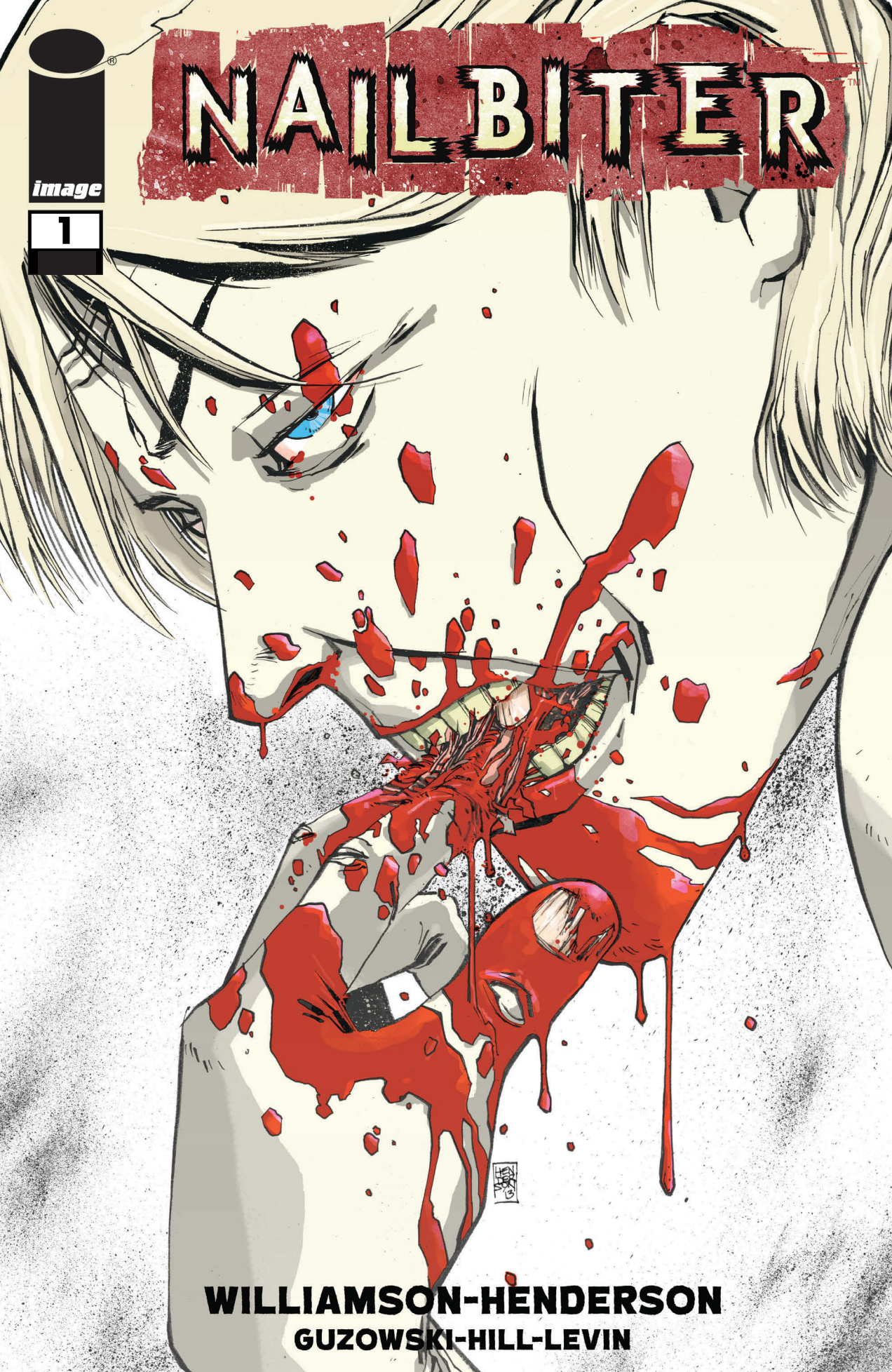


NAILBITER

image

1



W.H.

WILLIAMSON-HENDERSON
GUZOWSKI-HILL-LEVIN

Story by
Joshua Williamson

Art by
Mike Henderson

Colors by
Adam Guzowski

Letters & Book Design by
John J. Hill

Edited by
Rob Levin

Logo by
Tim Daniel

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RIVERSIDE,
CALIFORNIA

HOUSE IS
SECURE, SIR! WE
ARE LOCKED AND
LOADED.

WHAT'RE
YOUR ORDERS,
CARROLL?!

THUMP THUMP

TAKE
HIM.

BUT
REMEMBER WE
NEED WARREN
ALIVE!

THUMP THUMP

DO
IT!

THOOM

THUMP THUMP

FREEZE,
WARREN!

HANDS
IN THE AIR,
YOU SICK--!

THUMP
THUMP

FREAK!

THUMP
THUMP

THUMP
THUMP

WASN'T
EXPECTING
VISITORS. BUT
DON'T WORRY.

THERE'S
ENOUGH FOR
EVERYONE.



