

WITCHBLADE

#177



RON MARZ • LAURA BRAGA • BETSY GONIA

www.topcow.com



Laura
Braga
2011

image

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TROY PETERI • *letterer*

DARKNESS ON THE EDGE OF TOWN

PART ONE

Cover A • Laura Braga & Betsy Gonia

Cover B • John Tyler Christopher

WITCHBLADE CREATED BY MARC SILVESTRI, DAVID WOHL, BRIAN HABERLIN, & MICHAEL TURNER



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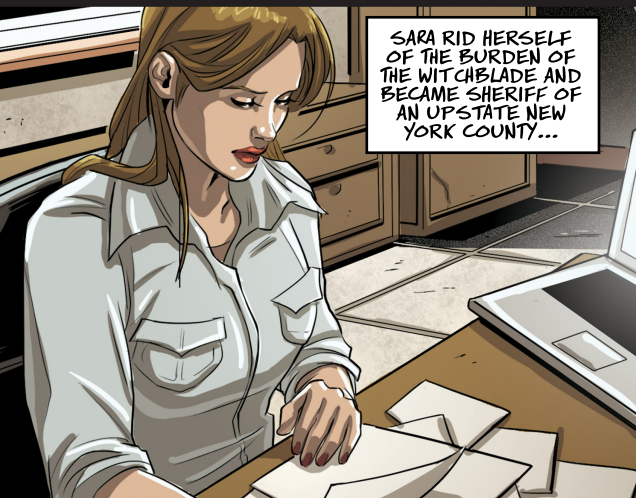
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PREVIOUSLY IN WITCHBLADE

SARA PEZZINI WAS A NEW YORK CITY POLICE DETECTIVE, BUT HER LIFE CHANGED FOREVER WHEN SHE CAME INTO POSSESSION OF A POWERFUL ARTIFACT CALLED THE WITCHBLADE.

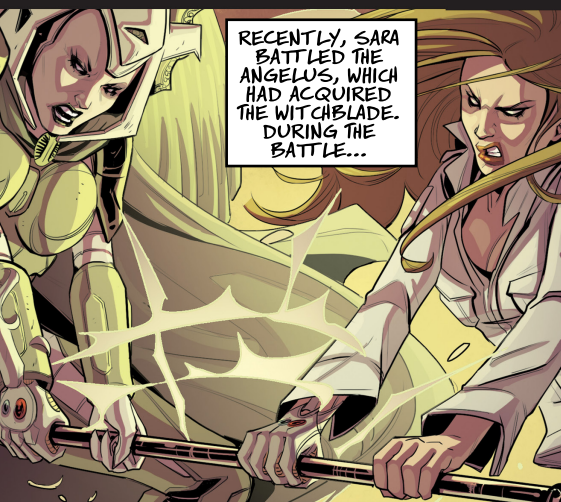
THOUGH THE WITCHBLADE MOST OFTEN TAKES THE FORM OF A MYSTIC GAUNTLET, IN TRUTH IT IS THE OFFSPRING OF THE UNIVERSE'S PRIMAL FORCES, THE DARKNESS AND THE ANGELUS, AND MEANT TO ACT AS A BALANCE BETWEEN THE DARK AND THE LIGHT.



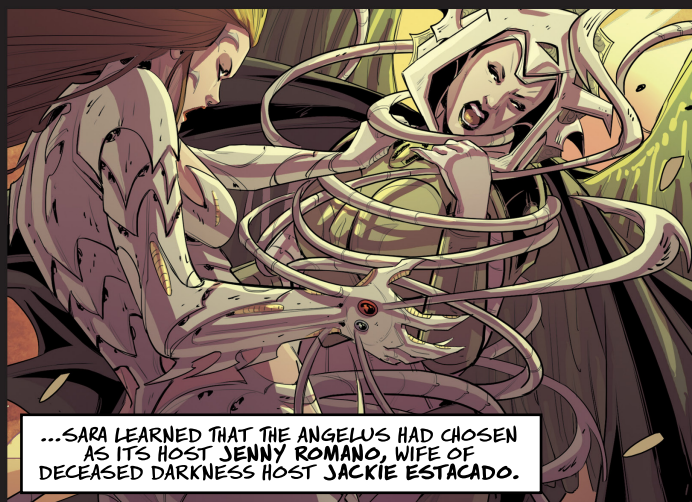
SARA RID HERSELF OF THE BURDEN OF THE WITCHBLADE AND BECAME SHERIFF OF AN UPSTATE NEW YORK COUNTY...



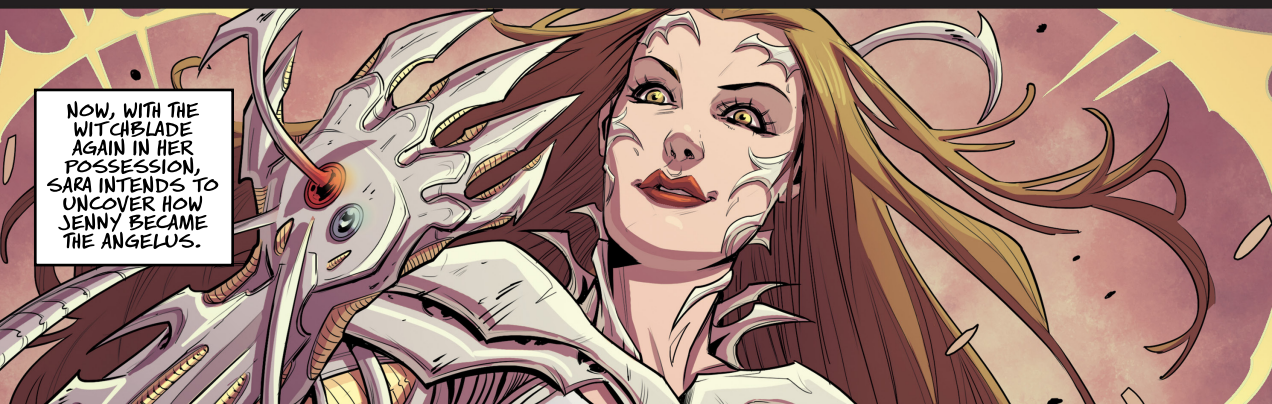
...INHERITING A STAFF THAT INCLUDED DEPUTY KATE ROONEY.



RECENTLY, SARA BATTLED THE ANGELUS, WHICH HAD ACQUIRED THE WITCHBLADE. DURING THE BATTLE...



...SARA LEARNED THAT THE ANGELUS HAD CHOSEN AS ITS HOST JENNY ROMANO, WIFE OF DECEASED DARKNESS HOST JACKIE ESTACADO.

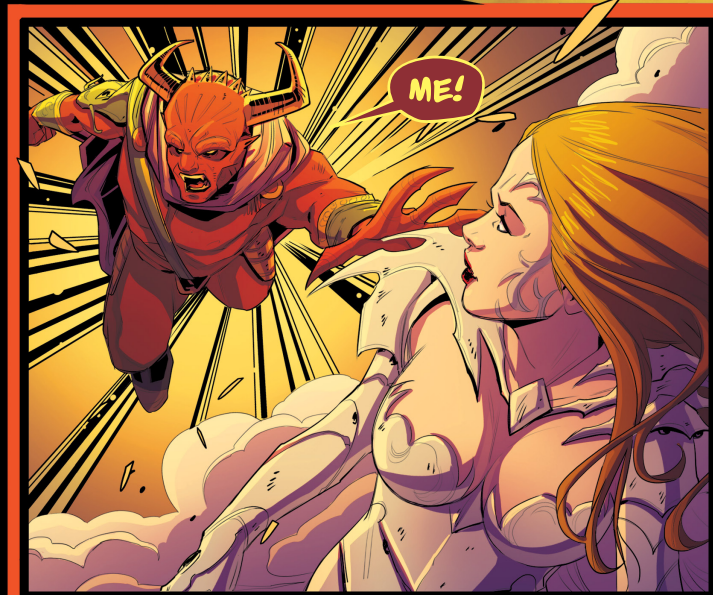


NOW, WITH THE WITCHBLADE AGAIN IN HER POSSESSION, SARA INTENDS TO UNCOVER HOW JENNY BECAME THE ANGELUS.





