THE CONCLUSION TO THE *NEW YORK TIMES* BEST-SELLING SERIES!

Garth Ennis Russ Braun Darick Robertson

The BOYS™

volume twelve: THE BLOODY DOORS OFF



DYNAMITE®

WHEN SOMEONE GIVES YOU A WEAPON, SON: YOU USE IT

In a world where costumed heroes soar through the sky and masked vigilantes prowl the night, someone's got to make sure the "supes" don't get out of line. And someone will.

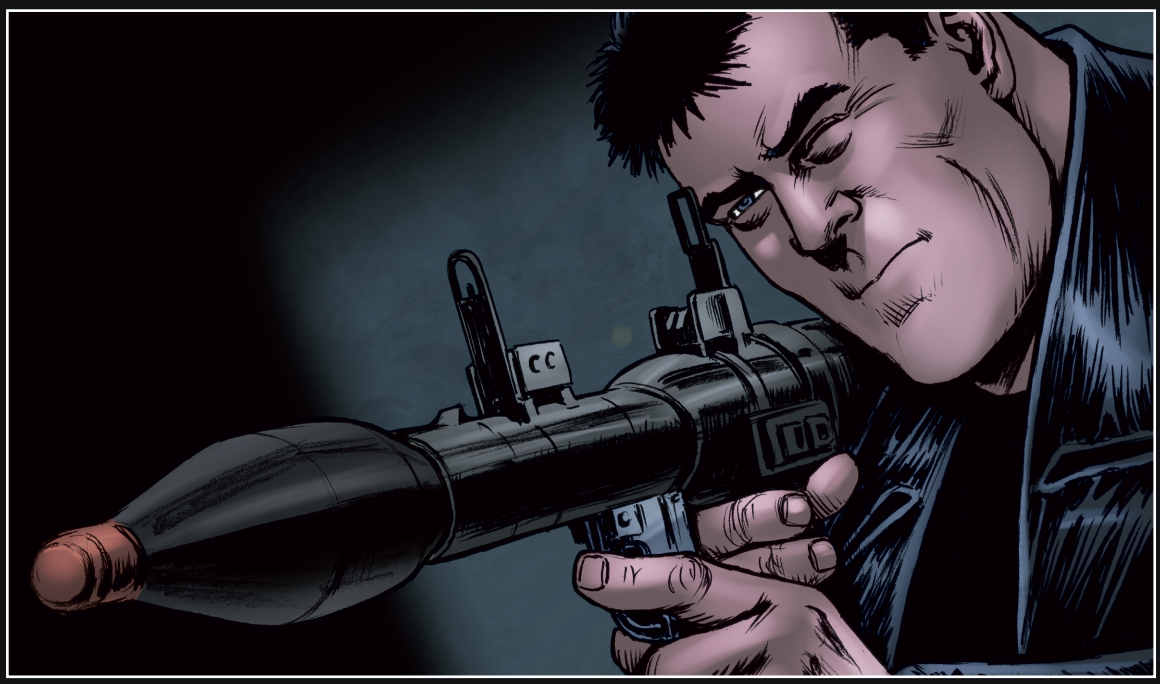


Billy Butcher, Wee Hughie, Mother's Milk, The Frenchman and The Female are The Boys: a CIA-backed team of very dangerous people, each one dedicated to the struggle against the most lethal force on Earth- superpower. Some superheroes have to be watched. Some have to be controlled. And some of them- sometimes- need to be taken out of the picture.

That's when you call in **The Boys**.

The war is over and the world is saved. The supes have been beaten down so far they'll never get up again. So why would anyone want one hundred and eighteen metric tons of the only substance on earth that can kill them all stone dead?

Bad days start coming thick and fast, as the Boys are caught in the last throes of the battle they were recruited to fight so long ago. Hughie, all on his own and out of luck, finds himself walking down one last bloody trail- and the truth he finds waiting for him at the end of it will be nothing short of shattering. Billy Butcher's vengeance comes full circle, in this twelfth and final entry in the story of The Boys.



This volume collects issues 66-72 of the hit series *The Boys* by Garth Ennis, Russ Braun and Darick Robertson, and features all of the covers by Darick Robertson and pin-ups by Russ Braun, John McCrea, Carlos Ezquerra, Petr Snejbjerg and John Higgins.



Dynamite Entertainment Presents

The BOYS™

volume twelve: THE BLOODY DOORS OFF



The BOYS™



Written by:
GARTH ENNIS

Art by:
RUSS BRAUN
& DARICK ROBERTSON w/ RICHARD P. CLARK

Lettered by:
SIMON BOWLAND

Colored by:
TONY AVIÑA

Covers by:
DARICK ROBERTSON & TONY AVIÑA

The Boys created by:
GARTH ENNIS & DARICK ROBERTSON

Special thanks to: RICHARD P. CLARK

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Trade Design by: JASON ULLMEYER

DYNAMITE ENTERTAINMENT	
NICK BARRUCCI	• PRESIDENT
JUAN COLLADO	• CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
JOSEPH RYBANDT	• EDITOR
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SIXTY-SIX




D'YOU KNOW THE PROBLEM WITH D.U. AMMO, VAS?
I MEAN FUCK KNOWS IT'S USEFUL STUFF, I DOUBT THAT BARNEY AT THE WHITE HOUSE WOULD'VE GONE QUITE AS WELL WITHOUT IT. D-38 PENETRATORS'LL GO THROUGH ALMOST ANYTHIN'.
BUT...
WELL, HOW DEPLETED IS DEPLETED, REALLY? ALL THESE LADS COMIN' BACK FROM PAKISTAN WITH THEIR BALLS ROTTIN' OFF, D'YOU THINK THERE MIGHT BE A CONNECTION THERE?
HANDLIN' IT... LOADIN' IT...WALKIN' THROUGH THE PLACES AFTER THE BOMBS AN' SHELLS'VE GONE OFF, MAYBE EVEN PICKIN' UP THE BODIES...
HHRRRGGGHH...!


HNNGH--
YOU MIGHT SAY IT'S AS BAD FOR THE BLOKE DONE THE SHOOTIN' AS THE POOR SOD HE SHOT.
NNNNNGGGHH--
WORSE, EVEN, CONSIDERIN' HOW LONG THE SHITE TAKES TO FINISH YOU OFF.
NOT THAT THAT'S GONNA BE A PROBLEM IN MY CASE. BUT IT MAKES YOU THINK.
NAAAAH, BILLY, I CANNOT LET YOU DO THIS...!
WRONG AGAIN, ME OL' SON.
HAVE A DEKKO UP THERE.
WHAT THE FUCK YOU DOIN' TRYNNA HIDE HIM IN HERE, ANYWAY? D'YOU THINK I'M ARNIE SCHWARZENEGGER AN' IT'S GONNA BOLLOCKS UP ME SENSORS?
MAKES SENSE HIM GOIN' TO YOU. I MEAN IT'S A CRYIN' SHAME, BUT AT LEAST I KNEW TO COME PREPARED.

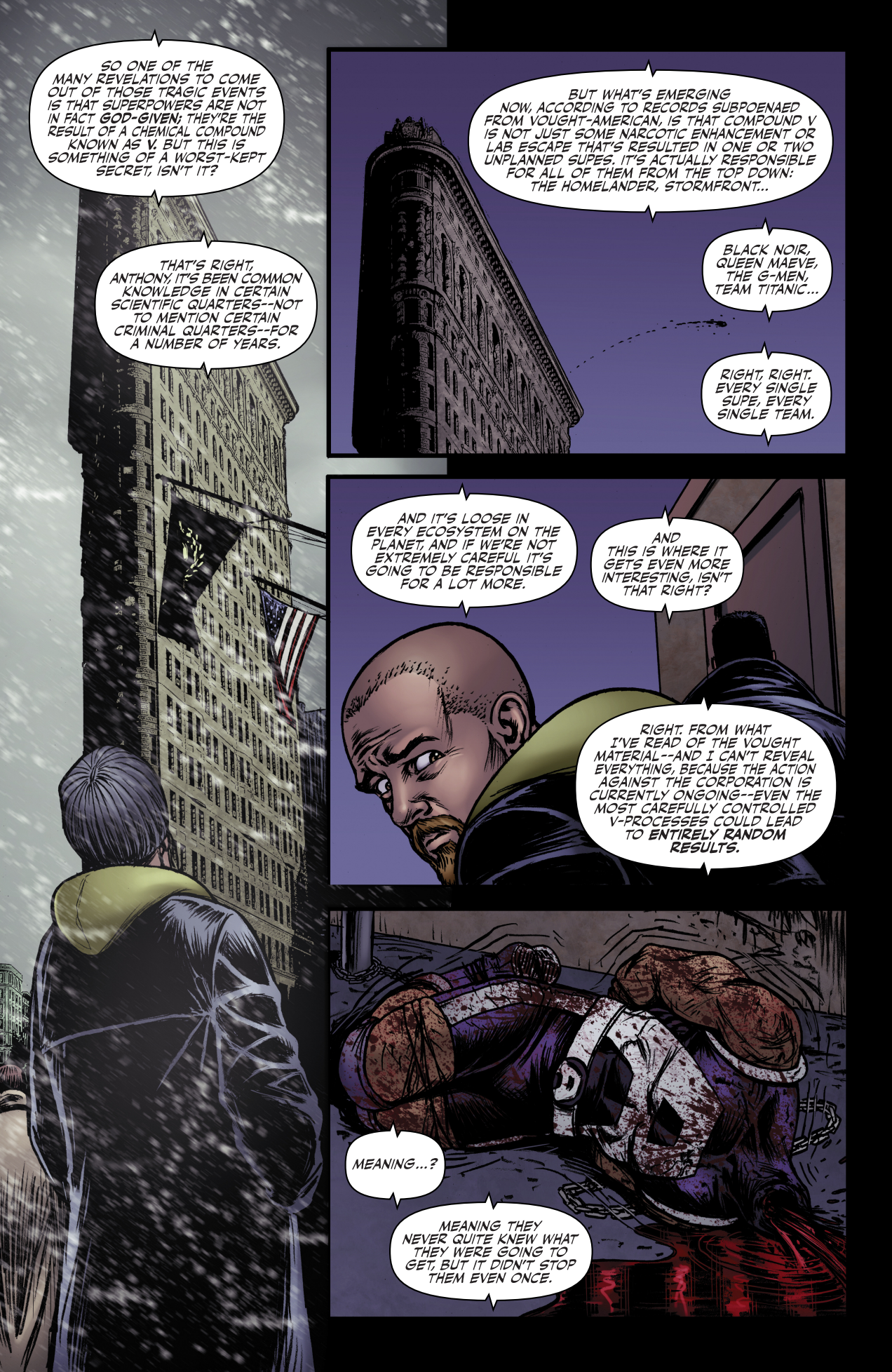

AAAAAAAAAAAAHH!!!
AAAH--
AAAAAHH--!
FUCKIN' HELL, MATE, THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO FINISH YOU OFF...!
YOU WAS A TANKIE, WASN'T YOU? THAT'S WHY YOU AN' MALLORY GOT ON SO WELL.
I WAS JUST INFANTRY, MESELF. I CAN REMEMBER BEIN' ON EXERCISE, YOMPIN' ALONG IN THE PISSIN' RAIN, WATCHIN' THE CUNTS IN THE CHIEFTAINS ROARIN' PAST AN' KILLIN' THEMSELVES LAUGHIN'...
HOW D'YOU KNOCK OUT A TANK THEN, VAS?
EASY.



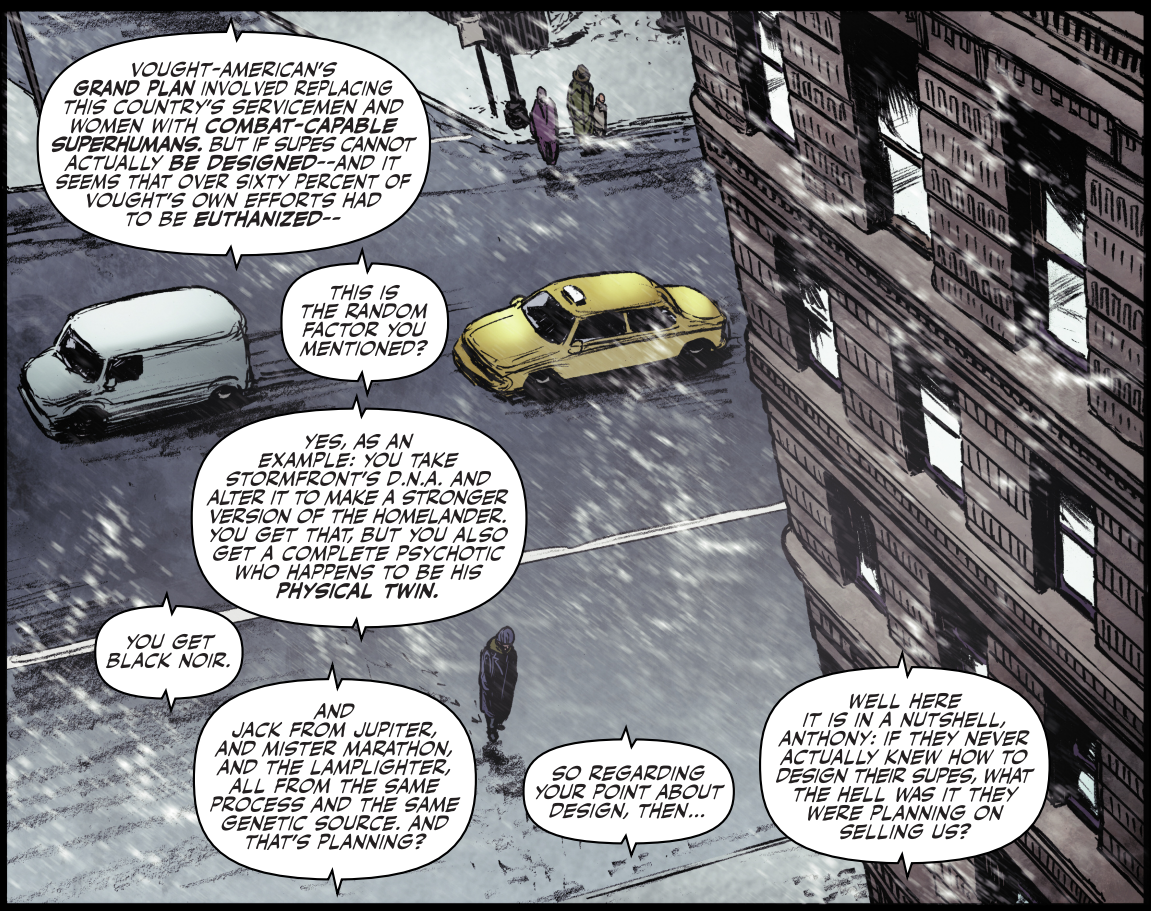
THE BLOODY DOORS OFF

part one

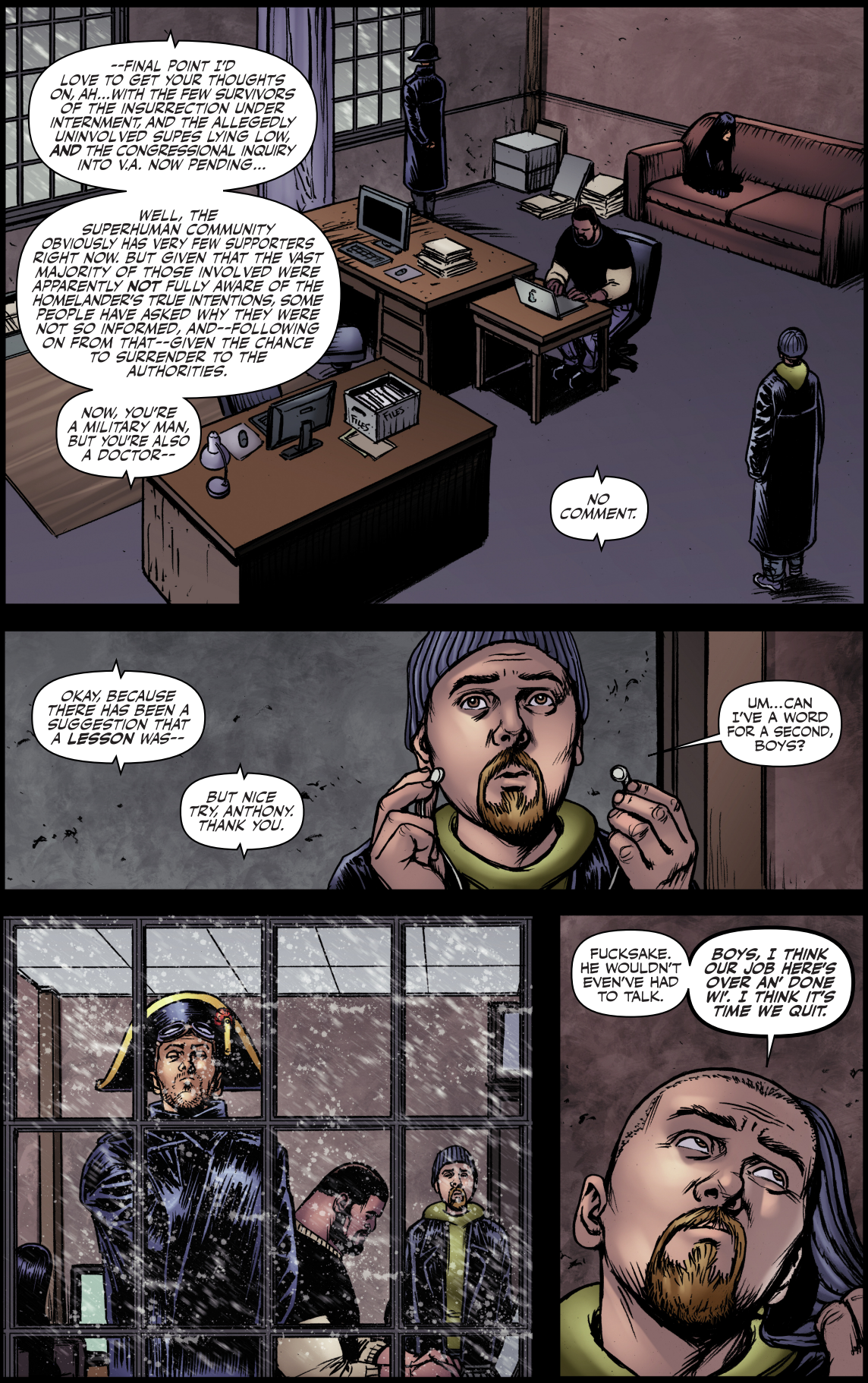

...TOP STORY AGAIN, PRESIDENT NANCY PELOSI HAS SAID SHE HAS **NO DESIRE** TO SEEK HER PARTY'S OFFICIAL NOMINATION, AND THAT HER ADMINISTRATION WILL REMAIN A PURELY **TRANSITIONAL ONE**...
MRS. PELOSI, FORMER SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, TOOK POWER UNDER THE PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION ACT OF NINETEEN FORTY-SEVEN **LAST NOVEMBER**--AFTER THE SUDDEN DEATHS OF PRESIDENTS **ROBERT SCHAEFER** AND **VICTOR NEUMAN.** TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT COMES AS LITTLE SURPRISE TO MOST OBSERVERS, THE PRESIDENT HAVING SPOKEN OF PLAYING A **CARETAKER ROLE** FROM THE BEGINNING.
IT HAS OF COURSE SPARKED **MASSIVE SPECULATION** ABOUT WHICH CANDIDATES EACH PARTY **WILL BE** FIELDING THIS YEAR--MORE COVERAGE ON THAT IN OUR FIRST ELECTION OH-EIGHT UPDATE **TONIGHT**...
RIGHT NOW, WITH THE TIME COMING UP TO TEN A.M., WE'D LIKE TO WELCOME TO THE STUDIO VICE-ADMIRAL **DONALD FOLTZ**--FORMER SURGEON GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY, WHO'S HERE WITH SOME INSIGHTS INTO LAST YEAR'S CATACLYSMIC **SUPERHUMAN MELTDOWN.** VICE-ADMIRAL FOLTZ, GOOD MORNING.
GOOD MORNING, ANTHONY. THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME ON THE SHOW.


SO ONE OF THE MANY REVELATIONS TO COME OUT OF THOSE TRAGIC EVENTS IS THAT SUPERPOWERS ARE NOT IN FACT **GOD-GIVEN**; THEY'RE THE RESULT OF A CHEMICAL COMPOUND KNOWN AS **V**. BUT THIS IS SOMETHING OF A WORST-KEPT SECRET, ISN'T IT?
THAT'S RIGHT, ANTHONY, IT'S BEEN COMMON KNOWLEDGE IN CERTAIN SCIENTIFIC QUARTERS--NOT TO MENTION CERTAIN CRIMINAL QUARTERS--FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS.
BUT WHAT'S EMERGING NOW, ACCORDING TO RECORDS SUBPOENAED FROM VOUGHT-AMERICAN, IS THAT COMPOUND V IS NOT JUST SOME NARCOTIC ENHANCEMENT OR LAB ESCAPE THAT'S RESULTED IN ONE OR TWO UNPLANNED SUPES. IT'S ACTUALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF THEM FROM THE TOP DOWN: THE HOMELANDER, STORMFRONT...
BLACK NOIR, QUEEN MAEVE, THE G-MEN, TEAM TITANIC...
RIGHT, RIGHT. EVERY SINGLE SUPE, EVERY SINGLE TEAM.
AND IT'S LOOSE IN EVERY ECOSYSTEM ON THE PLANET, AND IF WE'RE NOT EXTREMELY CAREFUL IT'S GOING TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR A LOT MORE.
AND THIS IS WHERE IT GETS EVEN MORE INTERESTING, ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
RIGHT. FROM WHAT I'VE READ OF THE VOUGHT MATERIAL--AND I CAN'T REVEAL EVERYTHING, BECAUSE THE ACTION AGAINST THE CORPORATION IS CURRENTLY ONGOING--EVEN THE MOST CAREFULLY CONTROLLED V-PROCESSES COULD LEAD TO **ENTIRELY RANDOM RESULTS.**
MEANING...?
MEANING THEY NEVER QUITE KNEW WHAT THEY WERE GOING TO GET, BUT IT DIDN'T STOP THEM EVEN ONCE.


AND YOU HAVE SOME QUITE SPECIFIC CONCERNS ABOUT THAT, CORRECT?
I DO INDEED.


VOUGHT-AMERICAN'S **GRAND PLAN** INVOLVED REPLACING THIS COUNTRY'S SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN WITH **COMBAT-CAPABLE SUPERHUMANS.** BUT IF SUPES CANNOT ACTUALLY **BE DESIGNED**--AND IT SEEMS THAT OVER SIXTY PERCENT OF VOUGHT'S OWN EFFORTS HAD TO BE **EUTHANIZED**--
THIS IS THE RANDOM FACTOR YOU MENTIONED?
YES, AS AN EXAMPLE: YOU TAKE STORMFRONT'S D.N.A. AND ALTER IT TO MAKE A STRONGER VERSION OF THE HOMELANDER. YOU GET THAT, BUT YOU ALSO GET A COMPLETE PSYCHOTIC WHO HAPPENS TO BE HIS **PHYSICAL TWIN.**
YOU GET BLACK NOIR.
AND JACK FROM JUPITER, AND MISTER MARATHON, AND THE LAMPLIGHTER, ALL FROM THE SAME PROCESS AND THE SAME GENETIC SOURCE. AND THAT'S PLANNING?
SO REGARDING YOUR POINT ABOUT DESIGN, THEN...
WELL HERE IT IS IN A NUTSHELL, ANTHONY: IF THEY NEVER ACTUALLY KNEW HOW TO DESIGN THEIR SUPES, WHAT THE HELL WAS IT THEY WERE PLANNING ON SELLING US?


AH, THAT'S A REALLY INTERESTING QUESTION, DO YOU...?
LET'S JUST SAY IT WOULDN'T'VE BEEN THE FIRST TIME THESE PEOPLE HAD RIPPED OFF UNCLE SAM. TRY GOOGLING **VOUGHT-AMERICAN-CONSOLIDATED, M-20,** AND **F7U**...


--FINAL POINT I'D LOVE TO GET YOUR THOUGHTS ON, AH...WITH THE FEW SURVIVORS OF THE INSURRECTION UNDER INTERNMENT, AND THE ALLEGEDLY UNINVOLVED SUPES LYING LOW, AND THE CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY INTO V.A. NOW PENDING...
WELL, THE SUPERHUMAN COMMUNITY OBVIOUSLY HAS VERY FEW SUPPORTERS RIGHT NOW. BUT GIVEN THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF THOSE INVOLVED WERE APPARENTLY NOT FULLY AWARE OF THE HOMELANDER'S TRUE INTENTIONS, SOME PEOPLE HAVE ASKED WHY THEY WERE NOT SO INFORMED, AND--FOLLOWING ON FROM THAT--GIVEN THE CHANCE TO SURRENDER TO THE AUTHORITIES.
NOW, YOU'RE A MILITARY MAN, BUT YOU'RE ALSO A DOCTOR--
FILES
FILES
NO COMMENT.
OKAY, BECAUSE THERE HAS BEEN A SUGGESTION THAT A LESSON WAS--
BUT NICE TRY, ANTHONY. THANK YOU.
UM...CAN I'VE A WORD FOR A SECOND, BOYS?
FUCKSAKE. HE WOULDN'T EVEN'VE HAD TO TALK.
BOYS, I THINK OUR JOB HERE'S OVER AN' DONE WI'. I THINK IT'S TIME WE QUIT.

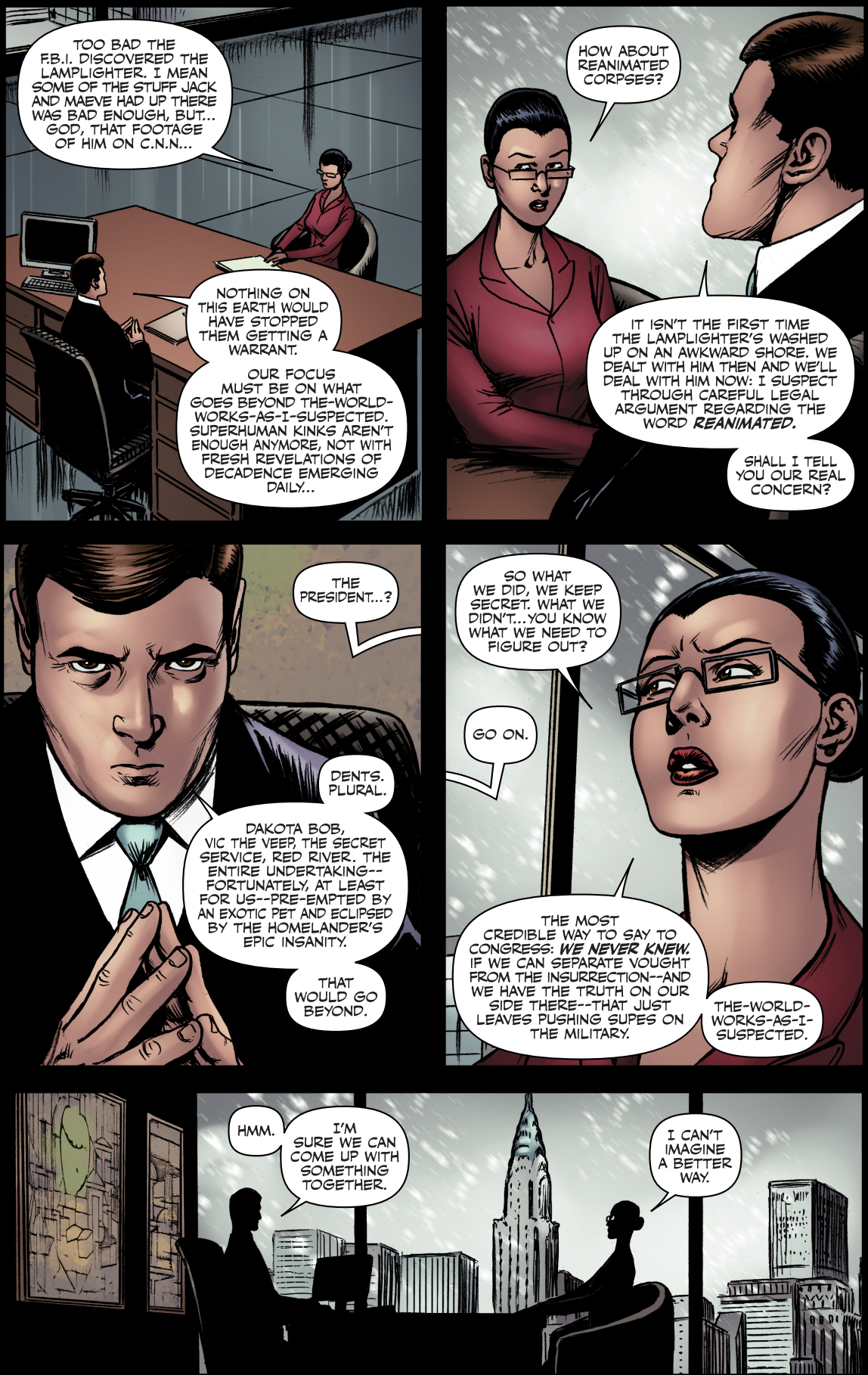

UH-HUH.
KIND OF A COINCIDENCE, HUGHIE. WE BEEN SAYIN' THE SAME THING.
OH AYE?
I GOT FAMILY SHIT I *CAN'T* BE PUTTIN' OFF NO MORE. BARELY KNOW WHERE TO START, BUT I GOTTA.
AND I--*I* HAVE BEEN BATTLING EVERY FRENCHMAN'S BURDEN: THE SPECTRE OF ***ENNUI***, THAT STALKS MY EVERY WAKING CHEESE...
P.T.S.D.
ALSO, LA FEMME HAS BEEN SMILING AGAIN. GIGGLING, EVEN, EVER SINCE PETIT HUGHIE'S REVELATION DE MASTURBATION.
I BELIEVE SUCH MERRIMENT MIGHT MEAN NEW HOPE. I THINK WE OWE HER SUCH A CHANCE, HOWEVER SMALL.
SOMETHING TO BE EXPLORED FURTHER...FAR, FAR FROM HERE.
WELL THAT'S, UH, THAT'S BRILLIANT, HEN. I'M REALLY HAPPY I COULD BE PARTA YER...YER BREAKTHROUGH...
AND WHAT OF YOU, PETIT HUGHIE? IS IT MORE WANKING TIME?


NO, IT'S NO' MORE-- LOOK, THERE IS NO--
FOR CHRIST'S SAKE...!
IT'S... THE THING I HAVE ABOUT VIOLENCE, JUST.
I KEN YOU KEN, YOU'VE HEARD ME GO ON AN' ON ABOUT IT. I'M NO' GONNA START WHINGEIN' AGAIN NOW. BUT...
ALL RIGHT, HE TOLD YOU I KILLED A-TRAIN, AYE?
HE DIDN'T?
AW, FUCK ME.
WHEN THE FUCK YOU KILL A-TRAIN?
IT WAS IN THE MIDDLE O'...WHEN EVERYTHIN' WAS GOIN' MENTAL. HE BROUGHT ME UP TO THE ROOF AN' HE HAD A-TRAIN TIED UP THERE. AN' HE MADE ME...MADE ME...
HE MADE YOU--?
WELL NO' PHYSICALLY, BUT HE SET IT UP. I MEAN I FUCKIN' HATED THE BASTARD ANYWAY, WI'--WI' WHAT HAPPENED AN' EVERYTHIN', BUT I JUST LET MYSELF GET WOUND UP AN' UP AN' UP...
I FEEL FUCKIN' AWFUL ABOUT IT. BECAUSE IT WAS THE SORTA THING HE'D DO.
AN' AFTERWARDS I COULD SEE THAT HE APPROVED.
FILES


AN' THAT'S THE WEIRD THING. HE SAID HE DID IT TO TOUGHEN ME UP--BUT IN THE END HE WOULDN'T LET ME DO ANYTHIN'.
HE WENT IN AFTER THE HOMELANDER ALL ON HIS OWN, AN' HE FINISHED BLACK NOIR OFF BY HIMSELF TOO. ALL I DID WAS STAND AN' BLOODY WATCH...
YEAH.
I DUNNO WHAT THE FUCK HE WAS THINKIN' WIT' A-TRAIN. COULD BE HE FIGURED HE OWED YOU THAT, BEIN' IT'S WHAT GOT YOU INVOLVED INNA FIRST PLACE.
BUT THE POINT IS, HE DONE THE SHIT HE HAD TO DO. THE MUTHAFUCKERS'RE DEAD. AN' WE THROUGH TOO, VOUGHT AIN'T CLIMBIN' OUT OF A HOLE THIS GODDAMN BIG.
WE ALL DONE, PEOPLE.
TIME WE WENT THE FUCK HOME.
OUI.
WHO WILL INFORM M'SIEU CHARCUTER?


...HANG US OUT TO DRY FOR WHAT IS, IN ESSENCE, THE KIND OF AGGRESSIVE BUSINESS PRACTICE THAT'S BECOME COMMONPLACE. THAT EVERYONE GETS AWAY WITH ALL THE TIME.
MAKE NO MISTAKE, THIS IS AN ASSAULT BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: NOT JUST ON OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL DIVISION, BUT ON THE ENTIRE VOUGHT-AMERICAN FAMILY. WELL, WE ARE GOING TO FIGHT BACK--AND GET THROUGH THIS--AS A FAMILY.
THANK YOU.
THIS REMINDS ME OF THE DAY WE MET...
LESS CHAMPAGNE. MORE LEPROSY.
DREADFUL STYLE OF RHETORIC BREWSTER GOES IN FOR. YOU DON'T MENTION FAMILIES AND FIGHTING IN THE SAME SENTENCE, YOU TALK EITHER SHELTER OR DEFIANCE...
ALSO PATHETICALLY TRANSPARENT.
IF THESE CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS GO AS BADLY AS THEY'RE EXPECTED TO, YOU AND I WILL BE FLUNG TO THE WOLVES.
INDEED.


LET'S TAKE A CAREFUL LOOK AT WHERE WE ARE.
D'YOU MIND?
MI CASA, SU CASA.
GENERALLY, THE PUBLIC HAS A HIGH TOLERANCE FOR THE RELEASE OF SECRETS. FOR JARRING TRUTHS BEING THROWN IN ITS FACE.
TAKE WIKILEAKS. FOR OVER A YEAR NOW THEY'VE BEEN RELEASING ALL KINDS OF MATERIAL, YET WHETHER THROUGH APATHY OR IMPOTENCE THE MOST COMMON RESPONSE HAS BEEN--YES. THE WORLD WORKS THE WAY I ALWAYS SUSPECTED.
BUT THAT WON'T APPLY TO US. WE WENT TOO FAR.
WE...BROKE THROUGH SOME BARRIER, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF WHICH IS TOO MUCH HORROR FOR PEOPLE TO ABSORB.
WE ARE *PERCEIVED* AS HAVING DONE SO. WHY?
THE IDEA OF GROWING SUPERHUMANS--FOR MILITARY SERVICE OR ANYTHING ELSE--IS DISTURBING, BUT NOT ILLEGAL. IT WILL BE, NOW THAT IT'S PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE, BUT HAD WE GONE AHEAD AS PLANNED WE WOULD HAVE BEEN ONE MORE DEFENSE CONTRACTOR SUBMITTING A TENDER.
AT THE MOMENT THERE IS NO ACTUAL CONNECTION BETWEEN OUR PLANS AND WHAT THE HOMELANDER DID, WE ARE SIMPLY BEING TARRED WITH THE SAME BRUSH. WE GENUINELY KNEW OF NOTHING AMISS.
DEVIL'S ADVOCATE: WE SUSPECTED.
SOLUTION: NEVER, EVER SAY SO AGAIN.
THE PICTURES?
GONE. WE NEVER SAW THEM.