Buckaroo Butcher #16

Edward Charles Warren. Warren's modus operandi was to kidnap innocent men and women who had the habit of chewing their fingernails. Warren would keep them captive until his victim's nails grew back, and then chew their fingers down to the bone before ultimately killing them. Suspected of forty-six deaths in California alone, this peculiar appetite had the press give Warren the nickname of the

THUMP
THUMP

THUMP
THUMP



nailbiter

TH- THUMP TH- THUMP TH- THUMP

TH- THUMP TH- THUMP

TH- THUMP TH- THUMP



chapter One

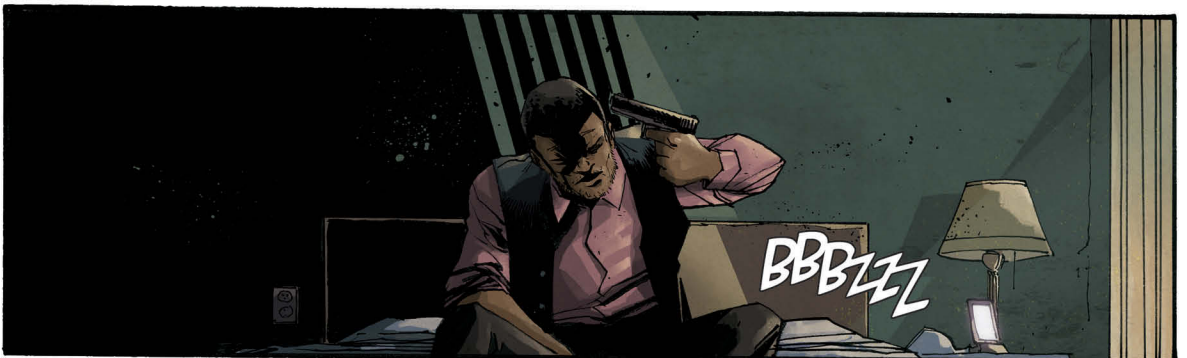
“there will be blood”

TH- THUMP TH- THUMP TH- THUMP

TH- THUMP TH- THUMP

TH- THUMP TH- THUMP









THE
BUCKAROO
BUTCHERS.

THE
SECRET. I
CRACKED IT.

BUT YOU
NEED TO COME AND
SEE THIS. YOU WON'T
BELIEVE IT UNLESS
YOU DO.

THAT'S NOT EXACTLY
MY EXPERTISE,
CARROLL, AND I DON'T
HAVE TIME FOR YOUR
SCOOPY-DOO
BULLSHIT.

LISTEN, I KNOW ABOUT
YOUR SUSPENSION
AND THE TRIAL DOESN'T
START FOR NINE WEEKS.
UNTIL THEN THEY--

YOU
RECOGNIZE THAT
I HAVE ZERO
AUTHORITY TO--



YOU'RE
HIDING WITH YOUR
TAIL BETWEEN YOUR
LEGS. I'M SORRY,
BUT...

... THIS WILL
HELP YOU GET
YOUR MIND
OFF OF IT.

CARROLL--
I...



YOU'RE THE
ONLY ONE I
CAN TRUST.

YOU'RE
SUCH AN
ASSHOLE.

E-MAIL
ME THE ADDRESS
AND I'LL BE THERE
TOMORROW
MORNING.

WHAT'S
THE NAME OF
THE TOWN
AGAIN?



BUCKAROO,
OREGON



RAIN.

STUPID,
STUPID
RAIN.

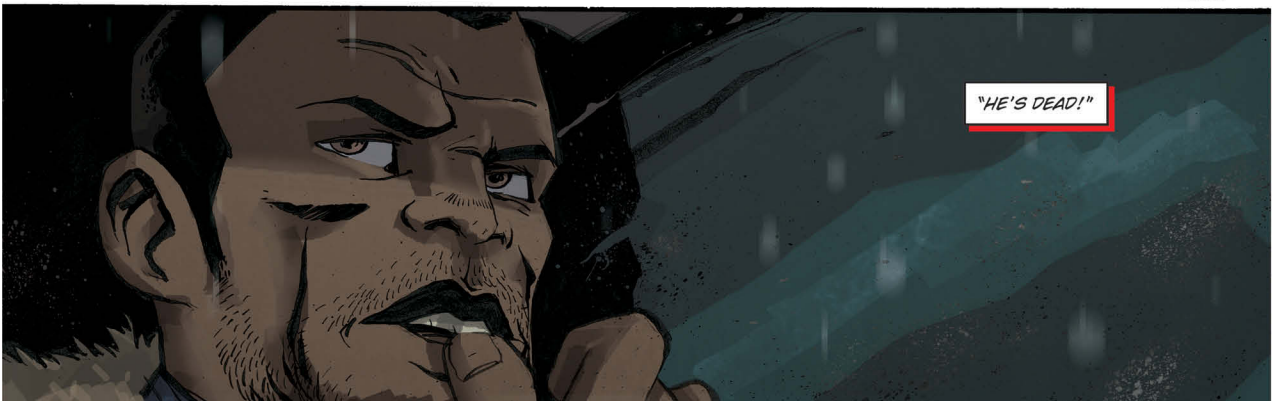


SHIT!



WHERE
ARE YOU,
CARROLL?

