VISIONARY CREATORS















THE ODDLY PEDESTRIAN LIFE OF CHRISTOPHER CHAOS

From *New York Times* best-selling writers James Tynion IV and Tate Brombal and the artist Isaac Goodhart comes this LGBTQ+ horror-hero coming-of-age story that's *Invincible* meets *Doom Patrol*.

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GRENDEL: DEVIL BY THE DEED MASTER'S EDITION

The original tale of the dashing and diabolical Hunter Rose was deceptively brief, considering its cultural impact. Over the years, Wagner has expanded on the story of Hunter Rose, and now he weaves the most dramatic of those elements into a brand-new graphic novel. *Grendel: Devil by the Deed—Master's Edition* is Matt Wagner at the height of his artistic and storytelling prowess, featuring 120 all-new story pages that will dazzle first-time and longtime readers alike.

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DRACULA BOOK 1: THE IMPALER

Comic book veterans Matt Wagner and Kelley Jones join forces on this new graphic novel take on the world's most famous vampire! The first of four planned volumes, *The Impaler* explores the legendary count before his debut in the novel—from his first foray into the dark arts to his rise to lord of the undead!

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SISTER IMPERATOR

Sister Imperator, the mysterious and powerful figure from official Ghost lore, has her origins revealed! Integral to the band's story since its founding, Sister Imperator is a representative of the Clergy, and has been shrouded in secrecy—until now. Discover her clandestine history and the disturbing events that led her to becoming the woman both loved and feared by so many, from her innocent beginnings in small-town New England to the force behind Ghost.

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MINOR THREATS

A new original comic series from Patton Oswalt and Jordan Blum—showrunners of *Marvel's M.O.D.O.K.* on Hulu—and superstar artist Scott Hepburn! In the vein of *Sin City*, *Watchmen*, and *The Boys*, this noir-ish superhero caper focuses on a lower-class kind of criminal, similar to the Coen Bros' most pulpy films but set in a high-concept world of heroes and villains.

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Volume 2 · 9781506739564 · TP · $19.99 US | $25.99 CA · On Sale Now

FROM THE WORLD OF MINOR THREATS: THE ALTERNATES

Spinning out of the world of the hit *Minor Threats* superhero series comes a new tale of costumed underdogs—featuring a support group for superheroes struggling to reclaim their mediocre lives after tasting their true potential.

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ARCHIE VS. MINOR THREATS

A comics crossover event between the hit *Minor Threats* series by Patton Oswalt, Jordan Blum, and Scott Hepburn with the perennial favorite *Archie* series. Not a hoax! Not a dream! The fun-loving teens of Riverdale collide with the crooked super-criminals of Twilight City in the most bombastic crossover of the year! It's your favorite high schoolers forced to fight your favorite costumed villains in a story that will have lasting ramifications on all involved!

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DARK HORSE BOOKS

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VISIONARY CREATORS

BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS

Brian Michael Bendis, the *New York Times* best-selling, Peabody and multiple Eisner Award–winning cocreator of Miles Morales, Naomi, and Jessica Jones, has been one of the biggest names in comics since the late 1990s. Working extensively with Marvel and DC Comics on some of their most legendary series, he has also released some of the most daring, innovative, and award-winning original graphic novels in the history of the medium under his Jinxworld banner.



PEARL

The beginning of a masterful saga involving art, crime, loyalty, and passion. Pearl Tanaka's an outsider among outsiders. A Japanese American with albinism, she was born into a world ruled by the American yakuza. Now she uses her unequaled skills as a tattoo artist to make a living in San Francisco. That all changes the day that she meets Rick Araki . . . and saves his life. Rick is another tattoo artist who's run afoul of a different yakuza clan. By interfering with their hit on him, Pearl risks drawing her patron into a deadly gang war.

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JOY OPERATIONS

Fifty-five years from now. Joy is an EN-VOI. A special agent of the Jonando Trust. Trusts are corporate-owned cities that are the centerpiece of modern society. She rights wrongs for the trust. She is excellent. Perfection. Hard on herself. Driven. Almost legendary in some parts. Until one day a voice pops in her head trying to get her to betray everything she has ever believed. This meticulously designed *Akira*-meets-*Inception* journey shows us a new future like only comics can.

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POWERS

In a world where superheroes soar through the sky, follow homicide detectives Christian Walker and Deena Pilgrim are on the dirty city streets below. Assigned to the "powers" special cases, they will face the worst their city has to offer.

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Volume 7 · 9781506730233 · TP · $29.99 US | $39.99 CA · On Sale Now

POWERS 25

POWERS is one of the longest-running independent comics in history, and to celebrate the 25th anniversary landmark, the original creators Bendis and Oeming have returned for a brand-new crime-and-capes story like never before.

Volume 1 · 9781506750958 · TP · $19.99 US | $25.99 CA · On Sale Now

BRILLIANT

The first creator-owned book by *Ultimate Spider-Man* cocreators Brian Michael Bendis and Mark Bagley, *Brilliant* tells the story of a handful of college-age geniuses who challenge each other to solve the mystery of superpowers. Can the best and brightest change science fiction into science fact? And if so, how will the world at large react? *Brilliant* is a thriller of the highest order.

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MURDER INC.

Discover a world in which the families of organized crime never lost their stranglehold on the United States. Today is the day that Valentine Gallo becomes a made man, and it's also the day he learns the secrets behind the organization he has served since he was old enough to walk. But it is mysterious hitwoman Jagger Rose who will forever turn his life upside down. This bold new vision of crime fiction harkens back to Bendis's earliest work in crime comics.

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Volume 2 · 9781506730288 · TP · $19.99 US | $25.99 CA · On Sale Now

THE ONES VOLUME 1

Here comes the next, best awesome super team to end all super teams . . . the Ones! Every single person in every mythology that was told they were "the one" are brought together for the first time to defeat . . . the one. The actual one. The real actual one. Think *Good Omens* meets *Ghostbusters* meets *The Adam Project* meets *The Goonies* meets *Everything Everywhere All at Once* meets, um, anything else you've ever liked!

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MASTERPIECE

Emma is a brilliant and driven sixteen-year-old. She has paid for school with her next-level inventions and is well-known for her funny and honest webcomics. Then, one day, one of the most famous billionaires on the planet confronts her with the truth about her world. Emma discovers she is the only daughter of two of the greatest, most charismatic master criminals of all time!

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TORSO

The true story of the hunt for America's first serial killer! Cleveland. 1935. Eliot Ness, fresh from his legendary Chicago triumph over Al Capone, sets his sights on Cleveland. Eliot Ness and his colorful gang of the Unknowns chase a killer through the underbelly of Cleveland for years. As far as the public was concerned he was never captured, but what really happened is even more shocking.

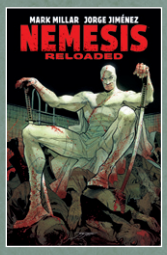
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VISIONARY CREATORS

MARK MILLAR

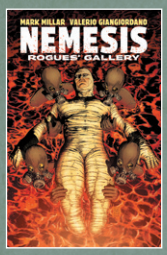




THE MAGIC ORDER

Millarworld and Dark Horse Comics are proud to present the best-selling dark fantasy–thriller graphic novel, *The Magic Order*! We live in a world where we've never seen a monster, and the Magic Order is the reason we sleep safely in our beds. By day, they live among us as our neighbors, friends, and coworkers, but by night they are the sorcerers, magicians, and wizards that protect us from the forces of darkness . . . unless the darkness gets them first. Magic meets the mob in *The Magic Order*, as five families of magicians sworn to protect our world for generations must battle an enemy who's picking them off one by one.

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NEMESIS: RELOADED

The world's most evil comic book character is back! Who is Nemesis, and why does this eccentric billionaire who dresses up in a mask and cape want to terrorize people instead of helping them? Isn't that how this is supposed to go? Trigger warning: too violent and just too cool for some! Don't say we didn't warn you. Collecting the entire arc of the series *Nemesis: Reloaded* by superstar creative team Mark Millar and Jorge Jiménez!

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NEMESIS: ROGUES' GALLERY

Immediately following the brutal events of Millar's smash hit *Big Game*, Nemesis is all but dead, broken and destroyed. All that remains is the consuming focus, hell-bent on vengeance against every single person who wronged him.

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NEMESIS FOREVER

The third part of Mark Millar's Nemesis comics trilogy comes to a close. Nemesis got his revenge in *Reloaded*, became the world's richest man in *Rogues' Gallery*, and now he's back to do what he's been planning all along.

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NIGHT CLUB

You're seventeen years old and you've been bitten by a vampire. Do you live in the shadows and drink human blood, or do you use your newfound gifts for the dream costumed-superhero life you've always wanted? You're bulletproof, you can crawl up walls, and you can turn into mist or bats. Why not have a little fun?

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Volume 2 · 9781506744889 · TP · $19.99 US | $25.99 CA · On Sale Now

VATICAN CITY

Mark Millar and Per Berg's hit new horror comics series where the world has been destroyed by a billion vampires and the last humans alive are holed up in the only place they're safe—behind the walls of Vatican City where no vampire dares to tread!

9781506750712 · TP · $19.99 US | $25.99 CA · On Sale Now





Millarworld and Dark Horse Comics are proud to present these essential collections of Mark Millar's greatest graphic novels in an oversized hardcover format!

WANTED & BIG GAME LIBRARY EDITION

Action-thriller *Wanted* was the first book from Millarworld and the starting point for an entire universe of comic books and movies. *Big Game* is the sequel, set twenty years after the original and bringing together over twenty franchises for the first time, from *Kick-Ass* and *Hit-Girl* to *The Ambassadors* and *The Magic Order*.

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THE AMBASSADORS LIBRARY EDITION

You've cracked the superhuman mystery and can give superpowers to six different people around the world. Who do you choose? When the superhuman genome is cracked, the billionaire scientist responsible announces she will turn six ordinary people into superheroes. This launches a worldwide competition to determine who will join this team of superhumans.

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THE MAGIC ORDER LIBRARY EDITION VOLUME 1

Magic meets the mob in *The Magic Order*, as magicians sworn to protect our world for generations battle an enemy who's picking them off one by one. Collected together for the first time, this beautiful hardcover introduces us to the Magic Order, a group of five families of sorcerers, magicians, and wizards.

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JUPITER'S LEGACY LIBRARY EDITION

Mark Millar and Frank Quitely's comic-book masterpiece, a vast epic covering three generations of superheroes from the early twentieth century to the far future.

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Volume 2 · 9781506748870 · HC · $49.99 US | $65.99 CA · On Sale Now



HUCK

A man who just wants to make your day coming up against the real world and hoping to change it. In a quiet seaside town, a gas station clerk named Huck secretly uses his special gifts to do a good deed each day. But when his story leaks, a media firestorm erupts, bringing him uninvited fame. Mark Millar and Rafael Albuquerque present a comic book unlike anything you've read before. *Huck* is the ultimate feel-good graphic novel, and this is a must for anyone who needs a little dopamine hit.

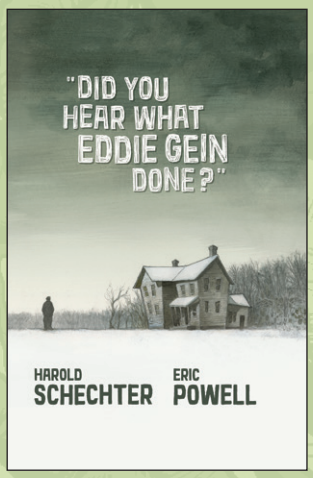
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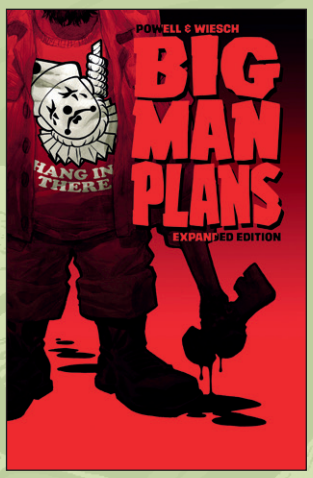
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DARK HORSE BOOKS

VISIONARY CREATORS

ERIC POWELL





DID YOU HEAR WHAT EDDIE GEIN DONE?

One of the greats in the field of true-crime literature, Harold Schechter (*Deviant*, *The Serial Killer Files*, *Hell's Princess*), teams with five-time Eisner Award–winning graphic novelist Eric Powell (*The Goon*, *Big Man Plans*, *Hillbilly*) to bring you the tale of one of the most notoriously deranged serial killers in American history, Ed Gein.

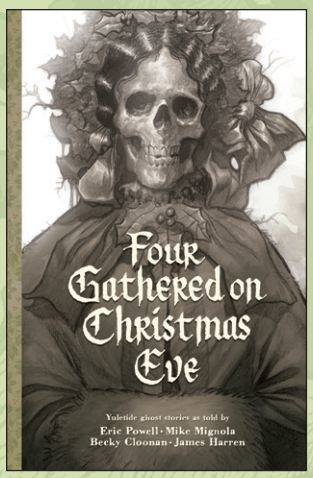
Painstakingly researched and illustrated, Schechter and Powell's true-crime graphic novel takes the Gein story out of the realms of exploitation and gives the reader a fact-based dramatization of these tragic, psychotic, and heartbreaking events. Because, in this case, the truth needs no embellishment to be horrifying.

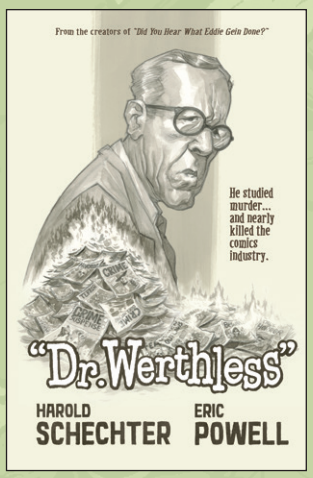
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BIG MAN PLANS: EXPANDED EDITION

From Eric Powell and Tim Wiesch comes *Big Man Plans: Expanded Edition*. First published in 2015, this brutal crime drama and intriguing mystery shocked readers with its visceral violence and heart-wrenching tragedy. Big Man is a little person who has been brutalized and abused his entire existence. A person born to be life's punching bag . . . or so it appears. He just might also be one of the deadliest killers ever trained by (REDACTED). He might also be slightly insane. And when someone he loves is wronged, well, even the most marginalized in society can exact revenge if they don't care how they do it. This expanded edition comes with over thirty pages of added story and bonus material content!

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FOUR GATHERED ON CHRISTMAS EVE

Four of the top creators in comics gather to continue the Victorian tradition of ghost stories on Christmas Eve. Four tales of the bizarre and terrifying to keep you company on the cold Yule night. A unique approach to the ghost story format where the creators themselves become part of the story in this deluxe edition hardcover designed by the award-winning Phil Balsman.

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DR. WERTHLESS: THE MAN WHO STUDIED MURDER (AND NEARLY KILLED THE COMICS INDUSTRY)

From the creative team behind the award-winning *Did You Hear What Eddie Gein Done?* comes an examination of one of the most polarizing figures in pop culture, Dr. Fredric Wertham. Reviled by comic-book fans as a witch-hunting zealot who stirred up a panic among the parents of America for his own self-promoting purposes, he was also a renowned psychiatrist who, among other accomplishments, opened a clinic in Harlem for disadvantaged African American patients and played an important role in the desegregation of the nation's schools. Believing that murder could be abolished through a proper understanding of the mental and social roots of criminal violence, he took a genuinely humane approach to some of the most notorious homicidal maniacs of his time while simultaneously exploiting their stories for his own commercial ends.

9781506744360 · HC · $29.99 US | $39.99 CA · On Sale Now





THE GOON: BUNCH OF OLD CRAP OMNIBUS

Eric Powell's Eisner Award–winning crime pulp series that combines pulp horror, crime drama, and a twisted sense of humor. Take a spin down Lonely Street in this huge, pulpy collection of mob bosses to undead ghouls—and the man who fights them all.

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Volume 3 · 9781506754185 · TP · $34.99 US | $45.99 CA · On Sale Now
Volume 6 · 9781506754192 · TP · $34.99 US | $45.99 CA · On Sale Now

THE GOON: THEM THAT DON'T STAY DEAD

To mark the 25th anniversary of *The Goon*, Eisner Award winner Eric Powell returns with an all-new tale! The return to Lonely Street hasn't been easy for the Goon and Franky. And just as they've finally got the various gangs of bloodsuckers and night stalkers back in line, a new threat appears. Or is it an old one?

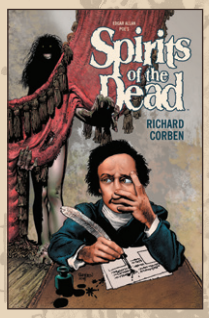
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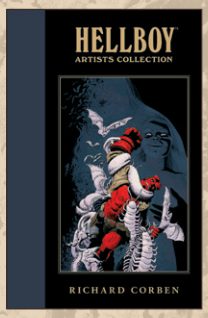
DARK HORSE BOOKS

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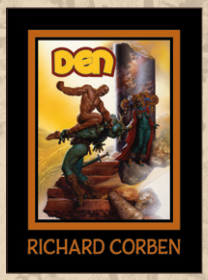
VISIONARY CREATORS

Richard Corben is known for his legendary fantasy underground masterpieces published by Fantagor Press as well as *Heavy Metal*. His work has been recognized internationally, winning one of the most prestigious recognitions in comics literature, the Grand Prix at Angoulême International Comics Festival. In 2012, Corben was inducted into the Will Eisner Award Hall of Fame.

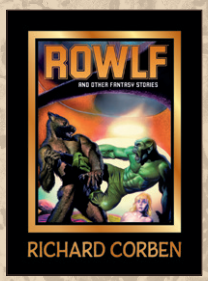


















SPIRITS OF THE DEAD

Collection of Richard Corben's Edgar Allan Poe adaptations from various publications—stories include: "Spirits of the Dead," "Alone," "The City in the Sea," "The Sleeper," "The Assignation," "Berenice," "Morella," "Shadow," "The Fall of the House of Usher," "The Murders in the Rue Morgue," "The Masque of the Red Death," "The Conqueror Worm," "The Premature Burial," "The Raven," "The Cask of Amontillado"—and the brand-new story for this second edition: "The Man of the Crowd."

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HELLBOY ARTISTS COLLECTION: RICHARD CORBEN

Own the complete collection of horror master Richard Corben's *Hellboy* comics in this deluxe edition. Revisit some classic *Hellboy* stories including "The Crooked Man," "Makoma," "House of the Living Dead," and more! Oversize 8 × 12" format includes a cloth spine and foil cover treatment.

9781506741147 · HC · $49.99 US | $65.99 CA · On Sale Now

MURKY WORLD

Collects the entire *Murky World* series in print for the first time—first in a series of deluxe graphic novels from renowned creator Richard Corben's library! In *Murky World*, Tugat the warrior wakes from a strange dream only to find himself in a bizarre land populated by hungry deadlings, cruel necromancers, buxom cyclopes, evil cults, and more as he sets off on a dangerous journey with his beloved horse Frix.

