

HACK/SLASH/EVA

MONSTER'S BALL PART FOUR OF FOUR



image

DYNAMITE.

HACK/SLASH/EVA™

MONSTER'S BALL

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 EVA CO-DEVELOPED BY JAMES KUHORIC



EVA: a time-lost warrior who believes that God wants her to rid our world of the foul things that lurk in the shadows.



CASSIE HACK: a 21st century anti-heroine who has devoted her life to the elimination of "slashers" who kill without mercy or reason.

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From the journals of
Victor Frankenstein:

I can endure this
damnable wait no longer.

My desire to possess the Philosopher's
Stone has cost me valuable. I think
perhaps I shall never know the secrets of
the stone, and I must make peace with that.

My greatest creation lies before me; his
glorious birth requires nothing more than
the blessing of a neglectful creator.

"The stone shall be the heart" - I set that
goal for myself. Though I failed in the pursuit,
I have taken care to ensure that a reversal
of fortune will not catch me unprepared.

There will be a place for all things; for
every action, a well-devised reaction.

In this moment, however,
there is only *life*.



"IT STARTED WITH DEATH. IT ALWAYS STARTS WITH DEATH FOR US. DOESN'T IT?"

"THAT REPORTER IN PHILLY GOT HIS FUCKING BRAINS BLOWN OUT BECAUSE HE TRIED TO HELP US. SOMEONE HAD BEEN DIGGING UP SLASHERS THAT WE KILLED... BUT WHO? AND WHY?"

"WE FOLLOWED THE TRAIL TO NEW YORK UNIVERSITY; THAT'S WHERE WE MET EVA. SHE NEEDED HELP FINDING HER FRIEND, WHO APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED BY THE SAME SON OF A BITCH WHO'D BEEN STEALING THE CORPSES OF OUR ENEMIES."

"NEXT THING YOU KNOW, WE'RE IN SOME SHITHOLE DETROIT SUBURB, FIGHTING WEREWOLVES AND WEIRDOS WITH EVA AND THE LOCAL TRIGGER-HAPPY COWBOY BRIGADE."

"BUT WHAT ABOUT OUR SLASHERS? SERGEANT KRAMER? EMILY CRISTY? LLOYD AND JIMMY? THE WAKING MAN? WE GOT INTO THIS WHOLE SHIT-URATION WITH THE INTENTION OF GETTING SOME ANSWERS ON THAT FRONT..."

"...AND SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY, WE TOOK OUR EYES OFF THE FUCKING BALL."

DETROIT,
MICHIGAN



WHEN DID THIS STOP BEING OUR STORY, VLAD?

WHY DO YOU CARE?

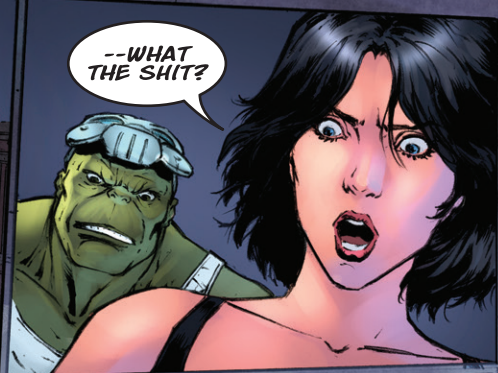
I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE THIS IS BIGGER THAN US. MAYBE FATE HAD OTHER PLANS.

HRRRN. FATE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT, CASSIE.

OKAY, THEN. THAT'S FINE...



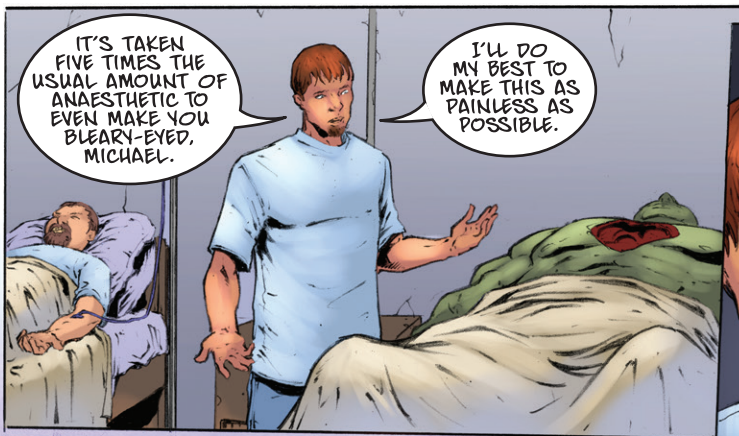
...BUT TAKING FATE OUT OF THE EQUATION JUST REINFORCES THE VERY BAD FEELING I HAVE IN MY GUTS. TRUST ME, THE OTHER SHOE'S GONNA DROP--



--WHAT THE SHIT?



