

STJERAN SEJIC

DEATH VIGIL #1



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DEATH VIGIL #1. JULY 2014.

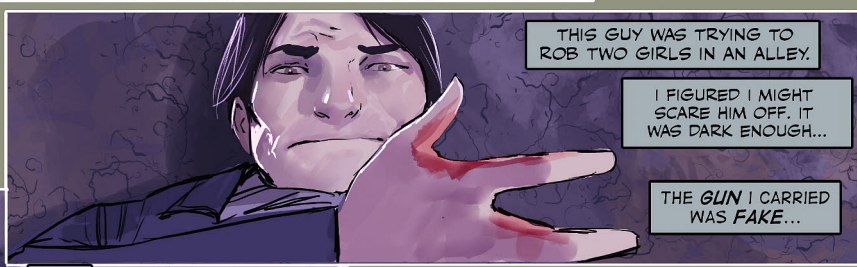
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HANG ON
OFFICER! AMBULANCE
IS ON THE WAY!

OFFICER?
OH YEAH...FUNNY
STORY! SO IT WAS
HALLOWEEN.

I WAS COMING FROM
A COSTUME PARTY.



THIS GUY WAS TRYING TO
ROB TWO GIRLS IN AN ALLEY.

I FIGURED I MIGHT
SCARE HIM OFF. IT
WAS DARK ENOUGH...

THE *GUN* I CARRIED
WAS FAKE...



HIS...
WASN'T

OH GOD!
HE'S BLEEDING
LIKE A FAUCET!



MAYA!

THEY SAID IN
FIVE MINUTES!



FIRST GIRL TO
ACTUALLY PAY
ATTENTION TO
ME IN YEARS...

FIGURES...



STILL...THERE
ARE WORSE WAYS
TO DIE, I GUESS...

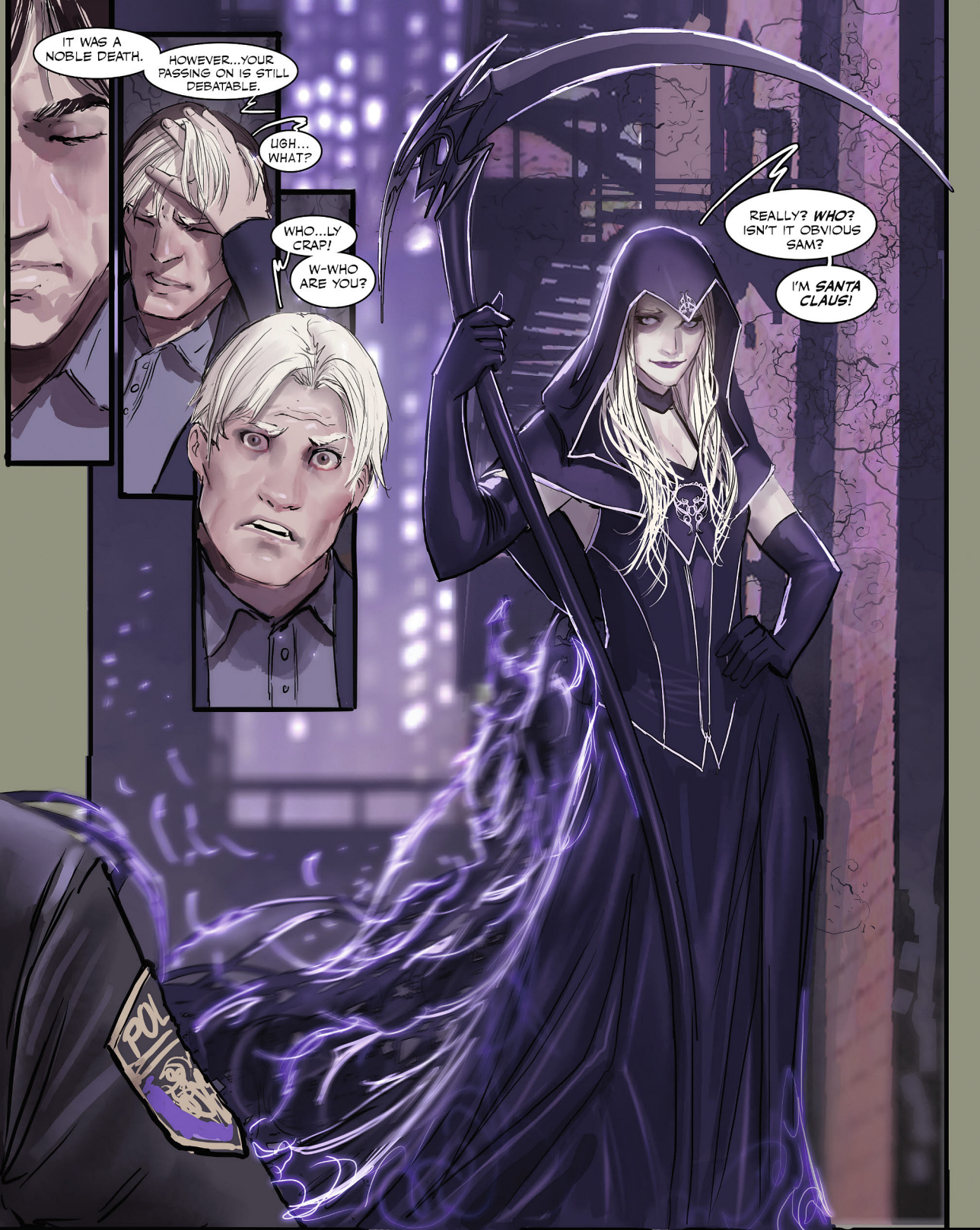


THIS...IS...
NOT...
SO...

OFFICER!?



NOT BAD
AT ALL, *SAMUEL
LEWIS*.



IT WAS A NOBLE DEATH.

HOWEVER...YOUR PASSING ON IS STILL DEBATABLE.

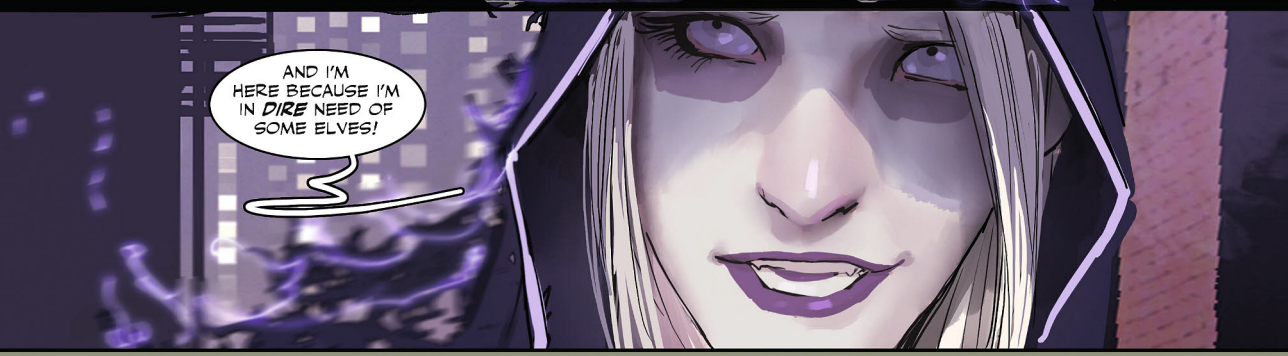
UGH... WHAT?

WHO...LY CRAP!

W-WHO ARE YOU?

REALLY? WHO? ISN'T IT OBVIOUS SAM?

I'M SANTA CLAUS!



AND I'M HERE BECAUSE I'M IN *DIRE* NEED OF SOME ELVES!



DEATH VIGIL

12 YEARS
LATER

DEATH!

OH BLESSED
REAPER WE CALL UPON
THEE! BY THE **BLOODOATH**
OF THE SEVEN WE BIND
YOU TO THE MORTAL
REALM

SEALED BY
BLOOD, SEALED
BY **SPIRIT**!

SEALED BY
BLOOD, SEALED
BY **SPIRIT**!

SEALED BY
BLOOD, SEALED
BY **SPIRIT**!

PALE KEEPER
OF...