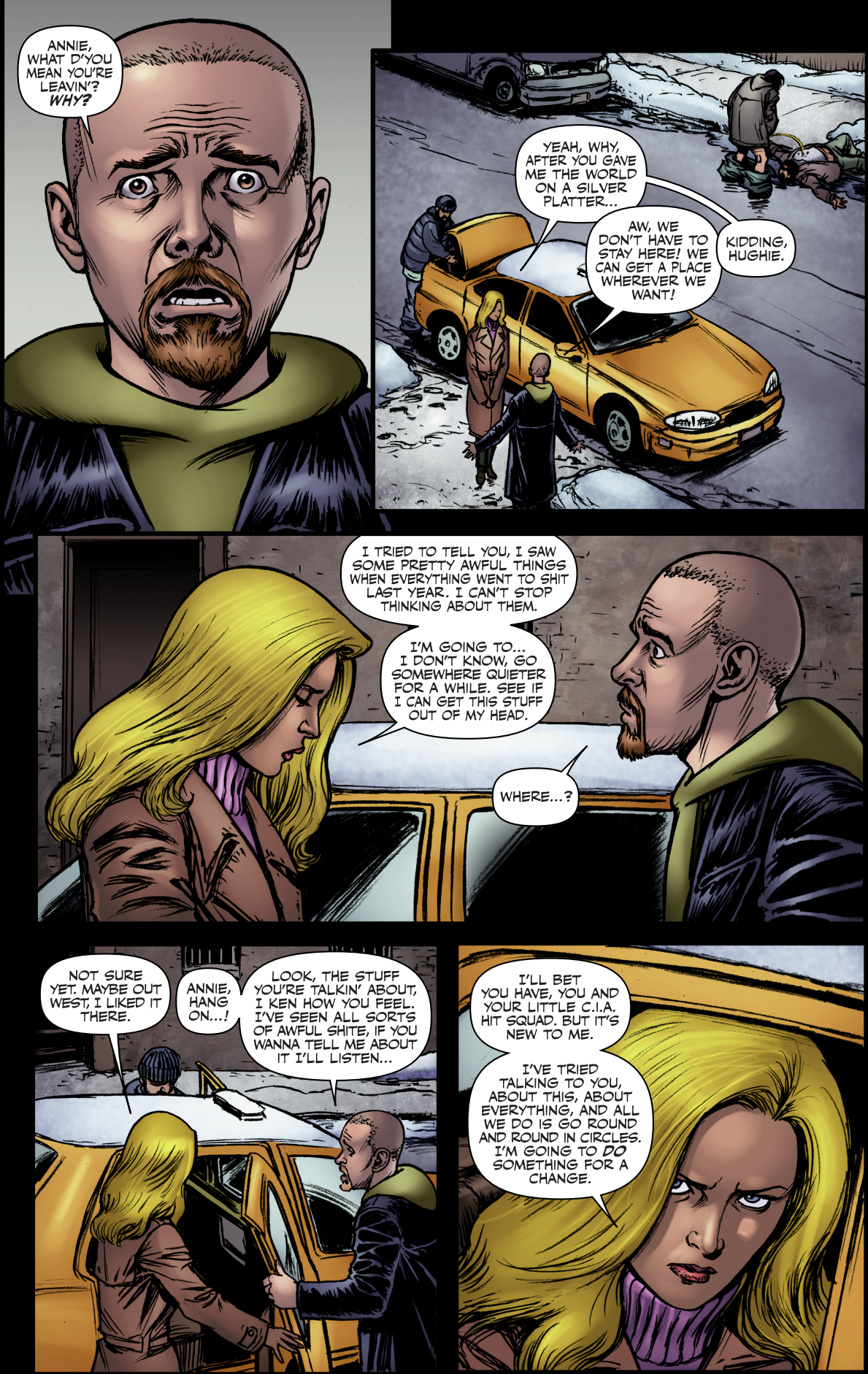

TOO BAD THE F.B.I. DISCOVERED THE LAMPLIGHTER. I MEAN SOME OF THE STUFF JACK AND MAEVE HAD UP THERE WAS BAD ENOUGH, BUT... GOD, THAT FOOTAGE OF HIM ON C.N.N...
NOTHING ON THIS EARTH WOULD HAVE STOPPED THEM GETTING A WARRANT.
OUR FOCUS MUST BE ON WHAT GOES BEYOND THE-WORLD-WORKS-AS-I-SUSPECTED. SUPERHUMAN KINKS AREN'T ENOUGH ANYMORE, NOT WITH FRESH REVELATIONS OF DECADENCE EMERGING DAILY...
HOW ABOUT REANIMATED CORPSES?
IT ISN'T THE FIRST TIME THE LAMPLIGHTER'S WASHED UP ON AN AWKWARD SHORE. WE DEALT WITH HIM THEN AND WE'LL DEAL WITH HIM NOW: I SUSPECT THROUGH CAREFUL LEGAL ARGUMENT REGARDING THE WORD REANIMATED.
SHALL I TELL YOU OUR REAL CONCERN?
THE PRESIDENT...?
DENTS. PLURAL.
DAKOTA BOB, VIC THE VEEP, THE SECRET SERVICE, RED RIVER. THE ENTIRE UNDERTAKING--FORTUNATELY, AT LEAST FOR US--PRE-EMPTED BY AN EXOTIC PET AND ECLIPSED BY THE HOMELANDER'S EPIC INSANITY.
THAT WOULD GO BEYOND.
SO WHAT WE DID, WE KEEP SECRET. WHAT WE DIDN'T...YOU KNOW WHAT WE NEED TO FIGURE OUT?
GO ON.
THE MOST CREDIBLE WAY TO SAY TO CONGRESS: WE NEVER KNEW. IF WE CAN SEPARATE VOUGHT FROM THE INSURRECTION--AND WE HAVE THE TRUTH ON OUR SIDE THERE--THAT JUST LEAVES PUSHING SUPES ON THE MILITARY.
THE-WORLD-WORKS-AS-I-SUSPECTED.
HMM.
I'M SURE WE CAN COME UP WITH SOMETHING TOGETHER.
I CAN'T IMAGINE A BETTER WAY.

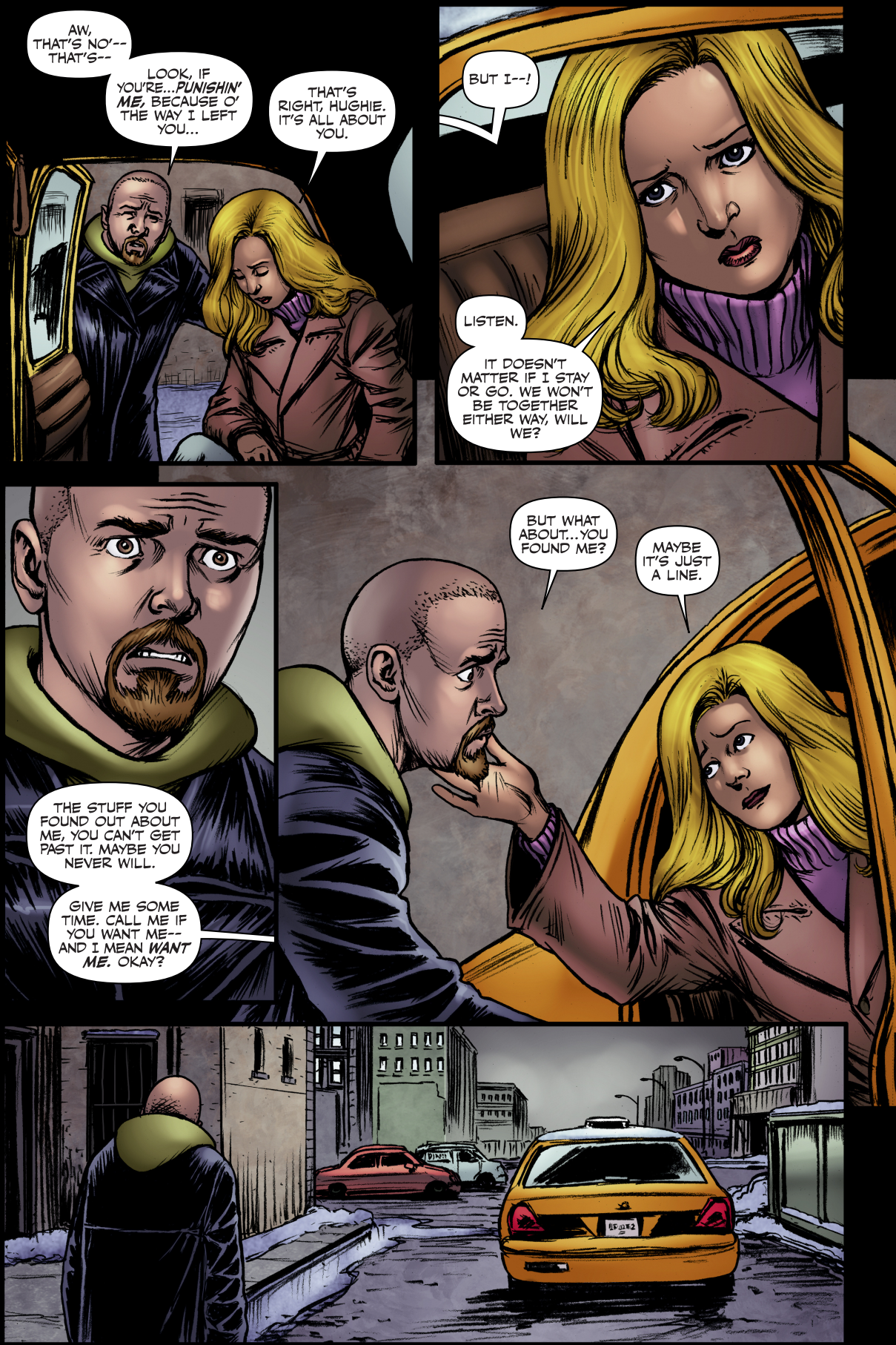

GOOD TRIP?
IF YOU LIKE THAT SORTA THING. MUCH OCCURRIN'?
YOU SAW THE EMAILS...
YEAH.
YOU GOT A MINUTE?
YEAH, 'COURSE. AS A MATTER O' FACT, THERE'S A COUPLA THINGS I WANTED TO MENTION TOO.
FIRST OF ALL, IT'S BLEEDIN' OBVIOUS THERE'S FUCK ALL TO DO AROUND HERE. I KNOW WE HAD ALL THAT BUMF TO PUT TOGETHER FOR RAYNER, BUT THE COMMITTEE'S GOT ITS START DATE AN' AS FAR AS WE'RE CONCERNED IT'S JOB DONE.
THE SUPES'LL STICK THEIR HEADS UP SOONER OR LATER. THERE'S A NEVERENDIN' SUPPLY O' THE CUNTS. BUT JUST FOR NOW, I THINK WE COULD DO WITH A BREATHER.
SO I'LL HOLD THE FORT HERE, AN' YOU LOT CAN HAVE THREE MONTHS OFF. HOW'S THAT SOUND?


M'SIEU CHARCUTER...!
YOU SURE 'BOUT THIS?
YOU GONNA BE ALL RIGHT, LIKE, LIKE WI'--
THE OTHER THING-- MM--
THE OTHER THING IS WHEN WE DO COME BACK, HUGHIE'S GONNA BE TWO I/C.
CONGRATULATIONS, MY SON. YOU ARE NOW ENTITLED TO A FUNNY SALUTE FROM ALL CONCERNED AN' A HAT WITH A BIG FUCKIN' BELL ON IT.
TWO... WHAT...?
OH, SORRY, MATE. SECOND IN COMMAND.
YOU KNOW, LIKE YOU WANTED.
WHAT? NO! I NEVER--
WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT...?
WHAT AM I TALKIN' ABOUT? HUGHIE, YOU STOOD RIGHT THERE IN DOC PECULIAR'S, IT WAS JUST AFTER YOU COME BACK, AN' YOU TOLD ME THAT WAS WHAT YOU WERE AFTER. YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO BE INVOLVED IN THE DECISION-MAKIN', ALL THE WAY ON THE INSIDE.
SECOND IN COMMAND. AN N.C.O.. I SAID I'D THINK ABOUT IT.


OH, FUCK, I FORGOT ALL ABOUT THAT...!
I MEAN--
I--
I...
AW HEN, NO, LET ME EXPLAIN--!
I THINK YOU HAVE ALREADY DONE SO, PETIT HUGHIE...
YEAH, YOU ALL OVER THE MUTHAFUCKA.
SO WHAT WAS IT YOU WANTED TO TELL ME, THEN?
YOU KNOW HOW LONG I BEEN PARTA THIS? YOU SEE ME LOOKIN' FOR A GODDAMN BUMP UP?
BUT-- BUT--
SHIT, YOU OUGHTA KNOW, NUMBER A' TIMES YOU COME TO ME FOR ADVICE...
NO, NO, YOU DON'T GET IT, THINGS WERE DIFFERENT WHEN--
NO DOUBT THEY WERE...PETTY HUGHIE...
WHAT--?!
AW FRENCHIE, DON'T BE LIKE THAT! IT WAS STUPID, I JUST WASN'T THINKIN'!
OUI, MON COMMANDANT...
FRENCHIE...!
MAN--
WHAT THE FUCK?


YOU CAN'T SEE YERSELF SALUTIN' HUGHIE?
WH--
COME ON, I'M ONLY JOKIN'...
LOOK, HE WANTED IT SO I GAVE IT TO HIM. YOU KNOW WHAT HE'S LIKE, HE'S ALWAYS HAVIN' A WOBBLE ABOUT SOMETHIN'--I THOUGHT IF HE HAD THIS IT MIGHT SORT HIM OUT A BIT.
AN' LET'S FACE IT, IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S GONNA *MEAN* ANYTHIN'. WE'RE BOTH A BIT LONG OUTTA UNIFORM FOR THAT CHAIN O' COMMAND BOLLOCKS, AIN'T WE?
JUST CARRY ON DOIN' THE JOB YOUR WAY, YOU KNOW RESULTS SPEAK LOUDEST ROUND HERE.
IN THE MEANTIME--TAKE SOME *TIME OFF*, MATE. RELAX FOR A BIT. I MEAN WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU SAW JANINE?
FRENCHIE. VOTRE DEAREST CHUM.
AW, DON'T DO THAT, FRENCHIE! *DON'T!*
LA FEMME. WHO FEEDS YOUR HAMSTER UP, THAT NO SUPE CAN USE HIM AS A BUTT-PLUG.
BUT I'M NO' GONNA SEE YOU FOR THREE MONTHS...!
LONGER, IF WE SEE YOU FIRST.
HAVE A NICE DAY, MON BRAVE.


ANNIE, WHAT D'YOU MEAN YOU'RE LEAVIN'? WHY?
YEAH, WHY, AFTER YOU GAVE ME THE WORLD ON A SILVER PLATTER...
AW, WE DON'T HAVE TO STAY HERE! WE CAN GET A PLACE WHEREVER WE WANT!
KIDDING, HUGHIE.
I TRIED TO TELL YOU, I SAW SOME PRETTY AWFUL THINGS WHEN EVERYTHING WENT TO SHIT LAST YEAR. I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT THEM.
I'M GOING TO... I DON'T KNOW, GO SOMEWHERE QUIETER FOR A WHILE. SEE IF I CAN GET THIS STUFF OUT OF MY HEAD.
WHERE...?
NOT SURE YET. MAYBE OUT WEST, I LIKED IT THERE.
ANNIE, HANG ON...!
LOOK, THE STUFF YOU'RE TALKIN' ABOUT, I KEN HOW YOU FEEL. I'VE SEEN ALL SORTS OF AWFUL SHITE, IF YOU WANNA TELL ME ABOUT IT I'LL LISTEN...
I'LL BET YOU HAVE, YOU AND YOUR LITTLE C.I.A. HIT SQUAD. BUT IT'S NEW TO ME.
I'VE TRIED TALKING TO YOU, ABOUT THIS, ABOUT EVERYTHING, AND ALL WE DO IS GO ROUND AND ROUND IN CIRCLES. I'M GOING TO DO SOMETHING FOR A CHANGE.


AW, THAT'S NO'-- THAT'S--
LOOK, IF YOU'RE...PUNISHIN' ME, BECAUSE O' THE WAY I LEFT YOU...
THAT'S RIGHT, HUGHIE. IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU.
BUT I--!
LISTEN.
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF I STAY OR GO. WE WON'T BE TOGETHER EITHER WAY, WILL WE?
BUT WHAT ABOUT...YOU FOUND ME?
MAYBE IT'S JUST A LINE.
THE STUFF YOU FOUND OUT ABOUT ME, YOU CAN'T GET PAST IT. MAYBE YOU NEVER WILL.
GIVE ME SOME TIME. CALL ME IF YOU WANT ME-- AND I MEAN WANT ME. OKAY?


HULLO, MISTER POTAMUS...
YEAH?
YOUR MOTHER'S
HOLE
?
3G
Messages
Calendar
Photos
Camera
YouTube
Stocks
Maps
Weather
Vas Text
yesterday
Close
Reply
Facebook
Settings
App Store
Compass
Phone
Mail
Safari
iPod
EH? AW, THAT'S NO' EVEN A WORD, VAS.
JESUS.
AW--!


FUCK...
SAKE...!
HHHH.
WELL, AT LEAST I'VE STILL GOT YOU, JAMIE.
C'MON, GET BACK IN YOUR WHEEL NOW. YOU KEN YOU'RE MEANT TO BE LOSIN' WEIGHT.
ME AN' THE FAT HAMSTER, THEN.
CHRIST.
next: SPLENDIDDIO...


SIXTY-SEVEN
REJECTED
REJECTED
REJECTED
WINGS
THE WORLD WRECKERS!
REJECTED
TERROR STRIKES FROM THE AIR!
REJECTED
Young AMERICANS
REJECTED
PAYBACK #47 BY BRIAN BRUBAKER
BY BUCK TRIPP
#28
ADVENTURES OF THE TEK-KNIGHT
#25
REJECTED
BY SLURP DICKSON
STAMP-O *RED INK*



THE BLOODY DOORS OFF

part two

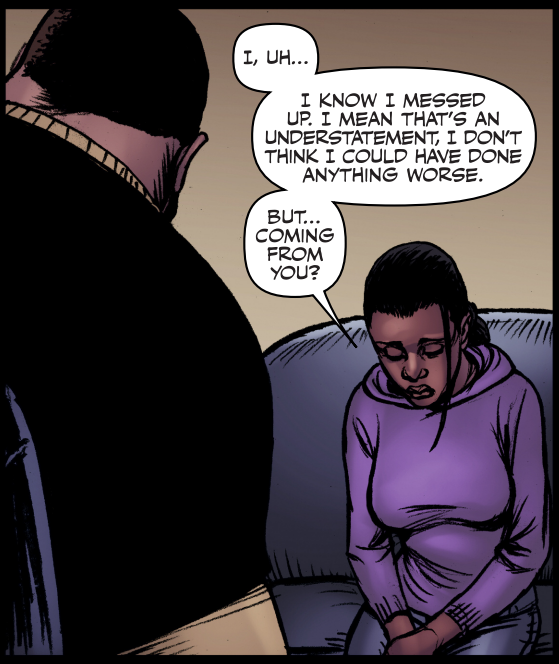

MM? HMH.
SORRY, KID, WHAT WAS IT YA WERE SAYIN'...?
AH, I WAS, AH...ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
SURE...
I WAS JUST SAYIN' IT'S ALL COMIN' TO BITS ON US. THERE WAS ALL THE SHITE THAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY, AN' THIS MORNIN' THERE'S THIS BLOODY EMAIL FROM LANGLEY.
EMAIL...?
THEY'VE REVOKED OUR CITIZENSHIP. ME AN' FRENCHIE AN' THE FEMALE, THEY WERE COPIED ON IT--WE'VE ALL GOT NINETY DAYS TO GET OUT O' THE COUNTRY.
THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICES TO THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, YOUR UNIT'S REMIT IS HEREBY CANCELLED, FEEL FREE TO FUCK OFF. I MEAN NO' IN SO MANY WORDS, BUT...
AN' BUTCHER?
HIM TOO. BUT HE'S NO' ANSWERIN' HIS PHONE, AN' HE WASN'T IN THE OFFICE WHEN I WENT BY.
THIS IS FUCKIN' RAYNER. THE LITTLE COOZE IS CLEANIN' HOUSE FOR THIS RUN SHE'S MAKIN'. LAST THING SHE WANTS IS THE BOYS COMIN' UP WHEN SHE'S ON BILL O'FUCKIN' REILLY...
SEE THERE! BEHOLD! LOOK!
IF THY ESTATES AND CURSED DEPENDENTS LAUNCH LAWSUIT AFTER LAWSUIT IN THY NAME, OUR MONUMENTS SHALL BE THE MAWS OF KITES!


AVAUNT! AND QUIT MY SIGHT! THY BONES ARE MARROWLESS!
SOLDIER BOY! STORMFRONT! WEBWEAVER! STARBOARD! ALL WERE MINE, THOU DIDST NO MORE THAN SCRAWL THY DOODLES AT MY BIDDING!
HENCE, HORRIBLE SHADOW! UNREAL MOCKERY, HENCE!
IT...
IT WILL HAVE BLOOD, THEY SAY.
BLOOD. WILL. HAVE. BLOOD.
HUH? WHAT THE HELL'RE YA DOIN' DOWN THERE?
I--
SAY, DID YA HEAR ABOUT OL' VAS...?
VAS? UH...
AYE, HE TEXTED ME YESTERDAY. MADE NO BLOODY SENSE AT ALL, MIND YOU.
HE WHAT? YOU BEEN SMOKIN' THE MARIDGE-OO-ANNA, KID?
VAS IS DEAD, SOMEONE CUT HIM IN HALF WITH A GODDAMNED ROCKET-LAUNCHER...!

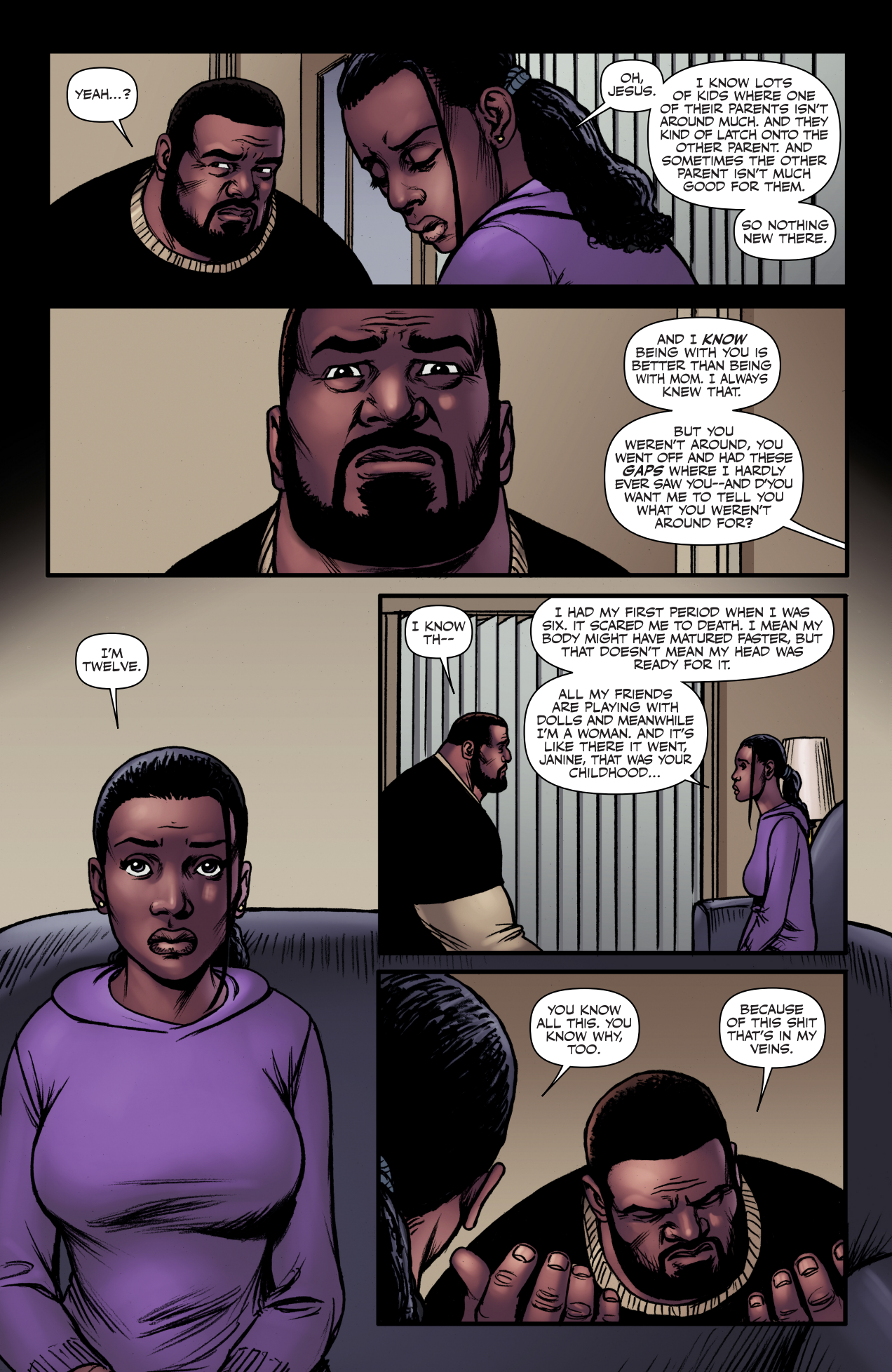

'COURSE I DID.
FINDIN' PEOPLE'S WHAT I DO.

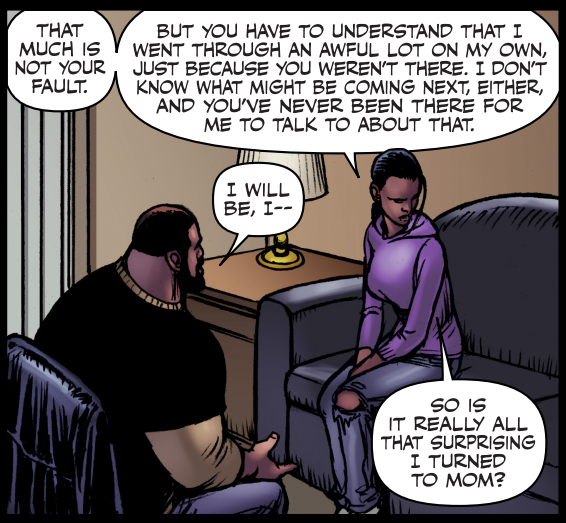

AN'...YOU RENTED THE PLACE IN YOUR OWN NAME. I PRETTY MUCH GOT OFF THE PLANE AN' COME STRAIGHT HERE.
JANINE, I AIN'T ANGRY WIT' YOU, HONEY.

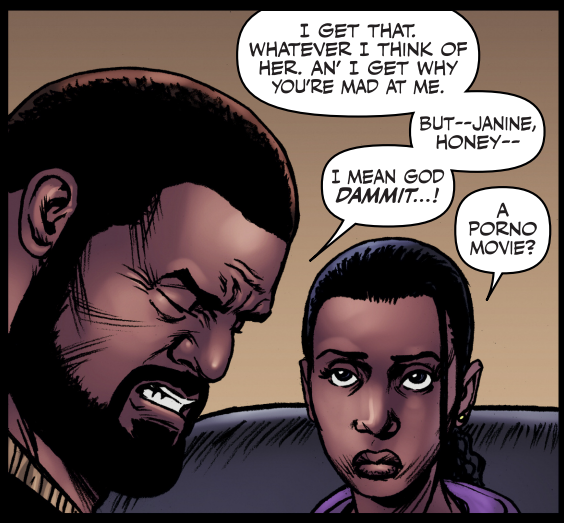

I AIN'T GONNA YELL AT YOU OR NOTHIN' ELSE LIKE THAT.
I'M JUST HERE TO BE YOUR DADDY.


I, UH...
I KNOW I MESSED UP. I MEAN THAT'S AN UNDERSTATEMENT, I DON'T THINK I COULD HAVE DONE ANYTHING WORSE.
BUT... COMING FROM YOU?

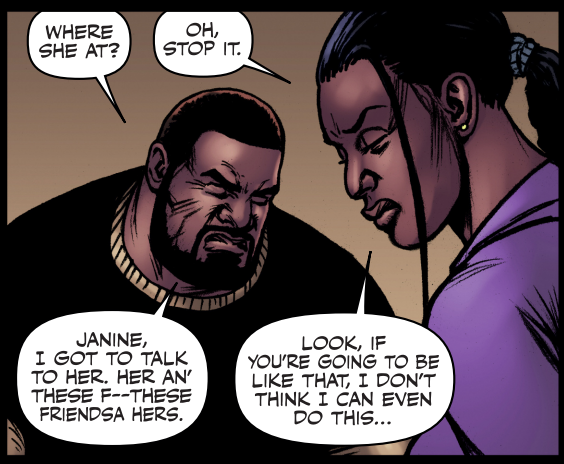

THAT REALLY IS SOME LINE.

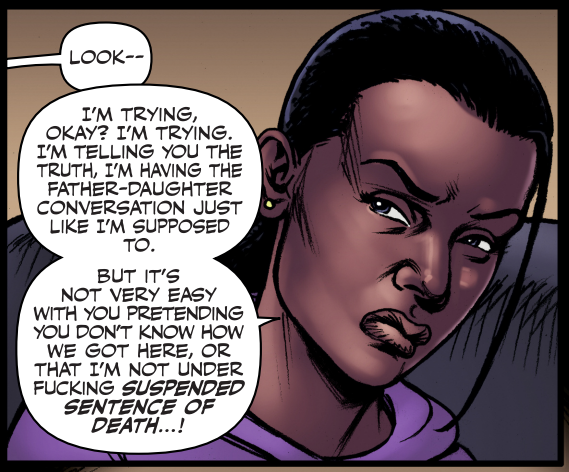

YEAH...?
OH, JESUS.
I KNOW LOTS OF KIDS WHERE ONE OF THEIR PARENTS ISN'T AROUND MUCH. AND THEY KIND OF LATCH ONTO THE OTHER PARENT. AND SOMETIMES THE OTHER PARENT ISN'T MUCH GOOD FOR THEM.
SO NOTHING NEW THERE.
AND I *KNOW* BEING WITH YOU IS BETTER THAN BEING WITH MOM. I ALWAYS KNEW THAT.
BUT YOU WEREN'T AROUND, YOU WENT OFF AND HAD THESE *GAPS* WHERE I HARDLY EVER SAW YOU--AND D'YOU WANT ME TO TELL YOU WHAT YOU WEREN'T AROUND FOR?
I'M TWELVE.
I KNOW TH--
I HAD MY FIRST PERIOD WHEN I WAS SIX. IT SCARED ME TO DEATH. I MEAN MY BODY MIGHT HAVE MATURED FASTER, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN MY HEAD WAS READY FOR IT.
ALL MY FRIENDS ARE PLAYING WITH DOLLS AND MEANWHILE I'M A WOMAN. AND IT'S LIKE THERE IT WENT, JANINE, THAT WAS YOUR CHILDHOOD...
YOU KNOW ALL THIS. YOU KNOW WHY, TOO.
BECAUSE OF THIS SHIT THAT'S IN MY VEINS.


THAT MUCH IS NOT YOUR FAULT.
BUT YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THAT I WENT THROUGH AN AWFUL LOT ON MY OWN, JUST BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T THERE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT MIGHT BE COMING NEXT, EITHER, AND YOU'VE NEVER BEEN THERE FOR ME TO TALK TO ABOUT THAT.
I WILL BE, I--
SO IS IT REALLY ALL THAT SURPRISING I TURNED TO MOM?

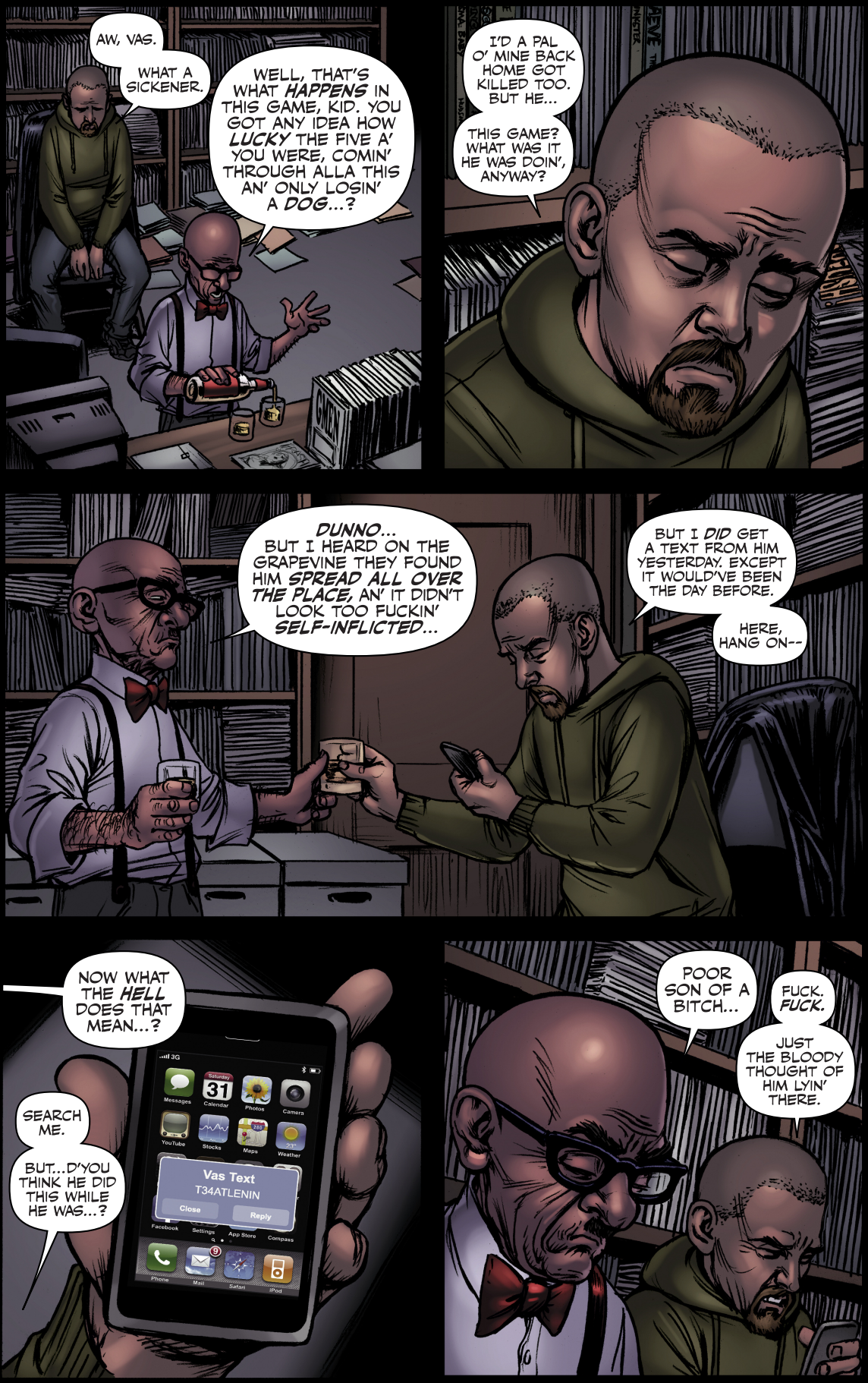

I GET THAT. WHATEVER I THINK OF HER. AN' I GET WHY YOU'RE MAD AT ME.
BUT--JANINE, HONEY--
I MEAN GOD *DAMMIT...!*
A PORNO MOVIE?


I'M NOT GOING TO PRETEND IT WASN'T DISGUSTING. OR THAT MOM'S FRIENDS WEREN'T JUST SUCH TOTAL SKEEZES.
SHE GAVE ME A LITTLE BUMP TO GET ME THROUGH IT. BUT THEN SHE'D BEEN GIVING ME LITTLE BUMPS FOR THE PAST YEAR, ANYWAY, OR I PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO STAND HER...

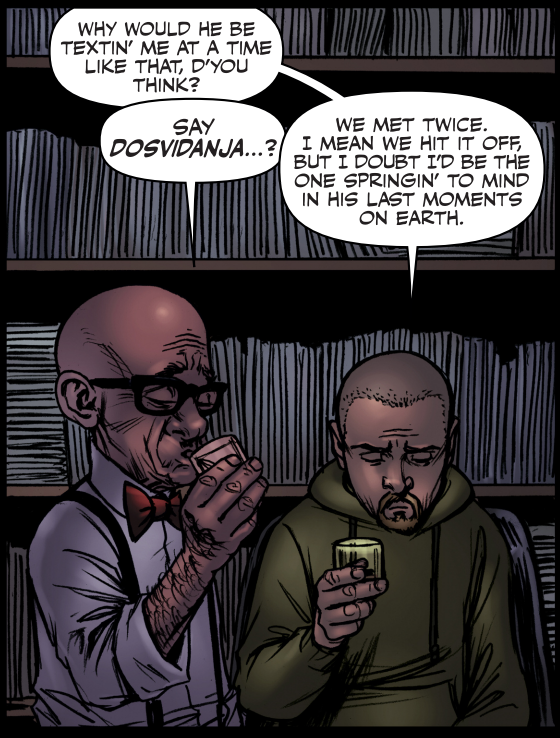

WHERE SHE AT?
OH, STOP IT.
JANINE, I GOT TO TALK TO HER. HER AN' THESE F--THESE FRIENDSA HERS.
LOOK, IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE LIKE THAT, I DON'T THINK I CAN EVEN DO THIS...


