

DAVID LISS COLTON WORLEY

THE SPANNER

DYNAMITE!





THE SPIDER

WRITTEN BY
DAVID LISS

ART BY
COLTON WORLEY

LETTERS BY
SIMON BOWLAND

COVERS BY
ALEX ROSS (25%)
JOHN CASSADAY (25%)
FRANCESCO FRANCAVILLA (25%)
RON LESSER (25%)

SPECIAL THANKS TO
JOEL FRIEMAN

THE SPIDER CREATED BY
HARRY STEEGER

DYNAMITE
ENTERTAINMENT

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Nick Barrucci, President
Juan Collado, Chief Operating Officer
Joe Rybandt, Editor
Josh Johnson, Creative Director
Rich Young, Director Business Development
Jason Ullmeyer, Senior Designer
Josh Green, Traffic Coordinator
Chris Caniano, Production Assistant

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NEW YORK CITY.

EVEN IN GOOD TIMES,
THERE'S PLENTY OF
MISERY IN THIS TOWN.

RIGHT NOW,
TIMES ARE NOT
SO GOOD.



I SAW IT FIRST, YOU STUPID WHORE!

RICH GETTING RICHER, POOR GETTING POORER. THAT'S BAD ENOUGH.

SORRY, DUDE. YOU'VE BEEN *REPO-ED!*

NEXT TIME, TRY MAKING YOUR PAYMENTS.

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? HOW AM I GOING TO GET TO WORK?

BUT WHAT GETS ME IS A *CALLOUSNESS* I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE.

I'M TELLING YOU, WE KEEP JACKING UP GRAIN PRICES, WE'LL MAKE A *KILLING*. THIS IS WIN-WIN FOR EVERYONE.

AN *INDIFFERENCE* TO SUFFERING.

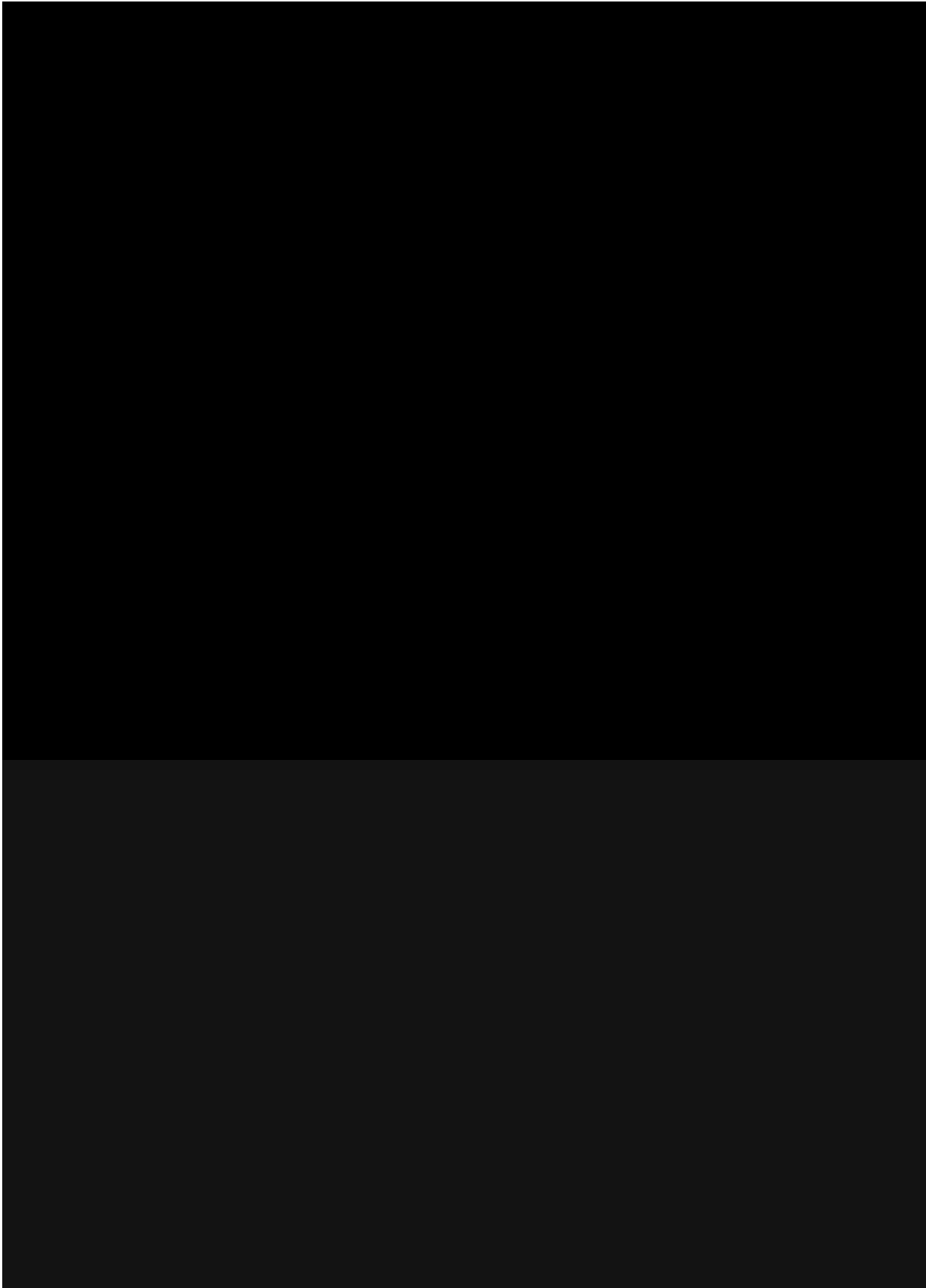
YOU ARE FROM OUT OF TOWN, YES? ME TOO!

