

FROM THE PAGES OF HELLBOY

# LOBSTER JOHNSON™



## GET THE LOBSTER!

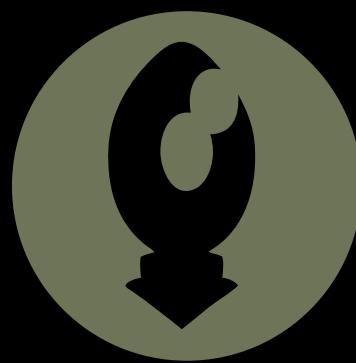
MIKE MIGNOLA

JOHN ARCUDE

TONCI ZONJIC

DAVE STEWART





Created by  
***MIKE MIGNOLA***



RO  
2013

# LOBSTER JOHNSON<sup>TM</sup>

## GET THE LOBSTER

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This book collects *Lobster Johnson: Get the Lobster* #1–#5.

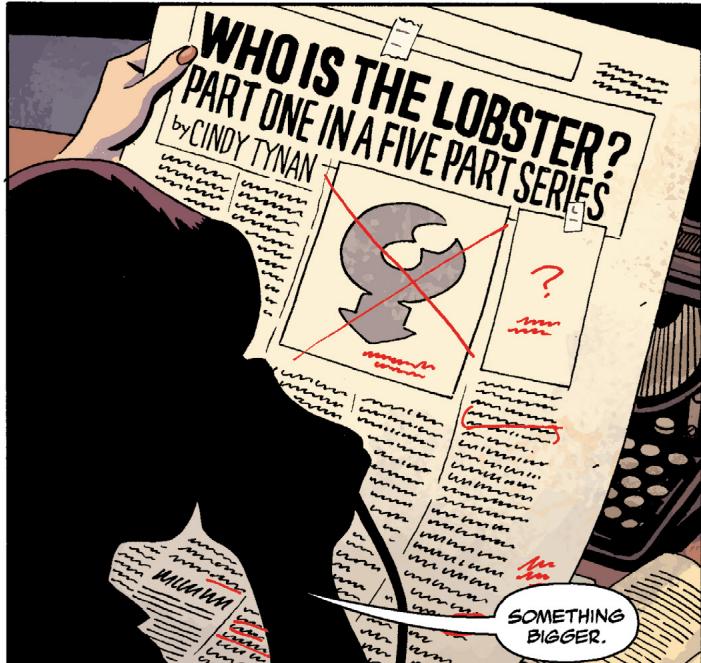
# CHAPTER ONE





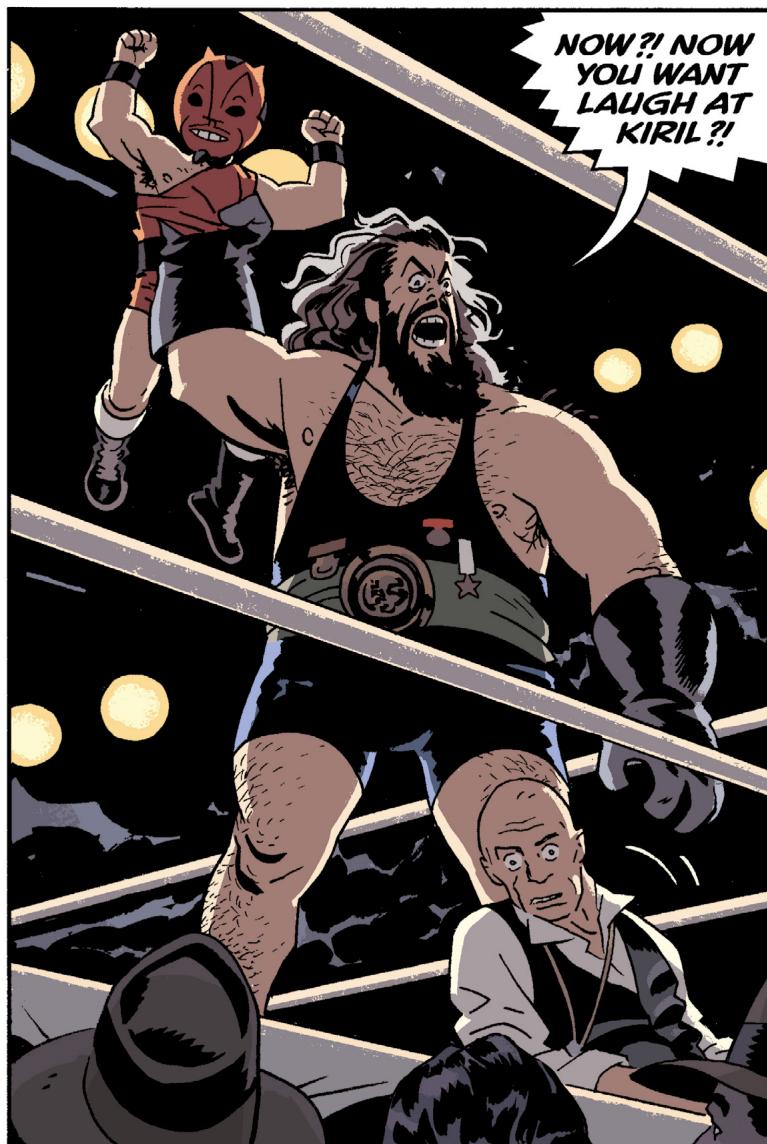
OCTOBER  
1934.





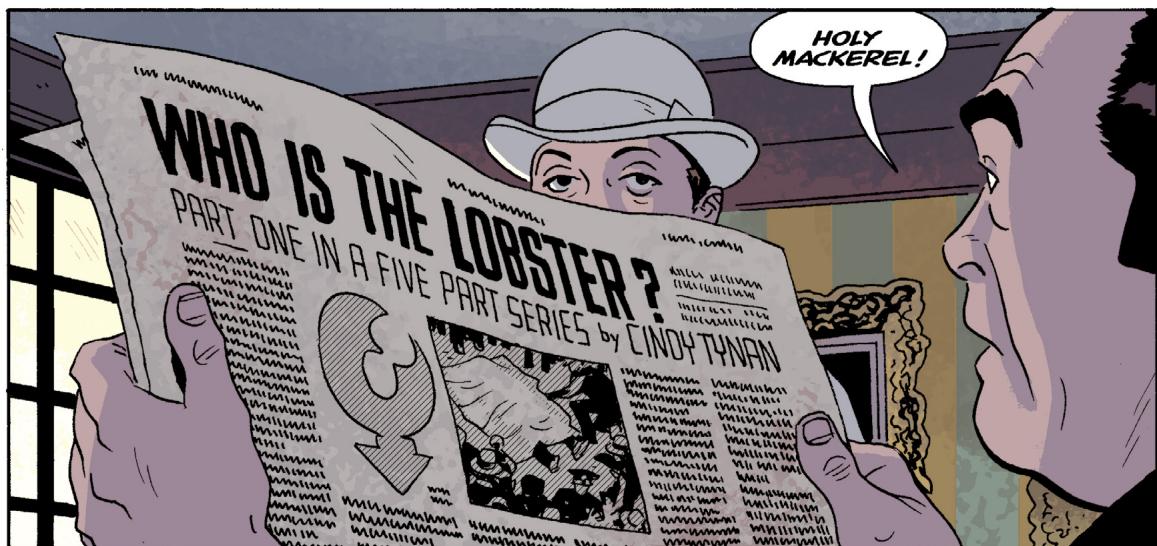
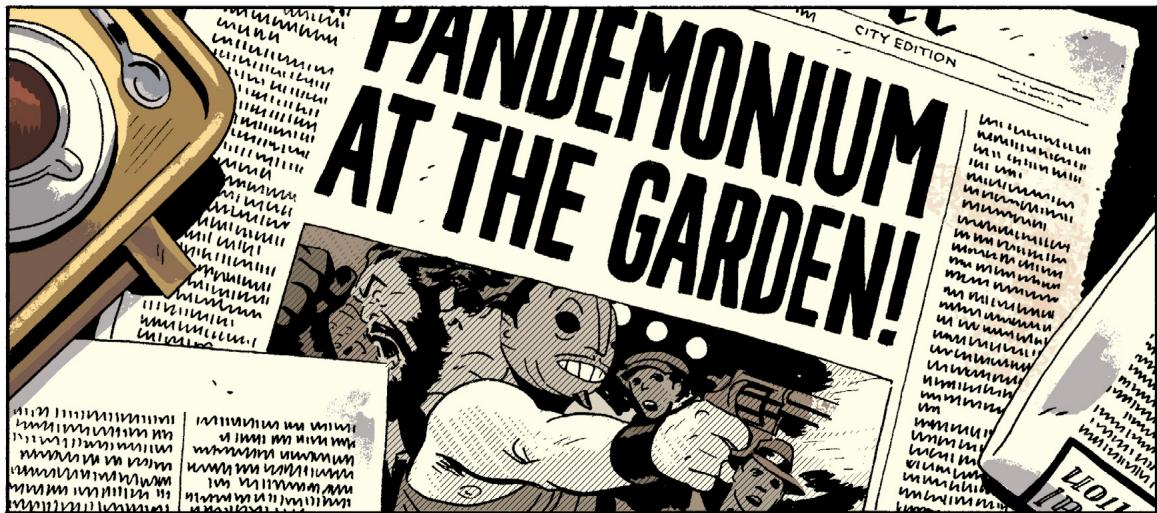
















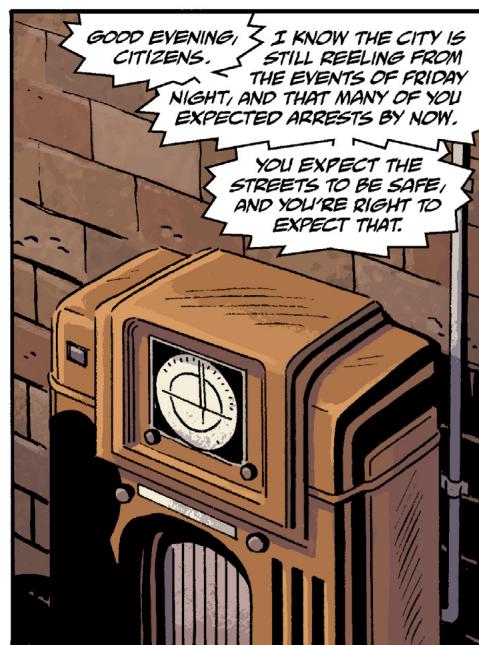


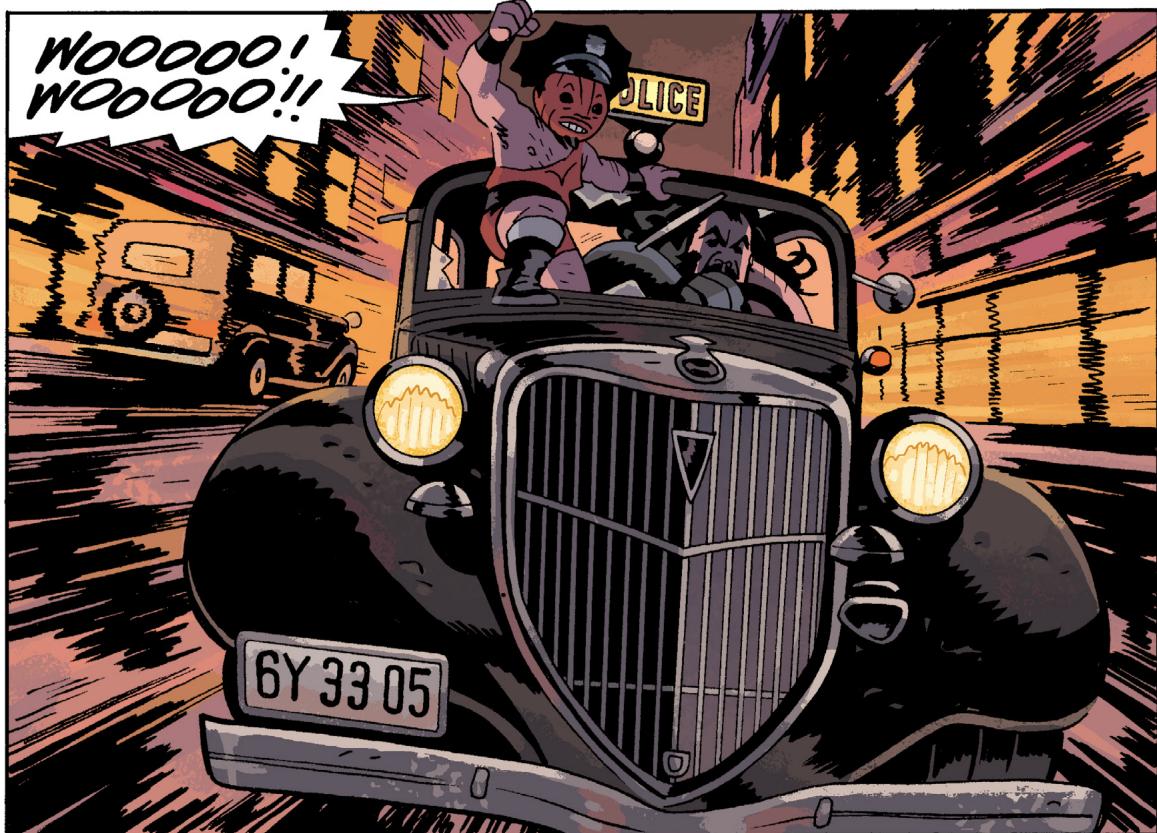
HI, MR.  
METELL?

I'M ROBERT  
ISHERWOOD.

