THE TRUE IMMORTAL RETURNS...

LAZARUS

IMMORTAL COILS

GAUTHIER DUARTE

10 Worlds Studio
Presents

Lazarus

"Immortal Coils"

Created and Written by
Joseph Gauthier

Script Edited by
Vincent Moore

Pencils and Inks by
Carlos Rafael Duarte

Colors by
Frank Martin Jr. and Vinicious Andrade

Production by
Alexander Lugo and Neil DMonte

Lettering by
Dave Lanphear

Book Design by
Christian Colbert
and Alex Lugo

Covers by
Casey Edwards and Kevin Sharpe

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Hello, Everyone!

My name is Joseph Gauthier of 10 Worlds Studio, writer, and creator of LAZARUS: Immortal Coils. First and foremost, THANK YOU for buying this book. It is a labor of love four years in the making.

When I show people the first issue of L:IC and explain the premise, the most common response is "Why hasn't anyone thought of this before?"

Lazarus has fascinated me since I was very young because so little was written about him. He is this big dangling plotline no one has addressed. I remember watching an Easter special of Jesus' life; there was a scene where he resurrects Lazarus and, just before calling him out, Jesus turns to the camera, lowers his head, and says "Please, let them see this and believe."

As a kid born and raised in Catholicism, that scene was very powerful. It introduced the idea that Jesus didn't act from a divine plan alone, but his humanity. He didn't want to die, and he didn't want his best friend dead either. If Lazarus wasn't part of a plan, then what purpose did his life serve now? What would happen to him?

I wondered what would happen to someone who died and came back by something as "absolute" as divine power. Could they die again? Is that why there is so little written about Lazarus, because he's out there somewhere? Crazy, I know, but this is how Immortal Coils came to be.

Writing L:IC allows me to challenge the idea of immortality in fiction. What does it mean to be immortal? The term is used with vampires, werewolves, but fall short of the definition. An immortal is someone or thing exempt from death and oblivion. No exceptions. In movies and comics, particularly in the horror genre, the hero is always searching for a way to stop or kill the villain/monster. What if it was switched and the monsters searched for a means to kill the hero?

Life is change. Stagnation is death. These are the opposing forces in Lazarus' story. How he changes from an ordinary man to a killer, a warrior, and then a hero is a story you have to see to believe.
Welcome, and Enjoy!

Myoho-Renge-Kyo,
JPG.
13-Jul-09

Joseph Patrick Gauthier
10 WORLDS STUDIO
Culver City, CA

Chapter One
"A Long Time Coming"

"The Forgotten One"
Pinup by Kevin Sharpe

BETHANY, TWO MILES EAST OF JERUSALEM.
33 A.D.
YESHUA! YESHUA!
RABBI, DO YOU KNOW THAT WOMAN?
AS I WOULD MY MOTHER, WHOSE NAME SHE BEARS PROUDLY.
MARY, SISTER OF MY HEART.
YESHUA, IT'S TOO LATE! HE'S GONE!
HE LIES ENTOMBED FOR FOUR DAYS! OUR BROTHER IS DEAD!
HUSH, SISTER. I'M HERE NOW, AND THE END OF OUR BROTHER'S LIFE IS A STORY YET TO BE WRITTEN. TAKE ME TO HIM.

RUN, MARY, AND TELL YOUR SISTER TO HOLD HER TEARS--
--HAVE SOMEONE MOVE THE STONE FROM THE TOMB.

MASTER, IS THIS WISE? THE MAN HAS BEEN DEAD FOR FOUR DAYS.
THERE'S NOTHING EVEN YOU CAN DO FOR HIM.
YOUR FAITH CONTINUES TO DWINDLE, JUDAS, DESPITE ALL YOU'VE SEEN. BUT, IN THE END...

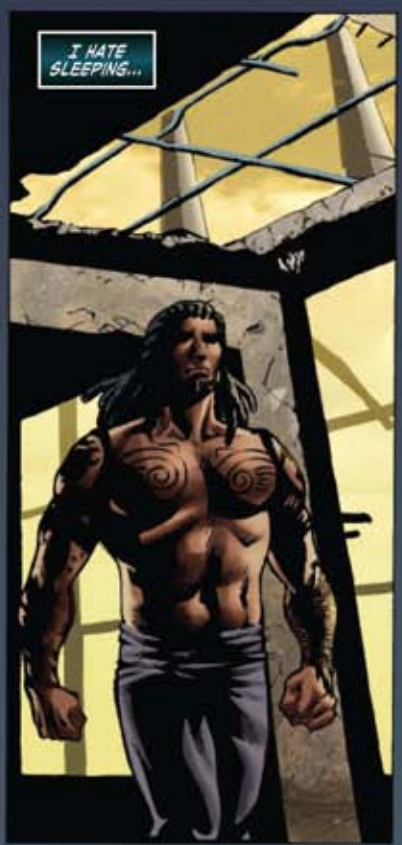
YOU WILL ALL BELIEVE.

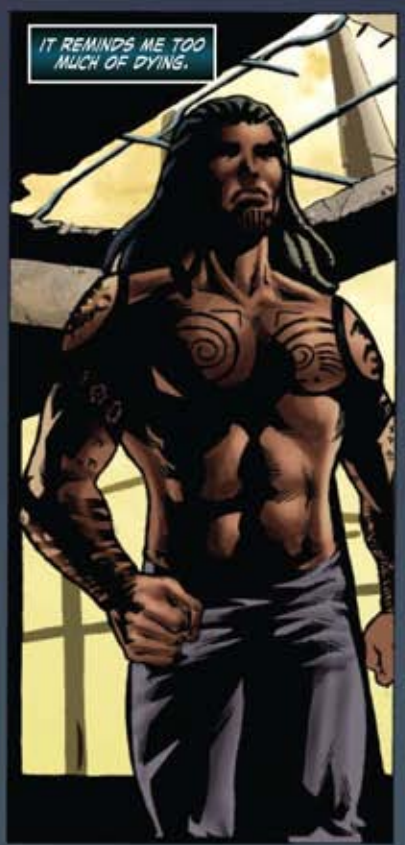
DON'T DISGRACE MY BROTHER LIKE THIS! PLEASE YESHUA, HE WAS YOUR FRIEND.
LET HIM REST IN PEACE!
THERE WILL BE NO REST FOR HIM, MARTHA.
UNTIL THE CHILDREN OF ADAM ARE FREE OF THEIR SINS, THERE IS NO MORE PEACE IN DEATH THAN IN LIFE...
...NOT FOR ANY OF US.
FATHER, I KNOW THIS IS NOT YOUR WILL. BUT, MY HEART IS TOO HUMAN.
LAZARUS, COME OUT!

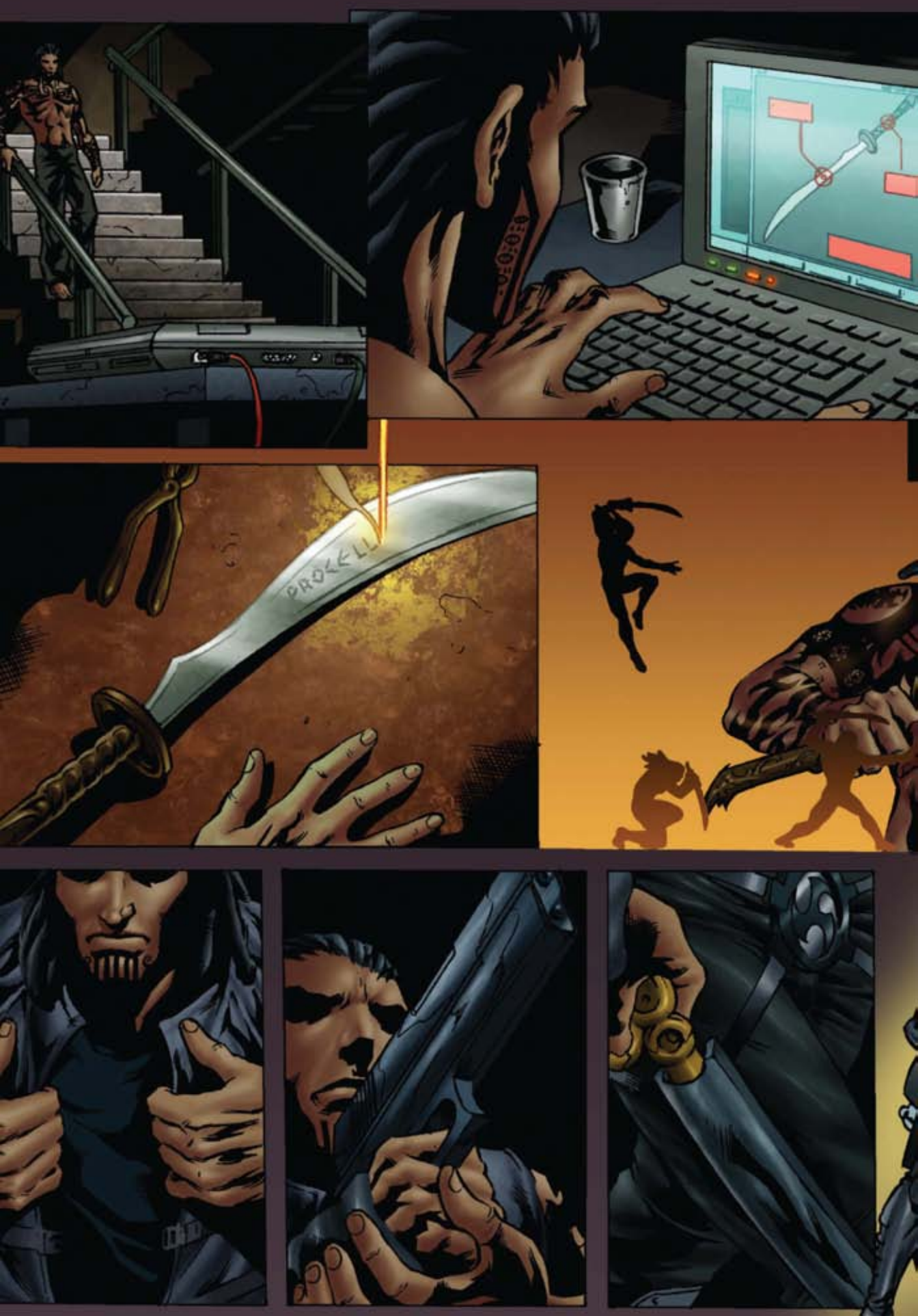
I DON'T LIKE SLEEPING.
THAT SLOW FADING OUT FROM THIS WORLD AND INTO ANOTHER.

PEOPLE ONCE BELIEVED THAT WE RELIVED OUR SINS THROUGH DREAMS BECAUSE WE COULDN'T DEAL WITH THEM CONSCIOUSLY.
I NEVER REMEMBER MY DREAMS.

I'M ONLY LEFT WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT I HAD THEM. THEY'RE LIKE SHADOWS CREEPING THROUGH MY HEAD.


I HATE SLEEPING...