NEXT?



ME!



AHFF!

NO ONE COMES INTO OUR DEN AND MAKES DEMANDS...





THIS
WOULD BE
A LOT
SIMPLER...



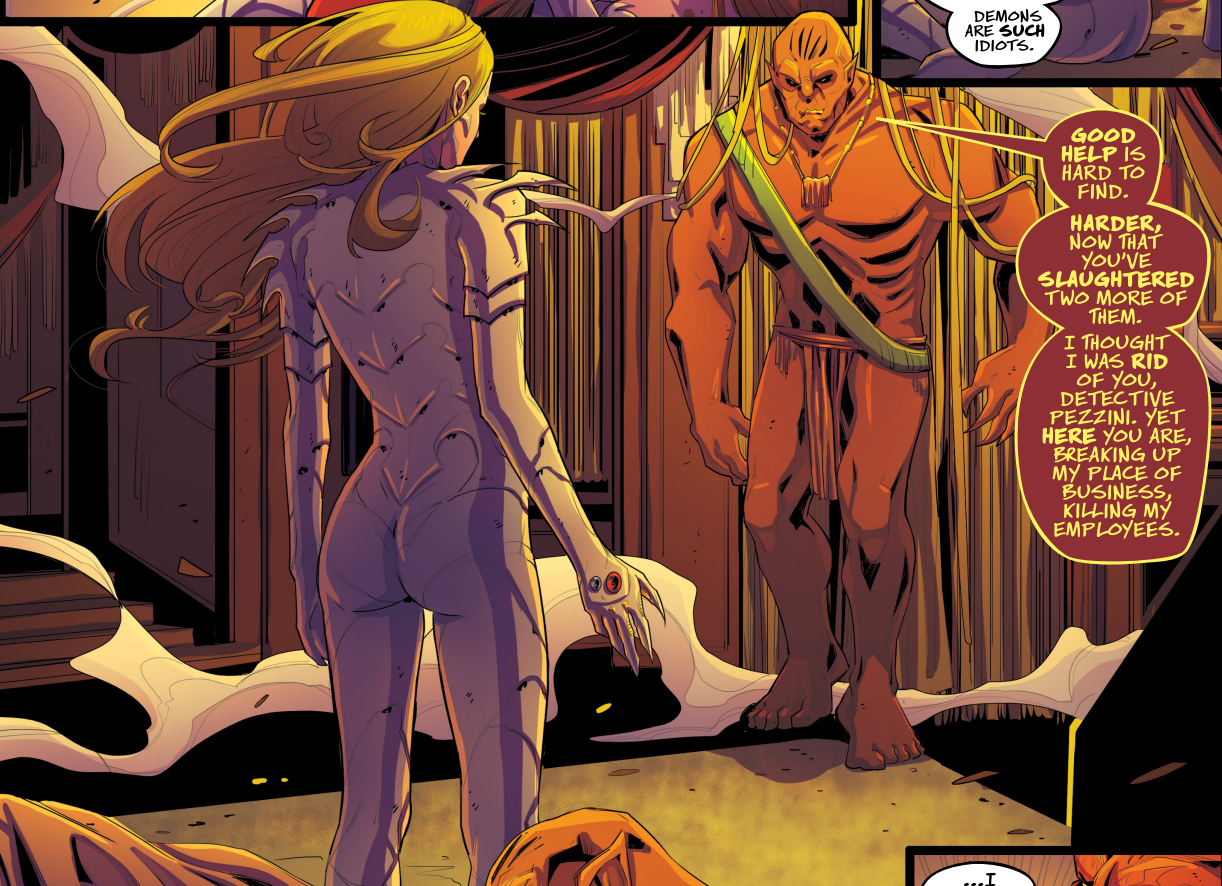
SHLUKT

GLLK.



...IF YOU'D
JUST ANSWER
MY DAMN
QUESTIONS AND
NOT TRY TO
KILL ME.

DEMONS
ARE SUCH
IDIOTS.



GOOD
HELP IS
HARD TO
FIND.

HARDER,
NOW THAT
YOU'VE
SLAUGHTERED
TWO MORE OF
THEM.

I THOUGHT
I WAS RID
OF YOU,
DETECTIVE
PEZZINI. YET
HERE YOU ARE,
BREAKING UP
MY PLACE OF
BUSINESS,
KILLING MY
EMPLOYEES.



THIS
DOES NOT
PLEASE
ME.

LIKE
I GIVE
A SHIT,
YANG.

BY THE
WAY...



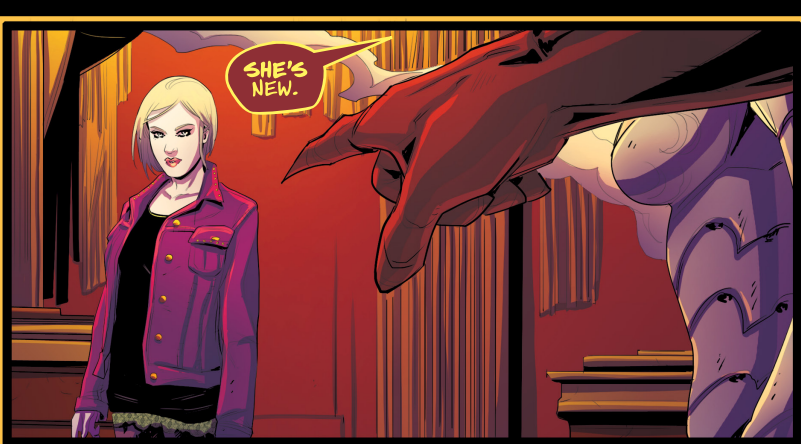
...I
OWE YOU
THIS.

GHH.

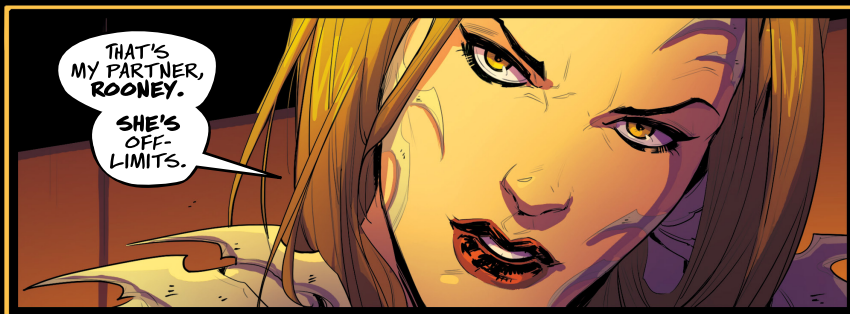


GOT THAT
OUT OF YOUR
SYSTEM?

LONG
MEMORY.



SHE'S
NEW.



THAT'S
MY PARTNER,
ROONEY.

SHE'S
OFF-
LIMITS.



WHY ARE
YOU HERE,
PEZZINI?

MAYBE I JUST
GOT TIRED OF
DEMONS RUNNING
GAMBLING, DRUGS,
AND WHORES IN
CHINATOWN.



