



OUTLAST

THE MURKOFF ACCOUNT

Part 5



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 5
Story by JT PETTY & Art by THE BLACK FROG*



HE AIN'T
GONNA
LET US
GET AWAY.

EVERY STEP
WE TAKE, THE
LESS POWER
HE GOT.



WE'LL GET TO
THE WICKED PART
OF THE WORLD AND
GOD HISSELF AIN'T
EVEN GONNA BE ABLE
TO FIND US.

RESIDENCE OF
PAUL MARION

DO YOU KNOW IF
YESHUA HA-NOSTRI WAS A
REAL PERSON? LIKE,
IN THE BIBLE?

NEVER HEARD
OF HIM, WHEN'S
THAT BOOK
REPORT DUE?

THURSDAY,

YOU'RE
GETTING
AN EARLY
JUMP,

FIGURED
I'D BE TOO BEAT
TO WORK ON
WEDNESDAY, THE
TRANSFUSION
AND ALL,

YOU
DIDN'T
TOUCH
YOUR
DINNER,

ALICE, HONEY,
THAT'S CRAZY,
YOU'RE A
STRING BEAN,
A BEAUTIFUL
STRING BEAN,

I WASN'T
HUNGRY,
IT'S NOT LIKE
I NEED THE
EXTRA
CALORIES,

SHUT UP
DAD, GOD,

HEY...

THERE'S
SOMEBODY
MESSING WITH
OUR
MAILBOX,

MARION



HEY!



360 05' 51" N,
1120 34' 00" W
YOUR DAUGHTER
IS CONNECTED



FBI ON-SITE HOSPITAL



MY PARTNER AND I HAD AGREED NOT TO INVESTIGATE THE COORDINATES SIMON PEACOCK HAD GIVEN US.*

TURNS OUT I WAS LYING.

*SEE OUTLAST, ISSUE 4.

ARIZONA

HEY GLICK,
IT'S PAUL.

...GLICK?
PAULINE?
CAN YOU
HEAR ME?

HEY, PAUL,
YEAH, I HEAR
YOU NOW. WHERE
ARE YOU? IT'S
NOISY.

AT THE HOSPITAL
SORRY TO INTERRUPT
YOU ON A SUNDAY...

RESIDENCE OF
PAULINE GLICK

YOU'RE NOT
INTERRUPTING ANYTHING,
I WAS JUST... FOLDING
LAUNDRY, LISTENING
TO PRAIRIE HOME
COMPANION.

GOOD,
GOOD, LISTEN --
I DON'T THINK I'M GONNA
MAKE IT INTO THE OFFICE
TOMORROW, I HAVE TO
SPEND SOME TIME
WITH ALICE.

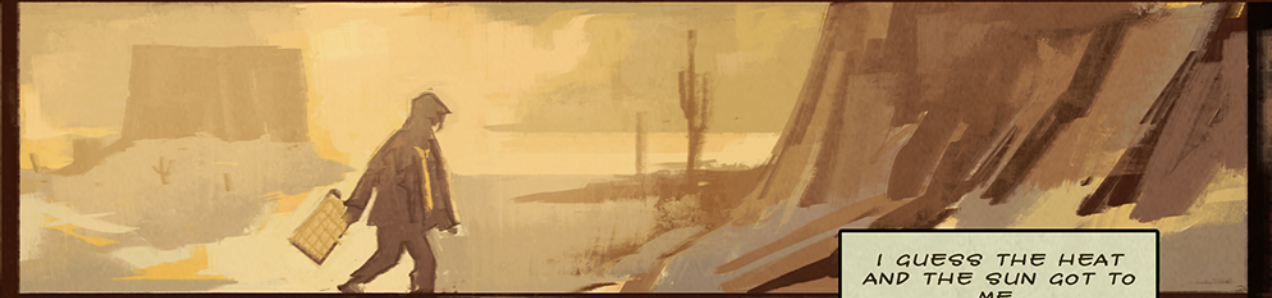
NO WORRIES, WE ALL
NEED PERSONAL
TIME.

I RENTED THE BIGGEST, MOST JACKED-UP
ALL-TERRAIN S.U.V. THEY'D RENT ME,

AND IT STILL CRAPPED OUT ABOUT TWENTY
MILES SHORT OF THE COORDINATES.

FUCK
ME...

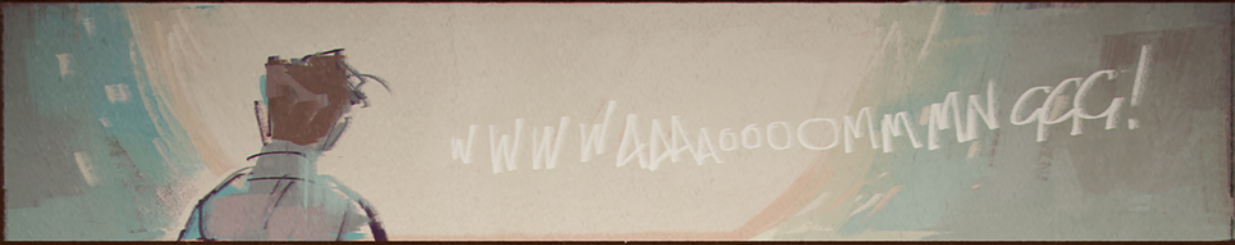
NO
SERVICE!



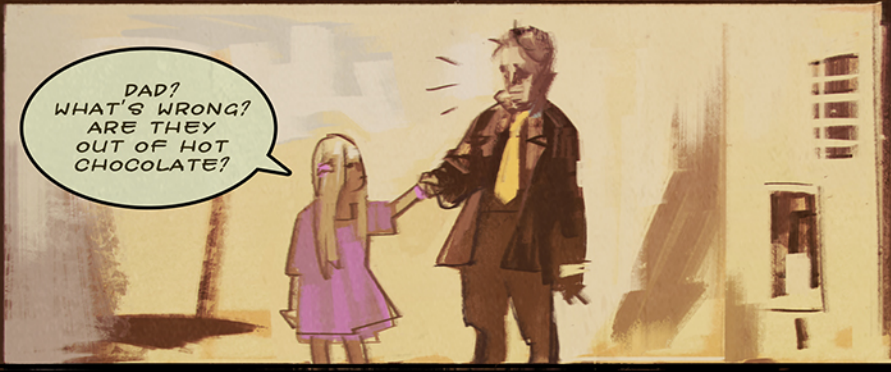
I GUESS THE HEAT
AND THE SUN GOT TO
ME.



