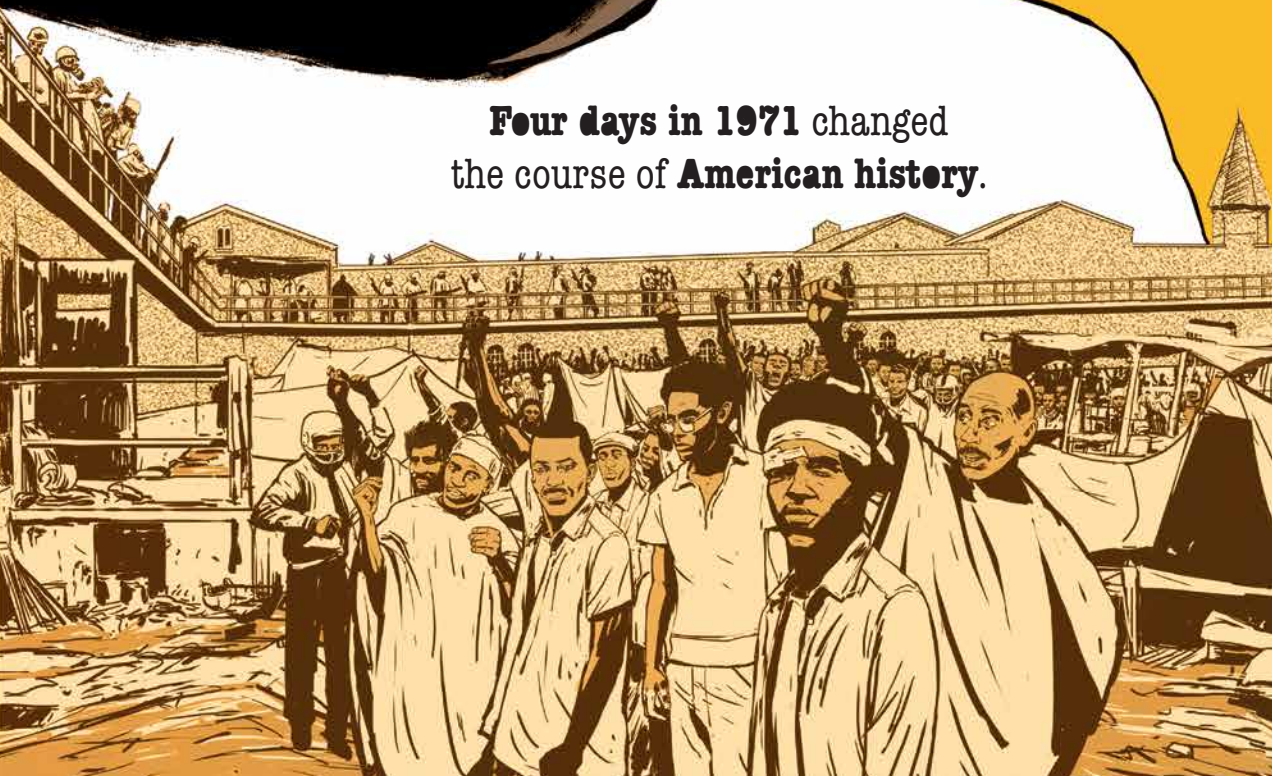


FRANK "BIG BLACK" SMITH

BIG BLACK STAND AT ATTICA™

JARED REINMUTH
AMÉZIANE

Four days in 1971 changed
the course of **American history.**



BIG BLACK STAND AT ATTICA™



Published by
ARCHAIA™

BIG B STAND A

Four days in 1971 changed
the course of **American history.**

BLACK TATTICA™



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For the 1539,
That their Stand at Attica
Inspires the Spirit of Abolition and Resistance.
And brings Hope and Inspiration to those Incarcerated
In these modern institutions of Inhumanity.

For Mom and Dan,
Who taught me the story of Attica,
Introduced me to Big Black and Pearl,
And with Love and Generosity,
Pursued Justice Relentlessly to the End.

For Pearl,
Big Black's North Star,
Who guided us,
Kept us moving Forward,
And never allowed us to Give Up.

And for Big Black,
The Heartbeat of our Story.

—Jared Reinmuth

For my love, Syb.

For my boys, Gab & Noé.

For all the ones who
trusted me on this book:
Patrick, Jared, Pearl, Alex, Judy,
Joan, Sierra, and Allyson.

—Améziane



INTRODUCTION

This graphic novel is about real people and events. It is about a courageous, gentle person; a huge man with a booming voice. It is about people who were imprisoned at Attica, the maximum-security penitentiary in upstate New York in 1971. It is about a rebellion for humane treatment. It is about the state's violent repression of an uprising that culminated in a bloody massacre committed by a police force that Dr. Clarence B. Jones (lawyer and former speechwriter for Martin Luther King, Jr., who was present at the prison at the request of the inmates) called "young, tense, and infected with racism." My involvement begins on the day of the uprising with a phone call from the prison to my law office. Here starts a personal and legal commitment that would last three decades.

September 13, 1971 became one of the bloodiest days in modern United States history when N.Y. State Governor Nelson Rockefeller ordered the violent retaking of Attica Prison. Troopers indiscriminately shot two thousand rounds of ammunition at unarmed people trapped within the prison walls, resulting in the deaths of 29 prisoners and 10 guards. After the shooting stopped, police beat and tortured the surviving prisoners. One of the worst atrocities was the sadistic barbarism perpetrated by state police and guards against Frank "Big Black" Smith, the central figure of this book.

To hold the state accountable, in 1974, on behalf of the 1,281 prisoners who were brutalized in D-Yard that morning, I filed a federal class action civil rights damage lawsuit against Governor Nelson Rockefeller and other state officials, seeking compensation for the wrongful deaths and brutalities inflicted against the prisoners. For an incredibly long 26 years, the legal team of five lawyers and innumerable dedicated supporters sought justice in and out of court for the prisoners, who became known as the Attica Brothers.

Following his release from prison, Big Black began working for me and for other lawyers as an investigator for people charged with crimes. He had the ability to make people feel comfortable and forthcoming. He was intelligent, strategic, and charismatic, which made him an ideal investigator.

At Attica, his communication skills and commitment to fair play were displayed as the prisoners' football coach. His stature and character were two of the reasons he was selected by the rebelling inmates to be their chief of security, and he certainly lived up to his reputation. No one was harmed for four days in D-Yard, including state officials, up until the massacre of September 13. As you will see on the pages before you, because of Big Black's role during the uprising, the state tortured him beyond what is imaginable.



After his release from Attica, Big Black also became an early intervention drug counselor for addicted youth. At the time, early intervention, non-punitive treatment was innovative. In Brooklyn, he worked with high school youth in a vocational program sponsored by the United Auto Workers, and had a close relationship with Sam Meyers and other UAW officials.

In his own case, Big Black was a riveting witness. His testimony about enduring sadistic torture and brutality resulted in a unanimous jury verdict. He was awarded compensatory damages in the amount of \$4 million, the largest jury verdict for a sole prisoner in the history of the United States. The judgement was wrongfully dismissed, and all other verdicts nullified by an appellate court. In 2000, after 26 years and faced with no credible options, the Attica Brothers Lawsuit settled for the inadequate sum of \$12 million to be shared amongst the plaintiffs.

Big Black was so magnetic and respected that the unfavorable trial judge invited him to his and his wife's home for a holiday dinner. Upon hearing of Big Black's declining health, Daniel Callaghan, Former Capt. 19th Special Forces Group, present at Attica and a witness at trial, wrote to Big Black, "...today I am a better human being than I once was, and you made me so."

I have often asked myself how a person could suffer such brutality and remain optimistic and kind. As Big Black's wife Pearl testified at trial, she would often find him underneath their bed, shaking from a PTSD-induced nightmare. But with her loving support, he remained steady and generous. Big Black and Attica Brother Akil Al-Jundi were a driving force in the quest for justice. He remained close to all the surviving Attica Brothers, especially Carlos Roche, until the end of his life in 2004.

With the introduction of the archaic Rockefeller drug laws, and for-profit prisons, mass incarceration has exploded. In 1971, New York State laid claim to 12 prisons and 12,500 prisoners. In 2000, when the case was settled, that number had ballooned to 72 prisons and 72,500 prisoners, ravaging poor communities of color and making the Attica prison uprising a story for today.

This book, with its accuracy and visual depth, is an honest portrayal of those horrifying and tragic events—events which resonate in today's political climate. Frank "Big Black" Smith's story is an inspiration to my family, to Jared, to his siblings and his mom, and it will continue to inspire future generations.

Daniel Meyers, Esq.

Attica Brothers Legal Team, 1974-2000

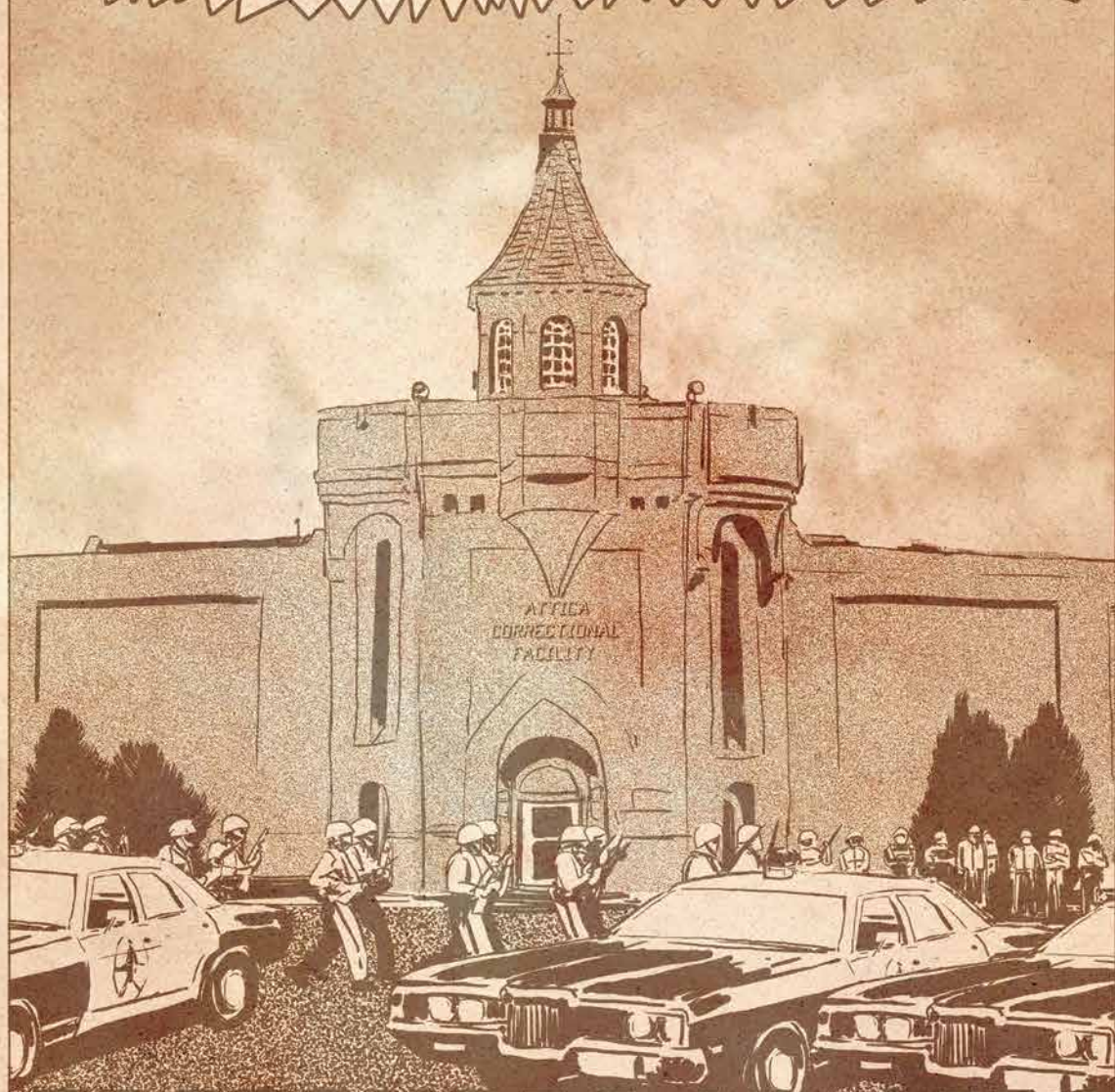


THE 15 PRACTICAL PROPOSALS OF REBELLING ATTICA PRISONERS

1. Apply the New York State minimum wage law to all state institutions. STOP SLAVE LABOR.
2. Allow all New York State prisoners to be politically active, without intimidation or reprisals.
3. Give us true religious freedom.
4. End all censorship of newspapers, magazines, letters, and other publications coming from the publisher.
5. Allow all inmates, at their own expense, to communicate with anyone they please.
6. When an inmate reaches conditional release date, give him a full release without parole.
7. Cease administrative resentencing of inmates returned for parole violations.
8. Institute realistic rehabilitation programs for all inmates according to their offense and personal needs.
9. Educate all correctional officers to the needs of the inmates, i.e., understanding rather than punishment.
10. Give us a healthy diet, stop feeding us so much pork, and give us some fresh fruit daily.
11. Modernize the inmate education system.
12. Give us a doctor that will examine and treat all inmates that request treatment.
13. Have an institutional delegation comprised of one inmate from each company authorized to speak to the institution administration concerning grievances (QUARTERLY).
14. Give us less cell time and more recreation with better recreational equipment and facilities.
15. Remove inside walls, making one open yard, and no more segregation or punishment.

THE STORY OF BIG BLACK

PLANTATION TO PLANTATION!

