

JAMES
TYNION IV

WERTHER
DELL'EDERA

MIQUEL
MUERTO

SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN™

VOLUME ONE

2020 Best New Series



SOMETHING
is KILLING the
CHILDREN™

VOLUME ONE

BOOM![™]
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SOMETHING IS KILLING THE CHILDREN
CREATED BY JAMES TYNION IV & WERTHER DELL'EDERA

CHAPTER ONE



TRUTH
OR DARE.



TRUTH.



BOOOOO

SHUT UP,
NOAH.



OKAY.
YEAH. GOT
ONE.

WHAT'S
THE MOST
SCARED
YOU'VE EVER
BEEN?



THAT'S THE BEST YOU CAN COME UP WITH?

NOAH.

I HAD TO RUN AROUND THE HOUSE **NAKED**.

YOU CHOSE **DARE**.

LET HIM THINK.



WELL...THERE WAS THIS NIGHT THE OTHER WEEK.

UGH, JAMES. WE DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT ONE OF YOUR STUPID DREAMS AGAIN.

I DO.

YEAH, I DO. IS THIS THE ONE WITH E.T. OR THE ONE WITH THE CYCLOPS?



IT'S NOT EITHER OF THOSE. THIS **WASN'T** A DREAM. MY DAD WAS AT SOME SOCCER THING WITH MY SISTER. AND I WAS ALONE IN THE HOUSE.

I HEARD THIS NOISE COMING OUT OF THE RAVINE...LIKE THIS BIG MOAN. I THOUGHT IT WAS THE WIND, RIGHT? COMING THROUGH THE TREES.



I TURNED OUT THE LIGHTS IN THE TV ROOM. IN THIS ROOM RIGHT HERE. I JUST WANTED TO SEE WHAT WAS OUT THERE. SO I LOOKED OUT THAT WINDOW...

AND JUST FOR A SECOND, I SAW THIS... I DON'T KNOW.

THIS **THING**. STANDING TALLER THAN A TREE. STANDING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE YARD.

LIKE IT HAD BEEN WALKING TOWARDS THE HOUSE BUT THE LIGHTS GOING OFF CONFUSED IT.



IT HAD THESE LONG FINGERS... AND SHARP TEETH.



I WENT AND HID UNDER THE BLANKETS ON THE COUCH, AND JUST LISTENED IN THE DARK FOR LIKE AN HOUR BEFORE LOOKING AGAIN.

BUT NOTHING WAS THERE. THE YARD WAS JUST EMPTY.



FUCK YOU.

WHAT?

FUCK YOU, THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN. YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO FREAK US OUT.

I'M NOT!



YES, YOU ARE.

I'M NOT TRYING, I MEAN.



SO WHERE DOES THIS THING LIVE?

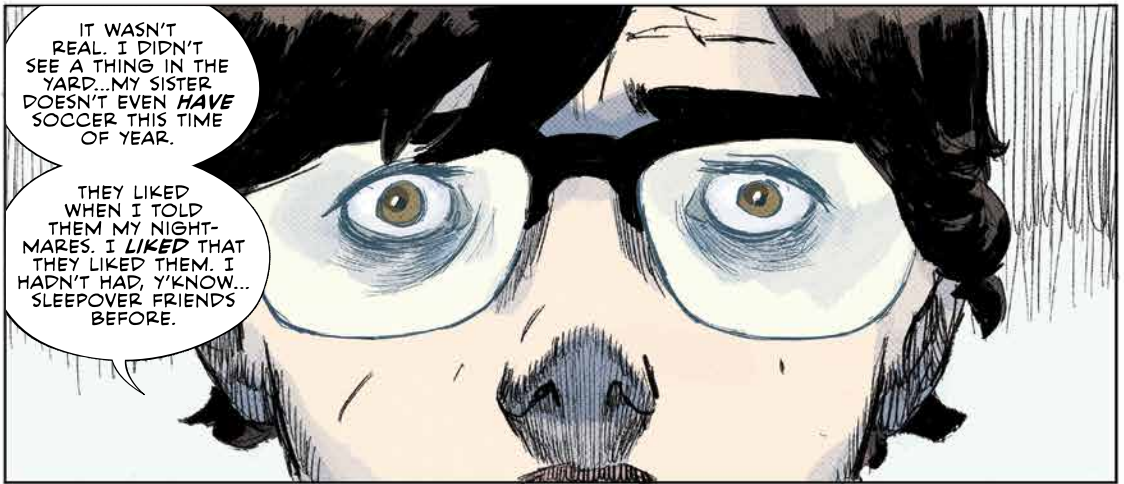
YOU'VE SEEN THE RAVINE OUT THERE, UNDER THE BRIDGE. YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING SPOOKY OUT THERE?

NOT THAT KIND OF SPOOKY.



OKAY, THEN.

NOAH. TRUTH OR DARE.



IT WASN'T REAL. I DIDN'T SEE A THING IN THE YARD...MY SISTER DOESN'T EVEN HAVE SOCCER THIS TIME OF YEAR.

THEY LIKED WHEN I TOLD THEM MY NIGHTMARES. I LIKED THAT THEY LIKED THEM. I HADN'T HAD, Y'KNOW... SLEEPOVER FRIENDS BEFORE.



AND I'D BEEN DOWN IN THE RAVINE. WE'D EVEN SNUCK OUT BEFORE DURING TRUTH OR DARE. ON OTHER SLEEPOVERS.

SO, WHAT WAS DIFFERENT THIS TIME...?



I...I...I SLIPPED ON A ROOT...THEY GET WET AT NIGHT WITH DEW AND I FELL LIKE A HUNDRED FEET. OR, I DON'T KNOW, I FELL DOWN FAR ENOUGH SO THEY COULDN'T SEE ME.



I JUST... I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

I MADE UP MY STORY. THE MONSTER WASN'T REAL.



SOME

is

KILL

CHILD

THING

LING

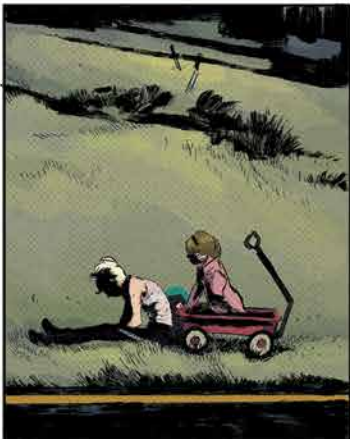
the

DREN

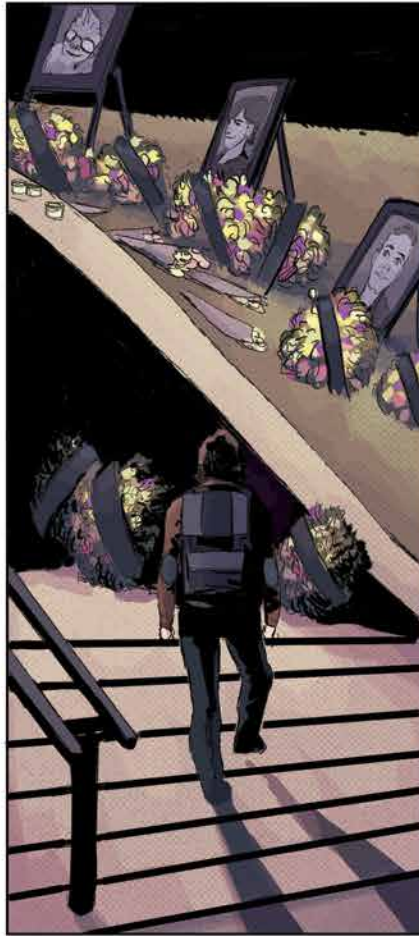
TWO WEEKS LATER















BUT HE WASN'T EVER GOING TO KISS YOU, SO YOU THOUGHT YOU'D JUST RIP HIS HEAD OFF. I DON'T EVEN WANT TO *THINK* ABOUT WHAT YOU--



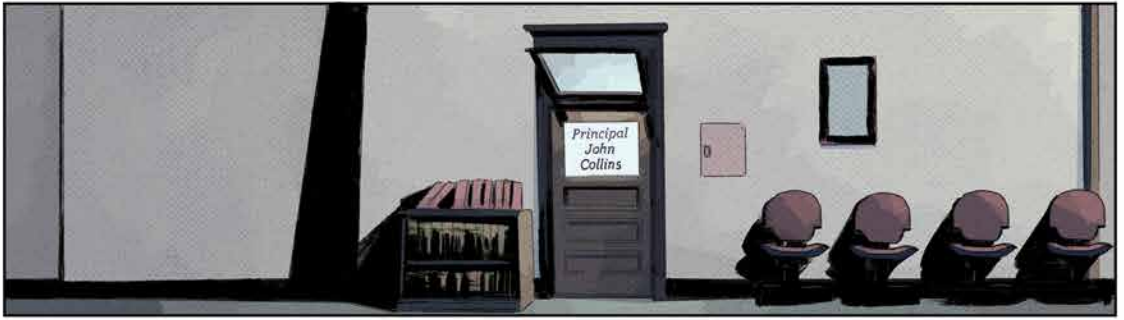
SHUT UP.



WHAT DID YOU SAY TO ME?



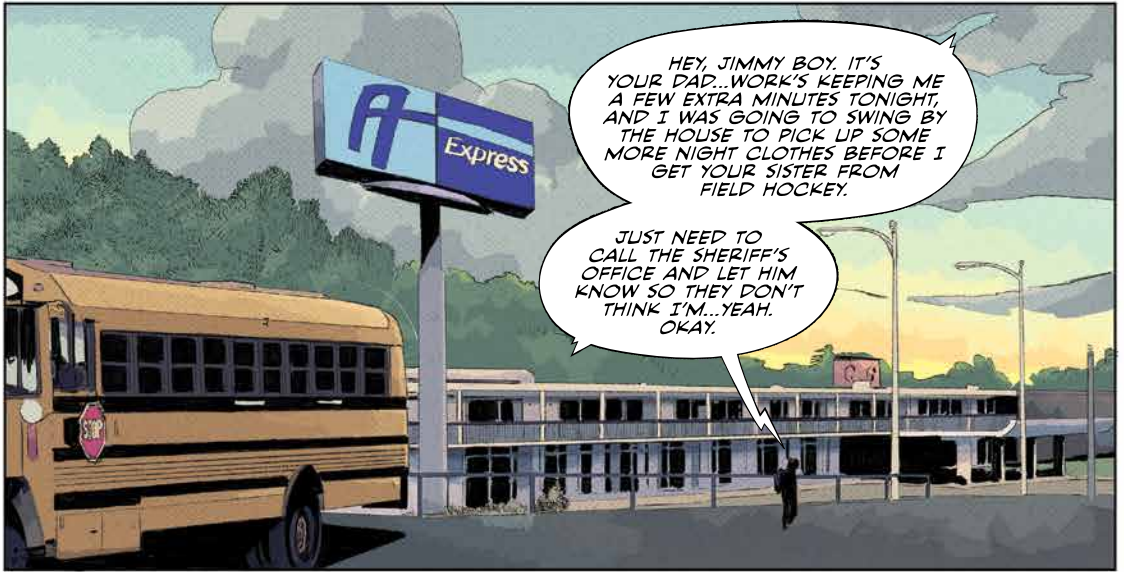
I SAID SHUT THE FUCK UP!











HEY, JIMMY BOY. IT'S YOUR DAD...WORK'S KEEPING ME A FEW EXTRA MINUTES TONIGHT, AND I WAS GOING TO SWING BY THE HOUSE TO PICK UP SOME MORE NIGHT CLOTHES BEFORE I GET YOUR SISTER FROM FIELD HOCKEY.

JUST NEED TO CALL THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND LET HIM KNOW SO THEY DON'T THINK I'M...YEAH. OKAY.



JUST CALL ME WHEN YOU GET INSIDE THE HOTEL ROOM, OKAY? AND YOU KNOW TO DOUBLE LOCK THE DOOR.

I KNOW YOU KNOW. I JUST... YEAH.

I LOVE YOU, KID. **BEEP**





HEY.

HI?



YOU'RE JAMES, RIGHT?

YEAH.



ARE YOU GOING TO HURT ME?

PROBABLY NOT.

COOL.



YOU MIND IF I ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS?

ARE YOU FROM THE POLICE?

DO I LOOK LIKE I'M FROM THE POLICE?

NO.



OKAY, THEN.

YOU WANT TO ASK ABOUT...



WHAT YOU SAW THAT NIGHT. YEAH. I'M SORRY. I KNOW THAT SUCKS.



I... I TOLD THE COPS ALREADY.

I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING... I JUST HEARD.



I READ WHAT YOU SAID TO THE COPS, JAMES. I KNOW ALL ABOUT THAT. BUT I DON'T WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU TOLD THEM.

I WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU SAW.

I...I...I DON'T KNOW...

LOOK...

I KNOW RIGHT NOW YOU'RE SCARED. RIGHT NOW YOU'RE PROBABLY DOUBTING YOU SAW ANYTHING AT ALL. BUT YOU KNOW THE WORLD MAKES A LOT LESS SENSE THAN IT USED TO.

AND EVERY DAY THAT FEELING GETS A LITTLE WORSE.

BUT I PROMISE YOU. I SWEAR ON MY HEART, HOPE TO DIE, THAT I'M GOING TO BELIEVE WHATEVER YOU TELL ME. OKAY?

NO MATTER HOW WEIRD IT IS.

NO MATTER HOW SCARY. OKAY?

O-O-KAY.

YOU HEARD THEM SCREAMING. WHAT THEN?



**GUYS!
WHERE ARE
YOU?!**



**WHERE
ARE
YOU...I
CAN'T--**



J-JAMES...



