



ISSUE ONE

ESTABLISHED
1986

A SOUTHERN ORIGINAL



CANNIBAL



70cl e

40% Vol.

BUCELLATO — YOUNG — BERGARA

HOG'S RIVER BAR & GRILL

CANNIBAL

CHAPTER ONE

STORY

J. YOUNG

&

BRIAN
BUCELLATO

ART

MATÍAS
BERGARA

TROY PETERI
LETTERS

B. BUCELLATO
COLORS

In 1994, a category five hurricane swept through the Southeast region of the U.S. causing billions of dollars worth of damage. It also uprooted ancient mosquitoes hibernating underground. These disease-carrying bloodsuckers infected humans with a hundred-year-old strain of Yellow Fever.

Global Medicine Management (GMM) rushed a medicine called Y-PAK to market to combat the disease. Y-PAK treated the symptoms but had a devastating side effect -- a virus that caused its victims to crave human flesh. Unlike zombies, these cannibals are everyday people, just like you and I. They think, feel and more importantly have remorse. How will they go on if it means eating people to survive?

We enter this world at the dawn of what could turn into a pandemic. News of outbreaks across the southeast have begun to trickle in.

But in the tiny Florida town of WILLOW, no one has seen a cannibal... yet.

CANNIBAL™ Issue 1

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CANNIBAL CREATED BY J. YOUNG

SOMEWHERE
IN FLORIDA

YOU
DON'T NEED
NO PERMIT TO
KILL THEM
THINGS?

NAH. NO REGULATIONS FOR
HOGS. THEY'RE A DAMN
NUISANCE, ANYHOW. EATING
EVERYTHING.

THEN TAKE ME
TOMORROW--

CAN'T
TOMORROW.
MONDAY
MAYBE.

COME ON,
I GOTTA BE
HERE ON
MONDAY.

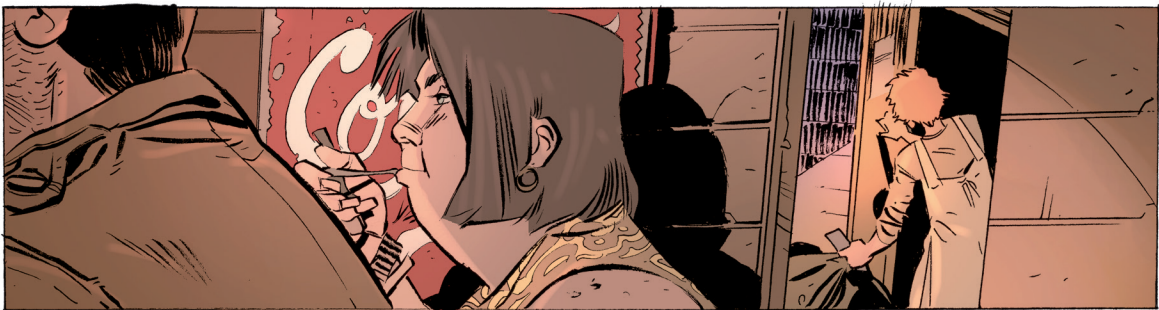
NO,
YOU WON'T
BE WORKING
MONDAY IF
YOU DON'T
GET OFF
YOUR ASS
AND TAKE
OUT THAT
TRASH.

HUH?

HE MEANS
YOU WON'T
HAVE
A JOB.

YOU AIN'T GOTTA BE
MEAN ABOUT IT, POP.
HE'S JUST A KID.

AND I'M JUST
TRYIN' TO RUN
A BUSINESS
HERE.
SO WHY DON'T
YOU MIND YOURS.







YOU
BEEN DRINKIN'?
I CAN GET YOU
WATER OR SODA OR
SOMETHIN'...



NO...
WHY'D YOU...
HAVE TO COME
OUT HERE?



TOLD YOU...
TO GO BACK
INSIDE.

TAKE IT
EASY, MAN...
I WAS JUST
TRYING TO
HELP.

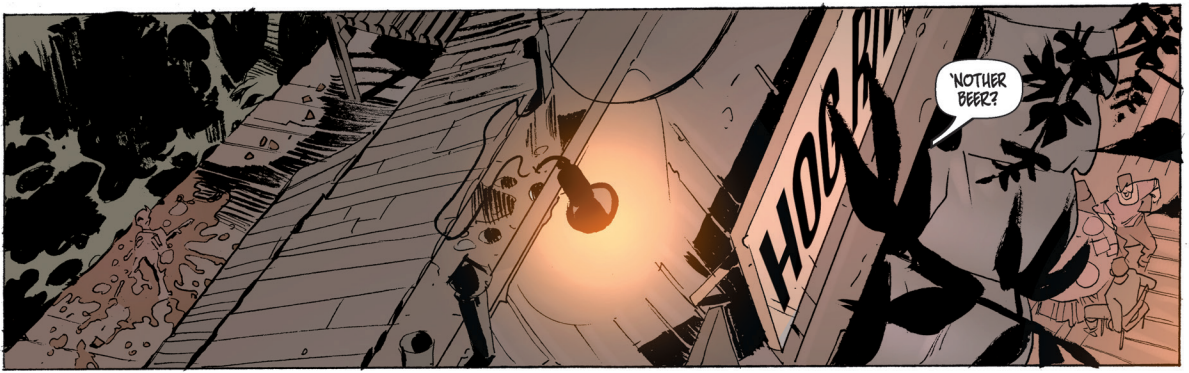
TOO LATE
NOW.

