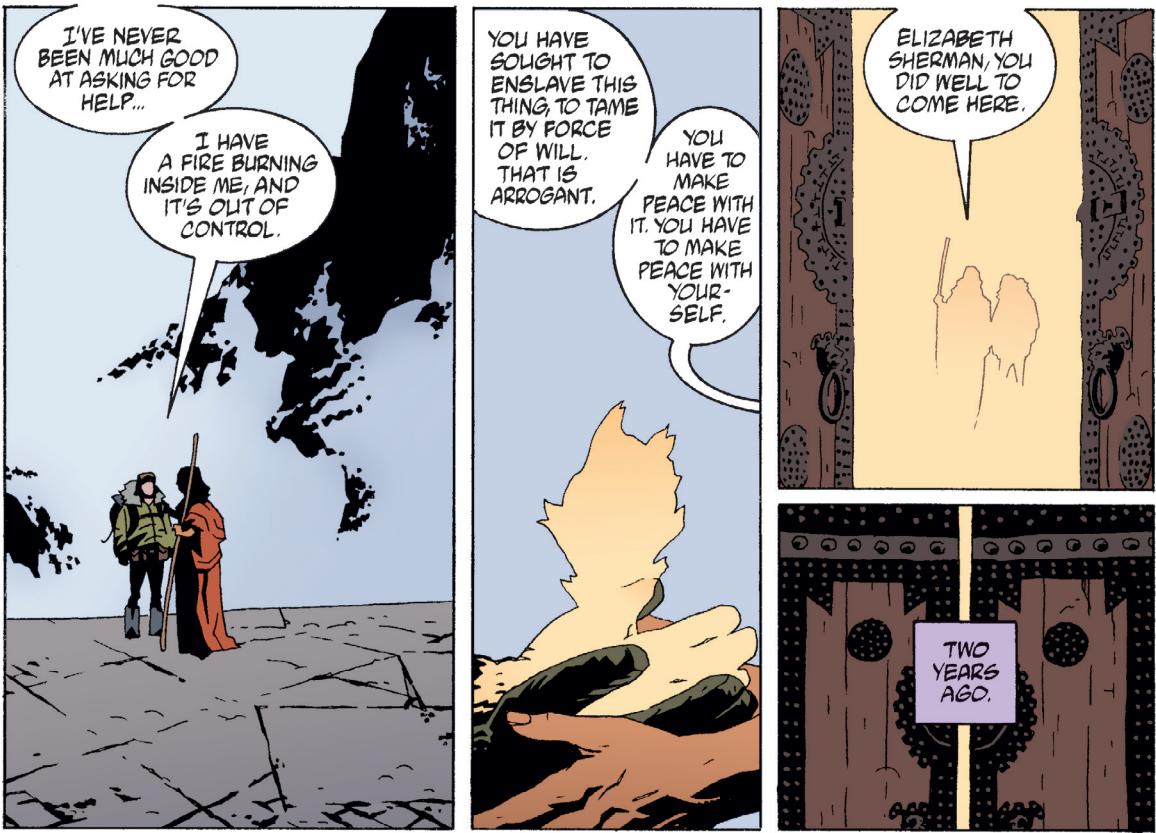
DAVE STEWART

Letters by

CLEM ROBINS







NOW.

THE OFFICES OF
THE BUREAU FOR
PARANORMAL RESEARCH
AND DEFENSE. FAIRFIELD,
CONNECTICUT.



ESTABLISHED IN 1944 BY
THE LATE PROFESSOR
TREVOR BRUTENHOLM
AND AN INTERNATIONAL
COLLECTIVE IN RESPONSE
TO NAZI--AND LATER
SOVIET--OCCULT EXPERI-
MENTS, ITS FUNCTION
IN THE PRESENT IS TO
MONITOR, INVESTIGATE,
AND CONTAIN SUPER-
NATURAL EVENTS
WORLDWIDE.

WE'VE GOT ANOTHER
CEMETERY DESECRA-
TION IN HAVERHILL,
MASSACHUSETTS.
EVIDENCE OF
RITUAL... BODIES
MOVED, PIECES
MISSING...

YEAH,
YOU BETTER
GET SOMEONE ON
THAT RIGHT
AWAY.

WHAT
ELSE?

JUST THE
USUAL.

WHAT
ABOUT THE NEW
MEXICO THING
WITH THE
CHICKENS?



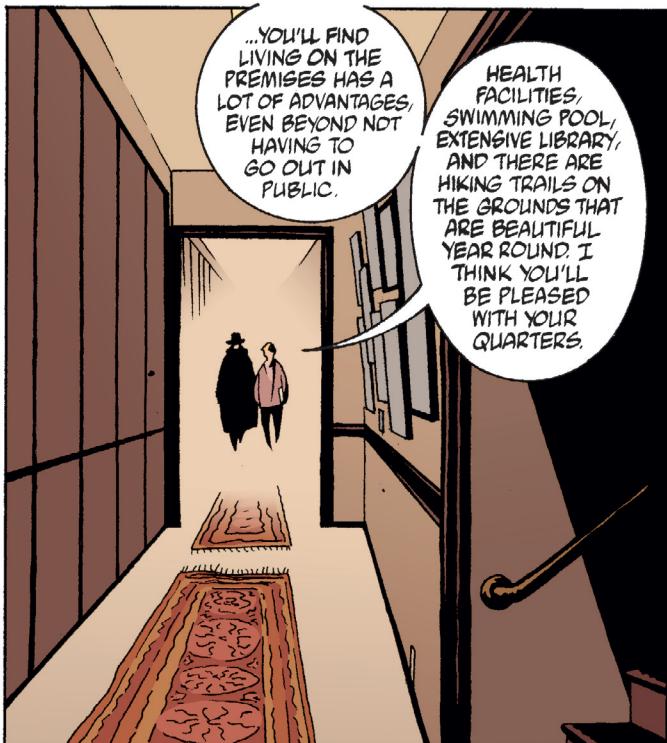
NOTHING NEW.
MAYBE IT WAS
ONE OF THOSE
FREAK, ONE-TIME-
ONLY THINGS.

I
HOPE
SO.

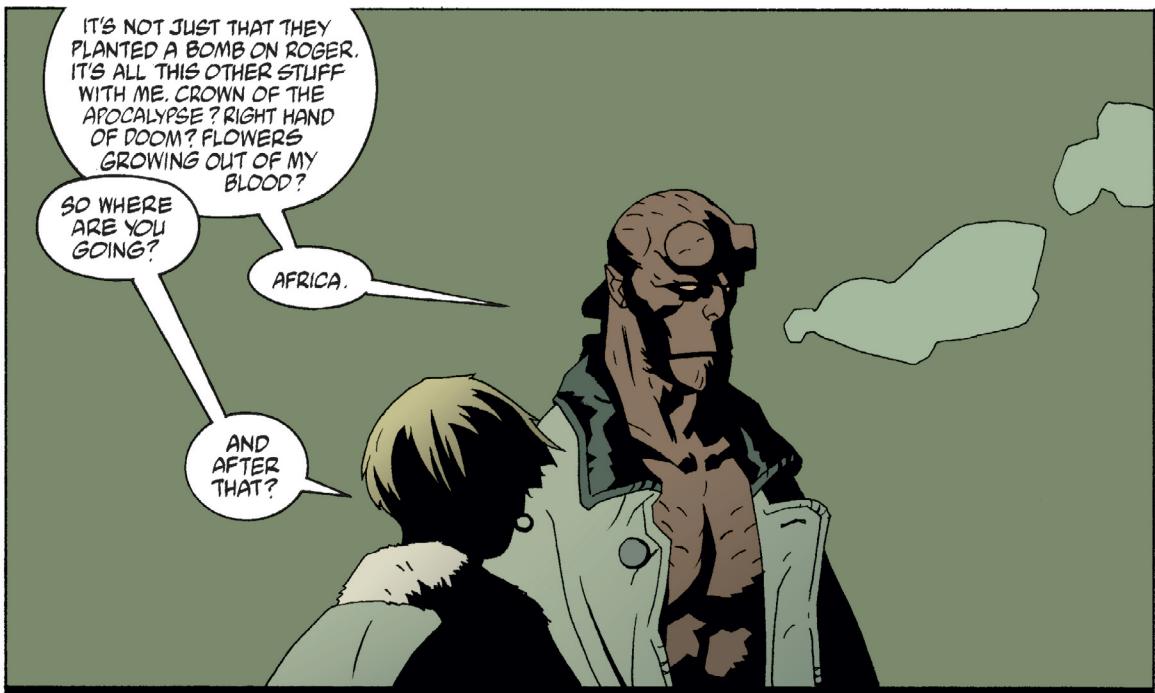
NO
KIDDING.

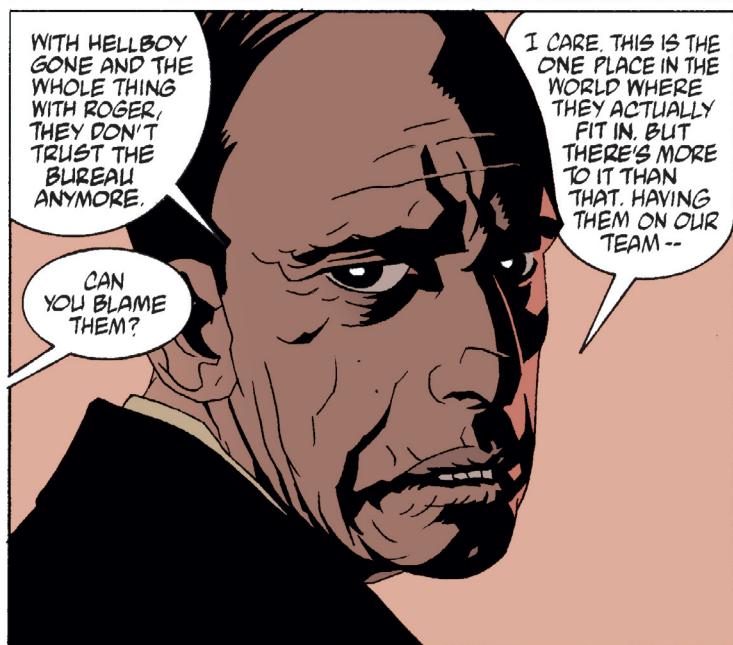
KATE,
THE NEW
GUY IS
HERE.





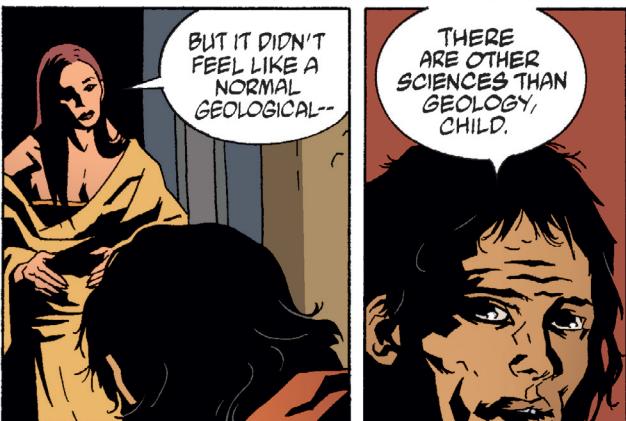












KNOCK
KNOCK

IT'S
OPEN.

ABE.

THANKS FOR THE
LOAN, BUT I THOUGHT
I'D BRING THIS ONE
BACK. COULDN'T
GET INTO IT.

YOU
DIDN'T LIKE
IT?

JUST
SEEMED KIND OF
IMPLAUSIBLE.

IMPLAUSIBLE?
THAT'S ALMOST
FUNNY.

DR. MANNING
SENT YOU DOWN?

HOW'D YOU
KNOW?

WE'RE FRIENDS, KATE.
I'M GOING TO MISS YOU.
BUT WE'RE NOT SO
CLOSE THAT YOU
MAKE IT A HABIT
OF DROPPING BY
MY QUARTERS
UNLESS IT'S
BUSINESS.

I SAW THE NEW
GUY IN THE HALL
EARLIER. WHAT'S
HIS STORY?

JOHANN.
NICE GUY.
ACTUALLY, SAD
SON OF A
BITCH.

"HE WAS
A PHYSICAL
MEDIUM.

"NOT A
CRANK,
EITHER. THE
GENUINE
ARTICLE.

"HAD THE MISFORTUNE
OF BEING IN THE MIDDLE
OF A SEANCE WHEN
THE CHENGDU
DISASTER STRUCK.

"BANGKOK TO
DUBLIN. CHRIST,
WHAT A MESS
THAT WAS.

"KRAUS
WAS OUT
OF BODY
WHEN IT HIT. HIS
ECTOPLASMIC
PROJECTION HAD
NOTHING TO COME
BACK TO. BUT IN A
TWISTED WAY, HE
WAS LUCKY.



"SOMEHOW HE
MANAGED TO HOLD
HIMSELF TOGETHER
UNTIL THE B.P.R.D.
TECHS COULD DESIGN
A CONTAINMENT
SUIT FOR HIM."



"HE'S NOT
DEAD. HE
JUST DOESN'T
HAVE A BODY
ANYMORE."