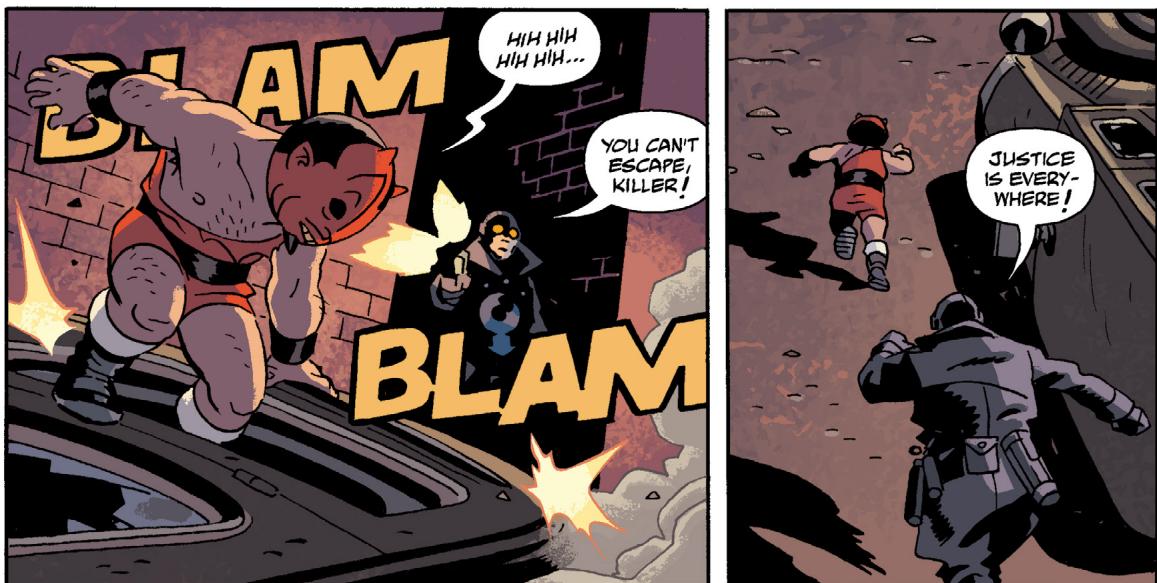
"MR.  
METELL? ARE YOU  
KIDDING  
ME?"

"HERE,  
LET  
ME--"  
KID, I'M NOT  
PARALYZED!

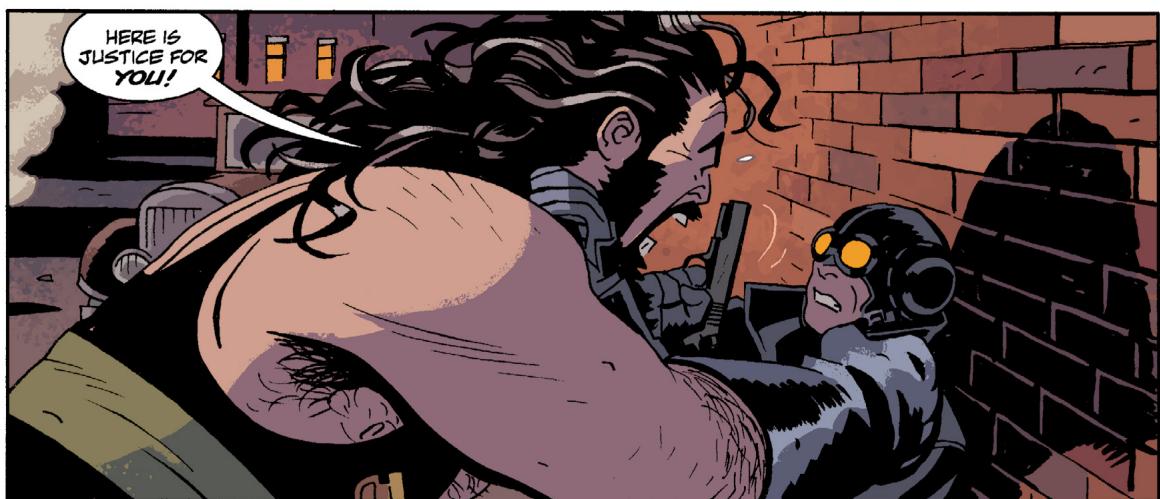






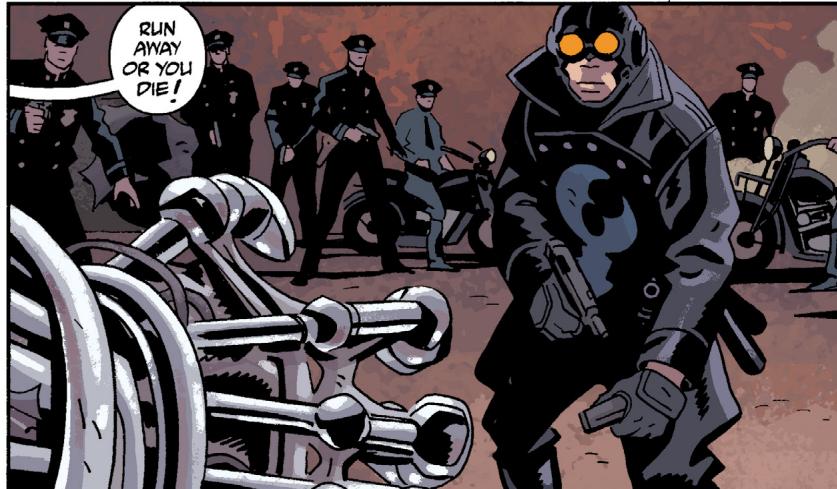


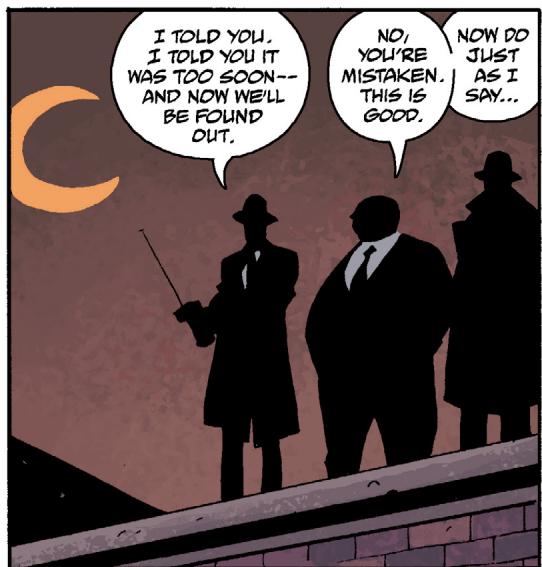
KRONCH

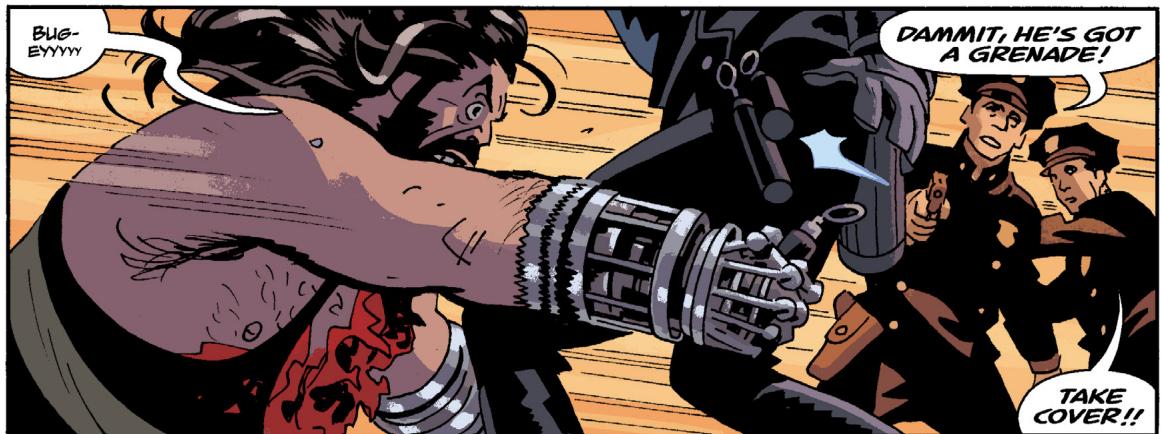














# CHAPTER TWO





YOU! YOU RADIO AND NEWSPAPER MEN HAVE MADE THIS MAN A HERO, AND HE'S NOT A HERO!

HE'S IN HIS THIRD YEAR OF A MURDEROUS RAMPAGE AGAINST ALLEGED CRIMINALS, AND WE'VE ALL LET HIM GET AWAY WITH IT.

AS A RESULT, LAST NIGHT MY MEN--MEMBERS OF YOUR POLICE FORCE--WERE PUT AT RISK AS THEY TRIED TO ARREST THE RUSSIAN BEAR AND A LOOSE GRENADE EXPLODED AMONG THEM.

A GRENADE FROM THE "LOBSTER'S" PERSONAL ARSENAL!



WE DO NOT FIGHT CRIME IN NEW YORK CITY WITH HAND GRENADES!

CHIEF HIGGINS, DIDN'T THE DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION ASSUME CONTROL OF THE LOBSTER CASE LAST YEAR?

THE D.O.I. HAS BEEN NOTIFIED, BUT HE'S A DIRECT DANGER TO NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICERS NOW, AND THAT PLACES HIM SQUARELY IN OUR JURISDICTION.



THIS ISN'T TRENCH WARFARE! THIS IS THE GREATEST CITY IN THE WORLD, AND I WON'T HAVE ONE MANIAC BLOWING IT TO PIECES!



CHIEF, THE GARTBERG ZEPPELIN HAS BROUGHT INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION TO NEW YORK. DOES THAT PUT MORE PRESSURE ON YOU?

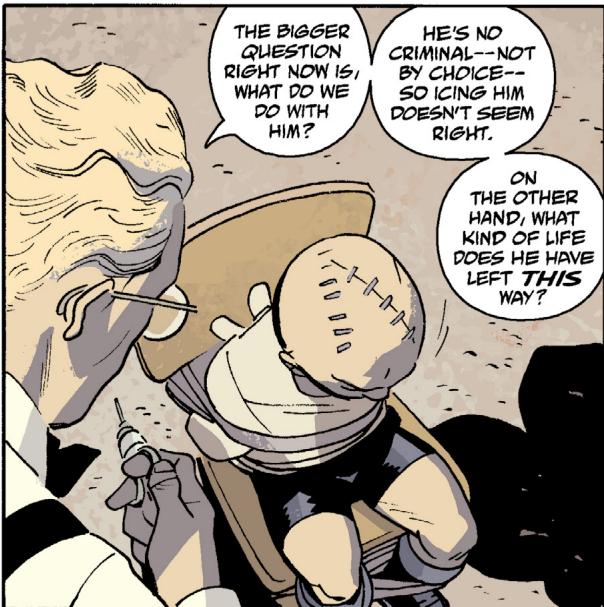
THE GARTBERG LEAVES FOR CHICAGO TOMORROW, AND UNLESS THE LOBSTER LEAVES WITH IT, HE'LL STILL BE A WANTED MAN.

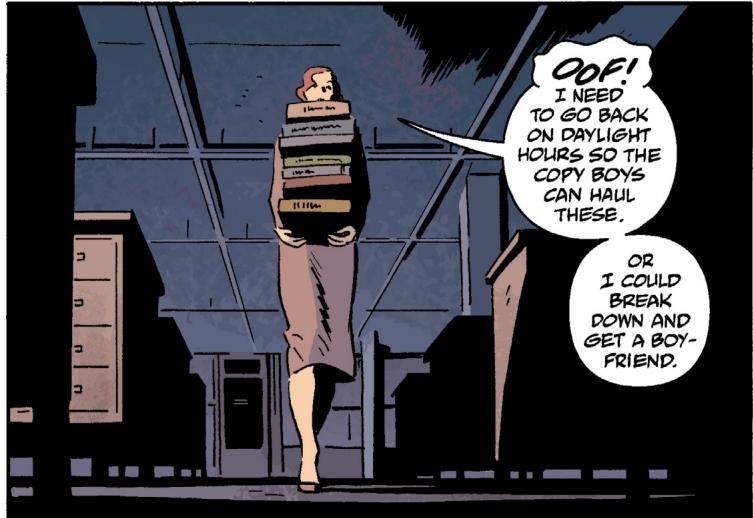
DON'T LOOK FOR ANY EXCUSES FOR WHAT I'M SAYING HERE.

THE LOBSTER'S REIGN OF TERROR IS OVER! PLAIN AND SIMPLE.

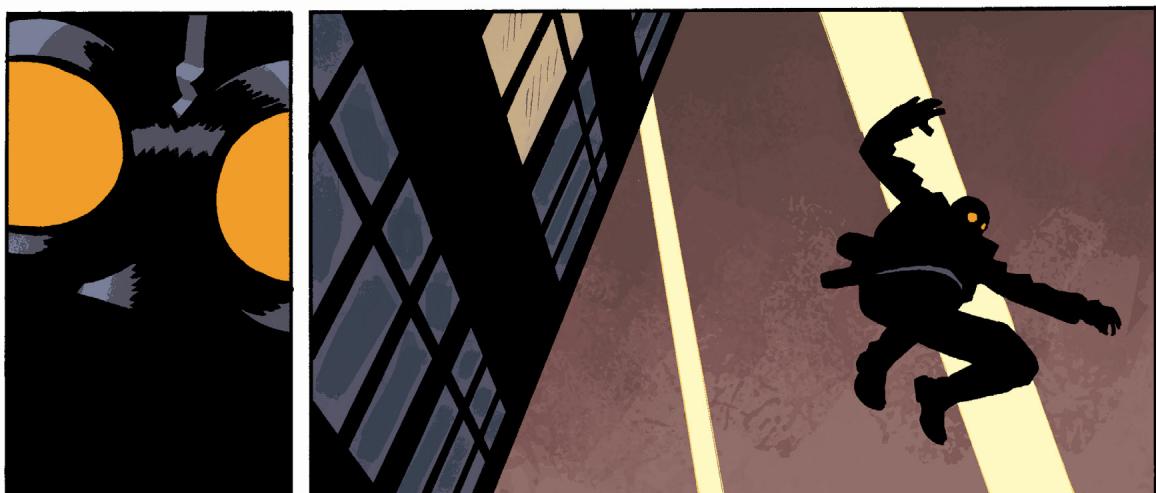
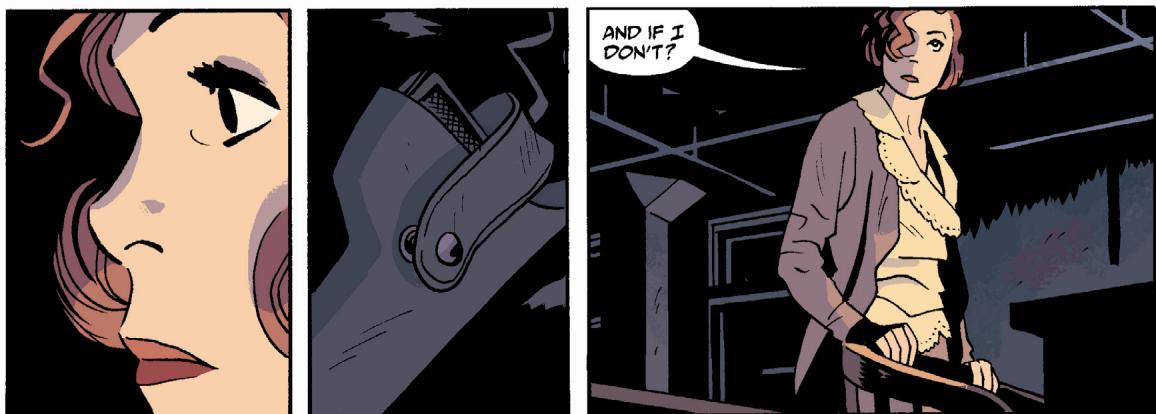














BUT SHE DON'T MENTION ME EVEN ONCE-- IN EITHER CHAPTER.

