

# THE MAINSTREAM



talent  
2016



LITTLE BY LITTLE, IT QUICKLY *ESCALATED*.





UNTIL IT WAS  
UNMISTAKABLE.







MAGNIFICENT,  
IS IT NOT?  
AN ENDLESS  
STREAM OF  
POSSIBILITIES  
LAID OUT  
BEFORE US.



THE ANSWER  
TO THE ETERNAL  
QUESTION OF  
"WHAT IF?"



THIS WAS MY  
ORIGINAL VISION  
FOR THE PROJECT  
ALL ALONG.



IRONIC  
THEN...  
...THAT IT  
WILL PROVE TO  
BE MY PEOPLE'S  
SALVATION.





WHAT THE HELL DID YOU DO?

WHAT I PROMISED I WOULD, AGENT.

I TORE OPEN THE RIPPLE BETWEEN OUR WORLDS. RECONFIGURED THE DOORWAY BETWEEN MY REALITY AND THE MAINSTREAM.

I GAVE MY PEOPLE A CHANCE.



A CHANCE FOR WHAT? WE KNOW YOU KILLED THE REAL HODGE.

YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A MURDERER!



REAL HODGE?

REAL??



DO I NOT LOOK REAL TO YOU?!

KRRNKK





HULP--!  
KATE!

RRREEEEEEEE RRREEEEEEEE



SKRIP

AAAAHHHHH!!  
KAAATE!!



PLINK!



SSHHNNKK!

WHERE DID SHE GO?  
WHAT DID YOU DO WITH HER?





I REVERSED THE POLARITY OF THE DOORWAY.  
SHE'S ALIVE. BUT GONE.

WHY ARE YOU STILL HERE?



THAT SHOULD HAVE PULLED OUT ANYONE WHO DOESN'T BELONG HERE. ANYONE FROM THE MAINSTREAM.

ARE YOU ONE OF US?

OR SOMETHING MORE?

WHY DOES EVERYONE KEEP ASKING ME THAT?

I'M A COP! THAT'S ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW.



NO, YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY SOMETHING ELSE.

A THIRD REALITY? AN ANOMALY TO BOTH?

HOW DO YOU FIT INTO THIS PUZZLE?

I-I DON'T... I DON'T KNOW...

SO, YOU'RE LOOKING FOR ANSWERS, THEN?



WHAT IS IT YOU'D LIKE ME TO TELL YOU?

THE TRUTH?

THAT ALTERNATE REALITIES EXIST?



THAT FOR EVERY VERSION OF YOU...

...THERE ARE AN INFINITE AMOUNT OF ALTERNATE YOU'S...

...SIMPLY FLOATING AROUND THE COSMOS?





KATE, YOU'RE ALIVE!

DAMN STRAIGHT! WHAT'S THE SITCH OUT HERE?



NOT MUCH BETTER I'M AFRAID.

DR. NILES! THANK GOD! I THOUGHT...

ARM'S NUMB, BUT I'LL LIVE.



GOOD. WE NEED THAT BIG, FAT BRAIN OF YOURS.

I'LL DO MY BEST.

YOU'LL DO BETTER. ANY IDEA WHAT THIS THING IS?





AND BETTER YET, HOW DO WE GET IT OPEN?

**BWHOOOM!**



CLARK! WAKINO! WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?

THERE WERE TOO MANY OF THEM. THE COPS. WE COULDN'T HOLD THE ELEVATOR.

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?

ANTI-HODGE SNUCK INTO THE BRIDGE. DID THAT TO THE DOORWAY. NATE AND I TRIED TO STOP HIM FROM THE INSIDE, BUT—

WE BARRICADED THE DOOR, BUT IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME, NOW.

NATE? YOU MEAN THE COP?!

WHAT WAS HE DOING HERE?



HELPING US TAKE DOWN THE ANTI-HODGE!

LOOK, I ORDERED YOU TO GET DOWN HERE. YOU LEFT ME NO CHOICE! HE WAS OUR ONLY OPTION!

