

NOMINATED FOR THE **2015 GLAAD AWARD**
FOR OUTSTANDING COMIC BOOK

MEMETIC™



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BOOM![™]
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1





MEM



Hey man--you read the piece on Slate this morning? I'll email it to you. Good read.

@HORSERADICAL:
AAAAAH! I can't even!



About to swing by the coffee shop-- u want anything?

@BETSYBETSTER: Somehow I am always exactly seven minutes late for work. I will never know the secret why.



ETI



plz call me back im so sry i kssed mark

MOM! I forgot to email myself my paper! Can you send it to me right now! Class is in 5 Minutes.

@JAMESTHEFIFTH: I need a robot right now for reasons. All of the reasons.

7:05 A.M.

ur being ridiculous right now.



DAY ONE

all u have to do is apologize and everything will be fine again.

I know ur awake, ryan. The little circle thing on fb turned green.



GRAH!

THUNK



>Sigh<

JUST GO TO SLEEP, AARON. GO TO SLEEP LIKE A REGULAR HUMAN PERSON.

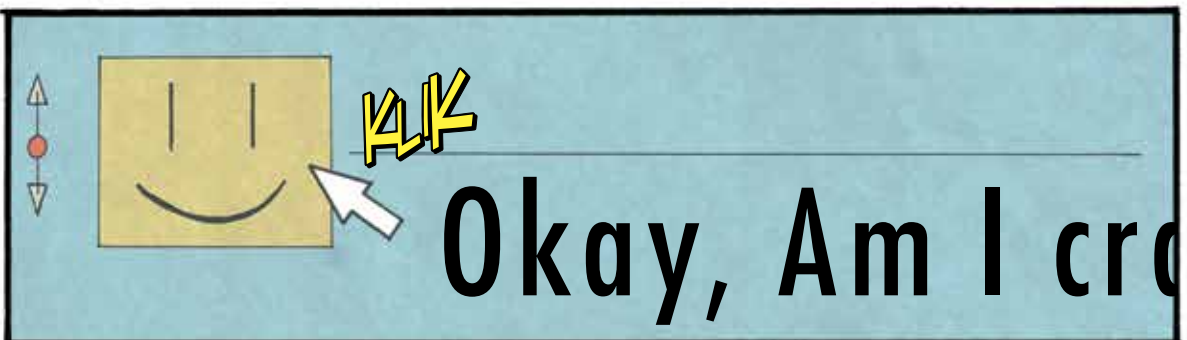
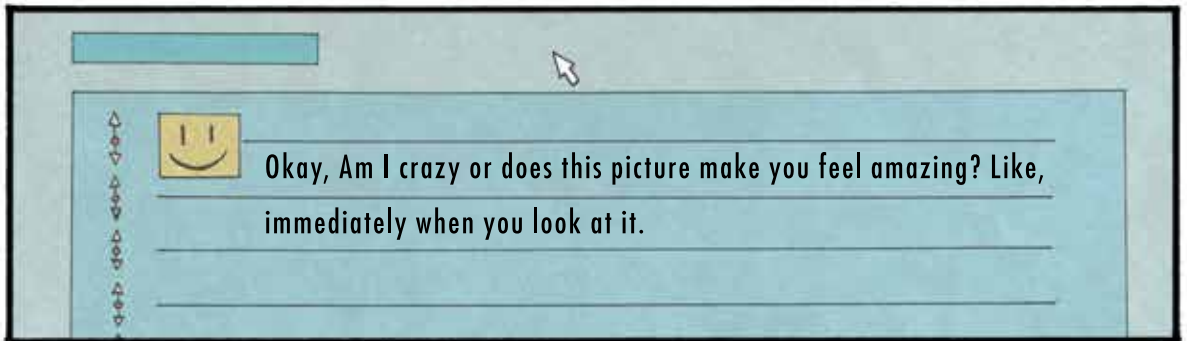
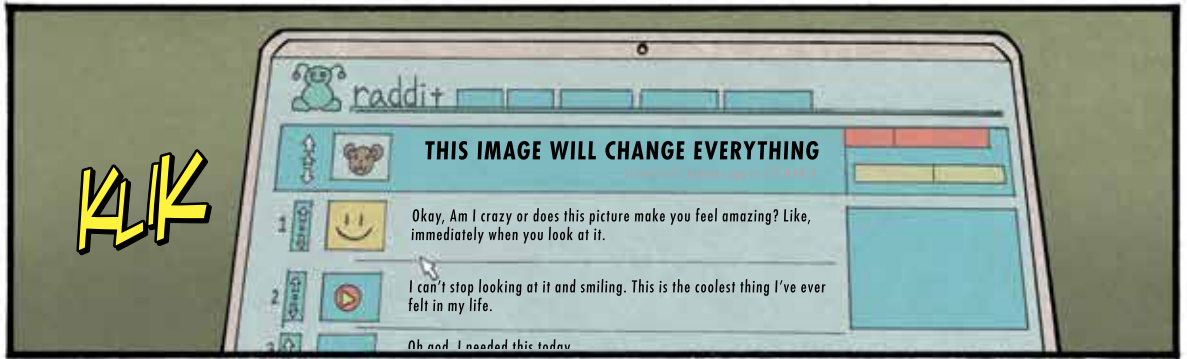


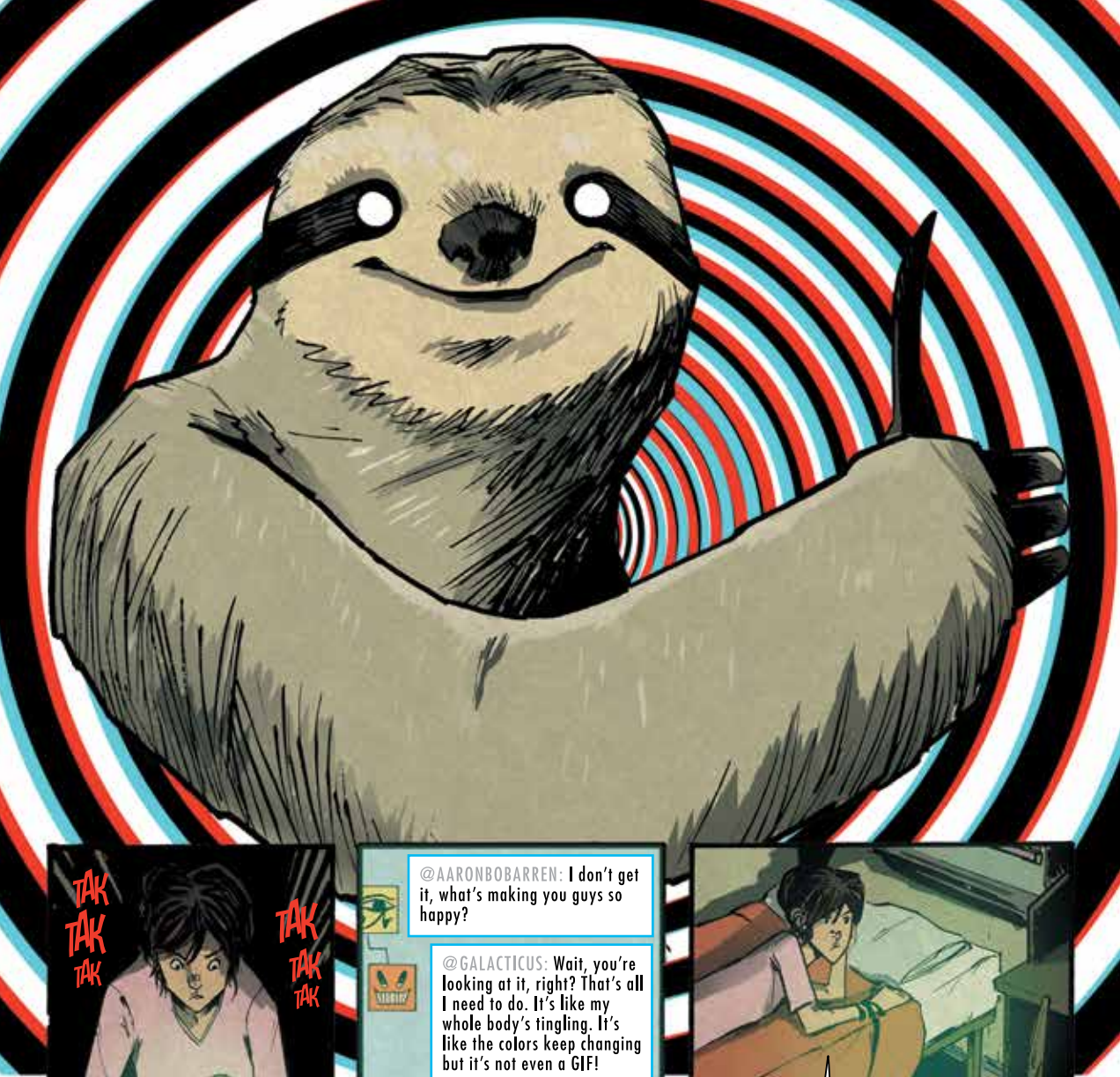
@AARONBOBARREN: You should all be very impressed with how I am not screaming right now.





OR JUST KEEP INTERNETTING UNTIL YOUR EYES FALL OUT.

THAT'S GOOD, TOO.

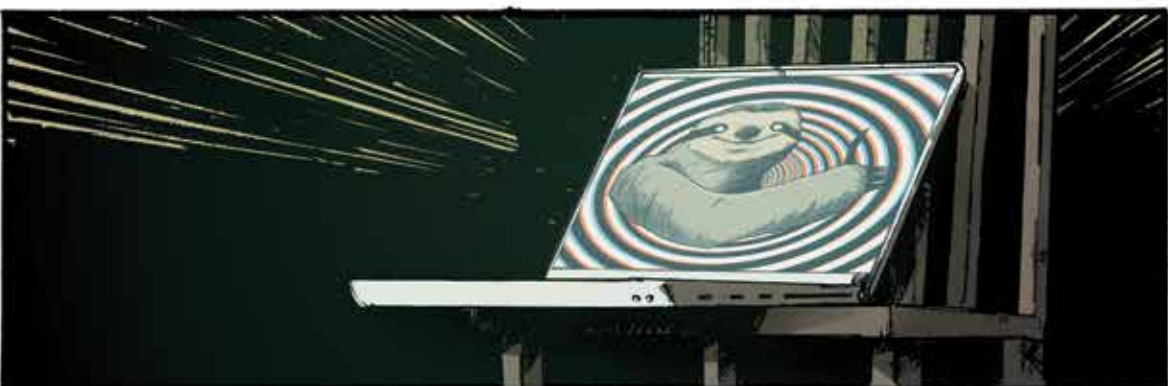




 @AARONBOBAREN: I don't get it, what's making you guys so happy?

 @GALACTICUS: Wait, you're looking at it, right? That's all I need to do. It's like my whole body's tingling. It's like the colors keep changing but it's not even a GIF!





10:15 A.M.



I HAVE BEEN CALLING YOU FOR THE LAST HOUR, YOU IDIOT.

Whuh? SARAH?



SORRY...MY HEARING AID WASN'T IN.

YOU HAVE TO SEE THIS.

KARI SENT IT TO ME BEFORE MY PHYSICS LECTURE, AND I COULDN'T STOP LOOKING AT MY PHONE ALL CLASS.



IT'S CRAZY...IT JUST MAKES YOU TINGLE WITH HAPPINESS.



YAWN

SAW IT ALREADY, BUT IT DOESN'T DO ANYTHING FOR ME.



MUTANT POWER, REMEMBER?



AH YES, THE EXTRAORDINARY POWER TO SEE NO COLOR. YOU'RE STRAIGHT OUT OF THE X-MEN FOR SURE.

I CAN SEE BLUE. I MEAN, I CAN'T TELL THAT IT'S BLUE, BUT THAT'S THE CONE I HAVE.

APPARENTLY.



THIS IS WEIRD. I AM USED TO SHARING NICE THINGS WITH YOU. THERE IS A PICTURE OF BOTH OF US AS NAKED BABIES SHARING A RUBBER DUCKY ALL FRIEND-LIKE.

HOW CAN WE BE BESTIES IF I CAN'T PUT WEIRD MAGIC SLOTH PICTURES IN YOUR FACE?



DOESN'T IT CREEP YOU OUT? I MEAN, THAT JUST SEEMS WEIRD, DOESN'T IT? MAKING PEOPLE FEEL ALL WEIRD.

NOT THAT I COULDN'T USE A LITTLE JOLT OF HAPPY RIGHT NOW.

YOU AND RYAN DIDN'T MAKE UP YET, huh?



NO...



THIS IS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY, THEN. HAVE YOU SEEN THE BOYS ON THIS CAMPUS? DUMP YOUR DUMB HIGH SCHOOL BOYFRIEND AND START MAKING OUT WITH THEM, STAT.

YOU'RE NOT HELPING.



I'M STEALING YOUR COMPUTER.

OF COURSE YOU ARE.



SEE? LOOK. KEEP SCROLLING DOWN ON FACEBOOK AND IT'S ALL YOU SEE. THE SAME IMAGE, OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

SERIOUSLY, SARAH...YOU DON'T FIND THIS ALL A LITTLE STRANGE?

YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND, AARON...I WISH YOU DID.



YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS, RIGHT? WE'RE GOING TO START GETTING EMAILS FROM OUR PARENTS ABOUT IT ANY MINUTE NOW.

Heh. IT'D JUST HAVE TO SHOW UP ON THE NEWS FIRST.

AND HERE'S A CURIOUS STORY FOR YOU THIS MORNING...A STRANGE IMAGE WAS POSTED ON THE POPULAR INTERNET MESSAGE BOARD REDDIT THIS MORNING THAT'S SETTING THE INTERNET ON FIRE.



IT MIGHT LOOK JUST LIKE A HAPPY SLOTH, BUT PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD ARE REPORTING FEELING WAVES OF EUPHORIA EACH TIME THEY LOOK AT IT.

POSTED FROM AN ACCOUNT THAT WAS CREATED MINUTES BEFORE THE IMAGE WENT ONLINE, NO ONE IS ENTIRELY CERTAIN HOW THIS IMAGE IS CREATING THIS EFFECT.



I HAVE EXAMINED THIS PICTURE THOROUGHLY, AND THERE IS NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY ABOUT IT.

BUT DR. CAVANAUGH, THE FEELING--



I HAVE FELT IT TOO, I AM JUST SAYING THAT I CANNOT EXPLAIN IT IN ANY WAY. NOTHING ABOUT THE IMAGE SHOULD TRIGGER ANY UNUSUAL RESPONSE.

BUT IT DOES--

YES, IT DOES.



MASS DELUSION OR SOMETHING MORE... WE'LL BE KEEPING YOU UPDATED ON THAT HAPPY LITTLE SLOTH AFTER THIS MORNING'S NEWS.

