

DAVE JONES

APEX

#1



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ISSUE ONE

MY NAME IS SIMON

Simon is a very quiet & private man, never stand up for himself when it matters most. His life take a huge turn after he unlocks a special gift only a few are able to harness. With this new gift, Simon is able to take back his own self respect & protect the one person he holds dear. Fate has other ideas, as lifes cruel twists hardly ever reward those who deserve it the most. Being blessed with such an amazing power does not remain hidden for long, there are many who want to use this power for their own advantage & others who have much darker motives. Simon has to do the one thing he has never done his whole life... He must stand up against every obstacle & fight.

CREATED BY DAVE JONES

SEE, WHEN YOU'RE THE PREY
YOU'RE ALWAYS ON THE LOOKOUT...



PART 1 My Name is Simon

... EVERY MOVE, EVERY DECISION
COULD BE YOUR LAST, BEING CAUTIOUS
IS THE ONLY WEAPON YOU HAVE...

... THERE'S ALWAYS PREDATORS
OUT THERE LOOKING FOR THEIR
TURN TO MAKE THEIR MARK...



... IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN
NATURES WAY, TESTING THE
SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST...



...BUT THERE'S ALWAYS THAT ONE, YOU KNOW? THAT ONE MEAN SON OF A BITCH WHO THE REST DON'T FUCK WITH. THE ONE NATURE HAS FAVOURED OVER THE OTHERS...

...THAT ONE. THE APEX PREDATOR. THAT'S THE TOP OF THE FOOD CHAIN RIGHT THERE...



...THEY KNOW IT. HE'S THE TOP OF THE CHAIN. GIFTED FROM BIRTH THROUGH GENERATIONS OF SELECTION & EVOLUTION...

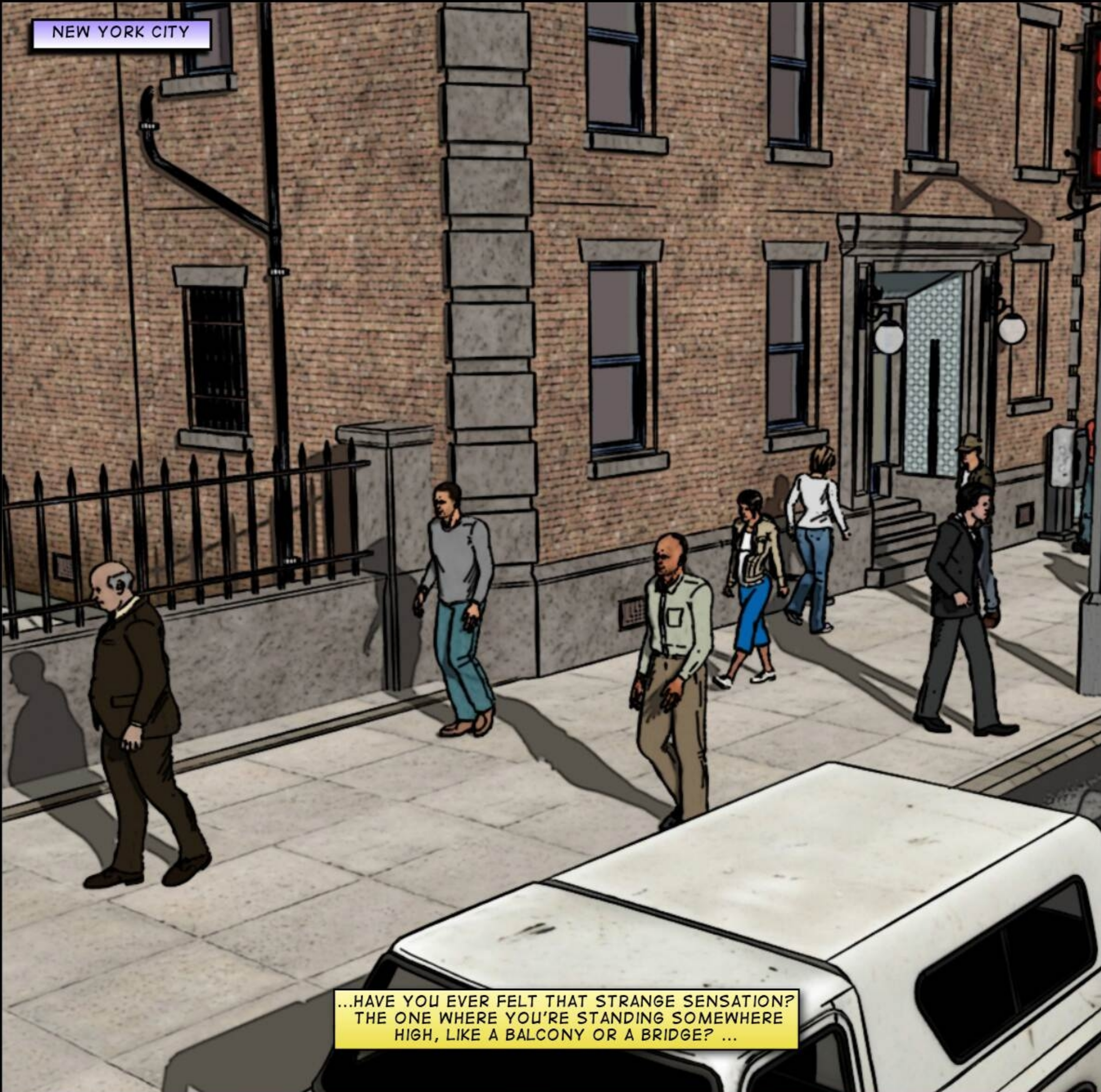


...HE'S THE ONE OTHER PREDATORS WILL SURRENDER THEIR PREY TO, BECAUSE THEY KNOW & ACCEPT THE HIERARCHY. ITS NATURES OWN CODE OF CONDUCT, A MUTUAL RESPECT...

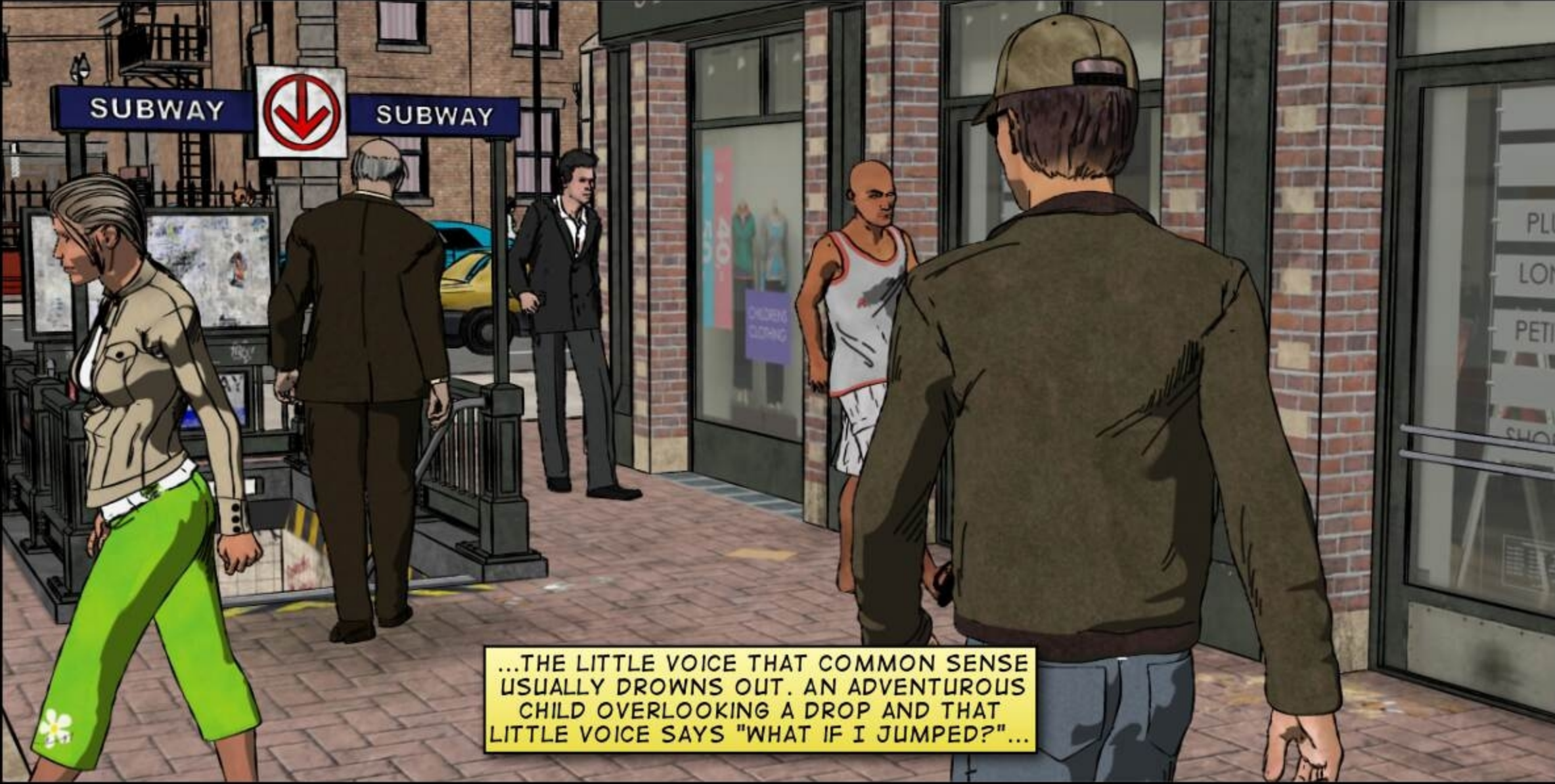


... IN THE END ALL IT EVER COMES DOWN TO IS SURVIVE OR DIE...