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DEN

The long-out-of-print masterpiece *Den*! This special edition also features bonus material and art pages restored by longtime Corben collaborator José Villarrubia. Thrust into a bizarre fantasy world called Neverwhere, the muscular adventurer Den goes on an exotic adventure through ancient ruins, meeting an evil queen, her sacrificial doppelganger, bizarre lizard men, giant insects, and more strange and dangerous madness in this legendary saga brimming with horror, magic, and violence. The inspiration for the *Den* segment of the cult classic film, *Heavy Metal*!

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Volume 4 · 9781506739922 · HC · $39.99 US | $53.99 CA · On Sale Now
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DIMWOOD

Dimwood is the next book in a series of deluxe graphic novels from renowned creator Richard Corben's library. This special edition collects the never-before-published graphic novel *Dimwood* and also features bonus material, restorations, and an epilogue from longtime Corben collaborator José Villarrubia, letters by Nate Piekos of Blambot, and an introduction by Joe Lansdale, all presented in a gorgeous hardcover with a dust jacket.

9781506739984 · HC · $39.99 US | $53.99 CA · On Sale Now

ROWLF AND OTHER FANTASY STORIES

Richard Corben's long-out-of-print fantasy graphic novel masterpiece, inspired by *Beauty and the Beast*, is finally collected as part of the new Richard Corben hardcover library. *Rowlf* is a postmodern take on *Beauty and the Beast* that mixes high fantasy with dystopian science fiction. It is the first masterpiece in Corben's long career. *The Beast of Wolfton* and its sequel *The Spirit of the Beast* are ironic love stories of a werewolf family saga. The book closes with a poignant free adaptation of one of the Japanese legends by Lafcadio Hearn called *The Story of Oteg*. All packaged in a beautiful new printing with meticulously restored artwork and featuring a new introduction by Hayao Miyazaki (*Spirited Away*).

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RAT GOD

Richard Corben's chilling story inspired by the works of H. P. Lovecraft is finally collected as part of the new Richard Corben hardcover library. This volume also includes a foreword by Bram Stoker Award–winning author Caitlín R. Kiernan as well as both the original black and white and the color version of the long-out-of-print "The Rats in the Walls," a Lovecraft-penned tale adapted by Richard Corben!

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A drunken Sindbad runs afoul of an evil Djinn, launching him into an epic adventure where, alongside a mysterious (and sensuous) woman, he battles monsters and the living dead to salvage his immortal soul. It's Sindbad's final and greatest voyage!

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THE BEST OF FANTAGOR

Richard Corben's legendary underground work collected and restored for the first time.

The Best of Fantagor brings together some of Corben's most iconic early stories, originally published in his own self-produced comic series *Fantagor*, in a definitive edition that reveals the raw power of his early imagination. Featuring an introduction by *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* creator Kevin Eastman.

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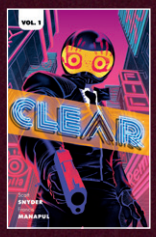
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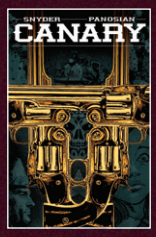
VISIONARY CREATORS

SCOTT SNYDER















BARNSTORMERS: A BALLAD OF LOVE AND MURDER

A high-flying, post-WWI-era historical fiction graphic novel that's an intimate portrait of love and war—and a meditation on the dangerous level of trust required in both romance and aviation.

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BY A THREAD

In *By a Thread*, thirteen years ago a deadly and mysterious infection spread across the Earth's terrain, forcing humankind to live in communities precipitously built above the ground. Growing up on Needle Three, Jo barely remembers a time before darkness enveloped the world. When their community comes under attack by the despotic Charon and his forces, Jo and his friends must decide whether or not to venture across the wasteland in search of a safe haven as the world hangs by a thread.

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CLEAR

A dazzling visual thrill ride through a hard-boiled dystopia! In the not-too-distant future, mankind no longer sees the world as it truly is. The invention of neurological filters has made it so one can view reality however they may choose—Old Hollywood monochrome, zombie apocalypse, anime . . . the possibilities are endless. Neo-shamus Sam Dunes is one of only a handful who choose to live without a filter. When the death of an old flame reveals foul play, Dunes is set on a wild and twisting mystery that will take him from the city's deadly underworld to the even deadlier heights of wealth and power.

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CANARY

In 1884 a mine collapsed into itself. What was the dark substance found 666 feet underground? Blending modern horror, historical fact, and Western lore, Scott Snyder and Dan Panosian have created a uniquely terrifying thriller with *Canary*.

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NIGHT OF THE GHOUL

A dazzling work of horror, intercutting between the present day and the story of a lost film. Horror masters Scott Snyder (*American Vampire*, *Wytches*) and Francesco Francavilla (*Afterlife with Archie*) collaborate for the first time! This graphic novel is a bold and bloody reimagining of horror monsters that celebrates classic creature features while creating an unsettling and contemporary new kind of horror story.

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WE HAVE DEMONS

From comic-book superstars Scott Snyder and Greg Capullo (*Batman*, *Batman: Last Knight on Earth*, *Dark Nights: Metal* and *Death Metal*) comes a new blockbuster series of biblical proportions. Since the very dawn of man, legends have been told of the conflict between angel- and demon-kind. Lam Lyle, a woman of science, dismissed these stories as just that—fiction. But when the loss of a loved one leads to the discovery of a hulking, benevolent demon named Gus, Lam realizes that her life is about to take a dire new direction.

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ARCBOUND VOLUME 1

Scott Snyder and comics titan Frank Tieri join forces with Oscar-nominated actor Tom Hardy to bring you a bold new sci-fi saga! In a future where Earth has become a barren wasteland, Zynitec harnesses the unmatched energy of Kronium to assert its dominion across the stars. When Kai, a rising star Mediator in Zynitec's army, is betrayed by his own and left for dead, everything he thinks he believes is thrown into question.

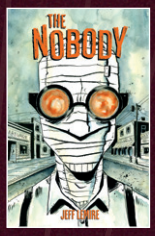
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JEFF LEMIRE











10,000 INK STAINS: A MEMOIR

This hardcover memoir collection showcases the work of the legendary Eisner Award–winning comic-book creator Jeff Lemire, who has created some of the most iconic stories in modern comics. Featuring his brilliant work from *Sweet Tooth*, *Essex County*, *Black Hammer*, *Descender*, and so much more. Lemire takes the reader book by book, writing essays about the making of each project and showcasing artwork from all of them, sharing some never-before-seen process material on each book and unpublished stories as well.

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BERSERKER UNBOUND

A merciless sword-and-sorcery warrior finds himself blasted through a wormhole to a modern-day metropolis where he must protect those around him from an evil wizard determined to send him to hell. From the Eisner Award–winning team of Jeff Lemire, Mike Deodato Jr., and Frank Martin comes this urban warrior fantasy series!

9781506713373 · HC · $24.99 US | $33.99 CA · On Sale Now

MAZEBOOK

An ambitious and haunting graphic novel about family, mourning, and reality. A lonely building inspector still grieving the loss of his puzzle-loving daughter receives a mysterious phone call one night from a girl claiming it's her and that she's trapped in the middle of a labyrinth. Convinced that his child is contacting him from beyond this world, he uses an unfinished maze from one of her journals and a map of the city to trace an intricate path through a different plane of reality on an intense and melancholy adventure to bring his daughter back home.

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THE NOBODY (NEW EDITION)

Experience Jeff Lemire's reimagining of H. G. Wells's *The Invisible Man* in this new edition of his long-out-of-print, fan-favorite graphic novel featuring a brand-new cover.

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SNOW ANGELS

Two of the most acclaimed comics creators of their generation—writer Jeff Lemire and artist Jock—together for the first time in this epic science-fiction saga set in a brutal world like no other!

Milliken and Mae have never left the Trench—it's all they've ever known. Milli and Mae don't really know how their people came to live here. No one does, not even their wise and gentle father. On Milliken's twelfth birthday, their father takes the two girls on an overnight skate down the trench—a coming-of-age ritual to teach them how to fish the frozen river, how to hunt the wild Trenchdogs that wander its frigid banks, and how to give proper thanks to their frozen gods—the Colden Ones. It's the trip of a lifetime until the girls push beyond the borders of their humble land and awaken the Trench's deadly defender . . . the Snowman! What follows next is an action-packed story of survival, loss, and redemption.

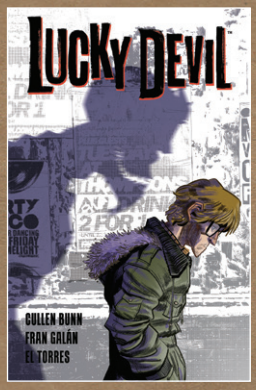
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CULLEN BUNN















PARASOMNIA

After his son disappears, a broken-down man braves a nightmarish dreamscape in order to find him—and battle the ruthless cult that seeks to rule the land of dreams as the barrier between realities starts to collapse.

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LUCKY DEVIL

In this graphic novel a down-on-his-luck schlub is possessed by a malevolent demon. Just when he thinks things can't get worse, the exorcism goes wrong, and he finds that somehow he's retained all of the entity's supernatural gifts. After a path of revenge on all the people who have wronged him, he begins to gather worshippers and form a cult.

But the legions of Hell don't take kindly to this, and they send demonic agents to murder the schlub-turned-god before he gains too much power.

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THE MIDNITE SHOW

A new supernatural horror series about monsters of the silver screen coming to life and wreaking havoc on a small town. Basil Saxon is a legend among horror fans. Over fifty years ago, he vanished during a freak accident on the set of the film that would have been his masterpiece. The cursed film—*God of Monsters*—was never completed and has never been seen. But when a film festival shows footage from the long-lost movie, classic horror monsters manifest to wreak havoc and terror on the unsuspecting populace.

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BEYOND MORTAL

An original graphic novel where the heroes of a new comic-book universe will collide with a new pantheon of alien deities from beyond our understanding of reality.

Unknown to the league of heroes who protect the innocent, their world has a cancer growing at its heart. A pantheon of elder gods is starting to awaken. These timeless forces of super-nature once claimed dominion over a primordial Earth . . . and they have returned to reclaim what is theirs.

9781506740508 · TP · $19.99 US | $25.99 CA · On Sale Now

JUMPSCARE

An action-horror superhero event that ties into the hit *Beyond Mortal* comics series! Horror-fan-turned-vigilante Jumpscare can conjure any gore-soaked weapon from any gore-soaked movie she's watched. Using this power, she's become a force for good in Empire City . . . and the world's most popular superhero! Even with all her powers, though, she may not be able to save her estranged sister from the clutches of mobster-turned-monster Grindhouse! Especially with a band of eldritch zealots called the Dismal Concordat standing in her way!

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MONSTERS ARE MY BUSINESS

Meet Tanner "Griz" Grisholm—along with a shrewd necromancer who wants him dead and a chainsaw-wielding koala bear named Cuddles—as he wages a bloody war against nightmares from beyond time and space. It's thankless work, but someone has to do it. And when a group of government contractors go missing in the nightmare landscape of the Flooded Zone, Griz stumbles into a mystery he may not be able to carve his way out of.

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THE COMPLETE HARROW COUNTY COMPENDIUM

Dark Horse Comics proudly presents this complete collection of the entire comics run of the essential horror series *Harrow County* in a single, affordable trade paperback with a brand-new painted cover. Emmy always knew that the woods surrounding her home crawled with ghosts and monsters. But on the eve of her eighteenth birthday, she learns that she is connected to these creatures—and to the land itself—in a way she never imagined. Could Emmy be the reincarnation of an infamous witch?

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Written by Scott Snyder. Illustrated by Dan Panosian.

Masterpiece
Written by Brian Michael Bendis. Illustrated by Alex Maleev.

Minor Threats Volume 1: A Quick End to a Long Beginning
Written by Patton Oswalt and Jordan Blum. Illustrated by Scott Hepburn.

Dracula Book 1: The Impaler
Written by Matt Wagner. Illustrated by Kelley Jones.



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CANARY

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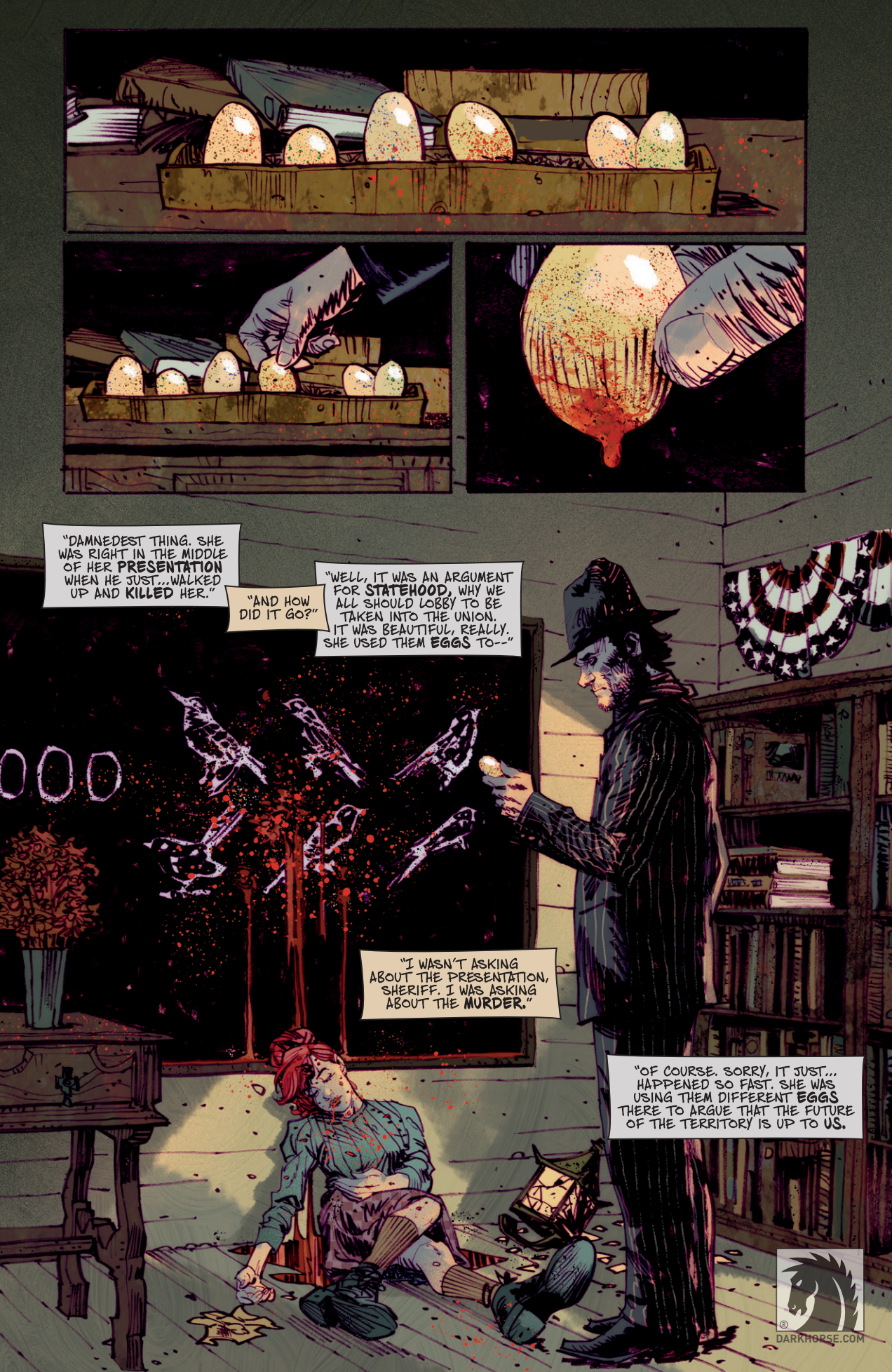


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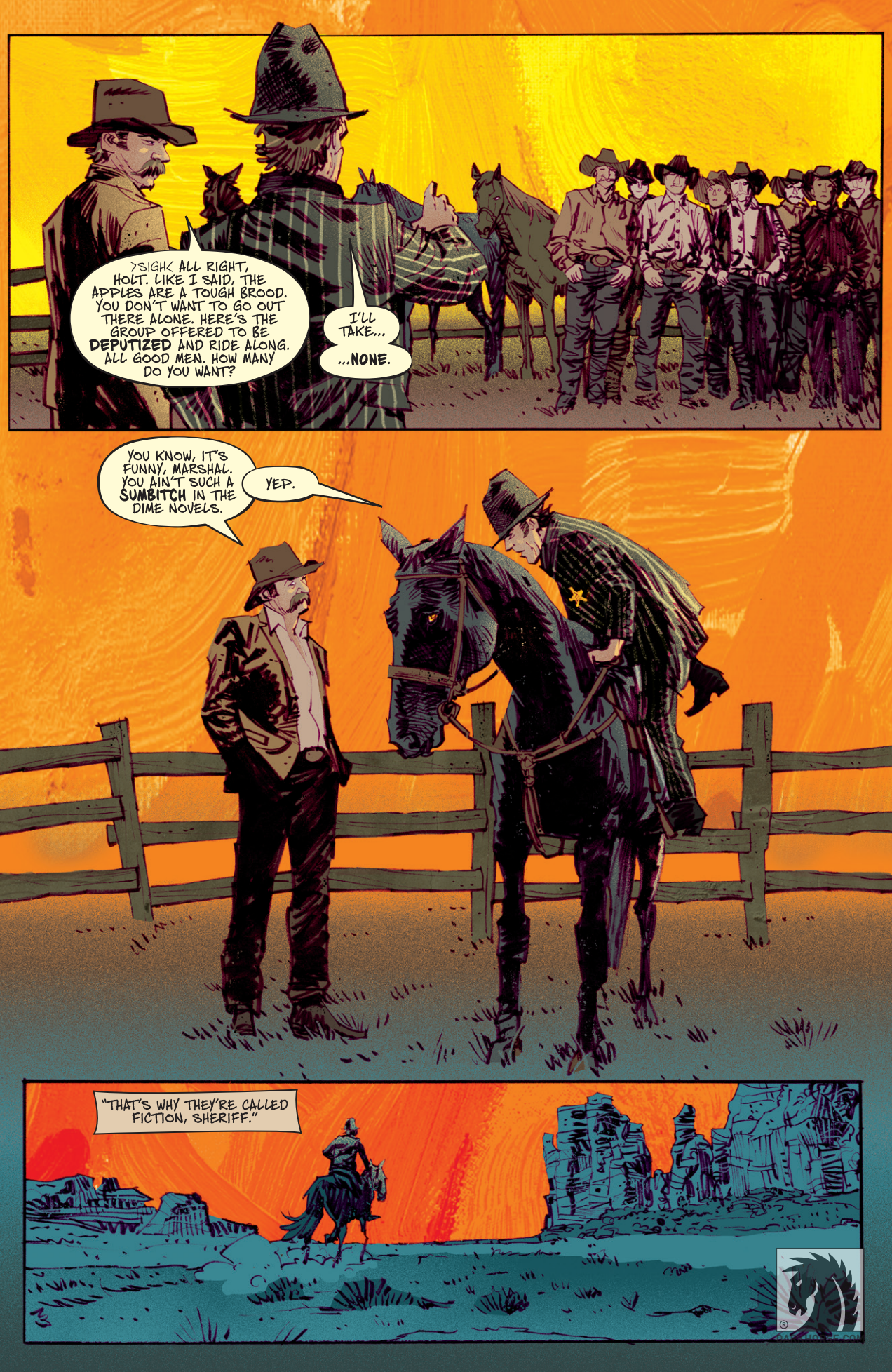
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"HOW IT STILL CAN BECOME ANYTHING, GOOD, BAD. THERE'S A QUAIL EGG, A TORTOISE, A RATTLER. ONE IS MISSING, I THINK, IT MIGHT BE A--"
"SHERIFF."
"RIGHT, RIGHT. SHE WAS MIDSENTENCE WHEN THE BOY, HE JUST WALKED UP, PULLED OUT A STRAIGHT RAZOR, AND CUT HER THROAT. HALF THE GODDAMNED TOWN WAS WATCHING."
"AND THE BOY'S NAME?"
"JOHNNY APPLE."
"NO NICKNAMES."
What good shall I do today?
"THAT'S HIS REAL NAME, MARSHAL. IT DON'T MAKE ANY SENSE BECAUSE HE'S A SWEET KID. THE APPLE FAMILY IS ROUGH AND TUMBLE, SURE, THEY'RE OUTLIERS, BUT JOHNNY..."
...HE CAME TO CHURCH ON HIS OWN MOST SUNDAYS. CALLED HIM THE "GOOD APPLE." THERE MUST BE--
THAT'S ALL I NEED, SHERIFF. WHICH WAY IS THE APPLE PLACE?
JUST HOLD ON, WILL YOU? LISTEN, MARSHAL HOLT, WE ALL APPRECIATE YOUR PRESENCE HERE. SHIT, SOME OF THE BOYS EVEN BROUGHT THEIR DIME NOVELS FOR YOU TO SIGN. YOUR SHOOTOUT WITH HYRUM TELL? STILL LEGEND AROUND--
Holt
Marshal Azrael William Holt


WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT, SHERIFF?
I'M JUST SAYING, YOU HAVE A LONG REPUTATION AS A HEAVY HAND. BEFORE YOU GO RAISING HELL OUT THERE, MAYBE WE SPEND MORE TIME FIGURING WHAT HAPPENED.
YOU TOLD ME WHAT HAPPENED.
NO, I MEAN, THERE HAS TO BE SOME REASON BEHIND THIS. SOME CLUES IN THAT ROOM. IF WE LOCK IT DOWN AS A CRIME SCENE, TELL NO ONE TO TOUCH NOTHING.
NOT EVEN THE EGGS?
RIGHT! NOT EVEN THE--
KRAKK!
WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU DOING?
EATING BREAKFAST.
BUT GO ON.
CHRIST. YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT CREATURE THAT WAS?
NOPE.
BUT YOU WERE ABOUT TO TELL ME HOW TO GET TO THE APPLE PLACE.


>SIGH< ALL RIGHT, HOLT. LIKE I SAID, THE APPLES ARE A TOUGH BROOD. YOU DON'T WANT TO GO OUT THERE ALONE. HERE'S THE GROUP OFFERED TO BE DEPUTIZED AND RIDE ALONG. ALL GOOD MEN. HOW MANY DO YOU WANT?
I'LL TAKE...
...NONE.
YOU KNOW, IT'S FUNNY, MARSHAL. YOU AIN'T SUCH A SUMBITCH IN THE DIME NOVELS.
YEP.
"THAT'S WHY THEY'RE CALLED FICTION, SHERIFF."

first form



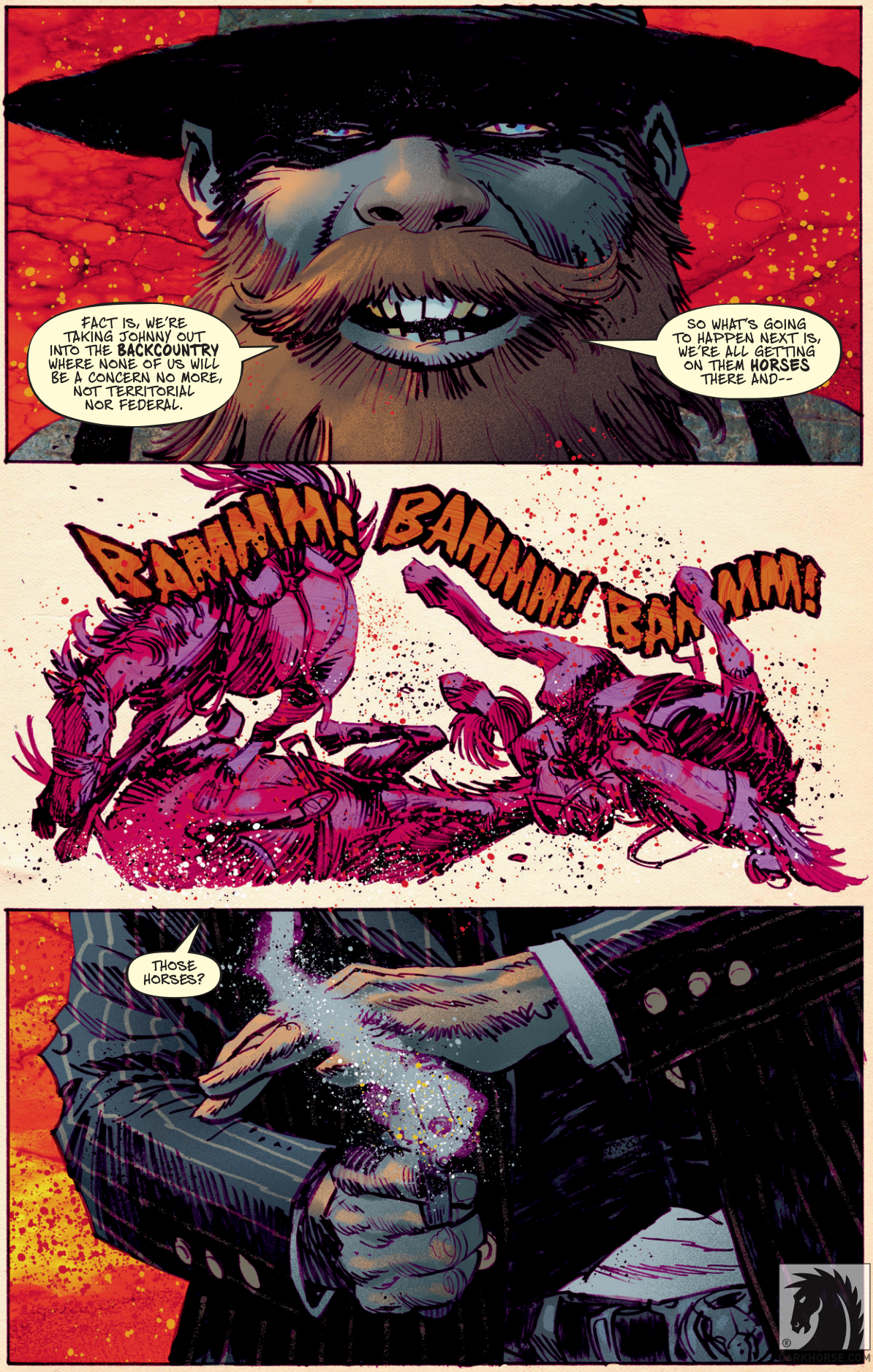

FAMILY APPLE! I NEED TO SPEAK WITH A BOY INSIDE YOUR HOME. NAME OF JOHNNY.
YOU **NEED** TO TURN AROUND. THIS IS FAMILY BUSINESS. WE'LL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF IT OURSELVES. WHAT THE BOY DID DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE. NONE!



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SURE YOU CAN, SON.
DON'T YOU COME ANY FUCKING CLOSER, MARSHAL! WE'LL BLOW YOUR--
SHUT YOUR HOLE. I'M TALKING TO THE BOY.
HOW ABOUT WE MAKE A DEAL, JOHNNY? I'LL SHOW YOU MY MASK, THEN YOU AND I HAVE A LITTLE TALK, ALL RIGHT? JUST A TALK.
SURE!

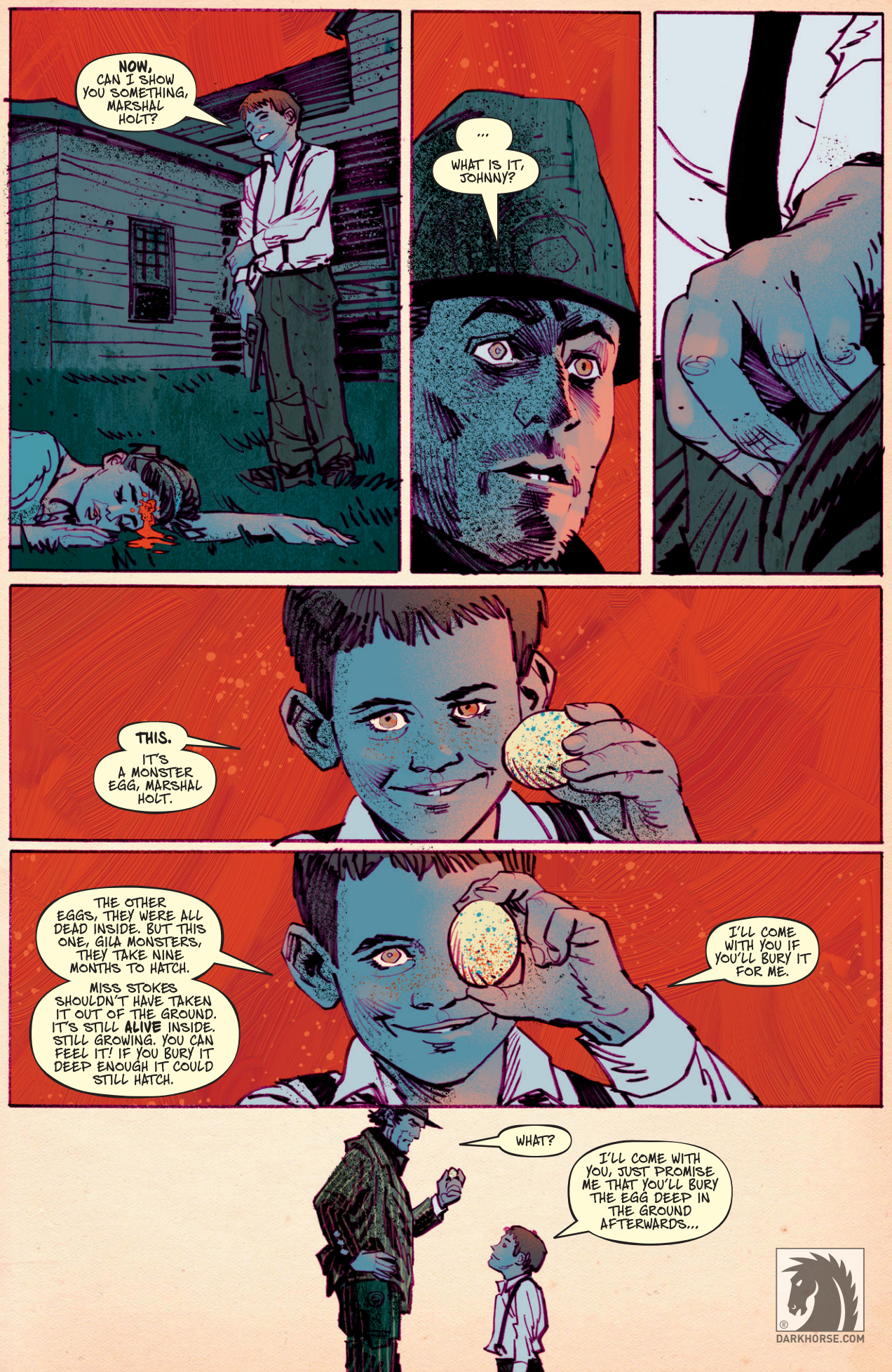

WOW. IT LOOKS JUST LIKE IN THE PICTURES.
THANK YOU, MARSHAL HOLT. NOW I'D LIKE TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING, IN RETURN.
YOU STAY RIGHT THE FUCK THERE, JOHNNY.
MARSHAL, I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON IN THIS BOY'S GODDAMNED HEAD LATELY, BUT WE'RE GOING TO FIGURE IT OUT OURSELVES. IN CLAN.


FACT IS, WE'RE TAKING JOHNNY OUT INTO THE BACKCOUNTRY WHERE NONE OF US WILL BE A CONCERN NO MORE, NOT TERRITORIAL NOR FEDERAL.
SO WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT IS, WE'RE ALL GETTING ON THEM HORSES THERE AND--
BAMMM!
BAMMM!
BAMMM!
THOSE HORSES?


THAT'S IT! CUT THIS MOTHER FUCKER DOWN! NOW!
CLAKK!
KA-TOWW!
BLAMM!!
CLAKK!
KA-TOWW!
BLAMM!!
THUDD!


LET ME GO! I NEED TO SHOW THE MARSHAL SOMETHING!
NO! YOU STAY WITH ME, JOHNNY!
MA'AM, YOUR KIN WILL LIVE (MOST LIKELY). BUT JOHNNY NEEDS TO COME WITH ME NOW SO WE CAN FIGURE WHY THIS ALL HAPPENED.


"WHY?!" THERE AIN'T NO WHY! HE JUST STOPPED BEING HIMSELF, THAT'S ALL. MONTHS AGO, HE JUST STARTED TO CHANGE. LOOK WRONG.
I HEAR YOU. BUT YOU NEED TO STEP AWAY FROM THAT RIFLE, MA'AM. MA'AM!
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO HIM, HE'S STILL MY BOY, AND I WON'T LET YOU--
BLAM!



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This volume collects issues #1–#6 of *Masterpiece* as well as all covers and extra content.

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Description: First edition. | Milwaukie, OR : Dark Horse Books, 2024. | "This volume collects issues #1-#6 of Masterpiece as well as all covers and extra content."–Indicia. | Summary: "Emma is a brilliant young woman whose life was just turned upside down by a billionaire who says that her long lost parents were in fact VERY famous thieves. They took the world's most famous billionaire for a cool billion . . . before they disappeared never to be seen or heard from again. And now he wants revenge, from HER."– Provided by publisher.
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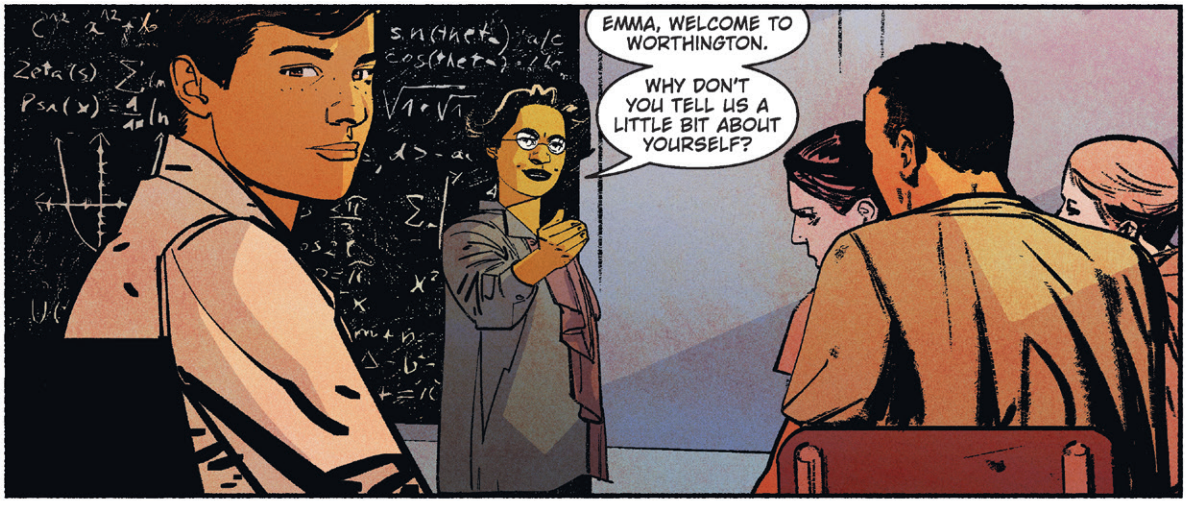
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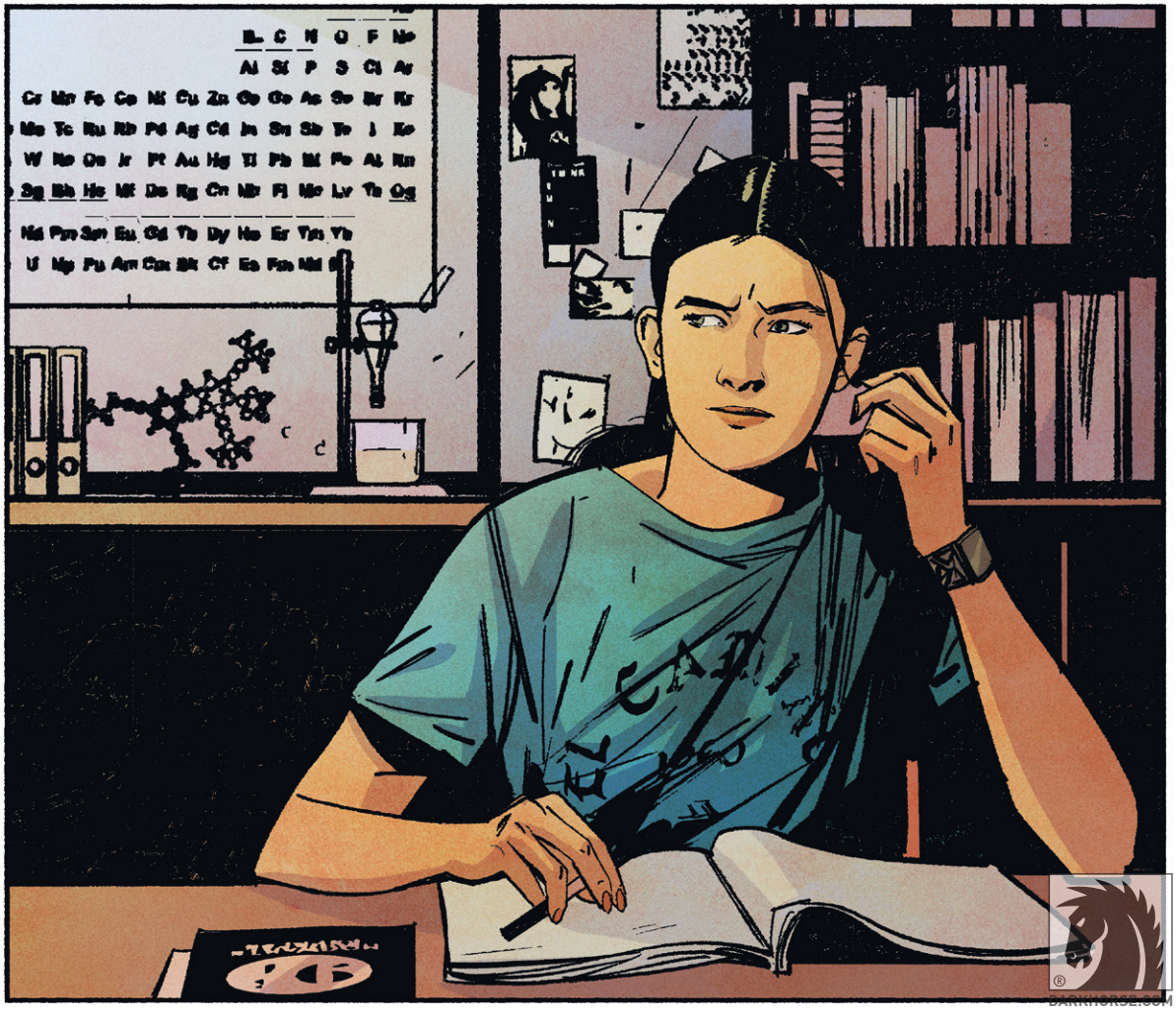