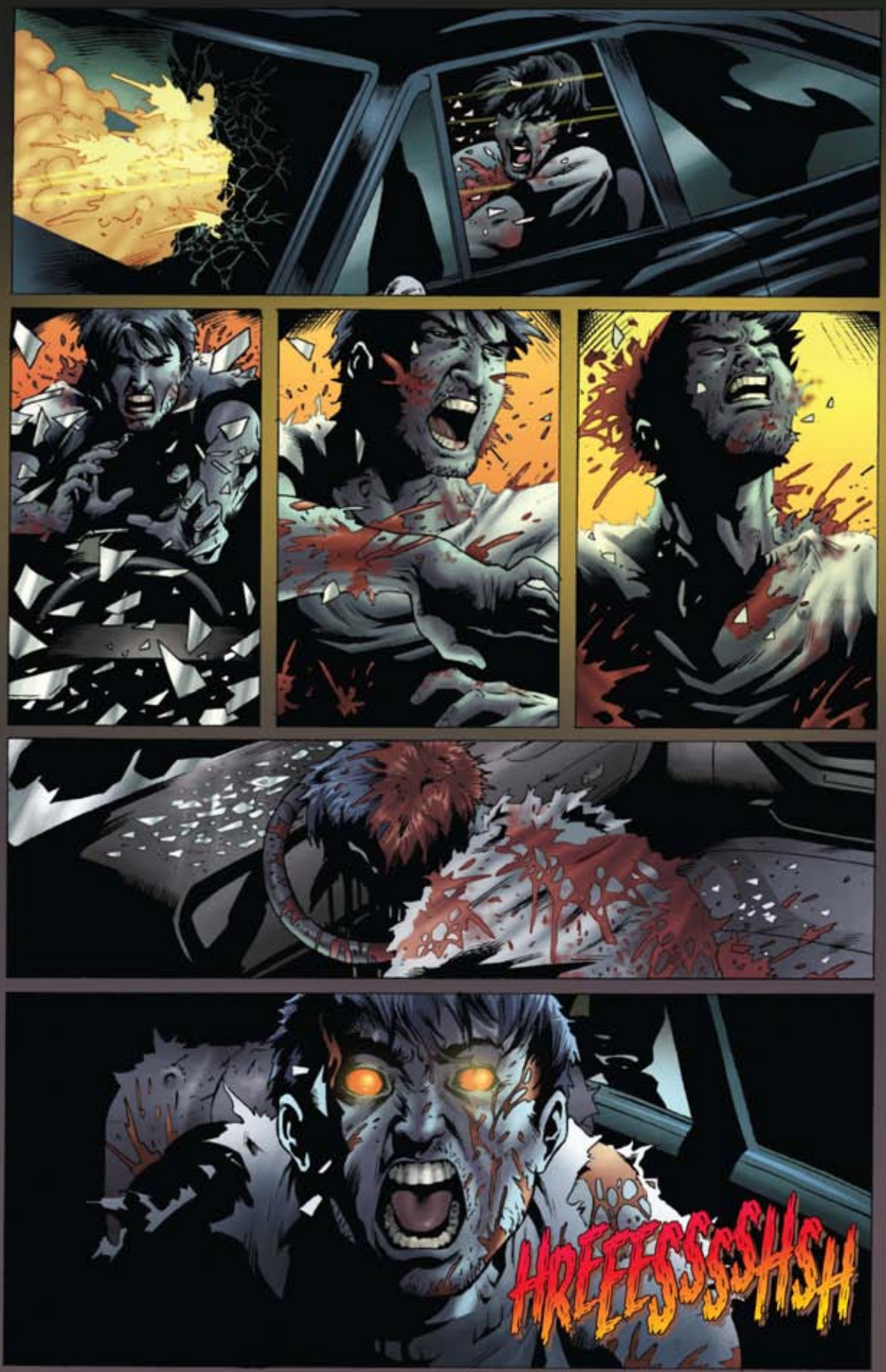

IT REMINDS ME TOO MUCH OF DYING.



THIS IS GEHENNA CITY...

A PLACE OF MISERY MASKED BY NEON LIGHTS AND CLEAN STEEL.

BUT I SEE IT, AND I KNOW WHAT IT REALLY IS.
COFFEE
HONK! HONK!
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU COULD USE A RIDE.
NO.
SOME COMPANY?
NO, I'M FINE.
HOW ABOUT CASH?


HREEESSSSHSH

BLAM
BLAMBBLAM
PT
VT
VT
VT
VT
VK
TK
TNK
K$H
PNK
CRASH

BLAM
BLAM
HRSSSS!
BLAM
CHNK

EEEAAYAA!!

KRASH
SHRHSHSS

M&
W PRICE
QJ
THK
SKSSSS
THOOM
HRAAA!

GET A DOCTOR!
DUDE...
GOOD LORD...
IS HE... DEAD?
GET BACK!
OH!
CHECK HIS PULSE!
NNH!?
OH GOD!
WHOA!
WHAT TH--?!
WEOWEOWE
OWEO
SHOULDN'T YOU STAY LAYING DOWN?
A MIRACLE!

WEOWEOWEOWEOWEOWEOWEO
WHA--?
STOP!
TNK
BNK
BMP

LET ME IN!

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
WHERE'S BIG SISTER? I NEED TO SEE BIG SISTER!
YOU LOOK LIKE #$%@.
I NEED TO SEE BIG SISTER!
CALM THE %&#$ DOWN AND--
I NEED TO SEE HER NOW!
THIS WAY.
SHE'S THROUGH THERE.
WHAT'S THE MATTER NOW? I THOUGHT YOU WERE IN SUCH A $#%&ING HURRY?
I AM, BUT--
THEN GET THE $#%& IN THERE!

YOU WANT SOMETHING?

END: CHAPTER 1

CHAPTER TWO
"FALLING UNDER"
EDWARDS
7.15

"YOU BELONG TO ME"
PINUP BY KEVIN SHARPE

MY MIND BEGINS TO WANDER...

THERE ARE TOO FEW GOOD MEMORIES IN A LIFETIME.
FAMILY.
FRIENDS.
TOGETHERNESS.

PAIN IS THE ONLY THING I REMEMBER NOW. THE JOYS OF MY LIFE HAVE SLIPPED SO FAR AWAY..
ALL I CAN SAVOR ARE THOSE MOMENTS IN-BETWEEN.
WHAT WAS IT LIKE, LAZARUS?
I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING AFTER I LEFT MY BODY, AND I DON'T THINK I WANT TO.
WHILE I WAS LYING IN BED, MY BODY WAS...FIGHTING ME.
I TRIED TO FIGHT BACK, I TRIED TO KEEP BREATHING, BUT I HAD NO CONTROL. I WANTED TO HOLD ON, BUT THEN IT ALL JUST WENT AWAY.
PART OF ME WANTS TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED AFTERWARDS. THE SAME PART THAT DARES TO PUT MY HAND OVER THIS FIRE BECAUSE THE PAIN FEELS SO FAMILIAR.

FORGIVE ME. I SHOULD HELP YOU FORGET, NOT---
ARE YOU AFRAID OF DYING?
DO YOU BELIEVE IN ME, LAZARUS?
I LOOK AT YOU AND SEE A BROTHER, A FRIEND.
WHAT YOU ARE, IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME.
I'M JUST A MAN.
AND I'LL STAND BY YOU.
NOT ME.
EVERYONE LEAVES EVENTUALLY.
UNTIL THE END?
THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR.
THERE IS...
YOU JUST DON'T REMEMBER.

THE SAQAR TOWER, GEHENNA.
...TEN ATTACKS IN THE LAST MONTH, EACH STRONGER AND MORE DARING THAN THE LAST. THE MOST RECENT WERE LIEUTENANTS FROM THE EASTERN QUADRANT.
ARE WE SURE THEY'RE NOT JUST *RANDOM* OCCURRENCES?
THAT WAS THE CONSENSUS, BUT UNDER CLOSER SCRUTINY A PATTERN DOES EMERGE.
NONSENSE! IT'S CLAN WARFARE; WE'VE SEEN THIS BEFORE. THE LONGER WE REMAIN HERE, THE MORE THE HUMANS AND THEIR AGGRESSION TOWARDS ONE ANOTHER CONTAMINATE OUR PEOPLE.
THIS IS MORE THAN RIVAL GANGS FIGHTING FOR HUMAN GROUND. THESE ATTACKS WERE TOO PROFESSIONAL AND EXACT IN THEIR TARGETS.
AND WHO WERE THESE "TARGETS"?
AEONS. WE'RE BEING HUNTED, *AGAIN.*
HMPH, *HIGHLY* UNLIKELY.

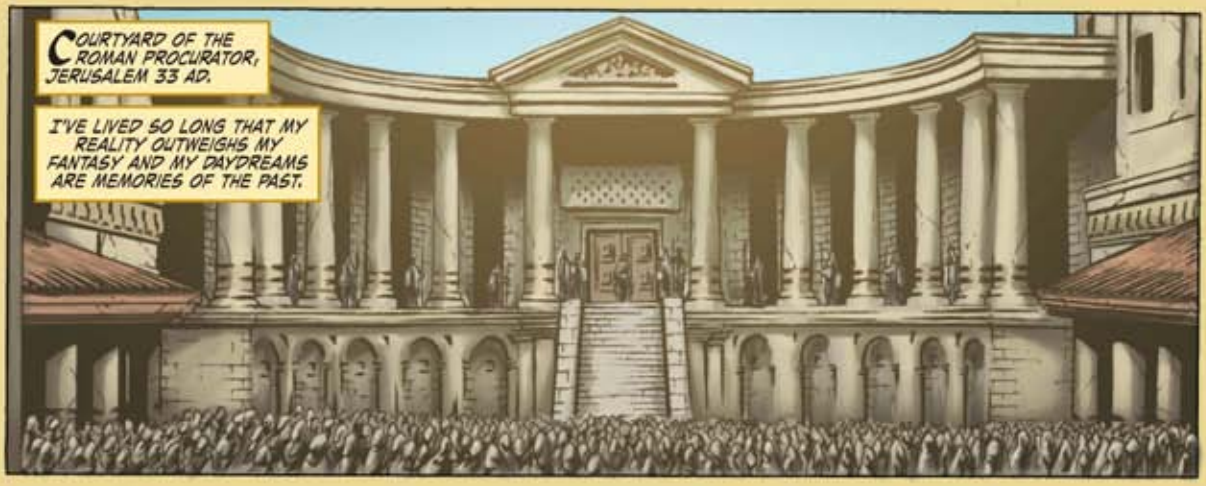
OUR POWER IS KEPT SAFE BY A FRAGILE WALL OF SECRECY, A VEIL BETWEEN US AND THE HUMANS THAT MUST BE GUARDED AT ALL TIMES. ANY REVELATION WILL COST US EVERYTHING.
WE DON'T NEED A LECTURE ON THE VEIL. WE ALL KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN IGNORANCE, AND THIS CITY WAS BUILT TO ENSURE THAT. WE WANT TO KNOW WHY WE'RE HERE.
SOMEONE KNOWS ABOUT US. FOUR LIEUTENANTS ARE DEAD, ONLY BIG SISTER REMAINS, BRINGING THIS MYSTERY CLOSER TO OUR DOORSTEP.
BIG SISTER, OF ALL THE ONES TO LIVE.
AND WHAT HAS OUR GUARD DOG DONE ABOUT ANY OF THIS?
THAT IS WHY WE ARE HERE.
YES, SPEAKER.
SEND IN VERUS.
WE SENT FOR VERUS, NOT HIS MOUTHPIECE.
MY OTHER TALENTS NOT WITHSTANDING, AS HIS ASSISTANT I'M CAPABLE OF HANDLING LESS URGENT AFFAIRS.
LESS URGENT?
HIS WORDS, COUNCIL. NOT MINE.
I THINK MY BEING HERE SHOWS CONFIDENCE THAT HE'S ALREADY ADDRESSED ANY ISSUES YOU HAVE.
REALLY?
THIS WILL PROVE INTERESTING.

