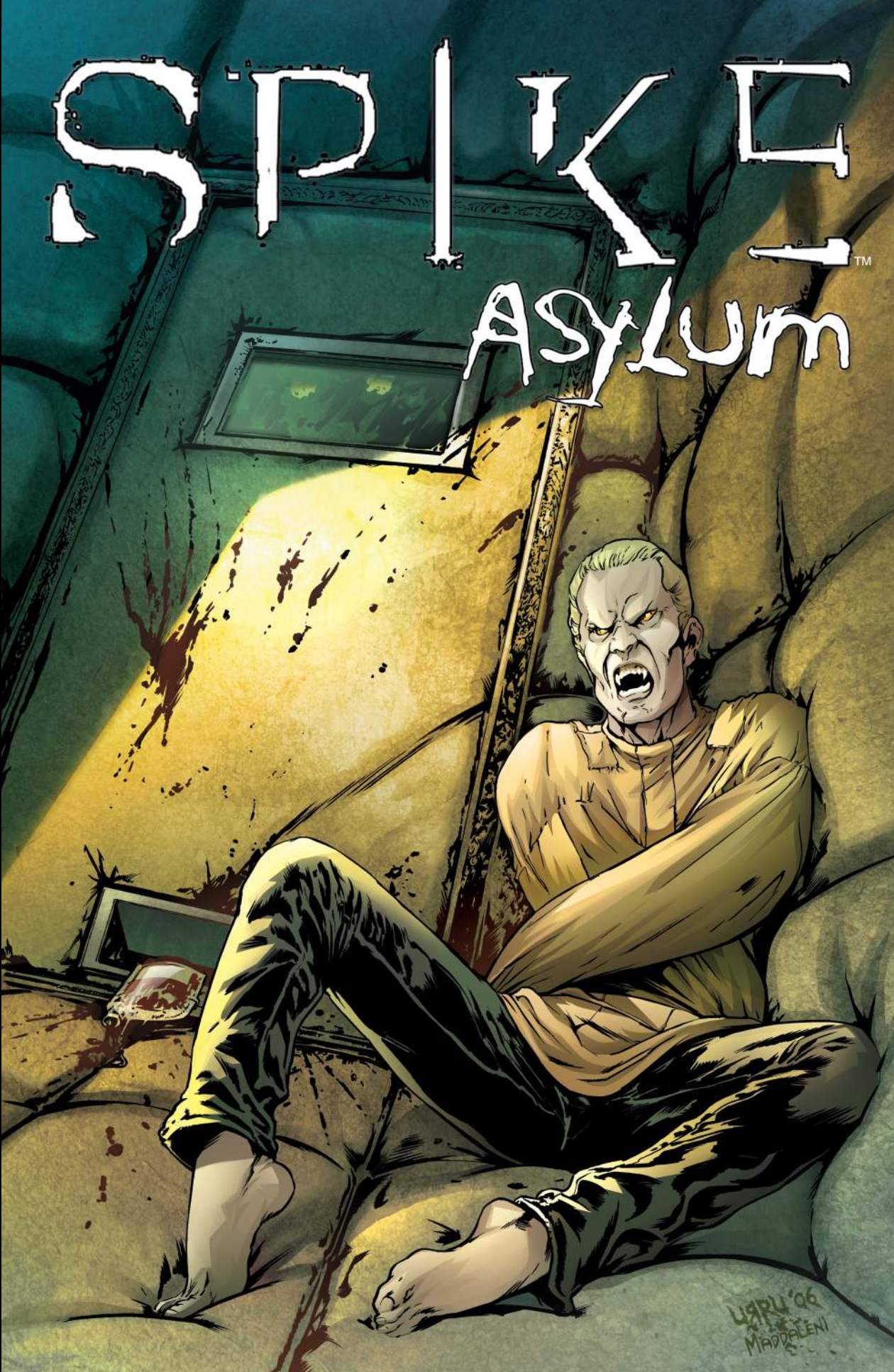


SPLIKE™

ASYLUM



LARRY '06
MADDALENI

SPIKE



ASYLUM



IDW PUBLISHING • SAN DIEGO, CA

Written by **Brian Lynch** Art by **Franco Urru**

Colored by
Matteo Gherardi
with assistance of Elena Virzi
Fabio Mantovan
Donatella Melchionno

Covers colored by
Paolo Maddaleni

Lettered by
Michael Heisler
Sulaco Studios
Neil Uyetake
Chris Mowry

Edited by
Chris Ryall



SPIKE™: ASYLUM

ISBN# : 978-1-60010-061-1
10 09 08 07 1 2 3 4 5

www.IDWPUBLISHING.com

Spike created by Joss Whedon and David Greenwalt.
Thanks to Debbie Olshan at Fox Worldwide Publishing
for her invaluable assistance.



IDW Publishing is:
Ted Adams, Co-President
Robbie Robbins, Co-President
Chris Ryall, Publisher/Editor-in-Chief
Kris Oprisko, Vice President
Alan Payne, Vice President of Sales
Neil Uyetake, Art Director
Dan Taylor, Editor
Justin Eisinger, Editorial Assistant
Chris Mowry, Graphic Artist
Matthew Ruzicka, CPA, Controller
Alonzo Simon, Shipping Manager
Alex Garner, Creative Director
Yumiko Miyano, Business Development
Rick Privman, Business Development

SPIKE: ASYLUM TPB. MAY 2007. FIRST PRINTING. Spike is © 2007 Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation. All Rights Reserved. © 2007 Idea and Design Works, LLC. The IDW logo is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. All Rights Reserved. IDW Publishing, a division of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Editorial offices: 4411 Morena Blvd., Suite 106, San Diego, CA 92117. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Printed in Korea. IDW Publishing does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork.

LISTEN UP, BOYS
AND GIRLS. TIME
FOR A QUICK
MATH LESSON.

DEMON BAR

PLUS DRUNK
TOURIST

YOU
HOLLYWOOD
TYPES REALLY
KNOW HOW
TO PARTY!

PLUS VAMPIRE
WITH A SOUL
WATCHING...



...AS THE ALPHA
DEMON IN THE
GROUP STAKES
ITS CLAIM...

EQUALS
THIS.

KRAK!





BELIEVE IT OR NOT, I USED TO BE LIKE BLUE BOY.



IF THIS WAS A FEW YEARS AGO, I WOULD HAVE BEEN IN HIS SHOES. WELL, NOT HIS SHOES EXACTLY, NOT SINCE THE RENAISSANCE, ANYWAY.

BUT THERE WAS A TIME I WOULD HANG OUT IN PUBS...



...FOLLOW THE CHOICE VEAL HOME...

...AND WAIT FOR JUST THE RIGHT MOMENT TO SLICK THE LASS DRY.



BUT TIMES CHANGE.

FOR BETTER OR WORSE.



CRISIS AVERTED. BIG BAD IS DEAD, GO HOME AND SLEEP IT OFF.

YOUR FACE...YOUR FACE WAS...



HOLD IT RIGHT - ARGGH!

WHAT THE BLOODY HELL?!

I'M TAKING MY SHOT!



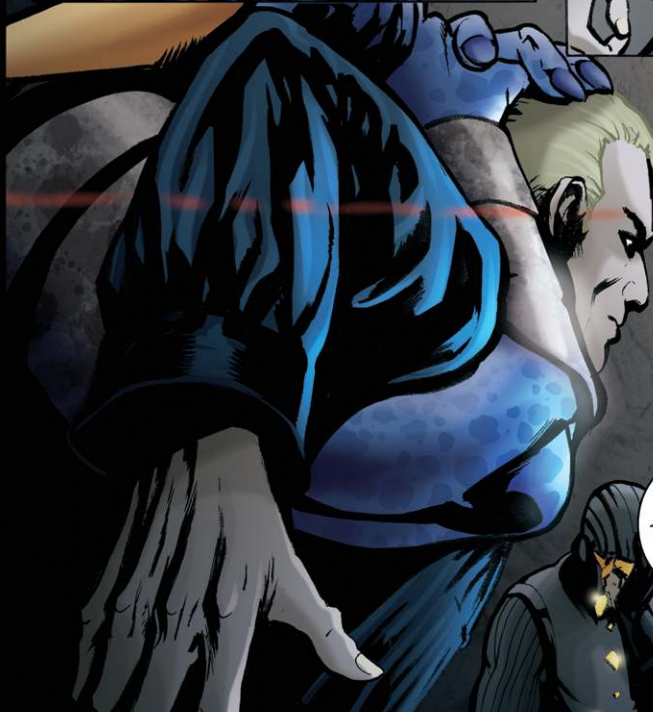
DON'T BOTHER. YOU HEARD THE GIRL. HE'S A VAMPIRE.



MENTAL NOTE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE-UGLY BLUE DEMONS HAVE WONKY BONE STRUCTURES.

SO UNLESS THOSE GUNS SHOOT LITTLE WOODEN BULLETS, THEY WON'T DO A DAMNED THING.

MATTHEW IS RIGHT...



BESIDES, I DIDN'T HIRE YOU ALL TO HURT THE MAN...

...I HIRED YOU TO FIND HIM.

I'M RICHARD MONAHAN. THIS IS MY WIFE, BONNIE. I'M SORRY FOR THIS, I REALLY AM.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU CAN LOOK UP "VAMPIRE WITH A SOUL" IN THE YELLOW PAGES. THIS IS THE EIGHTH DEMON BAR WE'VE TRIED. BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP.



NICE WORK, JORDI. YOU CAN PICK UP YOUR CHECK TOMORROW.

NEVER SAW THESE FREAKS BEFORE, BUT THE LADY DOESN'T SEEM TO BE A FAN.

MAYBE WE SHOULD PUT A ROUND IN HIM, JUST IN CASE. VAMPIRE OR NOT, IT WILL SLOW HIM DOWN A BIT.



HELL OF A THING WITH THE NECK AND ALL. MY SINCERE APOLOGIES, I THOUGHT YOU WERE...



...TRYING TO KILL THE DAMSEL IN DISTRESS, YEAH, THAT WAS WHAT WE WERE GOING FOR. IT'S COOL, THOUGH, DUDE, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

IS THE REST OF YOUR BODY PRETTY MUCH NORMAL?



YOU MEAN ASIDE FROM THE BLUE SKIN, THE HORNS AND THE STRENGTH? YEAH...



...I'M
PRETTY
MUCH
ARCK!

GOOD TO
KNOW.

IT'S
LOOSE!
SHOOT
IT!



IT'S FINE,
EVERYONE—

SO WHAT IS
IT... YOU A PAIR OF
RICH FREAKS WHO
THINK IT WOULD BE A
SLAP AND A TICKLE
TO TRAP A REAL-
LIFE VAMPIRE?

OR DO YOU
WANT TO BE TURNED
SO YOU CAN BE FAT
AND ANNOYING WELL
INTO THE YEAR
3000?

N... NO...



OUR DAUGHTER
RUBY... HAS BEEN
TAKEN... AND YOU'RE
THE ONLY ONE WHO
CAN SAVE HER.





I'VE NEVER SEEN THE GIRL BEFORE IN MY LIFE, BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER.

OVER THE YEARS, I'VE LEARNED ONE THING — BEFORE I WAS SIRD, AFTER I WAS SIRD, SOUL OR NO SOUL, EVERY SINGLE MISTAKE I'VE EVER MADE WAS BECAUSE OF A WOMAN. SOME I TRIED TO SAVE. SOME I TRIED TO KILL. SOME I TRIED TO SAVE AND KILL. NOT IN THAT ORDER, BUT...

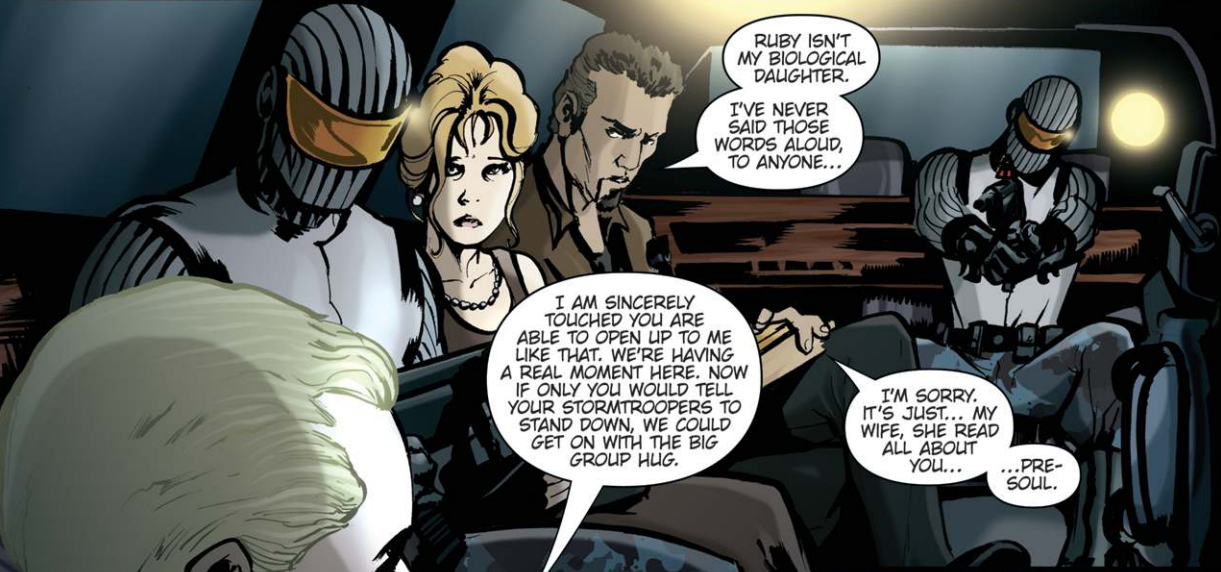
FORGET SUNLIGHT. FORGET STAKES. THE FAIRER SEX IS AND WILL ALWAYS BE MY ACHILLES HEEL.



LET'S TALK.



BEFORE WE CONTINUE, I SHOULD TELL YOU...



RUBY ISN'T MY BIOLOGICAL DAUGHTER.

I'VE NEVER SAID THOSE WORDS ALOUD, TO ANYONE...

I AM SINCERELY TOUCHED YOU ARE ABLE TO OPEN UP TO ME LIKE THAT. WE'RE HAVING A REAL MOMENT HERE. NOW IF ONLY YOU WOULD TELL YOUR STORMTROOPERS TO STAND DOWN, WE COULD GET ON WITH THE BIG GROUP HUG.

I'M SORRY, IT'S JUST... MY WIFE, SHE READ ALL ABOUT YOU...
...PRE-SOUL.



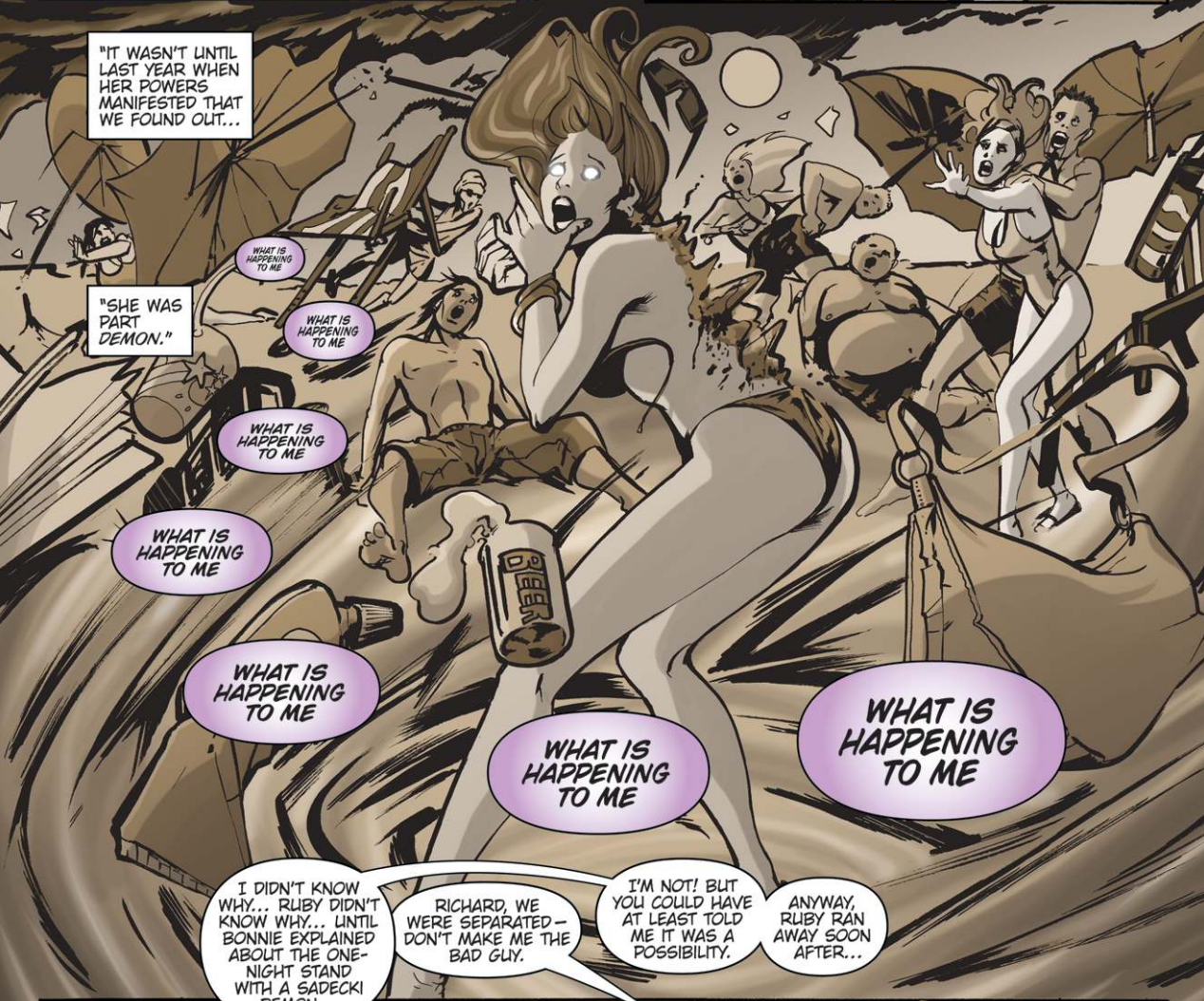
AH.
ALWAYS NICE TO MEET A FAN.
SO ABOUT RUBY.



YES, WELL, SHE WAS BORN EIGHTEEN YEARS AGO...



"...A HAPPY HEALTHY BABY GIRL..."



"IT WASN'T UNTIL LAST YEAR WHEN HER POWERS MANIFESTED THAT WE FOUND OUT..."

"SHE WAS PART DEMON."

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME

I DIDN'T KNOW WHY... RUBY DIDN'T KNOW WHY... UNTIL BONNIE EXPLAINED ABOUT THE ONE-NIGHT STAND WITH A SADECKI DEMON...

RICHARD, WE WERE SEPARATED - DON'T MAKE ME THE BAD GUY.

I'M NOT! BUT YOU COULD HAVE AT LEAST TOLD ME IT WAS A POSSIBILITY.

ANYWAY, RUBY RAN AWAY SOON AFTER...





A FEW MONTHS LATER, SHE CALLED, SAID SHE WAS STAYING AT MOSAIC.

IT CLAIMS TO BE A... REHABILITATION CENTER FOR THE SUPERNATURAL.

MAKES SOME BOLD CLAIMS—SAYS THEY CAN CURE DEMONS, MONSTERS, VAMPIRES OF THEIR MAL—

—THEIR GIFTS. AND WHEN SHE CALLED, SHE SEEMED HAPPY, BUT...



EVERYTHING'S FINE, DADDY... MOSAIC WILL HELP. I KNOW IT.

SCARED

SO SCARED

CAN'T LEAVE

HELP

"SADECKI DEMONS HAVE IMPRESSIVE TELEPATHIC ABILITIES."



SO...YOU WANT ME TO INFILTRATE CAMP HAPPY MONSTER...

...AND RUN A SNATCH AND GRAB ON YOUR HALF-DEMON SPAWN, IS THAT ABOUT IT?

IN A NUTSHELL, YES...

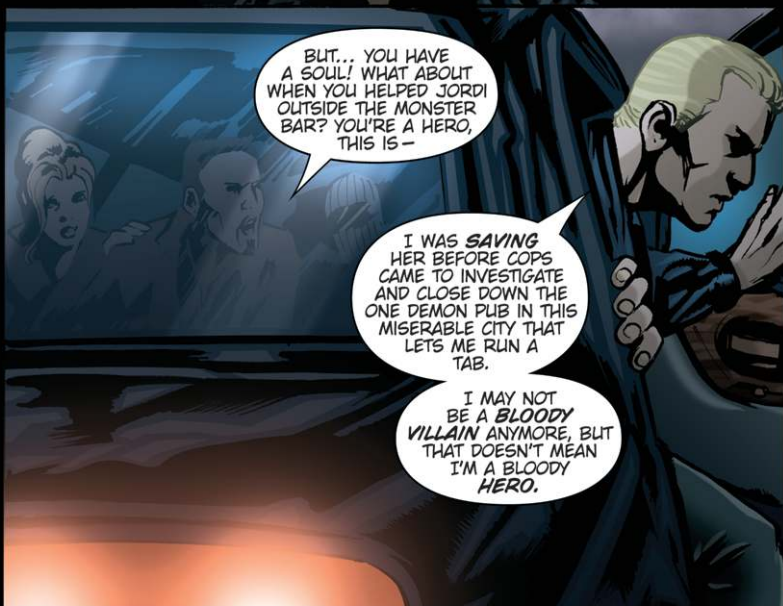


I MAY HAVE NEVER BEEN TO MOSAIC, BUT I KNOW THE TYPE. I'VE SEEN THE TYPE. I'VE BEEN TRAPPED, PRODDED AND SLICED OPEN IN THE TYPE. I CAN GUESS WHAT RUBY'S GOING THROUGH.

AND SO HELP ME, I'M NEVER SETTING FOOT IN ANYTHING LIKE THAT AGAIN.



NO.



BUT... YOU HAVE A SOUL! WHAT ABOUT WHEN YOU HELPED JORDI OUTSIDE THE MONSTER BAR? YOU'RE A HERO, THIS IS -

I WAS *SAVING* HER BEFORE COPS CAME TO INVESTIGATE AND CLOSE DOWN THE ONE DEMON PUB IN THIS MISERABLE CITY THAT LETS ME RUN A TAB.

I MAY NOT BE A *BLOODY VILLAIN* ANYMORE, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M A *BLOODY HERO*.



WE'RE WILLING TO PAY! WHATEVER YOUR DETECTIVE AGENCY CHARGED BACK IN THE DAY, TIMES FIVE! HELL, TIMES TEN -

WHAT DID YOU SAY?





OH, SO THERE ARE... UM...

...THERE ARE TWO VAMPIRES WITH SOULS?

DO YOU KNOW WHERE WE CAN FIND THE OTHER ONE?



LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING...

DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY TIMES HE'S SAVED THE WORLD? MAYBE HALF AS MANY AS I HAVE.

DO YOU KNOW HOW HE GOT HIS SOUL? HE WAS CURSED WITH IT. I FOUGHT FOR MINE. I DRANK FROM THE CUP OF PERPETUAL TORMENT. I DID. AND YOU CAME LOOKING FOR HIM?

TO HELL WITH THAT PONCE. YOU WANT YOUR DAUGHTER BACK? YOU COME TO SPIKE!