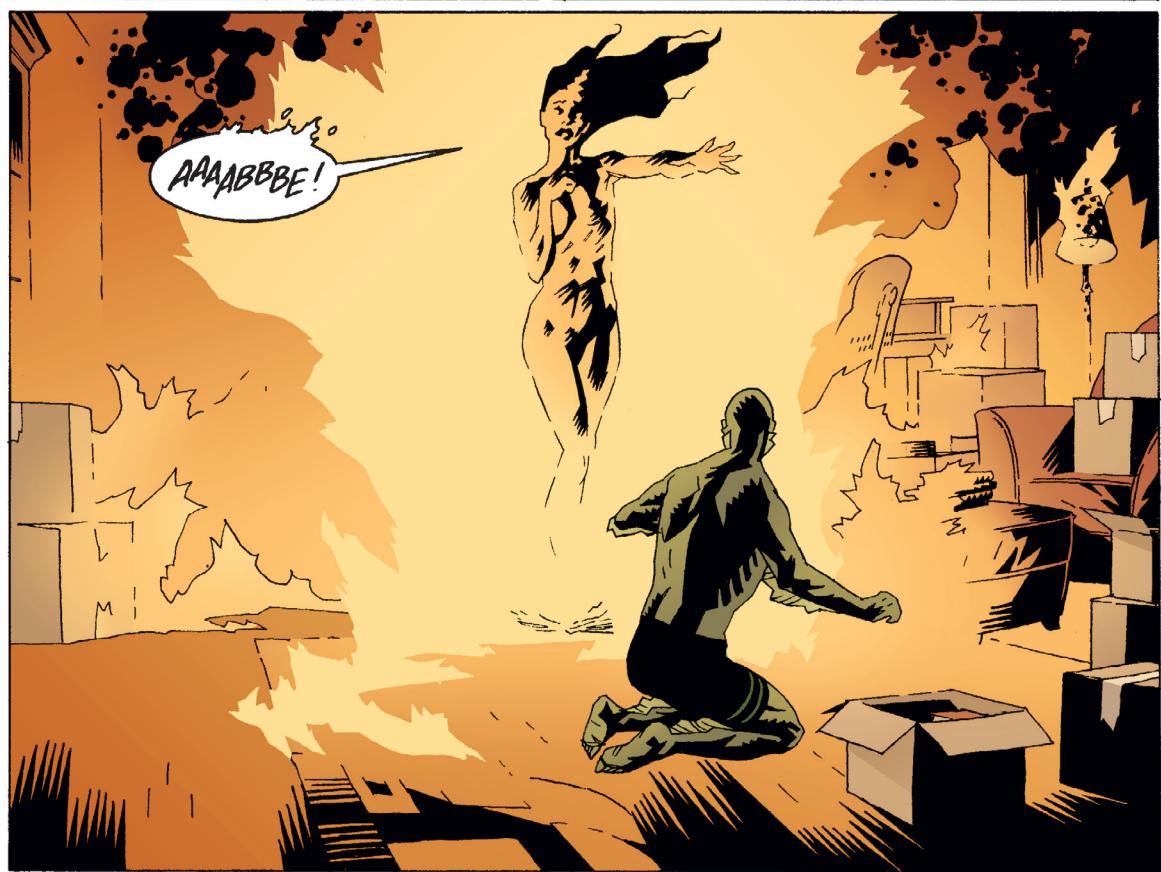


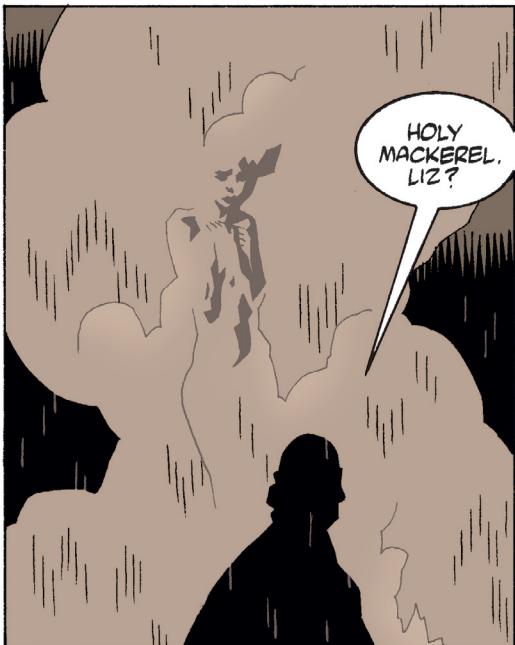
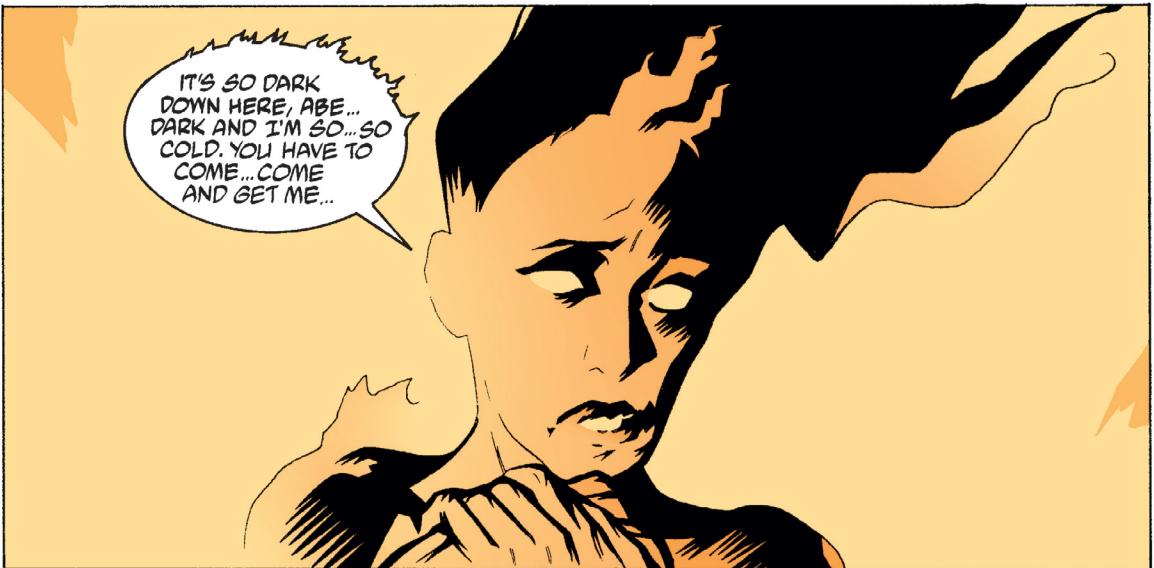
HIS OLD LIFE IS GONE,
BUT HE'S STILL A GREAT
MEDIUM, AND HE'S GOT
A GOOD GENERAL
KNOWLEDGE OF THE
PARANORMAL. I THINK
HE'LL MAKE A GOOD
HOME HERE.

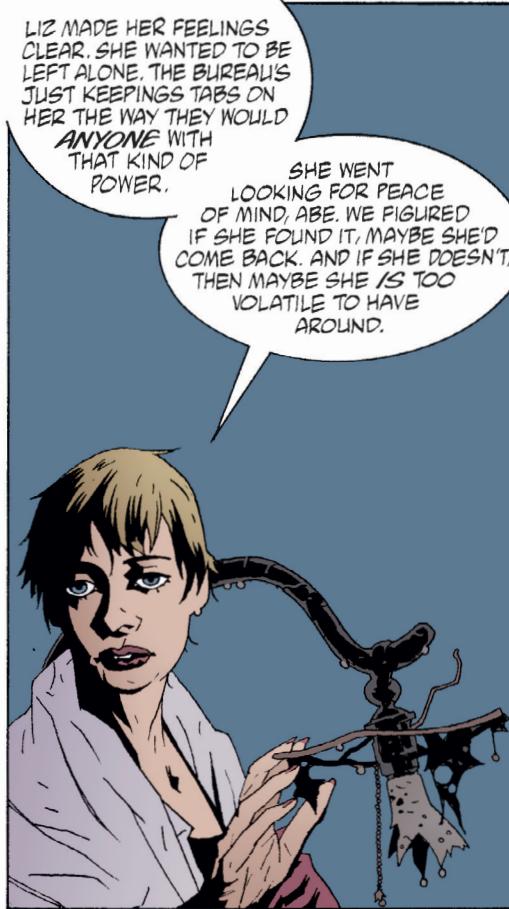
DON'T
LEAVE,
ABE.

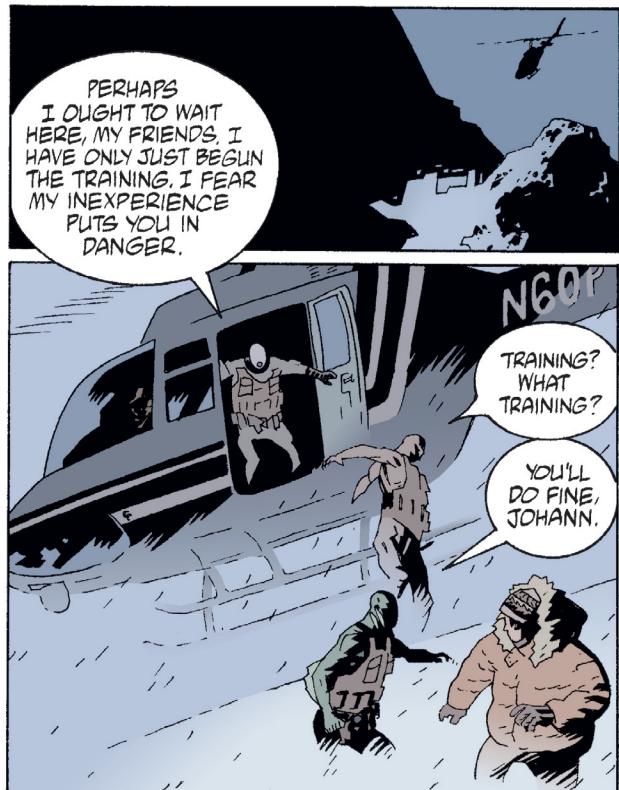


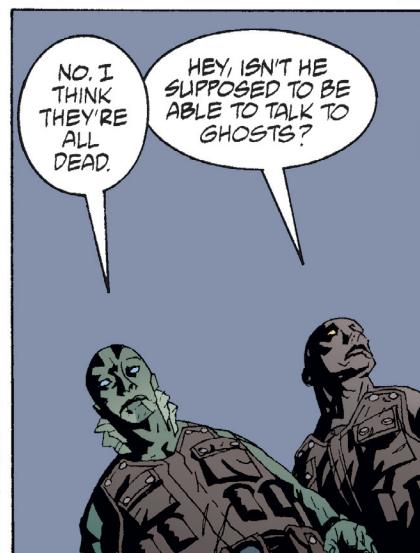








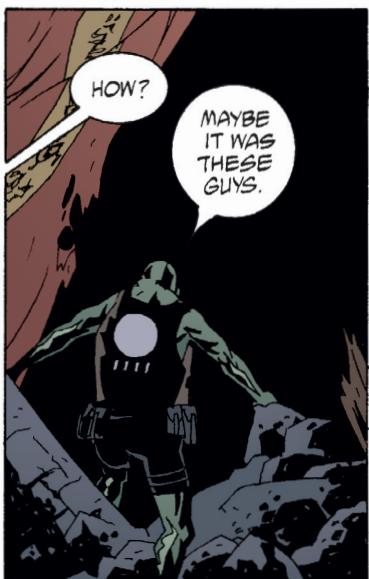




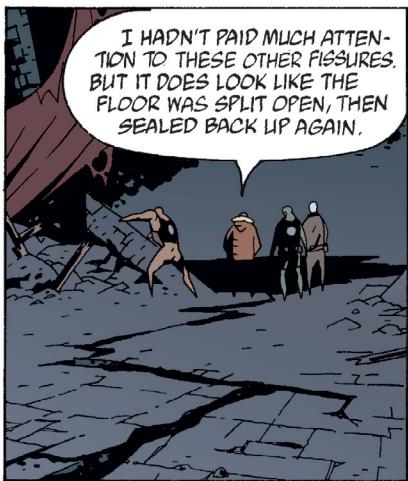
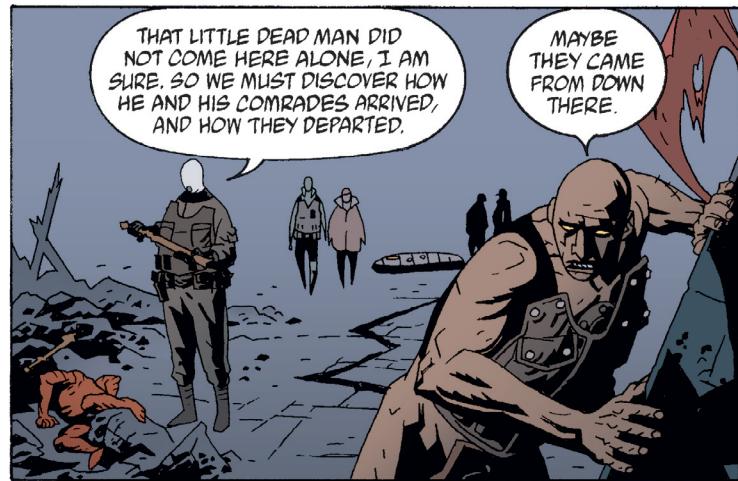


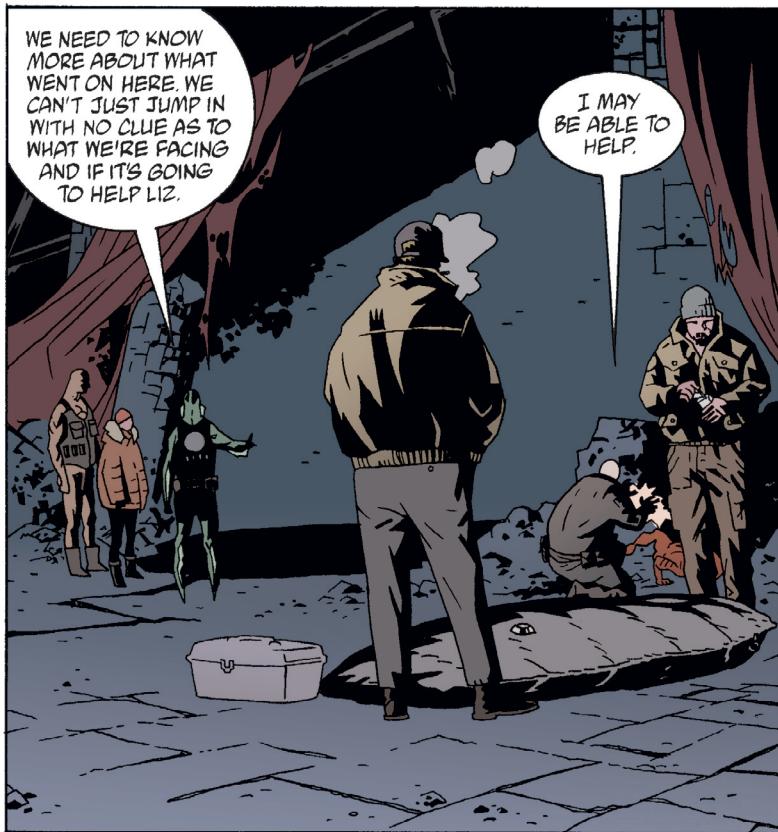


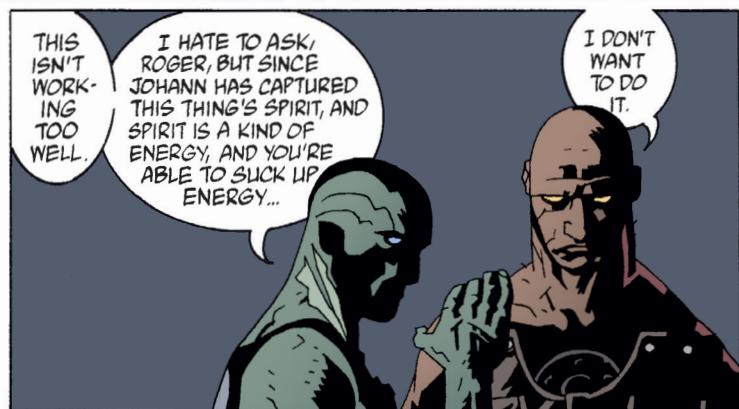
WHAT THE HELL'S
WRONG WITH HER,
JOHANN? IS SHE
DEAD OR NOT?