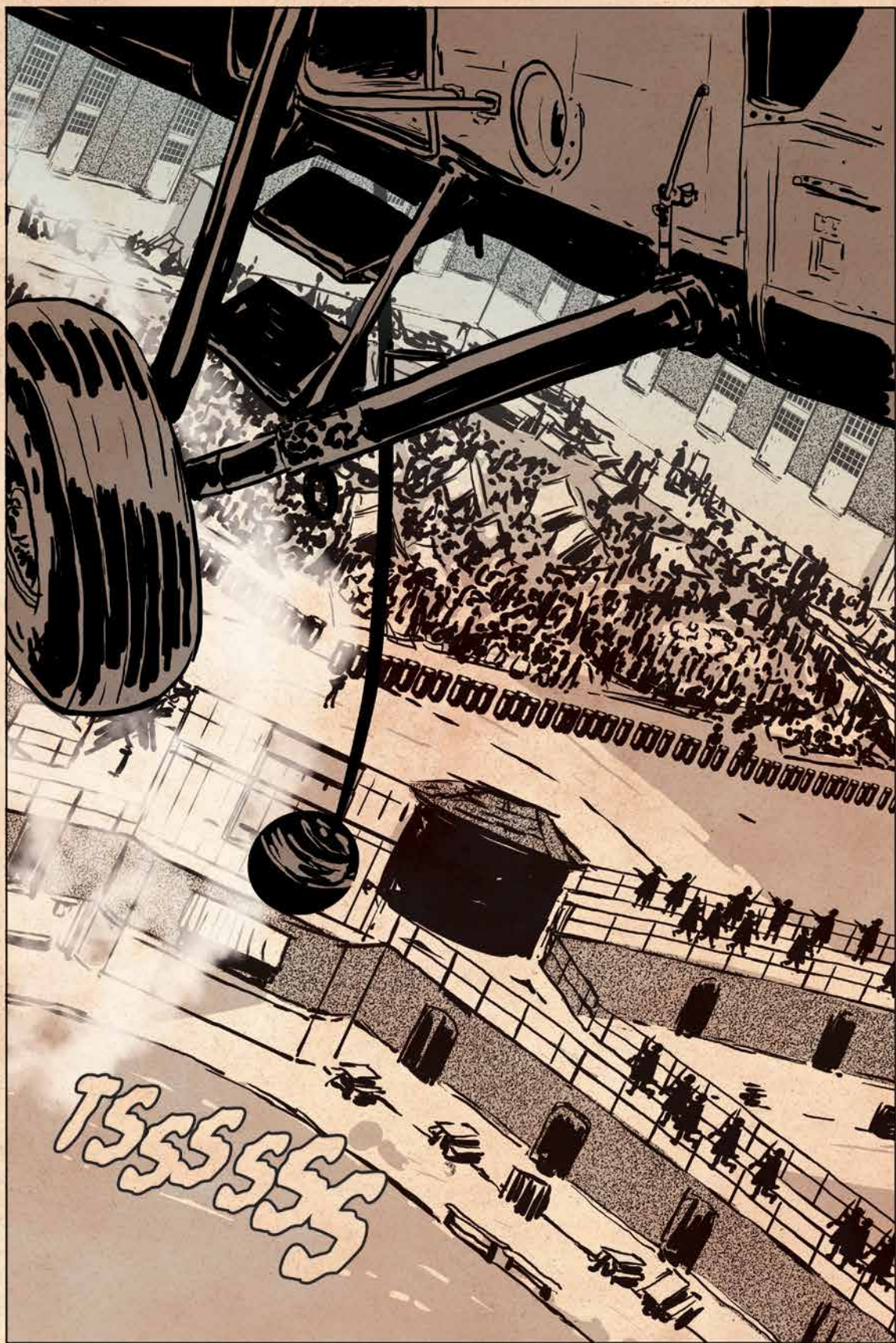


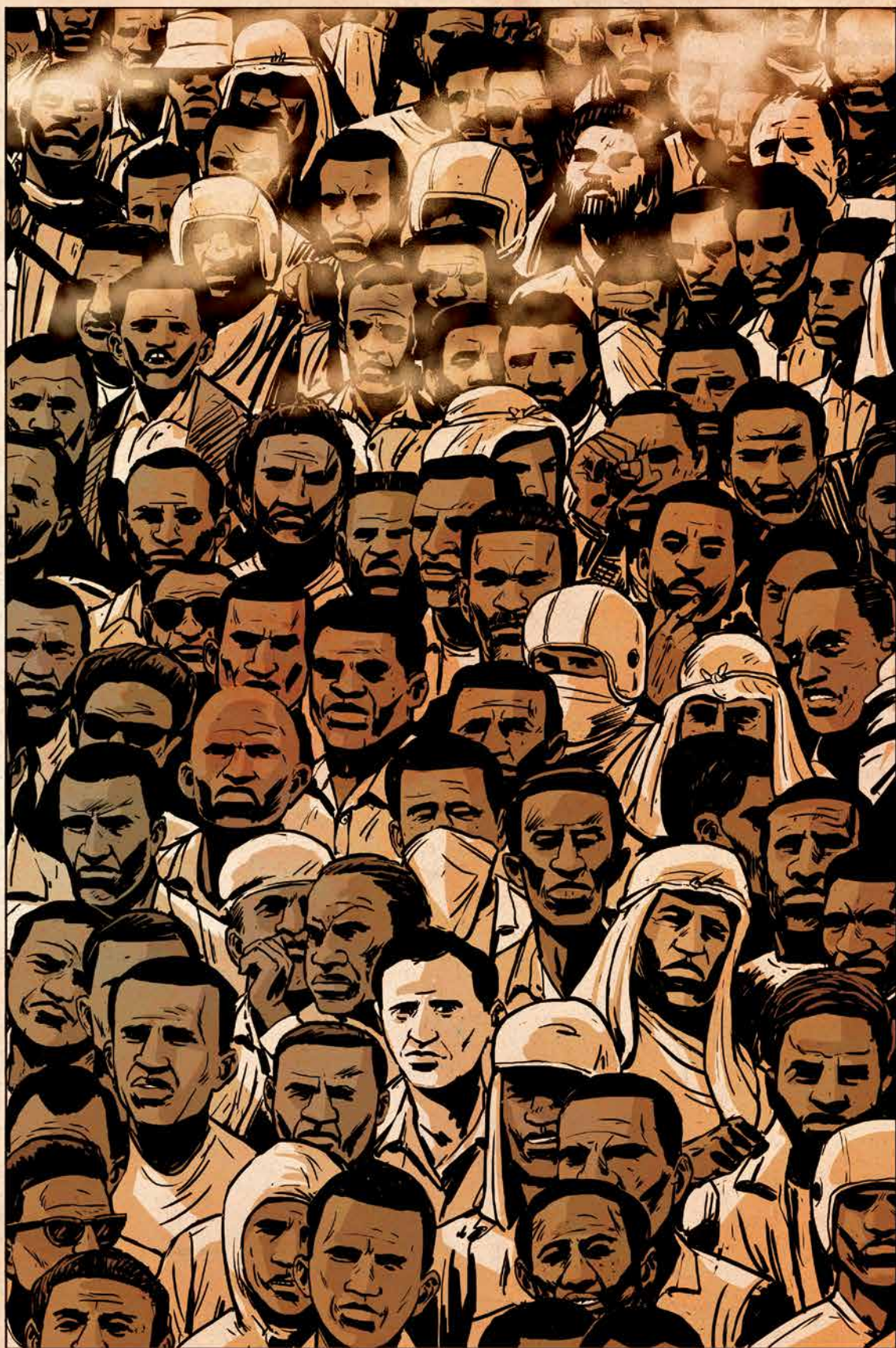
SEPTEMBER 13, 1971

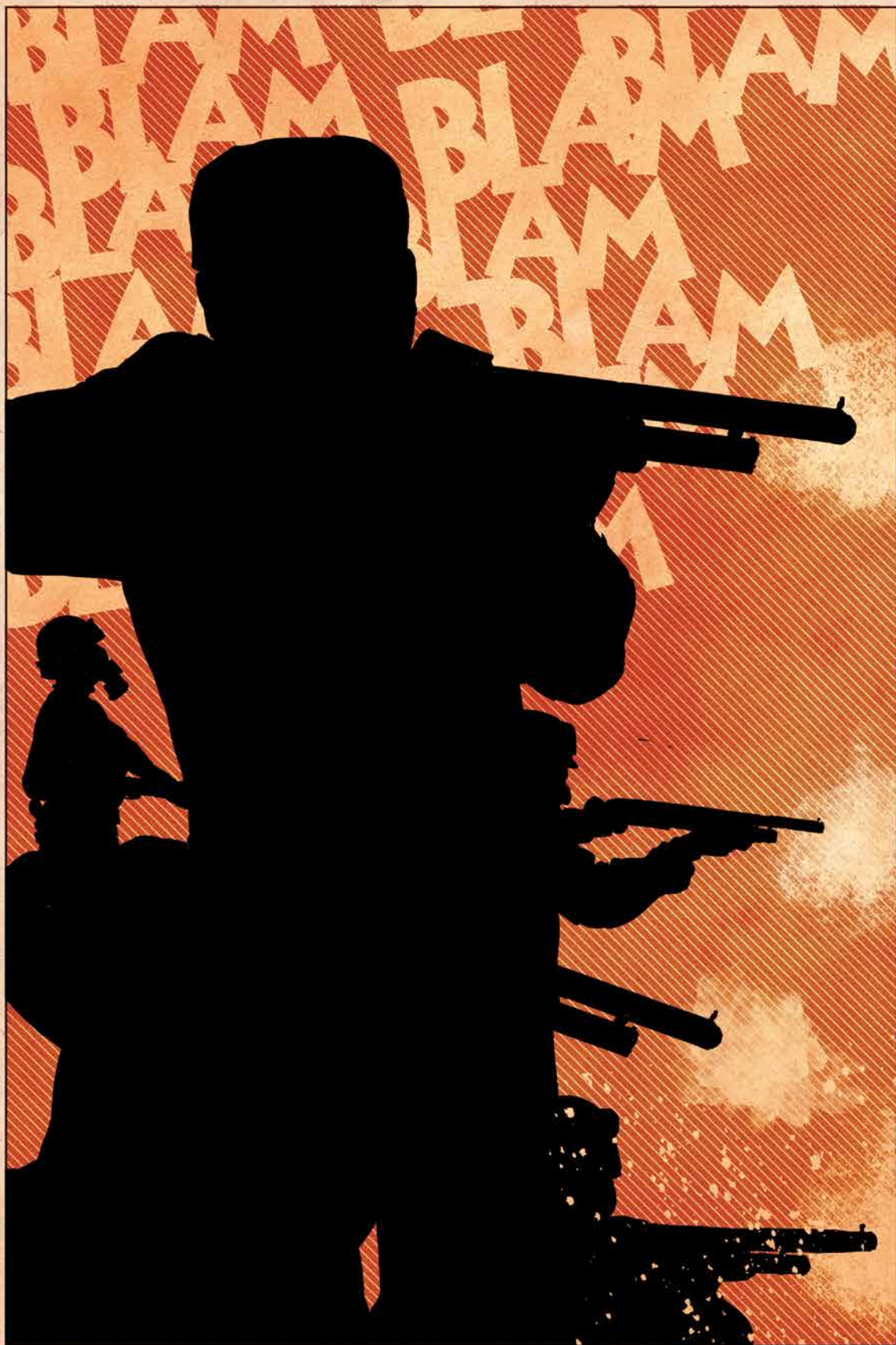


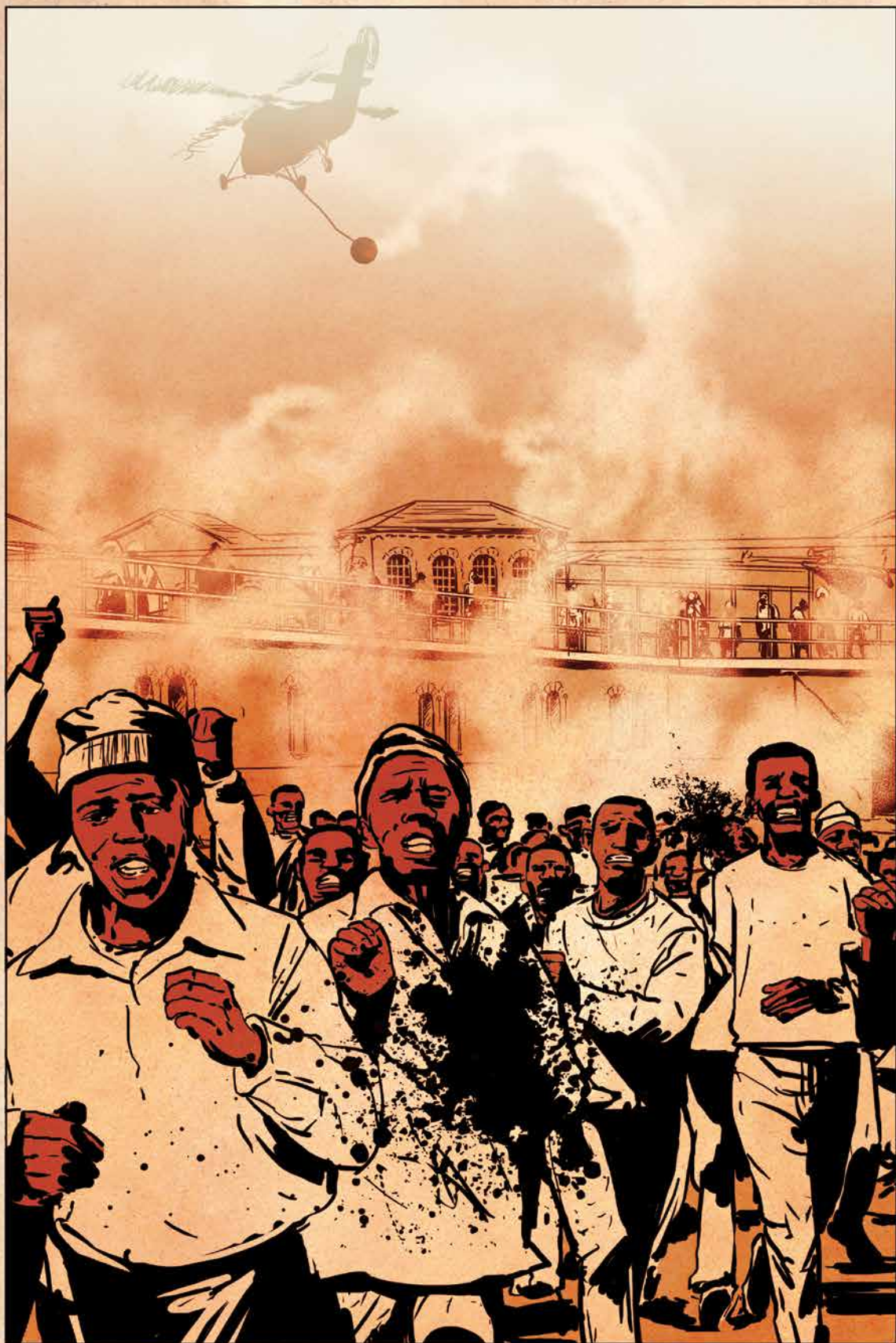










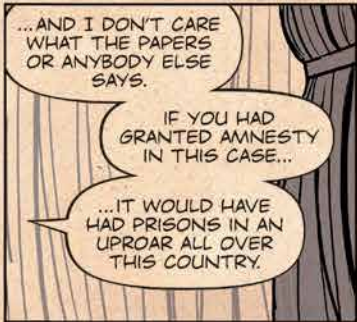
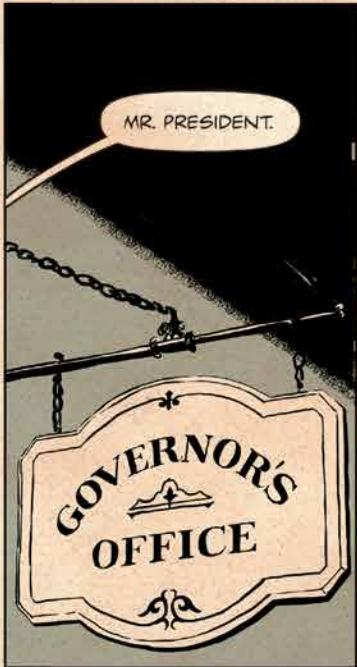
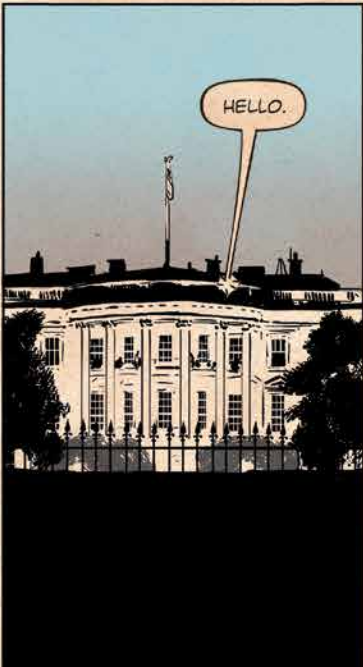
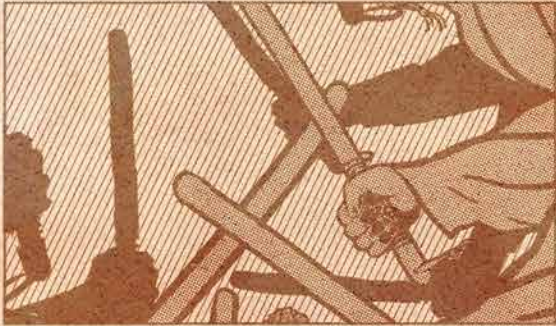


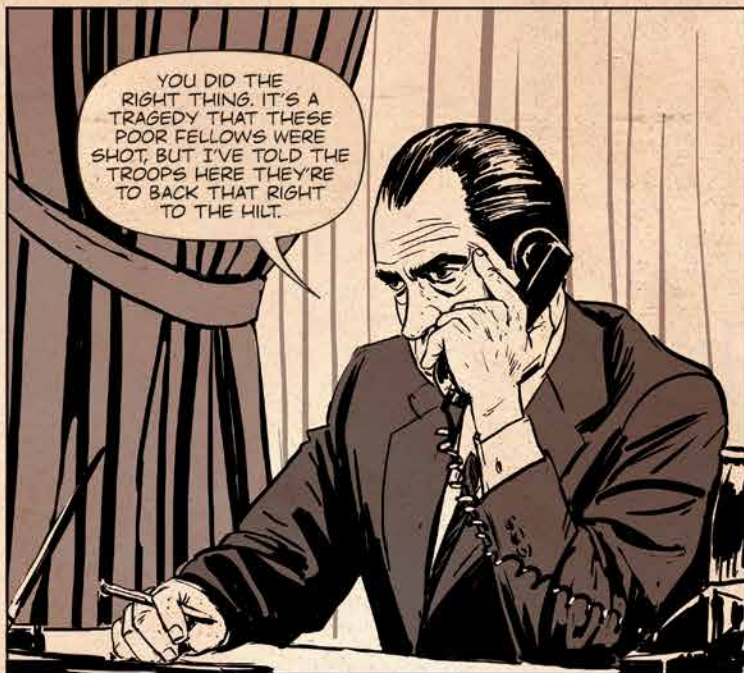


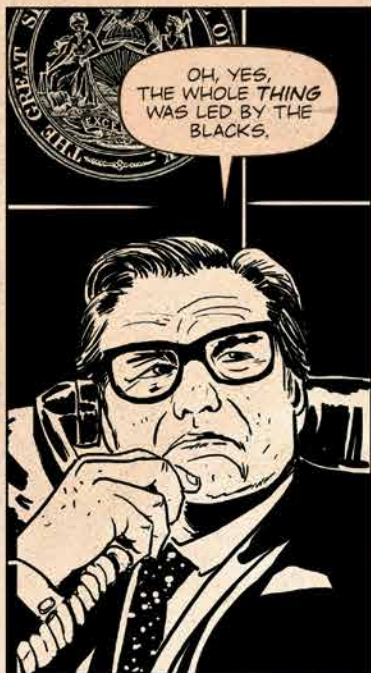
BLAM BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM



ONE THOUSAND NEW YORK STATE TROOPERS, DEPUTIES, AND CORRECTION OFFICERS STORMED ATTICA PRISON.







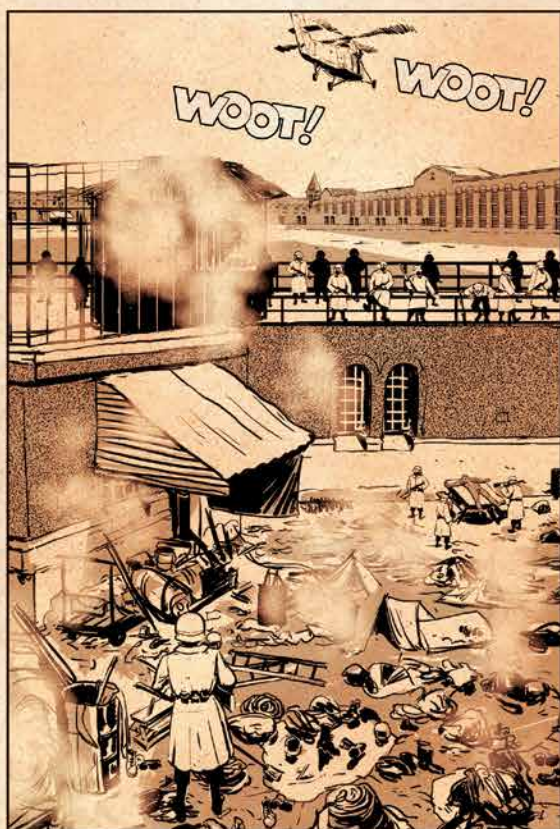
IN ATTICA, YOU GOT ONE SHOWER PER WEEK...

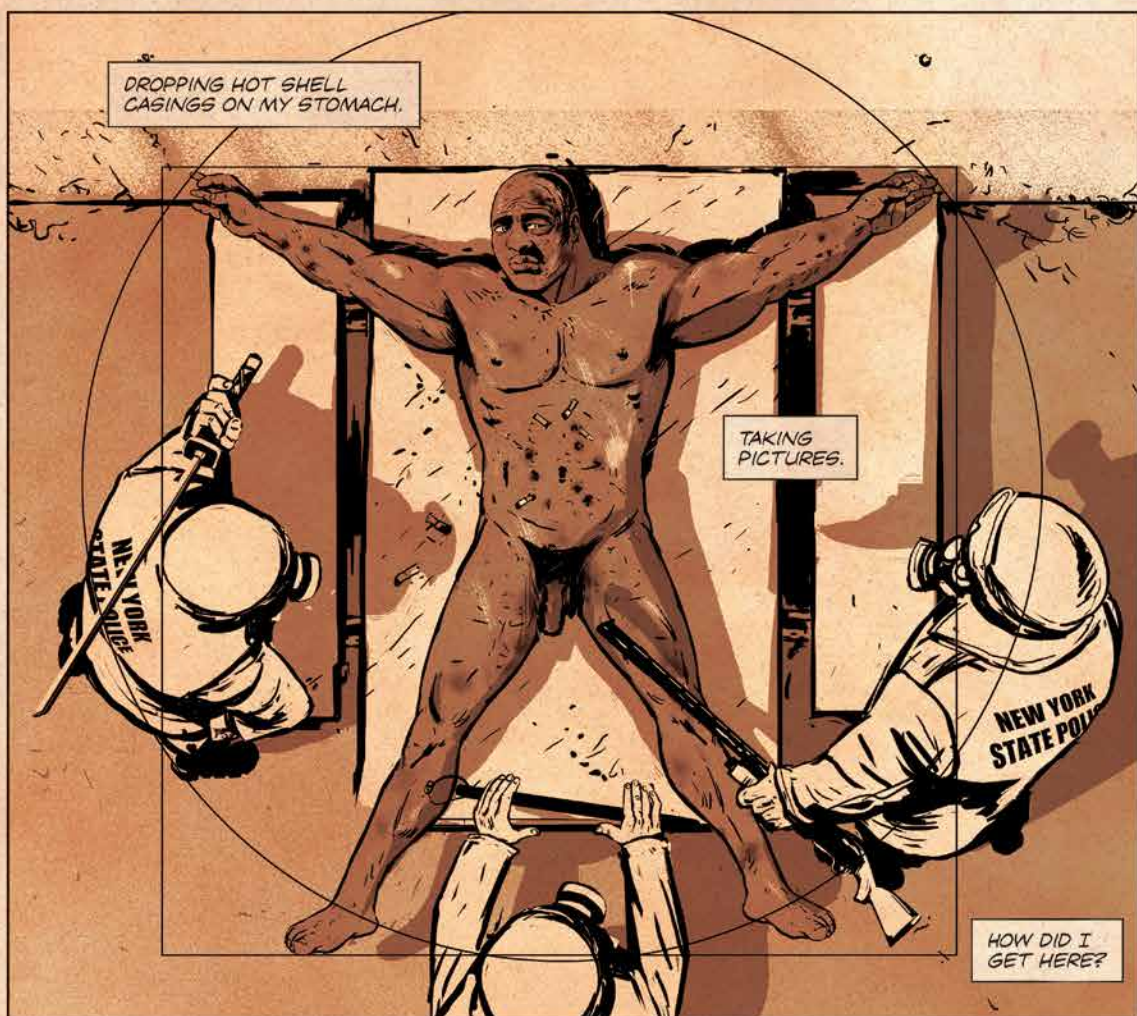
...ONE ROLL OF TOILET PAPER PER MONTH...

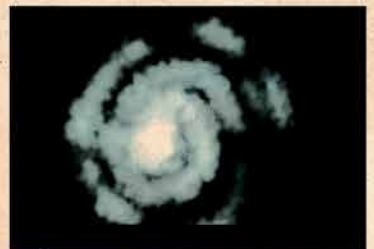
...SLAVE WAGES...

...AND THEY WONDERED WHY WE REBELLED.









THEY ALWAYS MAKE IT ABOUT EMASCULATION...

...IT'S HOW A SLAVE REBELLION ENDS.

1997

LEGAL ASSISTANT JOEY LEWIS
AND I REVISIT THE PAST.



1933



1938

WHEN I WAS FIVE YEARS OLD, MY MOTHER PUT ME INTO THE FAMILY WAGON FOR THE MOVE TO NEW YORK CITY.



1950

AS A TEENAGER I WAS A PHYSICAL SPECIMEN, THE LARGEST GUY ON THE FIELD, AND I EXCELLED AT FOOTBALL. MY TEAMMATES HELD CLOSE TO ME.



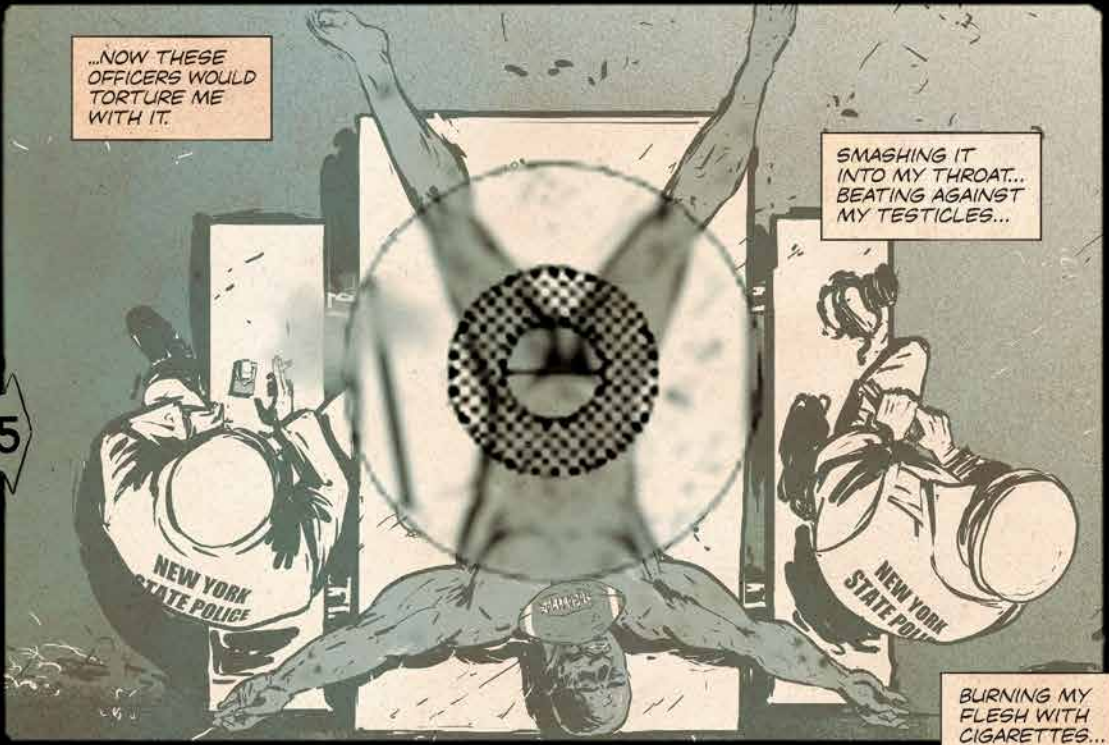




I ALWAYS LOVED FOOTBALL,
AND EVERYBODY KNEW IT,
MADE ME COACH IN THE YARD...

56

125



1965

MY FRIEND IRON HORSE AND I MADE A PLAN.



SO ME AND IRON HORSE STUCK UP THE DICE GAME.







I WAS NEVER SO
HIGH IN MY LIFE
THE NIGHT THEY
BUSTED US.





INSTEAD, I WAS BEING
SHIPPED UPSTATE...TO ATTICA.



FORTY
DOLLARS AND
A SUIT.

SAY
WHAT?

FORTY DOLLARS
AND A SUIT. THAT'S
HOW THEY LEAVE
YOU WHEN YOU GET
OUT OF PRISON.
FORTY DOLLARS
AND A SUIT.

NOW, WHAT DO
YOU THINK IS
SUPPOSED TO
HAPPEN TO THAT
PERSON?

I DON'T
KNOW.

THE P-P-P
CYCLE.

WHAT'S
THAT?

PRISON.
PAROLE.
PRISON.

I'M
LUTHER.

BIG
BLACK.



LUTHER WAS
AN ARTIST.

LEONARDO
DA VINCI'S
VITRUVIAN
MAN.

IT'S ALL ABOUT
PROPORTION.

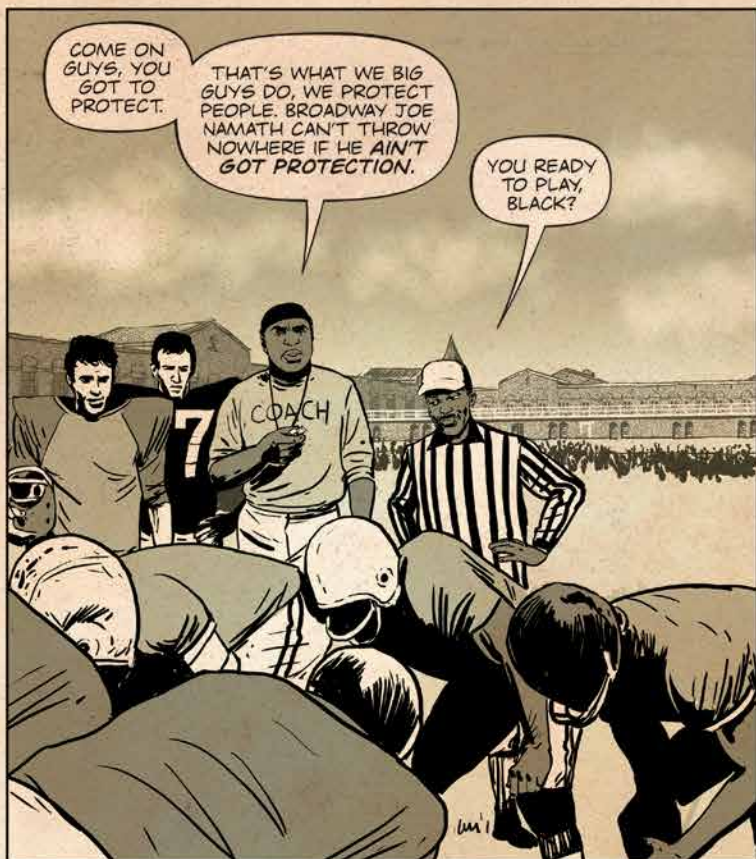
AND THIS HAD
BECOME HIS
OBSESSION.

AS LONG AS HE COULD
STILL HOLD A PENCIL, HE
WOULD SKETCH IT...GET
LOST IN IT. MAYBE SAW
THINGS OTHERS DIDN'T...

PROPORTION--
WHAT A PERSON
CAN TAKE UNTIL
THEY HAVE TO
FIGHT BACK.

HE GOT ME
THINKING, TOO.

LIGHTS
OUT!



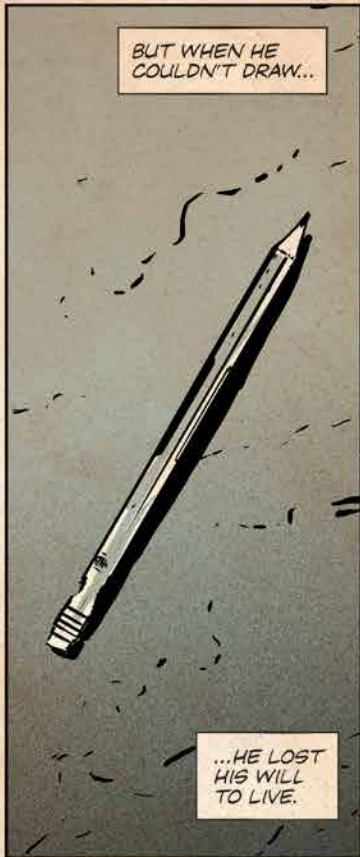
IT WAS AN EPITHET YOUNGER PRISONERS HURLED AT THE OLDER ONES FOR BEING TOO COMPLACENT WITH PRISON LIFE.



LUTHER SAW SO MUCH
FROM A PRISON CELL.



BUT WHEN HE
COULDN'T DRAW...



...HE LOST
HIS WILL
TO LIVE.

AN OLDER BLACK MAN
WITH ARTHRITIS AND
DIABETES GETS VERY
LITTLE TREATMENT IN
PRISON. AT ATTICA, YOU
WERE LUCKY TO GET
ANY TREATMENT AT ALL...



...AND YOU DIE WITHOUT
ANYONE TAKING NOTICE.

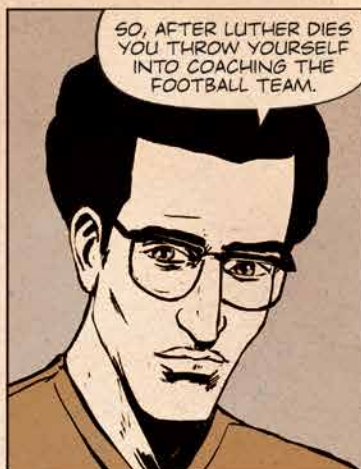


I MISS HIM EVERY DAY, BUT
SOMETIMES WONDER IF IT
WASN'T FOR THE BEST.



1997

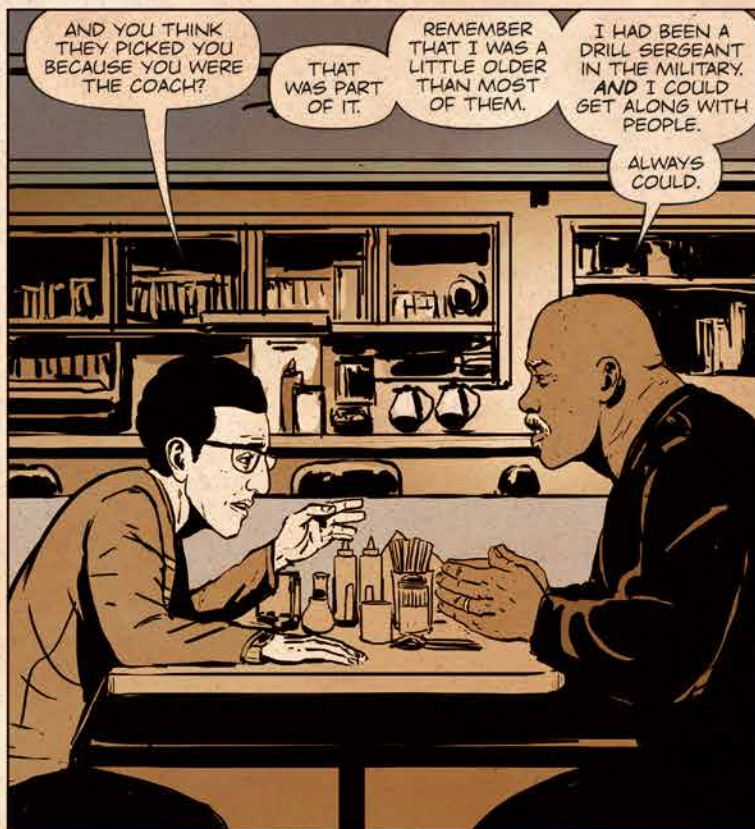
GIGI'S RESTAURANT HAD THE BEST SOUL FOOD IN BUFFALO, AND WAS MY FAVORITE PLACE TO EAT DURING THE TRIAL.



SO, AFTER LUTHER DIES YOU THROW YOURSELF INTO COACHING THE FOOTBALL TEAM.



YEAH.



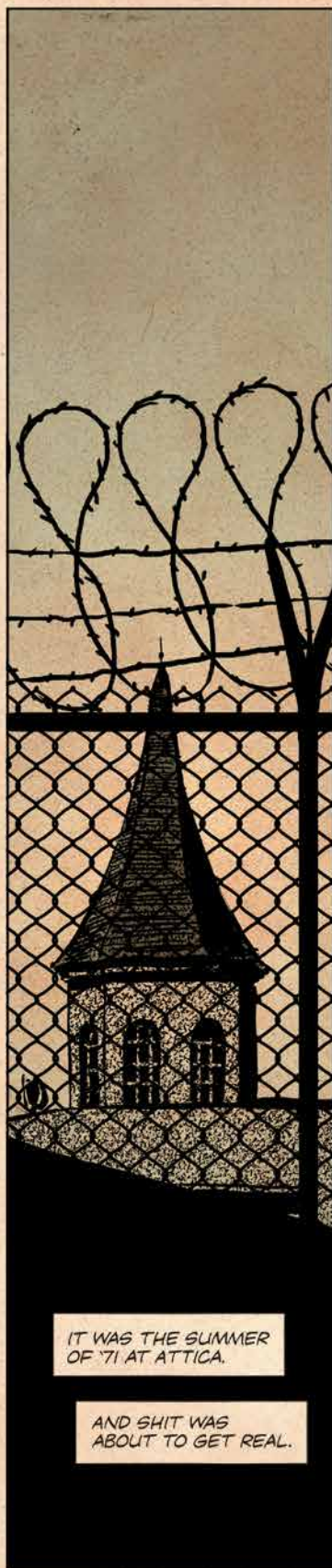
AND YOU THINK THEY PICKED YOU BECAUSE YOU WERE THE COACH?

