

Issue  
# **1**

Kyle Higgins

Alec Siegel

Rod Reis

# Kyle Higgins Alec Siegel Story

## Rod Reis Art

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Letters

**Andy Schmidt**

Edits

**Rich Bloom**

Back Matter Design

**Trevor McCarthy**

Cover

**Douglas Klauba**

Amazing Fantasy Variant

**Rod Reis**

Beach Ball/Laughing Ogre  
Variant

Logo by Eric Wight

**Geoffrey Warner (The Grey Raven)**  
C.O.W.L. Chief



**Reginald Davis (Blaze)**  
Deputy C.O.W.L. Chief  
Head of Tactical Division



**Kathryn Mitchell (Radia)**  
Tactical Division



**Tom Haydn (Arclight)**  
Tactical Division



**Mark Reeder (Recon)**  
Tactical Division



**John Pierce**  
Investigations Division



**Grant Marlow**  
Patrol Division – West Side



**Karl Samoski (Eclipse)**  
Patrol Division – West Side



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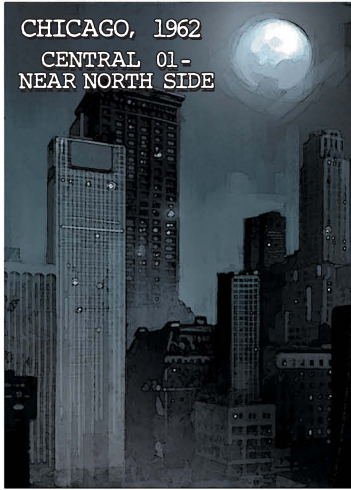
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Tricia Ramos – Production Assistant

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CHICAGO, 1962  
CENTRAL 01 -  
NEAR NORTH SIDE



WHOA!

WAS THAT--



SKYLANCER'S RUNNING!

BLAZE, IT'S RADIA! CAN YOU HEAR ME?



ARE YOU OKAY? IS ALDERMAN LOWE ALIVE?

YEAH...



...WE'RE BOTH HERE...

Cof!  
Cof!



I WAS SLOW ON THE CONTAINMENT FIELD.

SKYLANCER LAUNCHED A GRENADE.



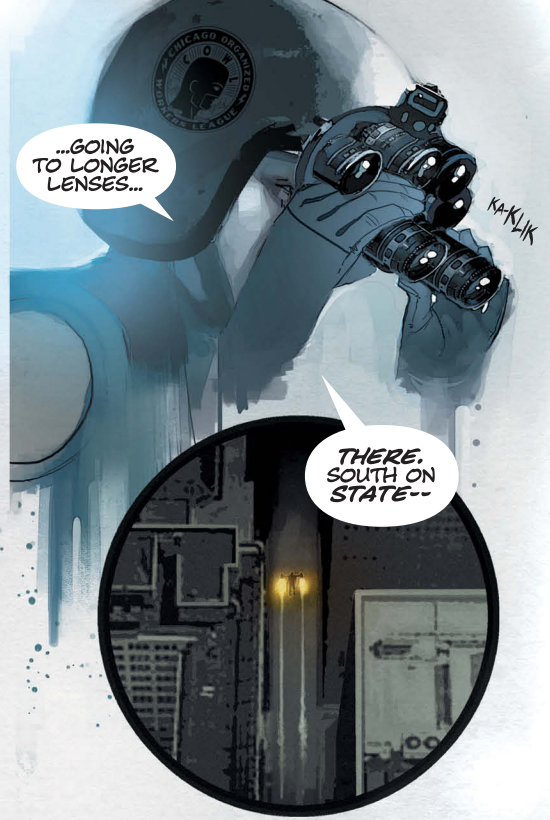
ANYONE HAVE EYES?

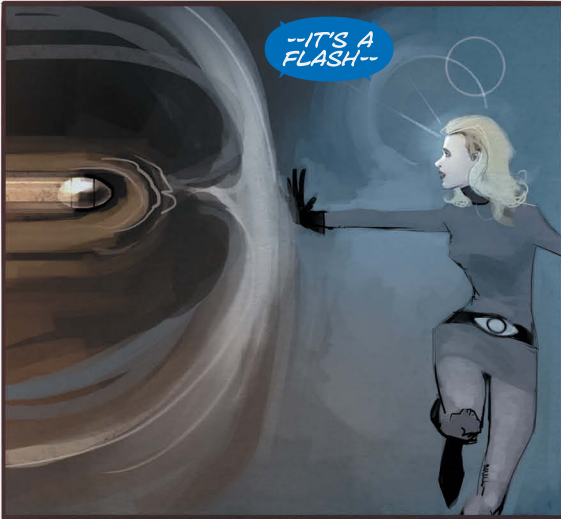
HE'S STAYING LOW, I JUST LOST HIM NEAR THE RIVER.

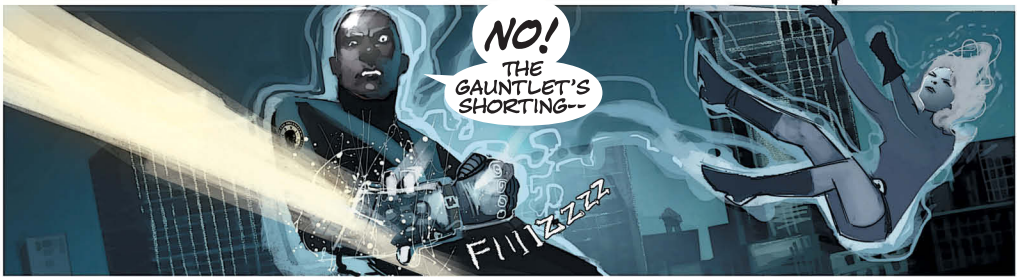
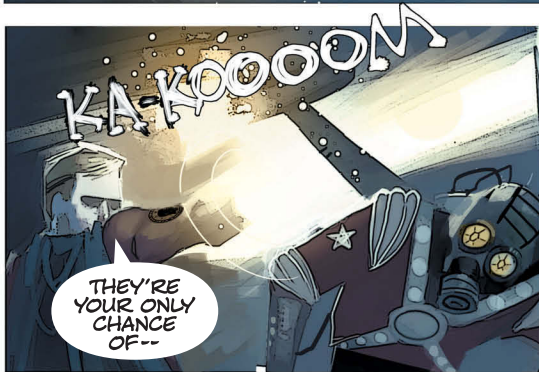


ARCLIGHT?