PLEASE... I CAN'T FIND MY *PARENTS*, AND I LOST MY CELL PHONE...

AND THAT'S JUST THE HALF OF IT.

HAVE NO WORRY! WE HELP!

YOU COME INSIDE NOW. WE HAVE *PARTY*.





DONT.

RIGHT NOW, HALF OF IT IS PLENTY.

IN THE MOVIES, IN THE COMIC BOOKS AND TV SHOWS, THE GUNSHOTS LIVE BY A CODE.

YOU DONT TAKE A LIFE, YOU DONT CROSS THE LINE.

MAY GO INSIDE? WE MAKE PRAY HERE.

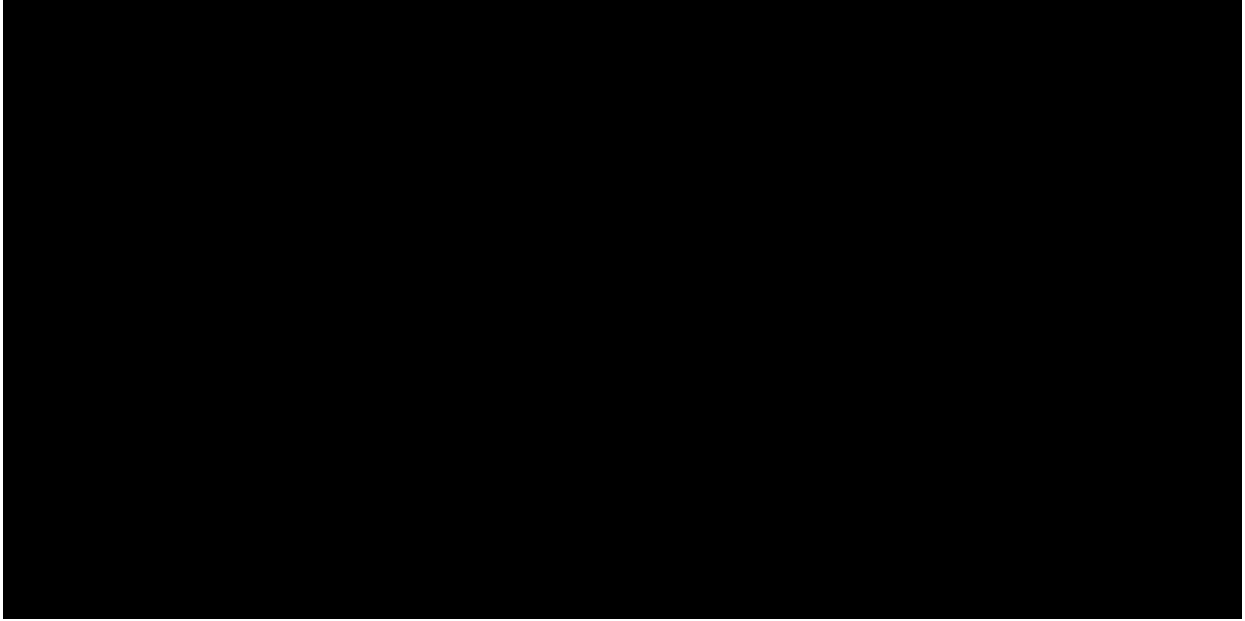
YOU MIGHT WANT TO LEAVE, THERE'S GOING TO BE MORE KILLING.

