

PELECANOS

EWINGTON

CHATER

**451**<sup>TM</sup>  
Imagination to  
**BURN**  
ONE  
OF SIX  
\$4.99



From  
**GEORGE PELECANOS**  
Acclaimed novelist + writer/producer of  
**THE WIRE**





# six

CREATED BY  
**GEORGE  
PELECANOS**

WRITTEN BY  
**ANDI  
EWINGTON**

EDITOR IN CHIEF  
**DAVID  
FORREST**

ILLUSTRATED BY  
**MACK  
CHATER**

COLORS BY  
**DEE  
CUNIFFE**

TYPOGRAPHY  
**JIM  
CAMPBELL**

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YOU  
*SURE* YOU  
WANT TO DO THIS,  
SARGE? ONCE WE  
GO DOWN THAT  
ROAD THERE'S  
NO COMING  
BACK.

THERE  
WON'T BE ANY  
SALVATION FOR  
OUR SORRY ASSES  
IN HELL... YOU  
*KNOW* THAT  
RIGHT?







WE'VE *SEEN*  
HELL, ABE.  
WE  
SURVIVED  
IT.



WE ALL *KNEW*  
WHAT WE WERE  
SIGNING UP FOR.  
WHAT HAPPENED  
TO HOOPER  
AIN'T ON  
YOU.



SHUNK



YEAH, I KNOW.  
BUT WHAT HAPPENS  
TO SARAH AND  
HER KID *IS*  
ON ME.

COME  
ON, WE'VE  
GOT WORK  
TO DO.



'I WILL  
RANSOM THEM  
FROM THE POWER  
OF THE GRAVE!  
I WILL REDEEM  
THEM FROM  
DEATH...'

AMEN TO  
THAT.





**CLUNK**



GO GET THE WINCH OFF THE TRUCK WHILE I SECURE THIS THING.

CHECK.



CHRIST, YOU'RE HEAVY MCQUADE, NOT SURE THE WINCH CAN TAKE MUCH MORE.

**WTHRRRRRL  
KREEAAK**



KEEP CRANKING IT. ALMOST THERE.

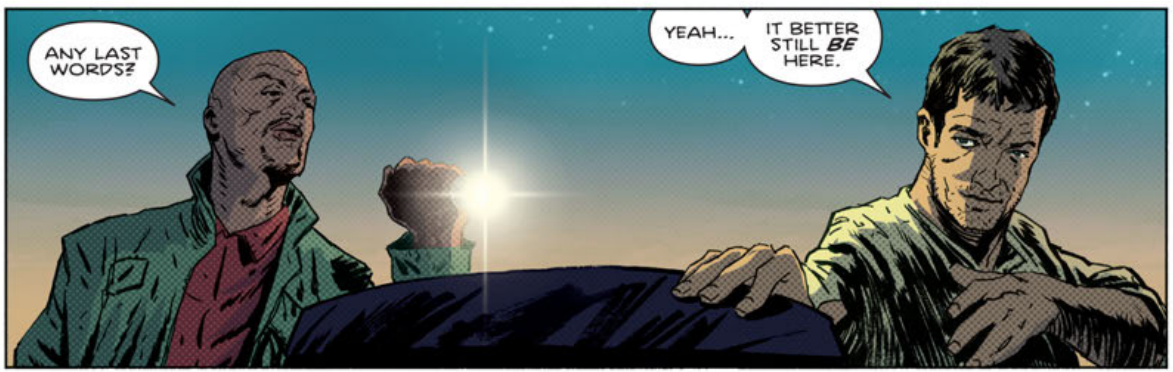
**SKREEEECH**



THAT'S IT WE'RE CLEAR--SHUT IT DOWN!

**THUNK**





ANY LAST WORDS?

YEAH...

IT BETTER STILL *BE* HERE.



I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW YOU NEVER GOT AROUND TO SPENDING ANY OF IT.

I MANAGED TO BLOW MINE IN UNDER A YEAR.

YOU KNOW ME, ABE--ALWAYS SAVING FOR A RAINY DAY.

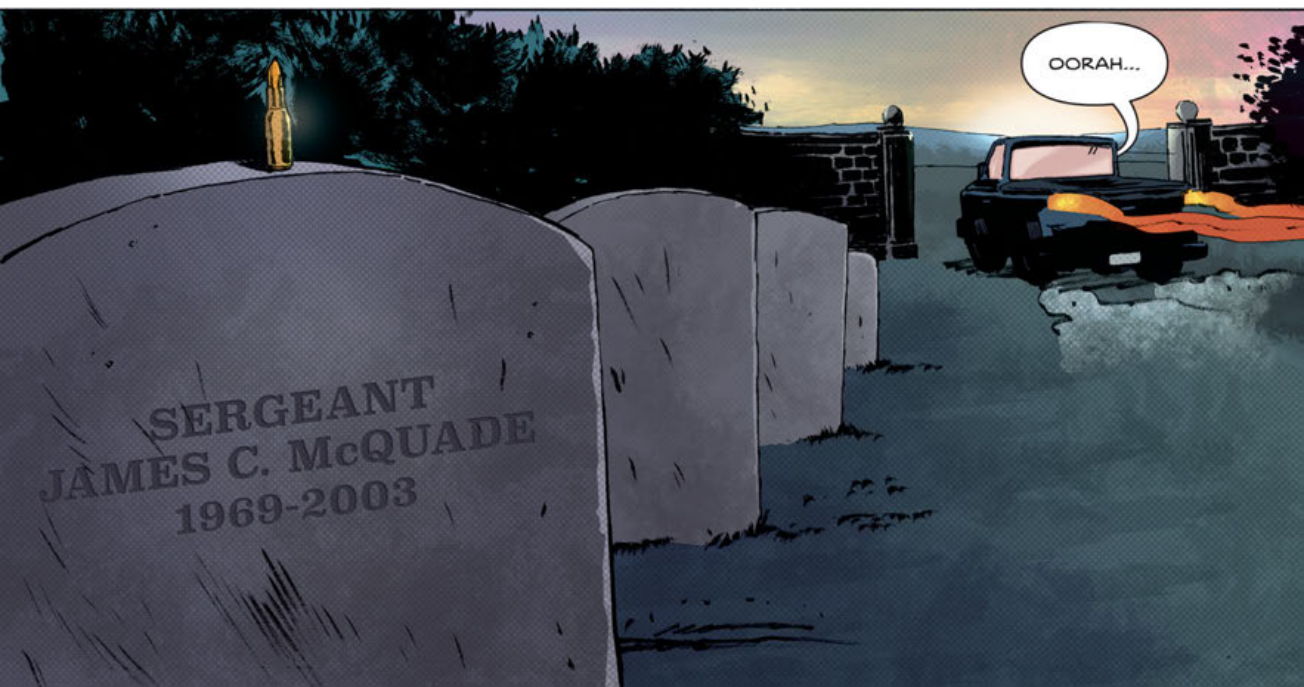
PLUS, I DON'T PLAY BLACKJACK.



HEY, C'MON... YOU *KNOW* THAT'S NOT HOW IT WENT DOWN.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT GAMBLING, ANYWAY?







01 12:15C APR 03

35 KLICKS NORTH  
OF NASIRIYAH.

ziip

ziip

CONTACT  
LEFT!

CONTACT  
LEFT!

Pwee

THEY SEEM  
PRETTY  
PISSED.

MAYBE  
THEY'VE HEARD  
ONE OF YOUR  
SERMONS.



