

“...A comic that’s an
absolute must buy.”
GRAPHIC POLICY



EVIL EMPIRE™

MAX BEMIS ★ RANSOM GETTY ★ ANDREA MUTTI

EVIL EMPIRE™

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So don't just burn down government buildings and churches, burn a wall down just to stand and look in the flames. Let it make you hard. What matters is the meaning behind it, and we are rich with purpose.

Put a gun in the mouth of every mother-fucker who ever pushed you around and do it in my name if that makes it easier for you.

...cc. 0.0

we are rich with purpose.





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CHAPTER
ONE

fig. 1

exc. 1.0 Greetings, United States of Fucking Bullshit.

**EXACTLY RIGHT NOW,
PLUS TWENTY-FIVE YEARS.
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.**

THE APES
HAVE TAKEN
OVER THE PLANET.



THE GALAXY'S SAVIOR HAS
TRANSFORMED HIMSELF INTO
A DEFORMED, CORRUPT
BASTARD AND BUILT A GIANT
PLANET MADE OF WEAPONRY
TO POLICE THE STARS.




WE'RE LIVING IN
A FALSE REALITY
CREATED BY MACHINES
TO SAP OUR
COLLECTIVE ENERGY
AND HOLD SWAY
OVER THE EARTH.



THE DEAD
HAVE RISEN AND
HUMANITY HAS
BEEN FORCED TO
SCURRY AMONGST
THE WRECKAGE OF
CIVILIZATION LIKE
RATS.






SOUND FAMILIAR?
THAT'S CUZ WHENEVER
MODERN MAN TAKES
THE TIME TO IMAGINE
THE FUTURE, ALL WE
SEE IS A LOOMING
APOCALYPSE.

DUDE--
THIS ISN'T A
HOBO; HE'S AN
OLD, SMELLY
PIÑATA! HA!


IT'S AN EASY THING TO DO FROM OUR
ARMCHAIRS: TO IMAGINE A WORLD
SO FULL OF DISORDER AND
CORRUPTION IT CAN SERVE AS THE
BACKSTORY IN YOUR DUMB-ASS
MOVIE OR SCIENCE FICTION NOVEL.



MAYBE IT MAKES US FEEL LIKE
IT WOULD TAKE THE EXISTENCE
OF SPACESHIPS OR LITTLE
TERRIER ALIENS OR SPACE
KUNG-FU FOR OUR WORLD
TO REACH THAT POINT.



PUNK-ASSED
LITTLE JOKERS!
GET THE HELL
AWAY FROM
HIM!



IT'S ALL SO
METHODICALLY
WRAPPED UP IN
CELLULOID THAT I
BET YOU'VE NEVER
STOPPED TO ASK
ONE SIMPLE
QUESTION...



HOMEBOY'S
GOT A KNIFE,
MAN.

LET'S GET
OUTTA HERE. JERK-
OFF KNOWS WHAT'S
COMIN' TO HIM
STEPPING IN LIKE
THAT.



THAT'S
RIGHT, YOU
BETTER
RUN!

HOW COULD WE
ACTUALLY END UP
IN A JACKED-UP
DYSTOPIAN FUTURE...





BANG BANG
GOES A
HAND-ME-DOWN GAT
NEVER KNEW YOU'D WIND
UP LIKE THAT
CASUALTY OF THE RAT
RACE OF FAT CATS.

CHEWED UP
BY AN ANCIENT
CLASS WAR
DON'T YOU KNOW
THAT'S WHAT
BLACKS IS FOR.

EXACTLY RIGHT NOW.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

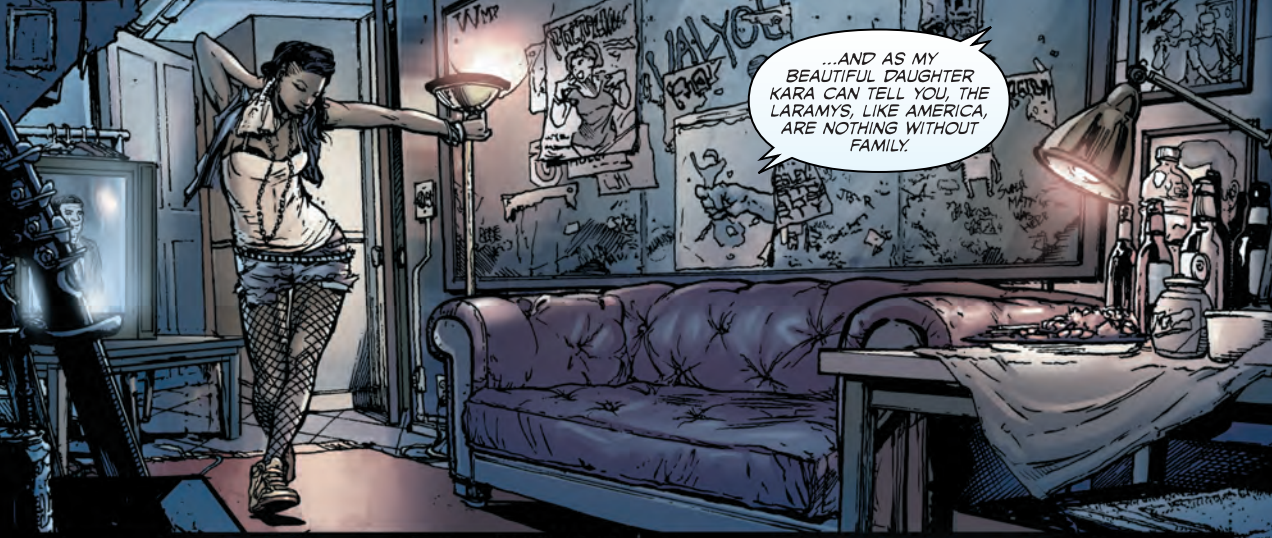
FODDER FOR A
CORRUPT ASPIRING
PRESIDENT
TRACKS ON THIN
SKIN AND CORPORAL
PUNISHMENT.

HOMES,
YOU'RE LIKE A
RIGHT-WING
COMIC
LIKE YOU WAS
BROUGHT HERE
BY A COMET.

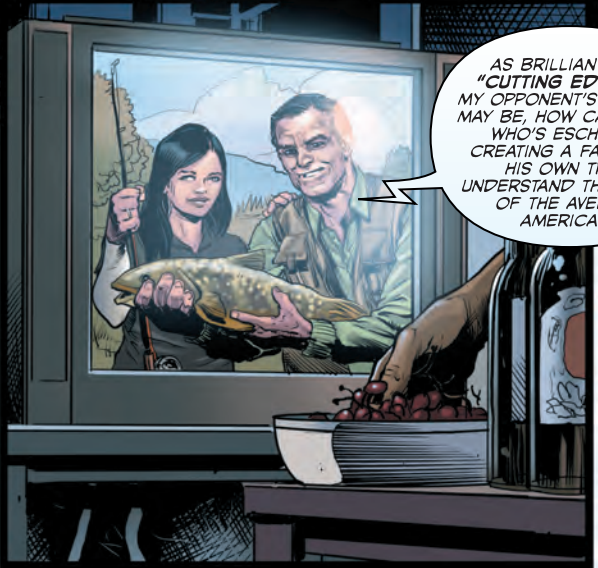
TO
WEAR TIGHTS
UNDER TIGHT
WHITES
YOU MAKE ME
VOMIT.

NO QUARTER GIVEN
TO THOSE WHO KEEP
THE OLD WHEEL SPINNING
DAMN, DIDN'T KNOW
I VOTED
DARK-SKINNED AND
DEMOTED.

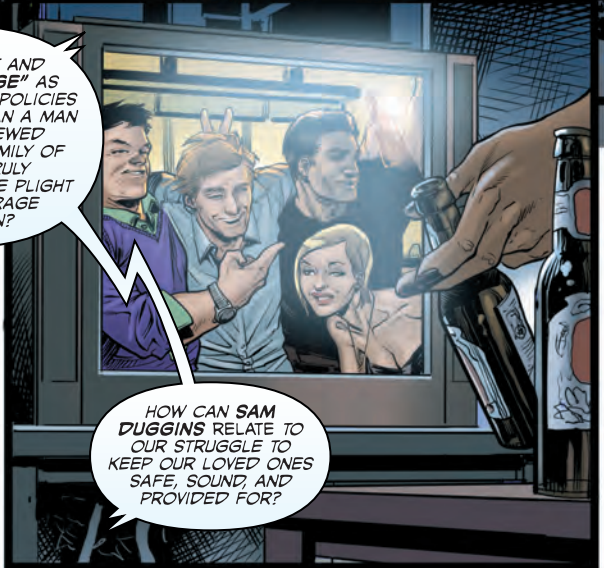
PUT A KNIFE
IN THE NECK
OF THE PIG-GOD
PROMOTED.



...AND AS MY BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER KARA CAN TELL YOU, THE LARAMYS, LIKE AMERICA, ARE NOTHING WITHOUT FAMILY.



AS BRILLIANT AND "CUTTING EDGE" AS MY OPPONENT'S POLICIES MAY BE, HOW CAN A MAN WHO'S ESCHEWED CREATING A FAMILY OF HIS OWN TRULY UNDERSTAND THE PLIGHT OF THE AVERAGE AMERICAN?



HOW CAN SAM DUGGINS RELATE TO OUR STRUGGLE TO KEEP OUR LOVED ONES SAFE, SOUND, AND PROVIDED FOR?



VOTE KENNETH LARAMY FOR PRESIDENT AND HELP US BRING VALUES BACK TO--

PSHH. BRING VALUES BACK TO MY TAINT.

KNOCK KNOCK



UM, REESE?

THERE'S SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO MEET YOU BACK HERE.

THEO. WHAT THE HELL, MAN? I HAVEN'T HAD A QUIET SHOWER IN DAYS AND WE JUST GOT HOME.

IF IT'S SOME GREEN-ASS LABEL REP YOU CAN JUST TELL THEM I'M ON MY PERIOD OR SOMETHING...



REESE...IT'S NOT SOMEONE FROM THE LABEL.

DISTANT COUSIN SHOWING UP TO MOOCH?



UMM... HELLO.

I'M SAM...SAM DUGGINS.



I KNOW.



WELL...

FIRST OF ALL, I JUST WANTED TO SAY THE SHOW WAS UNBELIEVABLY GREAT.

AND THAT NEW SONG YOU CLOSED WITH PRETTY MUCH BLEW MY MIND, AS WELL.

THANKS.

...THANKS.

YUP.

...GOOD STUFF.



WELL, SAM, AS SCINTILLATING AS THIS CONVERSATION MAY BE, DO YOU MIND IF I ASK YOU SOMETHING?



SHOOT.



WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU DOING HERE?

IF YOU LISTENED TO ONE WORD I SAID OUT THERE, YOU'D KNOW POLITICIANS AND I DON'T EXACTLY MELD.



NO, NO, I KNOW THAT.
THE TRUTH IS, UHHH...



OKAY. I'M HERE BECAUSE I PULLED SOME STRINGS AND I WANTED TO MEET YOU.

I'M A BIG FAN. HAVE BEEN FOR YEARS. AND...I WANTED TO MEET YOU.

THAT PROBABLY SOUNDS WEIRD, BUT, YEAH, I BASICALLY MILDLY ABUSED WHAT LITTLE POWER I HAVE TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN.



YOU DID, HUH?



THAT'S REAL SWEET, SAM, BUT I MUST SAY, IT'S STILL PRETTY WEIRD.

NO, I KNOW...

I'M NOT TRYING TO BE AN ICE QUEEN, HERE.

I'D LOVE TO SIT AND SMALL TALK, BUT THE TRUTH IS THAT I STAND BY WHAT I WRITE.

I'M NOT SOME FAIR WEATHER RADICAL. I ACTUALLY WANT TO CHANGE THE WAY THIS COUNTRY OPERATES.

AND I MAY ABSOLUTELY LOATHE THAT MIDDLE-AGED REPUBLICAN KEN-POLL LARAMY, BUT...TO ME?

Y'ALL ARE JUST FLIP SIDES OF THE SAME COIN.





TO BE HONEST, I FIGURED YOU'D SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

I GUESS I WOULDN'T EXPECT ANYTHING LESS.

BLACK KNIGHT, THIS IS NUTCRACKER, WHAT'S CRACKING...



YOU EXPECTED ME TO BE A DICK?

HEH.

NO, I WASN'T EXACTLY PICTURING ANY SORT OF PENIS.

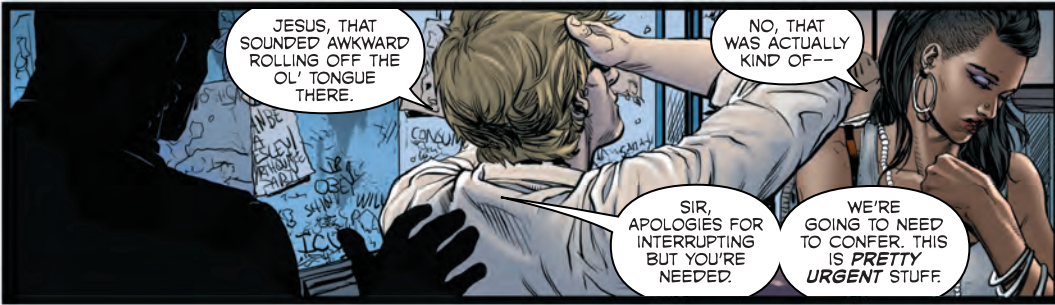
I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WOULDN'T PUT UP WITH SOMEONE LIKE ME IN SOME UNCHARACTERISTIC WAY. THERE ARE TIMES I CAN BARELY PUT UP WITH THIS... **BORDERLINE CIRCUS** MYSELF.



I GUESS I HEAR SOMETHING IN YOUR LYRICS THAT YOU CAN'T SEE IN ME RIGHT NOW.

ALL THAT REBELLION, **ALL THAT AMAZING ANGER**; IT WOULDN'T MEAN CRAP IF YOU DIDN'T TRULY WANT TO DO SOMETHING WITH IT.

I CAME HERE TO REMIND MYSELF OF THAT. DRESSED IN THIS STUPID SUIT THEY PICKED OUT FOR ME.



JESUS, THAT SOUNDED AWKWARD ROLLING OFF THE OL' TONGUE THERE.

NO, THAT WAS ACTUALLY KIND OF--

SIR, APOLOGIES FOR INTERRUPTING BUT YOU'RE NEEDED.

WE'RE GOING TO NEED TO CONFER. THIS IS **PRETTY URGENT** STUFF.



REALLY, MAN?

IT'S BAD.

LOOK, IF IT'S THAT BAD, I'M SURE REESE AND THEO HERE ARE GOING TO FIND OUT THEMSELVES EVENTUALLY.

WHAT'S GOING ON?



ERRR...

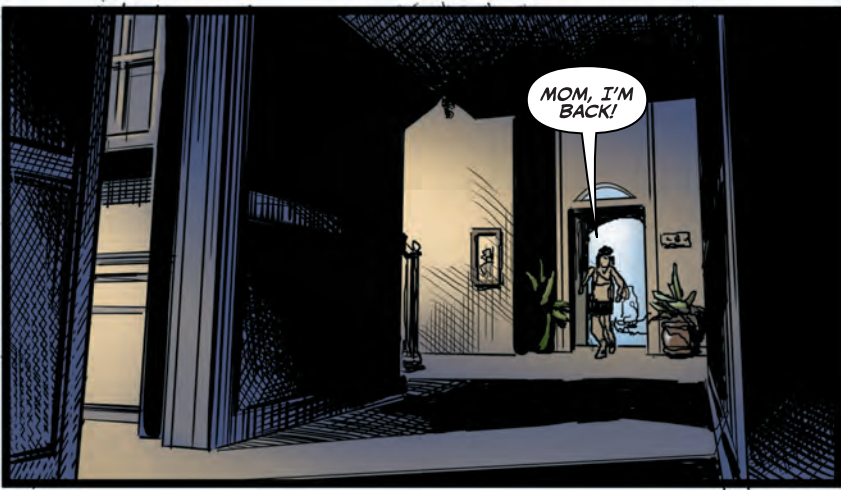
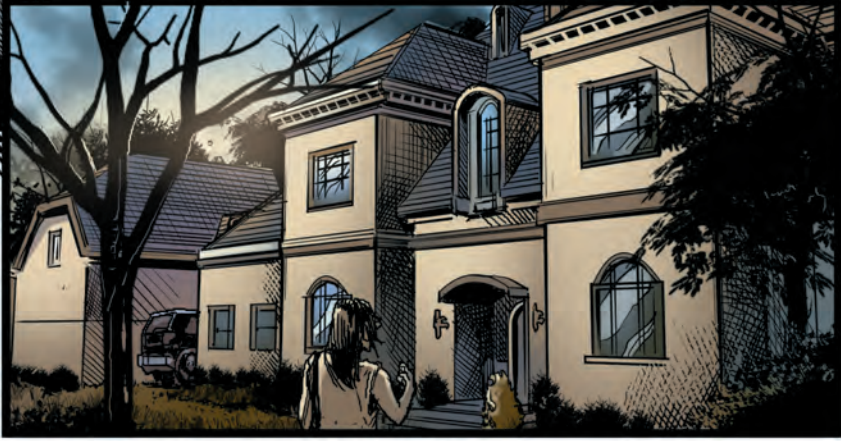


IT'S ABOUT LARAMY'S DAUGHTER.

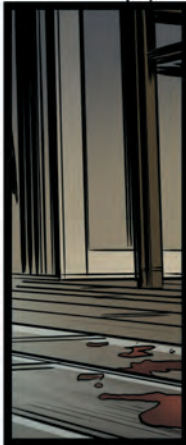
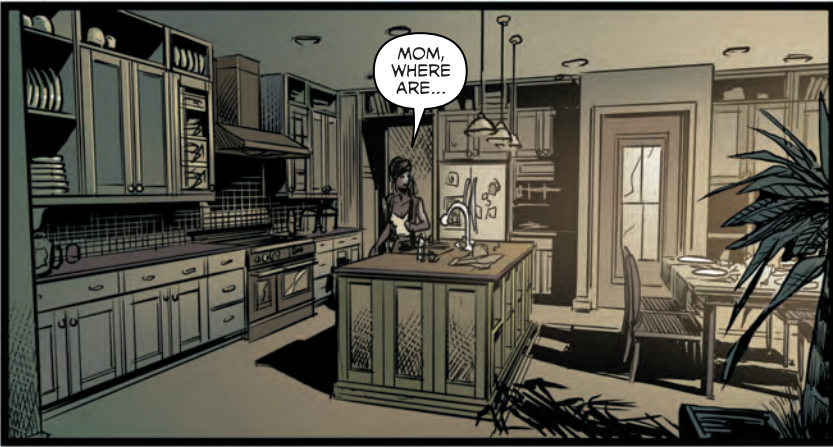
YOU'LL BE ABOUT THE FIVE-MILLIONTH PERSON TO HEAR THIS AS IT'S NOW ALL OVER THE NEWS, BUT...

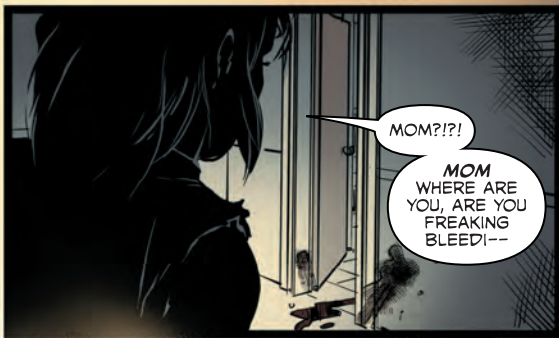
"ABOUT AN HOUR AGO SHE*"

* =



MOM, I'M BACK!





MOM?!?!

MOM
WHERE ARE YOU,
ARE YOU
FREAKING
BLEED!---



K...K...
KARAAAGHHHHHHH...



MOMJESUS
GODJESUS

KARA...
LIS...LISTEN.



I'M GOING
TO CALL THE
POLICE. I'M
GOING TO CALL AN
AMBULANCE.

MOM
OHMYGOD,
STAY HERE, I'M
GONNA CALL
SOMEONE...

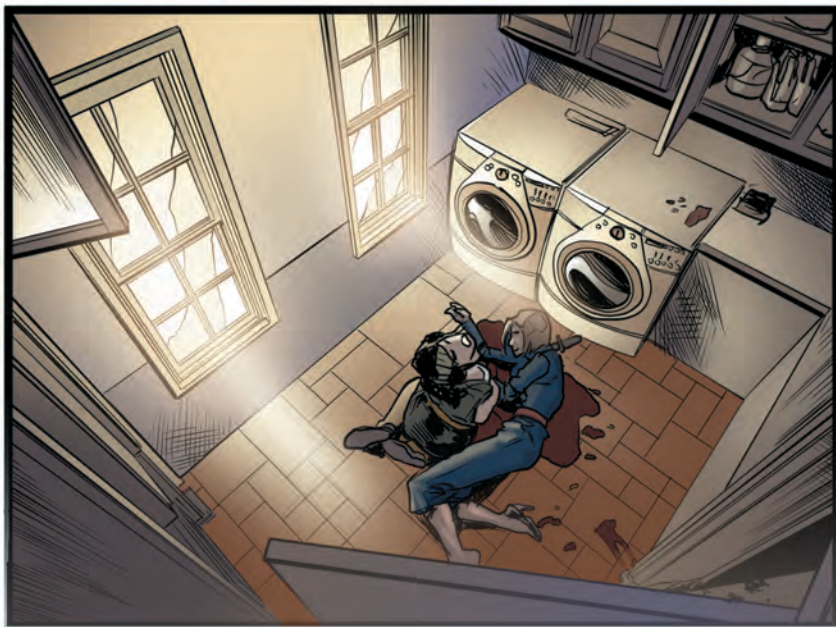
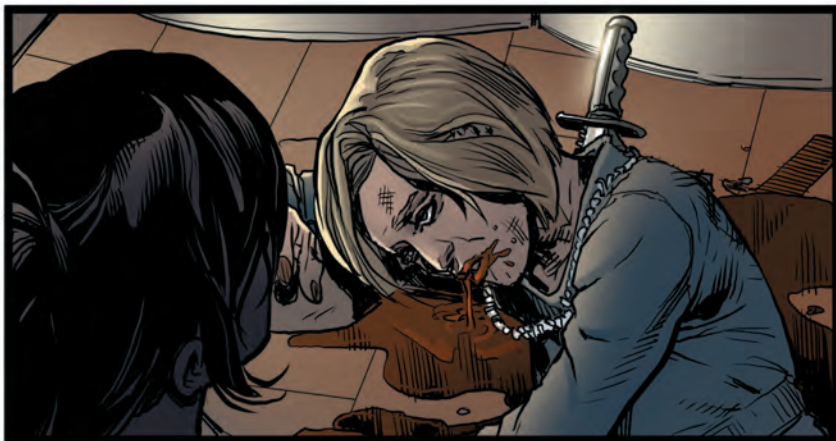
...NUH.
NOT GOING TO
DO MUCH NOW,
BABY.

