



OUTLAST

THE MURKOFF ACCOUNT

Part 1



JT PETTY - THE BLACK FROG

The trans-national MURKOFF CORPORATION tirelessly pushes the frontier of scientific research and development. Partnering with the greatest minds of tomorrow, Murkoff expands the reach of every branch of scientific inquiry, including gene therapy, behavioral psychology, information technology, and medicine.

In the event of mistake or oversight, the MURKOFF INSURANCE MITIGATION DEPARTMENT comes in to minimize economic fallout. Mitigation Officers are damage control. They are not here to save lives or help people, they are here to make sure it doesn't cost the company any more than it has to.



*PAUL MARION & PAULINE GLICK,
MURKOFF INSURANCE MITIGATION OFFICERS*

*THE MURKOFF ACCOUNT Part 1
Story by JT PETTY & Art by THE BLACK FROG*

FBI FIELD OFFICE

Guns & Ammo

OH MY GOD!
IS THAT
BLOOD?

LOOK AT
ALL THAT
MONEY!



LET ME
SEE YOUR
HANDS!



I NEED
TO KEEP
THIS HAND
ON MY
FACE.



PUT YOUR
FUCKING
HANDS UP!

OKAY
...



I NEED ...



...YOU TO ARREST ME.

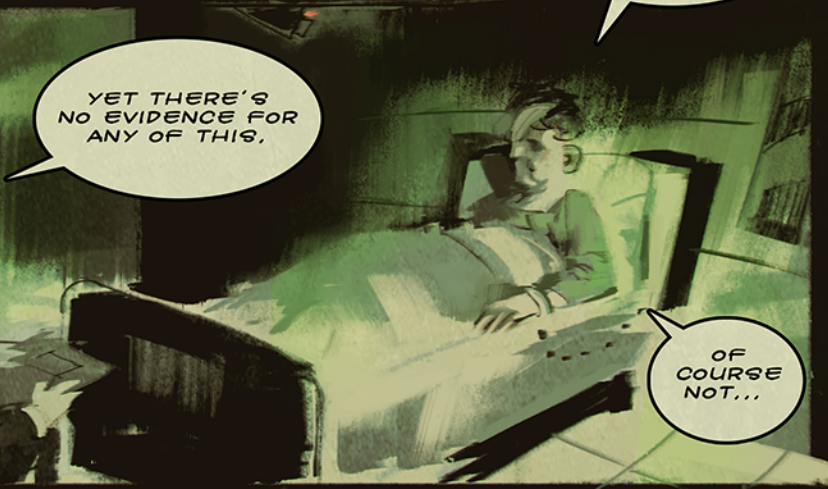


HOLY CRAP, I CAN STILL SEE OUT OF THAT EYE.

MR. PAUL MARION, BORN IN CINCINNATI, PASSED THE OHIO STATE BAR EXAM, 1992, NO CURRENT ADDRESS, YOU'RE CLAIMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR ONE COUNT OF ARSON, ONE KIDNAPPING, AND FOURTEEN MURDERS.



AT LEAST FOURTEEN, THERE MIGHT BE MORE.

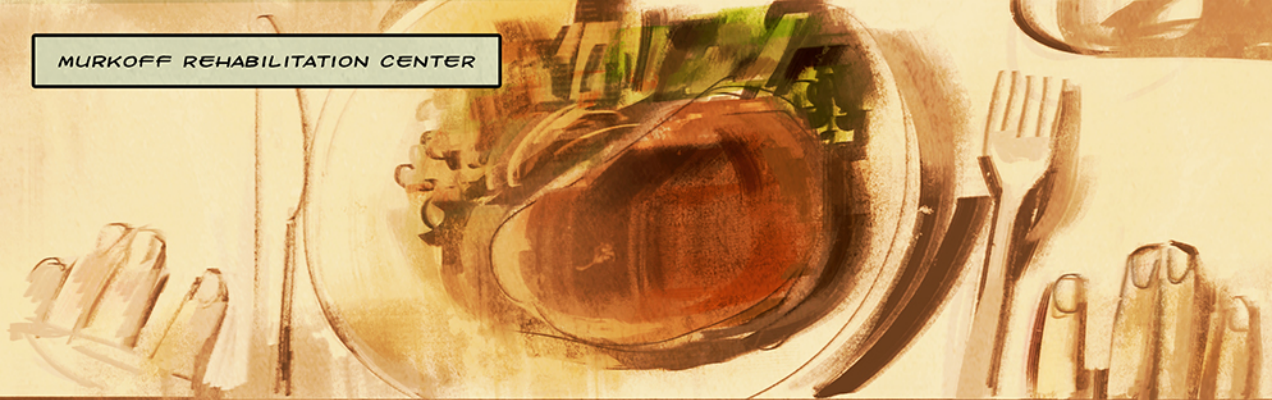


YET THERE'S NO EVIDENCE FOR ANY OF THIS.

OF COURSE NOT...



THAT'S MY JOB.



I'M GOING TO NEED A LITTLE HELP HERE.



HAPPY TO LEND A HAND.

I HOPE, MS. GLICK, YOU WON'T MIND TALKING WHILE YOU EAT?

THE MATTER IS URGENT.




CALL ME PAULINE, PLEASE, AND OF COURSE, WE CAN TALK WHILE I EAT.

WHERE DO YOU WANT TO START?

NO, I MEANT ...

WITH THE STEAK, PLEASE.


I KNOW WHAT YOU MEANT.



YOU WANT TO
KNOW WHERE TO
FIND PAUL MARION,
BEFORE HE DOES
ANY MORE HARM.

YES.

MORE IMPORTANTLY,
WE NEED TO MINIMIZE
THE FALLOUT FROM
WHAT HE'S ALREADY
DONE.



SOUNDS
FAMILIAR.
MORE MEAT,
PLEASE.

WE
DON'T KNOW
HOW EARLY HIS
SABOTAGE OF
THE MURKOFF
CORPORATION
BEGAN.

SO START
AT THE
BEGINNING.

THE BEGINNING,
THAT WOULD BE 2009, AS SOON
AS WE WERE PARTNERED UP THEY
STARTED CALLING US "THE PAULS,"
PAUL MARION AND PAULINE GLICK.
HILARIOUS, DO YOU REMEMBER
THE HAT BOX MURDERS?

OF COURSE,
WHAT'S HIS NAME,
THE EGYPTIAN GUY,
KILLED ALL THOSE
VETERANS...

