

# THE WOODS™

JAMES TYNION IV • MICHAEL DIALYNAS

"The Woods is creepy, funny, charming, and mysterious. My favorite kind of comic, a deep mythology mixed with equally deep character work. Get in on the ground floor of something great!"

—Jeff Lemire



VOL. 1  
THE ARROW



# THE WOODS™

JAMES TYNION IV • MICHAEL DIALYNAS

VOL. 1  
THE ARROW



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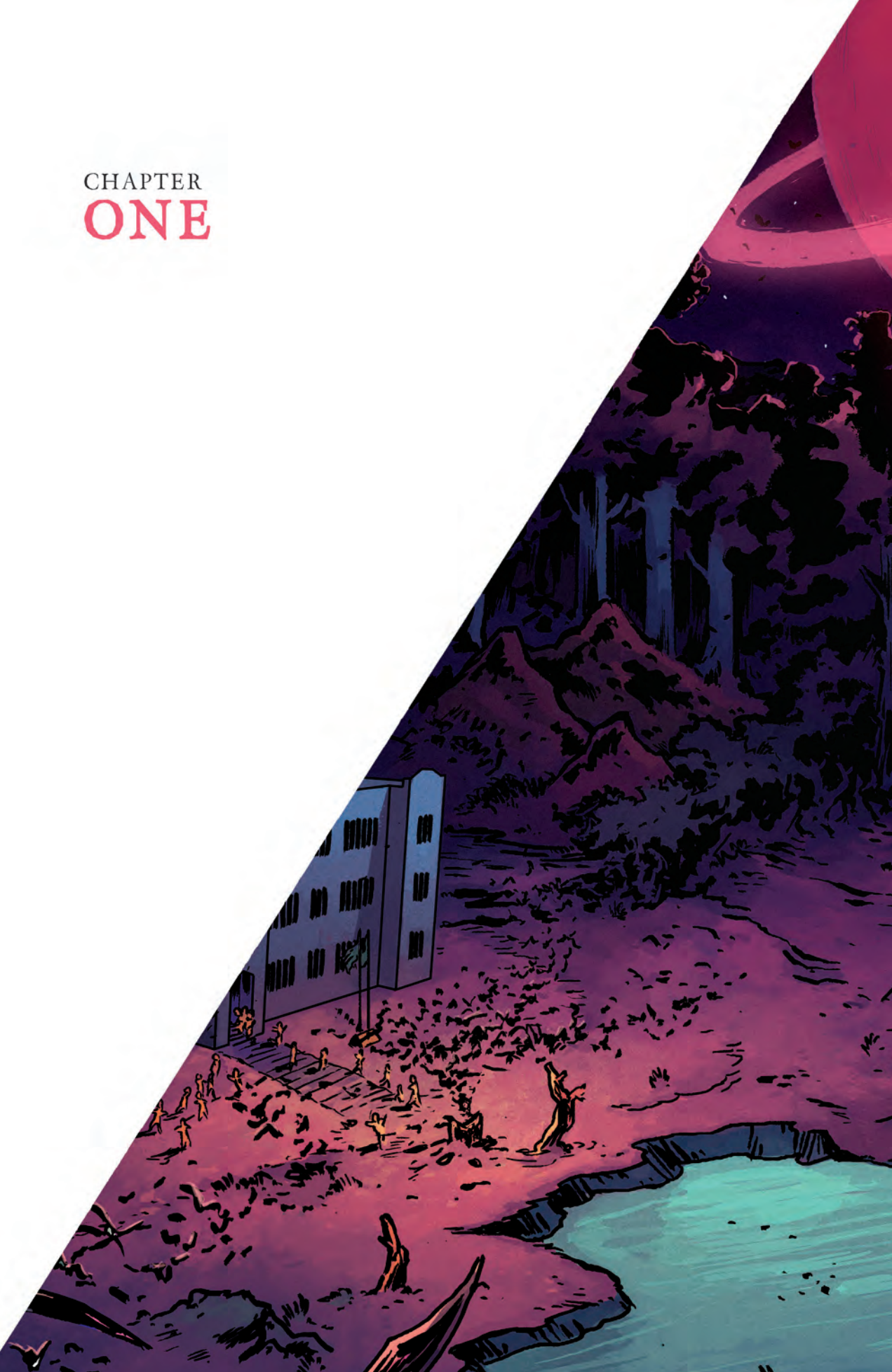
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CHAPTER  
**ONE**





**BAY POINT PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL,  
MILWAUKEE, WI.**

25 MINUTES EARLIER.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I'M GOING TO DO.



**KAREN JACOBS**  
JUST WANTS TO SCREAM RIGHT NOW.

I'M GOING TO HAVE TO RUN AWAY. OR DIE.

DYING SOUNDS PARTICULARLY EXCELLENT RIGHT NOW.

**SANAMI OTA**  
IS TRYING VERY HARD NOT TO SAY "I TOLD YOU SO."

I THINK YOU MIGHT BE OVERREACTING JUST A BIT, KAREN.

I MISSED ALL OF THEM, SANAMI. EVERY SCHOOL ON MY LIST. THE LAST COLLEGE APPLICATION WAS DUE LAST WEEK. I DIDN'T SEND ANY OF THEM IN.

ALL RIGHT, MAYBE LET'S KEEP DYING ON THE OPTIONS LIST.

AUGH. WHAT AM I GOING TO TELL MY PARENTS?

I THINK THEY MIGHT BE YOUR FASTEST ROUTE TO THE DEATH SOLUTION, ACTUALLY.

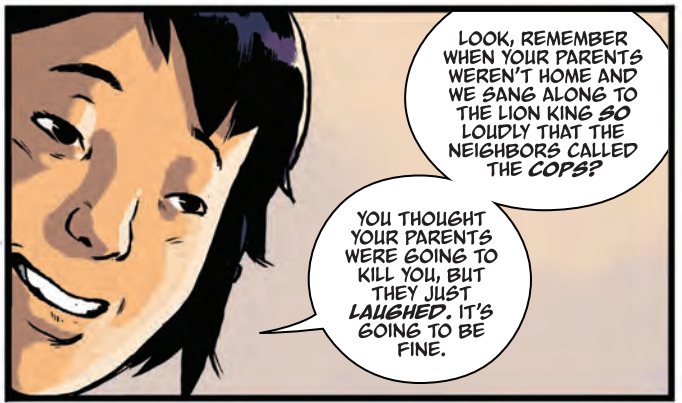
NONE OF THEM SOUNDED RIGHT! I KEPT TRYING TO IMAGINE MYSELF IN DIFFERENT COLLEGE PROGRAMS DOING DIFFERENT COLLEGE THINGS, AND I COULDN'T SEE MYSELF IN ANY OF IT.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I WANT. HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO MAKE A DECISION LIKE THIS?



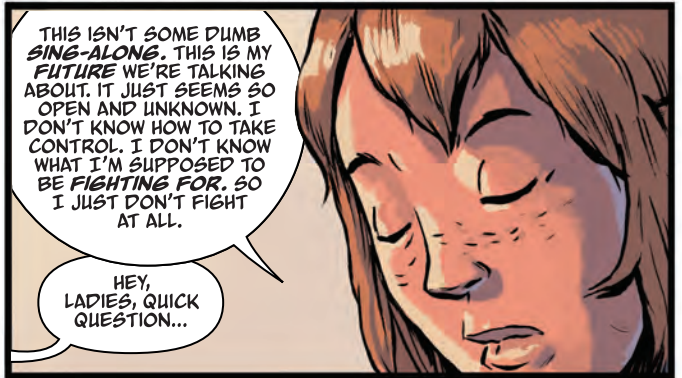
GUESSWORK AND A MILD SENSE OF OPTIMISM?

ALL I KNOW IS I AM GETTING THE HELL OUT OF WISCONSIN. I'LL BE DAMNED IF I SPEND ANOTHER FREAKING SUMMER CAMPING IN THE NORTH WOODS.



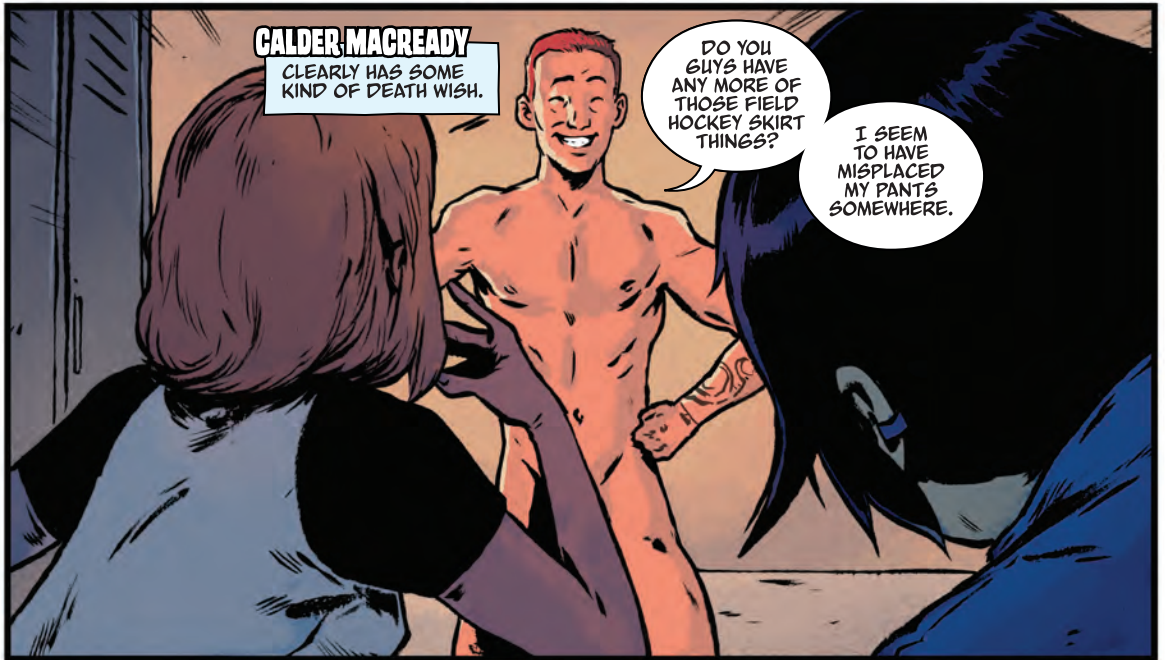
LOOK, REMEMBER WHEN YOUR PARENTS WEREN'T HOME AND WE SANG ALONG TO THE LION KING SO LOUDLY THAT THE NEIGHBORS CALLED THE COPS?

YOU THOUGHT YOUR PARENTS WERE GOING TO KILL YOU, BUT THEY JUST LAUGHED. IT'S GOING TO BE FINE.



THIS ISN'T SOME DUMB SING-ALONG. THIS IS MY FUTURE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT. IT JUST SEEMS SO OPEN AND UNKNOWN. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO TAKE CONTROL. I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO BE FIGHTING FOR. SO I JUST DON'T FIGHT AT ALL.

HEY, LADIES, QUICK QUESTION...



**CALDER MACREADY**  
CLEARLY HAS SOME KIND OF DEATH WISH.

DO YOU GUYS HAVE ANY MORE OF THOSE FIELD HOCKEY SKIRT THINGS?

I SEEM TO HAVE MISPLACED MY PANTS SOMEWHERE.



I'M GETTING A CLEAR VISION OF THE FUTURE RIGHT NOW, HOW 'BOUT YOU, KARE-BEAR?

YEP. I SEE IT TOO. IT'S VERY HURTY.



**MARIA RAMIREZ**

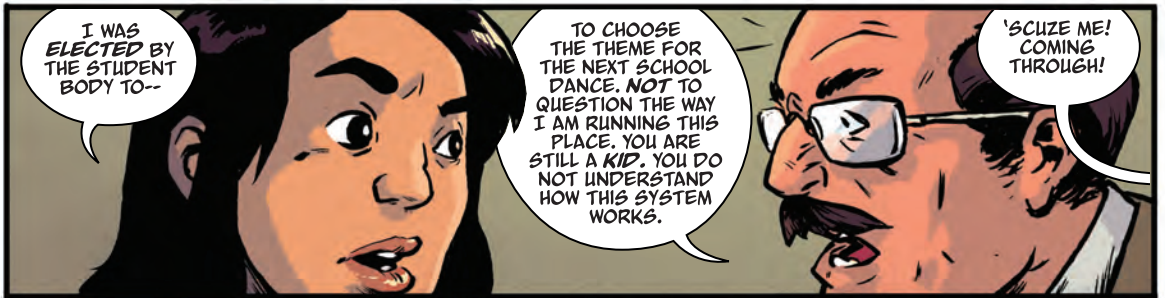
WISHES SHE COULD STRANGLE WHOEVER TOLD MR. BEAUMONT TO BE A PRINCIPAL.

**JOHN BEAUMONT**

WISHES HE COULD STRANGLE WHOEVER TOLD HIM TO BE A PRINCIPAL.

--I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW YOU CAN BE SO BLASE ABOUT THIS, MR. BEAUMONT. THE VOTES OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL WERE VERY CLEAR...

STUDENT COUNCIL IS AN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY, MARIA. NOT AN ACTUAL GOVERNING BODY IN THIS SCHOOL...



I WAS ELECTED BY THE STUDENT BODY TO--

TO CHOOSE THE THEME FOR THE NEXT SCHOOL DANCE. NOT TO QUESTION THE WAY I AM RUNNING THIS PLACE, YOU ARE STILL A KID. YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND HOW THIS SYSTEM WORKS.

'SCUZE ME! COMING THROUGH!



HEYA! HAPPY MONDAY!

WA-WAIT--

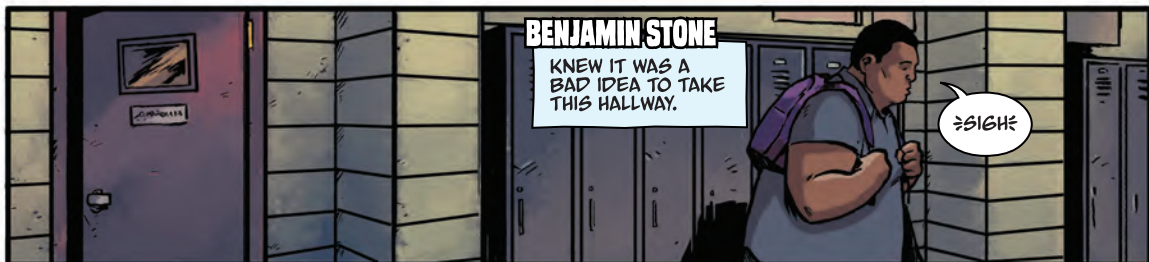


I AM GOING TO RIP OFF YOUR ARMS AND BEAT YOU TO DEATH WITH THEM, YOU WEIRD PERVERT!

SANAMI?!



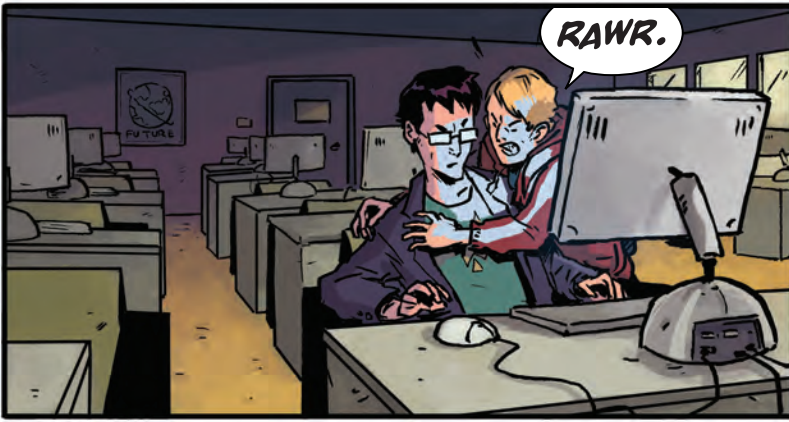
MACREADY-- YOU STOP THIS INSTANT!





**ADRIAN ROTH**

KNOWS HE'S SMARTER THAN THE REST OF THESE IDIOTS.



**RAWR.**



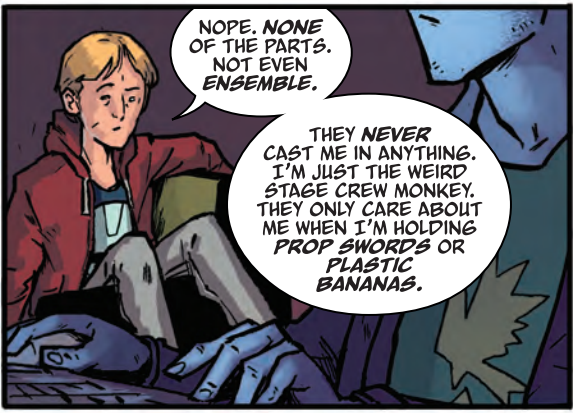
LET ME GUESS. THE CAST LIST JUST WENT UP.



I AM A DINOSAUR NOW AND I DON'T CARE ABOUT CAST LISTS, ADRIAN.

**RAAAWR.**

YOU DIDN'T GET THE PART.