HEAVENLY
GOD,



WWW AAAOOO MMMN OOO!



DAD?
WHAT'S WRONG?
ARE THEY
OUT OF HOT
CHOCOLATE?



I WAS BACK IN THAT NIGHT,
THIRTEEN YEARS AGO.




HOT CHOCO



WATCHING MY WIFE DIE,

LOVE YOU
MOM
per se




MULTIPLE
PERFORATIONS OF
THE INTESTINES...

...HAD
TO INDUCE
A COMA IN
ORDER TO
ARREST
PROGRESS...

...SPREAD
THROUGHOUT
YOU WIFE'S
BLOOD,

...INTERNAL
BLEEDING...

SURGERY IS
NO LONGER AN
OPTION...



YOUR WIFE
IS DEAD,
MR. MARION,
I'M SO SORRY.

AIEEE!

oops!

I'M SO SORRY
HONEY, I DIDN'T
MEAN...



...WHAT THE FUCK?



WE DON'T WANT NO TROUBLE, MISTER! I'M JUST GON' TAKE YOUR PISTOL,



WHO ARE YOU?



HEY, HEY, TAKE IT EASY, JESUS FUCKING CHRIST...



DON'T YOU TAKE THAT NAME IN VAIN!



click! click!
click! click!
click!



SAFETY'S ON.
Tick!



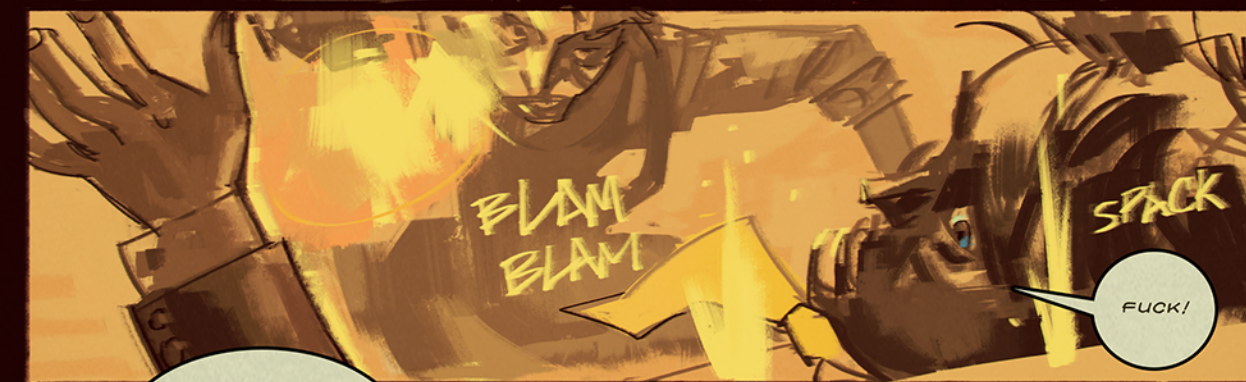
ALL RIGHT, WHO ARE YOU? WHO'S THE GIRL?

AND JESUS, HOW PREGNANT IS SHE?



ERP!

SCHUNK!



BLAM
BLAM

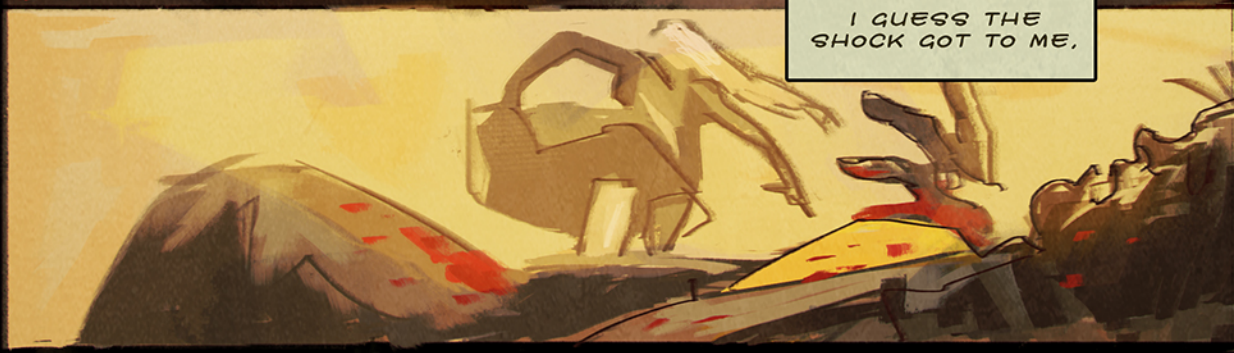
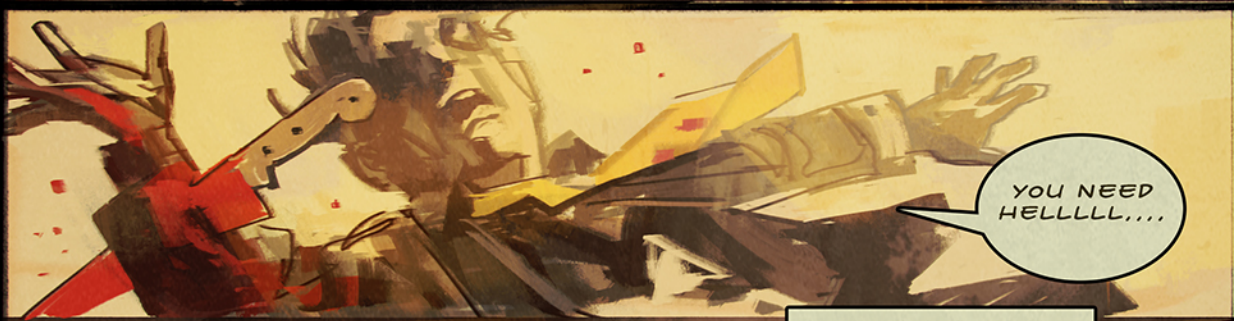
STACK

FUCK!

