



OUTLAST

THE MURKOFF ACCOUNT

Part 2



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 2
Story by JT PETTY & Art by THE BLACK FROG*




WE NEED TO OPERATE,
THE INFECTION IN THAT EYE
IS REMARKABLY AGGRESSIVE.
IF WE DON'T ADDRESS IT
IMMEDIATELY HE COULD LOSE
HIS VISION, AND LIKELY
SOME BRAIN FUNCTION.


FBI ON-SITE HOSPITAL

HOLD
ON
...


SURE,
SURE,
I CAN
JUST
...



HOW LONG
WILL I BE
UNCONSCIOUS?



TWENTY-FOUR
HOURS UNDER
FULL SEDATION,
PROBABLY ANOTHER
THIRTY-SIX
OF HEAVY PAIN
MEDICATION.



I DON'T MIND LOSING
SOME BRAIN FUNCTION
IF IT TAKES MEMORIES
WITH IT.

BUT FIRST
I FINISH
MY STORY.

NOTHING LEFT
BUT GRISTLE
AND BONE,

I HOPE
YOU ENJOYED IT,
WE WERE UNDER
THE IMPRESSION YOU
WERE GOING TO TELL US
ABOUT WAYLON PARK,
HOW HE GOT
TO PEACOCK,

SIMON PEACOCK,
OF COURSE,
CAN I ASK --
HOW HIGH IS
YOUR SECURITY
CLEARANCE?

PRETTY HIGH,
WE'RE BOTH
ALPHA GRAY,

WHAT WOULD
YOU SAY IF I SAID
"ESKIMO REUBEN,"

EXCUSE
ME?

AH,
NEVER
MIND,

SIMON
PEACOCK
IS DEAD,

WAYLON PARK'S
STORY GETS US
BACK TO MOUNT
MASSIVE,

FROM: <anonymous>
TO: humanresourcesusa@murkofcorp.lu
SUBJECT: OSHA Neglect at Mount Massive
SENT: October 4, 2012

I am writing to report security neglect at the Mount Massive Charitable Hospital in Mount Massive, CO. Cost cutting and profit have taken precedence over safety in a manner which endangers staff and patients both. It is hard to imagine conditions continuing in such a state without attention from OSHA. As both physical and digital security measures have been stripped from the facilities, staff has been required to...

AN ANONYMOUS EMPLOY AT MOUNT MASSIVE COMPLAINED TO HUMAN RESOURCES ABOUT SAFETY CONDITIONS AT THE HOSPITAL, MARION AND I WERE SENT IN TO FIND ANY POTENTIALLY LITIGIOUS DANGERS,


OR, IF THEY TURNED OUT TO BE FALSE CLAIMS...

OFFICIAL MURKOFF POLICY PROTECTS ANY EMPLOYEE FILING A COMPLAINT,

UNOFFICIAL POLICY IS EXTREME PREJUDICE. SQUEAKY WHEELS GET GREASED,

YOU DON'T MEAN KILLED, DO YOU?

NOT OFTEN, SHAME AND RUINATION USUALLY DO THE TRICK,




MURKOFF H.R.
FORWARDED US THE
EMAIL, THAT TALK ABOUT
OSHA, POTENTIAL LITIGATION,
I KNOW A VEILED THREAT
WHEN I SEE ONE,

VEILED THREATS
ARE MY WHOLE M.O.

PAUL STARTED LOOKING THROUGH THE LOGS,
BUT WHOEVER POSTED THE COMPLAINT HAD
COVERED THEIR TRACKS,

I GOT CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT
MURKOFF WAS SO INTENT
ON HIDING,




I'M GOING TO HAVE
A LOOK AROUND,

SCAN




PING

ONE HUNDRED AND
TWENTY-TWO FEET
DOWN,



IMPRESSIVE,
AM I RIGHT?