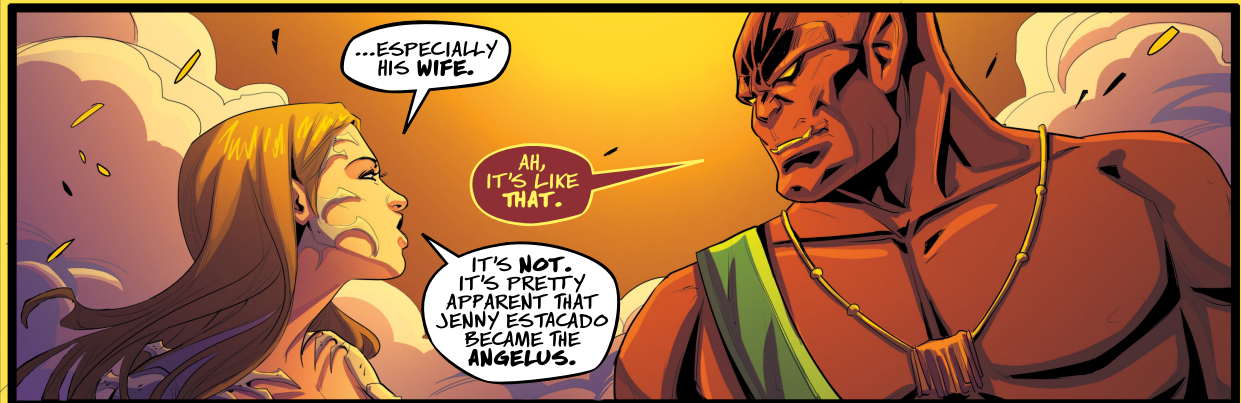
IT NEVER
BOtherED YOU
BEFORE, AS
LONG AS
NOBODY GOT
HURT.

TRY
AGAIN?



YOU'VE
TAKEN OVER THE
TERRITORY THAT
JACKIE ESTACADO'S
ORGANIZATION
USED TO CONTROL,
YANG.

I WANT
TO KNOW WHAT
HAPPENED TO
HIS PEOPLE...



...ESPECIALLY HIS WIFE.

AH, IT'S LIKE THAT.

IT'S NOT. IT'S PRETTY APPARENT THAT JENNY ESTACADO BECAME THE ANGELUS.



SHE EVEN TOOK THIS FROM ME FOR A TIME. SO I WANT TO KNOW HOW AND WHY.

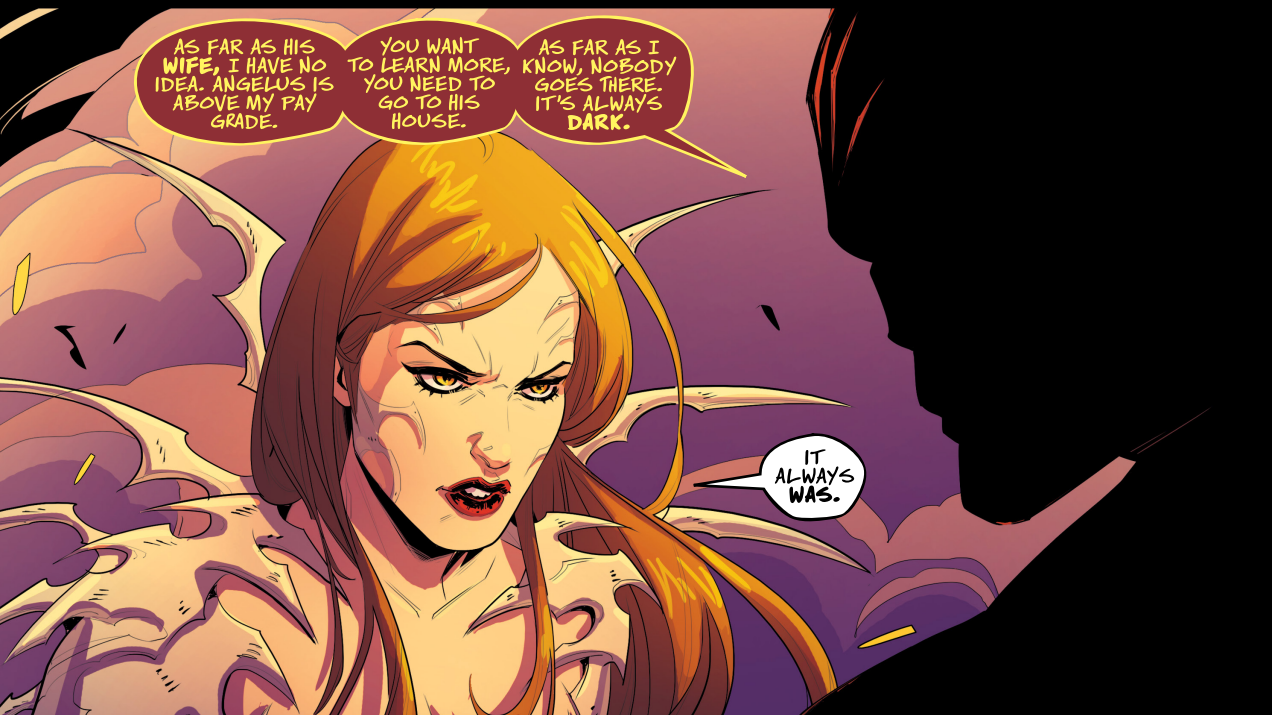


EVER THE DETECTIVE.



IT WAS HARD FOR MY KIND TO COMPETE WITH ESTACADO, HIM BEING WHAT HE WAS. BUT ONCE HE WAS GONE, WE FILLED THE VOID.

YOU HUMANS LIKE YOUR VICES, AND YOU DON'T CARE WHO SUPPLIES THEM.

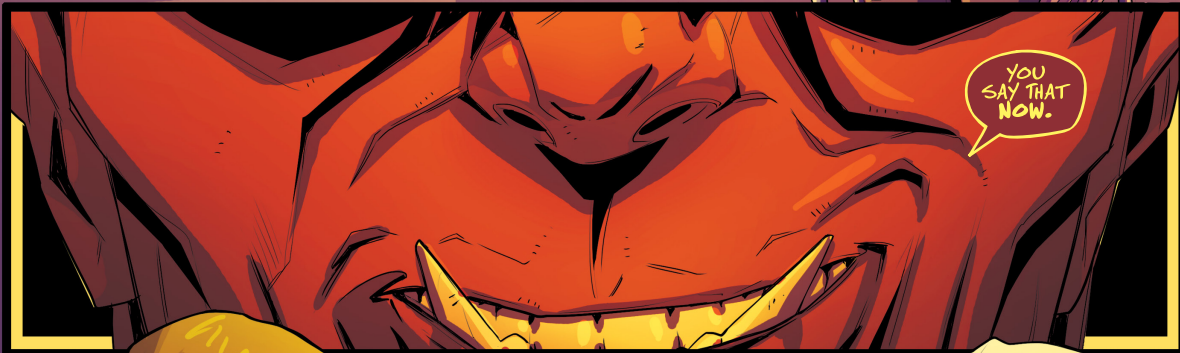
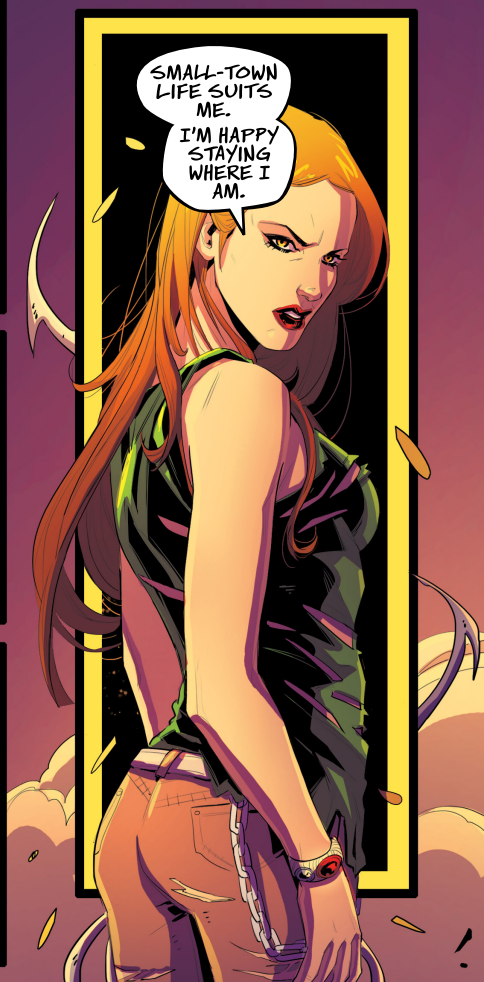
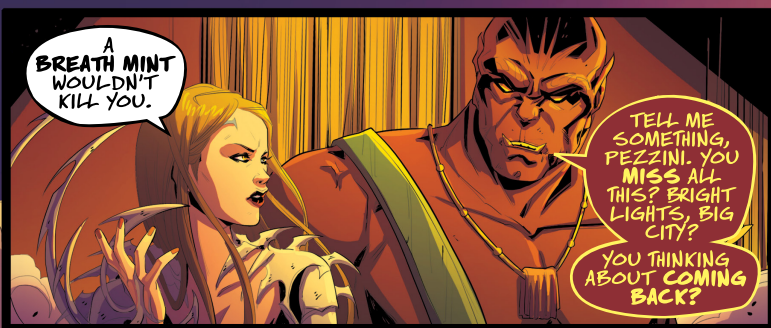


