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Imagination to  
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MEET THE  
WORLD'S  
FIRST  
PARANORMAL  
INVESTIGATOR  
EBENEZER  
SCROOGE

# HUMBUG

GENTILE · WHITE





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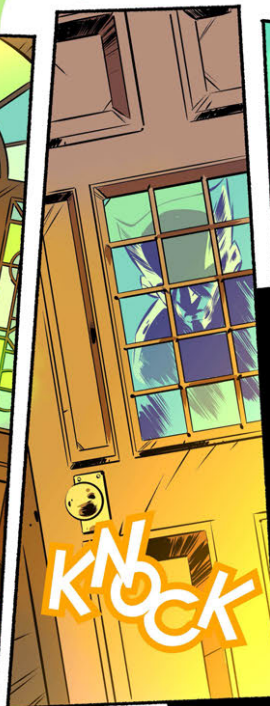
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SHALL WE BEGIN?

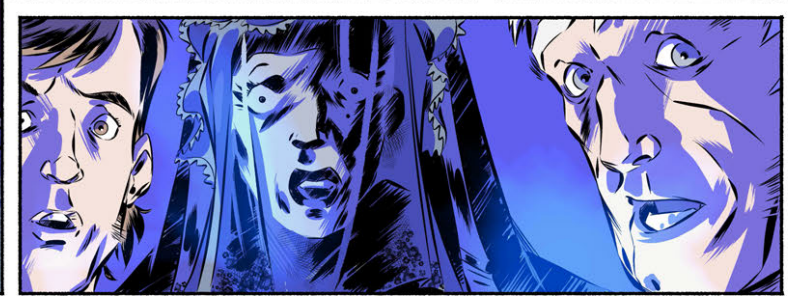
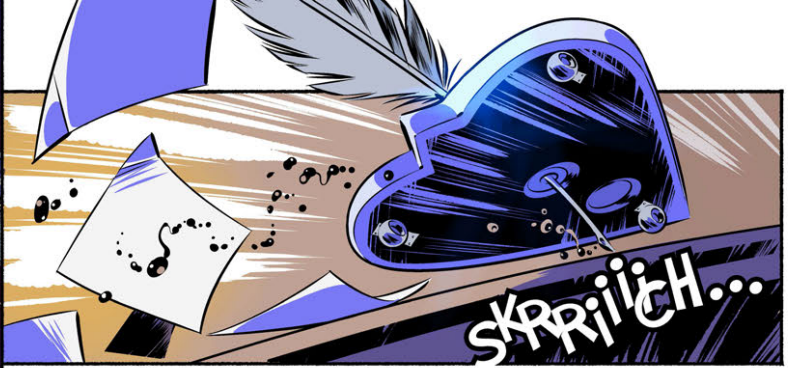
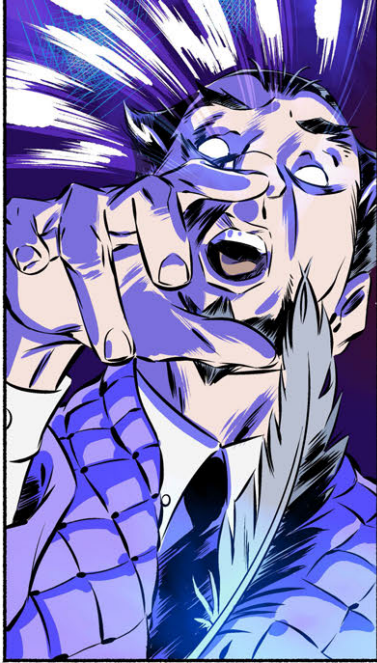


... THE DOOR IS OPEN... SPEAK, SPIRIT... YOUR FAMILY IS HERE WITH US...



OH... IS THAT YOU, HARRY?

YOU MUSTN'T SPEAK TO THE SPIRIT DIRECTLY, LADY CUMBERLAND. ASK YOUR QUESTIONS ONLY THROUGH ME.



IS THAT MY DEAR HARRY?

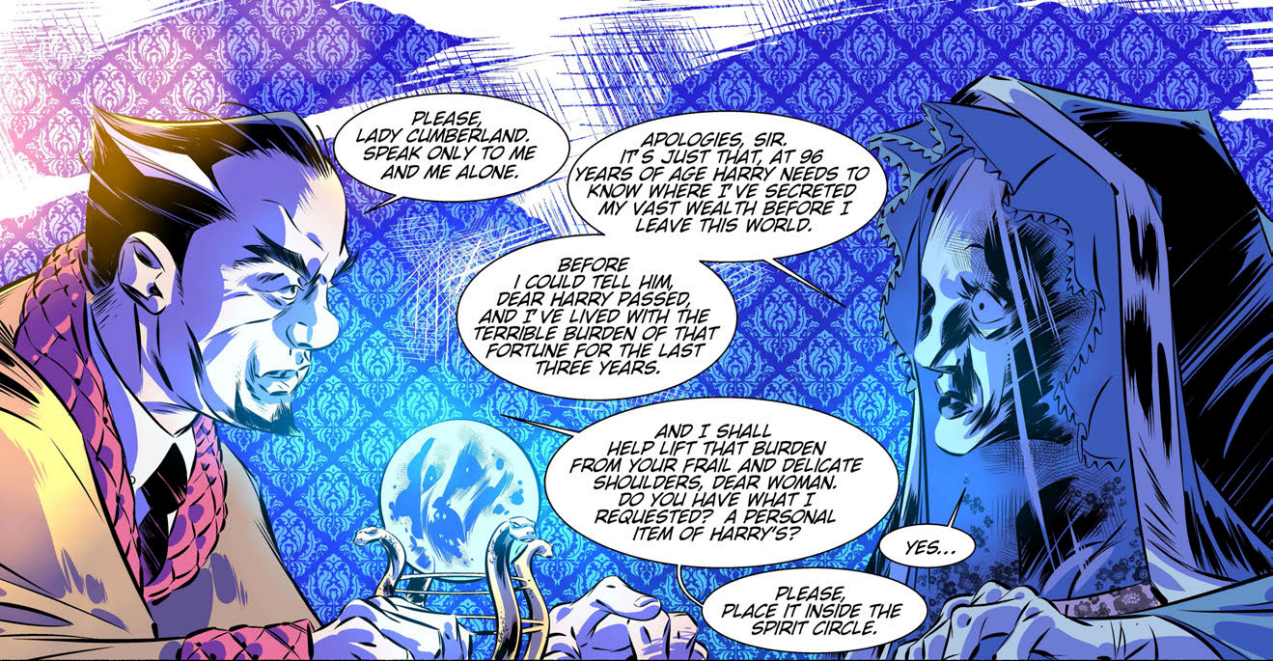
YES... I BELIEVE IT IS, HARRY... HARRY... CAN YOU HEAR ME? ARE YOU WITH US NOW?

IF THAT IS YOU, HARRY, COME FORTH AND REVEAL YOURSELF. WE WELCOME YOU.

HARRY'S STRUGGLING TO CONTACT YOU, MADAME.

'OH, HARRY, MY DEAR, DEAR, ADOURABLE, HARRY. IT'S ME, ETIENNE'.

RAP RAP



PLEASE, LADY CUMBERLAND. SPEAK ONLY TO ME AND ME ALONE.

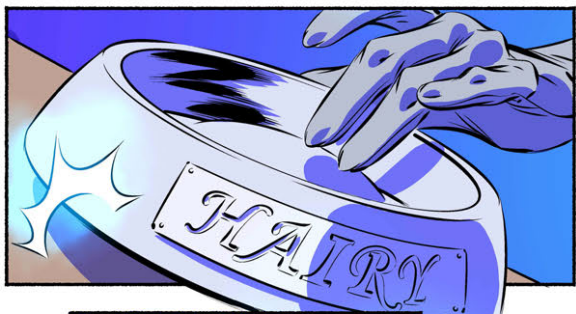
APOLOGIES, SIR. IT'S JUST THAT, AT 96 YEARS OF AGE HARRY NEEDS TO KNOW WHERE I'VE SECRETED MY VAST WEALTH BEFORE I LEAVE THIS WORLD.

BEFORE I COULD TELL HIM, DEAR HARRY PASSED, AND I'VE LIVED WITH THE TERRIBLE BURDEN OF THAT FORTUNE FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS.