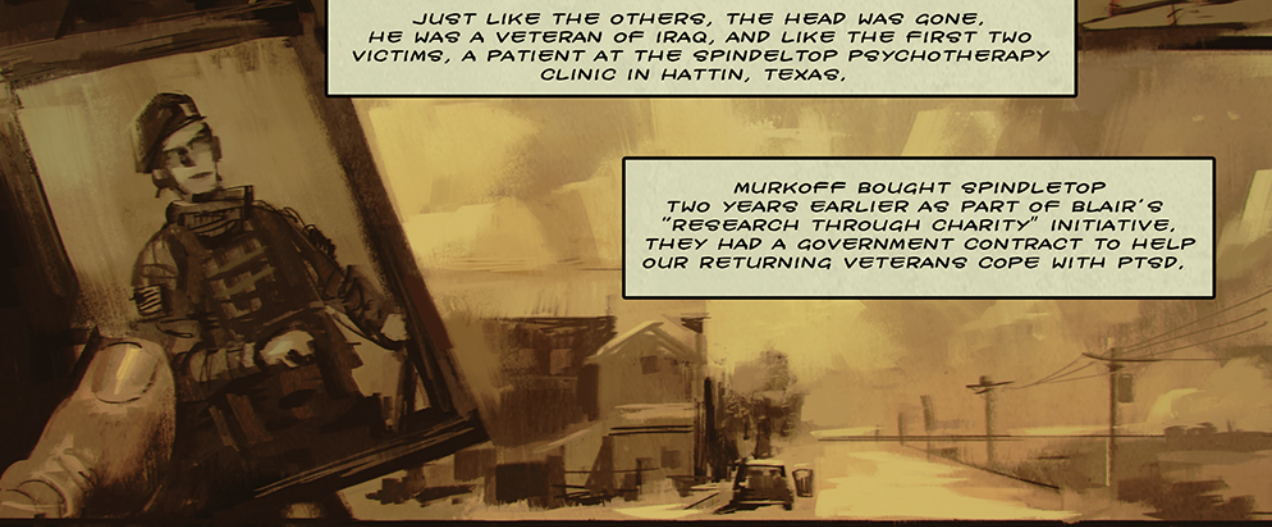
OMAR,
AN AMERICAN,
HIS GRANDPARENTS
WERE EGYPTIAN,
HE WAS BORN IN
NEWARK.



THEY HAD JUST FOUND THE THIRD BODY, ONE MARTIN BELLMONT, TOOK THEM A DAY TO PIECE HIM BACK TOGETHER.



JUST LIKE THE OTHERS, THE HEAD WAS GONE. HE WAS A VETERAN OF IRAQ, AND LIKE THE FIRST TWO VICTIMS, A PATIENT AT THE SPINDELTOP PSYCHOTHERAPY CLINIC IN HATTIN, TEXAS.




MURKOFF BOUGHT SPINDELTOP TWO YEARS EARLIER AS PART OF BLAIR'S "RESEARCH THROUGH CHARITY" INITIATIVE, THEY HAD A GOVERNMENT CONTRACT TO HELP OUR RETURNING VETERANS COPE WITH PTSD.



THE CHIEF PSYCHOTHERAPIST THERE WASN'T DIRECTLY UNDER MURKOFF MANAGEMENT, SO WE HAD TO GIVE HIM "THE SPEECH."

THE SPEECH?





WE'RE NOT HERE TO SAVE ANYBODY. THE COMPANY YOU WORK FOR BELONGS TO A COMPANY THAT BELONGS TO A COMPANY THAT BELONGS TO THE MURKOFF CORPORATION. ACCIDENTS AND LAWSUITS RAISE MURKOFF'S INSURANCE PREMIUMS, AND UNNECESSARY EXPENSE MAKES US SAD.

WE'RE DAMAGE CONTROL, WE'LL HELP AS MUCH AS WE CAN...

BUT OUR BOTTOM LINE IS THE BOTTOM LINE.

WE'RE LEGAL MITIGATION.



SO YOUR CARD SAYS.


THE MURDERED MEN WERE ALL PATIENTS OF YOURS.

THEY WERE.


WE'LL NEED TO SEE ANY NOTES YOU HAVE ON THEIR THERAPY SESSIONS.

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, DOCTOR-PATIENT CONFIDENTIALITY, UNLESS OF COURSE YOU CAN PROVIDE A WARRANT, LIKE THOSE FBI MEN DID.

WE'LL NEED ANY INFORMATION YOU GAVE TO THE FBI. WE MAY NEED TO SHAPE YOUR TESTIMONY.



NOW HOLD ON A SECOND...




ARE THESE SUMERIAN?

Your world, Our business
Murkoff Insurance Mitigation Dept

PAULINE GLICK
Insurance Mitigation Office

MURKOFF
CORPORATION




THAT'S RIGHT, MR. MARION, MY PATIENTS WERE DAMAGED WHILE WORKING IN THE MIDDLE EAST, DOES GOOD TO INCLUDE SOME ARABIC CULTURE, TO SHOW IT'S NOT ALL WAR.

WHO ARE THEY?


THE APKALLU, DEMI-GODS GIVEN TO MAN TO ESTABLISH CIVILIZATION AND GUARD AGAINST ITS DESTRUCTION.

LIKE THE NEPHILIM, GENESIS 6, "THE SONS OF GOD CAME IN UNTO THE DAUGHTERS OF MEN," THEIR CHILDREN THE MIGHTY MEN OF RENOWN.

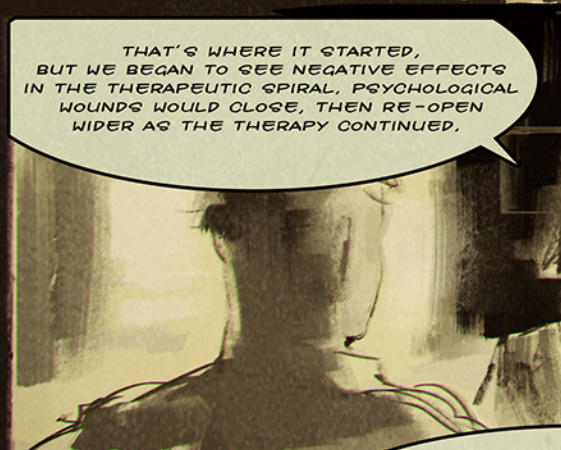
WITH ANIMAL HEADS, LET'S GET BACK ON TRACK.



