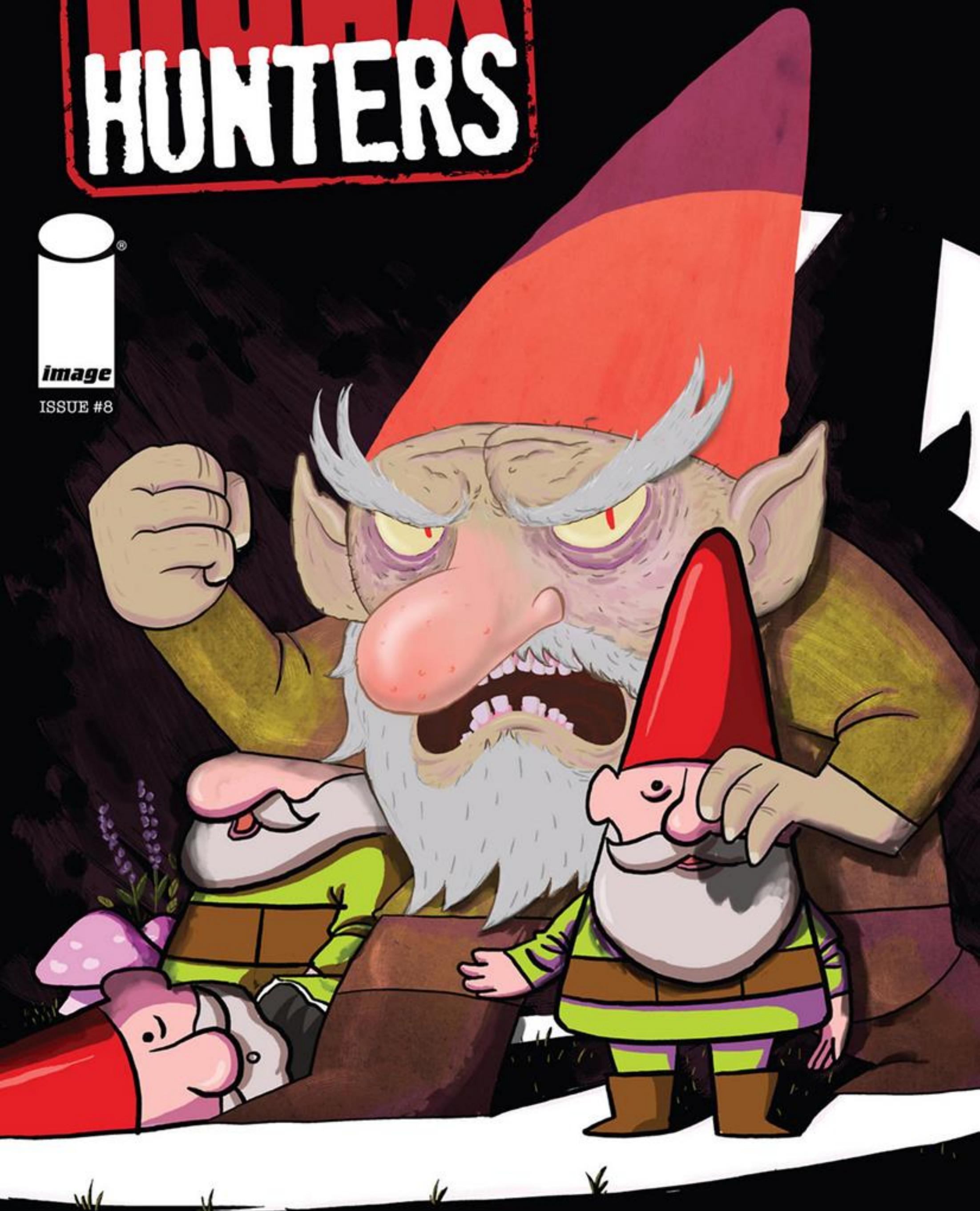


HOAX HUNTERS


image
ISSUE #8



MORECI • SEELEY • MEDELLIN



After being taken captive by the Albino King and his gnome army, Ken suffered a mental attack, revealing his past as NASA scientist, developing life-prolonging technology.



Another murdered body was found in Hauncheyville, raising Jack's suspicion — he questioned whether a gnome could be responsible for this particular attack.



While Jack is away rescuing Ken, Regan stumbles upon Donovan berating his golem — and Donovan's hidden form as a demon. Now Regan is alone at the hotel, with Donovan and his golem lurking...

HOAX HUNTERS

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"WHAT DID WE ACCOMPLISH?"

"SURE, WE DISPROVED THE LEGEND OF THE HAUNCHEYVILLE GNOMES. THE SUPPORTING FOOTAGE WE WERE SENT TURNED OUT TO BE A MANIPULATION."