AND I SHALL HELP LIFT THAT BURDEN FROM YOUR FRAIL AND DELICATE SHOULDERS, DEAR WOMAN. DO YOU HAVE WHAT I REQUESTED? A PERSONAL ITEM OF HARRY'S?

YES...

PLEASE, PLACE IT INSIDE THE SPIRIT CIRCLE.



WHAT IS THAT?

WHY, IT'S HARRY'S FAVORITE BOWL.



THE SPELLING IS QUITE CURIOUS. A PET NAME NO DOUBT, FOR THE DEARLY DEPARTED?

YES, YOUR SUPPOSITION WOULD BE CORRECT TO SAY IT WAS A 'PET' NAME, SINCE HARRY WAS MY BELOVED YORKSHIRE WHO PASSED AWAY THIS VERY NIGHT, ALMOST THREE YEARS AGO.

BUT THEN, BEING THE EXTRAORDINARY CLAIRVOYANT YOU ARE, YOU SHOULD ALREADY HAVE KNOWN THAT, SHOULDN'T YOU, MESSR. MEPHISTO?



...I... WELL... OF COURSE...



IN FACT, WITH YOUR PROFOLIND GIFTS INTO SEEING BEYOND THE VEIL OF THIS WORLD AND INTO THE NEXT, YOU SHOULD ALSO HAVE DEDUCED THAT I AM NOT THE LADY ETIENNE CUMBERLAND BUT I AM, IN FACT...



EBENEZER SCROOGE!

SPECTRAL ERADICATOR!

PARANORMAL INVESTIGATOR!

I SAY, YOU ARE AN IMPOSTER, SIR! A CHARLATAN, EXPOSED!

A PERPETRATOR OF FABRICATED LIES AND SHAMEFUL DECEPTION, ENSNARING THE INNOCENT AND VULNERABLE WITH YOUR FRAUDULENT BAG OF PARLOR TRICKS!



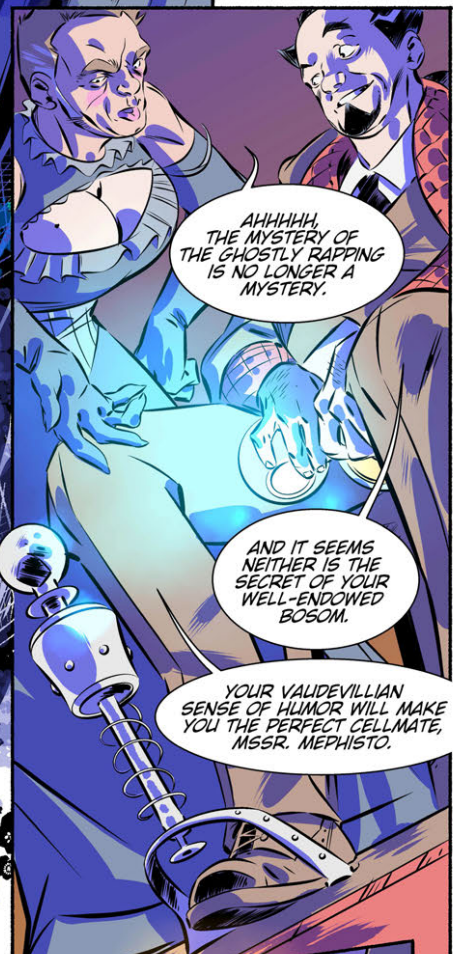
IT APPEARS YOU HAVE ME BY THE CRYSTAL BALLS, SIR.



AH HAH!  
AND THE STEEL TIP  
OF YOUR PEN IS CONTROLLED  
BY A DISCREET AND DISHONEST  
MAGNET FROM BENEATH THE TABLE.  
THIS ISN'T MYSTICISM...  
IT'S MAGNETISM!



"TIM  
MEET 'HARRY'.  
HARRY MEET  
TINY TIM."



AHHHHH,  
THE MYSTERY OF  
THE GHOSTLY RAPPING  
IS NO LONGER A  
MYSTERY.

AND IT SEEMS  
NEITHER IS THE  
SECRET OF YOUR  
WELL-ENDOWED  
BOSOM.

YOUR VAUDEVIILLIAN  
SENSE OF HUMOR WILL MAKE  
YOU THE PERFECT CELLMATE,  
MSSR. MEPHISTO.



CONSTABLE!

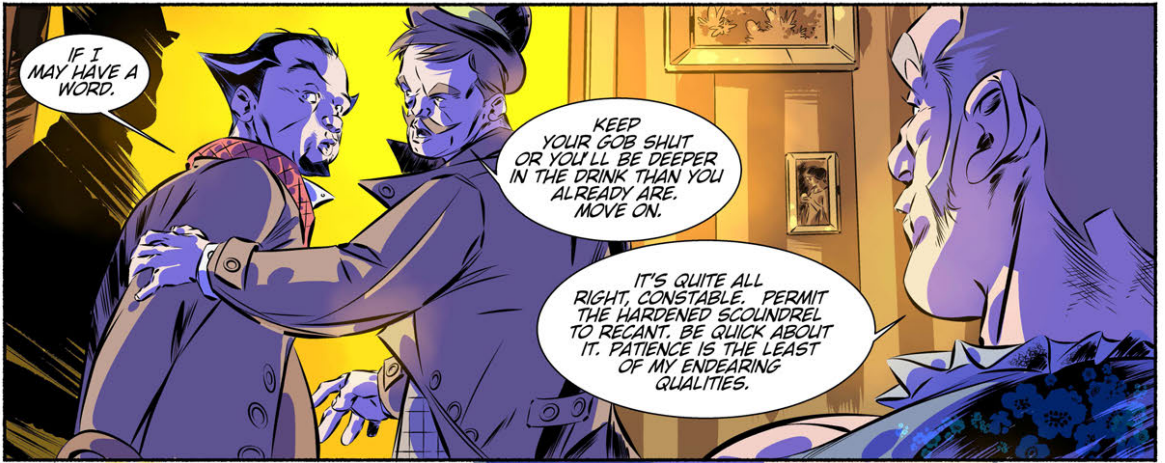


DO YOUR  
DUTY, SIR.

MEN -  
SLAP THOSE  
DERBIES  
ON 'EM.







IF I MAY HAVE A WORD.

KEEP YOUR GOB SHUT OR YOU'LL BE DEEPER IN THE DRINK THAN YOU ALREADY ARE. MOVE ON.

IT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT, CONSTABLE. PERMIT THE HARDENED SCOUNDREL TO REGAIN. BE QUICK ABOUT IT. PATIENCE IS THE LEAST OF MY ENDEARING QUALITIES.



WIDOWS ARE DIVIDED INTO TWO CLASSES... THE RELIEVED AND THE BEREAVED. IF THERE IS A DESIRE FOR THE LATTER TO BELIEVE, I PROVIDE RELIEF FROM THEIR GRIEF.

I ASK YOU, MR. SCROOGE, WHERE IS THE HARM IN THAT?

