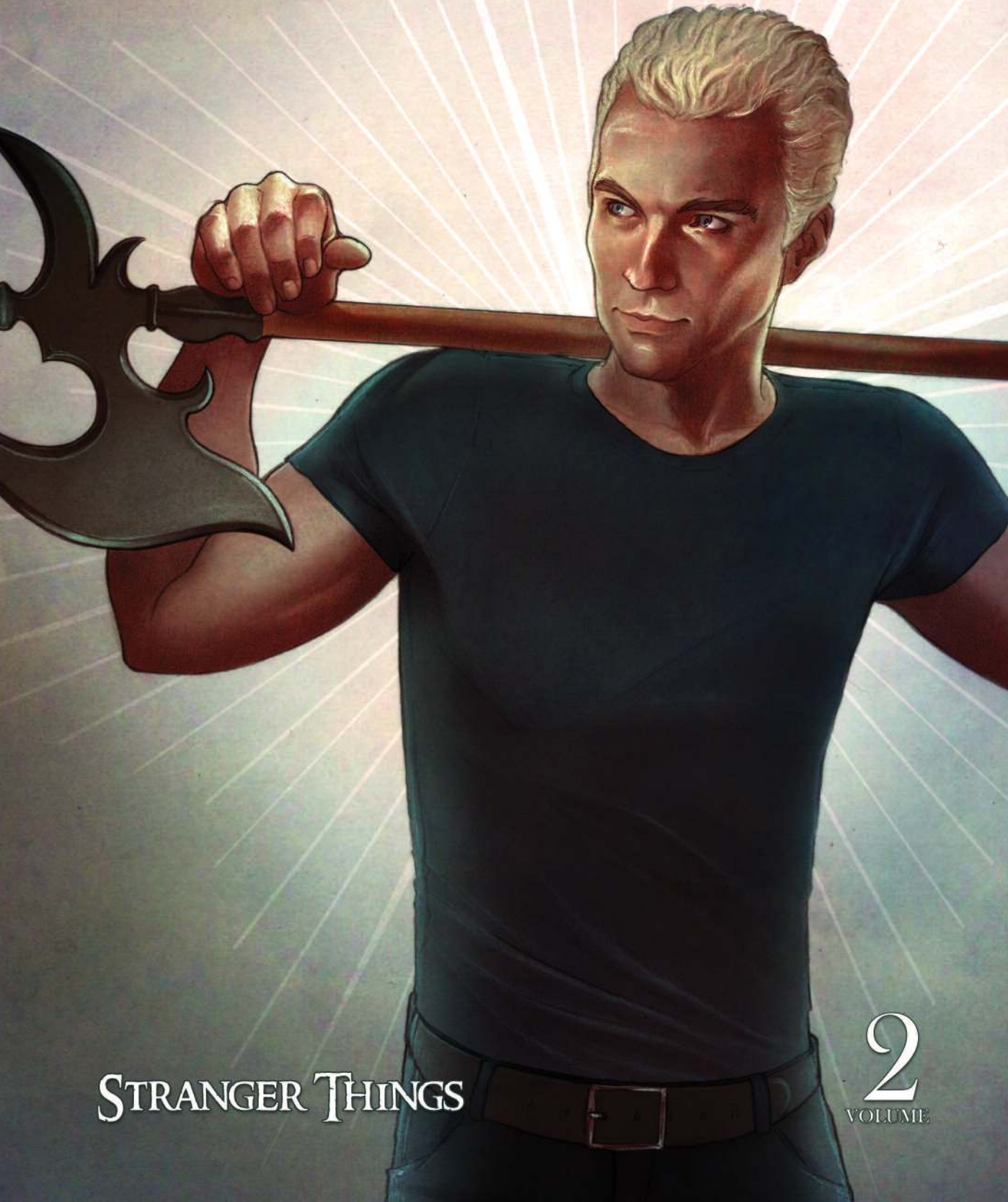


# SPILKRE



STRANGER THINGS

2  
VOLUME

# SPIKE™

STRANGER THINGS  
VOLUME 2





# SPIKE™

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GEORGE! YOU'RE AWAKE, THANK GOD! YOU'VE MISSED SO MUCH. THAT LADY DRUSILLA? SHE'S AN EX-GIRLFRIEND OF SPIKE. BUT NOT THE "I HOPE WE CAN REMAIN FRIENDS" KINDA EX, WE'RE TALKING FULL-ON "RESTRAINING ORDER, CHANGE YOUR BUNNIES ON LOCK-DOWN OR THEY'RE GONNA BE SO BOILED—"

I KNOW.

I LOOKED INTO HER. I TOOK A TRIP THROUGH THE UNFUNHOUSE THAT IS DRUSILLA'S HEAD, AND I KNOW WHAT SHE IS.

BUT SPIKE—

SPIKE WAS WITH HER, SIDE BY SIDE, BECK, SLAUGHTERING HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE. I SAW WHAT HE DID. I FELT IT—

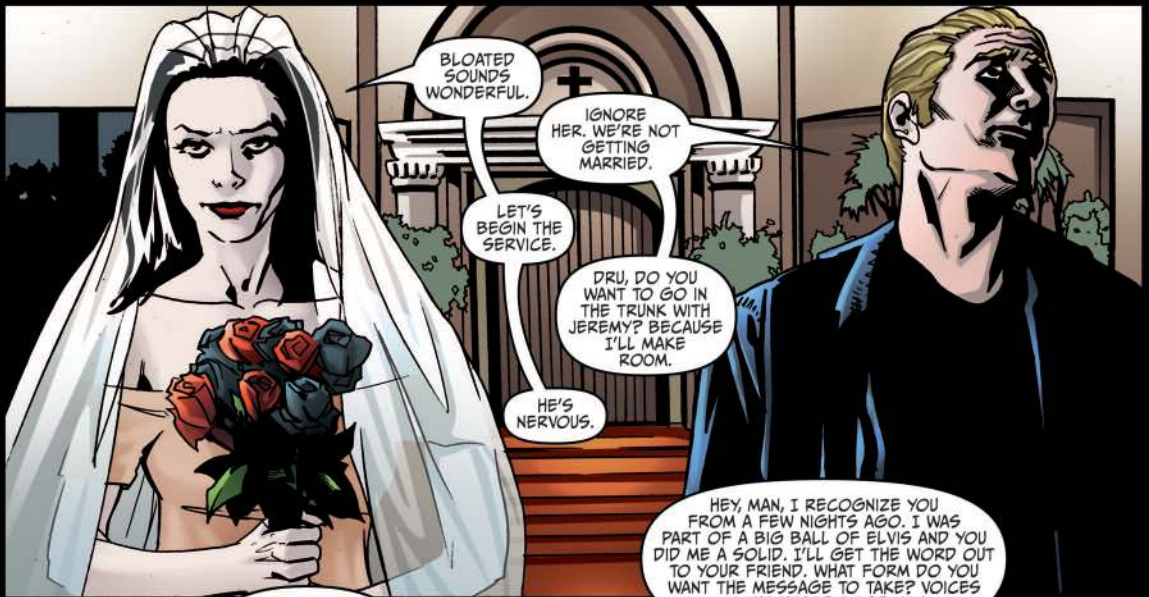
—WE NEED TO GET AS FAR AWAY AS POSSIBLE.



SO A-HUH A-HUH YOU ALL WANNA MAKE IT OFFICIAL?



GOOD ON YOU, LOVE IS GRAND, BABY. YOU WANT THE EARLY ELVIS SERVICE, OR THE LATER ELVIS SUPER-BLOATED CELEBRATION, COMPLETE WITH BANANAS AND PEANUT-BUTTER WEDDING CAKE? I'D GO WITH THE BLOATED ELVIS. IT'S MORE SPECIAL AND EXPENSIVE.



BLOATED SOUNDS WONDERFUL.

IGNORE HER, WE'RE NOT GETTING MARRIED.

LET'S BEGIN THE SERVICE.

DRU, DO YOU WANT TO GO IN THE TRUNK WITH JEREMY? BECAUSE I'LL MAKE ROOM.

HE'S NERVOUS.

HEY, MAN, I RECOGNIZE YOU FROM A FEW NIGHTS AGO. I WAS PART OF A BIG BALL OF ELVIS AND YOU DID ME A SOLID. I'LL GET THE WORD OUT TO YOUR FRIEND. WHAT FORM DO YOU WANT THE MESSAGE TO TAKE? VOICES IN THE HEAD? DOG? YOU NAME IT.



LOOK MATE, I'VE ASKED AROUND, I'M WELL AWARE THAT YOU'RE NOT JUST A PREACHER OR A VERY BAD ELVIS IMPERSONATOR. YOU'RE ALSO CAPABLE OF CONJURING, PROJECTING, AND YOU CAN DO IT LOW-KEY. WE NEED YOU TO GET WORD OUT TO SOMEONE FAR AWAY. DISTRESS SIGNAL, IF YOU WILL. WE CAN PAY—

I WON'T KILL YOU.

—WHICH IS FINE PAYMENT, BUT WE NEED YOU TO DO IT WITHOUT ANY HIGHER MAGICKS CATCHING WIND. DEAL?

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE OF HOW BLOODY INSANE THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS WERE.

MAYBE I'VE CRACKED. MAYBE DRU'S DELUSIONS ARE SPREADING TO ME.

MOST LIKELY, I HAVE ANDREW ON THE BRAIN BECAUSE OF WHO I'M CALLING. BUT THE CHOICE OF MESSAGE COMES TO ME IN A BLINK.



HELP ME, WILLOW ROSENBERG, YOU'RE MY ONLY HOPE.



OKAY, THAT WAS DECIDEDLY PATHETIC.

BUT IT'S ME, SPIKE, I KNOW YOU CAN ONLY LISTEN, YOU CAN'T RESPOND TO ME, OR ELSE I'D ASK HOW YOU'RE DOING AND MAKE WITH THE BORING CHITCHAT.

SO I'LL GET RIGHT TO THE POINT.



I NEED YOUR HELP. I HAVE A POSSESSED FRIEND AND I'M TRAPPED IN LAS VEGAS. EVERYONE ON TEAM MOPEY HAS BEEN TAGGED SO THEY'RE USELESS.

NOT EVEN SURE IF ANYONE RECENTLY ASSOCIATED WITH ME CAN MAKE IT THROUGH THE BARRIER CREATED BY AN EVIL CORPORATION KNOWN AS WOLFRAM & HART. IT'S A WHOLE THING, THEY'RE SHITE, I'LL FILL YOU IN.

POINT IS, YOU CAN CROSS THE BARRIER, WITH YOUR HOO-DOO, YOU CAN MAKE IT THROUGH.



AND I'M COMING TO YOU, NOT BUFFY, NOT THE SMART-ASS, NOT DAWN, AND FOR THE LOVE OF ALL THAT IS GOOD, NOT ANDREW. THIS IS STRICTLY FOR YOUR EYES ONLY.

SPEAKING OF, IF THOSE EYES ARE IN FACT SOLID BLACK, PLEASE IGNORE THIS MESSAGE.



BUT IF YOU'RE STILL GOOD, AND AVAILABLE, AND YOU CAN SNEAK AWAY, I'D LIKE... HOW DO I SAY THIS, I'D REALLY APPRECIATE IF YOU COULD CROSS OVER WOLFRAM & HART'S BARRIER AND LEND A HAND. WE'LL BE AT THE LUNAR CYCLE, IT'S A SUPERNATURAL BAR ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF VEGAS, UNTIL CLOSING.

EITHER WAY, WILLOW, I HOPE YOU'RE WELL, I REALLY DO. I HOPE SHE'S OKAY. I EVEN HAVE GOODISH THOUGHTS TOWARDS XANDER. TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF AND HER, TAKE CARE OF HER, IF SHE NEEDS YOU AT ALL, MOVE ALONG AND PRETEND YOU NEVER GOT THIS.