N-NEED
YOU TO
LISTEN.



I KNOW
I WASN'T
ALWAYS...GOOD
TO YOU.

I KNOW
WHAT I DI...
DID. YOU KNOW,
YOU KNOW WHAT
I DID.



EXACTLY RIGHT NOW,
PLUS THREE DAYS.

LIVE FROM THE
MTV "ROCK THE VOTE"
SUMMIT, WE'VE GOT THE
ENIGMATIC REESE
GREENWOOD TREATING
US TO A RARE PUBLIC
APPEARANCE.

REESE, YOU'VE
ALWAYS BEEN THE
CENTER OF ONE
CONTROVERSY OR
ANOTHER. WHAT
SEPARATES YOU
FROM THE MARILYN
MANSONS OF THIS
WORLD?

I ACTUALLY
HAVE A BONE TO
PICK WITH THE WAY
CIVILIZATION HAS
PLAYED OUT AND IT'S
NOT SOME...SOME
DIVA THING.

SO, I HAVE
TO BRING UP THE
QUESTION ON
EVERYONE'S
MINDS:

IT DESERVES
TO BE DISCUSSED
AND RAILED AGAINST
BY REAL PEOPLE, NOT
JUST HOPPED-UP
ANGRY WHITE KIDS IN
CLOWN MAKEUP.

REBELLION
ISN'T A
FALLACY JUST
YET.

WHAT ARE
YOUR THOUGHTS ON
THE TRAGIC DEATH OF
COURTNEY LARAMY AND
THE ENSUING...TUMULT?
MAYBE A COMMENT ON
THE MACABRE ACT OF
SYNCHRONICITY
CONCERNING YOUR
SINGLE "KNIFE IN
THE NECK"...

YOU'RE REALLY
GONNA GO THERE,
MAN? I DIDN'T
COME HERE TO
DISHONOR
ANYONE.

WHAT
HAPPENED TO
THAT MAN AND HIS
DAUGHTER IS
NOTHING BUT
TRAGIC.

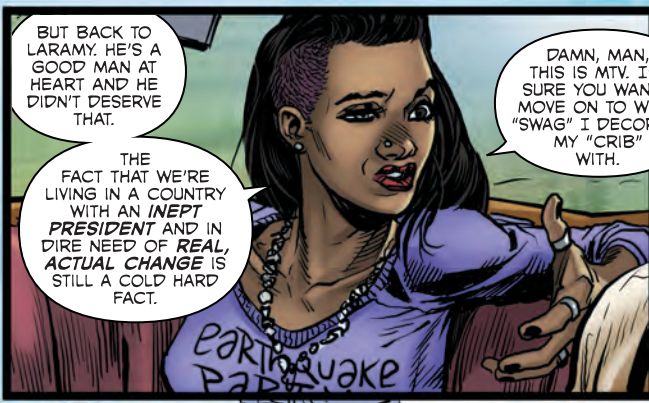
HOW DO YOU FEEL
ABOUT THE FACT THAT
THIS TRAGEDY HAS
SORT OF GALVANIZED
REPUBLICAN VOTERS
IN THE PAST FEW
DAYS?

LOOK,
FIRST OFF,
I'M A HUMAN
BEING.

I...I **CAN'T**
IMAGINE WHAT LARAMY
AND HIS DAUGHTER ARE
GOING THROUGH RIGHT NOW;
NOT KNOWING WHO DID THIS
TO THEM. LORD KNOWS I
DIDN'T WRITE THAT SONG
WITH THIS HORRIFIC
CRAP IN MIND.

I CAN'T
HELP BUT
ASSUME
THERE'S A
"BUT"
COMING.

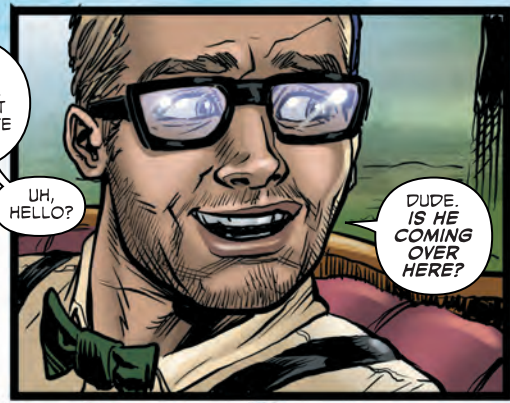
LARAMY'S RUNNER-
UP IS A BIGOT WHO'S SO
USED TO GETTING TAMPONS
PELLETED AT HIM THAT HE
CAN'T EVEN BE REFERRED
TO AS A "DOUCHE"
BECAUSE IT WOULD BE AN
INACCURATE FEMINE
PRODUCT.



BUT BACK TO LARAMY. HE'S A GOOD MAN AT HEART AND HE DIDN'T DESERVE THAT.

THE FACT THAT WE'RE LIVING IN A COUNTRY WITH AN **INEPT PRESIDENT** AND IN DIRE NEED OF REAL, **ACTUAL CHANGE** IS STILL A COLD HARD FACT.

DAMN, MAN, THIS IS MTV. I'M SURE YOU WANNA MOVE ON TO WHAT "SWAG" I DECORATE MY "CRIB" WITH.



UH, HELLO?

DUDE, IS HE COMING OVER HERE?



ARE YOU **GETTING THIS**, KYLE?

AREN'T WE SUPPOSED TO CUT TO THE JUSTIN BIEBER EDITORIAL?

BIEBER CAN WAIT, MAN, JUST **GET HIM ON CAMERA!**



HI.

HI?



WELL... APPARENTLY WE'RE JOINED BY DEMOCRATIC NOMINEE SAM DUGGINS.

YEAH, I'M SORRY FOR INTERRUPTING.

NO OFFENSE, REESE.



...NONE TAKEN.

WELL...WE WERE PICKING REESE'S BRAIN ABOUT IF HER VIEWPOINT HAS CHANGED IN THE WAKE OF WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE LARAMYS.

LOOK, THERE'S NO NEED TO BADGER REESE OR ANY PROGRESSIVE THINKERS FOR BEING STEADFAST IN THE FACE OF THIS HEART-BREAKING LOSS.

THERE IS TRULY NO WAY TO QUANTIFY HOW **DEEPLY** AND **INCREDIBLY SADDENED** I AM FOR KENNETH.





THIS IS NOT ABOUT THAT.

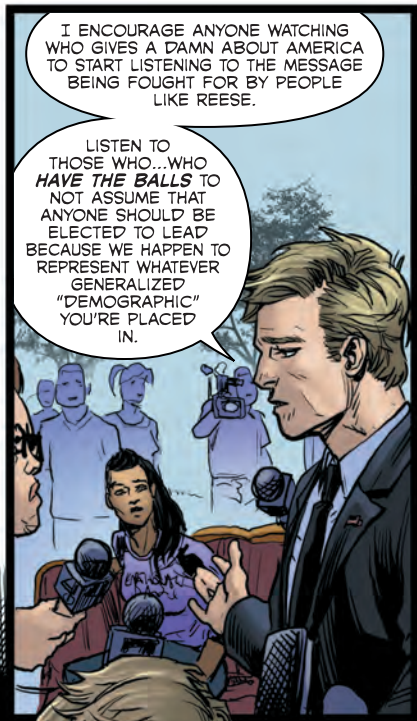
I MAY BE RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT BUT, TRUTH BE TOLD, IT'S THE NEXT GENERATION OF AMERICANS WHO KNOW WHAT'S ACTUALLY GOING ON IN THIS COUNTRY.



I'M HERE TO ENDORSE THOSE WHO SEEK TRUTH AND AREN'T AFRAID TO SPEAK THEIR MIND ABOUT ANYONE IN A POSITION OF POWER, INCLUDING MYSELF.

I MET REESE FOR THE FIRST TIME THE OTHER NIGHT AND SHE TOLD ME SHE WASN'T PREPARED TO FULLY GET BEHIND ME AS A NOMINEE.

THAT AS MUCH AS I'M TRYING, I SHOULD BE SCRUTINIZED JUST AS MUCH AS LARAMY, OR WHOEVER IS OPPOSING ME ON THE TICKET.



I ENCOURAGE ANYONE WATCHING WHO GIVES A DAMN ABOUT AMERICA TO START LISTENING TO THE MESSAGE BEING FOUGHT FOR BY PEOPLE LIKE REESE.

LISTEN TO THOSE WHO...WHO **HAVE THE BALLS** TO NOT ASSUME THAT ANYONE SHOULD BE ELECTED TO LEAD BECAUSE WE HAPPEN TO REPRESENT WHATEVER GENERALIZED "DEMOGRAPHIC" YOU'RE PLACED IN.



THAT'S HOW THIS COUNTRY WAS BIRTHED. **QUESTIONING.**

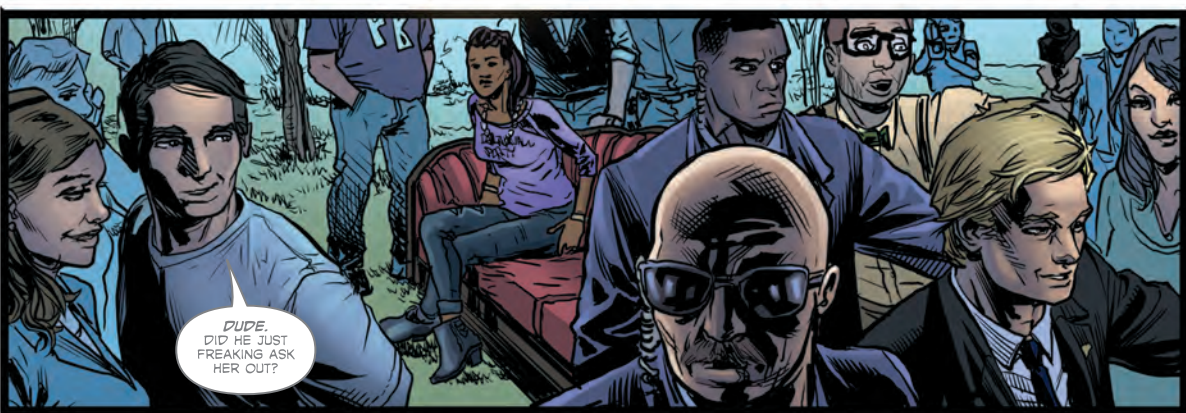
AND WE'D DO WELL TO REMEMBER THAT WHEN WE ATTACK POETS AND SONGWRITERS FOR SAYING WHAT WE'RE REALLY THINKING.

AS FOR ME, I'M TRYING TO REDEFINE WHAT MATTERS IN MY LIFE AFTER THIS. THERE ARE BIGGER THINGS AT STAKE IN THIS WORLD THAN...TALKING HEADS.



REESE, I'M SORRY IF THIS WAS OUT OF LINE.

I PROBABLY HAVE TO GO BUT I GAVE THEO A WAY TO GET IN TOUCH SHOULD YOU NEED ANYTHING.



DUDE, DID HE JUST FREAKING ASK HER OUT?





I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND THE CONSTANT, CLINT EASTWOOD-LIKE PRESENCE OF LARRY AND WALT.

HEY, IF I GET ANY WEIRD VIBES, I'M GONNA SIC THEM ON YOU.

SOUNDS FAIR.



LOOK, BEFORE WE "CONTINUE OUR CONVERSATION" OR WHATEVER SEMI-CERTIFIABLE SHENANIGANS YOU HAVE PLANNED FOR TONIGHT, YOU NEED TO KNOW SOMETHING.

OKAY.

WHAT YOU DID EARLIER WAS ONE OF THE MOST EMBARRASSING THINGS I'VE EVER EXPERIENCED.

REALLY?

IT WAS KIND OF NUTS, HUH.



THAT WAS LIKE SOME TOM-CRUISE-JUMPING-ON-THE-COUCH MEETS THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS STEEZ, MAN.

I REALLY AM SORRY. I JUST FIGURED IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO...



GET MY VOTE?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO VOTE FOR ME. YOU GONNA VOTE FOR THE TAMPON GUY?

THAT'S PRIVATE INFORMATION, SAM.

RIGHT.



IT WAS EMBARRASSING BUT UNDERNEATH THAT BRAVADO YOU ACTUALLY MADE A PRETTY GOOD POINT.

IT WAS ALSO KIND OF BRAVE, BRAVE IN A VERY, VERY EMBARRASSING WAY.

AGAIN, SORRY.

WHATEVER THE HELL IT WAS, IT EARNED YOU ENOUGH RESPECT THAT I'M COMING WITH YOU TONIGHT.



THAT MEANS A LOT.

I KNOW I'M GOING TO NEED SOME KIND OF EMOTIONAL SUPPORT SO I CAN BE THERE FOR KENNETH WITHOUT... WELL, IT'S A SAD DAY.

NOT TO MENTION IT'S A BIT PATHETIC THAT I NEVER HAVE ANYONE TO GO WITH TO ANYTHING.



MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE YOUR IDEA OF A FIRST DATE IS TAKING A CHICK TO A WAKE.



WOAH NOW, HOLD THE FORT, THIS ISN'T THE OLYMPICS, NEVER SAID THIS WAS A DATE.



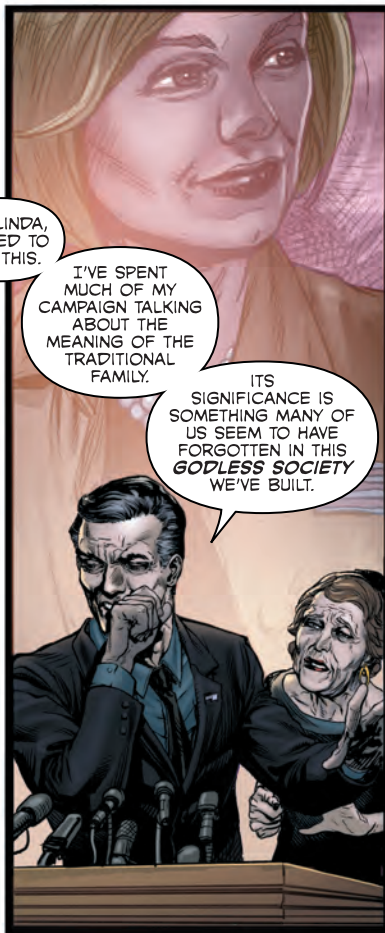


ALL OF AMERICA KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED TO MY FAMILY SEVERAL NIGHTS AGO.



MY WIFE IS DEAD. SHE'S... GONE.

MY TEENAGE DAUGHTER FOUND HER DYING ON THE FLOOR, AND AS OF NOW, NOBODY KNOWS WHO DID THIS. **THE POLICE KNOW NOTHING.** NOBODY KNOWS ANYTHING.



NO, LINDA, I NEED TO SAY THIS.

I'VE SPENT MUCH OF MY CAMPAIGN TALKING ABOUT THE MEANING OF THE TRADITIONAL FAMILY.

ITS SIGNIFICANCE IS SOMETHING MANY OF US SEEM TO HAVE FORGOTTEN IN THIS **GODLESS SOCIETY** WE'VE BUILT.



I'M HERE TO ANNOUNCE MY WITHDRAWAL FROM THIS ELECTION.

BUT MORE THAN ANYTHING, BEFORE I DO THAT, I WANT TO REMIND YOU OF HOW **PRECIOUS** THE IDEAL OF A STRONG, LOVING FAMILY IS. A HOME FORGED BY TRUE, PROUD AMERICANS.



YOU CAN'T... YOU CAN'T REALLY KNOW THAT...UNTIL....



UNTIL SOMEONE TAKES IT AWAY.



THAT PERSON, **COLD HEARTED AND VICIOUS**, DESTROYED MY FAMILY.



MANY OF YOU ASSUME I'M REFERRING TO THE PERSON WHO MURDERED MY WIFE.



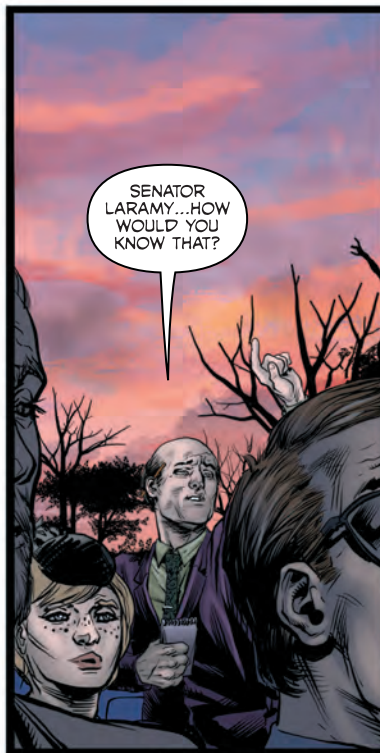
HOWEVER...I'M REFERRING TO **COURTNEY**.



I CAN TELL YOU WITH **UTTER CERTAINTY** THAT WHOEVER KILLED HER, WHOEVER ENDED MY WIFE'S LIFE, WASN'T MOTIVATED BY APATHY TOWARDS MY CAMPAIGN OR ME.



WHOEVER MADE MY BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER, MY LITTLE KARA, **WATCH HER MOTHER DIE IN FRONT OF HER**, WAS MERELY THINKING OUTSIDE OF THE BOX.



SENATOR LARAMY...HOW WOULD YOU KNOW THAT?



A man in a dark suit and tie stands behind a wooden podium with a large gold cross on its front. He has his arms outstretched and a wide, somewhat menacing smile. Behind him is a large, glowing portrait of a woman with blonde hair, wearing a pearl necklace. The scene is set in a church or funeral home, with other people visible in the foreground and background. A crow is perched on a ledge in the upper left corner.

BECAUSE
I PUT A
FUCKING KNIFE
IN THE BITCH
MYSELF.

EVIL EMPIRE



ISSUE ONE COVER
JAY SHAW

What if the true crime wasn't the breach of social contract itself, but rather, the way we mandate our reactions to what happens around us?.....

ex. 2.0



CHAPTER **TWO**

fig. 2

NOW PLUS TWENTY FIVE.

HERE'S A QUESTION.

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE DOING RIGHT NOW IF IT WEREN'T FOR HIM?

THE FATHER? DAMN MAN.

I'D PROBABLY BE SCOURING THE INTERNET FOR SOME WAY TO KILL TIME.

THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO DOUBT THAT I WOULD BE IN JAIL RIGHT NOW.

MOST LIKELY BEING MAN-RAPED.

YOU DO LIKE KILLING PEOPLE MORE THAN THE AVERAGE GUY.

EXACTAMUNDO.

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT, MAN, IF I BELIEVED IN ANY SORT OF HIGHER POWER, HE'D BE MY PERSONAL JESUS.

WAY THEY TELL IT, PEOPLE USED TO HATE COPS--NOW WE HAVE THE BEST JOB EVER.

TO THE E.E.?

CHEERS, MY GOOD MAN.

**PRESENT DAY.
TWO-THOUSAND-AND-WHAT-THE-FUCK-JUST-HAPPENED.**



YOU'RE ALL PROBABLY THINKING: "OH, HE'S LOOPY FROM GRIEF. THIS IS AMERICA'S #1 FAMILY MAN TALKING."

WELL, ALL OF THAT? THAT IMAGE I FED YOU EAGER, GLUTTONOUS BASTARDS?

IT WAS A LIE.

LET ME TELL YOU THE TRUTH ABOUT MY PICTURE PERFECT FAMILY.



WHEN MOST WOMEN HAVE A CHILD, SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL COMES ALIVE IN THEM.

A STRENGTH, A DEDICATION THAT THEY DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THEY WERE CAPABLE OF.

NOT COURTNEY. WHEN COURTNEY HAD OUR DAUGHTER, SOMETHING SNAPPED IN HER.

SOMETHING DIED.



COURTNEY STARTED HARMING KARA WHEN SHE WAS BARELY OLD ENOUGH TO WALK.

WHAT COULD HAVE INITIALLY BEEN CHALKED UP TO SOME PC BULLSHIT LIKE POST-PARTUM DEPRESSION, BECAME UGLIER AS KARA GOT OLDER.

WHAT I DIDN'T KNOW WAS THAT COURTNEY WOULD HURT MY LITTLE GIRL, TELL HER SHE TOOK ME AWAY FROM HER, CALL HER FAT AND UGLY AND USELESS.

ALL THE WHILE MY HEAD WAS STUCK UP THE FAT, GREY ASS OF MY POLITICAL PARTY.





IS THIS SHIT REALLY HAPPENING?!!

SO, YEAH, I EVENTUALLY WORKED UP THE NERVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

I PUT THAT WHORE IN THE GROUND WHERE SHE BELONGS.

MORE IMPORTANTLY, I LEARNED SOMETHING FROM THIS EXPERIENCE THAT I HAVE TO IMPART BEFORE THEY TAKE ME AND PUT ME AWAY FOR IT.



THE SOCIETY THAT WOULD HAVE LET COURTNEY GET AWAY WITH THIS, MAYBE STUCK HER WITH SOME CUSHY IVY LEAGUE SHRINK WHO COULD ANALYZE HER DREAMS AND TELL HER IT ISN'T HER FAULT...

OUR SOCIETY, OUR BIBLE, OUR CONSTITUTION, OUR BRAINS ARE FUCKED.



ODDLY, I'M LESS ANGRY WITH COURTNEY FOR DOING WHAT SHE DID AND MORE ABOUT ME NOT HAVING THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO BLEED HER OUT FOR IT.

WHEN THEY TAKE ME AWAY, REMEMBER THESE WORDS, HEARD ONCE IN A SONG MY DAUGHTER LOVES SO MUCH.

"NO QUARTER GIVEN TO THOSE WHO KEEP THE OLD WHEEL SPINNING."

HEH... "PUT A KNIFE IN THE NECK OF THE PIG GOD PROMOTED."



NO WAY.

NO MORE FALSE RIGHTEOUSNESS. NO MORE IMAGINARY BOUNDARIES.



DO WHAT YOU WANT. KILL THE HELL OUT OF THOSE WHO YOU BELIEVE DESERVE IT. WE ARE FUCKING ANIMALS.

THAT'S WHAT THIS DAMN WORLD NEEDS.

NOT ANOTHER ASS-KISSING PRESIDENT WHO LET HIS OWN LIFE GO TO SHIT WHILE HE TELLS YOU HOW TO LIVE YOURS.