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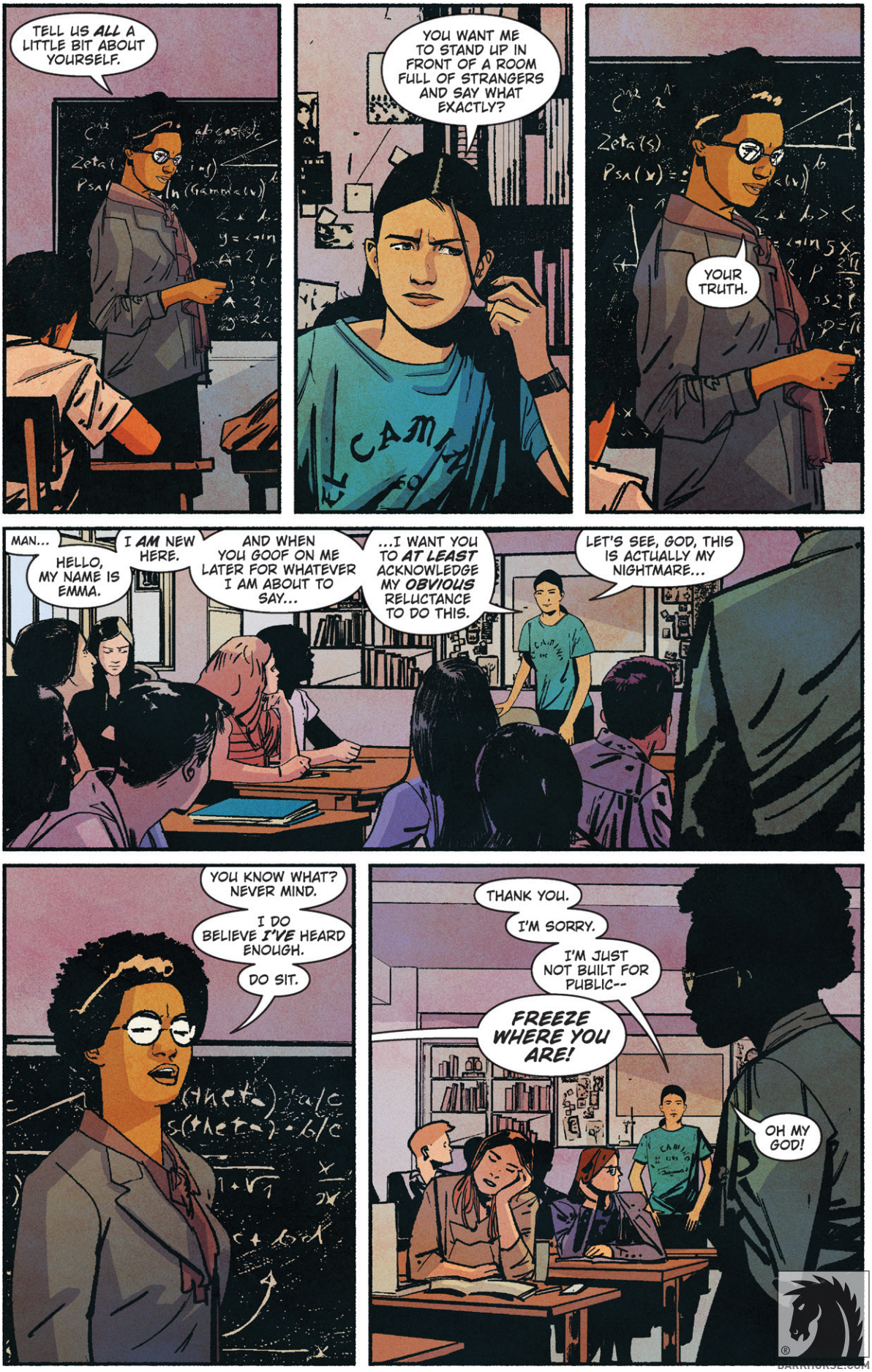

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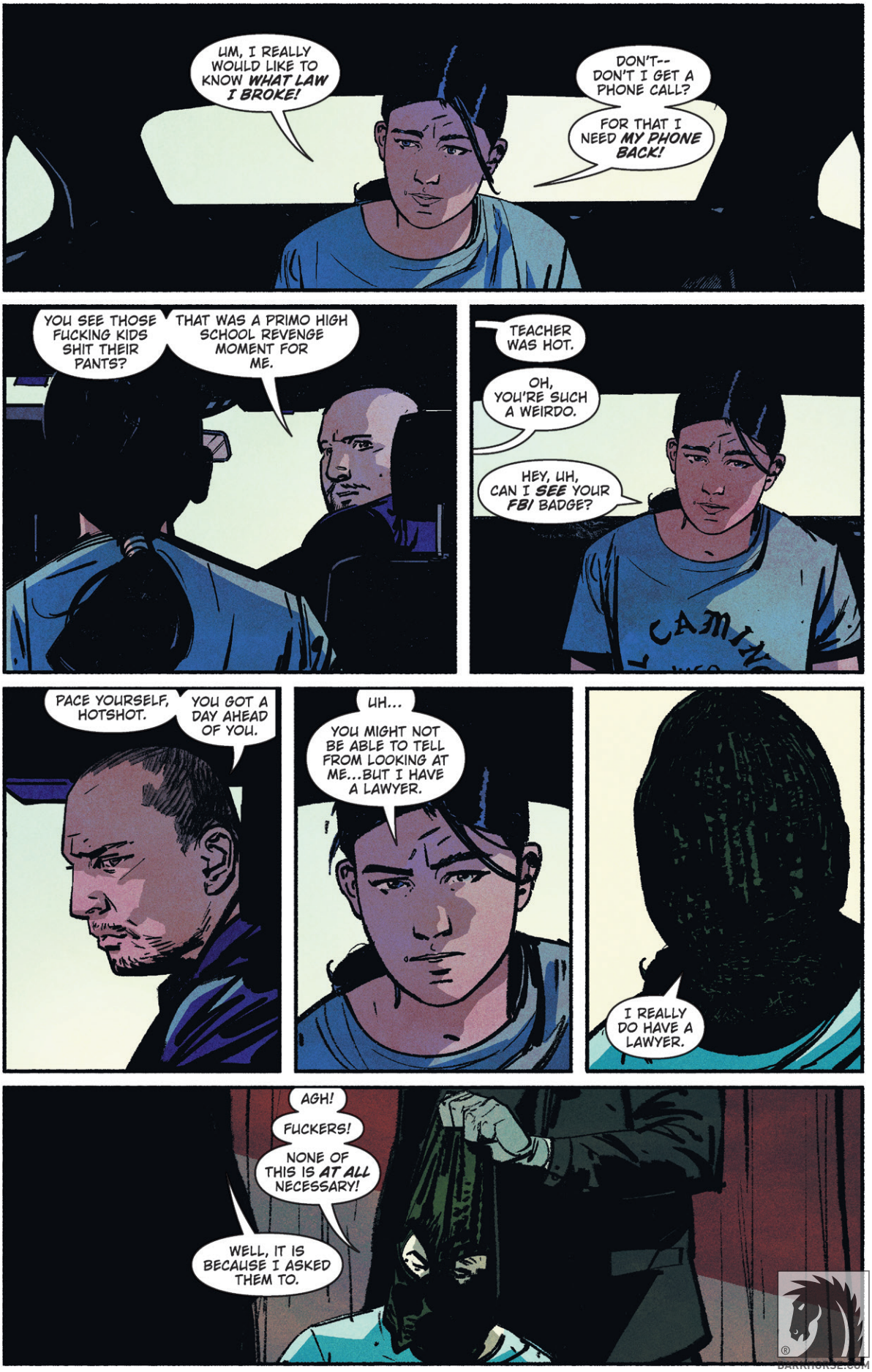


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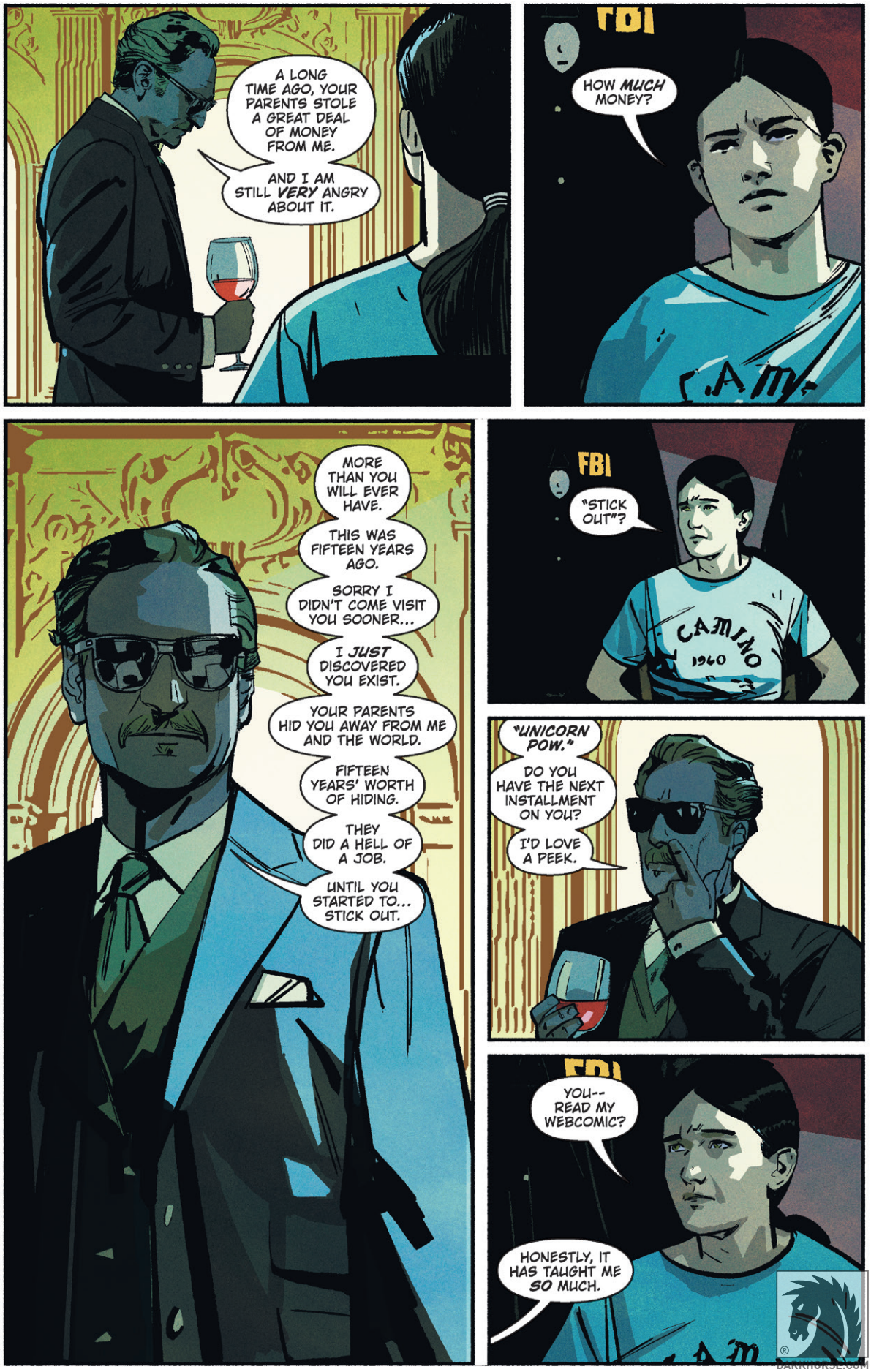
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MASTERPIECE LAWFORD!
FBI!
FBI OF WHAT?
OH MY--!
WHAT DID SHE DO?
WHOA!
WHO ARE THEY?
WHO IS SHE?
I'M SCARED!
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
DON'T RESIST!
HOLY--!
=GASP!=
OH MY GOD!
AGAINST THE WALL!
THANK YOU.
HEY!
IF YOU FILM ME, I CONFISCATE YER PHONE. THAT'S THE LAW!
AGENT, PLEASE!!
THIS IS A--A YOUNG GIRL!
THESE ARE CHILDREN!!
AND-- GOT IT.
THAT'S MY MACE!
OH, I KNOW.
I'M A GIRL IN THE WORLD.
I HAVE TO PROTECT MYSELF!
OUTSIDE!
PHONES IN MY LOCKER!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
CALLING MY LAWYER!
YOU GETTING THIS?
THEY'RE HURTING HER!
PLEASE, JUST--OW!
EXACTLY WHAT IS THIS?
TEACHER'S RIGHT, ACTUALLY.
THIS ISN'T THE PLACE FOR THIS.


UM, I REALLY WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT LAW I BROKE!
DON'T-- DON'T I GET A PHONE CALL?
FOR THAT I NEED MY PHONE BACK!
YOU SEE THOSE FUCKING KIDS SHIT THEIR PANTS?
THAT WAS A PRIMO HIGH SCHOOL REVENGE MOMENT FOR ME.
TEACHER WAS HOT.
OH, YOU'RE SUCH A WEIRDO.
HEY, UH, CAN I SEE YOUR FBI BADGE?
PACE YOURSELF, HOTSHOT.
YOU GOT A DAY AHEAD OF YOU.
UH...
YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO TELL FROM LOOKING AT ME...BUT I HAVE A LAWYER.
I REALLY DO HAVE A LAWYER.
AGH!
FUCKERS!
NONE OF THIS IS AT ALL NECESSARY!
WELL, IT IS BECAUSE I ASKED THEM TO.


FBI
AND THEY WORK FOR ME.
HELLO, MASTERPIECE, I AM ZERO PRESTON.
UH...
MY NAME IS EMMA.
THAT'S NOT WHAT IT SAYS ON YOUR BIRTH CERTIFICATE.
FBI
WHY DO YOU LOOK SO FAMILIAR?
AND WHY DO YOU HAVE MY BIRTH CERTIFICATE?
WHY DO YOU THINK YOU'RE HERE?
I'VE BEEN KIDNAPPED FOR THE--
MAN, YOU REALLY-- OH SHIT!
I--I KNOW YOU.
SO HERE'S WHAT I'VE BEEN THINKING ALL DAY:
IF I HAD A HUNDRED, I DON'T KNOW, CHEESEBURGERS, I WOULD DEFINITELY GIVE YOU ONE IF YOU ASKED.
OKAY...UM, AS I WOULD YOU.
WELL, YOU, ZERO PRESTON, YOU HAVE A HUNDRED BILLION DOLLARS...
SO, CAN I HAVE ONE?

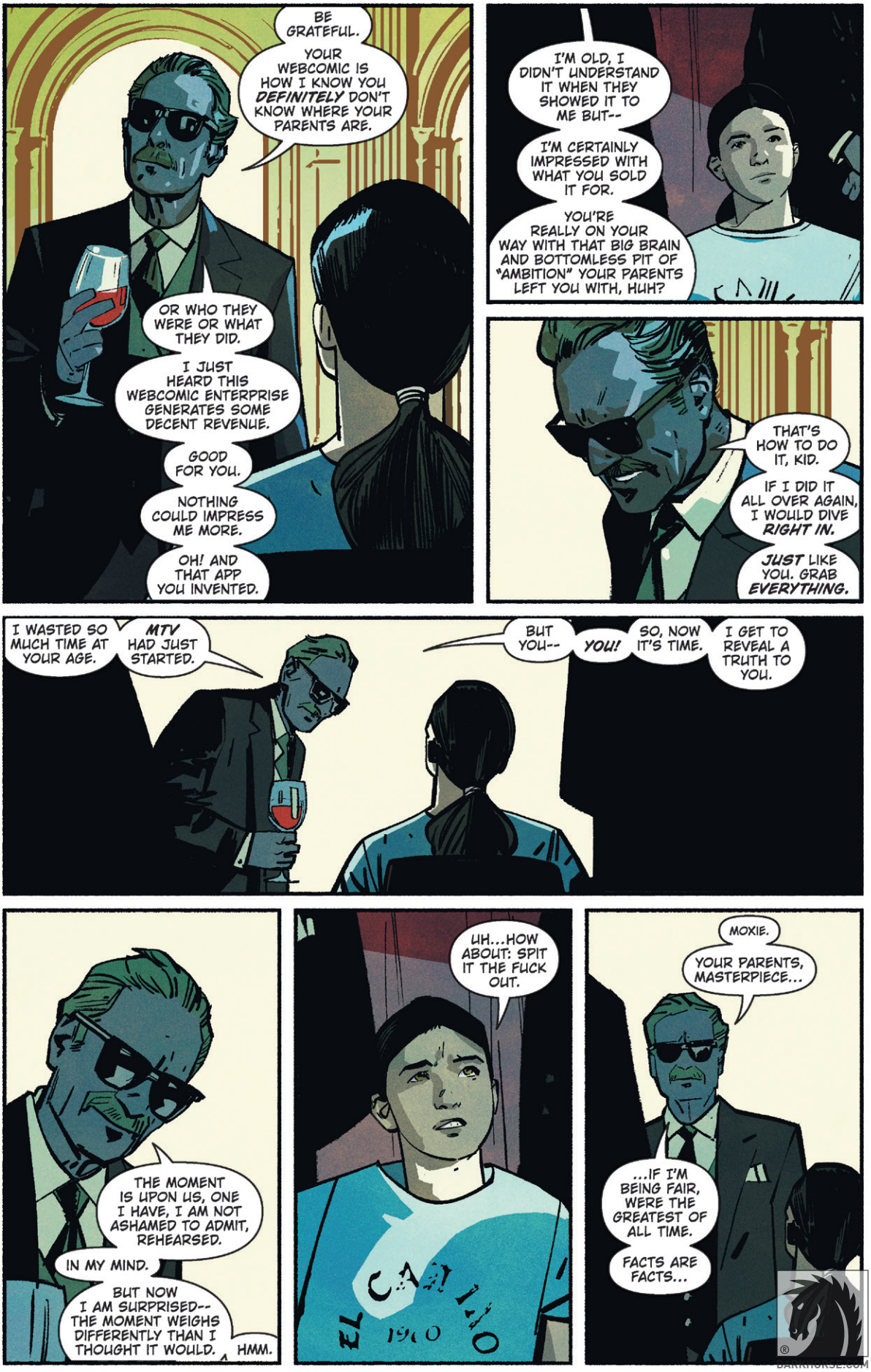

FBI
FBI
SHE DIDN'T SEEM *THAT* SURPRISED TO SEE THE *FBI*, BY THE BY.
WHAT?
DUDE! YOU JUST TRASHED *MY LIFE!!*
IT TOOK FOREVER TO GET INTO THAT SCHOOL.
"FBI"?
STILL WAITING ON THAT BADGE!
CHILD, WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT YOUR PARENTS?
NEVER MET 'EM.
NO.
YOU DID.
YOU JUST DON'T REMEMBER.
YOUR PARENTS THOUGHT YOU WERE THEIR MASTERPIECE.
MAYBE YOU WERE.
DID YOU KNOW MY PARENTS?