YES WE
ARE
OPEN



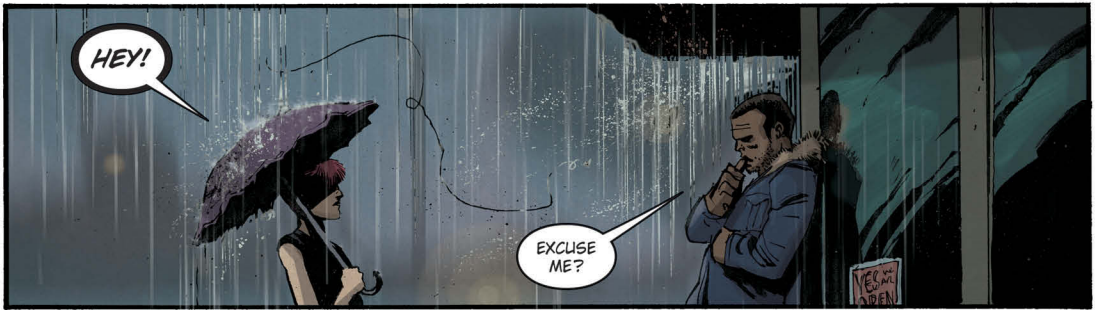
"HE'S DEAD!"



WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED IN THERE, FINCH?!

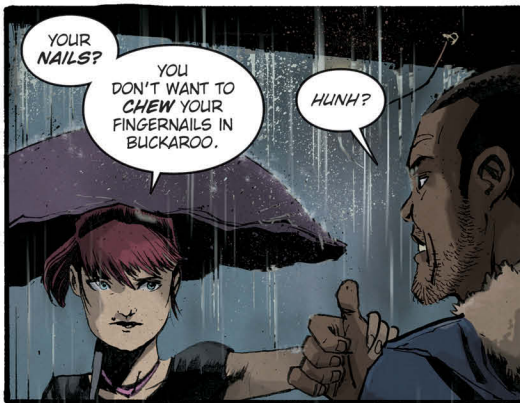
I--I DON'T KNOW. I--

"YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THAT HERE, DUDE."



HEY!

EXCUSE ME?



YOUR NAILS?

YOU DON'T WANT TO CHEW YOUR FINGERNAILS IN BUCKAROO.

HUHNH?



OH SURE. DIDN'T EVEN THINK THAT MIGHT MAKE PEOPLE A BIT UNCOMFORTABLE AROUND HERE.

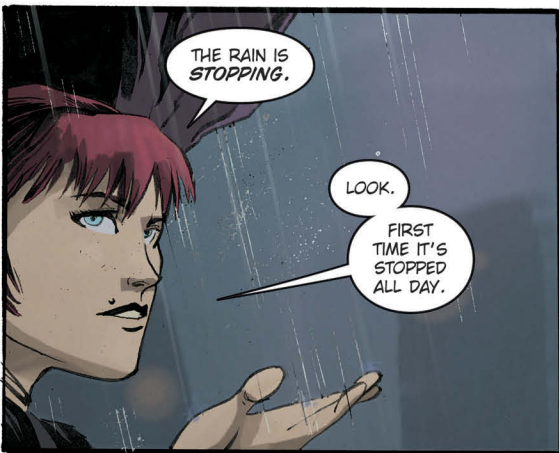
SORRY, IT'S A BAD HABIT. HAD IT SINCE I WAS A KID.

BETTER THAN SMOKING, RIGHT?



BOTH MAKE YOU LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT.

SHOULDN'T YOU BE IN SCHOOL OR--?

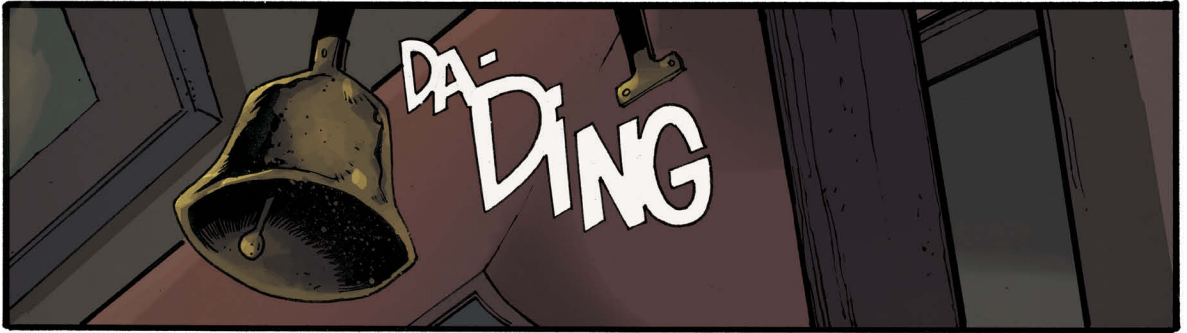




YEAH,
AND WAIT'LL
YOU MEET
THE CREEPY
OLD GUY WHO
OWNS IT.