I'VE GOT NOTHING. HE HASN'T COME SOUTH OF WACKER YET.









HELP  
MEEE--

OH JESUS, HE'S  
SLAUGHTERING  
THEM!

ARCLIGHT--  
BLAZE IS DOWN.  
RADIA IS BLIND.  
WHERE--

I'M FREE OF  
THE JETPACK!  
GIMME THIRTY  
SECONDS--

WE  
DON'T  
HAVE  
IT!

AIEEE!

VRRRRAAAAAP! VRRRRAAAAAP!



AIEEE--

VRRRRAAAAAP!



RECON--  
DIAL ME  
IN!

ARE  
YOU SURE  
YOU--

PLEASE  
DON'T DO THIS  
PLEASE--

VRRRRAAAAAP!



DO IT!

TEN DEGREES  
TO YOUR LEFT!  
FIFTY, FIFTY ONE  
FEET IN FRO--

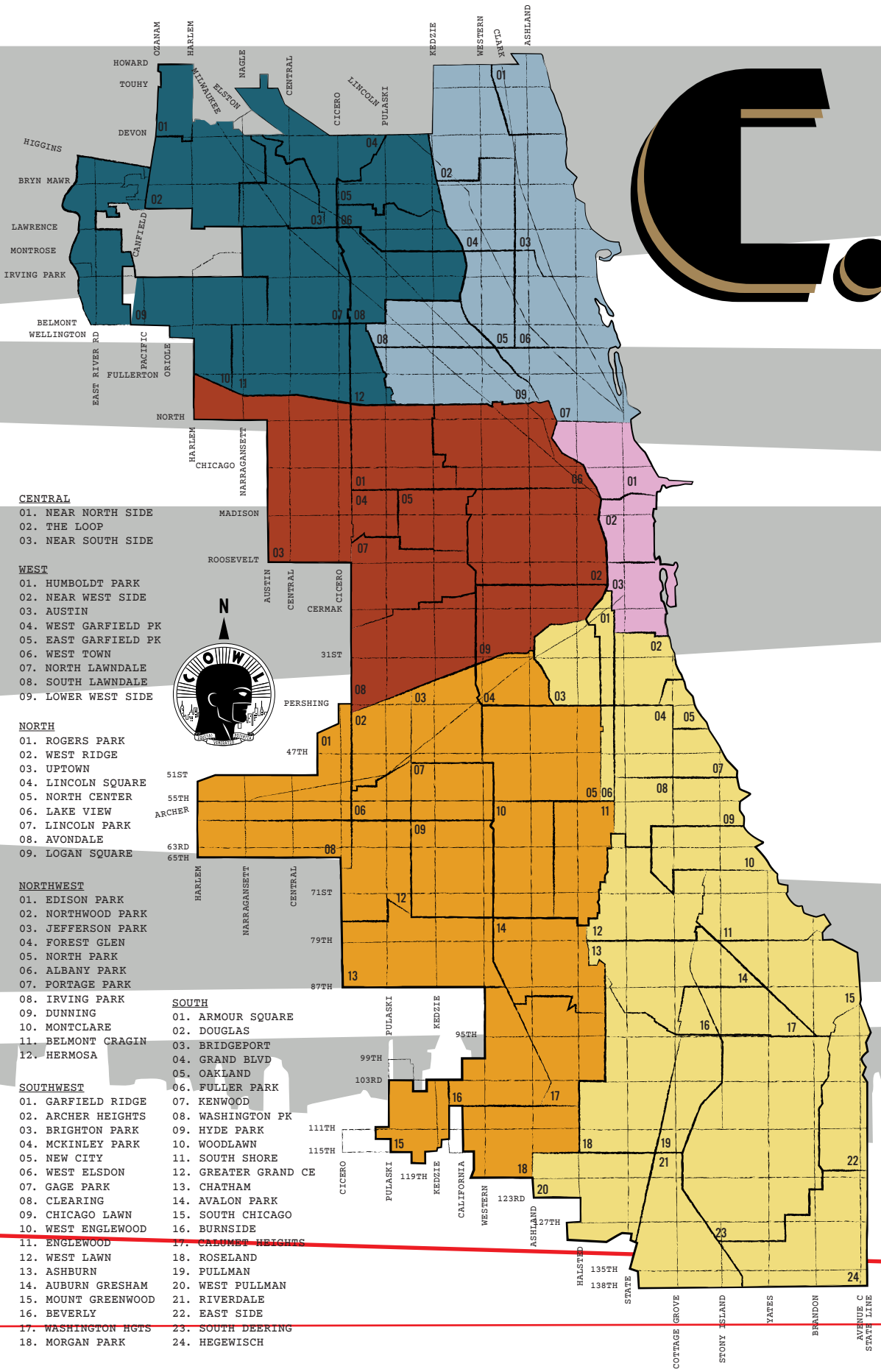
IS IT  
FIFTY OR  
FIFTY ONE?!

FIFTY  
ONE!