CHRIS WALKER




JEREMY BLAIRE,
EXECUTIVE
VICE PRESIDENT OF
GLOBAL PROJECT
DEVELOPMENT,

AND YOU'RE
PAULINE GLICK,
INSURANCE MITIGATION
DEPARTMENT,

...



I DON'T
REMEMBER
US BEING
INTRODUCED.




YOU ALL HAVE BEEN DOING SOME INTERESTING WORK HERE, WHEN WE DROPPED THIS GUY OFF TWO MONTHS AGO, HE WAS... HUMAN.

YES, "HUMAN," NOT SO PRECISE A TERM AS IT USED TO BE.

WHERE'S YOUR PARTNER?

I TRY TO STAY WELL-INFORMED.

HE DOESN'T HAVE THE CLEARANCE TO BE DOWN HERE.



YOU'RE GONNA WANT TO MAKE SURE HE UNDERSTANDS, THEN, HOW IMPORTANT IT IS WE WEED OUT ANY EMPLOYEES WHO AREN'T, UH...



JUST RELAX BILLY.



...TRUE BELIEVERS.



SEE ANYTHING INTERESTING?



NORMAL HOSPITAL STUFF.

LET'S HUNT, I SAY WE START WITH I.T.



THANK YOU, WAYLON, I'LL LET YOU KNOW AS SOON AS WE'RE DONE.

THANKS FOR TAKING THE TIME, MS. HAAS, HOW SOON ARE YOU EXPECTING?



JESUS CHRIST, GLICK, YOU NEVER ASK...



IT'S OKAY, I'M SIX MONTHS ALONG.


YOU HAD A QUESTION ABOUT OUR EMAIL SYSTEM?

I'M SURE YOU CAN IMAGINE MURKOFF'S RIGOR CONCERNING DIGITAL SECURITY, ANYBODY WITH ACCESS TO DEEPWEB RESOURCES WOULD HAVE TO BE FROM CORPORATE.

THE EMAIL WAS SENT THROUGH AN ONION ROUTER, BOUNCED THROUGH SEVERAL UNINDEXED SERVERS.

WHO RUNS CORPORATE FOR MOUNT MASSIVE?

I'D START WITH THE HEAD OF BIZ DEV, RICK TRAGER.




HEY, I'M HAPPY TO HELP,
I'M A TEAM PLAYER AND I WANT
YOU GUYS ON TEAM RICK,

YOU GUYS WANT COFFEE?
OR SOME KIND OF FANCY
WOP DRINK?

I CAN SAY THAT BECAUSE
I'M ITALIAN, ON MY MOTHER'S
SIDE, I'M GONNA HAVE
A COFFEE,


DENISE/
BE A BUDDY AND BRING
US SOME COFFEES!



THANKS, MR. TRAGER,
BUT THIS COMPLAINT--
I.T. IS SAYING IT WOULD
HAVE TO COME FROM
CORPORATE,


"CORPORATE," FROM
THE LATIN "CORPUS,"
ALSO THE ROOT OF "CORPSE,"
BECAUSE A CORPORATION
IS A BODY, AND ANY WEAKNESS
IS A WOUND TO THAT BODY
THAT MUST BE
STAUNCHED,

CAUTERIZED,
IF NECESSARY,

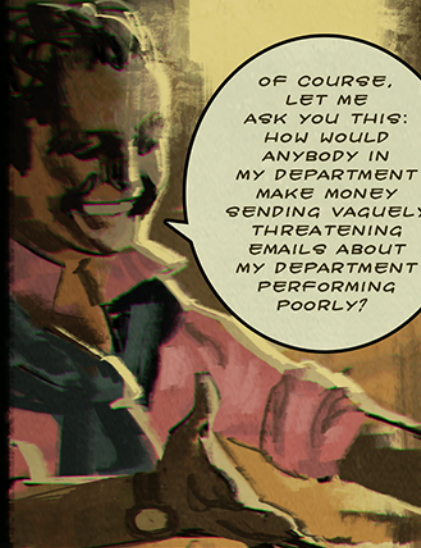


I COULDN'T
AGREE MORE,


WELL
YOU CERTAINLY
LOOK LIKE YOU KNOW
HOW TO TAKE CARE
OF YOUR BODY,




LET'S STAY
ON TOPIC
...




