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ALCHEMY  
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# ALIENS™

## Alchemy

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# ALIENS™

## Alchemy

writer

**JOHN ARCUDI**

artist

**RICHARD CORBEN**

colorist

**JOHN POUND**

letterer

**GARY FIELDS**

cover artist

**RICHARD CORBEN**

designer

**JULIE E. GASSAWAY**

assistant editor

**DAVID LAND**

editor

**PHILIP AMARA**

publisher

**MIKE RICHARDSON**

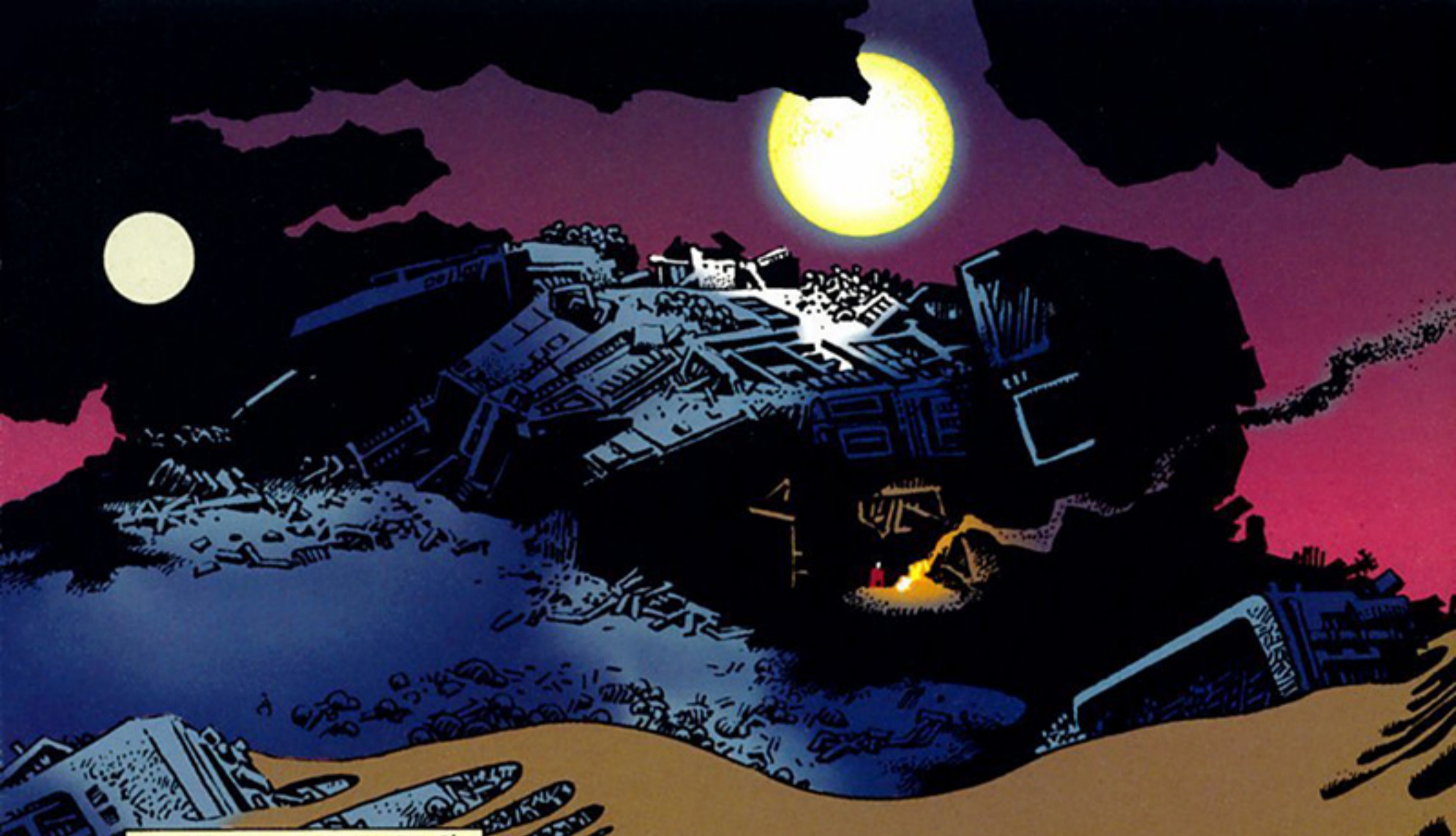
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**H.R. GIGER**

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A CRISIS OF FAITH. THAT'S WHAT HE CALLED IT.

"IT MEANS THAT YOU'RE THINKING," HE SAID. "IT MEANS THAT IT'S TIME FOR YOUR PILGRIMAGE."



BUT HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WAITING?

WAITING.

WAITING.

WAITING.



**KLANG!**





WAITING FOR  
A SIGN.



THERE!

WE STAIN  
THE SKIES  
WITH OUR  
ARROGANCE!



SO, THIS IS  
WHAT YOU MEANT  
BY "GOOD-FAITH  
NEGOTIATIONS,"  
EH, *MUIR*?



BUT WHAT ELSE SHOULD I HAVE EXPECTED.

YOU KNOW, I DON'T EVEN HAVE TO BE HERE.

THAT IS YOUR TRUTH, SISTER HITRESE-- NOT THE TRUTH.



WE ALL HAVE TO BE HERE.