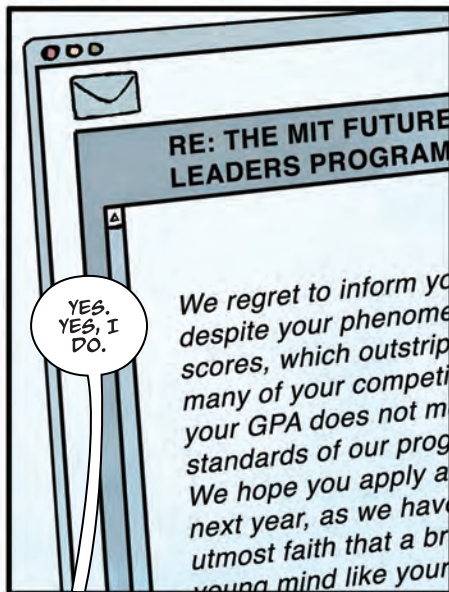
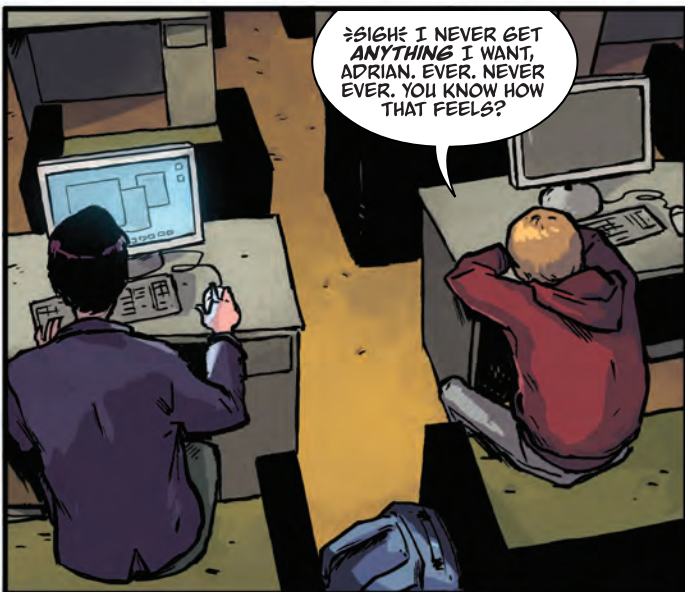
NOPE. NONE OF THE PARTS. NOT EVEN ENSEMBLE.

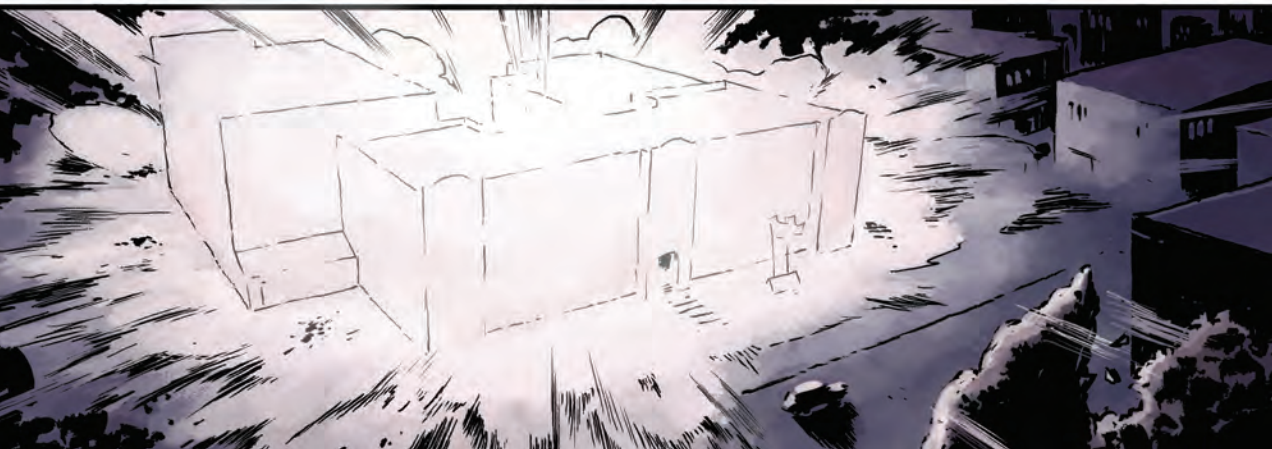
THEY NEVER CAST ME IN ANYTHING. I'M JUST THE WEIRD STAGE CREW MONKEY. THEY ONLY CARE ABOUT ME WHEN I'M HOLDING PROP SWORDS OR PLASTIC BANANAS.



YOU'LL COME OUT FOR STAGE CREW THIS YEAR, RIGHT? YOU'RE NOT JUST GOING TO LEAVE ME ALONE AGAIN?

WE'LL SEE.







RUMBLE

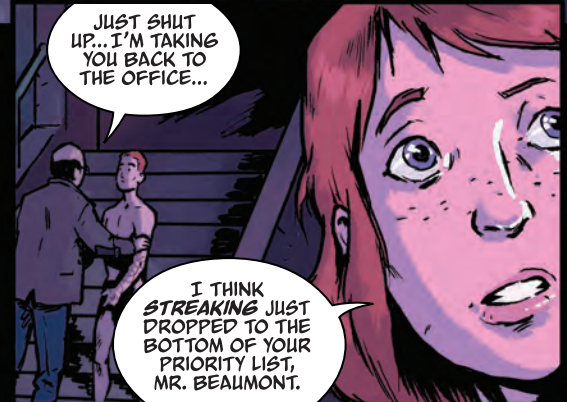
GAH!



WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?

WAS THERE SOME KIND OF EXPLOSION?

DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT! I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!!



JUST SHUT UP... I'M TAKING YOU BACK TO THE OFFICE...

I THINK *STREAKING* JUST DROPPED TO THE BOTTOM OF YOUR PRIORITY LIST, MR. BEAUMONT.



IT'S DARK NOW... HOW COULD IT BE NIGHT ALREADY?

WHAT... WHAT IS THAT?



OVER THERE.



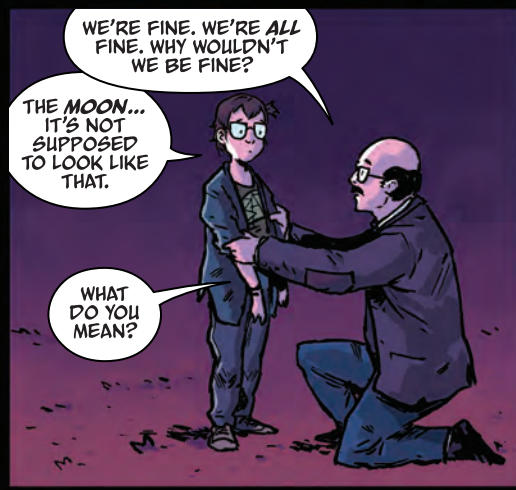
IT'S... GLOWING.





ARE WE... ARE WE DEAD?  
I DON'T WANT TO BE DEAD...  
I'M TOO YOUNG TO DIE.

WHAT?!  
WHY WOULD  
YOU SAY THAT,  
CARRIE...



WE'RE FINE, WE'RE ALL  
FINE, WHY WOULDN'T  
WE BE FINE?

THE MOON...  
IT'S NOT  
SUPPOSED  
TO LOOK LIKE  
THAT.

WHAT  
DO YOU  
MEAN?



LOOK.



OH  
GOD...

WHERE  
ARE WE?



FWOOSH!

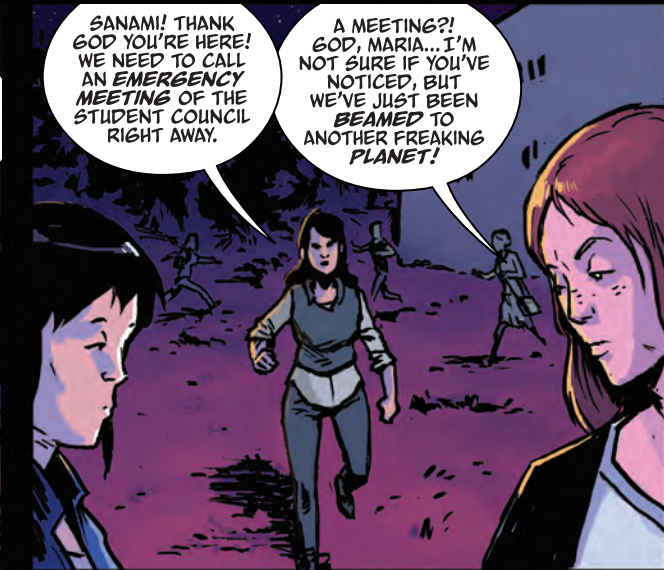






HOW DID WE GET HERE...? WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

PRETTY SURE IT MEANS YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT COLLEGE ANYMORE.



SANAMI! THANK GOD YOU'RE HERE! WE NEED TO CALL AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL RIGHT AWAY.

A MEETING?! GOD, MARIA... I'M NOT SURE IF YOU'VE NOTICED, BUT WE'VE JUST BEEN BEAMED TO ANOTHER FREAKING PLANET!



EXACTLY. PEOPLE ARE FREAKING TERRIFIED RIGHT NOW. AND FOR GOOD REASON. WE NEED TO GET TOGETHER AND FIGURE OUT WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO.

AND I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I WANT TO BE A PART OF THAT CONVERSATION.



LOOK, KAREN. STAND ON THE SIDELINES, LIKE YOU ALWAYS DO. IT'LL MAKE IT EASIER FOR THE REST OF US.

C'MON, SANAMI. LET'S GET TO WORK.

MARIA...



...  
JUST GO, SANAMI. I'LL BE FINE.





WHAT...  
WHAT IS  
IT?

WE SHOULD GET BACK  
INSIDE. BEAUMONT'S  
HAVING AN ANEURISM  
BACK THERE.

NO.  
NOT  
YET...

**RUSTLE**

OH GOD...  
SOMETHING'S  
OUT THERE.  
WE NEED TO  
GET OUT OF  
HERE!

I SAID  
**NO!**

WHAT'S--WHAT'S  
GOING ON?

I THINK  
I... YES. I  
**UNDERSTAND.**  
BUT NOBODY  
ELSE WILL...

YOU ARE  
SERIOUSLY  
100% FREAKING  
ME OUT RIGHT  
NOW.

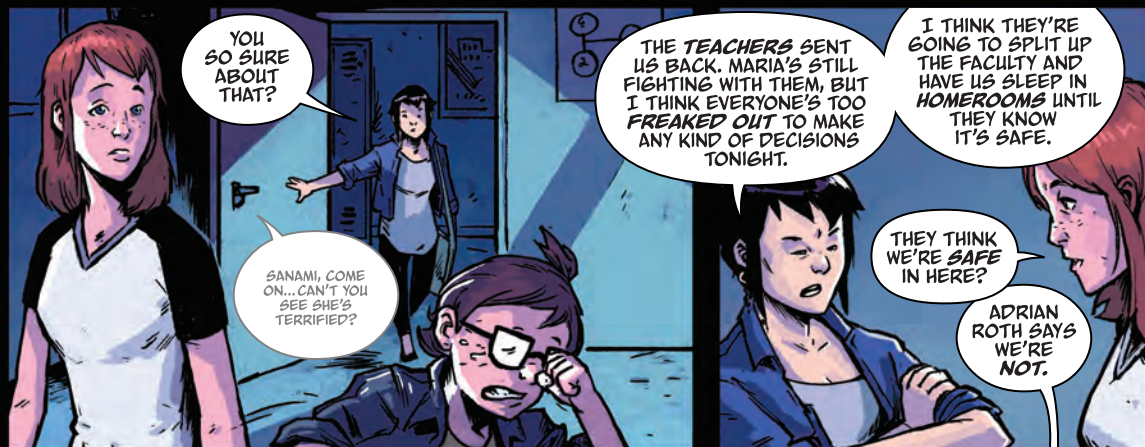
THE ONLY WAY WE'RE  
GOING TO **SURVIVE**  
THIS PLACE IS BY  
GOING RIGHT TO THE  
**HEART** OF THESE  
WOODS.

OKAY...  
MAKE THAT  
**10,000%**  
FREAKING  
ME OUT.



LATER.

C'MON... YOU CAN STOP CRYING. IT'S OKAY.



YOU SO SURE ABOUT THAT?

SANAMI, COME ON... CAN'T YOU SEE SHE'S TERRIFIED?

THE TEACHERS SENT US BACK. MARIA'S STILL FIGHTING WITH THEM, BUT I THINK EVERYONE'S TOO FREAKED OUT TO MAKE ANY KIND OF DECISIONS TONIGHT.

I THINK THEY'RE GOING TO SPLIT UP THE FACILITY AND HAVE US SLEEP IN HOMEROOMS UNTIL THEY KNOW IT'S SAFE.

THEY THINK WE'RE SAFE IN HERE?

ADRIAN ROTH SAYS WE'RE NOT.



HE'S GOT A PLAN TO GET THE ANSWERS WE NEED. BUT WE NEED THE HELP OF FOLKS WITH VERY SPECIFIC SKILLS. WE'RE LEAVING TONIGHT.

LEAVE THE SCHOOL? ARE YOU CRAZY?



YOU'RE NOT KIDDING, ARE YOU?

NOPE. HERE'S A KEY TO BACKSTAGE.



PLEASE COME, ALL RIGHT? WE NEED YOUR HELP. NOBODY IN THE SCHOOL KNOWS AS MUCH ABOUT SURVIVING IN THE WOODS AS--

OH, HELL NO.

JUST THINK ON IT, OKAY? WE'RE MEETING IN THE NEXT TEN MINUTES. HEAR HIM OUT.







"EARTH DOESN'T HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY TO SEND A RESCUE TEAM TO MARS, LET ALONE WHEREVER THIS PLACE IS."

"WHEREVER WE'VE BEEN TAKEN."



"AND I CAN TELL YOU ONE THING FOR SURE... WE WERE TAKEN. SOMEONE... SOMETHING ON THIS WORLD HAS BROUGHT US HERE."

"I CAN'T TELL YOU WHY. I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW. BUT THERE ARE FORCES AT PLAY HERE MORE POWERFUL THAN ANYTHING WE'VE EVER IMAGINED."



"THEY LEFT US A MESSAGE, STANDING AT THE EDGE OF THE CLEARING, A PAIR OF SORTS, TO COME FIND THEM."

"TO DISCOVER THE REASON WHY THEY'VE TAKEN US TO THIS PLACE."



THE BLOWING STONE IS AN ARROW, LEFT TO SHOW US THE WAY. WE HAVE TO FOLLOW IT INTO THE HEART OF THE UNKNOWN.

WE MUST ENTER THE WOODS.

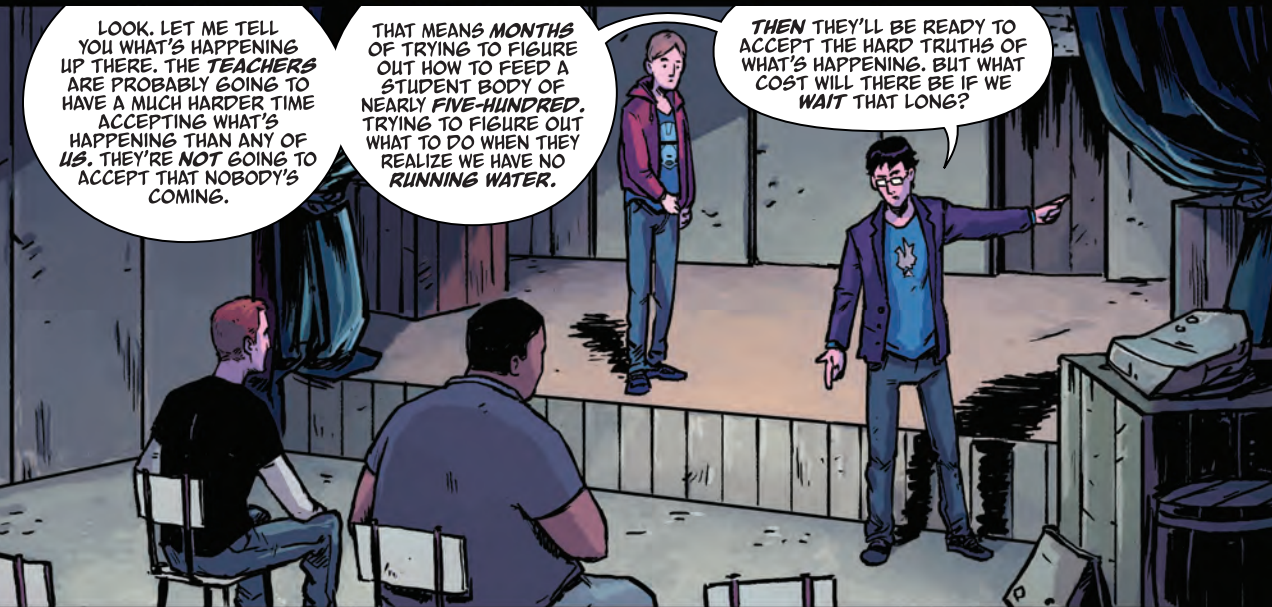


YOU'RE **CRAZY**. YOU REALIZE THAT, RIGHT?