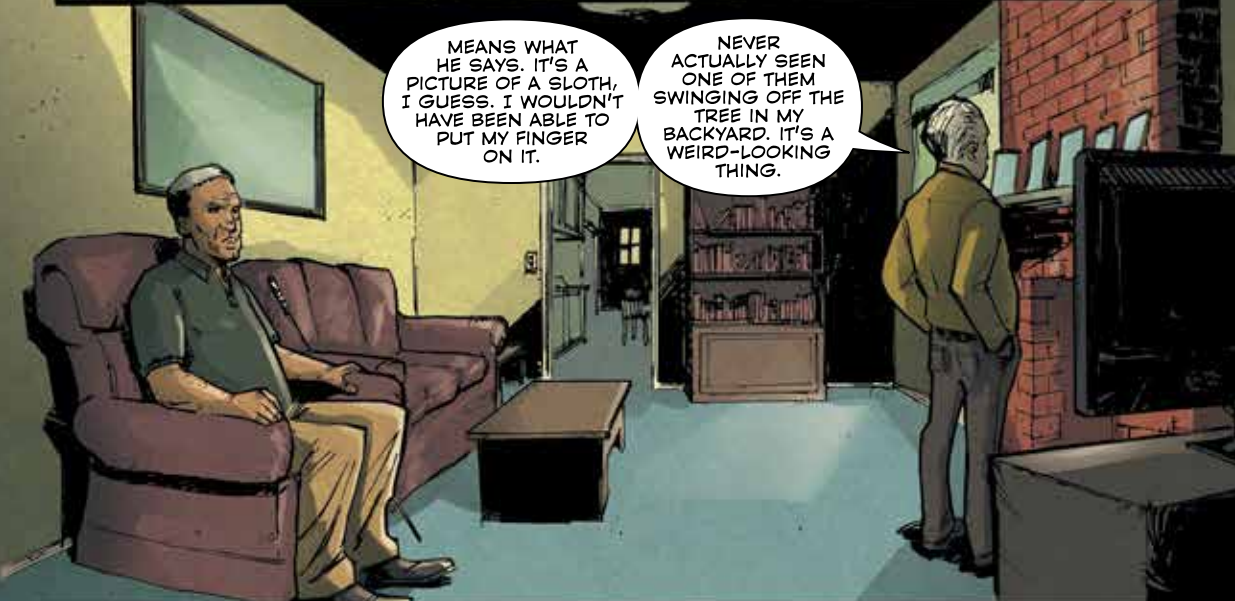
"WHAT I WANT TO UNDERSTAND IS WHAT THE DAMN THING LOOKS LIKE."



12:15 P.M.



THE HELL DOES HE MEAN, "HAPPY LITTLE SLOTH?"



MEANS WHAT HE SAYS. IT'S A PICTURE OF A SLOTH, I GUESS. I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PUT MY FINGER ON IT.

NEVER ACTUALLY SEEN ONE OF THEM SWINGING OFF THE TREE IN MY BACKYARD. IT'S A WEIRD-LOOKING THING.

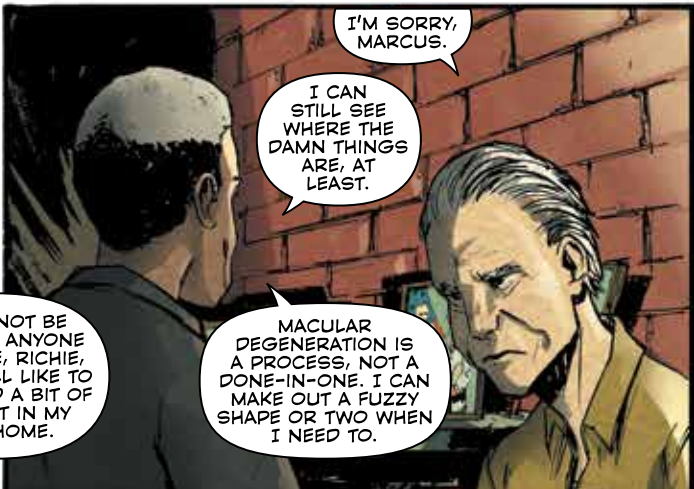


YOU STILL GET THESE CLEANED EVERY WEEK, huh? DON'T MATTER THAT YOU CAN'T SEE 'EM NONE?



WHAT MATTERS IS THAT YOU CAN SEE THEM.

MIGHT NOT BE MUCH OF ANYONE ANYMORE, RICHIE, BUT I STILL LIKE TO COMMAND A BIT OF RESPECT IN MY OWN HOME.



I'M SORRY, MARCUS.

I CAN STILL SEE WHERE THE DAMN THINGS ARE, AT LEAST.

MACULAR DEGENERATION IS A PROCESS, NOT A DONE-IN-ONE. I CAN MAKE OUT A FUZZY SHAPE OR TWO WHEN I NEED TO.



SO, TELL ME ABOUT THIS SLOTH. YOU FEEL IT THE WAY THEY'RE SAYING? THE TINGLING...

IT'S MORE THAN A TINGLING...



I'VE BEEN SO LONELY, MARCUS, FOR SUCH A LONG TIME NOW. EVER SINCE MARTHA PASSED I'VE BEEN ALONE...

I LOOK AT THAT PICTURE AND I FEEL LIKE EVERYTHING'S OKAY.



I FEEL...



RICHIE?

...



I WISH YOU COULD FEEL WHAT I FEEL, MARCUS. I WISH YOU COULD SEE IT.



Hrm...

**BRING
BRING**

JAFFEY
HERE.

COLONEL.
IT'S MARCUS
SHAW.

MARCUS, IT'S BEEN
A WHILE. TO WHAT
DO I OWE THE
PLEASURE...

I'M
CONCERNED
ABOUT THIS
PICTURE THAT'S
FLOATING
AROUND.

THE
SLOTH
THING?

WHEN I WAS RUNNING THE
DEPARTMENT THERE WAS A
PAPER WRITTEN, THIS WOULD
HAVE BEEN 1996 OR SO...
BARBARA XIANG'S PIECE
ON WEAPONIZED
MEMETICS.

MARCUS,
I REALIZE YOU
CAN'T SEE IT
YOURSELF...

...IF YOU DID
YOU'D REALIZE
THERE'S NOTHING
TO BE CONCERNED
ABOUT. IT'S JUST A
SILLY PICTURE ON
THE INTERNET.

SO,
YOU'VE
LOOKED
INTO IT?



...COLONEL?

...

I'M SORRY,
MARCUS. I HAVE
TOO MUCH ON MY
PLATE TO CATCH
UP MORE RIGHT
NOW.

KLIK

THIS IS SHAW
AGAIN.

CONNECT
ME TO
BARBARA
XIANG'S
OFFICE.

TAYLOR SWIFT MESSAGES SLOTH TO EACH OF HER TWITTER FOLLOWERS?

WHERE WERE YOU WHEN YOU SAW THE SLOTH?



SLOTH PARODY VIDEOS TEAR UP YOUTUBE

GEEKER



FLORIDA PASTOR CLAIMS GOOD TIMES SLOTH PROOF OF THE EXISTENCE OF GOD



That link you sent me doesn't work anymore, WTF?!

@GOOGLICIOUS: OMG. Reddit just crashed. I NEED MORE SLOTH!

Honey have you seen this? It's so wonderful!

@DOCTORROBOT: I just want to keep staring at the sloth and writhe naked in my bed a bit. TMI?

@ARMIESANDLEGSIES: I totally thought I'd be sick of it by now.

It's just so beautiful.



1:32 P.M.



It's crazy, Ryan... Everyone's eyes are just glued to their phones.



I just saw someone walk into a wall, crying.

They're like zombies. I really don't like this. Promise me you won't look at it, okay? I don't want to see you like them.

And plz text me back... I'm feeling pretty alone in all of this and I feel terrible about last night.



I wish you could see this...

Hell, I almost wish I could see this.

I miss you.



OPEN THE DAMN DOOR, MARCUS.

**KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK**

BARBARA, IS THAT YOU? IT'S ALMOST 2 HOURS FROM WASHINGTON.

WAS MAKING MY WAY UP FROM MYRTLE BEACH. MOM SAYS HI, BY THE WAY.

WELL, ACTUALLY SHE SAID YOU WERE A CRAP BOSS AND I SHOULDN'T TAKE YOUR PHONE CALLS ANYMORE. BUT THAT'S A "HI" IN HER OWN SPECIAL LITTLE WAY.

3:45 P.M.



Heh. GLAD I MADE SUCH AN IMPRESSION.

SHE'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU FOR ME MISSING MY SISTER'S WEDDING.

I DON'T REMEMBER MAKING YOU MISS A WEDDING...



OH, YOU DIDN'T. BUT I BLAMED YOU THOROUGHLY.

IT'S BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME, MARCUS... YOU LOOK GOOD.



I WOULDN'T KNOW.

NO, I GUESS YOU WOULDN'T.

HAVE YOU SEEN IT? THIS IMAGE THEY'RE ALL TALKING ABOUT.



NO, AND I DON'T PLAN TO...

...BUT IT'S GETTING HARDER. PEOPLE WANT THIS TO BE SEEN. THEY'RE BEING DRIVEN TO SPREAD IT.



SO YOU AGREE...THIS IS WHAT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.

THIS IS MEMETIC WARFARE... THIS IS A MEME.



OF COURSE IT'S A MEME, MARCUS. IT'D BE HARDER TO PINPOINT SOMETHING THAT ISN'T A MEME.



A MEME IS JUST AN IDEA. A PIECE OF INFORMATION THAT SPREADS FROM PERSON TO PERSON.

EVOLUTIONARY MEMETICS DESCRIBES HOW HUMAN BEINGS TAKE HELPFUL PIECES OF INFORMATION AND SPREAD THEM, TO HELP FURTHER OUR SPECIES.

LIKE HOW TO BUILD A FIRE, OR SPEAK A COMMON LANGUAGE.



BUT NOWADAYS THAT'S NOT THE INFORMATION WE CHOOSE TO SPREAD. WE SPREAD DISCORD AND INANITY. CAT VIDEOS AND HATEFUL QUOTES FROM OUR LEAST FAVORITE POLITICIANS.



BUT I'VE ALWAYS BEEN AFRAID OF IT BECOMING SOMETHING FAR MORE DESTRUCTIVE.



DO YOU REMEMBER RODNEY KING?

IS THAT A JOKE?

ALL IT TOOK WAS THE SINGLE PIECE OF INFORMATION, THOSE OFFICERS BEING ACQUITTED, SPREAD BY PHONE AND MEDIA, TO INCITE MAJOR RIOTS.



THE INTERNET WAS SO NEW THEN, ON A POPULAR SCALE AT LEAST. IT DIDN'T PLAY A HAND IN THE DESTRUCTION THAT WEEK. BUT I REMEMBER LOOKING AT MY ACCOUNT ON AOL AND FEELING A SHIVER RUN DOWN MY SPINE.



THE IDEA OF HOW QUICKLY A SINGLE DESTRUCTIVE IDEA COULD SPREAD THROUGH THOSE CHATROOMS AND EMAIL SYSTEMS, DISPERSED TO EVERYONE WITH A COMPUTER IN A MATTER OF HOURS.

AND THAT WAS BEFORE SOCIAL MEDIA IN ANY REAL SENSE, THE CORE OF WHICH IS SPREADING INFORMATION. SPREADING MEMES.



BUT THIS...IT'S A DAMN SLOTH, BARBARA.

I'VE BEEN WORKING ON AN UPDATED VERSION OF THE PAPER FOR OVER A YEAR, BUT JAFFEY WON'T HEAR IT. HE DOESN'T SEE THE THREAT.

THAT'S WHY I'M SO AFRAID, MARCUS.



I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THIS IS.



I HAVE NO IDEA HOW YOU CAN CREATE A SIMPLE IMAGE THAT CREATES THIS KIND OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT. THIS EUPHORIA.

I SPENT THE LAST HOUR TALKING TO THREE DIFFERENT EXPERTS. THEY'RE ALL BAFFLED BY IT.

AND THE LONGER THEY LOOK AT IT, THE HARDER IT IS TO GET THEM TO FOCUS.



COULD YOU TRACE THE ACCOUNT THAT POSTED IT? COULD YOU DO THAT WITHOUT LOOKING AT IT?

I'D NEED APPROVAL FROM JAFFEY TO COMPLETELY DEDICATE THAT TEAM.



COULD YOU WORK AROUND THAT?

DEFINITELY.



JUST...STAY SAFE, BARBARA...THERE'S SOMETHING VERY WRONG GOING ON HERE. AND I HAVE THE WORST FEELING IT'S ALL GOING TO GET MUCH, MUCH WORSE.

NOW, HAVE YOU SEEN THIS IMAGE THAT'S ALL THE RAGE ONLINE, MR. PRESIDENT?

HAHAHA, YES. MY DAUGHTER SHOWED IT TO ME RIGHT BEFORE SHE WENT TO SCHOOL THIS MORNING.

FUNNY LITTLE THING, ISN'T IT?

G



TWITTER RELEASES REPORT
GOOD TIMES SLOTH MOST RAPIDLY SPREAD
PIECE OF INFORMATION ON THEIR SERVERS.
UPDATE: FACEBOOK AGREES!

IT APPEARS THAT THE POPULAR MESSAGE BOARD SERVICE REDDIT CRASHED SHORTLY AFTER OUR BROADCAST EARLY IN THE DAY.

BUT PEOPLE SEEKING OUT AMERICA'S FAVORITE SLOTH CAN REST EASY, AS THOUSANDS OF MIRROR SITES HOSTING THE IMAGE ARE GOING UP EVERY MINUTE.



ЭТА МАЛЕНЬКАЯ ЛЕНЬ БЕРЕТ МИРА.

Хорошо
Лень Таймс



CHECK OUT THIS AMAZING INFOGRAPH
SHOWING THE SPREAD OF THE GOOD TIMES SLOTH AROUND THE WORLD.

AN ESTIMATED 400 MILLION HAVE ALREADY SEEN...



最新新聞

懶惰是很受歡迎

Augh...
FACEBOOK
WON'T
LOAD...

6:57 P.M.

HERE,
GOODTIMES-
SLOTH.COM. IT
JUST WENT UP.
GO BEFORE IT
CRASHES.

THANKS,
BASTIAN.

YOU GUYS
SHOULD REALLY
CUT THAT OUT...
THIS ISN'T
NATURAL.

SARAH? ARE
YOU LISTENING
TO ME? THIS
ISN'T OKAY...

SO GLAD I
DECIDED TO COME
DOWN HERE FOR
DINNER WITH ALL
OF YOU.

YOU GUYS JUST
MISSED THE BEST
PHILOSOPHY
CLASS EVER.

OH, HEY,
MARTIN.

MS. GORDON
TOLD US TO JUST
CLEAR OUR MINDS
WHILE WE LOOKED
AT THE IMAGE FOR
THE FULL 90
MINUTES.

WHEN SHE REALIZED
CLASS WAS OVER SHE
SAID SHE ONLY MEANT TO
BRING IT UP FOR A FEW
MINUTES, BUT TIME
JUST GOT AWAY
FROM US.

SOUNDS
ABOUT AS USEFUL
AS 90 MINUTES OF
PHILOSOPHY.

DUDE, THIS IS
IMPORTANT. I'M
JUST HAPPY I WAS
THERE RIGHT AT
THE START.





WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I SAW THE POST GO UP. I WAS PROBABLY ONE OF THE FIRST PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY TO SEE IT.



I WAS PRETTY CLOSE, TOO...IT WAS LIKE 7:15 OR SOMETHING WHEN I CRASHED. I SAW IT AROUND THEN.

I MEAN, I LITERALLY SAW IT GO UP. IT WAS 7:04 A.M.



FINE THEN, YOU WIN. CAN WE PLEASE TALK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE?



LOOK, MAN, I'M SORRY YOU CAN'T SEE HOW AMAZING THIS IS, BUT...



MARTIN?



UHHH...
UHHH...