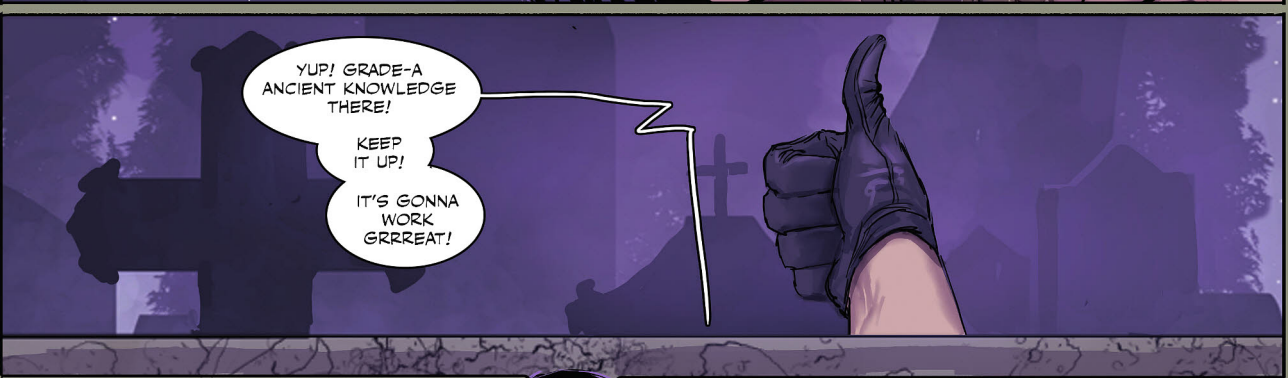
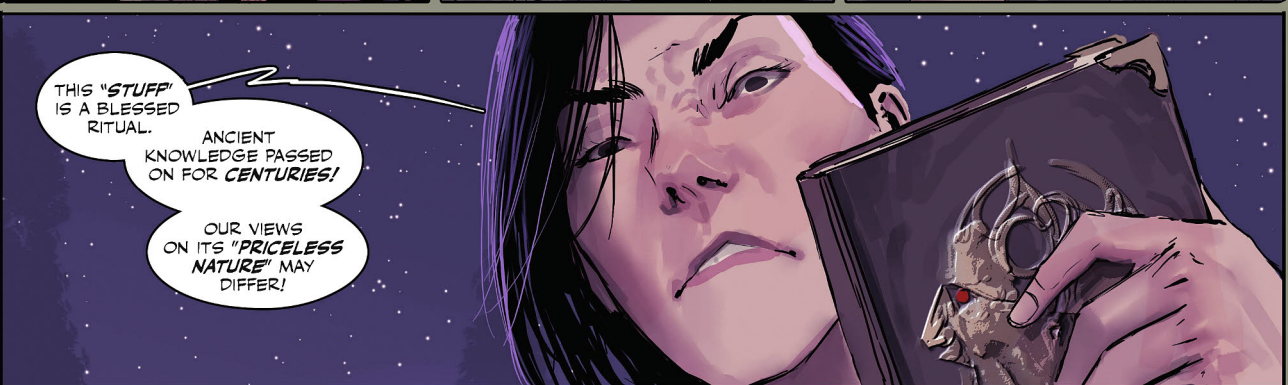
SNORT!

PALE KEEPER
OF THE SEV...

PFFT
BWAHAHA

OH, WHAT
THE F*CK???

WHO'S THE
CLOWN?



ELDRITCH
FORCES?

KLANG

BOY, I
COULD TELL YOU
THINGS OF ELDRITCH
FORCES THAT WOULD
TURN YOUR HAIR
WHITE!

UH...UM...
WHO **ARE** YOU
ANYWAYS? SOME
SORT OF **GRAVE**
DIGGER?

WHAT? BECAUSE
OF MY **TOOLS** HERE?

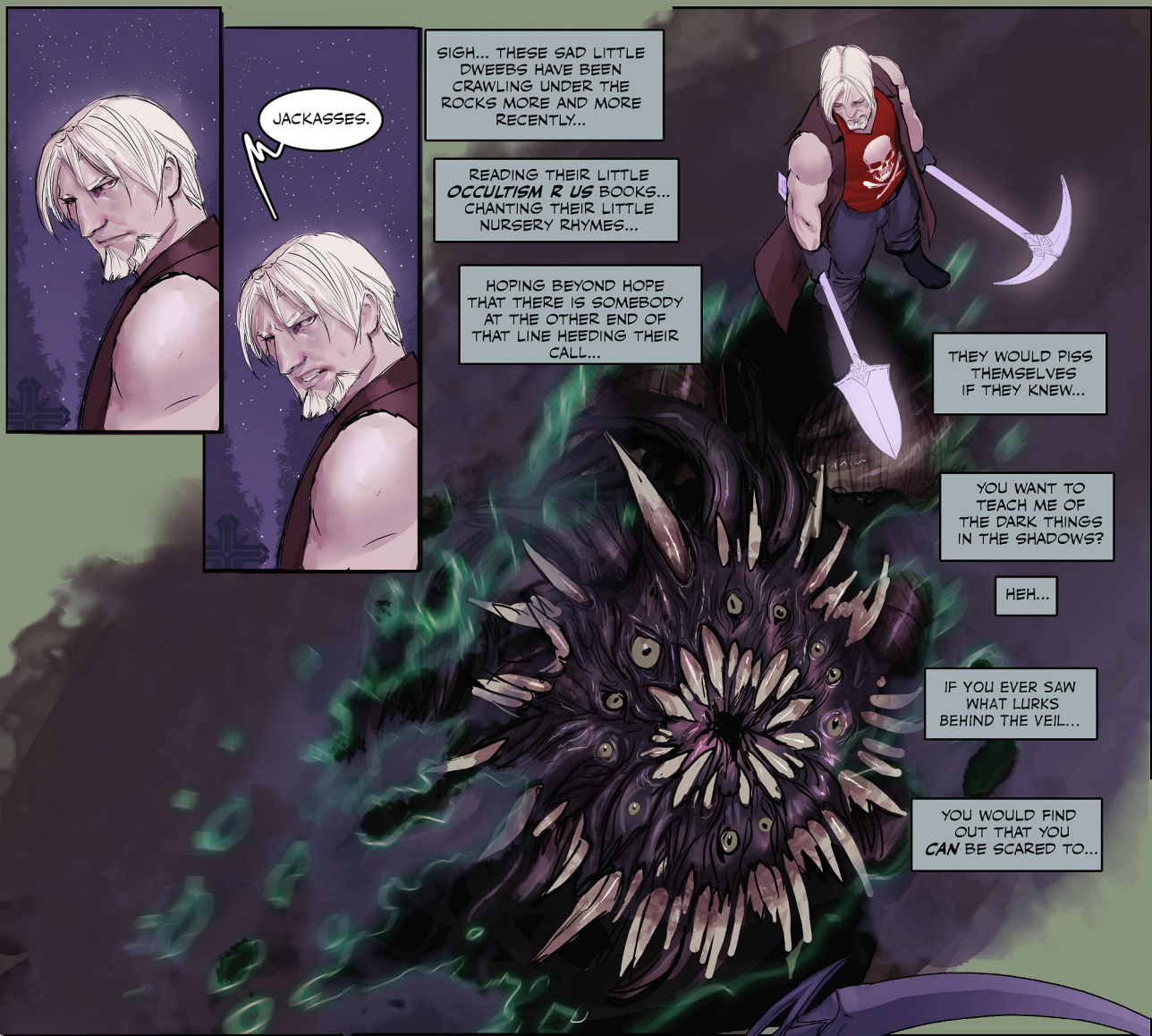
NAH, I'M
MERELY A... **DIGGING**
ENTHUSIAST.

SO...WHAT'S
IT GONNA BE
SUNSHINE?

HOW DO
YOU WANNA
PLAY THIS?

BAH...LET'S
GO...THIS PHILISTINE'S
PRESENCE HAS DISRUPTED
THE **AETHER**.

YEAH, NO,
THAT'S WHAT
IT WAS...
DISRUPTED
AETHER.



JACKASSES.

SIGH... THESE SAD LITTLE
DWEBBS HAVE BEEN
CRAWLING UNDER THE
ROCKS MORE AND MORE
RECENTLY...

READING THEIR LITTLE
OCCULTISM R US BOOKS...
CHANTING THEIR LITTLE
NURSERY RHYMES...

HOPING BEYOND HOPE
THAT THERE IS SOMEBODY
AT THE OTHER END OF
THAT LINE HEEDING THEIR
CALL...

THEY WOULD PISS
THEMSELVES
IF THEY KNEW...

YOU WANT TO
TEACH ME OF
THE DARK THINGS
IN THE SHADOWS?

HEH...

IF YOU EVER SAW
WHAT LURKS
BEHIND THE VEIL...

