

JAMES
TYNION IV

WERTHER
DELL'EDERA

MIQUEL
MUERTO

SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN™

VOLUME ONE

2020 Best New Series



SOMETHING
is KILLING the
CHILDRENTM

VOLUME ONE

BOOM!TM
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SOMETHING IS KILLING THE CHILDREN
CREATED BY JAMES TYNION IV & WERTHER DELL'EDERA

CHAPTER ONE



TRUTH
OR DARE.



TRUTH.



BOOOOO

SHUT UP,
NOAH.



OKAY.
YEAH. GOT
ONE.



WHAT'S
THE MOST
SCARED
YOU'VE EVER
BEEN?



THAT'S THE BEST YOU CAN COME UP WITH?

NOAH.

I HAD TO RUN AROUND THE HOUSE **NAKED**.

YOU CHOSE **DARE**.

LET HIM THINK.



WELL...THERE WAS THIS NIGHT THE OTHER WEEK.

UGH, JAMES. WE DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT ONE OF YOUR STUPID DREAMS AGAIN.

I DO.

YEAH, I DO. IS THIS THE ONE WITH E.T. OR THE ONE WITH THE CYCLOPS?



IT'S NOT EITHER OF THOSE. THIS **WASN'T** A DREAM. MY DAD WAS AT SOME SOCCER THING WITH MY SISTER. AND I WAS ALONE IN THE HOUSE.

I HEARD THIS NOISE COMING OUT OF THE RAVINE...LIKE THIS BIG MOAN. I THOUGHT IT WAS THE WIND, RIGHT? COMING THROUGH THE TREES.



I TURNED OUT THE LIGHTS IN THE TV ROOM. IN THIS ROOM RIGHT HERE. I JUST WANTED TO SEE WHAT WAS OUT THERE. SO I LOOKED OUT THAT WINDOW...



AND JUST FOR A SECOND, I SAW THIS... I DON'T KNOW.

THIS **THING**. STANDING TALLER THAN A TREE. STANDING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE YARD.

LIKE IT HAD BEEN WALKING TOWARDS THE HOUSE BUT THE LIGHTS GOING OFF CONFUSED IT.



IT HAD THESE LONG FINGERS... AND SHARP TEETH.



I WENT AND HID UNDER THE BLANKETS ON THE COUCH, AND JUST LISTENED IN THE DARK FOR LIKE AN HOUR BEFORE LOOKING AGAIN.

BUT NOTHING WAS THERE. THE YARD WAS JUST EMPTY.



FUCK YOU.

WHAT?

FUCK YOU, THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN. YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO FREAK US OUT.

I'M NOT!



YES, YOU ARE.

I'M NOT TRYING, I MEAN.



SO WHERE DOES THIS THING LIVE?

YOU'VE SEEN THE RAVINE OUT THERE, UNDER THE BRIDGE. YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING SPOOKY OUT THERE?

NOT *THAT* KIND OF SPOOKY.



OKAY, THEN.

NOAH. TRUTH OR DARE.





SOME

is

KILL

CHILD

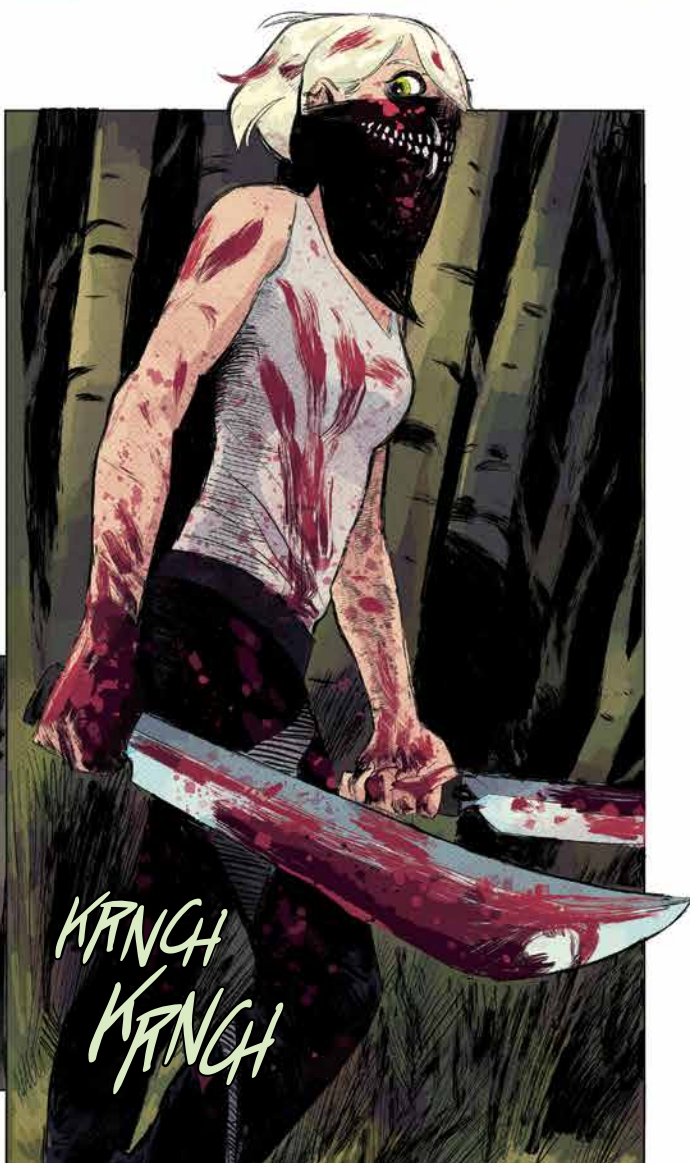
THING

LING

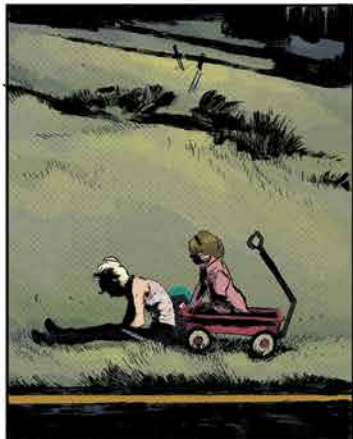
the

DREN

TWO WEEKS LATER













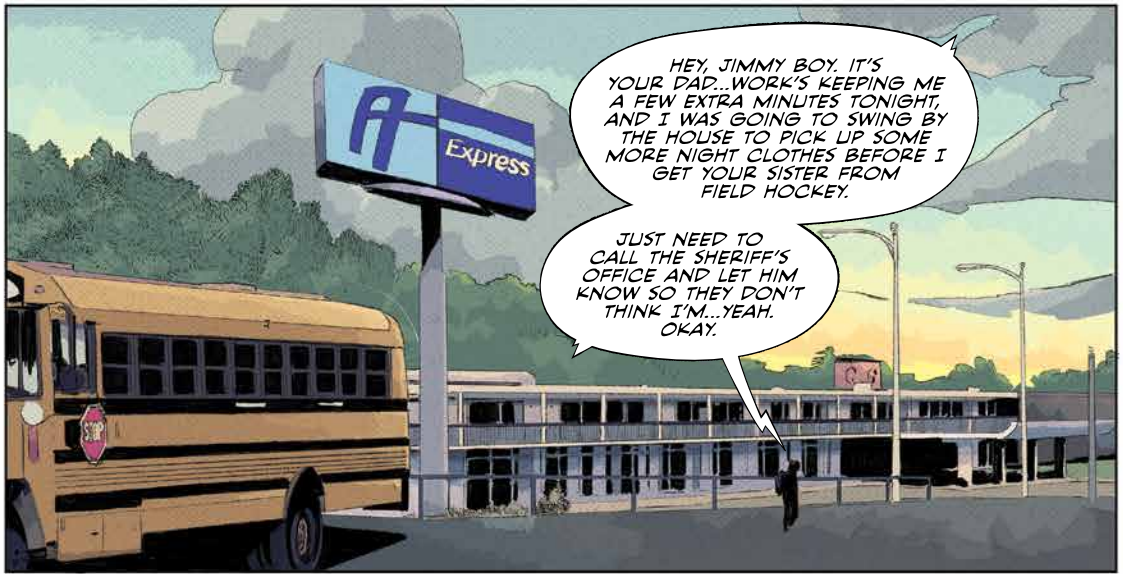














HEY.

HI?



YOU'RE JAMES, RIGHT?

YEAH.



ARE YOU GOING TO HURT ME?

PROBABLY NOT.

COOL.



YOU MIND IF I ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS?

ARE YOU FROM THE POLICE?

DO I LOOK LIKE I'M FROM THE POLICE?

NO.



OKAY, THEN.

YOU WANT TO ASK ABOUT...



WHAT YOU SAW THAT NIGHT. YEAH. I'M SORRY. I KNOW THAT SUCKS.



I... I TOLD THE COPS ALREADY.

I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING... I JUST HEARD.





GUYS!
WHERE ARE
YOU?!



WHERE
ARE
YOU... I
CAN'T--



J-JAMES...



OH
GOD... OH
GOD... OH
GOD...

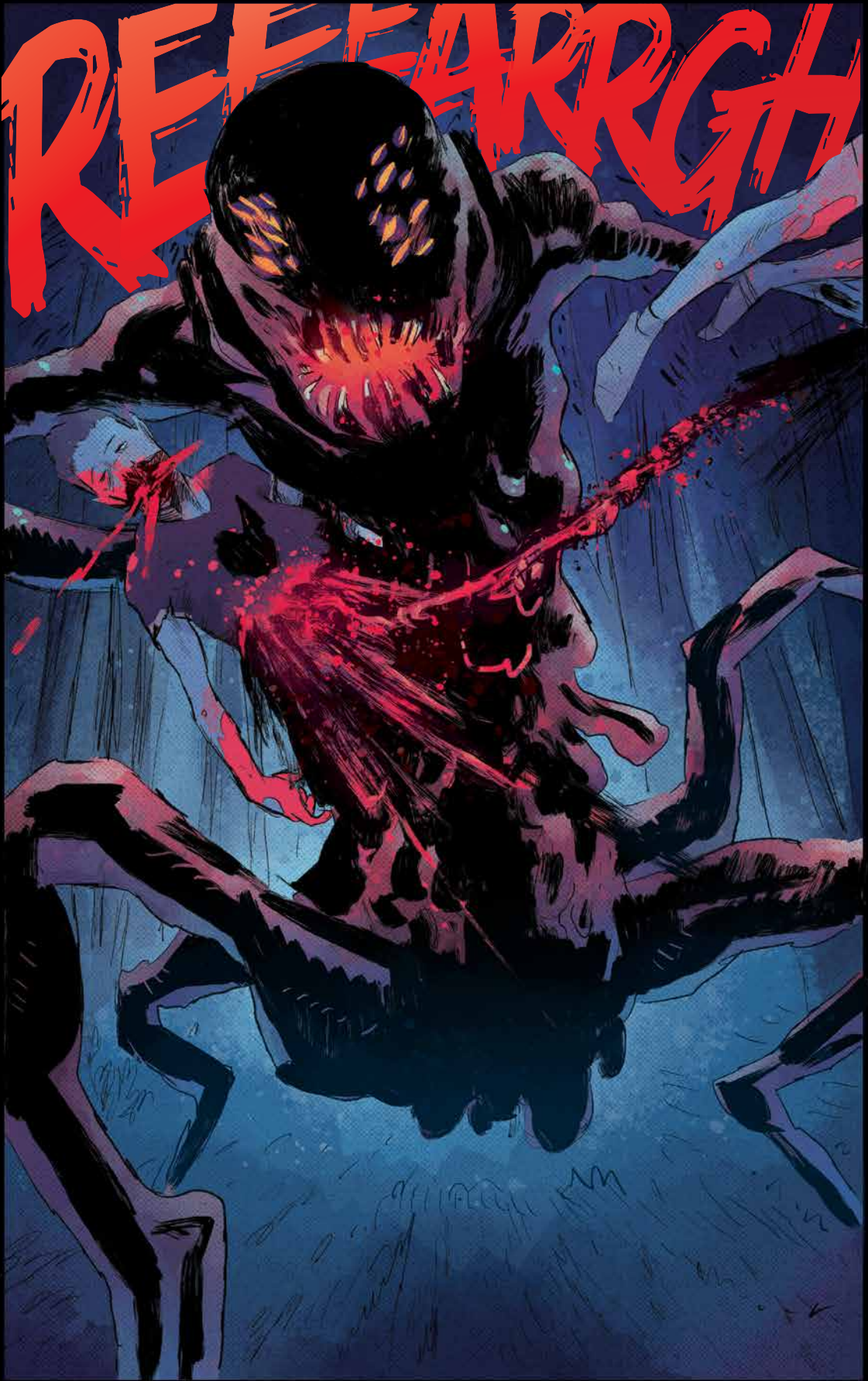


NO...