PLEASE, TELL US, WHAT ARE OUR "ISSUES"?
THE RECENT AEON ATTACKS.
OUR PEOPLE WHO WE PAY YOU TO PROTECT.
BIG SISTER IS UNDER OUR PROTECTION. WE'VE CONCLUDED OUR INVESTIGATION AND FOUND THE MAN RESPONSIBLE.
WE TRACED THE ATTACKS TO A VAGRANT WHO ENTERED GEHENNA BY TRAIN.
YOU'RE ALREADY AWARE OF THE DERANGED HAVING A KNACK FOR SEEING THROUGH YOUR DISGUISES.
THE MAN IS A SCHIZOPHRENIC, SO HIS ILLNESS ABETTED THE ATTACKS.
WE HAVE THIS PERSON IN CUSTODY NOW AND THERE'S BEEN NO ATTACK SINCE.
IS THAT RIGHT?
THEN EXPLAIN THIS.
REPORTING AGAIN AT THE TOP OF THE HOUR--
--SEVERAL GEHENNA RESIDENTS WERE KILLED TONIGHT AS TWO UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS ENDANGERED THE LIVES OF PEDESTRIANS AND MOTORISTS--
--WITH A HIGH-SPEED CHASE THAT ERUPTED INTO GUNFIRE, MULTIPLE COLLISIONS, AND DEATH.
IT WAS THOUGHT ONE OF THE MEN RESPONSIBLE HAD DIED IN AN ACCIDENT.
BUT AS THE FACTS EMERGE WE FIND THEY'RE BECOMING STRANGER THAN FICTION.
SEVERAL EYEWITNESSES ARE REPORTING THE SUSPECT'S ESCAPE, AFTER SUSTAINING FATAL INJURIES.

WITH ME AS ONE OF THESE WITNESSES, MR. NEIL DEMONTE. TELL US WHAT YOU SAW HERE TONIGHT, MR. DEMONTE.
SURE...
I WAS WAITING FOR THE BUS WHEN THIS CAR IS JUST ROARING BY WITH SOME GUY ON A MOTORCYCLE BLASTIN' AWAY AT THE CAR, I MEAN, I DIDN'T SEE THAT PART, BUT I SAW THIS GUY ON THE ROOF AND THEN IT JUST POPS AND DOES THESE FLIPS WITH THIS GUY STILL ON LIKE SOME COWBOY DOING BUNKING BRONCO AND LANDS TOP DOWN--
THE CAR LANDED ON TOP OF HIM?
YEAH.
THE WEIRDEST THING WAS THE OTHER GUY IN THE CAR, HE DIDN'T LOOK RIGHT--
HE WAS INJURED?
HE WAS UGLY! UNREAL, LIKE SOMETHING FROM A CLIVE BARKER MOVIE.
AND THE OTHER GUY JUST GOT UP AND WALKED--
MUTE
I DON'T KNOW WHAT DISTURBS ME MORE, ROLLINS...

YOUR IGNORANCE OF OUR WORLD? VERUS AVOIDING *OUR* WRATH BY SENDING YOU IN HIS PLACE...
OR THE NAME THAT KEEPS RESURFACING IN MY MIND? SOMEONE I WAS TOLD WE WERE RID OF A *LONG* TIME AGO.
SPEAKER, I ASSURE YOU--
I THINK WE JUST SAW HOW YOU CAN ASSURE US OF NOTHING, BUT *INCOMPETENCE!*
AND VERUS IS A FOOL TO THINK HE COULD HIDE *ANYTHING* FROM US.
HE'S NOT *TRYING* TO *HIDE*...
WE HAVE EXISTED IN THIS WORLD FOR CENTURIES AND ONLY *ONE MAN* HAS EVER CONSTITUTED A THREAT.
AND WE WERE FOOLS TO BELIEVE HE COULD DEAL WITH IT.
HE CAN DEAL WITH *ANYTHING.*
THEN WHY AM I SEEING EVIDENCE OF A MAN HE TOLD US WAS DISPENSED WITH *SIXTY YEARS AGO?*

LOOK AT THEM...
AN ARMY PREPARING TO WAR AGAINST ONE MAN: ME.
BUT I'M NOT FLINCHING. MY NERVES ARE STEADY.
MY MUSCLES DON'T QUIVER.
EVERY FIBER WANTS TO JUMP THROUGH THIS GLASS AND KILL EVERY MONSTROUS THING DOWN THERE.
TIME CAN CHANGE SO MUCH...


COURTYARD OF THE ROMAN PROCURATOR, JERUSALEM 33 AD.
I'VE LIVED SO LONG THAT MY REALITY OUTWEIGHS MY FANTASY AND MY DAYDREAMS ARE MEMORIES OF THE PAST.

I LIVED. I DIED. I LIVE AGAIN, BUT THERE WAS A GAP IN MY STORY. WHAT HAPPENED WHILE I LAY IN THAT CAVE? WHERE WAS I, AND WHY WAS I AFRAID TO KNOW?

AND WHO WAS I? I DIED SO YOUNG, BUT I CAME BACK WITH THE WEIGHT OF YEARS COVERING ME LIKE A THICK FILM OF OIL AND SWEAT ON MY SKIN.

QUESTIONS I DIDN'T LIKE ASKING, WITH ANSWERS THAT HAUNTED ME IN THE SLEEPING HOURS THAT PASS LIKE MINUTES.

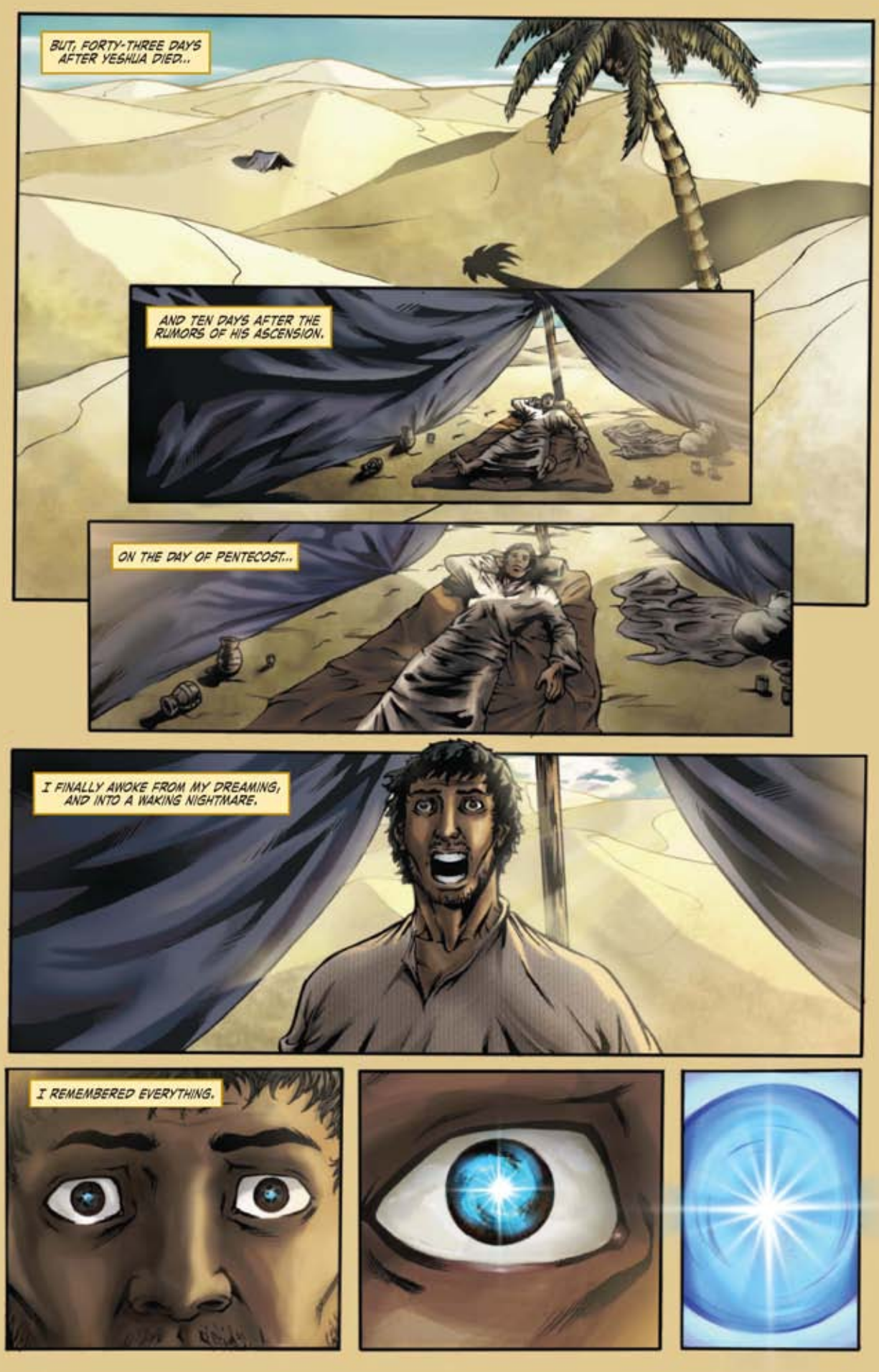
DURING OUR REIGN THE EMPIRE HAS SHOWN *RESPECT* FOR YOUR CUSTOMS!
TODAY, IN CELEBRATION OF PASSOVER, WE *AGAIN* OBLIGE YOU!
ONE OF THESE MEN, *GUILTY* OF CRIMES AGAINST ROME AND CAESAR, WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU!
THE TEACHER, YOUR "KING", YESHUA OF NAZARETH!
OR, THE MURDERER, BARABBAS!
CHOOSE!
THEIR LIVES...
...ARE IN YOUR HANDS!