NOBODY ELSE WOULD COME?

I'M SORRY... YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY **POPULAR**, YOU KNOW?



LOOK. LET ME TELL YOU WHAT'S HAPPENING UP THERE. THE **TEACHERS** ARE PROBABLY GOING TO HAVE A MUCH HARDER TIME ACCEPTING WHAT'S HAPPENING THAN ANY OF **US**. THEY'RE NOT GOING TO ACCEPT THAT NOBODY'S COMING.

THAT MEANS **MONTHS** OF TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO FEED A STUDENT BODY OF NEARLY **FIVE-HUNDRED**. TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO WHEN THEY REALIZE WE HAVE NO **RUNNING WATER**.

THEN THEY'LL BE READY TO ACCEPT THE HARD TRUTHS OF WHAT'S HAPPENING. BUT WHAT COST WILL THERE BE IF WE **WAIT** THAT LONG?



THIS SCHOOL IS **NOT SAFE**. IT IS A **POWDER KEG**, AND IT HAS JUST BEEN TRANSPORTED RIGHT TO THE HEART OF AN **ALIEN PLANET**.



MOON.

WHAT?

UM...IT'S A MOON, ISN'T IT? WE'RE ORBITING A **GAS GIANT**. I'M PRETTY SURE THIS IS A MOON.

MAYBE.



...A MOON, THEN.

CHEERS, BIG GUY.

...

EITHER WAY, THERE'S A **TARGET** ON US. WHATEVER BROUGHT US HERE **KNOWS** WHERE WE ARE. AND THEY DIDN'T JUST BRING US HERE TO **STAY** IN THE SCHOOL.



THIS IS A **TEST**. AND THE LONGER WE WAIT THE MORE **DANGEROUS** IT'S GOING TO GET. IF WE DON'T END UP KILLING EACH OTHER, I'M SURE WHATEVER'S OUT THERE IS GOING TO **COME HERE** AND KILL US **FIRST**.

I'M NOT **WILLING** TO WAIT. IN THIS ROOM, WE HAVE THE **SKILLS** TO SURVIVE THE WILDERNESS.



CALDER, YOU'RE A **HUNTER**, AREN'T YOU? I'VE HEARD YOU **Bragging** ABOUT YOUR BROTHER'S RIFLES...AND THE **KNIVES** YOU KEEP IN YOUR LOCKER.

HOW MANY DO YOU HAVE, OUT OF CURIOSITY?

'BOUT SIX. PROLLY ANOTHER FIVE IF I CAN RAID BEAUMONT'S OFFICE...



AND BENJAMIN, I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYONE AT THIS SCHOOL AS **STRONG** AS YOU. I KNOW COACH CLAY KEEPS TRYING TO GET YOU BACK ON THE FOOTBALL TEAM. I THINK THIS IS A **BETTER** USE OF YOUR ABILITIES.

...



ISAAC, YOU'VE BUILT ALL MANNER OF **STRUCTURES** OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS FOR THE SCHOOL'S THEATER PROGRAM. AND YOU'VE GOTTEN US IN HERE, TO GET TOOLS. **SUPPLIES**.

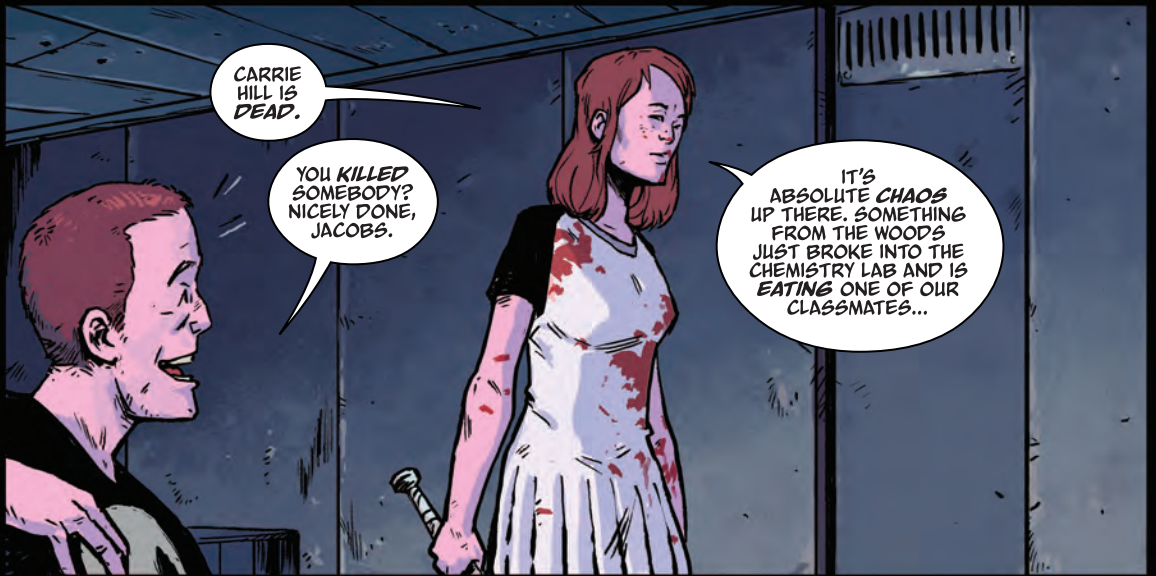
DID YOU HEAR THAT?



HM?

IT SOUNDS LIKE...IT SOUNDS LIKE SCREAMING.

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT IT IS.



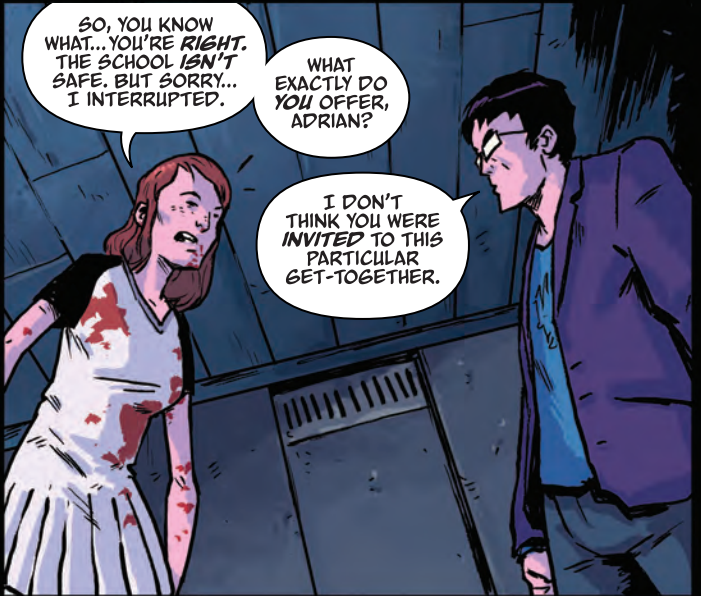
CARRIE HILL IS DEAD.

YOU KILLED SOMEBODY? NICELY DONE, JACOBS.

IT'S ABSOLUTE CHAOS UP THERE. SOMETHING FROM THE WOODS JUST BROKE INTO THE CHEMISTRY LAB AND IS EATING ONE OF OUR CLASSMATES...



IT COULD HAVE BEEN ANY OF US...THE LONGER WE WAIT, IT PROBABLY WILL BE ONE OF US. I CAN'T JUST SIT BY AND LET THAT HAPPEN.



SO, YOU KNOW WHAT... YOU'RE RIGHT. THE SCHOOL ISN'T SAFE. BUT SORRY... I INTERRUPTED.

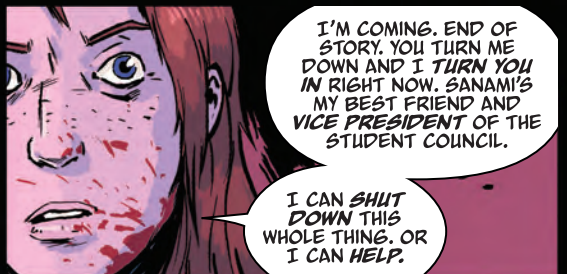
WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU OFFER, ADRIAN?

I DON'T THINK YOU WERE INVITED TO THIS PARTICULAR GET-TOGETHER.



I DON'T CARE. I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT. I THINK DOING SOMETHING ACTIVE IS THE ONLY WAY WE'RE GOING TO GET OUT OF THIS ALIVE.

AND I'M NOT ABOUT TO LEAVE THE LIVES OF ALL THESE STUDENTS IN THE HANDS OF SOME IDIOT SAVANT AND HIS MADCAP CREW.



I'M COMING. END OF STORY. YOU TURN ME DOWN AND I TURN YOU IN RIGHT NOW. SANAMI'S MY BEST FRIEND AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL.

I CAN SHUT DOWN THIS WHOLE THING. OR I CAN HELP.



... FINE. BUT WE LEAVE TONIGHT.



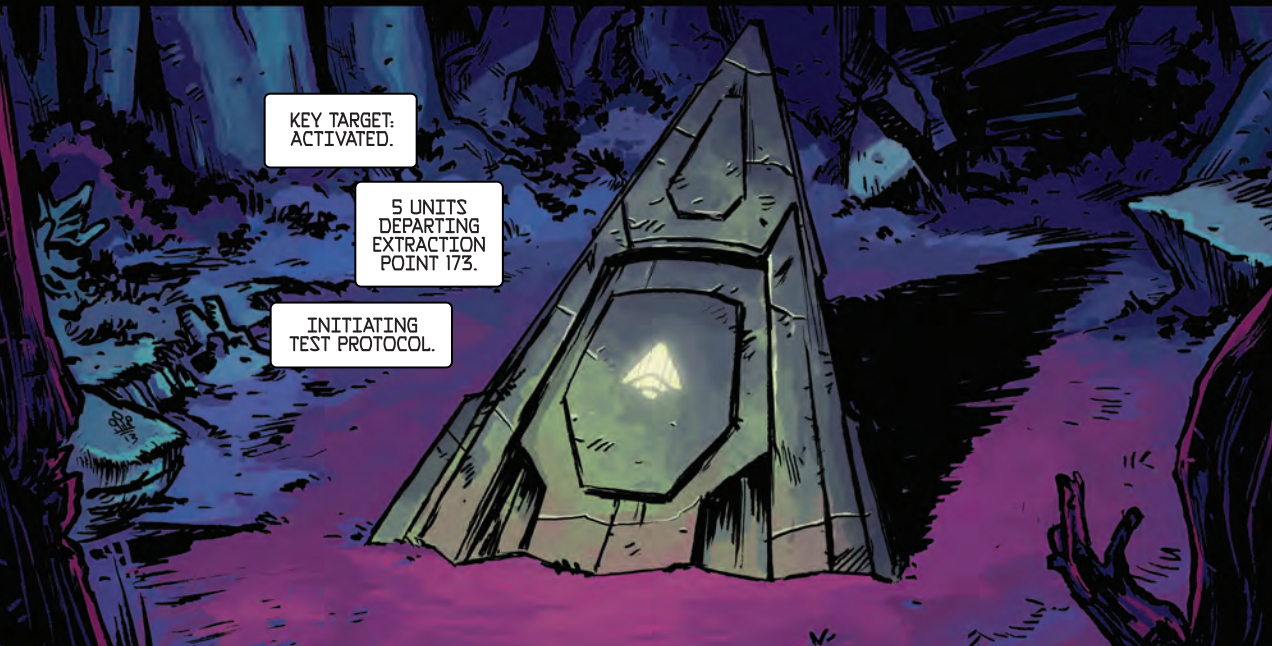
EVERYONE INTO THE GYMNASIUM! WE'LL BE SAFE IN THERE!



ARE YOU *SURE* ABOUT ALL THIS?



HE *BETTER* BE.





CHAPTER  
**TWO**





"SO LET'S LAY IT ALL OUT ON THE TABLE."

"15 HOURS AGO BAY POINT PREPARATORY ACADEMY, ALONG WITH ALL 452 STUDENTS AND 64 FACULTY, WAS **TRANSPORTED** INTO THE MIDDLE OF SOME KIND OF **FOREST**."

"...A FOREST THAT HAS SINCE PROVEN TO BE FILLED WITH STRANGE CREATURES THAT HAVE ALREADY **MURDERED** AT LEAST THREE OF OUR STUDENTS..."

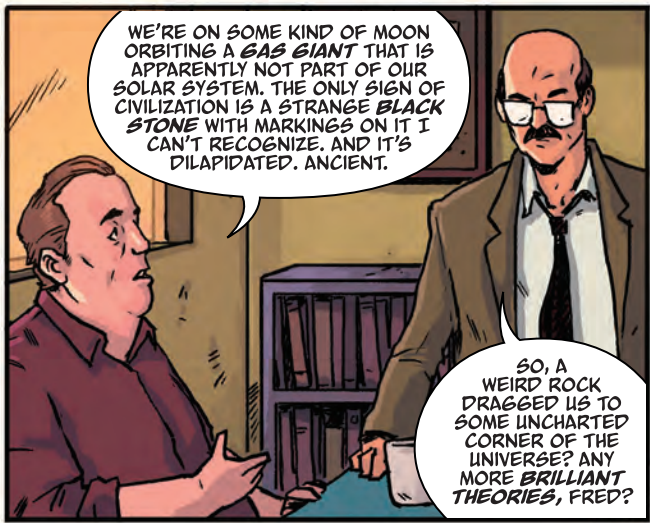
"WE HAVE NO IDEA HOW WE GOT HERE. WE HAVE NO IDEA **WHO** IS BEHIND BRINGING US HERE."

"WE HAVE NO IDEA **WHERE** 'HERE' IS."

KAREN...



SO... I CAN'T IMAGINE ANY OF US HAS SLEPT. ARE WE ANYWHERE CLOSER TO FIGURING THIS THING OUT? DO WE HAVE ANY FREAKING IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?



WE'RE ON SOME KIND OF MOON ORBITING A GAS GIANT THAT IS APPARENTLY NOT PART OF OUR SOLAR SYSTEM. THE ONLY SIGN OF CIVILIZATION IS A STRANGE BLACK STONE WITH MARKINGS ON IT I CAN'T RECOGNIZE. AND IT'S DILAPIDATED. ANCIENT.

SO, A WEIRD ROCK DRAGGED US TO SOME UNCHARTED CORNER OF THE UNIVERSE? ANY MORE BRILLIANT THEORIES, FRED?



M-MAYBE IT'S TIME TRAVEL OF SOME KIND? OR PERHAPS WE'RE UNDERGROUND IN SOME FACILITY? THE GOVERNMENT TRYING TO TEST US?

YOU THINK THE GOVERNMENT'S CAPABLE OF CREATING THE KIND OF MONSTERS WE SAW YESTERDAY, MIRIAM?



MAYBE WE'RE DREAMING.

I HOPE WE'RE DREAMING.



SO, REALLY. WE HAVE NOTHING?



I'M A HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACHER, JOHN. SHE'S A LIBRARIAN. THIS IS A LITTLE BIT OUTSIDE OF OUR WHEELHOUSE.



BUT IT SEEMS UNLIKELY WE'D BE TARGETED ALONE LIKE THIS.

ARE WE GOING TO FIND OUT THAT EVERY OTHER HIGH SCHOOL IN MILWAUKEE IS TUCKED AWAY IN THOSE WOODS SOMEWHERE?

ARE WE SAYING THAT WE SHOULD EXPECT A RAIDING PARTY OF MARQUETTE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BURSTING THROUGH THE FOREST EDGE ANY MINUTE?



HELL, FOR ALL WE KNOW THIS IS SOME KIND OF MISTAKE. WE STAY PUT, AND WHATEVER BROUGHT US HERE SENDS US BACK.

THAT... THAT MAKES SENSE TO ME. WE LOCK THINGS DOWN... HOLD OUT UNTIL SOMEONE FINDS US, OR SENDS US BACK HOME.



YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT?



ESIGHE MARIA. AND THE STUDENT COUNCIL. WHAT A LOVELY SURPRISE.

YOU REALIZE THIS IS A CLOSED MEETING.

THIS IS AN IDIOTIC MEETING.



EXCUSE ME?



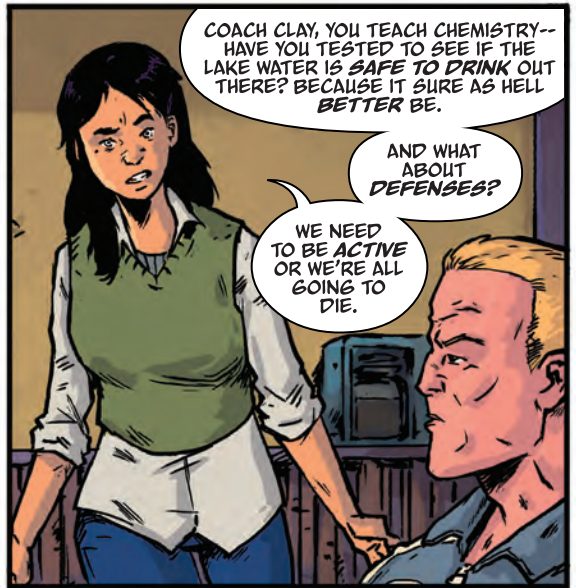
THERE ARE FAR MORE PRESSING THINGS ON THE TABLE!

MORE PRESSING THAN GETTING HOME?!