WE ALL HAVE THE OBLIGATION TO ENDURE.



UH-OH, QUOTING SCRIPTURE. WE'RE IN FOR IT NOW.

MS. KARTHA, PLEASE, DON'T BE DISRESPECTFUL, SIT DOWN AND LET'S TRY TO WORK THIS THING OUT.



NO, NO, NO. THIS IS A WASTE OF TIME.

I CAME TO TALK COMPROMISE BUT THE LEGATE HERE, HE CAME TO INVOKE DIVINE AUTHORITY. HOW CAN I CHALLENGE THAT?



NOT TOO LONG AGO, MUIR SAID THAT STEAM POWER WOULD VISIT EVIL UPON THE CITY OF EMERSON.

THE PRICE WE'VE PAID FOR FOUR YEARS OF HEATED HOMES DURING THE WINTER AND ELECTRICAL LIGHTING IS ONE HOUSE FIRE.



AND NOT A DEVIL IN SIGHT.



AS FOR WORKING THINGS OUT, MAYOR? IT'LL WORK ITSELF OUT IN A FEW WEEKS, WHEN THE SALVAGE REFERENDUM COMES UP FOR A VOTE.



AND IF IT PASSES, LEGATE, I'LL WANT THAT MAP.



THE WATERS RUN BITTER AND THE AIR STINGS OUR EYES. THESE ARE THE SIGNS AND WE OURSELVES HAVE MADE THEM REAL.

WE HAVE OPENED THE DOOR FOR THE DARK ONE.

AND I SEEN HIM! THE DARK ONE!!

OR I HEARD 'BOUT HIM. A MONSTER LIKE FROM HELL.

FIRST, HE TAKES YOUR SOUL, THEN KILL YOU, AND DON' STOP KILLIN'. DON' NEVER STOP.

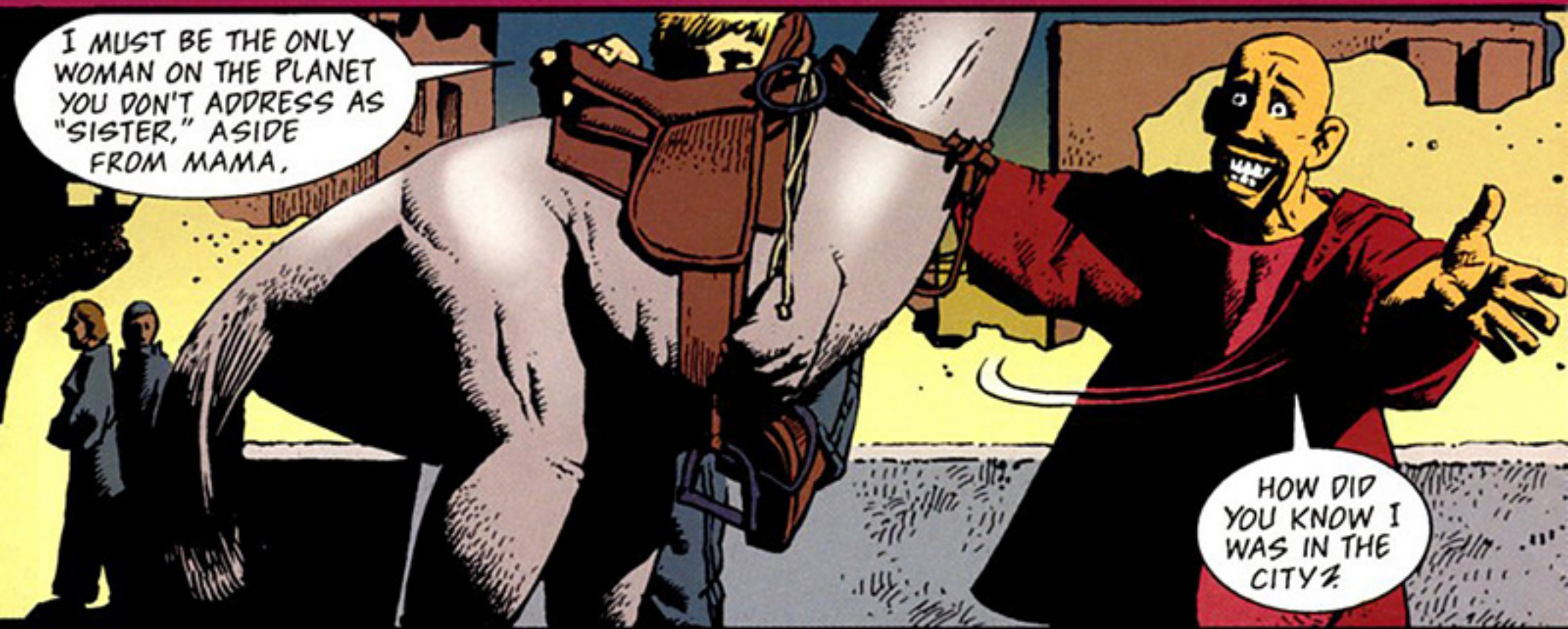
HE COMIN'!! HE COMIN'!!



ONE IN EVERY CROWD-- OR IS IT TWO?.

RACHELZ!!





I MUST BE THE ONLY WOMAN ON THE PLANET YOU DON'T ADDRESS AS "SISTER," ASIDE FROM MAMA.