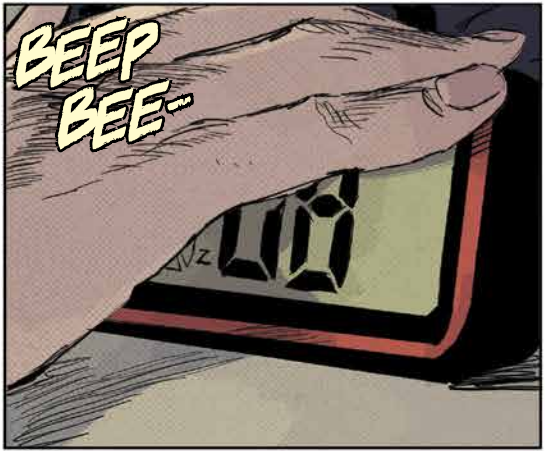


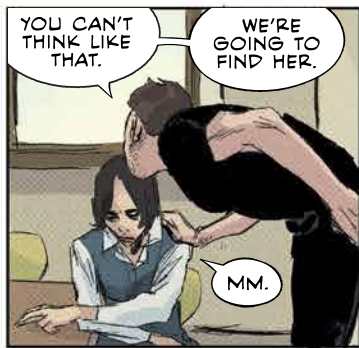






CHAPTER TWO







OH HELL,
DID YOU
SLEEP?



A LITTLE.
ENOUGH.

DID YOU?
YOU LOOK
TERRIBLE.



THANKS,
MOM.



ARE YOU
GOING TO,
THOUGH?

IT'S FINE.



TAKE A
STACK OF
PAPERS, FOR
THE CARS IN
THE LOT.



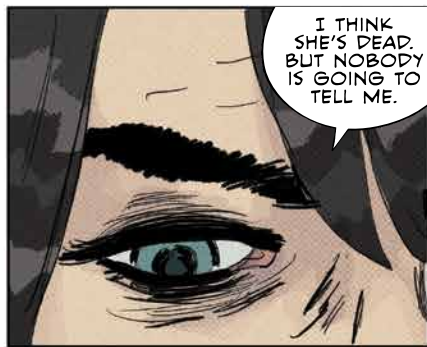
ARE THEY
GOING TO
FIRE YOU IF
YOU DO IT
AGAIN?



I MEAN,
NO. I'M A
MANAGER, AND THE
OWNER'S REALLY
SYMPATHETIC.



THEN
PUT THEM
ON THE CARS.
IT'LL MAKE
ME FEEL
BETTER.



I THINK
SHE'S DEAD.
BUT NOBODY
IS GOING TO
TELL ME.



WHY WOULD
SHE BE ALIVE
IF THE OTHERS
ARE DEAD?

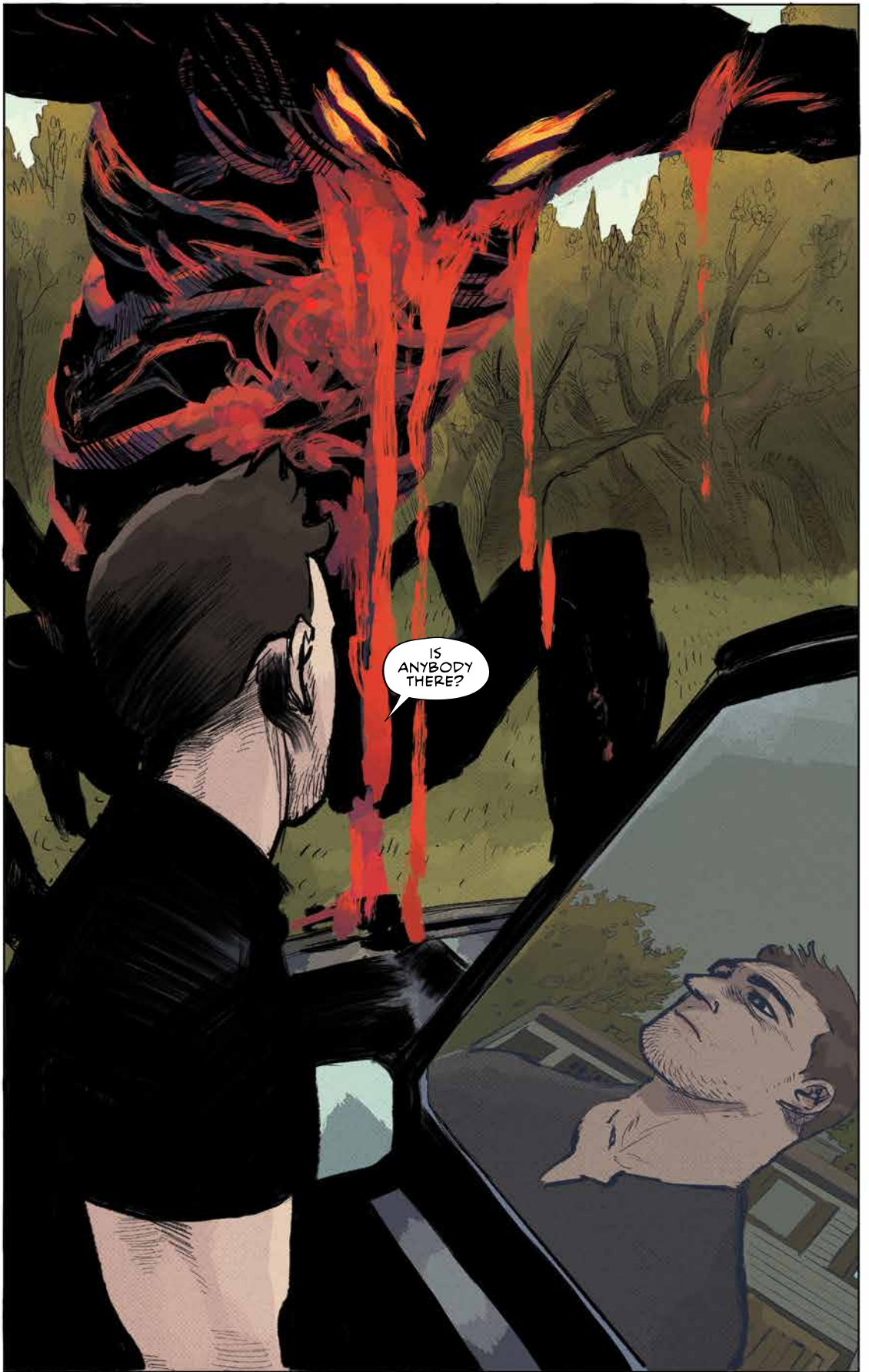


DON'T
FORGET--



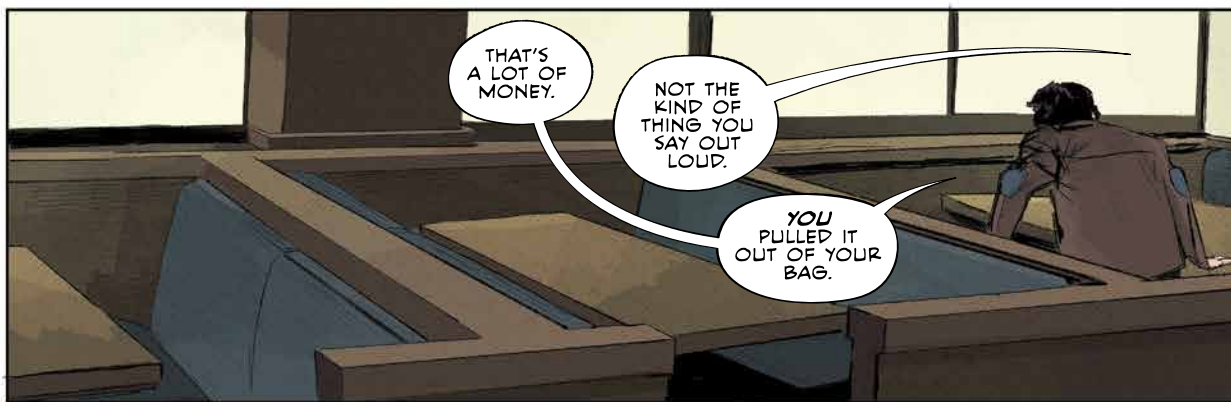
I WON'T.











THAT'S
A LOT OF
MONEY.

NOT THE
KIND OF
THING YOU
SAY OUT
LOUD.

YOU
PULLED IT
OUT OF YOUR
BAG.



YEAH, BUT YOU
DON'T TALK ABOUT
IT. YOU LET IT BE
MYSTERIOUS.

YOU
LIKE BEING
MYSTERIOUS.



YEAH.



HE'S THE ONE...
I KEEP WANTING
TO FIND OUT
THAT IT WAS A
DREAM.

LIKE, I
KNOW MY
OTHER FRIENDS
DIED, AND I MISS
THEM, BUT I
KNOW THEY'RE
DEAD.

BUT
KARL...



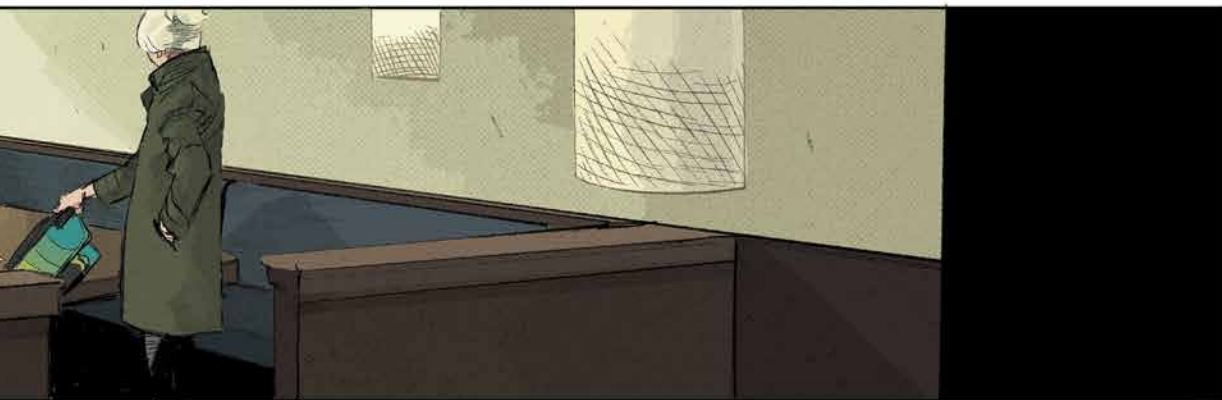
YOU REALLY
LIKED HIM,
HUH?

WERE YOU...
MORE THAN
FRIENDS?



HE
DIDN'T
THINK
SO.

THAT'S
OKAY.



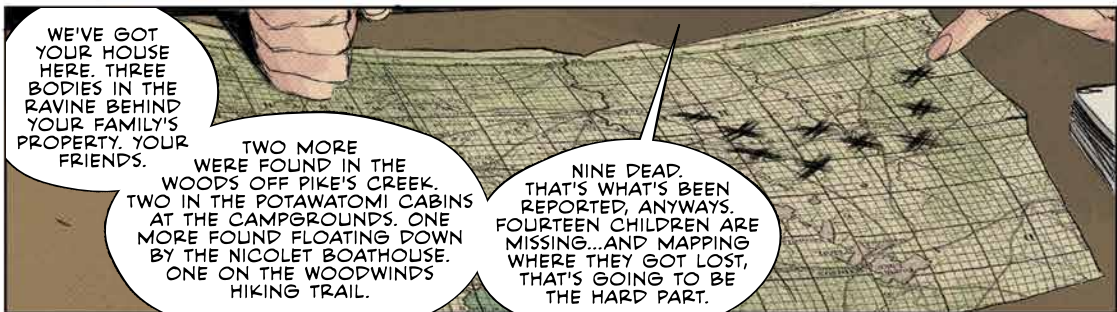




YEAH.
I'VE DONE
THIS KIND
OF THING
BEFORE.