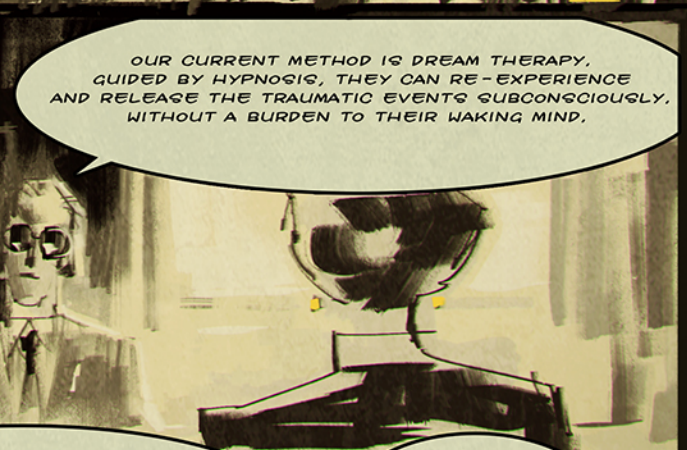
YOUR REPORTS DESCRIBE EXPERIENTIAL THERAPY, RE-LIVING AND DISSECTING THE EVENT UNTIL IT STOPS HURTING.



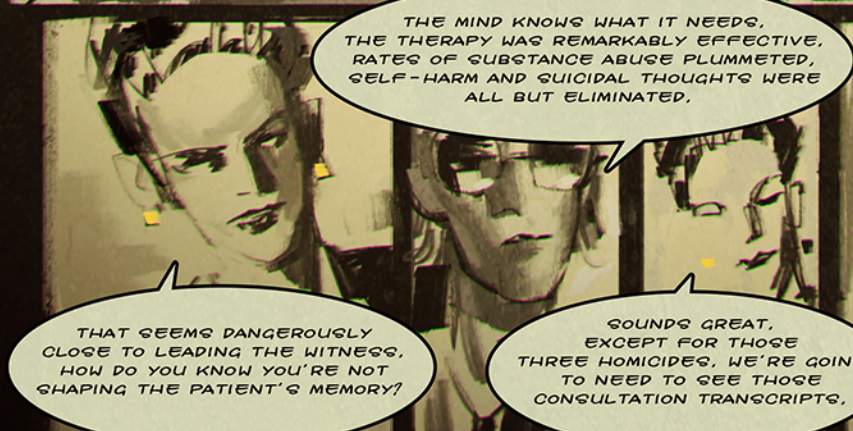
SOME SCHOLARS THINK SO, I LIKE TO THINK IT HELPS OUR SOLDIERS TO SEE CHRISTIAN AND ISLAMIC MYTHS COMING FROM THE SAME PLACE.



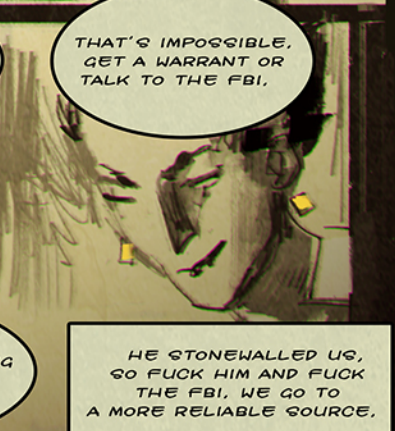
THAT'S WHERE IT STARTED, BUT WE BEGAN TO SEE NEGATIVE EFFECTS IN THE THERAPEUTIC SPIRAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL WOUNDS WOULD CLOSE, THEN RE-OPEN WIDER AS THE THERAPY CONTINUED.



OUR CURRENT METHOD IS DREAM THERAPY, GUIDED BY HYPNOSIS, THEY CAN RE-EXPERIENCE AND RELEASE THE TRAUMATIC EVENTS SUBCONSCIOUSLY, WITHOUT A BURDEN TO THEIR WAKING MIND.



THE MIND KNOWS WHAT IT NEEDS, THE THERAPY WAS REMARKABLY EFFECTIVE, RATES OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE PLUMMETED, SELF-HARM AND SUICIDAL THOUGHTS WERE ALL BUT ELIMINATED.

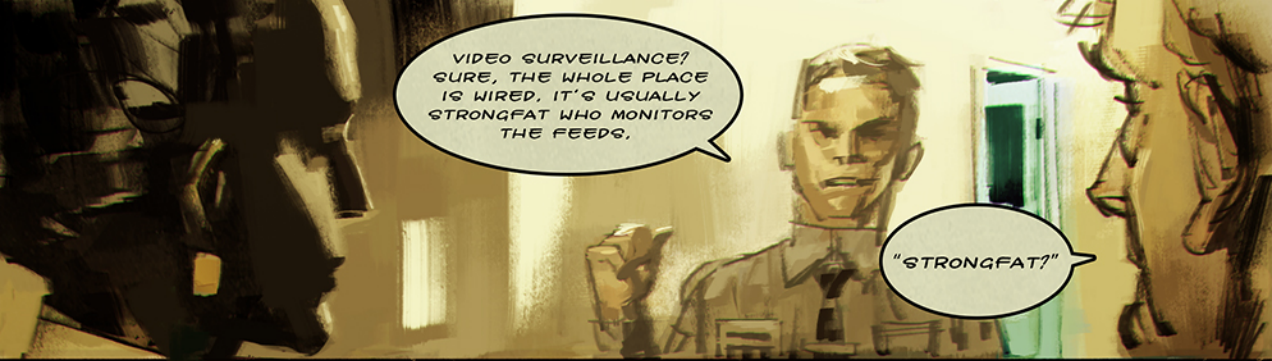


THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, GET A WARRANT OR TALK TO THE FBI.

THAT SEEMS DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO LEADING THE WITNESS, HOW DO YOU KNOW YOU'RE NOT SHAPING THE PATIENT'S MEMORY?


SOUNDS GREAT, EXCEPT FOR THOSE THREE HOMICIDES, WE'RE GOING TO NEED TO SEE THOSE CONSULTATION TRANSCRIPTS.

HE STONEWALLED US, SO FUCK HIM AND FUCK THE FBI, WE GO TO A MORE RELIABLE SOURCE.



VIDEO SURVEILLANCE? SURE, THE WHOLE PLACE IS WIRED, IT'S USUALLY STRONGFAT WHO MONITORS THE FEEDS.

"STRONGFAT?"



...I WISH THOSE GUYS WOULDN'T CALL ME THAT.

DO THE THERAPISTS KNOW THEY'RE BEING RECORDED?