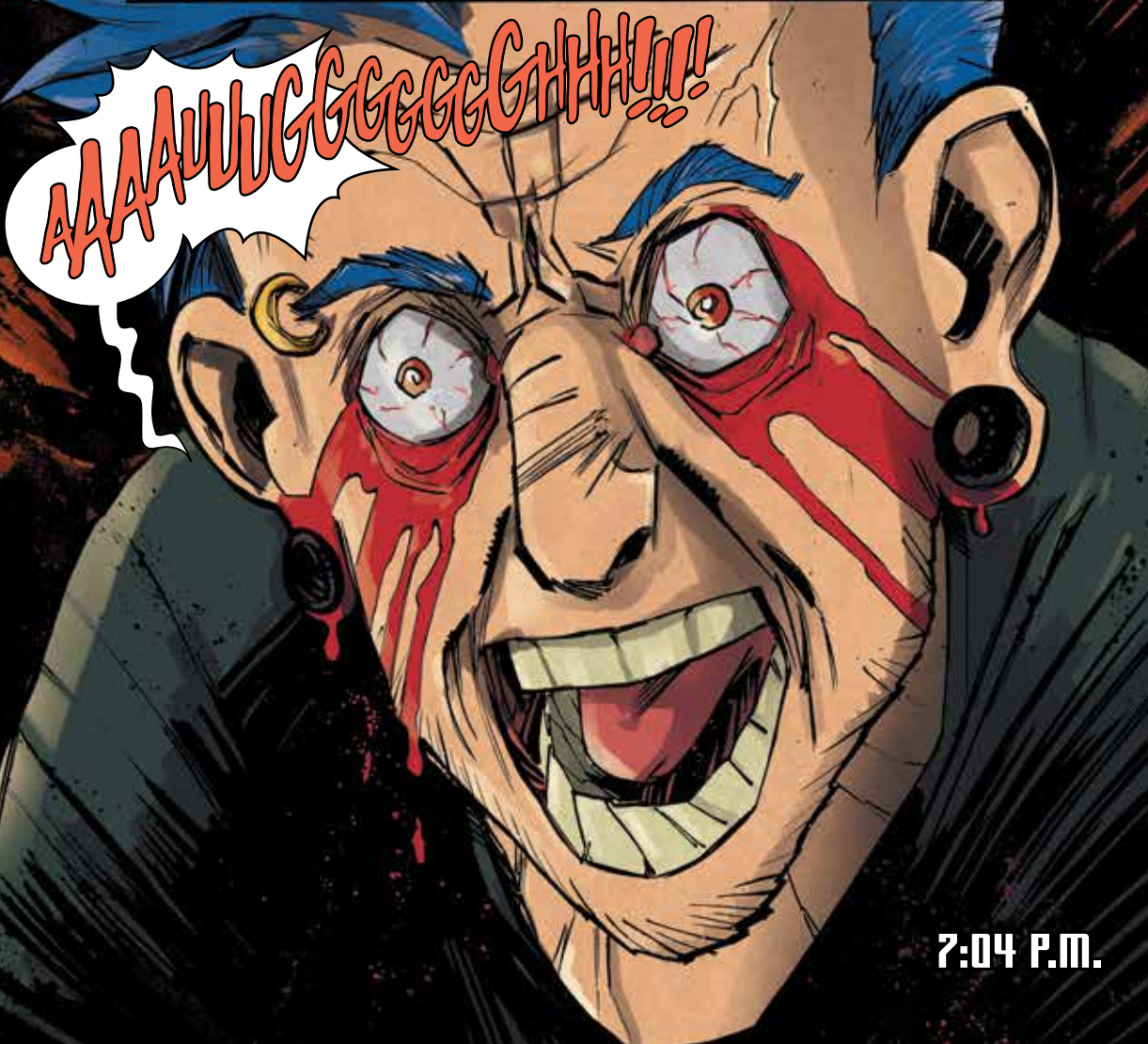


WHAT'S
HAPPENING?

I...I DON'T
KNOW.



UAAAAHHH...



AAAAUUUGGGGGGGHHH!!!

7:04 P.M.





WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE...

HE NEEDS... HE NEEDS HELP...



AAUUGGGGHHH!!



JUST GET TO THE DOOR!

EVERYONE GET AWAY FROM HIM! HE'S DANGEROUS!



WHAT--WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

CALLING 911... DAMMIT... I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING MESSED-UP ABOUT ALL OF THIS.



THE LINE...IT'S BUSY.



WHAT'S HAPPENING??



@POTTERMOM876: My baby boy... He can't hear me anymore. Why can't he hear me? Why can't he stop screaming?

GEEKER

THIRTEEN PEOPLE START SCREAMING AND ATTACKING BYSTANDERS IN GRAND CENTRAL STATION



@NotifyNYC: Reports of riots in all five boroughs. If you hear screaming outside, stay in your homes.

SOME ARE SUGGESTING THAT THERE MAY BE A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE VIRAL IMAGE OF THE GOOD TIMES SLOTH THAT'S BEEN MAKING ITS WAY AROUND THE INTERNET ALL DAY...



CITIES AROUND THE WORLD REPORT OUTBREAK OF SCREAMING RIOTS

SWARMS OF SCREAMING MEN AND WOMEN, BLEEDING FROM THE EYES, JUST ATTACKED AND KILLED THREE POLICE OFFICERS IN TRAFALGAR SQUARE.



WE WERE ABLE TO SUBDUDE ONE OF THEM LONG ENOUGH TO GET A PRELIMINARY BRAINSCAN, AND THERE WAS NO ACTIVITY TO BE FOUND.



8:57 P.M.

BRRNG

SHAW.

PACK YOUR BAGS. THERE'S A CAR ON ITS WAY.

THE REST OF THEM ARE USELESS NOW, MARCUS. THEY'VE ALL BEEN STARING AT THE DAMN THING SINCE MORNING. I NEED YOU IN D.C. RIGHT NOW.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

WE KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING...OH GOD, MARCUS, THIS IS SO MUCH WORSE THAN I EVER IMAGINED.

THE PRESIDENT IS ABOUT TO ADDRESS THE COUNTRY. HE'S GOING TO TELL THEM--

BARBARA, YOU'RE CRYING...

WELCOME

JUST GET READY, MARCUS. THERE MIGHT BE NO FIXING THIS...

KLK

CRASH



9:03 P.M.



Ryan, just let me know you're okay... I need to know you're okay.



STILL NOTHING?

NOTHING.

THIS IS CRAZY... THEY'RE SAYING IT'S HAPPENING ALL OVER THE WORLD...



MORE AND MORE PEOPLE SCREAMING...

WAIT, TURN IT UP...

Huh?



THE PRESIDENT--

MY FELLOW AMERICANS.



WE ARE CUTTING INTO ALL BROADCASTS RIGHT NOW, ACROSS EVERY NETWORK, BROADCAST AND CABLE. THE NEWS I HAVE IS DIRE, AND IT IS IMPORTANT IT REACH AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE.



TODAY WE ARE FACED WITH SOMETHING WE ARE ONLY BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND, AND FOR MANY OF US IT MIGHT ALREADY BE TOO LATE.

THIS MORNING, AN IMAGE WAS POSTED ONLINE THAT QUICKLY BECAME THE FASTEST SPREADING VIRAL PIECE OF INFORMATION IN THE HISTORY OF THE PLANET.

I AM SPEAKING, OF COURSE, OF THE SO-CALLED GOOD TIMES SLOTH.



EXPERTS TELL ME THAT ROUGHLY 500 MILLION PEOPLE ACROSS THE WORLD HAVE SEEN THIS IMAGE, AND THAT NUMBER IS GROWING EXPONENTIALLY.



MY FIRST UNILATERAL ACT WILL BE TO SHUT DOWN OUR GREAT NATION'S COMMUNICATIONS GRID, INCLUDING ALL CELL TOWERS AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AT THE END OF THIS BROADCAST.



I AM ORDERING THE SHUTDOWN OR DESTRUCTION OF EVERY INTERNET SERVER WITHIN THE BORDERS OF THIS COUNTRY. I AM RECOMMENDING MY FELLOW WORLD LEADERS TO TAKE A SIMILAR COURSE OF ACTION.



WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?! WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS, RICHIE?!!

TWELVE HOURS AFTER SEEING THE IMAGE...

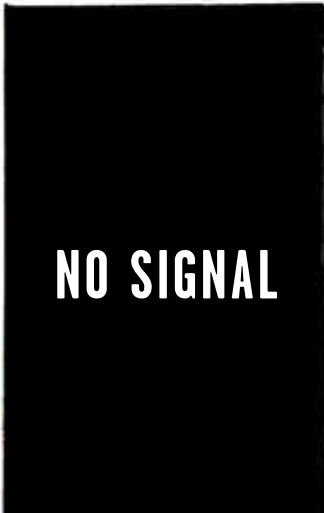


...THE HUMAN BRAIN APPEARS TO SHUT DOWN, LEAVING VIOLENT, SCREAMING HUSKS OF THE PEOPLE WE KNOW AND LOVE.



SIR, HE'S GONE.

WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE. THE STREETS ARE STARTING TO SWARM. IT'S NOT SAFE.





I...I HAVE TO GO HOME.
I HAVE TO SEE MY MOM.



SARAH... YOU SAW IT BEFORE YOUR FIRST CLASS... THERE'S ONLY 45 MINUTES BEFORE...

I NEED TO GO NOW.



BUT THERE ARE SO MANY SCREAMERS ALREADY, AND YOU LIVE TWO HOURS AW--

I HAVE TO TRY!



PLEASE DON'T LEAVE ME...DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE...

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! YOU'RE NOT PART OF THIS...I NEED TO SEE THEM!

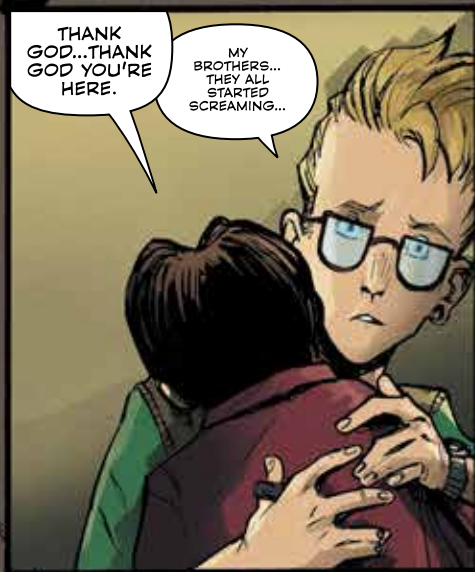
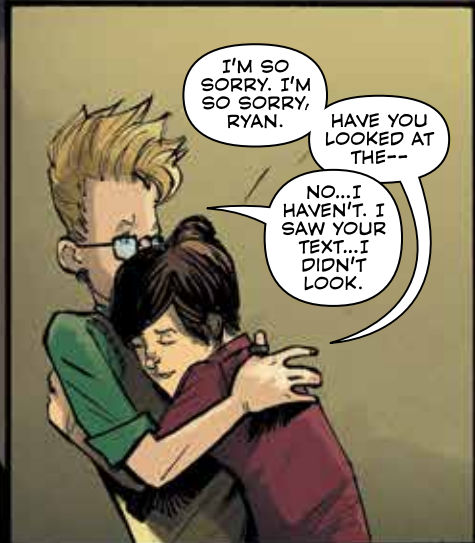


WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?



I LOVE YOU, AARON.
I ALWAYS DID.





END OF DAY ONE





2



THIS IS A MESSAGE OF THE EMERGENCY BROADCAST SYSTEM.

ALL VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS SHOULD BE TREATED AS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS, AND SHOULD BE DESTROYED ON SIGHT.

CAN... CAN YOU HEAR ME?



STAY IN YOUR HOMES. KEEP YOUR DOORS AND WINDOWS LOCKED. DO NOT OPEN THEM FOR ANYONE.

POLICE AND NATIONAL GUARD HAVE BEEN DISPATCHED TO EVERY COMMUNITY TO ENSURE ORDERLY CONTACT.

THEY KILLED THEM ALL... MY WHOLE FAMILY.



STAY TUNED TO THIS STATION, AS WE WILL BE UPDATING THIS BROADCAST INTERMITTENTLY.

THE SCREAMERS ARE EVERYWHERE... THERE'S NO HOPE...



ARE YOU LISTENING? IS ANYONE OUT THERE?!



8:39 A.M.

DAY TWO



WE NEED TO DECIDE WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO. IT ISN'T SAFE HERE.

THERE ARE TOO MANY COMPUTERS AND SCREENS...WAYS YOU COULD STILL SEE THAT DAMN SLOTH.



WHAT'S WRONG?



IT'S...

IT'S JUST ALL SO HARD TO PROCESS.



I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'RE GONE. MY BROTHERS...MY MOM...

HOW COULD A SILLY LITTLE PICTURE ON A COMPUTER DO THIS TO THE WORLD?



HEY, BUDDY...IT'S OKAY, I'M HERE.

DO YOU KNOW HOW AFRAID I WAS YESTERDAY, WHEN EVERYTHING WAS FALLING APART, THAT I'D NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN?



YOU KNOW HOW BAD I GET...HOW ALONE I FEEL. I CAN BARELY TALK TO MY MOM AND DAD...

YOU'RE THE ONLY PERSON I'VE EVER FELT LIKE MYSELF AROUND. YOU DON'T CARE THAT I'M BROKEN.



YOU'RE NOT BROKEN, AARON.

I WILL BE IF I DON'T GET A REFILL OF MY...



THE MEDICAL CENTER.

WHAT?



THEY BUILT THAT THING TO WITHSTAND RIOTS ON CAMPUS BACK IN THE SEVENTIES. IT'S LIKE THIS HUGE FORTRESS. TEN BUILDINGS CONNECTED BY WALKWAYS.

THEY'LL HAVE FOOD, AND I KNOW THE HEAD DOCTOR BECAUSE OF ALL MY HEALTH PROBLEMS. HE COMES OVER FOR CHRISTMAS EVERY YEAR.



HELL, I EVEN REMEMBER THE CODE FOR THE GARAGE. I BET MY MOM AND DAD ARE ALREADY IN THERE.



WE'LL BE SAFE.



DO YOU THINK... DO YOU THINK THEY'LL HAVE A CURE?



PROBABLY!

THIS IS PERFECT. COME ON. LET'S GO.





GOT TO CHANGE THEM ALL...



HAVE TO MAKE THEM ALL SEE IT...

HAVE TO BRING AROUND THE NEW TOMORROW.



IT'S STRANGE, BARBARA... I CAN HARDLY HEAR THEM ANYMORE.

THE SCREAMERS.

THE MEN HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO SHOOT THEM ON SIGHT.

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT? IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD OUT THERE.

ALL RIGHT, EVERYBODY... STANDING BEFORE YOU IS COLONEL MARCUS SHAW. HE USED TO RUN THIS DEPARTMENT, SO DON'T YOU EMBARRASS ME.

YOU KNOW I'M MORE LIKELY TO KILL YOU THAN THOSE MONSTERS OUT THERE.

YOUR TENTACLES ARE PRETTY SCARY, BARB.

ENOUGH.

I NEED TO HEAR YOUR VOICES. ONE AT A TIME.

I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE STANDING IN THIS ROOM RIGHT NOW. ALL I'M GOING TO HAVE IS YOUR VOICES, SO I WANT TO HEAR THEM NOW.

YOU FIRST. CLOWNBOY.

IS THAT SO?

LIEUTENANT FIRST CLASS CLOWNBOY, IF YOU WILL, SIR.

NO, NOT EVEN A LITTLE BIT. DR. PETER KLEIN. CIVILIAN. BARBARA BROUGHT ME IN FROM GEORGETOWN.

CAPTAIN MEREDITH SCHROEDER, SIR. DEPUTY TO THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.

COLONEL, DO YOU REALIZE YOU'RE THE HIGHEST-RANKING MILITARY OFFICER IN WASHINGTON RIGHT NOW?



WHO'S THAT?

CASEY QUINN, SERGEANT FIRST CLASS, RANGERS. I'VE BEEN TALKING TO THE LIMITED RESOURCES WE'VE GOT LEFT IN THE BUILDING.

OUR NAVY IS INTACT AND EN ROUTE TO WASHINGTON TO HOLD THE CAPITAL, BUT NOBODY'S SURE WHO GAVE THAT ORDER.

NOBODY'S SURE WHO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS RIGHT NOW.

YESTERDAY, OVER A SERIES OF MEETINGS, EACH TOP-TIER MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED SERVICES IN WASHINGTON D.C. WAS SHOWN THE MEME.

I HAD TO SHOOT FOURTEEN OF THEM IN THE MESS HALL AROUND 4A.M.



THIS IS EVEN WORSE THAN I IMAGINED...

MUCH WORSE. WE'VE BEEN TRACKING POLICE RADIOS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY AND IT SEEMS LIKE MOST OFFICERS ARE ABANDONING THEIR POSTS.