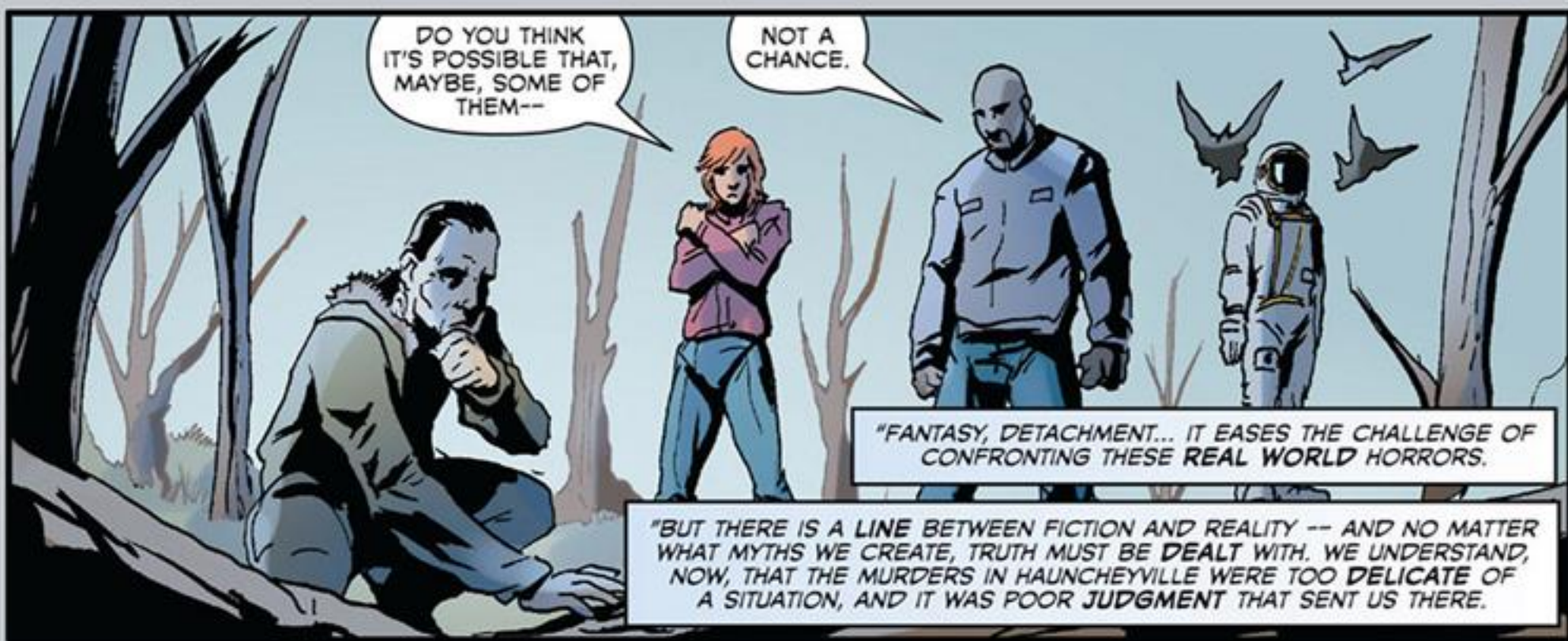


THE NIGHT KEN SPENT IN THE WOODS YIELDED NOTHING MORE THAN A FEW OMINOUS SOUNDS AND A WILD DEER CHASE.



BUT THE REALITY IS THAT PEOPLE DIED, AND THEIR KILLER IS STILL OUT THERE, SOMEWHERE.

LOOK, WE ALL CONCOCT TALES OF CONSPIRACIES AND BOGEYMEN THAT ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR NIGHTMARES.



DO YOU THINK IT'S POSSIBLE THAT, MAYBE, SOME OF THEM--

NOT A CHANCE.

"FANTASY, DETACHMENT... IT EASES THE CHALLENGE OF CONFRONTING THESE REAL WORLD HORRORS.

"BUT THERE IS A LINE BETWEEN FICTION AND REALITY -- AND NO MATTER WHAT MYTHS WE CREATE, TRUTH MUST BE DEALT WITH. WE UNDERSTAND, NOW, THAT THE MURDERS IN HAUNCHEYVILLE WERE TOO DELICATE OF A SITUATION, AND IT WAS POOR JUDGMENT THAT SENT US THERE.



THAT IS WHY THE HOAX HUNTERS ORGANIZATION WILL BE MAKING A SIZABLE DONATION TO THE TOWN, AS WELL AS OFFER A REWARD FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST AND CONVICTION OF THE MURDERER.

Uh... KEN, I DON'T REMEMBER--



Oh, REST ASSURED, OUR PRODUCER IS DEDICATED TO PAYING FOR THE HAUNCHEYVILLE DAMAGE. IN MANY WAYS.

"PEEK-A-BOO."



WHOOA...
HEY, NOW. DIDN'T
YOUR *MOTHER* EVER
TELL YOU THAT YOU'LL
SHOOT YOUR *EYE*
OUT?



Oh, I *FORGOT*.
SHE *ABANDONED* YOU
AFTER YOU WENT ALL
EXORCIST ON
NATIONAL TV.



#*% YOU,
DONOVAN.



NNNGGG... VERY *CLEVER*.
TRYING TO CONTROL MY
LANGUAGE AND FORCE
ME TO...

NNNGGG...

ORDER
MY OWN GOLEM
TO... *TURN*
ON ME.



UNFORTUNA...

NNNGGG...
UNFORTUNATELY
FOR *YOU*, MY MIND
IS TRAINED...

GGGHHH...
TO *PREVENT* THIS
KIND OF INTRUSION.
ALWAYS WONDERED...
IF IT WOULD *WORK*
AGAINST YOU.



YET WE
BOTH KNOW
YOU'RE NOT
GIVING THIS
YOUR *ALL*.



AAAAHHH!



I DON'T
THINK YOU REALIZE
THAT YOU ARE, BY *FAR*,
THE MOST *POWERFUL*
PERSON ON YOUR TEAM.
POSSIBLY, AND DON'T LET
THIS GO TO YOUR HEAD,
THE MOST *POWERFUL*
PERSON *ALIVE*.