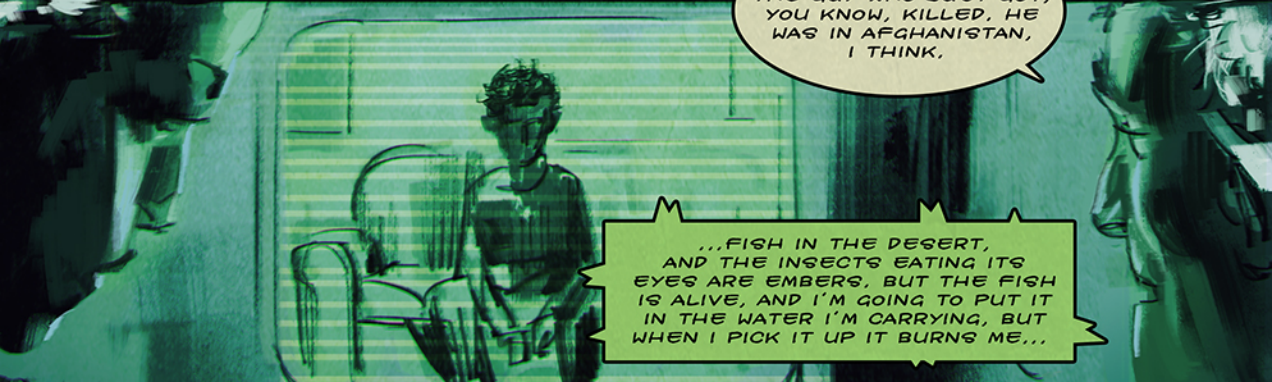
OF COURSE NOT! WE'RE WATCHING THEM, TOO.

AND YOU WATCHED EVERY THERAPY SESSION?

CAN YOU SHOW ME THE VICTIMS.

YES MA'AM, MAKE SURE NOBODY GETS HURT.

THIS IS MARTIN BELLMONT, THE GUY WHO JUST GOT, YOU KNOW, KILLED, HE WAS IN AFGHANISTAN, I THINK.

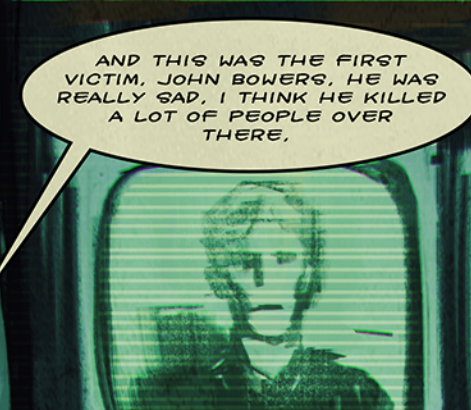


...FISH IN THE DESERT, AND THE INSECTS EATING ITS EYES ARE EMBERS, BUT THE FISH IS ALIVE, AND I'M GOING TO PUT IT IN THE WATER I'M CARRYING, BUT WHEN I PICK IT UP IT BURNS ME...




THAT'S
PRISCILLA CLARKE,
THE SECOND VICTIM.

YEAH,
SHE WAS
NICE.



AND THIS WAS THE FIRST
VICTIM, JOHN BOWERS. HE WAS
REALLY SAD, I THINK HE KILLED
A LOT OF PEOPLE OVER
THERE.




YOU SAID YOU
MAKE SURE
NOBODY GETS
HURT.

...THEY HAD KILLED THE
CHILDREN, TOO, BUT THE
CHILDREN AREN'T REALLY
CHILDREN, THEY'VE GOT
ANIMAL HEADS, AND IF WE
DON'T WATCH THEM
THEY'LL COME IN THE
HOUSE AND KILL ALL
THE...


...BECAUSE THEY FOLLOWED
US BACK, THEY DON'T WANT US
THEY WANT OUR CHILDREN, THE
CRAIN, WITH BLOOD ON HIS BEAK
FROM... FROM OUR HEADS, HE
DIPS HIS BEAK AND WE MOVE
LIKE PUPPETS...

YEAH, IT DON'T
HAPPEN OFTEN,
BUT, LIKE,
THIS GUY--




...OMAR SOMETHING,
HE'S AN OKAY GUY,
JUST GOT A LOT OF
STUFF TO WORK OUT.

...I CAN'T TELL THEM THOSE
THINGS ARE COMING IN, THEY
MOVE IN BLOOD, SOMETHING
THAT SUCKS LIGHT OUT, IT
COMES THROUGH THE WALLS.



CAN YOU
DESCRIBE
THE THING?

NO.




I WANT YOU
TO TRY, OMAR.




GRAAAAAAGH!

OMAR! WAKE UP!
WHEN YOU HEAR ME
CLAP YOU WILL WAKE,
AGGH!




THERE'S
ME.



YOU'RE GOOD
AT VIOLENCE.


YEAH,
I ALWAYS BEEN BIG,
AND I WAS M.P.
WHEN I WAS ARMY.

M.P. LIKE
MILITARY
POLICE?



YUP,
THEY TAUGHT
US SOME JUDO.


...AN EGG! IT'S AN EGG!
BIRTHED IN BLOOD,
EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU
MOTHERFUCKERS!



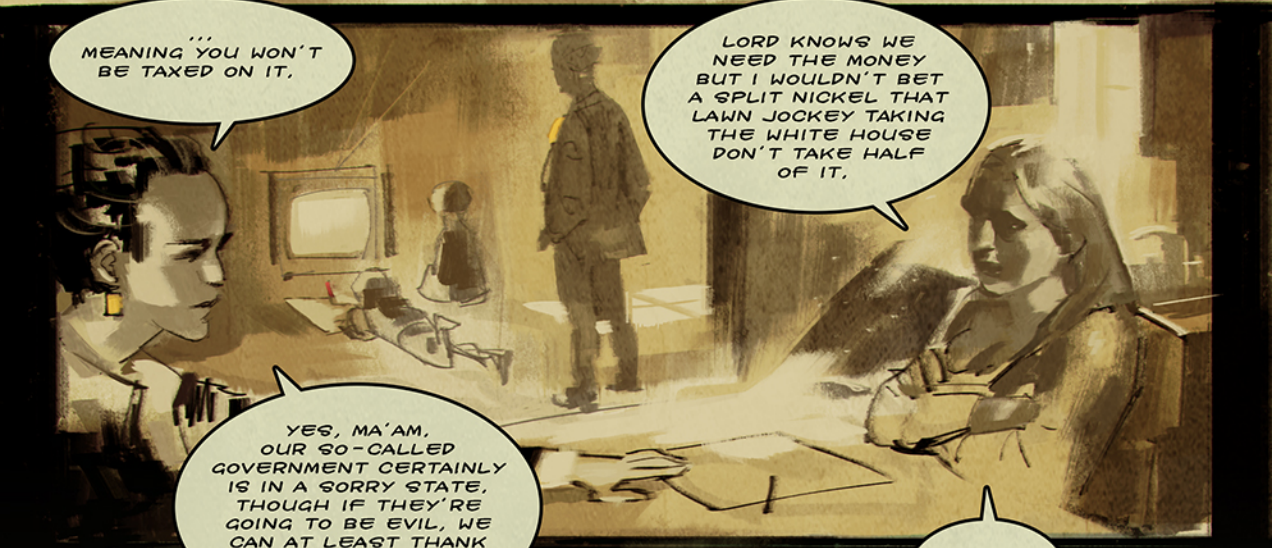
WE'LL NEED COPIES
OF ALL THOSE SESSIONS.
CAN I GET THEM AS AUDIO
FILES?