NNN







**CENTRAL**

- 01. NEAR NORTH SIDE
- 02. THE LOOP
- 03. NEAR SOUTH SIDE

**WEST**

- 01. HUMBOLDT PARK
- 02. NEAR WEST SIDE
- 03. AUSTIN
- 04. WEST GARFIELD PK
- 05. EAST GARFIELD PK
- 06. WEST TOWN
- 07. NORTH LAWDALE
- 08. SOUTH LAWDALE
- 09. LOWER WEST SIDE

**NORTH**

- 01. ROGERS PARK
- 02. WEST RIDGE
- 03. UPTOWN
- 04. LINCOLN SQUARE
- 05. NORTH CENTER
- 06. LAKE VIEW
- 07. LINCOLN PARK
- 08. AVONDALE
- 09. LOGAN SQUARE

**NORTHWEST**

- 01. EDISON PARK
- 02. NORTHWOOD PARK
- 03. JEFFERSON PARK
- 04. FOREST GLEN
- 05. NORTH PARK
- 06. ALBANY PARK
- 07. PORTAGE PARK
- 08. IRVING PARK
- 09. DUNNING
- 10. MONTCLARE
- 11. BELMONT CRAGIN
- 12. HERMOSA

**SOUTHWEST**

- 01. GARFIELD RIDGE
- 02. ARCHER HEIGHTS
- 03. BRIGHTON PARK
- 04. MCKINLEY PARK
- 05. NEW CITY
- 06. WEST ELSDON
- 07. GAGE PARK
- 08. CLEARING
- 09. CHICAGO LAWN
- 10. WEST ENGLEWOOD
- 11. ENGLEWOOD
- 12. WEST LAWN
- 13. ASHBURN
- 14. AUBURN GRESHAM
- 15. MOUNT GREENWOOD
- 16. BEVERLY
- 17. WASHINGTON HGTS
- 18. MORGAN PARK

**SOUTH**

- 01. ARMOUR SQUARE
- 02. DOUGLAS
- 03. BRIDGEPORT
- 04. GRAND BLVD
- 05. OAKLAND
- 06. FULLER PARK
- 07. KENWOOD
- 08. WASHINGTON PK
- 09. HYDE PARK
- 10. WOODLAWN
- 11. SOUTH SHORE
- 12. GREATER GRAND CE
- 13. CHATHAM
- 14. AVALON PARK
- 15. SOUTH CHICAGO
- 16. BURNSIDE
- 17. CADUMBT HEIGHTS
- 18. ROSELAND
- 19. PULLMAN
- 20. WEST PULLMAN
- 21. RIVERDALE
- 22. EAST SIDE
- 23. SOUTH DEERING
- 24. HEGEWISCH



# C.O.W.L.

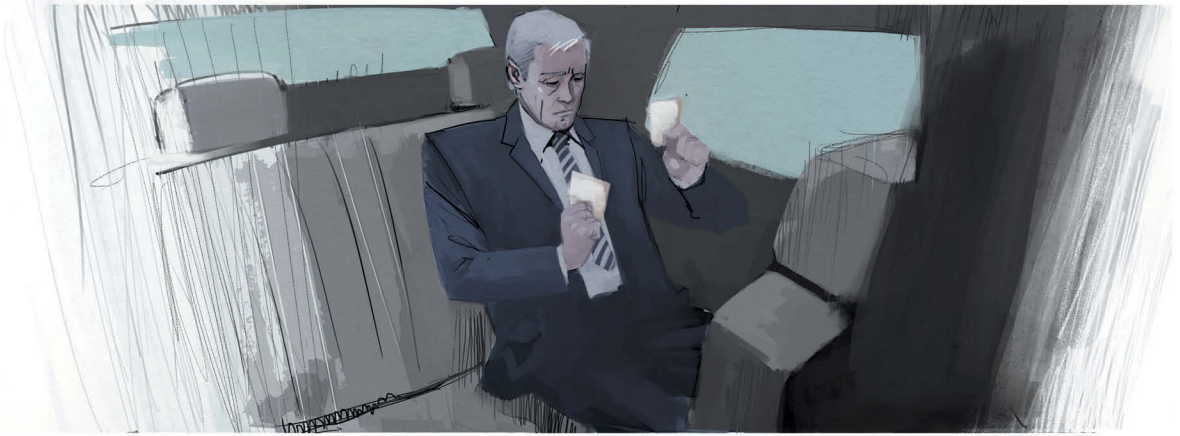
# Principles of Power

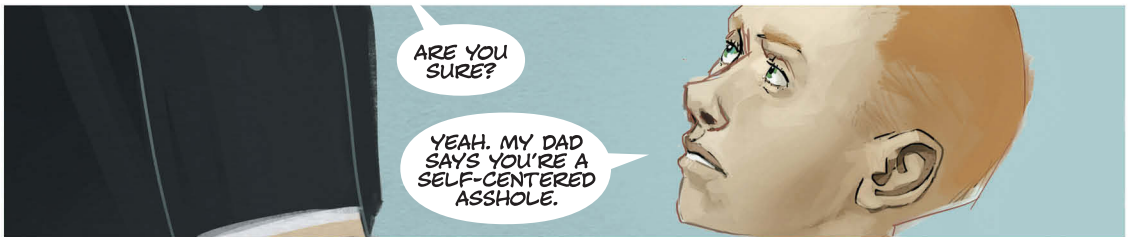
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## CHAPTER I M o t i v a t i o n

- CENTRAL
- NORTH
- NORTHWEST
- SOUTH
- SOUTHWEST
- WEST

CENTRAL 01- NEAR NORTH SIDE  
C.O.W.L. HEADQUARTERS







--ALL CURRENT EVIDENCE POINTS TO SKYLANCER WORKING ALONE.

THAT SAID, I'VE ASSIGNED A SECURITY DETAIL TO STAY WITH THE ALDERMAN UNTIL WE'RE SURE THERE IS NO FURTHER THREAT ON HIS LIFE.