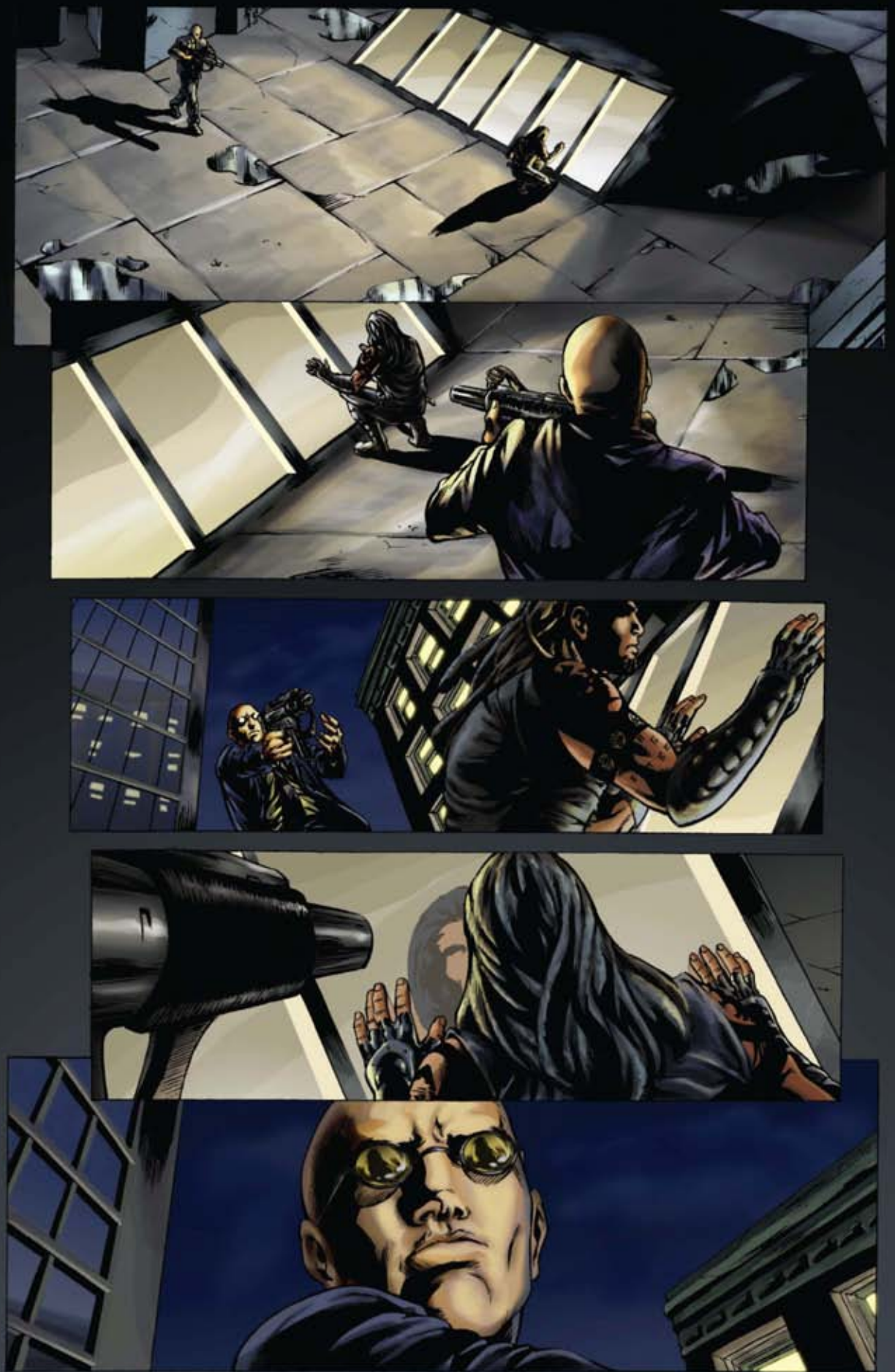
ON YOUR FEET, DOG!
BEFORE YOU LOSE YOUR PLACE IN THE MOB!
ON YOUR FEET!
GET HIM UP.
NO!
HOW DARE HE! SHOULD WE ARREST HIM, SIR?
LET HIM GO--
--ONE LESS HEBREW TO REIGN IN.
"I'M TELLING YOU, HE SAW ME!"

IT WAS LIKE HE LOOKED RIGHT THROUGH ME.
ONLY AN ENLIGHTENED MIND COULD--
NEED I REMIND YOU WHY WE CRUCIFIED THE NAZARENE?
BUT THE CHANCE FOR TWO OF THEM...YOU WERE MISTAKEN.
BEFORE THE NAZARENE CAME TO JERUSALEM, HE PERFORMED A MIRACLE--
ONE OF MANY.
THIS WAS A RESURRECTION.
A CHILDHOOD FRIEND FROM JUDEA WHO DIED FOUR DAYS HENCE AND WAS BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE.
A MAN NAMED LAZARUS.
GET AWAY FROM ME!
PLEASE...
I KNOW THE CHANCES ARE SLIM--
FIND HIM!
END HIM.

I'D SPENT THE NIGHT DROWNING IN THE LOSS OF MY FRIEND.
I SHOULD HAVE BEEN HOME WITH MY FAMILY.
I SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE, WITH THEM.
WHERE WAS I WHEN THE PEOPLE I LOVE NEEDED ME?

WHY?
WHY DIDN'T YOU DO ANYTHING?
WHAT DID THEY EVER DO TO DESERVE THIS?
WHERE WERE YOU?
WHERE WERE YOU?
NO--
LAZARUS...
RUN AWAY...
NO. NO, I'M STAYING HERE WITH--
IT WAS YOU.
THEY WERE LOOKING...FOR YOU.
THEY WERE ALL I HAD LEFT. THEY WERE THE ONLY ONES WHO MATTERED. AND THEY WERE GONE, BECAUSE OF ME. I WISHED I'D NEVER COME BACK.


BUT, FORTY-THREE DAYS AFTER YESHUA DIED...
AND TEN DAYS AFTER THE RUMORS OF HIS ASCENSION.
ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST...
I FINALLY AWOKE FROM MY DREAMING, AND INTO A WAKING NIGHTMARE.
I REMEMBERED EVERYTHING.



VERUS?
IN HERE.
HOW WAS IT?
I PLAYED THE FOOL WELL ENOUGH FOR THEM TO BELIEVE IT.
DON'T DEMEAN YOURSELF, BABY. YOU PLAY YOUR ROLE PERFECTLY.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE PLAYING GAMES WHEN WE'RE BEING HUNTED.
THEY'RE BEING HUNTED.
YOU SOUND WORRIED. DON'T BE, EVERYTHING'S UNDER CONTROL.
HOW? LAZARUS SHOULD BE DEAD. YOU TOLD OUR MASTERS---
I HAVE NO MASTERS! I'M NO ONE'S SLAVE!
AND DESPITE CUTTING OFF HIS HEAD, I HAD DOUBTS THAT LONGINUS' TOOL WOULD WORK AND I TOLD YOU THAT.
BUT HOW COULD YOU HAVE KNOWN?
BECAUSE IT DIDN'T KILL ME.
AND CHESS ISN'T A GAME: IT'S SIMULATED WARFARE.
YOU WIN BY MAKING SACRIFICES.

BRAATATATAT
RRRRARR!!

KRAKK
NOW!

POOM
GOT HIM!
WHAT'S IN THAT THING?
ACID-TIPPED ROUNDS.
IT'S HOW YOU STOP A MAN WITH A HEALING FACTOR--
--KEEP THE WOUND OPEN--
--KEEP HIM IN PAIN.
BEEEP!
CALL
ROLLINS.
THEY HAVE HIM.
END: CHAPTER 2

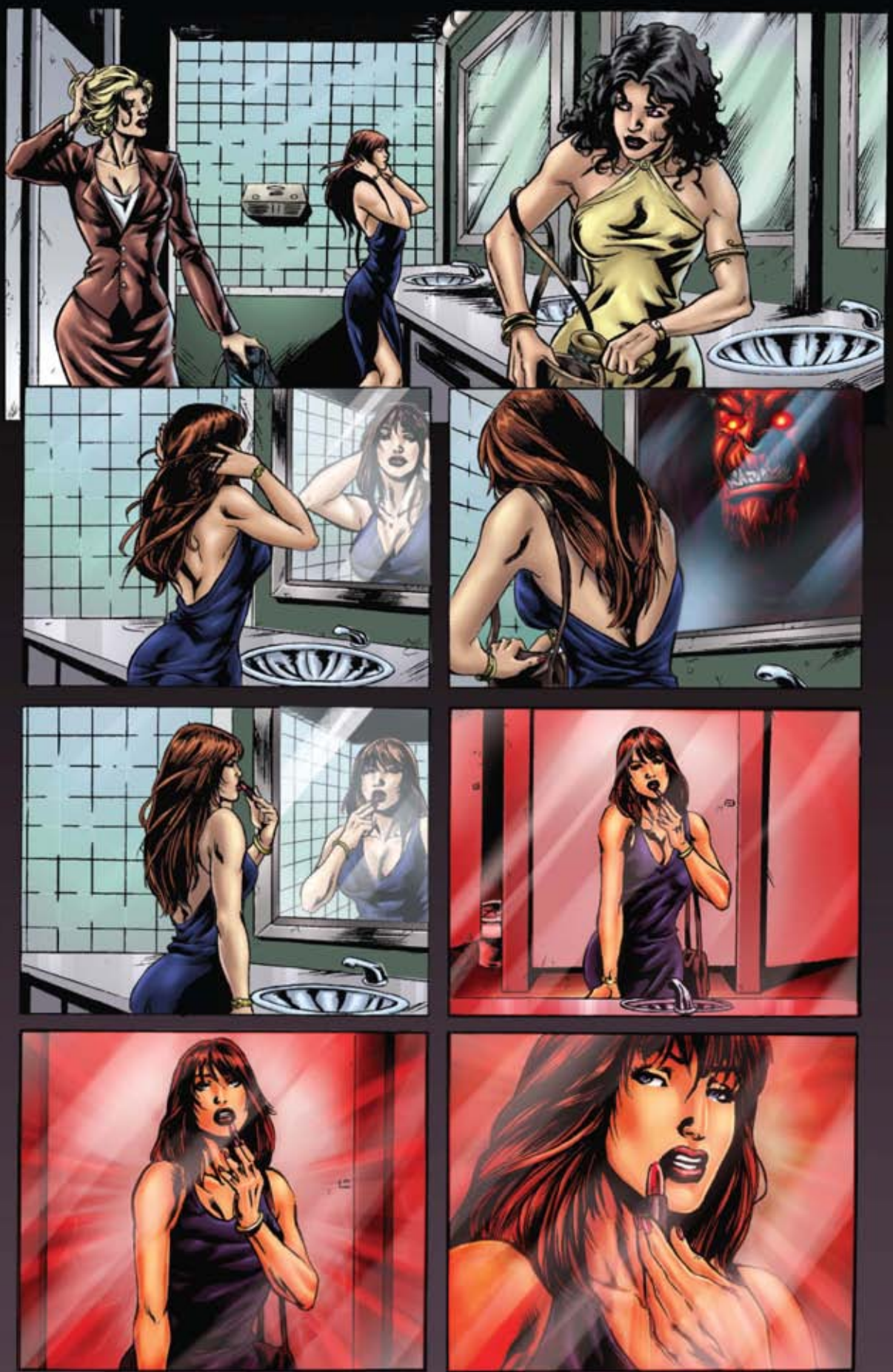
CHAPTER THREE
"CRY FREEDOM"

ISSUE 3 VARIANT COVER
BY CASEY EDWARDS

Experience Gehenna City!
Whether you're traveling on business or pleasure, Gehenna has everything. Five star restaurants; a marvelous nightlife; beaches; diverse cultural offerings and easy going attitudes make the everyday week in Gehenna extraordinary.