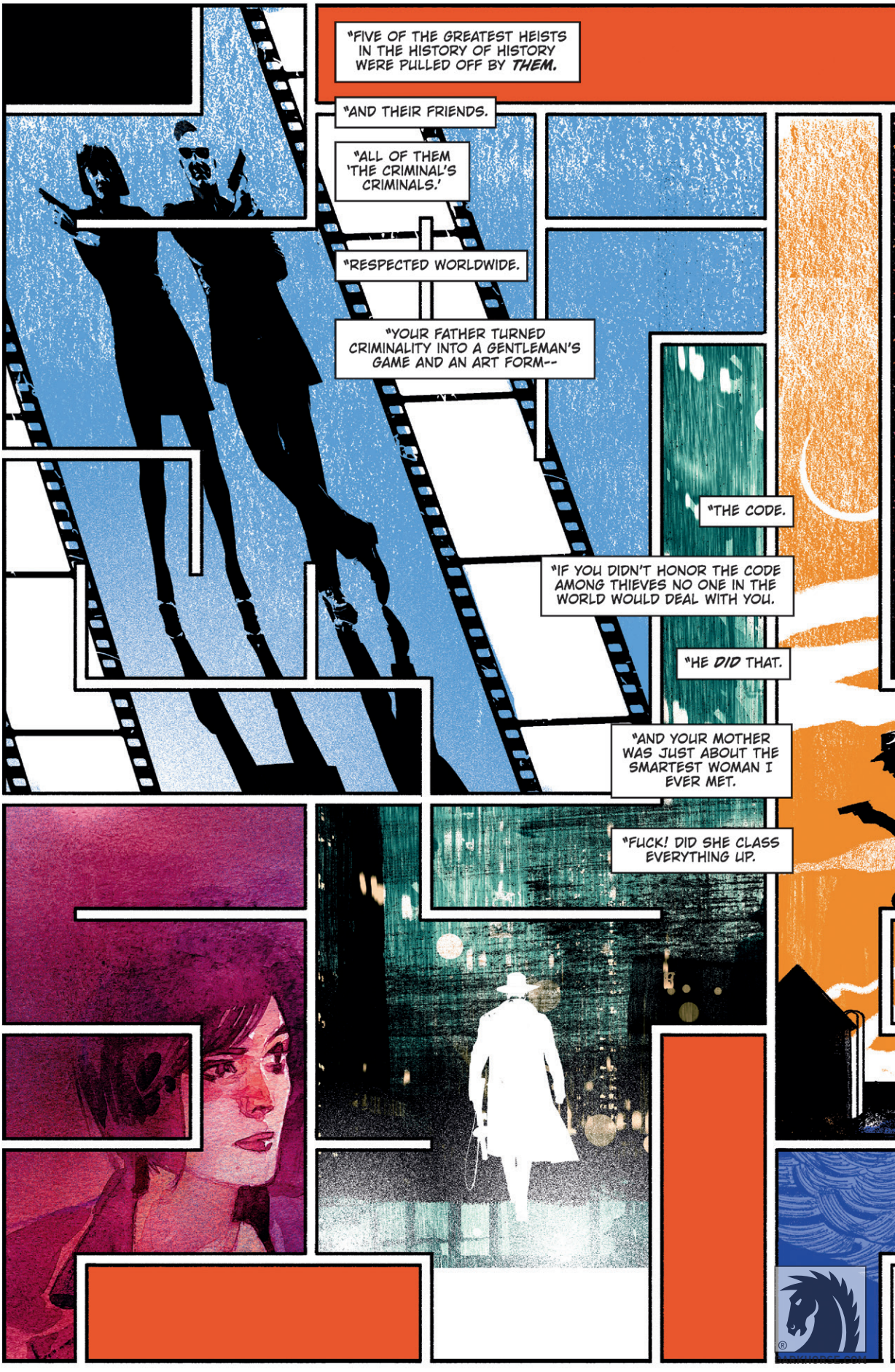


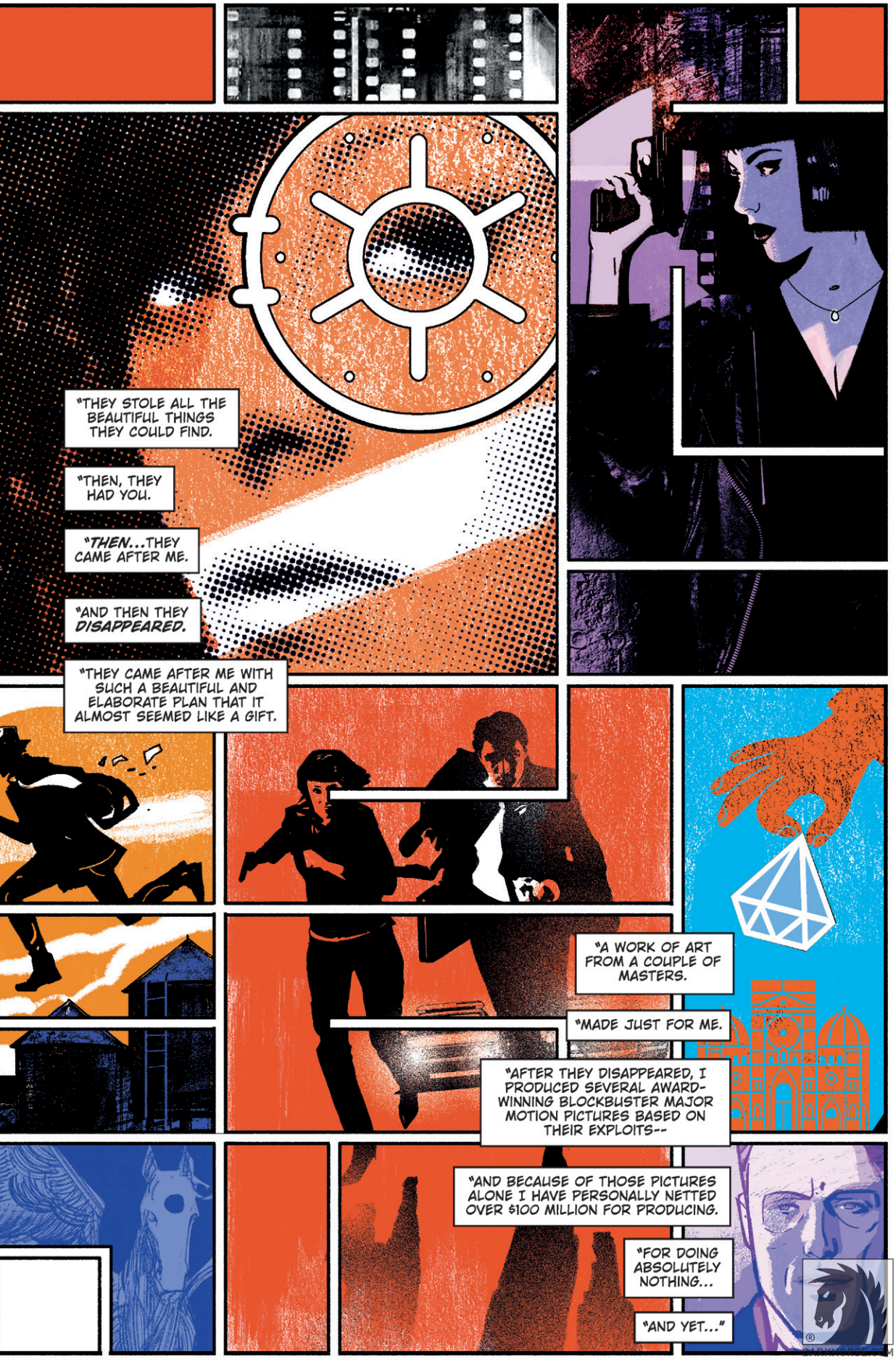
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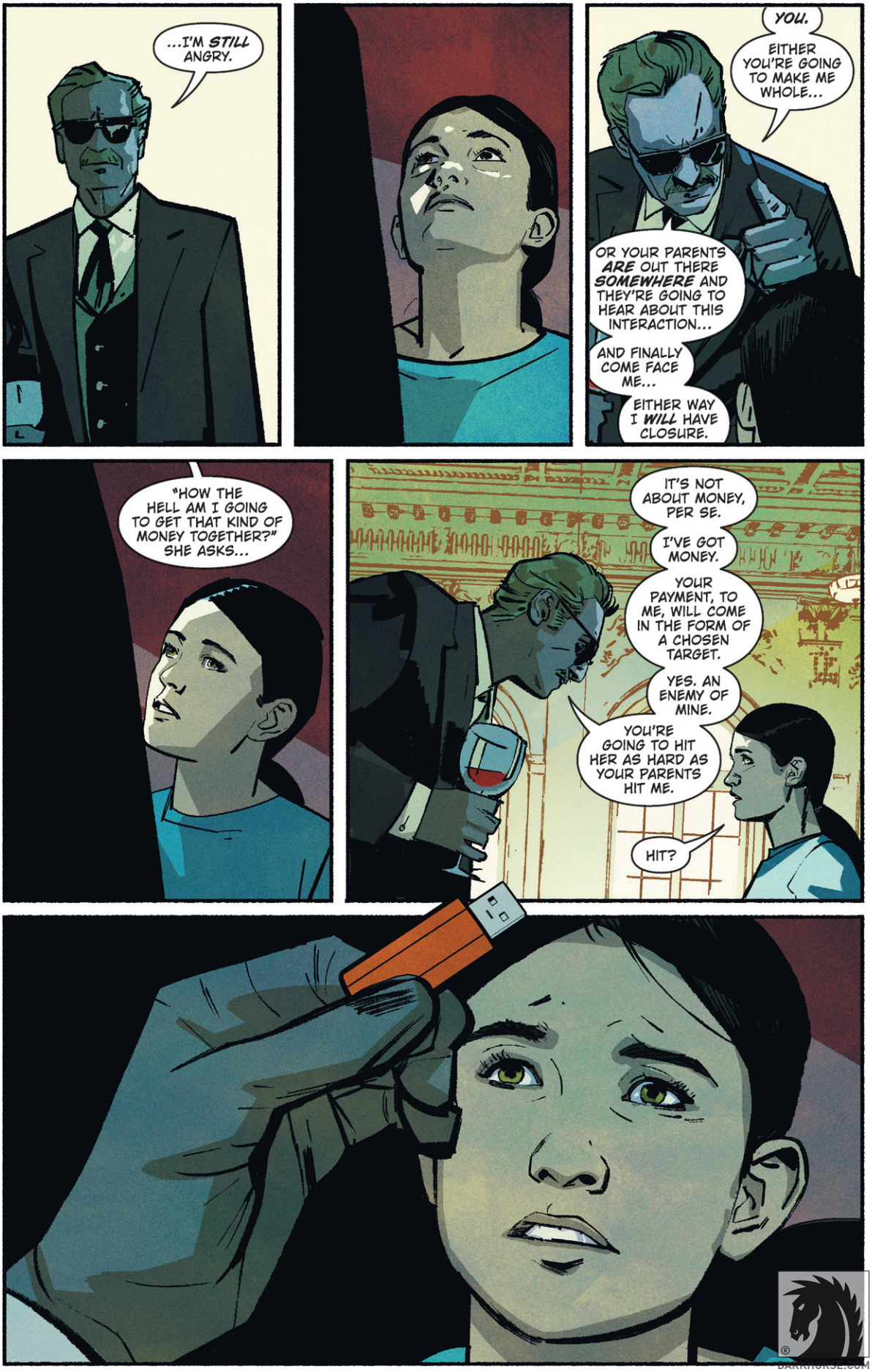


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BE GRATEFUL.
YOUR WEBCOMIC IS HOW I KNOW YOU DEFINITELY DON'T KNOW WHERE YOUR PARENTS ARE.
OR WHO THEY WERE OR WHAT THEY DID.
I JUST HEARD THIS WEBCOMIC ENTERPRISE GENERATES SOME DECENT REVENUE.
GOOD FOR YOU.
NOTHING COULD IMPRESS ME MORE.
OH! AND THAT APP YOU INVENTED.
I'M OLD, I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND IT WHEN THEY SHOWED IT TO ME BUT--
I'M CERTAINLY IMPRESSED WITH WHAT YOU SOLD IT FOR.
YOU'RE REALLY ON YOUR WAY WITH THAT BIG BRAIN AND BOTTOMLESS PIT OF "AMBITION" YOUR PARENTS LEFT YOU WITH, HUH?
THAT'S HOW TO DO IT, KID.
IF I DID IT ALL OVER AGAIN, I WOULD DIVE RIGHT IN.
JUST LIKE YOU. GRAB EVERYTHING.
I WASTED SO MUCH TIME AT YOUR AGE.
MTV HAD JUST STARTED.
BUT YOU--
YOU!
SO, NOW IT'S TIME.
I GET TO REVEAL A TRUTH TO YOU.
THE MOMENT IS UPON US, ONE I HAVE, I AM NOT ASHAMED TO ADMIT, REHEARSED.
IN MY MIND.
BUT NOW I AM SURPRISED-- THE MOMENT WEIGHS DIFFERENTLY THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD.
HMM.
UH...HOW ABOUT: SPIT IT THE FUCK OUT.
MOXIE.
YOUR PARENTS, MASTERPIECE...
...IF I'M BEING FAIR, WERE THE GREATEST OF ALL TIME.
FACTS ARE FACTS...

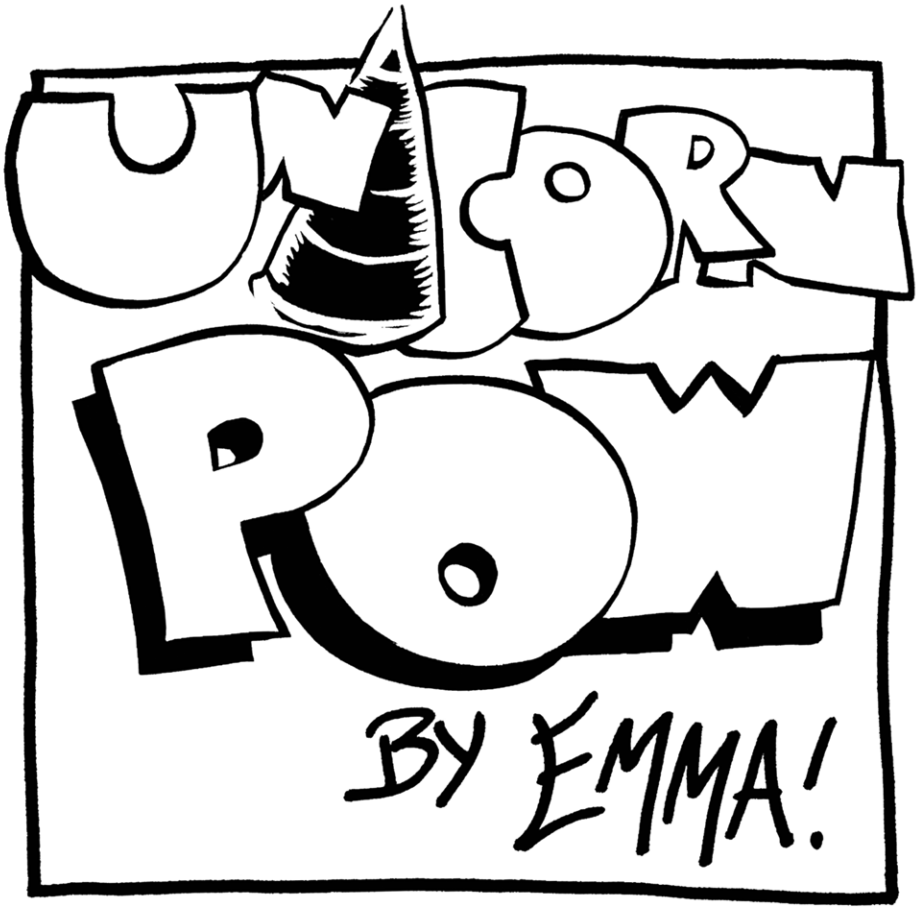

"FIVE OF THE GREATEST HEISTS IN THE HISTORY OF HISTORY WERE PULLED OFF BY *THEM.*
"AND THEIR FRIENDS.
"ALL OF THEM 'THE CRIMINAL'S CRIMINALS.'
"RESPECTED WORLDWIDE.
"YOUR FATHER TURNED CRIMINALITY INTO A GENTLEMAN'S GAME AND AN ART FORM--
"THE CODE.
"IF YOU DIDN'T HONOR THE CODE AMONG THIEVES NO ONE IN THE WORLD WOULD DEAL WITH YOU.
"HE *DID* THAT.
"AND YOUR MOTHER WAS JUST ABOUT THE SMARTEST WOMAN I EVER MET.
"FUCK! DID SHE CLASS EVERYTHING UP.


"THEY STOLE ALL THE BEAUTIFUL THINGS THEY COULD FIND.
"THEN, THEY HAD YOU.
"THEN...THEY CAME AFTER ME.
"AND THEN THEY DISAPPEARED.
"THEY CAME AFTER ME WITH SUCH A BEAUTIFUL AND ELABORATE PLAN THAT IT ALMOST SEEMED LIKE A GIFT.
"A WORK OF ART FROM A COUPLE OF MASTERS.
"MADE JUST FOR ME.
"AFTER THEY DISAPPEARED, I PRODUCED SEVERAL AWARD-WINNING BLOCKBUSTER MAJOR MOTION PICTURES BASED ON THEIR EXPLOITS--
"AND BECAUSE OF THOSE PICTURES ALONE I HAVE PERSONALLY NETTED OVER $100 MILLION FOR PRODUCING.
"FOR DOING ABSOLUTELY NOTHING...
"AND YET..."


