

# AMERICA

DELUXE EDITION

WRITTEN BY  
JON HUGHES

ILLUSTRATED BY  
JASON PEARSON  
CELIA CALLE  
& JALE GARZA



-N.G.M.-



proudly presents:

# AMERICA

WRITTEN AND COLORED BY JON HUGHES

ILLUSTRATED BY CELIA CALLE (GRADUATE #3), JASON PEARSON (AMERICA #1,2)  
AND ALE GARZA (AMERICA #3,4)

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AMERICA: DELUXE EDITION GRAPHIC NOVEL, DEC 2019. Published by Overground Comics.

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PROLOGUE

Q&A



proudly presents:

# Graduate

WRITTEN BY JON HUGHES

ART BY CELIA CALLE

It's easy to feel alone in this world when you aren't happy with who you are. Not seeing the beauty in yourself can keep you from seeing that same beauty in others like you. Unlike a lot of us, Natalie Worthy wants to be left alone, but there are people like her out there that aren't going to let her fade into the background. They know her, because they know themselves. Now they just have to convince her.

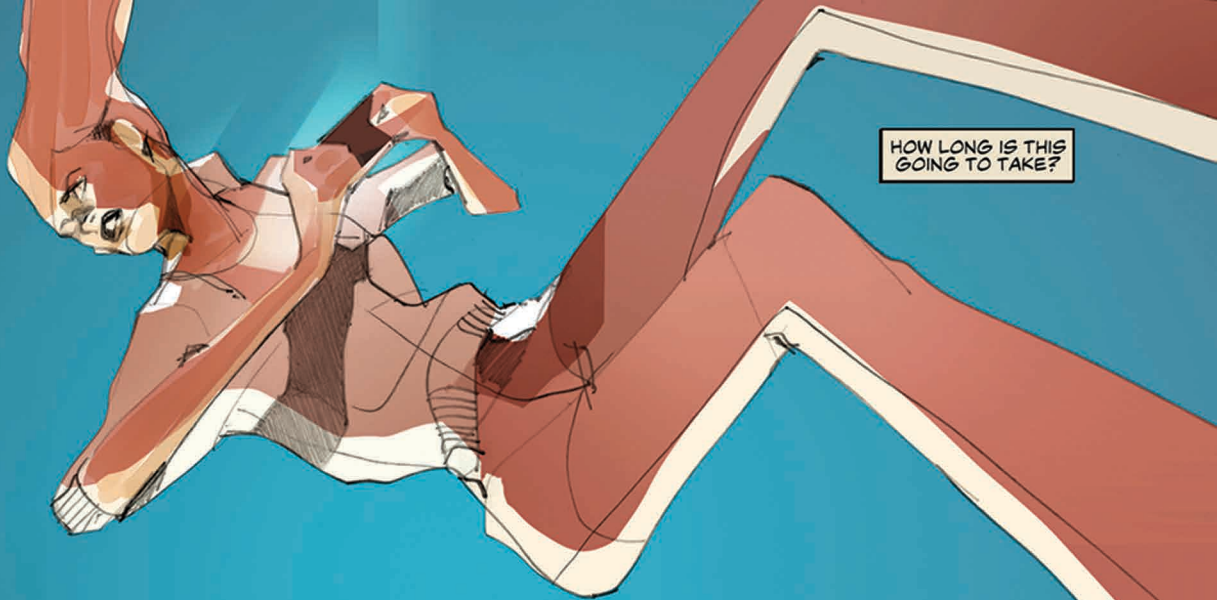
CHAPTER THREE

## "AMERICA BLEEDS"

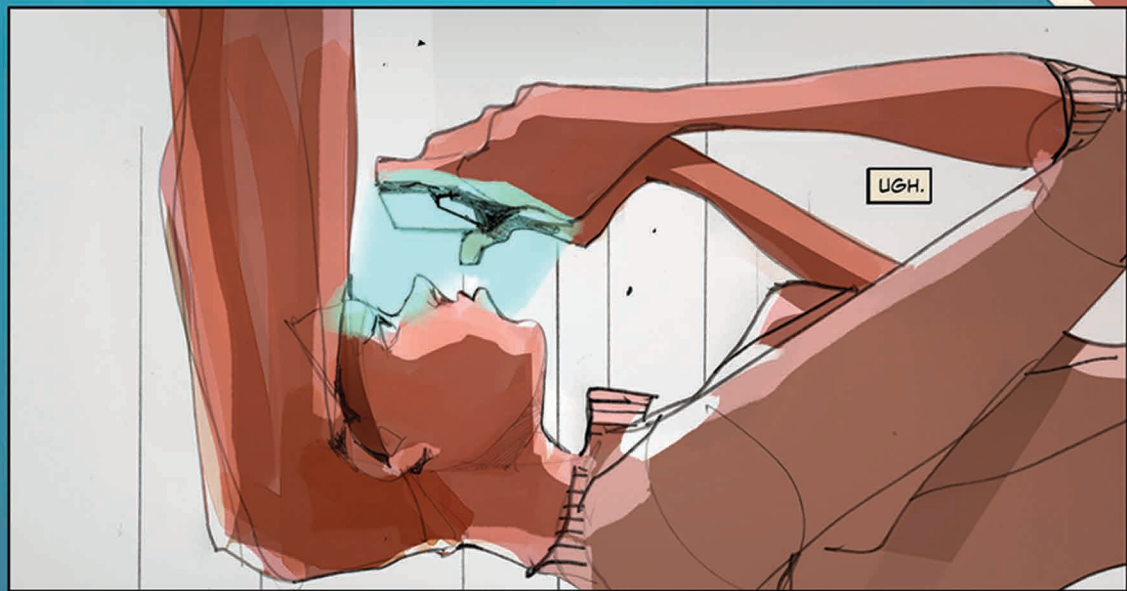


NORMALLY, YOU'D EXPECT A PERSON TO BE FAIRLY FREAKED OUT DURING A FREE-FALL, THOUSANDS OF FEET IN THE AIR.

NEVER REALLY BEEN A BIG DEAL FOR ME, THOUGH. KIND OF A DRAG, REALLY. I'M PRETTY SURE THAT I COULD DROP IN FROM OUTER SPACE AND SURVIVE IT, AND I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHY.



HOW LONG IS THIS GOING TO TAKE?



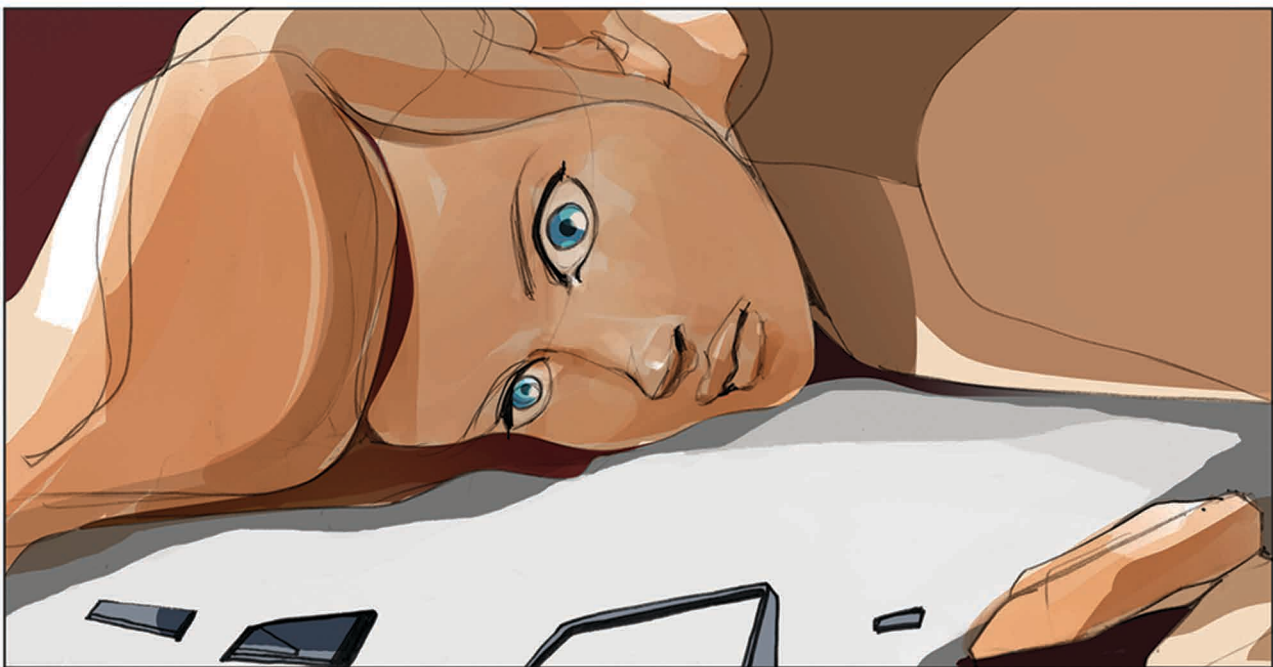
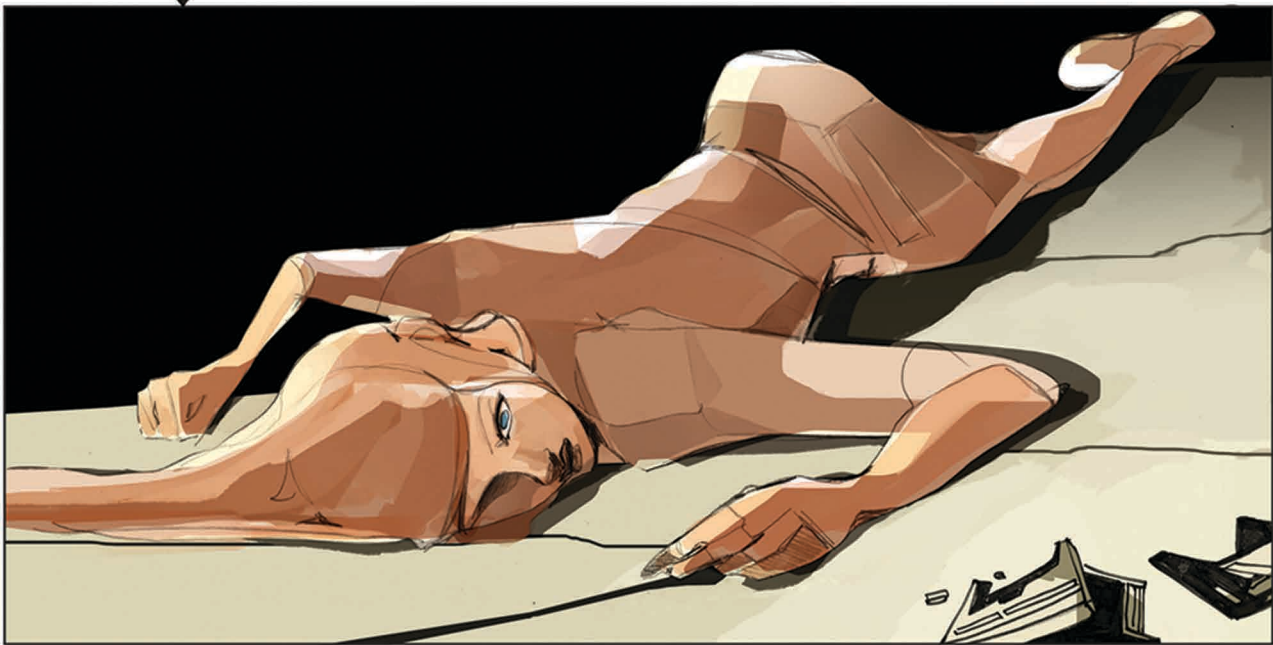
UGH.

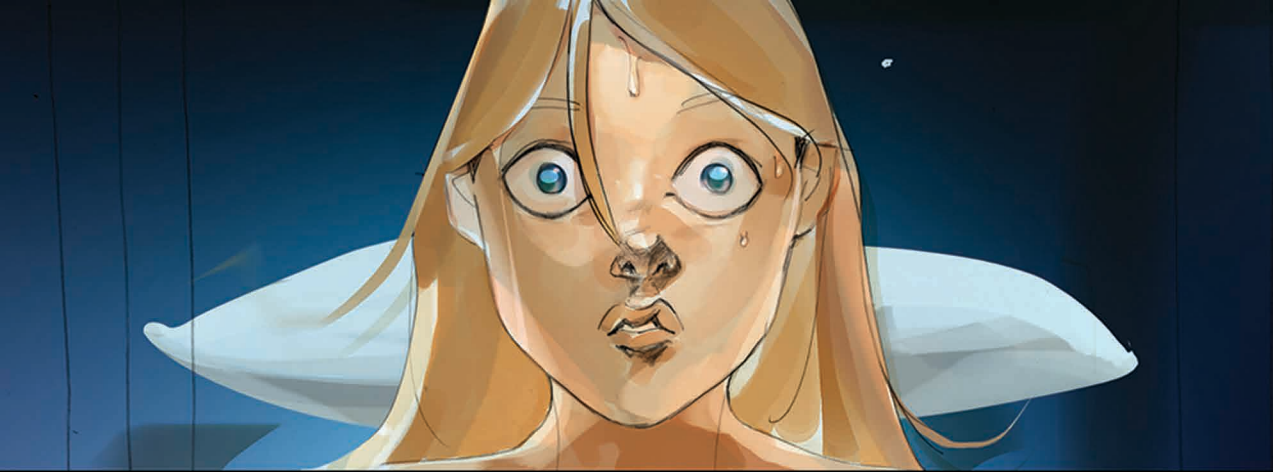


PROBABLY NOT EVEN GOING TO FINISH THIS LEVEL IN TIME.

DAMMIT! I DIDN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT MY PHONE. PROBABLY NOT GOING TO SURVIVE THE...

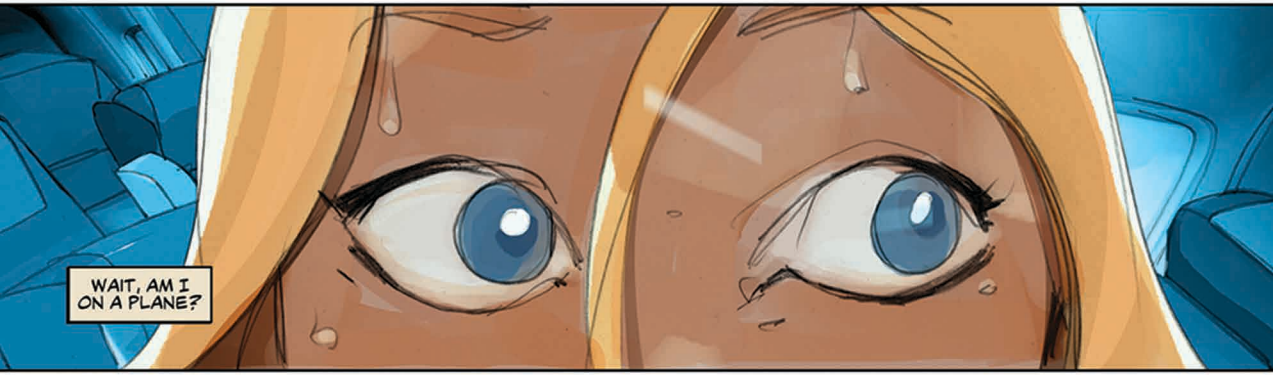
\* DLING \*





OKAY, DIDN'T SEE THAT COMING. THAT WAS KIND OF EXCITING, THOUGH.

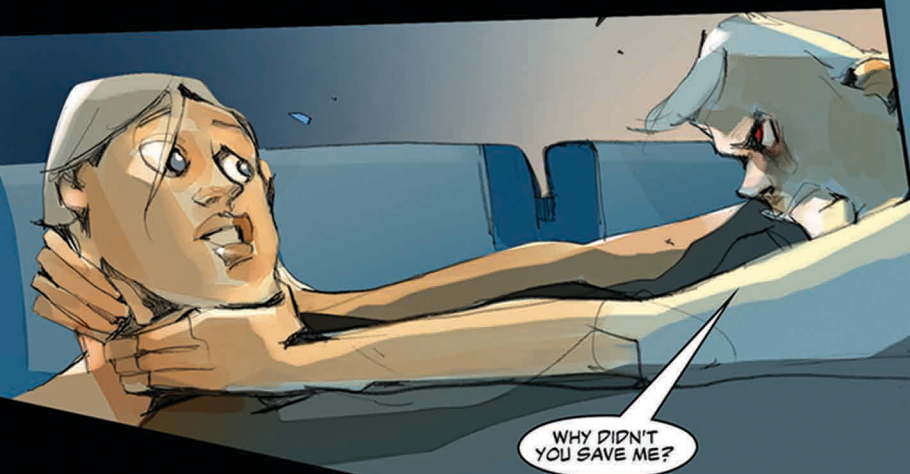
THE THOUGHT OF DYING HASN'T EVEN OCCURRED TO ME IN...

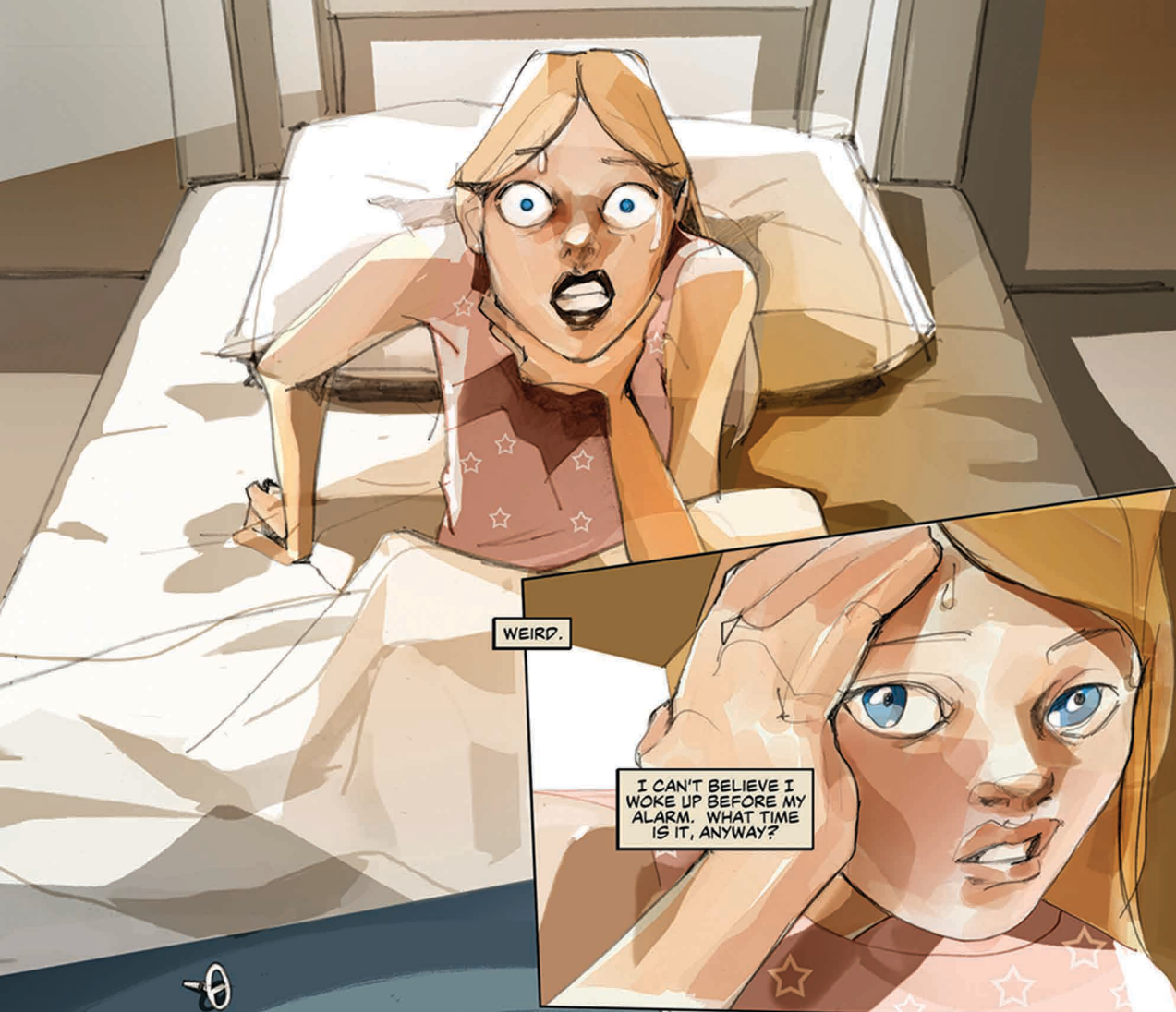


WAIT, AM I ON A PLANE?



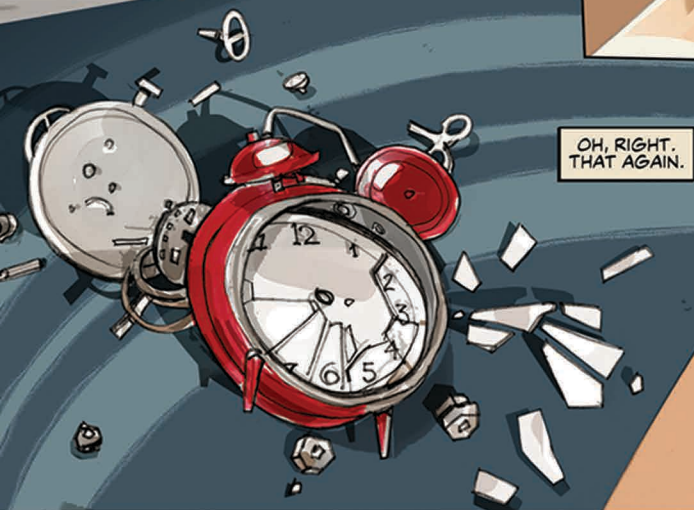




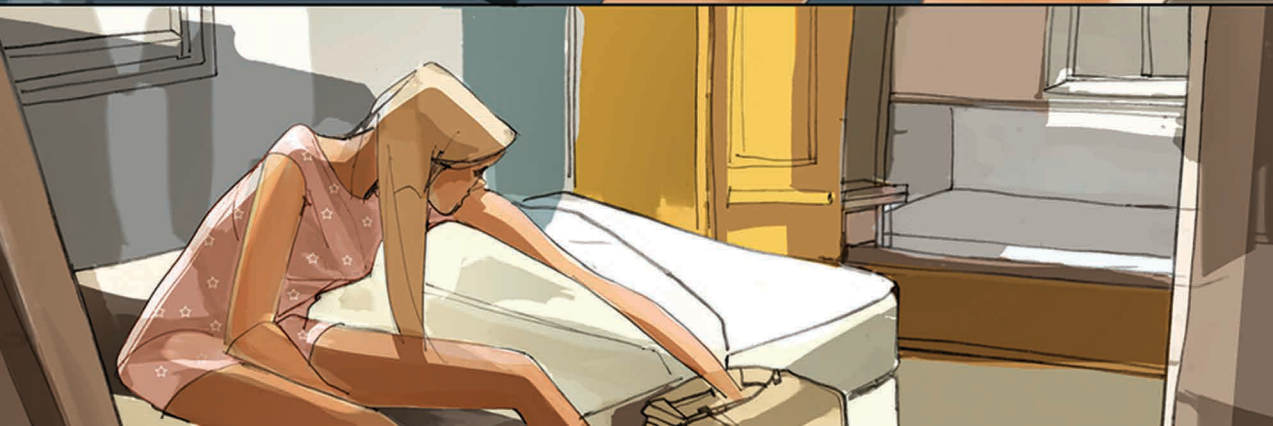


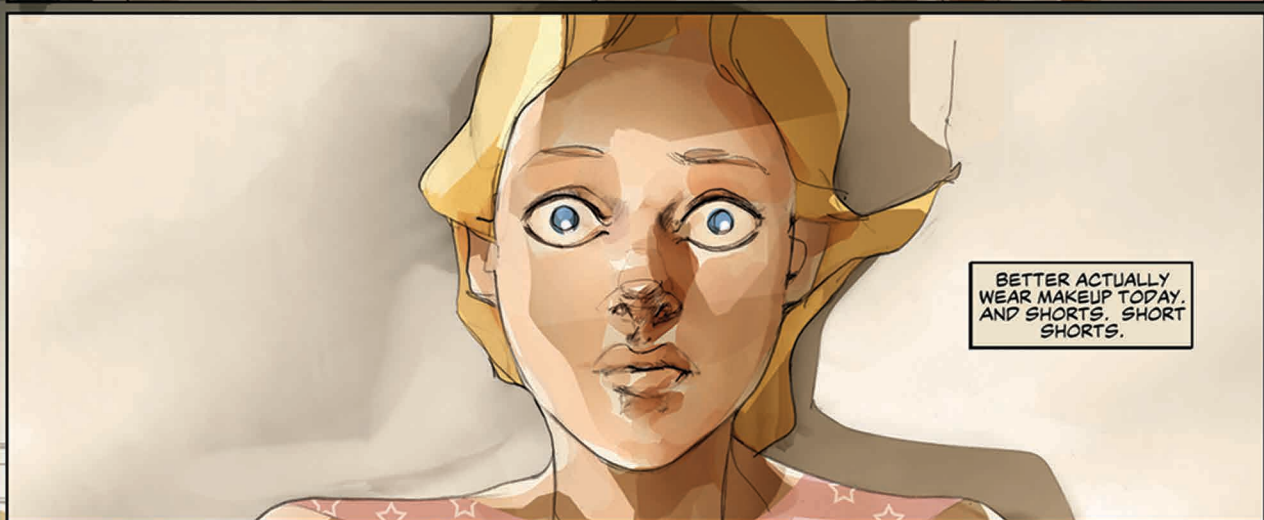
WEIRD.

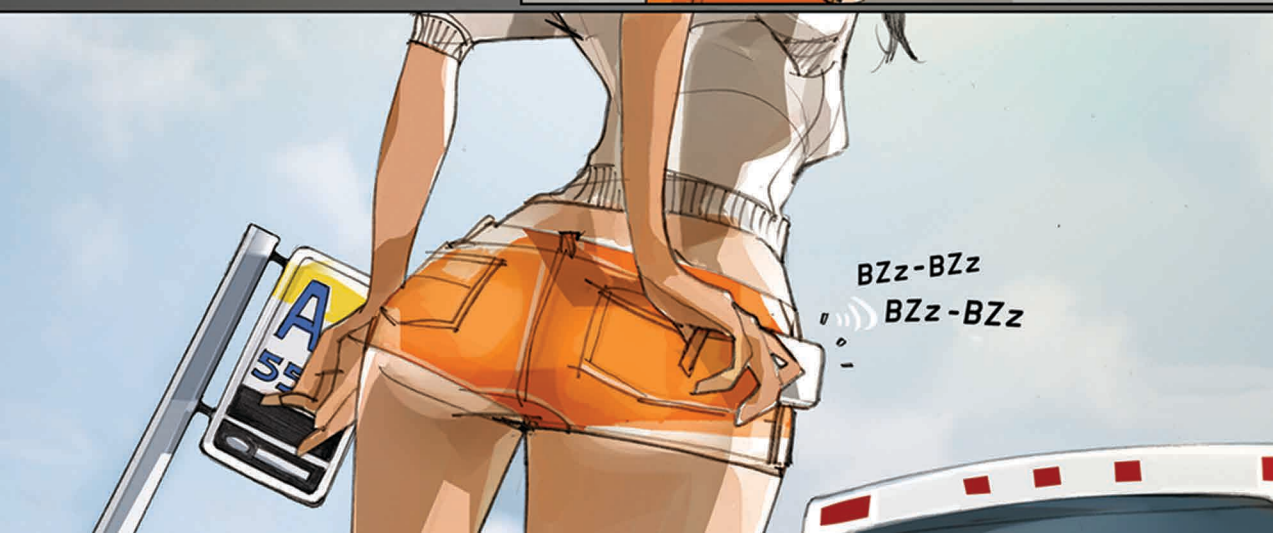
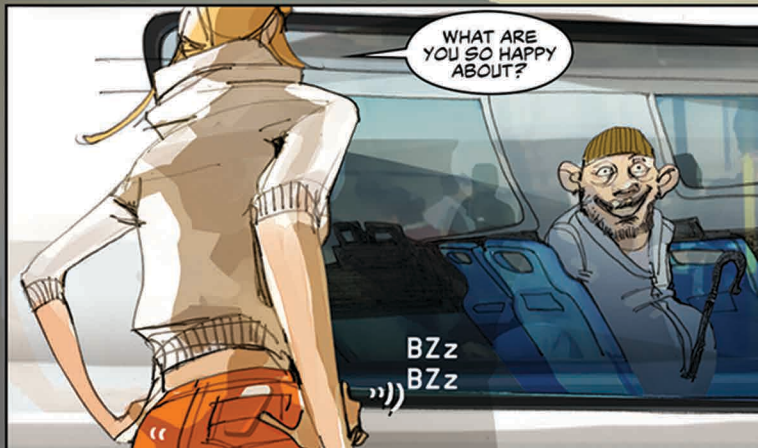
I CAN'T BELIEVE I  
WOKE UP BEFORE MY  
ALARM. WHAT TIME  
IS IT, ANYWAY?



OH, RIGHT.  
THAT AGAIN.



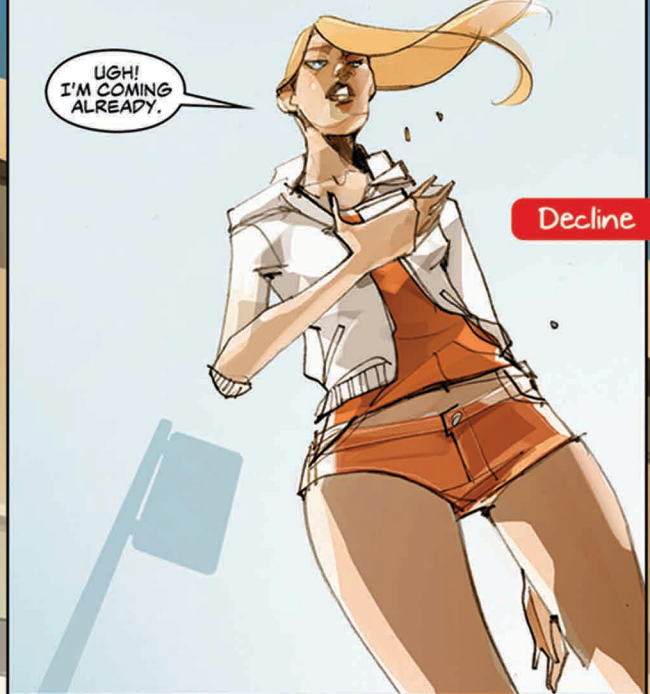






UGH!  
I'M COMING  
ALREADY.

Decline



GREAT. SOME KIND OF  
CELEBRITY APPEARANCE. WE'RE  
GOING TO BE SOOOO BUSY.



GAH!  
I'M COMING!  
DAMN!

BZZ ((  
BZZ



MOMENTS LATER...

OH, COME ON. I'M ONLY A HALF AN HOUR LATE! AND I PUT MAKEUP ON! AND SHORTS!

SORRY, NAT. I CALLED SOMEONE IN TO REPLACE YOU, AND SHE GOT HERE BEFORE YOU.

SO SEND HER HOME. I'M HERE NOW.

THAT WOULDN'T BE FAIR.

WHATEVER. HOW DID SOMEBODY YOU CALLED IN GET HERE BEFORE ME, ANYWAY?!"

AMERICA! A REGISTERED HERO! HEROCORP IS HERE TODAY, AND THEY BROUGHT HER IN TO SPEAK.

WE HAD PEOPLE ON CALL BECAUSE OF THE EVENT TODAY.

YEAH, I SAW. SOMEBODY FAMOUS OR SOMETHING.

A SUPERHERO? LAME.

LAME? OH, RIGHT. I FORGOT. YOU DON'T CARE MUCH FOR SUPERHEROES. STILL, THOUGH, THIS ONE'S PRETTY COOL.