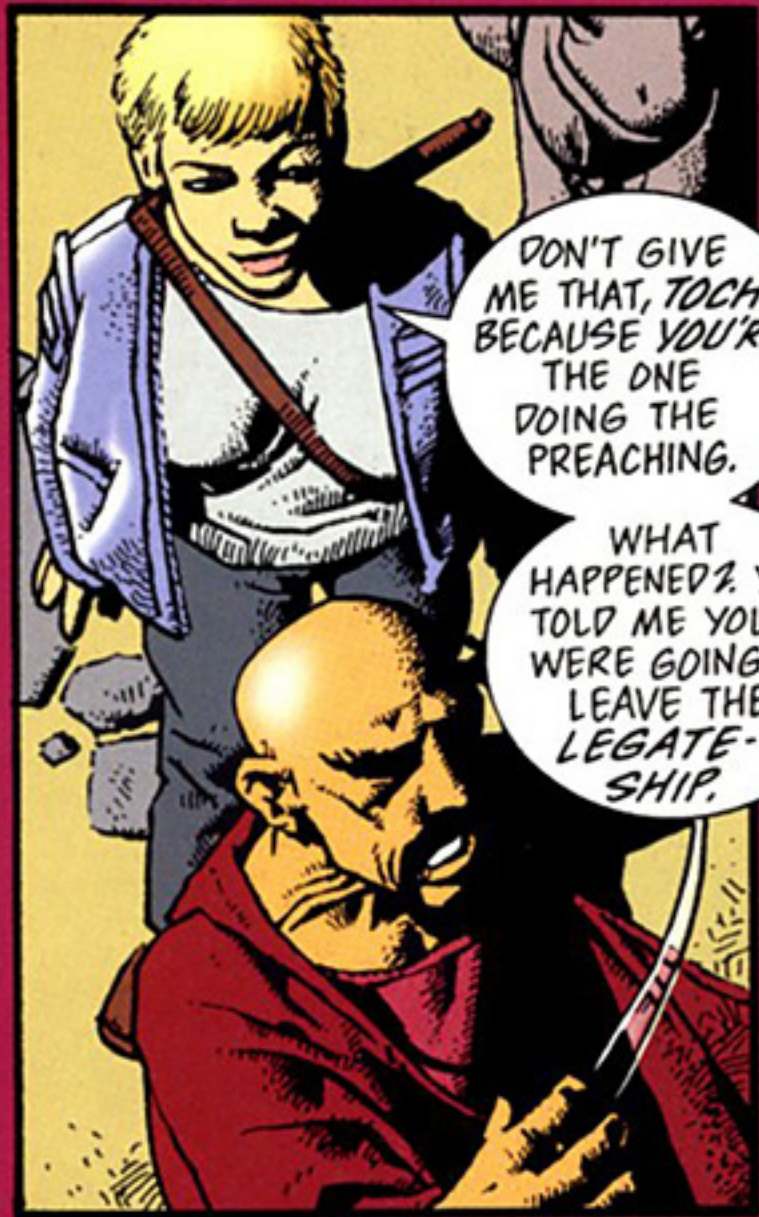
HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS IN THE CITY?



I DIDN'T. I CAME OVER TO BREAK UP THE RABBLE.

BUT OLD RURIK TOOK CARE OF THAT FOR ME, SO I WON'T HAVE TO ARREST YOU-- TODAY.

OH, NOW DON'T START.



DON'T GIVE ME THAT, TOCH, BECAUSE YOU'RE THE ONE DOING THE PREACHING.

WHAT HAPPENED? YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE GOING TO LEAVE THE LEGATE-SHIP.



I WAS WRONG TO EVER DOUBT IN FIRST-FATHER, RACHEL.

NOW I KNOW I WAS WRONG.



SO I WON'T WATCH MOTHER TERRA BE POISONED AND NOT SPEAK.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE LAKE BY KARTHA'S SMELTING PLANT? THE FISH KILLS. THE NEEDLESS HAVOC HAS BEGUN.



YOU SEE, THIS IS THE PROBLEM. YOUR DOGMA OF ABSOLUTES.

I DON'T WANT THE ENVIRONMENT RUINED, NOBODY DOES. EMERSON IS OUR HOME.



YOU SPEAK THE LANGUAGE, SISTER RACHEL, BUT YOU DO NOT LIVE THE LIFE.

IF YOU COULD ONLY HEAR THE RUMBLINGS OF AN AVALANCHE, AS DO I.



LEGATE MUIR, I DIDN'T--

BROTHER TOCH, YOU AND I FOR THE REFUGE.

FIRSTFATHER WILL WANT TO HEAR THE WORDS OF THE CONFERENCE.





I HAVE FEAR AS WELL, BUT MY WORDS TO YOUR SISTER TODAY CUT MY OWN SPIRIT.

WE SHAKE OUR FISTS AND SHOUT, BUT WHAT DO WE DO? MUST WE SEE OUR FIRST SILENT SPRING BEFORE ACTING?

BUT WHY ME? WHY NOT ONE OF THE OTHERS?



THE OTHERS HAVE NOT SEEN WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN, KNOW WHAT YOU KNOW.

YOU ARE CHOSEN FOR THIS MOMENT. WILL YOU ACCEPT THE HONOR?



...IN...IN THE NAME OF FIRST-FATHER..



"I ACCEPT."