I'M
JUST... SO
HUNGRY.





CANNIBAL



NOTHER BEER?



CASH... HOW'S YOUR BROTHER? TEDDY SAID HE WAS BACK IN TOWN.

SAME AS EVER... MEAN AS THE DAMN DEVIL.



HEY, CASH...



WELL, SHIT... WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE, DANNY?

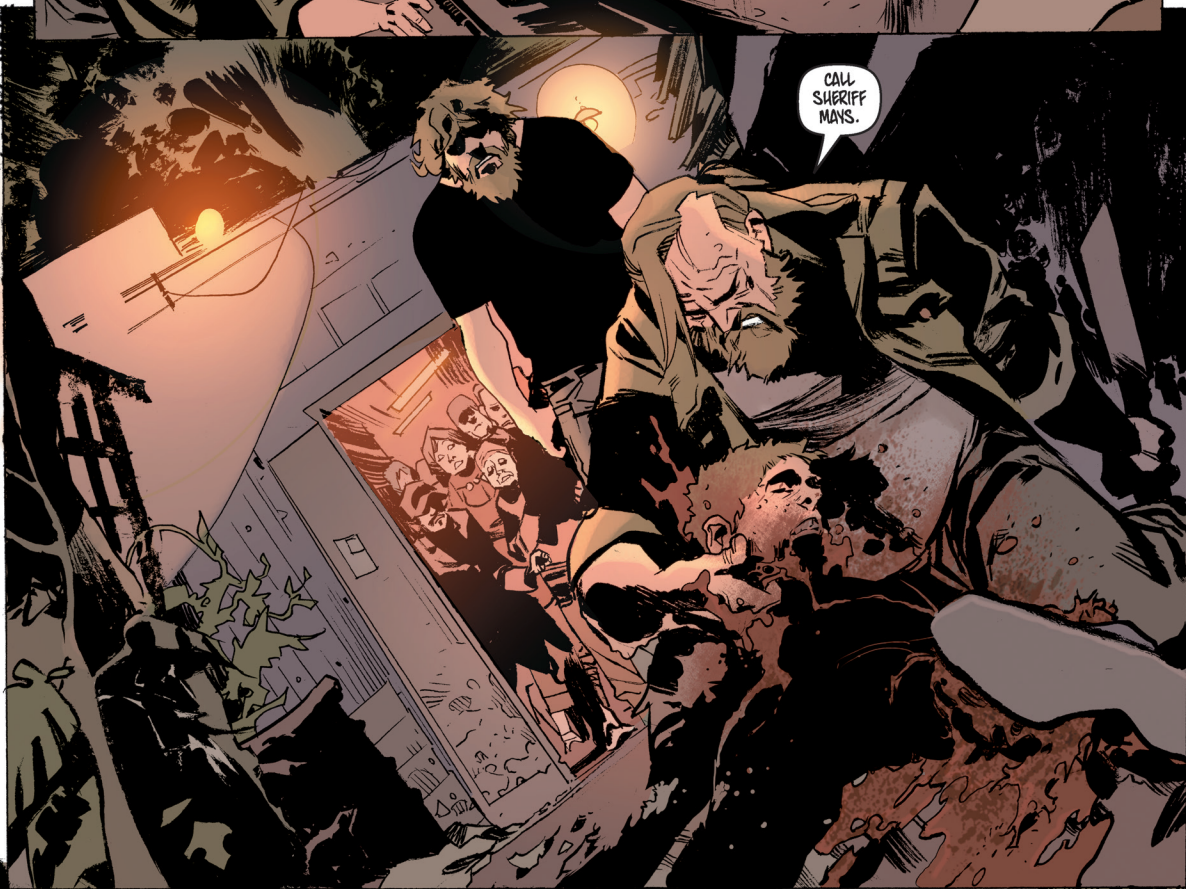
I'M... LOOKIN' FOR GRADY...

KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND HIM?



SURE DO. BUT HE AIN'T HERE --

RAAAR





HOW OLD WAS HE... FOURTEEN? DAMN SHAME.

A WAKE-UP CALL'S WHAT IT IS.

JUST A MATTER OF TIME WITH THEM PEOPLE EATERS. LIKE YOU BEEN SAYIN', GRADY --



FIRST IT WAS ANIMAL ATTACKS IN THE WOODS... THEN A COUPLE CRAZIES FROM OUT OF TOWN... NOW IT'S RIGHT HERE?!

WHAT NEXT, LEE... WE ALL START EATIN' EACH OTHER?! SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE.

GODDAMN RIGHT!