THANKS.

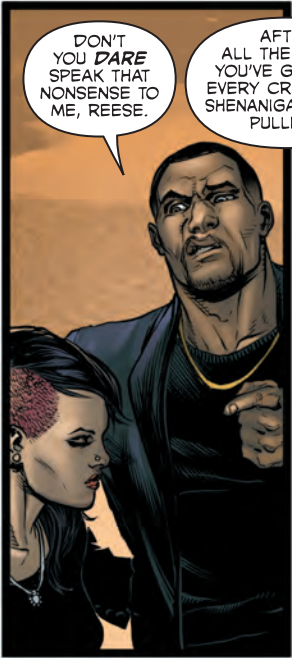




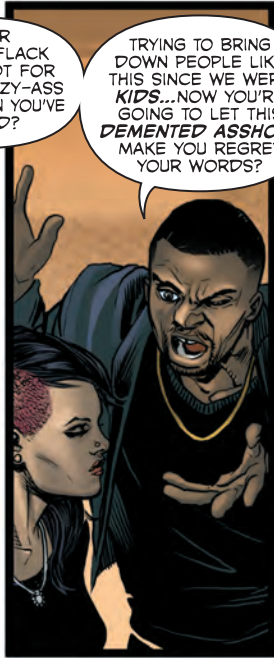
THAT BASTARD.

MAKES ME WISH I NEVER WROTE THAT DAMN SONG.

HOW COULD HE...



DON'T YOU *DARE* SPEAK THAT NONSENSE TO ME, REESE.



TRYING TO BRING DOWN PEOPLE LIKE THIS SINCE WE WERE *KIDS*...NOW YOU'RE GOING TO LET THIS *DEMENTED ASSHOLE* MAKE YOU REGRET YOUR WORDS?



SHIT. I MIGHT AS WELL GO WORK FOR *HANNAH FUCKIN' MONTANAH* IF THIS IS THE WAY WE GONNA GO.



I PAY YOU TO BUST HEADS, NOT MY BALLS, MAN.

KEEP TELLING YOURSELF THAT.

'LEAST SHE COPS TO SMOKING WEED NOW.



WELL, TODAY MAY BE ONE OF THE MORE HORRIFIC DAYS IN THE HISTORY OF THIS COUNTRY.

ALSO SEEMS THIS WHITE BOY I KNOW MIGHT JUST END UP THE FREAKIN' PRESIDENT.



...OH GOD.

WASHINGTON D.C.

THE CIRCUS
I.E. TRIAL OF
KENNETH LARAMY.

...AND THIS, THIS
MAN WOULD HAVE YOU
BELIEVE THAT *IT'S SOCIETY'S*
FAULT THAT HIS WIFE IS DEAD.
THAT HE'S NOT ACTUALLY
"GUILTY" OF MURDER,
BUT *VINDICATED* IN
WHAT HE DID.

THAT HE DIDN'T
PUT A GHASTLY END
TO HER LIFE BY HIS OWN
HAND; THAT HE WAS DOING
WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE.
FORGET WHAT HE NEEDED
TO DO: *WHAT HE
WANTED
TO DO.*

AS WE PROCEED
WITH WHAT WILL NO
DOUBT BE ONE OF THE
MOST CONTROVERSIAL
TRIALS IN THE HISTORY OF
THIS COUNTRY, MERELY
BECAUSE OF MR. LARAMY'S
POSITION, TRY TO ENVISION
THE "SOCIETY" KENNETH
LARAMY'S ACTIONS MIGHT
ENCOURAGE.

A WORLD
THAT'S STEEPED FAR
BELOW THE CHAOS OF
ANARCHY, DESCENDING
INTO A *COMPLETE*
BASTARDIZATION OF
ANY MORALITY WE'VE
ATTEMPTED TO ENFORCE
ON THIS PLANET.

YES,
WHAT COURTNEY
LARAMY DID WAS
UNFORGIVEABLE.

BUT ASK
YOURSELVES, MEN
AND WOMEN OF
THIS JURY...

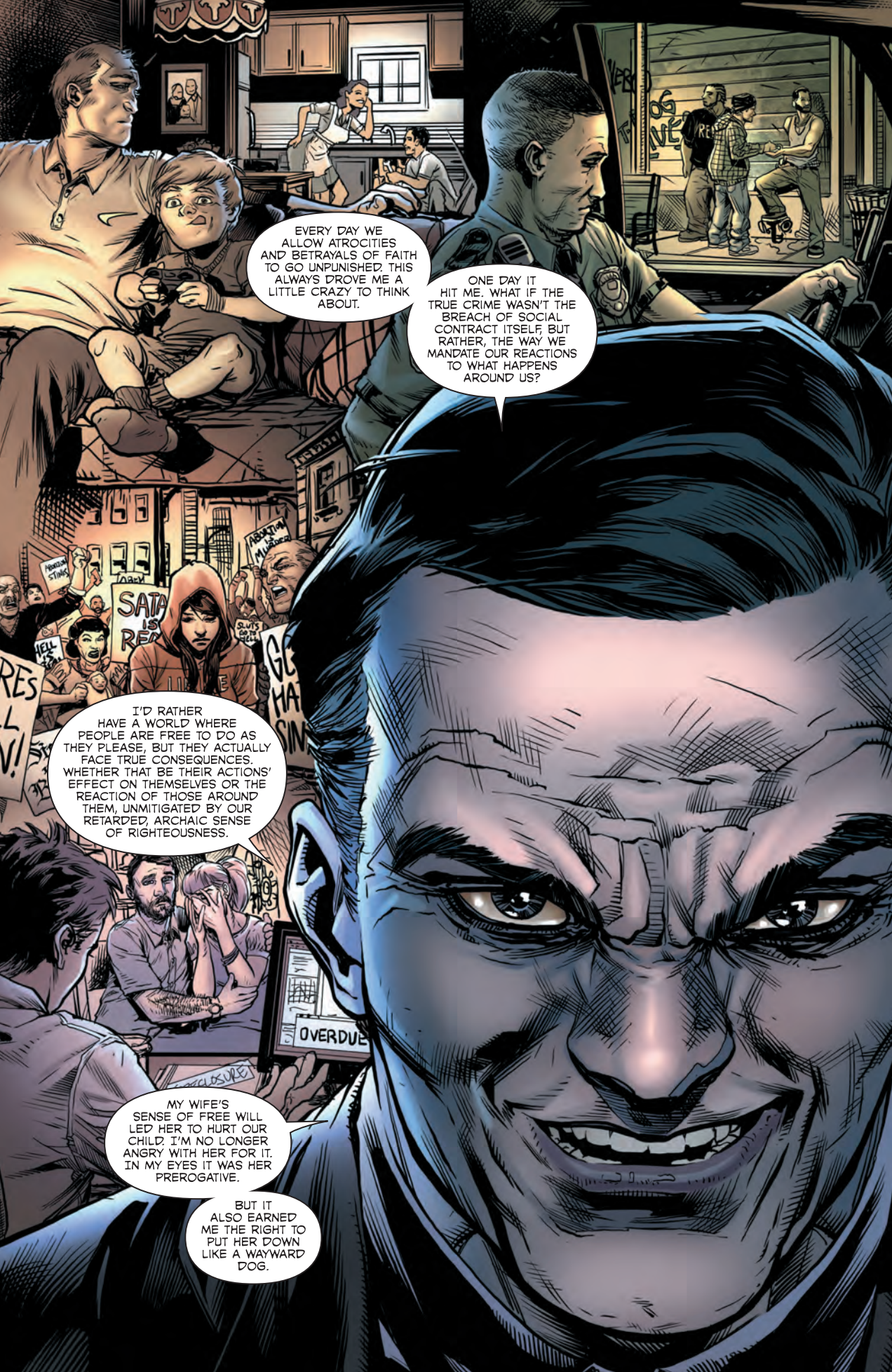
*IS THIS
THE KIND
OF WORLD
YOU
WANT TO
LIVE IN?*

MISTER LARAMY
ON THE STAND.

SENATOR
LARAMY, WOULD YOU
CARE TO EXPLAIN A BIT
OF THE "PROFOUND
REVELATION" YOU HAD
THAT LED YOU TO STAB
YOUR WIFE TO
DEATH?

IT ISN'T
PARTICULARLY
PROFOUND,
COUNSELOR.

I JUST
SEE IT AS A
FUNDAMENTAL
TRUTH.



EVERY DAY WE ALLOW ATROCITIES AND BETRAYALS OF FAITH TO GO UNPUNISHED. THIS ALWAYS DROVE ME A LITTLE CRAZY TO THINK ABOUT.

ONE DAY IT HIT ME. WHAT IF THE TRUE CRIME WASN'T THE BREACH OF SOCIAL CONTRACT ITSELF, BUT RATHER, THE WAY WE MANDATE OUR REACTIONS TO WHAT HAPPENS AROUND US?

I'D RATHER HAVE A WORLD WHERE PEOPLE ARE FREE TO DO AS THEY PLEASE, BUT THEY ACTUALLY FACE TRUE CONSEQUENCES. WHETHER THAT BE THEIR ACTIONS' EFFECT ON THEMSELVES OR THE REACTION OF THOSE AROUND THEM, UNMITIGATED BY OUR RETARDED, ARCHAIC SENSE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

MY WIFE'S SENSE OF FREE WILL LED HER TO HURT OUR CHILD. I'M NO LONGER ANGRY WITH HER FOR IT. IN MY EYES IT WAS HER PREROGATIVE.

BUT IT ALSO EARNED ME THE RIGHT TO PUT HER DOWN LIKE A WAYWARD DOG.

OVERDUE

SATA IS REAL

RES L V!

GE HA SIN

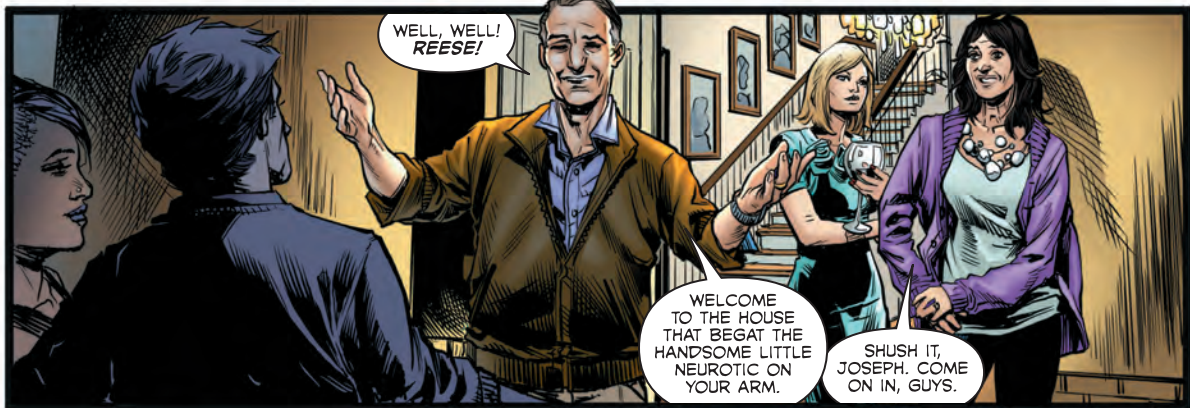


LOOK, UM, I ASSURE YOU THIS ISN'T SOMETHING I GENERALLY DO. I KNOW WE'VE ONLY BEEN OUT ON A FEW DATES AND...

I *GET IT*, BUDDY. THE RULES DON'T EXACTLY APPLY WHEN YOU'RE BASICALLY NEXT IN LINE TO RUN THE FREE WORLD.

STILL I GOTTA SAY THIS IS WEIRD. LIKE A LARRY-DAVID-BATES KIND OF SITUATION.

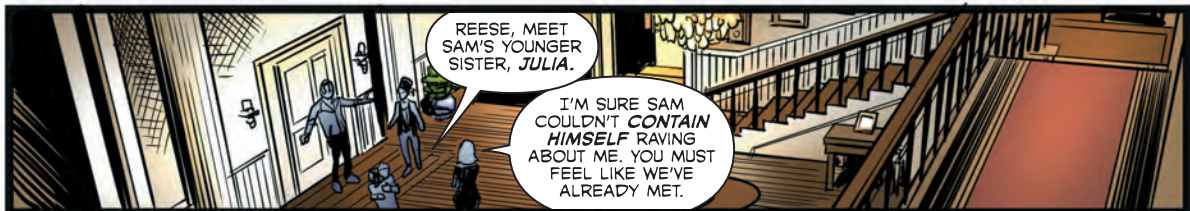
OH, IT'LL BE FINE.



WELL, WELL! REESE!

WELCOME TO THE HOUSE THAT BEGAT THE HANDSOME LITTLE NEUROTIC ON YOUR ARM.

SHUSH IT, JOSEPH. COME ON IN, GUYS.



REESE, MEET SAM'S YOUNGER SISTER, JULIA.

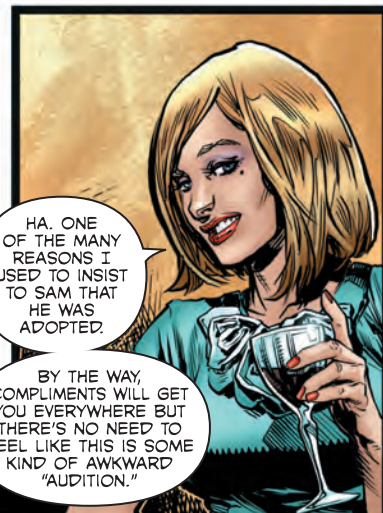
I'M SURE SAM COULDN'T *CONTAIN HIMSELF* RAVING ABOUT ME. YOU MUST FEEL LIKE WE'VE ALREADY MET.



ALL I KNOW IS I'M GLAD SOMEBODY IN THE FAMILY GOT YOUR PARENT'S LOOKS.

HA. ONE OF THE MANY REASONS I USED TO INSIST TO SAM THAT HE WAS ADOPTED.

BY THE WAY, COMPLIMENTS WILL GET YOU EVERYWHERE BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO FEEL LIKE THIS IS SOME KIND OF AWKWARD "AUDITION."

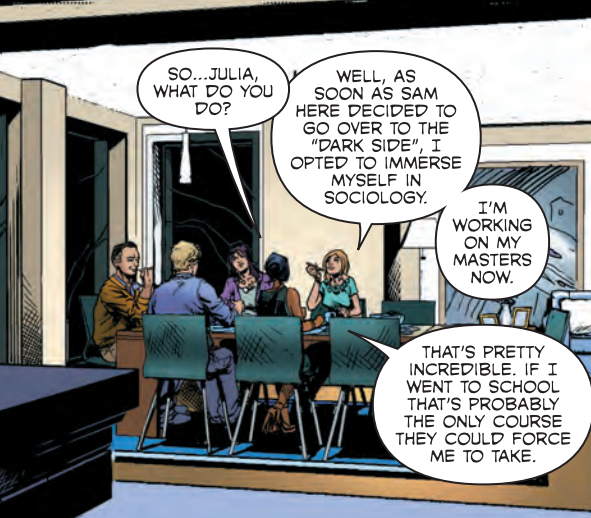


I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT.



WELL...WE'VE PREPARED AS TASTY A DINNER AS FAMILY OF DESPICABLY CRUNCHY VEGETARIANS CAN MUSTER UP.

SHALL WE?



SO...JULIA, WHAT DO YOU DO?

WELL, AS SOON AS SAM HERE DECIDED TO GO OVER TO THE "DARK SIDE", I OPTED TO IMMERSE MYSELF IN SOCIOLOGY.

I'M WORKING ON MY MASTERS NOW.

THAT'S PRETTY INCREDIBLE. IF I WENT TO SCHOOL THAT'S PROBABLY THE ONLY COURSE THEY COULD FORCE ME TO TAKE.



NO UNIVERSITY FOR YOU, REESE?

NAH. I'D MAKE THAT OLD JOKE ABOUT "THE SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS" BUT I DON'T WANNA WEAR OUT MY OWN MATERIAL.



WELL YOU MUST HAVE GROWN UP A READER BECAUSE THOSE LYRICS OF YOURS ARE SOMETHING ELSE.

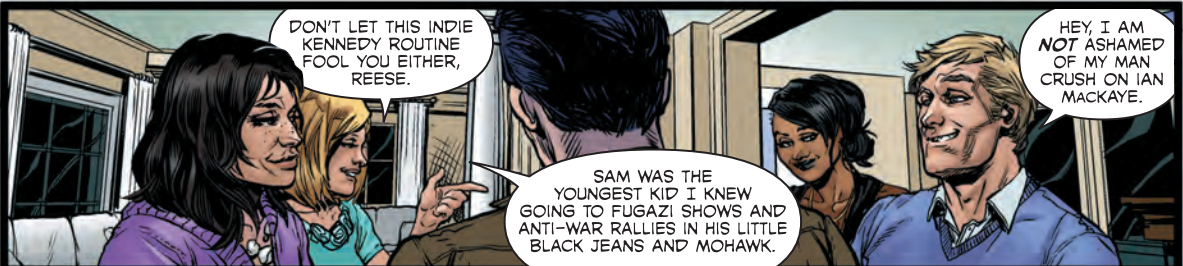
YOU REMIND ME OF A YOUNG DYLAN, REESE.

A MARKEDLY PRETTIER DYLAN, OF COURSE.



WATCH IT, SILVER FOX.

HEH. WELL I HAD TO FIND SOMETHING TO DO WHEN MY BROTHER AND HIS FRIENDS WERE OFF... MOONLIGHTING.



DON'T LET THIS INDIE KENNEDY ROUTINE FOOL YOU EITHER, REESE.

SAM WAS THE YOUNGEST KID I KNEW GOING TO FUGAZI SHOWS AND ANTI-WAR RALLIES IN HIS LITTLE BLACK JEANS AND MOHAWK.

HEY, I AM NOT ASHAMED OF MY MAN CRUSH ON IAN MACKAYE.



WELL, YOU'VE GOT AN IMAGE TO MAINTAIN NOW, GOOD SIR.

AND I SUPPOSE, THAT APPLIES TO THIS FETCHING WORDSMITH AS WELL.





SO, THEO.

GOTTA ASK.

YOU AND REESE EVER...

YOU KNOW...



EVER DO WHAT, MAN?

C'MON, IT'S A FAIR QUESTION.

I'VE KNOWN THE GIRL SINCE WE WERE IN DIAPERS. YOU GOT ANY SISTERS OR BROTHERS, LARRY?



I GOT A BIG BROTHER.

UH HUH. I SEE.

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU BLEW HIM?



WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU BLEW HIM?



REESE, I...I HATE TO BRING THIS UP, BUT I HAVE TO ASK YOU HOW YOU'VE BEEN COPING WITH ALL THIS LARAMY NONSENSE.

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE HOW IT FEELS TO HAVE THAT HORRIBLE MAN PERVERT YOUR WORDS.



S'ALRIGHT. I APPRECIATE YOU ASKING.

VERDICT'S TONIGHT ISN'T IT?

I'M JUST CURIOUS WHAT THAT BASTARD HAS TO SAY FOR HIMSELF.*

 = WHAT THE BASTARD HAS TO SAY FOR HIMSELF.



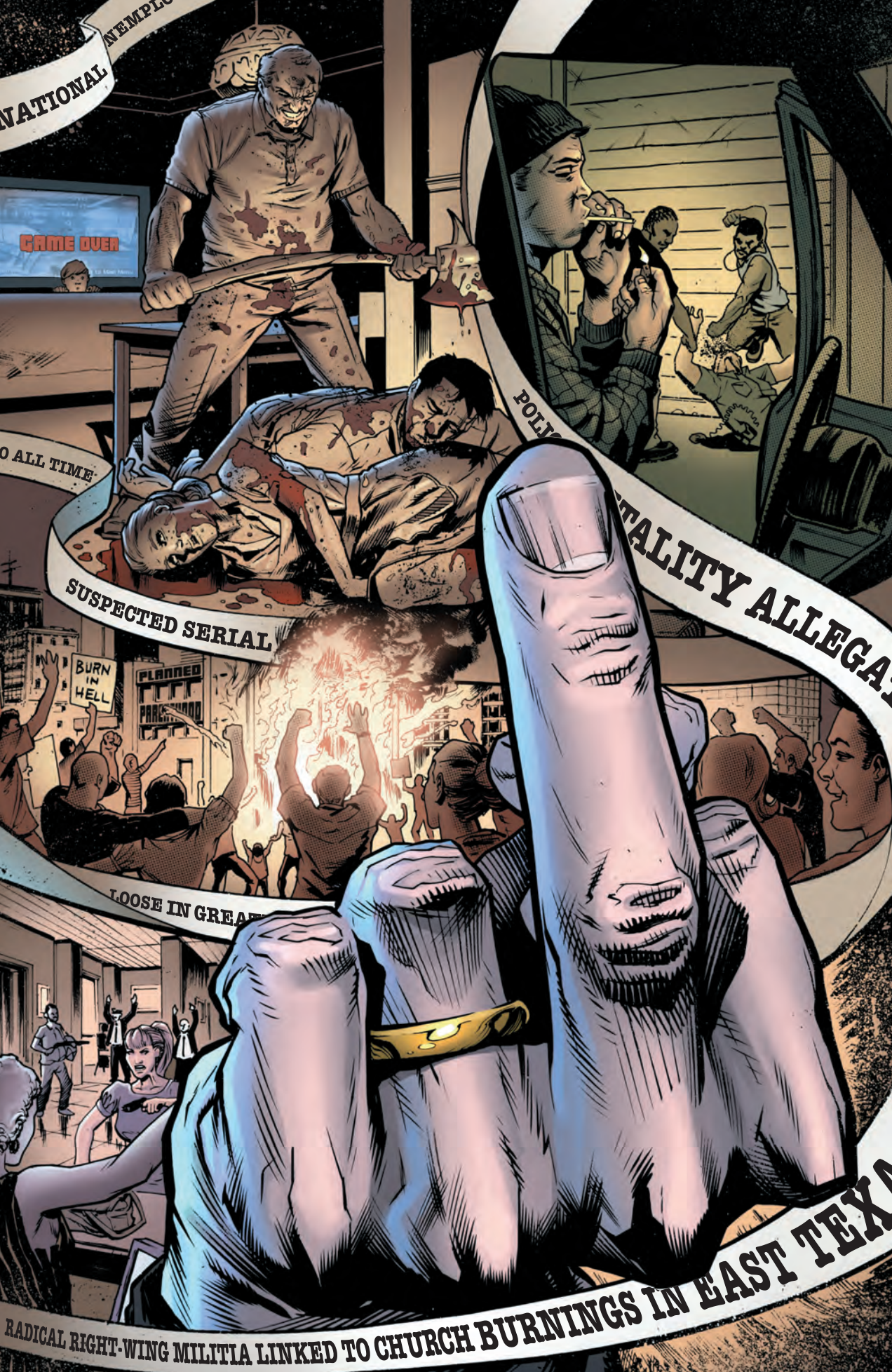
...DESPITE YOUR PURPORTEDLY "PRINCIPLED" MOTIVES, THIS COURT SEES FIT TO SENTENCE YOU TO SPEND THE REST OF YOUR NATURAL LIFE IN PRISON DUE TO THE VICIOUS, PREMEDITATED NATURE OF YOUR CRIME.