I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY BROTHERS OJVIND AND WALD DIDN'T ROUSE US FOR BAKING DUTY.

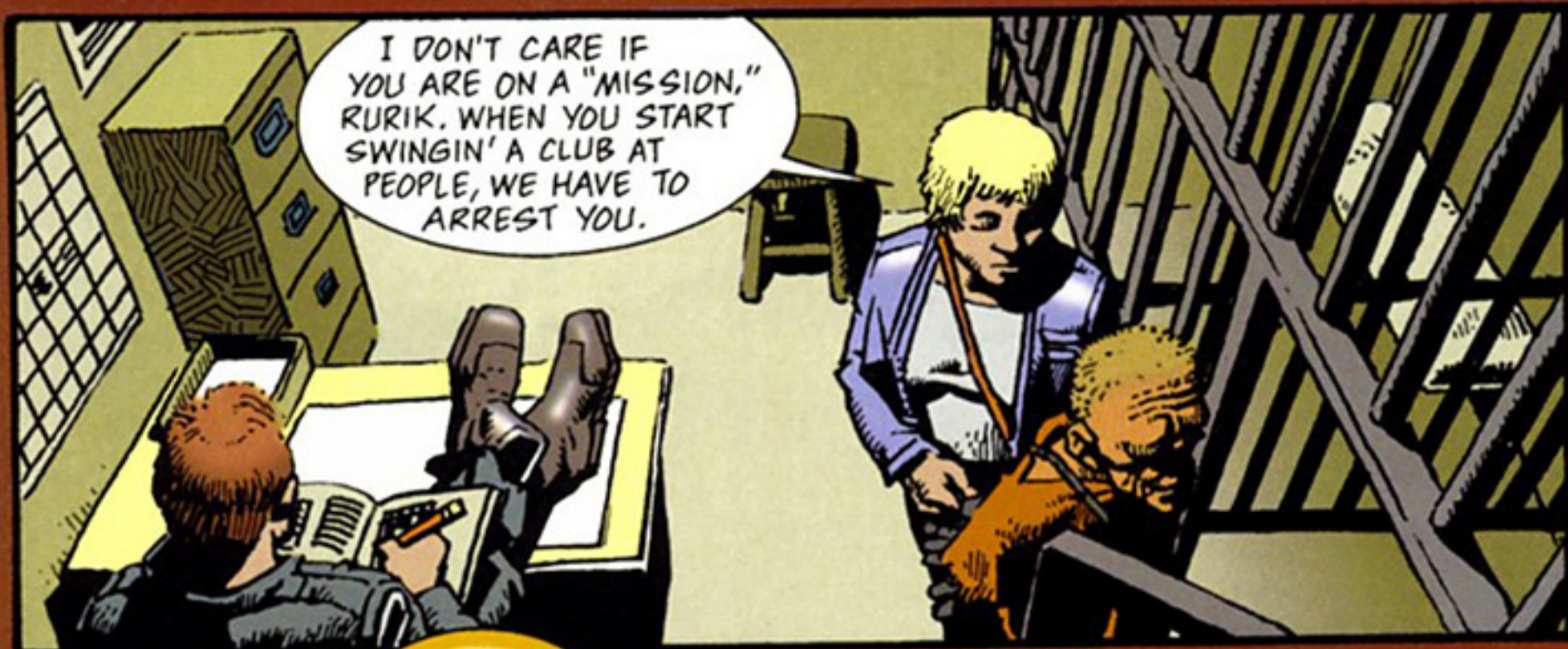
MAYBE THE WOOD SUPPLY WAS DEPLETED.



AND THEY WENT OUT TO CHOP WOOD ♯. AT MIDNIGHT ♯. BETTER TO HAVE--

BROTHER, LOOK!





I DON'T CARE IF YOU ARE ON A "MISSION," RURIK. WHEN YOU START SWINGIN' A CLUB AT PEOPLE, WE HAVE TO ARREST YOU.



A BROTHER HAS BEEN SLAIN!

WH-WHAT?!



BACK AT THE REFUGE. A BRUTAL, HORRIBLE MURDER.

MURDER!! MURDERZ. I CAN'T-- I MEAN, MAYBE A HUNGRY PLAINS WOLF..?

BEST YOU COME SEE FOR YOURSELF.



YEAH. NEWCOMEN, TAKE A COUPLE OF GRUNTS OUT TO THE REFUGE.

CAPTAIN, I'VE NEVER INVESTIGATED A MURDER SCENE BEFORE.



WELL, SERGEANT, THAT MAKES TWO OF US.



WE THINK IT'S BROTHER WALD. HE WAS TO HAVE ROUSED US TO RELIEVE HIM ON BAKING DUTY.



WHAT MAKES YOU THINK IT'S A MURDER? THOSE LOOK AS IF THEY'D ALMOST HAVE TO BE CLAW MARKS.

BUT WE HEARD NO SCREAMS. NONE. AND BROTHER QJVIND IS MISSING. GONE WITHOUT A TRACE.



WELL, HE'S OUR FIRST SUSPECT THEN--I GUESS.

I'D LIKE SOMEONE TO CHECK ON MY BROTHER, TOCH, BUT FIRST, LET'S GO HAVE A WORD WITH LEGATE MUIR.



LEGATE MUIR IS IN COUNSEL WITH FIRSTFATHER.

HE MUST NOT BE DISTURBED.

PARDON ME?