LOOK AROUND, SHERIFF. WHICHEVER SICK FREAK DID THIS TO LITTLE JIMMY AIN'T HERE NOW!

WHICH MEANS HE AIN'T FAR!

LET'S GET 'EM.

IT'S TIME, DAD. LET'S SEARCH THE ACRES BEHIND THE BAR... THEN SPLIT UP TILL WE'VE COVERED EVERYTHING EAST OF THE RIVER.

HOLD ON, SON... SINCE WHEN DID Y'ALL BECOME VIGILANTES?





WE DONE ENOUGH SAYING... WE BETTER START DOING.

I GOTTA LET THE BOY'S MAMMA KNOW.

WASTE OF BREATH. TORE-UP HAG DON'T KNOW HE'S GONE HALF THE TIME.



SINCE PEOPLE STARTED EATING EACH OTHER.



YOU HEARD HIM. WE NEED TO GET MOVING NOW. GO GET WHAT YOU NEED AND COME ON BACK. EVERY MINUTE COUNTS...

LEGALLY SPEAKING, YOU KNOW I CAN'T CONDONE IT. BUT THAT SAID...

YOU'RE NOT TELLING US NOT TO.



LET ME KNOW IF YOU NEED MY HELP.



HEY!
BABY
BRO...



CATCH!
YOU'RE WITH ME.
DROP THE BROOM AND
GET READY...WE'RE
LEAVING IN FIVE.



I'M NOT GOING.
SOMEWHERE ELSE I
GOTTA BE.



WHAT'RE YOU
TALKING ABOUT?!
WE'RE GONNA GET
THE SUMBITCH WHO
DONE JIMMY.

CAN'T DO IT.
BUT I'M SURE
YOU'LL GET
HIM.

YOU
BAILING
ON US?

NO. I'M
JUST NOT
GOING.



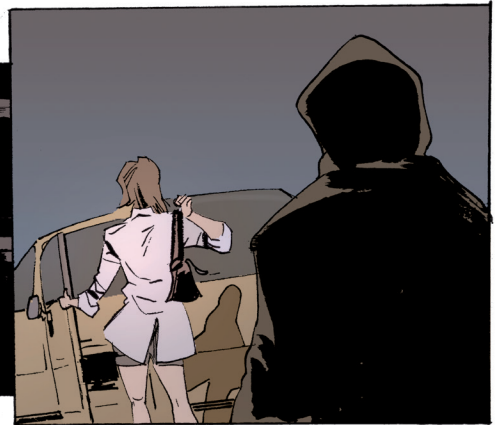
THIS IS REAL, CASH.
WHETHER YOU TURN
YOUR BACK ON US OR
NOT...IT'S REALLY
HAPPENING.

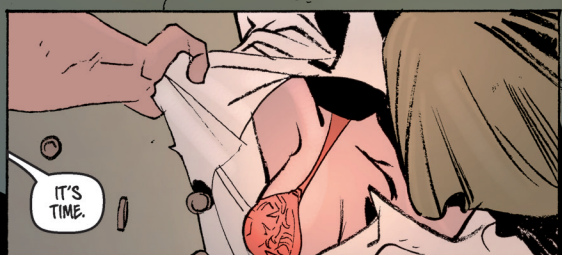


HUNTING FOLKS IS
NOT MY THING.
BY THE WAY...
DANNY CAME BY HERE
LOOKING FOR YOU.

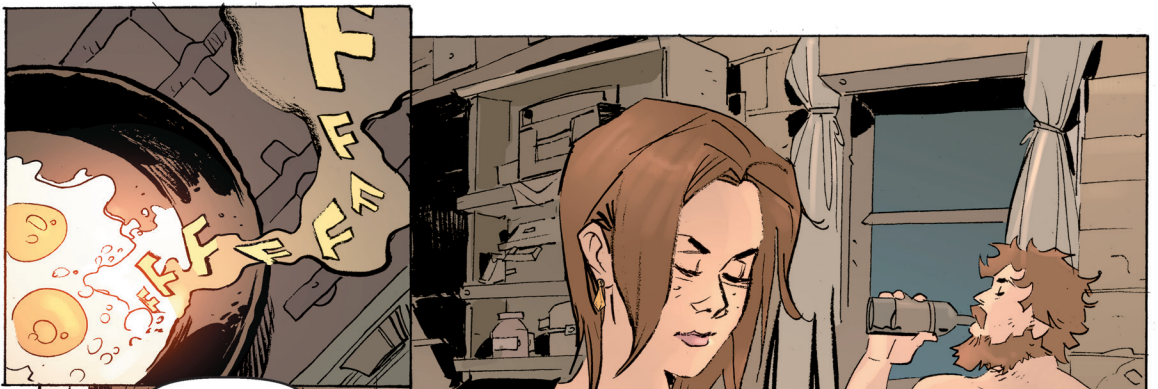


DIDNT
SAY WHERE
HE'D BE.