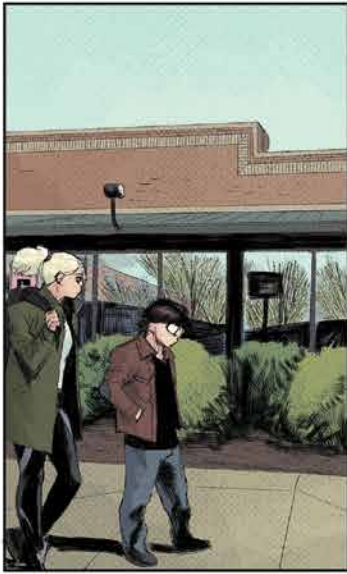
NOW
SHOW ME
WHERE YOUR
HOUSE IS.

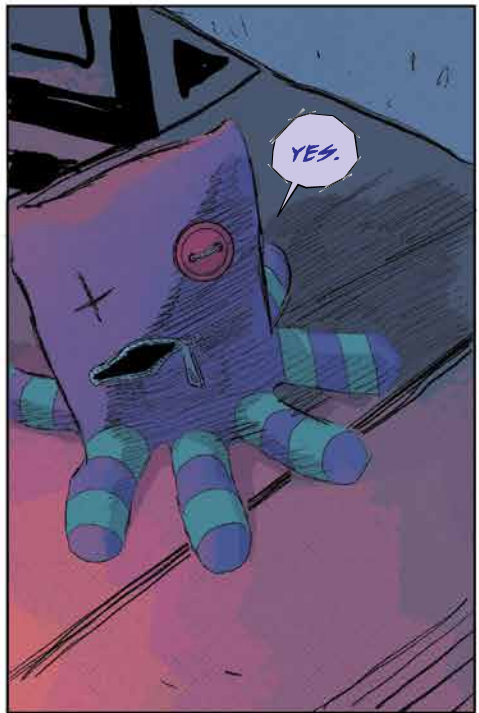
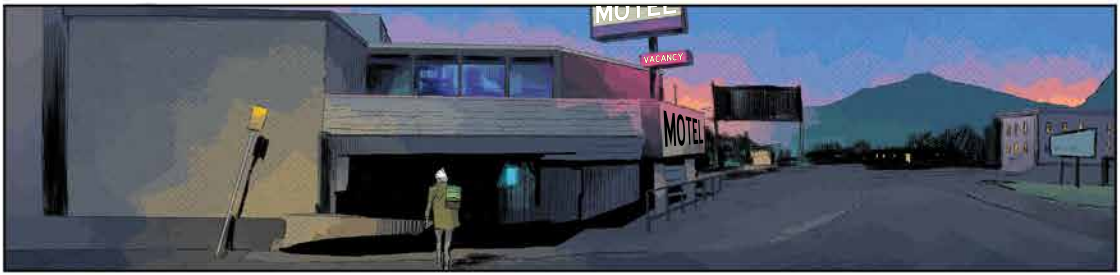
















POLICE.
OPEN UP.

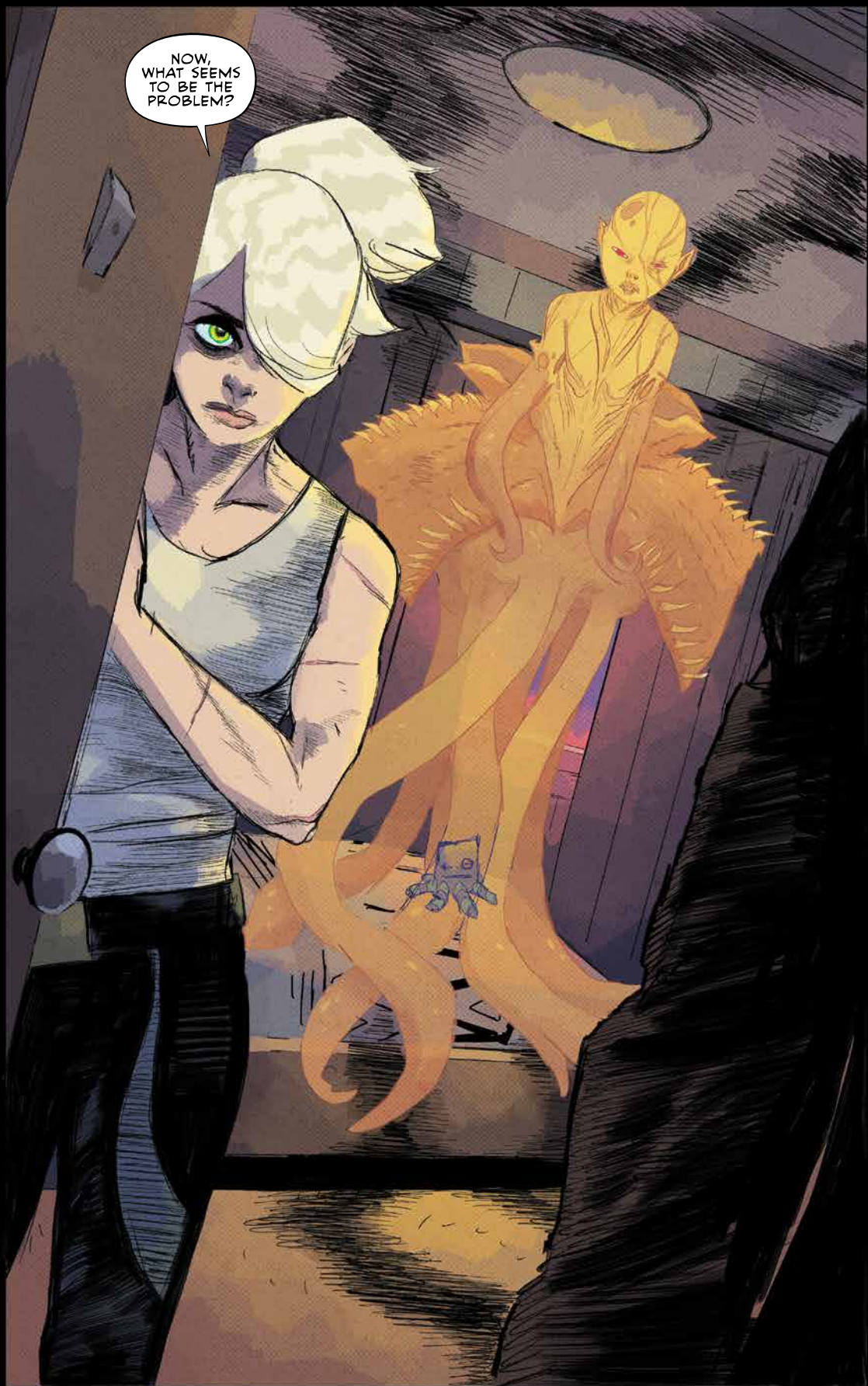


I DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU'VE GOT
IN THERE, MA'AM.
BUT I DON'T WANT
ANY FUNNY
BUSINESS.



NOTHING
FUNNY GOING
ON IN HERE,
OFFICER.

NOW,
WHAT SEEMS
TO BE THE
PROBLEM?





CHAPTER THREE



A full-page comic illustration of a young child in a dark, dense forest at night. The child is wearing blue pajamas with dark heart patterns and is cowering in fear, with their arms crossed over their face. There are several red blood splatters on the child's face, particularly around the right eye, and on their pajamas. Three speech bubbles are positioned above the child's head, each containing the text 'I DON'T BELIEVE IN MONSTERS.' The background is dark and textured with vertical lines, suggesting tree trunks and foliage.

I DON'T
BELIEVE IN
MONSTERS.

I DON'T
BELIEVE IN
MONSTERS.

I DON'T
BELIEVE IN
MONSTERS.



I
DON'T...

CREEK



BELIEVE.



OUT
ABCDEF GHI JKLM
NOPQRSTU VWXYZ
1234567890
GOOD BIE



HELP!

PLEASE...
SOMEBODY
HELP...



NO...NO...
PLEASE.

PLEASE!!!



THEY
TALK...THEY
TALK ABOUT IT
BACKWARDS,
I THINK.



THEY TALK ABOUT
HOW THEY KEEP
GETTING BIGGER AND
BIGGER, AND HOW YOU
NEVER STOP SEEING
THE KID THAT THEY
WERE.

THE BABY
WHOSE BUTT
YOU'VE WIPED
MORE TIMES THAN
YOU CAN COUNT,
AND WHO THREW
UP OVER ALL YOUR
BEST SHIRTS.



BUT IT'S
BACKWARDS.



HENRY...

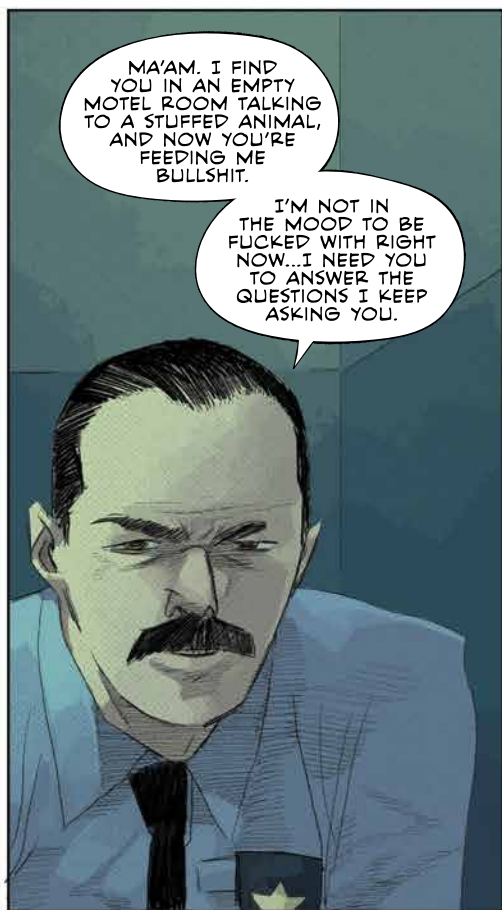


THERE WAS THE
WAY HE HELD HIS
MOTHER WHEN THE
LAST JOB LAID ME
OFF. THERE'S THE
WAY HE HAD THIS
LITTLE...

...LITTLE SPARK
IN HIS EYE, WHEN
HE HELPED JAINA
WITH HER MATH
PROBLEMS.









YEAH?

ERICA
SLAUGHTER.

SLAUGHTER'S
A REAL
NAME.



SURE.

SAYS SO
ON THE
CARD.



THIS IS MADE
OF PAPER.

SO'S A
SOCIAL
SECURITY
CARD.

THIS ISN'T A
SOCIAL SECURITY
CARD. IT'S A
LICENSE. IT LOOKS
LIKE YOU MADE IT
AT A KINKO'S.



YEAH.

YOU
DIDN'T EVEN
LAMINATE
IT.

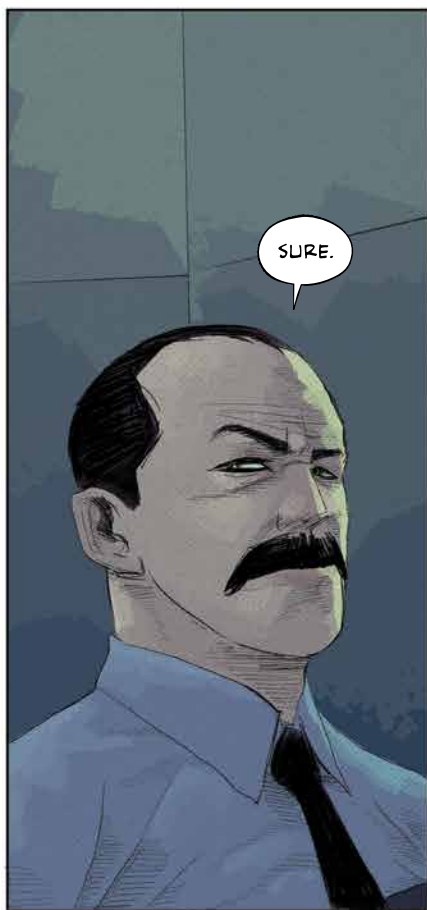
YEAH.