AS FAR AS HIS WIFE, I HAVE NO IDEA. ANGELUS IS ABOVE MY PAY GRADE.

YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE, YOU NEED TO GO TO HIS HOUSE.

AS FAR AS I KNOW, NOBODY GOES THERE. IT'S ALWAYS DARK.

IT ALWAYS WAS.





...INTRODUCING ME TO A WHOLE OTHER WORLD, SARA.

DON'T EVER FORGET THIS WORLD HAS TEETH AND CLAWS. AND WORSE.



I'M JUST GLAD YOU LET ME COME WITH YOU. I DON'T EVEN GET INTO NEW YORK CITY VERY OFTEN, MUCH LESS SEE ... WELL, WHAT I SAW.

I DO LIKE IT, EVEN IF IT'S DANGEROUS.



PROBABLY THE MOST DANGEROUS THING WE DID IS LEAVE PILCHER IN CHARGE FOR A FEW DAYS. THE TOWN MIGHT BE GONE BY THE TIME WE GET BACK.



BUT IT'S NOT LIKE WE'VE ACTUALLY SOLVED ANYTHING WITH THIS TRIP. WE STILL DON'T KNOW ANY MORE ABOUT JENNY ESTACADO OR THE ANGELUS.

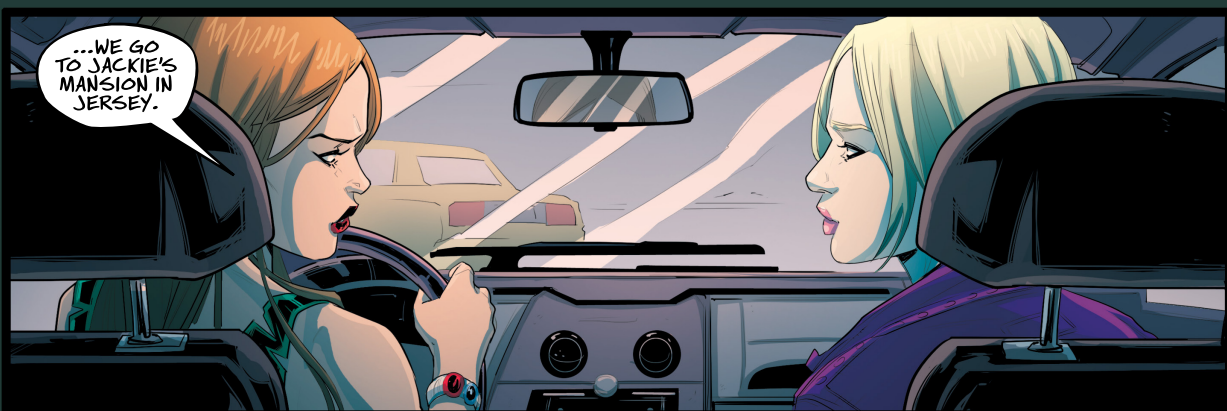
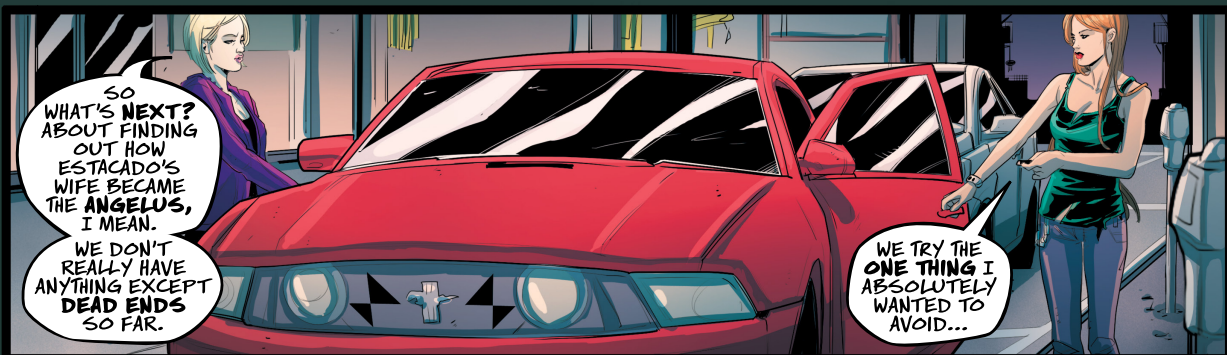
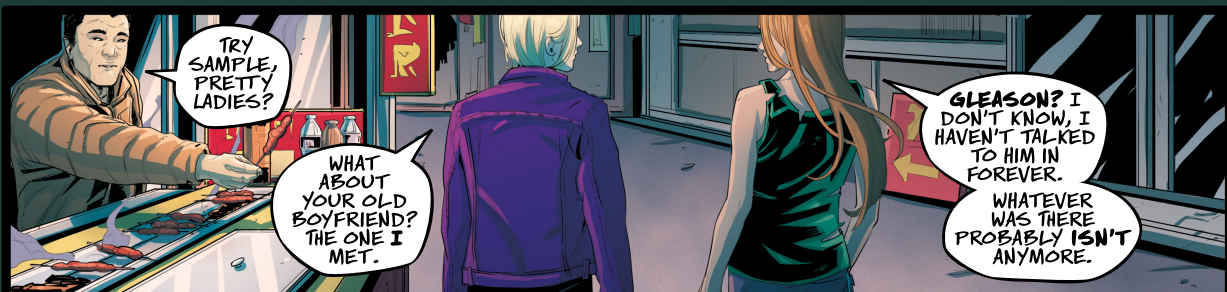
COMING HERE HAS BEEN A WASTE OF TIME SO FAR.

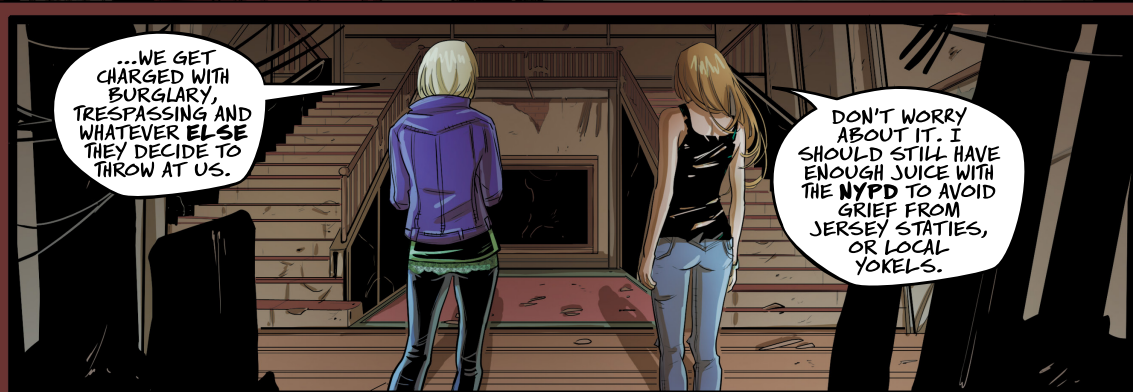


SO DO YOU?