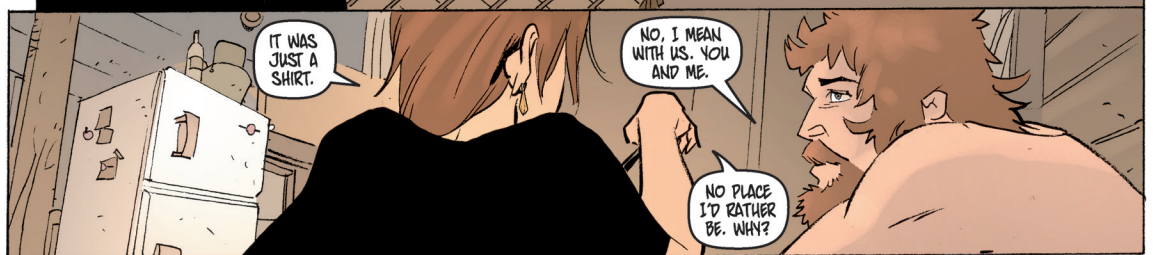


WE STILL ON FOR TOMORROW, BABE? 'CAUSE IF YOU NEED TO CANCEL OR POSTPONE OR ANYTHING...

WE'RE GOOD. TOOK OFF TILL TUESDAY. I JUST GOTTA DROP SOME STUFF OFF FOR GRANNY.



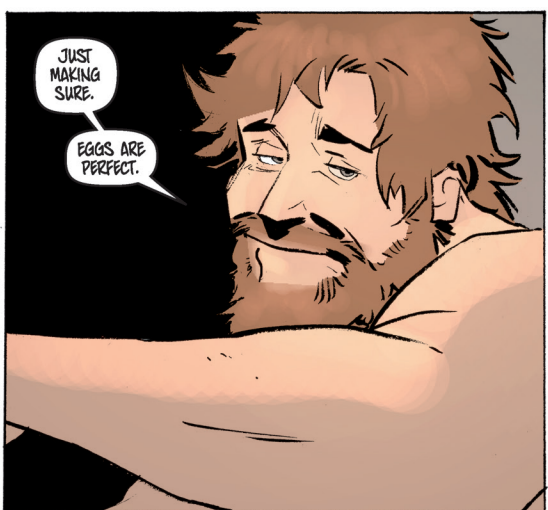
YOU'RE HAPPY, RIGHT?



IT WAS JUST A SHIRT.

NO, I MEAN WITH US. YOU AND ME.

NO PLACE I'D RATHER BE. WHY?



JUST MAKING SURE.

EGGS ARE PERFECT.



I KNOW.

"THIS AIN'T GONNA WORK..."



...WE NEED TO GET OUT AND BEAT THE BUSHES. SUMBITCH COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN PAST HERE.

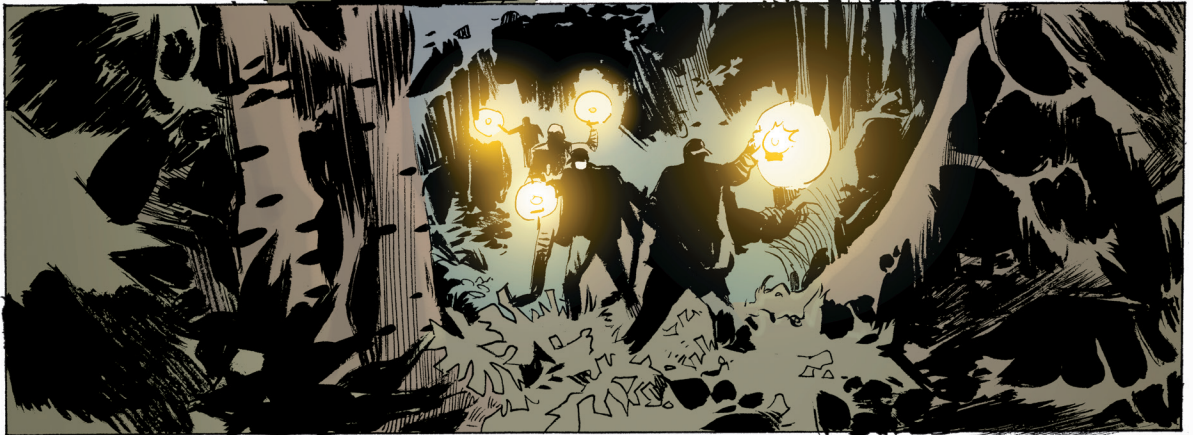


BO AND THE OTHERS IS ON THE WEST END. WE GOT THE EAST. FAN OUT, BUT KEEP WITHIN EYE LINE. LAST THING WE NEED IS FOR ONE OF US TO GET BIT.

IF YOU CAN'T SEE OUR FLASHLIGHTS... YOU GONE TOO FAR. YOU HEAR ME, EARL... GEORGE?

YEAH. YOU JUST SAID IT.

GOOD.