FINALLY, IN LIGHT OF LAST NIGHT'S TRAGEDIES, C.O.W.L. WILL BE COORDINATING WITH CITY OFFICIALS AND WILL BE MAKING DONATIONS TO THE VICTIMS' FAMILIES.

NOW THEN. QUESTIONS?

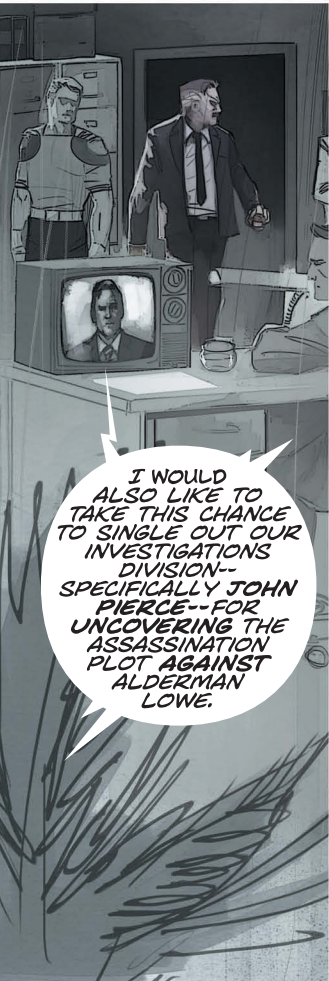


ARE YOU WORRIED YOU HAVEN'T HEARD FROM THE MAYOR YET?

WHY WOULD I BE WORRIED? WE'RE SITTING DOWN AGAIN NEXT WEEK. THIS IS THE WAY CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS GO.



OF COURSE, I'D BE REMISS IF I DIDN'T MENTION THAT SKYLANCER WAS THE LAST OF THE CHICAGO SIX. WITH HIM GONE, THE CITY IS UNDENIABLY SAFER. AND THAT'S THANKS TO C.O.W.L.



I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO TAKE THIS CHANCE TO SINGLE OUT OUR INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION-- SPECIFICALLY JOHN PIERCE--FOR UNCOVERING THE ASSASSINATION PLOT AGAINST ALDERMAN LOWE.



HEY, JOHN, YOU GOT A CALL OUT.

MM.

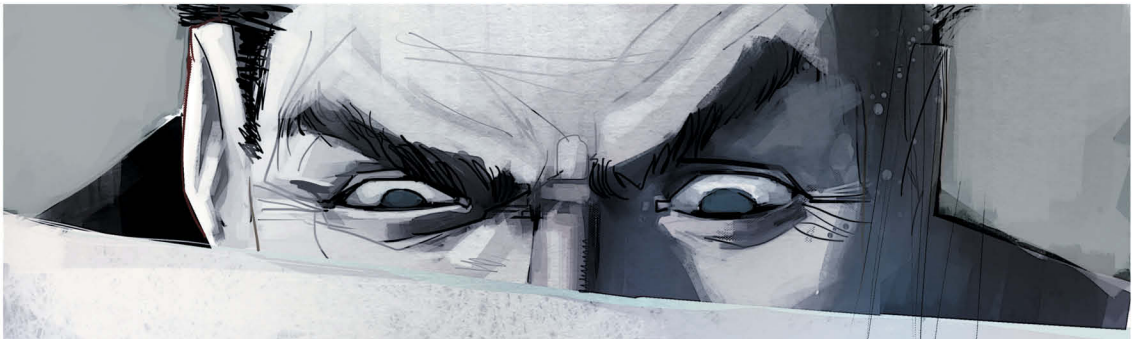


AND YOU'RE UNHAPPY...

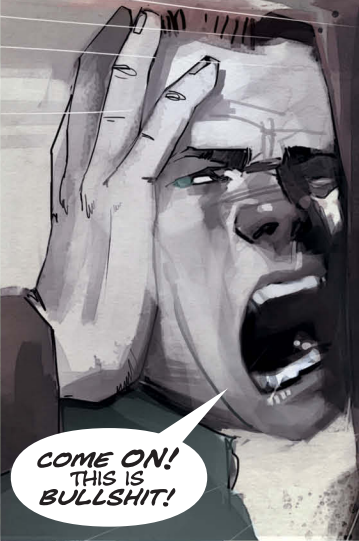
HE'S DOING IT AGAIN.

DOING WHAT?

SAYING HE KNOWS MORE THAN HE DOES.



WEST-02 -  
NEAR WEST SIDE



COME ON!  
THIS IS  
BULLSHIT!



BULLSHIT IS YOU NOT  
LISTENING TO ME,  
KEN!  
I SPECIFICALLY  
WARNED YOU TO CUT  
OUT THIS PEEPING  
TOM SHIT!

IT SEHNE  
WASN'T ME,  
ECLIPSE!



YEAH? CLAUDIA WORKS FOR  
C.O.W.L. ARE YOU REALLY  
THIS STUPID?

UGH!



YOU KNOW WHAT?  
FUCK IT. YOU WANNA  
WATCH PEOPLE GET  
NAKED? FINE.



LET'S GET  
NAKED.



JESUS!

SH...



DISPATCH  
TO UNIT  
FOUR.

GO  
AHEAD.



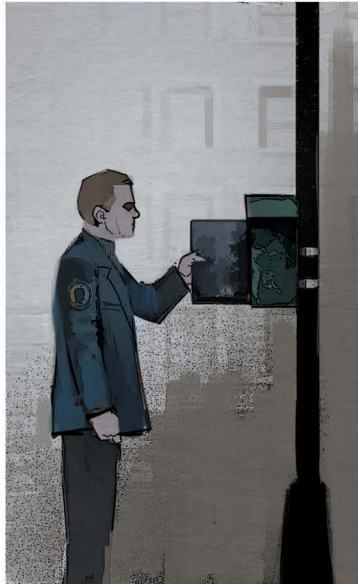
KARL, I'VE GOT  
GRANT'S WIFE. SHE  
SAYS IT'S REALLY  
IMPORTANT.



