



Sire Studios Presents:

# FIRSTS

MAINSTREAM • DESCENDANT • THE SIRE



DOLCE • LEISTER • CALDWELL • MOY • SANCHEZ • PERRY • NAVARRO



# THE MAINSTREAM



Created by and copyright 2018 Michael Dolce, Talent Caldwell, Tony Moy & Darren Sanchez



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

THAT ALTERNATE  
REALITIES *EXIST*?

THAT FOR EVERY VERSION  
OF *YOU*, THERE ARE AN  
*INFINITESIMAL* AMOUNT  
OF ALTERNATE *YOUS*  
SIMPLY FLOATING AROUND  
THE COSMOS?

WHAT IF YOU CHOSE TO  
SKIP WORK FOR A DAY?  
WHAT IF YOU SAID *NO...*  
INSTEAD OF *YES*?

WHAT IF YOU WERE  
NEVER BORN?

WHAT IF *ALL* OF THE  
CHOICES THAT LEAD  
TO THIS VERY  
MOMENT... WERE  
MADE *DIFFERENTLY*?

**DONKH  
DONKH  
DONKH!**

YOU'D LOVE TO *KNOW*  
WOULDN'T YOU? YOU'D  
LOVE TO *SEE*.

JESUS CHRI--  
YEAH HOLD  
ON!

**DONKH  
DONKH  
DONKH  
DONKH!**

INFINITE *SECURITY*,  
AM I RIGHT?

A WINDOW INTO  
ANOTHER *WORLD...*

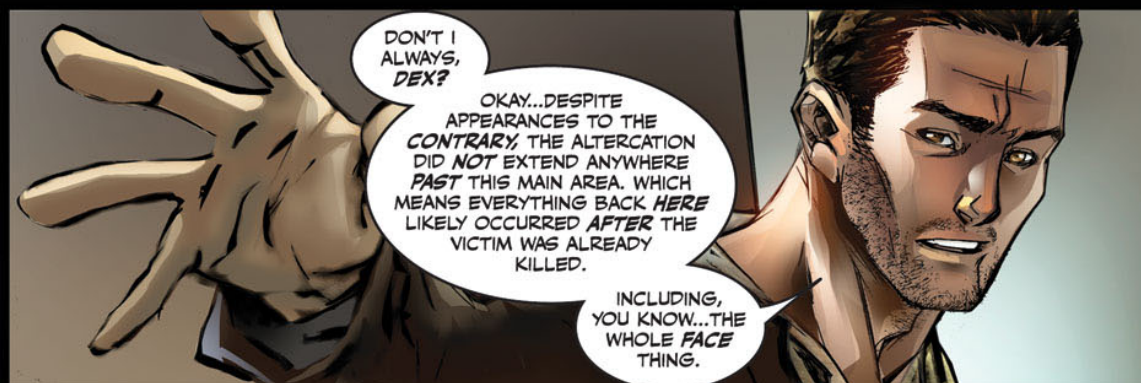
THAT'S HOW THIS ALL  
STARTED. THE *ACCIDENT*.  
THE *MAINSTREAM*. THE *WAR*.

WE OPENED A  
*DOOR* WE COULD  
NOT CLOSE.

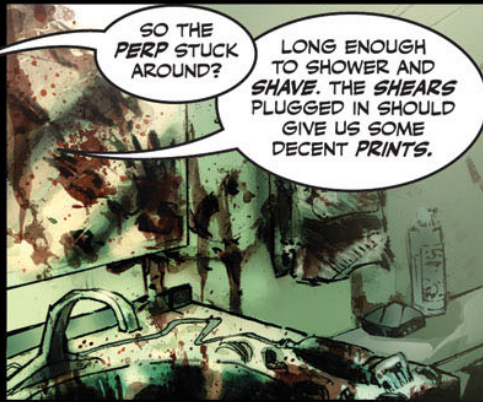












SO THE  
PERP STUCK  
AROUND?

LONG ENOUGH  
TO SHOWER AND  
SHAVE. THE *SHEARS*  
PLUGGED IN SHOULD  
GIVE US SOME  
DECENT *PRINTS*.



CLOSET'S BEEN  
*RANSACKED* TOO.  
SAFE TO ASSUME  
OUR *KILLER'S* NOW  
WEARING SOME OF  
THE VICTIM'S...  
UM...



VZZZZZZZ

...THE  
VICTIM'S...  
UH...



VZZZZZZZ

...HIS  
JACKET HE...  
UMM...



VZZZZZZZ

...UHHH...



VZZZZZZZ



OFFICER COME  
WHAT'S GONE  
WITH YOUR FACE  
HE SEEMS SO  
SPACED OUT

NOTHING, IT'S  
NOTHING. NATHAN  
BUDDY, TALK TO  
ME.

CLOSET'S BEEN  
RANSACKED SO IT'S  
SAFE TO ASSUME  
THE PERP WHAT  
NATE? NATE?  
NATHAN??

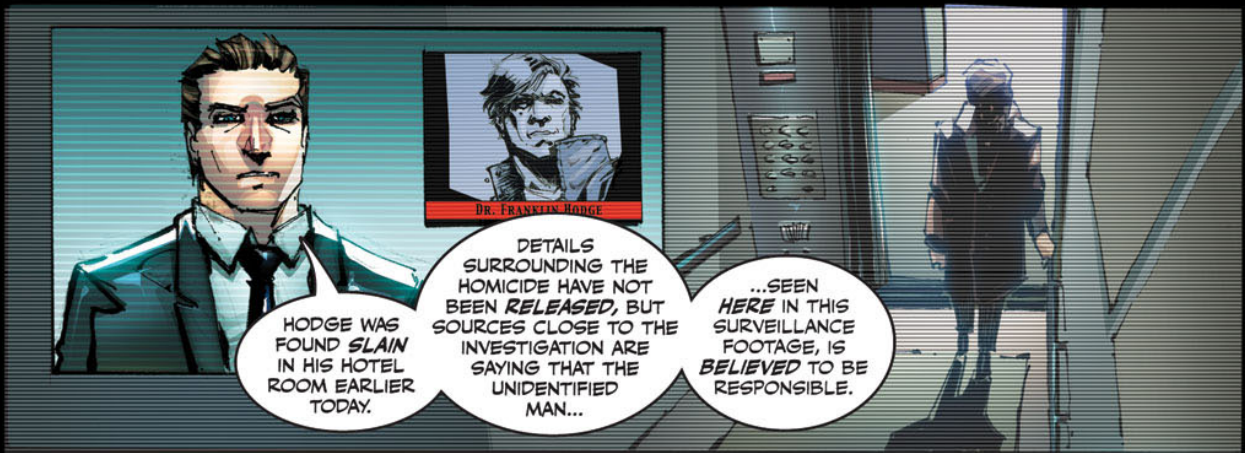
















I SWEAR...

...I'VE  
SEEN THIS  
BEFORE.  
SOMEWHERE...

VZZZZZZZZ

VZZZZZZZZ

DAMMIT!  
VZZZZZZZZ

YOU JUST  
GOING TO *STAND*  
THERE OR ARE YOU  
COMING IN?

I WILL.  
JUST GIVE  
ME A SEC.



ALWAYS  
AMAZES ME,  
WATCHING YOU  
DO...WHATEVER  
IT IS THAT YOU  
DO.

SEE  
WHATEVER IT  
IS NO ELSE  
SEEMS TO  
SEE.



PLUS, I  
BROUGHT  
BEER.

YOU KNOW  
I DON'T  
DRINK, DEX.



WHO SAID I  
BROUGHT ANY  
FOR YOU?

SO...WHAT'D  
YOU FIND, LOOKING  
THROUGH THOSE OLD  
CASE PHOTOS? THINK  
THEY'RE CONNECTED  
TO OUR MURDER  
SOMEHOW?

