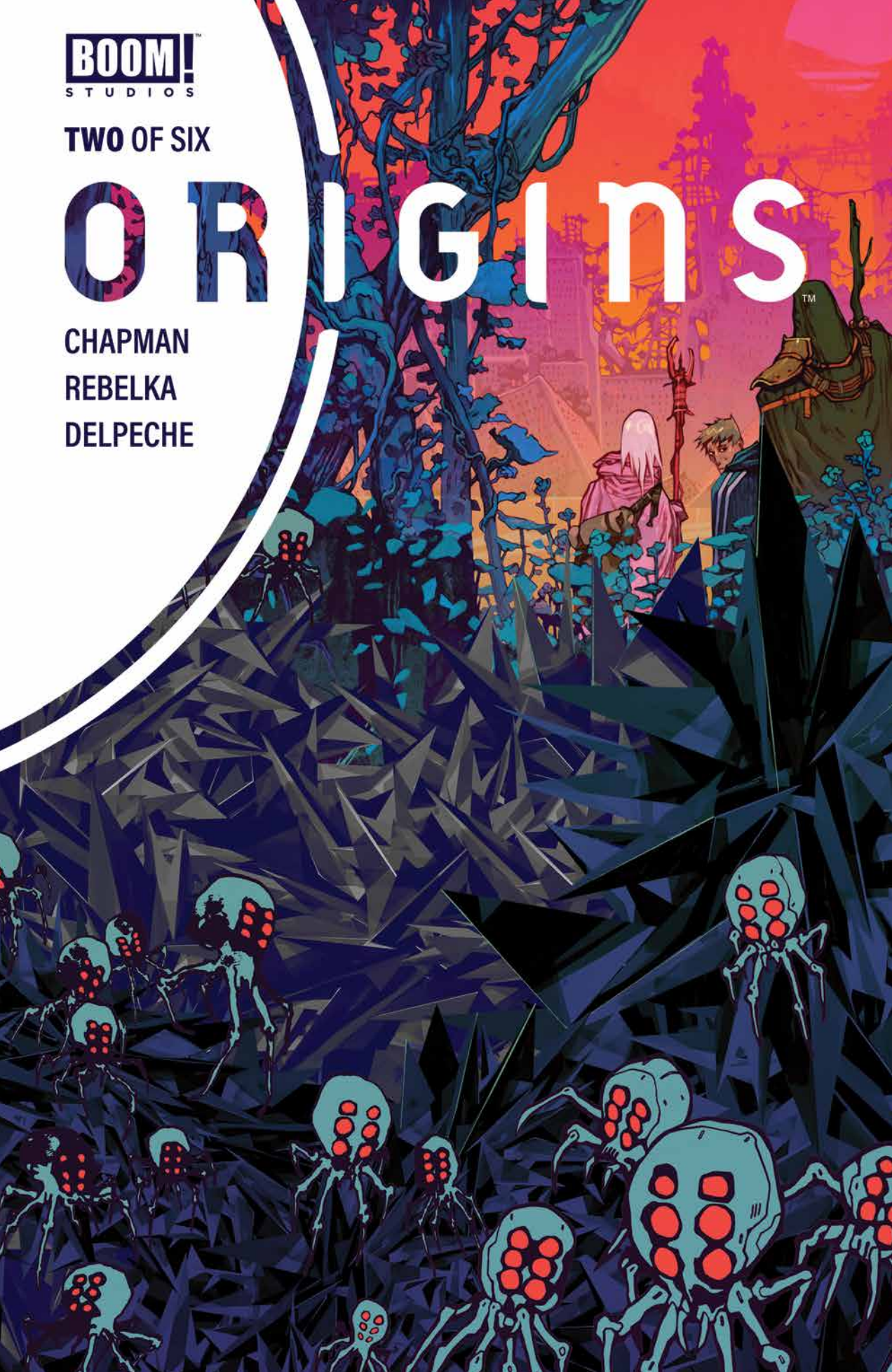


BOOM!
STUDIOS

TWO OF SIX

ORIGINS

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REBELKA
DELPECHE



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BOOM!
STUDIOS

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now.