I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T WANT TO HELP US.



YEAH, WELL, I CHANGED MY MIND. AND MY VERY RECENTLY OPENED DETECTIVE AGENCY IS GONNA CHARGE YOU 20 GRAND. CASH. AND UNLIMITED USE OF YOUR LIMO.



WHY DID I DO THAT?
I WAS ALL SET TO
WALK AWAY, AND THEY
HAD TO GO...

...AND BRING
HIM UP.



FORGET SUNLIGHT.
FORGET STAKES.
THAT WHINY GIT
IS OFFICIALLY MY
ACHILLES HEEL.



HOW LONG ARE
THEY GONNA
MAKE ME
WAIT? IT'S
BEEN -



QUIET PLEASE



THINGS
WERE A LOT
MORE FUN WHEN I
COULD DRAIN ANYONE
WHO ANNOYED
ME.

GET INTO
MOSAIC AND BIDE
YOUR TIME LISTEN FOR
THE SIGN FREEDOM IS
COMING BLOOD WILL FLOW
LIKE WINE WE FEAST WE
LIVE A LIFE BIGGER BETTER
THAN ACTUAL LIVING NO
ONE LEFT NO ONE
LEFT

RIGHT.

THREE HOURS LATER.

WELL, WE'VE GONE OVER YOUR FILE, GOOGLED YOUR NAME, AND AFTER CAREFUL DELIBERATION...

...ADMITTANCE INTO MOSAIC WELLNESS CENTER IS DENIED.

I REALLY WISH YOU'D RECONSIDER. I NEED HELP. MY NAME IS SPIKE... AND I HAVE A PROBLEM.

SMOKING, DRINKING, BLOODSUCKING—I'M A PERFECT CANDIDATE FOR YOUR DELUXE KATIE CRUISE PACKAGE.

SPIKE—CAN I CALL YOU WILLIAM?

NO.

SPIKE... MOST OF MOSAIC'S GUESTS HAVE... HEARD OF YOU. ENCOUNTERED YOU.

HAD VARIOUS LIMBS, HORNS, TAILS AND TENDRILS VIOLENTLY REMOVED BY YOU.

YOUR EXPLOITS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED SO MUCH IN GROUP THERAPY THAT EVEN GUESTS THAT HAVEN'T MET YOU HAVE NIGHTMARES ABOUT YOU.

WORD IS, YOU'RE GOOD NOW. YOU'RE DOING FINE WITHOUT MOSAIC.

YES, BUT THE OLD FEELINGS ARE COMING BACK... AND I NEED MOSAIC'S HELP, OR WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE I'LL DO...

STOP IT. YOU HAVE A SOUL, SPIKE. YOU'RE NOT A THREAT TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD.



I MUST ADMIT, WE HEARD RUMBLINGS THAT YOU WERE COMING. SOME OF THE PSYCHIC GUESTS CAUGHT WIND OF IT A FEW DAYS AGO -

I TRIED. I CAN TELL RUBY'S MOM AND PSEUDO-DAD THAT I DID MY BEST, FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, BUT I CAN'T DO ANYTHING IF MOSAIC DOESN'T THINK I'M A THREAT TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

THE MONAHANS WILL HAVE TO FIND SOMEONE ELSE TO DO THEIR DIRTY WORK.



THE MERE RUMOR OF YOUR ARRIVAL CAUSED A GREAT DEAL OF UNREST TO THE COMMUNITY WE'VE WORKED SO HARD TO BUILD.

THEY'LL PROBABLY GO TO ANGEL.



HOPEFULLY THEY ALREADY KNOW YOU'VE BEEN OFFICIALLY TURNED AWAY.

HEY!



SHRRRKKK!





...



WHAT ARE YOU...



...HOLD IT, JUST...



WHAT THE...?





AFTER A GUEST IS CURED OF THEIR SUPERNATURAL IMPEDIMENT, THEY'RE MOVED TO PRIMM, WHERE THEY HAVE TO SERVE OUT THEIR PROBATION. TO PROVE THEY'RE READY FOR THE OUTSIDE WORLD.



CAROL, OF COURSE, PROVED TODAY SHE IS NOT.

HE KILLED A POTENTIAL GUEST! I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING FOR YOU NEXT!

YOU KNOW THE RULES, CAROL. NO EXCEPTIONS.



DON'T WORRY. EVEN VAMPIRES-IN-REMISSION HAVE A PLACE IN PRIMM. YOU CAN BE A DITCH-DIGGER OR WORK THE GRAVEYARD SHIFT AT THE 24/7 DOUBLEMEAT PALACE DRIVE-THROUGH.

DREAM COME TRUE. WHERE ARE WE HEADED?

MOSAIC'S REHAB FACILITY. IT'S... OFF THE MAP.



WE'RE HERE.



WELCOME TO MOSAIC, SPIKE!

WELCOME BACK, CAROL.

WELL, SPIKE, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

...SPIKE...

...SPIKE...

...SPIKE...

...SPIKE...

...SPIKE...

...SPIKE...

...SPIKE...

...SPIKE...

...SPIKE...



I THINK I **SEE** GRASS, BUT I DON'T SMELL IT. I THINK I SEE A POOL, BUT I DON'T SMELL ANY CHLORINE. I THINK...

...I THINK THIS IS ALL A DAMN **GLAMOUR**.

SPIKE

SPIKE

HEH. PEOPLE ALWAYS TALK ABOUT A VAMPIRE'S TEETH, BUT THEIR NOSES? JUST AS AMAZING, SINCERELY.

SPIKE

SPIKE

SPIKE

SPIKE

SPIKE

SPIKE



THE NATIVES CERTAINLY ARE GETTING RESTLESS, **HUH?**

THIS TIME LAST WEEK? ROLLING OUT OF BED AROUND SEVEN OR EIGHT PM...

SPIKE!

SPIKE!

SPIKE!

SPIKE!

SPIKE!

SPIKE!

SPIKE!

SPIKE!

...DECIDING WHETHER OR NOT TO GO OUT TO THE PUB OR STAY IN AND RELAX.



LIKE I SAID... THEY KNEW YOU WERE COMING.

"...AND THEY DON'T APPEAR OVERLY HAPPY ABOUT IT."

SPIKE

SPIKE

SPIKE

SPIKE

BUT TIMES CHANGE.

SPIKE

SPIKE

SPIKE

SPIKE

SPIKE

SPIKE

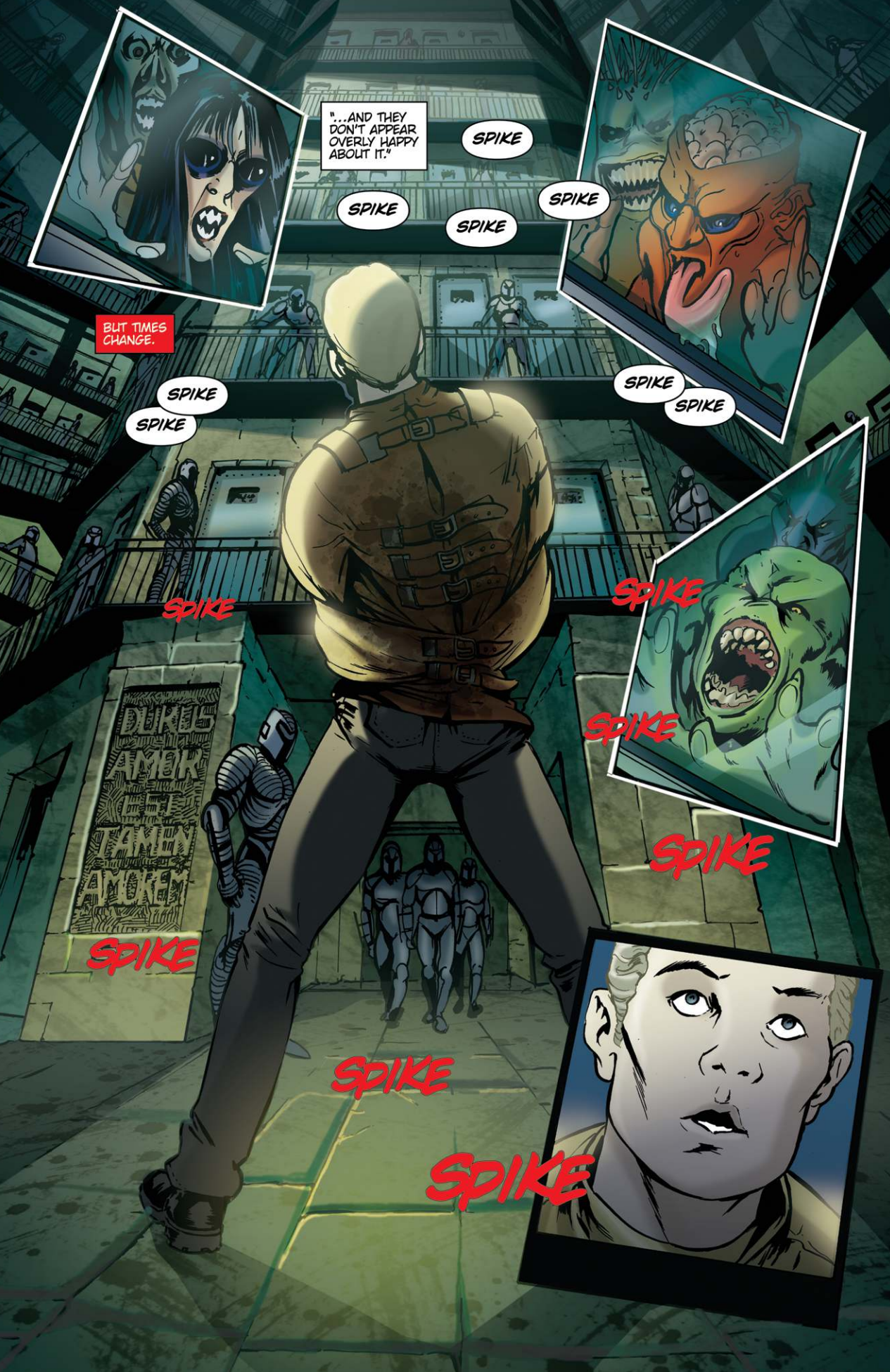
SPIKE

SPIKE

SPIKE

SPIKE

SPIKE





PLEASEEEEEEEASE
STOOOOPPPPPPPPP

MOSAIC'S
NEW GUESTS...
...ARE
CLEAN.

WILLIAM, I
AM IMPRESSED,
NOT EVEN SO MUCH
AS A WHIMPER
DURING THE
DELOUSING.



GET DRESSED.
CAROL, WE GOT YOU
YOUR OLD CELL. WILLIAM,
THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR
WANTS TO MEET WITH
YOU.



THE OUTSIDE OF THIS PLACE LOOKS LIKE CLUB MED, BUT THE INTERIOR IS A BIT OF A FIXER-UPPER.

I'M GONNA WEAR A SUIT MADE OF YOUR SKIN, SPIKE!

WELCOME HOME, SPIKE!

BEEN WAITING FOR THIS DAY!

BRING HIM TO ME! BRING HIM TO ME!

DUST BY MORNING! DUST BY DAWN!



I'M HERE TO FIND A YOUNG GIRL.

THOUGH FROM THE LOOKS OF THIS PLACE, SHE'S PROBABLY DEAD BY NOW.

PART OF ME HOPES THAT'S THE CASE.



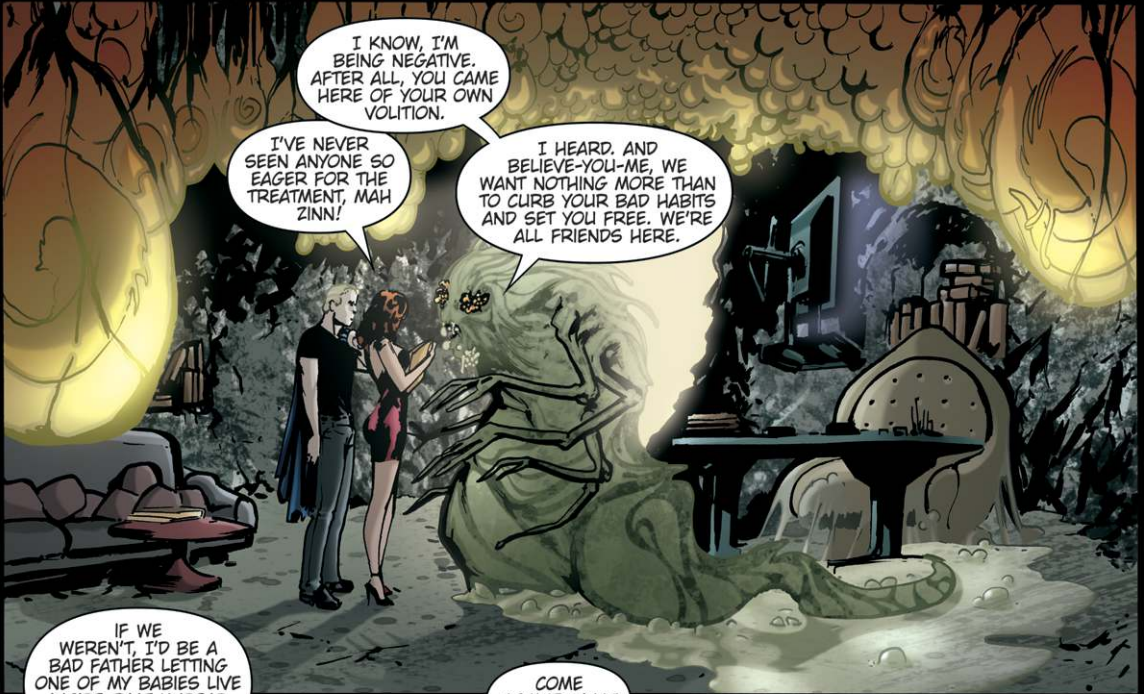
SHE'S DEAD, I HAVE NO REASON TO BE HERE, AND I CAN START PLANNING MY ESCAPE.



LET'S JUST GET THIS OUT OF THE WAY.

THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM MOSAIC.





I KNOW, I'M BEING NEGATIVE. AFTER ALL, YOU CAME HERE OF YOUR OWN VOLITION.

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE SO EAGER FOR THE TREATMENT, MAH ZINN!

I HEARD. AND BELIEVE-YOU-ME, WE WANT NOTHING MORE THAN TO CURB YOUR BAD HABITS AND SET YOU FREE. WE'RE ALL FRIENDS HERE.

IF WE WEREN'T, I'D BE A BAD FATHER LETTING ONE OF MY BABIES LIVE INSIDE THAT UNDEAD NOGGIN OF YOURS, WOULDN'T IT?

COME AGAIN? WHAT ARE YOU—



OH, HELL.

YESSIR, THERE'S A LITTLE PIECE OF ME IN EVERY GUEST AT MOSAIC.

DON'T WORRY, THEY WON'T BITE.

AS LONG AS YOU DON'T STRAY TOO FAR FROM THEIR DADDY, THEY LIKE TO BE NEAR MAH ZINN. YOU TRY TO LEAVE THE GROUNDS, AND, WELL...

...THEN THEY BITE. A WHOLE LOT.



WE RUN ON A REVERSE CLOCK HERE. NIGHTTIME IS FOR GROUP THERAPY, DE-PROGRAMMING AND SUPERVISED SOCIALIZING.



DAYTIME IS FOR SLEEPING, EATING, AN HOUR OF TELEVISION, AND ARTS AND CRAFTS. IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU NEED...

I'M THINKING AN EXTRA LARGE Q-TIP WOULD BE AMAZING.

HA HA HA HA! NEVER LOSE THAT SENSE OF HUMOR, MY BOY! NO MATTER HOW INSANELY, UNCONTROLLABLY TORTUROUS LIFE GETS!



THIS IS A MISTAKE! I'M CURED, I JUST... I JUST FELL OFF THE WAGON, IT WAS TEMPORARY...



OH, CAROL, RELAX.

YOU MISSED MOSAIC, ADMIT IT.

HE'S MY ROOMMATE? HE CAN'T BE, I...

DOC'S ORDERS.



SIT DOWN AND WIFE THAT FRIGHTENED LOOK OFF YOUR FACE. DON'T YOU GET IT? YOUR RETURN IS A GIFT. AND WHO YOU ARRIVED WITH, MAN... IT'S ALL COMING TOGETHER.

YES, INDEED, SOMEBODY DOWN THERE LIKES ME.



OH, GOD...



I HAD A GUEST LAST NIGHT. I'D OFFER YOU THE TOP BUNK, BUT IT'S WORSE.

FUNNY THING, THOUGH...

... STILL FAMISHED.



WELCOME

HOME SWEET HOME.

AT LEAST I HAVE A ROOM TO MYSELF.



MOSAIC KEEPS MEN AND THE WOMEN IN THE SAME PLACE.

MOST LIKELY BECAUSE THERE ARE FAR TOO MANY SEXES IN THE DEMON/MONSTER/GIANT SLUG WORLD TO START SEPARATING THE SEXES.



THAT YOUNG GIRL ACROSS THE HALL, FOR INSTANCE? PROBABLY NOT A GIRL, PROBABLY NOT YOUNG.

IF SHE WAS, HER CELL-MATE WOULD HAVE SWALLOWED HER WHOLE A LONG—



YOU THREW YOUR JACKET ON MY BED. THAT IS NOT COOL.



I'VE BEEN SLEEPING ON THE BOTTOM BUNK



...SO KEEP YOUR CRAP OFF OF IT, GOT IT? JUST BECAUSE I'M INVISIBLE DOESN'T MEAN I'M NOT HERE.

IT'S LIKE DOC THILBAULT SAYS—"INVISIBLE PEOPLE ARE PEOPLE... AND THEY'RE JUST INVISIBLE... AND MAYBE NOT PEOPLE, BECAUSE HOW CAN YOU TELL?" BUT I'VE SEEN ME AND I AM A PERSON.



YOU'RE NOT JUST INVISIBLE... YOU'RE...

CAN'T SMELL ME EITHER, RIGHT? YEAH, I'M PRETTY MUCH NOT HERE, LIKE AT ALL. NAME'S BIV.



ON MY REALLY DOWN DAYS, I DON'T EVEN HAVE A VOICE AND-HEY!

IS YOUR BLOOD INVISIBLE?

YESSIR.



SO I COULD DRAIN YOU IN FRONT OF EVERYONE HERE AND IT WOULD BE THE PERFECT CRIME.

MY CELL, MY RULES, UNDERSTAND?

OW!

I DO, AS LONG AS YOU UNDERSTAND THIS- I CAN TOUCH THE WALL-



-CONCENTRATE REAL HARD-



-AND DO THIS.

AAAAAAAAAAAAAH! DAMMIT!

SO WE'RE AGREED, THE BOTTOM BUNK IS MINE, THEN?

WELCOME TO MOSAIC.



THAT'S FORTY-FIVE MINUTES FOR LUNCH!

THIS MAY BE SLIGHTLY MORE DIFFICULT THAN I THOUGHT.

IF RUBY'S HERE, RUBY'S HIDING.



SHE'D BE SOMEWHAT HARD TO MISS. A SOMEWHAT NORMAL NEEDLE IN AN UGLY DAMN HAYSTACK.



LIKE THAT ONE. LOOK HOW SHE STANDS OUT.

COULD BE THE CREEPY STARING.



PIG'S BLOOD.

PRATT, Vampire
Born: a

AND SOMETHING ELSE.



SOMETHING SYNTHETIC.



IT'S A BLOOD SUBSTITUTE. CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT CRAP?



...YOU CAN SAMPLE FROM MY PRIVATE STOCK.

SNAP!

CAROL.



THANKS, I'M GOOD.



MIGHT WANT TO RECONSIDER. FEW DAYS ON MOSAIC'S DIET AND YOU WON'T FEEL YOURSELF. AND BELIEVE ME, YOU'RE GOING TO NEED YOUR STRENGTH.

THAT WEREWOLF CLIQUE OVER THERE? HATES MY VAMP GANG. AND THEIR RAGE IS BUILDING— ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE MOSAIC'S DRUGS AREN'T ENOUGH TO KEEP THEM CALM AND COLLECTED.



I KNOW, I KNOW. "WEREWOLF CLIQUE," "VAMP GANG." IT'S SO WEST SIDE STORY. BUT IN THIS PLACE, YOU GOTTA JOIN UP WITH SOMEONE TO SURVIVE.

THAT TABLE? WE GOT A STRANG DEMON BREAKING BREAD WITH A DAMNNED FIRE ELEMENTAL, SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY'RE BOTH RED.

GREEN DEMONS WANT THEM DEAD, BLUE DEMONS WANT THEM DEAD. MONSTERS ARE GOING COLOR-CODED FOR PROTECTION.



SO HERE'S THE HARD SELL. SOME VERY INTERESTING THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GO DOWN, AND IF YOU WANT TO SEE THE OUTSIDE OF THESE WALLS EVER AGAIN, IT WOULD BEHOOVE YOU TO COME UNDER MY WING AND JOIN UP.



INTERESTING. MAN COMES TO ME WITH A PROPOSAL LIKE THIS, ONLY ONE ANSWER, REALLY...

BUGGER OFF.

THAT'S...

...DISAPPOINTING.



OH, BUT IT SHOULDN'T BE, REALLY.

BECAUSE THE FIRST THING I DO WHEN I JOIN A NEW GANG IS KILL THE BLOWHARD SELF-IMPORTANT LEADER. SO, MY BOREDOM AND DISINTEREST IS WIN-WIN, REALLY.



FINE. I CAN RESPECT THAT.

BUT IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE A BROTHER...

HELLO I AM AN OGRE

HELLO I AM A MUTANT

HELLO I AM A WEREWOLF

HELLO I AM A VAMPIRE

HELLO I AM A DRAGON

HELLO I AM A GYMER

HELLO I AM A WIZARD

HELLO I AM A VAMPIRE

HELLO I AM A DRAGON

HELLO I AM A GYMER

HELLO I AM A WIZARD

HELLO I AM A VAMPIRE

HELLO I AM A DRAGON

HELLO I AM A GYMER

HELLO I AM A WIZARD

HELLO I AM A VAMPIRE

HELLO I AM A DRAGON

HELLO I AM A GYMER

HELLO I AM A WIZARD

HELLO I AM A VAMPIRE

HELLO I AM A DRAGON

HELLO I AM A GYMER

HELLO I AM A WIZARD

HELLO I AM A VAMPIRE

HELLO I AM A DRAGON

HELLO I AM A GYMER

HELLO I AM A WIZARD

HELLO I AM A VAMPIRE

HELLO I AM A DRAGON

HELLO I AM A GYMER

HELLO I AM A WIZARD

HELLO I AM A VAMPIRE

HELLO I AM A DRAGON

HELLO I AM A GYMER

HELLO I AM A WIZARD

HELLO I AM A VAMPIRE

HELLO I AM A DRAGON

HELLO I AM A GYMER

HELLO I AM A WIZARD

HELLO I AM A VAMPIRE

HELLO I AM A DRAGON

HELLO I AM A GYMER

HELLO I AM A WIZARD

HELLO I AM A VAMPIRE

HELLO I AM A DRAGON

HELLO I AM A GYMER

HELLO I AM A WIZARD

HELLO I AM A VAMPIRE



THEN YOU'RE GOING TO BE AN EXAMPLE!



HE MOVES FAST... AND HIS GRIP, IT'S...

...IMPRESSIVE.

DO YOU SEE? DOES EVERYONE SEE?



THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU CROSS WISEAU.