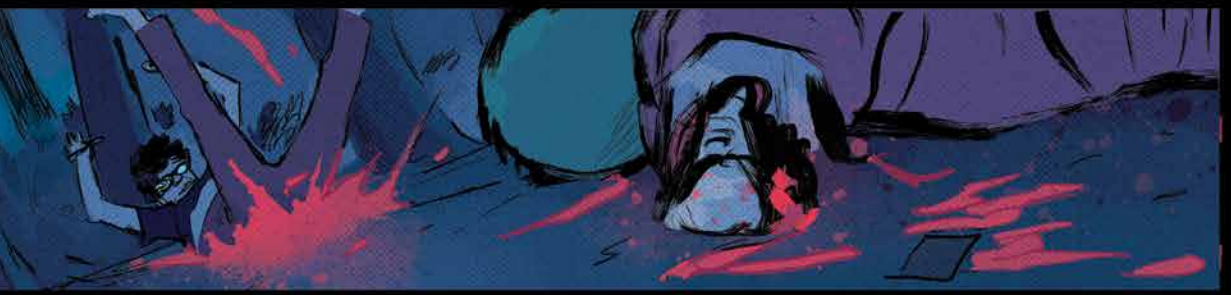
**OH
GOD...OH
GOD...OH
GOD...**

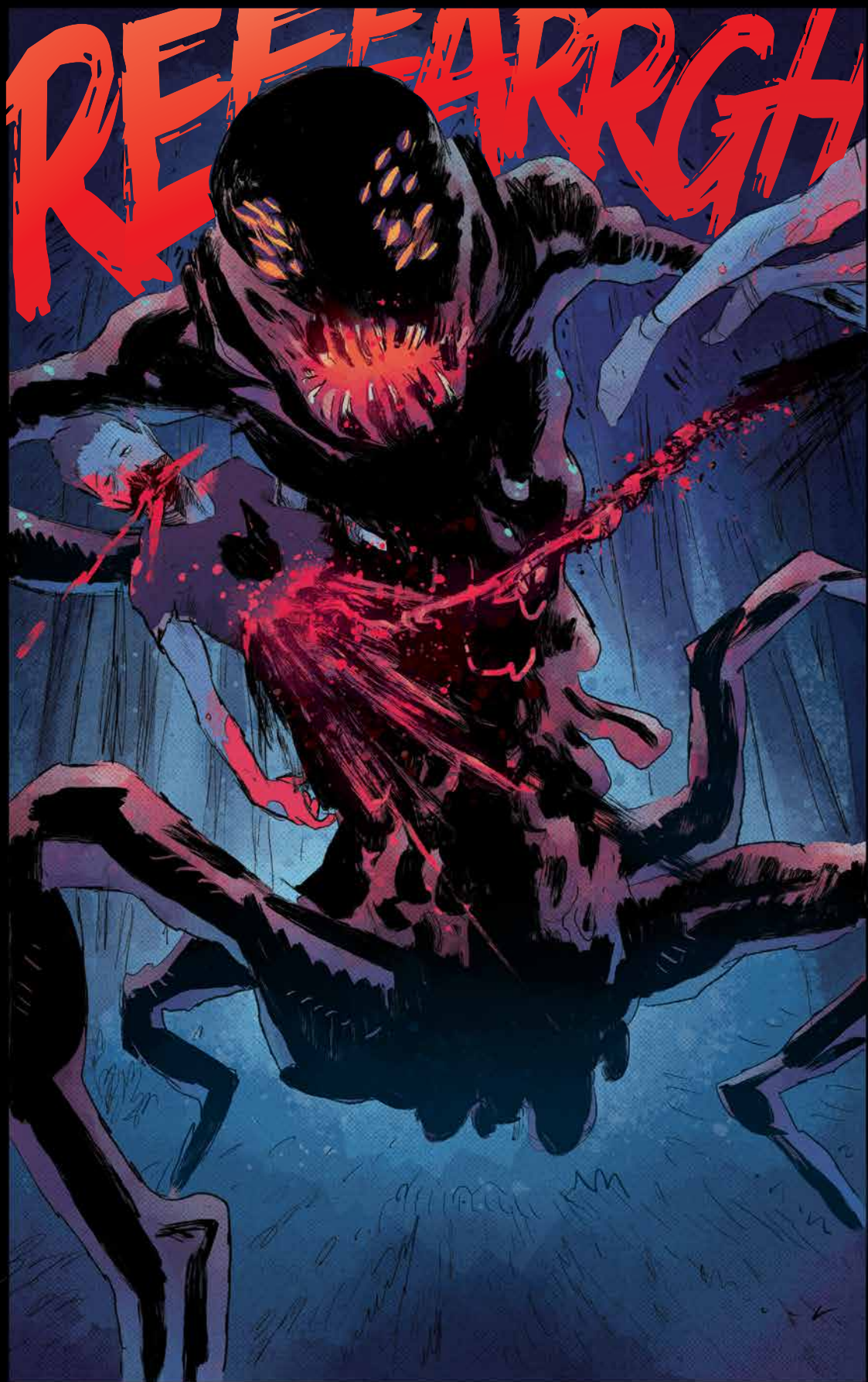


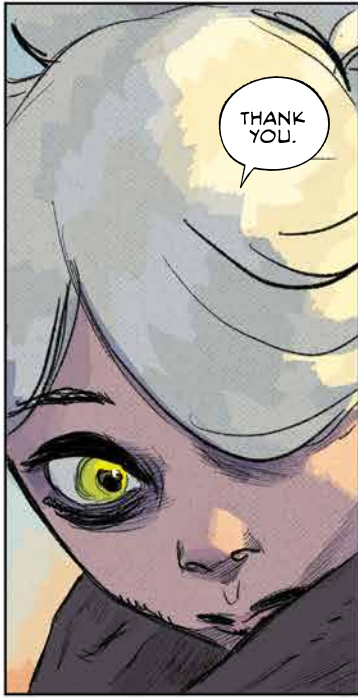
NO...







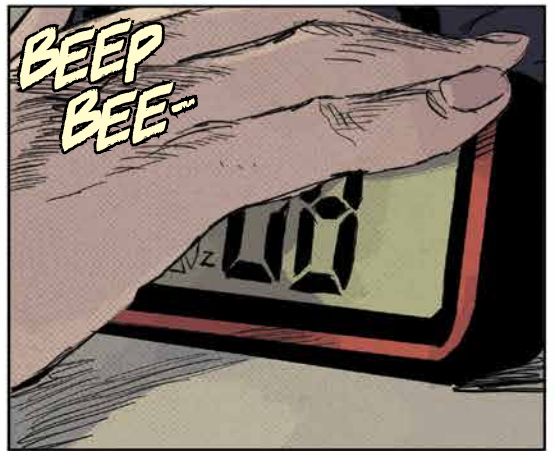


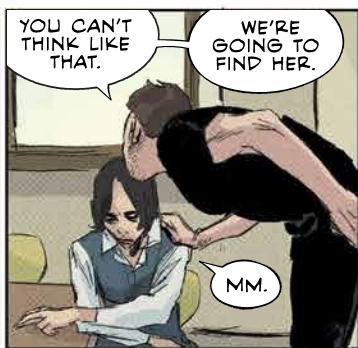


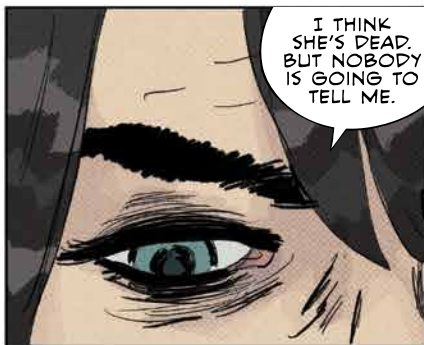




CHAPTER
TWO











IS
ANYBODY
THERE?





YOU THE MANAGER?

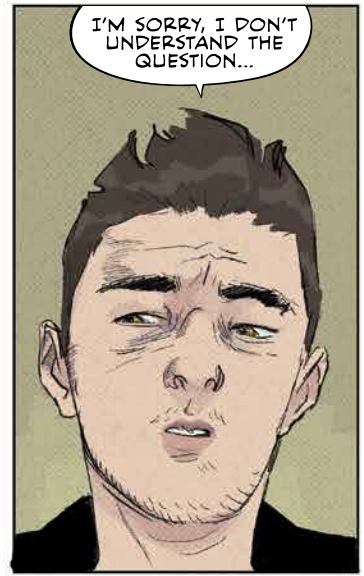
UH...? YEAH? SORRY, WE JUST OPENED...



DO PEOPLE COME HERE?

THIS PLACE DO YOU GET PEOPLE IN HERE OR IS IT USUALLY PRETTY EMPTY?

WHAT?



I'M SORRY, I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE QUESTION...



IF I SAY THAT BOOTH OVER THERE IS MY BOOTH, AND I'M GONNA LEAVE STUFF THERE, WOULD THAT BE A PROBLEM?

DO YOU HAVE, LIKE, A LUNCH RUSH THAT I NEED TO BE WORRIED ABOUT?



I DON'T... WE HAVE A POLICY...

YEAH, BUT IS IT ACTUALLY A PROBLEM OR JUST A FAKE PROBLEM YOU CAN IGNORE?

LOOK...



FIFTY BUCKS A DAY TO YOU. RIGHT IN YOUR POCKET. AND I'LL ORDER STUFF. AND TIP.

DEAL? SHOULD ONLY BE A FEW DAYS.

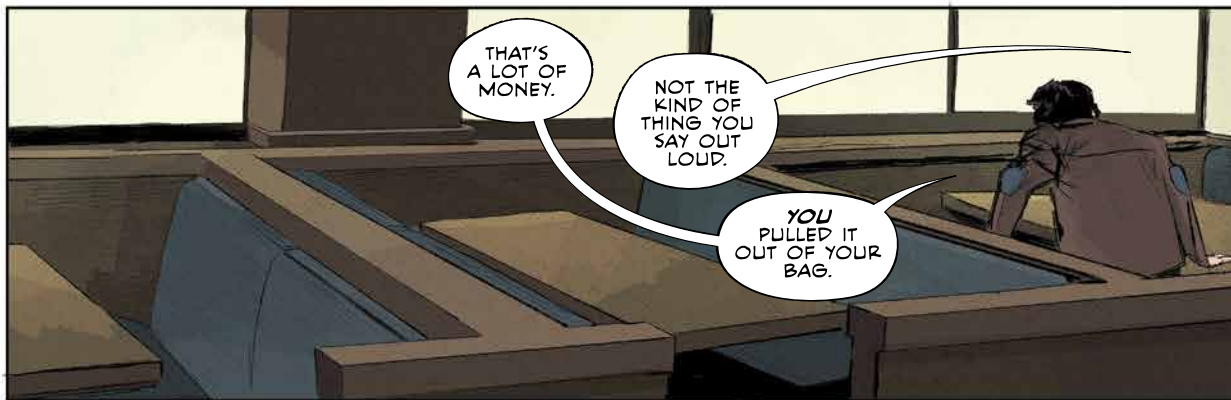


THERE'S ANOTHER MANAGER HERE ON THURSDAY. SHE'S A STICKLER FOR THE--

I'LL STEER CLEAR ON THURSDAYS. DEAL?



DEAL.



THAT'S A LOT OF MONEY.

NOT THE KIND OF THING YOU SAY OUT LOUD.

YOU PULLED IT OUT OF YOUR BAG.



YEAH, BUT YOU DON'T TALK ABOUT IT. YOU LET IT BE MYSTERIOUS.

YOU LIKE BEING MYSTERIOUS.



YEAH.



HE'S THE ONE... I KEEP WANTING TO FIND OUT THAT IT WAS A DREAM.

LIKE, I KNOW MY OTHER FRIENDS DIED, AND I MISS THEM, BUT I **KNOW** THEY'RE DEAD.

BUT KARL...



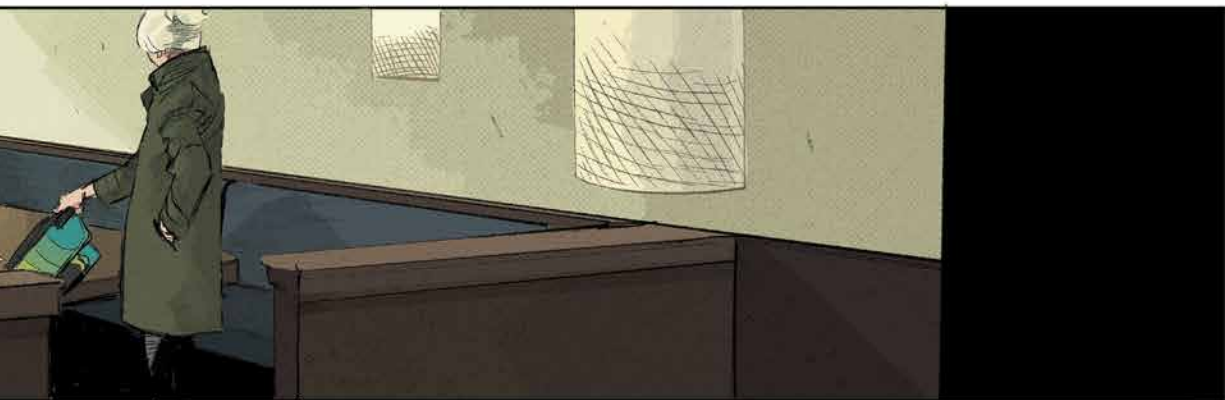
YOU REALLY LIKED HIM, HUH?

WERE YOU... MORE THAN FRIENDS?



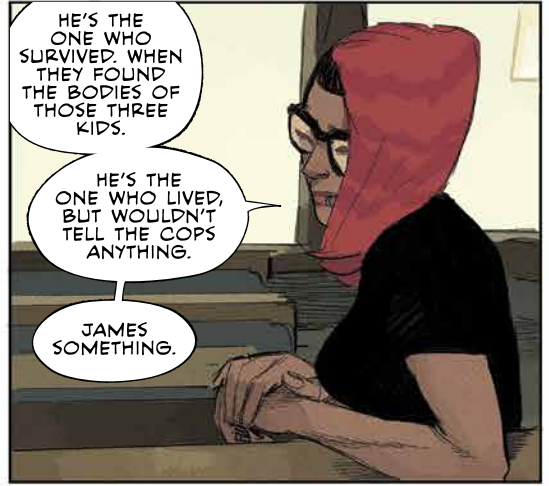
HE DIDN'T THINK SO.

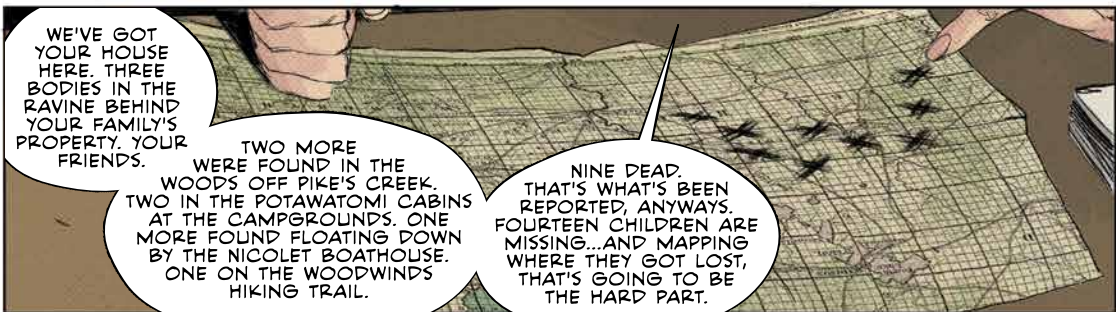
THAT'S OKAY.











