

SURVIVORS' CLUB

BEUKES
HALVORSEN
KELLY
GROSS
FARMER
DE LA CRUZ

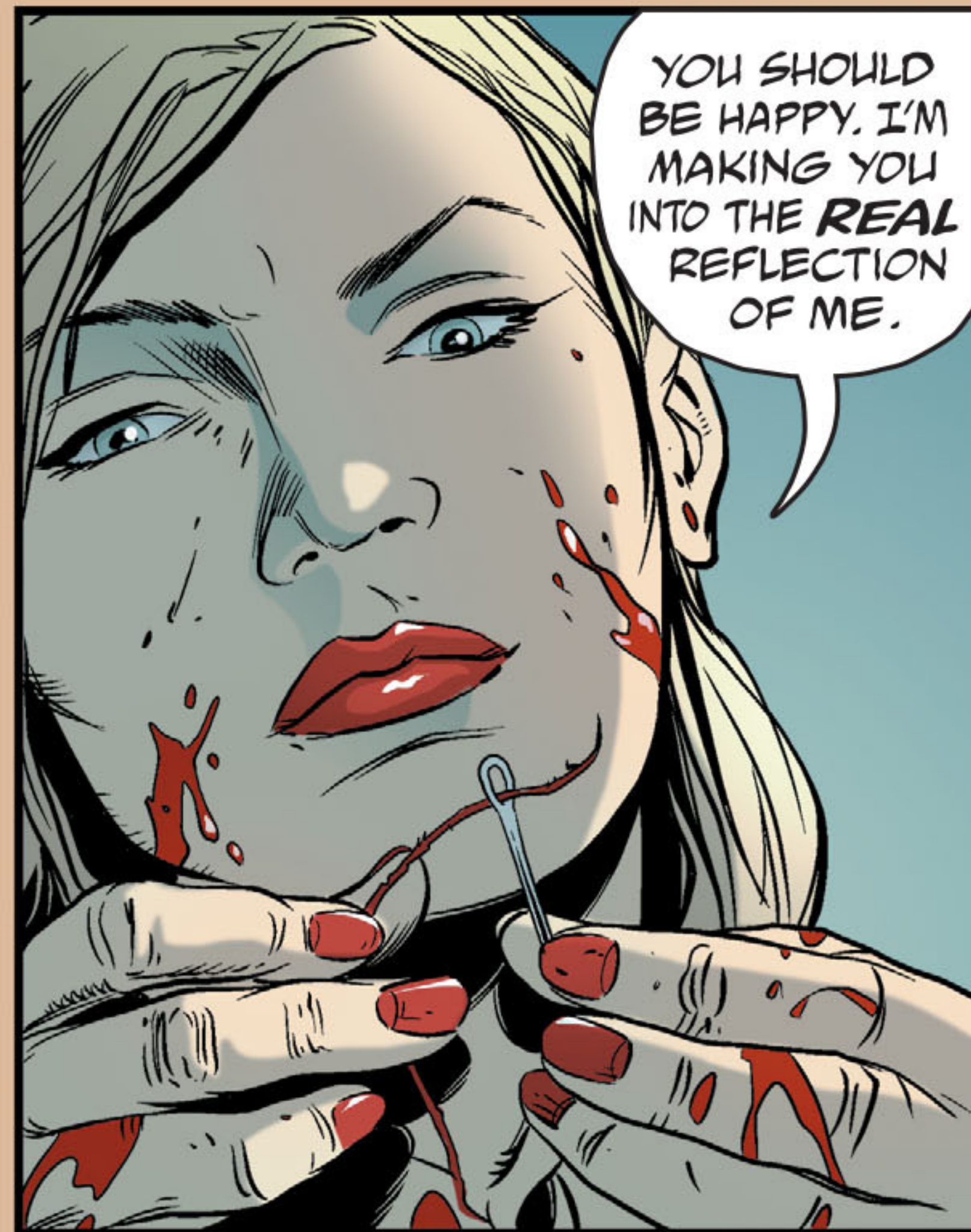
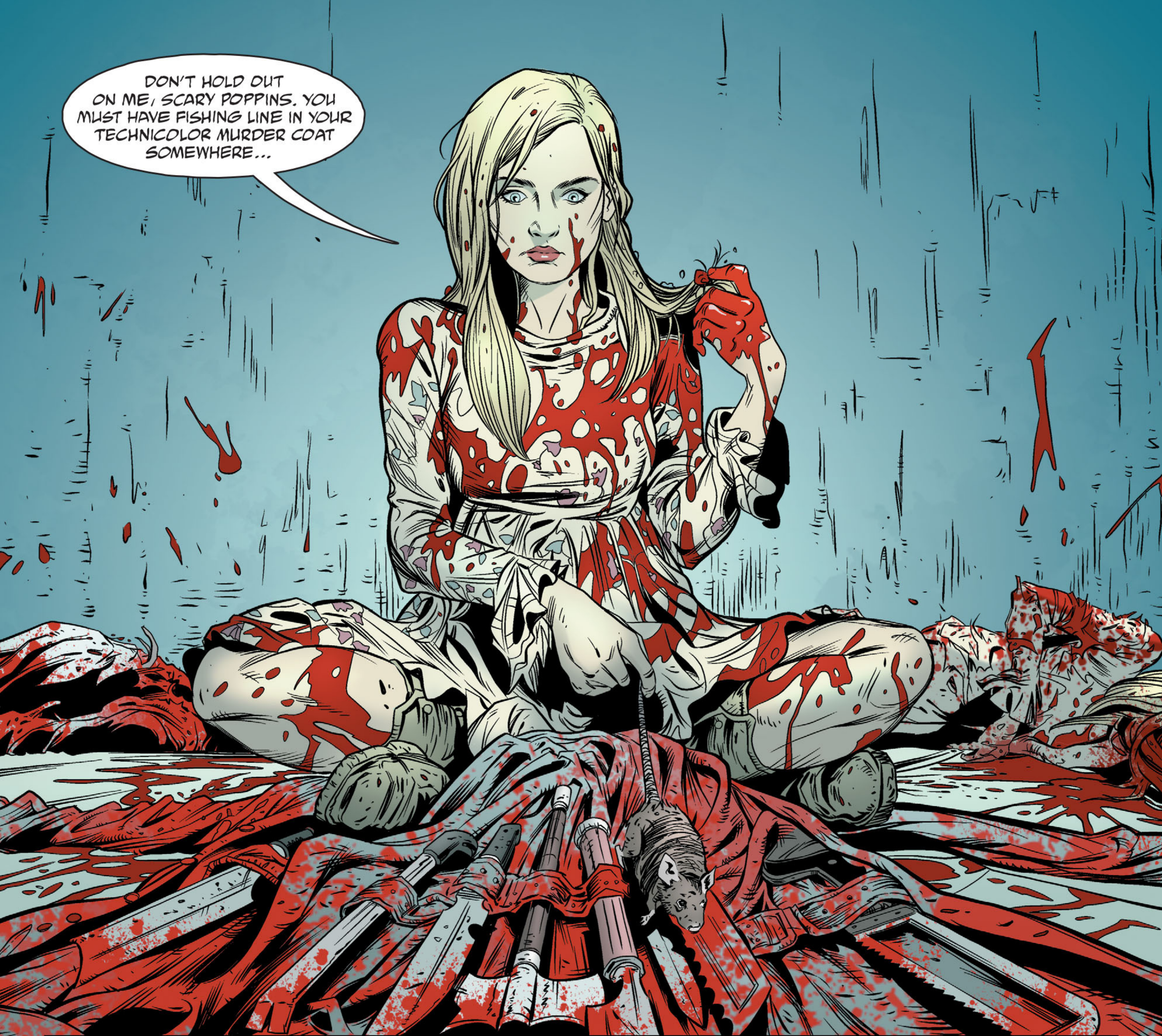
VERTIGO

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

—GAMBIT

FINAL
ISSUE

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



SURVIVORS' CLUB

CHAPTER NINE: THE MONSTERS INSIDE

DALE HALVORSEN
WRITER

LAUREN BEUKES
WRITER

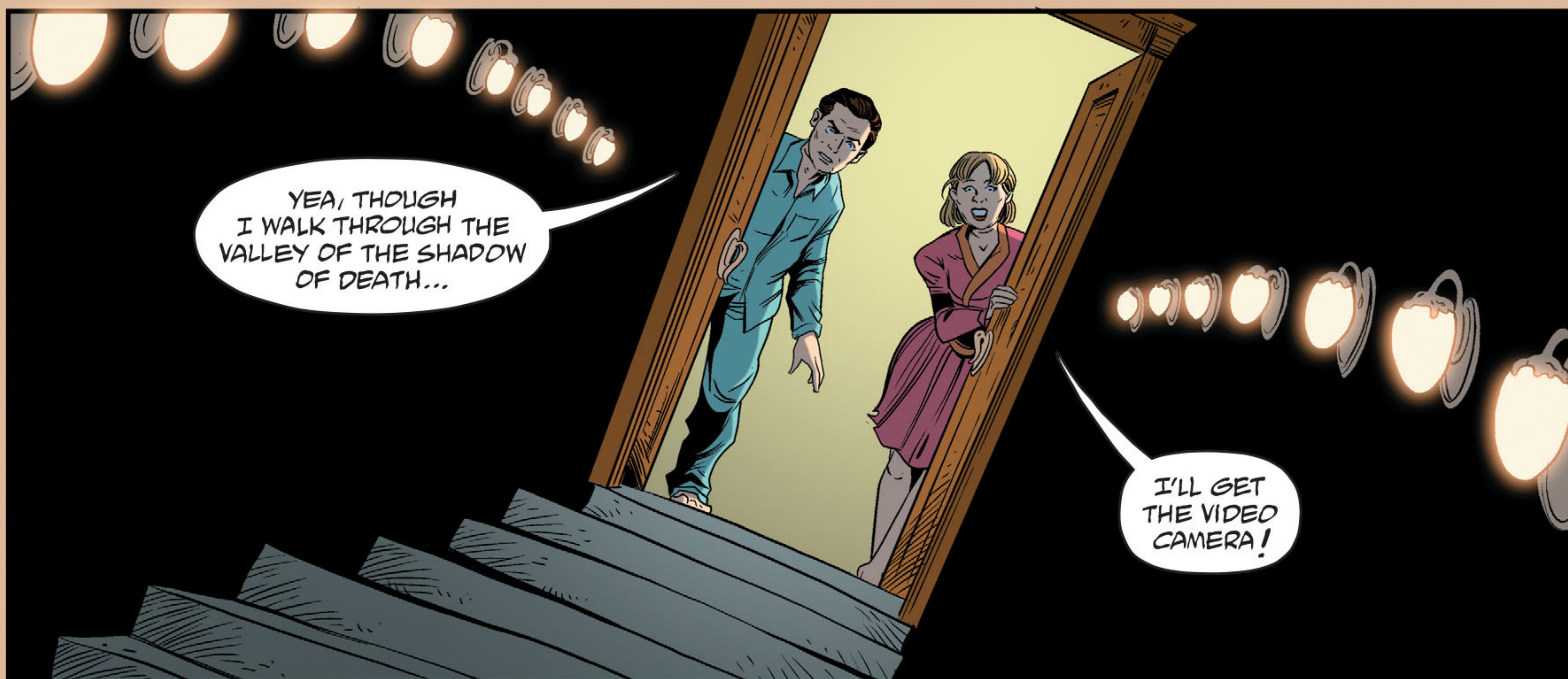
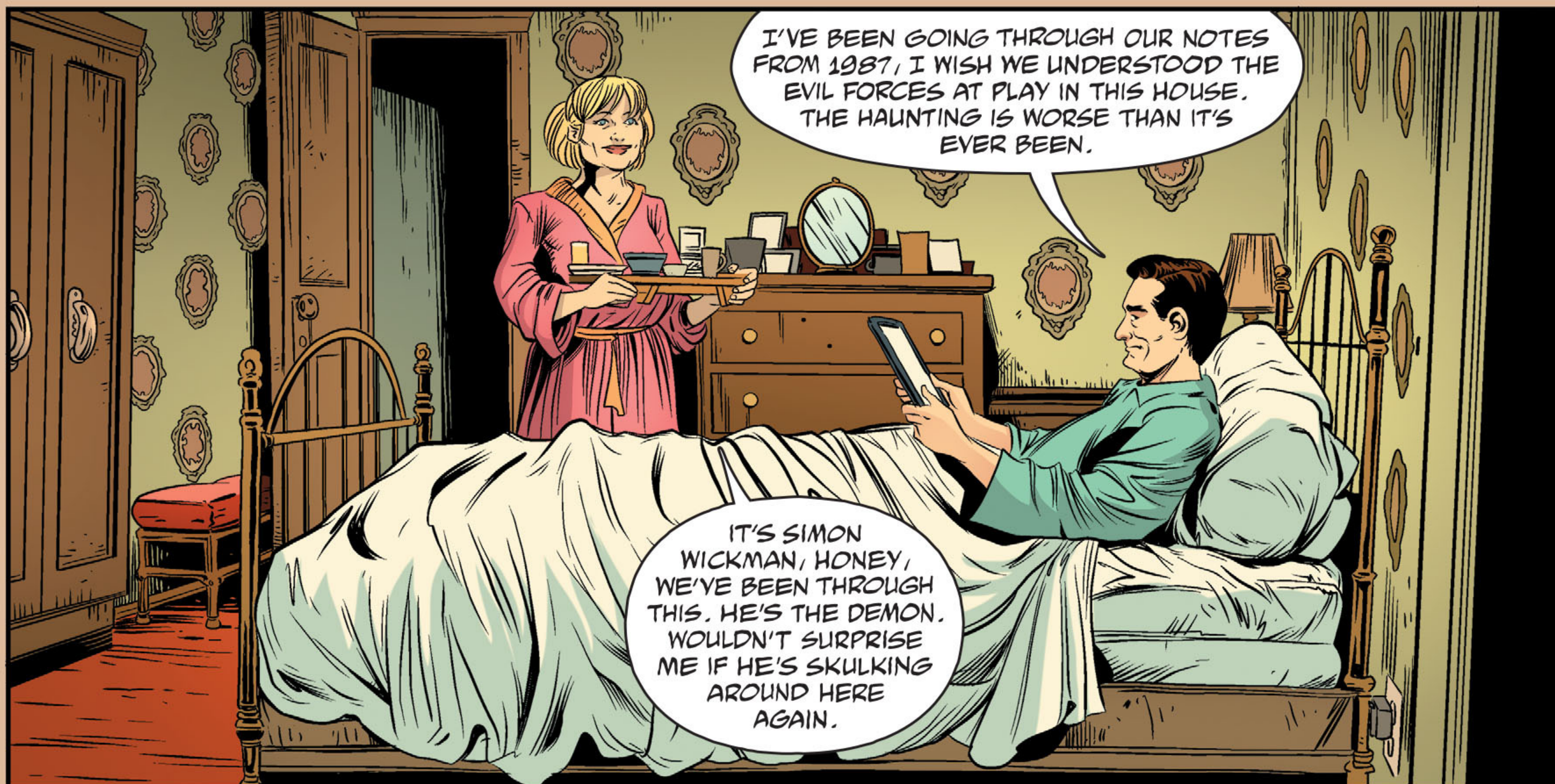
RYAN KELLY
LAYOUTS