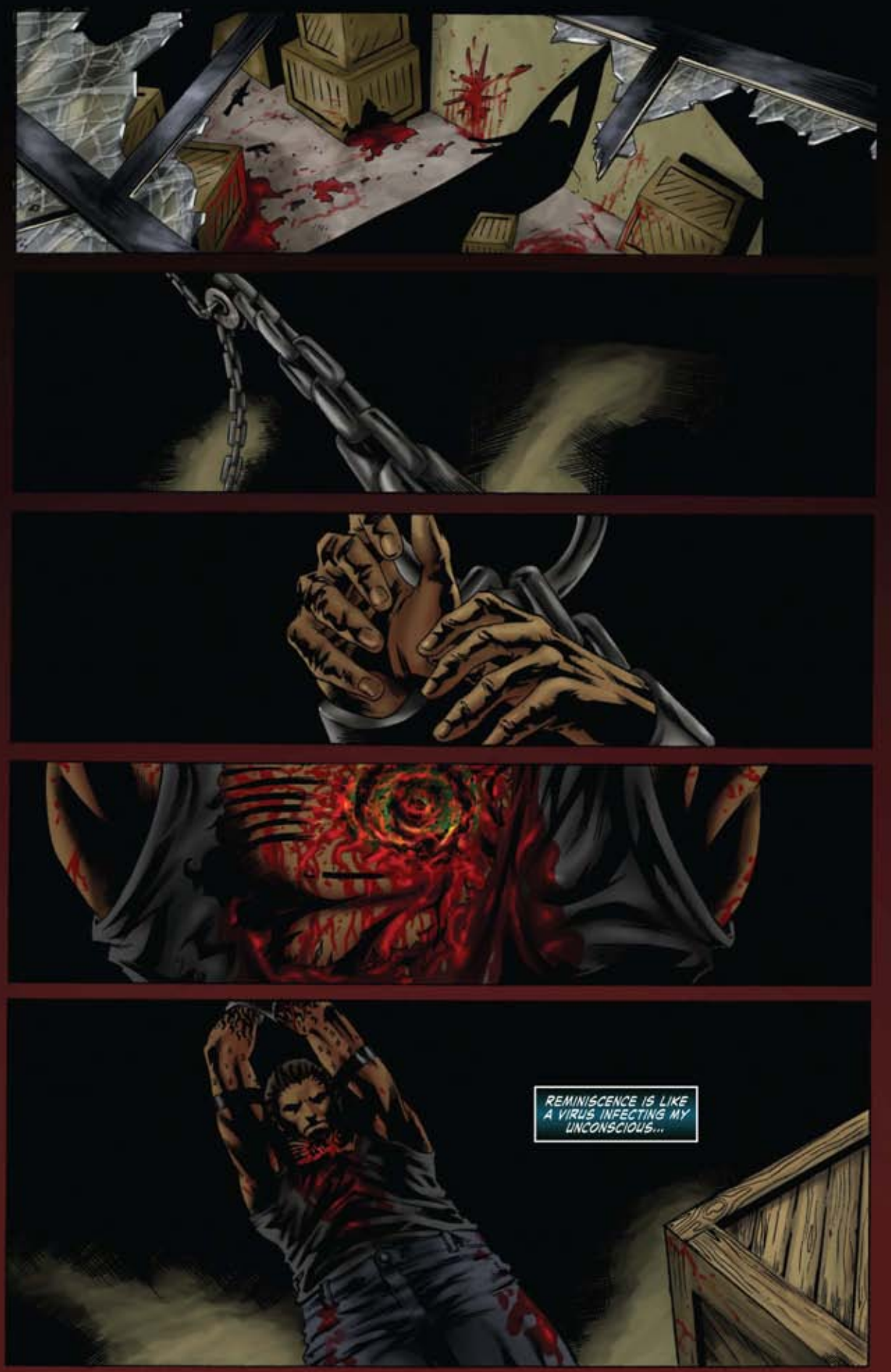
The Sights of Las Vegas Strip!
The Sounds of Manhattan's Times Square!
And the Energy of New Orleans' Mardi Gras...
All in One Place!

Life in Gehenna is Like No Other on Earth!



CLICK

In Gehenna, you **never** know what you will get!


REMINISCENCE IS LIKE A VIRUS INFECTING MY UNCONSCIOUS...

...FORCING THE MIND'S EYE TO REPLAY THE PAST.
ROMANS!
KING DAVID DEFEATED A GIANT WITH A SINGLE ROCK...
I WONDER IF YOU ARE BEATEN SO EASILY.
THIS HEBREW WANTS ROMAN STEEL?
A WORM WOULD STAND A BETTER CHANCE!
COME TASTE IT!
I WILL...

AND I HAVE.
BUT NOT ALL...
JUST YOU.
I SEE YOU.
KILL HIM!

SAHUHE
YOU STINK, BOY. GO CLEAN YOURSELF.
Y-YES... MASTER.
MMM.

HAHH!
HRHN!
RRRHG!
RHN!
GRRRAA!
SPAK
STOP!

AAAH!
UHN!
NNNN...
GO, BOY, WHILE YOU CAN.
ARE YOU THE TRUE MESSIAH?
THE MESSIAH IS DEAD.
NO! HELP ME! RUN FOR THE GUARDS! BRING MY MEN!
CAREFUL, BOY...
DO AS I SAY!

COME BACK HERE!
I...AM A PROCURATOR OF ROME, CHOSEN BY CAESAR. I AM WARNING YOU--
STOP IT!
I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE; I REMEMBER EVERYTHING.
THEY SAID I WAS ONLY GONE FOUR DAYS, BUT IT'S AN ETERNITY WHEN YOU'RE IN HELL! I REMEMBER THE BLOOD FALLING LIKE RAIN. THE SCREAMS WERE THUNDER. AND DEMONS...
I REMEMBER DEMONS.
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GOT HERE OR WHY YOU FOLLOWED, BUT I WILL STRIKE YOU DOWN NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES ME.
NO MATTER HOW LONG...

SLRK

FMP

DESTROY IT!
YOU CAN'T KILL WHAT'S ALREADY DEAD.
AN IMMORTAL? THERE IS NO SUCH THING! EVEN WE CAN DIE!

THERE IS A WAY TO KILL HIM, BUT IT'S BEYOND US NOW.
THEN, WHAT?
WE RUN, WARN THE OTHERS...
AND GROW STRONGER.

WAKE UP, DEAD MAN.

WAKE UP, DEAD MAN.

WAKE UP!
THE IMMORTAL. THIS IS AN HONOR. I OWE YOU A LOT FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE. I WAS JUST A LOW-LEVEL OFFICER, LAST IN THE ORDER, SMALLEST TERRITORY WITH NO IMPORTANCE. BUT THEN, YOU CHANGED ALL THAT.
SINCE YOU CAME TO TOWN, MY TERRITORY HAS QUADRUPLED IN SIZE, ALONG WITH MY WEALTH. THE COUNCIL HAS SEEN FIT TO PROVIDE ME MY OWN PERSONAL GUARDS. AND BEFORE, THEY NEVER EVEN KNEW I WAS ALIVE.
IT'S SAID YOUR FLESH IS A DELICACY. THAT DRINKING YOUR BLOOD IS LIKE...
...A VIRGIN HIGH.
LET'S GET HIGH, AND HAVE FUN.

...MAKE SURE THE POLICE ARE IN LINE WITH OUR PEOPLE; I DON'T WANT ANY PROBLEMS TRANSPORTING LAZARUS BACK TO THE TOWER.
I'LL ASSIGN S.W.A.T. TO THE TRANSPORT AND PATROLS TO REDIRECT TRAFFIC.
GET IN.

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN, VERUS, YOU BEING IN MY SERVICE?
I'M NOT IN "YOUR SERVICE"--
HOW LONG?
ALL MY LIFE.
BORN INTO SLAVERY, YES?
WHAT'S YOUR POINT?
TO REMIND YOU OF YOUR PLACE AND WHAT YOU ARE UNDER THAT "FLESH FORTRESS" YOU'VE BUILT. DESPITE YOUR APPEARANCE, OUR ROLES HAVE NOT CHANGED. YOU ARE, AS YOU WERE, MY SLAVE.
IF YOU EVER DISRESPECT ME IN FRONT OF THE COUNCIL AGAIN, I WILL REMIND YOU OF WHAT IT FELT LIKE TO WORK UNDER ME.

REMEMBER...?
#$%@ OFFA ME, DEMON!
LET'S KEEP THIS CIVIL...
DON'T REDUCE THIS TO NASTY, DEMEANING MONIKERS LIKE NIGGER, CHINK, OR YOUR TRUE NAME.
NOW, TELL ME HOW LAZARUS IS ALIVE.
I... AHHHHLIHE DON'T... KNOW...

YOU ASSURED US HE WAS DEAD.
YOU TOLD US YOU KILLED HIM AND HE WAS GONE.
THAT WAS SIXTY YEARS AGO AND NOW HE'S BACK TO KILLING MY PEOPLE.
I...THOUGHT... HE WAS DEAD. BUT... THERE WAS NO...WAY... TO BE SURE...THE SPEAR...WORKED.
HOW COULD YOU HAVE KNOWN?
BECAUSE IT DIDN'T KILL ME.
AS I TOLD YOUR "WIFE", I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE STUPID OR SMART, AND IT DOESN'T MATTER...
I HAVE YOU. I'VE ALWAYS HAD YOU.
AND THANKS TO THE NAZARENE...

"...I ALWAYS WILL."
JERUSALEM.
SUNDAY.
HOSANNA! HOSANNA!
HOSANNA! HOSANNA!
HE WILL FREE US FROM THE ROMANS!
THE MESSIAH IS HERE! HE WILL FREE US!
DO YOU SEE? LISTEN TO THEM! THIS IS THE EFFECT THE NAZARENE HAS UPON OUR PEOPLE!
AHASVERUS! AWAY FROM THE WINDOW AND FETCH REFRESHMENTS FOR MY GUESTS.
YES, MASTER.
IT'S NOTHING I HAVEN'T HEARD BEFORE. THIS NAZARENE "TEACHER" IS NOT THE FIRST TO SWAY YOUR PEOPLE TO SUCH BELIEFS AND WON'T BE THE LAST. TRUTHFULLY, YOU PEOPLE ARE LIKE BEGGING DOGS, FOLLOWING ANYONE WITH A BONE.
YOU PRIESTS ARE SO CONCERNED I WOULD THINK THIS MAN AUTHENTIC.
OF COURSE NOT--
YOU MAY CONVINCE YOUR PEOPLE OF THE SAME IF YOU INVOLVE ROME.
HIS FOLLOWERS ARE GROWING, SPEAKING OF REVOLT AGAINST CAESAR!
IT'S THE SANHEDRIN'S JOB TO PROTECT OUR PEOPLE FROM DANGERS. BETTER CAESAR, THAN A BLOODBATH.
HAH HA HAA! HEAR THAT, BOY-- YOUR FREEDOM IS AT HAND!
YES, MASTER.

FRIDAY MORNING.
KRAK AIEEEE!
KRAK AIEEEE!
ON YOUR FEET! BE A MAN-- GET ON YOUR FEET AND TAKE IT!
HE'S THE "KING OF THE JEWS"! HE BELONGS IN THE DIRT!
KRAK KRAK
OUT OF OUR WAY, SLAVE!
MAKE WAY FOR THE "KING"!