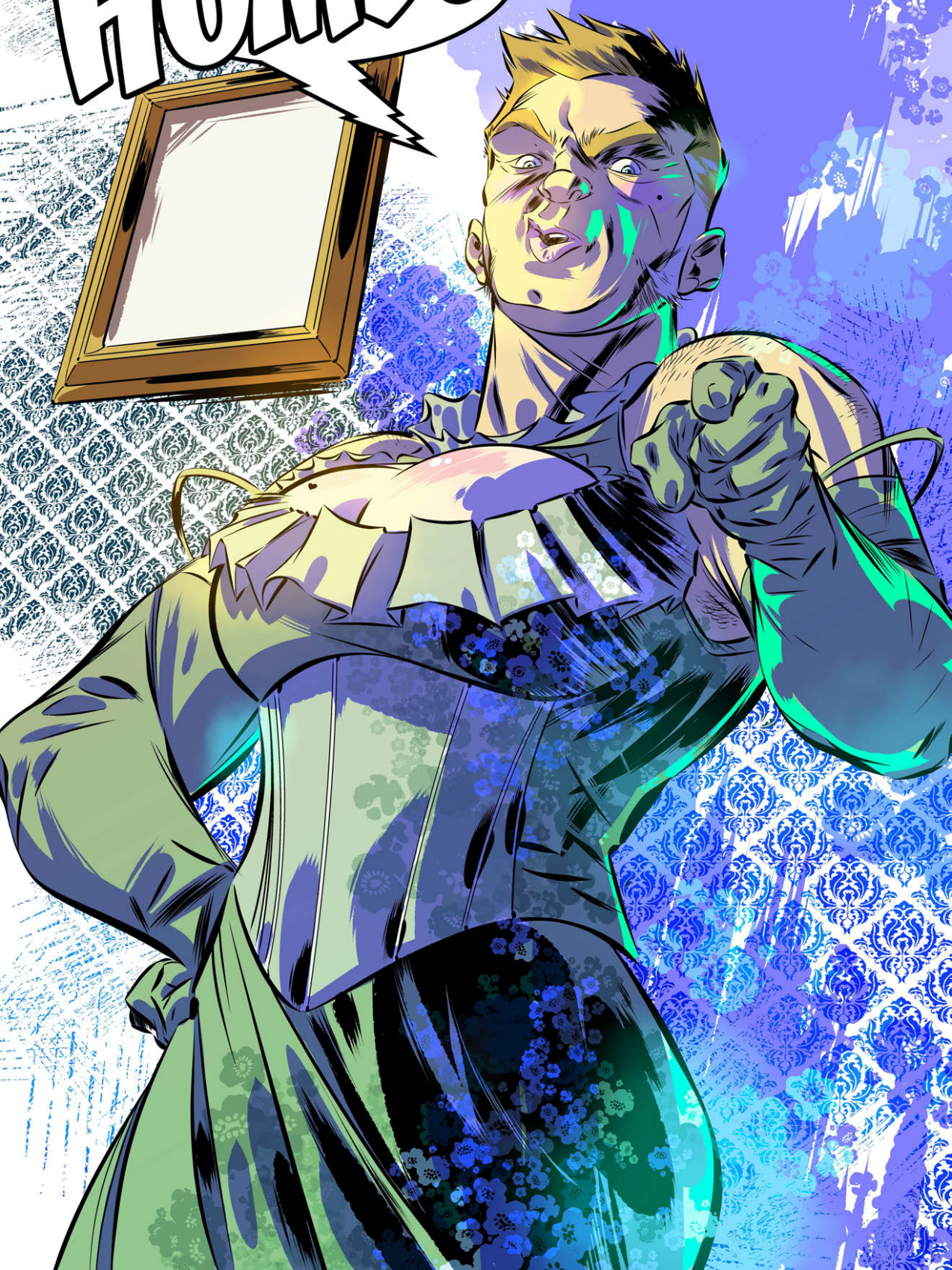


IF YOU ARE STILL SEARCHING FOR THAT ANSWER, SIR, I HAVE BUT ONE WORD FOR YOU.

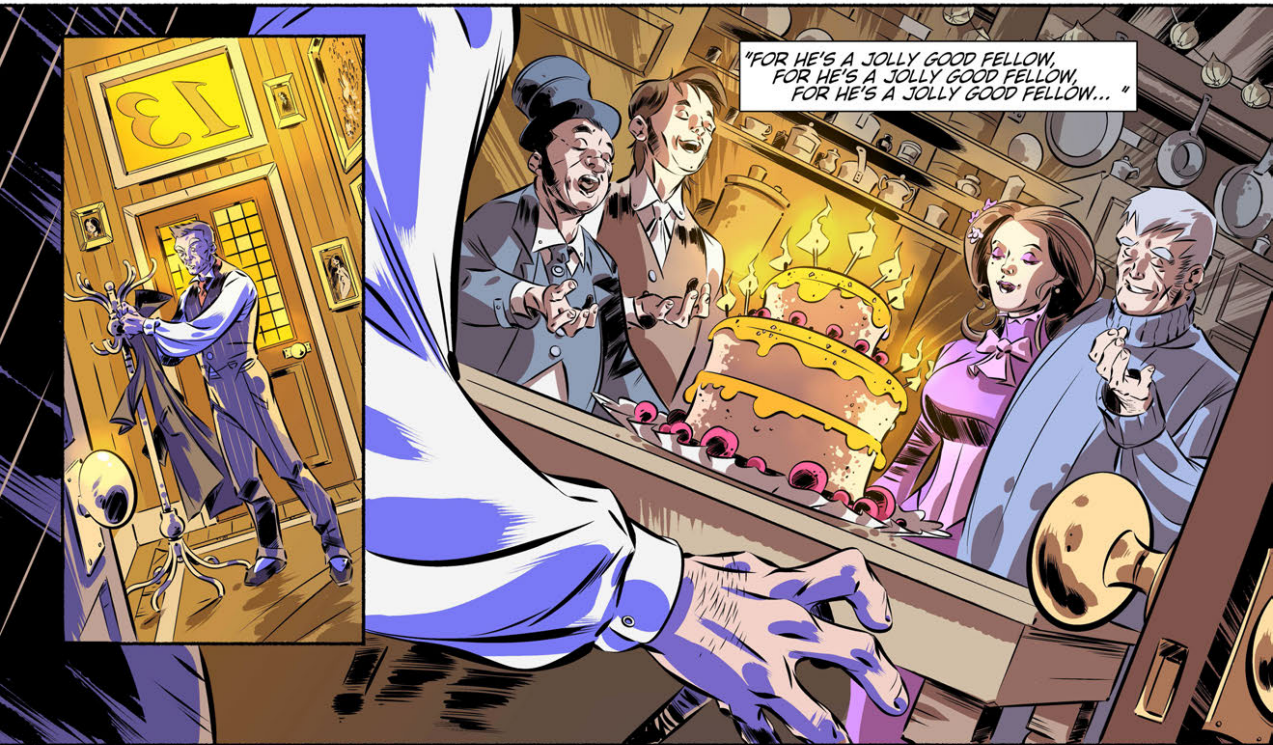


BAH...

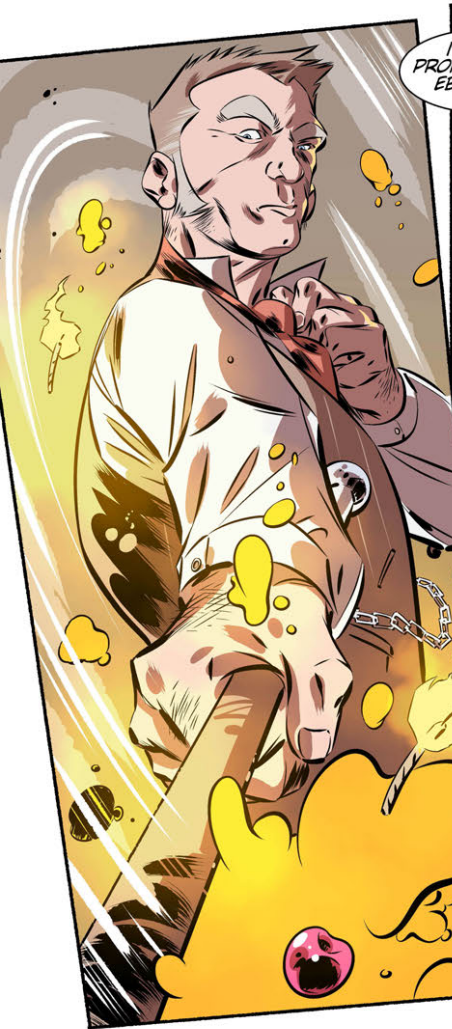
**HUMBUG!**







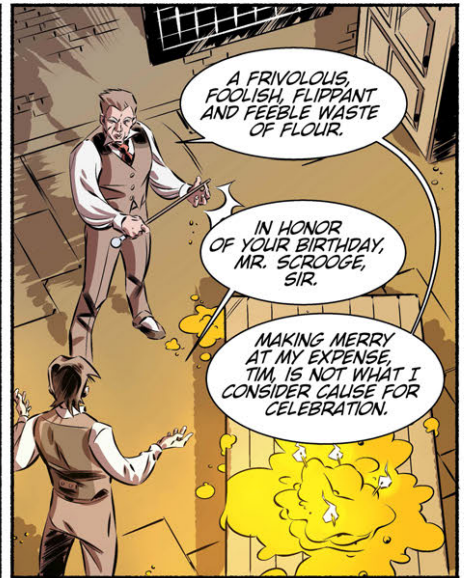
"FOR HE'S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW,  
FOR HE'S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW,  
FOR HE'S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW..."



I HAD A PROPER KNIFE,  
EBENEZER.