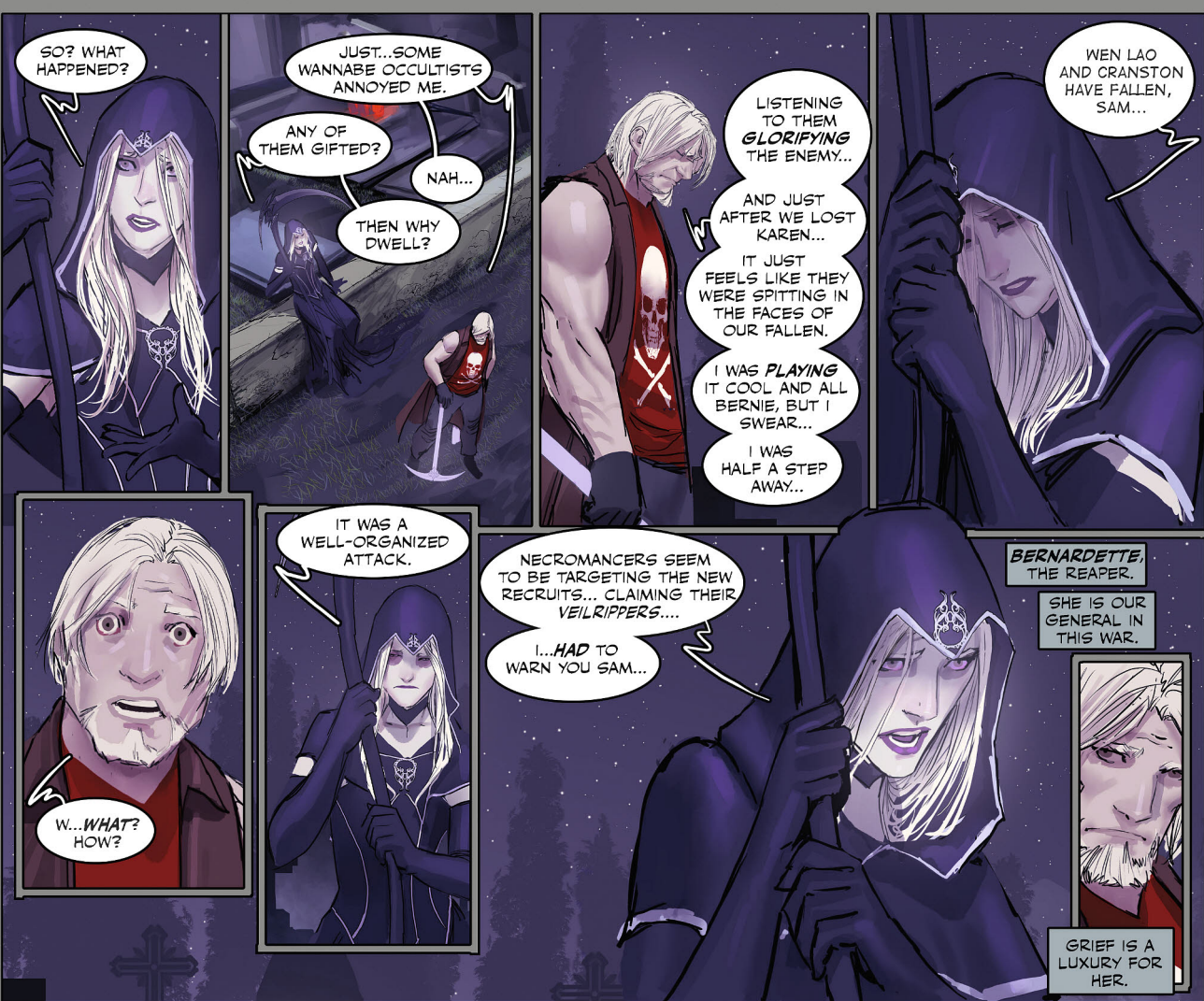
YOU WOULD FIND
OUT THAT YOU
CAN BE SCARED TO...

...DEATH.

YOU SEEM
ANNOYED!

SEEING
YOU *HELPS*.

NOT SOMETHING
I *USUALLY* HEAR...BUT
IT *IS* APPRECIATED.



SO? WHAT HAPPENED?

JUST...SOME WANNABE OCCULTISTS ANNOYED ME.

ANY OF THEM GIFTED?

NAH...

THEN WHY DWELL?

LISTENING TO THEM *GLORIFYING* THE ENEMY...

AND JUST AFTER WE LOST KAREN...

IT JUST FEELS LIKE THEY WERE SPITTING IN THE FACES OF OUR FALLEN.

I WAS *PLAYING* IT COOL AND ALL BERNIE, BUT I SWEAR...

I WAS HALF A STEP AWAY...

WEN LAO AND CRANSTON HAVE FALLEN, SAM...

IT WAS A WELL-ORGANIZED ATTACK.

NECROMANCERS SEEM TO BE TARGETING THE NEW RECRUITS... CLAIMING THEIR *VELRIPPERS*....

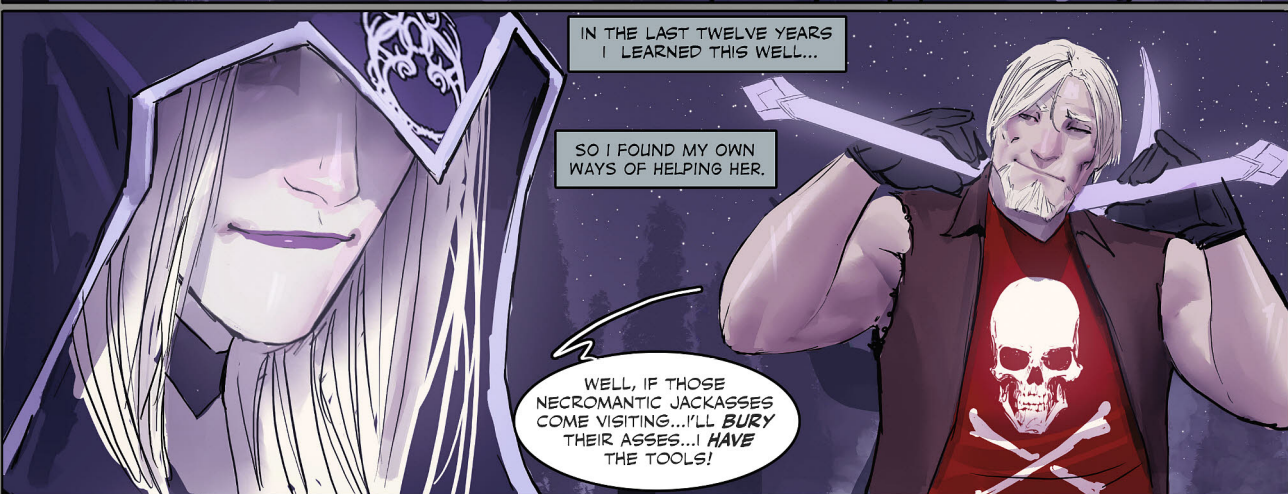
I...HAD TO WARN YOU SAM...

BERNARDETTE,
THE REAPER.

SHE IS OUR GENERAL IN THIS WAR.

W...WHAT? HOW?

GRIEF IS A LUXURY FOR HER.



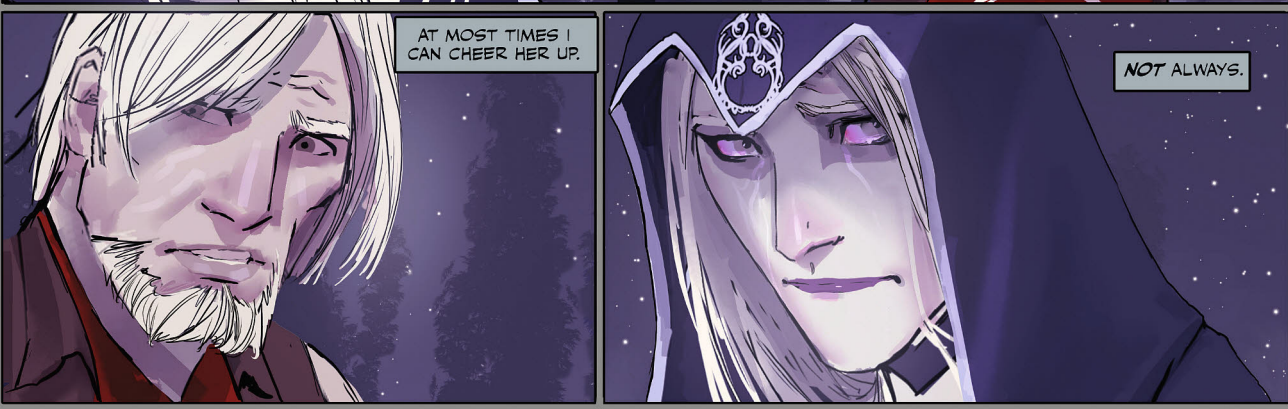
IN THE LAST TWELVE YEARS I LEARNED THIS WELL...

SO I FOUND MY OWN WAYS OF HELPING HER.

WELL, IF THOSE NECROMANTIC JACKASSES COME VISITING...I'LL *BURY* THEIR ASSES...I *HAVE* THE TOOLS!

AT MOST TIMES I CAN CHEER HER UP.

NOT ALWAYS.



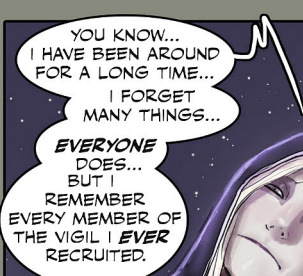


I...I'M
SORRY,
BERNIE.



YOU KNEW
THEM BETTER THAN
I DID.