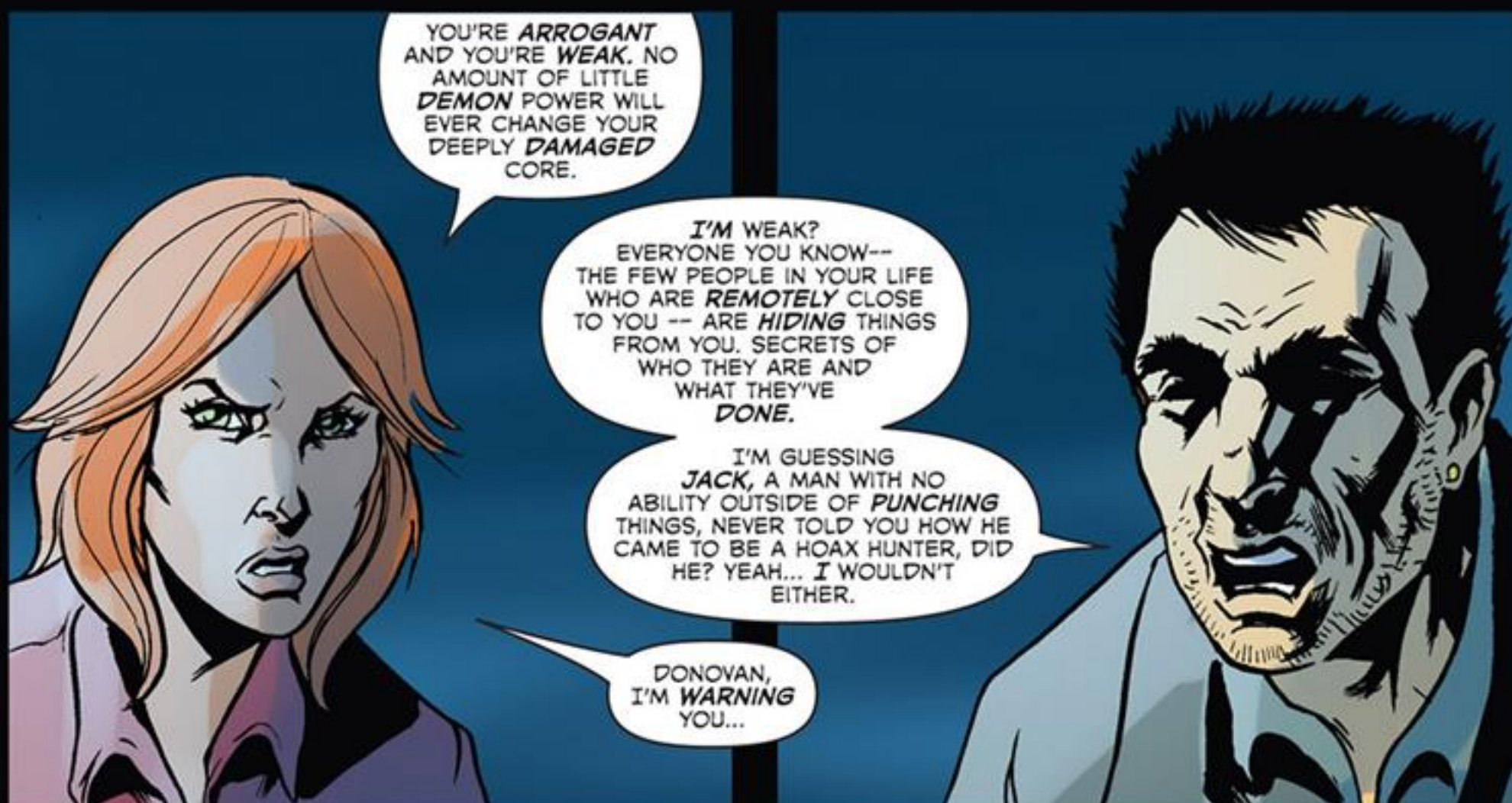
THERE'S SO
MUCH I CAN SHOW
YOU, SO *MUCH* WE
CAN *ACHIEVE*
TOGETH--



GO TO *HELL*, YOU AND YOUR INSULTING PANDERING. WHAT'S *NEXT*, YOU TELL ME TO "*SEARCH MY FEELINGS*"?

CONGRATULATIONS, REGAN. YOU'VE SEEN *STAR WARS*.

YOU DON'T *KNOW* ME, OR WHAT I'M *CAPABLE* OF. BUT I'M SURE YOU'VE CONVINCED YOURSELF HOW *ALIKE* WE ARE. YOU MIGHT EVEN HAVE SOME ROMANTIC NOTION OF HOW, TOGETHER, WE COULD, *WHAT?* CHANGE THE *WORLD*?