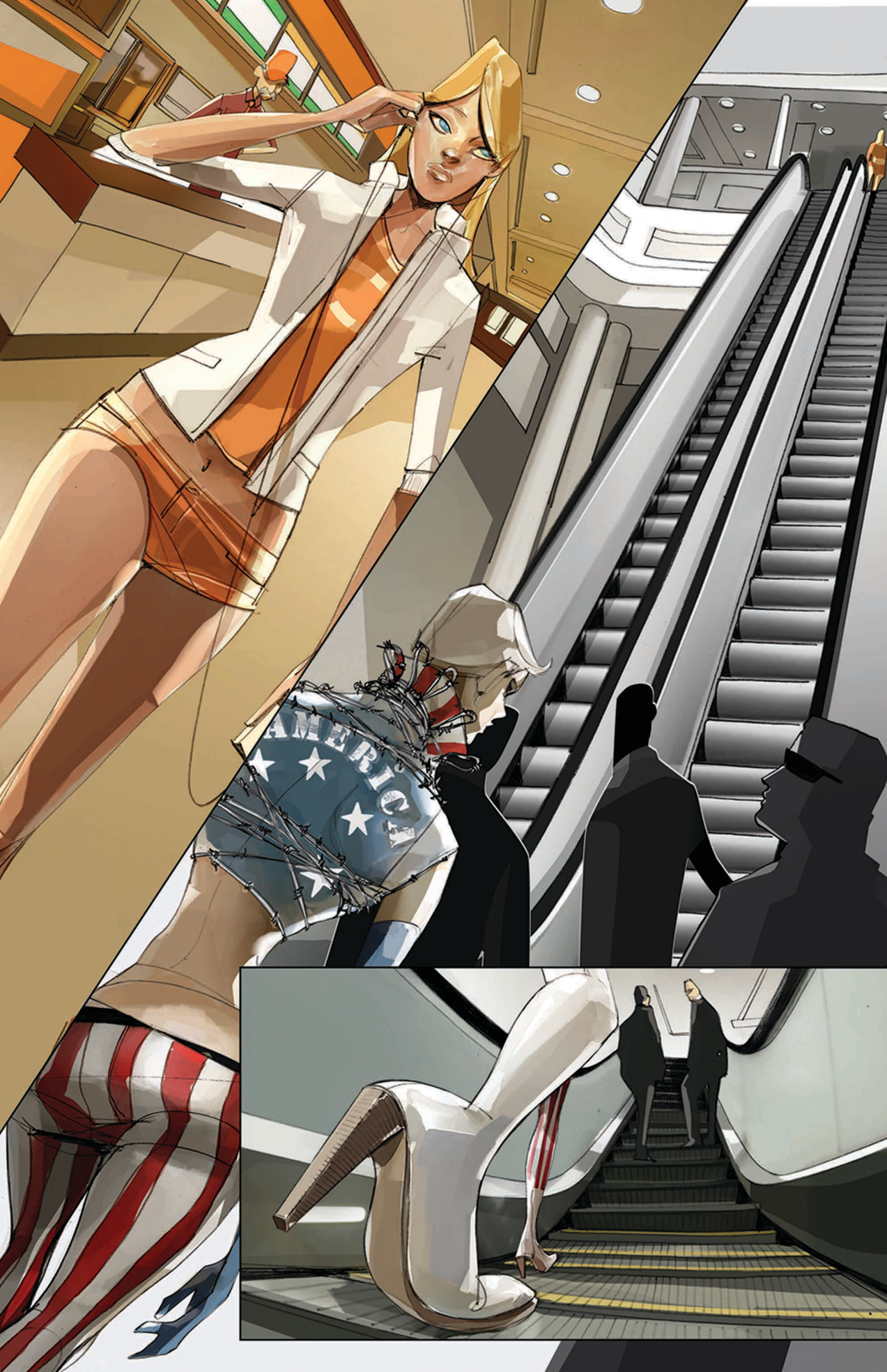
THEY'RE ALL THE SAME. THEY'RE BASICALLY NERD COPS IN CLOWN COSTUMES.

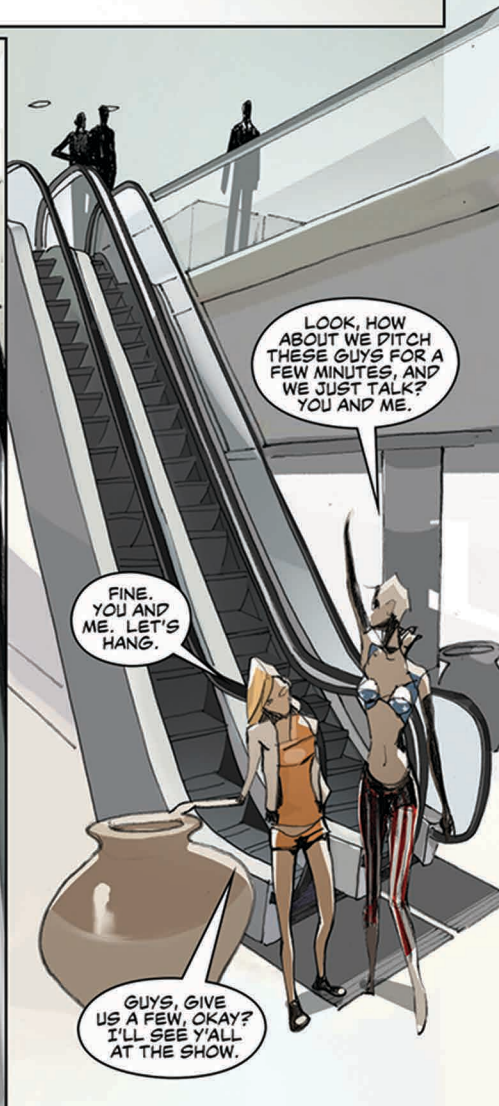
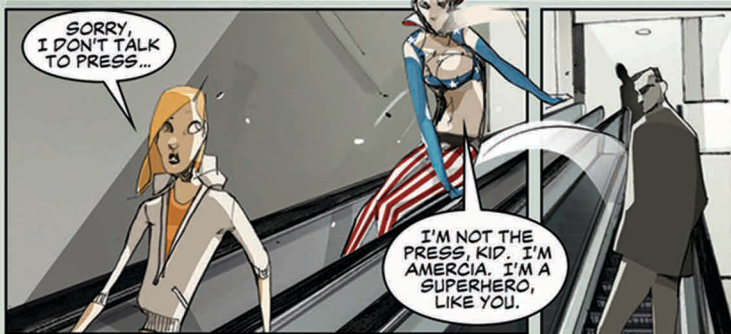
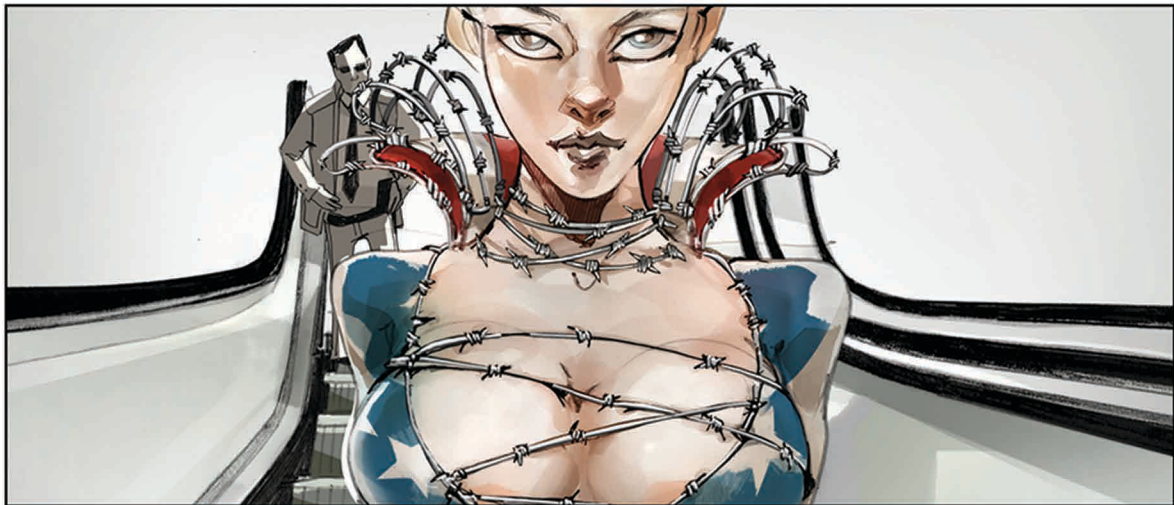
OKAY. SUIT YOURSELF. SEE YOU FOR YOUR SHIFT TOMORROW, BECAUSE IF I DON'T, YOU CAN TAKE THE REST OF THE YEAR OFF.

UGH. SEE? ALL THIS SUPERHERO DID WAS SHOW UP HERE TODAY, AND SHE'S RUINING MY LIFE.

WHY DON'T YOU GO SEE HER? I THINK THIS ONE WILL CHANGE YOUR MIND. BESIDES, YOU MIGHT AS WELL, SINCE YOU'RE NOT WORKING TODAY.

SIR, YES, SIR!









YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME. I TOLD YOU, I'M NOT LIKE YOU. I'M NO HERO.

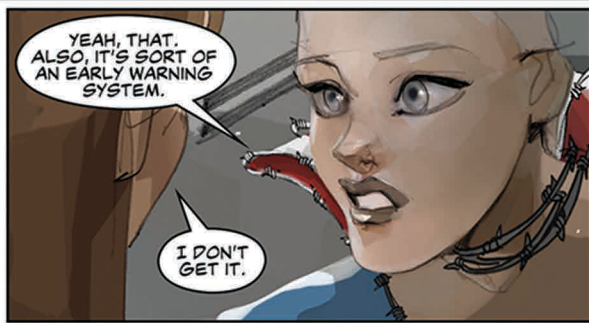
YOU MIGHT NOT BE A HERO, BUT YOU'RE MORE LIKE ME THAN YOU THINK.

MEANING WHAT?



YOU KNOW WHY I'M WEARING THIS INSANE OUTFIT?

TO SHOW OFF YOUR BOOBS?



YEAH, THAT. ALSO, IT'S SORT OF AN EARLY WARNING SYSTEM.

I DON'T GET IT.



YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY INVINCIBLE GIRL WALKING AROUND TOWN.

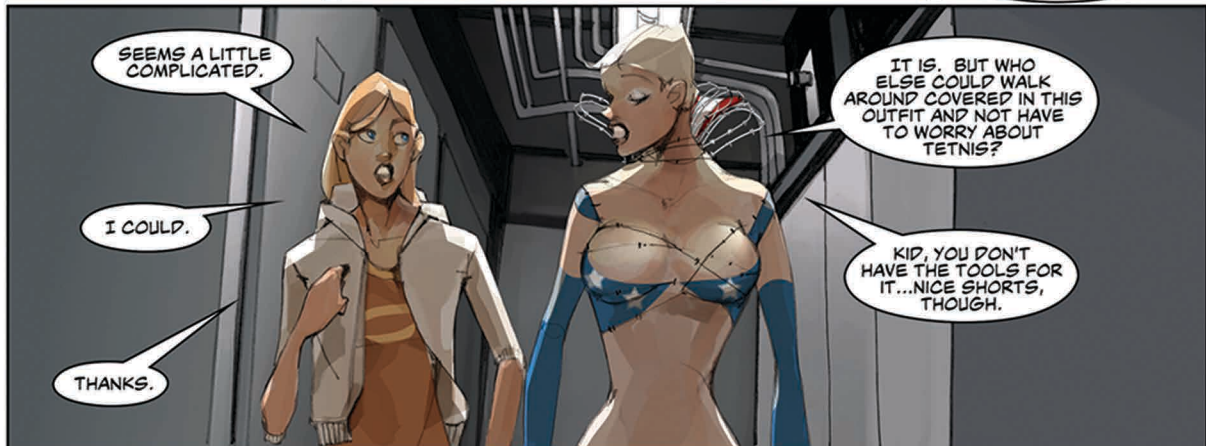
LIKE I SAID, WE HAVE A LOT IN COMMON. I'M GUESSING IT'S THE SAME FOR YOU. IT KIND OF GETS OLD NOT HAVING TO WORRY ABOUT BEING HURT, BUT THERE'S ALWAYS THAT LITTLE THOUGHT IN THE BACK OF YOUR MIND...



WHEN WILL IT END?

I GO INTO EVERY FIGHT, EVERY HOSTAGE SITUATION, EVERY ARMED ROBBERY ALL WRAPPED UP IN THIS BARBED WIRE HERE.

I FIGURE THE MOMENT I FEEL A PINCH, I GET THE HELL OUT OF THERE AND CALL FOR BACKUP.



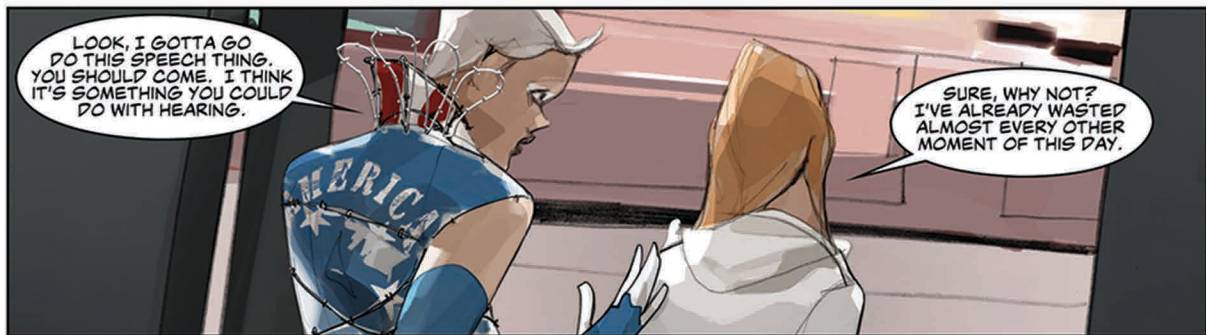
SEEMS A LITTLE COMPLICATED.

I COULD.

THANKS.

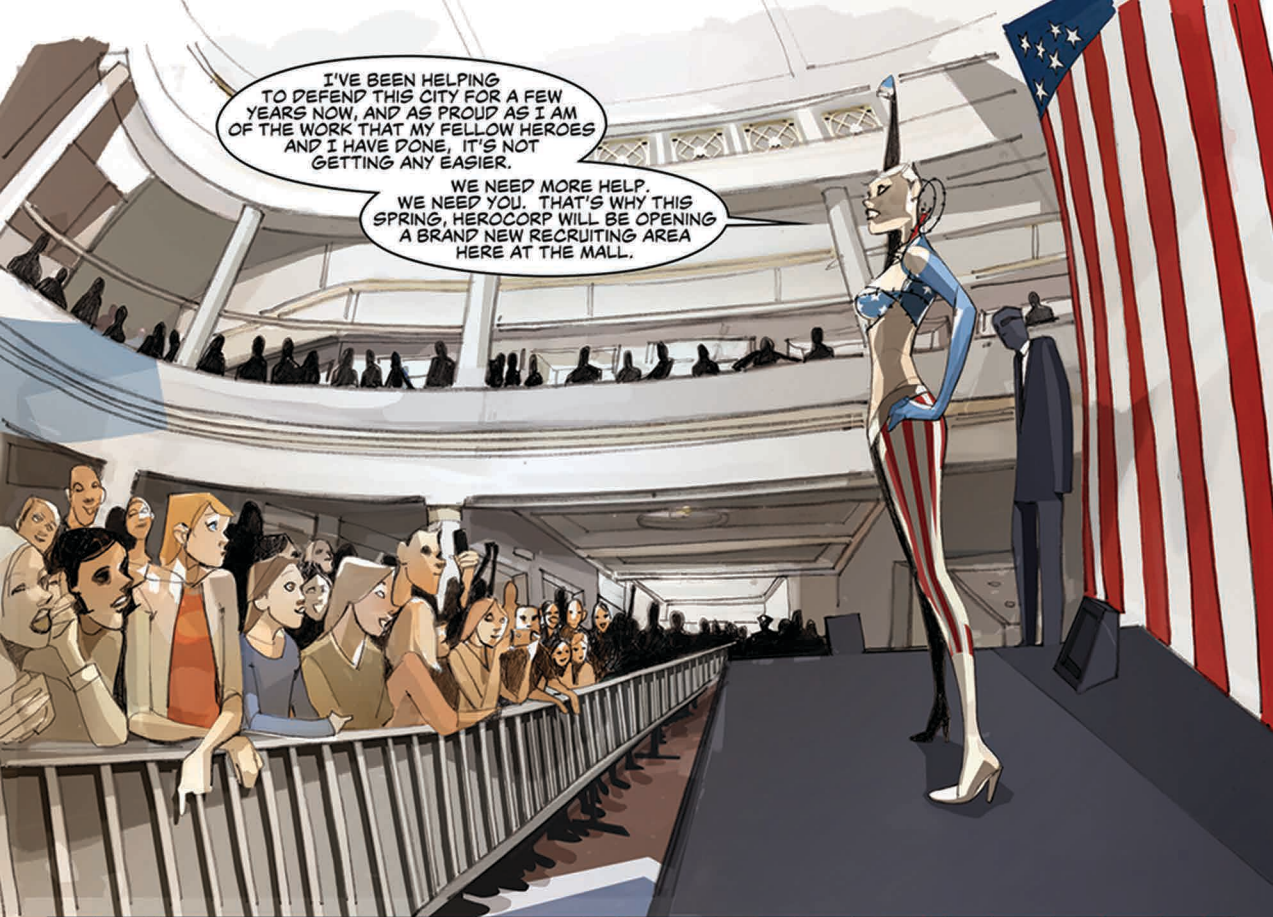
IT IS. BUT WHO ELSE COULD WALK AROUND COVERED IN THIS OUTFIT AND NOT HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT TETNIS?

KID, YOU DON'T HAVE THE TOOLS FOR IT...NICE SHORTS, THOUGH.



LOOK, I GOTTA GO DO THIS SPEECH THING. YOU SHOULD COME. I THINK IT'S SOMETHING YOU COULD DO WITH HEARING.

SURE, WHY NOT? I'VE ALREADY WASTED ALMOST EVERY OTHER MOMENT OF THIS DAY.



I'VE BEEN HELPING TO DEFEND THIS CITY FOR A FEW YEARS NOW, AND AS PROUD AS I AM OF THE WORK THAT MY FELLOW HEROES AND I HAVE DONE, IT'S NOT GETTING ANY EASIER.

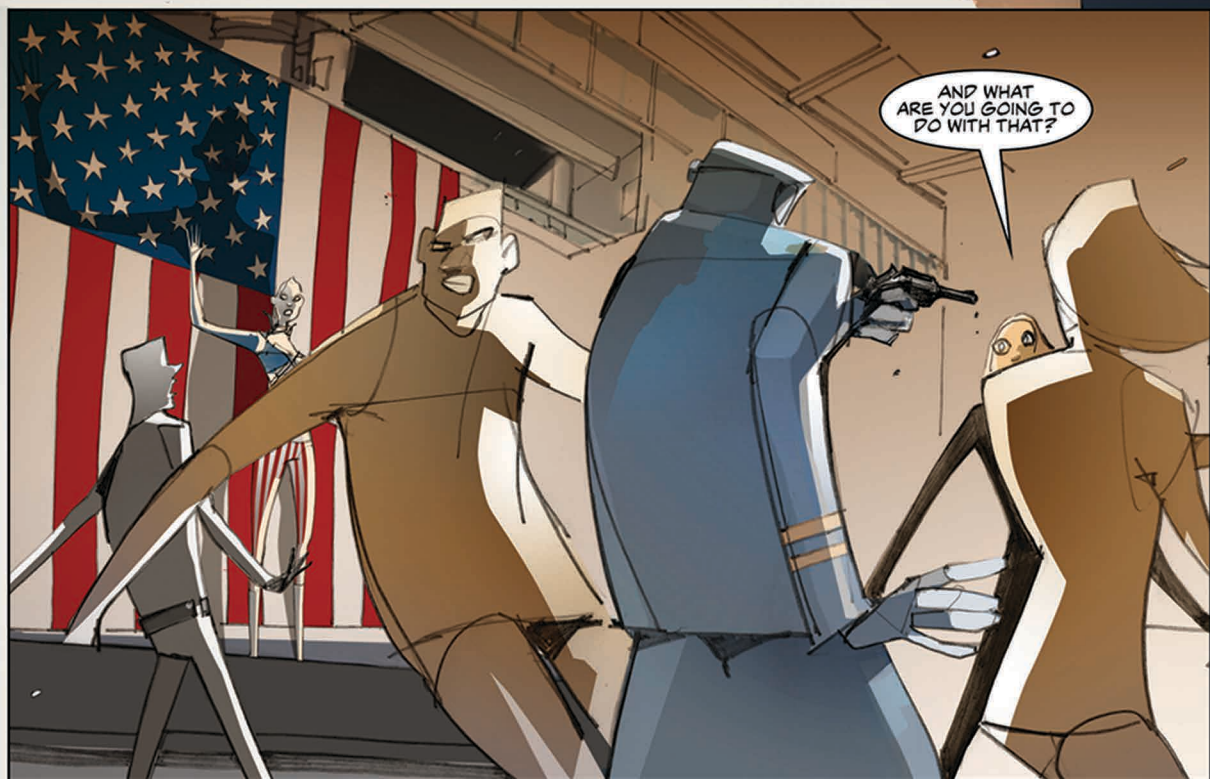
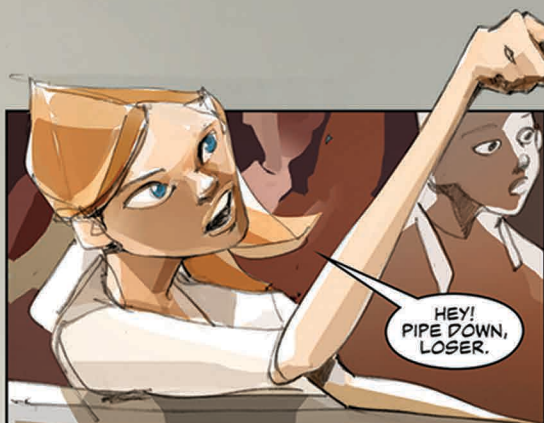
WE NEED MORE HELP. WE NEED YOU. THAT'S WHY THIS SPRING, HEROCORP WILL BE OPENING A BRAND NEW RECRUITING AREA HERE AT THE MALL.



YOU PEOPLE OUT THERE ARE THE FUTURE OF THIS CITY. YOU HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT EACH OTHER.



THIS IS AN OUTRAGE! HEROCORP IS TURNING OUR KIDS INTO FREAKS! MY SON WAS ON THAT PLANE THAT WENT DOWN! THIS COMPANY RUINED MY LIFE.

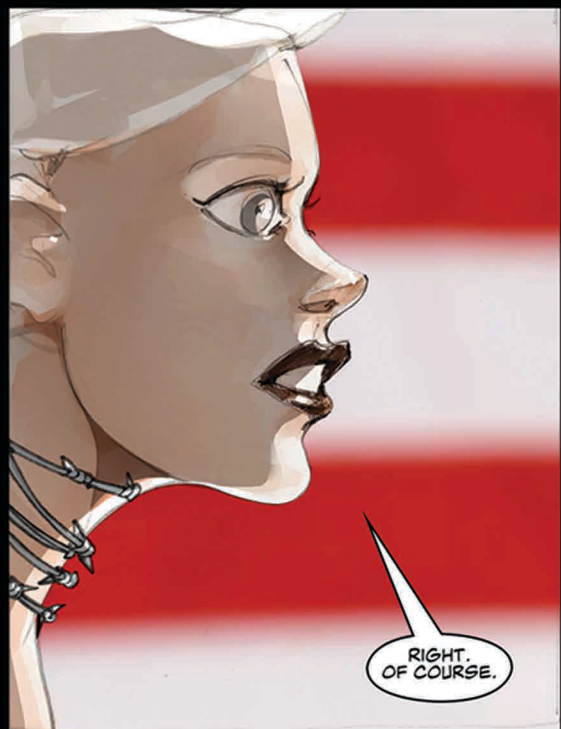
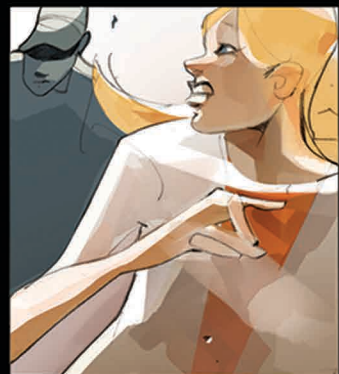


HE'S GOING TO  
POINT IT RIGHT UP HERE  
AT ME, SINCE THAT'S WHO  
HE HAS A PROBLEM WITH.  
RIGHT, SIR?

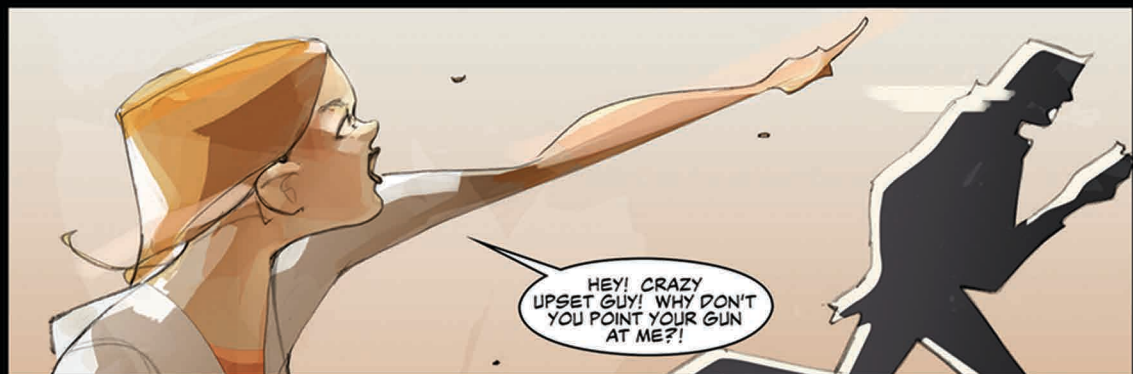




THIS IS HILARIOUS. OPEN FIRE, BRO. GET YOURSELF IN EVEN MORE TROUBLE. NOT LIKE YOU'RE GONNA BE ABLE TO HURT ANYONE.



RIGHT. OF COURSE.



HEY! CRAZY UPSET GUY! WHY DON'T YOU POINT YOUR GUN AT ME?!



NATALIE,  
BACK OFF. THIS  
ISN'T ABOUT  
YOU.



YEAH, YOU'RE NOT  
ONE OF THEM. YOU'RE  
JUST SOME DUMB BITCH  
WHO RUNS HER MOUTH  
TOO MUCH.

YOU DON'T  
KNOW THE HALF  
OF IT, BRO.



HEY, PAL! WHY  
DON'T YOU KEEP THAT  
THING POINTED UP HERE.  
I'M THE BAD GUY,  
RIGHT?

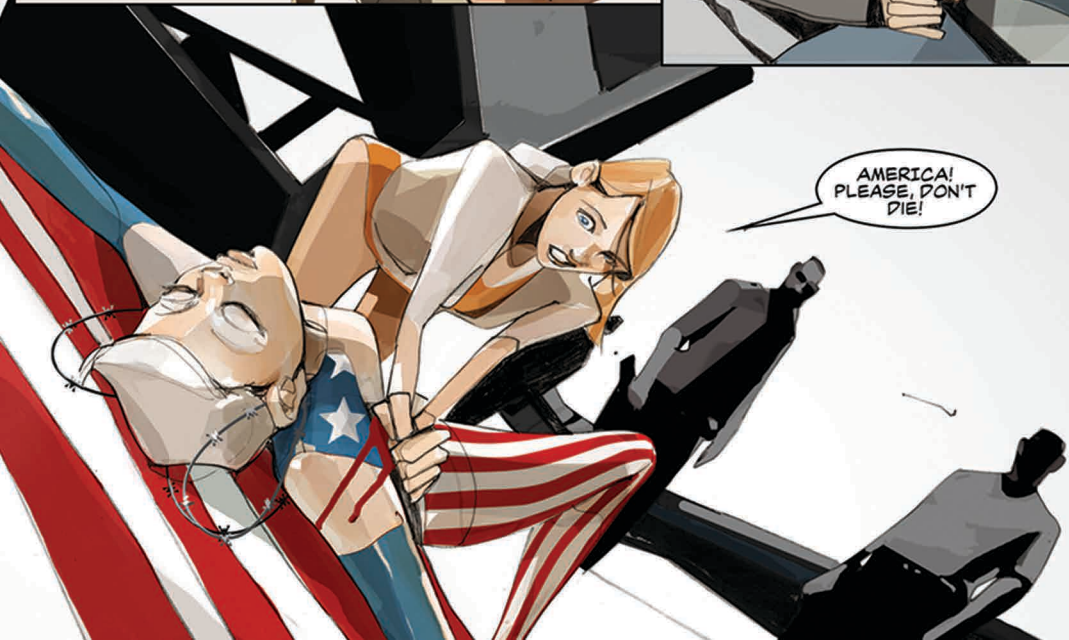
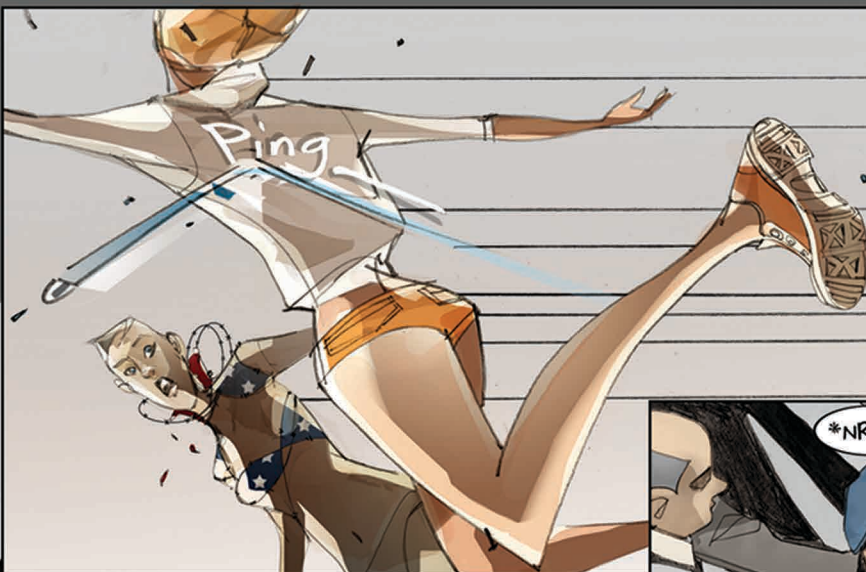
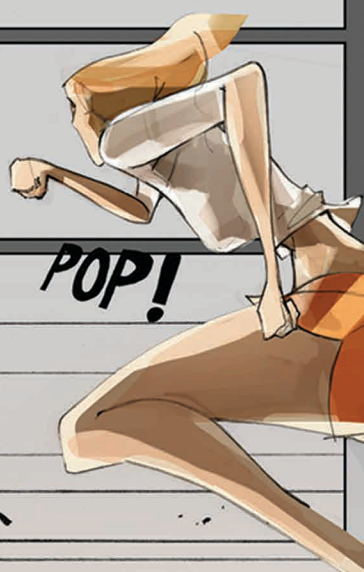
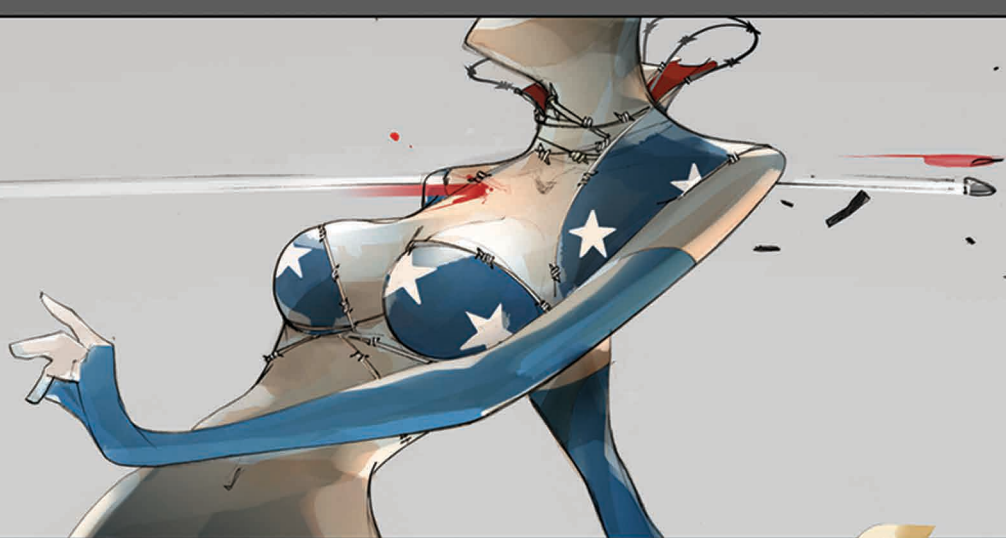
YOU WANT THE  
GUN POINTED AT YOU?  
I'LL DO YOU ONE  
BETTER.

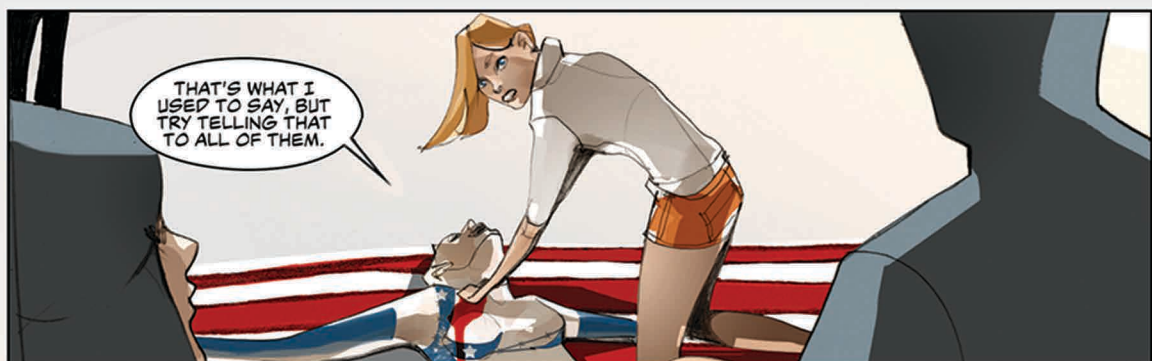
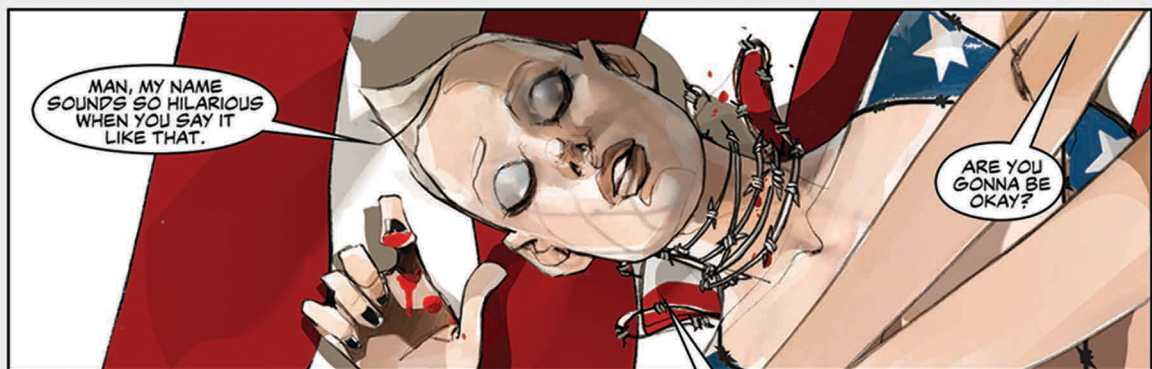


NO!