AN HOUR LATER.

SO, YEAH. I'M ABOUT TO TAKE A MEETING.

THOUGHT YOU'D STILL BE OUT. YOU BEHAVE OR I'LL BLOW A WHISTLE ONLY PISSY SUPERNATURAL LAWYERS CAN HEAR.

NO NORMIES

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE DOING! I CAN HELP! I HAVE POWER! AND I'M GETTING TO THE POINT WHERE I'VE HAD ENOUGH. YOU STOP TOSSING ME AROUND, YOU STOP HITTING ME—

AW, COME ON. ONE MORE TIME.

SEE YOU SOON.



FIVE BEERS FOR TABLE THREE. CAN I GET YOU ANYTHING ELSE?



WE SERVE ALL TYPES OF BLOOD.

HUNGRY, TIRED, SPIKE, I WANT TO FEED.

SHE'LL HAVE PIG. I'LL HAVE THE SAME. BUT KEEP THE BEER COMING TOO.



SHE'S NOT COMING. AND IF SHE DOES—

IF SHE DOES, AND YOU TRY ANYTHING, I'LL STAB. SHE'LL FLAY. SIT BACK AND ENJOY THE SHOW ON THE MAIN STAGE, IT'S DISTURBING ENOUGH FOR YOU TO ENJOY.



SPIKE. NOT INTERESTED.

I KNEW IT WAS SPIKE. SAW YOUR MOVIE. YOU WERE A GIRL.

MOVE ALONG.



HATED THAT MOVIE. HATED TWINKLE. HATE THAT YOU SWITCHED SIDES.



WHAT CAN I SAY? YOU'RE NOT ALTOGETHER WRONG IN YOUR OPINIONS. BUT I'M KINDA IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING HERE SO IF YOU WOULDN'T MIND SCURRYING AWAY...

BUT THIS COULD BE LIKE OLD TIMES, SPIKE.

BUT IT'S NOT. AND ANY SCENE WE MAKE WILL ATTRACT ATTENTION. SO *STAY PARKED*.

...DRU, SO HELP ME, DON'T GET UP.



OKAY, SO...

... LOOKS LIKE ATTENTION IS OFFICIALLY BEING ATTRACTED. EVERYONE, RESUME WHAT YOU ARE DOING, GO BACK TO YOUR DRINKING, AND DANCING, AND OOZING...

... ROUND OF DRINKS ON THE SQUID, DOESN'T THAT SOUND—



—UH.

WHAT'S WITH THE GLOWING, AND THE... AND THE FLOATING? IS THIS A FLOOR SHOW?



OH.

SHE DID IT.



DAY IS OFFICIALLY LOOKING UP.

HELLO, WITCH.



OKAY.  
CONSIDER  
ME CROSSED  
OVER.  
WHAT NOW?



SO SHE'S ALRIGHT? YOU'RE SURE SHE DOESN'T NEED YOU RIGHT NOW?

NO, I APPRECIATE IT. I'M SORRY.

SO YOU'RE GOOD.

I HAVE THAT EFFECT ON PEOPLE.

I'M FINE, THANK YOU. JUST SPLIT MY PARTICLES ON A SUB-ATOMIC LEVEL USING AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS SPELL SO I COULD SNEAK IN TO HELP YOU.

A LITTLE TINGLY, SIDE EFFECT OF THE—

—PARTICLE THINGY.



EVERYBODY ELSE IS OKAY? HARRIS, GILES... YOU KEEPING AN EYE ON DAWN?

SHE'S KINDA HARD TO MISS.

AM I NERVOUS? I'M BLOODY NERVOUS. COME ON, ENOUGH SMALL TALK.

BE THE MAN. YOU'RE THE MAN.

SO, ABOUT THE MISSION.



NOPE. NOT DONE WITH THE REUNION. COME ON.

SHE'S LOVING THE AWKWARDNESS.

WAS THAT SO AWFUL?

NOT AT ALL.



NO, IT'S A BLOODY WONDERFUL MOMENT. ALL TINGLY, UNBEATING HEART THREE SIZES LARGER.

GOOD TO SEE YOU, WILL.





WOLFRAM  
& HART—

WELL,  
DUH.  
STAY BEHIND  
ME.

SO CROSS  
THE LINE, SHARP-  
DRESSED MAN.  
LET'S GO.



I ASSURE YOU,  
WE'RE JUST GONNA SEE  
WHAT DRUSILLA MAY HAVE  
POPPED IN HIS ADORABLE  
LITTLE BRAIN, OKAY?  
SO—



CUTE.



PFFFFF







WHAT ARE YOU...?

I WAS FOLLOWING YOU THE ENTIRE TIME. YOU FOUND THEM FOR ME.

THANKS FOR THAT, I MEAN IT.



OKAY, ENEMY COUNT IS DOWN TO "ONE." I CAN HANDLE ONE.

NO. NOT THIS ONE. WE SHOULD...

...WE SHOULD WORRY.



THAT FISH IS A SMART MAN.



BECK, NO! HEAT-SEEKER!





WHERE IS YOUR FRIEND? THE ONE THAT NEEDS... YOU KNOW, VACATING?

IN THE TRUNK.

OF COURSE. SILLY QUESTION, SORRY.



DEMON TELEPATH GIT WHO'S INSIDE MY MATE WORKS FOR AN EVIL LAW FIRM. THEY'VE TURNED UP THE EVIL ALL THE WAY TO 11 IN VEGAS. TELEPATH'S ORIGINAL BODY DIED, AND NOW—

WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU SMILING AT? ARE THE WHEELS TURNING? ARE YOU ABOUT TO ADD "I-S-H" TO SOMETHING?

LOOK AT YOU...



...MAKING FRIENDS, IT'S... INSPIRATIONAL.

WILLOW...

YOU BLOSSOMED ON YOUR OWN. HAVING TEAM-UPS, OBSERVING TRAFFIC SIGNALS, REACHING OUT TO TEAM SCOOBY!



AND SPIKE, YOU HUGGED!

YOU HUGGED.

YOU INDULGED ME! YOU HUGGED BACK! YOU ENJOYED IT!



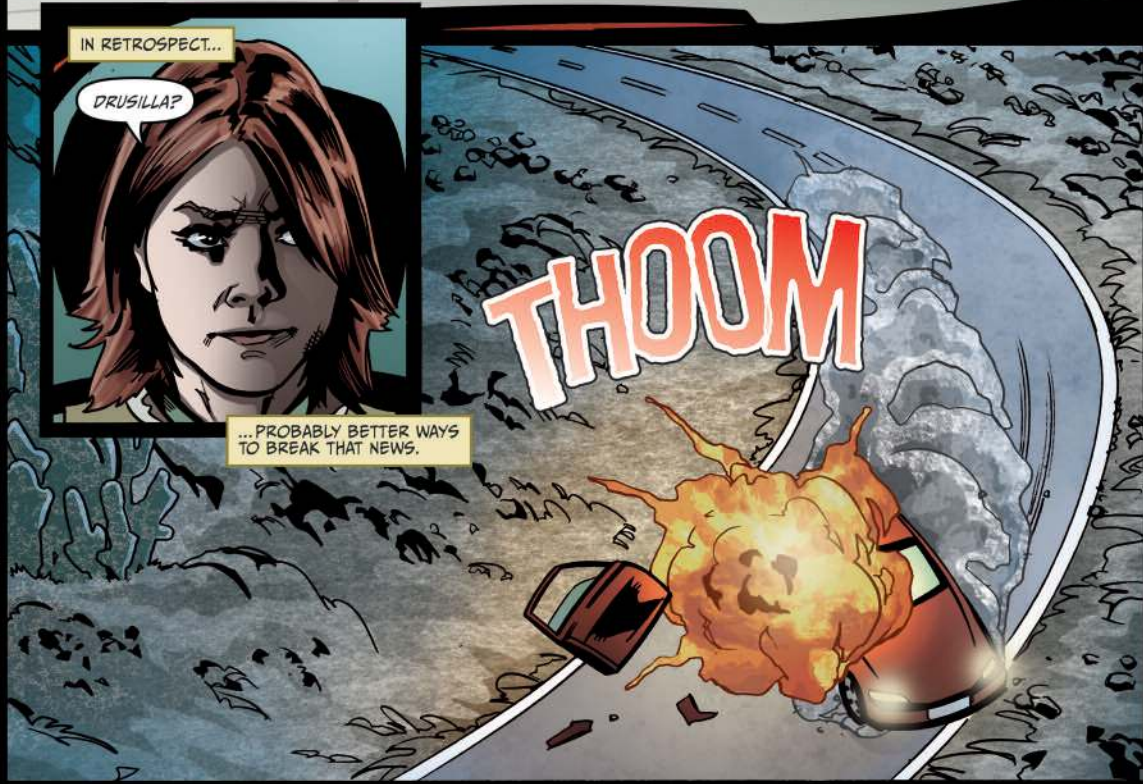
IT'S A WHOLE NEW SPIKE!

SAME SPIKE.



NEWSH SPIKE.  
TOOK A KITTEN AND EVERYTHING.

WELL, IT'S DRUSILLA.



IN RETROSPECT...

DRUSILLA?

...PROBABLY BETTER WAYS TO BREAK THAT NEWS.



I GET IT, I DO. THE REUNION WAS GOING TOO WELL, AND YOU FELT YOU HAD TO MAKE A SICK JOKE SO I WOULDN'T BE SO HAPPY AND TOUCHY-FEELY. JUST LET ME OFF-THE HOOK SO WE CAN MOVE ON.

I WISH I COULD.  
I DO.

THAT WAS WONDERFUL! SPIKE! FOR A MOMENT, I WAS MY OWN MISS EDITH!



IT'S...  
HER.  
OH,  
SPIKE...



LET ME.  
SPIKE,  
LET ME!

NOT HELPIN'  
THE CAUSE  
HERE, DRU...



LET HER GO. LET  
HER AT ME, UNLEASH  
THE PSYCHO, LET'S DO  
THIS. AT LEAST THEN I  
HAVE A REASON FOR  
COMING HERE...

SHE HASN'T  
MURDERED  
ANYONE SINCE  
I FOUND HER.



WHAT IS  
SHE DOING  
HERE?

BIG BADS SENT  
HER TO DISTRACT ME.  
BUT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO  
HELP THE HELPLESS.  
RIGHT? THAT'S WHAT WE  
DO. AND WE'RE ALL  
ABOUT SECOND  
CHANCES.



ANGEL.  
ANDREW.  
FAITH.  
ME.  
YOU.





GOOD.

BETTA GEORGE, RIGHT? I'M ASSUMING YOU WANT TO REACH OUT TO SPIKE. GO AHEAD, BE MY GUEST. I'M GIVING YOU PERMISSION. IN FACT, I'D LIKE TO TALK TO HIM.

NO.



LET ME REPHRASE THAT.



NNNNNNNAAAAARGH.

PUT ME THROUGH TO SPIKE.



GOOD?



NO!  
NO WAY!  
NO!

IT'S GOOD.  
IT'S FITTING.



GOOD, LET'S GET THIS UNDERWAY.

ACTUALLY, THIS'LL BE FUN. HIGH POINT OF THE—

SO. LET ME TELL YOU A LITTLE SOMETHING ABOUT ME.

WHAT THE BLOODY—?!



"I GUESS YOU COULD SAY LIFE REALLY BEGAN AT MY DAD'S OFFICE.



"DAD GOT ME A JOB. I WAS BORED. I WAS BORING.



"I WONDERED WHAT THE CLEANING LADY WOULD SOUND LIKE AS SHE DIED.



"WASN'T THE FIRST TIME I WONDERED.



"BUT IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I BUILT UP ENOUGH COURAGE TO JUST JUMP IN.