HRRRN. LOOKS LIKE A WHOLE BUNCH OF SHOES ARE DROPPING.



IT'S TAKEN FIVE TIMES THE USUAL AMOUNT OF ANAESTHETIC TO EVEN MAKE YOU BLEARY-EYED, MICHAEL.

I'LL DO MY BEST TO MAKE THIS AS PAINLESS AS POSSIBLE.



IT'S TIME. I'LL LET YOU KNOW WHEN YOU CAN COME BACK IN.



I WON'T PRETEND I UNDERSTAND THE FIRST THING ABOUT THE WORK THAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN IN THAT ROOM, EVA...

...BUT I DO KNOW THAT TOM NORD IS A GREAT DOCTOR. YOUR FRIEND IS IN GOOD HANDS, AND I'M SURE HE'LL MAKE IT THROUGH THIS JUST FINE.



THANK YOU FOR THE REASSURANCE, SHEPHERD...

...BUT YOUR DOCTOR IS HELPING MICHAEL MAKE A SACRIFICE, NOT A RECOVERY.

WHAT? I'M SORRY... I HAD NO IDEA.



MOVE IT! HRRNNN! SHITHEAD PARADE COMING OUR WAY!

YOU'RE TELLIN' ME--



MONSTERS AND UNDEAD SLASHERS INCOMING. THEY'RE MARCHING RIGHT UP TO THE FRONT DOOR.

COYNE!
EUGENE! MEET US IN THE LOBBY ASAP!



WHAT ABOUT MICHAEL? HE'S IN SURGERY--

WE'LL ALL BE IN SURGERY IF WE LOSE THIS FIGHT. COME ON.



COYNE!
SITREP.

I COUNT FOUR UNIQUE FREAKS AND ABOUT TWO DOZEN OF THOSE CRAZY-ASS PLAY-DOH PEOPLE.



IS IT WEIRD THAT I'M NOT EVEN FAZED BY THIS CRAP ANYMORE? HELL, WE RESCUED THE FRANKENSTEIN DUDE FROM A WOMAN WITH A STITCHED-UP FACE AND TENTACLES--

--WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?!



WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US ABOUT THE WOMAN, YOU DUMB MOTHERFUCKER?!

I'M SORRY, OKAY? I THOUGHT WE TOLD EVERYONE! WHO IS SHE, ANYWAY?



TELL THEM WHO I AM, CASSANDRA!
TELL YOUR FRIENDS ALL ABOUT THE DAY YOU KILLED MARY SHELLEY LOVECRAFT!

TOO MANY REALITIES PASSING INTO MY VIEW AT ONCE!

MY CONNECTION WITH THE GIRL AND HER LOPING MANSERVANT HAS BEEN SEVERED.

IT'S NO MATTER. WE HAVE THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE, AND THE INCANTATION THAT UNLOCKS ITS TRUE POWER. VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN WAS A FOOL TO THINK THAT HE COULD HIDE IT FOREVER.

HIS INTELLECT WAS NO MATCH FOR OUR COMBINED WISDOM, MY DARLING.

NEITHER SHALL THE WORLD BE PRAETORIOUS.

THAT IS WHY I REACHED OUT ACROSS THE VAST CANYONS OF THOUGHT-REALITY TO JOIN OUR MINDS AND BODIES TOGETHER UPON THE SAME PLANE.

STAND WITH ME NOW, IN THE HOUR OF OUR KINGDOM COME.





BASTARDS!
THEY'RE FIRING
ON US!

SCURRY
LIKE RATS
IF YOU
WANT...

...BUT
I'M NOT
SO EASILY
SCARED.