LOOK--
I'M TRYING, OKAY? I'M TRYING. I'M TELLING YOU THE TRUTH, I'M HAVING THE FATHER-DAUGHTER CONVERSATION JUST LIKE I'M SUPPOSED TO.
BUT IT'S NOT VERY EASY WITH YOU PRETENDING YOU DON'T KNOW HOW WE GOT HERE, OR THAT I'M NOT UNDER FUCKING *SUSPENDED SENTENCE OF DEATH...!*


JANINE?
HONEY, WHAT YOU TALKIN' ABOUT?


AW, VAS.
WHAT A SICKENER.
WELL, THAT'S WHAT *HAPPENS* IN THIS GAME, KID. YOU GOT ANY IDEA HOW *LUCKY* THE FIVE A' YOU WERE, COMIN' THROUGH ALLA THIS AN' ONLY LOSIN' A *DOG*...?
I'D A PAL O' MINE BACK HOME GOT KILLED TOO. BUT HE...
THIS GAME? WHAT WAS IT HE WAS DOIN', ANYWAY?
DUNNO... BUT I HEARD ON THE GRAPEVINE THEY FOUND HIM *SPREAD ALL OVER THE PLACE*, AN' IT DIDN'T LOOK TOO FUCKIN' *SELF-INFLICTED*...
BUT I *DID* GET A TEXT FROM HIM YESTERDAY. EXCEPT IT WOULD'VE BEEN THE DAY BEFORE.
HERE, HANG ON--
NOW WHAT THE *HELL* DOES THAT MEAN...?
SEARCH ME.
BUT...D'YOU THINK HE DID THIS WHILE HE WAS...?
Vas Text
T34ATLENIN
Close
Reply
POOR SON OF A BITCH...
FUCK. *FUCK.*
JUST THE BLOODY THOUGHT OF HIM LYIN' THERE.

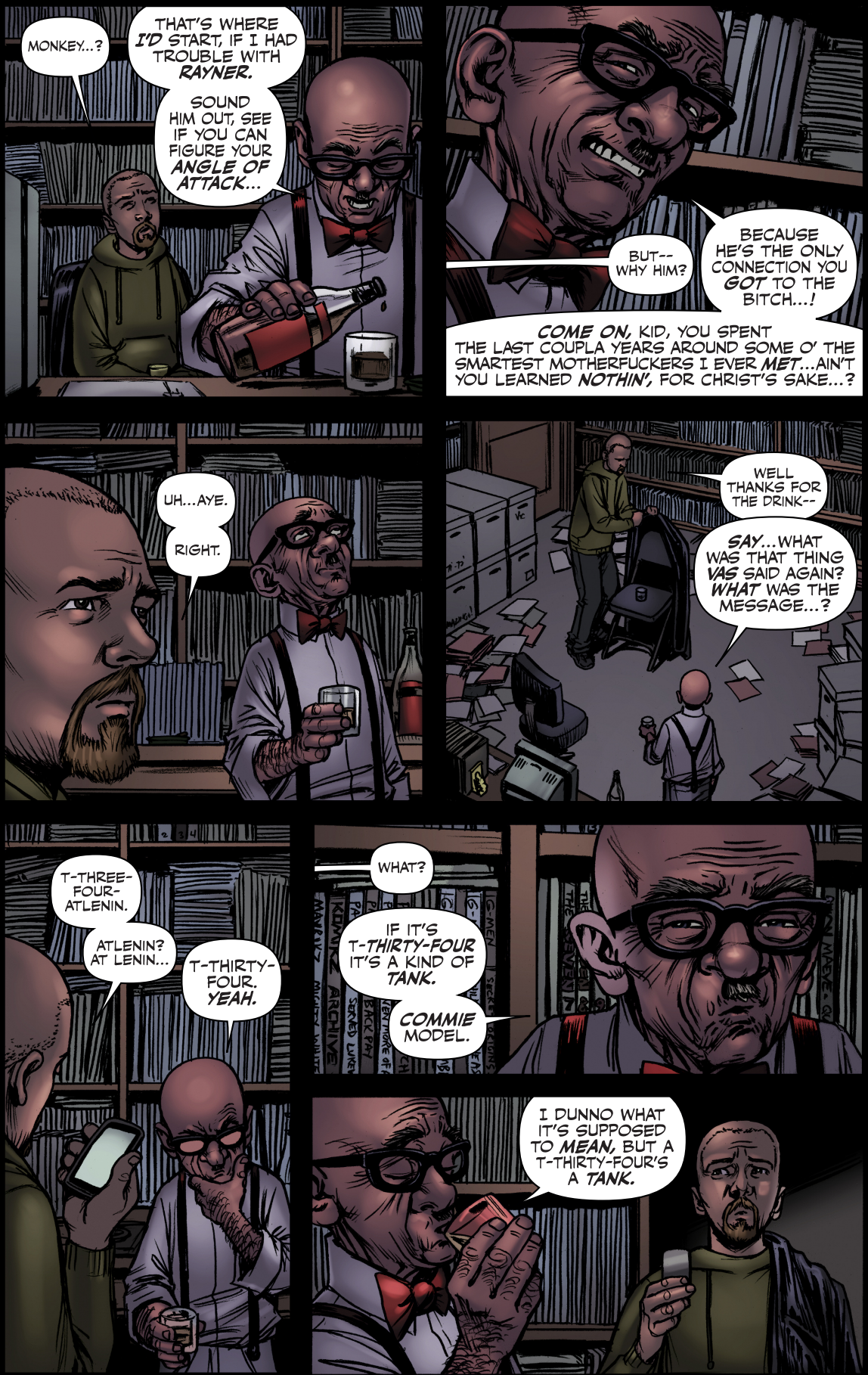

DON'T *DO IT TO YOURSELF,* KID.
VASILI VORISHIKIN: GOOD GUY FOR A FUCKIN' IVAN, LOTTA HEART, HUNG LIKE A GODDAMN *SPERM WHALE.*
AYE.
A-MAN.
1967
'MAZINGO!


WHY WOULD HE BE TEXTIN' ME AT A TIME LIKE THAT, D'YOU THINK?
SAY *DOSVIDANJA...?*
WE MET TWICE. I MEAN WE HIT IT OFF, BUT I DOUBT I'D BE THE ONE SPRINGIN' TO MIND IN HIS LAST MOMENTS ON EARTH.


WHO THE FUCK KNOWS AT A TIME LIKE *THAT?*
ABOUT YOUR *OTHER* PROBLEM...YOU GIVEN ANY THOUGHT TO WHETHER YOU *WANNA* STAY ON...?
WHAT, HERE, OR WITH THE BOYS? OR EITHER?
I DUNNO IF THEY EVEN WANT ME, I MANAGED TO SERIOUSLY PISS OFF M.M. AN' THE OTHER TWO. THANKS TO BUTCHER AN' HIS BIG BLOODY MOUTH.


BUT I DO HAVE A GIRL I'M NO' QUITE READY TO GIVE UP ON.
AN'...IT SOUNDS DAFT, BUT...I FEEL LIKE IF I DO HAVE TO LEAVE NEW YORK, THERE'S A PART O' ME'S ALWAYS GONNA BE IN MOURNIN'.


IT SOUNDS LIKE THE WORDS OF A *SMART FUCKIN' MAN.*
TRY *MONKEY.*

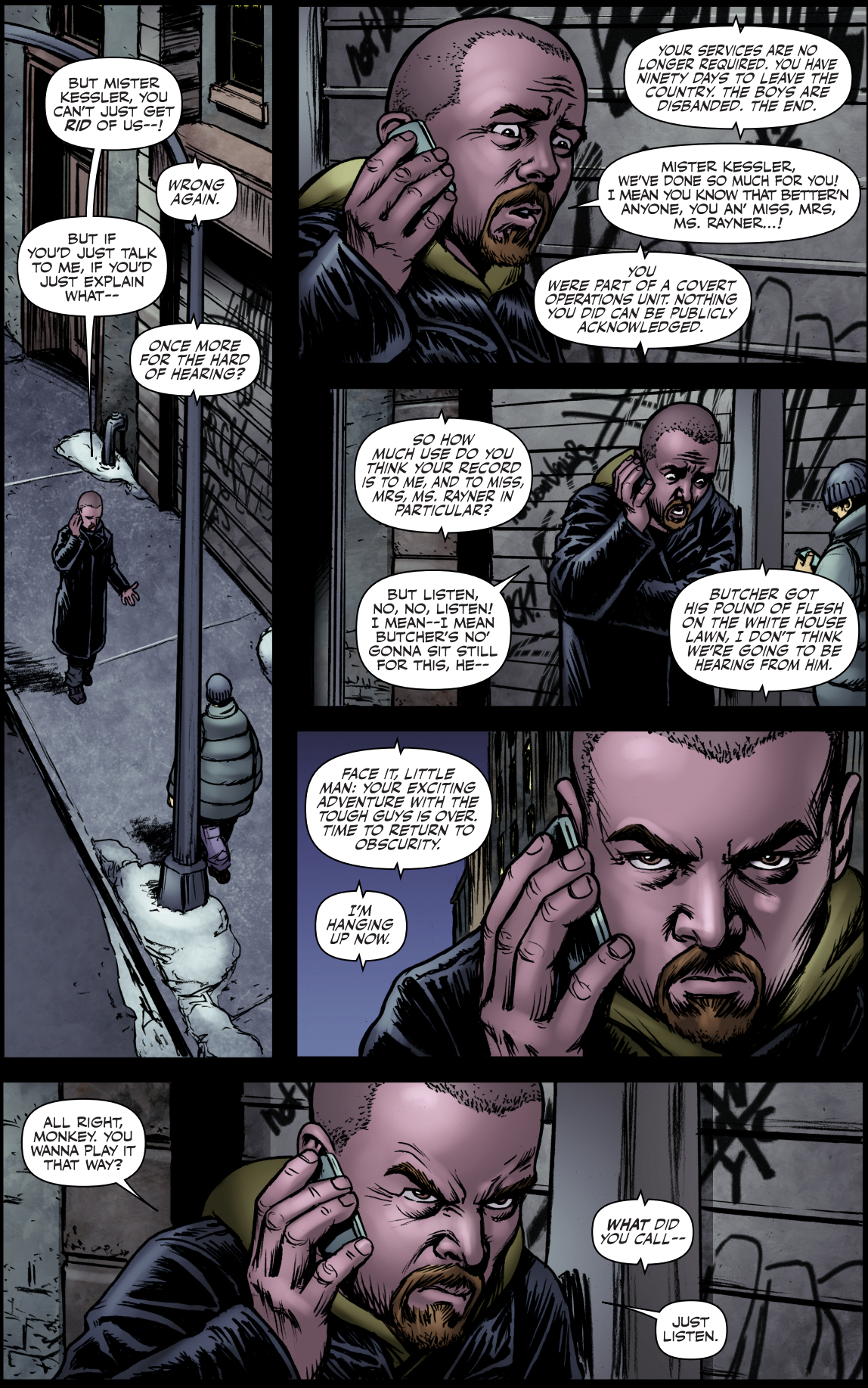

MONKEY...?
THAT'S WHERE I'D START, IF I HAD TROUBLE WITH RAYNER.
SOUND HIM OUT, SEE IF YOU CAN FIGURE YOUR ANGLE OF ATTACK...
BUT-- WHY HIM?
BECAUSE HE'S THE ONLY CONNECTION YOU GOT TO THE BITCH...!
COME ON, KID, YOU SPENT THE LAST COUPLA YEARS AROUND SOME O' THE SMARTEST MOTHERFUCKERS I EVER MET...AIN'T YOU LEARNED NOTHIN', FOR CHRIST'S SAKE...?
UH...AYE.
RIGHT.
WELL THANKS FOR THE DRINK--
SAY...WHAT WAS THAT THING VAS SAID AGAIN? WHAT WAS THE MESSAGE...?
T-THREE-FOUR-ATLENIN.
ATLENIN? AT LENIN...
T-THIRTY-FOUR. YEAH.
WHAT?
IF IT'S T-THIRTY-FOUR IT'S A KIND OF TANK.
COMMIE MODEL.
I DUNNO WHAT IT'S SUPPOSED TO MEAN, BUT A T-THIRTY-FOUR'S A TANK.


"YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THIS?"


I... DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THIS IS...
REALLY.
SERIOUSLY.
BECAUSE IF YOU'RE MAKING ME GO THROUGH IT JUST TO PUNISH ME, FOR SOME MESSED-UP REASON OF YOUR OWN...
JANINE...!
IT WAS UNCLE BILLY.
WHAT--?
HE SHOWED UP RIGHT AFTER THE THING WENT VIRAL. THE DAY MOM EMAILED YOU, HE SHOWED UP AT THE OFFICE THAT SAME NIGHT.
I GUESS HE CAME STRAIGHT FROM THE AIRPORT TOO.
ARE YOU SURE HE DIDN'T TELL--
JANINE, DON'T STOP TALKIN' NOW--!
I THINK HE JUST WANTED MOM'S ADDRESS, BUT IT SO HAPPENED WE WERE THERE TO HAVE A MEETING, TO TALK ABOUT A SEQUEL, BELIEVE IT OR NOT.
I NEVER...WHEN I WAS A KID I DIDN'T REALLY KNOW UNCLE BILLY. HE SMILED A LOT, HE HAD HIS FUNNY ACCENT. BUT I HARDLY SAW HIM, I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT WHO HE WAS OR WHAT THE TWO OF YOU DID...


HE KILLED JULIUS FIRST.
ONE LOOK AT HIM AND YOU KNEW HE MEANT SERIOUS BUSINESS. SO CHUCKY--HE WAS THE PRODUCER, HE WAS THE GUY THAT MOM HOOKED UP WITH IN THE FIRST PLACE--CHUCKY JUST SNEERED AND KIND OF NODDED TO JULIUS TO DEAL WITH HIM.
JULIUS WAS CHUCKY'S BODYGUARD, HE WAS ALSO IN A LOT OF THE FILMS. HE WAS SIX FEET EIGHT.
UNCLE BILLY REACHED UP AND KIND OF GRABBED HIS HEAD AND--
HE TURNED IT BACK TO FRONT. ONE SECOND JULIUS IS FACING AWAY, AND THE NEXT THERE'S THIS KLUNK AND HE'S LOOKING RIGHT AT ME, AND HE'S AMAZED...
HE DID THIS SHIT IN FRONT OF YOU...?
IT WAS ALL FOR MY BENEFIT, DADDY.
DON'T YOU GET THAT?
THE LOOK ON HIS FACE...IT WAS LIKE WE WERE DISGUSTING TO HIM, BUT ALSO WE WERE THIS GIANT INCONVENIENCE THAT HE COULD HARDLY EVEN BE BOTHERED DEALING WITH.
I FELL OFF MY CHAIR. MOM WENT FOR THE DOOR. HE RAMMED CHUCKY'S HEAD INTO THE WALL. IT WAS ONLY LATER ON I THOUGHT--YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD JULIUS TO SIT DOWN, YOU SHOULD HAVE SCREAMED AT EVERYBODY NOT TO PISS HIM OFF..
BUT I WAS USELESS.
AND I DON'T THINK IT WOULD HAVE MADE ANY DIFFERENCE.
DO YOU REMEMBER THE DAY HE CAME TO GET YOU, TWO OR THREE YEARS BACK? WHEN I WAS MEAN TO YOU, DO YOU REMEMBER THAT?
YEAH...


"THERE WERE SOME BOYS OUTSIDE.
"THEY WERE IDIOTS. I WAS HANGING OUT WITH THEM TO GET AT YOU. UNCLE BILLY SCARED THEM OFF, THEN HE TOLD ME TO STOP TREATING YOU LIKE SHIT.
"HE SAID I WAS LUCKY TO HAVE SOMEONE LIKE YOU FOR A FATHER."
LUMPS
WHAT HE DID WAS-- ONE OF THESE BOYS, HE HAD A GUN--
AND UNCLE BILLY TOOK IT OFF HIM, AND HE LOOKED HIM IN THE EYE AND JUST CRUSHED IT.
AND THAT'S WHAT HE DID TO MOM IN FRONT OF ME.
NO EFFORT. NO EMOTION. CAN'T HAVE BEEN MORE THAN A SECOND.
HE JUST... PUSHED HER...
MOTHERFUCKER.
MOTHERFUCKER, MY GODDAMN DAUGHTER, MOTHER--
YOU KNOW WHAT HE SAID TO ME, DADDY? WHILE HE WAS KILLING MOM? WHILE HE WAS LOOKING ME IN THE EYES AND JUST DESTROYING HER?
HE SAID-- HE SAID--
OH, GOD.
"YOU LEAVE THAT MAN ALONE."


BUT MISTER KESSLER, YOU CAN'T JUST GET RID OF US--!
WRONG AGAIN.
BUT IF YOU'D JUST TALK TO ME, IF YOU'D JUST EXPLAIN WHAT--
ONCE MORE FOR THE HARD OF HEARING?
YOUR SERVICES ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED. YOU HAVE NINETY DAYS TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. THE BOYS ARE DISBANDED. THE END.
MISTER KESSLER, WE'VE DONE SO MUCH FOR YOU! I MEAN YOU KNOW THAT BETTER'N ANYONE, YOU AN' MISS, MRS, MS. RAYNER...!
YOU WERE PART OF A COVERT OPERATIONS UNIT. NOTHING YOU DID CAN BE PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED.
SO HOW MUCH USE DO YOU THINK YOUR RECORD IS TO ME, AND TO MISS, MRS, MS. RAYNER IN PARTICULAR?
BUT LISTEN, NO, NO, LISTEN! I MEAN--I MEAN BUTCHER'S NO' GONNA SIT STILL FOR THIS, HE--
BUTCHER GOT HIS POUND OF FLESH ON THE WHITE HOUSE LAWN, I DON'T THINK WE'RE GOING TO BE HEARING FROM HIM.
FACE IT, LITTLE MAN: YOUR EXCITING ADVENTURE WITH THE TOUGH GUYS IS OVER. TIME TO RETURN TO OBSCURITY.
I'M HANGING UP NOW.
ALL RIGHT, MONKEY. YOU WANNA PLAY IT THAT WAY?
WHAT DID YOU CALL--
JUST LISTEN.


DO YOU REALLY THINK RAYNER'S GONNA HAND OVER TO YOU WHEN SHE FUCKS OFF?
D'YOU THINK A GUY WHO GOT FUCKED UP THE ARSE BY A BULLDOG AN' ENDED UP CLEANIN' MONKEY SPUNK OUT OF HIS EARS--D'YOU THINK YOU'RE GONNA GET HER RECOMMENDATION FOR HEAD O' THE C.I.A.?
WH-WH-WHAT--?
SHE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT--
HE TOLD ME, FOR FUCK'S SAKE. D'YOU THINK HE DIDN'T TELL HER ABOUT IT, SOME ROMANTIC FUCKIN' EVENIN' WHEN HE'D FINISHED SHAGGIN' HER OVER HER DESK?
I BET THEY HAD A RIGHT BLOODY LAUGH. AN' WE'VE NO' EVEN TOUCHED ON THE PARALYMPICS THING YET, I MEAN SHE'S GOTTA BE WONDERIN' HOW THAT'LL LOOK IF IT EVER COMES OUT IN THE WASH...!
IF I WAS YOU I'D BE THINKIN' ABOUT WHO CAN HELP YOU. LIKE IF THERE'S ANYONE YOU KEN WHO COULD DELIVER SOMETHIN' TO MAKE YOU LOOK LIKE A STAR.
I--I--
SEE THE NEXT TIME I PHONE YOU, SUNSHINE? HAVE SOME GOOD NEWS FOR ME.
AN' BE READY TO BE A FUCKSIGHT MORE POLITE.
DID I JUST...PULL A BUTCHER?


NOT GOT ONE O' THE BLARNEY COCK?
WOULDA MADE A NICE LITTLE FAMILY PHOTO.
IF DOC PECULIAR HADN'T FARMED HIM OUT TO SOME KIDS' HOME IN PADDY LAND.
SUSPENSO


MAY DEC '89 VICTORY
COME ON, YOU DON'T WANNA WAKE THE TWO ARSEHOLES UPSTAIRS.
NEEEEEHH--!
FOR THEIR SAKE, IF NOTHIN' ELSE.
WHAT'S... WHAT'S...?
YOU KNOW.
OR YOU'LL WORK IT OUT.
HE'S BEEN TO SEE YOU ALREADY, AIN'T HE? BOUND TO HAVE, WITH RAYNER AN' THAT. WHAT'D YOU TELL HIM?
I DIDN'T SAY SHIT, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU'RE--
WELL, MAYBE HE'LL TELL YOU SOMETHIN', AN' YOU'LL PUT TWO AN' TWO TOGETHER.
MAYBE HE'LL COME DOWN HERE TOMORROW AN' SAY... VOGELBAUM.
AN' THAT I CANNOT HAVE.


JESUS CHRIST.
AFTER EVERYTHING I...AFTER ALL THIS FUCKIN' TIME--!
YEAH, WELL.
RATHER YOU THAN HIM.
NO--!
HNNHH!
'70
ALL STARZ
See Monkey
PEERLESS
NO! NO! NO! NO!
FANTASTIC
NNEEEEEEEEHHH


UHHHHHHH...!
SHIT FOOT
I'M SHITFOOT!
IT'S TH APOCALYPSE
I LIKES CANDY!
GOLDEN GATE
SHPLENDIDDIO...
YOU FUCKIN'
COCK
SHUCKERSH
AW NO.
AW SSSHIT.


THERE YOU ARE, JAMIE.
THERE YOU GO, WEE PAL.


ALL RIGHT, SMART MAN, LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN PULL AN M.M....


SO A T-THIRTY-FOUR'S A TANK.
A TANK. VAS. VAS AN' A TANK.
UNLESS IT IS T-THREE-FOUR, AN' THIS IS ALL A LOADA--
T-34
Read
Edit
View history
Search


WAS TANK COMMANDER.
ARMY IS SHIT NOW. BACK THEN WAS MIGHTY SOVIET JUGGERNAUT, COULD HAVE PUSHED NATO FAGGOTS WHOLE WAY TO ENGLISH CHANNEL. NO OFFENSE.


FUCK, WAS IT HIS TANK?
OUT OF SOVIET SERVICE IN THE FIFTIES, NO, HE WOULDN'T'VE BEEN... HANG ON.
T-THIRTY-FOUR ATLENIN.





Untitled - Message (HTML)

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Actions Help

Send Save Print Cut Copy Paste Options Delete

To:	t34@lenin.com
CC:	
Subject:	Vas?



From: T34@LENIN.RU

Subject: Re: Vas?

Date: January 8, 2008 23.11.07 EDT

To: weehughie@mac.com

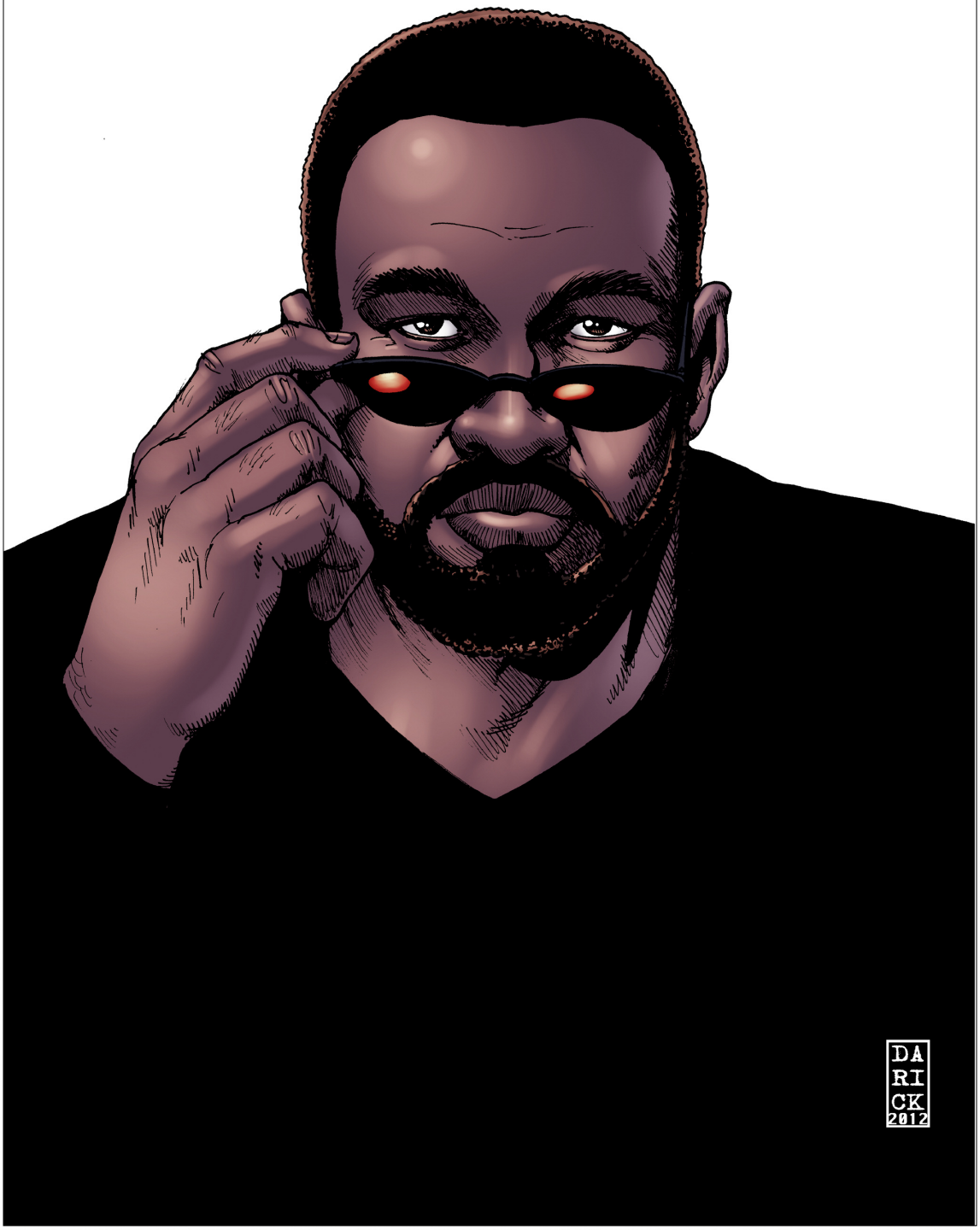
This is an automated response

Little Hughie, if you read this I am dead and my worst fears are true. I am sorry



next: DO YOU KNOW WHAT I HATE?

SIXTY-EIGHT

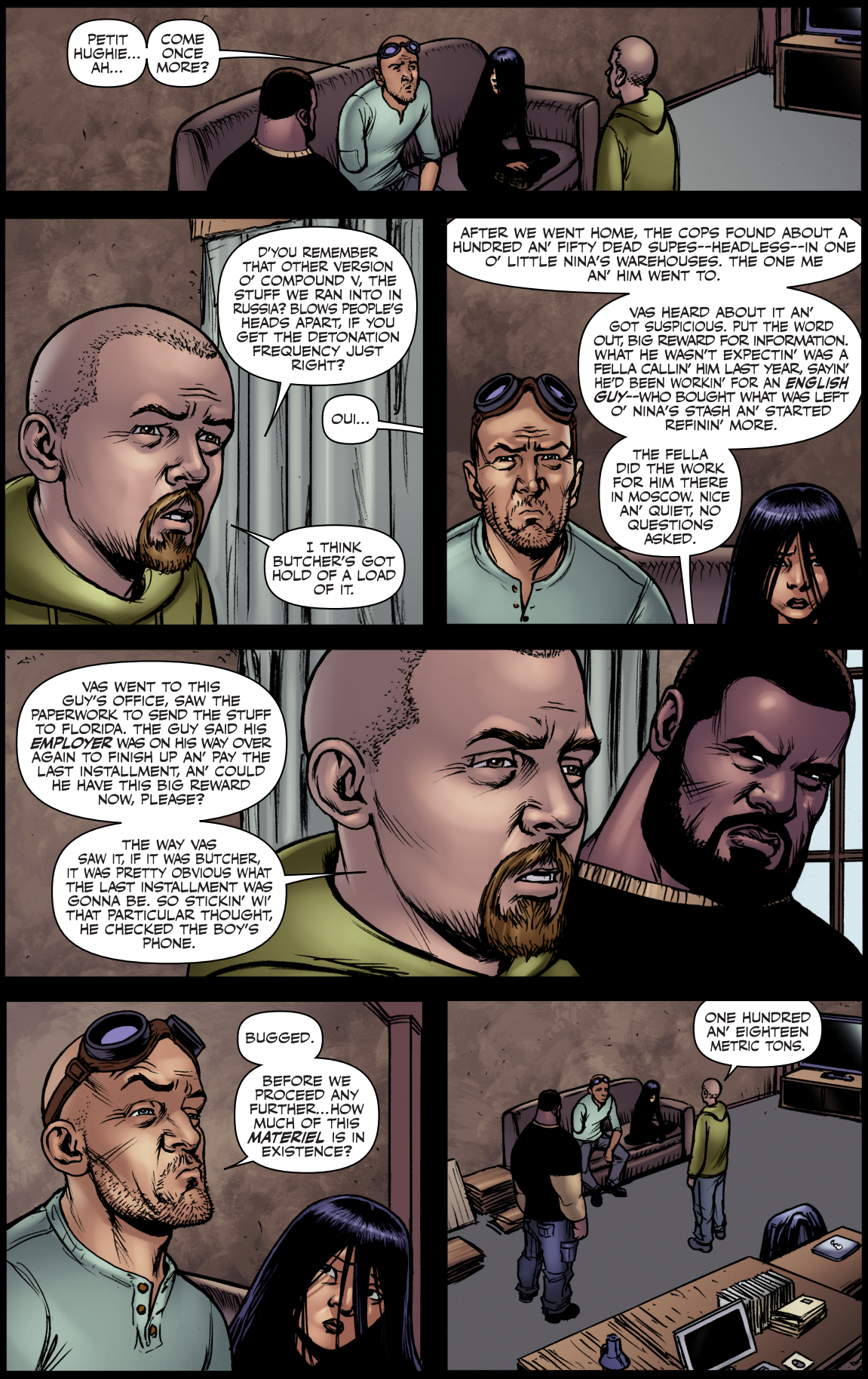


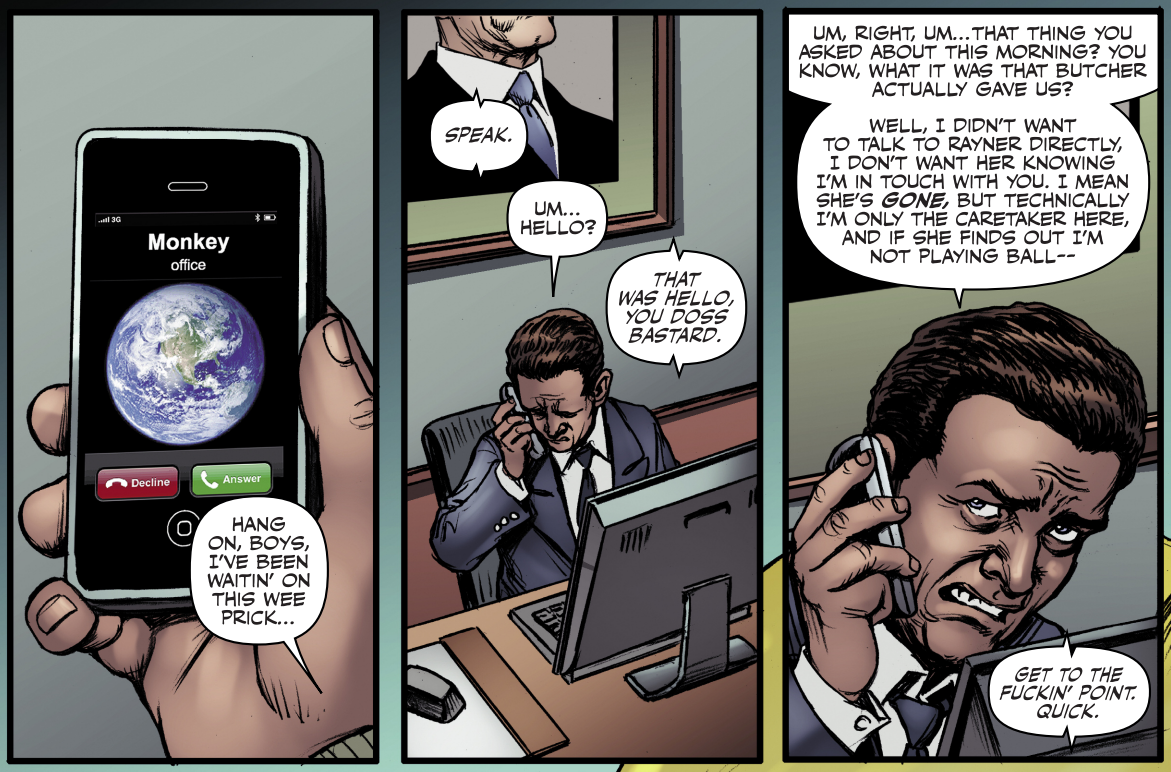


THE BLOODY DOORS OFF

part three


PARDON...
PARDON...
JE SUIS DESOLE...
FOR FUCK'S SAKE, FRENCHIE, THIS IS SERIOUS--!
OF COURSE IT IS, MON CAPITAINE. YOU CALL AND WE COME RUNNING, WE ARE HERE TO SERVE.
M.M. CALLED YOU...!
I MEAN JESUS CHRIST, IT WAS A MISTAKE, ALL RIGHT? I'M SORRY, IT WAS BLOODY DAFT!
BUT THE THING WAS I'D FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT IT, BUT HE HADN'T--AN' HE USED IT, HE STORED IT AWAY AN' HE BROUGHT IT UP WHEN IT'D DO THE MOST--
THE EIGHT HUNDRED POUND GORILLA'S WHAT THE FUCK BUTCHER'S DOIN'.
WHAT HE'S BEEN DOIN' ALL ALONG.
LISTEN.
HE SPLIT US UP. HE GAVE US TIME OFF AN' HE GOT YOU PISSED OFF AT ME, SO WE'D NO' BE IN THE WAY WHEN HE GOT STARTED.
I REALLY APPRECIATE YOU COMIN' BACK. HONESTLY.
BUT THE LEGEND'S DEAD. I HAD SEAN MCGUINEA SCREAMIN' DOWN THE PHONE AT ME AT SIX O'CLOCK THIS MORNIN'.
AN' VAS IS DEAD TOO, AN' IT'S STARTIN' TO LOOK PRETTY BLOODY CERTAIN BUTCHER DID THEM BOTH.