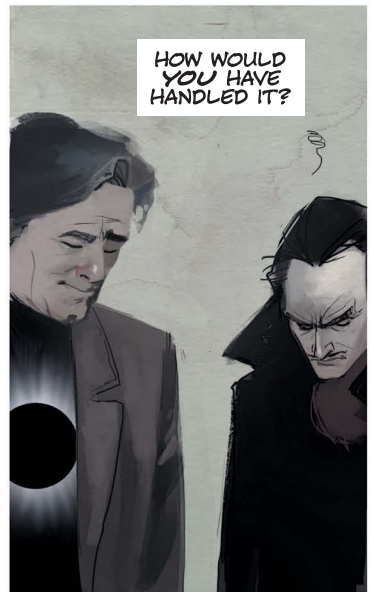
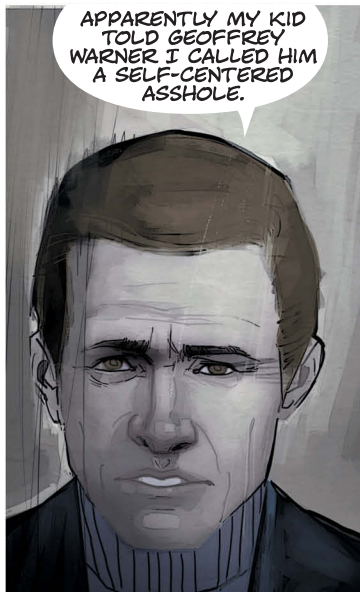
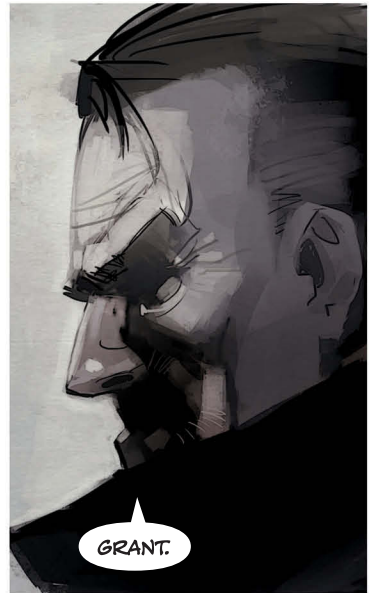
ARE YOU  
TWO NEAR  
A BOX?

PHONE  
SEVENTEEN.

SENDING  
IT OVER.









THAT'S NOT WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.

OF COURSE IT IS.

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A MICRO-MANAGER. THE ONLY DIFFERENCE NOW--

--THE ONLY DIFFERENCE NOW, IS YOU GET TO DO IT WITHOUT HAVING TO TAKE THE RISK YOURSELF. GREAT DEAL IF YOU CAN GET IT.

YOU WERE OUT OF POSITION. UP TOO CLOSE. YOU MADE IT EASY FOR SKYLANCER TO FLANK YOU.



YOU'RE JUST LUCKY KATHRYN WAS ABLE TO GET IN FRONT OF HIM.

HOW WOULD I HAVE HANDLED IT? NOT LIKE THAT. WHEN I WAS--



YOU KNOW WHAT? YOUR WHOLE LIVING LEGEND SHTICK MAY WORK ON THESE TWO, BUT I'M SICK OF IT.

TOM.



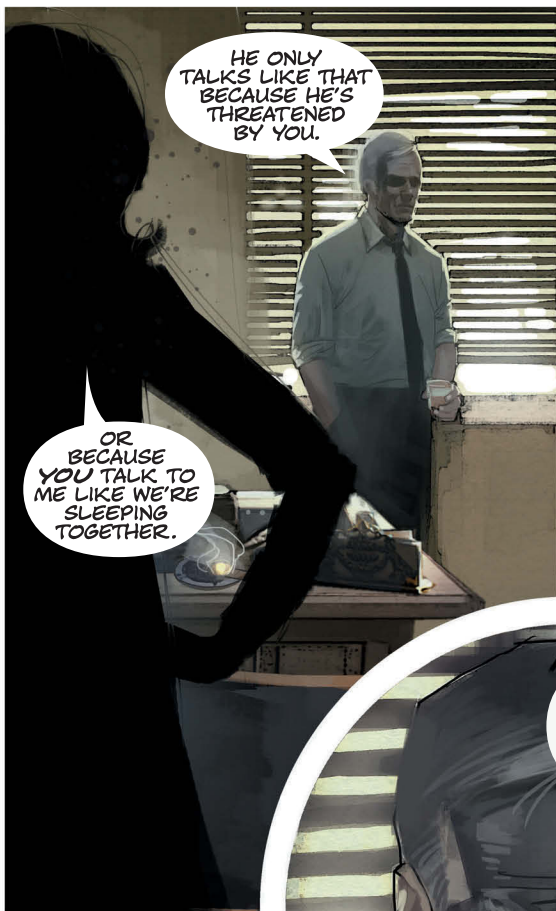
OUTSIDE. RIGHT NOW.

I THINK I'LL JOIN.

NO, I NEED A SECOND FIRST.



WOW. A WHOLE SECOND. IS THAT ALL IT TAKES?



HE ONLY TALKS LIKE THAT BECAUSE HE'S THREATENED BY YOU.

OR BECAUSE YOU TALK TO ME LIKE WE'RE SLEEPING TOGETHER.



PUBLIC RELATIONS WANTS TO SETUP A PHOTO SHOOT AND INTERVIEW WITH BOMBSHELL MAGAZINE.