NOT BY NAME, ANYHOW.

# WHO IS THE LOBSTER?

PART TWO: MINT'S PARKER AND THE EAST RIVER DRIVE

by CYNTHIA TYNAN

WHATEVER HAPPENED IN THE WINTER OF 1932, MR. WALD, YOU WERE NEVER SO MUCH AS QUESTIONED.

AND LIBEL, IT IS EXPENSIVE FOR NEWSPAPERS.

WHO AM I ABOUT TO SUE? MANHATTAN D.A. FINDS OUT WHERE I AM. IT'S WARRANTS ALL AROUND.



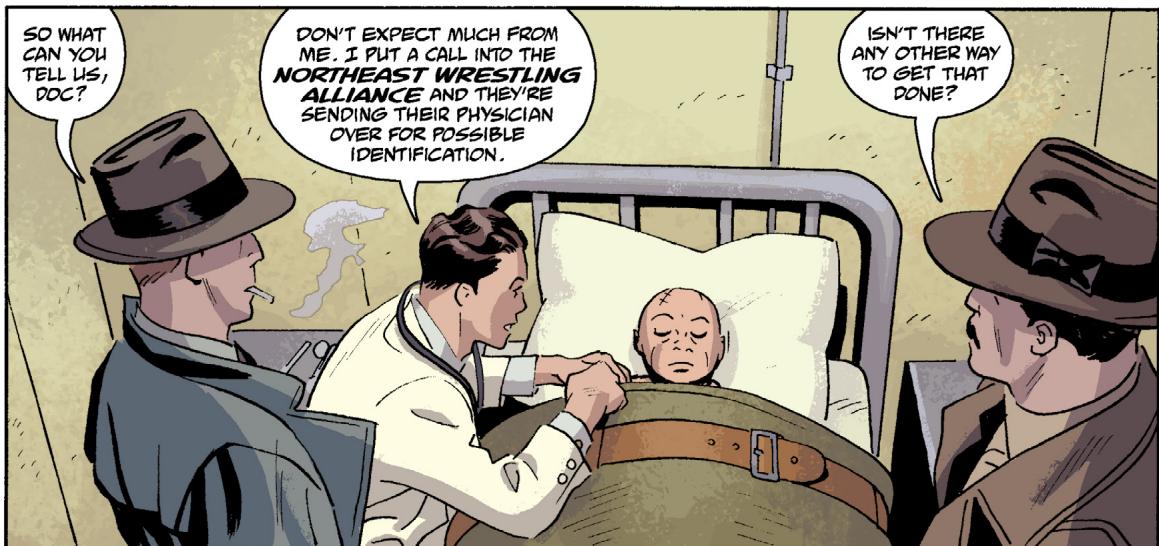
YES, SIR. I READ IT THIS MORNING.

OKAY, SO YOU'RE AHEAD OF ME. WHAT'S NEW?

WAY I SEE IT, THAT STILL PUTS YOU A FEW STEPS BEHIND THE TYNAN DOLL, DON'T IT?

EDWARD GIBBON

FOR THE MOMENT.

















BY ALL ACCOUNTS "THE LOBSTER"  
FOUGHT FEROCIOUSLY AND  
DEFTLY FOR HOURS.

HE WAS NOT  
CAPTURED,  
AND HIS DEATH  
WAS NEVER  
CONFIRMED.

MUDGING THIS  
ISSUE FURTHER,  
THERE ARE  
REPORTS THAT  
THE SAME NIGHT  
OF THE BATTLE,  
THE LOBSTER  
WAS SEEN IN  
ST. CROIX.

WHILE THERE HE VISITED  
THE BROTHEL OF ONE OF  
HIS MANY PARAMOURS,  
OLIVIA DASCHER.



THE TWO WERE SAID  
TO HAVE SPENT A NOT  
UNEVENTFUL NIGHT  
TOGETHER--



--MAKING THE EVENTS  
OF THE MORNING  
TROUBLING INDEED.





WHATEVER MAY HAVE OCCURRED ON THAT NIGHT, DASCHER DID GIVE BIRTH TO TWIN BOYS NINE MONTHS LATER.



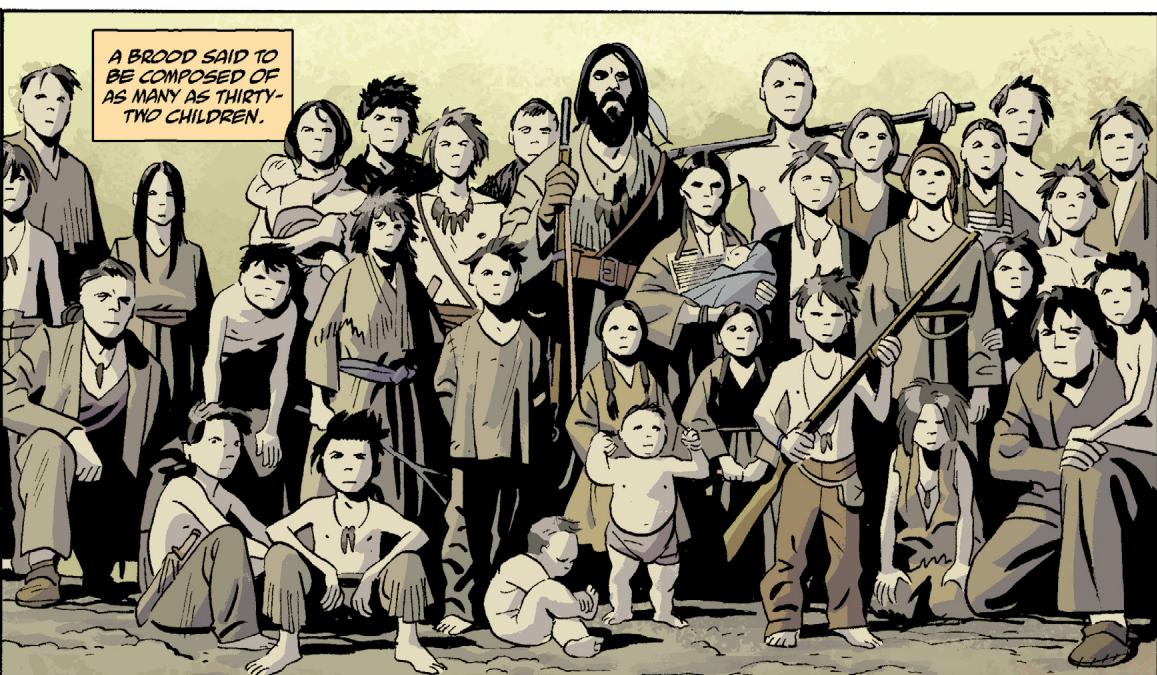
ONE OF THESE TWINS, OBAHDAS DASCHER, WAS RAISED IN AMERICA.

VARIOUSLY DESCRIBED AS A SCOUT, A TRAPPER, A REGULATOR, AND A BOUNTY MAN, HIS HISTORY IS DIFFICULT TO TRACK--



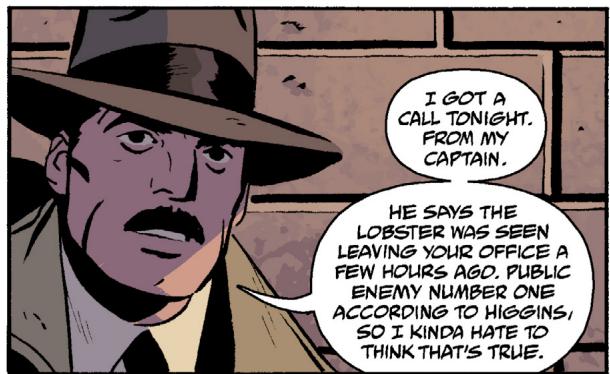
--UNTIL THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR, WHEN DASCHER LED A BAND OF IRREGULARS AGAINST UNION AND CONFEDERATE FORCES.

AFTER APPOMATTOX, HE RETURNED TO HIS WIFE AND FAMILY IN THE DAKOTA TERRITORY.



A BLOOD BROTHERHOOD SAID TO BE COMPOSED OF AS MANY AS THIRTY-TWO CHILDREN.





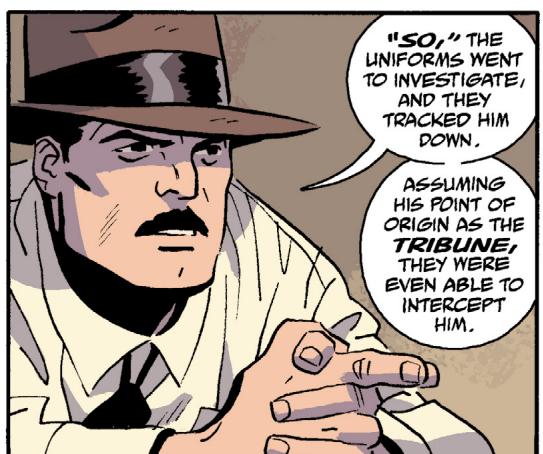
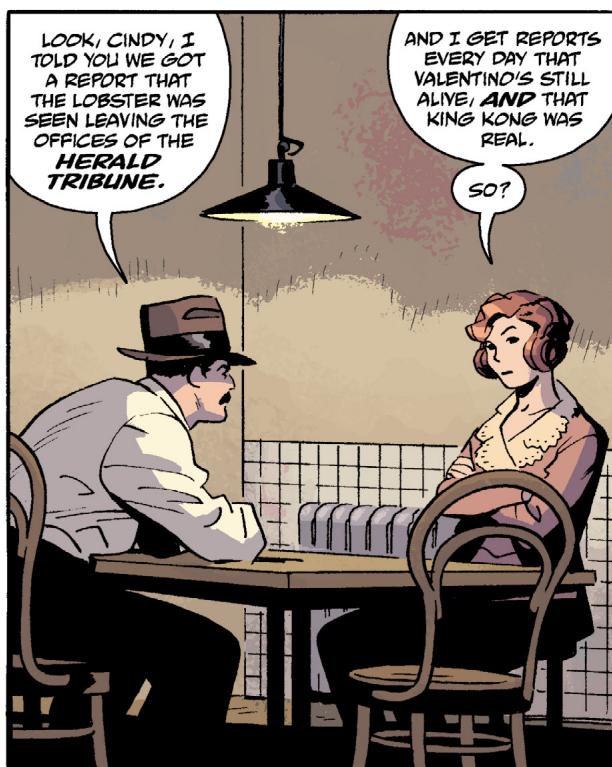


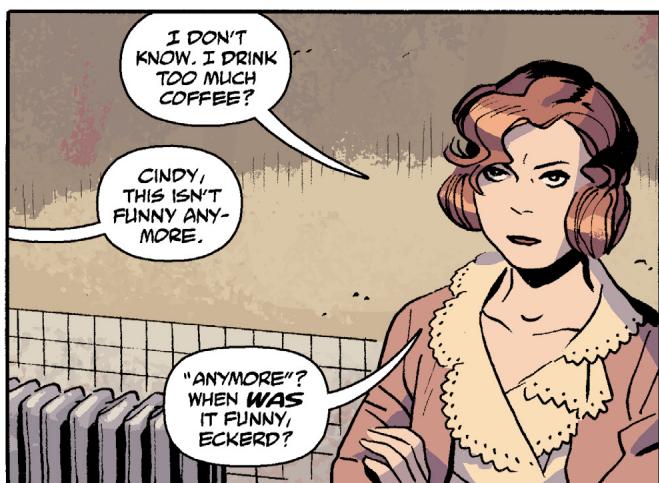
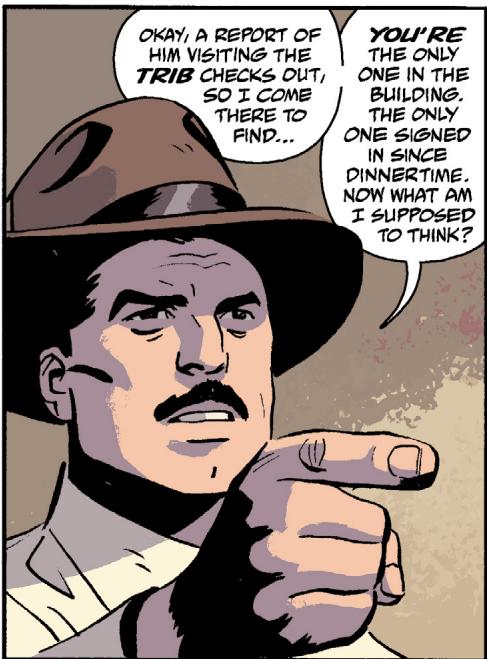