LOOK, YOU WERE THE ONES WHO CAME SCREAMING MURDER!

SERGEANT NEWCOMEN! TURNER FOUND SOMETHING IN THE STEEPLE!



KILL ME..  
KILL ME..  
KILLLL ME..

...KILLLL  
MEEEEEE







I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT YOUR DECISION TO EJECT ME MAY COST YOU MY PATRONAGE.

IF YOU SAY SO, CARL.

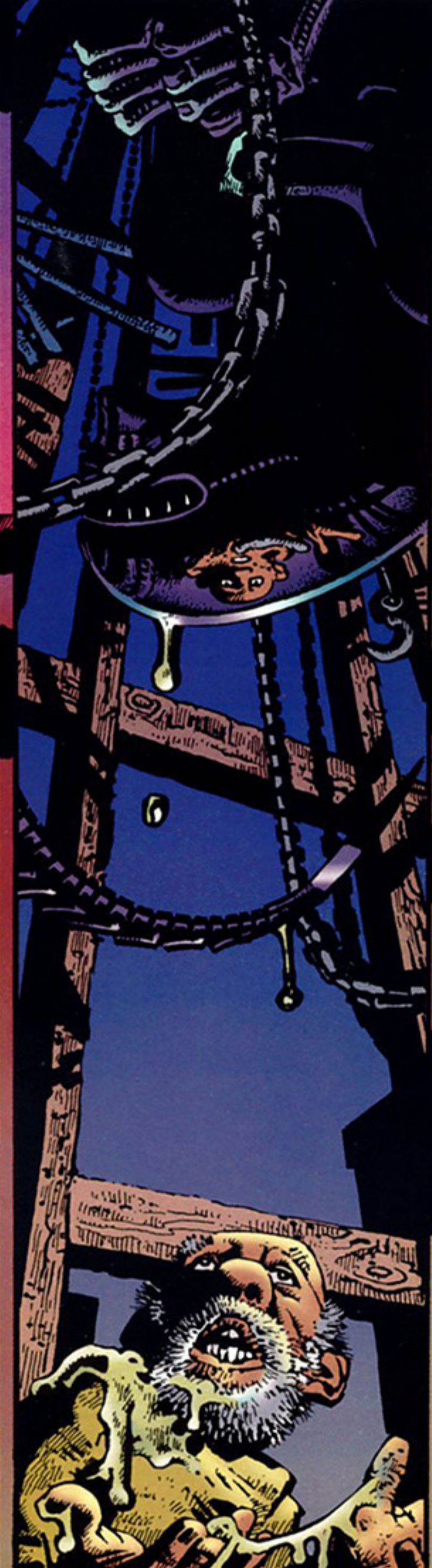


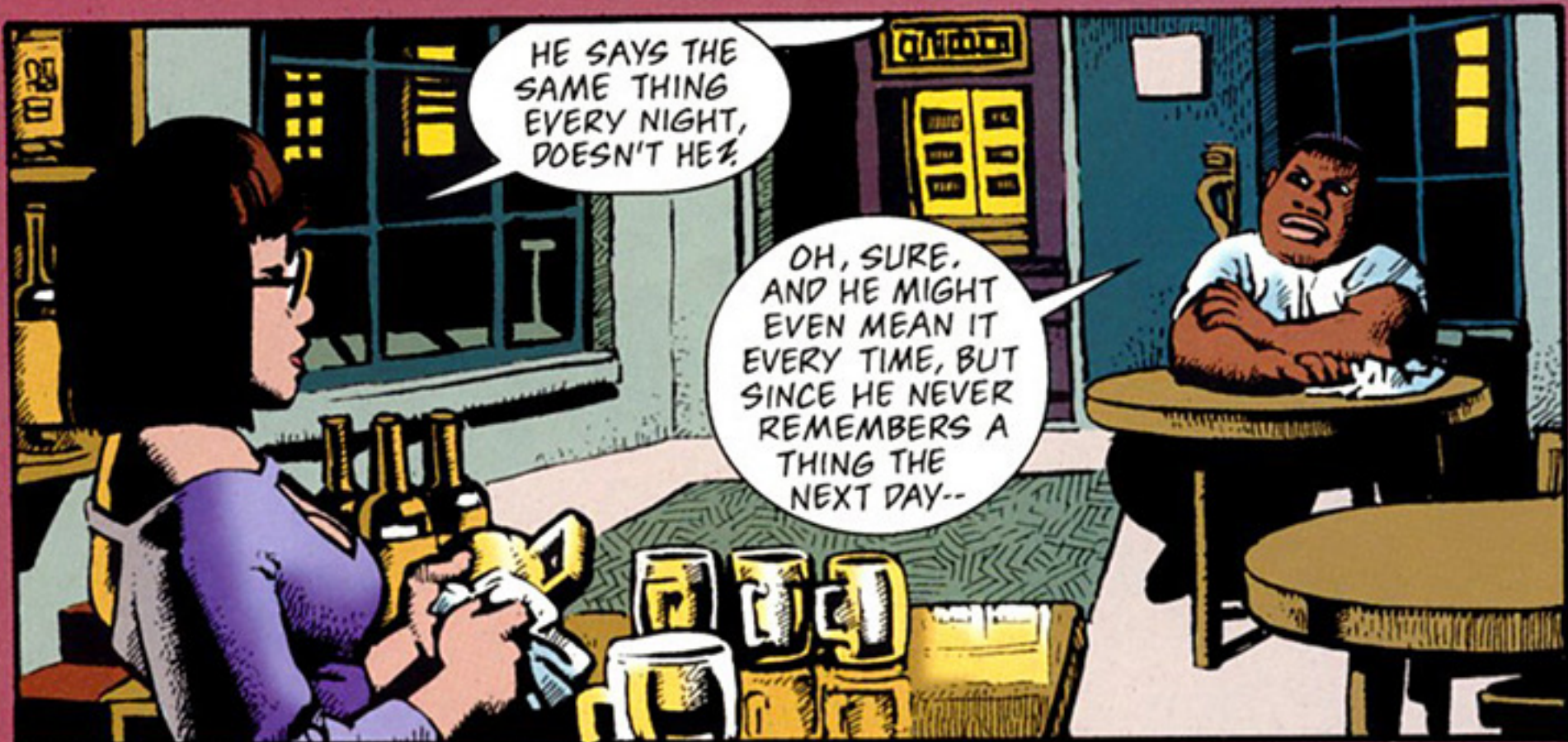
AH, GOOD EVENING, DEAR FRIEND.

