HACK/SLASH™/EVA™

MONSTER'S BALL PART TWO OF FOUR



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HACK/SLASH™/EVA™

MONSTER'S BALL

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EVA: a time-lost warrior who believes that God wants her to rid our world of the foul things that lurk in the shadows.



CASSIE HACK: a 21st century anti-heroine who has devoted her life to the elimination of "slashers" who kill without mercy or reason.

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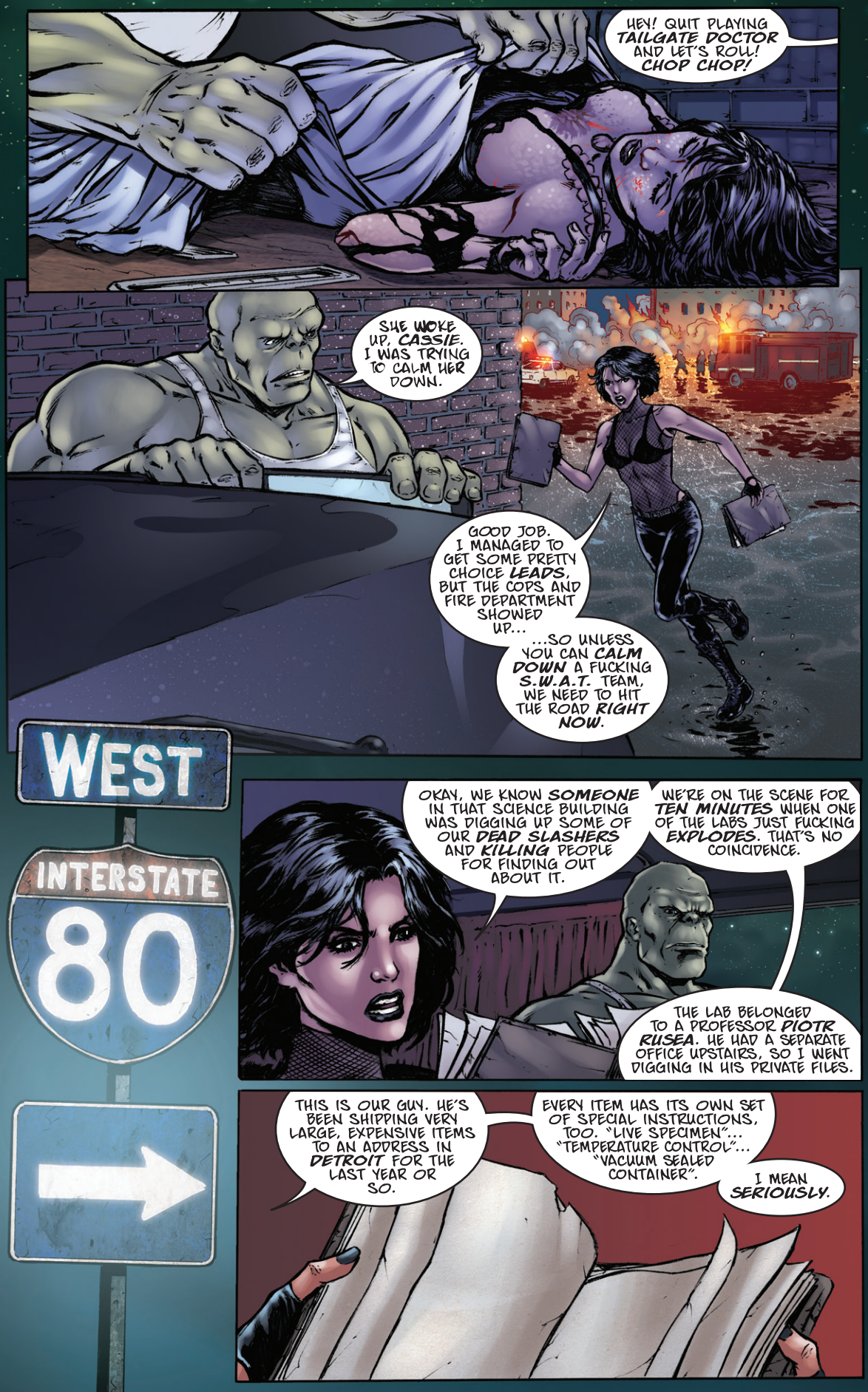
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CAN YOU HEAR ME?
WHO ARE YOU? WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
YOU KNOW WHO I AM, MICHAEL.
I DO NOT KNOW YOU. I HAVE NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE. CAN YOU TELL ME YOUR NAME?
YOUR NAME. PLEASE.
EVA. MY NAME... IS EVA.
HELLO, EVA. I AM VLAD.