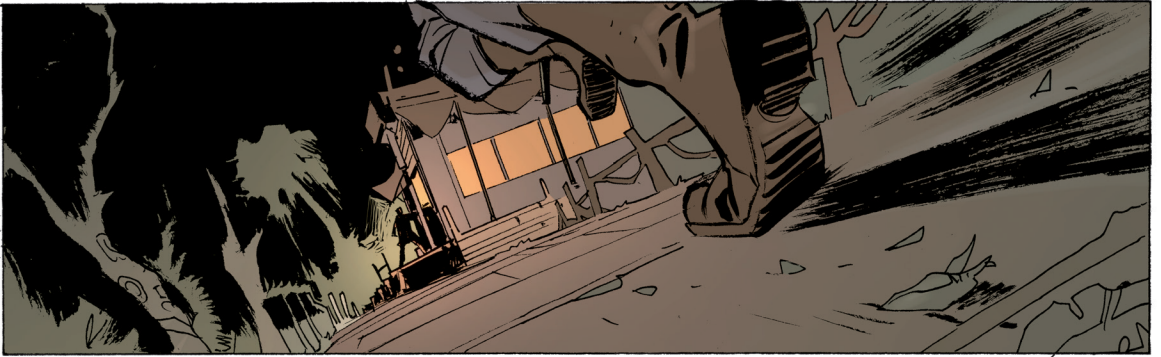
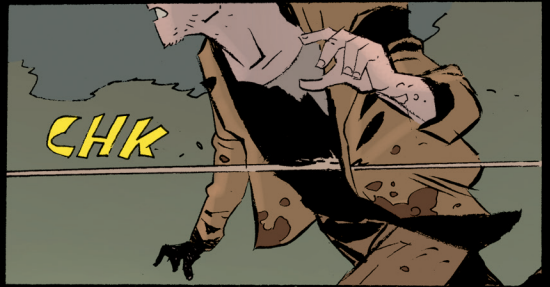
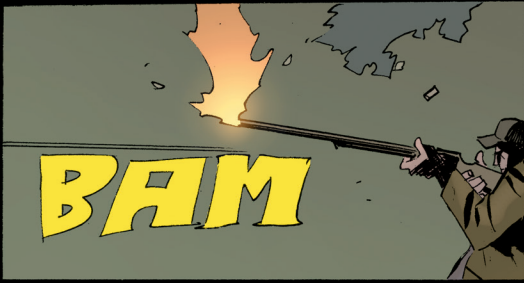


GOT YOU...
FOUND SOMETHING!

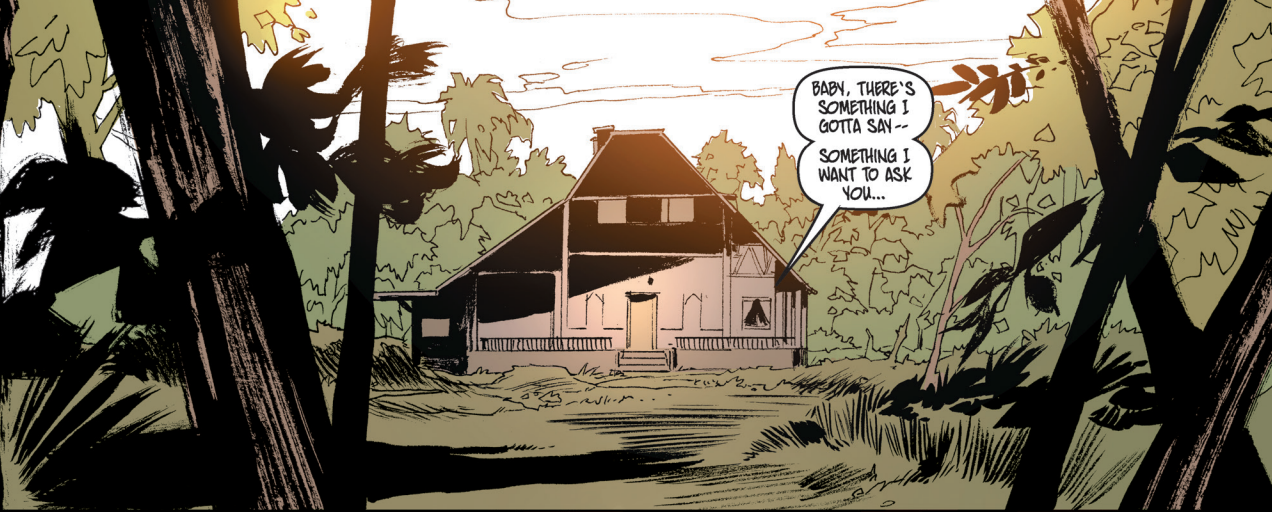














THINK CASH IS FINALLY GONNA POP THE QUESTION?

RING RING

HOG'S RIVER...

LORD KNOWS THE ANSWER TO THAT...
...CUZ I DONT.



WHO?

NAW... HEARD HE CAME BY LOOKING FOR ME, BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM.

WHY... EVERYTHING OKAY?...SURE THING.