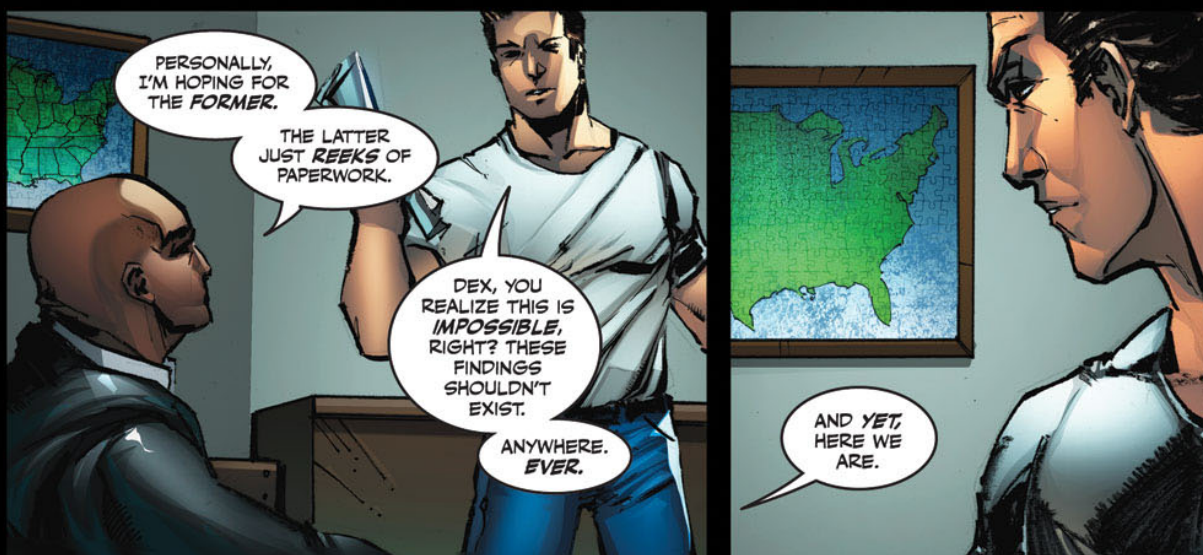


NO. MAYBE. I  
DON'T KNOW.

WHAT'D THE  
LAB COME BACK  
WITH?











THIS MAP  
I'VE HAD IT  
SINCE I WAS  
A KID.

IT'S A JIGSAW  
PUZZLE I FOUND AT  
THE ORPHANAGE WHERE  
I GREW UP. BURIED AWAY  
IN SOME AIR VENT. IT WAS  
THE FIRST TIME I  
COULD...

...THE FIRST  
TIME *SEEING*...  
WHATEVER IT IS NO  
ONE ELSE COULD  
SEE, AS YOU  
PUT IT.

THINGS THAT  
*SHUDDERED*.

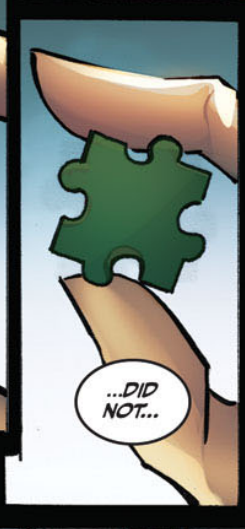
THAT'S WHAT I  
CALLED IT. THESE  
TWISTING, WARPING,  
HUMMING, *DISTORTIONS*  
FLICKERING IN AND OUT.  
IT'S WHAT THE PUZZLE BOX  
*LOOKED* LIKE WHEN I  
FOUND IT.

I MUST'VE PUT IT  
TOGETHER A *HUNDRED*  
TIMES. AND EVERY TIME,  
WITH EVERY NEW SET, THE  
*SHUDDERING* BECAME MORE  
*CONCENTRATED* AS I GOT  
CLOSER TO THE FINAL  
PIECE.

THE *PIECE*  
THAT KEPT  
*CALLING* ME  
FROM THE START.  
THE ONE  
PIECE...



...THAT  
*JUST*...



...DID  
NOT...



...BELONG.



JUST LIKE  
ME.



TO THIS DAY,  
I WEAR THAT  
PIECE AROUND  
MY NECK...

...AS A  
**REMINDER** THAT  
MAYBE I DON'T  
BELONG HERE  
EITHER.

COME ON  
NATE, YOU  
KNOW THAT'S  
NOT TRUE.

MAYBE NOT.  
BUT THIS **CASE**...  
EVERYTHING  
ABOUT IT...

...KEEPS  
BRINGING ME  
BACK TO THAT  
FEELING.

**VZZZZ!**

CREDIT CARD  
BELONGING TO  
THE VICTIM JUST  
HIT OUTSIDE MLK  
AND IRVINE.

**SERIOUSLY?**

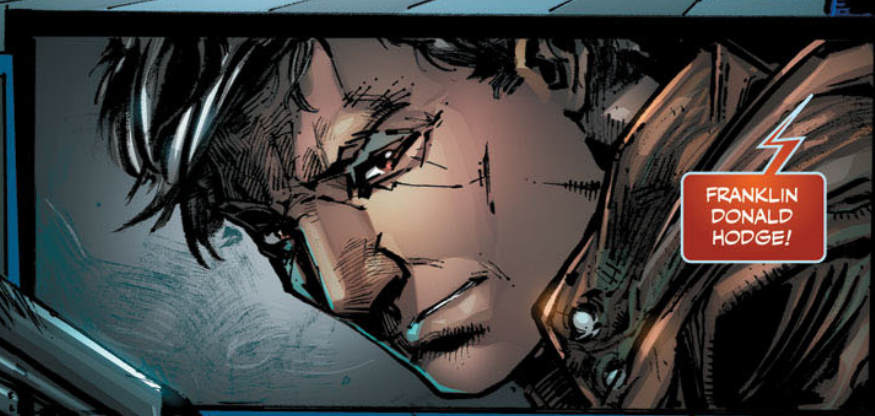
GUESS WE  
DON'T NEED YOUR  
**SCRAMBLED PORN**  
**SUPER-SIGHT**  
AFTER ALL!

SCRAMBLED  
PORN?  
**REALLY?**

YEAH... I'M  
DRIVING!



PARADIGM ENERGY



FRANKLIN  
DONALD  
HODGE!

YOU DON'T  
BELONG  
HERE.

ARE YOU  
SURE?

THE FRONT  
DOOR CERTAINLY  
THOUGHT SO.

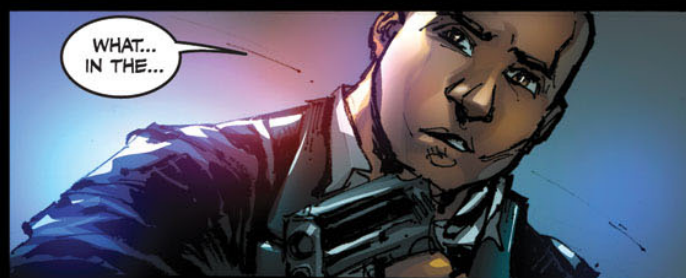
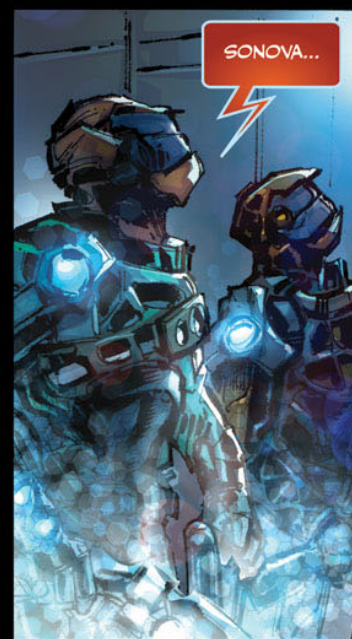
STOP IT. STOP  
USING HIS VOICE.  
STOP USING HIS  
FACE. YOU'RE  
NOT HIM!

YOU'RE AN  
ABOMINATION.  
AND YOU MAKE A  
MOCKERY OF  
EVERYTHING HE  
STOOD FOR.

