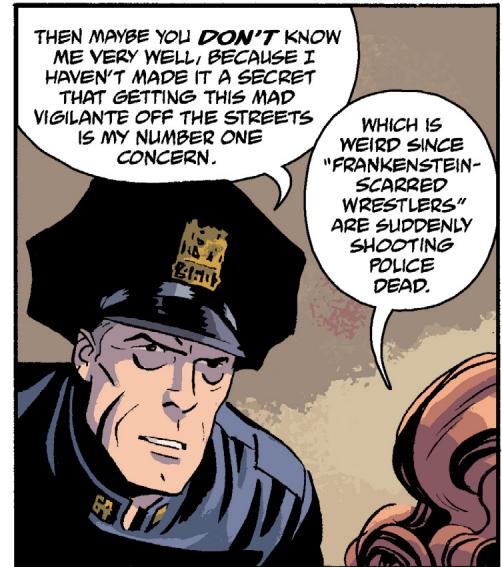
# CHAPTER THREE



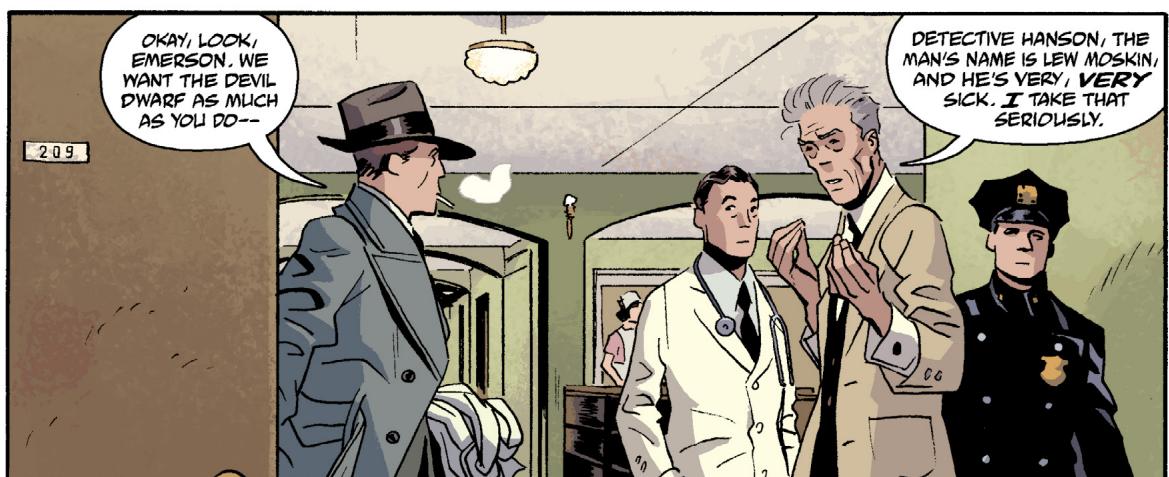




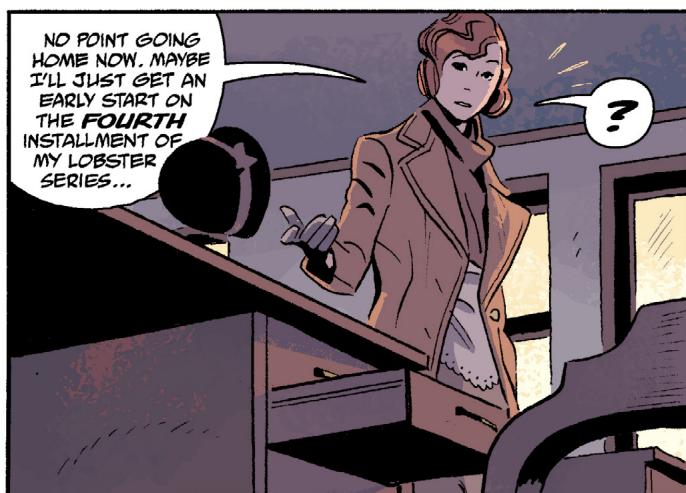
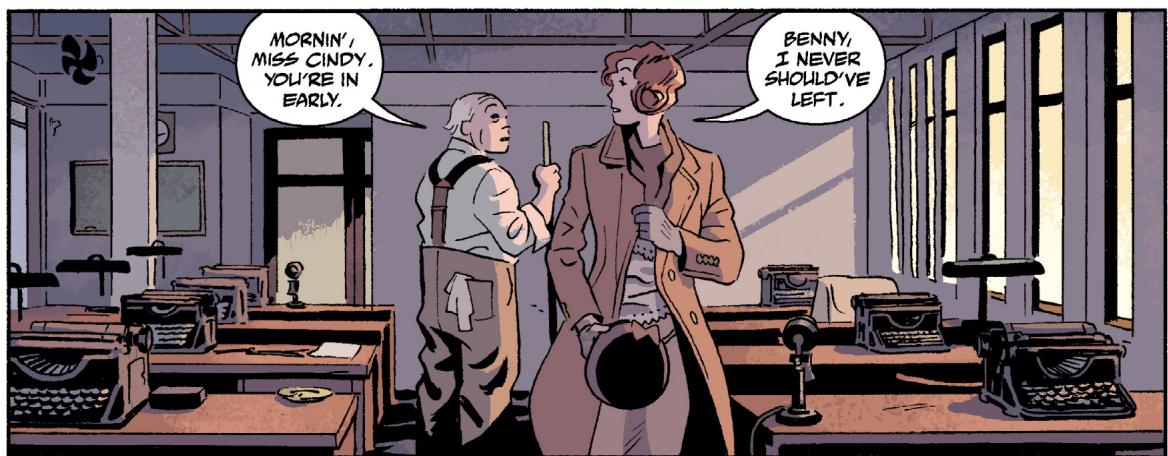


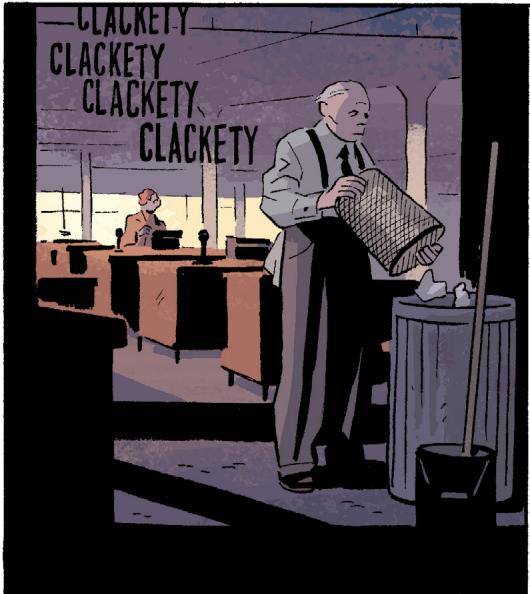
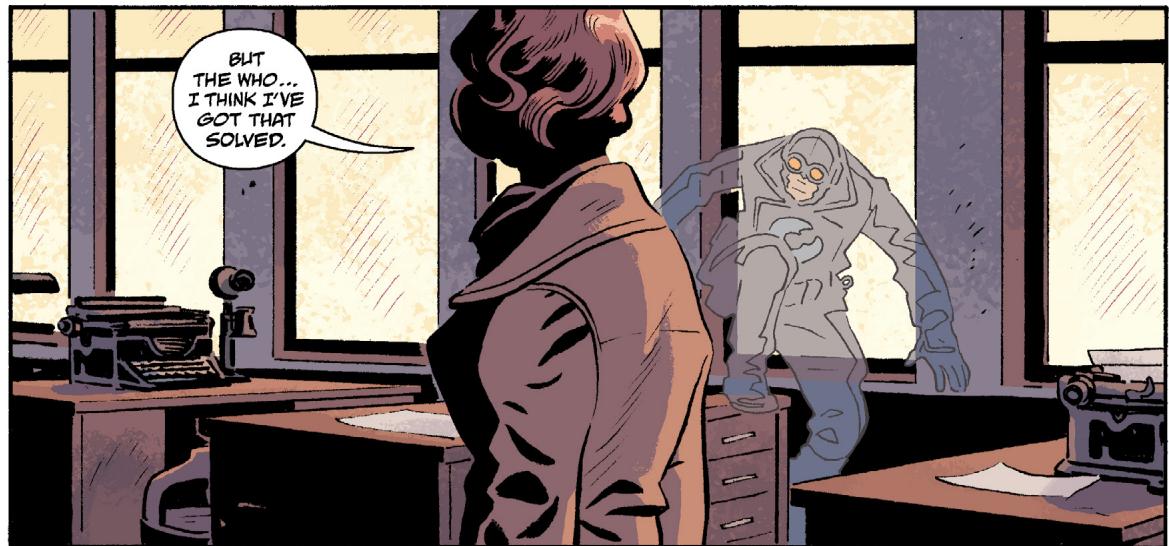
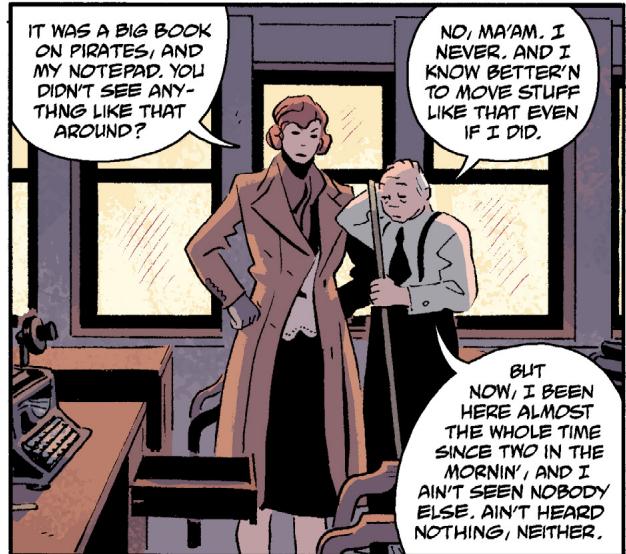










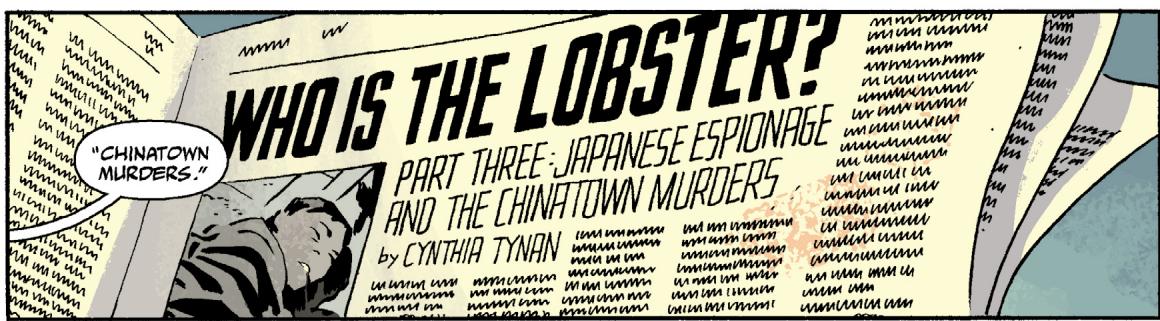


# WHO IS THE LOBSTER?

PART THREE: JAPANESE ESPIONAGE  
AND THE CHINATOWN MURDERS.

by CYNTHIA TYNAN

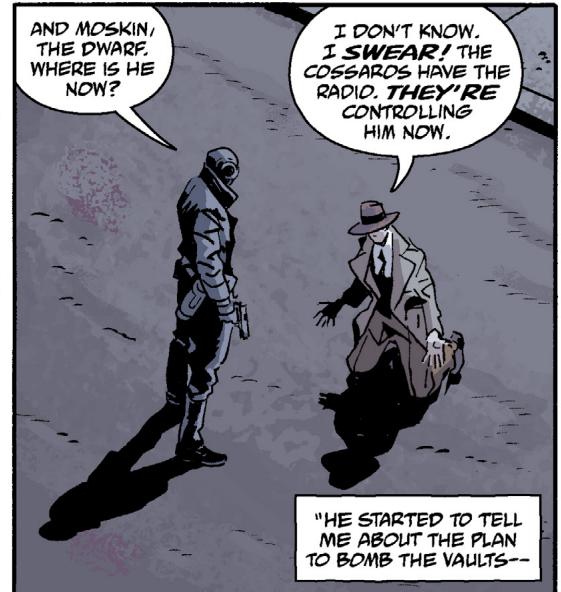
"CHINATOWN MURDERS."

















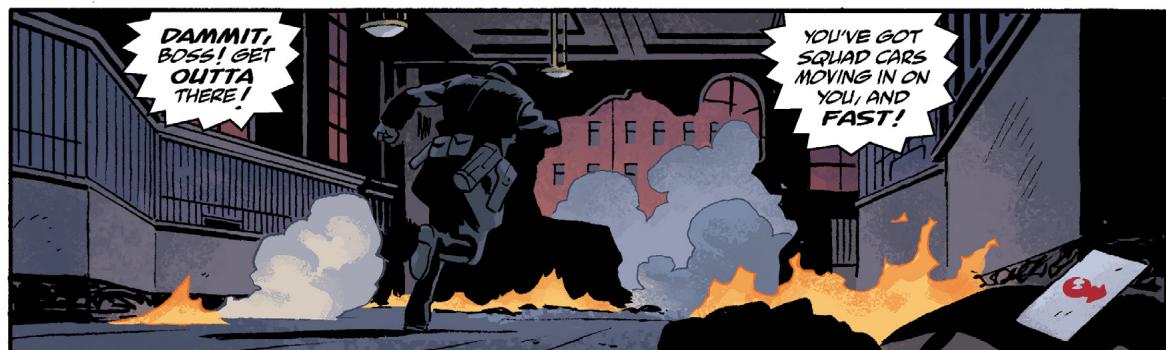


"ALL AVAILABLE UNITS, WE HAVE MULTIPLE REPORTS OF EXPLOSIONS AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS.