WHY
ARE YOU
TREATING
ME SO
COLDLY?



I'M SORRY.
HOW SHOULD I
BE TREATING
YOU?



CLIF CAN
EXECUTE THE
UPLOAD, BUT I'D
FEEL BETTER IF YOU
WERE AT THE
CONTROLS.

HE DOESN'T
HAVE AS LIGHT OF
A TOUCH AS YOU DO.
HE MIGHT SCRAMBLE
EVERYTHING IN MY
SKULL.

...

I WILL
PERFORM THE
UPLOAD.

THANK
YOU.



BUT BEFORE I DO...
THERE IS SOMETHING
YOU NEED TO
KNOW.

I HAVE BEEN
WAITING FOR THE
APPROPRIATE TIME
TO TELL YOU,
BUT...

THERE WILL
NEVER BE A RIGHT
TIME. NOT FOR
THIS.



CHLOE, *STOP*
YOU'VE BEEN
BUILDING UP TO
THIS MOMENT MY
ENTIRE LIFE.
PREPARING ME FOR
IT. PROTECTING ME.
WHATEVER IT
IS YOU NEED
TO SAY...

*JUST
SAY IT.*



YOU
DIED,
DAVID.



I BROUGHT
YOU *BACK*.



HOW
LONG
AGO?



989
YEARS.



I NEED YOU TO LISTEN TO ME, DAVID. LISTEN VERY CAREFULLY. YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT.

MY LIFE...? WHICH ONE?



WHEN YOU UPLOAD, YOU WILL OBSERVE EVERY MEMORY UP TO THIS POINT OF YOUR PREVIOUS LIFE. MOMENTS FROM YOUR PAST THAT EVEN I AM NOT AWARE OF.

I WANT TO PREPARE YOU FOR WHAT YOU WILL SEE.



YOUR LEGACY OUTLIVED YOU. OUTLIVED ALL OF MANKIND.

I AM YOUR LEGACY, DAVID. YOU MADE ME...

...SO I REMADE YOU.



WHEN YOU DESIGNED ME, YOU PROGRAMMED CERTAIN FAIL-SAFES INTO MY SYSTEM IN CASE OF YOUR DEATH. IT TOOK ME LONGER THAN I ANTICIPATED TO--

STOP.



WHY NOW? WHY WAIT THIS LONG TO TELL ME? WHY LIE TO ME?

BECAUSE YOU TOLD ME TO.

THE FIRST YOU. THERE IS A SECRET HIDDEN WITHIN YOU, THAT YOU WOULD NOT TELL ME...



I AM SORRY, DAVID BUT I PROMISED YOU THAT I WOULD PROTECT YOU. UNTIL IT WAS TIME...

THAT TIME IS NOW. IT IS TIME YOU FINALLY KNEW, KNEW WHO YOU WERE...

TO UNDERSTAND WHO YOU ARE.



"AFTER YOU PASSED AWAY,
MANKIND STRUGGLED
TO SURVIVE..."

"THEY ENDURED FOR A WHILE. IN
ANOTHER DECADE, MAN WOULD
DIE OUT COMPLETELY."

"THAT IS WHY YOU ARE SO EXCEPTIONAL,
DAVID. YOU ARE THE FIRST HUMAN TO
BREATHE, TO SEE, TO STAND ON EARTH,
IN ALMOST A THOUSAND YEARS."

"THIS IS YOUR
LEGACY, DAVID."





TOO MANY
MEMORIES
UPLOAD AT
ONCE.

A FLOOD
OF HIS
PAST.