**KILLER
DEALS!**

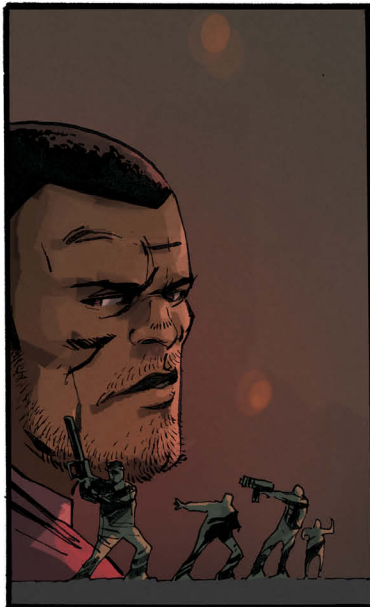
THE MURDER STORE



DA-
DING



HELLO?



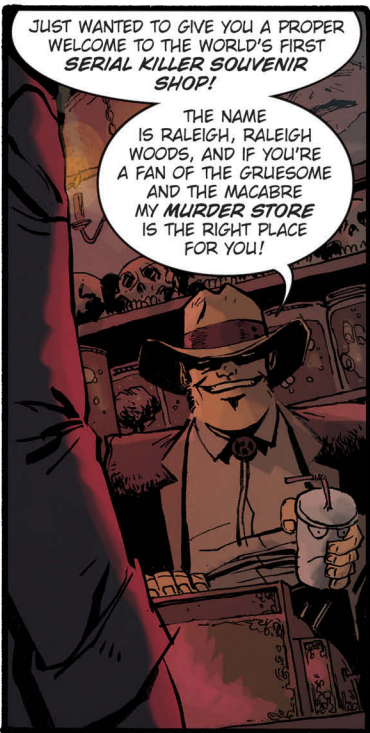


HOWDY!



YOU TRYING TO SCARE ME?

WELL, SHOOT! YOU GOT ME! I SURE WAS.



JUST WANTED TO GIVE YOU A PROPER WELCOME TO THE WORLD'S FIRST SERIAL KILLER SOUVENIR SHOP!

THE NAME IS RALEIGH, RALEIGH WOODS, AND IF YOU'RE A FAN OF THE GRUESOME AND THE MACABRE MY MURDER STORE IS THE RIGHT PLACE FOR YOU!



AH HUH.



THAT MASK IN YOUR HANDS RIGHT THERE IS A REPLICA OF THE VERY MASK WORN BY THE INFAMOUS "BOOK BURNER."



"AFTER BEING PICKED ON AS A KID FOR HIS TRAGIC INABILITY TO READ OR WRITE..."



"...THE BOOK BURNER WENT ON A MURDER SPREE, BURNING DOWN LIBRARIES ALL OVER WASHINGTON AND IDAHO.

"WITH PEOPLE TRAPPED INSIDE!"



"THIS MADE THE BOOK BURNER THE FIRST OF THE BUCKAROO BUTCHERS. THE BOOK BURNER THEN STARTED KILLING ALL THOSE POOR AUTHORS IN THE SEVENTIES AND THEN--"



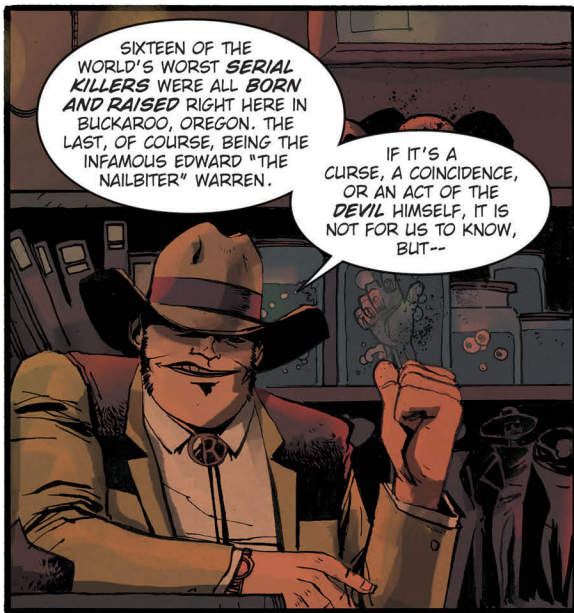
I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED NEXT.



HA. I KNEW IT! YOU'RE A SERIAL KILLER FAN! CAUGHT A LITTLE BIT OF THE BUCKAROO BUTCHER MANIA, AM I RIGHT?

NOT QUITE.

HOW COULD YOU NOT?



SIXTEEN OF THE WORLD'S WORST **SERIAL KILLERS** WERE ALL **BORN AND RAISED** RIGHT HERE IN BUCKAROO, OREGON. THE LAST, OF COURSE, BEING THE INFAMOUS EDWARD "THE NAILBITER" WARREN.

IF IT'S A CURSE, A COINCIDENCE, OR AN ACT OF THE **DEVIL** HIMSELF, IT IS NOT FOR US TO KNOW, BUT--



YOU DON'T THINK IT'S A BIT **INSENSITIVE** TO GAIN FROM... **THIS**.



SOMEBODY OUGHTA.

MY GRANDFATHER, NORMAN WOODS, **WAS** THE BOOK BURNER. RUINED OUR GOOD FAMILY NAME. CAN'T HURT TO TRY TO TURN A NEGATIVE TO A **POSITIVE**, NOW DOES IT?



MY NEXT GOAL IS TO BRING ONE OF THOSE **HORROR CONVENTIONS** OUT HERE. JUST NEED EVERYONE IN TOWN TO SIGN THIS HERE **PETITION**.