YOU
KNOW I WASN'T
HERE WHEN THINGS
WENT BAD, BUT YOU
STILL WANT TO LOCK
ME UP BECAUSE IT
WILL MAKE YOU FEEL
LIKE YOU'RE DOING
SOMETHING.



THAT
SUM IT
UP?



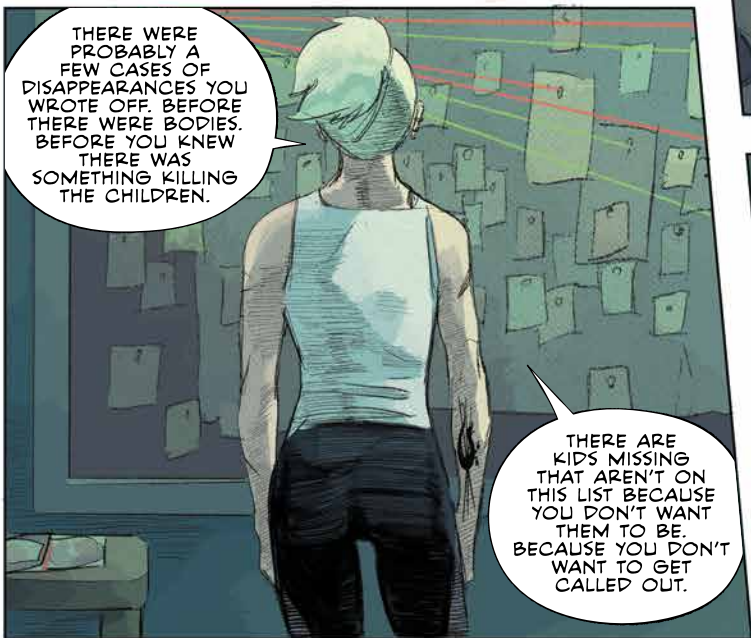
SURE.



WHO WENT MISSING FIRST?



EXCUSE ME?



THERE WERE PROBABLY A FEW CASES OF DISAPPEARANCES YOU WROTE OFF. BEFORE THERE WERE BODIES. BEFORE YOU KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING KILLING THE CHILDREN.

THERE ARE KIDS MISSING THAT AREN'T ON THIS LIST BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT THEM TO BE. BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO GET CALLED OUT.



BUT YOU SEE...*YOU'RE* THE ONE WE'VE GOT LOCKED UP HERE.



YEAH, OKAY.
WHO WENT MISSING FIRST?



OR, I'LL BE NICE, BECAUSE YOU HOPE YOU WERE RIGHT THE FIRST TIME, AND IT WAS JUST ALL THE NORMAL, MUNDANE WAYS KIDS GO MISSING. AN ANGRY RELATIVE OR A RUNAWAY OR SOMETHING REGULAR.



BUT DEEP DOWN YOU KNOW THEY AREN'T MISSING. THEY'RE DEAD.



IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE INTERROGATING ME.



SURE.



STOP FUCKING WITH ME! STOP ACTING LIKE THIS IS A GODDAMN GAME!

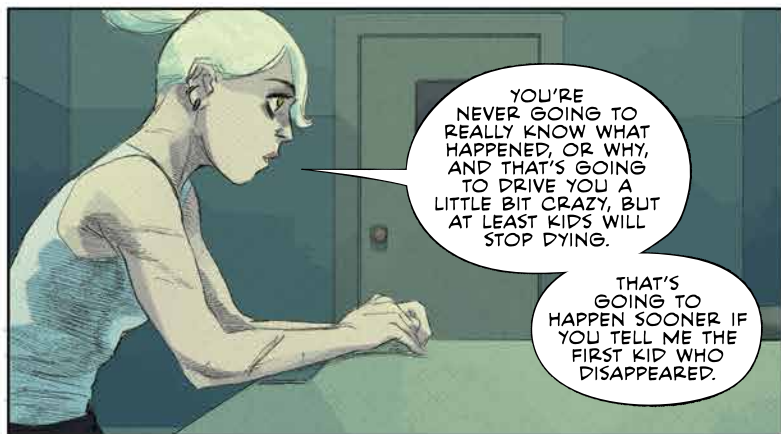
SLAM



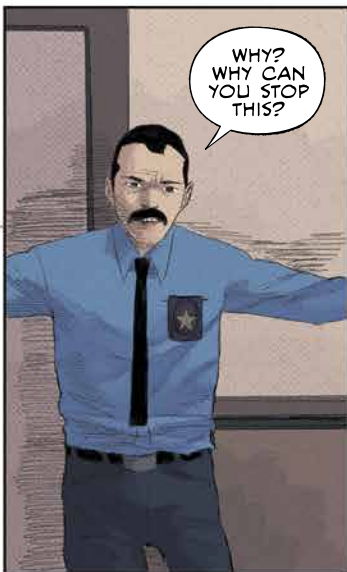
THIS ISN'T MILWAUKEE OR MADISON OR EVEN GREEN BAY. THIS ISN'T A PLACE WHERE THESE KINDS OF THINGS HAPPEN.

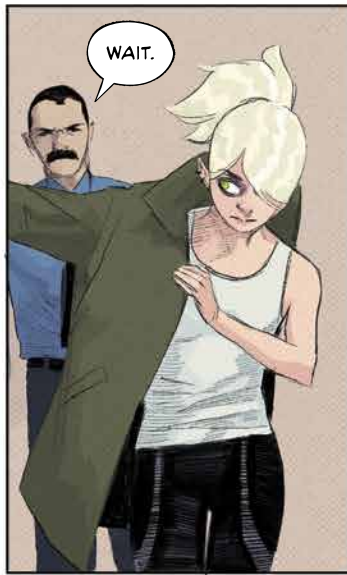


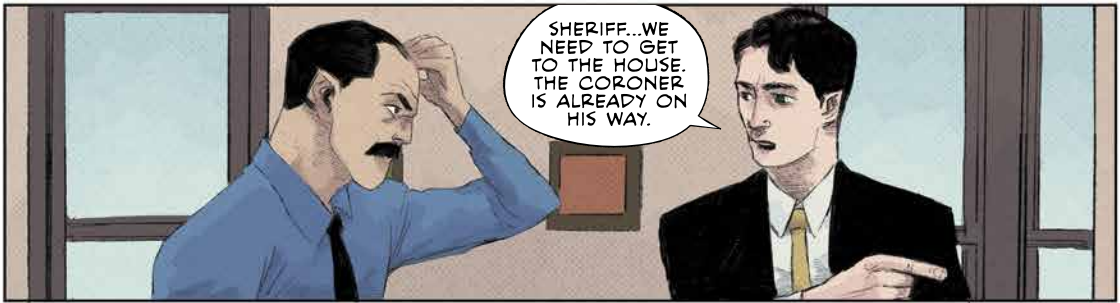
CHILDREN ARE DEAD, ERICA!















I MEAN, WHAT'S THE POINT? THEY AREN'T GOING TO FAIL ME, AND EVERYONE THERE THINKS I KILLED MY FRIENDS.

THIS IS MORE IMPORTANT, ISN'T IT? THIS IS HOW I CAN **ACTUALLY** DO SOMETHING. I WANT TO DO SOMETHING.



ARE YOU TALKING TO YOUR OCTOPLUS?



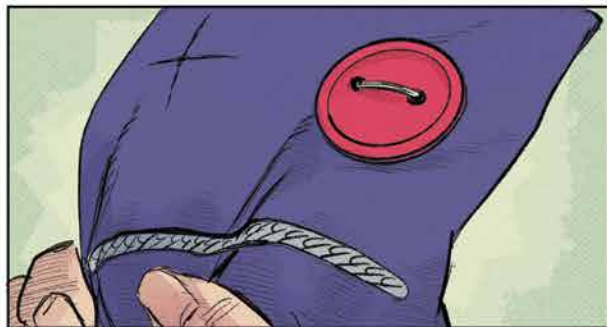
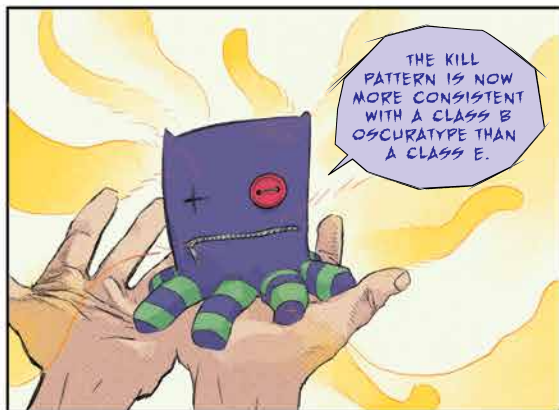
YEAH.

COOL.



YOU LOOK ANGRY. YOU SHOULD TRY TALKING TO HUMAN PEOPLE AND NOT STUFFED OCTO--









CHAPTER FOUR

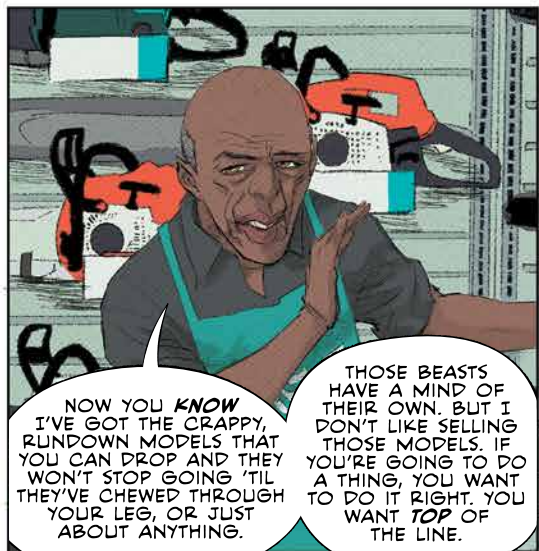


NOW THIS...THIS ONE'S A BEAUT.



I GET PROFESSIONALS IN HERE A LOT. LANDSCAPERS AND THAT SORT. THEY SWEAR BY THIS MODEL. IT CAN TEAR THROUGH JUST ABOUT ANY WOOD YOU COULD WANT, BUT IT'S GOT THESE SENSORS...

IF YOU DROP IT, OR LOSE CONTROL OF THE HANDLE, IT'LL STOP DEAD, BEFORE IT STOPS *YOU* DEAD.



NOW YOU *KNOW* I'VE GOT THE CRAPPY, RUNDOWN MODELS THAT YOU CAN DROP AND THEY WON'T STOP GOING 'TIL THEY'VE CHEWED THROUGH YOUR LEG, OR JUST ABOUT ANYTHING.

THOSE BEASTS HAVE A MIND OF THEIR OWN. BUT I DON'T LIKE SELLING THOSE MODELS. IF YOU'RE GOING TO DO A THING, YOU WANT TO DO IT RIGHT. YOU WANT *TOP* OF THE LINE.

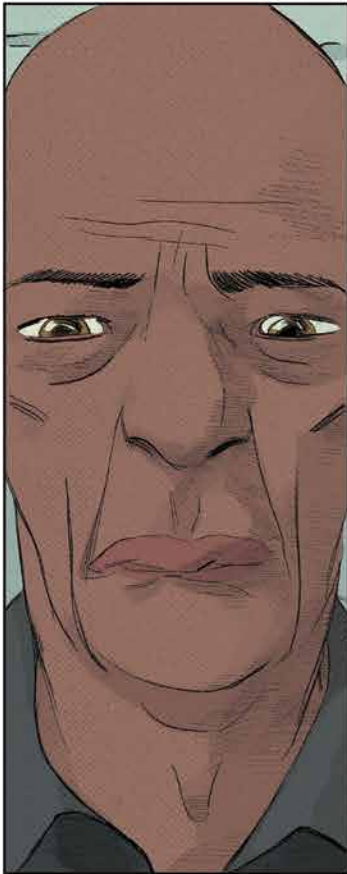


CAN I SEE THE CRAPPY, RUNDOWN MODELS?