OF COURSE,
LET ME
ASK YOU THIS:
HOW WOULD
ANYBODY IN
MY DEPARTMENT
MAKE MONEY
SENDING VAGUELY
THREATENING
EMAILS ABOUT
MY DEPARTMENT
PERFORMING
POORLY?



HOW MUCH
HAVE YOU CUT
THE SECURITY
BUDGET?




MY JOB IS
MINIMIZING
EXPENSE,
I'M SURE YOU
TWO CAN
RELATE,




AND NOTHING'S
AS EXPENSIVE AS
SECURITY, I MEAN
DON'T GET ME WRONG,
I NEVER 'META DATA'
I DIDN'T LIKE...




HHH...



GROAN




BUT SOMETIMES
YOU GOTTA MAKE CUTS,
I CREATE EFFICIENCIES,
THAT MAKES US
ALL SAFER,




INTERESTING...



SCRIBBLE



SECURITY CHANGES
WITH THE TIMES,
MONEY WILL ALWAYS
BE MONEY,



THIS GUY'S
DIRTY AS
HOBOSHIT



OUR COFFEE!
THANK YOU,
DEAR.

YOU'RE
EXPECTING
AS WELL?



WHAT? I'M NOT...
YOU THINK I'M
PREGNANT?

...



I'M SORRY! I'M...
OH, GOD DAMNIT...

MR. TRAGER, FORGIVE
ME FOR BEING FORWARD,
BUT I'VE NEVER BEEN
TO THIS PART OF COLORADO
BEFORE AND I'D LOVE
SOMEBODY TO SHOW
ME AROUND.

YOU'RE
SAYING...?

WOULD YOU HAVE
DINNER WITH ME
TONIGHT?

I PUT UP WITH THAT SMUG
ASSHOLE FOR THREE COURSES
AND A BOTTLE OF WINE...



...AND DADDY SAID,
"BUDDY, DON'T GO TO MEDICAL SCHOOL,
DOCTORS ARE ON THE WRONG SIDE OF LITIGATION."
OF COURSE, HE WAS RIGHT, I'VE SUED MORE...

...BEFORE HE FINALLY INVITED
ME BACK TO HIS PLACE,

I TURN DOWN COCAINE,
SO HE OFFERS ME SCOTCH.

...
IS AN ISLAY,
TWENTY-SEVEN
YEARS OLD, A GIFT
FROM THE HEAD
OF MURKOFF
GLOBAL H.R.

HOW MANY
FINGERS?

YOU MENTIONED
YOU HAVE A WINE
CELLAR, I WOULDN'T
MIND SOMETHING
RED?

FINALLY I BOUGHT MYSELF
A CHANCE TO SNOOP.

I FIND HIS INTERNET
PASSWORDS.

HIS DIRTY MAGAZINES.

HIS COKE STASH.

AND A PAMPHLET FOR AN
ABORTION CLINIC.



A CHATEAU
GIBEAULT, 1953,
OLD RICK DELIVERS
EVERY TIME.

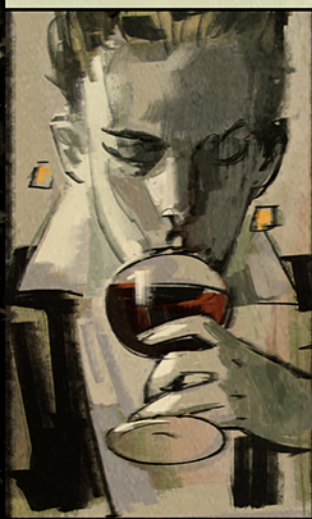
CAN I
ASK IF
YOU HAVE A
GIRLFRIEND?