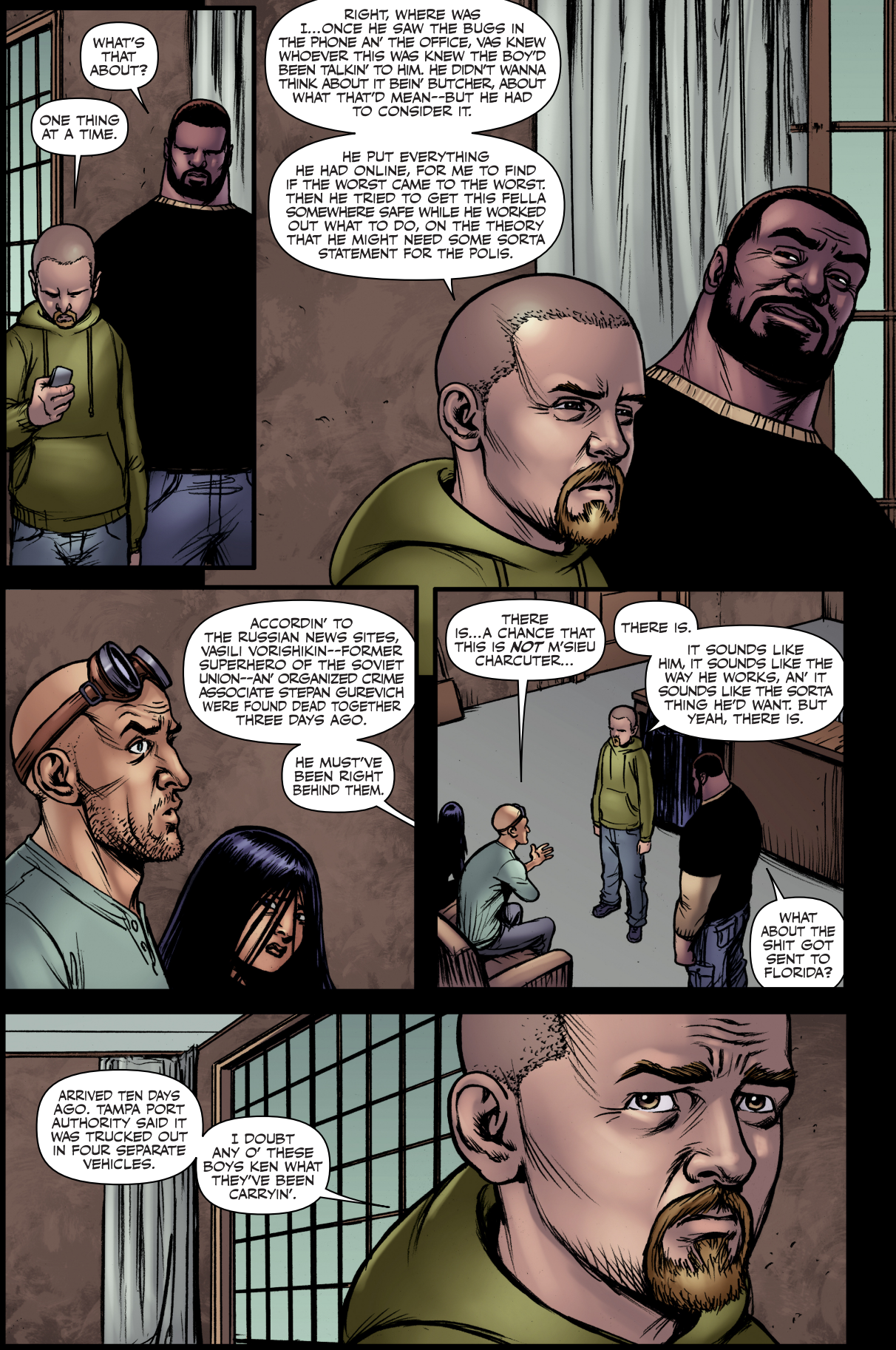

PETIT HUGHIE... AH...
COME ONCE MORE?
D'YOU REMEMBER THAT OTHER VERSION O' COMPOUND V, THE STUFF WE RAN INTO IN RUSSIA? BLOWS PEOPLE'S HEADS APART, IF YOU GET THE DETONATION FREQUENCY JUST RIGHT?
OUI...
I THINK BUTCHER'S GOT HOLD OF A LOAD OF IT.
AFTER WE WENT HOME, THE COPS FOUND ABOUT A HUNDRED AN' FIFTY DEAD SUPES--HEADLESS--IN ONE O' LITTLE NINA'S WAREHOUSES. THE ONE ME AN' HIM WENT TO.
VAS HEARD ABOUT IT AN' GOT SUSPICIOUS. PUT THE WORD OUT, BIG REWARD FOR INFORMATION. WHAT HE WASN'T EXPECTIN' WAS A FELLA CALLIN' HIM LAST YEAR, SAYIN' HE'D BEEN WORKIN' FOR AN ENGLISH GUY--WHO BOUGHT WHAT WAS LEFT O' NINA'S STASH AN' STARTED REFININ' MORE.
THE FELLA DID THE WORK FOR HIM THERE IN MOSCOW. NICE AN' QUIET, NO QUESTIONS ASKED.
VAS WENT TO THIS GUY'S OFFICE, SAW THE PAPERWORK TO SEND THE STUFF TO FLORIDA. THE GUY SAID HIS EMPLOYER WAS ON HIS WAY OVER AGAIN TO FINISH UP AN' PAY THE LAST INSTALLMENT, AN' COULD HE HAVE THIS BIG REWARD NOW, PLEASE?
THE WAY VAS SAW IT, IF IT WAS BUTCHER, IT WAS PRETTY OBVIOUS WHAT THE LAST INSTALLMENT WAS GONNA BE. SO STICKIN' WI' THAT PARTICULAR THOUGHT, HE CHECKED THE BOY'S PHONE.
BUGGED.
BEFORE WE PROCEED ANY FURTHER...HOW MUCH OF THIS MATERIEL IS IN EXISTENCE?
ONE HUNDRED AN' EIGHTEEN METRIC TONS.



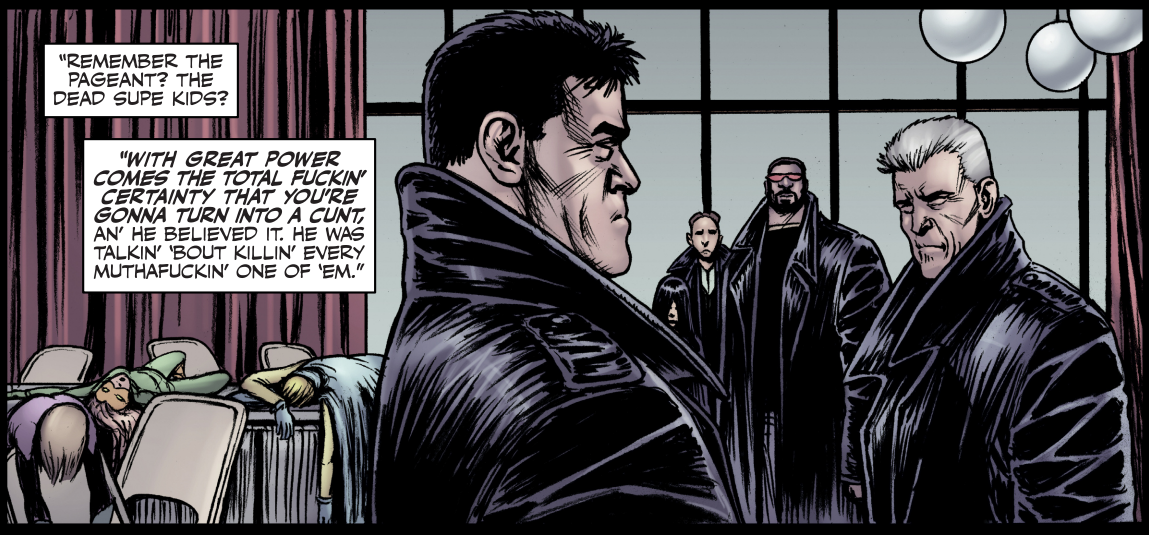
"OKAY, I ASKED THE AIR FORCE, MADE IT SOUND LIKE THE NEW DIRECTOR FINDING HIS FEET. THEY SAID THEIR MAIN CONCERN--WHEN RAYNER CONTACTED NORAD ABOUT A POSSIBLE SUPERHERO INSURGENCY--WAS ENGAGING HUMAN-SIZED TARGETS CAPABLE OF FLIGHT.

"TOO SMALL. TOO MANEUVERABLE. BUT THE ANSWER SHOWED UP STRAIGHT AWAY."


"THEIR RADAR-GUIDED MISSILES WERE ADAPTED TO HOME IN ON THE NEURONS IN THE SUPES' BRAINS. SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE INCREASED RATE AT WHICH THEY FIRE, WITH THE BRAIN CHEMISTRY PECULIAR TO COMPOUND V.
"OBVIOUSLY THAT WAS WHAT SAVED THE DAY. WITHOUT SUCH SPECIALIZED TECH, WE'D NOW BE LIVING IN A VERY DIFFERENT AMERICA--AND RAYNER'S CAREER PROSPECTS ARE GOING TO REFLECT THAT.
"ONLY SENIOR COMMAND KNEW THE DETAILS, OF COURSE. AND SHE WASN'T SAYING WHERE SHE GOT THE INTEL. BUT..."
AYE.
WHY, UH, WHY'RE YOU ASKING, JUST AS A MATTER OF INTEREST?
SEE YOU, MONKEY.
UM... WHEN AM I GOING TO GET THE, THE INFORMATION YOU MENTIONED...?
HELLO?
NNNEEEEEEEHH...!

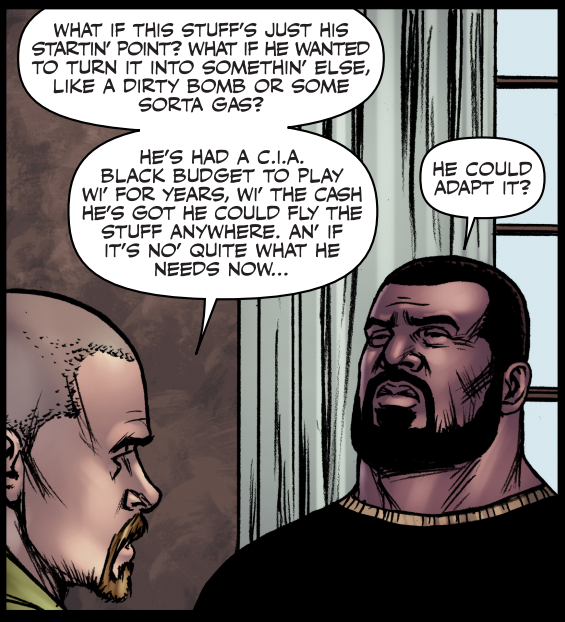

WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?
ONE THING AT A TIME.
RIGHT, WHERE WAS I...ONCE HE SAW THE BUGS IN THE PHONE AN' THE OFFICE, VAS KNEW WHOEVER THIS WAS KNEW THE BOY'D BEEN TALKIN' TO HIM. HE DIDN'T WANNA THINK ABOUT IT BEIN' BUTCHER, ABOUT WHAT THAT'D MEAN--BUT HE HAD TO CONSIDER IT.
HE PUT EVERYTHING HE HAD ONLINE, FOR ME TO FIND IF THE WORST CAME TO THE WORST. THEN HE TRIED TO GET THIS FELLA SOMEWHERE SAFE WHILE HE WORKED OUT WHAT TO DO, ON THE THEORY THAT HE MIGHT NEED SOME SORTA STATEMENT FOR THE POLIS.
ACCORDIN' TO THE RUSSIAN NEWS SITES, VASILI VORISHIKIN--FORMER SUPERHERO OF THE SOVIET UNION--AN' ORGANIZED CRIME ASSOCIATE STEPAN GUREVICH WERE FOUND DEAD TOGETHER THREE DAYS AGO.
HE MUST'VE BEEN RIGHT BEHIND THEM.
THERE IS...A CHANCE THAT THIS IS *NOT* M'SIEU CHARCUTER...
THERE IS.
IT SOUNDS LIKE HIM, IT SOUNDS LIKE THE WAY HE WORKS, AN' IT SOUNDS LIKE THE SORTA THING HE'D WANT. BUT YEAH, THERE IS.
WHAT ABOUT THE SHIT GOT SENT TO FLORIDA?
ARRIVED TEN DAYS AGO. TAMPA PORT AUTHORITY SAID IT WAS TRUCKED OUT IN FOUR SEPARATE VEHICLES.
I DOUBT ANY O' THESE BOYS KEN WHAT THEY'VE BEEN CARRYIN'.


LET US SAY THAT IT IS HIM.
WHAT DO WE BELIEVE THAT HE IS DOING?
WELL...WHAT HE MIGHT HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO.
"MALLORY THOUGHT THAT BUTCHER MADE HIMSELF A WAR. A SELF-SUSTAININ', NEVERENDIN' CONFLICT, WAS WHAT HE SAID TO ME--WHERE HE CAN JUST GO ON BEATIN' THE FUCK OUTTA SUPES FOREVER, LOVIN' EVERY MINUTE OF IT.
"BUT WHAT IF MALLORY HAD THE WRONG END O' THE STICK?"
YOU SAW LE COLONEL?
LONG STORY.
BUTCHER WANTED REVENGE ON THE HOMELANDER--BLACK NOIR AS IT TURNED OUT, BUT THAT WAS PERSONAL, THAT WAS SPECIFIC. HE WANTED TO LITERALLY GET HIS HANDS ON HIM, FOR WHAT THE FUCKER DID TO HIS WIFE.
BUT THAT'S OVER AN' DONE WITH NOW. SO WHAT DOES THAT LEAVE?
EVERY OTHER SUPE ON THE FUCKIN' PLANET.
NON...!
SAID SO HIMSELF.


"REMEMBER THE PAGEANT? THE DEAD SUPE KIDS?
"WITH GREAT POWER COMES THE TOTAL FUCKIN' CERTAINTY THAT YOU'RE GONNA TURN INTO A CUNT, AN' HE BELIEVED IT. HE WAS TALKIN' 'BOUT KILLIN' EVERY MUTHAFUCKIN' ONE OF 'EM."

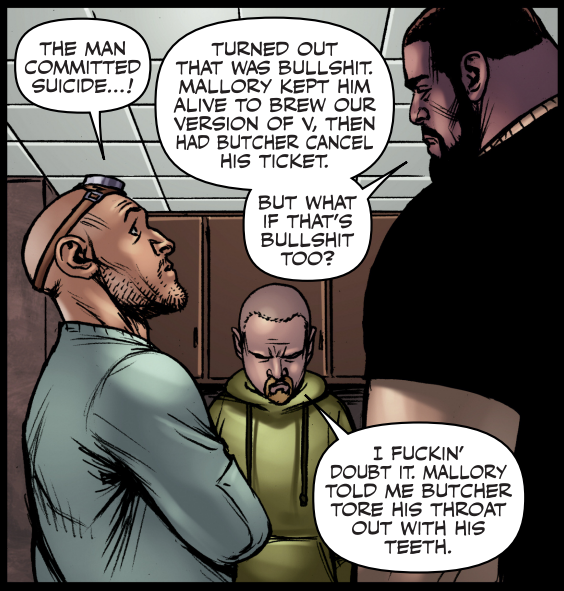

BREAKIN' LEGS OR A TOTAL WIPE-OUT.
WHAT SOUNDS MORE LIKE HIM?


IF HE *COULD*, HE SAID. DO WE THINK HE CAN?
THIS *HEAD-EXPLODING V:* AS I RECALL IT WAS UNSTABLE STUFF. THE SUBJECT MUST INGEST IT, IN FOOD OR BY INJECTION, AND EVEN THEN IT MUST BE DETONATED BY A SIGNAL...
AYE, WELL I'VE BEEN THINKIN' ABOUT THAT.


WHAT IF THIS STUFF'S JUST HIS STARTIN' POINT? WHAT IF HE WANTED TO TURN IT INTO SOMETHIN' ELSE, LIKE A DIRTY BOMB OR SOME SORTA GAS?
HE'S HAD A C.I.A. BLACK BUDGET TO PLAY WI' FOR YEARS, WI' THE CASH HE'S GOT HE COULD FLY THE STUFF ANYWHERE. AN' IF IT'S NO' QUITE WHAT HE NEEDS NOW...
HE COULD ADAPT IT?


BUTCHER AIN'T NO FUCKIN' BIOCHEMIST, HUGHIE.
NO, BUT I THINK HE'S GOT ONE WORKIN' FOR HIM. THAT'S WHY I CALLED MONKEY, HE SAID WHATEVER SPECIALIST KNOW-HOW THE AIR FORCE GOT HOLD OF CAME FROM HIM...


VOGELBAUM?


THE MAN COMMITTED SUICIDE...!
TURNED OUT THAT WAS BULLSHIT. MALLORY KEPT HIM ALIVE TO BREW OUR VERSION OF V, THEN HAD BUTCHER CANCEL HIS TICKET.
BUT WHAT IF THAT'S BULLSHIT TOO?
I FUCKIN' DOUBT IT. MALLORY TOLD ME BUTCHER TORE HIS THROAT OUT WITH HIS TEETH.

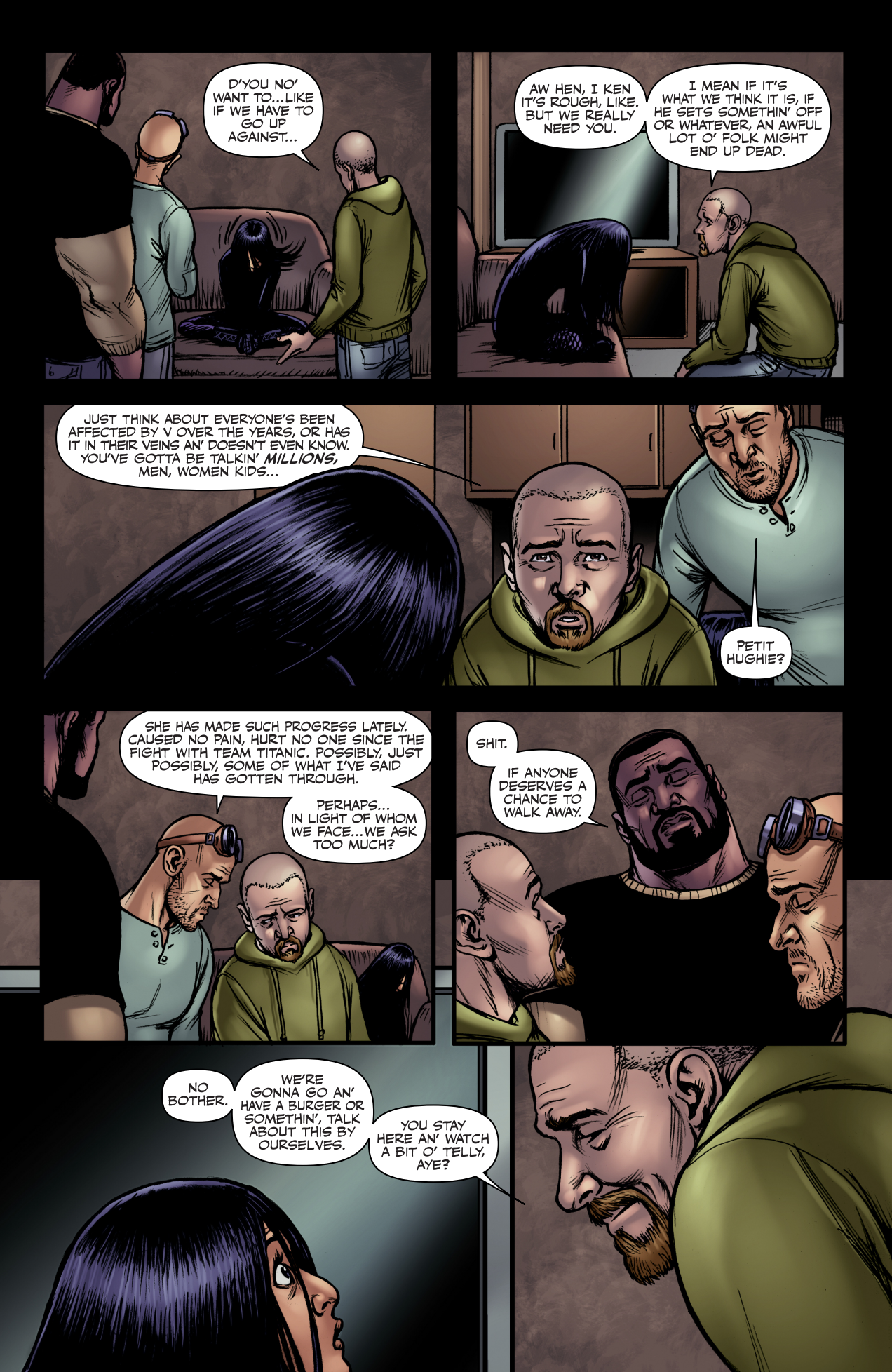

HE SAW IT HAPPEN?
NO, BUT...
WHAT'D HE SEE?
WELL HE WAS JUST OUTSIDE, HE...
AN' WHO THE FUCK WE TALKIN' ABOUT HERE?


IF THIS IS TRUE.
IF HE IS...WEAPONIZING V, WITH OR WITHOUT PROFESSOR VOGELBAUM.
WHAT WILL WE DO?


WELL--
TALK TO HIM, LIKE...

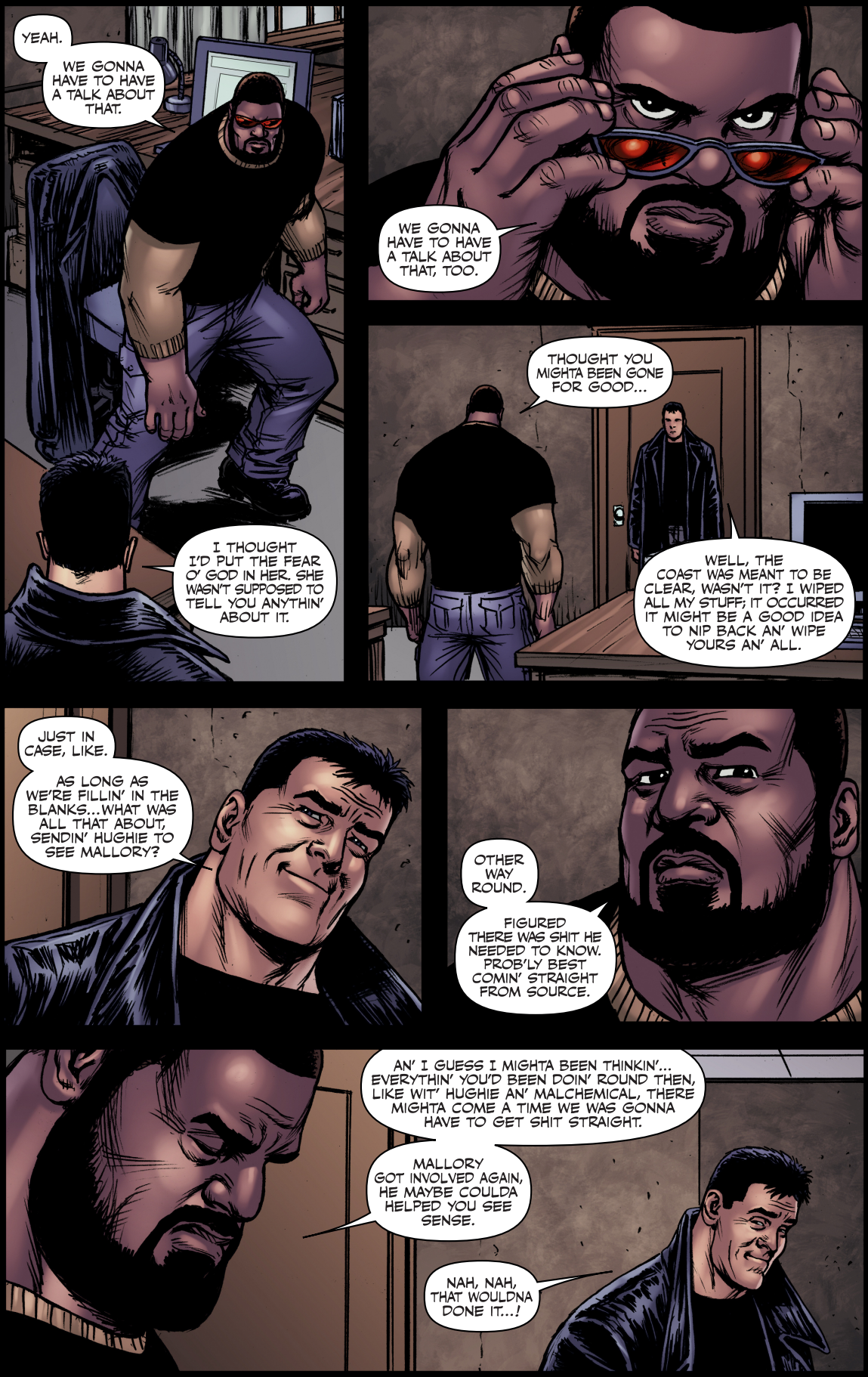



FIRST THING TO--
UN MOMENT.
OH.
UM... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, HEN?


D'YOU NO' WANT TO...LIKE IF WE HAVE TO GO UP AGAINST...
AW HEN, I KEN IT'S ROUGH, LIKE. BUT WE REALLY NEED YOU.
I MEAN IF IT'S WHAT WE THINK IT IS, IF HE SETS SOMETHIN' OFF OR WHATEVER, AN AWFUL LOT O' FOLK MIGHT END UP DEAD.
JUST THINK ABOUT EVERYONE'S BEEN AFFECTED BY V OVER THE YEARS, OR HAS IT IN THEIR VEINS AN' DOESN'T EVEN KNOW. YOU'VE GOTTA BE TALKIN' MILLIONS, MEN, WOMEN KIDS...
PETIT HUGHIE?
SHE HAS MADE SUCH PROGRESS LATELY. CAUSED NO PAIN, HURT NO ONE SINCE THE FIGHT WITH TEAM TITANIC. POSSIBLY, JUST POSSIBLY, SOME OF WHAT I'VE SAID HAS GOTTEN THROUGH.
PERHAPS... IN LIGHT OF WHOM WE FACE...WE ASK TOO MUCH?
SHIT.
IF ANYONE DESERVES A CHANCE TO WALK AWAY.
NO BOTHER.
WE'RE GONNA GO AN' HAVE A BURGER OR SOMETHIN', TALK ABOUT THIS BY OURSELVES.
YOU STAY HERE AN' WATCH A BIT O' TELLY, AYE?


I HATE MEAN PEOPLE.
THE FOUR OF US, THEN.


FILES ARE WIPED. DESK'S EMPTY.
NO SURPRISES THERE.
MALLORY DID THE SAME BEFORE HE LEFT, BUT I'M THINKIN' THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHIN' IN THE LANGLEY DATABASE.
LIKE IF THE AGENCY BOUGHT THE PROPERTY IN THE FIRST PLACE, OR THEY STILL PAYIN' RENT ON IT. THAT'S IF HE JUST TOOK OVER A REGULAR SAFEHOUSE.
HE SEEMED A LOT MORE CAREFUL THAN THAT, EVEN IN THE SHORT TIME I TALKED TO HIM...
HE WAS.
FILES
FILES
BUT IT'S ALL WE GOT TO GO ON RIGHT NOW. CALL YOU IF I GET LUCKY.
AYE, ALL RIGHT. I'M AT THE D.M.V. NOW, I'M GONNA BE HERE A WEE WHILE YET.
SEE YOU.
OH, BLOODY HELL.
WHY AIN'T YOU IN L.A., SORTIN' OUT YER KID?


YEAH.
WE GONNA HAVE TO HAVE A TALK ABOUT THAT.
I THOUGHT I'D PUT THE FEAR O' GOD IN HER. SHE WASN'T SUPPOSED TO TELL YOU ANYTHIN' ABOUT IT.
WE GONNA HAVE TO HAVE A TALK ABOUT THAT, TOO.
THOUGHT YOU MIGHTA BEEN GONE FOR GOOD...
WELL, THE COAST WAS MEANT TO BE CLEAR, WASN'T IT? I WIPED ALL MY STUFF; IT OCCURRED IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA TO NIP BACK AN' WIPE YOURS AN' ALL.
JUST IN CASE, LIKE.
AS LONG AS WE'RE FILLIN' IN THE BLANKS...WHAT WAS ALL THAT ABOUT, SENDIN' HUGHIE TO SEE MALLORY?
OTHER WAY ROUND.
FIGURED THERE WAS SHIT HE NEEDED TO KNOW. PROB'LY BEST COMIN' STRAIGHT FROM SOURCE.
AN' I GUESS I MIGHTA BEEN THINKIN'... EVERYTHIN' YOU'D BEEN DOIN' ROUND THEN, LIKE WIT' HUGHIE AN' MALCHEMICAL, THERE MIGHTA COME A TIME WE WAS GONNA HAVE TO GET SHIT STRAIGHT.
MALLORY GOT INVOLVED AGAIN, HE MAYBE COULDA HELPED YOU SEE SENSE.
NAH, NAH, THAT WOULDNA DONE IT...!


THAT ROUNDABOUT ROUTE BOLLOCKS, ALL THEM MAYBES AN' MIGHT'VES. THAT'S NO GOOD.
YOU'VE GOTTA LEARN TO MAKE YER MIND UP.
SO...YOU REALLY DOIN' THIS, HUH?
I REALLY AM.
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA DIE IN THE WHITE HOUSE. TAKE A COUPLA CHUNKS OUTTA THE HOMELANDER, SO THE LADS OUTSIDE COULD FINISH HIM OFF.
BUT...NO. SO I SUPPOSE I'M GONNA HAVE TO GO THROUGH WITH IT, AIN'T I?
HUH.
WHERE YOU THINK THAT LEAVES US?
WELL, IF YOU WANT, YOU CAN STILL WALK AWAY.


--DAY OF THE CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY INTO--
AH, IF YOU CAN HEAR ME IN THE STUDIO, SHAWNA, TODAY WE'RE EXPECTED TO HEAR TESTIMONY FROM--
--NOT BUYING YOUR WAY OUT OF THIS, YOU GREEDY SONS OF BITCHES!
VOUGHT KILLE
--TURNED OUT TO BE JESSICA BRADLEY, A SENIOR FIGURE IN VOUGHT'S SUPERHUMAN DEVELOPMENT SECTION--
--WITH THE DEATH TOLL AT OVER TWO HUNDRED AND--
YOU'RE LUCKY YOU'RE NOT ROTTING IN JAIL, YOU AND THE REST OF THOSE--
FUCK YOU!
MPDC
KEEP THEM BACK, GODAMMIT--
AAAH, JESUS--
--FEELINGS OBVIOUSLY RUNNING HIGH, MS. BRADLEY, WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE COMMITTEE'S--
MY WIFE DIED AT THE PENTAGON, YOU FUCKING CUNT WHORE!!


JESUS CHRIST ALMIGHTY.
MS. BRADLEY?
MS. BRADLEY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
OH--I'M FINE...REALLY, I'M FINE...
DID YOU HAVE TO COME IN PAST THAT MOB OUTSIDE? DID NO ONE INFORM YOU THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL MORE DISCRETE ENTRANCES FOR OCCASIONS LIKE THIS?
I--
THAT IS SHAMEFUL.
ABSOLUTELY SHAMEFUL, THESE THUGS ARE CLEARLY OUT FOR BLOOD.
DO YOU NEED SOME TIME TO COLLECT YOURSELF? UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I CAN EASILY HAVE OUR LEGAL TEAM ASK FOR--
NO.
NO, I'M QUITE ALL RIGHT.
WELL, THAT IS ADMIRABLE.
THAT BEING THE CASE, SHALL WE GO IN?


WHUHHH!!
AWHH--!
JESUS...
YOU KNOW...I DID HAVE ONE IDEA...
I WAS GONNA NIP UP AN' TAKE CARE O' YER MUM JUST BEFORE I GOT THE BALL ROLLIN'. MAKE SURE YOU RAN OUTTA MAGIC POTION.
TOO LATE NOW.


HOW COME YOU DIDN'T, 'CAUSE YOU LOOKIN' FOR A FAIR FIGHT...?
'CAUSE IT'S YER MUM, YOU DOZY TWAT.
FUCK YOU--!
AH, SHIT.


MUTHAFUCKA!!
WHY THE FUCK YOU GOTTA DO THIS? WHY YOU GOTTA BE THE WAY YOU ARE?!
FILES
YOU THINK I FUCKIN' WANT THIS SHIT, GODAMMIT?!
I KNOW.
I KNOW.
YOU'RE THE BEST MATE A CUNT LIKE ME COULD HOPE FOR.
I DON'T DESERVE TO FUCKIN' KNOW YOU.


MMUUUUUHHH
MMUUUUUHHH



next: WHOSE WOODS THESE ARE I THINK I KNOW


SIXTY-NINE
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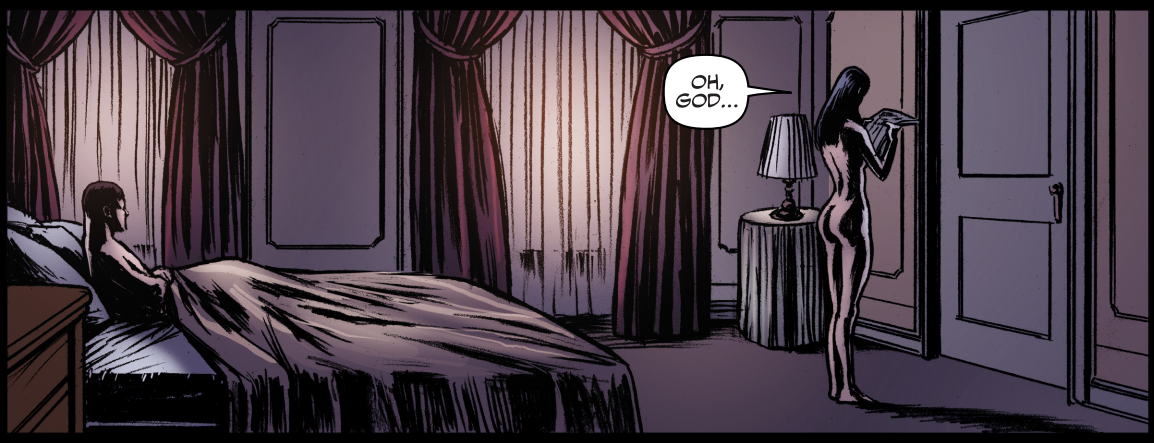
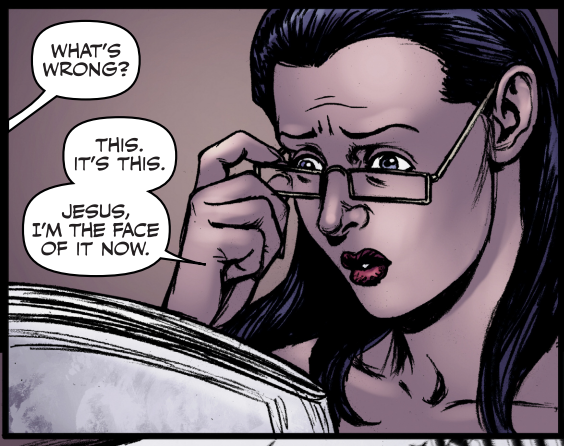
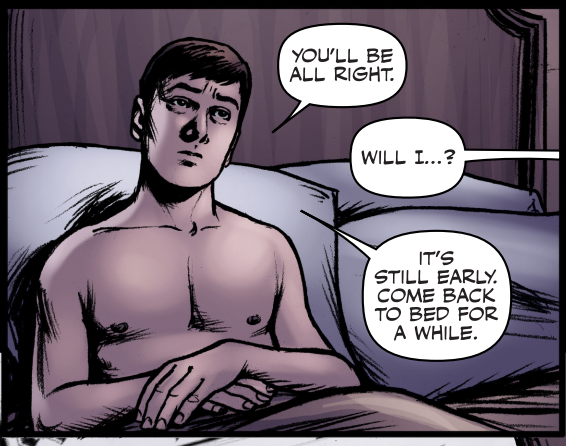








THE BLOODY DOORS OFF

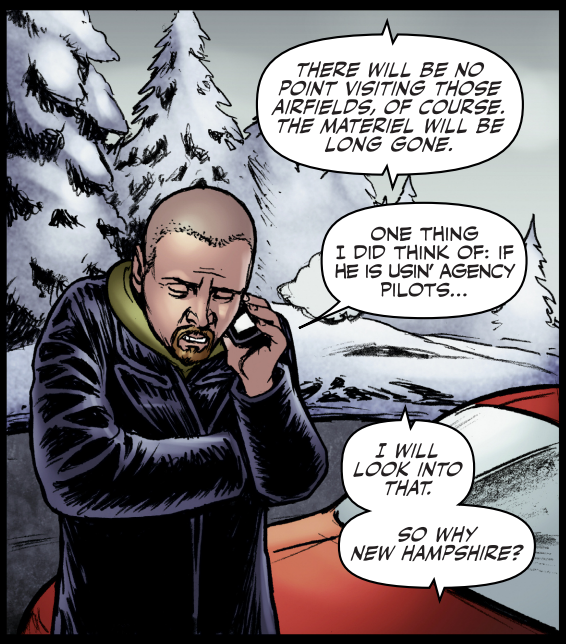
part four

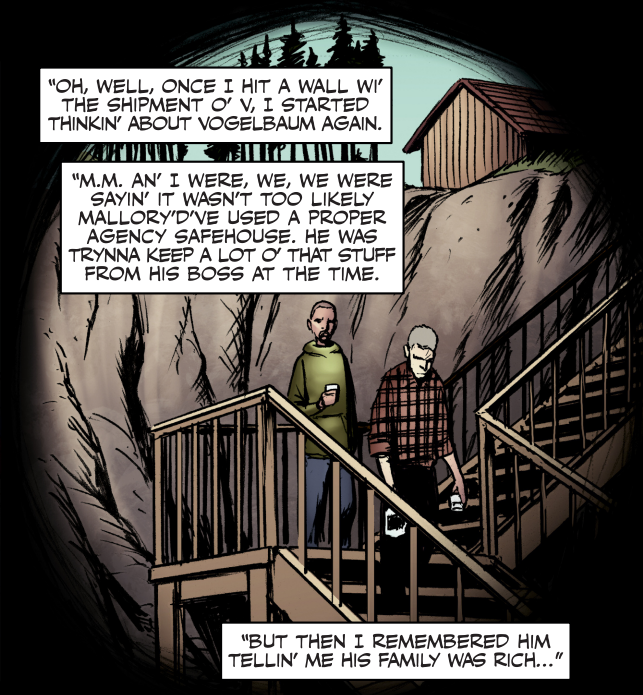

FRENCHIE, YOU--YOU'RE NO'--
I AM AFRAID SO, MON BRAVE.
AW, NO.
AW, JESUS.
THAT'S IT, THEN. IT'S HIM. IT'S HIM AN' HE'S DOIN' IT.
WE CAN'T KEEP THIS TO OURSELVES NOW, WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO HAND OVER TO RAYNER, OR MONKEY--
PETIT HUGHIE, THAT IS NOT A GOOD IDEA.