TO GO OVER THE NEW RADIA COSTUME FOR--

YEAH. OKAY.



I'LL SEND THE TALKING POINTS TO YOUR GIRL.



IS THAT IT?

THAT'S IT.



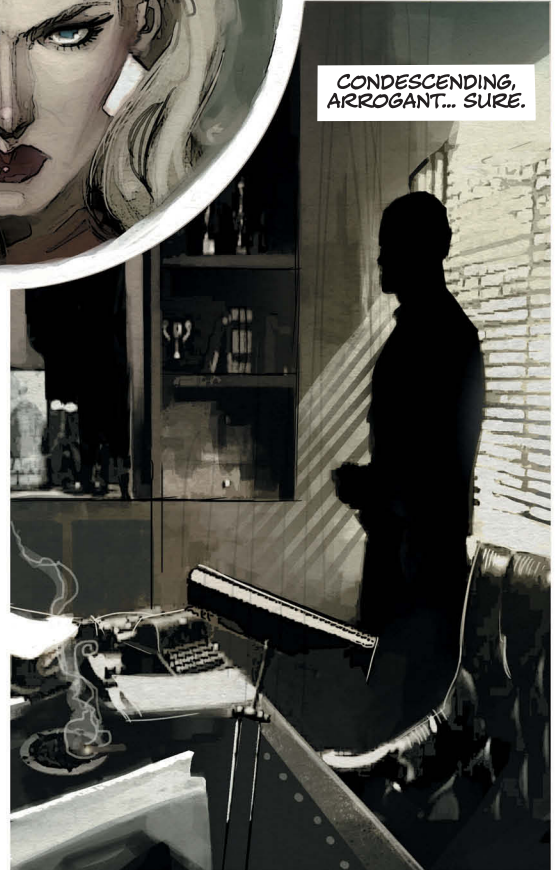
SHOULD I WAIT ANOTHER THIRTY SECONDS? YOU WOULDN'T WANT TOM TO THINK ANY LESS OF YOU.

GO.

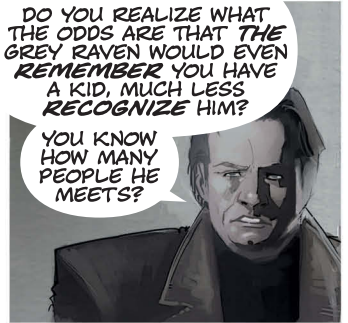
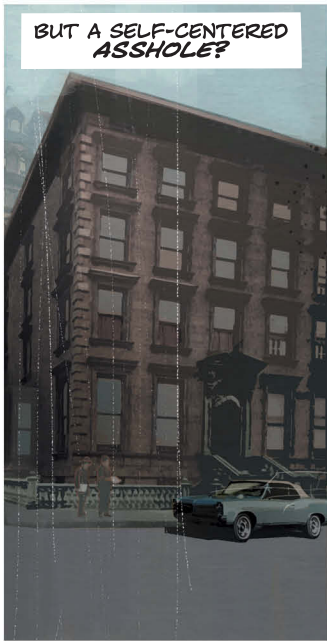
OKAY.



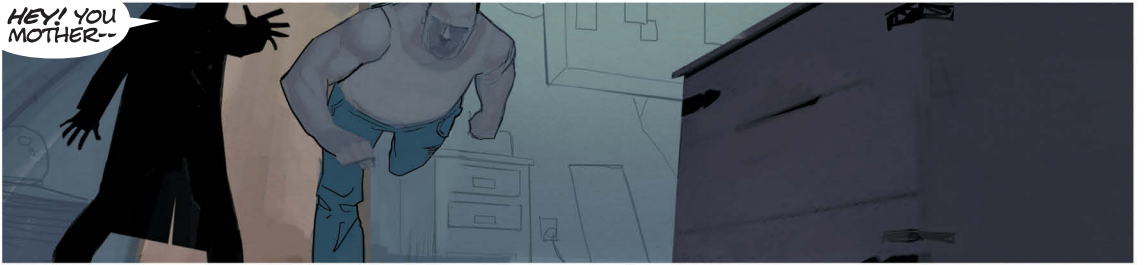
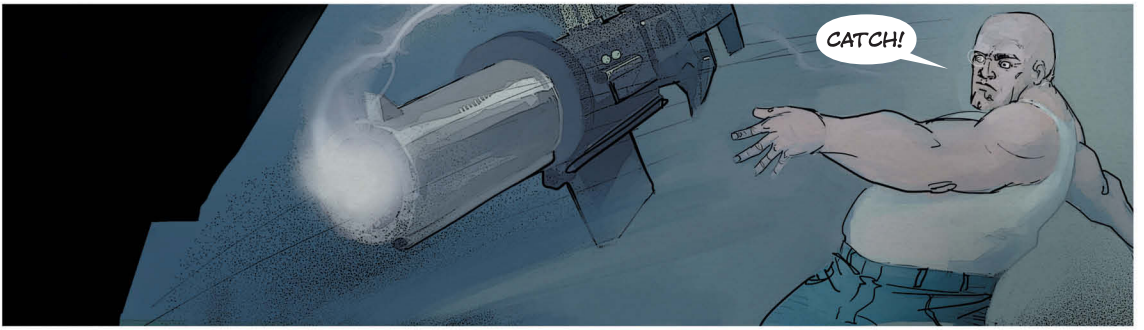
SAY HELLO TO YOUR WIFE FOR ME.



CONDESCENDING, ARROGANT... SURE.









HM. THEY DON'T USUALLY EXPLODE...

THIS DEFINITELY LOOKS LIKE SKYLANCER'S GEAR.

NICE HUNCH, JOHN.

I'LL CALL CLEAN-UP.

