

RUCKA
LARK
ARCAS

Lazarus

ONE

LAZARUS

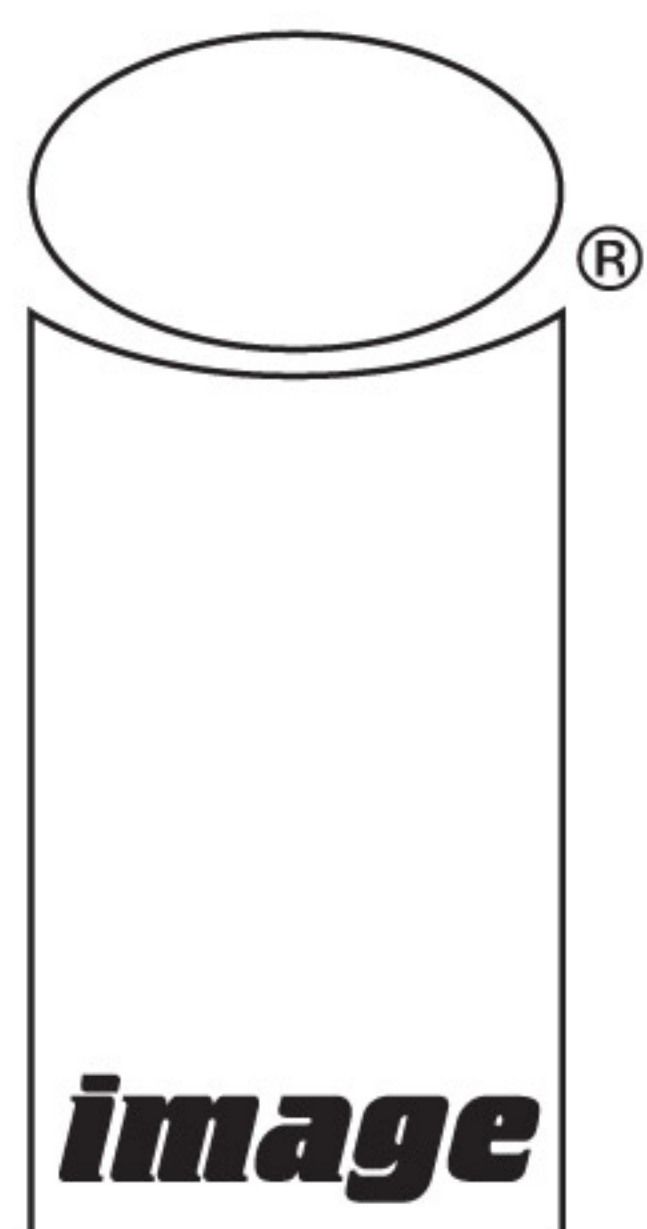


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volume one *Family*

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FAMILY
CHAPTER ONE

"CATALOGUE OF TRAUMA,
AS FOLLOWS:



"BULLET ONE: VENTRAL-DORSAL
TRAVERSE, ENTERING EIGHTH
INTERSPACE ON RISING
TRAJECTORY...

"...ROUND **FRAGMENTED**,
COMPOUNDING FRACTURE OF
THE RIB AT PENETRATION SIGHT.

"ROUND EXITED FOURTH
INTERSPACE, RIGHT DORSAL.



"BULLETS TWO AND
THREE FOLLOWING
SIMILAR TRAJECTORY...



"...WITH THE SECOND PUNCTURING
THE RIGHT **LUNG**, AND THE THIRD AN
INTRACLAVICULAR PENETRATION WITH
CORRESPONDING SCAPULAR EXIT.



"RESULT:
FULL HYPOVOLEMIC
DECOMPENSATION
WITH CORRESPONDING
RESPIRATORY COLLAPSE
DUE TO IMPAIRED
LUNG FUNCTION AND
INADEQUATE
PERFUSION...



"...OR, ACCORDING TO TELEMETRY, DOWN AND DYING.



"NOW, THE QUESTION:

"HOW LONG WERE YOU OUT?"



"I'M...NOT SURE..."

"...A MINUTE?"