YET AGAIN I FIND MYSELF IN THE AWKWARD POSITION OF HAVING TO ASK YOU TO FIND THE WAY HOME.



SLOOSH





HE SAYS THE SAME THING EVERY NIGHT, DOESN'T HE?

OH, SURE, AND HE MIGHT EVEN MEAN IT EVERY TIME, BUT SINCE HE NEVER REMEMBERS A THING THE NEXT DAY--



EH?? OH, COME ON NOW, CARL. WE'RE CLOSED. NO MORE KIDDING AROUND.



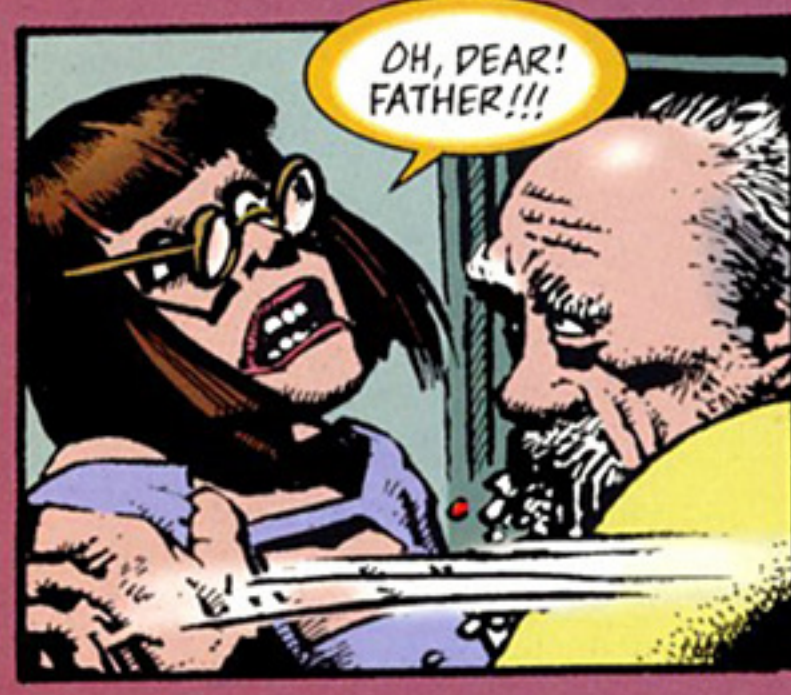
OSBERT, LOOK!! HE'S BLEEDING!