DO I WHAT?

MISS NEW YORK CITY.





I'M NOT
EVEN SURE
HOW TO
DESCRIBE HIM.
HE HAD HIS
CODE, YOU
KNOW?

I DON'T
THINK HE WAS
EVIL, BUT
HE DID EVIL
THINGS.

HE WAS
ALSO THE
FATHER OF MY
DAUGHTER.

I DIDN'T
KNOW YOU
HAD A
DAUGHTER.

I REALLY DON'T.
NOT ANYMORE.

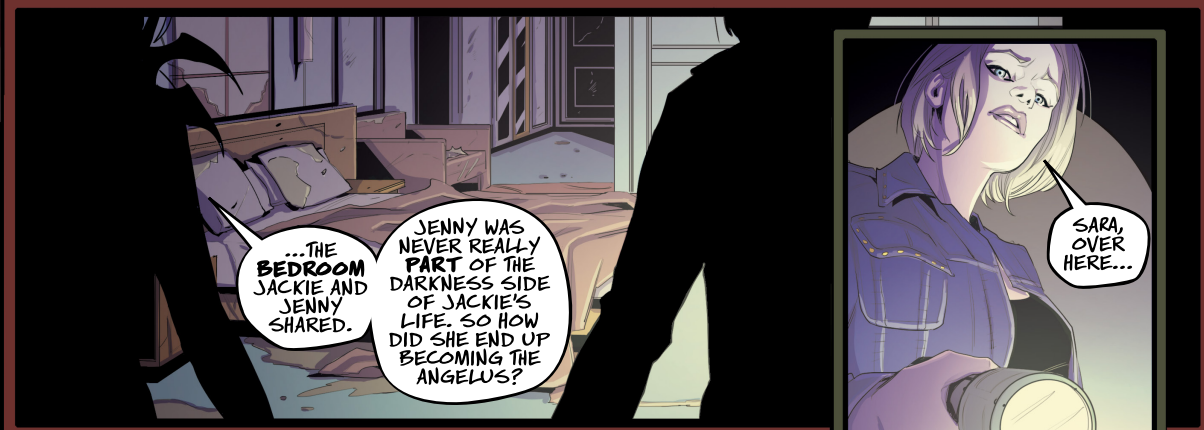
IT'S COMPLICATED.
NOT "IT'S
COMPLICATED" LIKE A
MESSY RELATIONSHIP,
BUT IN A "THE UNIVERSE
WAS REMADE" KIND
OF WAY.

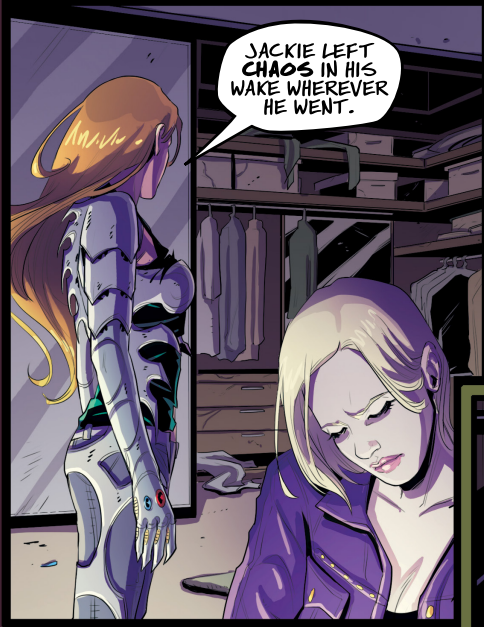
I DON'T
EXPECT YOU TO
UNDERSTAND ALL
THIS, RODNEY. BUT
HOPE WAS MY
DAUGHTER...

...AND THEN, IN
ORDER TO SAVE
THE UNIVERSE,
SHE WASN'T.

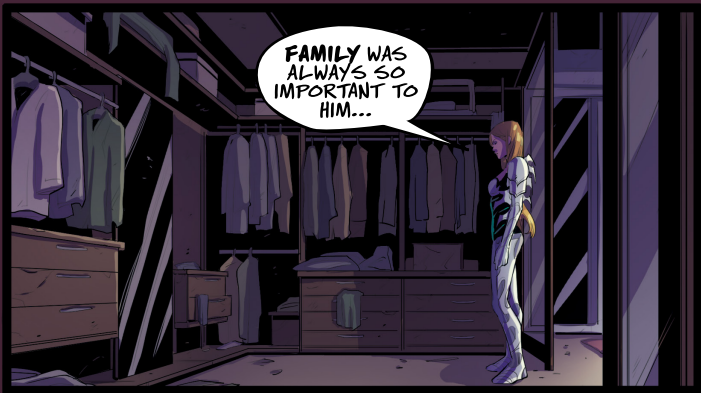
JACKIE MADE
HIMSELF A PERFECT
LITTLE FAMILY.
BROUGHT HIS LADY
LOVE BACK, AND TOOK
OUR DAUGHTER TO
BE THEIRS.

BUT
THAT'S IN THE PAST.
OR A
PAST.

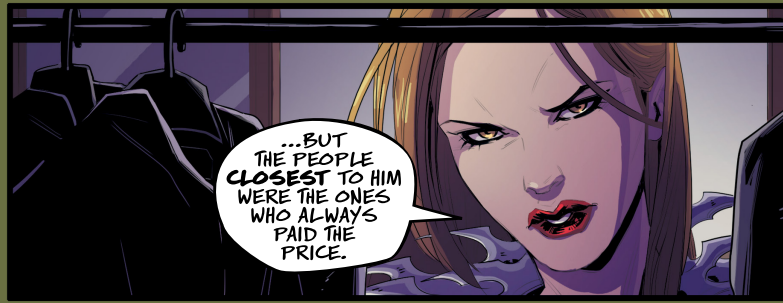




JACKIE LEFT
CHAOS IN HIS
WAKE WHEREVER
HE WENT.



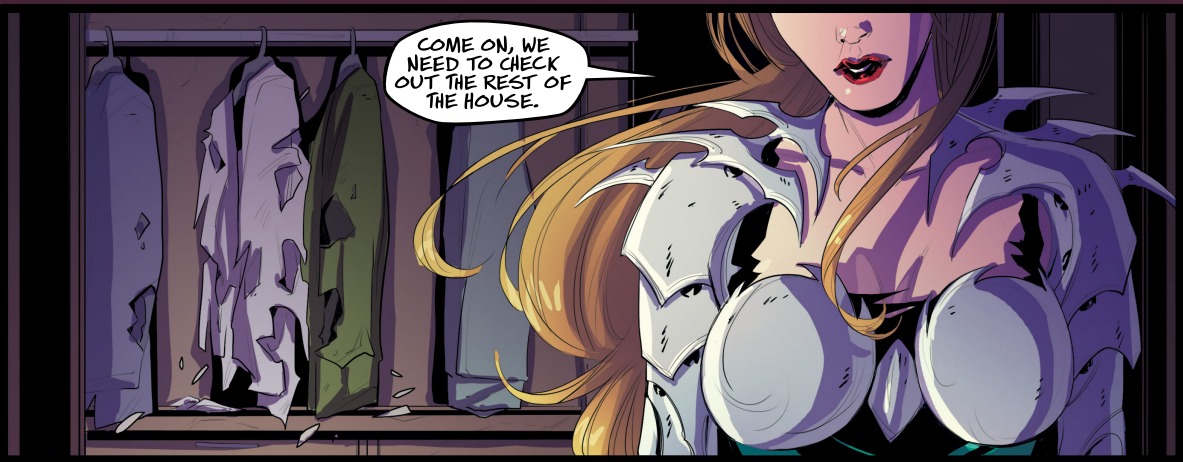
FAMILY WAS
ALWAYS SO
IMPORTANT TO
HIM...