VLAD...?! WHERE IS MICHAEL?!
YOUR MASTER DID THIS. PRAETORIOUS DID THIS TO ME! HE TOOK MICHAEL--
I HAVE NO MASTER...
...I DO NO KNOW MICHAEL OR THIS "PRECARIOUS". MY PARTNER AND I CAME TO THE UNIVERSITY TO FIND A GRAVE ROBBER.
THERE WAS AN EXPLOSION. YOU SURVIVED. BADLY BURNED AND WOUNDED. WE PULLED YOU OUT HERE. TO HELP YOU--
GOD FORGIVE ME! MY CLOTHING... I AM NOT TO BE SEEN LIKE THIS!
I...I PUT A BLANKET ON YOU.
HAVE TO GO-- Uuaauuughh!
YOU CAN NOT GO YET. I THINK YOU ARE HEALING YOURSELF, BUT IT IS GOING TOO SLOWLY. WE WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU UNTIL YOU ARE WELL.
AND I WILL COVER YOU, I PROMISE...
NYU CAMPUS, NEW YORK CITY


HEY! QUIT PLAYING TAILGATE DOCTOR AND LET'S ROLL! CHOP CHOP!
SHE WOKE UP, CASSIE. I WAS TRYING TO CALM HER DOWN.
GOOD JOB. I MANAGED TO GET SOME PRETTY CHOICE LEADS, BUT THE COPS AND FIRE DEPARTMENT SHOWED UP...
...SO UNLESS YOU CAN CALM DOWN A FUCKING S.W.A.T. TEAM, WE NEED TO HIT THE ROAD RIGHT NOW.
WEST
INTERSTATE
80
OKAY, WE KNOW SOMEONE IN THAT SCIENCE BUILDING WAS DIGGING UP SOME OF OUR DEAD SLASHERS AND KILLING PEOPLE FOR FINDING OUT ABOUT IT.
WE'RE ON THE SCENE FOR TEN MINUTES WHEN ONE OF THE LABS JUST FUCKING EXPLODES. THAT'S NO COINCIDENCE.
THE LAB BELONGED TO A PROFESSOR PIOTR RUSEA. HE HAD A SEPARATE OFFICE UPSTAIRS, SO I WENT DIGGING IN HIS PRIVATE FILES.
THIS IS OUR GUY. HE'S BEEN SHIPPING VERY LARGE, EXPENSIVE ITEMS TO AN ADDRESS IN DETROIT FOR THE LAST YEAR OR SO.
EVERY ITEM HAS ITS OWN SET OF SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS, TOO. "LIVE SPECIMEN"... "TEMPERATURE CONTROL"... "VACUUM SEALED CONTAINER".
I MEAN SERIOUSLY.


I AM WORRIED ABOUT THE GIRL. ABOUT EVA.
HER WOUNDS WERE TERRIBLE, BUT HER BODY SEEMS TO BE FIXING ITSELF. THAT IS GOOD, BUT...
YEAH, THAT IS GOOD.
...SHE WAS ANGRY AND CONFUSED. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SHE HAS HEALED? I DID NOT DO A GOOD JOB OF CALMING HER DOWN.
YEAH, SHE'S GONNA BE SERIOUSLY PISSED OFF WHEN SHE WAKES UP IN THE BACK OF A HEARSE, ROLLING AROUND NAKED WITH ALL OUR CLOTHES AND SUPPLIES.
AND WEAPONS.
AND WEAPONS.
PULL OVER, VLAD.
VLAAAAAAD!