...I'M STILL ANGRY.
YOU.
EITHER YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE ME WHOLE...
OR YOUR PARENTS ARE OUT THERE SOMEWHERE AND THEY'RE GOING TO HEAR ABOUT THIS INTERACTION...
AND FINALLY COME FACE ME...
EITHER WAY I WILL HAVE CLOSURE.
"HOW THE HELL AM I GOING TO GET THAT KIND OF MONEY TOGETHER?" SHE ASKS...
IT'S NOT ABOUT MONEY, PER SE.
I'VE GOT MONEY.
YOUR PAYMENT, TO ME, WILL COME IN THE FORM OF A CHOSEN TARGET.
YES. AN ENEMY OF MINE.
YOU'RE GOING TO HIT HER AS HARD AS YOUR PARENTS HIT ME.
HIT?



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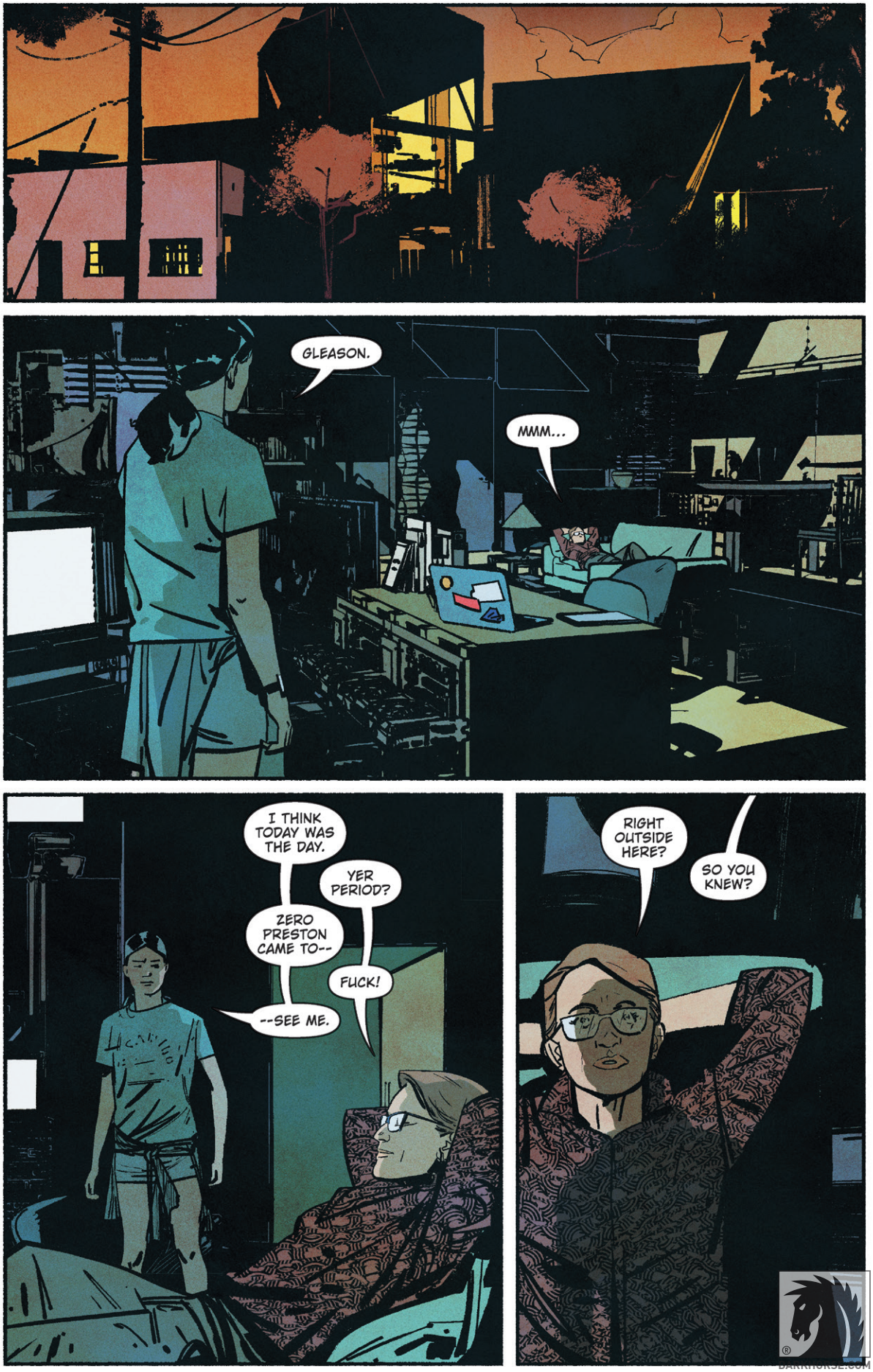


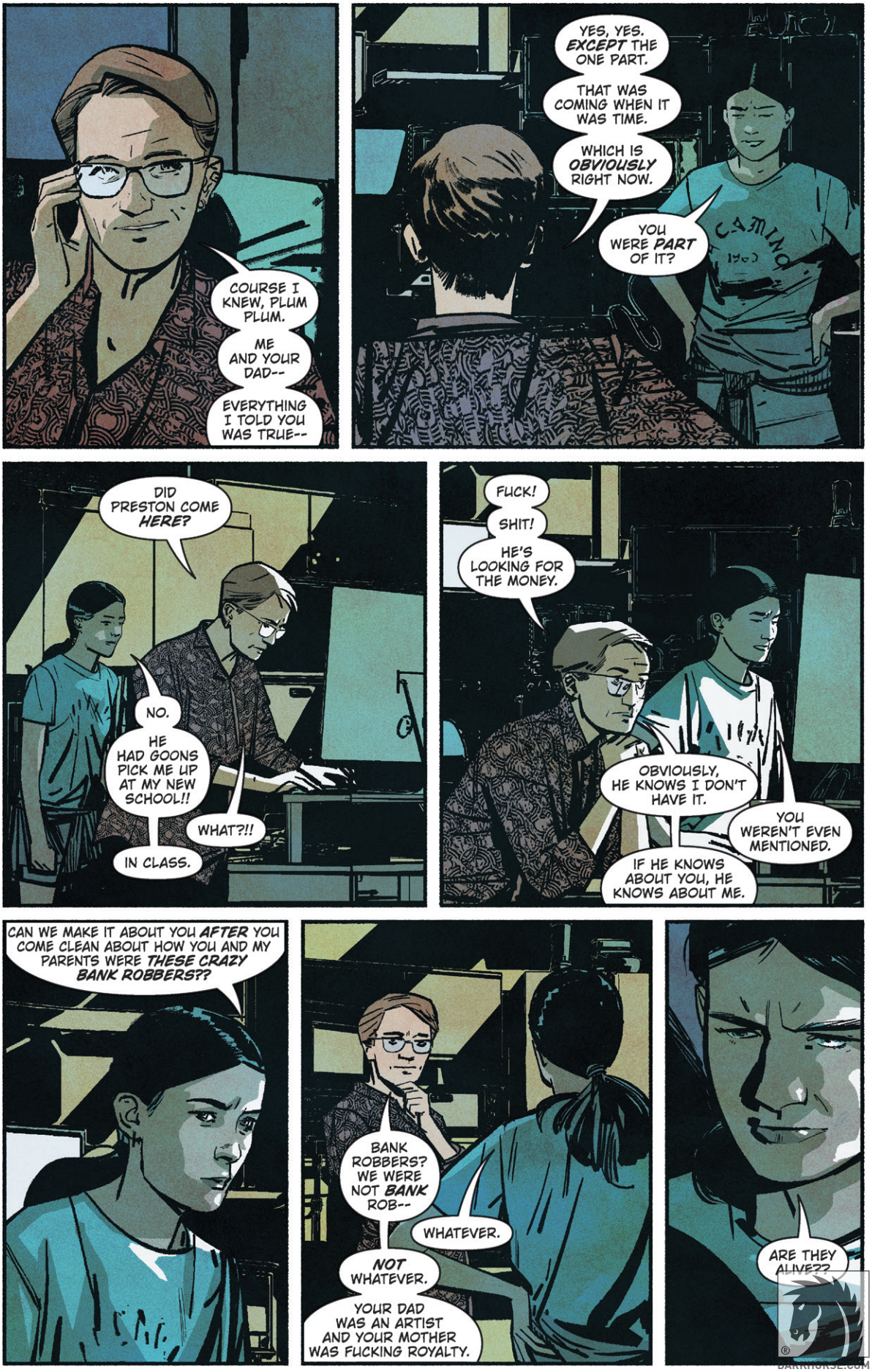
Thank you for four years of an amazing journey together. That was the last installment of Unicorn Pow. Thank you for your patronage.

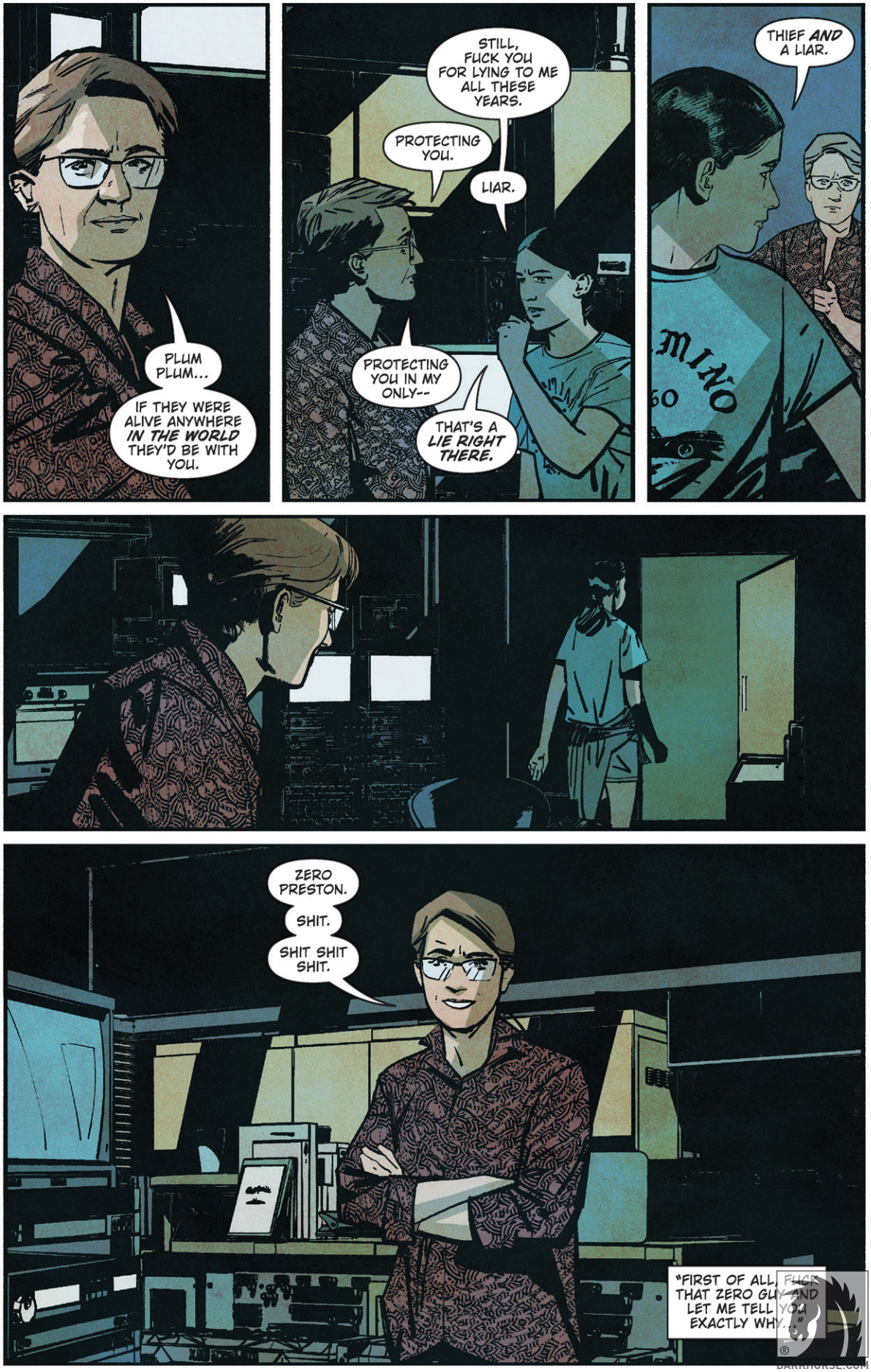
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Bye. Pow.

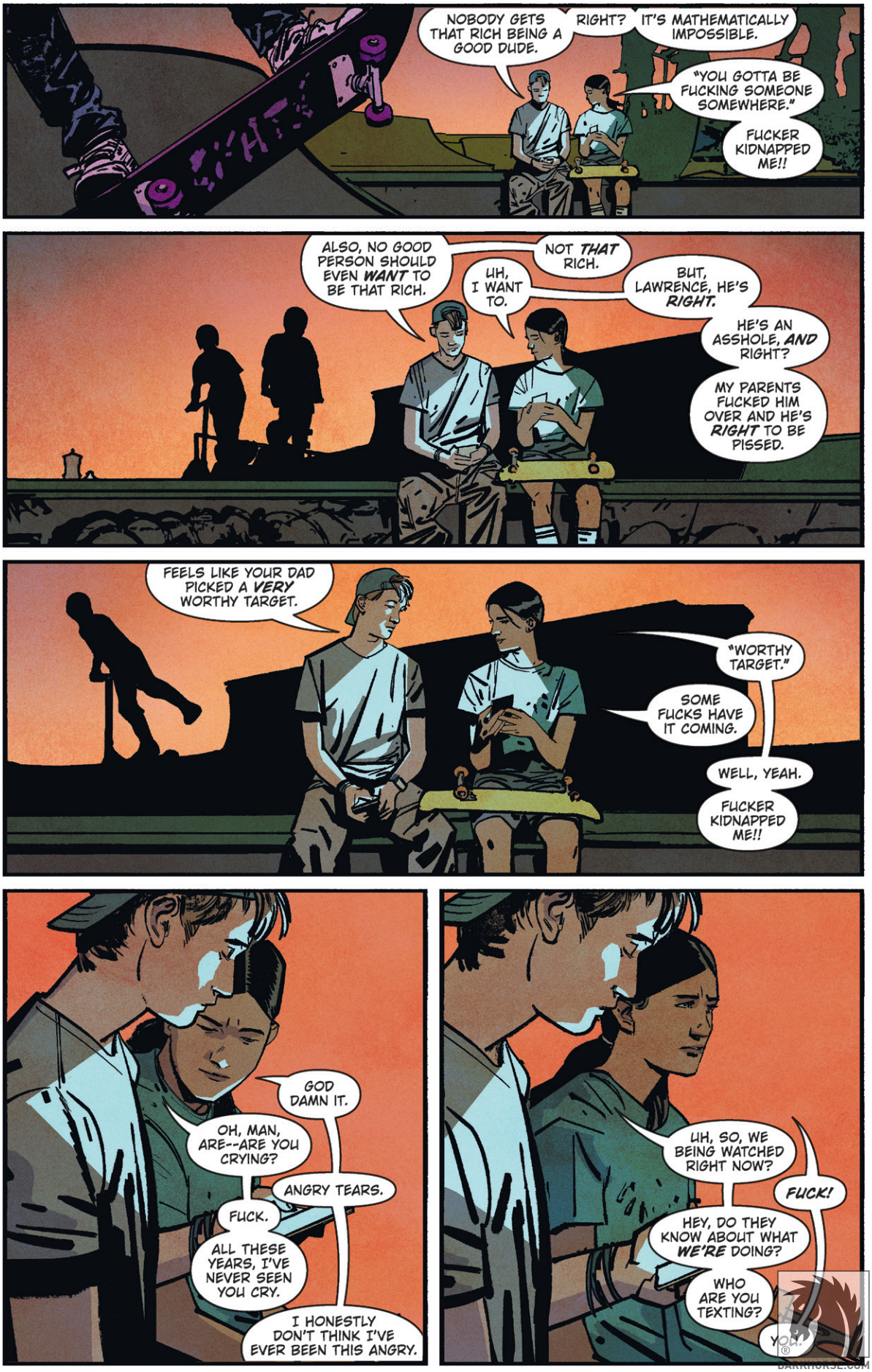
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GLEASON.
MMM...
I THINK TODAY WAS THE DAY.
YER PERIOD?
ZERO PRESTON CAME TO--
FUCK!
--SEE ME.
RIGHT OUTSIDE HERE?
SO YOU KNEW?


COURSE I KNEW, PLUM PLUM.
ME AND YOUR DAD--
EVERYTHING I TOLD YOU WAS TRUE--
YES, YES. EXCEPT THE ONE PART.
THAT WAS COMING WHEN IT WAS TIME.
WHICH IS OBVIOUSLY RIGHT NOW.
YOU WERE PART OF IT?
DID PRESTON COME HERE?
NO.
HE HAD GOONS PICK ME UP AT MY NEW SCHOOL!!
IN CLASS.
WHAT?!!
FUCK!
SHIT!
HE'S LOOKING FOR THE MONEY.
OBVIOUSLY, HE KNOWS I DON'T HAVE IT.
IF HE KNOWS ABOUT YOU, HE KNOWS ABOUT ME.
YOU WEREN'T EVEN MENTIONED.
CAN WE MAKE IT ABOUT YOU AFTER YOU COME CLEAN ABOUT HOW YOU AND MY PARENTS WERE THESE CRAZY BANK ROBBERS??
BANK ROBBERS? WE WERE NOT BANK ROB--
NOT WHATEVER.
WHATEVER.
YOUR DAD WAS AN ARTIST AND YOUR MOTHER WAS FUCKING ROYALTY.
ARE THEY ALIVE??



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NOBODY GETS THAT RICH BEING A GOOD DUDE.
RIGHT?
IT'S MATHEMATICALLY IMPOSSIBLE.
"YOU GOTTA BE FUCKING SOMEONE SOMEWHERE."
FUCKER KIDNAPPED ME!!
ALSO, NO GOOD PERSON SHOULD EVEN *WANT* TO BE THAT RICH.
NOT *THAT* RICH.
UH, I WANT TO.
BUT, LAWRENCE, HE'S *RIGHT.*
HE'S AN ASSHOLE, *AND* RIGHT?
MY PARENTS FUCKED HIM OVER AND HE'S *RIGHT* TO BE PISSED.
FEELS LIKE YOUR DAD PICKED A *VERY* WORTHY TARGET.
"WORTHY TARGET."
SOME FUCKS HAVE IT COMING.
WELL, YEAH.
FUCKER KIDNAPPED ME!!
GOD DAMN IT.
OH, MAN, ARE--ARE YOU CRYING?
ANGRY TEARS.
FUCK.
ALL THESE YEARS, I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU CRY.
I HONESTLY DON'T THINK I'VE EVER BEEN THIS ANGRY.
UH, SO, WE BEING WATCHED RIGHT NOW?
FUCK!
HEY, DO THEY KNOW ABOUT WHAT *WE'RE* DOING?
WHO ARE YOU TEXTING?
YOU!