WHAT GIVES ME THE RIGHT TO DECIDE WHO LIVES AND WHO DIES?

IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT.

SOME PEOPLE DONT DESERVE A SECOND CHANCE.

NOT A DRAW THING.



I'M NO MORE MORAL OR WISE
OR INSIGHTFUL THAN ANYONE
ELSE. BUT I LEARNED HOW TO
DO A FEW THINGS IN THE *WAR*.

THE POLITICIANS
TALK. THE PLUNDITS
TALK. SOMEONE
HAS TO *ACT*.

THE COPS ARE
OVERWHELMED, AND
I DON'T SEE ANYONE
ELSE FIGHTING THIS
MADNESS.

I STEPPED UP,
BECAUSE SOMEONE
HAD TO, AND
BECAUSE I COULD.

AND I DO IT
AS I SEE FIT.



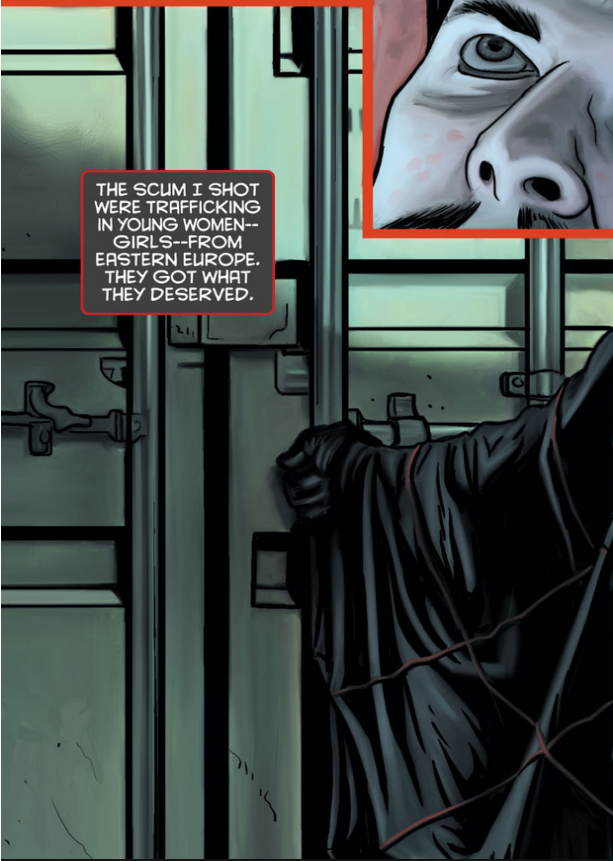
THESE
GUYS AREN'T
COMPLAINING.



I LEAVE MY
MARK SO THEY
KNOW WHO
WAS HERE. A
WARNING...