WE'VE GOT YOUR HOUSE HERE. THREE BODIES IN THE RAVINE BEHIND YOUR FAMILY'S PROPERTY. YOUR FRIENDS.

TWO MORE WERE FOUND IN THE WOODS OFF PIKE'S CREEK. TWO IN THE POTAWATOMI CABINS AT THE CAMPGROUNDS. ONE MORE FOUND FLOATING DOWN BY THE NICOLET BOATHOUSE. ONE ON THE WOODWINDS HIKING TRAIL.

NINE DEAD. THAT'S WHAT'S BEEN REPORTED, ANYWAYS. FOURTEEN CHILDREN ARE MISSING...AND MAPPING WHERE THEY GOT LOST, THAT'S GOING TO BE THE HARD PART.



NOW, WHERE DID SOPHIE MAHONEY LIVE?

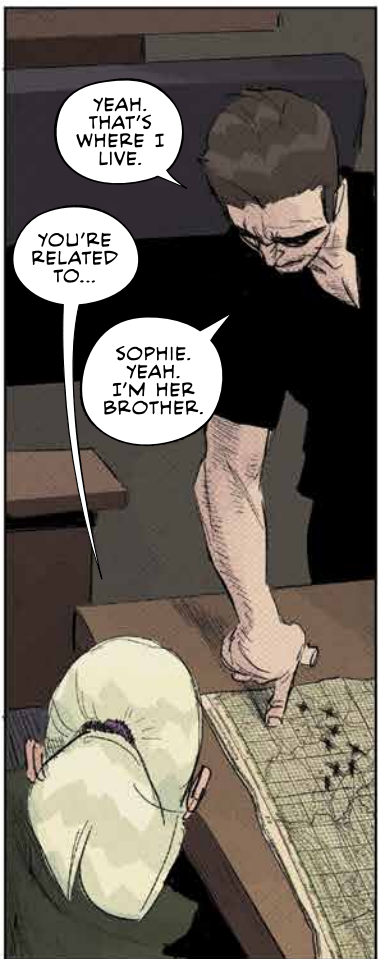
OKAY, I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO FIND THAT.



I CAN TELL YOU WHERE.



YEAH?



YEAH. THAT'S WHERE I LIVE.

YOU'RE RELATED TO...

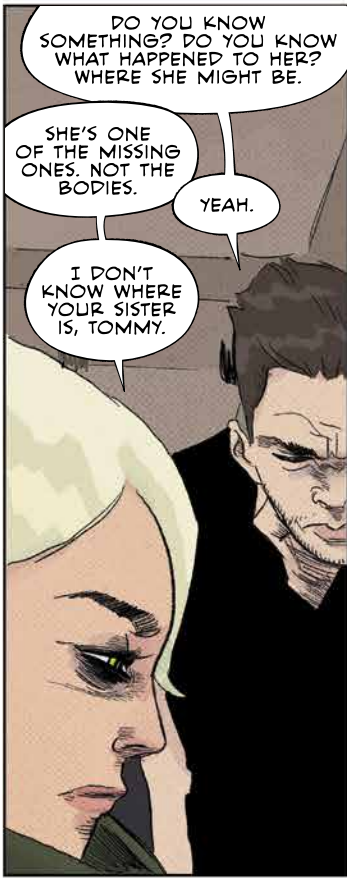
SOPHIE. YEAH. I'M HER BROTHER.



WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING HERE?

SHE'S HERE TO--

SHUT UP, JAMES.





YOU DON'T TOUCH ME. OKAY?

I'M NOT THE BAD GUY HERE. I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU'RE HURTING BUT--

THUD



YOU DON'T KNOW A FUCKING THING ABOUT ANYTHING!



JAMES.

I'M GOING.



I'M LETTING YOU GO NOW.

I'M NOT GOING TO HURT YOU. I'M NOT GOING TO CAUSE A SCENE.

I'M JUST GOING TO WALK OUT THE DOOR AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SEE ME AGAIN.

YOU CAN KEEP THE MONEY.



TAKE YOUR FIFTY DOLLARS AND GET THE FUCK OUT.



SO, WHAT IS IT? YOU IN SOME KIND OF SATAN CULT THING?

YOU CUT THEIR HEADS OFF AND DO WEIRD SHIT TO THEM?



WHAT...I DIDN'T...

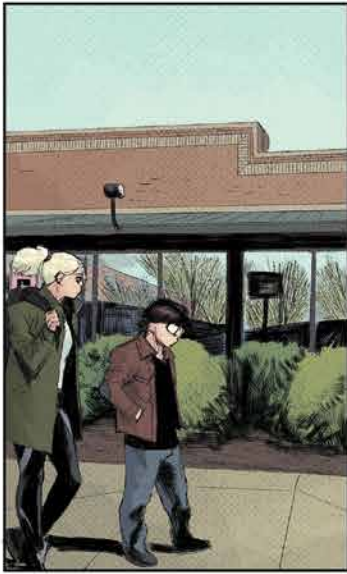
JUST IGNORE HER, JAMES.

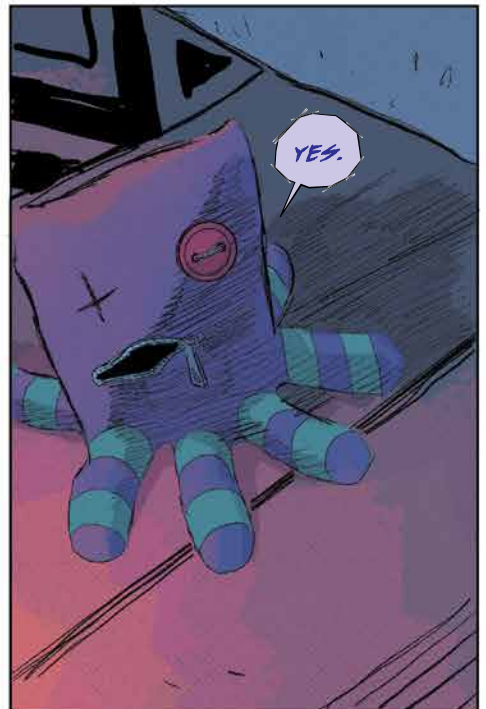
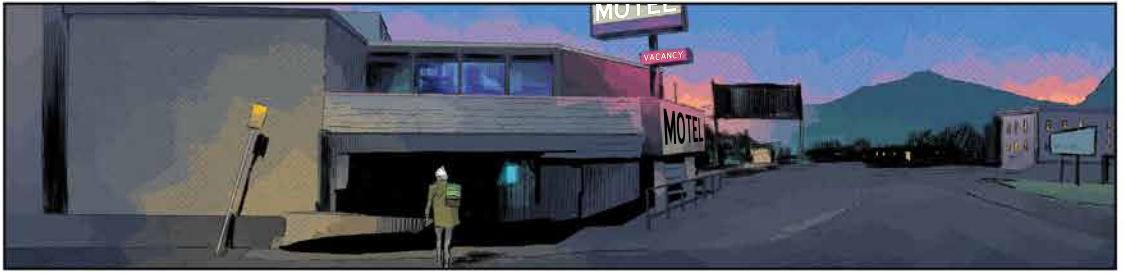


HEY, THIS IS TOMMY MAHONEY CALLING FOR THE SHERIFF.

YEAH, SOPHIE'S BROTHER.

I WANT TO REPORT SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS.









POLICE.
OPEN UP.



I DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU'VE GOT
IN THERE, MA'AM.
BUT I DON'T WANT
ANY FUNNY
BUSINESS.



NOTHING
FUNNY GOING
ON IN HERE,
OFFICER.

NOW,
WHAT SEEMS
TO BE THE
PROBLEM?





CHAPTER
THREE



I DON'T
BELIEVE IN
MONSTERS.

I DON'T
BELIEVE IN
MONSTERS.

I DON'T
BELIEVE IN
MONSTERS.



I DON'T...

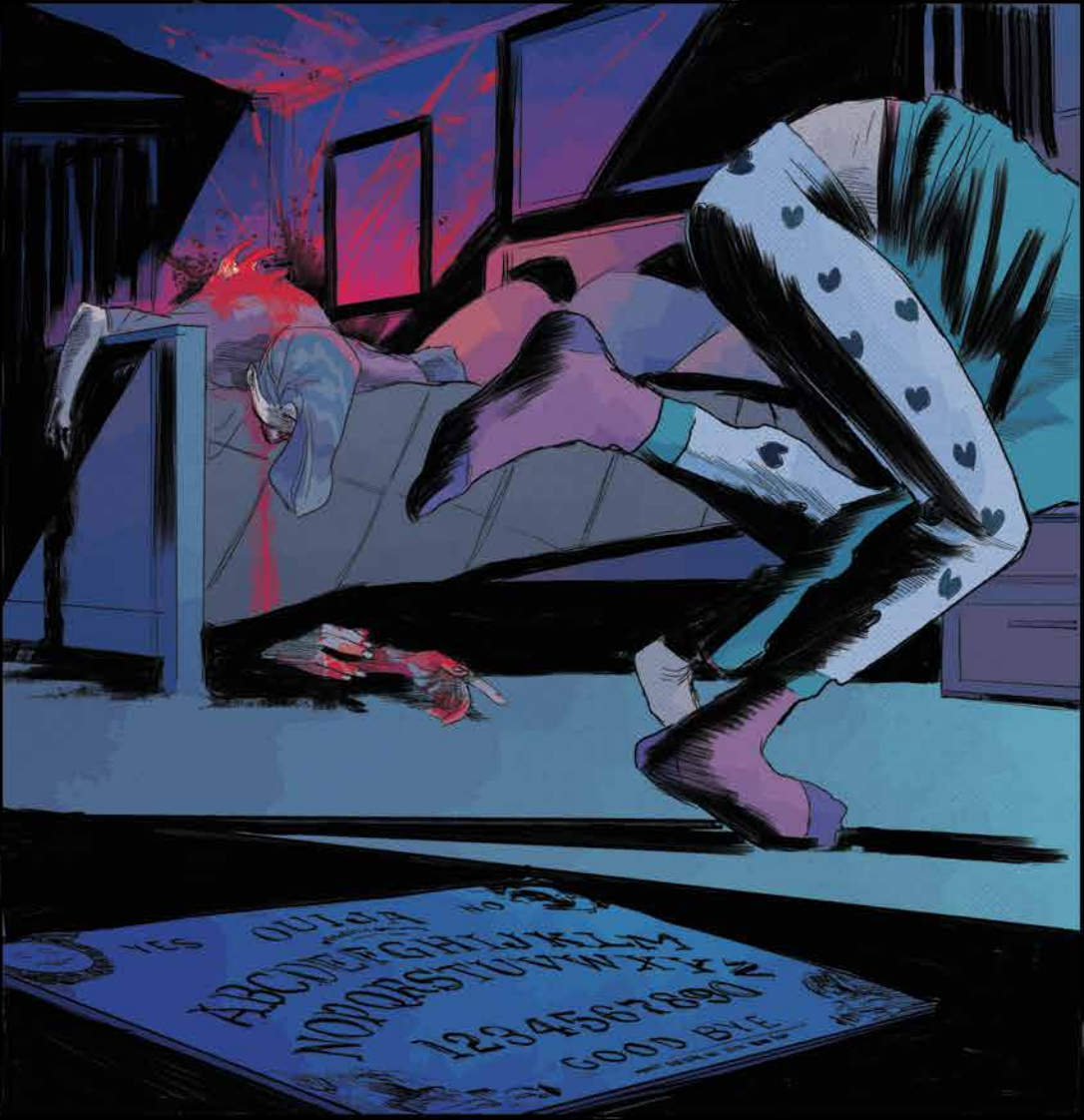
CREEK



BELIEVE.



SNIP



IS OUT
ABCDEFGHIJKLM
NOPQRSTU VWXYZ
1234567890
GOOD BIE





HELP!

PLEASE...
SOMEBODY
HELP...



REEEEEEEE



NO...NO...
PLEASE.



PLEASE!!!



THEY TALK...THEY TALK ABOUT IT BACKWARDS, I THINK.



THEY TALK ABOUT HOW THEY KEEP GETTING BIGGER, AND BIGGER, AND HOW YOU NEVER STOP SEEING THE KID THAT THEY WERE.

THE BABY WHOSE BUTT YOU'VE WIPED MORE TIMES THAN YOU CAN COUNT, AND WHO THREW UP OVER ALL YOUR BEST SHIRTS.



BUT IT'S BACKWARDS.



HENRY...



THERE WAS THE WAY HE HELD HIS MOTHER WHEN THE LAST JOB LAID ME OFF. THERE'S THE WAY HE HAD THIS LITTLE...

...LITTLE SPARK IN HIS EYE, WHEN HE HELPED JAINA WITH HER MATH PROBLEMS.



HE'D STEP UP. HE'D STEP UP BECAUSE HE KNEW HE HAD TO, AND THERE WAS NO...NO RESENTMENT. NO "WHY ME?" HE DID IT WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT, LIKE I NEVER DID.

I STILL DON'T KNOW *WHERE* HE GOT IT, BUT THOSE WERE ALWAYS THE MOMENTS THAT STUCK. NOT THE ONES THAT MADE ME THINK OF THE BABY.



I REMEMBER THE TIMES I SAW THE *MAN*.



THE MAN HE SHOULD HAVE BECOME.



HENRY, DO YOU WANT ME TO CALL YOU A CAB?



JUST ONE MORE. IS THAT OKAY?

I DON'T...I DON'T THINK I'D GET TO SLEEP LIKE THIS. AND IT'S A LONG SHIFT TOMORROW.



OKAY. AND THEN WE'LL GET YOU THAT CAB.

OKAY.



SHE HAD THESE, LIKE... BIG CREEPY EYES.

YEAH?

LIKE, TOO BIG. LIKE THEY *KNEW* SOMETHING. LIKE THEY KNEW WHEREVER MY SISTER IS RIGHT NOW.



SHIT, MAN.

AND SHE WAS WITH THAT KID. THAT **JAMES** KID. THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY.

IF HE DIDN'T FUCKING DO IT ALL HIMSELF. MAYBE HE, LIKE, CONVINCED HER WHO WAS A TARGET.



WHERE IS SHE NOW...?

CALLED THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE. THEY SAID THEY'D PICK HER UP.

YOU TRUST HIM?



FUCK NO.



WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO IF THEY LET HER GO?