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WHAT THE HELL IS *THIS?*
NO.
NO TO ALL OF THIS.


MINOR
THREATS
PATTON OSWALT
JORDAN BLUM
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MINOR THREATS™

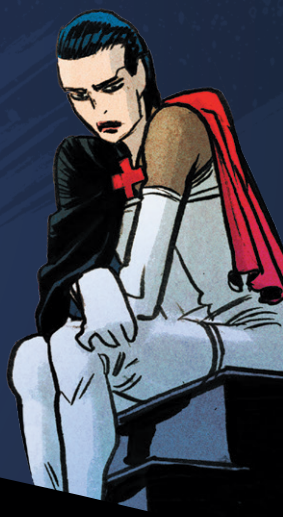




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MINOR THREATS™

VOLUME 1
A QUICK END TO A LONG BEGINNING



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PATTON OSWALT
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LETTERS
NATE PIEKOS OF BLAMBOT®

COVER BY
SCOTT HEPBURN WITH
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MINOR THREATS CREATED BY PATTON OSWALT,
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CHAPTER ONE
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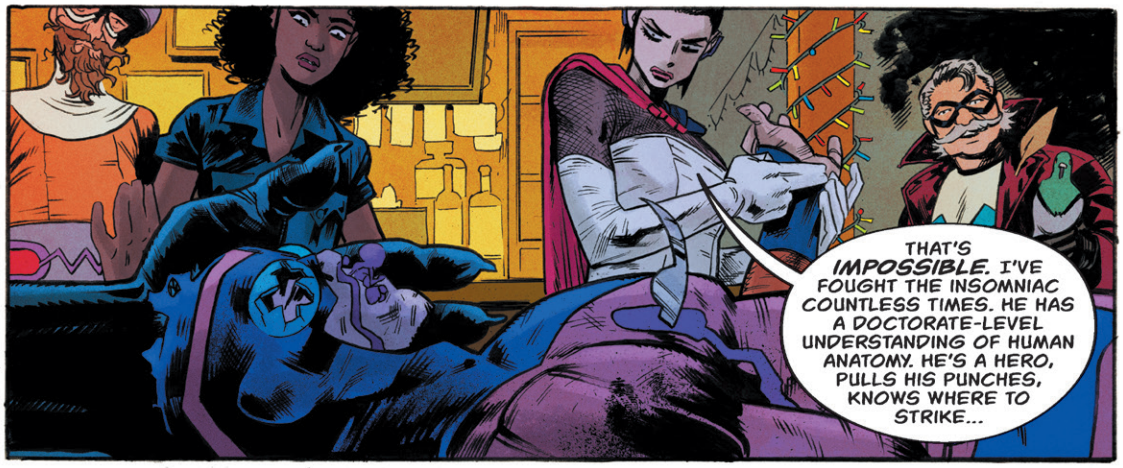

PIGEON PETE IS OLD SCHOOL, ONE OF THE FIRSTS.
COME ON, THAT ONE WAS A DUD, BUT THE REST ARE HIGH-QUALITY. GOT 'EM FROM NIGHT PIRATE.
GET FUCKED, PETE!
USED TO RUN WITH MY MOM, TAUGHT ME ABOUT "THE CODE" WHEN I WAS KID.
THAT EVEN THOUGH WE WERE CRIMINALS THERE WAS STILL HONOR AMONGST THIEVES.
FRANKIE, MY GIRL, LET ME GET A TASTE OF WHAT NURSIE'S HAVING.
IT'S PROBABLY WHY I'M SO SOFT ON HIM.
OH...I'M NOT ACTUALLY THAT LIQUID RIGHT NOW, SWEETHEART, BUT I GOT SOME BIG THINGS IN THE WORKS.
IT'S ON THE HOUSE, PETE.
SOME, LIKE PETE, TAKE COMFORT IN THE STRUCTURE OF IT. WE STEAL, THEY LOCK US UP, WE DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN.
NO, NO I'M GOOD FOR IT--
TOMORROW I'LL COME IN AND PAY YOU TWICE WHAT I OWE YA.
BUT ME, I SEE IT FOR WHAT IT REALLY IS...
...A CAGE ON BOTH SIDES.
HELP! NOW! OR I'LL KILL EVERYONE IN HERE!
AND RECENTLY I'VE DECIDED TO DIE FREE.

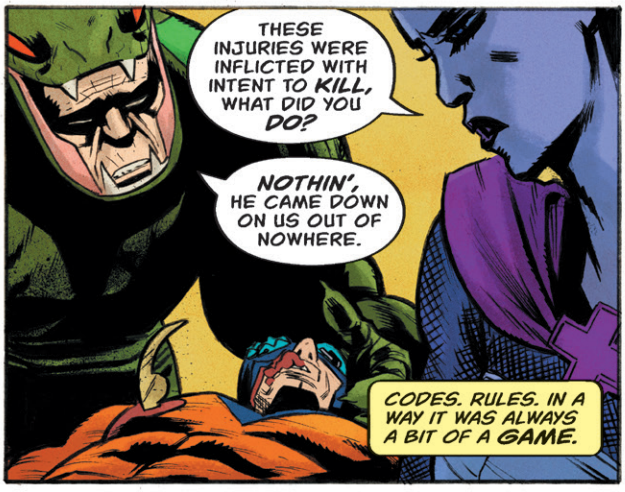


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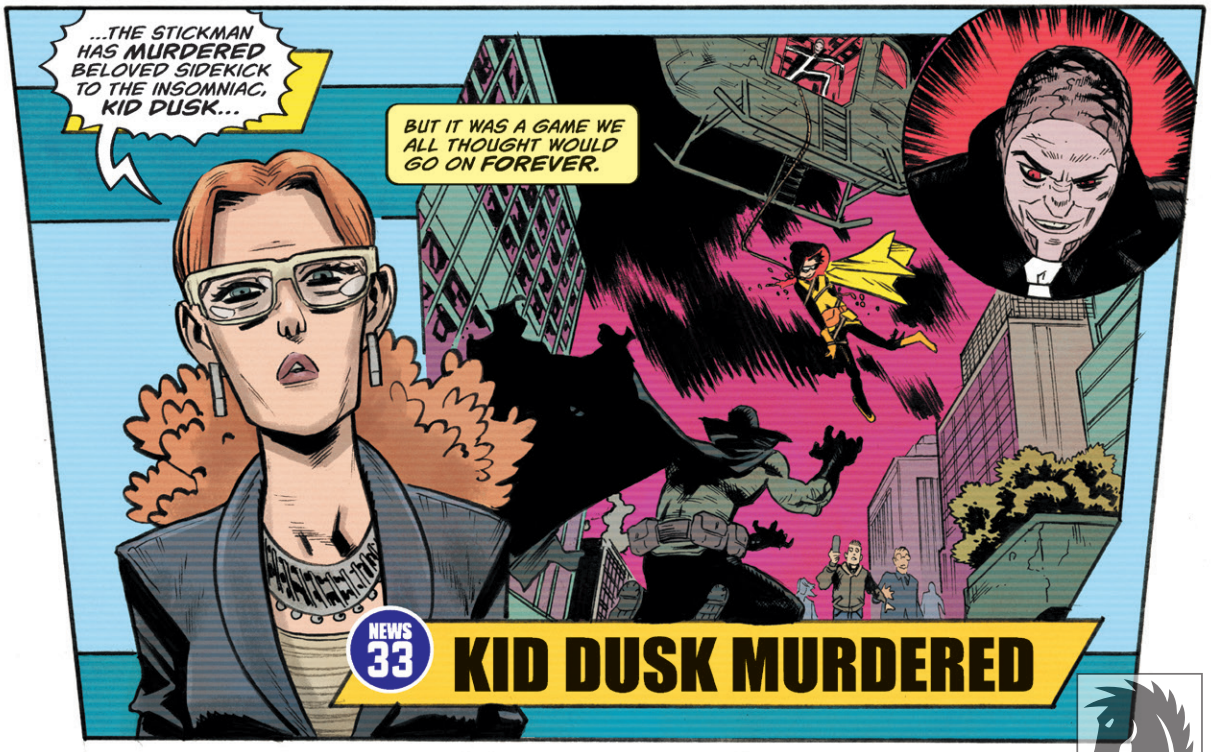


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RRRUUUMMMBBBBBBLLEEEE
THE BODY HAS NOT BEEN RECOVERED NOR HAS THERE BEEN A STATEMENT RELEASED BY THE INS--
click
CAN I HAVE EVERYONE'S ATTENTION
IN AN INSTANT I KNEW NOTHING WOULD BE THE SAME. EVERYTHING WAS BROKEN.
...CITIZENS OF TWILIGHT CITY...
...THIS IS THE SEARCHER, LEADER OF THE CONTINUUM.
IF ANYONE HAS ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THE CURRENT WHEREABOUTS OF THE STICKMAN WE SUGGEST YOU SHARE IT NOW.
AND LIKE I SAID, THE NIGHT HAD BARELY STARTED...


THREE WEEKS AGO.
HEY, FOLLIS...
...THEY'RE READY FOR YOU.
"OKAY, FRANKIE, PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS..."



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JACK N' THE BOX GUN
...HE'S GOT IT STASHED IN THAT DREAM CAVERN IN SOME SORT OF TROPHY ROOM.
BUT ONE DAY I'LL GET IT BACK...
YO-YO GRAPE
...IT'S AN IMPORTANT PART OF MY LEGACY.

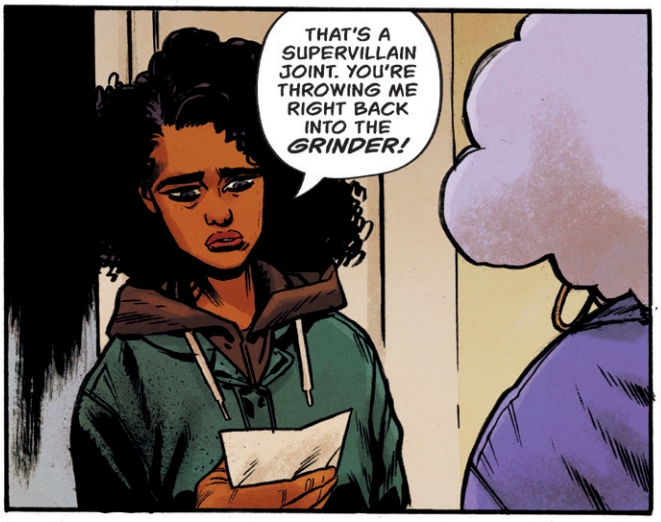


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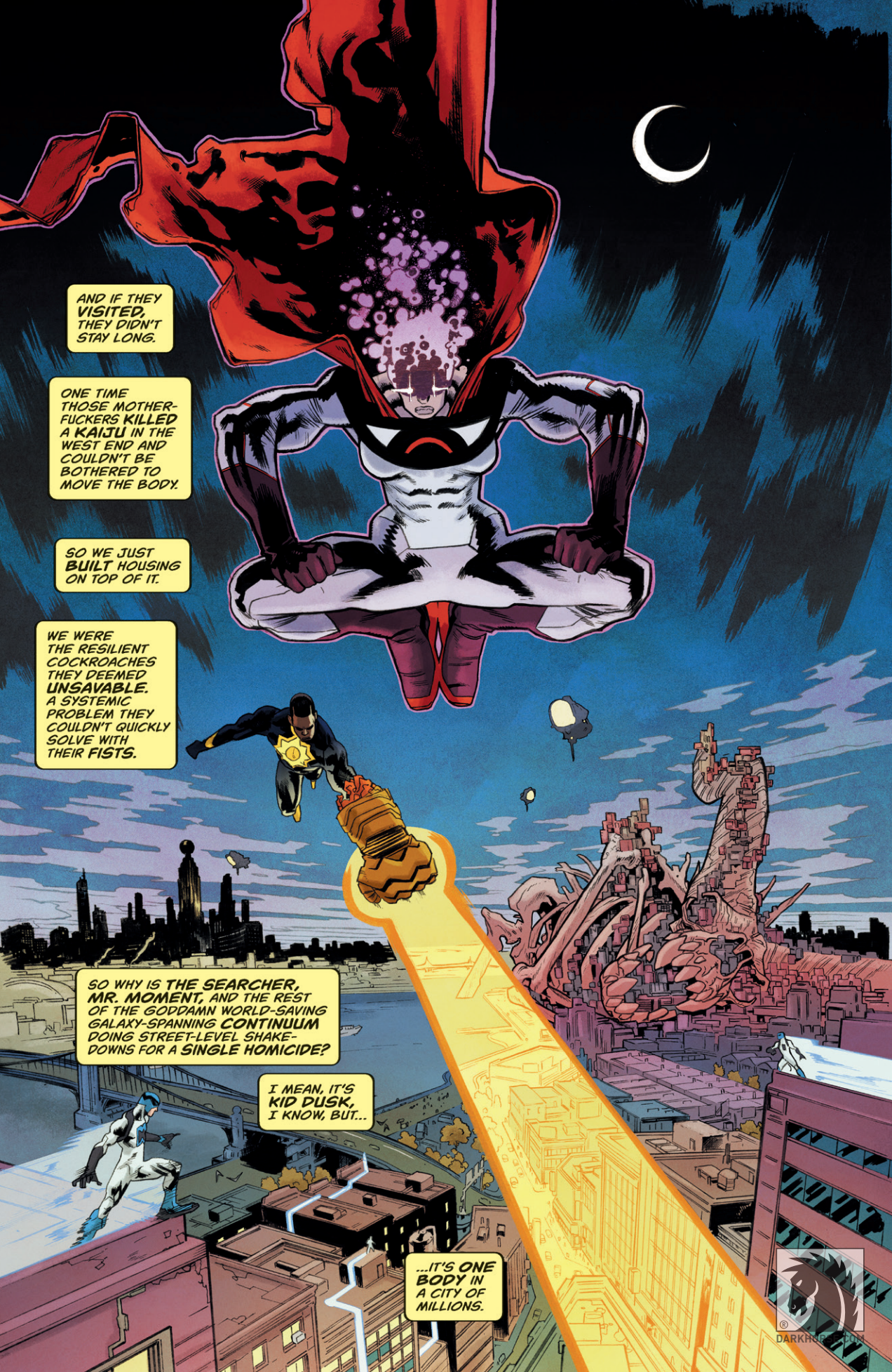




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I ONLY SAW THE STICKMAN ONCE.
HE INVITED A BUNCH OF SUPER-VILLAINS TO MEET AND DISCUSS TEAMING UP--
SOMETHING ABOUT PULLING THE CRIME OF THE CENTURY AND TAKING ON THE INSOMNIAC TOGETHER.
IT DIDN'T GO WELL.
MY MOTHER WASN'T AN EMOTIONAL PERSON, BUT IN THAT MOMENT I SAW SADNESS. RAGE. DREAD.
SHE DIDN'T GET OUT OF BED FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. BARELY ATE. BARELY SPOKE.
ALL SHE EVER SAID ABOUT THAT MEETING WAS "HE CROSSED THE LINE."


PRESENT.
TWILIGHT CITY
IF DOWNTOWN HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE BEATING HEART OF THE CITY...
...THEN REDPORT HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE MALIGNANT TUMOR GROWING OUT OF ITS ASSHOLE.
ARK 24
OXYM
ONE HOUR ROOMS
NOODLE POST 77
TWILIGHT CITY
GUY BUDDY
LIVE
THE ONLY PLUS SIDE WAS THE CAPES AVOIDED IT.


AND IF THEY VISITED, THEY DIDN'T STAY LONG.
ONE TIME THOSE MOTHER-FUCKERS KILLED A KAIJU IN THE WEST END AND COULDN'T BE BOTHERED TO MOVE THE BODY.
SO WE JUST BUILT HOUSING ON TOP OF IT.
WE WERE THE RESILIENT COCKROACHES THEY DEEMED UNSAVABLE. A SYSTEMIC PROBLEM THEY COULDN'T QUICKLY SOLVE WITH THEIR FISTS.
SO WHY IS THE SEARCHER, MR. MOMENT, AND THE REST OF THE GODDAMN WORLD-SAVING GALAXY-SPANNING CONTINUUM DOING STREET-LEVEL SHAKE-DOWNS FOR A SINGLE HOMICIDE?
I MEAN, IT'S KID DUSK, I KNOW, BUT...
...IT'S ONE BODY IN A CITY OF MILLIONS.


HELP ME!
I KNOW YOU! YOU'RE ONE OF US!
SHIT'S GONE CRAZY! CAPES CLAMPIN' DOWN ON EVERYONE! THERE'S NOWHERE TO RUN, YA GOTTA HELP ME.
I MEAN, THE CODE! YOU GOTTA--
I DON'T...I'M NOT...
YOU'RE PLAAAAAAAAAA!
WHEREISHE? TELLMEWHERE STICKMANIS!
MA'AM, THIS MAN MIGHT HAVE INFORMATION REGARDING A DANGEROUS FUGITIVE. I SUGGEST YOU KEEP MOVING.
THE CODE... SHE'S GOTTA... SHE'S...
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BOOK ONE: THE IMPALER

DRACULA™

MATT WAGNER

KELLEY JONES

WITH

JOSÉ VILLARRUBIA

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DRACULA™

BOOK ONE: THE IMPALER





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DRACULA™

BOOK ONE: THE IMPALER

WRITTEN BY
MATT WAGNER

ART BY
KELLEY JONES

COLOR ART BY
JOSÉ VILLARRUBIA

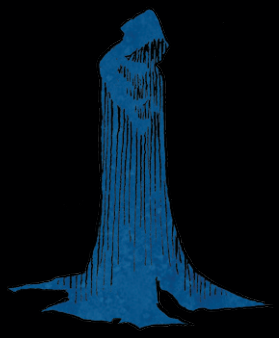
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ROB LEIGH

COVER BY
KELLEY JONES *WITH* JOSÉ VILLARRUBIA

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"WELCOME TO MY HOUSE! ENTER FREELY AND OF YOUR OWN WILL!"

With those immortal words, readers for generations were introduced to arguably one of the most famous literary creations of the ages—the terrifying vampire lord, Count Dracula. For over a century, this urbane monster has represented the ultimate prototype of the supernatural predator in most people's minds. He has been portrayed in countless films, comics and novels and his iconic name is literally known all over the world.