IF YOU HAVE ANY LAST WORDS BEFORE YOU'RE SENT OFF TO PAY FOR YOUR CRIMES... FEEL FREE.



WORDS? I'VE GOT FIVE.

BURN IT THE  DOWN.



NATIONAL NEMPHO

GAME OVER

TO ALL TIME

SUSPECTED SERIAL

POLICE

FATALITY ALLEGED

BURN IN HELL

PLANNED PARADE

LOOSE IN GREAT

RADICAL RIGHT-WING MILITIA LINKED TO CHURCH BURNINGS IN EAST TEXAS

DETROIT, MICHIGAN.

POST-LARAMY TRIAL.



DALLAS, TEXAS.



WASHINGTON, D.C.



BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA.





IT WAS JUST A FUCKIN' POETIC TURN OF PHRASE.

LIKE A POINTED METAPHOR, YEAH, BUT MAN...

NOW LOOK AT WHAT IT'S INSPIRED. LOOK AT WHAT THAT SON OF A BITCH IS...

STOP. YOU STOP RIGHT NOW BEFORE YOU SAY SOMETHING YOU'LL REGRET.

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS OF NEVER APOLOGIZING, YOU'RE GONNA DO IT BECAUSE OF HIM?!

PEOPLE HAVE DIED. PEOPLE ARE DYING, MAN.



REESE.

LOOK, IF ANY TIME IS A TIME FOR YOU TO SPEAK YOUR MIND THIS IS IT.

PEOPLE LOOK UP TO YOU, AND YOU'RE IN THE BEST PLACE YOU'VE EVER BEEN IN YOUR LIFE.



LOOKS LIKE YOU MIGHT EVEN BE LETTING A MAN INTO YOUR HEART FOR REAL.

YOU AND SAM HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO STOP THIS SHIT WHERE IT STARTED.

AND YOU AND I BOTH KNOW THAT SONG AND YOUR MUSIC DON'T HAVE ONE FUCKING THING TO DO WITH WHAT PEOPLE ARE DOING IN LARAMY'S NAME.

YEAH, I GUESS YOU'RE ON POINT, AS USUAL.

DAMN RIGHT, I AM.

NOW GET YOUR ASS OUT THERE AND TELL AMERICA WHAT IT NEEDS TO HEAR.



PERFORMING "KNIFE IN THE NECK" FROM HER LATEST RECORD "SUBJUGATION", THE MIDNIGHT SHOW IS PROUD TO PRESENT THE PROLIFIC AND CONTROVERSIAL... **REESE GREENWOOD!**

HOLD UP. I GOTTA SAY SOMETHING RIGHT HERE.

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP



A POWERFUL MAN HAS TAKEN THIS SONG AND TWISTED IT INTO SOME KIND OF **SICK FUCKIN' PROPAGANDA.**

PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DOING THAT WITH POETS' WORDS ALL THROUGH HISTORY-- JUST LOOK AT THE **FREAKIN' FRENCH REVOLUTION.**



WHAT THIS SONG IS **REALLY** ABOUT IS TAKING DOWN A SYSTEM BUILT OFF KILLING AND SUPPRESSING OTHER HUMANS, BEIN' WORSE THAN ANIMALS, EVER SINCE WE TAUGHT OURSELVES TO DO SO.

FUCKIN' TELL IT, GIRL.



A REVOLUTION AIN'T NOTHING WITHOUT COMPASSION. THIS SHIT MAKES FASCISTS LOOK HONORABLE BY COMPARISON.

THIS SONG IS THE POLAR OPPOSITE OF WHAT PEOPLE HAVE BEEN BURNING DOWN HOMES AND LOOTING IN THE NAME OF.

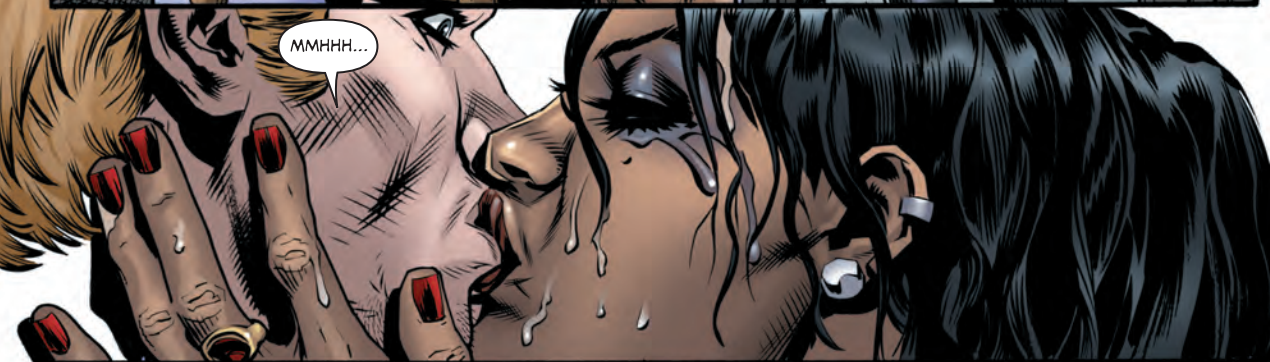
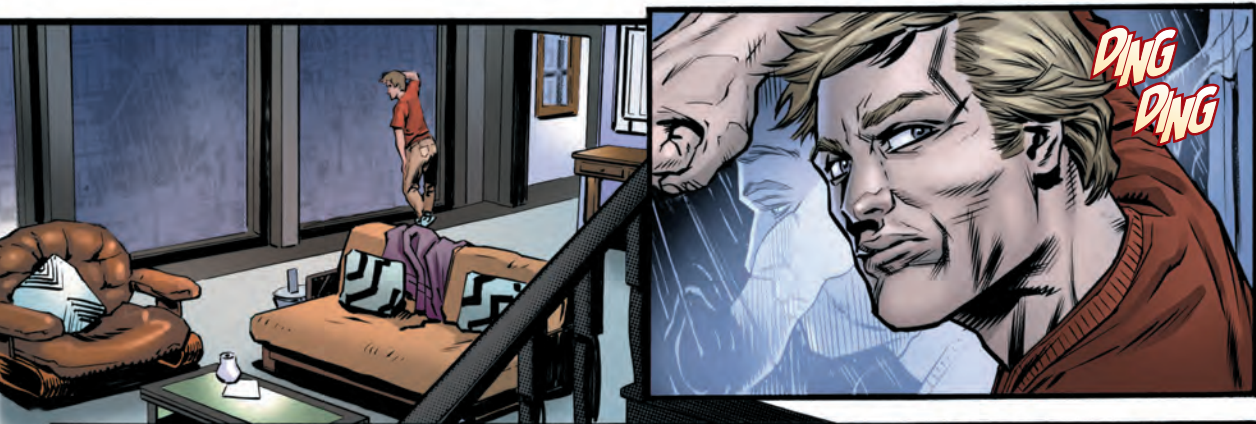


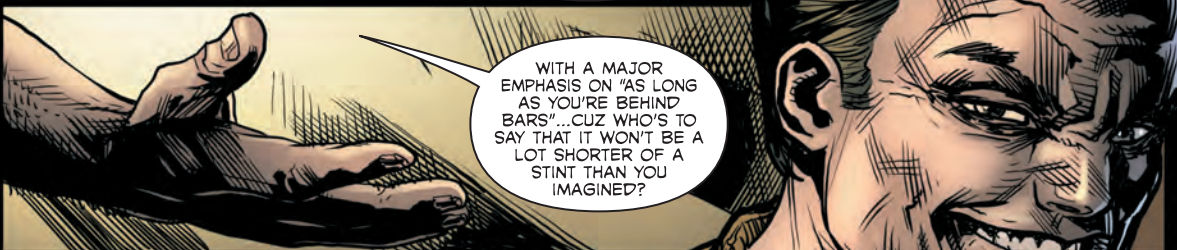
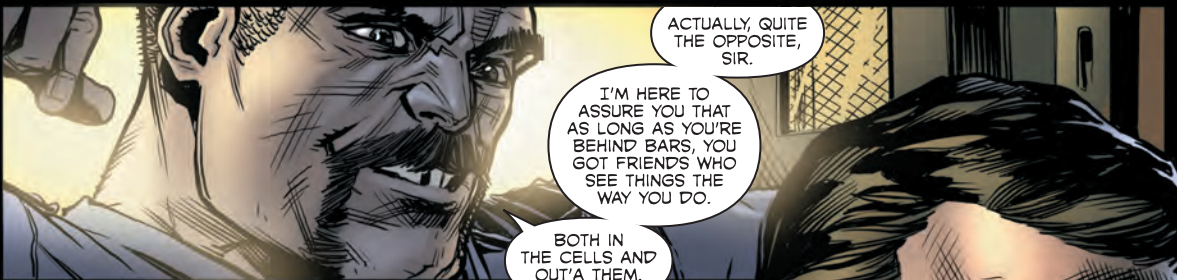
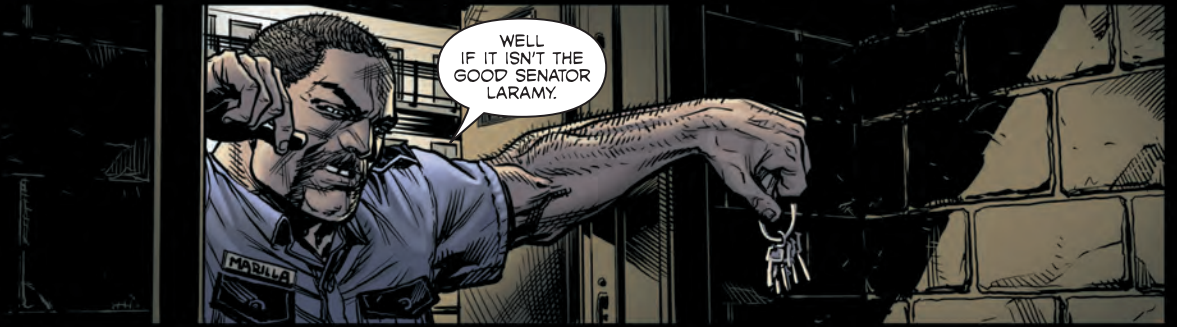
YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO'S GONNA PUT A **FREAKIN' MURDERER** ON A PEDESTAL AND USE THAT TO JUSTIFY DOIN' WHATEVER THEY WANNA DO?

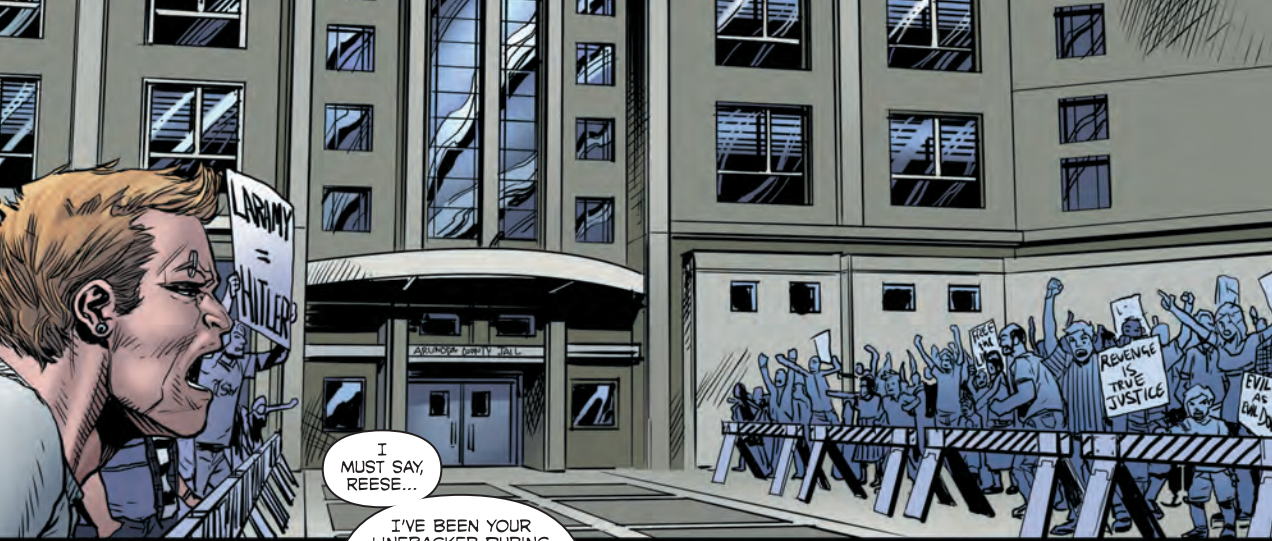
YOU TELL THEM **"HELL NO. I WANT NO PART OF IT."**



BANG BANG!







I MUST SAY, REESE...

I'VE BEEN YOUR LINEBACKER DURING SOME OF THE CRAZIEST SHIT YOU DONE IN THE NAME OF WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN, BUT THIS TAKES THE FUCKING CAKE.



AND I NEVER STOPPED BEING GRATEFUL, MY MAN, BUT THIS IS WHAT YOU SIGNED UP FOR.

I HEARD LADY GAGA'S LOOKING FOR A BIG BURLY MAN LIKE YOURSELF TO MAKE SURE HER MEAT DRESS DON'T COME OFF ON THE RED CARPET.



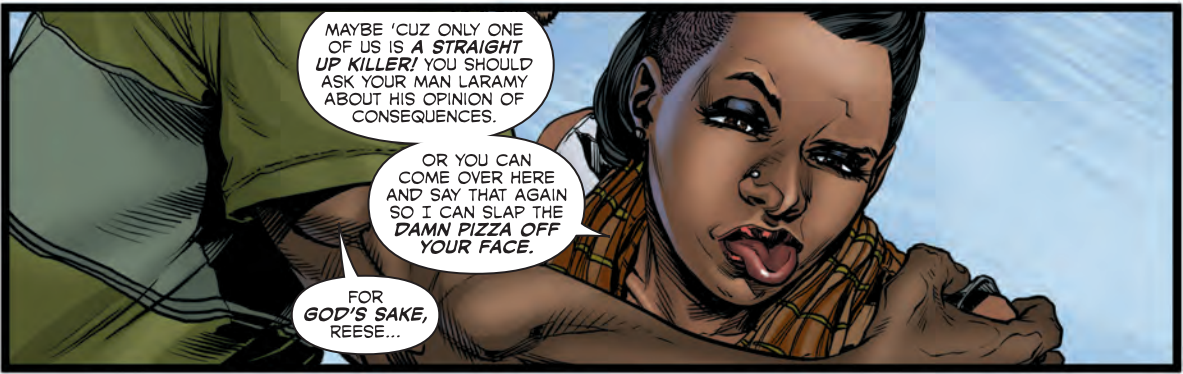
WHATEVER, GIRL.

MAYBE YOUR NEW "BEAU" SHOULD GET HIS SKINNY ASS OUT HERE AND DEFEND HIS WOMAN.

DON'T YOU EVEN START, HOMES.



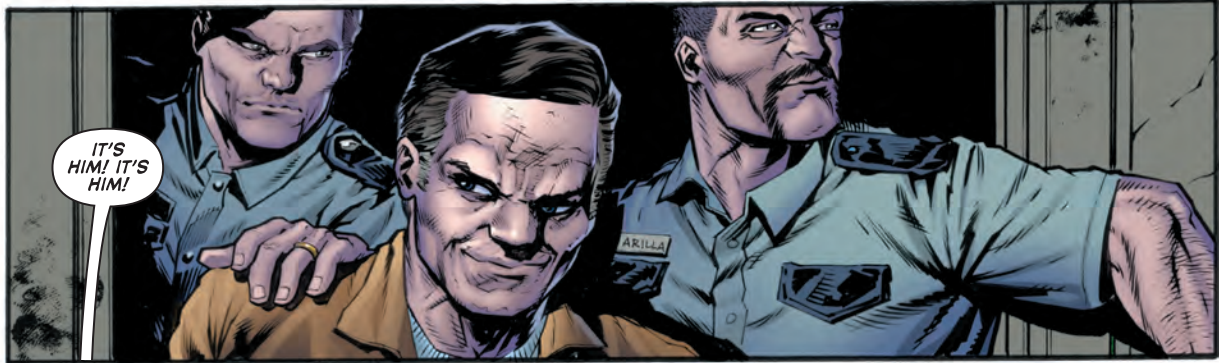
SCREW ALL OF YOU PIGS FOR KEEPING A TRUE HERO BEHIND BARS WHILE THIS LITTLE BLACK BITCH WALKS AROUND WITH HER FOOT IN HER MOUTH!



MAYBE 'CUZ ONLY ONE OF US IS A STRAIGHT UP KILLER! YOU SHOULD ASK YOUR MAN LARAMY ABOUT HIS OPINION OF CONSEQUENCES.

OR YOU CAN COME OVER HERE AND SAY THAT AGAIN SO I CAN SLAP THE DAMN PIZZA OFF YOUR FACE.

FOR GOD'S SAKE, REESE...





LARAMY!
YOU'RE
HANDSOME,
BRO!



WE
LOVE YOU,
KEN!

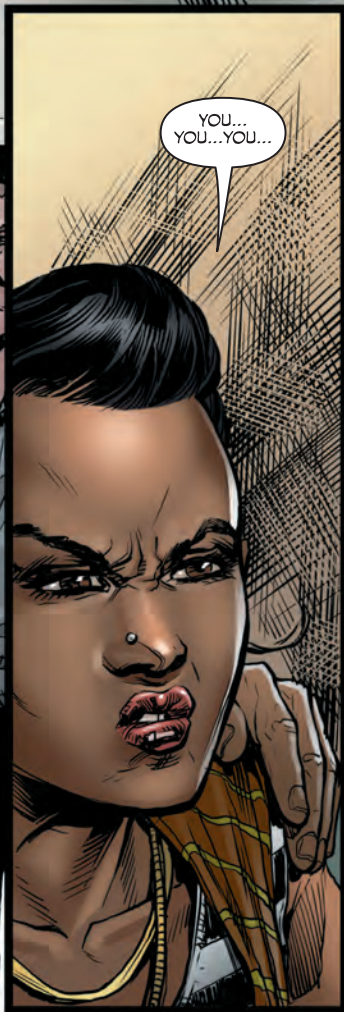
FUCK
GREENWOOD!



BURN IT
DOWN!!!

KNIFE
IN THE
NECK!









...I CAN'T
THANK YOU
ENOUGH.

LARAMY

ISSUE TWO COVER
JAY SHAW



EVIL EMPIRE



Do what you want. Kill the hell out of those who you believe deserve it.
We are fucking animals.
esp. 3.0

CHAPTER
THREE

fig. 3

25 YEARS DOWN THE LINE.
LOS ANGELES, CA.

BARTENDER!

SET US
UP WITH TWO
SHOTS OF
TEQUILA AND
A BLUNT!



I SWEAR, MAN,
THEY FIND NEW
SHIT TO LACE WEED
WITH EVERY MONTH
THESE DAYS.

THIS SHIT TASTES
LIKE CURRY. I DON'T
EVEN KNOW WHY I
LIKE IT BUT
DAMN...CURRIED
BLUNT.



MMMMPH.

SOMETIMES,
I WISH WE HAD
MORE STUFF
TO DO.

PEOPLE ARE
TOO SCARED OF
US, MAN. GOT
NO FIGHT LEFT
IN 'EM.

HERE WE
ARE IN THE FUCKIN'
CAPITAL OF THE EMPIRE
AND NOT A SMIDGE OF
RESISTANCE ACTIVITY.
NOT A ONE OF
GREENWOOD'S GOONS
SHOWN THEIR FACE
HERE IN YEARS.

AWWW, POOR US. SO
MUCH SPARE TIME TO
DO DRUGS AND FUCK
PEOPLE UP FOR AN
INCOME.

ALMOST
ENOUGH TO MAKE
YOU WANNA DO
SOMETHING PRODUCTIVE
AND RIGHTEOUS JUST TO
BALANCE IT OUT, RIGHT?



FUCKIN'
JK,
MAN!





...THE
RESISTANCE HAS
COME TO LOS
ANGELES.



**PRESENT DAY.
KENNETH LARAMY.**

CURRENTLY BEING TRANSPORTED
TO CHESAPEAKE DETENTION FACILITY,
MARYLAND, FOR INCARCERATION.

YOU
COMFORTABLE,
SENATOR?

'CUZ I DONE THIS DRIVE BEFORE AND I
CAN TELL YOU THIS QUAINT RUSTIC VIEW IS
ABOUT AS GOOD AS YOU'RE GONNA
GET FOR QUITE SOME TIME.



YOU MAY HAVE
SOME SMALL, STEELY
BALLS DOWN THERE FOR
TRYING TO BRING DOWN
THIS SHIT-SHOW OF A
GOVERNMENT, BUT YOU'RE
STILL USIN' NIGGERS AND
COMMIES TO DO THE
JOB.

YOU SOFT, LARAMY.
YOU A **CHICKENSHIT** AND
YOU GON' GET **FUCKED
AND FUCKED UP** LIKE
ANY OTHER FRESH SLAB
OF MEAT IN THE JOINT.



IS THAT
SO?



WELL, IN
THAT CASE, YOUR
BREATH IS GREAT
PREPARATION FOR
A LIFE SENTENCE'S
WORTH OF ASS
IN MY FACE.



THIS NAZI
WASTE OF LIFE,
BOthering YOU,
SIR?

THANK
YOU. BUT IT'S
NOTHING I
CAN'T HANDLE
ON MY OWN.