A FRIVOLOUS,  
FOOLISH, FLIPPANT  
AND FEEBLE WASTE  
OF FLOUR.



IN HONOR OF YOUR BIRTHDAY,  
MR. SCROOGE,  
SIR.

MAKING MERRY  
AT MY EXPENSE,  
TIM, IS NOT WHAT I  
CONSIDER CAUSE FOR  
CELEBRATION.

I TOLD YOU  
HE'D REACT THIS  
WAY, HUSBAND.  
I WARNED YOU,  
DID I NOT?



UNCLE  
MARGARET BAKED  
THAT CAKE JUST  
FOR YOU. IT'S  
GINGER SPICE,  
YOUR  
FAVORITE.



NEEDLEPOINT REMAINS YOUR FORTE, DEAR MARGARET.



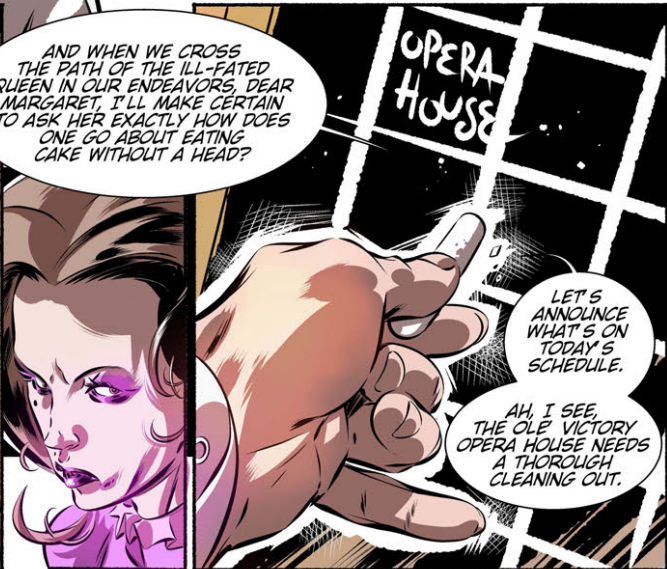
WHY IS MY TEA NOT STEEPED? AND WHAT VANDAL ABSCONDING WITH THE LAST SLICE OF BREAD I INTENDED AS MY BREAKFAST TOAST?

I ABSCONDING WITH IT TO THE FURNACE. MOLD HAD TAKEN POSSESSION OF THE CRUST. MUCH LIKE THESE PREMISES.

ALL THAT GLITTERS IS NOT MOLD, CRATCHIT. IF THINE EYE OFFEND THEE, PLUCK THE FLUNGUS OUT. NOW WHAT AM I TO DO WITHOUT MY MORNING BREAD?



WHAT WAS IT MARIE ANTOINETTE SAID? IF THE PEOPLE HAVE NO BREAD, LET THEM EAT CAKE?!



AND WHEN WE CROSS THE PATH OF THE ILL-FATED QUEEN IN OUR ENDEAVORS, DEAR MARGARET, I'LL MAKE CERTAIN TO ASK HER EXACTLY HOW DOES ONE GO ABOUT EATING CAKE WITHOUT A HEAD?

LET'S ANNOUNCE WHAT'S ON TODAY'S SCHEDULE.

AH, I SEE, THE OLD VICTORY OPERA HOUSE NEEDS A THOROUGH CLEANING OUT.



FREDDIE...

I, TOO, HAVE... AN... ANNOUNCEMENT...



NEPHEW, DON'T LET YOUR DAILY BOUT OF COWARDLY CONSTIPATION DETER YOU. OUT WITH IT.

LIMM, YES... WELL... IF YOU RECALL... YOUR BIRTHDAY ALSO MARKS THE OCCASION OF THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF MARGARET AND I BEING WED.



HOW GRAND!  
A VERY HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY TO  
YOU BOTH!

I TOO  
CONGRATULATE  
YOU ON YOUR  
JOYOUS UNION  
IN BLISSFUL  
INDENTURED  
SERVITUDE.



THANK YOU,  
UNCLE. IF I MAY BE SO BOLD,  
THEN TO REQUEST A DEFERMENT  
FROM TONIGHT'S ACTIVITIES TO  
ALLOW MARGARET AND I TO  
CELEBRATE.

BETWEEN MY WORK  
HERE AND MARGARET FULL UP  
AT HOME SINCE WE ADOPTED  
RUBEN, WE HAVEN'T HAD  
A MOMENT TO -

WE HAVE  
RESERVATIONS AT THE RITZ  
THIS EVENING!



WELL, YOU  
CERTAINLY CAN'T  
CANCEL YOUR  
ANNIVERSARY -

- BUT YOU  
CERTAINLY CAN  
CANCEL YOUR  
RESERVATIONS.

AND AS  
FOR YOU, FREDDIE,  
YOU MAY NOT BE SO BOLD  
DISCHARGING YOURSELF FROM  
YOUR DUTIES SIMPLY BECAUSE IT  
COINCIDES WITH THIS FRIVOLOUS  
ANNUAL OBSERVATION OF  
YOUR NUPTIALS.

YOU'RE AN  
INDISPENSABLE MEMBER  
OF THE HUMBUGGERS BUT  
CERTAINLY DISPENSABLE IN  
ALL OTHER MATTERS.



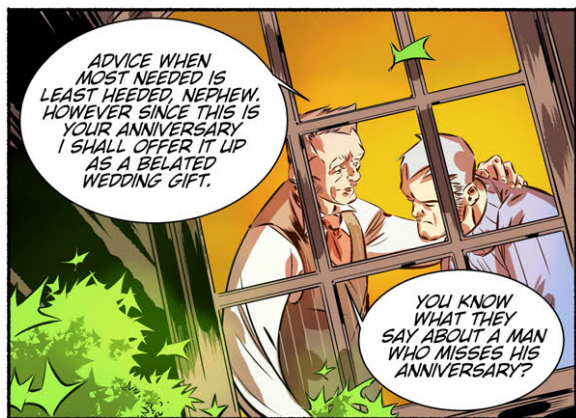
HA! I SEE  
GOOD FORTUNE IS WITH YOU.  
THERE'S AN EVENING FREE ON  
THE CALENDAR EIGHT FORTNIGHTS  
FROM THIS VERY DAY!  
THAT'S A MERE FOUR  
MONTHS AWAY!

I KNOW THIS  
HORRENDOUS AND AVARICIOUS  
MAN YOU CALL UNCLE MAY BE YOUR SOLE  
LIVING RELATIVE AND BENEFACTOR,  
FREDERICK HOLYWELL, BUT I HAVE  
REACHED THE END OF  
MY TETHER!



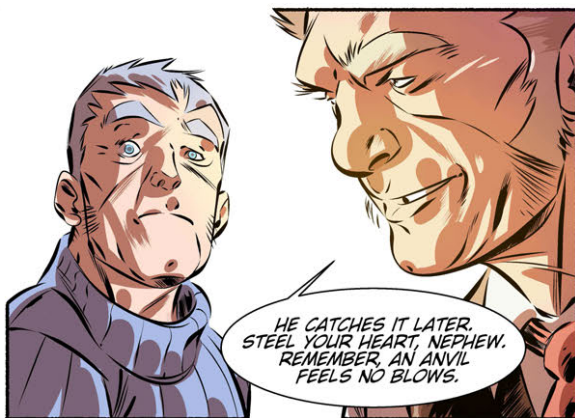
KISS MY GRANDNEPHEW FOR ME!

SHE'S AN ODD FISH, THAT ONE.



ADVICE WHEN MOST NEEDED IS LEAST HEEDED, NEPHEW. HOWEVER SINCE THIS IS YOUR ANNIVERSARY I SHALL OFFER IT UP AS A BELATED WEDDING GIFT.

YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT A MAN WHO MISSES HIS ANNIVERSARY?



HE CATCHES IT LATER. STEEL YOUR HEART, NEPHEW. REMEMBER, AN ANVIL FEELS NO BLOWS.



I SEE YOU'RE IN A CHIPPER MOOD TODAY, EBENEZER.

I CAN'T COMPLAIN. DOESN'T MEAN I WON'T.

AFTER ALL, IT IS MY BIRTHDAY.



MMM, THAT IS QUITE TASTY.

ONWARD FELLOW HUMBUGGERS! A NIGHT AT THE OPERA AWAITS US!