NEW YORK CITY



...HAVE YOU EVER FELT THAT STRANGE SENSATION?
THE ONE WHERE YOU'RE STANDING SOMEWHERE
HIGH, LIKE A BALCONY OR A BRIDGE? ...



...THE LITTLE VOICE THAT COMMON SENSE
USUALLY DROWNS OUT. AN ADVENTUROUS
CHILD OVERLOOKING A DROP AND THAT
LITTLE VOICE SAYS "WHAT IF I JUMPED?" ...

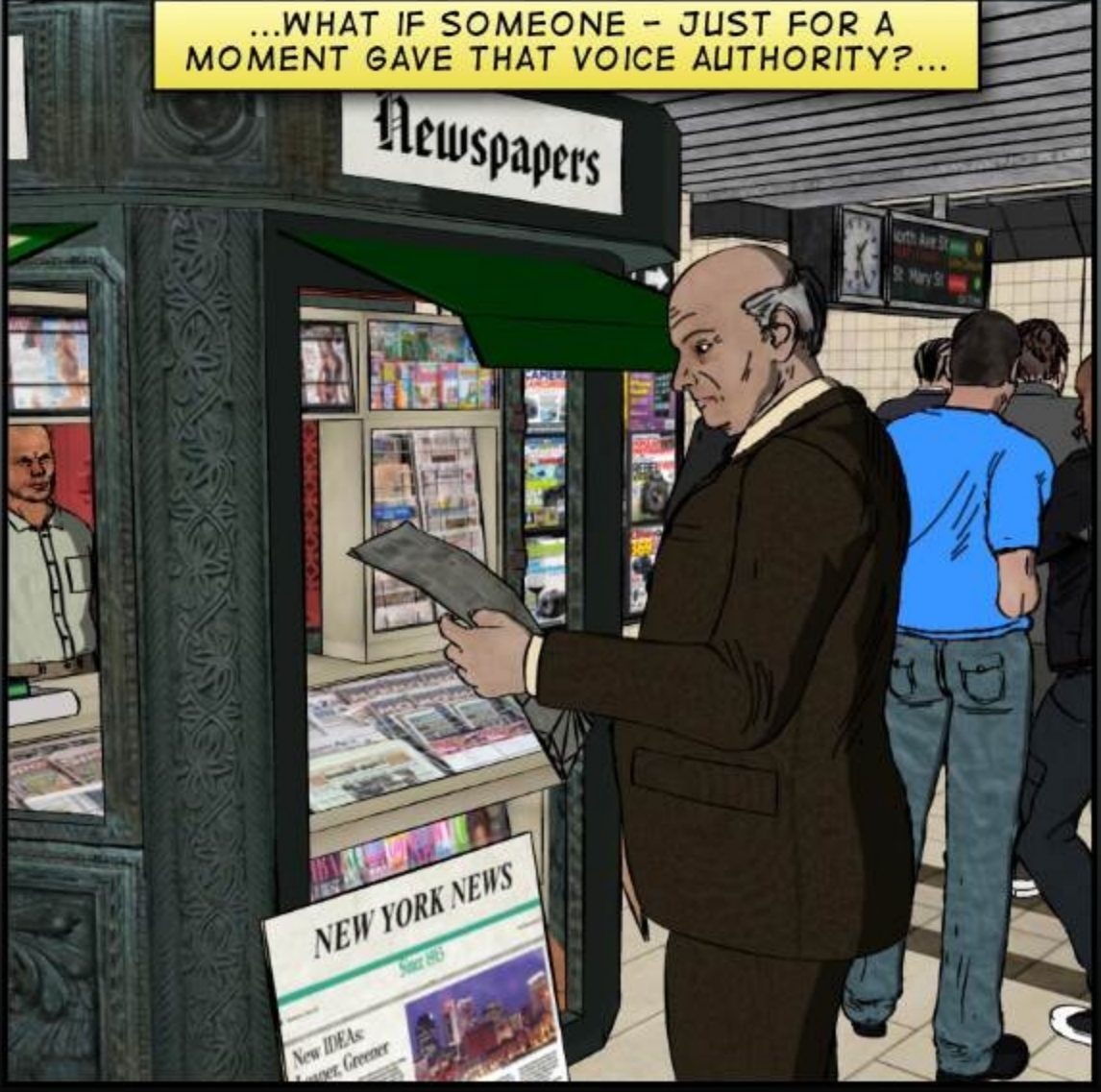
...YOU NEVER LISTEN, OF COURSE. THAT WOULD BE STUPID. BUT A SMALL PART OF YOUR BRAIN IS EXCITED AT THE DANGER. WANTS TO KNOW THE RUSH OF FEAR IF YOU LISTENED. THAT MOMENT OF BEING ALIVE...



...WE ALL IGNORE IT. MAYBE FORGET IT'S EVEN THERE. BUT WHAT IF IT GOT LOUDER SUDDENLY?...



...WHAT IF SOMEONE - JUST FOR A MOMENT GAVE THAT VOICE AUTHORITY?...



...& YOU HAD TO OBEY IT JUST THIS ONCE & LET GO?...



...WHAT IF THAT VOICE MANIFESTED INTO PURE ENERGY?...



GET YOUR RAILCARD TODAY



... AND ALL IT TOOK WAS A SIMPLE FLICK OF THE WRIST TO SET IT FREE...



AAAARRGGH!

NO! NO! NOOOO!

OH MY GOD HE JUMPED!



... THE REST IS LEFT TO FATE...



...WHY THIS WAY? THERE ARE A HUNDRED WAYS TO HAVE SOMEONE KILLED IN THIS CITY. A HELL OF A LOT CHEAPER, TOO. SEE, WHEN A CRIMINAL TURNS UP STABBED OR SHOT, IT'S EXPECTED. IT GETS LOOKED INTO OF COURSE, BUT NOBODY REALLY WANTS TO DIG TOO DEEP. IT'S HOW THINGS ARE...

BLAARRGHH!

... BUT WHEN IT'S SOMEONE RESPECTABLE. A BOARD MEMBER ABOUT TO REVEAL TOO MUCH TO A POLICE INVESTIGATOR, OR A LAWYER GETTING TOO CLOSE TO OPENING UP A CAN OF WORMS THAT POWERFUL PEOPLE WANT TO KEEP CLOSED...

... THAT JUST RAISES TOO MANY QUESTIONS. DRAWS TOO MUCH ATTENTION. HANGS A SIGN SAYING "SOMEONE WANTED THIS PERSON OUT OF THE PICTURE"...

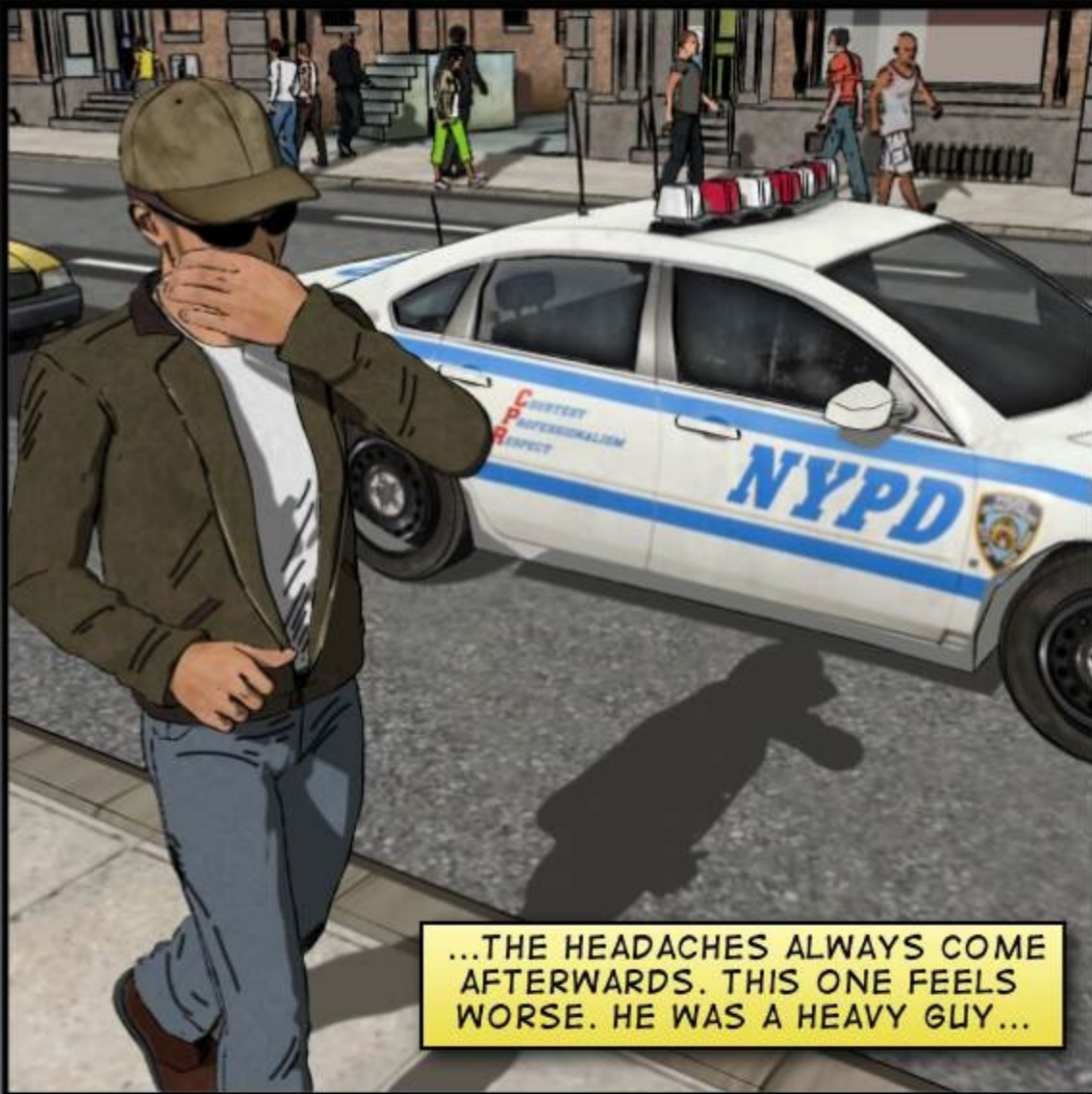
HUFF! HUFF!