WHUMP
I'VE GOT HER! PULL OVER!
MMMGH!
BRAKES.
EVA, CALM DOWN. WE CAN HELP YOU!
LIAR! YOU'RE A SERVANT OF PRAETORIUS! NOW TELL ME WHERE HE'S KEEPING MICHAEL!
I'M GONNA SAY THIS ONE TIME, LADY:
WE. DO. NOT. KNOW. WHAT. YOU'RE. TALKING. ABOUT.
...BUT I THINK WE MAY BE LOOKING FOR THE SAME ASSHOLE, IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING. CAN WE DISCUSS THIS WITH CLOTHES ON AND NO KNIVES?
SO BE IT.


DETROIT, MICHIGAN
12:15 PM
FATHER? MADE THIS?
NO, NO. HE IS A MARVELOUS CREATION, BUT I CANNOT CLAIM HIM.
KEEP THAT CARRIER STEADY ONCE THE ELEVATOR STARTS MOVING. IT TENDS TO JOLT A LITTLE BIT.
DOCTOR PRAETORIOUS DIDN'T GO TO THE TROUBLE OF CAPTURING THAT MONSTER JUST TO HAVE HIM DAMAGED ON ARRIVAL.
YES, DOCTOR. SHALL I STERILIZE THIS LOCATION?
TRUE ENOUGH, EMIL. ANA AND I WILL SEE YOU AT THE MAIN SITE SOON, I TRUST?
NOT JUST YET. LET'S KEEP OUR OPTIONS OPEN.




3:15 P.M.
IF OUR RAT WAS EVER HERE, HE'S SCURRIED OFF BY NOW.
IF YOU TWO HAVE ANY BRIGHT IDEAS, NOW WOULD BE THE TIME TO SOUND OFF.
WE SHOULD DEFINITELY CHECK THE PLACE OUT FROM TOP TO BOTTOM, BUT I'M NOT OPTIMISTIC.
I HAVE A KIND OF... SPECIAL SIGHT.
I CAN SENSE THE DARKNESS THAT HIDES WITHIN A SOUL. SOMETIMES WHEN A BEING BEARS THE MARK OF PURE EVIL, THEY EMIT A UNIQUELY FOUL SPIRITUAL SIGNATURE.
PRAETORIUS WAS HERE. PERHAPS I SHOULD BE THANKFUL I DIDN'T HAVE TO FACE HIM WEARING THESE...HARLOT SCARVES!
YOU WANTED CLOTHES, I GAVE YOU CLOTHES. I'M SORRY YOU THINK I DRESS LIKE A SLUT, EVA, BUT THIS IS THE 21ST CENTURY! WOMEN DON'T RUN AROUND WITH A GOD-LOCK ON THEIR CROTCHES!
A WHORE'S MOUTH TO MATCH A WHORE'S HEART--
--YOU'RE ABOUT TO TAKE A WHORE'S BOOT TO THE HEAD, SISTER MARY STICK-IN-YOUR-ASS.
HRRN. STOP. NOW.


CHECK IT OUT, YO! I THINK I SEE A COUPLE OF TRICKS LOOKIN' FOR A TREAT.
HEY, WHY DON'T YOU BABIES LOSE THAT FREAKY MISTER POTATO HEAD AND LET US SHOW YOU HOW THE LONE WOLVES DO IT, HUH?
MR. POTATO WILL RIP YOUR ARMS OFF AND SEND YOU HOME TO MOTHER, YES?
HANG ON. YOU'RE THE LONE WOLVES? YOU DO KNOW THAT "LONE" MEANS "NOT IN A GROUP", RIGHT? ARE YOU ONE OF THOSE SHORT BUS GANGS?
OH, SHIT. YOU DIDN'T JUST GO THERE. TWO THINGS, CHICA:
YOU DON'T FRONT ON OUR NAME, AND YOU DON'T MAKE RUDE JOKES ABOUT PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS. FOR REAL.
THAT'S KIND OF A STRANGE POINT TO GET ALL HUFFY ABOUT, BUT...OH. I SEE.
WHAT'S UP WITH THE CAMERA, STEVEN SPECIAL-BERG?
I LIKE TO MAKE WEREWOLF MOVIES.
AW, WENDELL. WE TOLD YOU TO KEEP THAT SHIT QUIET!