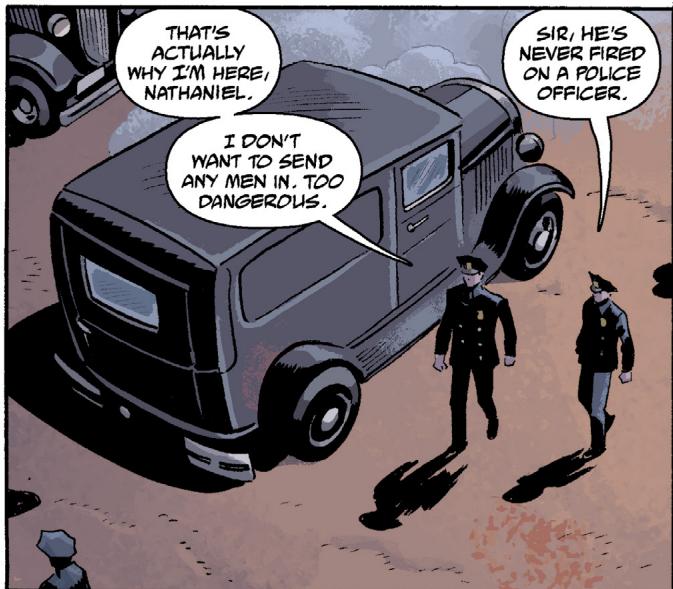
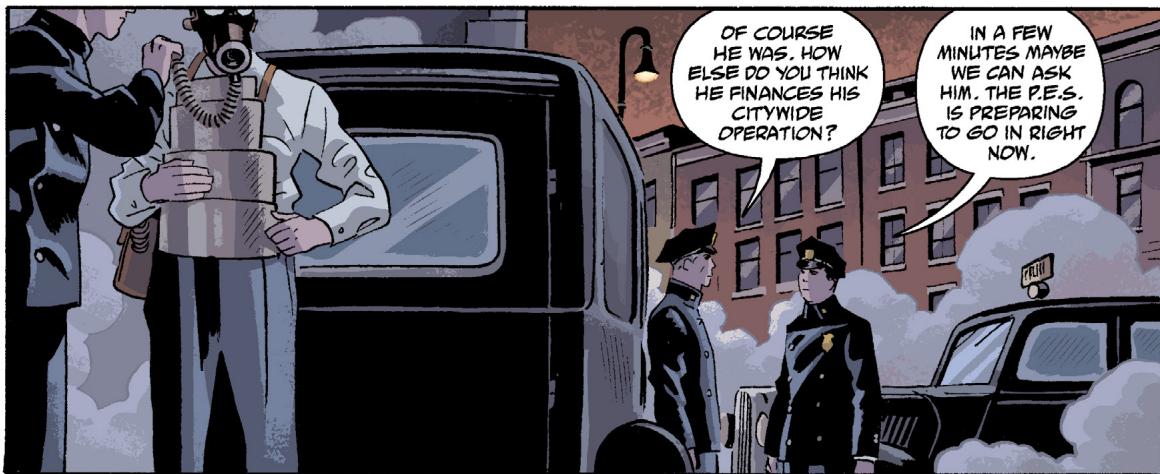
"506 THIRD AVENUE,  
117 WEST TWENTY-  
THIRD STREET, 334  
EAST FIFTY-SIXTH,  
222 MOTT STREET.  
ALL BUILDINGS ARE  
BANKS. ROBBERY IS  
SUSPECTED."

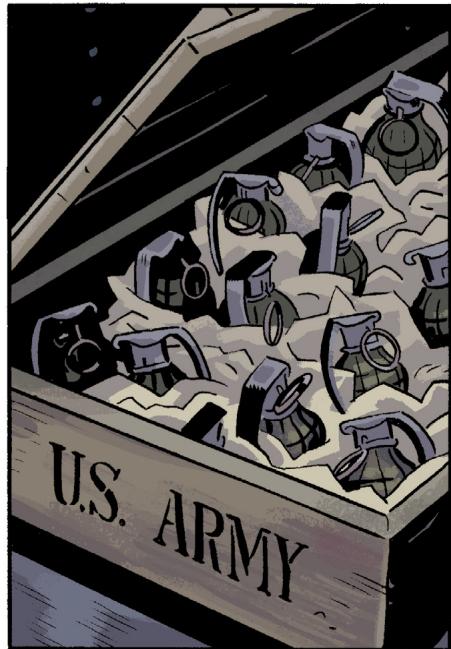
"WITNESS  
ACCOUNTS  
PLACE 'THE  
LOBSTER' AT  
SEVERAL  
ADDRESSES."





\*POLICE EMERGENCY SQUAD--1930S SWAT TEAM

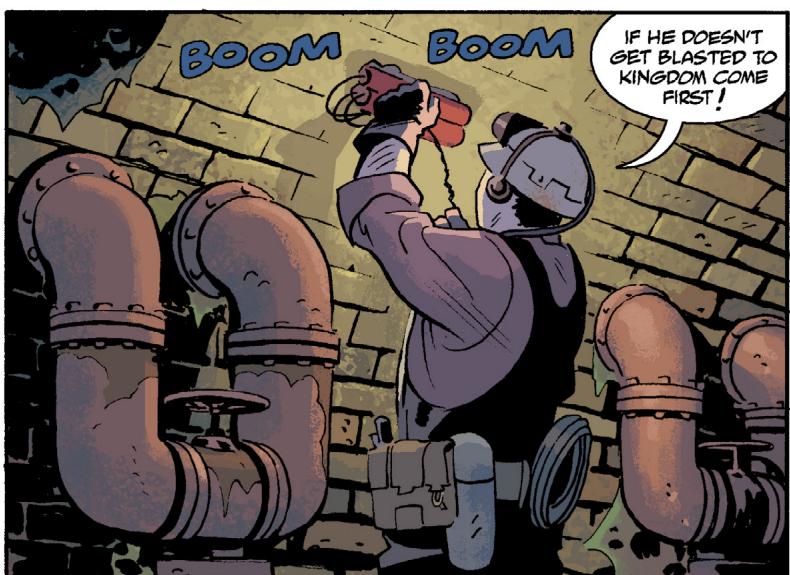
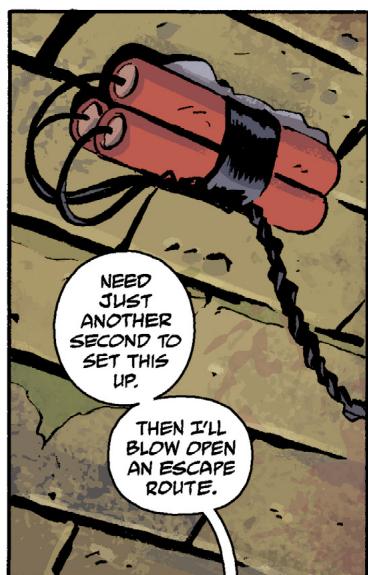
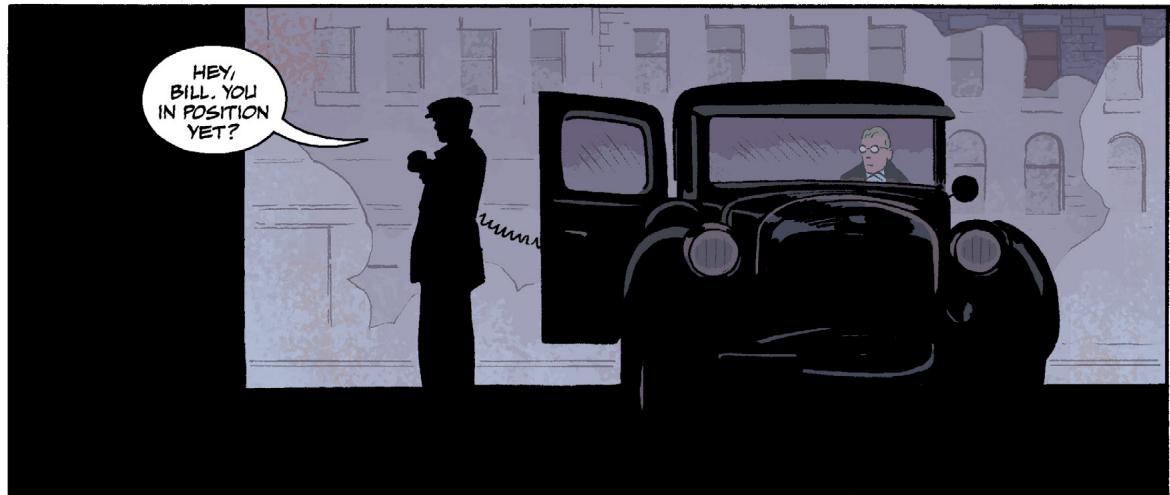


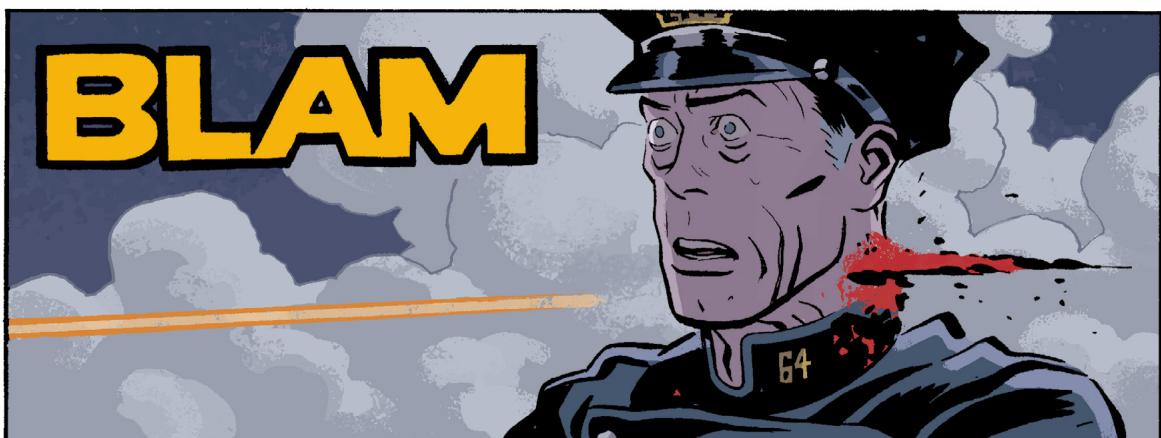


# CHAPTER FOUR



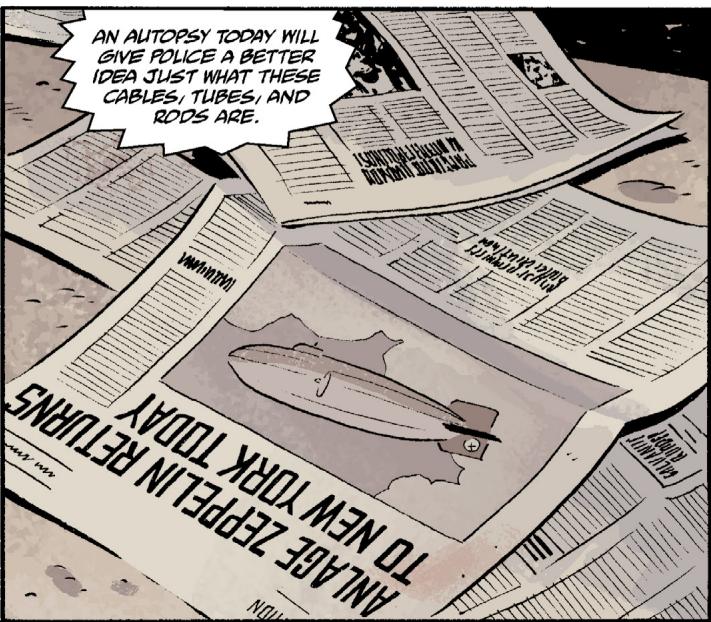




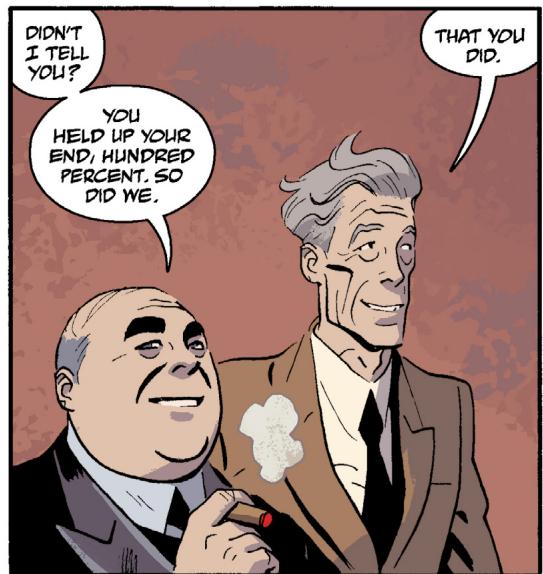


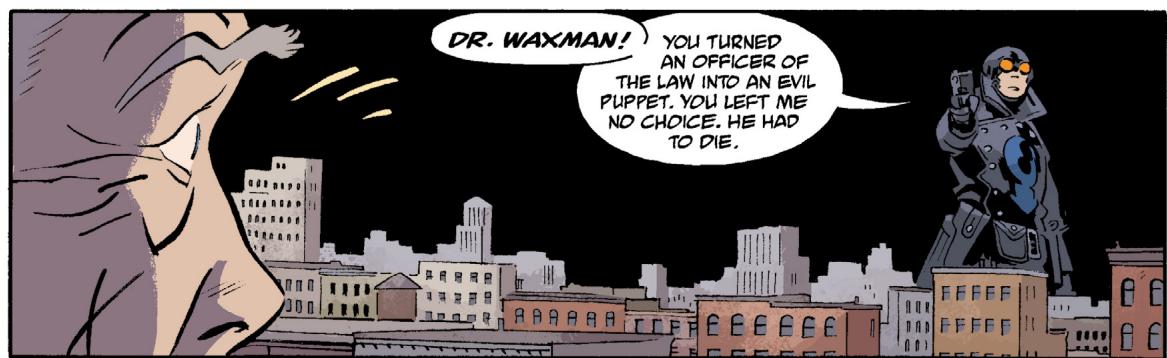


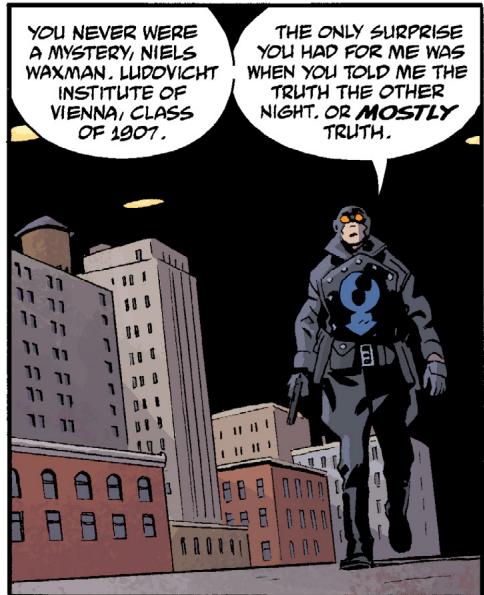
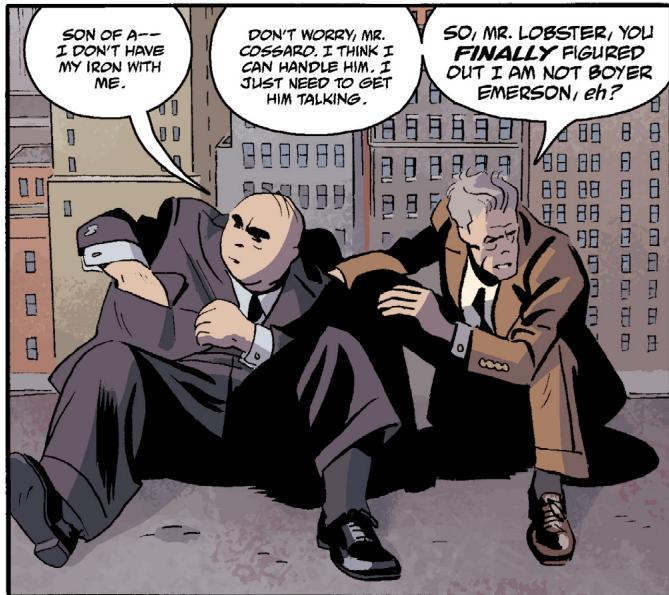