DANNY'S SISTER... LOOKING FOR HIM AGAIN. SEEMS HE LEFT HOME IN HURRY, WASN'T ACTING LIKE HIMSELF. DIDN'T TELL NO ONE WHERE HE WAS GOING, OR WHY...

SOUNDS LIKE DANNY.

BEEN MISSING OVER A WEEK THIS TIME.

GRADY...



SPEAK OF THE DAMN DEVIL...

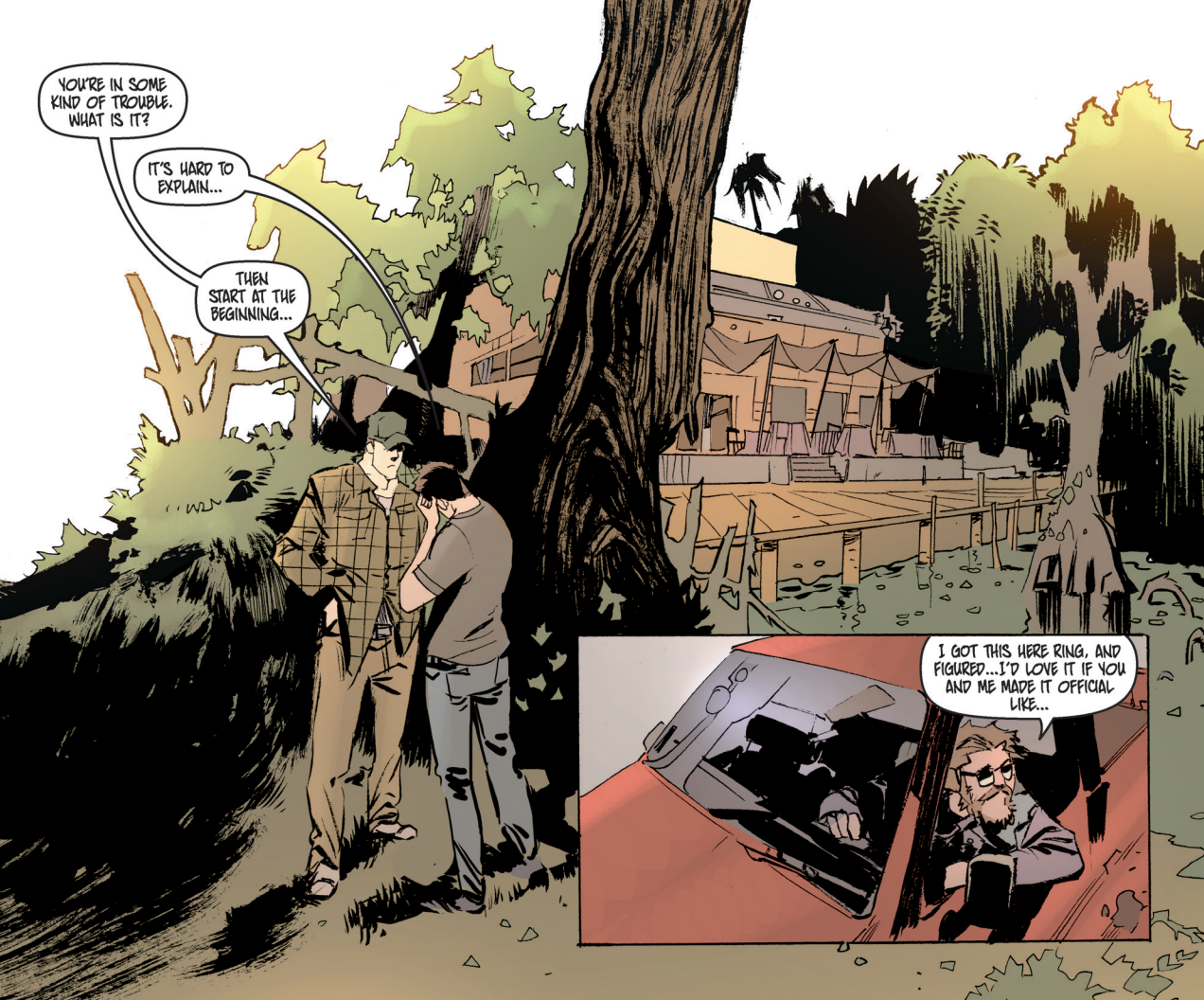
LONG TIME, RON.

"I KNOW YOU, DANNY... THIS AINT ONE OF YOUR USUAL DISAPPEARING ACTS."

YOU'RE IN SOME KIND OF TROUBLE. WHAT IS IT?

IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN...

THEN START AT THE BEGINNING...



I GOT THIS HERE RING, AND FIGURED... I'D LOVE IT IF YOU AND ME MADE IT OFFICIAL LIKE...



HONESTLY, I'M NOT READY TO TALK ABOUT IT. KINDA TIRED. YOU KNOW, LONG DRIVE...

THINK YOUR DAD WOULD MIND IF I JUST CRASHED AT THE OLD CABIN FOR A FEW NIGHTS?



UM... HE LIKES YOU BETTER THAN ME... 'COUSE HE WON'T CARE.



