

# SURVIVORS' CLUB

BEUKES  
HALVORSEN  
KELLY  
GROSS  
FARMER  
DE LA CRUZ

VERTIGO

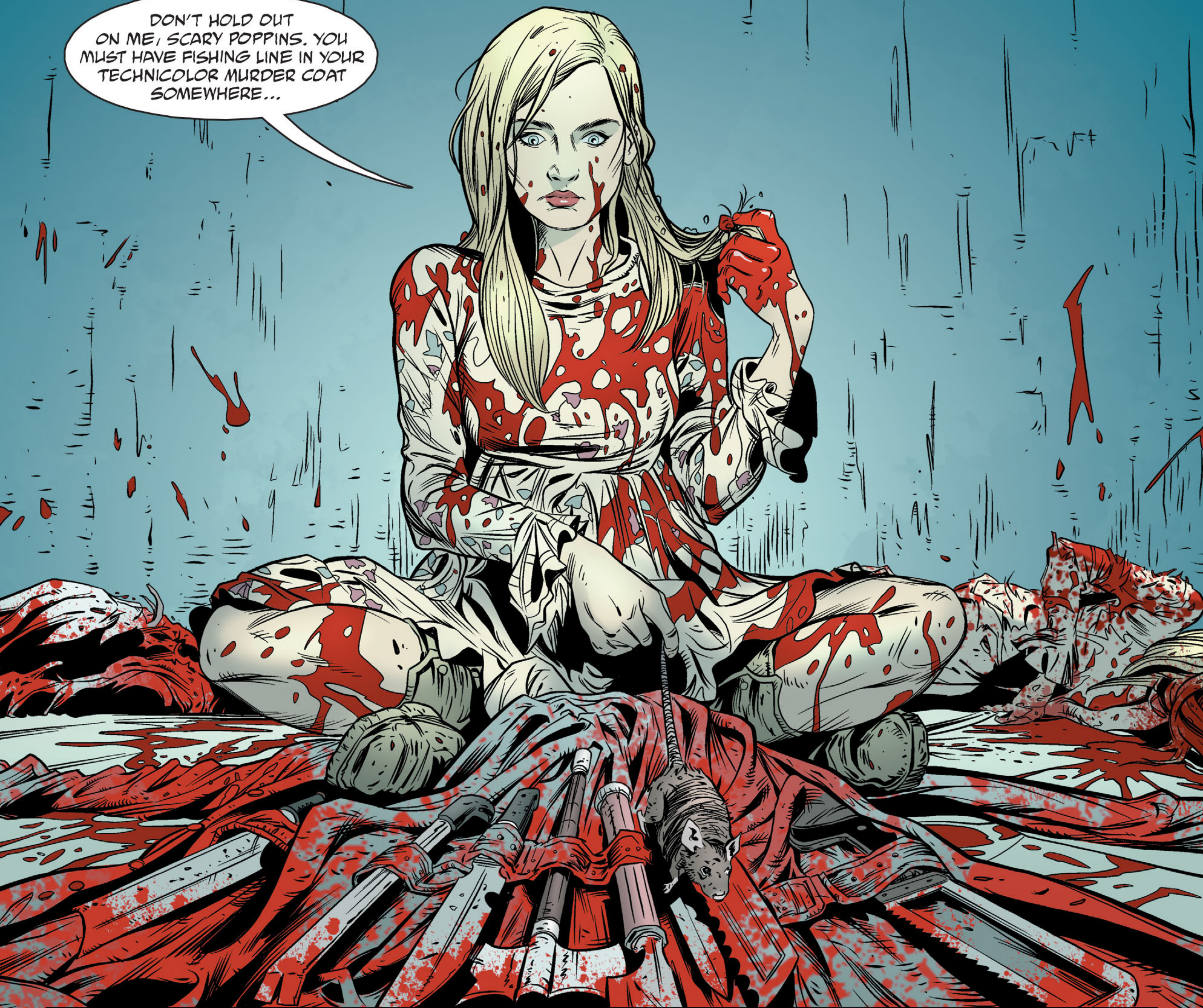
"SURVIVORS' CLUB is simply a must read series."

—GAMBIT

FINAL  
ISSUE

#9 Aug '16  
suggested for  
mature readers  
vertigo.com

DON'T HOLD OUT ON ME, SCARY POPPINS. YOU MUST HAVE FISHING LINE IN YOUR TECHNICOLOR MURDER COAT SOMEWHERE...



WHAT SAY WE GIVE YOU A **BOLD NEW LOOK**, MR. EMPTY?



OH, WE CAN DEFINITELY USE THIS. DON'T YOU THINK, ALICE?



I DON'T LIKE THIS GAME. I DON'T WANT TO PLAY ANYMORE, ALICE.

YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY. I'M MAKING YOU INTO THE **REAL REFLECTION** OF ME.



# SURVIVORS' CLUB

## CHAPTER NINE: THE MONSTERS INSIDE

DALE HALVORSEN  
WRITER

LAUREN BEUKES  
WRITER

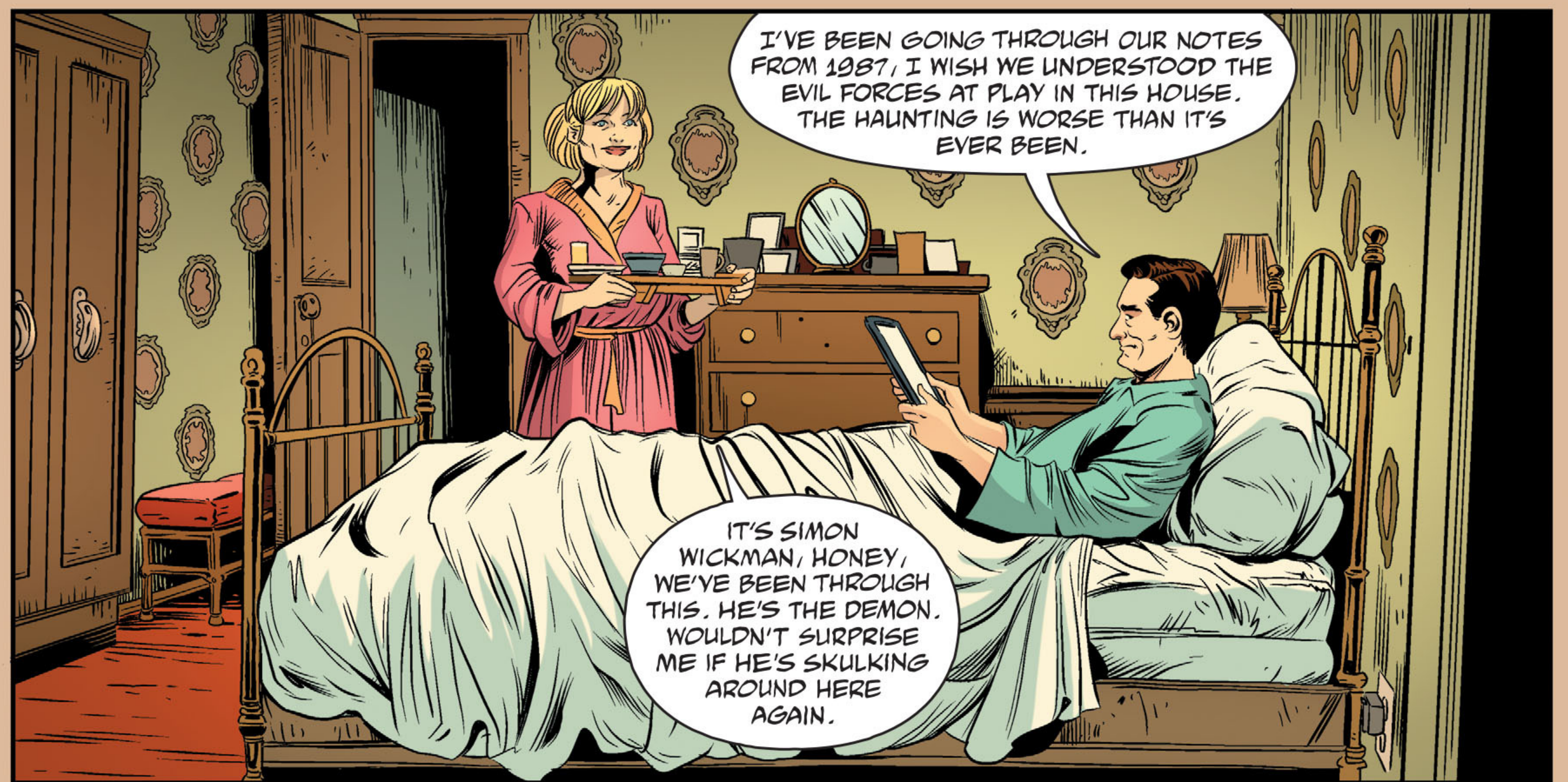
RYAN KELLY  
LAYOUTS

RYAN KELLY FINISHES 4-5  
MARK FARMER FINISHES 6-8, 10-13, 17-19  
PETER GROSS FINISHES 1-3, 9, 14-16, 20-22

EVA DE LA CRUZ COLORIST  
CLEM ROBINS LETTERER  
BILL SIENKIEWICZ COVER ARTIST

MOLLY MAHAN ASSOCIATE EDITOR

SHELLY BOND EDITOR SURVIVORS' CLUB CREATED BY BEUKES, HALVORSEN AND KELLY



I'VE BEEN GOING THROUGH OUR NOTES FROM 1987, I WISH WE UNDERSTOOD THE EVIL FORCES AT PLAY IN THIS HOUSE. THE HAUNTING IS WORSE THAN IT'S EVER BEEN.

IT'S SIMON WICKMAN, HONEY, WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS. HE'S THE DEMON. WOULDN'T SURPRISE ME IF HE'S SKULKING AROUND HERE AGAIN.



DEAR LORD!

**CRASH**

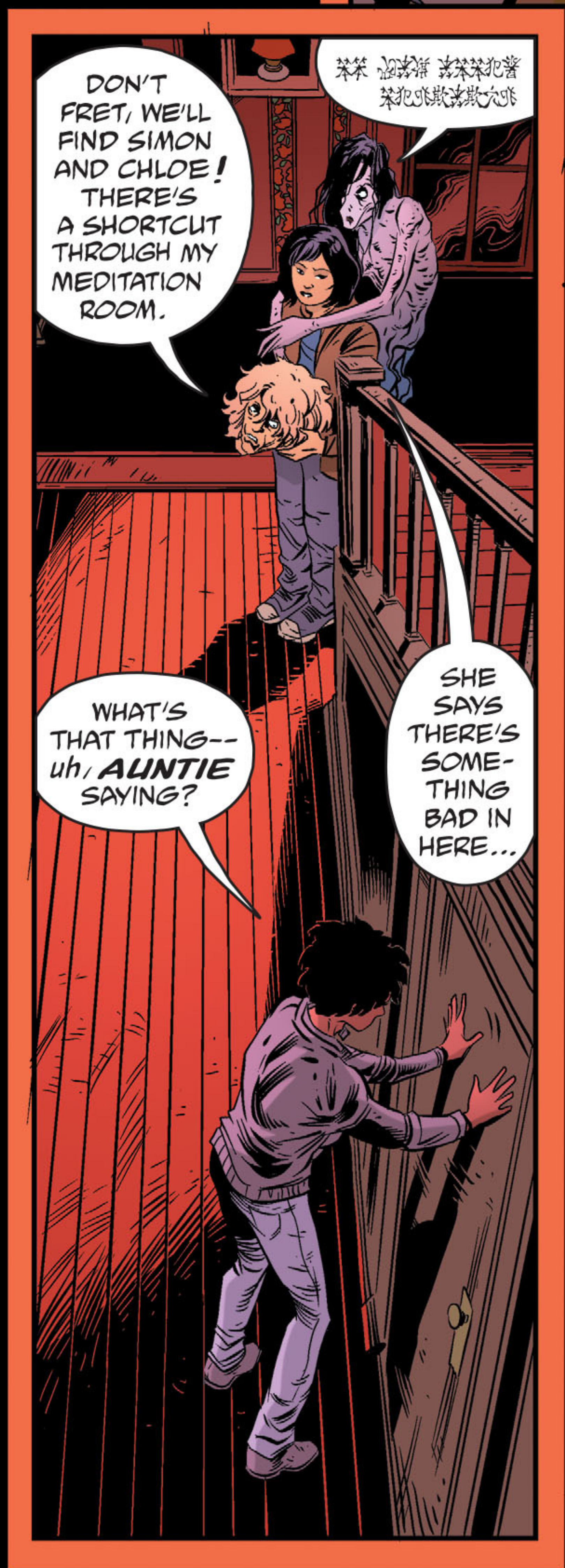


GET OUT! GET AWAY FROM HERE! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT'S IN THERE!



YEA, THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH...

I'LL GET THE VIDEO CAMERA!



DON'T FRET, WE'LL FIND SIMON AND CHLOE! THERE'S A SHORTCUT THROUGH MY MEDITATION ROOM.

笑笑 哈哈 哈哈 哈哈 哈哈 哈哈 哈哈 哈哈 哈哈 哈哈

WHAT'S THAT THING-- uh, AUNTIE SAYING?

SHE SAYS THERE'S SOMETHING BAD IN HERE...



Chakras

OH, FOR GODDNESS' SAKE, YOU SOUND **JUST LIKE THOSE EXORCISTS!**

THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY IS ABOUT **LETTING GO** OF YOUR FEARS AND FINDING YOUR INNER LIGHT!

IN CASE YOU HADN'T NOTICED, LIGHT CASTS A SHADOW.



I THINK I FOUND THE **BAD THING**.



**TENTRA.** WOW. THAT BRINGS BACK MEMORIES.

MY PARENTS WERE REALLY INTO IT IN NAGASAKI. THEY USED TO GIVE US...

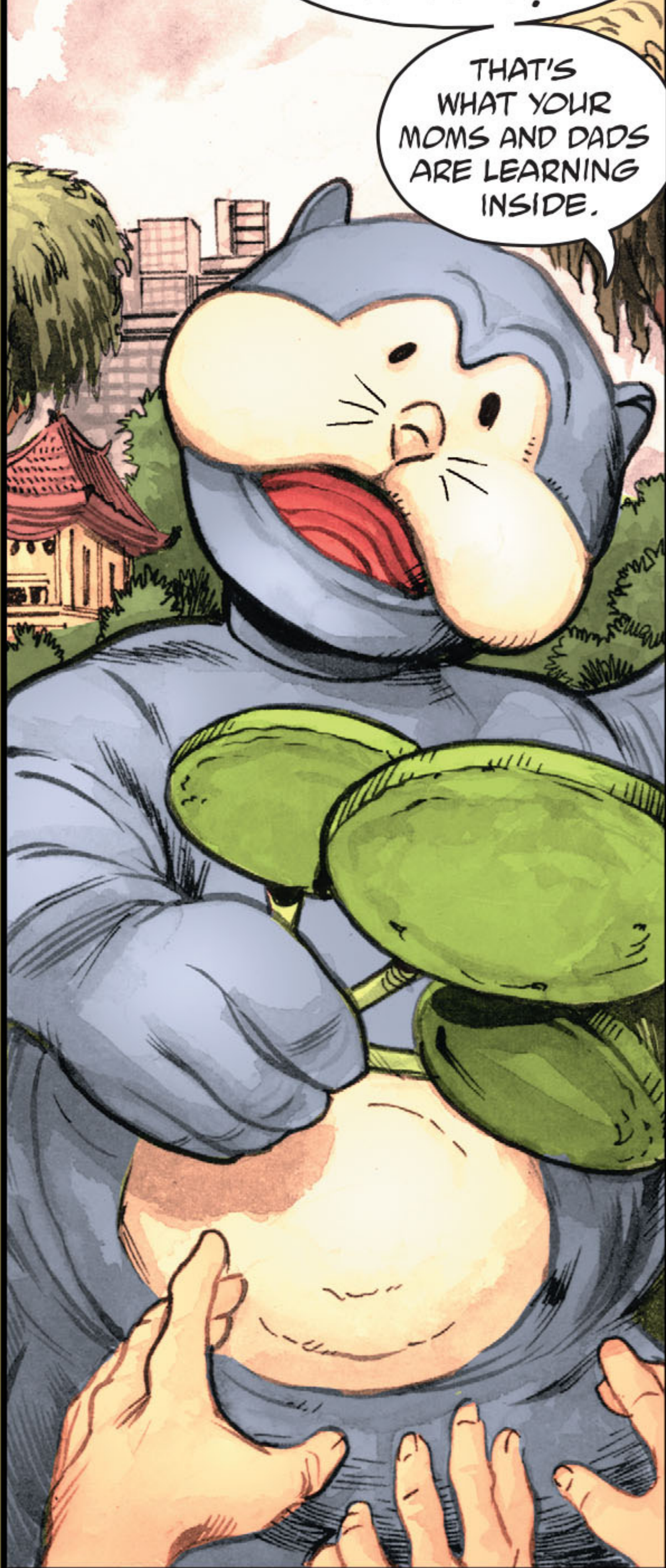
GREEN LOLLIPOPS?

"I REMEMBER!  
THEY HAD THE  
STRANGEST  
AFTERTASTE."

1987,  
NAGASAKI,  
JAPAN.

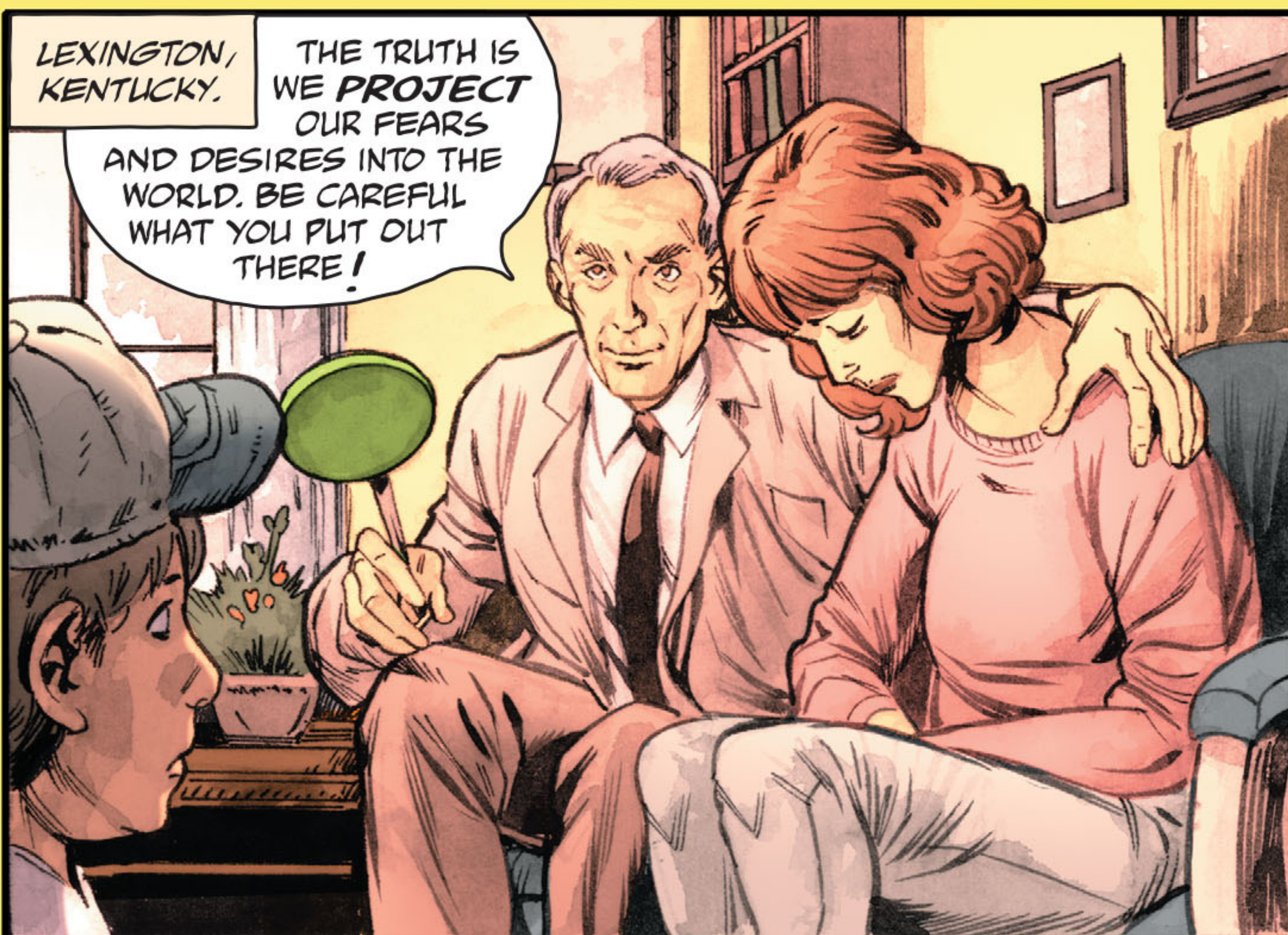
YOU WERE THINKING OF  
LOLLIPOPS AND WOW, HERE  
THEY ARE! THAT'S HOW  
EASY IT IS!