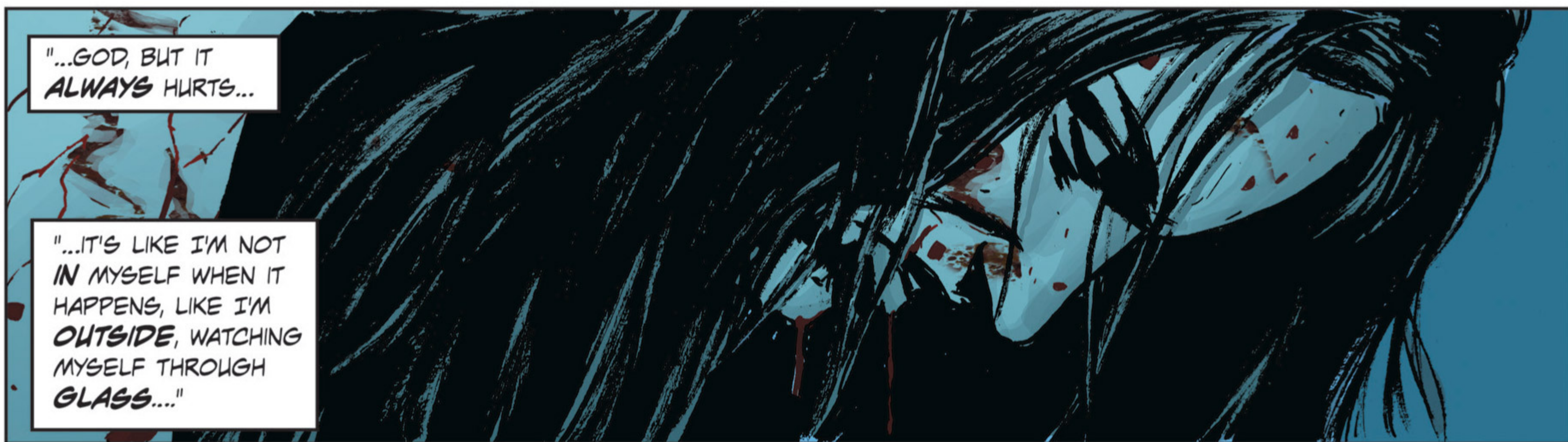
"MAYBE TWO?"





"I GET **DISORIENTED**, YOU KNOW THAT..."

"...AND IT **HURTS**..."



"...GOD, BUT IT **ALWAYS HURTS**..."

"...IT'S LIKE I'M NOT **IN MYSELF** WHEN IT HAPPENS, LIKE I'M **OUTSIDE**, WATCHING MYSELF THROUGH **GLASS**..."



"INTERESTING. POSSIBLY A RESULT OF THE **ENDORPHIN DUMP** INTERACTING WITH THE **FIGHT-OR-FLIGHT** IPS RELEASE.

"ALL RIGHT, WHAT HAPPENED **NEXT**?"

"YOU **KNOW** WHAT HAPPENED NEXT, JAMES."



"I WANT TO HEAR IT FROM **YOU**, EVE..."

"...I'M ASKING YOU WHAT YOU **DID**, WHAT YOU **FELT**."



"I... I DON'T LIKE TALKING ABOUT IT. I DON'T **WANT** TO TALK ABOUT IT..."

"...PLEASE, JAMES? DON'T **MAKE** ME TALK ABOUT IT."



"THAT'S **NOT** A CHOICE, I'M AFRAID.

"I HAVE TO KNOW..."