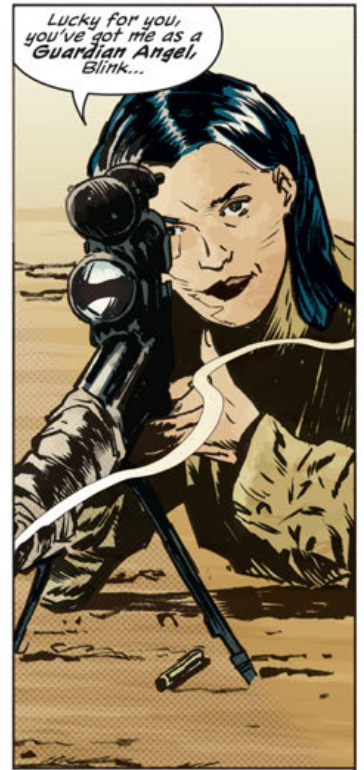










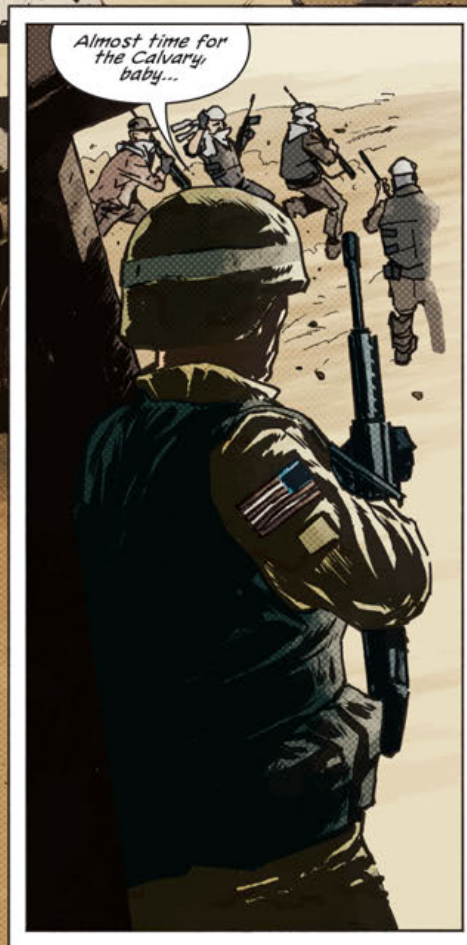
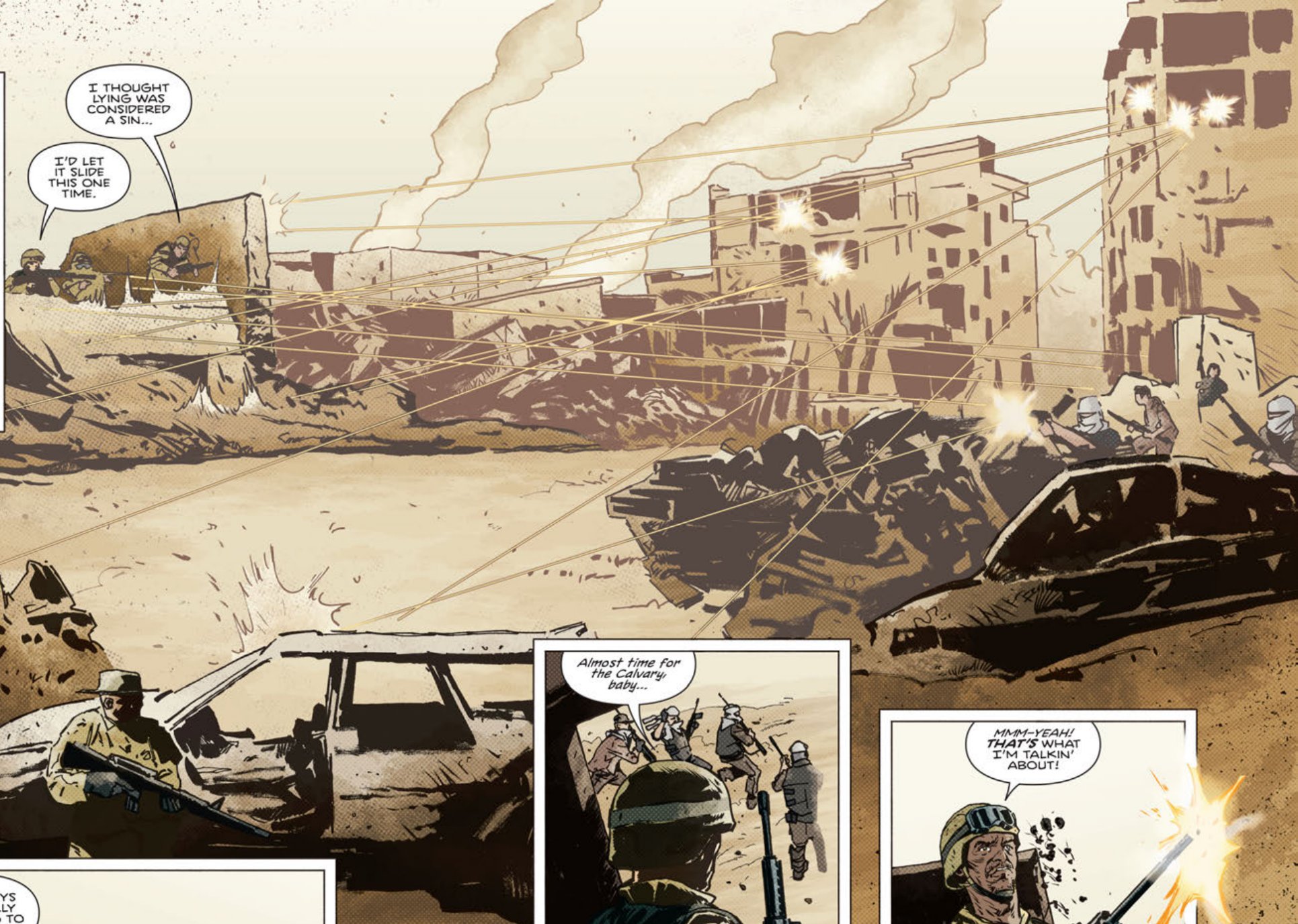






I'D LET  
IT SLIDE  
THIS ONE  
TIME.

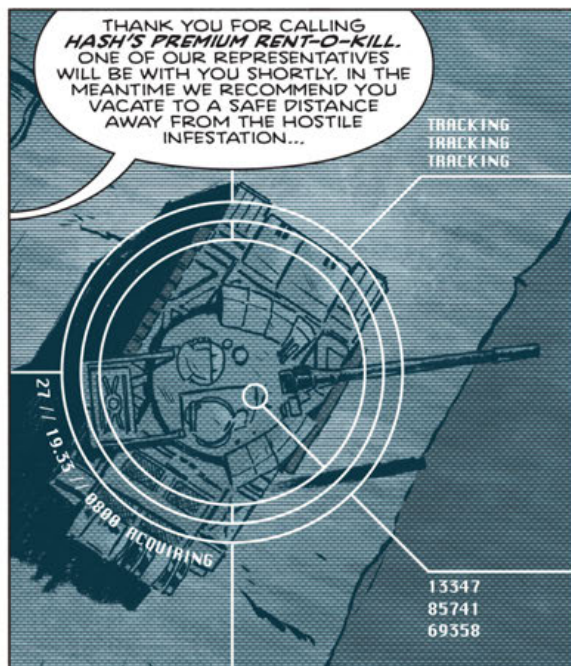
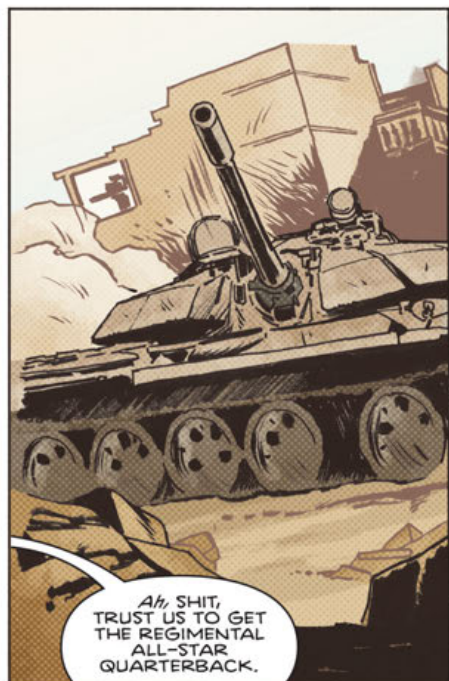
I THOUGHT  
LYING WAS  
CONSIDERED  
A SIN...