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

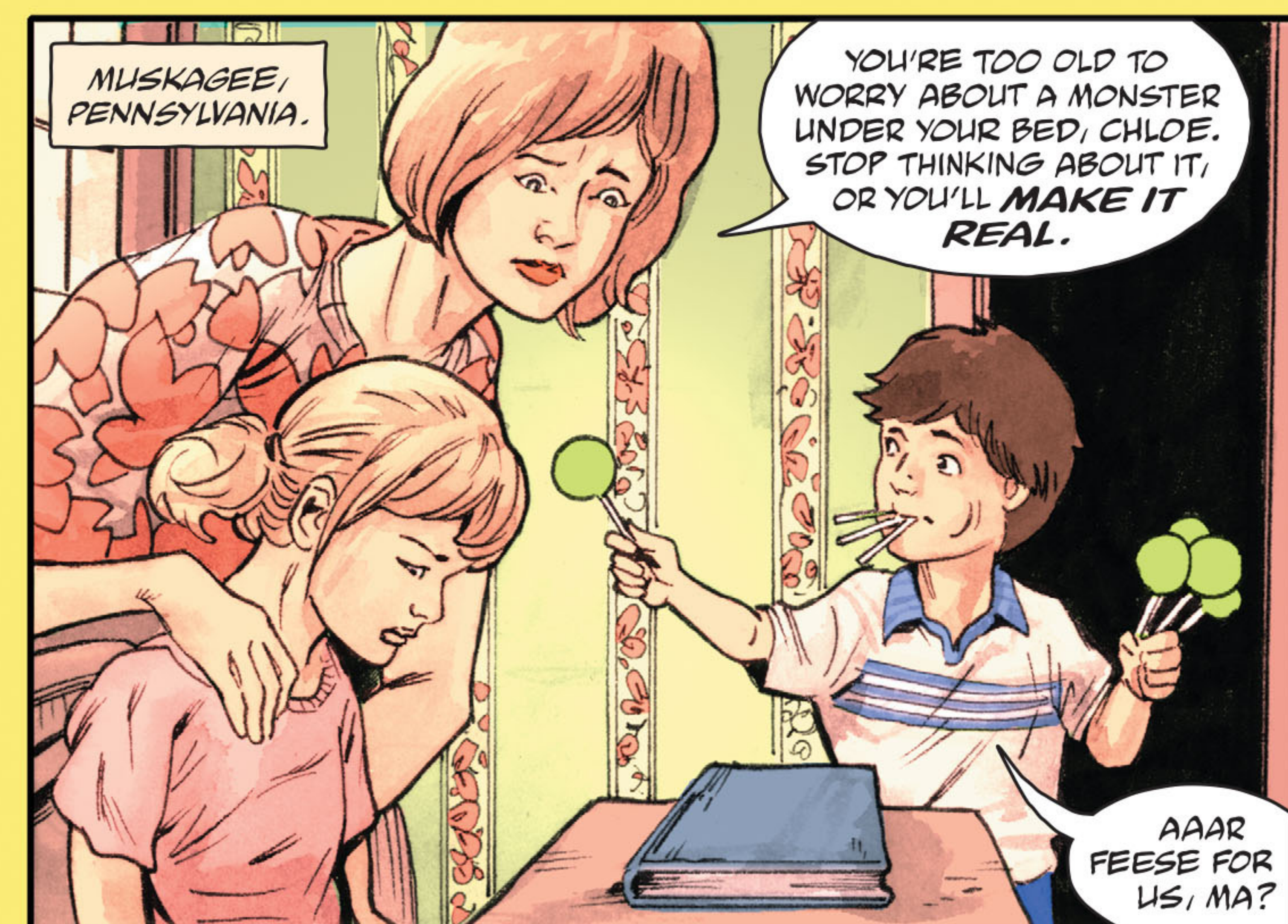
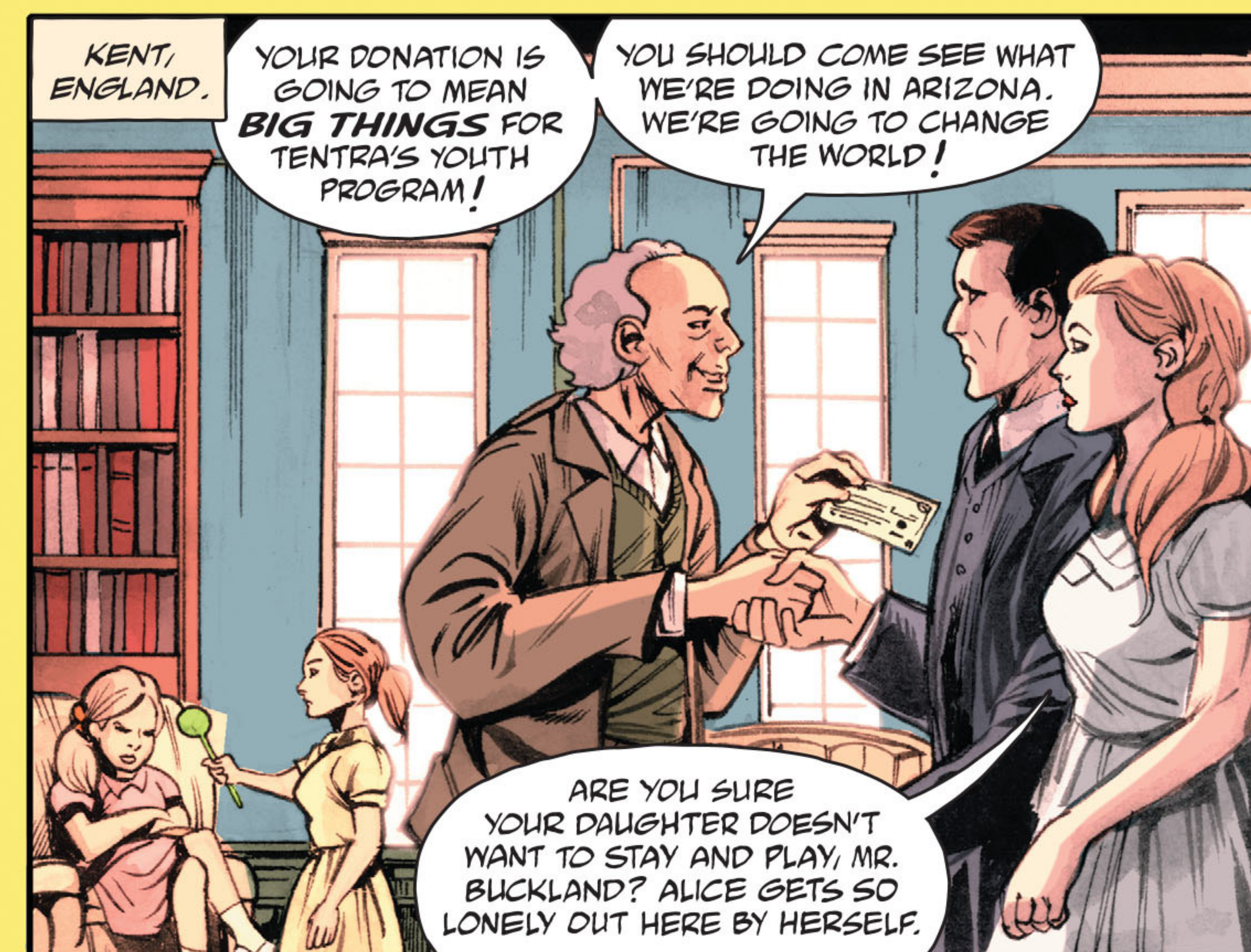
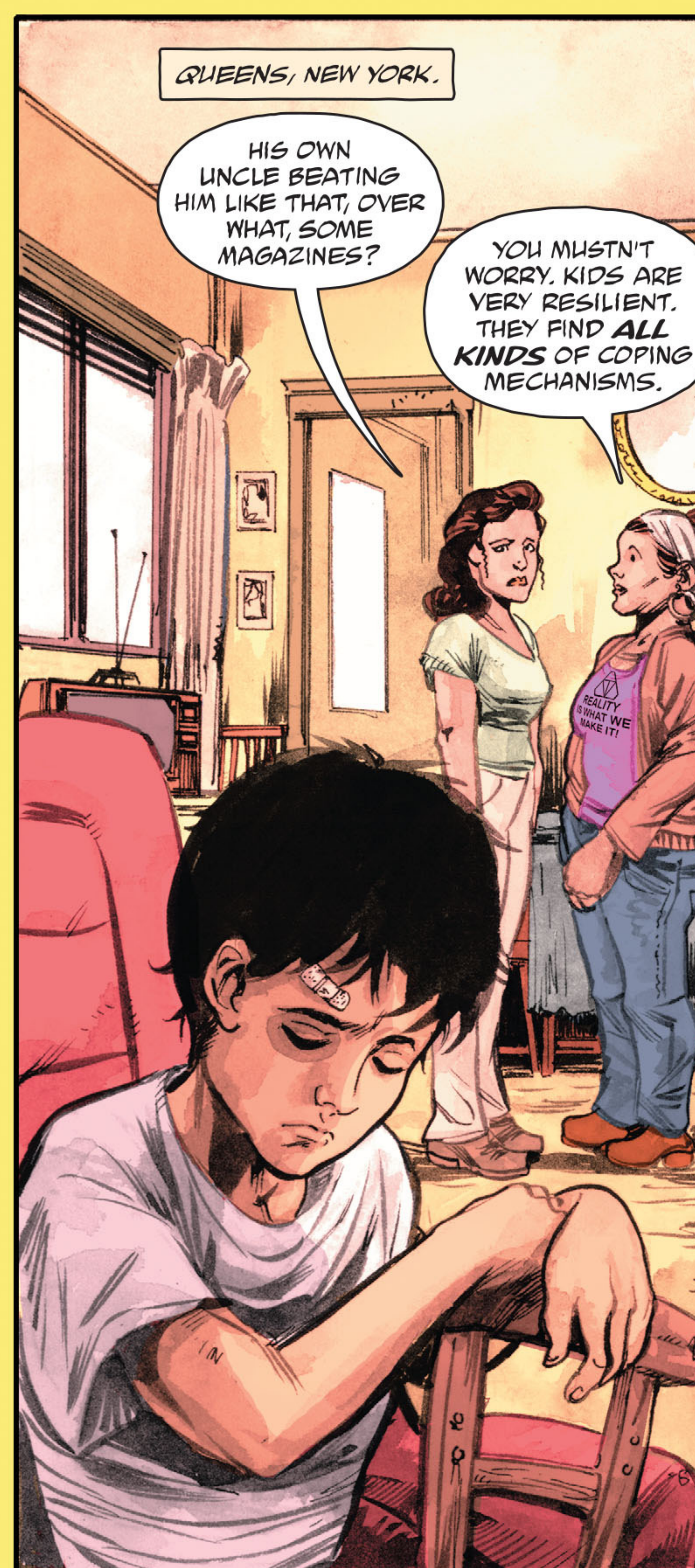
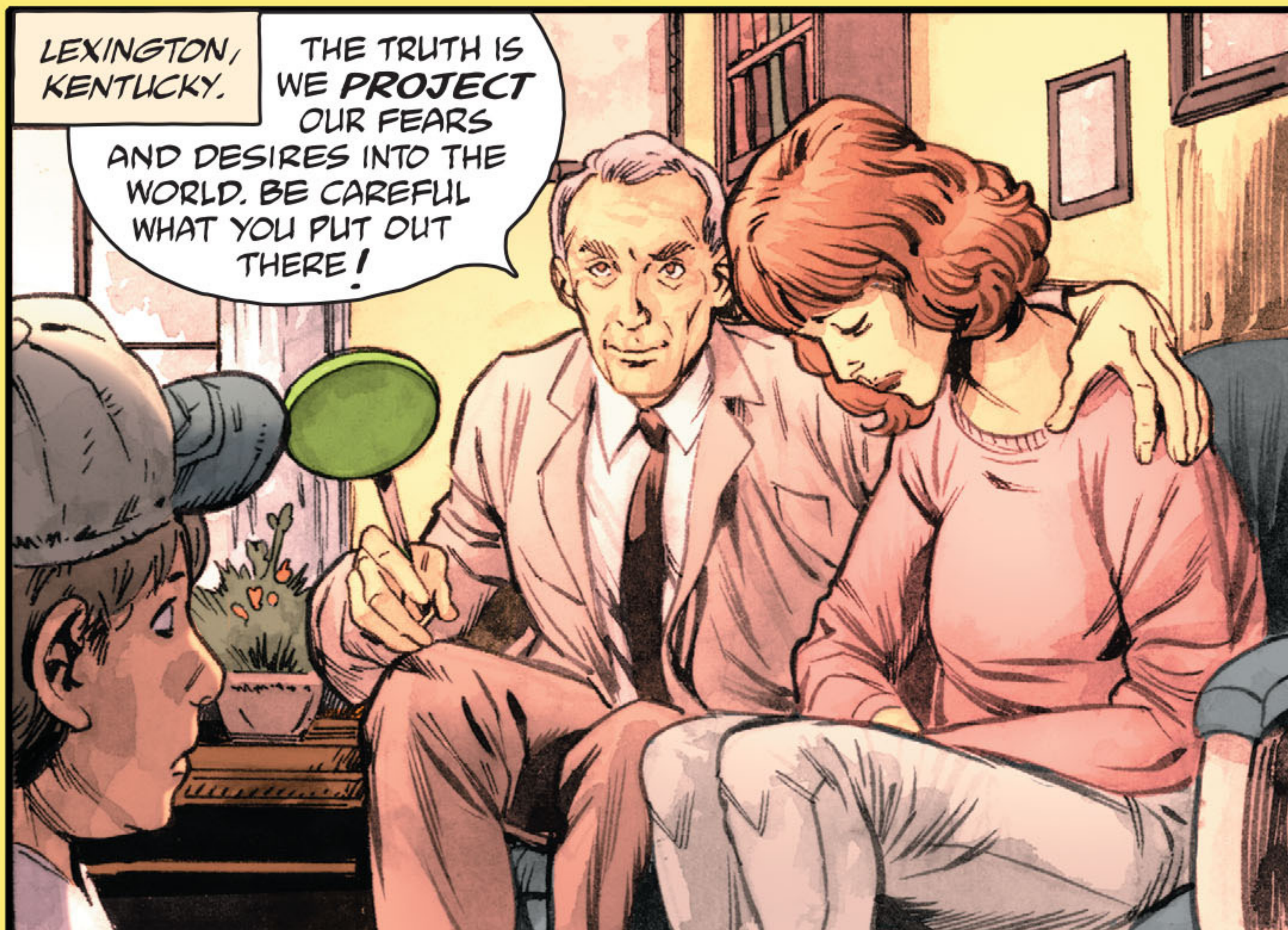
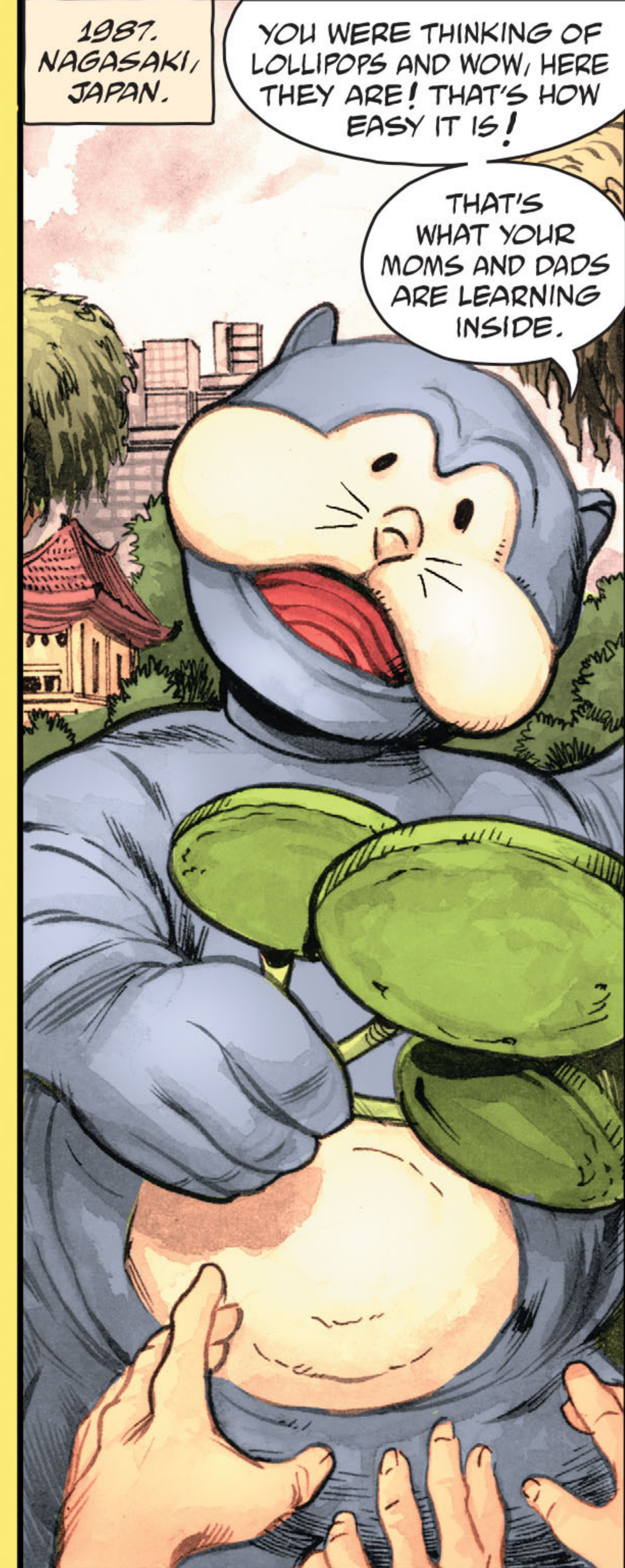
EVA DE LA CRUZ COLORIST
CLEM ROBINS LETTERER
BILL SIENKIEWICZ COVER ARTIST