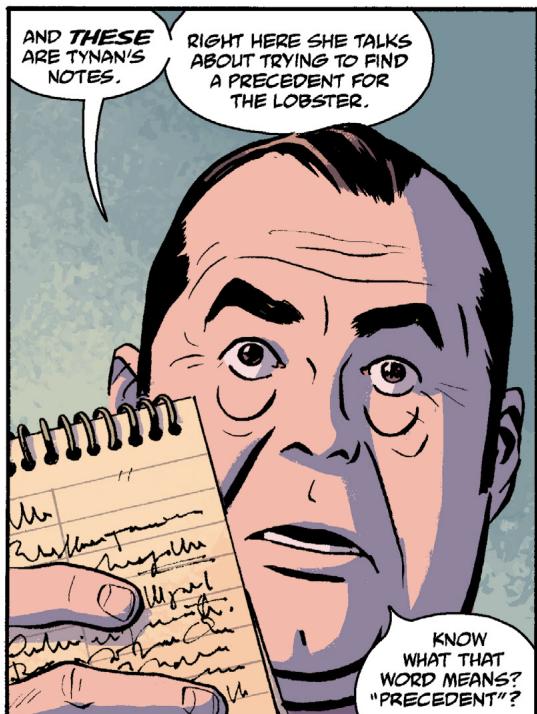








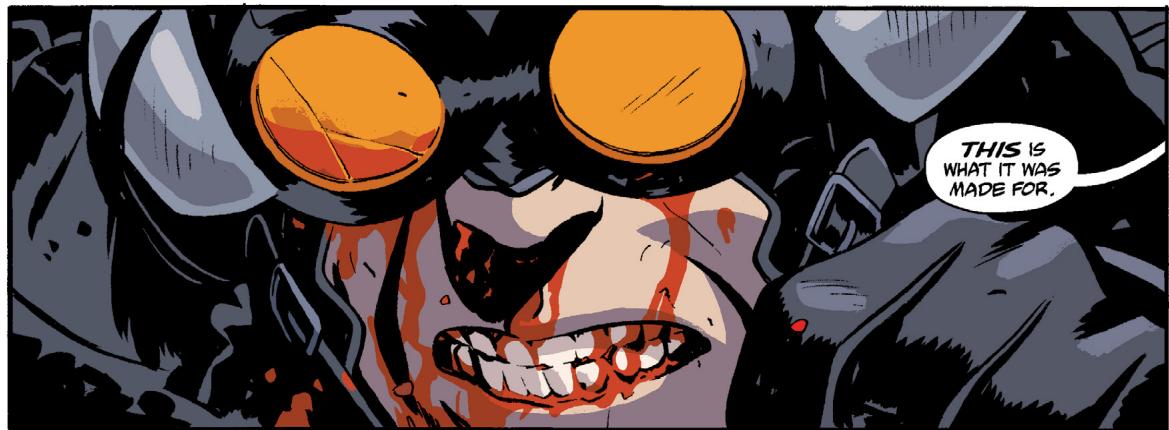




KNOW WHAT THAT WORD MEANS?  
"PRECEDENT"?

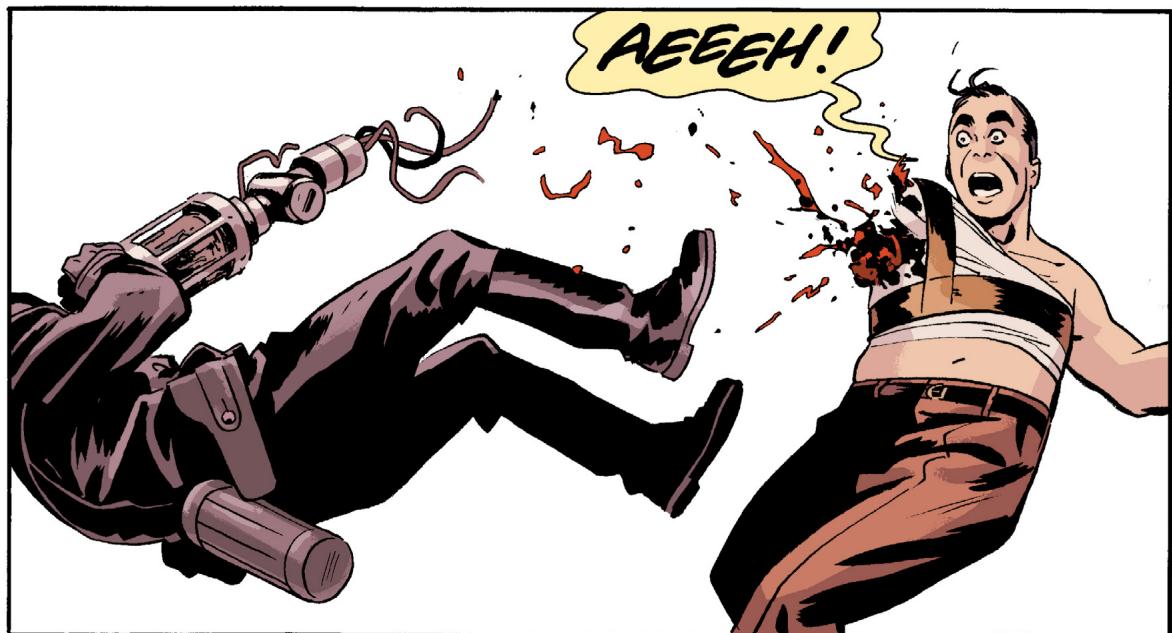




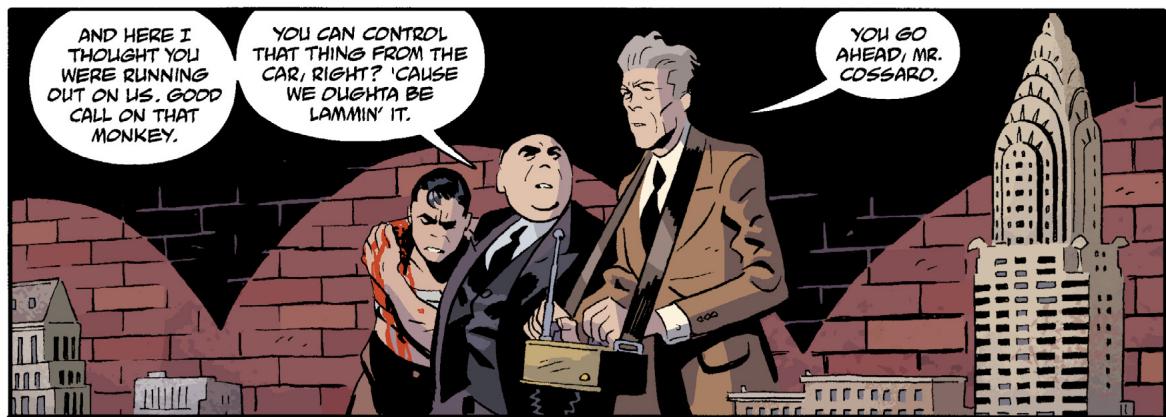




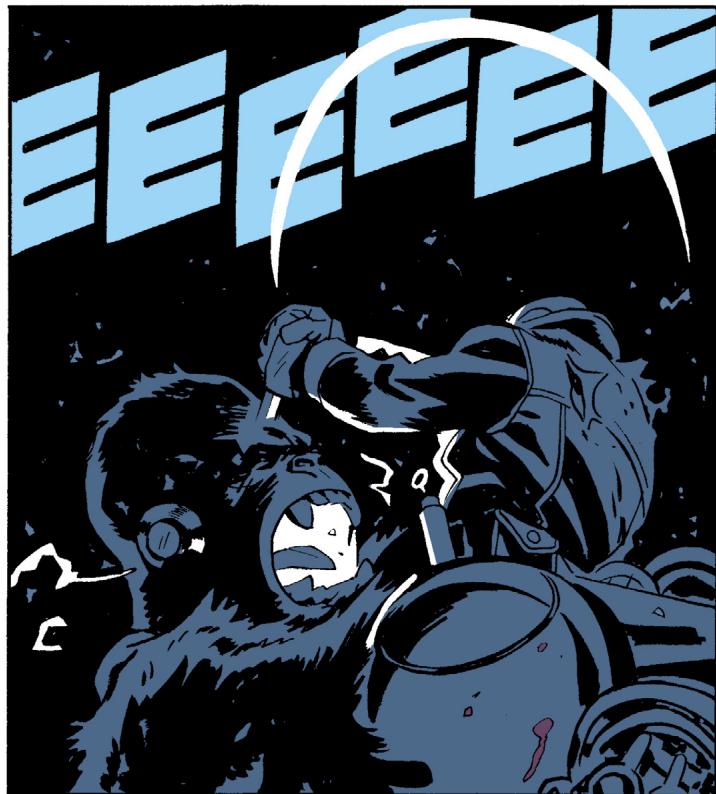
















# CHAPTER FIVE

















"LIKE YOU AND  
YOUR BROTHER,  
A PREDATOR  
FEEDING ON  
THIS CITY.

"BUT IT'S  
MY CITY.

"AND I'M  
ALWAYS  
WATCHING.

"I'LL  
ALWAYS  
PROTECT  
MY CITY.

"SO  
THAT THE  
INNOCENT  
DON'T  
HAVE TO BE  
AFRAID."

WHO IS THE LOBSTER?

By CINDY TYNAN PHRT V: ???

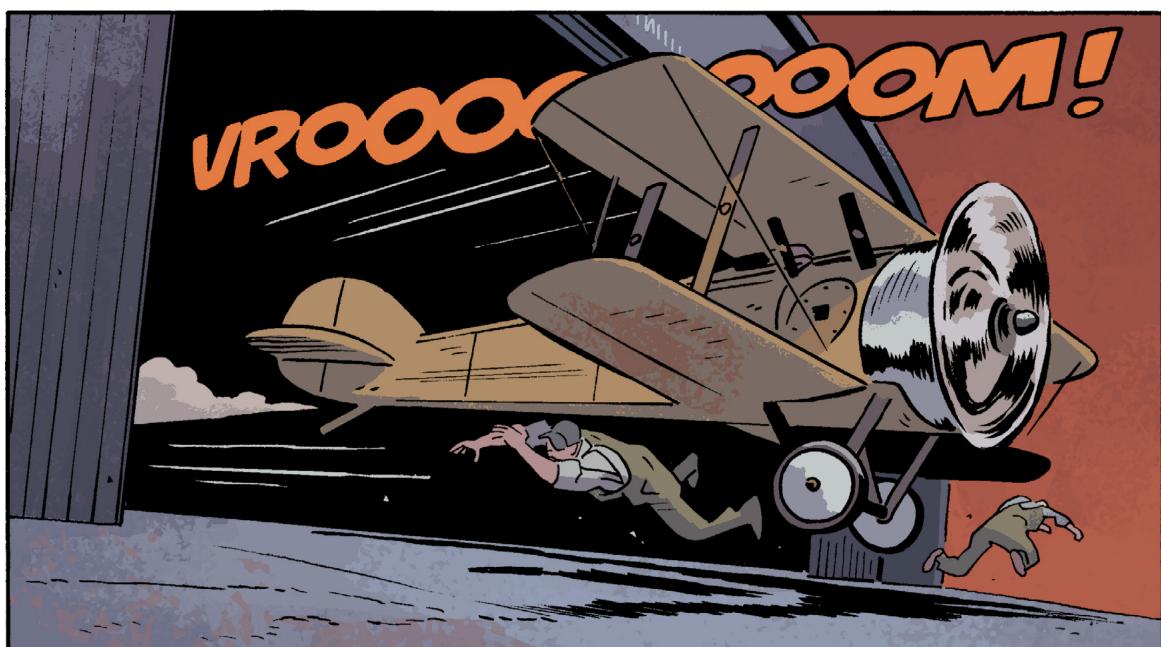
Herald Tr

LONG  
ISLAND.











ISN'T IT TIME YOU  
ABANDONED YOUR  
PURSUIT OF ME?  
YOU WON'T FIRE  
YOUR GUN IN  
HERE.



A STRAY  
BULLET COULD  
IGNITE THE  
HYDROGEN GAS  
BAGS WITH A  
SPARK!



AND  
FLAMES HAVE  
ALREADY FAILED  
TO KILL YOU  
ONCE.