THAT'S  
WHAT YOUR  
MOMS AND DADS  
ARE LEARNING  
INSIDE.



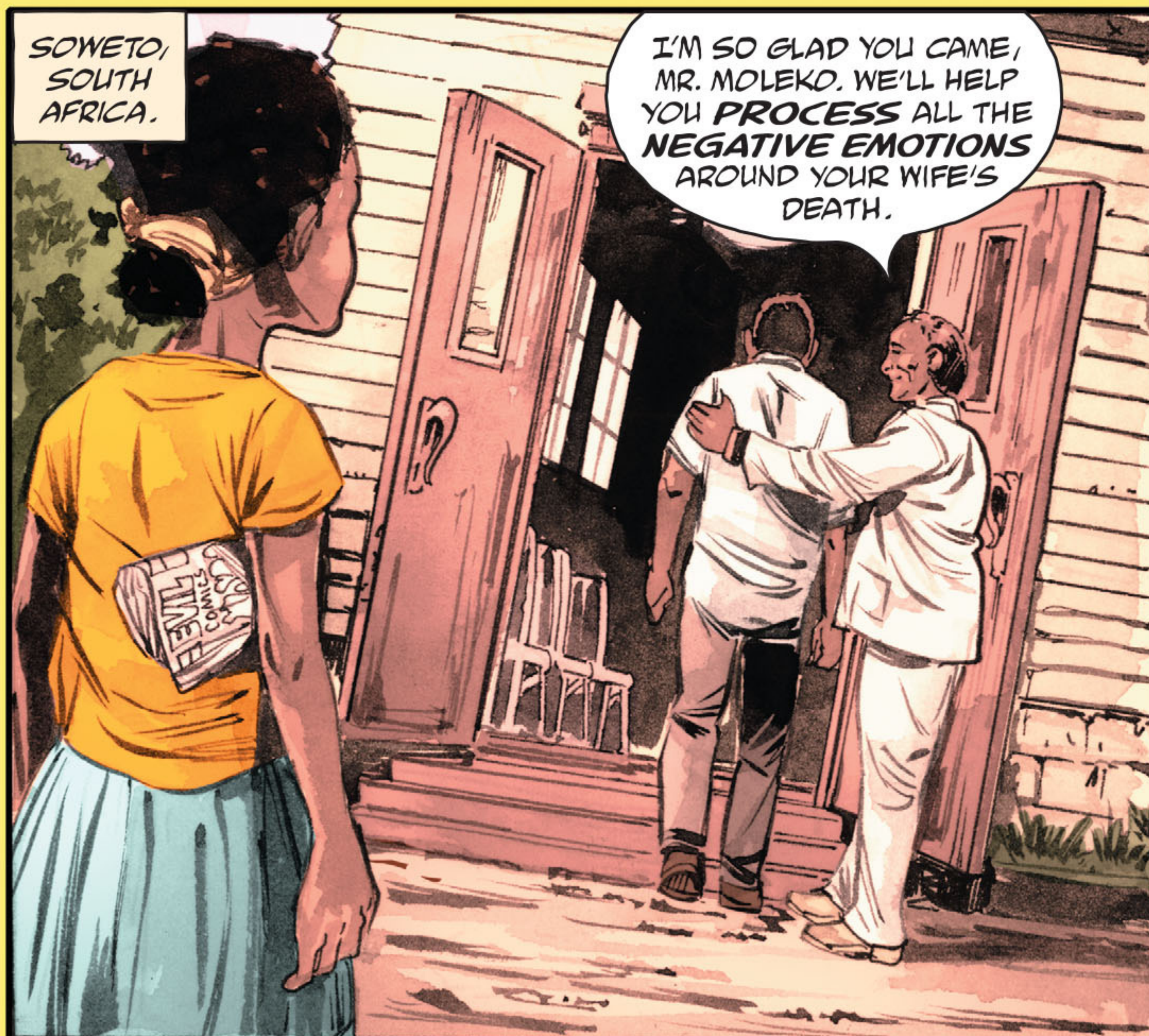
LEXINGTON,  
KENTUCKY.

THE TRUTH IS  
WE **PROJECT**  
OUR FEARS  
AND DESIRES INTO THE  
WORLD. BE CAREFUL  
WHAT YOU PUT OUT  
THERE!



SOWETO,  
SOUTH  
AFRICA.

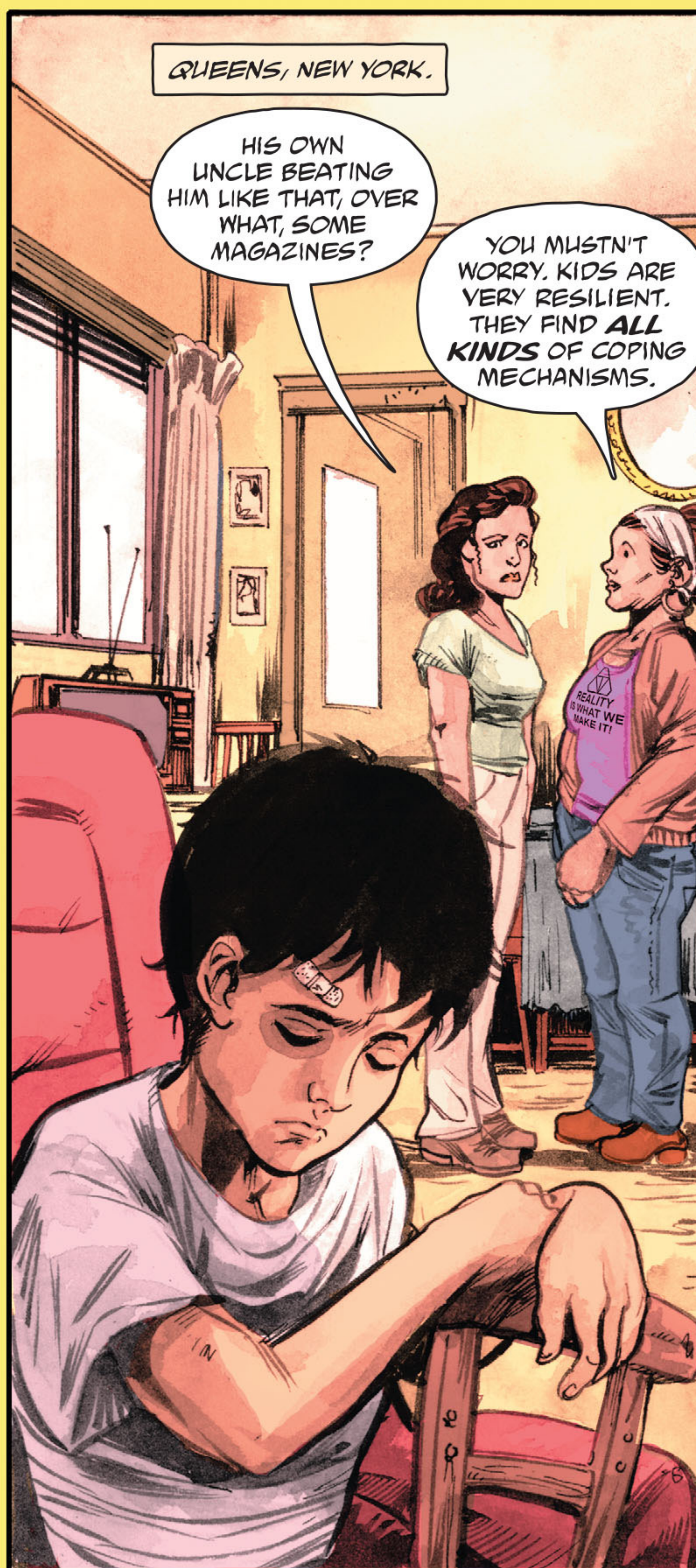
I'M SO GLAD YOU CAME,  
MR. MOLEKO. WE'LL HELP  
YOU **PROCESS** ALL THE  
**NEGATIVE EMOTIONS**  
AROUND YOUR WIFE'S  
DEATH.



QUEENS, NEW YORK.

HIS OWN  
UNCLE BEATING  
HIM LIKE THAT, OVER  
WHAT, SOME  
MAGAZINES?

YOU MUSTN'T  
WORRY. KIDS ARE  
VERY RESILIENT.  
THEY FIND **ALL**  
KINDS OF COPING  
MECHANISMS.

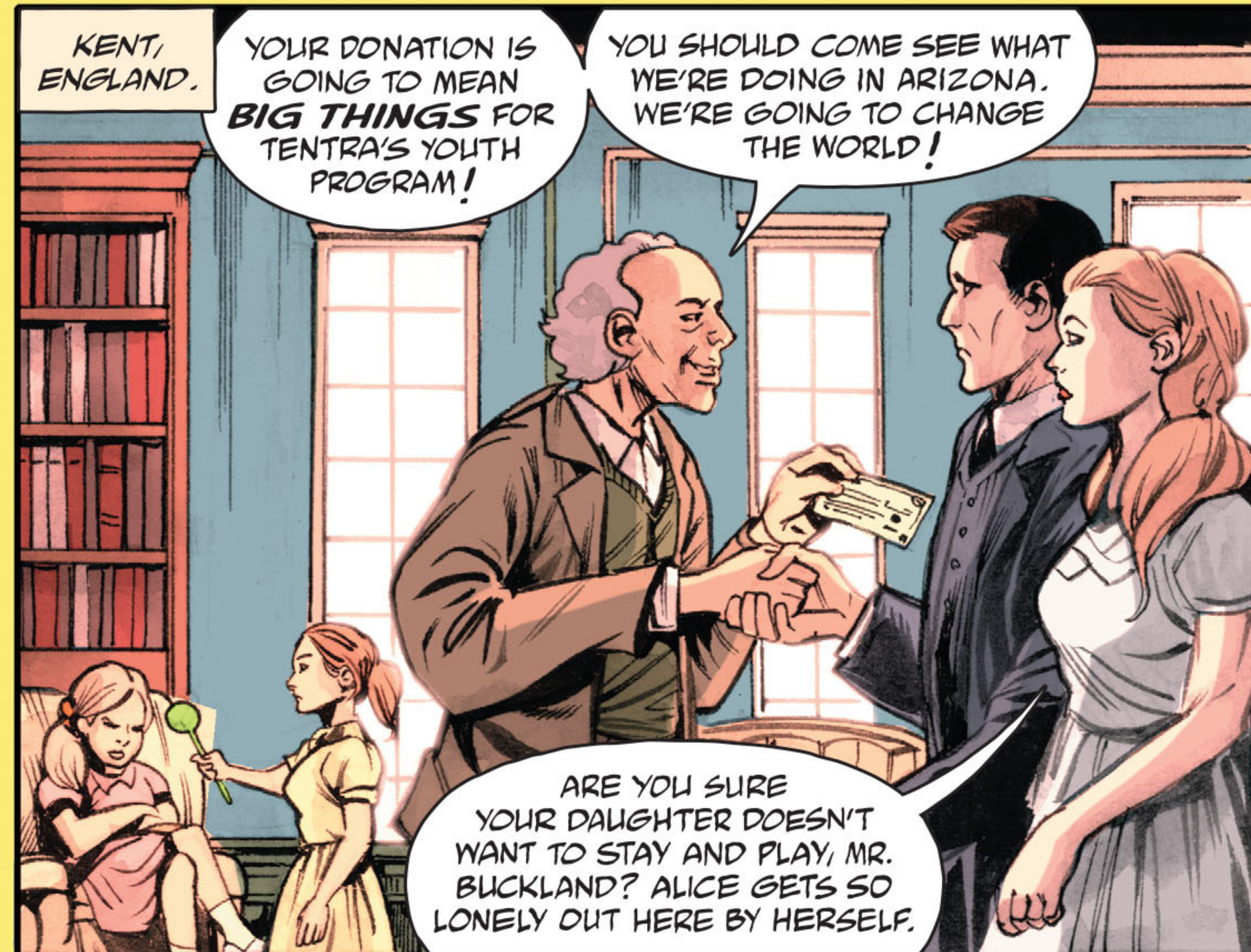


KENT,  
ENGLAND.

YOUR DONATION IS  
GOING TO MEAN  
**BIG THINGS** FOR  
TENTRA'S YOUTH  
PROGRAM!

YOU SHOULD COME SEE WHAT  
WE'RE DOING IN ARIZONA.  
WE'RE GOING TO CHANGE  
THE WORLD!

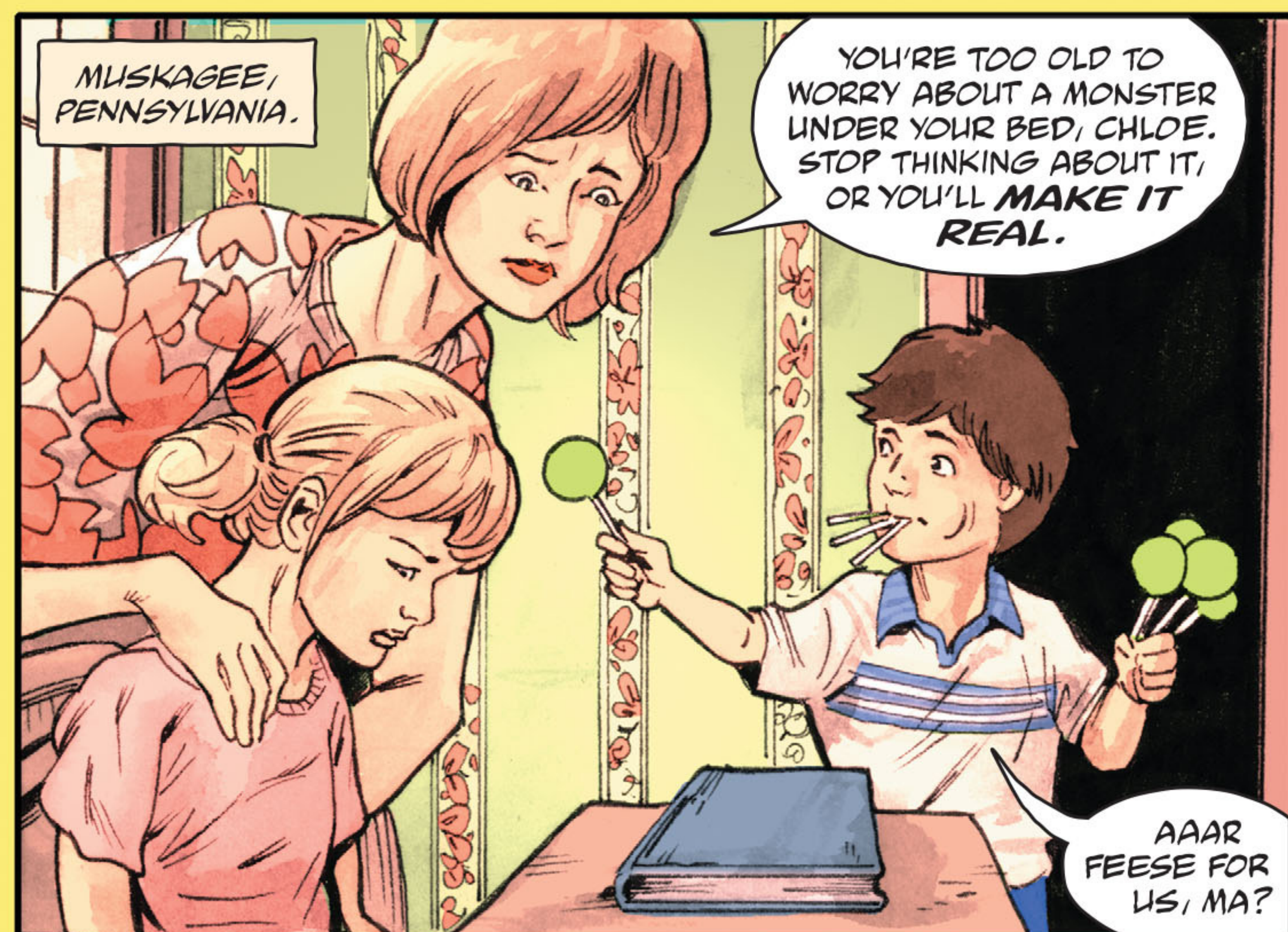
ARE YOU SURE  
YOUR DAUGHTER DOESN'T  
WANT TO STAY AND PLAY, MR.  
BUCKLAND? ALICE GETS SO  
LONELY OUT HERE BY HERSELF.



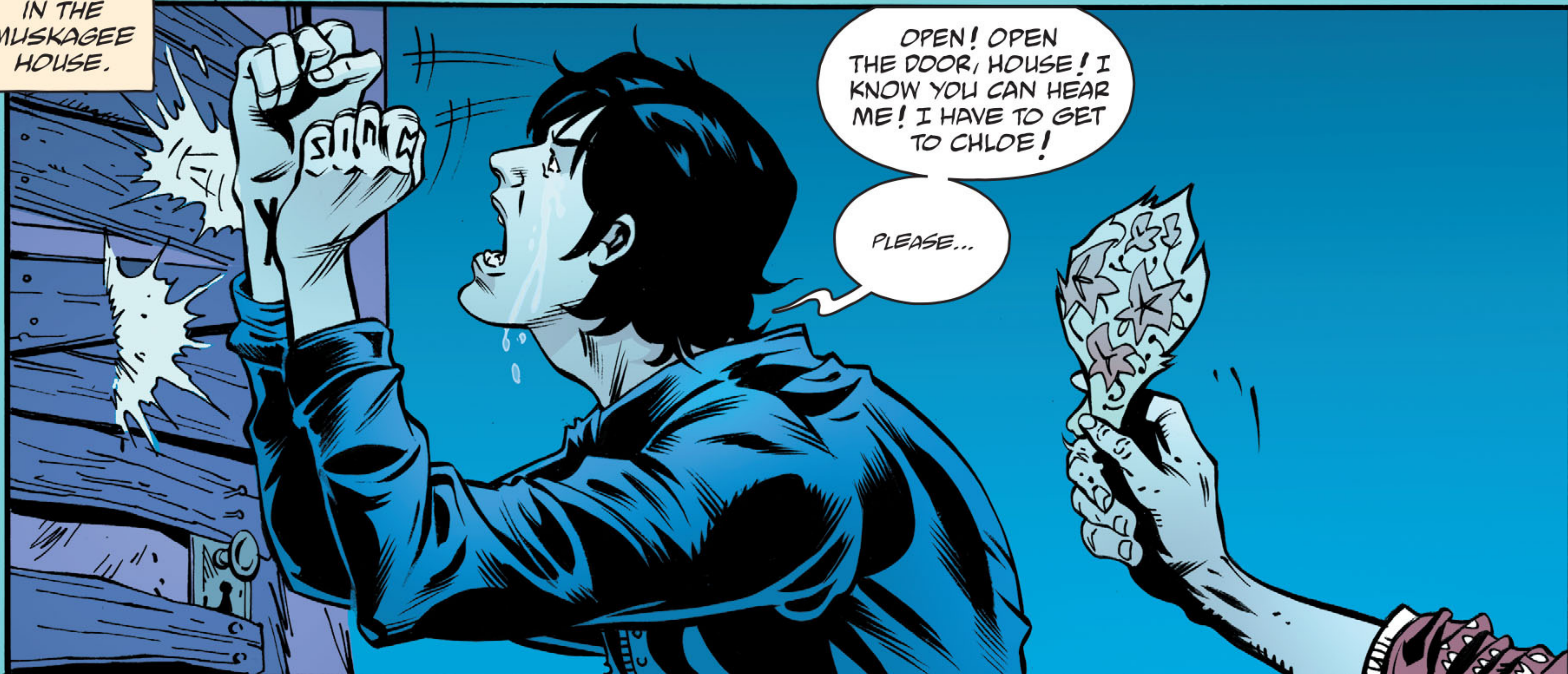
MUSKAGEE,  
PENNSYLVANIA.

YOU'RE TOO OLD TO  
WORRY ABOUT A MONSTER  
UNDER YOUR BED, CHLOE.  
STOP THINKING ABOUT IT,  
OR YOU'LL **MAKE IT**  
**REAL**.

AAAR  
FEESE FOR  
US, MA?



ELSEWHERE  
IN THE  
MUSKAGEE  
HOUSE.



OPEN! OPEN  
THE DOOR, HOUSE! I  
KNOW YOU CAN HEAR  
ME! I HAVE TO GET  
TO CHLOE!

PLEASE...