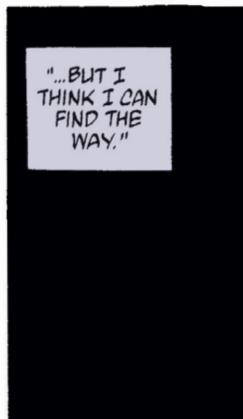






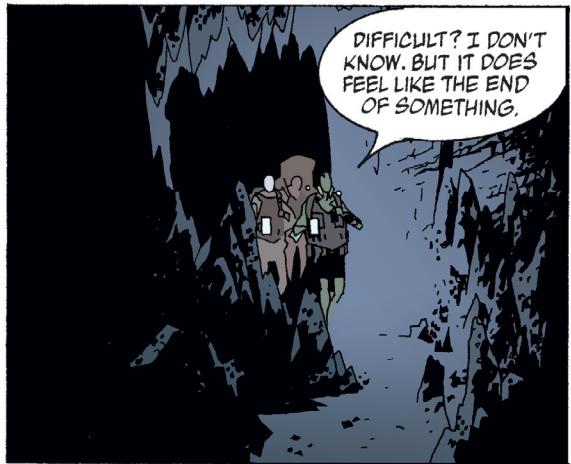






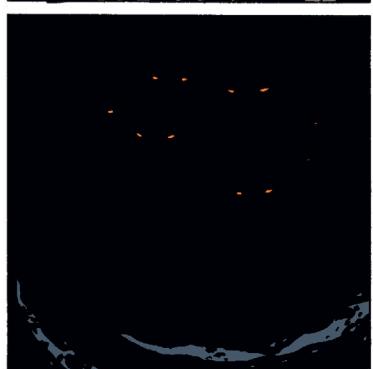












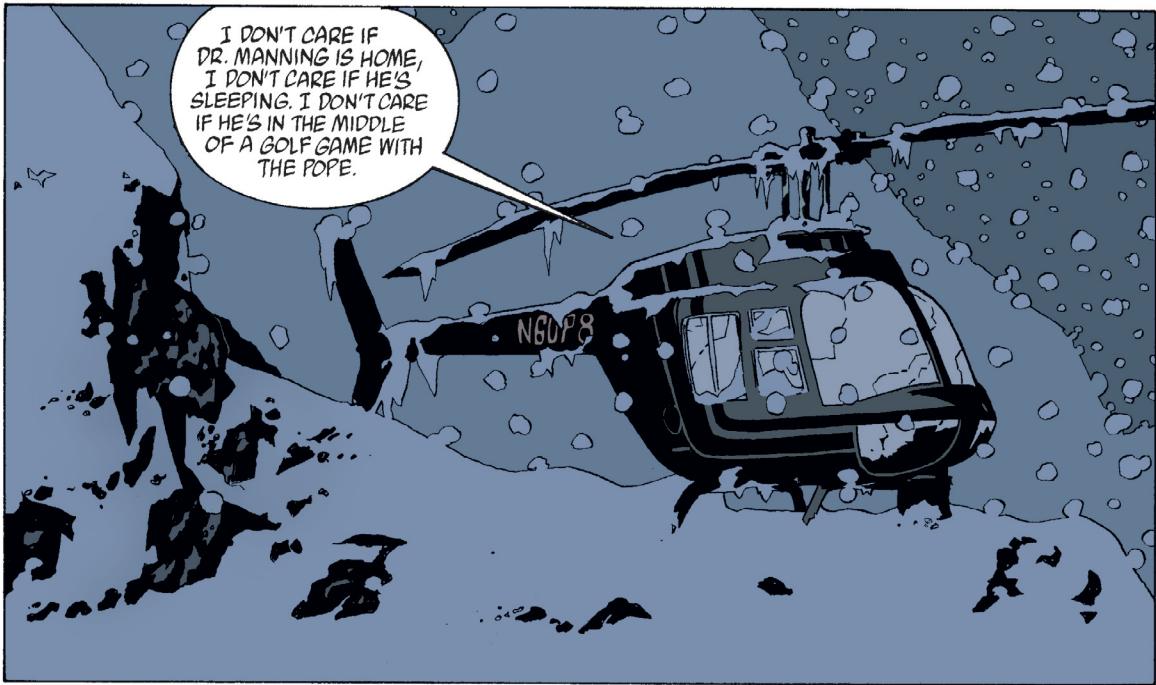




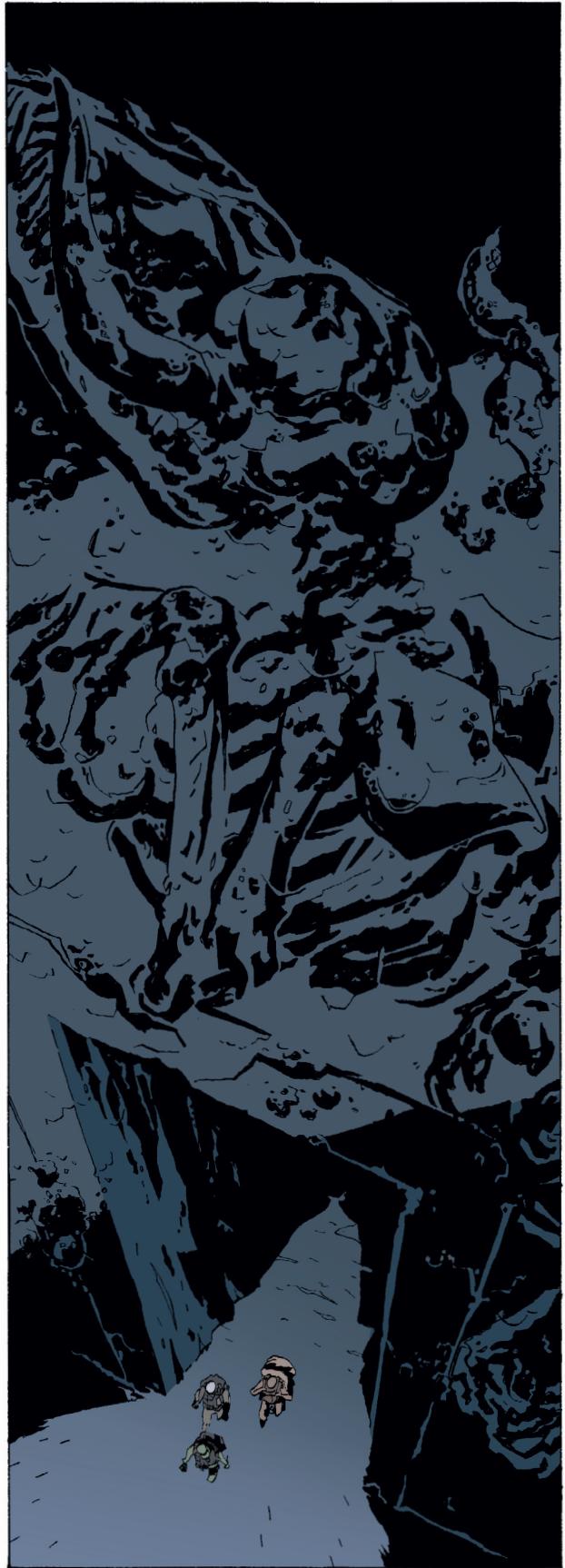




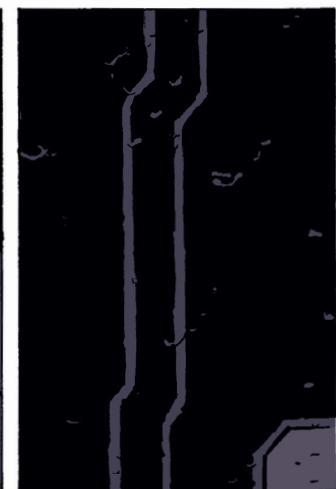


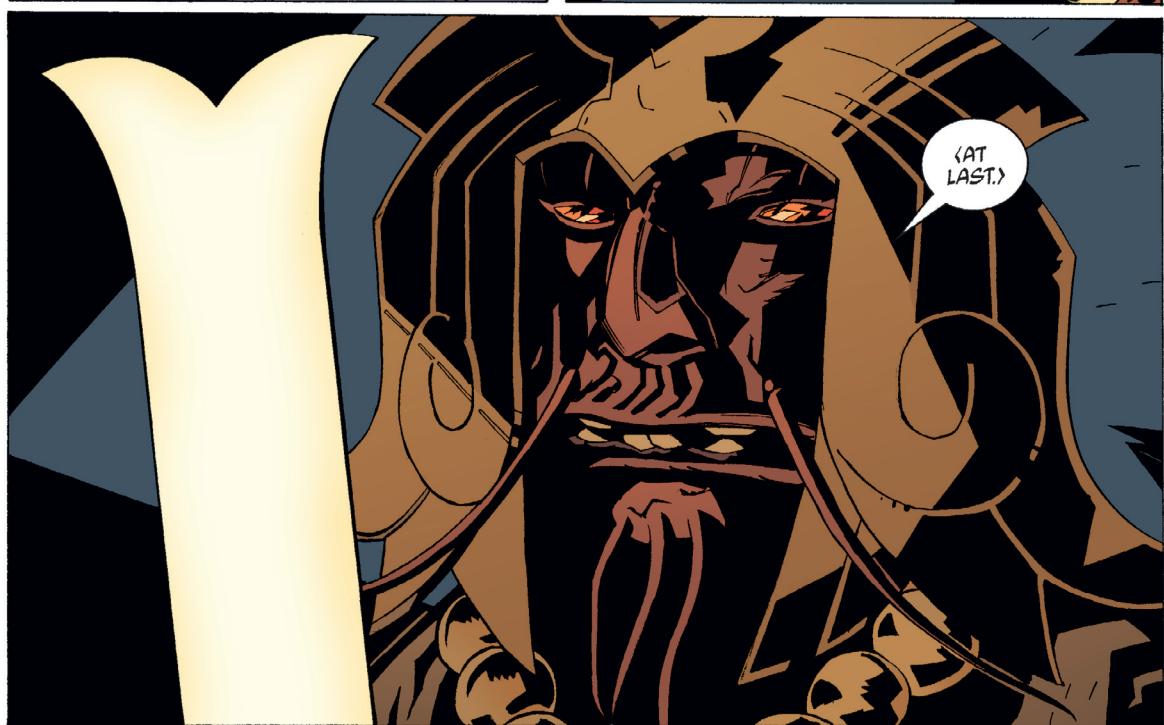
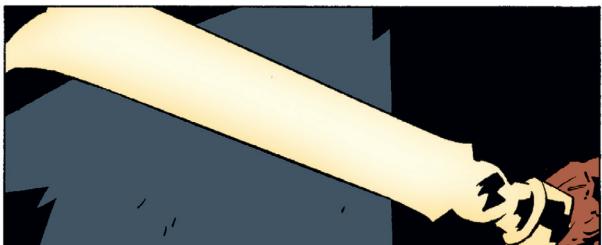
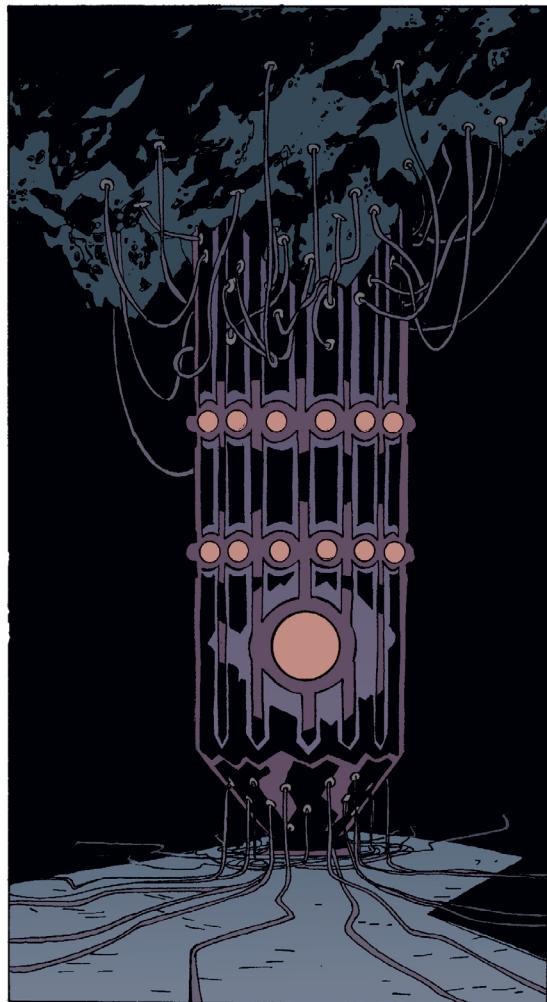


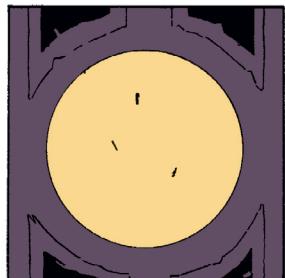
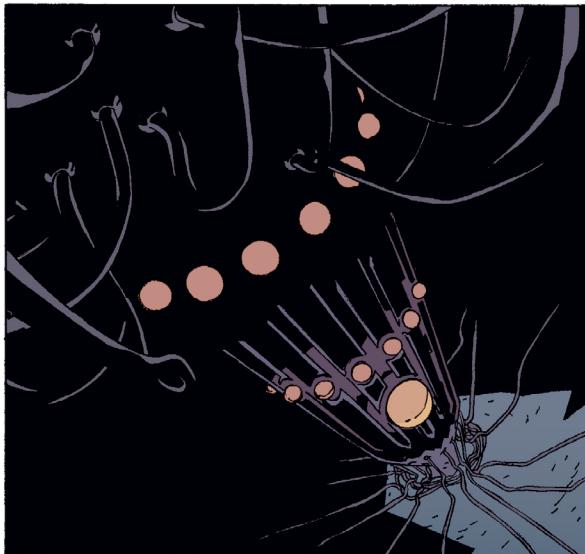


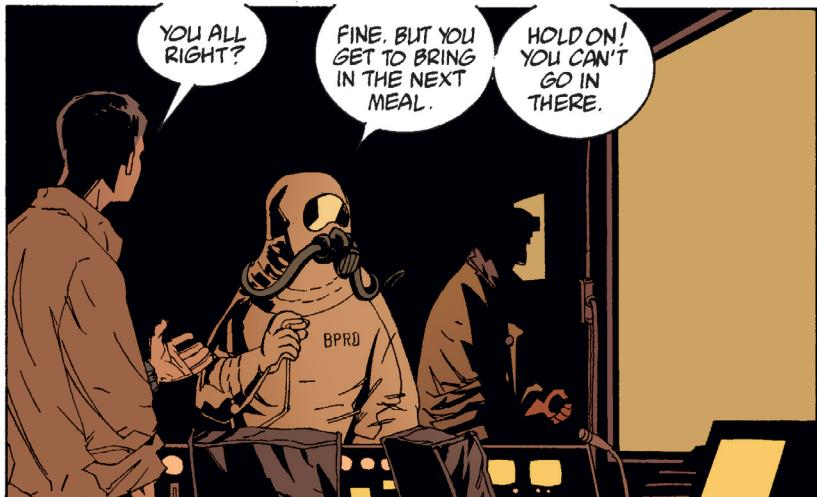




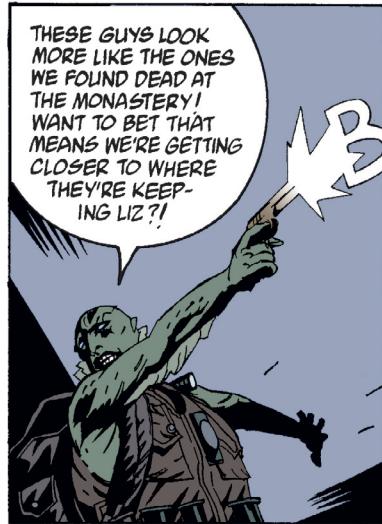




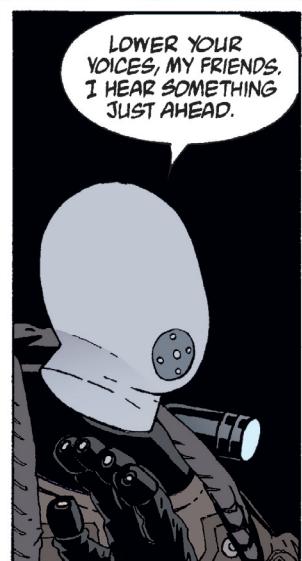
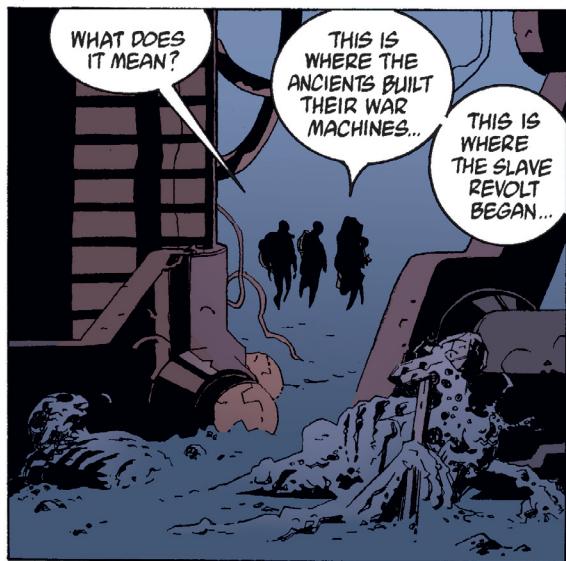


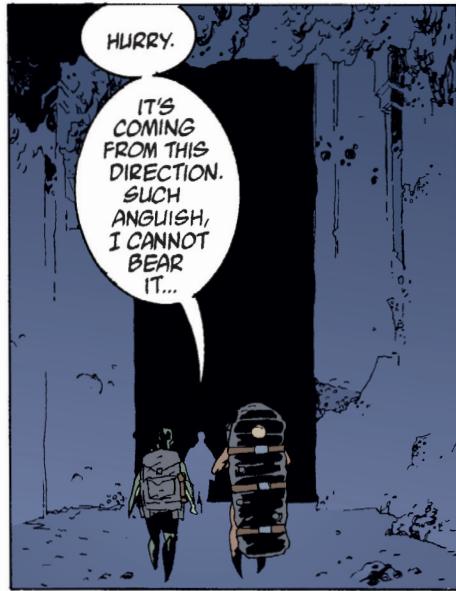


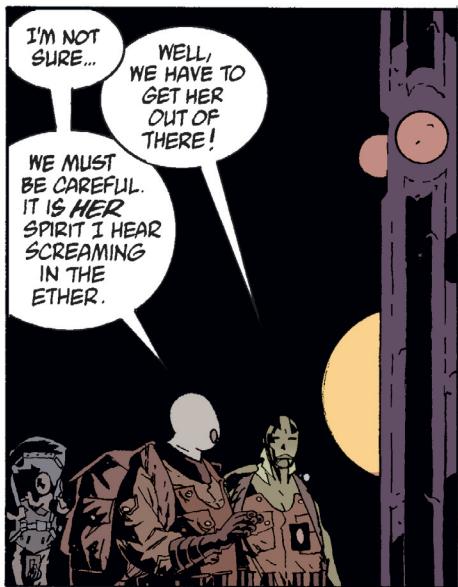
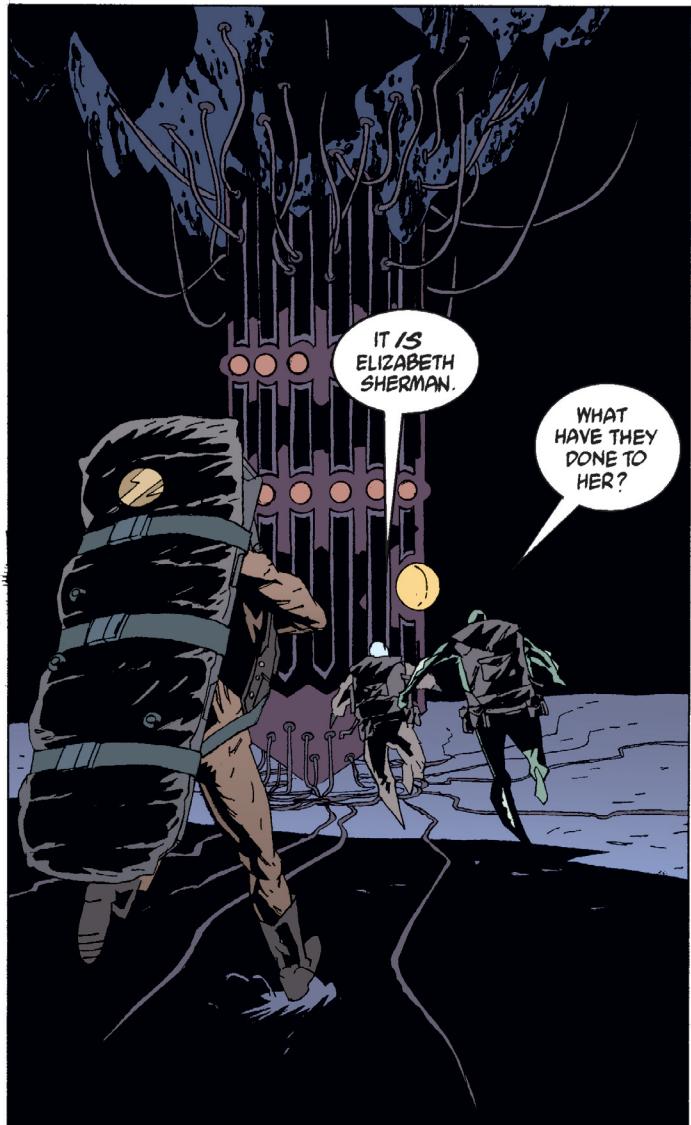