AKA
BRAKA

AKA
AKA
AKA

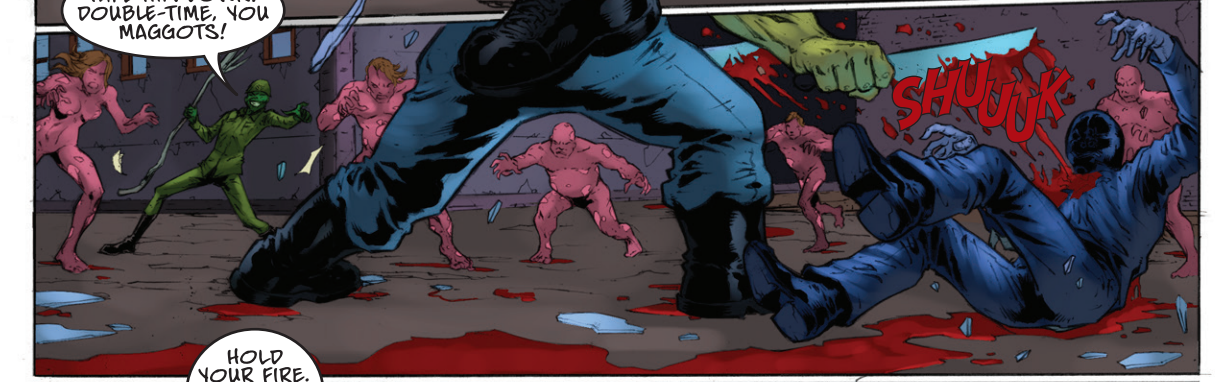
SKRASH



HRRRRNNN!
TIME TO DIE
AGAIN.

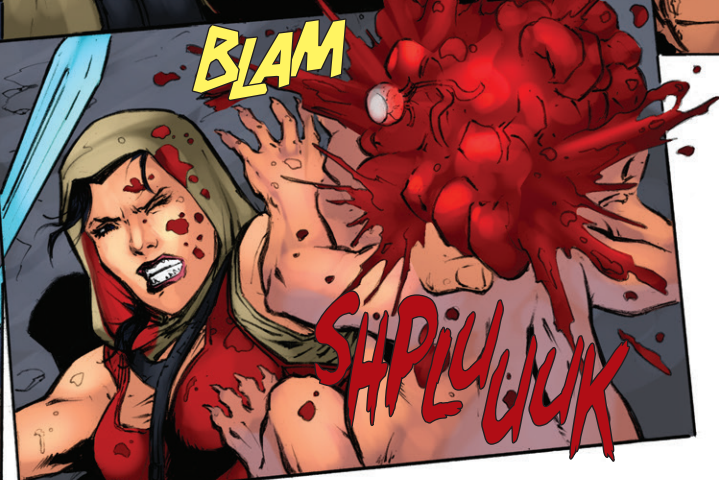
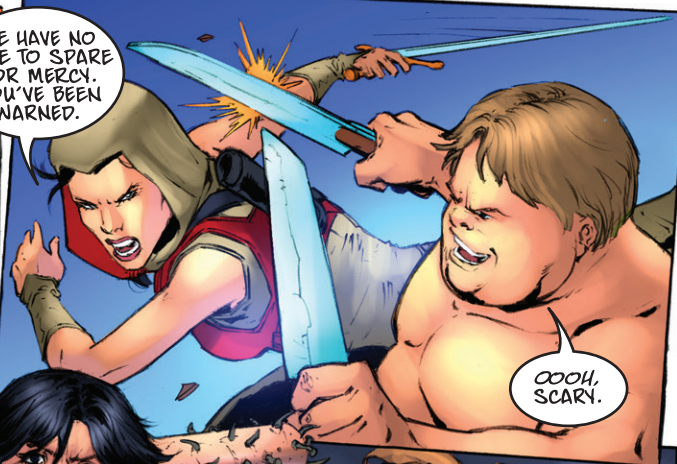
TAKE HIM DOWN!
DOUBLE-TIME, YOU
MAGGOTS!