THAT WAS PART OF IT.

REMEMBER THAT I WAS A LITTLE OLDER THAN MOST OF THEM.

I HAD BEEN A DRILL SERGEANT IN THE MILITARY. AND I COULD GET ALONG WITH PEOPLE.

ALWAYS COULD.



IT WAS THE SUMMER OF '71 AT ATTICA.

AND SHIT WAS ABOUT TO GET REAL.

THERE ARE
ALL COLORS AND
CREEDS HERE
AT ATTICA.

BLACK

WHITE

BROWN

YELLOW

AND RED...

"THE BLACK
PANTHERS.

"THE YOUNG
LORDS.

"MUSLIMS.

"AND FIVE
PERCENTERS.

"JUST TREAT
EVERYONE WITH--"

RESPECT.

EXACTLY,
CARLOS.

I HAVE
CONNECTIONS TO
ALL THESE GROUPS
BECAUSE I COACH
THE FOOTBALL
TEAM.



"AND WE ALL WORK TOGETHER IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM."



THE WARDEN'S WIFE WANTS THESE PRESSED.
YOU'RE THE WARDEN'S LAUNDRY BOY.



NO BOYS IN HERE, OFFICER HOLT.



MAN, HOW CAN YOU STAND IT? ONE SHOWER PER WEEK! ONE BAR OF SOAP PER MONTH!

ONE ROLL OF TOILET PAPER PER MONTH. AND LET'S NOT START ON THE FOOD.

UNLESS YOU HAVE BEEN FORCED TO DEAL WITH DEMEANING CONDITIONS...

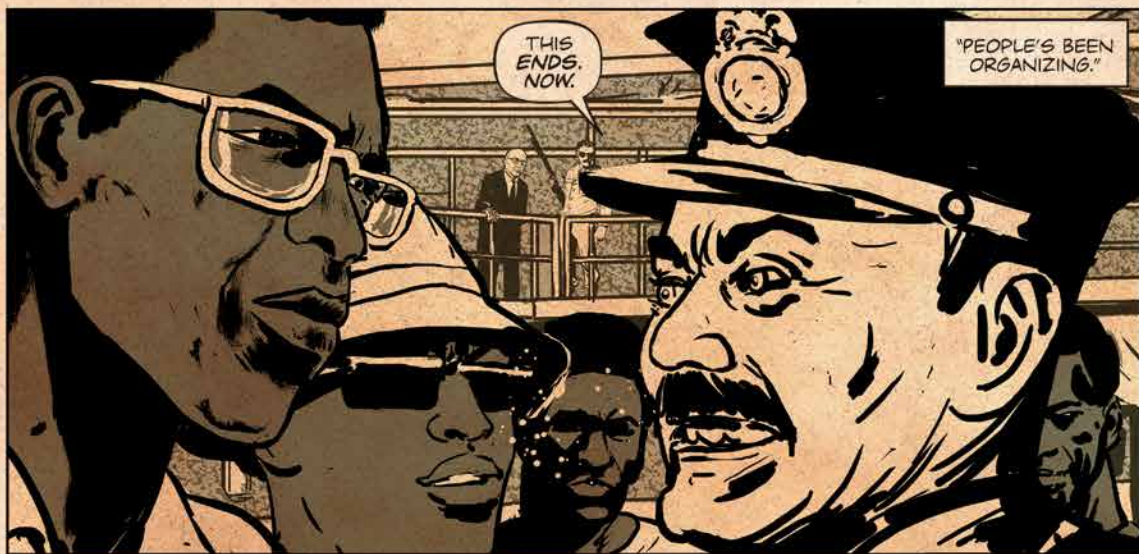


TSK.



NIGGERS IS DUMB!

...YOU WON'T UNDERSTAND THE EFFECT ON A PERSON.





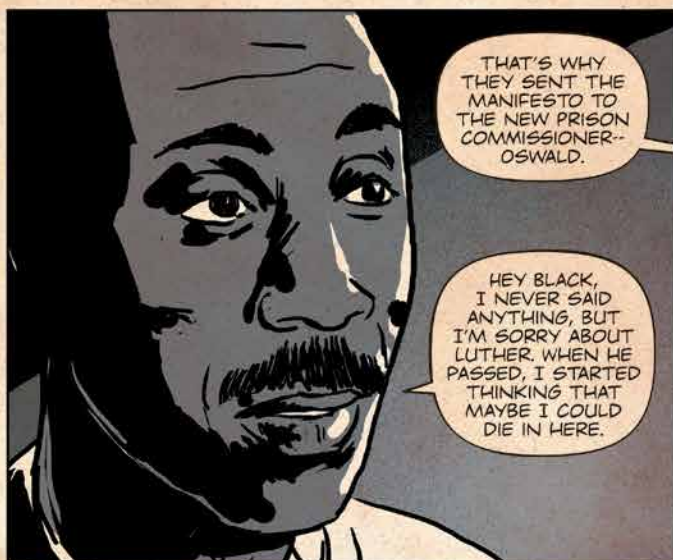
THE WARDEN
IS GOING TO
BE ANGRY.



HE'LL TRY
TO CRUSH
IT...



...HE ALREADY
RUNS ATTICA LIKE
HIS PERSONAL
PLANTATION.



THAT'S WHY
THEY SENT THE
MANIFESTO TO
THE NEW PRISON
COMMISSIONER--
OSWALD.

HEY BLACK,
I NEVER SAID
ANYTHING, BUT
I'M SORRY ABOUT
LUTHER. WHEN HE
PASSED, I STARTED
THINKING THAT
MAYBE I COULD
DIE IN HERE.



DON'T THINK LIKE
THAT, CARLOS. IT
WON'T SERVE
YOU.

HEY, I GOT
SOMETHING
FOR YOU.



FOR YOU,
"LITTLE OLD
WINEMAKER."

IT'S FOR
THE FISH. THEY
FAMILY TOO.



OH, MAN,
THANKS!

I THINK I GOT
THE HANG OF IT
NOW. THEY BEEN
DOING REAL
WELL.



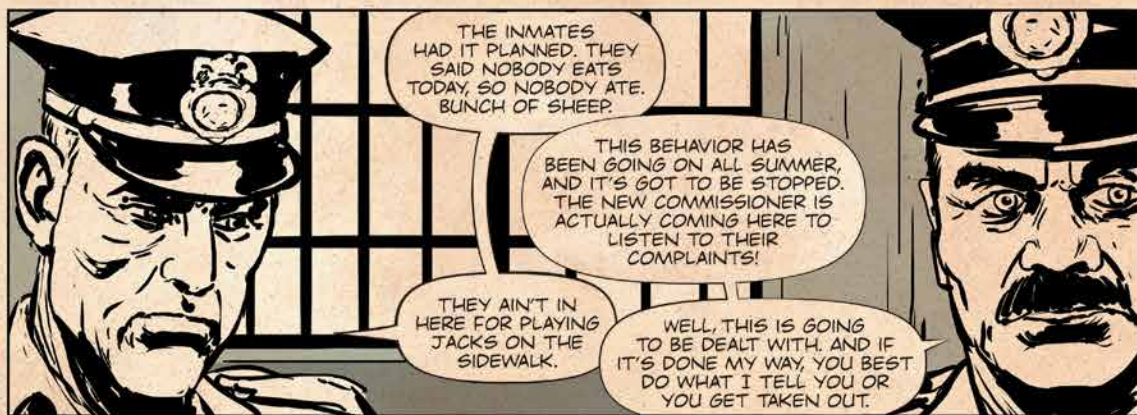
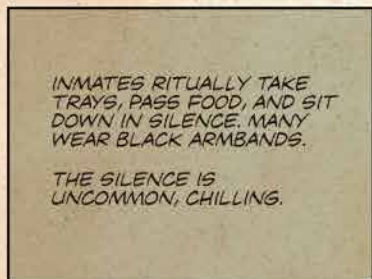
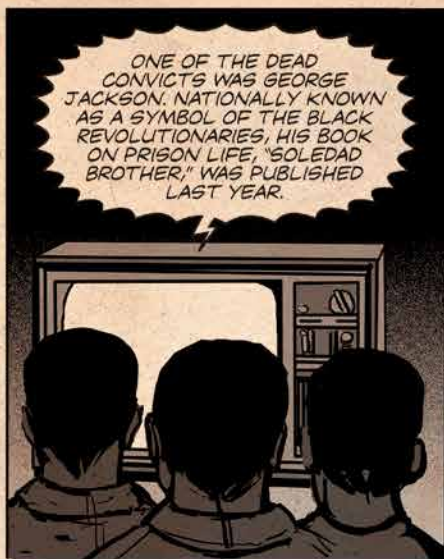
OFFICIALS
AT SAN QUENTIN
PRISON...



HOLD UP.
YOU HEAR WHAT
THEY'RE SAYING
ON THE TV?



...STILL
TRYING TO
PIECE TOGETHER
EXACTLY WHAT
HAPPENED AND
HOW...



THAT NIGHT I DREAM
OF PRISON WRITER
ELDRIDGE CLEAVER.

MEMORIES OF
YESTERDAY WILL NOT
ASSUAGE THE TORRENTS
OF BLOOD THAT FLOW
TODAY FROM MY
CROTCH...

BUT
NO SLAVE
SHOULD DIE
A NATURAL
DEATH.

SOUL ON ICE
by Eldridge Cleaver

MOVE ON OVER
OR



WE'LL MOVE
ON OVER YOU

ELDRIDGE
CLEAVER
PRESIDENT

CLEAVER
FOR PRESIDENT



THERE IS A
POINT WHERE
CAUTION ENDS
AND COWARDICE
BEGINS.

CLANG



CLANG

THERE'S SOME
UNUSUAL ACTIVITY
JUMPING OFF
HERE.

CLANG

POWDER KEG...



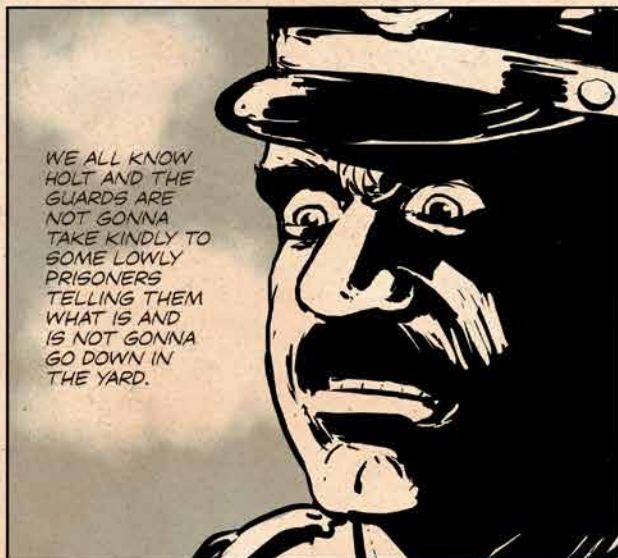
...MEET SPARK:
THE DEWER
INCIDENT.

TWO GUYS
ARE IN THE
YARD SPARRING,
HITTING KNEE
CAPS.



HOLT'S CALLS ARE DROWNED OUT BY THE NOISE IN THE YARD. SO, IN ANGER, HE DISPATCHES TWO GUARDS TO INTERCEDE.

A CROWD OF OFFICERS AND INMATES FORMS AROUND THE CONFRONTATION. A WHITE INMATE, LAMORY, STEPS IN TO DIFFUSE THE SITUATION.



SO, AS DEWER LIES IN BED READING, FOUR GUARDS ARRIVE.



AFTER REMOVING DEWER, THE GUARDS MOVE TO LAMORY.



LAMORY DOESN'T RESIST, AND WALKS OUT CALMLY.

INMATES IN THE CELLBLOCK REACT.

AN INMATE, ORTIZ, THROWS A SOUP CAN THAT HITS A GUARD IN THE HEAD. ONE GUARD YELLS BACK AT ORTIZ, AS THE INJURED GUARD IS ATTENDED TO.



AS A NURSE BANDAGES THE INJURED GUARD, HOLT ADDRESSES THE GUARDS.



TO KEEP-LOCK MEANT AN INMATE STAYED LOCKED IN HIS CELL.



YEAH, THAT'S WHAT HE THOUGHT.

THE NEXT MORNING, ON SEPTEMBER 9...



WHEN THE BELL RINGS FOR BREAKFAST, ALL CELL DOORS OPEN EXCEPT FOR ORTIZ'S.



ORTIZ WAS BACK IN FIVE COMPANY.

WELCOME TO TIMES SQUARE: THE CENTER OF THE PRISON THAT KEPT THE FOUR CELL BLOCKS LOCKED AND SEPARATED.

IF YOU CONTROLLED TIMES SQUARE THEN YOU CONTROLLED ATTICA.



MEANWHILE, I'M COUNTING OUT CIGARETTES AND CROSSING OFF CONTRACTS ON MY NOTEPAD AND CARLOS IS STASHING EVERYTHING IN NEATLY WITH THE FOLDED LAUNDRY.



BROTHERS ARE FREEING OTHER INMATES, AND GRABBING OTHER GUARDS. THEY PICK UP ANYTHING THEY CAN FIND TO EQUIP THEMSELVES: FOOTBALL HELMETS, BASEBALL BATS, SLATS OF WOOD...



WE START TO HEAR THE COMMOTION.



THE GATE OPENS LONG ENOUGH TO LET THE BEATEN GUARD RUN THROUGH.



BUT THE BOLT ON THE GATE WAS DEFECTIVE AND GAVE WAY..



...IT CAME CRASHING DOWN ON OFFICER QUINN AS THE PRISONERS CAME THROUGH.



TIMES SQUARE HAS FALLEN.

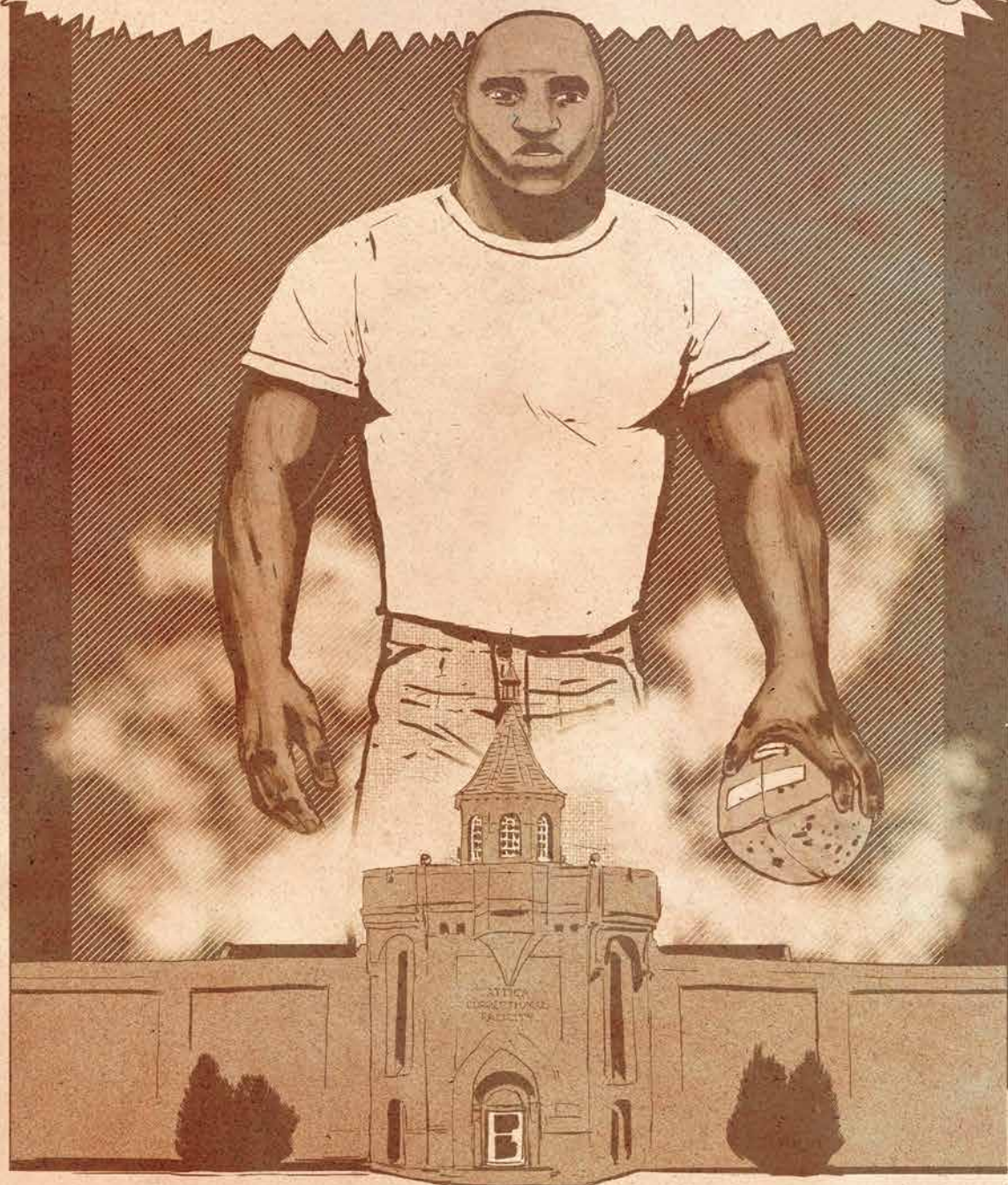


September 9, 1971

The Attica Prison rebellion had begun.

THE STORY OF BIG BLACK

THE UPRISING!



THE PRISON ALARM
FINALLY SOUNDS.

RRRIIINNNG



EVERYBODY GET
BACK TO WORK.
EVERYTHING IS
UNDER CONTROL.



SHIT IS ON,
BLACK! IT'S TOO
DANGEROUS OUT
THERE! COP WAS
BEAT BAD AT
TIMES SQUARE.
IT WAS YOUR
FRIEND, TONY.



BROTHERS
WERE
STREAMING IN
TO GET OUT
THROUGH THE
BACK OF THE
LAUNDRY.

WE COULD HEAR
THE SOUND OF
THE UPRISING
GETTING
LOUDER AND
LOUDER.

YOU WANT
MY KEYS,
BLACK?

YEAH.



YOU TELL
THEM TO SEND AN
AMBULANCE 'CAUSE
THERE ARE HURT
PEOPLE IN HERE.



TODAY'S YOUR
DAY. WE'LL HAVE
OURS.



MY MAMA ALWAYS SAID, "DON'T
TROUBLE TROUBLE TILL TROUBLE
TROUBLES YOU." HERE WAS TROUBLE.

THIS IS
MADNESS
GOING ON,
BOBBY.



MAYBE WE
SHOULD GET OUT
OF HERE.



THE TIME IS
ALWAYS RIGHT
TO DO WHAT IS
RIGHT.



I HEAR
YOU, SIX. I'M
GETTING
TONY.

TONY WAS A GUARD, BUT
HE WAS ALSO MY FRIEND.





TROOPERS BEGIN TO ARRIVE OUTSIDE THE PRISON, SIRENS BLARING.

THEY'RE WEARING FULL RIOT GEAR AND MOVE THROUGH THE HALLWAYS, SURPRISING PRISONERS AND LIBERATING GUARDS.



I ENTER D-YARD AND SEE A MASS OF INMATES.

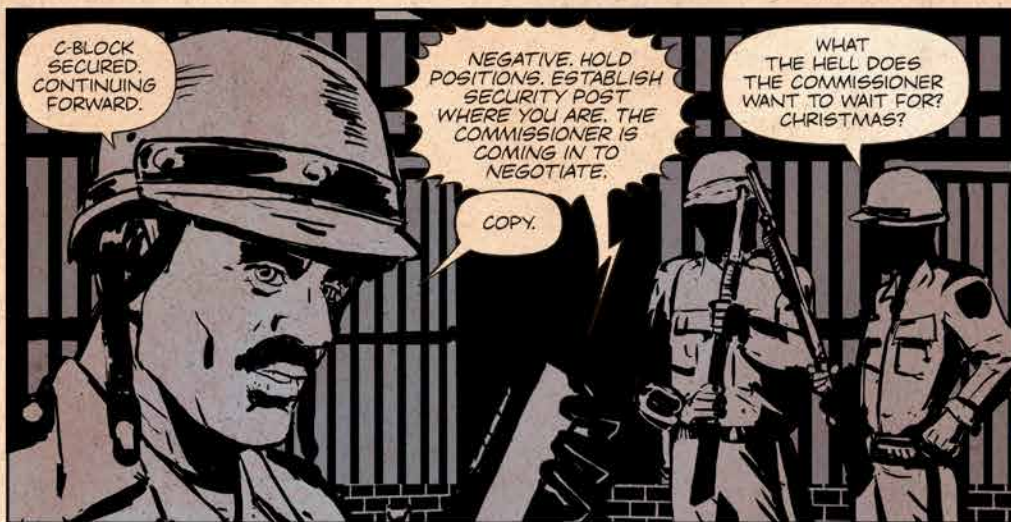
TROOPERS TAKE POSITION ON THE CATWALK SURROUNDING THE YARD.

HERBERT X, RICHARD X CLARK, AND BROTHER CHAMPEN ARE WITH OTHER PRISON LEADERS AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE.

THE HOSTAGES THE INMATES COLLECTED SIT ON THE GROUND, BLINDFOLDED AND WATCHED OVER BY MUSLIM GUARDS.

I LEAVE TONY WITH THEM. HE'LL BE SAFE. OFFICER QUINN IS BLOODIED AND UNCONSCIOUS AFTER GETTING KNOCKED OUT BY THE COLLAPSED GATE.









THOSE TROOPERS
LOOK LIKE THEY
WOULD LOVE NOTHING
MORE THAN TO GET
A SHOT AT US.

CONCURRENTLY,
THESE WERE THE
TIMES OF "LAW AND
ORDER"...

SOCK IT
TO ME!

...AND
CROOKS.



AND THE PERSON
MAKING THE DECISIONS
FOR ATTICA WAS RICH
AND POWERFUL...

HI YA,
FELLA.

...AND
ARROGANT.



BORN
WITH A SILVER
SPOON IN HIS
MOUTH...

...AND TO
A FAMILY SO
WEALTHY...



John D. Rockefeller
read a newspaper
announcing the
birth of his third
grandson, Nelson.

July 8, 1908
Oil on canvas

...THEY MADE A
JINGLE ABOUT
THEM...

...BETTER COFFEE
ROCKEFELLER'S
MONEY CAN'T
BUY...



...SO, HE SUED
THEIR ASSES.
BUT WHAT HE
COULDN'T
BUY...

...WAS
THE THING
HE WANTED
MOST...

I'M A GREAT
BELIEVER IN
POWER!



ROCKY!
ROCKY!

...TO BE
PRESIDENT!

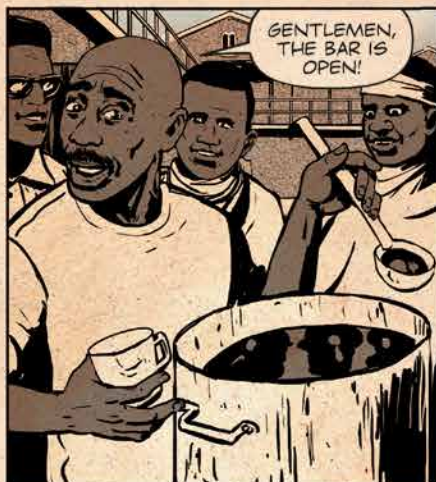


THE STORY OF BIG BLACK

MANIFESTO!



JUST AS I START TO WORRY, CARLOS PUSHES HIS WAY THROUGH THE CROWD, CARRYING A POT OF HOOCH FOR THE INMATES.





VARIOUS ONLOOKERS BEGIN TO ARRIVE AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE PRISON.

STATE TROOPERS CONTINUE TO ARRIVE, AS WELL AS FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE HOSTAGES.

PRISON COMMISSIONER OSWALD RETURNS.

TROOPERS,
GUARDS, AND
WARDEN MANCUSI
WAIT AT THE
GATE.

I, ALONG
WITH RICHARD
X CLARK, AKIL,
AND A GROUP OF
INMATES, WEAR
WHITE FLAGS AS
WE DELIVER THE
HOSTAGES TO
THEM.

OFFICER QUINN
IS CARRIED.

MY FRIEND TONY
IS AMONGST
THE INJURED.

THE WARDEN
HAS TO RESTRAIN
ANGRY GUARDS.

WE MEET THE WARDEN IN THE
DMZ--THE DEAD MAN'S ZONE. WE DON'T
CONTROL IT. THEY DON'T CONTROL IT.

BUNCH OF
NIGGERS!

TAKE IT
EASY, HOLT.

WHY
DON'T YOU
COME WITH,
BLACK?

I CAN'T, TONY.
I'M IN THIS
NOW. MAYBE
BY STAYING, I
CAN HELP.

ARE YOU GOING
TO GIVE ME BACK
CONTROL OF THIS
INSTITUTION
AND RETURN TO
YOUR CELLS?

IT'S NOT
OURS TO
GIVE BACK.
YOU'VE GOT
1,500 MEN
IN THERE.

AND ANYHOW, I
COULDN'T GET BACK
TO MY CELL NOW IF I
WANTED TO. YOU GOT
GUARDS BLOCKING ALL
THE ENTRANCES, AND
ALL THE CELL DOORS
ARE LOCKED.

YOU'RE
THE ONES
POINTING
THE GUNS.

SHUT
UP, BOY!