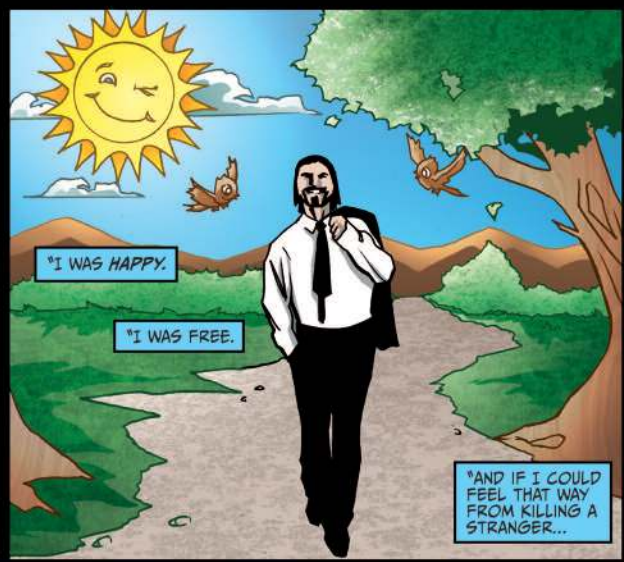


"TURNS OUT, SHE MADE KIND OF A SOBBING NOISE, AND THEN A POP. NO SURPRISES THERE."



"NO, THE SURPRISE CAME FROM ME."

"HOW I FELT."



"I WAS HAPPY."

"I WAS FREE."

"AND IF I COULD FEEL THAT WAY FROM KILLING A STRANGER..."



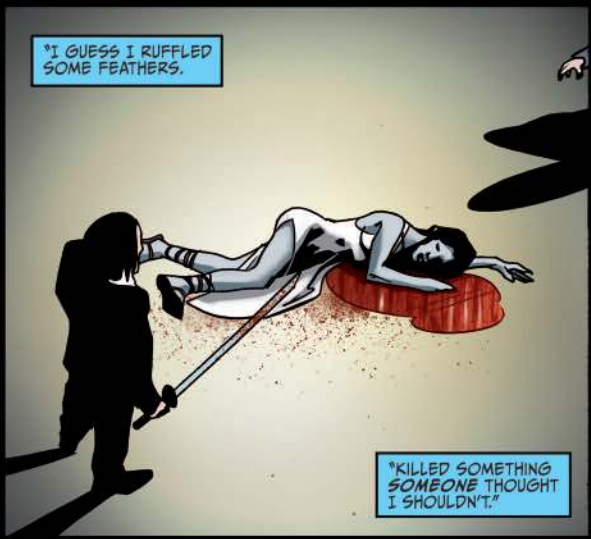
"IMAGINE HOW THRILLING IT WOULD FEEL TO END PEOPLE I ACTUALLY LOVED!"

"MY HUNCH WAS CORRECT, IT WAS WONDERFUL!"




BURNED THROUGH FAMILY MEMBERS PRETTY QUICKLY. I CALLED IT THE HONEYMOON PERIOD. BUT SOON I WAS OUT OF PEOPLE I CARED ABOUT. KILLED BY THE DOZENS. HERDS OF PEOPLE. BOMBS, GUNS, KNIVES, BARE HANDS...

...NEVER REACHED THAT FIRST HIGH. SO I TOOK IT TO THE WORLD OF THE SUPERNATURAL. THAT FIRST KILL, WEREWOLF, I THINK, THAT WAS THRILLING.



"I GUESS I RUFFLED SOME FEATHERS."

"KILLED SOMETHING SOMEONE THOUGHT I SHOULDN'T."



"FOR THE LONGEST TIME, COULDN'T KILL... ANYTHING.

"AND FINALLY I WAS FREED.

"BUT NOT BEFORE...


"...THEY TOOK MY SOUL.

"AFTER THAT, KILLING JUST WASN'T THE SAME.

"I KNEW WHAT I WAS DOING WAS WRONG, BUT THAT FEELING DEEP DOWN THAT GAVE ME THE RUSH... THE ONLY THING THAT *EVER* MADE ME FEEL ALIVE...

"...IT WAS GONE.

"I WAS JUST GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS.



"WOLFRAM & HART FOUND ME AND HELPED ME SEE THE LIGHT. I WAS HELD PRISONER ALL THAT TIME BECAUSE THEY *NEEDED* TO KEEP A BALANCE. SOUL FOR SOUL. RESTORE ONE, MEANS TO TAKE ONE.

"BUT SPIKE, I FOUND A WAY TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT. SURE, YOU'LL LOSE YOUR SOUL IN THE PROCESS, BUT HEY, YOU HAD A GOOD RUN.

"I HAVE THE TOOLS, I HAVE THE ABILITY, I HAVE YOUR FRIENDS DANGLING BY A VERY THIN THREAD.

"SEE YOU SOON, SPIKE."



WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING?

GOTTA BE  
HONEST.  
THIS IS THE  
PART THAT MAY  
HURT A LOT.



WUH WUH

FOR BETTER  
OR FOR WORSE,  
IT'S DONE.

GOOD WORK,  
WITCH.



I DUN  
I DUN



I DUN  
UNDERSTAN.



HANDS! HANDS!  
WHERE ARE MY  
HANDS?  
SOMEBODY!

I'M RIGHT  
HERE. IT'S  
GOING TO BE  
OKAY.



WE'RE KIND OF  
IN A RUSH, SO I'M  
GOING TO HIT YOU  
WITH VERY BIG  
NEWS, VERY VERY  
QUICKLY.

YOU WERE  
A DEMON. YOU  
POSSESSED ONE OF  
SPIKE'S FRIENDS. I  
FLUSHED YOU OUT INTO  
THE NEAREST CORPSE,  
WHICH, AND THIS IS  
AWKWARD, WAS  
ROADKILL.



I'M REALLY SORRY!  
JUST, YOU KNOW, UNDER  
A BIT OF A TIME CRUNCH.  
BUT YOU STILL HAVE  
MENTAL POWERS,  
RIGHT?

GO TO  
HELL.

IF A TELEPATHIC  
DEAD SNAKE IS GONNA  
MAKE IT ANYWHERE, IT'S  
LAS VEGAS! OH, YOU DON'T  
WANT TO JOIN SPIKE'S  
TEAM, DO YOU?

AGAIN, GO  
TO HELL.



WHAT HAPPENED?



EASY, JEREMY.

YOU WERE ABDUCTED BY WOLFRAM & HART. A DEMON POSSESSED YOU TO GET TO ME. AN OLD FRIEND DROPPED IN TO GET YOU YOUR BODY BACK.

YEAH. A VERY TELLING STATEMENT ABOUT OUR FRIENDSHIP IS THAT'S WHAT I FIGURED.

NOT DONE YET, MATE. OTHER FRIENDS OF MINE WERE NABBED BY A PSYCHOPATH WHO HAD HIS SOUL REMOVED IN WHAT HE FIGURES IS SOME KINDA INSANE COSMIC BALANCE FOR ME GETTING MY SOUL.

WE'RE ABOUT TO THROW DOWN AND RESCUE ME, THE WITCH, AND AN EX-GIRLFRIEND. LAST ONE IS ALSO THE CURRENT LOVER OF THE PSYCHOPATH IN QUESTION SO THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE SOME BACKSTABBING WILL OCCUR.



'KAY SAY, MAYBE NEXT TIME WE SEE EACH OTHER, WE CAN JUST GET COFFEE.



SO WHEN ARE WE LEAVING? LET'S GO SAVE YOUR FRIENDS.



NO, YOU'RE NOT UP FOR IT. BESIDES, SOMEONE PUNCHED YOU A LOT WHILE YOU WERE POSSESSED, WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE OKAY. WE'RE DROPPING YOU OFF AT A HOSPITAL. OR GAS STATION, WHATEVER'S CLOSEST —

NO. I CAN HELP. I'M GOING. WAIT, IS ILLYRIA HERE?

NO.

I CAN HELP. I'M GOING.



WILLOW,  
JEREMY, HE'S  
COMING  
WITH.

ANY  
POWER?

UH, I KINDA  
KNOW SOME  
KARATE.



IF YOU WANT A XANDER  
ON YOUR TEAM, THAT'S FINE.  
THAT'S SWEET, AND WE'LL NEED  
HELP BECAUSE THE SWITCHAROO  
LEFT ME WINDED. BUT WE'RE  
NOT BRINGING HER.

I KNOW. I TOLD  
YOU NOT TO TELL HER  
YOU WERE COMING HERE.  
DID YOU TELL HER... WILL,  
I DON'T WANT TO SEE  
HER, NOT NOW...

NOT HER.

HER.



YOU GUYS HAVE  
AN OLD-FRIEND  
SHORTHAND THAT'S  
REALLY ENDEARING  
AND ALIENATING.

I'LL KEEP AN  
EYE ON DRU. SHE'LL  
BE FINE. THIS IS THE  
NEW SPIKE, I'M  
IN CONTROL.



DRUSILLA!  
OVER  
HERE!



DRUSILLA, YOU  
STICK CLOSE. YOU DO  
WHAT I SAY. ANYTHING  
YOU DO TO ANYONE ON  
OUR SIDE, I'LL DO TO YOU  
TEN-FOLD. THAT WAS  
NOT INNUENDO.

I'LL  
BE CHURCH-  
GIRL GOOD.



ONE  
THING.  
WHY ARE YOU  
SO BLOODY  
HAPPY?



I KILLED  
THAT SNAKE.  
HE WAS A  
BAD MAN.

HE POPPED INTO  
MY HEAD WHILE I WAS  
DOING IT. PLEADING  
AND ANGRY, IT WAS  
LOVELY.



RIGHT.  
OKAY  
THEN.



SO OUR TIME IN  
VEGAS LASTED EVEN  
SHORTER THAN OUR  
TIME IN LOS ANGELES.  
ROUND OF APPLAUSE,  
EVERYONE.



YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO  
DO A SLOW ROLL-OUT. BUILD  
THE POWER. MAKE CONNECTIONS  
AND INTIMIDATE THE NEIGHBORS.  
WELL, FLASH-FORWARD FIVE  
MINUTES LATER, AND THE PLACE  
IS BARELY STANDING.

WHEN  
THEY OPENED  
DISNEYLAND IN  
1955, NOTHING  
WORKED...

YOU GOT  
PUMMELED FROM AN  
INSIDE HIRE! AND THEN  
THE VAMPIRE'S SIDEKICK  
TORCHED THE PLACE.  
THAT'S A BEATDOWN  
FROM THE SIDEKICK  
OF A SIDEKICK.

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a dark blue suit and a red scarf, leans forward with her hands on a dark, reflective table. She has a stern, intense expression. In the background, there is a window with a view of a city skyline and a framed chart on the wall. The chart shows a bar graph with a red bar on the left and a taller blue bar on the right. The room has a wood-paneled wall.

SO THIS IS  
WHERE YOU EACH  
TELL ME WHY YOU  
THINK YOU DESERVE  
TO MOVE ON.

BECAUSE, LADIES,  
GENTLEMEN, WHATEVER  
YOU ARE WITH THE FING,  
WOLFRAM & HART IS  
MOVING ON IN WAYS  
THAT WOULD BLOW  
YOUR TINY LITTLE  
MINDS.

SO, PRINT YOUR  
RESUMES AND GRAB  
YOUR CLIENT ROSTER,  
BECAUSE, ONE AT A TIME,  
YOU'RE HEADING INTO MY  
OFFICE AND YOU'RE  
GOING TO ARGUE FOR  
YOUR EXISTENCE, ARE  
WE CLEAR?

HERE'S  
WHERE YOU  
SAY "YES, MISS  
MORGAN."

YES, MISS  
MORGAN.



SIGH.  
THAT WAS A  
WONDERFUL  
MURDER, AND I  
FELT NOTHING.