SURE.

YOU'VE GOT A MUCH
HIGHER TOLERANCE FOR
CRAZY THAN I EVER WILL.
IT'S ALMOST DINNER TIME.
LET'S GO SEE IF WE CAN
CATCH SOME WIDOWS
EATING DINNER.



...TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS,
BUT IT'S CASH, WHICH YOU CAN
FILE AS A REIMBURSEMENT...




...
MEANING YOU WON'T
BE TAXED ON IT.

LORD KNOWS WE
NEED THE MONEY
BUT I WOULDN'T BET
A SPLIT NICKEL THAT
LAWN JOCKEY TAKING
THE WHITE HOUSE
DON'T TAKE HALF
OF IT.


YES, MA'AM,
OUR SO-CALLED
GOVERNMENT CERTAINLY
IS IN A SORRY STATE,
THOUGH IF THEY'RE
GOING TO BE EVIL, WE
CAN AT LEAST THANK
GOD THEY'RE IDIOTS.

AMEN
TO THAT.



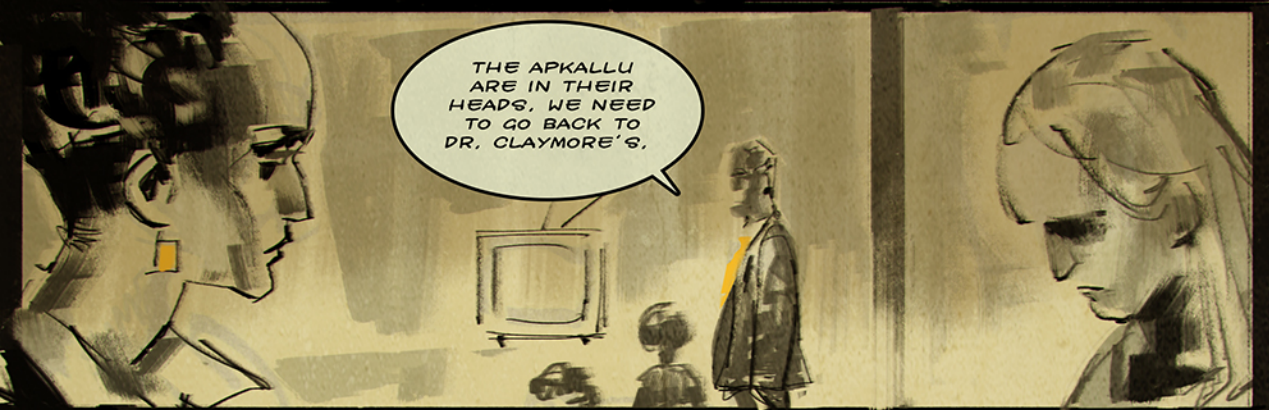
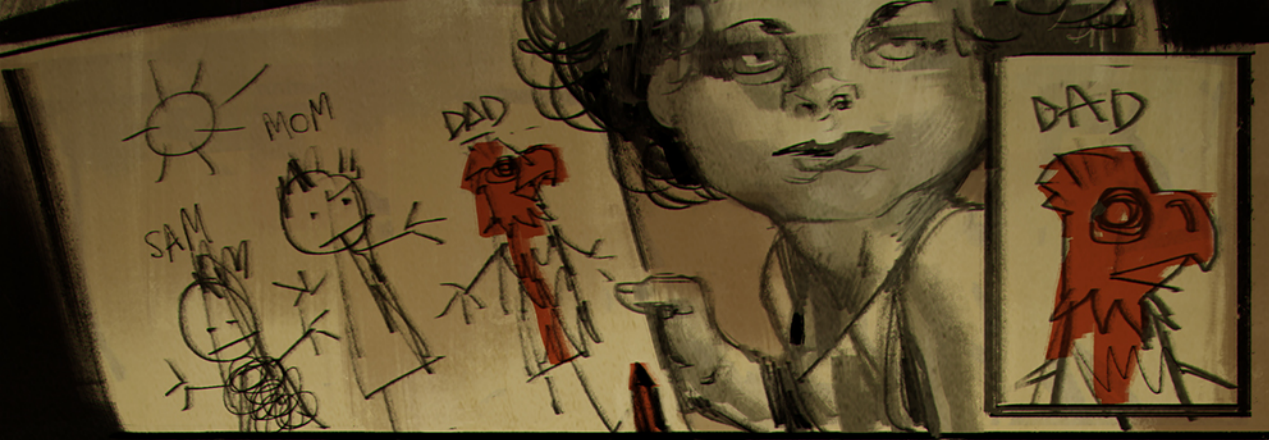
THE RETROACTIVE
ARBITRATION AGREEMENT
WAS ALWAYS GLICK'S BAG.
SHE COULDA SOLD
DOG SHIT PERFUME
IF SHE WANTED TO.

FOR
TEN THOUSAND
BUCKS THIS WOMAN
GIVES UP THE CHANCE
AT A LAWSUIT WORTH
A COUPLE MILLION
AT LEAST.

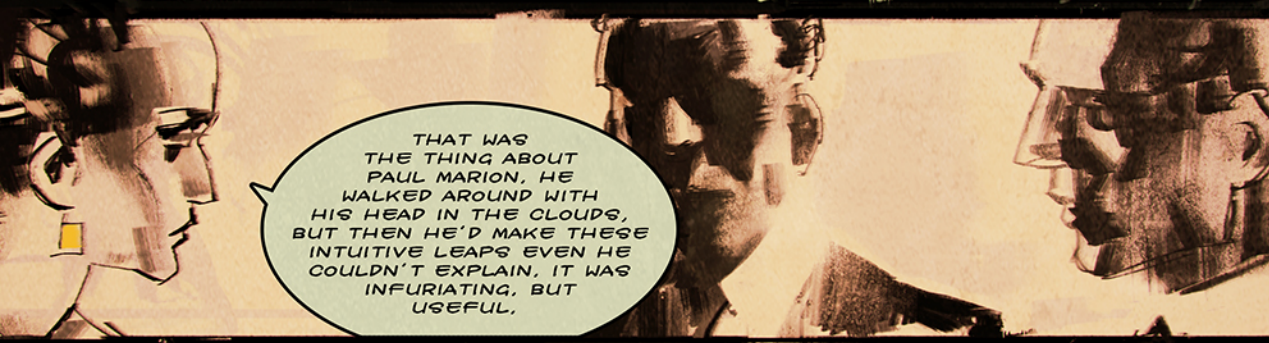


THE CONTRACT WAS A BRILLIANT
PIECE OF LEGALESE, PROTECTED
MURKOFF ENTIRELY, WITHOUT
MENTIONING THE COMPANY ONCE.