THEY MUST HAVE SOME SORT OF CLOAKING DEVICE!

WHOA! NOW THAT I SAW!



ARGH!



CALL FOR BACKUP ASAP!

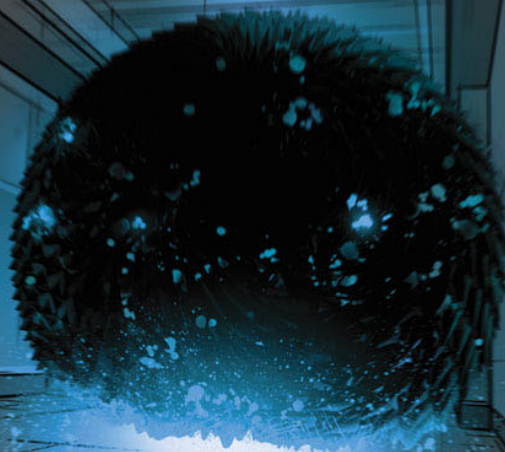
CHRIST, WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?!

AGENT DOWN!

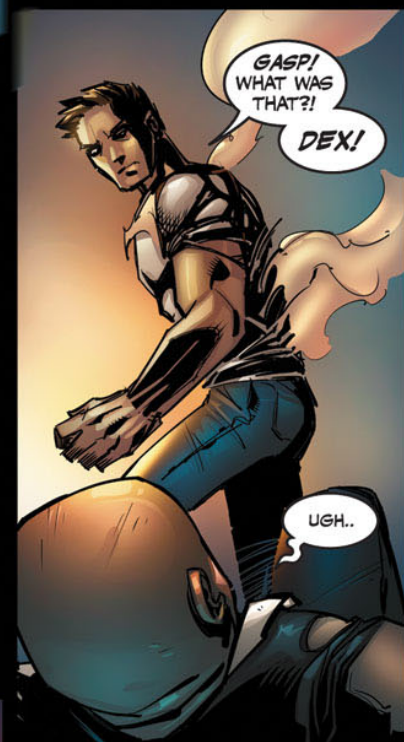
STOP! DAMMIT STOP RIGHT THERE!

WAIT... THAT COP... HE CAN SEE US? HOW?!













DISPLACEMENT  
FIELD AT 98%.

EXTENSIONS AT  
NINETY DEGREES.

SWITCHES ACTIVE  
ON THE PACK.

THERMAL SCAN  
REGISTERED.  
INTEGRITY  
CONFIRMED.

STAND BY.



AGENT  
CLARK! AGENT  
WAKINO! ARE YOU  
ALL RIGHT?

AFFIRMATIVE.

WHERE'S  
FOSTER?



STILL IN THE  
FIELD AND  
HURT BAD.

HOLD  
STILL, LET'S  
GET YOU OUT  
OF THERE.

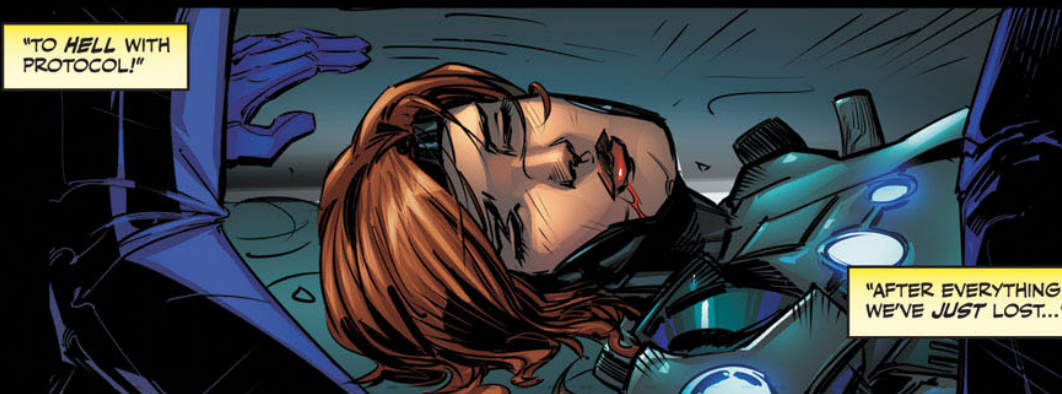


"NO TIME! GET  
A FRESH PACK  
ON US..."



"...AND GET  
US BACK OUT  
THERE, NOW!"

"BUT, SIR!  
PROTOCOL  
DICTATES--"



"TO HELL WITH  
PROTOCOL!"

"AFTER EVERYTHING  
WE'VE JUST LOST..."



"...WE'RE *DAMN*  
SURE NOT LOSING  
*HER* TOO!"

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*!

WELCOME TO  
"THE MAINSTREAM"  
MY FRIENDS.

LET'S MAKE  
OURSELVES A  
*HOME*.

TO BE CONTINUED...





Issue #1  
\$3.50



# ESCENDANT



KIRKHAM  
Oracle

MICHAEL DOLCE • MARCUS PERRY • MARIANO NAVARRO



TERRORISM USED  
TO BE A FLAGUE.

NOW IT'S JUST  
ANOTHER  
BUSINESS PLAN.

YOU HAVE  
YOUR TARGETS.  
CONCENTRATE  
ON THE LOWER  
PECKS...

-- THE ENTREPRENEUR.

...THE BLAST  
WILL CAPSIZE  
THE REST.

AND ANOTHER  
CHARMIN-SOFT  
BANKER GETS FAT  
OFF THE INSURANCE  
WHILE WE SETTLE  
FOR PENNIES.

HEY, AS  
LONG AS THE  
CHECKS CLEAR,  
RIGHT?

THE PANAMA  
CANAL. TONIGHT.

THE PAYS OF NUTJOBS  
STRAPPED WITH KITCHEN  
SINK EXPLOSIVES AND  
PRAYING FOR SEVENTY-  
TWO VIRGINS ON THE  
FLIP SIDE HAVE KICKED  
OPEN THE POOR FOR A  
NEW BREED OF SCUM --

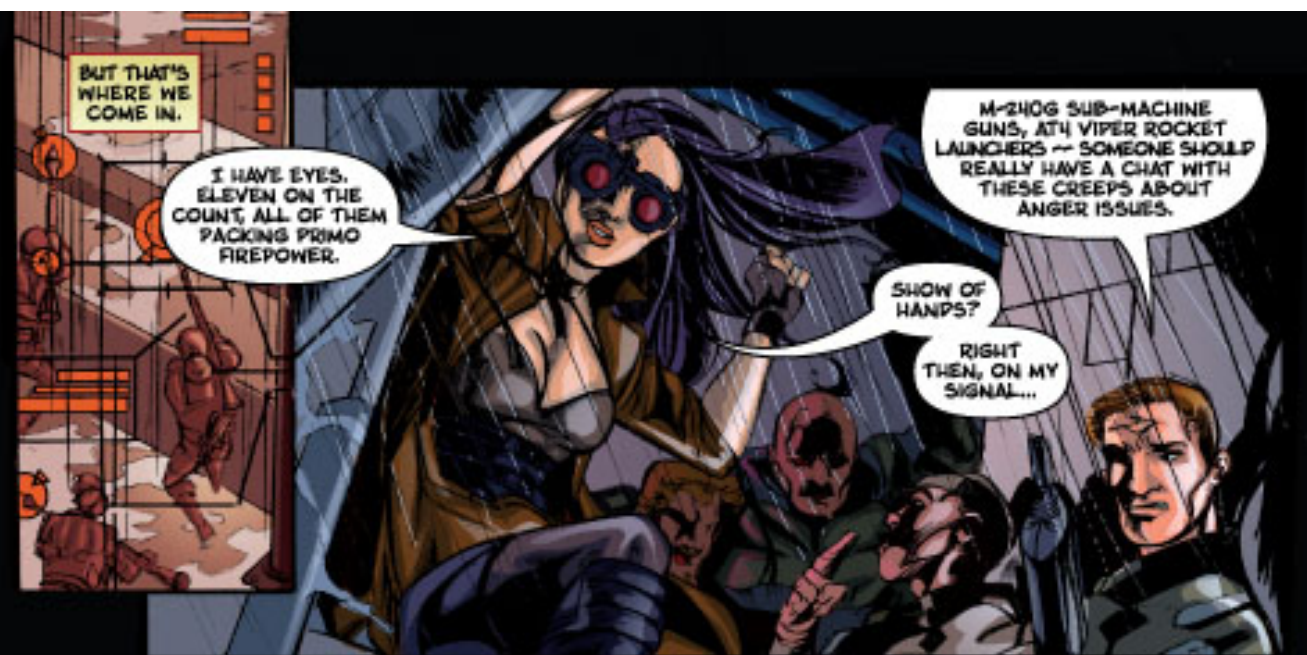
IT'S NOT ABOUT SOME  
WARPED NOTION OF RELIGION  
OR FREEDOM ANY MORE...