...AND A
PROMISE.



THE SCUM I SHOT
WERE TRAFFICKING
IN YOUNG WOMEN--
GIRLS--FROM
EASTERN EUROPE.
THEY GOT WHAT
THEY DESERVED.



THEY GOT
LESS THAN THEY
DESERVED.

LATER THAT NIGHT...

I ADMIT IT. I LIKE THE ACTION, BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT KEEPS ME IN IT.

IF I DON'T DO IT, PEOPLE ARE HURT, PEOPLE ARE RAPED, PEOPLE ARE KILLED. ALL THOSE PEOPLE OUT THERE, NOT VICTIMS BECAUSE OF THE SPIDER.

HOW CAN I STOP KNOWING THAT?

HEY, YOU KNOW, MY FRIEND AND I HAD THIS BET, AND SHE'S ALL LIKE--

NOT INTERESTED.

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEANT THERE ISN'T A PRICE. THERE'S ALWAYS A PRICE.

YOU'RE ANTI-SOCIAL, AREN'T YOU?

YOU HAVE NO IDEA.

THANKS FOR THE CHAT. HELP YOURSELF TO WHAT'S LEFT OF THE BOTTLE.

NOT THAT YOU NEED IT.

SOMETIMES THE PRICE YOU PAY IS SOMETHING NEW, SOMETHING YOU NEVER EXPECTED.



AND SOMETIMES IT'S THE OLD PRICE YOU NEVER STOP PAYING.

NITA VAN SLOAN. YOU KNOW HER FACE. SHE'S THAT HIGH-POWERED NEWSPAPER EDITOR WHO IS ALWAYS ON THE CABLE NEWS SHOWS.

RICHARD...

SHE'S CONSIDERED THE EXPERT ON THIS NEW WAVE OF CRIMINALS.



RICHARD, YOU'VE GOT TO STOP COMING BY. THIS ISN'T RIGHT.

I WANTED TO SEE YOU. WE DIDN'T HAVE TO DO ANY ACTUAL TALKING. THAT WAS YOUR CALL. YOU CAN WALK INTO THE BUILDING. I'LL JUST WATCH.

SHE'S ALSO THE WOMAN I SHOULD HAVE MARRIED, BUT BEFORE MY LAST DEPLOYMENT, I DIDN'T THINK I'D BE COMING BACK.



SO, I MADE A DECISION. I DUMPED HER--COLDLY AND CRUELLY--BECAUSE I LOVED HER.

RICHARD, THIS ISN'T FAIR.

IS IT MY FAULT I'VE BEEN DRINKING?



YOU COULD COME UP YOU KNOW. STANLEY'S PROBABLY HOME. I'M SURE HE'D LIKE TO SEE YOU.

AND THEN I WENT MISSING. BEHIND ENEMY LINES. AND THEY TOLD HER I WAS DEAD.

THE WORLD HAD TO BELIEVE I WAS DEAD FOR THE MISSION TO SUCCEED.



PROBABLY ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH. WE BOTH KNOW THAT.

I KNEW WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN, BUT I WANTED TO PROTECT HER.



I THINK I SHOULD SAY GOODNIGHT.

SO, NOW I'M CLOSE TO HER THE ONLY WAY LEFT TO ME...



THAT'S BEST.



...BY SHARING MY SECRET.

BREAKING NEWS
THE SINDR... LED BY... BIG MARK... CHOICE... AGAIN... SLAVES... TRAIT...

RICHARD, THESE CHANCES YOU'RE TAKING... WHAT YOU'RE DOING NOW--

IS THIS THE NEWSPAPER EDITOR TALKING, BECAUSE IF SO, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.



ALL I MEAN IS, BE CAREFUL.

DON'T WORRY.

SO, IF I BRAND MY SYMBOL INTO SOME DEAD ASSHOLE'S FOREHEAD EVERY NOW AND AGAIN--WELL, YOU CAN'T SAY I HAVEN'T EARNED THE RIGHT.