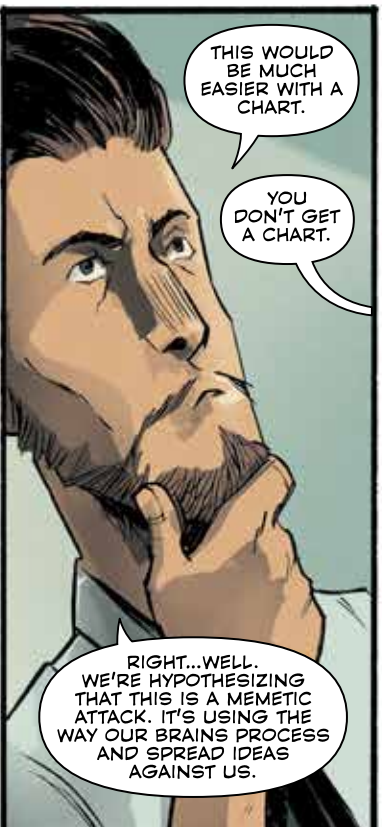
THAT OR THEY START SCREAMING.



CLOWNBOY. YESSIR.

TELL ME EVERYTHING WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO DISCERN ABOUT THIS IMAGE. I PRESUME YOU ARE THE CHIEF ANALYST?

I AM.



THIS WOULD BE MUCH EASIER WITH A CHART.

YOU DON'T GET A CHART.

RIGHT...WELL. WE'RE HYPOTHESIZING THAT THIS IS A MEMETIC ATTACK. IT'S USING THE WAY OUR BRAINS PROCESS AND SPREAD IDEAS AGAINST US.



HOW?

I HAVE NO EARTHLY IDEA.

BASICALLY, AND THIS IS PUTTING IT IN AS BASIC OF A WAY AS I CAN, THE IMAGE ENTERS THE BRAIN AND STARTS A CHAIN REACTION. ONCE YOU SEE THE IMAGE, THE IMAGE ENTERS THE BRAIN. THE PROCESS OF BREAKING DOWN THE VISUAL OF THE IMAGE AND PROCESSING THE IDEA OF IT IN REAL-TIME TRIGGERS A STATE OF EUPHORIA.

THE EUPHORIA IS THE TRAP...IT MAKES THE "IDEA" OF THE IMAGE SO PLEASANT THAT IT BECOMES IMPERATIVE TO SPREAD IT TO THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU.

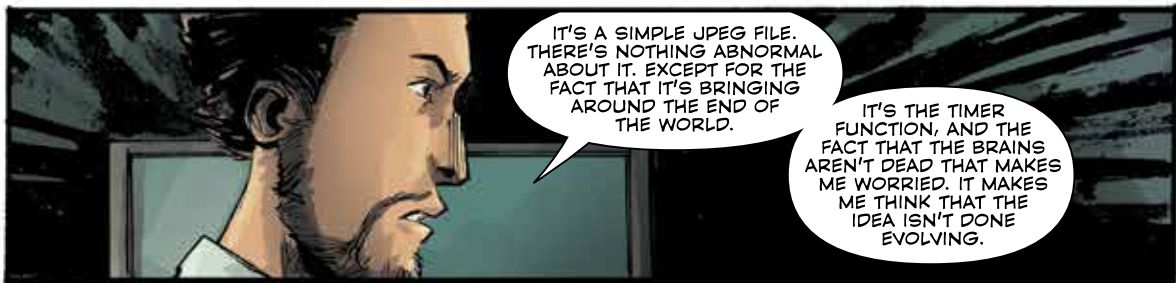
MEANWHILE, THE "IDEA" HAS BEEN GESTATING IN THE BACK OF YOUR MIND, SPREADING OVER THE COURSE OF EXACTLY 12 HOURS, UNTIL IT ESSENTIALLY TAKES OVER THE MIND AND REPROGRAMS IT TO BE SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY.

I SAW BRAIN SCANS OF A FEW OF THEM LAST NIGHT, AND THEY'RE COMPLETELY IDENTICAL TO A REGULAR HUMAN BRAIN, THINKING REGULAR HUMAN BRAIN THOUGHTS.

BUT THE RESPONSE SEEMS TO BE THAT ONCE THEY'VE TURNED, THE SCREAMERS ARE DETERMINED TO DESTROY ANYONE NOT LIKE THEMSELVES.

BUT HERE'S THE DOWNSIDE. I CAN'T TELL YOU, FOR THE LIFE OF ME, HOW ANYONE COULD ACCOMPLISH THAT.





IT'S A SIMPLE JPEG FILE. THERE'S NOTHING ABNORMAL ABOUT IT, EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT IT'S BRINGING AROUND THE END OF THE WORLD.

IT'S THE TIMER FUNCTION, AND THE FACT THAT THE BRAINS AREN'T DEAD THAT MAKES ME WORRIED. IT MAKES ME THINK THAT THE IDEA ISN'T DONE EVOLVING.



"SO THINGS ARE LIKELY TO GET WORSE."

"PEOPLE WHO HAVE SEEN THE IMAGE WANT TO SPREAD IT. IT'S EXPONENTIAL GROWTH, AND THE FACT THAT WE'VE SHUT DOWN THE INTERNET HAS SLOWED THE SPREAD SIGNIFICANTLY."



"BUT WE'RE STILL TALKING ABOUT A POTENTIAL EXTINCTION-LEVEL EVENT."



SO, TELL HIM THE GOOD NEWS.

WE SUCCESSFULLY TRACKED THE IP ADDRESS THAT POSTED THE IMAGE TO OREGON LAST NIGHT.

WE CAN FIND THE PERSON WHO DID THIS.

AND POTENTIALLY FORCE HIM TO CREATE THE INVERSE OF THIS IMAGE.



SO THE FATE OF THE WORLD RESTS IN THE HANDS OF THE MANIAC WHO DECIDED TO END IT WITH A WEIRD PICTURE OF A SLOTH.



I GUESS THAT MEANS WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO PAY HIM A VISIT, DOESN'T IT?



HEY...IT'S ME AGAIN. I'M LOOKING DOWN FROM MY HOTEL WINDOW. I HAVEN'T OPENED THE DOOR SINCE LAST NIGHT.

TIMES SQUARE IS FULL OF THEM... THE SCREAMERS. THEY'RE ALL JUST GATHERING THERE.

THE POLICE WERE TRYING TO STOP THEM FOR A WHILE, BUT I CAN'T SEE ANY OF THEM ANYMORE...



IT'S...IT'S BEAUTIFUL TO LISTEN TO. I DON'T KNOW HOW ELSE TO DESCRIBE IT...

I CAN HEAR IT UP HERE AS THOUGH IT WERE IN THE ROOM NEXT DOOR.

IT'S LIKE A MELODY.

2:49 P.M.



YOU NEED TO FIX ME!
PLEASE GOD--

I DON'T
HAVE MUCH
MORE
TIME!!



AAAAAH!
AAAAAAAAAAAAAH!!!

OH GOD!
ANOTHER
ONE!!!



THEY
CAN'T GET
IN...

I GUESS
YOU WERE RIGHT
ABOUT IT BEING
SAFE...

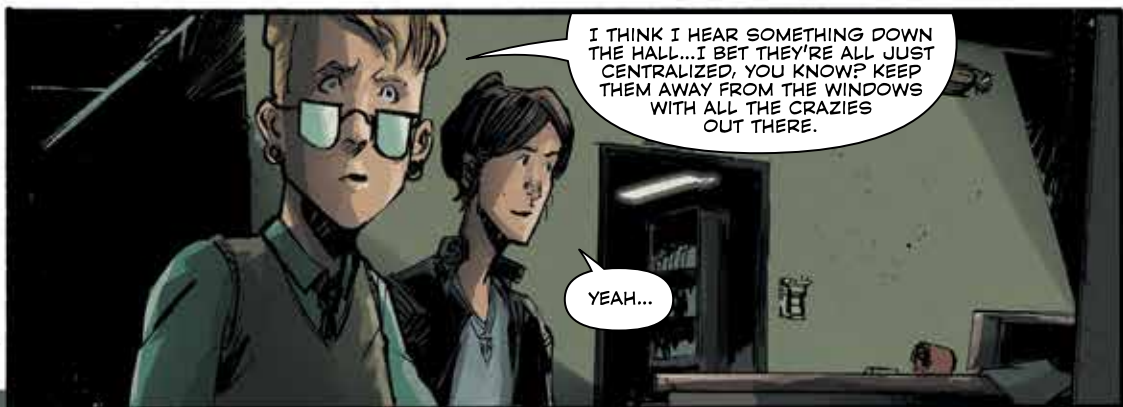


LET'S JUST FIND DR. CROWNE,
AND FAST. I DON'T WANT TO
SEE THEM ANYMORE.

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP



UH... HELLO?
IS ANYONE HERE?



I THINK I HEAR SOMETHING DOWN THE HALL... I BET THEY'RE ALL JUST CENTRALIZED, YOU KNOW? KEEP THEM AWAY FROM THE WINDOWS WITH ALL THE CRAZIES OUT THERE.

YEAH...



DANG.



THINK THIS WILL LAST ME UNTIL THE END OF THE WORLD?

STOP IT... WE SHOULD GO FIND SOMEONE...



COME ON. WE CAN RELAX NOW...

I JUST WANT TO TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR, OKAY? CAN WE GO?

YEAH. OF COURSE.



WHAT'S THAT SOUND? MY HEARING AID KEEPS SQUEAKING...

IT'S THEM... IT'S THE SCREAMERS... IT'S FAINT, BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE IT'S COMING FROM THE SPEAKERS.



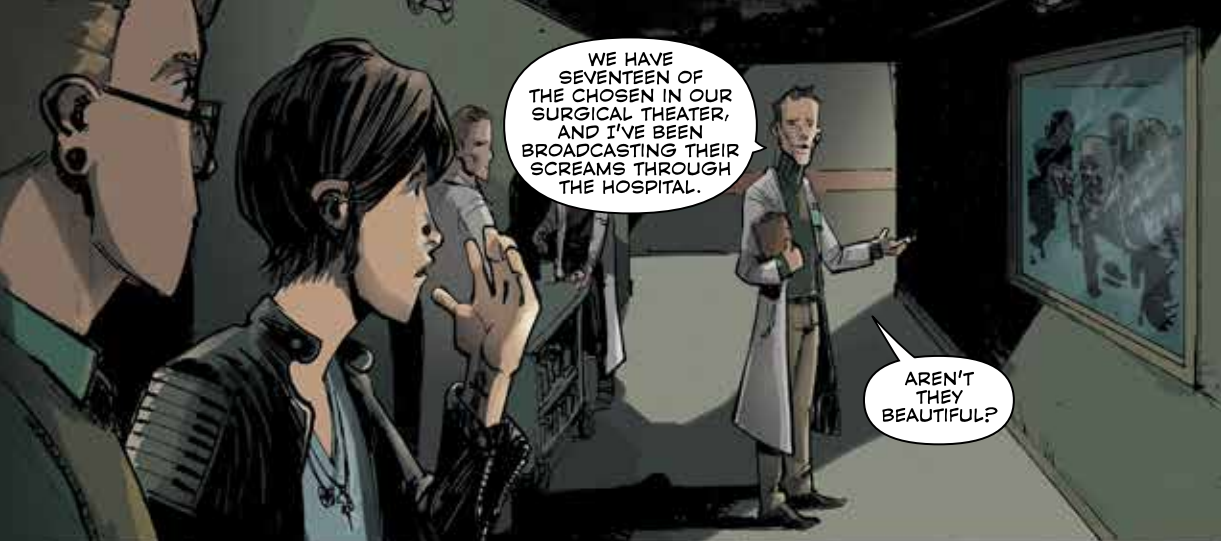
THIS...THIS WAS A BAD IDEA.

YEAH... LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.



IT'S GETTING LOUDER...THE SCREAMING...

YES... IT'S AS LOUD AS THE SPEAKERS WILL GO.



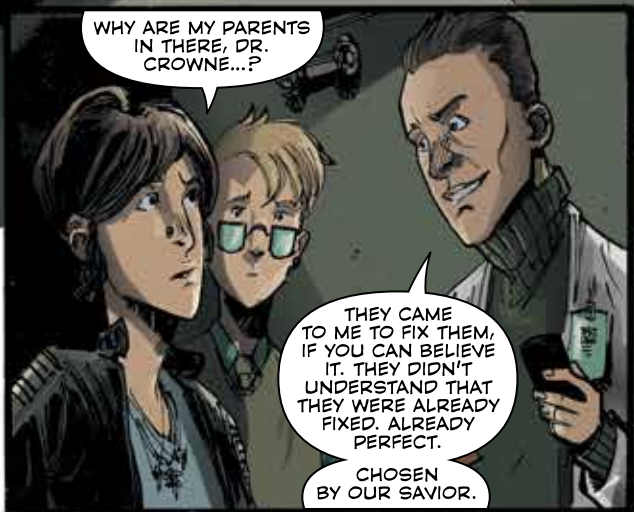
WE HAVE SEVENTEEN OF THE CHOSEN IN OUR SURGICAL THEATER, AND I'VE BEEN BROADCASTING THEIR SCREAMS THROUGH THE HOSPITAL.

AREN'T THEY BEAUTIFUL?



MOM...

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU, AARON. YOU'VE BEEN OVERDUE FOR A CHECK-UP.



WHY ARE MY PARENTS IN THERE, DR. CROWNE...?

THEY CAME TO ME TO FIX THEM, IF YOU CAN BELIEVE IT. THEY DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THAT THEY WERE ALREADY FIXED. ALREADY PERFECT.

CHOSEN BY OUR SAVIOR.



OUR BEAUTIFUL, PERFECT SAVIOR.



YOU'VE SEEN HIM, HAVEN'T YOU? YOU'VE FELT IT?! THE CHANGE IS COMING IN ALL OF US.

MANKIND IS ABOUT TO BECOME SOMETHING NEW AND WONDERFUL.

I CAN FEEL IT CHANGING ME FROM THE INSIDE...AND THE MORE I LISTEN TO THOSE SCREAMS...



IT'S A SONG, SUCH A SWEET SONG.



CAN'T YOU HEAR IT?



IT...IT DOESN'T WORK ON ME...



WHAT?



THE PICTURE. IT DOESN'T...IT DOESN'T WORK.

NO...NO NO NO...



YOU NEED TO BE A PART OF THIS, AARON. WE ALL NEED TO BE A PART OF THIS...



IT'S WHAT HUMANS ARE SUPPOSED TO BECOME. IT'S WHAT WE HAVE TO BECOME.

MAYBE... MAYBE IF WE OPERATE ON YOUR OPTICAL NERVES... WE CAN MAKE YOU SEE...





YOU REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND, DO YOU, AARON?



YOU DON'T SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING. WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ALL OF US...

OH GOD...OH GOD...THEY'RE DEAD.



THIS IS DESTINY. THIS IS DIVINE. THERE'S NO GOING BACK.




JUST DON'T THINK ABOUT IT, OKAY? WE CAN'T LET THEM CATCH US!!



THERE IS NO ESCAPE.


"THIS IS THE END OF EVERYTHING!"





THEY SHUT DOWN EVERY AIRPORT IN THE COUNTRY BEFORE THE PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT LAST NIGHT.

THAT LEFT NEARLY 5,000 PEOPLE STRANDED AT REAGAN INTERNATIONAL WHEN THEY STARTED TURNING. THEY FORCED THEM OUTSIDE AND BARRED THE ENTRANCES.




THE RUNWAYS ARE LITTERED WITH HUNDREDS OF SCREAMERS...IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO CUT THROUGH THE OUTSIDE. YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO CUT RIGHT THROUGH THE TERMINAL.

SOUNDS LIKE THIS IS GOING TO BE A FUN TRIP. SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO COME ALONG FOR THE RIDE, BARBARA?

OH, I'M PERFECTLY COMFORTABLE HERE WHERE I CAN SEE THE NUCLEAR LAUNCH SEQUENCES.

QUINN, WHAT DID YOU SEE?



I SPIED FIVE PLANES AT THEIR GATES. THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN FULLY FUELED BEFORE THEY WERE LEFT THERE.



CAN WE AT LEAST TAKE ONE OF THOSE SUPER NICE INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS?

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SIT IN FIRST CLASS.

QUIET. WE'RE GOING TO GO TO TERMINAL C, JUST THROUGH THE--

EVERYONE SHIELD YOUR EYES!!!