OR MAYBE THAT'S WHAT THE ANTI-HODGE WANTED YOU TO THINK!

I'M GETTING REAL TIRED OF THIS ATTITUDE OF YOURS--

UHH... KATE?



YOU SAID YOU AND NATE WERE FIGHTING THE ANTI-HODGE FROM THE INSIDE?

UNTIL HE SUCKED ME OUT LIKE A VACUUM.

IF THAT'S THE CASE...



"...WHERE'S NATE NOW?"



INFINITE SECURITY? ALTERNATE REALITIES?

THESE THINGS DON'T MAKE ANY SENSE TO ME.

WHAT DID THE KEEPERS TELL YOU?



THAT I WAS BORN INSIDE AN EMPTY HOSPITAL ROOM AND CAN DO THINGS NO ONE ON THIS PLANET SHOULD.

BUT THAT I'M NOT ONE OF YOU, EITHER.



THAT I DON'T FIT IN ANYWHERE, REALLY.



AND YOU TRUST THEM *IMPLICITLY*? AS IF THEY'RE THE ONLY SOURCE FOR TRUTH?

THEY CALL *THEIR* HODGE THE "*REAL*" ONE, AND ME AN IMPOSTER. A MURDERER.

BUT AREN'T HODGE AND I ONE AND THE SAME?

AND DON'T THEY *MURDER* ANY ALTERNATE THAT DOESN'T BELONG?

DOES THAT SOUND LIKE AN *ALTRUISTIC* ORGANIZATION TO YOU?



NO. BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE *YOU* THE GOOD GUY, EITHER.

I'M NOT. I'M JUST A MAN, TRYING TO MAKE *AMENDS*.

MAKE *AMENDS* FOR WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?





A WINDOW INTO ANOTHER WORLD...

THAT'S HOW THIS ALL STARTED. THE ACCIDENT. THE MAINSTREAM. THE WAR.

WE OPENED A DOOR WE COULD NOT CLOSE.



IT DOESN'T MATTER NOW.

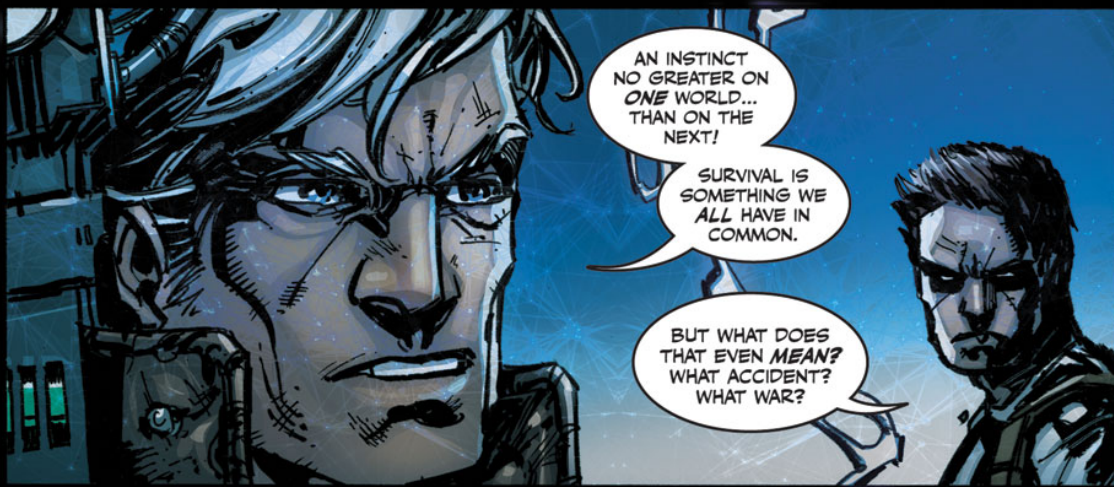


AND DOOMED OURSELVES TO REPAIRING THE DAMAGE WE UNLEASHED.