MOLLY MAHAN ASSOCIATE EDITOR

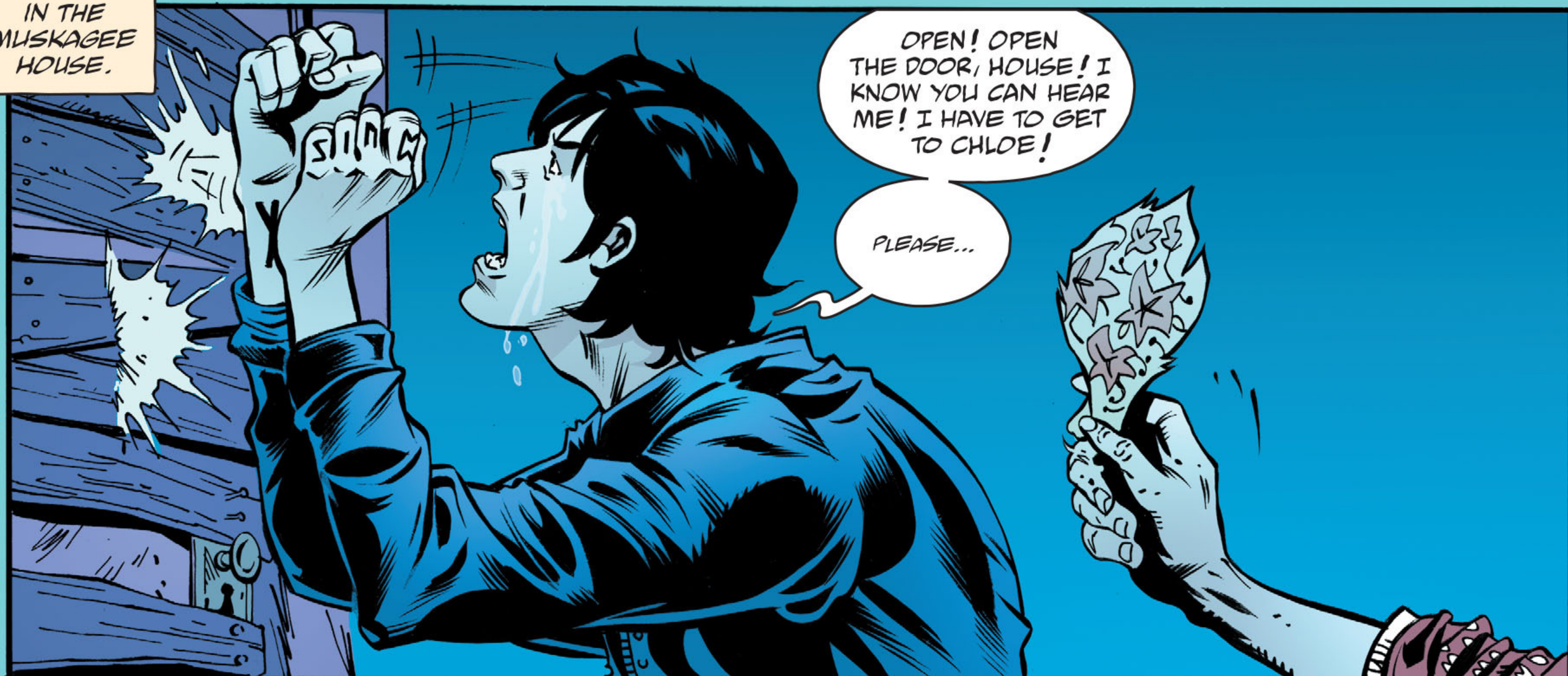
SHELLY BOND EDITOR SURVIVORS' CLUB CREATED BY BEUKES, HALVORSEN AND KELLY



"I REMEMBER!
THEY HAD THE
STRANGEST
AFTERTASTE."



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.

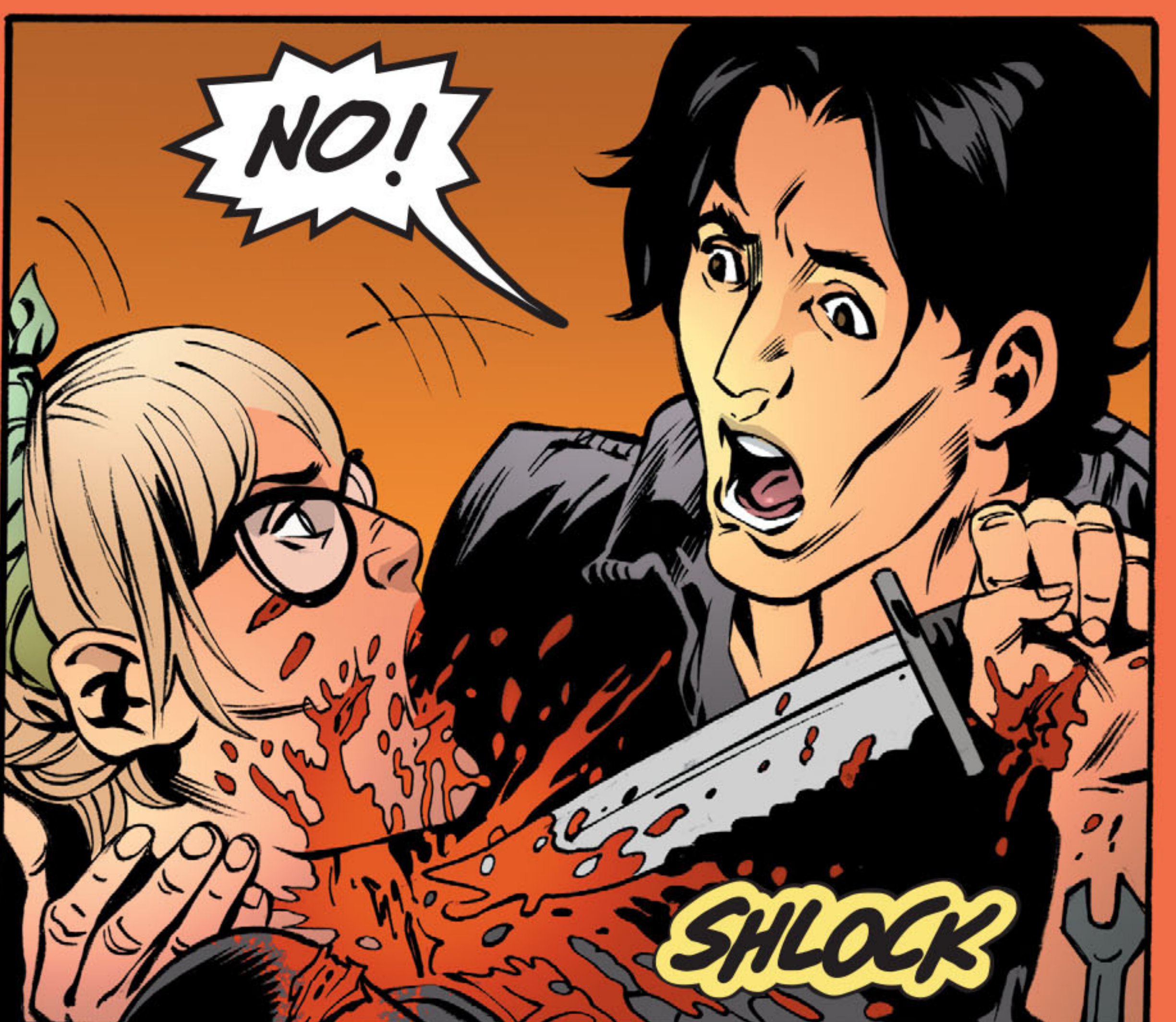
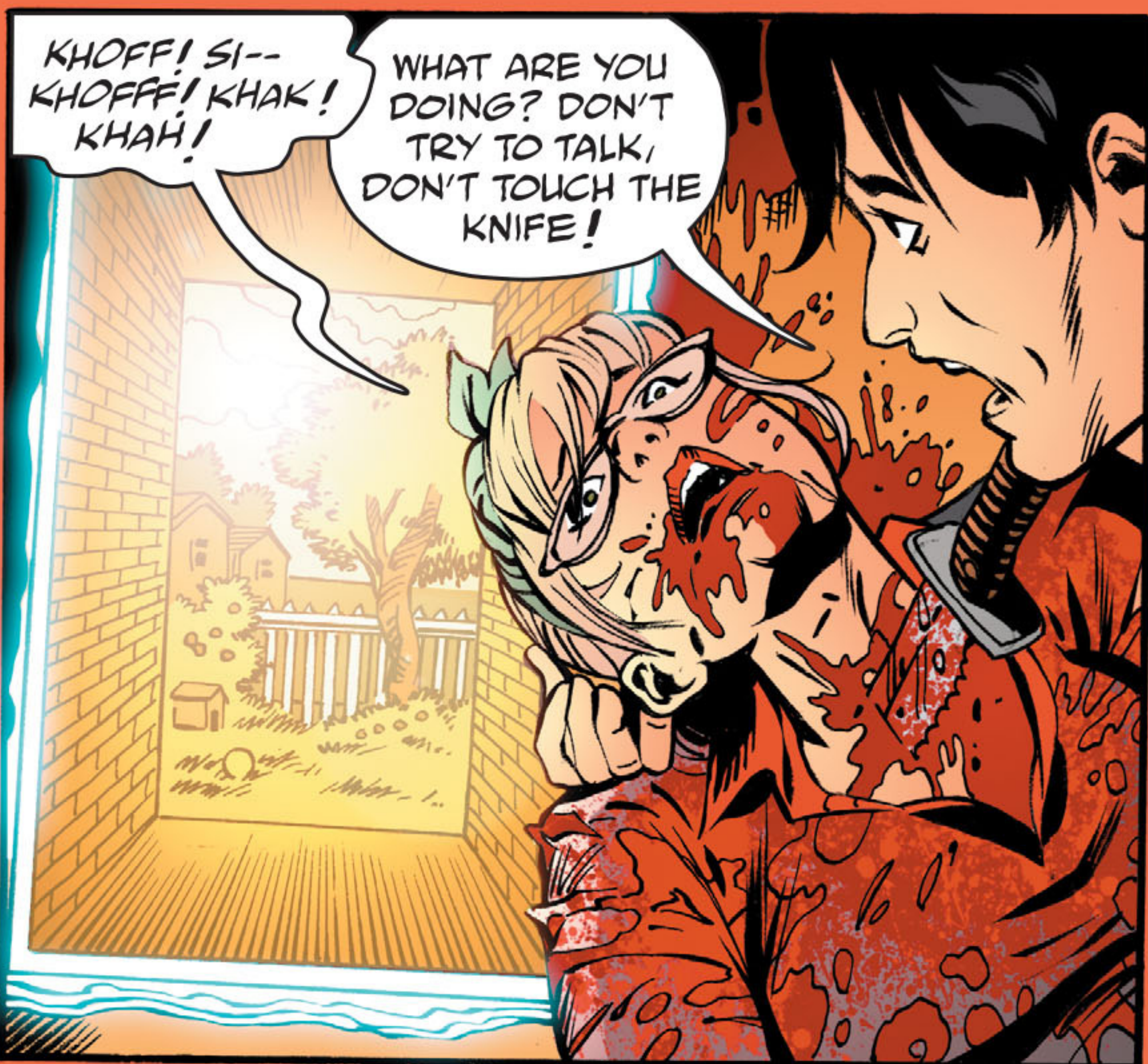
TAKE IT.
YOU NEED IT. THE
HOUSE ACTS ON
INSTINCT. IT'S A
BRUTE ANIMAL. YOU
HAVE TO TELL IT
WHAT TO DO.