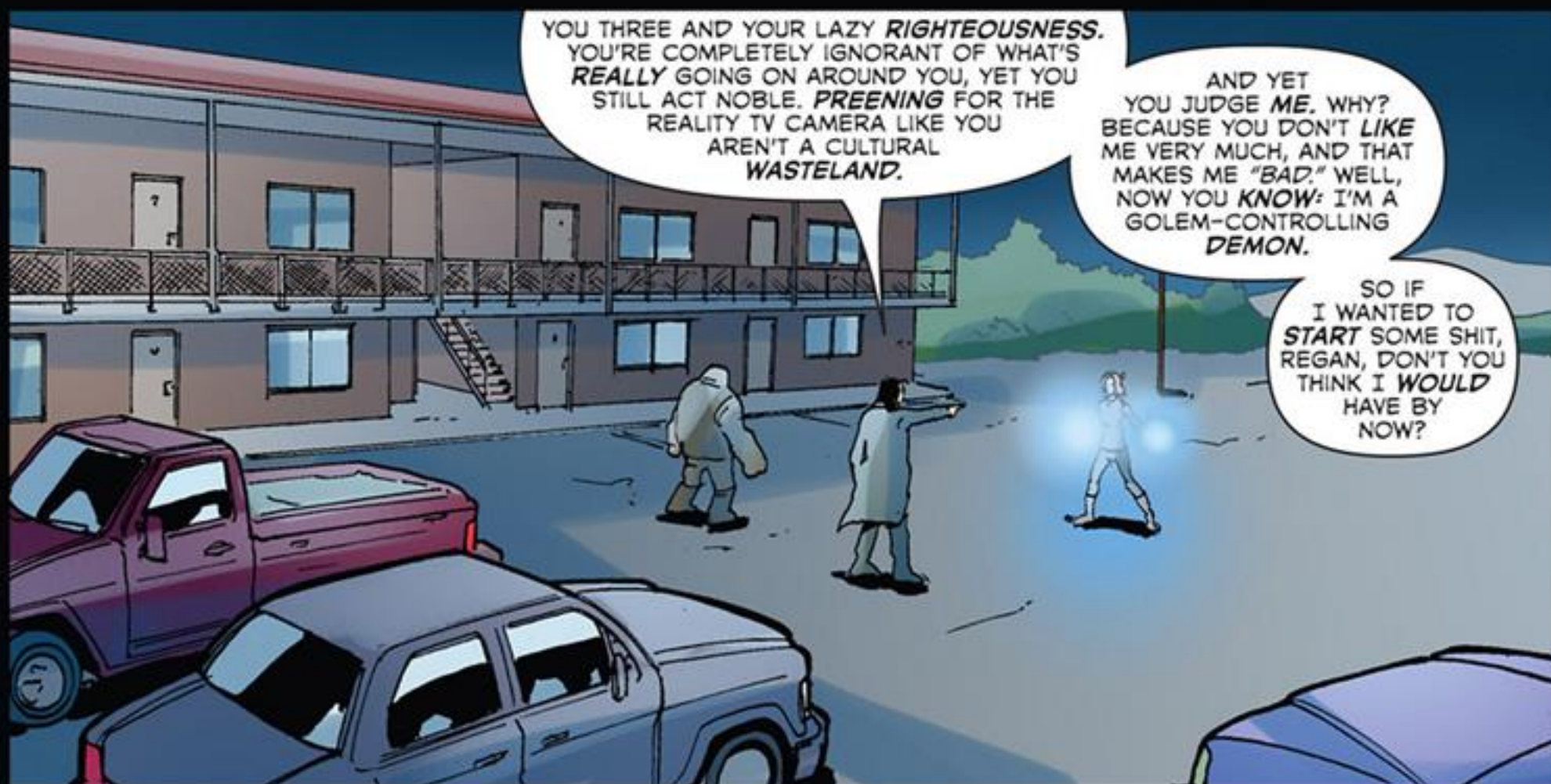


YOU'RE *ARROGANT* AND YOU'RE *WEAK*. NO AMOUNT OF LITTLE *DEMON* POWER WILL EVER CHANGE YOUR DEEPLY *DAMAGED* CORE.

I'M *WEAK*? EVERYONE YOU KNOW-- THE FEW PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE WHO ARE *REMOTELY* CLOSE TO YOU -- ARE *HIDING* THINGS FROM YOU. SECRETS OF WHO THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY'VE *DONE*.

I'M GUESSING *JACK*, A MAN WITH NO ABILITY OUTSIDE OF *PUNCHING* THINGS, NEVER TOLD YOU HOW HE CAME TO BE A HOAX HUNTER, DID HE? YEAH... I WOULDN'T EITHER.

DONOVAN, I'M *WARNING* YOU...



YOU THREE AND YOUR LAZY *RIGHTEOUSNESS*. YOU'RE COMPLETELY IGNORANT OF WHAT'S *REALLY* GOING ON AROUND YOU, YET YOU STILL ACT NOBLE. *PREENING* FOR THE REALITY TV CAMERA LIKE YOU AREN'T A CULTURAL *WASTELAND*.

AND YET YOU JUDGE *ME*. WHY? BECAUSE YOU DON'T *LIKE* ME VERY MUCH, AND THAT MAKES ME "*BAD*." WELL, NOW YOU *KNOW*: I'M A GOLEM-CONTROLLING *DEMON*.

SO IF I WANTED TO *START* SOME SHIT, REGAN, DON'T YOU THINK I *WOULD* HAVE BY NOW?



GRRRAHH!



OGGGFFF!

YOU KILLED *INNOCENT* PEOPLE, FOR WHATEVER *TWISTED* ENDS YOU'RE AFTER. THERE IS ABSOLUTELY *NO* MORAL HIGH GROUND FOR YOU TO STAND ON.

≡KOFF≡ I KILLED
≡KOFFKOFF≡ A *RAPIST*, A MAN WHO MERCILESSLY *BEAT* HIS FAMILY, A WOULD-BE *TERRORIST*, AND A *MURDERER* OUT ON A *TECHNICALITY*.

I'D LOVE TO KNOW ≡KOFF≡ *YOUR* DEFINITION OF "*INNOCENT*."



LISTEN, THIS UNDERGRAD PHILOSOPHY DEBATE *ISN'T* GOING TO HAPPEN. I DID WHAT I DID, AND I HAVE MY *REASONS*.