YES. THERE'S THE FACT THAT STUDENTS ARE *STRESS-EATING* THROUGH EVERYTHING IN THE CAFETERIA. WE BARELY HAVE ENOUGH TO LAST US A WEEK.

AND HAVE YOU NOTICED THE *STENCH* IN HERE? PEOPLE ARE STILL USING THE BATHROOMS DESPITE NO *RUNNING WATER* IN THE BUILDING.



COACH CLAY, YOU TEACH CHEMISTRY-- HAVE YOU TESTED TO SEE IF THE LAKE WATER IS *SAFE TO DRINK* OUT THERE? BECAUSE IT *SURE AS HELL BETTER BE*.

AND WHAT ABOUT *DEFENSES*?

WE NEED TO BE *ACTIVE* OR WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE.



OH GOD... OH GOD...

IT'S OKAY, MS. WINTERS... WE'RE GOING TO BE OKAY. WE JUST HAVE TO *WORK TOGETHER* ON THIS.

SHE'S RIGHT, JOHN.



WE APPRECIATE THAT YOU AND THE REST OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL ARE SO DEDICATED TO GETTING OUR SCHOOL BACK ON TRACK.

BUT RIGHT NOW, THE *ADULTS* NEED TO SIT DOWN AND DECIDE WHAT TO DO.



MR. BEAUMONT--

THAT'S ENOUGH, MARIA. YOU'RE DONE.



IF THEY'RE NOT GOING TO DO THIS WITH US, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DO IT OURSELVES... DOES ANYONE REMEMBER HOW DEEP SANAMI SAID A *LATRINE* SHOULD BE?

WHERE THE HELL IS SHE, ANYWAY?



UM...HI. THIS IS THE STAGE SHOP, RIGHT?

UH... YEAH?



HAVE YOU SEEN ISAAC ANDREWS OR ADRIAN ROTH?

I KNEW IT, MAN! I KNEW IT WAS HIM!



THAT LITTLE WEIRDO TRIED TO INVITE US ON SOME KINDA TRIP OUT INTO DEATH FOREST. NOW HALF OUR TOOLS ARE GONE. NEVER SHOULD'VE TOLD HIM TO JOIN STAGE CREW.

HE WAS CRYING IN THE HALL. WE TOOK PITY ON HIM. ADOPTED HIM AS ONE OF OUR OWN!

BUT NOW WE ARE BETRAYED!



DAMNIT, KAREN. THIS ISN'T WHAT I MEANT...



WAIT. I KNOW YOU. SANAMI OTA. YOU AND YOUR FAMILY WERE IN THAT MAGAZINE.

NOPE. DEFINITELY NOT.

MODERN-DAY SWISS FAMILY ROBINSON. ASIAN REMIX STYLE. YOU GUYS HAVE THAT HOUSE UP IN THE WOODS. NO PLUMBING. NO ELECTRICITY.

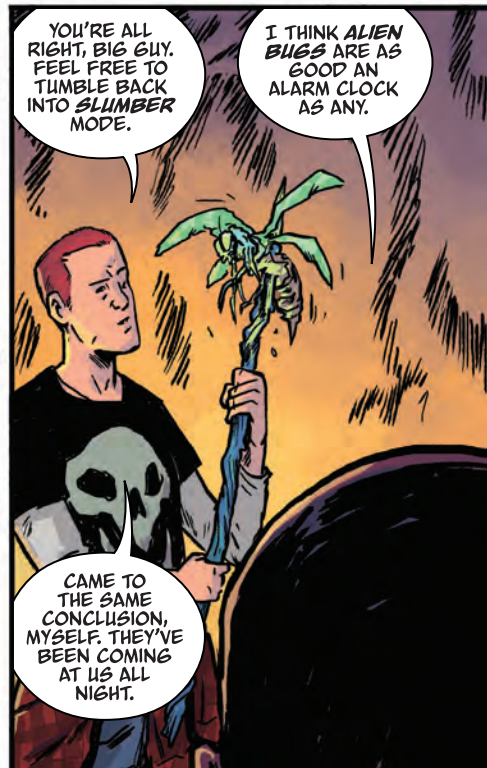


SAY "SWISS FAMILY ROBINSON" AGAIN. I DARE YOU.



WAIT, WHERE ARE YOU GOING? DO YOU WANT FACE PAINT?

WHERE I'M GOING, I DON'T NEED FACE PAINT.





BEN... I DON'T THINK WE REALLY THOUGHT THIS THING THROUGH.

DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE A "THINK THINGS THROUGH" KIND OF GUY, CALDER.

YEAH, WELL... I DIDN'T THINK I WAS A "CAMPING TRIP ON AN ALIEN MOON" KINDA GUY, EITHER, BUT SOMETIMES LIFE GETS FUNNY LIKE THAT.

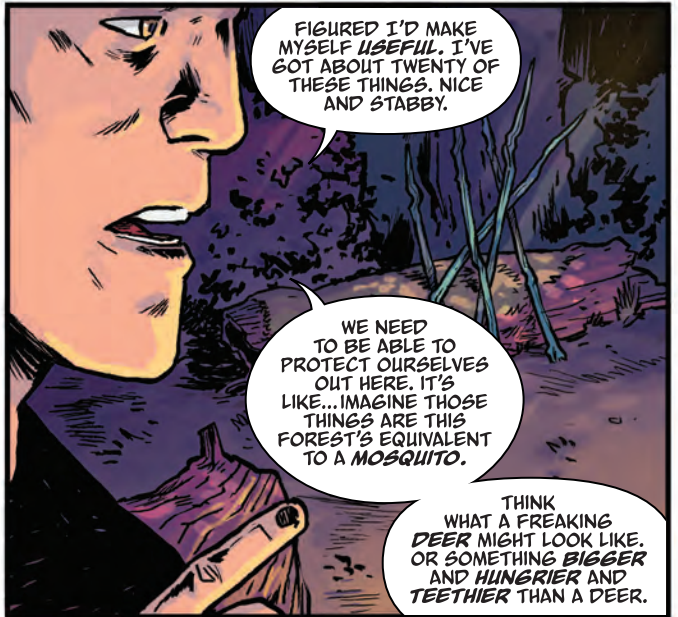


I COULDN'T SLEEP LAST NIGHT. THE **NOISES**, MAN... THERE'S SOME REALLY **MESSED-UP** NOISES IN THESE WOODS...

MORE THAN JUST NOISES... COULD YOU IMAGINE IF ONE OF THOSE THINGS BIT YOU?



PROBABLY WOULDN'T BE PRETTY. LET'S NOT FIND OUT.



FIGURED I'D MAKE MYSELF **USEFUL**. I'VE GOT ABOUT TWENTY OF THESE THINGS. NICE AND STABBY.

WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO PROTECT OURSELVES OUT HERE. IT'S LIKE... IMAGINE THOSE THINGS ARE THIS FOREST'S EQUIVALENT TO A **MOSQUITO**.

THINK WHAT A **FREAKING DEER** MIGHT LOOK LIKE. OR SOMETHING **BIGGER** AND **HUNGRIER** AND **TEETHIER** THAN A DEER.

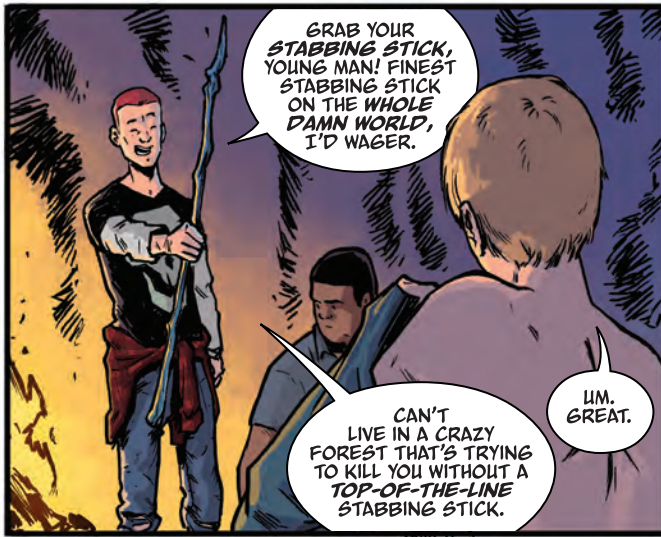


MUST BE NICE, BIG GUY LIKE YOU. NOTHING CAN HURT YOU. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE **AFRAID** OF ANYTHING OUT HERE.

...



YOU GUYS UP, HUH?



GRAB YOUR STABBING STICK, YOUNG MAN! FINEST STABBING STICK ON THE WHOLE DAMN WORLD, I'D WAGER.

CAN'T LIVE IN A CRAZY FOREST THAT'S TRYING TO KILL YOU WITHOUT A TOP-OF-THE-LINE STABBING STICK.

UM. GREAT.



IS THERE FOOD?

YEAH, IN MY BAG. YOU CAN... TAKE A LOOK, IF YOU WANT.

THANKS, BEN.



WHAT THE--

EEEEEEK!



AAAAA



KILL IT!

DON'T LET IT BITE YOU!

MRAH!



AAAAHH!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU GUYS--  
AAH!



OUT OF THE WAY, KAREN!

WAIT! STOP! YOU'RE SCARING IT!



IT SCARED US FIRST.

IT'S SHAKING. IT'S JUST A LITTLE ANIMAL.



AWW... YOU'RE WEIRD-LOOKING, AIN'TCHA.

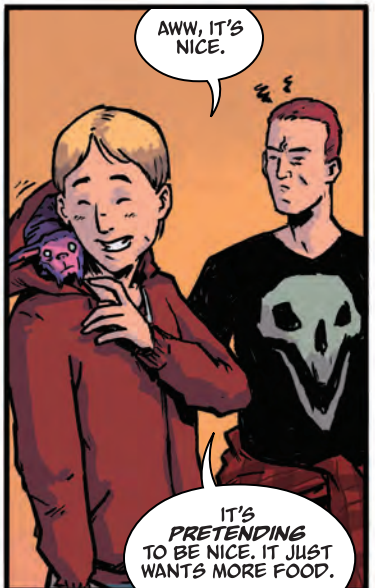
HERE... HERE, FELLA... WANT A BIT OF JERKY?

MREH?

snif  
snif



BiTE!



AWW, IT'S NICE.

IT'S PRETENDING TO BE NICE. IT JUST WANTS MORE FOOD.



IS THERE ANY LEFT?  
I MEAN...FOR  
BREAKFAST?

HERE,  
BEN.



ALL RIGHT, WE'RE  
GOING TO HAVE TO  
SET RULES ABOUT  
SCREAMING WHILE  
EVERYONE ELSE IS  
STILL ASLEEP...

OH GOOD,  
YOU'RE  
SETTING  
RULES.



ADRIAN.

LOOK! WE  
FOUND A  
FRIEND.

...



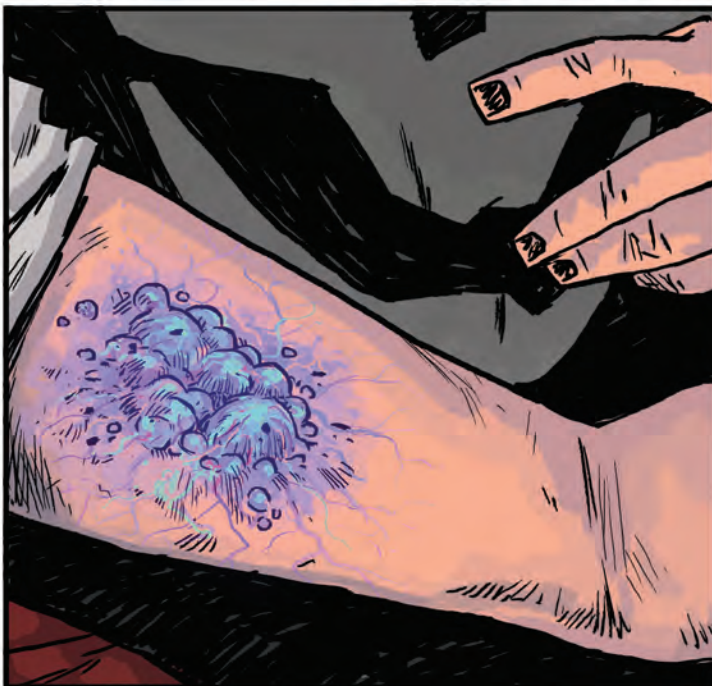
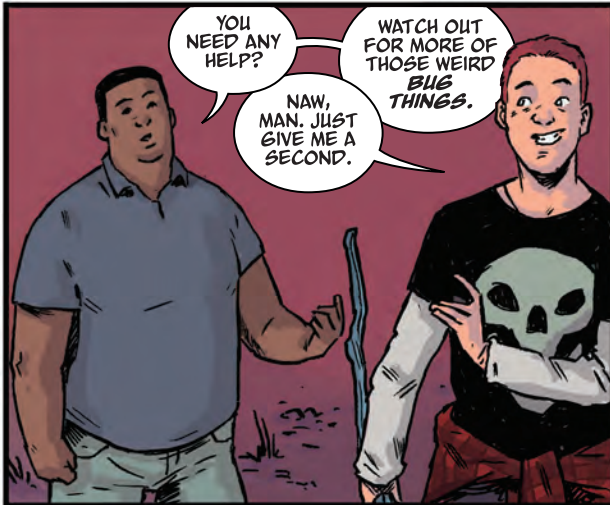
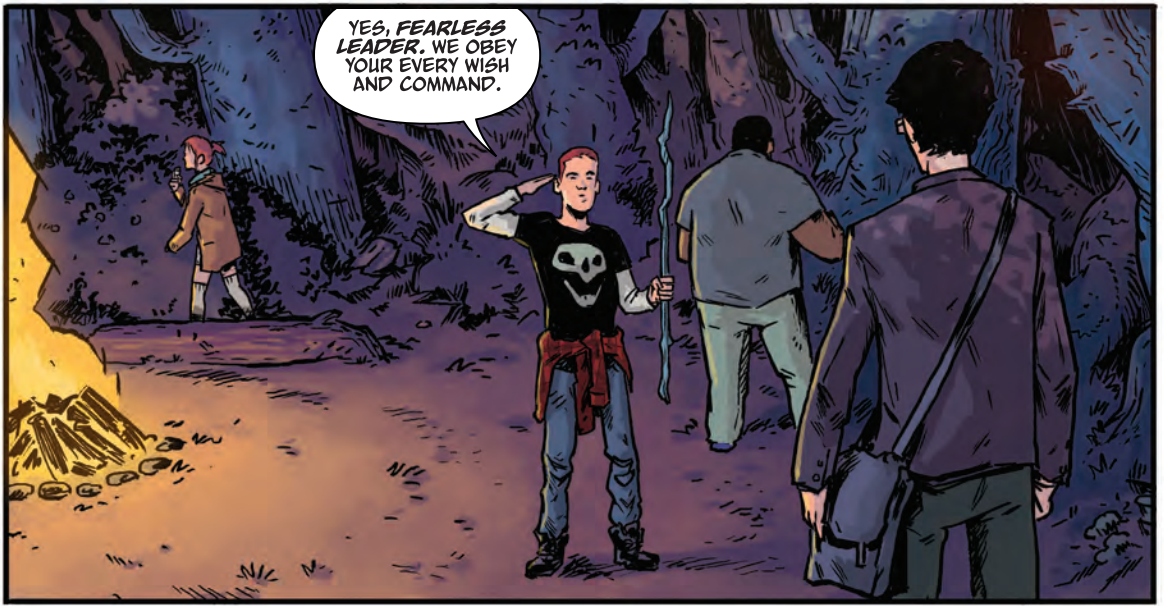
WE NEED TO  
MOVE NOW.  
PACK UP YOUR  
THINGS.

THE DAY CYCLE  
WORKS MUCH  
DIFFERENTLY  
HERE. I'VE  
BEEN TRACKING  
THE SUN ACROSS  
THE SKY FOR  
THE LAST HOUR.  
I DOUBT WE  
HAVE MORE THAN  
SIX HOURS  
BEFORE  
NIGHTFALL.