GO PLAY IN TRAFFIC, PUPPY CHOW. WE'VE GOT GROWN-UP STUFF TO DO.
YOUR FRIEND WAS RIGHT. YOU GOT A WHORE'S MOUTH. TALKIN' THAT KINDA MESS GONNA GET YOU HURT.
YO, SHOW THESE BITCHES HOW WE TREAT...UH... BITCHES.
WE ARE STILL GOING TO INVESTIGATE, YES? I SHOULD GET THE TOOLBOX?
JEEZ, I ALMOST FORGOT.
HEY! TURN AROUND AND SEE WHAT YOU'VE DONE!
I HAVE NO MORE PATIENCE FOR THIS--
QUIET ON THE SET!
SORRY, MIGUEL.
WENDELL, PLEASE. BE COOL, MAN.
GRAAAOOOOO


AAANNNND... ACTION!
GGRRRAAAAAAGGGH
EVA! CASSIE!
WELL MET.
YOU'VE DONE THIS BEFORE, RIGHT?
I WAS KILLING WEREWOLVES BEFORE YOU WERE BORN.
FIVE CENTURIES BEFORE YOU WERE BORN, IN FACT. SO, YES...I'VE "GOT THIS".
RROAAAUGGH
SHRUUK


WHUUH--
CASSANDRA! I AM COMING!
EEEYYAAAAH
GETOFFGET OFFLETGO
GRR
NNNGGGH
FILTHY HELLHOUND!
SHREEEEENK
NNEEUUNF
SHUNK SHUNK
Hunnh Hunnh Hunnh
THEIR LEADER... WHERE IS HE?
JESUS GET IT OFF ME IT HURTS IT HUUURRTS
AAIIOOOOOAAAAH