CAN YOU FLY ONE OF THESE THINGS?

I CAN, SIR.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

IT'S...IT'S EVERYWHERE...



QUINN. LOOK ME IN THE EYES.

I FELT IT...JUST FOR A SECOND BUT I FELT IT...

FULL DILATION.



AM I...AM I GOING TO DIE?



NOT IF THIS PLAN WORKS, SON.



ALL RIGHT. HERE'S WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO...QUINN IS LEAD. YOU'RE ALL GOING TO WRAP YOUR EYES, AND WE'RE FOLLOWING HIM.



I WONDER WHY THEY DID IT...

PEOPLE WANT TO SPREAD THE IMAGE ONCE THEY'VE TURNED. SOMEONE DID THIS DELIBERATELY, PIECE BY PIECE. THESE SCREENS AREN'T FULLY NETWORKED TOGETHER. THIS TOOK TIME.



PROBABLY AFTER THEY SHUT THE AIRPORT DOWN.

THEY WANTED US TO SEE IT.



ARE WE MAKING PROGRESS?

WE'RE THROUGH SECURITY.



FASTEST RUN THROUGH SECURITY I'VE EVER GOTTEN. THAT'S FOR SURE.

FOR THE LAST TIME, SHUT THE HELL UP!



WAIT.

SIR?

I HEAR SOMETHING.



I THOUGHT THIS PLACE WAS CLEAR.

SCREAMERS!

THEY MUST HAVE LOCKED A FEW INSIDE, TRYING TO KEEP THEIR DISTANCE.



HOW FAR ARE WE FROM THE FIRST PLANE?

20 METERS DOWN. ON THE RIGHT.

YOU COVER US, I'LL LEAD THE REST.




UM...ISN'T THERE A HOLE IN THIS PLAN?

I CAN SEE BASIC SHAPES. WE WON'T BUMP INTO ANYTHING. JUST STAY CLOSE BEHIND ME.




QUINN. TAKE THEM DOWN.





WHY DID THE SHOOTING STOP? QUINN?


STAY FOCUSED! WE'RE ALMOST THERE!



WE'RE AT THE GATE! STAY SQUINTY, BUT WE SHOULD BE SAFE PAST THIS DOOR. **JUST DON'T LOOK BACK!**



QUINN!



STOP IT! THIS IS **ALL OF US** WE'RE TRYING TO SAVE RIGHT NOW, NOT JUST ONE...

TAKE OFF YOUR BLINDFOLD. WE'RE SAFE NOW.



BARBARA, THIS IS MARCUS. WE'RE ON THE PLANE.

WE'VE LOST QUINN. I'M SORRY.



...

WE CAN MOURN LATER.

FOR NOW, WE STILL HAVE TO SAVE THE WORLD.



WHERE IS THAT SONG COMING FROM?

IT'S THEM...IT'S THE SCREAMERS...



NO... IT CAN'T BE...IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL.

I WISH YOU WERE HERE WITH ME. I WISH YOU COULD HEAR IT TOO...



NO! YOU CAN'T DO IT, GEORGE. IT'S TOO DANGEROUS.



I NEED TO HEAR THE SONG, KAREN. I HAVE TO.



IT JUST KEEPS GETTING SO MUCH BETTER.



I JUST WANT TO LISTEN TO IT FOREVER.

FOREVER AND--ZZT



7:12 P.M.

I ALWAYS THOUGHT I'D LIVE HERE ONE DAY.

WE HAVE TO KEEP MOVING, RYAN... THERE COULD BE SCREAMERS OUT HERE. WE NEED TO FIND SOMEWHERE SAFE.

MY DAD WOULD WALK ME BY HERE AND TELL ME THAT THIS WAS THE BUILDING HIS BOSS'S BOSS LIVED IN.

EACH APARTMENT HAS A FLOOR TO ITSELF. HIGHEST PROPERTY VALUE IN THE WHOLE CITY.

RYAN, PLEASE...

I WANT TO SEE ONE OF THESE PLACES FOR MYSELF. WHAT COULD BE SAFER THAN A BUNCH OF ABANDONED RICH PEOPLE APARTMENTS?

COME ON. LET'S GO.



ANYBODY HOME?

IT'S BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT?

WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE, RYAN?

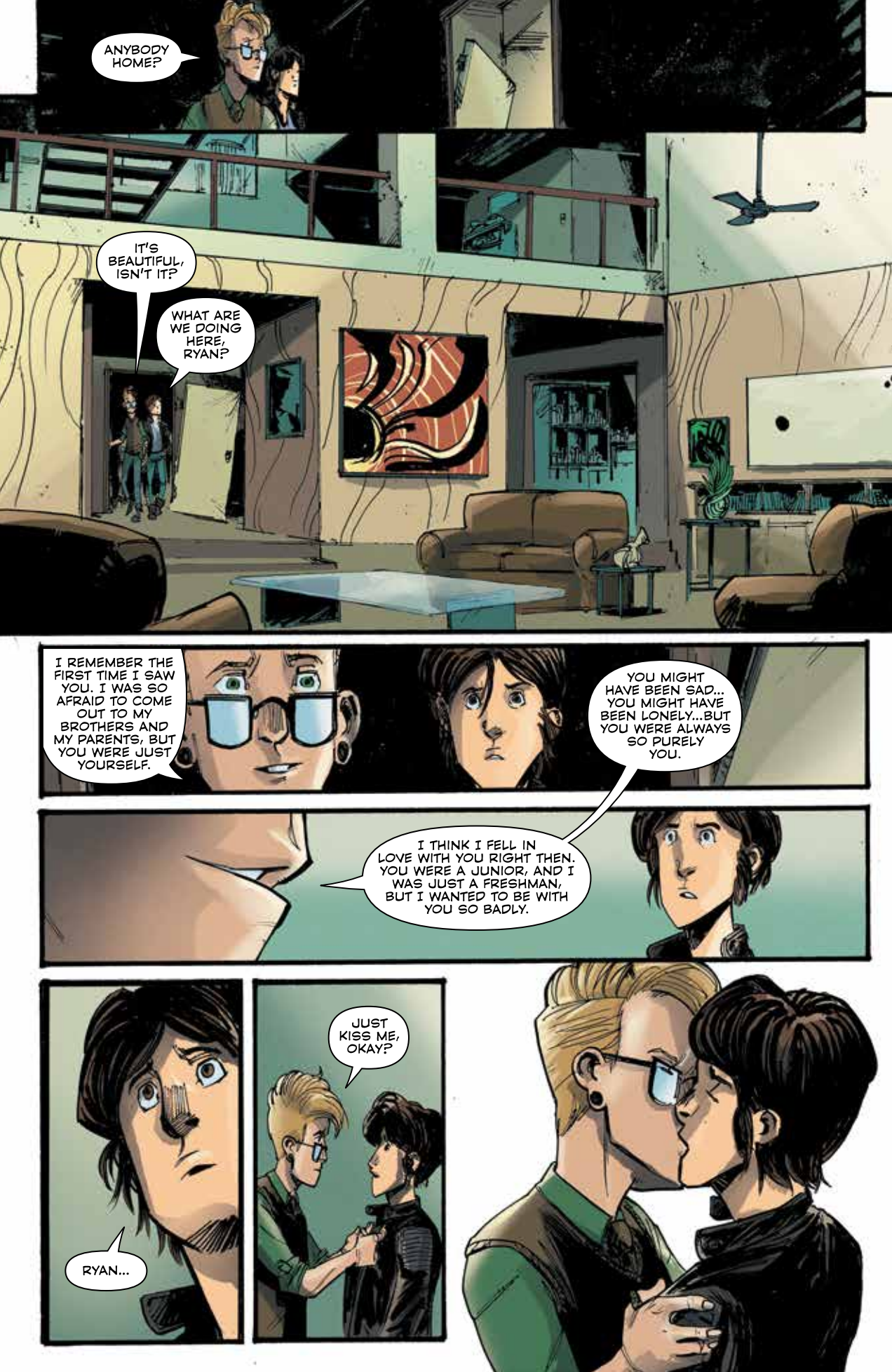
I REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU. I WAS SO AFRAID TO COME OUT TO MY BROTHERS AND MY PARENTS, BUT YOU WERE JUST YOURSELF.

YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN SAD... YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN LONELY... BUT YOU WERE ALWAYS SO PURELY YOU.

I THINK I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU RIGHT THEN. YOU WERE A JUNIOR, AND I WAS JUST A FRESHMAN, BUT I WANTED TO BE WITH YOU SO BADLY.

RYAN...

JUST KISS ME, OKAY?



8:18 P.M.

I BET WE CAN FIND A BUNCH OF FOOD DOWNSTAIRS IN THE OTHER APARTMENTS... WE CAN BARRICADE THE DOORS.

WE CAN MAKE A LIFE HERE, RYAN.

JUST THE TWO OF US.

YOU CAN HEAR THE SCREAMING ALL THE WAY FROM UP HERE.

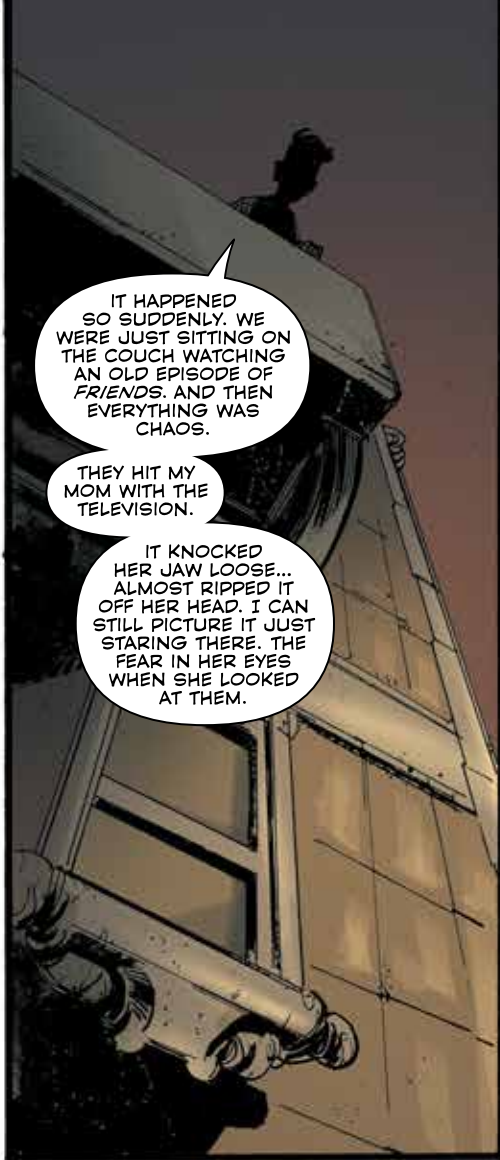
I...I CAN'T...MY HEARING AID CAN ONLY HELP SO MUCH.

IT SOUNDS BEAUTIFUL.

IT SOUNDS LIKE A SONG, AND DEEP IN MY HEART I NEVER WANT IT TO END...

RYAN?

I JUST KEEP PICTURING MY BROTHERS STANDING THERE... SCREAMING.



IT HAPPENED SO SUDDENLY. WE WERE JUST SITTING ON THE COUCH WATCHING AN OLD EPISODE OF FRIENDS. AND THEN EVERYTHING WAS CHAOS.

THEY HIT MY MOM WITH THE TELEVISION.

IT KNOCKED HER JAW LOOSE... ALMOST RIPPED IT OFF HER HEAD. I CAN STILL PICTURE IT JUST STARING THERE. THE FEAR IN HER EYES WHEN SHE LOOKED AT THEM.



THEY LOOKED SO HAPPY, AARON...IT WAS LIKE THE GOOD FEELINGS OF THE PICTURE MAGNIFIED A THOUSAND DEGREES.

THE SECOND THEY STARTED SCREAMING, EVERYTHING HUMAN ABOUT THEM JUST SLIPPED AWAY. THEY STOPPED BEING ANYTHING CLOSE TO ALIVE IN THAT MOMENT.



I KNOW HOW THEY FELT...



AARON, I SAW THE PICTURE. I SAW IT THIS MORNING BEFORE YOU WOKE UP. I OPENED THE COMPUTER, JUST TO SEE IF THERE WAS ANY CONNECTION. ANY NEWS.

IT WAS STILL SITTING THERE ON THE HOMEPAGE.



RYAN...



I DON'T WANT TO BECOME ONE OF THEM, AARON. I'VE SEEN WHAT IT IS, AND I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN TO ME.







WHAT IS THAT DOWN THERE?



Hmm?

WE'RE IN RURAL OREGON... I SWEAR WE JUST FLEW OVER AN OPEN FIELD WITH AT LEAST 10,000 PEOPLE...



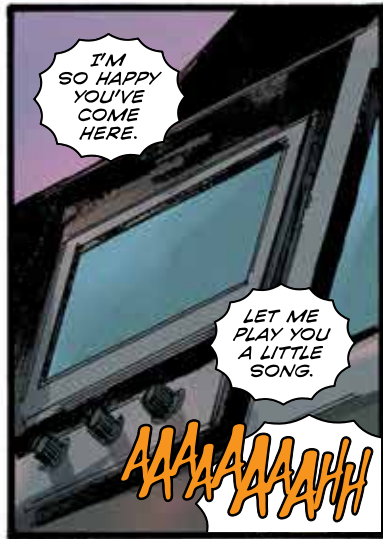
WELL THEN, LET'S NOT LAND IN THAT FIELD.

WASN'T PLANNING ON IT, SIR. BUT IT'S GOING TO BE ROUGH EITHER WAY. WE NEED TO BRACE OURSELVES...



IS...IS SOMEBODY UP THERE? WE CAN SEE A PLANE.

YES, WHO IS THIS?



I'M SO HAPPY YOU'VE COME HERE.

LET ME PLAY YOU A LITTLE SONG.

AAAAAAHHH



IT'S THE SCREAMERS... BUT IT SOUNDS... IT SOUNDS BEAUTIFUL. IT DOES...

I CAN PICTURE MY MOTHER'S GARDEN AS A CHILD AND I...



NO...NO...
IT EVOLVED.
IT ALREADY
EVOLVED.

WHAT...
WHAT ARE YOU
SAYING?



YOU FELT
IT TOO, DIDN'T
YOU?! THE WAVE OF
EUPHORIA...

THE MEME
RESTS IN THE
BRAIN...IT STARTS
MAKING YOU
SCREAM...AND THE
SCREAMS COMBINE
AND COMBINE
UNTIL THE NEXT
SHAPE OF THE
MEME REVEALS
ITSELF.



WELL THEN.
LET'S GET TO
WORK.



SIR...
WE ONLY
HAVE 12 HOURS
LEFT TO SAVE
OUR LIVES, AND
EVERYONE ELSE
WHILE WE'RE
AT IT.



END OF DAY TWO





3





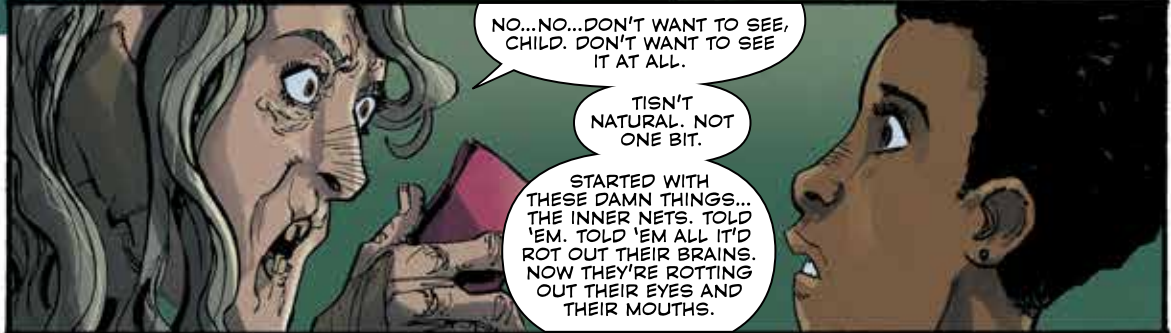
CAN'T... CAN'T FIND MOMMY.