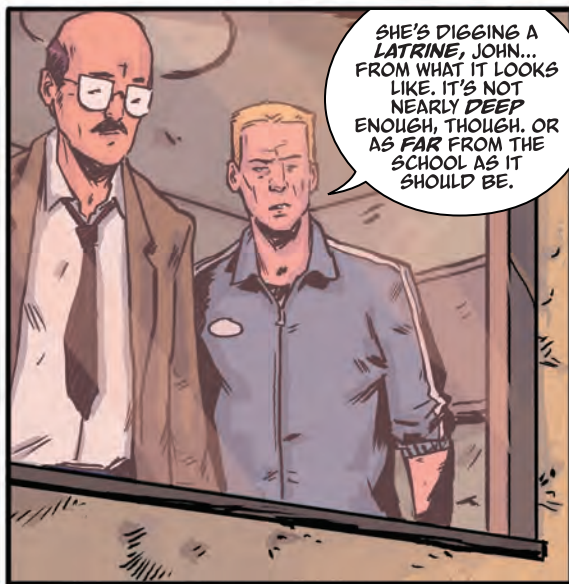
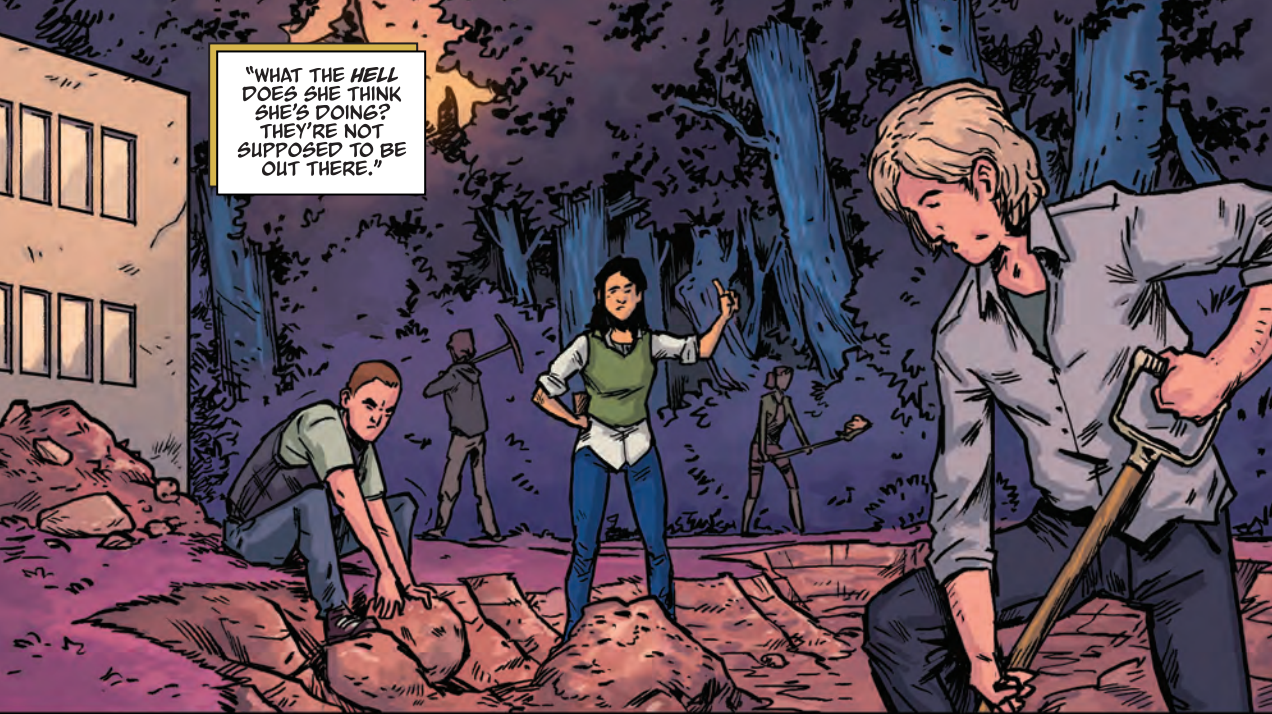


WHAT ABOUT  
BREAKFAST?

EAT  
WHILE YOU  
PACK.



"WHAT THE HELL DOES SHE THINK SHE'S DOING? THEY'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE OUT THERE."

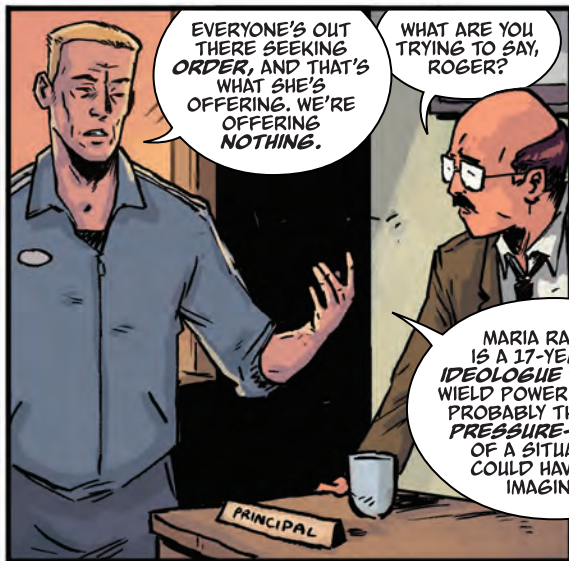


SHE'S DIGGING A LATRINE, JOHN... FROM WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE, IT'S NOT NEARLY DEEP ENOUGH, THOUGH, OR AS FAR FROM THE SCHOOL AS IT SHOULD BE.



THEY'RE LISTENING TO HER.

OF COURSE THEY ARE. THEY'RE SCARED AND SHE'S CHARISMATIC, AND SHE'S GOT A PLAN.



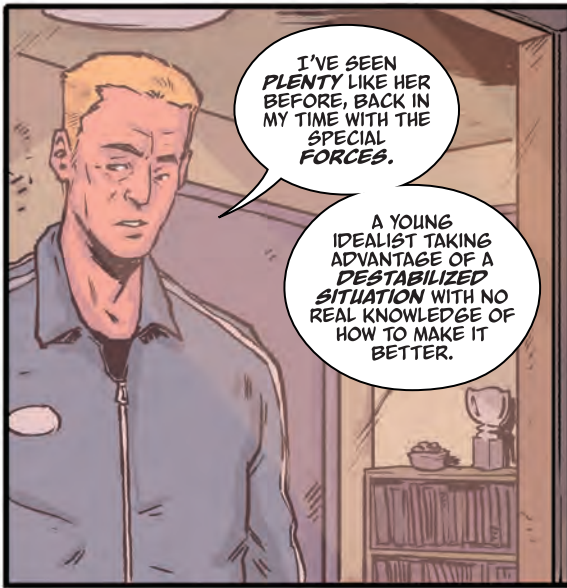
EVERYONE'S OUT THERE SEEKING ORDER, AND THAT'S WHAT SHE'S OFFERING. WE'RE OFFERING NOTHING.

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY, ROGER?

MARIA RAMIREZ IS A 17-YEAR-OLD IDEOLOGUE TRYING TO WIELD POWER IN WHAT IS PROBABLY THE WORST PRESSURE-COOKER OF A SITUATION I COULD HAVE EVER IMAGINED.



SOMETHING OUT OF A DAMN STAR WARS. BUT THE DETAILS ARE JUST DETAILS.



I'VE SEEN PLENTY LIKE HER BEFORE, BACK IN MY TIME WITH THE SPECIAL FORCES.

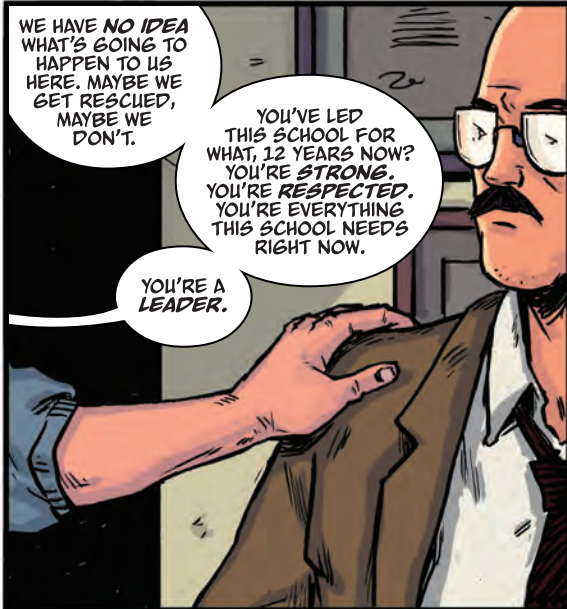
A YOUNG IDEALIST TAKING ADVANTAGE OF A DESTABILIZED SITUATION WITH NO REAL KNOWLEDGE OF HOW TO MAKE IT BETTER.



PEOPLE LIKE HER ARE DANGEROUS, JOHN. THEY SPREAD DISCORD LIKE AN INFECTION. UNTIL EVERYONE'S CAUGHT UP IN IT.

BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THAT WAY, DOES IT?

IT DOESN'T?



WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO US HERE. MAYBE WE GET RESCUED, MAYBE WE DON'T.

YOU'VE LED THIS SCHOOL FOR WHAT, 12 YEARS NOW? YOU'RE STRONG. YOU'RE RESPECTED. YOU'RE EVERYTHING THIS SCHOOL NEEDS RIGHT NOW.

YOU'RE A LEADER.



THESE ARE TEENAGERS, FOR GOD'S SAKE. HALF OF THEM HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT HOW TO USE A STICK OF DEODORANT.

WE'VE GOT MONSTERS. WE'VE GOT INFRASTRUCTURE PROBLEMS. WE'VE GOT A FOOD SHORTAGE.



"AND WE HAVE NEARLY FIVE-HUNDRED TERRIFIED, HORMONAL KIDS WHO THINK THEY KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT EVERYTHING.

"I THINK, SIR, THAT IT'S TIME YOU SHOWED THEM THEY'RE WRONG."

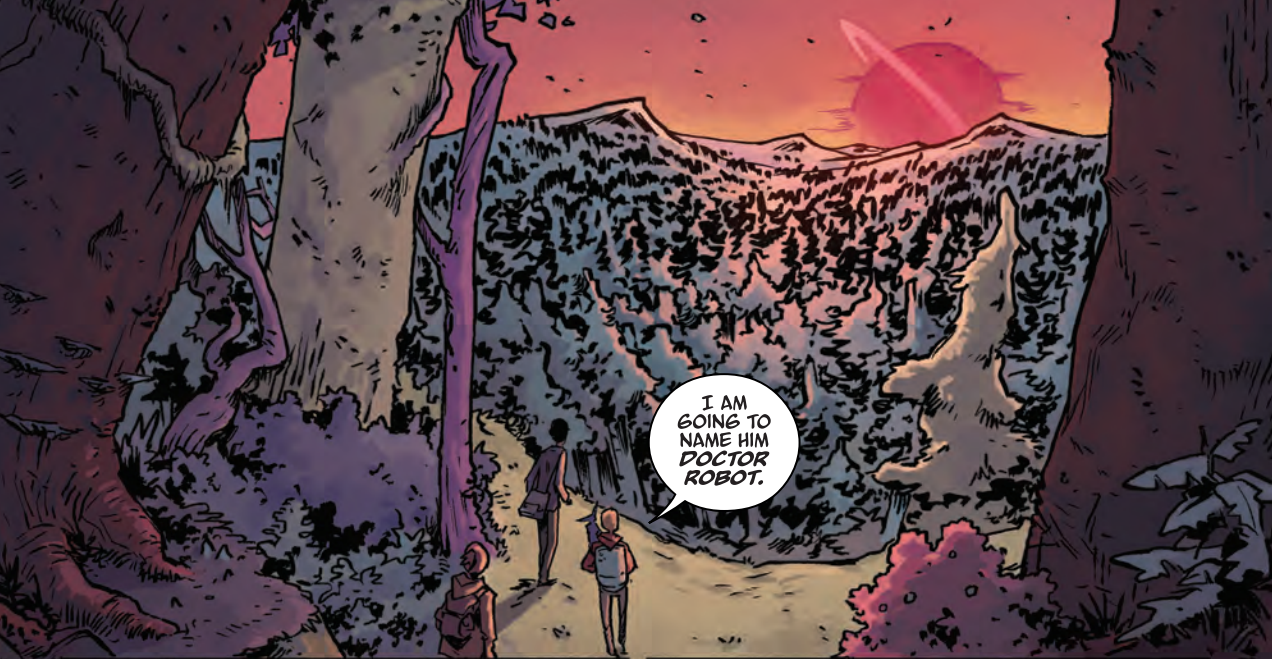


"YOU'RE RIGHT, ROGER. YOU'RE RIGHT...GET MY TEAM TOGETHER RIGHT NOW. WE NEED TO ACT FAST. THIS HAS GONE ON LONG ENOUGH.

"NO MORE OF THIS CHILD'S PLAY...AND RAMIREZ...SHE'LL NEED TO BE DEALT WITH."



YES, SIR.



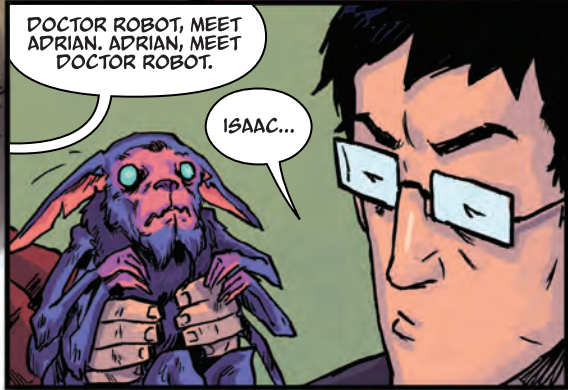
I AM GOING TO NAME HIM DOCTOR ROBOT.



OF COURSE YOU ARE.

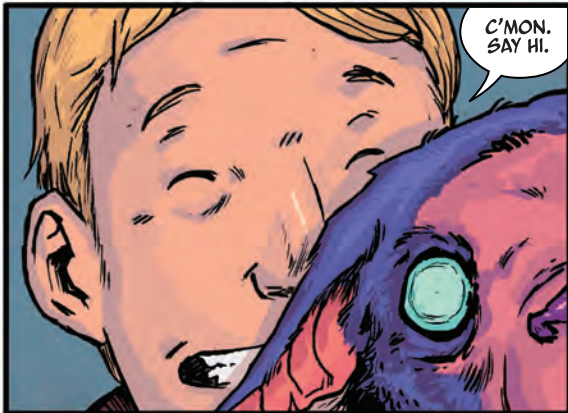
MREH!

IT IS A GOOD, PROPER NAME FOR A SPACE MONSTER.

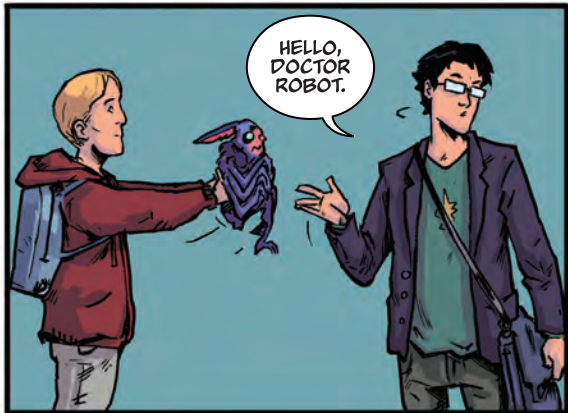


DOCTOR ROBOT, MEET ADRIAN. ADRIAN, MEET DOCTOR ROBOT.

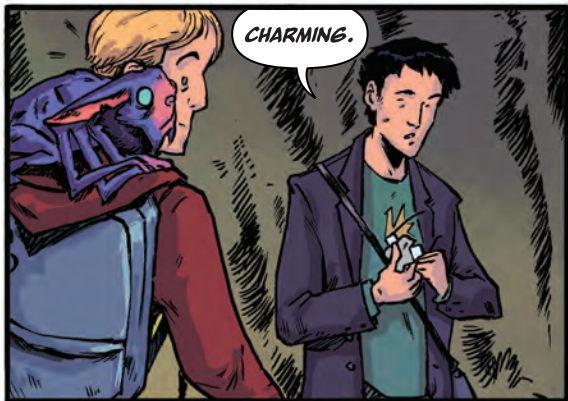
ISAAC...



C'MON. SAY HI.



HELLO, DOCTOR ROBOT.



CHARMING.





CALDER??

WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?

HIS ARM. CHECK HIS ARM.



OH, GOD...



DO WE HAVE A FIRST AID KIT?

I DON'T--

YOU DIDN'T THINK TO GRAB A FIRST AID KIT FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE?!



WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DRAIN IT. GRAB ONE OF HIS KNIVES.

EEEK

ARE YOU SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING?

...



DON'T LOOK, DOCTOR ROBOT.

SHUT THAT THING UP, ISAAC!

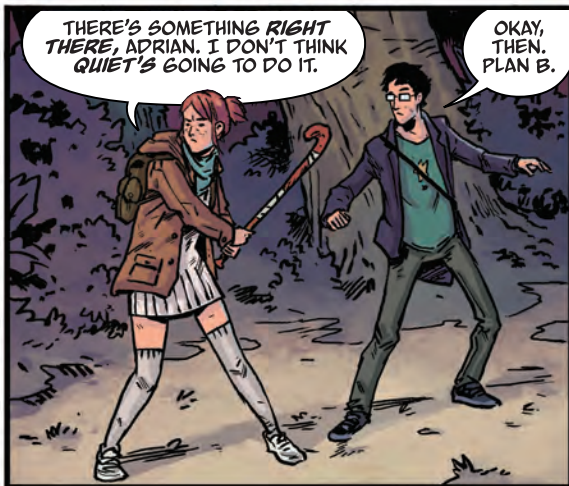
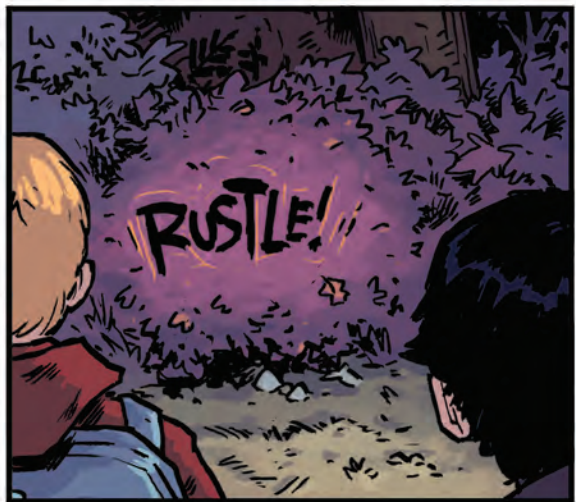


EEEEKK



DON'T YELL AT HIM LIKE THAT!