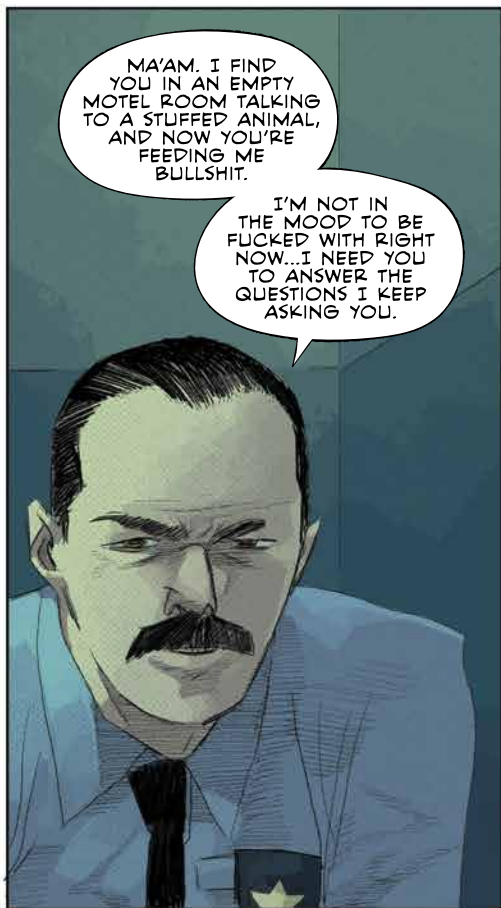
WHAT I HAVE TO.



THIS CAN'T BE YOUR REAL NAME.



BUT IS IT YOUR REAL NAME?



MA'AM, I FIND YOU IN AN EMPTY MOTEL ROOM TALKING TO A STUFFED ANIMAL, AND NOW YOU'RE FEEDING ME BULLSHIT.

I'M NOT IN THE MOOD TO BE FUCKED WITH RIGHT NOW...I NEED YOU TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS I KEEP ASKING YOU.



YOU ASKED ME WHERE I WAS ON A BUNCH OF DATES. I TOLD YOU. IF YOU LOOK THOSE DATES AND PLACES UP, YOU'RE GOING TO FIND A LOT OF STORIES ABOUT LITTLE TOWNS LIKE THIS WITH MISSING KIDS.

THAT'S GOING TO FREAK YOU OUT AND YOU'RE GOING TO WANT TO LOCK ME UP AND THROW AWAY THE KEY, BUT IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT YOU SAW ME GETTING OFF THE BUS.





YEAH?

ERICA SLAUGHTER.

SLAUGHTER'S A REAL NAME.



SURE.

SAYS SO ON THE CARD.



THIS IS MADE OF PAPER.

SO'S A SOCIAL SECURITY CARD.

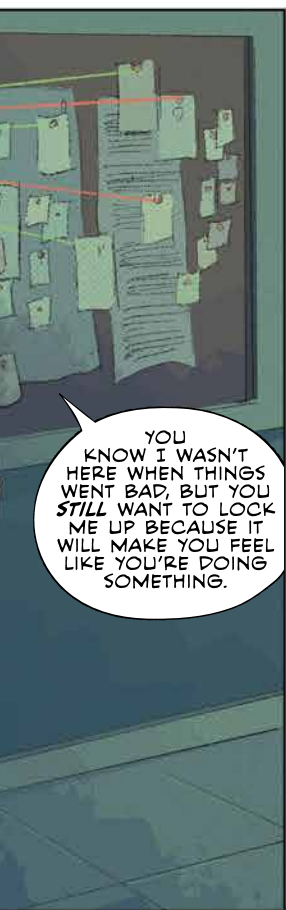
THIS ISN'T A SOCIAL SECURITY CARD. IT'S A LICENSE. IT LOOKS LIKE YOU MADE IT AT A KINKO'S.



YEAH.

YOU DIDN'T EVEN LAMINATE IT.

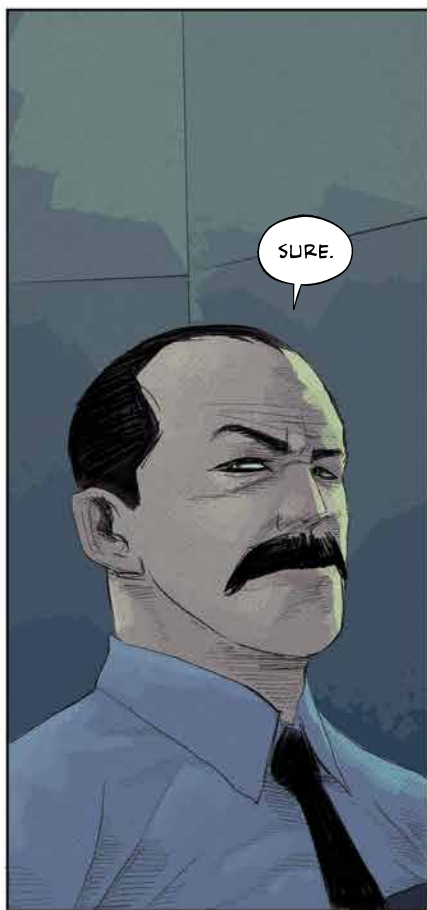
YEAH.



YOU KNOW I WASN'T HERE WHEN THINGS WENT BAD, BUT YOU *STILL* WANT TO LOCK ME UP BECAUSE IT WILL MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE DOING SOMETHING.



THAT SUM IT UP?



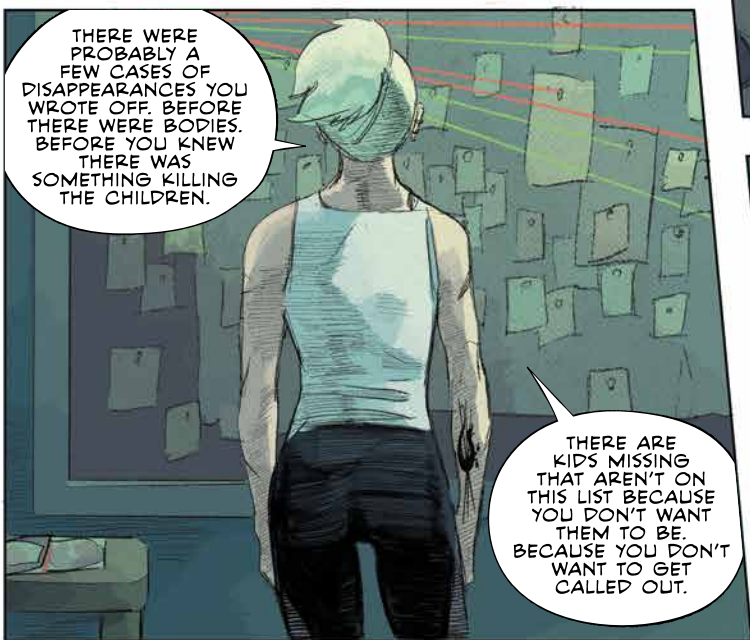
SURE.



WHO WENT MISSING FIRST?



EXCUSE ME?



THERE WERE PROBABLY A FEW CASES OF DISAPPEARANCES YOU WROTE OFF. BEFORE THERE WERE BODIES. BEFORE YOU KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING KILLING THE CHILDREN.

THERE ARE KIDS MISSING THAT AREN'T ON THIS LIST BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT THEM TO BE. BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO GET CALLED OUT.



BUT YOU SEE... *YOU'RE* THE ONE WE'VE GOT LOCKED UP HERE.



YEAH, OKAY.

WHO WENT MISSING FIRST?



OR, I'LL BE NICE, BECAUSE YOU HOPE YOU WERE RIGHT THE FIRST TIME, AND IT WAS JUST ALL THE NORMAL, MUNDANE WAYS KIDS GO MISSING. AN ANGRY RELATIVE OR A RUNAWAY OR SOMETHING REGULAR.



BUT DEEP DOWN YOU KNOW THEY AREN'T MISSING. THEY'RE DEAD.



IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE INTERROGATING ME.



SURE.



STOP FUCKING WITH ME! STOP ACTING LIKE THIS IS A GODDAMN GAME!

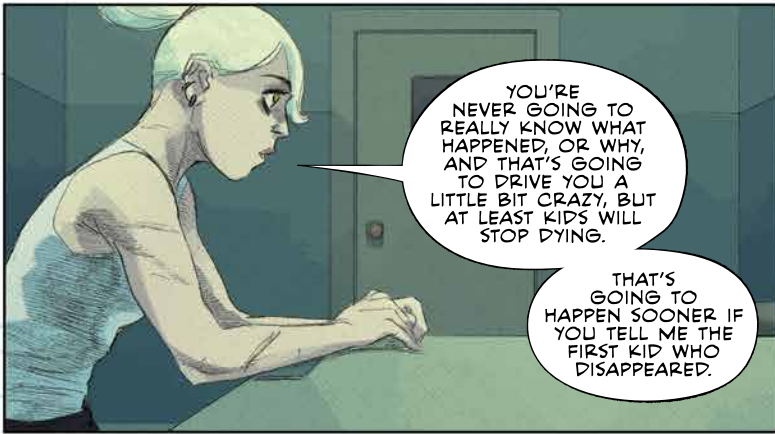
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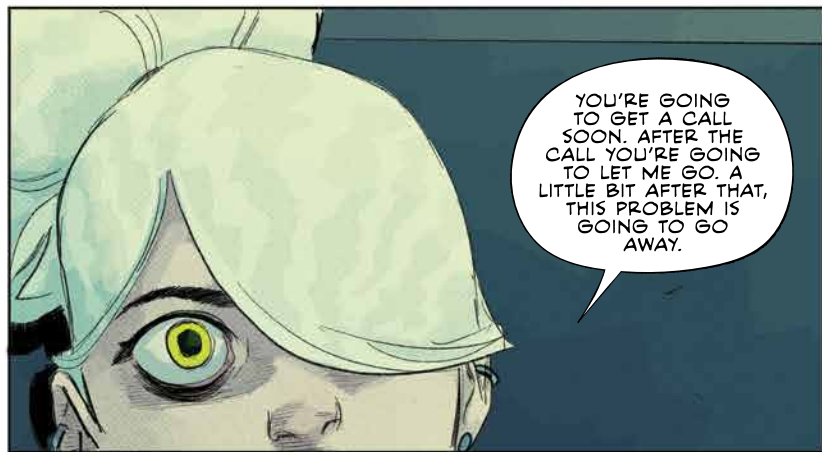


THIS ISN'T MILWAUKEE OR MADISON OR EVEN GREEN BAY. THIS ISN'T A PLACE WHERE THESE KINDS OF THINGS HAPPEN.

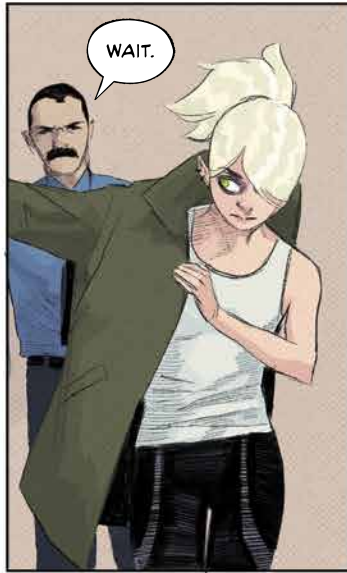
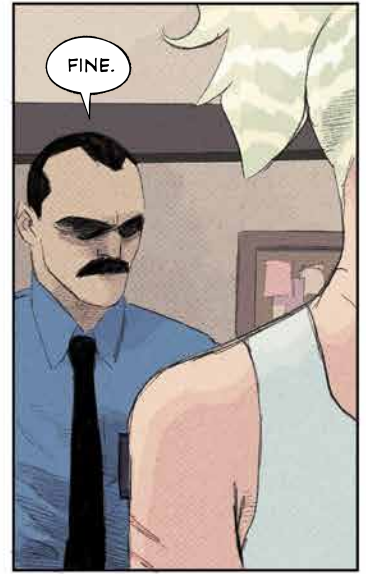


CHILDREN ARE DEAD, ERICA!





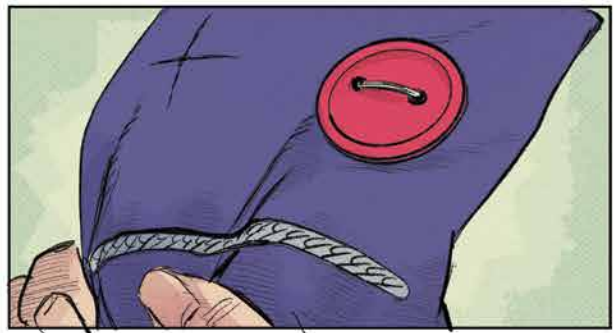
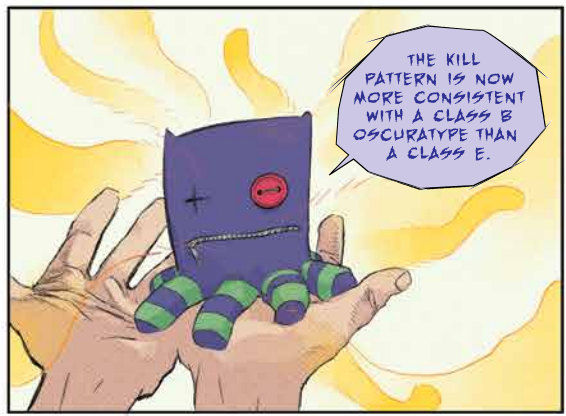
















CHAPTER
FOUR

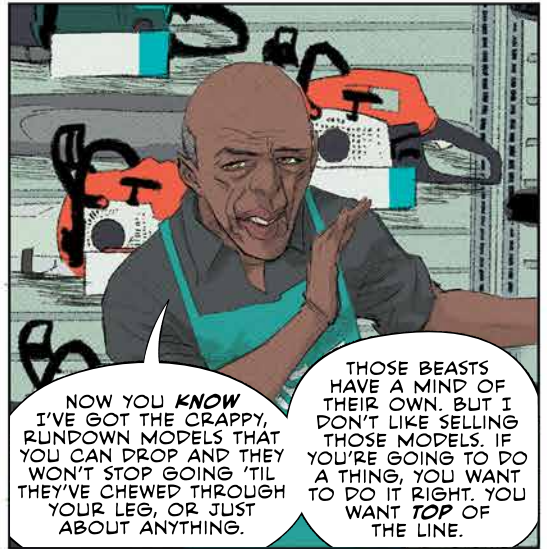


NOW THIS...THIS ONE'S A BEAUT.



I GET PROFESSIONALS IN HERE A LOT. LANDSCAPERS AND THAT SORT. THEY SWEAR BY THIS MODEL. IT CAN TEAR THROUGH JUST ABOUT ANY WOOD YOU COULD WANT, BUT IT'S GOT THESE SENSORS...