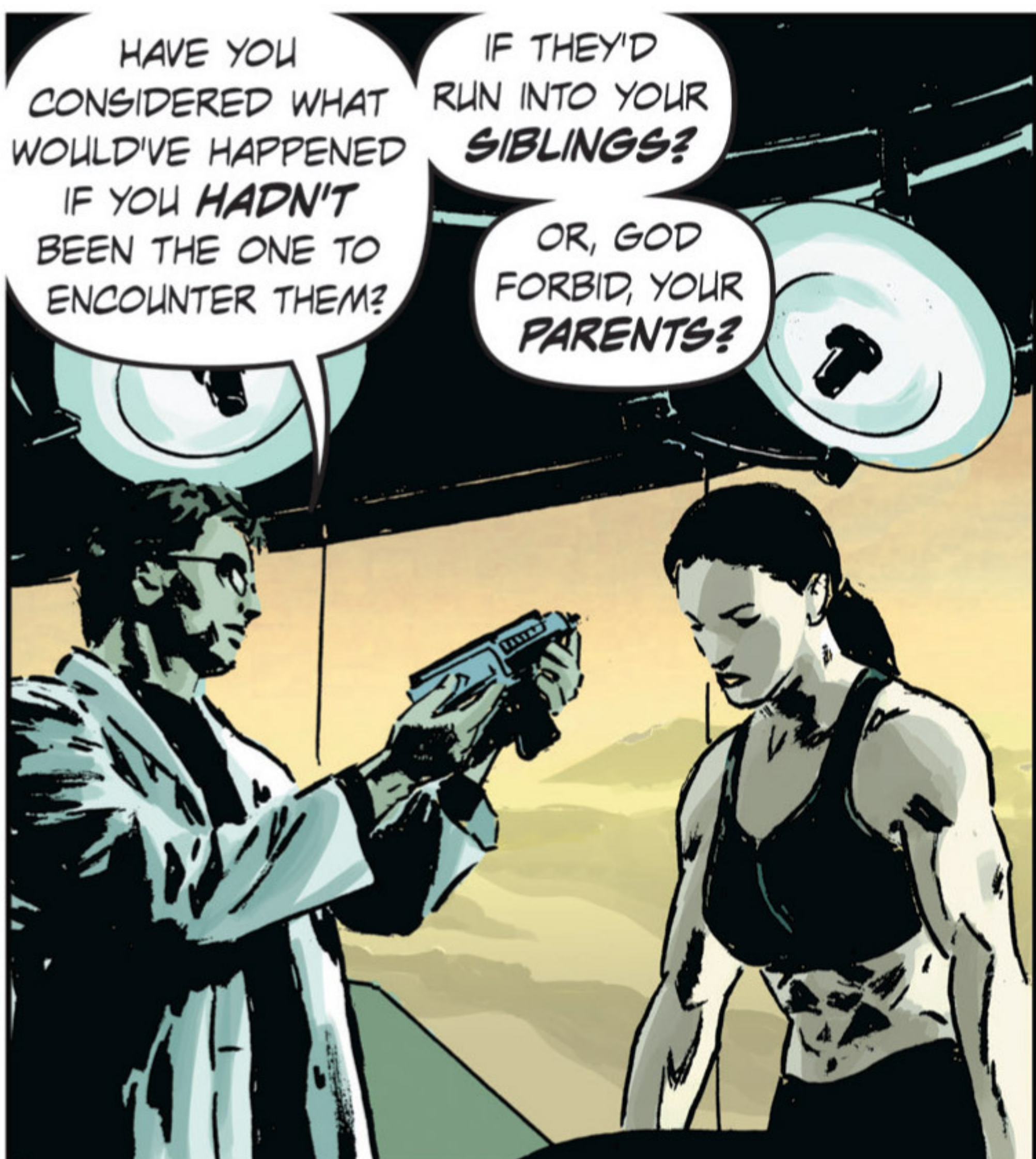
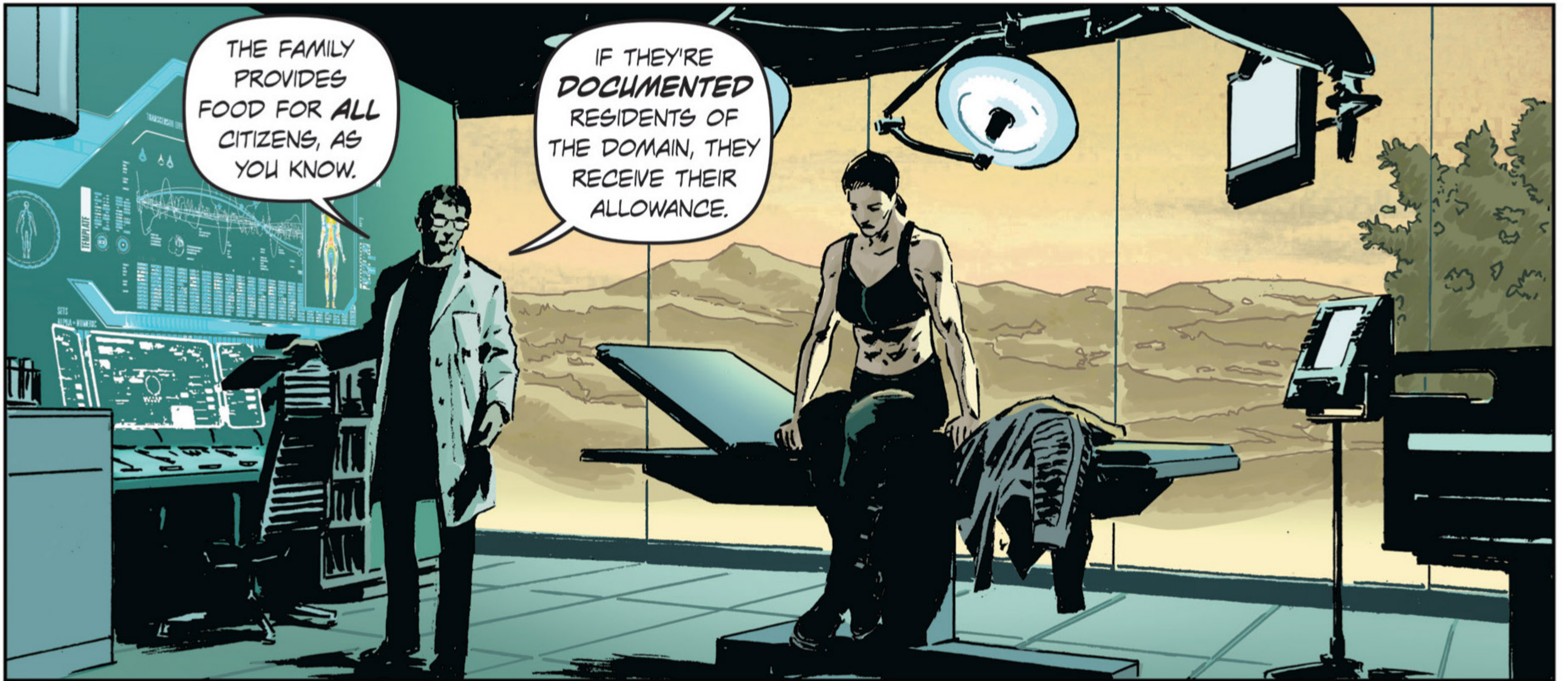