... BUT IF THEY HAVE A MOMENT OF MADNESS OR A SIMPLE ACCIDENT? & THE ONLY PEOPLE AROUND ARE SHOCKED BYSTANDERS AND ONE 160 POUND NOBODY...

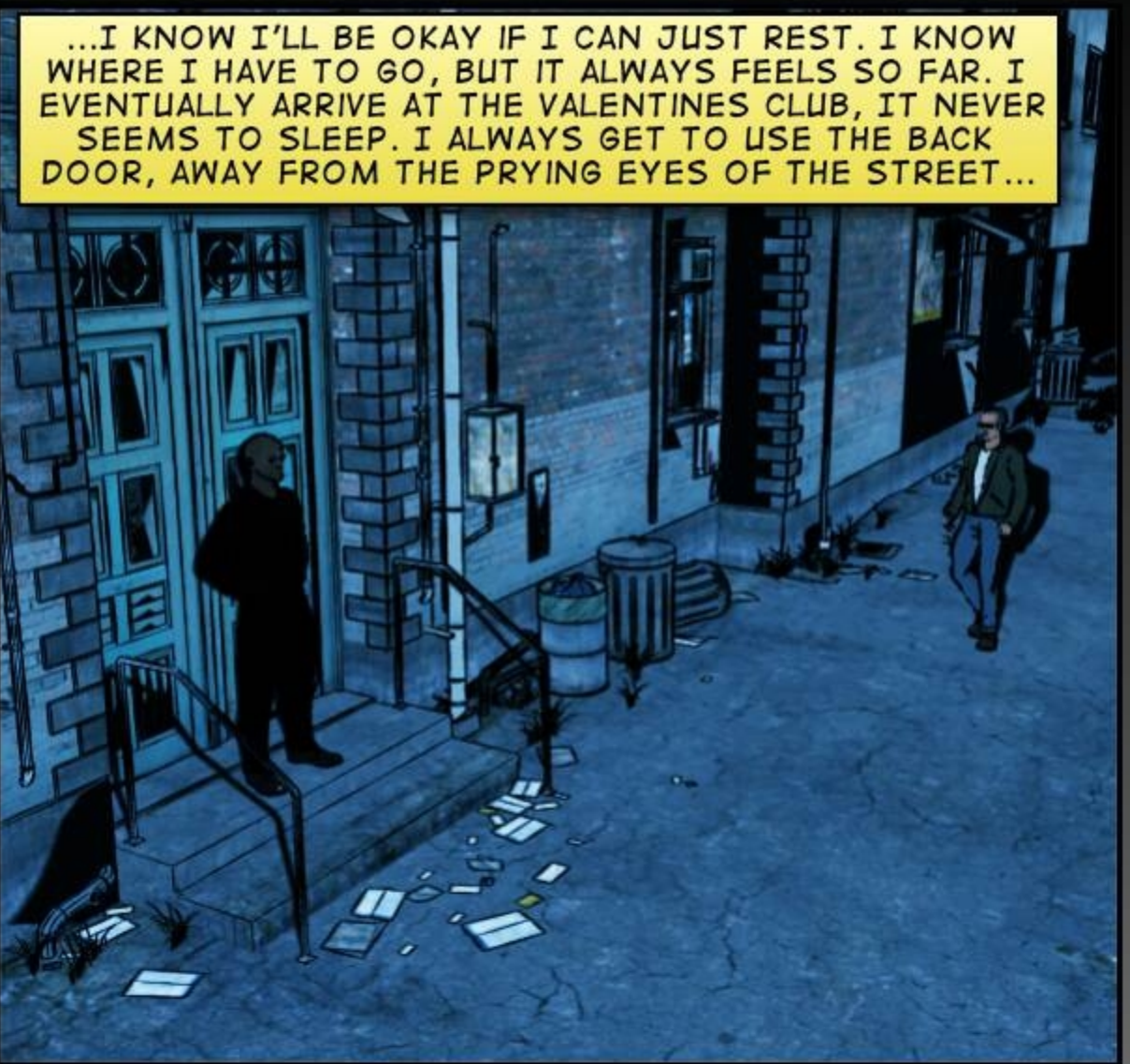
FRANK, IT'S DONE.

WELL DONE, KID. YOU MADE A LOT OF PEOPLE HAPPY TODAY. I'LL EXPECT YOU AT THE CLUB AS USUAL.

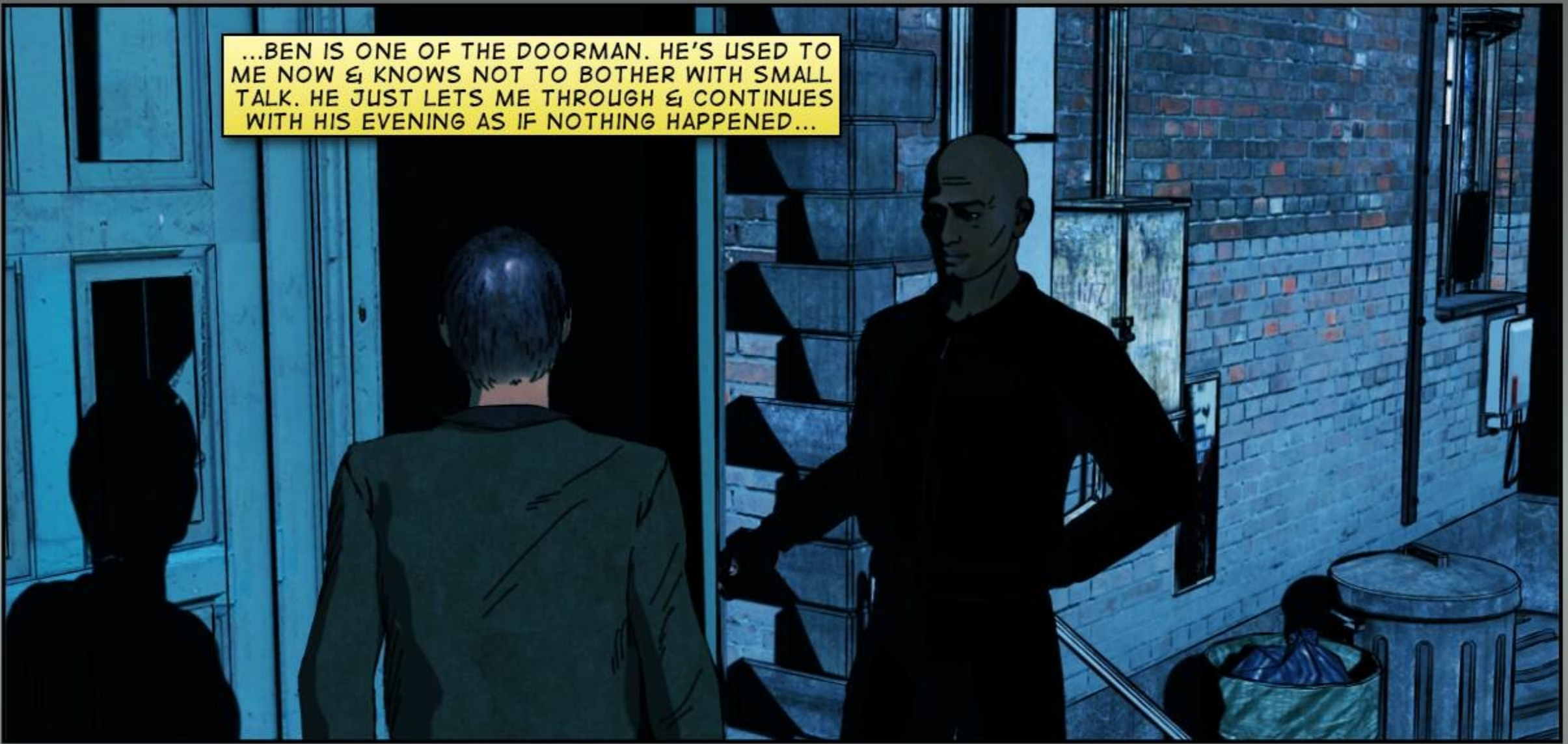
...WELL THAT'S THE KIND OF NEAT ENDING PEOPLE PAY GOOD MONEY FOR.