"THE SITUATION HAS BECOME QUITE INTOLERABLE."

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME THE SPECTER APPEARED?

APPEARED? THANKFULLY, NEVER! NO ONE HAS SEEN HER, MR. SCROOGE, BUT WE HAVE HEARD HER.



AT NIGHT, WHEN THE THEATER IS EMPTY, I CAN'T QUITE DISTINGUISH THE ORIGIN OF THE SOUND, BUT I BELIEVE SHE'S EXERCISING.

"EXORCISING", YOU SAY?

WE NEVER HAD A TRUE STAGE TO PERFORM ON BEFORE, BUT THIS SHOULD DO QUITE NICELY.

OH, MY...

WHAT IS IT NOW, FREDDIE?



MARGARET'S ANNIVERSARY GIFT, I FORGOTTEN COMPLETELY I HAD IT ON MY PERSON, IT WAS MY INTENTION TO GIVE IT TO HER THIS EVENING BEFORE -

I'LL RUN IT STRAIGHT UP TO MRS. HOLYWELL!



OUT OF THE QUESTION, WE'RE ON A STRICT SCHEDULE.

YOU HAVE A HEART OF PURE SPITE, EBENEZER.

CEASE THIS DETESTABLE BOO-HOOING AND BE QUICK ABOUT IT THEN -

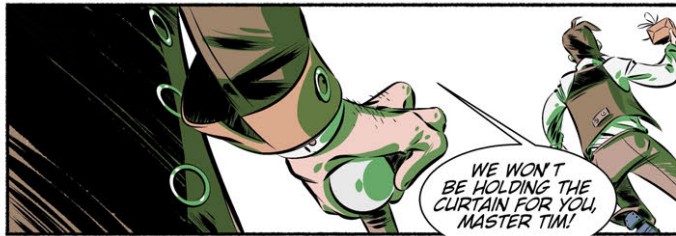


OH, THANK YOU, UNCLE! MASTER TIM, PLEASE INFORM MRS. HOLYWELL THERE'S AN INSCRIPTION ON THE INSIDE.



"ASPIRING"? OR DO YOU MEAN, "EXPIRING"?

BOTH I SUPPOSE SHE ASPIRED AND NOW SHE'S EXPIRED, YOU SEE, PRACTICING HER ARPEGGIO WAS... WELL... SHALL WE DELICATELY SAY... DOGS WITHIN EARSHOT WOULD SUFFER MERCILESSLY.

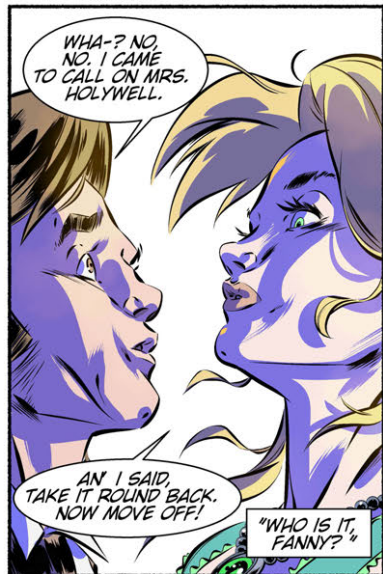


WE WON'T BE HOLDING THE CURTAIN FOR YOU, MASTER TIM!





TAKE IT ROUND BACK.



WHA-? NO, NO. I CAME TO CALL ON MRS. HOLYWELL.

AN I SAID, TAKE IT ROUND BACK. NOW MOVE OFF!

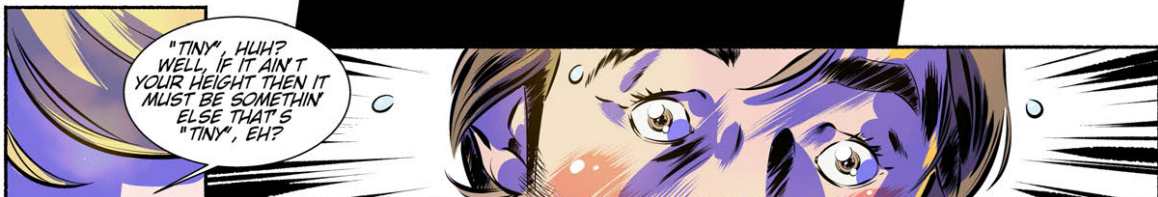
"WHO IS IT, FANNY?"



JUST SOME STREET SNIPPER LOOKIN' FOR A HAND OUT!

IT'S TIM CRATCHIT, MS. MARGARET!

"TINY TIM! SHOW HIM IN, FANNY."



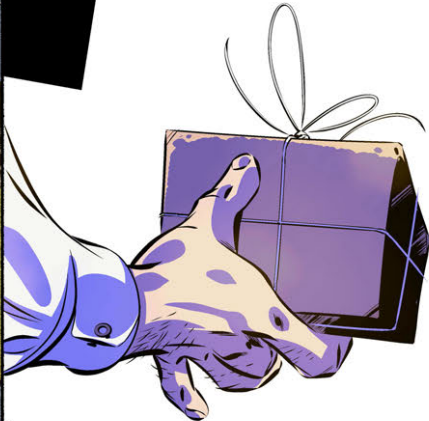
"TINY", HUH? WELL, IF IT AIN'T YOUR HEIGHT THEN IT MUST BE SOMETHIN ELSE THAT'S "TINY", EH?



TIM, LOOK AT YOU! YOUR FACE IS RUDDY FROM THE COLD.

COME IN, COME IN, MY BOY, WARM YOURSELF BY THE FIRE.

I CAN'T STAY, M' LUM. I MUST BE GETTING BACK TO THE OTHERS. MR. HOLYWELL SENT ME ROUND TO GIVE YOU THIS -



MR. HOLYWELL APOLOGIZES THAT IN HIS HASTE HE DID NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE IT TO YOU PERSONALLY.

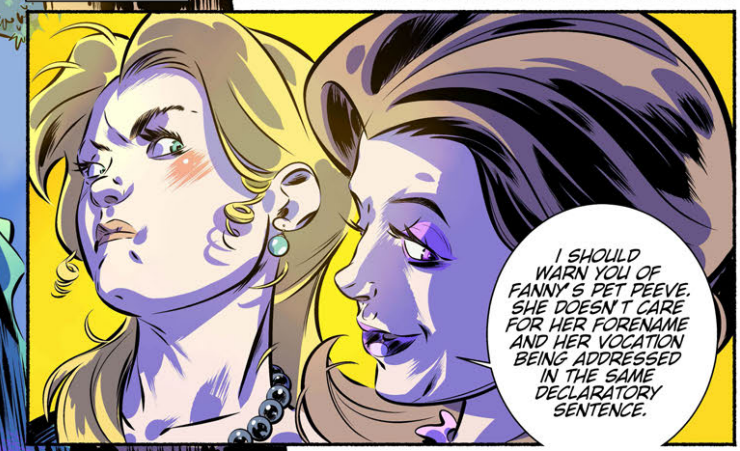


WILL YOU TAKE RUBEN, PLEASE.

YES, M UM.

OH, WHERE ARE MY MANNERS? TIM, THIS IS FANNY, OUR NEW NANNY.

"APOLOGIES, MISS NANNY FANNY."



I SHOULD WARN YOU OF FANNY'S PET PEEVE. SHE DOESN'T CARE FOR HER FORENAME AND HER VOCATION BEING ADDRESSED IN THE SAME DECLARATORY SENTENCE.

NOW LET'S SEE WHAT MR. HOLYWELL THINKS OF HIS WIFE OF TWO LONG YEARS.



A COMPASS? WHAT HUSBAND BUYS A NAUTICAL DEVICE FOR THEIR SPOUSE ON THEIR WEDDING ANNIVERSARY?



MR. HOLYWELL SAID THERE WAS AN INSCRIPTION.

WHAT DOES IT SAY, M UM? IF I MAY ASK?

YOU MAY.

IT SAYS, "LET MY LOVE BE YOUR COMPASS. LET IT NAVIGATE YOU AND IT WILL KEEP YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE ABYSS, STEER YOU TO SAFE HARBOR WHERE I SHALL ALWAYS BE WAITING."



PLEASE INFORM MY MR. HOLYWELL WHEN YOU SEE HIM THAT I EXPECT HIM HOME BEFORE THE BREAK OF DAWN.