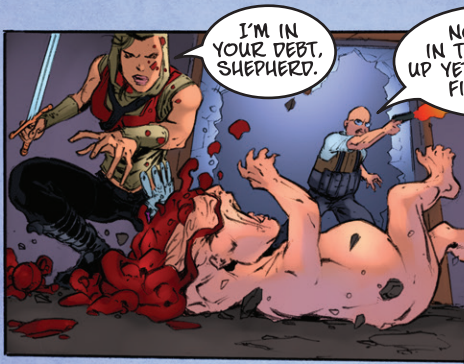
SHUUK



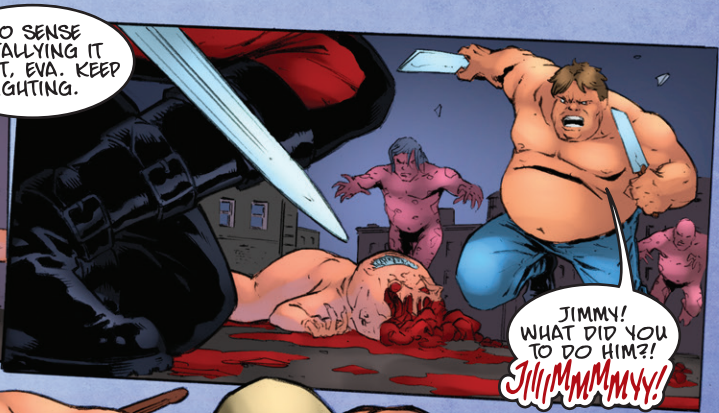
HOLD
YOUR FIRE.
WAIT FOR
A CLEAR
SHOT.







I'M IN YOUR DEBT, SHEPHERD.



NO SENSE IN TALLYING IT UP YET, EVA. KEEP FIGHTING.

JIMMY!
WHAT DID YOU
TO DO HIM?!



JOIN HIM.

KSHOKK
KARK
KARK



HURRNGH!
KILL! YOU!
ALL!



DON'T YOU WANT ME TO TOUCH YOU, CASSIE?

I BET YOU'D LOVE THE FEELING OF MY HANDS ON YOUR SOFT, SWEET SKIN!

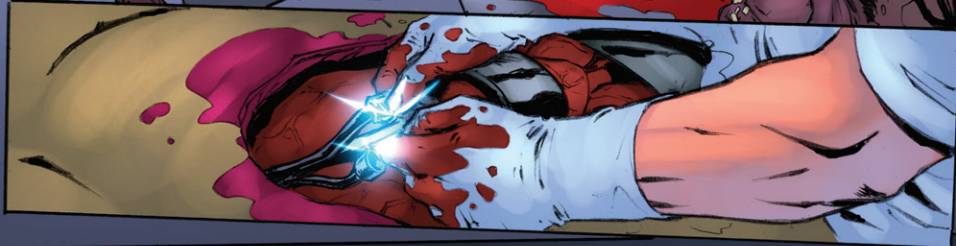
I'D RATHER BE THE ONLY WOMAN IN A PORN WITH HALF A DOZEN STEREOTYPE MINORITY WEREWOLVES, EMILY...



BRAKAKAKAKA

DUCK AND COVER, CASSIE!

AND NOT JUST BECAUSE THAT'S SOMETHING I COULD EASILY ARRANGE IN THIS SHITHOLE TOWN.



"WHILE WE WERE SACRIFICING OUR SANITY TO THE BLOOD AND HEAT OF WAR..."



"...MICHAEL TURNED THE TIDE OF BATTLE IN OUR FAVOR, BY SURRENDERING THE MOST PRECIOUS GIFT THAT ANY LIVING CREATURE CAN KNOW. HE HAS LED US TO GLORY, BUT WE WILL NEVER SEE US CLAIM IT."

THE RING WAS A BINDING OF HIS HEART; A SECRET DEFENSE AGAINST THE STONE.

AN INCANTATION OF REVERSAL. HIDDEN WITHIN LIFE, REVEALED ONLY BY DEATH...
...AND WRITTEN IN AN ANCIENT TONGUE, TAUGHT TO ME IN MY YOUTH BY THE MONKS WHO RAISED ME.

LONG STORY SHORT: EVA'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN READ THE SECRET CODE. VLAD AND I ARE GOING TO HELP HER PUT AN END TO THIS...

...BUT THE REST OF YOU SHOULD GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE A.S.P.C.A., COMPRENDE?

I THINK I SPEAK FOR EVERYONE WHEN I SAY "FUCK THAT NOISE" COMPRENDE?

YEAH, YOU SPEAK FOR ≡KOFF≡ EVERYONE.

WE'RE THE GHOSTS OF OLD DETROIT, CASSIE. THAT'S OUR GIG. WE STAY.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP AND AROUND, J.R.? YOU NEED TO REST.