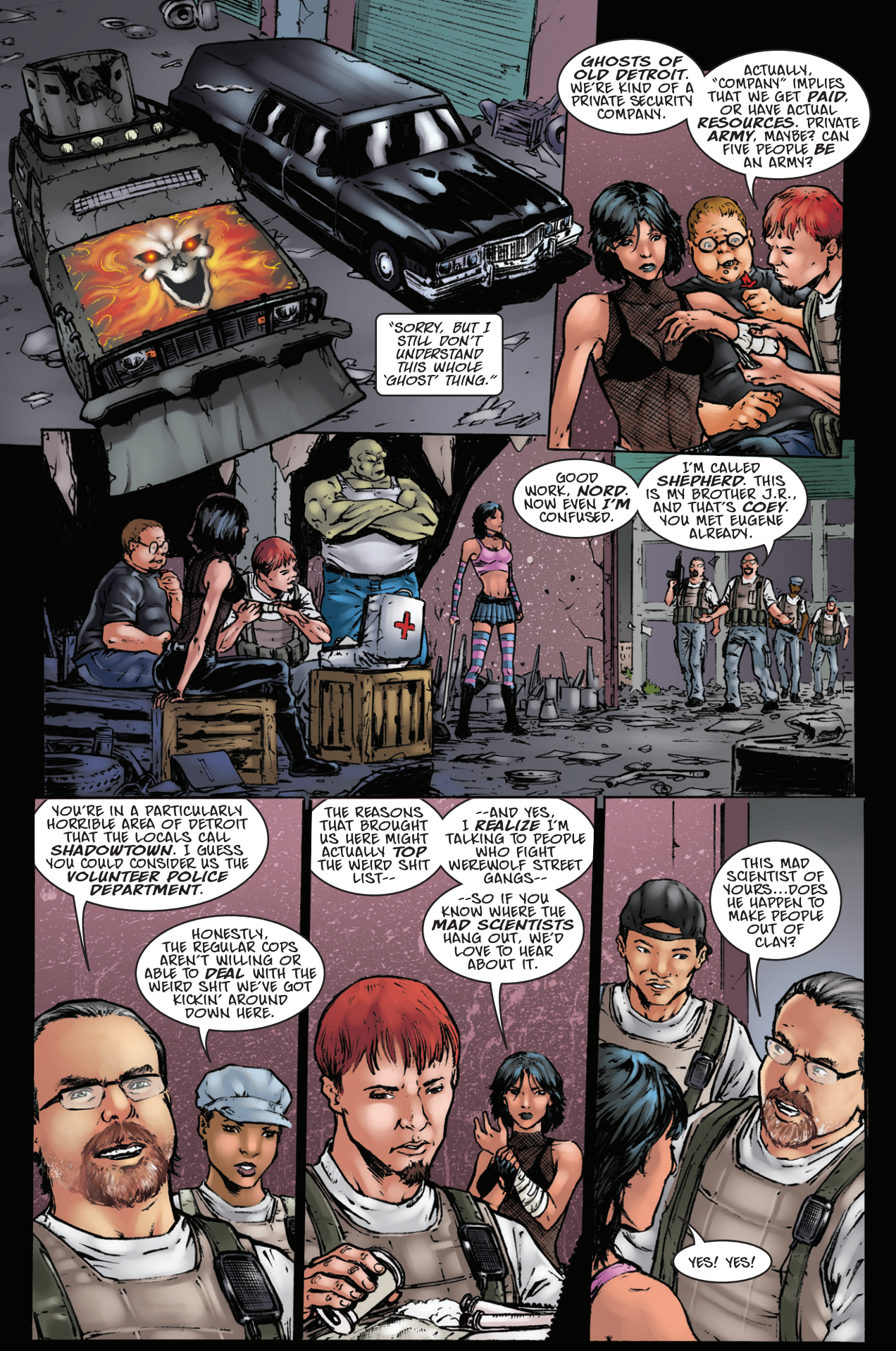

AIIOONH!
AOOORNH!
Y'KNOW, I KINDA REGRET MAKING FUN OF THEIR GANG NAME NOW.
LET THEM COME. TWO OR TWO HUNDRED, IT DOESN'T MATTER.
I AM SORRY I DID NOT PROTECT YOU.
BOTH OF YOU.
KILL THE FREAK. MAKE THE WOMEN BLEED AND WEEP, BUT LEAVE THEM ALIVE.
I WANT TO PLAY WITH THEM BEFORE THEY DIE.