TARGET  
ACQUIRED,  
SIX KNOTS  
AND  
CLOSING  
FAST.

BON  
VOYAGE.

...IT'S ALL ABOUT PROFIT.






BUT THAT'S  
WHERE WE  
COME IN.

I HAVE EYES.  
ELEVEN ON THE  
COUNT, ALL OF THEM  
PACKING PRIMO  
FIREPOWER.

M-240G SUB-MACHINE  
GUNS, AT4 VIPER ROCKET  
LAUNCHERS -- SOMEONE SHOULD  
REALLY HAVE A CHAT WITH  
THESE CREEPS ABOUT  
ANGER ISSUES.


SHOW OF  
HANDS?

RIGHT  
THEN, ON MY  
SIGNAL...



UNCLE SAM'S PERSONAL  
CLEAN-UP CREW.

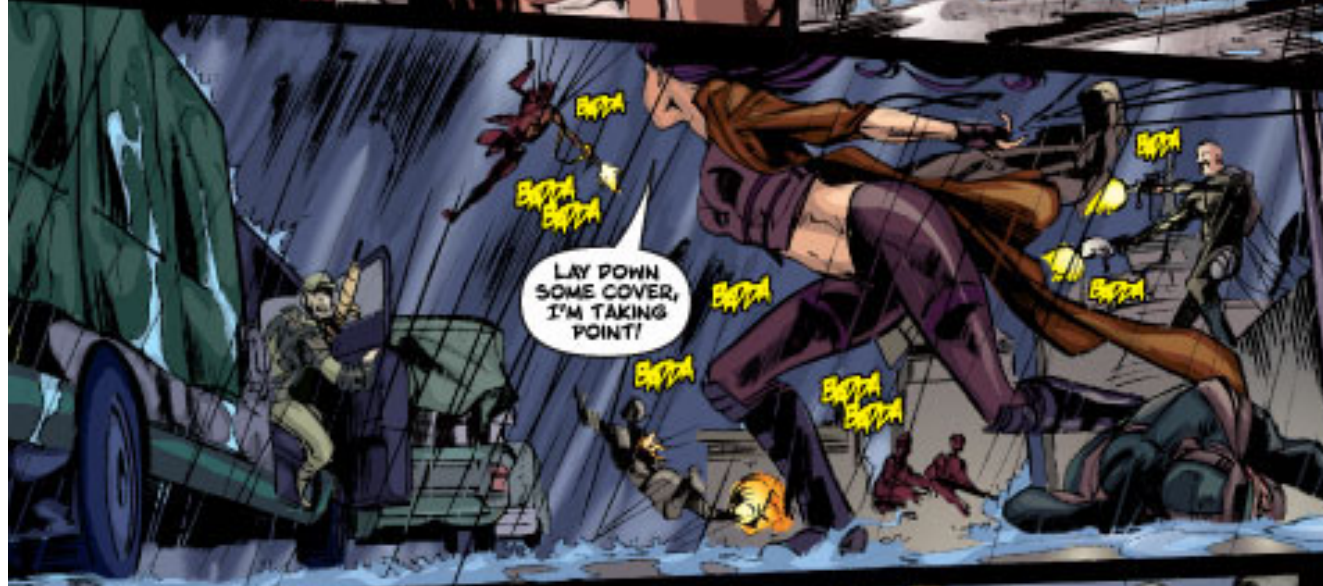
YOU MAY NOT  
EVER SEE US...



...BUT YOU'LL KNOW  
WHERE WE'VE BEEN.

MY NAME IS LIEUTENANT  
RAYNE SANTIAGO. WELCOME  
TO THE FRONT LINES.















LATER THAT NIGHT...

I MEAN YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN THE LOOK ON THIS IDIOT'S FACE, LYING STOMACH DOWN, MY RIFLE WEDGED IN HIS JAW.

HELL, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD CRAP YOUR PANTS UP

HA! HA! HA!  
HA! HA! HA!  
HA! HA! HA!

MAN, BILL... YOU'RE KILLIN' ME OVER HERE, I CAN'T BREATHE...

ALL RIGHT, EVERYBODY RAISE A GLASS. TO ANOTHER VICTORY IN THE TRENCHES! THANK GOD WE'RE NOT ACCOUNTANTS!

THERE YOU ARE.

PARTY'S INSIDE, IN CASE YOU DIDN'T NOTICE.

YEAH, BUT THIS ONE'S WAY MORE EXCLUSIVE.

HEY, WE WON REMEMBER? EVERYTHING'S OKAY, RIGHT?

MAYBE. IT'S JUST... TONIGHT FELT WAY TOO FAMILIAR.

PLAYING MAN IN THE BARREL AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PANAMA CANAL? I HOPE NOT.

IT'S NOT THAT...

PRIEST, I'VE BEEN ON MY OWN SINCE I WAS A KID A WHOLE LIFETIME OF JUST ME...

AND DOWN THERE... TANGLED IN THAT WRECK... THAT'S HOW I FELT. LIKE I WAS ALONE AGAIN. LIKE I'D DIE ALONE.













IT  
HAS BEEN A  
LONG TIME,  
RAYNE.

THE MONTHS  
ON THE ROAD, THEY  
SEEM LIKE A FEVER  
DREAM. I HAVE CHASED  
WHISPERS, TRACKED  
RUMORS JUST TO  
FIND YOU.

BUT HERE  
WE ARE, AS  
WE ONCE  
WERE...



(BLESSSED  
GIRL, WHAT  
HAVE YOU  
DONE?)




(IT'S  
TOO LATE,  
FATHER!)

(STAY BACK  
OR YOU'LL BURN LIKE  
THE REST. I CAN'T  
CONTROL IT!)



ENOUGH OLD  
MAN! I AM NOT  
THE CHILD YOU  
REMEMBER!

NOW GO  
BEFORE I FINISH  
WHAT I STARTED A  
DECADE AGO!



RAYNE, WAIT!  
YOU MUST  
LISTEN!

OUR HISTORY  
MAY BE SOAKED  
IN BLOOD, BUT YOU  
CANNOT LET IT PROVE  
YOU! MARTAGAL IS  
UNDER SIEGE!

YOUR  
PEOPLE,  
THEY NEED  
YOU --





MY PEOPLE?

THE SAME ONES WHO EXILED ME IN THE FIRST PLACE? STRIPPED AWAY MY FAMILY, ROBBED ME OF MY LIFE, AND FOR WHAT?

TO LIFT THE CURSE YOU PROMISED THEM WAS A BLESSING?



THE PEOPLE ONLY FEAR WHAT THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND BUT I UNDERSTAND YOU, AS I ALWAYS HAVE...

YOUR PESTINY IS WRITTEN. CARVED IN THE STONE OF OUR ANCESTORS.



IT IS YOU WHO MUST DELIVER US FROM THIS PERSECUTION.

THAT FATE RUNS THROUGH YOUR VEINS.