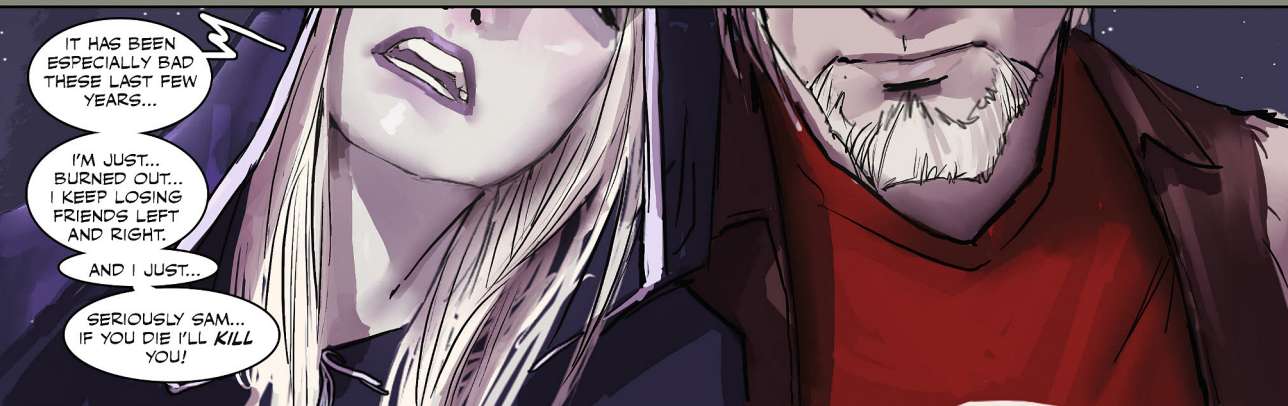
IT'S FINE,
SAM. I'LL MOVE ON
I ALWAYS DO. WE
ALL DO... IT'S
JUST...



YOU KNOW...
I HAVE BEEN AROUND
FOR A LONG TIME...
I FORGET
MANY THINGS...

EVERYONE
DOES...
BUT
REMEMBER
EVERY MEMBER OF
THE VIGIL I **EVER**
RECRUITED.

NEVER FORGET...
WE **CHOSE** TO FIGHT
THIS BATTLE.



IT HAS BEEN
ESPECIALLY BAD
THESE LAST FEW
YEARS...

I'M JUST...
BURNED OUT...
I KEEP LOSING
FRIENDS LEFT
AND RIGHT.

AND I JUST...

SERIOUSLY SAM...
IF YOU DIE I'LL **KILL**
YOU!



BERNIE....DURING
MY SECOND YEAR I TOOK
DOWN A **JANUS** SINGLE
HANDEDLY...

I KNOW.



MY FOURTH
YEAR I WENT EASTWOOD
ON **TWO** KROONS AND
LIVED... NOT EVEN
ANUBIS CAN MAKE
THAT CLAIM.

AS YOU
KEEP REMINDING
HIM.

DAMN
RIGHT!



JUST...BE CAREFUL!

PLEASE BERNIE...

I EAT NECROMANCERS FOR...



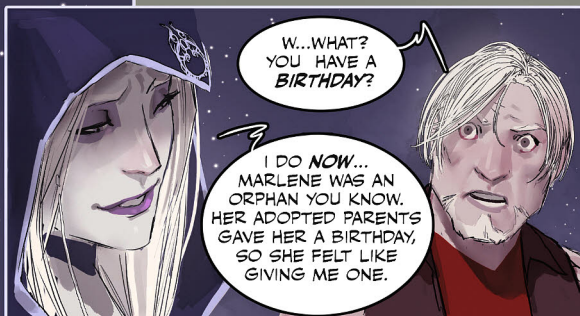
BERNIE...

MORTAL PEOPLE STILL CAN'T SEE YOU, RIGHT?

YUP!

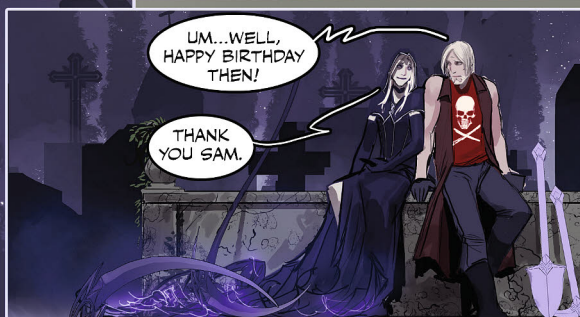
THEN HOW THE HELL DID YOU GET THAT PLAYER?

IT'S A BIRTHDAY GIFT FROM MARLENE.



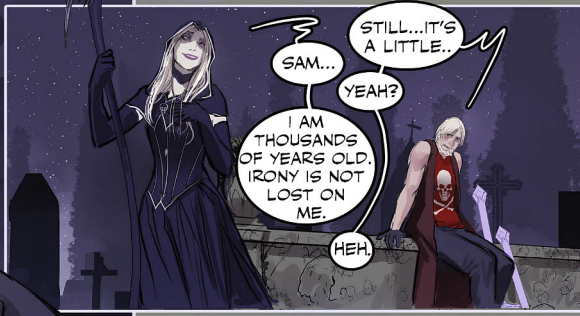
W...WHAT? YOU HAVE A BIRTHDAY?

I DO *NOW*... MARLENE WAS AN ORPHAN YOU KNOW. HER ADOPTED PARENTS GAVE HER A BIRTHDAY, SO SHE FELT LIKE GIVING ME ONE.



UM...WELL, HAPPY BIRTHDAY THEN!

THANK YOU SAM.



STILL...IT'S A LITTLE...

SAM...

YEAH?

I AM THOUSANDS OF YEARS OLD. IRONY IS NOT LOST ON ME.

HEH.



I MUST GO WARN THE OTHERS NOW...

STAY VIGILANT SAM.

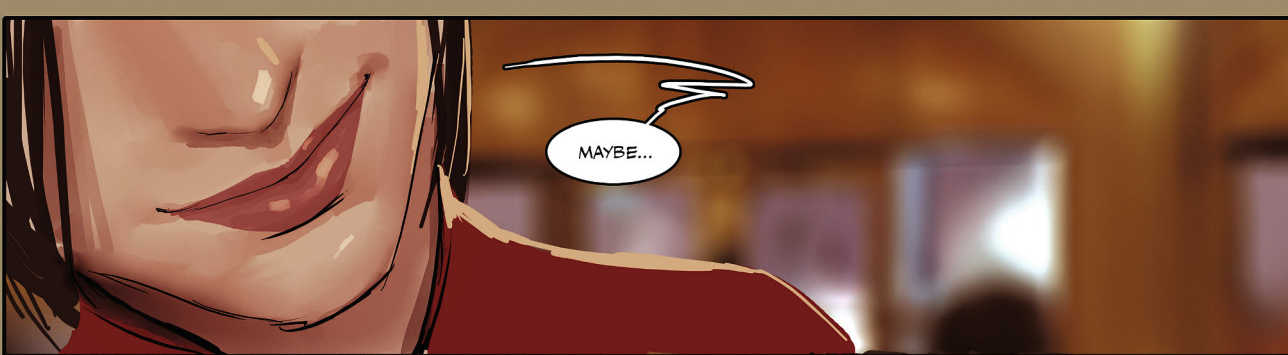


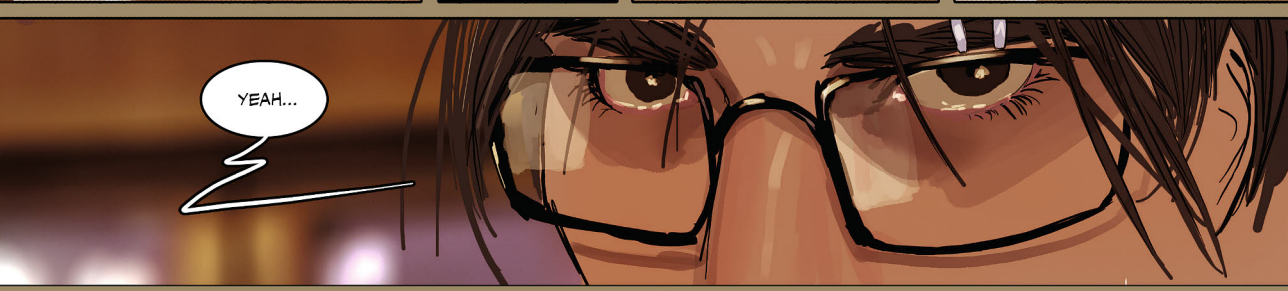
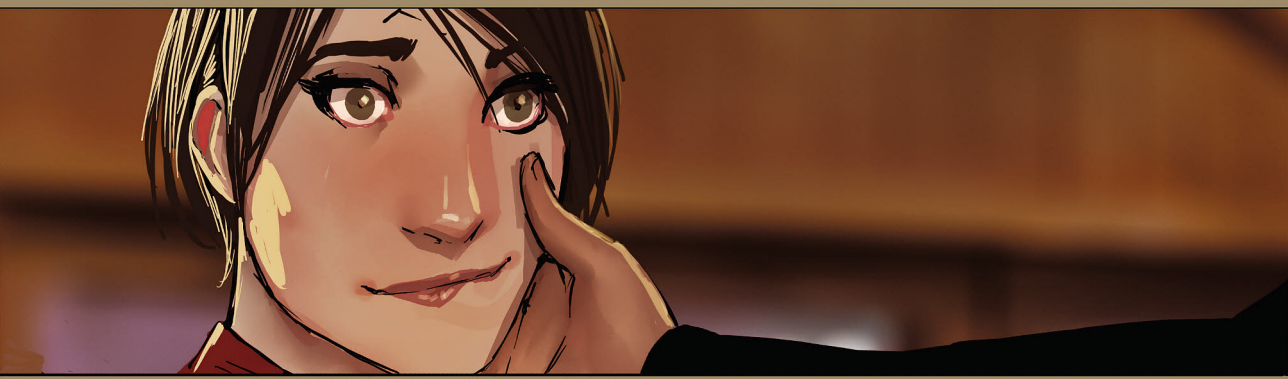
YES "MOM"!