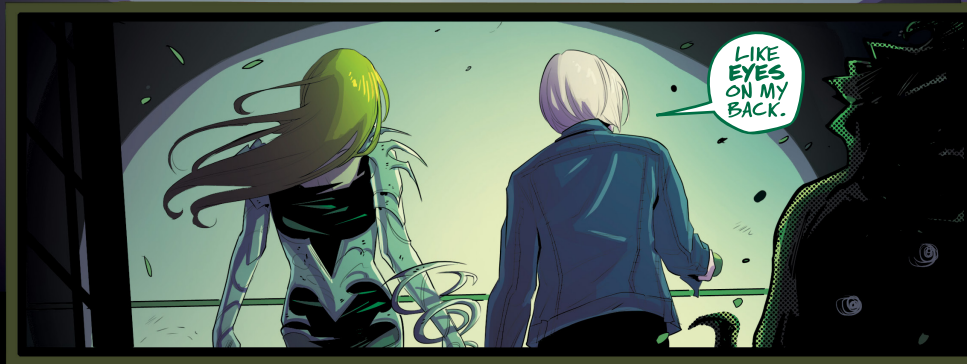
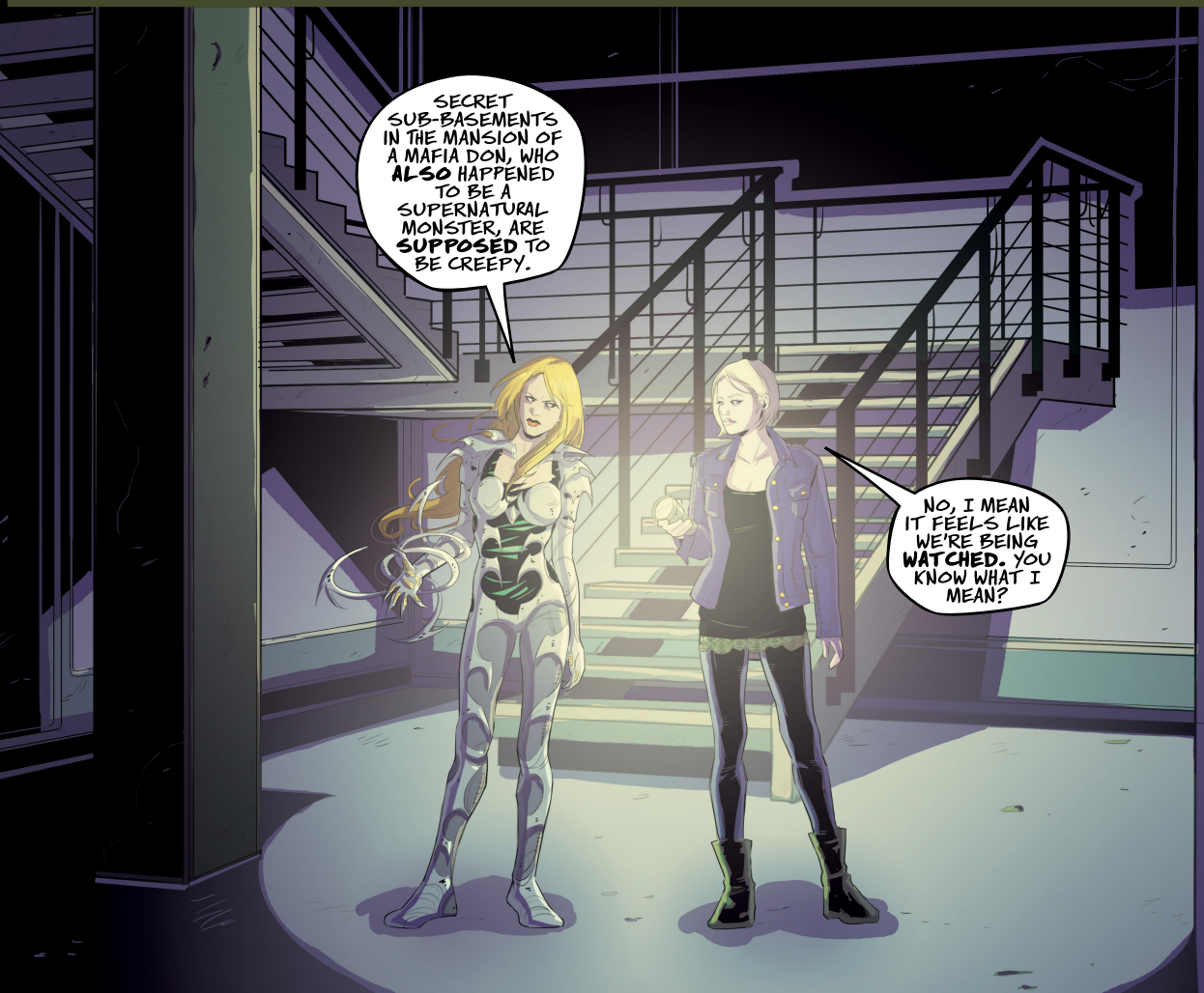
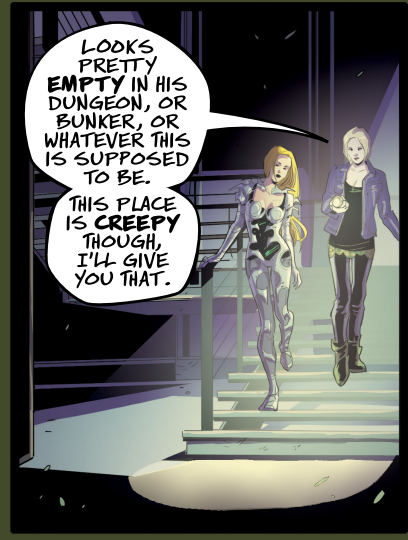
...BUT
THE PEOPLE
CLOSEST TO HIM
WERE THE ONES
WHO ALWAYS
PAID THE PRICE.

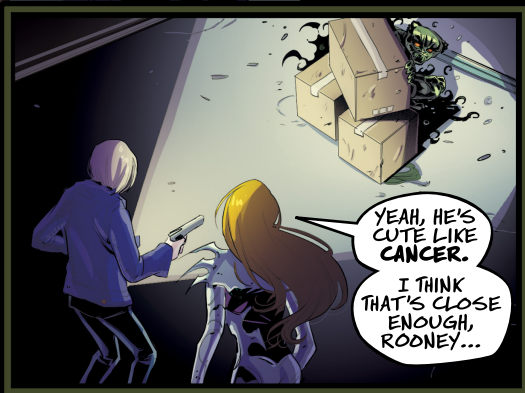
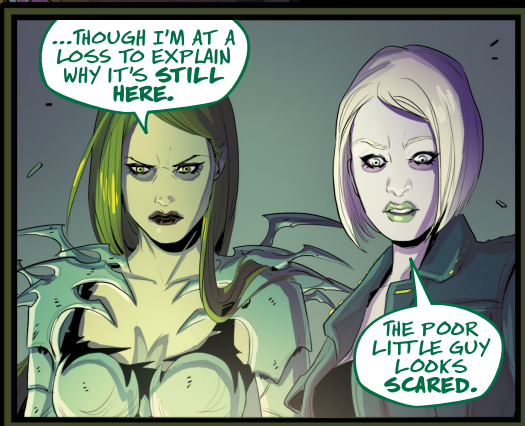


THE ONES
HE HURT THE
MOST.