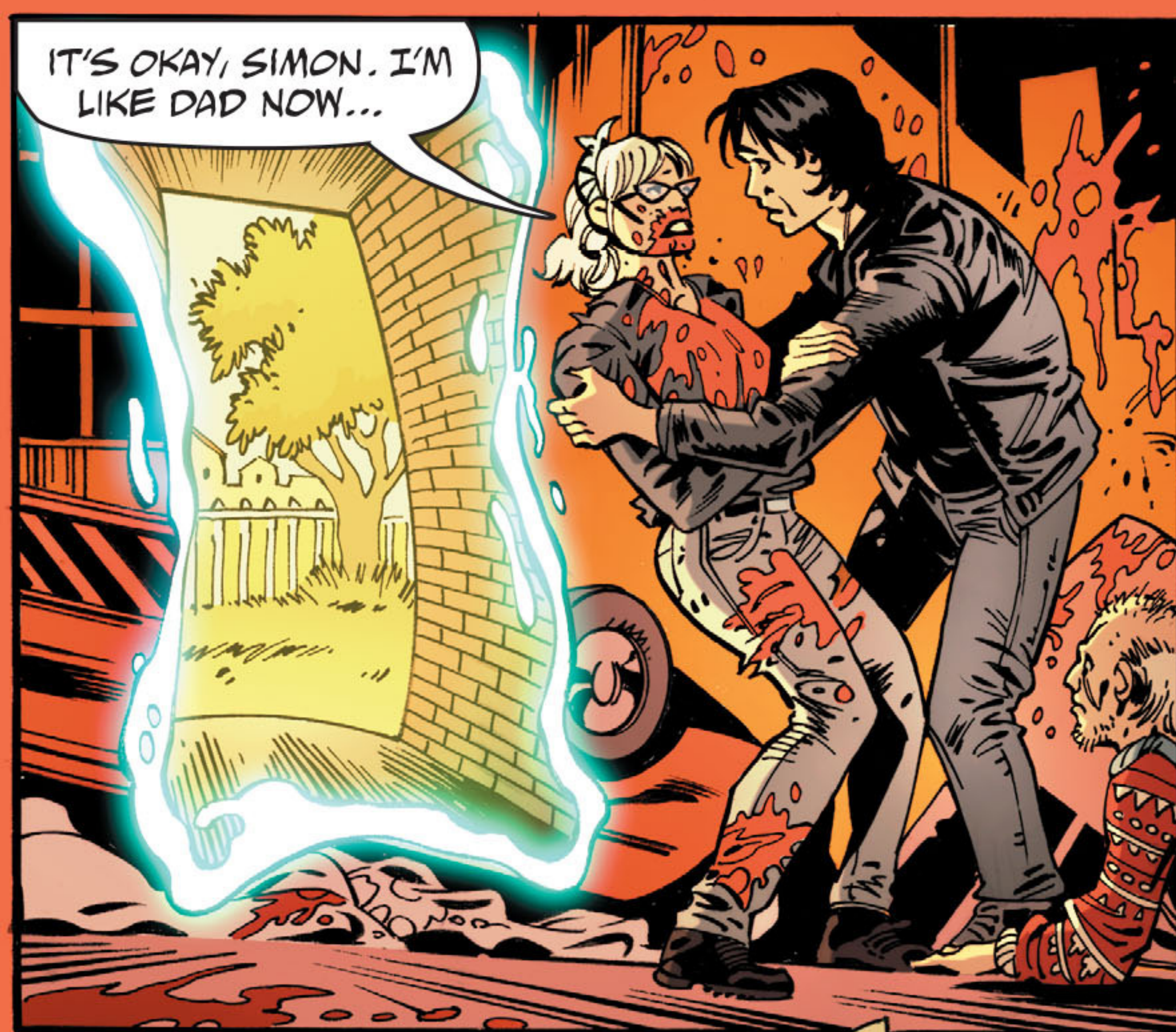
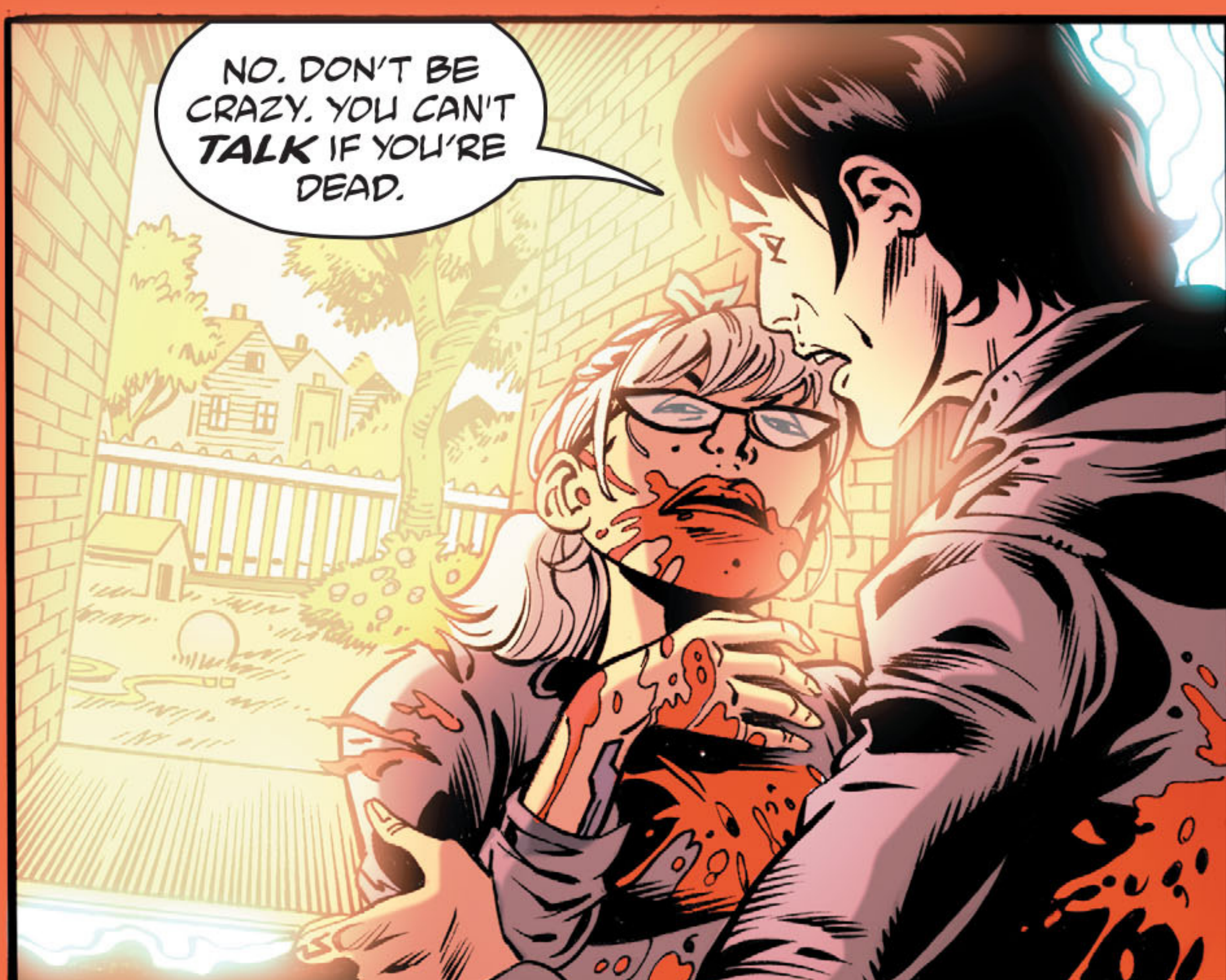
THIS
IS YOUR
CONNECTION.
THINK OF IT LIKE
A DOOHICKEY
THINGAMAJIG...
A REMOTE
CONTROL.



EASY AS
THAT, huh?
OKAY.

OPEN. THE.
GODDAMN.
DOOR.







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

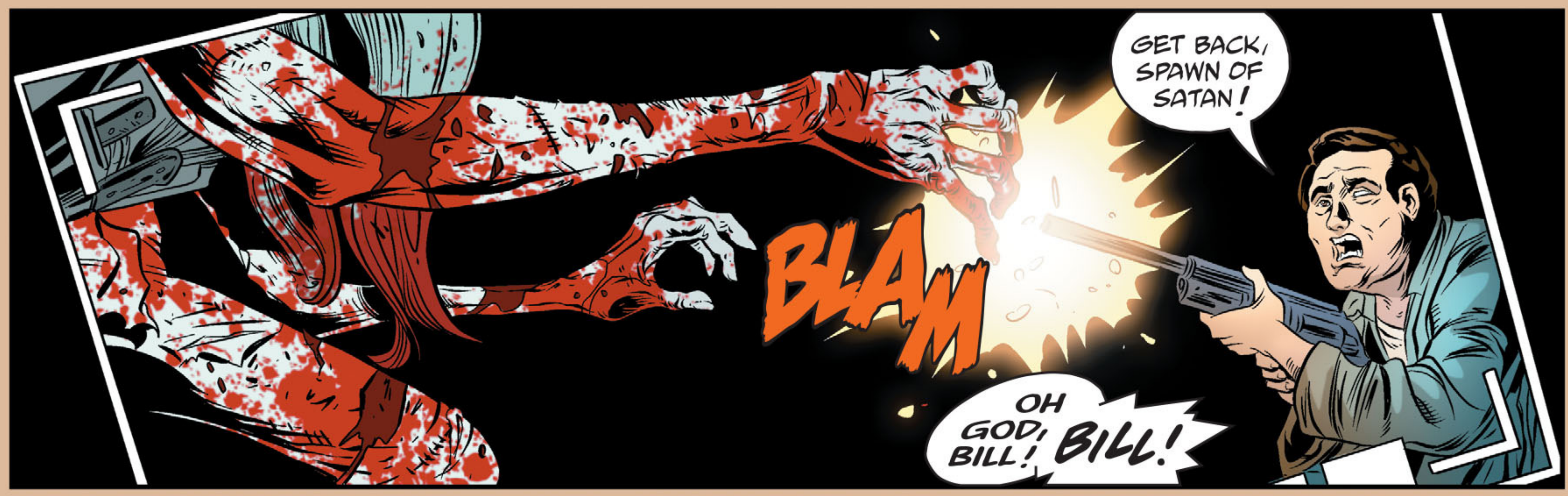
I DON'T LIKE THIS, HONEY. I NEVER IMAGINED...

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.

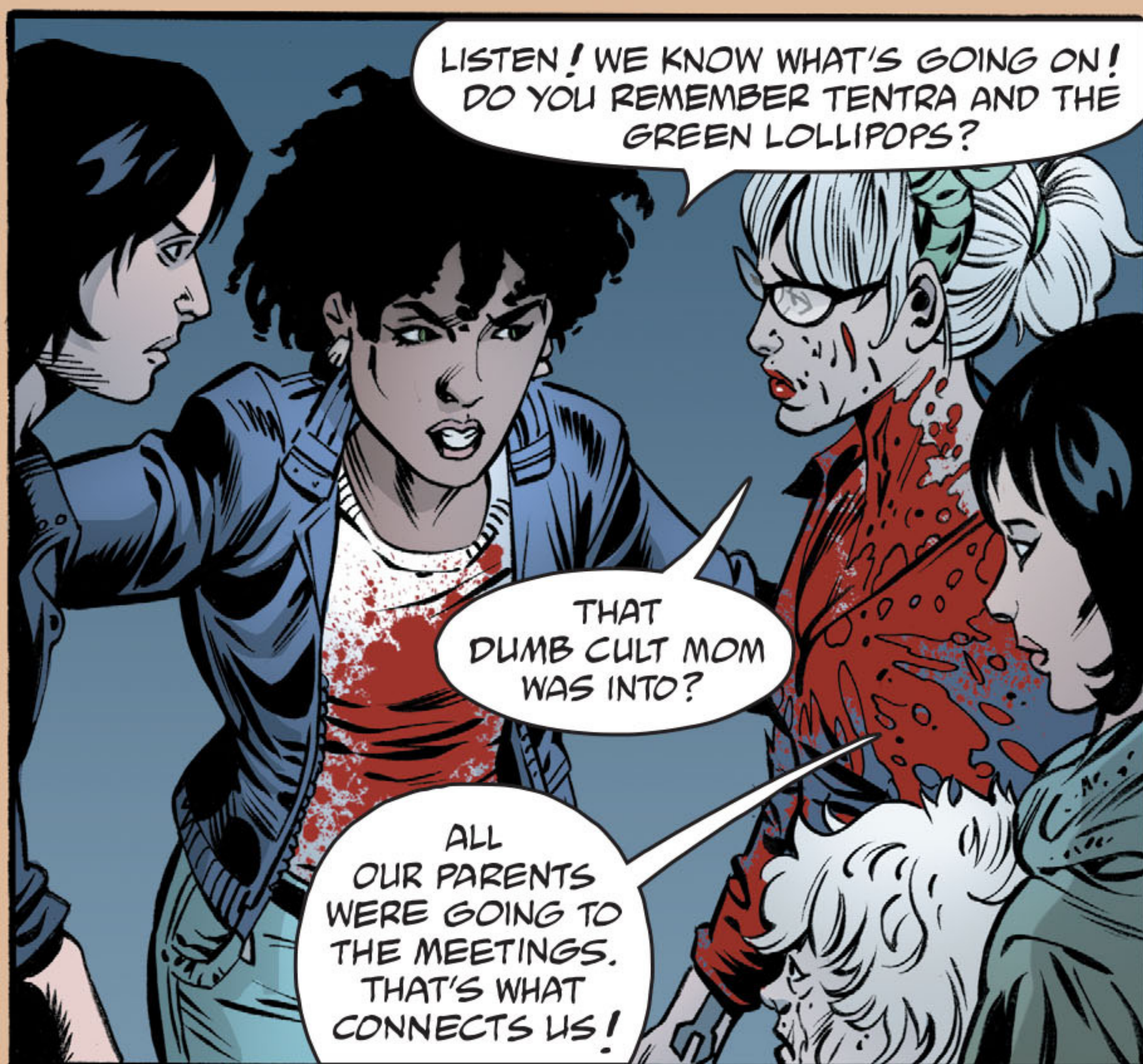
LIKE A DOG, AFTER A NAP.



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."

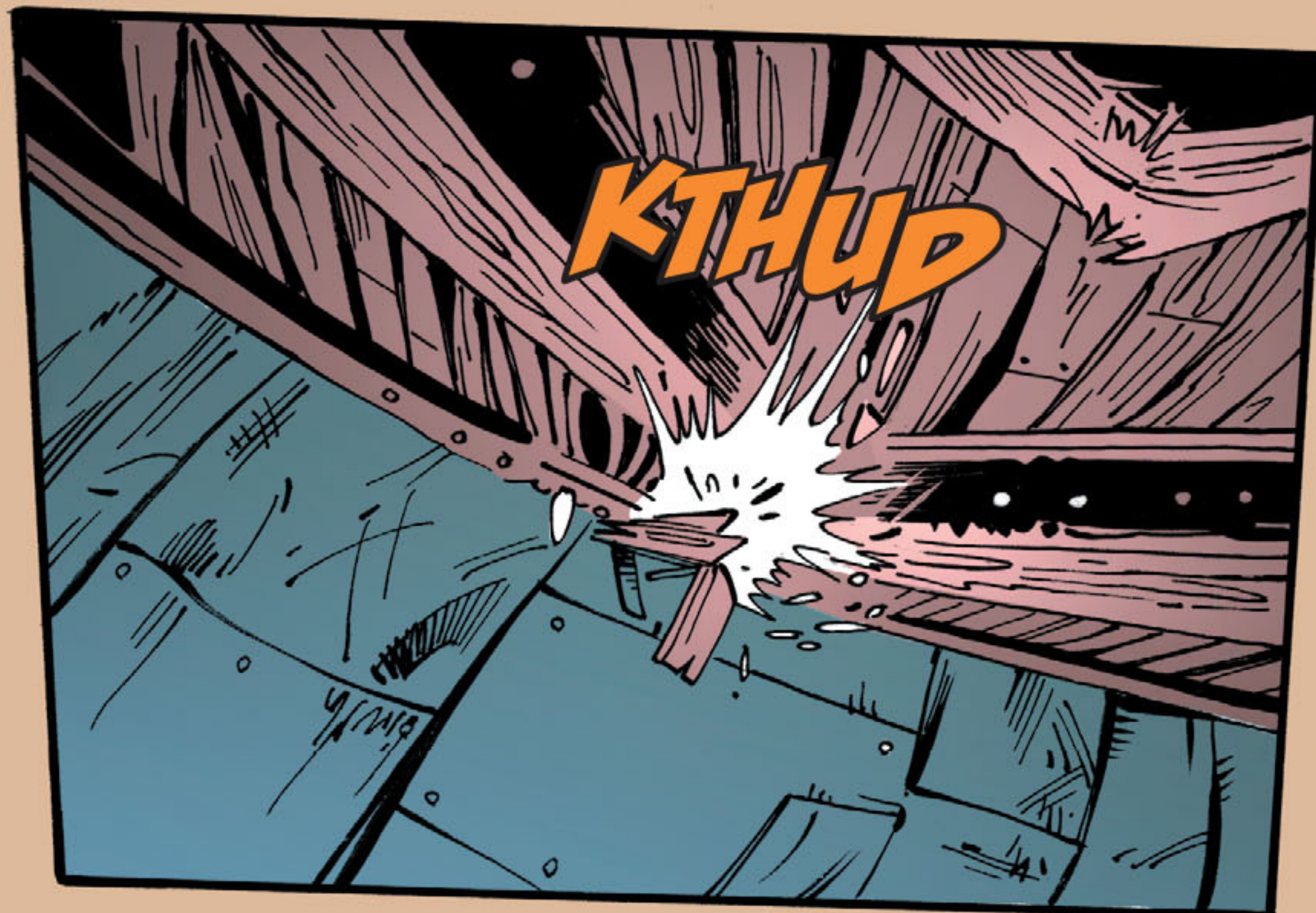
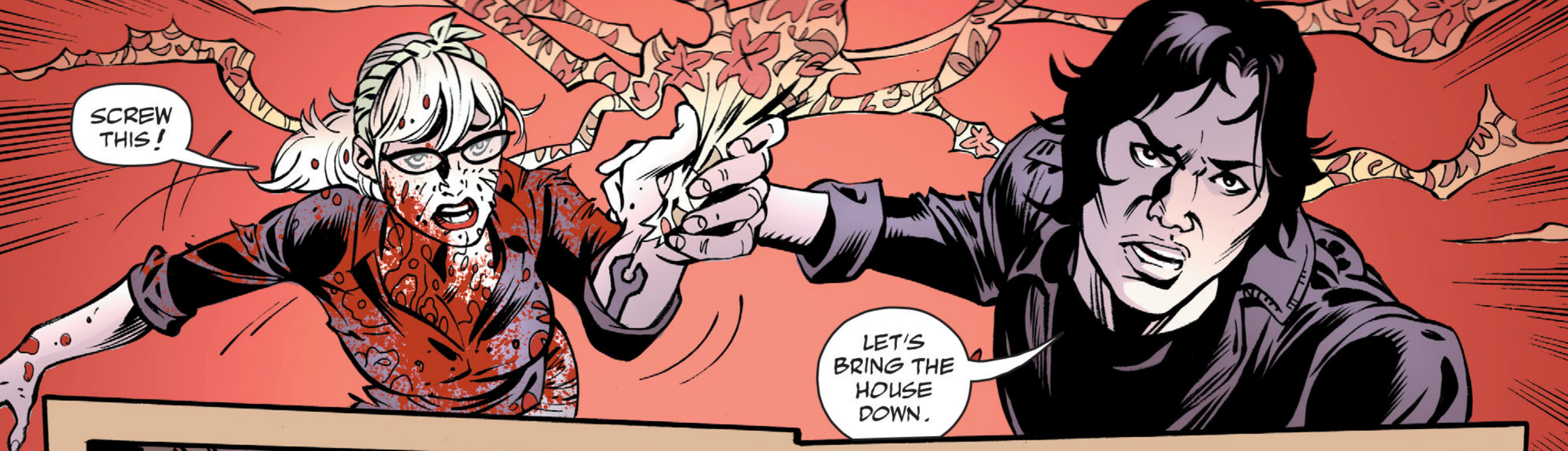


OH MY
GOD. WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONE?