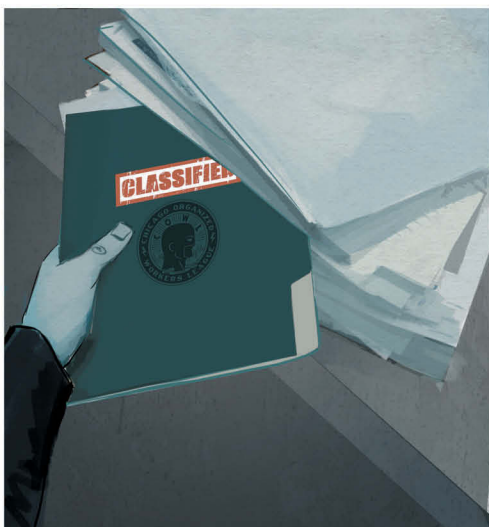


GO AHEAD. THEY CAN FIND ME AT MCCLELLIN'S.

SHOULDN'T YOU WAIT UNTIL--

NOT AFTER *THIS* DAY. YOU COMING, JOHN?

EVENTUALLY.



IT TOOK ME A SECOND TO REALIZE WHAT WAS HAPPENING.



BUT BY THAT POINT, HE'D ALREADY PULLED TWO PIECES AND STARTED RAPID FIRING. DAMN NEAR TOOK THE WALLS APART.

SO WE SCATTER, ABOUT TO PULL BACK, BUT I'M THINKING JOHN'S GOT AT LEAST A CONCUSSION AND THERE'S NO WAY I'M LETTING THIS PRICK MAKE JOHN AND GRANT'S WIVES WIDOWS.

SO I DOUBLE BACK, DUCK A HUGE BLAST, LEAP ACROSS THE CARPET--



--AND BOOM!

HIT HIM WITH THE ANTI-KINETICS. JUST AS HE'S ABOUT TO BLOW JOHN'S HEAD OFF.

WOW...

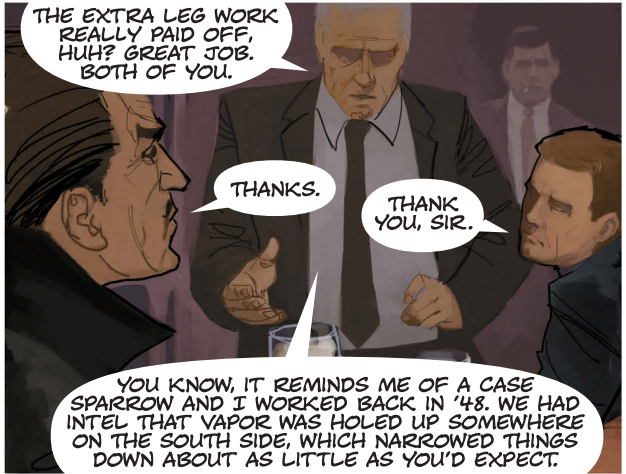
HE CERTAINLY KNOWS HOW TO EMBELLISH.

YEAH. THAT'S KARL FOR--



SHIT...

I JUST HEARD ABOUT THE SAFEHOUSE.

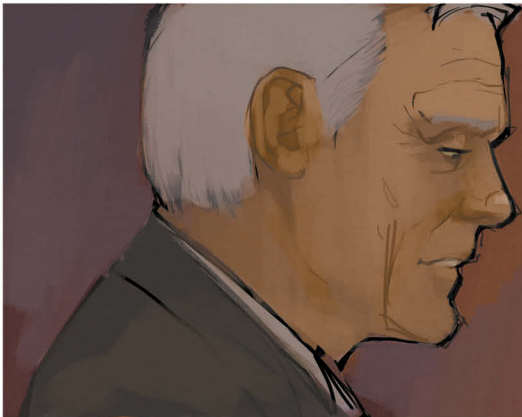


THE EXTRA LEG WORK REALLY PAID OFF, HUH? GREAT JOB. BOTH OF YOU.

THANKS.

THANK YOU, SIR.

YOU KNOW, IT REMINDS ME OF A CASE SPARROW AND I WORKED BACK IN '48. WE HAD INTEL THAT VAPOR WAS HOLED UP SOMEWHERE ON THE SOUTH SIDE, WHICH NARROWED THINGS DOWN ABOUT AS LITTLE AS YOU'D EXPECT.

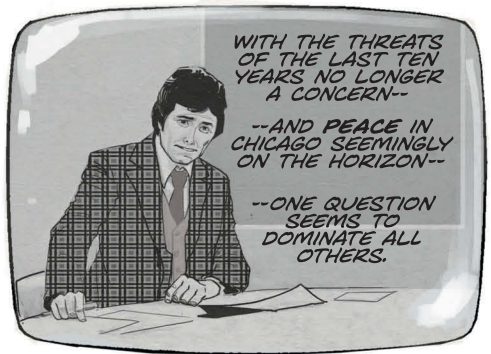
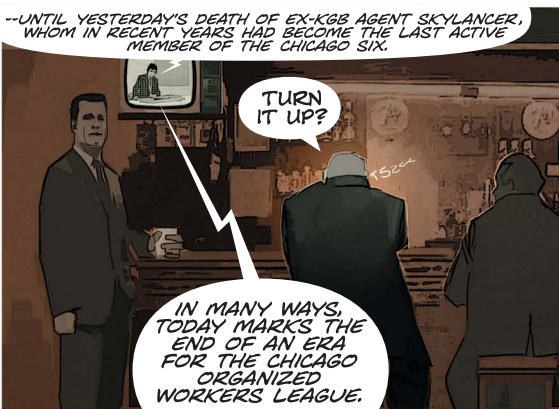
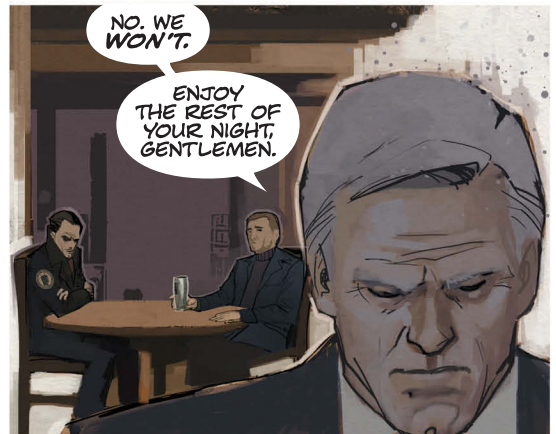


FOR THREE DAYS, WE WORKED OUR WAY FROM WAREHOUSE TO WAREHOUSE UNTIL FINALLY... WE CAUGHT UP WITH HIM.