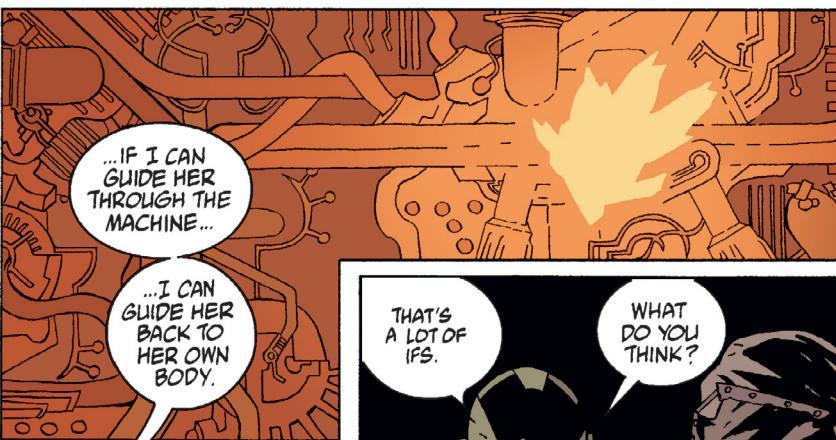
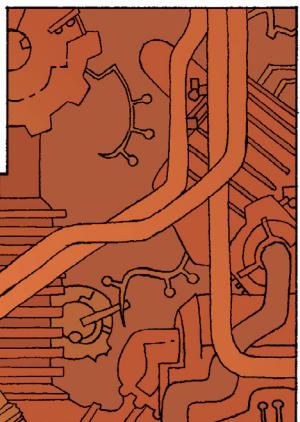
















"HE'S ALL WORKED UP
ABOUT SOMETHING."

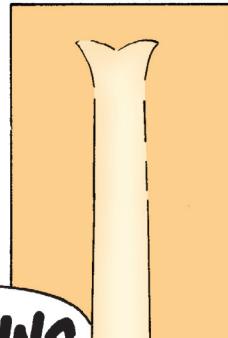
**UNANNG
BAASH!**

IGG DIS
EG, HADDAT
AGGROM. IGG
AMMAR OBRAA
AB SUGGOR ETH
AMMA--ETH UMM
RAHAAB EG.

UHH!

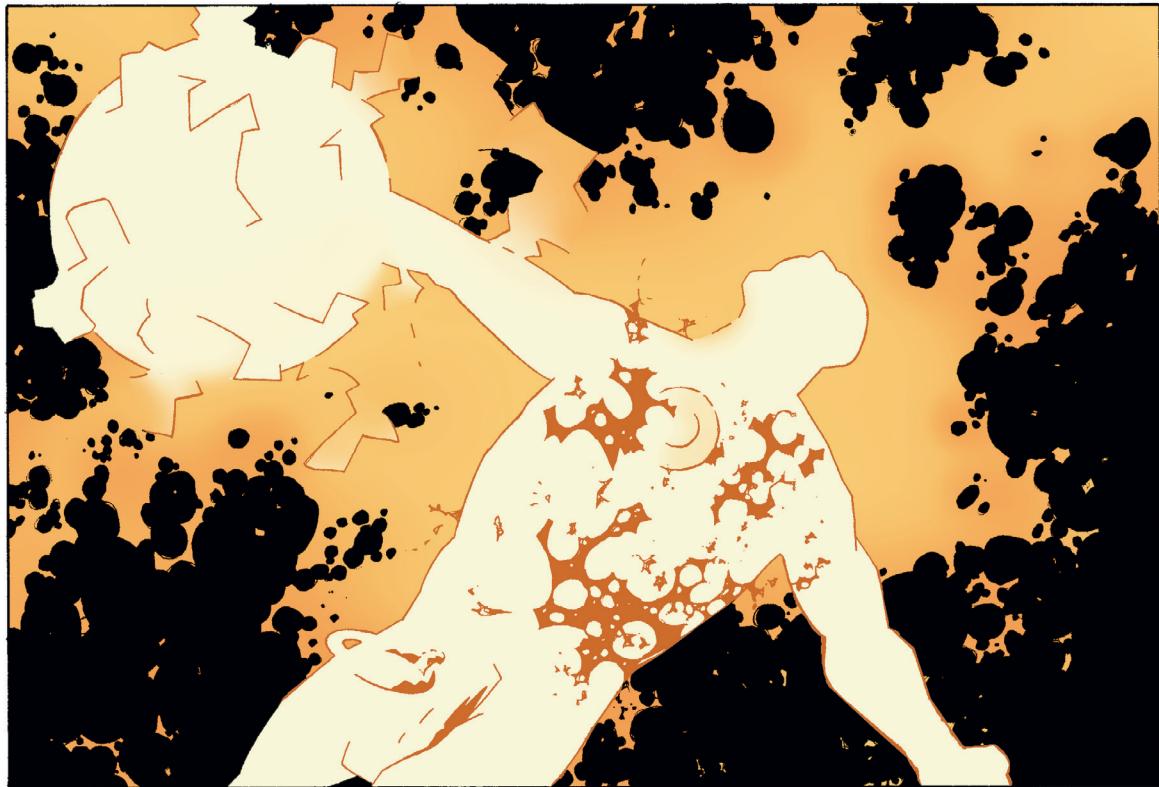
THAT
CREATURE IS
CALUSING THIS.
HE IS DRAWING
ON HER POWER
...CALUSING HER
TO BURN...TOO
MUCH...

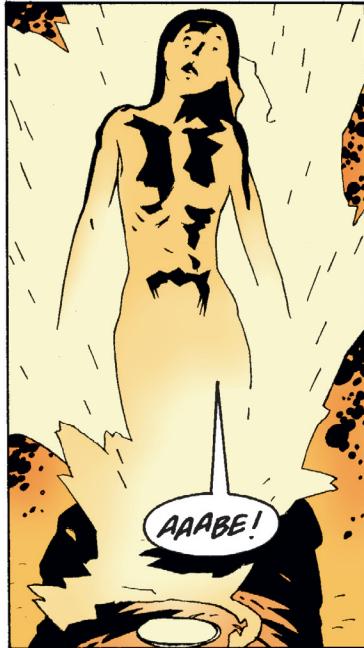
LIZ
IS
GOING TO BE
DESTROYED!

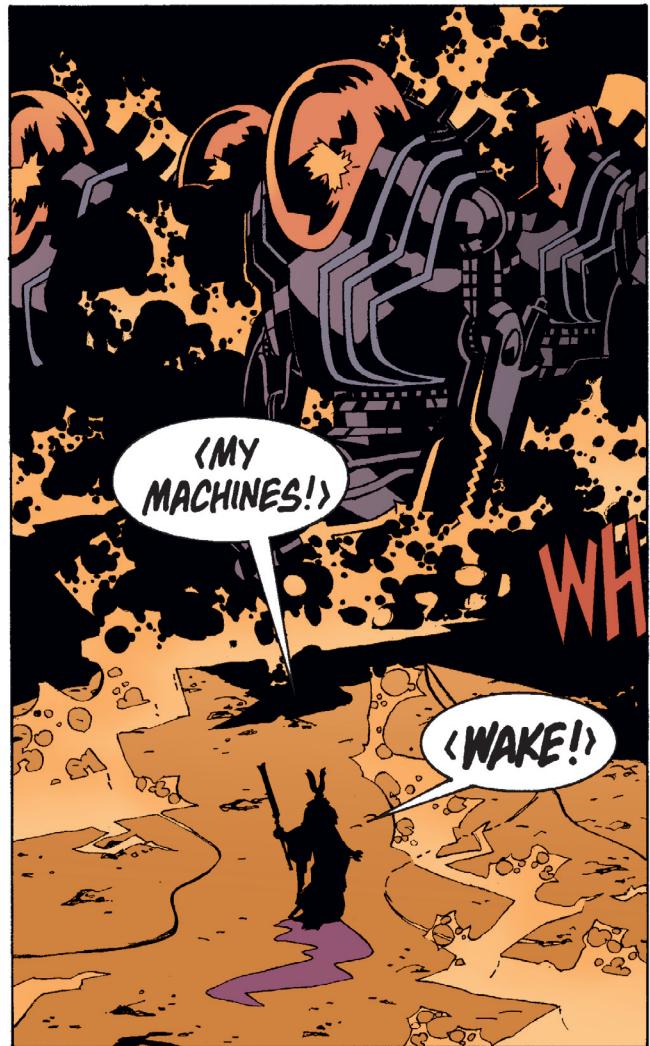














BRA
BRAM



SANCTI
AMMA! SANCTI
AB-JURA!

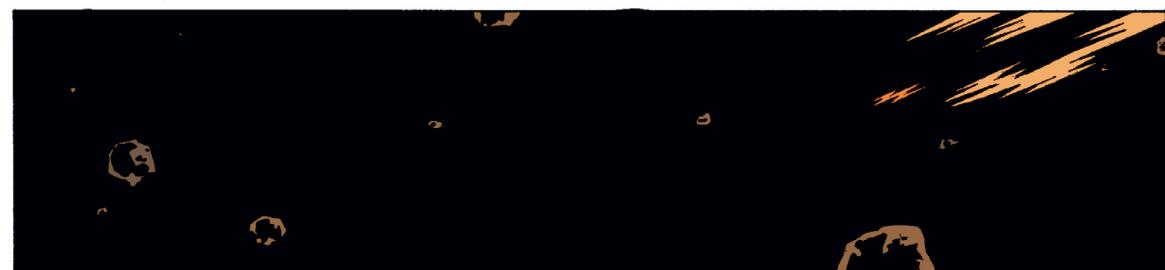


AHH!

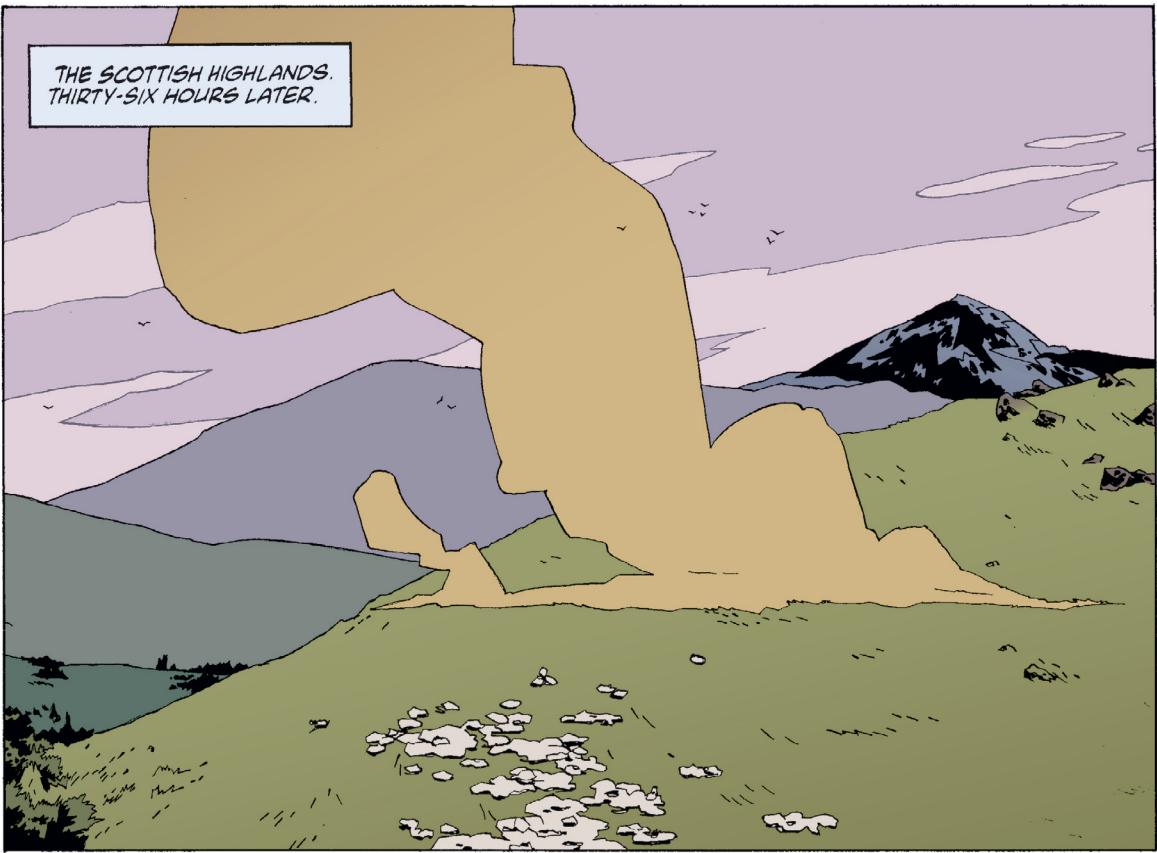


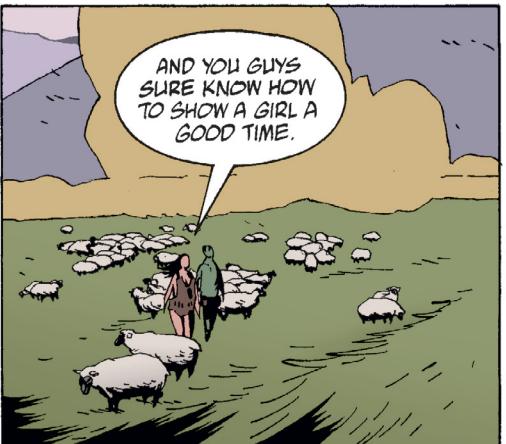
AAHHHH...





THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS.
THIRTY-SIX HOURS LATER.



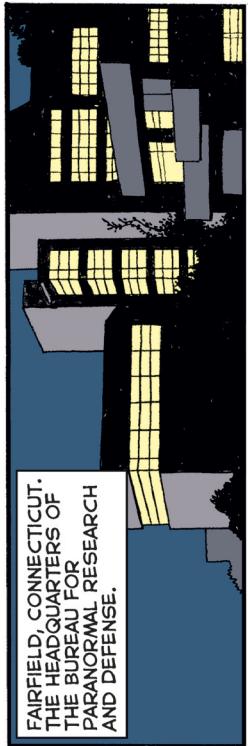


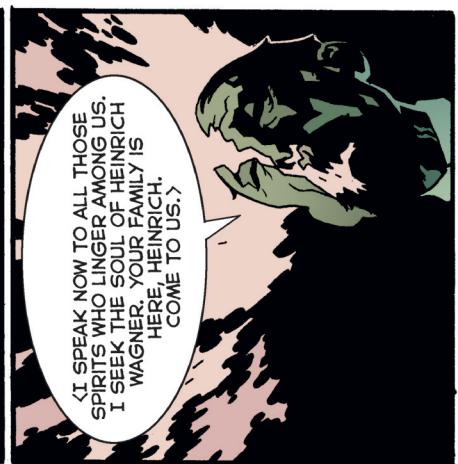
HOLLOW EARTH



Mike Mignola had always wanted to expand the world of *Hellboy* and this collection presents the first efforts in that direction. The preceding story came about after much consideration about what to do with the Bureau after Hellboy's departure. Artist Ryan Sook, who Mike had met at an Oakland, California convention in 1995, had been the clear choice for artist. *Hellboy* novelist Christopher Golden, with his long-time writing partner Tom Sniegoski, pitched the *Hollow Earth* concept, and with its implicit connections to Nazi paranormal research, everything fell into place. Mike contributed ideas for the overall plot, and the ending shows his influence very strongly. After a run on DC's monthly *Spectre* series, Ryan saw *B.P.R.D.* as a chance to have a book all to himself, working with his favorite colorist, Dave Stewart. When schedules became tight, halfway through the story, Curtis Arnold joined the team as inker.