DON'T WORRY SO MUCH... EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE OKAY.



TO BE
CONTINUED

NEXT ISSUE



ISSUE TWO

ESTABLISHED
1908

A SOUTHERN ORIGINAL

CANNIBAL



70cl e

40% Vol.

BUGCELLATO — YOUNG — BERGARA

INTERVIEW WITH THE CREATORS OF
CANNIBAL

ORIGINALLY PRINTED IN **IMAGE+**

MATÍAS BERGARA BRIAN BUCCELLATO & JENNIFER YOUNG

*Matías Bergara, Brian Buccellato, & Jennifer Young would like to invite you to take a quick trip down to the Everglades so you can get a first-hand look at a story they call **CANNIBAL**. More and more people are finding themselves with a fierce hunger for human flesh. How does society take it? How will the small town of Willow take it?*

IMAGE COMICS: You describe **CANNIBAL** as an “anti-apocalypse story.” Can you tell us what you mean by that?

JENNIFER YOUNG: **CANNIBAL** is the anti-apocalypse story in that the townsfolk of Willow will arm themselves and be wary of the neighbors they once trusted. They won’t give in to the cannibal virus that some think could lead to an epidemic. People want to stay immersed in their everyday lives instead of giving in, seeking refuge, or leaving town.

BRIAN BUCCELLATO: One of the tropes of stories about global pandemics—**Dawn of the Dead**, **World War Z**, **I Am Legend**, and **12 Monkeys**, for example—is that they lead to an apocalyptic breakdown of society. But we wanted to tell a story where mankind is too stubborn to give up their way of life. **CANNIBAL** is a story about man’s resilience at the dawn of what MIGHT become an apocalypse... but not any time soon.

IC: Most people’s first thought when they hear the word “cannibal” will be “Oh, they’re zombies!” What kind of cannibals are you depicting in this series? How do they differ from zombies?

“We wanted to tell a story where mankind is too stubborn to give up their way of life.”

JENNIFER: The main difference between **OUR** cannibals and zombies is that our cannibals are just like you and me. They think, react, and, most importantly, feel remorse. They don’t actually want to eat you but they must in order to survive. Unlike a zombie, someone with the cannibal virus can live and function among the rest of us. Only when their hunger has gone on too long will they become a threat. It’s like an addiction. They can be your mother, brother, boss, or preacher—living their normal lives just like you and I. But in order to survive and feed that deep, primal hunger, they must feed on humans.

IC: **CANNIBAL** takes place in the Everglades, a rare setting for a comic. What was it about this location that made it the right one for this story?

JENNIFER: I am from a small town in Florida where everyone knows everyone else, their parents, and especially each other’s business. The town I am from is part farmland, part beach, and part swampland. Growing up in that part of Florida was an adventure every single day. During my childhood I saw more gators, sharks, snakes, and frogs to last a lifetime. Years after leaving Florida, I realized how intoxicating the setting was, and felt blessed to have had that life. Having **CANNIBAL** take place here is my way of revisiting my childhood and hopefully capturing its essence for readers.

MATÍAS BERGARA: From a visual point of view, the Everglades and swampy areas in general are great settings for creepy and unsettling stories. Nature and wildlife become characters in themselves and play a silent but powerful role. Rivers and creeks—running water—

“THESE ARE DARK WATERS, WITH THE SMALL FICTIONAL TOWNS AND WOODEN BRIDGES DECAYING JUST LIKE



ABOVE: series co-writer Brian Buccellato

MATÍAS BERGARA BRIAN BUCCELLATO & JENNIFER YOUNG

usually give you a sense of a story going somewhere, leading to something, like it happens in **Apocalypse Now**. These are dark waters, with the small fictional towns and wooden bridges decaying just like rotting plants. It's great for this story!

IC: *Matías, this seems like a pretty down-to-earth tale, even with the cannibals. Can you describe what the story is going to feel like, visually? What does your take on the Everglades look like?*

IC: *Small towns tend to have tightly knit casts of characters, too. Who are Cash and Grady Hansen? What makes them stand out?*

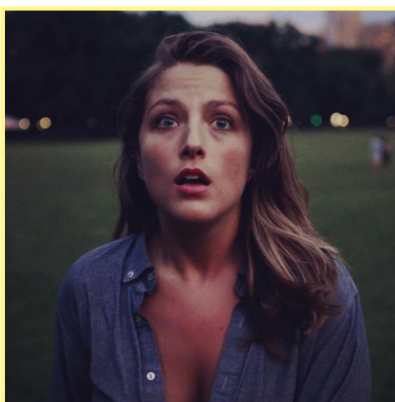
MATÍAS: They're brothers, and—as usually happens between brothers—they have very different and complementary personalities, strengths, and weaknesses! And they share a wonderfully tough dad watching over them.

BRIAN: Cash and Grady are brothers with different priorities and worldviews. Cash is homespun and never ventures outside of their hometown of Willow. He is content to live the small town life.

Grady, on the other hand, is a commercial fisherman who thinks more globally. He's adventurous and would probably never return to his hometown if not for the fact that his father and brother live there.