AND DO TELL HIM TO BE CAREFUL, WILL YOU?

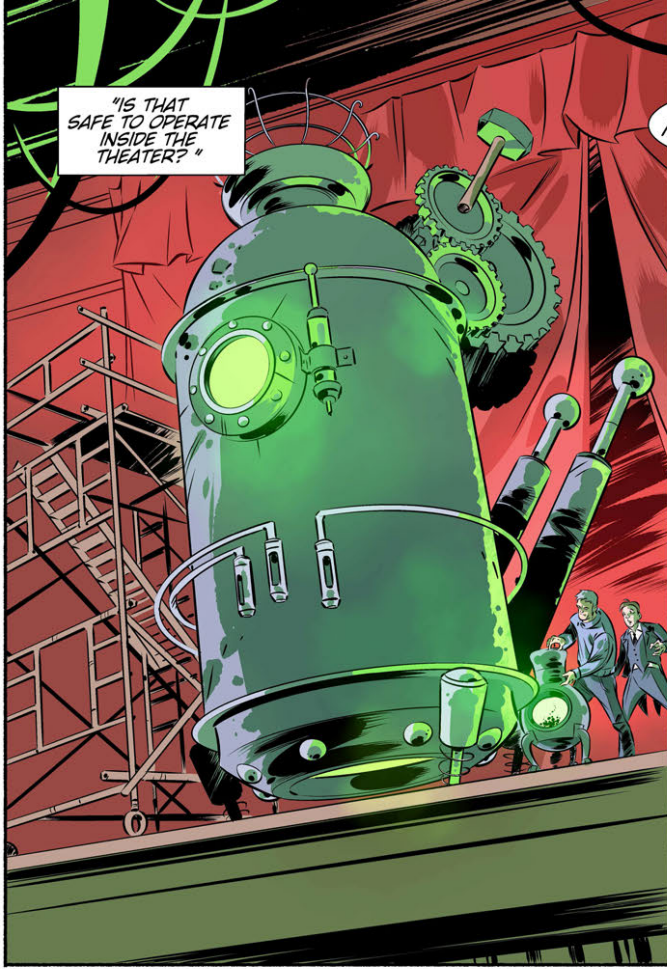


I WILL, M UM.

ALL OF YOU.

MR. SCROOGE AS WELL?

LET'S NOT GET CARRIED AWAY, SHALL WE? COME, FANNY DEAR. MY NEW COMPASS WILL GUIDE US TO THE NURSERY.



"IS THAT SAFE TO OPERATE INSIDE THE THEATER?"

OF COURSE, MR. REDMAYNE.

THIS IS WHAT UNCLE CALLS "THE HUMBUGGER". YOU SEE A SPIRIT HAS A CERTAIN SHALL WE SAY, "AROMA". THE MOST SYNONYMOLIS ODOR MY UNCLE COULD BEST TO COMPARE IT TO WAS -

CHESTNUTS?

CORRECT!

THE SOUL CARRIES WITH IT THE SCENT OF ROASTED CHESTNUTS.

THAT'S WHAT ATTRACTS THEM, LIKE MICE TO CHEDDAR.

AND ONCE WE HAVE THEM WITHIN THE RING YOU SEE HERE, THE ICE TAKES OVER FROM THERE.



WHAT PURPOSE THEN DOES THE ICE SERVE?

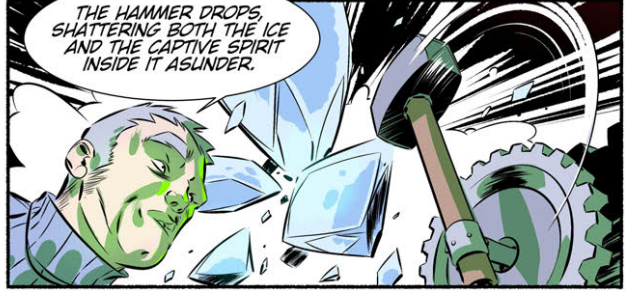
SPIRITS CONGREGATE IN DAMP AND BITTER MILIEUS.

A GRAVE BED.

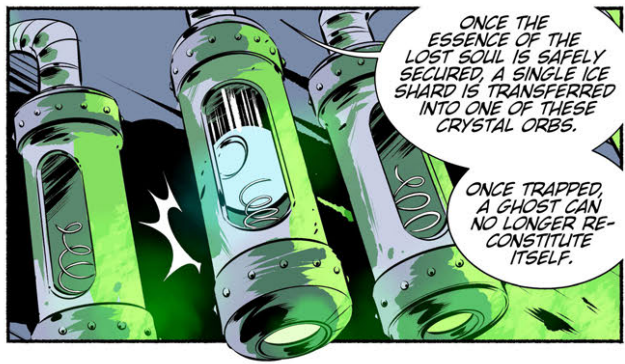
THE STONE COLD MARBLE OF A MAUSOLEUM.

THAT COLD SHIVER YOU FEEL GOING UP YOUR SPINE -

THAT'S THE DOOR TO THE AFTERLIFE BEING OPENED AND THE DEAD STEPPING THROUGH FROM THEIR WORLD INTO OURS.

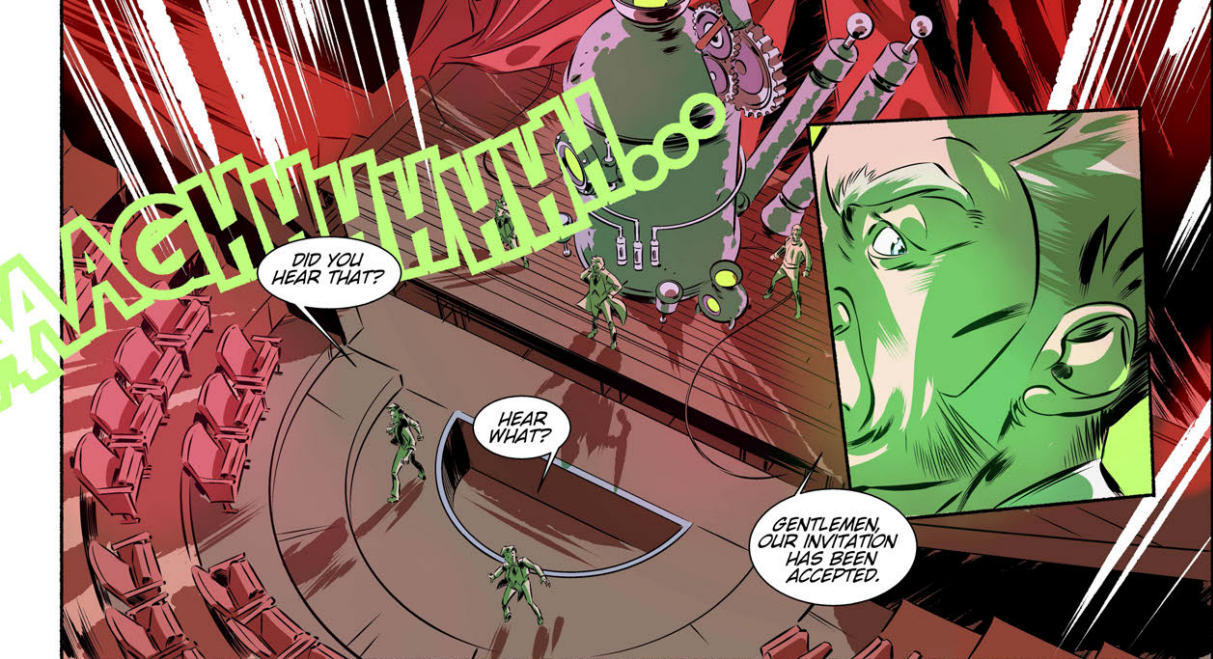


THE HAMMER DROPS, SHATTERING BOTH THE ICE AND THE CAPTIVE SPIRIT INSIDE IT ASUNDER.



ONCE THE ESSENCE OF THE LOST SOUL IS SAFELY SECURED, A SINGLE ICE SHARD IS TRANSFERRED INTO ONE OF THESE CRYSTAL ORBS.

ONCE TRAPPED, A GHOST CAN NO LONGER RE-CONSTITUTE ITSELF.



DID YOU HEAR THAT?