WE WANT TO
SPEAK WITH THE
COMMISSIONER.
WE HAVE A LIST
OF DEMANDS.

COME BACK
HERE! I'M
NOT FINISHED
WITH YOU!

YEAH,
BUT WE'RE
FINISHED
WITH YOU.

DON'T WORRY, WE
KNOW WHO YOU ALL
ARE. WE'LL REMEMBER
YOU WHEN THE TIME
COMES. OUR DAY
IS COMING!

WE KNOW HE MEANS IT.





INMATES WATCH
THE NEWSCAST.

THE COURTYARD
INSIDE THE WALLS
RESEMBLES A MILITARY
BIVOUAC, WITH THE
INMATES RUNNING THE
TENT-LIKE COURTYARD
CITY ON EXACT TIME
SCHEDULES.



THERE ARE 38
HOSTAGES NOW, 11 OF
THEM CIVILIAN WORKERS.
USING THE HOSTAGES AS
A BARGAINING TOOL, THE
INMATES AGREED TO TALKS
TODAY WITH PRISON
OFFICIALS...



...PRISONERS WOULD
ONLY TALK TO NEW YORK
STATE CORRECTIONS
COMMISSIONER RUSSELL
OSWALD. THERE HAS
BEEN NO REPORT OF
WHAT THE PRISONERS
ARE DEMANDING.



THAT'S
BULLSHIT! THEY
KNOW WHAT
WE'RE ASKING
FOR!

COMMISSIONER OSWALD COMES IN WITH THE "OBSERVERS," A
COMMITTEE OF LAWYERS, JOURNALISTS, AND ACTIVISTS REQUESTED
BY THE INMATES TO STAND WITNESS TO NEGOTIATIONS.

MY JOB IS TO MAKE SURE THEY
ALL GET IN AND OUT SAFELY.

OSWALD RUNS THROUGH
THE LIST OF DEMANDS.

...APPLY STATE
MINIMUM WAGE LAWS TO
ALL STATE INSTITUTIONS.
STOP SLAVE LABOR. ALLOW
ALL PRISONERS TO BE
POLITICALLY ACTIVE
WITHOUT INTIMIDATION
OF REPRISALS. I'M IN
FAVOR OF THAT..



HE AGREES WITH US ON
JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING.

GIVE US TRUE
RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM. I'M
IN FAVOR OF
THAT TOO.

WE ARE ALL IN
FAVOR OF THESE
THINGS! WHEN ARE
CHANGES GOING TO BE
IMPLEMENTED?



BLACK, DON'T
SPEND SO MUCH TIME
IN FRONT OF THESE TV
CAMERAS. IT WON'T
GO WELL.

MAN, I'M
NOT DOING
THIS FOR ME.
IT GOES HOW
IT GOES.



THE MAIN STICKING
POINT FOR PRISONERS IS
THE FEAR OF REPRISALS
AND RETALIATION.

HERBERT X HAD
PARTICIPATED IN
REBELLIONS AT AUBURN
AND THE TOMBS. THE
RESULT WAS BEATINGS
AND LONGER SENTENCES.
SO, WHEN THE
COMMISSIONER BROUGHT
AN INJUNCTION, THE
BROTHERS WERE WARY.

JAILHOUSE LAWYER, JERRY ROSENBERG,
SPOKE FOR THE BROTHERS.

WE WANT A JUDICIAL
SEAL TO GUARANTEE NO
REPRISALS OR BRUTALITY
AGAINST THE INMATES
OF THIS INSTITUTION!

THIS
INJUNCTION
IS GARBAGE!



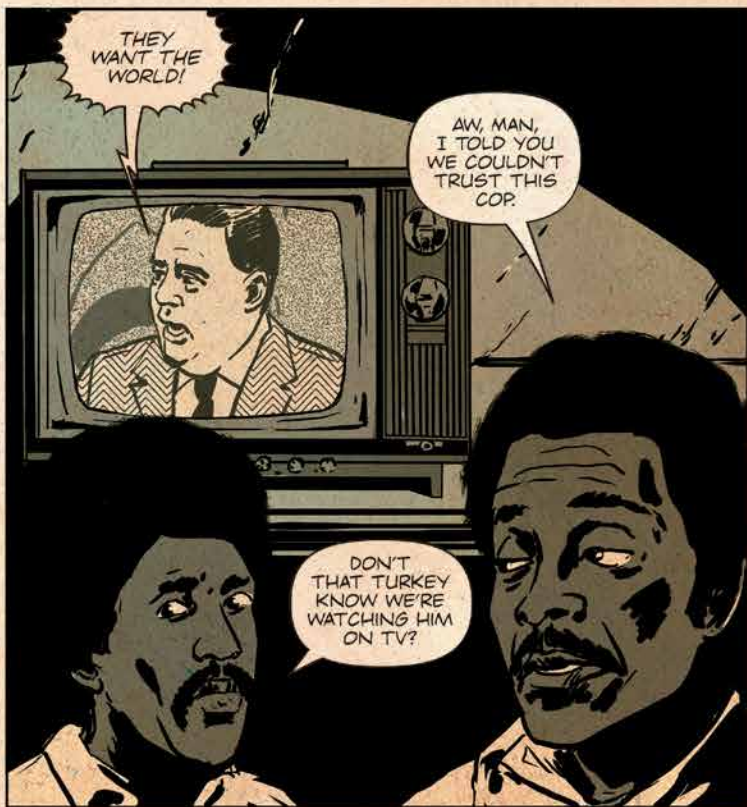


TENSIONS ARE HIGH, IT FEELS LIKE IT'S ABOUT TO JUMP OFF AGAIN.

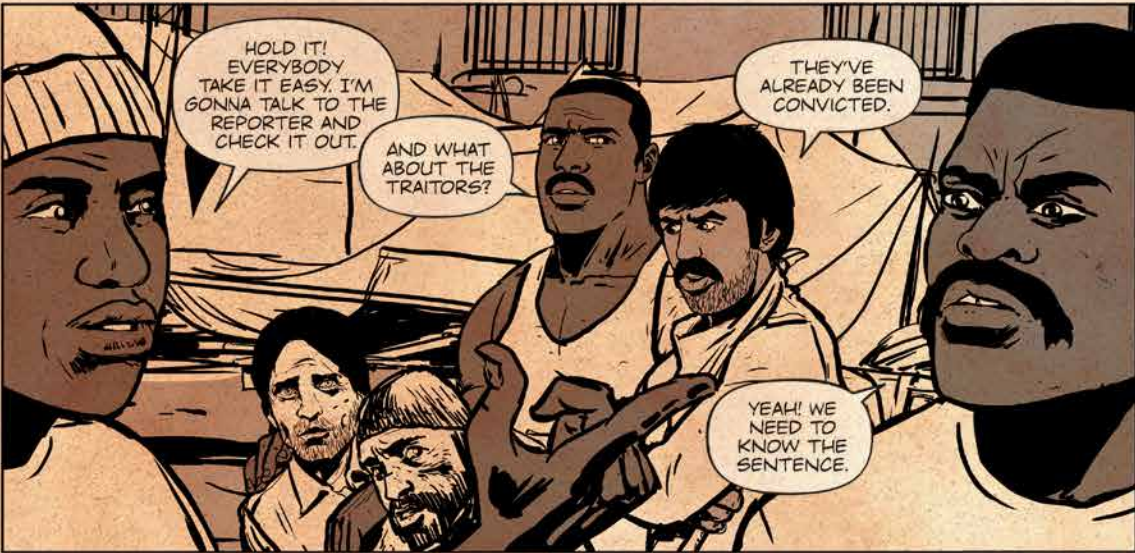








IN D-YARD, TWO INMATES ARE BROUGHT BEFORE ME, ACCUSED BY THE OTHER INMATES OF BREAKING RULES.



PEOPLE ARE GETTING RATTLED. LOSING THEIR COOL.



I HEAR A GROAN COMING FROM INSIDE THE PRISON.



THIS IS THE BEST I CAN DO, AND THEY KNOW IT.

I KNOW THERE ARE MEN SLEEPING OUTSIDE, ENJOYING THE STARS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN DECADES, BUT I HAVE A SICK FEELING AS I WALK BACK TO THE YARD.



NOW, IF THERE IS ANYBODY IN THIS LAND THAT THOROUGHLY BELIEVES THAT THE MEEK SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH, THEY HAVE NOT OFTEN LET THEIR PRESENCE BE KNOWN.



HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA



HEY, BOBBY, WAKE UP.

YEAH, BLACK?



TAKE THIS CONDENSED MILK. WHEN THEY GAS US, RUB IT ON YOUR SKIN. IT'LL COOL THE BURN.



HOW YOU KNOW THEY'RE GONNA COME IN?

HOW DID SLAVE REVOLTS USUALLY END?



THE STORY OF BIG BLACK

D.M.Z.

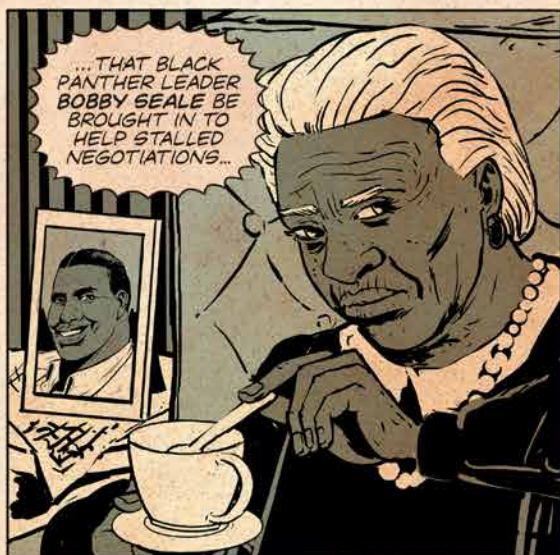
(DEAD MAN ZONE)



September 11, 1971



THE OBSERVER COMMITTEE AT ATTICA MADE A PUBLIC REQUEST TODAY...



...BUT THE DEATH OF ONE OF THE GUARDS HAS HARDENED THE POSITION OF PRISON OFFICIALS...



...AND THERE ARE STRONG INDICATIONS TONIGHT THAT POLICE WILL BE SENT INTO THE CELL-BLOCK IN AN ATTEMPT TO RESCUE THE REST OF THE HOSTAGES BY FORCE.



AT FIRST THE WARDEN REFUSED
TO LET BOBBY SEALE IN.



SO, THE BROTHER SPLIT.



BUT SOMEONE
THOUGHT
BETTER OF IT,
AND TROOPERS
CHASED DOWN
HIS CAR.

SEALE,
FOLLOW US.
THE WARDEN
WANTS TO TALK
TO YOU.



BOBBY! YOU
CAME BACK?



THEY
ASKED ME
TO.

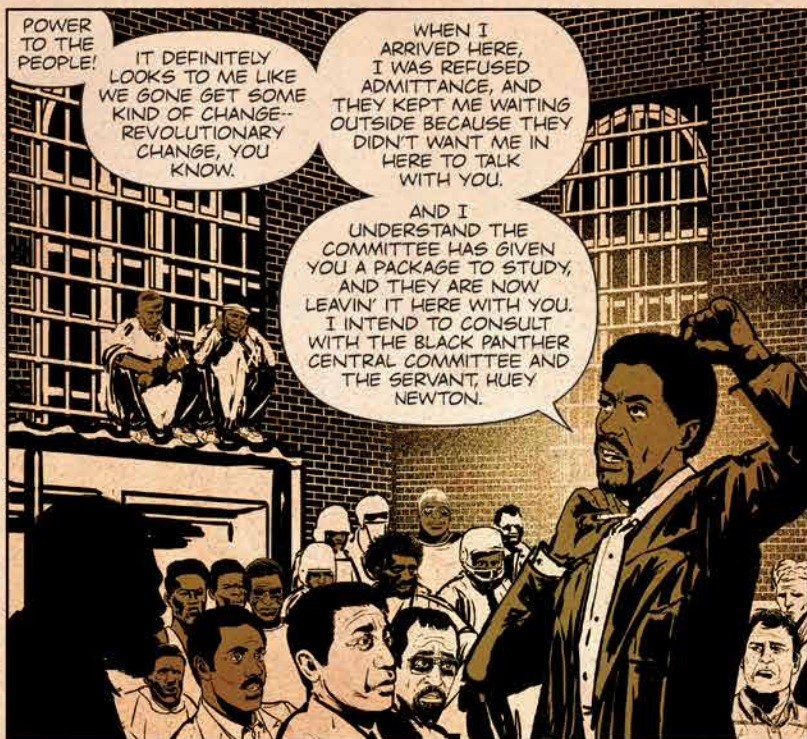
YOU BETTER
NOT TRY TO
INFLAME THEM
IN THERE.

I STILL DON'T
SEE AN EFFECTIVE
PROVISION FOR
AMNESTY.

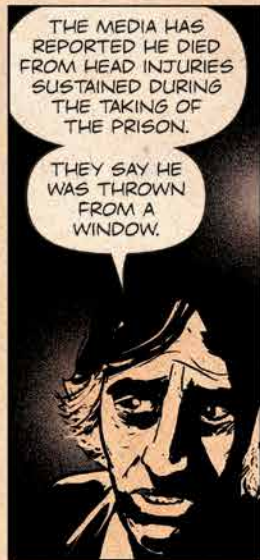
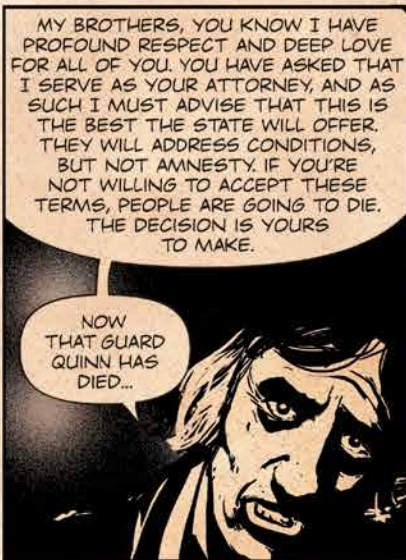
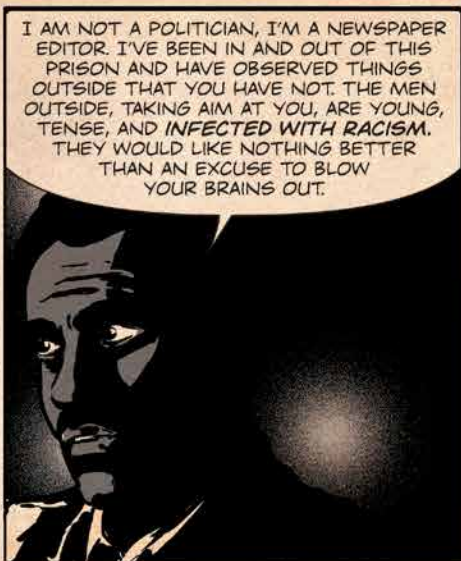
YOU ARE GOING
IN THERE...DO YOU
UNDERSTAND THIS...?
TO TRY TO MAKE THEM
RELEASE THE HOSTAGES.
THEN WE'LL TALK ABOUT
CHANGES.

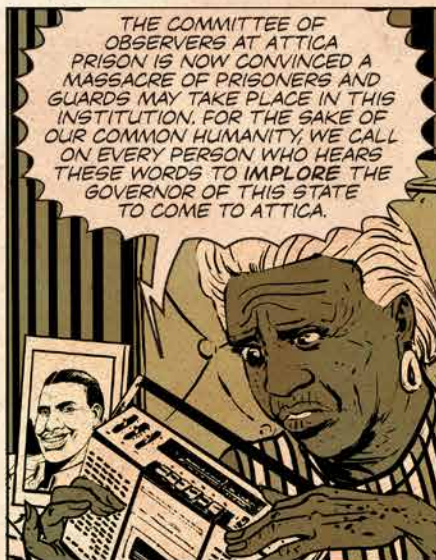
THE BEST I
CAN DO IS SUPPORT
THE INMATES IN
WHATEVER THEY
DECIDE.



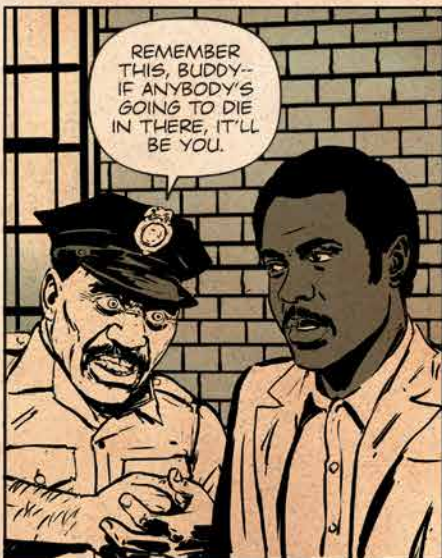
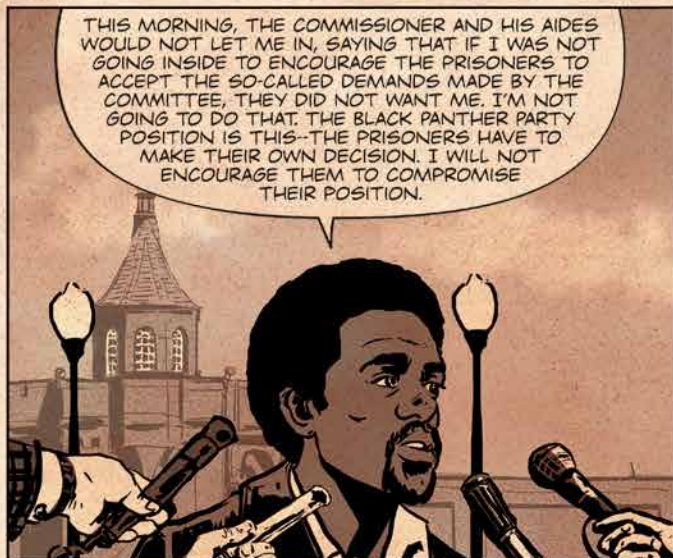


September 12, 1971





SPONTANEOUS PROTESTS BREAK OUT
IN HARLEM IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE
ATTICA BROTHERS. SIGNS CONTAIN
SLOGANS SUCH AS: "ATTICA IS ALL OF
US!"; "PRISONER RIGHTS ARE HUMAN
RIGHTS!"; "NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE!".



THE OBSERVERS ARE MEETING WHEN THE COMMISSIONER RETURNS.

I SENT IN OUR FINAL OFFER. NO FURTHER VISITORS WILL BE ALLOWED IN D-YARD.



ARTHUR O. EVE,
ASSEMBLYMAN, NY

THE INMATES ARE EXPECTING US. IF YOU THINK THOSE CATS ARE JIVING, AND IT COMES OUT WE SOLD THEM DOWN THE RIVER, THEN IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER I DIE IN THERE OR WHETHER MY HOUSE IS BOMBED--YOU JUST JEOPARDIZED MY LIFE.



WILLIAM KUNSTLER, ESQ.,
ATTICA BROTHERS ATTORNEY

IF THE TROOPS GO IN THERE, IT'S GOING TO BE A MASSACRE IN THIS PRISON. AND IT'S ON THE HEADS OF THE AUTHORITIES IF IT TAKES PLACE.



HERMAN BADILLO,
U.S. REP, NY

THE HOSTAGES THEMSELVES HAVE REQUESTED OUR PRESENCE. THERE IS ALWAYS TIME TO DIE.



TOM WICKER,
ASSOCIATE
EDITOR OF THE
NEW YORK TIMES

PLEASE,
COMMISSIONER,
CHOOSE LIFE.



TELL DUNBAR TO HOLD THAT THING...

IF OSWALD WAS READY TO LOCK US OUT, THEY'RE BOUND TO BE PLANNING AN ATTACK THIS AFTERNOON.

CLARENCE JONES,
PUBLISHER OF THE
AMSTERDAM NEWS, NY

IT LOOKS LIKE THE MASSACRE IS IN THE WORKS.

TROOPERS
READY THEIR
EQUIPMENT
FOR ASSAULT.



A CANISTER
FALLS OVER
UNNOTICED
AND BEGINS
TO LEAK. GAS
FILLS THE AIR.



I SMELL GAS!

I SAW...
IT'S A LEAKING
CANISTER.

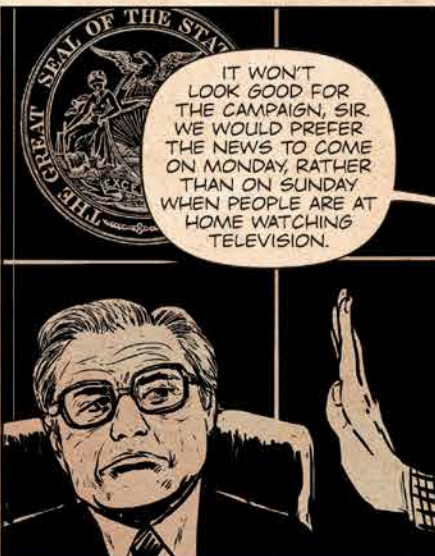


I TELL YOU, WE ONLY GOT ONE CHANCE. WE HAVE TO GET ROCKY TO GIVE US MORE TIME AND SOME CREDIT WITH THOSE GUYS IN THERE.

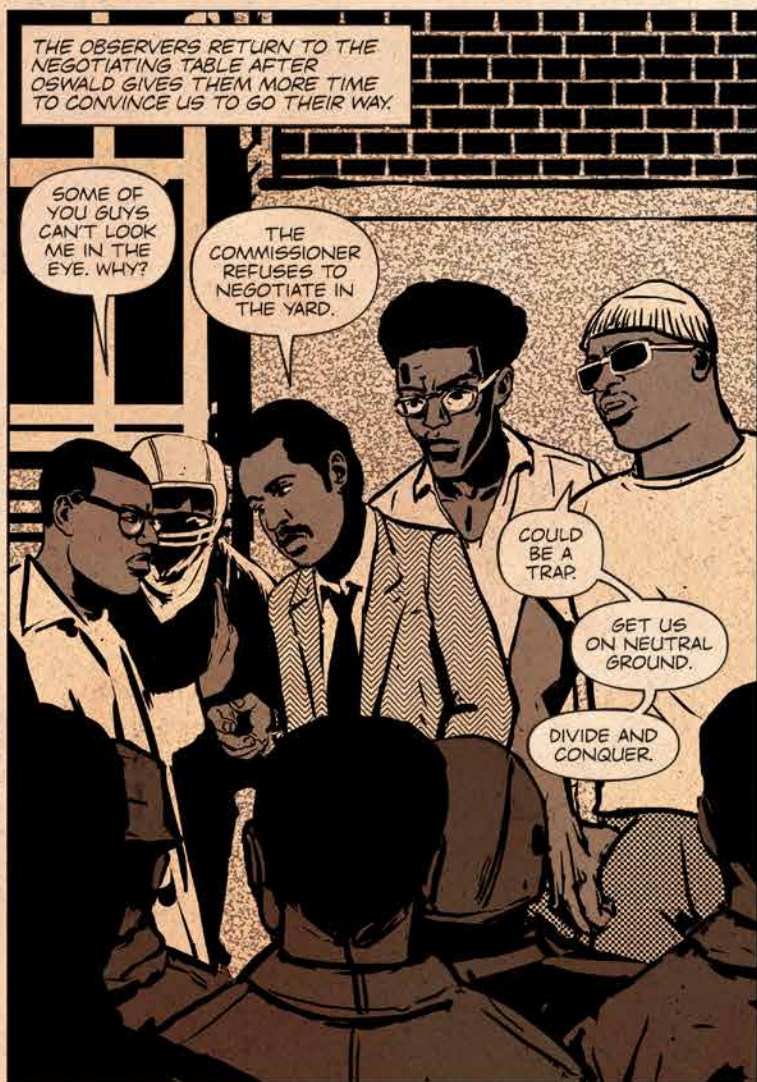


JOHN DUNNE,
STATE SENATOR,
NASSAU
COUNTY, NY

I'VE GOT THE NUMBER TO HIS ESTATE.



IT WON'T LOOK GOOD FOR THE CAMPAIGN, SIR. WE WOULD PREFER THE NEWS TO COME ON MONDAY, RATHER THAN ON SUNDAY WHEN PEOPLE ARE AT HOME WATCHING TELEVISION.





IT'S EVERYTHING
TO MAKE IT EASIER
FOR THESE INMATES,
AND THE EASIER
YOU TREAT THESE
PEOPLE, THE HARDER
IT IS FOR US.

AND YOU THINK
THE ANSWER RIGHT
NOW IS TO REMOVE
COMMISSIONER
OSWALD?



DEFINITELY, I
DO. I THINK MY
FELLOW OFFICERS
AGREE WITH ME. HE'S
A PANTY-WASTE. MY
FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD
DAUGHTER WANTS TO
KNOW, WHY DIDN'T
THEY GO IN AND START
SHOOTING THE
FIRST DAY!



I
CAN'T
HEAR
YOU!!

NO!

STILL
CAN'T HEAR
YOU!

NO!

**HELL
NO!!!**



WE BEEN
HERE FOUR DAYS,
AND MR. BIG STUFF
COMMISSIONER SAY
HE GONE CUT OFF
YOUR FOOD, CUT
OFF YOUR WATER,
YOUR MEDICAL
SUPPLIES--

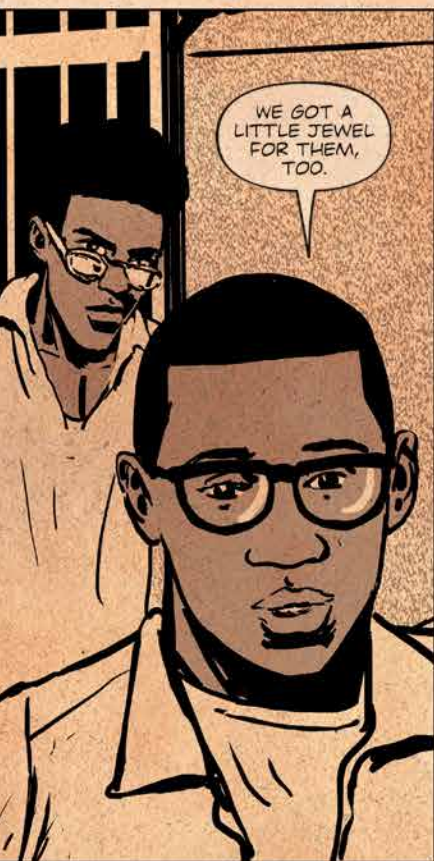
FUCK
MR. BIG
STUFF!