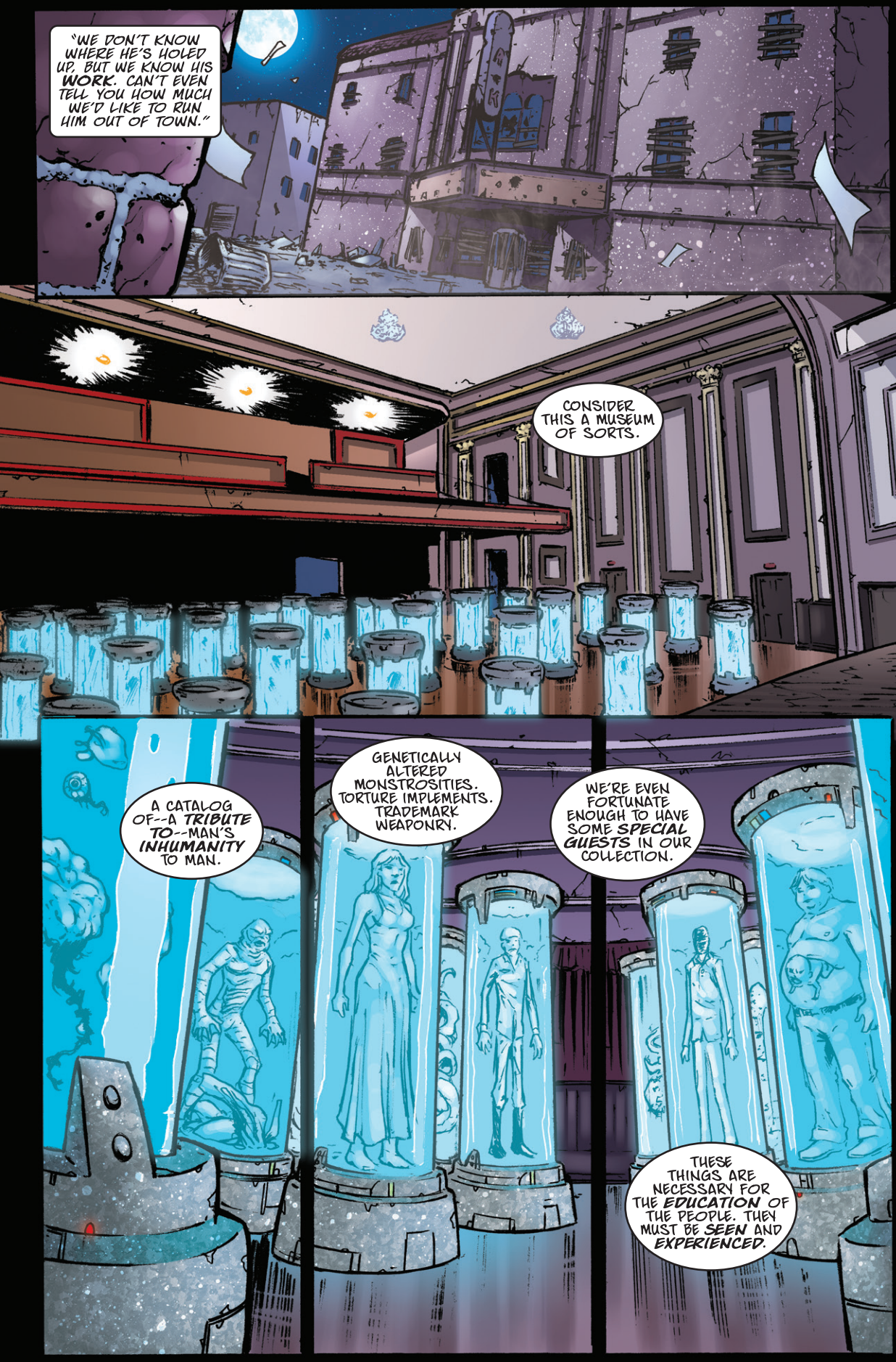

DO YOU HEAR THAT?
YEAH. SOUNDS LIKE THUNDER.
AW, HELL NO.
I KNEW THIS WAS GONNA HAPPEN. I KNEW IT--
WENDELL, GET DOWUUAAGH-
BRAAAAAP
BRAPAP
BRAPAP
BRAAAAAP
BRAPAP
BRAPAP
BRAPAP
BRAPAP
BRAPAP
THAT IS NOT THUNDER.
AAAWWOOOOOOOOOO
BRAAAAAP


BRAAAAAP
BRAAAAAP
RUN, YOU LITTLE BASTARDS! RUN AND HIDE!
BRAPAP
BRAPAP
BRAPAP
BRAPAP
BRAPAP
BRAAAAAP
BRAPAP
BRRUUUMMMMMM


I DON'T FEEL SO Goooooood--
YOU HAVE LOST MUCH BLOOD. REST NOW.
EVA? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
STUPID CAMERA. STUPID GHOSTS. HAVE TO FINISH THE MOVIE. HAVE TO FINISH IT.
GONNA NEED A SCREWDRIVER--
AIIEEEE!
WOLF OR NOT, YOU RUN WITH THEM BY CHOICE. THEIR SINS ARE YOURS, AND THEIR PUNISHMENT AS WELL.
NO!
SPRANG


YOU CANNOT KILL THIS BOY! HE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND. HE CAN NOT UNDERSTAND!
Eeiijuuuh. Eeuh. Eeuh.
I DIDN'T REALIZE. MERCIFUL GOD, YOU...THANK YOU FOR STEPPING IN.
THANK YOU FOR NOT STABBING ME.
THEY'RE COMING BACK.
GHOSTS. THEY'RE THE GHOSTS.
THESE ARE NOT GHOSTS. THEY ARE VERY REAL.
NAAH, THE KID'S GOT IT RIGHT. WE ARE THE GHOSTS. I MEAN, WE'RE TOTALLY REAL AND NOT DEAD OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT, BUT...
...SORRY, I'M BABBLING. POST-WEREWOLF-CHASE ADRENALINE RUSH. MY NAME'S EUGENE. YOU GUYS HAVE A FEW MINUTES TO TALK?