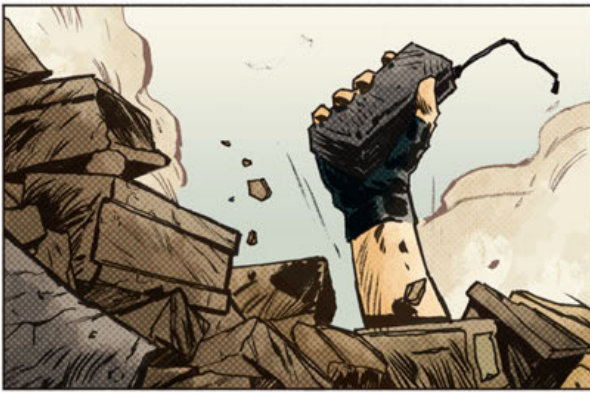


"INCOMING!"

KA  
THUD







»KAFF«  
ABE... Z  
HOOPER?  
DAMN,  
RADIO'S...  
OUT...  
»KAFF«



»KAFF«  
STONEWALL...  
YOU OKAY?  
YEAH,  
SARGE...  
...STILL  
GOT BOTH  
OF MY  
BALLS.



...M...  
McQuade...

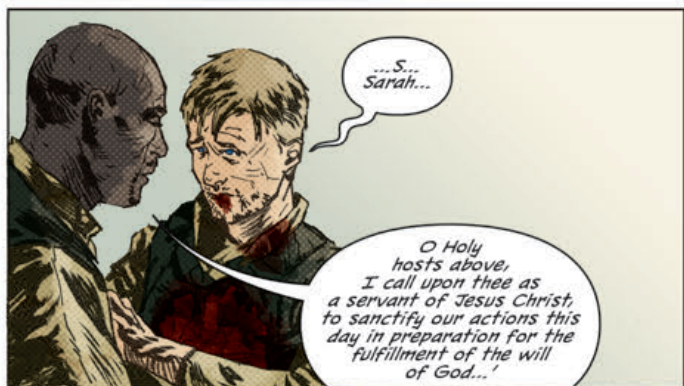


I... I'm f...  
fucked up...

SHIT,  
HOOPER.

**ABE!**









SHIT.

HOOPER.

*'And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself. That where I am, there ye may be also...'*

*'...And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.'*

SHOULDN'T WE CALL IT IN?

WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE HIM HERE.

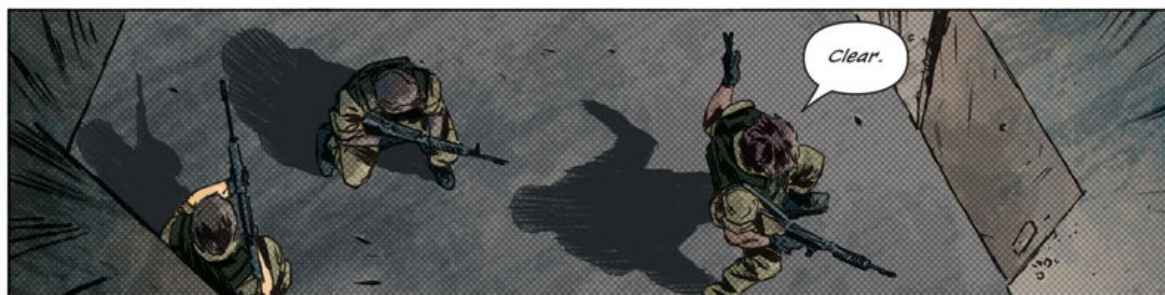
I'LL SAY IT NOW, BUT I'LL HAPPILY VOLUNTEER MYSELF FOR COMFORTING HIS WIDOW---



STOW THAT SHIT, RIFLEMAN!











WHERE THE *FUCK* ARE THE WMDs, SARGE?

DON'T BE TELLING ME I ALMOST CHECKED OUT FOR NUTHIN'.

WE ALL KNOW THE DRILL-- SOMETIMES THE INTEL DOESN'T PAN OUT THE WAY WE WANT.



SO QUIT YOUR BELLYACHING.



BET THAT LITTLE INSIGHT WILL KEEP *HOOPER'S WIFE* WARM AND COZY AT NIGHT--

**OOMPH!**



YOU PUNCH LIKE MY BABY SISTER.



DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT, MARINE!

I WON'T THINK TWICE ABOUT DROPPING YOU.

**STOP IT!**





SNEAKY HAJJI  
BASTARDS...

SKRAAAAP



EAST AREA  
CLEAR.

WE FOUND ZIP, SARGE--  
NOT EVEN A COPY OF  
'ASIAN BABES' FOR  
STONEWALL.

YOU'RE GONNA  
WANT TO HOLD  
CALLING THIS IN  
FOR A SEC,  
SARGE...

ROGER  
THAT,  
BLINK.

ANGEL,  
PUT A CALL INTO  
HASH, LOOKS LIKE  
OUR MISSION WASN'T  
A COMPLETE BLOW  
OUT AFTER  
ALL.



IS THAT  
WHAT I  
THINK  
IT IS?

YOU BET  
YOUR MAMA'S  
SWEET ROUND  
ASS IT IS.

THAT  
DOESN'T LOOK  
LIKE ANY WMD  
I'VE EVER SEEN  
BEFORE...

...MCQUADE?

JESUS...



WHAT ARE WE  
GOING TO DO,  
SARGE?



DO? WHAT  
DO YOU *THINK*  
WE'RE GOING  
TO DO?

WE'RE  
MARINES NOT  
*THIEVES*, WE'RE  
OBLIGED TO  
CALL IT IN.





CALL IT IN?  
YOU FOR  
REAL?

YOU DO REALIZE WE  
HAVE ENOUGH HERE TO  
SIT BACK AND ENJOY  
THE FINER THINGS OF  
LIFE, RATHER FACE  
ANOTHER CHOW WITH  
THE 'FOUR DICKS  
OF DEATH'.

WHAT DO  
YOU  
SUGGEST?



CHRIST,  
SARGE WAKE  
UP AND GET A  
GOFU!

WHAT DO  
YOU THINK WILL  
HAPPEN TO THIS  
STUFF WHEN IT GETS  
BACK TO THE 'OLD  
MAN' AT THE  
'HEAD SHED'?

YOU THINK  
IT'S GONNA GO  
TOWARDS THE  
WAR EFFORT? YOU  
THINK IT'S GONNA  
REBUILD THIS  
FUCKED UP  
COUNTRY?