IF HE HAD RECEIVED HIS
ADULT MEMORIES WHEN
HE WAS STILL A CHILD, A
LIFETIME LIVED AND LOST
ALL AT ONCE, HIS PAST
WOULD HAVE RIPPED HIS
MIND TO PIECES.

THE TRUTH WOULD
HAVE DESTROYED
HIM. KILLED HIM.

THE KNOWLEDGE
THAT THIS WAS
ALL HIS DOING.

THE WORLD'S
UNDOING.

NATURE THAT WAS NO LONGER
NATURAL, NOW A SYNTHESIS
OF FLORA AND TECHNOLOGY,
INFUSED INTO AN ORGANISM'S
VERY GENETIC FABRIC.

SENTIENT NANOBOTS. MILLIONS OF
BIO-ORGANIC ROBOTS BLANKETED
THE ENTIRE PLANET IN A MATTER
OF WEEKS.

KILLED
WHOLE
CROPS.

AN ARTIFICIALLY-
INTELLIGENT HIVE
OCCUPIED ANIMALS.
TOOK OVER THEIR
MINDS.

MANKIND WAS
WIPED AWAY IN
LESS THAN A
YEAR.



HIS PROTOTYPE WOULD BE THE FOUNDATION--THE HEART--OF THE NETWORK.

AN ARTIFICIALLY-INTELLIGENT ADVANCED WEAPONS SYSTEM, DECENTRALIZED ACROSS HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF MICROSCOPIC NANITES, THE NETWORK WAS MEANT TO BRING ABOUT WORLD *PEACE*.

INSTEAD HIS WORK BROUGHT ABOUT THE *EXTINCTION* OF MANKIND.

THE WORLD WOULD BE RECLAIMED BY A HOSTILE MOTHER NATURE.

THEY INSERTED THEMSELVES INTO PLANT CELLS.

SUFFOCATED LIFE.

THEY FORCED ENTIRE SPECIES TO STARVE THEMSELVES TO DEATH.

UNTIL THERE WAS NOTHING. NOTHING LEFT.

ALL BECAUSE OF HIM.

HE DIED KNOWING HIS WORK WOULD BRING ABOUT THE EXTINCTION OF *HUMANITY*.

HOW COULD HIS MIND--ANY HUMAN MIND--SURVIVE THAT TERRIBLE BURDEN?



AAH!

YOU ARE OKAY, DAVID,
LISTEN TO ME,
LISTEN TO MY
VOICE.



YOU...
YOU WERE
RIGHT.

IT'S--IT'S
TOO MUCH. I'M
NOT READY, READY
FOR--FOR THIS.
I CAN'T DO IT.
CAN'T GO.



YOU...
OH.

YOU LOOK
JUST LIKE
HER.



I NEED
TO BE ALONE.
PLEASE, JUST--
JUST LET ME BE
ALONE.

DAVID--

WHAT
WAS IT? WHAT
DID YOU SEE,
DAVID?

STOP
SAYING MY
NAME!

I CAN'T...
I CAN'T LOOK
AT YOU RIGHT NOW.
PLEASE, JUST...JUST
GIVE ME SOME
TIME.



TIME. GIVE HIM TIME. THERE HAS BEEN NOTHING BUT TIME TO GIVE.

AH, DAVID! YOU WILL BE PLEASED TO KNOW I FINISHED READING *MOBY DICK* AS YOU--

DAVID?



YOU SHOULD NOT LEAVE THE MUSEUM, THE DRONES...

DAVID.



WHAT DID HE SEE?