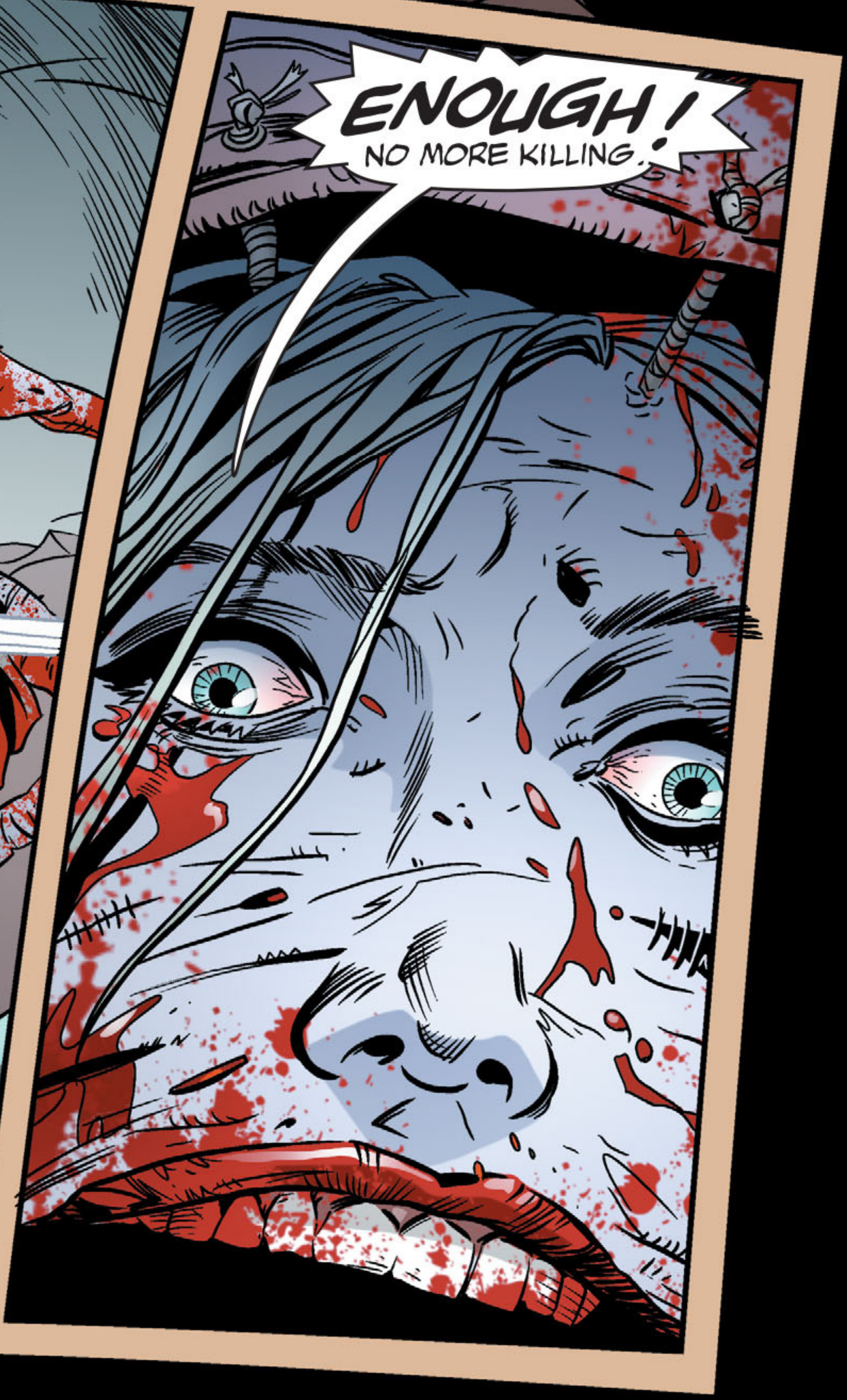


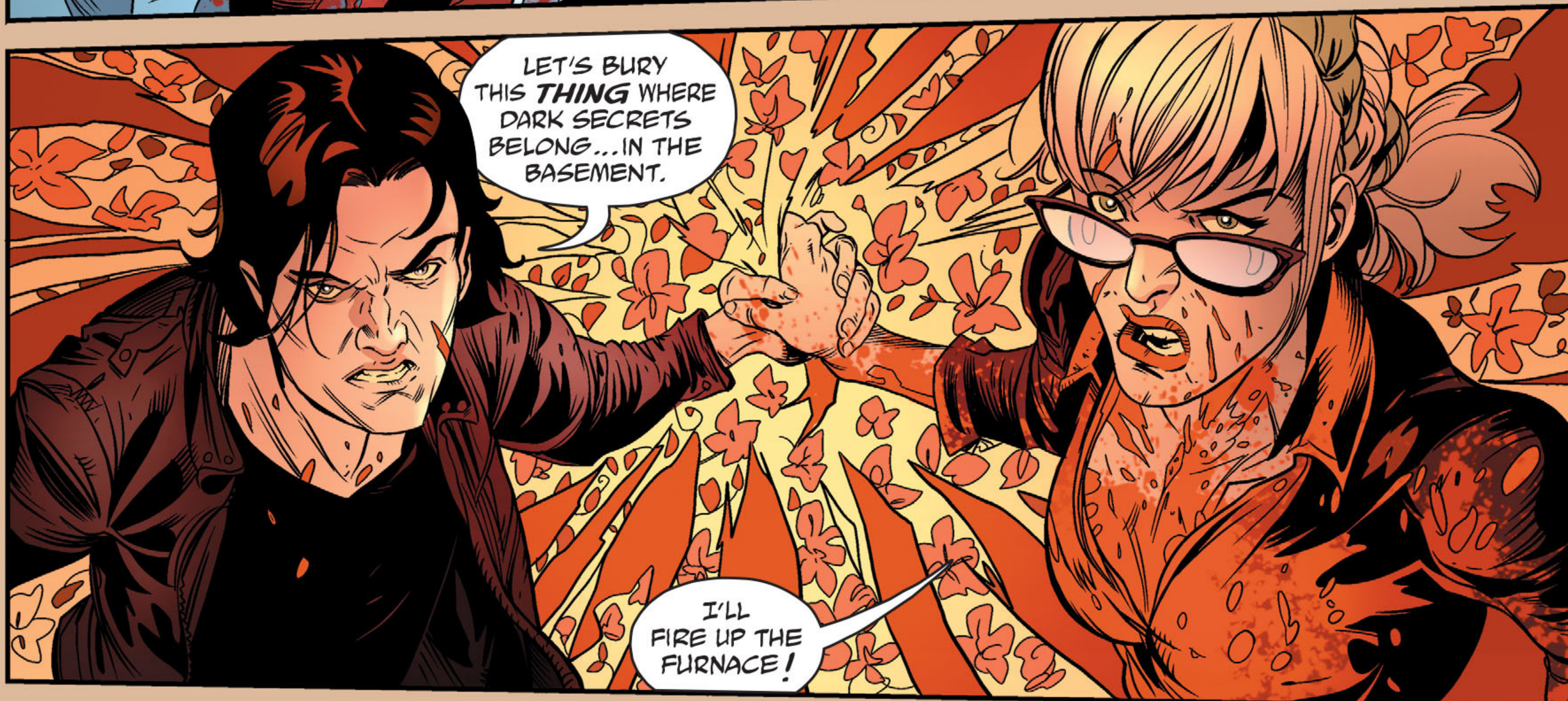
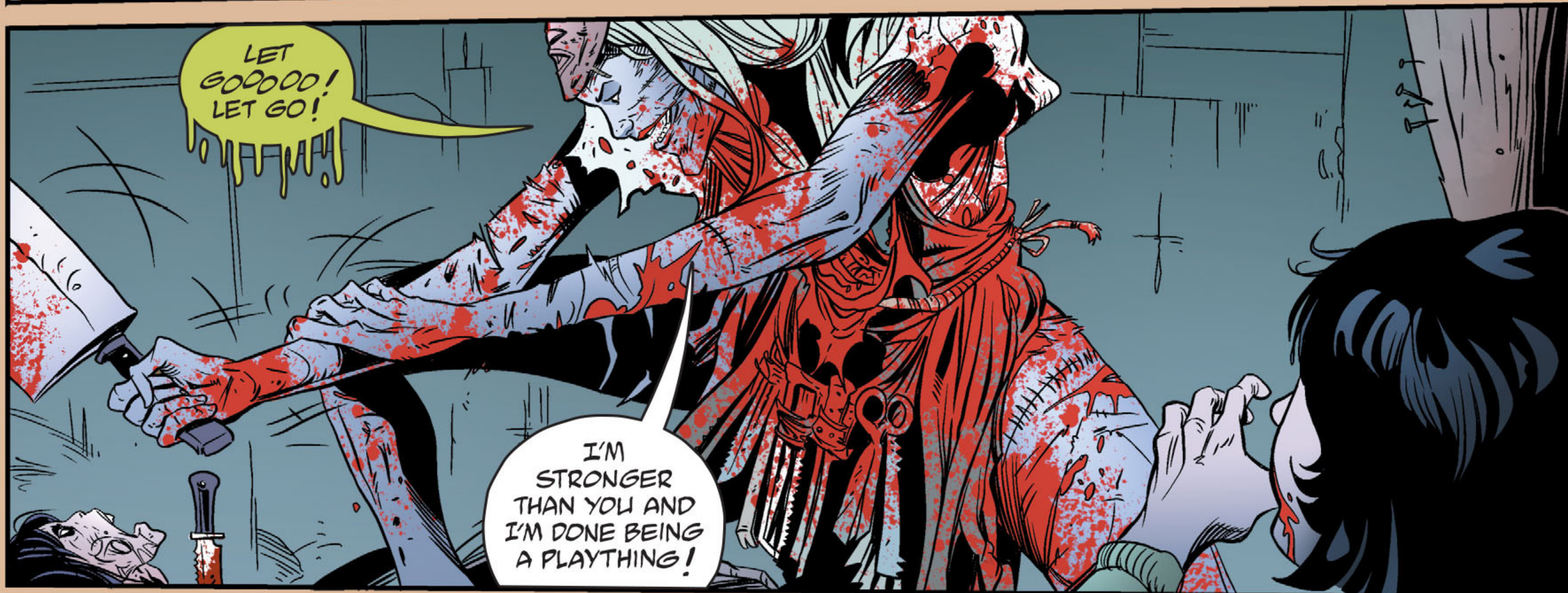
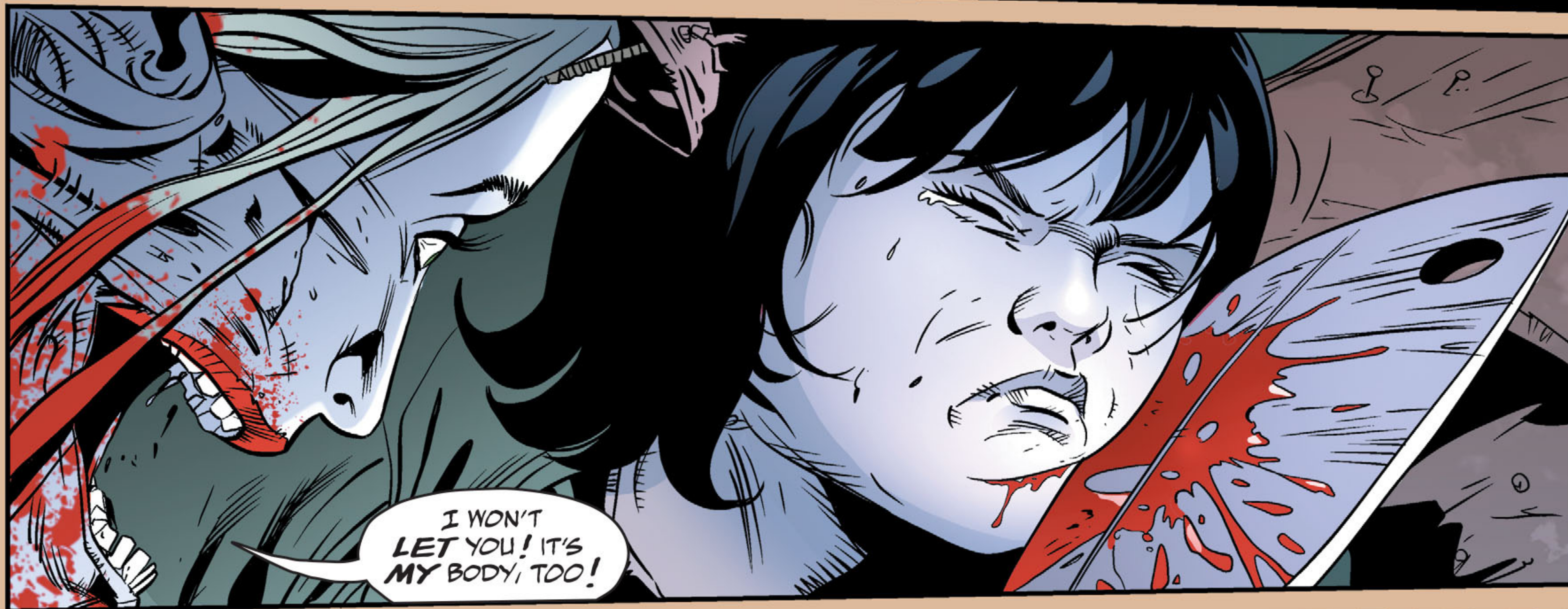
HELP ME!
PLEASE.