TWENTY MINUTES GO BY
AND HE NEVER MAKES A
MOVE, I THINK HE WAS
GETTING OFF JUST
HEARING HIMSELF TALK.

AND THEN I RECOGNIZED
THAT BITTER UNDERTASTE.



I'M AFRAID
NOT, I'M A TEAM
OF ONE, AS
THEY SAY.



SON OF
A BITCH
...



YOU WANT TO
FINISH MY DRINK
FOR ME, HONEY?



ROHYPNOL?
REALLY?



I NEEDED
A WIN,

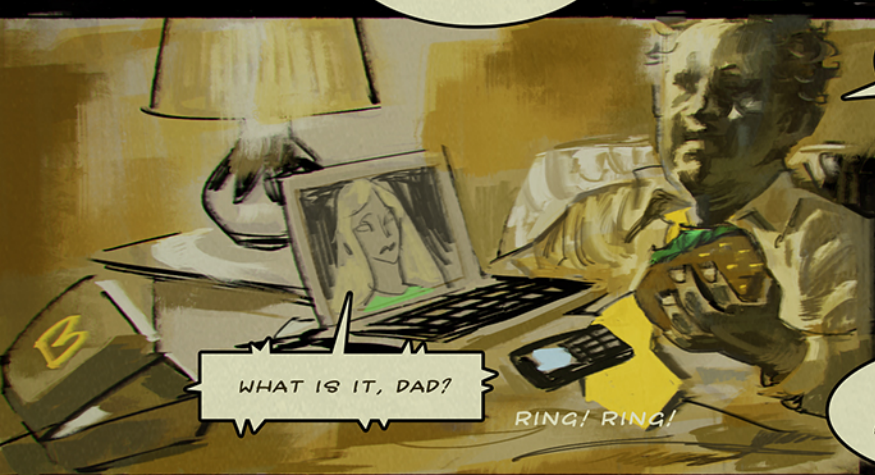
DRINK IT
OR LOSE
YOUR BALLS,
I DON'T CARE,



WACK



NOW
SLEEP,



WHAT IS IT, DAD?

RING! RING!