MOMMY'S DEAD NOW. ALL DEAD... THEY'RE ALL CLIMBING AND CLIMBING UP UP UP. BUT YOU CAN'T LISTEN. CAN'T LISTEN TO THEIR SONG.

SONG GIVES ME THE TINGLES. THE BAD TINGLES. YOU HEARD IT?

IT'S...IT'S PRETTY. I CAME TO SEE.



NO...NO...DON'T WANT TO SEE, CHILD. DON'T WANT TO SEE IT AT ALL.

TISN'T NATURAL. NOT ONE BIT.

STARTED WITH THESE DAMN THINGS... THE INNER NETS. TOLD 'EM. TOLD 'EM ALL IT'D ROT OUT THEIR BRAINS. NOW THEY'RE ROTTING OUT THEIR EYES AND THEIR MOUTHS.



GOTTA SMASH 'EM ALL, SO THEY CAN'T GET US NO MORE.

MOMMY SAID IT WAS THE END OF THE WORLD...

YES. CHILD. YES. END OF EVERYTHING.



THE SONG... IT'S GETTING LOUDER...

NO...THEY'RE COMING...THEY WANT TO CLIMB THEMSELVES. GOTTA HIDE. GOTTA HIDE.









DAY THREE



JUST DO IT. JUST BE BRAVE LIKE HIM...THERE'S NO ONE...

THERE'S NO ONE LEFT...

H-HELLO?

IS ANYONE THERE? IS IT SAFE?







WHAT IF THEY FIND THE PLANE...WHAT IF THEY KNOW WE'RE HERE?

THEY DON'T CARE THAT WE'RE HERE.



I BET THIS IS HAPPENING ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. CENTRAL LOCATIONS THAT ARE CALLING OUT TO THEM, DRIVING THEM TO THE POINT...

I MEAN, LOOK AT THEM, IT'S LIKE THEY'RE ON AUTOPILOT.



HOW ARE YOU DOING, COLONEL SHAW? YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO MUFFLE OUT THE SOUND...?

NO. I CAN'T SEE AS IT IS...



BUT, SIR, HEARING IT LIKE THIS, CONSTANTLY... IT'D BE LIKE STARING AT THE PICTURE FOR HOURS.

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT COULD BE DOING TO YOU.

IT'S SCRAMBLING MY BRAINS. I KNOW THAT. BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER... WE'RE THREE MILES OUTSIDE OF THE CITY.



WE SHOULD BE GOOD TO MOVE...

BUT WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME...WE'VE BEEN WALKING FOR HOURS. HOW ARE WE EVEN GOING TO FIGURE OUT EXACTLY WHERE THIS GUY IS?



I DON'T THINK THAT'S GOING TO BE AN ISSUE...



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, PETER?

SIR, EVEN IF YOU COULD SEE...



I'M NOT SURE I COULD DESCRIBE THIS.

THE MAKER



ARE YOU STILL THERE?

YES...

I'M GETTING CLOSER NOW... I WON'T BE LONG.



WHAT'S IT LIKE OUT THERE?



... THAT DOESN'T MATTER. I'M COMING. JUST STAY PUT... I'M GOING TO TRY TO SEE IF ANYONE ELSE IS OUT THERE...

ZZT



WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON...



IS ANYONE LISTENING?

IS ANYBODY ELSE OUT THERE?



KRSSSHK YOP

HELLO! CAN YOU HEAR ME...

FUZZY, BUT YES...



WHO IS THIS? HOW ARE YOU ON THIS CHANNEL?

I DON'T KNOW... I FOUND THIS RADIO WHERE I WAS HIDING.

...



MY NAME IS BARBARA XIANG. I'M WITH THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT. ARE YOU OUT THERE?

YES... I'M RIGHT AT THE FOOT OF ONE OF THE TOWERS...

TOWERS... IS THAT WHAT THEY'RE DOING? BUILDING TOWERS?



KIND OF? THEY'RE... THEY'RE BUILDING THEM OUT OF THEMSELVES.



"IT'S IMPOSSIBLE... THEIR SKIN... IT'S LIKE IT'S STITCHING ITSELF TOGETHER... IT'S NOT WORKING HOW SKIN IS SUPPOSED TO WORK."



PLEASE... IS THIS GOING TO BE OVER SOON?

I'M... I'M DOING EVERYTHING IN MY POWER, SON.

THERE'S A LITTLE GIRL... I'M TRYING TO FIND A LITTLE GIRL. SHE'S TRAPPED.



GO TO HER. SAVE HER.

AND I'LL TRY TO SAVE ALL OF US. DEAL?

DEAL.







I KILLED THEM.



WHAT THE--

PUT THAT AWAY, MEREDITH...

WHO IS THAT...?



I'M THE ONE YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.

REALLY. THREE PEOPLE. THAT'S ALL THE GOVERNMENT HAD LEFT TO PULL TOGETHER? I HAVE TO SAY, I EXPECTED A BIT MORE THAN THAT.



I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

YES, YOU DO. I'M THE ONE WHO ENDED THE WORLD.

NOW, COME. I'VE MADE SOME TEA.



THIS IS A TRAP.



YOU COULD SHOOT ME IN THE HEAD IF YOU WANTED, OR I COULD SHOOT ALL OF YOU, LIKE I DID THESE PEOPLE. IT DOESN'T MATTER.



HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE DIED TODAY, AND THAT WAS JUST THE PRELUDE.

THERE ARE NO TRAPS. WHAT WOULD BE THE POINT?

NOW, COME.

I MIGHT STILL HAVE SOME COOKIES, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT.





I WANT TO GO TO WHERE THEY ARE. I WANT TO FEEL THE HAPPY FEELING. I WANT TO BE WITH MY MOMMY AND DADDY.



NO... NO, YOU DON'T.

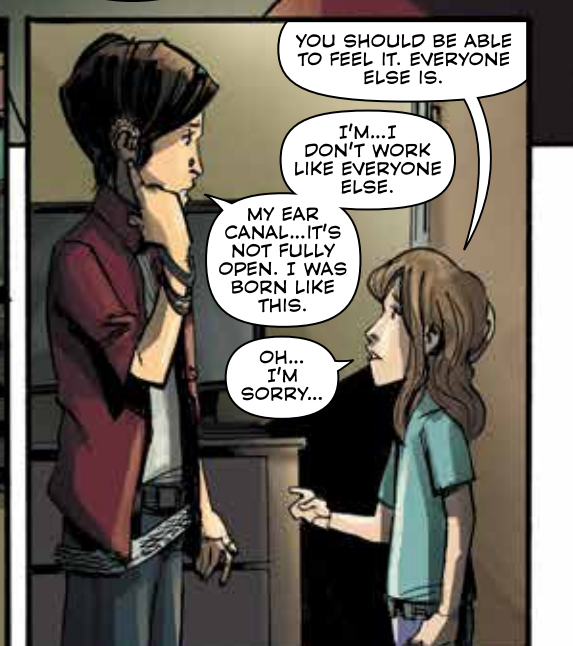
THAT'S NOT SAFE...THOSE AREN'T YOUR PARENTS ANYMORE...



YES, THEY ARE...I CAN HEAR THEM SINGING...

THOSE ARE SCREAMS.

CAN'T...CAN'T YOU HEAR IT? IT'S SO LOUD. IT FEELS SO GOOD.



YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO FEEL IT. EVERYONE ELSE IS.

I'M...I DON'T WORK LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.


MY EAR CANAL...IT'S NOT FULLY OPEN. I WAS BORN LIKE THIS.

OH... I'M SORRY...



...

ME...ME TOO.



I DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE ANYMORE. I WANT TO BE WITH THEM.

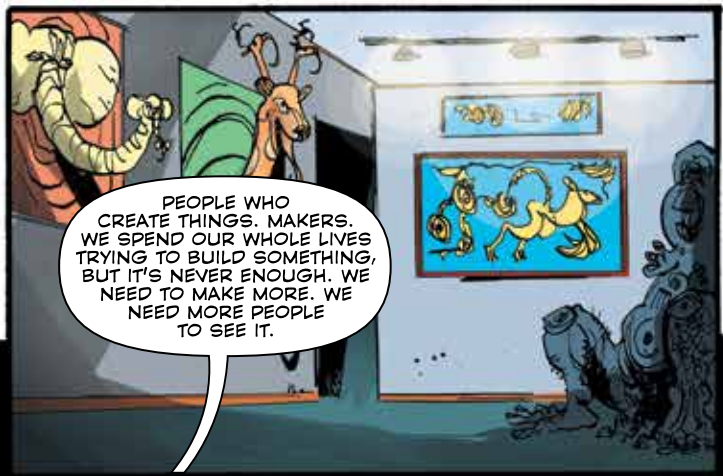


I WANT TO BE WITH EVERYONE...



YOU KNOW, I'VE ALWAYS FELT THEM. I THINK WE ALL HAVE...

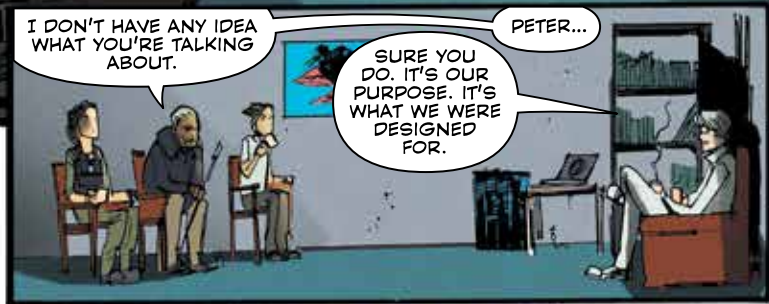
WEP



PEOPLE WHO CREATE THINGS. MAKERS. WE SPEND OUR WHOLE LIVES TRYING TO BUILD SOMETHING, BUT IT'S NEVER ENOUGH. WE NEED TO MAKE MORE. WE NEED MORE PEOPLE TO SEE IT.



I THINK THEIR MESSAGE WAS ALWAYS INGRAINED IN THAT DESIRE.



I DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

PETER...

SURE YOU DO. IT'S OUR PURPOSE. IT'S WHAT WE WERE DESIGNED FOR.



THEY TOLD ME HOW. THEY GAVE ME THE TOOLS.

WHO DID?



LOOK...WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND HOW YOU DID IT. THERE'S STILL TIME.

Heh. YOU REALLY THINK SO, DON'T YOU?



THE ANGELS.



FOR THE LOVE OF GOD...



I'VE BEEN DOING THIS A LONG WHILE. I'VE DONE GALLERY WORK IN SIXTEEN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES. THERE HAVE BEEN MAGAZINE PROFILES, ART BOOKS, THE WHOLE NINE YARDS.

IF ANY OF YOU HAD A LICK OF CULTURE TO YOU, YOU'D PROBABLY RECOGNIZE ME. BUT IT'S BETTER THAT YOU DON'T. IT DOESN'T MATTER. THEY SHOWED ME THAT.

THEY SHOWED ME WHAT WE ARE.



THIS IS WHAT WE'VE BEEN BUILDING TOWARDS FROM THE VERY BEGINNING. THIS IS WHAT WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN SUPPOSED TO BECOME.

WE'VE SPENT MILLENNIA PERFECTING THE ART OF SPREADING INFORMATION... IT'S OUR DRIVE. IT'S ALL OF WHAT WE ARE. IT STARTED WITH LANGUAGE, YOU SEE?



WE HAD ALL THESE STRANGE LITTLE THINGS IN OUR HEAD, AND WE NEEDED TO SHOW THEM TO ONE ANOTHER. BUT WORDS SPREAD SLOW...AND THEY TEND TO BE FORGOTTEN...

SO WE LEARNED TO WRITE, AND AS WE WROTE, THE IDEAS, THEY COULD GET MORE COMPLEX, THEY COULD SPREAD FURTHER AND FASTER THAN EVER BEFORE. AND SOON WE LEARNED HOW TO SPEAK AND READ EACH OTHER'S LANGUAGES...



BUT IT WASN'T ENOUGH. IT TOOK TOO LONG TO WRITE AND REWRITE WHAT WE NEEDED TO SAY OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN. AND SO WE CREATED PRINT.

AND WE CREATED DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS...

...AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS, AND ALL SORTS OF GOOD FUN THINGS, BUT THE PURPOSE WAS ALWAYS THE SAME.

TAKE AN IDEA AND SPREAD IT FASTER. BEAM IT THROUGH THE AIR. TALK THROUGH YOUR RADIOS. WATCH THROUGH YOUR TELEVISIONS...ALL CONVERGING EXPONENTIALLY TO THIS MOMENT. THIS MOMENT RIGHT NOW.



THAT'S WHAT NOBODY SEEMS TO UNDERSTAND, THAT'S WHAT MAKES NOW *SPECIAL*. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, AN IDEA CAN SPREAD THROUGH THE WHOLE TOTALITY OF HUMANITY IN A SINGLE MOMENT.

AND *THAT* WAS THE POINT. THAT'S WHY THEY PUT US HERE. THEY WERE WAITING FOR NOW. THEY WERE WAITING UNTIL WE WERE ALL READY FOR THEM.



"WE AREN'T PEOPLE. THAT'S THE KEY."



"INDIVIDUALITY IS A MYTH. WE'RE NO MORE INDIVIDUAL THAN THE NEURONS IN OUR BRAINS."



"WE'RE A SWARM OF THOUGHT COMPUTERS DESIGNED TO RECEIVE A SIGNAL, AND TRANSMIT THAT SIGNAL OUT TO THE HEAVENS."



"CALLING DOWN OUR MAKERS, AND TELLING THEM WE ARE READY TO DO WHAT THEY NEED US TO DO."



YOU'RE COMPLETELY INSANE.

OH, ABSOLUTELY. SURE. THEY'VE BEEN SAYING THAT FOR YEARS.



"WHEN I FIRST HEARD THEM, I TOOK PILLS. I TRIED TO LOCK THEM AWAY, BUT IT DIDN'T WORK...AND I LISTENED.



"I MIGHT BE INSANE, BUT THE INSANITY MANAGED TO UNLOCK SOMETHING IN US THAT WAS *ALWAYS* THERE. WAS *ALWAYS* WAITING TO BE BROUGHT OUT.



"I PUT TOGETHER AN IMAGE, SIMPLE PIXELS ON THE SCREEN, IN THE EXACT RIGHT ORDER, JUST AS THEY SAID. AND IT TRIGGERED *THIS*."



"RIGHT NOW, THE TOWERS ARE FORMING. THE SONG IS RINGING OUT AROUND THE WORLD, GROWING LOUDER AND LOUDER, ENCOMPASSING EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING."



AND SURE, MAYBE IT'S JUST A BUNCH OF EVIL ALIENS TRYING TO STEAL OUR GOLD OR OUR OIL OR OUR REALITY TELEVISION...

BUT THAT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT THIS WAS ALWAYS OUR EVOLUTIONARY ENDGAME.



INSTANTANEOUS, UNLIMITED KNOWLEDGE. SINGULARITY.



MY DARLING SLOTH...IT ALLOWED US TO REACH OUR GLORIOUS PURPOSE, MUTATING US AS A SPECIES TO OUR FINAL STAGE.

THIS ISN'T AN ENDING. I KNOW WHAT IT MUST SEEM LIKE, BUT THAT'S *WRONG*. THIS IS A RAPTUREOUS NEW BEGINNING.

TOGETHER WE WILL ALL FINALLY BECOME ONE AND JOIN THE ANGELS IN THEIR ETERNAL SONG.



AND NOW... NOW IT'S TIME I JOINED THEM...



NO! YOU DON'T GET TO DO THIS!
FIX IT! FIX IT, DAMMIT!



MEREDITH... IT'S TOO LATE.

NO! IT CAN'T BE...



Hek.
IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE. FEEL FREE TO LOOK AROUND BEFORE YOU GO. THERE ARE SOME PIECES IN HERE I'M STILL RATHER PROUD OF.