NOW YOU-- YOU'RE GOING GO BACK AND CONFESS MY SINS TO *JACK*. AND THAT'S FINE, *JACK* AND I HAVE SOME *AIR* TO CLEAR ANYWAY. BUT, I WONDER...



WILL YOU TELL *JACK* *EVERYTHING*? OR DO YOU THINK MAYBE -- JUST MAYBE -- YOU HAVEN'T GOT ME AS FIGURED OUT AS YOU MIGHT *THINK*?



Oh, ONE LAST THING: WHAT YOU DID JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO? THAT HAPPENS AGAIN, I'LL SIC MY *GOLEM* ON YOU. AND BELIEVE ME, HE'S A *LOT* HARDER TO PUT DOWN.

SLEEP TIGHT, *REGAN*.





JESUS... I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO **RESPOND** TO THIS. I KNOW DONOVAN IS A NARCISSIST AND A LIAR, BUT **THIS...** HE'S OUT OF HIS **MIND**.

AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF WE CAN DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.



AS SHOCKING AS THIS NEWS IS, WE STILL NEED TO ASK: **WHY?** WHY TAKE SUCH **EXTREME** OF A MEASURE?

IT CAN'T BE THAT HE FUELED THE HAUNCHYVILLE GNOME SCARE **JUST** TO GET US DOWN HERE-- NO, THAT CAN'T BE IT. THERE'S SOMETHING **ELSE** GOING ON, THERE **HAS** TO BE.



YOU'RE RIGHT. DONOVAN IS **ALWAYS** WORKING AN **ANGLE**, **ALWAYS** MAINTAINING SOME SORT OF, I DON'T KNOW... **AGENDA**. HE WOULDN'T DO THIS FOR NO REAS--



Meet in 20 at
Café Norton.
No dead guy,
witch, or
crows.



WELL... LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET SOME **ANSWERS**: DONOVAN WANTS TO MEET, BUT ONLY **ME**.

SHOULD I PREPARE THE **PLIERS** AND **BAMBOO**?

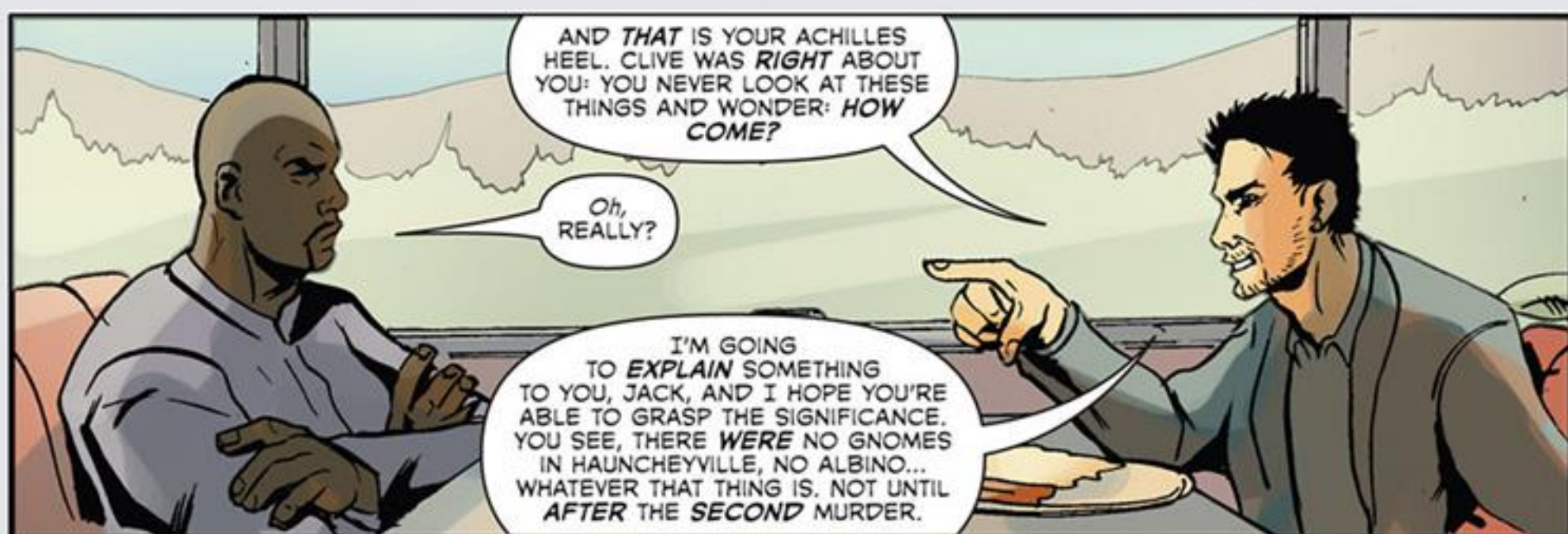
MAYBE NOT QUITE YET. BUT, REGAN, I NEED TO KNOW IF YOU OVERHEARD DONOVAN SAY ANYTHING **ELSE**. DID HE SAY **ANYTHING** AT ALL?



DID HE DO **ANYTHING** THAT WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT?

.... NO... THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE. I HEARD HIM YELLING AT HIS DUMB GOLEM, AND THAT WAS IT.









WE **ALL** HAVE OUR HOBBY HORSES. AT LEAST I'M TRYING TO DISCOVER THE **MYSTERIES** OF OUR **WORLD**, OUR **LIVES**.

ALL **YOU'RE** DOING IS WORKING THROUGH YOUR **DADDY** ISSUES.