WHY DID REALITY FRACTURE? WHY WAS THIS FIGHT BROUGHT TO OUR VERY DOORSTEP?



ALL THAT MATTERS NOW IS SURVIVAL.



AN INSTINCT NO GREATER ON ONE WORLD... THAN ON THE NEXT!

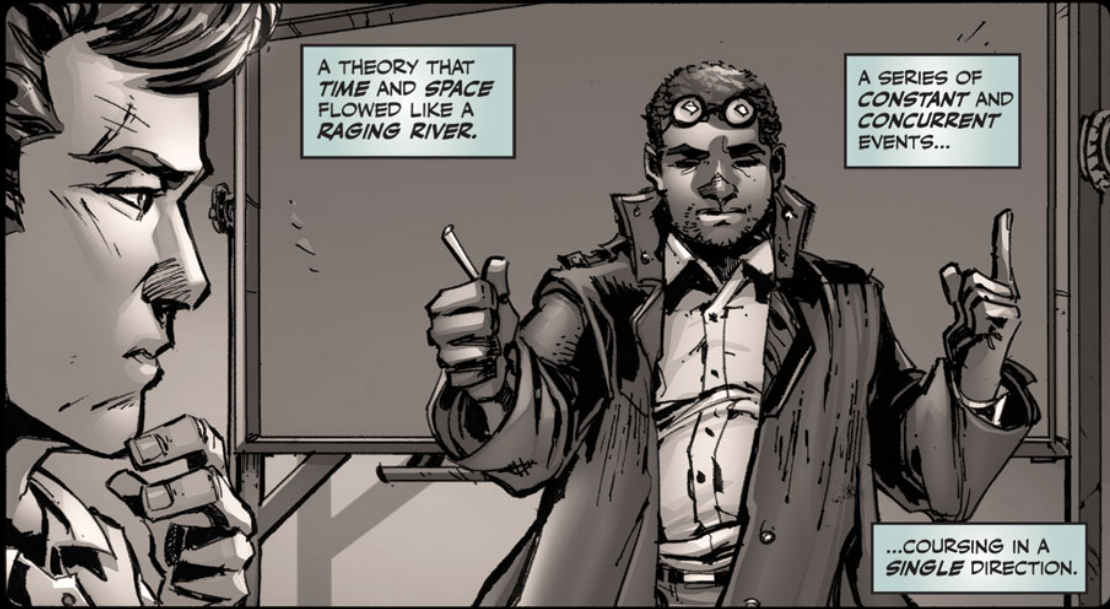
SURVIVAL IS SOMETHING WE ALL HAVE IN COMMON.

BUT WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN? WHAT ACCIDENT? WHAT WAR?



WE STARTED WITH THE BEST OF INTENTIONS.





A THEORY THAT  
TIME AND SPACE  
FLOWED LIKE A  
RAGING RIVER.

A SERIES OF  
CONSTANT AND  
CONCURRENT  
EVENTS...

...COURSING IN A  
SINGLE DIRECTION.

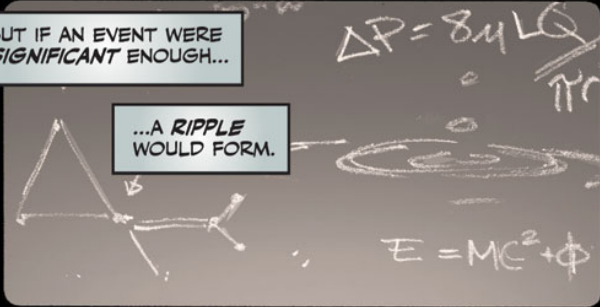
MOST EVENTS  
ARE LIKE *DEBRIS*  
TOSSED INTO  
THE *CURRENT*...

...*SWEPT AWAY*  
WITH *LITTLE* TO  
NO IMPACT ON  
THE WORLD.



BUT IF AN EVENT WERE  
*SIGNIFICANT* ENOUGH...

...A *RIPPLE*  
WOULD FORM.