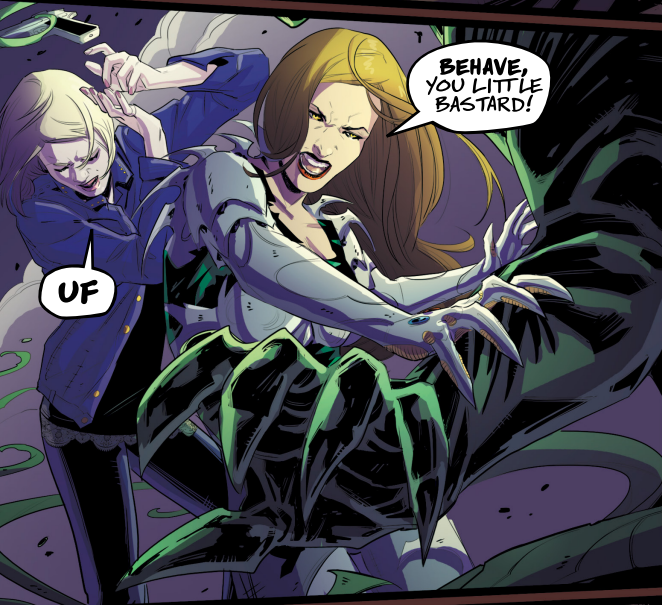
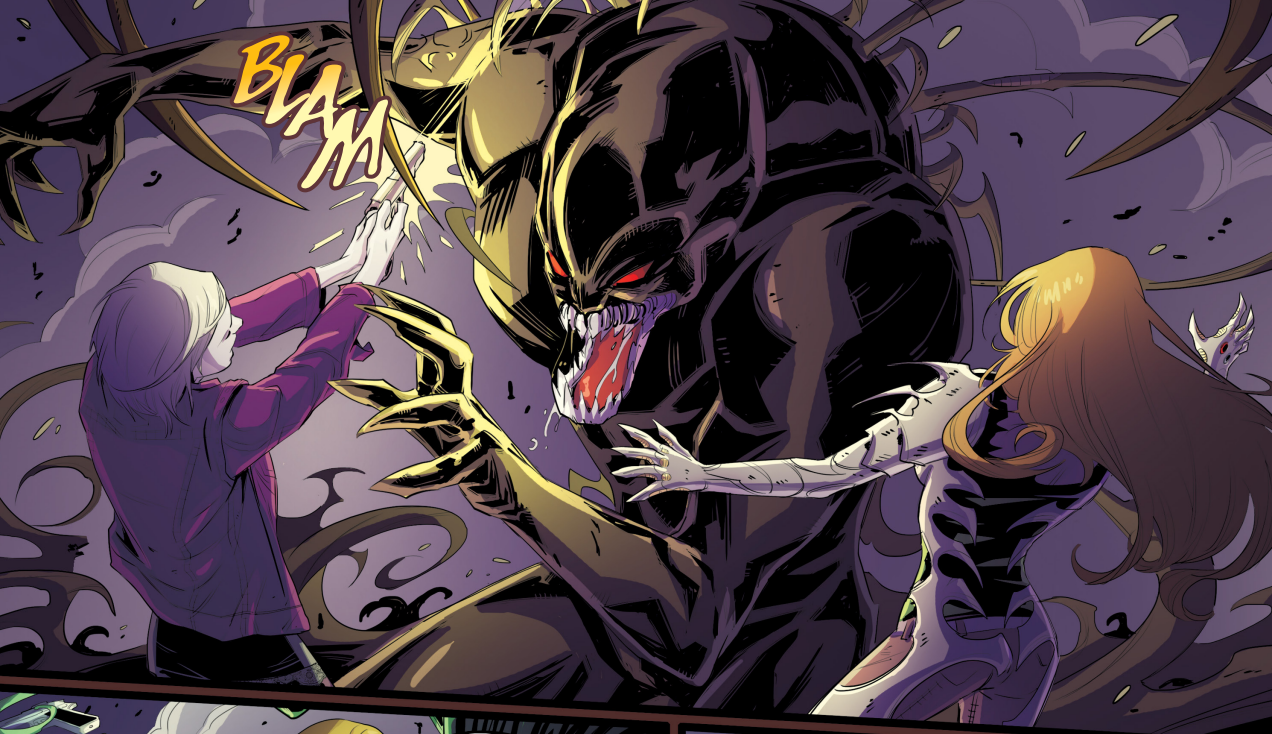


COME ON, WE
NEED TO CHECK
OUT THE REST OF
THE HOUSE.



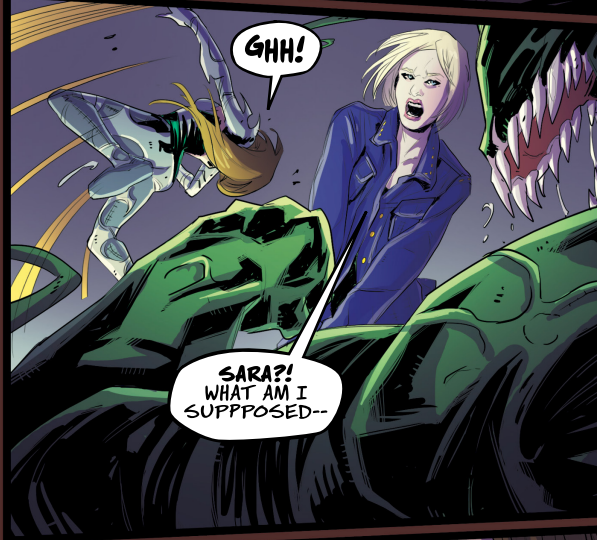






BEHAVE,
YOU LITTLE
BASTARD!

UF

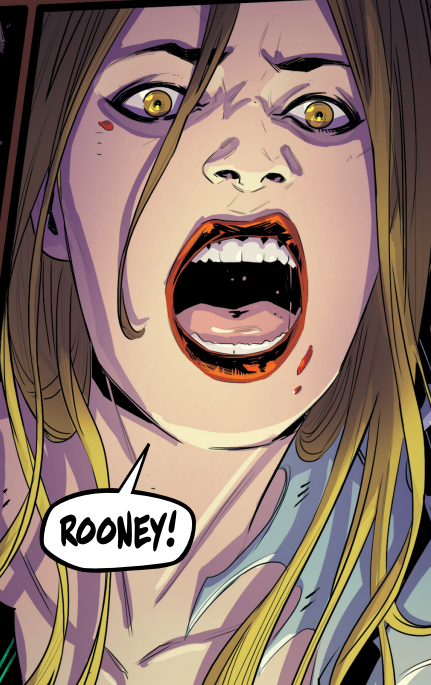


GHH!

SARA?!
WHAT AM I
SUPPOSED--



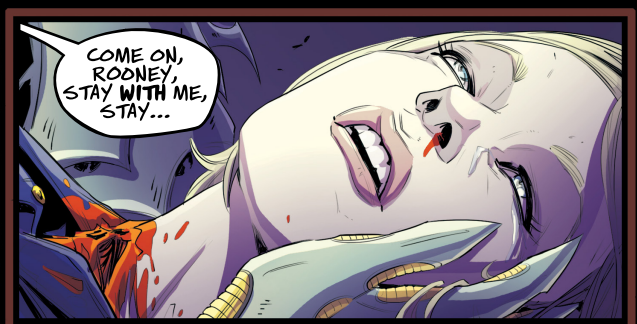
AAAGH!



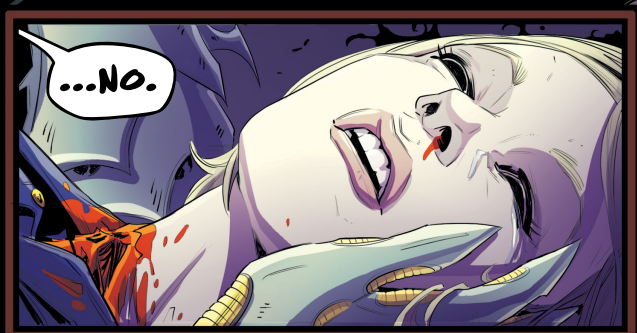
ROONEY!



AAHHNN...



COME ON,
ROONEY,
STAY WITH ME,
STAY...



...NO.



IT'S THE
DARKNESS
VIRUS...

TO BE CONTINUED!