YOU SAW IT,  
RIGHT? IT WAS  
HORRIBLE. I GUTTED  
THE BASTARD AND I'M STILL  
NUMB. MY SOUL WOULD  
GIVE THE HEART A LITTLE  
JUMP, A LITTLE "YOU  
SHOULDN'T BE DOING  
THIS," A SLAP ON THE  
WRIST FOR A JOB  
WELL DONE.

BUT NOW,  
WELL... KIND OF A  
KICK TO WATCH, BUT  
IT FELT LIKE A THIRD  
PARTY WAS HAVING  
ALL THE FUN.



WE GOT IN  
SPIKE'S HEAD,  
RIGHT? YOU DID  
YOUR JOB...?

IF SPIKE  
DOESN'T COME  
THROUGH THOSE  
DOORS IN THE NEXT  
FIVE MINUTES...

YOUR EXPOSITION  
AND GOOGLE MAP  
DIRECTIONS TO LAIR  
DE LOON IS SIGNED,  
SEALED AND  
DELIVERED.



... LET'S KILL THE  
FIRESTARTER. WHAT DO  
YOU SAY? OH, FISH, USE  
YOUR POWER TO FILL ME  
WITH HER FEAR.

SHE'S NOT  
AFRAID.

SHE'S YOUNG  
AND NAIVE.

I AM, YEAH.  
BUT I'VE BEEN  
THROUGH A LOT  
WITH SPIKE.

AND EVERY  
TIME, NO MATTER  
HOW BAD IT  
LOOKS...

... SPIKE'S  
FINE, AND THE  
BLOWHARD VILLAIN  
FLAVOR OF THE MONTH  
IS LEFT WONDERING  
HOW HIS BEST-LAID  
PLANS COULD HAVE  
GONE SO TERRIBLY  
WRONG. AND THEN  
HE USUALLY  
DIES.

SO, YOU'LL  
FORGIVE ME IF  
I'M MORE CALM  
THAN YOU'D  
LIKE.



I LIKE THE ATTITUDE, I DO.  
SILENCING YOU? SHOWING YOU HOW WRONG YOU ARE? MIGHT BE THE SPARK I CRAVE.



TOSS OUT THE FIVE-MINUTE RULE.  
I'M THIRSTY FOR IT NOW.



JOHN!

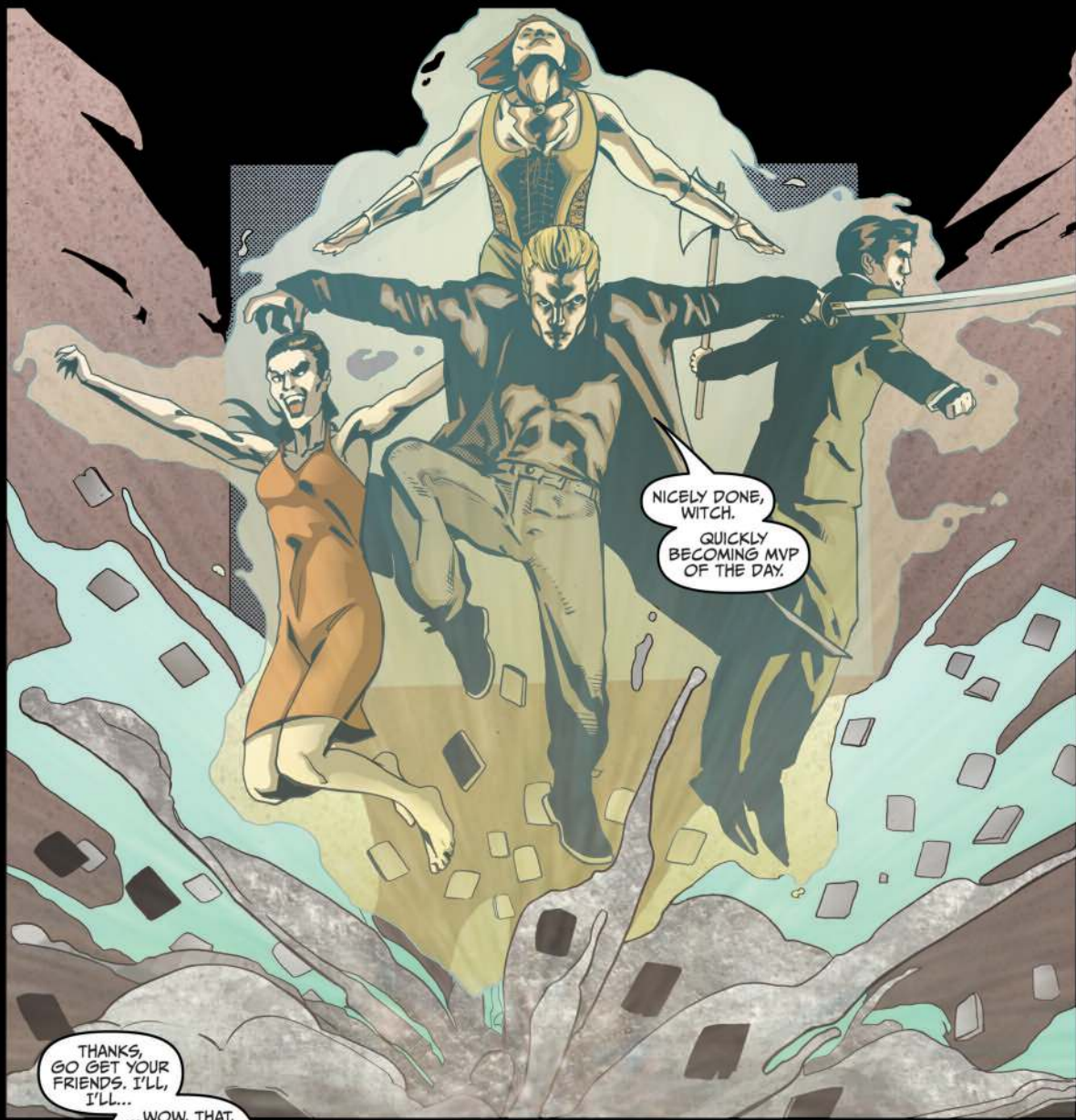


HEH. WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT.

I MAY HAVE WARNED HIM NOT TO USE THE DOOR. I MAY HAVE TOLD HIM TO GO UNDERGROUND.



JOHN'S PLANS, ALMOST INSTANTLY DOWN THE DRAIN.  
JOHN, BUDDY. PREPARE TO BE ONE OF MANY.



NICELY DONE, WITCH. QUICKLY BECOMING MVP OF THE DAY.

THANKS, GO GET YOUR FRIENDS. I'LL, I'LL...

...WOW, THAT, THAT DID A NUMBER. OH, IT'S BEEN A DAY.

JEREMY! STAY BY HER SIDE!

DRUSILLA, YOU WATCH THEM. YOU PROTECT THEM LIKE YOU'D PROTECT ME.

I WILL.

GOOD GIRL.

DRU...

UP AND LEFT YOU, HUH? MATE, I'VE BEEN THERE. YOU SURE YOU WANT TO PUT YOURSELF THROUGH WHAT COMES NEXT? I CAN'T STAND THE SIGHT OF YOU, AND EVEN I FEEL HORRIBLE FOR WHAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN TO YOU.





SORRY, JUST...

D dragging some memories front and center. Why?

I took a trip through pre-souled William back during your Drusilla and Clyde days.

AH.



YOU WANT TO SEE SOMETHING THAT COUNTERS WHAT I DID. YOU WANT TO SEE IF YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY THAT I'M HERE.

NO, YOU... WELL...

FINE...



FIGURED I BUILT UP ENOUGH CREDIT WITH YOU TO TRUST ME, BUT YOU GOTTA DO WHAT YOU GOTTA DO. BUT DO YOU MIND WAITING UNTIL AFTER THE EVIL IS VANQUISHED? THAT OKAY WITH YOU?

NO, DON'T TAKE ANOTHER STEP!

AW COME ON, FISH! I'VE SAVED YOU COUNTLESS TIMES—



DAMMIT, SPIKE! LOOK DOWN!



AH.



THIS IS YOUR PLAN? TRAP DOOR? TRAP DOOR? INSPIRED.

LAUGH IT UP. MADE THE PROPER ARRANGEMENTS, KILLED THE NECESSARY GODS.

GO ON, STEP ON IT, SPIKE! OR I'LL DRAG YOU OVER IT MYSELF—



UH-HUH.



BECK! WHAT SAY YOU BRING THE HOUSE DOWN, HM, LOVE?

POWER DAMPENERS. MORE POWERFUL THAN MOSAIC'S. GONNA BE A BIT BEFORE I CAN LIGHT UP.





FIND A SAFE PLACE TO HIDE, PET. THIS WILL ALL BE OVER SOON.



NO.





JEREMY, SPIKE NEEDS US! DRUSILLA, GO WORK YOUR CRAZY, SAVE YOUR EX!



GUYS?



NO!



LET IT HAPPEN. SPIKE NEEDS IT OUT.

I KNOW MY SOUL ISN'T GOING TO BE RESTORED OR ANYTHING. THAT'S ASKING TOO MUCH OF YOU. WELL AWARE THAT I WON'T FEEL THE SAME AGAIN.

BUT KNOWING YOU WON'T EITHER. MAYBE THAT'LL BE ENOUGH. MAYBE IT'LL LIGHT A SPARK WITHIN. WISHFUL THINKING? COULD BE.



DON'T FIGHT IT. THIS IS HOW YOU SHOULD BE.

WHO KNOWS...



...MAYBE WE CAN BE FRIENDS.



NFFF—

OH. OH, I KNOW THIS.





BEFORE I MET HER...

... EVEN AFTER I KNEW HER...

... I DID TERRIBLE THINGS.



BUT SHE MADE ME WANT TO BE BETTER.

THE EVIL WAS STRONG. HEART WAS STRONGER.



BEFORE IT WAS OFFICIAL. BEFORE THE GODDAMNED VOODOO.

I WAS GOOD.

THAT GLOWY BALL. THAT THING YOU'VE HAD A HARD-ON TO TEAR FROM ME? HANG IT ON YOUR WALL. BRONZE IT. I DON'T NEED IT.



SPIKE...



... YOU CHOOSE.



I KNOW, WILL. DIDN'T YOU HEAR THE SPEECH?

NO. NOT FIGURATIVE. LITERAL. YOU CHOOSE.

JOHN DID HIS HOMEWORK, BUT HE DIDN'T GET AN A. MY POINT IS...



GIVE TO ME! MAKE ME WHOLE! SPIKE, I WILL KILL HER, I SWEAR!

... YOU LOST YOUR SOUL.

YOU CHOOSE WHO GETS THEIRS.

TAKE IT BACK, SPIKE. HE'S GONNA KILL ME EITHER WAY. YOU GIVE IT TO HIM, IT JUST MEANS HE'LL ENJOY IT.



GIVE IT TO HER.

GIVE IT TO DRUSILLA.

NO! GODDAMN IT, NO!



SO PRETTY.





NERVOUS?



I'M ALONE  
IN AN OFFICE WITH A  
DEAD WOLFRAM & HART  
EXECUTIVE. I HAVE AN  
UNIMPRESSIVE PORTFOLIO.  
AND THE OTHER BOARD  
MEMBERS—



THE OTHER  
BOARD MEMBERS  
WERE WORSE THAN  
YOU. THEIR CLIENT  
ROSTER WAS PATHETIC,  
AND THEY GAVE  
HORRIBLE  
INTERVIEW.

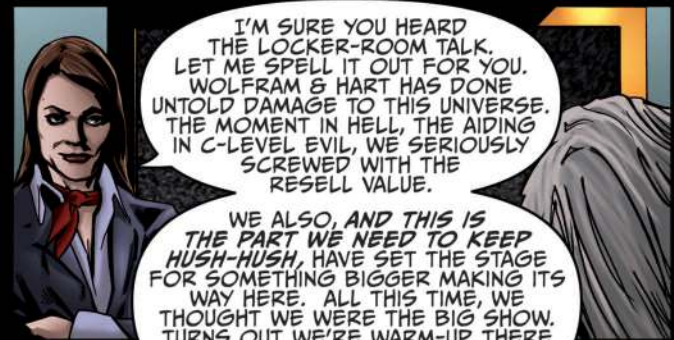
"SO WE HAD TO LET THEM GO."