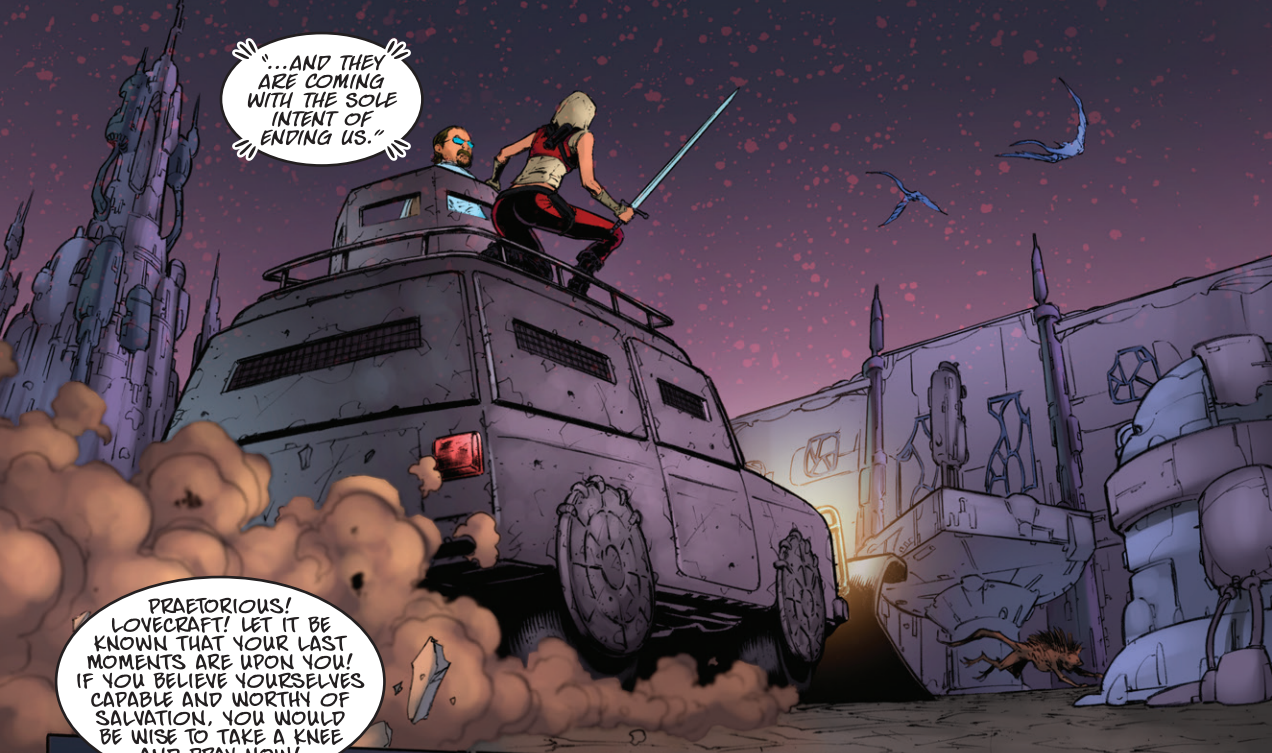
ARE YOU MY ≡HNNNGH≡ BROTHER, OR MY MOMMY? I'M FINE. ≡KOFF≡ GUESS I WOULDN'T MIND LEANING INSTEAD OF STANDING, THOUGH...

OKAY, LOOKS LIKE WE'RE ALL IN. I'LL EXPLAIN THE SPECIFICS WHILE WE LOAD UP THE RIGS, BUT THE RING ISN'T THE ONLY SECRET WEAPON WE HAVE.

THIS JAGGED SPIKE ONCE SPILLED THE BLOOD OF MY SAVIOR. WHATEVER YOU CHOOSE TO BELIEVE, HAVE FAITH IN MY ACCOUNT: I HAVE SEEN IT BRING AN END TO BEINGS OF THE PUREST EVIL, AND I KNOW IT WILL AGAIN.

THEY'RE COMING, PRAETORIOUS...

...AND THEY ARE COMING WITH THE SOLE INTENT OF ENDING US."



PRAETORIOUS! LOVECRAFT! LET IT BE KNOWN THAT YOUR LAST MOMENTS ARE UPON YOU! IF YOU BELIEVE YOURSELVES CAPABLE AND WORTHY OF SALVATION, YOU WOULD BE WISE TO TAKE A KNEE AND PRAY NOW!



TIME IS UP!



THE STONE--! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO IT?!

I... I DON'T KNOW! I'VE NEVER SEEN IT GLOW LIKE THAT BEFORE...



I CAN FEEL THE ENERGY, DOCTOR. IT'S RESONATING THROUGH THE DIMENSIONAL FABRIC... REVERSING EVERYTHING WE'VE DONE..!"





WUWAAGH!

BWAZOM



IT'S CORRECTING YOUR HUMAN CONTINUITY, DOCTOR... ACCELERATING YOU TO YOUR PROPER AGE...