NOT YET!

SSSSSSSSPIKE IS OOOOOURS!



KNOCK IT OFF!
THIS IS NOT HOW POLITE GUESTS BEHAVE!



GET UP, DAMN IT, GET UP, HE'S COMING!



CAFETERIA RIOT. MUST BE WEDNESDAY.



PUT THIS IN YOUR EAR.



ONE SIDE, DR. RAY, I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU.

WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT IT. THAT WORM IN YOUR EAR?

IT HATES THIS SOUND.

SCREEEEEEEE

LISTEN UP. IF YOU ARE HELLBENT ON HURTING THE NEW PATIENTS, DO IT IN THE PRIVACY OF YOUR OWN CELL.

THERE ARE MORE THAN A DOZEN TELEPORTERS HERE AT MOSAIC.

I'M SURE ONE OF THEM WILL BE HAPPY TO ASSIST YOU.

OH, SPIKE...
...SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE.



DON'T BANDAGE IT COMPLETELY, LEAVE SOME SHOWING.

WHY?

LISTEN TO THE MAN, DALTON.

BATTLE SCARS ARE A BADGE OF HONOR IN THIS PLACE. MAYBE SOME OF THEM WILL LEAVE HIM ALONE FOR A WHILE.

I... GUESS I'M DONE, THEN.



I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE WONDERING. WHY'D I GIVE YOU THAT EARPIECE, AM I RIGHT?

ACTUALLY, I'M WONDERING WHY YOU WOULDN'T GIVE ONE TO THAT DEFENSELESS GIRL THAT WAS SITTING NEXT TO ME, MINDING HER BUSINESS.



"DEFENSELESS?" NOT EVERYTHING IS AS IT SEEMS, SPIKE.

FOR INSTANCE, AT FIRST GLANCE, ONE COULD ASSUME THAT YOU COULD ACTUALLY HOLD YOUR OWN IN A FIGHT.

PISS OFF.

KIDDING. ACTUALLY, I'M A FAN. BEEN WATCHING YOU...



...EVER SINCE I WORKED FOR WOLFRAM & HART.

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!



STAY THE HELL AWAY FROM ME.



YOU WEREN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO WORKED FOR THEM UNDER FALSE PRETENSES. AND IF NOT FOR YOU, I'D STILL BE SLAVING AWAY THERE, LITERALLY.

I DIDN'T WORK FOR THEM. I WAS MAILED TO THEM. IN AN AMULET. IT'S COMPLICATED.

WELL, EITHER WAY, ANGEL MAY GET ALL THE CREDIT, BUT I KNOW WHAT REALLY HAPPENED. YOU SAVED MY LIFE, SPIKE. I WON'T FORGET THAT.



I'VE FUTZED WITH YOUR SCHEDULE A BIT. NO ONE IN YOUR NEW GROUP THERAPY SHOULD BOTHER YOU.



BLOODY FIGURES.

THE NICEST ONE HERE WORKS FOR WOLFRAM AND BLOODY HART.

WAIT A MINUTE, DID HE SAY "GROUP THERAPY"?



THIS IS WILLIAM. HE'S A VAMPIRE, AND THAT'S OKAY. LET'S GIVE HIM THE GROUP SAS GREETING! COME ON, DON'T BE SHY!



SAY IT WITH ME!



THAT JACKET IS SO BOSS. I WISH I HAD A BODY SO I COULD WEAR A... WAIT, DID YOU GLYS HEAR ME SAY THAT? A FOX ON THIS TELEPATHY.



YEAH, SURE, HEY.

DUDE'S MY ROOMMATE. WE HAD OUR INTRODUCTION.

HI, WILLIAM.

HELLO.



HOLD UP, YOU'RE MY ROOMMATE? WHY CAN I...?

SEE ME? YEAH—BLAME ANNA. SHE MUTES OUR POWERS.

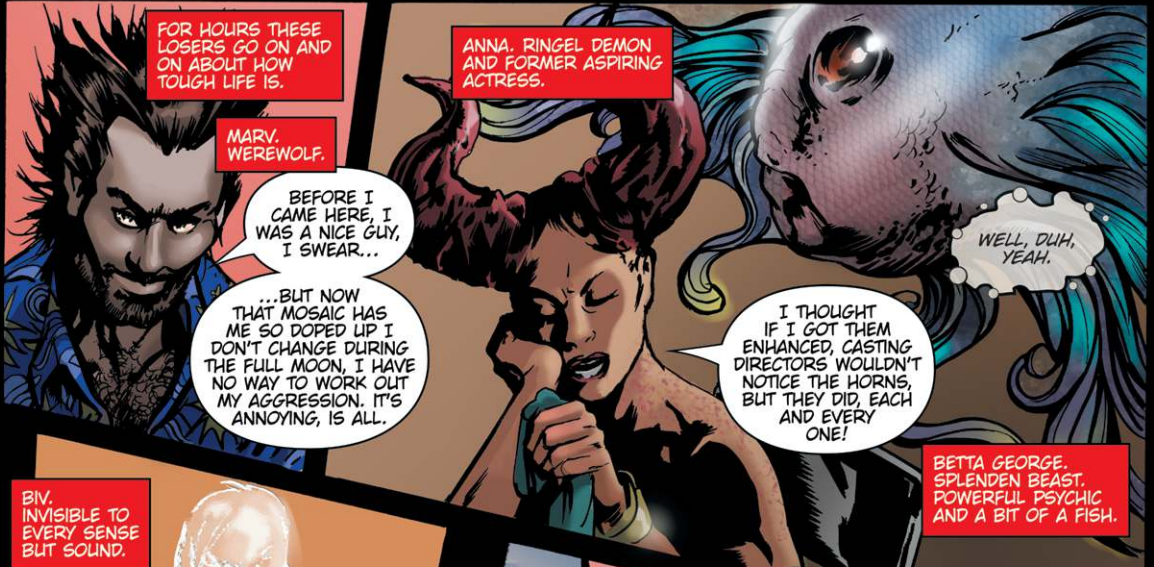
IT'S A GIFT SORRY DOCTOR THILBAULT, A CURSE IT'S A CURSE AND I WANT IT GONE.



I WAS WONDERING WHY THE BLOODLIST FELT CURBED, THOUGHT IT WAS MOSAIC'S BLOOD N' XANAX LUNCHTIME COCKTAIL.

NO, ANNA, IT'S FINE. IN FACT, I BET WE ALL FEEL A LITTLE SAFER WITH YOU IN THE ROOM.

MAYBE I JUST DO. ANYWAY, WHO WANTS TO TALK FIRST?



FOR HOURS THESE LOSERS GO ON AND ON ABOUT HOW TOUGH LIFE IS.

ANNA. RINGEL DEMON AND FORMER ASPIRING ACTRESS.

MARY. WEREWOLF.

BEFORE I CAME HERE, I WAS A NICE GUY, I SWEAR...
...BUT NOW THAT MOSAIC HAS ME SO DOPED UP I DON'T CHANGE DURING THE FULL MOON, I HAVE NO WAY TO WORK OUT MY AGGRESSION. IT'S ANNOYING, IS ALL.

I THOUGHT IF I GOT THEM ENHANCED, CASTING DIRECTORS WOULDN'T NOTICE THE HORNS, BUT THEY DID, EACH AND EVERY ONE!

WELL, DUH, YEAH.

BETTA GEORGE. SPLENDEN BEAST. POWERFUL PSYCHIC AND A BIT OF A FISH.



BIV. INVISIBLE TO EVERY SENSE BUT SOUND.

I KICKED SPIKE'S ASS. HE'S PRETTY MUCH MY BITCH.

UNFORTUNATELY.



BECK. NO IDEA ABOUT THIS ONE.

I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY.



GOTTA USE THE BATHROOM.

SHE DOES THIS EVERY MEETING. HAS HERSELF A GOOD CRY. IT'S REALLY QUITE—

DON'T TOUCH ME.

UNDERSTOOD.



YOU PEOPLE DON'T REALIZE HOW HARD IT IS!

LET IT ALL OUT, ANNA. WE'RE HERE FOR YOU.

OH, GOD, BIV, MY EYES ARE UP HERE.

SHOOT. SLIGHTLY VISIBLE. I FORGOT.

MAYBE RUBY'S NOT DEAD. IF THESE WANKERS COULD SURVIVE MOSAIC, THEN...

...HOLD UP. SOMEONE'S ROOTING AROUND MY BRAIN.

ENJOYING THE SHOW?

WHAT? I WASN'T, I SWEAR...

I WAS JUST DOING A HARMLESS BRAIN CHECK. SEEING IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO DRAIN US. CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL.

IF YOU WANT WOOD, YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO WAIT, EVER SINCE YOU ARRIVED THERE'S BEEN A DEMAND FOR IT—

TELL ME WHERE RUBY MONAHAN IS BEING KEPT.

BY THE BY... JUST A HEADS UP, YOU WANT ANYTHING, YOU COME TO BETTA GEORGE. I CAN GET YOU STUFF. CIGARETTES, BLEACH, WOOD...

WHO?

RUBY MONAHAN, YOUNG GIRL. PART SADECKI DEMON.

THERE ISN'T ANY RUBY MONAHAN AT MOSAIC... AND THERE SURE AS HECK AREN'T ANY SADECKI DEMONS.

YOU'RE SURE?

SADECKI DEMONS ARE PSYCHIC, I'D KNOW IF ONE CHECKED IN. DON'T NEED THE COMPETITION.

BESIDES, I'M IN TUNE WITH EVERYONE AT MOSAIC. THE ONLY LIVING CREATURE HERE THAT HAS EVER HEARD OF THE NAME RUBY MONAHAN IS YOU. AND NOW ME.



WAIT...

...ACTUALLY...

...YOU'VE HEARD THE NAME RUBY MONAHAN BEFORE. IT'S WAY WAY BACK THERE IN THE RECESSES OF YOUR MEMORY.

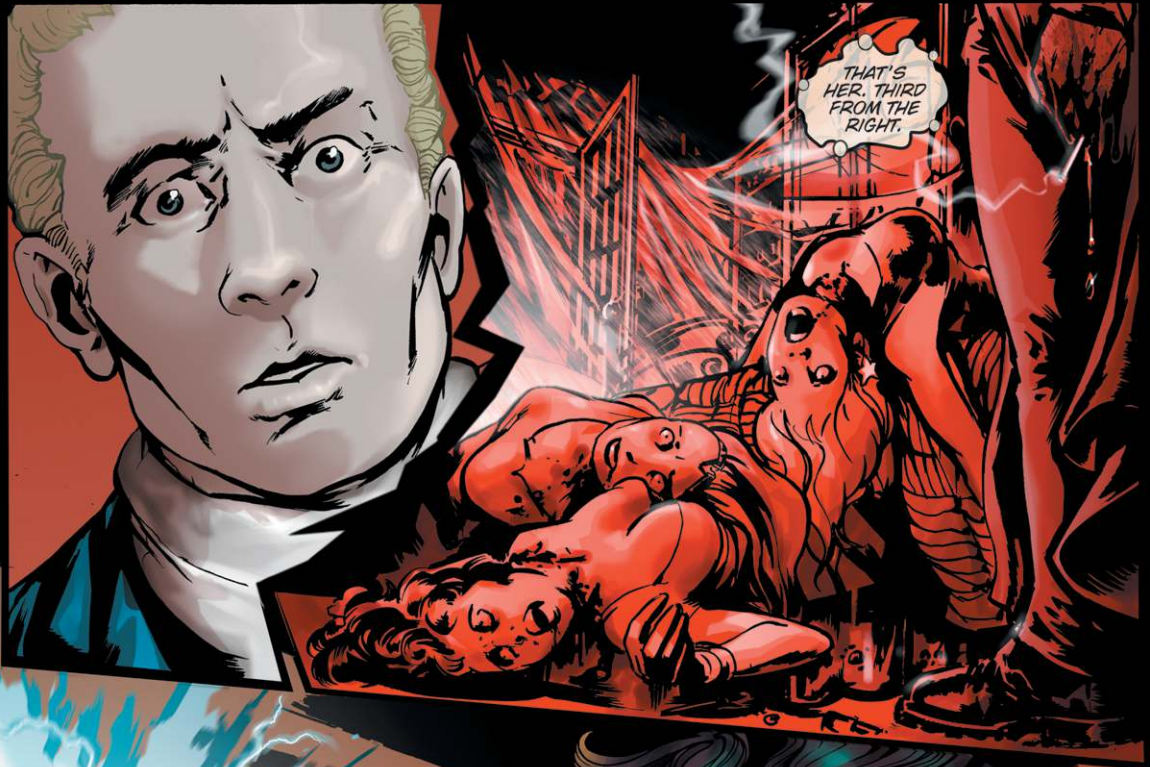
I MEAN YOU'VE MET RUBY MONAHAN...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

...SO TO SPEAK, I COULD STIR THINGS UP IN THERE, SO YOU COULD SEE IT FOR YOURSELF, BUT...

DO IT.

YOU ASKED FOR IT.



THAT'S HER. THIRD FROM THE RIGHT.



YOU'RE LYING!

HEY, MAN, DON'T SHOOT THE MESSENGER.

OH, OKAY, EVERYONE, WILLIAM WANTS TO SAY SOMETHING...



HE'S NOT LYING. MEMORIES ARE HITTING ME LIKE A SACK OF BRICKS.

I DRAINED THE ENTIRE ROOM, AND READ THEIR DAMN DIARIES TO THEM AS THEY WHIMPERED FOR HELP.

RUBY MONAHAN ISN'T AN INNOCENT HALF-DEMON THAT NEEDS MY RESCUING.

RUBY MONAHAN IS AN INNOCENT GIRL I MURDERED.



HER PARENTS SET ME UP. WANTED TO PUT ME AWAY WHERE I COULD NEVER HURT ANYONE ELSE.



THEY DID THEIR RESEARCH. KNEW ABOUT THE SOUL, SAW IT AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXACT SOME REVENGE.



EVEN KNEW TO BRING UP BLOODY ANGEL SO I'D BE EXTRA MOTIVATED.

AND YOU KNOW WHAT?



I GOT OFF LUCKY. THEY WERE COMPLETELY IN THE RIGHT TO DO IT.





BECAUSE FOR ALL THE GOOD I
THINK I'M DOING NOW, FOR ALL
THE MONSTERS I'VE STOPPED...



...IT DOESN'T
CHANGE THE FACT
THAT I WAS JUST
AS BAD OR WORSE
THAN ALL OF THEM.



AT LEAST
HERE I'M
LOCKED
UP...



NEED YOU
TO GIVE A
MESSAGE
TO SPIKE.

...AWAY FROM
THE OUTSIDE
WORLD...



4 SPIKE

...WHERE NO
ONE WILL GET
HURT BECAUSE
OF ME AGAIN.



WISEAU ESCAPED FROM GROUP THERAPY. HE TOOK DOWN FOUR GUARDS, AND THEN DID THIS TO BECK.

IT TOOK SIX MORE TO RESTRAIN HIM. TWO OF THEM PROBABLY WON'T WALK AGAIN.



JUST WHAT THE HELL IS THIS GIRL?

THIS IS WHAT WAS PUT IN HER.

IMPALED THROUGH THE CHEST, BUT THEY SAY SHE'LL BE FINE.



WELL?

WELL WHAT?



IS IT YOURS?

EXCUSE ME?

IT SAYS IT'S FOR YOU. DID YOU FORCE WISEAU TO DO THIS?



WISEAU TOLD THE GUARDS YOU MADE HIM DO IT. I THOUGHT THAT IF YOU SAW YOUR DIRTY WORK FIRSTHAND, YOUR SOUL WOULD KICK IN AND YOU'D OWN UP.

NUMBER ONE, I WANT THIS KINDA THING DONE, I DO IT MYSELF AND IT'S DONE RIGHT. NUMBER TWO...

...CAN'T REALLY THINK OF ANOTHER POINT YOU'D UNDERSTAND, SO I'LL JUST WRAP UP WITH "PISS OFF, SLUG."



YOUR ANGER IS UNDERSTANDABLE, WILLIAM.

YOUR RACIAL SLURS ARE MOST DEFINITELY NOT.

MY CHILDREN DON'T LIKE IT WHEN YOU INSULT DADDY.

SIR?

N/N/N/N/N/N/N/N/N...



YOU HAVE TO LEARN TO CONTROL YOUR PATIENTS, THILBAULT. I KNEW I SHOULD HAVE GIVEN WILLIAM TO DR. RAY. YOU JUST DON'T HAVE A BACKBONE, SON.

I'M SPEAKING FIGURATIVELY, OF COURSE. I REALIZE I MYSELF DO NOT HAVE A LITERAL BACKBONE. CLEAN WILLIAM AND ESCORT HIM BACK TO HIS CELL.



I REALIZE YOU'RE PEEVED ABOUT WISEAU?

"PEEVED"?

YES, GOTTA ADMIT, DOC. SLIGHTLY PEEVED.

-BUT YOU HAVE TO PROMISE ME YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SEEK RETRIBUTION.



OR WHAT? GONNA HAVE MY ONE HOUR OF TV TIME REVOKED?

WELL, YOU'RE ALREADY ON MAH ZINN'S BAD SIDE, SO I'M THINKING THEY'LL SKIP THAT AND GO RIGHT TO RIPPING OUT YOUR FANGS AND SURGICALLY REMOVING YOUR VAMP BROW.



RIGHT, LIKE THAT IS EVEN...

...POSSIBLE.

SCOTT TAYLOR, MOSAIC GUEST 113, ATTEMPTED TO CREATE AN INTER-DIMENSIONAL CROSS-RIP IN THE COURTYARD.

SO YOU CARVED HIS FACE.

I WAS THERE, BUT IT WAS ALL MAH ZINN. HE HAD TO DO IT WHEN SCOTT WAS, YOU KNOW, "VAMPED-OUT"...



TO DO THAT, HE'D HAVE TO BE...

PEEVED? OH, HE WAS. HAD TO BE VAMPED-OUT SO MAH ZINN COULD CHISEL AWAY HIS, YOU KNOW, FACE. COULDN'T USE ANESTHETIC. MR. TAYLOR CERTAINLY DIDN'T ENJOY IT, BUT SOMEDAY, HE'LL THANK US.

SOMEDAY.



I'M SMACK DAB IN THE BIGGEST FREAKSHOW THIS SIDE OF THE HELLMOUTH. HOW IN HELL DID I WIND UP HERE?


OH, YEAH, I WAS STUPID. HAD TO PLAY HERO.



AND LOOK WHERE IT'S GOTTEN ME.

LOOK WHERE IT'S GOTTEN HER.

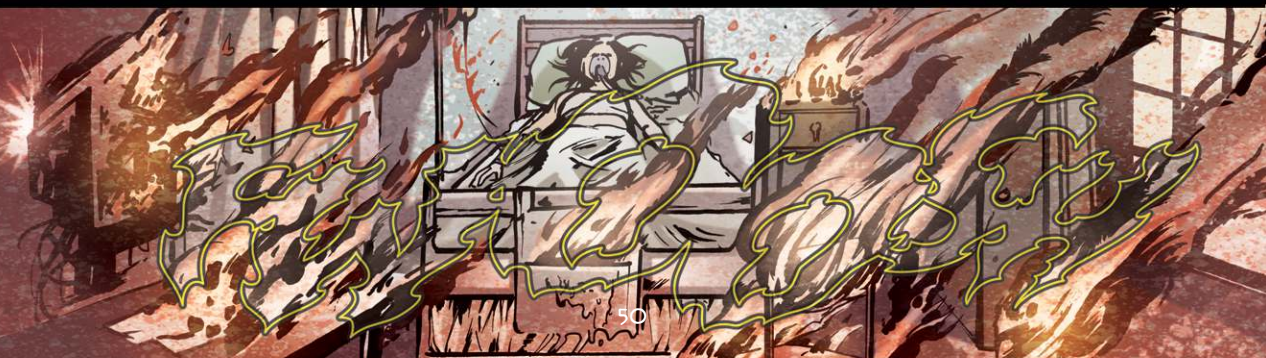
LASS WAS SKEWERED BECAUSE SHE WAS SEEN IN MY COMPANY.



I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU THINK I AM...



...BUT STAY THE HELL AWAY FROM ME.





NO WISEAU, I'M NOT COMPLAINING. HE'S HERE, EVERYONE EXPECTS ME TO THROW DOWN, LATELY, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE I WAS SIBED, I'M JUST NOT FEELING UP TO A TUSSELE.



THERE YOU ARE! YOU HAVE TO COME WITH ME!

HELL.



QUITE THE OPPOSITE, LUVV.

BUT...

"BUT" NOTHING. GO BACK TO THE BEACH PARTY AND LEAVE ME BE. YOU SUCK THE MOJO FROM ANYONE YOU'RE NEAR. IN THIS PLACE, THAT'S A VERY BAD THING.

YOU'VE BEEN HERE TWO SHAKES AND I'M ALREADY NOT CRAVING BLOOD.



SEE, THIS IS MOVING CLOSER. THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT I REQUESTED. WHATEVER YOU HAVE IN MIND, I ASSURE YOU I HAVE NO INTEREST IN—

YOU HAVE TO COME TO THE SHOWERS WITH ME, RIGHT NOW.

DEAL.

NOW, WHATEVER POWER— LEECHING YOU'VE GOT GOING ON WON'T PERMANENTLY AFFECT ME IF WE EXCHANGE FLUIDS, YES? BECAUSE—

COME ON.

SHOWERS



BLOODY HELL...

DON'T BE SO SURPRISED. IT'S AN OMNISEX SHOWER IN A PRISON-LIKE ENVIRONMENT, AND THE GUARDS DON'T LIKE TO COME IN HERE.

I CAN SEE WHY. ARE THOSE TWO FIGHTING OR...

NOT IMPORTANT...

PLEASE LET THEM BE FIGHTING.

BIV AND GEORGE TOOK THE NEWS ABOUT BECK PRETTY BADLY. THEY MANAGED TO DRAG WISEAU INTO THE SHOWER, AND... WELL...

NOT SO TOUGH NOW, ARE YOU?

YOH KABOB ONE OF US, YOH KABOB AAAAAAALL OF US!





THIS IS WHAT YOU WANTED TO SHOW ME?
SO WE'RE HERE FOR... SO WE'RE NOT GOING TO...?



I'M GONNA GET OUT OF HERE SO YOU CAN DO YOUR THING.

THE ONLY THING I'M GONNA DO IS SIT BACK AND HOPE SOME COLD WATER FINDS IT'S WAY SOUTH.



ACTUALLY, I'M GLAD THIS HAPPENED! EARLIER TODAY, I GOT BEAT DOWN BY A DOZEN MOSAIC GUARDS! HAVE A CRAPLOAD OF AGGRESSION TO WORK OUT!



'A DOZEN GUARDS?' OH, COME NOW.

WHO SAID THAT?



TECHNICALLY, NO ONE "SAID" IT, BUT LET'S SHOW EVERYONE JUST HOW YOU GOT THOSE BATTLE SCARS, HMM?



ALL THE PROGRESS WE'VE MADE!

AND NOW LOOK AT YOU!



YOU WILL LEARN YOUR PLACE!



...

DON'T WORRY, I'M SURE EVERYONE HERE CAN KEEP A SECRET



DID YOU SEE THAT?

BY A SINGLE HUMAN!

SO NOT EXACTLY A DOZEN GUARDS, BUT CLOSE.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, SERIOUSLY, DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA OF THE MESSED-UP THINGS GOING ON IN YOUR HEAD?