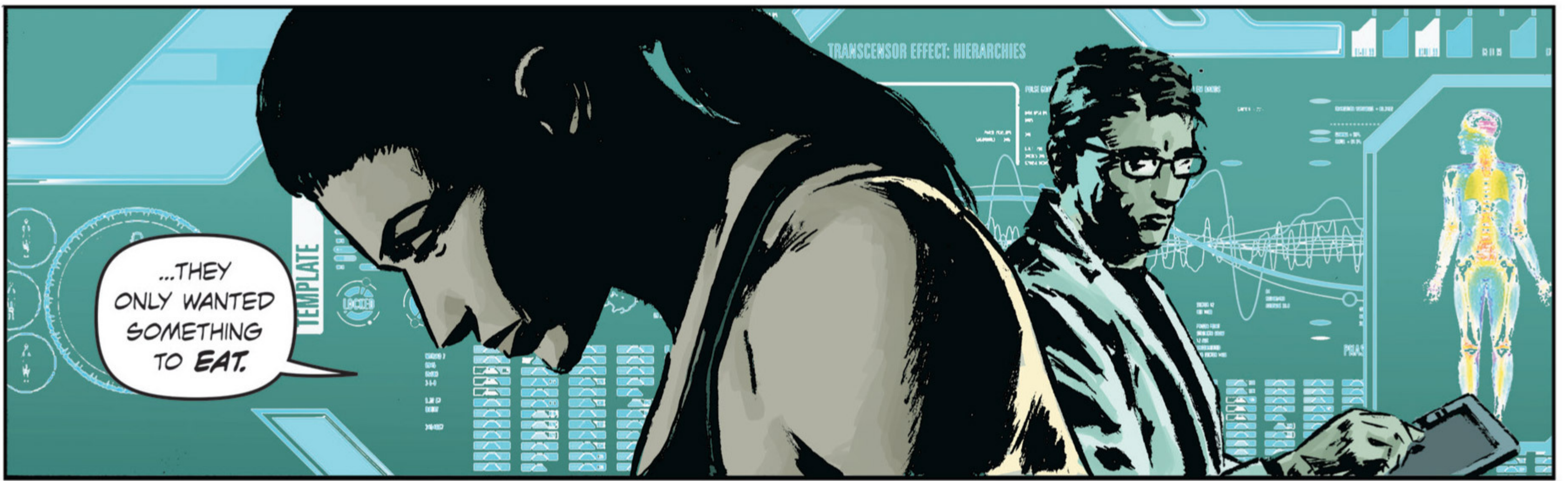