GONNA CALL IT "**KILLER-CON**," CATCHY NAME, ISN'T IT?

TAP TAP TAP



A CONVENTION FOR FANS... OF **SERIAL KILLERS**?



LISTEN HERE. DON'T YOU GO **JUDGING** ME. THERE ARE A LOT OF **SICK FREAKS** OUT THERE WHO WOULD **PAY** TO BE CLOSE TO PURE EVIL.

AND IT WOULD BRING A LOT OF MUCH NEEDED **DINERO** INTO THIS TOWN. PEOPLE ARE **HURTING** AND--

HEY BABY! ARE YOU **DEAF**?



C'MON, ALICE. WHY WON'T YOU SHARE YOUR UMBRELLA WITH ME? IT MIGHT RAIN AGAIN SOON AND THE ONLY PERSON AROUND HERE THAT I WANT TO GET WET IS YOU.

OHH NICE!



AW, STAY OUT OF IT. JUST KIDS BEING KIDS.

HM.



LISTEN UP, WEIRDO!

EVERYBODY KNOWS YOU'RE GOING TO GROW UP TO BE THE NEXT BUCKAROO BUTCHER, ALICE. JUST A MATTER OF TIME.

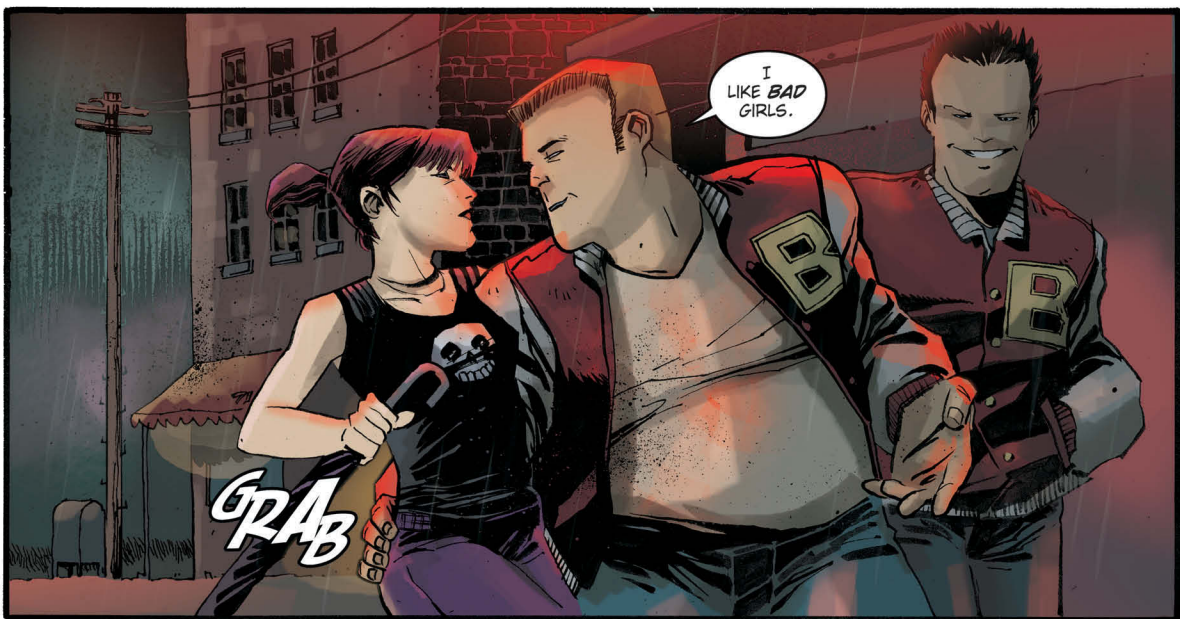


IF I AM, I KNOW WHO MY FIRST VICTIM IS GOING TO BE, HANK.



YOU HEAR THAT, ROBBY?

"ALICE IN HORRORLAND" HERE JUST THREATENED ME. BUT THAT'S OKAY...



I LIKE BAD GIRLS.

GRAB







YOU MIND NOT BEATING ON MY CITIZENS?



UH, SORRY. I LET MY... AH... TEMPER GET THE BETTER OF ME SOMETIMES.



WE WERE JUST MINDING OUR OWN BUSINESS WHEN THIS LOSER CAME OUTTA NOWHERE AND--



THAT IS TOTALLY NOT WHAT HAPPENED, SHERIFF CRANE.

I WAS HANDING HANK AND ROBBY THEIR ASSES WHEN TALL, DARK AND HANDSOME STARTED DEFENDING MY HONOR OR SOMETHING.

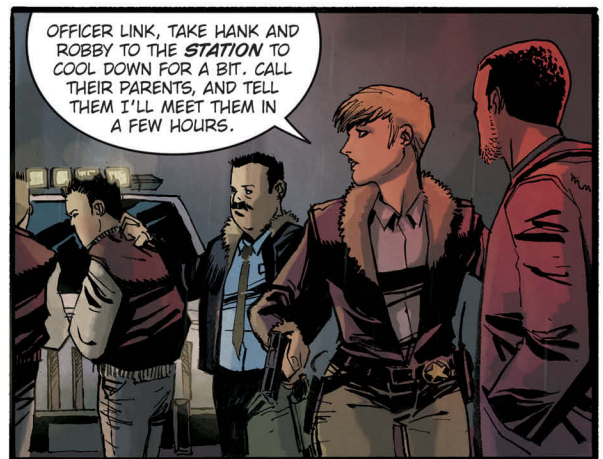
TRUE STORY.