DON'T
NEED IT!

HOW MANY
TIMES CAN WE
DIE WHEN THE
MASSACRE
COMES?

WE CAN
DIE FIFTEEN
HUNDRED AND
THIRTY-NINE
TIMES--

THE
NUMBER OF
INMATES PLUS
HOSTAGES!



WE GOT A
LITTLE JEWEL
FOR THEM,
TOO.

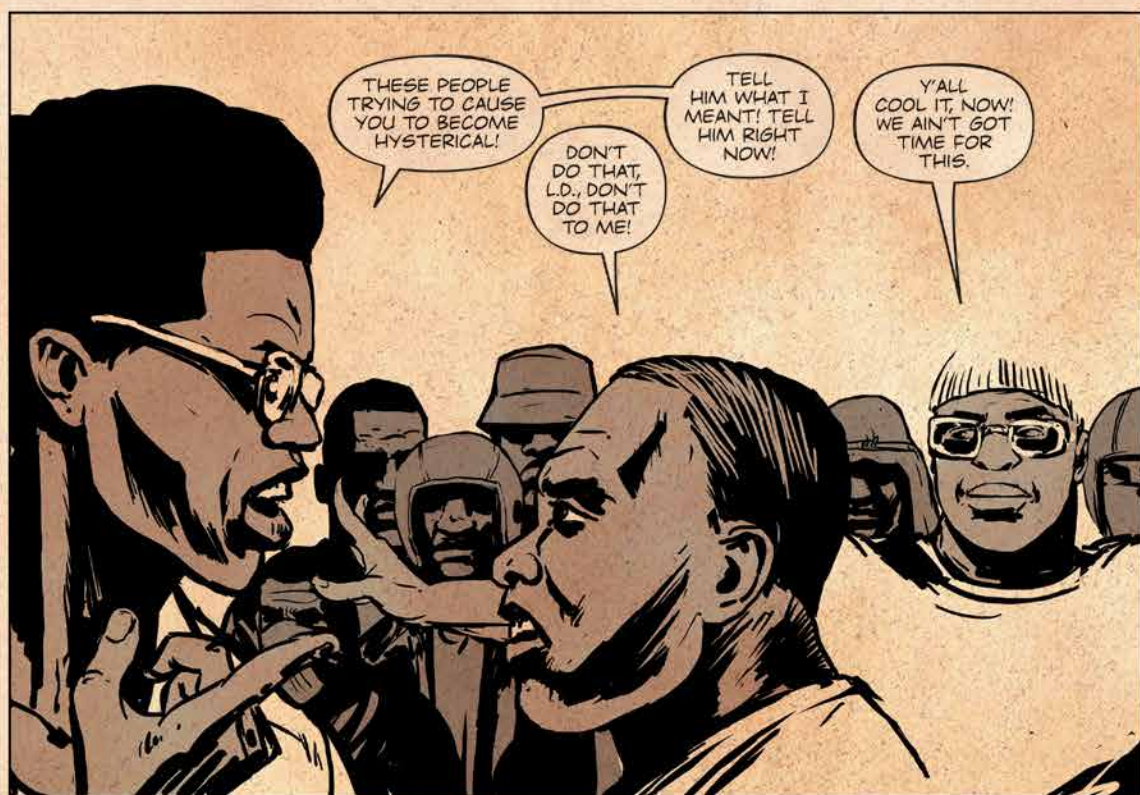


WE'S PLAYING HOST
TO REPORTERS WHO
ARE GOING TO TELL
THE WORLD ABOUT
THE HOSTAGES.

THE HOSTAGES
KNOW BY NOW THAT
THE COMMISSIONER
TALKS OUT HIS ASS.



THEY LOOK LIKE
THEY BEEN BEATEN?
THE BROTHERS GONE
LET THE WORLD KNOW
THAT THEY WAS BEASTLY
TO US, BUT WE WAS
HUMANE TO THEM.

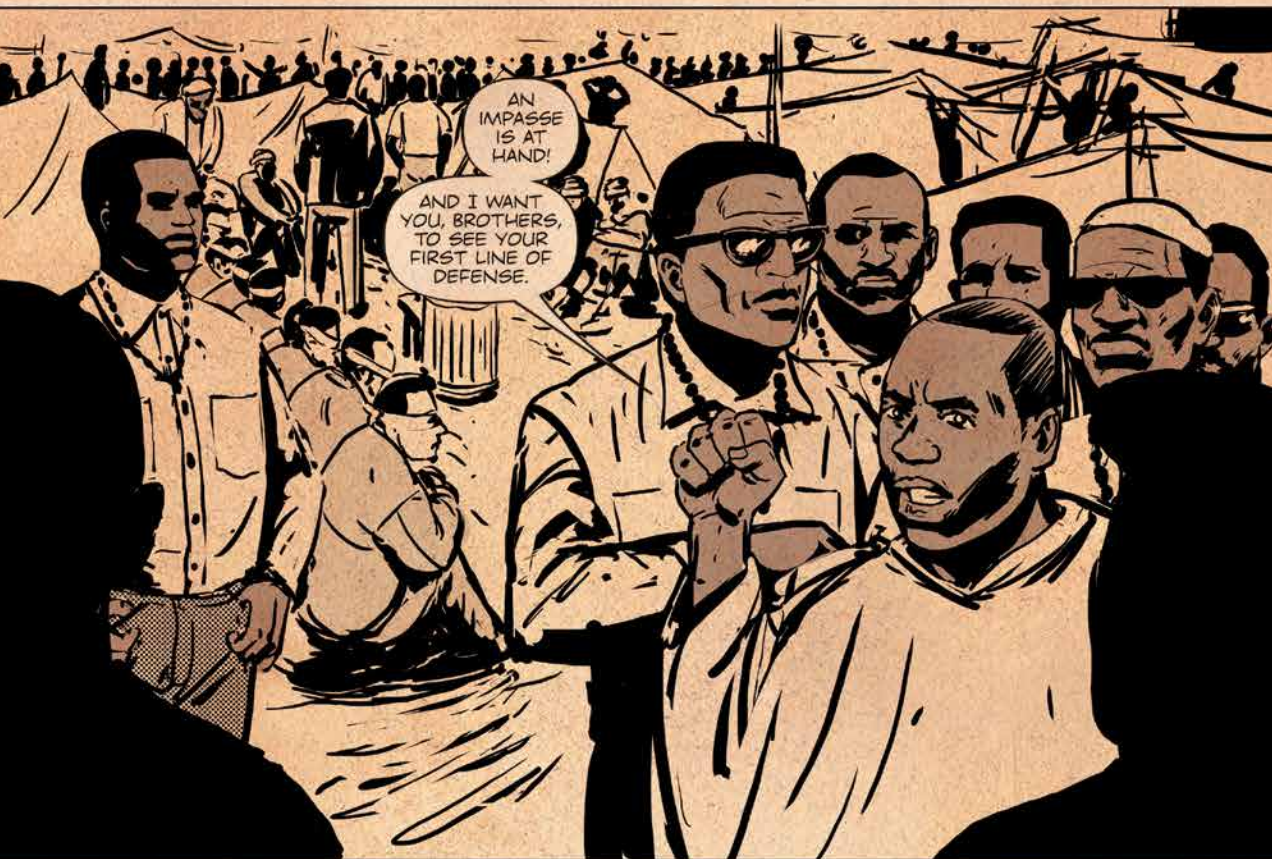


THESE PEOPLE
TRYING TO CAUSE
YOU TO BECOME
HYSTERICAL!

DON'T
DO THAT,
L.D., DON'T
DO THAT
TO ME!

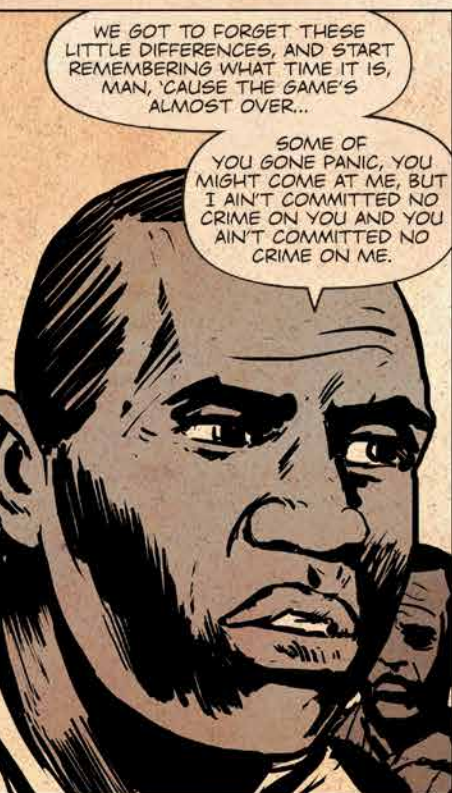
TELL
HIM WHAT I
MEANT! TELL
HIM RIGHT
NOW!

Y'ALL
COOL IT, NOW!
WE AIN'T GOT
TIME FOR
THIS.



AN IMPASSE IS AT HAND!

AND I WANT YOU, BROTHERS, TO SEE YOUR FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE.



WE GOT TO FORGET THESE LITTLE DIFFERENCES, AND START REMEMBERING WHAT TIME IT IS, MAN, 'CAUSE THE GAME'S ALMOST OVER...

SOME OF YOU GONE PANIC, YOU MIGHT COME AT ME, BUT I AIN'T COMMITTED NO CRIME ON YOU AND YOU AIN'T COMMITTED NO CRIME ON ME.



HERB.



I DON'T SIT DOWN, I GO OUT AMONG THE PEOPLE.



OKAY, WE
READY TO
TALK TO THE
HACKS.

REMOVE THE
BLINDFOLDS.



WHAT
SHOULD
ROCKEFELLER
DO?



PRISON GUARD
MIKE SMITH

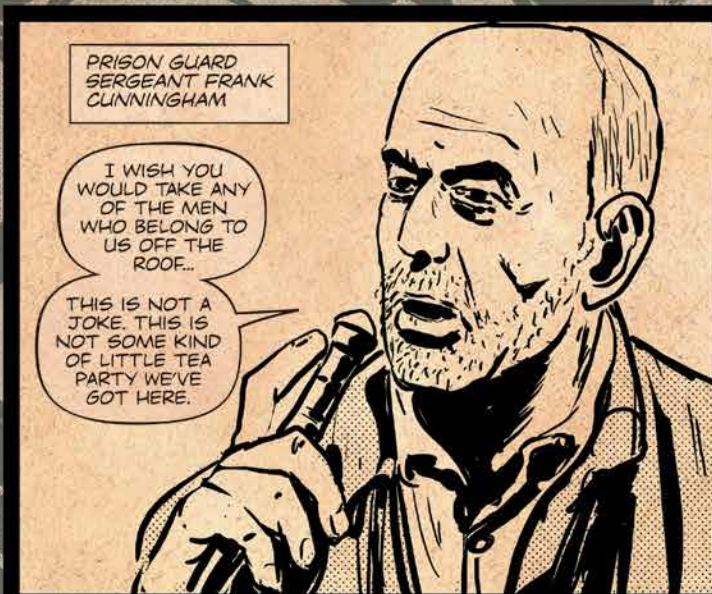
I SUGGEST
HE GET HIS
ASS HERE
NOW.



HOW
DO YOU
FEEL?

PRISON GUARD
FRANK WALD

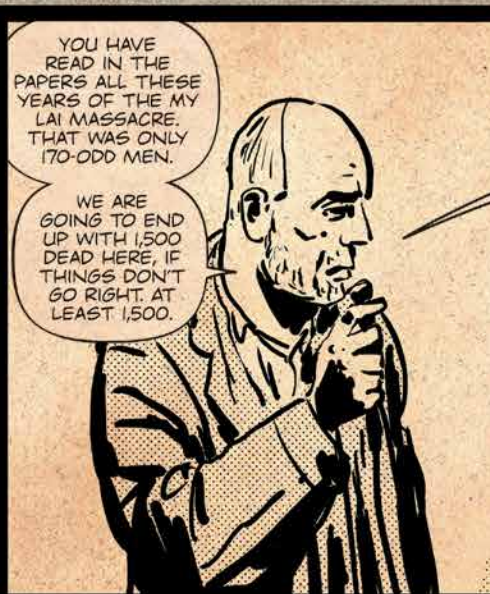
WELL, WE'VE
SPENT FOUR DAYS
WITH THESE BOYS AND
WE FEEL PRETTY GOOD.
AFTER THE INITIAL
OUTBREAK, AND AFTER
WE WERE BROUGHT HERE,
WE'VE HAD NOTHING BUT
GOOD TREATMENT.



PRISON GUARD
SERGEANT FRANK
CUNNINGHAM

I WISH YOU
WOULD TAKE ANY
OF THE MEN
WHO BELONG TO
US OFF THE
ROOF...

THIS IS NOT A
JOKE. THIS IS
NOT SOME KIND
OF LITTLE TEA
PARTY WE'VE
GOT HERE.



YOU HAVE
READ IN THE
PAPERS ALL THESE
YEARS OF THE MY
LAI MASSACRE.
THAT WAS ONLY
170-ODD MEN.

WE ARE
GOING TO END
UP WITH 1,500
DEAD HERE, IF
THINGS DON'T
GO RIGHT. AT
LEAST 1,500.



ASK HIM
ABOUT
AMNESTY.

LISTEN,
CHAMP--DON'T
PROMPT US
LIKE THAT
RIGHT ON
CAMERA.

WE'RE
SUPPOSED TO BE
INTERVIEWING THESE
GUYS HONESTLY, NOT
PLAYING A PART FOR
YOU. WE GOT TO GO
BACK TO OUR
WORLD, TOO.

BROTHER,
WE AIN'T
GONE HAVE NO
WORLD TO GO
BACK TO.



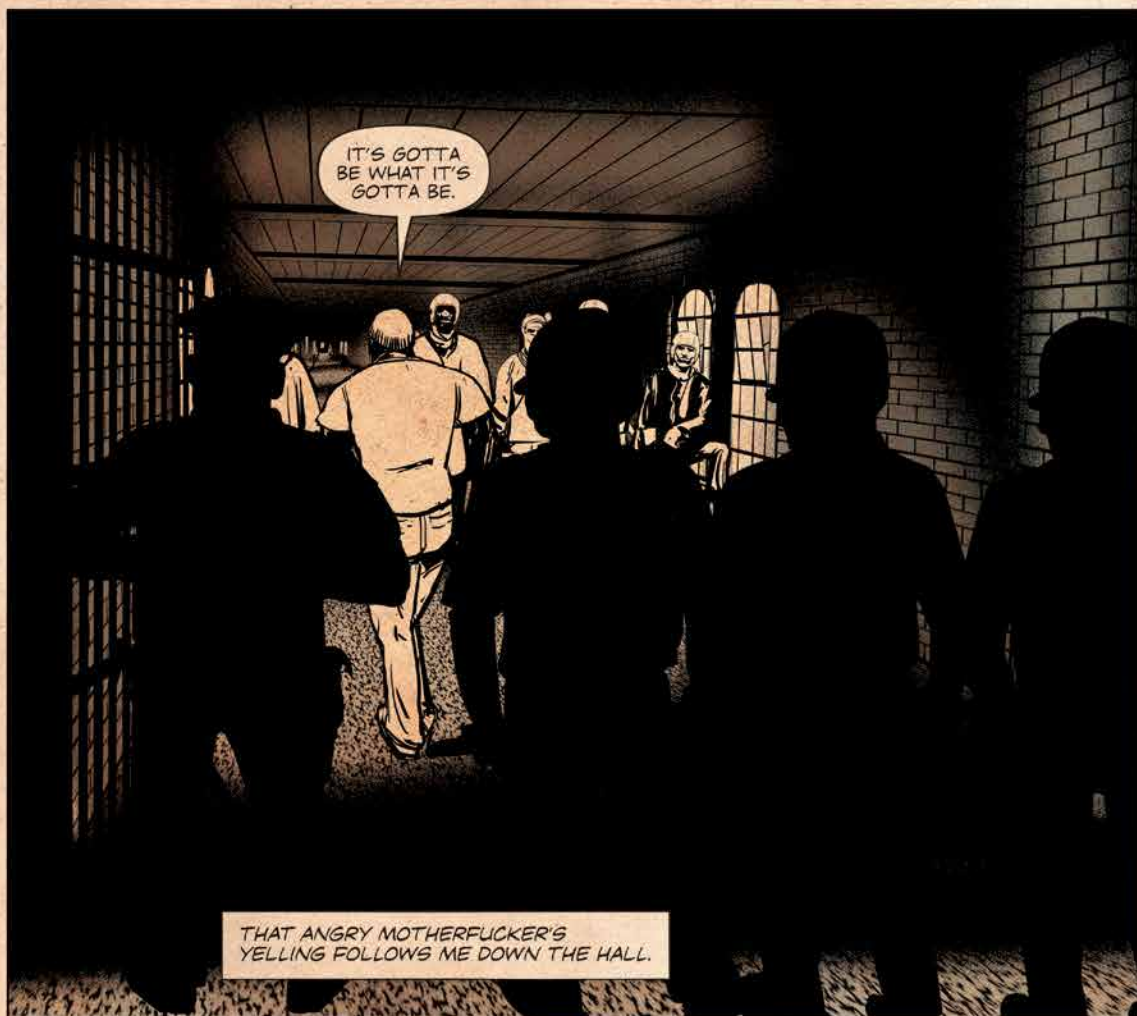
WOULD YOU
LIKE TO SEND A
MESSAGE TO THE
GOVERNOR?

I CERTAINLY
WOULD.

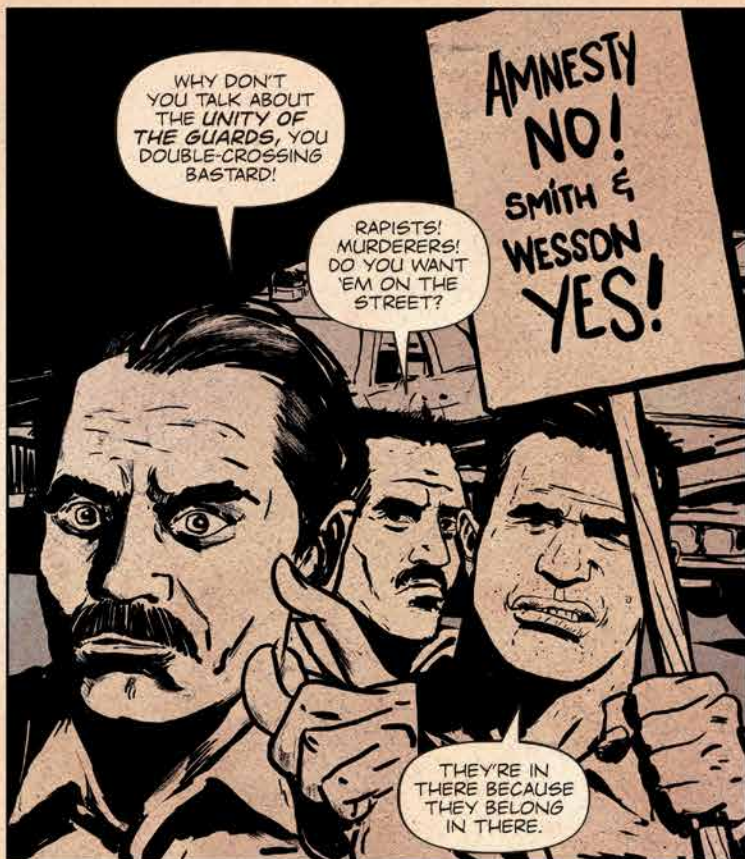
IF HE
SAYS "NO,"
I'M DEAD.

AND
THAT THERE IS
THE **TOUGHEST**
FUCKIN' SERGEANT
ON THE JOB.

ANYTHING
THAT HAPPENS
WILL BE THE
RESULT OF THE
COMMISSIONER
MOVING--NOT
US.

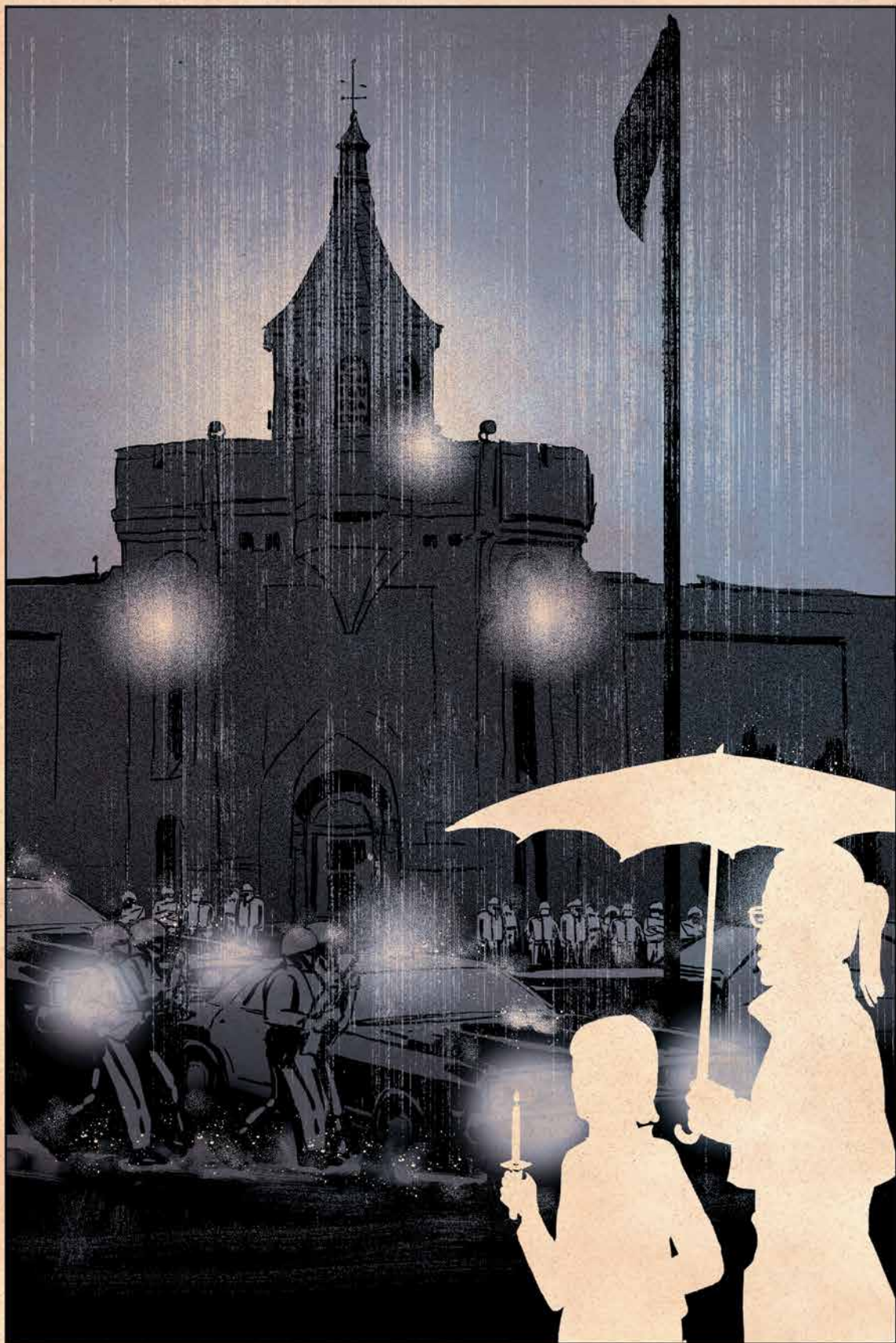




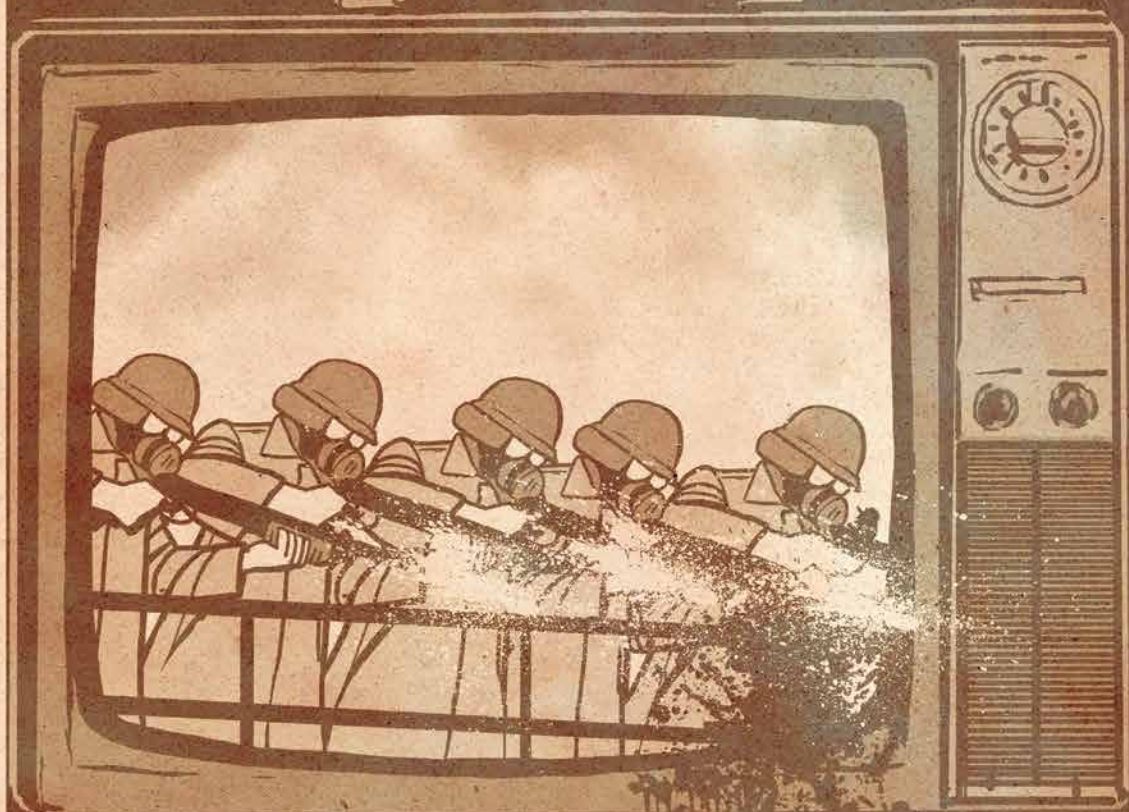


IT WAS A MISERABLE,
RAINY NIGHT IN D-YARD.