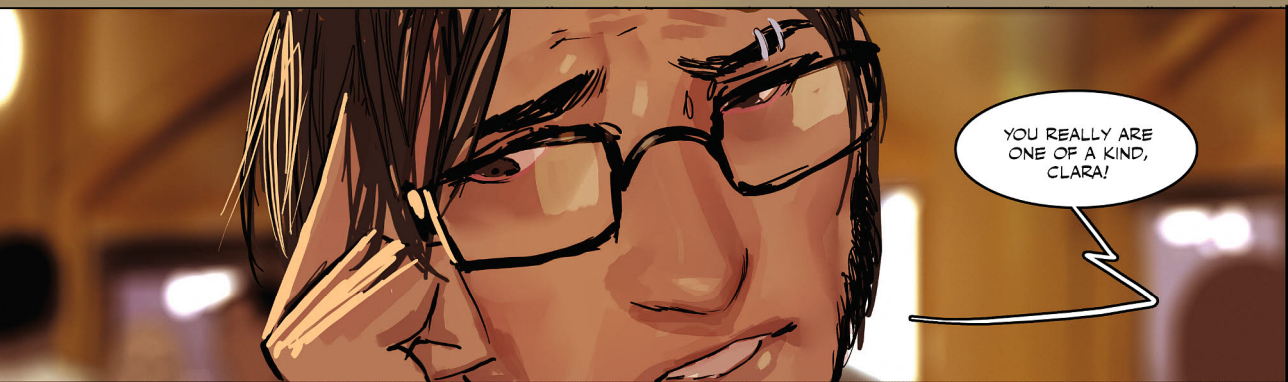
BY THE WAY YOU WERE TOTALLY FISHING FOR THAT "HAPPY BIRTHDAY".

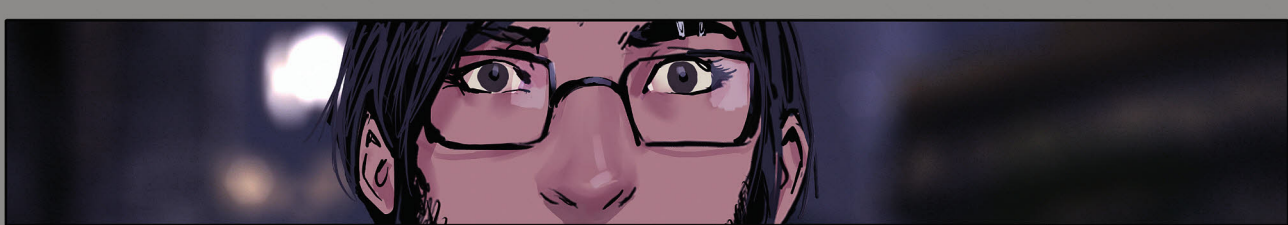


MAYBE!









JON?

SORRY.
A BUNCH OF
THINGS ON
MY MIND.

LIKE?

LACK OF
COURAGE...

LACK OF
STRENGTH.

JUST...THIS IS
THE ONE PLACE
WHERE I KNOW MY
DAD IS GONE...

ANYWHERE ELSE...
I CAN PRETEND THAT HE
IS JUST...YOU KNOW,
AWAY.



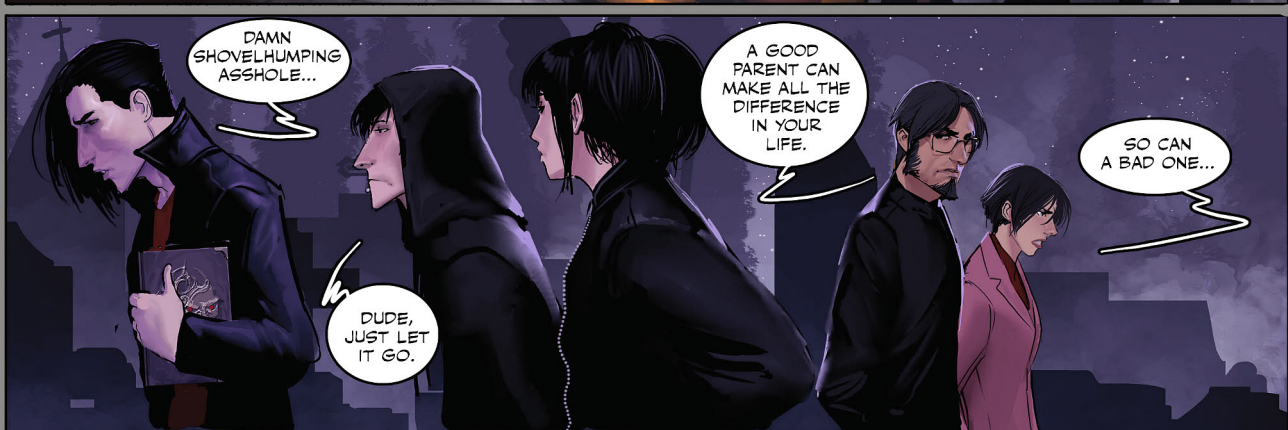
BUT HERE
THERE IS NO PRETENSE.
HERE MEMORIES
AWAKEN.

HE WAS ALWAYS
THERE FOR ME WHEN
I NEEDED HIM.

BUT IN HIS
HOUR OF NEED I
COULD DO NOTHING.
CANCER WAS
EATING HIM FROM
WITHIN.

I WAS
POWERLESS...

I CAN'T
PRETEND TO
KNOW HOW YOU
FEEL...I'M BARELY ON
SPEAKING TERMS
WITH MY OWN
FAMILY.

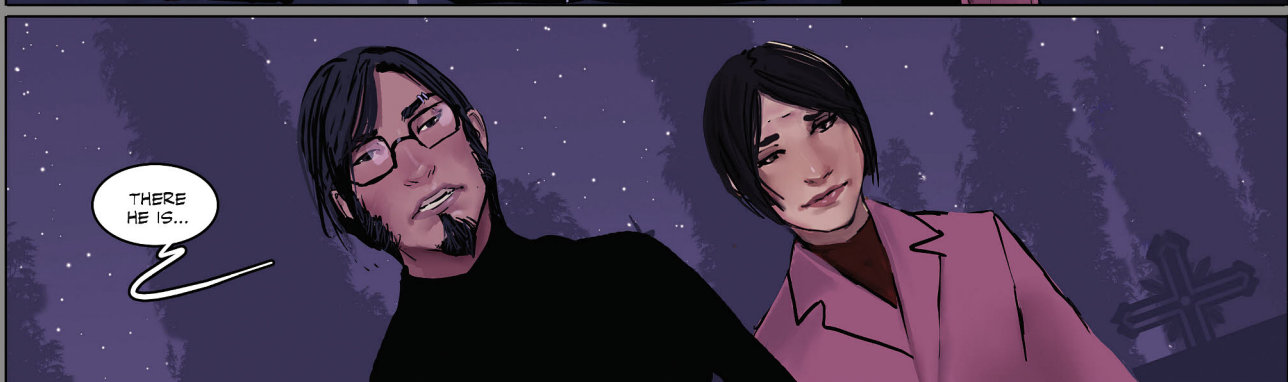


DAMN
SHOVELHUMPING
ASSHOLE...

DUDE,
JUST LET
IT GO.

A GOOD
PARENT CAN
MAKE ALL THE
DIFFERENCE
IN YOUR
LIFE.

SO CAN
A BAD ONE...



THERE
HE IS...



HEY DAD...
BEEN A WHILE!



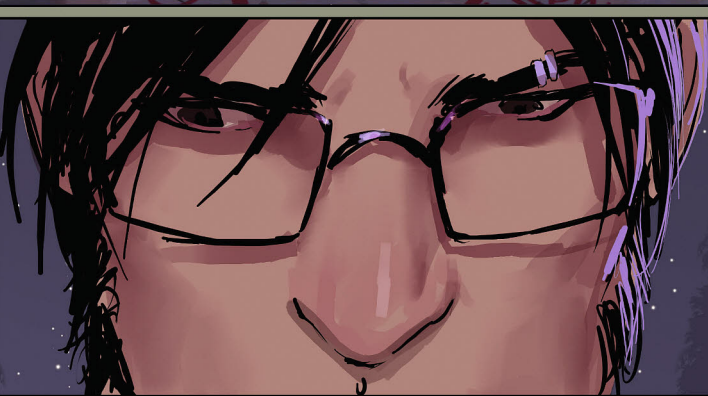
UM... JON...
SOMEONE DREW
SOMETHING IN FRONT
OF THE GRAVE.



I DID
THAT.



OH?