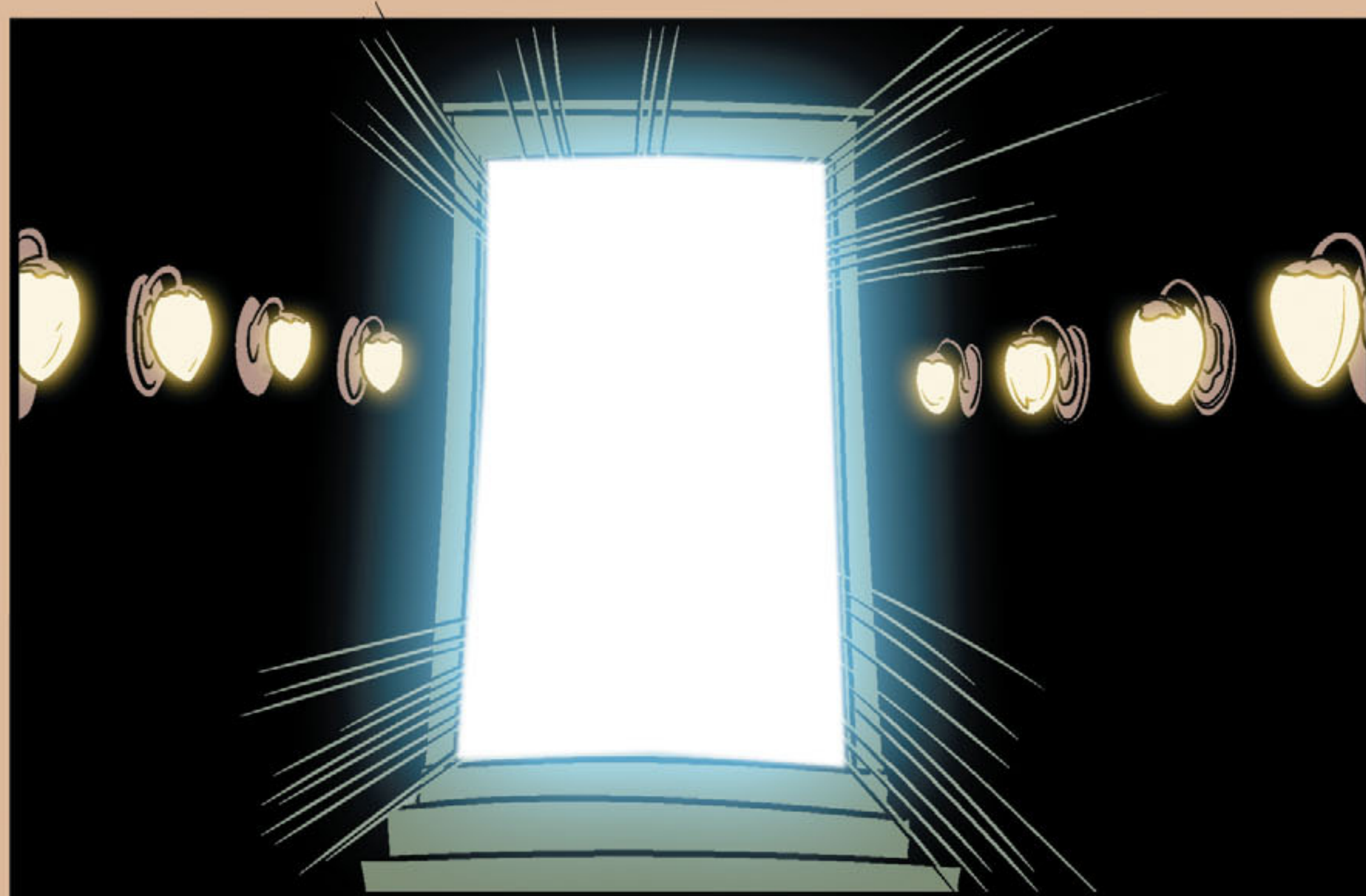
KIIIIIIII
YOU! KILL
YOU ALL!

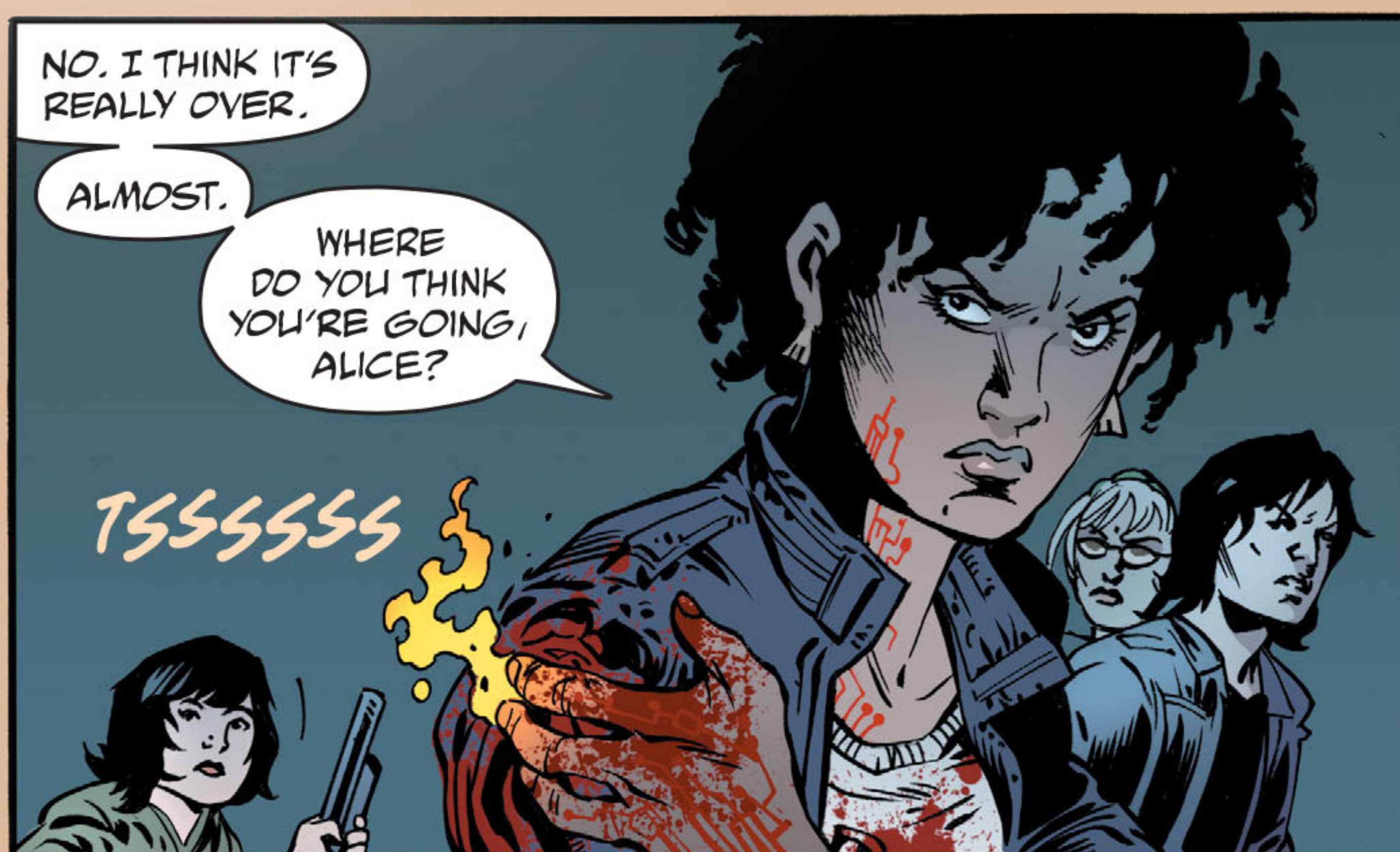












A LITTLE LATER...

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.

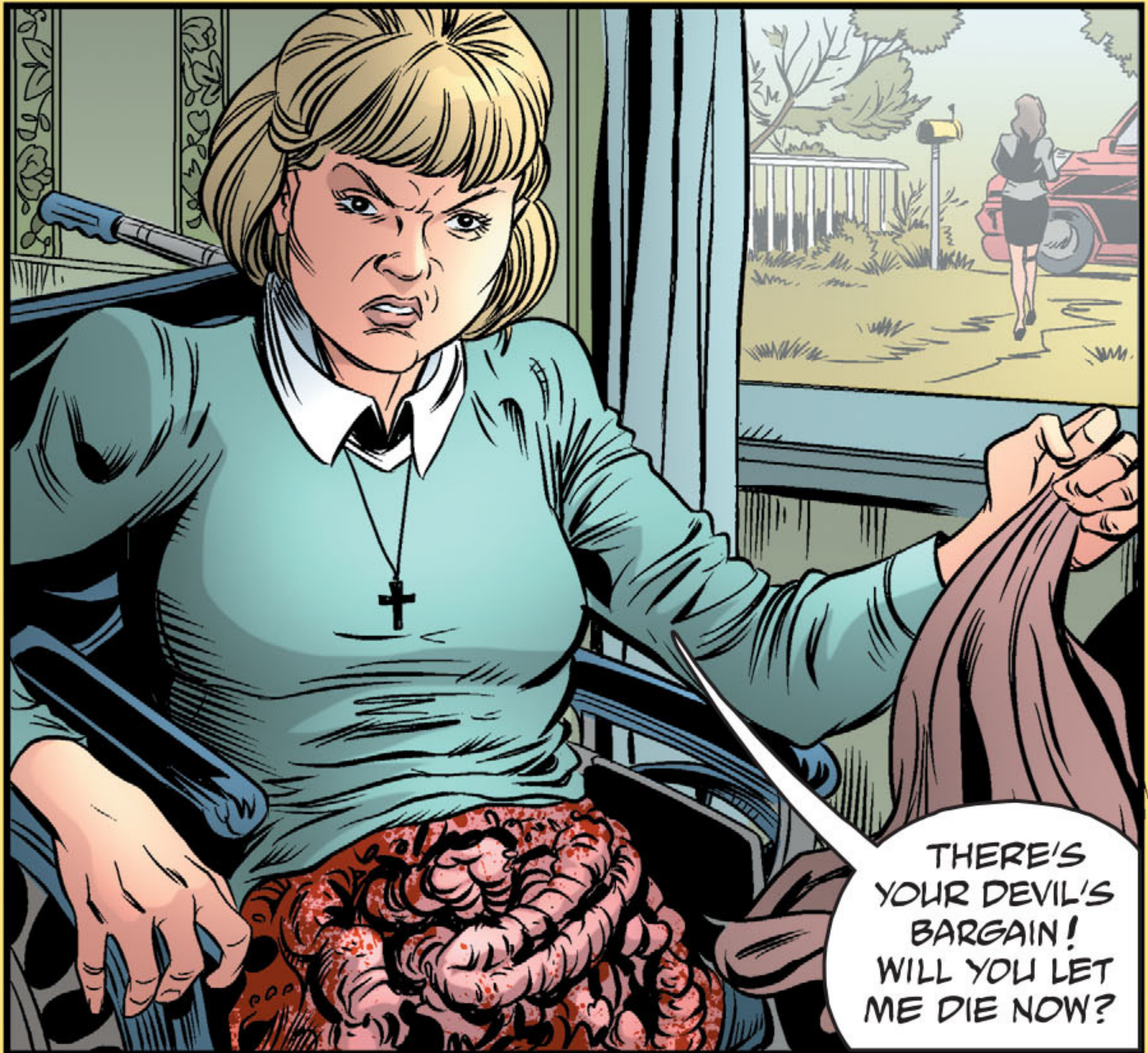
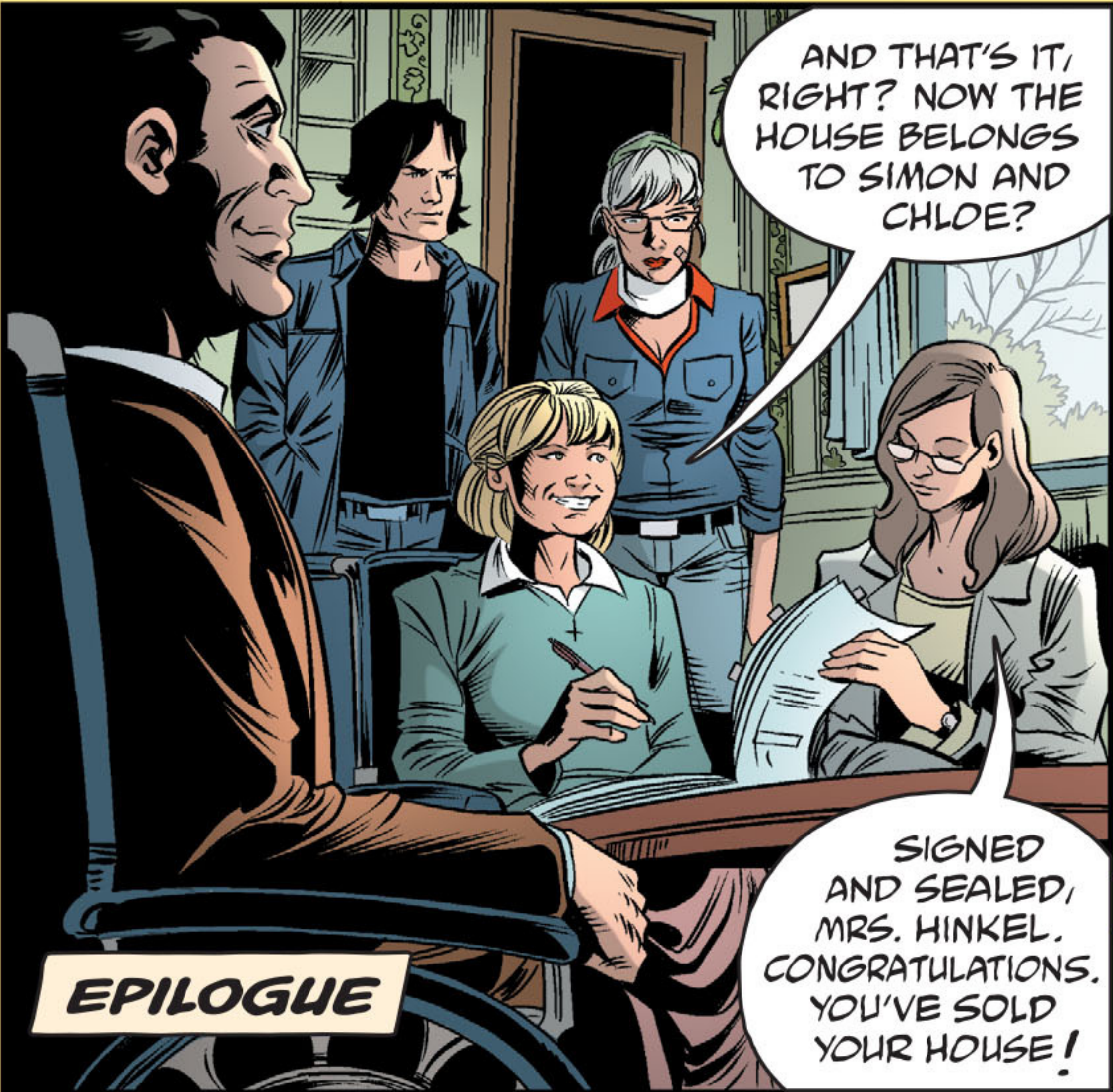
TED'S DEAD?