IT IS PROVIDENCE.

KRASH

THE DREAMS OF A FOOL!


AND I WOKE UP A LONG TIME AGO!





I'VE INFLICTED  
ENOUGH PAIN  
IN THE NAME OF  
YOUR GODS!

IT'S EATEN  
AT ME LIKE A  
CANCER -- WHY  
SHOULD I OPEN  
THE SCARS  
AGAIN?




BECAUSE IF YOU  
DO NOT, JAVIER AND  
MARCO WILL PAY  
THE PRICE.



WHAT  
DID YOU  
SAY...?

YOUR  
BROTHERS,  
RAYNE.



\*THEY WILL SURELY DIE  
WITHOUT YOUR AID. ONLY  
YOU HAVE THE POWER TO  
SAVE THEM...

FORGIVE ME,  
LOVE. I PRAY  
YOU'LL STILL BE  
WAITING.

\*... IT IS TIME TO  
COME HOME.\*

Priest



THE NATION OF  
MARTAGAL...

PEEP IN THE  
JUNGLE WOMB OF  
SOUTH AMERICA.

THE YEARS  
HAVE CHANGED THIS  
PLACE, PADRE. IT ALL  
SEEMS SO DIFFERENT  
SOMEHOW.

IT FEELS  
DIFFERENT.

MORE THAN  
YOU KNOW. BUT  
MARTAGAL'S PYE  
WAS CAST THE  
MOMENT WE TURNED  
YOU AWAY.

COWARDICE  
KEPT US FROM  
RECOGNIZING WHO OUR  
TRUE PROTECTOR  
REALLY WAS.

THERE!

"BANE  
PHARMACEUTICALS.  
THEY WERE A GIFT  
WHEN THEY FIRST CAME,  
WITH THEIR JOBS AND  
AMERICAN CASH.

"BUT ALL  
THAT SOON  
CHANGER...

"OUR WORKERS  
BEGAN TO VANISH  
IN THE NIGHT.

"STOLEN FROM  
THEIR HOMES, ONLY  
TO REAPPEAR AGAIN  
WEEKS LATER...

"... THEIR BODIES  
PERVERTED BY THE  
COMPANY'S SCIENCE.

"TWISTED  
SOMEHOW INTO  
BEASTS."





WHAT ABOUT MY BROTHERS?

WE PROTECTED THEM AS LONG AS WE COULD, BUT THE CREATURES' ATTACKS WERE FAR FROM RANDOM.

THEY STALKED MARCO AND JAVIER, HUNGERED FOR THEM LIKE NOTHING I HAVE EVER SEEN.

NOW THEY TOO ARE PRISONERS OF THAT HORRIBLE PLACE. HELP AT THE MERCY OF THE MONSTERS AND THEIR WITCH.



WITCH...?



THE COMPANY'S NAMESAKE. DR. ALEXIS BANE. A CRUEL MATRIARCH, SHE HAS SPAWNED THIS MISERY IN OUR LAND.

NOW SHE WATCHES FROM BEHIND HER IVORY WALLS WHILE OUR WORLD IS TORN APART.



AND WE WAIT FOR A CHAMPION TO SET US FREE.

וְנִחְנֶה לְחֹמֶשׁ מִלְחָמָה לְשֵׁשׁנוּתָנוּ

וְנִחְנֶה לְחֹמֶשׁ מִלְחָמָה לְשֵׁשׁנוּתָנוּ

וְנִחְנֶה לְחֹמֶשׁ מִלְחָמָה לְשֵׁשׁנוּתָנוּ

הִסִּס...





(THIS IS NO CHAMPION!)

(WE'VE TRAPED ONE PLAGUE FOR ANOTHER!)

(SHE LIKES FIRE SO MUCH, I SAY WE GIVE HER A TASTE!)



(WE TRUSTED YOU TO FIND A SAVIOR, AND YOU BRING ANOTHER DEVIL INTO OUR PEN?!)

THIS IS GOING WELL.

(ALL OF YOU, PLEASE... SHE WAS A GIRL THEN, PUSHED TOO FAR BEYOND HER LIMITS. SHE WASN'T READY.)



(SHE KILLED MORE OF US THAN SHE DID OF THEM!)

(MY POPPA BURNED THAT PAY! WHERE'S HIS JUSTICE?!)



I'M SORRY, FATHER. COMING HERE WAS A TERRIBLE MISTAKE...



RAYNE, WAIT!

THESE PEOPLE NEED YOU! WE WILL MAKE THEM UNDERSTAND!

IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT. THEY ALREADY UNDERSTAND.



VERGARRA CAN PLEAD ALL HE WANTS, BUT THE TRUTH BURNS COLD INSIDE MY SOUL.

THEIR BLOOD WILL ALWAYS STAIN MY HANDS.

(MOTHER OF GOD... RAYNE!)

(THE WHOLE TOWN IS BRISTLING WITH TALK THAT YOU HAD RETURNED, BUT I HAD TO SEE IT WITH MY OWN EYES.)

(EXCUSE ME?)

(HAS IT BEEN SO LONG THAT YOU DO NOT RECOGNIZE YOUR BROTHER'S KEEPER?)

(MOTHER ZETA? IS THAT YOU?)

(FORGIVE ME, PLEASE. TIME HAS CHEATED ME THE PLEASURE OF A FAMILIAR FACE.)

(I'D ASK IF ALL IS WELL WITH MY BROTHERS...)

(...BUT I ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER.)

AAAAIEEEEE!!!














DAMN THINGS ARE  
AS STRONG AS  
THEY ARE UGLY.

THEY WON'T BE  
BROKEN, NOT BY  
WEAPONS OF MAN.

WHICH IS  
A LOT.


OR WOMAN.

BUT I AM  
NEITHER.

THE ONLY WAY  
TO STOP THESE  
DEMONS...

HSSSS...





... IS TO BECOME ONE.

FATHER VERGARRA, I PRAY  
TO THE GODS THAT YOU  
ARE RIGHT ABOUT ME.



**SREE!!!**

IN A FLASH, IT  
IS UNDONE.

THE FORCES  
WARRING INSIDE  
ME ENGULF THE  
STREETS.

AND THE HORROR OF MY  
SINS ALONG WITH THEM.

ONLY THIS  
TIME...

THE PAST PLAYS OUT  
LIKE A FLICKER SHOW  
BEHIND MY EYES...

... I FULFILL THE  
PROMISE I BROKE SO  
MANY YEARS AGO.

...AS PRESENT  
AS THE BATTLE  
I NOW WAGE.

THEY SAY  
MARTAGAL IS  
PESTINED FOR  
A SAVIOR.







FOR NOW, IT'LL  
HAVE TO MAKE  
DO WITH ME.