IF YOU DROP IT, OR LOSE CONTROL OF THE HANDLE, IT'LL STOP DEAD, BEFORE IT STOPS YOU DEAD.



NOW YOU *KNOW* I'VE GOT THE CRAPPY, RUNDOWN MODELS THAT YOU CAN DROP AND THEY WON'T STOP GOING 'TIL THEY'VE CHEWED THROUGH YOUR LEG, OR JUST ABOUT ANYTHING.

THOSE BEASTS HAVE A MIND OF THEIR OWN. BUT I DON'T LIKE SELLING THOSE MODELS. IF YOU'RE GOING TO DO A THING, YOU WANT TO DO IT RIGHT. YOU WANT *TOP* OF THE LINE.

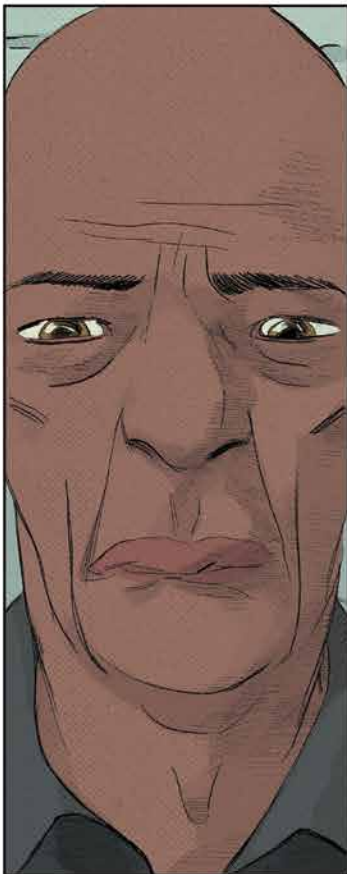


CAN I SEE THE CRAPPY, RUNDOWN MODELS?



SORRY?







DAD,
YOU IN
HERE?



DAD. IT'S
TOMMY.



OH.



HOW'S YOUR
MOTHER?



CALL
HER IF
YOU REALLY
WANT TO
KNOW.



WHAT THE HELL
TIME IS IT, ANYWAY?
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING HERE?

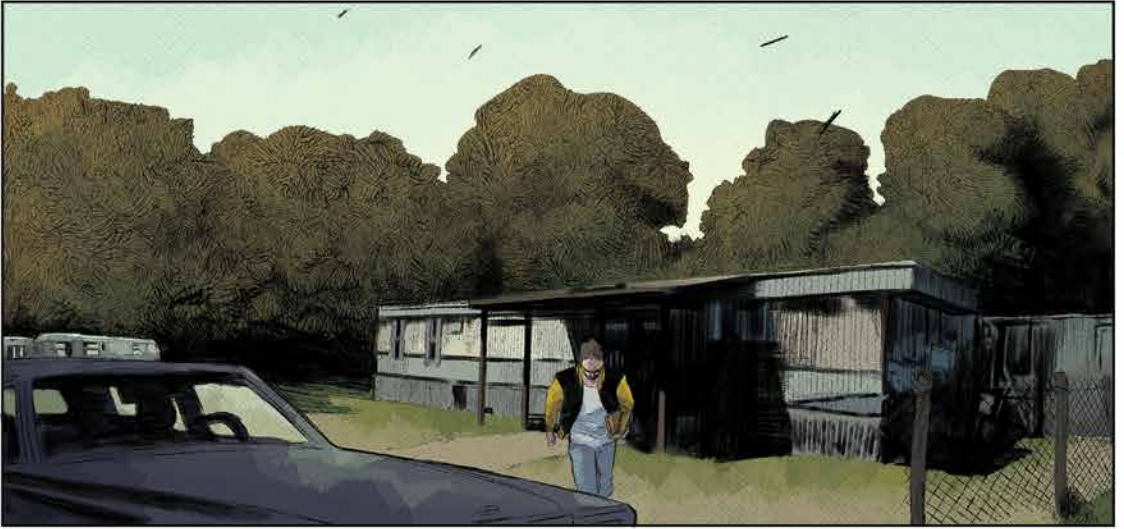


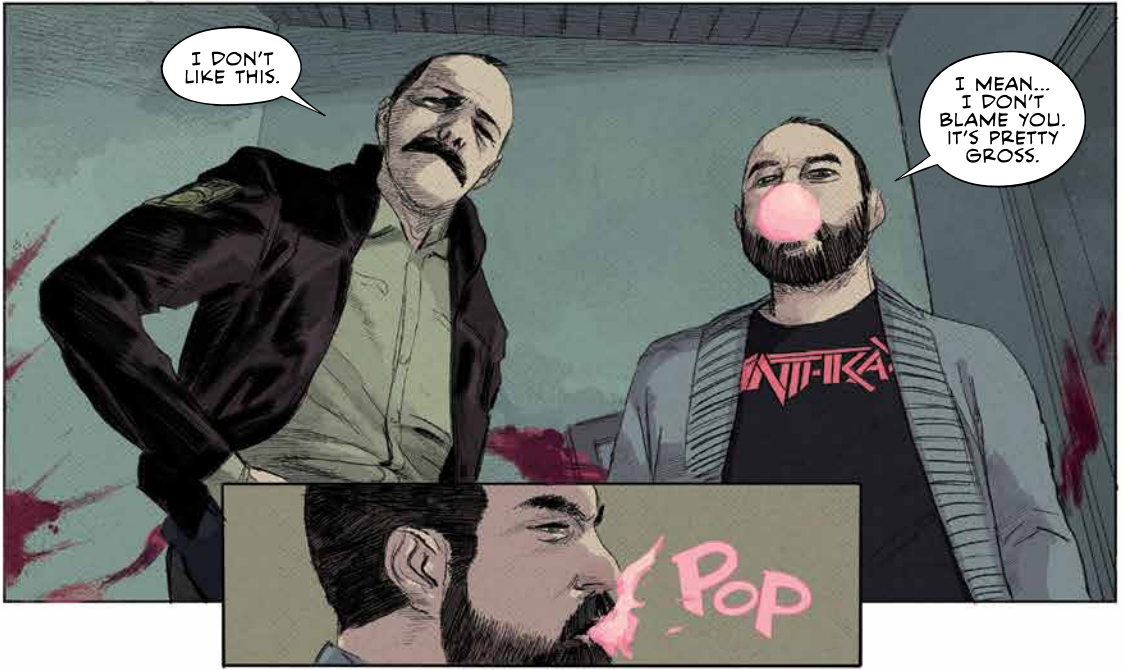
IS
THERE...
IS THERE
NEWS...?

IS
SOPHIE...

DID THEY
FIND HER
BODY?







I DON'T LIKE THIS.

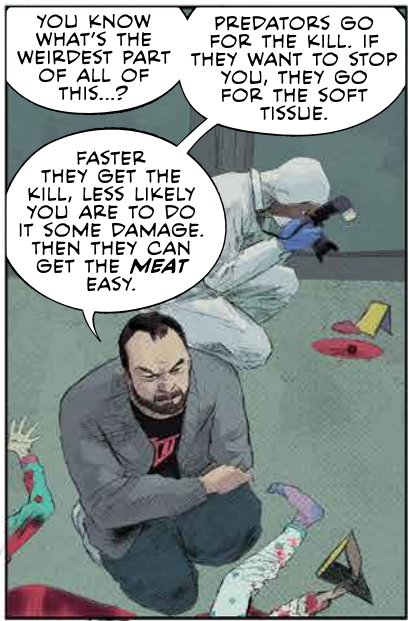
I MEAN... I DON'T BLAME YOU. IT'S PRETTY GROSS.

Pop



TIM...

HEY, BABY BROTHER. I LOOK AT BODIES ALL DAY. IF I'M SAYING IT'S GROSS, THAT MEANS I'M TAKING IT SERIOUS.



YOU KNOW WHAT'S THE WEIRDEST PART OF ALL OF THIS...?

PREDATORS GO FOR THE KILL. IF THEY WANT TO STOP YOU, THEY GO FOR THE SOFT TISSUE.

FASTER THEY GET THE KILL, LESS LIKELY YOU ARE TO DO IT SOME DAMAGE. THEN THEY CAN GET THE MEAT EASY.



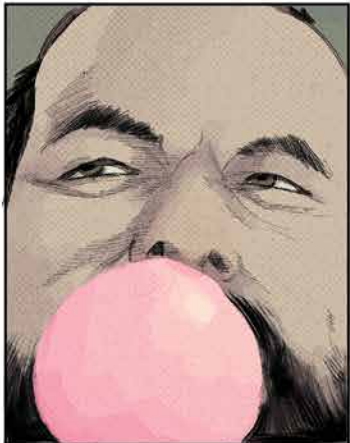
BUT THIS THING DIDN'T WANT MEAT. NOT REALLY. IT RIPS INTO THEM, BUT THEN LEAVES THEM WHOLE.



PEOPLE, ON THE OTHER HAND, IF THEY'RE IN A KILLING MOOD AND THEY'RE ANGRY...THEY KNOW WHAT HURTS THEM, AND THAT'S WHERE THEY WANT TO HURT YOU. THEY WANT TO DRAW IT OUT.

THESE KILLINGS. THERE'S INTENT HERE...THERE'S... I DON'T KNOW HOW TO PUT IT.

THERE'S SOME SCARY SHIT AT WORK.





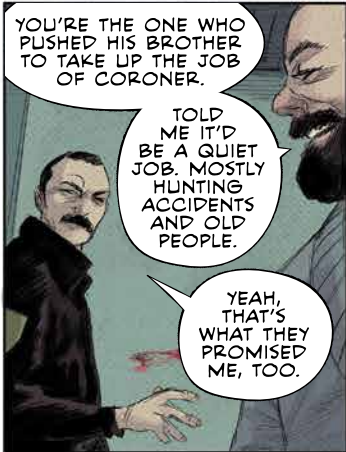
IF I HAD TO PUT TOGETHER A DESCRIPTION OF WHAT THIS IS, IT'S A HORRIBLE **PERVERT** SOMEHOW USING A **BEAR'S HEAD** TO KILL KIDS, BECAUSE HE **HATES** THEM.



BUT I'LL ADMIT, I MIGHT JUST BE TALKING BECAUSE I HAD A FEW BEERS ON MY LUNCH BREAK EARLIER.



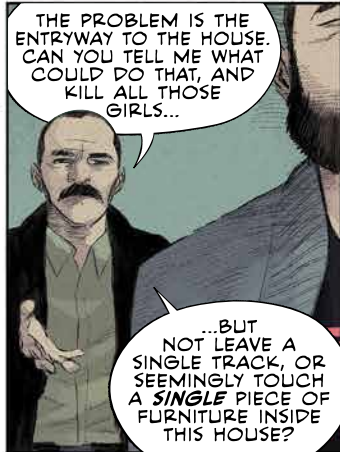
DAMMIT, TIM.



YOU'RE THE ONE WHO PUSHED HIS BROTHER TO TAKE UP THE JOB OF CORONER.

TOLD ME IT'D BE A QUIET JOB. MOSTLY HUNTING ACCIDENTS AND OLD PEOPLE.

YEAH, THAT'S WHAT THEY PROMISED ME, TOO.



THE PROBLEM IS THE ENTRYWAY TO THE HOUSE. CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT COULD DO THAT, AND KILL ALL THOSE GIRLS...

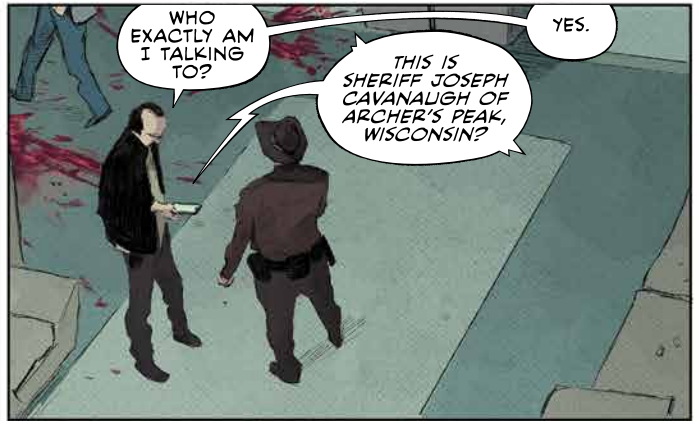
...BUT NOT LEAVE A SINGLE TRACK, OR SEEMINGLY TOUCH A **SINGLE** PIECE OF FURNITURE INSIDE THIS HOUSE?



CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT THE FUCK CAN DO THAT?

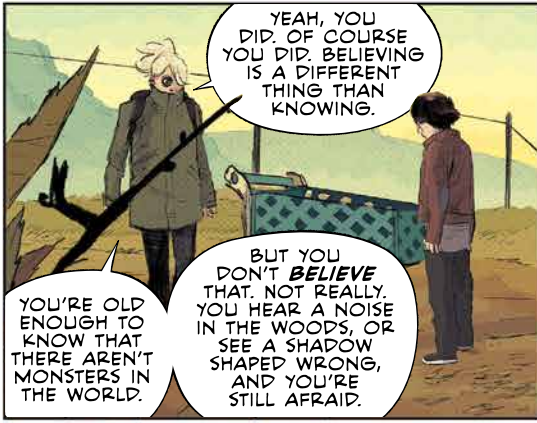


SURE THE FUCK CAN'T, BABY BROTHER.





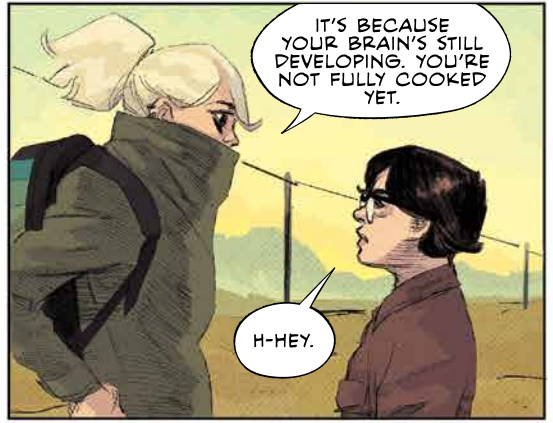




YEAH, YOU DID. OF COURSE YOU DID. BELIEVING IS A DIFFERENT THING THAN KNOWING.

YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT THERE AREN'T MONSTERS IN THE WORLD.

BUT YOU DON'T **BELIEVE** THAT. NOT REALLY. YOU HEAR A NOISE IN THE WOODS, OR SEE A SHADOW SHAPED WRONG, AND YOU'RE STILL AFRAID.