MY PARTNER CALLING,
HOLD ON,

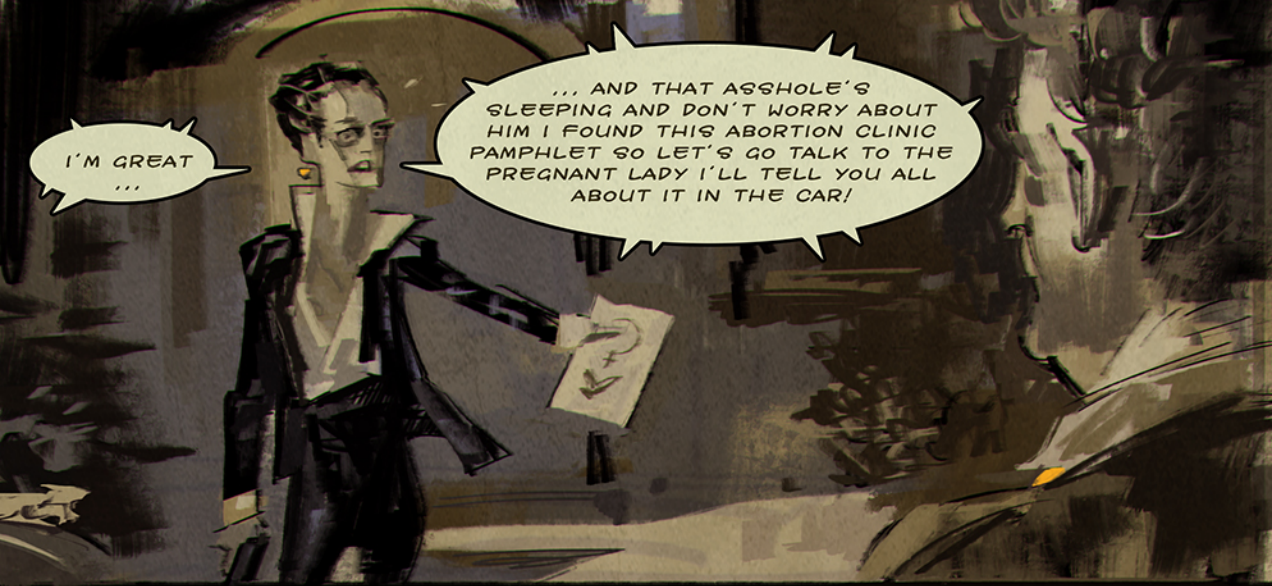


I NEED YOU
TO PICK ME UP,
HE ROOFIED ME,

HOLY SHIT,
ARE YOU OKAY?



I'M GONNA BE...




I'M GREAT
...

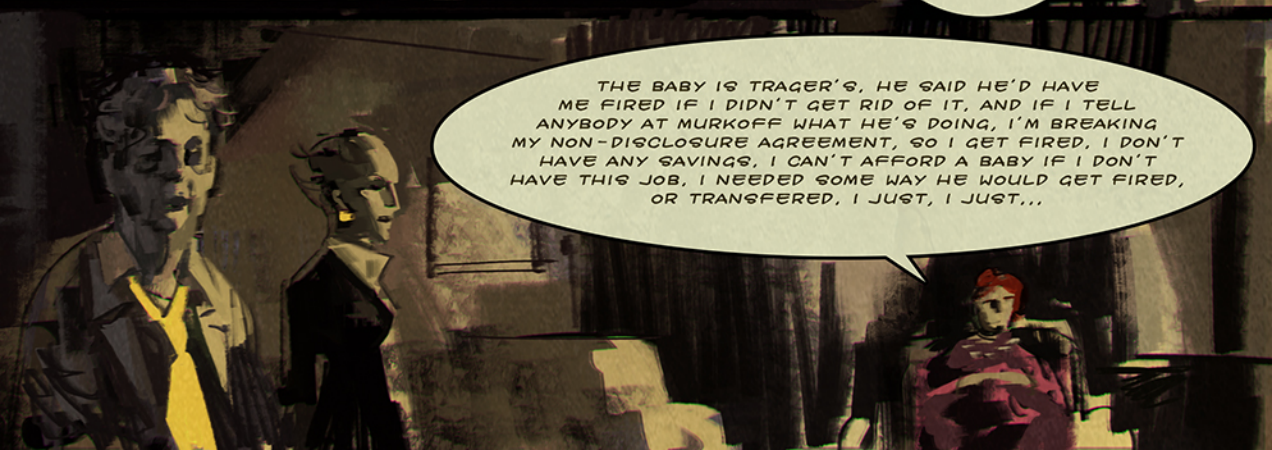
... AND THAT ASSHOLE'S
SLEEPING AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT
HIM I FOUND THIS ABORTION CLINIC
PAMPHLET SO LET'S GO TALK TO THE
PREGNANT LADY I'LL TELL YOU ALL
ABOUT IT IN THE CAR!



DING DONG! DING DONG!
DING DONG!



YOU'RE
THE LEAK,
AREN'T
YOU?



THE BABY IS TRAGER'S, HE SAID HE'D HAVE
ME FIRED IF I DIDN'T GET RID OF IT, AND IF I TELL
ANYBODY AT MURKOFF WHAT HE'S DOING, I'M BREAKING
MY NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT, SO I GET FIRED, I DON'T
HAVE ANY SAVINGS, I CAN'T AFFORD A BABY IF I DON'T
HAVE THIS JOB, I NEEDED SOME WAY HE WOULD GET FIRED,
OR TRANSFERED, I JUST, I JUST...