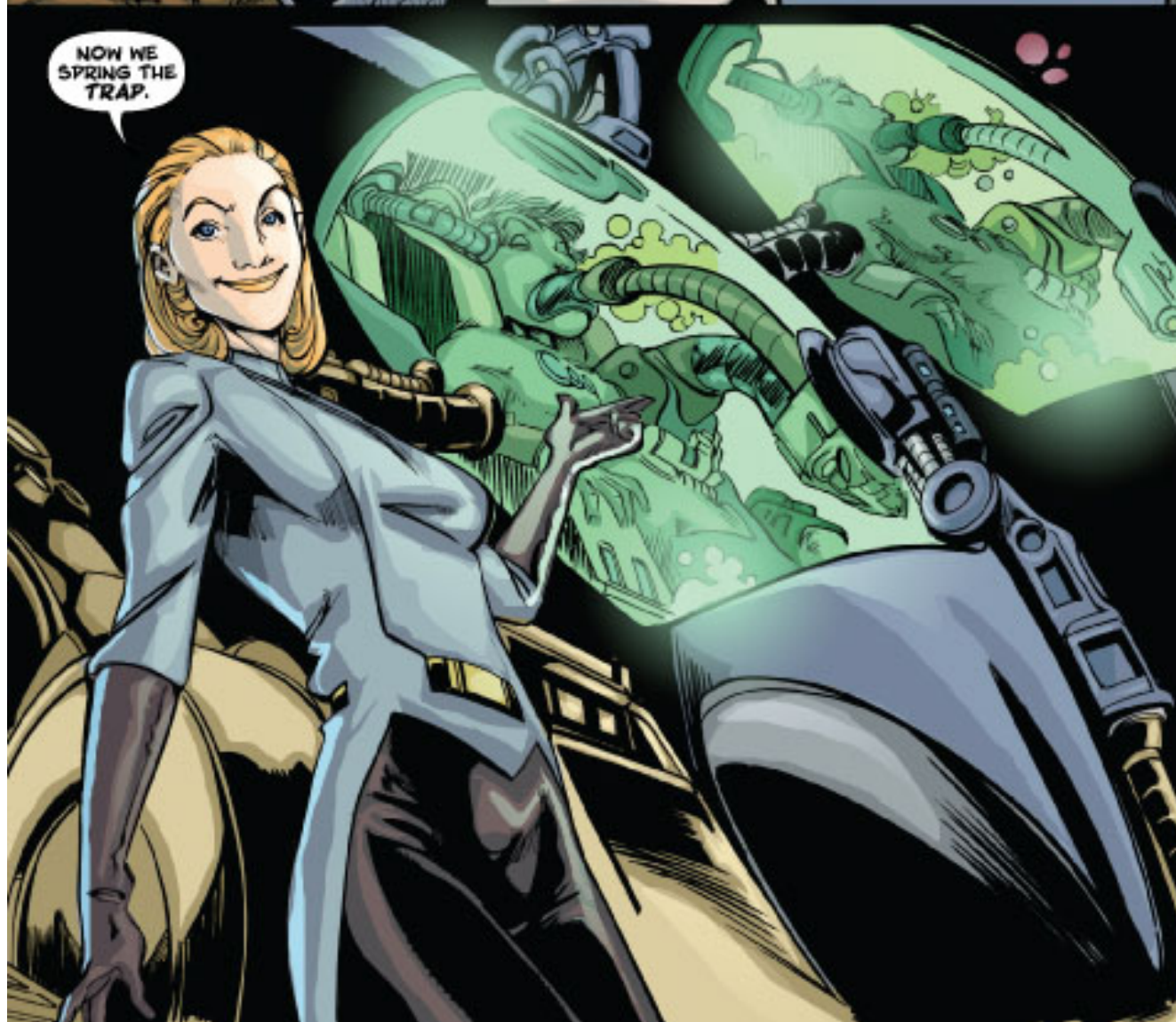
DR. BANE!  
SHUFFLE!  
SMOKE, FROM  
THE VILLAGE!



THE DICERS'  
VITALS JUST FLAT-  
LINED, ALL THIRTY OF  
THEM AT ONCE! IT  
HAS TO BE HER! THE  
SISTER, SHE'S  
HERE!

NATURALLY.

SHE  
TOOK THE  
BAIT.



NOW WE  
SPRING THE  
TRAP.





I FEEL THE MIRRORS  
OF THEIR EYES AS I  
EXAMINE WHAT'S LEFT  
OF THE MONSTERS...  
AND THE TOWN.

I'M READY FOR  
THEIR ANGER...

(DID  
YOU SEE  
THAT?)



... THEIR HATE.

(I'LL BE  
DAMNER...)

(VERGARRA,  
HE... HE WAS  
RIGHT!)



IT SEEMS THE TIDE  
IS FINALLY TURNING  
IN OUR FAVOR,  
RAYNE.

FOR  
NOW...

(GODDESS!)



AND SO A  
NEW FLAME  
STOKES AWAY  
MY PEOPLES'  
FEAR IN OUR  
SMOLDERING  
STREETS.

CAN YOU  
FEEL IT,  
BROTHERS?



JUSTICE  
IS COMING.

TO BE CONTINUED...



I REMEMBER...



...I REMEMBER  
THE SMELL.

OF BURNT CINDER  
AND ASH...LIKE RAIN  
EVAPORATING OFF A  
HOT PAVEMENT...



AND I REMEMBER...

...THROUGH THE PAIN...AND  
THE SMOKE... AND THE FIRE  
BURNING ITSELF AWAY...



...I REMEMBER IT.

THE COSTUME.

CLINGING...

...SURROUNDING...

...CONSUMING!



YOU ASK ME HOW IT  
FELT? WHAT I WENT  
THROUGH...



...I WOULDN'T  
KNOW WHERE TO  
BEGIN...

UHHH...

MIKEBOOKS & AFTER SHOCK COMICS  
PROUDLY PRESENTS:

# *The* SIRE









SOMETHING'S COMING...

JUST THINKING OUT LOUD, WALTER.

YOU SAY SOMETHING, J.J.P

SOMETHING'S COMING... SOMETHING WE'RE NOT SEEING.

A BILLIONAIRE TECHNOLOGY MOGUL GOES MISSING THE SAME DAY ONE OF HIS WAREHOUSES EXPLODES.



THIS, AFTER STOCK IN HIS COMPANY, *SIPHON TECHNOLOGIES* TAKES A NOSE DIVE DUE TO *SPOTTY* SERVICE.

YOU THINK THERE'S A CONNECTION?

I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* TO THINK AT THIS POINT.

WHAT ABOUT ALL THE *LIGHTNING* STRIKES REPORTED SINCE THE WAREHOUSE EXPLODED?



SAMUEL ANTONETTI'S RICH AND POWERFUL DOUG, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT--

FIFTY CASES WORLDWIDE IN JUST SIX HOURS!

--BUT HE'S NOT GOD!



NO, BUT HE IS AT THE CENTER OF THIS.

QUESTION NOW IS, JUST *WHAT* EXACTLY HE'S AT THE CENTER OF.

SOMETHING'S COMING WALTER...







SOMETIMES, YOU LIVE  
YOUR LIFE NOT KNOWING  
THE **IMPACT** YOU'RE GOING  
TO MAKE ON THE WORLD...



I  
**FEEL  
ALIVE!**

YEAH, WHAT  
HE SAID.

CAN SOMEONE  
TELL ME WHAT THE  
**HELL'S** GOING ON?!  
HANDS AREN'T  
EXACTLY SUPPOSED  
TO...**GLOW** LIKE  
THIS.

**HAHAHAHA!**





THIS IS J.J. WATERSTON, REPORTING *LIVE* OUTSIDE OUR STUDIO OFFICES WHERE A HORRIFIC SCENE HAS UNFOLDED!

REPORTS ARE STILL UNCLEAR AT THE MOMENT...

...BUT IT APPEARS A POLICE CONVOY HAS BEEN SOMEHOW **STRUCK DOWN** JUST OUTSIDE THIS BUSY NEW YORK CITY STREET CORNER.

THE BLAST SIGNATURE WAS ENOUGH TO SHATTER WINDOWS AS HIGH AS TWELVE STORIES BUT WHAT'S EVEN MORE UNSETTLING...

POLICE! FREEZE!

...IS THE SKIRMISH THAT HAS DEVELOPED BETWEEN POLICE AND CRASH SURVIVORS.

>HUK--!

THEIR FEATURES APPEAR CHANGED SOMEHOW... DEFORMED.

THOUGH, TO BE HONEST, NO ONE'S EXACTLY SURE *WHAT'S* GOING ON.

HAHA...

>HURGH--!

HEY!

SOREN, PUT HIM DOWN...

HAHAHAHA!!

COMPANY'S HERE!

...AND SOMETIMES, YOU'RE FORCED TO MAKE ONE!



THAT'S PRETTY MUCH  
WHERE I FOUND MYSELF.

I DIDN'T WANT TO BE THERE.  
IN *FACT*, I WANTED TO BE  
AS *FAR* AWAY FROM THERE  
AS HUMANLY *POSSIBLE*.