**POP!**





**SEE THE REST OF AMERICA AND NATALIE'S STORY IN THE GRADUATE  
COMPLETE GRAPHIC NOVEL, COMING SOON FROM OVERGROUND COMICS!**





PART ONE



N. G. W.



proudly presents:

# AMERICA

WRITTEN AND COLORED BY JON HUGHES

ILLUSTRATED BY JASON PEARSON

When Bernadette Callaway was young, she sought adventure. She found every way that she could to add thrill to her life. The day that HeroCorp opened their doors to the public, she could think of no greater thrill than to stand toe to toe with the most dangerous people in the world, so she went and got her shot. Ten years of invincibility later, America, as she is now known, was one of the most loved heroes in the country. Then, in a moment, all of that was gone. America was human again. Warned by her company and begged by her family and friends to stop fighting crime and protect herself, America finds herself with a new thrill, and maybe the most intense one of all, her own mortality.

## CHAPTER ONE

# KICKSTART MY HEART

3 A.M. DALLAS, TEXAS



OKAY, SO I CAN SEE HOW IT MIGHT APPEAR TO BE A LITTLE CRAZY TO JUST BLINDLY JUMP OUT A WINDOW WHILE CHASING SOMEONE IF YOU'RE A PERSON WHO JUST SO HAPPENS TO HAVE RECENTLY BECOME "NOT INVINCIBLE ANYMORE".



BUT REALLY, I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.



WHEN YOU'RE AN EXPERIENCED HERO, THINGS WORK THEMSELVES OUT IN YOUR HEAD PRETTY QUICKLY. I'M NOT JUMPING OUT THIS WINDOW BECAUSE I THINK THAT I CAN SURVIVE WHATEVER HAPPENS. I'M JUMPING BECAUSE THIS PICKHEAD THAT I'M CHASING ONLY JUMPED BECAUSE HE KNEW HE'D SURVIVE, AND WHAT HE DOESN'T REALIZE IS...



I'M GAINING ON HIM.

GOTCHYA!



HERE WE GO.

ONE THING I'LL GIVE YOU THOUGH, IS THAT I DIDN'T REALLY TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION HOW MY INTERFERENCE WAS GOING TO AFFECT HIS PLAN FOR A SAFE LANDING.





GET UP, GIRL. JUST BECAUSE IT HURTS NOW DOESN'T MEAN THAT IT MATTERS IF IT HURTS. GET UP.



YOU SHOULD HAVE JUST GIVEN UP AT THE WINDOW, AMERICA. YOU'RE NOT THE WOMAN YOU USED TO BE.

IS THAT SO?



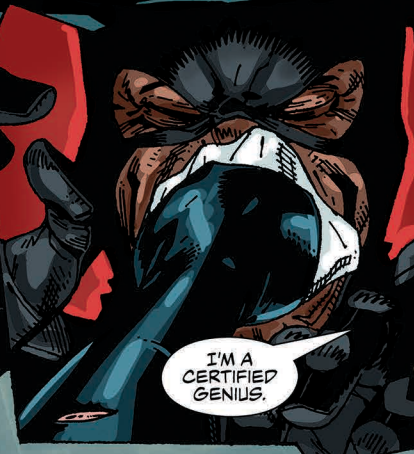




I DON'T REALLY WANT TO TALK ABOUT WHAT I USED TO BE. LET'S TALK ABOUT WHAT I AM.



I'M A WORLD CLASS ATHLETE.



I'M A CERTIFIED GENIUS.



AND I'M A PROFESSIONAL SUPERHERO. INVINCIBLE OR NOT.



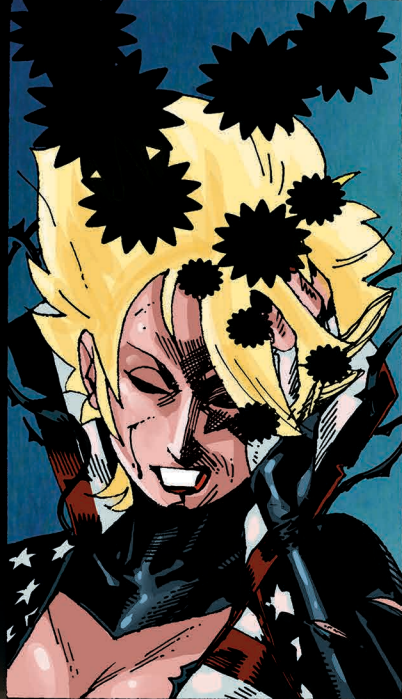
MISS AMERICA, STAND DOWN, WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE!



UGH. WAIT, IS HE BEING ODDLY CHIVALROUS, OR DOES HE ACTUALLY THINK I'M CALLED "MISS" AMERICA?

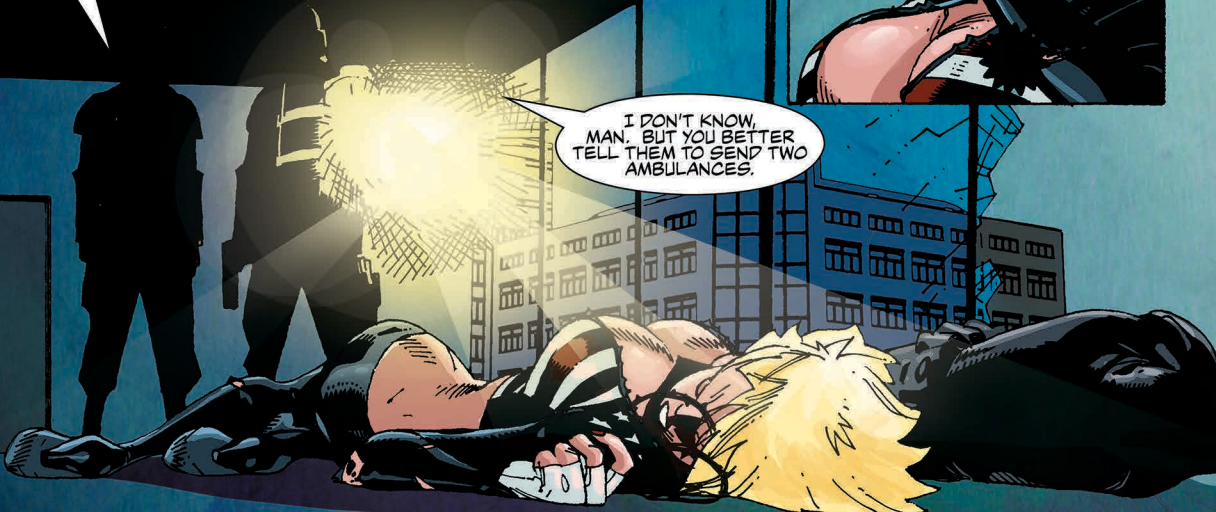


IT'S JUST "AMERICA"



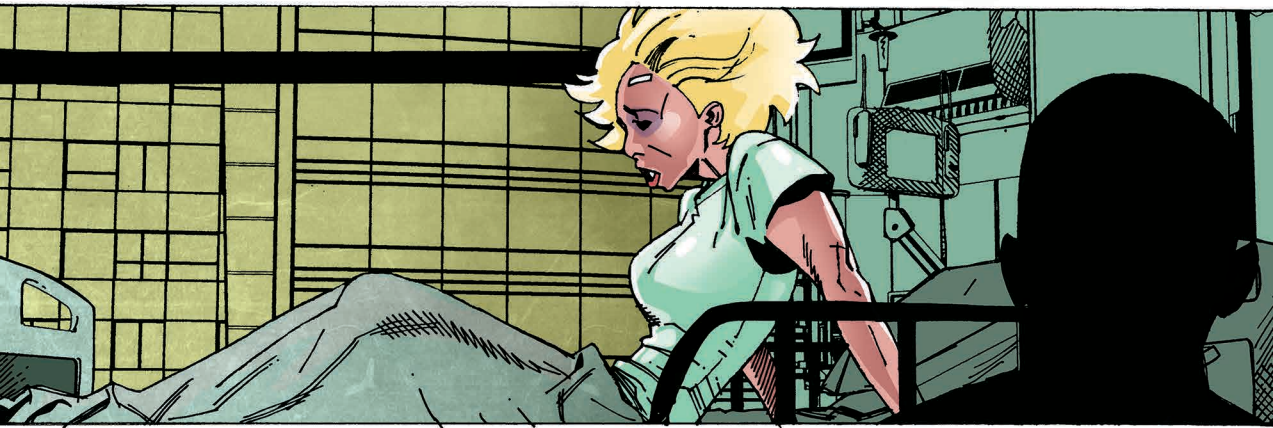
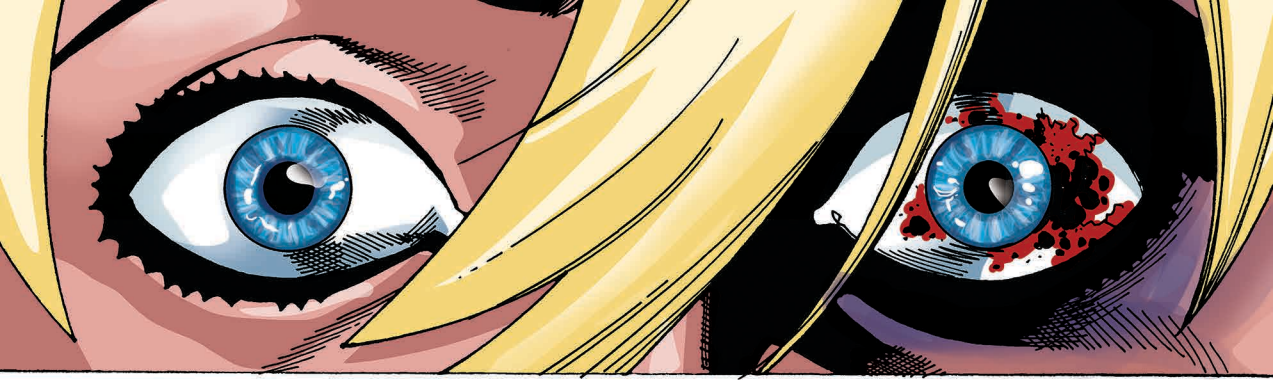
MAN, WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO HER? SHE'S CRAZY.

I DON'T KNOW, MAN. BUT YOU BETTER TELL THEM TO SEND TWO AMBULANCES.



SHE JACKED THAT DUDE UP.





DID YOU SERIOUSLY  
JUMP OUT OF ONE WINDOW AND  
INTO ANOTHER?



WAS I  
UNCONSCIOUS  
JUST NOW?



YES. THAT TENDS  
TO BE THE END RESULT OF  
JUMPING OUT OF  
A BUILDING.



NOT TO ME.



MAYBE NOT TO THE OLD YOU, BUT IF YOU KEEP THIS UP, IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THE NEW YOU WITH GREAT FREQUENCY.

I **AM** THE OLD ME. NOT BEING INVINCIBLE ANYMORE DOESN'T MEAN THAT I FORGOT HOW TO DO MY JOB.



IT WAS SORT OF COOL, ACTUALLY. BESIDES, I CAUGHT THE GUY, SO NO BIG DEAL.



ACTUALLY IT IS A BIG DEAL. WE'RE GOING TO TRY TO KEEP IT FROM GOING VIRAL BECAUSE IF YOU KEEP PULLING STUNTS LIKE THIS, THEY'LL CANCEL YOUR INSURANCE, AND YOU KNOW WE CAN'T HAVE YOU IN THE FIELD IF YOU'RE NOT INSURED.

AND NO ONE IS SAYING THAT YOU FORGOT HOW TO DO YOUR JOB, BUT FOR THE PAST DECADE YOU HAVEN'T HAD TO BE CAREFUL. NOW, YOU DO.



OKAY, WHATEVER. LOOK, I'M FINE.



WELL, THIS IS GOING TO START GETTING BORING REALLY FAST, SO I'M GOING TO WORK.



BB

HEY NOW, YOU'RE NOT IN ANY SHAPE TO GO ANYWHERE.

I'M FINE!

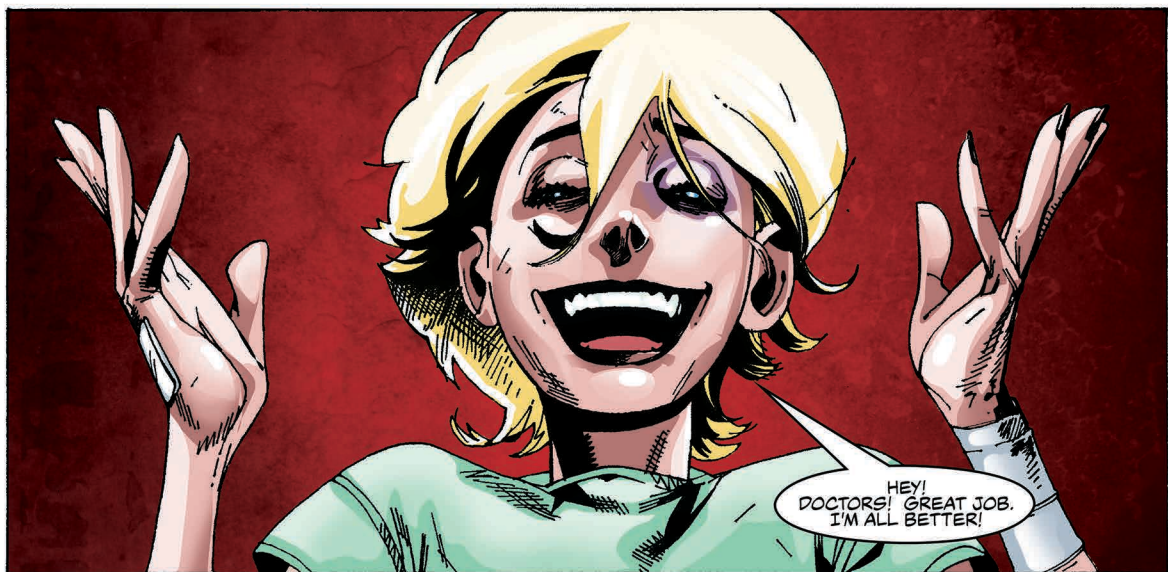
**AMERICA!**  
SHE'S FLATLINING!  
GET A CART IN THERE,  
RIGHT NOW!



HRNG.

OH, WELL. MAYBE SHE ISN'T QUITE FLATLINING.

MISS AMERICA YOU NEED TO RETURN TO YOUR BED. YOU'RE NOT WELL.



HEY! DOCTORS! GREAT JOB. I'M ALL BETTER!



IT'S JUS' AMER...IC.....

SHE'S SO BRAVE.





I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE I PASSED OUT AGAIN.

YOU HAD A ROUGH DAY. IT HAPPENS.



WELL, HOW ABOUT WE STOP WORRYING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AND START WORKING WITH WHAT WE'VE GOT.



IT'S SO EMBARRASSING.



YOU'RE RIGHT. SO WHAT WAS SO IMPORTANT THAT I HAD TO FOLLOW A JUMPING ASSHOLE OUT OF A WINDOW?

THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT. HE'S IN A GUARDED INFIRMARY ROOM. HE'S STILL NOT HEALTHY ENOUGH FOR LOCKUP. THEY'RE GOING TO LET US TALK TO HIM, GIVEN WHAT THEY FOUND ON HIM.





SO WHO BREAKS INTO A BUILDING AND RISKS HIS LIFE TO STEAL PERSONNEL FILES? AND I MEAN ACTUAL FILES. YOU HAVE HEARD OF A USB DRIVE, RIGHT?



GO TO HELL. I DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER ANY OF YOUR QUESTIONS.



LOOK. WE CAN EITHER WALK OUT OF HERE TELLING THE AUTHORITIES THAT YOU WERE COOPERATIVE, OR THAT YOU WERE HOSTILE. IT'S UP TO YOU.



HE'S RIGHT. HE DOESN'T HAVE TO TALK TO US.

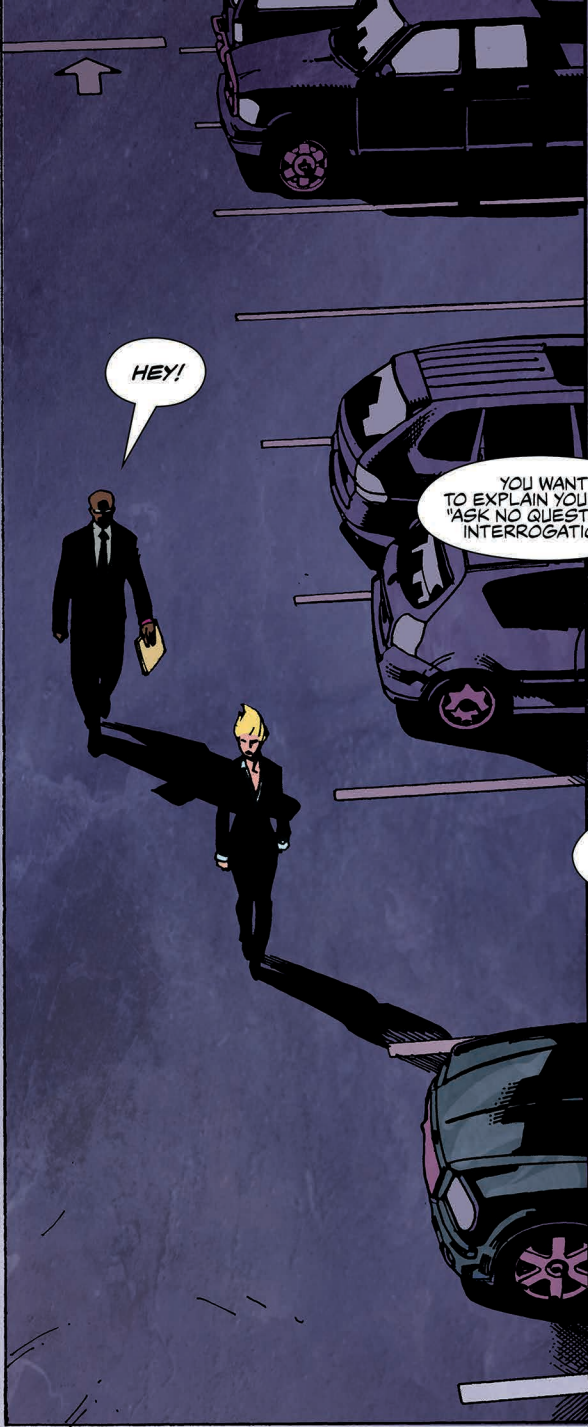


LET'S GO.



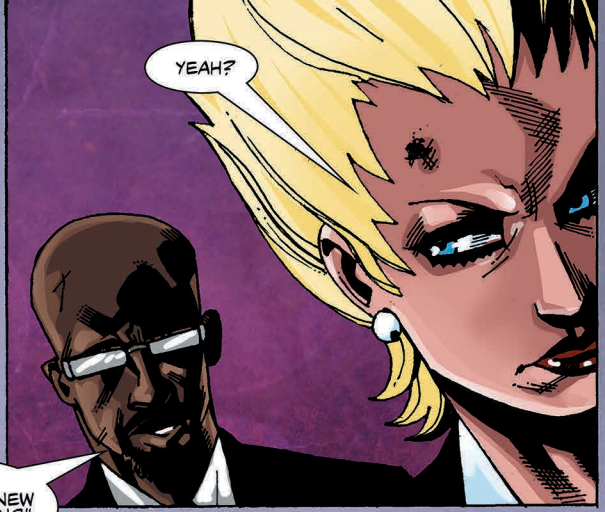
THIS ISN'T OVER, CHUMP.



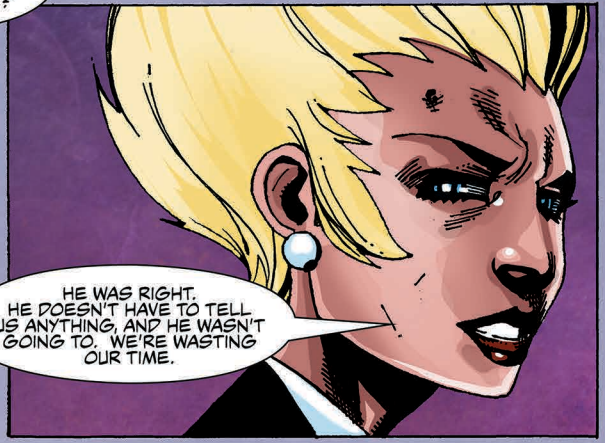


HEY!

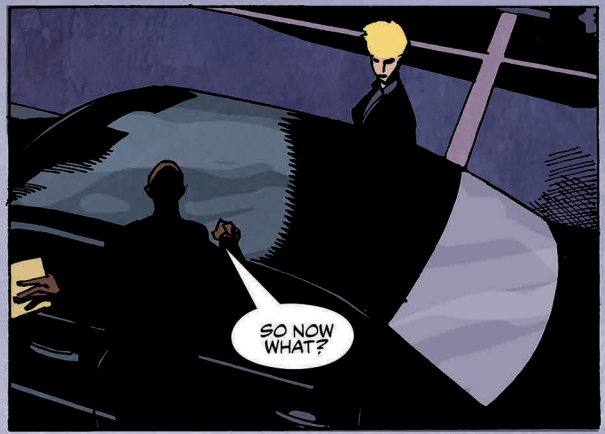
YOU WANT TO EXPLAIN YOUR NEW "ASK NO QUESTIONS" INTERROGATION?



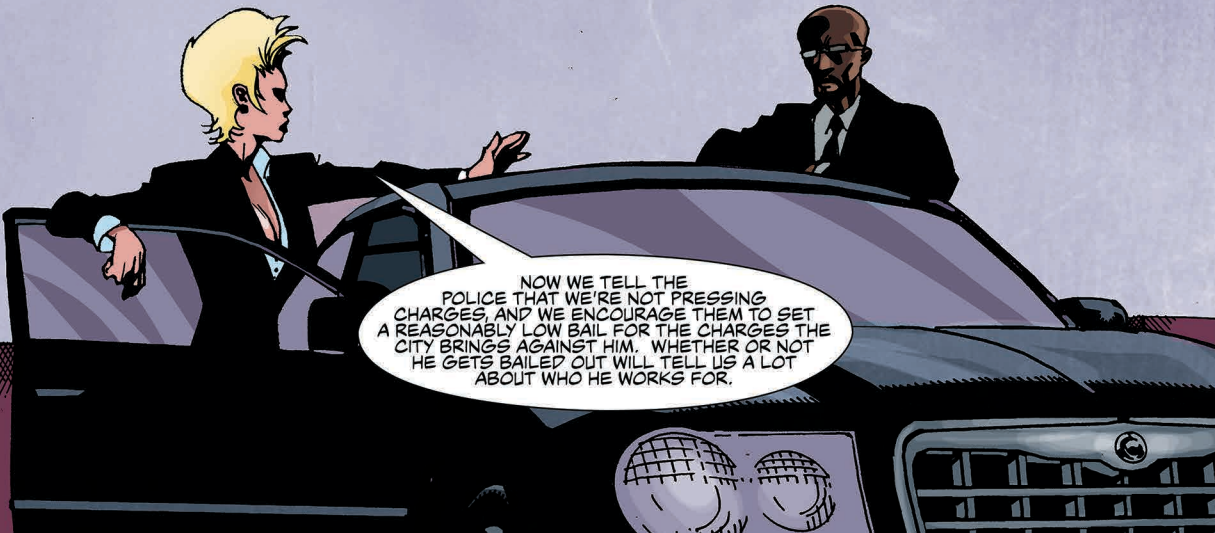
YEAH?



HE WAS RIGHT. HE DOESN'T HAVE TO TELL US ANYTHING, AND HE WASN'T GOING TO. WE'RE WASTING OUR TIME.



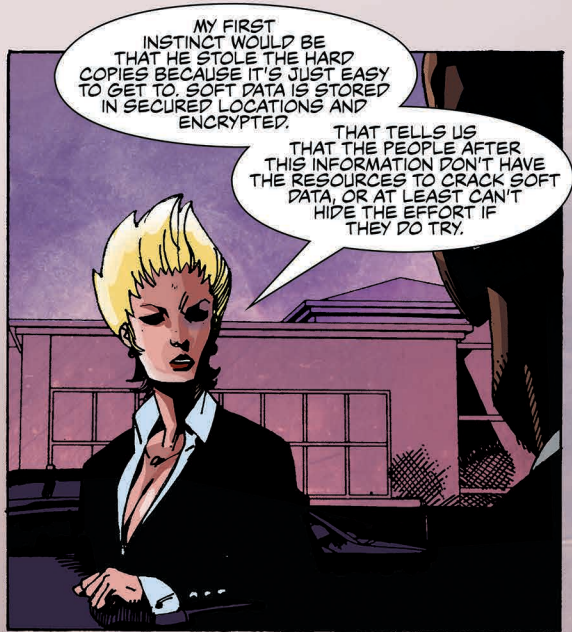
SO NOW WHAT?



NOW WE TELL THE POLICE THAT WE'RE NOT PRESSING CHARGES, AND WE ENCOURAGE THEM TO SET A REASONABLY LOW BAIL FOR THE CHARGES THE CITY BRINGS AGAINST HIM. WHETHER OR NOT HE GETS BAILED OUT WILL TELL US A LOT ABOUT WHO HE WORKS FOR.



AND WHAT ABOUT THESE.



MY FIRST INSTINCT WOULD BE THAT HE STOLE THE HARD COPIES BECAUSE IT'S JUST EASY TO GET TO. SOFT DATA IS STORED IN SECURED LOCATIONS AND ENCRYPTED.

THAT TELLS US THAT THE PEOPLE AFTER THIS INFORMATION DON'T HAVE THE RESOURCES TO CRACK SOFT DATA, OR AT LEAST CAN'T HIPE THE EFFORT IF THEY DO TRY.



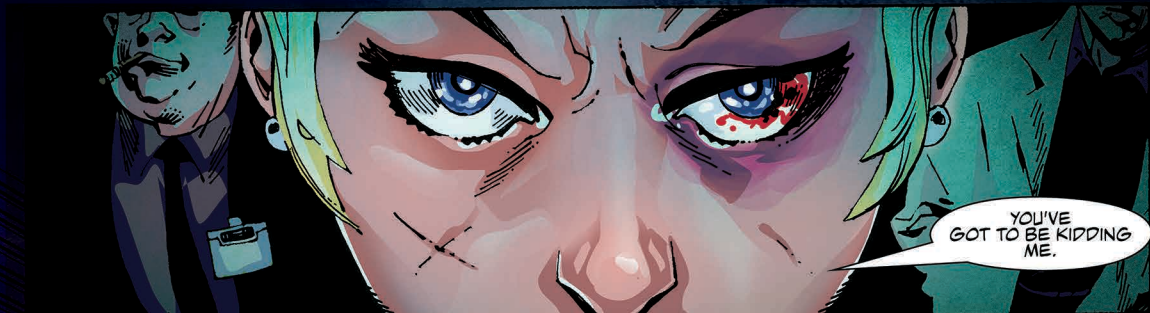
I'M GUESSING IF I TRY TO ARGUE WITH YOU, YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE ME FEEL LIKE AN IDIOT.



I WOULDN'T DO THAT, YOU'RE MY PARTNER. BESIDES, YOU KNOW IT MAKES SENSE.



WELL, SINCE YOU'RE NOT IN THE MOOD TO WASTE TIME TODAY, LET'S GET BACK TO THE OFFICE. TECH HAS SOMETHING THEY WANT TO SHOW YOU.



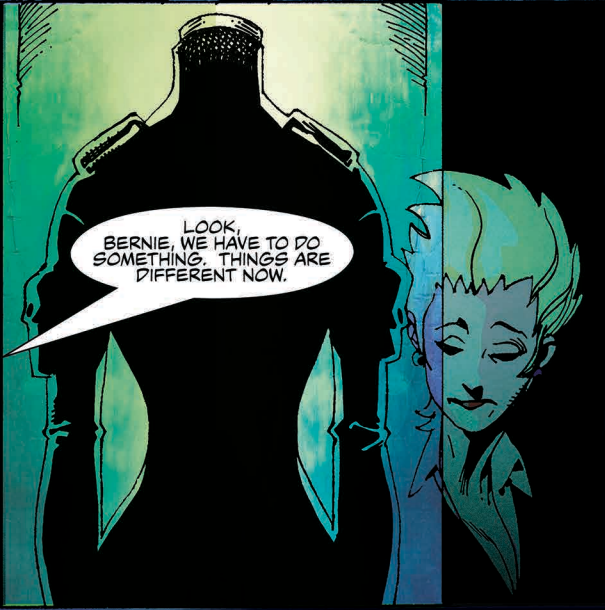
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME.

AS YOUR INSURANCE PROVIDER, WE ASKED YOUR COMPANY TO DESIGN A NEW OPTION FOR YOU IN YOUR FIELD WORK.

WE WANT TO KEEP YOU SAFE OUT THERE, SO WE AGREED, AND CREATED THIS NEW FIELD SUIT.



YOU THINK I'LL BE BETTER OFF RUNNING AROUND IN 100 DEGREE HEAT WEARING AN OVEN? ARE YOU SURE THAT YOU AREN'T TRYING TO KILL ME?

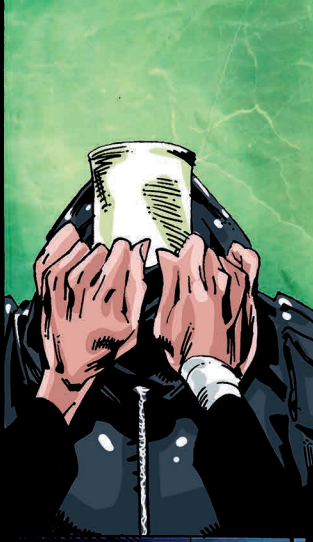


LOOK, BERNIE, WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING. THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW.



WELL CAN I AT LEAST MAKE A SUGGESTION?

CERTAINLY.



**RIIIIP!**



THAT'S A LITTLE BIT BETTER.

YOU MIGHT THINK THIS IS A JOKE, MA'AM, BUT YOU JUST GOT YOUR POLICY CANCELLED!

AWE, DANG. NOW I DON'T GET TO WEAR MY FANCY NEW SUIT.

WE'VE GOT A DAY OR TWO BEFORE OUR GUY GOES IN FRONT OF THE JUDGE. I'M TAKING A DAY OFF.

ALRIGHT. CALL ME SOMETIME TOMORROW.

REALLY? FULL BODY PADDING? NICE.

IT'S AN INSURANCE THING. THEY WANTED IT THAT WAY. WE HAD TO.

OH, OKAY. I'M SURE THAT'LL CHANGE HER MIND. JUST GET RID OF IT. I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH HER COMING BACK IN HERE AND SEEING IT AGAIN.

YOU'LL BE HEARING FROM MY SUPERIORS.



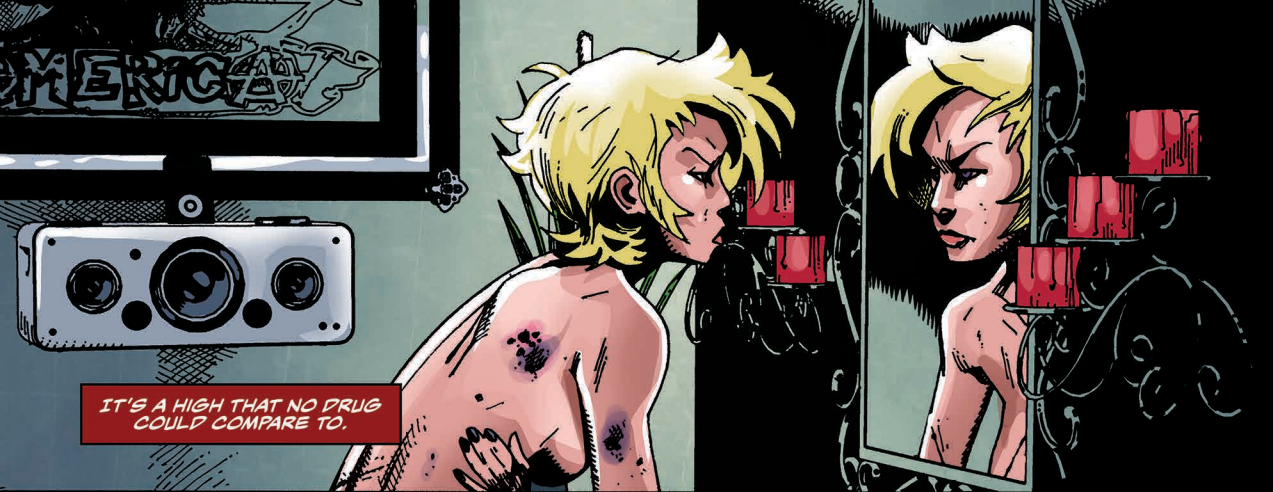


MY NAME IS BERNADETTE CALLAWAY. FRIENDS CALL ME BERNIE. MOST CALL ME AMERICA. I THINK THAT'S THE ONE THAT'S EASIEST FOR ME TO IDENTIFY WITH. ONCE YOU START FIGHTING CRIME AND YOU CHOOSE OR MAKE A NAME FOR YOURSELF, YOU SORT OF GET LOST IN IT. I DID.

THAT'S WHO I AM. OR, I GUESS, THAT'S WHO I WAS. THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE KEEPS TELLING ME, AND I GUESS THEY'RE RIGHT.