GOD HAVE
MERCY ON
YOUR SOUL,



KTHUNK





I KEPT SEEING MY DEAD WIFE,

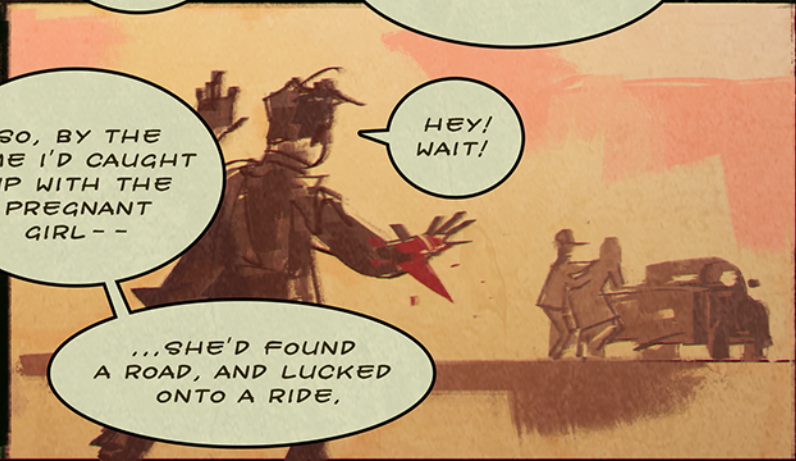
MMM-HMM,

...JOANNE?

THAT'S ALL YOU GOT? "MMM-HMM?" I SAID I WAS SEEING MY DEAD WIFE.

I HEARD YOU,

IT'S THE LEAST CRAZY THING YOU'VE TOLD ME SO FAR,

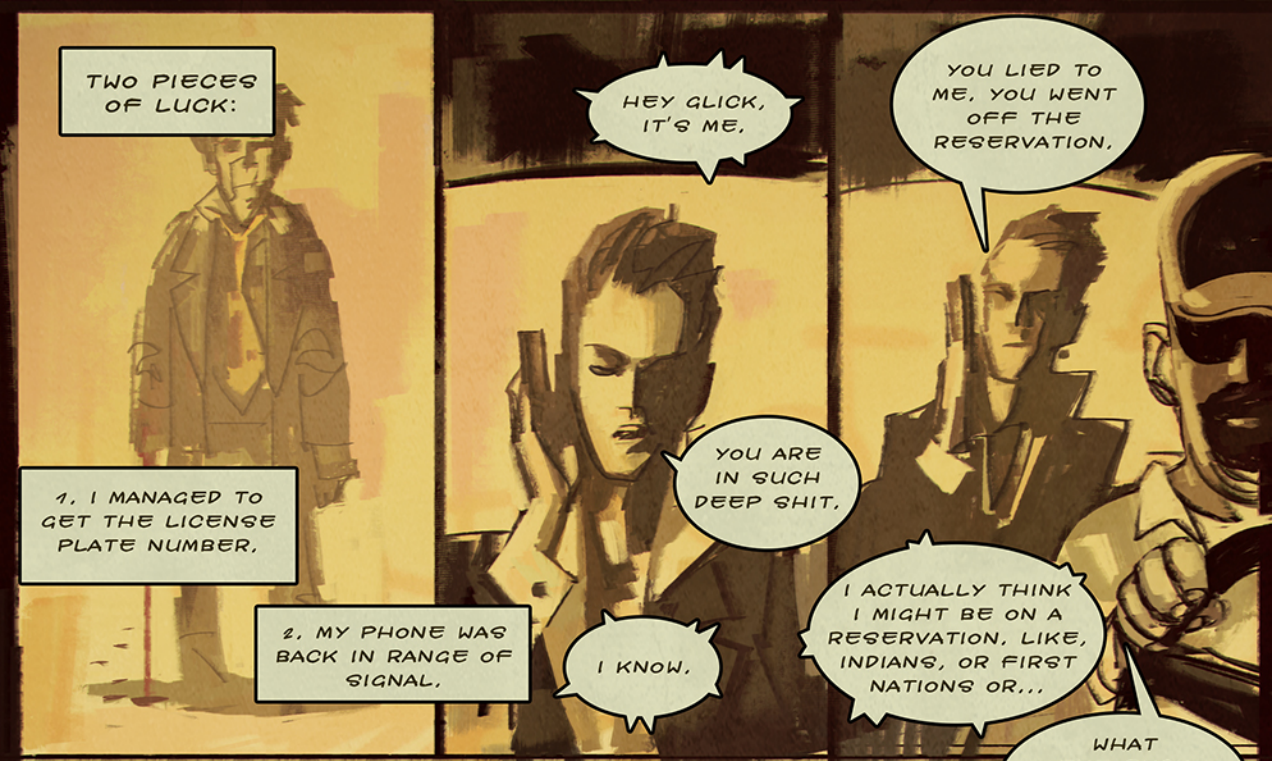


SO, BY THE TIME I'D CAUGHT UP WITH THE PREGNANT GIRL--

HEY! WAIT!

FAIR ENOUGH,

...SHE'D FOUND A ROAD, AND LUCKED ONTO A RIDE,



TWO PIECES
OF LUCK:

1. I MANAGED TO
GET THE LICENSE
PLATE NUMBER,

2. MY PHONE WAS
BACK IN RANGE OF
SIGNAL.

HEY GLICK,
IT'S ME,

YOU ARE
IN SUCH
DEEP SHIT,

I KNOW,

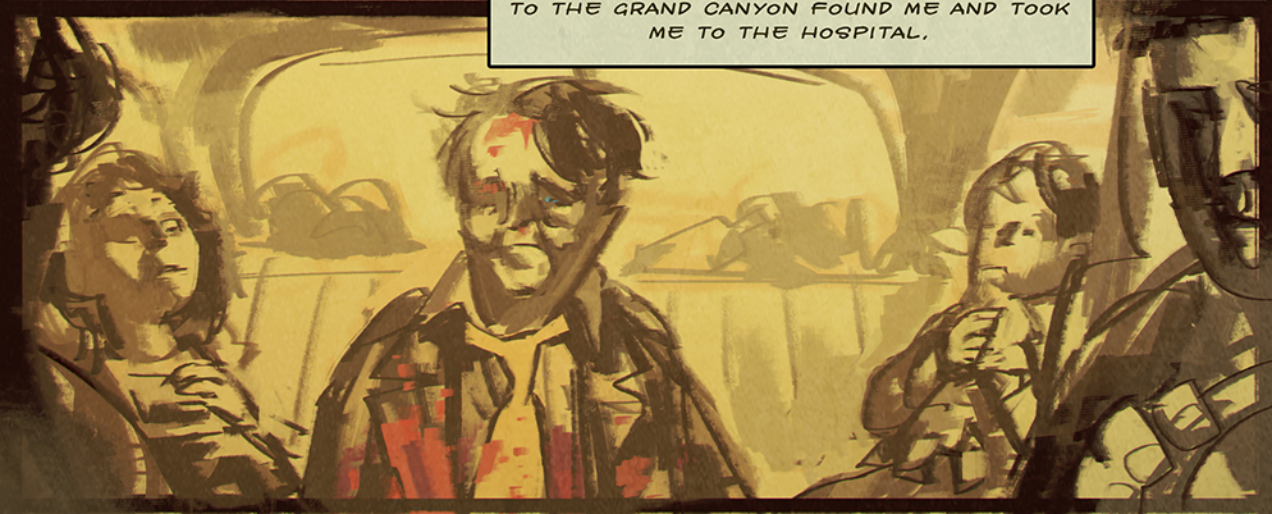
I ACTUALLY THINK
I MIGHT BE ON A
RESERVATION, LIKE,
INDIANS, OR FIRST
NATIONS OR...


WHAT
THE FUCK
ARE YOU DOING,
PAUL?

I FUCKED
UP,

DON'T FUCK
YOURSELF ANY
DEEPER, I'M
ON MY WAY,

IN THE MORNING, A FAMILY ON THEIR WAY
TO THE GRAND CANYON FOUND ME AND TOOK
ME TO THE HOSPITAL,

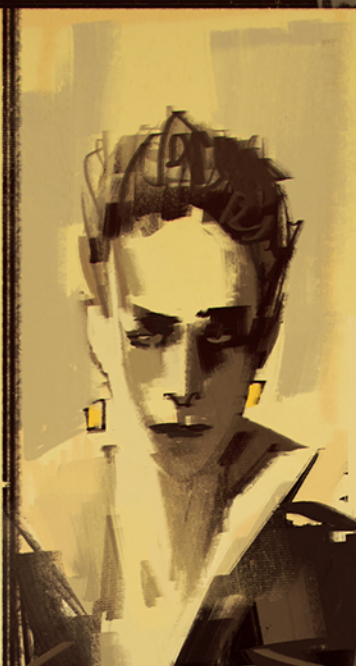




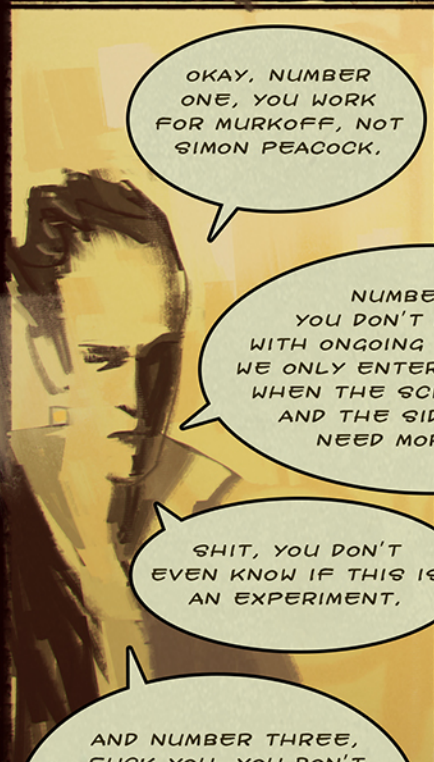
PAULINE GLICK
GOT TO THE HOSPITAL
SIX HOURS AFTER
I DID.



SPILL.



I TOLD HER EVERYTHING,
SHE WASN'T IMPRESSED.




OKAY, NUMBER
ONE, YOU WORK
FOR MURKOFF, NOT
SIMON PEACOCK.

SORR...

NUMBER TWO,
YOU DON'T INTERFERE
WITH ONGOING EXPERIMENTS,
WE ONLY ENTER THE EQUATION
WHEN THE SCIENCE IS DONE
AND THE SIDE EFFECTS
NEED MOPPING UP.

SHIT, YOU DON'T
EVEN KNOW IF THIS IS
AN EXPERIMENT.


DON'T SAY
YOU'RE SORRY,
I HATE THAT.



DON'T SUPPOSE
YOU BROUGHT ME
A SUIT?

AND NUMBER THREE,
FUCK YOU, YOU DON'T
WORK WITHOUT ME,
WE'RE PARTNERS, YOU
STUPID MOTHERFUCKER.


YOU WANT THE
SILVER LINING
TO YOUR SHIT SHOW?
I TRACED THIS LICENSE
PLATE NUMBER ON YOUR
PALM, THAT PREGNANT
GIRL'S A PATIENT IN
THIS HOSPITAL.



I EVEN BROUGHT YOU A TIE, HOPE YELLOW'S ALL RIGHT.

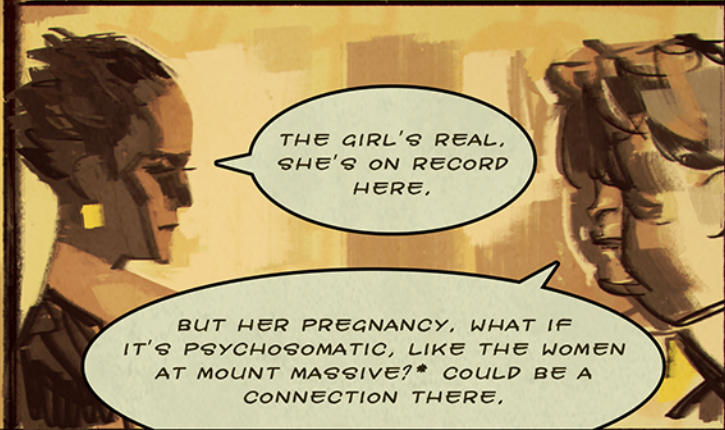
YOUR DEAD WIFE IN THE DESERT, YOU CALLED IT A "VISION," NOT A HALLUCINATION.