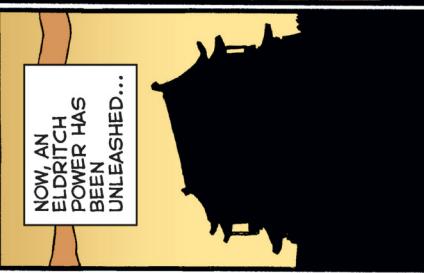
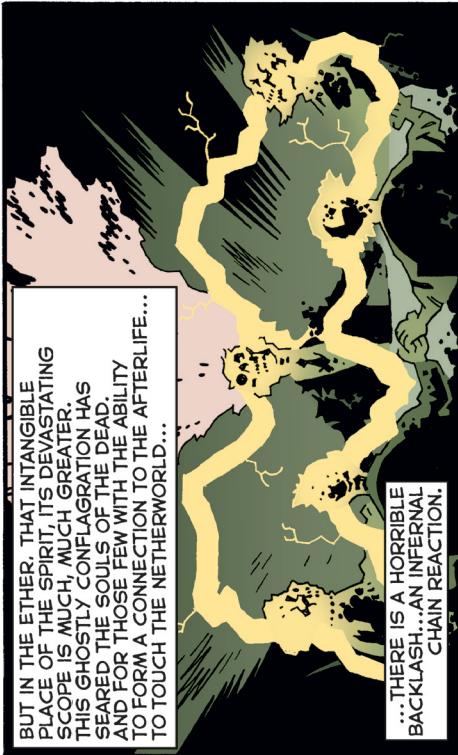
The series came out from January 2002 to June 2002. The following three-page teaser ran in the newspaper-format *Dark Horse Extra* from December 2001 to February 2002. Lettering for the teaser was done by Dan Jackson.







the end



THE KILLER IN MY SKULL

Story by
MIKE MIGNOLA

Pencils by
MATT SMITH

Inks by
RYAN SOOK

Colors by
DAVE STEWART

Letters by
PAT BROSSEAU

ABE SAPIEN VERSUS SCIENCE

Story by
MIKE MIGNOLA

Pencils by
MATT SMITH

Inks by
MIKE MIGNOLA

Colors by
DAVE STEWART

Letters by
PAT BROSSEAU

THE KILLER IN MY SKULL



This backup to Mike's *Box Full of Evil* (1999) featured the first appearance of Lobster Johnson, a character who became a sudden favorite among *Hellboy* fans, and returned to play a significant if not mystifying part in the next big series, *Conqueror Worm*. Had there been a *BPRD* in the thirties, Lobster Johnson would no doubt have been a member. Ryan's work on inks here was his first contribution to a *Hellboy* comic.

ABE SAPIEN VERSUS SCIENCE



The backup to the second issue of *Box Full of Evil* provided more insight into the popular fishman's character than any story to date, but mainly served to reanimate Roger the Homunculus in time for *Conqueror Worm* and *Hollow Earth*.

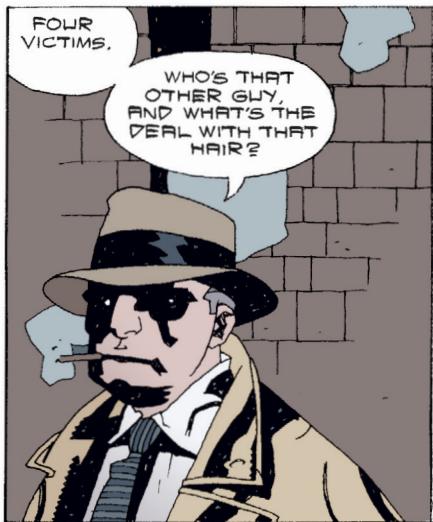
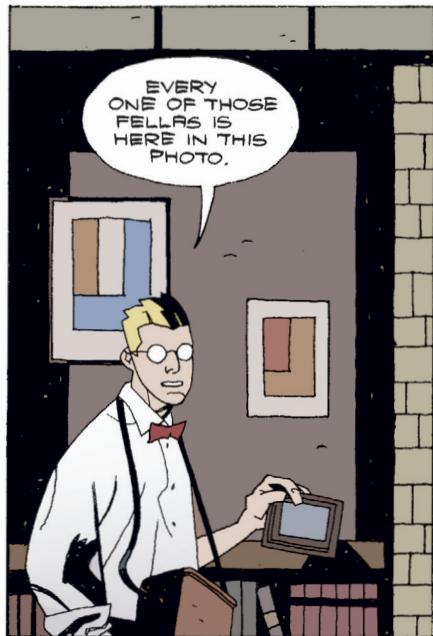
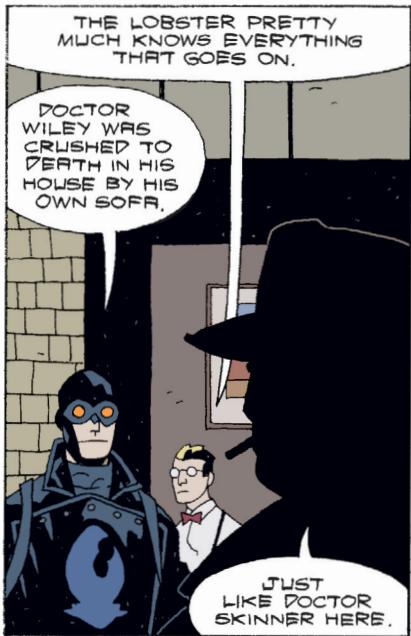


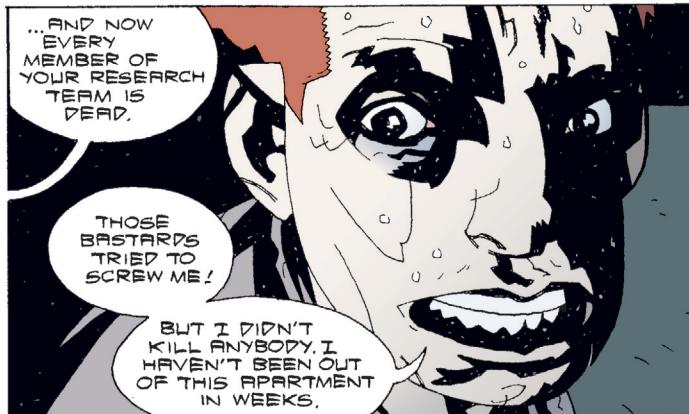
The Killer in My Skull

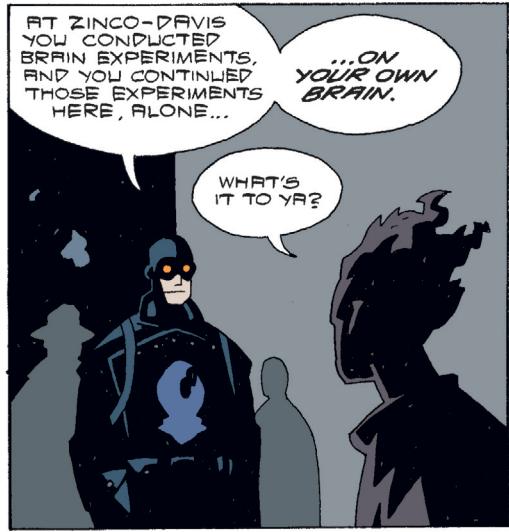
Introducing
LOBSTER JOHNSON







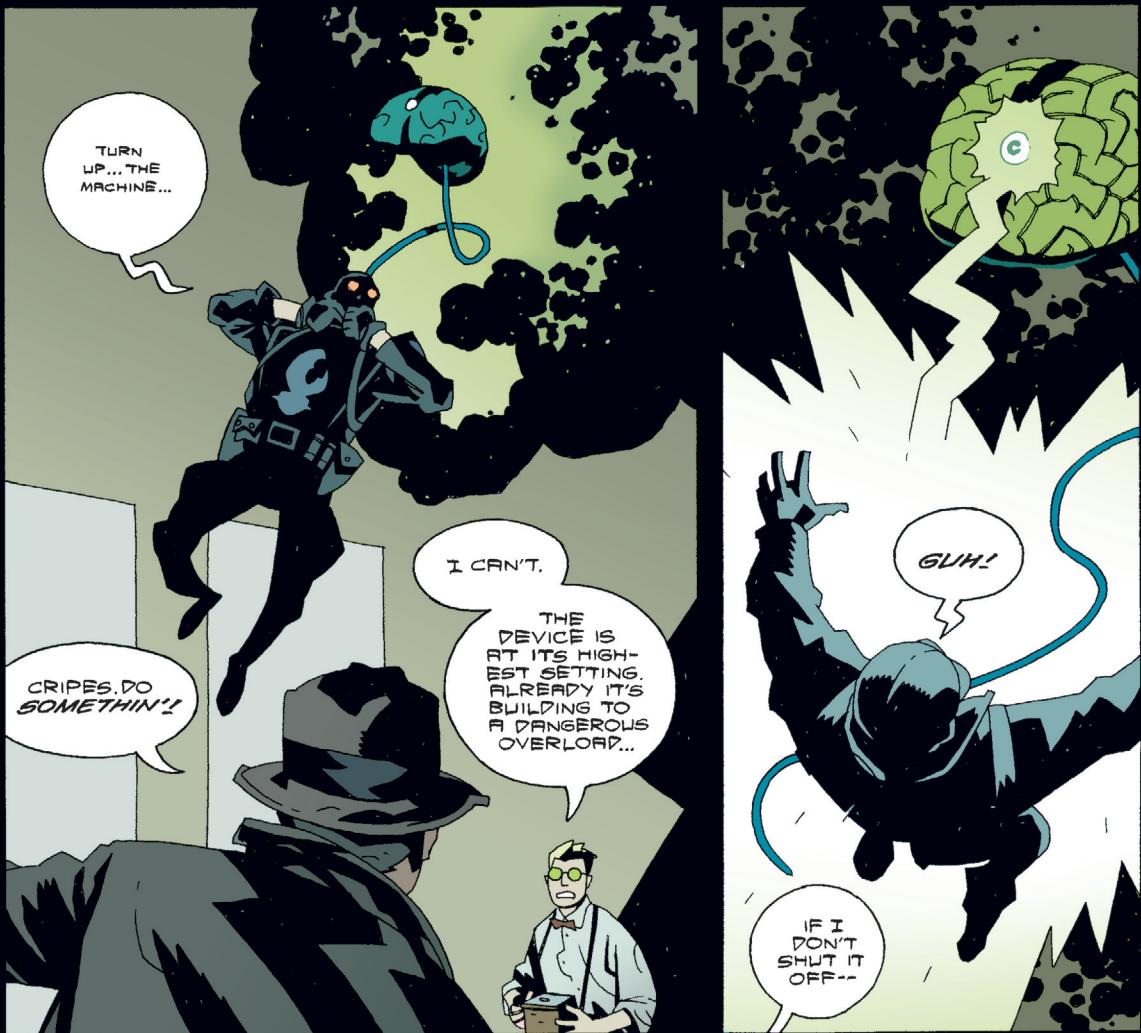















THE END

Abe Sapien versus Science

MIGNOLA * SMITH

BUREAU FOR PARANORMAL
RESEARCH AND DEFENSE
HEADQUARTERS, FAIRFIELD,
CT.

AGAIN.



NO
RESPONSE,
DOCTOR.

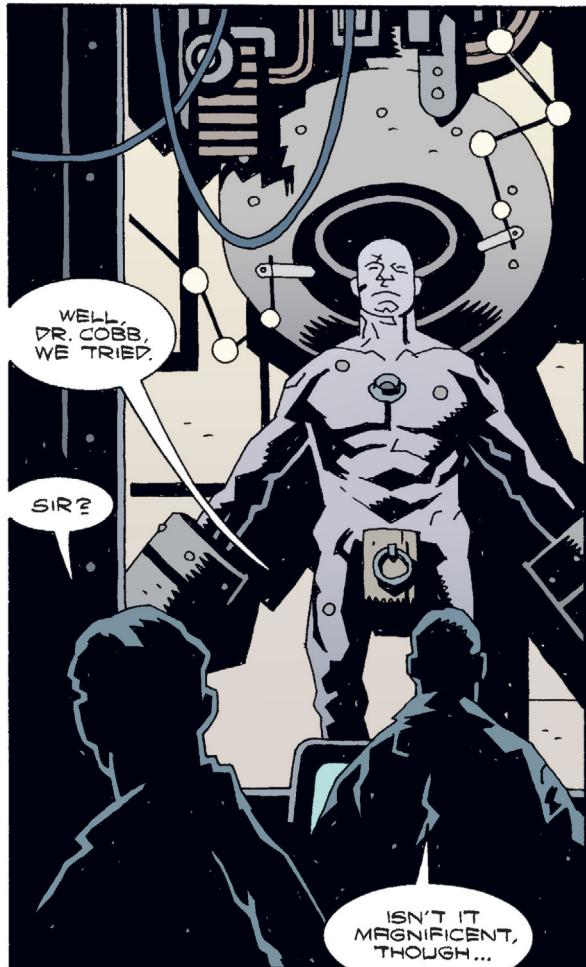
STEP
UP THE
VOLTAGE.

YES, SIR,
WE'RE NOW
AT MAXIMUM
SAFETY
TOLERANCE.

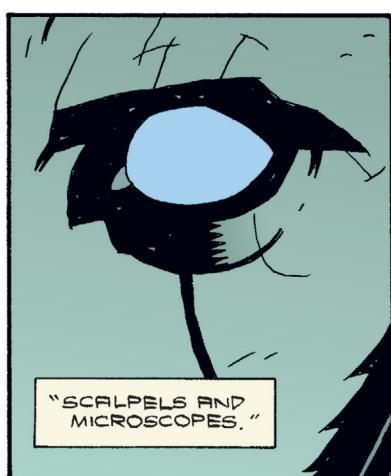
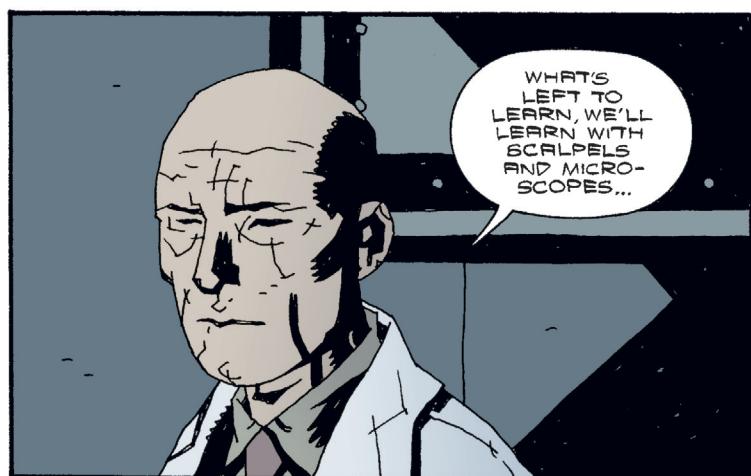


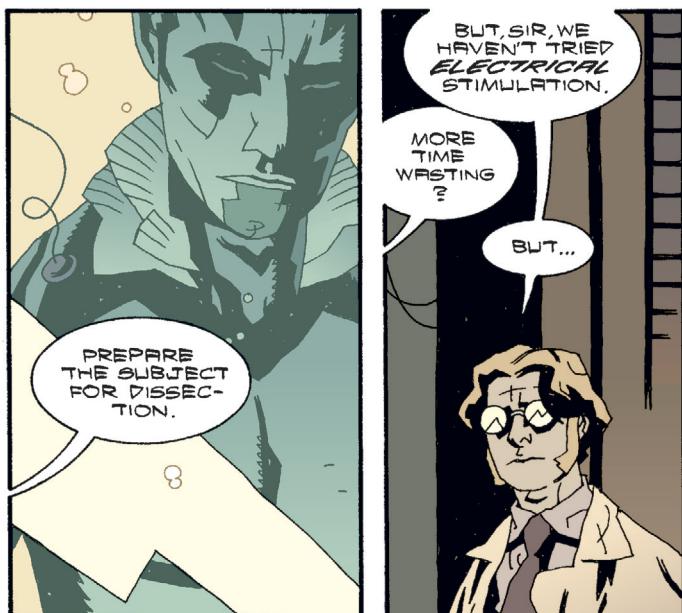
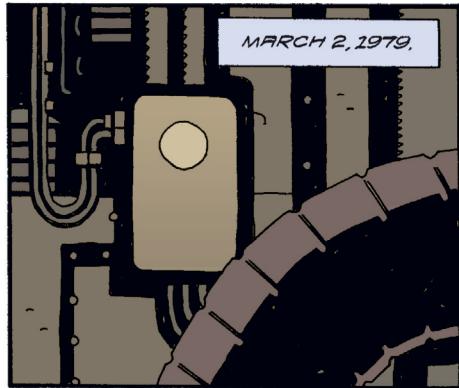
NOTHING,
SIR.