I BROUGHT YOU SOME WATER, RABBI.
THEY WOULD KILL ME IF THEY FOUND ME HERE--
--BUT YOU NEED YOUR STRENGTH, FOR THE WAR.
I WANT YOU TO KNOW I AM READY. WHEN YOU STRIKE, I WANT TO BE AT YOUR SIDE.
WHAT?
I WANT TO HELP YOU BRING DOWN THE ROMANS. I CAN GET CLOSE TO THE PROCURATOR. I CAN KILL--
THERE IS NO REBELLION. HAVE YOU HEARD NOTHING...?
I DID NOT COME TO FREE YOU, BUT DIE FOR YOU.
NO...

LIAR! DECEIVER!
MOVE!
TRAITOR!
BLASPHEMER!
ENOUGH! SAVE SOME FOR THE CROSS!
DIE!
YOU WILL WAIT FOR ME, AHASVERUS...
MY NAME?
YOU WILL WANDER THIS WORLD UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN.

...RUN FOR THE GUARDS! BRING MY MEN!
CAREFUL, BOY.
NO.

TRAITOR! ROMAN SYMPATHIZER!
WHAT?
WAIT, NO, I WAS A SLAVE!
I'M ONE OF YOU!
I WAS A SLA--
HELP ME...

YOU WILL WAIT FOR ME...
YOU WILL WANDER THIS EARTH...
...UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN.
I KNOW YOU HAVE LAZARUS CAPTIVE AT SISTER'S SANCTUM. SUBJUGATE HIM, FIND A WAY TO KILL HIM, I DON'T CARE EITHER WAY...
BUT DO *NOT* LET HIM ESCAPE.
BEEP
YOU BEST ANSWER THAT...
YOU NEED SOMEONE TO PICK YOU UP.

VERUS.

IT'S ME. WE HAVE A PROBLEM.

IT CAN'T BE WORSE THAN WHAT I'VE JUST BEEN THROUGH.

THAT WOULD DEPEND...

I KNOW A FEW PEOPLE WHO'D DISAGREE.
END: CHAPTER 3

CHAPTER FOUR
"DEATH DEALERS"

ISSUE 4 VARIANT COVER
BY CASEY EDWARDS

SOMEONE EXPLAIN THIS TO ME...
WHAT HAPPENED?
THE MAN WAS CHAINED.
HE WAS WOUNDED.
AND, GOD ONLY KNOWS WHAT THEY DID TO HIM.

"SOMEBODY BETTER TELL ME...
"HOW IN THE HELL DID HE ESCAPE?"
"HOW CAN WE WHEN HE WAS ALREADY GONE WHEN WE--"

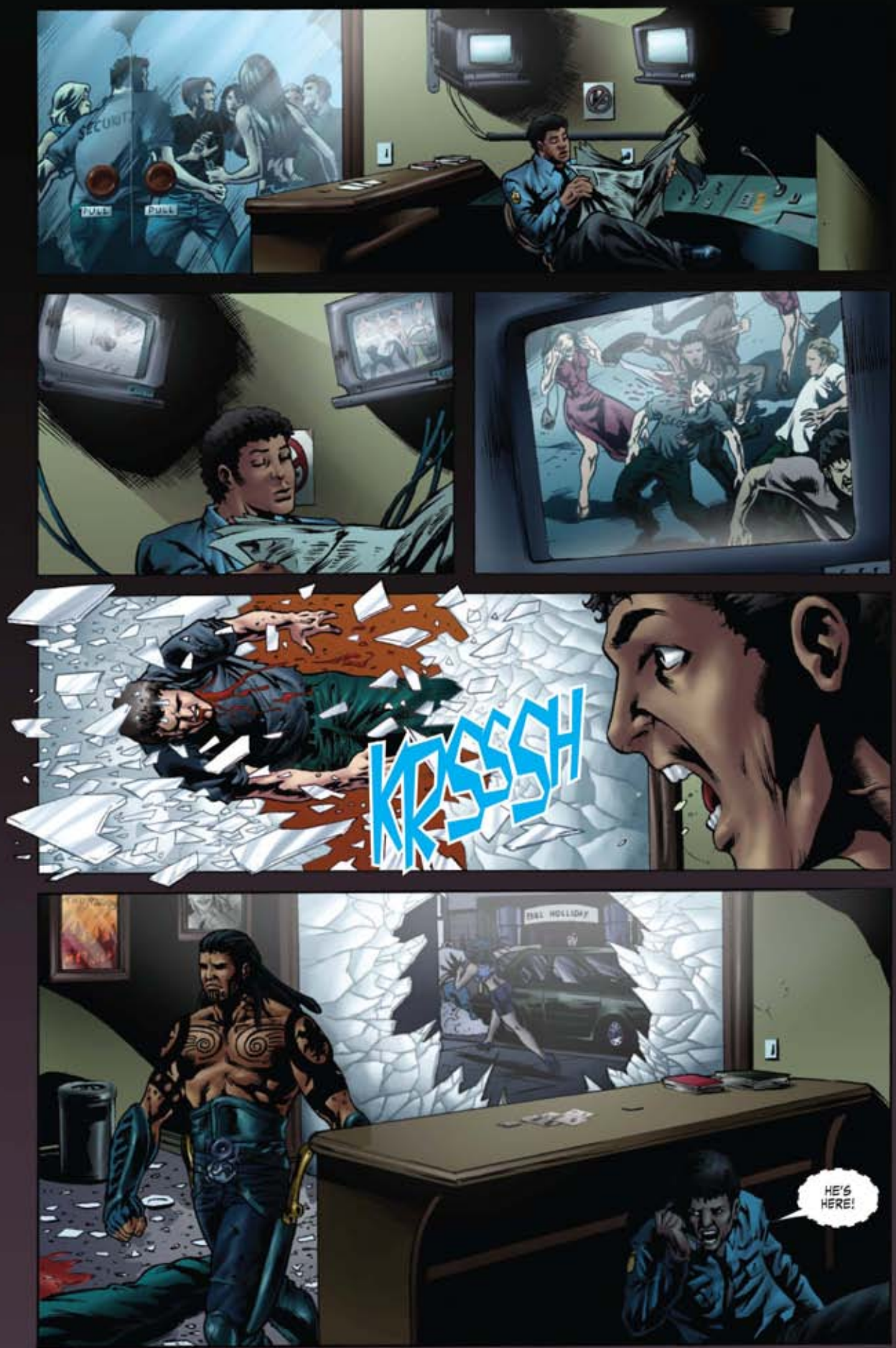
SLAP
...
GET UP.
I WANT LAZARUS BACK IN CUSTODY WITHIN THE HOUR.
AND HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO THAT? HE'S HIDDEN FROM US FOR SIXTY YEARS; IT'LL TAKE LONGER THAN SIXTY MINUTES!
WHO'S MISSING FROM THE PARTY? HE'S TARGETING BIG SISTER. WHEN YOU FIND HER, YOU'LL SEE HIM.

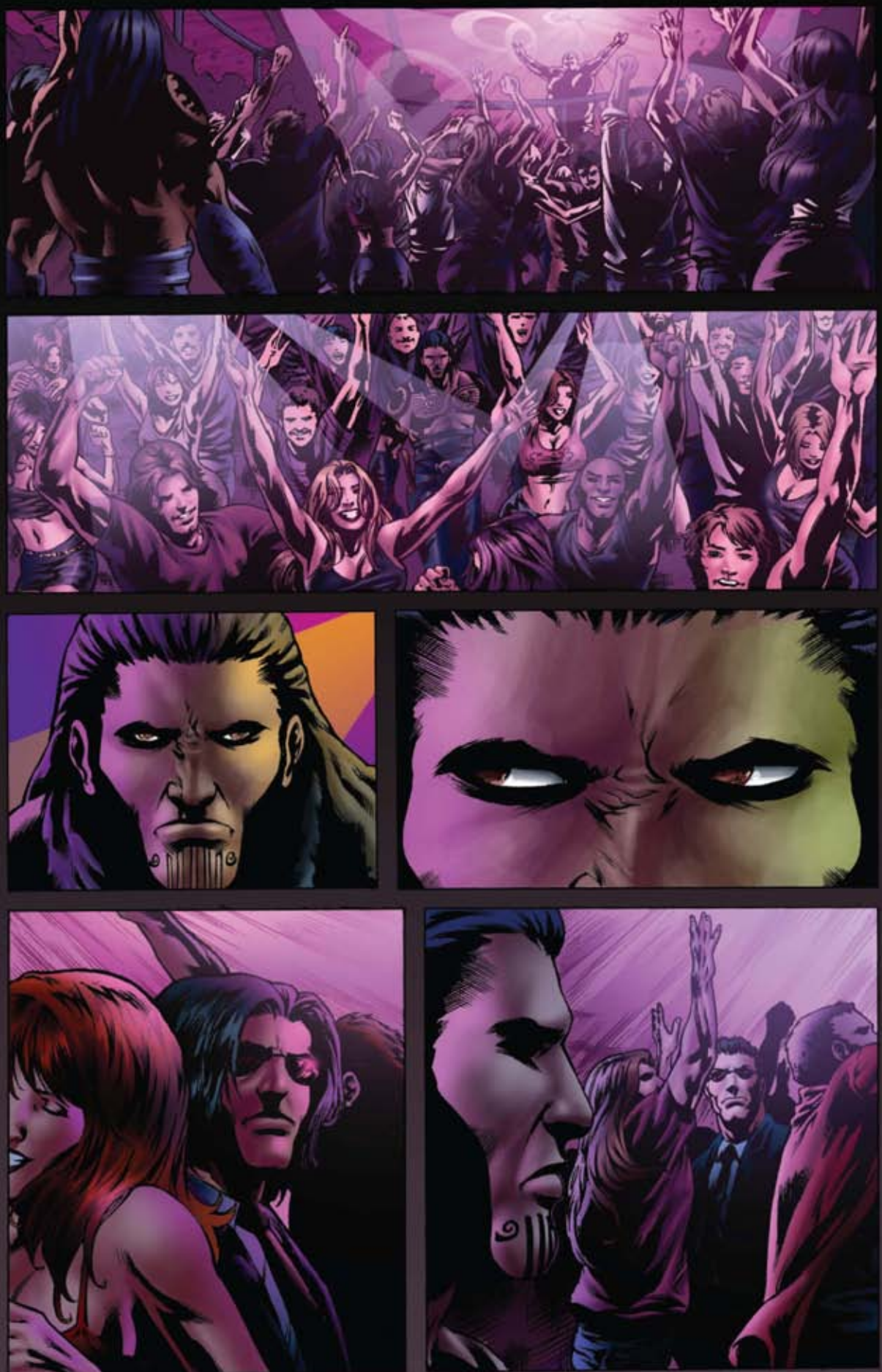
"HE COULD RUN."
"HE WON'T..."

"OBSESSION CAN LAST A LONG TIME.

"ESPECIALLY, WHEN IT'S FUELED BY REVENGE.

"IT BECOMES... ETERNAL."


SECURITY
PULL
PULL
KRSSSH
HE'S HERE!



KRNCH
UHN!
SWTTT
AAAAAA!!