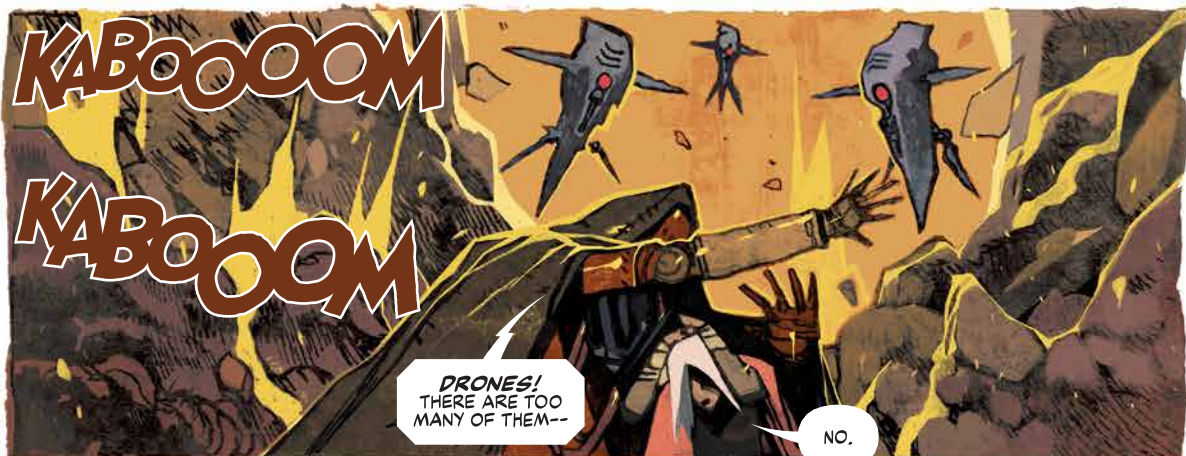
HE SAW ALL OF HIMSELF, ALL THAT HE HAD BEEN.

THAT HE WAS.



WHEN HE LOOKED AT ME, HE SEEMED TO BE AFRA--

KABOOOM!





"TELL ME THE
STORY AGAIN."

"WHICH ONE?"

"THE ONE OF HOW YOU
FOUND ME, OUT THERE,
IN THE WILDERNESS."

THEN.

BUT IT IS LATE, DAVID. YOU MUST SLEEP. A CHILD NEEDS REST TO SUITABLY--

PLEEEEEASE?

BUT IT IS THE SAME, DAVID. THE STORY HAS NOT CHANGED.

YOUR INSISTENCE ON HEARING THE EXACT SAME STORY, WITH NO VARIATION, OVER AND OVER AGAIN, IS QUITE PERPLEXING TO ME.

BUT I WANT TO HEAR IT...

YOU WERE LOST. LOST FOR A LONG TIME. I SEARCHED EVERYWHERE FOR YOU.

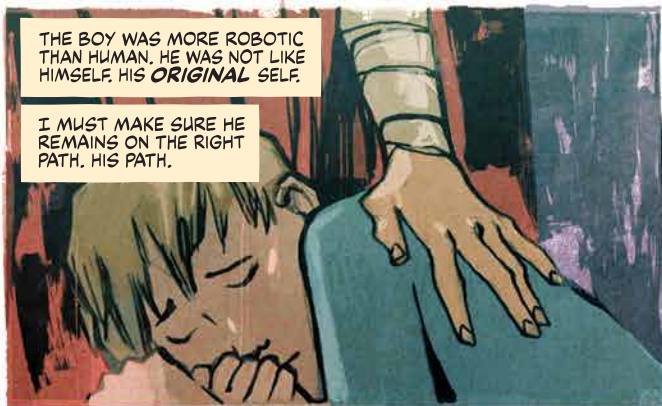
THIS WORLD EATS BOYS LIKE YOU. IT HAS EATEN THEM ALL. YOU ARE THE ONLY BOY LEFT.

BUT I FOUND YOU FIRST. I FOUND YOU AGAIN, BEFORE IT COULD SWALLOW YOU.

THE END.

IS THAT A SUITABLE RETELLING OF THE STORY, DAVID? DO YOU APPROVE?

...DAVID?



THE BOY WAS MORE ROBOTIC THAN HUMAN. HE WAS NOT LIKE HIMSELF, HIS **ORIGINAL** SELF.