Next Issue:

WITCHBLADE[®]

#178



“Darkness on the Edge of Town, Part Two”



**CAN A CARPET REPAIR BOY
AND A FROG**

**BE HEROES OF THE
UNIVERSE?**

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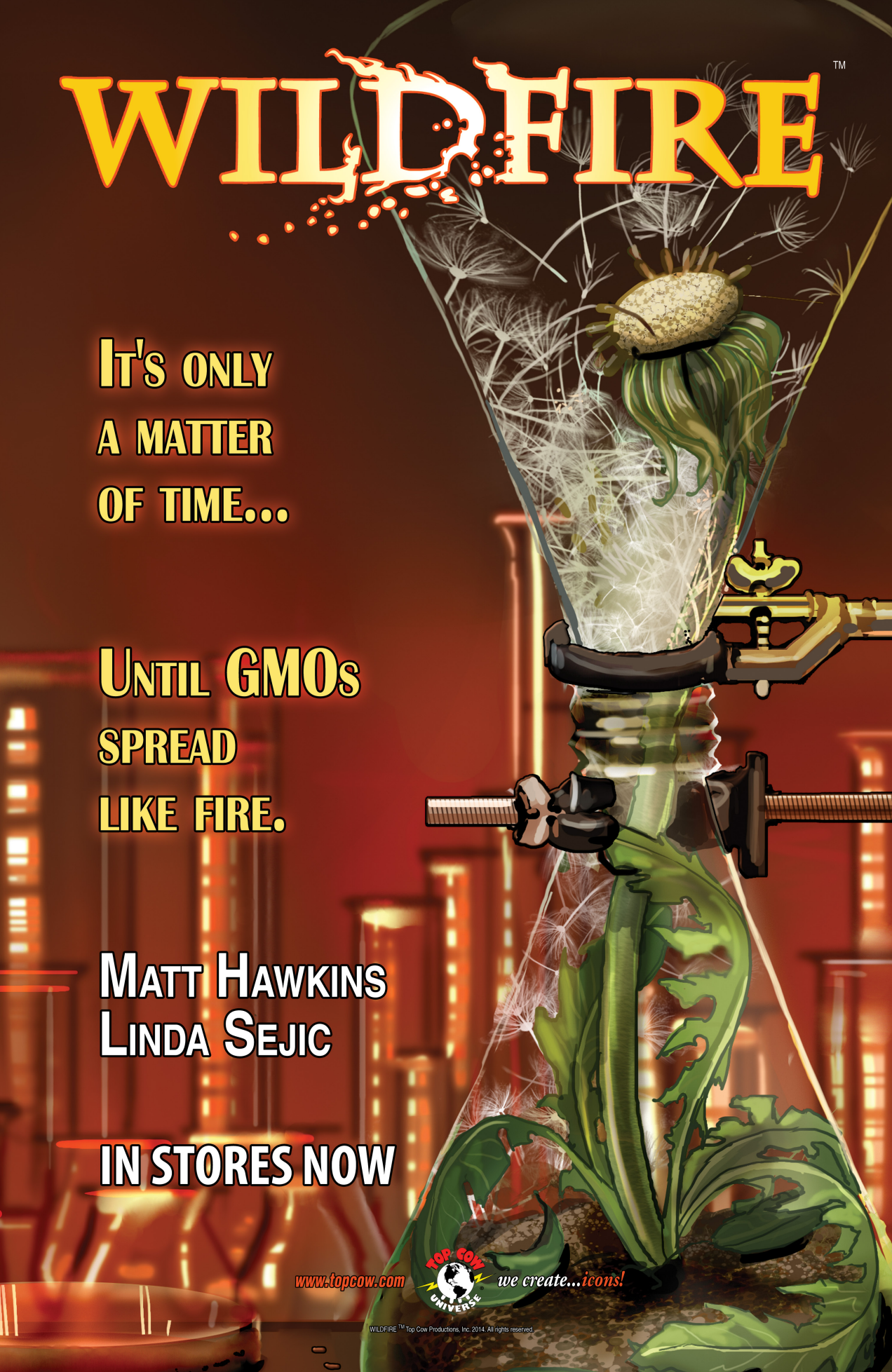
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WILDFIRE™

A detailed illustration of a dandelion seed head placed inside a laboratory flask. The flask is held by a metal clamp. In the background, a Bunsen burner is lit, creating a warm, orange glow that fills the scene. The dandelion's seeds are shown blowing away from the head, some caught in the air and others settling on the flask's surface. The overall theme is the rapid spread of GMOs, likened to a wildfire.

IT'S ONLY
A MATTER
OF TIME...

UNTIL GMOs
SPREAD
LIKE FIRE.

MATT HAWKINS
LINDA SEJIC

IN STORES NOW

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THE CENTRAL
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**JULY
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**THINGS
HAVE GONE
VERY
WRONG**



SUPREME

**WARREN ELLIS
TULA LOTAY**

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A SEQUEL SERIES TO THE FAN-FAVORITE BY JOSH HOWARD

DEAD@17™

THE BLASPHEMY THRONE

THE COUNTDOWN TO EARTH'S FINAL HOURS HAS BEGUN

AUGUST
2014



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ADAM MCGOVERN

PAOLO LEANDRI

NIGHTWORLD™

A FOUR-PART THRILL RIDE TO HELL STARTS
AUGUST 2014



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YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE MAD

about getting partnered with a foul-mouthed, cynical old homicide cop

TO WORK HERE

inside a five-mile tin can packed with a half million people 22,000 miles in orbit

BUT IT damn sure **HELPS,** you prick.



**FL
SE**

THE

VOLUME ONE



22,000 MILES UP, THERE IS NO BACKUP.

ANTONY JOHNSTON • JUSTIN GREENWOOD

with **SHARI CHANKHAMMA • ED BRISSON**

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FROM THE CREATORS OF SKULLKICKERS AND LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT
COMES THIS GENERATION'S BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER IN

Wayward™

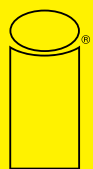
JIM ZUB • STEVE CUMMINGS

RORI IS A BIT OF AN OUTSIDER, A WEIRDO...

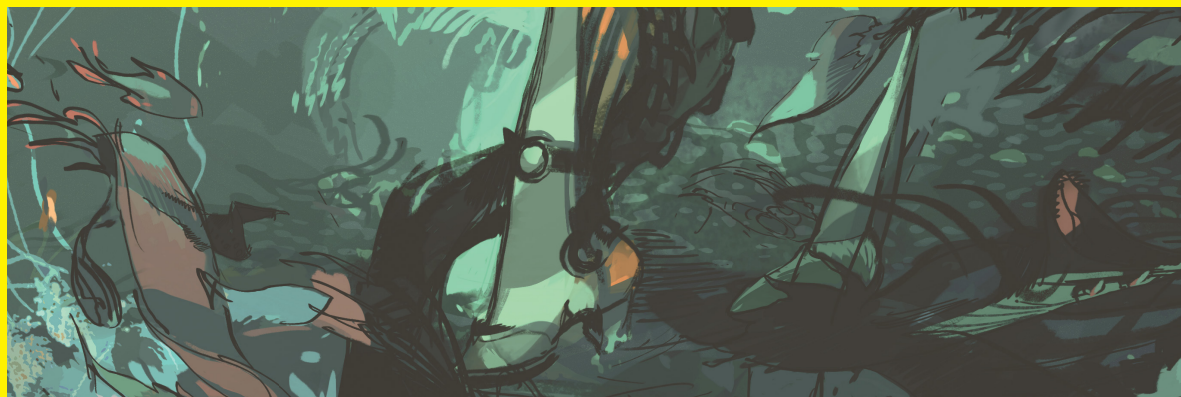
BUT THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET
A WHOLE LOT WEIRDER FOR RORI
WHEN SHE MOVES TO TOKYO.



AUGUST 2014
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IS FOR IMMERSIVE



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