YOU'VE PUT US **ALL** AT RISK YOU SELFISH LITTLE **SHIT**. NOT TO MENTION INNOCENT PEOPLE ARE **DEAD** BECAUSE OF YOU-- THOSE TEENAGERS, AND MARK. THAT BLOOD IS ON **YOUR** HANDS.

COLLATERAL DAMAGE.



WHAT ABOUT THESE FICTIONAL **GNOMES** OF YOURS? HOW ARE WE GOING TO HANDLE **THAT** MESS?



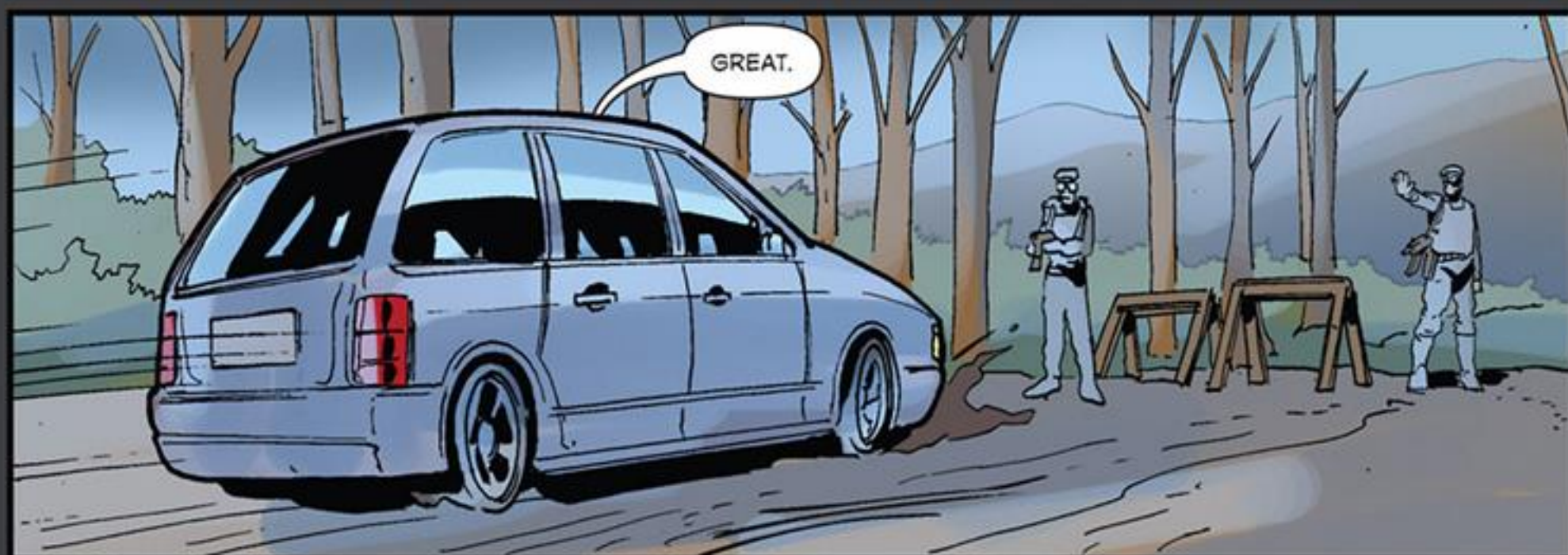
WE? WHO SAID I NEEDED YOUR HELP WITH **ANYTHING**, JACK?

THE ALBINO CAN'T BE **CONTROLLED**, SO THE PROBLEM IS BEING **HANDLED**. PROBABLY AS WE SPEAK.

AND HOW EXACTLY--



Oh, **SHIT**.











WHERE ARE THE
OTHERS? THE
GNOMES?

DEATH FOR
ALL... DEATH AT
LAST... NO MORE
SUFFERING...

PEACE...



ONE CAN BE SO
FORTUNATE.



NONE OF YOU MAKE A MOVE.
WE KNOW *WHO* YOU ARE, WE
HAVE STRICT ORDERS *NOT* TO
HURT ANY OF YOU. WE ASK
YOU TO PLEASE *LEAVE*
THE PREMISES.

BEFORE
THERE ARE ANY
UNFORTUNATE...
ACCIDENTS.







KEN, IF YOU'D DO THE HONORS OF MAKING THESE TWO FORGET THE PAST 48 HOURS?

ACTUALLY, JACK, THAT'S THE THING...



I CAN'T. I WON'T.

I HAD MY MIND *INVADED* BY THE ALBINO KING, JACK. IT WAS VIOLENT, PAINFUL, AND *TERRIFYING*. I CAN'T *WILLINGLY* DO THAT TO ANYONE ELSE. NOT RIGHT NOW.



YOU KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF --*WHEN*-- DONOVAN GETS WORD THAT THESE TWO ARE OUT THERE AND KNOW WHAT *WE* DO HERE. ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING RECENT... REALIZATIONS.

I KNOW THAT, BUT--



DO IT!

IF YOU COULD ERASE MINDS, I DON'T *CARE* WHAT IT TAKES, JUST MAKE IT *HAPPEN*. I DON'T WANT TO REMEMBER A SINGLE *MOMENT* OF ANY OF THIS.



Uh-uh. MARK WAS MY *FRIEND*, AND I'M NOT TAINTING THE MEMORY OF HIS DEATH JUST BECAUSE IT MAKES THINGS MORE *CONVENIENT* FOR YOU.