BESIDES, MR...?

CLIFTON. & H

BESIDES, MR. CLIFTON, YOUR SPECIALTY IS CROSS-DIMENSIONAL COMMUNICATIONS. ALTERNATE LIFEFORMS.



I'M SURE YOU HEARD THE LOCKER-ROOM TALK. LET ME SPELL IT OUT FOR YOU. WOLFRAM & HART HAS DONE UNTOLD DAMAGE TO THIS UNIVERSE. THE MOMENT IN HELL, THE AIDING IN C-LEVEL EVIL, WE SERIOUSLY SCREWED WITH THE RESELL VALUE.

WE ALSO, AND THIS IS THE PART WE NEED TO KEEP HUSH-HUSH, HAVE SET THE STAGE FOR SOMETHING BIGGER MAKING ITS WAY HERE. ALL THIS TIME, WE THOUGHT WE WERE THE BIG SHOW. TURNS OUT WE'RE WARM-UP. THERE ARE BIG CHANGES COMING, AND WE'RE, TO BE BLUNT, NOT A PART OF IT.



SO WE'RE GETTING OFF THE STAGE. WE'RE MOVING ON.



AND MR. CLIFTON, THIS IS BIGGER THAN ANYTHING WE'VE TRIED BEFORE. STEP ONE-



-FINDING THE PROPER EXIT STRATEGY.





YES, WE KNOW. THAT'S WHY WE WANT IT.

YOU... WANT IT?

WELL, I DON'T.



I'M NOT GOING TO USE IT. BUT THEY SAID I GET THE BALL ROLLING ON THIS, AND I'M FREE.

SO YES, I WANT THEM TO GET IT. AND WE NEED YOU TO STEP ON UP AND SPEARHEAD THE TAKEOVER.

I, UH, WE'D NEED POWER TO BRING THAT THING TO US.

GOT IT. NEXT?



IT WOULD HAVE TO BE AT EXACTLY THE RIGHT PLACE. WE'RE TALKING EXACT COORDINATES—

UH-HUH.



OH. OH.

YEP. IT'S AT ONCE ENDEARING AND CREEPY HOW EXCITED YOU ARE RIGHT NOW.

SO.

I STEPPED ON A SEAL.

AS THESE THINGS GO, MY SOUL WAS RIPPED OUT OF ME.

FELT... TINGLY. STILL A CHAMPION, NOT THE POINT.



THE WITCH KNOWS HER MAGIC.

JOHN WANTED HIS SOUL BACK SO HE COULD ENJOY THE THRILL OF THE KILL AGAIN.

I GAVE THE SOUL...

SHE KNOWS THAT WHATEVER THE VODOO BEHIND IT (DON'T KNOW, DON'T CARE) ALSO ALLOWS ME TO REWARD SOMEONE.

I DIDN'T GO OUT THAT DOOR.

"GIVE A SOUL, TAKE A SOUL."



...TO DRUSILLA.



DEEP DEEP DEEP, RIPPING EVERYTHING, EVERYTHING APART, EVERYTHING TO RIBBONS  
FAR INSIDE, BURNING, IT'S BURNING, PLUCK IT OUT, LIFT THE STONE, DROWNING





YOU SAVED YOUR FRIEND. SHE WAS ATTACKING JEREMY, SPIKE. YOU DID WHAT YOU HAD TO DO.



TAKE IT, WITCH.



MAKE IT GO AWAY...

...PLUCK IT OUT, MAKE ME WHOLE!

NO NO NO TOUCHING—



OKAY. UH, SO ANY DEMONS THAT NEED EXPLODING? I CAN, I CAN GO OUTSIDE, MAKE SURE THE, THE WHAT'S THE WORD, PERIMETER IS DEMON-FREE, SOMEONE TAG IN, PLEASE.

**FWUM!?**



OF COURSE, WOLFRAM & HART DIDN'T WANT HER TOO ALTERED. IF SHE WASN'T THE DRUSILLA YOU KNEW, SHE COULDN'T PROPERLY SCREW WITH YOU LIKE THEY WANTED, SO THEY SLIPPED HER THE MEDS—

BUT SHE FOUGHT IT, SHE WAS SLIPPING, BUT SHE WAS HOLDING ON.



ONCE I TOOK CARE OF YOU, I WAS GOING TO BRING THAT DRUSILLA BACK. I WAS GOING TO SAVE HER.

BUT NOW—



—LOOK AT HER.



YOU KNOCKED DRUSILLA RIGHT BACK DOWN.



YOU DESTROYED HER ALL OVER AGAIN.







SO. BECK.

REMEMBER YOUR ANNOYING BLUSTER ABOUT SPIKE TAKING ME DOWN?

HOW'D THAT GO?

WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU POINTING AT?

WHAM!



I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU WIN. DRUSILLA DESERVES A—



AAAAGH—

WOW, MATE, HEARING YOU TALK, REALLY MAKES THINGS CLEAR. AND STOP PLAYING WHITE KNIGHT. YOU'RE A KILLER, MOANING ON ABOUT ANOTHER KILLER.



NNNNG—



I'M SORRY SHE'S BROKEN. I'M SORRY FOR WHAT WE DID ALL THOSE YEARS. I'M SORRY IT TOOK SO LONG TO FIGHT MY WAY BACK. I'M SORRY THEY MADE YOU THINK WE'RE CONNECTED. I'M SORRY WOLFRAM & HART TEAMED YOU UP TO GET UNDER MY SKIN.



I'M  
SORRY...  
...BUT I  
CAN'T TAKE  
IT BACK.



IT HAPPENED.  
LET'S ALL  
AGREE TO STOP  
WHINING ABOUT  
IT.



WHY DID I THINK I CAN HELP? SUCH A DAMSEL IN DISTRESS, IT'S SICKENING. EVEN MONEY, NEXT ADVENTURE I'M TIED TO RAILROAD TRACKS.

YOU'VE BEEN POSSESSED FOR DAYS, YOU FOUGHT DEMONS, AND THEN YOU GOT BITTEN BY A VAMPIRE.

I'D SAY YOU'RE DOING ABOVE AND BEYOND, JEREMY.

OOOOOH—



NEVER GOING TO BE RIGHT—  
DONE CAN'T BE UNDONE—  
DONE CAN'T BE UNDONE...



THEY'RE LAUGHING AT ME! UP THERE, THEY MOCK ME.

JUST STAY PUT, DRU—

THEY KNOW I'LL NEVER BE WELCOME.



NAILS DUG DEEP, BUT DRAGGING AND SCRAPING, YOU.

ARE YOU TALKING TO ME OR SOMEONE ONLY YOU CAN SEE?



YOU, WILLOW. TELL ME SOMETHING—



COLD. DEAD.  
MADE THEM  
THAT WAY.

I PUSHED  
SPIKE AWAY.

WILL I  
FORGET ABOUT  
THEM? I HAVE  
TIME, I HAVE ALL  
THE TIME.





WON'T DO.  
WON'T DO.



FELT  
BAD ABOUT  
THAT.

DON'T  
WANT TO.



GIT'S NEW, OBVIOUSLY.

HAD MY REVELATION.

SAW THE LIGHT.

HE GOT ME THERE,  
GRATEFUL FOR THAT.

THAT'S USUALLY WHEN  
THEY STAY DOWN.

REALLY WISH JOHN GOT THE  
MEMO ON THIS, SO I CAN BE  
DONE WITH HIM. WANT TO  
MOVE ON AND TEND TO DRU.



KEEP IT COMING, VAMPIRE.

NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO ME WILL MAKE ME STOP.

I CAN WAIT YOU OUT.



HOW MANY STICKERS YOU HAVE UP THOSE SLEEVES, JOHNNY BOY? DOWNRIGHT IMPRESSIVE.

AND BY THE WAY, "WAITING ME OUT"? OBVIOUSLY HAVEN'T REACHED THE CHAPTER ON IMMORTALITY IN THE BIG BOOK OF VAMPIRE, BUT ALLOW ME TO SPOIL IT FOR YOU—



WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?

NOT GOING BACK TO HELL, ARE WE? THAT WAS A BLOODY HASSLE.



VEGAS.

WOLFRAM & HART MAKING A MOVE WHILE JOHN AND DRU DISTRACT.

PLAN'S REALLY COMING TOGETHER. GOOD ON THEM.







DRU, I-

DON'T WANT TO TALK TO YOU. JUST WANT IT OUT.



SAY MY NAME, LOVE.



SPIKE.

SOUL'S RESTORED. FRIENDS SAVED.  
SHOULD FEEL BETTER THAN IT DOES.

WILLOW OFFERS  
TO TAKE DRUSILLA  
WITH HER ON THE  
WAY OUT.

GO HERE.  
BEST NOT TO  
TELL THEM THAT  
I SENT YOU.

YOU DON'T  
NEED ME  
TO—?

GO HOME.  
CHECK IN WITH  
SERGEANT  
SUMMERS.

SPEAKING  
OF, SPIKE...

...SHE  
KNOWS  
YOU'RE  
ALIVE.

SHE ASKED  
AROUND, A LOT.  
KICKED IN MANY  
DOORS.

SAID SHE  
HAD TO MAKE  
SURE.

SO DON'T WORRY,  
I'LL TELL HER YOU  
WERE A GREAT LEADER.  
A TRUE CHAMPION. I'LL  
PAINT QUITE THE  
PICTURE.

WILL—

LET'S  
KEEP THIS  
BETWEEN  
US.

THIS  
WAS OUR  
THING.





OH, WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE AGAIN?

SO WHERE TO NOW?

IT HAPPENED. LET'S AGREE TO STOP WHINING ABOUT IT. SERIOUSLY, DUDE, I'M GETTING THAT EMBROIDERED ONTO A PILLOW.

SO LET'S HEAD BACK INTO HOTEL WOLFRAM & HART AND ASK THEM ABOUT THE LIGHT SHOW.  
ALRIGHT, THEN.



MINUTES LATER...

SO WHERE IS IT?

IT'LL TAKE A WHILE.



IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A TRANSDIMENSIONAL SNATCH AND GRAB.



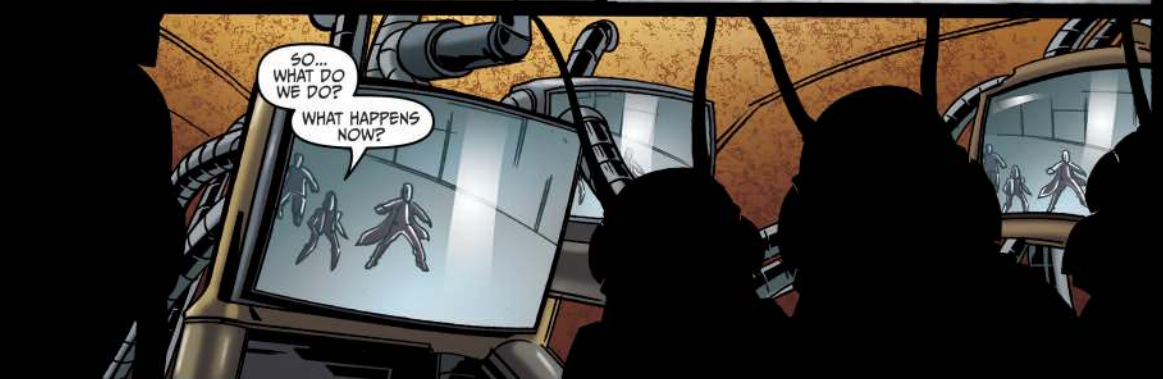
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HOURS OF UNRELENTING TORTURE IF YOU'RE WRONG.