WHEN I WAS GOING THROUGH WISEAU'S HEAD, I FOUND SOMETHING—

STOP BLOODY DISTRACTING ME!



BUT... AMIDST ALL THE SCATTERED MEMORIES OF BLOODSHED AND HAIR-CARE, HE'S GOT THE SAME WORDS RUNNING THROUGH HIS HEAD.

THEY'RE WAY BACK THERE. WISEAU MIGHT NOT EVEN KNOW ABOUT IT.



WHAT ARE THEY?



"LISTEN FOR COMING."

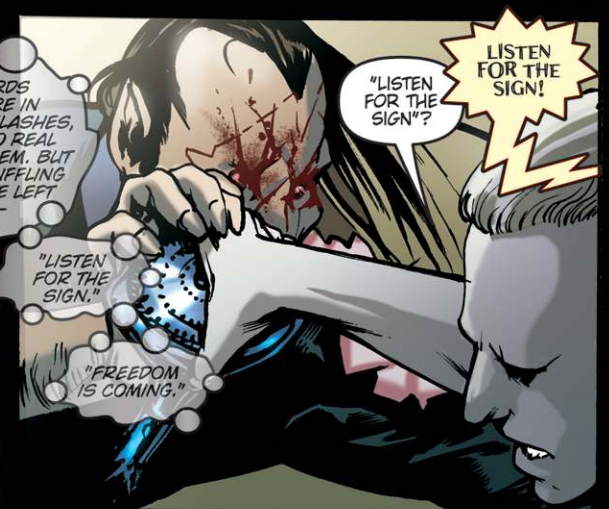
SO IT'S SODDING GIBBERISH FROM AN IMMORTAL MONGOLOID.

"THE SIGN IS FREEDOM."

THE WORDS ARE THERE IN DISJOINTED FLASHES, THERE'S NO REAL ORDER TO THEM, BUT A QUICK SHUFFLING AND YOU'RE LEFT WITH—

"LISTEN FOR THE SIGN."

"FREEDOM IS COMING."



"LISTEN FOR THE SIGN?"

LISTEN FOR THE SIGN!



LISTEN FOR THE SIGN.

LISTEN FOR THE SIGN.

SO DISAPPOINTING.

FREEDOM IS COMING.

FREEDOM IS COMING.

WRECK

FREEDOM IS COMING!

FREEDOM IS COMING!

LISTEN FOR THE SIGN!

AFTER ALL THOSE STORIES I HEARD ABOUT YOU. YOU WERE A LEGEND, MAN!

THUDD

FREEDOM IS COMING!

FREEDOM IS COMING!

DO ME A HUGE FAVOR AND CUT OUT THE CRANIAL CHIT-CHAT FOR A MINUTE, GEORGE.

SERIOUSLY, YOU WERE HERO OF MINE. IF I EVER Sired SOMEONE THROUGH IMMACULATE VAMPIRE CONCEPTION, I WAS GOING TO NAME HIM "SPIKE," WORD IS BOND. BUT NOW...

...LOOK AT YOU!





I WAS CONSIDERING STEALING SOME PEROXIDE AND DYING MY HAIR...

HELLO

HELLO

HELLO



...BUT THEN I DECIDED ON A SLIGHTLY MORE DRASTIC MAKEOVER.

HE'S FRESH AS A DAISY, AND IT'S ALL I CAN DO TO STAY ON TWO FEET.



THIS IS IT. IT'S FINE, I'VE DIED BEFORE. AT LEAST THIS ONE WON'T INVOLVE MY INTERNALS EXPLODING.

I MEAN, MAYBE IT WILL— WISEAU IS A SICK SOD.

FINE. LET'S GO.



WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

OH, THANK YOU.

OH, DAMN IT. JUST WHEN THINGS WERE GETTING INTERESTING.

SORRY, DOC. WISEAU DROPPED THE SOAP.



JUST HELPING HIM FIND

AARGH!

ZZAP



ARE YOU BLOODY SERIOUS? I WAS?

HIT HIM AGAIN.



YOU'RE REALLY STARTING TO PEEVE ME A TINY—

AAARGH!

LATER.

I'M A NICE GUY. I AM. BUT SERIOUSLY...

...I'M REALLY STARTING TO NOT LIKE SPIKE.



HE'S ONLY BEEN HERE A FEW DAYS AND ALREADY GOTTEN EVERYONE'S DANDER UP.

I'LL SAY. MY OWN SUPPORT GROUP ATTACKED ME TODAY. I FENDED THEM OFF, SINGLE-HANDEDLY.

IT WASN'T THAT HARD—THE MAJORITY DIDN'T ATTEND THE SESSION—THEY WERE FIGHTING IN THE SHOWER AND/OR STAKED THROUGH THE GUT.



WE DON'T EVEN KNOW THAT SPIKE STARTED THE ATTACK. THE MAN HAS A SOUL. HE'S DONE A LOT OF GOOD IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

WE'RE NOT IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD, RAY! WE HAVE A WAY OF DOING THINGS AND HE'S COMPLETELY MUCKING IT UP.



SCHEDULE THE SURGERY.



YOU WANT TO... CUT OPEN HIS FACE?

NO, NO, NO...

...I WANT TO CUT OFF HIS FACE. GIVE 'EM THE SCOTT TAYLOR TREATMENT. TODAY. THEN WE'LL BE THROWING HIM BACK IN GEN-POP SO MOSAIC CAN SEE WHAT WE DO TO RABBLE-ROUSERS.



SCOTT TAYLOR ISN'T EVEN OUT OF THE INFIRMARY, WE DON'T KNOW *WHAT* WE DID TO HIM. BRANDON, SPIKE IS YOUR PATIENT, TELL HIM?

I...

...I TOLD SPIKE TO STAY AWAY FROM WISEALI. HE DIDN'T LISTEN.



BUT WE CAN'T DO IT TODAY. TO OPERATE ON WILLIAM'S VAMPIRE FEATURES, WE NEED HIM TO *BE* A VAMPIRE. AND WILLIAM IS TOO SEDATED TO... YOU KNOW...



WE'RE GONNA NEED AT LEAST 24 HOURS. HE'S PRETTY OUT OF IT.

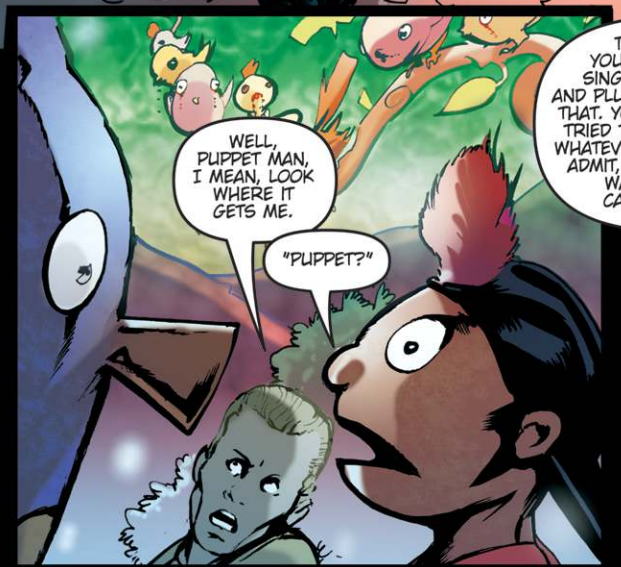
HOW "OUT OF IT"?



I'M TELLING YOU, SOME DAYS THIS SOUL...

...ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, MAYBE I WOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?



WELL, PUPPET MAN, I MEAN, LOOK WHERE IT GETS ME.

"PUPPET?"



THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE, NO? OH, SING THE "COURAGE AND PLUCK" SONG? I LOVE THAT. YOU GITS MAY HAVE TRIED TO EAT BABIES OR WHATEVER, BUT I HAVE TO ADMIT, YOU KNOW YOUR WAY AROUND A CATCHY JINGLE.

HE'S LOST IT.



SERIOUSLY, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.

YEAH, KINDA CREEPING ME OUT.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING? I DIDN'T EVEN LEARN MY LESSON FOR THE DAY!



I THOUGHT THEY'D NEVER LEAVE.

CHECK IT OUT! KEPT GEORGE INVISIBLE FOR A FULL FIVE MINUTES! WHO'S GOT THE POWER!

DO YOU BLOKES WANT TO SING "SMILE AND PLUCK!"



I KINDA DO, YEAH.

HOLD ON, I'M TRYING TO FIND SPIKE SOMEWHERE UNDER ALL SMILES AND RAINBOWS.



I PREFERRED THE BLEEDING PUPPETS.

AND BINGO.

WE HAVE TO MAKE THIS QUICK—NOW THAT I'VE USED TELEPATHY, MOSAIC'S PSYCHICS WILL BE ONTO US



I REALIZE YOU'RE KINDA OUT OF COMMISSION, BUT I NEED TO KNOW, WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT WHAT I FOUND IN WISEAU'S HEAD?

WHO SAID I WAS GONNA DO ANYTHING?

BUT IT SOUNDED LIKE A FULL-ON PRISON BREAK--

QUICK MOSAIC HISTORY LESSON.

DUDE, I THOUGHT YOU WERE SMARTER THAN THAT. MANY HAVE TRIED TO ESCAPE, MANY ARE DEAD, OR RE-DEAD, OR "FATE WORSE THAN DEAD."



THE MOSAIC COMPOUND WAS BUILT BY IVO SHANDOR IN THE EARLY 1900S.

WHY DO I KNOW THAT NAME?

HE AND HIS FOLLOWERS TRIED TO BRING ABOUT THE END OF THE WORLD AFTER THE FIRST WORLD WAR. SOMETHING ABOUT SOCIETY BEING TOO SICK TO SURVIVE, BUT BEFORE THAT, WHEN SHANDOR STILL HAD A SLIVER OF HOPE IN HUMANITY...



"...HE TRIED TO CUT OUT WHAT HE BELIEVED TO BE THE CANCER - ANYTHING SUPERNATURAL. THUS, MOSAIC WAS BORN.

"SHANDOR, WHO DABBLED IN BLACK MAGIC, SEALED THE ENTRANCE WITH A POWERFUL SPELL THAT LET ANYTHING IN... BUT PREVENTED ANYTHING SUPERNATURAL FROM EVER LEAVING.



"HIS FOLLOWERS ON THE OUTSIDE WOULD DRAG MONSTERS THROUGH THE DESERT, TOSS THEM THROUGH THE ENTRANCE, AND, WELL...

"...LET'S JUST SAY THAT THEY NEVER CHECKED OUT."



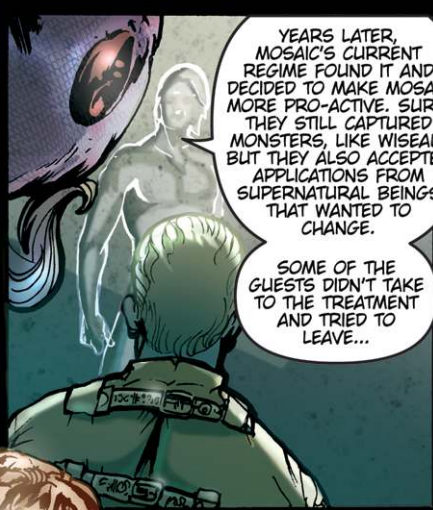
WAIT, WAIT... SHANDOR USED BLACK MAGIC TO SEAL THE ENTRANCE? SO, IF HE DABBLED IN THE SUPERNATURAL, HE...

NOW YOU'RE GETTING IT, BRAINIAC. SHANDOR WAS A VESSEL FOR BLACK MAGIC...



"...SO HE COULD NEVER LEAVE THE VERY BUILDING HE CREATED."

"MAN WAS DEDICATED TO HIS WORK, I'LL GIVE HIM THAT."



YEARS LATER, MOSAIC'S CURRENT REGIME FOUND IT AND DECIDED TO MAKE MOSAIC MORE PRO-ACTIVE. SURE, THEY STILL CAPTURED MONSTERS, LIKE WISEAU, BUT THEY ALSO ACCEPTED APPLICATIONS FROM SUPERNATURAL BEINGS THAT WANTED TO CHANGE.

SOME OF THE GUESTS DIDN'T TAKE TO THE TREATMENT AND TRIED TO LEAVE...



"...BUT SHANDOR, NUT-JOB THAT HE WAS, KNEW WHAT HE WAS DOING."

FOR THE SAKE OF ARGUMENT, LET'S SAY ONE WOULD BE ABLE TO FIGHT OFF THE HUNDREDS OF ARMED GUARDS, AND FOUND A WAY TO COUNTER SHANDOR'S SPELL... THERE'S ALWAYS MAH ZINN.



"GO TOO FAR AWAY FROM MAH ZINN..."

"...AND THE LITTLE BABY MAH ZINNS GET FUSSY!"



ACTUALLY, MY HEAD WOULDN'T EXPLODE. I DON'T HAVE EARS SO THEY DIDN'T PUT THE WORM IN MY...

...OH, MAN, I HOPE MY WORM NEVER GETS ANGRY.

SAY WE FIND A WAY AROUND THE WORMS. IT'S A TEN-HOUR WALK BACK TO PRIMM, AND ABOUT A DAY'S WALK TO LAS VEGAS.



"SO IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY SPF INFINITY ON YOU, YOU'RE TOAST."



THEY KNOW WE'RE IN HERE. WE HAVE FIVE MINUTES, TOPS.

BOTTOM LINE, THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN LEAVE IS IF YOU'RE CURED.

BUT WISEAU DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HE HAD THOSE WORDS ROLLING AROUND IN WHAT HE CALLS HIS BRAIN. SOMEONE PUT THEM THERE... SOMEONE BIGGER THAN HIM, AND IF A BIG BAD IS BEHIND IT...

...A PRISON BREAK IS PROBABLY JUST STEP ONE.





♪ I DON'T CARE, I'M STILL FREEEEEEEE... ♪



♪ YOU CAAAAN'T TAKE THE SKY FROM ME. ♪

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

THANK YOU. THAT WAS A NEWER ONE, BUT IT HAS ONE DILLY OF A MESSAGE. REMEMBER, KIDS, DON'T LET ANYONE TAKE THE SKY FROM YOU.



THIS NEXT ONE...

EARTH TO GUMBY. EARTH TO GUMBY. COME IIIIIIIIN, GUMBY...

WHO SAID... WHERE...?

THE ANSWERS TO BOTH THOSE QUESTIONS ARE PRETTY INTERESTING, ACTUALLY...



WAIT...

...I KNOW THAT VOICE...

OH NO.

NO. NO. NO.

AND NO.

AFRAID SO, LORNE. IT'S YOUR SECOND-FAVORITE VAMPIRE WITH A SOUL.

AND YOU'LL NEVER BELIEVE WHERE I'M CALLING YOU FROM.

LISTEN UP, KIDDIES. TIME FOR A QUICK MATH LESSON.

PRIMM
SOUVENIRS
GIFTS
T-SHIRTS

PIONEER

AAAAAAAH, SPANDEX!

AAAAAAAH, THE DEVIL!

IMPECCABLY DRESSED DEATHWOK DEMON.

PLUS TOURIST TRAP CATERING TO AN OVER-SIXTY CROWD.

EQUALS THIS.

JUST GOTTA WARN A COUPLE OF JOES ABOUT A POTENTIAL MONSTER ASYLUM BREAK-OUT AND THEN I'M GONE.

IN AND OUT, TWENTY MINUTES, MAX.

BUT SERIOUSLY, DON'T GET YOUR GRANNY-PANTIES IN A BUNCH. I'M NOT STAYING LONG.

MOSAIC
FITNESS CENTER

TWO HOURS LATER...

AND IF I DON'T GET TO THE BELLAGIO THEATER IN 45 MINUTES, THEY WILL SEND MY UNDERSTUDY ON, WHO'S A SWEET KID, BUT SERIOUSLY LACKING IN STAGE PRESENCE, AND HORNS, SO—

....
DON'T MEAN TO PULL RANK HERE, BUT I'VE SAVED THE WORLD, STOOD BEHIND OR NEXT TO PEOPLE SAVING THE WORLD, OR BABY SAT FOR PEOPLE SAVING THE WORLD MORE TIMES THAN I CAN COUNT.

YOU DON'T HAVE AN APPOINTMENT, SO YOU HAVE TO WAIT. PLEASE HAVE A SEAT AND ENJOY A MAGAZINE.

NUMBER ONE, THOSE MAGAZINES ARE SO OLD THAT THEY FEATURE BRAD AND JEN AS HOLLYWOOD'S NEWEST IT COUPLE, WHICH IS DOWNRIGHT HEARTBREAKING TO READ.

NUMBER TWO, I JUST WANT TO PASS ON A MESSAGE, SO—

SO WE'LL GET TO YOU WHEN WE GET TO YOU. IT'S MY FIRST WEEK HERE. I DON'T NEED THIS STRESS.

GOING TO HAVE TO TRY ANOTHER APPROACH.

OH. WOW. SO YOU'RE NEW TO ALL OF THIS?

I'LL JUST WAIT QUIETLY AND POLITELY...

...HOPING THAT MY GREEN DEMON POWERS DON'T KICK IN, MELTING THE FACE OF WHOMEVER I'M LOOKING AT.

AND REST ASSURED, I'LL BE STARING AT YOU. THE ENTIRE TIME.

CAN HE DO THAT?

DUNNO. NOT EXACTLY A DEMON, BUT I HAVE DONE SOME READING AND IT SOUNDS LIKE GRADE-A HOKUM.

TWO MORE HOURS LATER...

SERIOUSLY, MISS—

MALPOSO ANGRA MAZDA ORMAZD YAZATAS MAINYLI.

SERIOUSLY, LADY, WHEN A MAN SENDS YOU A MESSAGE VIA A TELEPATHIC FISH, YOU SIT UP AND YOU LISTEN. AND SPIKE WAS CERTAIN THERE IS A BREAK-OUT BREWING.

AND THE WAY THE MESSAGE ENDED, IT WAS A TAD ON THE WHITE-KNUCKLE-DISTURBING SIDE.

I WAS PSYCHICALLY LINKED TO SPIKE AT THE TIME, SO I FELT HOW THEY "SEPARATED" THEM. DABBLE IN TOUGH LOVE AT MOSAIC, DO YOU?

DON'T WORRY YOUR PRETTY LITTLE HEAD. IT WAS SIMPLY THE MOSAIC ATTENDANTS SEPARATING YOUR FRIEND AND THE FISH SO THEY WOULDN'T BOTHER YOU.

YOU KNOW WILLIAM, SO YOU KNOW THAT OCCASIONALLY HE NEEDS A FIRM HAND.

OR FIRM BOOT. OR FIRM BLUNT OBJECT. BUT THAT'S NOT THE POINT—

THIS IS HOW ASS-BACKWARDS MOSAIC IS.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW, SPIKE, THIS WASN'T MY IDEA. I FOUGHT IT EVERY WAY I COULD.

THE ONE GOOD GUY IN THE WHOLE BLEEDIN' PLACE USED TO WORK FOR WOLFRAM & HART.

I CAN ASSURE YOU, NOTHING SINISTER IS GOING ON. IN FACT, LOOK AT THAT. IT'S 6:30, TIME FOR ARTS AND CRAFTS. WILLIAM IS PROBABLY MAKING A MACARONI NECKLACE RIGHT ABOUT NOW.





WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

QUIET...

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU GOING TO DO?



...

BOGGUS SPORE. WILL NUMB YOU FROM THE NECK UP FOR ABOUT AN HOUR. LEAST I COULD DO.

THIS IS SO EMBARRASSING. I DIDN'T GET YOU ANYTHING.



WORM IN THE EAR, FISH IN THE BRAIN, SPORE ON MY FACE.



MY HEAD IS BEING TURNED INTO A DAMN TERRARIUM. CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT'S NEXT.



WELL, WELL, WELL, THE BLOODY GANG'S ALL HERE.



WHAT'S THE OCCASION?
ARE WE—



LIKE HELL.

LIKE SODDING HELL.



THAT'S GOOD, WILLIAM.



LET IT OUT.



WELL, NOW.

THIS IS JUST THE WORST DAY EVER.



I HEAR THAT. IT'S A FULL MOON OUT THERE, GETTING HARD TO SUPPRESS MY—

LIKE I DON'T KNOW? YOU DON'T GET TO TALK, MARY. NOT AFTER WHAT YOU DID.

AND WHY WASN'T I ALLOWED TO BE THERE FOR THE SURGERY? WILLIAM IS MY PATIENT.



I COULDA SWORN THE GROUP THERAPY WAS FOR THE PATIENTS TO VENT.

MY COFFEE MUG HAS IT RIGHT. I DON'T HAVE TO BE CRAZY TO WORK HERE, BUT MAN, DOES IT HELP. AND THE WORST THING IS—

MAYBE IT'S REVERSE-PSYCHOLOGY.

AND SERIOUSLY, WHERE IS THE REST OF OUR GROUP?



COME ON, GUYS. THIS IS A BIT OF AN OVERREACTION. I SHOULDN'T HAVE VISITED SPIKE, NOW I KNOW. AND KNOWING IS HALF THE BATTLE.

FYI, YOU PUT THE STRAIGHTJACKET ON BACKWARDS.



HOW LONG DO WE HAVE TO WATCH THE CLEANSER DO THIS? IT'S UNSETTLING...

AGREED. BUT THE SECOND HE LEAVES...



...WE GET OUR HEADS FLOODED WITH FISH VOICES.



I TRIED.

I TRIED, I TRIED, I TRIED.



I TOLD SPIKE I'D TALK TO MOSAIC AND I DID.



I MEAN, I MISSED A SHOW TO DO THIS.

A SOLD-OUT SHOW. I DID MY BEST, RIGHT?

WHAT ARE YOU—

BE A DUMPLING AND JUST SAY "RIGHT."

RIGHT.



KEEP THE CHANGE.

BESIDES, "WAIT FOR THE SIGN, FREEDOM IS COMING," THAT CAN MEAN ANYTHING.

MAYBE MOSAIC IS GETTING A NEW SIGN. DELIVERED BY SOME HIPPIE BEATNIK TYPE NAMED "FREEDOM", I DON'T KNOW, IT'S NOT MY—

THE SIGN?!



WAIT FOR THE SIGN! FREEDOM IS COMING!

PARDON?

UH

HUH.

IS THAT SOME KIND OF SLANG THE YOUNG KIDS ARE—



WAIT FOR THE SIGN! FREEDOM IS COMING!

RELAX, KIDDO. TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND WE'LL BOTH COUNT TO—





COME ON, WILLIAM.



BE A SPORT AND VAMP OUT.



SOR... SOR... SORRY, SLUG, HAVE TO SAY THE MAGIC WORD.



WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO STEP UP OUR GAME A BIT.

YOU DOPE ME UP WITH ENOUGH MEDS TO KILL A BLEEPIN' RHINO

SMEAR A MIND-NUMBING SPORE ON MY HEAD

AND PUT ME IN THE SAME GROUP AS A RINGEL DEMON THAT SUCKS MY POWER

BUT THEN YOU'RE SURPRISED WHEN I CAN'T GET IT UP?

YOU PEOPLE CLAIM TO BE PROFESSIONALS, RIGHT?

SPIKE, BE QUIET, OR THEY'LL...



OR THEY'LL WHAT? CUT OFF MY FACE WITHOUT ANAESTHETIC? LITTLE TOO LATE, PET.



LISTEN TO THE GIRL, SPIKE!

BE QUIET!

LEAVE HIM ALONE!



WHAT? WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? WHAT DOES IT TAKE...