EVEN NOW WE MUST THINK CLEARLY. THE BOYS ARE MEANT TO BE DENIABLE.
IF M'SIEU CHARCUTER *HAS* TRULY LEFT THE RAILS, AND MADAM RAYNER GETS TO HEAR ABOUT IT, SHE WILL PANIC. HER SENATE RUN BEGINS THIS YEAR, N'EST-CE PAS?
ONE CALL FROM HER AND WE ARE FUGITIVES FROM JUSTICE. DANGEROUS CRIMINALS. EVERY SWAT TEAM IN AMERICA WILL BE TOLD TO SHOOT ON SIGHT.
WE CAN EVADE OR FIGHT, BUT NOT WHILE HUNTING M'SIEU CHARCUTER. AND THE NOTION OF SUCH IGNORANT AMATEURS FINDING **HIM**, WITH TACTICS FROM THE FILMS OF M'SIEU BAY...
AW SHITE, IT'S US.
IT'S FUCKIN' GOT TO BE US.
YOU'RE RIGHT, YOU KNOW, I HADN'T THOUGHT OF **ANY** O' THAT...
YOUR OLD CHUM FRENCHIE LISTENS MORE THAN YOU MIGHT THINK.
AYE.
I'M SORRY I'M NO' THERE, FRENCHIE. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, ARE YOU?
I HAVE BEEN WORSE. RARELY, BUT I HAVE BEEN WORSE.
LES GENDARMES WERE TROUBLESOME AT FIRST. IT SEEMS OUR CLEARANCE WAS CANCELED RECENTLY, THEN REINSTATED.
MONKEY...
OUI. ALL IS IN ORDER NOW.

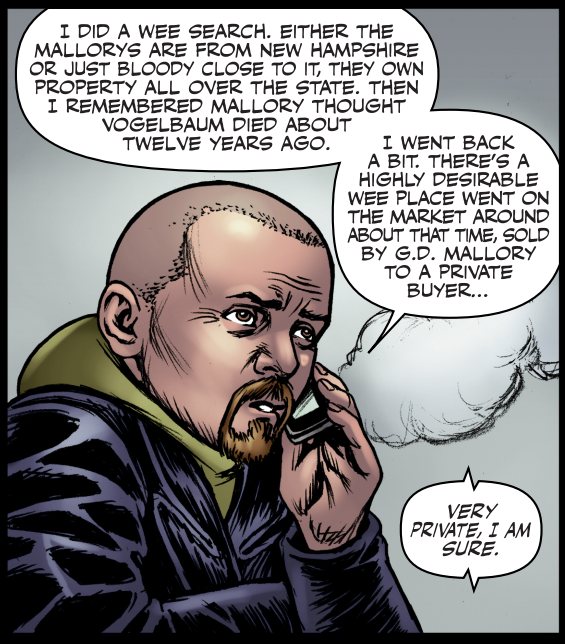

EXCEPT THAT IT WILL NEVER BE AGAIN.
NYPD
NO.
PETIT HUGHIE... YOU KNOW THAT HE WOULD WANT US NEITHER TO FLAG NOR FAIL, YES?
LE GRAND HOMME. HE WOULD BE MOST DISPLEASED.
I--I JUST--
OH, I KEN THAT, FRENCHIE.
TAKE HEART.
WHERE ARE YOU AND WHAT HAVE YOU DISCOVERED?

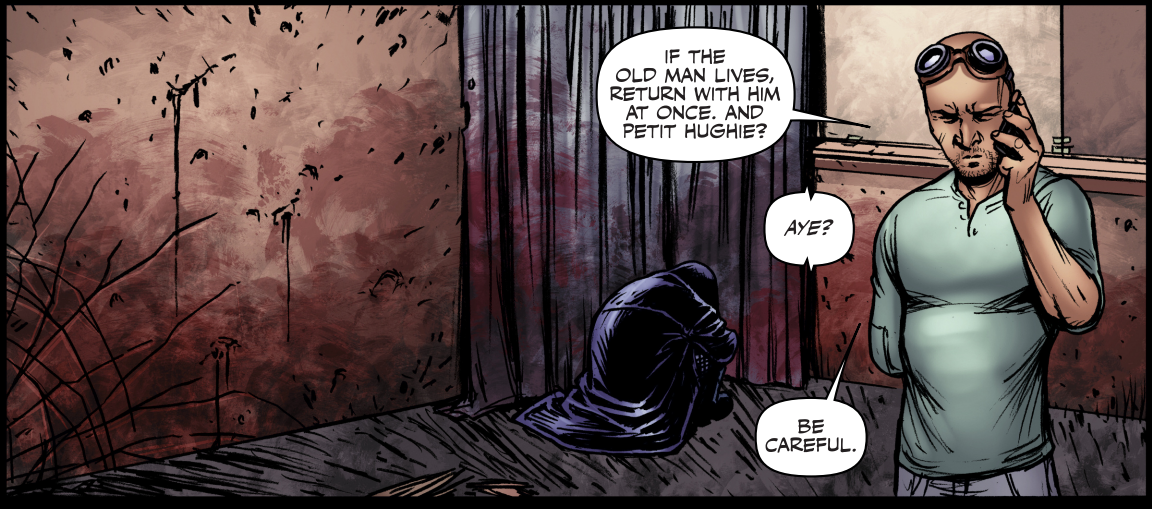

I'M...WELL, I'VE...I'M ACTUALLY UP IN NEW HAMPSHIRE, IF YOU CAN BELIEVE THAT. I'M IN THE MIDDLE O' THE GREEN MOUNTAINS, I DROVE ALL BLOODY NIGHT.
POURQUOI?
WELL.
FIRST OF ALL, THE D.M.V. WAS A DEAD LOSS. I GOT NUMBERS FOR A COUPLA THE TRUCKERS, BUT ALL THEY SAID WAS THEY DROVE THE STUFF FROM TAMPA TO WEE AIRFIELDS DOTTED AROUND THE COUNTRY. NEAR DALLAS, L.A., PORTLAND AN' BOSTON.
SWEETIE?
SWEETIE, ARE YOU OKAY?
DO YOU WANT ME TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO...?
NO RECIPIENTS, THEY JUST UNHOOKED THE CONTAINERS AN' DROVE OFF, LIKE THEY'D--
UN MOMENT.
MA'AMSELLE? NON.
PARDON, MAIS C'EST TRES DANGEREUX.
EH?
NO RECIPIENTS. PAYMENT?
WIRED TO EACH GUY'S LOCAL WESTERN UNION. THAT WAS WHERE IT STARTED GETTIN' TRICKY, TWO O' THEM ASKED ME IF THEY'D BE NEEDIN' LAWYERS...


THERE WILL BE NO POINT VISITING THOSE AIRFIELDS, OF COURSE. THE MATERIEL WILL BE LONG GONE.
ONE THING I DID THINK OF: IF HE IS USIN' AGENCY PILOTS...
I WILL LOOK INTO THAT.
SO WHY NEW HAMPSHIRE?


"OH, WELL, ONCE I HIT A WALL WI' THE SHIPMENT O' V, I STARTED THINKIN' ABOUT VOGELBAUM AGAIN.
"M.M. AN' I WERE, WE, WE WERE SAYIN' IT WASN'T TOO LIKELY MALLORY'D'VE USED A PROPER AGENCY SAFEHOUSE. HE WAS TRYNNA KEEP A LOT O' THAT STUFF FROM HIS BOSS AT THE TIME.
"BUT THEN I REMEMBERED HIM TELLIN' ME HIS FAMILY WAS RICH..."


AN' I THOUGHT HANG ON, WHAT IF THE ARROGANT PRICK JUST BOUGHT A PLACE HIMSELF, OR USED ONE HE ALREADY OWNED...
AND LE COLONEL ATTENDED DARTMOUTH... WHICH IS IN...
I THOUGHT IT WAS WORTH A GO, AT LEAST.


I DID A WEE SEARCH. EITHER THE MALLORYS ARE FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE OR JUST BLOODY CLOSE TO IT, THEY OWN PROPERTY ALL OVER THE STATE. THEN I REMEMBERED MALLORY THOUGHT VOGELBAUM DIED ABOUT TWELVE YEARS AGO.
I WENT BACK A BIT. THERE'S A HIGHLY DESIRABLE WEE PLACE WENT ON THE MARKET AROUND ABOUT THAT TIME, SOLD BY G.D. MALLORY TO A PRIVATE BUYER...
VERY PRIVATE, I AM SURE.


IF THE OLD MAN LIVES, RETURN WITH HIM AT ONCE. AND PETIT HUGHIE?
AYE?
BE CAREFUL.






"AYE, FRENCHIE... THERE'S ONE OTHER THING I WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT."

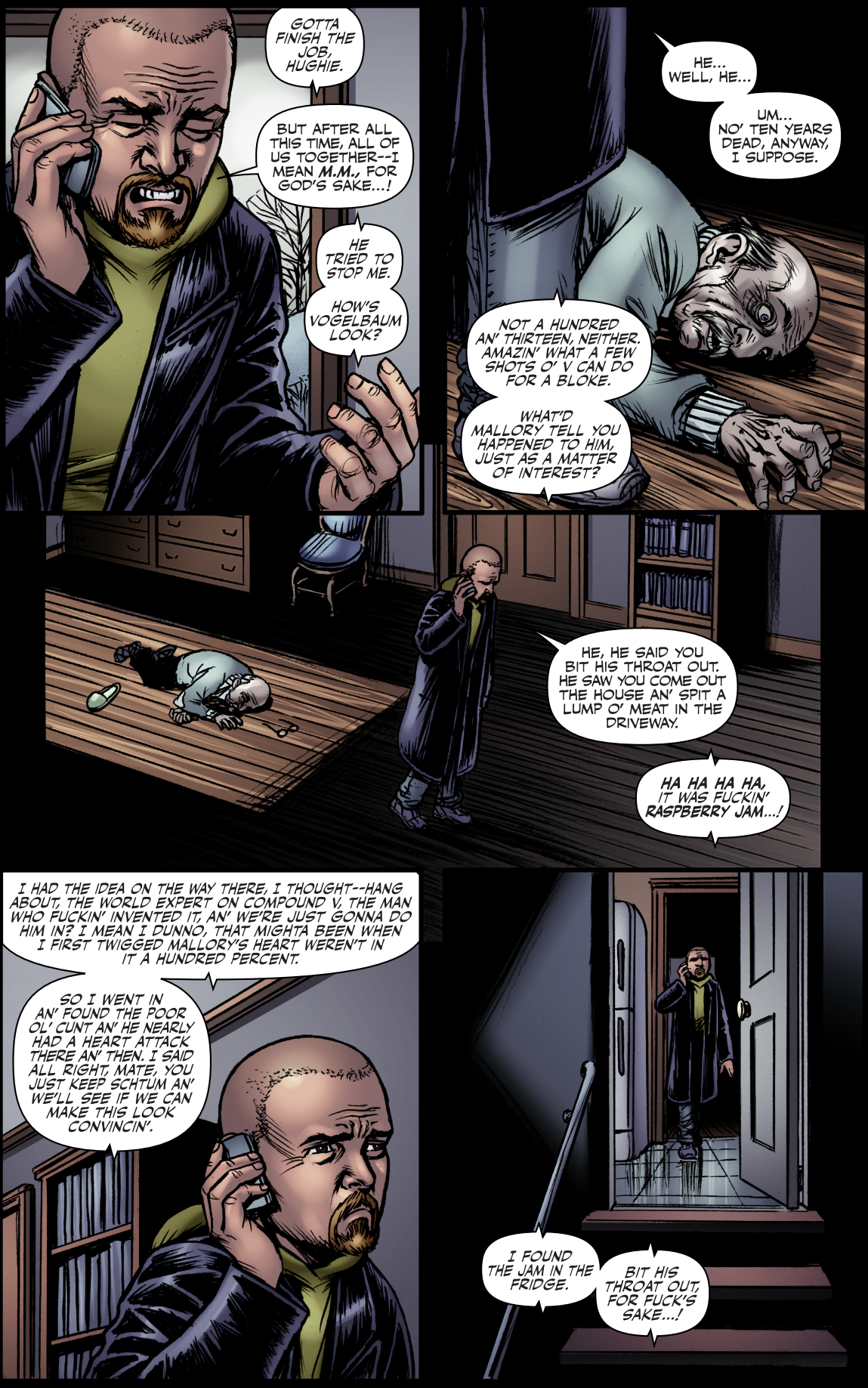

"OUI?"
"I'VE, UH, I'VE NO' BEEN ABLE TO STOP THINKIN' ABOUT IT SINCE ALL THIS STARTED. MAYBE EVEN BACK BEFORE THAT."
"SO...?"
"IF...IF IT REALLY CAME TO IT. LIKE IF THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY. WOULD WE BE ABLE TO... LIKE...*HANDLE* BUTCHER?"

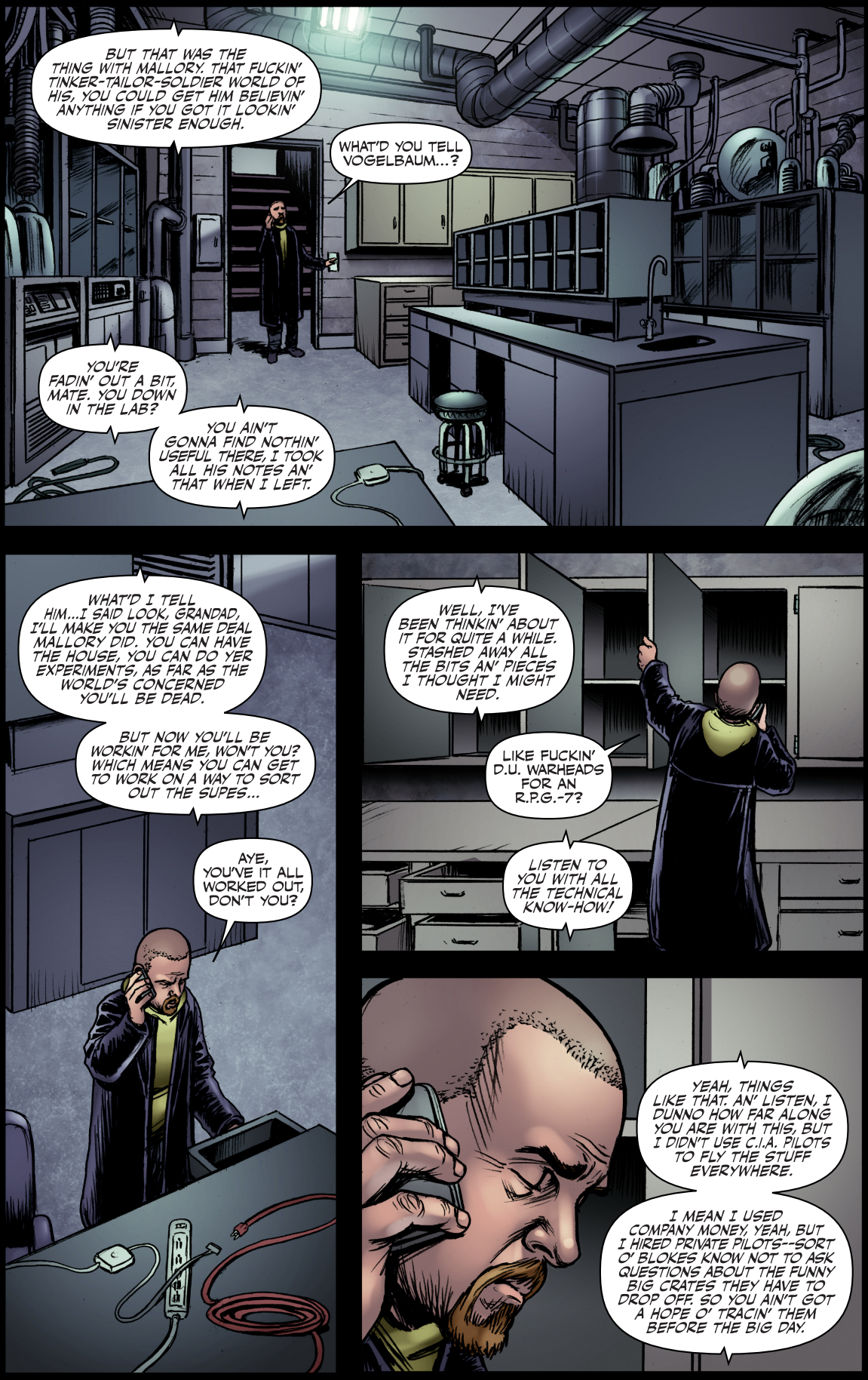

"HMMM. MOI--POSSIBLY. IF THE PLANETS WERE ALIGNED CORRECTLY. LA FEMME--OUI, ASSUMING THE ENCOUNTER STARTED FACE TO FACE."
"AND...?"
"YOU?"

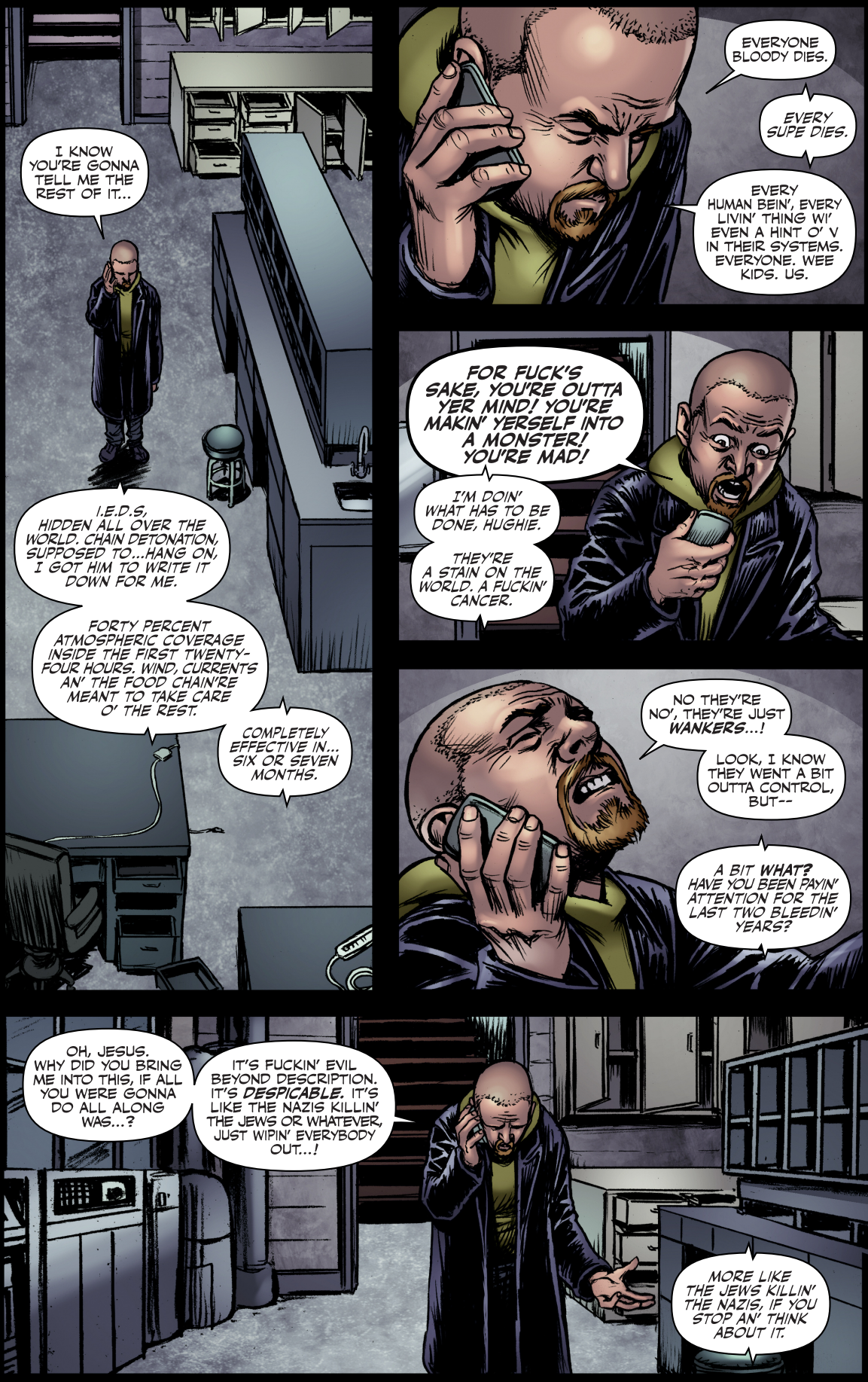

"HE WOULD REMOVE YOUR ARMS AND LEGS AND RE-INSERT THEM IN THE WRONG SOCKETS."


WAAH!
Butcher
mobile
Decline
Answer


HUH
HEL
YOU EVER BEEN HIT IN THE FACE, HUGHIE?
WH... WHAT...?
GOOD, HARD, SMACK IN THE MOUTH. YOU EVER HAD THAT?
WELL, UH... ONE O' THE G-WIZ FELLAS PUNCHED ME, THAT WAS PRETTY--
NAH, HE WAS A CUNT. I MEAN REALLY FUCKIN' HIT, LIKE WALLOP AN' YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT IT.
GETS YER ATTENTION, I CAN TELL YOU. LETS YOU KNOW WHERE YOU STAND. YOU LOOK THE OTHER BLOKE IN THE EYE AN' FUCK ME, THE TWO O' YOU ALMOST RESPECT EACH OTHER...
'COURSE, SOMEONE LIKE YOU, I THINK IT MIGHT JUST MAKE YOU MORE NERVOUS.
HAVE YOU FLINCHIN' TWICE AS MUCH, KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
LISTEN, WHY'RE YOU DOIN' THIS...?


GOTTA FINISH THE JOB, HUGHIE.
BUT AFTER ALL THIS TIME, ALL OF US TOGETHER--I MEAN M.M., FOR GOD'S SAKE...!
HE TRIED TO STOP ME.
HOW'S VOGELBAUM LOOK?
HE... WELL, HE...
UM... NO' TEN YEARS DEAD, ANYWAY, I SUPPOSE.
NOT A HUNDRED AN' THIRTEEN, NEITHER. AMAZIN' WHAT A FEW SHOTS O' V CAN DO FOR A BLOKE.
WHAT'D MALLORY TELL YOU HAPPENED TO HIM, JUST AS A MATTER OF INTEREST?
HE, HE SAID YOU BIT HIS THROAT OUT. HE SAW YOU COME OUT THE HOUSE AN' SPIT A LUMP O' MEAT IN THE DRIVEWAY.
HA HA HA HA, IT WAS FUCKIN' RASPBERRY JAM...!
I HAD THE IDEA ON THE WAY THERE, I THOUGHT--HANG ABOUT, THE WORLD EXPERT ON COMPOUND V, THE MAN WHO FUCKIN' INVENTED IT, AN' WE'RE JUST GONNA DO HIM IN? I MEAN I DUNNO, THAT MIGHTA BEEN WHEN I FIRST TWIGGED MALLORY'S HEART WEREN'T IN IT A HUNDRED PERCENT.
SO I WENT IN AN' FOUND THE POOR OL' CUNT AN' HE NEARLY HAD A HEART ATTACK THERE AN' THEN. I SAID ALL RIGHT, MATE, YOU JUST KEEP SCHTUM AN' WE'LL SEE IF WE CAN MAKE THIS LOOK CONVINCIN'.
I FOUND THE JAM IN THE FRIDGE.
BIT HIS THROAT OUT, FOR FUCK'S SAKE...!


BUT THAT WAS THE THING WITH MALLORY. THAT FUCKIN' TINKER-TAILOR-SOLDIER WORLD OF HIS, YOU COULD GET HIM BELIEVIN' ANYTHING IF YOU GOT IT LOOKIN' SINISTER ENOUGH.
WHAT'D YOU TELL VOGELBAUM...?
YOU'RE FADIN' OUT A BIT, MATE. YOU DOWN IN THE LAB?
YOU AIN'T GONNA FIND NOTHIN' USEFUL THERE, I TOOK ALL HIS NOTES AN' THAT WHEN I LEFT.
WHAT'D I TELL HIM...I SAID LOOK, GRANDAD, I'LL MAKE YOU THE SAME DEAL MALLORY DID. YOU CAN HAVE THE HOUSE, YOU CAN DO YER EXPERIMENTS, AS FAR AS THE WORLD'S CONCERNED YOU'LL BE DEAD.
BUT NOW YOU'LL BE WORKIN' FOR ME, WON'T YOU? WHICH MEANS YOU CAN GET TO WORK ON A WAY TO SORT OUT THE SUPES...
AYE, YOU'VE IT ALL WORKED OUT, DON'T YOU?
WELL, I'VE BEEN THINKIN' ABOUT IT FOR QUITE A WHILE. STASHED AWAY ALL THE BITS AN' PIECES I THOUGHT I MIGHT NEED.
LIKE FUCKIN' D.U. WARHEADS FOR AN R.P.G.-7?
LISTEN TO YOU WITH ALL THE TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW!
YEAH, THINGS LIKE THAT. AN' LISTEN, I DUNNO HOW FAR ALONG YOU ARE WITH THIS, BUT I DIDN'T USE C.I.A. PILOTS TO FLY THE STUFF EVERYWHERE.
I MEAN I USED COMPANY MONEY, YEAH, BUT I HIRED PRIVATE PILOTS--SORT O' BLOKES KNOW NOT TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FUNNY BIG CRATES THEY HAVE TO DROP OFF. SO YOU AIN'T GOT A HOPE O' TRACIN' THEM BEFORE THE BIG DAY.

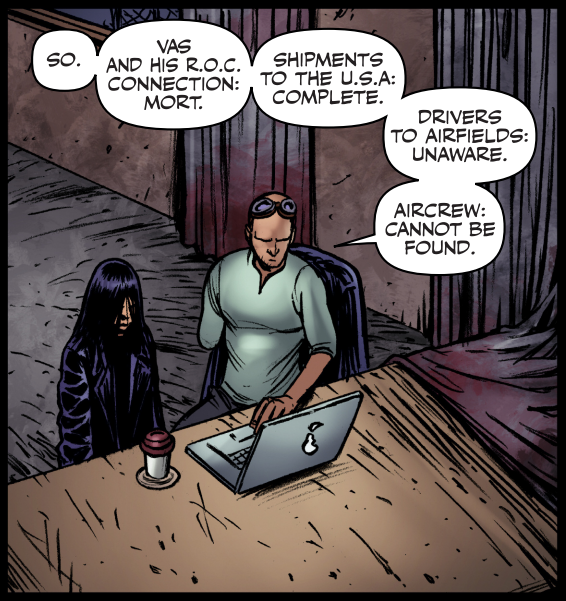

I KNOW YOU'RE GONNA TELL ME THE REST OF IT...
I.E.D.S, HIDDEN ALL OVER THE WORLD. CHAIN DETONATION, SUPPOSED TO...HANG ON, I GOT HIM TO WRITE IT DOWN FOR ME.
FORTY PERCENT ATMOSPHERIC COVERAGE INSIDE THE FIRST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. WIND, CURRENTS AN' THE FOOD CHAIN'RE MEANT TO TAKE CARE O' THE REST.
COMPLETELY EFFECTIVE IN... SIX OR SEVEN MONTHS.
EVERYONE BLOODY DIES.
EVERY SUPE DIES.
EVERY HUMAN BEIN', EVERY LIVIN' THING WI' EVEN A HINT O' V IN THEIR SYSTEMS. EVERYONE. WEE KIDS. US.
FOR FUCK'S SAKE, YOU'RE OUTTA YER MIND! YOU'RE MAKIN' YERSELF INTO A MONSTER! YOU'RE MAD!
I'M DOIN' WHAT HAS TO BE DONE, HUGHIE.
THEY'RE A STAIN ON THE WORLD. A FUCKIN' CANCER.
NO THEY'RE NO', THEY'RE JUST WANKERS...!
LOOK, I KNOW THEY WENT A BIT OUTTA CONTROL, BUT--
A BIT WHAT? HAVE YOU BEEN PAYIN' ATTENTION FOR THE LAST TWO BLEEDIN' YEARS?
OH, JESUS. WHY DID YOU BRING ME INTO THIS, IF ALL YOU WERE GONNA DO ALL ALONG WAS...?
IT'S FUCKIN' EVIL BEYOND DESCRIPTION. IT'S DESPICABLE. IT'S LIKE THE NAZIS KILLIN' THE JEWS OR WHATEVER, JUST WIPIN' EVERYBODY OUT...!
MORE LIKE THE JEWS KILLIN' THE NAZIS, IF YOU STOP AN' THINK ABOUT IT.


THE JEWS WOULDN'T'VE KILLED LOADS AN' LOADS OF INNOCENT FOLK WHILE THEY WERE AT IT...!
WOULDN'T THEY?
THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH GETTIN' RID O' THE REAL CUNTS, MATE. YOU'VE GOTTA BURN 'EM OUT.
HEH. YOU REALLY ARE FUCKIN' HOPELESS, AIN'T YOU, HUGHIE?
ALL THAT INSIDER GEN MALLORY GAVE YOU, EVERYTHING ELSE YOU'VE LEARNED IN THIS BLOODY JOB, AN' YOU CAN'T DO FUCK ALL WITH IT. IT'S LIKE IT'S SHIT IN YOUR HANDS.
WHEN SOMEONE GIVES YOU A WEAPON, SON: YOU USE IT.
I DUNNO.
ALL RIGHT, TRY THIS ONE ON FOR SIZE. HOW DO I KNOW YOU'RE THERE?
EH?
I'M STANDIN' HERE TALKIN' TO YOU...I'M...
NO, HUGHIE.
HOW DO I KNOW.
YOU'RE THERE.


...ET LES TACOS DE POULET POUR LA FEMME. MM? AH...SURPRISE ME.
ALL YOU ARE GOOD FOR? QU'EST-CE QUE C'EST?
OUI. MM. OUI, OUI. MM-HMM.
DID YOU LITERALLY PISS YOURSELF?
WELL, THEN YOU ARE NOT COMPLETELY COWARDLY. AND AS FOR USELESS--THE MAN WAS DEAD, HIS NOTES WERE GONE. THAT HE CAN TELL US NOTHING IS NOT YOUR FAULT; YOU HAD THE THOUGHT TOO LATE, BUT NOTHING OF THE KIND OCCURRED TO ME AT ALL.
GARCON ETRANGE.




HMH.


SO.
VAS AND HIS R.O.C. CONNECTION: MORT.
SHIPMENTS TO THE U.S.A: COMPLETE.
DRIVERS TO AIRFIELDS: UNAWARE.
AIRCREW: CANNOT BE FOUND.


VOGELBAUM: MORT.
LA LEGENDE, VOTRE NUMBER ONE SOURCE: MORT.
LAIT DE LA MERE, LE GRAND DETECTIVE: MORT.
LE SINGE: WILL PANIC IN AN INSTANT.




DID I HELP?


OST SECRET
USERNAME:
PASSWORD:
CONFIRM:
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
D STATES OF AMERICA
LET ME HELP, I SAID, AND SMILED AND GESTURED.
I HELPED YOU BE A PART OF WHAT WE WERE.
BUT DID I HELP?
SHIT.
MIND YER HEAD, MY SON.


DID YOU HEAR THAT?


JE T'AIME.
FROM THE FIRST.




WHY DID YOU BRING ME INTO THIS
IF ALL YOU WERE GONNA DO ALL ALONG WAS
...'CAUSE YOU'RE GOOD AT IT.
YOU LIKE IT.
YOU'VE GOT A SCORE TO SETTLE, SO YOU WANT IT.
ALL THAT, AN' I ALWAYS WANTED A LITTLE BROTHER.


EVERYTHING HE DOES OR SAYS SERVES WHATEVER IT IS HE GOT PLANNED. HE DON'T WASTE NOTHIN'--NOT TIME, NOT WORDS, NOT EFFORT.
NOT EVEN A GODDAMN SMILE, HUGHIE.
HUGHIE... ARE YOU SCARED O' ME?
I TALK TO YOU LIKE YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER ONE O' THESE NUTTERS, WHEN THAT'S THE LAST BLEEDIN' THING YOU ARE. YOU'RE AN ORDINARY BLOKE.
FUCKIN' DECENT ONE, INTO THE BARGAIN.
YOU'RE ME MATE.
HOW MANY BLEEDIN' TALKS'VE WE HAD THAT START WITH YOU THINKIN' ABOUT THE WAY THINGS ARE? YOU CAN'T HANDLE THIS, YOU DON'T LIKE THAT, YOU NEED MORE FUCKIN' TIME OFF.
IS THERE ANY CHANCE AT ALL O' YOU FINALLY TWIGGIN' WHAT WE DO HERE AN' SORTIN' YERSELF OUT? AN' ONCE AN' FOR FUCKIN' ALL, MAKIN' YER MIND UP...?
ALL I'VE BEEN DOIN'S TRYNNA TOUGHEN YOU UP, MATE. I JUST CAN'T STAND THE THOUGHT O' YOU GETTIN' HURT.
'COS THIS FUCKIN' WORLD'LL EAT YOU ALIVE IF YOU LET IT.
ONE BROTHER, DIED IN AN ACCIDENT AGED NINETEEN. MOTHER DIED RECENTLY. FATHER STILL ALIVE.



next: THE NAME OF THE GAME

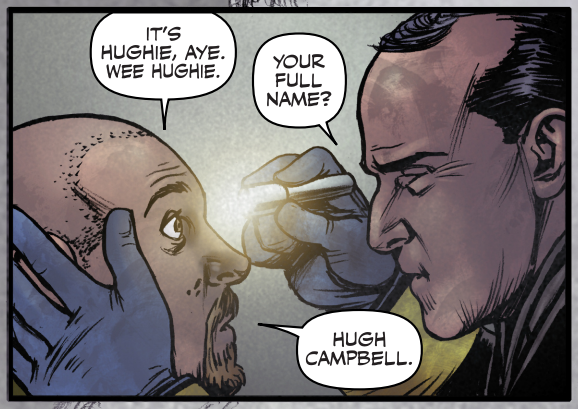

SEVENTY
DA
RI
CK
2012



THE BLOODY DOORS OFF

part five


I MEAN THEY DO, DON'T THEY? THEY REALLY DO...
SURE.
YOU'RE NO' JUST SAYIN' THAT, I MEAN YOU DO KEN WHAT I'M ON ABOUT, AYE?
F.D.N.Y.
AMBULANCE
EMS
YOU BET.
LISTEN, CAN YOU SAY YOUR NAME FOR ME? YOUR NAME?


IT'S HUGHIE, AYE. WEE HUGHIE.
YOUR FULL NAME?
HUGH CAMPBELL.


OKAY, HOW ABOUT THE DATE? CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT--
WHOA.