KLANK

WE HAVE HIM AT A NIGHTCLUB ON THE EAST END; AGENTS ARE MOVING IN!
I WANT BIG SISTER BROUGHT HERE *NOW!* AND GET EVERY *UNIT* TO THAT CLUB! THEY'RE GONNA *NEED* BACKUP!
LET'S GO!
THIS IS VERUS. I'M MOBILE; GIVE ME A SITUATION REPORT!
THIS IS RED TEAM AT THE SIJJIN; I GOT A MAN DOWN; THREE ENGAGING THE ENEMY; AND MY SECOND IS BACKING THEM UP. THE PACKAGE IS IN SIGHT.
GET HER OUTTA THERE!

AAAH!
HUAAH!

CH-CHAK
FLIP
FAP
KLK
PLURK

MOTHERFUCKER!

WE HAVE BIG SISTER, BUT THE TARGET IS PURSUING.
GOOD. WE CAN'T TOUCH HIM IN PUBLIC VIEW...
LET HIM FOLLOW YOU TO THE TOWER AND WE'LL DEAL WITH HIM THEN.
RKNK

HE'S GAINING!
WILL ONE OF YOU FIRE YOUR FUCKING GUNS?
TONK

FUCK THE PUBLIC!
FUCK YOU!
BBAMBAMBAM!
BBAMBAMBAM

CONTROL HER!
LET GO OF ME!
BIG SISTER HAS BECOME VOLATILE--
--SHE'S OPENING FIRE ON THE PUBLIC!
STUPID!..
...TRANK THE BITCH!
PUT HER OUT!

HOLD HER!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
WHAT THE &#%@ ARE YOU DOING? LET ME GO! I'M ORDERING YOU TO LET GO!
HOLD HER!
KRASH!
AAAAHH!

I SEE YOU.
NOT YET!

BIG SISTER'S BREAKING THE VEIL!
ALERT! FULL BREACH! FULL BREACH!
THE VEIL HAS BEEN COMPRO--

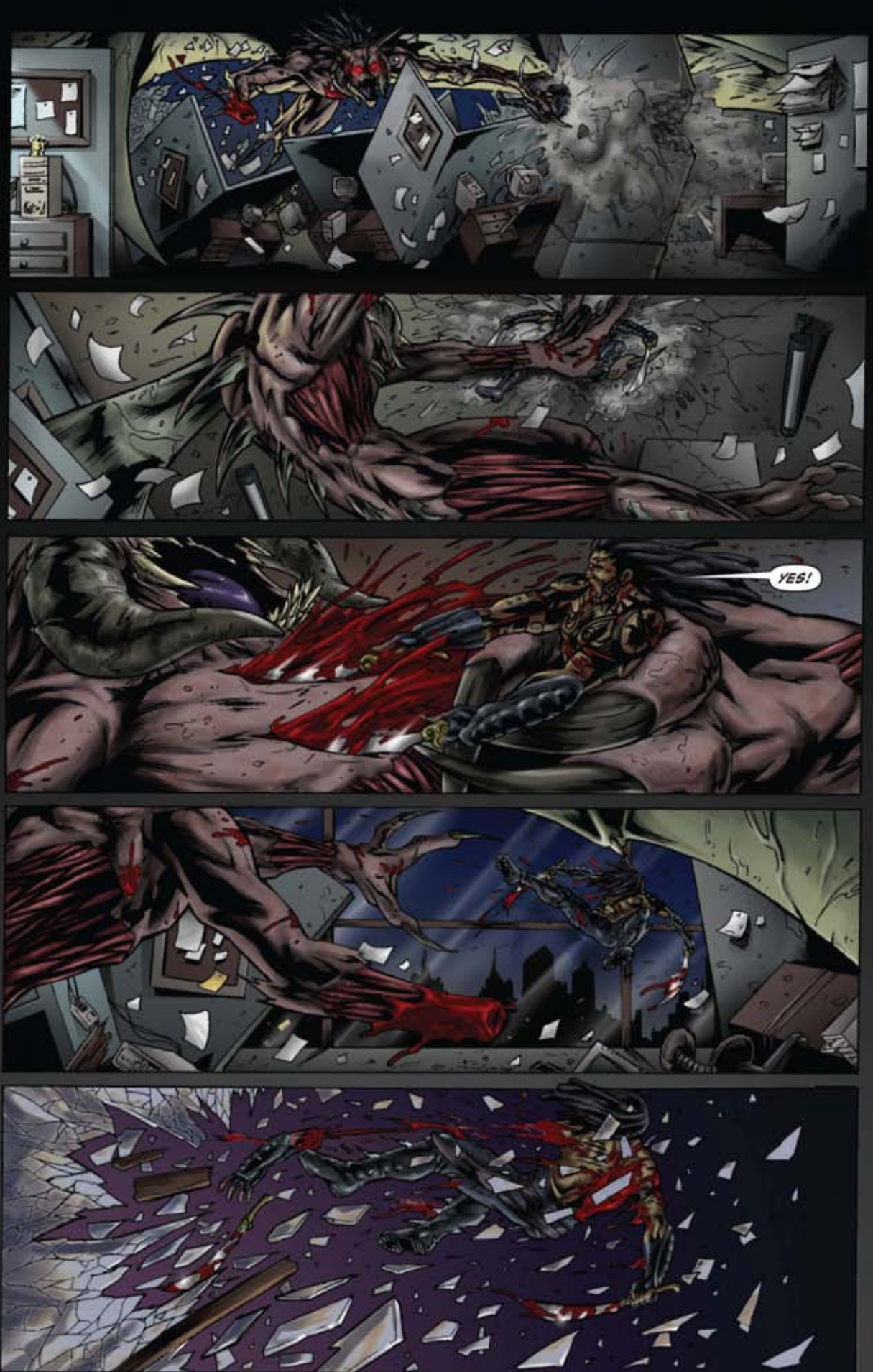
SOMEBODY REPORT, GODDAMMIT!
THIS IS BLUE TEAM! I'VE GOT VISUAL; THEY'RE AIRBORNE HEADING WESTBOUND.
AND I'M NOT ALONE; I'VE GOT TELEVISION CREWS AND CHOPPERS INBOUND!
CENTRAL, I HAVE A FULL BREACH! BLOCK ALL MEDIA SIGNALS...

INTERNET...
Connection lost. Attempting to reconnect...
OFF
EMERGENCY BROADCAST SIGNAL
EMERGENCY BROADCAST
CABLE BROADCASTS...
CELL PHONES...
...EVERYTHING!
NOTHING GETS IN OR OUT!

ROLLINS, THE TARGET'S CHANGED! I NEED SNIPER COVERAGE WITH SPECIAL ORDNANCE!
I NEED BIG SISTER BROUGHT DOWN!

COME ON!

THIS IS SNIPER-1 IN PURSUIT OF TARGETS...
SPOT THE TARGETS...
ROGER.


YES!

WAITING ON YOUR WORD, SIR.
FIR--
NO!
THIS IS THE SPEAKER. LAZARUS IS THE TARGET, SNIPER-1, NOT BIG SISTER.
THE VEIL IS COMPROMISED!
THE LONGER WE ALLOW THIS TO CONTINUE, THE LESS PUBLIC HYSTERIA WILL WORK TO OUR ADVANTAGE!
I WANT LAZARUS ELIMINATED!
THE SHELLS WON'T WORK!
AHASVERUS!
DO AS YOU'RE TOLD.
BOTH TARGETS ARE MOVING OUT OF RANGE! I NEED A CONFIRMATION!

ROGER.

TARGET NEUTRALIZED.
AND THE SECOND?
HE'S GONE.

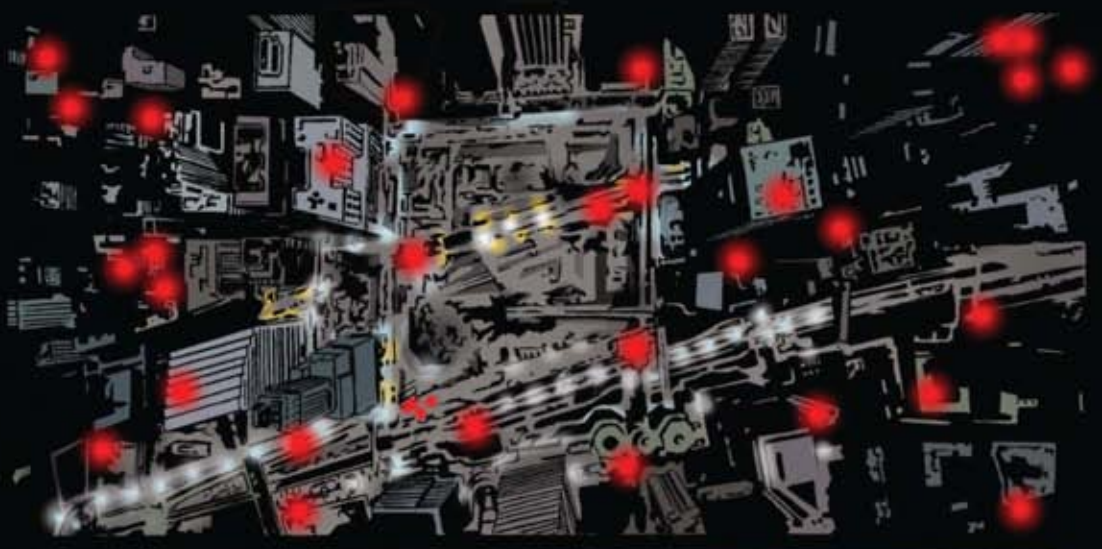
VERUS...
REPORT TO ME, IMMEDIATELY.
YOU HEARD IT... TAKE ME BACK.

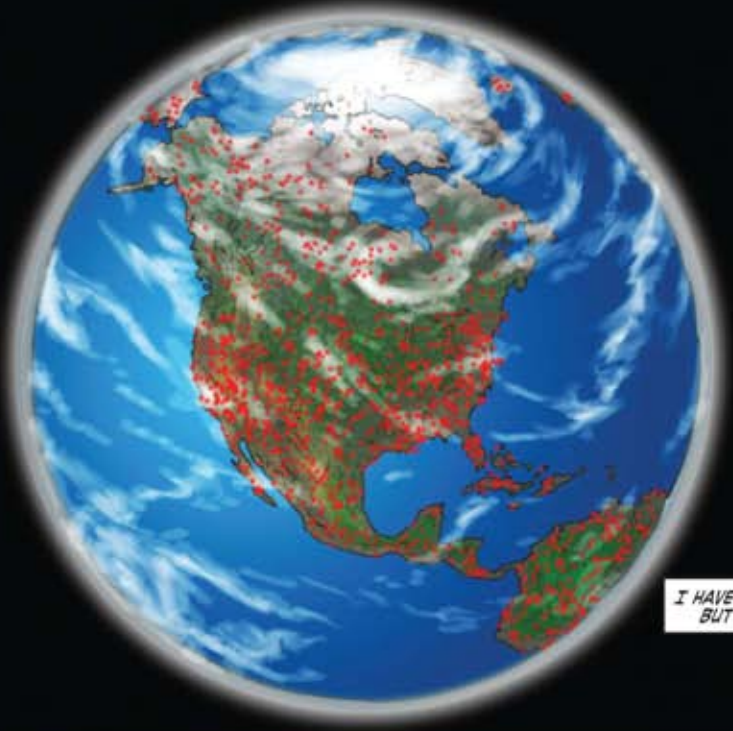
LAST NIGHT, GEHENNA JOINED THE LIST OF AMERICAN CITIES VICTIMIZED BY TERRORISM WHEN, WHAT'S BELIEVED TO BE AN UNMANNED PLANE, COLLIDED INTO THE CRC BUILDING...
...FOLLOWED BY A SECOND DETONATION OVER THE CITY. LUCKILY, THE FLOORS WERE EMPTY AND NO ONE WAS INJURED. LAW ENFORCEMENT ARE INTERVIEWING WITNESSES AND ASKING CITIZENS WHO SAW ANYTHING TO COME FORWARD. ANY VALUABLE INFORMATION THEY RECEIVE WILL BE REWARDED.
A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE ATTACK AND TWO EASTSIDE COLLISIONS THAT CLAIMED SEVERAL LIVES IS SUSPECTED, BUT UNCONFIRMED. AND, IN ENTERTAINMENT NEWS, DRAGONHEART 4 BEGAN FILMING LAST NIGHT...
NCC
FINALLY...
SPEAKER CHEWED ME A NEW ONE AND TOOK HIS TIME.
BREAKFAST IS ON THE TABLE.
THIS IS WHAT I NEED.
THAT'S GETTING COLD. I'M STILL PISSED AT YOU ABOUT YESTERDAY.
I'LL WARM YOU UP.
EAT.
NCC