THERE YOU ARE,  
SIMON. I'VE BEEN  
CHASING YOU ALL  
OVER TO BRING  
YOU THIS.



HOLY SHIT!  
DAD?!?  
HOW ARE  
YOU--

IT'S THIS  
HOUSE. IT WON'T  
LET US DIE. IT WANTS  
THE WHOLE FAMILY  
TOGETHER.



WHAT'S THIS? I MEAN,  
I KNOW WHAT IT IS. THE  
WALLPAPER.

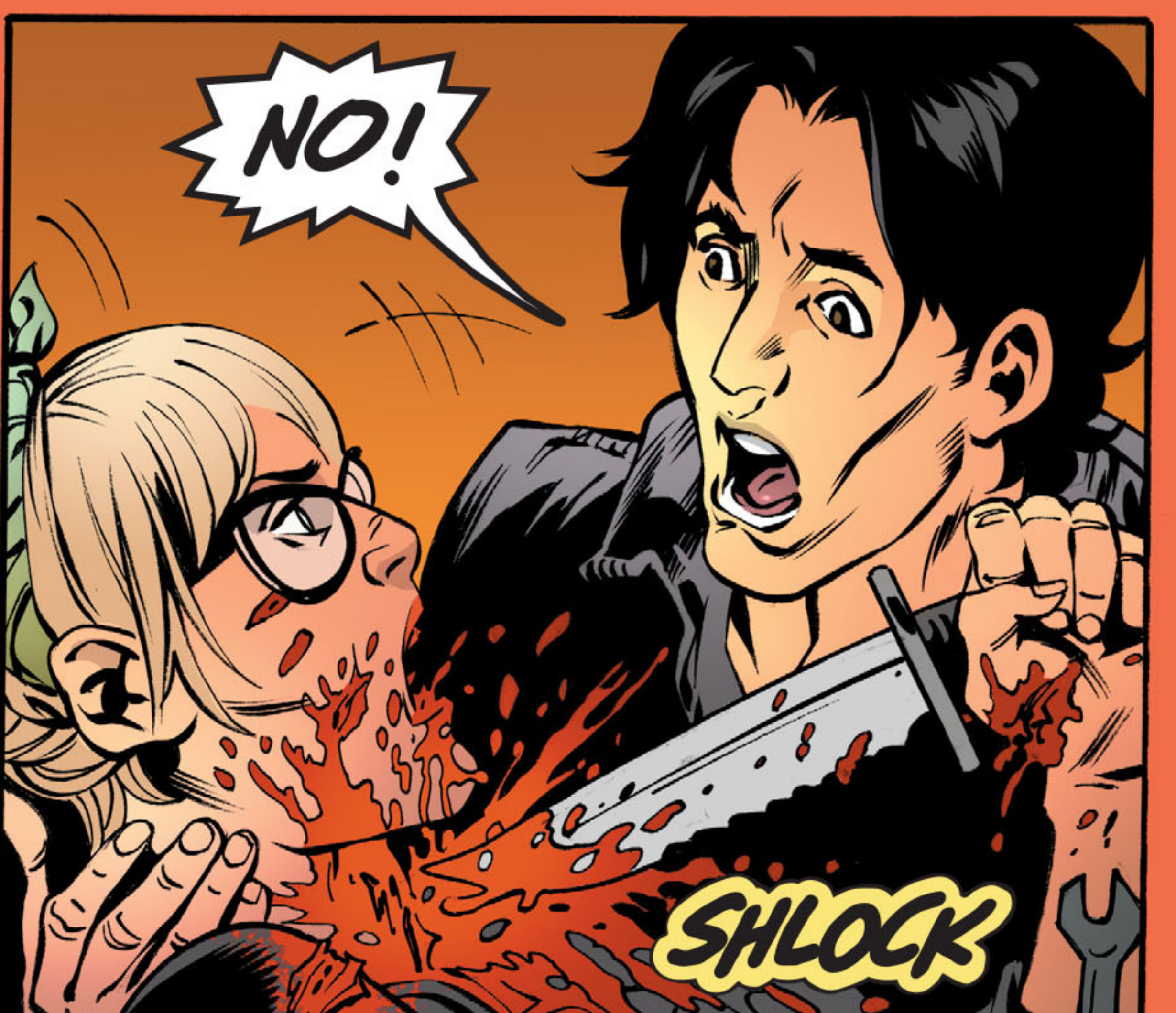
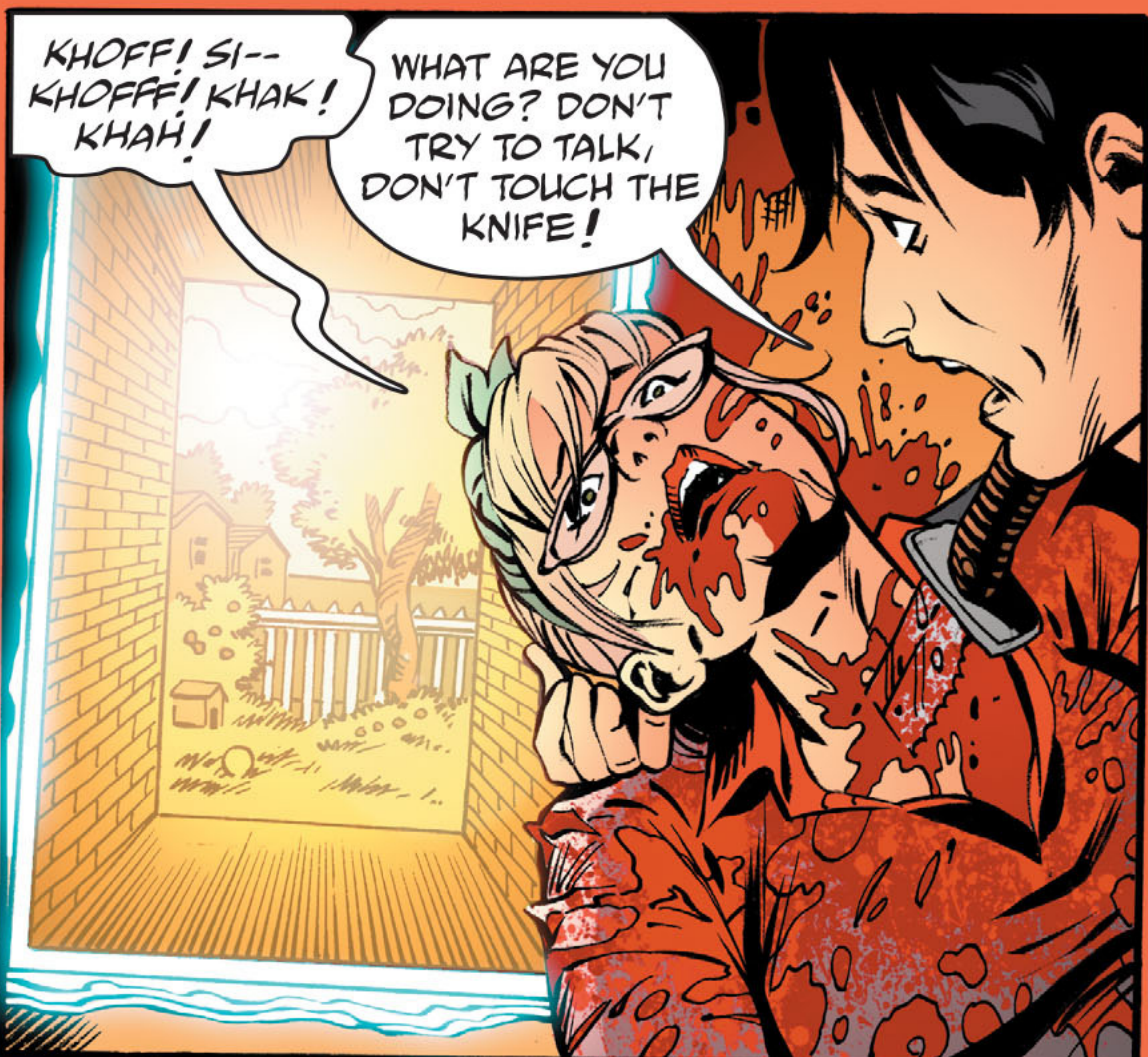
TAKE IT.  
YOU NEED IT. THE  
HOUSE ACTS ON  
INSTINCT. IT'S A  
BRUTE ANIMAL. YOU  
HAVE TO TELL IT  
WHAT TO DO.

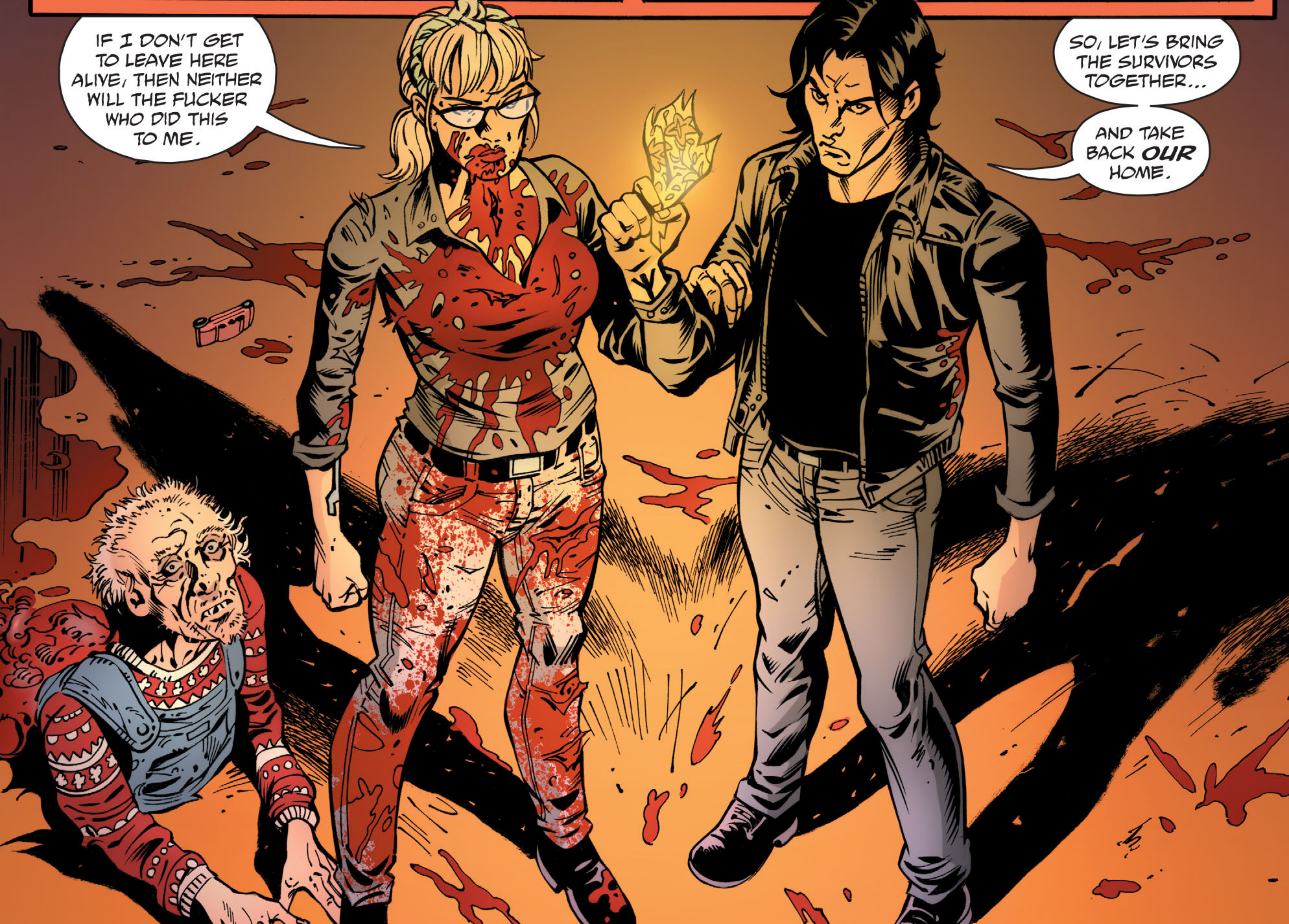
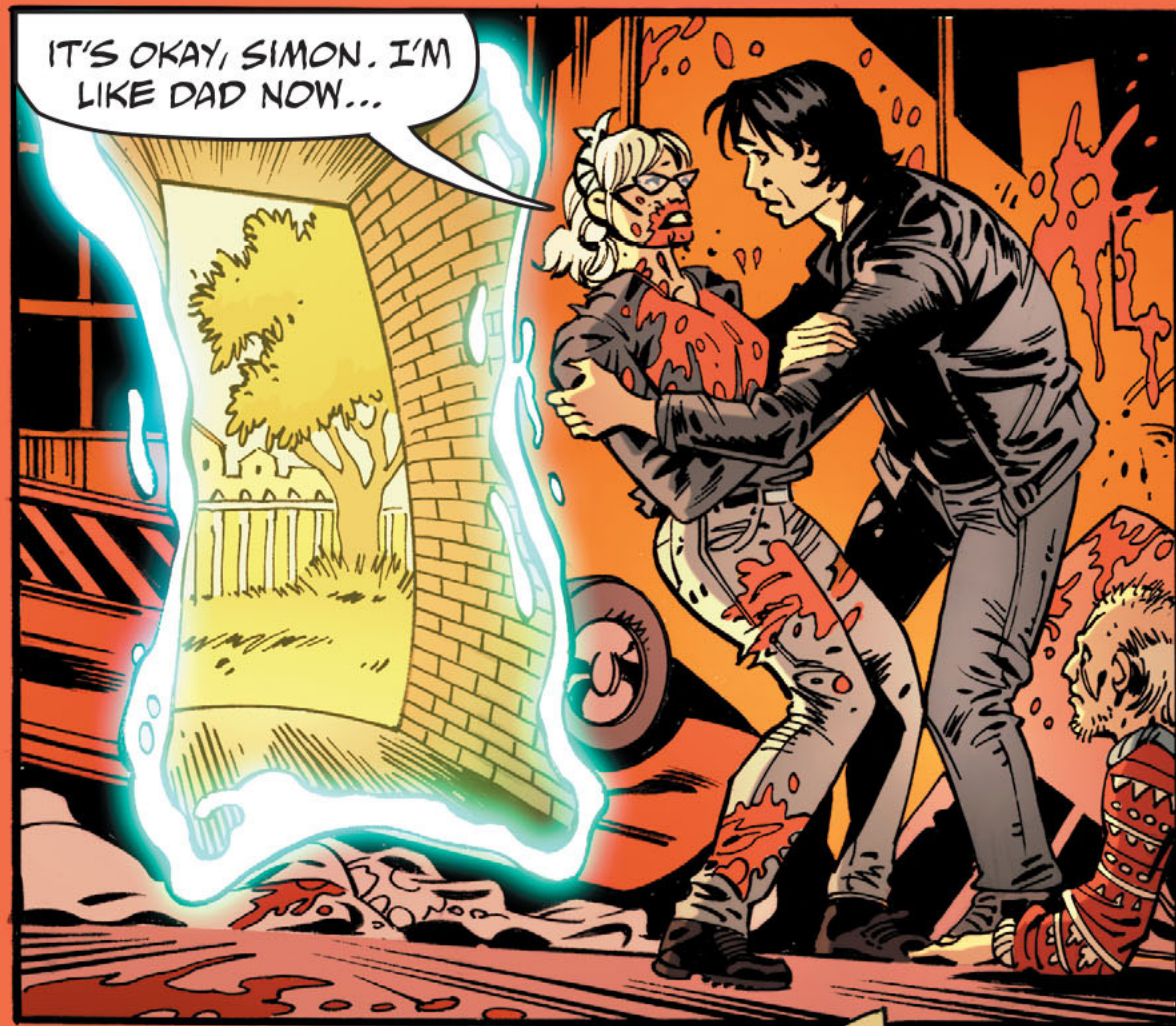
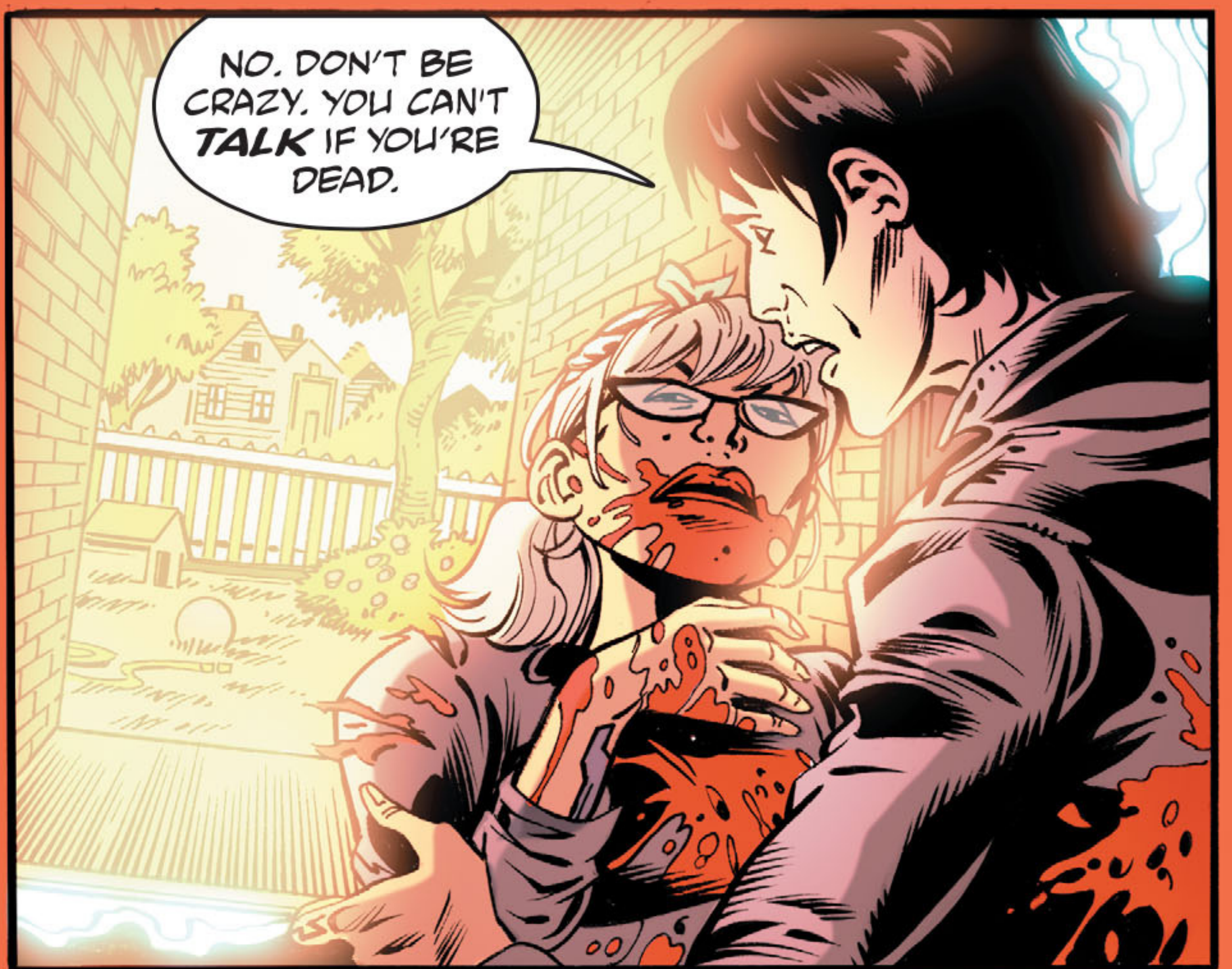
THIS  
IS YOUR  
CONNECTION.  
THINK OF IT LIKE  
A DOOHICKEY  
THINGAMAJIG...  
A REMOTE  
CONTROL.



EASY AS  
THAT, huh?  
OKAY.

OPEN. THE.  
GODDAMN.  
DOOR.