**BULLSHIT!**  
SIX MONTHS FROM  
NOW HIS HAIRY WHITE  
ASS WILL BE ON A  
BRAND NEW YACHT IN  
THE BAHAMAS, WHERE  
HE'LL BE DRINKING  
CHAMPAGNE OFF THE  
BELLY OF SOME PRETTY  
TWENTY-FOUR  
YEAR OLD SUPER  
MODEL.

YOU THINK  
ABOUT THAT,  
SARGE...



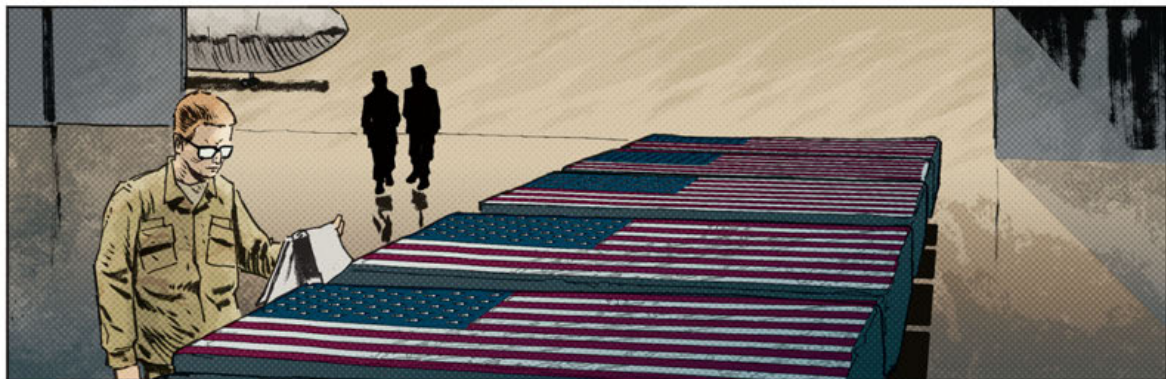
...YOU THINK  
ABOUT THAT  
WHEN THEY TELL  
HOOPER'S WIFE  
HE DIED FOR  
**NOTHING.**







48 HOURS  
LATER.



AT EASE, PRIVATE.  
IS ALL YOUR  
PAPERWORK  
PRESENT AND  
CORRECT?



SIR.



RIFLEMAN RINEHART.  
JACKSON. JONES.  
HOOPER. SAMPSON.  
SERGEANT  
MCQUADE.

DESTINATION  
RAF ALCONBURY  
THEN ONWARDS  
TO CHERRY  
POINT.

IT SEEMS  
YOU'RE GOING TO  
BE ACCOMPANYING  
THEM ALL THE WAY  
BACK HOME,  
PRIVATE.

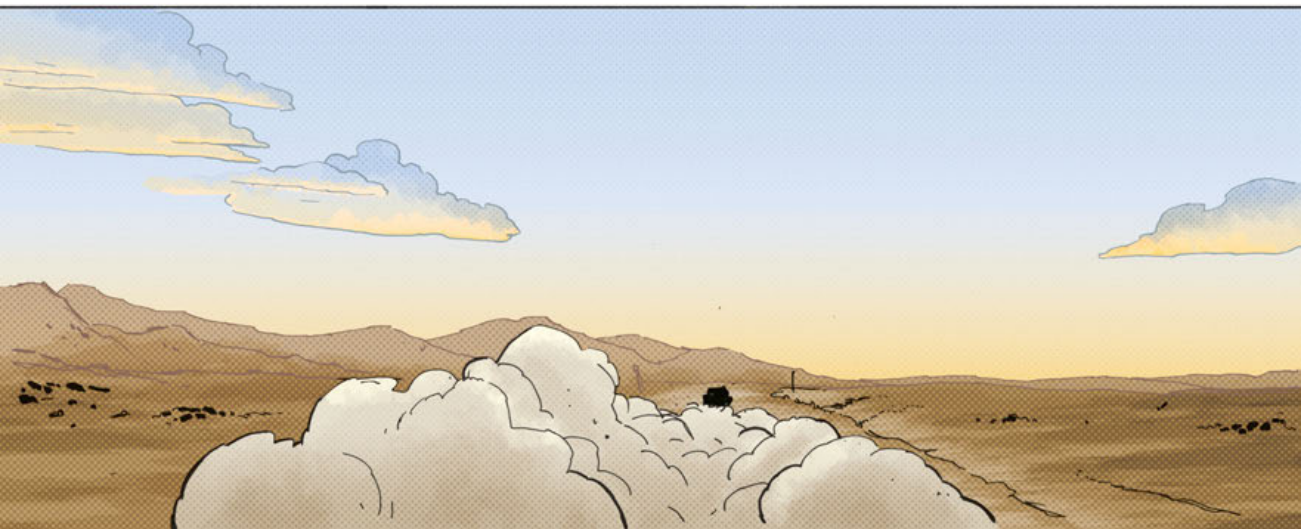
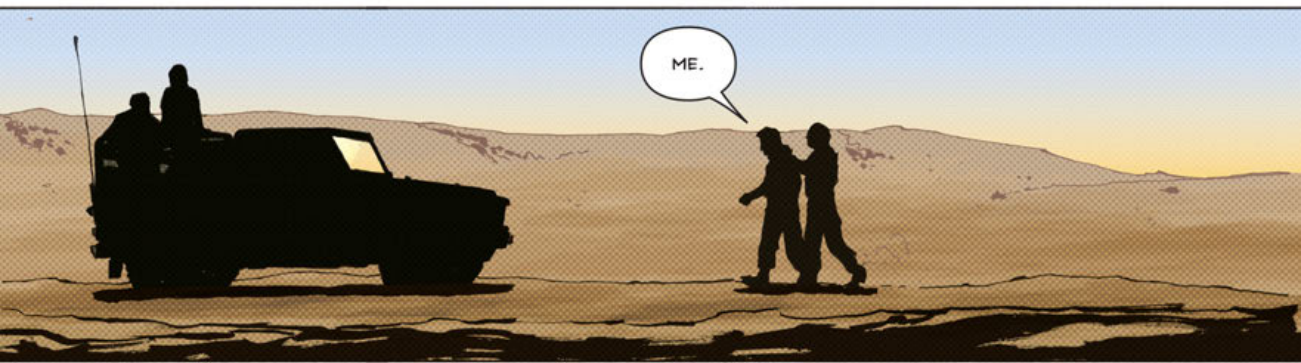
A LITTLE  
EXTREME,  
DON'T YOU  
THINK?













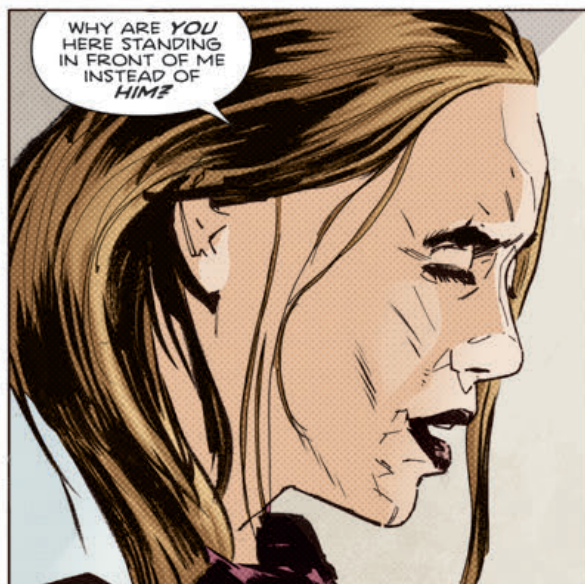
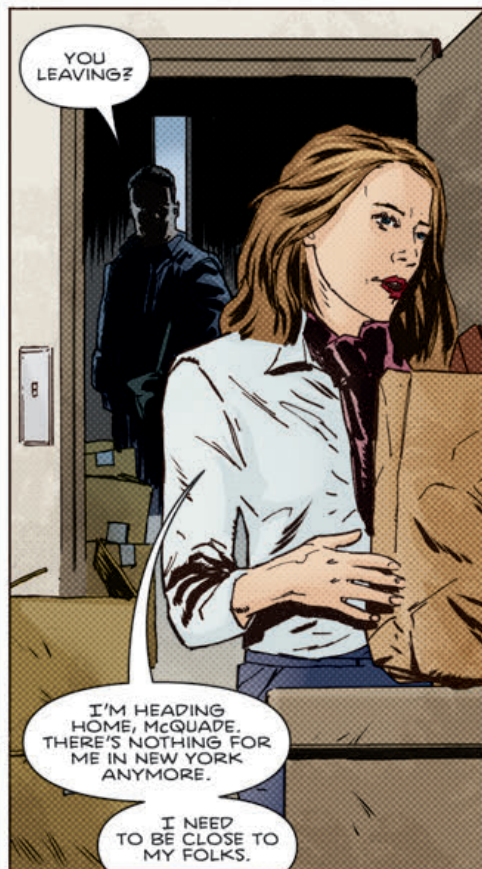
05 10.47R MAY 03