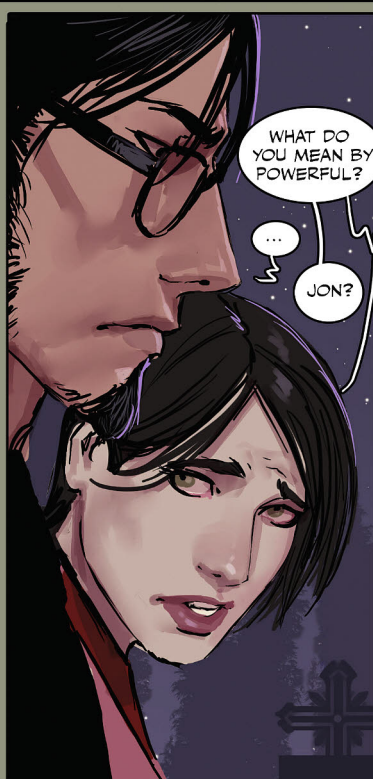
IT IS AN OLD
SYMBOL... FROM
THE AGE OF
SOLOMON.



SO...LIKE
YOUR TATTOO?

HEH...YOU
HAVE BEEN PAYING
ATTENTION...

YES... SIMILAR
TO MY TATTOO...
BUT MUCH MORE
POWERFUL...



WHAT DO
YOU MEAN BY
POWERFUL?

...

JON?



IT'S JUST
AN OLD MYTH
MY PROFESSOR
TAUGHT ME...



BUT...WHY
IS IT ON YOUR
FATHER'S
GRAVE?

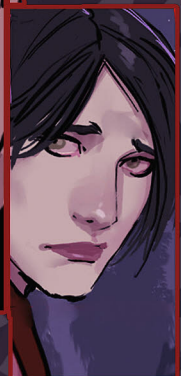
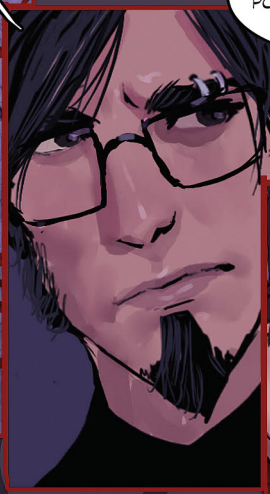
CLARA, DO YOU BELIEVE IN AN AFTERLIFE?

I...DON'T REALLY KNOW...

PEOPLE WHO MADE THIS SIGIL DID. IN FACT IT WAS MORE THAN MERE BELIEF!

THEY KNEW IT FOR A FACT.

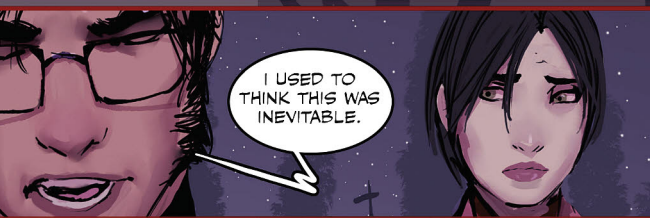
THEY MADE CONTACT WITH AN OLD POWER... AND LEARNED MUCH...



FOR INSTANCE... WE KNOW THAT LIFE IS FRAGILE, FLEETING.



AND DEATH... FINAL.



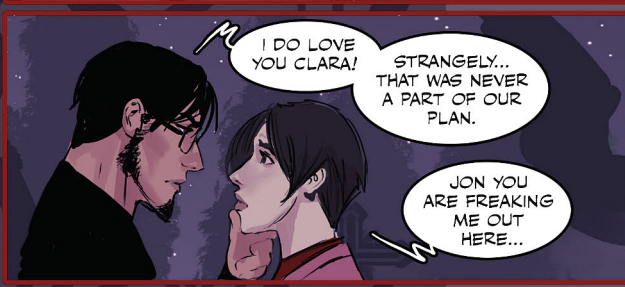
I USED TO THINK THIS WAS INEVITABLE.



BUT SHE TAUGHT ME BETTER! REVEALED THE TRUTH ABOUT DEATH, AND THE PALE COURT!



SHE?
PALE COURT?
JON...WHAT ARE YOU...



I DO LOVE YOU CLARA!
STRANGELY... THAT WAS NEVER A PART OF OUR PLAN.
JON YOU ARE FREAKING ME OUT HERE...



STILL, IT CHANGES NOTHING... THIS IS BIGGER THAN BOTH OF US...



GHK!

SHOKK

I ASK NO FORGIVENESS
BUT I **AM** SORRY.



I **KNOW** IT HURTS CLARA!

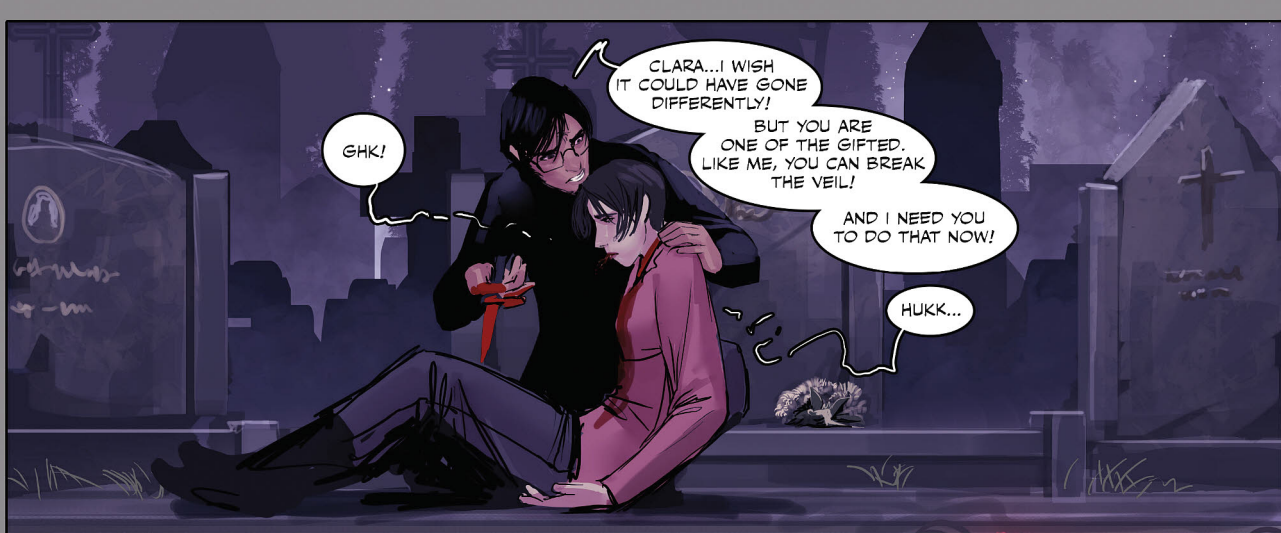
IT HURTS ME **JUST** AS MUCH!

BUT THE PAIN **WILL** END SOON!

YOU ARE A PART OF SOMETHING **BIGGER** NOW.

AGH...KHH
HKK...JOGHH..





GHK!

CLARA...I WISH
IT COULD HAVE GONE
DIFFERENTLY!

BUT YOU ARE
ONE OF THE GIFTED.
LIKE ME, YOU CAN BREAK
THE VEIL!

AND I NEED YOU
TO DO THAT NOW!

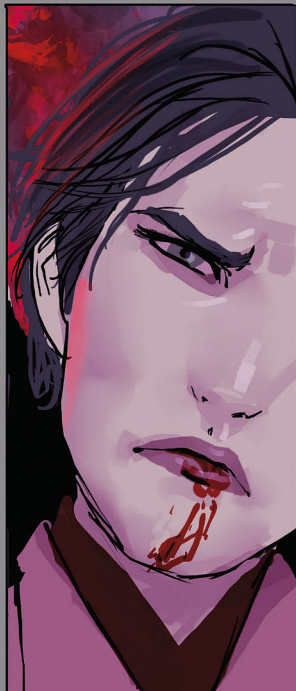
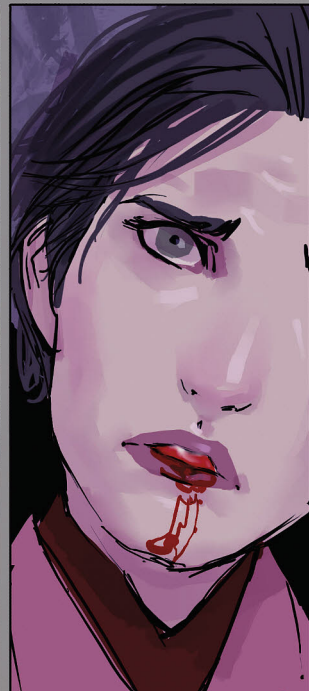
HUKK...



GHK...
JHNN....