IC: *The Hansen family forms the core of **CANNIBAL**, but how is the town they live in taking the rise of the cannibals?*

BRIAN: Cannibals are something that the townsfolk have seen on the news. The same way we've all heard about the Zika virus or the bath salts incident but don't have any direct experience with it. At least, not at first. The awareness starts to grow once cannibal attacks begin to happen in this small town. And when that happens, the townsfolk stubbornly refuse to let it take over their lives. They start openly carrying guns and becoming xenophobic as their distrust of strangers takes root. They're not going gently into that good night, even if they have to shoot folks they suspect are cannibals...



ROTTING PLANTS."

MATÍAS: It's gonna be gritty and very textured. By that I mean that I'm using ink and brushes intentionally to create lines, shapes, and characters that mirror the tone, emotions, and occasional wildness that gets the story going. Brian and Jennifer gave me lots of freedom when defining these particular elements and—being an "expressive" artist, so to say—I'm using lots of slashes, strokes, and blots when necessary to produce certain effects and peaks of drama. I'm also having lots of fun drawing the jungle and vegetation as a living force around the characters. Swamp flora is usually chaotic and random-looking in its natural arrangement.

ABOVE, LEFT: series artist Matías Bergara

ABOVE, RIGHT: series co-writer Jennifer Young



COMICS IN YOUR IMAGE



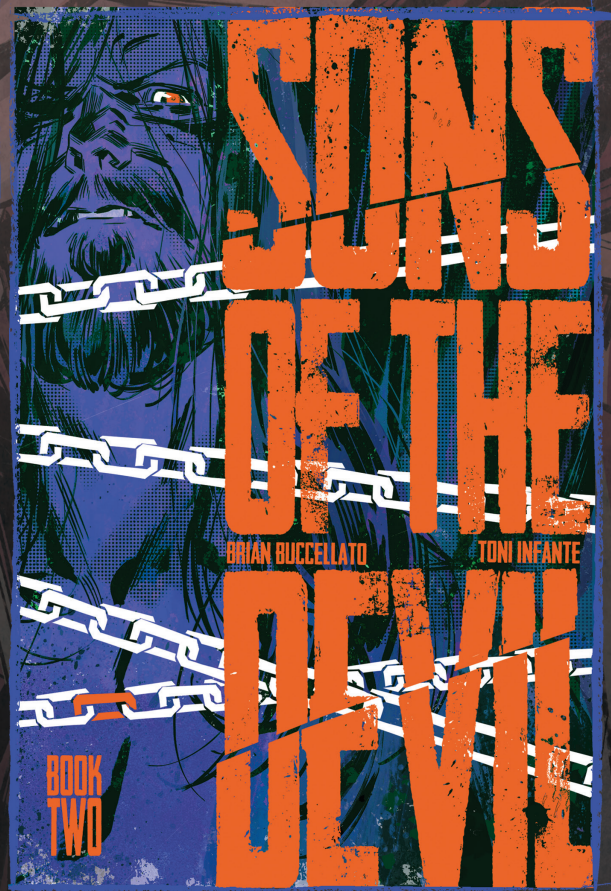
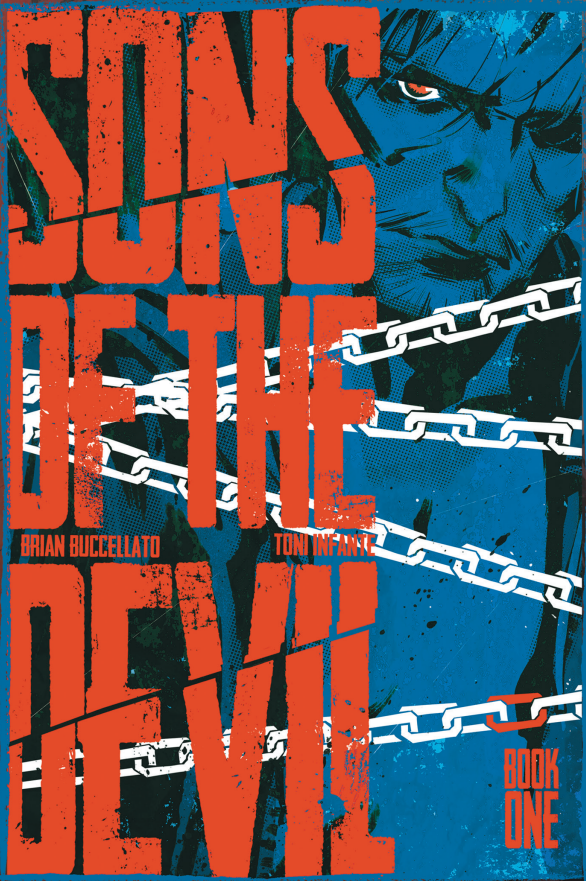
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THE SINS OF THE FATHER...

**BUCELLATO
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CANNIBAL

ESTABLISHED
1986

A SOUTHERN ORIGINAL

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