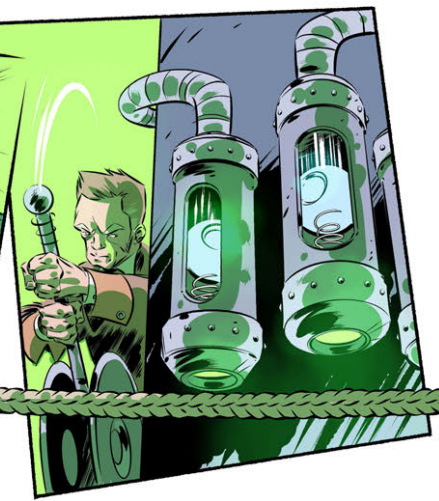
HEAR WHAT?

GENTLEMEN, OUR INVITATION HAS BEEN ACCEPTED.



AAAAHHHH!

SHE'S HERE! SHE'S IN THE THEATER!





AAAH  
AAAH  
AAAH

IT'S HORRIBLE!

HER FACE? OR LACK OF?

HEAVENS NO! HER SINGING! HER CABALETTA IS OFF KEY!

BATTLE STATIONS, HUMBUGGERS!

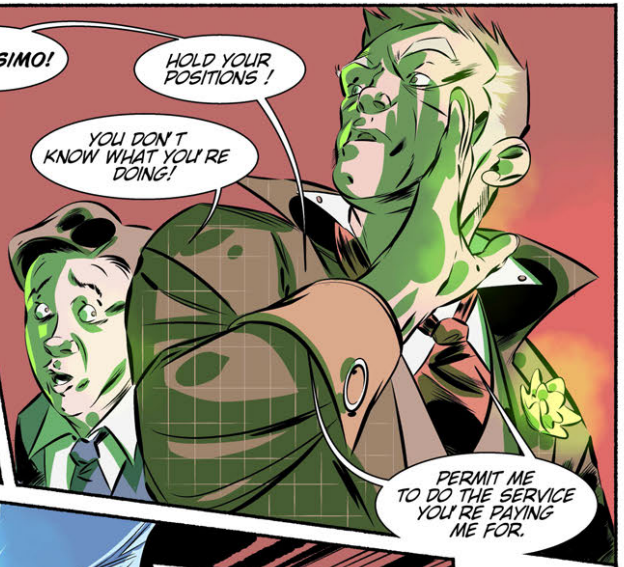




**BRAVO!  
BRAVO!**

**BRAVISSIMO!**

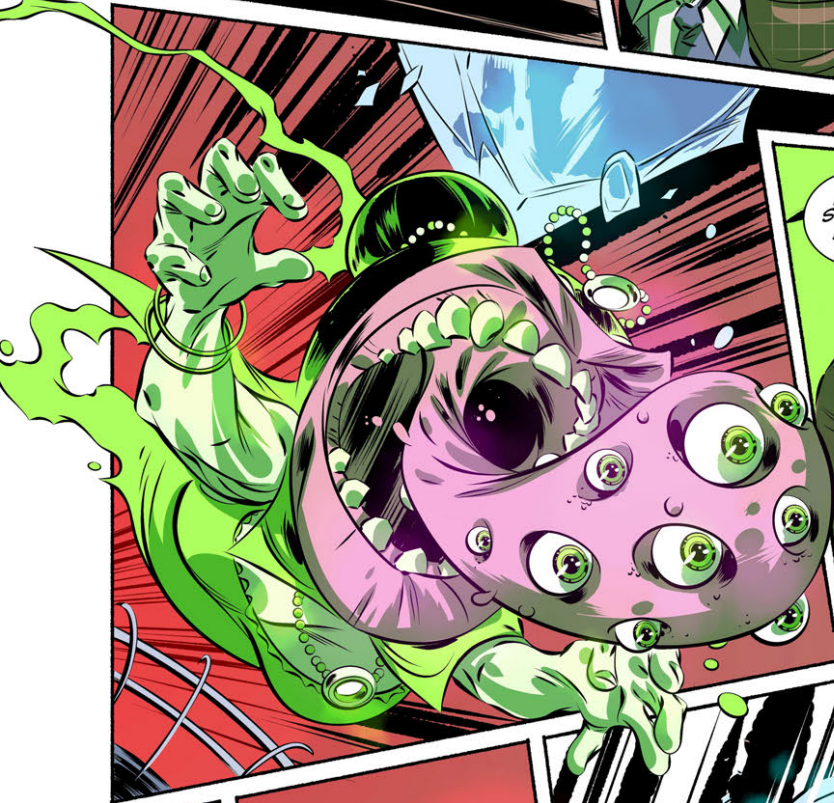
**NO, MR. SCROOGE!  
YOU MUSN'T GIVE  
HER THE SLIGHTEST  
PROVOCATION!**



**YOU DON'T  
KNOW WHAT YOU'RE  
DOING!**

**HOLD YOUR  
POSITIONS!**

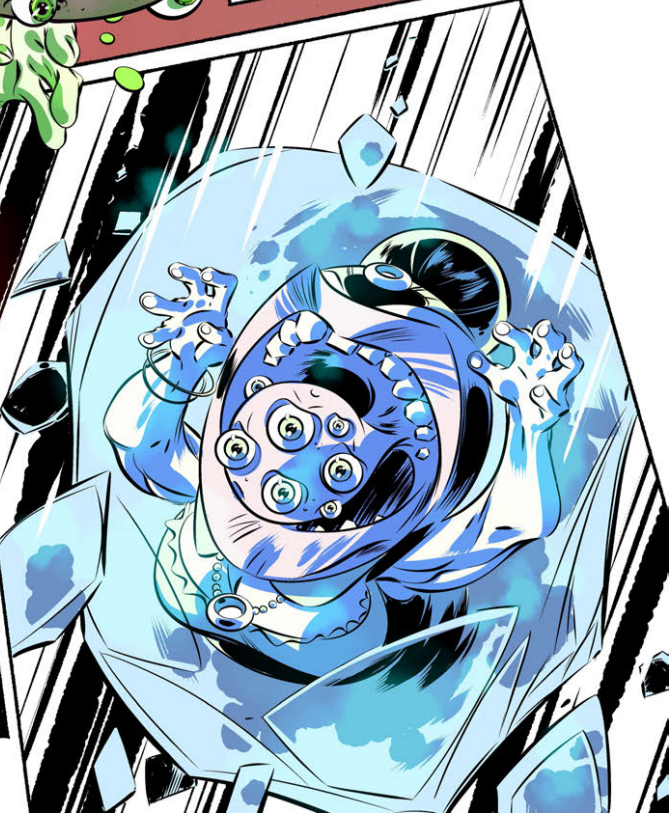
**PERMIT ME  
TO DO THE SERVICE  
YOU'RE PAYING  
ME FOR.**



**HOLD  
STEADY,  
BOYS!**



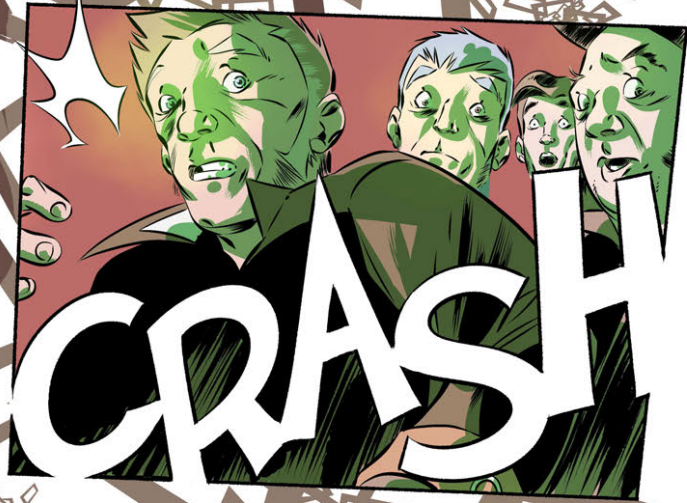
**TAKE AIM,  
MAKE IT SWEET  
AND TRUE.**







YOUR PROMPT PAYMENT, LIKE YOUR GRATITUDE, WILL BE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED AS WELL.



IT APPEARS TO HAVE FALLEN FROM THE RAFTERS.