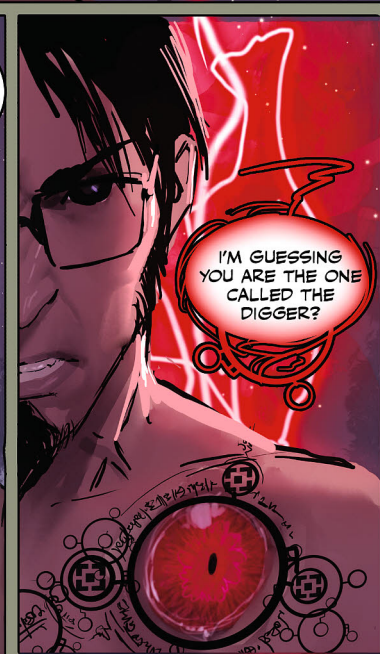
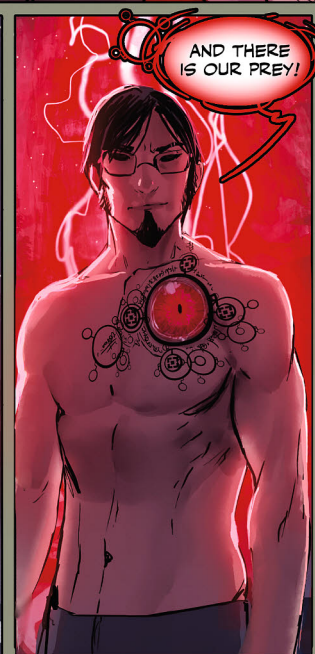
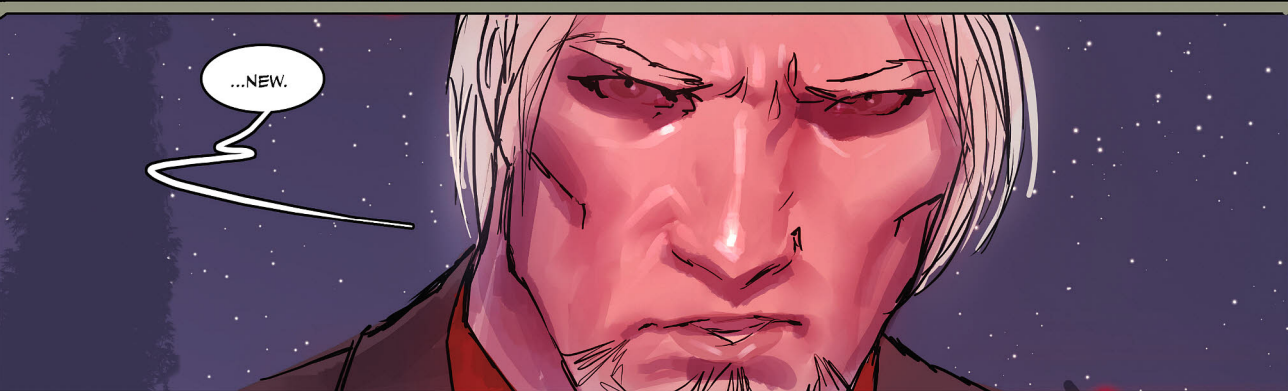
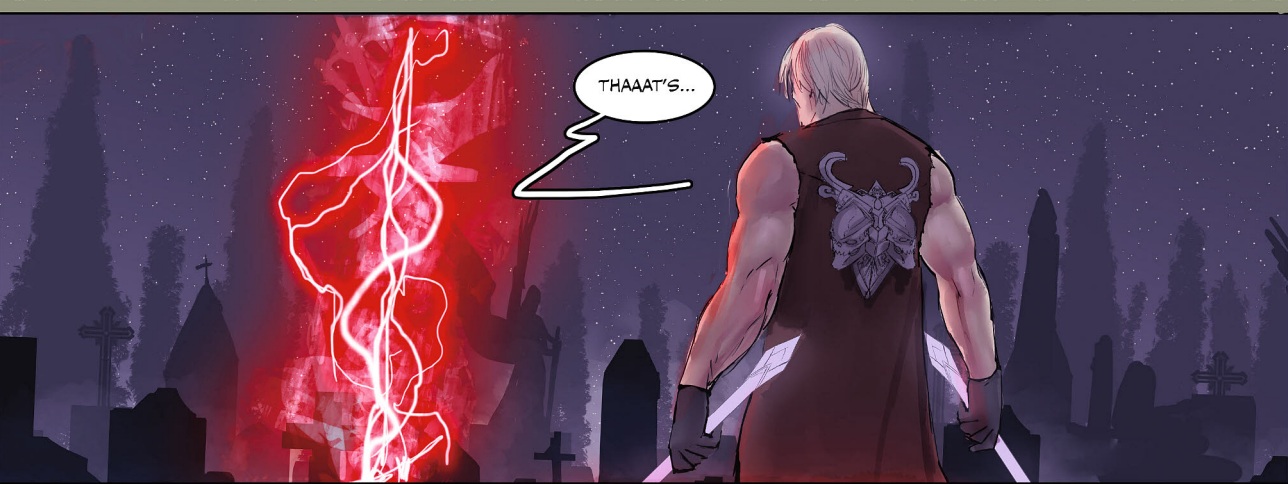
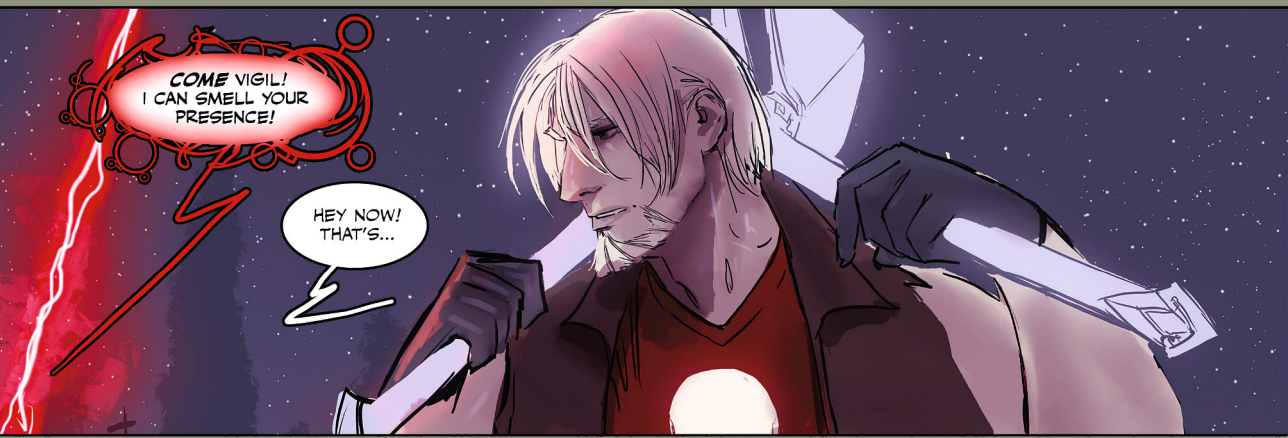
DO IT DAMN
YOU! I HAVE BROKEN
YOUR BODY AND HEART!
RELEASE YOUR
HATRED!!!

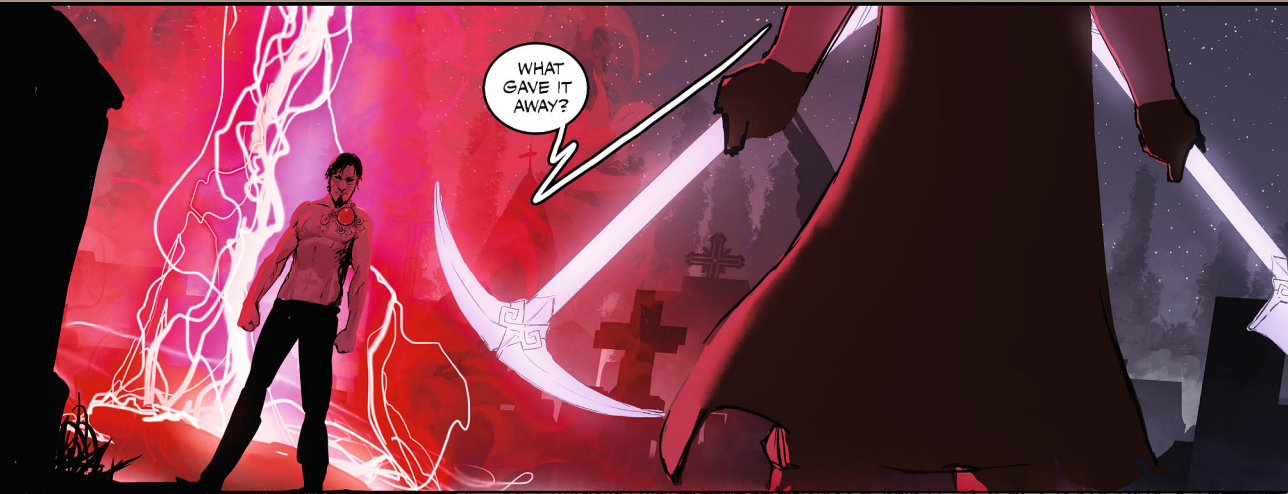


THANK
YOU...