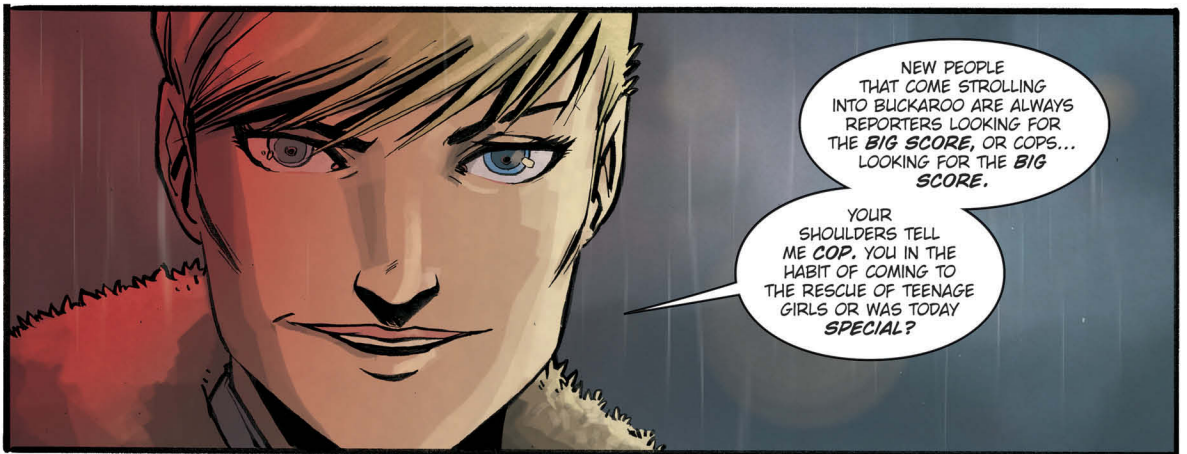
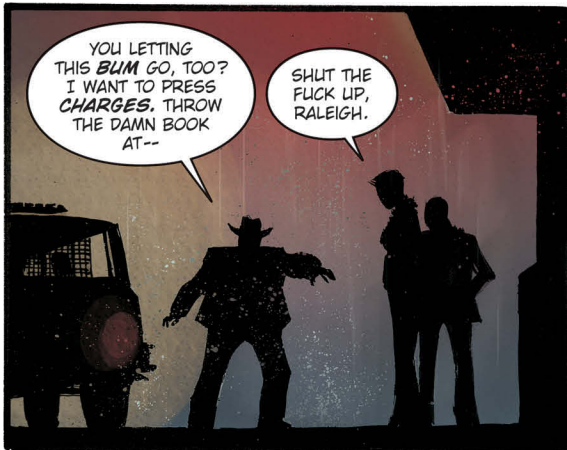
THAT RIGHT? YOU TWO WERE GETTING BEAT UP BY A GIRL AND THIS GOOD SAMARITAN BAILED YOU OUT? THAT WHAT I'M GOING TO PUT IN THE REPORT?

NOT... EXACTLY.

RIGHT.



OFFICER LINK, TAKE HANK AND ROBBY TO THE STATION TO COOL DOWN FOR A BIT. CALL THEIR PARENTS, AND TELL THEM I'LL MEET THEM IN A FEW HOURS.





EVER SINCE HE CAME TO TOWN, CARROLL AND I MEET EVERY MONDAY MORNING FOR COFFEE. NEVER MISSED.

WHEN HE DIDN'T *SHOW*, I GOT WORRIED. WAS ON MY WAY TO THE STATION TO REPORT THIS AND CALL THE FEDS WHEN I RAN INTO YOU.

I'M GUESSING YOU KNOW WHY CARROLL WAS HERE? WHAT HE WAS INVESTIGATING?



CARROLL ALWAYS LOVED HIS *PUZZLES*. AND THIS ONE *HAUNTED* HIM.

HE CALLED ME YESTERDAY SAYING THAT HE... PIECED IT TOGETHER.



LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE WANTED THAT SECRET KEPT *HIDDEN*.

YOU'RE THE *LAW* AROUND HERE...

DID ANYONE HAVE A *PROBLEM* WITH CARROLL?



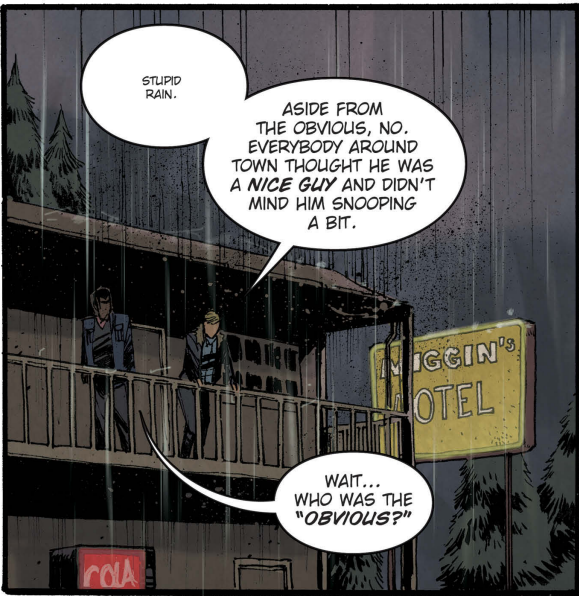
YOU KIDDING? IT'S ALL HE EVER TALKED ABOUT.