BEFORE A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO, I HADN'T FELT PAIN IN OVER A DECADE. FOR A WHILE I THOUGHT THAT IT WAS THE BEST THING THAT HAD EVER HAPPENED TO ME. I HAD NO WORRIES, NO FEAR. I COULD RUN THROUGH A BURNING BUILDING, FALL OUT OF AN AIRPLANE, WHATEVER. NO FEAR, BUT OVER TIME, BEING INCAPABLE OF BEING HARMED BECAME A LITTLE LIKE BEING DEAD. THERE WAS NO THRILL IN LIFE, BECAUSE I DIDN'T EVEN FEEL ALIVE ANYMORE.

THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW. MY BROKEN RIBS ARE LIKE A REMINDER THAT I'M ALIVE.



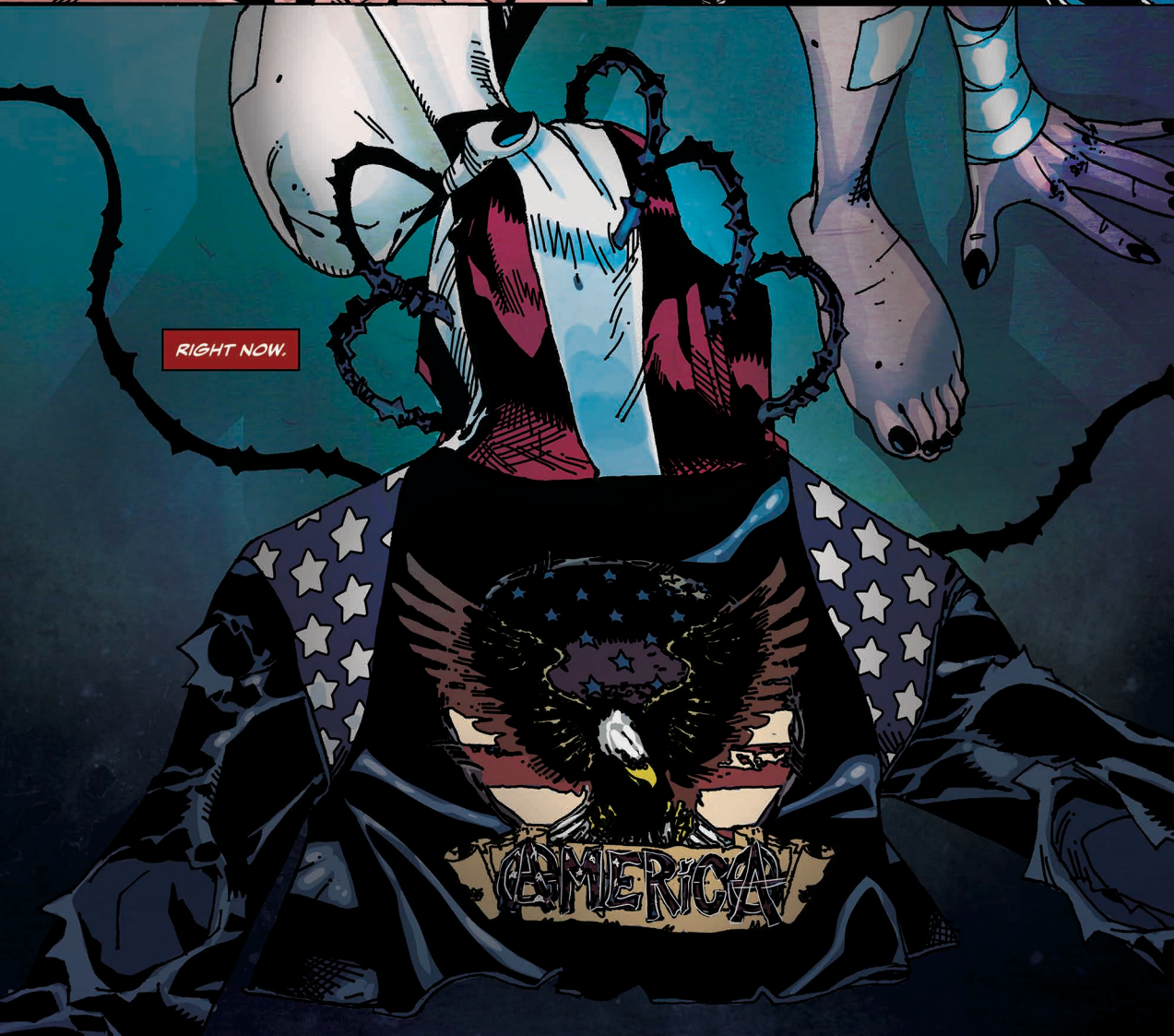
IT'S A HIGH THAT NO DRUG  
COULD COMPARE TO.



BUT THIS PAIN IS JUST THE SMALLEST  
PART OF THE FEELING. THE REAL  
THRILL IS EARNING THAT PAIN.



AND I WANT TO EARN  
SOME MORE...



RIGHT NOW.



PART  
TWO



proudly presents:

# AMERICA

WRITTEN BY JON HUGHES

ILLUSTRATED BY JASON PEARSON

COLORS BY JON HUGHES

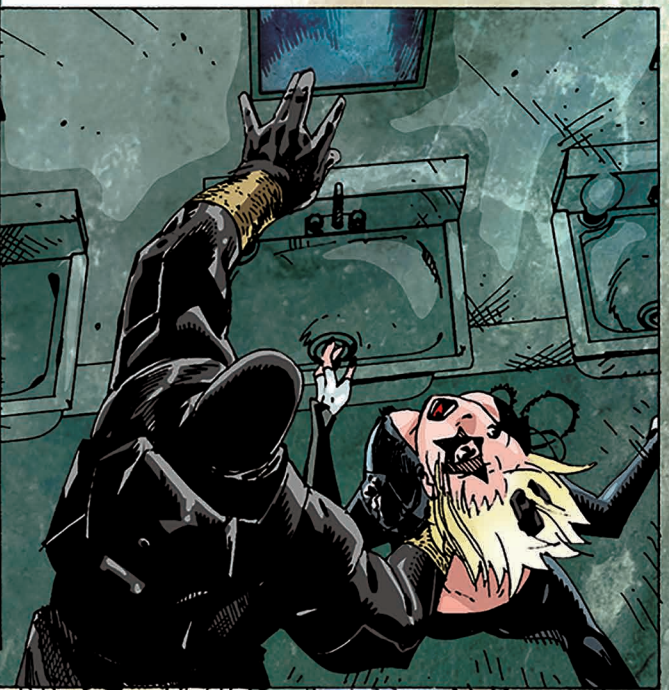
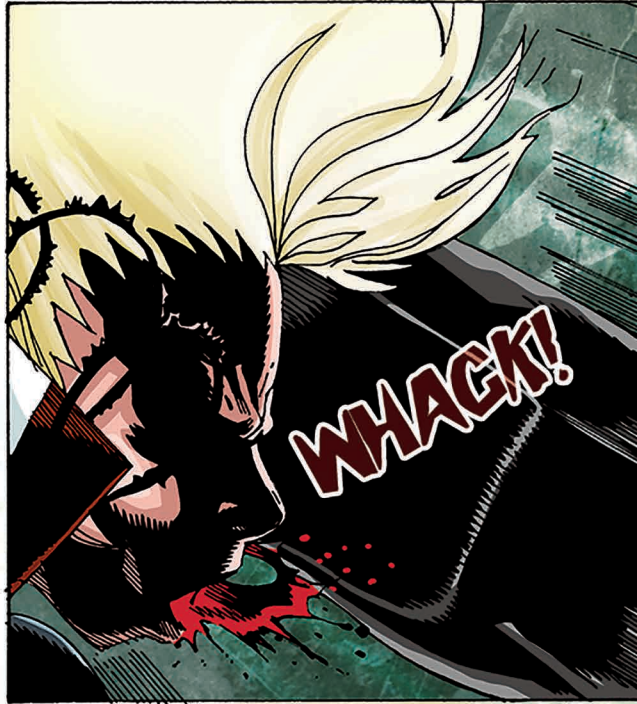
COLOR ASSISTS BY ZACH ZELLARS

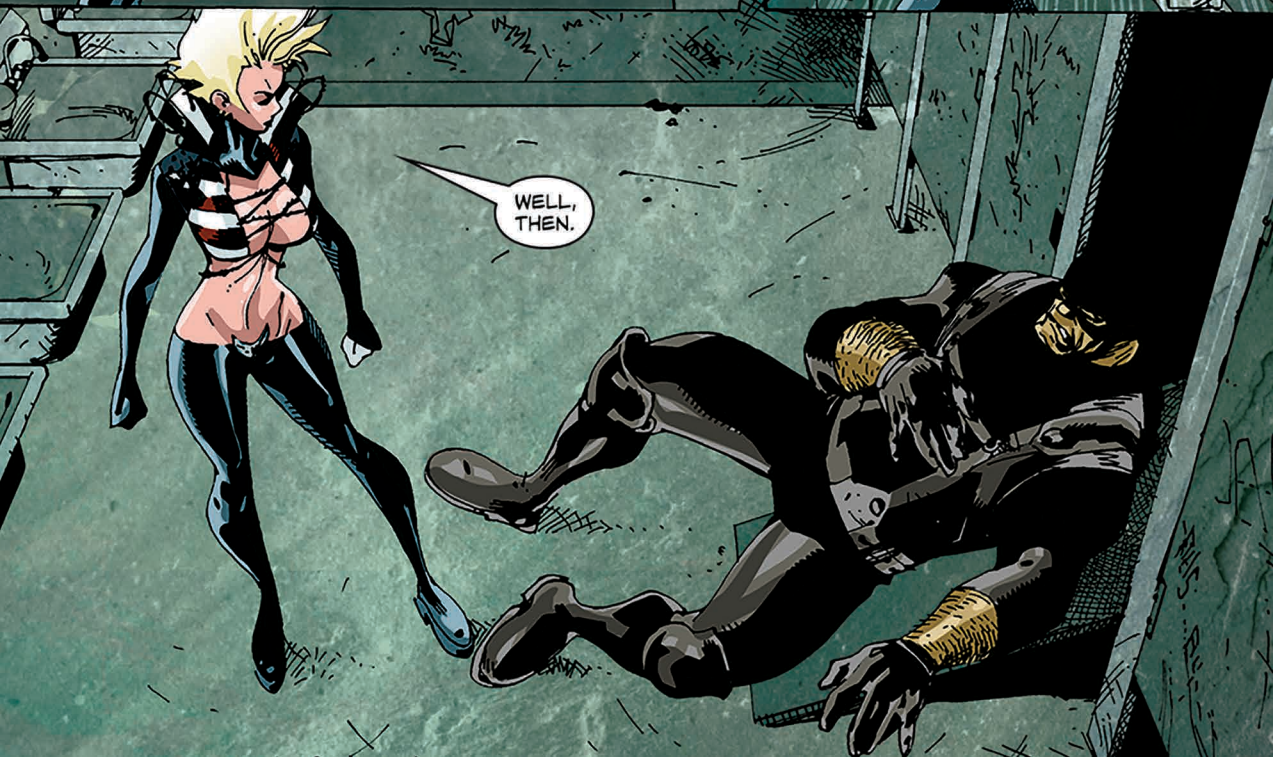
Change can be a difficult thing to deal with. Throughout life, we spend our time and resources developing an identity that we're comfortable with. The people we associate with, the jobs we have, our accomplishments, they are all parts of a picture we want the world to see as who we are. When things change, it's easy to feel like that identity is being stripped away from us, and that can be challenging. We make ourselves, and we don't want that taken away. The truth, though, is that change is unavoidable, but it is part of what makes us human. We are dynamic people, and sometimes we just have to roll with the punches, but nothing that comes from the outside can touch what's inside. Some things change, some things never will.

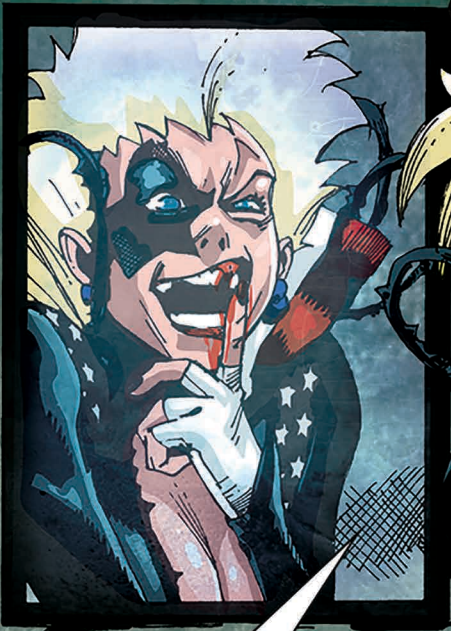
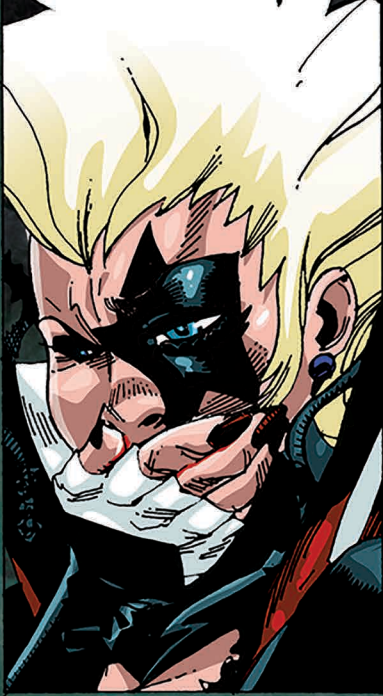
## CHAPTER TWO

# THE AMERICAN WAY









DAMMIT!



MY AGENT  
IS GONNA LOVE  
THAT.



THANKS  
A LOT, CREEP. I'VE  
NEVER LOST A TOOTH  
BEFORE.



KIND OF COOL,  
THOUGH. I GUESS I  
WONDERED WHAT THAT  
FELT LIKE.



WHAT DO YOU  
THINK? AM I STILL  
PRETTY?



WHAT?





WHAT THE HELL?

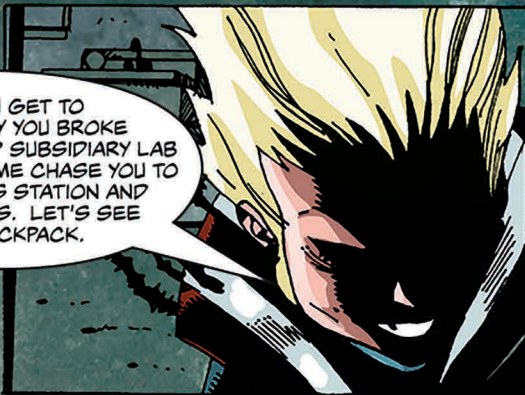
OH, SEE? I GIVE YOU A KISS AND YOU'RE COOL, BUT I GET A LITTLE KINKY AND YOU FREAK OUT. YOU'RE NOT MUCH OF A DATE.



OKAY, SO YOU RAN ME DOWN AND CAUGHT ME, NOW WHAT?



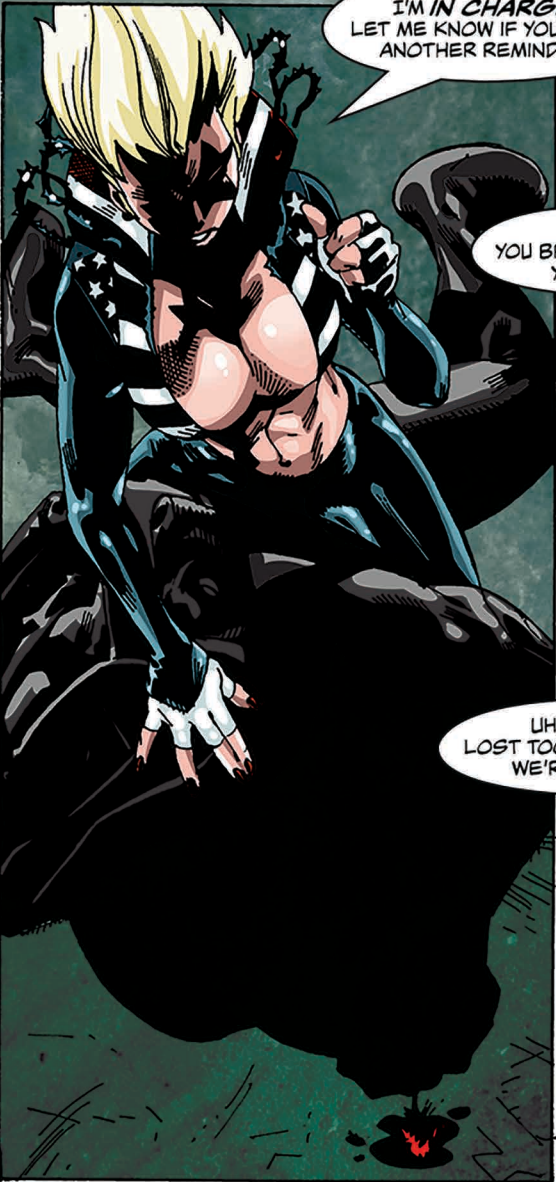
NOW YOU GET TO TELL ME WHY YOU BROKE INTO A HEROCORP SUBSIDIARY LAB AND THEN MADE ME CHASE YOU TO THIS DIRTY BUS STATION AND KICK YOUR ASS. LET'S SEE THAT BACKPACK.



THANK YOU!



WHO DO YOU  
THINK YOU ARE,  
ANYWAY?

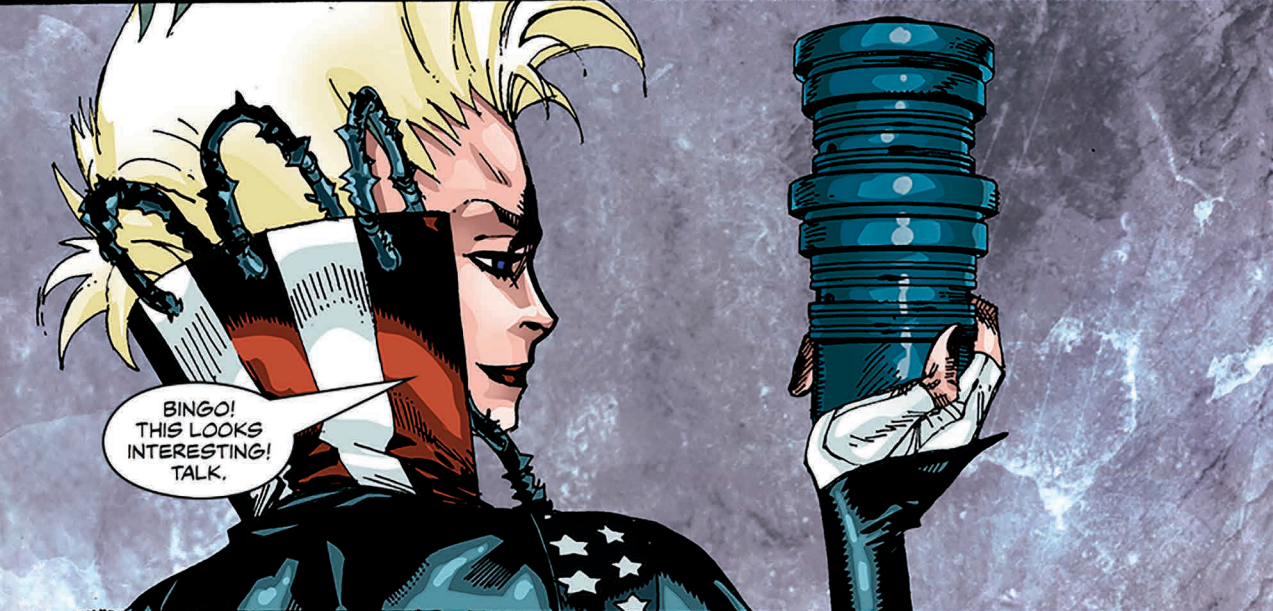


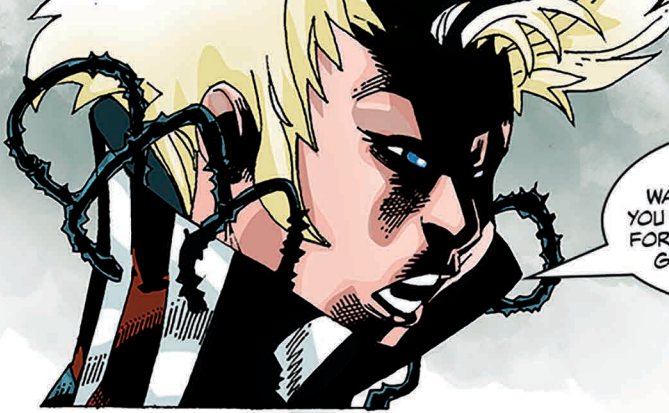
I'M IN CHARGE.  
LET ME KNOW IF YOU NEED  
ANOTHER REMINDER.

DAMMIT,  
YOU BROKE MY NOSE,  
YOU BITCH.



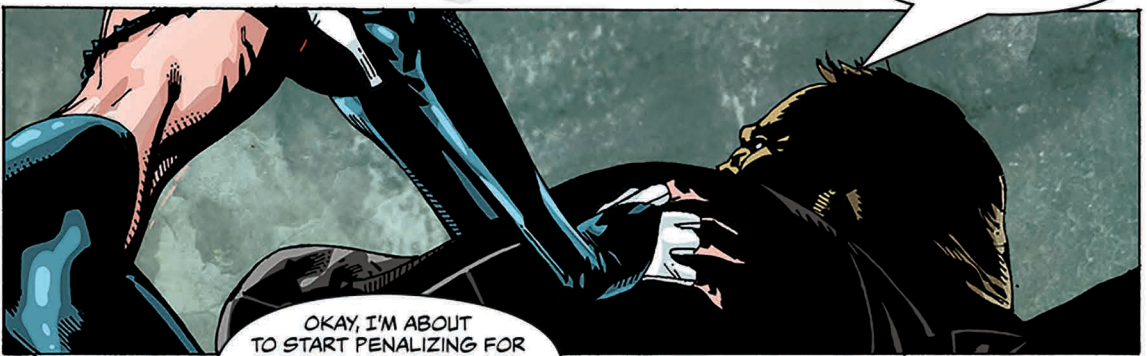
UH, HELLO?  
LOST TOOTH, REMEMBER?  
WE'RE EVEN NOW.



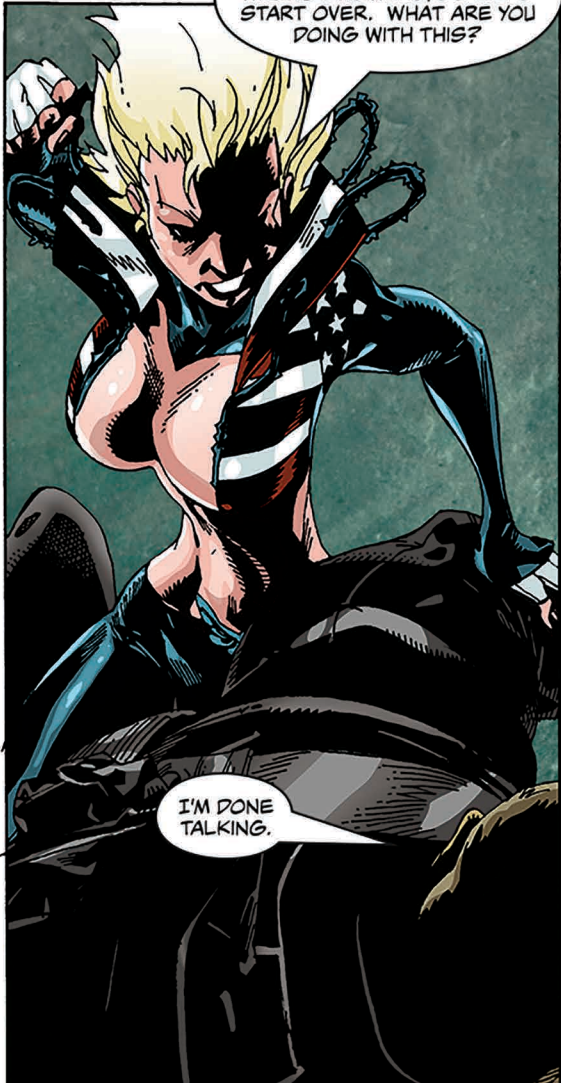


ERR!!! WRONG ANSWER! IF YOU JUST WANTED TO BE A SUPERHERO YOU WOULDN'T BE STEALING THE FORMULA, YOU'D BE APPLYING TO GET IT INJECTED, JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.

MAYBE I JUST DON'T WANT TO BE ON THE GRID.



OKAY, I'M ABOUT TO START PENALIZING FOR WRONG ANSWERS, SO LET'S START OVER. WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THIS?



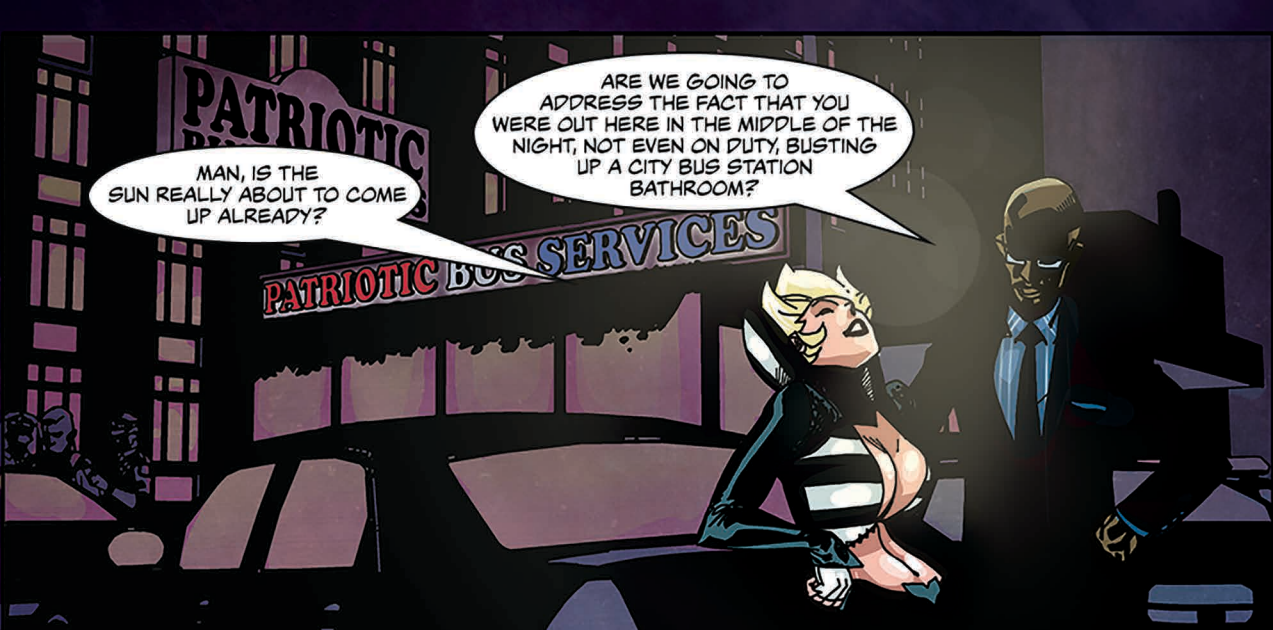
I'M DONE TALKING.



HAVE IT YOUR WAY, THEN.







MAN, IS THE SUN REALLY ABOUT TO COME UP ALREADY?

ARE WE GOING TO ADDRESS THE FACT THAT YOU WERE OUT HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, NOT EVEN ON DUTY, BUSTING UP A CITY BUS STATION BATHROOM?



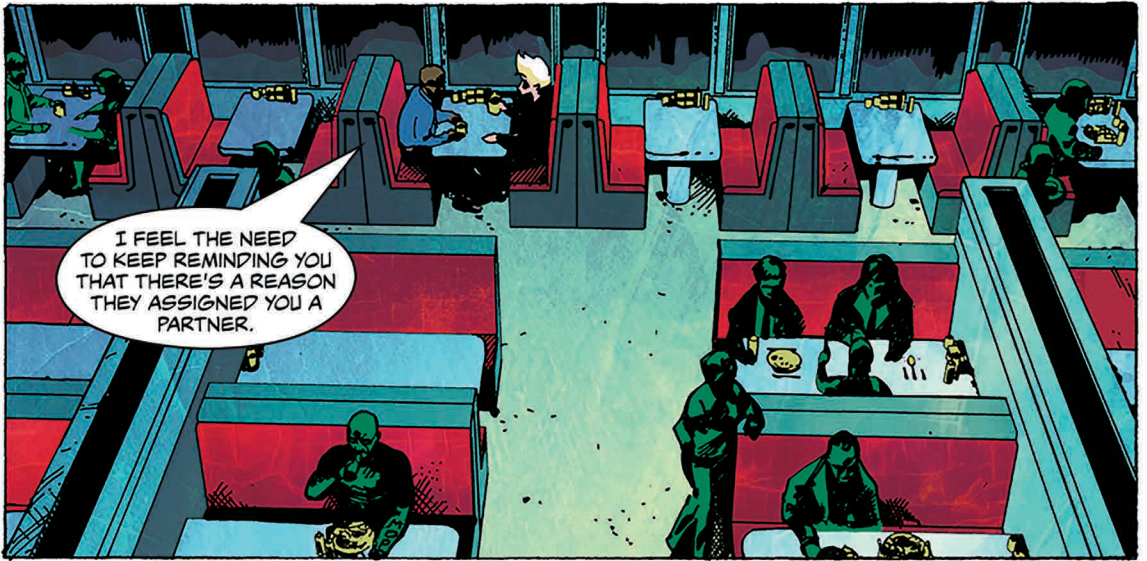
I COULD GO FOR A COFFEE. YOU WANNA GET SOME COFFEE?



OKAY, THEN. YOU'RE BUYING.

YOU TAKE THAT JUNK OFF BEFORE YOU GET IN MY CAR.

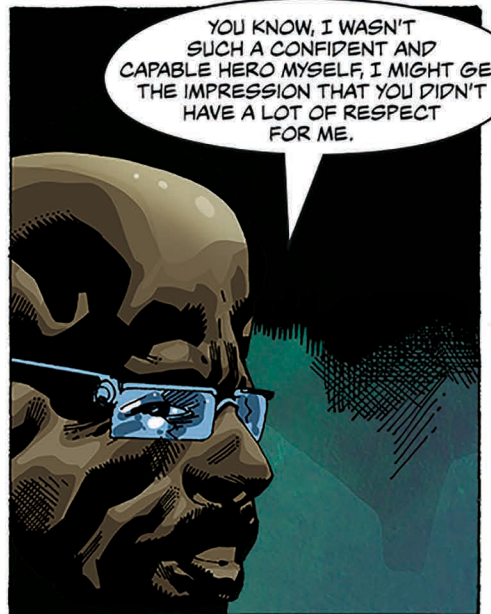




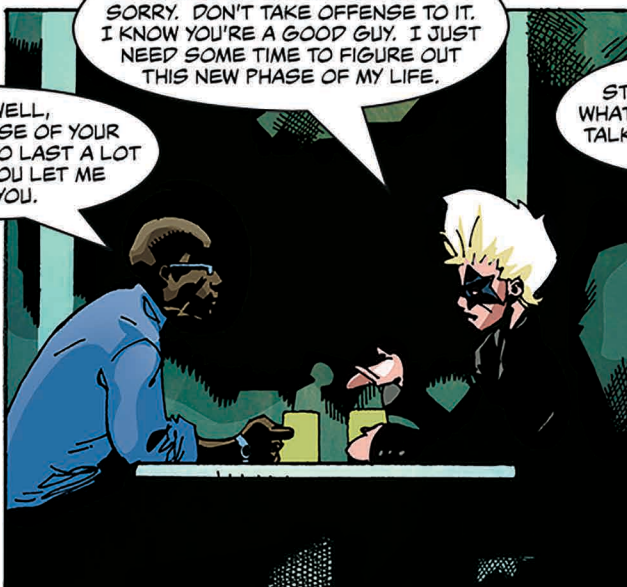
I FEEL THE NEED TO KEEP REMINDING YOU THAT THERE'S A REASON THEY ASSIGNED YOU A PARTNER.



I KNOW, MAN. I'M SORRY. I'M NOT TRYING TO CUT YOU OUT OF THE ACTION OR ANYTHING. I'M JUST USED TO WORKING ALONE.



YOU KNOW, I WASN'T SUCH A CONFIDENT AND CAPABLE HERO MYSELF, I MIGHT GET THE IMPRESSION THAT YOU DIDN'T HAVE A LOT OF RESPECT FOR ME.

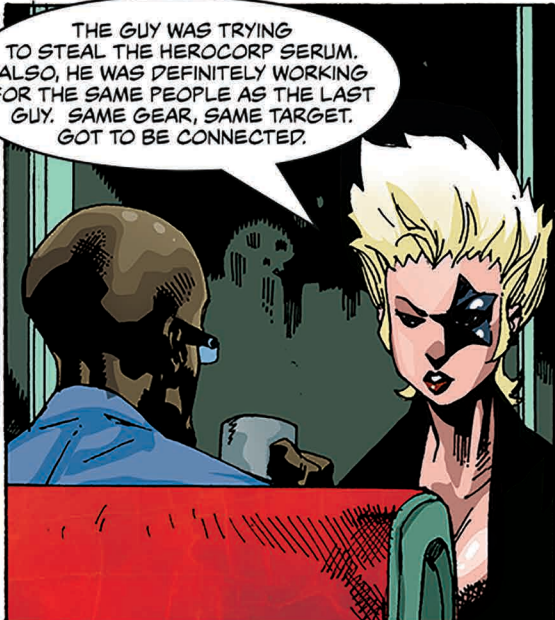


MARSHALL, I'M SCREWED UP. I'M REALLY SORRY. DON'T TAKE OFFENSE TO IT. I KNOW YOU'RE A GOOD GUY. I JUST NEED SOME TIME TO FIGURE OUT THIS NEW PHASE OF MY LIFE.