I WISH IT  
COULD BE  
DIFFERENT.



I DON'T LIKE  
SEEING YOU  
HURTING...

PLEASE  
DON'T...

...THAT  
PART OF US  
CAN'T HAPPEN  
ANYMORE,  
JAMES.

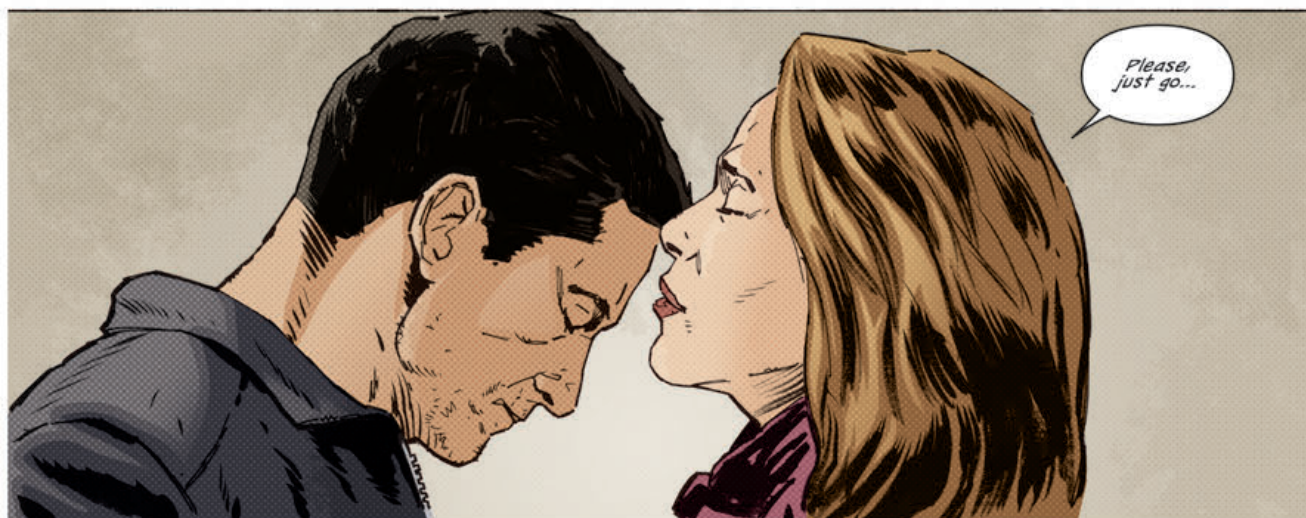


HE MADE  
ME SWEAR TO  
LOOK AFTER  
YOU.



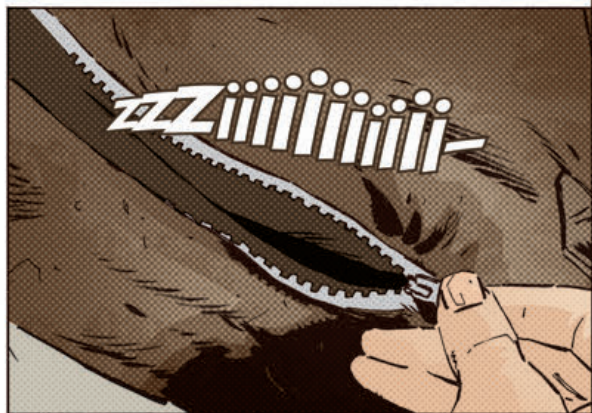
YOU CAN'T KEEP THAT  
PROMISE, JAMES. I  
COULDN'T BEAR  
THE GUILT.

I HAVE  
TO MOVE ON  
WITHOUT HIM AND  
I NEED TO MOVE  
ON WITHOUT  
YOU.



Please,  
just go...









Dear Sarah,  
I guess about now you have a million and one questions for me. it's probably safer for you if you don't know where all this came from.

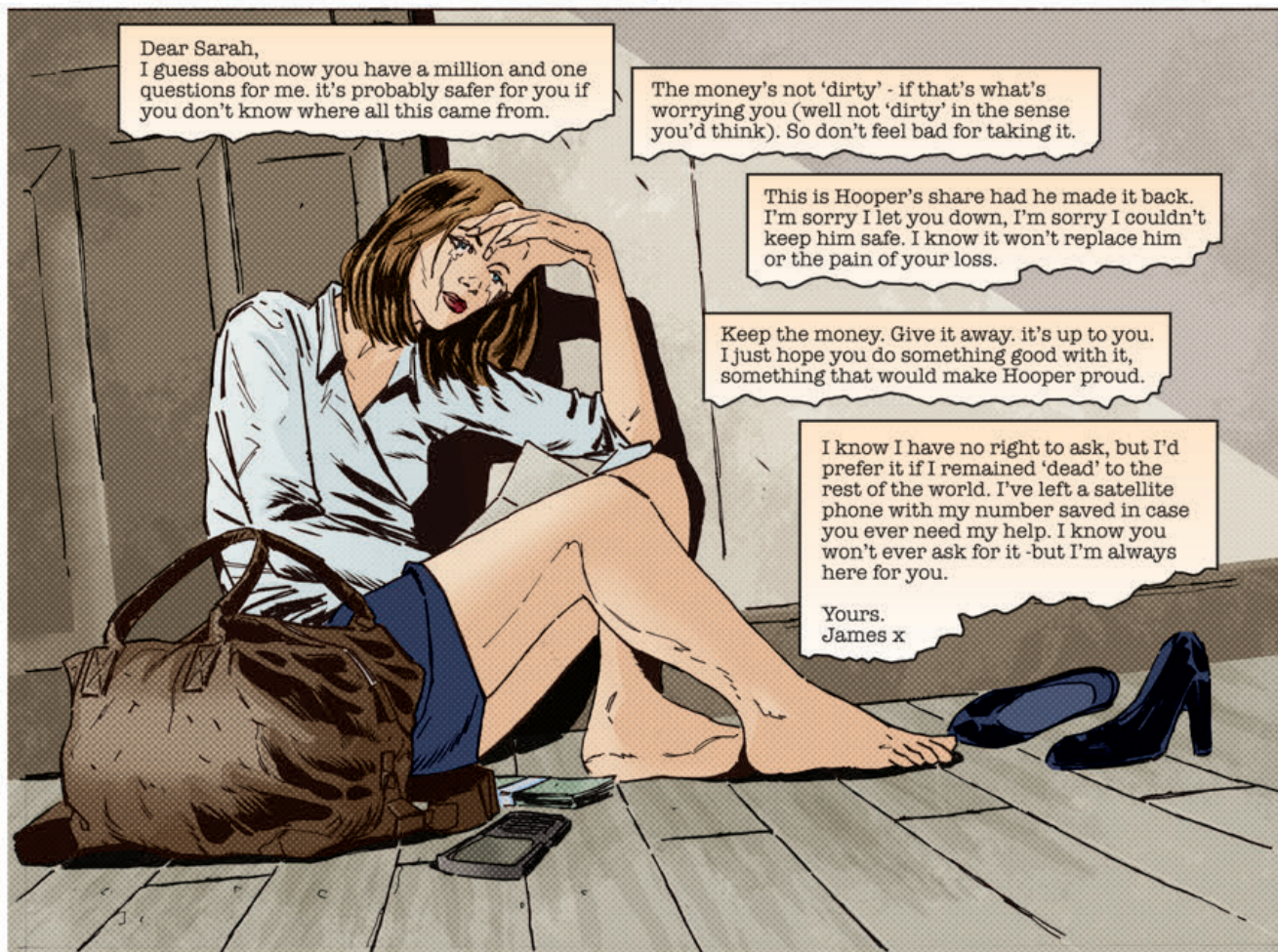
The money's not 'dirty' - if that's what's worrying you (well not 'dirty' in the sense you'd think). So don't feel bad for taking it.