DON'T YELL AT ME LIKE--





ALL RIGHT, KIDS. LET'S WRAP THIS UP.



COACH CLAY?

WE'VE GOT A MANDATORY ASSEMBLY IN 15 MINUTES. PRINCIPAL BEAUMONT HAS SOME NEW RULES FOR THE STUDENT BODY.

HIT THE SHOWERS. WELL, I GUESS NOT. JUST TRY TO WIPE SOME OF THAT CRAP OFF YOUR FACE, ALL RIGHT? LET'S LOOK DECENT.



THE STUDENT COUNCIL IS DISBANDED, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

ALL STUDENTS WILL REPORT TO THEIR HOMEROOMS DIRECTLY AFTER THE ASSEMBLY, AT WHICH POINT THEIR NEW WORK PROJECTS WILL BE ASSIGNED.



THIS IS RIDICULOUS. I'M NOT JUST GOING TO SIT IN MY AP EURO CLASS AND WAIT TO HEAR WHAT THAT IDIOT WANTS ME TO DO.

NO, YOU'RE DEFINITELY NOT. YOU'RE COMING WITH ME.



WHAT ARE YOU--

YOU'VE GOT A DETENTION TO REPORT TO, MS. RAMIREZ.



NO! YOU CAN'T DO THIS!

YOU CAN'T DO THIS!!!









CHAPTER  
**THREE**





I KNOW HOW FRIGHTENED YOU ALL MUST BE.

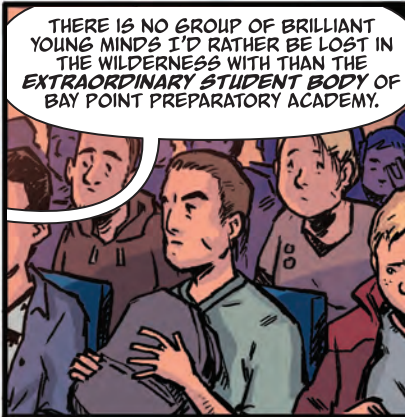
TO BE SO VIOLENTLY RIPPED AWAY FROM YOUR FAMILIES, TAKEN TO THIS DARK, STRANGE FOREST IN THE HEART OF THE UNKNOWN.



I FEEL YOUR FEAR MYSELF...



BUT IN THIS MOMENT OF DARKNESS, WE CANNOT ALLOW THAT FEAR TO CONSUME US. WE MUST STAND TALL TOGETHER.



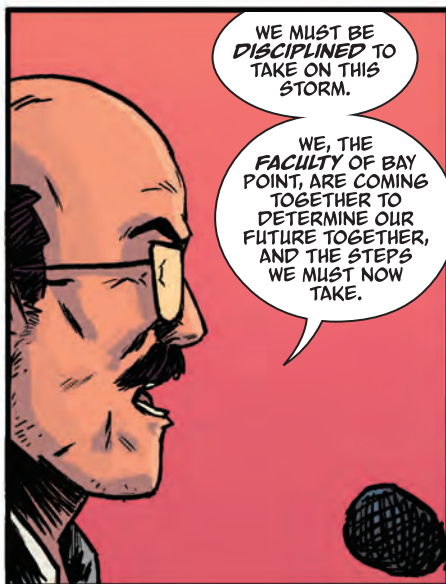
THERE IS NO GROUP OF BRILLIANT YOUNG MINDS I'D RATHER BE LOST IN THE WILDERNESS WITH THAN THE EXTRAORDINARY STUDENT BODY OF BAY POINT PREPARATORY ACADEMY.

TOGETHER WE WILL RISE UP AND THRIVE HERE IN THE DARKNESS.

WE ARE BAY POINT! WE ARE STRONG! WE'VE CHANTED THOSE WORDS BEFORE, BUT THEY TAKE NEW MEANING NOW.

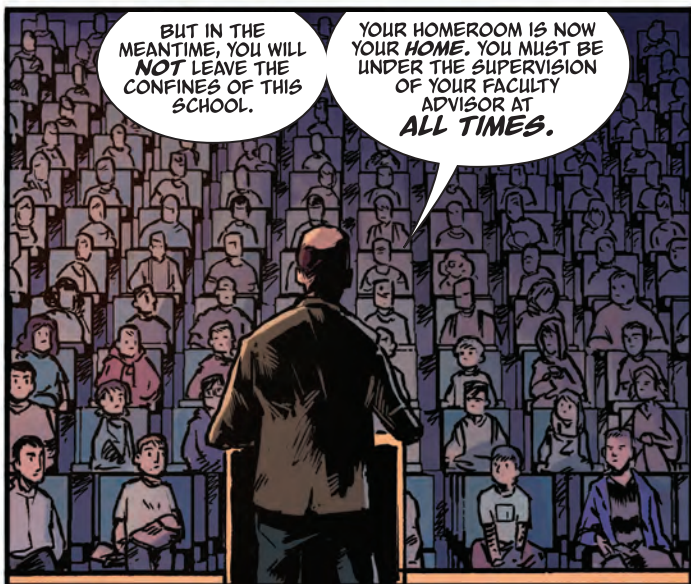


BUT WITH STRENGTH COMES SACRIFICE.



WE MUST BE **DISCIPLINED** TO TAKE ON THIS STORM.

WE, THE **FACULTY** OF BAY POINT, ARE COMING TOGETHER TO DETERMINE OUR FUTURE TOGETHER, AND THE STEPS WE MUST NOW TAKE.

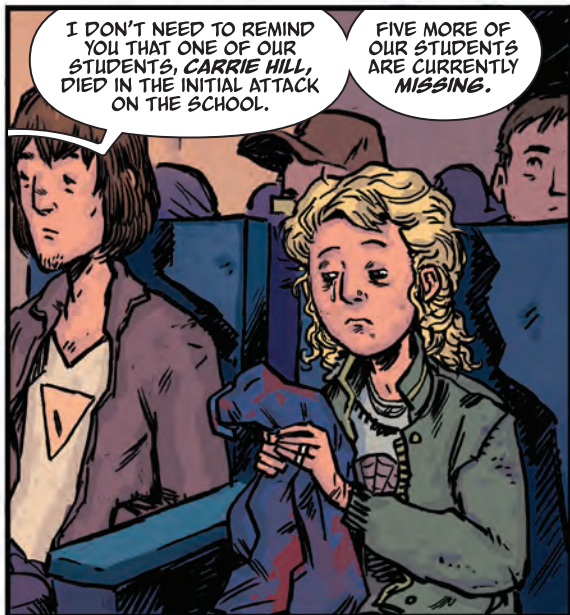


BUT IN THE MEANTIME, YOU WILL **NOT** LEAVE THE CONFINES OF THIS SCHOOL.

YOUR HOMEROOM IS NOW YOUR **HOME**. YOU MUST BE UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF YOUR FACULTY ADVISOR AT **ALL TIMES**.

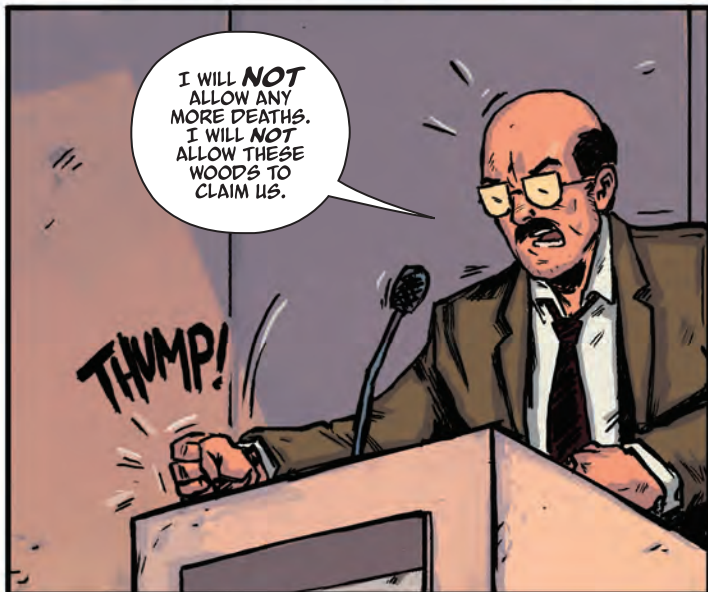


ANY STUDENT WHO DECIDES THEY ARE **ABOVE** THESE RULES WILL FIND THEMSELVES UNDER THE SCRUTINY OF COACH CLAY, AND THE NEW SCHOOL DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE.



I DON'T NEED TO REMIND YOU THAT ONE OF OUR STUDENTS, **CARRIE HILL**, DIED IN THE INITIAL ATTACK ON THE SCHOOL.

FIVE MORE OF OUR STUDENTS ARE CURRENTLY **MISSING**.



I WILL **NOT** ALLOW ANY MORE DEATHS. I WILL **NOT** ALLOW THESE WOODS TO CLAIM US.

**THUMP!**



AND I WILL DO **ANYTHING** IN MY POWER TO KEEP BAY POINT STRONG.





ROAAR!

WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE!



IT'S SHUFFE GAINING ON US...

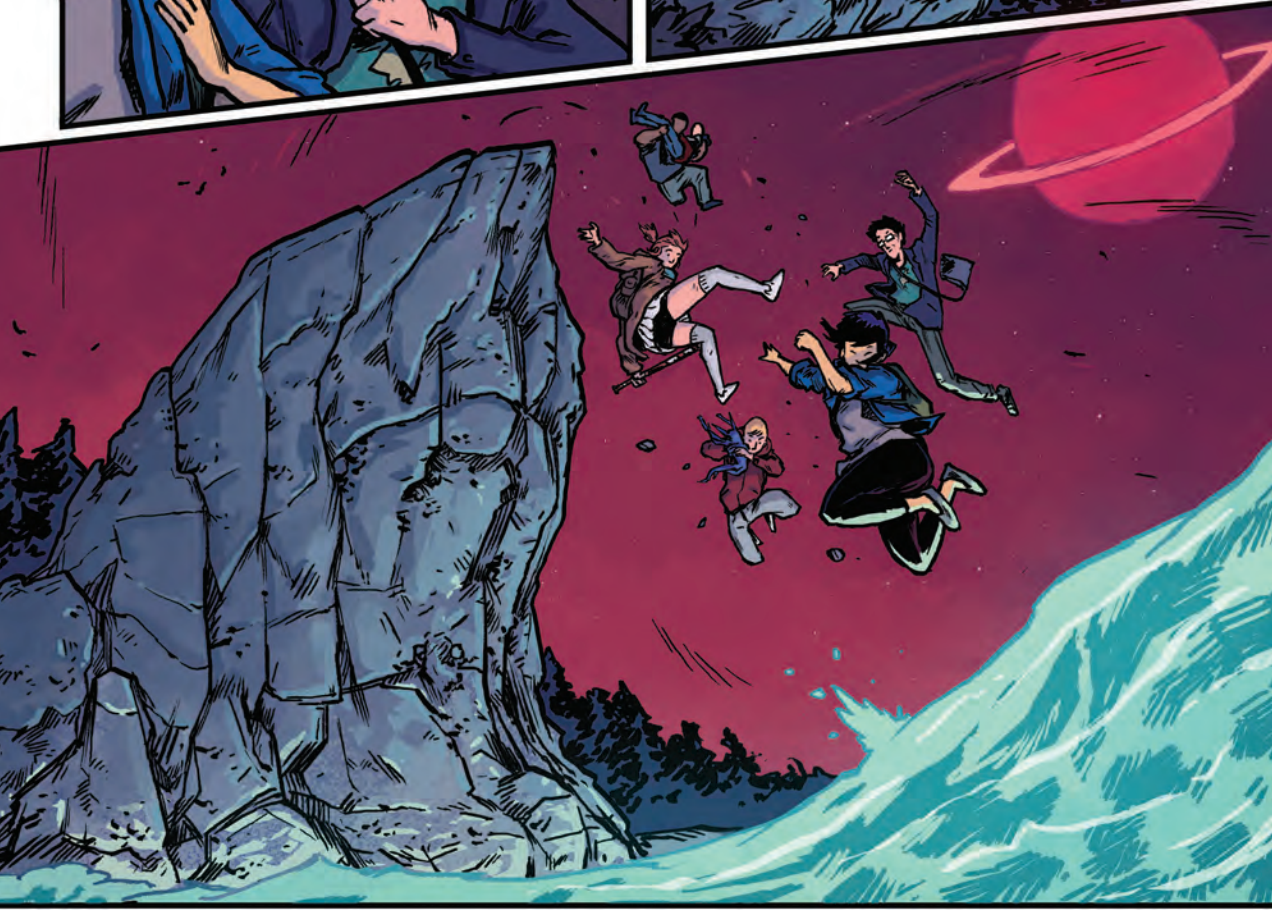


JUST SHUT UP AND FOLLOW ME!!



I THINK I SAW--YES-- IT'S JUST UP HERE.

JUST A LITTLE FURTHER!!





SCRUB YOURSELVES AS CLEAN AS YOU CAN, RIGHT NOW.

WHY ON EARTH--

NO. SHUT UP, AND STAY QUIET.



BEN...BRING CALDER OVER TO ME...



ARE YOU... SNIFFING HIM?

sniff sniff!



UGH...CAN'T YOU SMELL THAT?

SMELL WHAT?



THE INFECTION IS GIVING OFF PHEROMONES. IT'S WHY HE SMELLS LIKE A 13-YEAR-OLD IN A PORN SHOP.

I SMELL LIKE A PRETTY FLOWER...



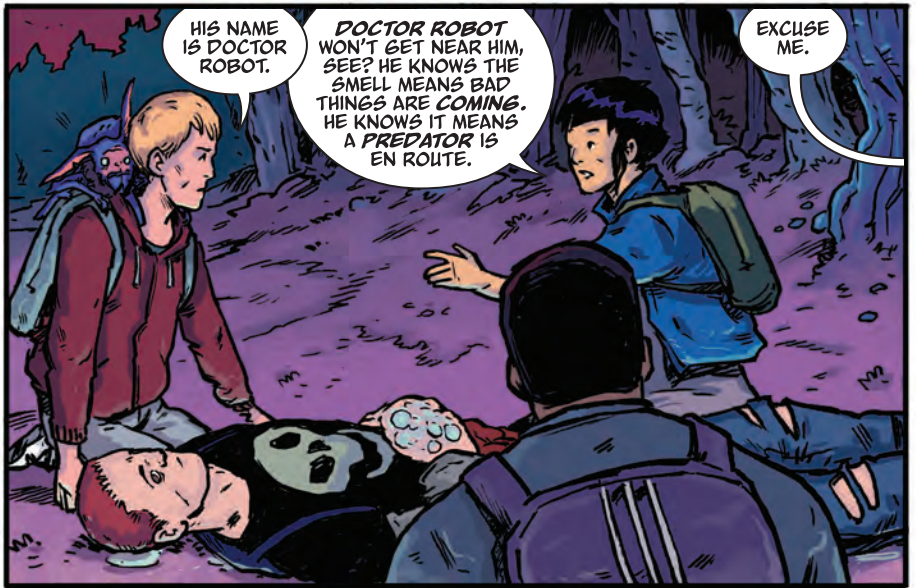
YOU'RE AWAKE!

CAN'T FOOL YOU, BIG GUY...

YOU'VE BEEN INJECTED WITH SOMETHING... GUESSING A BUG BITE? BUT THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT IT. THIS ISN'T HOW THIS USUALLY WORKS.



BUT YOU CAN TELL... ISAAC'S LITTLE MONSTER--



HIS NAME IS DOCTOR ROBOT.

DOCTOR ROBOT WON'T GET NEAR HIM, SEE? HE KNOWS THE SMELL MEANS BAD THINGS ARE COMING. HE KNOWS IT MEANS A PREDATOR IS EN ROUTE.

EXCUSE ME.

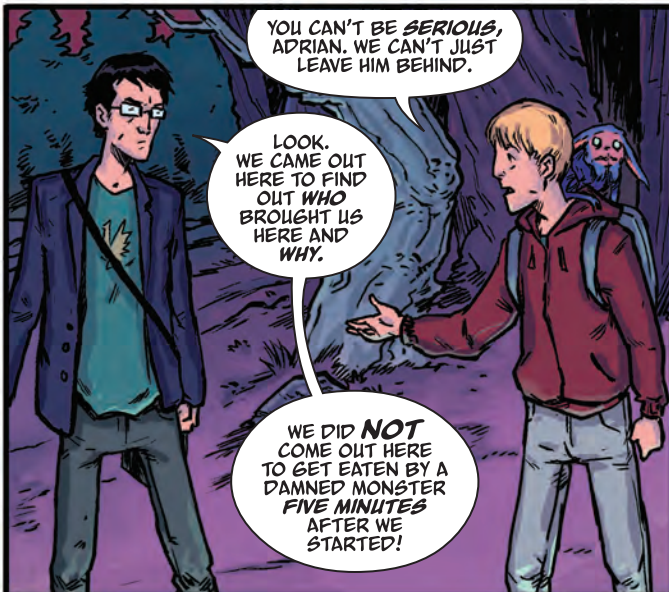


SO YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT AS LONG AS HE'S WITH US, THAT HORRIBLE THING IS GOING TO KEEP HUNTING US?