THE *GREATER*  
THE *EVENT*...

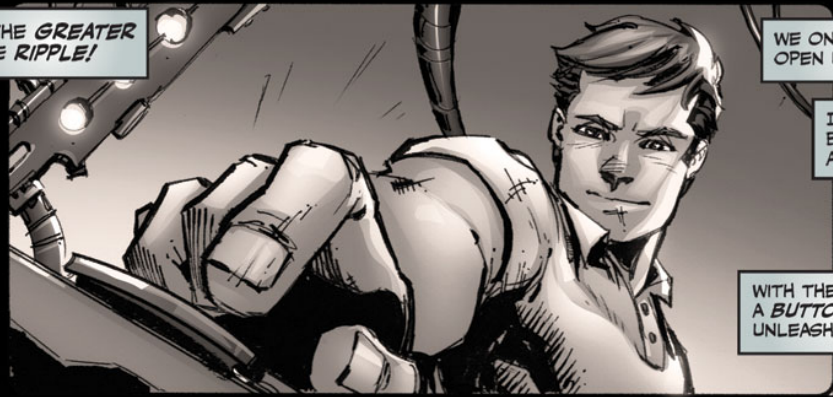


...THE *GREATER*  
THE *RIPPLE!*

WE ONLY MEANT TO  
OPEN UP A *WINDOW*.

INSTEAD WE  
BLEW OPEN  
A *DOOR*.

WITH THE PUSH OF  
A *BUTTON*... WE  
UNLEASHED *HELL*.





A TEMPORAL  
*SCHISM.*

A *VORTEX* OF  
OPPOSING  
REALITIES EXISTING  
TOGETHER AT ONCE.

ALL WITHIN THE TIME  
IT TOOK TO *PUSH*  
THAT BUTTON.

ONE SECOND...

...IS ALL IT TAKES TO  
CHANGE *EVERYTHING.*

AND NOT  
ALWAYS FOR  
THE *BETTER.*

THE EFFECTS OF  
OUR ACTIONS WERE  
*CATASTROPHIC.*

WE JUST DIDN'T  
*KNOW* IT IN  
THAT MOMENT.

TIME AND SPACE  
*REDACTING*  
ITSELF, BIT BY BIT.

IT WAS THE *END*  
OF THE WORLD...

WAIT, WHAT  
DO YOU MEAN  
YOU DIDN'T  
KNOW?

IT HAPPENED  
*SLOWLY.* WE  
DIDN'T SEE IT  
*COMING.*

WE WENT  
BACK TO  
*BUSINESS AS*  
USUAL.

NOTHING  
*APPEARED* OUT OF  
THE ORDINARY.  
NOTHING SEEMED  
*DIFFERENT.*

...AND IT WAS  
ALL *MY* FAULT.





IT WASN'T UNTIL I STARTED TO NOTICE...

...THE THINGS I JUST COULDN'T QUITE EXPLAIN.



LITTLE BY LITTLE, IT QUICKLY ESCALATED.

UNTIL IT WAS UNMISTAKABLE.



THE SMALLER DISAPPEARANCES GAVE WAY TO SOMETHING BIGGER.

GAPING HOLES IN INFRASTRUCTURE. PEOPLE VANISHING INTO THIN AIR.

OUR WORLD WAS COLLAPSING.

ALL BECAUSE OF WHAT I DID THAT DAY.

NOVEMBER 15TH, 1988.

MY BIRTHDAY.



WHAT?

**STRANGE BIRTH**  
A nurse claims to have found a newborn infant at a local hospital, but had a trace

**CITY HALL BAFFLED**  
Officials have yet to fully explain the incident that seen a number of buildings in the Metro Area

THEY CALLED IT "THE WINDY CITY CATASTROPHE".

ONE OF THE STRANGEST... AND DEADLIEST DAYS IN CHICAGO HISTORY.