This is Hooper's share had he made it back. I'm sorry I let you down, I'm sorry I couldn't keep him safe. I know it won't replace him or the pain of your loss.

Keep the money. Give it away. it's up to you. I just hope you do something good with it, something that would make Hooper proud.

I know I have no right to ask, but I'd prefer it if I remained 'dead' to the rest of the world. I've left a satellite phone with my number saved in case you ever need my help. I know you won't ever ask for it -but I'm always here for you.

Yours.  
James x

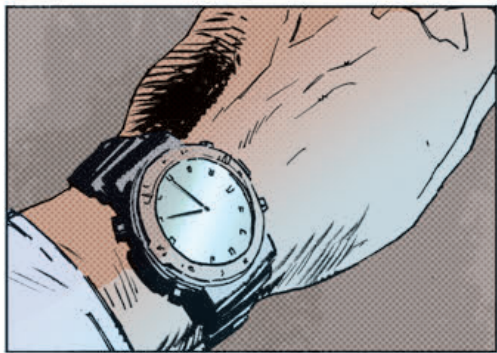






...THE  
RECENT UPRISING OF  
THE ISLAMIC STATE IN IRAQ  
HAS SENT SHOCKWAVES  
THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL  
COMMUNITY. WITH MANY  
FEARING ANOTHER WAR  
LOOMING ON THE  
HORIZON...

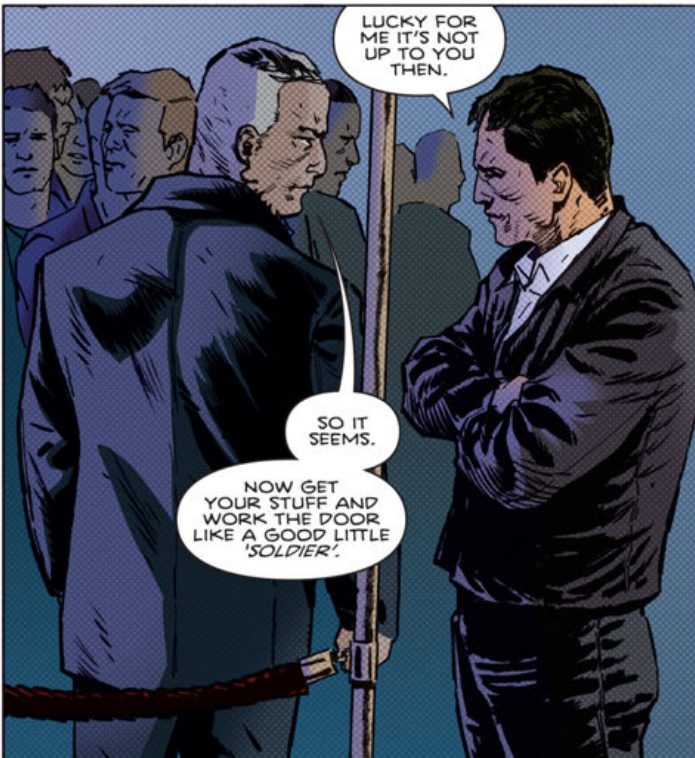








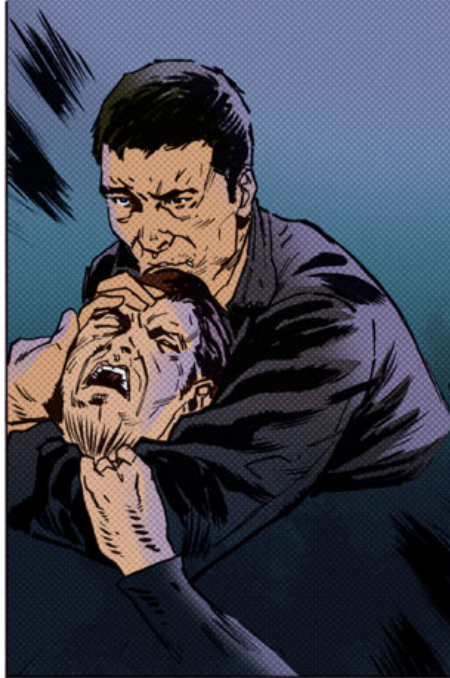








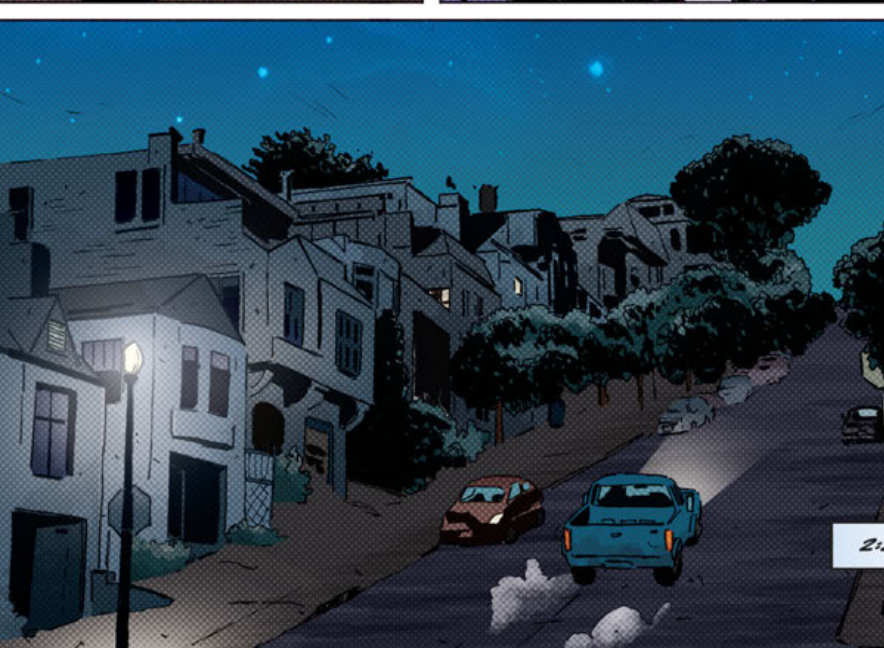
10:57pm



12:33am



1:29am



BEEP  
BEEP

2:21am





HELLO...?