THE STORY OF BIG BLACK MASSACRE AT ATTICA!



September 13, 1971.

GOVERNOR ROCKEFELLER ADDRESSES HIS STAFF IN THE LIBRARY OF HIS POCANTICO HILLS ESTATE.

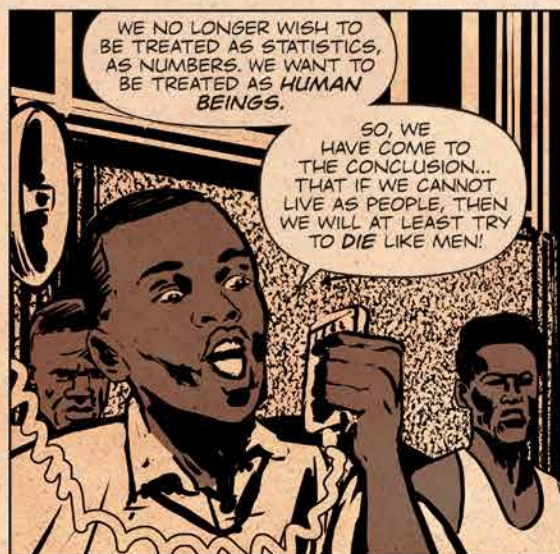
HE'S IN A JOVIAL MOOD AS HE SHOWS OFF A NEW RAINCOAT TO THE ASSEMBLED GROUP.

HOW YA LIKE THE NEW SLICKER?

I'VE MADE A DECISION ABOUT ATTICA. IT'S A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE. WE'RE DEALING WITH REVOLUTIONARIES HERE, AN INTERNATIONAL CONSPIRACY, AND IF THEY THINK THEY CAN FORCE ME TO NEGOTIATE--THIS THING WILL SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE. I WON'T BE SEEN AS KNUCKLING UNDER...NOT IN FRONT OF ALL THOSE TV CAMERAS.

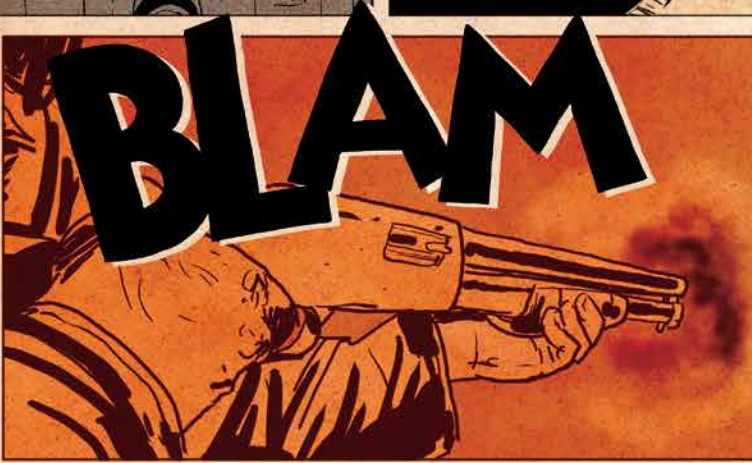
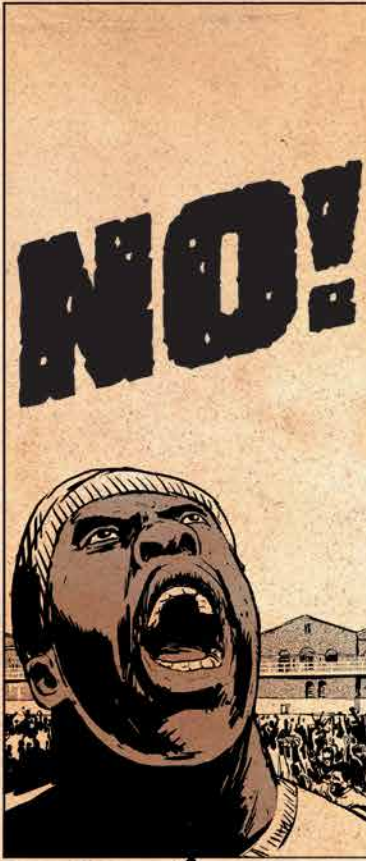
THIS IS ABOUT PRESERVING OUR TRADITIONS OF JUSTICE.

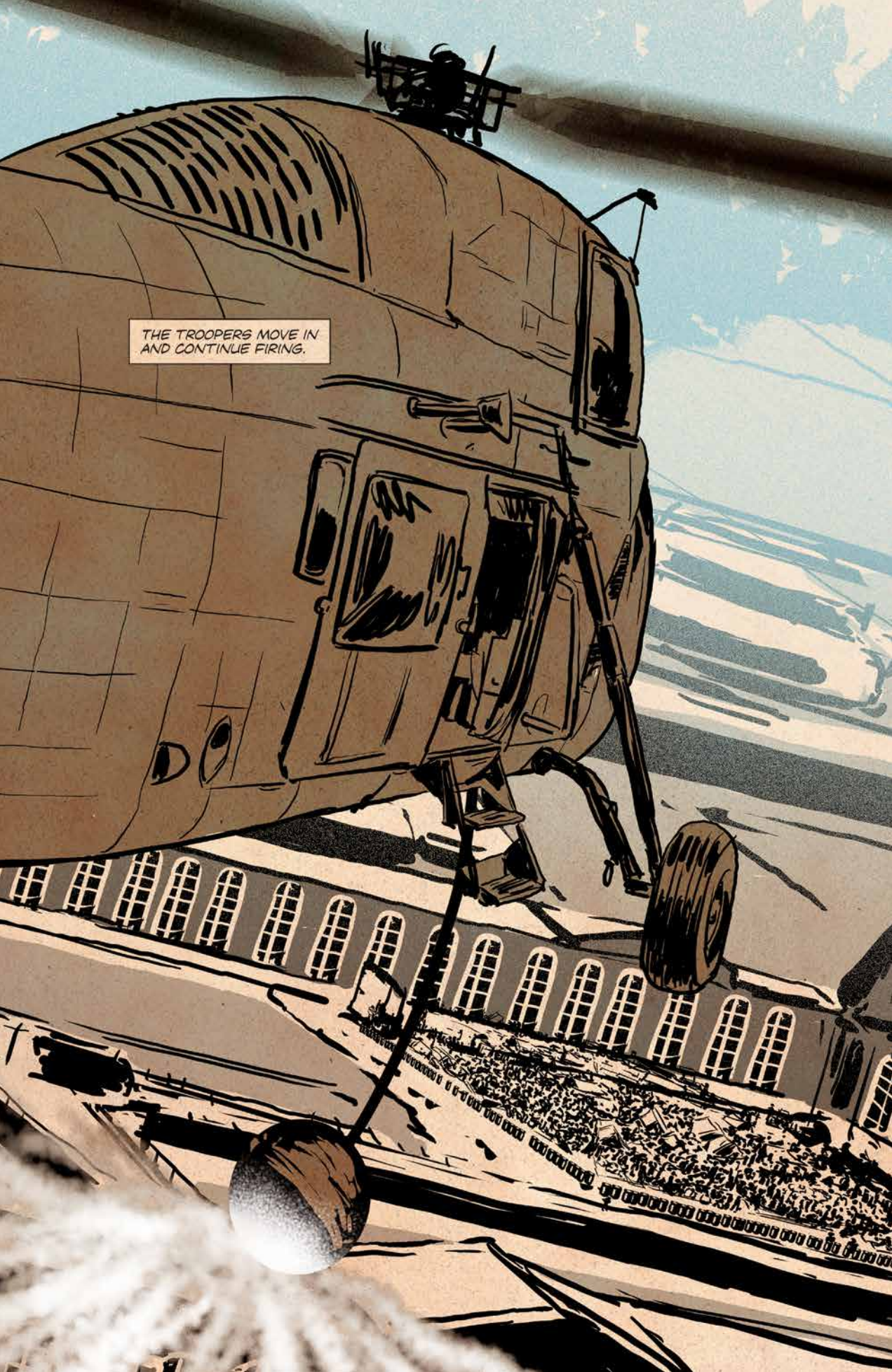






IT WAS SEPTEMBER 13, 1971.





THE TROOPERS MOVE IN
AND CONTINUE FIRING.





WE ARE OUTSIDE THE GATES OF ATTICA. THE COMMISSIONER IS MAKING A STATEMENT AS THE ASSAULT IS TAKING PLACE.



THE ACTION NOW UNDERWAY WAS INITIATED WITH EXTREME RELUCTANCE.



ARMED REBELLION OF THE TYPE WE HAVE FACED THREATENS THE DESTRUCTION OF OUR FREE SOCIETY.



WE CANNOT PERMIT THAT DESTRUCTION TO HAPPEN.



I CAN'T CONTINUE WITH THIS...
...MEN ARE DYING IN THERE.



TURN THE CAMERA OFF!











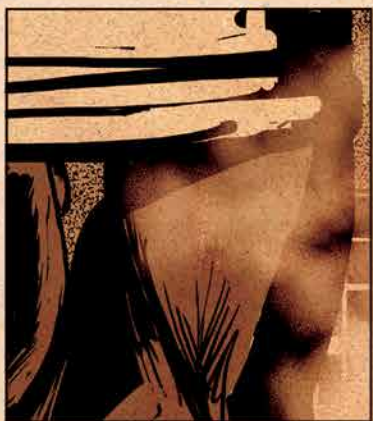


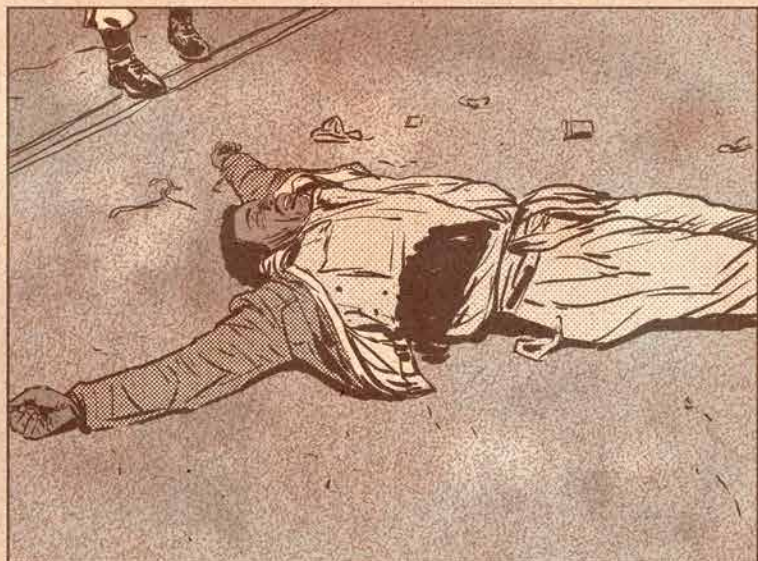
















THE STORY OF BIG BLACK

THE AFTERMATH



THE GUARDS ENTER,
SWINGING CLUBS.

THE TROOPERS BEGIN TO HIT
INMATES WITH THEIR RIFLE BUTTS
AND CONTINUE SHOOTING AT
UNARMED INMATES AT RANDOM.

CRAWL,
INMATES!
IT'S OUR
DAY!













IF YOU
DON'T GET
MOVING...

...IF YOU
DON'T GET
UP ON YOUR
FEET...

...YOU ARE
GOING TO GET
THIS SCREWDRIVER
RIGHT UP YOUR
ASS.













BLACK,
YOU DIDN'T
CASTRATE
NO ONE, DID
YOU?



YOU KNOW
ME, JOHN!
YOU KNOW I
WOULDN'T DO
THAT!

HE WIPES CIGARETTES
AND SHELL CASINGS
OFF MY STOMACH.



I HEAR THE
BEATING OF
CLUBS BUILDING
IN THE HALLWAY.



HOLD
ON. I'M
GONNA FIND
OUT WHAT
THAT RACKET
IS.



KLOONK

BUT BEFORE HE CAN GET
BACK, I'M RIPPED OFF THE
TABLE. MY LEGS BUCKLE
BENEATH ME.



THEY HUSTLE
ME TOWARD THE
TUNNEL...

KLOONK



...THE OFFICERS LINE
THE HALL, WAITING.

COME
ON DOWN,
NIGGER! COME
ON DOWN!

KLOONK

KLOONK



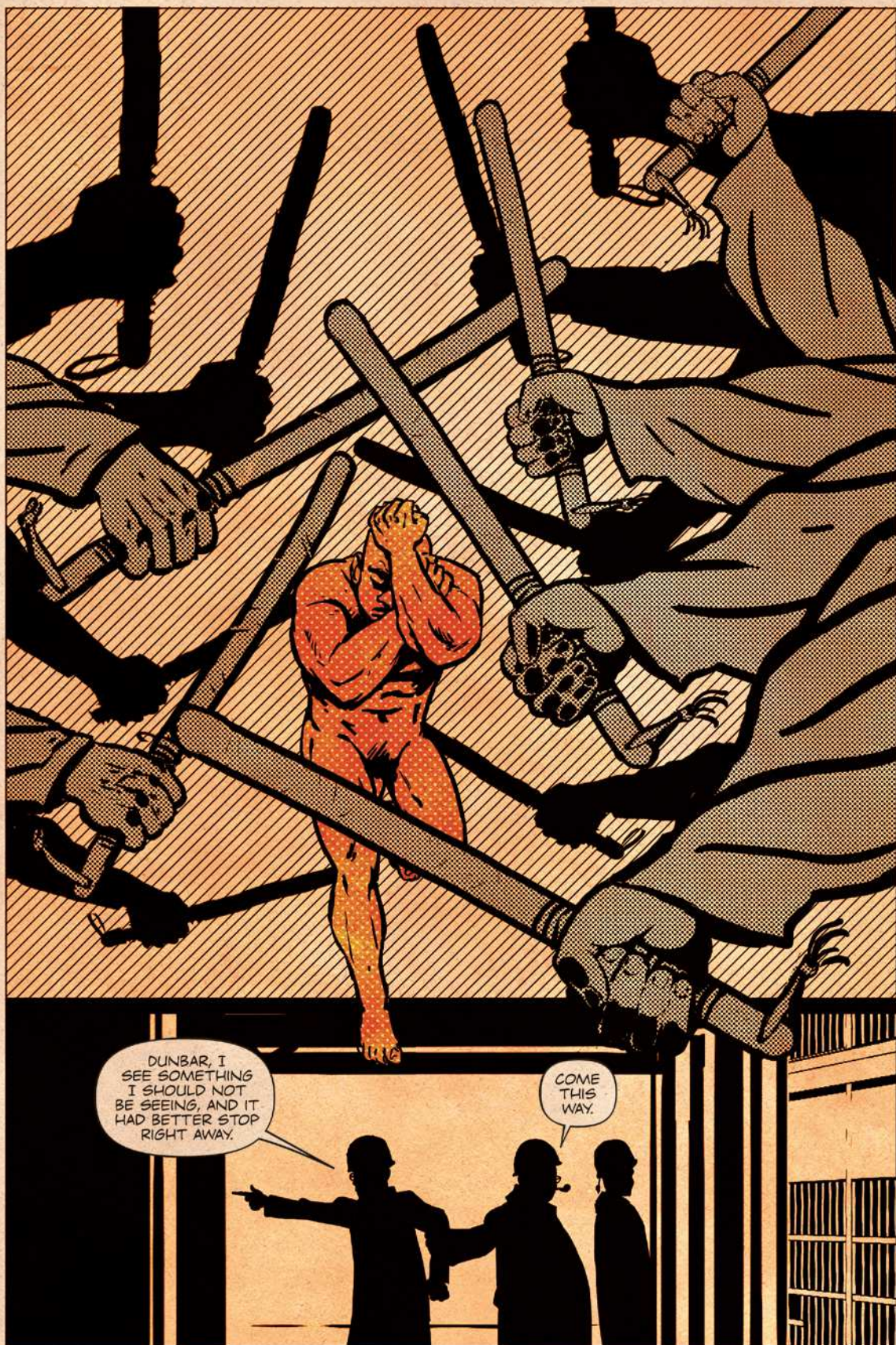
OH,
MAMA!
GIVE ME
STRENGTH,
SIX!



YOU
ANIMAL!

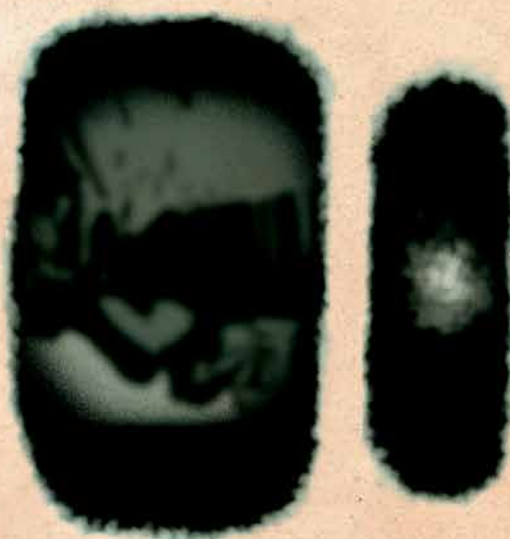


YA GONNA
CUT OUT
TESTICLES!



DUNBAR, I
SEE SOMETHING
I SHOULD NOT
BE SEEING, AND IT
HAD BETTER STOP
RIGHT AWAY.

COME
THIS
WAY.



THE UGLIEST DISPLAYS OF RACISM, CRUELTY, AND BARBARISM RAN RAMPANT--BOTH IN AND OUTSIDE THE PRISON.