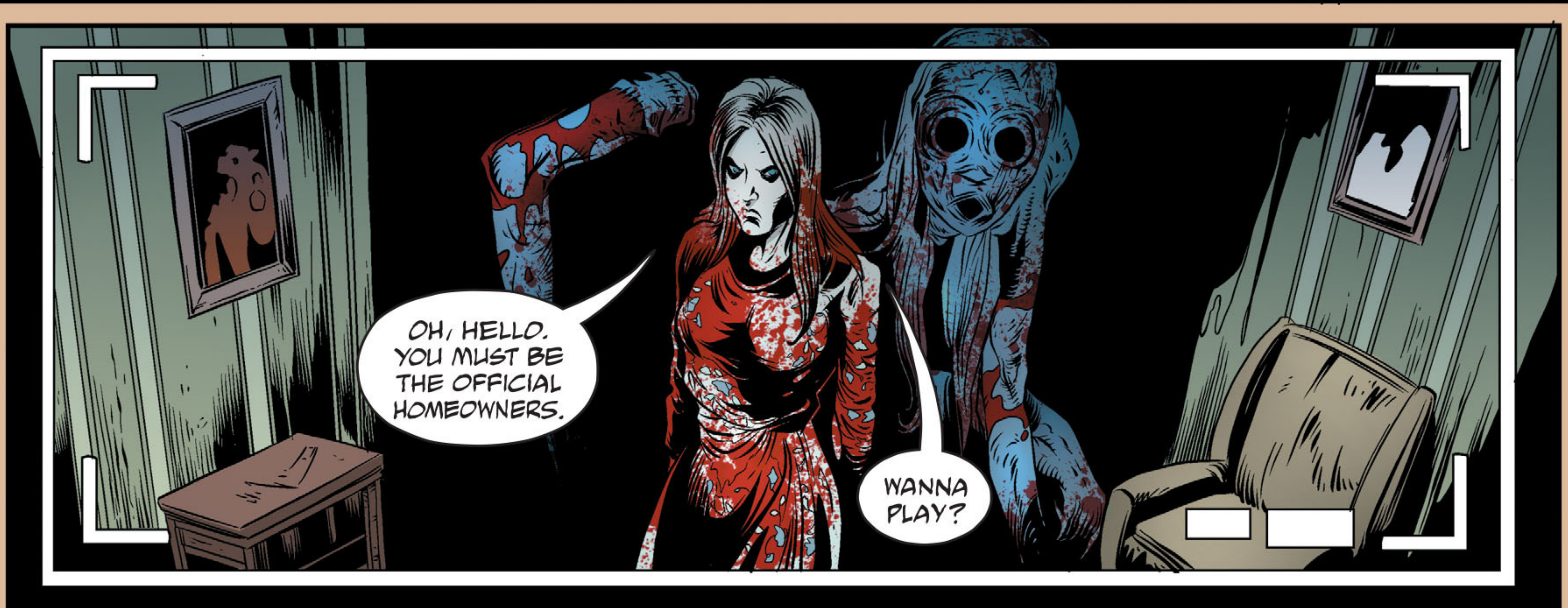




BILL! I THINK THIS IS THE ACTOR WE HIRED TO BE OUR FAKE PRIEST.

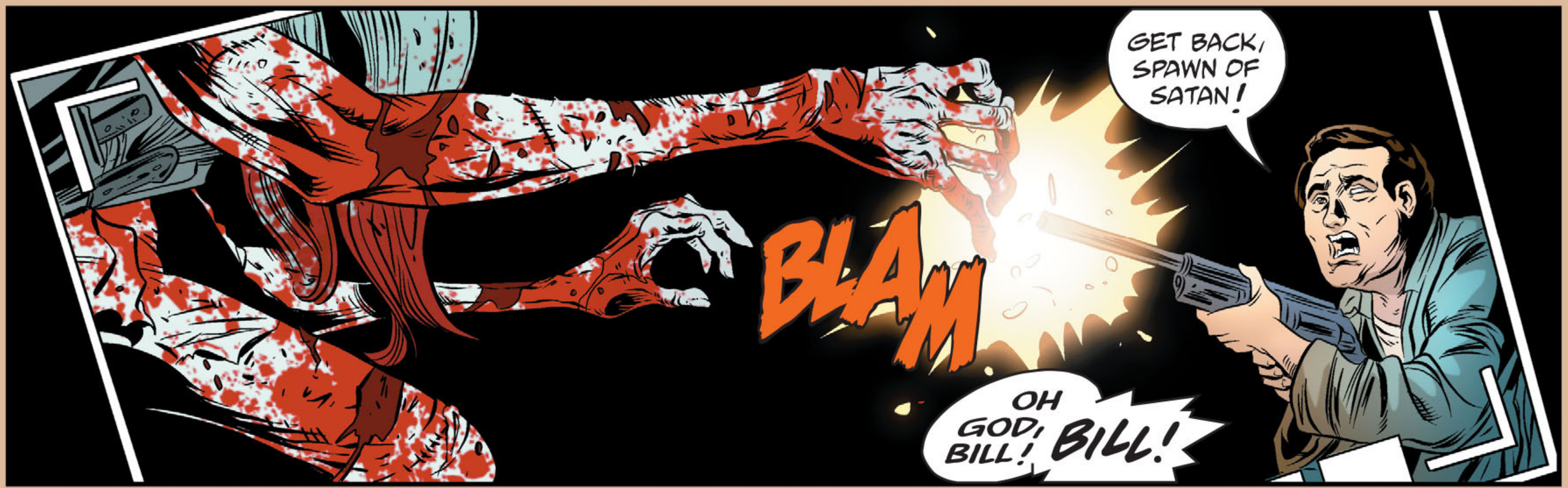
I DON'T LIKE THIS, HONEY. I NEVER IMAGINED...

DEAR LORD! WHAT IS THAT?!



OH, HELLO. YOU MUST BE THE OFFICIAL HOMEOWNERS.

WANNA PLAY?



GET BACK, SPAWN OF SATAN!

**BLAM**

OH GOD! BILL! BILL!



OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN  
SOB, GUIDE US, PROTECT US...FROM...FROM THE UNHOLY...ANGELS AMONGST...  
OH JESUS. OH SWEET JES--  
**AAAAAAGH!**



WHOA! THE FLOOR'S MOVING! WHAT'S GOING ON?

OH, IT'S JUST THE HOUSE REARRANGING ITSELF.

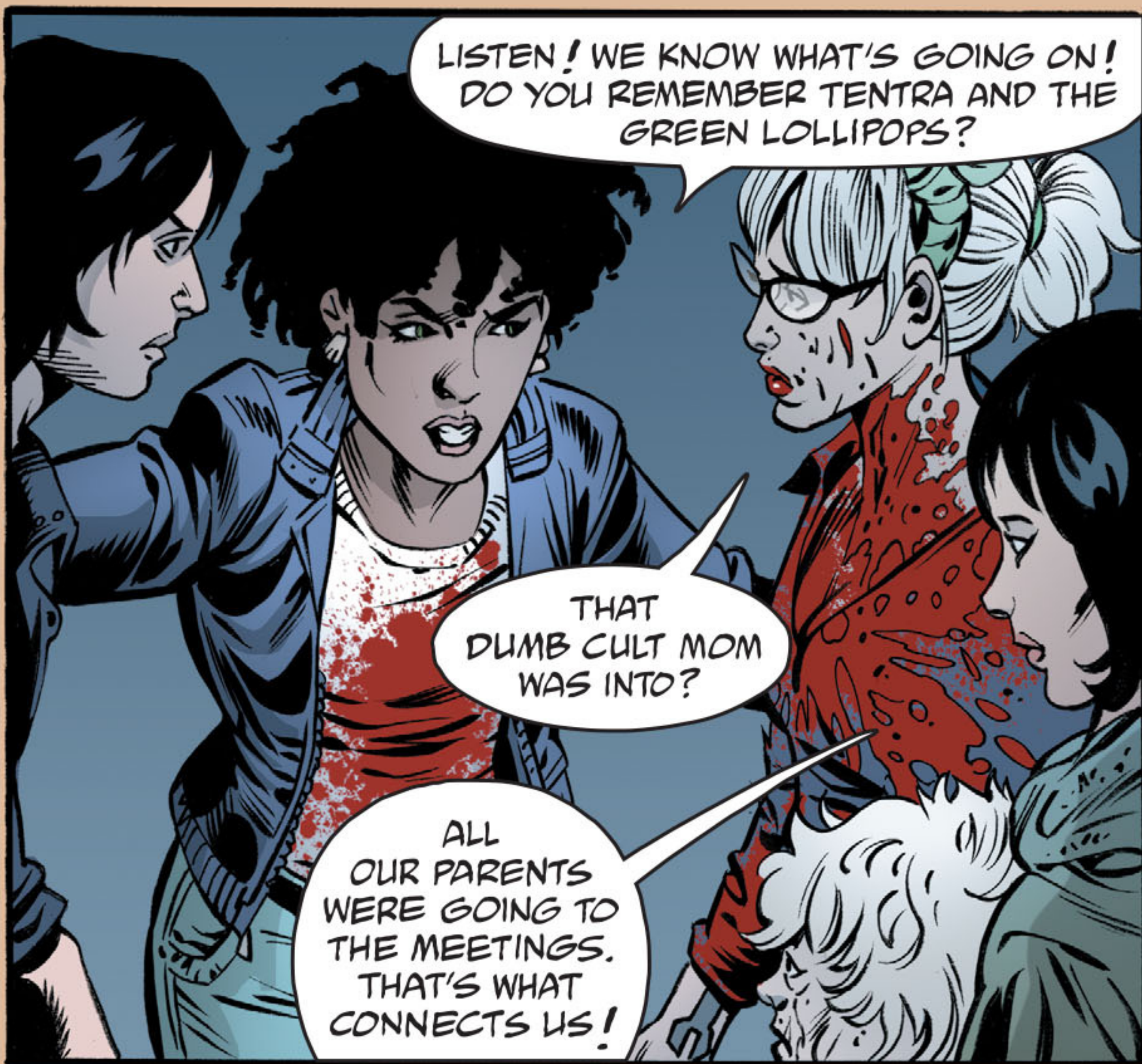
LIKE A DOG, AFTER A NAP.



THANK GOD, YOU'RE ALIVE!

CHENZIRA? HOW ARE YOU IN PENNSYLVANIA? IS TED HERE TOO? AND WHAT IS THAT **THING** ON KIRI'S BACK?

IT'S JUST AUNTIE. BUT THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH HER.



LISTEN! WE KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON! DO YOU REMEMBER TENTRA AND THE GREEN LOLLIPOPS?

THAT DUMB CULT MOM WAS INTO?

ALL OUR PARENTS WERE GOING TO THE MEETINGS. THAT'S WHAT CONNECTS US!



Um, CAN WE DO THE BIG CATCH-UP LATER AND MAYBE FOCUS ON TAKING DOWN THE SUPERNATURAL PSYCHO KILLERS?



DON'T WORRY, IT'S ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF.

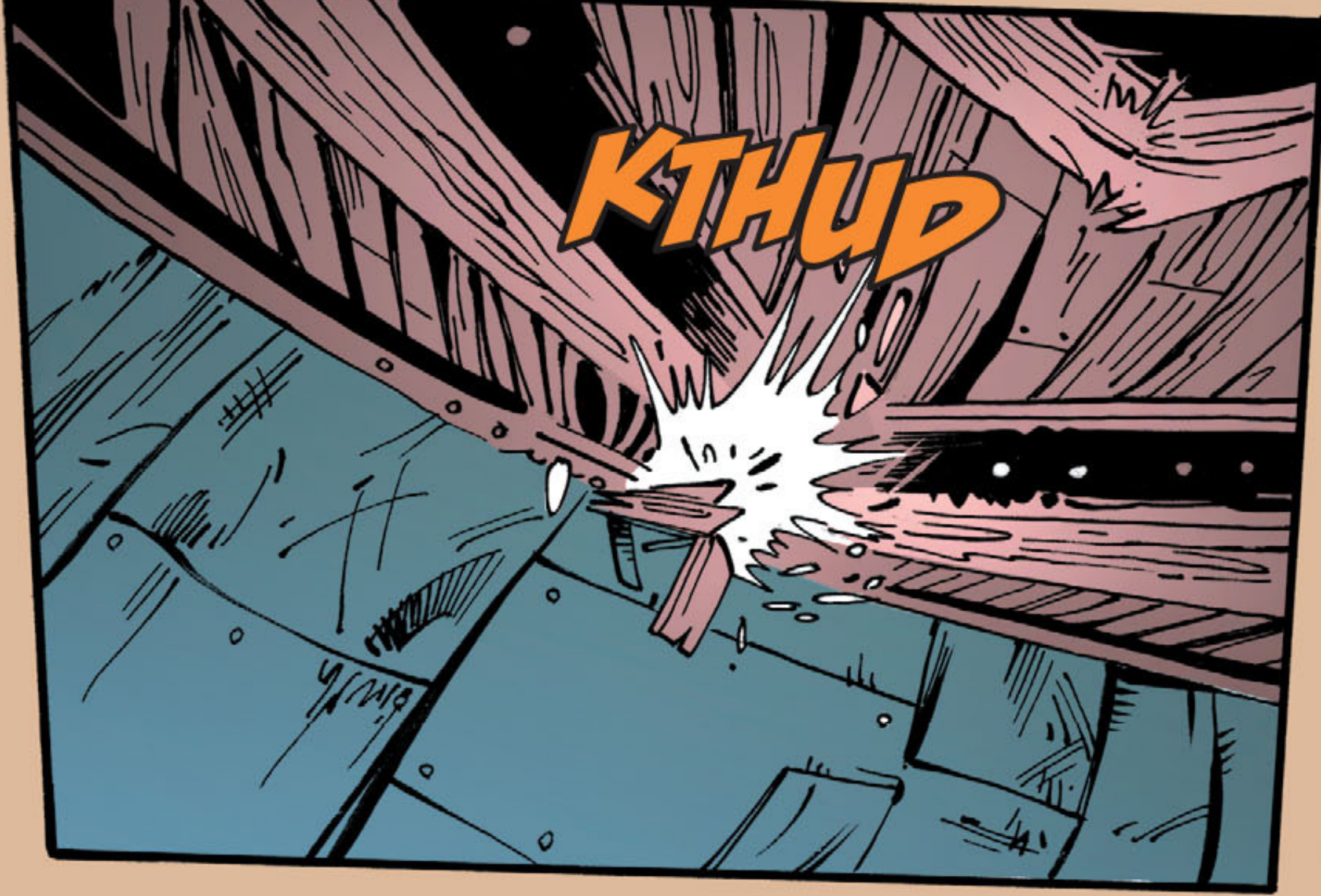
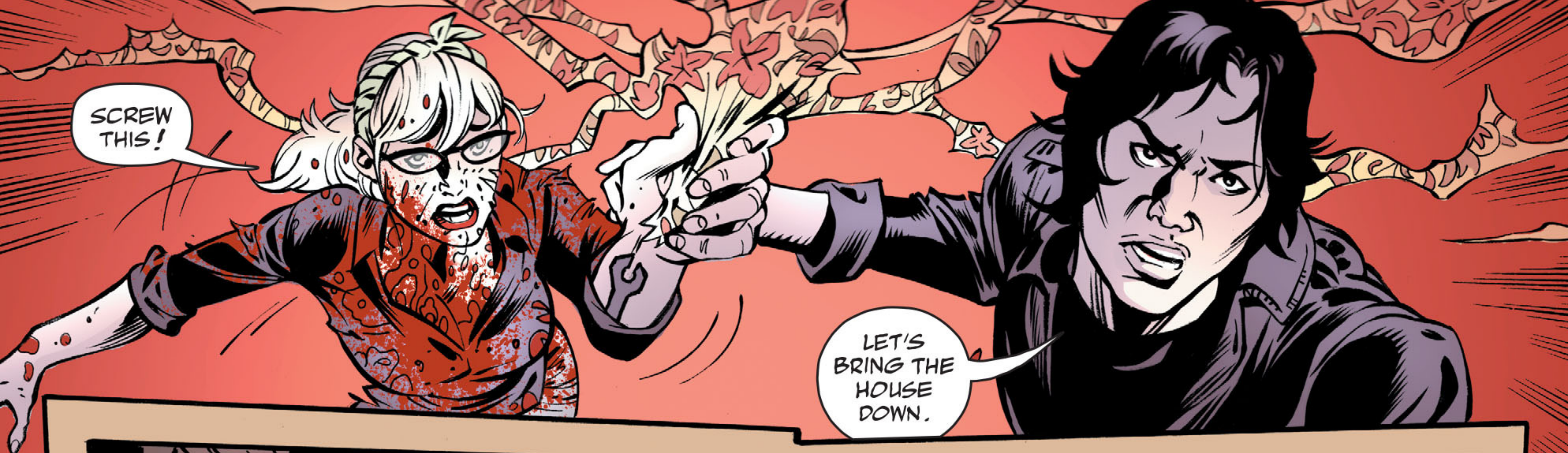


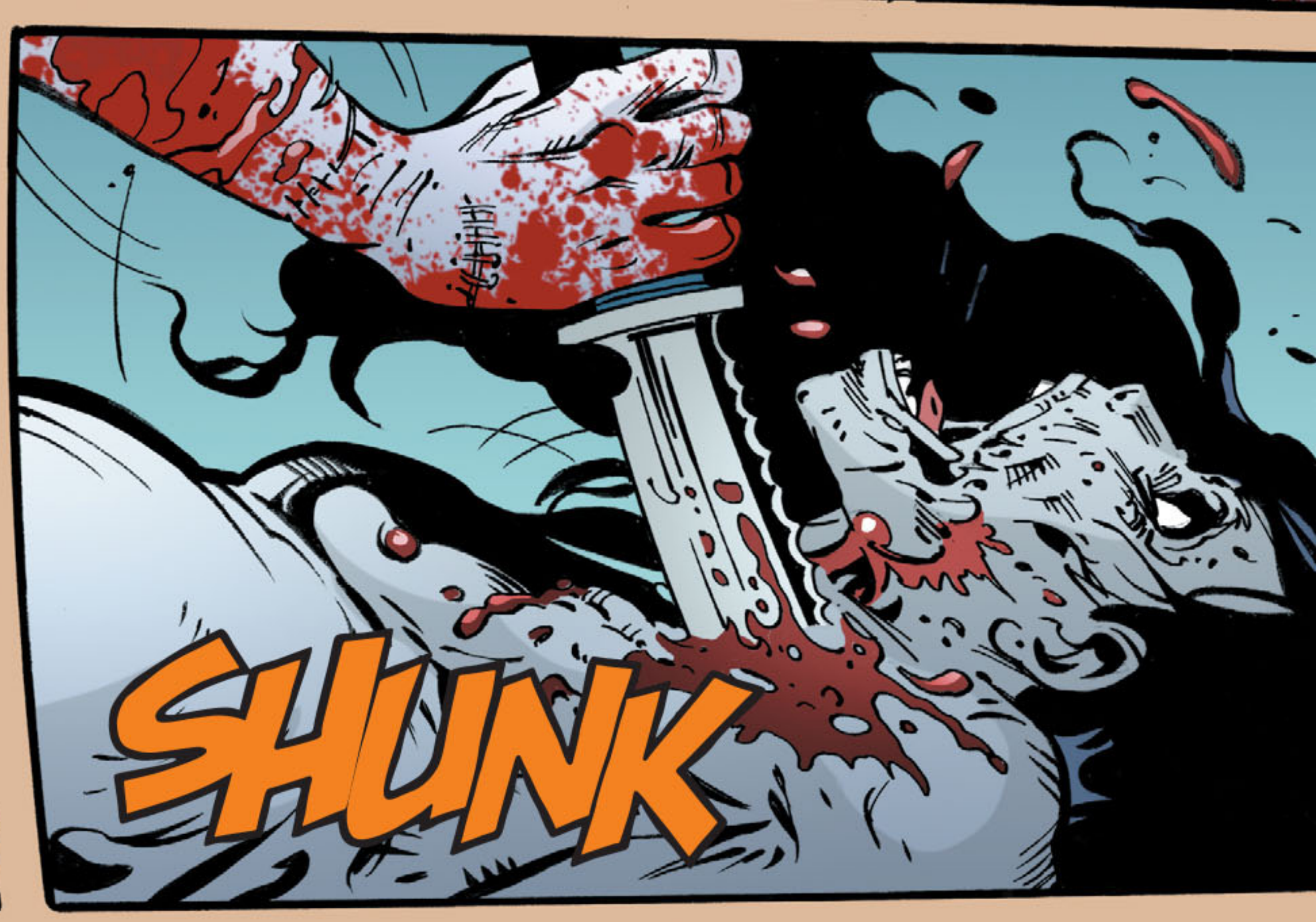
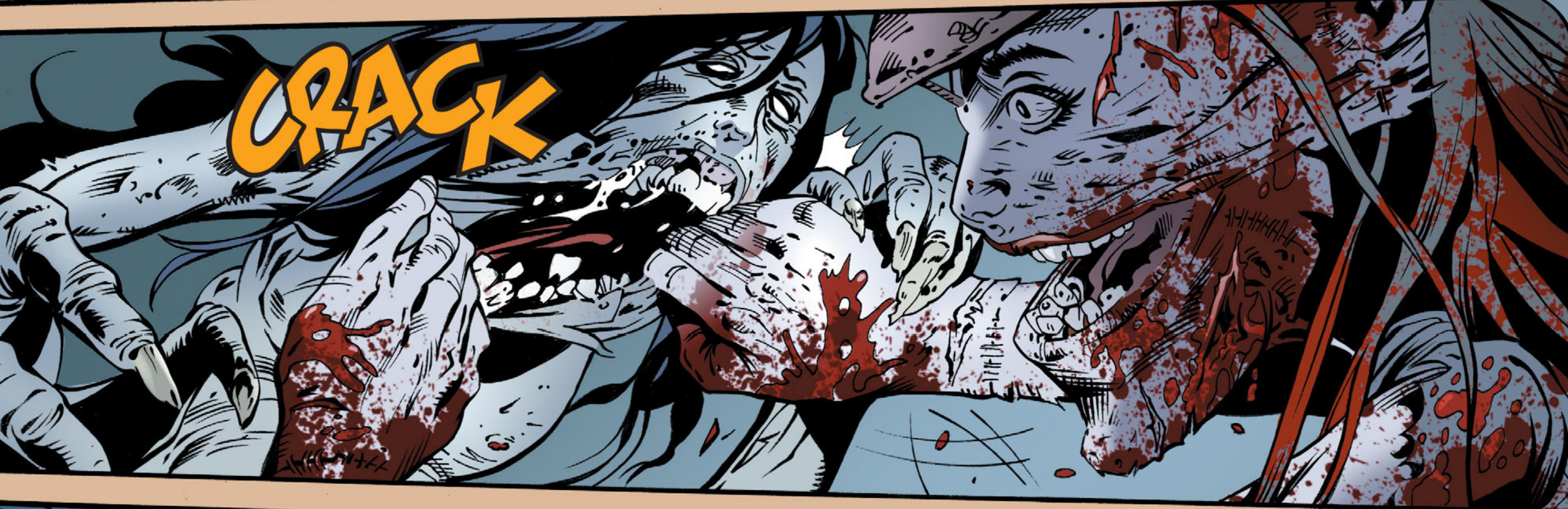
YOU'RE ALL SO SCARED TO CLAIM YOUR DARKNESS, LET ALONE CONTROL IT.