YOU  
GUYS ARE  
GOING TO HAVE  
TO...UH, *STOP*, OR  
SOMETHING.

BUT THAT *WASN'T*  
AN *OPTION*.

ANOTHER MAN,  
DRESSED IN WHAT CAN  
*ONLY* BE DESCRIBED  
AS A *HALLOWEEN*  
COSTUME OF SORT--

--HAS INEXPLICABLY  
JUMPED *BETWEEN* THE  
COMBATANTS...

INSTEAD, I WAS THROWN  
INTO THE FRAY AGAINST  
MY WILL. *FORCED* TO  
FIGHT FOR REASONS I  
DIDN'T UNDERSTAND.

HELD HOSTAGE...

...BY MY *COSTUME!*

I WANT TO  
REMINDE EVERYONE  
THAT YOU ARE WATCHING  
EXCLUSIVE COVERAGE OF  
THIS BREAKING EVENT  
ON *WNUB*, CHANNEL  
SIX.

THAT A GIRL!  
YOU SEE THAT?  
YOU TAKING NOTES?  
THAT'S HOW IT'S  
DONE!

BUT  
WALTER,  
COME  
ON!

THE  
DANGER...  
DOESN'T SHE  
REALIZE?  
DOESN'T SHE  
CARE?

THAT'S WHAT  
MAKES HER THE  
BEST, JIM...

...SHE'S  
FEARLESS!



I MIGHT NOT HAVE HAD MUCH OF A CHOICE.

UH, YEAH...  
SO, YOU'RE ALL  
UNDER ARREST.

WHAT'S HE  
DOING?

WHO IS  
THAT?

...FILMING A  
MOVIE?

BUT I ALSO KNEW I  
WASN'T HELPLESS.

MY BODY WAS CHANGED  
SOMEHOW. LIKE AN  
OVERNIGHT UPGRADE. THE  
POWER I FELT...  
INDESCRIBABLE!

AND SOMETHING ELSE...

FIREHEART  
WAIT!

FOR WHAT?  
IF THIS GUY  
THINKS HE'S  
GETTING IN OUR  
WAY--

HAHAHAHA...

...MY  
THOUGHTS  
EXACTLY!

... SOMETHING I  
COULDN'T QUITE PUT  
MY FINGER ON.

THE TENSION IS  
EXCRUTIATING AS THE  
HALLOWEEN MAN HAS  
WORKED HIS WAY THROUGH  
THE CONFUSION AND IS  
STARING DOWN THE  
OTHER THREE.

THE CROWD  
IS FIXATED, NOT  
SURE WHAT'S  
GOING TO HAPPEN  
NEXT!

WAIT--

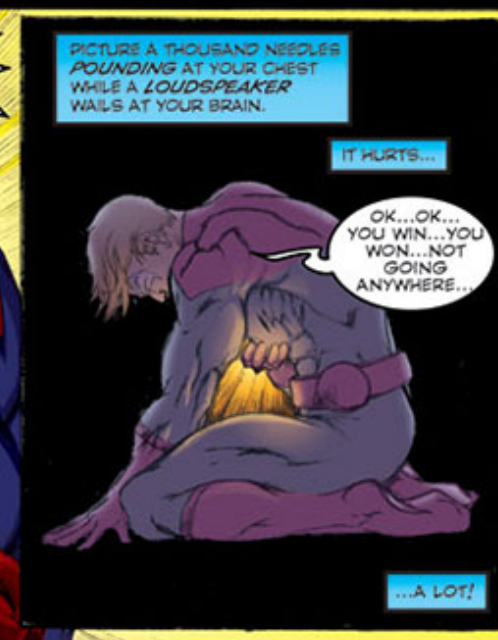
LIKE I WASN'T WORRIED  
IF I COULD TAKE THEM...

6





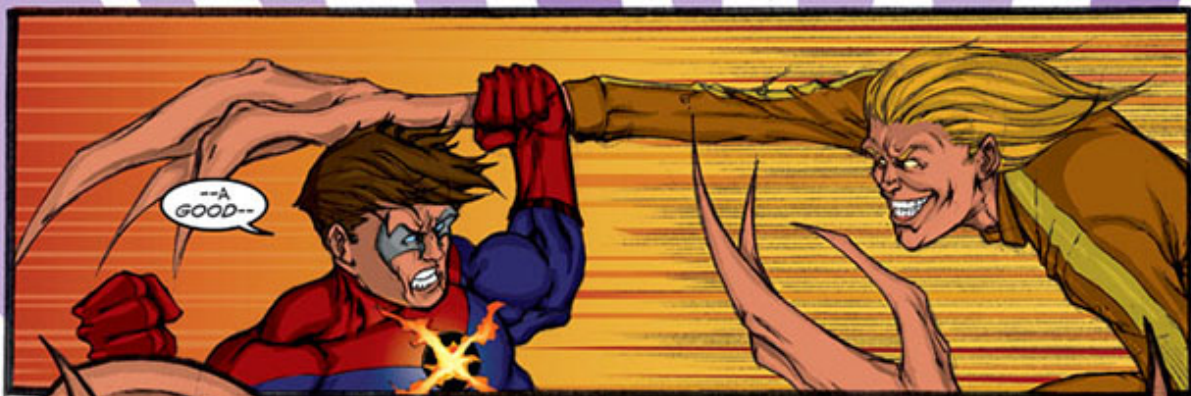
















HA!  
THAT WAS...THAT  
WAS **INCREDIBLE!**  
**AMAZING!** I CAN'T  
BELIEVE I--!

EXCUSE ME!  
EXCUSE ME, SIR!  
HEY!



HUH?

J.J. WATERSTON,  
CHANNEL SIX! THAT  
WAS **SPECTACULAR!**  
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT CAN  
YOU TELL US ABOUT WHAT  
HAPPENED  
HERE TODAY?

J.J..?



J.J.--!

--DONP!

AND THAT **PRETTY**  
MUCH CATCHES YOU  
UP TO **SPEED...**



I **RAN** AS SOON  
AS SHE HESITATED.  
GOT AWAY BEFORE  
MORE **COPS** COULD  
SHOW.

YOU  
**RAN?**

WELL, SHE **IS** MY  
BOSS AND SHE  
**DEFINITELY** RECOGNIZED ME.  
SHE'S ALSO THE **UH...REASON**  
I WAS AT THE **WAREHOUSE**  
TO BEGIN WITH.

HER?  
WHY?

YOU EVER HEAR  
OF A THING CALLED  
**LOVE?** MAKES YOU DO  
**STUPID** THINGS  
SOMETIMES.

LIKE GET  
YOURSELF CAUGHT  
SOMEWHERE YOU  
**DON'T** BELONG.

BUT ENOUGH  
ABOUT ME. I'VE SPENT  
THE BETTER PART OF AN  
**HOUR** RECAPPING **MY**  
LIFE FOR **YOUR**  
BENEFIT.

TELL ME...  
WHAT'S YOUR  
DEAL?

WHY **SURE**, I  
THOUGHT IT  
WOULD BE **OBVIOUS**  
BY NOW...









GOOD  
EVENING MR.  
WRIGHT.

MY NAME IS  
**SAMUEL ANTONETTI**.  
I'M SURE YOU RECOGNIZE  
MY NAME THOUGH I DOUBT  
YOU'D RECOGNIZE MY FACE  
IN THIS...*CONDITION*.

YEAH, I'VE HEARD  
OF YOU. YOU'RE THAT  
BILLIONAIRE *MOGUL*  
THAT WENT MISSING.

ANY PARTICULAR  
REASON YOU HAPPEN  
TO BE ON THE SAME  
ROOFTOP AS ME? I MEAN  
IT'S--OH MY GOD!  
YOUR FACE! IT'S--

YES, WELL THAT  
WOULD BE *YOUR* FAULT.  
YOU HAVE SOMETHING  
THAT BELONGS  
TO ME.