Standing in the shadows of those myriad depictions and extensions of this legendary creation, one must ponder the question; does the world need *another* incarnation of Dracula?

Kelley Jones is the most acclaimed horror comics artist of our day, an illustrative maestro of all things malevolent and macabre. His richly textured ink lines combined with his atmospheric draughtsmanship have given spine-chilling life to a vibrant litany of nightmarish narratives over the years. He has amassed a loyal readership who love his unique and evocative art in all its forms. He's also been my dear friend for over thirty years.

Kelley and I first met during various promotional signings when we'd both contributed art for the *Season of Mists* story arc in Neil Gaiman's blockbuster comics series, *The Sandman*. Kell and I hit it off immediately with our similar senses of humor and a mutual love for all things dark and monstrous. Ever since those earliest days of our friendship, we'd always intended to work together someday—a collaboration that we both felt certain would result in something unforgettable.

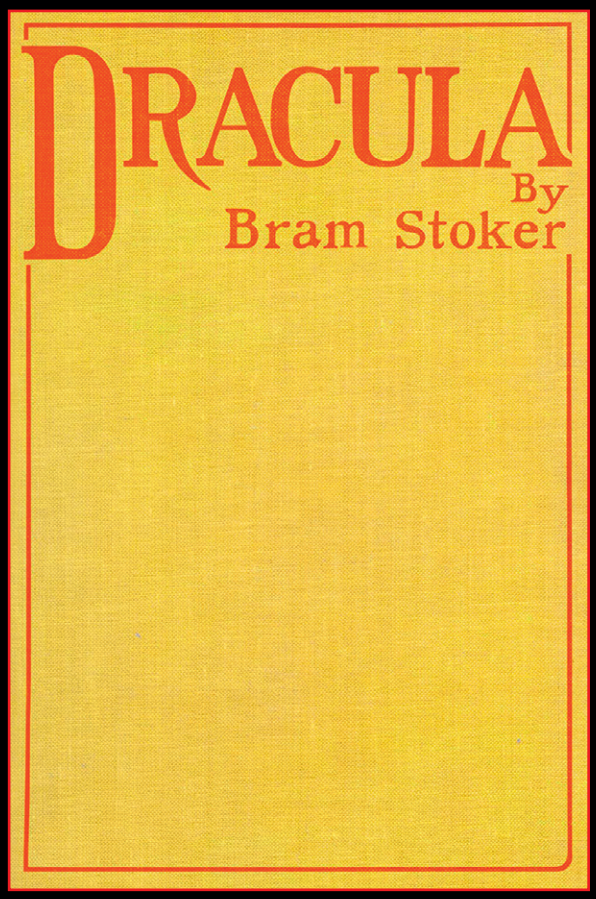
But, as is often the case, our lives and careers took us both in separate directions for many years until, during a recent exchange on social media, Kelley again revived the idea that, "We really do have to work together some day!" The only difference this time around was . . . I had an idea in mind that I thought would suit both of our interests and strengths. Anyone who's read *Grendel* knows that I've long had a fascination with vampires and entombed somewhere in that obsession was a desire to someday try my hand at a rendition of the grandaddy of all blood-suckers—the most famous vampire of all.

Author Bram Stoker was an Irish former civil servant turned theater manager who eventually also tried his hand at writing melodramatic and somewhat lurid novels to no great success. At some point in the early 1890s he encountered the legends and superstitions of Transylvania, an area that he never visited in person, and began to formulate the basis of a story centered around a character he originally christened "Count Vampyr". After years of making extensive notes outlining what was to become his most famous

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novel, he made the fortuitous decision to change the name of his sinister title character to Dracula.

Opinions vary as to whether Stoker had much knowledge of the real-life Dracula, a fifteenth-century Wallachian warlord (a *voivode*) renowned for his merciless cruelty. Vlad III was the second son and heir of Vlad Dracul, his predecessor on the Wallachian throne and a member of the Order of the Dragon, a chivalric fraternity that also provided his surname—"Dracul" translates to "dragon" in the Romanian language and thus "Dracula" indicates Vlad III as the "son of the dragon". Due to his horrific preferred method for executing political and military prisoners, he also earned the infamous moniker of Vlad Tepes—"*The Impaler*." Again, whether Stoker fully intended his vampiric villain to be an undead version of this historical despot, the name along with the physical similarities and bloodthirsty legacy all combine to provide a chilling gravity that has only added to the character's nefarious allure.



The novel was first published in 1897 and, much like Stoker's other literary efforts, it garnered only middling sales and mostly tepid reviews. Still, something resonated about this story beyond the public's initial reactions. Much like its title character himself, *Dracula* refused to die as more and more people eventually fell under the novel's hypnotic spell and its popularity continued to grow. In fact, since its initial publication, the novel has never gone out of print. Eventually, a seemingly endless progression of film and stage adaptations all served to ensure the novel's enduring longevity.

So, again . . . what new could our project possibly bring to this well-trodden legacy? One of the most significant features of Bram Stoker's classic novel is the fact that it is *epistolary*—told entirely through the narrative form of letters and journals. And aside from a few indelible personal appearances, the novel Dracula is portrayed as more of a sinister force whose shadowy presence pervades the story but isn't on stage in person all that often. The many and varied film adaptations also often keep the vampire lord mostly relegated to the shadows, even in those more modern versions where he's portrayed as something of a supernatural heartthrob. The all-important voice and central character missing from these myriad depictions . . . is Dracula himself.

So, our entire project—a series of four graphic novels of which this is the first volume—will be narrated by the title character . . . and he definitely *won't* be a romantic figure. Our Dracula is a monster—a brilliant, ruthless and power-hungry warlord who tortured and murdered thousands of his adversaries, who sought out supernatural powers under the tutelage of

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Satan himself . . . and that's all before he became a vampire! The collective story portrays an antagonist with a ravenous thirst for dominion and blood at all costs—a merciless leader of men who sacrifices everything to gain victory, only to achieve unearthly powers that prove to be as much a prison as they are an asset. Yet time and again, he rises from the ashes of defeat to stalk the earth once again.



Additionally, our version of Dracula will attempt to adhere tightly to the specifics found in the original novel without being yet another adaptation of the novel's central narrative. In addition to the many different film versions of that tale (each claiming to be truer to the source than any of its predecessors), there are also at least a dozen different comic-book varieties as well. Our graphic novels will unveil the tales beneath the surface and around the edges of the original book's storyline, the eerie hinted-at accounts that lie hidden behind the shadows of its mist-enshrouded settings.

When I first outlined my ideas for this project to Kelley, we both knew this was exactly the collaboration we'd been waiting for all these years. It felt like Dracula had been patiently waiting for both of us over the course of our long and accomplished careers . . . and it felt surprisingly strange that neither of us had ever directly addressed the character before. This is a project that feels like it was meant to be and, I can say with no irony, it presents some of Kelley's most personal and impressive work. Hopefully, mine too. We really hope you'll join us for all four volumes as we attempt to, once again, bring Dracula back from the dead.

Welcome to our house. Enter freely and of your own will.

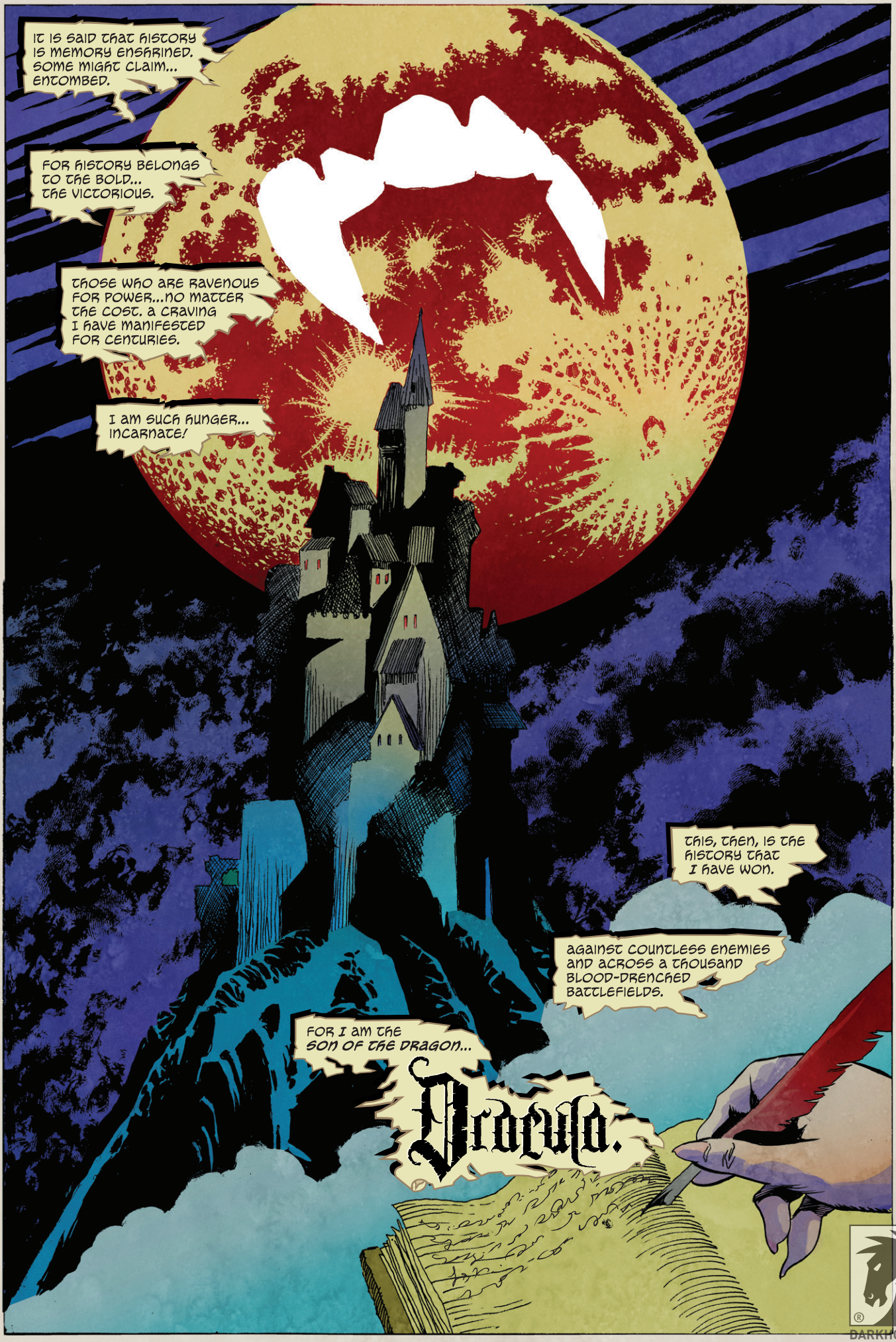
—MATT WAGNER

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The Draculas were, says Arminius, a great and noble race, though now and again were scions who were held by their coevals to have had dealings with the Evil One. They learned his secrets in the Scholomance, amongst the mountains over Lake Hermanstadt, where the devil claims the tenth scholar as his due.

—BRAM STOKER

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BATTLE OF TÂRGOVIȘTE. 1462.
AHHH... THERE IS NOTHING QUITE SO INTOXICATING AS THE SULTRY DEATH MOANS OF THE DEFEATED.
WHAT SWEET MUSIC THEY MAKE!
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VOIVODE... YOU MUST HASTEN TO THE ARMORER'S AND BE FITTED FOR BATTLE. OUR ENEMY DRAWS DANGEROUSLY NEAR.
A BLOODY DAY DAWNS...WITH SCANT HOPE FOR TOMORROW. HAS THE *CONTINGENCY PLAN* BEEN PUT IN PLACE?
YES, MILORD. THE LIKENESS IS STRIKING. PRAY THAT WE HAVE NO NEED OF SUCH DESPERATE MEASURES.
INDEED.
IN NOMINE PATRIS ET FILII ET SPIRITUS SANCTI.



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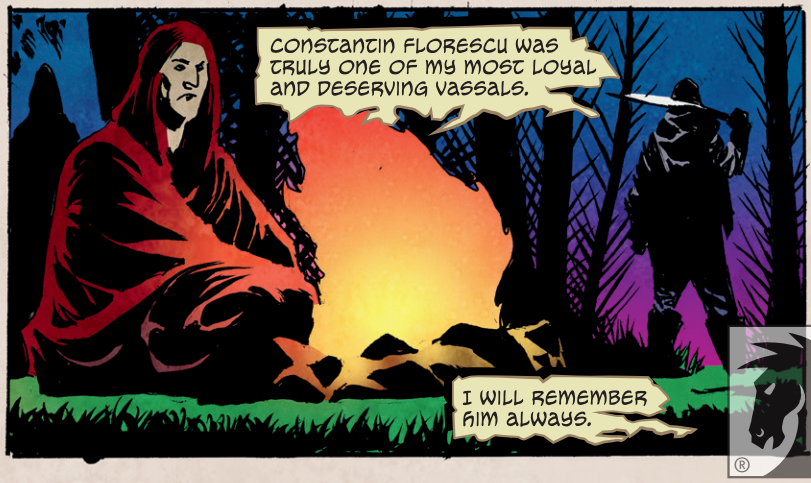


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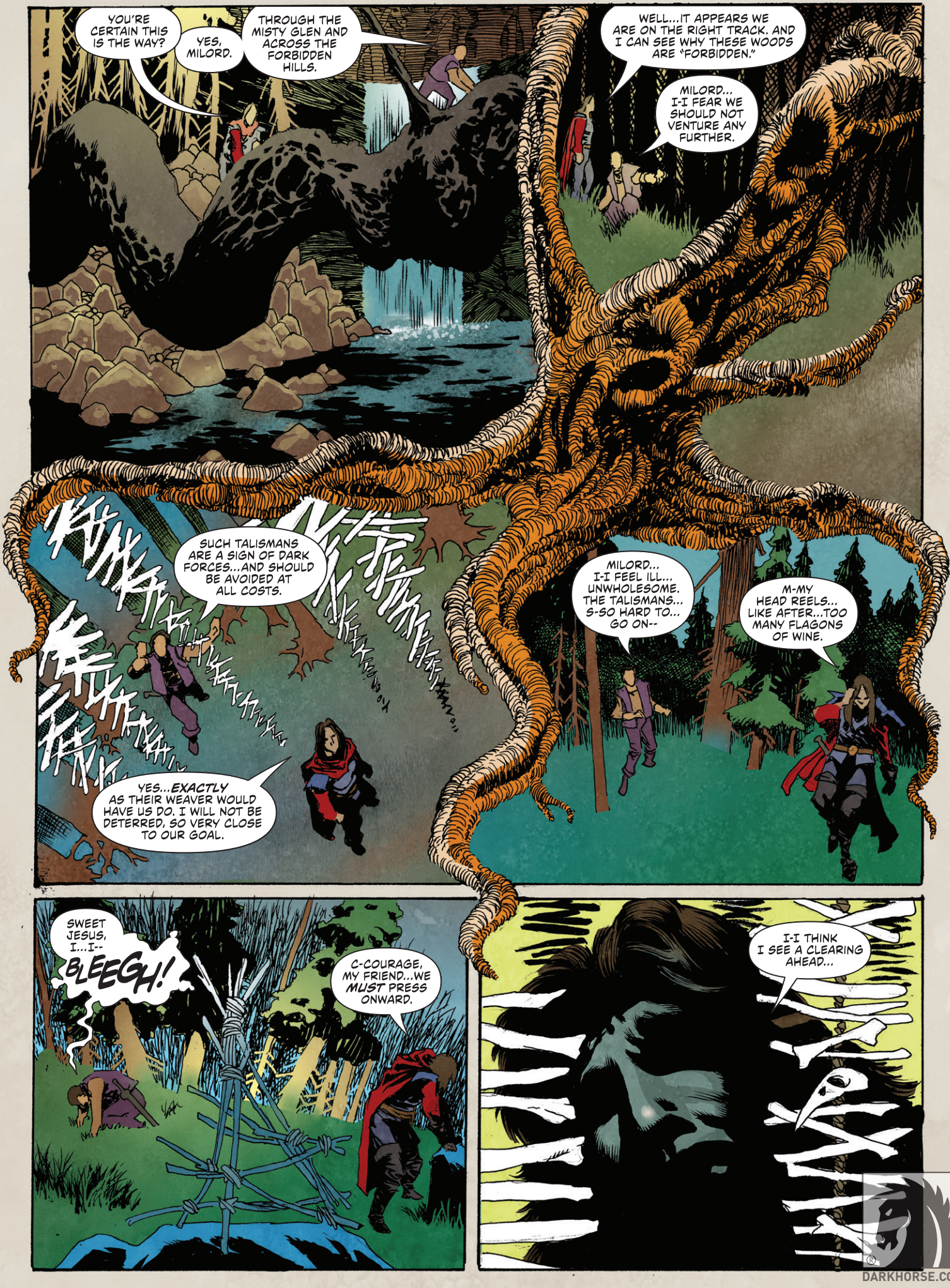






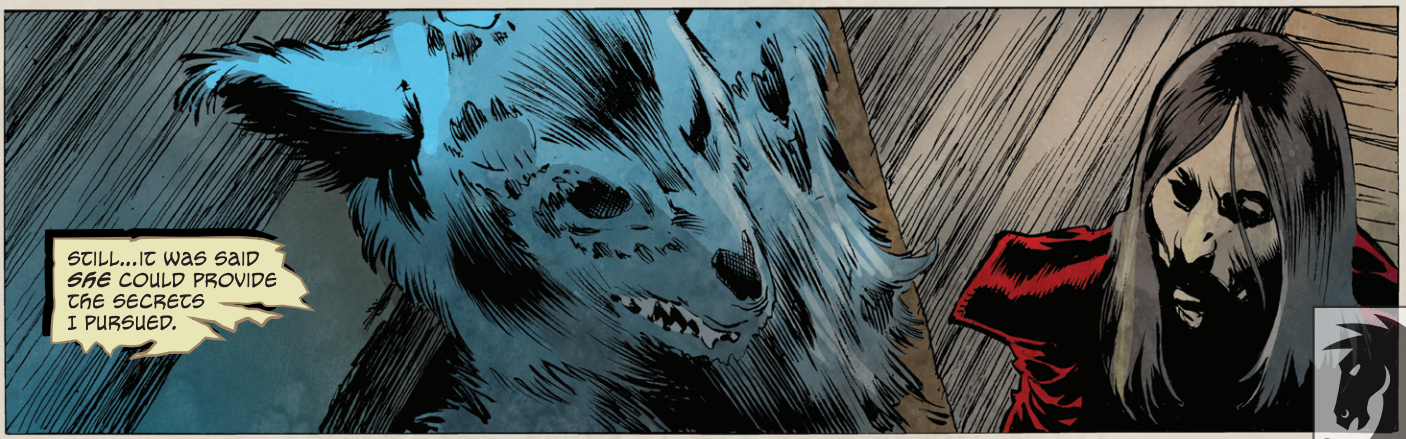


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