OH, ADDED BONUS. THEY'RE HERE.

SPIKE?

YOU WISH.





CHAPTER 4  
"STRANGER THINGS"

I'VE LED A LONG LIFE.



I'VE SEEN A LOT.

BLACK PLAGUE?  
FRONT-ROW SEAT.

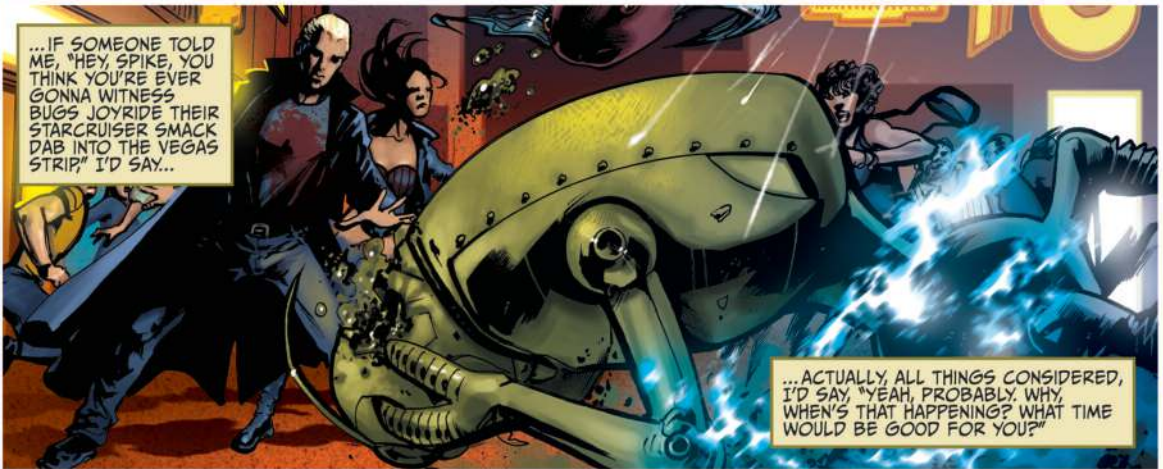
WOODSTOCK? DEMONIC  
PUPPET SHOW? AN ENTIRE  
CITY GONE TO HELL?

YES, YES, AND YES.




BUT I GOTTA  
ADMIT...

... IF SOMEONE TOLD  
ME, "HEY, SPIKE, YOU  
THINK YOU'RE EVER  
GONNA WITNESS  
BUGS JOYRIDE THEIR  
STARCRUISER SMACK  
DAB INTO THE VEGAS  
STRIP," I'D SAY...



... ACTUALLY, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED,  
I'D SAY, "YEAH, PROBABLY, WHY,  
WHEN'S THAT HAPPENING? WHAT TIME  
WOULD BE GOOD FOR YOU?"



Turns out, despite not being good for anyone, today is the day.

And just like that...

...I long for the days of simple demonic overlords.

Beck, Jeremy, George... stay behind me. We're going to...

... we're, uh, we're—

What? We're going to what?

Open to suggestions, actually.



DENIZENS OF THIS DOMAIN! EXPLAIN YOURSELVES! WHY HAVE YOU VIOLENTLY SUMMONED US HERE?



DO YOU HEAR MY KING, F\*%ERS?? WE WANT ANSWERS OR THERE WILL BE BLOODSHED!

DIPLOMACY WILL MAKE US LOOK WEAK.

I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT BLOODSHED.

I CAN TORCH THEM. HE'S THE GUY IN CHARGE—I BRING HIM DOWN, THE REST COULD FALL IN LINE...



HOLD UP, BECK. GEORGE...?

I'M PICKING UP FEAR, SOME ANGER. NOTHING CONCRETE, THESE GUYS ARE A HARD READ. I THINK THEY'RE GOING WITH THE "GOOD BUG/BAD BUG" ROUTINE.



FREEZE!

ONE SIDE, YOUR HIGHNESS—



—KNOW THIS! YOUR LAST WORDS ARE PATHETIC AND INSULTING!



ENOUGH.

SIRE! ONE OF THE #%%S ATTACKS!

BABY.

YOU ARE THE BABY! YOU ARE THE LARVAE!



SO THIS ONE IS SOMEBODY'S BROTHER, IS THAT IT? ONLY REASON HE'D BE ALLOWED NEAR THE KING.

LISTEN. IT'S QUITE OBVIOUS TO EVERYONE BUT THE LOUDMOUTH THAT MOST OF US HAVE NO IDEA WHY YOU'RE HERE.



YOU ARE A NOBLEMAN, SENT TO MAKE PEACE?



I'M WHAT PASSES FOR NOBLE LATELY, YEAH.



THEY'RE STUNNED. CONFUSED. DISTRACTED BY...

...DISTRACTED BY SPIKE, ACTUALLY. WOW, IT'S NICE HOW THESE THINGS WORK OUT.





NO. WAS DOING SO WELL—



SIRE!

GET DOWN!



FORWARD!  
MOVE  
FORWARD!

BECK!

I'M ON  
IT!

WATCH THE  
DEBRIS!

STRAIGHT FROM THE  
WOLFRAM & HART  
CASINO. NOT EVEN  
TRYING TO HIDE  
THEIR INTENTIONS.

THIS ISN'T NORMAL.  
THIS IS KITCHEN SINK.  
THIS IS ALL IN.

STILL SO MANY  
HUMANS EVERYWHERE.  
PLUS, THE BUGS. NOW  
I GOTTA WORRY  
ABOUT THE SAFETY  
OF THE DAMN BUGS.

THE SHIP...





... RETREAT TO THE SHIP.



JEREMY! NEED SOME HELP, HERE!

NO! FOR ALL WE KNOW, THIS IS A TRICK! %\*&KER WINS YOU OVER BY "DEFENDING" YOU FROM HIS VERY OWN HIVE!



SIRE! I HAVE TO INSIST WE DO NOT LET HIM ON OUR SHIP.

FINE, YOU INSIST OUT HERE. WE'LL BE INSIDE. CALL IF YOU GET BORED.



BUT...

JUST GO WITH IT, JIMINY.





ENGAGE THE THRUSTERS!

BREACH IN REAR CORRIDOR!

THEY'RE INSIDE!

TELL THEM WHAT TO DO.



PARDON?

MY MEN, ARE HARDY... LOYAL, BUT THEY NEED GUIDANCE.

THIS... WAS A SCOUT SHIP WE WERE SENT TO FIND A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR PEOPLE. BUT WHILE WE WERE ON OUR MISSION, OUR HOME, DESTROYED. EVERYONE ELSE... IS GONE.

THEY CALL ME KING BECAUSE I'M HIGHEST-RANKING OFFICER. THAT'S WHAT THEY NEED ME TO BE, AND RIGHT NOW, THEY NEED TO BE TOLD WHAT TO DO.



WE WERE TRYING TO FIND A NEW LIFE, A NEW PURPOSE.

WHATEVER'S TRYING TO GET TO US, DON'T LET MY PEOPLE DIE BEFORE THEY DISCOVER WHAT THAT SHOULD BE.



SIRE, WE NEED TO GET YOU TO MEDICAL...

LISTEN TO ME, COME HERE.







WHAT IS THAT?

NEW MAJESTY, THEY'VE ACTIVATED MAIN THRUSTERS!

AH, YES, OF COURSE! THE WHAT?



YOU, BUG NEAREST THE SCREEN, EXPLAIN IT TO ME AS IF I JUST STEPPED ONTO THIS SHIP.

WE ARE IN THE EMERGENCY ESCAPE POD. WE CAN'T CONTROL THE ENTIRE SHIP FROM HERE.

"WE'RE POWERLESS AS LONG AS WE DON'T DISENGAGE OUR POD."

"THEY HAVE US ON LOCKDOWN, BOTTOM LINE: THE ESCAPE POD... CAN'T ESCAPE."



I CAN STEER FROM HERE IF WE'RE ABLE TO DETACH.

THAT'S THE ATTITUDE I'M LOOKING FOR. YOU'RE OFFICIALLY MY FAVORITE BUG. FIND YOURSELF A HAT SO I REMEMBER YOU.



THERE ARE MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF LIFEFORMS COMING OUR WAY. POWER LEVELS ARE STAGGERING.

THEY'RE COMING FOR US.



GO GO GO!



GOING STAGE LEFT IN T-MINUS-2, PLACE HAS TO BE CLEANED!



THAT MEANS NO PRISONERS—



NO PRISONERS, SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN.  
BECK, SWEETHEART! THE BUGS GET IN, EVIL GITS DO NOT, GOT IT?



GO! ALL OF YOU, THIS WAY, TO THE HOPEFULLY APTLY NAMED ESCAPE POD! GO GO GO!

JIMINY, HOW WE COMING ON THE MANUAL OVERRIDE?

GOING TO NEED A FEW MOMENTS TO RAISE THE GATES! GET OUT OF MY %\*\*\*KING HEAD, %8+%ER!

WAY TO BE A TEAM PLAYER, THANKS, JIMINY.



SPIKE.

CHANCES THAT  
THING IS ON OUR SIDE?  
LONG-LOST FRIEND OF  
THE INSECTS? VEGAS  
TOURIST, PLEASE?



DON'T KNOW  
WHO YOU ARE, DON'T  
CARE. NO ONE'S SCARED BY  
YOUR SIZE OR YOUR DEEP,  
BOOMING, MICHAEL CLARKE  
DUNCAN VOICE. CARJACK  
ANOTHER SPACESHIP.



HE'S NOT BUYING THE  
GRANDSTANDING.

FINE.



TIME TO  
BACK IT UP.

BECK, FIND  
A CORNER.



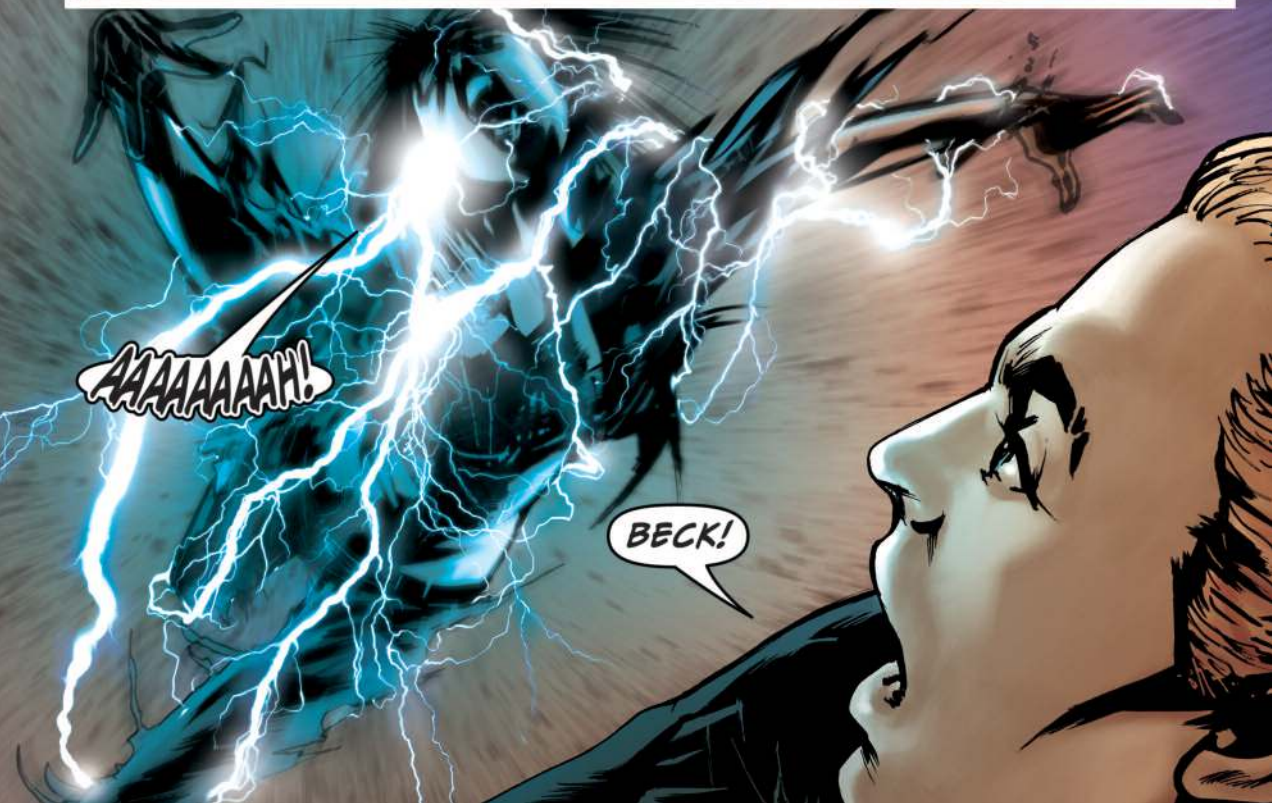
NO TIME  
FOR THIS.