YOU TELL ME.

YOU'RE THE SODDING EXPERTS.



MAYBE I'M CURED.

A JOB WELL DONE, BOYS.

SIGN ME UP FOR MY PROBATION IN PRIMM.

READY TO FLIP BURGERS.

THREE CHEERS FOR MOSAIC, VAMPIRES COME IN--

THIS IS NOT GOING TO GET US ANYWHERE...



-SHINY HAPPY PEOPLE COME--



-OUT?





AND YOU, STOP WITH THE FIREWORKS! NOBODY'S IMPRESSED!

POOR SCOTT TAYLOR. HE WAS WELL ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY.



...LET...

SLUG...



...HER...

...GO!



HOW DRAMATIC. BUT STILL NOT GOOD ENOUGH, WILLIAM.

LET'S SEE THE VAMPIRE.





SORRY.



THE VAMPIRE ISN'T HOME RIGHT NOW.



NOW, I'LL GIVE YOU THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT AND ASSUME THE LACK OF EARS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR FAILURE TO DO WHAT I SAY.



BUT SO HELP ME—

ENOUGH.



I TRIED TO TAKE IT EASY ON YOU AND SIMPLY CARVE YOUR FACE OFF.

HOLY HELL.

EVEN THROUGH THE SPORE'S ANAESTHETIC, IT FEELS LIKE MY BRAIN IS ON FIRE.



NOW I DID IT.



HE'S NOT TRYING TO HURT ME.

HE'S TRYING TO KILL ME.

AND HE'S IN SUCH A RAGE...



...HE'S HITTING EVERYONE.



AND IF IT'S *THIS* PAINFUL TO ME...

...IMAGINE WHAT IT'S LIKE FOR BECK.







LET'S SEE NIXON DO THAT.

I HAD—

YOU HAD TO. I KNOW.



WOW. HE'S PRETTY MUCH KILLED, HUH? AND YOU'RE FINE. AND SHE'S FINE.

DO WE LOOK FINE?

WELL, NO. BUT YOUR HEADS ARE STILL FIRMLY ATTACHED TO YOUR BODIES, THAT'S PRETTY SURPRISING.



ALL THIS TIME, TRYING TO FIND A WAY AROUND THE WORMS, AND IT WAS AS SIMPLE AS KILLING MAH ZINN. LEAVE IT TO WILLIAM THE BLOODY TO FIND A WAY TO CUT THROUGH THE RED TAPE.

WHAT ARE YOU—



LEAVE IT TO WILLIAM THE BLOODY TO FIND THE SHORTEST ROUTE FROM POINT A TO POINT B.

SHUNK

BZZZ



ONE SEC, MY CELL'S BLOWING UP.

HELLO?

THAT WAS SPIKE KILLING MAH ZINN. PUNCH TO THE HEAD. PUNCH THROUGH THE HEAD, ACTUALLY.



INTERESTING.
THAT'S ALL IT
TOOK?

WELL,
NOW WHAT?



REALLY GOTTA...
STOP... TRUSTING...
PEOPLE FROM
WOLFRAM & HART.

ALL SIGNS
POINT TO THIS
BEING OUR BIG
MOMENT, SO YOU
MAKE WITH THE
MAGIC...

...AND
WE MAKE
WITH THE SIGN.
LET'S GO.



YOU'RE
THE BOSS.

WHAT ARE
YOU...

...OH CRAP.



YOU
SHOULD BE
FLATTERED.

YOU'RE
TOO MUCH OF
A THREAT
TO BE KEPT
AROUND.



LET ME GUESS...

...THE FISH'S LIFE FLASHED RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES. SPLENDEN BEASTS INSTINCTIVELY DO THAT TO FRIENDS AND FAMILY RIGHT BEFORE THEY GO TO THE BIG AQUARIUM IN THE SKY.

AAAAAAAAARG!!!

AND I HEARD YOUR ADORABLE QUIP ABOUT WOLFRAM & HART.

YOU SHOULD BE FLATTERED, YOU KNOW, SAD AND CONFUSED AND BETRAYED, BUT FLATTERED.

I TOLD YOU, I DON'T WORK FOR THEM ANYMORE.

DON'T GET ME WRONG, IT WAS A GREAT PLACE TO GET MY FEET WET. BUT A WISE MAN ONCE SAID, "ALL THE REAL MONEY IS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR."

"SO I DECIDED TO STRIKE OUT ON MY OWN."

OTAPOSCS
E OREH
ORTSON!

"I JUST NEEDED A RELIABLE STAFF."

"OR, MORE TO THE POINT..."

THE SIGN!

"...A RELIABLE ARMY."

THE SIGN!

WHOOT
WHOOT
WHOOT

**WHOOT
WHOOT
WHOOT**

ALL OF YOU, GET BACK IN—

—WHAT? WHAT IS EVERYONE STARING AT?

SUBLIMINAL SUGGESTIONS DURING GROUP THERAPY, DRUGS TO MAKE THE PATIENTS MORE SUBSERVIENT, ENLISTING THE PSYCHIC PRISONERS, IT WAS EASY. COULDN'T REACH EVERYONE... BUT IT'S OKAY, I GOT THE A-LISTERS.



NO OFFENSE.

THE CLEANSER CAUGHT ON PRETTY EARLY IN, BUT HE WAS SURPRISINGLY EASY TO PERSUADE. ETERNAL LIFE, STOCK OPTIONS, EVERYONE HAS THEIR PRICE.

IVO SHANDOR'S SEAL. THIS IS GONNA BE TOUGH, HOPE YOU'RE UP FOR IT, WITCH-LADY.

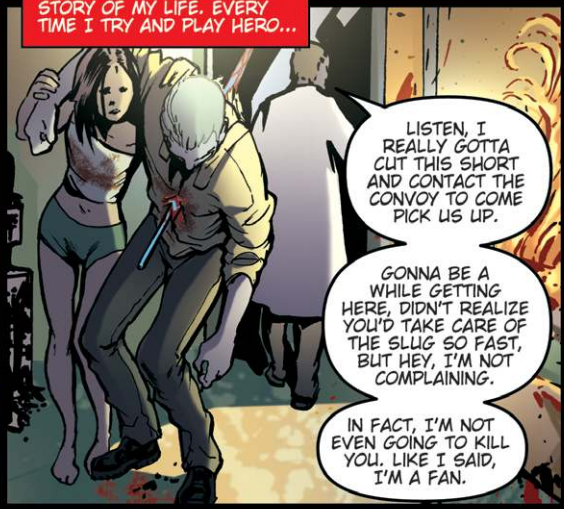
WISEAU GET YOU UP TO SPEED?

YOU COULD SAY THAT.

AND IT'S VAMP WITCH-LADY, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.



STORY OF MY LIFE. EVERY TIME I TRY AND PLAY HERO...



LISTEN, I REALLY GOTTA CUT THIS SHORT AND CONTACT THE CONVOY TO COME PICK US UP.

GONNA BE A WHILE GETTING HERE, DIDN'T REALIZE YOU'D TAKE CARE OF THE SLUG SO FAST, BUT HEY, I'M NOT COMPLAINING.

IN FACT, I'M NOT EVEN GOING TO KILL YOU. LIKE I SAID, I'M A FAN.



BESIDES, I PROMISED SOMEONE ELSE THEY COULD DO THE JOB.

...I WIND UP BEING JUST ANOTHER PAWN OF THE BIG BAD.

THIS SOUL REALLY SHOULD HAVE COME WITH A SET OF INSTRUCTIONS.



'SUP, HEARD YOU'RE KINDA HUMAN. ALMOST FEEL BAD FOR WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO.

ALMOST.

ROUND THREE, LITTLE MAN.



ANY WEAPONS AT ALL?

JUST THE ONE STUCK IN ME, LOVE.

AND THE FANGS?

STILL A NO-SHOW.

PERFECT.



AND WHAT ABOUT YOU? READY TO FLAME ON?

I CAN'T.

I'VE SEEN IT, YOU CAN.

NO, I CAN'T. I DID, WHEN I WAS OUT OF IT AND UNAWARE OF MY ACTIONS. BUT I CANNOT AND WILL NOT.

SOMETIMES, TO WIN THE DAY, YOU HAVE TO DO THINGS YOU DON'T WANT TO DOOOOMPF--



ENOUGH BABBLE, HUMAN.

I HAVE PLACES TO GO, OLD PEOPLE TO EAT.

"OLD PEOPLE," WISEAU?
FOR A CONNOISSEUR OF BLOOD,
THAT'S SOMEWHAT BOTTOM OF THE
BARREL. MIGHT AS WELL SIP
MAD DOG 20-20 THROUGH
A SILLY STRAW.

NOT MY
CALL. RAY'S
IN CHARGE.
HE WANTS
TO SET UP
SHOP IN—

UM,
WISEAU...

BUT
THE GIRL,
SHE'S...

...WELL
THIS IS
JUST
GREAT.

NOT NOW,
DANNY.

OH, MAN.
SPIKE WAS A
TELEPORTER,
TOO.

DON'T
BE NAIVE.
THE GIRL
TELEPORTED
HIM.

CAN SHE
TELEPORT?
IS SHE A
TELEPORTER?

OH,
COME
ON.



I'VE RETREATED BEFORE HELL, WHEN I WAS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BATTLE, RUNNING AWAY TO STRIKE ANOTHER DAY WAS PRETTY MUCH A WEEKLY EVENT.



THAT WASN'T ANGEL'S STYLE. HE WOULD HAVE TOLD BECK TO GET TO SAFETY AND HE WOULD KICK ALL MANNER OF ASS, VAMPIRE OR NOT.



BUT AS OF LATE, IT'S MORE CLEAR THAN EVER...



...I'M NOT ANGEL.



AND AFTER SEEING DR. RAY AND HIS MAKESHIFT ARMY READY TO LEAVE, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN DECADES, I WISH I WAS ANGEL.

BECAUSE HE'D HAVE THE SLIGHTEST CLUE HOW TO STOP THEM.



DON'T OPEN IT! WE DON'T KNOW WHO IT IS!

MONSTERS HOPING TO RIP OUR HEADS OFF DON'T KNOCK POLITELY, THILBAULT.

THE SMARTER ONES WOULD, IF THEY WERE TRYING TO TRICK US.

KNOCK KNOCK



SEE? CALM DOWN. IT'S JUST SPIKE.

WHAT'S IT LIKE OUT THERE?

"JUST SPIKE." THANKS SO MUCH.

LONG STORY SHORT...



...THE INMATES YOU'VE PROMISED TO HELP BUT INSTEAD THREW BEHIND LOCKED DOORS HAVE NOW BROKEN DOWN THOSE DOORS, EATEN MOST OF MOSAIC'S STAFF, AND ARE LOOKING TO MAKE A QUICK EXIT.

ALSO, I LOST MY VAMP ABILITIES AND HAVE A SWORD IN MY STOMACH.



AAAAAAARRHG!

NOT A MEDICAL DOCTOR, PER SE.

WISEAU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT CHOWING DOWN ON OLD PEOPLE.

THEY'RE GOING TO PRIMM.



MAKES SENSE. A BUNCH OF MONSTERS LOOKING TO GET BACK IN THE GAME, THEY'RE GOING TO START SMALL, HIT A TOWN FULL OF NEAR-DEAD TOURISTS. MEAT MAY BE TOUGHER, BUT IT RUNS SLOWER.

BUT FIRST THEY HAVE TO GET THROUGH SHANDOR'S SEAL.

OR FIND THE BACK DOOR.



WAIT A TICK, WHAT?

THERE'S A BACK DOOR. NOT PROTECTED BY SHANDOR'S CURSE. IT WAS HOW THE "CURED" PATIENTS COULD LEAVE, AND BEGIN THEIR PROBATION IN PRIMM.

THE PATIENTS MAY HAVE BEEN CURED OF THEIR BLOOD-LUST, BUT THEY'RE STILL SUPERNATURAL.



SO THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF CREATURES ALREADY IN PRIMM, WHO MAY ALSO BE UNDER RAY'S CONTROL. BLOODY WONDERFUL.

WHY DON'T YOU JUST SNEAK OUT THROUGH THE BACK DOOR?

NOT A BAD IDEA...

...EXCEPT THAT ONLY MAH ZINN KNOWS WHERE THE BACK DOOR IS. IF WE FIND HIM...



UM... YEAH... NOT GONNA HAPPEN. HE'S DEAD. I TRIED TO SAVE HIM, BUT...

...HE, HE DIED A HERO'S DEATH.



LOOK WHO MADE IT BACK FROM HIS RECON MISSION!

"RECON MISSION," INDEED. HE RAN OUT, DESPITE MY WARNING, LOOKING FOR A FIGHT.



HELLS YES, I WANTED TO FIGHT. MOSAIC'S KEPT ME CHAINED UP LONG ENOUGH, I NEEDED A GOOD WILDING.

ANYWAY, JUST CALL ME SANTA CLAUS, BECAUSE THIS WEREWOLF'S GOT SOME PRESENTS FOR YOU.



DOESN'T EVEN MATTER IF YOU'RE NAUGHTY OR NICE. GOD KNOWS I WAS NAUGHTY FOR THE LAST COUPLE OF HOURS. I ATE ONE GUY'S FACE. PRETTY SURE HE WAS BAD, THOUGH, SO IT'S COOL.

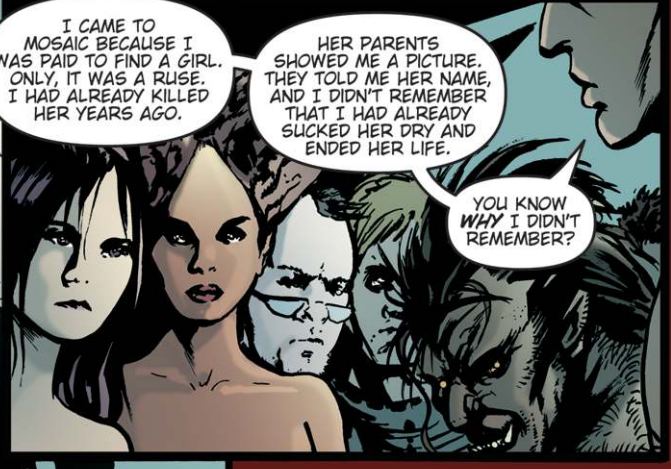
SO, JUST TO BE CLEAR, YOU ALL FANCY THIS THE BIG THIRD-ACT RALLY WHERE THE RAG-TAG GROUP OF MISFITS RISES UP AND FACES DOWN THE NAUGHTY EVIL-DOERS, CORRECT?

IN A NUTSHELL.



I MADE CONTACT WITH SOMEONE ON THE OUTSIDE. WITH ANY LUCK, THE CAVALRY'S ALREADY IN PRIMM, WAITING WITH HOLY WATER AND FLAMING TORCHES.

AND IF THEY'RE NOT?



I CAME TO MOSAIC BECAUSE I WAS PAID TO FIND A GIRL. ONLY, IT WAS A RUISE. I HAD ALREADY KILLED HER YEARS AGO.

HER PARENTS SHOWED ME A PICTURE. THEY TOLD ME HER NAME, AND I DIDN'T REMEMBER THAT I HAD ALREADY SUCKED HER DRY AND ENDED HER LIFE.

YOU KNOW WHY I DIDN'T REMEMBER?

THIS GROUP IS A JOKE. NO SLAYERS, NO VAHLA HA'NESH DEMONS, NOT EVEN A SMART-ASS WITH AN EYE PATCH.

AND THEY WANT A VAMPIRE WITH A SOUL TO LEAD THEM. A VAMPIRE WHO'S ONLY HERE BECAUSE...

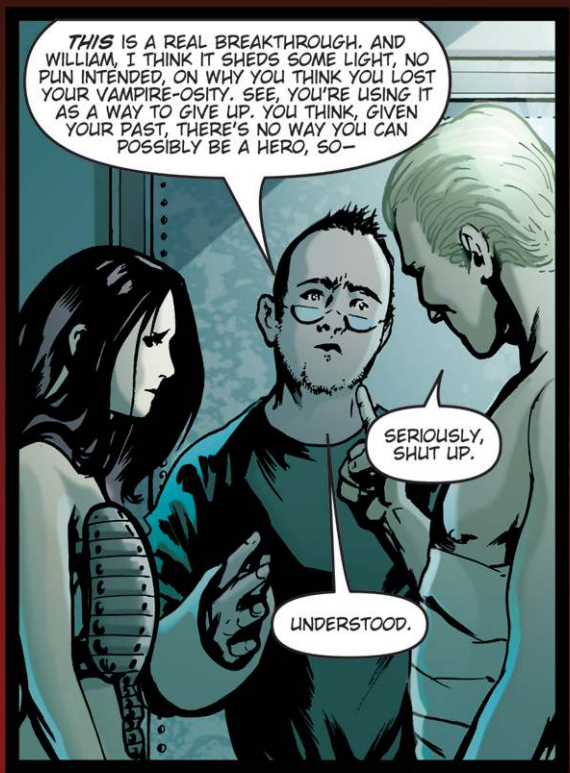


BECAUSE WHAT I DID TO HER, I DID TO A THOUSAND OTHER PEOPLE. SHE'S ONE OF MANY. THAT'S WHAT I DID. THAT'S WHAT I WAS.

I JUST THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW, AS LONG AS WE'RE ABOUT TO FACE CERTAIN DEATH TOGETHER.



AT SIX YEARS OLD, I BONDED WITH A FIRE ELEMENTAL, AND SOON AFTER, I ACCIDENTALLY TORCHED MY PARENTS AND LITTLE BROTHER. KILLED ALL THREE.



THIS IS A REAL BREAKTHROUGH. AND WILLIAM, I THINK IT SHEDS SOME LIGHT, NO PUN INTENDED, ON WHY YOU THINK YOU LOST YOUR VAMPIRE-OSITY. SEE, YOU'RE USING IT AS A WAY TO GIVE UP. YOU THINK, GIVEN YOUR PAST, THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN POSSIBLY BE A HERO, SO—

SERIOUSLY, SHUT UP.

UNDERSTOOD.



ALRIGHT, THEN. EVERYONE FOLLOWS MY LEAD, ARE WE CLEAR?

ONE THING...



ECH OPOD
@TUNEWA AH
OTSELUQ

FEELING
BETTER,
WISEAU?

NO, I'M NOT
"FEELING BETTER,"
DANNY. I HAD SPIKE
IN MY DAMN GRASP.
NOW WE'RE GONNA
HEAD OUT AND EAT
GEEZERS WHILE
SPIKE IS SAFE
AND SOUND.

WHEN
MY NEW FIRM IS
UP AND RUNNING,
MY FIRST ORDER OF
BUSINESS IS FINDING
AND DESTROYING
SPIKE.

DROP DEAD, RAY. I
PLAYED THE PATSY FOR
YEARS NOW. I DID WHAT YOU
ASKED, I KILLED WHO YOU TOLD
ME TO. ALL I EVER WANTED
WAS A CHANCE AT SPIKE.

BUT I'M
FREEING
YOU—

I
DON'T
CARE!

I
WANT
SPIKE!

GOOD NEWS,
RAPUNZEL.

WISHES
JUST HAPPEN
TO BE HORSES
TODAY.

NOW COME
ON, YOU
LOONIES...



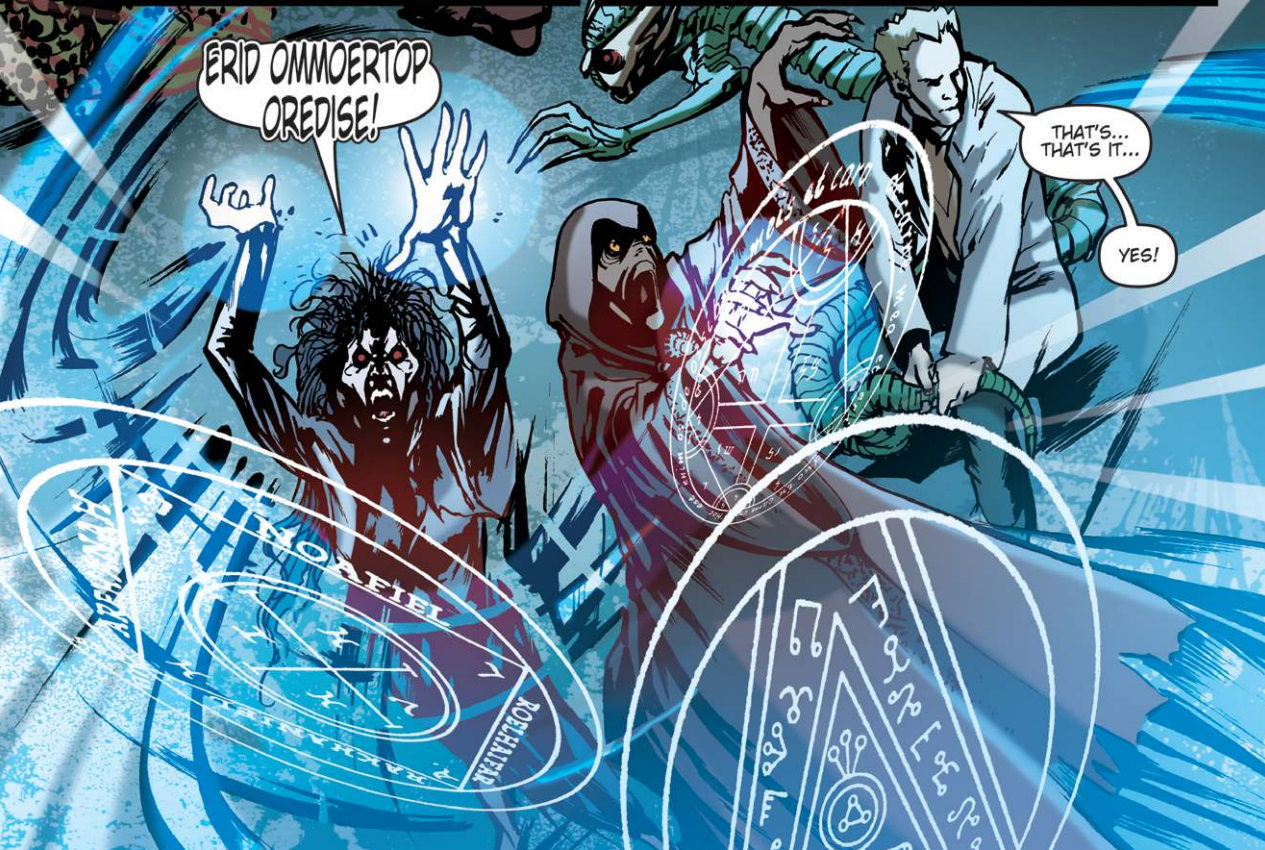


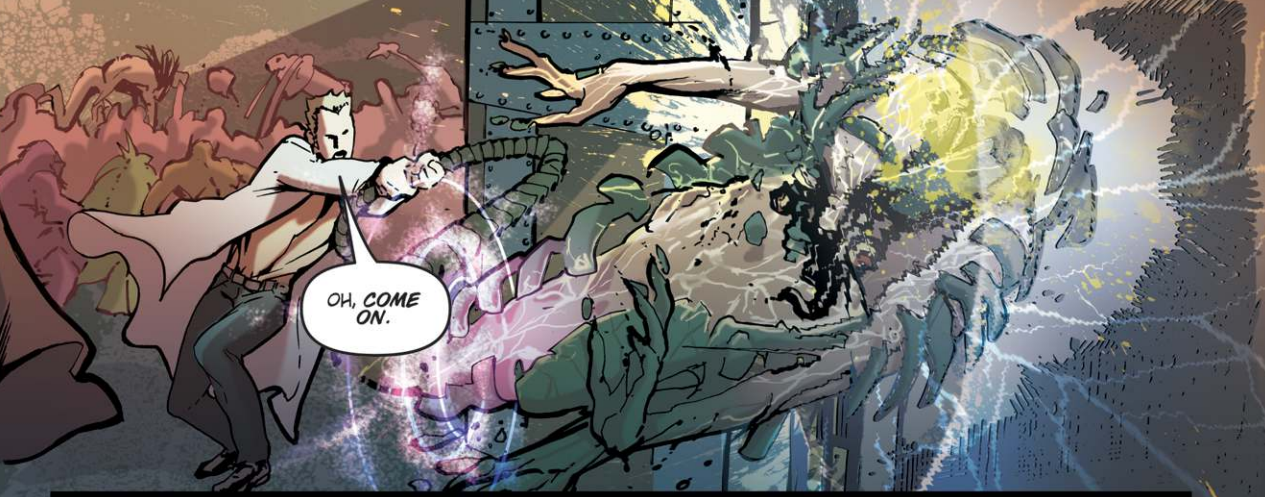
I HAVE TO ADMIT, HOPELESS SITUATION OR NOT...