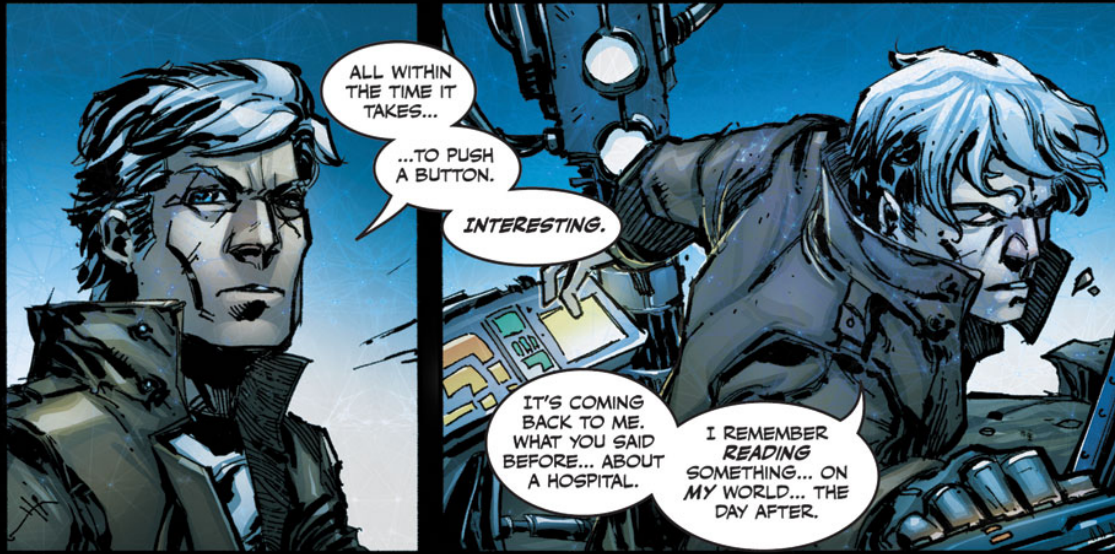
THOUSANDS DEAD WITH NO EXPLANATION. BUILDINGS SHATTERED. CARS PULVERIZED. A CITY IN A COLLECTIVE STATE OF SHOCK.

ALL WITHIN A SPLIT SECOND.

# 'WINDY CITY LEAVES MASSIVE

November 15th, 1988. Today it was a day unlike any other in the city's history. The devastation marked a stark contrast to the calm of the day before. As one witness said, "Like a two-ton bomb"





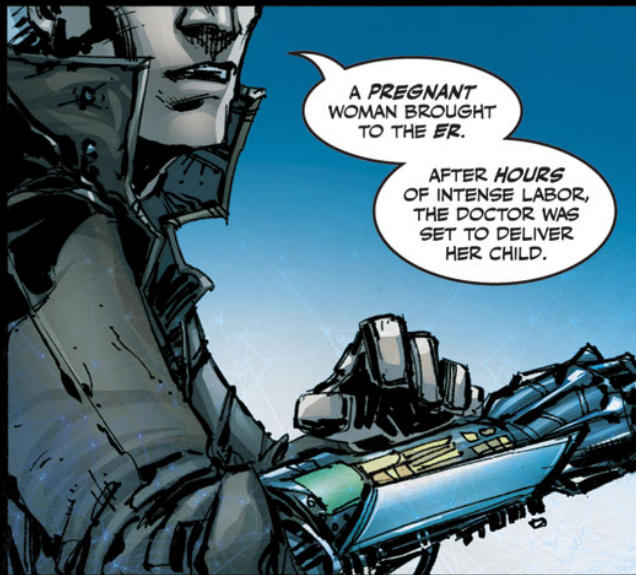
ALL WITHIN THE TIME IT TAKES...

...TO PUSH A BUTTON.

INTERESTING.

IT'S COMING BACK TO ME. WHAT YOU SAID BEFORE... ABOUT A HOSPITAL.

I REMEMBER READING SOMETHING... ON MY WORLD... THE DAY AFTER.



A PREGNANT WOMAN BROUGHT TO THE ER.