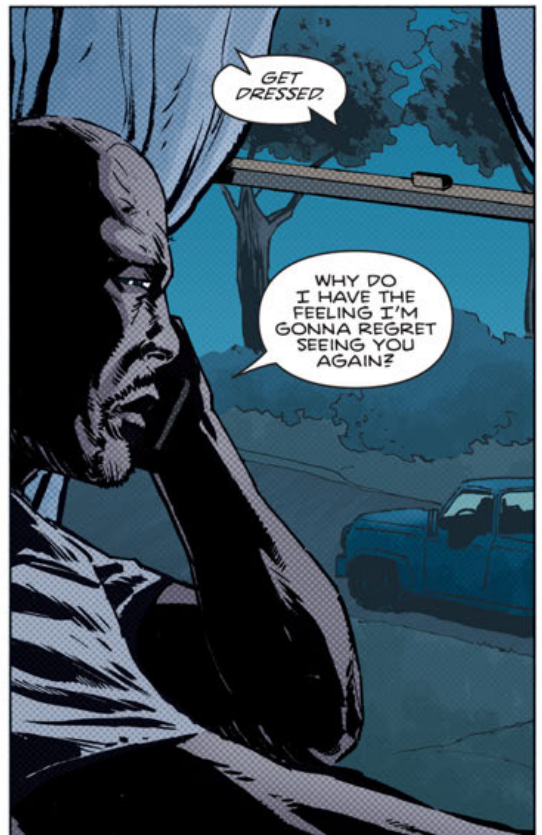
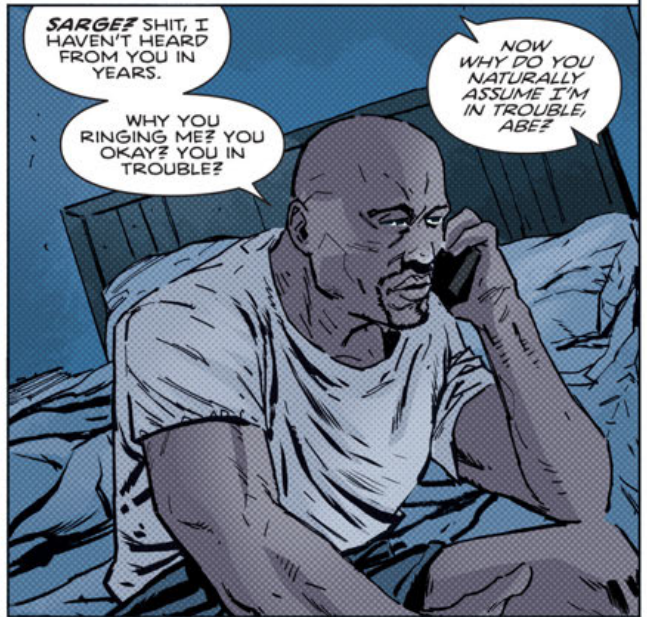
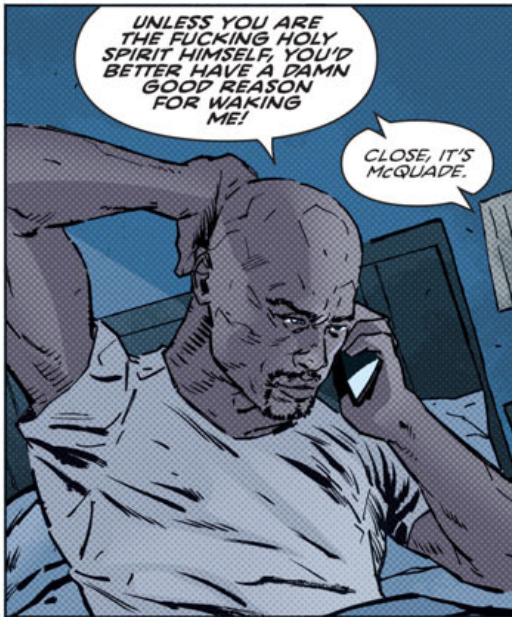
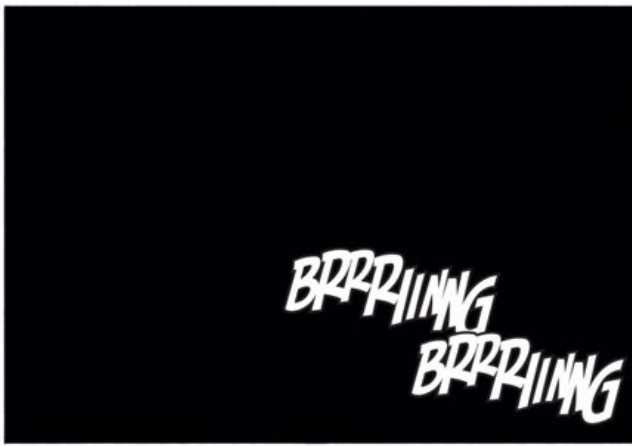
James... it's Sarah...



...I'm sorry it's so late, but I didn't know who else to call...

...I could really use your help right now.









YOU WANT TO TELL ME WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT?



A PROMISE.



WHAT PROMISE?

I DON'T REMEMBER ANY PROMISE I MADE THAT INVOLVED YOU DRIVING ME OUT TO THE MIDDLE OF GOD KNOWS WHERE AT FOUR IN THE MORNING.

WHAT ARE WE DOING OUT HERE, SARGE?



DIGGING UP THE PAST.



WHAT THE HELL? ARE YOU SERIOUS?

YOU TAKING UP GRAVE ROBBING NOW?



THE ONLY GRAVE WE'LL BE ROBBING...

...WILL BE MY OWN.



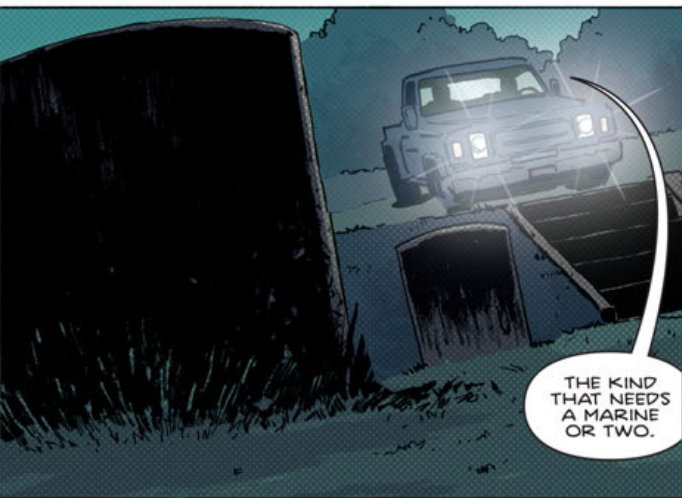


HOOPER'S  
WIFE, CALLED.  
SHE'S IN TROUBLE  
AND NEEDS MY  
HELP...

...OUR  
HELP.

HOOPER'S  
WIFE?  
SARAH?

WHAT  
KIND OF  
TROUBLE?

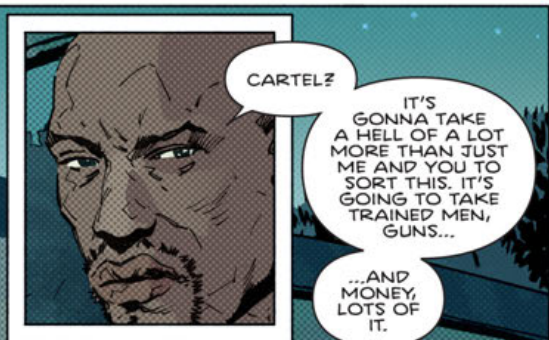


THE KIND  
THAT NEEDS  
A MARINE  
OR TWO.