YOU WASTED YOUR GIFTS.

"SO NOW *EMPTY ALICE*  
IS GOING TO TAKE THEM  
AWAY FROM YOU."









KILLLL YOU!

I DON'T WANT TO! PLEASE! STOP!



AAAAAAAH!

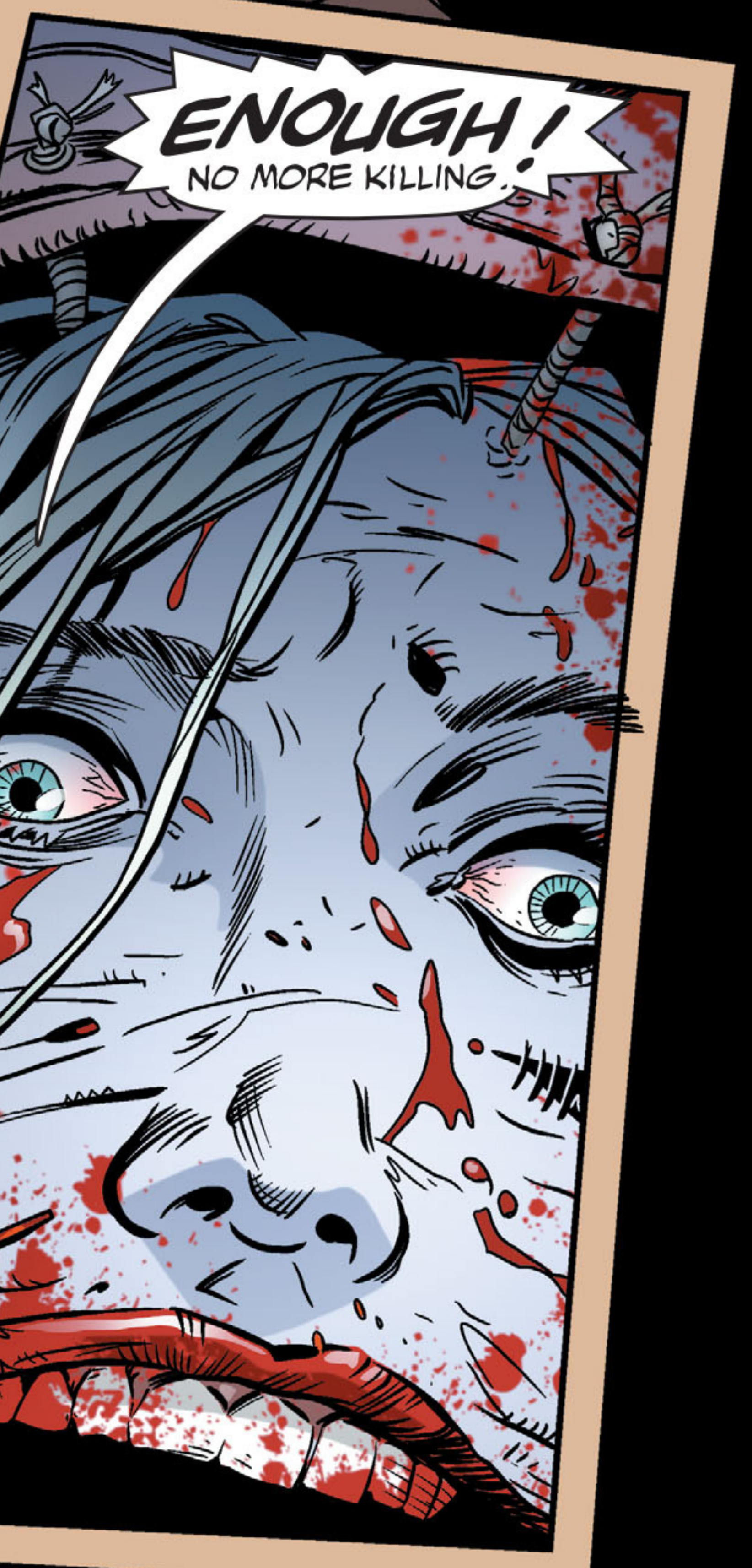


GET AWAY FROM MY FRIEND!

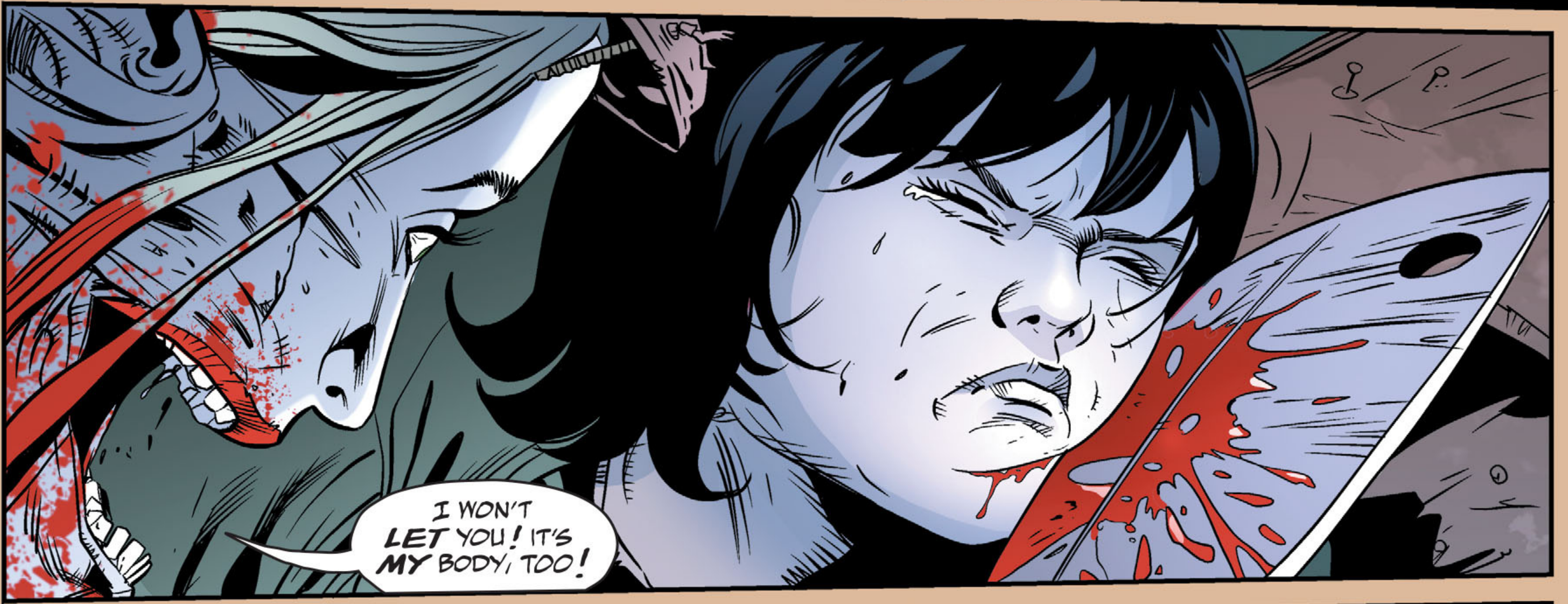
DON'T USE-- AAAGH!



NICE TRY, LITTLE GIRL. YOU'RE GONNA NEED A BIGGER HEAD!



ENOUGH! NO MORE KILLING!



I WON'T  
LET YOU! IT'S  
MY BODY, TOO!



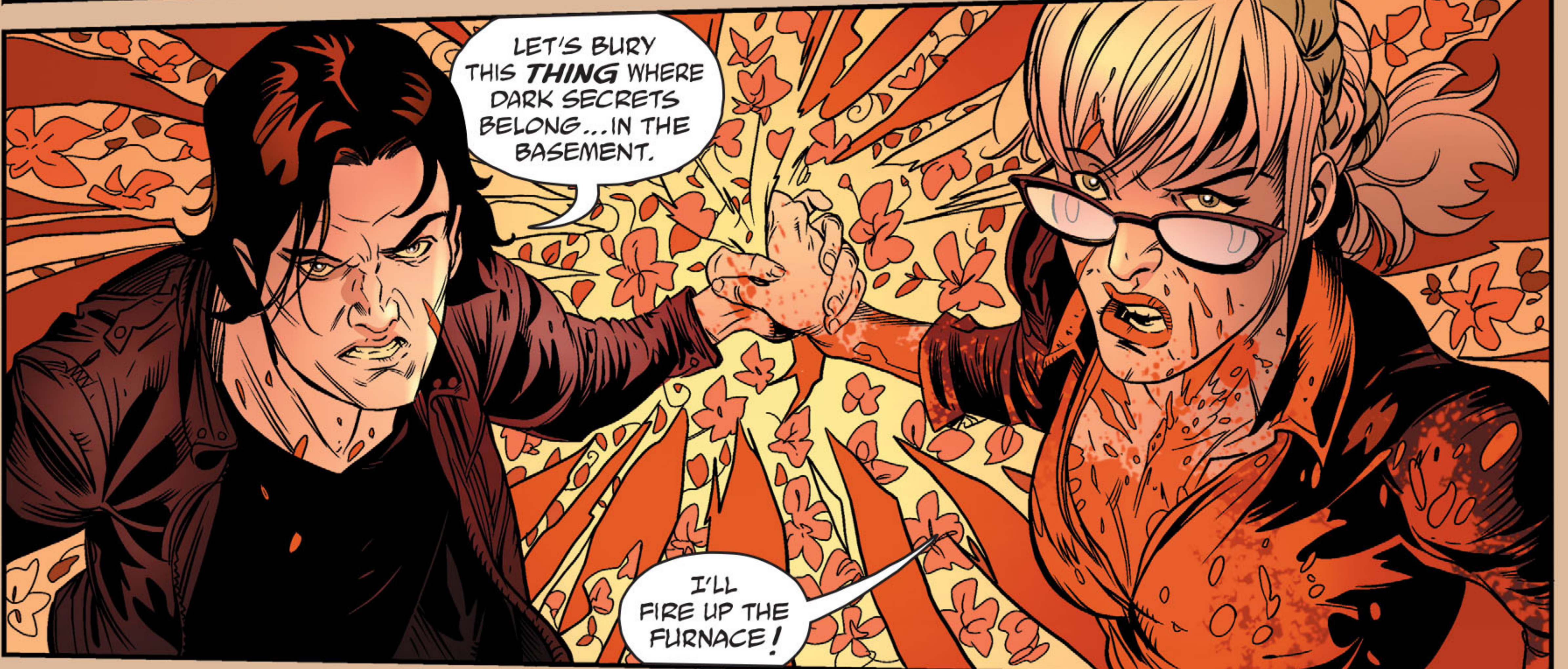
LET  
GOOOO!  
LET GO!

I'M  
STRONGER  
THAN YOU AND  
I'M DONE BEING  
A PLAYTHING!



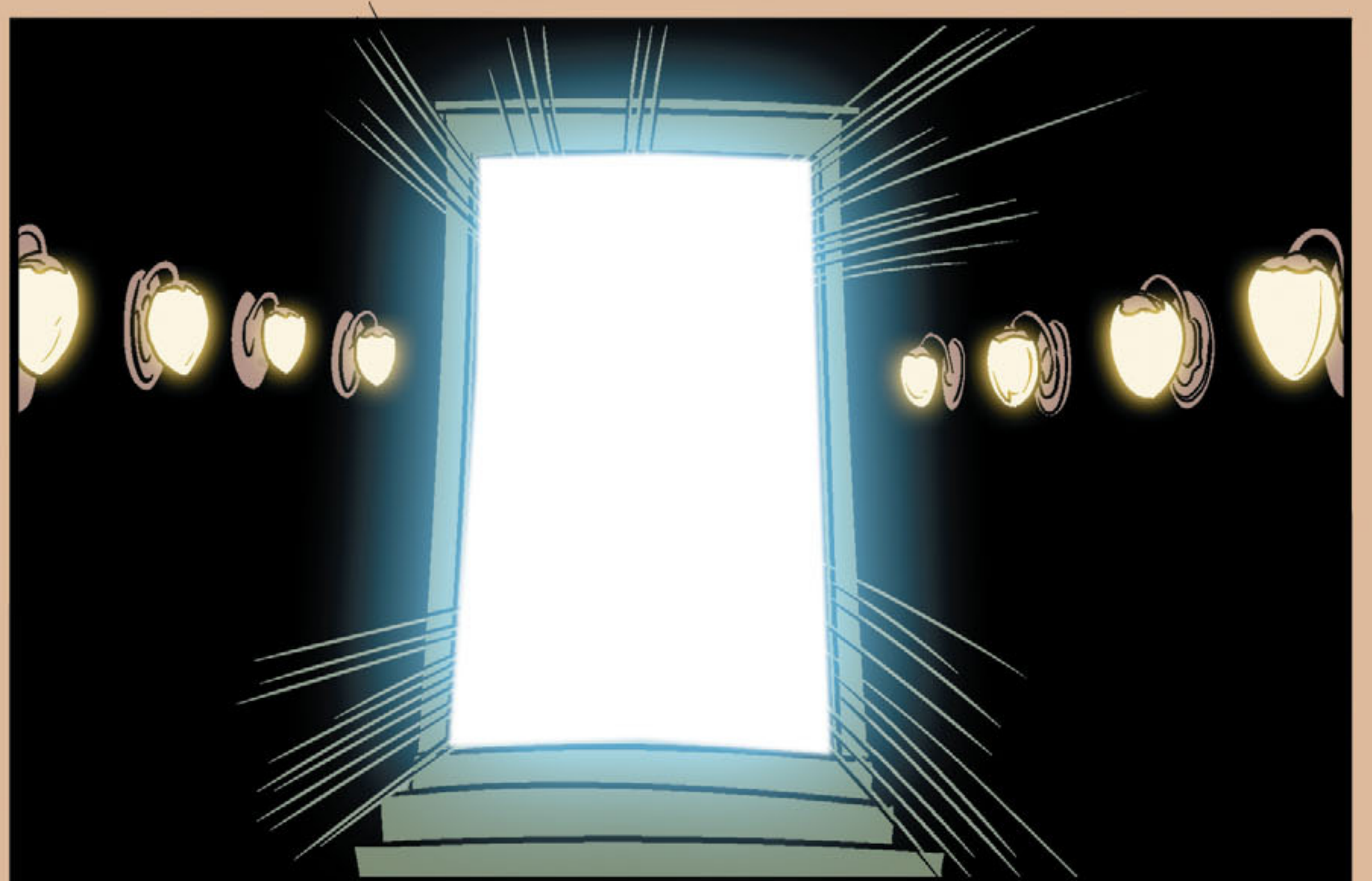
FUUUUUUUCK!!

WHY ARE YOU HESITATING?  
KILL THEM! GET THE  
WALLPAPER!



LET'S BURY  
THIS **THING**  
WHERE  
DARK SECRETS  
BELONG...IN THE  
BASEMENT.

I'LL  
FIRE UP THE  
FURNACE!





WHOOSH! THAT THING IS TOAST! NOTHING COULD HAVE SURVIVED THAT!

IT'S LIKE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN A HORROR MOVIE, SIMON...THEY ALWAYS COME BACK.

NO. I THINK IT'S REALLY OVER.

ALMOST.

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING, ALICE?

TSSSSSS



OH GOD, WHAT HAPPENED?

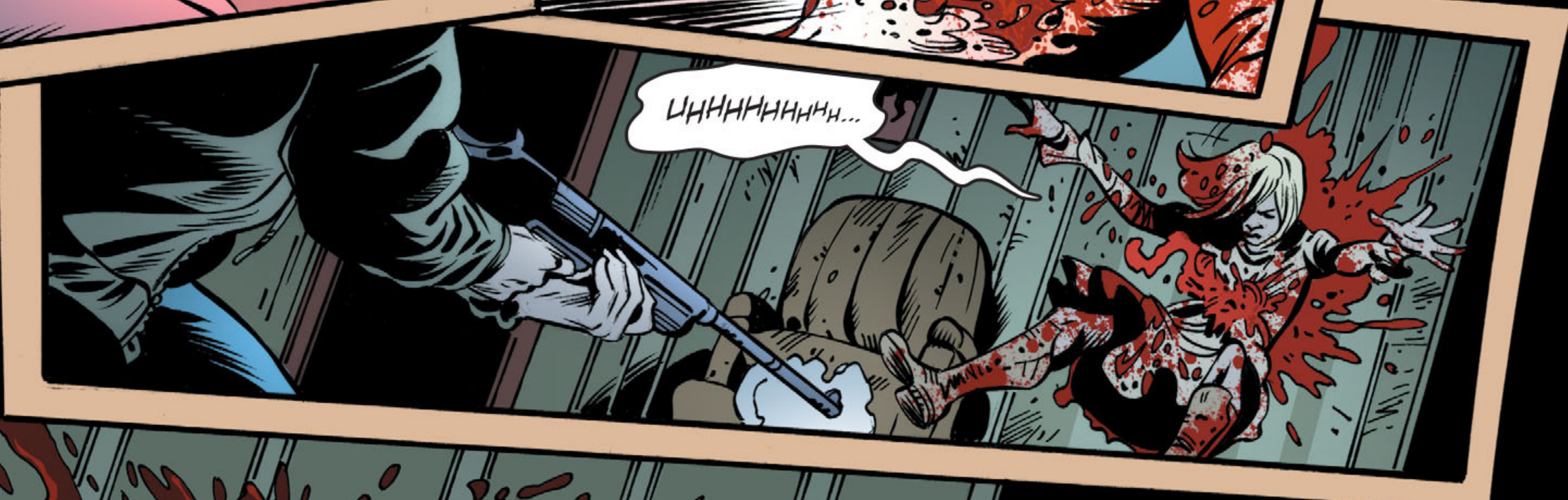
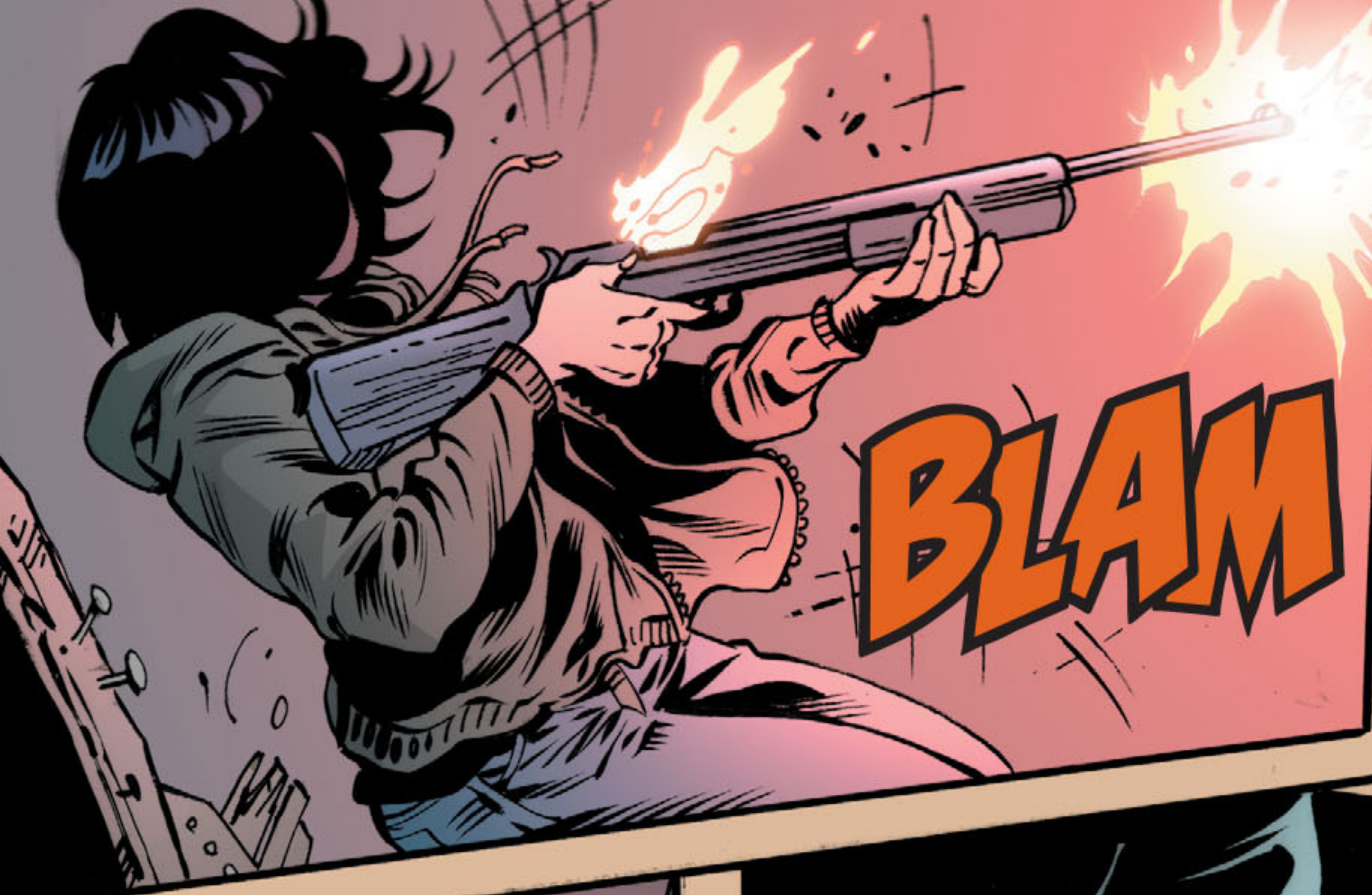
THAT THING WAS CONTROLLING MY MIND. LIKE AN INFECTION. JUST LIKE TED SAID.