IS THIS...?
ONE FOR THE P.D..
POLICE
NYPD
MYC

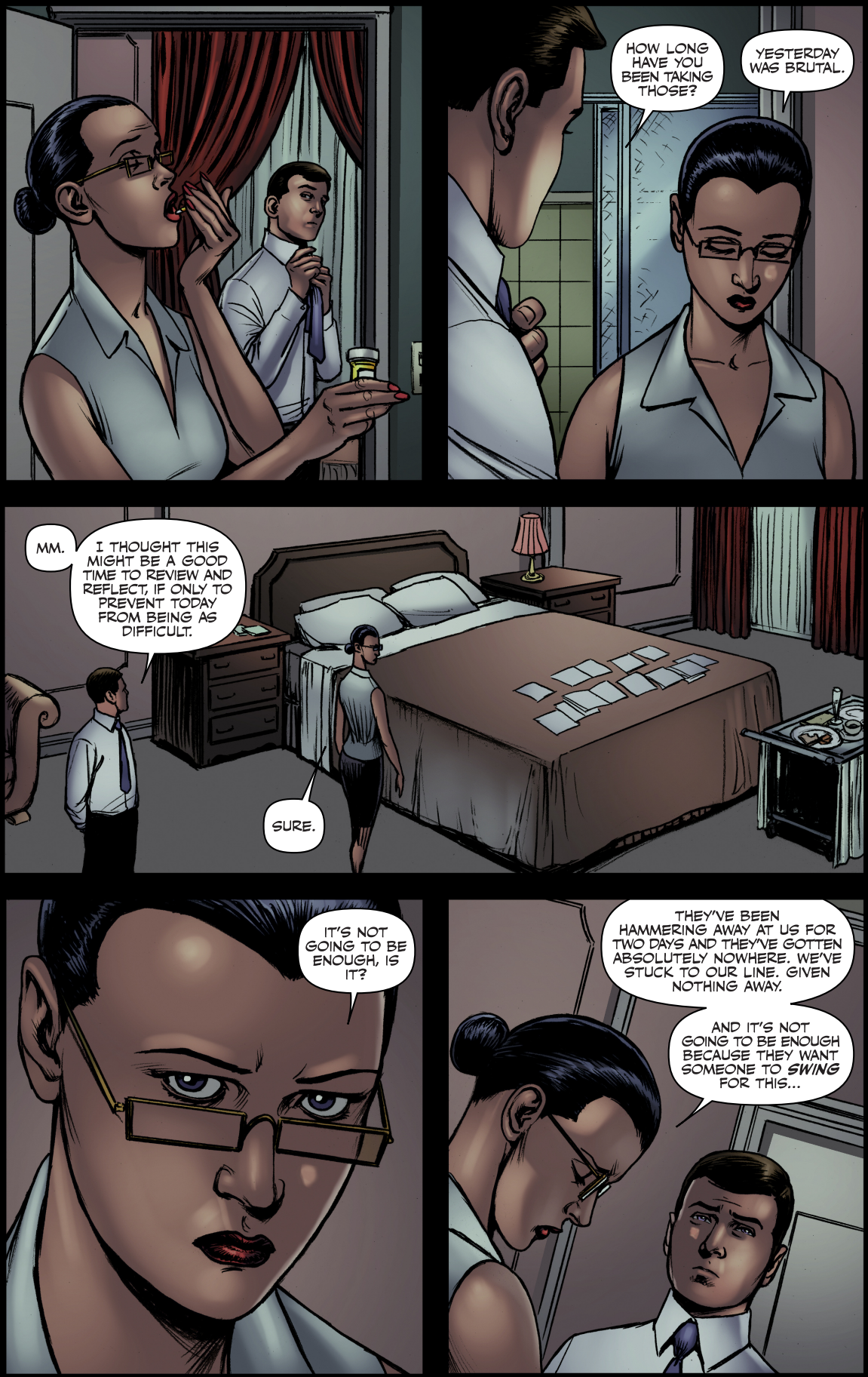

LISTEN, THE GUY'S STILL IN SHOCK--
I DON'T CARE. GIVE IT BACK TO HIM.
SERIOUSLY, HE'S GOT A CONCUSSION...
GIVE IT BACK.
THERE YOU GO, SIR. THESE GUYS ARE ALL DONE.
AYE?
ANYTHING YOU NEED, ANYTHING WE CAN DO, DON'T HESITATE. OKAY?
AW, SORT YERSELF OUT, YOU DOSS CUNT!
ALL RIGHT FOR YOU, PAL.
HE'S GONNA TEAR MY ARMS AN' LEGS OFF AN' PUT THEM BACK IN THE WRONG SOCKETS.
ALL. RIGHT. FOR. YOU.
NYPD
TAXI


HULLO?
HULLO...?
MAH BOOYYYY

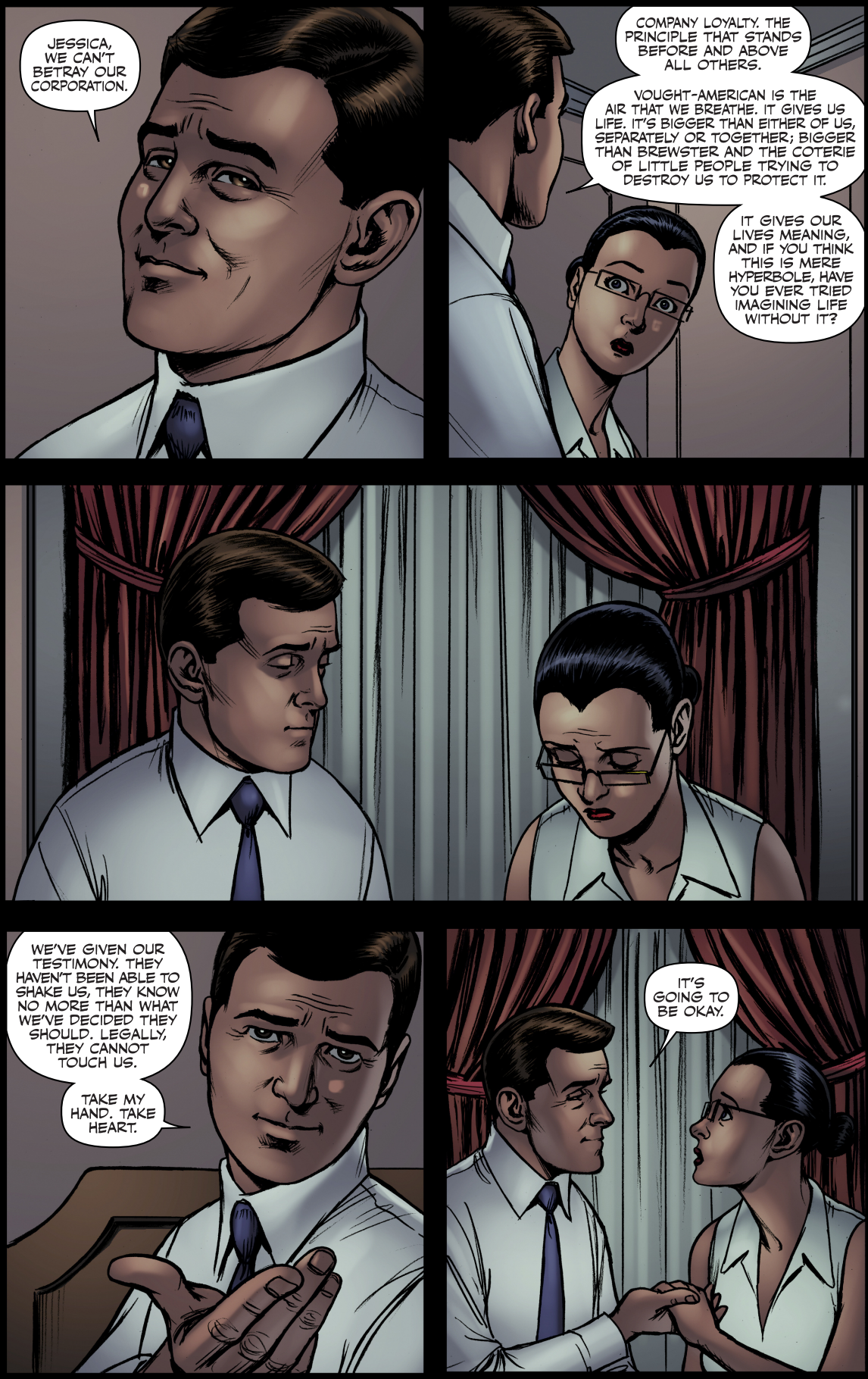

HULLO THERE?
MAH BOOYYYYYY
UM...I...
I'M A FRIEND O' YER SON'S, MRS...
MRS. MILK?
IS THERE ANYONE ACTUALLY DOWN HERE...?
WHUH--!
?
MAH BOOYYYYYY


MAH BOOYYYYYYY
NUH
YUH


AW, NOOOO...!
MAH BOOYYYYYYY
OH JESUS--
NEVER TALK ABOUT THIS--
NEVER TELL ANYONE--
EVER--

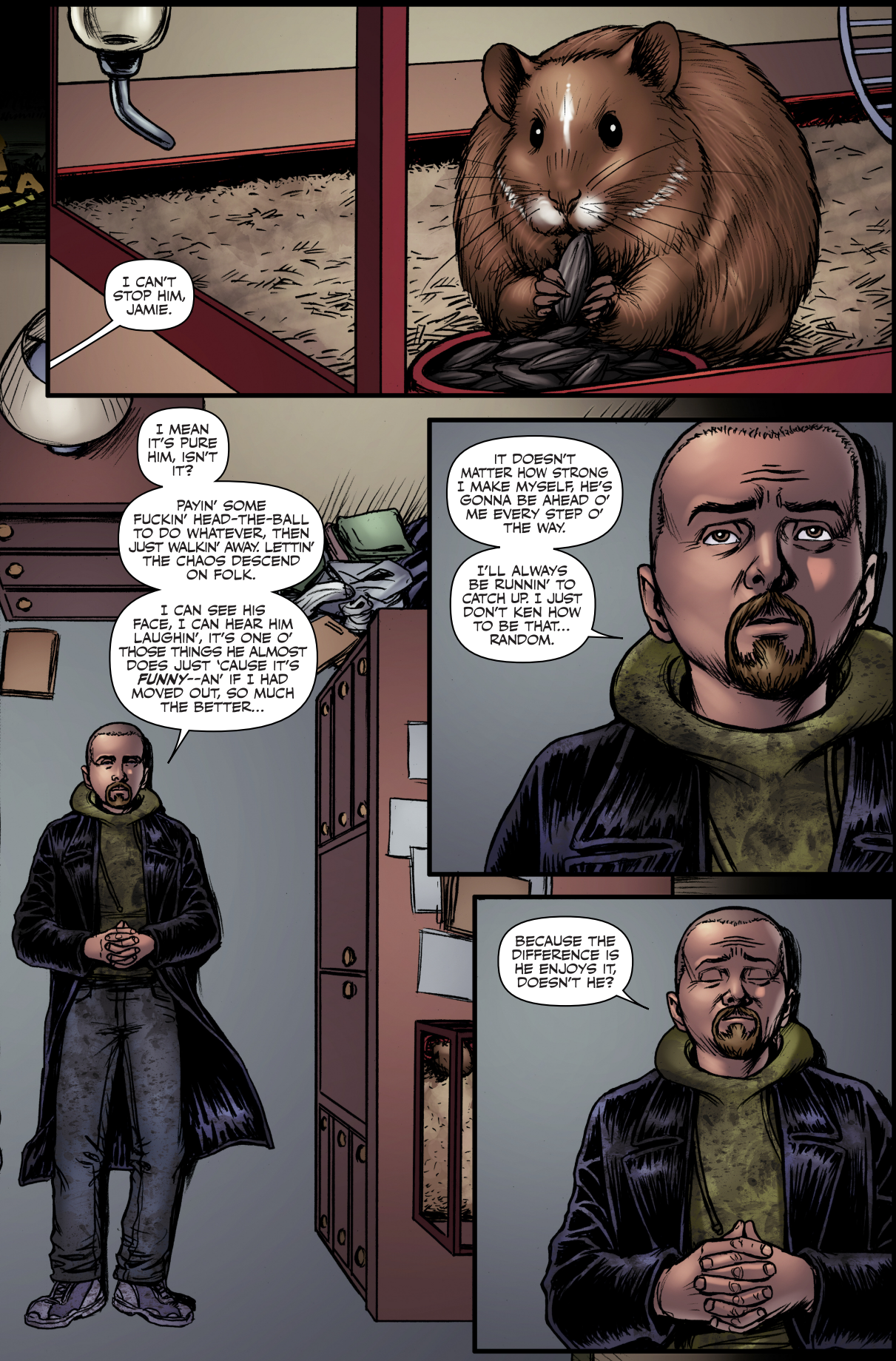

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN TAKING THOSE?
YESTERDAY WAS BRUTAL.
MM.
I THOUGHT THIS MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME TO REVIEW AND REFLECT, IF ONLY TO PREVENT TODAY FROM BEING AS DIFFICULT.
SURE.
IT'S NOT GOING TO BE ENOUGH, IS IT?
THEY'VE BEEN HAMMERING AWAY AT US FOR TWO DAYS AND THEY'VE GOTTEN ABSOLUTELY NOWHERE. WE'VE STUCK TO OUR LINE. GIVEN NOTHING AWAY.
AND IT'S NOT GOING TO BE ENOUGH BECAUSE THEY WANT SOMEONE TO SWING FOR THIS...


GO ON.
AT THE START YOU SAID WE'D GONE TOO FAR. WE'D PUSHED PEOPLE BEYOND THE NOTION OF THE WORLD WORKING AS THEY SUSPECTED IT DID, OF WHAT EVEN THE MOST CYNICAL AND APATHETIC WOULD BE PREPARED TO LIVE WITH.
AND YOU WERE RIGHT, AND THAT'S WHAT'S GOING TO KILL US.
BECAUSE NO MATTER HOW MUCH DAMAGE CONTROL WE DO, OR HOW FAR DOWN IN THE DARK WE KEEP THE DAKOTA BOB PLAN: *WE'VE GONE TOO FAR.*
HUNDREDS DEAD, INCLUDING A PRESIDENT. A BATTLE IN THE SKY, AN EXECUTION ON THE WHITE HOUSE LAWN. THE SUPES TURNING OUT TO BE RABID DEMONS, NOT MESSIAHS IN PRETTY COSTUMES.
IT'S ALL TOO MUCH, IT'S ALL GOING TO COME TUMBLING DOWN ON US, LIKE THE ROCKS THEY THROW AT A PUBLIC STONING...
SO WHAT DO WE DO?
WE--
MAKE A DEAL.
NO.
WAIT, LISTEN TO ME, WITH WHAT WE KNOW WE--
NO.
WE COULD GIVE THEM WHAT THEY WANT, A MONSTER, A VILLAIN, SOMETHING TO PUBLICLY--
NO.


JESSICA, WE CAN'T BETRAY OUR CORPORATION.
COMPANY LOYALTY. THE PRINCIPLE THAT STANDS BEFORE AND ABOVE ALL OTHERS.
VOUGHT-AMERICAN IS THE AIR THAT WE BREATHE. IT GIVES US LIFE. IT'S BIGGER THAN EITHER OF US, SEPARATELY OR TOGETHER; BIGGER THAN BREWSTER AND THE COTERIE OF LITTLE PEOPLE TRYING TO DESTROY US TO PROTECT IT.
IT GIVES OUR LIVES MEANING, AND IF YOU THINK THIS IS MERE HYPERBOLE, HAVE YOU EVER TRIED IMAGINING LIFE WITHOUT IT?
WE'VE GIVEN OUR TESTIMONY. THEY HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SHAKE US, THEY KNOW NO MORE THAN WHAT WE'VE DECIDED THEY SHOULD. LEGALLY, THEY CANNOT TOUCH US.
TAKE MY HAND. TAKE HEART.
IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY.


MISTER POTAMUS?
FUCK!
RIDE OF BAGHDAD
WHAT'RE YOU--?
I--SHIT-- I JUST--
OH MY GOD, YOU'RE THE DOOR-WANKER...!
AIN'T MY FAULT, MAN! AIN'T MY FUCKIN' FAULT, THE DUDE PAID ME!
WHO PAID YOU?
THE DUDE, MAN!
BIG BRITISH DUDE, HE CAME TO ME TWO YEARS AGO! HE SAID HE DIDN'T WANT YOU LIVIN' HERE, HE PAID ME TO JERK OFF UNDER YOUR DOOR EVERY NIGHT SO YOU'D WANNA MOVE OUT!
HE SAID THE PLACE IS A FUCKIN' SHITHOLE, HE WANTED YOU LIVIN' SOMEWHERE BETTER...!


HE...HE...
WAIT A MINUTE, HE SAID YOUR PLACE WAS A SHITHOLE, BUT YOU'RE HAPPY TO WANK OFF UNDER MY DOOR FOR HIM...?
HE PAID ME.
AN'...YOU WERE TRYNNA DRIVE ME OUT, BUT YOU STILL DIDN'T MIND FEEDIN' MY HAMSTER FOR ME WHEN I WAS AWAY?
YOU PAID ME.
MISTER POTAMUS, WHY IS THERE BLOOD IN IT?
AIN'T THERE S'POSED TO BE?
BUT...
HHHH.
RIGHT, THEN.
GOTTA GO.


I CAN'T STOP HIM, JAMIE.
I MEAN IT'S PURE HIM, ISN'T IT?
PAYIN' SOME FUCKIN' HEAD-THE-BALL TO DO WHATEVER, THEN JUST WALKIN' AWAY. LETTIN' THE CHAOS DESCEND ON FOLK.
I CAN SEE HIS FACE, I CAN HEAR HIM LAUGHIN', IT'S ONE O' THOSE THINGS HE ALMOST DOES JUST 'CAUSE IT'S *FUNNY*--AN' IF I HAD MOVED OUT, SO MUCH THE BETTER...
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW STRONG I MAKE MYSELF, HE'S GONNA BE AHEAD O' ME EVERY STEP O' THE WAY.
I'LL ALWAYS BE RUNNIN' TO CATCH UP. I JUST DON'T KEN HOW TO BE THAT... RANDOM.
BECAUSE THE DIFFERENCE IS HE ENJOYS IT, DOESN'T HE?


DOESN'T HE, JAMIE?
EH?
I'LL HAVE TO PHONE MONKEY. TURN IT OVER TO HIM. THERE'S NO WAY I CAN DO THIS WITHOUT M.M. AN' FRENCHIE AN' HER.
AN' IF THEY DO END UP KILLIN' ME, FUCK IT. MAYBE I CAN JUST ABOUT BE THAT BRAVE.
CAMPBELL?
HULLO THERE, MONKEY. LISTEN, I'VE GOT GOOD NEWS AN' BAD NEWS: THE GOOD NEWS IS YOU'VE GOT A CHANCE TO SAVE THE--
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHAT'S GOING ON?
LISTEN, WHAT IN GOD'S NAME HAPPENED AT THE FLATIRON LAST NIGHT? AND WHAT'S BUTCHER DOING AT THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING?
SAY THAT AGAIN...?
THE FLATIRON BUILDING, YOUR OFFICE, DON'T YOU EVEN KNOW--
NO' THAT. THE OTHER THING. WHAT WAS THAT YOU SAID?

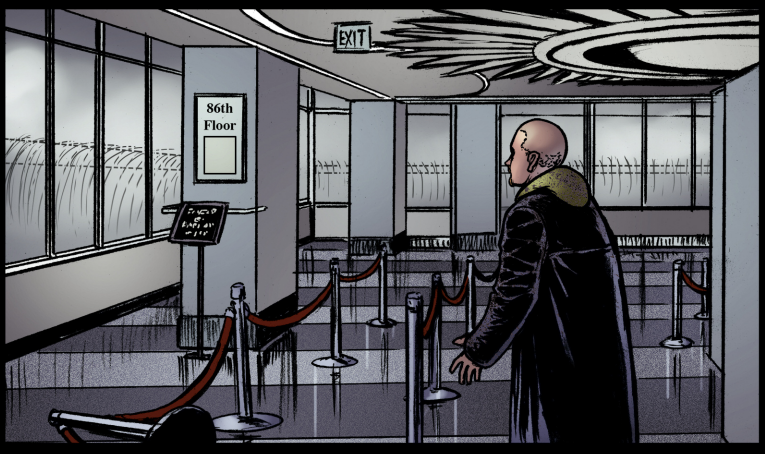

HHHH...WHENEVER YOU PEOPLE SHOW YOUR IDENTIFICATION TO LAW ENFORCEMENT, A BRIEF REPORT GOES INTO THE SYSTEM, WHERE, WHEN, EXPLANATION GIVEN--IF ANY.
BUTCHER ENTERED THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING TWENTY MINUTES AGO AND ORDERED IT EVACUATED. ALL FLOORS, EVERYONE PRESENT, HE CITED A POSSIBLE TERRORIST ATTACK.
ARE THE SUPES TRYING AGAIN, OR SOMETHING? DID THEY HIT YOU FIRST?
CAMPBELL?
SOMETIMES IT IS.
SOMETIMES LIFE'S AS BIG AN' MAD AN' FUCKIN' WIDESCREEN AS IT DESERVES TO BE.
CAMPBELL, ARE YOU STILL THERE, YOU--




...SOME FEDERAL THING, WE HOPPED TO IT. BUT IF THIS IS CONNECTED TO WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT, I'D LIKE--
WE APPRECIATE ALL YOUR HELP, CAPTAIN. OUR PEOPLE CAN TAKE IT FROM HERE.
OKAY, BECAUSE THE GUY--THE ORDERS GIVEN WERE TO EVACUATE AS A PRECAUTION. I DIDN'T GET ANY CRITICAL SENSE OF URGENCY.
PLEASE JUST CARRY ON WORKING WITH US AS YOU'VE BEEN DOING. KEEP EVERYONE OUT OF THE BUILDING 'TIL YOU HEAR FROM ME.






EXIT
86th Floor






ALL RIGHT?
AYE.
I KEN HOW MUCH YOU LOVE THE PLACE, SO I THOUGHT YOU'D WANT ONE LAST LOOK BEFORE BLOWIN' IT ALL TO FUCK.


IT'S LIKE SOME STUPID BLOODY MOVIE. SMASH DOWN ALL THE BEAUTIFUL BUILDIN'S 'CAUSE YOU LIKE THE WAY THEY LOOK WHEN THEY FALL.
I MEAN HAS THIS CITY NO' SUFFERED ENOUGH...?
NAH, AIN'T NONE O' THE SPECIAL SURPRISE PACKAGES SET UP LOCALLY, HUGHIE. I'M JUST UP HERE TO GET LINE O' SIGHT FOR THE SIGNAL.
THAT AN' THE VIEW, O' COURSE.
AW, GREAT, SO ALL THE AVERAGE NEW YORKER'S GOTTA WORRY ABOUT'S HIS FUCKIN' HEAD EXPLODIN'. IF HE'S ONE O' THE UNLUCKY WHO-KNOWS-WHAT PERCENT.
AN' I'M MEANT TO STOP YOU, IS THAT IT? WOULD YOU MIND TELLIN' ME HOW IN THE NAME O' GOD YOU CAME UP WI' THAT?
DUNNO EXACTLY.
I'D BEEN THINKIN' ABOUT DOIN' THIS FOR AGES. HAD HALF AN IDEA SOMEONE OUGHTA HAVE A CHANCE AT STICKIN' A SPANNER IN THE WORKS.
I MEAN IT AIN'T THE SORTA THING YOU DO LIGHTLY, WIPIN' OUT A GOOD CHUNK O' THE HUMAN RACE...
THAT'S INSANE.
YEAH, I KNOW.
I'VE ALREADY GOT THAT FEELIN' I GET, SOMETIMES. WHENEVER I REALLY FUCKIN' GO FOR IT.


WHICH IS...?
LIKE I'M SOMEWHERE ELSE WATCHIN' IT HAPPEN.
OH, WELL THAT'S PURE DEAD BRILLIANT, THAT IS. I'LL HAVE TO TELL THE SECURITY FELLA AT THE FLATIRON THAT, IF THEY EVER MANAGE TO DIG HIM OUT. AN' THE BOY WAS DRIVIN' PAST GOT BLINDED, AN' THE LASSIE LOST BOTH LEGS.
THERE YOU GO. EVEN AT FIVE A.M. THERE'S COLLATERAL.
YEAH, I KNOW. BUT IT HAD TO BE DONE.
WHY. 'CAUSE SOMEBODY HAD SOME BIG BLOODY PLAN?
BUT I GET THE IDEA. I REALLY DO.
THE CITY'S LEGO AN' PEOPLE ARE TOYS: YOU SOUND LIKE A FUCKIN' SUPERVILLAIN...
AH, NOW YOU'RE FIGHTIN' DIRTY, HUGHIE.
GOOD FOR YOU.
I--
YOU'RE STILL SCARED O' ME, AIN'T YOU?


EH--?
'COURSE YOU ARE.
YOU NEVER COULD LOOK ME IN THE EYE FOR ALL THAT LONG. STILL CAN'T.
CAN YOU EVEN SAY ME NAME?
YEAH, THERE YOU ARE.
HMH.

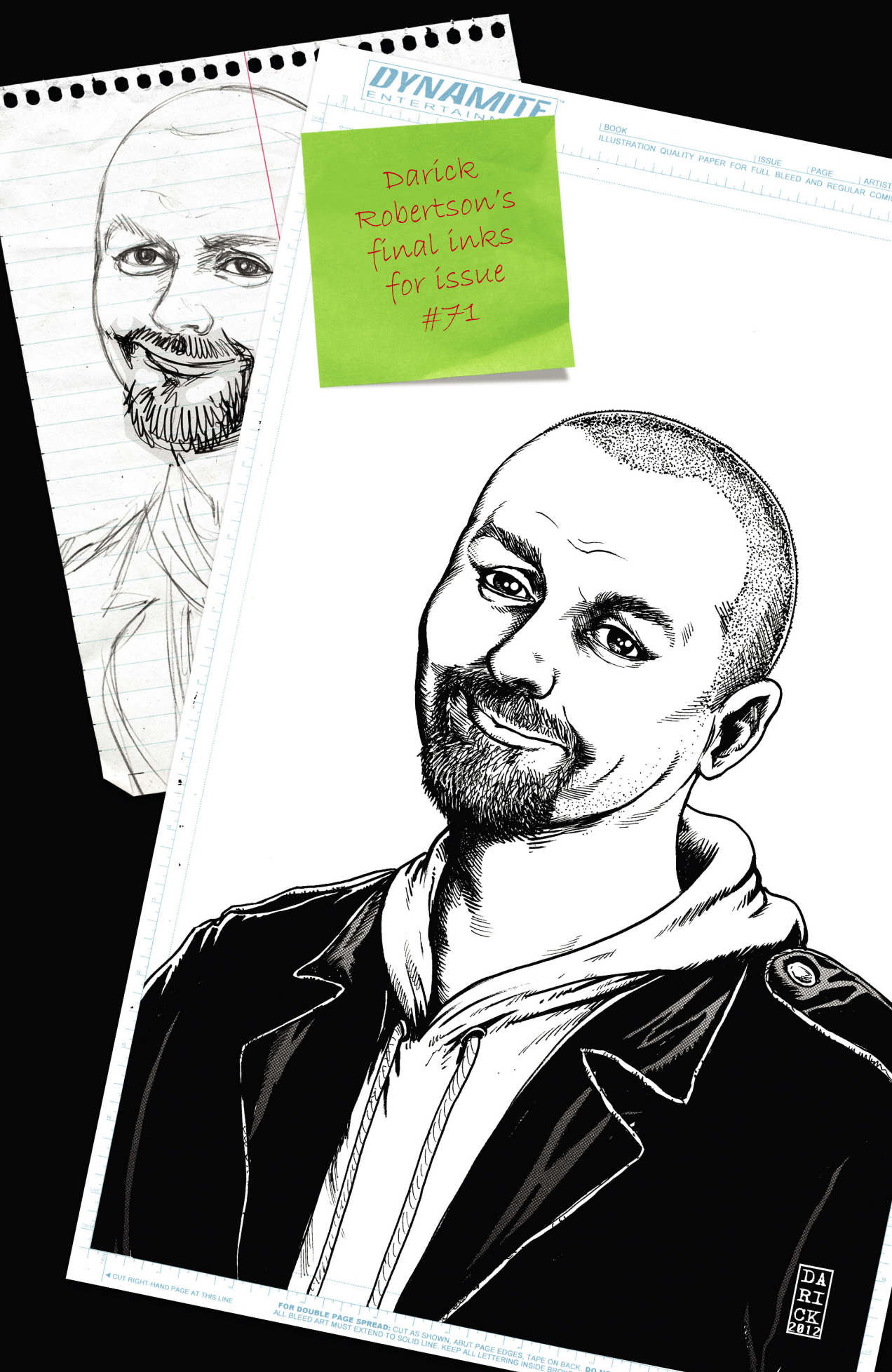

RRAAAAAAAHHH!!
HUGHIE, DON'T BE A CUNT--!
RRAAHH!!!
RRRAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHH



next: THE SCORES ON THE DOORS

SEVENTY-ONE



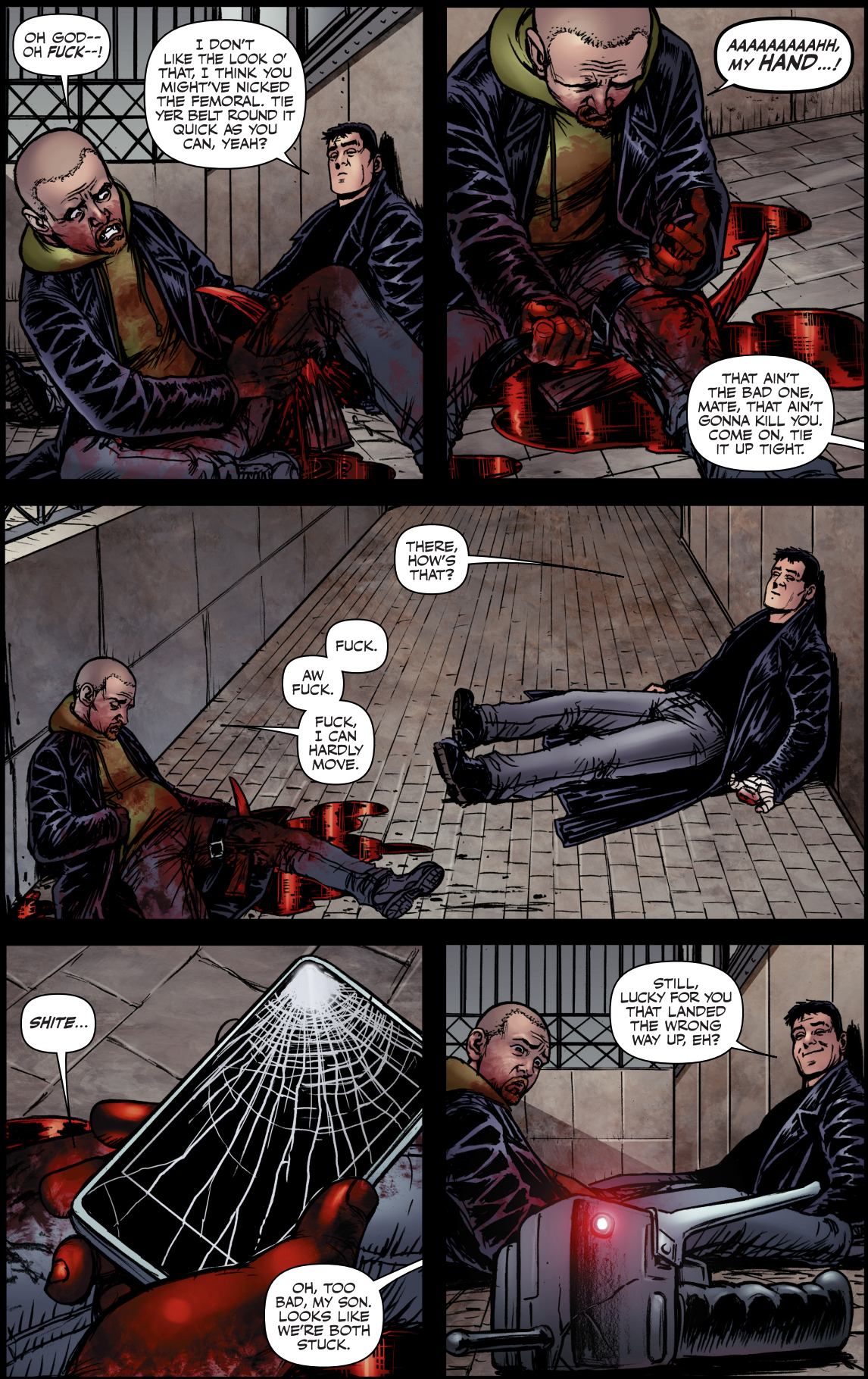

DYNAMITE
ENTERTAINMENT
BOOK
ISSUE
PAGE
ARTIST
ILLUSTRATION QUALITY PAPER FOR FULL BLEED AND REGULAR COMIC
Darick Robertson's final inks for issue #71
DA RI CK 2012
CUT RIGHT-HAND PAGE AT THIS LINE
FOR DOUBLE PAGE SPREAD: CUT AS SHOWN, ABUT PAGE EDGES, TAPE ON BACK.
ALL BLEED ART MUST EXTEND TO SOLID LINE. KEEP ALL LETTERING INSIDE



THE BLOODY DOORS OFF

conclusion


AW FUCK, HELP ME, GET ME DOWN...!
SNAP THE BAR, YOU TIT.
WH-WH-WH--?
THAT'S WHAT'S HOLDIN' YOU UP THERE. SNAP IT.
BUT IT REALLY HURTS...!
IT'S GONNA HURT A FUCKSIGHT MORE IF YOU DON'T.
AAAAH! AAH-AAH-AAH-AAH- AAAAH!
WHUHHH!!
THERE YOU GO.


OH GOD--
OH FUCK--!
I DON'T LIKE THE LOOK O' THAT, I THINK YOU MIGHT'VE NICKED THE FEMORAL. TIE YER BELT ROUND IT QUICK AS YOU CAN, YEAH?
AAAAAAAAAHH, MY HAND...!
THAT AIN'T THE BAD ONE, MATE, THAT AIN'T GONNA KILL YOU. COME ON, TIE IT UP TIGHT.
THERE, HOW'S THAT?
FUCK.
AW FUCK.
FUCK, I CAN HARDLY MOVE.
SHITE...
OH, TOO BAD, MY SON. LOOKS LIKE WE'RE BOTH STUCK.
STILL, LUCKY FOR YOU THAT LANDED THE WRONG WAY UP, EH?


AW, NOW DON'T BLOODY START THAT...!