"SORRY, BUT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS WHOLE 'GHOST' THING."
GHOSTS OF OLD DETROIT. WE'RE KIND OF A PRIVATE SECURITY COMPANY.
ACTUALLY, "COMPANY" IMPLIES THAT WE GET PAID, OR HAVE ACTUAL RESOURCES. PRIVATE ARMY, MAYBE? CAN FIVE PEOPLE BE AN ARMY?
GOOD WORK, NORD. NOW EVEN I'M CONFUSED.
I'M CALLED SHEPHERD. THIS IS MY BROTHER J.R., AND THAT'S COEY. YOU MET EUGENE ALREADY.
YOU'RE IN A PARTICULARLY HORRIBLE AREA OF DETROIT THAT THE LOCALS CALL SHADOWTOWN. I GUESS YOU COULD CONSIDER US THE VOLUNTEER POLICE DEPARTMENT.
HONESTLY, THE REGULAR COPS AREN'T WILLING OR ABLE TO DEAL WITH THE WEIRD SHIT WE'VE GOT KICKIN' AROUND DOWN HERE.
THE REASONS THAT BROUGHT US HERE MIGHT ACTUALLY TOP THE WEIRD SHIT LIST--
--AND YES, I REALIZE I'M TALKING TO PEOPLE WHO FIGHT WEREWOLF STREET GANGS--
--SO IF YOU KNOW WHERE THE MAD SCIENTISTS HANG OUT, WE'D LOVE TO HEAR ABOUT IT.
THIS MAD SCIENTIST OF YOURS...DOES HE HAPPEN TO MAKE PEOPLE OUT OF CLAY?
YES! YES!


"WE DON'T KNOW WHERE HE'S HOLED UP, BUT WE KNOW HIS WORK. CAN'T EVEN TELL YOU HOW MUCH WE'D LIKE TO RUN HIM OUT OF TOWN."
CONSIDER THIS A MUSEUM OF SORTS.
A CATALOG OF--A TRIBUTE TO--MAN'S INHUMANITY TO MAN.
GENETICALLY ALTERED MONSTROSITIES. TORTURE IMPLEMENTS. TRADEMARK WEAPONRY.
WE'RE EVEN FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO HAVE SOME SPECIAL GUESTS IN OUR COLLECTION.
THESE THINGS ARE NECESSARY FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE PEOPLE. THEY MUST BE SEEN AND EXPERIENCED.


YOU SEE ANYTHING DOWN THERE?
COEY? EUGENE? DO YOU COPY?
SHEPHERD, YOU ARE NEVER GOING TO BELIEVE THIS ONE. I THINK YOU ALL NEED TO HEAD DOWN HERE AND CHECK IT OUT FOR YOURSELVES.
YOU HEARD THE LADY. IT'S GO-TIME.
GO-TIME? WHAT HAPPENS NOW?
NOW YOU HAVE TO GO HOME, WENDELL. YOU'VE BEEN A BIG HELP TODAY, BUT I WANT YOU TO PROMISE ME YOU'LL GO HOME AND STAY THERE UNTIL YOU HEAR FROM US, OKAY?
YEAH. OKAY. I GUESS.
ONE MORE THING: LADIES, I JUST CAN'T GO MARCHING INTO A HOT-ZONE WITH YOU TWO LOOKING LIKE THE PUSSYCAT DOLLS...NO OFFENSE.
I'M GONNA NEED YOU TO PUT ON SOME PROPER GEAR.


FOR ALL HIS FAULTS, VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN WAS A GENIUS. YOUR CREATOR DESERVES ONLY THE HIGHEST OF PRAISE.
YOU HAVE A STRANGE WAY OF SHOWING RESPECT FOR HIS WORK. WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH ME?
I'M GOING TO HELP YOU REACH YOUR FULL POTENTIAL, MICHAEL. JUST AS VICTOR INTENDED.
YOU CARRY A SECRET WITHIN YOUR CONSTRUCTION.
IT IS A HIDDEN FUNCTION THAT WILL ALLOW ME TO CREATE NEW LIFE OUT OF THE DEAD MATERIAL OF MANKIND'S FAILURE.
I'M BEING RUDE. I HAVEN'T EVEN INTRODUCED YOU TO MY COLLABORATOR IN THIS GRAND UNDERTAKING. ANA, IF YOU WOULD...?


THIS MAY BE CONFUSING AT FIRST, BUT I PROMISE I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING. MICHAEL, PLEASE SAY HELLO TO YOUR OTHER CREATOR...
...MARY SHELLEY LOVECRAFT.
TO BE CONTINUED!