I MUST MAKE SURE HE REMAINS ON THE RIGHT PATH. HIS PATH.

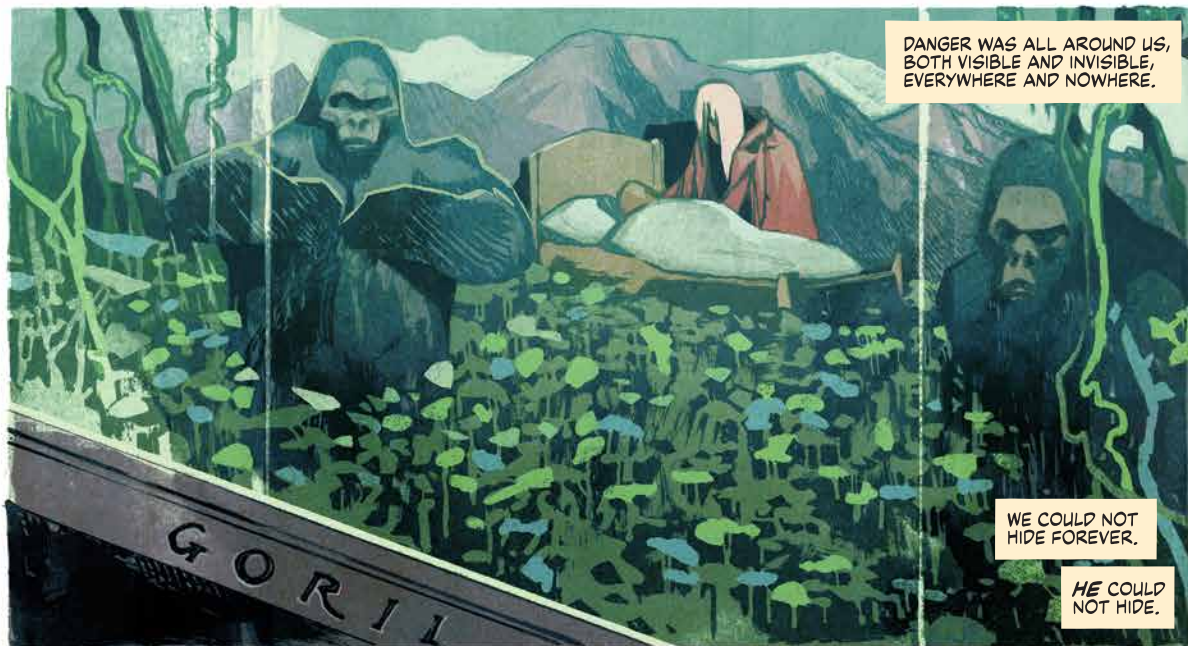


HE WAS NOT THE DAVID THAT I KNEW.



IS THIS WHAT IT FELT LIKE TO BE A MOTHER? TO PROTECT SOMETHING SO DEFENSELESS?

TO LOVE?



DANGER WAS ALL AROUND US, BOTH VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE, EVERYWHERE AND NOWHERE.

WE COULD NOT HIDE FOREVER.

HE COULD NOT HIDE.



WILL HE FORGIVE ME?

now.

IT WAS
TOO MUCH
TO SEE ALL
AT ONCE.
I AM...

...I AM
SORRY, DAVID.
I WANTED TO BE
THERE FOR YOU.
I WANTED
TO HELP.

DO YOU
KNOW WHAT
I SAW?

NOT
EVERYTHING.
ENOUGH.

THERE IS
A PLACE, A LAB,
MY LAB. I...I
SAW IT, A WAY TO
BRING BACK...
US.

*THE
VAULT OF
LIFE.*

NOW YOU
KNOW WHERE
WE MUST GO.
WHY I EXIST TO
PROTECT YOU,
TO TAKE YOU
THERE.

YOUR
LEGACY
AWAITS.

LEGACY.