* HELLCO: WAKE THE DEVIL AND ALMOST COLOSSUS

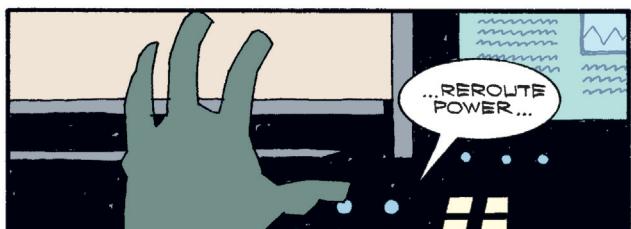




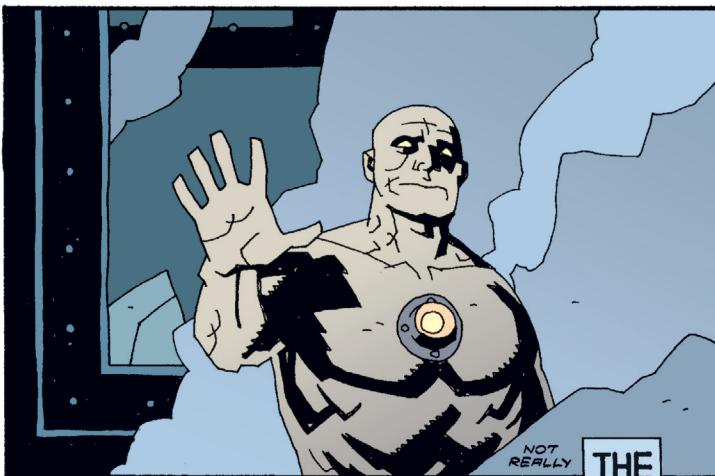




ALL I
KNOW IS THAT
IF IT WASN'T FOR
YOU, LIZ SHERMAN
WOULD BE DEAD AND
BURIED NOW...







DRUMS OF THE DEAD



DRUMS OF THE DEAD



Story by
BRIAN McDONALD

Art by
DEREK THOMPSON

Colors by
JAMES SINCLAIR

Letters by
PAT BROSSEAU

Mike had been considering using artist Derek Thompson for a *Hellboy*-related story. Brian McDonald, whose *Harry the Cop* comic had won him recognition around the industry, had been talking to me about various projects. When Mike and I put it together that these two guys were friends, we decided to go ahead and do our first *Hellboy* comic without Hellboy.

—Scott Allie
Portland, Oregon



IT ALWAYS STARTS
WITH SHARKS.

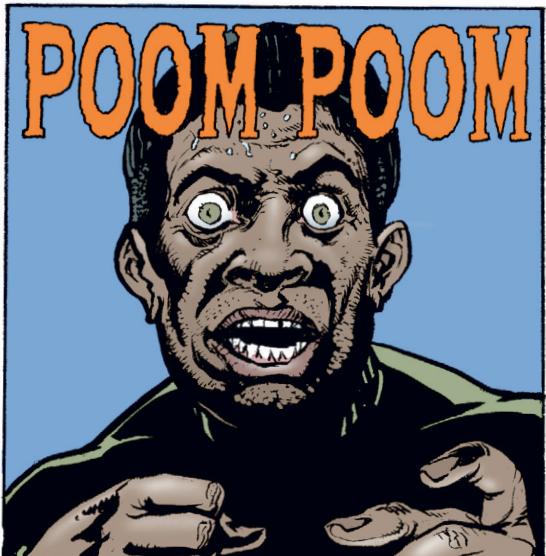


HUNDREDS OF SHARKS.



MAYBE THOUSANDS.







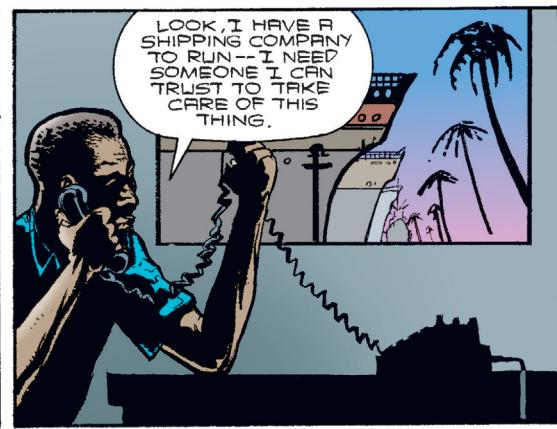
BUREAU FOR PARANORMAL
RESEARCH AND DEFENSE,
FAIRFIELD, CT.



... BUT AS I TOLD YOU, HE'S AWAY ON ASSIGNMENT AND IS UNAVAILABLE.



LOOK, I HAVE A SHIPPING COMPANY TO RUN--I NEED SOMEONE I CAN TRUST TO TAKE CARE OF THIS THING.



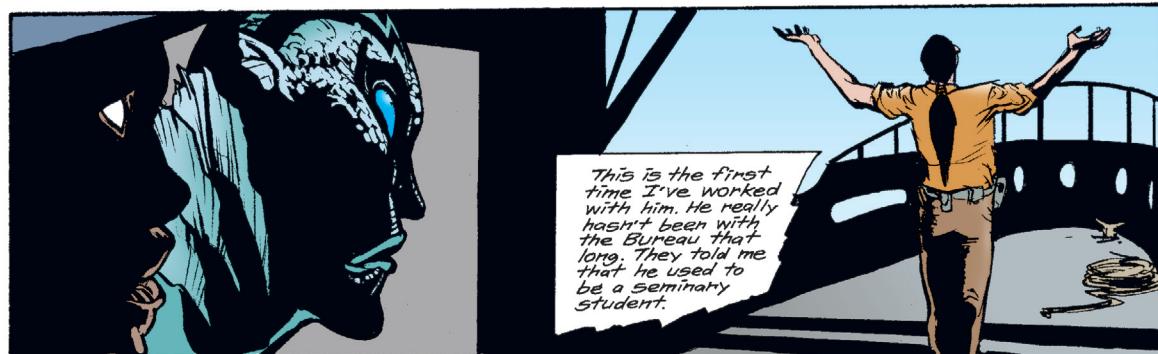
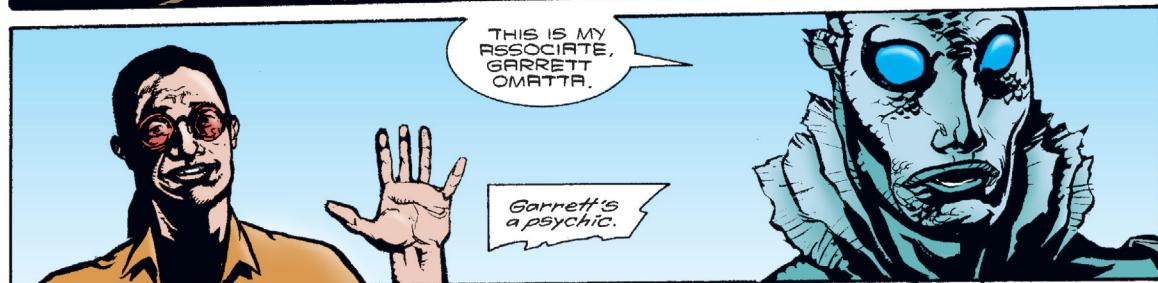
I'M SENDING YOU ONE OF OUR BEST AGENTS. YOU HEARD ABOUT THAT LAKE MONSTER IN BRITISH COLUMBIA LAST YEAR? WELL, HE'S THE MAN WE SENT ON THAT CASE. I ASSURE YOU THAT ABE SAPIEN IS--

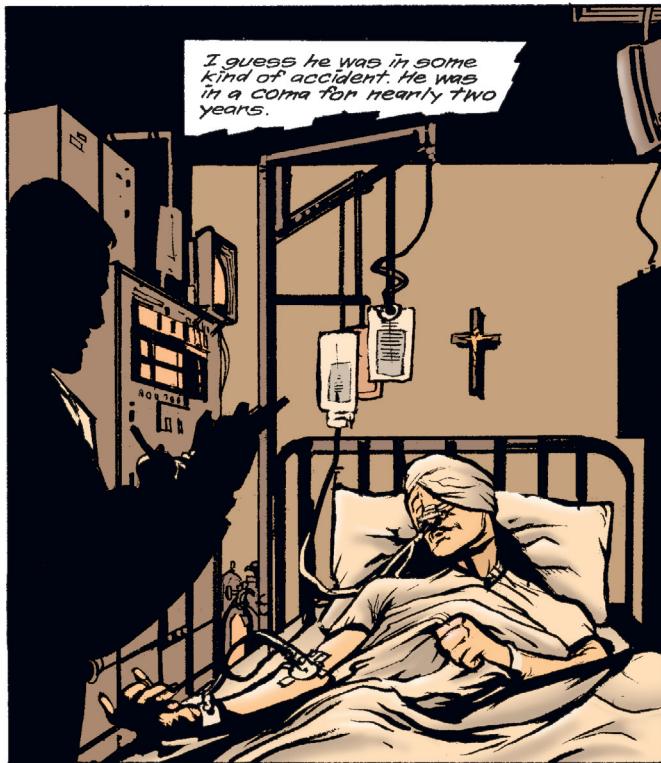
SAPIEN? IS THAT THAT THING YOU FOUND IN A JAR IN SOMEBODY'S BASEMENT TWENTY YEARS AGO? NO THANKS.