...AND ITS POWER IS GLORIOUS.



WUWAAGH!



I HAVE SEEN THE END OF THIS REALITY AND THE BEGINNING OF A THOUSAND MORE. I AM NOT CONFINED BY IGNORANCE, AND I WILL NOT BE IMPRISONED BY THE RESTRICTIONS OF THIS REALITY'S PHYSICAL LAWS.

IF I CANNOT ESCAPE WITHOUT...

BAAAA

WHA AHHOM



YES! YES! ALL OF THE ENERGY! ALL OF THE POWER! FEED ME!

FEFFEEED MEEEEEEEEE!





KNOCK
HRRREN
KNOCK!



THEY'RE
IN! THEY'RE
IN! PUSH THE
BUTTON!



PUSH
THE FUCKING
BUTTON RIGHT
NOW!



YOU WANNA
BE FED, YOU
SUPER-SIZED
SNATCH?!

'CAUSE
YOU CAN EAT
ME ALL DAY
LONG!



KA BOO OOM

KRAKOOOOM

HNNNNGH!

EEEEYYYYAAAAA!



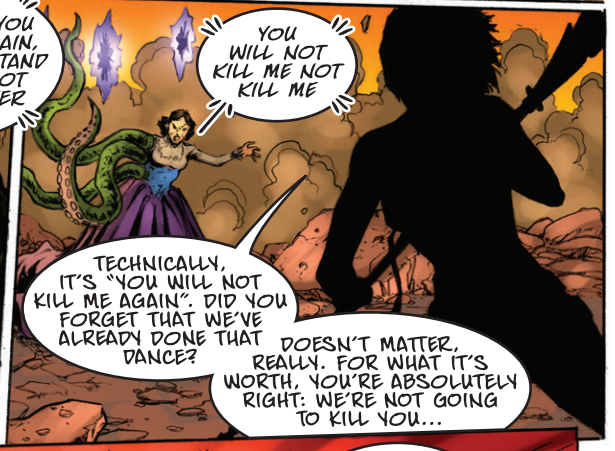
OOF!

WHOOOMP





I DREW YOU IN. I MADE YOU FACE THE DEAD AGAIN. MADE YOU UNDERSTAND THAT DEATH IS NOT FINAL...IT'S NEVER FINAL...



YOU WILL NOT KILL ME NOT KILL ME

TECHNICALLY, IT'S "YOU WILL NOT KILL ME AGAIN". DID YOU FORGET THAT WE'VE ALREADY DONE THAT DANCE?

DOESN'T MATTER, REALLY. FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT: WE'RE NOT GOING TO KILL YOU...



...CAUSE WE FIGURED IT WAS ONLY FAIR TO LET EVA HAVE A TURN.



EEEEYAAAAA!!!

KSHUUIK

SKRAAAAK



NONONO
NONONO
NONNNNNN

HUH. ONLY
A WOMAN STILL
TALKS AFTER
GETTING HER HEAD
CUT OFF.
HEH-HEH-HEH.

HOO-BON.
MAKE SURE AND
PUT THAT ONE IN YOUR
COMEDY ROUTINE,
SEINFELD. FUCKIN'
HILARIOUS.



NONONNNNN--

KSHPLUUK

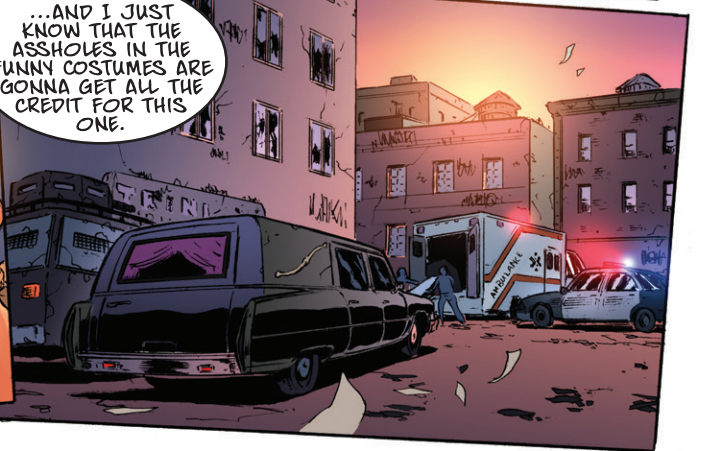
OH, I SEE HOW
IT IS. SWEET-MEAT
AND I HAVE TO CHUCK ALL
THE SHITTY, BLOODY PARTS
INTO THE DIMENSIONAL
PORTALS WHILE YOU
STAND BY WIPING
YOUR SPIKE.