**THE WILD CRUEL
BEAST IS NOT
BEHIND THE BARS
OF THE CAGE.**

**HE IS IN
FRONT
OF IT.**

- ELDRIDGE CLEAVER

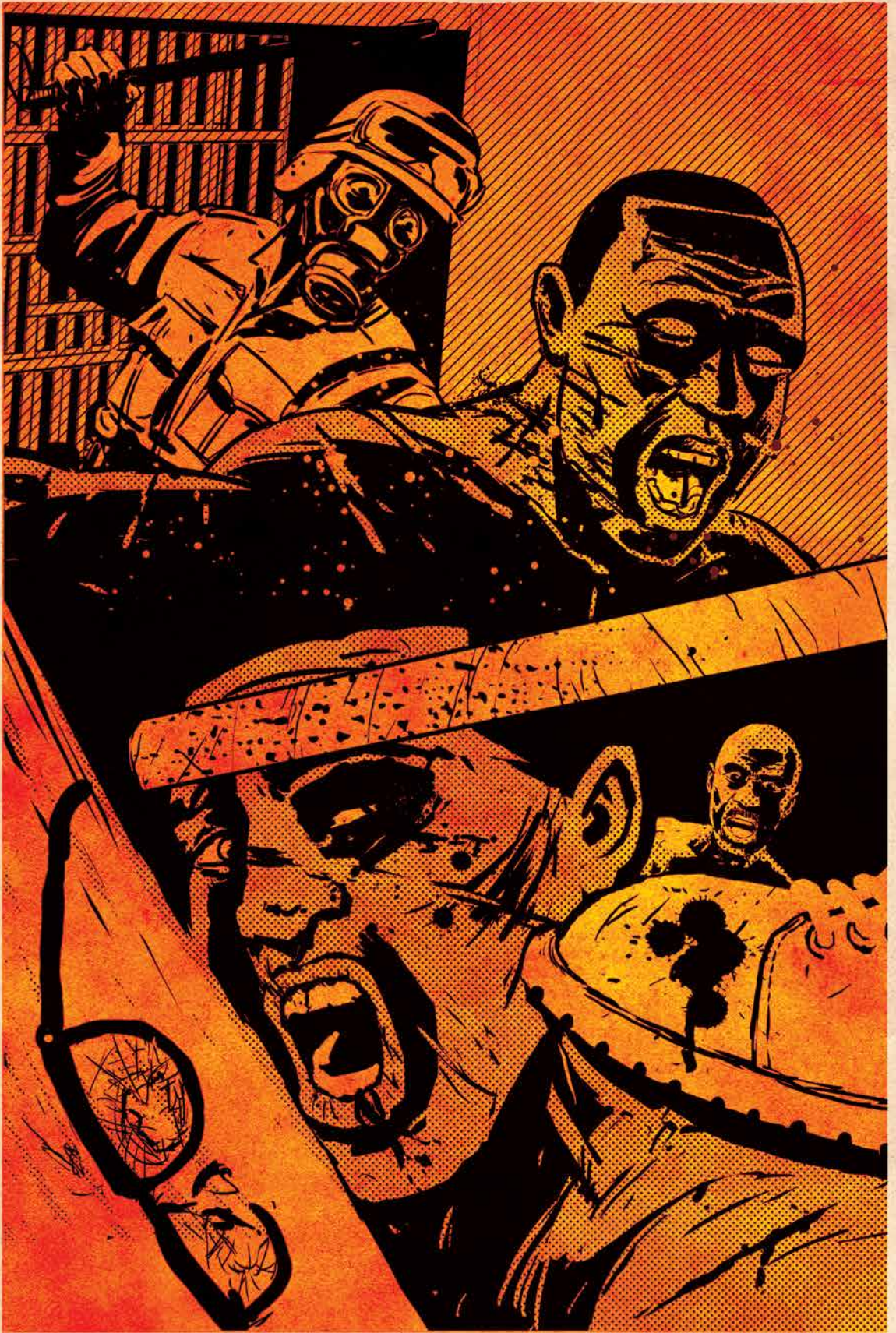




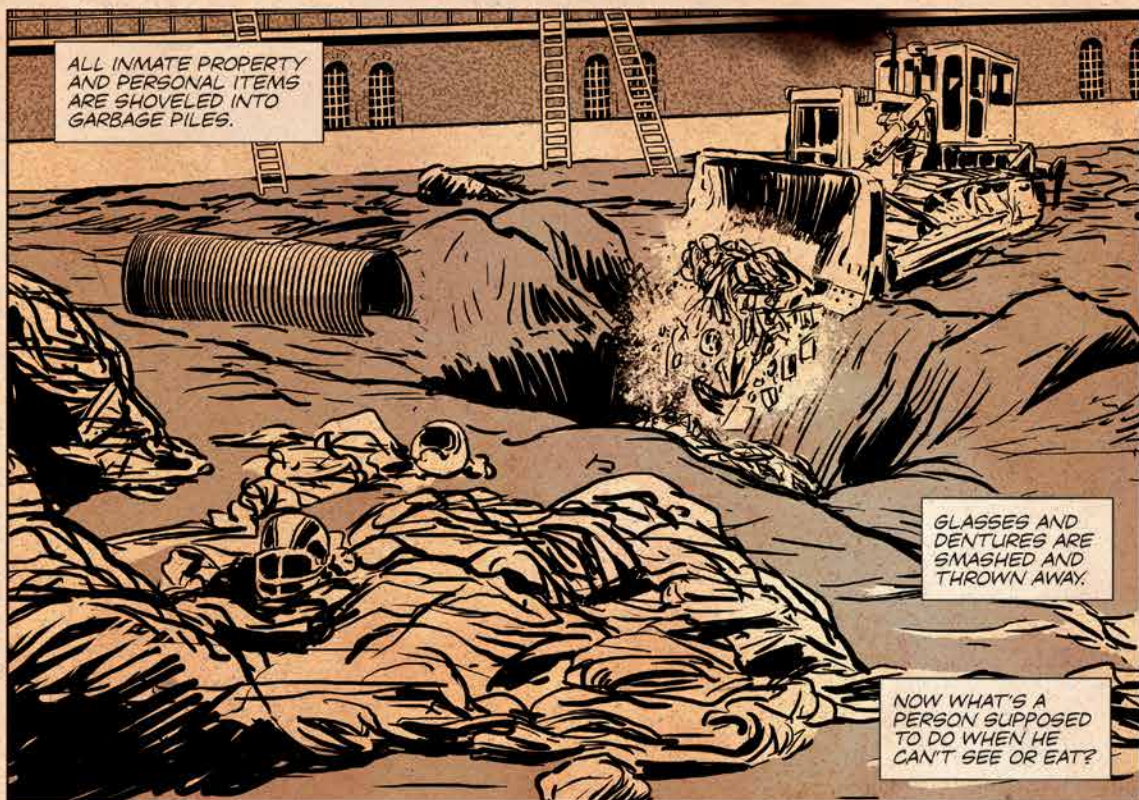






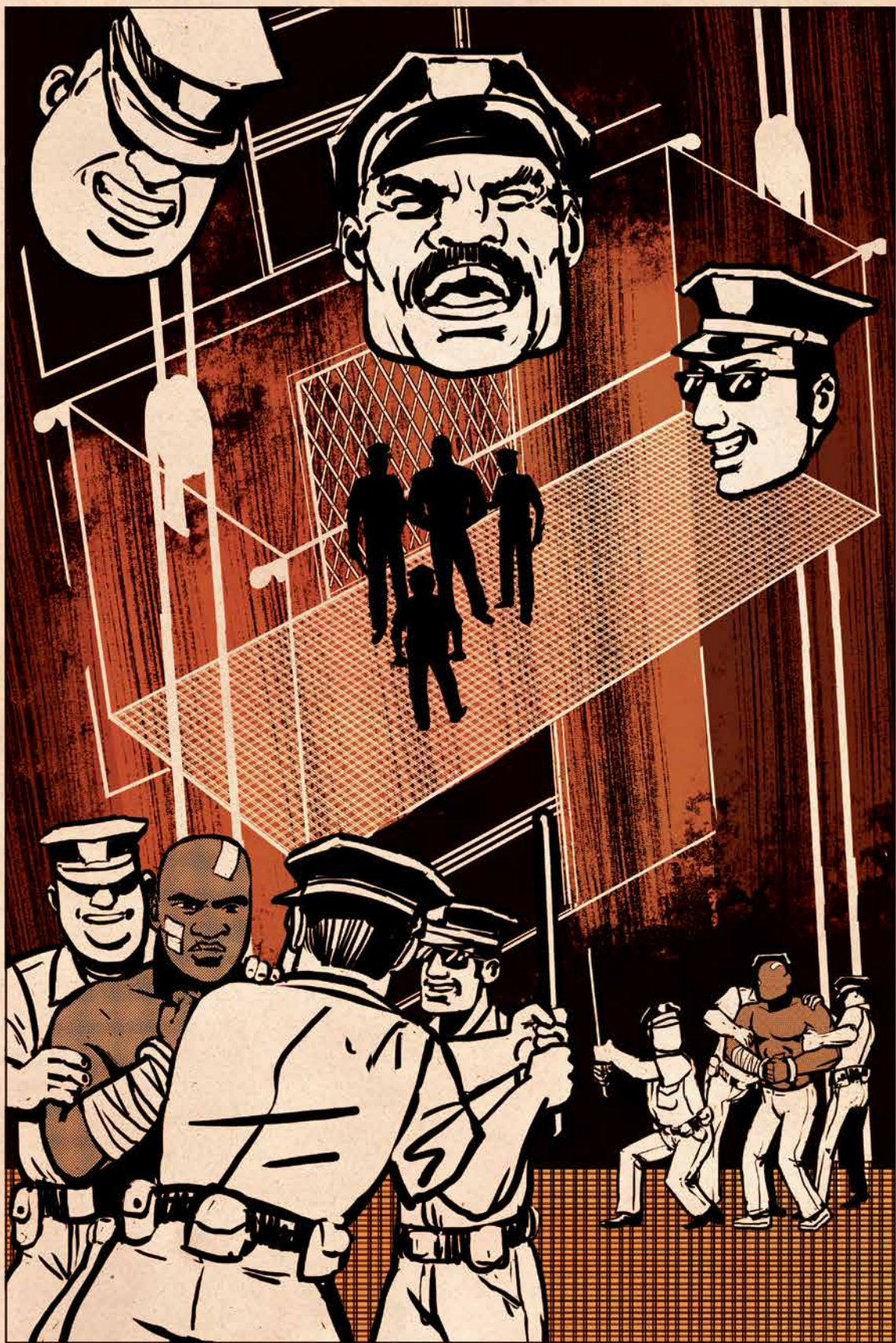


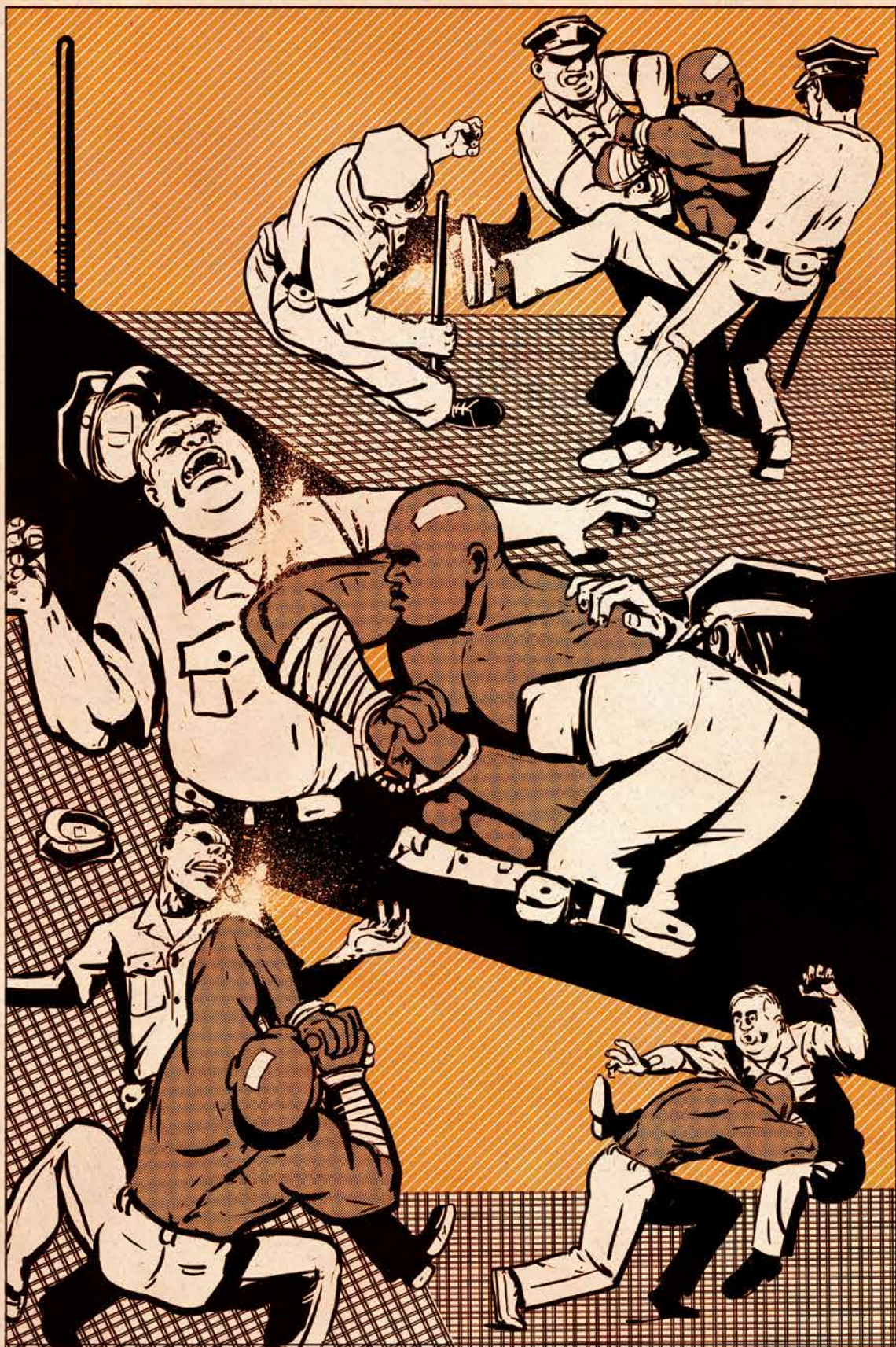
















I TELL YOU,
MOTHERFUCKERS,
WHEN YOU BEAT
SOMEONE LIKE *THAT*,
SOMETHING'S GONNA
HAPPEN!

YOU
WANNA
COME
ON?

NO MORE
BEATINGS!



THE
CONTROVERSY
OVER WHAT HAPPENED
AT ATTICA PRISON
FOLLOWED THE DEAD
HOSTAGES TO THE
VERY BRINK OF
THE GRAVE.

WHEN
THE FUNERAL
WAS OVER, AND ALL
THE WORDS WERE SAID,
THE BODIES WERE
TAKEN, NOT TO BE
BURIED...

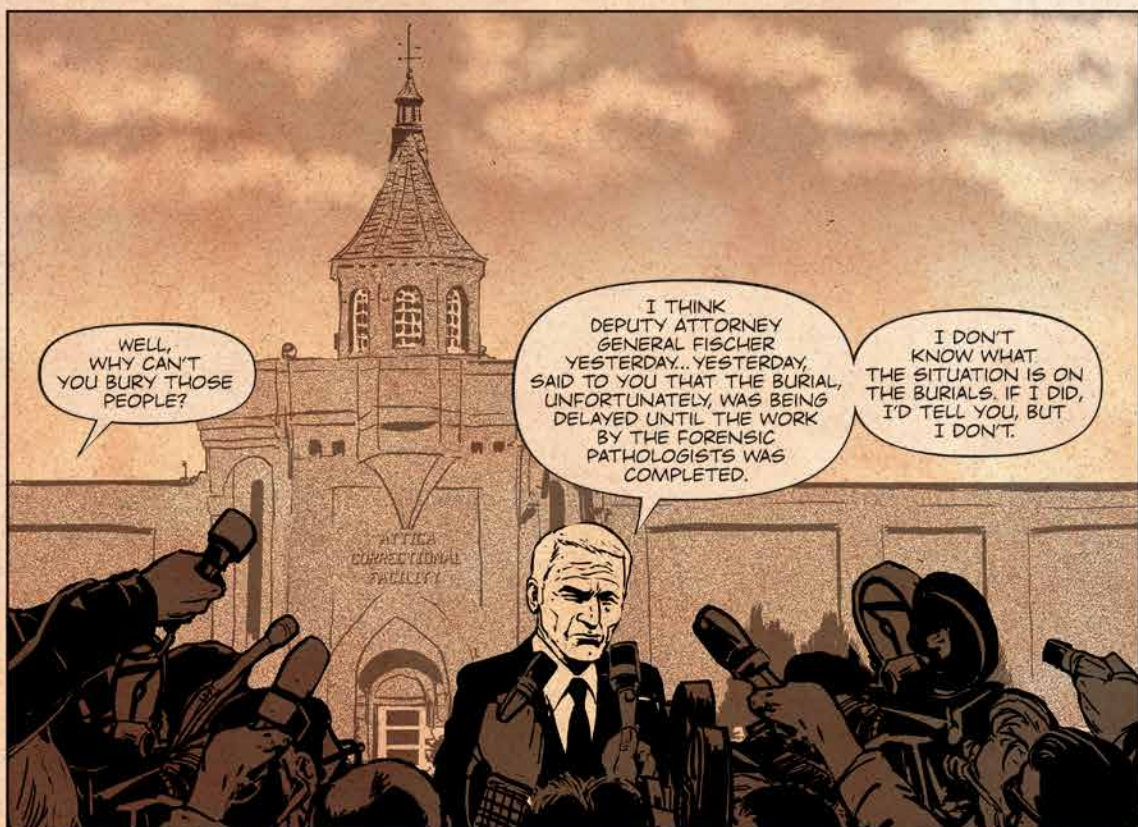
...BUT
BACK TO THE
FUNERAL HOME FOR
YET ANOTHER
AUTOPSY.

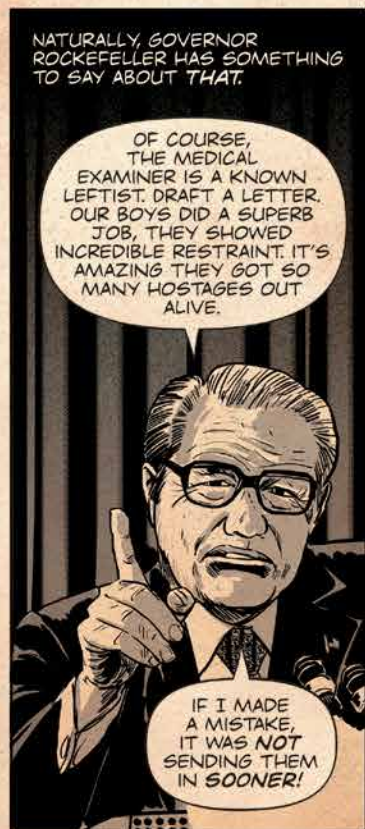
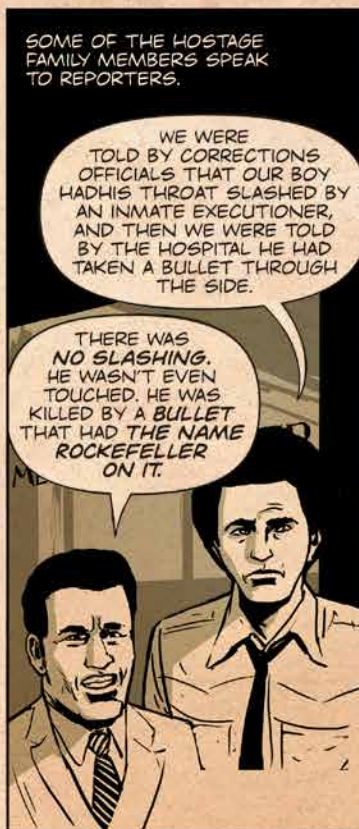
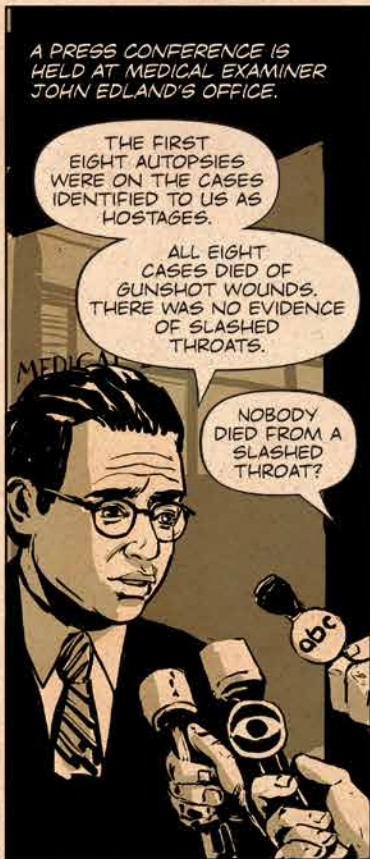


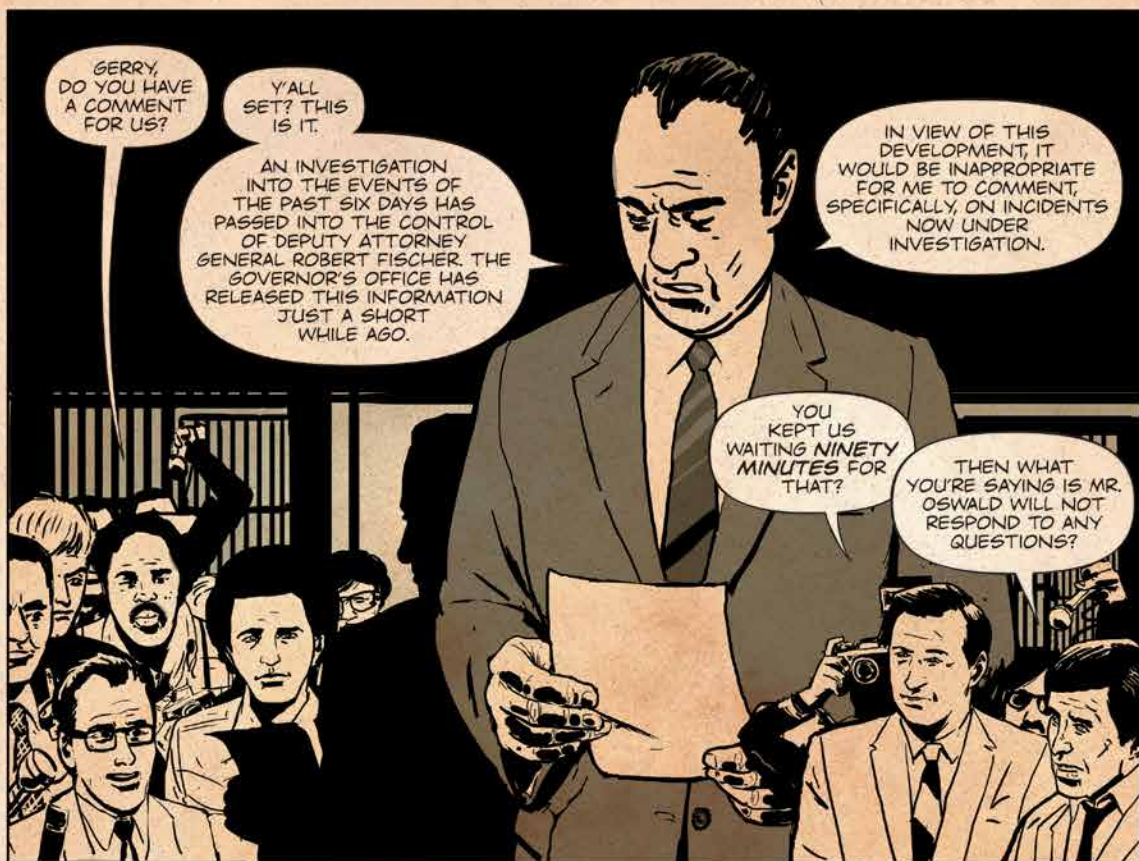
WELL,
WHY CAN'T
YOU BURY THOSE
PEOPLE?

I THINK
DEPUTY ATTORNEY
GENERAL FISCHER
YESTERDAY... YESTERDAY,
SAID TO YOU THAT THE BURIAL,
UNFORTUNATELY, WAS BEING
DELAYED UNTIL THE WORK
BY THE FORENSIC
PATHOLOGISTS WAS
COMPLETED.

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
THE SITUATION IS ON
THE BURIALS. IF I DID,
I'D TELL YOU, BUT
I DON'T.

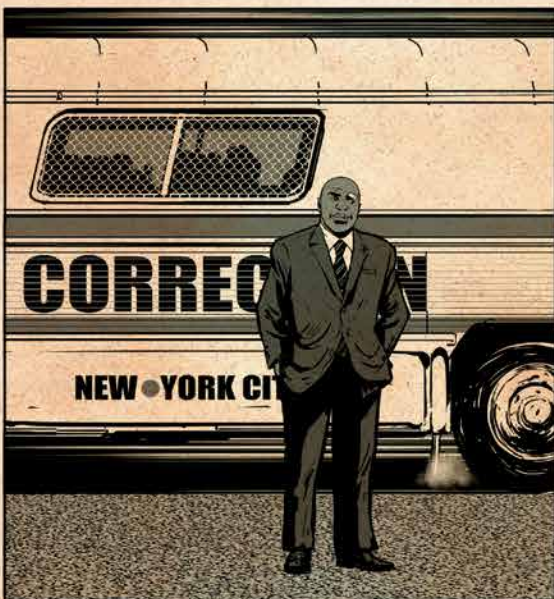
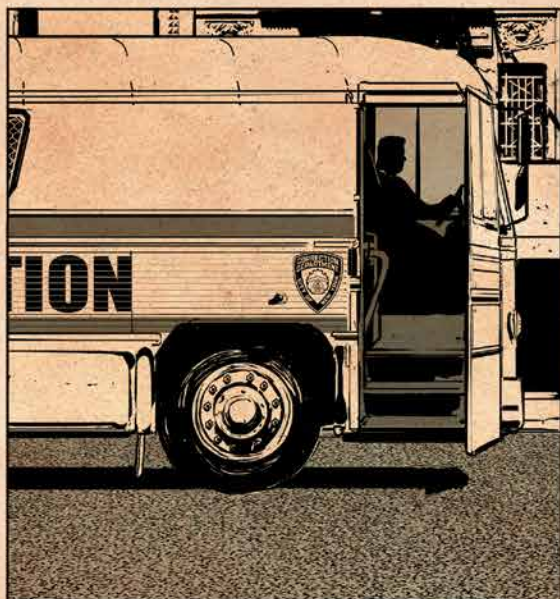
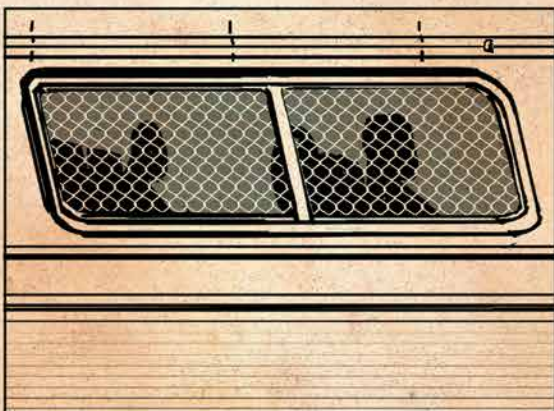


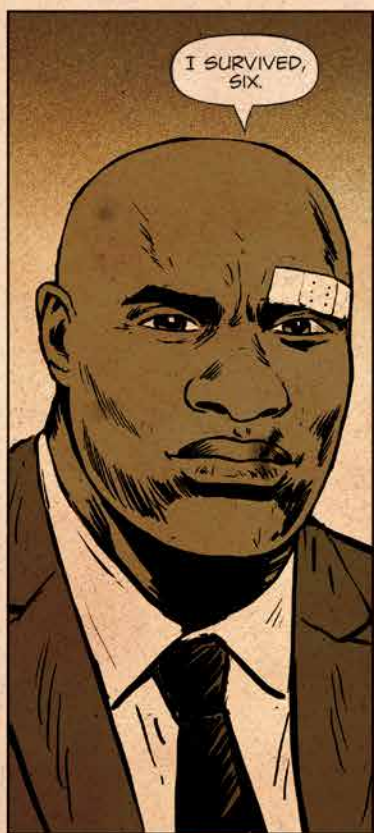






1973



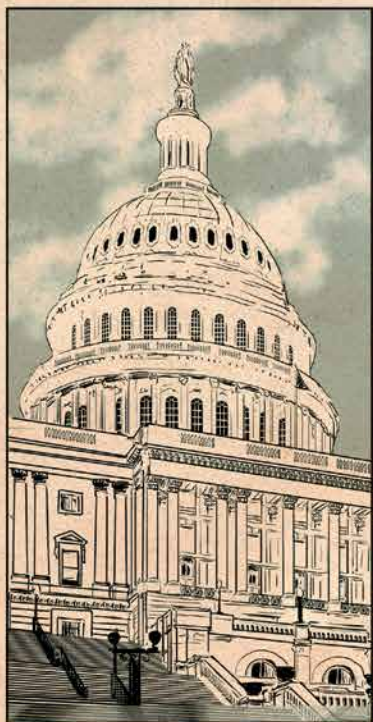


BUT THINGS ARE STILL WAY OUT OF PROPORTION.



1974

ON AUGUST 26, THE SENATE CONFIRMATION HEARINGS ARE IN PROGRESS.



SO, I SHOW UP IN D.C. TO STAND UP TO NELSON ROCKEFELLER AS HE'S APPOINTED VICE PRESIDENT.

PANTHER LEADER, SISTER ANGELA DAVIS, TESTIFIES.

THERE'S ALWAYS THE TENDENCY TO PUSH PRISONS TO THE FRINGES OF OUR AWARENESS SO THAT WE DON'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH WHAT HAPPENS INSIDE OF THESE HORRIFYING INSTITUTIONS.



AND THERE IS A TENDENCY TO LOOK AT THE PRISONERS AS HAVING DESERVED WHAT THEY HAVE MET WITH THERE.

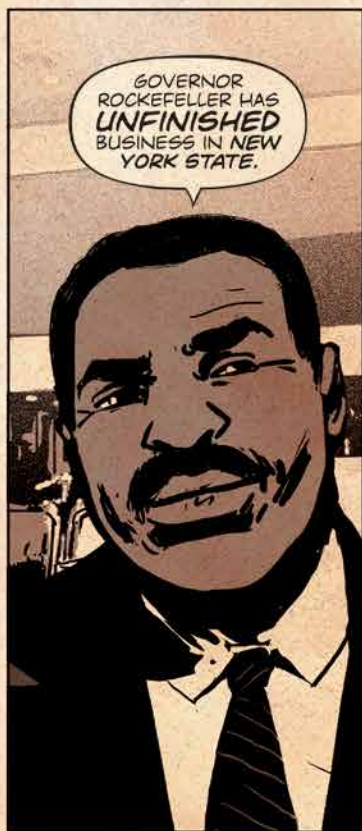
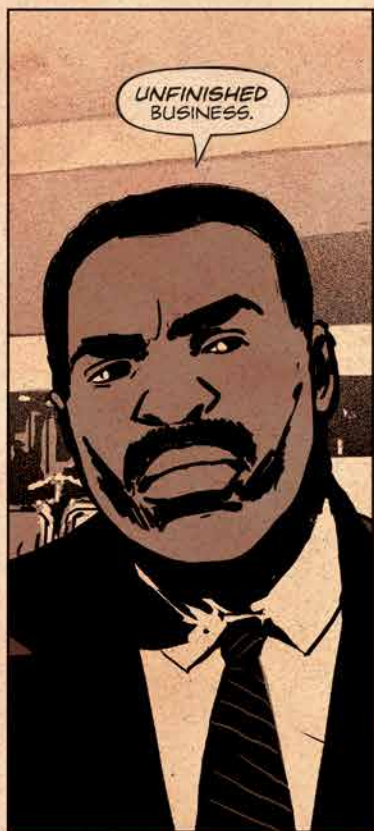


"PRISONERS ARE INTELLIGENT HUMAN BEINGS."



PRISONERS HAVE FAMILIES. THEY HAVE FEELINGS.





MY MOTHER, SISTER, AND NEPHEWS WATCH ME TESTIFY AGAINST THE APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNOR ROCKEFELLER AS VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.



THE MOST COMPELLING TESTIMONY CAME FROM FRANK "BIG BLACK" SMITH, WHO ACCUSED GOVERNOR ROCKEFELLER OF PREMEDITATED MURDER.



I'M NOT TELLING YOU ABOUT WHAT SOMEBODY TOLD ME.

I'M TELLING YOU ABOUT WHAT I KNOW!



AS ARTHUR LIMAN QUESTIONS ROCKEFELLER, THE GOVERNOR EXPOSES HIMSELF BEFORE THE MCKAY COMMISSION.

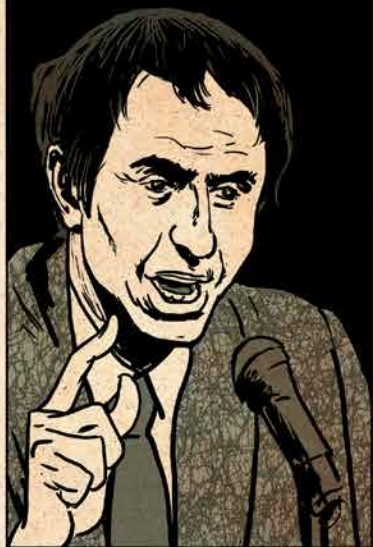
WAS THERE EVER ANY DISCUSSION ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF TRYING TO USE SOME INTEGRATED FORCES TO TAKE THE PRISON?