ANGRY BUG!  
TAKE A HIT FOR  
YOUR NEW  
KING!  
NO, HUH?



SPIKE,  
MOVE!



AAAAAAAH!

BECK!



I'LL GET YOU HELP, LOVE. JUST NEED A MOMENT—



I DON'T CARE IF THEY HAVE SENIORITY, I DON'T.

NEXT TIME, THE OTHER SENIOR PARTNERS ARE HELPING WITH CLEAN-UP. GET HIM! IT'S NOT EVEN ANGEL, IT'S—



SPIIIIIKE-



DAMN RIGHT.

VERRIDE ACHIEVED—





THEY'RE LEAVING THIS WORLD. WE ARE EJECTING FROM MAIN SHIP!

TELL SPIKE I'M HELPING.

JEREMY.

JERRY HIT A BUTTON.



WE LOST THE ESCAPE POD! I CAN TRY TO LOCATE THE TRACTOR BEAM—

NO.



LET IT GO.  
GET US AWAY FROM HIM.



LEAVING THIS WORLD. LEAVING THIS PLANE OF EXISTENCE.

IT'S BIGGER THAN YOU. YOU WOULDN'T GET IT.

SORRY ABOUT YOUR FRIEND. I LIKED HER MORE THAN YOU.



SHE'S NOT GOING TO DIE. I WON'T ALLOW IT.

TELL THE SMARTER BUGS TO START THE SHIP. I KNOW WHERE WE CAN GO.

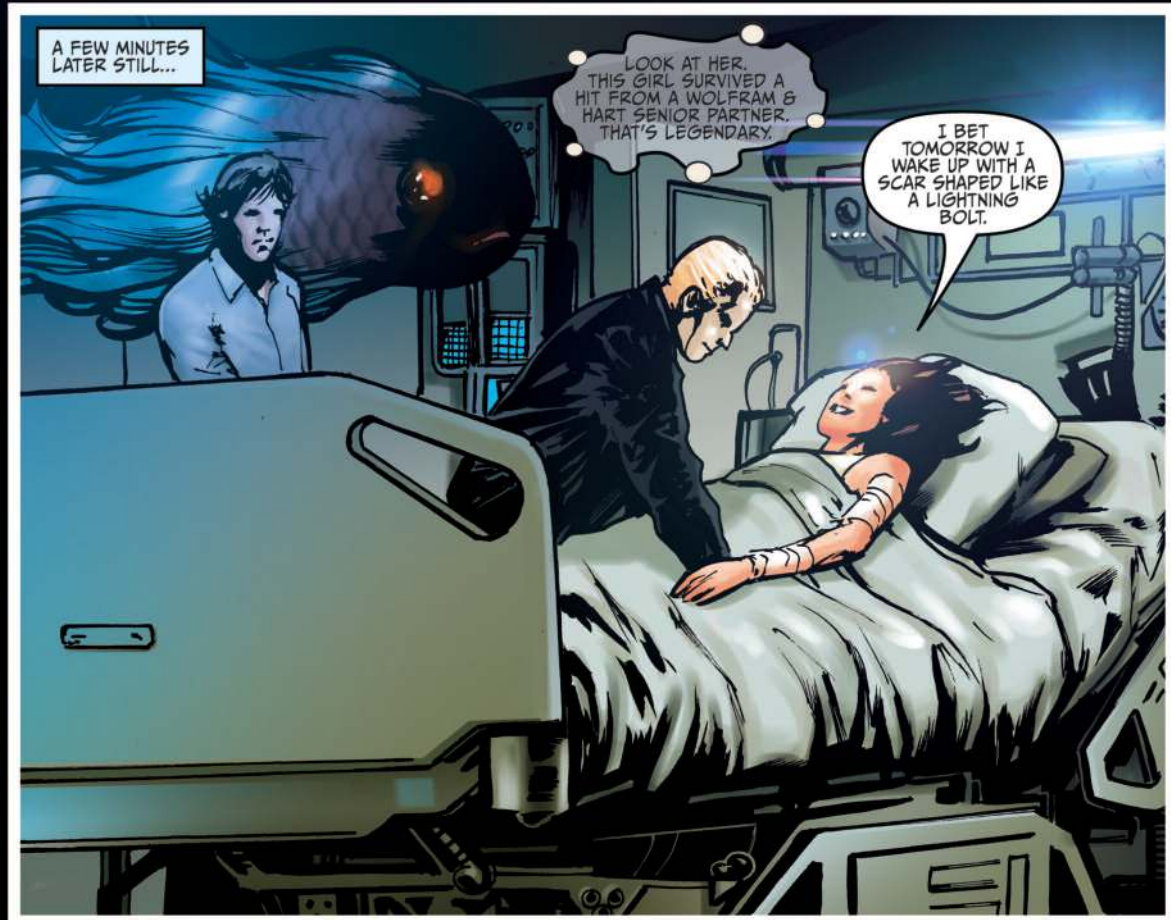
LATER...



FIRST YOU HAVE THE WITCH DROP OFF THE PSYCHOPATHIC VAMPIRE. AND THEN YOU RETURN BECK INJURED. I TOLD YOU TO WATCH HER.

I DID.

I CAN SEE THAT.





SO LET'S RECAP. WOLFRAM & HART'S SENIOR PARTNERS HIJACKED A BUG SHIP AND THEN PROBABLY LEFT IT TO LEAVE THE DIMENSION.

SEEMS LIKE IT.

THAT'S A NEW WRINKLE. WHY WOULD THEY DO THAT?



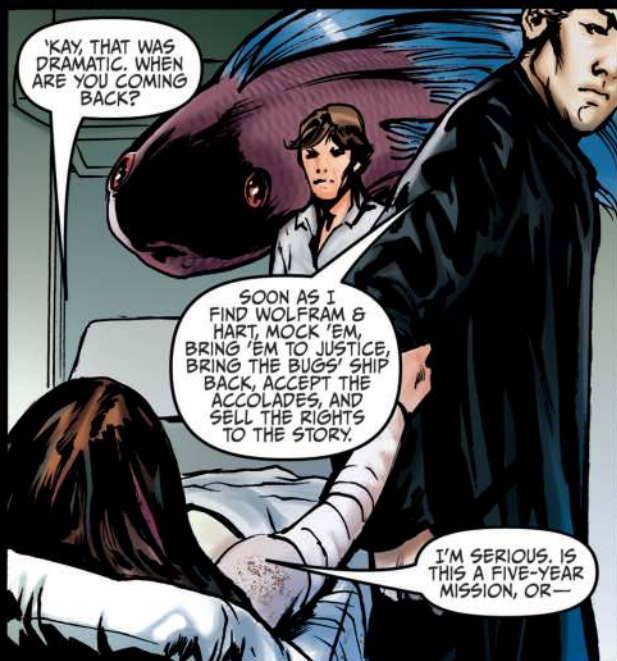
NOT SURE. THINKIN' ABOUT ASKING THEM.

SWEET, CALLING ANGEL FOR A BIG FINAL BATTLE? NEED ME TO DO SOME RECON? FROM AFAR? I CAN, I CAN GO TO THE LIBRARY AND DO RESEARCH. AWAY FROM THE ACTUAL EVIL.

YOU CAN SIT THIS ONE OUT, JEREMY.



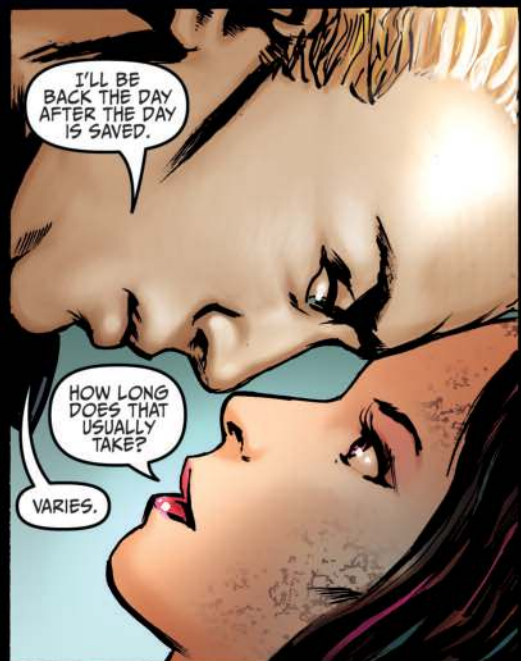
ANGEL, TOO. I'VE GOT THIS ONE.



'KAY, THAT WAS DRAMATIC. WHEN ARE YOU COMING BACK?

SOON AS I FIND WOLFRAM & HART, MOCK 'EM, BRING 'EM TO JUSTICE, BRING THE BUGS' SHIP BACK, ACCEPT THE ACCOLADES, AND SELL THE RIGHTS TO THE STORY.

I'M SERIOUS. IS THIS A FIVE-YEAR MISSION, OR—



I'LL BE BACK THE DAY AFTER THE DAY IS SAVED.

HOW LONG DOES THAT USUALLY TAKE?

VARIES.



KAY, BE CAREFUL. BE NICE. I LOVE YOU.

I...  
...YOU, TOO.



JERRY. SORRY I HIT YOU.

JEREMY. AND IT'S COOL. SORRY I GOT POSSESSED.

THESE THINGS HAPPEN.

LIKE, A LOT, RIGHT?



TRY AND MAKE IT BACK FOR MY WEDDING, OKAY? AT LEAST THE BACHELOR PARTY. IT WAS GOING TO BE IN VEGAS, BUT AFTER THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS, I'M LEANING MORE TOWARDS MEDIEVAL TIMES.



GEORGE—

WILLIAM.

HE KNOWS.