"I'M JUST GOING TO WORK SOME OF THE TENSION OUT OF MY SYSTEM."



MIDTOWN.

QUIT YOUR WHINING.

YOU ARE GOING TO CLIMB UP THAT FIRE ESCAPE AND GO INTO THAT APARTMENT AND--



AAAAH!



DOWNTOWN.

FIRST YOU GIVE ME YOUR PURSE, AND THEN--



CHINATOWN.



LATER...

WENTWORTH, IT'S KIRK, YOU HAVEN'T BEEN DRINKING HAVE YOU?

YOU KNOW ME.

RING RING RING

I'LL PRETEND I DON'T.

I'VE GOT AN ASSIGNMENT FOR YOU, AND YOU'RE GOING TO LOVE IT.

"LOTS OF DEAD PEOPLE, RIGHT UP YOUR ALLEY."

LITTLE BLACK CAB
CALL 929-517-6506

WITH MY EXPERIENCE IN THE MILITARY, I'VE BEEN HIRING MYSELF OUT TO THE COPS AS A FREELANCE CONSULTANT ON SOME OF THE MORE *BIZARRE* CRIMES.

I DON'T NEED THE MONEY, NOT WITH MY *FATHER'S COMPANY* DOING WHAT IT DOES. BUT WORKING FOR THE COPS KEEPS ME IN THE LOOP AND IT GIVES ME AN EXCUSE TO NOSE AROUND CRIME SCENES.

I HAVE *EVERY* RIGHT TO BE HERE, AND YOU HAVE *NO* RIGHT TO SEARCH ANY APARTMENT YOU PLEASE, SIMPLY BECAUSE IT IS INHABITED BY IMMIGRANTS.

I'M ABOUT TEN SECONDS AWAY FROM PUTTING YOU IN CUFFS.

CUT THE CRAP, HILT.

JOE HILT, ALL AROUND ASSHOLE, AND THE DETECTIVE IN CHARGE OF CATCHING THAT NOTORIOUS VIGILANTE, THE SPIDER.

GOOD TO SEE YOU, RAM.

WHY AM I NOT SURPRISED? THE BLEEDING HEART *LAWYER*'S FRIENDS WITH THE COSTUMED VIGILANTE.

RAM SINGH. MY BEST FRIEND, MASTER OF GATKA, A SIKH MARTIAL ART, AND--BESIDE NITA--THE ONLY PERSON ALIVE WHO KNOWS FOR CERTAIN I'M THE SPIDER.

STILL ON WITH THAT SPIDER NONSENSE? GIVE IT A REST ALREADY.

PLENTY OF RUMORS, AND IN MY EXPERIENCE, THERE'S TRUTH IN EVERY RUMOR.

THAT MUST BE WHY YOU'RE SUCH AN ACE INVESTIGATOR.

THOUGH I'M NOT CONVINCED YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT TOM CRUISE.



BE SMART ALL YOU WANT. I'M HAPPY TO RUN YOU IN FOR INTERFERING WITH A POLICE INVESTIGATION.

DON'T GET KINKY WITH ME, HILT. I'M PART OF THE POLICE INVESTIGATION.

NOW, UNTWIST YOUR PANTIES AND LET ME DO MY JOB.

WELL, THE LAWYER IS OUT OF HERE.

NO DEAL. STICK AROUND RAM. WHO KNOWS? MAYBE I'LL NEED REPRESENTATION.

LUCKY ME. MY AMBULANCE CHASING HAS FINALLY PAID OFF.



WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS, ORDERING ME AROUND?

ONE OF THE WEALTHIEST MEN IN THE CITY, AND THE COMMISSIONER'S FRIEND. PLUS, HE KNOWS YOU'RE AFRAID OF HIM.



WATCH IT, SWAMI.

MAYBE I CAN'T PROVE YOUR FRIEND IS THE SPIDER, BUT I BET I CAN GET YOU KICKED OUT OF THE COUNTRY ON IMMIGRATION CHARGES.