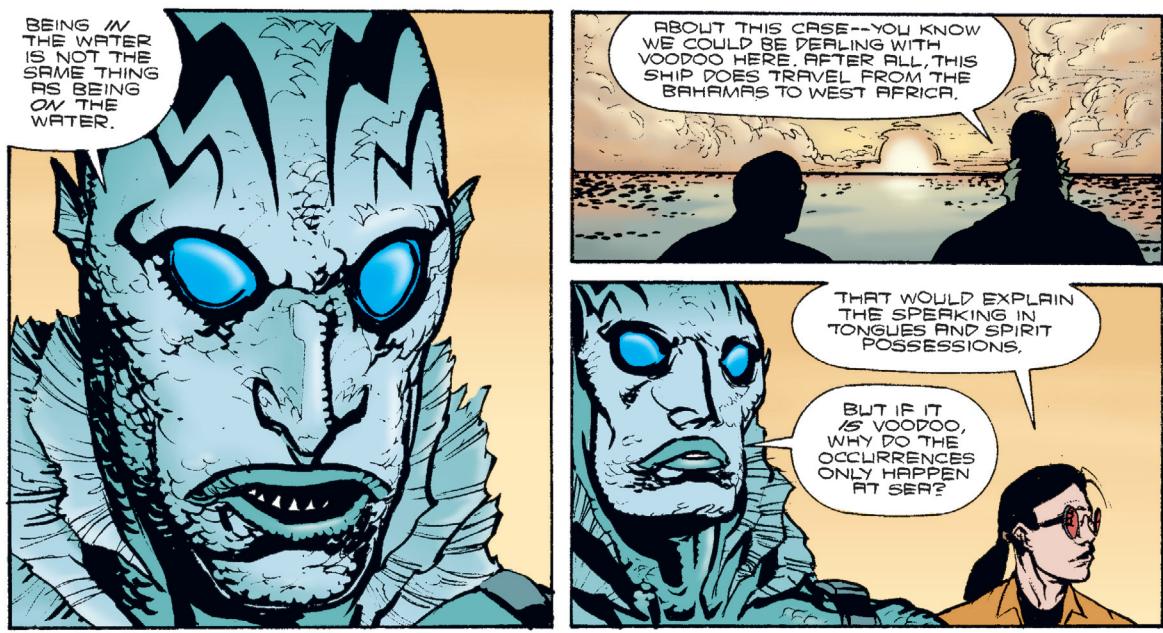


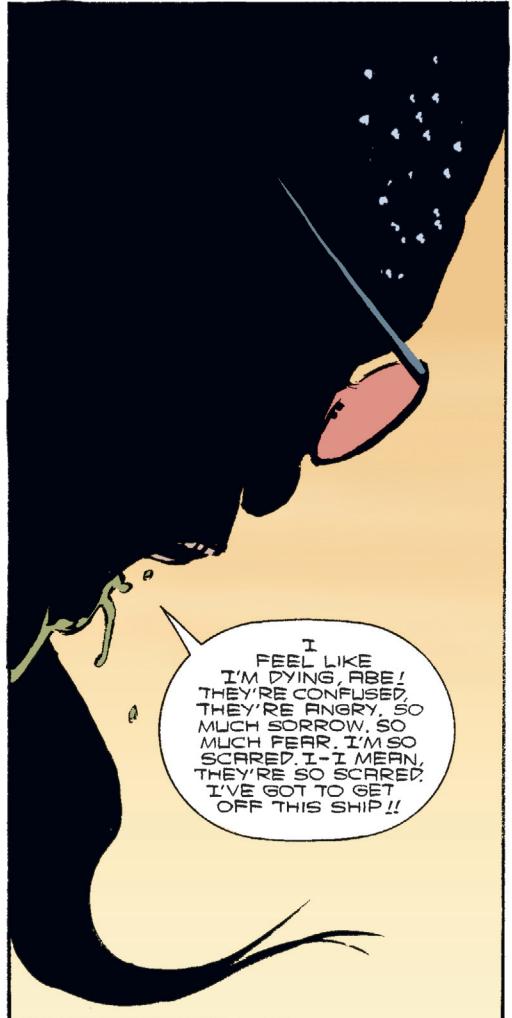
I'M SORRY YOU FEEL THAT WAY, BUT IF YOU WANT ANY HELP FROM THE BUREAU ON THIS--



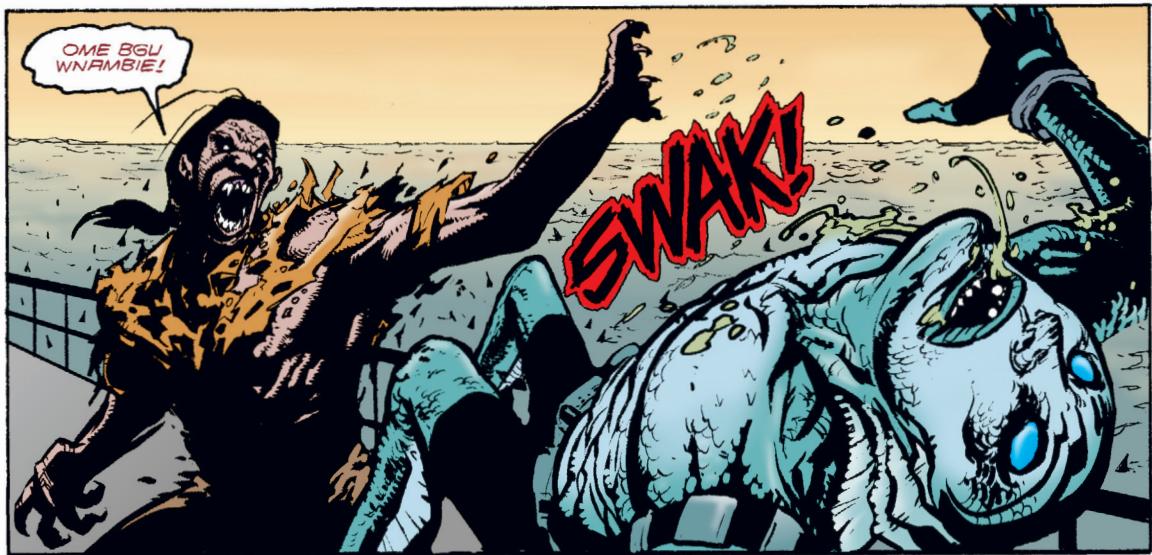












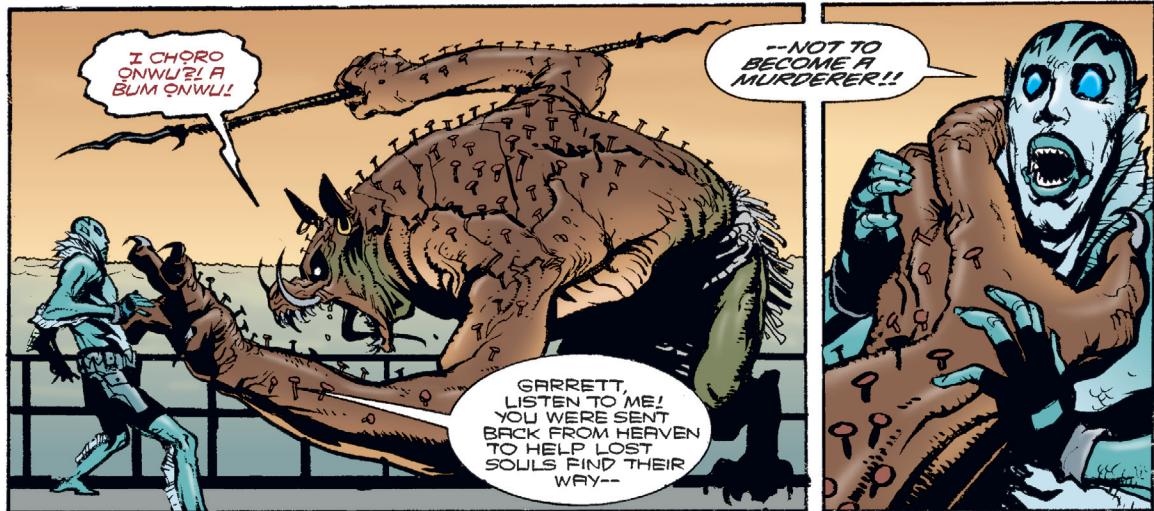
POOM-POOM-P-P-POOM





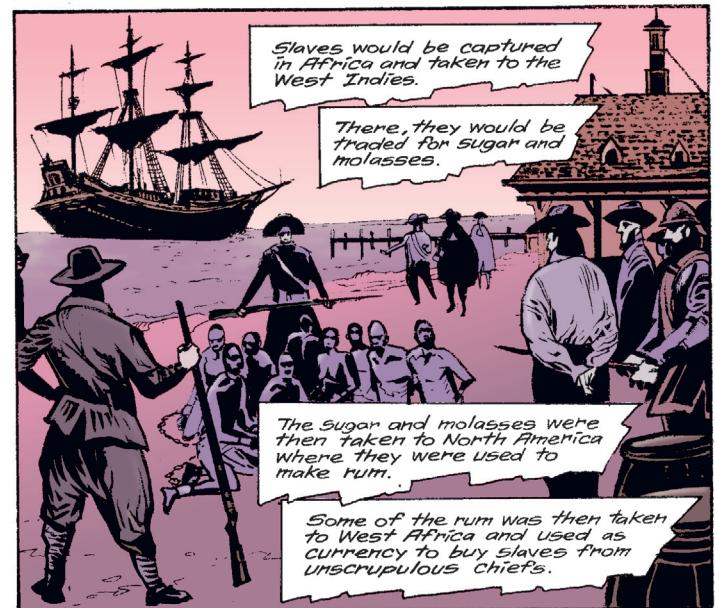
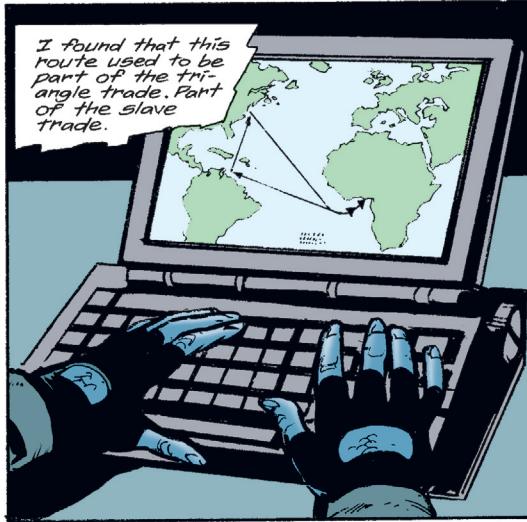








The second spirit, the creature, was a protector spirit. He says that he thinks it's really more than one spirit. He believes it is an amalgam created by thousands of spirits from different countries, cultures, and languages praying over hundreds of years.

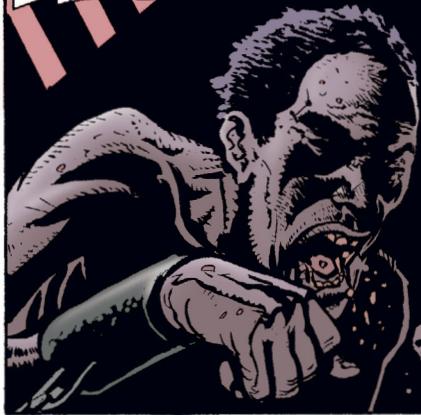


To maximize profits, ship's captains sought to carry as many slaves as possible. This made for poor sanitary conditions.

Often people were made to urinate and defecate where they lay--sometimes spending days in their own excrement.



Needless to say, disease was rampant.



It was not unusual for a ship to lose half her "cargo" before reaching port.



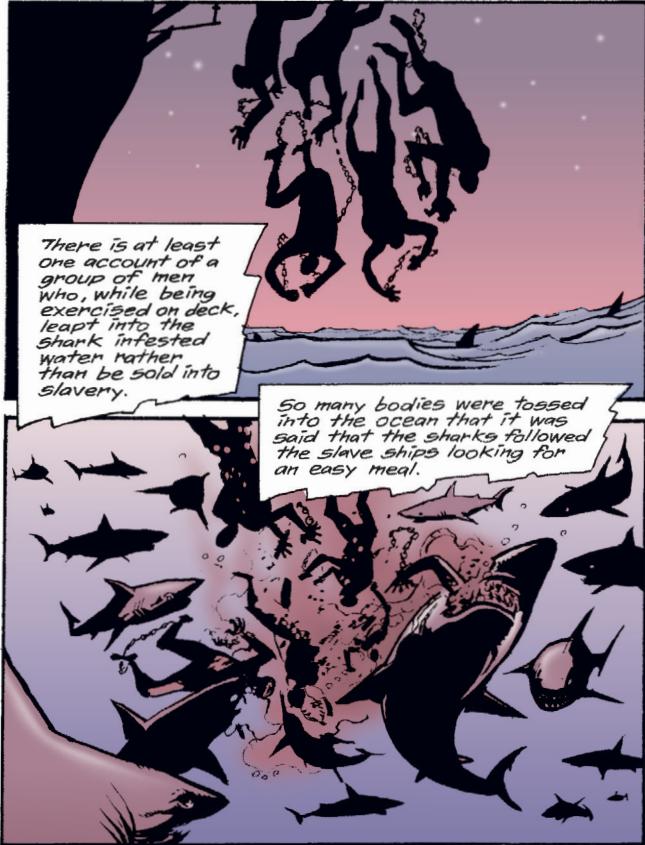
The dead were simply tossed overboard.

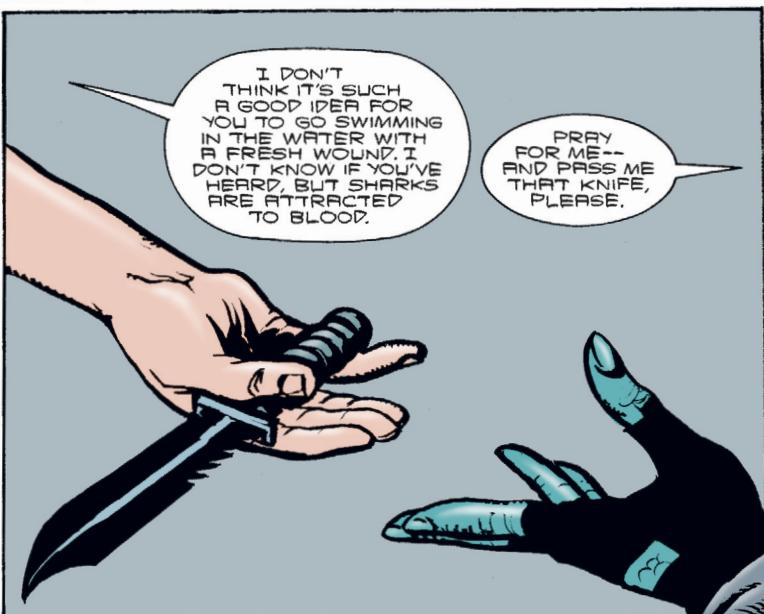
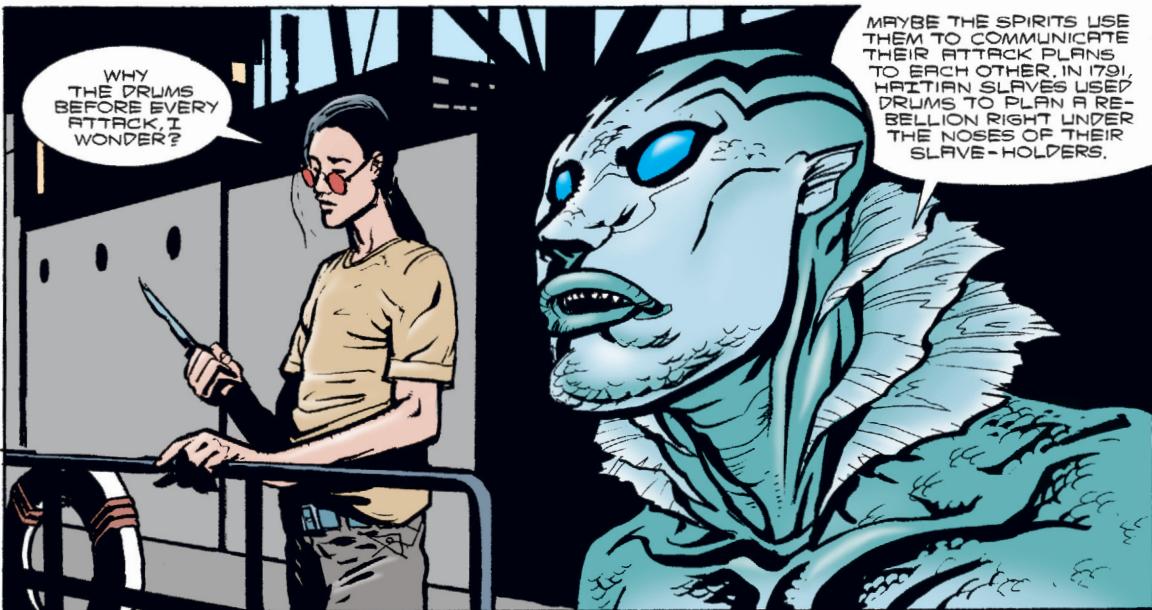
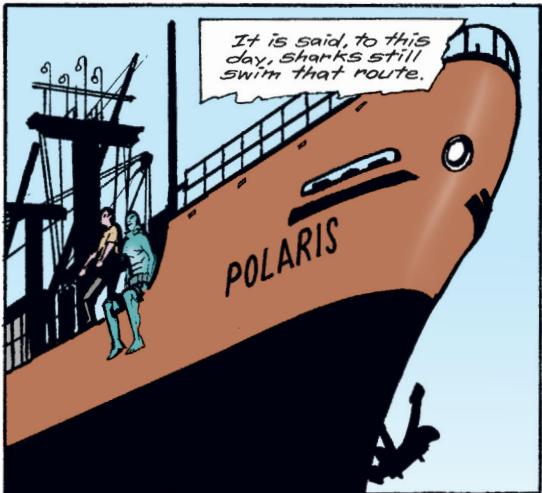
Conditions were so unbearable that many slaves would commit suicide.



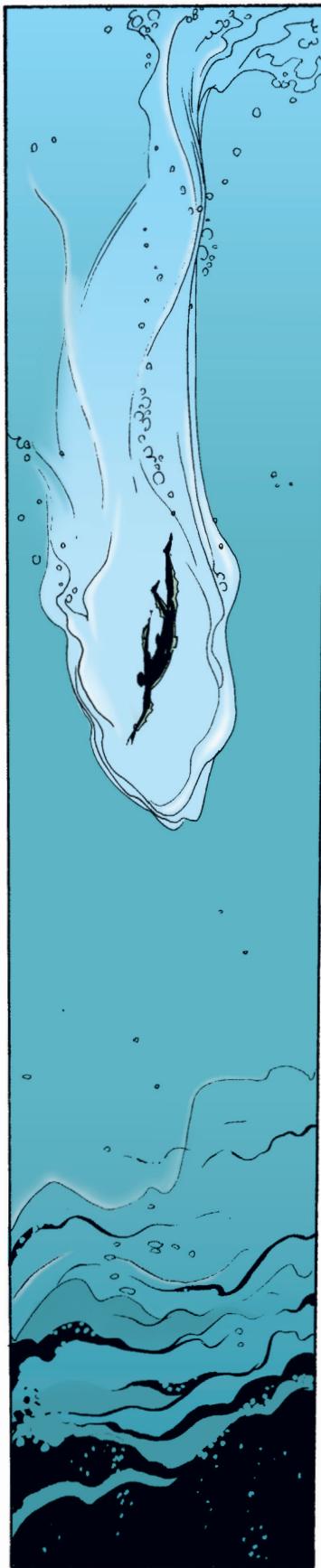
There is at least one account of a group of men who, while being exercised on deck, leapt into the shark infested water rather than be sold into slavery.

So many bodies were tossed into the ocean that it was said that the sharks followed the slave ships looking for an easy meal.









An interesting irony: the ship's name, "Polaris," is the proper name for the North Star--the star that escaped slaves would follow to freedom.

We gathered up all the bones we could and buried them on the shores of West Africa. Since then no ship which travels the route reported any paranormal activity.

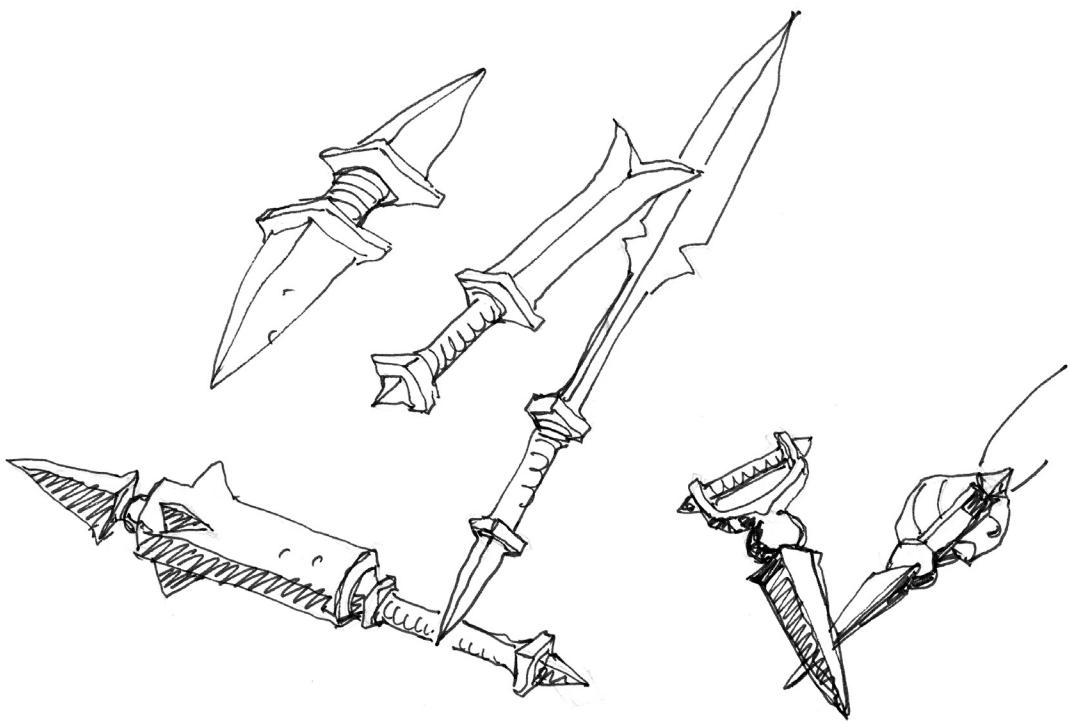
They do, however, report a significant reduction in the number of sharks.

The End

B.P.R.D.TM

SKETCHBOOK

BPRD: Hollow Earth provided the opportunity for a unique collaboration between Mike and Ryan Sook. Since Ryan would be working with characters Mike had developed over eight years, the two decided to collaborate on new designs and the look of the Hyperborean underworld. Excerpts from both artists' sketchbooks are presented on the following pages.