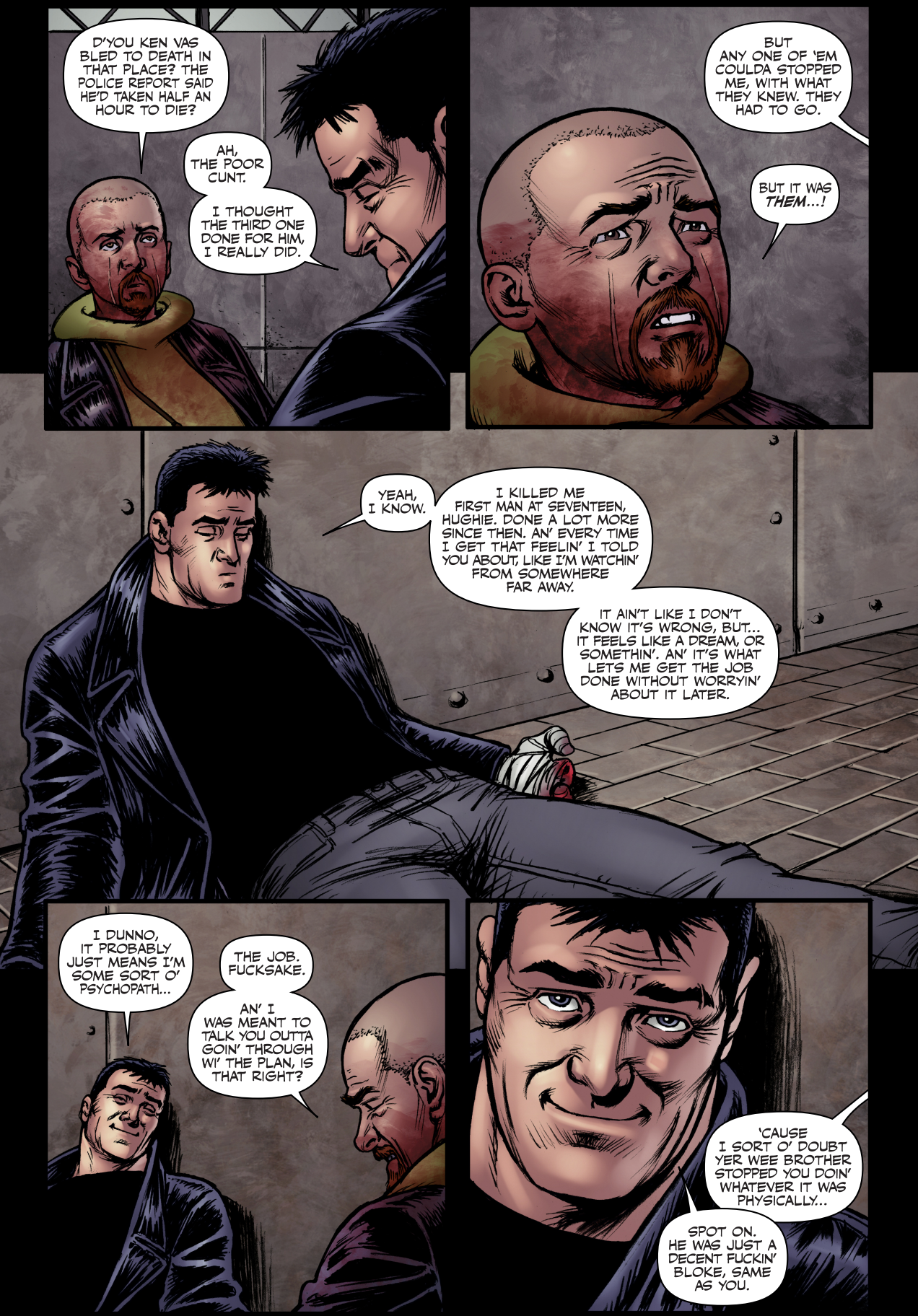

YOU KNOW I CAN'T STAND THAT, IF THERE'S--
HOW COULD YOU?
HOW COULD YOU DO IT?

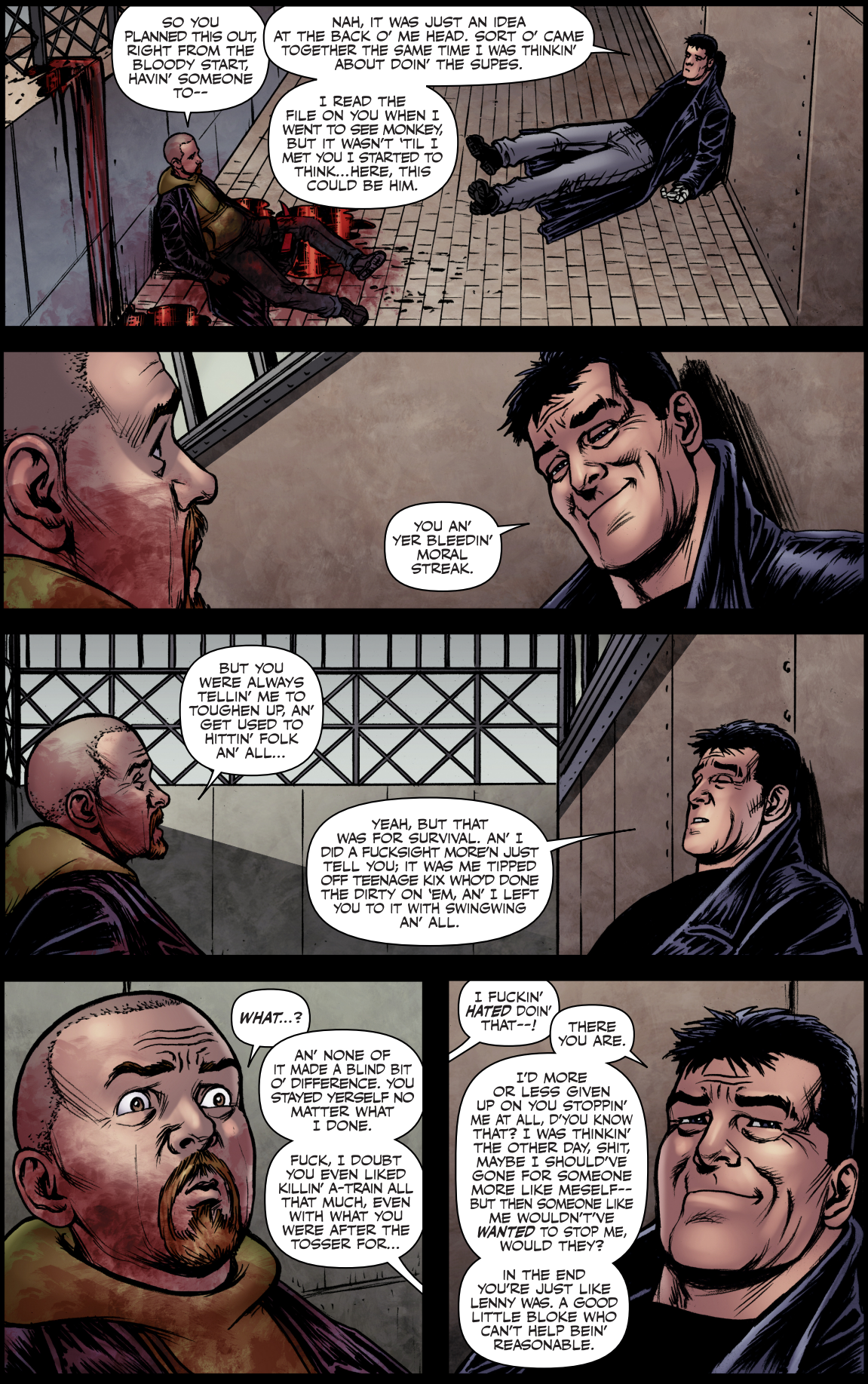

I TOLD YOU. THERE'S NO POINT GOIN' OVER AN' OVER IT AGAIN, JUST BE GRATEFUL I BOLLOCKSED IT UP...
I'M NO' TALKIN' ABOUT THAT.


M.M.. FRENCHIE AN' HER.
HOW *COULD YOU*...?


FUCK.
I NEVER WANTED IT TO END THE WAY IT DID. I THOUGHT I'D GOT YOU ALL OUT O' THE WAY, YOU'D JUST...
DIE ALONG WI' EVERYBODY ELSE?


KNOWIN' NOTHIN'.


D'YOU KEN VAS BLED TO DEATH IN THAT PLACE? THE POLICE REPORT SAID HE'D TAKEN HALF AN HOUR TO DIE?
AH, THE POOR CUNT.
I THOUGHT THE THIRD ONE DONE FOR HIM, I REALLY DID.
BUT ANY ONE OF 'EM COULDA STOPPED ME, WITH WHAT THEY KNEW. THEY HAD TO GO.
BUT IT WAS *THEM*...!
YEAH, I KNOW.
I KILLED ME FIRST MAN AT SEVENTEEN, HUGHIE. DONE A LOT MORE SINCE THEN. AN' EVERY TIME I GET THAT FEELIN' I TOLD YOU ABOUT, LIKE I'M WATCHIN' FROM SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY.
IT AIN'T LIKE I DON'T KNOW IT'S WRONG, BUT... IT FEELS LIKE A DREAM, OR SOMETHIN'. AN' IT'S WHAT LETS ME GET THE JOB DONE WITHOUT WORRYIN' ABOUT IT LATER.
I DUNNO, IT PROBABLY JUST MEANS I'M SOME SORT O' PSYCHOPATH...
THE JOB. FUCKSAKE.
AN' I WAS MEANT TO TALK YOU OUTTA GOIN' THROUGH WI' THE PLAN, IS THAT RIGHT?
'CAUSE I SORT O' DOUBT YER WEE BROTHER STOPPED YOU DOIN' WHATEVER IT WAS PHYSICALLY...
SPOT ON. HE WAS JUST A DECENT FUCKIN' BLOKE, SAME AS YOU.


SO YOU PLANNED THIS OUT, RIGHT FROM THE BLOODY START, HAVIN' SOMEONE TO--
NAH, IT WAS JUST AN IDEA AT THE BACK O' ME HEAD. SORT O' CAME TOGETHER THE SAME TIME I WAS THINKIN' ABOUT DOIN' THE SUPES.
I READ THE FILE ON YOU WHEN I WENT TO SEE MONKEY, BUT IT WASN'T 'TIL I MET YOU I STARTED TO THINK...HERE, THIS COULD BE HIM.
YOU AN' YER BLEEDIN' MORAL STREAK.
BUT YOU WERE ALWAYS TELLIN' ME TO TOUGHEN UP, AN' GET USED TO HITTIN' FOLK AN' ALL...
YEAH, BUT THAT WAS FOR SURVIVAL. AN' I DID A FUCKSIGHT MORE'N JUST TELL YOU; IT WAS ME TIPPED OFF TEENAGE KIX WHO'D DONE THE DIRTY ON 'EM, AN' I LEFT YOU TO IT WITH SWINGWING AN' ALL.
WHAT...?
AN' NONE OF IT MADE A BLIND BIT O' DIFFERENCE. YOU STAYED YERSELF NO MATTER WHAT I DONE.
FUCK, I DOUBT YOU EVEN LIKED KILLIN' A-TRAIN ALL THAT MUCH, EVEN WITH WHAT YOU WERE AFTER THE TOSSER FOR...
I FUCKIN' *HATED* DOIN' THAT--!
THERE YOU ARE.
I'D MORE OR LESS GIVEN UP ON YOU STOPPIN' ME AT ALL, D'YOU KNOW THAT? I WAS THINKIN' THE OTHER DAY, SHIT, MAYBE I SHOULD'VE GONE FOR SOMEONE MORE LIKE MESELF-- BUT THEN SOMEONE LIKE ME WOULDN'T'VE *WANTED* TO STOP ME, WOULD THEY?
IN THE END YOU'RE JUST LIKE LENNY WAS. A GOOD LITTLE BLOKE WHO CAN'T HELP BEIN' REASONABLE.


I WAS GONNA *TRY* AN' FIGHT YOU, LIKE. I WENT TO M.M.'S MUM, I DRANK MOTHER'S MILK'S MOTHER'S MILK...
JESUS--!
BUT I EVEN MADE A PIG'S EAR O' THAT, DIDN'T I?
I DUNNO.
MAYBE IF I HADN'T BEEN WHO I AM...WELL, YOU MIGHT NOT'VE WANTED TO SAVE MY LIFE A MINUTE AGO.
AN' WE WOULDN'T BE WHERE WE ARE NOW. VERY TRUE.
FUCK...!
I JUST--I'M SITTIN' HERE TALKIN' AWAY TO YOU LIKE NOTHIN'S HAPPENED, AN'--I JUST CAN'T GET IT INTO MY HEAD THAT THIS IS WHO YOU'VE TURNED OUT TO ***BE***...
'FRAID SO, MY SON.
THEN AGAIN, I WAS THE ONE PUT THE BOYS BACK TOGETHER AFTER MALLORY LOST HIS BOTTLE. I MADE 'EM WHAT THEY WERE MEANT TO BE.
I GOT VOGELBAUM WORKIN' ON FUCKIN' SUPE-SEEKIN' MISSILES; THE HOMELANDER AN' HIS MATES WOULD'VE CAUSED A LOT MORE BOTHER IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR ME.
YOU NEED BLOKES LIKE ME, HUGHIE.
IT'S WHAT WE GET UP TO IN OUR SPARE TIME YOU'VE GOTTA WORRY ABOUT.
JESUS, WHERE THE FUCK'RE THE COPS?
I SAID TERRORISTS. THAT'S THE MAGIC WORD.
I RECKON WE'LL BE WAITIN' A BIT YET.


MUTE
...SO, CALL ME BACK.
I DON'T KNOW WHY I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM YOU. TODAY WAS AWFUL, I REALLY NEED TO UNWIND.
CALL ME.
BREAKING NEWS
MUTE
BREAKING NEWS
CAPITOL HILL
LIVE
MUTE
--CAN'T MAKE ANY COMMENT ON MY TESTIMONY TO CONGRESS...
CAN YOU TELL US WHAT CAUSED YOUR CHANGE OF HEART?
I'M AFRAID I HAVE NO COMMENT AT THIS TIME. I'M SORRY.
ALTHOUGH STILLWELL REMAINED TIGHT-LIPPED, IT HAS BEEN CONFIRMED THAT AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE WAS CONVENED THIS EVENING...
BREAKING NEWS
LIVE
APPARENTLY-- ACCORDING TO SOURCES WITHIN THE SENATE--AS A RESULT OF THE WITNESS CONTACTING A SENIOR CONGRESSIONAL FIGURE WITH A VIEW TO SUPPLYING FRESH EVIDENCE...
WHAT?


WHILE REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEE SESSION REMAIN LIGHT ON DETAIL IN SOME AREAS, ONE ASPECT OF JAMES STILLWELL'S EVIDENCE SEEMS CRYSTAL-CLEAR: HIS IDENTIFYING VOUGHT-AMERICAN SENIOR EXECUTIVE JESSICA BRADLEY AS BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BREAKDOWN IN CONTROL THAT LED TO THE DISASTROUS EVENTS OF LAST NOVEMBER...
BREAKING NEWS
THE SAME CONGRESSIONAL SOURCES HAVE REVEALED THAT STILLWELL CITED A DATE EARLY LAST YEAR, WHEN HE HANDED OVER DIRECT OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF THE CORPORATION'S SUPERHUMAN DEVELOPMENT DIVISION TO BRADLEY--A DATE FOR WHICH HE PROVIDED DOCUMENTED PROOF.
STILLWELL ACCEPTED RESPONSIBILITY FOR BRADLEY'S APPOINTMENT, BUT DID SAY THAT HE SPECIFICALLY CAUTIONED HER TO WATCH THE VARIOUS SUPERTEAMS--ADVISING EXTRA VIGILANCE REGARDING THE SEVEN AND THE HOMELANDER IN PARTICULAR. MS. BRADLEY, HE SAID, SADLY CHOSE TO IGNORE HIS ADVICE AND PURSUE HER OWN AGENDA.
WHEN QUESTIONED AS TO WHY THE PREMIER SUPERTEAM WAS DEEMED WORTH WATCHING, STILLWELL REPLIED THAT THE SEVEN WERE SIMPLY VOUGHT'S LARGEST SOURCE OF REVENUE.
HE WAS THEN ASKED IF HE BELIEVED THAT HAD HE HIMSELF CONTINUED IN THE EXECUTIVE ROLE, EVENTS WOULD HAVE GONE DIFFERENTLY--BUT DECLINED TO ANSWER, SAYING THAT HIS OWN JUDGMENTS WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE.
AND WE'VE JUST HEARD THAT A SPOKESMAN FOR VOUGHT-AMERICAN, SPEAKING FROM THE COMPANY'S NEW YORK OFFICES, HAS PRAISED WHAT HE CALLED STILLWELL'S PROFOUND ACT OF CONSCIENCE...
YES--AH-- LET ME JUST SAY THAT LOYALTY TO A CO-WORKER IS CERTAINLY ADMIRABLE, BUT AT VOUGHT WE EXPECT A LEVEL OF RESPONSIBILITY THAT EXTENDS BEYOND COMPANY POLITICS. WE REMAIN COMPLETELY COMMITTED TO THE SEARCH FOR THE TRUTH SURROUNDING LAST YEAR'S TRAGIC EVENTS, AND WE HOPE THAT TODAY'S STATEMENT BY A TRUSTED EXECUTIVE OFFICER WILL SERVE TO REITERATE THAT FACT.
THE BOTTOM LINE IS: AT VOUGHT-AMERICAN, WHAT HAPPENS IN THE BOARDROOM DOES NOT STAY IN THE BOARDROOM.
YOU'VE HAD YOUR EYE ON ME FOR NINE YEARS?


YOU WERE... WAITING FOR ME TO REACH A PARTICULAR POSITION, OR...?
ONE APPROPRIATE TO YOUR POTENTIAL. AS INDICATED BY YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND GENERAL APTITUDE.
BUT YOU GOT THERE SOME TIME AGO; I'VE SIMPLY BEEN WAITING FOR YOU TO APPROACH ME IN PERSON.
YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T BE QUITE SO QUICK TO DESPAIR, MS. BRADLEY. DON'T FORGET YOU'RE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE TEAM.
OF THE VOUGHT-AMERICAN FAMILY.
THE SECOND IS TO PROTECT MS. BRADLEY. SHE IS AS IMPORTANT TO THE FUTURE OF THIS COMPANY AS ANY OTHER SENIOR OFFICER.
HMM.
I'M NOT SURE IF I SHOULD TELL YOU, MS. BRADLEY.
BUT I FEEL I CAN RELAX AROUND YOU.
NO...!


DID YOU HAVE TO COME IN PAST THAT MOB OUTSIDE? DID NO ONE INFORM YOU THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL MORE DISCRETE ENTRANCES FOR OCCASIONS LIKE THIS?
NO...
THIS. IT'S THIS.
JESUS, I'M THE FACE OF IT NOW.
NO...
TAKE MY HAND. TAKE HEART.
IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY.
NO...
AND FOLLOWING ON FROM THAT... CONSIDERING HOW RADICAL SOME OF THE MOVES YOU'RE GOING TO BE MAKING ARE RUMORED TO BE...
THEN THE MOST SENSIBLE CHOICE--AT LEAST FROM YOUR POINT OF VIEW--
WOULD BE A FALL GUY.
NNNAAAAAAAAH!


I DON'T SUPPOSE...YOU WANNA TELL ME WHERE YOU'VE GOT ALL THESE BLOODY BOMBS HIDDEN...?
HAVE A LOOK ON ME PHONE.
THEY AIN'T GONNA GO OFF ON THEIR OWN, BUT...WELL, WHO GIVES A FUCK NOW, EH?
COME TO THINK OF IT, IF YOU EVER WANNA GET YER OWN BACK ON RAYNER YOU'LL FIND EXACTLY WHAT YOU NEED ON THERE AN' ALL...
I COULDN'T GIVE A SHIT ABOUT RAYNER.
ALL THIS FOR ONE WOMAN.
YEAH.
NOT EVEN FOR HER, FOR HER MEMORY.
MM-HM.
YOU DIDN'T KNOW HER, HUGHIE. YOU DUNNO WHAT SHE MEANT TO ME.
WHAT SHE MADE ME INTO.
IS THERE ANYTHIN' YOU WOULDN'T DO FOR BLONDIE?


I--WHAT--
I KNOW YOU'RE STILL SEEIN' HER.
BUT-- BUT-- HOW--
WILD GUESS.
OH.
YOU'RE... YOU'RE NO' GONNA COME OUT WI' ALL SORTS O' HORRIBLE STUFF ABOUT HER, ARE YOU?
'CAUSE I JUST DON'T THINK I HAVE ENOUGH MEANNESS IN ME, TO SAY AWFUL THINGS ABOUT YER WIFE...
I AIN'T GONNA SAY NOTHIN' HORRIBLE.
GOOD.
SHE TURNED OUT TO BE PRETTY MUCH THE EXACT OPPOSITE O' WHAT YOU SAID SHE WAS.
GLAD TO HEAR IT.
YOU LOVE HER?
I DO. I REALLY DO.
BUT I THINK I MIGHT BE A BIT LATE THERE, 'CAUSE I'VE FUCKED THINGS UP ABOUT AS BADLY AS I COULD'VE.
WELL THEN YOU'RE A FUCKIN' NOB-END, AIN'T YOU?


EH...?
GRAB HOLD OF HER, HUGHIE.
WRAP YER ARMS AROUND HER.
BREATHE HER IN.
FEEL HER STRENGTH INSIDE YER OWN.
AN' NEVER, EVER, EVER LET HER GO.


SEE, THAT WAS SOMETHIN' BECKY TOLD ME. I DIDN'T QUITE GET IT AT THE TIME.
BUT SHE SAID MEN WITHOUT WOMEN, IT WASN'T A GOOD IDEA. AN' SHE WAS RIGHT.
'COS ALL THAT MACHO SHIT--THAT GUNFIGHTER, DIRTY HARRY BOLLOCKS--IT LOOKS TASTY, BUT IN THE END IT'S FUCKIN' SELF-DEFEATIN'.
IT JUST LEAVES YOU WITH BODIES IN DITCHES AN' BLOKES WITH HEADFULS O' BROKEN GLASS.
MEN ARE ONLY SO MUCH USE, HUGHIE.
MEN ARE BOYS.
I...AW, FUCK.
I JUST WISH... THINGS...


JESUS--!
NYPD
CHRIST ALMIGHTY, THEY SCARED THE FUCKIN' SHITE OUTTA ME!
YEAH, AN' THEY'RE GONNA HAVE SWAT AN' PARAMEDICS UP HERE IN NO TIME.
WHAT? FUCK, I CAN'T EVEN--
NOT A MOMENT TO LOSE, HUGHIE.
YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO KILL ME.


WHAT...?
I'M FUCKIN' SERIOUS. I'VE BROKEN ME NECK HERE, I CAN'T FEEL A BLEEDIN' THING.
WAIT A SECOND, NO, I--
THEY'LL BANG ME UP FOR LIFE. I DON'T GIVE A FUCK ABOUT DOIN' THE TIME-- BUT NOT TRAPPED IN ME OWN USELESS CARCASS, FOR GOD'S SAKE!
THERE'S NO BLOODY WAY I'M--
HUGHIE, YOU AIN'T GONNA LEAVE ME HERE LIKE A FUCKIN' RASPBERRY RIPPLE, COME ON...!
YOU DESERVE IT. YOU FUCKIN' WELL DESERVE IT.
I MIGHT WELL DO, BUT IF YOU'RE GONNA PUNISH ME YOU COULD AT LEAST LOOK ME IN THE BLOODY EYE. OR ARE YOU GONNA LEAVE IT UP TO SOME OTHER CUNT TO DO YER DIRTY WORK?
HUGHIE--
NO!
HUGHIE...
NO--!
THERE'S ONLY THE BLOODY TWO OF US LEFT, I'M NO' GONNA FUCKIN' PUT YOU DOWN LIKE A DOG...!
YEAH YOU FUCKIN' ARE, HUGHIE.
'COS OF ANNIE JANUARY.


AW FOR FUCK'S SAKE, I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T GONNA START IN ABOUT THAT! BUT OH AYE, THERE YOU GO, THE SAME OLD EVIL BLOODY--
NOT THE BIRD, SUNSHINE. I'M TALKIN' ABOUT YER DAD'S BOAT.
WH--
HE CHANGED THE NAME. THAT'S HOW MUCH HE LIKED HER.
I SPIKED HIS HEAD ON THE END O' THE TILLER. AFTER I'D FINISHED SPREADIN' YER MUM ALL OVER HER KITCHEN.
BOLLOCKS. FUCKIN' BOLLOCKS. THERE'S NO WAY...
SEVEN WATKINS LANE, LAST HOUSE ON THE RIGHT. I READ YER FILE, REMEMBER?
YOU SHOULDN'T'VE PISSED ME OFF FUCKIN' ABOUT WITH MALLORY, MY SON. THAT WAS BANG OUTTA ORDER, YOU SHOULDN'T'VE GONE AN' DONE THAT.
WHAT D'YOU WANNA HEAR ABOUT? THE WANKY BLOODY SEVENTIES WALLPAPER, OR THE STUPID OLD CUNT'S PIPE?
OR WHAT ABOUT THAT PONCEY FUCKIN' POEM UP ON THE WALL O' YER BEDROOM, FUCK ME, DID I HAVE A RIGHT LAUGH AT THAT...!
LOOK AT ME. FUCKIN' LOOK AT ME.
YOU KNOW I DONE IT.


FUCKER!
FUCKER!
CUNT!!


...NICE ONE, MATE.
HULLO...?
MAW!!


HUGHIE...!
ECK! ECK! IT'S HUGHIE ON THE PHONE!
MAW! JESUS FUCKIN' CHRIST, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT--?
OCH, SON, YE KEN I DON'T LIKE YE USIN' THAT SORT OF OUL' TALK, NOW...
MAW, PLEASE JUST TELL ME YOU AN' PAW ARE OKAY...!
O' COURSE WE ARE, WHY WOULDN'T WE BE? OCH, D'YE KEN WE HAD YER FRIEND HERE LAST YEAR, MISTER BUTCHER...?
WHAT... DID HE...
OH, HE WAS AN AWFULLY NICE MAN. AN' SO FUNNY, HIM AN' YER PAW GOT ON LIKE A HOOSE ON FIRE.
HE SAID HE WAS IN THE AREA AN' HE THOUGHT HE'D SEE WHERE YE GREW UP. WE SHOWED HIM ALL ROUND THE PLACE.
HE TOLD US HE WAS SORT O' YER BOSS, BUT I MUST SAY HE SEEMED VERY FOND O' YE.
HE ASKED US TO TELL YE HE SAID HELLO. I'M NO' SURE WHY, I THOUGHT HE'D PROBABLY SEE YE SOONER'N WE DID.



THE END


SEVENTY-TWO
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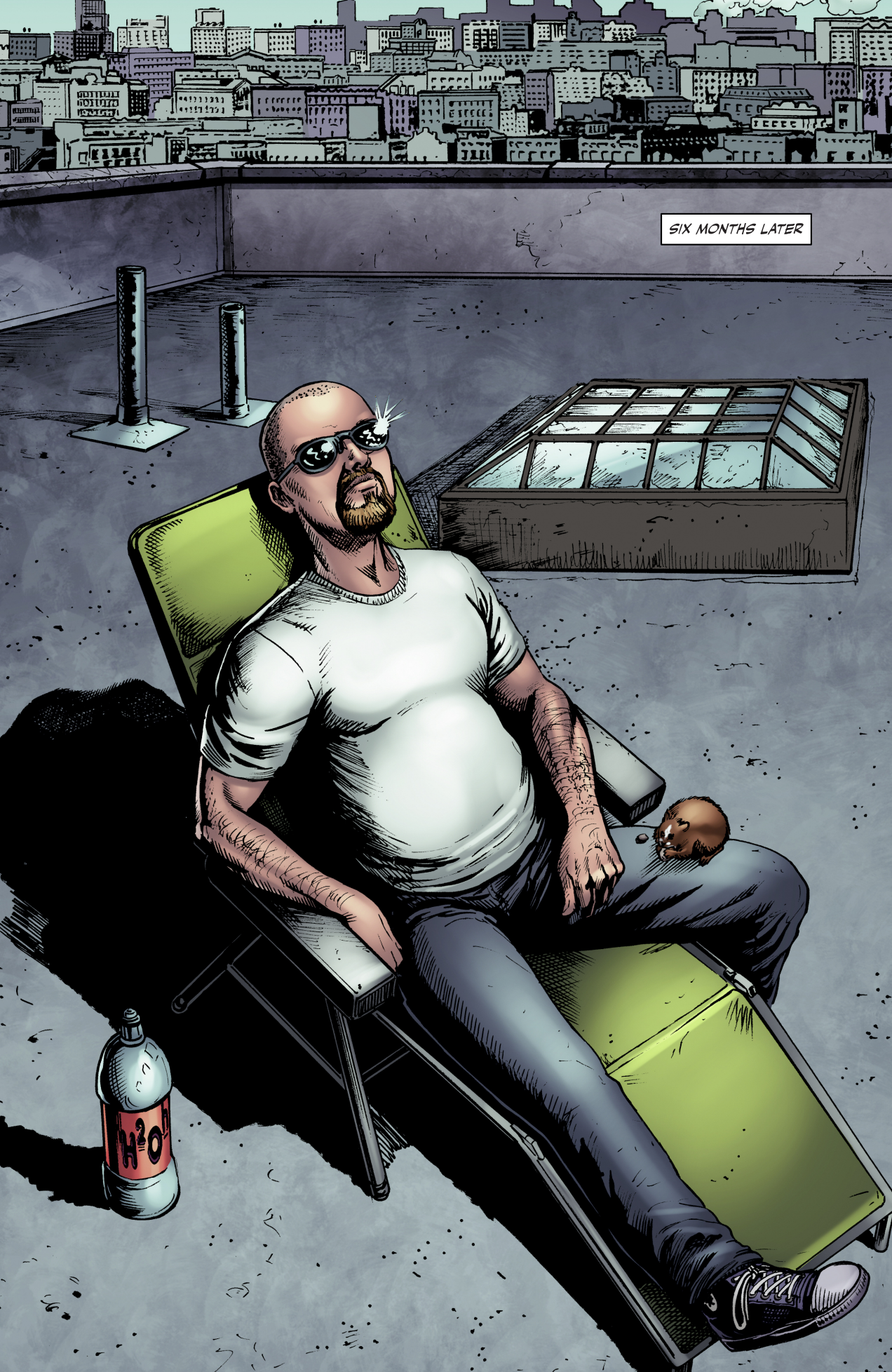
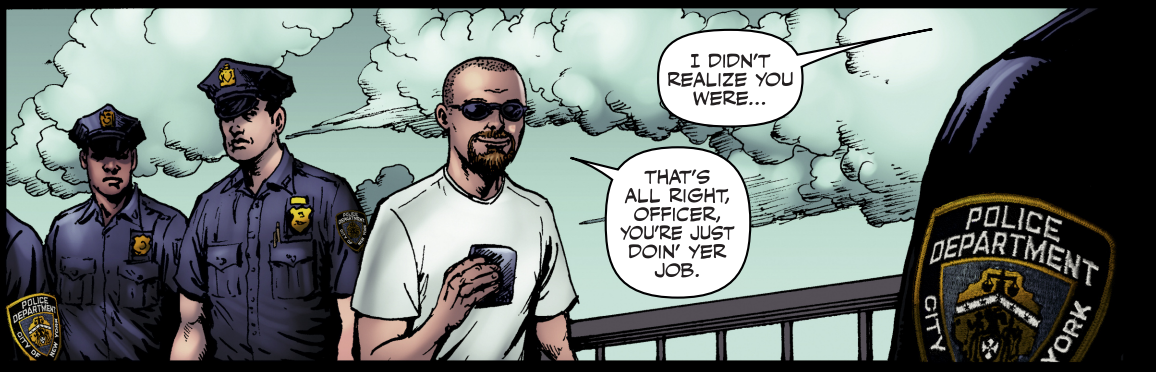
DYNAMITE
ENTERTAINMENT
BOOK
ILLUSTRATION QUALITY PAPER FOR FULL BLEED AND REGULAR COMIC
ISSUE
PAGE
ARTIST(S)
Darick Robertson's pencil sketch for issue #72


SIX MONTHS LATER
H2O


AH, YOU LOAD O' WANKERS.
YOU'RE NEVER GONNA KEN HOW CLOSE YOU CAME.
COME ON THEN, JAMIE.
TIME TO GO IN, WEE PAL.


NO' BAD, YANKS.
NO' BAD AT ALL.


CONSTRUCTION'S STILL GOT A LONG WAY TO GO, IT'S DIGNITARIES ONLY FOR TODAY'S--
OH, SORRY, SIR.
BRID
CLOS

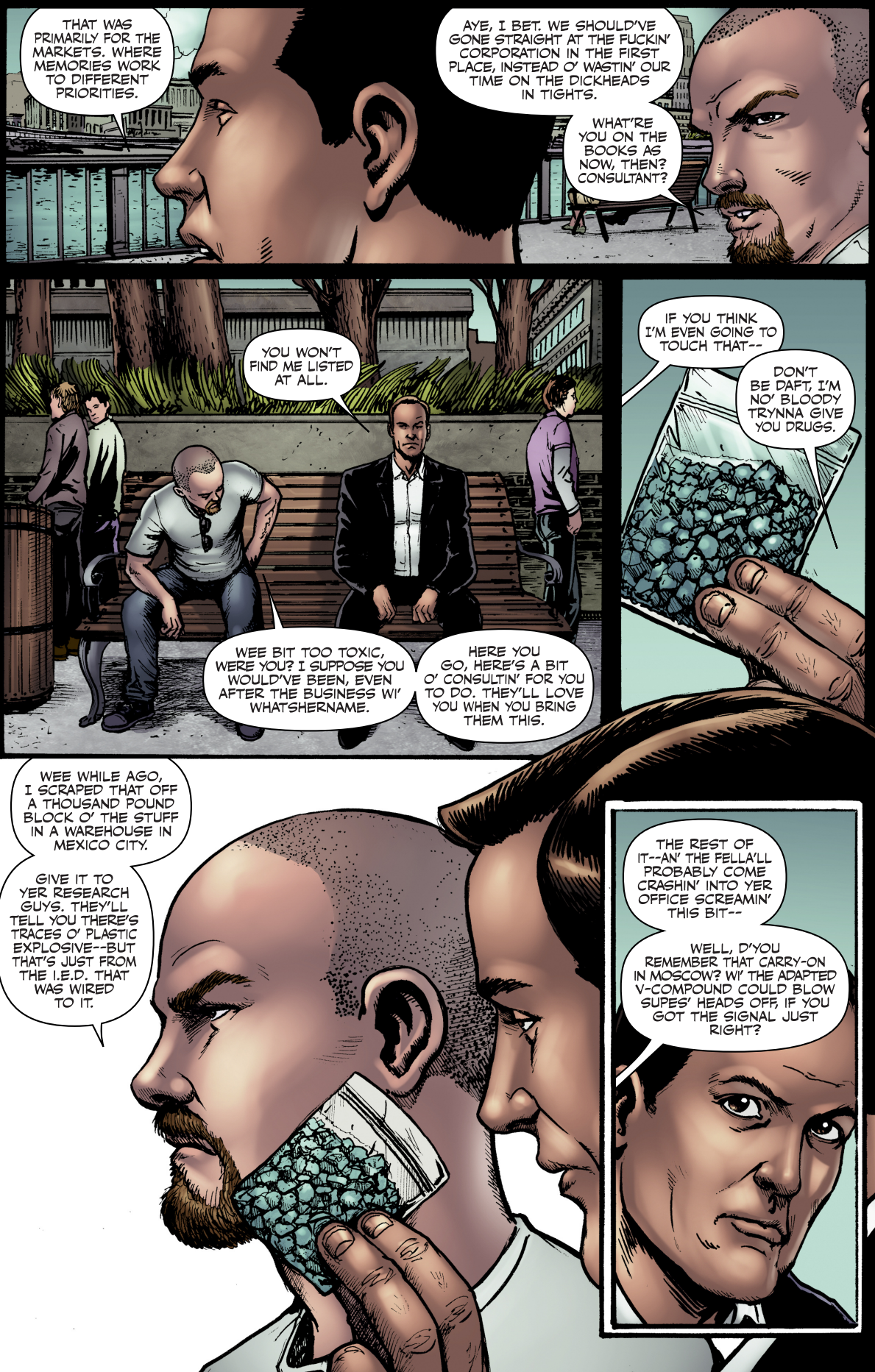

I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE...
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, OFFICER, YOU'RE JUST DOIN' YER JOB.
POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF NEW YORK


ATTENTION
AREA UNDER NYPD VIDEO SURVEILLANCE




AND OF THE CURVESHIP
LEND A MYTH TO
GOD
-- HART CRANE
AND OF THE CURVESHIP
LEND A MYTH TO
GOD
-- HART CRANE
M.M.
F+F
THERE YOU GO, BOYS.
THAT'S YOU.