I WAS BORN IN TEANECK. NOW, HANDS OFF.



JESUS CHRIST, WHAT A MESS.

THANKS FOR COMING OUT, RICHARD.

STANLEY KIRKPATRICK,
NEW YORK'S POLICE COMMISSIONER. HE'S BEEN TAKING A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THIS NEW WAVE OF CRIMES.

HE'S A GOOD GUY, AND A GOOD FRIEND.



WHICH MAKES THINGS COMPLICATED, SINCE HE'S NITA'S HUSBAND.

NITA SENDS HER BEST.

BE SURE TO RETURN THE FAVOR.

COMMISSIONER, TELL THIS CLOWN HE CAN'T CONTAMINATE THE CRIME SCENE WITH A CIGARETTE.



MY BAD.



THIS LOOKS TO ME LIKE IT COULD TURN INTO ONE OF THOSE HIGH PROFILE CRIMES, RICHARD.

WHAT'S IT LOOK LIKE TO YOU?



TO ME? THIS LOOKS LIKE AN EXPERIMENT.



YOU ASK ME, THIS KIND OF CRAP ONLY GOES ON BECAUSE OF THE SPIDER. THESE FREAKS ARE TRYING TO PLAY HIS GAME.

HE BRANDS THEIR HEADS WITH HIS MARK, AND THEY STRIKE BACK WITH THIS KIND OF NUTJOB EXCESS.

I KNOW IT'S YOUR JOB TO CATCH THE SPIDER, HILT, BUT THE TRUTH IS HE ONLY SHOWED UP BECAUSE OF LUNATICS WHO DO THINGS LIKE THIS.

THE SPIDER'S A VIGILANTE, AND IF WE CATCH HIM, HE GOES TO JAIL. BUT, TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST, I'D HATE TO THINK WHERE WE'D BE WITHOUT HIM.

"THINK ABOUT THE LUNATICS HE'S FACED...AND TAKEN DOWN."

THE CHOLERA KING.

ATTEMPTED TO BLACKMAIL THE CITY BY TAINTING THE WATER SUPPLY WITH DEADLY DISEASE.

THE SILVER FALCON.

BLOODY ROBBERIES WITH SCORES OF VICTIMS--WITH THE AID OF HIS HUNDREDS OF HIS DEADLY OWLS.

THE TERROR AND HIS LEGIONS.

ADVANCED WEAPONRY AND ARMOR USED IN AN EFFORT TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE CITY.

THE CHOLERA KING.

STOPPED BY THE SPIDER.

THE SILVER FALCON.

STOPPED BY THE SPIDER.

THE TERROR AND HIS LEGIONS.

STOPPED BY THE SPIDER.





YOU SAID THIS LOOKS LIKE AN EXPERIMENT.

YEAH, I SAW THINGS LIKE THIS DURING THE WAR.

NONE OF IT OFFICIAL, BUT CHEMICAL WEAPONS HAD TO BE TESTED.

COME ON, CORNISH. HE'S MAKING THIS STUFF UP.

GIVE ME A BREAK. YOU CAN TELL THIS IS MILITARY-GRADE GAS JUST BY LOOKING AT THEM?

THEN WHOSE MILITARY? WHO MADE THE GAS?

AND THERE'S NO WAY TO TELL WHO MANUFACTURED A GAS BY LOOKING AT THE VICTIMS, HILT.

NO WONDER YOU CAN'T CATCH THE SPIDER.

ALMOST CERTAINLY A GAS WEAPON. MILITARY? CAN'T TELL YET.