THAT'S NOT TRUE. YOU SAID YOU MADE IT.

I THINK WE ALL MADE OUR MONSTERS! OUT OF BAD THINGS THAT HAPPENED TO US WHEN WE WERE KIDS.

BUT YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS ALREADY A MONSTER, ALICE.





A LITTLE LATER...

WELL, THAT WAS A **BAD** DAY.

BUT WHAT ABOUT TED'S BODY? AND I HAVE TO FIND AUNTIE! WE CAN'T LEAVE THEM BEHIND.

FOR GOD'S SAKE, WOULD YOU **LOOK** AT YOU TWO? YOU NEED A HOSPITAL.

AND THEN YOU NEED TO FIND OUT ABOUT TENTRA SO YOU CAN COME BACK AND FIX THIS MESS.

WE'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING.

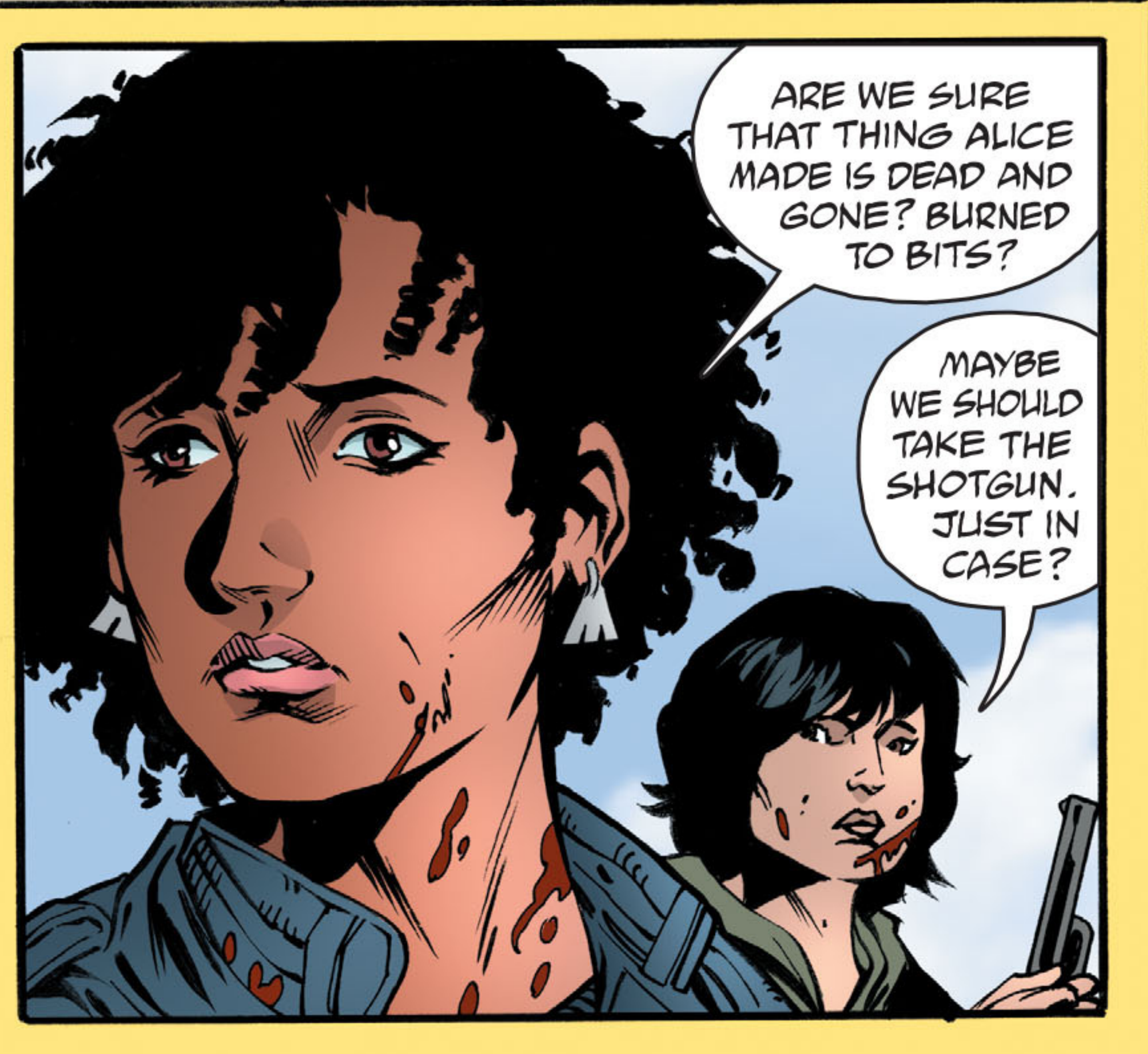
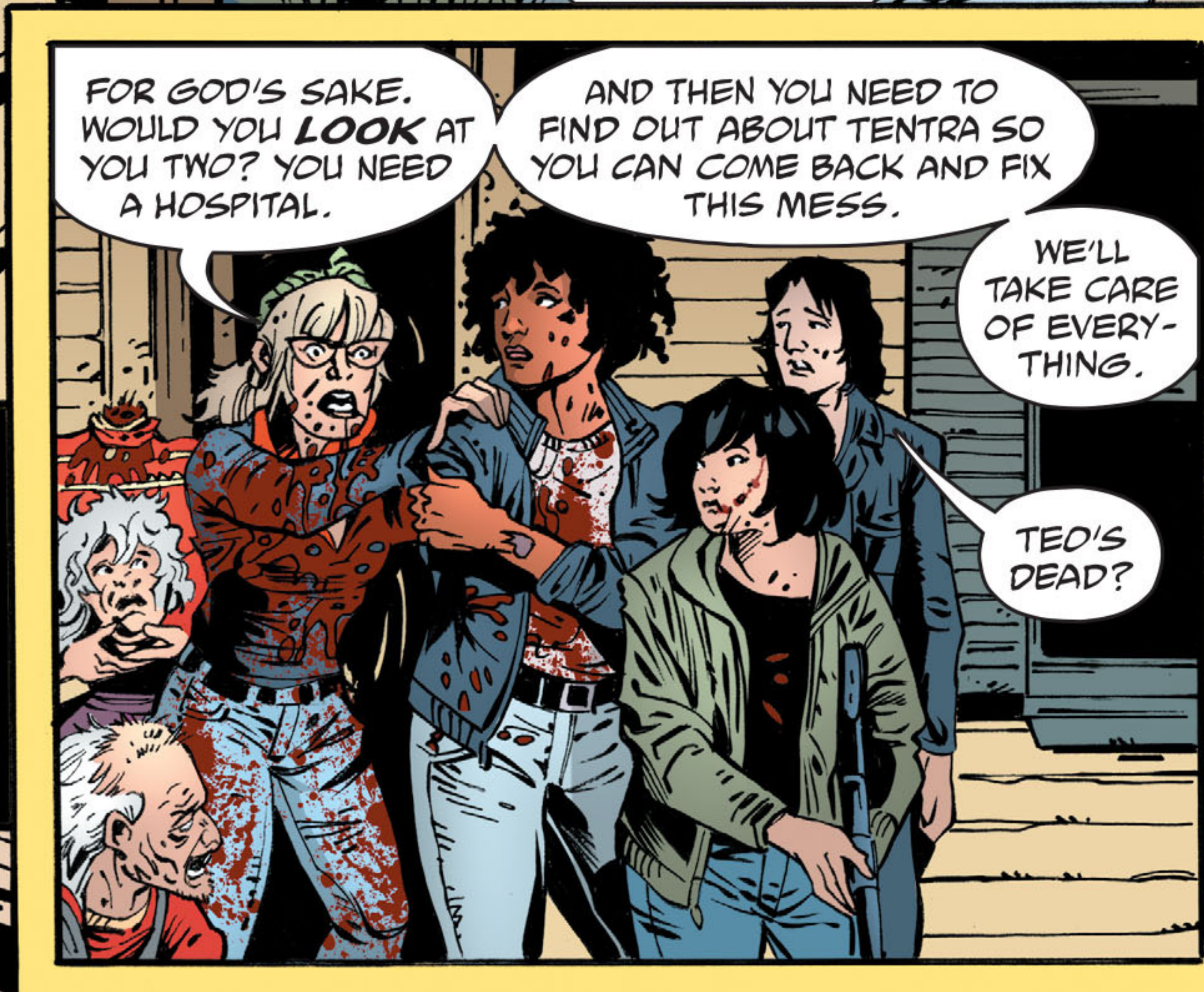
TED'S DEAD?

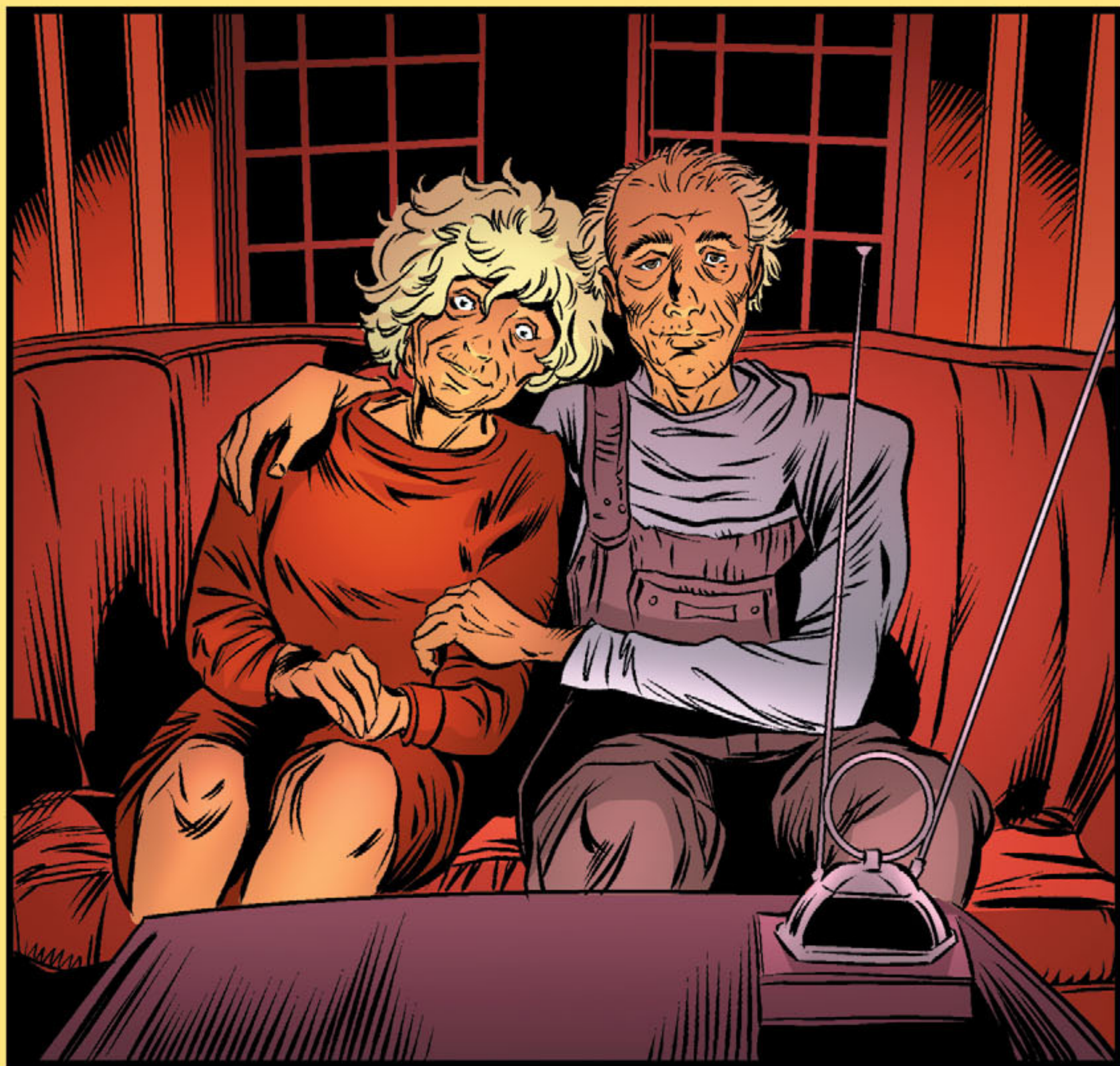
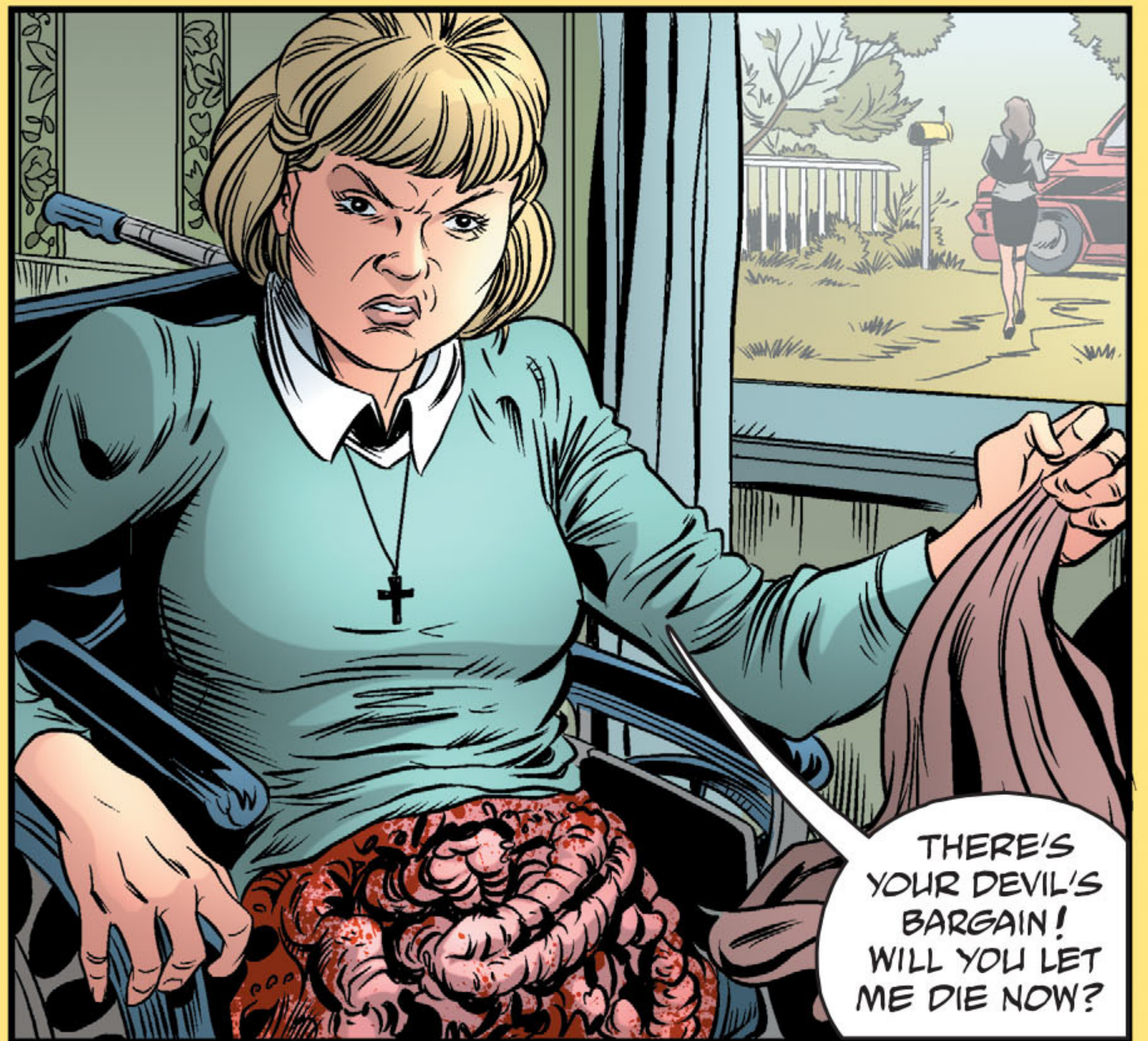
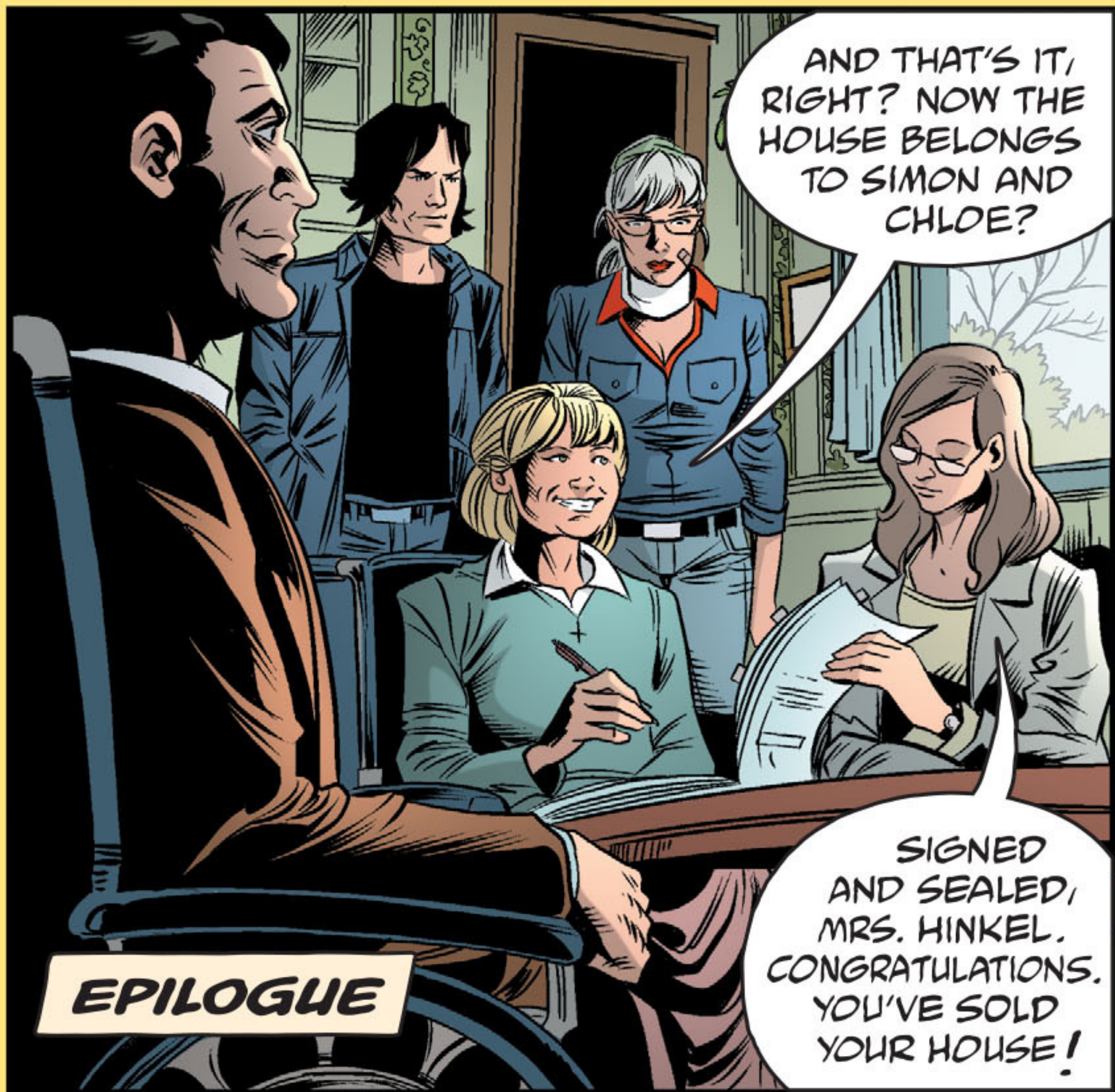
ARE WE SURE THAT THING ALICE MADE IS DEAD AND GONE? BURNED TO BITS?