PRETTY MUCH, YEAH.



THEN WE LEAVE HIM.



YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS, ADRIAN. WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE HIM BEHIND.

LOOK. WE CAME OUT HERE TO FIND OUT WHO BROUGHT US HERE AND WHY.

WE DID **NOT** COME OUT HERE TO GET EATEN BY A DAMNED MONSTER FIVE MINUTES AFTER WE STARTED!



UH, GUYS? SOMETHING'S... SOMETHING'S...







FRESHMAN ENGLISH.

WHAT?

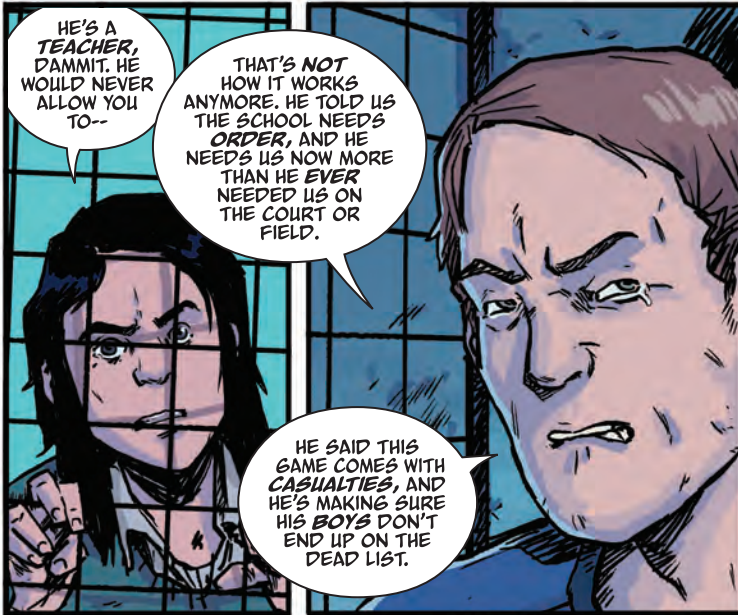
SHE WAS YOUR PARTNER ON YOUR FRESHMAN ENGLISH PRESENTATION. YOU TALKED ABOUT ANIMAL FARM.

PROBABLY THE ONLY A YOU EVER GOT.



DON'T YOU SEE? THAT DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE.

COACH CLAY HANDED HER OVER TO US, TOLD US TO PUT HER AWAY WITH YOU IN HERE.



HE'S A TEACHER, DAMMIT. HE WOULD NEVER ALLOW YOU TO--

THAT'S NOT HOW IT WORKS ANYMORE. HE TOLD US THE SCHOOL NEEDS ORDER, AND HE NEEDS US NOW MORE THAN HE EVER NEEDED US ON THE COURT OR FIELD.

HE SAID THIS GAME COMES WITH CASUALTIES, AND HE'S MAKING SURE HIS BOYS DON'T END UP ON THE DEAD LIST.



THIS ISN'T A GAME, THIS IS OUR LIVES.



CLAY SAYS YOU GET FULL-TIME WATCH FROM HERE ON OUT. MAYBE I SHOULD--

NO, YOU TAKE A BREATHER, MAN. THIS IS ON ME.



OKAY.







WAIT... DOCTOR ROBOT--



ISAAC.



NO.







B-BEN?



GRRRLLL

YEAH...



THAT'S RIGHT. YOU BETTER RUN.





THE GLOWING STONE... IT TOLD ME--

GOOD. GOOD GOOD GOOD. YOU'RE STILL ALIVE. WELL, SOME OF YOU, ANYWAY.



CALDER?!

OKAY, SO, I AM NOT SURE IF I AM HALLUCINATING OR NOT, BUT IF NOT, THIS IS SUPER IMPORTANT. LIKE, SUPER CRAZY IMPORTANT.

YOU GUYS NEED TO FOLLOW ME RIGHT NOW.



BUT SANAMI SAID...

SHE FOUND US BEFORE, SHE CAN FIND US AGAIN.

ISAAC, YOUR BEST FRIEND... YOUR ONLY FRIEND IS IN DANGER RIGHT NOW, ADRIAN.



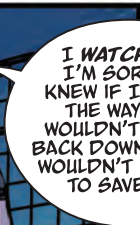
YOU CAN HAVE HIM.

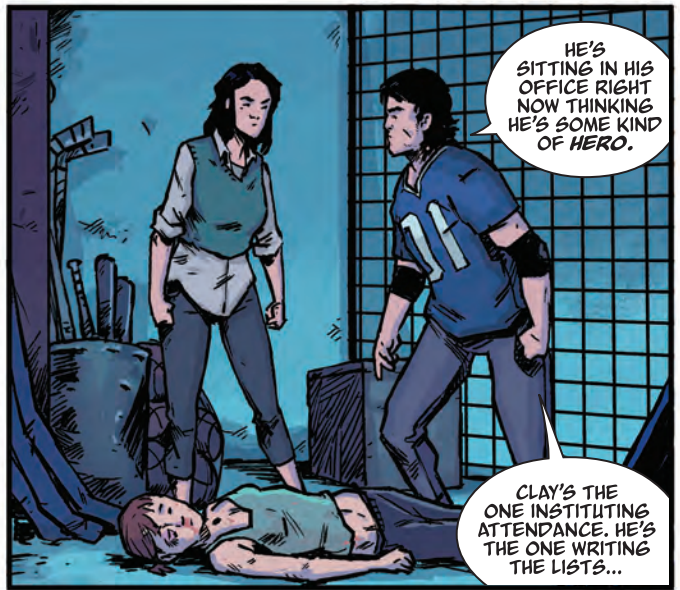
HE'S BACK THERE, WITH THE GIANTIC MONSTER THAT'S TRYING TO KILL ALL OF US.

ME... I'M GOING DEEPER.

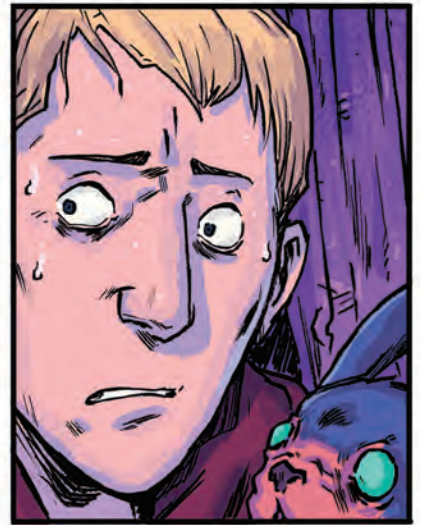


HEY. WAIT UP.













CHAPTER  
**FOUR**

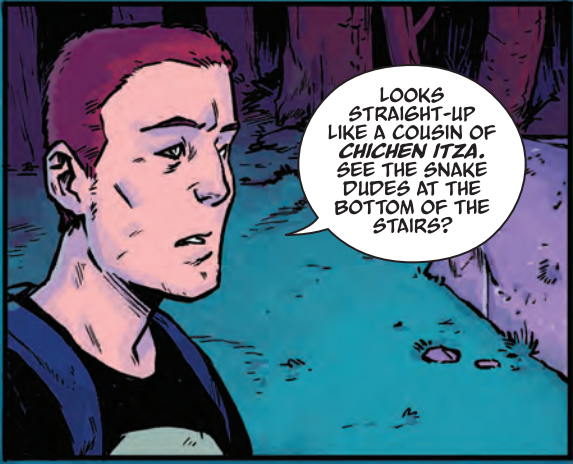




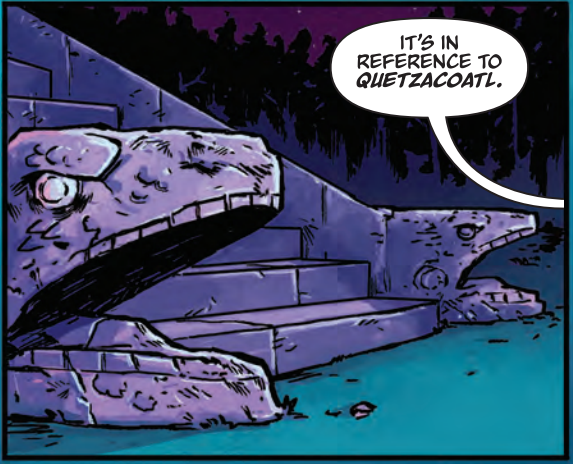


IT'S A ZIGURAT... MESOPOTAMIAN, MAYBE...

NO, MAYAN. DEFINITELY MAYAN.



LOOKS STRAIGHT-UP LIKE A COUSIN OF CHICHEN ITZA. SEE THE SNAKE DUDES AT THE BOTTOM OF THE STAIRS?



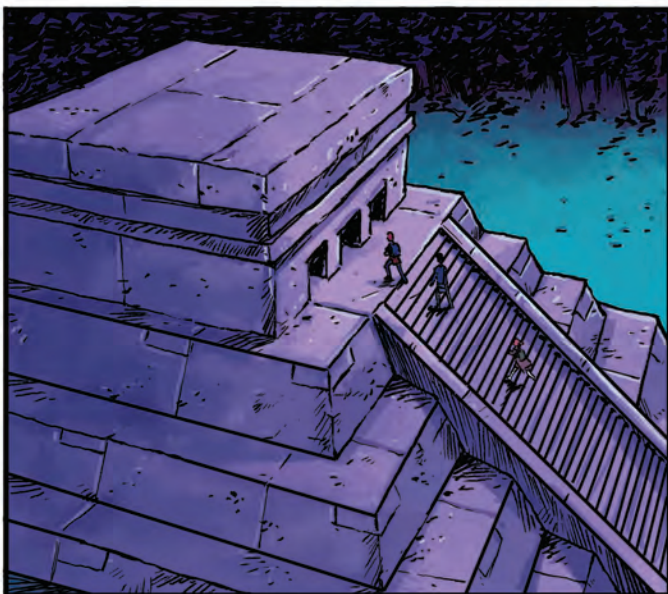
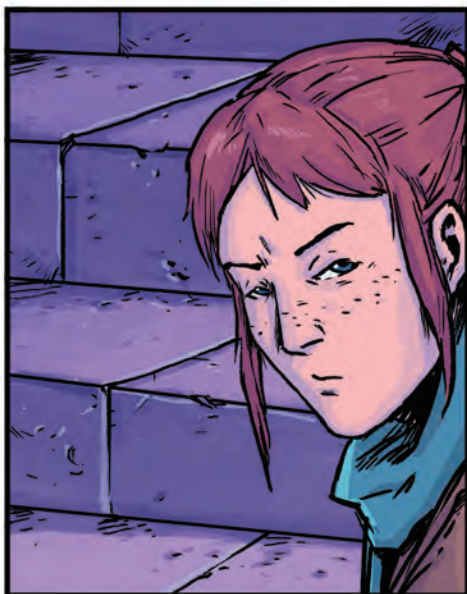
IT'S IN REFERENCE TO QUETZACOATL.

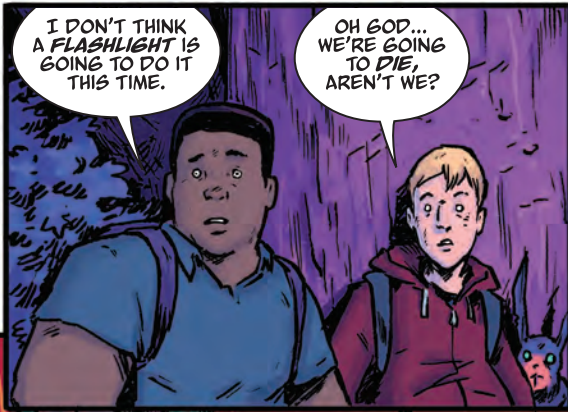


MY GRANDMA BUYS ME HISTORY BOOKS. I KNOW THINGS ABOUT THINGS.



LOOK, I DON'T CARE WHERE IT'S FROM, CALDER... WHAT THE HELL IS IT DOING HERE IN OUTER FREAKING SPACE?!





I DON'T THINK A FLASHLIGHT IS GOING TO DO IT THIS TIME.

OH GOD... WE'RE GOING TO DIE, AREN'T WE?



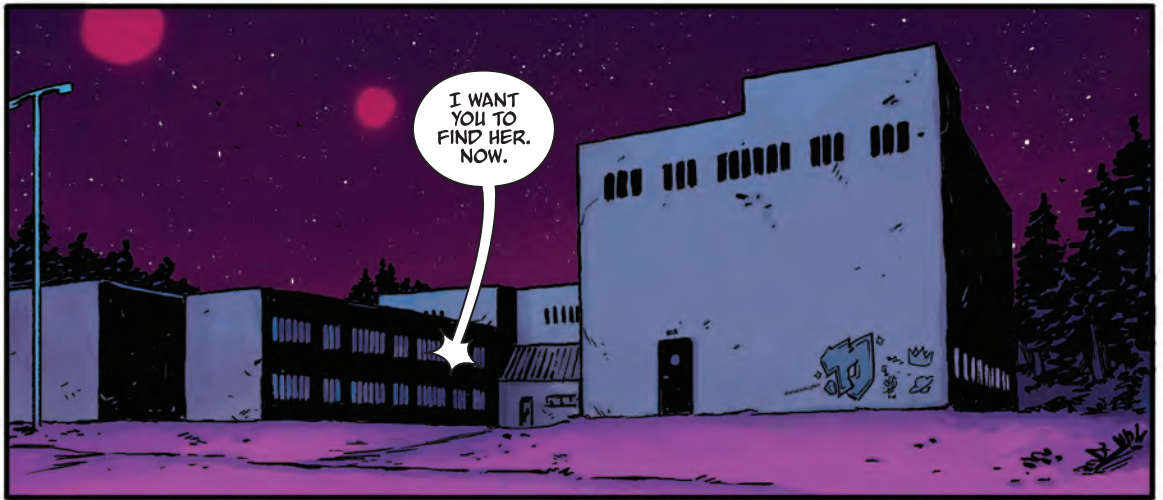
ROAR!



THUNK

Thwip Fwip  
Fwip





I WANT YOU TO FIND HER. NOW.



WE'VE SEARCHED EVERY HOMEROOM...SHE COULD HAVE SLIPPED OUT INTO THE FOREST.

NO. SHE WOULDN'T DO THAT. SHE'S DESPERATE BUT SHE'S NOT **THAT** DESPERATE.

DOMINIC? SHE WAS UNDER YOUR WATCH?



I--I MUST HAVE PASSED OUT FOR A SECOND...I'M SORRY. I HAVEN'T EXACTLY BEEN SLEEPING SOUNDLY THE LAST FEW DAYS, Y'KNOW?

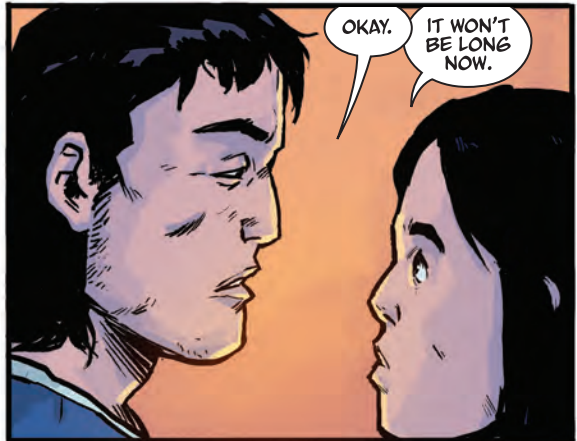
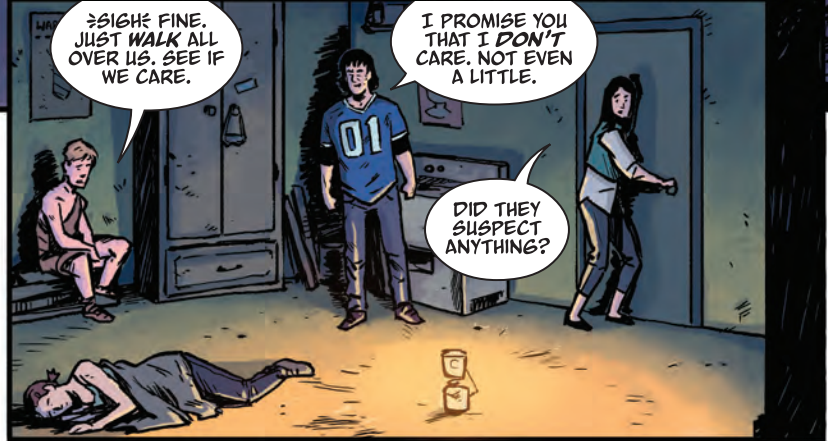


GET OUT OF HERE. AND FIND HER...WE HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO IF WE'RE GOING TO MAKE THIS A SOCIETY WORTH LIVING IN.