YEAH, WELL, THIS NEW PHASE OF YOUR LIFE IS GOING TO LAST A LOT LONGER IF YOU LET ME HELP YOU.




OKAY, LET'S STOP WORRYING ABOUT WHAT A SCREW UP I AM AND TALK ABOUT WHAT I FOUND OUT TONIGHT.



THE GUY WAS TRYING TO STEAL THE HEROCORP SERUM. ALSO, HE WAS DEFINITELY WORKING FOR THE SAME PEOPLE AS THE LAST GUY. SAME GEAR, SAME TARGET. GOT TO BE CONNECTED.

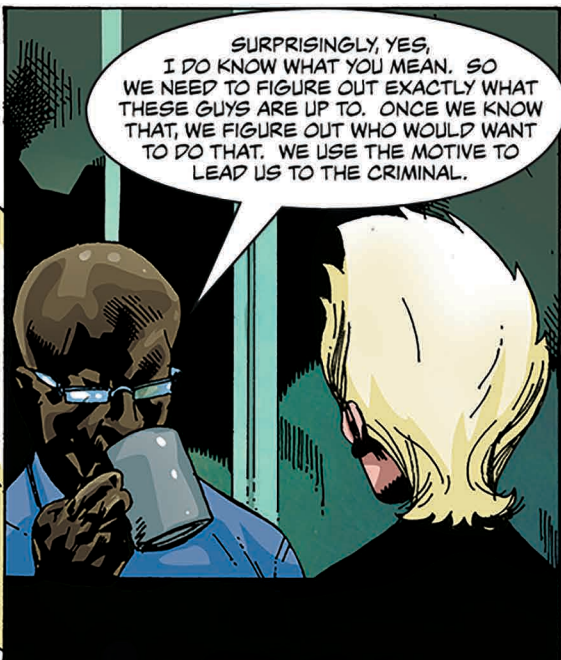


HEROCORP'S BEEN AROUND FOR A LONG TIME. WHY IS SOMEONE TRYING TO JACK WITH THEM NOW?

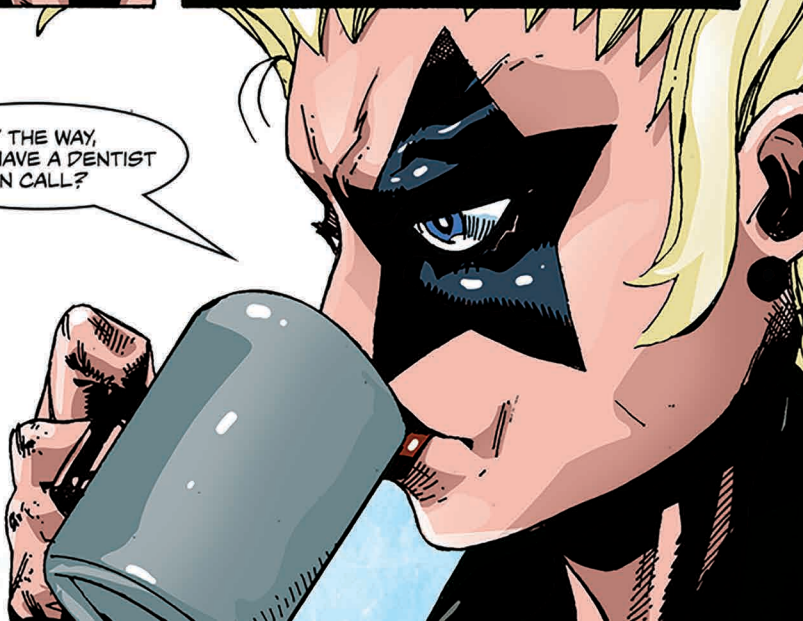


SEE, I'M NOT CONVINCED THAT'S WHAT'S GOING ON HERE. ON THE SURFACE, IT LOOKS LIKE CORPORATE ESPIONAGE, BUT I'M TEMPTED TO THINK IT'S SOMETHING ELSE THAT'S SUPPOSED TO LOOK LIKE THAT.

PLUS, NOBODY'S TALKING ABOUT THAT SECRET LAB BREAK IN THAT HAPPENED RECENTLY. YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?



SURPRISINGLY, YES, I DO KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN. SO WE NEED TO FIGURE OUT EXACTLY WHAT THESE GUYS ARE UP TO. ONCE WE KNOW THAT, WE FIGURE OUT WHO WOULD WANT TO DO THAT. WE USE THE MOTIVE TO LEAD US TO THE CRIMINAL.



BY THE WAY, DO WE HAVE A DENTIST ON CALL?



SO HOW'D IT GO?



I HAVE A FULL SET OF TEETH AGAIN!

WHILE YOU WERE GETTING ALL PRETTY AGAIN I ACTUALLY CONTRIBUTED TO THIS CASE. WE WERE FINALLY ABLE TO GET THE CITY TO RELEASE THE GRENADE FRAGMENTS FROM YOUR ADVENTURE THROUGH THE WINDOW A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO.

IT'S JUST GENERIC TECH. NOTHING SPECIAL THAT I CAN USE TO GIVE US ANY LEADS.



CONGRATULATIONS.

AWE, MAN. THIS CASE MUST HAVE YOU BORED TO TEARS. NOTHING FOR YOUR SUPER TECH BRAIN TO PLAY WITH. GOTTA SAY THOUGH, THE LACK OF A LEAD, IN THIS INSTANCE, IS A LEAD ITSELF.


IT ELIMINATES A LOT OF DOORS WE MIGHT HAVE GONE BUSTING DOWN LOOKING FOR ANSWERS. SO GOOD JOB!

COOL. WELL, I'M GONNA GO FIND SOMETHING DANGEROUS TO DO. WANNA COME? NO? THAT'S COOL.



THANKS. HOPEFULLY WHEN WE GET THAT CANISTER BACK THAT WAS CARRYING THE SERUM WE CAN GET A LEAD OFF OF THAT. PROBABLY WON'T, BUT IT'S A POSSIBILITY.






OH, YEAH.  
THAT'S THE STUFF RIGHT  
THERE.



YOU SURE DID PICK  
A BIG PIECE TO DO FOR YOUR  
FIRST ONE.




YEAH, LET'S JUST  
SAY THAT MY BODY WOULD'VE  
REJECTED ANY PRIOR ATTEMPTS  
TO THIS ONE, AND THINGS ARE  
DIFFERENT NOW. I'M  
ENJOYING THIS.



I HEAR THAT.  
EVERYBODY OUT THERE WANTS  
TO SPOIL THEMSELVES ON PLEASURE,  
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING SO MUCH MORE  
BEAUTIFUL ABOUT PAIN. NO AMOUNT  
OF HAPPINESS CAN MATCH THE  
INTENSITY OF PAIN.



OKAY  
MAN, WHATEVER  
YOU SAY.




I KNOW THAT  
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.  
I CAN SEE IT IN YOUR FACE EVERY  
TIME HE RESTS THAT NEEDLE  
ON YOUR SKIN.




YEAH. YOU SOME  
KIND OF CREEPER OR  
SOMETHING?



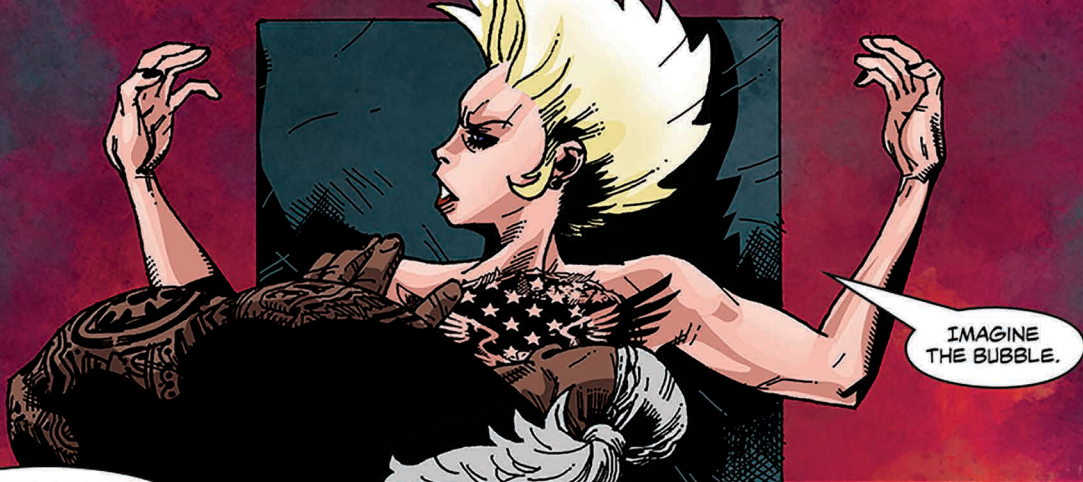
ISN'T  
EVERYONE?



I WOULD LIKE YOU TO  
IMAGINE A BIG BUBBLE AROUND  
ME ABOUT THIS BIG THAT NO CREEPER  
BULLSHIT CAN PENETRATE, OKAY?  
SO DON'T WASTE ANY  
MORE BREATH.



SUIT YOURSELF.  
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE RELIEVED  
TO MEET SOMEONE WHO UNDERSTOOD  
WHO YOU REALLY ARE. GUESS I  
WAS WRONG.



IMAGINE THE BUBBLE.

IT'S COOL. I WAS JUST LEAVING ANYWAY. SORRY TO HAVE BOTHERED YOU.

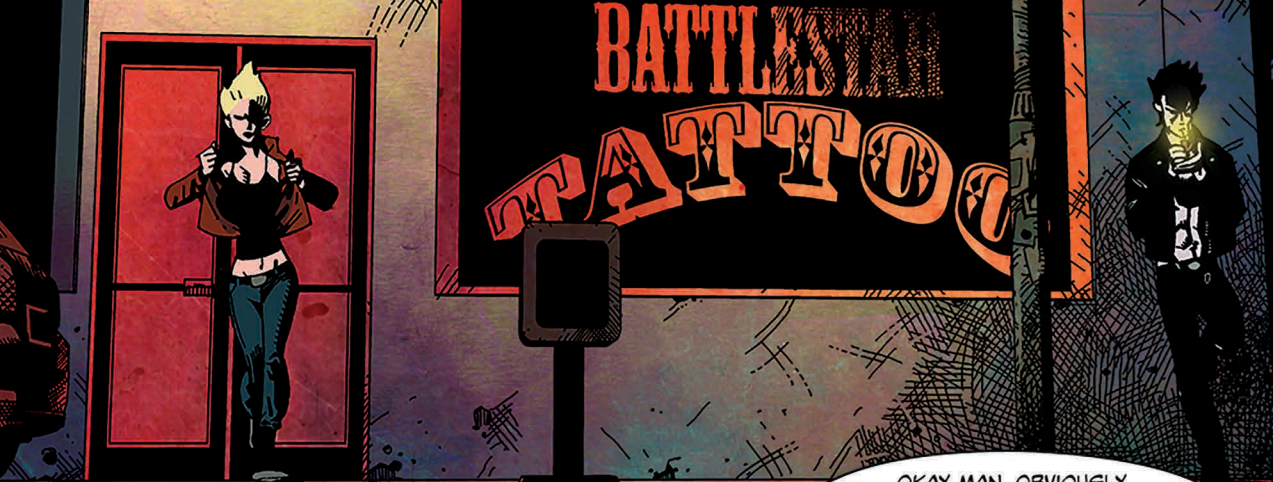


SEE YOU AROUND...

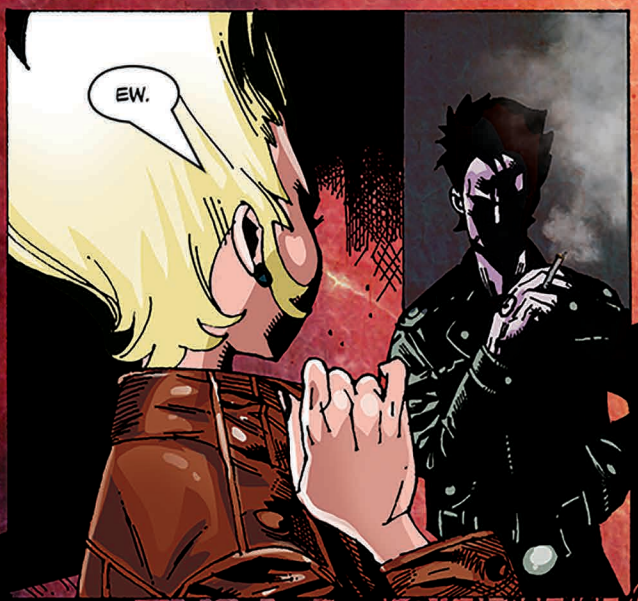


IS THERE NO EXPERIENCE THAT PEOPLE WON'T RUIN?





OKAY, MAN. OBVIOUSLY YOU'RE WAITING OUT HERE FOR ME, SO INSTEAD OF PRETENDING TO IGNORE YOU AND HOPING THAT YOU'LL GO AWAY, I'M GOING TO FIRMLY INSTRUCT YOU TO GO AWAY. GOT IT?



EW.



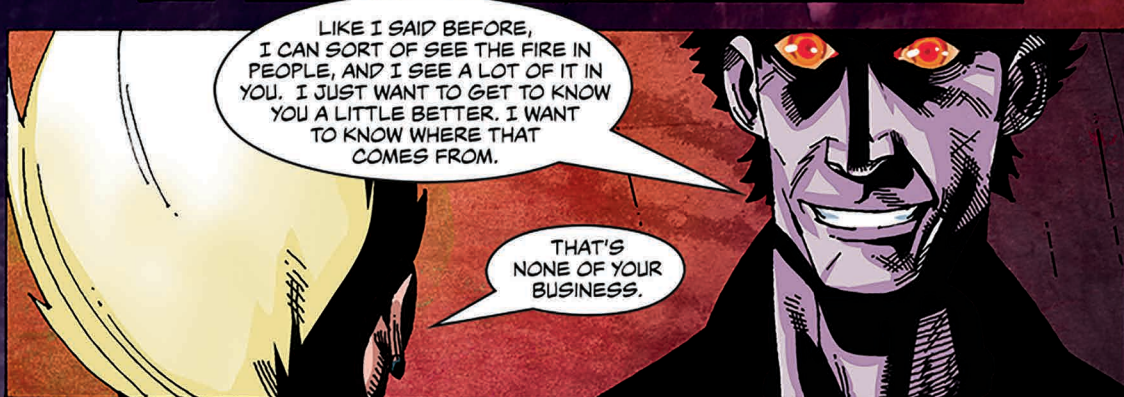
I THINK WE GOT OFF TO A BAD START. I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT. BUT I DID MEAN WHAT I SAID IN THERE. I'M SORT OF NOT THE AVERAGE PERSON. I CAN SEE THINGS IN PEOPLE, AND I KNOW WHAT DRIVES YOU. I FIND YOU VERY INTRIGUING.



I DON'T THINK YOU KNOW A THING ABOUT ME.

NOW SEE, YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE.



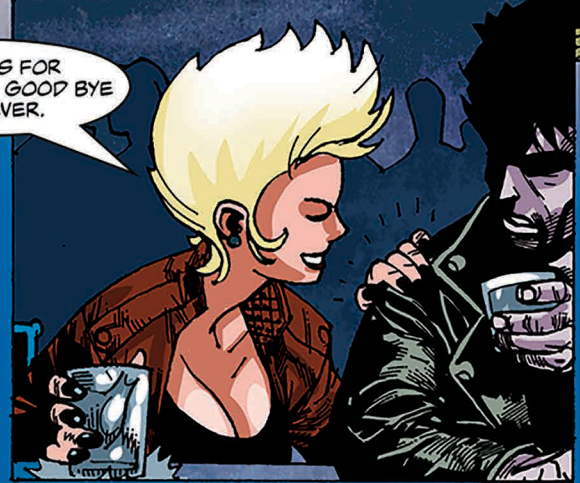




SILVER  
TEQUILA, DOUBLE.



THANKS FOR  
THE DRINK. GOOD BYE  
FOREVER.



HEY, COME  
ON. YOU KNOW THAT'S  
NOT FAIR.



YEAH, LIFE'S  
NOT FAIR. GET  
OVER IT.



I WAS TRYING TO BE COOL WITH YOU, BUT NOW THINGS ARE GOING TO GET REAL BAD FOR YOU.

DID YOU JUST THREATEN A WOMAN IN A BAR?



I THINK THAT'S GOING TO GO REALLY BADLY FOR YOU, MAN.

THE ONLY THING THESE MEN HAVE A PROBLEM WITH IS YOU.



COMING INTO A PLACE LIKE THIS, DRESSED LIKE A SLUT, PUSHING YOUR TITS AND YOUR ASS IN EVERYONE'S FACE, TEASING THEM, AND THEN IGNORING THEM. THAT'S THEIR PROBLEM.



WHOA! DID YOU JUST MAKE ALL OF THESE GUYS GET CRAZY MAD AT ME WITH YOUR MIND OR SOMETHING?



OH, YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT. THIS IS GOING TO GET A LOT WOR-



OKAY, EVERYONE COOL NOW? ANYONE STILL MAD AT ME?



MARSHALL, MY FRIEND! YOU'RE GOING TO BE SO PROUD OF ME! I ONLY HIT THIS GUY ONE TIME BEFORE I CALLED YOU! HE IS UNCONSCIOUS THOUGH. HOW SOON CAN YOU BE AT THE BAR DOWNTOWN?

AND MORE GOOD NEWS! I'M PRETTY SURE WE JUST GOT OUR FIRST REAL LEAD IN THIS CASE. OKAY, SEE YOU IN A FEW.



SHOULD HAVE STUCK TO THE DEAL, ASSHOLE.



**PART  
THREE**





proudly presents:

# AMERICA

WRITTEN BY JON HUGHES

ILLUSTRATED BY ALE' GARZA

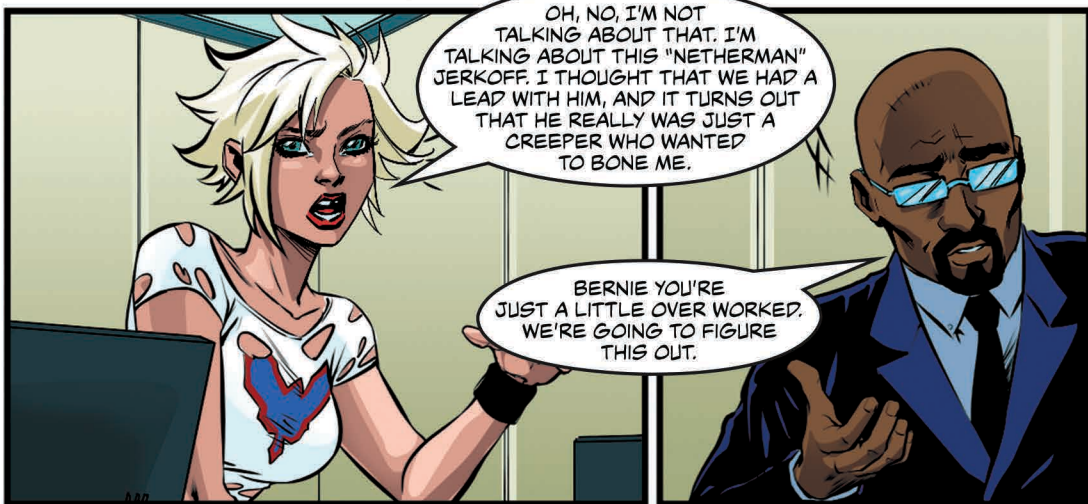
COLOR ASSISTS BY ZACH ZELLARS

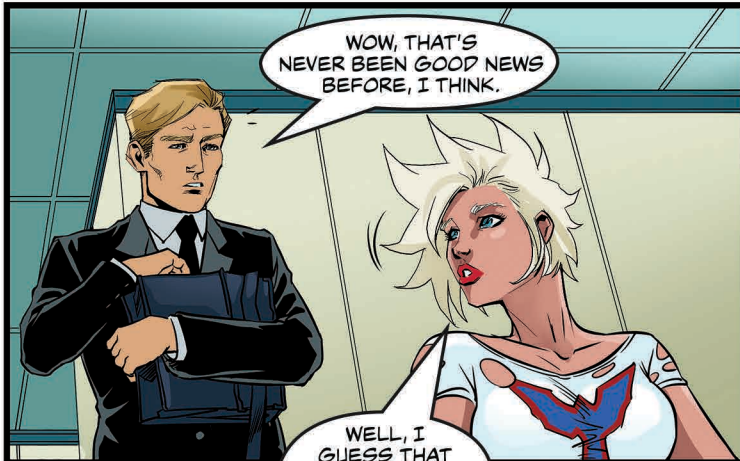
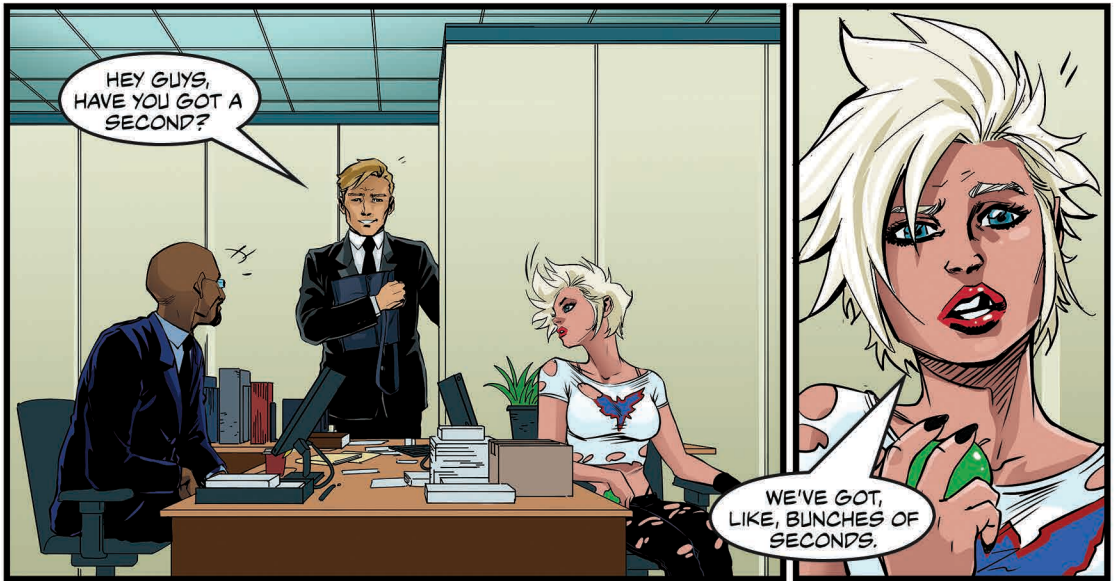
COLORED BY JON HUGHES

Bernadette Callaway had it all. Or did she? Power, fame and fortune can be a distraction that convinces one that all of their troubles are in the past, but the past is a tricky thing. It can be both behind you and looming in front of you at the same time. Before Bernadette became the larger than life hero known as America, she felt small, weak, and overlooked. But what is true of her? With those powers now a memory, does the small, weak and overlooked Bernadette return, or did she ever really even exist at all?

## CHAPTER THREE

# MISSED OPPORTUNITIES AND LESSONS LEARNED







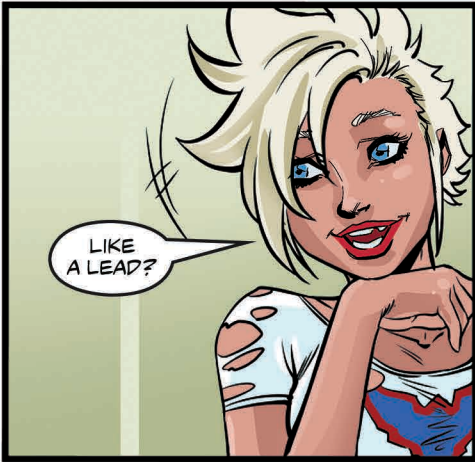


MARSHALL IS LIKE A TECHNOLOGICAL PSYCHIC. HE'LL STUDY A DEVICE, AND WORK HIS WAY BACK THROUGH EVERYTHING ABOUT IT, WHY IT WAS BUILT, AND SOMETIMES EVEN WHO BUILT IT.



IT'S WEIRD. I STILL DON'T GET IT.

I DON'T REALLY GET IT, EITHER, BUT I KNOW HOW TO DO IT. AND I THINK WE'VE GOT SOMETHING HERE.



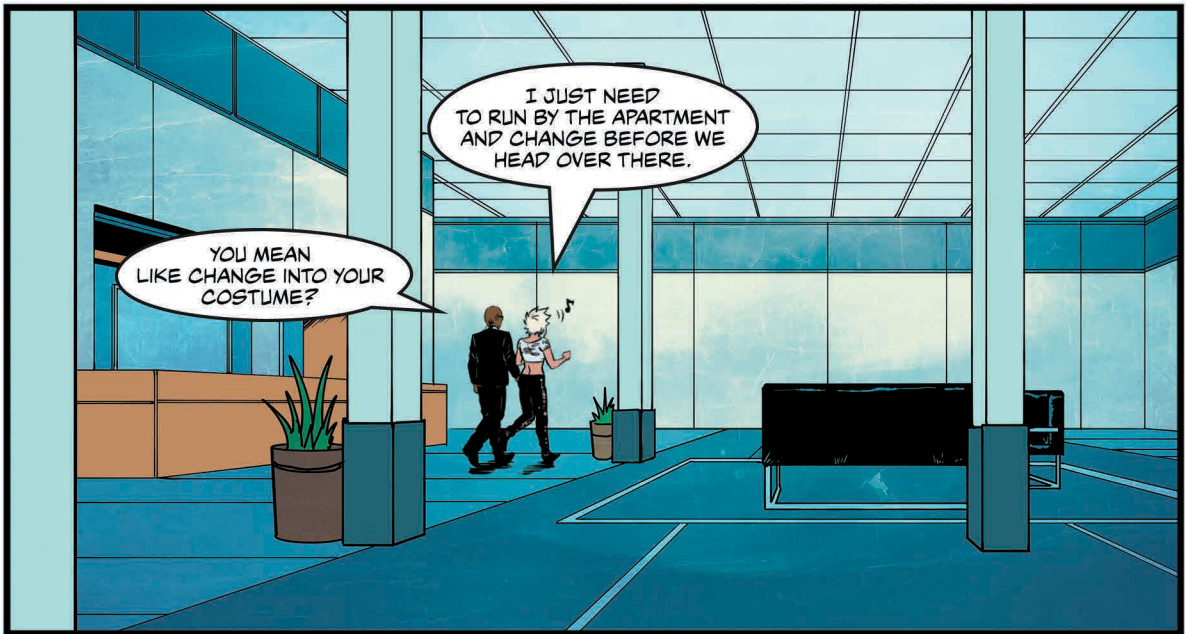
LIKE A LEAD?



MOST DEFINITELY.



HALLELUJAH! THANK GOD FOR YOU, YOU WEIRDO.



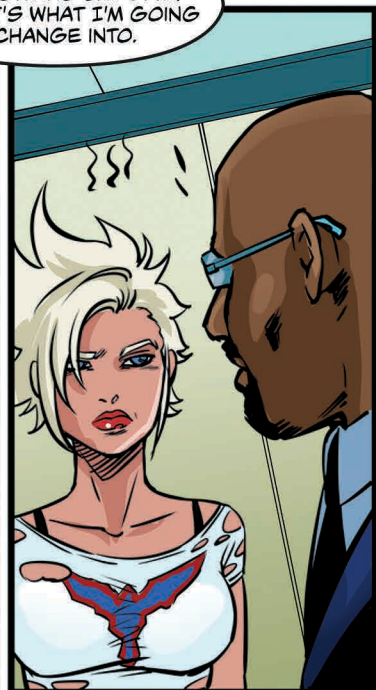
YOU MEAN LIKE CHANGE INTO YOUR COSTUME?



YOU MEAN MY CRIME FIGHTING UNIFORM? YES, THAT'S WHAT I'M GOING TO CHANGE INTO.



BERNIE, WE'RE JUST GOING OVER THERE TO ASK SOME QUESTIONS. I DON'T EXPECT ANY TROUBLE. IF WE CONFIRM WHAT I GLEANED FROM THE CANISTER, THEN WE'LL PROBABLY NEED BACKUP ANYWAY.



BERNIE...



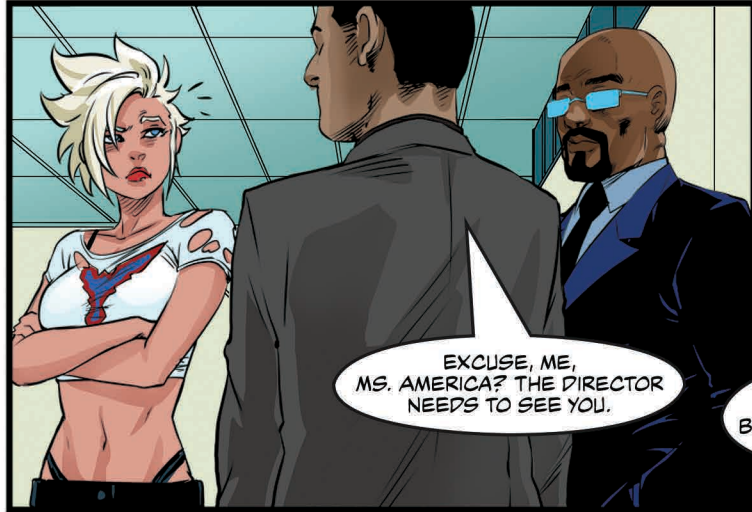
OH, I GET IT. SINCE I'M NOT INVINCIBLE ANYMORE, I'M A TOTAL WEAKLING.

I DIDN'T SAY THAT. DON'T PUT WORDS IN MY MOUTH.

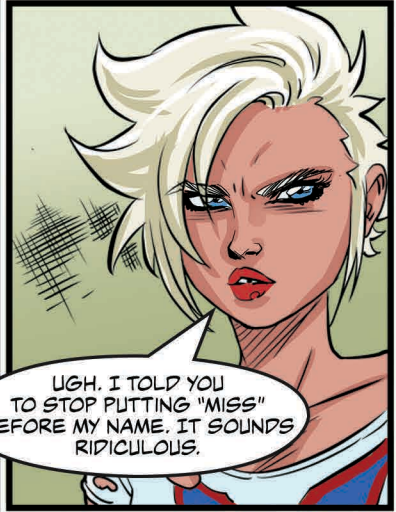
LOOK, I DON'T NEED ANYONE WORRIED ABOUT ME. I'M GONNA SUIT UP, LIKE I ALWAYS HAVE, AND I'M GOING TO GO GET SOME ANSWERS, AND IF I DON'T, I'M GONNA CRACK SOME SKULLS. GOT IT?



BERNIE, PLEASE.



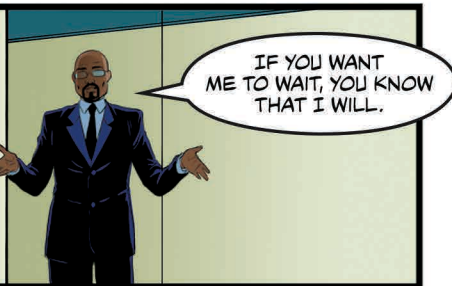
EXCUSE ME, MS. AMERICA? THE DIRECTOR NEEDS TO SEE YOU.



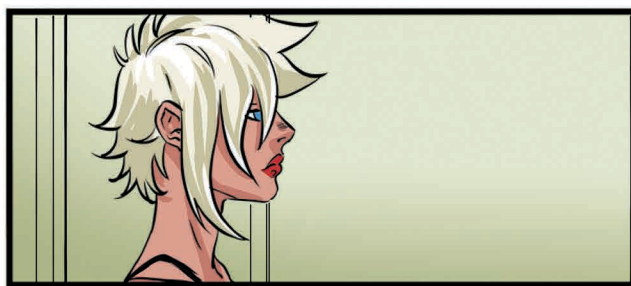
UGH. I TOLD YOU TO STOP PUTTING "MISS" BEFORE MY NAME. IT SOUNDS RIDICULOUS.



YOU WANT TO WAIT FOR ME, OR YOU WANT TO JUST GO SINCE I'M USELESS ANYWAY?



IF YOU WANT ME TO WAIT, YOU KNOW THAT I WILL.





I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU WITHIN THE HOUR. AND DON'T GET YOURSELF INTO ANY TROUBLE.



YES MA'AM. I WON'T BE LONG.



I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT THIS IS ABOUT, DO YOU?

I DON'T KNOW, BUT THE DIRECTOR DID SEEM PRETTY UPSET.



WELL, WHEN IS A LAW ENFORCEMENT DIRECTOR NOT UPSET?



GOOD TO SEE YOU BERNADETTE. COME IN.



IS IT? I HEARD YOU WERE A LITTLE RILED UP FOR THIS VISIT.



OH, IS THAT WHY YOU SUSPECT ME OF BEING UPSET? IT'S BECAUSE YOU HEARD THAT I MIGHT BE UPSET?