SHE'S  
RUN UP  
AGAINST SOME  
CARTEL.

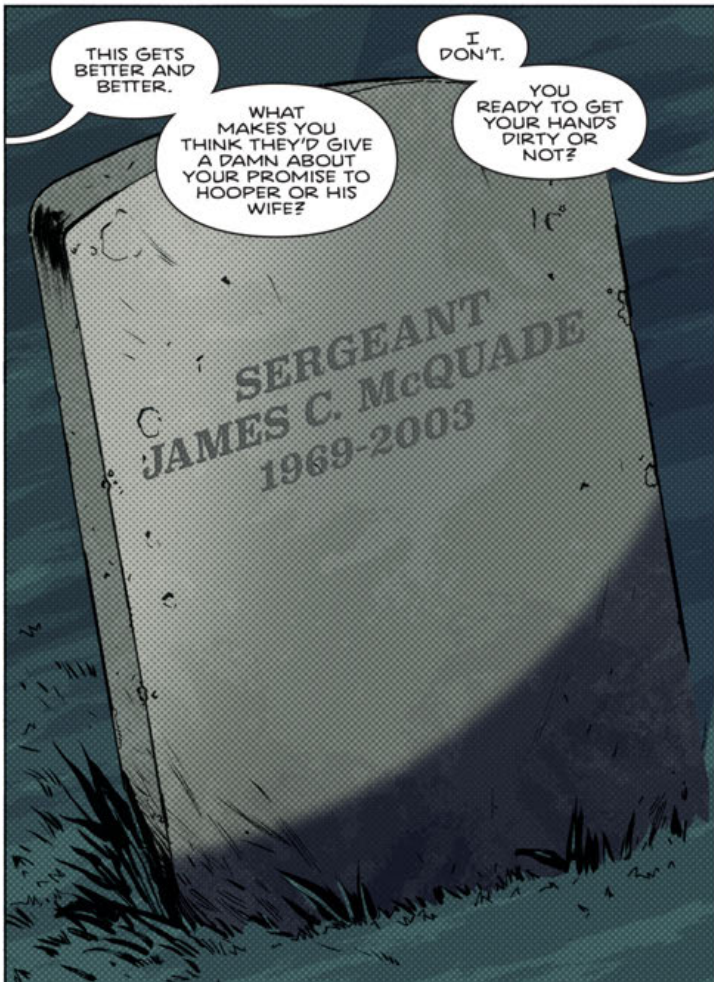
SHE'S GOT  
A KID NOW, AND  
I CAN'T LET HER  
DOWN, NOT AFTER  
WHAT HAPPENED  
TO HOOPER.



CARTEL?

IT'S  
GONNA TAKE  
A HELL OF A LOT  
MORE THAN JUST  
ME AND YOU TO  
SORT THIS. IT'S  
GOING TO TAKE  
TRAINED MEN,  
GUNS...

...AND  
MONEY, LOTS OF  
IT.



THIS GETS  
BETTER AND  
BETTER.

WHAT  
MAKES YOU  
THINK THEY'D GIVE  
A DAMN ABOUT  
YOUR PROMISE TO  
HOOPER OR HIS  
WIFE?

I  
DON'T.

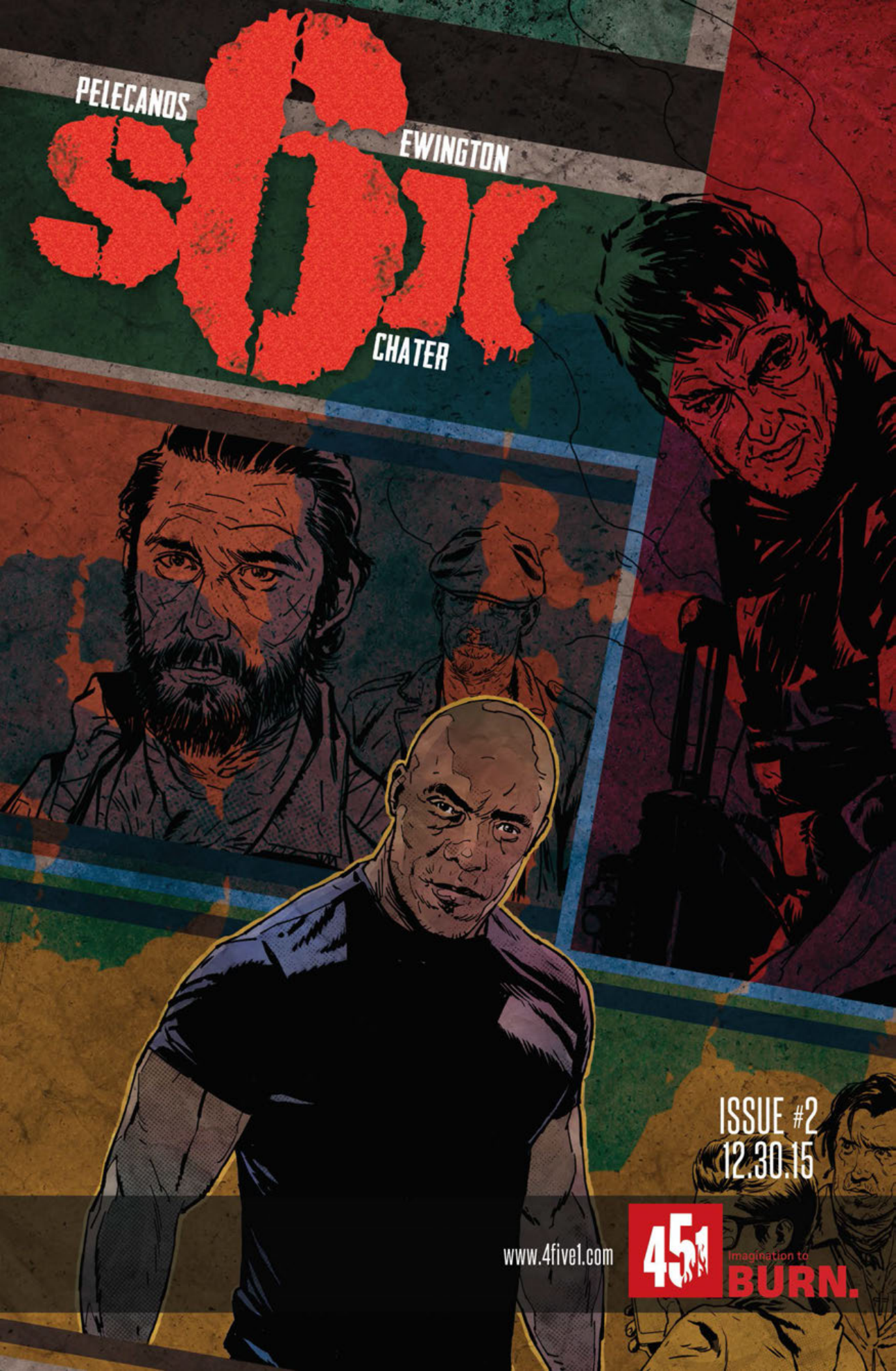
YOU  
READY TO GET  
YOUR HANDS  
DIRTY OR  
NOT?



PELECANOS

EWINGTON

CHATER



ISSUE #2  
12.30.15

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451

Imagination to  
**BURN.**



**DUTY. HONOR. COURAGE.**

**WE LIVE AS ONE.**

**WE DIE AS SIX.**



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**451**