AFTER HOURS OF INTENSE LABOR, THE DOCTOR WAS SET TO DELIVER HER CHILD.



BUT NOTHING CAME OUT.

MAKE NO MISTAKE THERE WAS A BABY INSIDE HER. UNTIL THE VERY END, WHEN HE REACHED INSIDE TO DELIVER THE INFANT ACROSS THE THRESHOLD.



TO THIS DAY NO ONE CAN EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED.

BUT IT DOESN'T TAKE A SCIENTIST...

...TO FULLY COMPREHEND THE TRUTH...

...DOES IT?

YOU KNOW, DETECTIVE... THAT WOMAN...

...YOUR MOTHER... SHE MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE.





DOOR'S NOT GONNA HOLD...

NILES! TELL ME YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING!

THAT CAN WHAT? KEEP THOSE COPS OUT OR STOP THE ANTI-HODGE?



"BECAUSE I'M COMING UP EMPTY ON BOTH COUNTS!"

WE'RE IN!

BLAM  
BLAM  
BLAM

MOVE!



W-WHAT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN... ALIVE?

I MEAN IN MY WORLD, SHE'S STILL THERE.

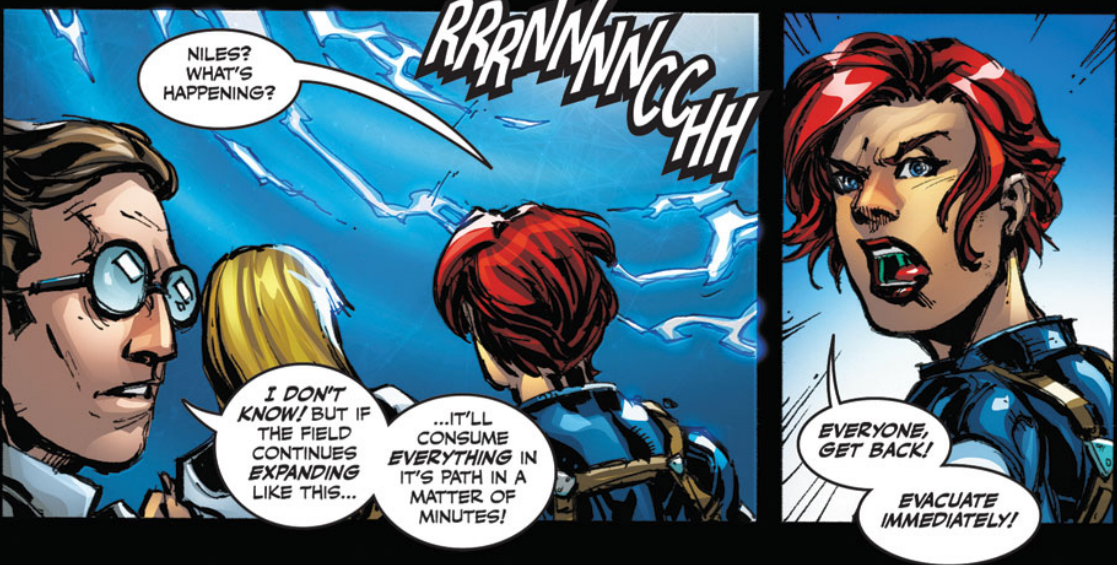
YOU COULD FIND HER. YOU COULD BE REUNITED.

THE DOORWAY'S REACHED IT'S MAXIMUM THRESHOLD.

OUR PEOPLE ARE ABOUT TO CROSS THROUGH.

JUST LET IT HAPPEN...

...AND THE ANSWERS YOU SEEK WILL BE YOURS!



NILES? WHAT'S HAPPENING?

RRRNNN  
CC  
HH

I DON'T KNOW! BUT IF THE FIELD CONTINUES EXPANDING LIKE THIS...

...IT'LL CONSUME EVERYTHING IN IT'S PATH IN A MATTER OF MINUTES!



EVERYONE, GET BACK!

EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY!