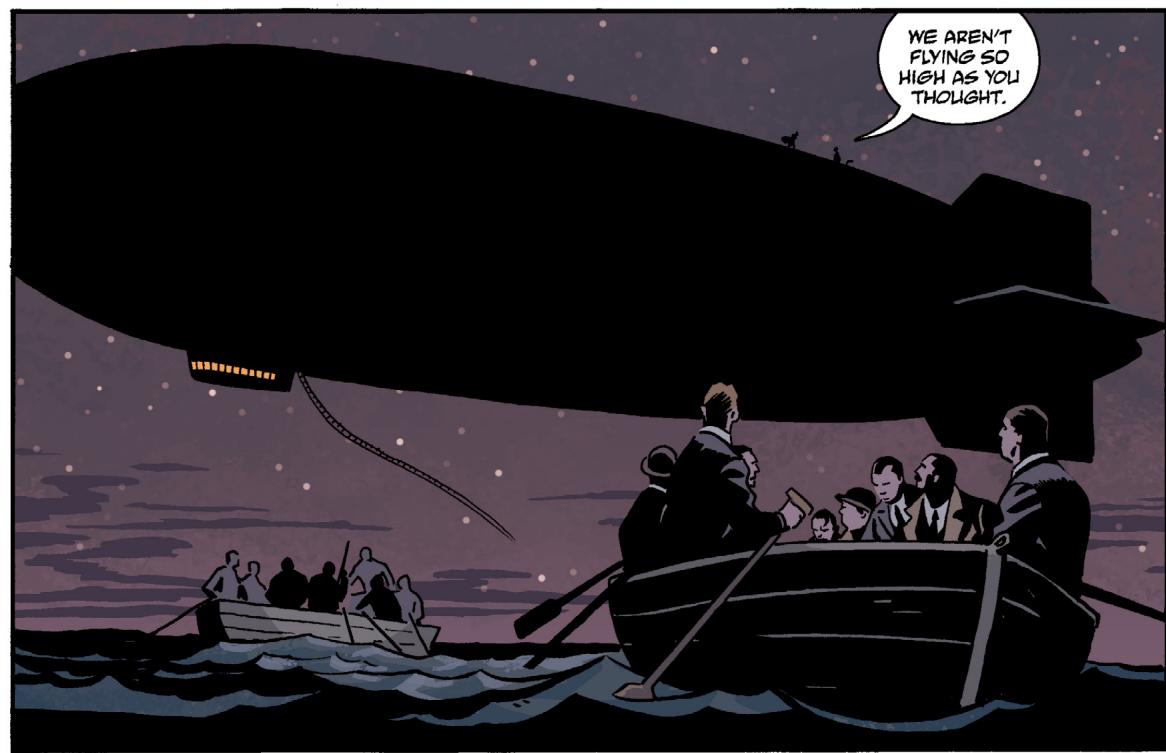


BUT  
JUSTICE  
IS BIGGER  
THAN A  
GUN.



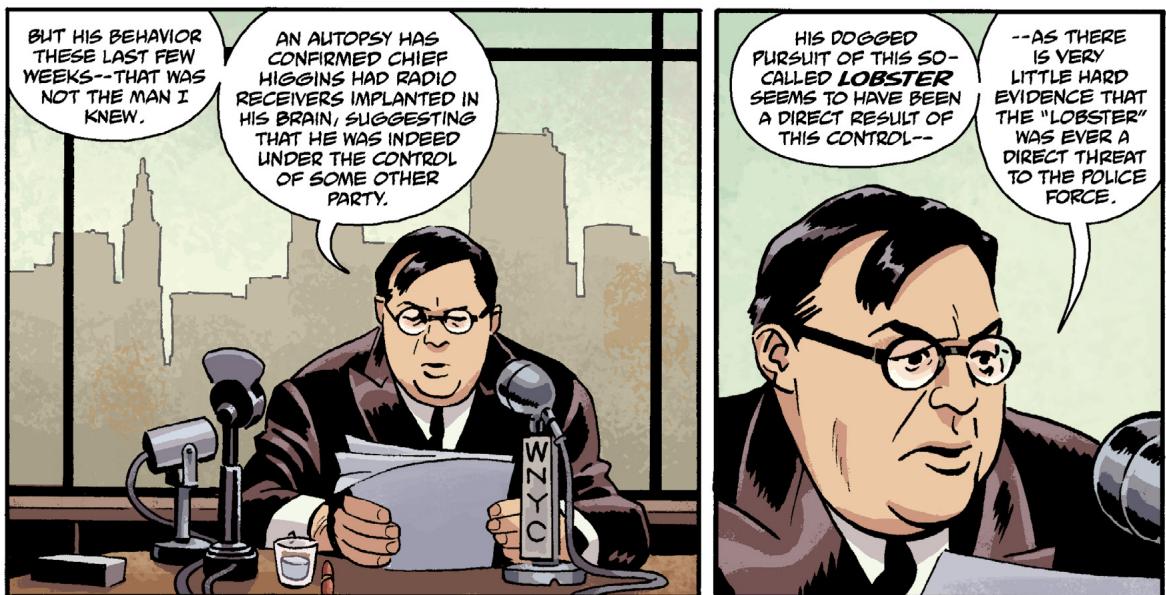
"AND YOU'VE  
RUN OUT OF  
ESCAPE  
ROUTES."











"RESTORING OUR NEW YORK CITY TO THE FINE METROPOLIS IT WAS MEANT TO BE."



# WHO IS THE LOBSTER?

## PART V: A CITY'S SPIRIT

by CINDY TYNAN



"BECAUSE FACTS ARE SCARCE WHEN IT COMES TO THE LOBSTER, LEAVING US TO SEE HIM HOW WE WILL."

"THERE ARE DEAD MEN, YES, BUT NO WAY TO KNOW WHO REALLY KILLED THEM."

"EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS ARE NUMEROUS, BUT VARY GREATLY."

"IN A SECOND, LISTEN TO THIS-- BUT IT'S HARD TO MAKE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE LOBSTER WITHOUT BEING EMOTIONAL. IN ANGER WE MIGHT CALL HIM A KILLER, THE FEARFUL MIGHT CALL HIM A HERO, AND THOSE AWESTRUCK MIGHT CALL HIM A GHOST."



"AND ARE THE STREETS SAFER? MANY SEEM TO THINK SO."

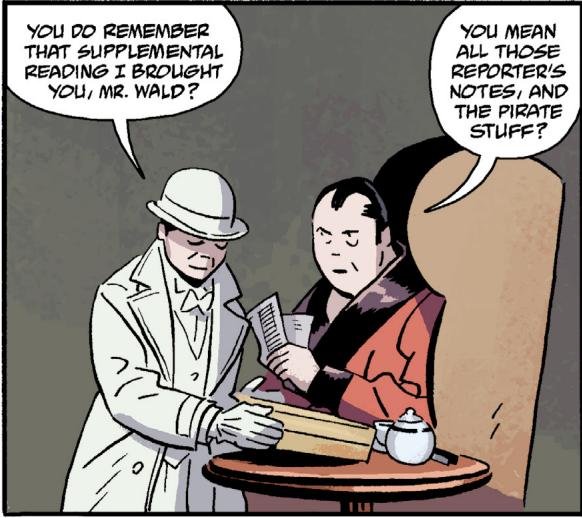
"YES, THE LOBSTER IS REAL. HIS HISTORY, HIS EFFECT ON THE CITY, ALL REAL-- BUT WHO HE IS, WHO WE SAY HE IS, WHO DEPENDS ON WHO WE ARE."

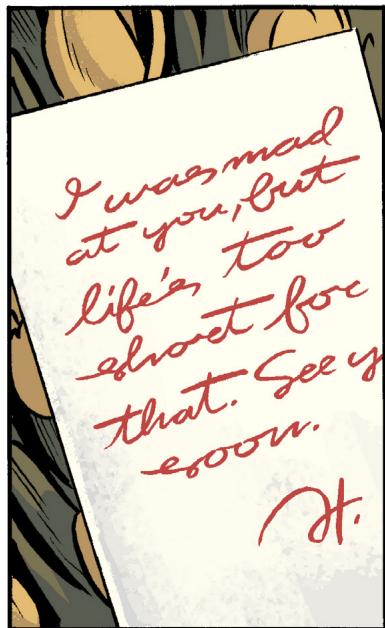
CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS DAME? LAST WEEK SHE SOUNDED LIKE SHE HATED THE GUY, BUT NOW...

HEY, WHATTAYA GOT THERE?

YOU DO REMEMBER THAT SUPPLEMENTAL READING I BROUGHT YOU, MR. WALD?

YOU MEAN ALL THOSE REPORTER'S NOTES, AND THE PIRATE STUFF?











# LOBSTER JOHNSON™

## SKETCHBOOK

Notes by Tonci Zonjic



The Bear got much bigger in the comic. He's much more naturalistic in this early sketch. This often happens with characters—they get more cartoonish as I go along, partially because I never remember to make model sheets ahead of time, or, if I do, I forget to ever look at them, and end up drawing characters from memory. That way, they get more exaggerated. That doesn't necessarily sound like a bad thing, right?



Devil Dwarf was first designed as a Mexican *luchador*, but I needed to show the eyes and the crazy teeth, so ultimately I went for a turn-of-the-century cheap paper mask design, although in a shiny version. The teeth are painted on, but underneath the mask, he has a set exactly like that one! (Try doing that in a movie . . .)





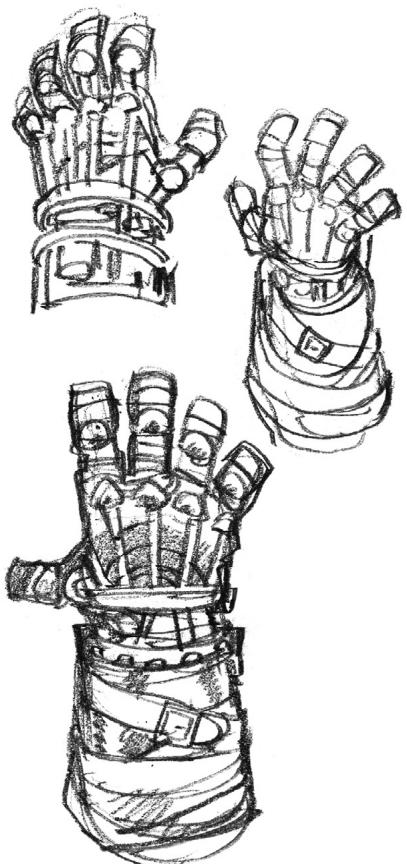
I gave the cops and robbers as many different faces as I could, but purely to avoid confusion. Every single henchman *has* to be specific, so as not to be confused with any of the characters we've seen earlier. "Did we see this guy already . . . ?" That's why the first sketch, for Lt. Nat, has *nope* scrawled underneath. Not immediately identifiable as a new character within the story.

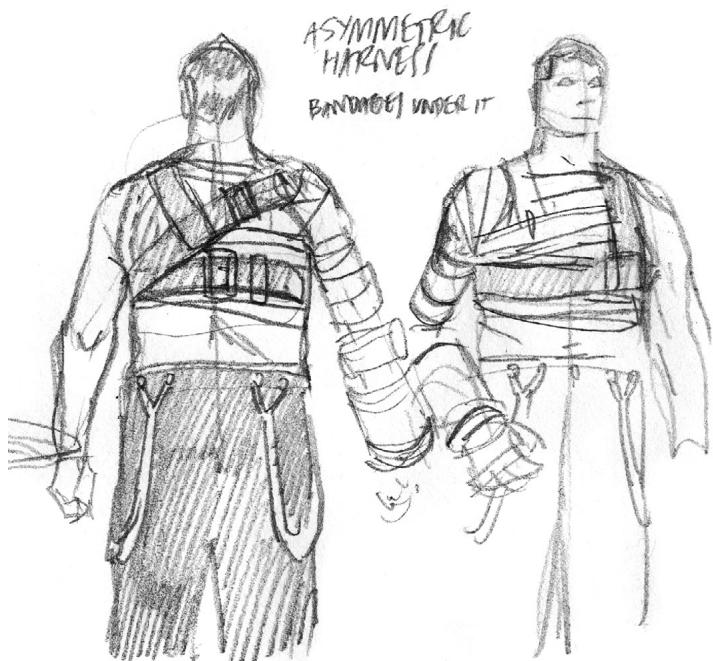




These were done before starting the book, in the hope of expanding some of my visual vocabulary and feeling for the period, and getting the hats right this time around. Doing them at five in the morning makes me wonder how much of it stuck.







The Cossaro brothers were both based on old-time illustrator Albert Dorne's eyebrows. People ask, "Where do you get your ideas?" Now you know.

These sketches were scattered around, so many of them cover the same ground many times, as I kept forgetting. The actual mechanism of the thing is ludicrous, of course, with all the ball joints and such. A particular obsession of mine at an early stage was making it look like it came out of an old movie, where a regular human arm could fit underneath all the metal parts. (The 1935 Peter Lorre movie *Mad Love* has the best robot hands.)

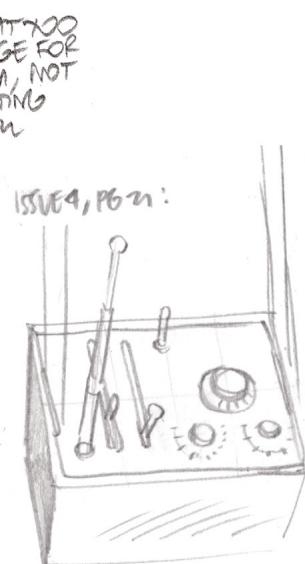




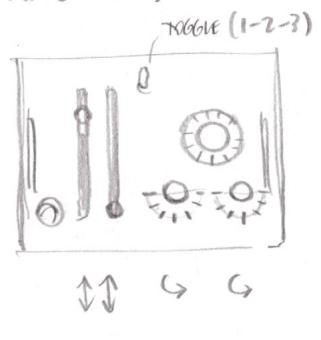
The colored Frank Cossaro sketch was the only one done before starting on the book. The rest were done around issue #4, when it was becoming too confusing to look at old pages to remind myself how the characters look.