I'LL *DEAL* WITH WHATEVER COMES, BUT I *WON'T* LET YOU MIND SCREW ME. DEAL WITH IT.

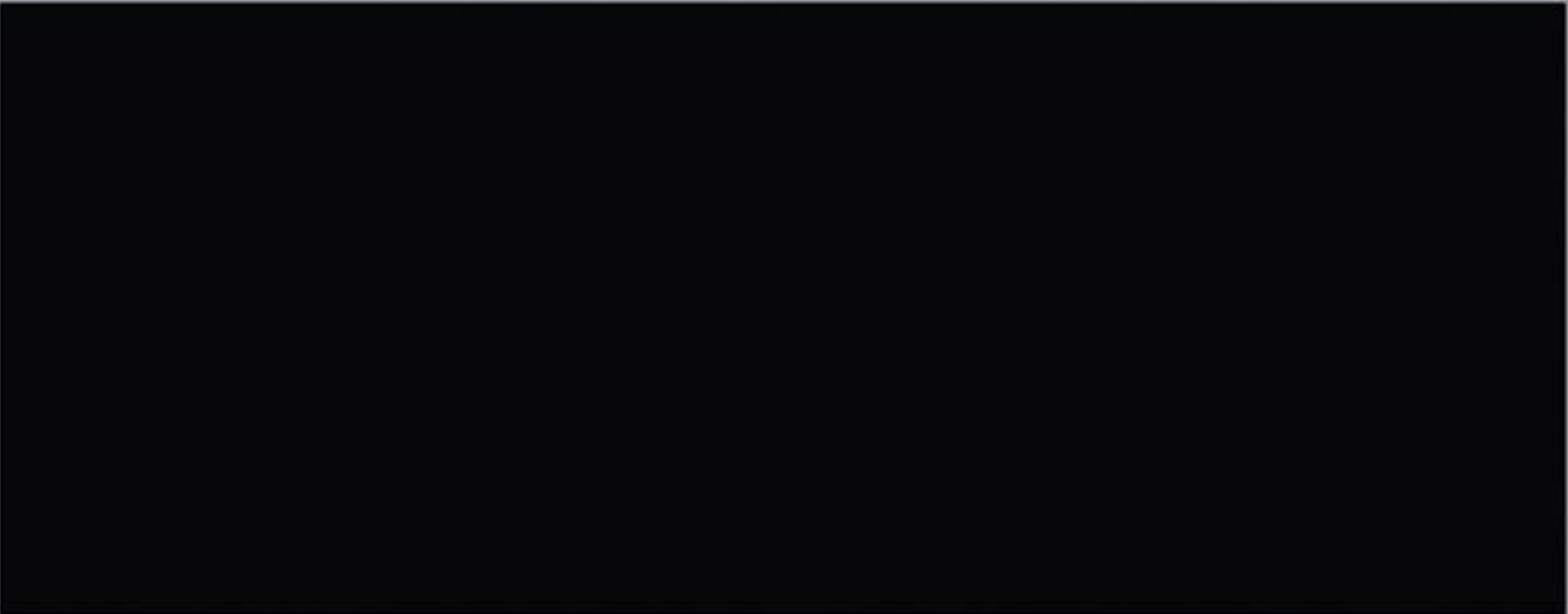
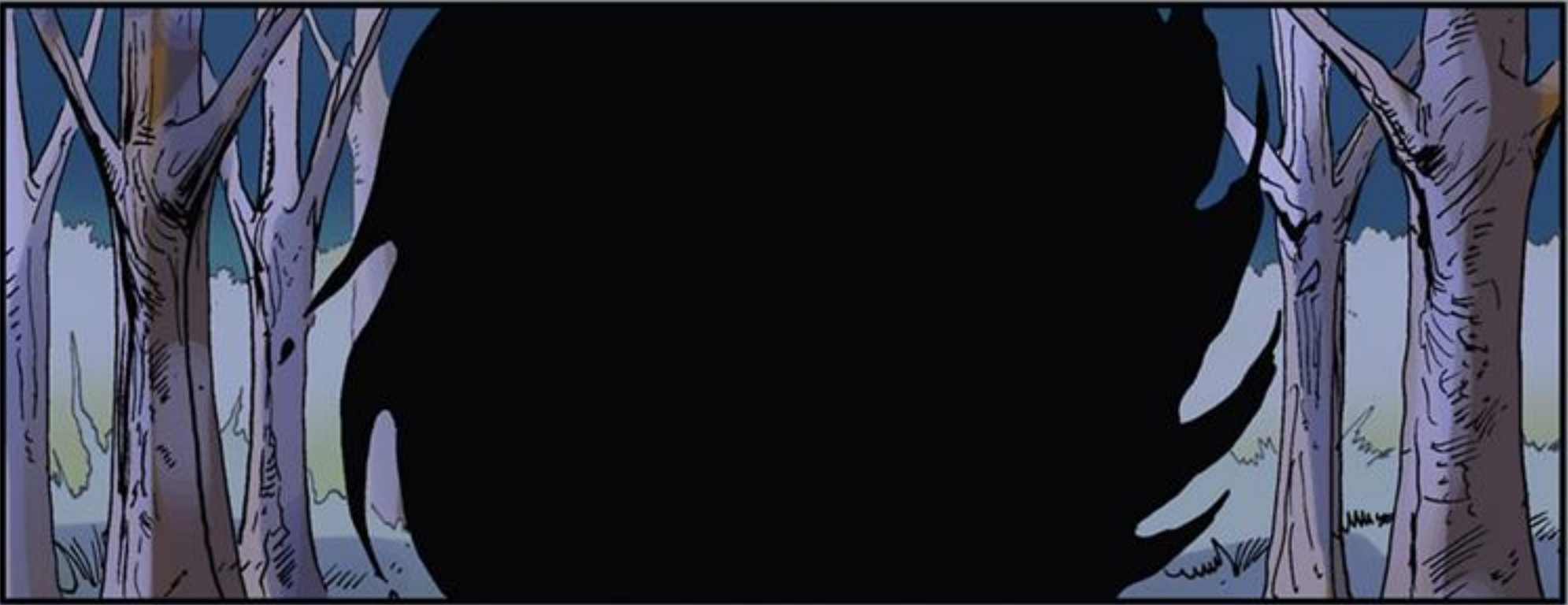