THE APKALLU ARE IN THEIR HEADS, WE NEED TO GO BACK TO DR. CLAYMORE'S.



THAT WAS THE THING ABOUT PAUL MARION, HE WALKED AROUND WITH HIS HEAD IN THE CLOUDS, BUT THEN HE'D MAKE THESE INTUITIVE LEAPS EVEN HE COULDN'T EXPLAIN, IT WAS INFURIATING, BUT USEFUL.



AT LEAST UNTIL THOSE "INTUITIVE LEAPS" TOOK HIM DOWN A... DANGEROUS PATH, BUT I'M GETTING AHEAD OF MYSELF, WE WENT BACK TO SPINDLETOP, WHERE OF COURSE WE FOUND - -



I... DON'T THINK DR. CLAYMORE IS GOING TO BE MUCH USE ANY MORE.



THIS WHOLE PLACE IS ON VIDEO, WE'VE GOT THE KILLER.

I'M GONNA STAY HERE.



WELL,
SHIT.



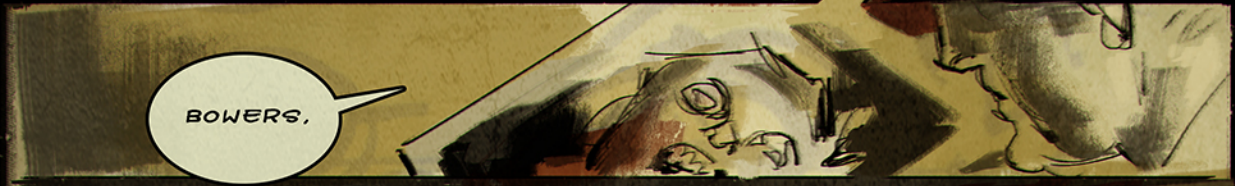
NO VIDEO,
THE WHOLE
SYSTEM GOT
SMASHED TO
HELL.

YEAH, THAT MAKES
SENSE, THE KILLER'S
MOTIVATION WAS THE
CULMINATION OF ALL
THE SEPARATE SESSIONS,
AND THERE WAS ONLY TWO
PEOPLE WHO HEARD
EVERYTHING EVERY
PATIENT SAID,
DR. CLAYMORE,
AND...

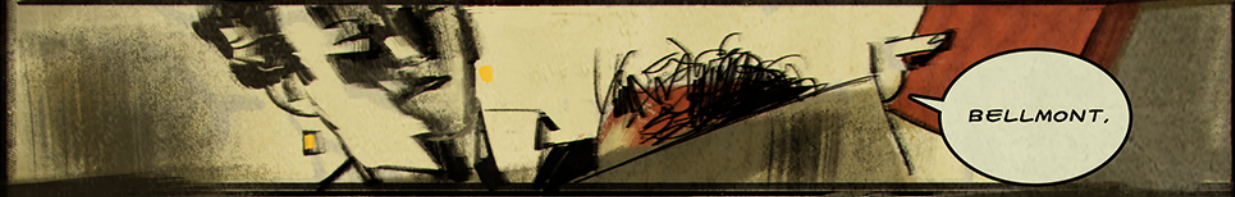




I GOT PRISCILLA HERE.



BOWERS.



BELLMONT.

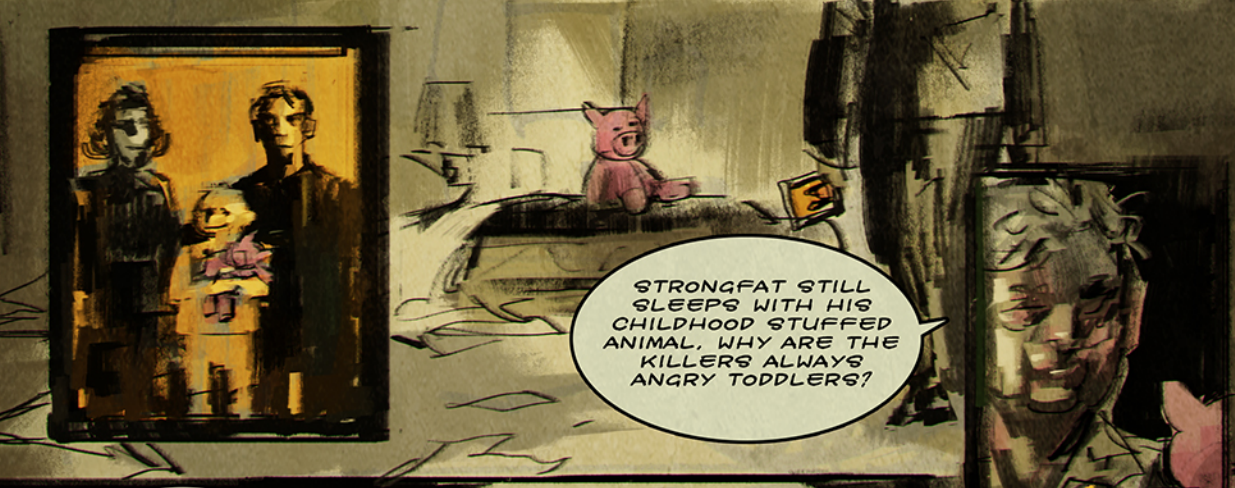


AND A PLACE HE'S KEEPING COOL FOR CLAYMORE.



MEANING HE'LL BE HERE SOON.

I'LL CALL A SECURITY TEAM.



STRONGFAT STILL SLEEPS WITH HIS CHILDHOOD STUFFED ANIMAL. WHY ARE THE KILLERS ALWAYS ANGRY TODDLERS?



WE MIGHT AS WELL START USING HIS REAL NAME. SHIT'S ABOUT TO GO ON RECORD.

FINE, THEN ...

EEEEK...



CHRIS WALKER.



LITTLE PIG?



HANDS ON YOUR HEAD!