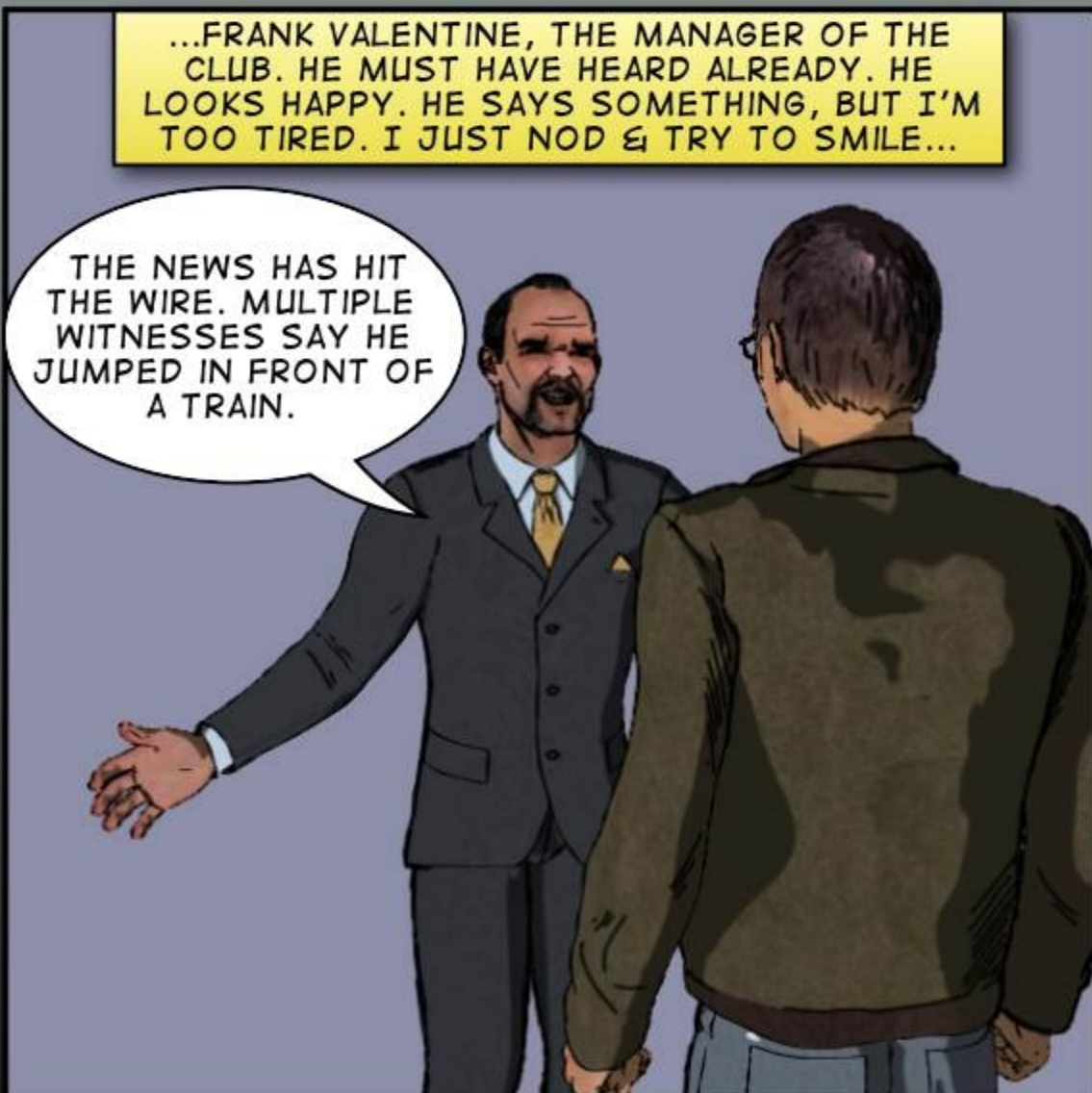
...THE HEADACHES ALWAYS COME AFTERWARDS. THIS ONE FEELS WORSE. HE WAS A HEAVY GUY...



...I KNOW I'LL BE OKAY IF I CAN JUST REST. I KNOW WHERE I HAVE TO GO, BUT IT ALWAYS FEELS SO FAR. I EVENTUALLY ARRIVE AT THE VALENTINES CLUB, IT NEVER SEEMS TO SLEEP. I ALWAYS GET TO USE THE BACK DOOR, AWAY FROM THE PRYING EYES OF THE STREET...



...BEN IS ONE OF THE DOORMAN. HE'S USED TO ME NOW & KNOWS NOT TO BOTHER WITH SMALL TALK. HE JUST LETS ME THROUGH & CONTINUES WITH HIS EVENING AS IF NOTHING HAPPENED...



...FRANK VALENTINE, THE MANAGER OF THE CLUB. HE MUST HAVE HEARD ALREADY. HE LOOKS HAPPY. HE SAYS SOMETHING, BUT I'M TOO TIRED. I JUST NOD & TRY TO SMILE...

THE NEWS HAS HIT THE WIRE. MULTIPLE WITNESSES SAY HE JUMPED IN FRONT OF A TRAIN.



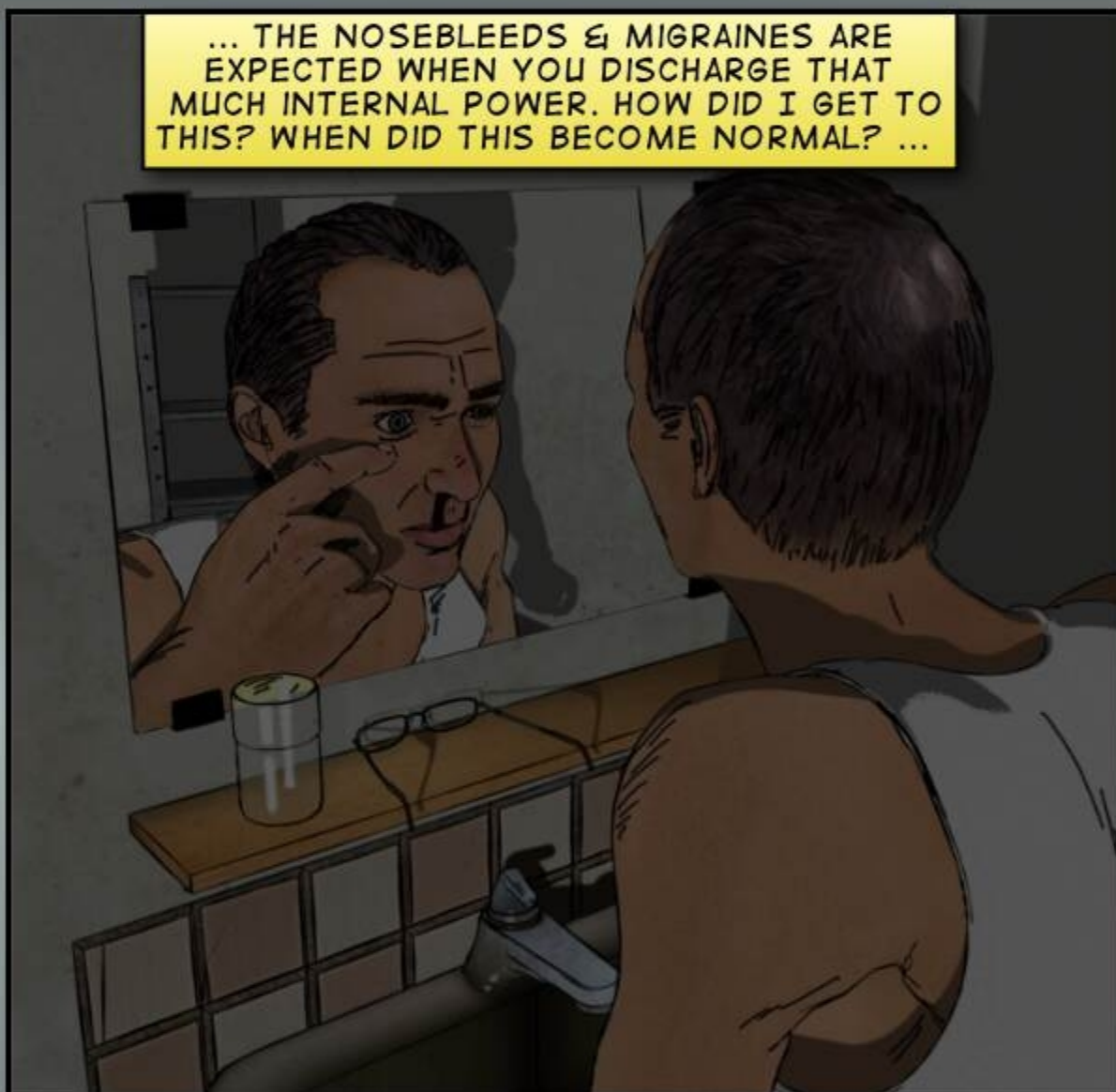
...HE ASKS IF I WAS FOLLOWED EVEN THOUGH HE KNOWS I WASN'T. FRANK IS TOO THOROUGH NOT TO CHECK...