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

DESK TOP



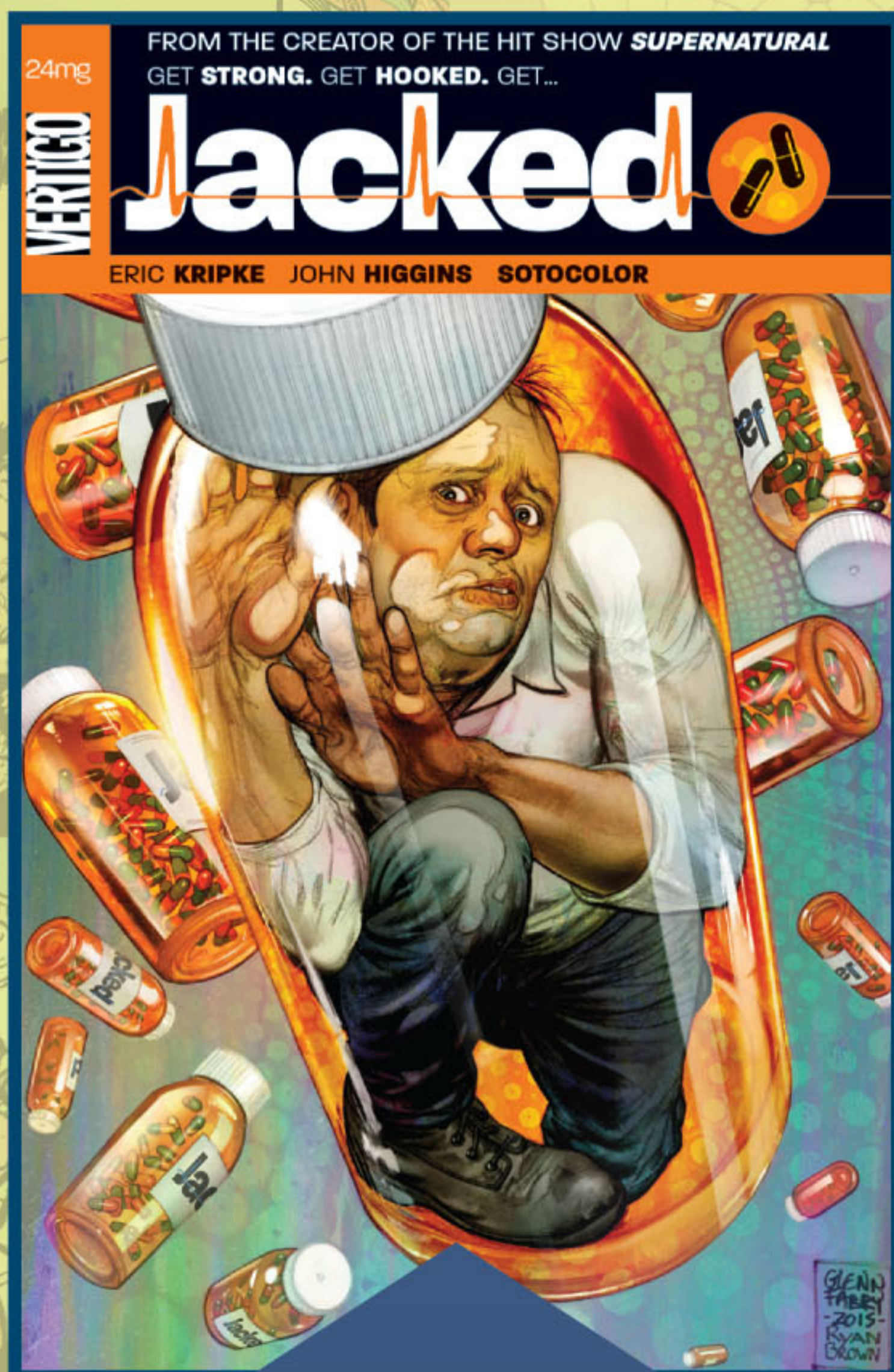
MORE CLASSIC PAIRINGS

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.

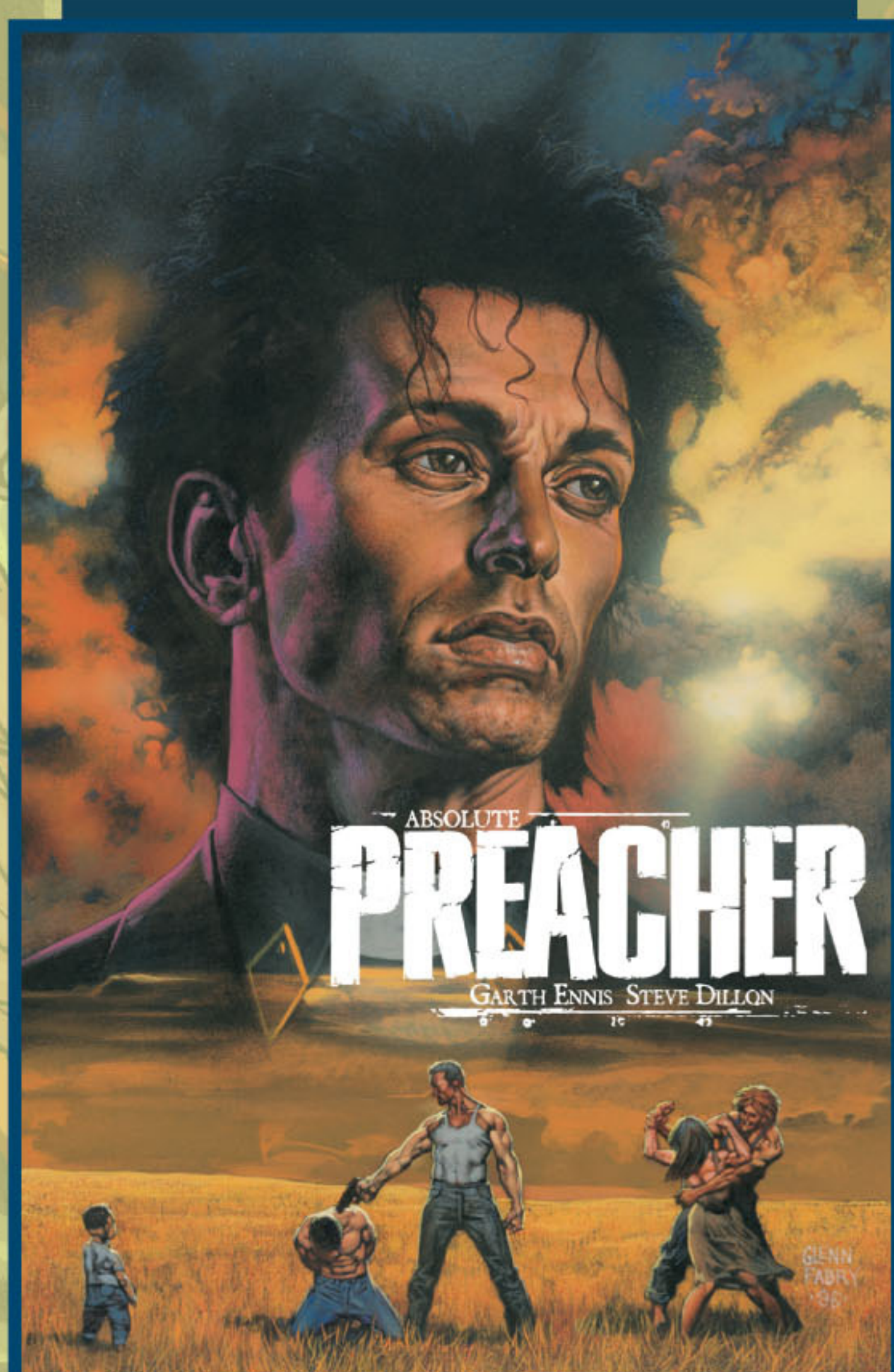
JAMIE S. RICH
SENIOR EDITOR & CONNOISSEUR

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.



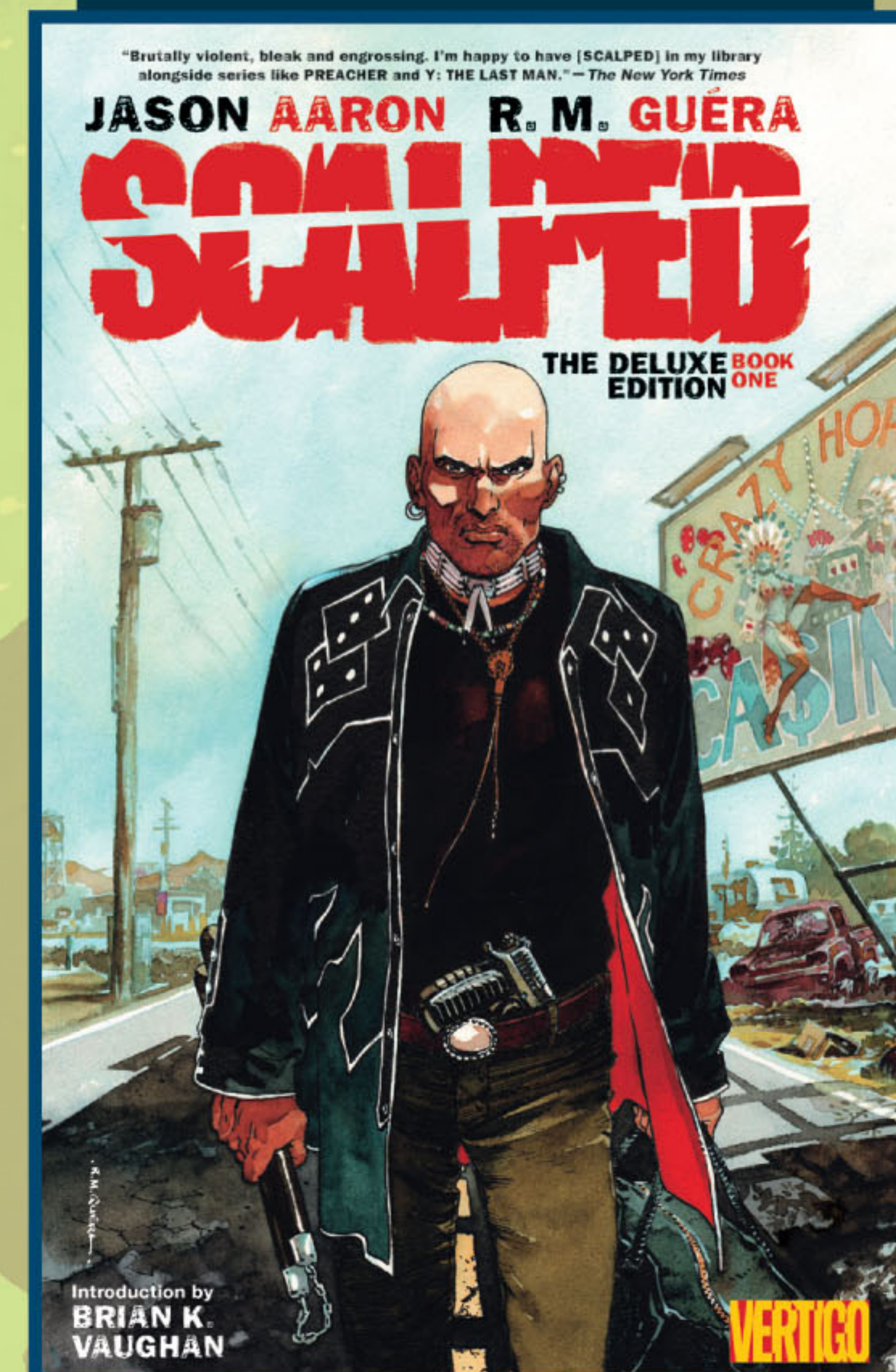
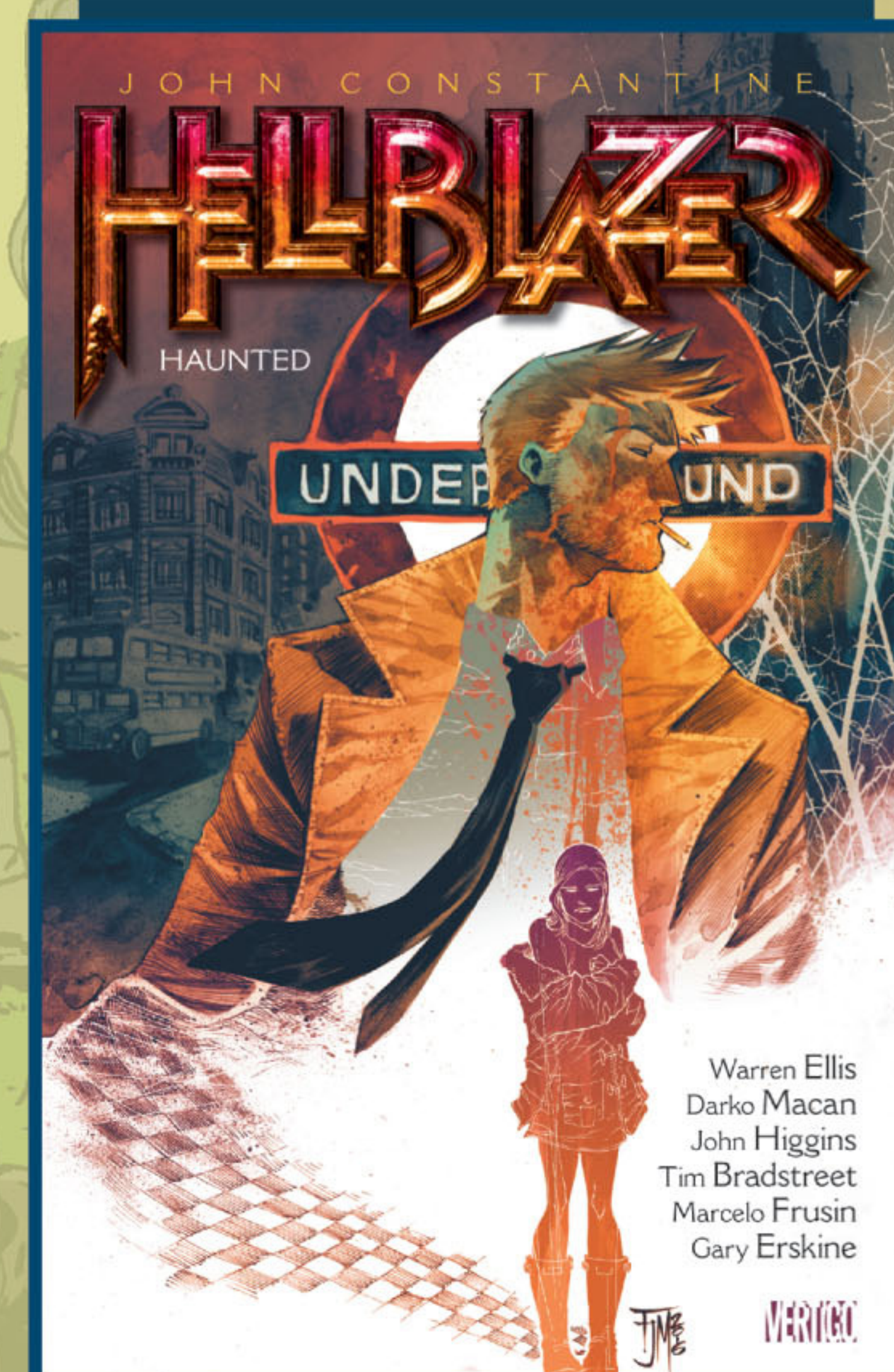
Eric Kripke, the creator of *Supernatural*, makes his Vertigo debut with **JACKED**, the story of an average middle-aged man who finds superpowers in a bottle of pills. Drawn by Vertigo mainstay John Higgins (HELLBLAZER), this ultra-violent and darkly comic tale has the same sort of anything-goes ribaldry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