IT FELT REAL, I COULD SMELL THE HOSPITAL, I COULD SMELL MY DAUGHTER, LIKE -- THAT LITTLE KID SMELL, IT FELT REAL.




FIRST RULE IN THE MURKOFF PLAYBOOK IS DON'T GET HIGH ON YOUR OWN PRODUCT.

YEAH, BUT I'M WONDERING IF I REALLY KILLED THAT KID, I'M WONDERING ABOUT THAT GIRL.



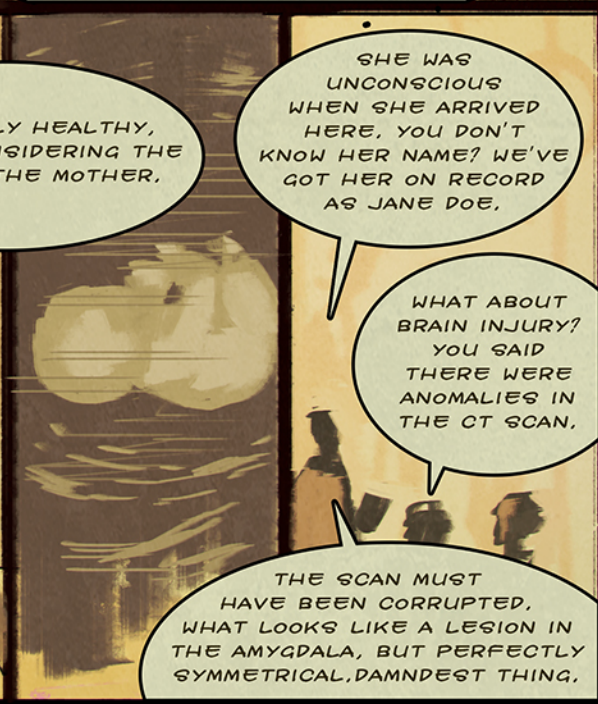
THE GIRL'S REAL, SHE'S ON RECORD HERE.

BUT HER PREGNANCY, WHAT IF IT'S PSYCHOSOMATIC, LIKE THE WOMEN AT MOUNT MASSIVE?* COULD BE A CONNECTION THERE.



IT'S A HEALTHY BABY BOY.

REMARKABLY HEALTHY, IN FACT, CONSIDERING THE STATE OF THE MOTHER.

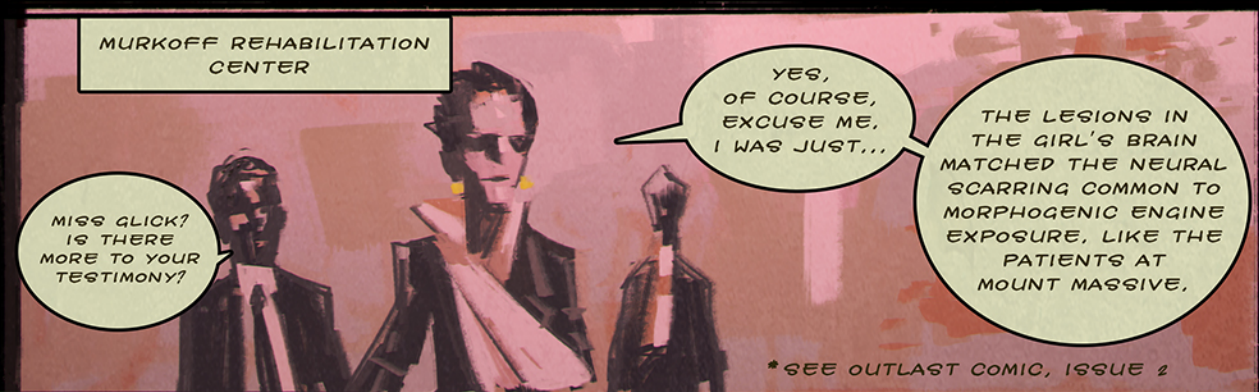


SHE WAS UNCONSCIOUS WHEN SHE ARRIVED HERE, YOU DON'T KNOW HER NAME? WE'VE GOT HER ON RECORD AS JANE DOE.

WHAT ABOUT BRAIN INJURY? YOU SAID THERE WERE ANOMALIES IN THE CT SCAN.

THE SCAN MUST HAVE BEEN CORRUPTED, WHAT LOOKS LIKE A LESION IN THE AMYGDALA, BUT PERFECTLY SYMMETRICAL, DAMNDEST THING.