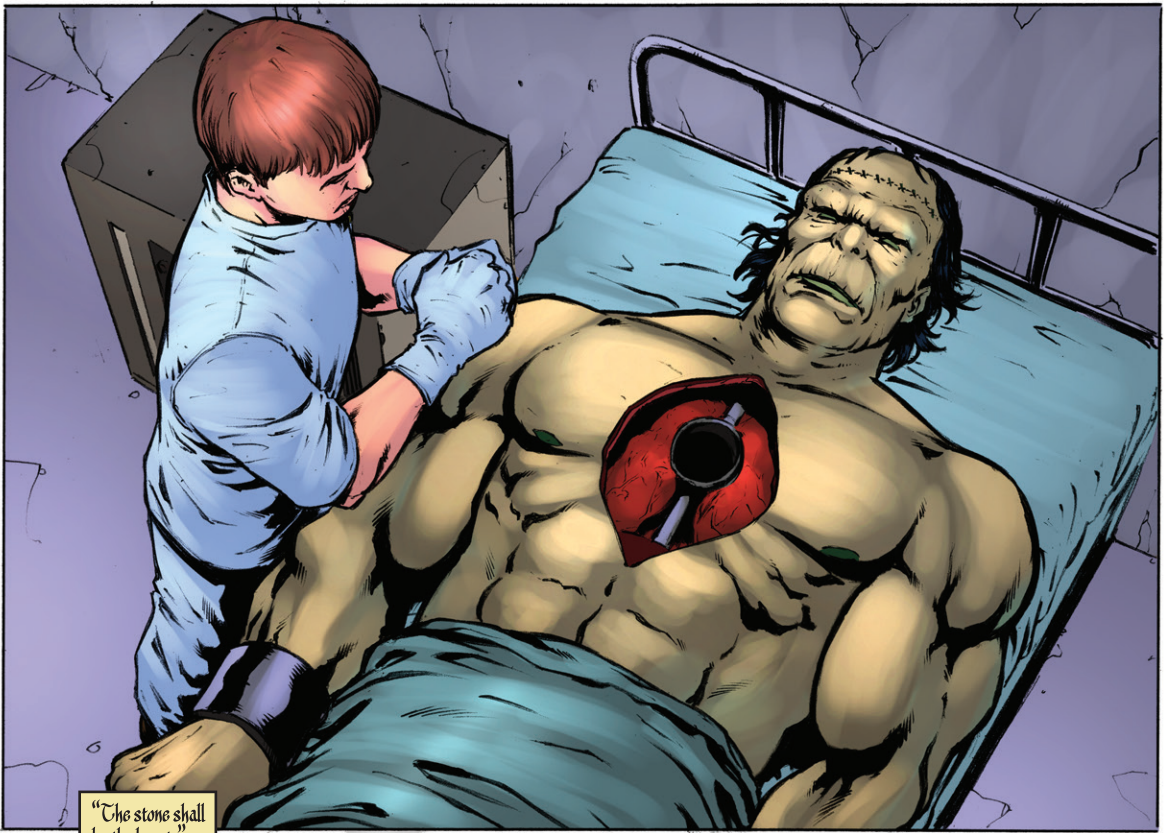


YOU THINK
THAT'S ROUGH
WORK?

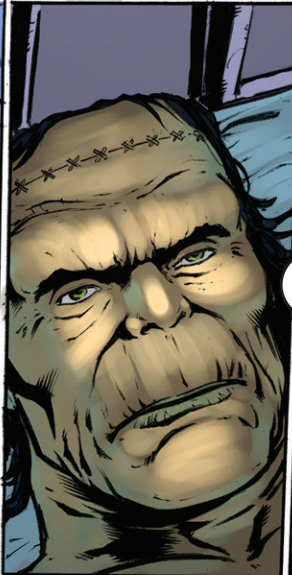
I HAD TO
REACH ALL THE WAY
DOWN TO THE GROUND
TO PICK UP THE MAGIC
FRISBEE. JESUS, I'M
EXHAUSTED...