WHAT'S HAPPENING?  
WHERE IS EVERYONE GOING?

NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!  
PLACE LOOKS LIKE IT'S ABOUT TO BLOW!



WE'VE GOT TO GO!  
NOW!

WAIT... NO!  
THAT SHOULDN'T BE...



YOU SAID IT YOURSELF. YOU DON'T OWE THIS WORLD ANYTHING.

YOU DON'T BELONG HERE.

MAYBE OUT THERE YOU DO.



MAYBE YOU WERE MEANT TO SAVE IT.



SAVE OUR WORLD.

SAVE HER.





NO.



I'VE SPENT MY ENTIRE LIFE SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS.

SO THIS ISN'T EASY.

--HUK!



EXCEPT IT IS.

FOR YOUR PLAN TO SUCCEED, MILLIONS WILL HAVE TO DIE.



AND THAT'S NOT SOMETHING I CAN ALLOW...



...NO MATTER WHOSE WORLD I BELONG TO.

DETECTIVE, STOP! DON'T DO THIS! DON'T CHOOSE THIS... THIS ADOPTED WORLD...



...OVER YOUR TRUE BIRTH WORLD!



I'M NOT. I'M SIMPLY CHOOSING...



...TO DO THE RIGHT THING.





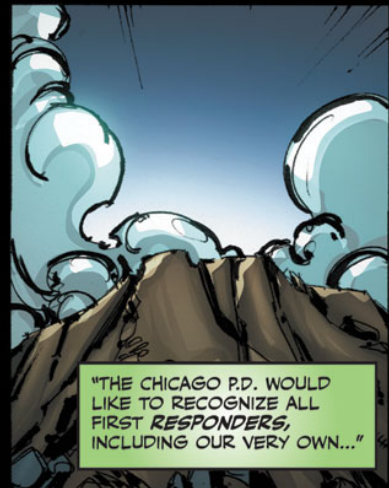




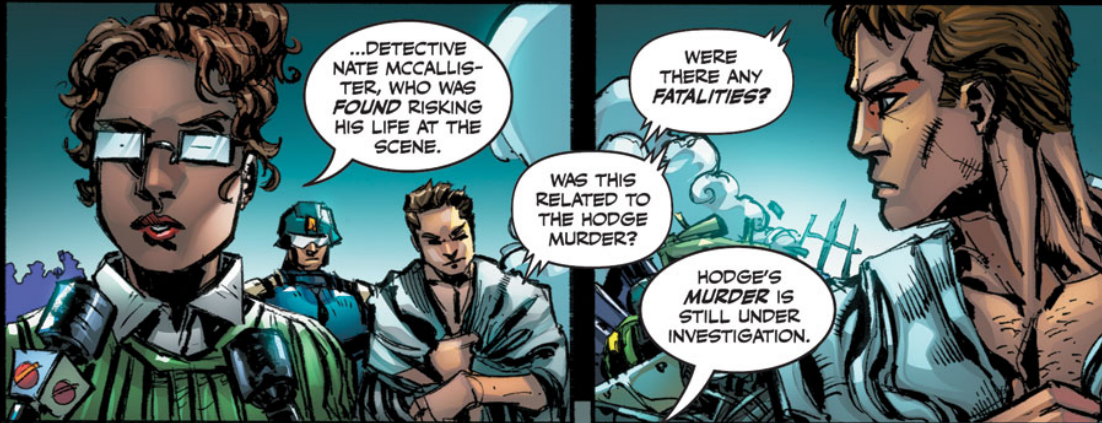












...DETECTIVE NATE MCCALLISTER, WHO WAS FOUND RISKING HIS LIFE AT THE SCENE.