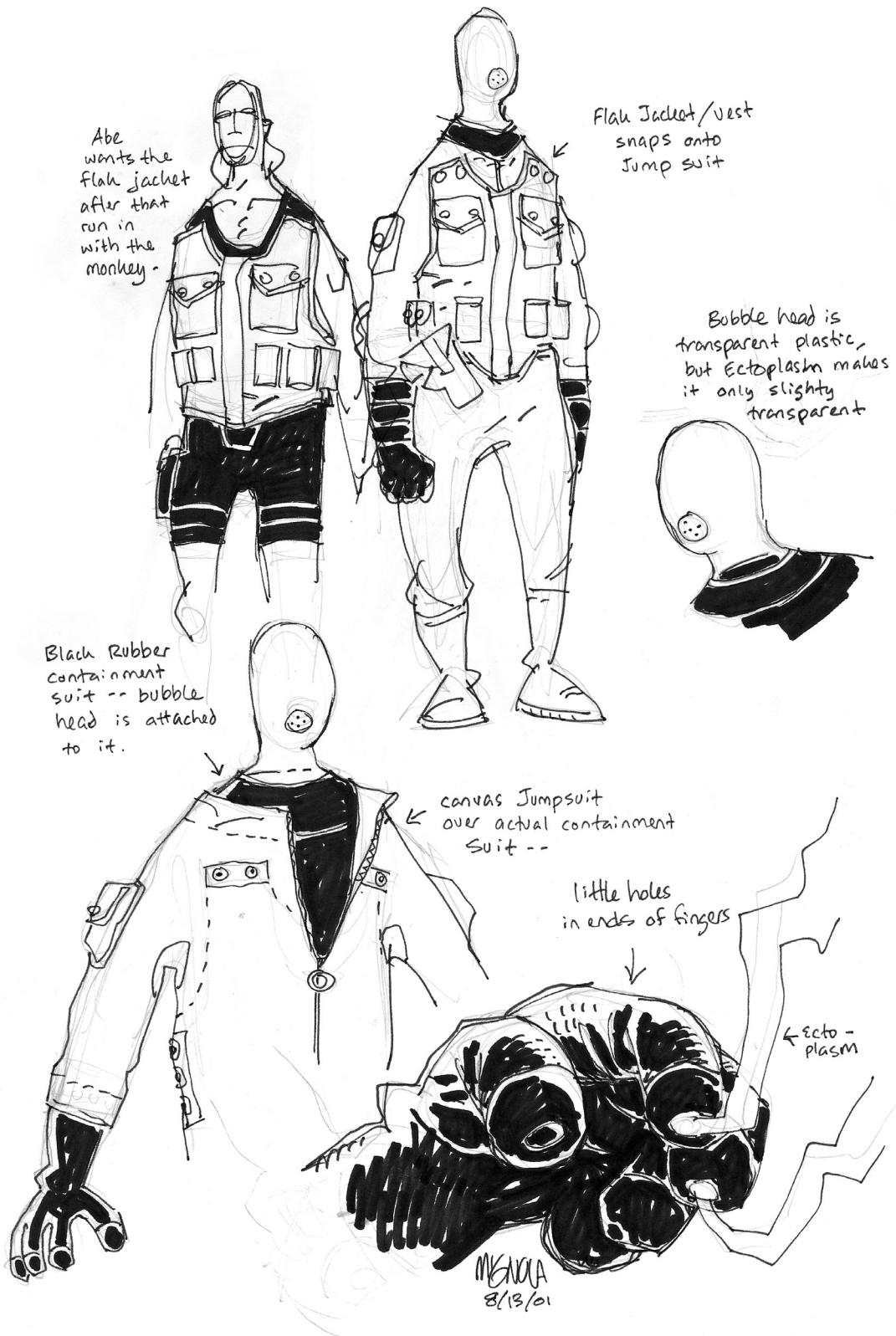
Hyperborean weapons by Mignola.



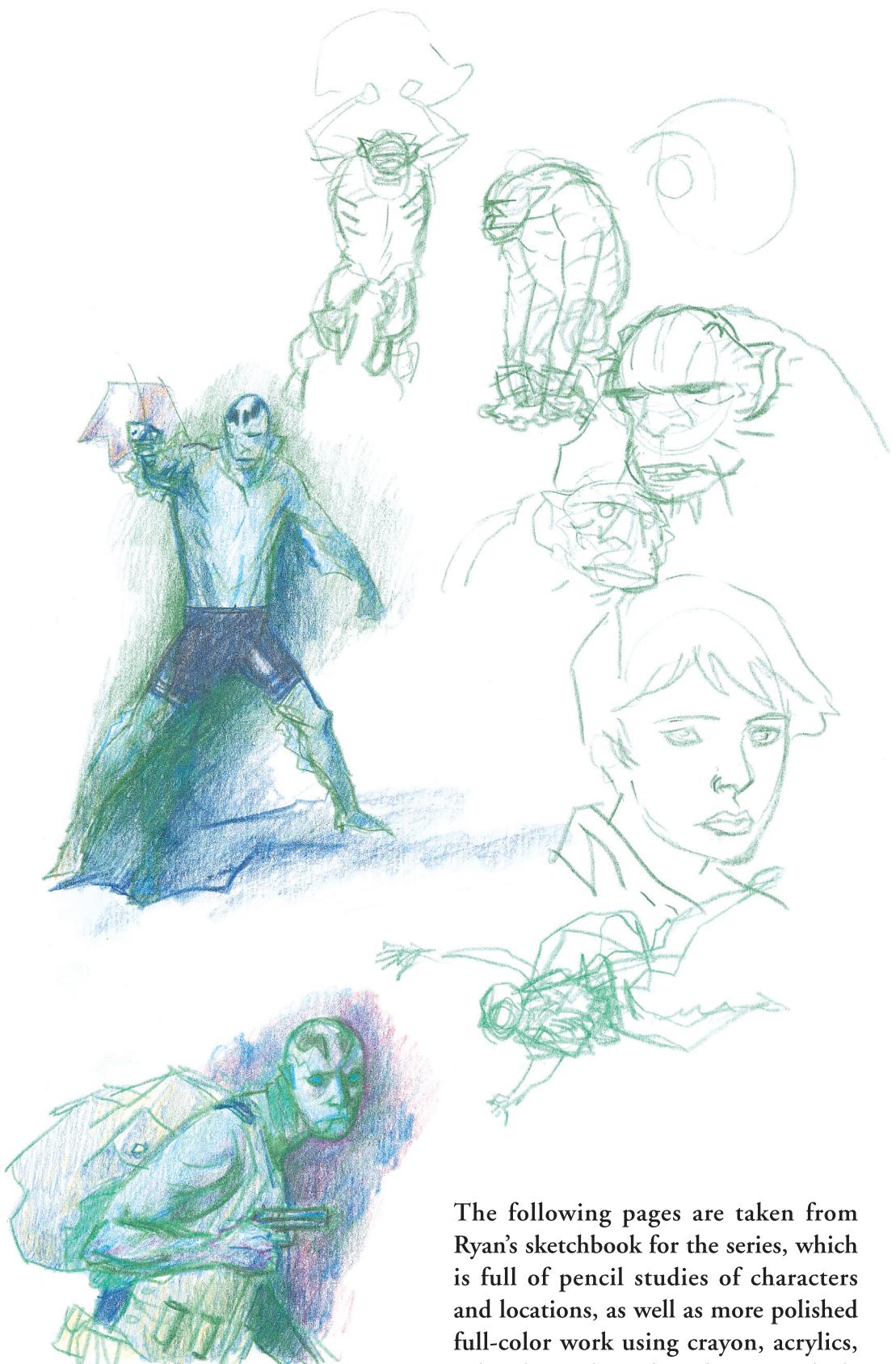
Mike suggested basing the look of all things
Hyperborean on the sculptures and drawings of
Polish artist Stanislav Szukalski (1893-1987).



Mignola's studies for the underworld inhabitants.

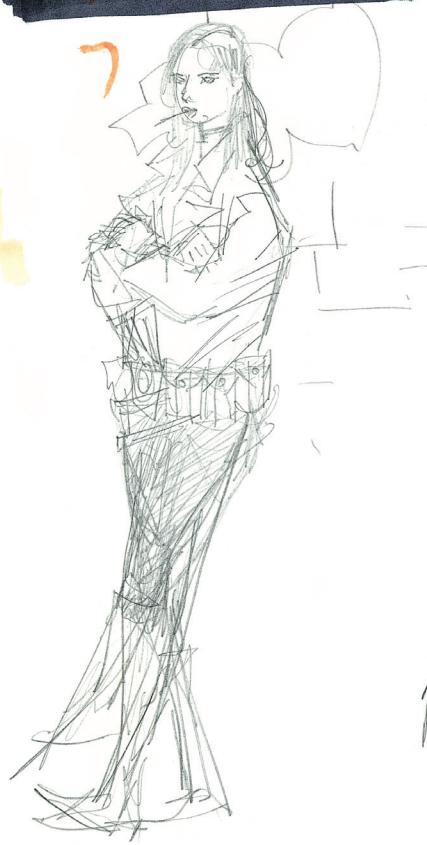
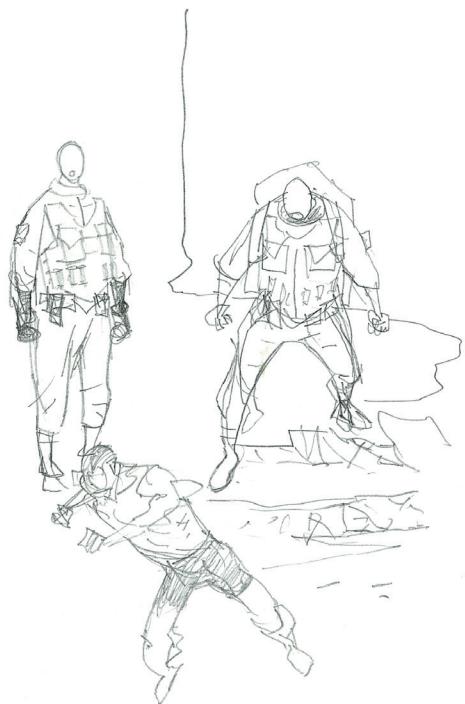


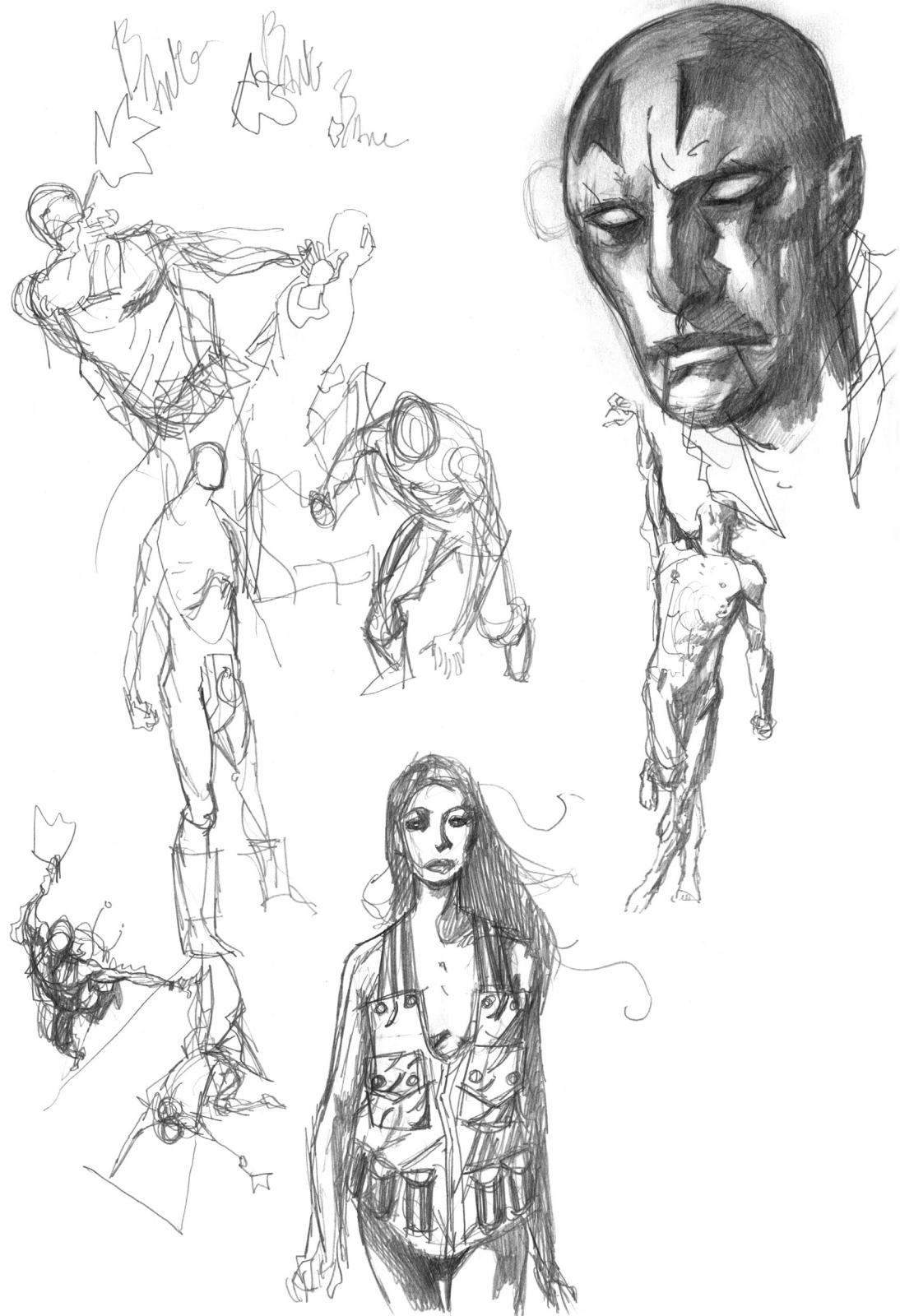
Mike's designs for a new BPRD flak jacket —
partly created to give Roger something to wear.
Also, Johann Kraus, the new member of the team.



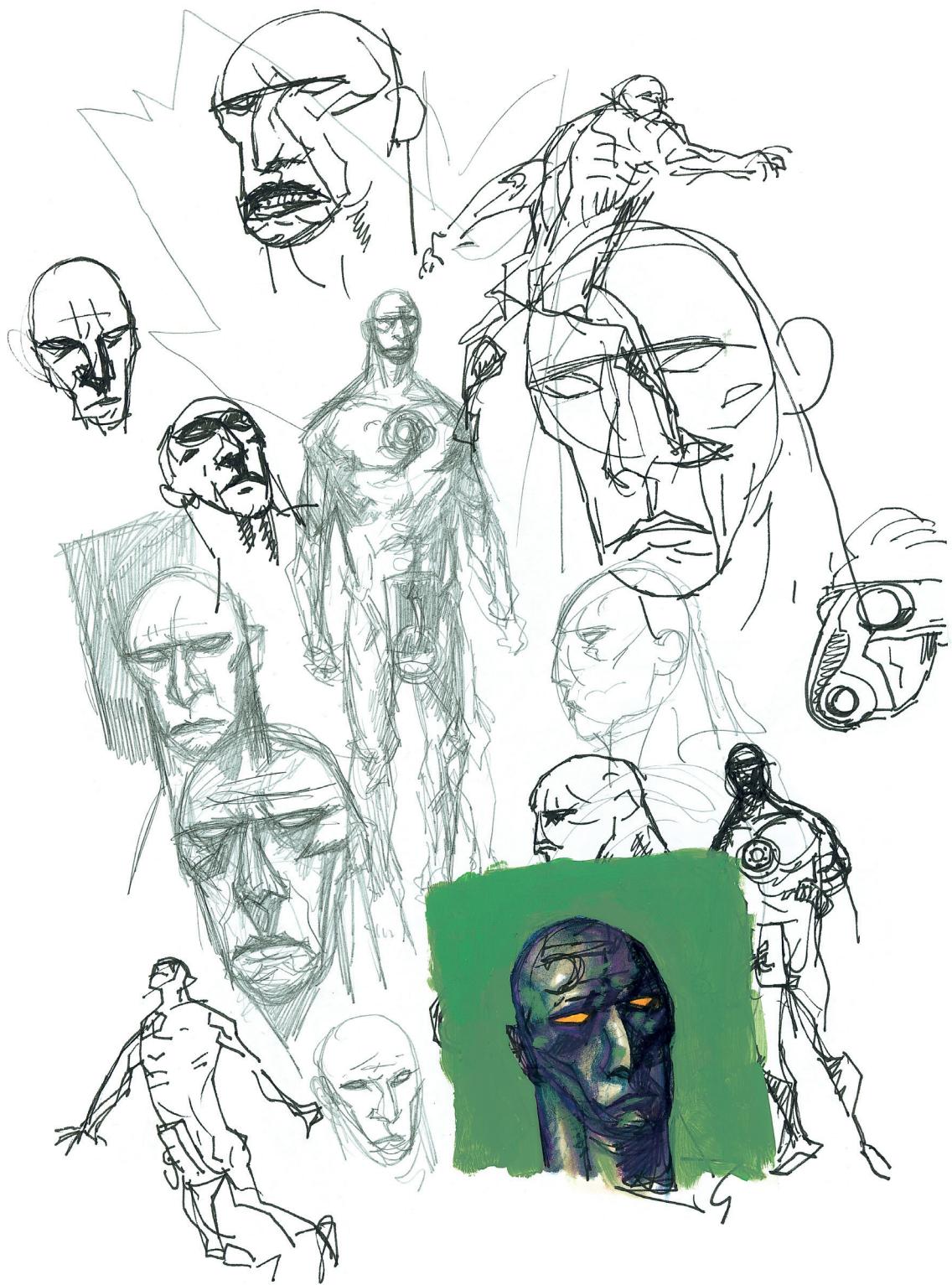
The following pages are taken from Ryan's sketchbook for the series, which is full of pencil studies of characters and locations, as well as more polished full-color work using crayon, acrylics, colored pencils, and markers — "a little bit of whatever's handy."

— Scott Allie
Portland, Oregon











From the pages of Mike Mignola's award-winning *Hellboy* come the further adventures of the Bureau for Paranormal Research and Defense.

Beneath the treacherous South Seas and under a ravaged monastery, Abe Sapien and the other weird agents of the B.P.R.D. uncover homesick bones, mad science, and the junkyard at the center of the earth.



B.P.R.D.