IT'S BECAUSE YOUR BRAIN'S STILL DEVELOPING. YOU'RE NOT FULLY COOKED YET.

H-HEY.



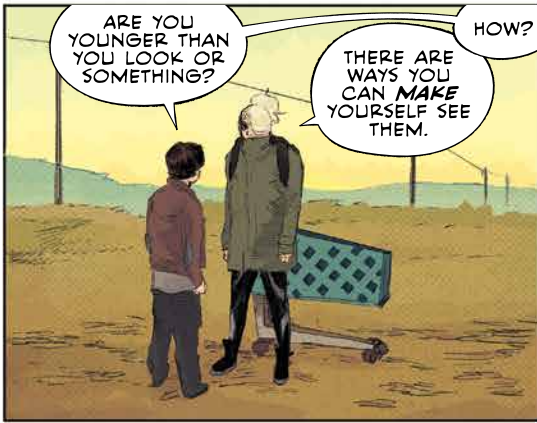
THAT'S JUST TRUE. AND THAT CAN GIVE YOU AN ADVANTAGE.

HOW DO YOU MEAN?



YOU CAN SEE THEM.

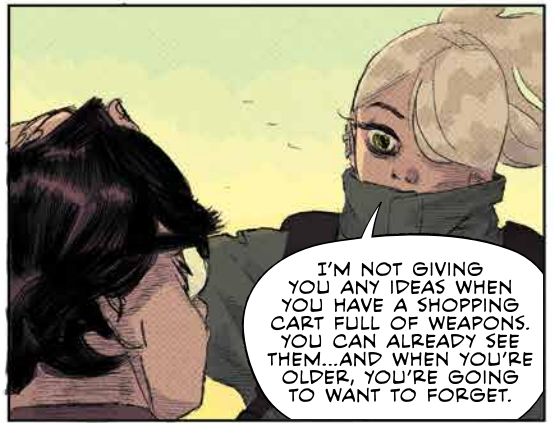
ADULTS CAN'T.



ARE YOU YOUNGER THAN YOU LOOK OR SOMETHING?

HOW?

THERE ARE WAYS YOU CAN **MAKE** YOURSELF SEE THEM.



I'M NOT GIVING YOU ANY IDEAS WHEN YOU HAVE A SHOPPING CART FULL OF WEAPONS. YOU CAN ALREADY SEE THEM...AND WHEN YOU'RE OLDER, YOU'RE GOING TO WANT TO FORGET.

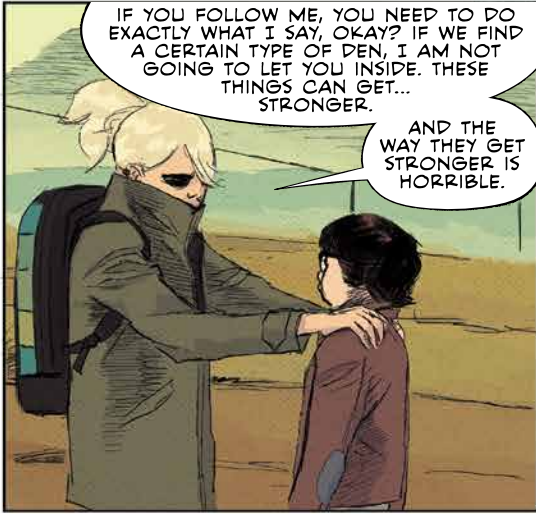


NO, I WON'T.

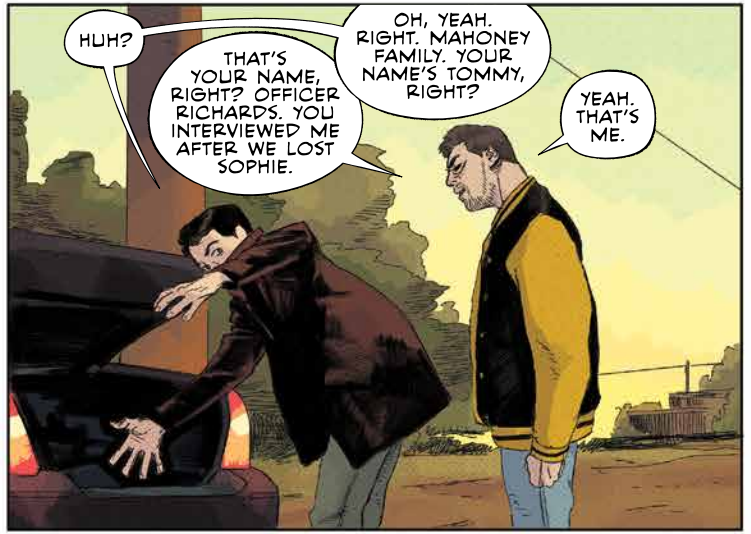


YES, JAMES. YOU WILL. AND YOU'LL BE BETTER FOR IT. OKAY?













JAMES. I
NEED YOU TO
HIDE BEHIND THAT
RIDGE UP THERE.
DO NOT COME
OUT, I DON'T CARE
**WHAT YOU
HEAR.**



WAIT.



TAKE
THESE.

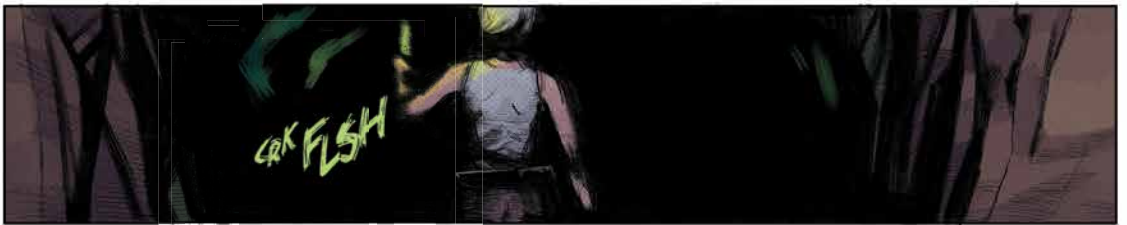


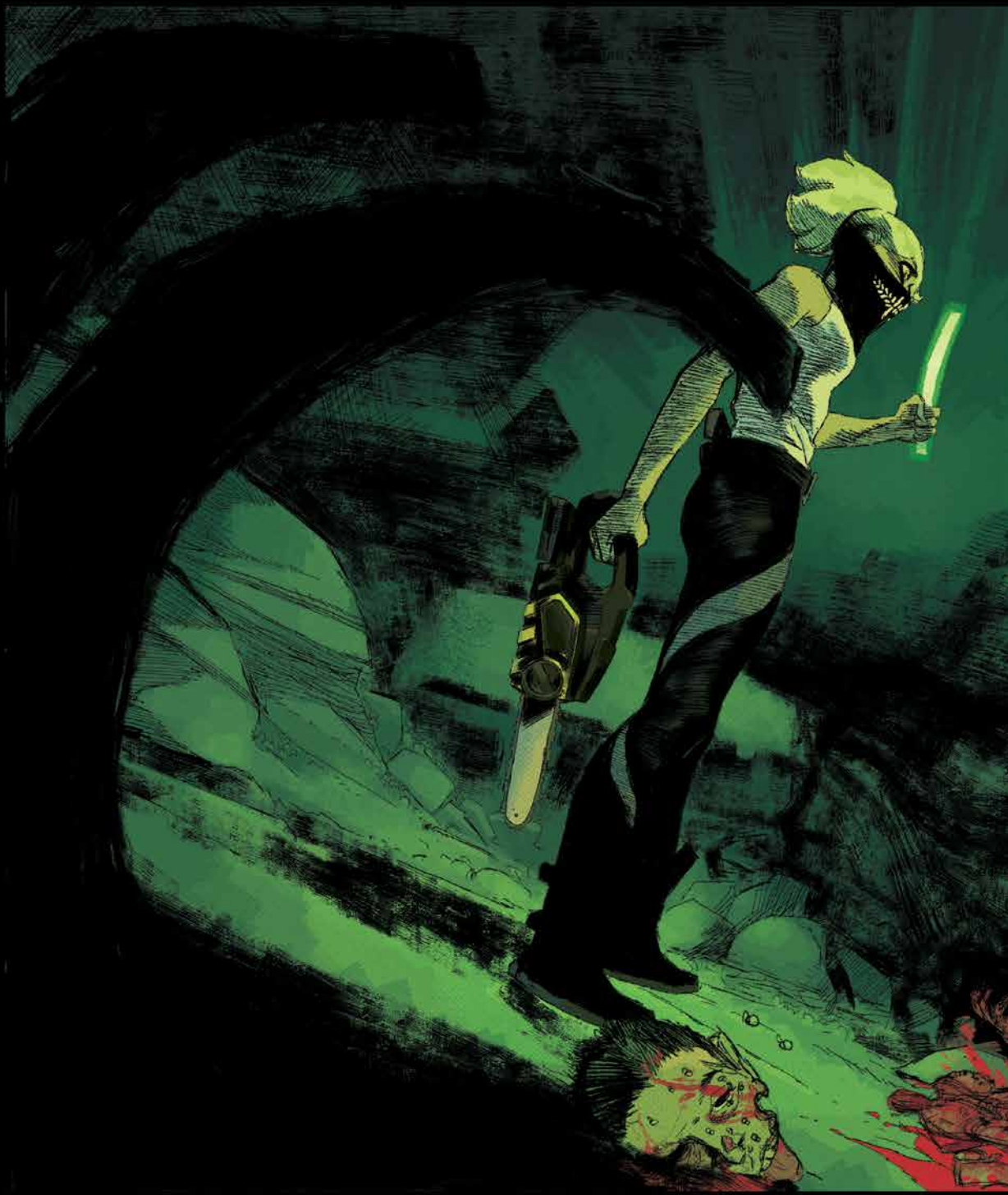
NOW
GO.

ERICA...



I'M NOT
ASKING.
GO.





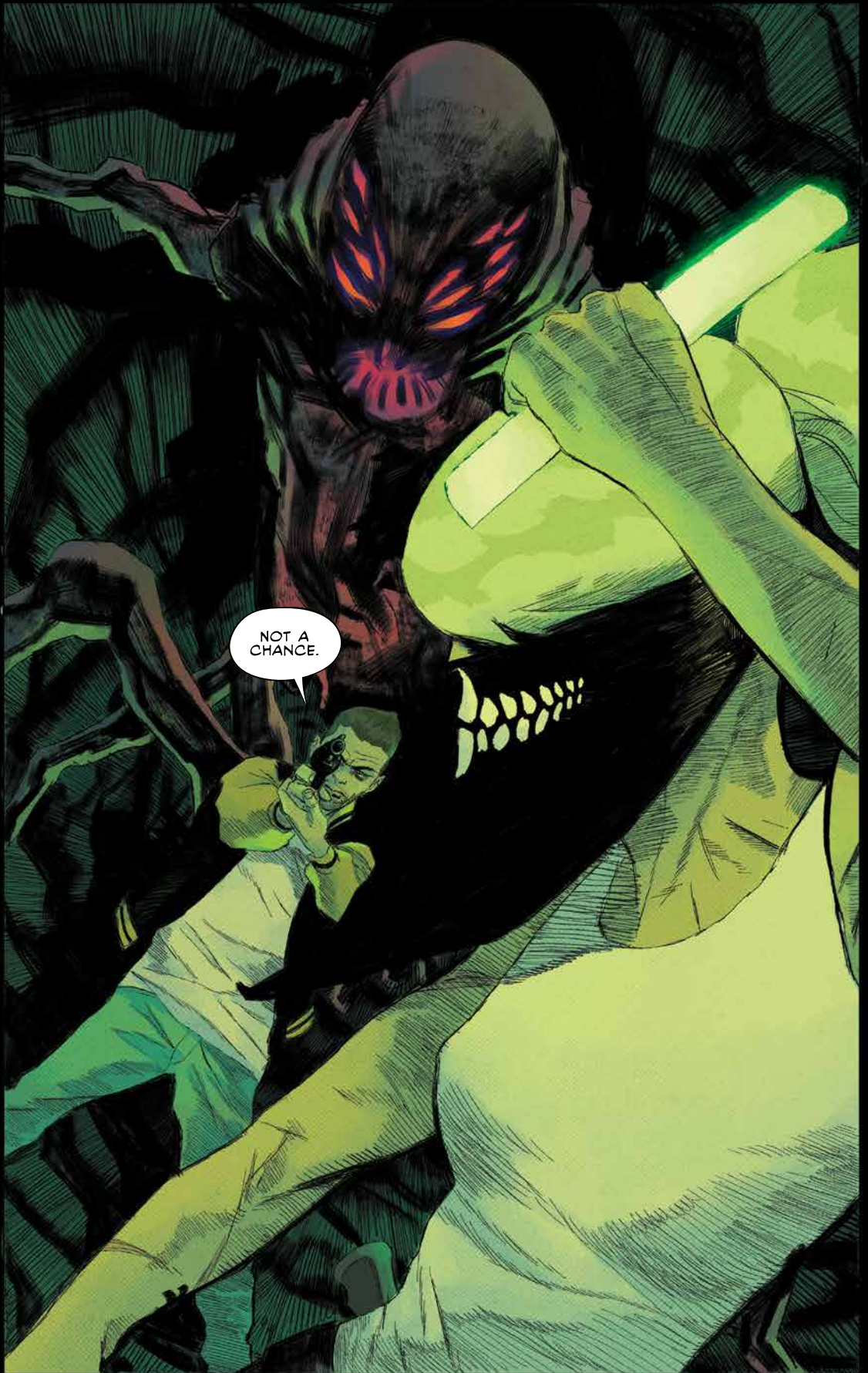


AND NOW,
YOU'RE
GOING TO
PAY...

TOMMY...



TOMMY,
YOU NEED TO
GET DOWN
NOW...



NOT A CHANCE.