AFTERWARDS, THE POLICE CHIEF WANTS TO TAKE CREDIT FOR THE LEG WORK, PLUS GIVING US THE INTEL IN THE FIRST PLACE.

SPARROW, DISGUSTED, TURNS TO HIM IN FRONT OF EVERYONE AND SAYS--

--"I THOUGHT TAKING CREDIT FOR OTHER PEOPLE'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS WAS THE MAYOR'S JOB?"





FILE 001-67		
1. SERIAL NO.	56-8754-7895	X
2. REGISTRATION		RB: 78
3. CLASSIFICATION	X-75-RD5	
4.		
COMMENTS:		
LOG NO.		
DEPT.		

**RESTRICTED**

C.O.W.L.

DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

Name: Geoffrey Peter Warner  
Date of Birth: 08/17/1907  
Place of Birth:  
Chicago, IL (Washington Park)  
Height: 6'3"  
Hair: Brown/Grey  
Weight: 220lbs  
Eyes: Blue

Alias: The Grey Raven (retired)

C.O.W.L. Position: Chief



Skills: Expert strategist, marksman, hand-to-hand combatant

#### Biography:

Warner grew up on the streets of Chicago's Southside. The son of a long-serving police officer, he applied to the police academy but never attended. For a time, Warner moved through the boxing circuit in the city, winning his fair share of fights and earning himself the nickname Warring Warner. In 1931, he hung up the boxing gloves and created his now-famous persona The Grey Raven, quickly making a name for himself protecting the helpless in the city's crime-filled, Depression-era streets.

When America entered World War II at the end of 1941, Warner added war hero to his list of accomplishments. As the leader of a covert ops unit called [REDACTED] Warner fought in Occupied France, Italy, [REDACTED] Germany.

Post-war, Warner returned to Chicago. Along with several other heroes-- notably his young sidekick, Sparrow, and fellow [REDACTED] Blaze-- Warner used his political contacts from the war to push for the formation of the Chicago Organized Workers League in 1949. Warner continued to fight as The Grey Raven until the mid-1950s, when he hung up his costume after a fire [REDACTED] retired from combat, he leads C.O.W.L. in an administrative and political capacity.



# Union Dues

[www.cowl-comic.com](http://www.cowl-comic.com)

#cowl

[uniondues@cowl-comic.com](mailto:uniondues@cowl-comic.com)

Wrists at odd angles, laptop wedged against my leg, dreading the moment the person in front of me reclines... anyone who's ever been on an airplane with a computer knows the drill.

The worst part is that I really like the *idea* of writing on planes. I've got noise cancelling headphones, Virgin America has power outlets, and people bring me drinks. If I weren't 6'2" with wrist problems, this would be great.

I mention this because I had hoped to write this piece while I was still in Chicago yesterday. Now, I'm doing it from 40,000 feet up, in-between cities, in a super uncomfortable position. And yet, in a lot of ways, that's entirely fitting for C.O.W.L. This is, after all, our first creator owned book. Pain and uncertainty are par for the course.

The Chicago Organized Workers League has been a part of my life-- in one way or another-- for the last nine years. I remember coming up with the idea during the summer of 2005, trying to sit down to write a script, and giving up. It wasn't until I transferred to Chapman University a few months later that I tried again.

Two years later, Alec and I wrote THE LEAGUE, my senior thesis film that introduced Geoffrey Warner, Blaze, and Sparrow. Off the strength of the short (which you can check out at [www.theleaguefilm.com](http://www.theleaguefilm.com)), Marvel hired us to write our first comic book-- CAPTAIN AMERICA THEATER OF WAR: PRISONERS OF DUTY.

Since then, the last five years have been a pretty wild ride.

I've had some wonderful opportunities, worked with incredible people, and been handed the keys to some of my favorite characters. I wouldn't trade it for anything.

Which is why it's time to try something different.

I want to take this chance to call out our team-- Alec, Rod, Troy, Trevor, Rich, and Andy. We're in this together for the long haul. I also want to thank Jen Aprahamian for our website and Eric Wight for our logo, and Eric Stephenson for giving us the chance to tell a story we're incredibly passionate about.

Next month, in addition to a statement from Alec, we're going to have a letters column. If you'd like to write in (you should), use the email address above. Please mark all letters OKAY TO PRINT.

Finally, I want to mention that we have two awesome retailer variant covers for this first issue-- one from Douglas Klauba, available through Amazing Fantasy ([www.afbooks.com](http://www.afbooks.com)) and the other from Rod Reis, available through Beach Ball Comics ([www.cornerstorecomics.com](http://www.cornerstorecomics.com)) and Laughing Ogre Comics ([www.laughingogrecomics.com](http://www.laughingogrecomics.com)).

Like our heroes entering the 1960s, we're not sure what to expect with C.O.W.L. But for all the uncertainty that comes with launching a creator owned series, this has been one of the most creatively rewarding things I've ever been involved with.

And I don't see *that* changing.

Kyle Higgins  
Somewhere between Chicago and LA,  
2014

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