"I KILLED THEM, JAMES."



"I KILLED ALL
THREE OF THEM..."







YOU CAN PUT YOUR SHIRT ON.

JAMES?

HMM?

DOES EVERYONE FEEL LIKE THIS?

WHEN THEY HAVE TO KILL SOMEONE, I MEAN?



I MEAN, THIS IS NORMAL, RIGHT?

TO FEEL LIKE THIS?



NO, EVE. THEY DON'T.

DON'T LET IT WORRY YOU, I'LL GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO HELP WITH IT.



WE HAVE TO FOLLOW-UP ON THE PLATELET THERAPY AFTER YOU AND JONAH FINISH UP AT HARVEST ONE.

I'LL GIVE YOU SOMETHING THEN, ALL RIGHT?



YOU WON'T TELL THEM WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT, WILL YOU, JAMES?

FATHER OR JONAH OR ANYONE?

OF COURSE NOT.



I WOULD NEVER BETRAY YOUR CONFIDENCE, I PROMISE YOU.

Central California -
The San Joaquin Valley

Facility: Harvest One
Family: Carlyle

Population [Family]:
2 (temporary)

Population [Serf]: 512

Population [Waste]:
32,500 (estimated)

...PHYSICALLY
SHE'S FINE, A
FULL RECOVERY,
PRECISELY AS
DESIGNED...

...IT'S HER
EMOTIONAL
STATE THAT
I'M WORRIED
ABOUT...

...SHE'S
ASKING SOME
PROBLEMATIC
QUESTIONS.

AGAIN?

YOU WERE
SUPPOSED TO
TAKE CARE
OF THAT,
JAMES.