MAYBE WE SHOULD TAKE THE SHOTGUN. JUST IN CASE?

YOU SURE YOU'RE GOING TO BE OKAY?

WE'LL SURVIVE.





AND EVEN WORSE THINGS HAPPENED WHEN I BROUGHT US ALL TOGETHER TO TRY TO FIGURE OUT WHY.

THINK WE'LL FIND ANSWERS HERE?

OR MORE QUESTIONS...

OOOF!

CLANK

LIKE WHAT WAS IN THOSE SWEETS THEY FED US? SECRET GOVERNMENT EXPERIMENT? ALIEN DNA? DEMONS?

INTERDIMENSIONAL ECTOPLASM! THE SECRET OF THE OOZE...

YOU MUST BE HERE ABOUT MY FATHER'S "CHESS CLUB".

IS SIMON WICKMAN WITH YOU? HE'S THE ONLY ONE I MANAGED TO TRACK DOWN.

HE'S A LITTLE... uh...

IT'S COMPLICATED.

I GUESS I'M DOUBLING DOWN ON GUILT.

WE'LL NEVER MIND. I'M SO EXCITED YOU FOUND ME. WE HAVE SO MUCH TO TALK ABOUT.

PLEASE COME IN. CAN I GET YOU SOMETHING?

WATER? ICED TEA? A LOLLIPOP?

BUT MAYBE THIS CAN BE A NEW BEGINNING...

MAYBE WE CAN TRY TO FIND A HAPPY ENDING.

MOM, DO YA REMEMBER THAT GIRL I TOLD YOU ABOUT? WE'RE KINDA TOGETHER NOW.

IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, MRS. LISKER.

IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, MRS. LISKER.

END

# DESKTOP



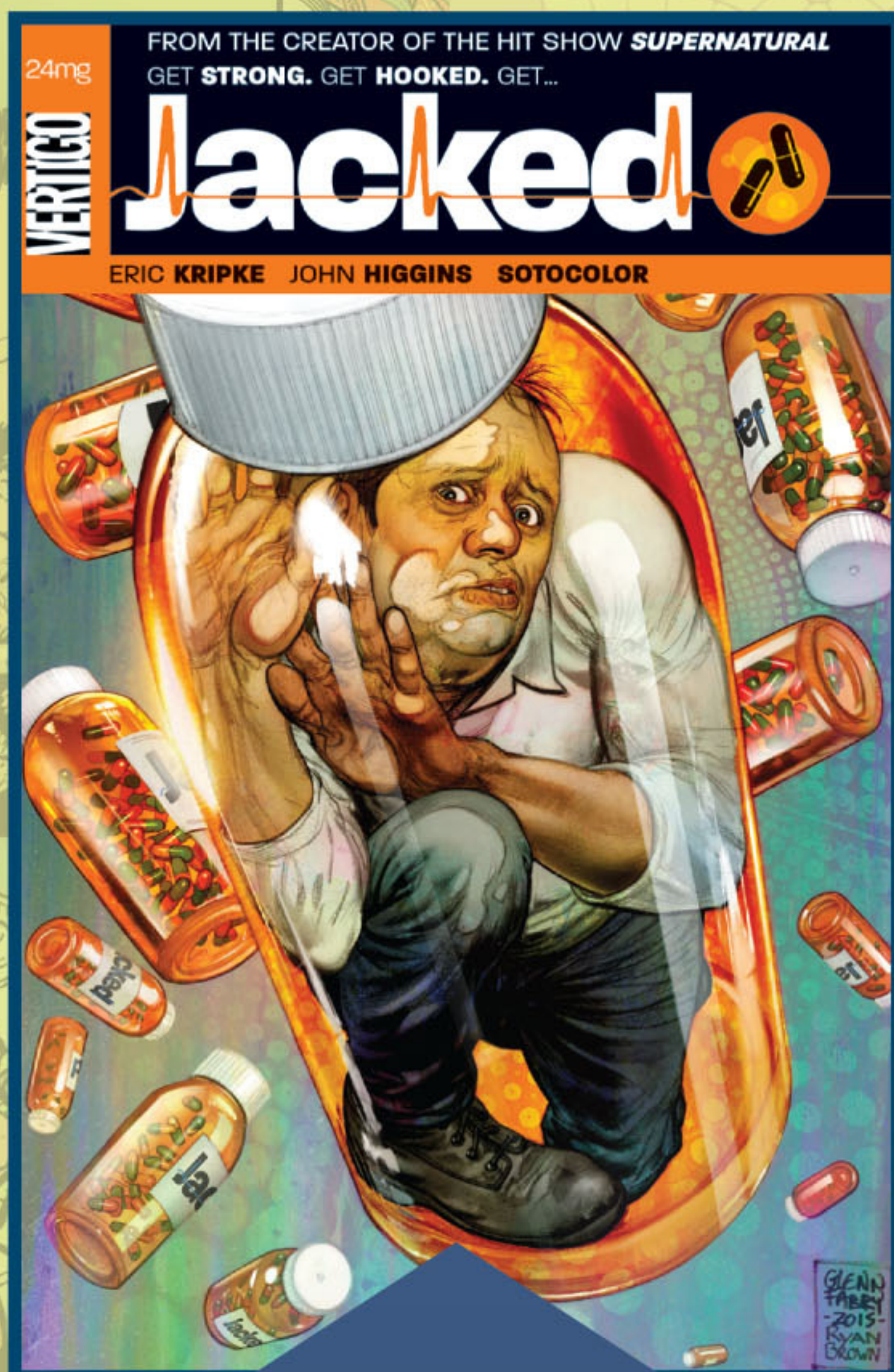
## MORE CLASSIC PAIRINGS

With more new Vertigo series getting their first trade paperbacks, we'd like to continue with our recommendations for combining the old and the new. Do you have a Vertigo title you consider a classic, or want to know which of our earlier comics would go well with your new favorite? Then we are here for you.

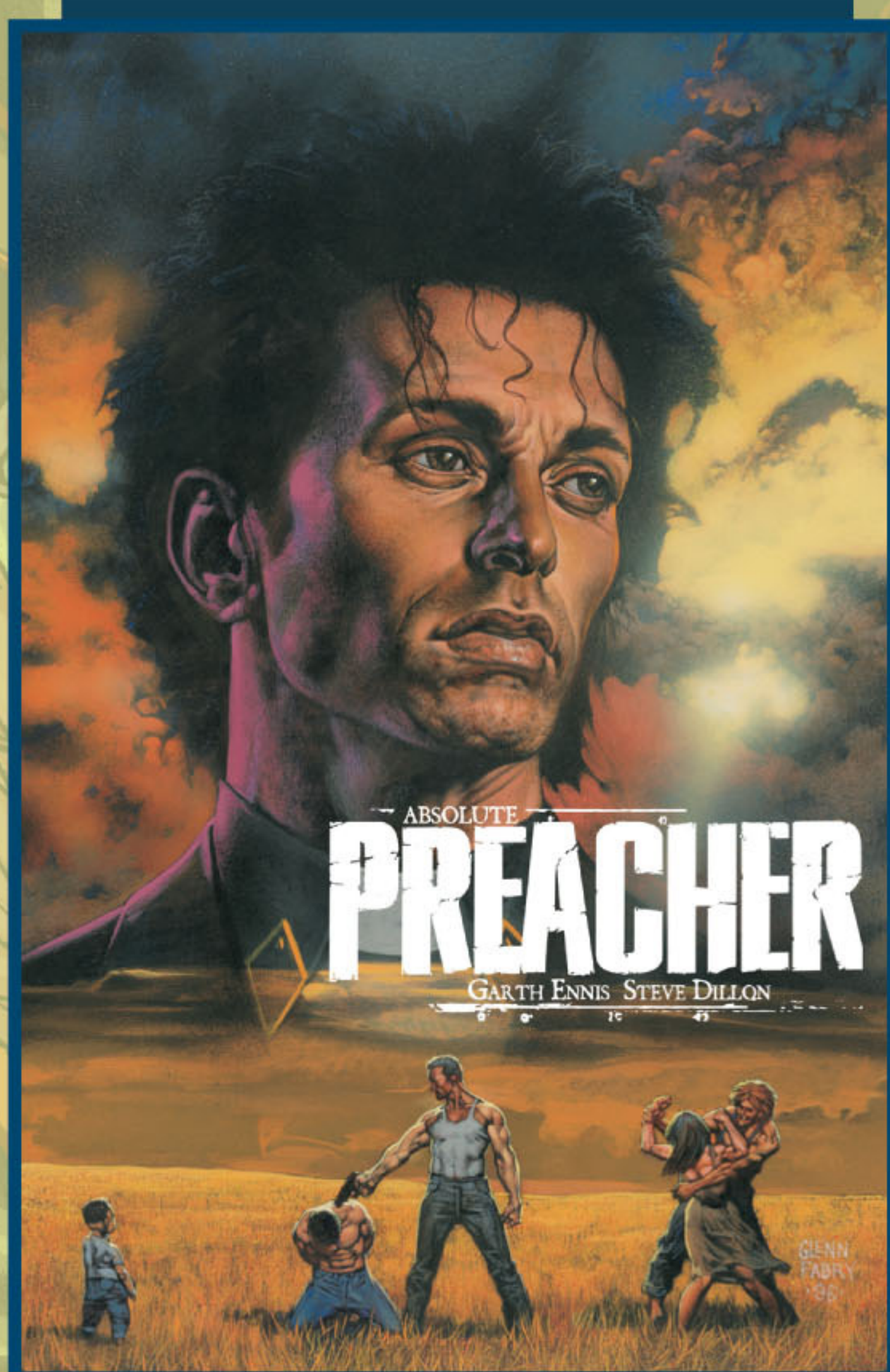
JAMIE S. RICH  
SENIOR EDITOR & CONNOISSEUR

JACKED, CLEAN ROOM Vol. 1, and SLASH & BURN are all on sale in June. THE SHERIFF OF BABYLON Vol. 1 and RED THORN Vol. 1 both go on sale in July.

PREACHER, COFFIN HILL, SCALPED, THE UNWRITTEN, and JOHN CONSTANTINE, HELLBLAZER are on sale now.



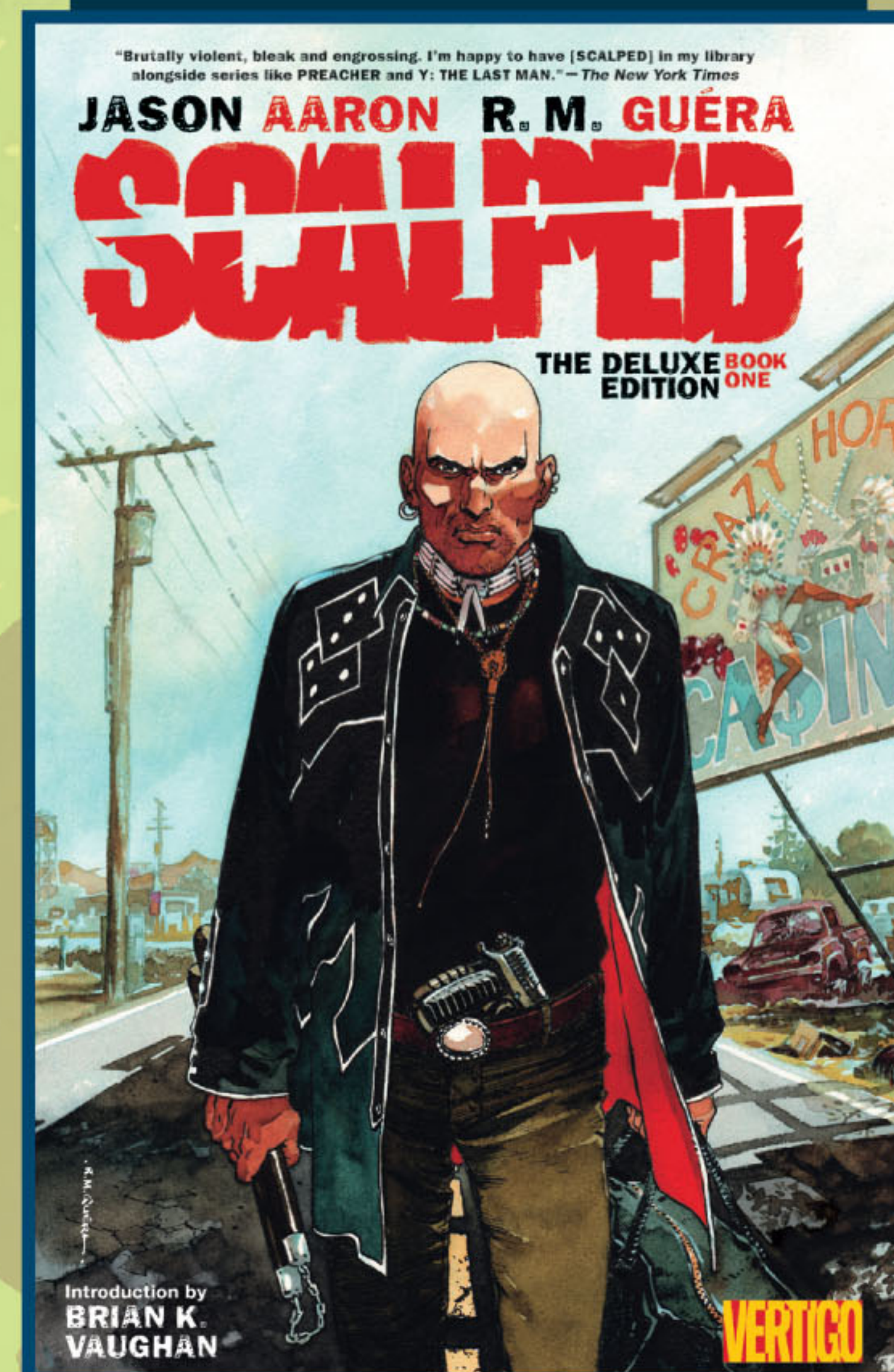
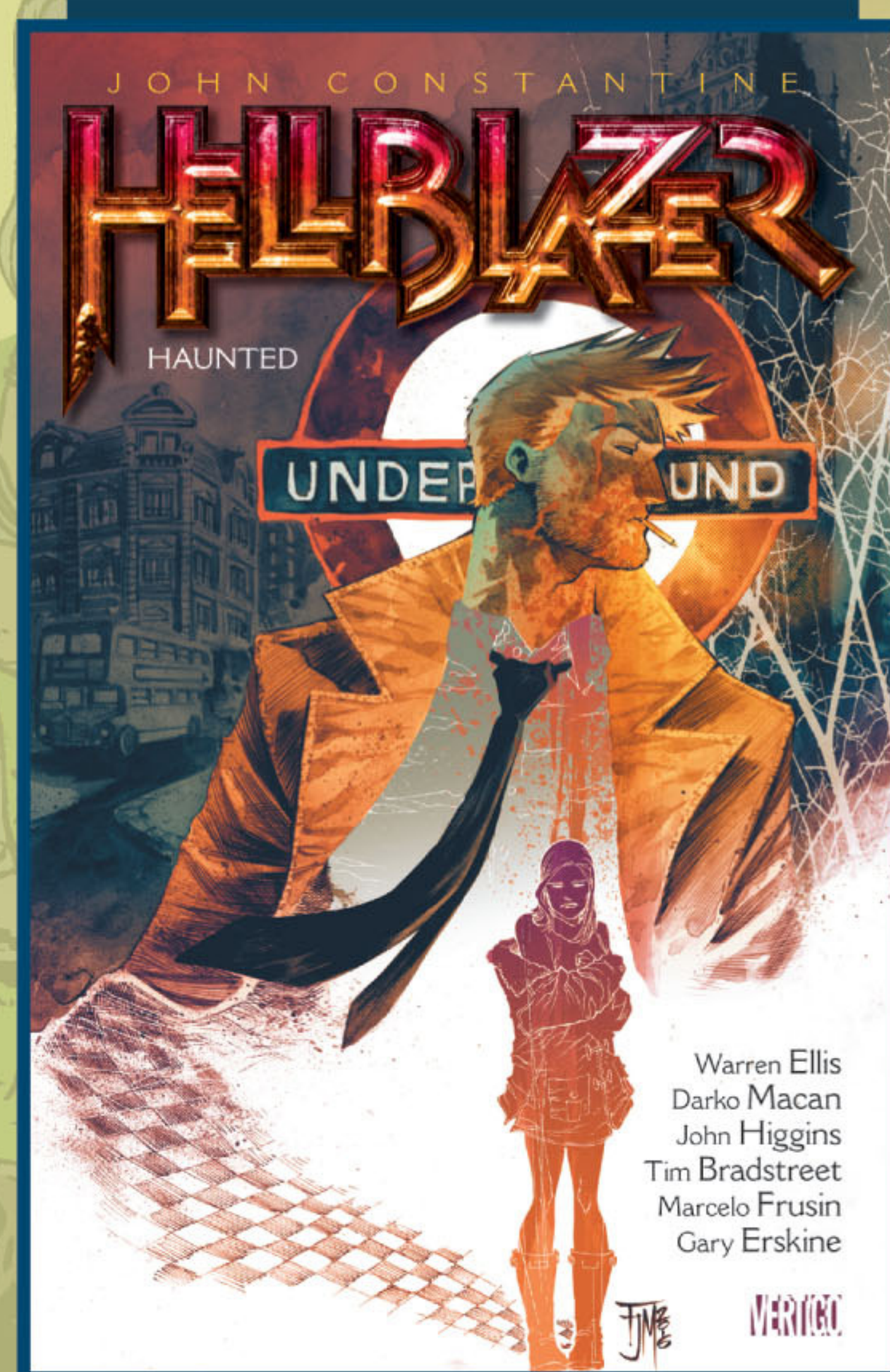
Eric Kripke, the creator of *Supernatural*, makes his Vertigo debut with **JACKED**, the story of an average middle-aged man who finds superpowers in a bottle of pills. Drawn by Vertigo mainstay John Higgins (*HELLBLAZER*), this ultra-violent and darkly comic tale has the same sort of anything-goes ribaldry as Garth Ennis and Steve Dillon's **PREACHER**, which is about to get a brand-new Absolute edition.