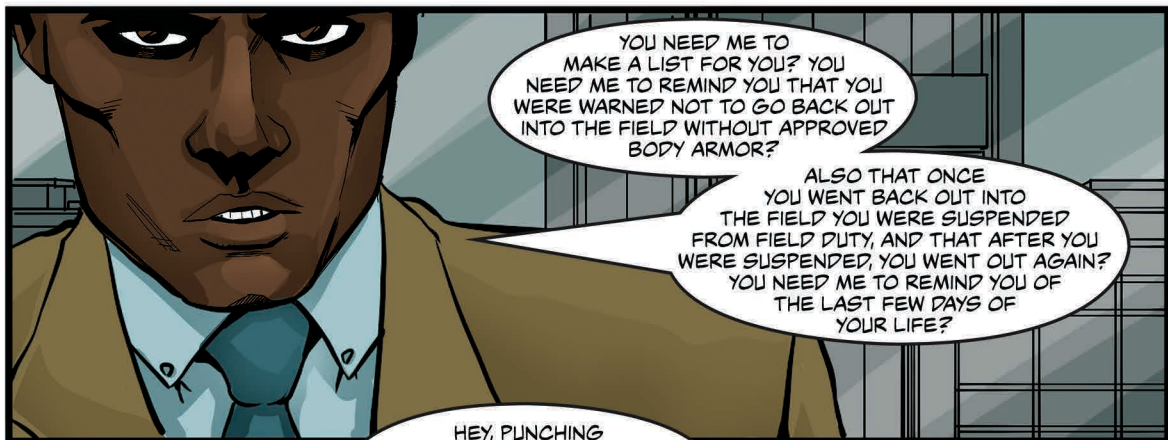
WELL, YEAH. MAKES SENSE, RIGHT?



SURE. IT DOES. I THOUGHT, THOUGH, THAT YOU WERE SMART ENOUGH TO ALREADY EXPECT ME TO BE UPSET WITH YOU, GIVEN ALL OF THE NONSENSE YOU'VE BEEN UP TO RECENTLY.



EXCUSE ME?



YOU NEED ME TO MAKE A LIST FOR YOU? YOU NEED ME TO REMIND YOU THAT YOU WERE WARNED NOT TO GO BACK OUT INTO THE FIELD WITHOUT APPROVED BODY ARMOR?

ALSO THAT ONCE YOU WENT BACK OUT INTO THE FIELD YOU WERE SUSPENDED FROM FIELD DUTY, AND THAT AFTER YOU WERE SUSPENDED, YOU WENT OUT AGAIN? YOU NEED ME TO REMIND YOU OF THE LAST FEW DAYS OF YOUR LIFE?



HEY, PUNCHING THAT DIRTBAG IN THE BAR DOESN'T COUNT AS FIELD WORK. I WAS JUST MINDING MY OWN BUSINESS AND HE ATTACKED ME, OKAY?

FAIR ENOUGH. SO WHERE WERE YOU HEADING JUST NOW, BEFORE I CALLED YOU UP HERE?

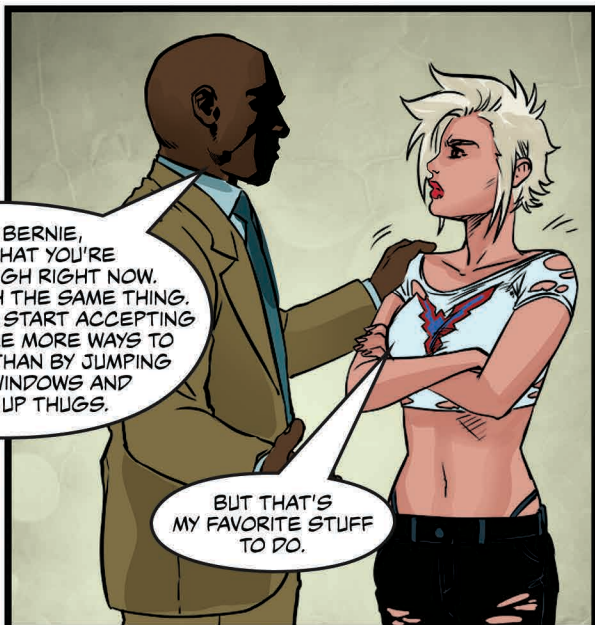


HOW DID YOU EVEN KNOW I WAS LEAVING? DO YOU HAVE ONE OF THOSE BIG WALLS OF MONITORS IN HERE OR SOMETHING?

MAYBE. OR I MIGHT JUST BE GOOD AT MY JOB.

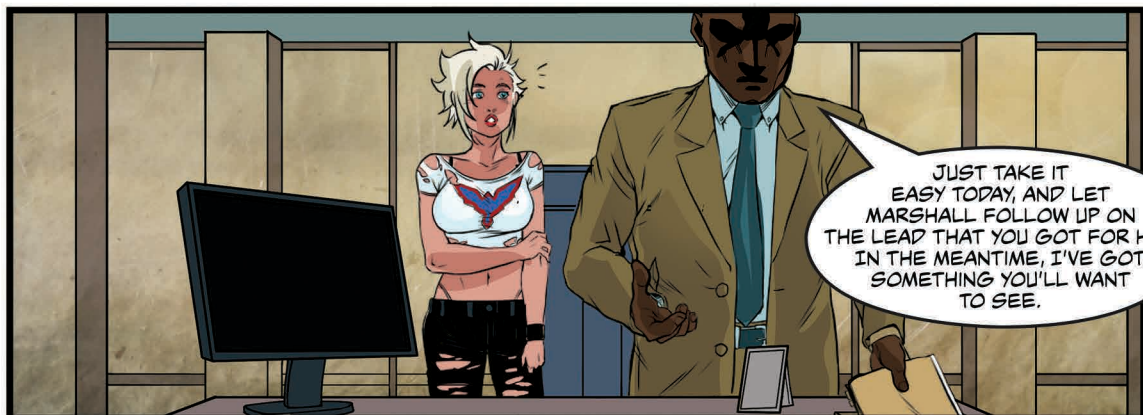
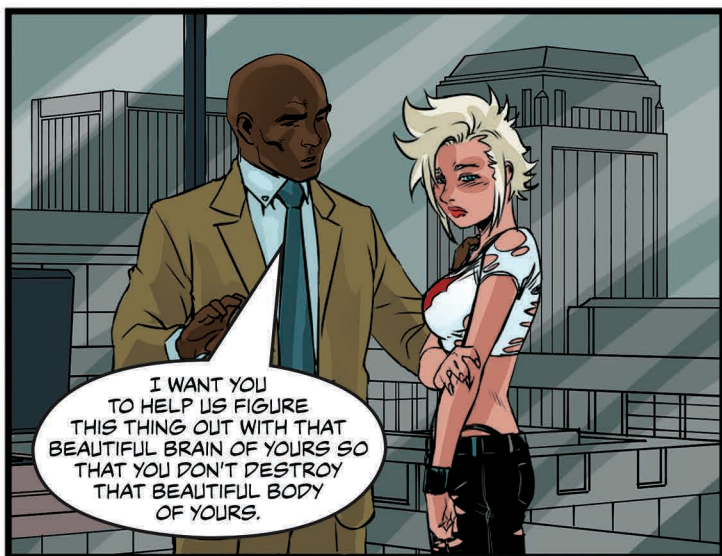


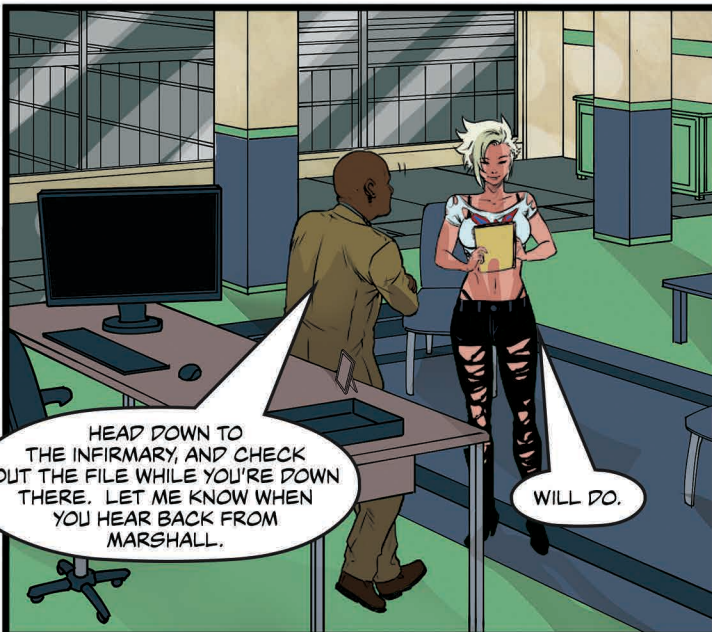
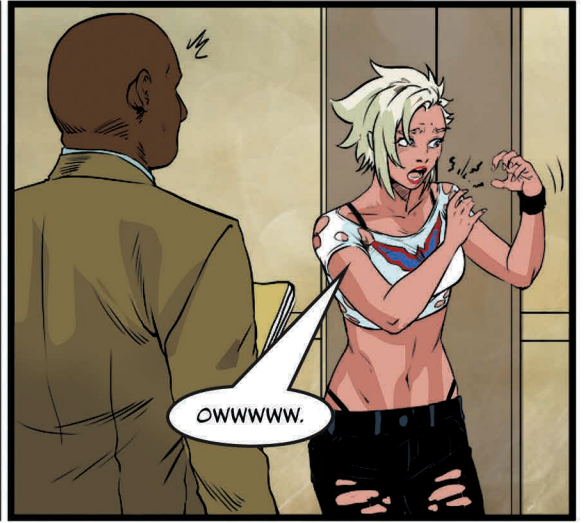
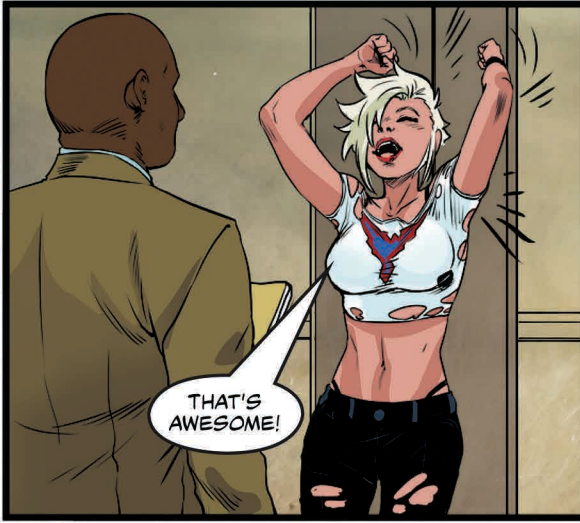
YEAH, I KNOW YOU ARE, TANK.



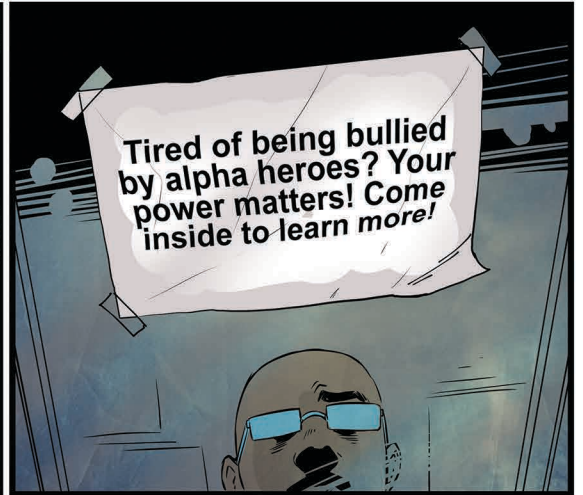
LOOK, BERNIE, I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH RIGHT NOW. I WENT THROUGH THE SAME THING. BUT YOU NEED TO START ACCEPTING THAT THERE ARE MORE WAYS TO HELP PEOPLE THAN BY JUMPING THROUGH WINDOWS AND BEATING UP THUGS.

BUT THAT'S MY FAVORITE STUFF TO DO.

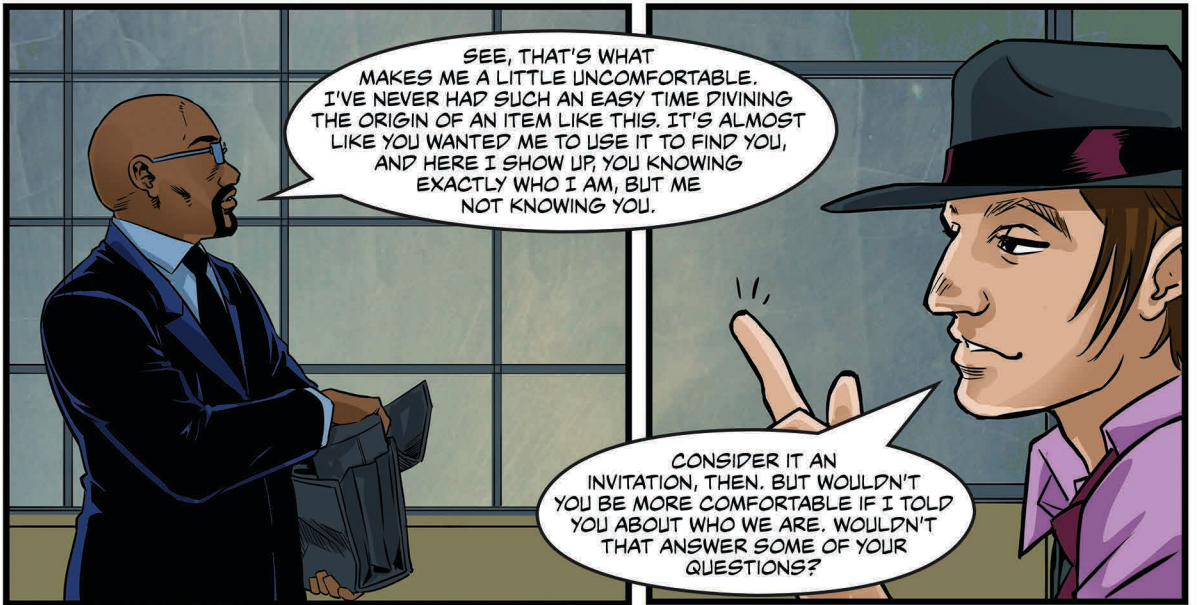












SEE, THAT'S WHAT MAKES ME A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE. I'VE NEVER HAD SUCH AN EASY TIME DIVINING THE ORIGIN OF AN ITEM LIKE THIS. IT'S ALMOST LIKE YOU WANTED ME TO USE IT TO FIND YOU, AND HERE I SHOW UP, YOU KNOWING EXACTLY WHO I AM, BUT ME NOT KNOWING YOU.

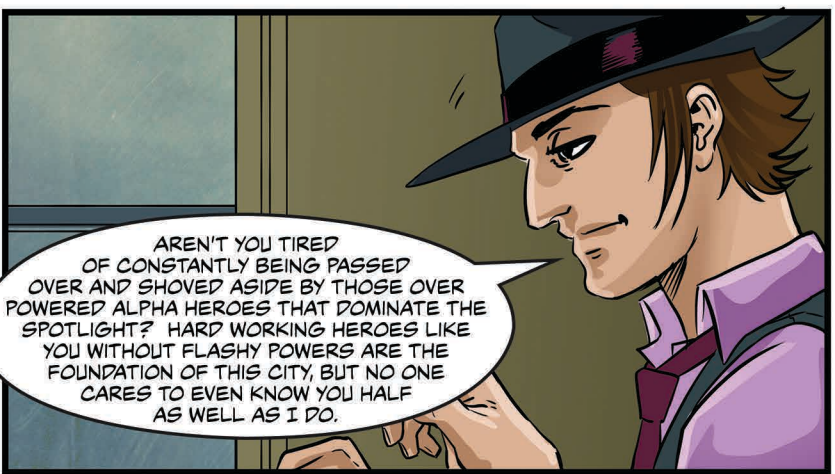
CONSIDER IT AN INVITATION, THEN. BUT WOULDN'T YOU BE MORE COMFORTABLE IF I TOLD YOU ABOUT WHO WE ARE. WOULDN'T THAT ANSWER SOME OF YOUR QUESTIONS?



I'M SCHEDULED TO CHECK IN WITH MY PARTNER IN ABOUT 8 MINUTES. I'M EITHER GOING TO CALL IN A SEARCH OF THIS PREMISES, OR I'M GOING TO HAPPILY REPORT YOUR COOPERATION. SAY WHATEVER YOU WANT, BUT KEEP THAT IN MIND.



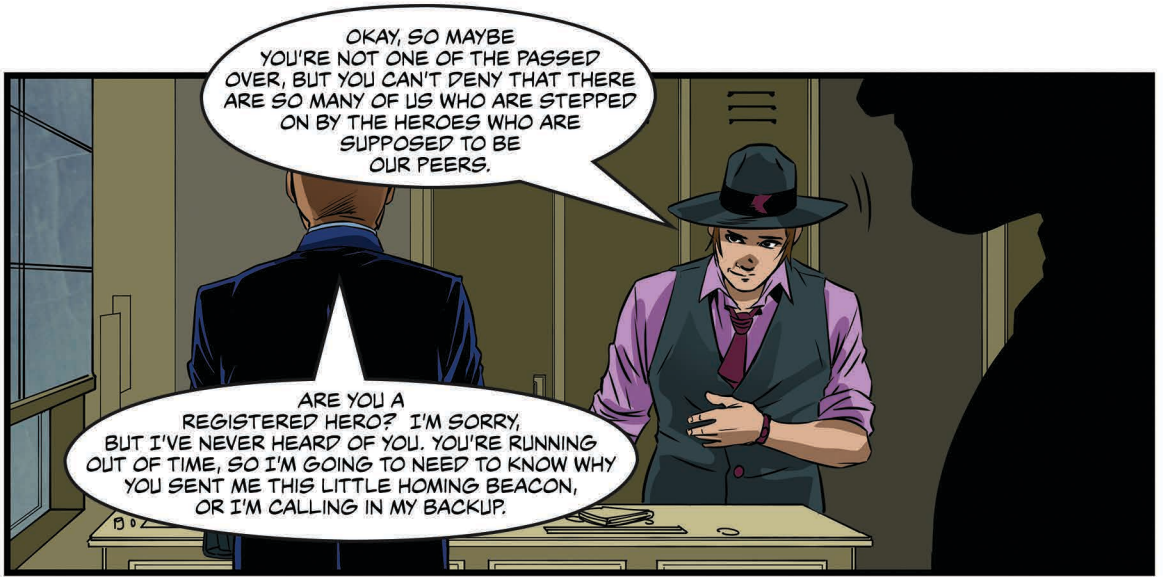
MR. WYNN, I AM YOUR FRIEND HERE.



AREN'T YOU TIRED OF CONSTANTLY BEING PASSED OVER AND SHOVED ASIDE BY THOSE OVER POWERED ALPHA HEROES THAT DOMINATE THE SPOTLIGHT? HARD WORKING HEROES LIKE YOU WITHOUT FLASHY POWERS ARE THE FOUNDATION OF THIS CITY, BUT NO ONE CARES TO EVEN KNOW YOU HALF AS WELL AS I DO.



I ACTUALLY LIKE MY JOB, AND I'VE NEVER ASKED FOR ANY CONGRATULATIONS FOR IT. YOU HAVE 7 MINUTES LEFT, SIR.





I HAVE ACQUIRED AN OBSOLETE PIECE OF TECH, FORMERLY THE PROPERTY OF YOUR COMPANY. NOW, I ADMIT THAT I DID NOT ACQUIRE THIS ASSET CONVENTIONALLY, BUT IT WAS TOO IMPORTANT TO LET BUREAUCRACY HINDER MY ATTAINING THE ITEM. I'D LIKE YOU TO LOOK AT IT FOR ME AND SEE WHAT YOU THINK OF IT.



DID YOU JUST TELL ME THAT YOU HAVE A STOLEN PIECE OF HEROCORP TECHNOLOGY ON THIS PREMISES?



I DID, BUT PLEASE DON'T LOSE SIGHT OF WHAT'S IMPORTANT HERE...



YOUR TIME IS UP.

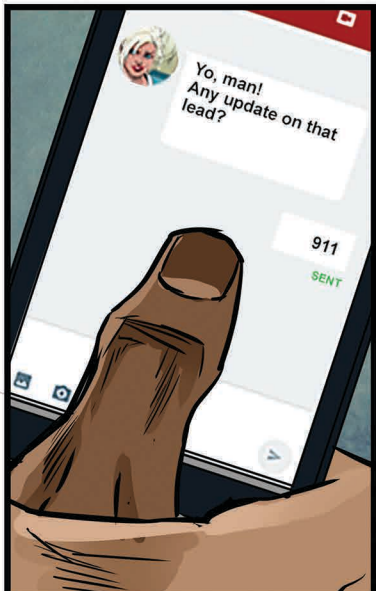
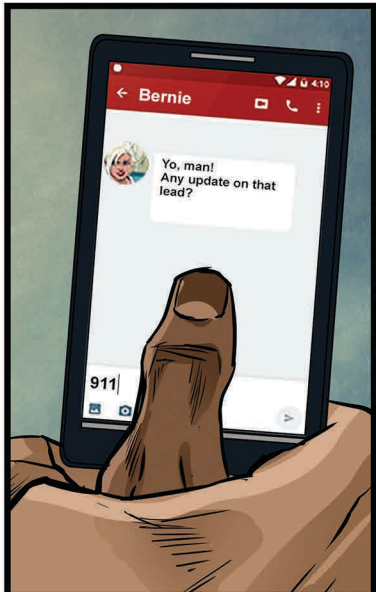
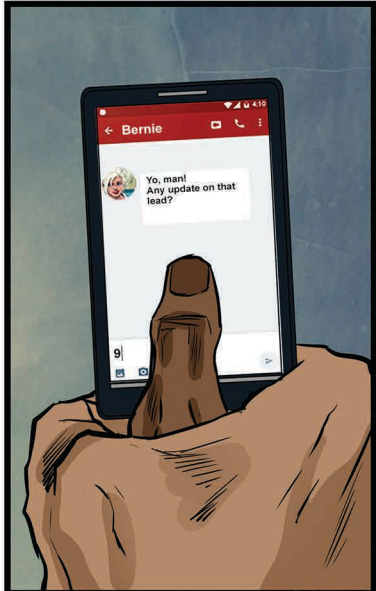


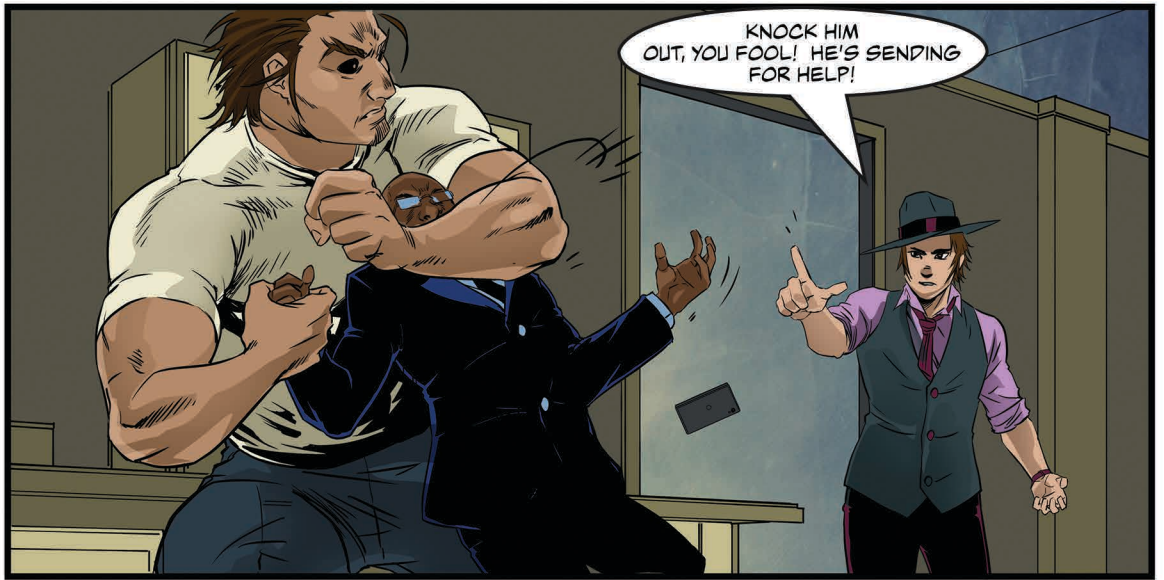
HEY!



MY FRIEND HERE HAS THE ABILITY TO INCREASE HIS MASS WHEN HE SENSES DANGER. NOT A VALUABLE ASSET TO YOUR HEROCORP, BUT HE'S A GOOD FRIEND TO ME, AND APPARENTLY YOU'VE PUT HIM OFF A BIT.







KNOCK HIM OUT, YOU FOOL! HE'S SENDING FOR HELP!



I HAD HIS HAND TIGHT. HE COULDN'T HAVE SENT A MESSAGE.



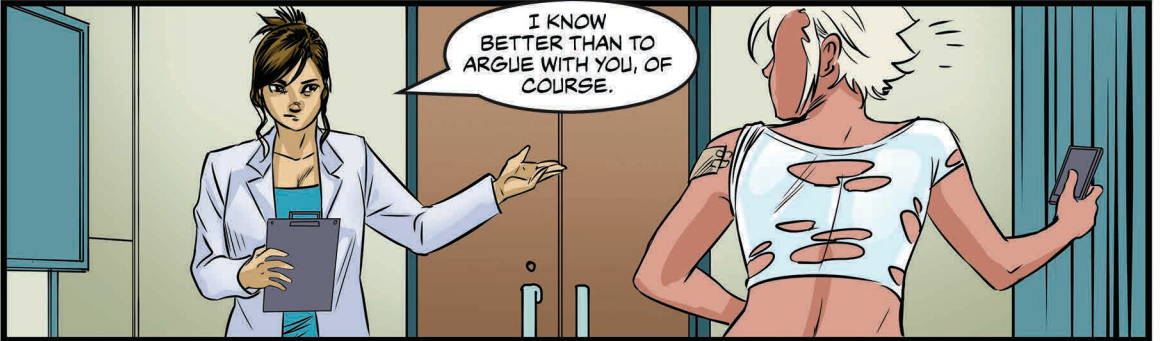
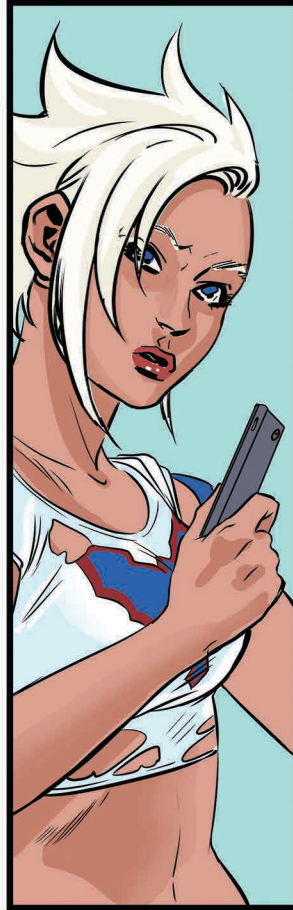
HE DIDN'T NEED HIS HAND.



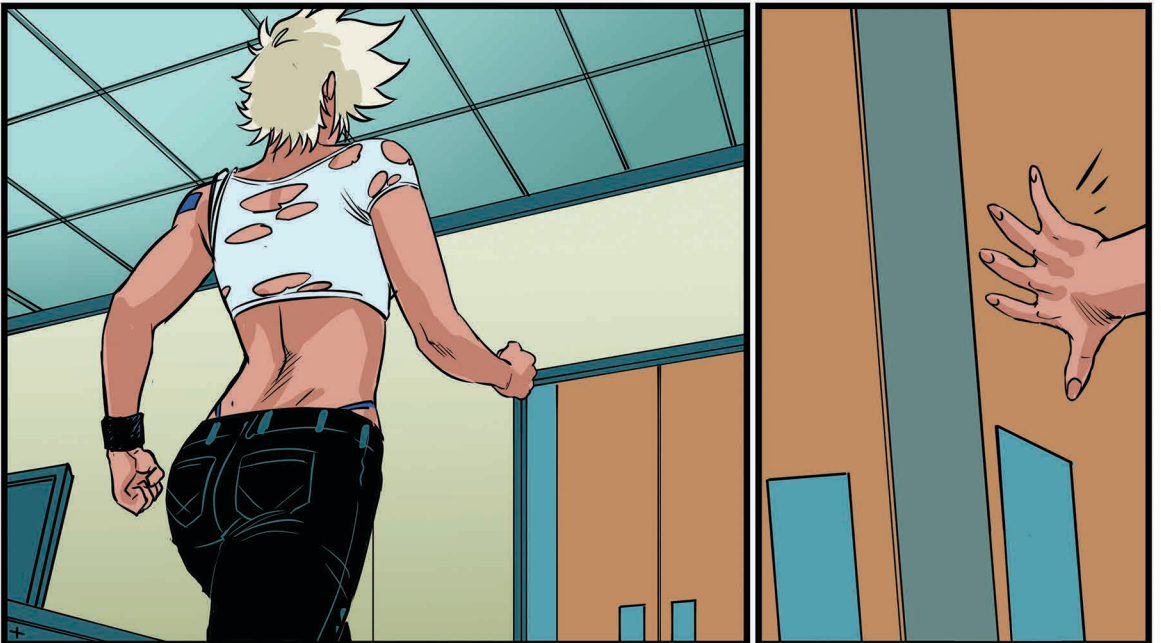
UNFORTUNATELY, IT LOOKS LIKE I DIDN'T KNOW MR. WYNN QUITE AS WELL AS I THOUGHT.

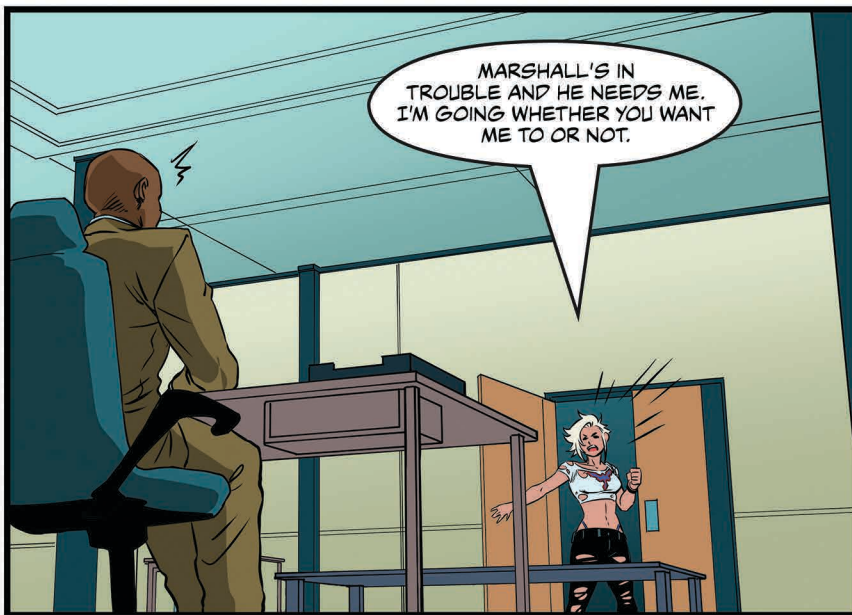


GET HIM IN BACK. WE NEED TO BE READY, THEY'LL BE COMING.









MARSHALL'S IN TROUBLE AND HE NEEDS ME. I'M GOING WHETHER YOU WANT ME TO OR NOT.



MY BROTHER IS IN TROUBLE?



IF MARSHALL NEEDS YOU, I'M NOT GOING TO STOP YOU.



I'M GOING WITH YOU.



DUDE...



I KNEW YOU HAD A BIG WALL OF MONITORS IN HERE.



LET'S SUIT UP.



AMERICA

PART  
FOUR



proudly presents:

# AMERICA

WRITTEN BY JON HUGHES

ILLUSTRATED BY ALE' GARZA

COLORED BY JON HUGHES

It's said that the one thing in this life for all of us that is universal is pain. Everyone experiences pain, even though joy escapes some. Pain hurts. Pain leaves scars. Pain also, however, can build character. In the simplest terms, pain can give you the resolve to better experience greater pain later, but that's not enough.

Let pain teach you. Let pain show you the error of your ways, the stubbornness in your heart, and the void in your heart and mind where wisdom should be. Let pain do its job. Let pain truly make you more than you are now.

Fortune rewards the bold, but the bold also make a lot of mistakes.  
Who rises and who sinks in this group?

## CHAPTER FOUR

# ACCEPT CHANGE

Thank you to everyone who waited patiently for this book.  
It has been a pleasure writing it for you, and I hope you find it worth the wait.  
-Jon



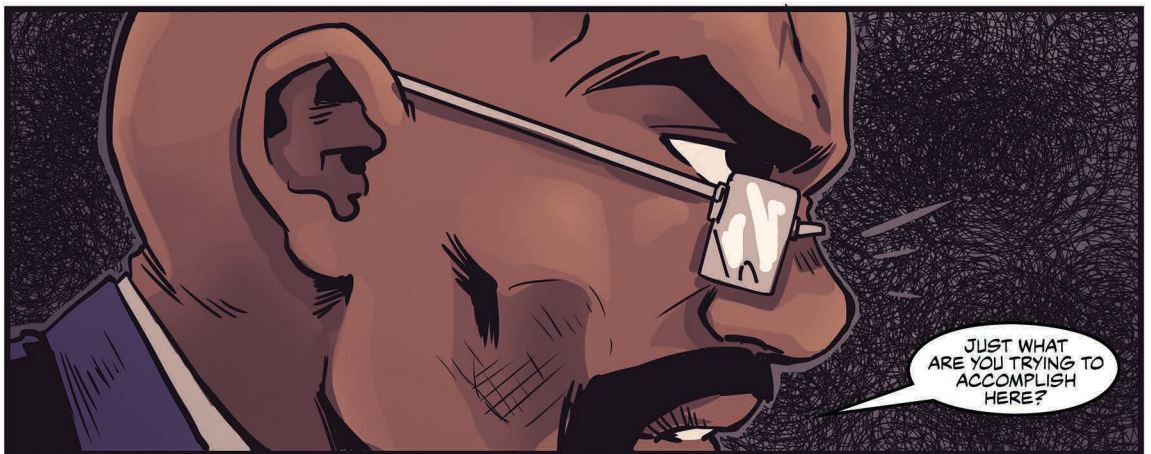
WAKE UP, FRIEND.