SORRY?







DAD,
YOU IN
HERE?



DAD. IT'S
TOMMY.



OH.



HOW'S YOUR
MOTHER?



CALL
HER IF
YOU REALLY
WANT TO
KNOW.



WHAT THE HELL
TIME IS IT, ANYWAY?
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING HERE?



IS
THERE...
IS THERE
NEWS...?

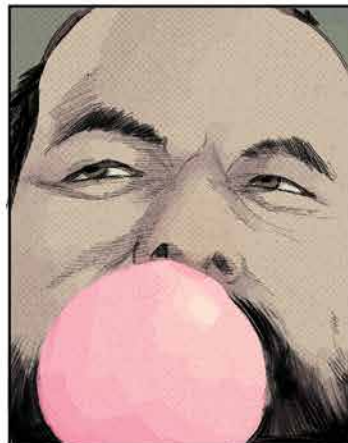
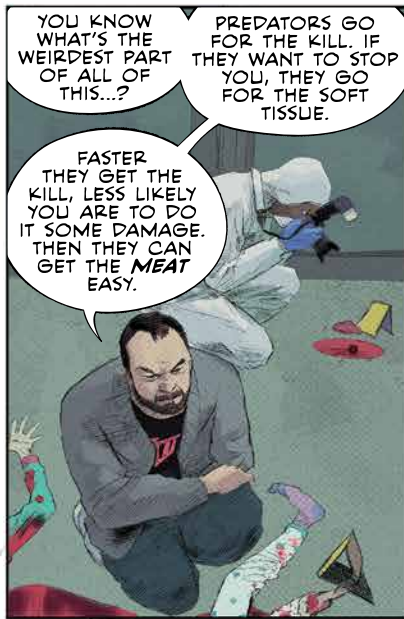
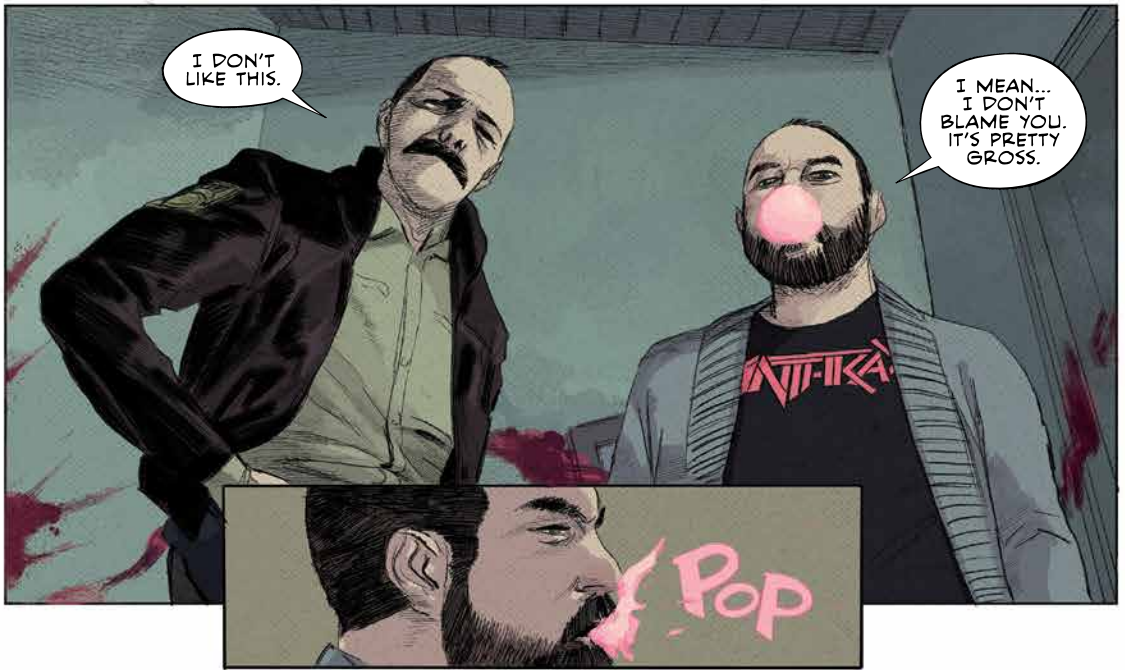
IS
SOPHIE...

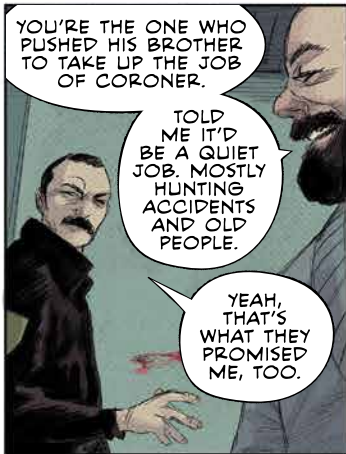
DID THEY
FIND HER
BODY?

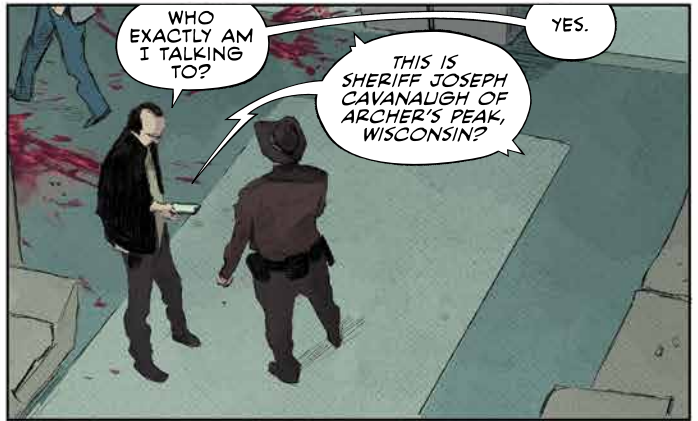






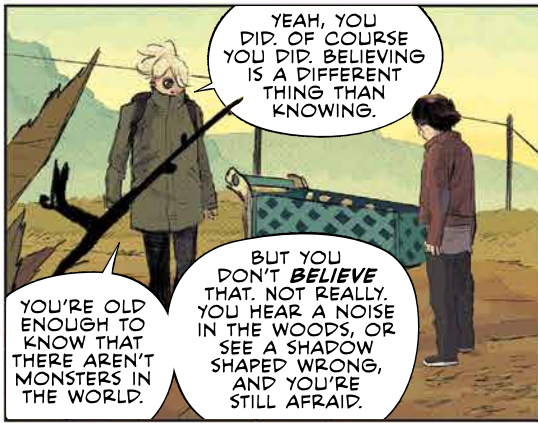




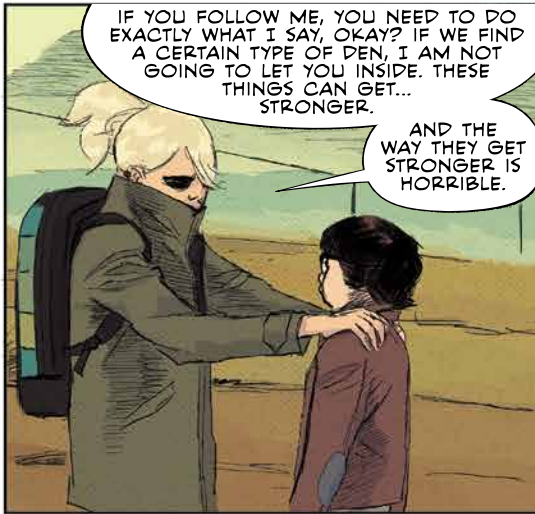




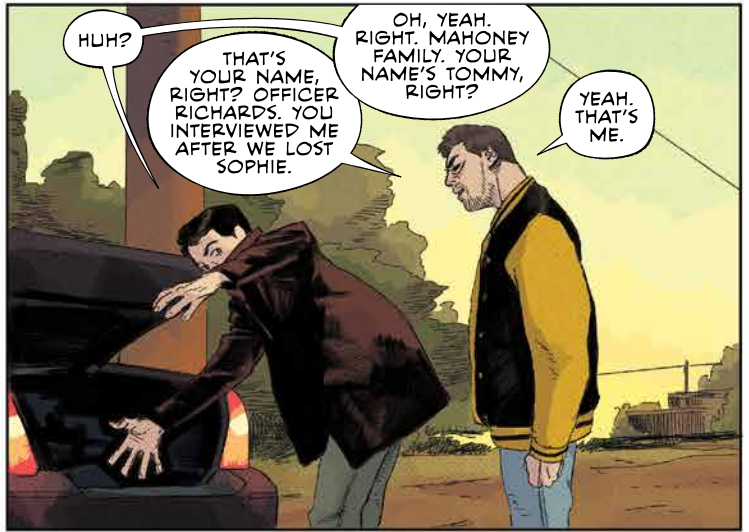






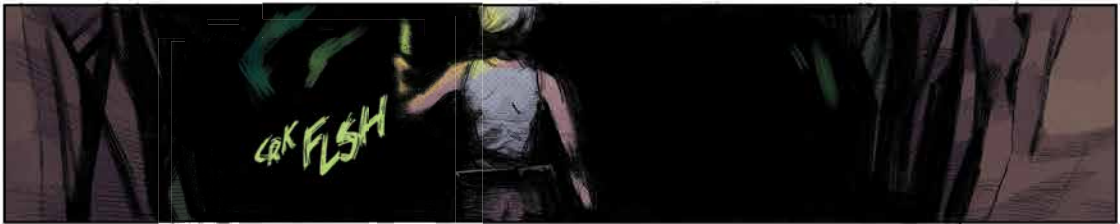


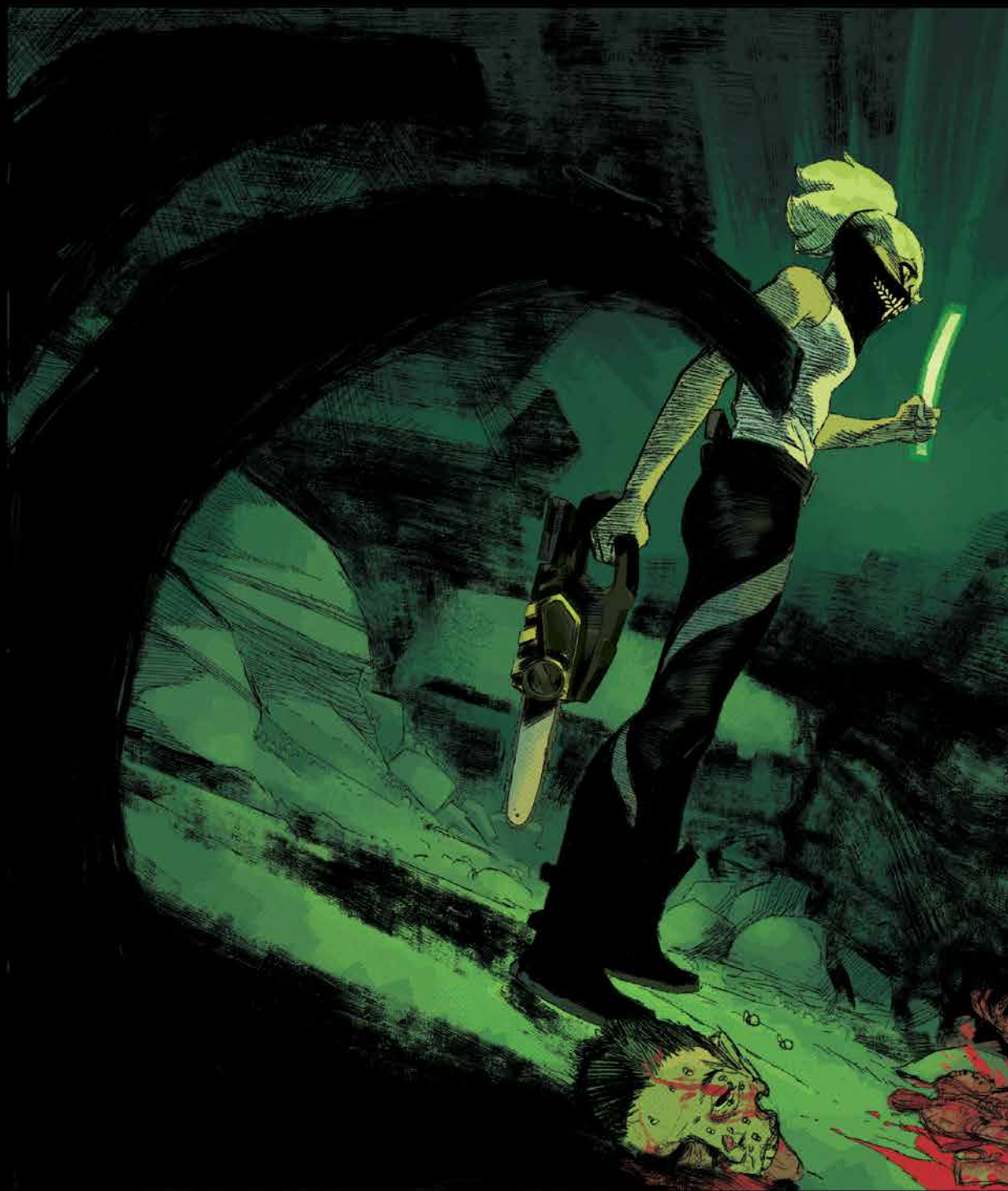












I...I
KNEW
IT...