WHAT DO YOU MEAN "INTEGRATED"?



WELL,
FOR EXAMPLE,
HAVING EVEN ONE
BLACK TROOPER
PARTICIPATE IN THE
ASSAULT.



AN
INTEGRATED
FORCE WITH A BLACK
MEMBER, YOU SAY?
HOW DO YOU IDENTIFY
HIM WITH A GAS
MASK?



I THINK
THE QUESTION
REALLY WAS WHETHER
YOU GAVE ANY
CONSIDERATION TO THE
POSSIBILITY THAT RACIAL
ATTITUDES MIGHT AFFECT
THE CAPACITY
OF--



IF YOU
WILL EXCUSE ME,
I DON'T THINK THE
QUESTION IS
PERTINENT...

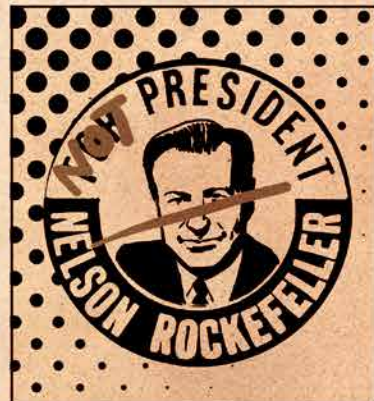
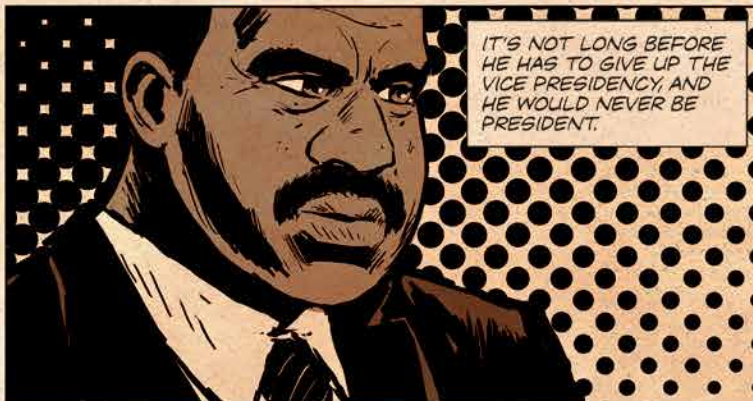
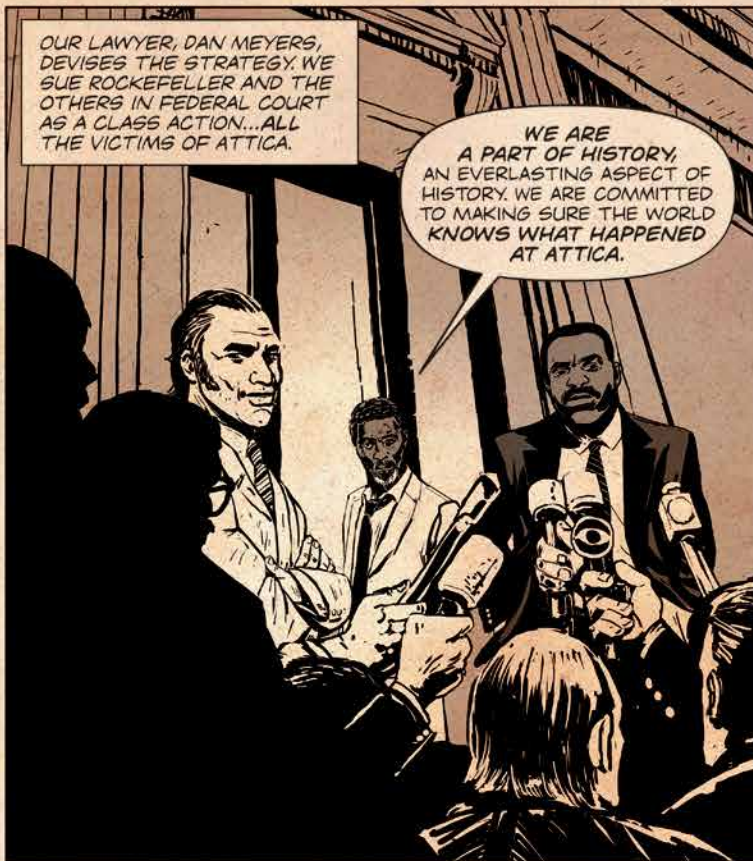


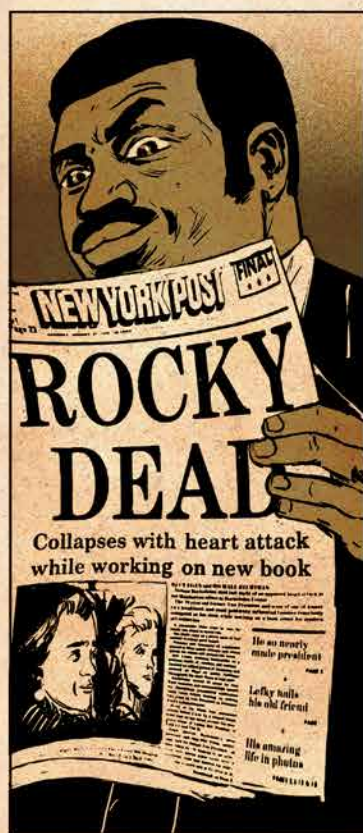
...BECAUSE
I DON'T THINK
THAT IT'S
RELEVANT TO
THE ACTION
THAT WAS
TAKEN.



ROCKEFELLER SWORN IN AS VICE PRESIDENT AFTER CONFIRMATION BY HOUSE, 287 TO 128

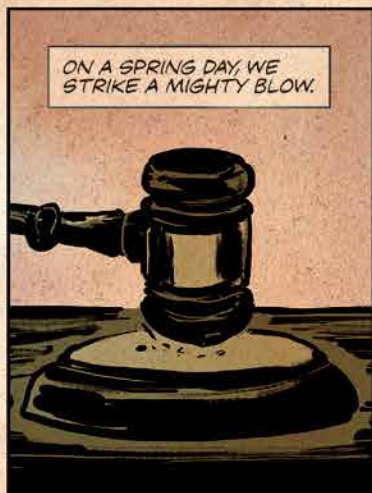
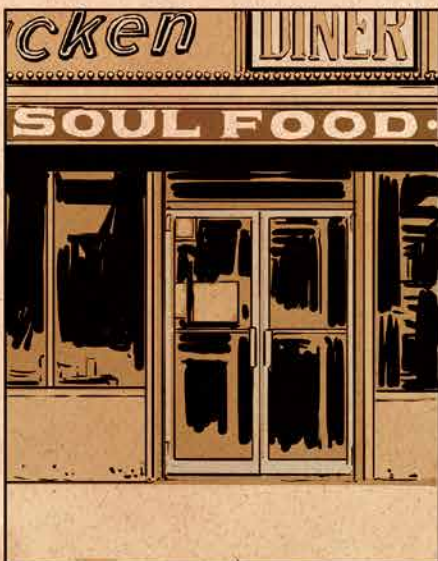
ROCKEFELLER BECOMES VICE PRESIDENT, BUT ATTICA FOLLOWS HIM.





1997

NOW I'M BACK
HERE WITH JOEY
AT GIGI'S SOUL
FOOD RESTAURANT
IN BUFFALO, NY,
RETELLING MY
STORY.





HA! SO,
WHAT DO
YOU TAKE AWAY
FROM IT
ALL?

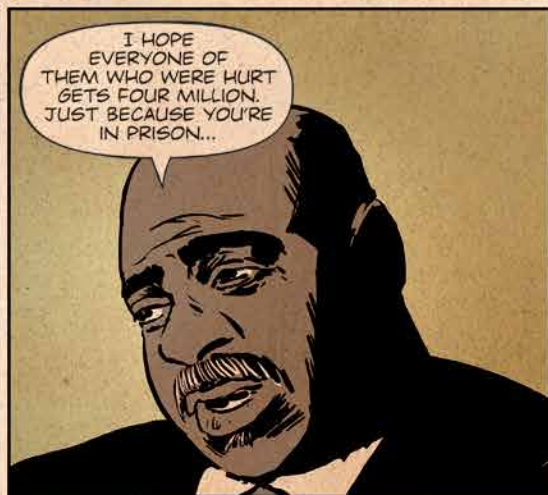


WE FIGHT IN COURT FOR
NEARLY THREE DECADES
TO GET JUSTICE FOR THE
VICTIMS OF ATTICA.

AND I FIND MY PLACE
IN THE PRISONER'S
RIGHTS MOVEMENT.



MY GOD! LET
JUSTICE ROLL
ON LIKE A
RIVER.



I HOPE
EVERYONE OF
THEM WHO WERE HURT
GETS FOUR MILLION.
JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE
IN PRISON...



THEY ARE NEVER GOING TO LET US
SEE THAT KIND OF MONEY, AND WE
KNEW IT. BUT IT IS A BEAUTIFUL DAY.

JOE HEATH,
ESQ. ATTICA
BROTHERS
LEGAL TEAM

LIZ "THE COACH"
FINK, ESQ. LEAD
ATTORNEY ATTICA
BROTHERS LEGAL
TEAM

SYLVIA FINK
KLINEMAN,
MOTHER OF LIZ
FINK, LONGTIME
ATTICA BROTHERS
SUPPORTER

PEARL BATTLE
SMITH, WIFE OF
FRANK "BIG
BLACK" SMITH

MICHAEL
DELITSCH, ESQ.
ATTICA
BROTHERS
LEGAL TEAM

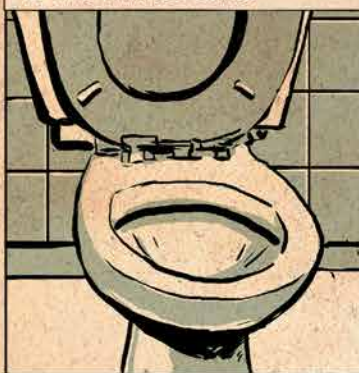
DANIEL MEYERS,
ESQ. ATTICA
BROTHERS
LEGAL TEAM

Ex-Attica Inmate Wins \$4 Million in Suit Over Reprisals After 1971 Uprising

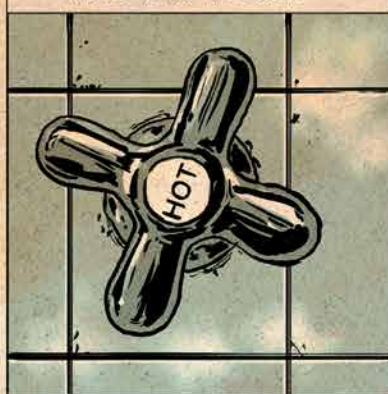
WE ARE FORCED
TO SETTLE.



BUT IT IS NOTHING COMPARED
TO THE DAMAGE DONE.



THERE IS NO APOLOGY.









MAYBE WE FORCED
THE TINIEST BIT.



BUT NOTHING
IN PROPORTION
TO WHAT
WENT DOWN...



...ON THAT
COUNT, THERE
ARE NO WINNERS.

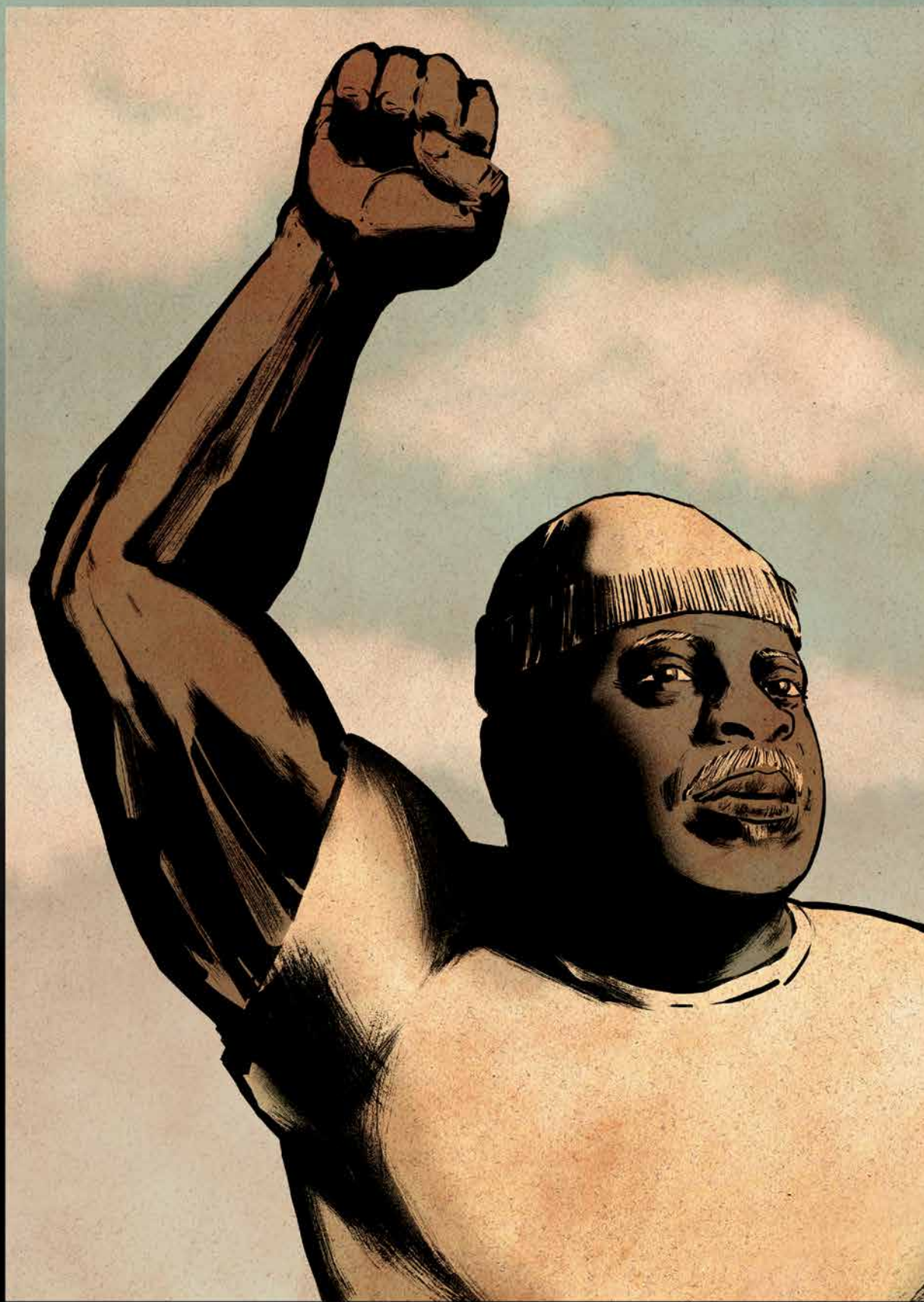


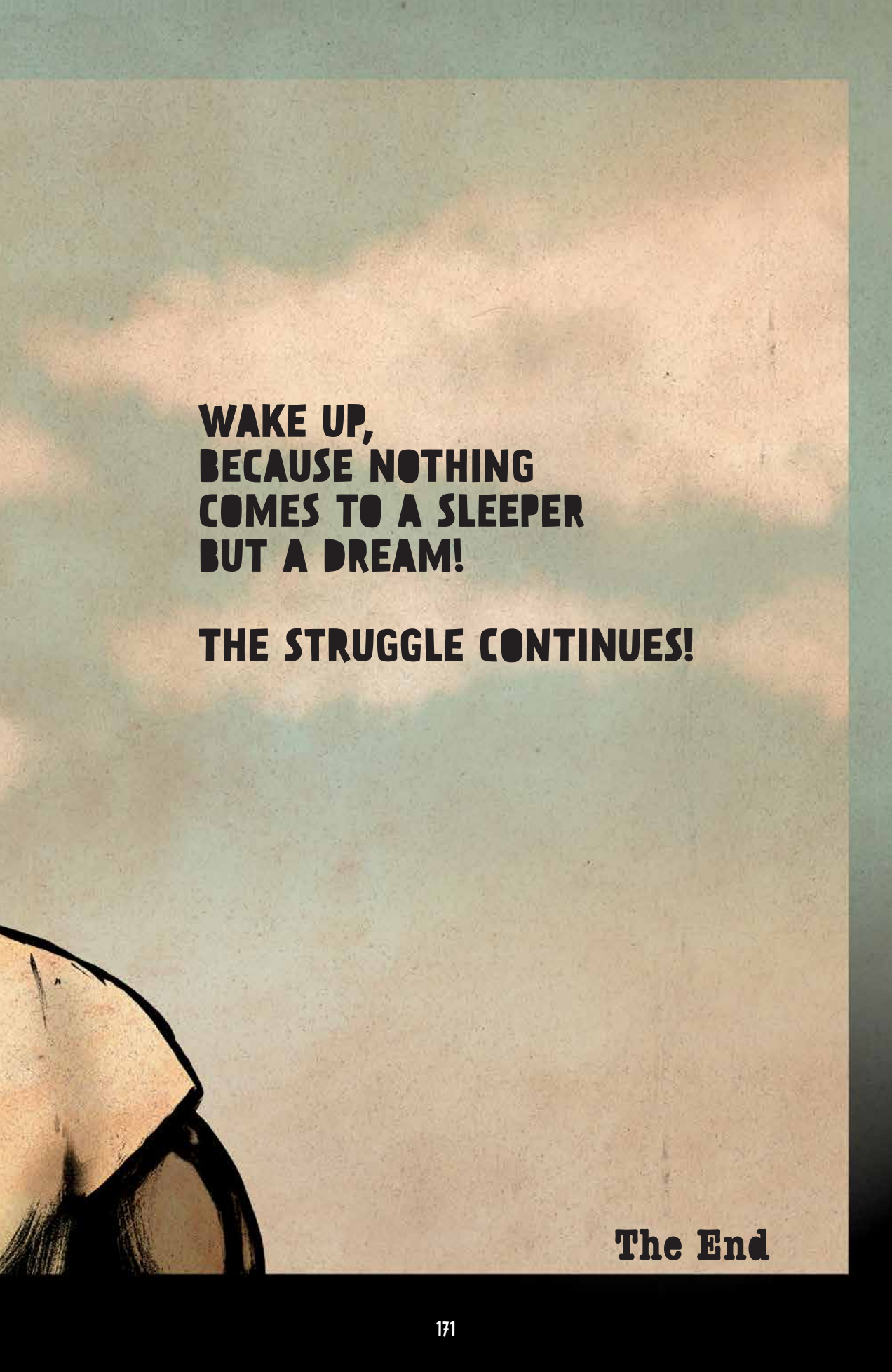


ATTICA IS ALL OF US.









**WAKE UP,
BECAUSE NOTHING
COMES TO A SLEEPER
BUT A DREAM!**

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES!

The End

WHO DIED AT ATTICA, WE WILL NOT FORGET

William Allen

Elliott (L. D.) Barkley

John B. Barnes

Edward Cunningham (hostage)

John J. D'Arcangelo (hostage)

Bernard Davis

Allen Durham

Willie Fuller

Melvin D. Gray

Elmer G Hardie (hostage)

Robert J. Henigan

Kenneth E. Hess

Thomas B. Hicks

Emanuel Johnson

Herbert W. Jones Jr. (hostage)

Richard J Lewis (hostage)

Charles Lundy

Kenneth B. Malloy

Gidell Martin

William B. McKinney

Lorenzo McNeil

Samuel Melville

Edward R. Menefee

Jose Mentijo

Milton Menyweather

John G. Monteleone (hostage)

Richard Moore

Carlos Prescott

Michael Privitera

William E. Quinn (hostage)

Raymond Rivera

James B. Robinson

Santiago Santos

Barry J. Schwartz

Harold Thomas

Carl Valone (hostage)

Rafael Vasquez

Melvin Ware

Elon F. Werner (hostage)

Ronald Werner (hostage)

Willie West

Harrison Whalen (hostage)

Alfred Williams

FRANK "BIG BLACK" SMITH

(1933-2004)





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**WE OWE OUR THANKS TO A LOT
OF INCREDIBLE PEOPLE WHO LIVED AND DIED
FOR THE CAUSE. WE HONOR THEM HERE.**

The Attica Observers

Joseph Agovino

Akil Al-Jundi

Daniel Alterman

Richard Ashe

Ellen G. Battle

Lorenzo Battle

Otis Battle

Robert Bloom

Herbert X Blyden

Ethel Bostic

Robert Boyle

Lillie Bradford and Guy Smith

Charlotte B. Brooks

David Brosig

Haywood Burns

Bob Camp and Missy Ford

Jed Cecil

Roger Champen

Richard X Clark

Joe Corallo

Chuck Culhane

Dennis Cunningham

Nikö Davidopoulos

Jean DeMay

Michael Deutsch

Amy DiCesare and Family

Carol Dudek

Ian Moses Eaton

Soffiah Elijah

Polly Eustic

Elizabeth Fink

FJM Inc. and Families

Andrea J. Fulton

Kent Gash

Mike Gold

Christopher Golden

Judge Emily Goodman

Allen Harris

Glenn Hauman

Joseph Heath

Judy Hinchey and Family

Daryl Hochheiser and Family

Molly Jackson

Gertrude Jeannette

Peter Joseph

Marc Kandel

Joseph Kennedy

Rose Kennedy

Kimanthi

Emily Kunstler

Margaret Ratner Kunstler

Sarah Kunstler

William Kunstler

Joe R. Lansdale

Kasey Lansdale

Frank Lott

Nancy Lyall

Allen Lyons

Dirk Manning

Robert Markfield

The Max/Lewis Family

Leslie McGuire

Delia Mellis

Daniel Meyers

David Meyers and Family

Matt Meyers

Michael Meyers and Family

Sam and Carolyn Meyers

Alicia Mitchell-Foxworth

George Che Nieves

Ward Nixon

Rev. Julian & Debra Pridgen

Joan Max Reinmuth

Kriston Reinmuth and Family

William Reinmuth

Carlos Roche

Jonathan Rosenbaum

Helen Smith

Millie Smith

Pearl Battle Smith

Shakiba Smith

Stephanie Smith

J David Spurlock

Lewis Steel

Frank Stella

Alex Tichane and Kat Famera

Robert Van Lierop

Al Victory

John Wellington

Justus K. White

The White Family

Ellen Yacknin

**AND TO THE ATTICA BROTHERS, THEIR FAMILIES
AND SUPPORTERS (TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION HERE)**



ABOUT THE AUTHORS

FRANK “BIG BLACK” SMITH

Frank “Big Black” Smith was a former inmate at Attica prison who was tortured by officers following the deadly 1971 uprising. After his release from prison, he kicked a drug addiction and worked as a substance abuse counselor. He also devoted his life to becoming the voice of his fellow prisoners in a 26-year lawsuit against New York state. Smith later became an advocate for the Forgotten Victims of Attica, a group comprised of surviving hostages and relatives of the dead prison guards who were believed to have been encouraged to accept limited benefits which barred them from suing the state. Smith married in 1983, studied to be a paralegal, and worked as an investigator for lawyers. He passed away at 70 years old in Kingston, N.C., after a long battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Pearl.

JARED REINMUTH

Jared Reinmuth has worked as an actor, writer, teacher, director, and songwriter. He made his acting debut at the 1994 Dionysian International Theatre Festival in Veroli, Italy in Karen Malpede’s *The Beekeeper’s Daughter*. Regional and National Tour Credits include: *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *Dracula*, *Don Quixote*, Athos in *The Three Musketeers*, and Guildenstern in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*. Jared made his directorial debut in 2016 at the Theater for the New City’s Dream UP Festival with Andrea J. Fulton’s *Roof-Top Joy*. His adaptation, *Monte Cristo*, debuted at the Hackensack Cultural Arts Center. Jared began his writing collaboration with Frank “Big Black” Smith in 1997, while assisting his step-father, famed Attica attorney Dan Meyers. In 2017, at the suggestion of friend and colleague Patrick Kennedy, he joined forces with Pearl Battle Smith and artist Améziane to turn Frank’s vision into the graphic novel *Big Black: Stand at Attica*. Also in 2017, Jared began his musical collaboration with Alex Tichane, songwriting original music to accompany the book, and further explore Big Black’s inspiring biography.

AMÉZIANE

Améziane grew up in Paris, France with the comics of Frank Miller and Bill Sienkiewicz, the films of Bruce Lee, and the soul music of ‘66/’76. Améziane worked several years as an art director, illustrator, and graphic designer. Late in 2001, he finally jump-started his comic book career by writing several scripts. He worked on the comics adaptation of *Cuatro Manos* with his favorite novelist, Paco Ignacio Taibo II. Améziane recently completed *Miss Davis* (a biopic of Angela Davis), the final installment in his Soul Trilogy, which also includes *Muhammad Ali* and *Big Black*. The *New York Times* bestseller *Muhammad Ali* was written by Sybille Titeux de la Croix and is Améziane’s first comics work published in the United States. *Clan* and *CashCowboys* are available digitally, and *Big Black: Stand at Attica* is his first original production in English. Today, Améziane divides his time between his own *Noir* comics, projects with writer Sybille Titeux de la Croix, collaborations with Jared Reinmuth, and working in film. Of course, he doesn’t sleep enough . . .



Four days in 1971 changed the course of American history.

This is the true story from the man at the center of it all.

In the summer of 1971, New York's Attica State Prison is a symbol of everything broken in America—abused prisoners, rampant racism and a blind eye turned towards the injustices perpetrated against the powerless. But when the guards at Attica overreact to a minor incident, the prisoners decide they've had enough and revolt—taking their jailers hostage and making demands for humane conditions.

Frank "Big Black" Smith finds himself at the center of this uprising, struggling to protect hostages, prisoners and negotiators alike. But when the only avenue for justice seems to be negotiating with ambitious Governor Nelson Rockefeller, Big Black soon discovers there may be no hope in finding a peaceful resolution for the prisoners in Attica.

Written by Frank "Big Black" Smith with Jared Reinmuth and illustrated by Améziane, *Big Black: Stand At Attica* is an unflinching look at the price of standing up to injustice in what remains one of the bloodiest civil rights confrontations in American history.



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