...THIS FEELS OUTSTANDING.



OR MORE ACCURATELY, IT DID. FOR ALL OF 15 SECONDS.





OH, COME ON.



IT DIDN'T WORK...

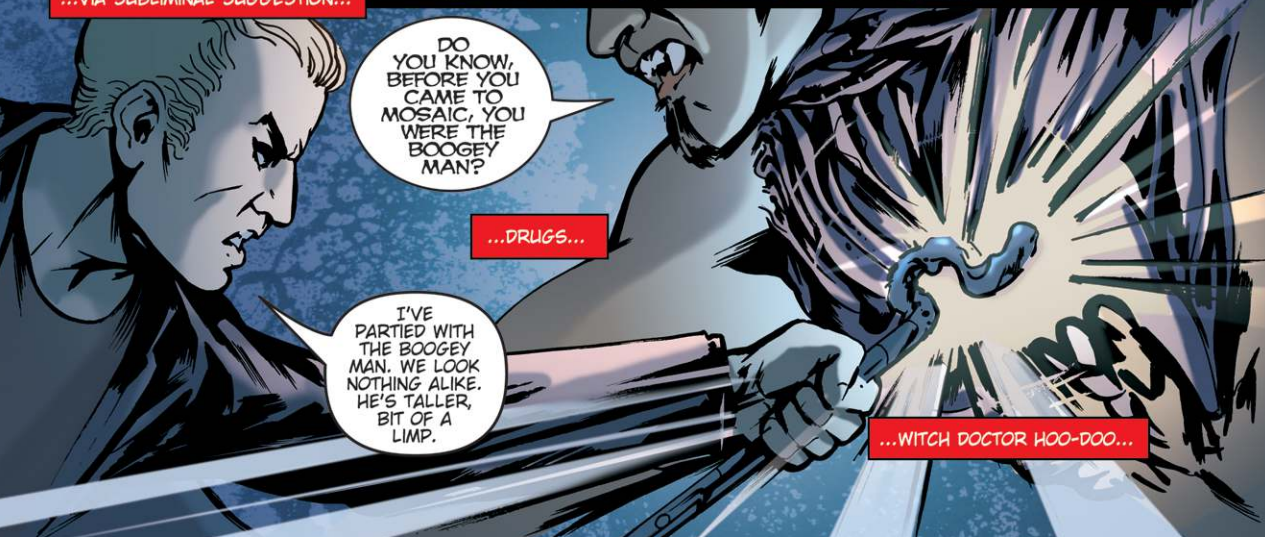
YOU THINK?!



AS I FIGHT THESE STEPPORD MONSTERS, WHO ARE CLEARLY BEING CONTROLLED BY RAY...

THAT'S IT, SPIKE! GO OUT SWINGING!

...VIA SUBLIMINAL SUGGESTION...



DO YOU KNOW, BEFORE YOU CAME TO MOSAIC, YOU WERE THE BOOGEY MAN?

...DRUGS...

I'VE PARTIED WITH THE BOOGEY MAN. WE LOOK NOTHING ALIKE. HE'S TALLER, BIT OF A LIMP.

...WITCH DOCTOR HOO-DOO...

...IT BECOMES EVER CLEARER THAT'S HOW RAY TRICKED ME INTO THINKING I LOST THE HUNGER...

NOT TALKING LITERAL. INMATES WOULD BREAK OUT OTHER INMATES BY TALKING ABOUT WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE IF YOU WERE HERE. GAVE THEM NIGHTMARES.

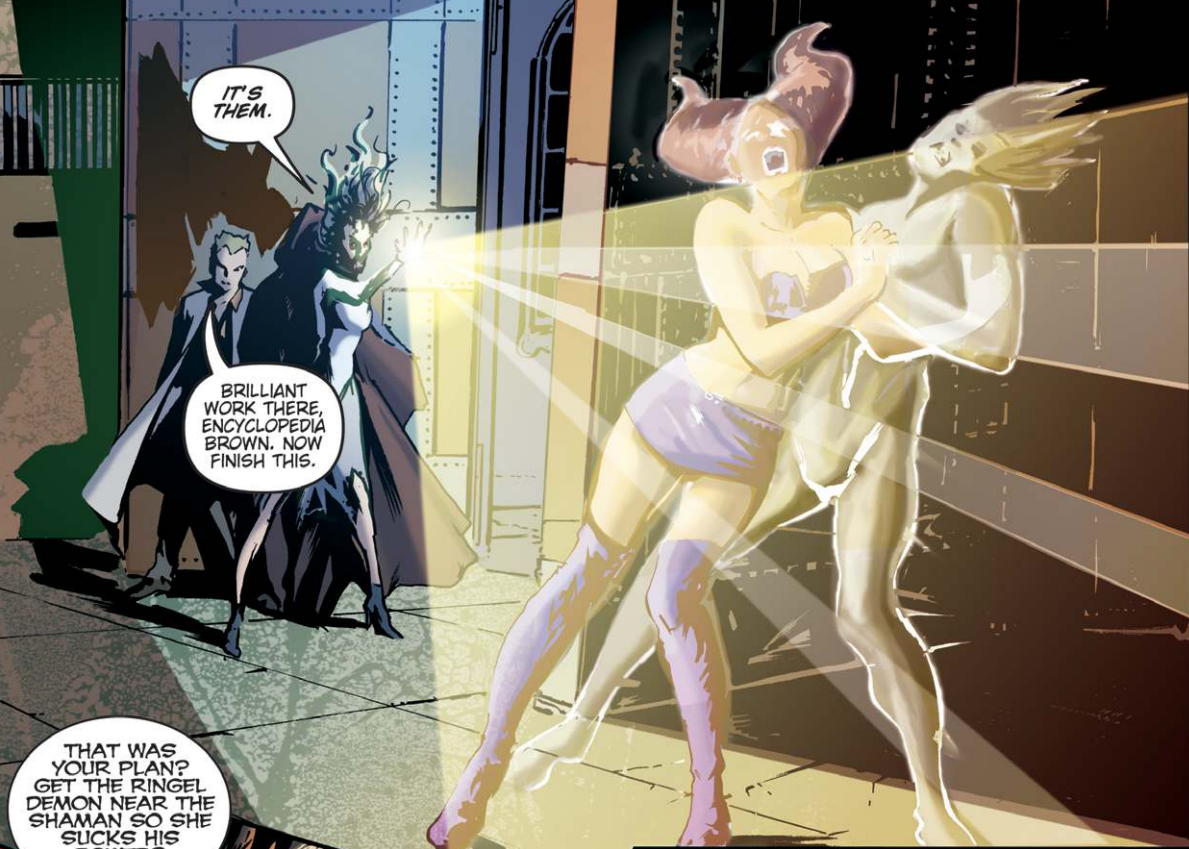
...BUT FOR THE LIFE OF ME...

SO KNOW THAT WHEN I KILL YOU, YOU'LL BE HELPING A LOT OF MONSTERS SLEEP A LITTLE BETTER AT NIGHT.

...I CAN'T TAP INTO THE VAMP.

DID YOU OR DID YOU NOT SAY YOU COULD BREAK THIS SPELL?

IT'S NOT US.



THAT WAS YOUR PLAN? GET THE RINGEL DEMON NEAR THE SHAMAN SO SHE SUCKS HIS POWER? REALLY?



HE WOULD'VE DONE IT RIGHT.

EVERYONE GATHER 'ROUND! GONNA POP SPIKE'S HEAD OFF!



AAAAAARH!

SPIKE...

...THOSE STORIES INMATES WOULD SHARE TO GIVE EVERYONE NIGHTMARES? THE ONES ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF YOU CAME HERE?

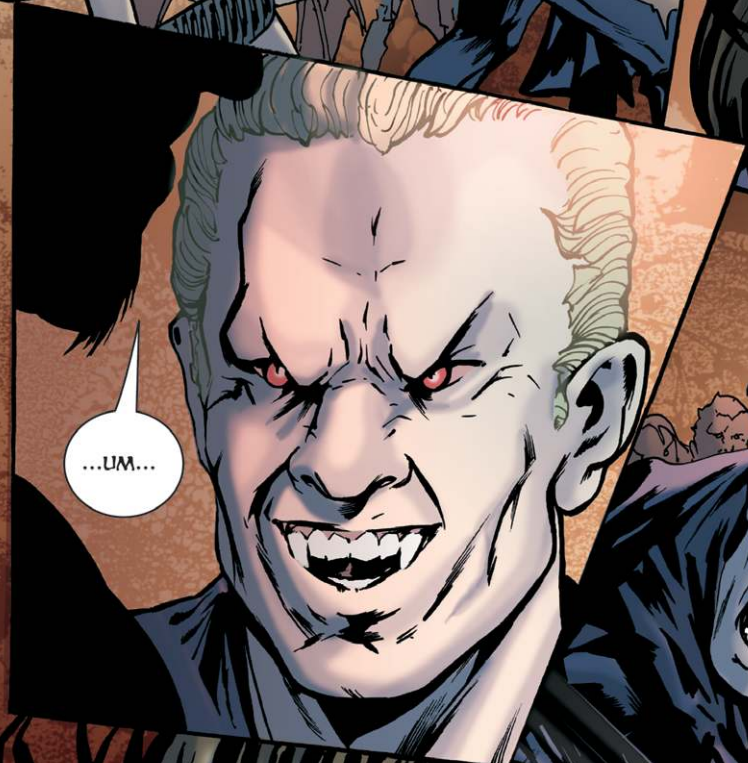
THEY'D HELP ME SLEEP BETTER AT NIGHT.



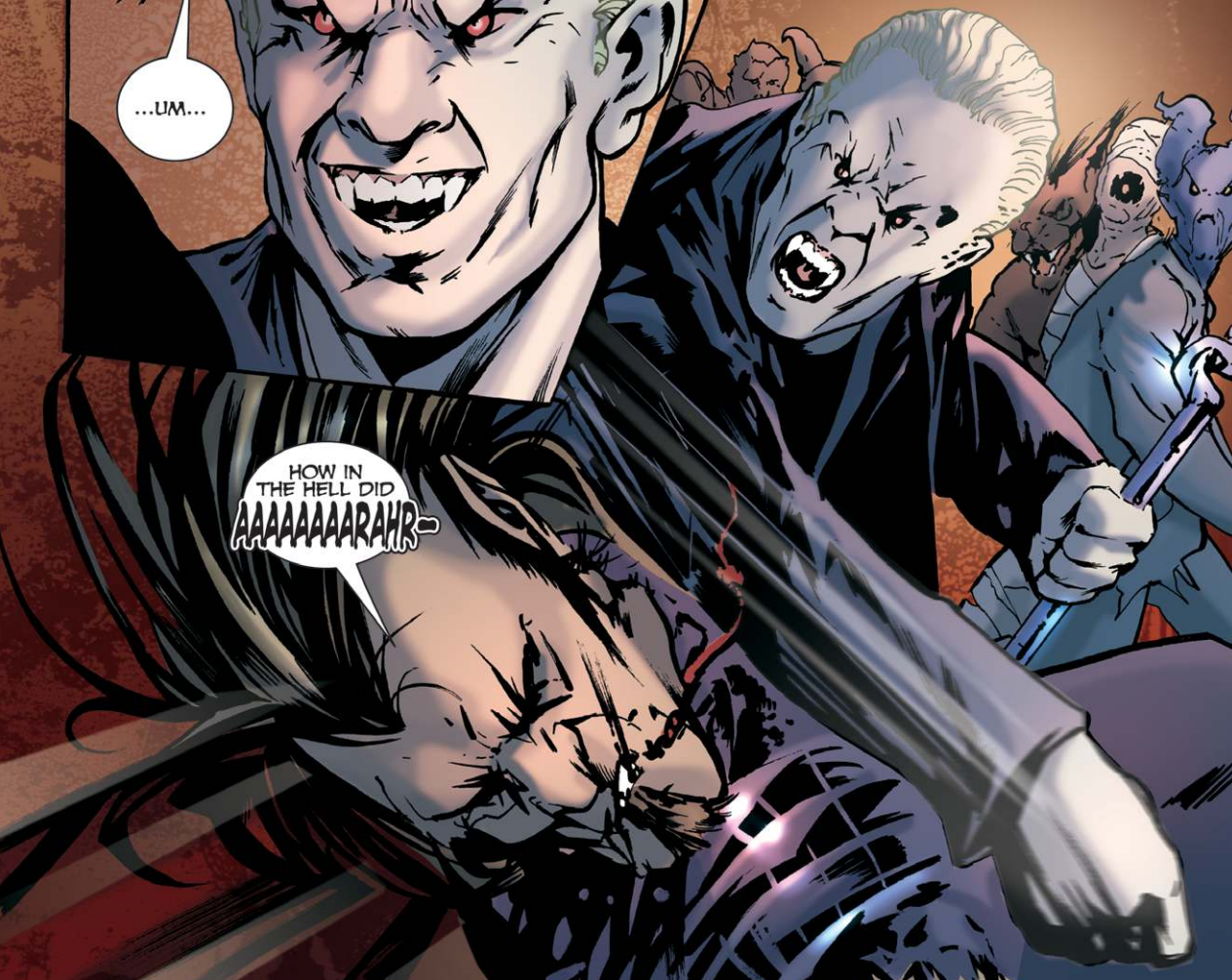
NICE TRY,
LITTLE GIRL! BUT
THE LITTLE VAMPIRE'S
HEART ISN'T GROWING
THREE SIZES BIGGER.
FACE IT, YOUR
CHAMPION
IS—



YOUR
CHAMPION
IS... UM...



...UM...



HOW IN
THE HELL DID
AAAAAAAAAAH—

HOW DID... HOW IN THE HELL DID...?!

THE FAIRER SEX IS AND ALWAYS WILL BE THE SOURCE OF MY POWER.

AND YOUR LITTLE CHEST PLATE?

WHAT CAN I SAY? FORGET BLOOD. FORGET MYSTICAL AMULETS.

GRAAAAAAH!

REALLY SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT THROUGH A LITTLE MORE.

NOW COME ON! WHO WANTS TO TAKE A SHOT AT THE BOOGY MAN?

I'M GOOD.

MAYBE IN A MINUTE.

WISEAU WAS A JERK.

ERID ONMOERTOP
OREDISE!

YES!

FREEDOM
IS UPON
US!

LET'S
GO!

ABOUT
TIME...



WHAT DO
WE DO?

TAKE DOWN
AS MANY OF
THESE FREAKS AS
POSSIBLE! GO
DOWN LIKE
MEN!

NO...



LET
THEM
GO.

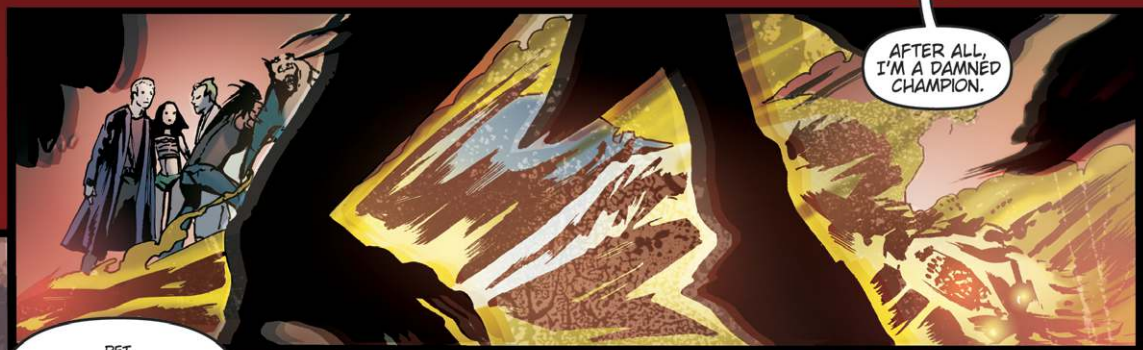
WHAT?!

I BROKE RAY'S
BRAINWASHING IN
MERE HOURS. IT'S ONLY A
MATTER OF TIME BEFORE
HIS MAKESHIFT ARMY COMES
TO WHAT PASSES FOR
THEIR SENSES AND
TURNS ON HIM.



AND
IF THEY
DON'T?

THEN I'LL
STOP THEM. I'LL
KILL EVERY LAST
ONE OF THEM. AND
MOCK THEM WHILE
DOING IT.



AFTER ALL,
I'M A DAMNED
CHAMPION.



PET,
GRANDSTANDING
ASIDE, THERE ARE
HUNDREDS OF MONSTERS
AND A HANDFUL OF US.
WE'RE NOT GOING TO BEAT
THEM WITHOUT SOME OF
THEM GOING DOWN, AND I
CAN'T HAVE THAT.

SOMETIMES,
TO WIN THE
DAY, WE HAVE TO
DO THINGS WE
DON'T WANT TO
DO.



I...
I...

...GET IT.



RIMMIGHT. YOU'RE JUST GOING TO LET US GO?

YEP. JUST ONE THING.



I WANT YOU TO KILL THE CLEANSER.

CRUSTY OLD FART SERVED HIS PURPOSE, HE BROKE THE SEAL. BUT HE KILLED BETTA GEORGE, WHO WAS A FRIEND OF MINE.

HA! NOT A CHANCE, VAMPIRE! I'M A PARTNER!



BESIDES, IT WAS A FISH! JUST FIND AN OVERSIZED TOILET AND FLUSH THAT AAAAAAH—

MAN HAS A POINT, SAJE.

WE DONE HERE?

FOR NOW.

THIS ISN'T WHAT ANGEL WOULD HAVE DONE.



HE WOULD HAVE GONE DOWN FIGHTING.

BUT, TRUTH
BE TOLD...

...I'M NOT
ANGEL.

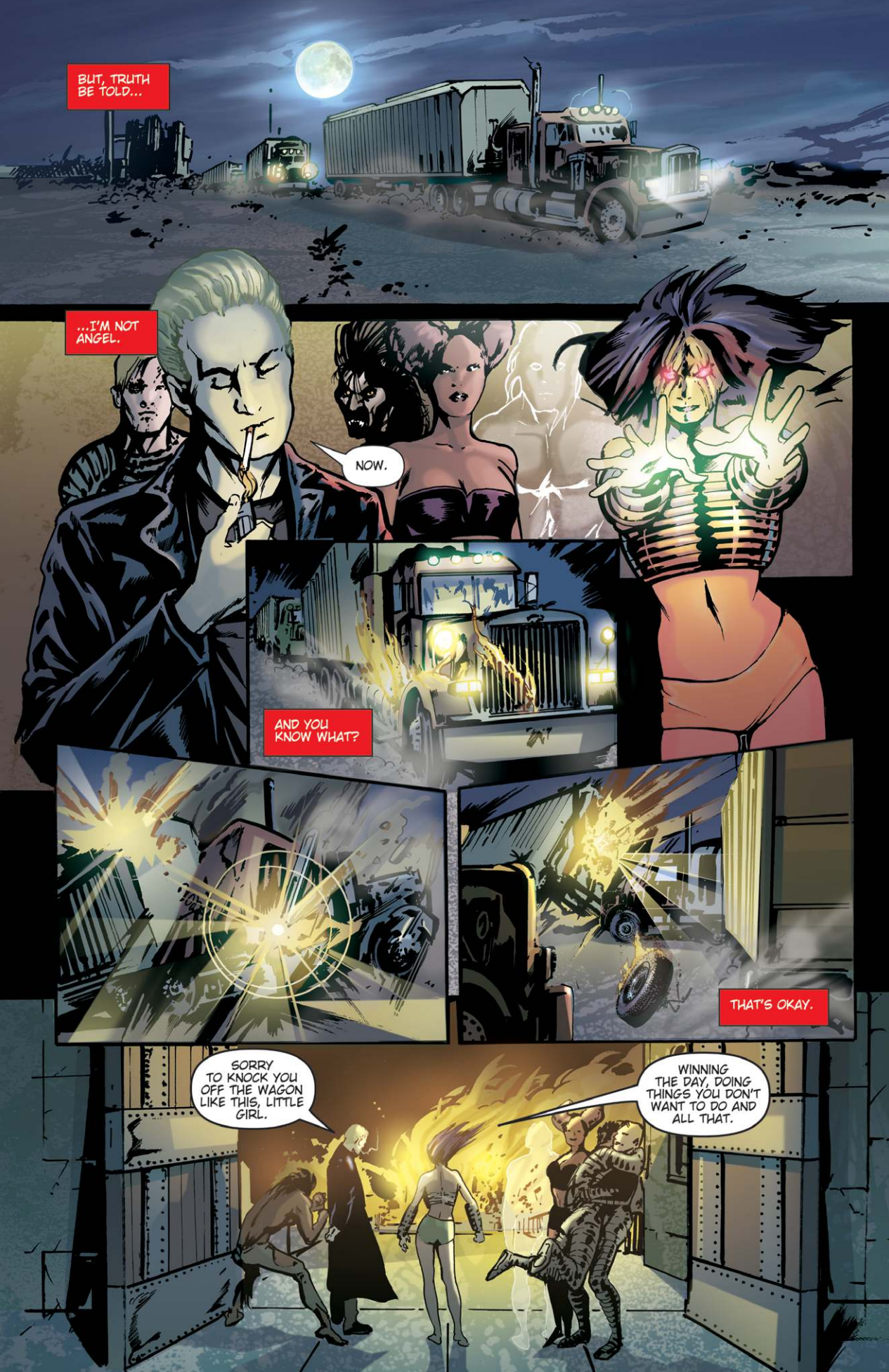
NOW.

AND YOU
KNOW WHAT?

THAT'S OKAY.

SORRY
TO KNOCK YOU
OFF THE WAGON
LIKE THIS, LITTLE
GIRL.

WINNING
THE DAY, DOING
THINGS YOU DON'T
WANT TO DO AND
ALL THAT.





BUT TO OUR SURPRISE, THE MAJORITY OF MOSAIC ALUMNI FOUGHT RAY'S PROGRAMMING.

THEY DEFENDED THEIR TOWN. THEY DEFENDED THEIR NEW LIVES.

I KNOW HOW THEY FEEL.

YOU SEE? MOSAIC DIDN'T FAIL. OUR METHOD WORKS.

I HEAR YOU. BY THE WAY, MOSAIC NEEDS A DRASTIC RE-STAFFING PRONTO. AND THIS TIME, MIGHT WANT TO BE A LITTLE MORE THOROUGH WITH THE BACKGROUND CHECK.