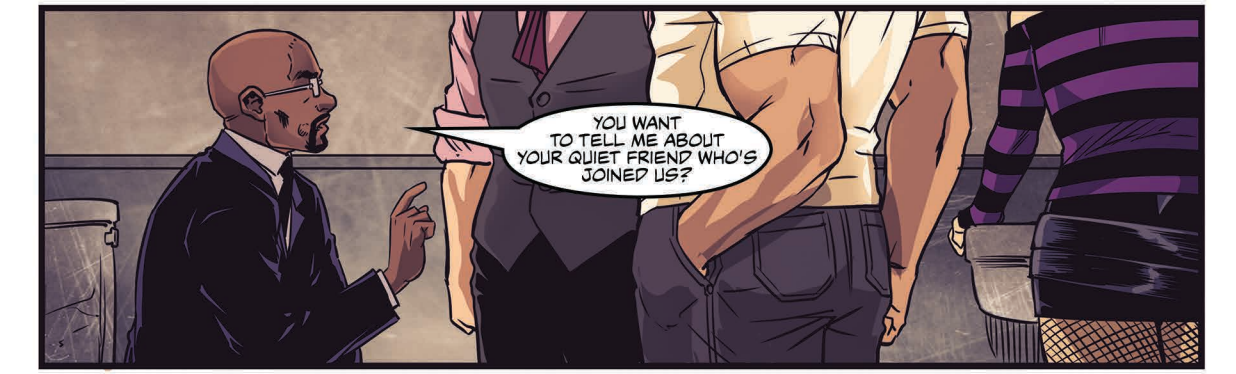
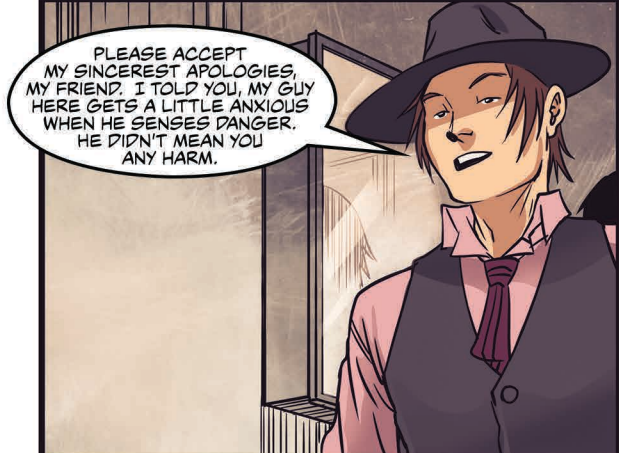
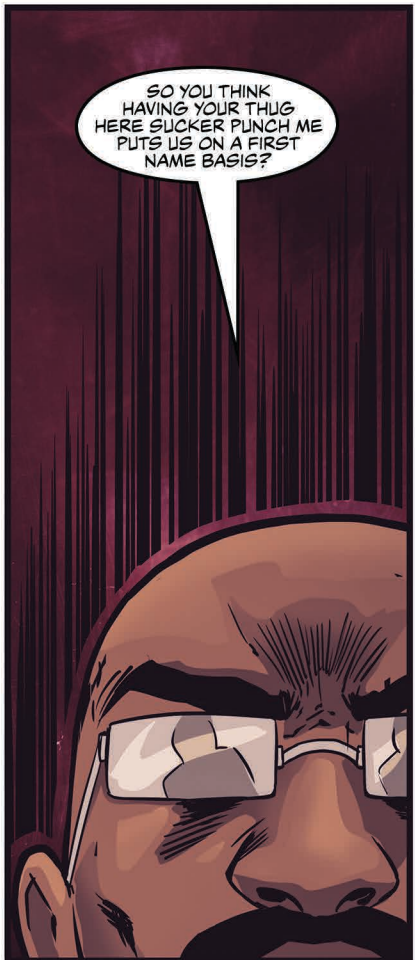
DON'T CALL ME FRIEND, CHUMP.

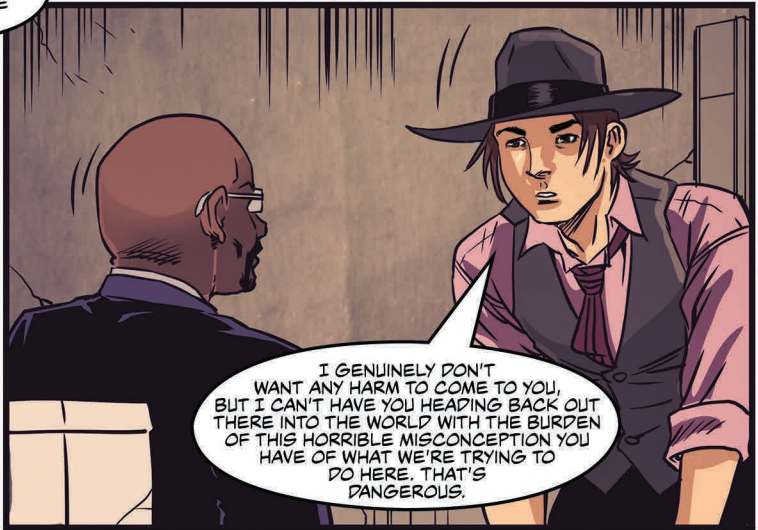


SORRY, WE'VE SAFELY STASHED YOUR WEAPON FOR THE MOMENT.



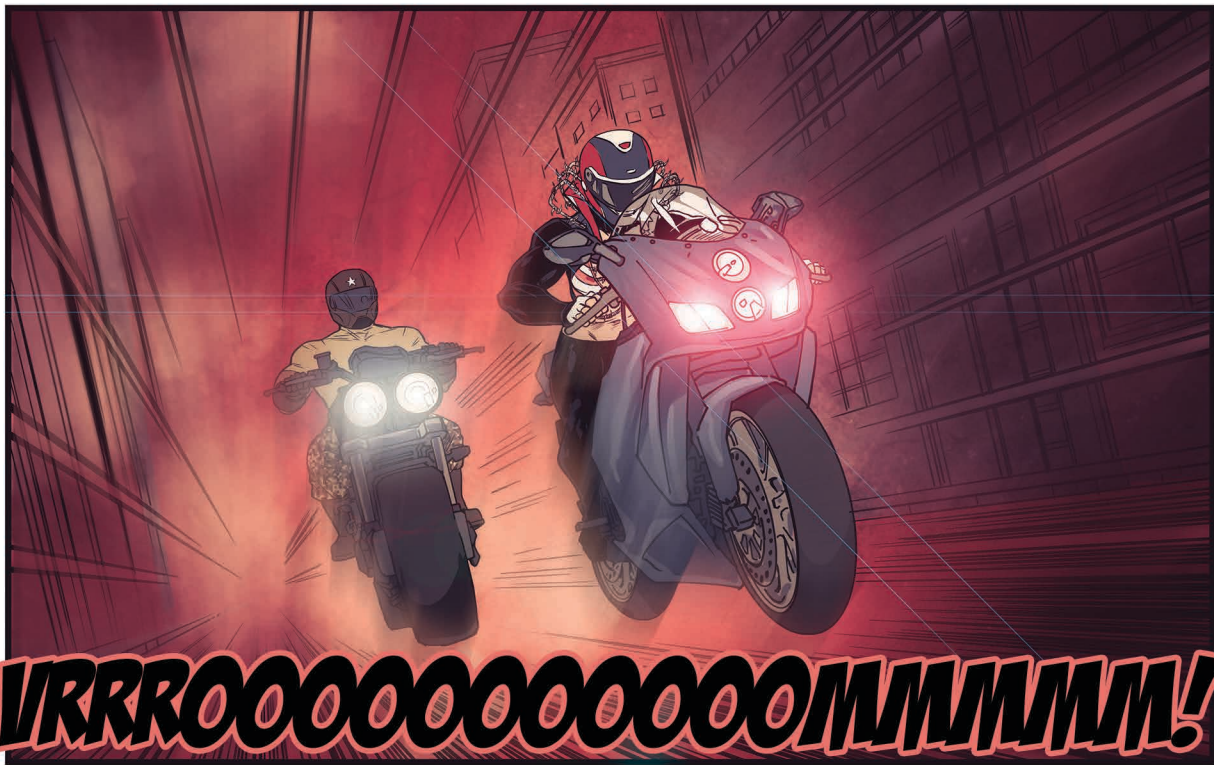
JUST WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH HERE?



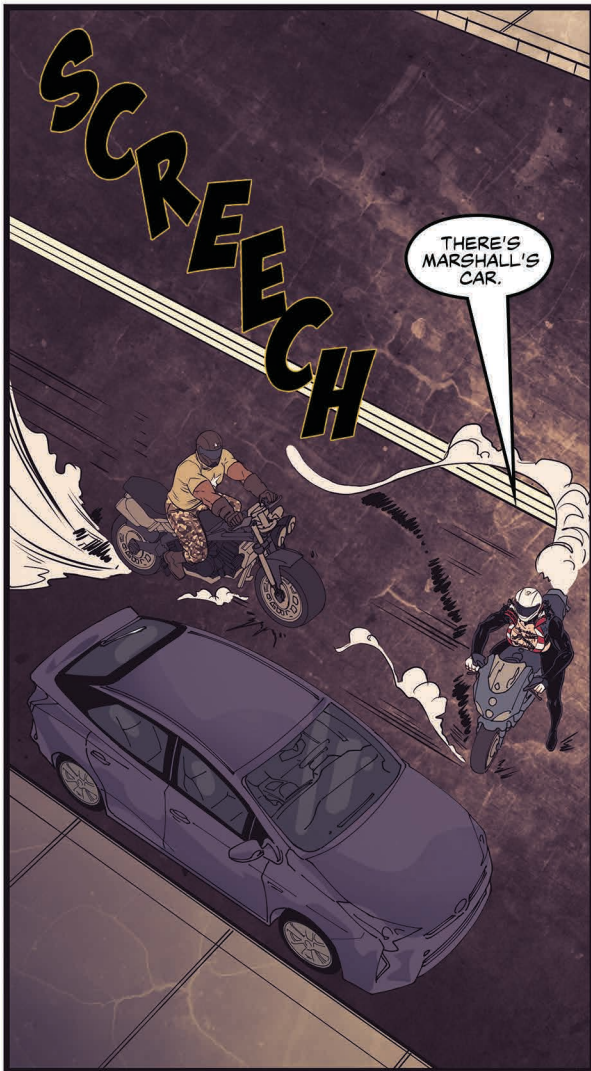








**IRRROOOOOOOOOO M M M M M!**



**SCREECH**

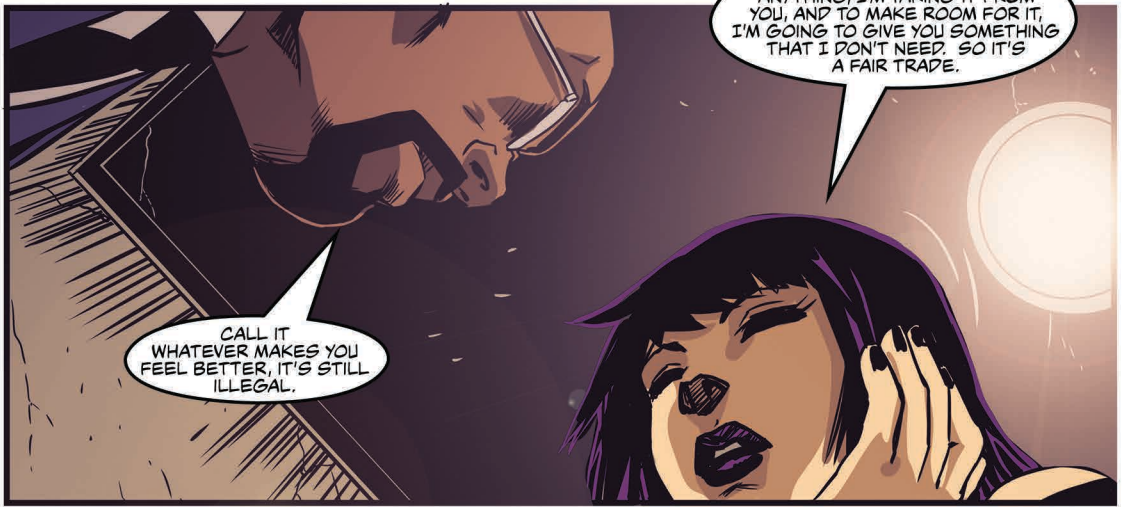
THERE'S MARSHALL'S CAR.



YOU KNOW THAT IF THIS GOES BADLY, IT'S COMING DOWN ON YOU AND I'M NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO PROTECT YOU.

FINE, CAN WE JUST GET IN THERE AND MAKE SURE HE'S OKAY?

**RISE**



CALL IT WHATEVER MAKES YOU FEEL BETTER, IT'S STILL ILLEGAL.

I'M NOT ERASING ANYTHING, I'M TAKING IT FROM YOU, AND TO MAKE ROOM FOR IT, I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING THAT I DON'T NEED, SO IT'S A FAIR TRADE.



I'M NOT TRYING TO FEEL BETTER, AND WHAT'S LEGAL OR NOT ISN'T MY JOB TO WORRY ABOUT RIGHT NOW, SO SAVE YOUR BREATH.



REMEMBER, KEEP IT SIMPLE, PLEASE.

UGH. YOU DO YOUR THING, I'LL DO MINE.

PANDORA WASN'T ALWAYS A MEMORY THIEF. SHE WENT TO HEROCORP WITH THE BEST OF INTENTIONS, LIKE ANYONE ELSE.



WHEN SHE WAS FOUND TO HAVE THE ABILITY TO TRADE MEMORIES WITH OTHERS, SHE WAS DEEMED DANGEROUS, AND HER POWERS WERE PUT UNDER THE CATEGORY OF ILLEGAL. AT FIRST, PANDORA OBEYED THE LAW, BUT OVER TIME, TEMPTATION CAME CALLING.

IT WASN'T THE ALLURE OF TAKING FROM OTHERS THAT LED HER DOWN THIS PATH, IT WAS THE PROMISE OF FORGETTING THE PAIN IN HER LIFE.

HOW DID THAT CHOICE LEAD HER TO THIS MOMENT RIGHT NOW? SHE CAN, WITH ABSOLUTE HONESTY, TELL YOU THAT SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER, BUT SOMEBODY OUT THERE DOES.



THAT'S IT,  
MAN. JUST TAKE IT  
AND OWN IT.



YOU'RE  
KILLING HER...



NO BUDDY...



YOU ARE.

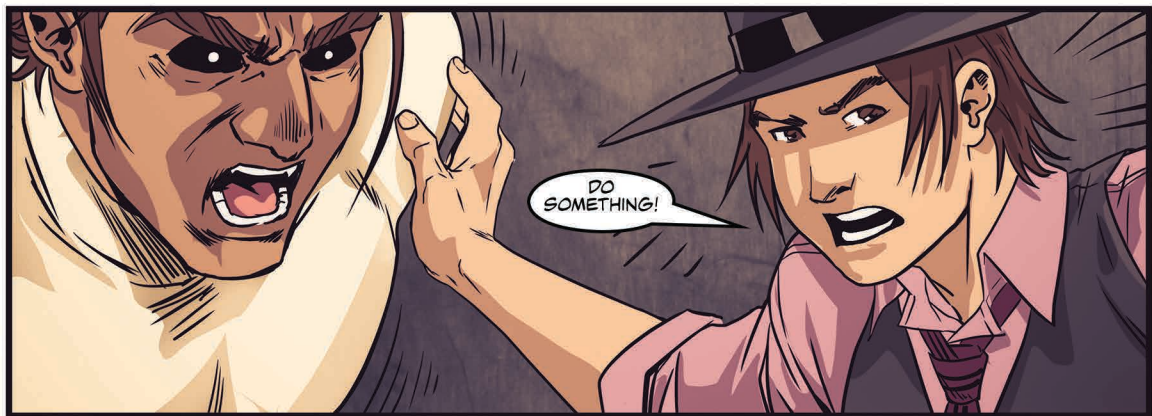
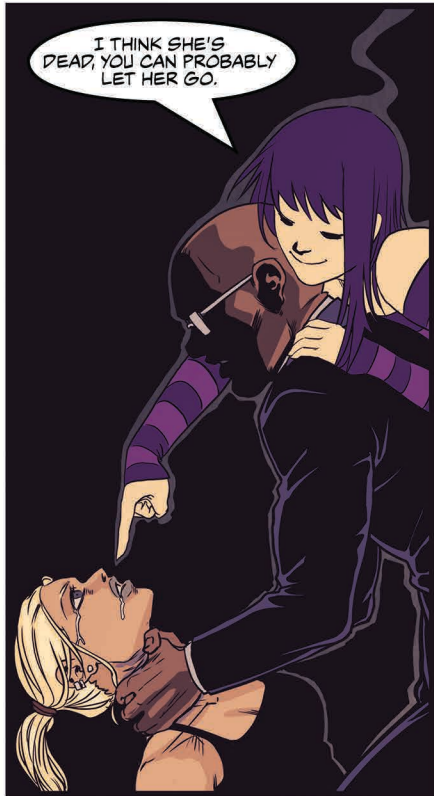
SEE?

IT WAS YOU.

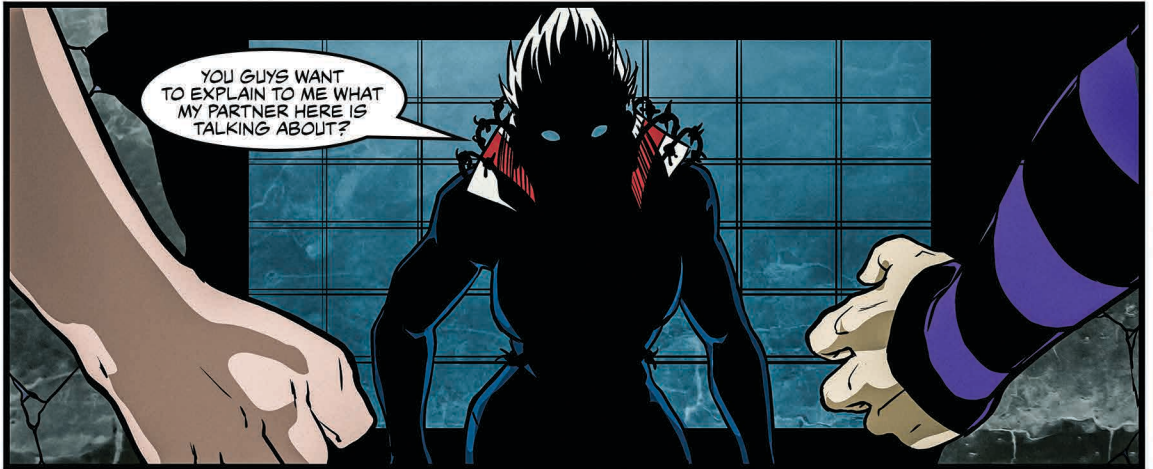
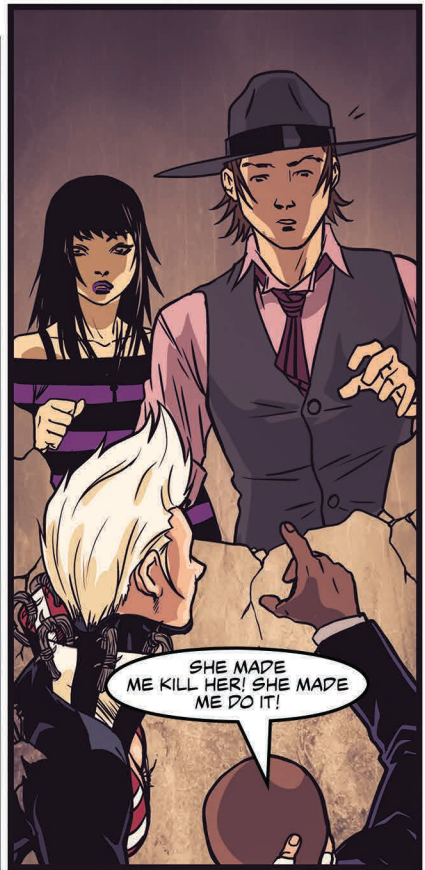
REMEMBER?

WHAT HAVE I DONE?

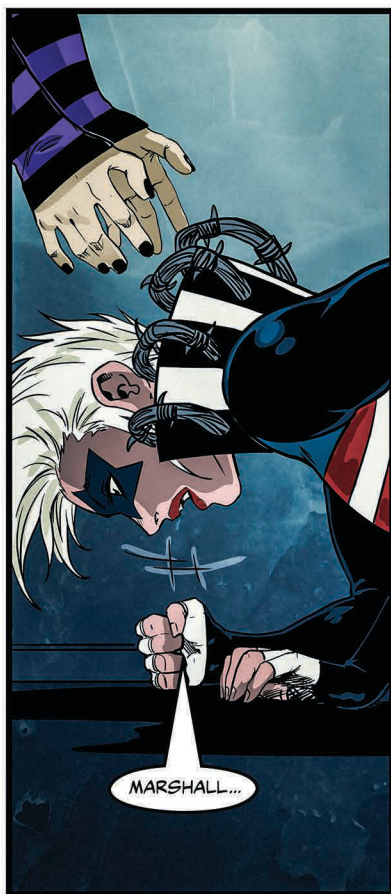


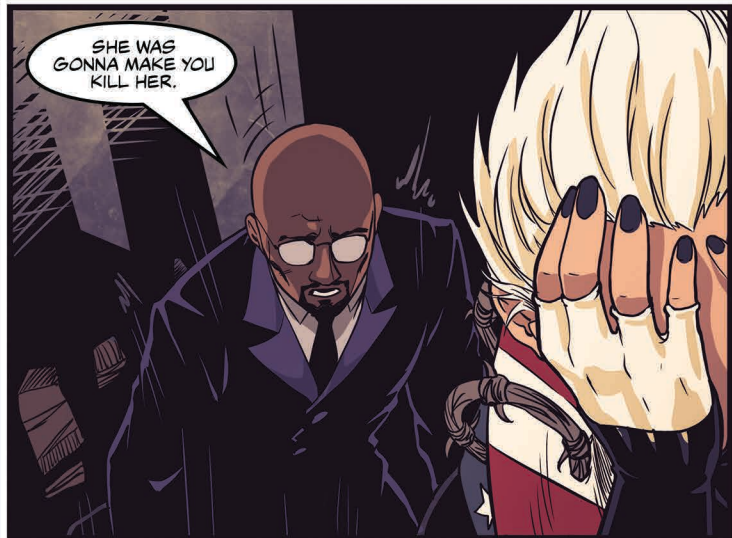
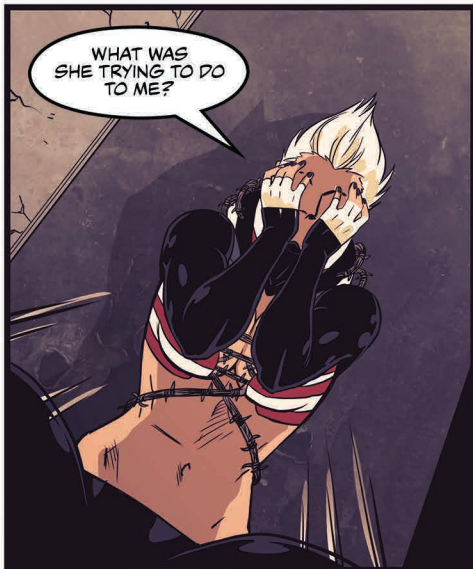
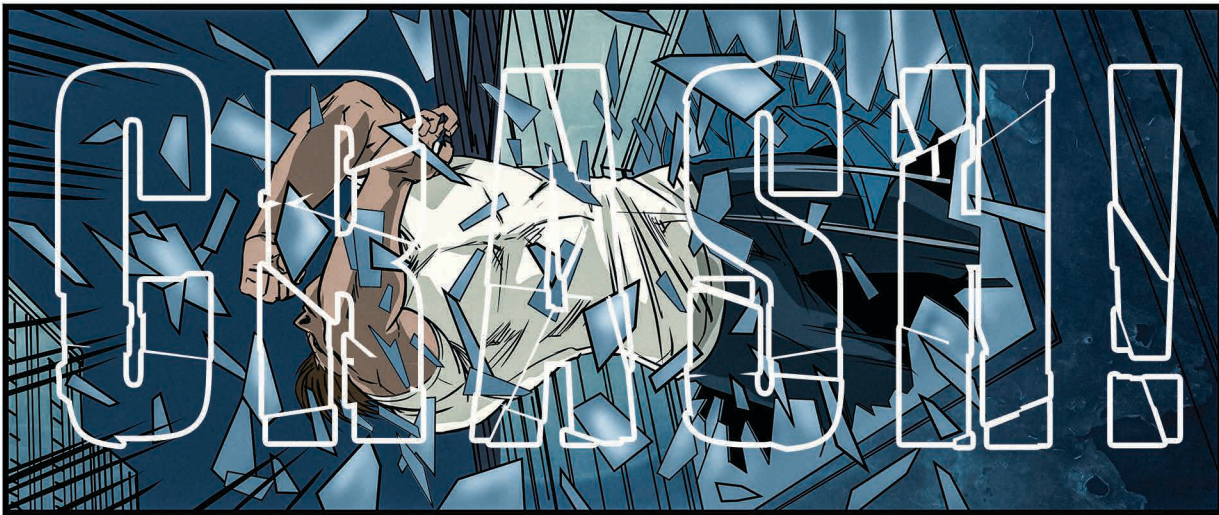


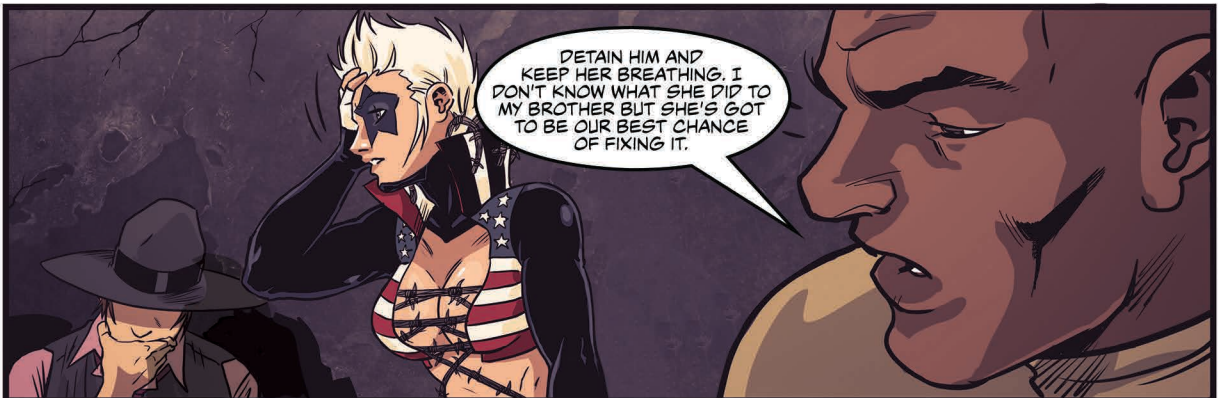


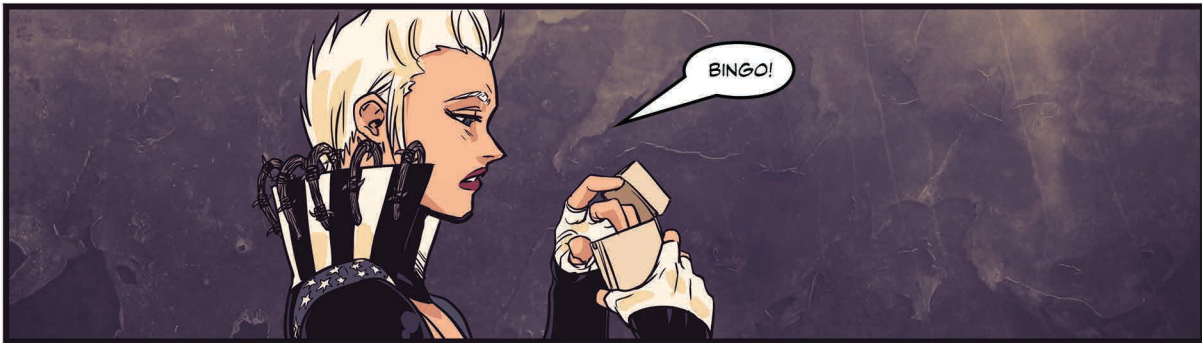
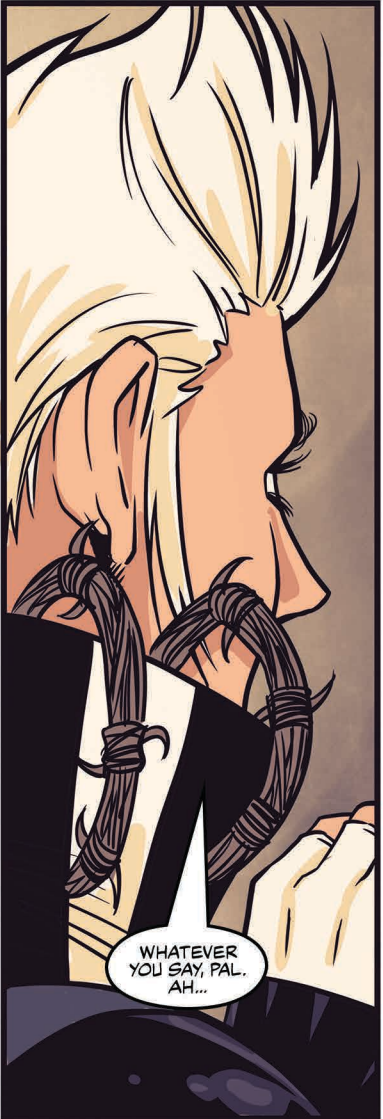
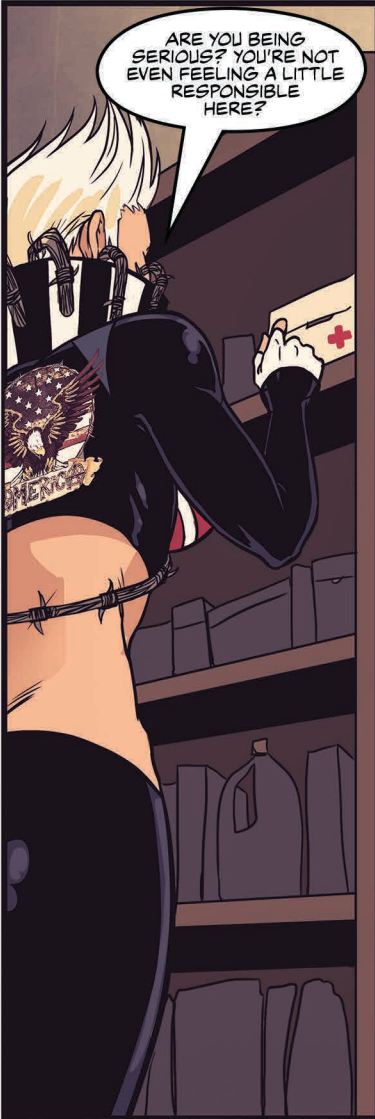
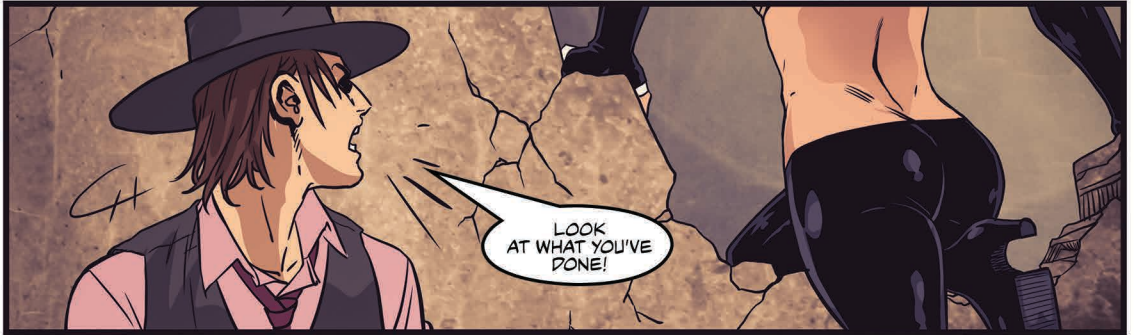







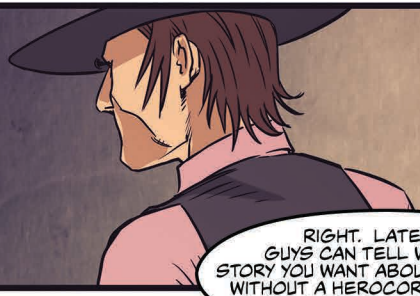




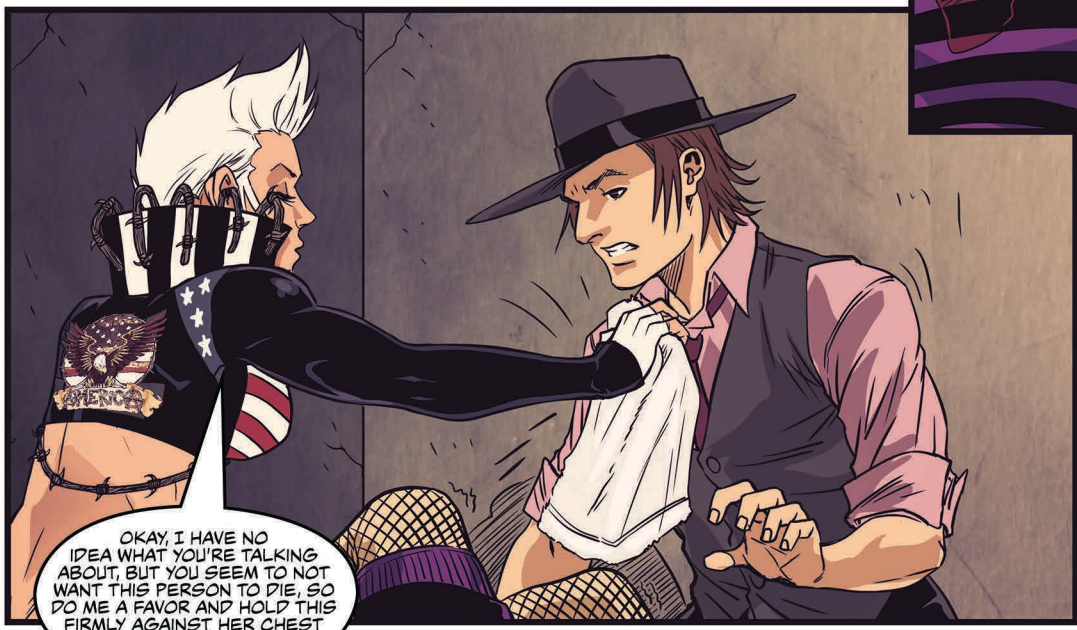
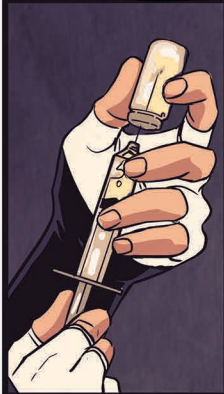




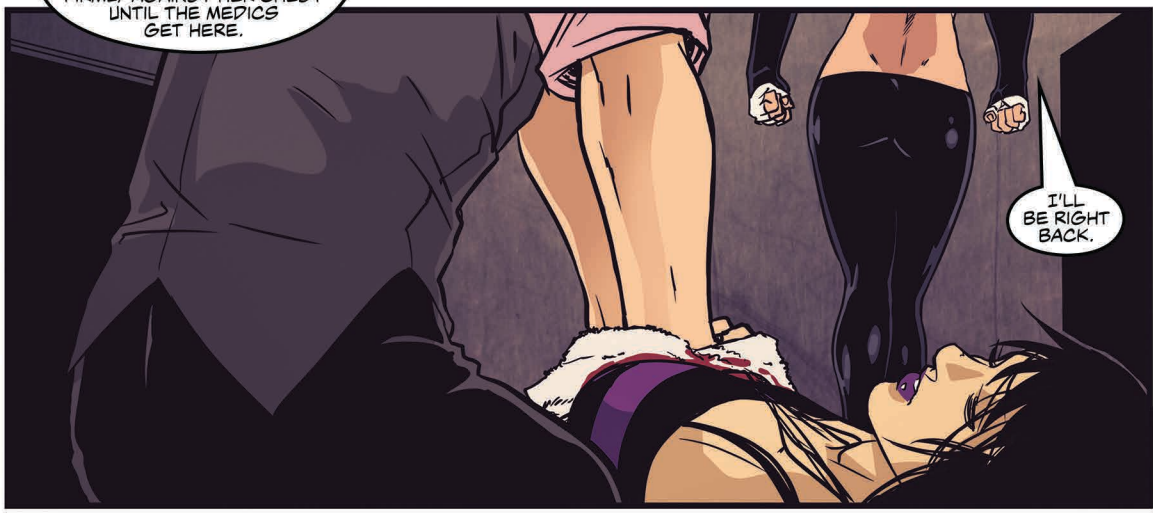
TELL YOU WHAT, LET'S JUST KEEP YOUR FRIEND HERE ALIVE FOR A LITTLE WHILE, AND WE'LL WORRY ABOUT WHOSE FAULT EVERYTHING IS LATER, OKAY?