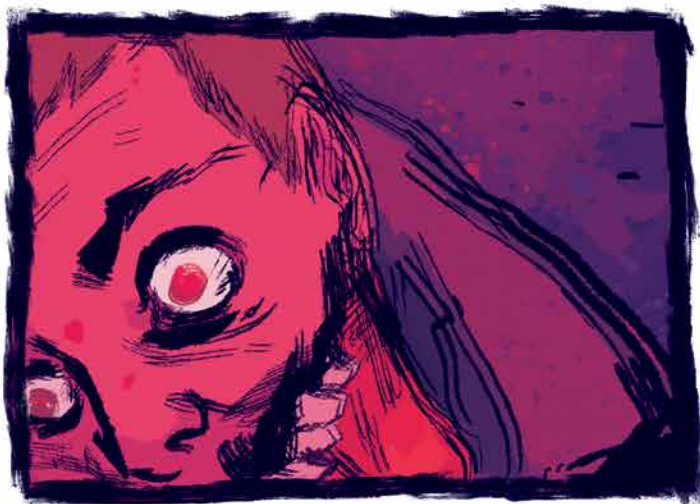
CHAPTER
FIVE



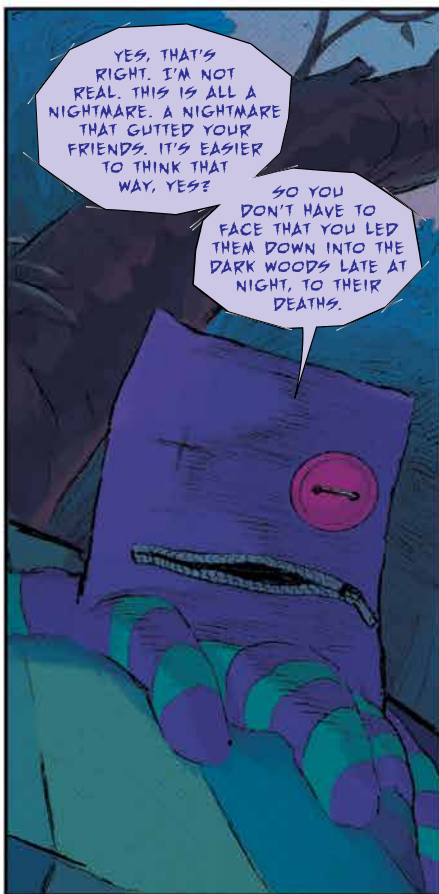




NO.



I'M...I'M NOT AFRAID! AND YOU'RE... YOU'RE NOT REAL.



YES, THAT'S RIGHT. I'M NOT REAL. THIS IS ALL A NIGHTMARE. A NIGHTMARE THAT GUTTED YOUR FRIENDS. IT'S EASIER TO THINK THAT WAY, YES?

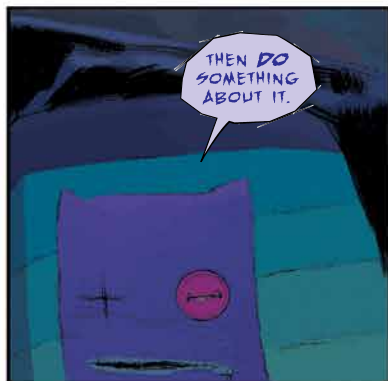
SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO FACE THAT YOU LED THEM DOWN INTO THE DARK WOODS LATE AT NIGHT, TO THEIR DEATHS.



SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO FACE THAT IT WAS YOUR FAULT.



THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANT!



THEN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.



YOU HAVE THE WEAPONS SHE DOESN'T. YOU HAVE THE MEANS TO HELP.

IF YOU DON'T WANT ERICA TO DIE, NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT.



I'M NOT JOKING, YOU NEED TO DROP THAT THING RIGHT NOW.



OKAY.



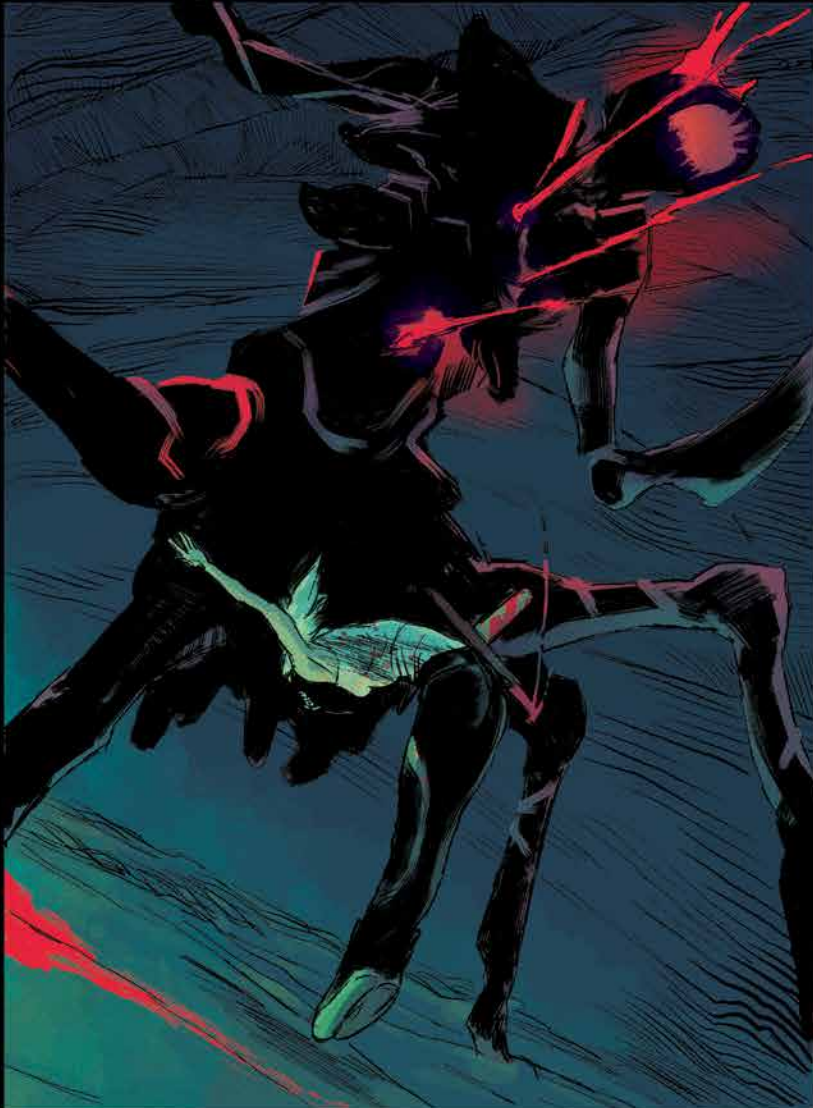
YOU'RE THREATENING ME?! IS THIS SUPPOSED TO BE SOME KIND OF JOKE?













YOU JUST MADE IT ANGRY! YOU'RE GOING TO KILL US BOTH!



THERE'S NOTHING THERE! THERE'S NOTHING HERE BUT YOU AND ME!



KRAK



BLAM



I JUST... WANTED TO HELP...







IT'S BLIND, BUT IT CAN SMELL HIM. DAMMIT.

I CAN'T...



CAN'T... BREATHE...



YOU CAN BREATHE. YOU'VE JUST BEEN WINDED.

HOW DID YOU--

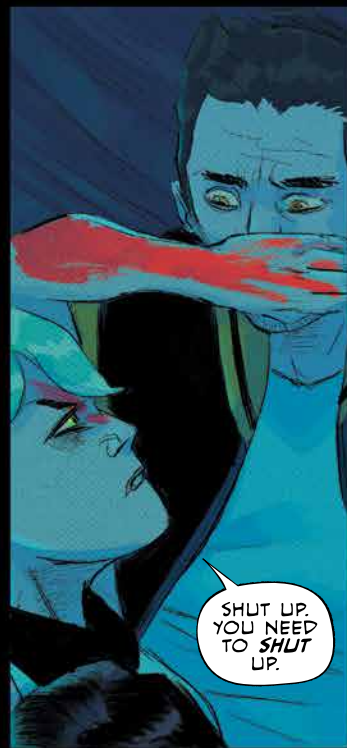


TOMMY. LISTEN. THIS BOY IS GOING TO DIE IF YOU DON'T STOP FUCKING EVERYTHING UP.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND?



NO, I DON'T FUCKING UNDERSTAND!



SHUT UP. YOU NEED TO SHUT UP.



IS SOMEBODY... IS SOMEBODY THERE?



IT TOOK ME...

IT ATE MY SISTER. IT ATE SO MANY OF THEM...



WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

I'M...I'M BIAN.



BIAN? THERE WASN'T A BIAN ON MY LIST...

I'M...I'M SORRY.

NO, DON'T BE SORRY. ARE YOU OKAY? HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN HERE?



A LONG TIME...A LONG, LONG TIME.





SOPHIE...

I'M GOING TO NEED TO DO SOMETHING NOW.

IT'S GOING TO HURT LIKE HELL, BUT IT'S THE ONLY WAY WE'RE GOING TO GET THROUGH THIS.



WHAT IS ALL OF THIS...?



THIS IS A ONE-WAY DOOR, BUT I DON'T THINK ANY OF US ARE GOING TO BE ALIVE FOR LONG IF I DON'T GO THROUGH IT.



THE FUCK IS THAT?



YOU JUST STABBED ME IN THE FUCKING HEAD!



OH GOD,
SOPHIE...



I'M
SORRY,
I'M SO
SORRY...



TOMMY, WE'RE
RUNNING OUT
OF TIME.



IT'S **HORDE**
GOLD FROM
THE **HOUSE OF**
SLAUGHTER.

I NEED
YOU TO
SEE.



WHAT
ARE
YOU--



WHAT DID
YOU...?



I'M
SORRY.





IS THAT...
IS THAT WHAT YOU'VE BEEN FIGHTING?
YOU FLUCKED MY HEAD UP. THIS ISN'T REAL...



IT'S REAL. CAN YOU GET ON YOUR FEET?
I...I THINK.

I NEED YOU TO CARRY JAMES AND BIAN. ARE YOU STRONG ENOUGH TO DO THAT? CAN YOU GET THEM OUT OF HERE ALIVE?



YES.



SOPHIE...

IF I PULL THIS OFF, WE CAN GET ALL THE BODIES OUT. I PROMISE. OKAY?



OKAY.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?



I'M GOING TO KILL IT.

OKAY.



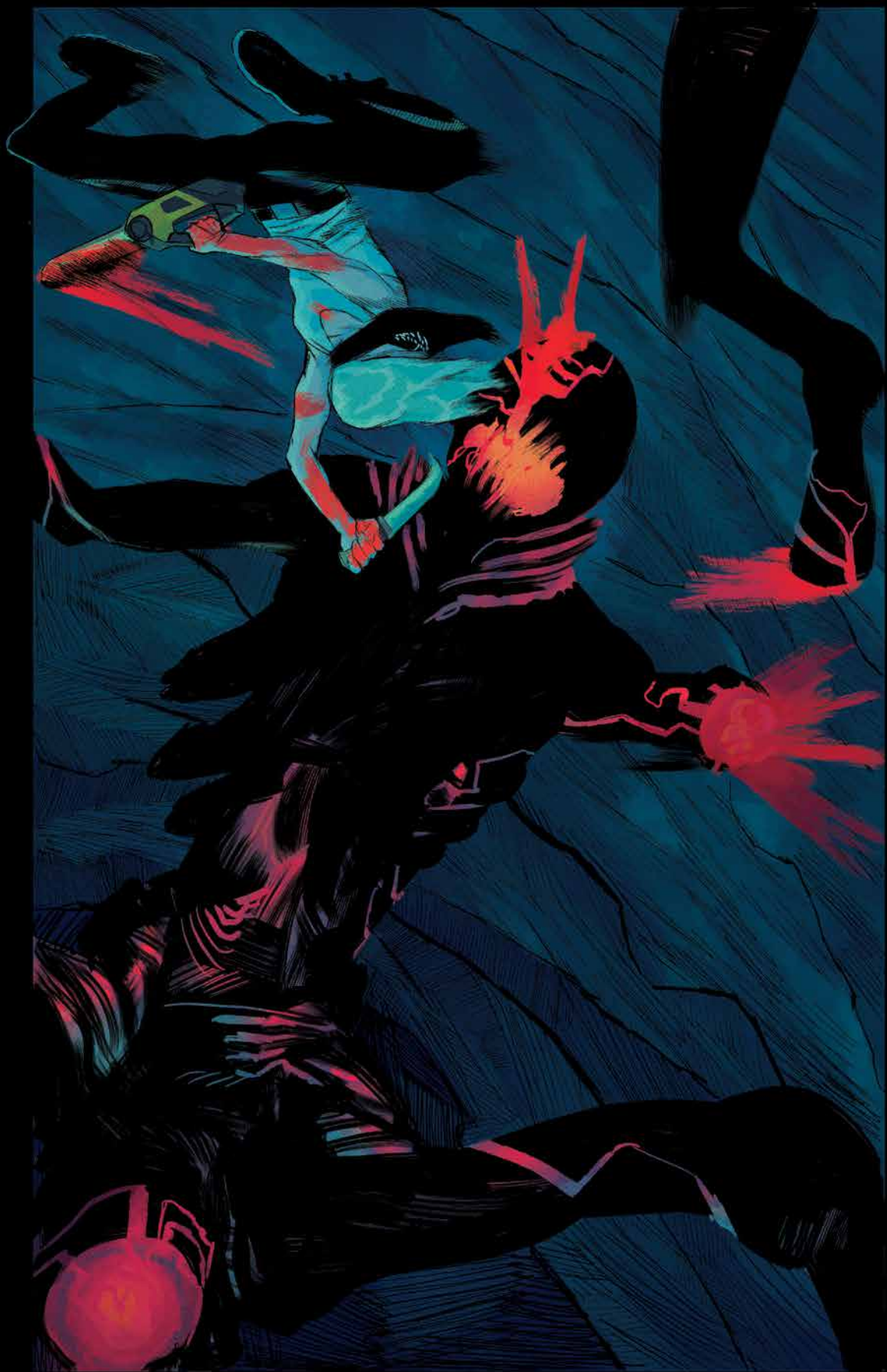
I DON'T WANT TO DIE... I DON'T WANT TO DIE...

IT'S...IT'S OKAY.



NO ONE ELSE IS GOING TO DIE. I PROMISE.









I'M... I'M GOING TO PASS OUT NOW, IF THAT'S OKAY.

I MEAN. YEAH. OKAY.



TELL THE OCTOPUS...

I DIDN'T WANT TO DIE... I STILL DON'T WANT TO DIE...



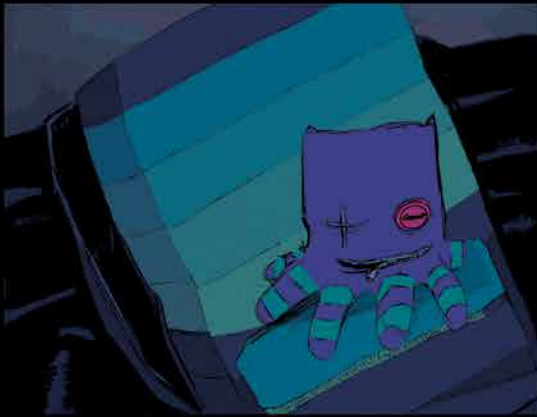
UH... SURE.