I KNEW
YOU DID
THIS...



WHAT...

YOU
FUCKING
KILLED THEM.
YOU KILLED
ALL OF
THEM.

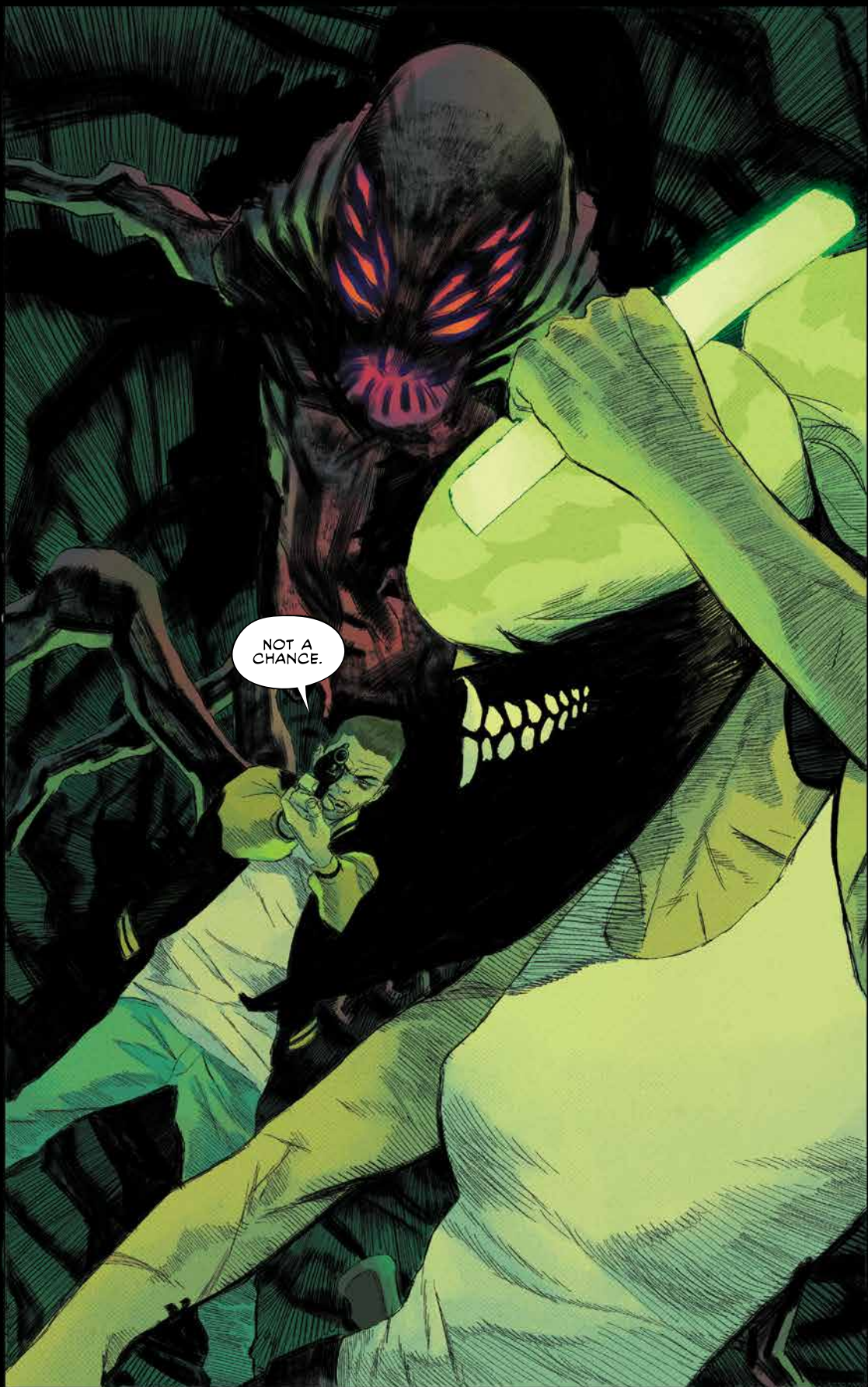


AND NOW,
YOU'RE
GOING TO
PAY...

TOMMY...



TOMMY,
YOU NEED TO
GET DOWN
NOW...





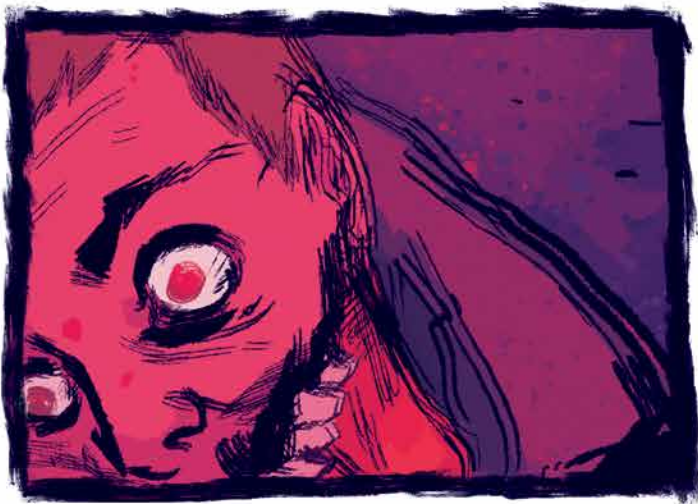
CHAPTER FIVE



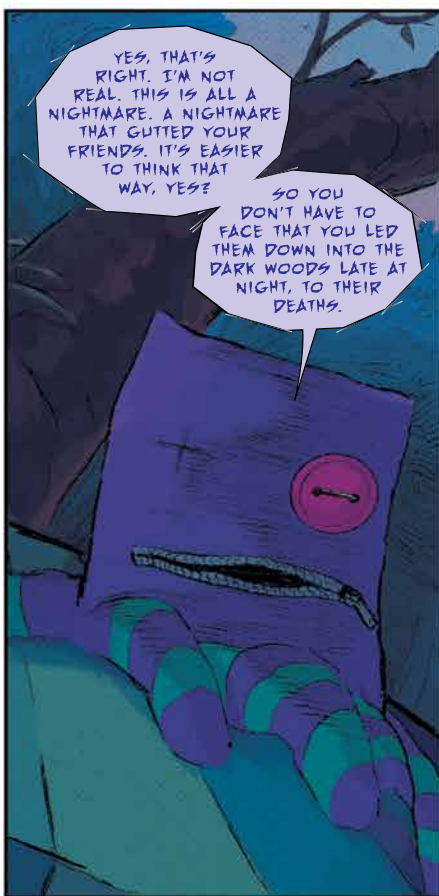




NO.



I'M...I'M NOT **AFRAID!** AND YOU'RE... YOU'RE NOT REAL.



YES, THAT'S RIGHT. I'M NOT REAL. THIS IS ALL A NIGHTMARE. A NIGHTMARE THAT GUTTED YOUR FRIENDS. IT'S EASIER TO THINK THAT WAY, YES?

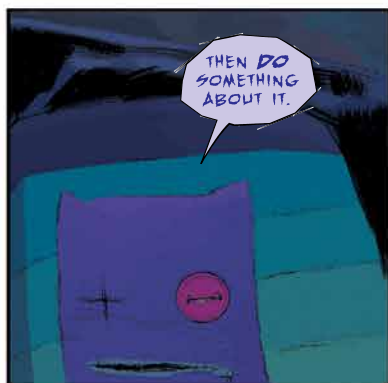
SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO FACE THAT YOU LED THEM DOWN INTO THE DARK WOODS LATE AT NIGHT, TO THEIR DEATHS.



SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO FACE THAT IT WAS **YOUR** FAULT.



THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANT!



THEN **DO** SOMETHING ABOUT IT.



YOU HAVE THE WEAPONS SHE DOESN'T. YOU HAVE THE MEANS TO HELP.

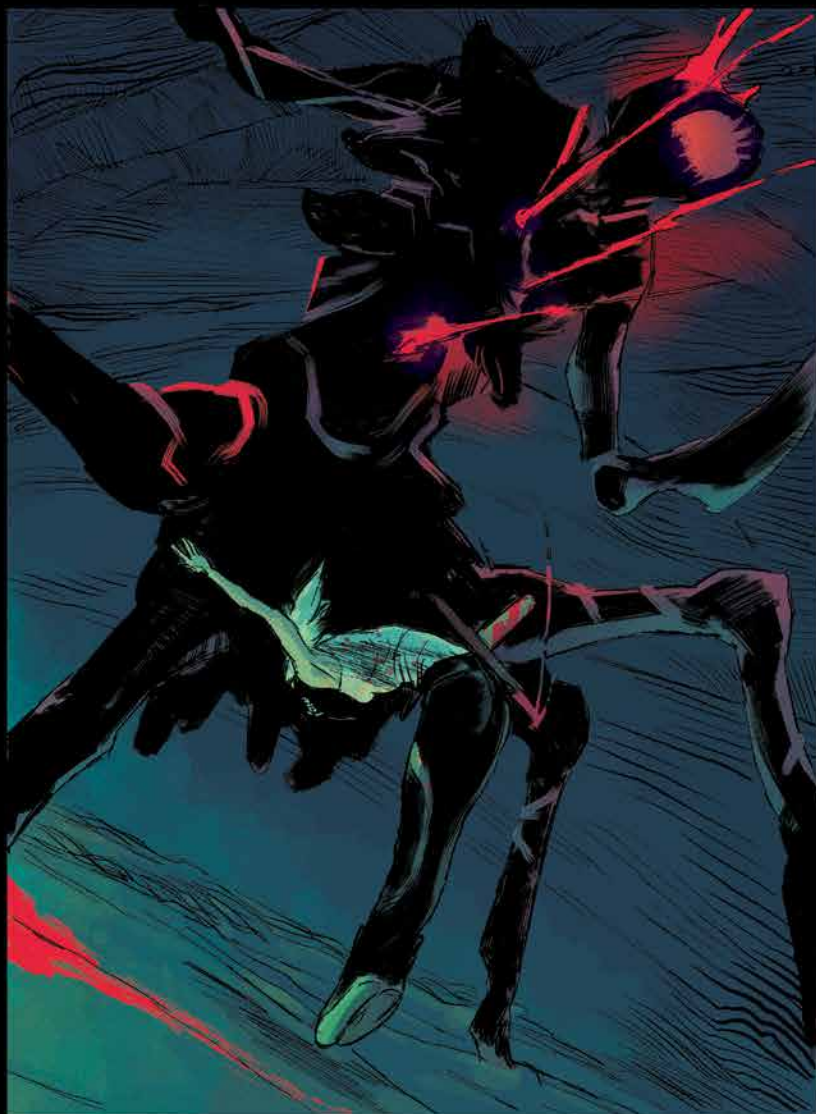
IF YOU DON'T WANT ERICA TO DIE, NOW IS THE TIME TO **ACT**.