HACK KOOF

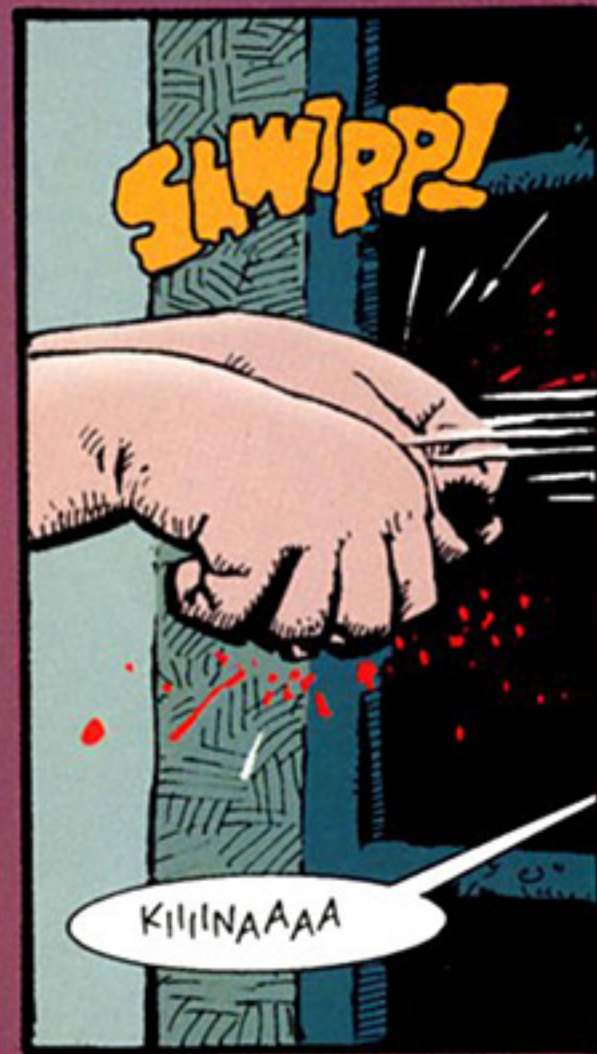
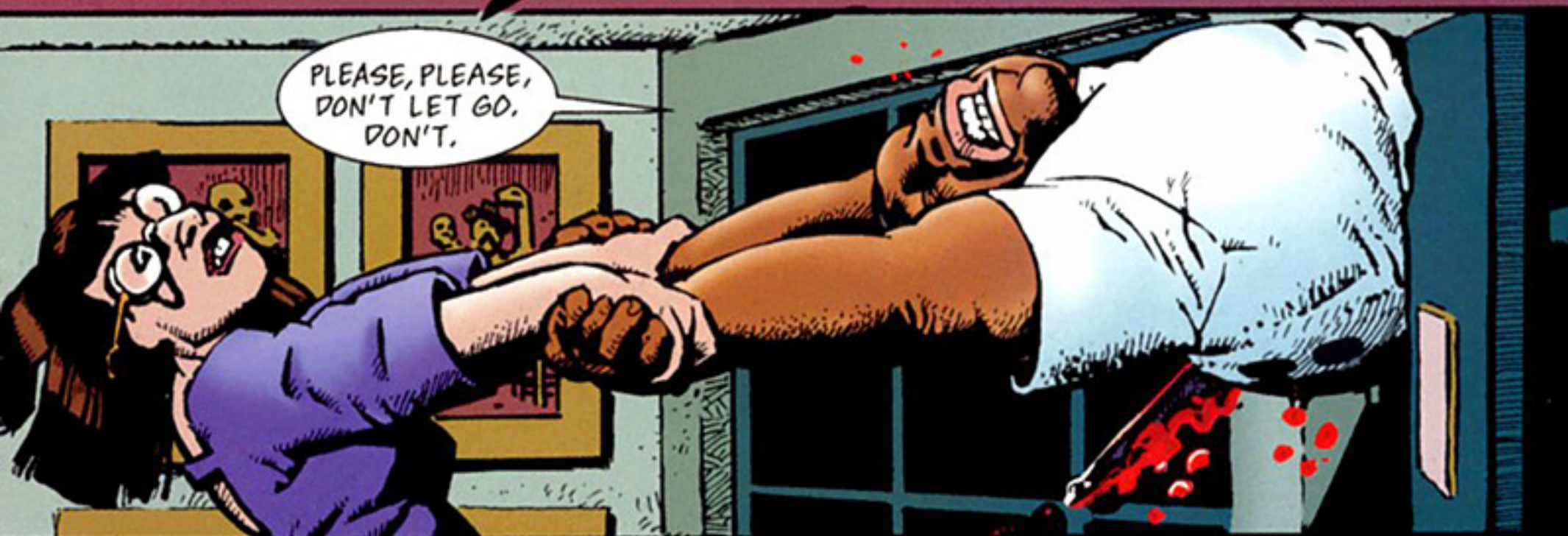
CARL? YOU OKAY?

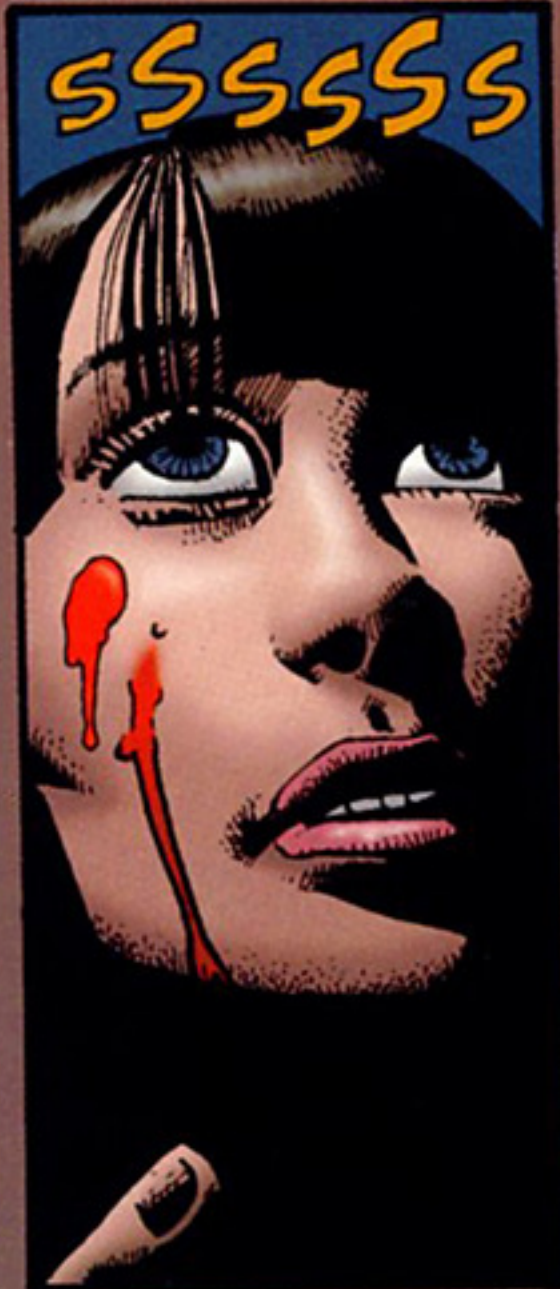


HHH AAH HHH gurggle!