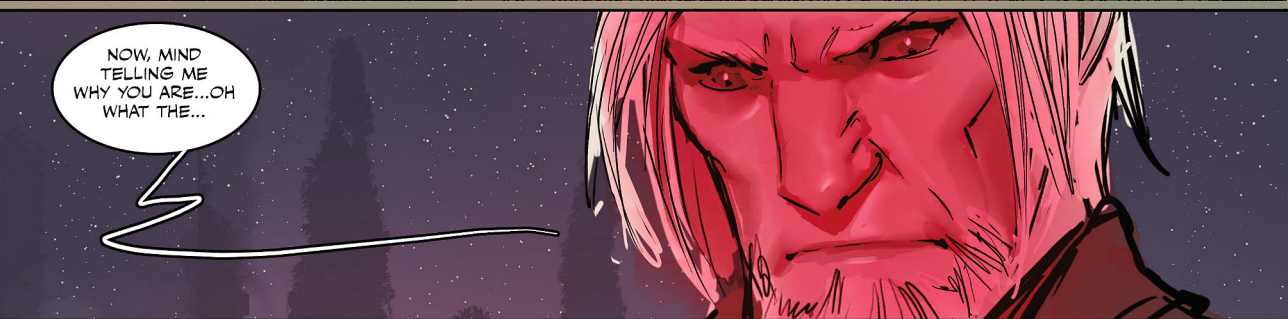
NOW COME
FOR ME VIGIL!!!
I KNOW YOU ARE
CLOSE!
FACE ME!

FACE US!

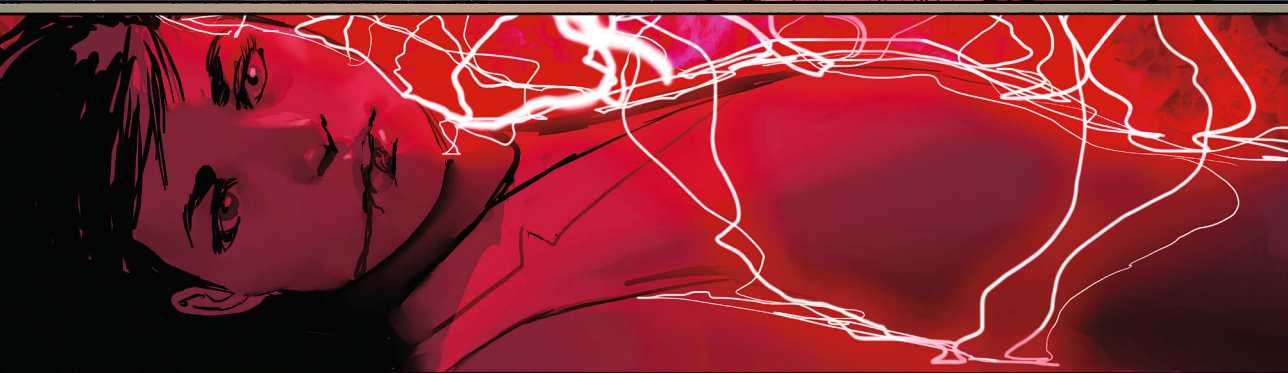




WHAT
GAVE IT
AWAY?



NOW, MIND
TELLING ME
WHY YOU ARE...OH
WHAT THE...

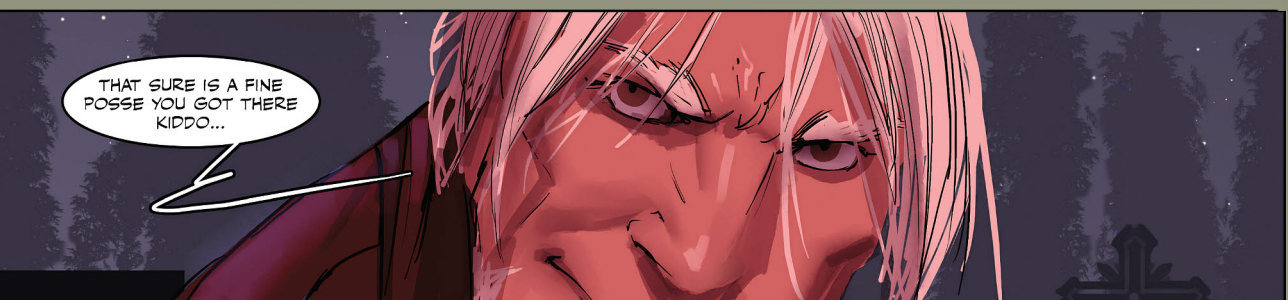
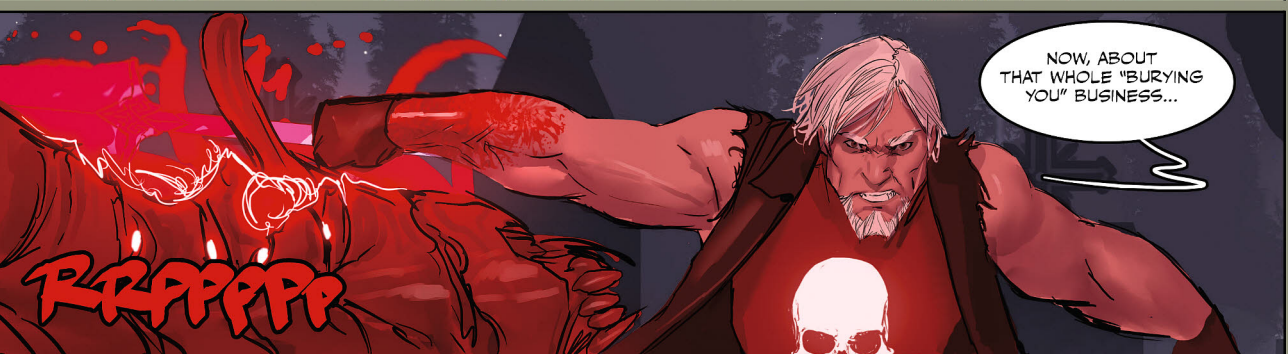
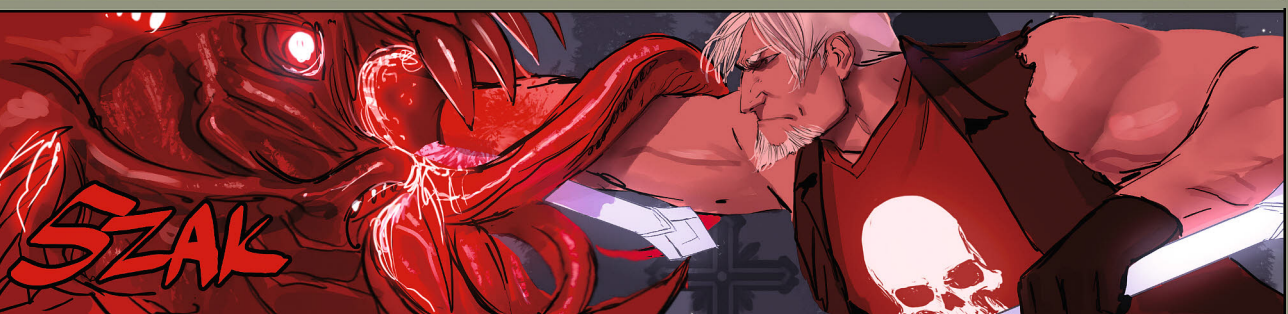


SIGH...
BOY...



I WILL
F%\$KING
BURY YOU!

YOU
WILL
TRY!





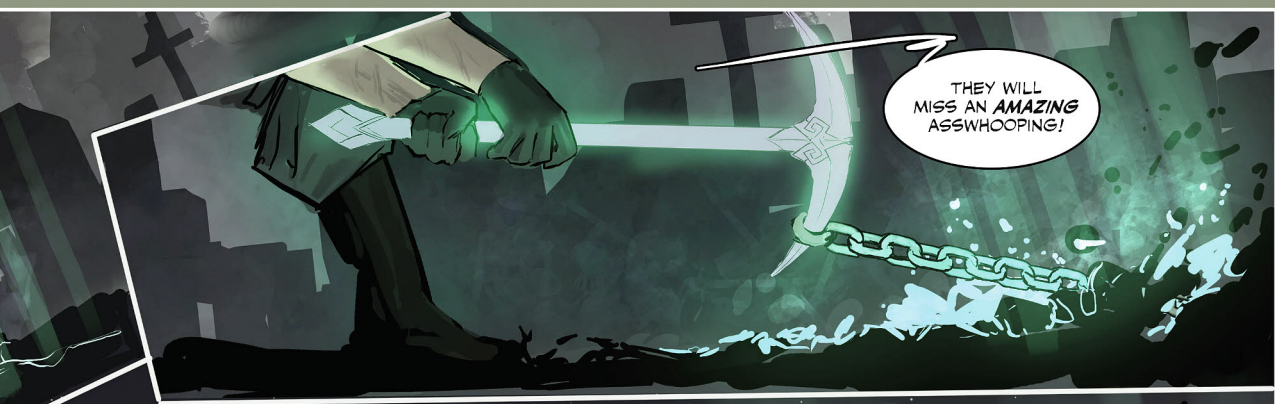
THAT
ALL OF
THEM?

WELL...THE
IMPORTANT
ONES ARE
FASHIONABLY
LATE.

PITY!

BECAUSE,
NECROMANCER...

IT'S TIME
TO SAY HI TO
MY BOYS!



THEY WILL
MISS AN **AMAZING**
ASSWHOOPING!



TOOK YOU
LONG ENOUGH **SAMUEL!**
NOW STAND ASIDE AND
WE SHALL HAVE THE
BLOOD OF THE ENEMY
UPON OUR
BLADES!

THAT
NECROMANCER
HAS A FINE NOSE!
I SHALL TAKE
IT!