SOPHIE...

I'M GOING TO NEED TO DO SOMETHING NOW.

IT'S GOING TO HURT LIKE HELL, BUT IT'S THE ONLY WAY WE'RE GOING TO GET THROUGH THIS.



WHAT IS ALL OF THIS...?



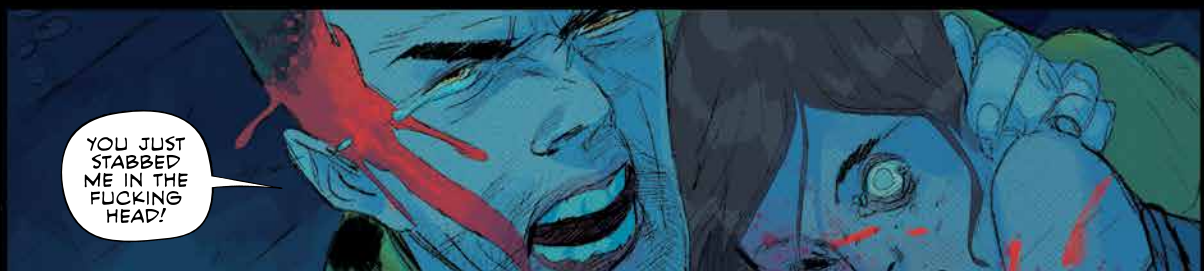
THIS IS A ONE-WAY DOOR, BUT I DON'T THINK ANY OF US ARE GOING TO BE ALIVE FOR LONG IF I DON'T GO THROUGH IT.



THE FUCK IS THAT?



YOU JUST STABBED ME IN THE FUCKING HEAD!





OH GOD,
SOPHIE...



I'M
SORRY,
I'M SO
SORRY...



TOMMY, WE'RE
RUNNING OUT
OF TIME.



IT'S **HORDE**
GOLD FROM
THE **HOUSE OF**
SLAUGHTER.

I NEED
YOU TO
SEE.



WHAT
ARE
YOU--



WHAT DID
YOU...?



I'M
SORRY.





IS
THAT...

IS THAT WHAT
YOU'VE BEEN
FIGHTING?

YOU
FUCKED MY
HEAD UP.
THIS ISN'T
REAL...



IT'S
REAL. CAN
YOU GET
ON YOUR
FEET?

I...I
THINK.

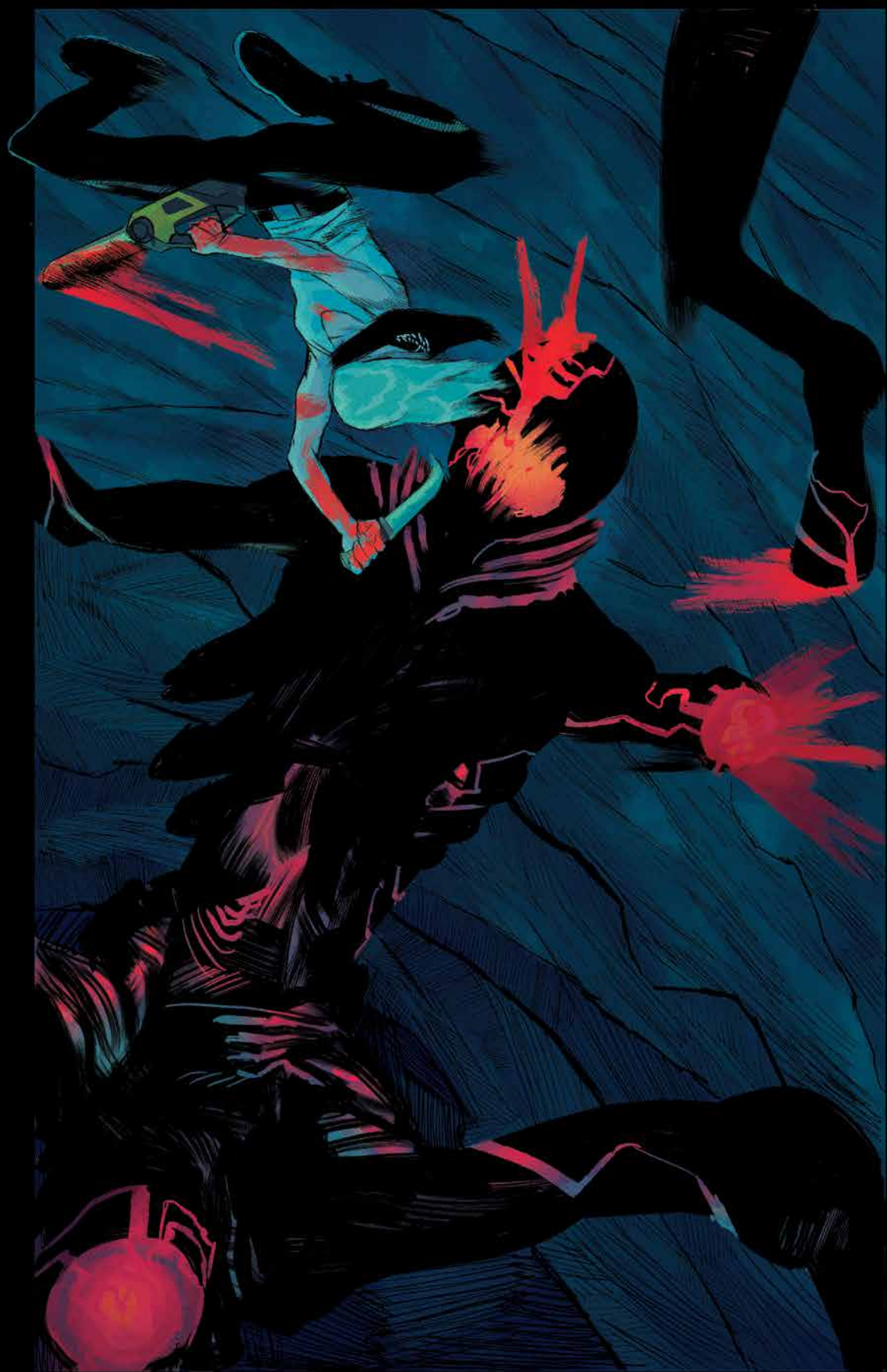
I NEED
YOU TO CARRY
JAMES AND BIAN.
ARE YOU STRONG
ENOUGH TO DO THAT?
CAN YOU GET THEM
OUT OF HERE
ALIVE?



YES.











I'M...I'M
GOING TO
PASS OUT NOW,
IF THAT'S
OKAY.

I
MEAN.
YEAH.
OKAY.



TELL THE
OCTOPUS...

I DIDN'T
WANT TO
DIE...I STILL
DON'T WANT
TO DIE...



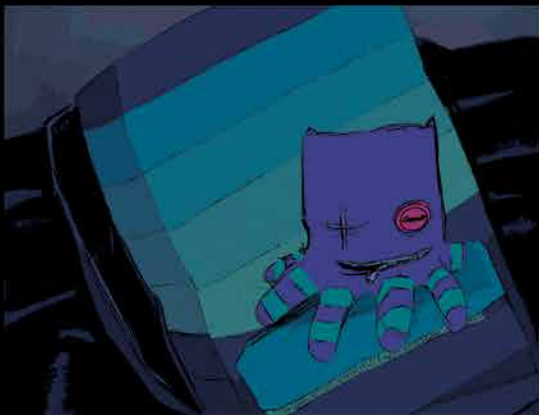
UH...
SURE.

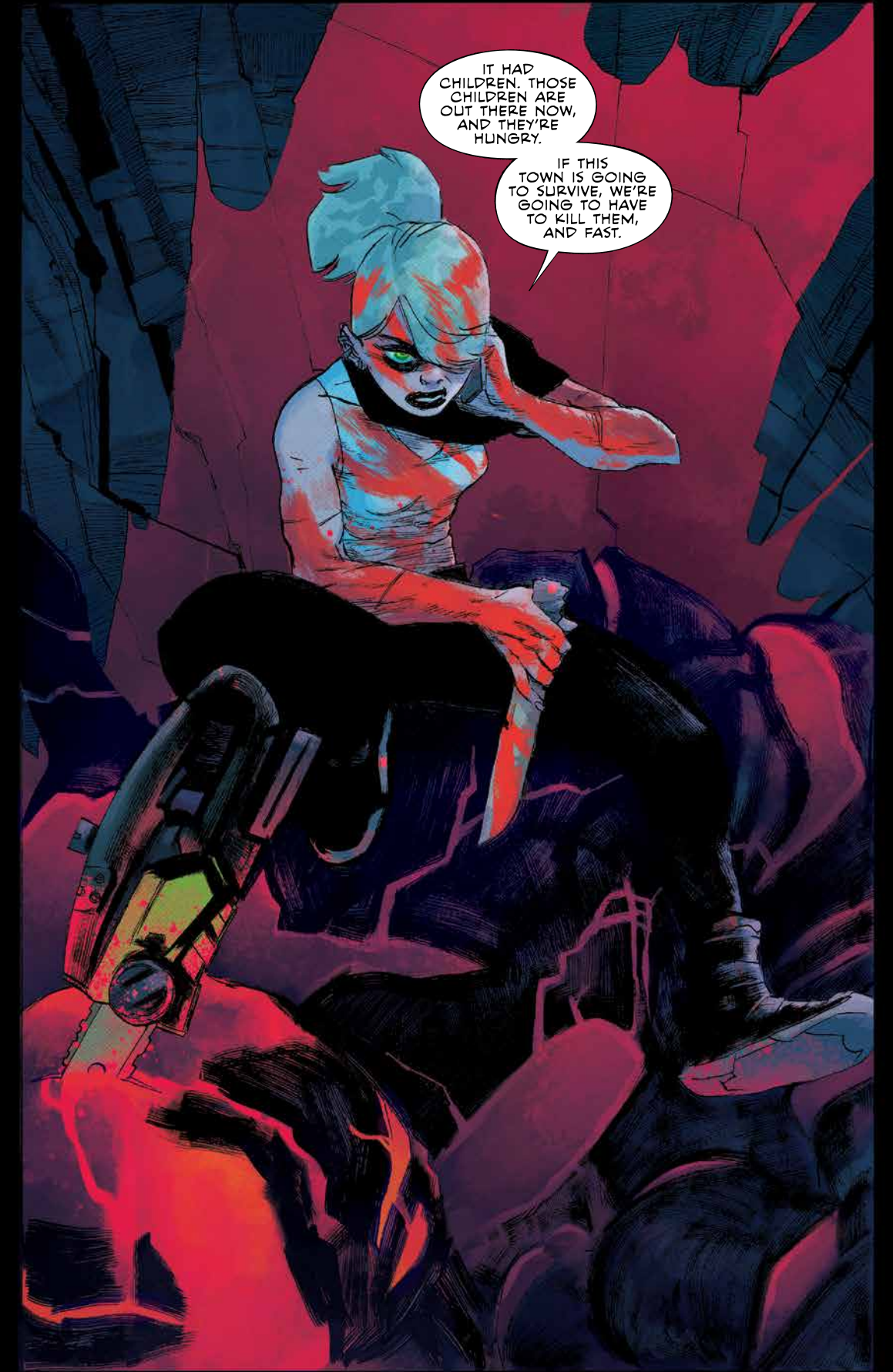


TELL ST. MARY'S
I'VE GOT THREE
COMING IN HOT.
THEY'RE STILL ALIVE,
BUT I DON'T KNOW
FOR HOW MUCH
LONGER.



WHAT
THE FUCK IS
GOING ON
HERE...?





IT HAD
CHILDREN. THOSE
CHILDREN ARE
OUT THERE NOW,
AND THEY'RE
HUNGRY.

IF THIS
TOWN IS GOING
TO SURVIVE, WE'RE
GOING TO HAVE
TO KILL THEM,
AND FAST.

TO BE CONTINUED...