OH, FYI—SHANDOR'S SEAL IS BROKEN AND THE EAR-WORMS ARE DEAD.

SO, IT MIGHT BEHOVE YOU TO MAKE MOSAIC LESS OF AN ASYLUM, AND MORE OF WHAT YOU ACTUALLY PROMISED IN THE BROCHURE, BECAUSE THE PATIENTS ARE GOING TO BE FREE TO VOICE THEIR DISCONTENT.

AND MOST OF THEM WILL DO SO WITH CLAWS. AND FANGS. AND FIRE. TAKE CARE, LOVE.

UH-HUH.

GREEN GENES!

DON'T TRY TO ENDEAR YOURSELF TO ME WITH ADORABLE NICKNAMES, SPIKE!

I MISSED TWO SHOWS CARRYING OUT YOUR LITTLE SECRET MISSION, AND I'M ABOUT TO MISS A THIRD, AND YOU KNOW WHAT? I STILL HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON!



IT'S COMPLICATED, KERMIT. I'LL FILL YOU IN ON THE WAY TO VEGAS. IF I DRIVE, WE'LL MAKE YOUR SHOW WITH TIME TO SPARE. YOU WANT TO TAG ALONG, LOVE?

ACTUALLY, I THINK I'M GONNA HEAD BACK TO MOSAIC.



NOW THAT MOST OF THE STAFF IS DEAD OR LYCAN, THE PLACE COULD USE ALL THE HELP IT CAN GET.

DID I HELP? DID I SAVE THE DAY?

TOTALLY, THILBAULT.




BUT COME BACK AND CHECK UP ON US, OKAY?

AND GET A MYSPACE ACCOUNT SO WE CAN KEEP IN TOUCH.

DEFINITELY WILL CHECK UP ON YOU.

BUT I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THAT SECOND REQUEST EVEN MEANS. FAIRLY SURE I DON'T WANT TO.

A LITTLE LATER.



SERIOUSLY, YOU'RE GOING TO KICK ME OUT OF THE CAR HALFWAY TO VEGAS, AREN'T YOU? YOU CAN TELL ME, I'LL THINK IT'S HILARIOUS.

I'M DRIVING YOU TO VEGAS SO YOU CAN MAKE YOUR SHOW.

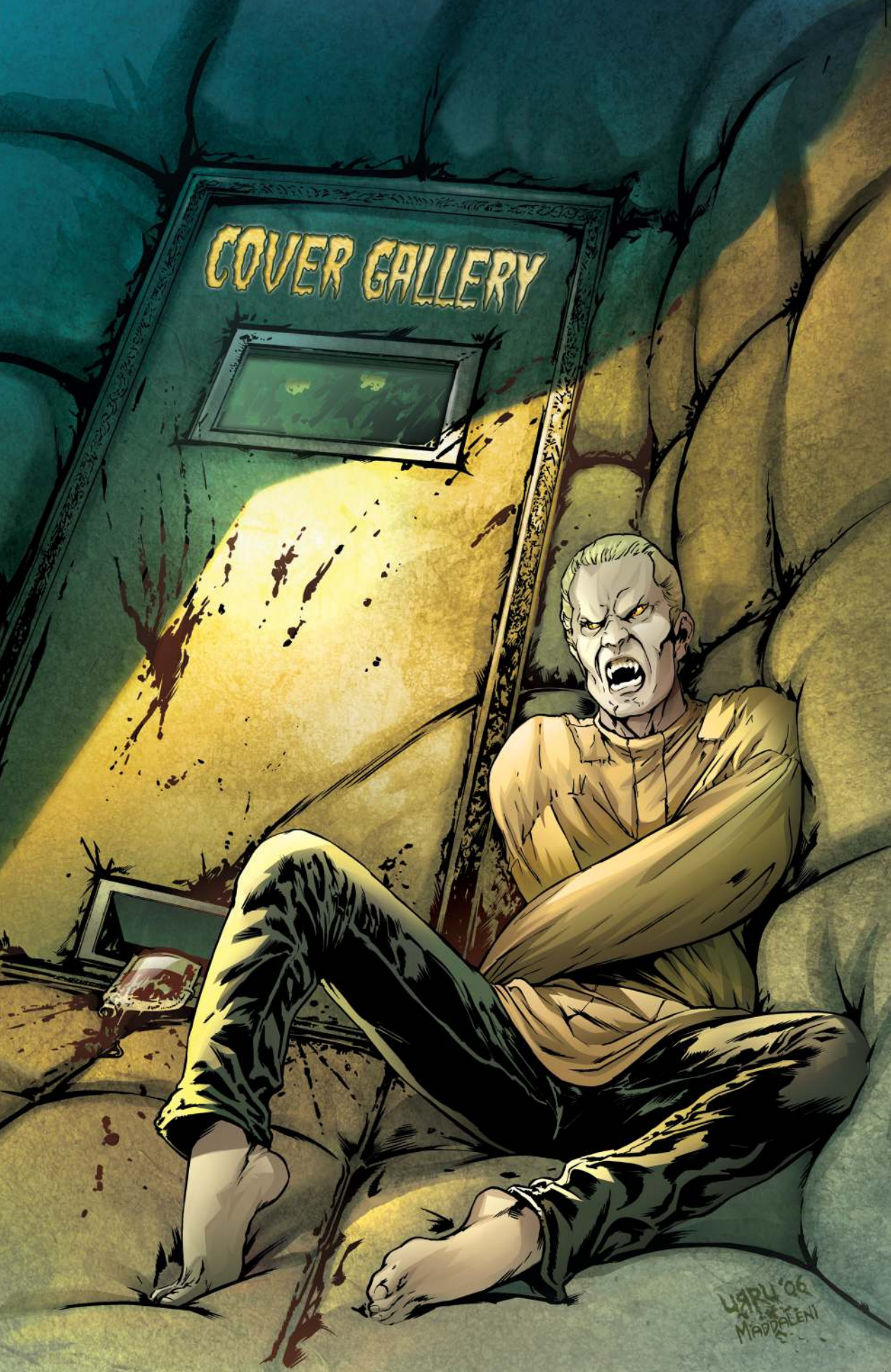


BUT... WHY? NO OFFENSE, THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU.

TIMES CHANGE, LORNE.

DON'T BE OFFENDED IF I DON'T STAY FOR THE SONG AND DANCE, THOUGH. VEGAS IS FILLED TO THE BRIM WITH BIG BADS, AND A CHAMPION'S WORK IS NEVER DONE.

THE END



COVER GALLERY

UGRU '06
MADDALENI



Previous Page : Issue #1 Cover A by Franco Urru
This Page : Issue #1 Cover B and RI-B by Richard Pace

Next Page : Issue #2 Cover A by Franco Urru

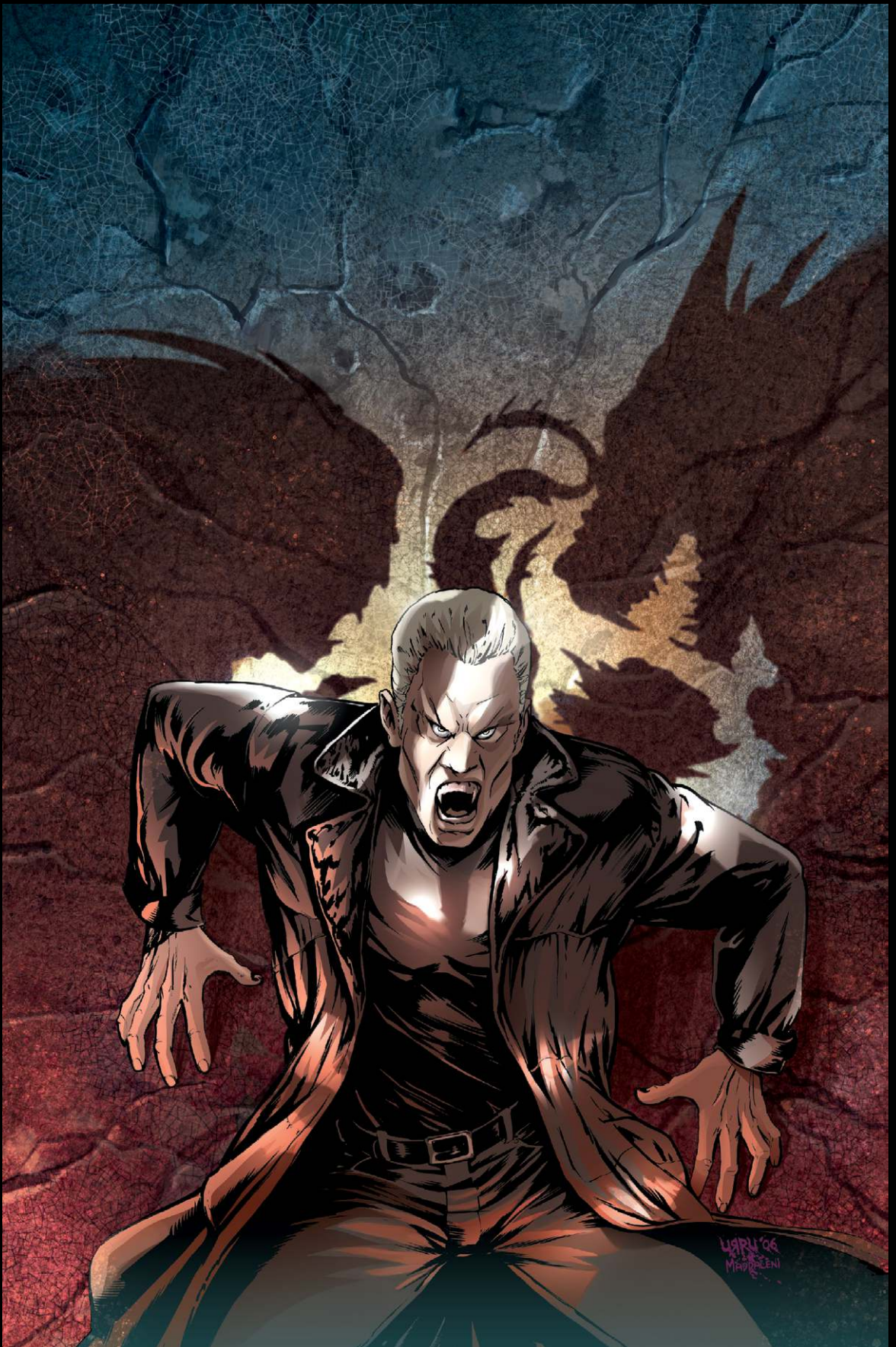


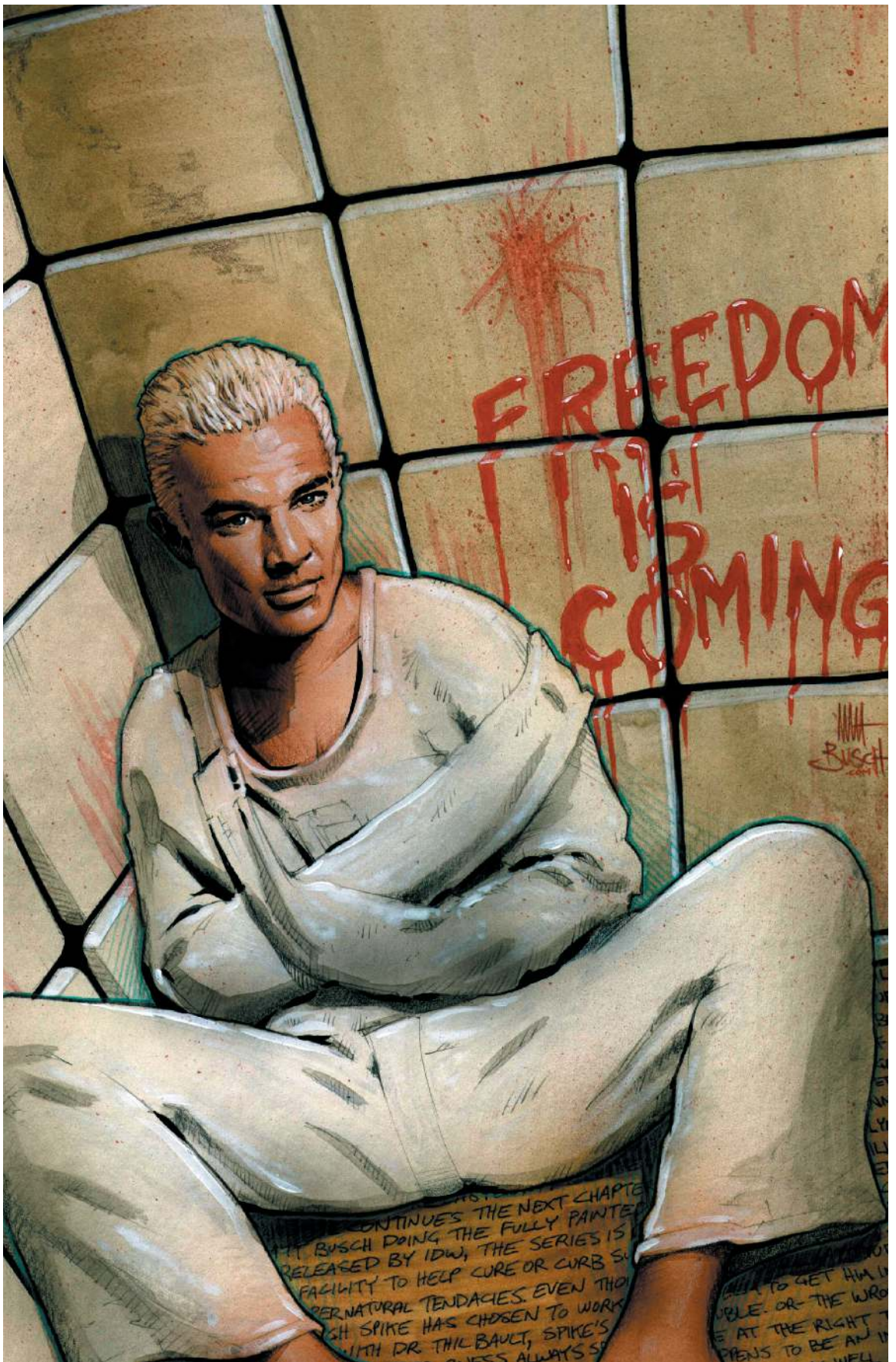
WAPU OF
MAY 2008

ABOUT THEIR MISSING DAUGHTER, RUBY. THEY FEEL SHE HAS BEEN ABDUCTED
TAKEN TO THE MOSAIC WELLNESS CENTER, AN INTERESTING PLACE THAT IS KNOWN
TO CURE OR CURB ANY SUPERNATURAL TENDACIES. HOWEVER, RUMOR HAS IT THAT MOSAIC IS
ACTUALLY DISGUISED AS A CREEPY JAIL FOR SUPERNATURAL BEINGS. FOR ALL THE WRONG REASONS,
SPIKE DECIDES TO ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE OF RESCUING RUBY MONAHAN, AND HEADS FOR
THE MOSAIC WELLNESS CENTER, WHICH IS LOCATED IN PRIMM, HALF WAY BETWEEN LOS VEGAS
AND LOS ANGELES - THE TWO MOST NOTORIOUS CITIES KNOWN FOR SUPERNATURAL ACTIVITY. AROUND
THE HEART OF THE DESERT VALLEY, SPIKE FIRST MEETS WITH A RECEPTIONIST FOR THE MOSAIC WELLNESS CENTER, WHO SEES RUBY THROUGH SPIKE'S
DISGUISE. THE RECEPTIONIST IS, IN FACT, A HIGHLY TRAINED SPIKE DEMON. SHE PRESENTS
SPIKE WITH A CONTRACT BOUND IN BLOOD. SPIKE AGREES TO THE CONTRACT THAT HE WILL STAY
AT THE MOSAIC WELLNESS CENTER UNTIL RUBY IS CURED. SPIKE ALWAYS
LOOKS FOR A GOOD FIGHT. THESE DOCTORS, OR FACTORS, AS THEY LIKE TO BE CALLED, AND WHILE
DR. THILBAULT APPEARS TO BE THE CALMER OF THE TWO, GUEST DOCTORS SEEMS TO HANDLE HIS PATIENTS WITH
A 'TOUGH LOVE' APPROACH. OF THE TWO DOCTORS, SPIKE CHOOSES TO WORK WITH DR. THILBAULT,
AS HE FEELS HE IS THE DOCTOR THAT RUBY MONAHAN WILL BE WORKING WITH AT THE MOSAIC WELLNESS CENTER. SPIKE FEELS THAT IT IS NOT A FRIENDLY PLACE TO CURE AND CURB SUPERNATURAL TENDACIES. THAT IT SUGGESTS
HE IS SURROUNDED BY SPIKE'S WIFE AND



M
RUSCH
COM





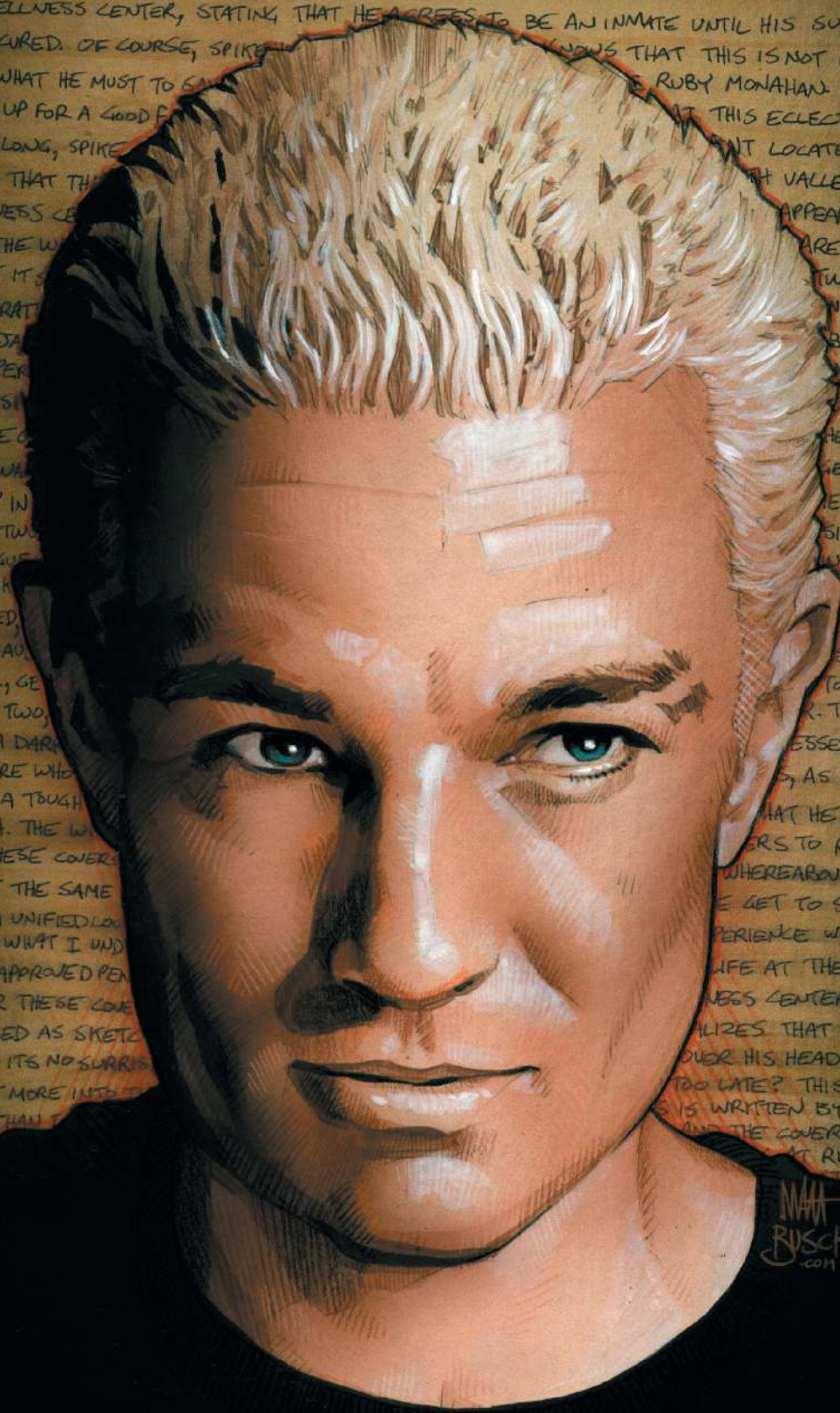
This Page : Issue #3 Cover RI-A by Matt Busch

Next Page : Issue #4 Cover A by Franco Urru



HARRY O.
MADDALEN

THEY HAVE TO HOP THE FENCE, SQUEEZE BETWEEN THE NEWLY PLANTED ARBORVITAE TREES...
SO WE CONTINUE WITH THE NEXT CHAPTER OF THE LEGEND OF SPIKE AND THE ASYLUM...
CHALLENGE OF HELPING THE MONAHAN FAMILY BY RESCUING THEIR DAUGHTER, RUBY, SPIKE HAS...
WAY TO THE NOTORIOUS MOSAIC WELLNESS CENTER, A PLACE THAT PROMISES TO CURE OR AT...
CURB SUPERNATURAL TENDACIES. LOCATED IN PRIMM, THE MOSAIC WELLNESS CENTER IS SMACK...
BETWEEN LOS ANGELES AND LOS VEGAS, WHICH HAPPEN TO BE THE TWO MOST NOTORIOUS CITIES KNOWN...
SUPERNATURAL ACTIVITY. AT THIS POINT, SPIKE HAS SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH THE RECRUITER FOR...
THE MOSAIC WELLNESS CENTER, STATING THAT HE AGREES TO BE AN INMATE UNTIL HIS SUPERNATURAL...
TENDACIES ARE CURED. OF COURSE, SPIKE KNOWS THAT THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, BUT...
IS DOING WHAT HE MUST TO SAVE RUBY MONAHAN BESIDES, SPIKE...
IS ALWAYS UP FOR A GOOD FIGHT. AT THIS ECLECTIC ESTABLISHMENT...
BEFORE LONG, SPIKE IS ASSESSED THAT THE MOSAIC WELLNESS CENTER...
IS NOT THE WORST PLACE IT COULD BE. THE DOCTORS ARE ESSENTIALLY...
GUESTS, BUT RATHER THAN A CREEPY JAIL FOR THE SUPERNATURAL- AND...
IS NOW ONE OF THEIR MOST WANTED AND CELEBRITY INMATES. THESE TWO...
DOCTORS, OR "GUESTS" AS THEY LIKE TO BE CALLED, DR. THILBAULT...
THE KINDER, GENTLER OF THE TWO, AND DR. RAY, A DARK...
SHADOWY FIGURE WHO'S MORE OF A TIGHT LIPS APPROACH. THE WORK...
LOOK OF THESE COVERS ARE DONE AT THE SAME TIME TO HAVE A UNIFIED...
ALSO, FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND, THE APPROVED PEN AND INK...
ROUGHS FOR THESE COVERS WILL BE USED AS SKETCH VARIANTS. SO ITS NO SURPRISE...
THAT I'VE PUT MORE INTO THESE PENCILS THAN I...
MIGHT THINK.