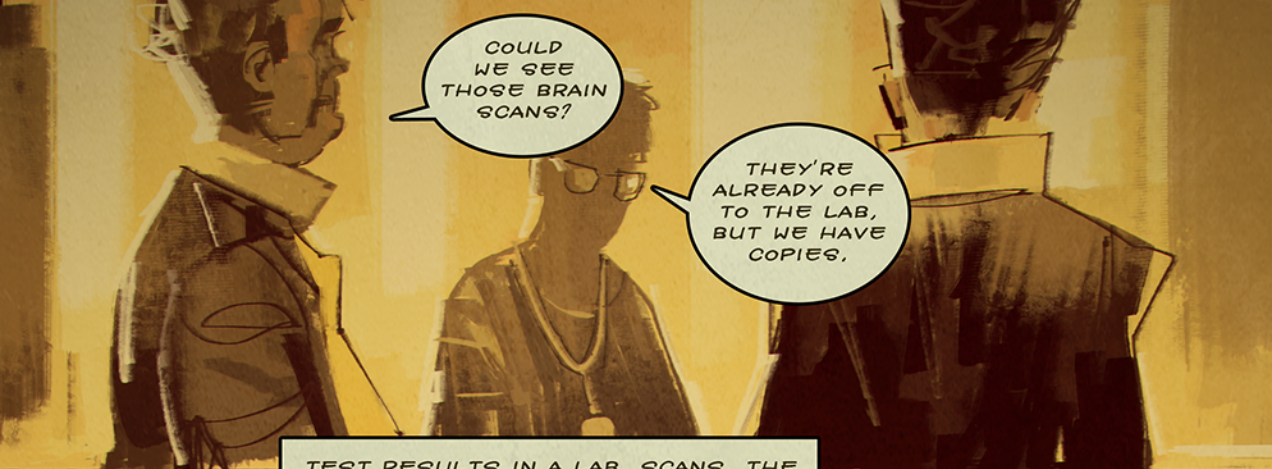
MURKOFF REHABILITATION CENTER



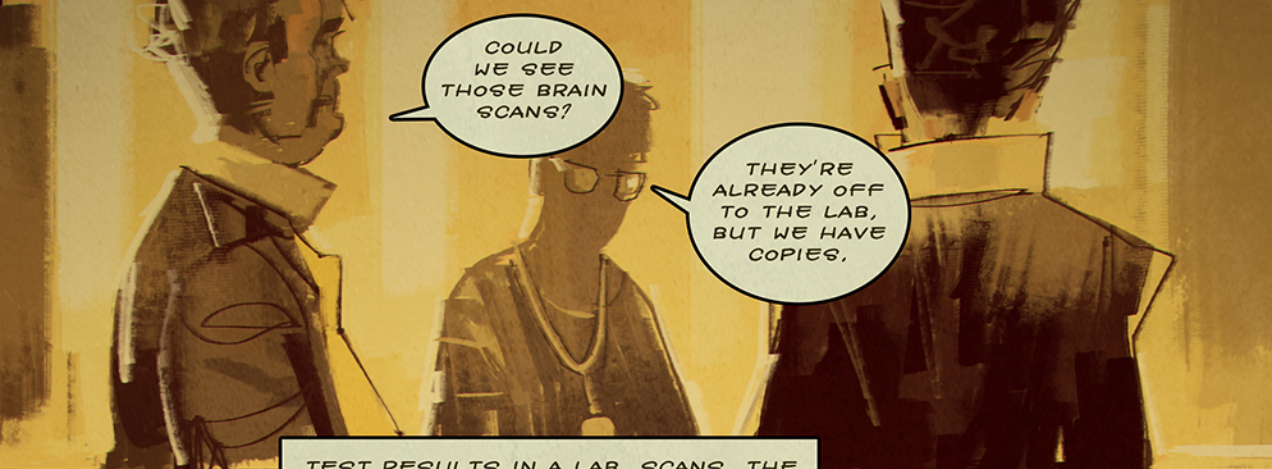
MISS GLICK? IS THERE MORE TO YOUR TESTIMONY?

YES, OF COURSE, EXCUSE ME, I WAS JUST...


THE LESIONS IN THE GIRL'S BRAIN MATCHED THE NEURAL SCARRING COMMON TO MORPHOGENIC ENGINE EXPOSURE, LIKE THE PATIENTS AT MOUNT MASSIVE.




COULD WE SEE THOSE BRAIN SCANS?




THEY'RE ALREADY OFF TO THE LAB, BUT WE HAVE COPIES.




TEST RESULTS IN A LAB, SCANS, THE GIRL, EVIDENCE, ALL OF IT, THIS HAD BECOME A MATTER OF CONTAINMENT.




WE'D LOVE TO MEET THE PATIENT.




THIS IS JANE DOE, SHE'S BEEN UNCONSCIOUS SINCE SHE GOT HERE.



BUT THE LITTLE GUY IN HERE'S BEEN KICKING UP A STORM.



WE STOOD BY JANE DOE'S BEDSIDE FOR HOURS.



THEN PAUL NOTICED SOMETHING.



IS THAT A TATTOO? ON HER CHEST.



A GLOBE, NO, WHEELS, "WHEELS WITHIN WHEELS," THAT'S BIBLICAL, FROM THE BOOK OF...



EZEKIEL.



EZEKIEL! OH! PAPA! PAPA! YOU CAN'T HAVE HIM! YOU CAN'T, I'LL DIE BEFORE I'LL LET YOU KILL HIM.

I SEEN THE MESSENGER AND I KNOW I AIN'T BURDENED WITH THE ENEMY.

MY BLOOD IS TRUE, I'VE SIPPED AT THE FOUNTAIN AND BORN THE PAIN AND MARKS OF SALVATION.

FUCK!


YOU AIN'T GONNA TAKE MY BABY, YOU AIN'T... AIN'T...




GK KKKKK




SHE'S HAVING A SEIZURE! GET A DOCTOR!




DOCTOR!




IT WAS THEN I WAS CERTAIN WHAT WE HAD FOUND WHEN WE FOUND JANE DOE...



...WHAT HAD TO BE DONE.



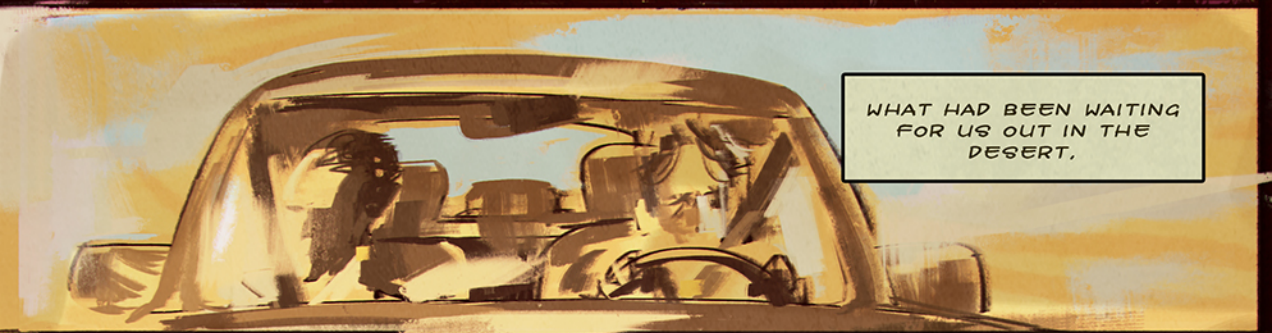
SHE'S DEAD, GONE, THERE WAS NOTHING WE COULD DO, MINIMAL FOOTPRINT.



WE LOST HER, WE NEED TO LEAVE, NOW.