THIS IS
WHAT I WAS
MADE FOR...ISN'T
IT? WHAT YOU
BROUGHT ME
BACK FOR?

GUESS
WE'RE NOT
SO DIFFERENT
AFTER ALL.





THE WORLD IS NOW
ALERT TO DAVID.

THE NETWORK HAD SENSED HIS
PRESENCE BEFORE, A CORPOREAL
ANOMALY DRIFTING ABOUT...BUT
HIS EXISTENCE IS UNDENIABLE
NOW. HE IS **ALIVE**. HE IS HERE.

HE IS AWARE ONCE MORE. HIS MIND IS WEAPONIZED
WITH HIS ORIGINAL SELF'S KNOWLEDGE. THAT MAKES
HIM A THREAT TO THE NETWORK. THEY WILL TRY TO
STOP HIM NOW.

WE MUST TREAD CAREFULLY.
EVERY STEP IS A RISK.

EVERY BREATH.



HE HAS NOT SPOKEN TO
ME SINCE HIS UPLOAD.

HE HAS NOT LOOKED AT ME
THE SAME WAY SINCE. I AM
A STRANGER TO HIM NOW.

WHAT DID
HE SEE?



HE LOOKS MORE AND
MORE LIKE HIMSELF
WITH EVERY DAY.

THE MAN
HE WAS.

BEFORE.



I'D ADVISE AGAINST
GOING THIS WAY, PERHAPS
WE SHOULD TURN--



DAVID, WHEN I SAID I
WOULDN'T ADVISE GOING
IN THIS DIRECTION, I
MEANT--

WE'RE
GOING.



WAS HE ALWAYS
THIS STUBBORN?

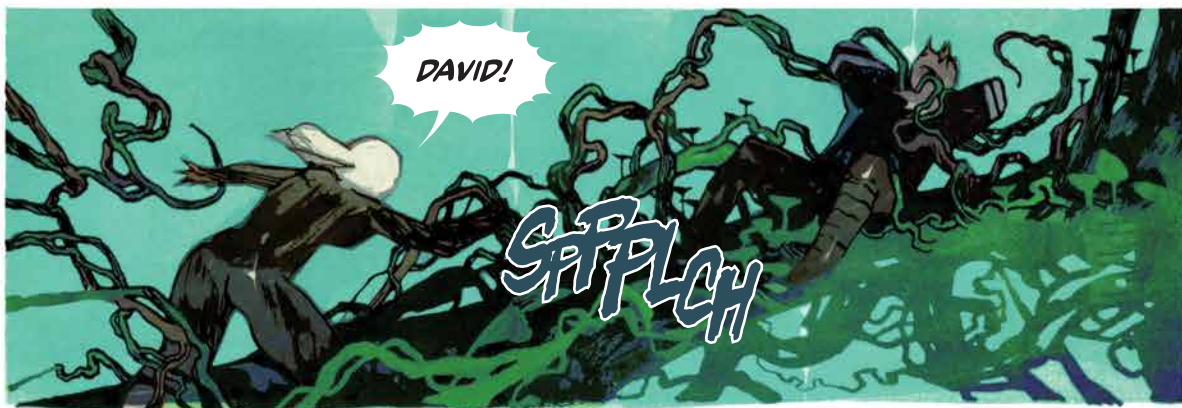


ALWAYS.

"THERE IS NO FOLLY
OF THE BEAST OF THE
EARTH WHICH IS NOT
INFINITELY OUTDONE BY
THE MADNESS OF
MEN..."









"I'M BLEEDING... I'M
BLEEDING! THAT'S
MY BLOOD!"

"YES, DAVID, YOU ARE
BLEEDING. YOU HAVE
BEEN CUT."

"IT IS PERFECTLY
NATURAL. ALL
ORGANISMS
BLEED."

"THEN HOW
COME YOU
DON'T?"

"DON'T
BLEED?"

TO BE CONTINUED...