BUT MY WORK IS DONE.



IF THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GOING TO BECOME... I DON'T WANT IT. I CAN'T DO IT.





HOW LONG DO WE HAVE, NOW?

AT...

AT THIS POINT...IT COULD HAPPEN ANY MINUTE.

YOU CAN FEEL IT TUGGING AT YOU, CAN'T YOU? THE EUPHORIA...WAITING TO RISE TO THE NEXT LEVEL.



I THINK THAT'S IT. I THINK THAT'S THE TRANSFORMATION.

ARE YOU READY?

OF COURSE NOT...BUT... IF HE'S RIGHT...



I WANT TO SEE WHAT'S NEXT. I WANT TO SEE WHAT WE'LL BECOME.

AND YOU?

...

JUST ONE MORE THING TO DO.



THANK GOD... I WAS STARTING TO WORRY.

THERE ARE THESE SIGNALS...SIGNALS I CAN'T UNDERSTAND COMING FROM CITY CENTERS AROUND THE WORLD.



IT'S OVER. THE WHOLE THING. THERE'S NO HOPE HERE.

YOU DIDN'T FIND HIM?

WE DID... BUT GOD, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO TELL YOU.

DO YOU THINK WE WERE MEANT FOR THIS? DO YOU THINK THIS IS WHERE WE WERE HEADED ALL ALONG?

I'VE BEEN SO CUT OFF THE LAST TEN YEARS... I MISSED SO MUCH... BUT THE WORLD, IT KEPT SPEEDING UP. RACING AWAY FROM ME.

AND NOW WE'RE HERE, AT THE END OF THE WORLD.



I DON'T LIKE THIS LINE OF THINKING.

WHEN HAVE I EVER CARED WHAT YOU LIKED?

...



HAVE YOU SEEN THE TOWERS?

NO... BUT I MADE SOME CONTACT... A BOY, HE'S BEEN TELLING ME WHAT HE SEES.

DID HE SAY IF IT WAS BEAUTIFUL?



I HOPE IT'S BEAUTIFUL.



I'M SURE...
I'M SURE
IT IS...



GOODBYE,
BARBARA. THANK
YOU FOR THIS LAST
ADVENTURE.

I THOUGHT
I WAS DONE...BUT
HERE I AM...READY TO
SEE THE OTHER SIDE
OF THE END OF
HUMANITY.



I GOT
MYSELF A
FRONT-ROW
SEAT AND
EVERYTHING.

ZZT



GOODBYE,
MARCUS.




AARON...
AARON, ARE
YOU STILL
THERE?

YES.

I NEED
YOU TO LISTEN
TO--



NO, I'M
DONE.



I REMEMBER WHEN I WAS A BOY AND THEY EXPLAINED TO ME FOR THE FIRST TIME WHAT THE SKY REALLY LOOKED LIKE.


THE WAY THAT IT'S NOT JUST A PURE BLUE, IT'S A PAINFUL BLUE...RIDDLED WITH SUNLIGHT...THE LONGER YOU STARE, THE MORE YOU GET HINTS OF RED. A VIBRANCY THAT'S COMPLETELY UNIQUE TO IT.

AND I REALIZED THAT I WOULD NEVER SEE THAT. I WOULD NEVER SEE ANYTHING THE WAY ANYONE ELSE DID.



I WAS A ONE-IN-A-MILLION. LIVING IN BLACK AND WHITE.

I FELT SO ALONE, THEN. AND IT NEVER REALLY WENT AWAY...I FOUND PEOPLE WHO COULD DEADEN THE FEELING A LITTLE, BUT NEVER FULLY.



I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ON THE OUTSIDE. AND I KNOW I COULD KEEP ON DOING THAT. I KNOW THAT I COULD SCAVENGE AND HIDE LIKE I ALWAYS HAVE. MAKE MY OWN WAY.



BUT THIS...THIS IS ONE OF THOSE UNIVERSAL MOMENTS, ISN'T IT? THIS IS WHEN WE ALL COME TOGETHER.

FOR BETTER OR WORSE.



PLEASE, AARON. YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS... YOU CAN COME HERE. WE CAN FIGURE SOMETHING--



NO... I WANT TO FEEL WHAT THEY ALL FELT.



THAT RUSH OF EUPHORIA. THAT MOMENT OF PEACE. OF COMPLETE TOGETHERNESS.



I'VE EARNED THAT. I'VE EARNED THAT ONCE IN MY SAD, STUPID LIFE.



WAIT... I CAN FEEL...



AARON! AARON, LISTEN TO ME!











DAY FOUR





BEHIND THE
MEME



Aaron Sumner

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ABOUT

CEO of Being Terrible At Everything
Past: Bookstore of Barnes & Noble

Studied at Jefferson State College
Past: Butler Cave Preparatory High School

Lives in The State of Denial

In a relationship with Ryan Nowak

PHOTOS • 253



FRIENDS • 225



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What's on your mind?

Sarah Bentley 6 hours •

CHECK THIS OUT RIGHT NOW. OH MY GOD!



13 people like this.

Sarah Bentley Dude. DGGOOD. DUUUUUUUUDE. Wake up. LOOK AT THIS! YOUR MASTER COMMANDS YOU!
45 mins • Like • 11

Write a comment...

Aaron Sumner 12 mins •

Aaaand, she's at it again. We need to destroy her.



9 people like this.

Sarah Bentley Shh. I am perfect and beautiful.
8 mins • Like • 16

Write a comment...

Sarah Bentley 3 mins •

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Aaron Sumner

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Aaron Sumner 3 hours

Behind the Meme #Memetic #GoodTimesSloth

13 people like this

James Tynion IV Our eyes and ears into the world of Memetic, even though his don't really work all that well. Aaron feels completely disconnected from the world, and as it all goes to hell around him he's going to have to try and find a way to feel whole in a way he's never felt before.

26 mins • Like • 14

Eryk Donovan Aaron is a bit of an outcast, somewhat awkward yet still confident in himself, so I wanted his fashion and appearance to reflect this. He's a sort of mix of a 2005 scene kid, Neil Gaiman, and other smatterings from some modern fashion. The two belts was something I used to wear a lot and felt it would be fun to incorporate. The Ankh tattoo gives him a bit of an edge, and also speaks to a spiritual side and is reflective of his desire to enjoy life with others and feel like a part of the human community.

19 mins • Like • 16

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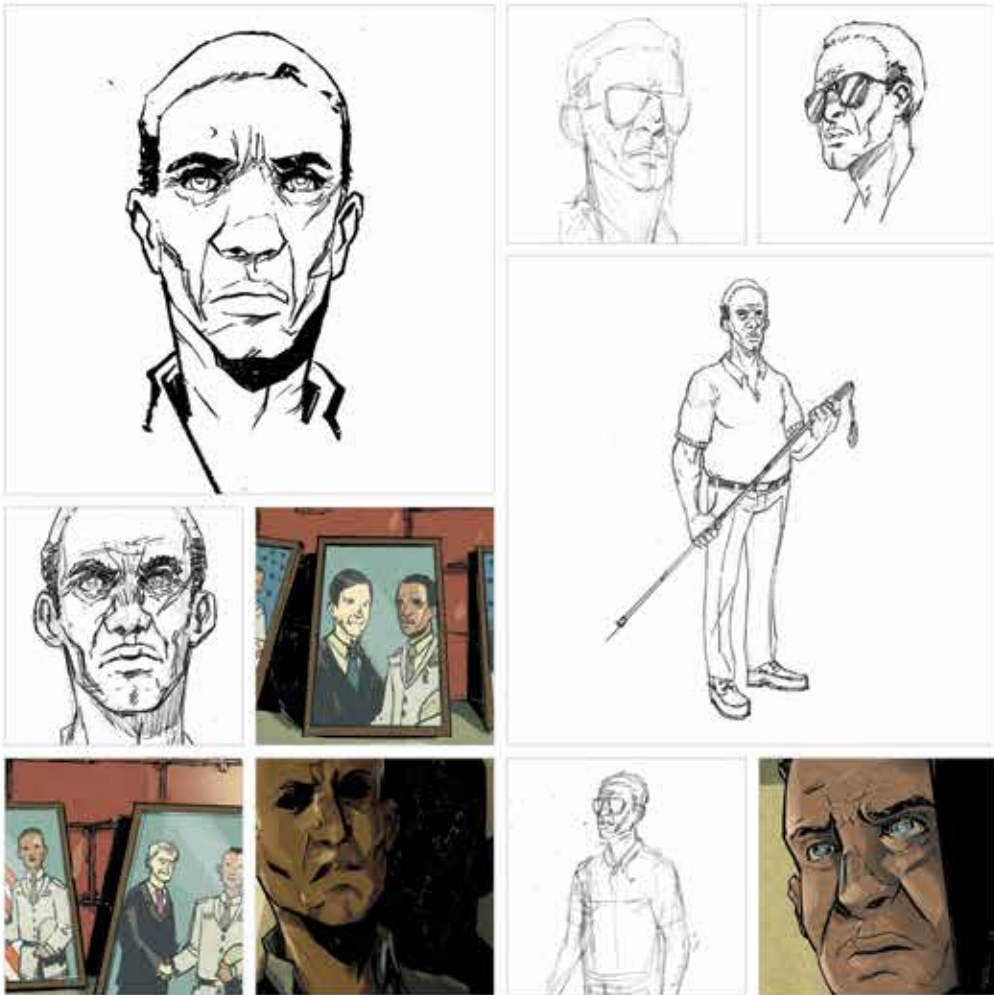
Veterans Association of America

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Veterans Admin
14 hours • 1

Honoring Marcus Shaw #Hero #Memetic

9 people like this.

James Tynion IV A former head of Military Intelligence who has lost his sight but hasn't lost his desire to keep the world together, even though the way America has changed in the last decade is very difficult for a man who can't use a smartphone or a laptop to comprehend.
4 hours • Like • 9

Eryk Donovan Marcus is a great character. He's a tough old officer who is used to getting his way, but because of his declining vision has to find new ways to cope with the world. He definitely still sees himself as a soldier and does his best to stay fit and prepared for anything. The scars provide a visual connection to his active old days in the field, and give him a dangerous air.
58 mins • Like • 8

Write a comment...

Chat (0)



Search for people, places and things

Aaron Home



Good Times Sloth

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Good Times Sloth Admin 23 hours

We can't get enough #GoodTimesSloth #Memetic

12 people like this

James Tynion IV The image that will end the world... Isn't it beautiful? Can't you just feel the wave of euphoria crashing down over you? Don't you just want to stare into its eyes forever...
12 hours · Like · 10

Eryk Donovan I'm really happy with how iconic this guy turned out to be. I think he's a really good example of the MEME-Team's work on the book. I had a few ideas about how to approach him, and while my first take was fun, after some discussion we went for a more straight-on look. That Happy-Go-Lucky thumbs-up was so important to his character, I decided to give him the extra thumb, and it still fits with the concept as we'll see revealed down the line in Issue #3. The initial version had some guide-lines for Adam's colors, but he really took it and ran with it, making the awesome swirling pattern that we see in the final image.
1 hour · Like · 11

Write a comment...

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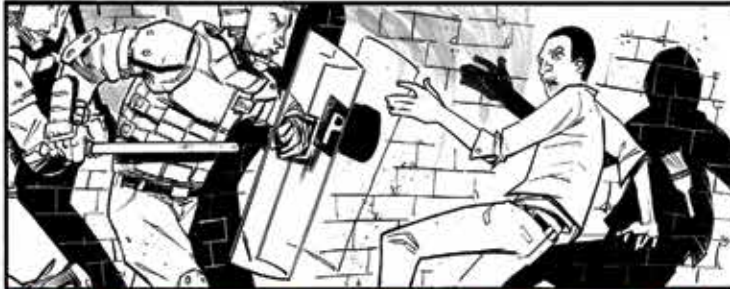
heyyouguys

PANEL 1: Tight on a paintbrush against a wall.

RADIO: This is a message of the emergency broadcast system.

RADIO: All visual communications systems should be treated as extremely dangerous, and should be destroyed on sight.

OTHER RADIO (*jagged, faint*): Can...Can you hear me?



Ask heyyouguys o question #Memeific #GoodTimesSloths

2 notes



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284 Notes



aaronsumner // Page 15

PANEL 1: AARON, a little abashed.

AARON: It...It doesn't work on me...

PANEL 2: CROWNE looks at him, completely horrified.

CROWNE: What?

PANEL 3: AARON looks nervous that he's revealing this. DOCTOR CROWNE is pulling at his hair in frustration and sadness.

AARON: The picture. It doesn't...it doesn't work.

CROWNE: No...No no no...



heyyouguys



Ask heyyouguys a question #Memeific #GoodTimesSloth

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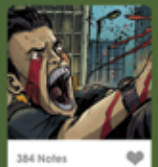
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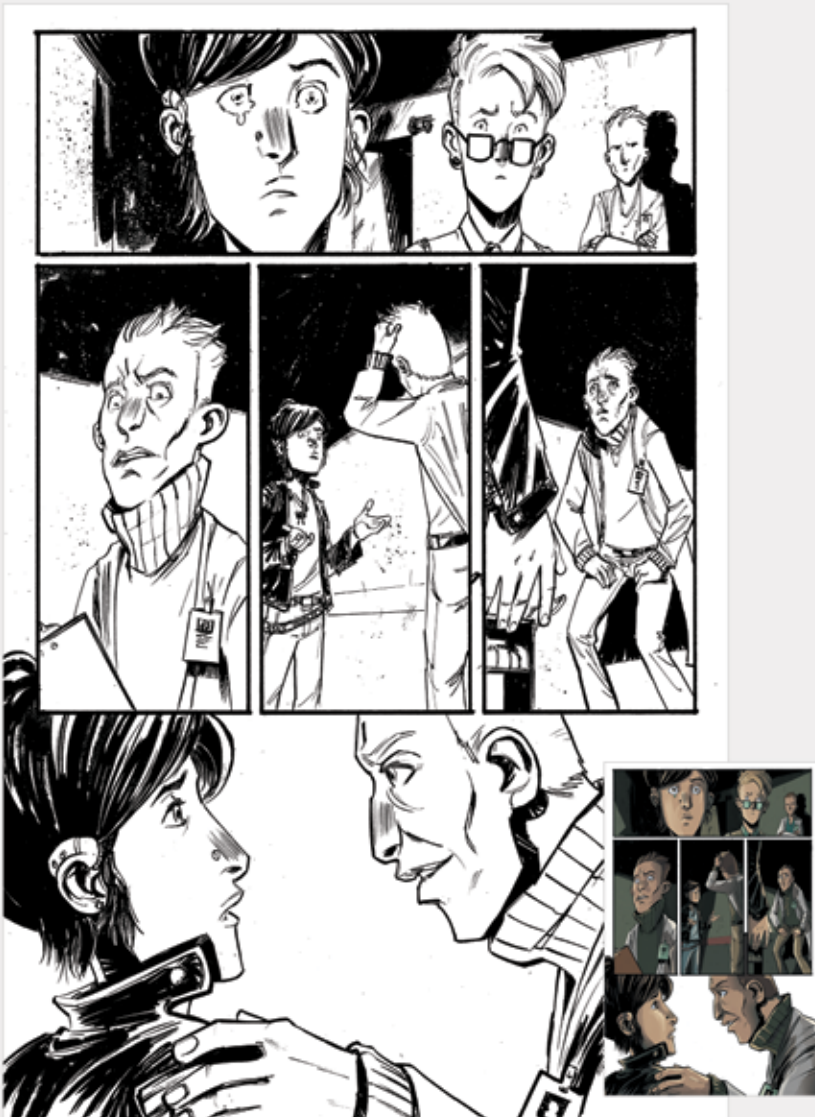
PANEL 4: CROWNE is crying, he's so overwhelmed with sadness that AARON can't feel it.

CROWNE: You need to be a part of this, Aaron. We all need to be a part of this...

PANEL 5: CROWNE grabs AARON by the shoulders. Intense.

CROWNE: It's what humans are supposed to become. It's what we have to become.