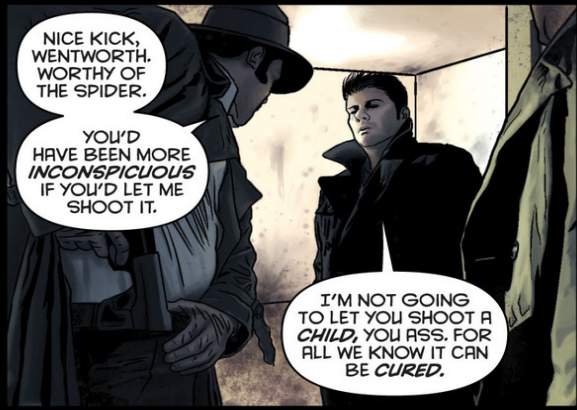
HAS ANYONE CHECKED IN HERE?

ARRRGH!

HOLY--









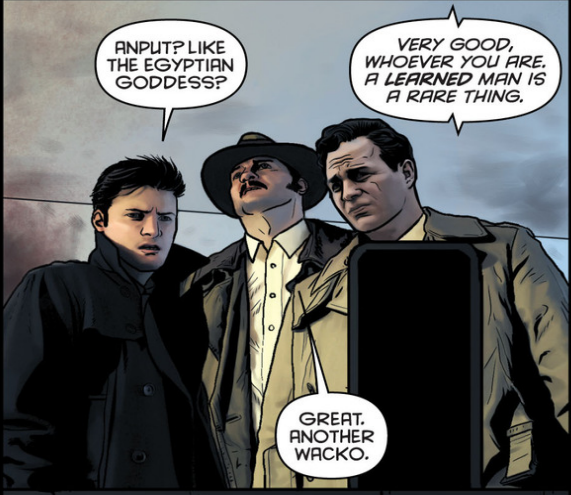
WITH WHOM DO I HAVE THE PLEASURE OF SPEAKING?

SHE SOUNDS HOT.



THIS IS POLICE COMMISSIONER STANLEY KIRKPATRICK. WHO IS THIS?

THIS IS THE AUTHOR OF ALL YOU WITNESS. I AM CALLED ANPUT.



ANPUT? LIKE THE EGYPTIAN GODDESS?

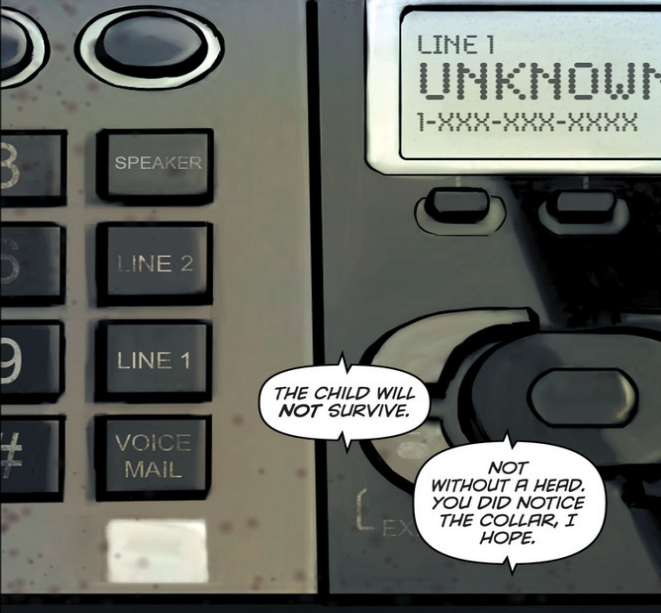
VERY GOOD, WHOEVER YOU ARE, A LEARNED MAN IS A RARE THING.

GREAT. ANOTHER WACKO.



I HOPE YOU'VE BEEN ENJOYING MY HANDIWORK.

LET'S CUT TO THE CHASE. IS IT REVERSIBLE? IS THERE ANY WAY TO SAVE THE CHILD.



THE CHILD WILL NOT SURVIVE.

NOT WITHOUT A HEAD. YOU DID NOTICE THE COLLAR, I HOPE.



BOOM

DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE GOING TO DIE, AND WHAT YOU DO NEXT WILL DETERMINE WHO AND HOW MANY.

OH, MY GOD...

TO BE CONTINUED!