I REALIZED TOO LATE I WAS OPERATING ABOVE MY SECURITY CLEARANCE, I HADN'T FIGURED OUT YET THE TRAP SIMON PEACOCK HAD LEAD US INTO.



WHAT HAD BEEN WAITING FOR US OUT IN THE DESERT.



ARE YOU SURE SHE WAS DEAD?

YEAH, CASE CLOSED.



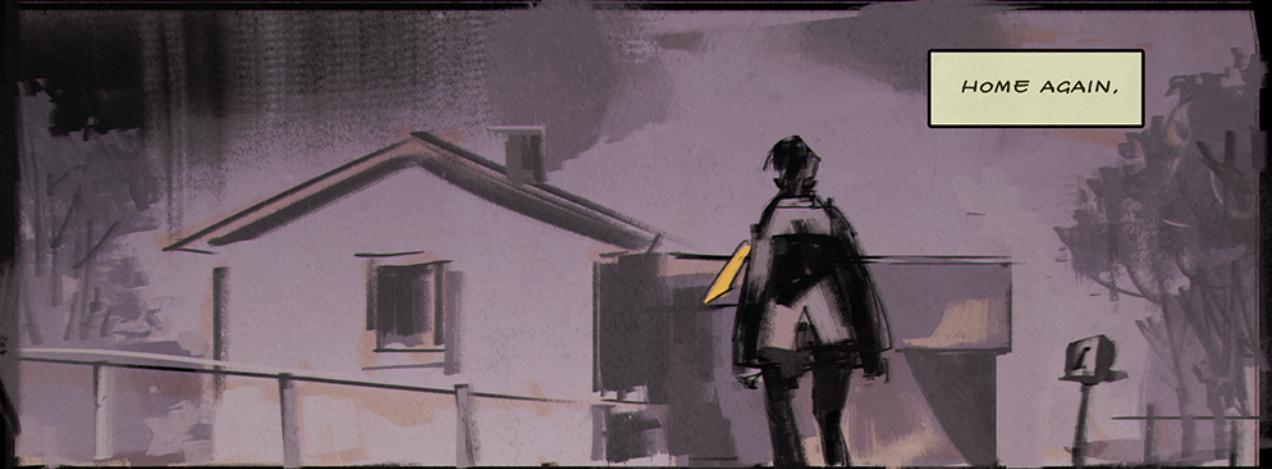
IT'S SAD.

STILL, I GOTTA GET HOME, ALICE HAS A TRANSFUSION TOMORROW, I SAID I'D BE THERE.


YOU'RE A GOOD DAD...



...YOU ALWAYS TAKE CARE OF YOUR GIRL.



HOME AGAIN.



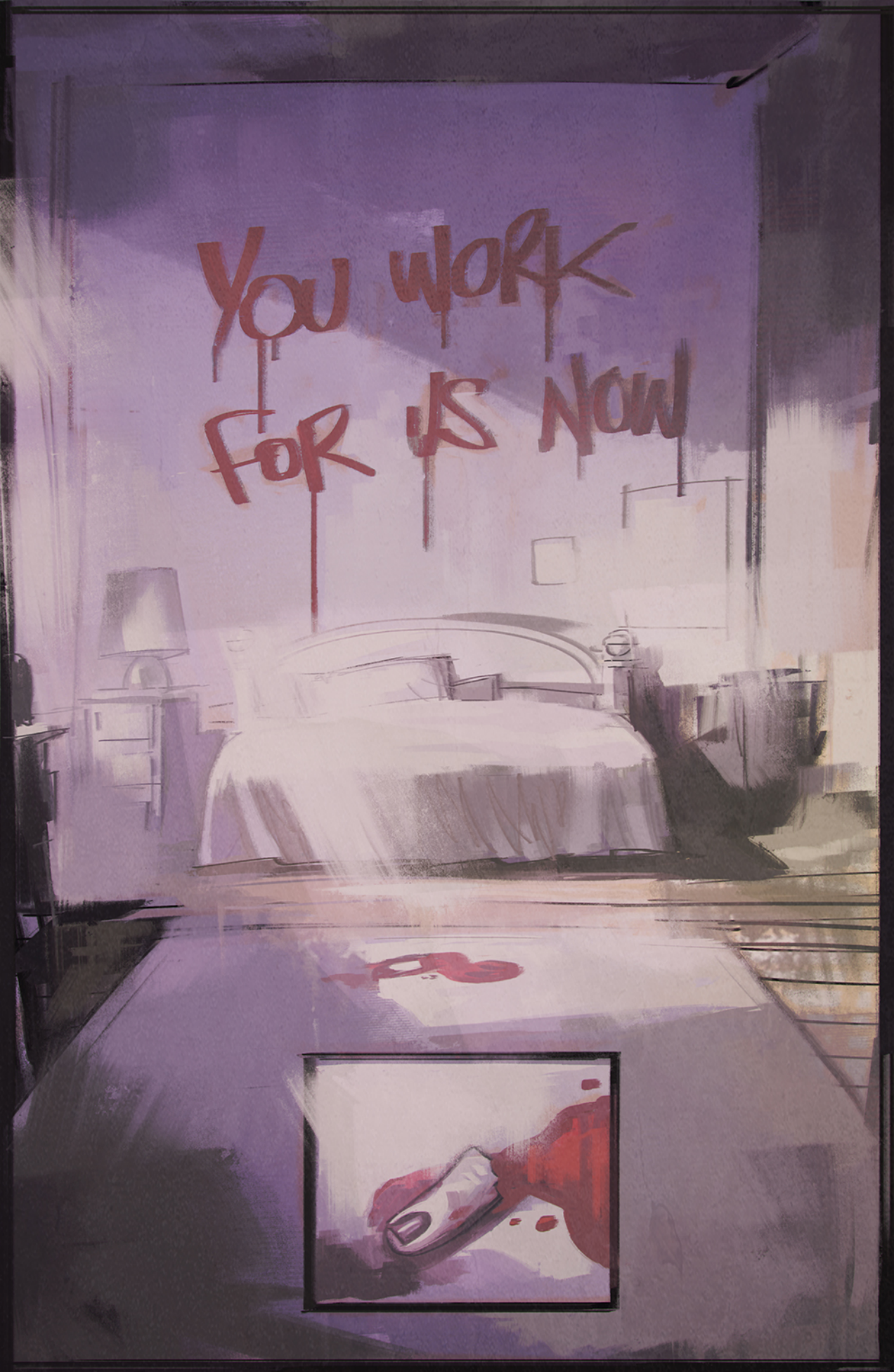
ALICE!
YOU
HOME?!