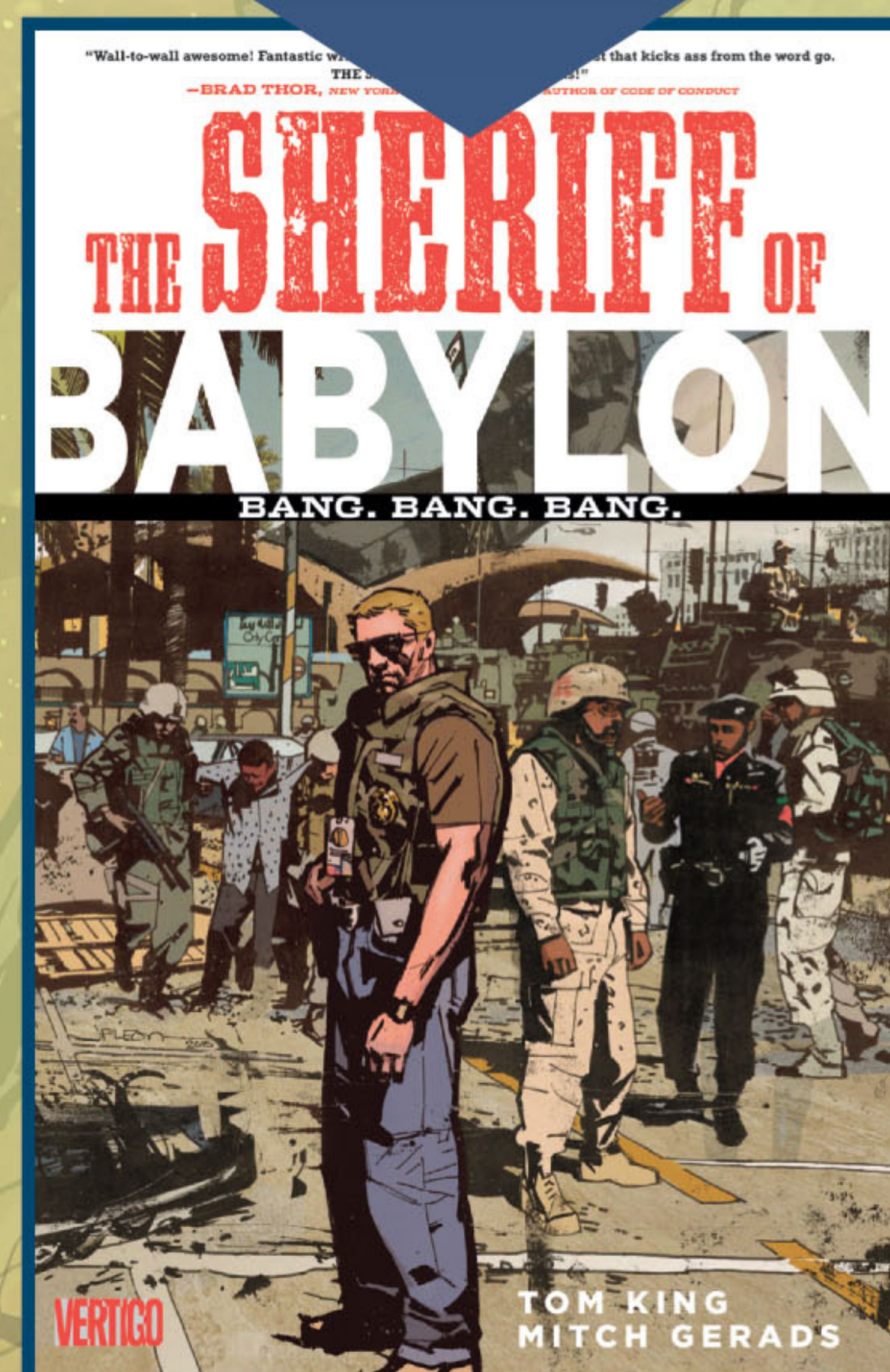
Do you like your comics with a little heat? Then look no further than **SLASH & BURN** by Si Spencer (*BODIES*), Max Dunbar, and Ande Parks. The personal travails and murderous conspiracy that ensnare pyromaniac turned firefighter Rosheen Hayes would pair well with the mystical goings-on in **COFFIN HILL** by Caitlin Kittredge and Inaki Miranda. Eve Coffin knows a little bit about heating things up herself.



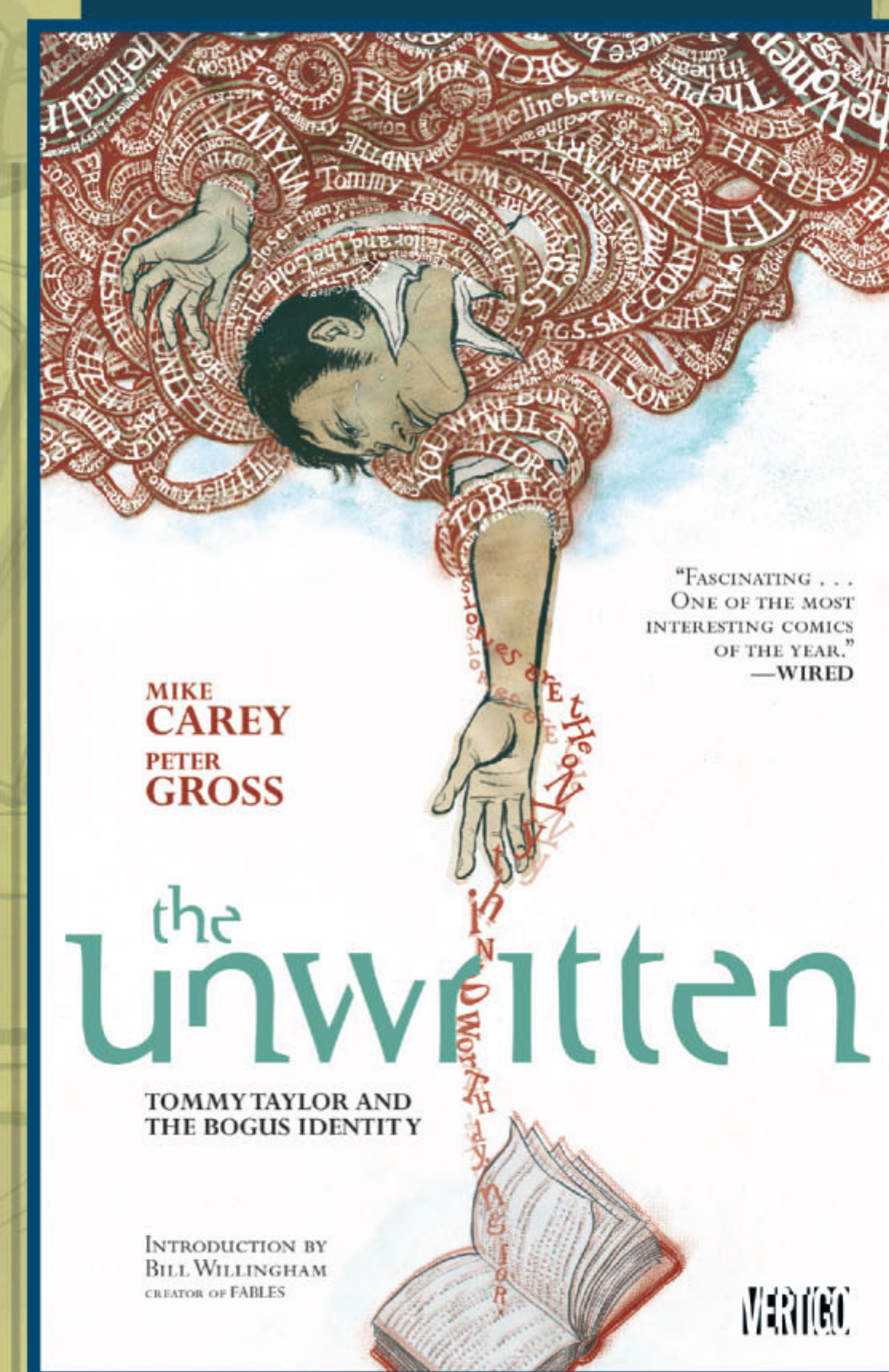
Secrets can cause a lot of harm, and when the worst of them come to light, it takes someone with special skills to make them go away. Astrid Mueller and John Constantine are two such people. Astrid is the star of **CLEAN ROOM VOL. 1: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**, the incredibly creepy horror comic from Gail Simone (*Sinister Six*) and Jon Davis-Hunt, whereas John Constantine is known as the Hellblazer. His original adventures are currently being reprinted as **JOHN CONSTANTINE, HELLBLAZER** in new editions. Volume 13 is available now!



If dangerous people doing dangerous jobs is your thing, then **THE SHERIFF OF BABYLON VOL. 1: BANG. BANG. BANG.** by Tom King (*Batman*) and Mitch Gerads (*Punisher*) belongs on your bookshelf. You can file it next to your copies of **SCALPED** by Jason Aaron (*Southern Bastards*) and R.M. Guera (*The God-damned*). Both are complex and unflinching, and feature large casts caught up in deadly, knotted plots.



**RED THORN VOL. 1: GLASGOW KISS** melds Scottish mythology with a genuine mystery as an American girl in search of her missing sister finds magic and love instead. This new series by David Baillie and Meghan Hetrick (*Joker's Daughter*) captures the same sense of adventure and love of story that Mike Carey and Peter Gross brought to **THE UNWRITTEN**. Enchantment is wherever someone is telling tales.



# GRAPHIC CONTENT

## I was a bit late to the AMERICAN VAMPIRE party.

I missed the initial run and only caught up a couple of years later with trades. It was always on my radar, always suggested by friends, but was always "I'll get to it." Then I got to it, and the experience was something akin to tasting cheesecake for the first time. All you can think is, "Why did it take me so long to experience something so beautiful, so rich?" All you can do is shrug your shoulders and devour the rest, so that's what I did.

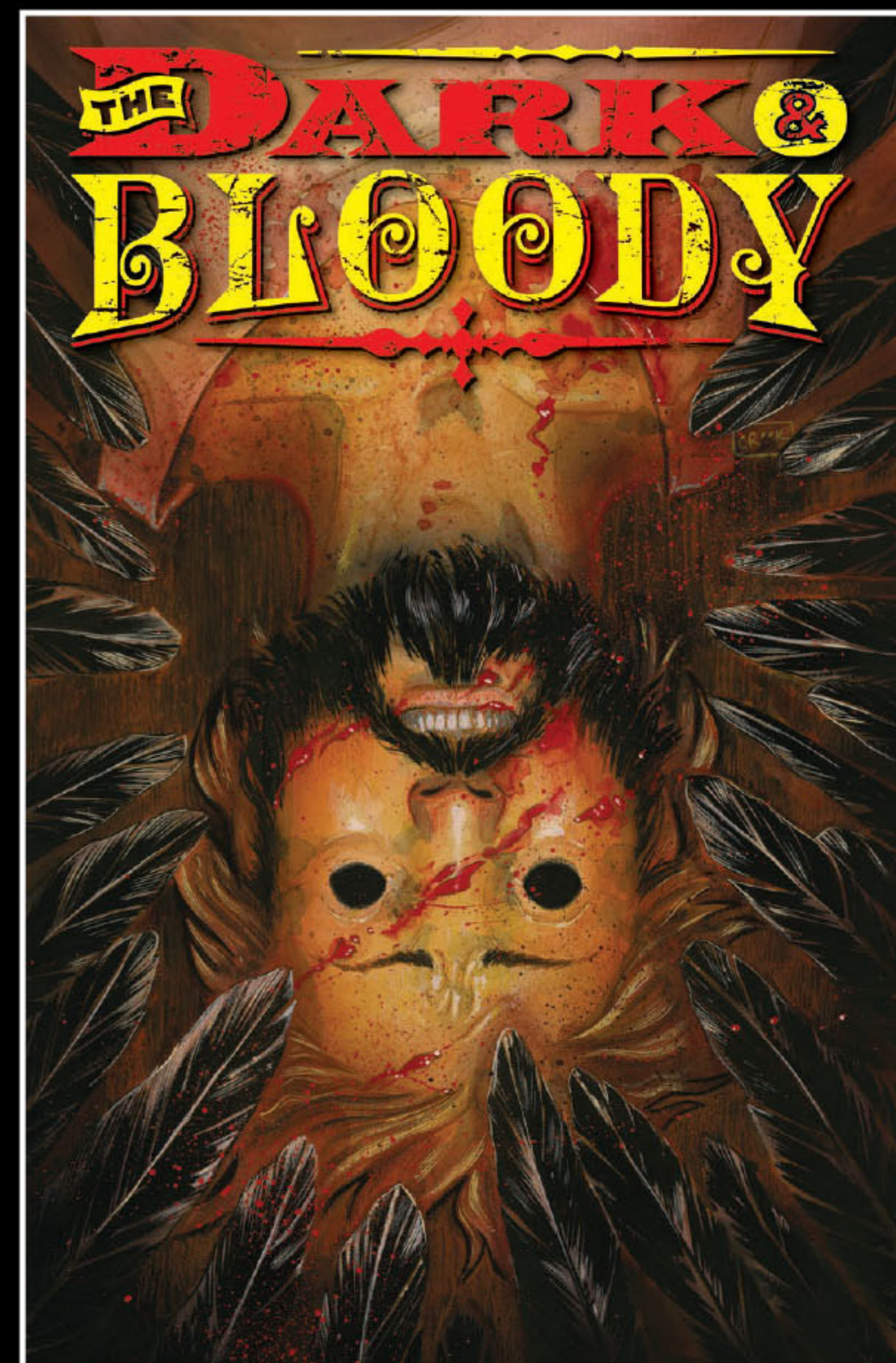
My life is better for it.

What Scott Snyder and Rafael Albuquerque have accomplished with AMERICAN VAMPIRE is what any great work hopes to accomplish: create a world that exists within its own mythos, yet is a filter through which we can view our own. Each layer is built within another that we

peel away to peek inside and see what part of us is looking back. In doing this, looking at the reflection, we learn what it is to be human. Yes, even when the humans are vampires, because there's a little bit of Skinner in us all. Pearl, too. A world is only as strong as the characters that inhabit it, and those characters are only as enduring as their ability to reflect our own flaws and our own strengths.

As I often say, *Moby Dick* in simplest terms is nothing more than a story about a man chasing a whale. There's probably not a lot of us who can relate to whaling. What we can relate to is obsession, drive, the human condition. The characters are us, just in a different form. The same holds true for AMERICAN VAMPIRE. On the surface, it's vampires in America, but under that it is us.

When you build a mythos and characters as layered and as complicated as those in AMERICAN VAMPIRE, then the concept, the story, can transcend time and place. You can pluck the characters and mythos and place them into any situation or setting. The 1800s? No problem. 1960s Cold War? Got it. Snyder and Albuquerque prove this time and again within the books themselves. Building something that strong also allows others to tell stories within that world, as shown in the wonderful AMERICAN VAMPIRE ANTHOLOGY series. Creators like Joëlle Jones and Steve Orlando can take a piece of that world, that mythos, and shine their own light on it. They can teach us new lessons, show us new ideas,

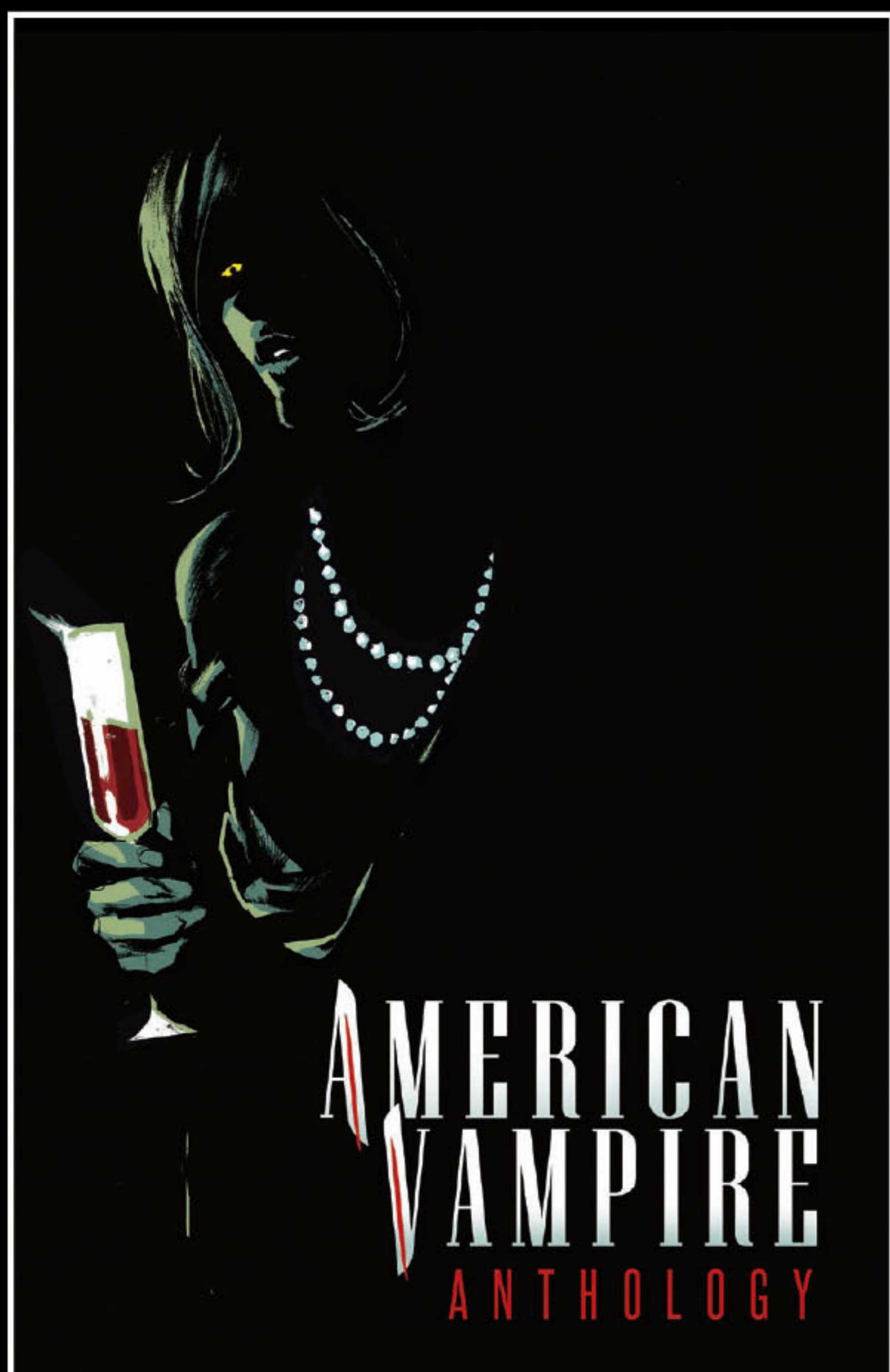


while retaining that underlying core that reminds us that we are all human despite being monsters at times.

I have to admit, it all makes me a tad envious.

As we wrap up THE DARK & BLOODY, my only hope is that it can be half as enduring, half as human as AMERICAN VAMPIRE. It's what all creators strive for: presenting something that, no matter how strange and fantastical it may appear on the surface, in the end makes us question our own humanity and makes us better humans for doing so.

— Shawn Aldridge, writer and co-creator of THE DARK & BLOODY  
**AMERICAN VAMPIRE ANTHOLOGY #2 is on sale July 6.**  
**THE DARK & BLOODY #6 is on sale July 13.**



SHELLY BOND VP & Executive Editor-Vertigo • DIANE NELSON President • DAN DIDIO and JIM LEE Co-Publishers • GEOFF JOHNS Chief Creative Officer • AMIT DESAI Senior VP- Marketing & Global Franchise Management • NAIRI GARDINER Senior VP-Finance • SAM ADES VP-Digital Marketing • BOBBIE CHASE VP-Talent Development • MARK CHIARELLO Senior VP-Art, Design & Collected Editions JOHN CUNNINGHAM VP-Content Strategy • ANNE DEPIES VP-Strategy Planning & Reporting • DON FALLETTI VP-Manufacturing Operations • LAWRENCE GANEM VP-Editorial Administration & Talent Relations • ALISON GILL Senior VP-Manufacturing & Operations • HANK KANALZ Senior VP-Editorial Strategy & Administration • JAY KOGAN VP-Legal Affairs • DEREK MADDALENA Senior VP-Sales & Business Development • JACK MAHAN VP-Business Affairs • DAN MIRON VP-Sales Planning & Trade Development • NICK NAPOLITANO VP-Manufacturing Administration • CAROL ROEDER VP-Marketing • EDDIE SCANNELL VP-Mass Account & Digital Sales • COURTNEY SIMMONS Senior VP-Publicity & Communications • JIM (SKI) SOKOLOWSKI VP-Comic Book Specialty & Newsstand Sales • SANDY YI Senior VP-Global Franchise Management

SURVIVORS' CLUB 9. August, 2016. Published monthly by DC Comics, 2900 W. Alameda Avenue, Burbank, CA 91505. GST # is R125921072. Copyright © 2016 Lauren Beukes, Dale Halvorsen, and Ryan Kelly. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof and related elements are trademarks of Lauren Beukes, Dale Halvorsen, and Ryan Kelly. VERTIGO is a trademark of DC Comics. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. DC Comics does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories or artwork. For Advertising and Custom Publishing contact [dccomicsadvertising@dccomics.com](mailto:dccomicsadvertising@dccomics.com). For details on DC Comics Ratings, visit [dccomics.com/go/ratings](http://dccomics.com/go/ratings).



ZONNE