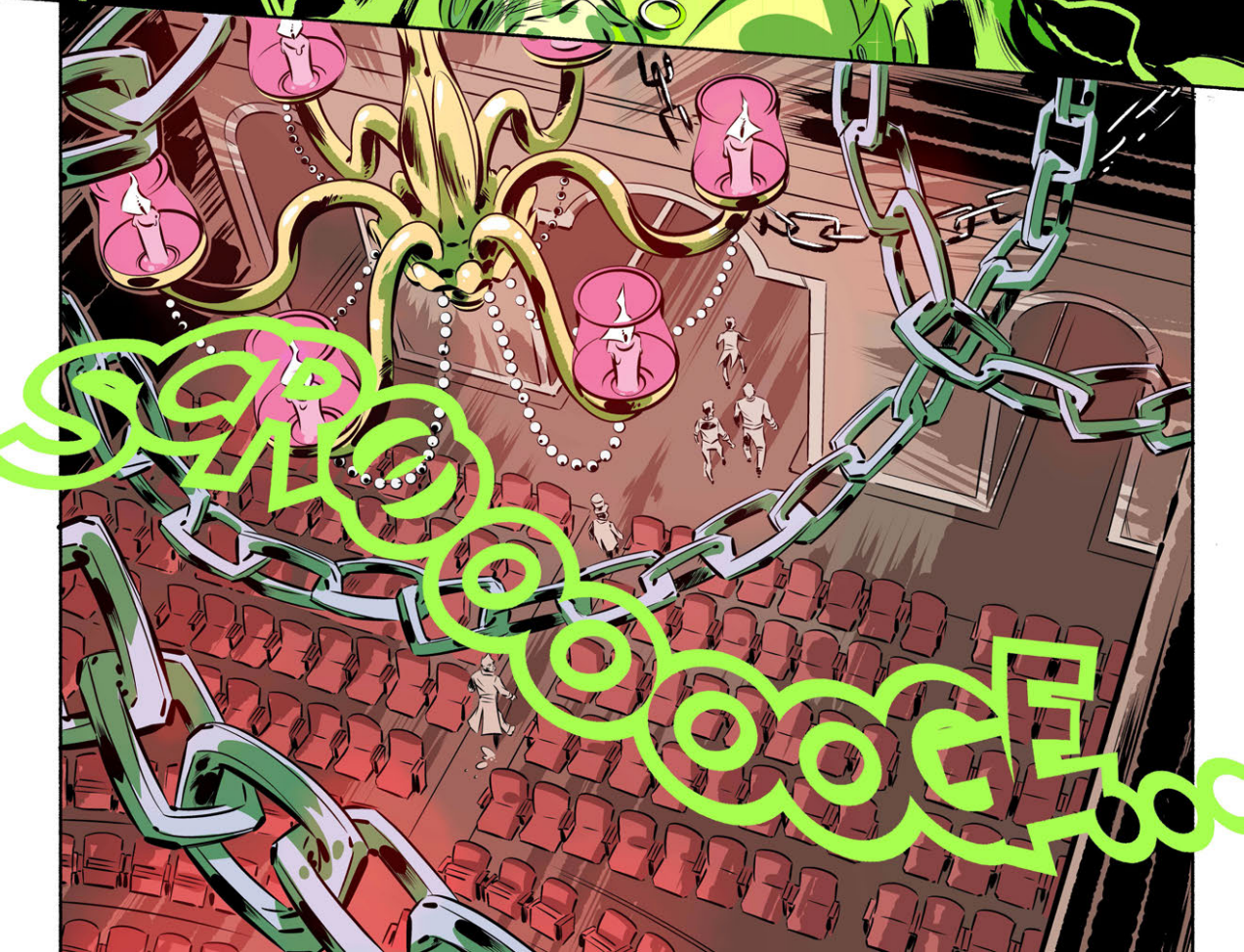
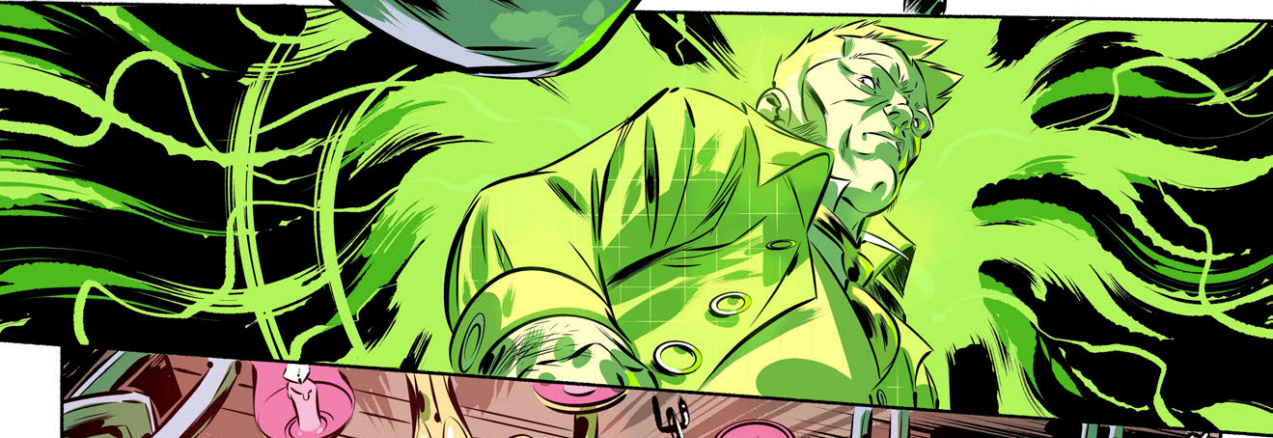
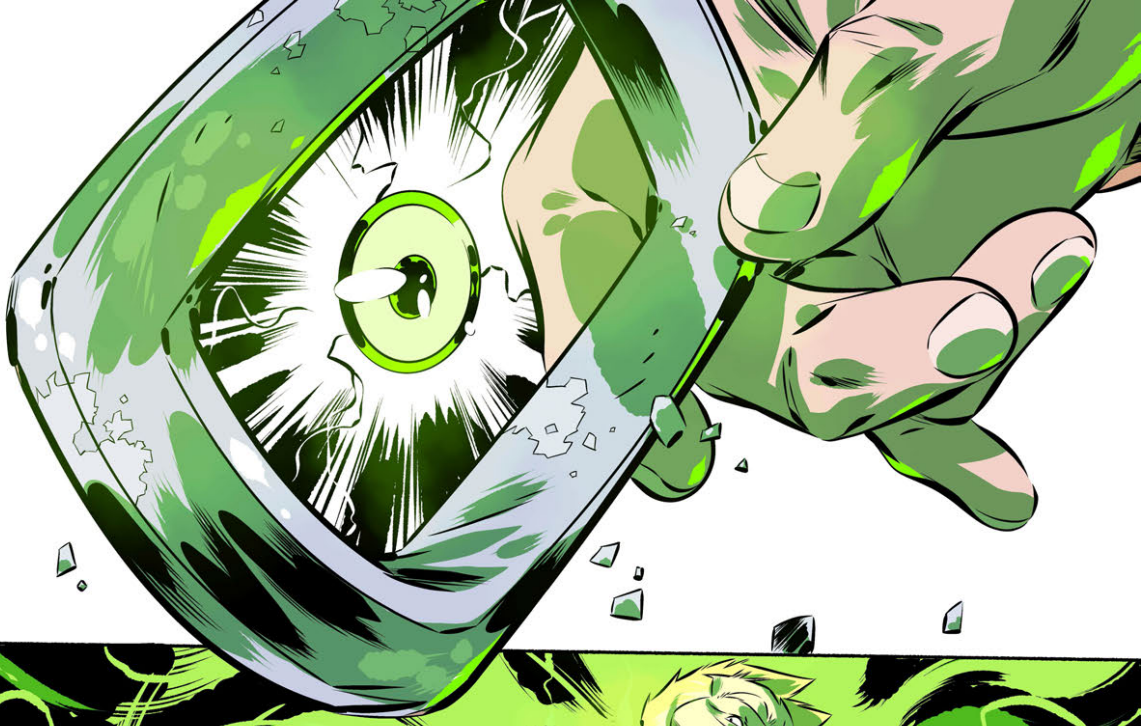
GIVE IT HERE -



TELL ME, TIM - HOW IS IT A SINGLE LINK SLIPS FROM ABOVE AND MAGICALLY RE-FORGES ITSELF BETWEEN THE GRIDIRON AND THE STAGE FLOOR?







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