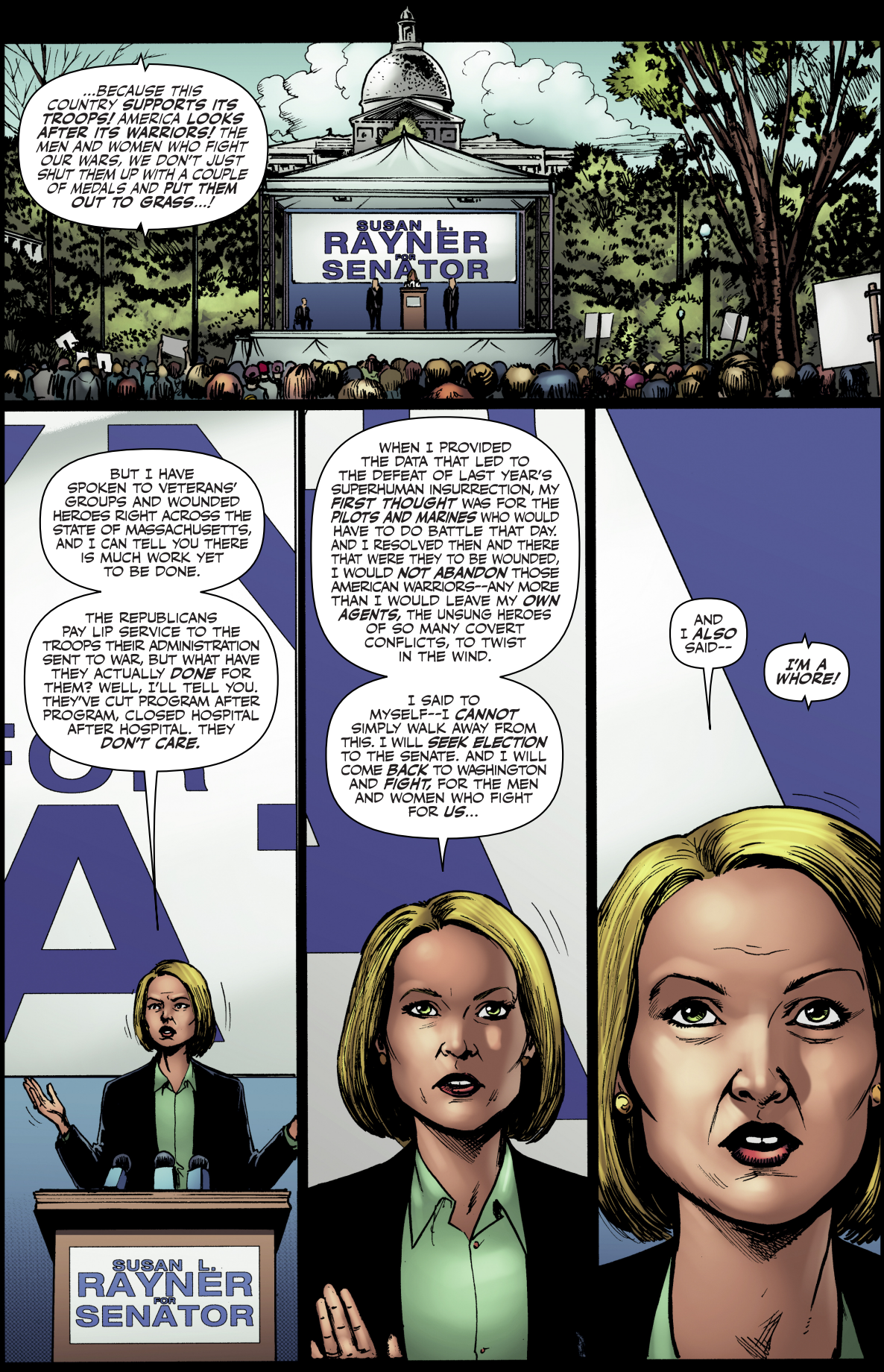

HAVE A SEAT.
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
MM--
YOU BEEN FOLLOWIN' THE ELECTION?
I WAS READIN' INTERVIEWS W/ MCCAIN AND OBAMA, AN' I DIDN'T SEE TROOP WITHDRAWALS MENTIONED ONCE.
TOO BAD. ALL THAT LOVELY MONEY YOU'D'VE MADE, IF YOU'D MANAGED TO GET SUPES INTO PAKISTAN.
IS THAT WHAT--
NO, I CALLED YOU 'CAUSE I SAW YOU'D REBRANDED. *AMERICAN CONSOLIDATED*, THAT'S NO' EXACTLY WHAT YOU'D CALL SUBTLE, IS IT?

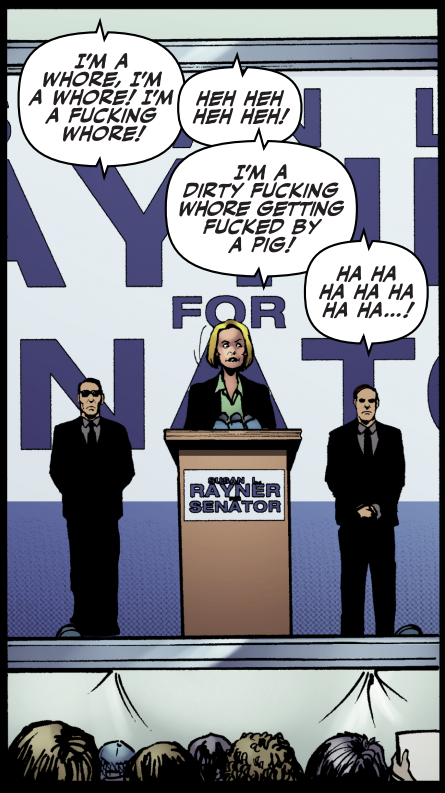

THAT WAS PRIMARILY FOR THE MARKETS. WHERE MEMORIES WORK TO DIFFERENT PRIORITIES.
AYE, I BET. WE SHOULD'VE GONE STRAIGHT AT THE FUCKIN' CORPORATION IN THE FIRST PLACE, INSTEAD O' WASTIN' OUR TIME ON THE DICKHEADS IN TIGHTS.
WHAT'RE YOU ON THE BOOKS AS NOW, THEN? CONSULTANT?
YOU WON'T FIND ME LISTED AT ALL.
WEE BIT TOO TOXIC, WERE YOU? I SUPPOSE YOU WOULD'VE BEEN, EVEN AFTER THE BUSINESS WI' WHATSHERNAME.
HERE YOU GO, HERE'S A BIT O' CONSULTIN' FOR YOU TO DO. THEY'LL LOVE YOU WHEN YOU BRING THEM THIS.
IF YOU THINK I'M EVEN GOING TO TOUCH THAT--
DON'T BE DAFT, I'M NO' BLOODY TRYNNA GIVE YOU DRUGS.
WEE WHILE AGO, I SCRAPED THAT OFF A THOUSAND POUND BLOCK O' THE STUFF IN A WAREHOUSE IN MEXICO CITY.
GIVE IT TO YER RESEARCH GUYS. THEY'LL TELL YOU THERE'S TRACES O' PLASTIC EXPLOSIVE--BUT THAT'S JUST FROM THE I.E.D. THAT WAS WIRED TO IT.
THE REST OF IT--AN' THE FELLA'LL PROBABLY COME CRASHIN' INTO YER OFFICE SCREAMIN' THIS BIT--
WELL, D'YOU REMEMBER THAT CARRY-ON IN MOSCOW? WI' THE ADAPTED V-COMPOUND COULD BLOW SUPES' HEADS OFF, IF YOU GOT THE SIGNAL JUST RIGHT?


AND I'M SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE THIS?
I NOTICE YOU'VE NO' GOT UP AN' FUCKED OFF.
SOMEONE GOT THE SIGNAL RIGHT. AS A MATTER O' FACT, THEY FIXED IT SO YOU DON'T NEED A SIGNAL AT ALL--EXCEPT THE ONE THAT SETS OFF THE FIRST I.E.D..
WHICH THEN SETS OFF THE NEXT TWO HUNDRED AN' FIFTY-NINE, IN SEQUENCE. SUDDENLY MAKIN' THIS A VERY DIFFERENT PLANET INDEED.
YOU WOULD DO THAT?
ME OR SOMEONE ELSE THINKS YOU'RE A PRICK.
THE FIRST THING YOU LOT'RE GONNA DO, 'CAUSE O' YER LONG STANDIN' TIES TO THE CITY O' NEW YORK, IS SET UP A FOUNDATION TO REBUILD THE FLATIRON BUILDIN'. THEN YOU'RE GONNA FUND IT.
WE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH WHAT HAPPENED THERE...
LIFE'S A FUCKER THAT WAY.
THE OTHER THING YOU'RE GONNA DO... IS WATCH YERSELVES.
I'M NO' NAÏVE. I KEN THERE'S STILL PLENTY O' SUPES ABOUT, AN I KEN YOU'RE STILL GONNA TRY AN' TURN A PROFIT OFF THEM. AN' I'M NO' GONNA COMMIT GENOCIDE JUST TO TRY AN' STOP THE TIDE FROM COMIN' IN.
SO IT'S BUSINESS AS USUAL. FUN AN' GAMES AN' PRETTY COLORS. BUT YOU SEE THE FIRST TIME YOU TAKE THOSE FLYIN' FUCKIN' ARSEHOLES ANYWHERE NEAR ***ANY COUNTRY'S*** DEFENSE INDUSTRY...?


YOU SHOULDN'T GET SO SENTIMENTAL ABOUT THIS PLACE, YOU KNOW.
EH...?
IT'S A MERCANTILE TOWN.
IT ALWAYS WAS.
AND YOU AND I JUST DID BUSINESS.
JESUS CHRIST, YOU BLOODLESS FUCKIN'--
WHO *ARE* YOU...?
I'M AN EXPRESSION OF THE CORPORATION.
I'M THE VOICE THAT SAYS-- YOU'RE RIGHT, SUE US.
THAT NEVER GETS UPSET.


YOU THINK YOU'VE WON...
DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE?
WE ALWAYS WIN. WE'RE A REGISTERED TRADEMARK. YOU COULD SNAP MY NECK RIGHT THIS MOMENT, AND WE'D STILL WIN.
OR WILL YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND, AND COMMIT AN ATROCITY TO PREVENT US FROM TURNING A PROFIT?
I DON'T WORK ON WALL STREET. THIS IS A POINTLESS CONVERSATION.
WHAT'LL YOU DO?
AYE, WELL.
YOU CAN DRESS IT UP ANY WAY YOU WANT, YOU CAN SAY YOU'RE JUST DOIN' BUSINESS. BUT I KEN YOU WALL STREET CUNTS'RE THE KIND'D HAND FOLK OVER TO DEATH SQUADS, IF YOU THOUGHT THERE WAS ANY MONEY IN IT.
YOU'LL NEVER SELL SUPES TO THE U.S. MILITARY, WITH OR WITHOUT WHAT I'VE GOT HANGIN' OVER YOU.
WHAT'LL YOU DO?
WHY, SOMETHING ELSE.


...BECAUSE THIS COUNTRY SUPPORTS ITS TROOPS! AMERICA LOOKS AFTER ITS WARRIORS! THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO FIGHT OUR WARS, WE DON'T JUST SHUT THEM UP WITH A COUPLE OF MEDALS AND PUT THEM OUT TO GRASS...!
SUSAN L. RAYNER FOR SENATOR
BUT I HAVE SPOKEN TO VETERANS' GROUPS AND WOUNDED HEROES RIGHT ACROSS THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS, AND I CAN TELL YOU THERE IS MUCH WORK YET TO BE DONE.
THE REPUBLICANS PAY LIP SERVICE TO THE TROOPS THEIR ADMINISTRATION SENT TO WAR, BUT WHAT HAVE THEY ACTUALLY DONE FOR THEM? WELL, I'LL TELL YOU. THEY'VE CUT PROGRAM AFTER PROGRAM, CLOSED HOSPITAL AFTER HOSPITAL. THEY DON'T CARE.
SUSAN L. RAYNER FOR SENATOR
WHEN I PROVIDED THE DATA THAT LED TO THE DEFEAT OF LAST YEAR'S SUPERHUMAN INSURRECTION, MY FIRST THOUGHT WAS FOR THE PILOTS AND MARINES WHO WOULD HAVE TO DO BATTLE THAT DAY. AND I RESOLVED THEN AND THERE THAT WERE THEY TO BE WOUNDED, I WOULD NOT ABANDON THOSE AMERICAN WARRIORS--ANY MORE THAN I WOULD LEAVE MY OWN AGENTS, THE UNSUNG HEROES OF SO MANY COVERT CONFLICTS, TO TWIST IN THE WIND.
I SAID TO MYSELF--I CANNOT SIMPLY WALK AWAY FROM THIS. I WILL SEEK ELECTION TO THE SENATE. AND I WILL COME BACK TO WASHINGTON AND FIGHT, FOR THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO FIGHT FOR US...
AND I ALSO SAID--
I'M A WHORE!


I'M A WHORE, I'M A WHORE! I'M A FUCKING WHORE!
HEH HEH HEH HEH!
I'M A DIRTY FUCKING WHORE GETTING FUCKED BY A PIG!
HA HA HA HA HA HA...!
FOR
RAYNER
SENATOR


OH GOD, OH FUCK--OH JESUS CHRIST, YOU'RE TEARING ME APART, YOU BASTARD--!
OH, THAT'S IT, THAT'S IT! OH, FUCK!
OH GOD I'M GONNA COME, JUST LIKE THE DIRTY WHORE I AAAAAAAAAAHH
RAYNER is RIGHT


RAYNER
SENATOR


SUSAN RAYNER IS A WHORE
RAYNE


UHH... UHH... UHH... AAAAH!!
FIND IT, YOU ASSHOLES, WHERE THE FUCK IS IT COMING FROM--?
OH MY FUCKING GOD, YOU'RE GOING TO KILL ME...!
OH, FUCK MY FUCKING SLUTTY CUNT... THAT'S RIGHT, FUCK MY WHORE'S CUNT OH GOD--
HA HA HA! HA HA HA!
YOU MOTHERFUCKER-- OH, WHY AM I DOING THIS, WHAT A WHORE--!
WHO THE FUCK COULD--
NO.
HA HA HA HA HA!
HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH...!


YOU'RE A NASTY WEE MAN, AREN'T YOU, MONKEY?
RIGHT, I'M GONNA HAVE TO HANG UP NOW. I THINK I CAN HEAR WHAT YOU'RE DOIN' THERE.
CHEERIO.
THEN AGAIN, MAYBE SHE SHOULD'VE SEEN SENSE AN' JUST CONFIRMED YER PROMOTION.
YOU'RE WELCOME. TA FOR THE PASSPORT, BY THE WAY.

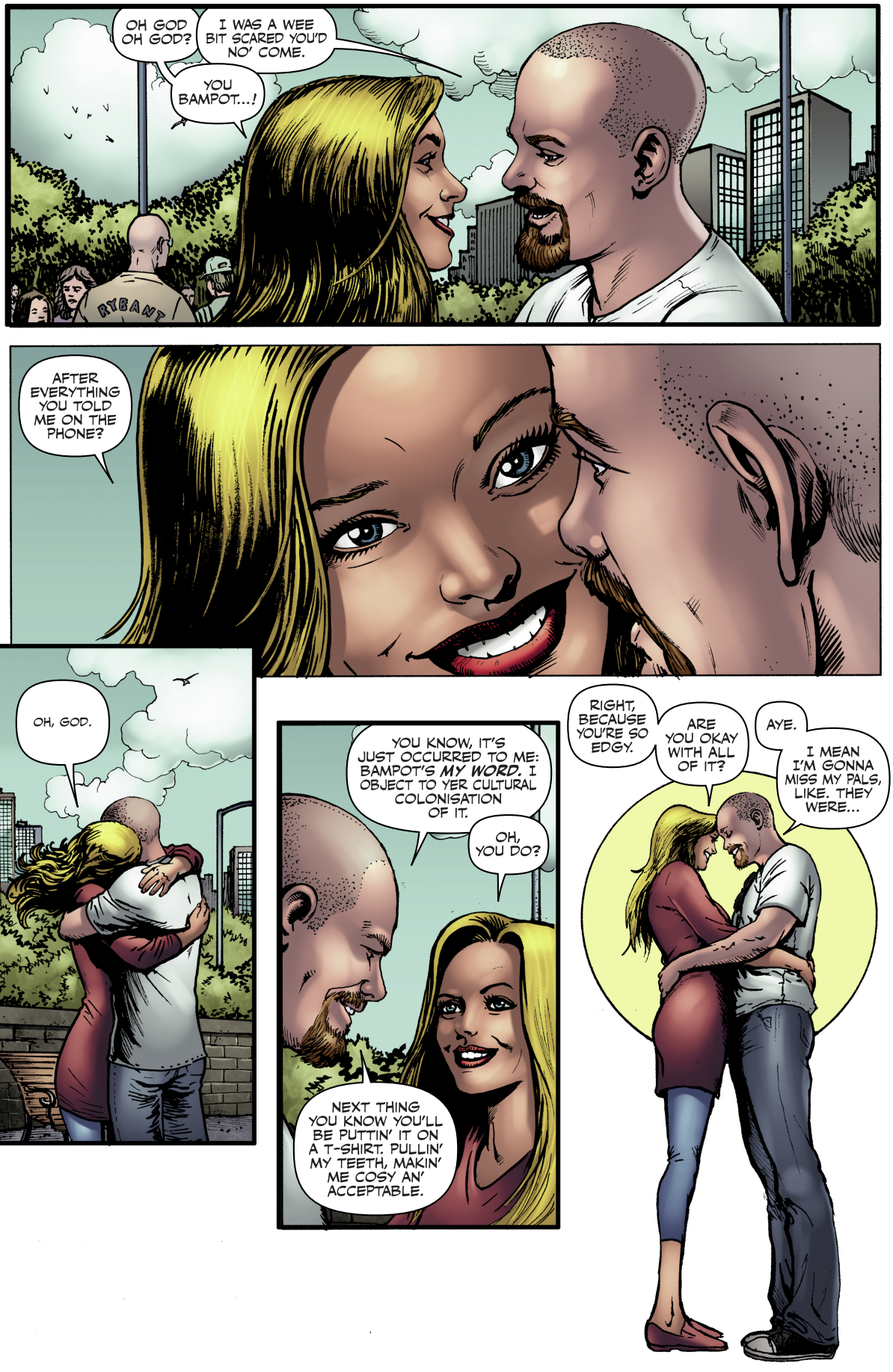

I WOULDN'T SAY BY HIS FINGERNAILS. I WOULDN'T EVEN SAY LAME DUCK.
AC
BUT EVERYONE KNOWS WHAT HE PULLED, EVERYONE KNOWS HE ESCAPED THE HANGMAN BY THE SKIN OF HIS TEETH, AND HE'S GOING TO NEED A WIN--A BIG WIN--TO REMIND THE POWERS THAT BE HOW VALUABLE HE IS...
ARE THEY READY?
I SAW IT COMING
SHOUT OUT
with JAYSON BLAIR
OH, THERE YOU ARE, SIR, WE DIDN'T HEAR YOU COME IN. YES, THEY'RE READY...
THEN LET'S TAKE A LOOK.
WE THOUGHT THE BEST WAY FORWARD WOULD BE TO EMPHASIZE NOT JUST PURITY BUT CONFORMITY. YOU KNOW--THE OTHERS WENT WRONG BECAUSE THEY STRAYED FROM THE PATH, THEY WOULDN'T FOLLOW THE RULES...
BUT THE NEW GENERATION DON'T EVEN THINK THAT WAY. THERE'S AN IDEAL TO LIVE UP TO HERE. A SINGLENESS OF PURPOSE.


WE'RE THINKING OF SIMPLY CALLING THEM TRUE.
WE'VE SPOKEN TO THE PEOPLE OVER AT VICTORY, THEY'RE ALREADY VERY EXCITED--
THAT ONE HAS AN ERECTION.

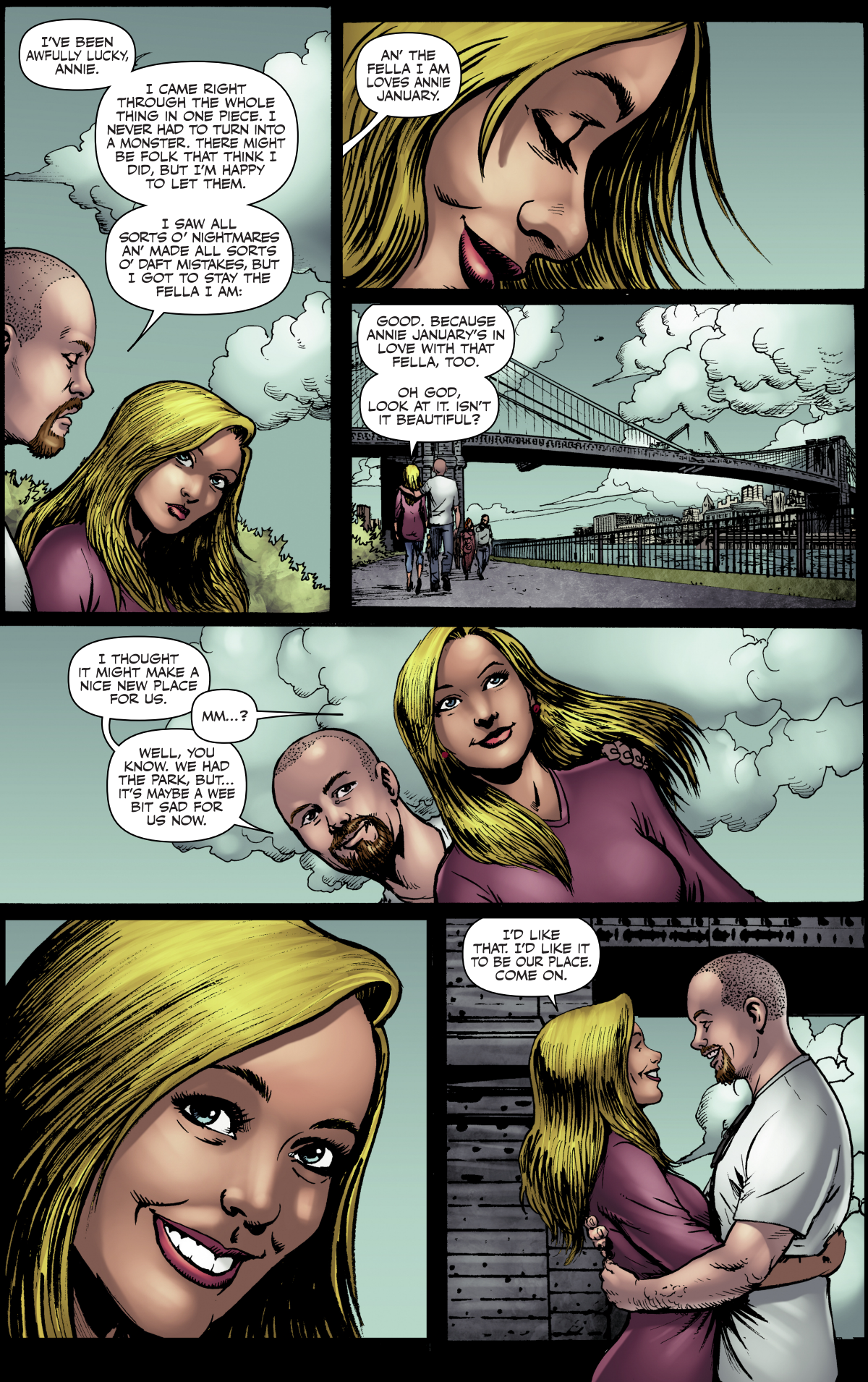

THAT ONE IS SUFFERING SOME KIND OF WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS.
THAT ONE IS PLAINLY THE DEEP.
YES...WELL, WE DID EXPERIMENT WITH VARIOUS FORMS OF BEHAVIOURAL INHIBITOR, BUT THE RESULTS...
LET'S JUST SAY THEY MADE THE RESURRECTION PROCESS LOOK GOOD.
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO START AGAIN.
WHAT?
WHAT *WITH?*
SOMETHING THAT ISN'T JUST THE SAME OLD SHIT DRESSED UP.
AND WHERE EXACTLY DO YOU PROPOSE TO FIND THAT?
THEY'RE NEVER GOING TO CHANGE, YOU KNOW, THEY'RE ALWAYS GOING TO HAVE EXACTLY THE SAME SET OF PROBLEMS...!

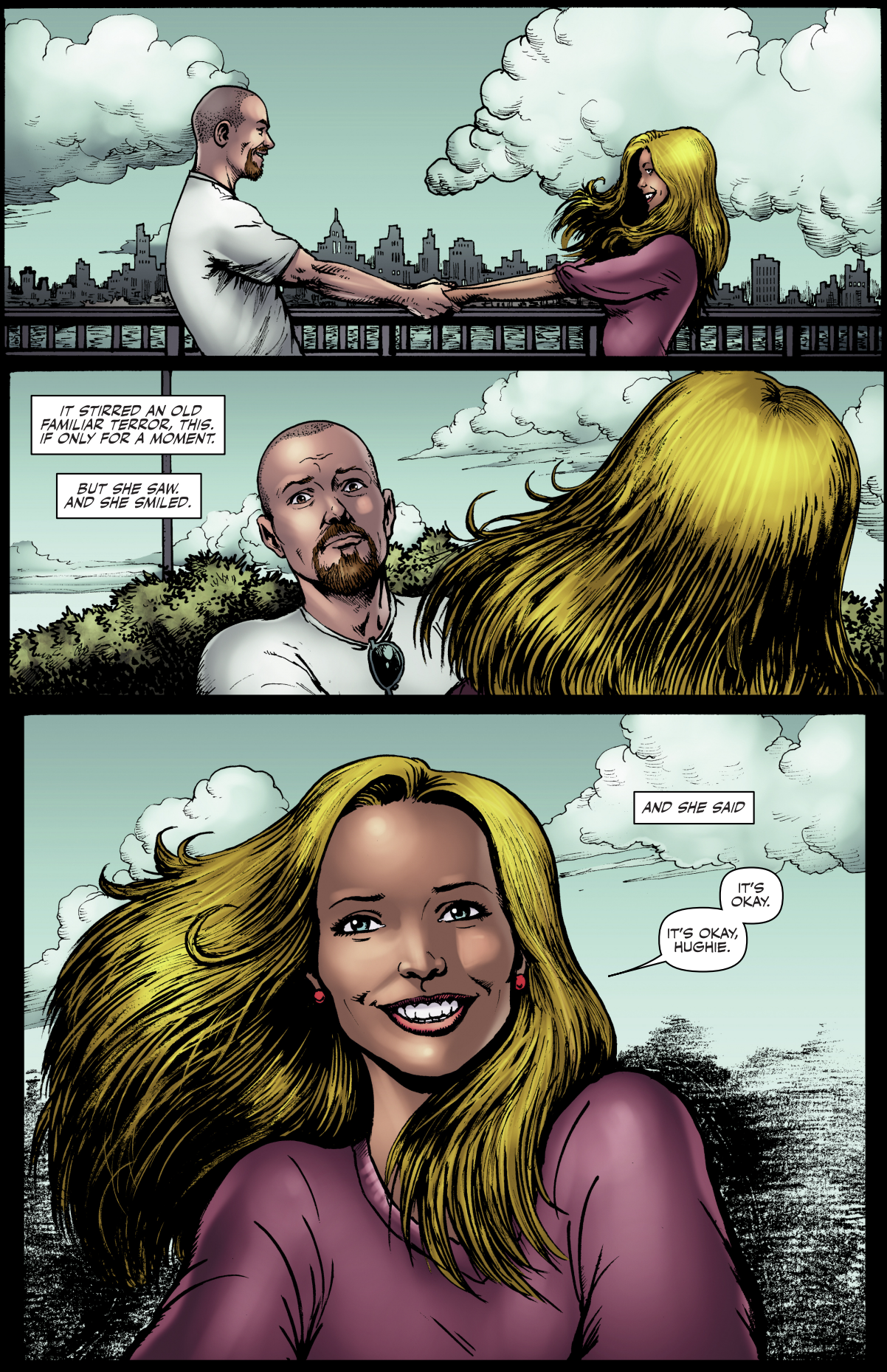

BAD PRODUCT.


SAY JINGS FOR ME.
JINGS...
THERE YOU GO.
OH, GOD.
OH, GOD.


OH GOD OH GOD?
I WAS A WEE BIT SCARED YOU'D NO' COME.
YOU BAMPOT...!
RYBANT
AFTER EVERYTHING YOU TOLD ME ON THE PHONE?
OH, GOD.
YOU KNOW, IT'S JUST OCCURRED TO ME: BAMPOT'S *MY WORD.* I OBJECT TO YER CULTURAL COLONISATION OF IT.
OH, YOU DO?
NEXT THING YOU KNOW YOU'LL BE PUTTIN' IT ON A T-SHIRT. PULLIN' MY TEETH, MAKIN' ME COSY AN' ACCEPTABLE.
RIGHT, BECAUSE YOU'RE SO EDGY.
ARE YOU OKAY WITH ALL OF IT?
AYE.
I MEAN I'M GONNA MISS MY PALS, LIKE. THEY WERE...


THERE WAS NOTHIN' LIKE THEM IN THE WORLD.
WHAT ABOUT THE GUY, THE ONE IN CHARGE?
HE'S IN HELL.
KICKIN' THE *FUCK* OUT O' THE DEVIL.
AN' NOW I NEVER WANNA TALK ABOUT HIM AGAIN.


I'VE BEEN AWFULLY LUCKY, ANNIE.
I CAME RIGHT THROUGH THE WHOLE THING IN ONE PIECE. I NEVER HAD TO TURN INTO A MONSTER. THERE MIGHT BE FOLK THAT THINK I DID, BUT I'M HAPPY TO LET THEM.
I SAW ALL SORTS O' NIGHTMARES AN' MADE ALL SORTS O' DAFT MISTAKES, BUT I GOT TO STAY THE FELLA I AM:
AN' THE FELLA I AM LOVES ANNIE JANUARY.
GOOD. BECAUSE ANNIE JANUARY'S IN LOVE WITH THAT FELLA, TOO.
OH GOD, LOOK AT IT. ISN'T IT BEAUTIFUL?
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT MAKE A NICE NEW PLACE FOR US.
MM...?
WELL, YOU KNOW. WE HAD THE PARK, BUT... IT'S MAYBE A WEE BIT SAD FOR US NOW.
I'D LIKE THAT. I'D LIKE IT TO BE OUR PLACE. COME ON.


IT STIRRED AN OLD FAMILIAR TERROR, THIS. IF ONLY FOR A MOMENT.
BUT SHE SAW. AND SHE SMILED.
AND SHE SAID
IT'S OKAY.
IT'S OKAY, HUGHIE.



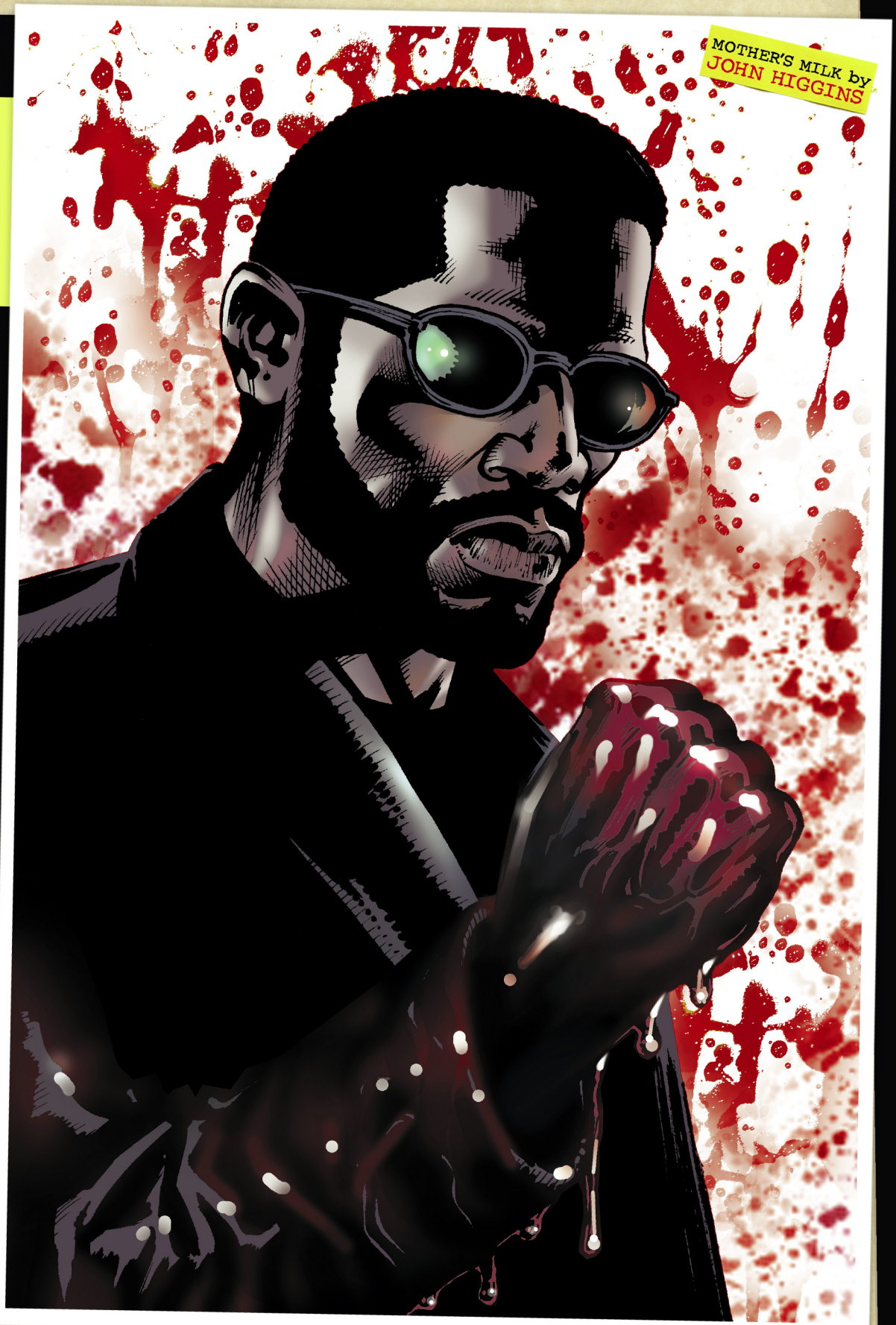
YOU FOUND ME

BONUS MATERIALS


BUTCHER by
RUSS BRAUN


HUGHIE by
JOHN McCREA
ALL STAR
20 12


THE FEMALE by
CARLOS EZQUERRA
EZQUERRA


MOTHER'S MILK by
JOHN HIGGINS


THE FRENCHMAN by
PETER SNEJBJERG

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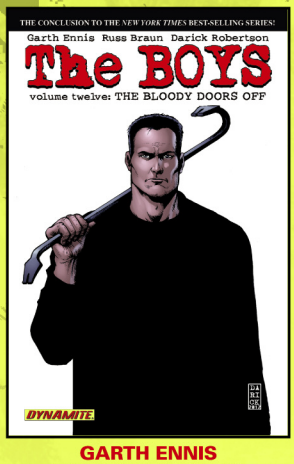

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Ennis, Ezquerra

(Garth Ennis') The Complete Battlefields V1
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Ennis, Holden

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The Boys V1 The Name of the Game
Ennis, Robertson

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The Boys V4 We Gotta Go Now
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The Boys V5 Herogasm
Ennis, McCrea

The Boys V6 The Self-Preservation Society
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The Boys V7 The Innocents
Ennis, Robertson, Braun

The Boys V8 Highland Laddie
Ennis, McCrea

The Boys V9 The Big Ride
Ennis, Braun

The Boys V10: Butcher, Baker, Candlestickmaker
Ennis, Robertson

The Boys V11 Over the Hill With the Swords of a Thousand Men
Ennis, Braun

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Ennis, Robertson, more

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Green Hornet V3 Idols
Hester, Lau

Green Hornet V4 Red Hand
Hester, Smith, Vitorino, more

Green Hornet: Blood Ties
Parks, Desjardins

The Green Hornet: Year One V1 The Sting of Justice
Wagner, Campbell

The Green Hornet: Year One V2 The Biggest of All Game
Wagner, Campbell

The Green Hornet Parallel Lives
Nitz, Raynor

The Green Hornet Golden Age Re-Mastered
Various

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Parks, Garza, Bernard

Kato V2 Living in America
Parks, Bernard

Kato Origins V1 Way of the Ninja
Nitz, Worley

Kato Origins V2 The Hellfire Club
Nitz, Worley



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Conway, Lau

Vampirella Masters Series V3 Mark Millar
Millar, Mayhew

Vampirella Masters Series V4 Visionaries
Moore, Busiek, Loeb, more

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Busiek, Sniegoski, more

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Various

Vampirella Archives V4
Various

Vampirella Archives V5
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Vampirella V1 Crown of Worms
Trautman, Reis, Geovani

Vampirella V2 A Murder of Crows
Trautman, Neves, more

Vampirella V3 Throne of Skulls
Trautman, Malaga, more

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Ortega, Rubi

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Nelson, Herbert

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Lieberman, Rubi

Queen Sonja V4 Son of Set
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Red Sonja: Wrath of the Gods
Lieberman, Geovani

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