YOUR PALACE AWAITS.

... I DON'T LIVE HERE, THIS IS MY RECOVERY ROOM. IT USED TO BE A STORAGE ROOM FOR THE CLUB, BUT IT'S WHERE I COME TO GET MY STRENGTH BACK & REST BEFORE I GO HOME...



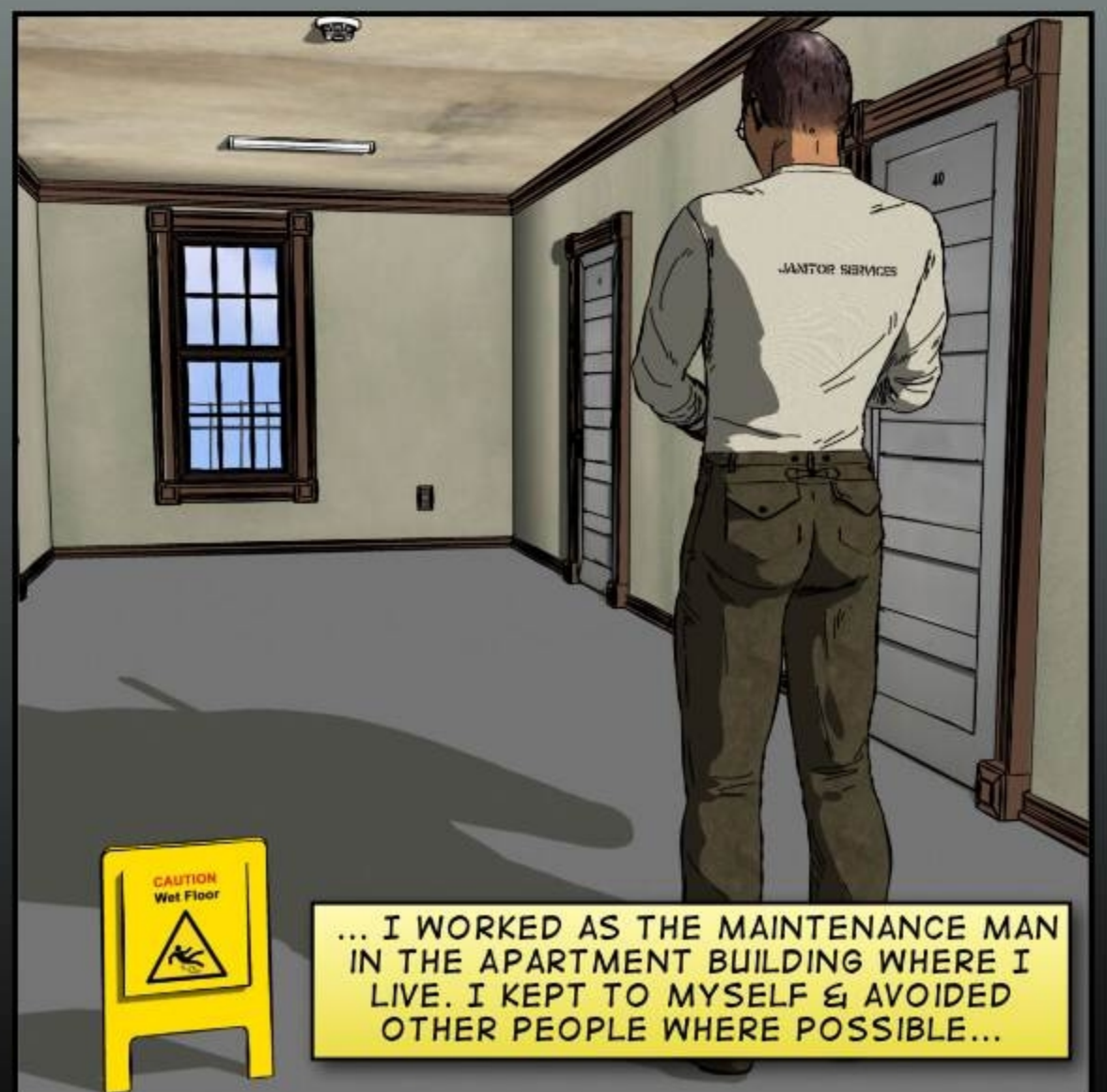
... THE NOSEBLEEDS & MIGRAINES ARE EXPECTED WHEN YOU DISCHARGE THAT MUCH INTERNAL POWER. HOW DID I GET TO THIS? WHEN DID THIS BECOME NORMAL? ...



...MY LIFE USED TO BE SO SIMPLE, SO QUIET, BEFORE EVERYTHING CHANGED...



TWO YEARS EARLIER.



... I WORKED AS THE MAINTENANCE MAN IN THE APARTMENT BUILDING WHERE I LIVE. I KEPT TO MYSELF & AVOIDED OTHER PEOPLE WHERE POSSIBLE...

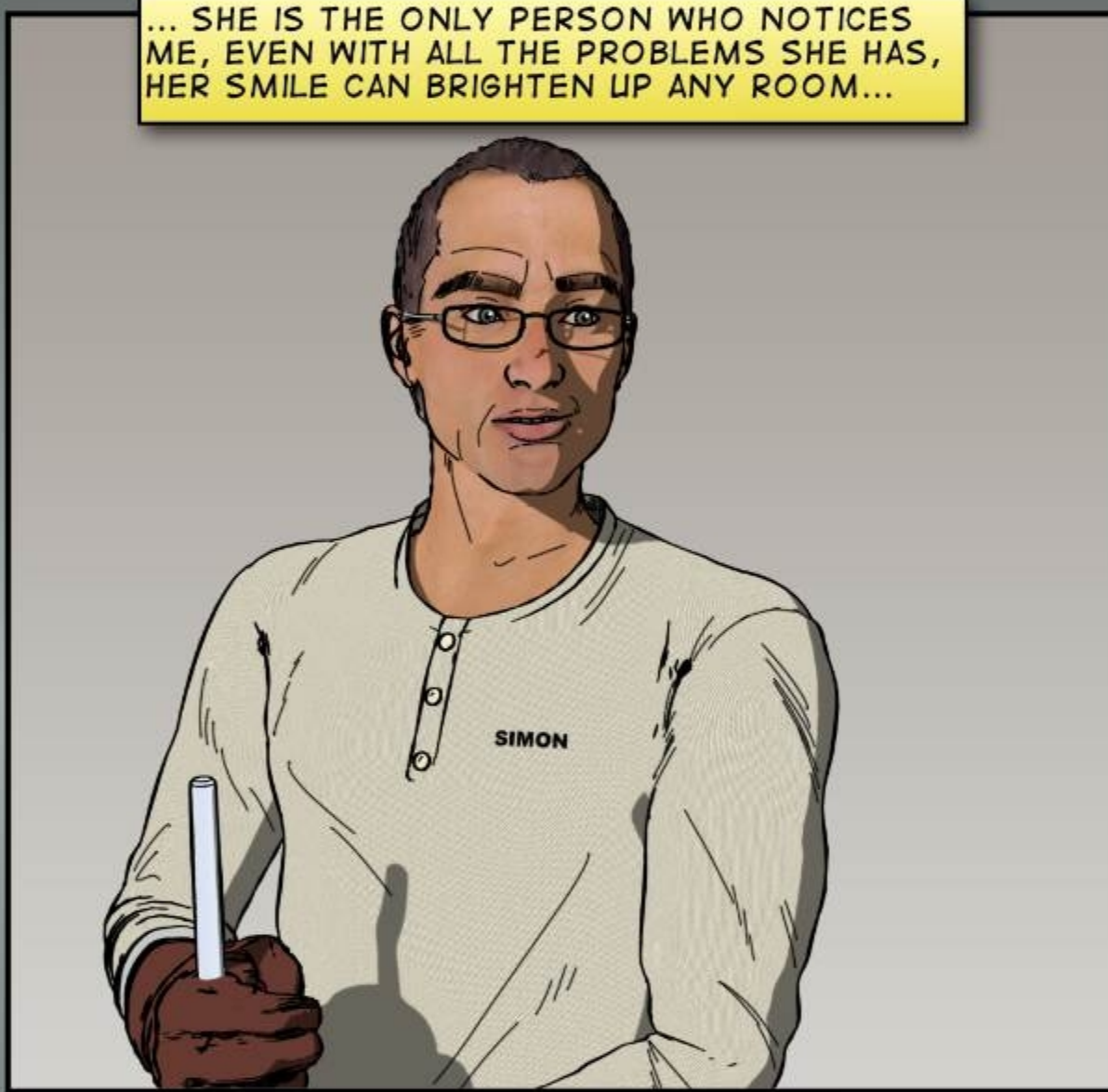
... THE BEST PART OF MY DAY IS WHEN MY NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOUR, LOLA COMES HOME...