WE *HAVE* TO GET THE HELL *OUT* OF THIS TOWN



"CONSIDER THE HOAX OF
HAUNCHEYVILLE OFFICIALLY
HUNTED."







...THE HOAX HUNTERS ORGANIZATION WILL BE MAKING A **SIZABLE** DONATION TO THE TOWN, AS WELL AS OFFERING A **REWARD** FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST AND CONVICTION OF THE MURDERER.

KEN'S ALWAYS BEEN A **BOLD** ONE.

IT'S NOT DIFFICULT TO BE **BRAVE** WHEN YOUR PRIMARY MOTIVATION IN LIFE IS TO **DIE**.

WHAT OF THE HAUNCHYVILLE SITUATION?

THE BEASTS HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED, BUT **OTHER** CONCERNS REMAIN. I WORRY ABOUT DONOVAN'S... **MOTIVATIONS**.

HE DOESN'T **KNOW** ANYTHING, NOT YET. BUT HE **IS** ASKING THE RIGHT **QUESTIONS**.


MONITOR HIM, AND LAWSON. I SEE **TROUBLE** WHERE HE'S CONCERNED.

I KNOW JACK, I KNOW HIM VERY WELL. HE WON'T STOP UNTIL HE **FINDS** HIS FATHER.

IF THAT'S CASE...

MAYBE WE'LL HAVE TO GET TO HIM **FIRST**.





YEA MAN!

HMPH

sup.

HIPSTER NEPHEW

UNCLE DANDY

BOOF

MESSENGER BOY SOCIAL CLUB





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YOU'RE
IN LUCK,
MICHAEL.
HOW
WOULD YOU
LIKE TO SEE
WHAT WE DO
UP CLOSE?

UNDEADTM OR ALIVE

PART 3



NINETEEN HOURS LATER.
AN UNMARKED ROAD DEEP
IN THE ATCHAFALAYA BASIN.
LOUISIANA.

OKAY, NEW
GUY. I DIDN'T
ASK FOR YOUR
LIFE STORY.



I JUST
WANTED TO
KNOW IF YOU FOUND
ANYTHING YET.

FIRST OF ALL,
PAL, I DIDN'T ASK
FOR THIS. I DON'T
EVEN KNOW WHAT
I'M DOING HERE.
I JUST--



YEAH, YEAH,
YOU WERE SENT
BY THE OLD MAN
AND FELT COMPELLED
TO COME ALONG.
WE'VE
ALL BEEN
THERE.

I LIKE
HIM.

YEAH.
ME, TOO.



ANYWAY, THE
SOUTHERN U.S. HAS
DOZENS OF THESE SWAMP
MONSTER LEGENDS: THE
MONSTER OF GALVESTON
ISLAND, ALSO CALLED
THE GALVESTON OR
TEXAS SAND
MAN...


... MONSTER
OF BOGGY CREEK, THE
ARKANSAS FOULKE MONSTER,
THE MISSISSIPPI MUD
MAN AND THE FLORIDA
SKUNK APE.

AND, OF
COURSE, THE
LOUISIANA LOUPE
GAROU.



THOSE ARE
ALL BIGFOOT
VARIATIONS.

THE INTEL
THAT SENATOR
GEOFFRIES PROVIDED
IMPLIES SOME KIND OF
**ELEMENTAL MUCK
MONSTER**, WHICH IS
A WHOLE OTHER
VARIETY OF
LEGENDS.



IN THE LOUISIANA PARISH OF ST. MARTIN, LOCAL LEGEND TELLS OF A POWERFUL EARTH ELEMENTAL THAT WALKS THE SWAMP IN THE FORM OF A MAN.

KNOWN BY MANY NAMES, *THE PILE*, *THE MARSH THING*, *THE MAN-BOG*, AND *SLIME*, THE CREATURE METES OUT JUSTICE TO THE WICKED AND THE FEARFUL.

IN THE LAST COUPLE OF MONTHS, SIGHTINGS HAVE INCREASED, PARTICULARLY AROUND THE TOWN OF GERBER'S CROSSING.

THE CREATURE IS DESCRIBED AS--



SCREEEECH

STORY: **STEVE BRYANT** • ART: **JASON MILLET**

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JOE CASEY & DAVID MESSINA

THE BOUNCE

The cover art features a superhero character in a black and gold suit, floating upside down over a dense cityscape. The character's head is at the bottom, with a red visor and yellow eyes. The suit has gold accents on the chest, arms, and legs. The city below is a detailed illustration of skyscrapers and buildings. The title 'THE BOUNCE' is prominently displayed at the top, with the 'B' being particularly large and stylized, incorporating a red splatter effect.

NEW MONTHLY SERIES STARTING MAY 2013



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RATED T+ / TEEN PLUS