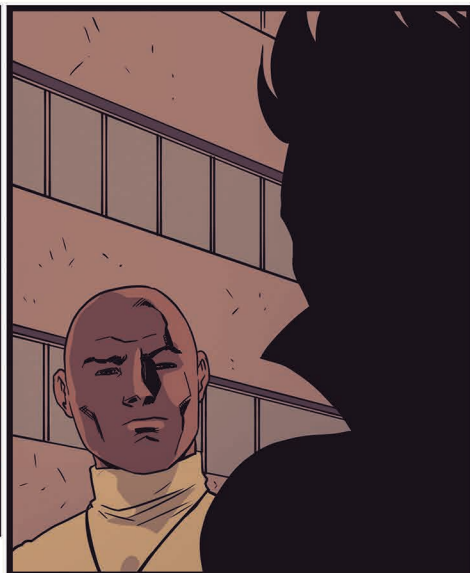
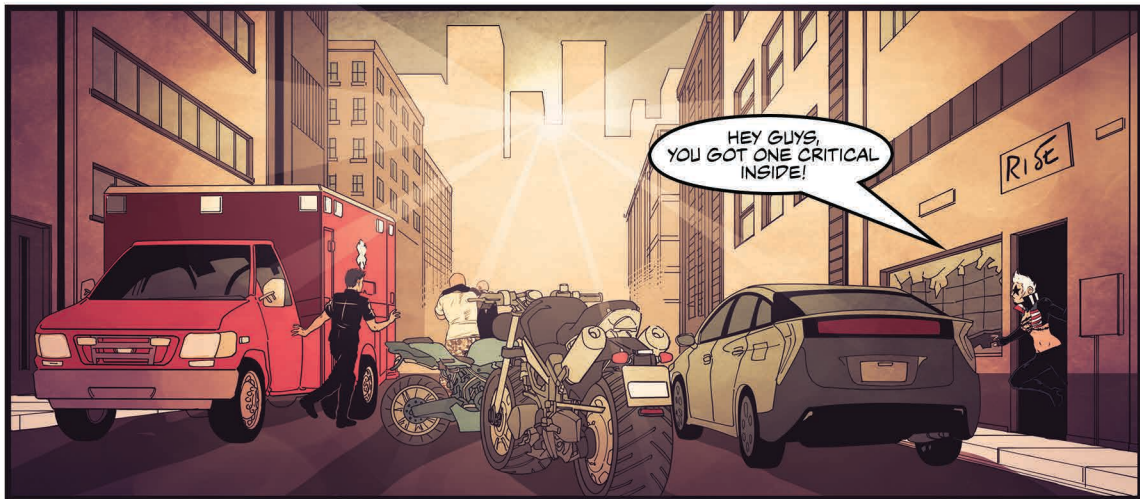
RIGHT. LATER YOU GUYS CAN TELL WHATEVER STORY YOU WANT ABOUT HOW ANYONE WITHOUT A HEROCORP BADGE IS A WEAKLING OR A VILLAIN.

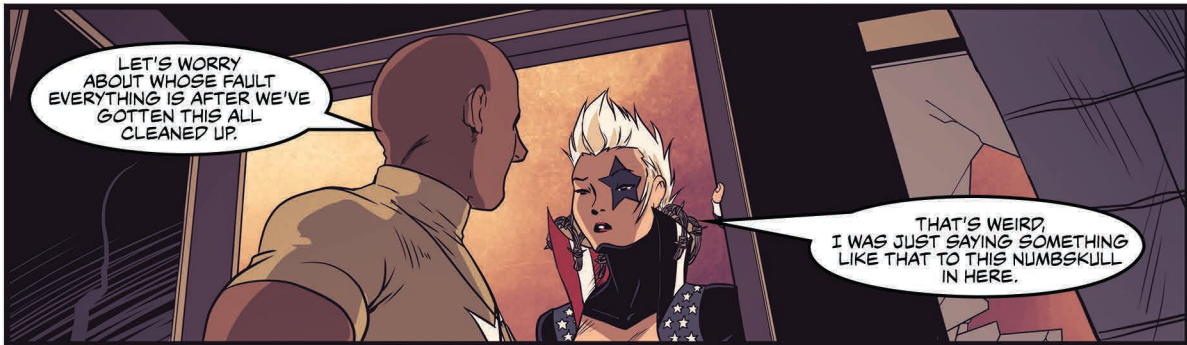


OKAY, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, BUT YOU SEEM TO NOT WANT THIS PERSON TO DIE, SO DO ME A FAVOR AND HOLD THIS FIRMLY AGAINST HER CHEST UNTIL THE MEDICS GET HERE.



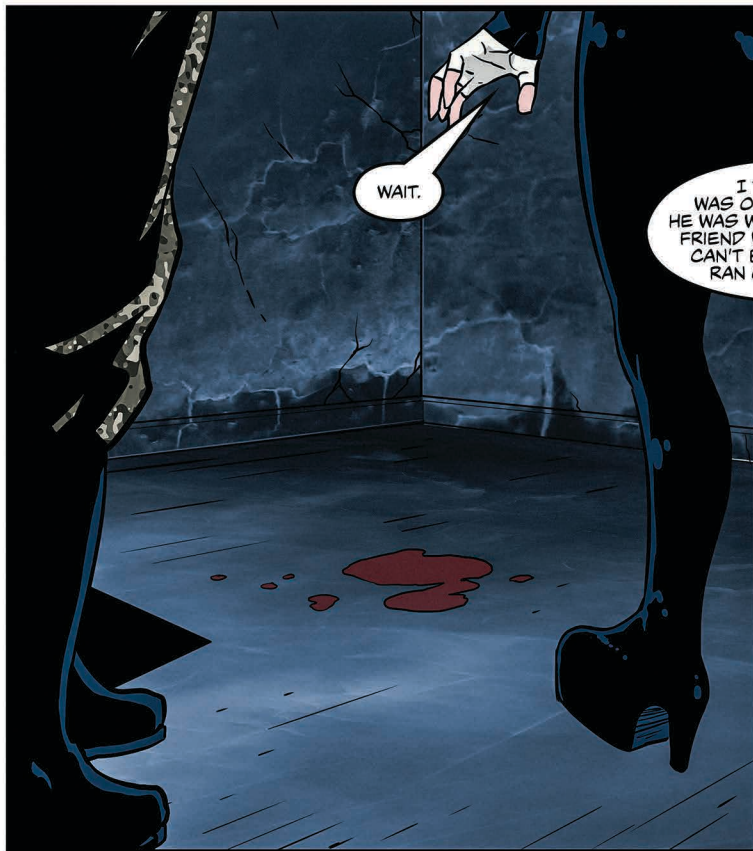
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.





LET'S WORRY ABOUT WHOSE FAULT EVERYTHING IS AFTER WE'VE GOTTEN THIS ALL CLEANED UP.

THAT'S WEIRD, I WAS JUST SAYING SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO THIS NUMBSKULL IN HERE.



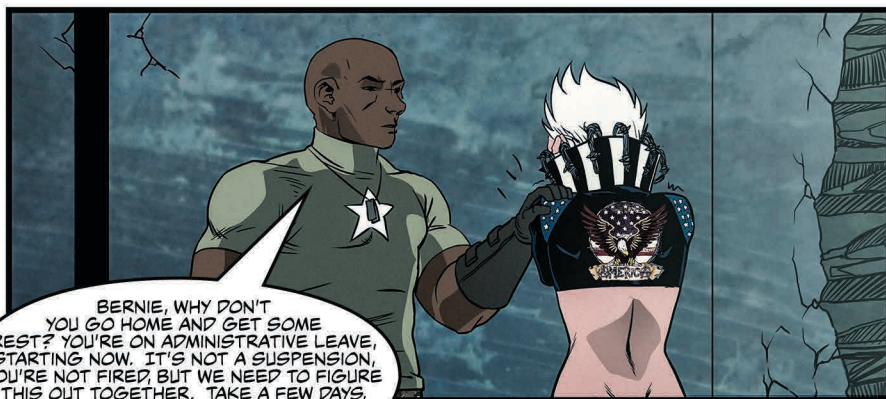
WAIT.

I THOUGHT IT WAS OKAY. I THOUGHT HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT HIS FRIEND WHO WAS SHOT. I CAN'T BELIEVE HE JUST RAN OFF LIKE THAT.

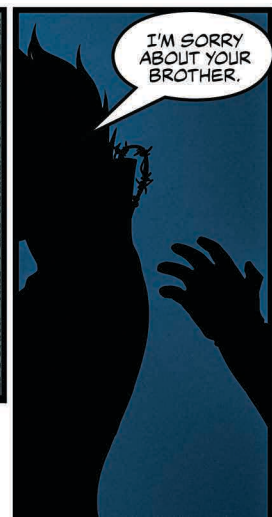
DIDN'T I ASK YOU TO DETAIN HIM?



I THINK YOU'RE ALL RIGHT ABOUT ME.



BERNIE, WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME AND GET SOME REST? YOU'RE ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE, STARTING NOW. IT'S NOT A SUSPENSION, YOU'RE NOT FIRED, BUT WE NEED TO FIGURE THIS OUT TOGETHER. TAKE A FEW DAYS, GET SOME SLEEP, AND GIVE ME A CALL TO SET UP A MEETING WHEN YOU'RE READY.



I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR BROTHER.

THIS BODY USED TO BE SOMETHING THAT I WAS SO PROUD OF, AND AT THE SAME TIME, IT MEANT ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO ME. I COULD JUMP OFF OF A BUILDING, WALK THROUGH FIRE, STEP IN FRONT OF A BULLET, AND NOT EVEN BREAK A SWEAT ABOUT ANY OF IT.

OVER TIME, I COULDN'T HELP BUT TAKE THAT FOR GRANTED. I TOOK LIFE FOR GRANTED. I TAKE LIFE FOR GRANTED. NOW, I LOOK AT ALL OF THESE NEW CUTS AND BRUISES AND SCARS, AND I SEE IT LEADING TO AN END THAT I HAD ALMOST FORGOTTEN WAS EVEN POSSIBLE.

I FEEL ALIVE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS, BUT BY NATURE, THAT MEANS THAT I AM ALSO DYING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS.

DOES IT EVEN MATTER, THOUGH?

I DON'T WANT TO GIVE UP WHO I AM, WHO I'VE MADE MYSELF TO BE, BUT THE REALITY IS THAT I AM NOT WHO I ONCE WAS. I KNEW THIS DAY WOULD COME, THAT THINGS WOULD CHANGE FOR ME, BUT HERE I AM HOLDING ONTO MY YOUTH LIKE A CHILD HOLDS A FAVORITE TOY.

IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GET TO KNOW MYSELF A LITTLE BETTER. NOT AMERICA, NOT THE INVINCIBLE HERO, BUT BERNADETTE THE WOMAN. THEY SAY THE ONLY WAY TO LIVE A HEALTHY LIFE IS TO HOLD ONTO IT WITH AN OPEN HAND. I NEED TO FIND A NEW WAY OF LIVING, OR AT LEAST TRY TO WANT TO.

FOR NOW, I'M JUST GOING TO LISTEN TO THE BOSS, AND GET SOME SLEEP.

THE END.





# AMERICA

ART GALLERY

—m.g.—



# AMERICA

CO-CREATOR EXCLUSIVE VARIANT

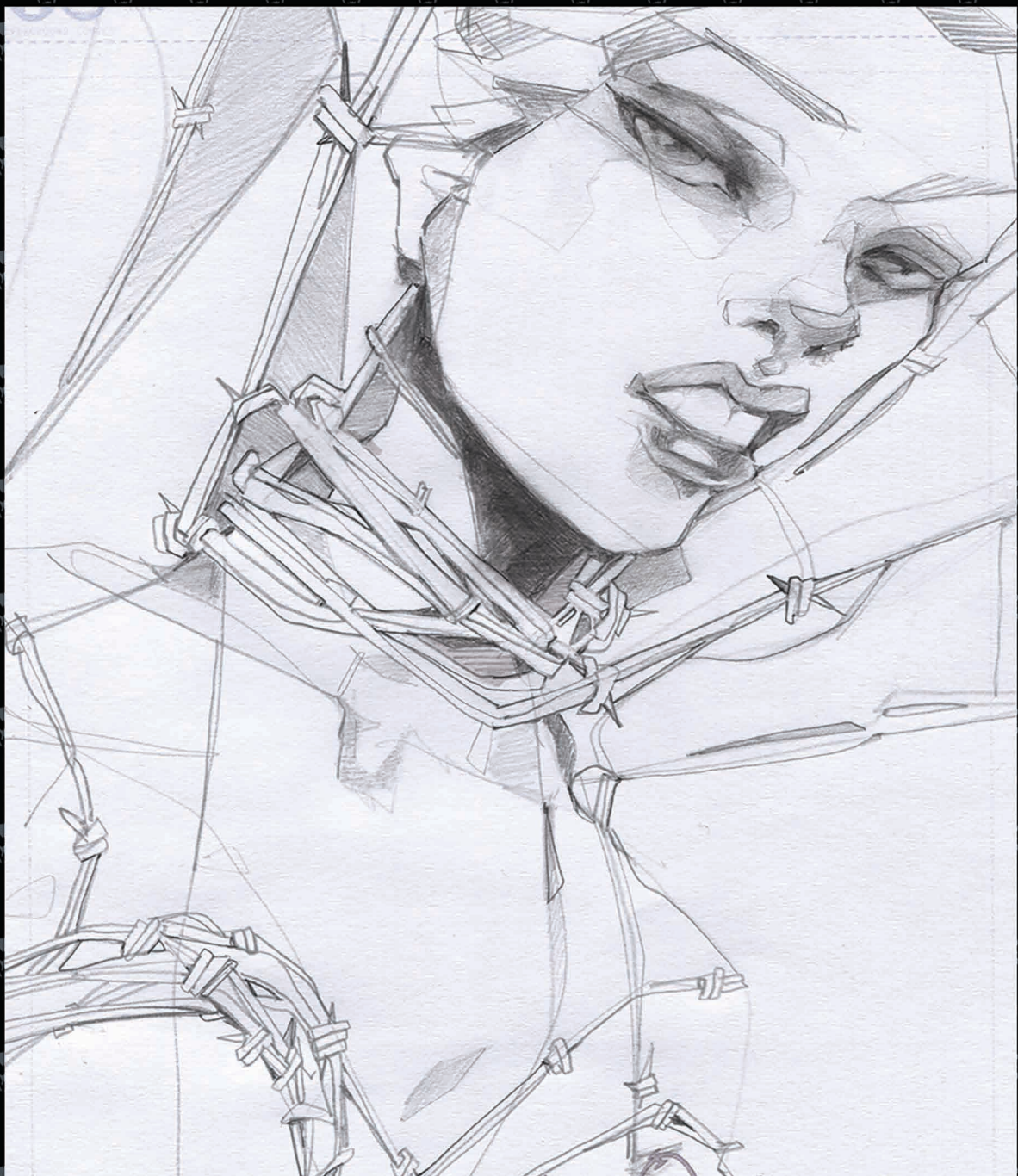
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# AMERICA

CO-CREATOR EXCLUSIVE VARIANT

ILLUSTRATED BY CELIA CALLE



# AMERICA

CO-CREATOR EXCLUSIVE VARIANT

ILLUSTRATED BY CELIA CALLE



# AMERICA

CO-CREATOR EXCLUSIVE VARIANT

*Handwritten signature*

ILLUSTRATED BY CELIA CALLE

FOR DOUBLE PAGE SPREAD, CUT BOARD AT THESE LINES AND 10



MATTHEW WELDON -16-

# Overground



OVERGROUND COMI

ILLUSTRATED BY MATTHEW WELDON



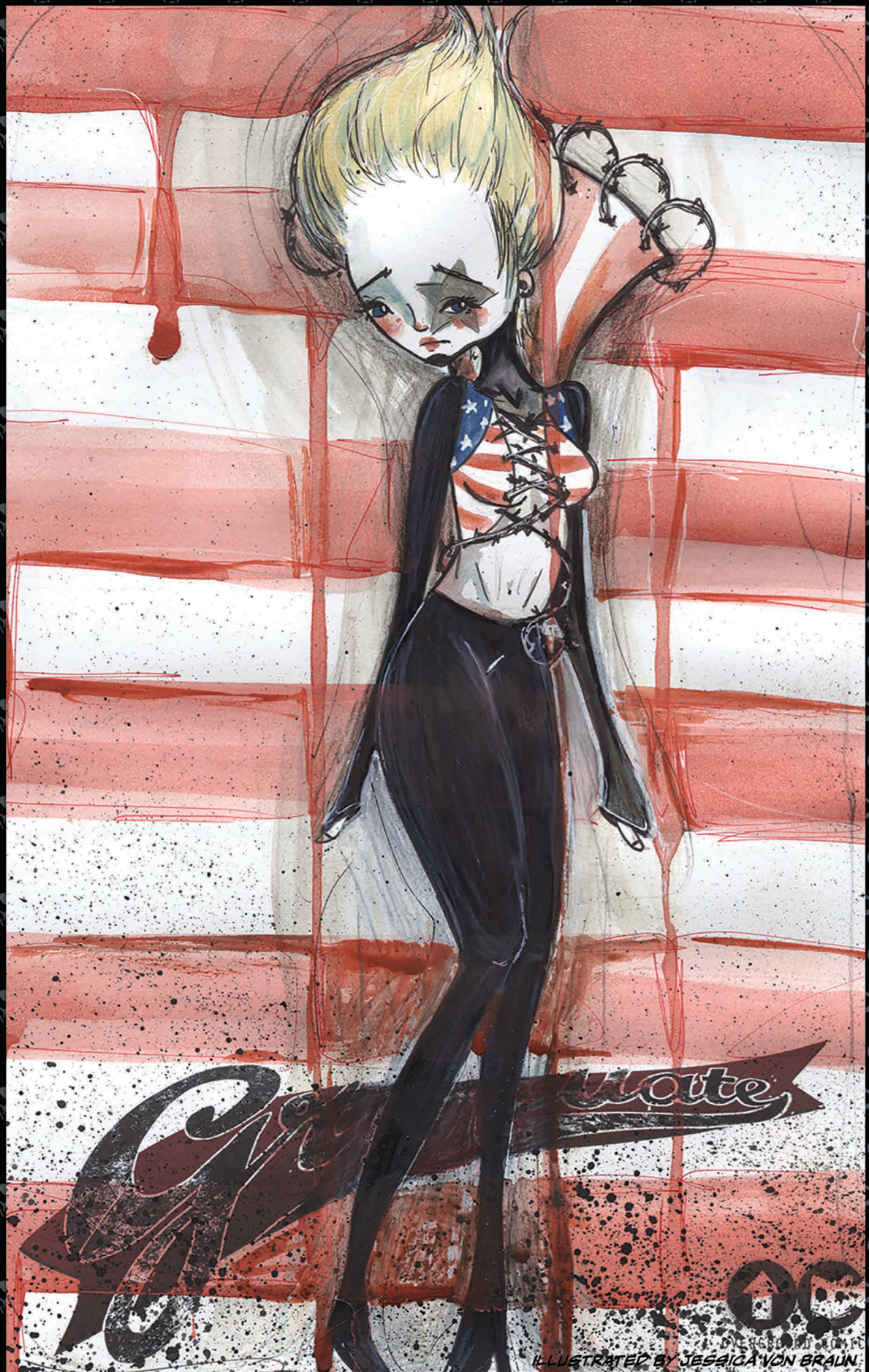
OVERGROUND.COM

ILLUSTRATED BY JOSH HOWARD



ILLUSTRATED BY JASON MEENTS, COLORED BY JON HUGHES





ILLUSTRATED BY JESSICA VON BRAUN



Chad  
Townsend/16

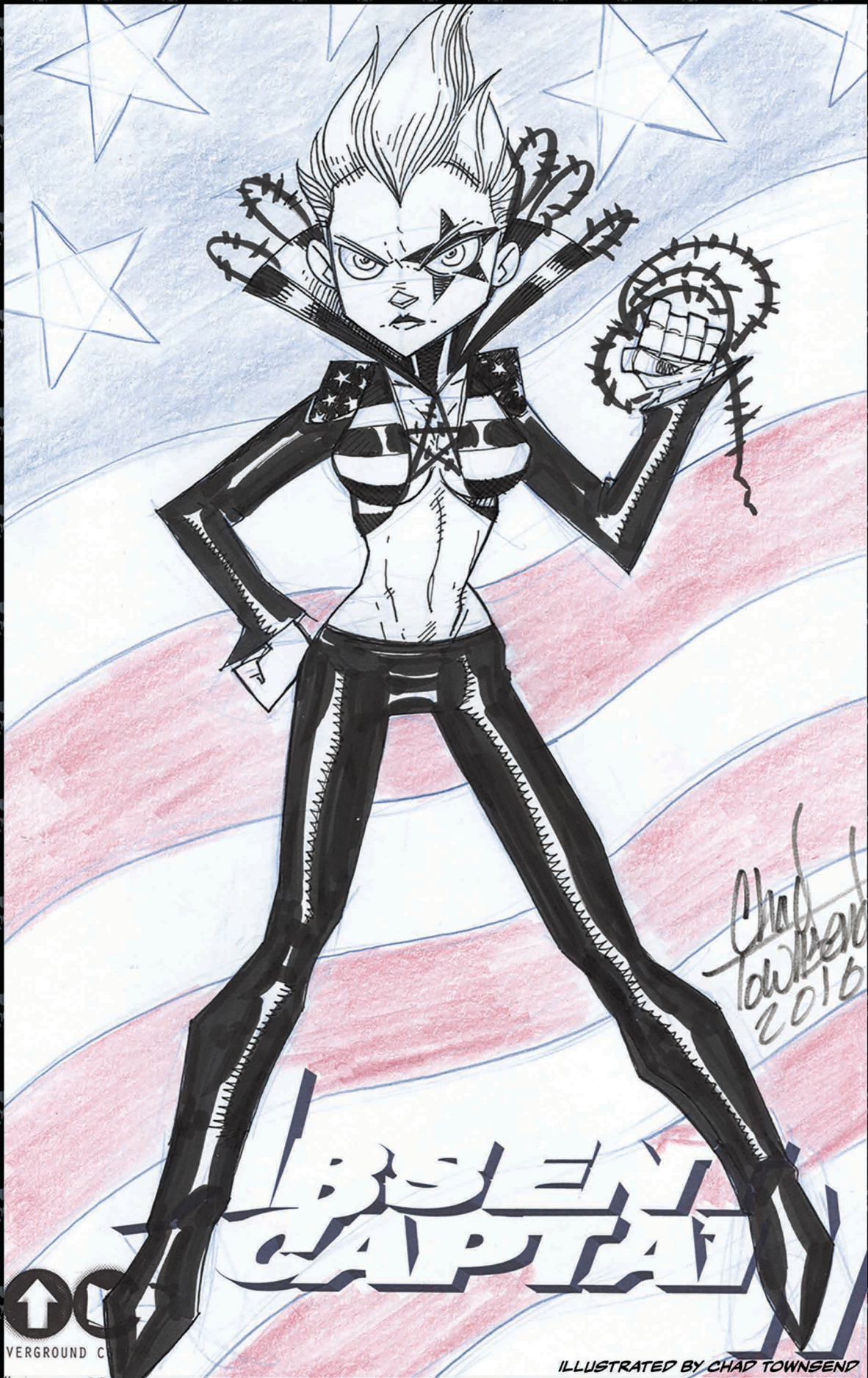
# ABSENT CAPTAIN



OVERGROUND COMICS

# OF 100

ILLUSTRATED BY CHAD TOWNSEND



VERGROUND C

ILLUSTRATED BY CHAD TOWNSEND



# Revolutionate



OVERGROUND COMIX

ILLUSTRATED BY BRANDON PETERSON



# Grindhouse



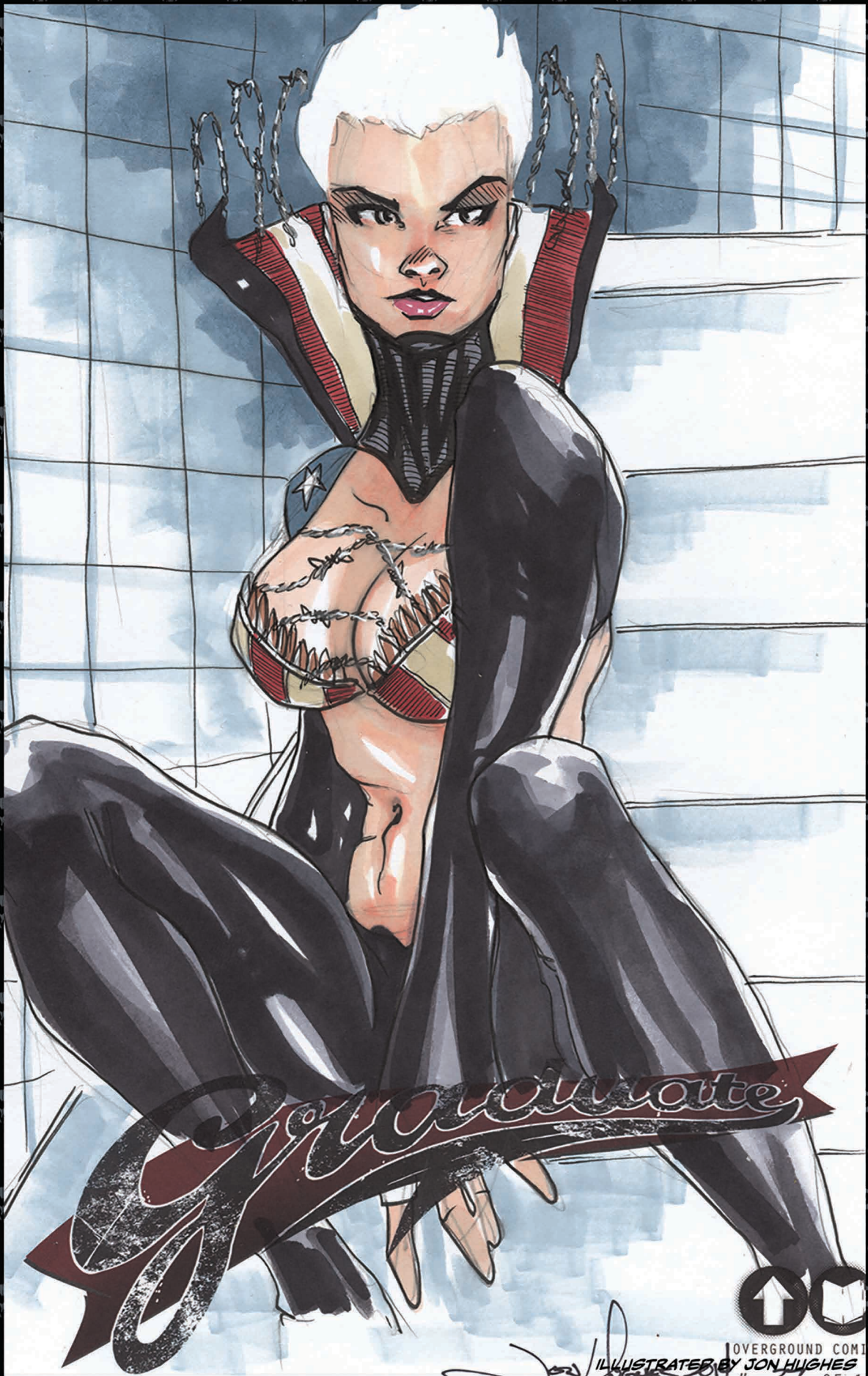
OVERGROUND COMI  
ILLUSTRATED BY DANIEL LIESTER



*Overground*



OVERGROUND COMIC  
ILLUSTRATED BY JOHNNY SEGURA III



OVERGROUND.COM  
ILLUSTRATED BY JON HUGHES



*Skylar*



OVERGROUND COMIC  
ILLUSTRATED BY SKYLAR PARTRIDGE







ILLUSTRATED BY JON HUGHES



ORIGINAL CHARACTER CONCEPT ART BY JON HUGHES

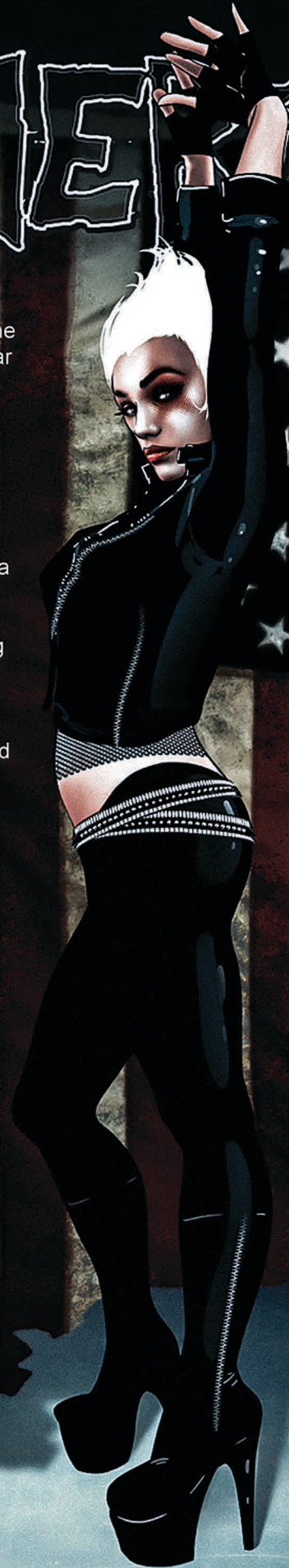
# AMERICA GOD

America had it all. Her invincibility made her the most successful and popular superhero in the country.

Then, in a moment, her worst fears came true, and she became powerless.

Begged by those who care about her to retire and find a safer way to pass her time, America just can't help herself, and continues living the wreckless life she's enjoyed for so long.

Something's got to give, and something does. See it all unravel in the "America" graphic novel from Overground Comics!



OVERGROUND COMICS