HEY SIMON.

H-HELLO, LOLA. Y-YOU'RE LOOKING NICE TODAY.

... SHE IS THE ONLY PERSON WHO NOTICES ME, EVEN WITH ALL THE PROBLEMS SHE HAS, HER SMILE CAN BRIGHTEN UP ANY ROOM...

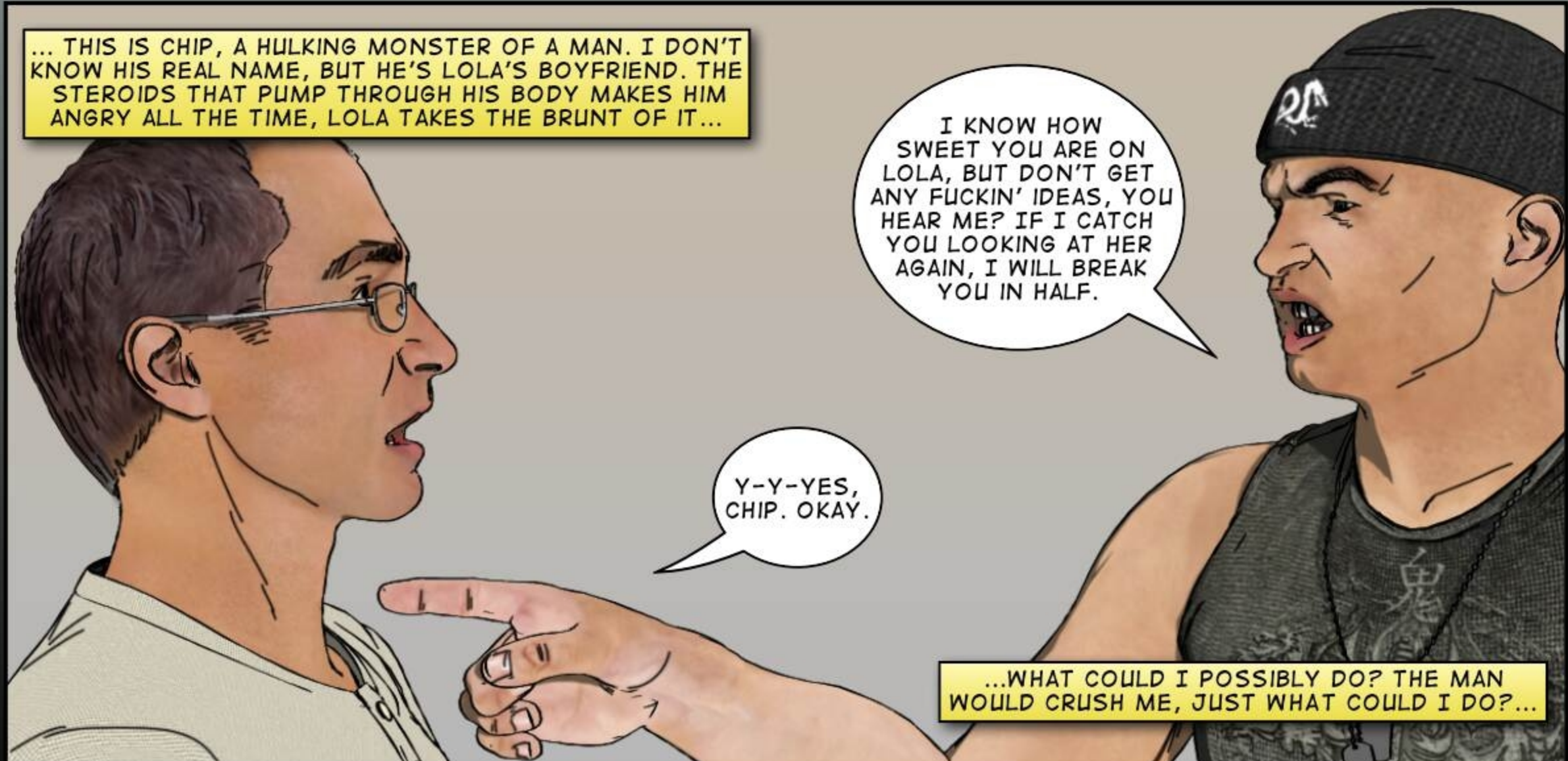


...HER BIGGEST PROBLEM OF ALL IS HER CHOICE IN MEN...



HEEEY! SIMPLE SIMON! LOOK! YOU MISSED A SPOT.

... THIS IS CHIP, A HULKING MONSTER OF A MAN. I DON'T KNOW HIS REAL NAME, BUT HE'S LOLA'S BOYFRIEND. THE STEROIDS THAT PUMP THROUGH HIS BODY MAKES HIM ANGRY ALL THE TIME, LOLA TAKES THE BRUNT OF IT...



I KNOW HOW SWEET YOU ARE ON LOLA, BUT DON'T GET ANY FUCKIN' IDEAS, YOU HEAR ME? IF I CATCH YOU LOOKING AT HER AGAIN, I WILL BREAK YOU IN HALF.

Y-Y-YES, CHIP. OKAY.

...WHAT COULD I POSSIBLY DO? THE MAN WOULD CRUSH ME, JUST WHAT COULD I DO?...

... JUST WALK AWAY, THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO...

CHIP! LEAVE HIM ALONE!

YOU CAN BE SUCH AN ASSHOLE.



WHAT? I'M JUST LETTING HIM KNOW WHERE HE STANDS.

WHY DO YOU HAVE TO ANSWER ME BACK ALL THE TIME? DO YOU LIKE MAKING ME ANGRY?

CHIP-- AACHH! LET ME GO! YOU'RE HURTING ME! GAAA!

... THESE WALLS ARE SO THIN, YOU CAN HEAR EVERY PUNCH, EVERY WHIMPER. ALL I WANT TO DO IS SAVE HER & TAKE HER AWAY FROM ALL THIS...



CRACK!

OOOOW!
OOOW! OOOW!
CHIP, NO!

NNNNGGGHHH!

TINK!

TINK!

CRACK!

...I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE IT AT FIRST BECAUSE I WAS SO FRUSTRATED WITH BEING HELPLESS. MY ANGER SLOWLY SPILT OUT INTO THE AIR, CRACKING THE WALLS & GLASS NEARBY...







WHAT THE FUCK IS THIS?

CHIP, CALM DOWN. HE WAS JUST HERE TO FIX THE SINK.

OH WAS HE, NOW?



ARE YOU FUCKING HIM, LOLA? IS THAT IT? --- DON'T WALK AWAY FROM ME WHEN I'M TALKING TO YOU!

CHIP! I HAVE HAD ENOUGH! GET OUT & LEAVE ME ALONE!

...I HAVE NEVER STOOD UP FOR MYSELF BEFORE, HOW CAN I STAND UP FOR HER? HE'D KILL ME IN A HEARTBEAT?...



GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME!

...BUT IF HE DIDN'T SEE IT COMING, IF I HAD JUST ONE SECOND I COULD SAVE HER, PUT EVERYTHING RIGHT...



YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST WALK AWAY, LOLA? AREN'T YOU FORGETTING THE DEBT WE ARE IN?

...WHAT AM I THINKING? THIS ISN'T ME, I'M NOT CAPABLE OF SOMETHING LIKE THAT, HOW COULD I STAND UP TO HIM?...