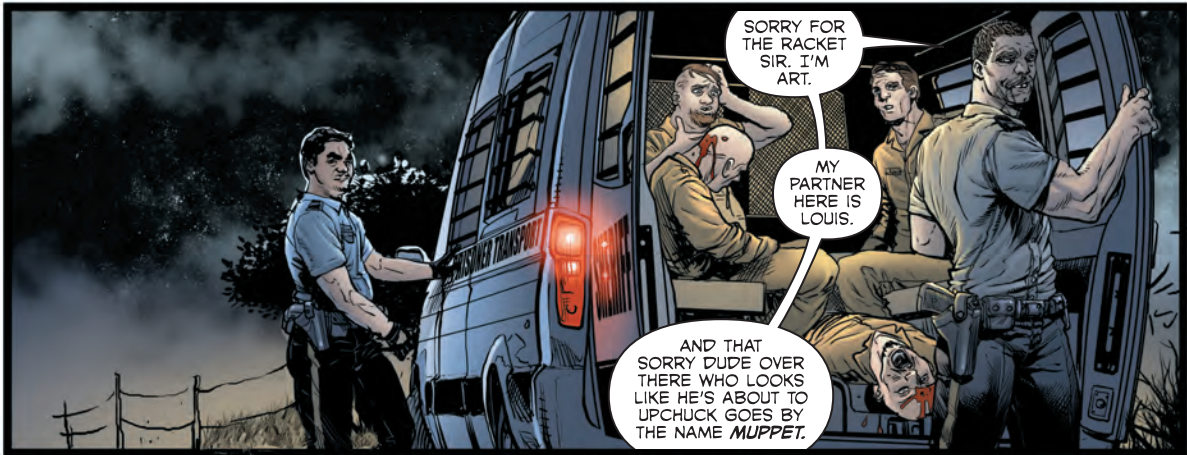
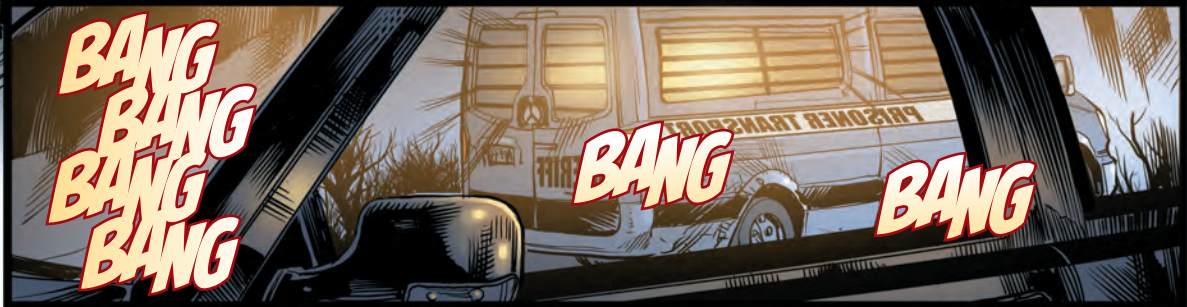
YOU SURE
YOU DON'T
WANT ME TO
SHOOT HIM IN
THE FACE?

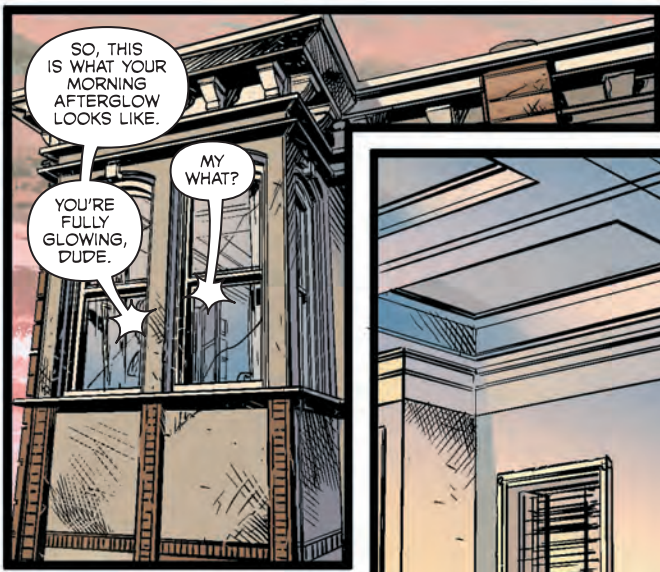
THE
FUCK?

WELL, IN ALL
HONESTY...

SURE.



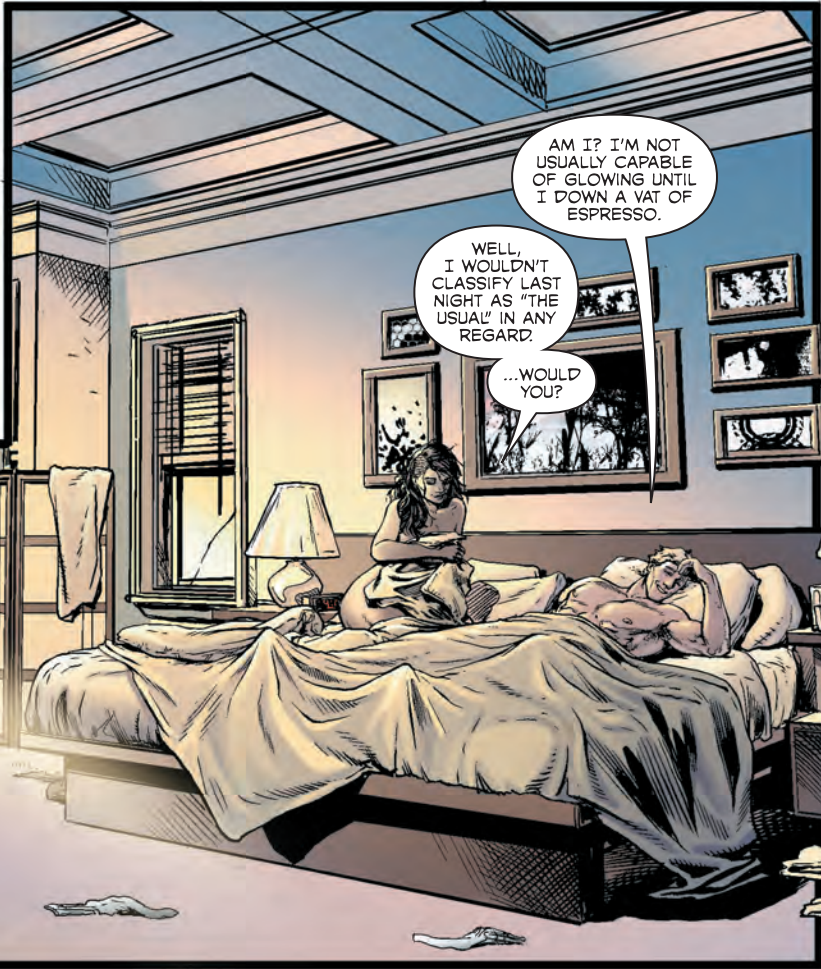




SO, THIS IS WHAT YOUR MORNING AFTERGLOW LOOKS LIKE.

YOU'RE FULLY GLOWING, DUDE.

MY WHAT?



AM I? I'M NOT USUALLY CAPABLE OF GLOWING UNTIL I DOWN A VAT OF ESPRESSO.

WELL, I WOULDN'T CLASSIFY LAST NIGHT AS "THE USUAL" IN ANY REGARD.

...WOULD YOU?



NO.

NOT IN THE SLIGHTEST.



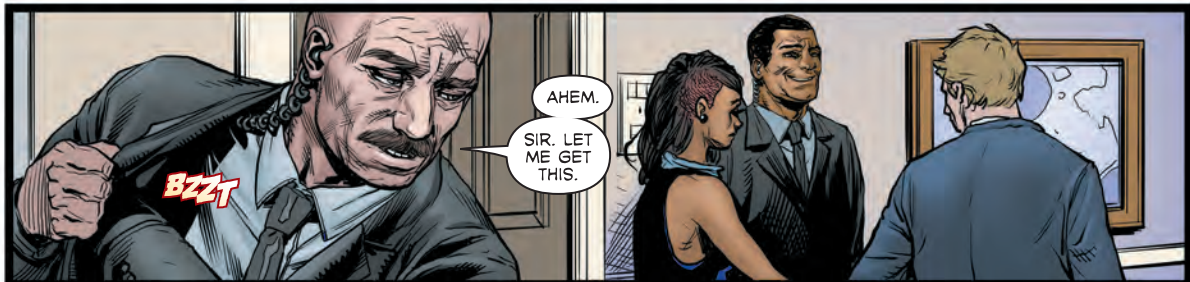
THAT BEING SAID, WE'RE STILL GOING TO HAVE TO ENDURE A PRETTY ROBUST WALK OF SHAME.

WHY? THERE'S NOBODY HERE.

WELL... KINDA.



UM, HEY GUYS.



AHEM.

SIR, LET ME GET THIS.

BZZT



WHAT'S UP?

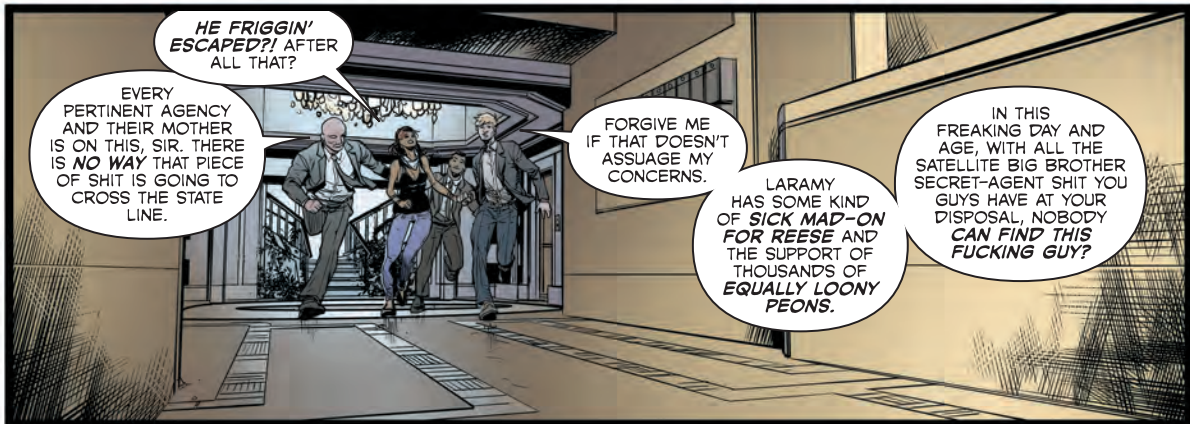
ARE YOU FUCKING KIDDING ME?



WHAT?

FOR CHRIST'S SAKE, WHAT NOW?

SIR, I CAN ONLY ASK YOU NOT TO SHOOT THE MESSENGER ON THIS ONE.



HE FRIGGIN' ESCAPED?! AFTER ALL THAT?

EVERY PERTINENT AGENCY AND THEIR MOTHER IS ON THIS, SIR. THERE IS NO WAY THAT PIECE OF SHIT IS GOING TO CROSS THE STATE LINE.

FORGIVE ME IF THAT DOESN'T ASSUAGE MY CONCERNS.

LARAMY HAS SOME KIND OF SICK MAD-ON FOR REESE AND THE SUPPORT OF THOUSANDS OF EQUALLY LOONY PEONS.

IN THIS FREAKING DAY AND AGE, WITH ALL THE SATELLITE BIG BROTHER SECRET-AGENT SHIT YOU GUYS HAVE AT YOUR DISPOSAL, NOBODY CAN FIND THIS FUCKING GUY?



THE FIRST THING WE NEED TO DO IS SIT DOWN WITH MY MAN IN THE BUREAU. HE HAS AN ANGLE ON THIS BUT I'M NOT SURE HOW COMFORTABLE YOU'RE GOING TO BE WITH...



...SHIT.

<BLAH>

<BLAH>

<BLAHBLAH
BLAH>

<BLAH>

<BLAH>

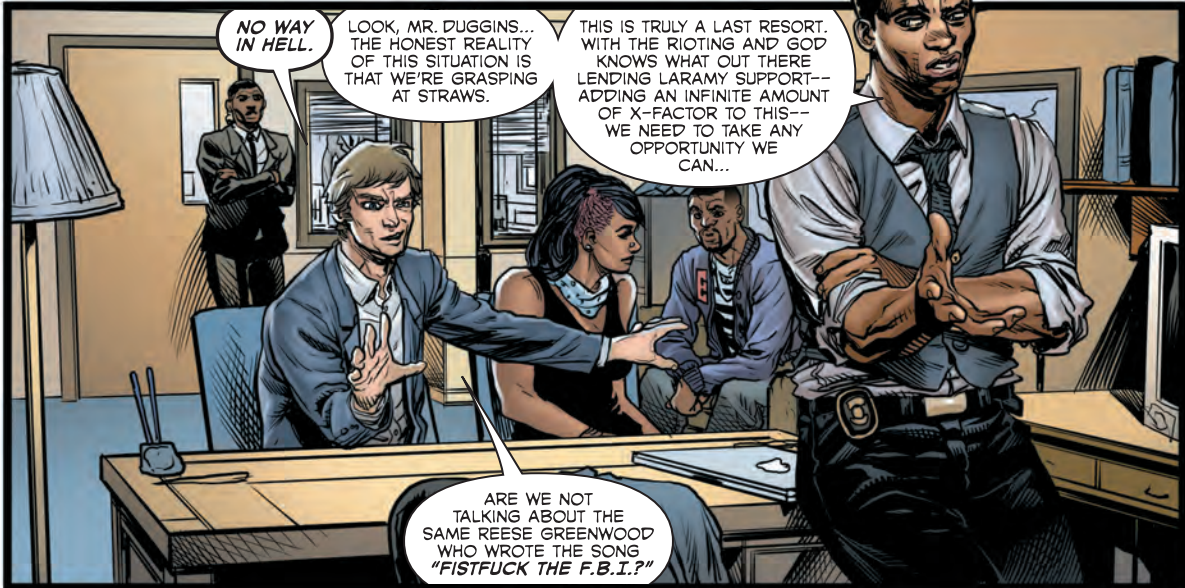
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TRANSLATED FROM THE NATIVE
GARBLE OF AMASSED PAPARAZZI:
"SO ARE Y'ALL TWO FUCKING?"



NO WAY IN HELL.

LOOK, MR. DUGGINS... THE HONEST REALITY OF THIS SITUATION IS THAT WE'RE GRASPING AT STRAWS.

THIS IS TRULY A LAST RESORT. WITH THE RIOTING AND GOD KNOWS WHAT OUT THERE LENDING LARAMY SUPPORT-- ADDING AN INFINITE AMOUNT OF X-FACTOR TO THIS-- WE NEED TO TAKE ANY OPPORTUNITY WE CAN...

ARE WE NOT TALKING ABOUT THE SAME REESE GREENWOOD WHO WROTE THE SONG "FISTFUCK THE F.B.I.?"



YES AND I STILL STAND BEHIND IT, AS N.W.A.-LITE AS IT WAS.



REESE, THIS IS BATSHIT AND YOU KNOW IT.



LOOK, THE ONLY REASON I WANT TO HEAR THIS MAN OUT IS BECAUSE LARAMY MADE THIS ABOUT ME AND HIM...THROUGH HIS OWN DAUGHTER.

KARA LARAMY'S THE ONE WHO FOUND SOLACE IN MY MUSIC.

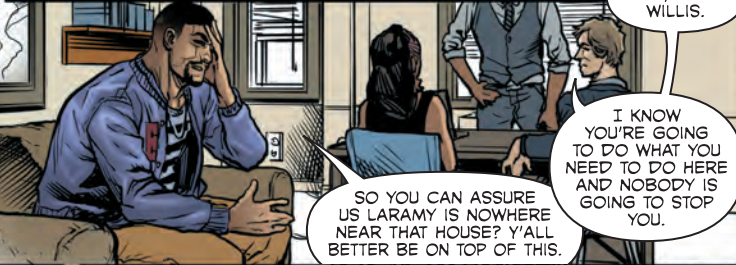
THE POOR GIRL'S BEEN VICTIMIZED HER ENTIRE LIFE. IF I CAN HELP FIND LARAMY AND DO SOMETHIN' GOOD FOR HER, THEN...



FUCK IT.

I'M IN.

...ALL RIGHT, BRUCE WILLIS.



SO YOU CAN ASSURE US LARAMY IS NOWHERE NEAR THAT HOUSE? Y'ALL BETTER BE ON TOP OF THIS.

I KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO DO WHAT YOU NEED TO DO HERE AND NOBODY IS GOING TO STOP YOU.



KARA LARAMY HAS BEEN UNDER A MICROSCOPE SINCE THIS CIRCUS BEGAN.

THERE WILL BE NOBODY IN THAT HOUSE BUT HER...



...AND YOU TWO.



THIS WIRE THINGY IS DIGGING INTO MY BOOB.

AND THAT'S MORE THAN A METAPHOR ABOUT HOW MUCH I HATE THAT I'M WORKING FOR THOSE ASSHOLES RIGHT NOW.

GROSS. DON'T SAY "BOOB."

WHATEVER, THEO, YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS THAT I'M TOTALLY THE BADASS RIGHT NOW IN THIS SITUATION.

IT'S NOT BADASS TO WEAR A WIRE, REESE. SWEATY ITALIAN GUYS GIVIN' UP THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS FOR LESS JAIL TIME WEAR A WIRE.

JEALOUS.

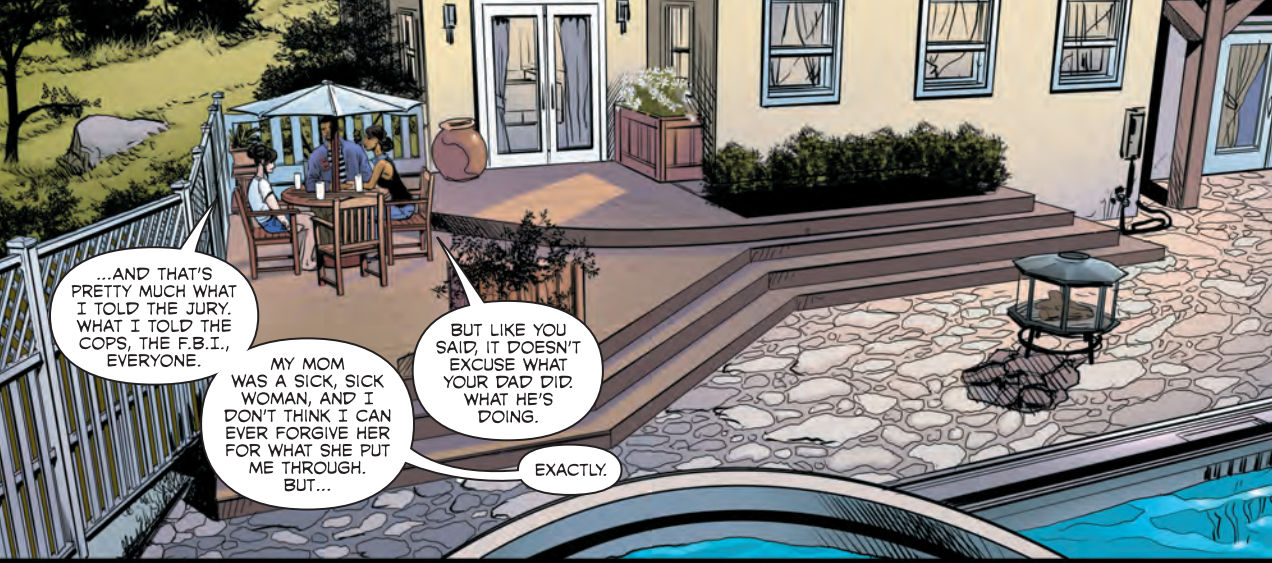


YOU MUST BE KARA.

I'M REESE GREENWOOD.



OHMIGOD.



...AND THAT'S PRETTY MUCH WHAT I TOLD THE JURY. WHAT I TOLD THE COPS, THE F.B.I., EVERYONE.

MY MOM WAS A SICK, SICK WOMAN, AND I DON'T THINK I CAN EVER FORGIVE HER FOR WHAT SHE PUT ME THROUGH. BUT...

BUT LIKE YOU SAID, IT DOESN'T EXCUSE WHAT YOUR DAD DID. WHAT HE'S DOING.

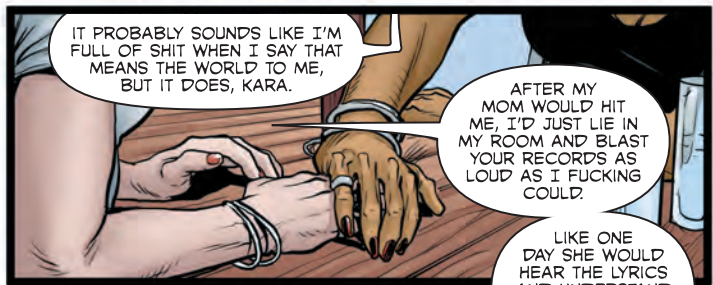
EXACTLY.



DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE THE DAUGHTER OF A POLITICIAN?

IT'S LIKE YOU'RE THEIR OWN LITTLE TEST GROUP A WALKING DEMOGRAPHIC THEY'RE TRYING TO WIN OVER. HE'S STILL USING ME THAT WAY RIGHT NOW WITH THIS CRAZY SHIT HE'S PULLING.

DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOUR MUSIC DID FOR ME? HOW MUCH IT SAVED ME?



IT PROBABLY SOUNDS LIKE I'M FULL OF SHIT WHEN I SAY THAT MEANS THE WORLD TO ME, BUT IT DOES, KARA.

AFTER MY MOM WOULD HIT ME, I'D JUST LIE IN MY ROOM AND BLAST YOUR RECORDS AS LOUD AS I FUCKING COULD.

LIKE ONE DAY SHE WOULD HEAR THE LYRICS AND UNDERSTAND ME. LIKE HE MIGHT TOO. BUT NEITHER OF THEM DID.

EVER.



THIS IS BULLSHIT.





WHAT THE FUCK WAS THAT?

DID SHE JUST...

FUCKING FUCK!



ALL RIGHT, KARA.

I'M NOT GOING TO LIE, A BUNCH OF F.B.I. DUDES ARE SITTING IN A VAN RIGHT NOW, AND AS YOU PROBABLY MIGHT HAVE SURMISED, THEY'VE BEEN HEARIN' EVERYTHING WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT UP TO NOW.



BUT I JUST TOOK OFF MY WIRE. IT'S JUST YOU AND ME NOW.

...AND THAT GUY.

THEO.

I'M GONNA LAY IT OUT FOR YOU PLAIN AND SIMPLE.

I FUCKING HATE YOUR DAD.

YOU SAY MY MUSIC GOT YOU? THEN YOU GET ME. AND YOU KNOW WHY IT'S SO IMPORTANT FOR ME TO STOP HIM FROM TEARING APART ANY VESTIGE OF DIGNITY THIS COUNTRY HAS LEFT.