CARROLL THOUGHT THAT THERE HAD TO BE A CONNECTION BETWEEN ALL THE BUCKAROO BUTCHERS.

NO WAY SIXTEEN SERIAL KILLERS BORN IN OUR SMALL TOWN WAS A COINCIDENCE. SOMETHING SO RANDOM. HE WAS JUST SO... SO...

OBSESSED? BEEN THAT WAY EVER SINCE NAILBITER WARREN. HE HAD TO KNOW WHY.

WHY THIS TOWN.



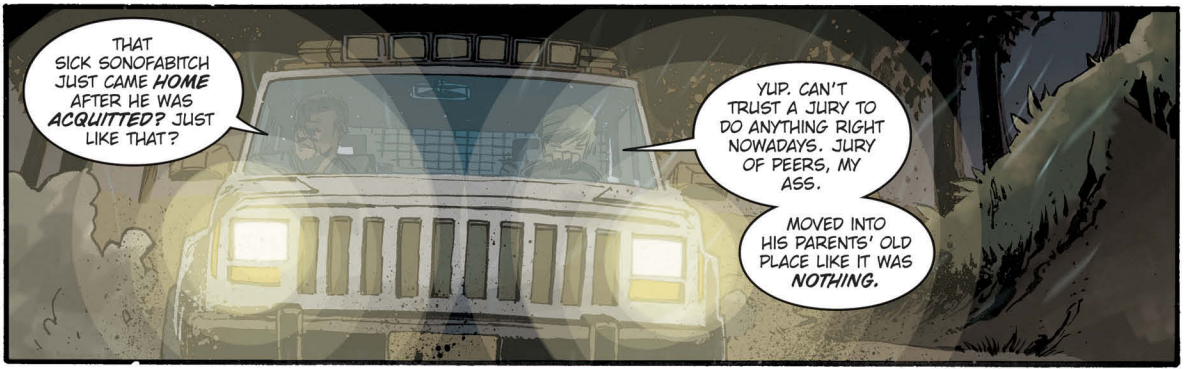
STUPID RAIN.

ASIDE FROM THE OBVIOUS, NO. EVERYBODY AROUND TOWN THOUGHT HE WAS A NICE GUY AND DIDN'T MIND HIM SNOOPING A BIT.

WAIT... WHO WAS THE "OBVIOUS?"



WHO DO YOU THINK?



THAT SICK SONOFABITCH JUST CAME HOME AFTER HE WAS ACQUITTED? JUST LIKE THAT?

YUP. CAN'T TRUST A JURY TO DO ANYTHING RIGHT NOWADAYS. JURY OF PEERS, MY ASS.

MOVED INTO HIS PARENTS' OLD PLACE LIKE IT WAS NOTHING.



A PUBLISHER PAID HIM A HEFTY ADVANCE TO WRITE A BOOK.

BUT MOST OF THE MONEY IS GOING TO CIVIL SUITS AND PROTECTION.



WE KEEP AN OFFICER ON THE FREAK AT ALL TIMES IN CASE HE EVER...



STARTS UP AGAIN.



THAT'S AH... THAT'S UNDERSTANDABLE.



HE HOME?

YUP.



YOU REALLY THINK CARROLL MIGHT HAVE FIGURED OUT WHY SO MANY SERIAL KILLERS CAME FROM BUCKAROO?

DOESN'T MATTER TO ME. I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHERE MY FRIEND IS. MAKE SURE HE'S SAFE.



WELL, MAYBE CARROLL'S GOOD OLD BUDDY HERE WILL HAVE SOME ANSWERS.

KNOCK KNOCK



ONE MOMENT, PLEASE!



AW, C'MON.

THUP THUD



HOLD YOUR HORSES. HOLD YOUR HORSES, I'M COMIN', I'M COMIN'.



GOT A ROAST IN THE OVEN.

WASN'T EXPECTING VISITORS. BUT DON'T WORRY...



THERE'S ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE.



TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT ISSUE



06-04-14

WHAT MAKES A SERIAL KILLER?

That is a question that has bothered me for as long as I can remember. What makes a person just decide one day that they are going to go out and kill a bunch of people? Is it nature, or nurture? Is it one big thing or countless small things?

With Nailbiter we hope to tell a story that dives into that world. That explores the mind of a killer though the people around them. And at the same time have fun with horror tropes in the comic book medium. To say this book means a lot to myself and the team would be an understatement. We hope that you are along for the crazy bloody ride.

Oh, and we need a name for this space. Our letters page. Any ideas?