OH, DEAR! FATHER!!!









**CRASH!**

GUH GUH  
GUH!!!

**EEEEEEEE!!!**

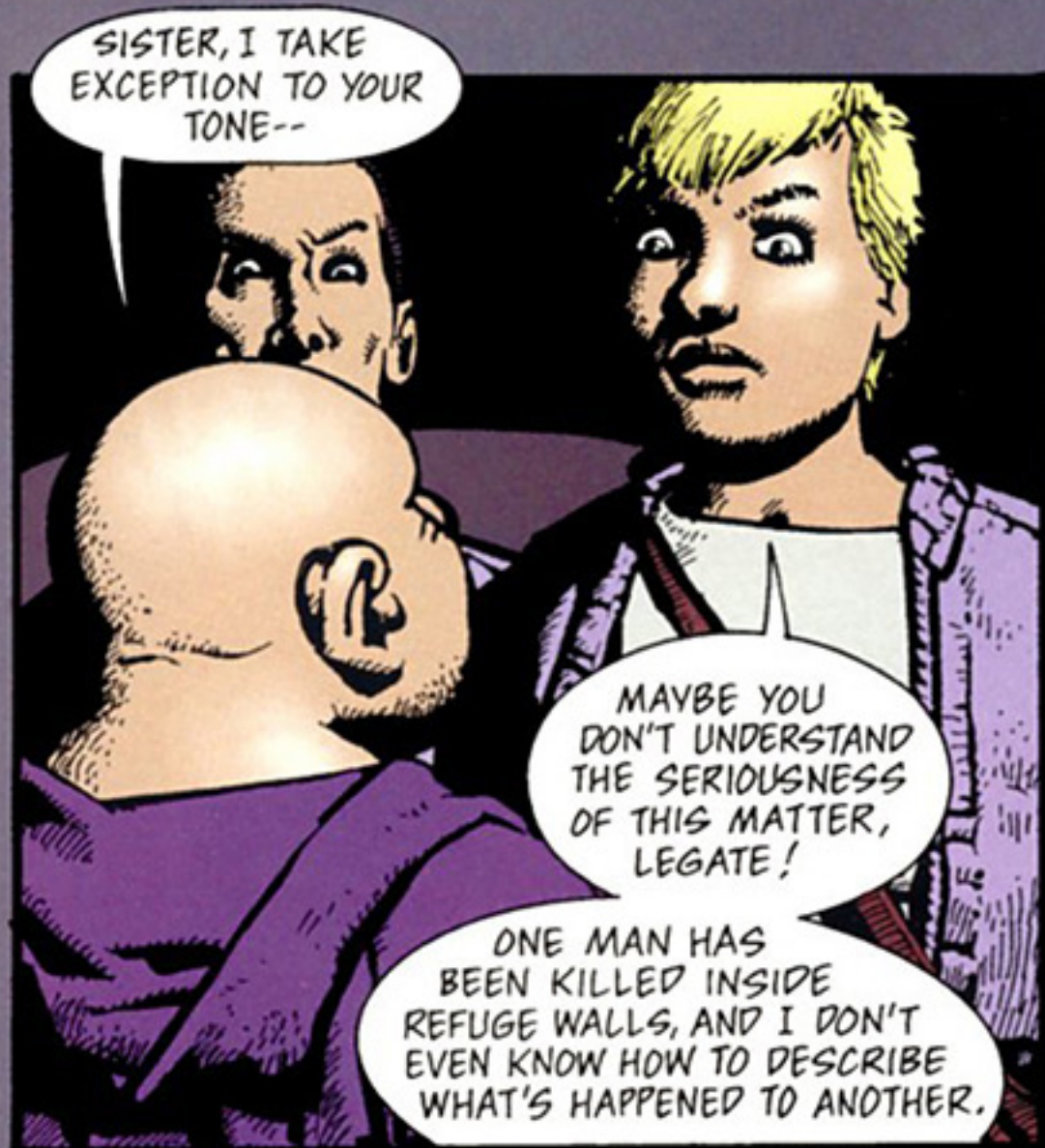


SISTER RACHEL, I UNDERSTAND YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO ME.



IT IS TIMES SUCH AS THIS THAT I FIND HIS COUNSEL MOST VALUABLE.

LEGATE MUIR, YOU'VE KEPT US WAITING FOR ALMOST AN HOUR. I'D LIKE TO SEE MORE COOPERATION FROM YOU ON THIS CASE.



SISTER, I TAKE EXCEPTION TO YOUR TONE--

MAYBE YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THE SERIOUSNESS OF THIS MATTER, LEGATE!

ONE MAN HAS BEEN KILLED INSIDE REFUGE WALLS, AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO DESCRIBE WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ANOTHER.



FORGIVE ME FOR SAYING SO, DEAR SISTER, BUT IT IS YOU WHO DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE SERIOUSNESS OF THIS MATTER.

YOU SEE, I HAVE JUST HAD WORDS WITH FIRSTFATHER, AND HE ASSURES ME--

--THE DARK NIGHT  
OF EXTINCTION IS  
NEAR."