DUDE, I DON'T  
KNOW *WHAT*  
YOU'RE TALKING  
ABOUT.

OF COURSE YOU  
DO. A PLAN WAS SET  
INTO MOTION THREE NIGHTS  
AGO THAT WOULD HAVE  
YIELDED ME GREAT AND  
UNIMAGINABLE *POWER*.

DURING THE  
EXCHANGE HOWEVER,  
THERE WAS SOMEONE  
*PRESENT* THAT DID  
NOT BELONG.

AN *INDIVIDUAL*  
WHOSE MERE  
PRESENCE DISRUPTED  
THE CAREFUL *BALANCE*  
NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE  
THIS GOAL.

THAT PERSON  
WAS *YOU*. THE  
WAREHOUSE YOU  
STUMBLED  
UPON...







...WAS MINE.  
AS IT STANDS, YOU  
HAVE SOMETHING THAT  
BELONGS TO ME.

AND UNTIL I GET  
IT BACK I AM FORCED  
TO ENDURE THIS  
UNFORTUNATE  
APPEARANCE. NOW, IF  
YOU DON'T MIND...



SERIOUSLY?  
LOOK, I DON'T KNOW IF  
YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING  
THE NEWS LATELY, BUT I'VE  
GOT WAAAAAY BIGGER  
PROBLEMS TO DEAL WITH  
THAN YOUR SKIN  
CONDITION.

SO IF YOU  
DON'T MIND...



DON'T BE COY!  
YOUR COSTUME IS THE  
SOURCE OF UNIMAGINABLE  
POWER! THE MISSING HALF  
YOU STOLE FROM ME!

WE ARE  
CONNECTED TO IT,  
YOU AND I. IT'S HOW I  
WAS ABLE TO FIND YOU  
HERE. IT'S HOW I KNOW  
YOU ARE LYING TO  
ME NOW.



LOOK, YOU'RE  
RIGHT. TRUTH IS,  
THESE POWERS, THIS  
COSTUME, THEY'RE NOT  
MINE AND I REALLY,  
REALLY, DON'T WANT  
ANY PART OF THEM.

BUT I GET THE  
FEELING THEY'RE  
A ONE-WAY  
TICKET.



OH, I  
WOULDN'T SAY  
THAT...











HA! MADE IT!  
STILL IN ONE PIECE  
TOO! IF IT WAS UP  
TO THAT GUY...

...I WOULDN'T BE!



WHO WAS HE? IS HE  
REALLY LIKE ME?

...OR IS THAT WHAT I'M  
ABOUT TO *BECOME*?



YES...I  
UNDERSTAND  
NOW

HE CANNOT BE  
*SIPHONED*. NOT  
YET. I MUST GROW  
*STRONGER*  
FIRST.

THE  
*OTHERS*...  
THEY ARE THE  
KEY.



HMM?



THOUGHT I  
SAW...



...HMM. NOTHING.  
*NEVERMIND.*

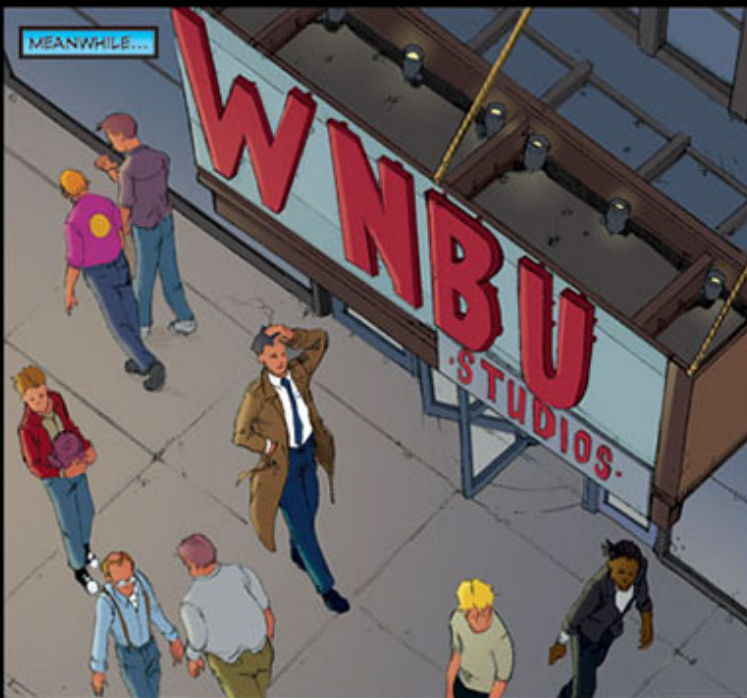


HEHEHEHE...





MEANWHILE...



WALTER!  
WALTER, WAIT  
UP!

WHAT IS  
IT, JIM?



WHAT IS IT?  
WALTER, DO YOU  
EVEN HAVE TO  
ASK?

...WAS KIND  
OF HOPEING I  
DIDN'T.

WE'VE GOT  
NEWS ANCHORS  
POSTING RESUMES  
BECAUSE OF  
HER!

WHEN J.J. FROZE  
UP ON CAMERA, SHE  
MADE US LOOK LIKE  
AMATEURS!

OUR REPUTATION  
AMONG VIEWERS,  
WITH RIVAL  
NETWORKS...WE'RE A  
LAUGHING STOCK!



LOOK, JIM, IF IT  
WASN'T FOR HER,  
WE WOULDN'T EVEN  
HAVE A REPUTATION  
TO LOSE!

THE HARD  
WORK SHE'S PUT  
INTO MAKING THIS  
NETWORK A  
CONTENDER...

...AS FAR AS  
I'M CONCERNED,  
OUR JOBS ARE  
HERS TO LOSE!



AND IF SHE  
DOES, WALTER?  
THERE'S A FINE LINE  
BETWEEN LOYALTY  
AND STUPIDITY...

...AND I'LL LET  
YOU KNOW WHEN WE  
CROSS IT. FOR NOW,  
LET'S GIVE HER THE  
BENEFIT OF THE  
DOUBT.

IF SHE SAYS  
SHE'S TAKING  
CARE OF IT...



...SHE'S TAKING CARE OF IT!

...AUTHORITIES ARE STILL ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THIS MASKED *LUNATIC* WHO, DESPITE AIDING IN THE CAPTURE OF AT LEAST ONE ESCAPED CONVICT, IS STILL WANTED FOR QUESTIONING.

GREAT...LIKE I HAVE ANY ANSWERS.

IT'S SAD NO ONE ELSE HAS EVEN RECOGNIZED ME FROM WORK BESIDES J.J.

THE DON WRIGHT CHARM IN EFFECT, FADE SO FAR INTO THE BACKGROUND NO ONE NOTICES WHEN YOU TURN INTO A SUPERHERO.

OF COURSE, THAT'S NOT EVEN CLOSE TO WHAT I AM, IS IT? WHAT I AM--

--IS I'M AN IDIOT TRAPPED INSIDE A COSTUME!

I'M WANTED BY THE POLICE...

...HUNTED BY SOME PSYCHO BURN VICTIM...

...AND I WANT IT ALL TO STOP!

**KNOCK KNOCK**

WHAAT?!

OH CRAP!

DON, IT'S J.J., OPEN UP!

CRAP! CRAP!

WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TODAY.

CRAP! CRAP! CRAP! CRAP!

COME ON, I HEAR YOU MOVING AROUND IN THERE...

...HELLO?

DON?

OH SH--



# THANK YOU FOR READING!

We hope you enjoyed **THE SIRE #1** and look forward to reading more. As a **BONUS** for checking it out, we're offering you digital copies issues the next two issues – **fo' FREE!**

That's right! Go to [sirestudiosinc.com/fofree](http://sirestudiosinc.com/fofree) to download issues #2 and #3 fo free! **Welcome to the world of The Sire!**

– Michael Dolce (creator: The Sire, Mainstream, Descendant)



[SireStudiosInc.com](http://SireStudiosInc.com)