SO IF THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE YOU CAN TELL ME ABOUT HIM THAT WE DON'T ALREADY KNOW, NOW WOULD BE THE TIME TO DO IT.

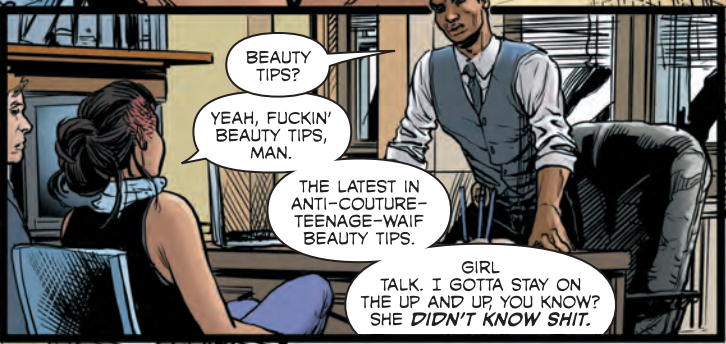


WELL...

I DID FIGURE OUT HE WAS TAKING ANOTHER WOMAN OUT TO SOME CABIN EVERY WEEKEND AND FUCKING HER.



BEAUTY TIPS.

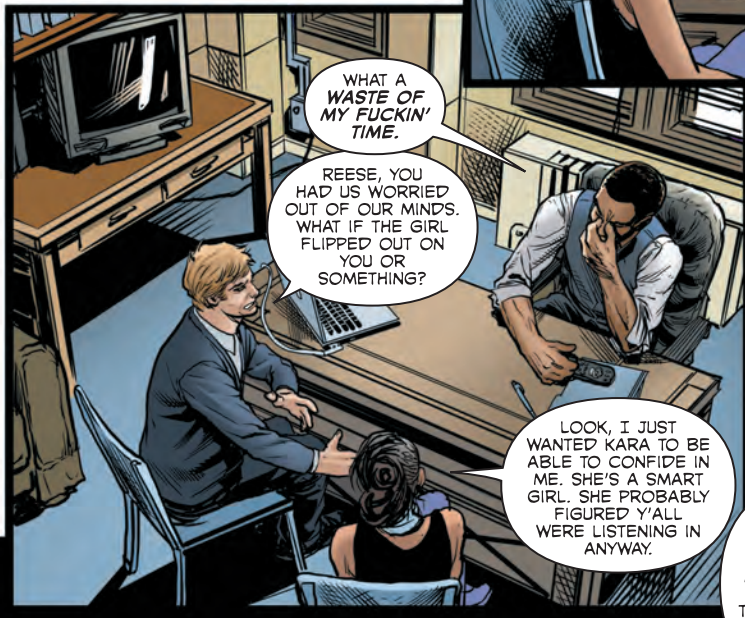


BEAUTY TIPS?

YEAH, FUCKIN' BEAUTY TIPS, MAN.

THE LATEST IN ANTI-COUTURE-TEENAGE-WAIF BEAUTY TIPS.

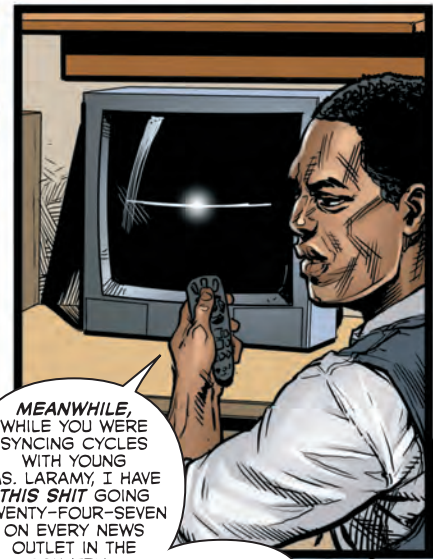
GIRL TALK. I GOTTA STAY ON THE UP AND UP, YOU KNOW? SHE DIDN'T KNOW SHIT.



WHAT A WASTE OF MY FUCKIN' TIME.

REESE, YOU HAD US WORRIED OUT OF OUR MINDS. WHAT IF THE GIRL FLIPPED OUT ON YOU OR SOMETHING?

LOOK, I JUST WANTED KARA TO BE ABLE TO CONFIDE IN ME. SHE'S A SMART GIRL. SHE PROBABLY FIGURED Y'ALL WERE LISTENING IN ANYWAY.




MEANWHILE, WHILE YOU WERE SYNCING CYCLES WITH YOUNG MS. LARAMY, I HAVE THIS SHIT GOING TWENTY-FOUR-SEVEN ON EVERY NEWS OUTLET IN THE COUNTRY...

FEAST YOUR EYES ON THIS STEAMING PILE OF CRAZY.



GREETINGS, UNITED STATES OF FUCKING BULLSHIT.



I'M SURE THOSE OF YOU WHO CAN'T SEE EYE TO EYE WITH ME ARE WONDERING WHY THIS IS HAPPENING. WHY THE RIOTS? WHY THE UNREST? **WHY NOW?**

I'LL TELL YOU WHY.


EVERY TIME SOMEONE TRIED TO STAND UP AND EXPOSE THIS STINKING HEAP OF DUNG WE CALL A SOCIAL ORDER FOR WHAT IT WAS, THEY'VE BEEN **HILLBILLY HEAD CASES OR BROWN PEOPLE WITH BOMBS...** PREACHING SOME **INSANE MORAL ABSOLUTE.**

DIES FOUND NEAR SUPE




I'M HERE TO TELL YOU THIS:

FUCK MORALITY. I HAVEN'T DONE THIS FOR GOD OR COUNTRY.



I'M DOING THIS BECAUSE THIS IS THE ONLY TRUE ENLIGHTENMENT; **THAT IN A LAND SO DUBIOUSLY IN LOVE WITH THE IDEA OF "FREEDOM," WE DESERVE TO TRULY RUN FREE.** THAT SHOULD BE THE LAW. THAT SHOULD BE THE STANDARD.

SO DON'T JUST BURN DOWN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AND CHURCHES; **BURN A MALL DOWN** JUST TO STAND AND BASK IN THE FLAMES. **LET IT MAKE YOU HARD.** PUT A GUN IN THE MOUTH OF **EVERY MOTHERFUCKER WHO EVER PUSHED YOU AROUND** AND DO IT IN MY NAME IF THAT MAKES IT EASIER FOR YOU. WHAT MATTERS IS THE MEANING BEHIND IT, AND WE ARE **RICH WITH PURPOSE.**



THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS EVIL AND IF THERE IS... **I BELIEVE IN IT.**



THIS IS KENNETH LARAMY. I'LL BE IN TOUCH.



YOU SURE YOU'RE GOING TO BE OKAY TONIGHT?

I'D FEEL A LOT MORE COMFORTABLE IF YOU STAYED AT MY PLACE.

YOU'RE EXCEPTIONALLY SWEET...BUT I NEED THE NIGHT TO THINK ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED.



THIS HAS BEEN A LITTLE HEAVY, EVEN FOR ME. MAYBE COME BY MY PLACE IN A COUPLE HOURS?

ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT.

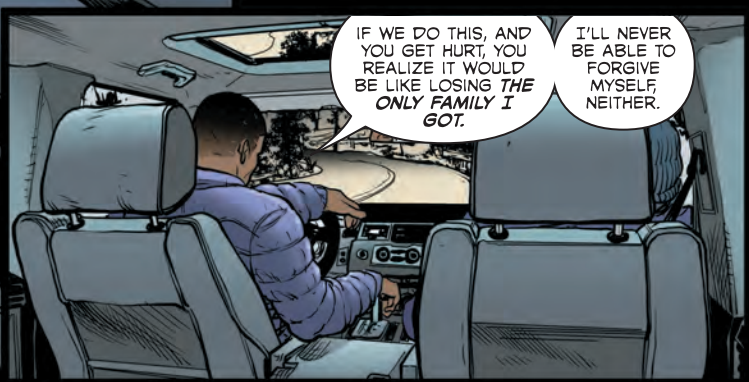
THEO, YOU LOOK OUT FOR HER AND MAKE SURE SHE GETS HOME SAFE.



YUP, I'LL MAKE SURE TO LITERALLY DO MY JOB, HOMIE.

GOODNIGHT. 'NIGHT.

THE NEXT DAY.



IF WE DO THIS, AND YOU GET HURT, YOU REALIZE IT WOULD BE LIKE LOSING **THE ONLY FAMILY I GOT.**

I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO FORGIVE MYSELF NEITHER.



...I KNOW.



SO THIS IS THE PLACE, HUH?

YEAH, AT LEAST IF THE DIRECTIONS KARA NICKED OFF HER DAD ARE CORRECT.

WELL THE FOREBODING FUCKIN' PATH LEADING INTO THE HILLY BRUSH LEADS ME TO BELIEVE WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK.



YOU STAY BEHIND ME, GIRL, LET ME DO MY JOB.

YOU KNOW I HAD TO DO THIS MYSELF. I HAVE TO LOOK HIM IN THE EYE WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT BEING BABYSAT BY THE FEDS OR THEM PUTTING A BULLET IN HIM BEFORE I...

YOU KNOW HOW MUCH THIS MEANS TO ME, DON'T YOU, THEO?

WHAT IT MEANS IS A PAID VACATION IF WE MAKE IT OUT ALIVE.



JESUS, THIS IS IT.



HOLD THE FUCK UP!

DUDE!... IT'S HER.



WE'RE JUST HERE TO TALK TO LARAMY. WE DON'T HAVE GUNS!

YOU DON'T HAVE A GUN, RIGHT?!

FUCK NO, I DON'T HAVE A FUCKING GUN!

NO GUNS!



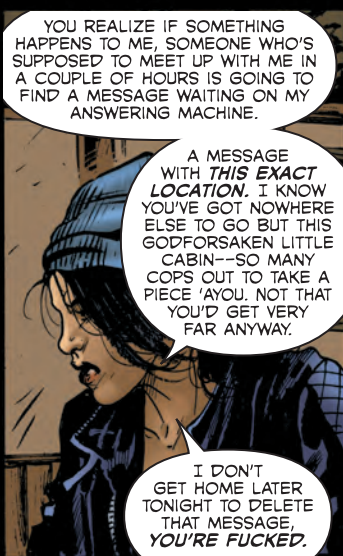
ENOUGH OF THIS, BOYS.

THESE ARE WELCOME GUESTS.



COME ON IN, REESE.

BRING YOUR IMPOSING BLACK MAN.





ALRIGHT, YOU
FUCK AMONGST
FUCKERS.

I'M HERE.
YOU MADE THIS
ABOUT ME, GOD
KNOWS WHY, SO
I'M HERE.

OF ALL
PEOPLE, YOU TELL ME.
TELL ME WHAT THE HELL
YOU NEED TO MAKE THIS
STOP. WHAT'S YOUR
GOAL, LARAMY? WHERE
DOES THIS END?

WHAT DO YOU
WANT? WHAT DO
YOU FUCKING
WANT?



HELP..
ME.



I NEED
YOU
TWO...

TO GET
ME...

THE
FUCK...

OUT OF
HERE.





WHAT IS THIS SHIT? ARE YOU FUCKING WITH US?

SHHHH. THEY'LL HEAR YOU. KEEP THE HELL DOWN.

LARAMY, YOU BEST EXPLAIN YOURSELF, LIKE NOW...



I DIDN'T... I DIDN'T INTEND FOR IT TO GET TO THIS POINT! RIOTS, FUCKING MEN WITH GUNS AND DRUGS GUARDING ME LIKE I'M SOME CAMELFUCKING TERRORIST KING...

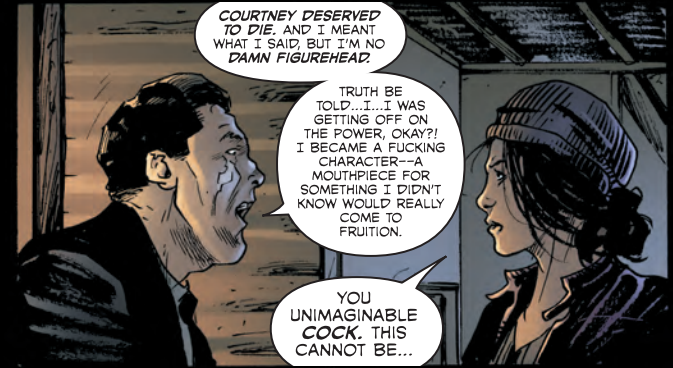
WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO WHEN THEY KILLED EVERYONE ON THAT BUS? TELL THEM I'M A HACK? THAT I'M A DRUNK WHO OFFED HIS WIFE AND NOTHING MORE?



HOLD UP.

ARE YOU MEANING TO TELL ME... ALL THIS DEATH... ALL THE SHIT GOING DOWN ACROSS THE COUNTRY RIGHT NOW IN THE NAME OF KENNETH LARAMY... YOU DIDN'T...

WHAT ABOUT YOUR WIFE? THE FUCKING TRIAL? WHAT YOU SAID ON THAT PODIUM?



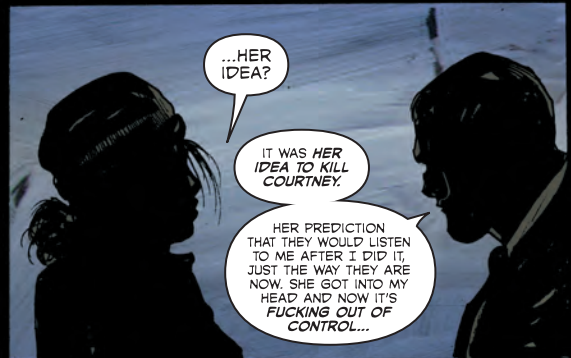
COURTNEY DESERVED TO DIE, AND I MEANT WHAT I SAID, BUT I'M NO DAMN FIGUREHEAD.

TRUTH BE TOLD... I... I WAS GETTING OFF ON THE POWER, OKAY?! I BECAME A FUCKING CHARACTER--A MOUTHPIECE FOR SOMETHING I DIDN'T KNOW WOULD REALLY COME TO FRUITION.

YOU UNIMAGINABLE COCK. THIS CANNOT BE...



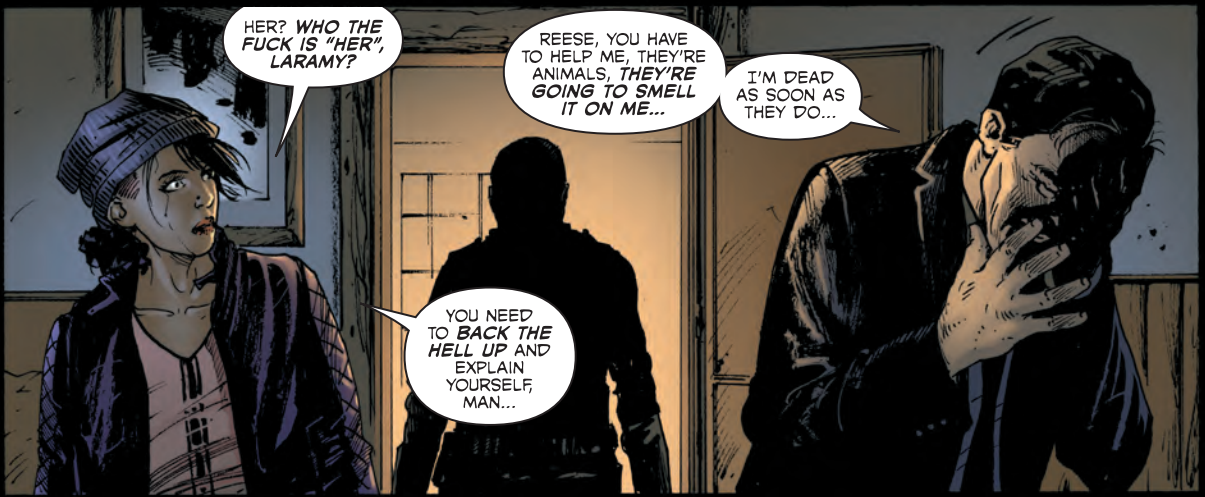
BESIDES... IT WAS HER IDEA!



...HER IDEA?

IT WAS HER IDEA TO KILL COURTNEY.

HER PREDICTION THAT THEY WOULD LISTEN TO ME AFTER I DID IT, JUST THE WAY THEY ARE NOW. SHE GOT INTO MY HEAD AND NOW IT'S FUCKING OUT OF CONTROL...



HER? WHO THE FUCK IS "HER", LARAMY?

REESE, YOU HAVE TO HELP ME, THEY'RE ANIMALS, THEY'RE GOING TO SMELL IT ON ME...

I'M DEAD AS SOON AS THEY DO...

YOU NEED TO BACK THE HELL UP AND EXPLAIN YOURSELF, MAN...



LARAMY!!
FUCK!!

BEHIND YOU!!



ART? WHAT ARE YOU...

SORRY, "BOSS", ORDERS IS ORDERS.



UTTT...



The image features a stylized American flag. The top half is a dark blue field filled with a grid of white stars. The bottom half consists of red and white stripes that curve downwards and inward, meeting at a circular drain in the bottom right. The drain has four holes and is partially covered by a red, viscous substance. The title 'EVIL EMPIRE' is printed in a white, bold, serif font across the star field.

EVIL EMPIRE

ISSUE THREE COVER
JAY SHAW



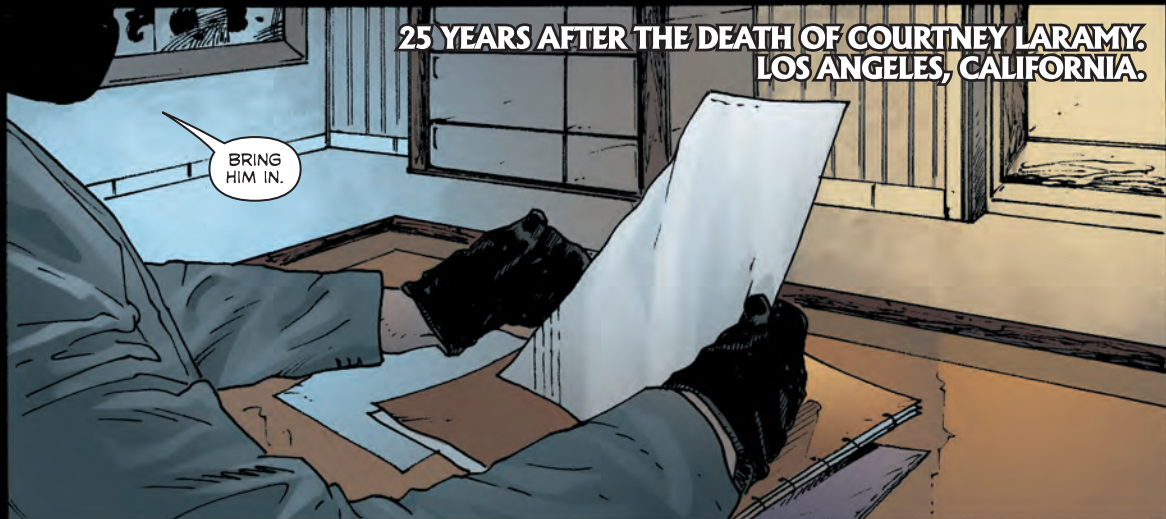
*I'm doing this because this is the only true enlightenment; that in a land so dubiously in love with the notion idea of "freedom" we deserve to truly run free.
That should be the law. **That should be the standard.*** exc. 4.0



CHAPTER
FOUR

fig. 4

25 YEARS AFTER THE DEATH OF COURTNEY LARAMY.
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

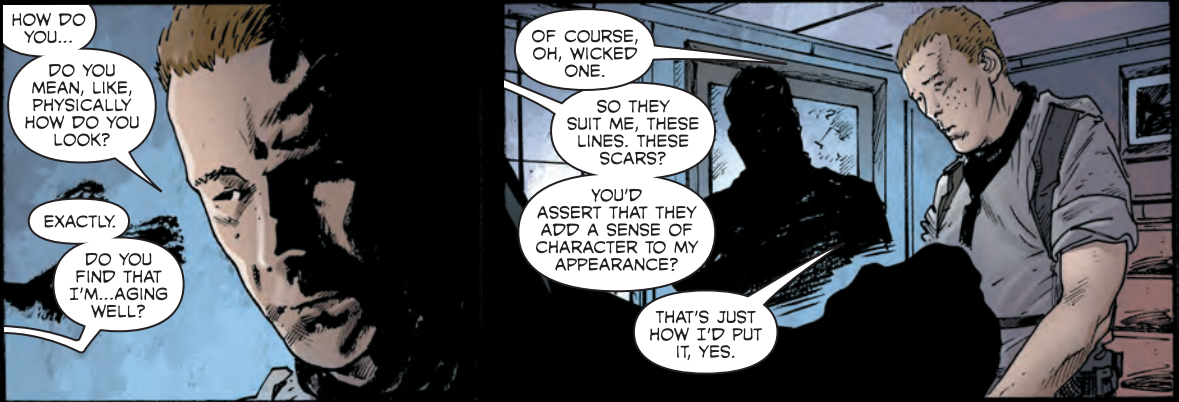




THAT'S... THAT'S FINE.

WONDERFUL, KRISTOPHER.

FIRSTLY, HOW DO I LOOK TO YOU?



HOW DO YOU...

DO YOU MEAN, LIKE, PHYSICALLY HOW DO YOU LOOK?

EXACTLY.

DO YOU FIND THAT I'M...AGING WELL?



OF COURSE, OH, WICKED ONE.

SO THEY SUIT ME, THESE LINES, THESE SCARS?

YOU'D ASSERT THAT THEY ADD A SENSE OF CHARACTER TO MY APPEARANCE?

THAT'S JUST HOW I'D PUT IT, YES.



HMMM.

INTERESTING.



THE REASON I ASK IS THAT AS THE FACE OF WHAT WE'VE MOLDED THIS WORLD INTO, I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL A BIT DISTURBED BY WHAT I'VE HEARD FROM YOUR SUPERIOR.

IDEAS YOU'VE BEEN EXPRESSING TO YOUR PEERS ABOUT A CERTAIN WEAKNESS WITHIN THE EMPIRE'S CURRENT STANDING. GIVEN THE RECENT INCURSION OF THE RESISTANCE INTO OUR CAPITAL.

CRACKS IN OUR FOUNDATION--WRINKLES, IF YOU WILL, LIKE MY OWN. SIGNS OF AGING.



WICKED ONE, THAT'S UNTRUE.

I LIVE FOR THE EMPIRE. I WAS SIMPLY--

IMPLYING THAT THE IDEA SO MANY HAVE FOUGHT AND DIED FOR ISN'T HOLDING UP OVER TIME?