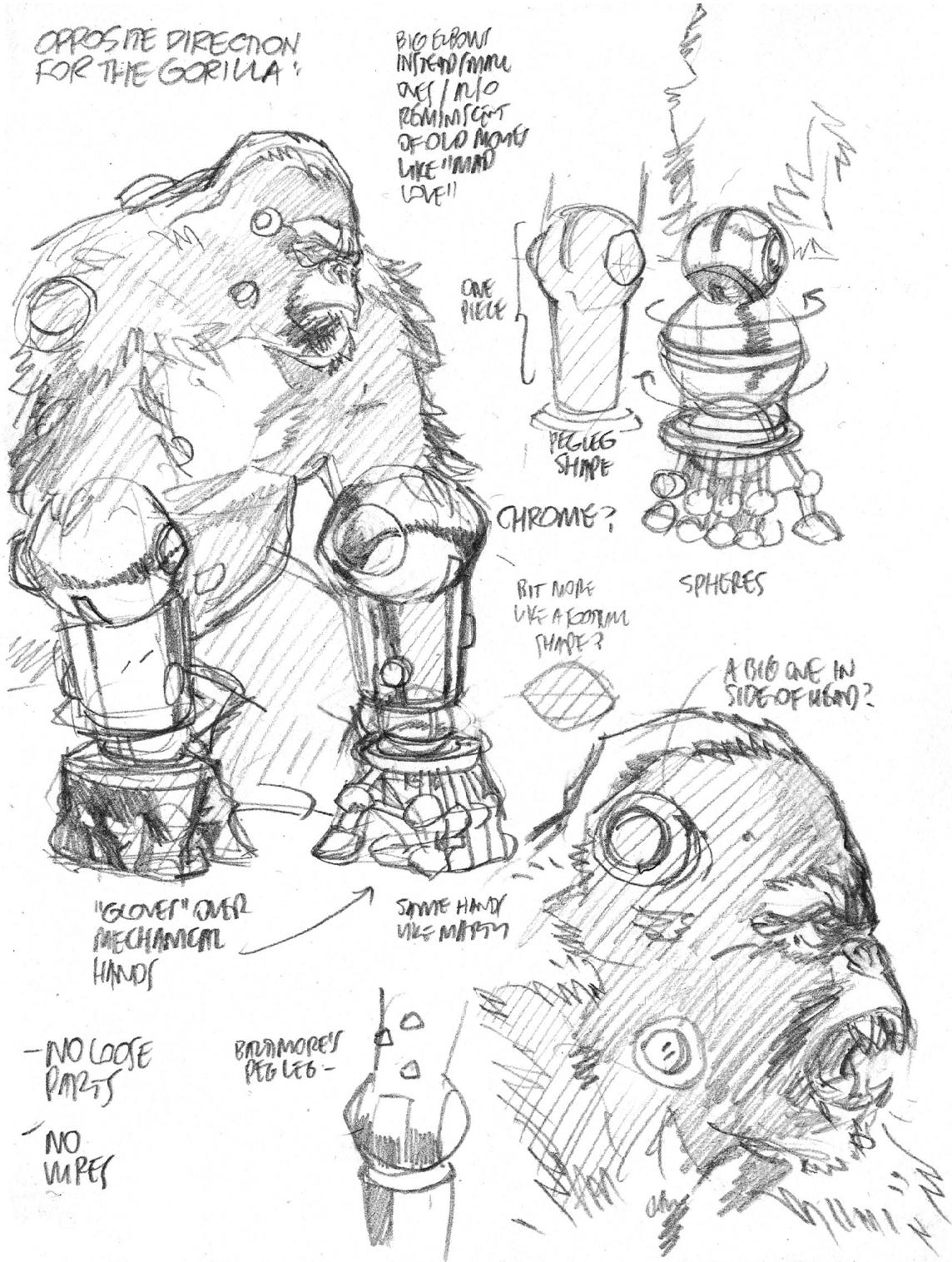
In the last issue, I had the challenge of hiding the radio remote control for a number of pages. Luckily, I'd set up Waxman as a kind of a scarecrow already, with ill-fitting clothes, so the too-large overcoat didn't seem too suspicious.

The remote control itself is another impossible device that you can only do in comics, and it makes me really happy.



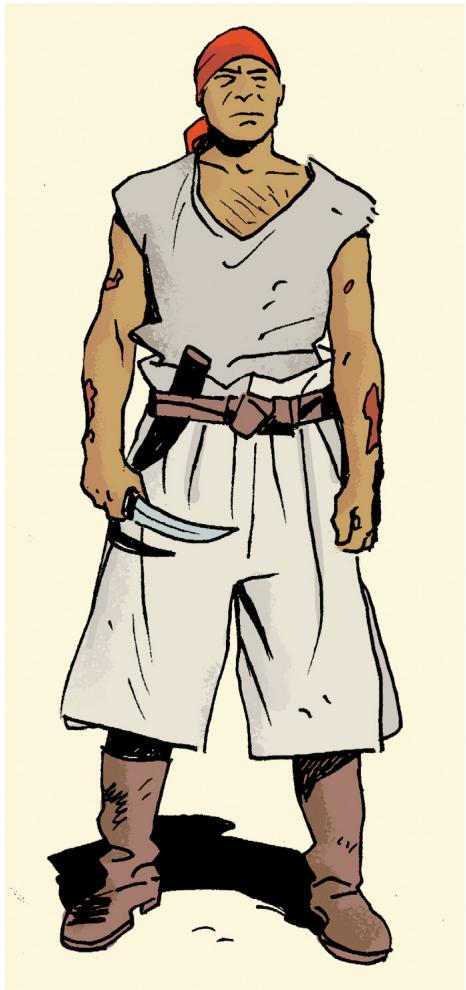
HAS TO HAVE HIM TOO FEW CONTROLS TO DO THE INCREDIBLY COMPLEX THING IT DOES





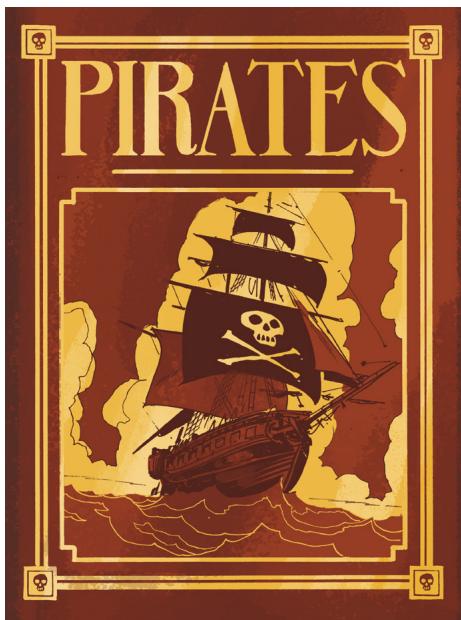
Sketch for Mukali, after about half a dozen variations that you won't ever see. This one combines elements of Marty Cossaro's mechanical arm, as well as Mike Mignola's designs for the Kriegaffe in *Conqueror Worm*.





*Opposite:* On the *Caput Mortuum* one-shot (see volume 3) I tried doing very loose digital layouts. Here I used them from the get-go, and as always, things got out of hand. The discarded roughs sometimes found their way into other places, like the first drawing of Lobster in this volume, opposite the credits. It was originally a rough for page 18 of the third chapter, the splash page in the middle of the bank robbery.

*This page:* A rough of a pirate, from a Howard Pyle illustration, and a rough of a trapper uniform, from when I realized I had very little knowledge of North American frontiersman outfits. How did their pants work, exactly? These are the things that shorten the lifespans of comic book artists.



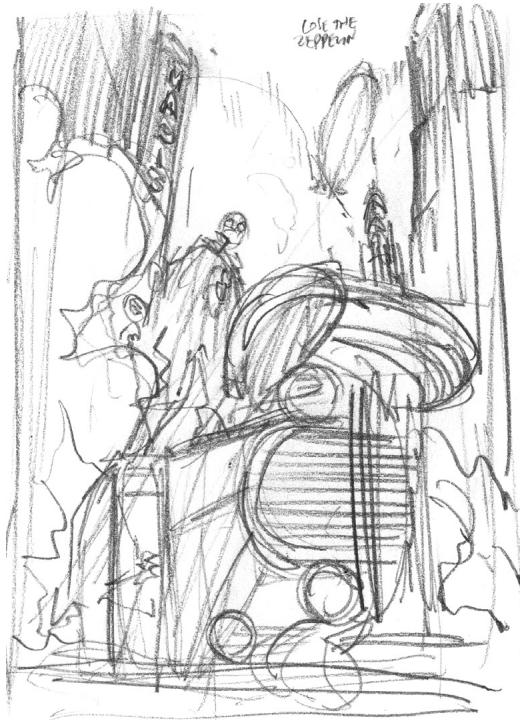


MARVEL BLONDIE AND NOME



ON FLIPPED CAR

WATER TOO BIG



LOSE THE  
COFFEE



ENFORCER  
S. G.

The first roughs for the cover of the first issue were done on paper, before doing two final sketches in Photoshop. For a while I was developing both, but ultimately one was picked, and the other one's on the opposite page in its rough stage. I couldn't get it to work properly back then, but I'd love to make a finished picture out of it someday. I also did the title treatment on these, which was fun.



DARK  
HORSE  
COMICS

FROM THE PAGES OF HELLBOY

# LOBSTER JOHNSON™

#1 OF  
5  
\$3.50

GET  
THE  
LOBSTER!

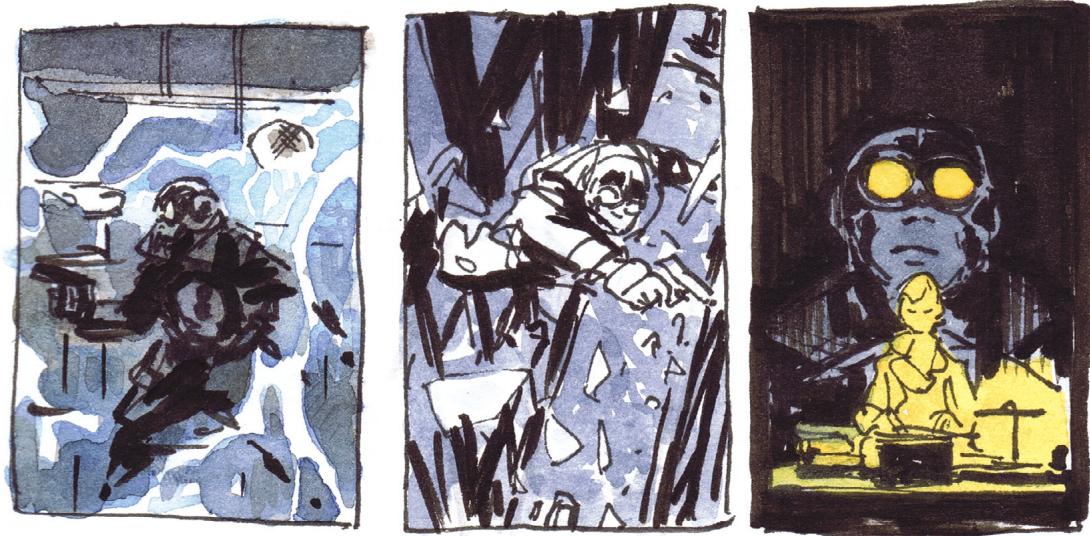
MIKE JOHN TONCI DAVE  
MIGNOLA ARCUZ ZONJIC STEWART

7 161568116252 3



00111

DIRECT SALES



I really like to do cover thumbnails with watercolors. I'm not sure where that came from—most likely I just had a small box of half pans around once when I needed them, and they did the job well. They are perfect for exploring simple, strong color schemes without much detail. Waiting for the washes to dry gives you time to think as well.

*Opposite:* Unedited page from my sketchbook—trying to come up with the cover of issue #3. You can see me trying out variations and abandoning some midway through. I knew I wanted the vault in there somewhere, but all the compositions looked a lot like the cover of the first issue—Lobster standing against some bright shape. Ultimately I tried reversing it, and making Lobster the *brightest* part of the cover. The very next page of the sketchbook just has that one thumbnail. The final version was tricky and didn't work at all until the very last minute.

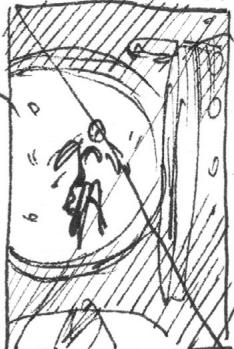
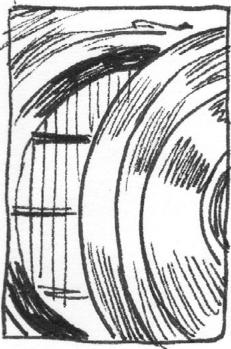
#3 21/9/2013

FRONT

WHITE BG / DYNAMIC FG  
REVERSE 3 ~~REVERSE 3~~

GETTING SHUT IN

MONEY  
WITH  
CLAW  
BURST  
INT.



LOW ANGLE

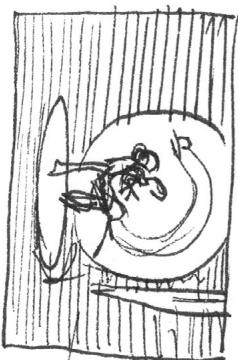
VS. HIGGINS...?



ORNATE



OVER BRIGHT  
OVER BRIGHT BG  
SOMETHING FLASHING / EXPLODING  
OFF PAPER



DIORAMA / MODEL OF GM

TAKING GM  
THROUGH DOOR

GET THE LOBSTER!

← PASTE IT ALL OF THEM

MADE BY  
JOAN BACOLO  
TOMI ZONJIC  
WAVE STEINERT

16/11/2014



\*LESS PANICKED LAJO HERE



( WITH SCHEMATICS FOR RADIO STUFF AT BOTTOM )



SURROUNDED, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:  
MARTY, RUSSIAN BEAR, WALT, ISOG,  
WAXMAN, FRANK, DEVIL DWARF, KAMMU.  
\* NO CHIEF - IT'S A SPOILER



SOME PIRATES?

20  
11

Sketches for the cover of this book—almost exactly the same size as in my sketchbook. Also done with watercolor. I liked the blue one a lot, but all of them were deemed too gorilla heavy. Ultimately, I went for the numbers, and tried to include as many things from the book as I could. And since I was trying to fill in Mike's very big shoes here, it was nerve racking.



\* COPIES TOO SIMILAR TO BOOK 2

TYPE &  
CREDIT  
HERE  
←

FULL MONTAGE - INCLUDING EVERYTHING



"Abe Sapien in Oregon" pinup done for Multiversity Comics' "31 Days of Abe." I'm looking forward to doing one of these for each character.

“The only thing you can expect with the Lobster is the unexpected, and you get it in this series!”

—Scifi Pulse



**A** Manhattan wrestling match goes terribly wrong when the ref is killed in front of a live audience by two crazed—and seemingly bulletproof—wrestlers. Lobster Johnson's attempt to subdue the mad duo turns him into public enemy number one! Will the Lobster be able to clear his name with the full power of the city's cops after him?



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