TELL ST. MARY'S I'VE GOT THREE COMING IN HOT. THEY'RE STILL ALIVE, BUT I DON'T KNOW FOR HOW MUCH LONGER.



WHAT THE FUCK IS GOING ON HERE...?



A comic book panel featuring a woman with short, light-colored hair tied in a ponytail. She has a determined and somewhat menacing expression, with a single glowing green eye. She is wearing a dark, sleeveless top and dark pants. She is holding a chainsaw, which is positioned in the lower-left foreground. The background is a dark, rocky or cavernous environment with jagged, angular shapes. The overall color palette is dominated by dark blues, greys, and a bright, almost white light source that creates a high-contrast, dramatic atmosphere. Two speech bubbles are present, one above the woman's head and another to her right.

IT HAD CHILDREN. THOSE CHILDREN ARE OUT THERE NOW, AND THEY'RE HUNGRY.

IF THIS TOWN IS GOING TO SURVIVE, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO KILL THEM, AND FAST.

TO BE CONTINUED...



The background is a dark teal color with silhouettes of trees and ferns. The trees are tall and thin, with some branches extending across the top. The ferns are at the bottom, with long, pointed leaves. The overall mood is mysterious and slightly spooky.

COVER GALLERY

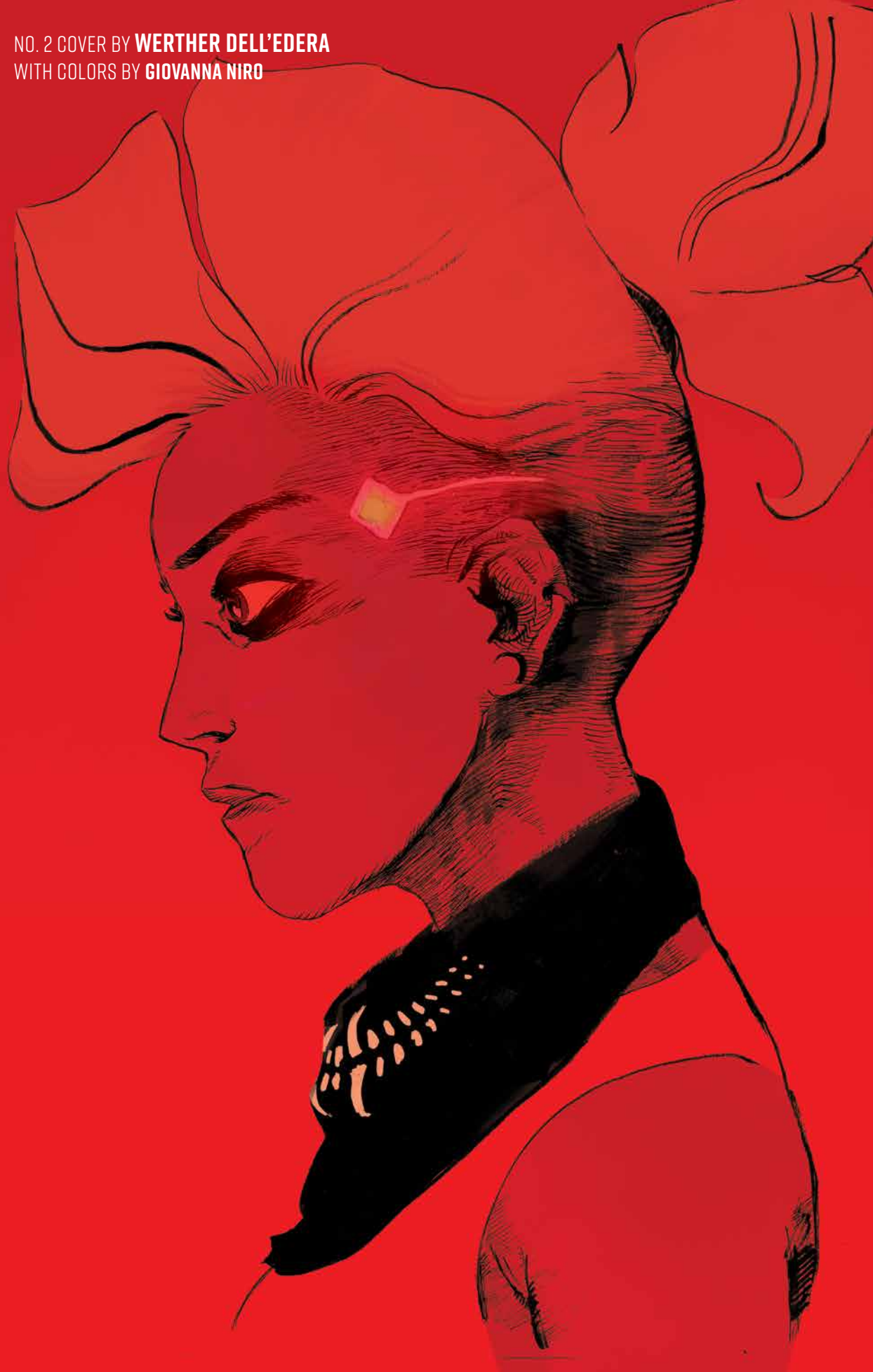
NO. 1 VARIANT COVER BY **JAE LEE & JUNE CHUNG**





NO. 1 UNLOCKED RETAILER VARIANT COVER BY **JENNY FRISON**

NO. 2 COVER BY **WERTHER DELL'EDERA**
WITH COLORS BY **GIOVANNA NIRO**



NO. 2 UNLOCKED RETAILER VARIANT COVER BY **IAN BERTRAM**
WITH COLORS BY **MIQUEL MUERTO**



NO. 3 COVER BY **WERTHER DELL'EDERA**
WITH COLORS BY **GIOVANNA NIRO**



NO. 3 UNLOCKED RETAILER VARIANT COVER BY
MARCOS MARTÍN



ARCHER'S PEAK COUN

NO. 4 COVER BY **WERTHER DELL'EDERA**
WITH COLORS BY **GIOVANNA NIRO**



NO. 5 COVER BY **WERTHER DELL'EDERA**
WITH COLORS BY **GIOVANNA NIRO**



2017 GLAAD AWARD WINNER OUTSTANDING COMIC BOOK

JAMES TYNION IV MICHAEL DIALYNAS

THE WOODS™

YEARBOOK EDITIONS

EXCLUSIVE PREVIEW





RUMBLE

GAH!



WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?

WAS THERE SOME KIND OF EXPLOSION?

DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT! I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!!



JUST SHUT UP... I'M TAKING YOU BACK TO THE OFFICE...

I THINK *STREAKING* JUST DROPPED TO THE BOTTOM OF YOUR PRIORITY LIST, MR. BEAUMONT.



IT'S DARK NOW... HOW COULD IT BE NIGHT ALREADY?

WHAT... WHAT IS THAT?



OVER THERE.



IT'S... GLOWING.





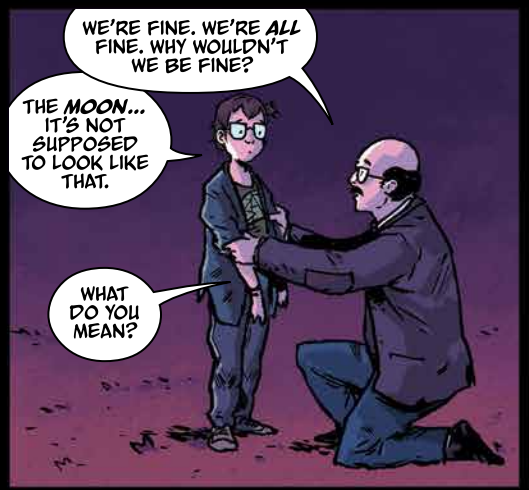
CREEEAK

THE TREE... IT SOUNDS LIKE IT'S MOVING...



ARE WE... ARE WE DEAD? I DON'T WANT TO BE DEAD... I'M TOO YOUNG TO DIE.

WHAT?! WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT, CARRIE...



WE'RE FINE, WE'RE ALL FINE. WHY WOULDN'T WE BE FINE?

THE MOON... IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO LOOK LIKE THAT.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



LOOK.



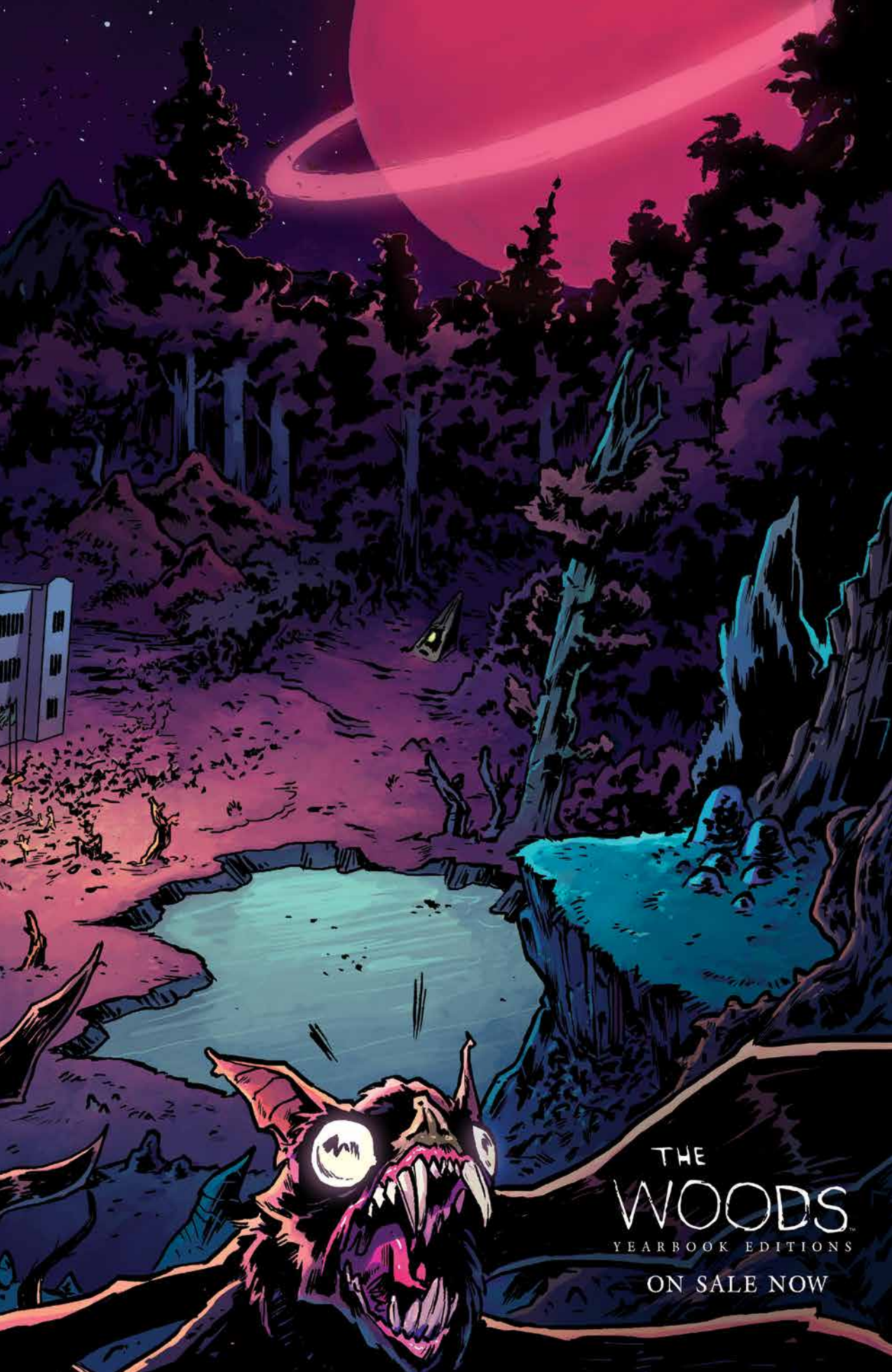
OH GOD...

WHERE ARE WE?



FWOOSH!





THE
WOODS
YEARBOOK EDITIONS
ON SALE NOW

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



JAMES TYNION IV is a comic book writer, best known as the writer for DC Comics' flagship series, *Batman*. In addition to the 2017 GLAAD Media Award-winning series *The Woods* with Michael Dialynas, James has also penned the critical successes *Memetic*, *Cognetic*, and *Eugenic* with Eryk Donovan, *The Backstagers* with Rian Sygh, and *Ufology* with Noah J. Yuenkel and Matthew Fox from BOOM! Studios. An alumni of Sarah Lawrence College, Tynion now lives and works in New York, NY.



WERTHER DELL'EDERA is an Italian artist, born in the south of Italy. He has worked for the biggest publishers in both Italy and the U.S., with his works ranging from *Loveness* (DC Vertigo) to the graphic novel *Spider-Man: Family Business* (Marvel). He has also worked for Image, IDW, Dynamite, and Dark Horse. In Italy, he has drawn Sergio Bonelli's *Dylan Dog* and *The Crow: Memento Mori* (a co-production between IDW and Edizioni BD), for which he has won awards for Best Cover Artist, Best Series, and Best Artist.




Not dead, **MIQUEL MUERTO** has lived in Barcelona since 1992, where he studied illustration, ran a small press, and worked as a graphic designer until feeling entitled to chase his dream: doing comics! *The Druid's Path* (2016) was his comic book debut as a full artist, a traumatic experience he swore would never happen again. Coloring comics was the first good step he has taken in his career and he has been happily following that path ever since.

IT'S THE MONSTERS WHO SHOULD BE AFRAID

When the children of Archer's Peak—a sleepy town in the heart of America—begin to go missing, everything seems hopeless. Most children never return, but the ones that do have terrible stories—impossible details of terrifying creatures that live in the shadows. Their only hope of finding and eliminating the threat is the arrival of a mysterious stranger, one who believes the children and claims to be the only one who sees what they can see.

Her name is Erica Slaughter. She kills monsters. That is all she does, and she bears the cost because it must be done.

GLAAD Award-winning writer **James Tynion IV** (*The Woods*, *Batman*) and artist **Werther Dell'Edera** (*Briggs Land*) present a haunting series about staring into the abyss...and what happens when the abyss stares back. Collects *Something is Killing the Children* #1 - 5.



“Those who dare to venture into this world will find a unique and compelling cast of characters in a killer mystery. You don't want to miss out on this.”

COMICBOOK.COM

“Tynion has put an incredible amount of thought and care into it. It's clear this story is as intricately woven as it is deeply personal.”

IGN

“Tynion and Dell'Edera have crafted the perfect horror comic for the *Stranger Things* era.”

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