PAPER?
ON THE COUNTER...
I WAS IMPRESSED BY THE MORNING NEWS, VERY 1940'S.
GEHENNA GLOBE
TERRORIST ATTACK ON GEHENNA CITY
City Council Swears to Protect
Citizens Against ALL Invaders
MAKE USE OF WHAT'S AVAILABLE. THE COUNCIL WAS HAPPY ENOUGH, THAT'S WHAT'S IMPORTANT.
AND BIG SISTER?
THEY'D KILL ME IF THEY KNEW I DELIBERATELY DISOBEYED THEM. SO I OFFERED A SACRIFICE TO MAKE AMENDS.
YOU MEAN A "PATSY".
NO. IT HAD TO BE SOMEONE THEY THOUGHT I COULDN'T LIVE WITHOUT.

MARY.
I MISS YOU BOTH SO MUCH.
YESHUA...
YOU BROUGHT ME BACK.
BUT, WHERE WAS I WHEN YOU NEEDED ME?
I LIVED SO I COULD WATCH THE PEOPLE I LOVE DIE AROUND ME.

THERE IS A HELL.
ITS NAME IS GEHENNA.
DEMONS DO EXIST, AND THEY LIVE AMONGST YOU.
I'LL KILL THEM ALL...
NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES.



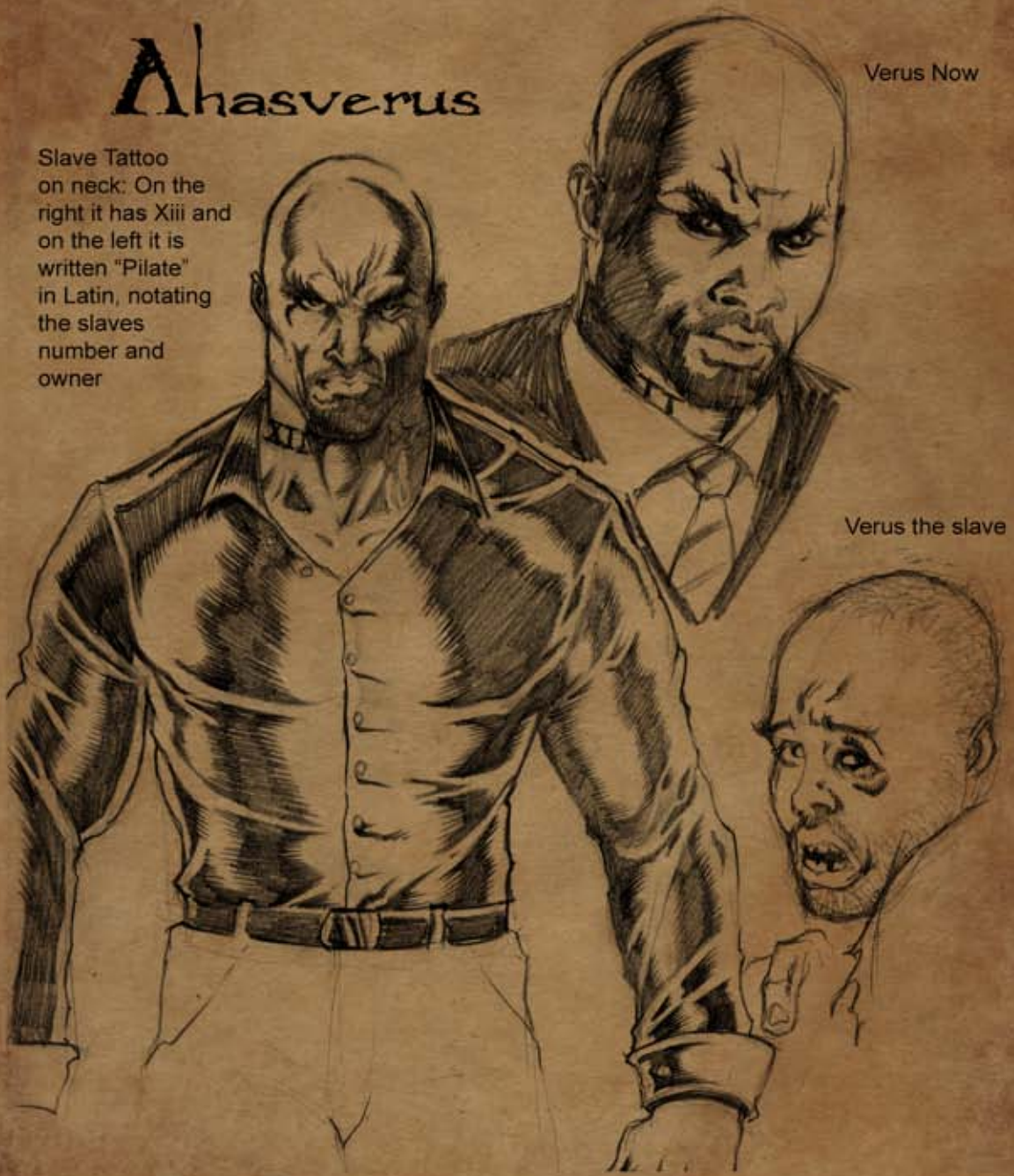

I HAVE NOTHING BUT TIME.

LAZARUS
IMMORTAL COILS

CHARACTER AND TATTOO DESIGNS BY
ALEXANDER LUGO AND DIEGO JOURDAN

BONUS MATERIAL

LAZARUS
IMMORTAL COILS



VERUS DESIGN BY ALEX LUGO

BONUS MATERIAL

LAZARUS
IMMORTAL COILS

DEMON HUNTER-RETRIEVER CONCEPTS BY NEIL D'MONTE

BONUS MATERIAL

LAZARUS
IMMORTAL COILS

DEMON DOG CONCEPTS BY
NEIL D'MONTE

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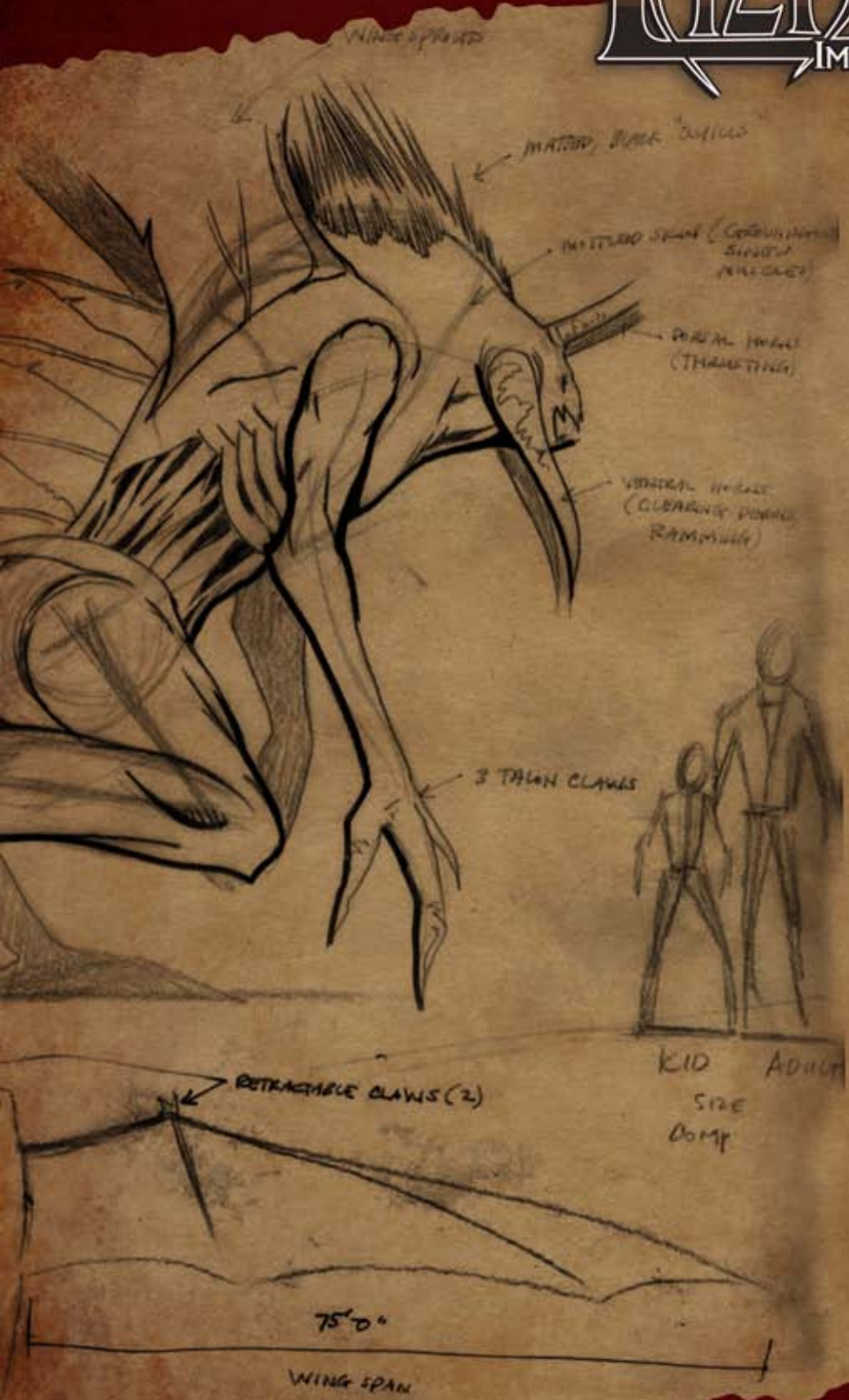
Big Sister Creature Design by Neil D'Monte

LAZARUS
IMMORTAL COILS



BONUS MATERIAL

LAZARUS
IMMORTAL COILS

BIG SISTER DESIGN BY NEIL D'MONTE

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