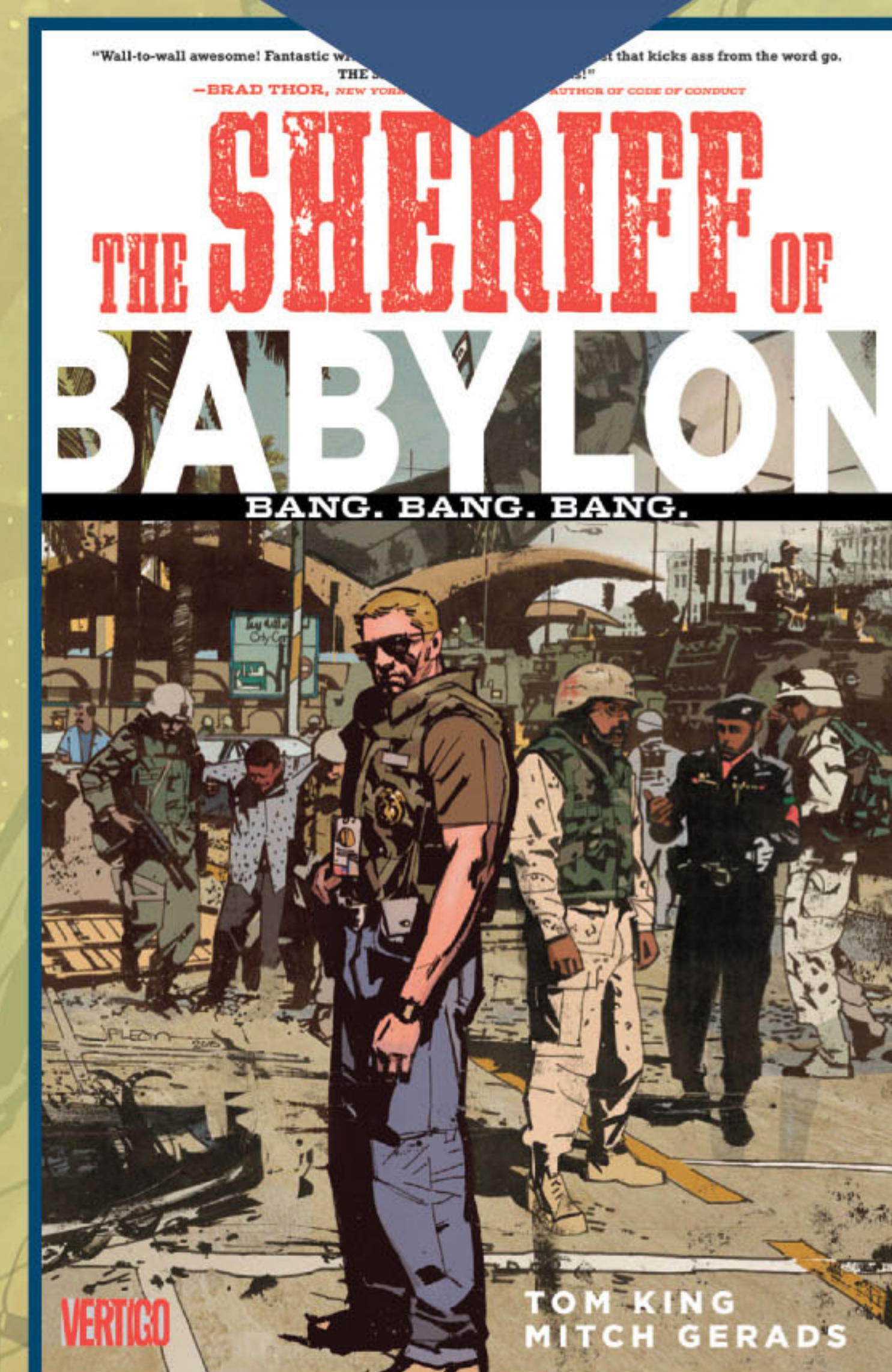
Do you like your comics with a little heat? Then look no further than **SLASH & BURN** by Si Spencer (BODIES), Max Dunbar, and Ande Parks. The personal travails and murderous conspiracy that ensnare pyromaniac turned firefighter Rosheen Hayes would pair well with the mystical goings-on in **COFFIN HILL**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



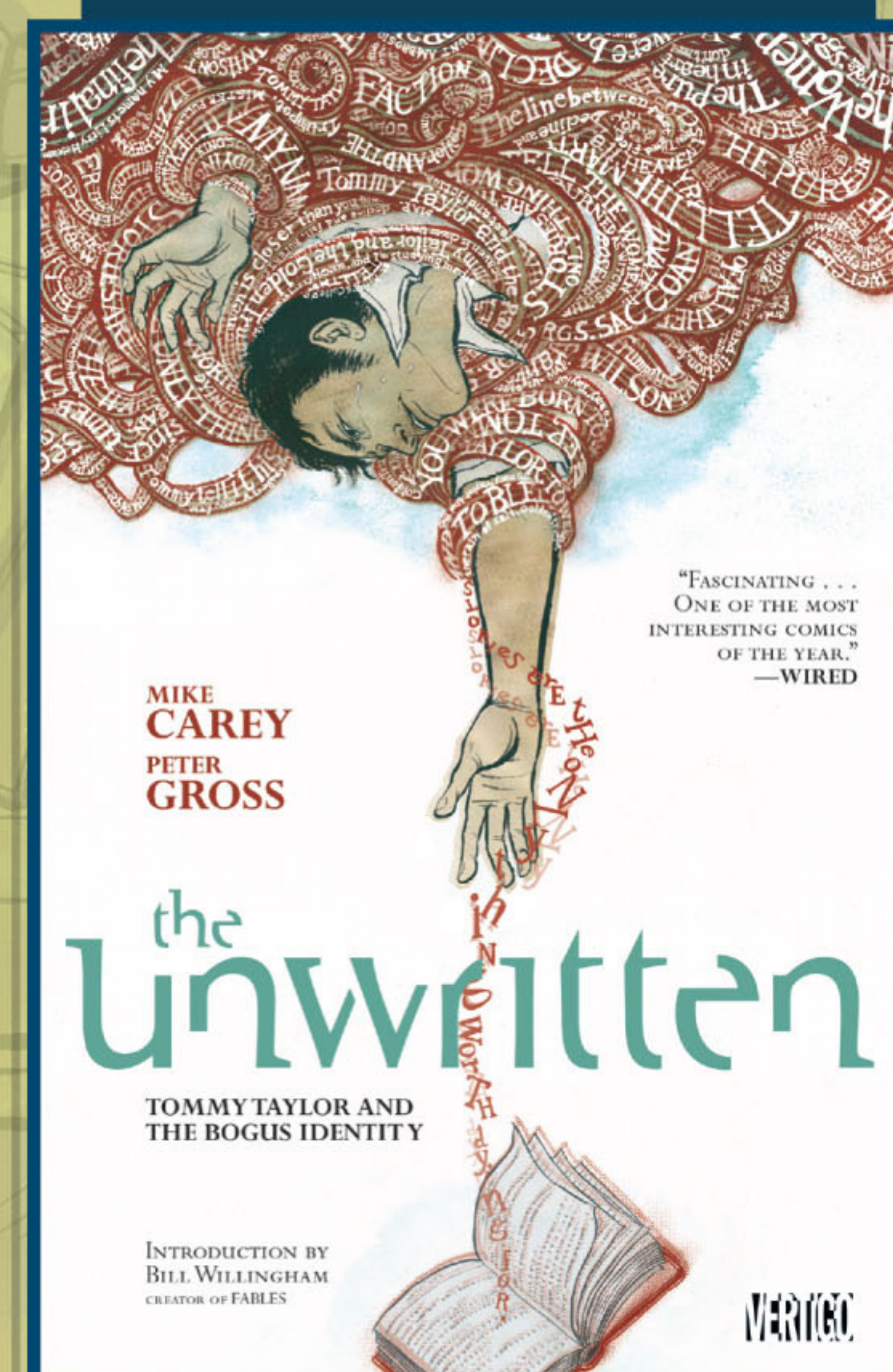
Secrets can cause a lot of harm, and when the worst of them come to light, it takes someone with special skills to make them go away. Astrid Mueller and John Constantine are two such people. Astrid is the star of **CLEAN ROOM VOL. 1: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**, the incredibly creepy horror comic from Gail 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. Guéra (*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.

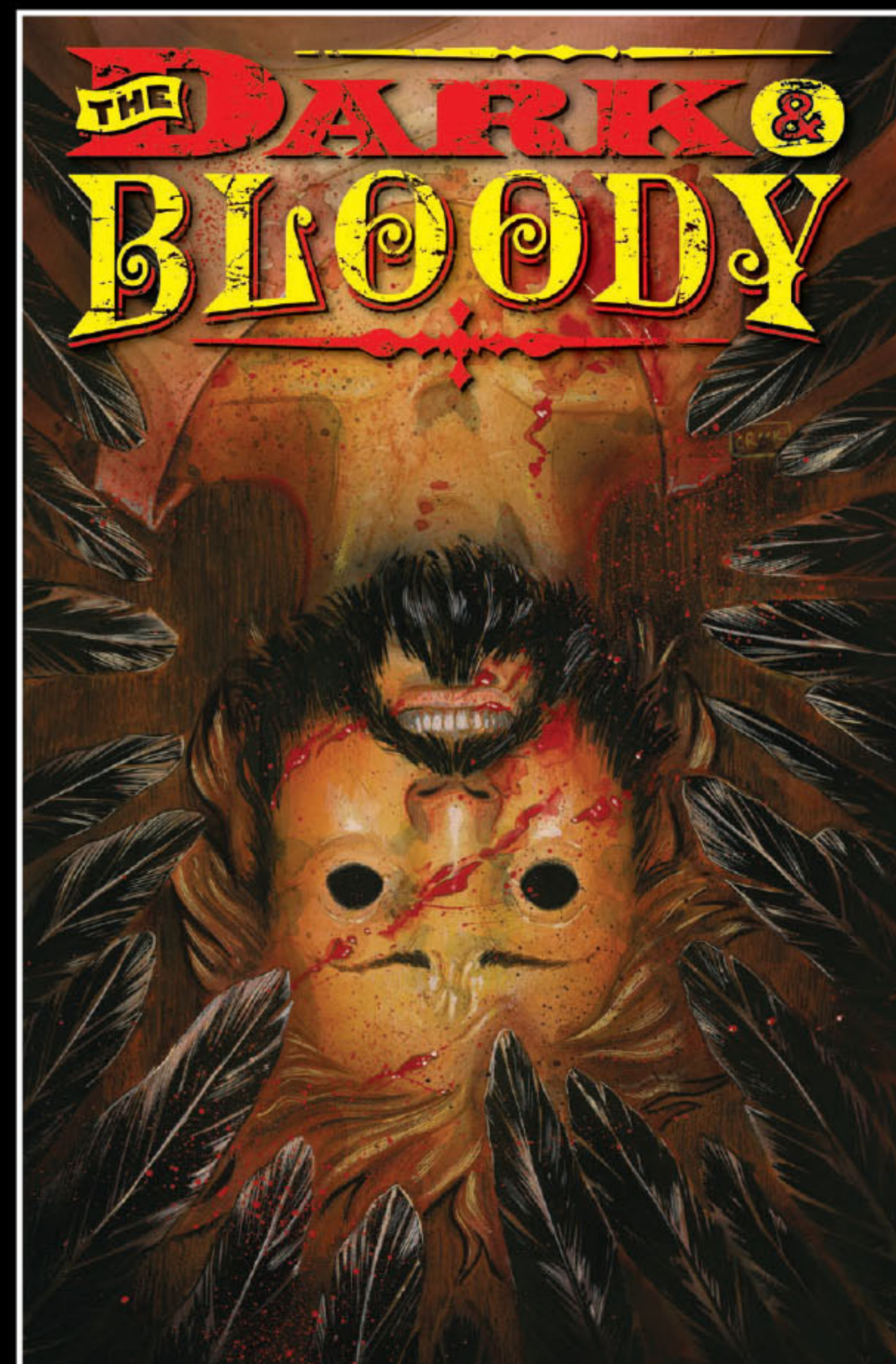
My life is better for it.

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,

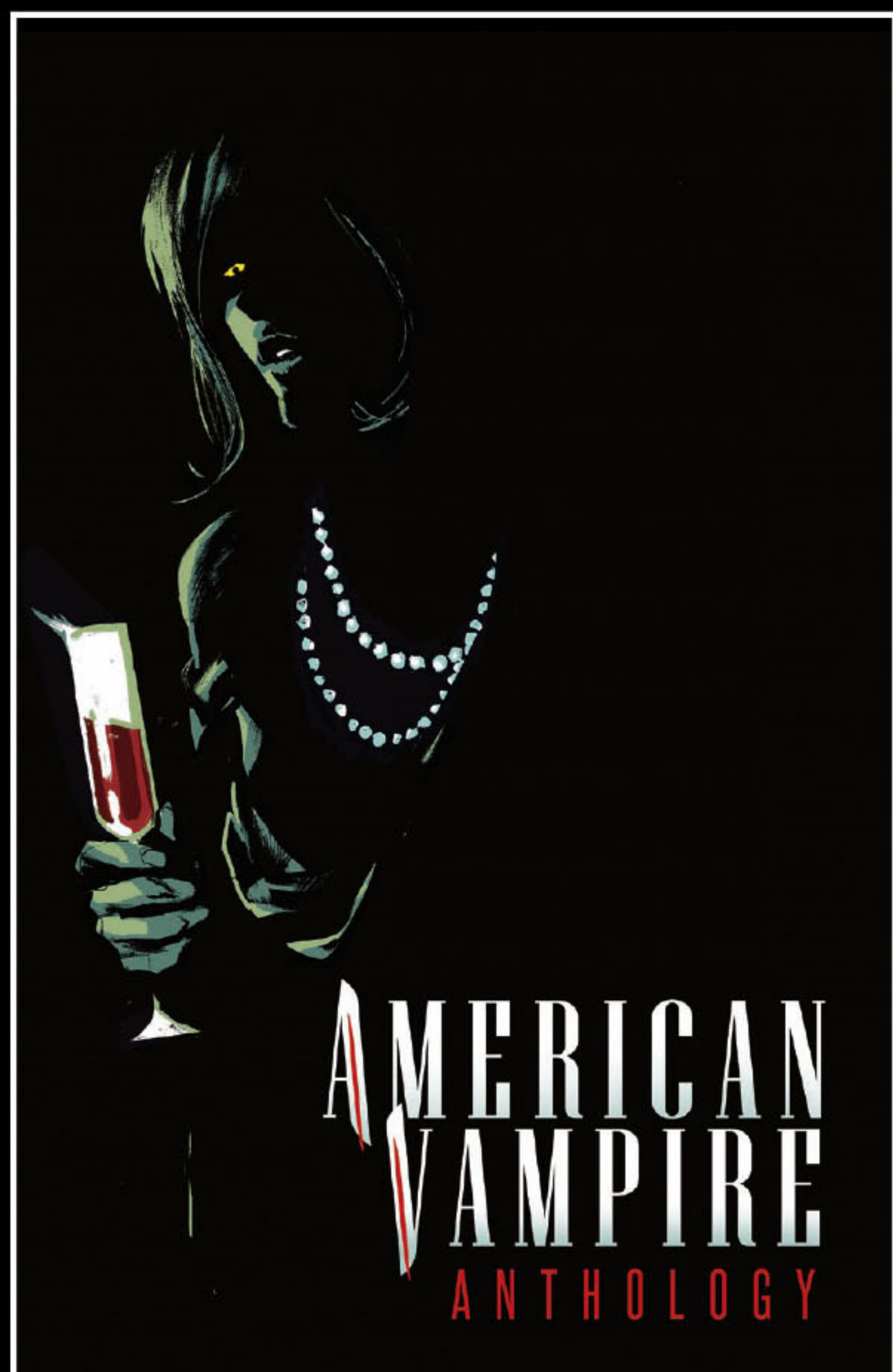


while retaining that underlying core that reminds us that we are all human despite being monsters at times.

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.



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