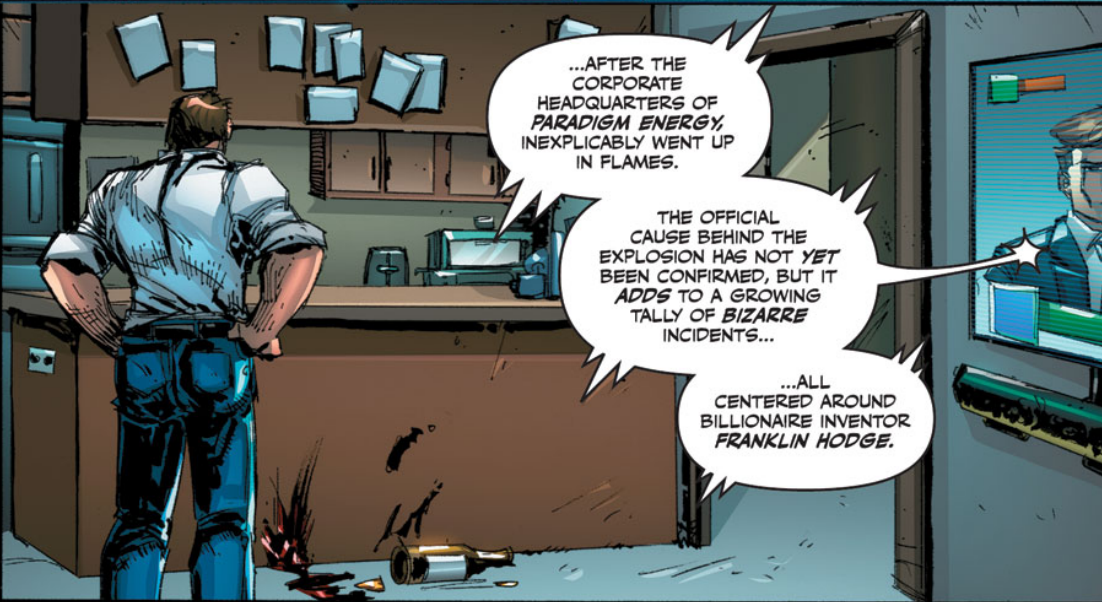
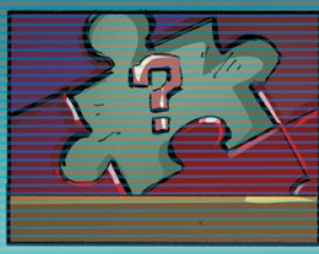
WERE THERE ANY FATALITIES?

WAS THIS RELATED TO THE HODGE MURDER?

HODGE'S MURDER IS STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION.



THAT WAS CAPTAIN OLIVIA HOLBROOK RESPONDING TO REPORTERS, LATE LAST NIGHT...



...AFTER THE CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS OF PARADIGM ENERGY, INEXPLICABLY WENT UP IN FLAMES.

THE OFFICIAL CAUSE BEHIND THE EXPLOSION HAS NOT YET BEEN CONFIRMED, BUT IT ADDS TO A GROWING TALLY OF BIZARRE INCIDENTS...

...ALL CENTERED AROUND BILLIONAIRE INVENTOR FRANKLIN HODGE.



YOU KNOW... HE EXPLAINED IT TO ME...

...WHEN WE WERE STANDING AT THE THRESHOLD...

...THE ANTI-HODGE...





"WHY HE PONDERED ALL THE *POSSIBILITIES*.

"THE ETERNAL 'WHAT IF.'



"HE WANTED INFINITE SECURITY.

"THAT'S WHAT HE CALLED IT.



"IN THAT *MOMENT*, I WASN'T SURE WHAT HE MEANT.

"BUT *NOW*, COMING HOME TO *THIS*, I THINK I KNOW WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT.

"HE WANTED THE *COMFORT*. THAT AT THE END OF THE DAY, HE MADE ALL THE RIGHT *DECISIONS*. THAT EVERYTHING WENT DOWN THE WAY IT WAS *SUPPOSED* TO.



"IT'S ALL HE WAS EVER *SEARCHING* FOR.

"THAT *COMFORT*. THAT *PEACE* OF MIND.

"IT'S WHAT *YOUR* HODGE WAS *SEARCHING* FOR TOO."





THE END.