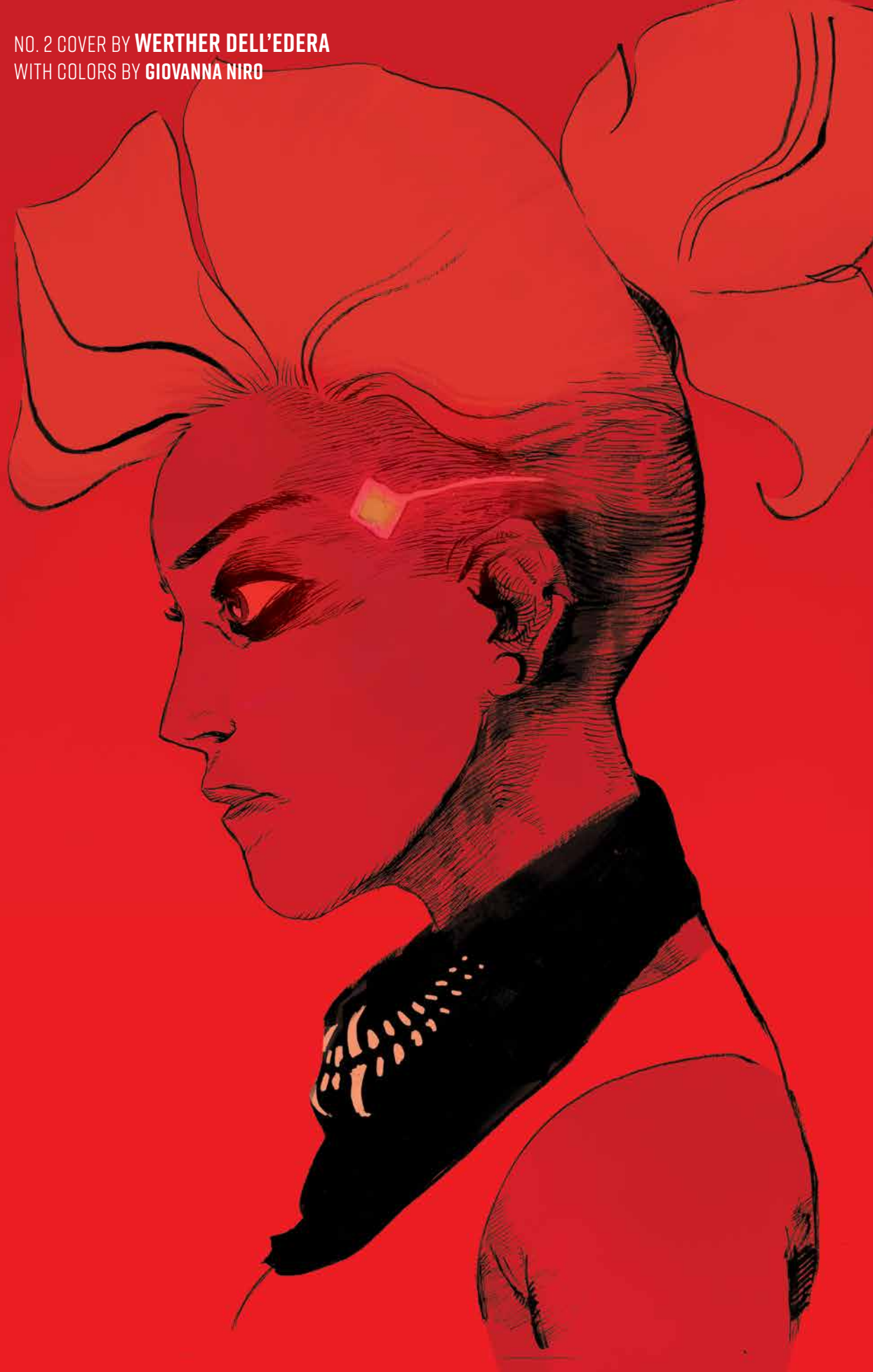


COVER GALLERY





NO. 2 COVER BY **WERTHER DELL'EDERA**
WITH COLORS BY **GIOVANNA NIRO**



NO. 2 UNLOCKED RETAILER VARIANT COVER BY **IAN BERTRAM**
WITH COLORS BY **MIQUEL MUERTO**



NO. 3 COVER BY **WERTHER DELL'EDERA**
WITH COLORS BY **GIOVANNA NIRO**



NO. 3 UNLOCKED RETAILER VARIANT COVER BY
MARCOS MARTÍN



NO. 4 COVER BY **WERTHER DELL'EDERA**
WITH COLORS BY **GIOVANNA NIRO**



NO. 5 COVER BY **WERTHER DELL'EDERA**
WITH COLORS BY **GIOVANNA NIRO**



2017 GLAAD AWARD WINNER OUTSTANDING COMIC BOOK

JAMES TYNION IV MICHAEL DIALYNAS

THE WOODS™

YEARBOOK EDITIONS

EXCLUSIVE PREVIEW





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.

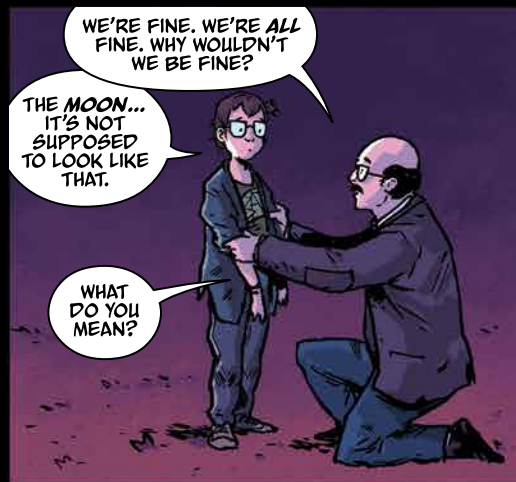


IT'S... GLOWING.

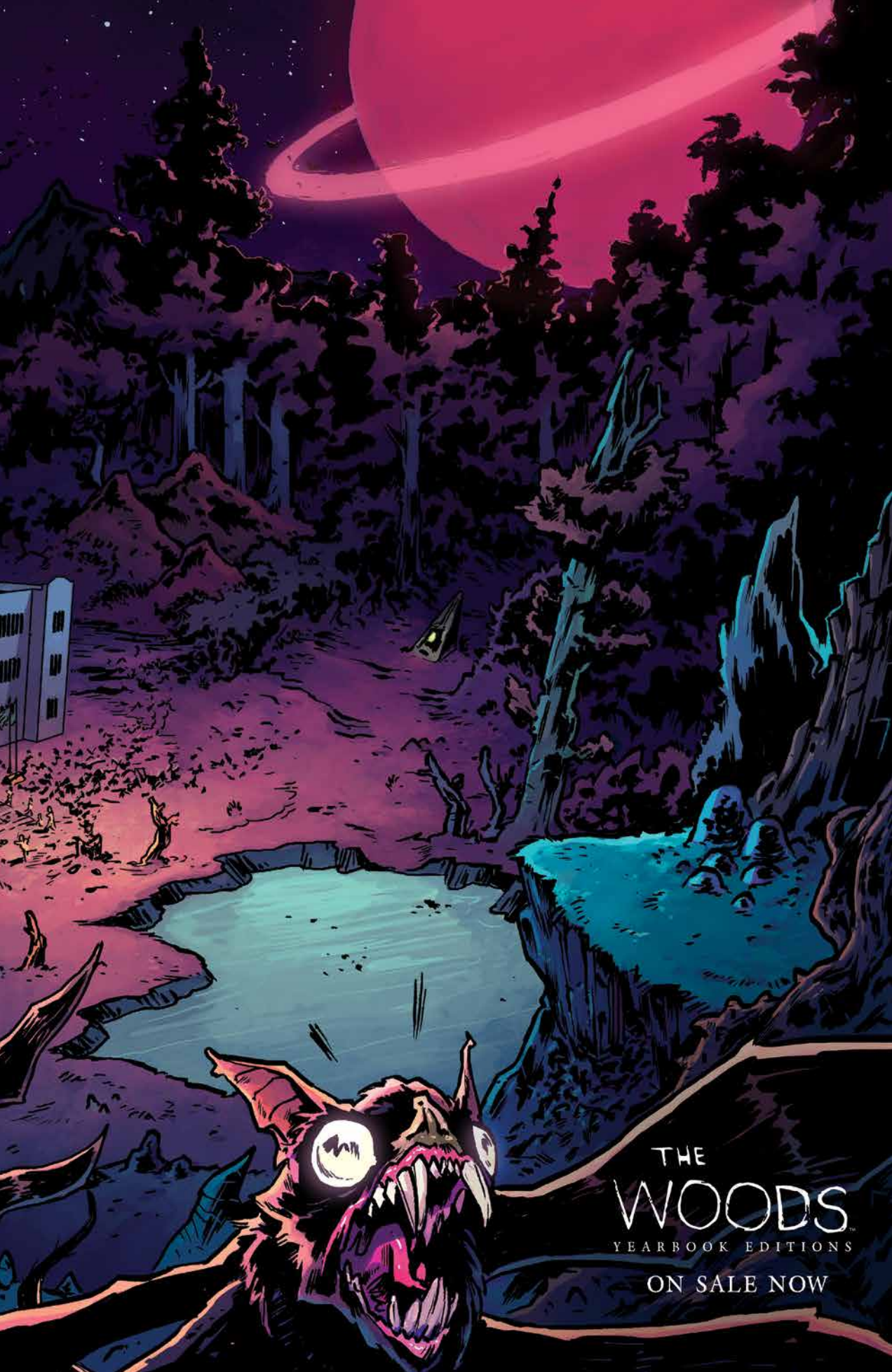


OUT OF MY WAY... KEEP THE ENTRANCE CLEAR...









THE
WOODS
YEARBOOK EDITIONS
ON SALE NOW

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



JAMES TYNION IV is a comic book writer, best known as the writer for DC Comics' flagship series, *Batman*. In addition to the 2017 GLAAD Media Award-winning series *The Woods* with Michael Dialynas, James has also penned the critical successes *Memetic*, *Cognitive*, and *Eugenic* with Eryk Donovan, *The Backstagers* with Rian Sygh, and *Ufology* with Noah J. Yuenkel and Matthew Fox from BOOM! Studios. An alumni of Sarah Lawrence College, Tynion now lives and works in New York, NY.



WERTHER DELL'EDERA is an Italian artist, born in the south of Italy. He has worked for the biggest publishers in both Italy and the U.S., with his works ranging from *Loveness* (DC Vertigo) to the graphic novel *Spider-Man: Family Business* (Marvel). He has also worked for Image, IDW, Dynamite, and Dark Horse. In Italy, he has drawn Sergio Bonelli's *Dylan Dog* and *The Crow: Memento Mori* (a co-production between IDW and Edizioni BD), for which he has won awards for Best Cover Artist, Best Series, and Best Artist.



Not dead, **MIQUEL MUERTO** has lived in Barcelona since 1992, where he studied illustration, ran a small press, and worked as a graphic designer until feeling entitled to chase his dream: doing comics! *The Druid's Path* (2016) was his comic book debut as a full artist, a traumatic experience he swore would never happen again. Coloring comics was the first good step he has taken in his career and he has been happily following that path ever since.

IT'S THE MONSTERS WHO SHOULD BE AFRAID

When the children of Archer's Peak—a sleepy town in the heart of America—begin to go missing, everything seems hopeless. Most children never return, but the ones that do have terrible stories—impossible details of terrifying creatures that live in the shadows. Their only hope of finding and eliminating the threat is the arrival of a mysterious stranger, one who believes the children and claims to be the only one who sees what they can see.

Her name is Erica Slaughter. She kills monsters. That is all she does, and she bears the cost because it must be done.

GLAAD Award-winning writer **James Tynion IV** (*The Woods*, *Batman*) and artist **Werther Dell'Edera** (*Briggs Land*) present a haunting series about staring into the abyss...and what happens when the abyss stares back. Collects *Something is Killing the Children* #1 - 5.



"Those who dare to venture into this world will find a unique and compelling cast of characters in a killer mystery. You don't want to miss out on this."

COMICBOOK.COM

"Tynion has put an incredible amount of thought and care into it. It's clear this story is as intricately woven as it is deeply personal."

IGN

"Tynion and Dell'Edera have crafted the perfect horror comic for the *Stranger Things* era."

COMIC BOOK RESOURCES

BOOM!
STUDIOS