AND I WON'T HAVE SOME LITTLE UPSTART HIDING IN THE WALLS CAUSING PROBLEMS.



FIND HER. NOW.





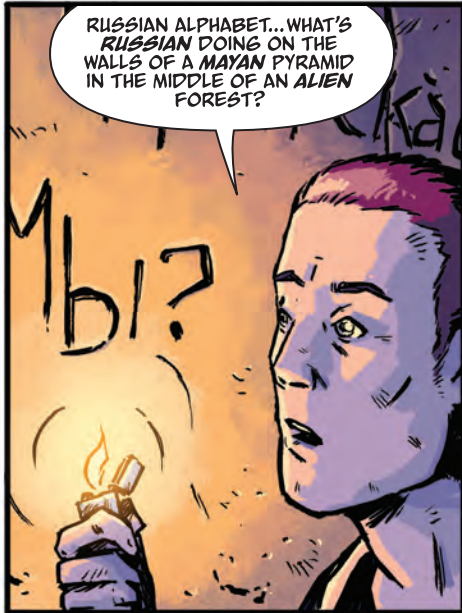
HMM...  
LOOK AT  
THIS.



THAT'S  
CYRILLIC  
TEXT, ISN'T  
IT?

Остерегайтесь  
Лесу.

CYRILLIC?



RUSSIAN ALPHABET...WHAT'S  
RUSSIAN DOING ON THE  
WALLS OF A MAYAN PYRAMID  
IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ALIEN  
FOREST?

Мы?



WHAT IF  
WE'RE NOT THE  
FIRST HUMANS  
TAKEN TO THIS  
PLACE?

Ура



THIS...THIS DOESN'T  
MAKE ANY SENSE.  
THESE LOOK LIKE  
THEY WERE CARVED  
IN CENTURIES  
APART.

¿Dónde estamos?


Γαρ ΜЫ?

La Roche  
Noire  
Sail

Η Μαύρη  
Πόλη.



IT WAS RIGHT  
THERE IN THE  
BULLSEYE...



IT ALWAYS USED TO GET TO ME, THE WAY MY DAD NEVER ASKED ME TO GO HUNTING WITH HIM... SO FOR MY BIRTHDAY LAST YEAR I ASKED HIM FOR A RIFLE.

I REMEMBER HOW EXCITED I WAS. HOW READY I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO BE. BUT THEN I SAW THE DEER THERE IN THE BULLSEYE AND EVERYTHING CHANGED.

THE FACT THAT I'D BEEN PRACTICING FOR MONTHS DIDN'T MATTER. THE FACT THAT MY FATHER WAS COUNTING ON ME DIDN'T MATTER.

IN THAT MOMENT I DIDN'T KNOW WHO I WAS ANYMORE. I DIDN'T KNOW IF I WAS THE PERSON WHO PULLED THE TRIGGER OR NOT.

I DIDN'T KNOW IF I WAS THE GIRL MY FATHER WANTED ME TO BE, OR IF I EVEN WANTED TO TRY AND BE THAT GIRL.

IT WAS THIS MOMENT OF COMPLETE TERROR... I COULD SEE ALL THESE DIFFERENT LIVES FORKING AWAY FROM THAT LITTLE MOMENT, AND I HAD NO IDEA WHAT TO DO...



ADRIAN... WHAT ARE WE DOING OUT HERE?



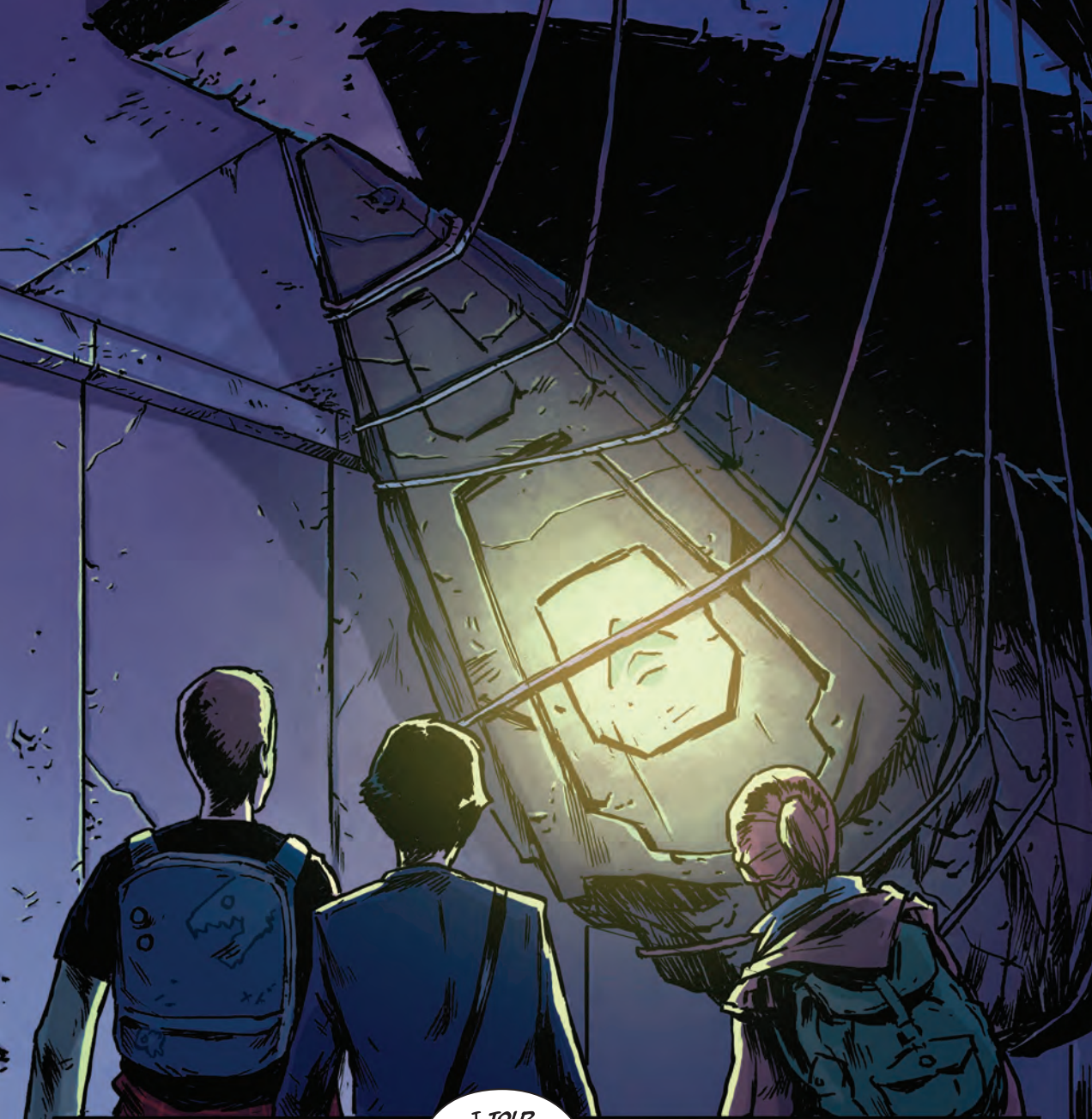
THAT'S NOT THE QUESTION YOU SHOULD BE ASKING...

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PEOPLE WHO WERE BROUGHT HERE? DID SOMEONE KILL THEM OFF? OR SOMETHING?



THERE'S A CHAMBER... UP AHEAD...





I TOLD YOU... I TOLD YOU THERE WAS A PATH... THIS IS THE FIRST STEP.



WE'RE EXACTLY WHERE WE NEED TO BE.







DOCTOR ROBOT!



QUIET!  
YOU IDIOT!



THERE'S SOMETHING  
OUT  
HERE...



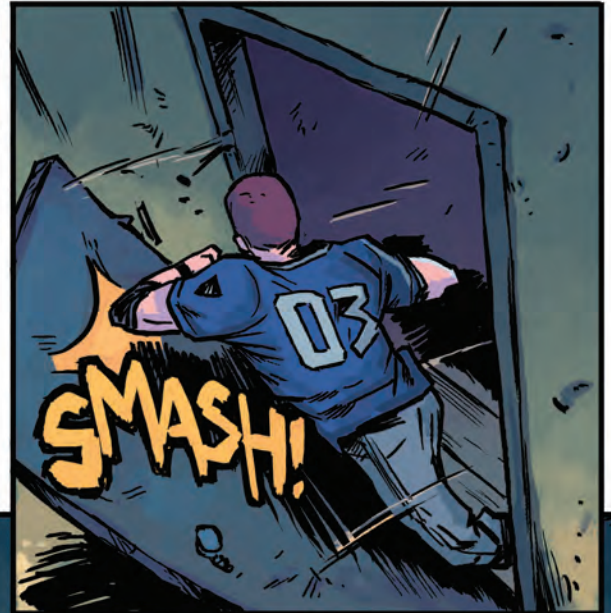
GRAB ISAAC  
NOW... WE HAVE  
TO RUN.

BUT...



NOW!

FK!





NO. IT ISN'T, ROGER.



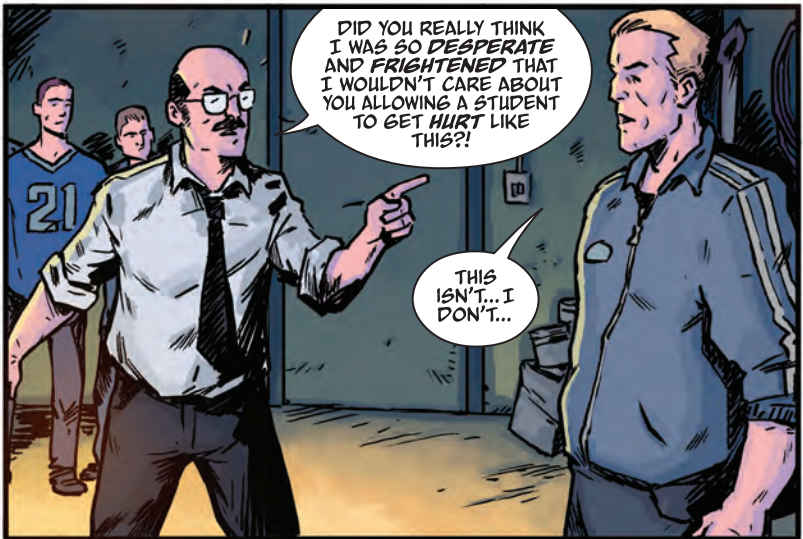
JOHN?!



IS THIS WHAT YOU WANTED?



IS THIS WHAT YOU WERE TRYING TO DO?



DID YOU REALLY THINK I WAS SO DESPERATE AND FRIGHTENED THAT I WOULDN'T CARE ABOUT YOU ALLOWING A STUDENT TO GET HURT LIKE THIS?!

THIS ISN'T... I DON'T...



ALL I WANTED WAS ORDER, JOHN... THAT'S ALL I WAS TRYING TO DO. WE NEED ORDER IN THIS PLACE.





IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE THIS.

WE'RE ALL IN THIS CRAZY SITUATION TOGETHER. WE CAN'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO US. WE CAN'T LET HIM RIP US ALL APART.



HE'S...HE'S JUST TRYING TO HELP! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!



THWAK!



DOMINIC...YOU KNOW I WOULD NEVER HAVE DONE THIS DELIBERATELY.

NO, I THINK THIS IS PRETTY MUCH EXACTLY WHAT YOU HAD IN MIND.

STAND DOWN, BOYS...



THIS ISN'T RIGHT, COACH...

YOU... YOU KILLED HIM...

THEY AREN'T YOUR BOYS ANYMORE.



GET OUT OF MY WAY!



JUST STAY STILL... I WANT TO MAKE SURE YOUR WOUND IS TREATED BEFORE WE GO BACK AND FIND THE OTHERS.



DOESN'T EVEN REALLY HURT ANYMORE. IT WAS LIKE **POPPING** A BIG ZIT... ALL THE HURT STOPPED WHEN THE **BUGS** FLEW OUT.

NOT THAT **BUGS** USUALLY FLY OUT OF MY ZITS.

SHUT UP. I'M TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO HERE...



I KNOW SANAMI TAUGHT ME SOME OF THIS STUFF YEARS AGO, BUT ALL I CAN THINK OF IS **SCENES IN MOVIES** WHERE THEY JUST WRAP SOMETHING TIGHT AROUND IT.

WHAT ABOUT **INFECTION**? SHOULD WE POUR **ALCOHOL** OVER IT OR SOMETHING?



YOU SEE ANY **ALCOHOL** AROUND HERE? THE ONLY THING I CAN THINK IS **FIRE** AND I'M PRETTY SURE YOU DON'T WANT ME SETTING YOU ON FIRE.

NO, THANK YOU.



GOD... WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

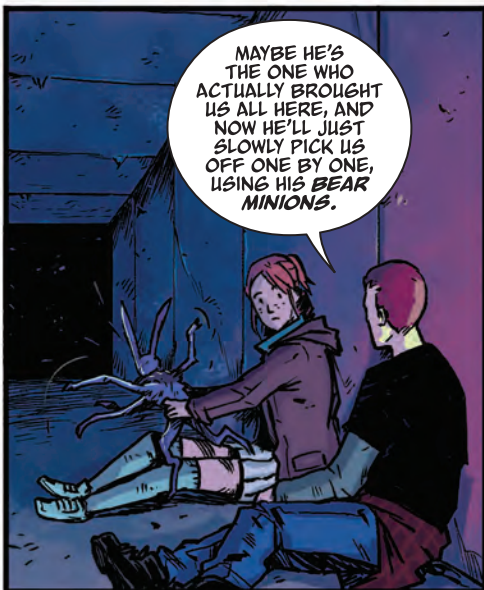


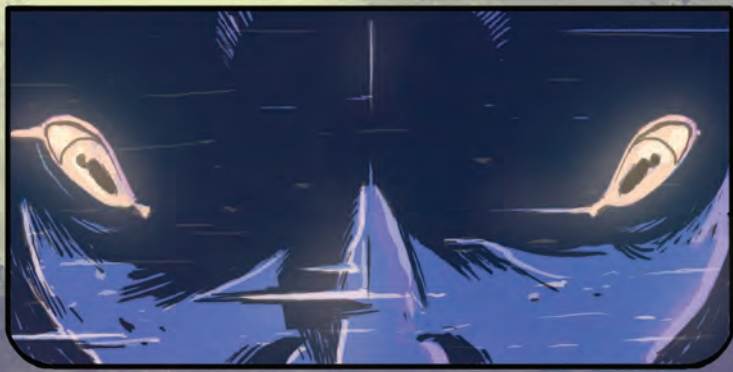
OH, THIS IS WHERE WE'RE GOING TO **DIE**. ISN'T THAT OBVIOUS NOW?



DON'T EVEN...

NO, THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT, THE MORE I REALIZE. **ADRIAN'S RIGHT**. THE CRAZY BASTARD.





I'M COMING. I PROMISE YOU, I'M COMING...



WHAT ARE YOU DOING?  
...  
NOTHING.



WE NEED TO GO FIND THE OTHERS RIGHT NOW... SOMETHING IS HAPPENING.



YES. THERE CERTAINLY IS.



YOU KNOW...

I NEVER REALLY LIKED YOU.



I KNOW.

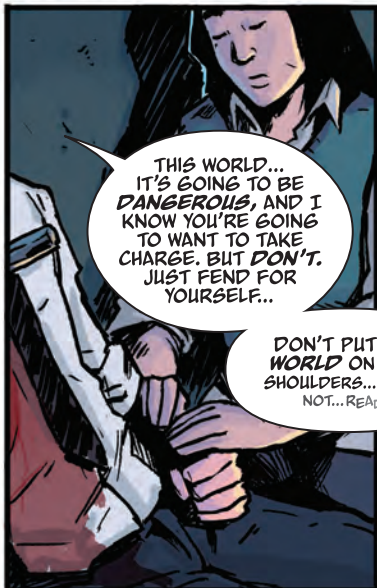


YOU ALWAYS THOUGHT I WAS AN IDIOT. THAT YOU COULD DO MY JOB BETTER THAN ME...

YOU KIDS... YOU ALWAYS THINK YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT TO DO, DON'T YOU? I PROMISE YOU, MARIA, YOU HAVE NO IDEA.



BUT THE SECRET IS, NEITHER DO WE.



THIS WORLD... IT'S GOING TO BE DANGEROUS, AND I KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO WANT TO TAKE CHARGE. BUT DON'T. JUST FEND FOR YOURSELF...

DON'T PUT THE WORLD ON YOUR SHOULDERS... YOU'RE NOT... READY.





C'MON! YOU NEED TO RUN FASTER, DAMMIT!



I'M TRYING! I PROMISE I'M--



AAAAHH!



KNOCK!

I'M SORRY, GIRLIE... YOU CANNOT WIN HERE.

THESE  
WOODS  
BELONG TO  
*US.*









# THE WOODS

















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On October 16, 2013, 437 students, 52 teachers, and 24 additional staff from Bay Point Preparatory High School in suburban Milwaukee, WI vanished without a trace. Countless light years away, far outside the bounds of the charted universe, 513 people find themselves in the middle of an ancient, primordial wilderness. Where are they? Why are they there? The answers will prove stranger than anyone could possibly imagine.

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