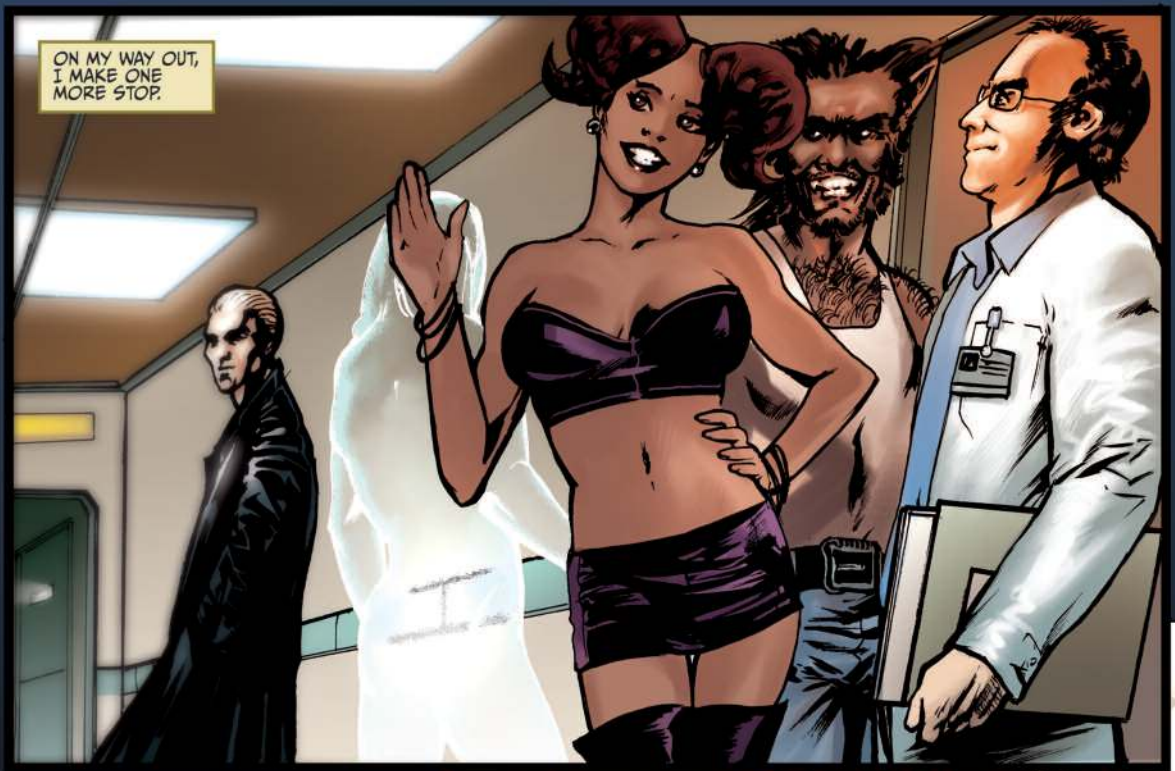
WHAT'S WITH THAT LOOK?

IT'S MY ONLY ONE. NOTHING, I'M FINE.

NOT SURE IF HE KNOWS BECAUSE HE CAN READ MINDS...

...OR BECAUSE WE'RE MATES AND HE SENSES SOMETHING'S OFF, BUT HE KNOWS.

HE DOESN'T TRY AND STOP ME.



ON MY WAY OUT,  
I MAKE ONE  
MORE STOP.



HAVE NO IDEA WHAT  
I SHOULD SAY.



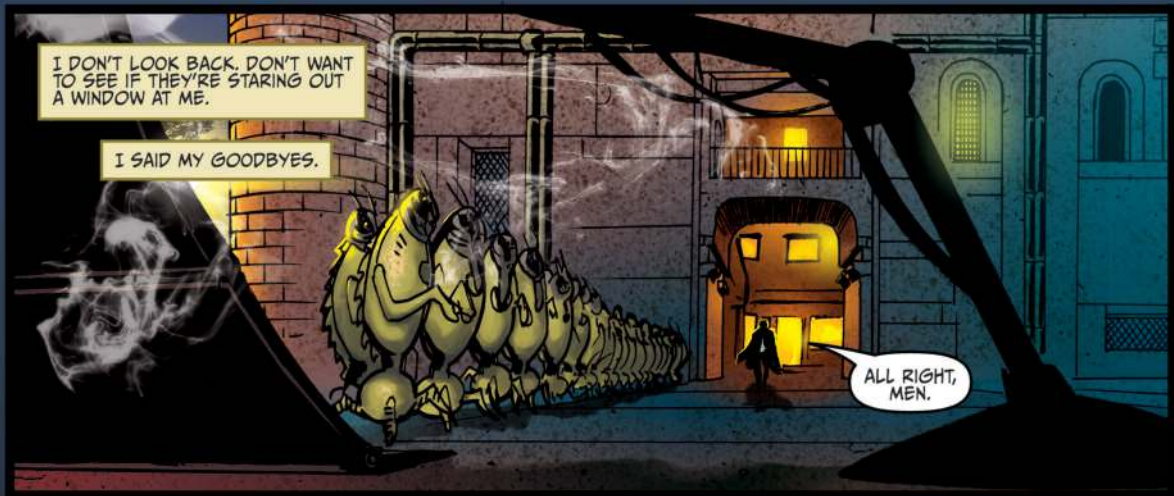
I WANT TO TELL HER  
THAT GEORGE COULD  
HELP HER SORT THINGS  
OUT, IF SHE EVER  
WANTS TO TRY. BECK  
WILL, TOO.

RIGHT NOW, THEY'RE  
SCARED OF HER,  
MAD AT HER, BUT  
THEY'RE HEROES, SO  
EVENTUALLY THEY'LL  
WANT TO HELP.



BUT SHE WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.  
NOT NOW. SO I GO WITH A SIMPLE:

THESE ARE  
GOOD PEOPLE.  
DON'T TRY AND  
KILL THEM.



I DON'T LOOK BACK. DON'T WANT TO SEE IF THEY'RE STARING OUT A WINDOW AT ME.

I SAID MY GOODBYES.

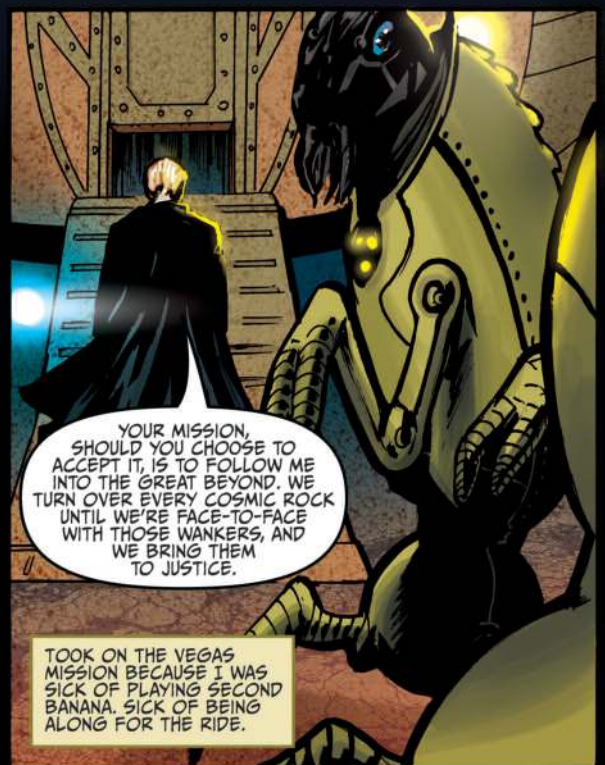
ALL RIGHT, MEN.



IT'S TIME TO MOVE.

SENIOR PARTNERS KILLED YOUR KING. SHOT MY FRIEND. THEY STOLE YOUR SHIP AND NOW THEY'RE PROBABLY OUT CRUISING GOD-KNOWS-WHAT-DIMENSION BRAGGING ABOUT IT TO ANY E.T. OR EIGHT-HEADED MOTHRA THAT WILL LISTEN.

WELL, I SAY BUGGER THAT.



YOUR MISSION, SHOULD YOU CHOOSE TO ACCEPT IT, IS TO FOLLOW ME INTO THE GREAT BEYOND. WE TURN OVER EVERY COSMIC ROCK UNTIL WE'RE FACE-TO-FACE WITH THOSE WANKERS, AND WE BRING THEM TO JUSTICE.

TOOK ON THE VEGAS MISSION BECAUSE I WAS SICK OF PLAYING SECOND BANANA. SICK OF BEING ALONG FOR THE RIDE.



I WANTED TO STEER THE COASTER.

WHO'S WITH ME?!

WE ARE, SIRE!



BUT NO ONE STEERS THE COASTER.

NO ONE IS IN CONTROL OF ANYTHING.

AT EASE, AND NICE HAT, FAVORITE BUG.

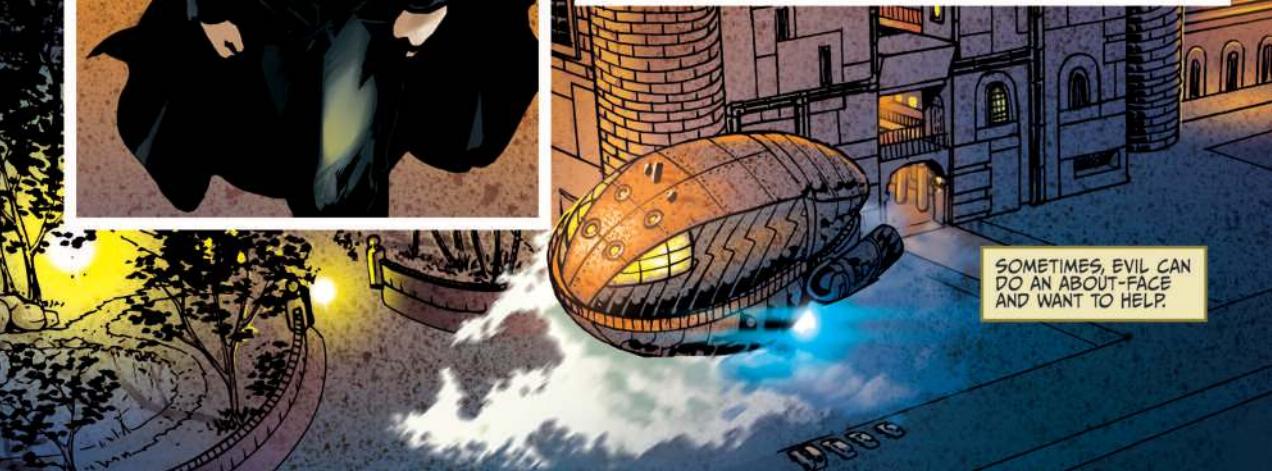
THANK YOU, SIR!



INNOCENTS BECOME DANGEROUS.

I WANT MAPS, CHARTS, DETAILS ON EVERY POSSIBLE PLACE THEY COULD BE HIDING. ALSO, INTERNET AND A CIGARETTE MACHINE. GO GO GO!

HEROES CAN TURN ON A DIME.



SOMETIMES, EVIL CAN DO AN ABOUT-FACE AND WANT TO HELP.



PEOPLE COME INTO YOUR LIFE. PEOPLE LEAVE. EVERYTHING'S CHANGING.

EVERYTHING'S ALWAYS CHANGING.



THE WOLFRAM & HART FOOT SOLDIER \*\*\*ERS ARE IN LOCKDOWN. I VOLUNTEER FOR STOCKADE DUTY IF I CAN ALSO TORTURE THEM FOR INFORMATION.

SOUNDS GOOD.

I SHOULD POINT OUT THAT THEIR LEADERS COULD BE ANYWHERE, IN BETWEEN REALITIES, UNDERGROUND, THOUSANDS OF DIMENSIONS. THIS MISSION COULD TAKE FOREVER.

BOTTOM LINE. THE ONLY  
THING ANY ONE OF US  
IS IN CHARGE OF...

...IS OURSELVES.

AWARE.  
GOOD THING I'M  
IMMORTAL.

I'M NOT.

GREAT TO  
KNOW. BLOODY  
GREAT TO KNOW.  
LET'S GET TO  
WORK.

THE END



# ART GALLERY



Art by  
**Nick Runge**

Runge



Art by  
**Jenny Frison**



Art by  
**Nick Runge**



Art by  
**Jenny Frison**



Art by  
**Nick Runge**

Runge



Art by  
**Jenny Frison**



Art by  
**Franco Urru**  
Colors by  
**Fabio Mantovani**

URRU  
MANTOVANI



RUNGE  
20 11

Art by  
**Nick Runge**



Art by  
**Jenny Frison**



## STRANGER THINGS

The last IDW *Spike* stories come to a shattering conclusion in this second volume as Spike faces a crazed killer, the full power of Wolfram & Hart, and the consequences of having a soul and a demonic ex. But it's the appearance of Willow that really shakes things up, not to mention a spaceship and some unexpected old "friends."