NO, **NOT AT ALL!** I JUST HEAR STORIES OF HOW WE TOOK APART THE HALF-ASSED GOVERNMENT THAT USED TO RUN THIS COUNTRY AND...



I GUESS I JUST WISH IT WERE LIKE THAT NOW.

I THINK THE RESISTANCE, AS WEAK AND PATHETIC AS IT IS...IT NEEDS TO BE CRUSHED IMMEDIATELY, THE WAY WE CRUSHED EVERYTHING THAT CAME BEFORE.



I SEE.

NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT. I APPLAUD YOU, KRISTOPHER.

YOU CAN SEE YOURSELF BACK TO THE DORMITORIES. EXPECT A COMMENDATION FOR YOUR REFRESHING CANDOR.



REALLY?

W-WOW. THANK YOU SO MUCH! IT'S AN HONOR TO MEET YOU.

LIKEWISE, YOUNG MAN.



HMMM.

CAPTAIN SHELLEY?

YES?



DECAPITATE THAT LITTLE PRICK AND FEED HIM TO HIS FRIENDS FOR SUPPER.

NOW.



OF ALL THE WHORES I CUT UP WHO HAD IT COMIN', YOU'VE GOT TO TAKE THE HAD-IT-COMIN' CAKE, HONEY.

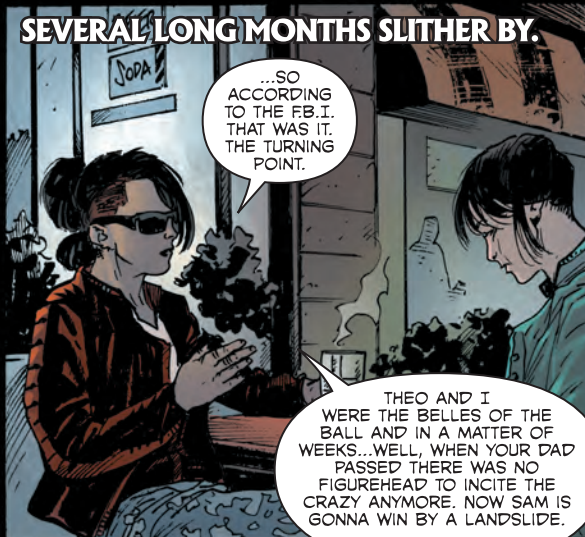


WHAT?!
WHATCHU STARIN' AT...



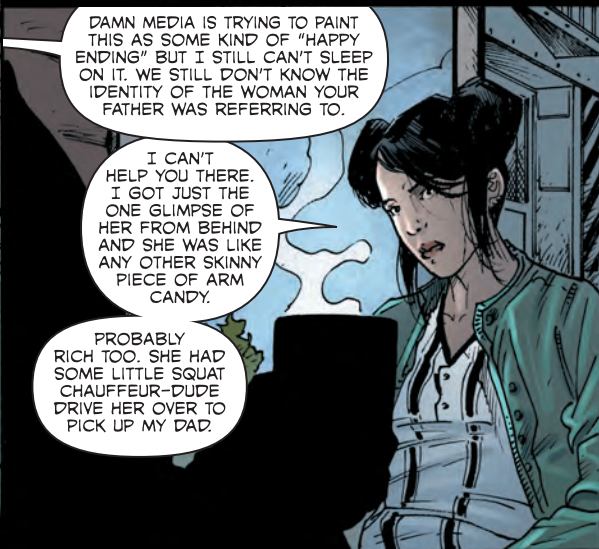


SEVERAL LONG MONTHS SLITHER BY.



...SO ACCORDING TO THE F.B.I. THAT WAS IT. THE TURNING POINT.

THEO AND I WERE THE BELLES OF THE BALL AND IN A MATTER OF WEEKS...WELL, WHEN YOUR DAD PASSED THERE WAS NO FIGUREHEAD TO INCITE THE CRAZY ANYMORE. NOW SAM IS GONNA WIN BY A LANDSLIDE.



DAMN MEDIA IS TRYING TO PAINT THIS AS SOME KIND OF "HAPPY ENDING" BUT I STILL CAN'T SLEEP ON IT. WE STILL DON'T KNOW THE IDENTITY OF THE WOMAN YOUR FATHER WAS REFERRING TO.

I CAN'T HELP YOU THERE. I GOT JUST THE ONE GLIMPSE OF HER FROM BEHIND AND SHE WAS LIKE ANY OTHER SKINNY PIECE OF ARM CANDY.

PROBABLY RICH TOO. SHE HAD SOME LITTLE SQUAT CHAUFFEUR-DUDE DRIVE HER OVER TO PICK UP MY DAD.



KARA, THANK YOU...I JUST DON'T WANT YOU TO THINK YOU WERE JUST SOME PAWN TO ME. I...

STOP



JUST DON'T. DON'T EVEN.



MY DAD MAY HAVE BEEN A LUNATIC BUT WHAT HE DID, HE DID FOR ME.

I CAN LIVE WITH WHAT I'VE DONE BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I WANT TO BE SKINNY-LATTE-FRAT-SISTERS WITH THE WOMAN WHO PUT HIM IN THE CROSSHAIRS.



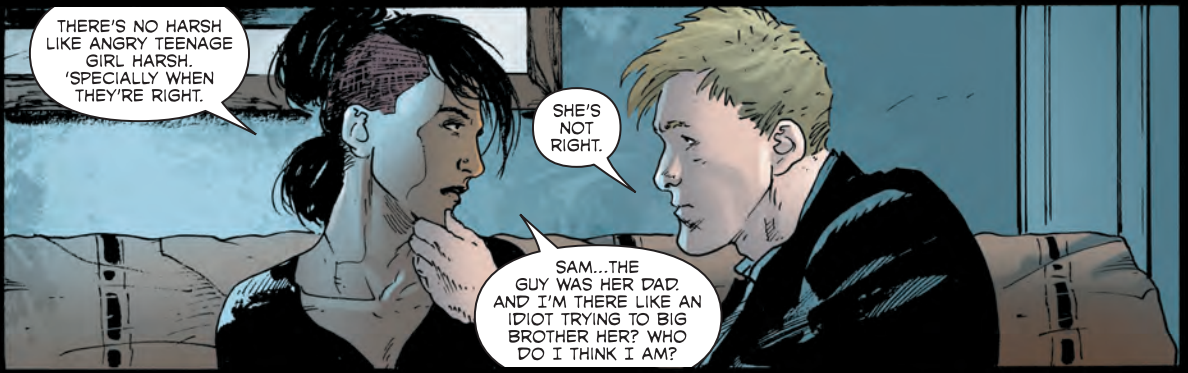
YOU JUST HAVE FUN LOOKING YOURSELF IN THE MIRROR AND ASKING YOURSELF IF ALL THE DEATH YOU CAUSED TO END THIS PROPERLY LEVERAGES YOUR "HAPPY ENDING".



KARA...



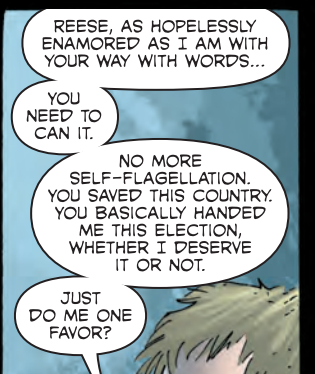
THAT'S ABOUT AS HARSH AS HARSH GETS. THAT'S HARSH SQUARED, REESE.



THERE'S NO HARSH LIKE ANGRY TEENAGE GIRL HARSH. 'SPECIALLY' WHEN THEY'RE RIGHT.

SHE'S NOT RIGHT.

SAM... THE GUY WAS HER DAD AND I'M THERE LIKE AN IDIOT TRYING TO BIG BROTHER HER? WHO DO I THINK I AM?



REESE, AS HOPELESSLY ENAMORED AS I AM WITH YOUR WAY WITH WORDS...

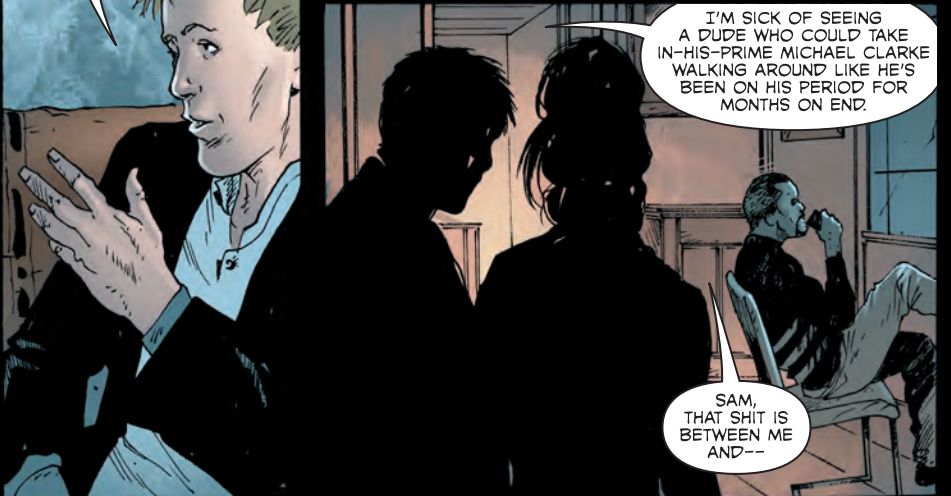
YOU NEED TO CAN IT.

NO MORE SELF-FLAGELLATION. YOU SAVED THIS COUNTRY. YOU BASICALLY HANDED ME THIS ELECTION, WHETHER I DESERVE IT OR NOT.

JUST DO ME ONE FAVOR?



AND WHAT WOULD THAT BE?

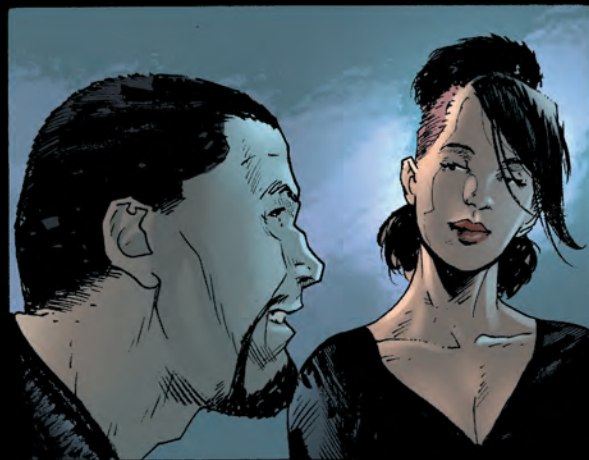


I'M SICK OF SEEING A DUDE WHO COULD TAKE IN-HIS-PRIME MICHAEL CLARKE WALKING AROUND LIKE HE'S BEEN ON HIS PERIOD FOR MONTHS ON END.

SAM, THAT SHIT IS BETWEEN ME AND--



GO APOLOGIZE TO HIM OR I'M GONNA BRAIN BOTH OF YOU.





I KNOW! THIS TODDLER WHO LITERALLY WOULD PEE WHEN HE GOT MAD.

NO HE-MAN TOY? PEE-PEE PANTS.

TIME OUT? FULL-ON URINE. HE WAS PUNISHING MOMMY.

YOU'RE LIVING THE EMBARRASSING MOTHER CLICHÉ RIGHT NOW. YOU'VE CROSSED THE LINE AND YOU LOVE IT.

BRRRRRING



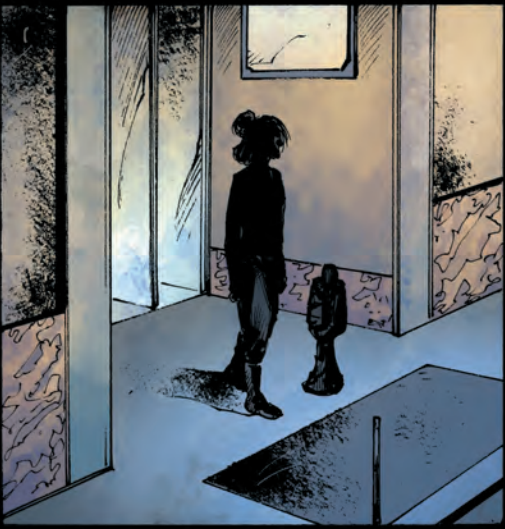
REESE, THAT'S JULIA. SHE'S GETTING DROPPED OFF OUTSIDE ANY SECOND.

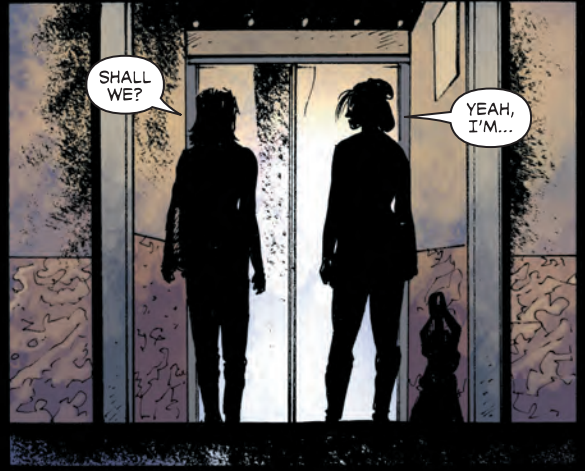
YOU WANNA GO DOWN AND GRAB HER?

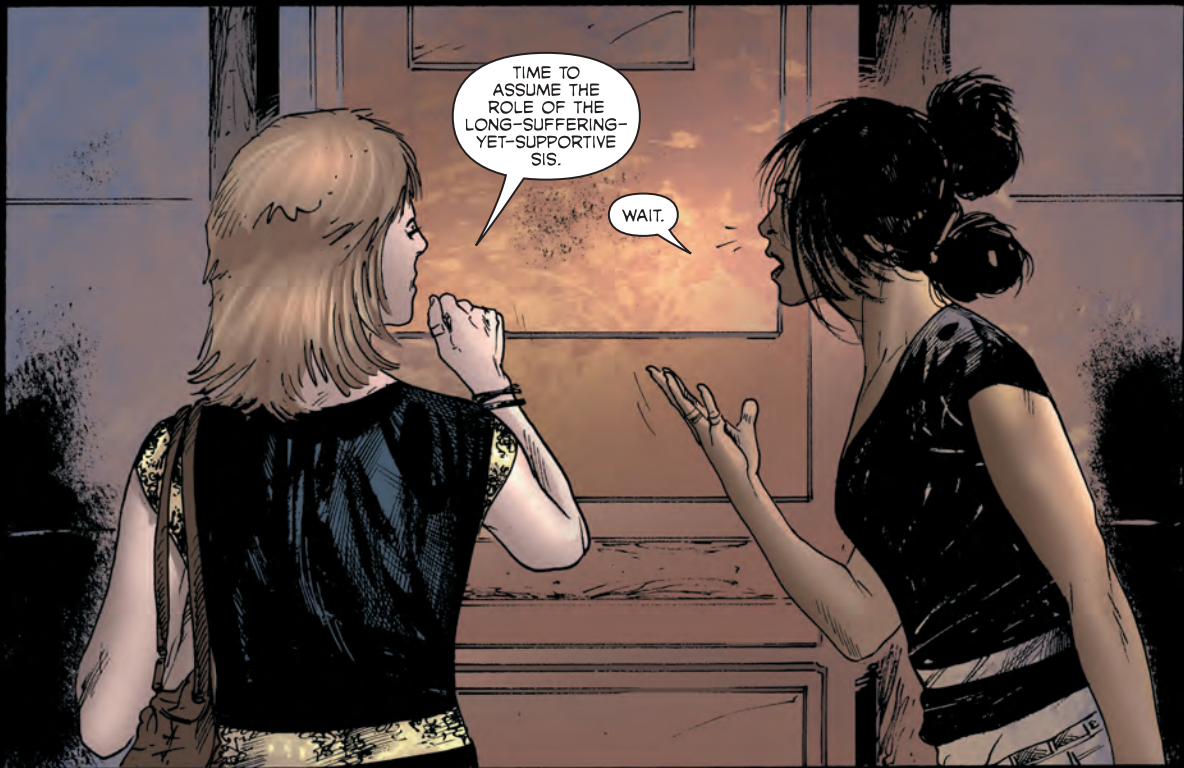
BRRRRRING



I'D BE THRILLED.



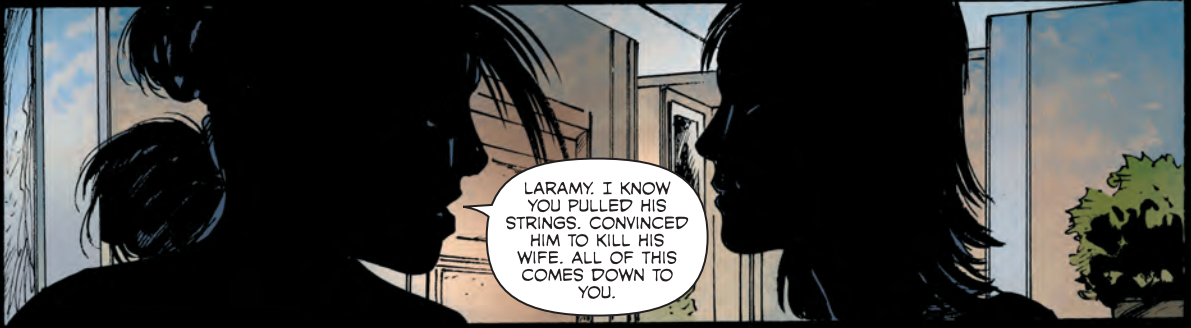






WHATEVER DO YOU MEAN...

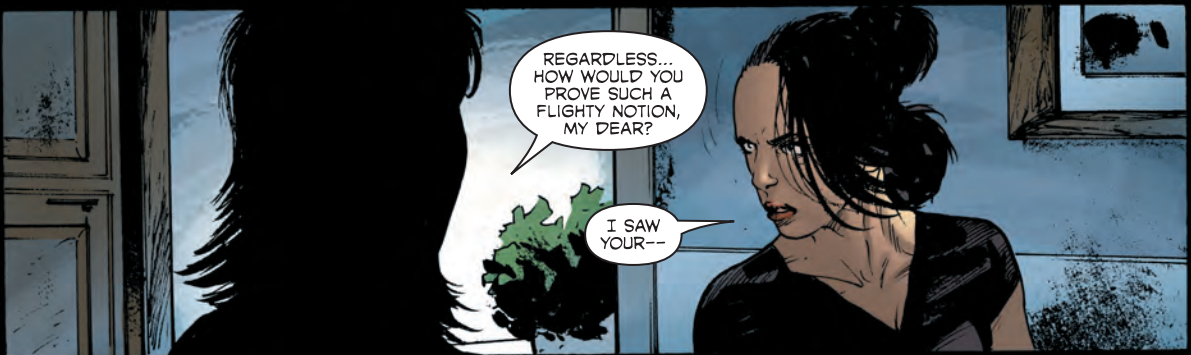
JUST STOP NOW, BITCH, I'M IN NO MOOD.



LARAMY. I KNOW YOU PULLED HIS STRINGS. CONVINCED HIM TO KILL HIS WIFE. ALL OF THIS COMES DOWN TO YOU.



MMMHMM.
YOU REALIZE YOU'RE OPENING A CAN OF WORMS, YOU SELF-RIGHTEOUS CUNT?



REGARDLESS... HOW WOULD YOU PROVE SUCH A FLIGHTY NOTION, MY DEAR?

I SAW YOUR--

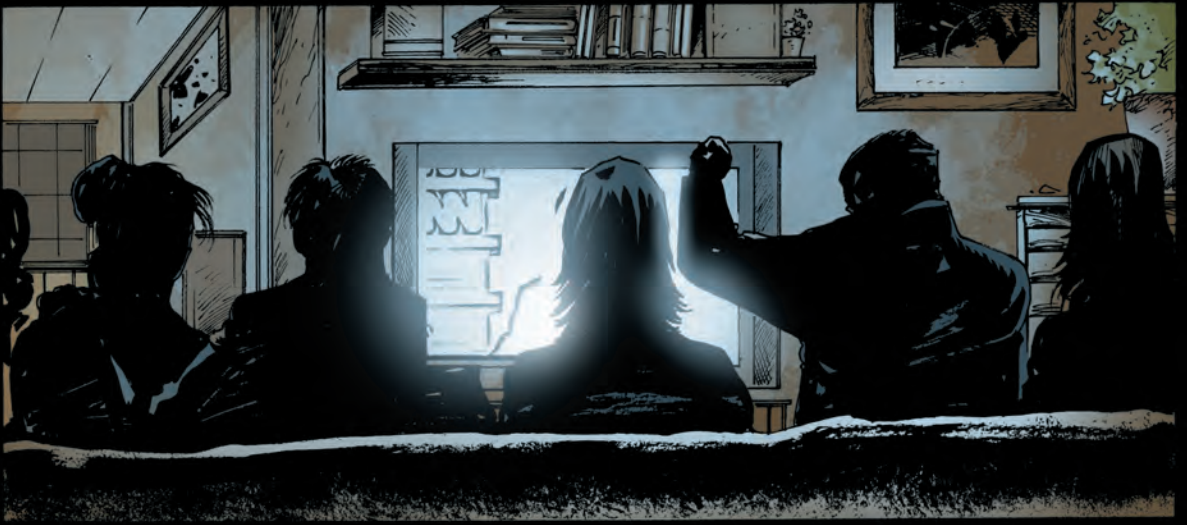


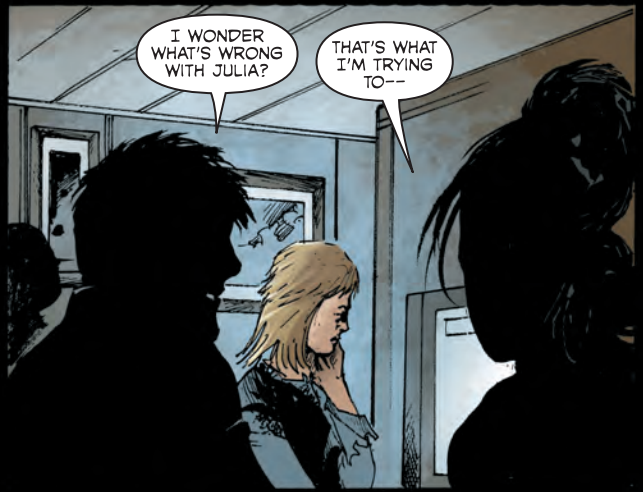
MY GORGEOUS GIRLS!!!!

ANDDDDDDDD MOM'S WASTED.