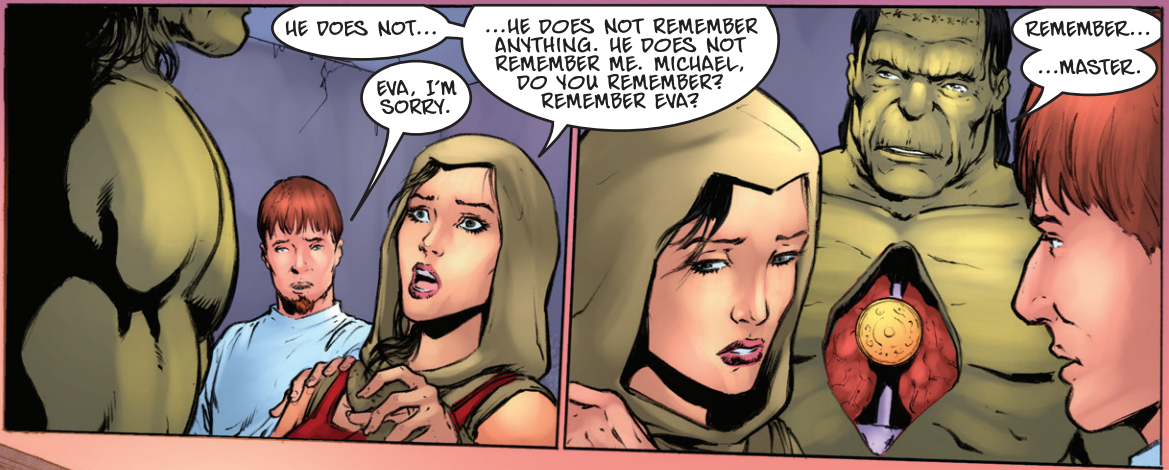
...AND I JUST
KNOW THAT THE
ASSHOLES IN THE
FUNNY COSTUMES ARE
GONNA GET ALL THE
CREDIT FOR THIS
ONE.





"The stone shall be the heart."





HE DOES NOT...

EVA, I'M SORRY.

...HE DOES NOT REMEMBER ANYTHING. HE DOES NOT REMEMBER ME. MICHAEL, DO YOU REMEMBER? REMEMBER EVA?

REMEMBER...
...MASTER.



YEAH, I KNOW WE NEED TO GET TO A REAL HOSPITAL. JUST GIVE ME A SECOND.

I'VE GOT THIS. YOU REST.



THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING. I HOPE YOU'LL COME AND VISIT UNDER BETTER CIRCUMSTANCES.

WE'LL SEE. NOT MANY VACATIONS IN OUR LINE OF WORK, Y'KNOW.



THANKS TO YOU AS WELL, EVA. WE'RE ALL VERY SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS...



...BUT I HOPE YOU KNOW THAT YOU NEVER HAVE TO BE ALONE.

YOU'RE WELCOME TO STAY HERE AND JOIN OUR TEAM, IF YOU'D LIKE.



I'VE NEVER MET ANYONE LIKE YOU. I HOPE WE SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN SOMEDAY.

IF GOD WILLS IT...WELL, IF GOD WILLS IT FOR ME.

I HOPE HE DOES.

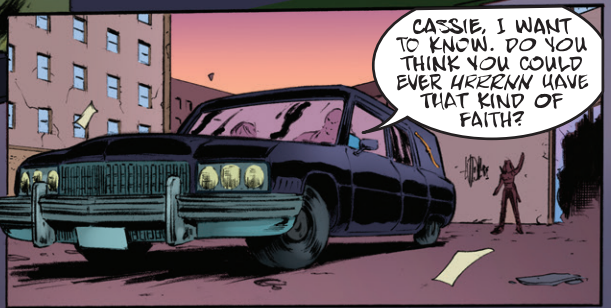
YOU'RE SURE YOU'D RATHER STAY HERE?

FOR NOW.



TO SEE YOU BOTH SMILING AND NOT STABBING...

...IT MAKES ME THINK THAT SOMETHING BETTER IS HAPPENING HERE TODAY.



CASSIE, I WANT TO KNOW. DO YOU THINK YOU COULD EVER HEEERNN HAVE THAT KIND OF FAITH?

HAVING FAITH IS JUST ANOTHER WAY TO SURVIVE. FAITH IS A GUN, OR A KNIFE. TRUE LOVE, OR TRUE HATE. IT'S SOMETHING TO BELIEVE IN.

MY FAITH WILL NEVER BE THE SAME AS HERS, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN A GODDAMN THING IN THIS WORLD.

I BELIEVE IN SURVIVING. YOU DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO, AND YOU KEEP ON LIVING. AMEN.



THE END