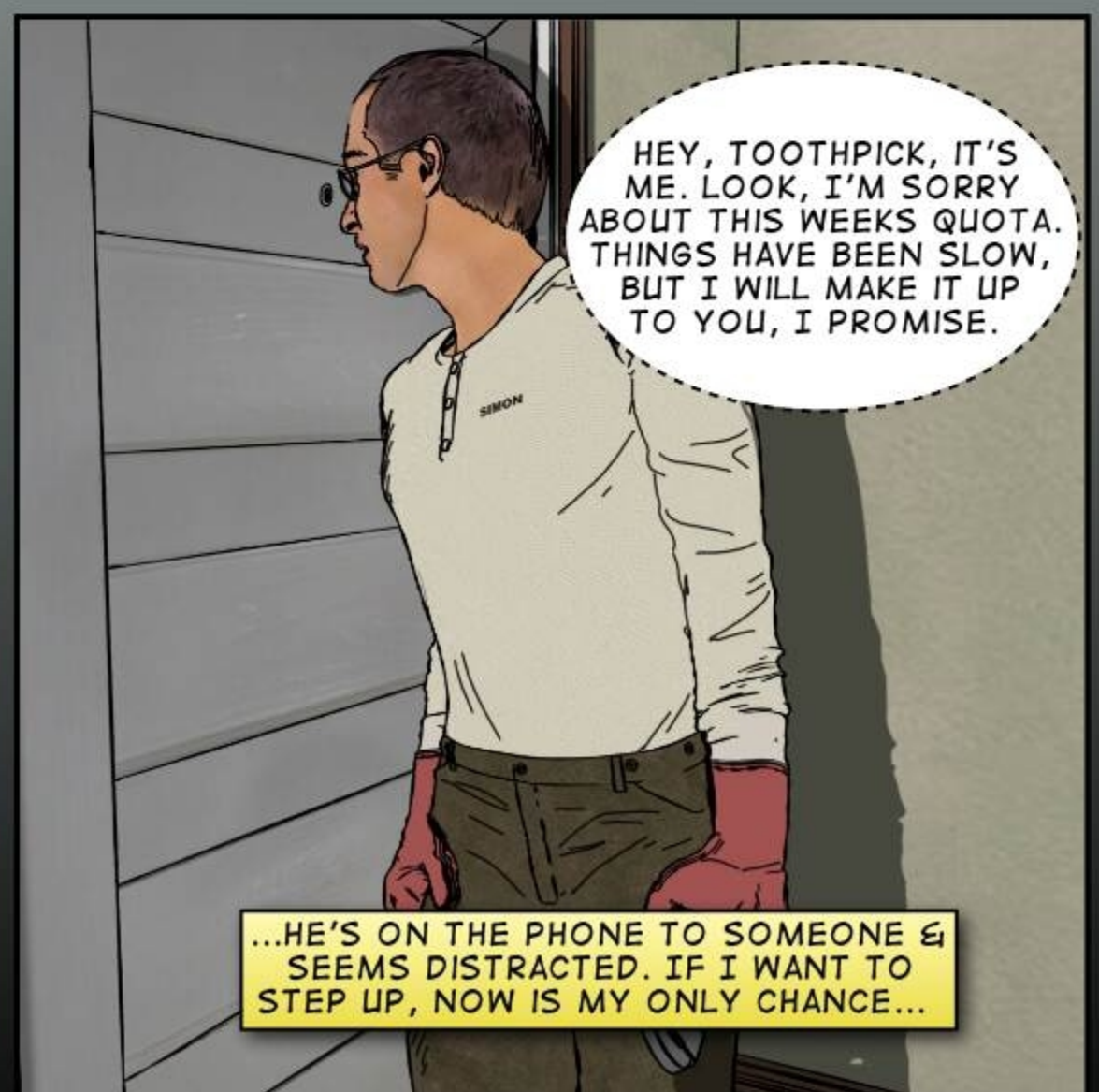


I DON'T CARE, CHIP. IT'S YOUR DEBT, NOT MINE! NOW GET OUT!



SLAM!

YOU FUCKIN' BITCH! YOU THINK THIS IS OVER?



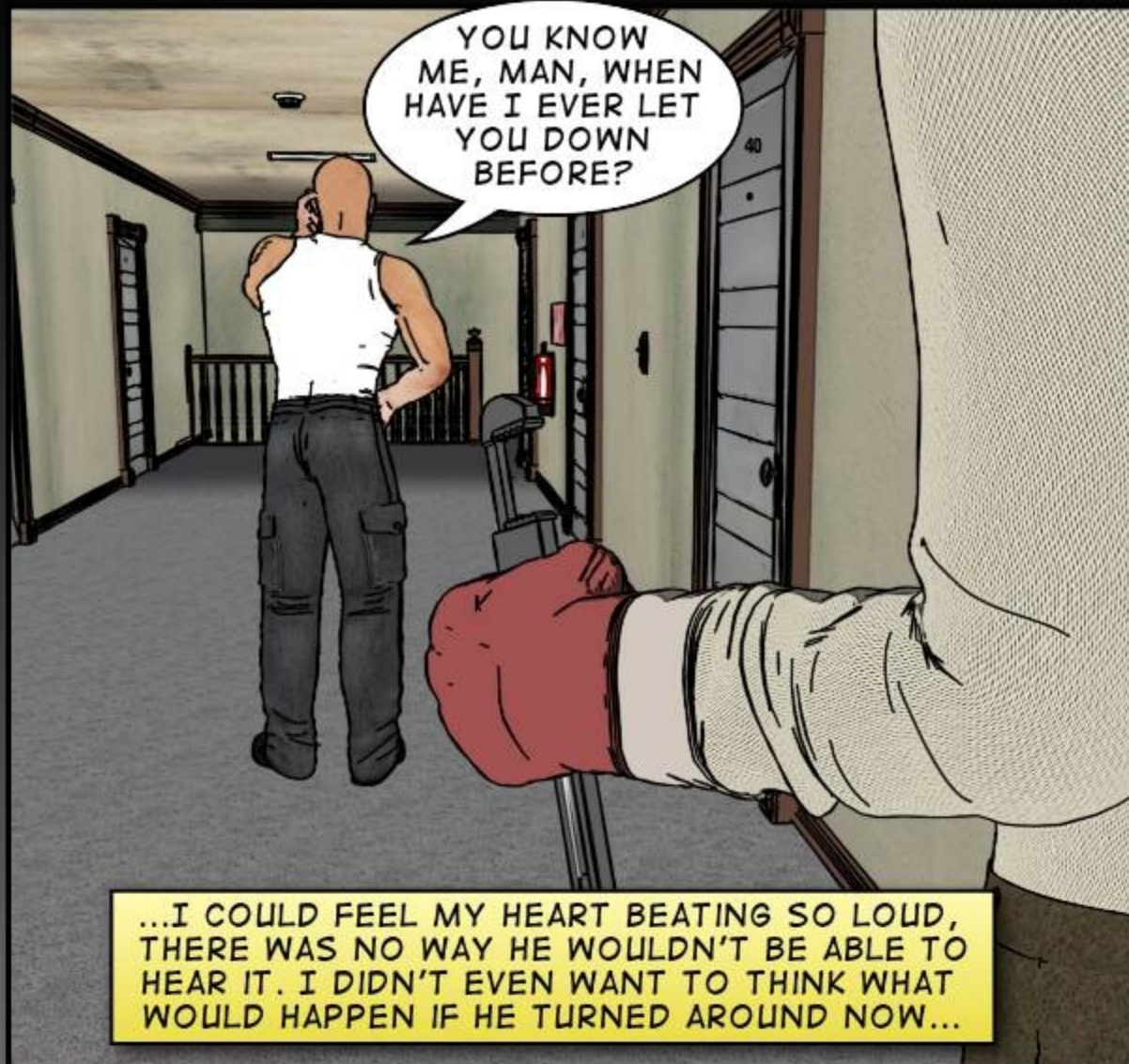
HEY, TOOTHPICK, IT'S ME. LOOK, I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS WEEKS QUOTA. THINGS HAVE BEEN SLOW, BUT I WILL MAKE IT UP TO YOU, I PROMISE.

...HE'S ON THE PHONE TO SOMEONE & SEEMS DISTRACTED. IF I WANT TO STEP UP, NOW IS MY ONLY CHANCE...

...MY MIND WAS SPINNING SO FAST I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE PICKING UP THE WRENCH...



YOU KNOW ME, MAN, WHEN HAVE I EVER LET YOU DOWN BEFORE?



...I COULD FEEL MY HEART BEATING SO LOUD, THERE WAS NO WAY HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO HEAR IT. I DIDN'T EVEN WANT TO THINK WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF HE TURNED AROUND NOW...

WHAT? -- NO, THE GIRLS I HAVE ARE MORE THAN ENOUGH TO MAKE UP THE DIFFERENCE.



... ALL IT TAKES IS ONE HARD SWING & HE WILL GO DOWN FOR GOOD...

...BUT WHAT IF HE DOESN'T GO DOWN? I SUDDENLY LOST WHAT LITTLE COURAGE I HAD. THE SHAKES GRIPPED MY BODY & I DOUBTED EVERYTHING, I HESITATED, FROZEN ON THE SPOT, PARALYZED WITH FEAR...



...THEN, WITHIN A SECOND, EVERYTHING WENT WRONG...

WHAT THE FUCK? HEY, TOOTHPICK, I'M GONNA HAVE TO CALL YOU BACK.

LOOK I-- UH?

OH NO... OH GOD.



AAAH! AAH!

YOU GOT SOMETHING YOU WANNA DO? YOU THINK YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO PUT ME DOWN? FUCKIN' YOU?!





...HE TIGHTENED HIS GRIP ROUND MY THROAT, I TRIED TO PRY HIS HANDS OFF, BUT HE WAS TOO STRONG...

...HE SMASHED DOWN ON MY JAW, I FELT A CRUNCH & A BLINDING LIGHT AS MY SKULL RATTLED FROM THE IMPACT...



OH MY GOODNESS! GET OFF OF HIM THIS INSTANT, YOU THUG!

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS & FUCK OFF BACK INSIDE, UNLESS YOU WANT TO BE NEXT!

AAAAH!
AAAAH!

...I COULD HEAR VOICES, NOTHING MORE THAN DISTANT ECHOES. I WAS BARELY CONSCIOUS, EVERYTHING A BLUR AS IF I WAS SLIPPING AWAY INTO A DREAM. I KNEW THE FINAL BLOW WAS ONLY MOMENTS AWAY...



I'M CALLING THE POLICE!

SIMON!
NOOO!

YOU GET BACK INSIDE TOO! I MEAN IT!



GET OFF OF HIM, YOU'LL KILL HIM!