-Joshua Williamson

ALTERNATE COVERS OF ISSUE ONE:

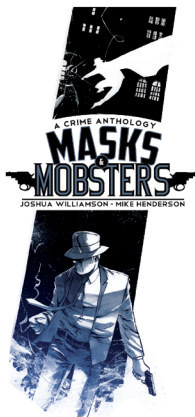
MIKE HENDERSON COVER
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WRITTEN: JOSHUA WILLIAMSON
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When Mob enforcer Bobby Silver killed masked hero Doctor Daylight in cold blood it sent shockwaves through the Masked community. Now in the eyes of the heroes, the mob is their #1 enemy, and its war!

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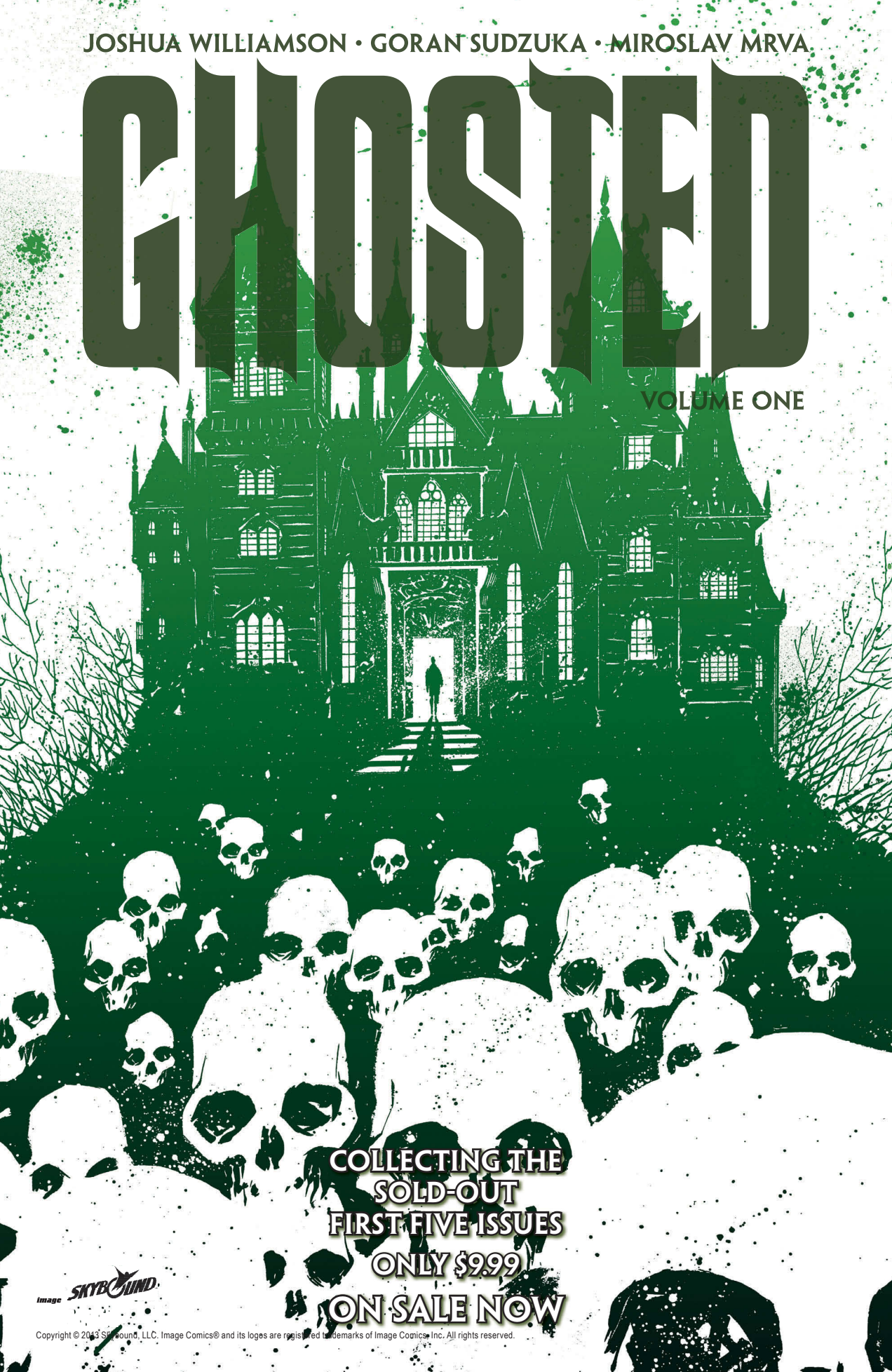
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GHOSTED

VOLUME ONE



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Image **SKYBOUND**

*"If Josh died I wish he'd leave
NAILBITER to me in his will so I
could say it was my idea."*

-SCOTT SNYDER
*(SEVERED, Batman,
American Vampire)*

**Joshua Williamson (*Ghosted*) & Mike Henderson
(*Venom*, *TMNT*) deliver a mystery that mixes
TWIN PEAKS with the horror of *SE7EN*!**

Buckaroo, Oregon has given birth to sixteen of the vilest serial killers in the world. An obsessed FBI profiler investigating the town has suddenly gone missing, and now an NSA Agent must work with the notorious serial killer Edward "Nailbiter" Warren to find his friend and solve the mystery of "Where do serial killers come from?"



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