MHA
RUSCH
.COM



Previous Page : Issue #4 Cover B by Matt Busch

This Page : Issue #5 Cover A by Franco Urru
Next Page : Issue #5 Cover RI-A by Matt Busch



SPIKE: ASYLUM “Commentary Track”

from Brian Lynch

Hey, here's a little commentary about the series you just finished reading. Some of the in-jokes and other *hoy polloi* you may have missed. I'll try and refrain from pointing out where friends are referenced, because who cares about that except for them and me? And they already know. And I suspect.

Okay. Turn the page and let's go.

PAGE 1

Jordi, our damsel in distress, is wearing a WELCOME TO NEW JERSEY, NOW GO HOME shirt. Not only hilarious, but a shout-out to my former home. The old adage is true, you can take the boy out of the state but you can't stop the boy from referencing the state on the shirts of supporting comic book characters.

PAGE 2

Not really a reference, but the fact that Spike uses "blue boy," something usually said about or to Superman, made me kinda happy.

PAGE 3

"Hut hut hut"... yep, I'm a BLUES BROTHERS fan. If we do a sequel to SPIKE: ASYLUM, I'll be sure to reference BLUES BROTHERS 2000. With John Goodman as Spike. And an adorable moppet sidekick that wears a matching black leather jacket. It could happen.

PAGE 10

Mosaic's pamphlet has a sweet little shout-out for Whedon fans.

PAGE 13

When Spike talks about drinking from the Cup of Perpetual Torment, there was another line where he admits it was just soda, but I took it out because in that panel he's grandstanding and wouldn't own up to it.

PAGE 14

Primm is an actual town that we always see en route to Vegas. It has a rollercoaster running through the town. I think it does, anyway—there's another town I always confuse Primm with, called Jean (the billboards for Jean say "JEAN FITS YOU" which is hilarious and awkward).

A lot of people really dug the HUSH shout-out on one of Mosaic's posters, but take some time out to read the other posters on the wall. They're pretty awesome, too.

PAGE 15

Mosaic's administrator (we find out her name in issue three) was described in the script as a hot librarian. Franco drew her perfectly.

There is a picture of one of Angel's Big Bads right there in the office. Backstory that will never be explained: he once had a girlfriend that made him go to Mosaic to get help. Thinking back, it woulda been cool to have him sign the poster, like "THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, MOSAIC! XOXOXO."

PAGE 16

Check out the zombie types in the first panel. Celebrity cameos! Read their T-shirts and the magazine right below them for hints.

PAGE 17

Carol's witch-chant is a fun message! See if you can decode it: here's a hint: it's a foreign language, spelled backwards. Aaaaaaand go.

PAGE 18

Mosaic's guard uniforms were written in the script as somewhat resembling Dracula's armor in BRAM STROKER'S DRACULA.

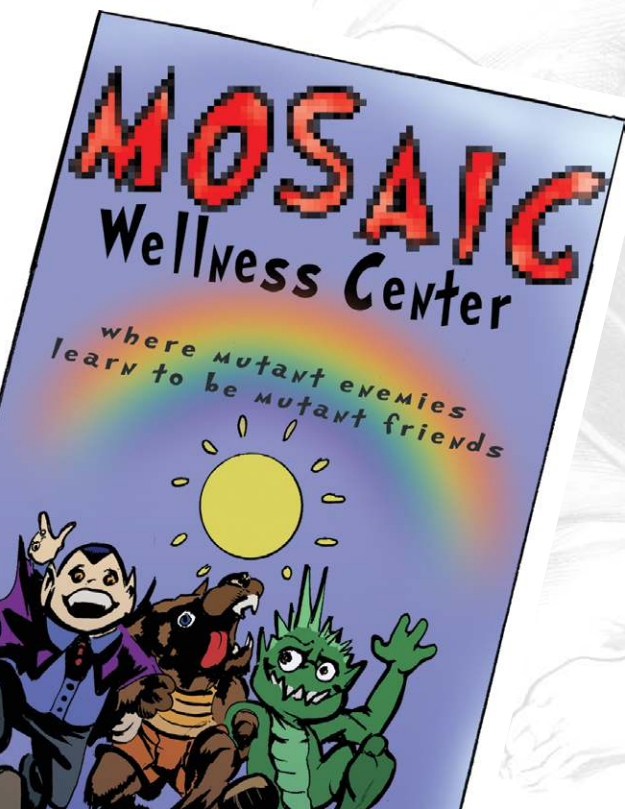
Also, yes, I am a fan of STAR TREK II: THE WRATH OF KAHN.

PAGE 19

One of Spike's post-Mosaic job prospects is a shout-out to a BUFFY episode, it's true.

PAGE 22

Who's worried for our hero? You should be.



THE COVER

The regular cover is, of course, a play on the USUAL SUSPECTS poster. I dig Demon Gabriel Byrne and Zombie Kevin Spacey the most. And I like the Werewolf a thousand times better than Stephen Baldwin. You'd never see a werewolf on CELEBRITY MOLE. Though that might have made it more interesting.

The retailer incentive cover by Matt Busch (hunt it down, it's beautiful), contains portions of my actual original proposal in the scribbles behind Spike. Pretty sweet.

PAGE 1

Naked Spike kicks things off. So many James Marsters web-board denizens are suddenly my best friends.

PAGE 2

First panel, Spike walking down the hallways. There're a couple of references here. "Dust by morning! Dust by morning!" actually references EVIL DEAD while kinda sorta sending a shout-out to FROM DUSK TILL DAWN, which I loved.

Yet another prisoner is yelling exactly what the big-jawed dude yelled in TANGO AND CASH when they first entered the prison. Obscure? Maybe. Worth it? Definitely.

Finally, another prisoner talks about wearing Spike's skin as a suit, which is a little nod to the Tom Hanks sketch on SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE, where super-fans of Mr. Belvedere discuss what they want to do to him. Obscure? Maybe. Worth it. Not particularly.

PAGE 4

Franco e-mailed me to tell me how bad he felt drawing poor Carol in this situation. I don't blame him. She goes through Hell.

PAGE 5

The "Welcome" engraved into Spike's cell wall is Mosaic really trying to keep up the friendly veneer even after the "guest" realizes the facility is a prison.

PAGE 6

Our introduction to Beck (named later in the issue). Named after my girlfriend, and Franco, without ever seeing her, drew a picture that looks a lot like her. A sweet coincidence and/or proof that Franco lives nearby and is too shy to introduce himself.

PAGE 8

Spike's last name is seen on his jar of blood. Bonus points if you know who gave him that last name. Also, check out the monsters behind Spike running from Wiseau as Spike drinks his blood.

PAGE 9

Wiseau and his vamp gang. Notice how anyone in the vamp gang has to constantly keep their vamp brow and fangs out. They go human, they're totally kicked out of the club.

The name "Wiseau" is a salute to the director of the classic cult film THE ROOM. If you have not seen it, go to www.amazon.com now and buy it. Watch it with some of your friends and have a great time.

The stickers on Wiseau's arm are, as you may have guessed, from patients Wiseau has drained. If you look really closely, you can see that, among others, Wiseau has sucked the blood of a banshee, a cat person, Satan himself, and our artist. Poor Franco. Man helps to give Wiseau life and Wiseau returns it by drinking his blood.

PAGE 12

You can see Demon Gabriel Byrne and Zombie Kevin Spacey in the fight. Pretty sweet.

PAGE 13

Ed-in-Chief Chris Ryall and Franco surprised me by having Dr. Ray look like me. Pretty awesome of them. The name "Ray" is a nod to a character in my movie, BIG HELIUM DOG, which was a nod to Dan Aykroyd's character in GHOSTBUSTERS.

Dr. Ray's line of "Cafeteria Riot. Must be Wednesday," is a callback to Buffy saying "Dawn's in trouble. It must be Tuesday." See, BUFFY was on Tuesday nights. And comics come out on Wednesday. Hilarious.

PAGE 15

I love that Dr. Ray calls the Guard by name, even though the armor makes all the Guards look pretty damn indistinguishable. It's the little touches.

PAGE 16

Spike's comment on how he never "worked" for Wolfram & Hart came after Fox sent back a note reminding me that technically he never did get a paycheck, he just hung out and annoyed people. Though he DID trash a few company cars. Seriously, though, thank God Fox sent that e-mail, because it led to the amulet line, which I love.

PAGE 17

Formal introduction to Spike's group therapy! First of all, I think Anna the Ringel Demon deserves a prequel that shows her trying to get acting gigs in Hollywood despite giant horns.

When I handed in the script, werewolf "Marv" was named "Martin" (a nod to another character in BIG HELIUM DOG), but I asked if they could change it to "Marv" because I'm a big fan of writer Marv Wolfman. See the kooky play on words there? Doubt he'll read this series, but it was a fun shout-out.

And Betta George is based on my now deceased pet betta fish George, who looked like Spike's new pal but wasn't as big or telepathic. I now have another betta (Jeff) who is red and very jealous he's not in a major comic book release.

PAGE 21

Please check out the bathroom sign as Beck leaves. Franco Urru is a genius.

PAGE 3

I said I was leaving shout-outs to friends off the list, but I just wanna say that the fact that the vampire in the hospital bed is named "Scott Taylor" is pretty sweet, especially to anyone that posts over at www.angrynakedpat.com. That is all.

PAGE 4

Shout-out to Hellmouth. Sweet!

PAGE 6

Check out the signs in the shower in the first panel. Further proof Franco rules.

Also, the last panel: "You kabob one of us, you kabob aaaaaaaall of us" is a reference to the very odd scene in the first SPIDER-MAN movie, yelled to Green Goblin by a bunch of very proud New Yorkers.

PAGE 9

Two of Wiseau's stickers: I AM AN ARTIST and I AM AN OGRE. Which means Wiseau has killed Franco Urru and also Shrek. Pretty sweet!

PAGE 10

I love the little spikey creature in the first two panels. If we ever do a sequel, he's gonna be a lead.

PAGE 11

"Immaculate Vampire Conception," is not only one of my favorite lines, but a nice shout-out to ANGEL's whole Connor-storyline.

PAGE 13

Panel 3, Spike references how he died in the last episode of BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER.

Panel 4: Every book that takes place in a prison-type environment HAS to have a "drop the soap" joke, it's the law.

PAGE 15

I wrote a book wherein a giant slug uses the phrase "rabble-rousers." A sense of pride? Yeah, it's there.

PAGE 16

I wrote this page on Vicodin. I had shingles. Originally, Spike was going to hallucinate and talk to Angel, but the Vicodin told me to something differently. And I listen to the Vicodin.

PAGE 17

I just want to point out that the last three panels are very Kevin Maguire JUSTICE LEAGUE-esque. And for that, I am very thankful.

PAGE 18

The origin of Mosaic begins. Ivo Shandor's look is a cross between Dr. Strange and Editor-in-Chief Chris Ryall. Ivo Shandor's name (and his belief that society is "too sick to survive") is a direct shout-out to the greatest movie in history, GHOSTBUSTERS. Shandor was the architect that built Dana's apartment building in that movie.

PAGE 19

Biv calls Spike "Brainiac." Think about it. Cross-show promotion!

PAGE 21

First panel is either a reference to Carol, Mosaic's newest in-mate, OR a reference to everyone's favorite lesbian witch from that TV show about slaying.

PAGE 22

The song being sung? Theme song to one of the five greatest shows ever. It's true.

And the man singing it? Not originally in the treatment for SPIKE: ASYLUM, but I felt he was short-changed by not having his own ANGEL: SPOTLIGHT comic and I missed him.



PAGE 1

The first page of this is, of course, paralleling the first page of SPIKE: ASYLUM # 1. Only now it's Lorne's turn to tell the story. And he's a lot more friendly about it, no?

PAGE 2

The new secretary (Carol's replacement) was drawn to look like David Messina, a pal of Franco's and the artist on numerous Angel books.

Also, in the last panel, the "green monster" and his friend that call Lorne's bluff are two characters that have popped up in other stuff I've done: their names are Geek and Nigel 7, and you can find them in my MONKEY MAN and PATCHOULI comics, along with the animated shorts over at <http://www.angrynakedpat.com>.

PAGE 3

PANEL ONE

Malposo's full name? Google each name.

PANEL FOUR

Spike is in a very Christ-like pose. Originally Spike called attention to it (I think he said "this all feels very symbolic") but I dropped it.

PAGE 4

The "Boggus Spore" is a reference to a friend. Not the spore part. Though man, I was friends with someone named "Spore."

PAGE 7

"Knowing is half the battle"... a little shout-out to the best cartoon of my youth.

And seriously, poor George.

Finally, the last panel has Lorne at a Circle K. Because strange things are afoot there. See what I was going for? Hope so.

PAGES 8 and 9

Please notice the ear-bandage on the (former) Mosaic patients. It must be painful to get those baby worms out.

PAGE 15

Dig how good Franco Urru is... Invisible Biv is in so much pain he can't control his inviso-powers. What a great panel.

PAGE 18 and 19

He wasn't supposed to die, but I thought it would be a great SERENITY Wash moment. Kill a character everyone likes (or, as I wrote this scene before SPIKE: ASYLUM came out, a character hopefully everyone would like) to show (A) our heroes are up against some terrible people and (B) that anyone can go at any time.

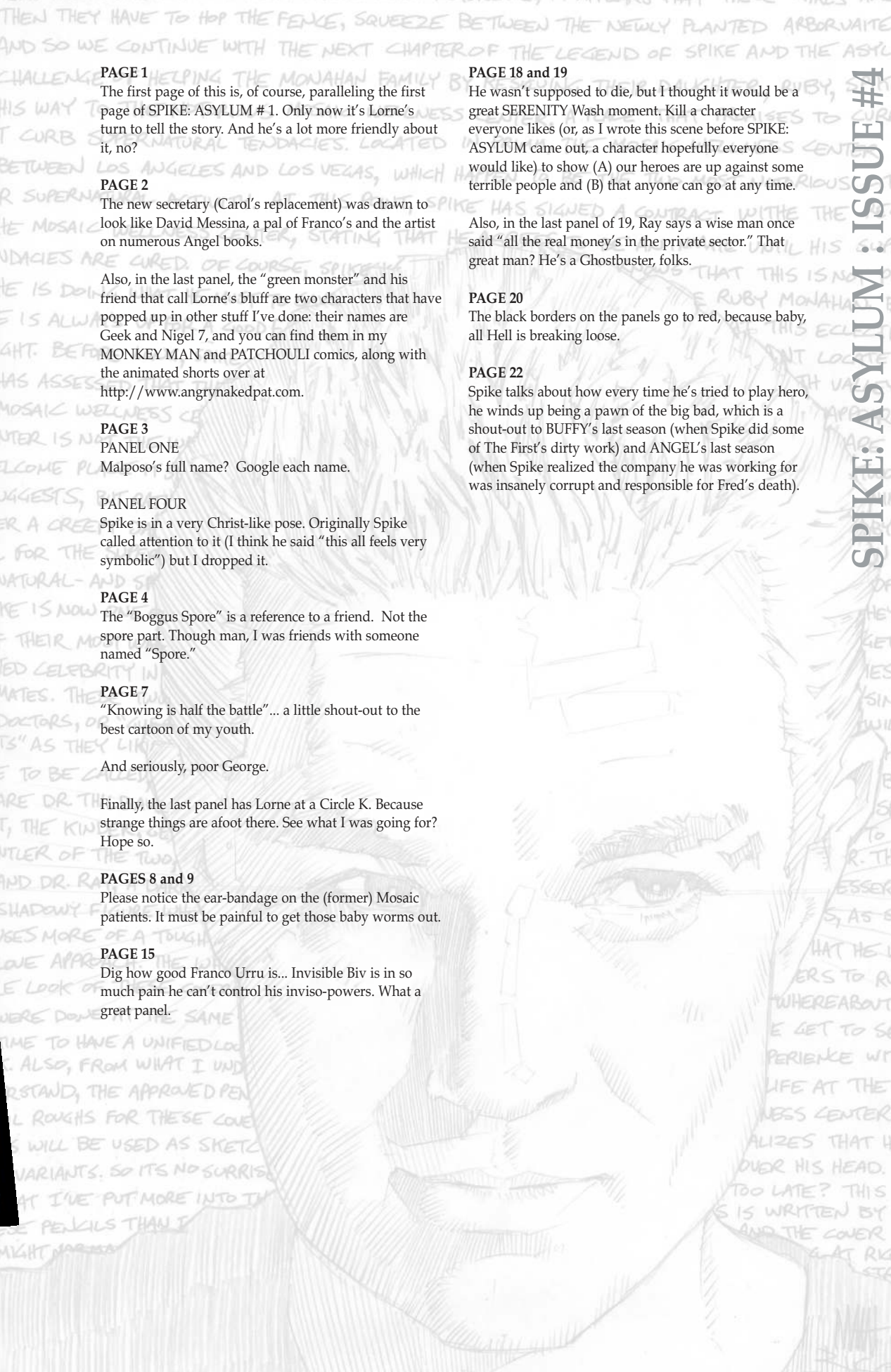
Also, in the last panel of 19, Ray says a wise man once said "all the real money's in the private sector." That great man? He's a Ghostbuster, folks.

PAGE 20

The black borders on the panels go to red, because baby, all Hell is breaking loose.

PAGE 22

Spike talks about how every time he's tried to play hero, he winds up being a pawn of the big bad, which is a shout-out to BUFFY's last season (when Spike did some of The First's dirty work) and ANGEL's last season (when Spike realized the company he was working for was insanely corrupt and responsible for Fred's death).



PAGE 1

It appears that Spike is a fan of THE FANTASTIC FOUR. The comic, not the movie. After all, he has a soul now.

PAGE 2

It would also appear that Spike is a fan of (or at least knows about) Mad Dog 20-20. If you don't know what that is, consider yourself lucky.

PAGE 3

Spike talks about how, during his evil days, "running away to strike another day" was pretty much a weekly event. See, that's a very subtle reference to the BUFFY and ANGEL television shows. They were weekly, and... oh, you got it. Not subtle at all, you say? Very good, let's continue.

PAGE 6

A double reference! Spike mentions, in his narration, a "smart-ass with an eye patch." That is, of course, talking about Xander. BUT it also was a shout-out to ANGEL: OLD FRIENDS (trade paperback available now from IDW), when Gunn fought alongside Angel and Spike, WITH AN EYE PATCH. That's two-two-two references in one.

PAGE 7

Beck's backstory was supposed to be a BIG part of the series. HOW can she start fires? HOW can she survive a stake through her chest? There was going to be a flashback involving a fire God that bonded with her, and she can't die until HE does, and fire Gods live for centuries, etc. etc. But we simply ran out of space. Had to tell Spike's story first and foremost, and couldn't slow down to address Beck's. She got a lousy one-panel explanation of her power. Sorry, Beck.

PAGE 8

"Saje," the name given to Mosaic's sinister (and Betta George killing) Cleanser, is a shout-out to someone on Whedonesque.com, a great site full of Joss Whedon fans. Saje was very supportive of this series from the get-go, and I wanted to give thanks.

Also, the Cleanser's chant contains a secret message. What is it? Ooooooh, you'll have to figure that out. It's not too hard.

PAGE 9

"Wishes just happen to be horses today." A reference to one of Spike's last lines on the last episode of ANGEL. Someone brought it to my attention recently that it was also said on FIREFLY. So this is also a double-reference, albeit an accidental one.

PAGE 14

"Encyclopedia Brown." Do you know how great it makes me feel to reference those books in SPIKE:ASYLUM? Answer: somewhat but not overwhelmingly great. I still think Bugs Meany should have been behind the sinister goings-on at Mosaic.

PAGE 15

Who woulda thought Wiseau was a GRINCH fan? Not this guy.

PAGE 17

Spike could have gone down fighting, and I think he would have been fine with that, but he wanted to protect the lady. I maintain if Beck weren't there he would have long since been looking for the secret backdoor and let these screwballs fight among themselves.

PAGE 18

THAT'S what you get for killing Betta George, Cleanser! Let that be a lesson to you.

PAGE 19

On this page, Beck uses her firestarting abilities to explode the trucks Dr. Ray and company are in. Beck is named after my fiancée (who you'll note was a girlfriend at the start of the series, as referenced above), and Franco drew Dr. Ray to look like me, so essentially, my fiancée is 'sploding me into a million billion little pieces. I think that is very symbolic.

PAGE 20

Dr. Thilbault makes his first (and almost last) appearance as a wolf. Quick subtle foreshadowing here that I didn't expect anyone to get. Thilbault is a play on Carl Thibault, the man who played the werewolf in THE MONSTER SQUAD. So fans of that movie shoulda been all "Hey, that name is similar to the guy who wolfs out in MONSTER SQUAD, I bet he's gonna turn into a werewolf." But no one got it. Surprising.

Also, Thilbault's growl: "Grrrrrrrr! Aaaaaaargh!" is a shout-out the sound the little Mutant Enemy guy makes on Joss Whedon's production company logo.

And the car Spike and company ride to Primm in? It's Ash's car from EVIL DEAD, and Uncle Ben's car from SPIDER-MAN. Sam Raimi's old auto that he's kept and put in all of his movies.

PAGE 22

Spike will never get a MySpace. Though, since SPIKE:ASYLUM has started, about fifty people either claiming to be Spike or just having Spike as their picture, have asked to be my MySpace pal.

And with that, Spike and Lorne head off into the sunset. But the adventure doesn't end there! No sir. They're teaming up for SPIKE: SHADOW PUPPETS, a four-issue series by the same creative team that done brought you SPIKE: ASYLUM. Think of it as both the sequel to the "Smile Time" episode of ANGEL and to SPIKE: ASYLUM. Puppets, vampires, demons, ninjas, a big battle royale smack-dab in Japan. Coming next month, in fact.

That's it from me. Hope you enjoyed the series, it was an honor to write the character. Chris Ryall makes dreams come true. Seriously, go to his MySpace and ask him if you could write a SPIKE book. It worked for me.

Much much thanks to Franco for his brilliant artwork. A better creative partner I couldn't ask for.

And thanks to everyone who read the series. Your excitement on the boards over at idwpublishing.com, whedonesque.com, and angrynakedpat.com was truly inspiring.

"I was really impressed with Asylum. Brian really got the humour and the rhythms and told a story really well."

– Joss Whedon

the essence of the series is the way it takes the essence of a story and the rhythms and this will be the "

– Joss Whedon, writer/director

"This is a great comic book story. It's the perfect room for the perfect comic book story. It's the perfect comic book story. It's the perfect comic book story."

Rob Gonsky, Jr. Official Entry and Award Winner



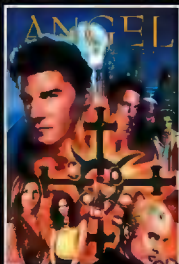
Welcome to Mosaic Wellness Center, the leading rehab facility for the supernatural.

For years, they've cured vampires, werewolves, demons, and other creatures of the night of their "problems." Hundreds of monsters locked up in a prison-like environment. Being experimented on. Eating each other. Group showering. A new patient just checked in. His name? Spike. Underworld-famous. Used to be a big bad, but rumor has it he's gone legit. Says he wants to change. But once Spike checks in, there's no checking out. He's holed up with an army of creatures who know him all too well from his glory days, and each and every patient wants to be the one who dusts him.

Presenting the complete SPIKE: ASYLUM mini-series from screenwriter **Brian Lynch** and artist **Franco Urru**, along with a cover gallery and writer's commentary tracks from Lynch.

LET THE HEALING BEGIN.

ANGEL: SPOTLIGHT TPB
ISBN: 1-60010-023-6



ANGEL: OLD FRIENDS
ISBN: 1-933239-76-X



SPIKE VS. DRACULA
ISBN: 1-60010-030-9