I FIGURED,
FIRE EVERYBODY,
MAKE IT CLEAN,
BUT MARION ALWAYS
WAS A CREAM PUFF,



WE WORKED OUT A
SEVERENCE PACKAGE
FOR MICHELLE,
IN EXCHANGE FOR
HER SILENCE,



HER ASSISTANT,
WAYLON PARK,
TEMPORARILY TOOK
HER POSITION,
WE ALL KNOW HOW
THAT WORKED OUT,



SHE TOLD THEM
EVERYTHING,
HUMAN RESOURCES
SHREDDED ALL
RECORDS...



HUMAN RESOURCES




DESTROYED ALL HER
SECURITY CLEARANCES,




SHE WAS DONE AT MURKOFF,
WHICH I'D COUNT AS A
BLESSING, AND SHE STILL
HAD HER BABY,



LYING
BITCHES!
BOTH OF
THEM!



YOU'RE TOO LATE, RICK!
THEY KNOW EVERYTHING!



YOU CAN'T PROVE ANYTHING,
YOU CAN'T...







WRRRIIP

RRRIIP

AAAAAIIIEEEEE!



I THINK IT'S GOOD TO FIND SMALL MOMENTS OF PLEASURE IN YOUR WORK ...



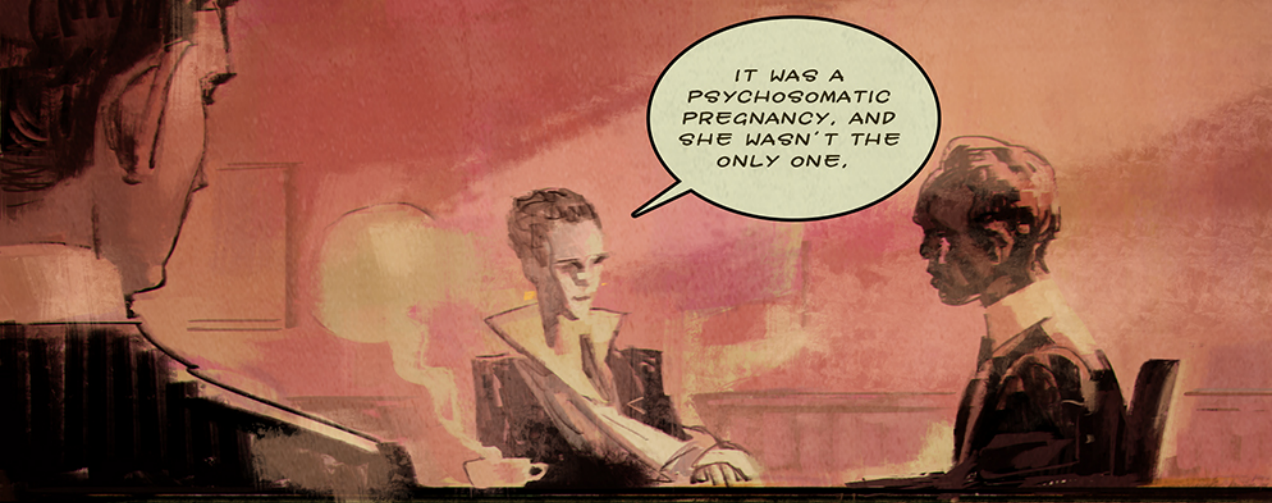
WHAT ABOUT THE BABY?

YEAH, THERE'S THE RUB, WE GOT HER STABILIZED AND TOOK HER TO A REAL HOSPITAL...



SHE'S NOT PREGNANT. SHE NEVER WAS.

DENVER HOSPITAL



IT WAS A PSYCHOSOMATIC PREGNANCY, AND SHE WASN'T THE ONLY ONE.



ONE IN THREE WOMEN IN THE MOUNT MASSIVE FACILITY WAS EXPERIENCING PHANTOM SYMPTOMS OF PREGNANCY, A SIDE EFFECT OF THE EXPERIMENTS IN THE BASEMENT.