CROWNE: Maybe...maybe if we operate on your optical nerves...We can make you see...





aaronsumner // Page 22

PANEL 1: QUINN opens fire on the Screamers, who are approaching.

PANEL 2: MARCUS leads PETER AND MEREDITH towards the gate.

PANEL 3: We see more Screamers peeking out at the noise, bleeding from their eyes and mouths.

PANEL 4: QUINN shouts.

QUINN: HURRY! More of them coming!



heyyouguys



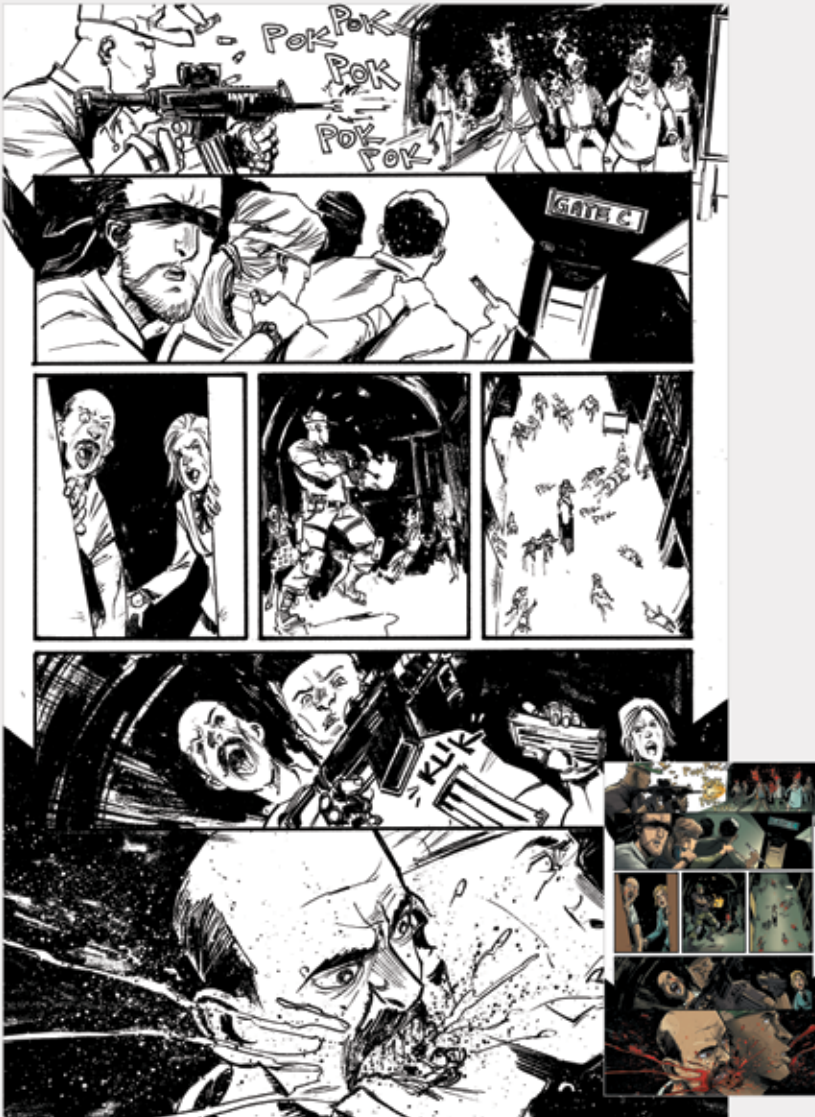
Ask heyyouguys [a question](#) #MemeFic #GoodTimesSloth

2 notes

PANEL 5: The Screemers are attracted directly to him.

PANEL 6: ONE OF THE SCREAMERS jumps onto his back...

PANEL 7: ...AND BITES INTO HIS JUGULAR.



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384 Notes



aaronsumner // Page 30

SPLASH: We see RYAN falling mid-air, and we can see large billboard screens in the distance all showing the MEME in bright glowing colors.



heyyouguys



Ask heyyouguys a question #Memelic #GoodTimesSloth

2 notes



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284 Notes



James Tynion IV: Hey Eryk!!

Eryk Donovan: Hey James!
(I'm trying to restrain myself from being a troll, I'm like a 5th grader with a keyboard right now)



James Tynion IV: I know, right? I just want to start throwing in links to ridiculous YouTube videos but I'm not sure that'll really translate in the comic itself. But we did a comic thing! And now it is done! And now we are TALKING ABOUT IT!

Eryk Donovan: COMICS TALK!!! WOO!!!!
Yeah I'm definitely proud of what we put together, I really hope everyone enjoys the insane journey we took them on.



James Tynion IV: "Enjoy" might not be the right word. This isn't exactly the happiest comic either of us have worked on. But that's actually where I wanted to start... What is it about the end of the world that's always terrified you the most?

Eryk Donovan: Hmm... You know, for a long time I was obsessed with the apocalypse and things ending, thinking it's a good thing, you know, coming from a more twisted place in my mind. But now it's different. I think what bothers me most is the idea that there will just be no more. No more art, no more music, no more love. No more chances for someone to do something kind or good for someone else, for people to be happy.




James Tynion IV: Does it still feel like an inevitability to you, or more just a possible path? Do you think we're just waiting for a trigger to send us over the edge? (Regardless of whether that trigger involves a sloth)

Chat with Meme Team

Chat with James Tynion IV and Eryk Donovan


Eryk Donovan: The way I was raised, I fully believed it was an unavoidable cosmic event. Now I see it as a possibility. I mean, we know the planet will be fried when our sun goes in a few billion years, but that's too far away for our minds to comprehend.

It's more that I look at what we are doing now as a species, both furthering ourselves and destroying things around us, that I see us on a precipice I suppose. Humanity could go a number of ways. So more of a possibility. What about you? I mean we've talked a bit about it before, but you put this crazy thing together. You said yourself it's the most nihilistic thing you've ever written.

 **James Tynion IV:** The idea of the apocalypse has always been more abstract for me... In a way, it's a cultural tool. We build apocalypse scenarios to shape our minds, keep ourselves conscious of the dangerous outcomes of any extreme behavior. Typically, we build these stories from the pieces of our day-to-day life that make us uncomfortable.

Horror always comes from some cultural tension, and that's what's always fascinated me. The way to tap into some kind of greater fear that we all have that we haven't really been able to put into words succinctly.

Eryk Donovan: In a way, apocalypse stories are a meme.





 **James Tynion IV:** Hahaha, yes. Exactly. They are idea tools that help shape us in one way or another. Whether the apocalypse is religious, or technophobic, or even just a pure fear of death itself, it helps us come to terms with a certain level of chaos that we can't overcome. Because that's the thing. The world will end for each and every one of us. We all die. We all experience an individual apocalypse. These stories help shape the fear of what shape that death might take and whether it has any meaning.

Good Times Sloth

Good Times Sloth
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Offline 
- Sarah Bentley
Offline 
- Ryan Nowak
Offline 
- Barbara Xiang
Offline 

Mobile Device

Recent Buddies

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Eryk Donovan: So I wanted to talk about that a bit, because as dark as the ending of this story is, I actually find it strangely uplifting. Perhaps it's a personal macabre. But Aaron makes a choice, he chooses to join the rest. He wants to be with everyone else, finally belong, and he makes a choice, and he does, and he is happy.



It reminds me in a way of the short we did for the *In the Dark* horror anthology, not the same obviously, but we played a bit with the idea of something utterly horrifying that somehow makes us happy later. The difference with this ending is that Aaron is able to make the decision for himself. He lets the meme into his mind.



James Tynion IV: I think it's a bit of a theme with me. What's scarier than the idea that you'd be way better off sacrificing your individuality and joining the mindless horde?

Eryk Donovan: Yeah! So how do you see the ending? How do you think our readers will see it? Is it set in your mind, or do you think of it a few ways?



James Tynion IV: One thing is, I'm sure some of them will be pissed off that they don't know what's on the last page. But the characters in the series don't know either, so they'll have to deal with that :P

Eryk Donovan: I'm not even sure I know all of what it is :P But it was fun to draw XD



James Tynion IV: I want people to take their own message from the ending on most levels, but I think a lot of it is pretty straightforward. Culture is a march towards some future we don't understand, and you can stand outside that culture and resist the inherent community of the human experience, but ultimately that's against everything we are.

Every evolutionary step has been to make us more connected, more united. Whether that's good or not, whether that's going to destroy us or lead us to some greater salvation... It's happening.

Chat with Meme Team

Chat with James Tynion IV and Eryk Donovan

James Tynion IV: Look at the internet. How much MORE connected we've become in just our lifetimes. We're not individual people anymore. We're part of a system. It's not good or bad. It just is. But there IS something scary about that. About not knowing WHY we're on this path, and where we might end up. That's what I wanted to explore in the book.

Eryk Donovan: Yeah I know what you mean. That interconnectedness is here to stay, for better or worse.

James Tynion IV: Is the internet something you think has improved life around the world, or cheapened it in a way?

Eryk Donovan: Put simply, I think both. On the one hand, never has there been a larger festering hive of banality, ignorance, and hate. And yet, on the other hand, it's given us such a broader view of who we are as humans. It's let us connect with people we would have NEVER known existed otherwise. It's given humanity a voice it never had before. It's given the common everyday person power. And as that saying goes about great power...I guess if I had to choose one way or another, I'd say it's a good thing.

James Tynion IV: Yeah, I agree. But there's also something menacing lurking under the surface of that banality and what it's making us into. But hell, I'm straight-up addicted. I can't imagine life without it. I'm ready to go full banal right to the end of the world.

Eryk Donovan: SLOTH IT UP!!!

James Tynion IV: That's my motto. My creed.

Eryk Donovan: INDEED. There. I rhymed. This is now a nursery rhyme.

James Tynion IV: Good. And it's probably about time to go to sleep.

Good Times Sloth

Good Times Sloth
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- Sarah Bentley
Offline
- Ryan Nowak
Offline
- Barbara Xiang
Offline

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+ A [Person Icon] [Lightning Bolt Icon] [Eye Icon]

Eryk Donovan: Haha seriously! GET SOME SLEEP JAMES!



James Tynion IV: (I refuse to go to sleep ever. I will never ever go to sleep.) At the end of the day, what do YOU hope people walk away from this story feeling?



Eryk Donovan: I hope they walk away from *Memetic* feeling angst about the characters and yet feeling that same strange hope that I have in the ending. That somehow we have a choice, that we can choose love. That's actually a core theme of Aaron's tale really, searching for love and acceptance. Of course, I could be completely crazy, maybe it's not about love at all, and just sloths.



James Tynion IV: Yeah, man. I was just trying to make a nice funny sloth comic. You're the one who made it all weird.



Eryk Donovan: Yeah seriously WTF, I'm a huge jerk.



James Tynion IV: Such a jerk. King of all jerks.



Eryk Donovan: So James, any last words for our readers? Anything we can leave them with, other than a looming sense of dread and the infinite possibilities of what "angels" are?



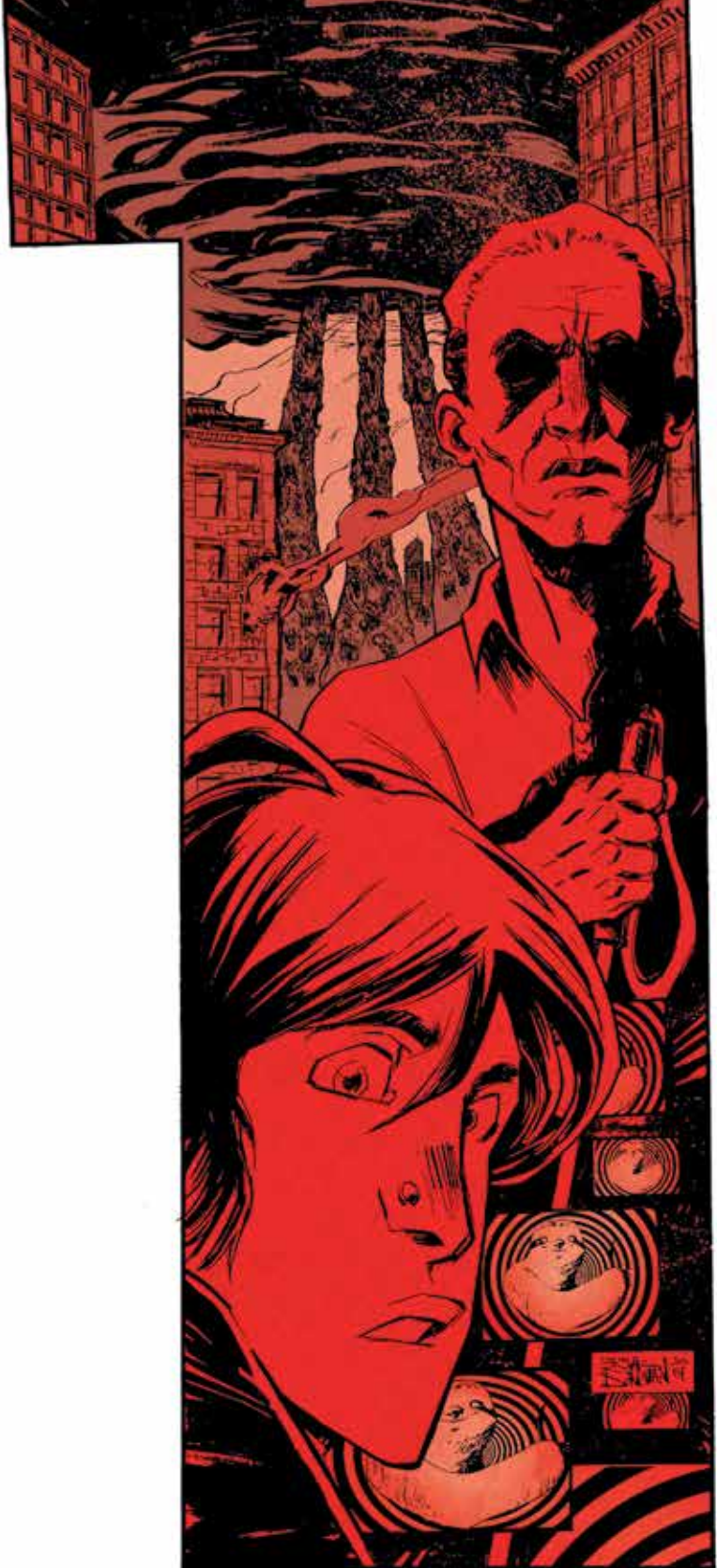
James Tynion IV: This has been one hell of a ride, and at the end of the day, I hope it made all of you readers feel something. Whether you took hope from that ending like Eryk, or if you just sort of curled into a ball and started crying at the prospect of weird alien monsters trying to steal our reality television... That's all I wanted to do here. Write something that made you guys feel something palpable and strange. Something that made you look at the world a LITTLE differently. But ultimately, the biggest thing I wanted to do is make you all completely terrified of sloths for the rest of your lives. Thanks for reading *Memetic*. We love you all.



Eryk Donovan: Thanks for reading!!! :D



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ISSUE ONE COVER
ERYK **DONOVAN**



ISSUE ONE VARIANT COVER
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ERYK DONOVAN





#GOODTIMESLOTH

A meme is an idea that starts with an individual, and then spreads throughout multiple persons and potentially entire societies. *Memetic* shows the progression of a weaponized meme that leads to the utter annihilation of the human race within 72 hours. The root of this apocalypse is a single image on the internet, a “meme” in the popular sense. A meme that changes everything.

James Tynion IV (*The Woods*, *Batman Eternal*), fantastic newcomer **Eryk Donovan** (*The House in the Wall*), and colorist **Adam Guzowski** (*Nailbiter*) bring horror to a whole new generation with this wholly unique take on the disaster genre.



“...*Memetic* is sure to deliver plenty of chills...”

—IGN

“...*Memetic* is a disaster comic that truly feels creepy, hitting all the right notes of our Ebola-fearing, smartphone-addicted society. To say that this is Tynion’s strongest work yet is underselling it - this is by far his best comic.”

—Newsarama