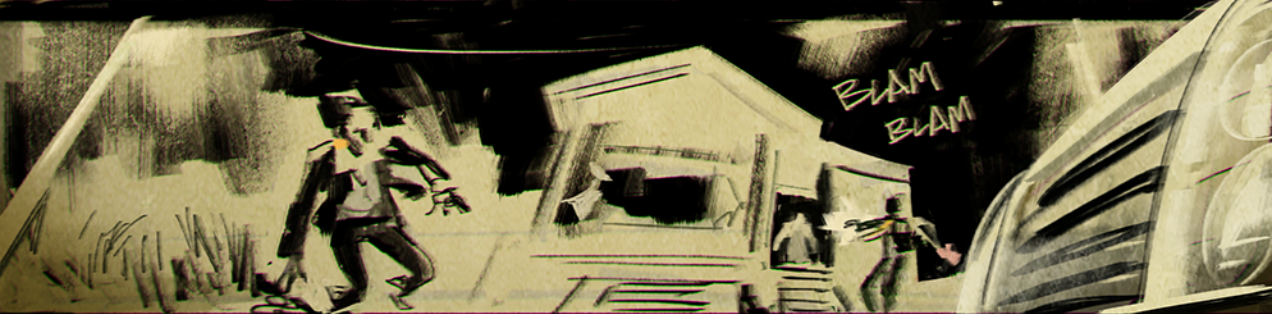
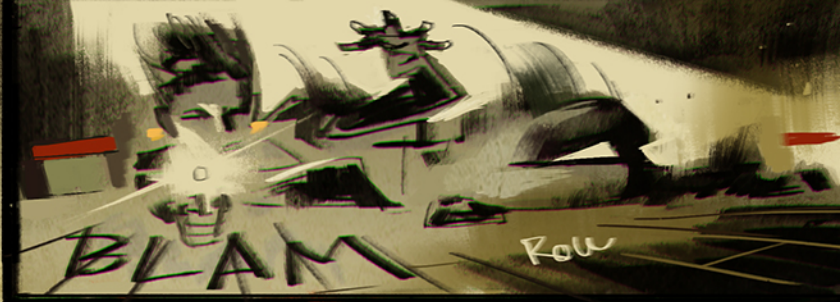
YOU'RE ...



RREHARGP

NGH

WACK!!





LITTLE
PIG
...

HUH?



ROAR

CRASH




THANKS.

HE'S A MURKOFF
EMPLOYEE.


I THINK
HE JUST
RETIRED.

YUP,
STILL MEANS
WE GOTTA GET
HIM OUT OF HERE AND
COVER UP BEFORE THE
COPS GET HERE, YOU
STRONG ENOUGH TO PUT
THOSE COOLERS IN
THE TRUCK?




WE PUT
DR. CLAYMORE'S
HEAD IN THE
LAST COOLER AND
PUT ALL FOUR OF
THEM IN OMAR
ABDUL MALIK'S
APARTMENT.

PRETTY FLIMSY,
EVIDENCE-WISE,
BUT HIS NAME AND
SKIN COLOR DID
THE HEAVY
LIFTING.




OMAR
ABDUL MALIK
WAS
INNOCENT?

WELL
...



I DON'T KNOW ABOUT INNOCENT,
BUT HE DIDN'T DO THE
HATBOX MURDERS.

APARTMENT OF ABDUL MALIK



YOU SEEM
ASHAMED.

I WAS.

I AM.

SO
WHY DID
YOU DO THE
WORK? WAS
THE MONEY
THAT GOOD?

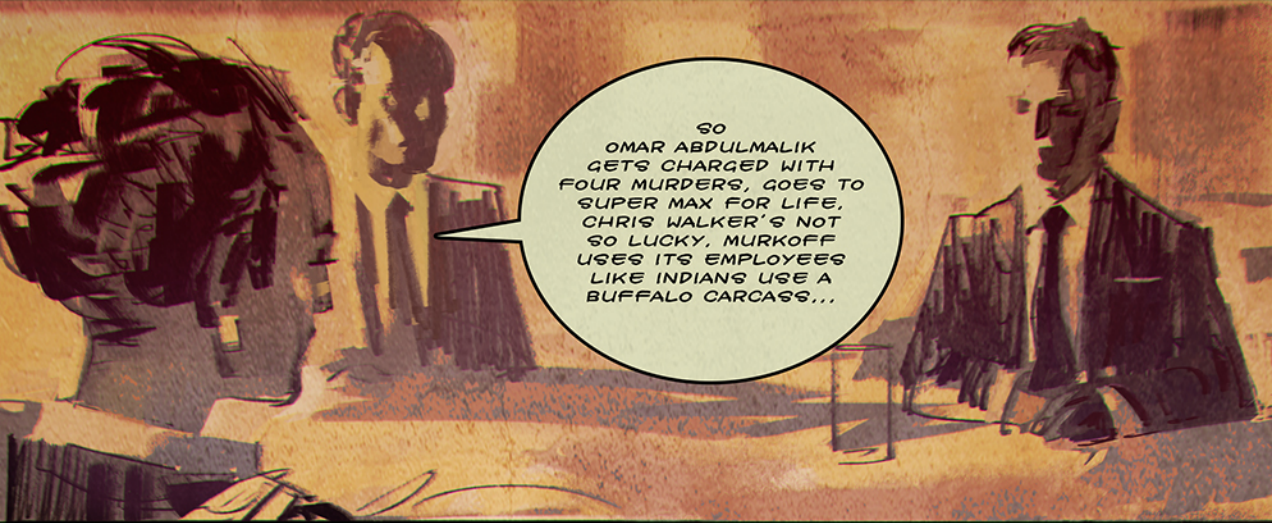
NO, I MEAN, THE
MONEY WAS GREAT.
BUT THE REASON
I KEPT DOING IT...

A BIG PART OF MURKOFF'S BUSINESS IN THE MODERN WORLD IS PHARMACEUTICALS AND GENE THERAPIES. MY DAUGHTER HAS THE SAME BLOOD DISEASE THAT KILLED MY WIFE, EXTRAORDINARILY RARE, AND UNCURABLE.