THEY'RE ABOUT TO ANNOUNCE THE RESULTS!!! YOU ALMOST MISSED IT!!!!

TO THE VICTORY-COUCH!!! TO THE VICTORY COUCH!!!!





...AND I SAID THIS IS A BOY WHO WE ALL THOUGHT WOULD END UP PRINTING THOSE "ZINES" OF HIS FOR A LIVING AND NOW HE'S THE PPP-PRESIDENT OF THE...

I THINK SAM'S GONNA BE A FINE PRESIDENT. AS LONG AS HE CAN STEP IT UP AND GET A REASONABLE HAIRCUT, OF COURSE.

FROM YOUR MOUTH TO GOD'S EARS, CUTIE.

THEO. I NEED YOU. RIGHT THE HELL NOW.

BUT REEEEEEESE, I'VE ONLY HAD A FEW MINUTES WITH THIS CHARMER. SURELY YOU CAN SPARE HIM FOR A FEW MORE...

I'M SORRY, ELISE. DUTY CALLS.

YOU'RE FUCKING WITH ME.

THEO, IT WAS THAT SAME KEVIN-SMITHY SON OF A BITCH FROM THE CABIN, JUST DRIVING HER AROUND IT WAS JULIA. JULIA WAS SCREWING LARAMY.

SHE MUST HAVE DONE ALL THIS TO GET SAM ELECTED, SO SHE CAN GET CLOSER TO WHATEVER POWER HE HAS, THAT SICK, SICK...

WHEN I ASK YOU RIGHT NOW IF YOU'RE 100% SURE OF THIS, YOU BETTER TAKE ME SERIOUSLY, REESE.

BECAUSE IF YOU'RE RIGHT, SHIT'S GOING TO GO DOWN.

I MAY BE A DICK SOMETIMES BUT HOW OFTEN AM I ACTUALLY WRONG?

CHRIST.

**KNOCK
KNOCK**

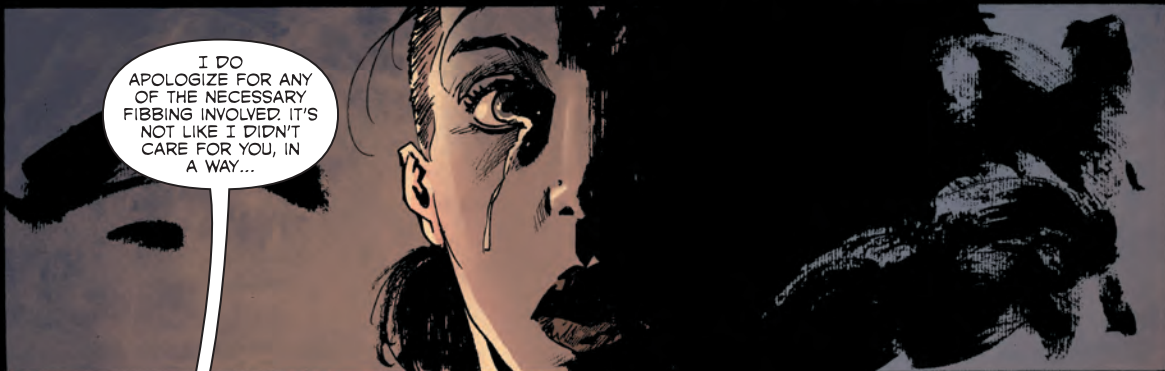
SAM, DON'T
LISTEN TO WHAT
SHE'S TELLING
YOU, WE'RE
COMING IN!

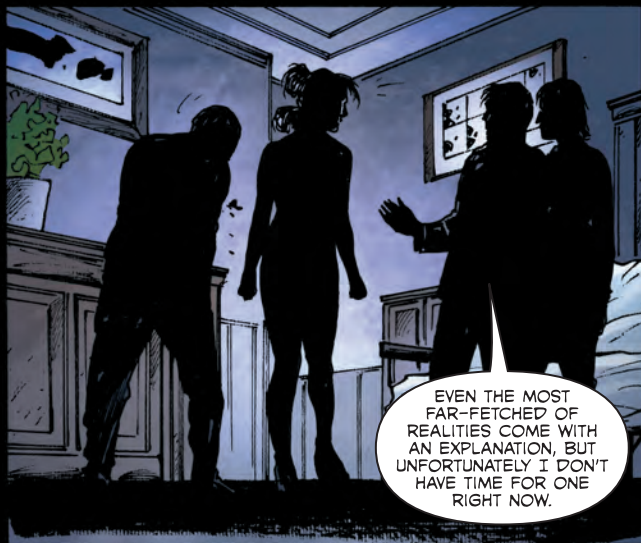
SAM, IT
WAS YOUR
SISTER!

SHE...











PRESENTING
THE NEXT
PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA...



SAMUEL
DUGGINS!!!

CLAP
CLAP CLAP
CLAP



MY FELLOW
AMERICANS, I AM
UTTERLY HONORED AND
HUMBLED TO BE STANDING
HERE TODAY. THE FACT
THAT I WAS ELECTED IS
AN ANOMALY...I'M AN
UNMARRIED YOUNG MAN
WITH AUTHORITY
ISSUES.



I DON'T TEND TO
DICTATE MY ACTIONS
BY POPULAR SENTIMENT.
AND IN THE SPIRIT OF
THAT, THERE'S A TRUTH I
HAVE TO IMPART TO YOU
ALL BEFORE I CAN
SPEAK FURTHER.



THE TRUTH IS THAT IT SHOULDN'T BE ME UP ON THE PODIUM TONIGHT.

IT SHOULD BE KENNETH LARAMY.

OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS I'VE HAD TIME TO TRULY PONDER WHAT IT WOULD MEAN TO BE PRESIDENT AND I'VE COME TO THIS...

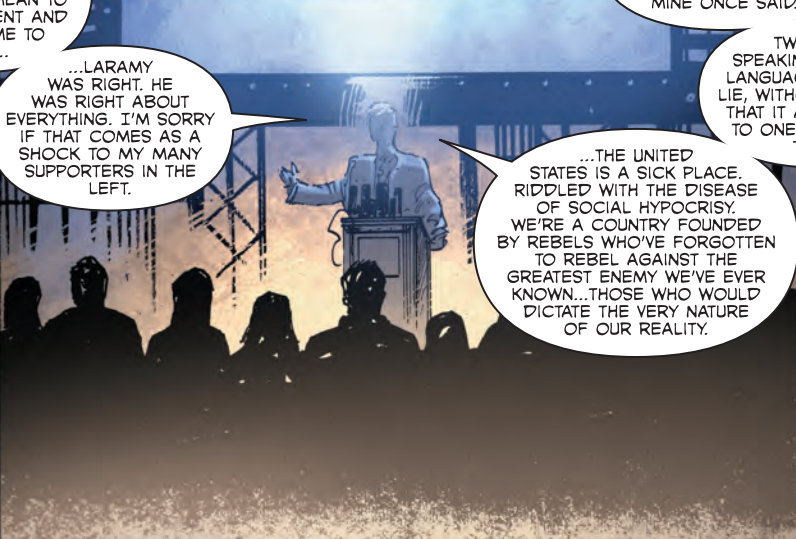
VOTE!

KENNETH AND I WERE ON TWO OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM. TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN, AS A FRIEND OF MINE ONCE SAID.

TWO SIDES SPEAKING THE SAME LANGUAGE, THE SAME LIE, WITHOUT REALIZING THAT IT ALL LEADS UP TO ONE INEXORABLE TRUTH:

...LARAMY WAS RIGHT. HE WAS RIGHT ABOUT EVERYTHING. I'M SORRY IF THAT COMES AS A SHOCK TO MY MANY SUPPORTERS IN THE LEFT.

...THE UNITED STATES IS A SICK PLACE. RIDDLED WITH THE DISEASE OF SOCIAL HYPOCRISY. WE'RE A COUNTRY FOUNDED BY REBELS WHO'VE FORGOTTEN TO REBEL AGAINST THE GREATEST ENEMY WE'VE EVER KNOWN...THOSE WHO WOULD DICTATE THE VERY NATURE OF OUR REALITY.



I'D RATHER WEATHER A STORM OF UPHEAVAL OR TAKE A BULLET THAN NOT USE MY POSITION TO PREVENT ME FROM FINALLY MOVING US INTO A NEW PHASE OF TRUE FREEDOM FROM THE SHACKLES OF...*THE FICTION* THAT IS MORALITY.

IT'S TIME TO UNITE.



THIS WILL BE OUR NEW AMERICA, AND WE'LL FASHION IT IN HONOR OF MY FALLEN COMRADE KENNETH LARAMY, WHO THOUGHT TOO CONTRARILY FOR THE POWERS THAT BE AND WAS PUT DOWN LIKE A MAD DOG.

THEY WILL DEMONIZE US. THEY WILL TRY TO FORCE US BACK INTO THE MONOTONY AND THE SHAME AND THE ENDLESS STAGNANCY.

IF IT MEANS BURNING DOWN THE LIE, WE WILL BE THEIR NAZIS, THEIR AL QAEDA, THEIR SITH, THEIR HYDRA...

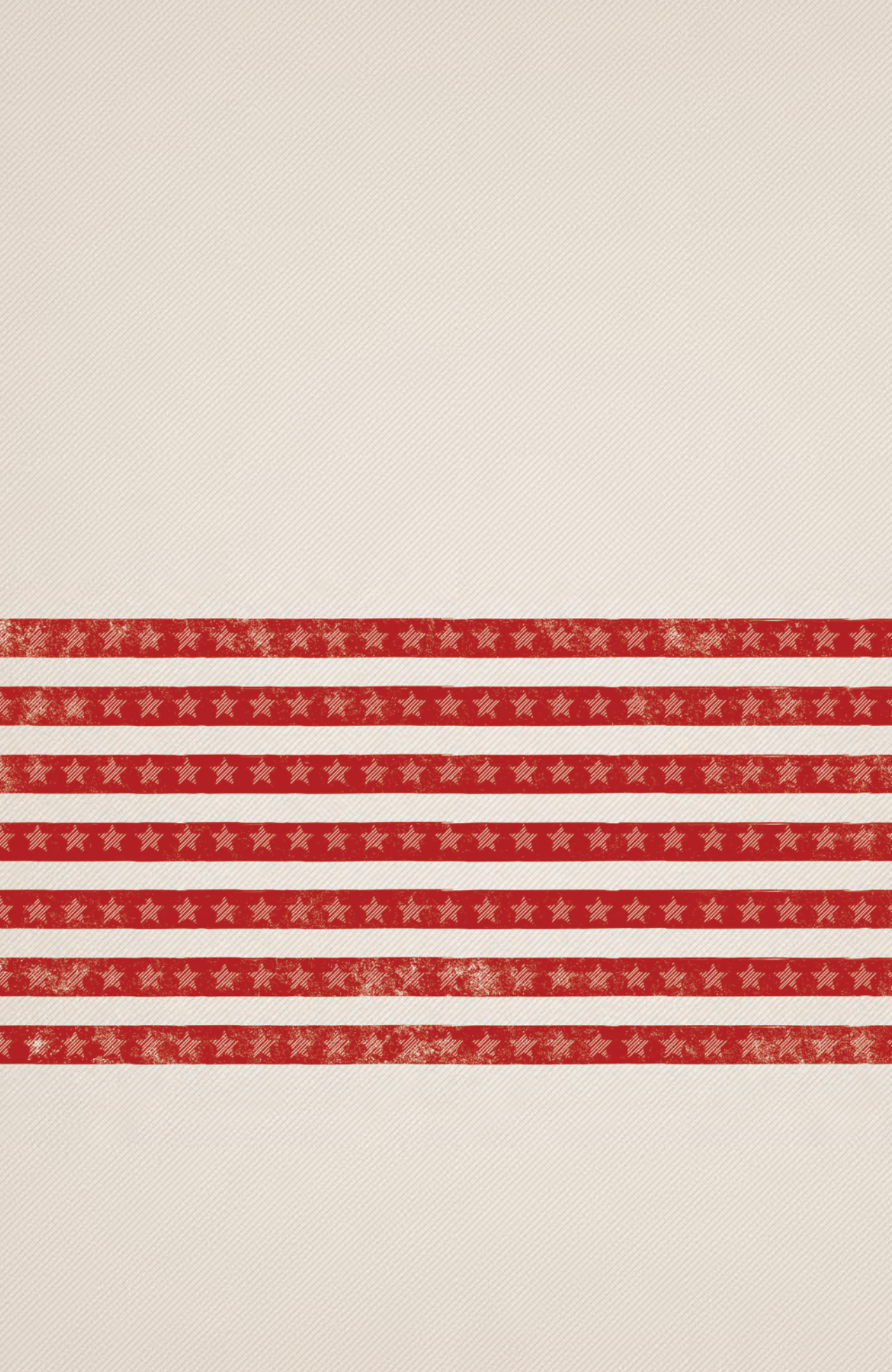
**WE WILL
BE THEIR
EVIL
EMPIRE.**



EVIL EMPIRE

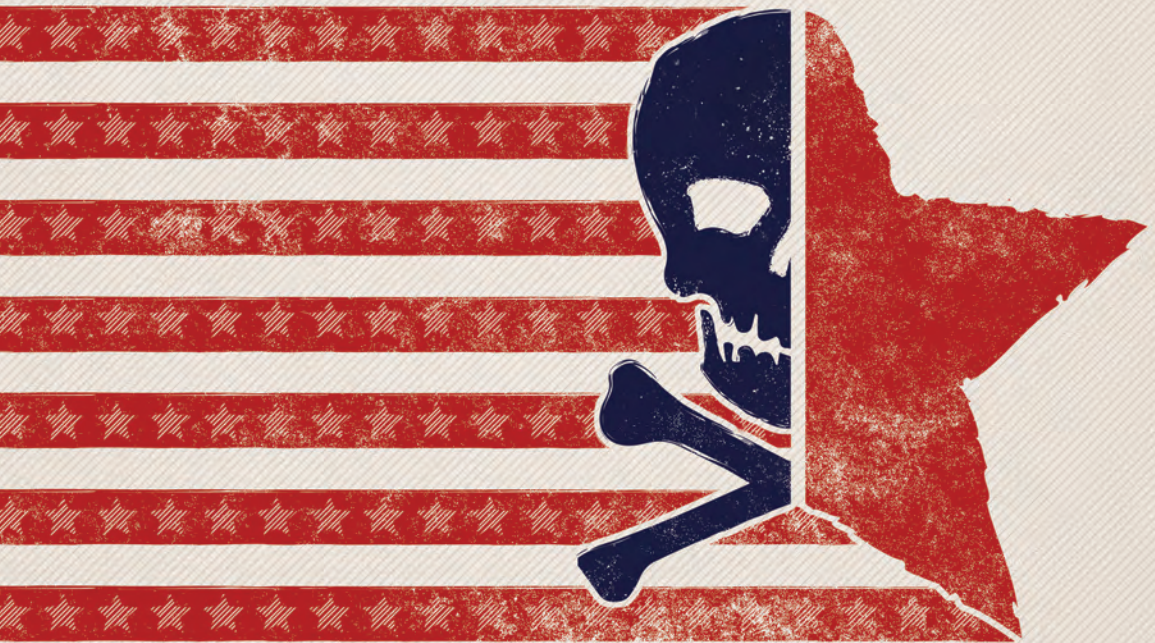


ISSUE FOUR COVER
JAY SHAW



COVER GALLERY

.....cc. 5.0 *No more false righteousness. No more imaginary boundaries.*





ROBBI RODRIGUEZ ISSUE ONE VARIANT COVER



Max Bemis
EVIL
EMPIRE

ISSUE ONE VARIANT COVER **JAY SHAW**





ISSUE ONE PHANTOM VARIANT **SCOTT NEWMAN**

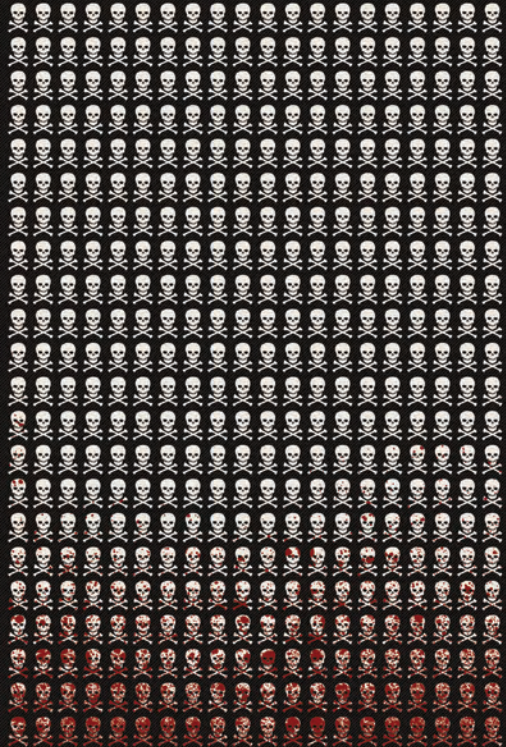






ISSUE TWO SECOND PRINT COVER **ANDRE DE FREITAS**

ONE DEATH IS A TRAGEDY;



ONE MILLION IS A STATISTIC.



ISSUE ONE

**DEATH IS THE SOLUTION
TO ALL PROBLEMS.**



■ DRUGS ■ HEALTH ■ SEX ■ WORK ■ MONEY

**NO MAN,
NO PROBLEM.**



ISSUE TWO

**POLITICS IS WAR
WITHOUT BLOODSHED.**



**WAR IS POLITICS
WITH BLOODSHED.**



ISSUE THREE

**THE SEED OF
REVOLUTION...**



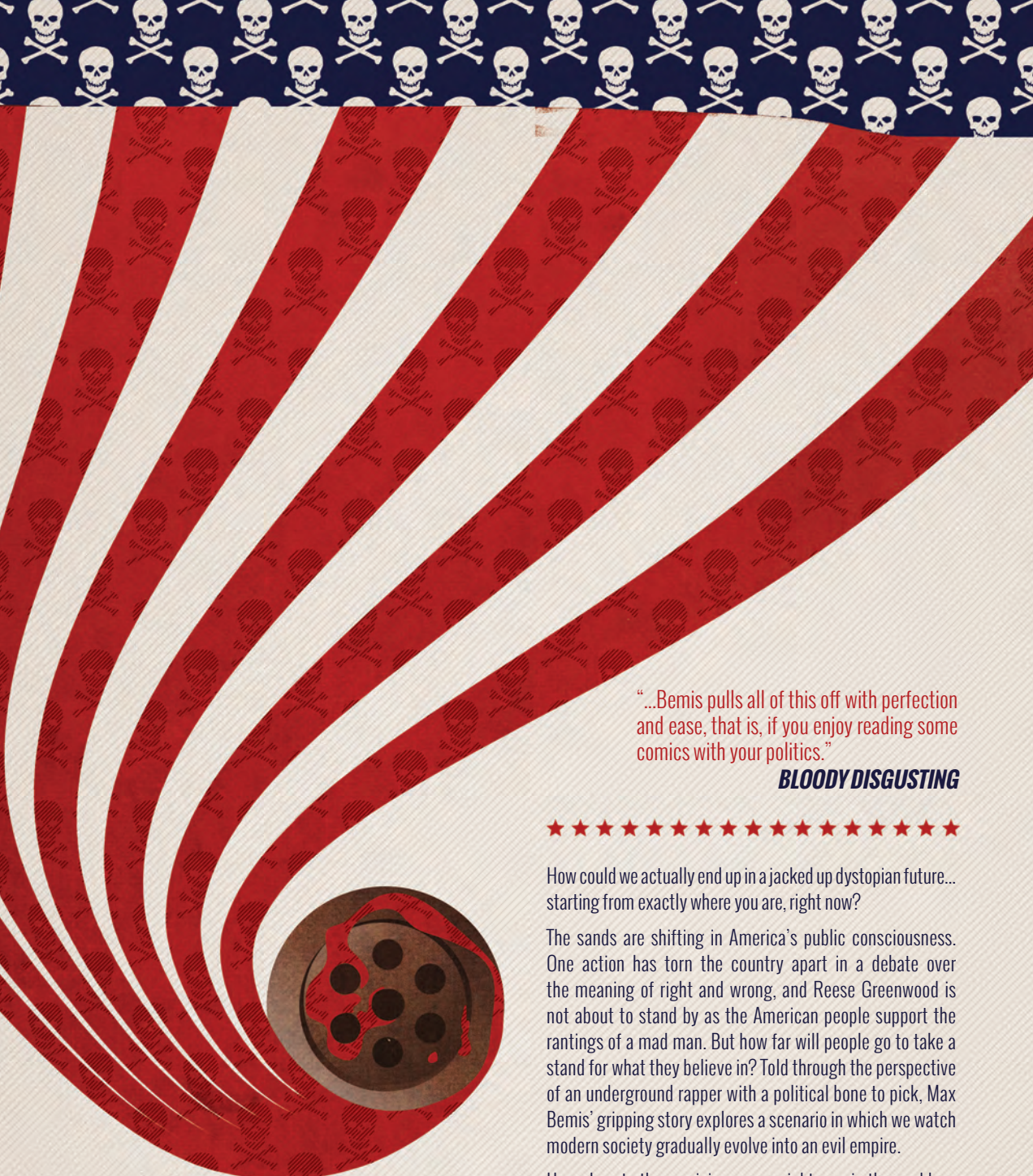
**...IS
REPRESSION.**



ISSUE FOUR



There is no such thing as evil and if there is...
*.....exc. 7.0 **I believe in it.***



“...Bemis pulls all of this off with perfection and ease, that is, if you enjoy reading some comics with your politics.”

BLOODY DISGUSTING



How could we actually end up in a jacked up dystopian future... starting from exactly where you are, right now?

The sands are shifting in America’s public consciousness. One action has torn the country apart in a debate over the meaning of right and wrong, and Reese Greenwood is not about to stand by as the American people support the rantings of a mad man. But how far will people go to take a stand for what they believe in? Told through the perspective of an underground rapper with a political bone to pick, Max Bemis’ gripping story explores a scenario in which we watch modern society gradually evolve into an evil empire.

How close to the precipice are we right now in the world we live in? Would we let it happen? More specific to this tale: Would we secretly WANT it to happen? **Max Bemis** (*Polarity*) and fan-favorite artists **Ransom Getty** (*Guarding the Globe*) and **Andrea Mutti** (*The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*) explore the horrifying answers in this riveting first volume.



“I was thoroughly impressed by the art in the comic and its flawless connection with the dystopian theme. It is gritty, and it is dark. It’s a beautiful piece of art I want on my shelf immediately.”

GEEKS UNLEASHED



SUGGESTED FOR MATURE READERS