IT'S OBVIOUSLY A HUGE LITIGATION RISK, EVERY WOMAN IN THE FACILITY WOULD HAVE GROUNDS FOR A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR SUIT, WE HAVE TO SHUT IT DOWN, UNTIL...



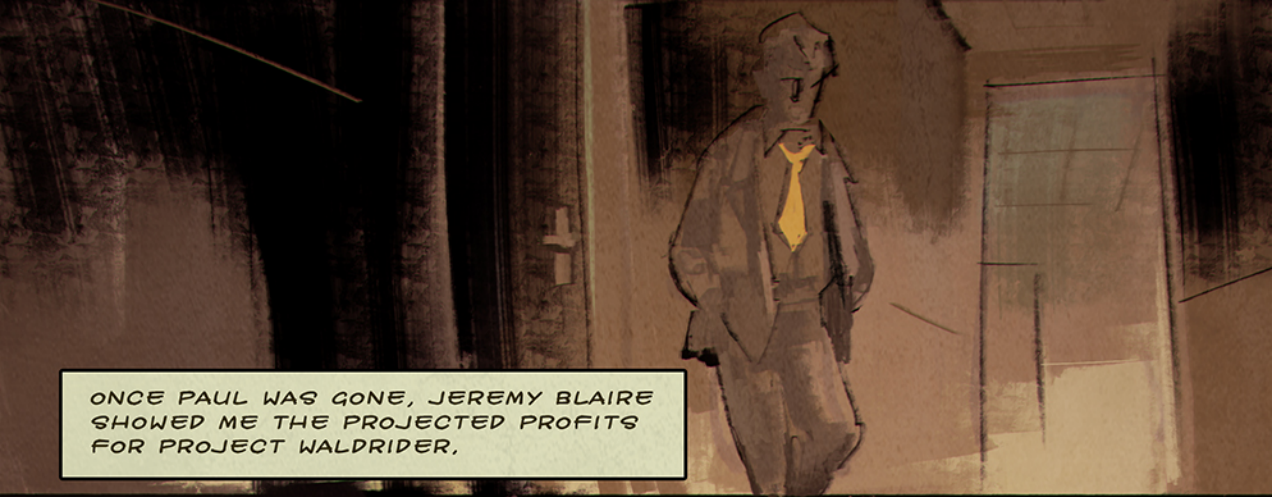
LET ME INTERRUPT YOU -- "ESKIMO REUBEN."



WHAT?



COULD YOU EXCUSE US, MARION? WE HAVE TO DISCUSS SOMETHING ABOVE YOUR CLEARANCE.



ONCE PAUL WAS GONE, JEREMY BLAIRE SHOWED ME THE PROJECTED PROFITS FOR PROJECT WALDRIDER.



IT WAS MIND BOGGLING, PHENOMENAL,




ALL FEMALE EMPLOYEES WERE ASSIGNED TO OTHER FACILITIES, THE EXPERIMENTS CONTINUED.




I WAS THE LAST WOMAN IN THE BUILDING.


THERE WAS ONE LAST THING I HAD TO SEE BEFORE I LEFT,




IT'S NOT MY FAULT!
DON'T PUT ME IN! YOU CAN'T!
I'M A MURKOFF EXECUTIVE!
I'M ONE OF YOU! PLEASE!
I'M NOT A BAD GUY!
IT'S NOT MY FAULT!



OF COURSE
IT'S NOT YOUR
FAULT, RICK
YOU'RE NOT EVIL,
YOU'RE SICK,
AND...



WE'RE GOING TO
MAKE YOU BETTER.




YOU'RE VERY
GOOD AT YOUR
JOB,

THANK
YOU,

HAVE A
DRINK
WITH ME
TONIGHT,



NO.



I DON'T
EAT WHERE
I HUNT,

END BOOK 2

*To be continued in Outlast:
The Murkoff Account Part 3*