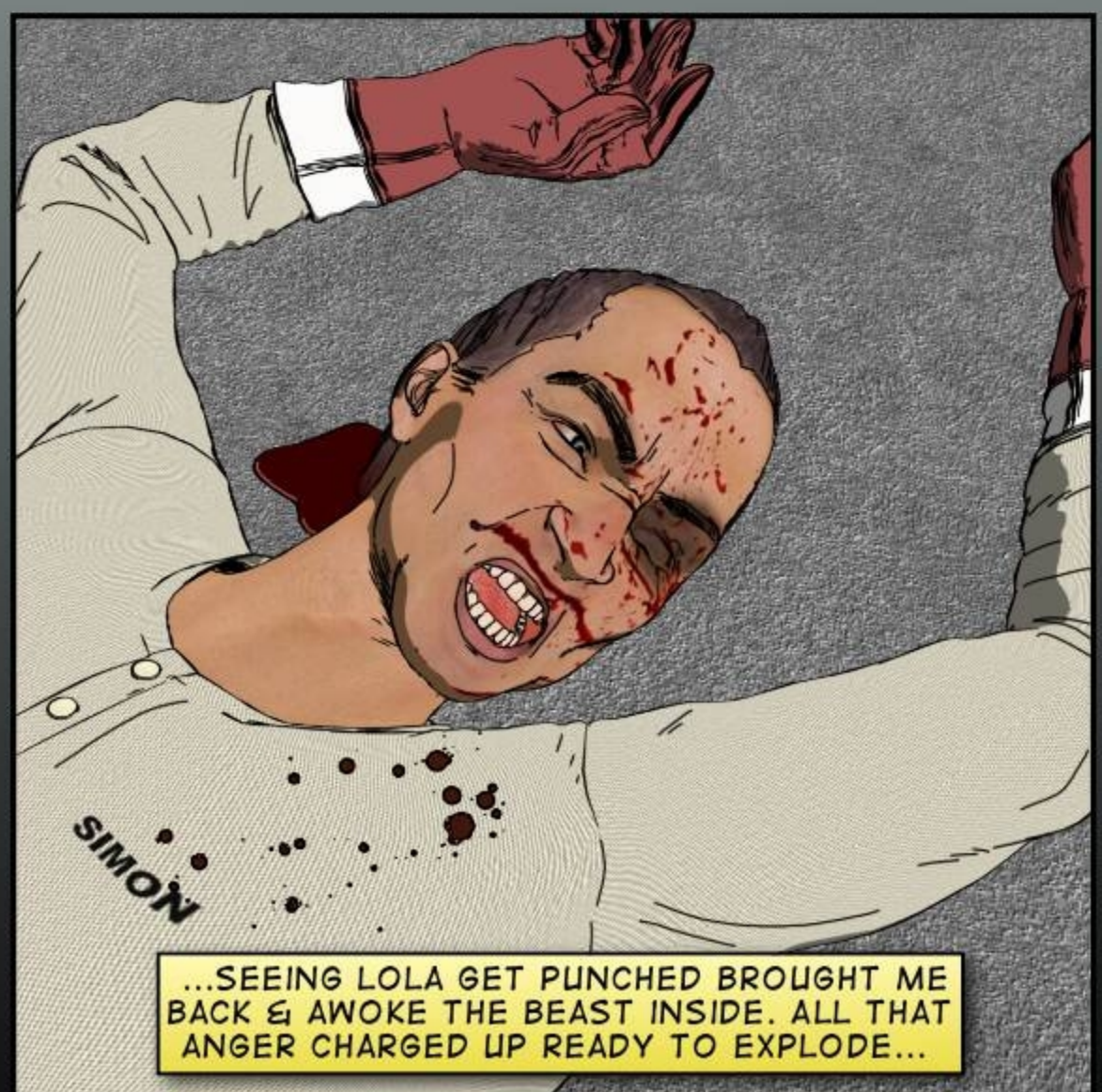
LET ME GO, YOU FUCKIN' WHORE!



AAAAAH!

I SAID LET GO!

CRACK!



...SEEING LOLA GET PUNCHED BROUGHT ME BACK & AWOKED THE BEAST INSIDE. ALL THAT ANGER CHARGED UP READY TO EXPLODE...



YOU SHOULD HAVE STAYED AWAY, I WARNED YOU YESTERDAY, BUT YOU HAD TO BE A HERO.

CHIP! NOOO!



GET AWAY!

...I PUT MY HANDS UP TO PROTECT MYSELF, WHAT HAPPENED NEXT WAS COMPLETELY UNEXPECTED...



ARGGH!

FWHOOSH!

...CHIP WAS THROWN ACROSS THE ROOM AS IF HE WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A BASEBALL. I DIDN'T EVEN TOUCH HIM, BUT I FELT THE ENERGY FLOW FROM MY BODY. IT RELEASED LIKE A BULLET...



ACK!

DONG!

... HE HIT SO HARD THAT HIS HEAD DAMAGED THE HEATING PIPE...



...THAT IS THE SIMPLE RULE OF NATURAL SELECTION, THE WOLF NEVER NEEDS TO LOOK OVER HIS SHOULDER, NOR DOES HE WORRY THAT THE FOX WILL NOW GO HUNGRY...



...BEING THE APEX PREDATOR HAS TO BE RESPECTED, BUT MOST OF ALL FEARED. HE DIDN'T GET TO THE TOP WITHOUT STAINING HIMSELF WITH THE BLOOD OF MANY OTHERS...

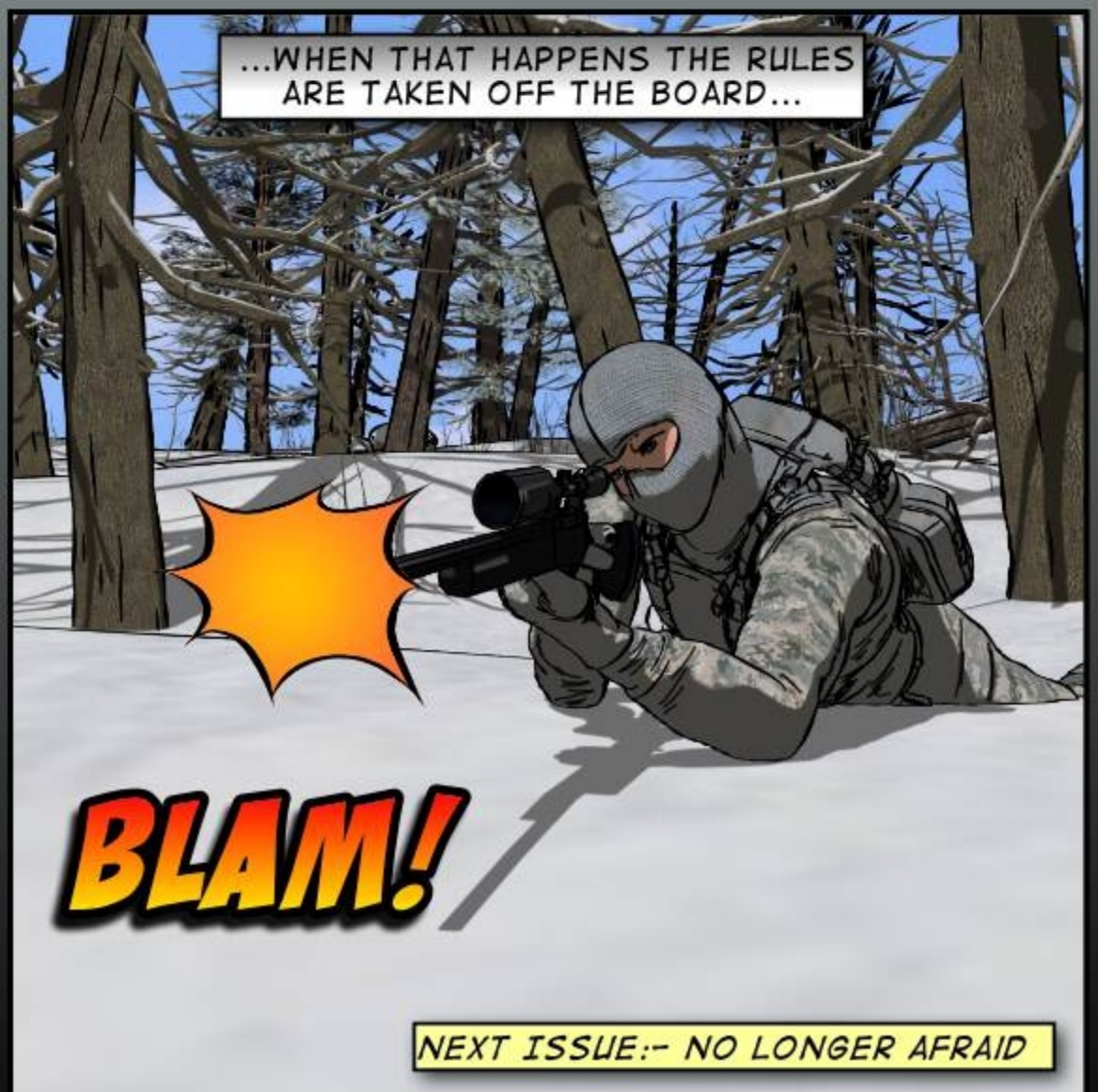


...THE HARDEST PART OF ALL, IS STAYING AT THE TOP...

...BECAUSE THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T WANT TO LISTEN TO NATURE'S PLAN...



...WHEN THAT HAPPENS THE RULES ARE TAKEN OFF THE BOARD...



NEXT ISSUE:- NO LONGER AFRAID