BUT MURKOFF HAD AN EXPERIMENTAL TREATMENT, COMMERCIALY UNAVAILABLE. AS A MURKOFF EMPLOYEE, I HAD PRIVILEGED ACCESS,

SO LONG AS I KEPT MY JOB, THEY WOULD KEEP ALICE ALIVE,

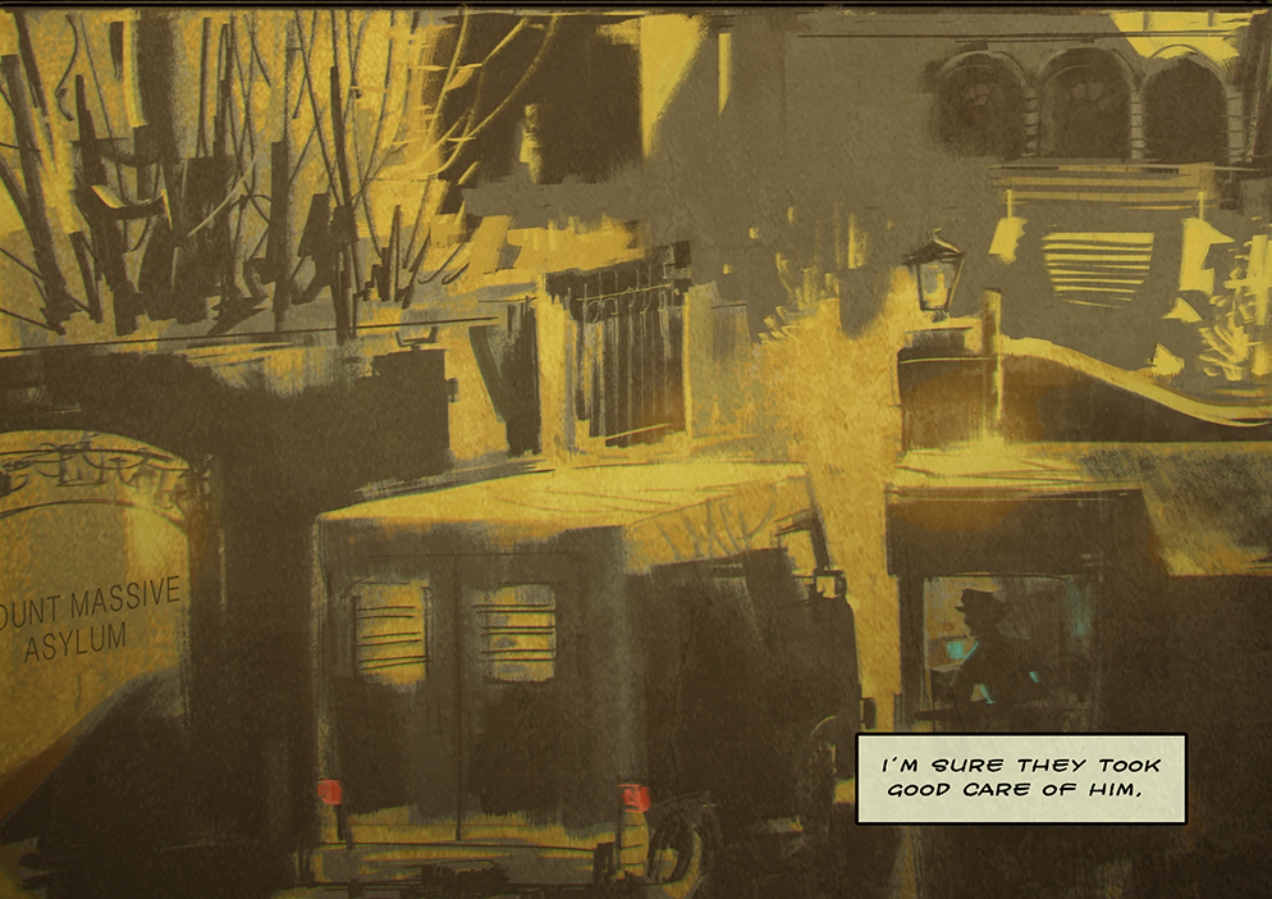




SO
OMAR ABDULMALIK
GETS CHARGED WITH
FOUR MURDERS, GOES TO
SUPER MAX FOR LIFE.
CHRIS WALKER'S NOT
SO LUCKY, MURKOFF
USES ITS EMPLOYEES
LIKE INDIANS USE A
BUFFALO CARCASS...



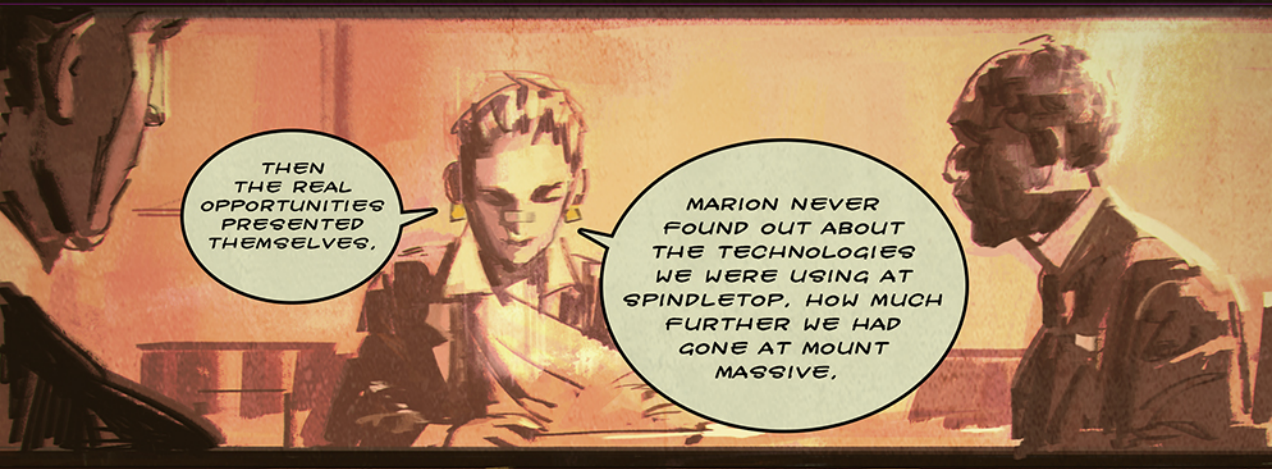
NOTHING WASTED,



I'M SURE THEY TOOK
GOOD CARE OF HIM,



THAT WAS JUST THE THREAD THAT UNRAVELLED EVERYTHING. CHRIS WALKER LEAD TO MOUNT MASSIVE, AND FROM THERE...



THEN THE REAL OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED THEMSELVES.

MARION NEVER FOUND OUT ABOUT THE TECHNOLOGIES WE WERE USING AT SPINDLETOP, HOW MUCH FURTHER WE HAD GONE AT MOUNT MASSIVE.



IT WAS ALMOST SAD, MARION STILL THOUGHT HE WAS MY PARTNER, NOT MY TARGET.

*To be continued in Outlast:
The Murkoff Account Part 2*