ALICE?



YOU WORK
FOR US NOW





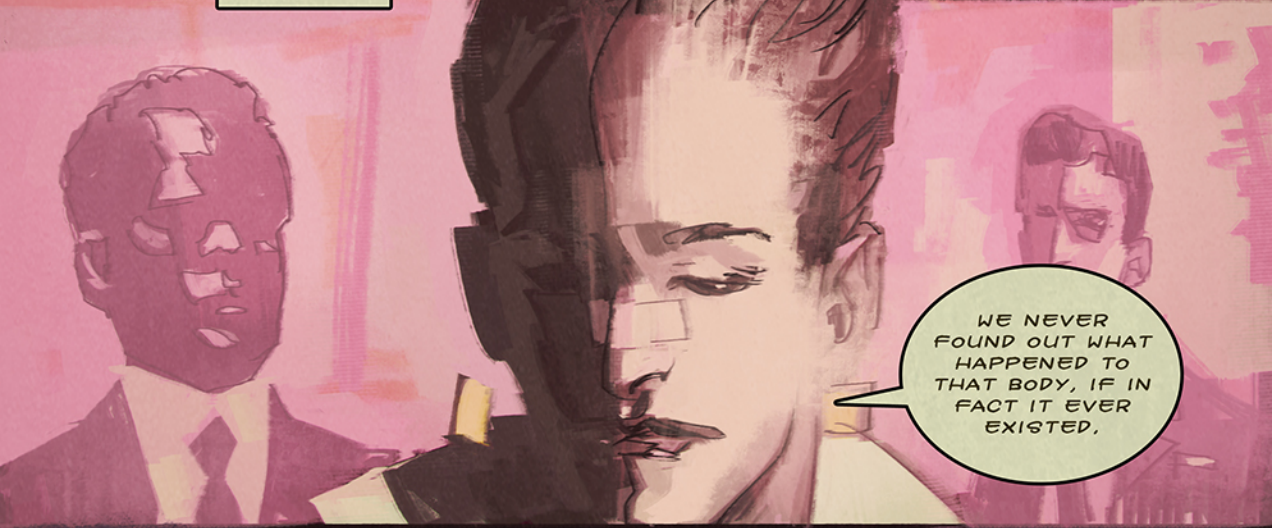
WE STILL HAD TO CLEAN UP THAT BODY PAUL LEFT IN THE DESERT, THE BOY.



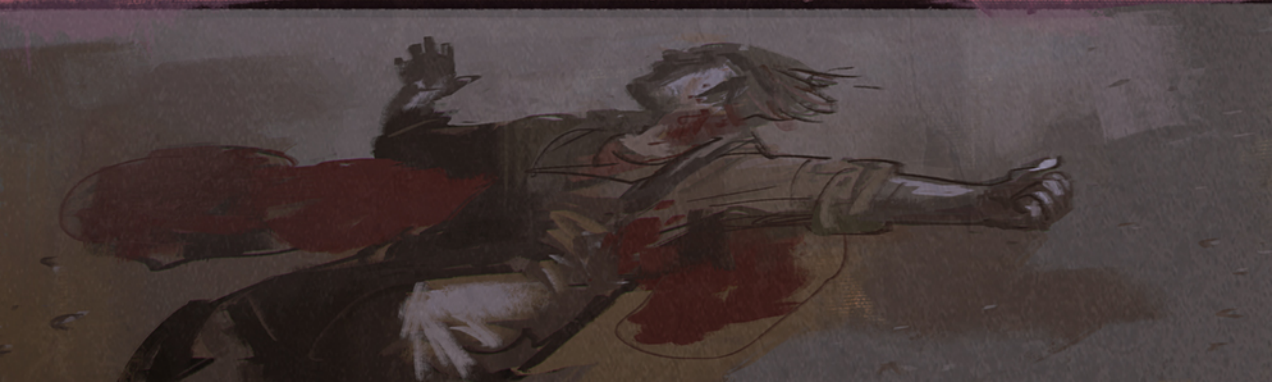
WE GRID-SEARCHED A FORTY MILE RADIUS SURROUNDING HIS ABANDONED RENTAL VEHICLE.

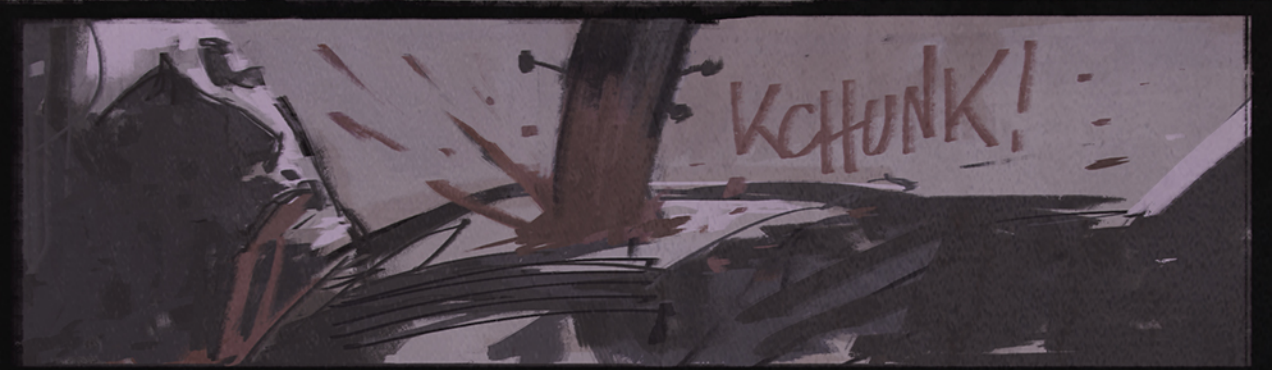


WE DIDN'T FIND DICK.



WE NEVER FOUND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT BODY, IF IN FACT IT EVER EXISTED.





CONTINUED
IN OUTLAST II.