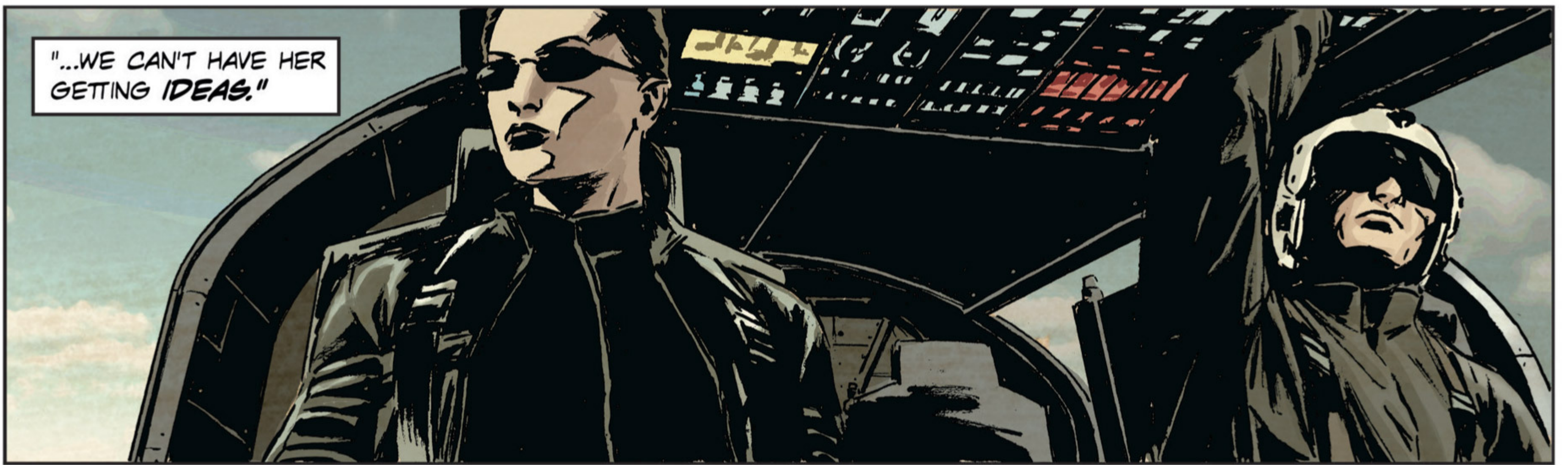
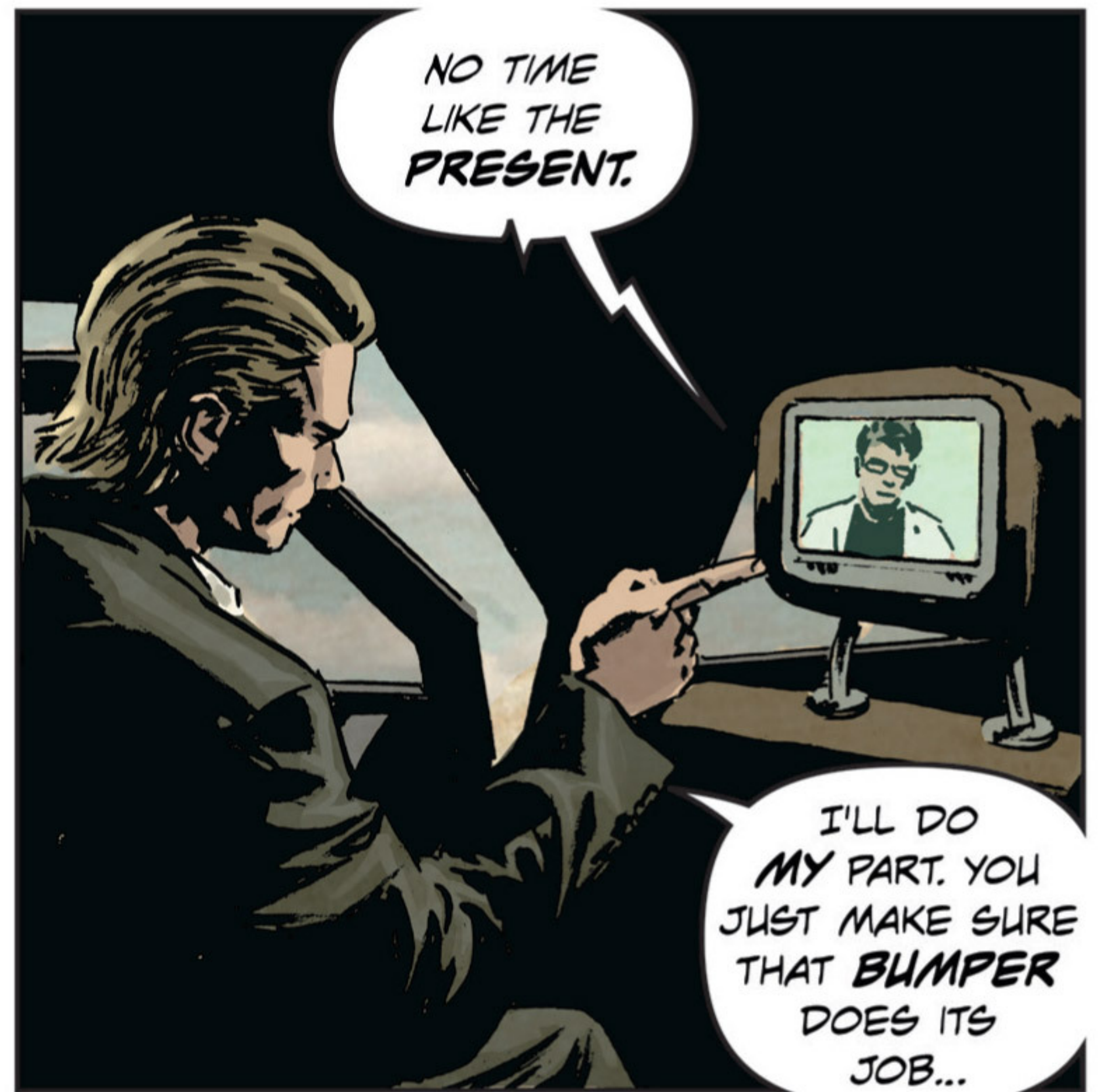
I'M INCLUDING
ANOTHER
OXYTOCIN BUMPER
WITH THE BLOOD-
SPIN...

...BUT IT
NEEDS TO BE
REINFORCED
THIS TIME,
JONAH.

IT WON'T
WORK IF THERE'S
NO ONE FOR HER
TO BOND WITH.

SHOW
HER SOME
LOVE, YOU
MEAN.

EXACTLY.





I HEARD ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AT THE **GUEST HOUSE**.

THANK **GOD** YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!



I'M FINE. I'M **SO SORRY** I'M LATE, JONAH...

...I HAD TO GO UP TO SEQUOIA TO SEE JAMES FOR **TREATMENT**.

I TRIED TO EXPLAIN YOU **NEEDED** ME HERE--



SHH, FOREVER, SHH, NONE OF THAT...



...I'M JUST **GLAD** YOU'RE OKAY.



YOU'RE SURE YOU'RE UP TO THIS?

I GO WHERE MY FAMILY **NEEDS** ME.



THAT'S MY **SISTER**.

"MISS CARLYLE - COMMANDER - I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE **ALL** RIGHT."

"THANK YOU, SERGEANT ORIOSO. YOUR REPORT, IF YOU PLEASE?"

"YES, MA'AM."

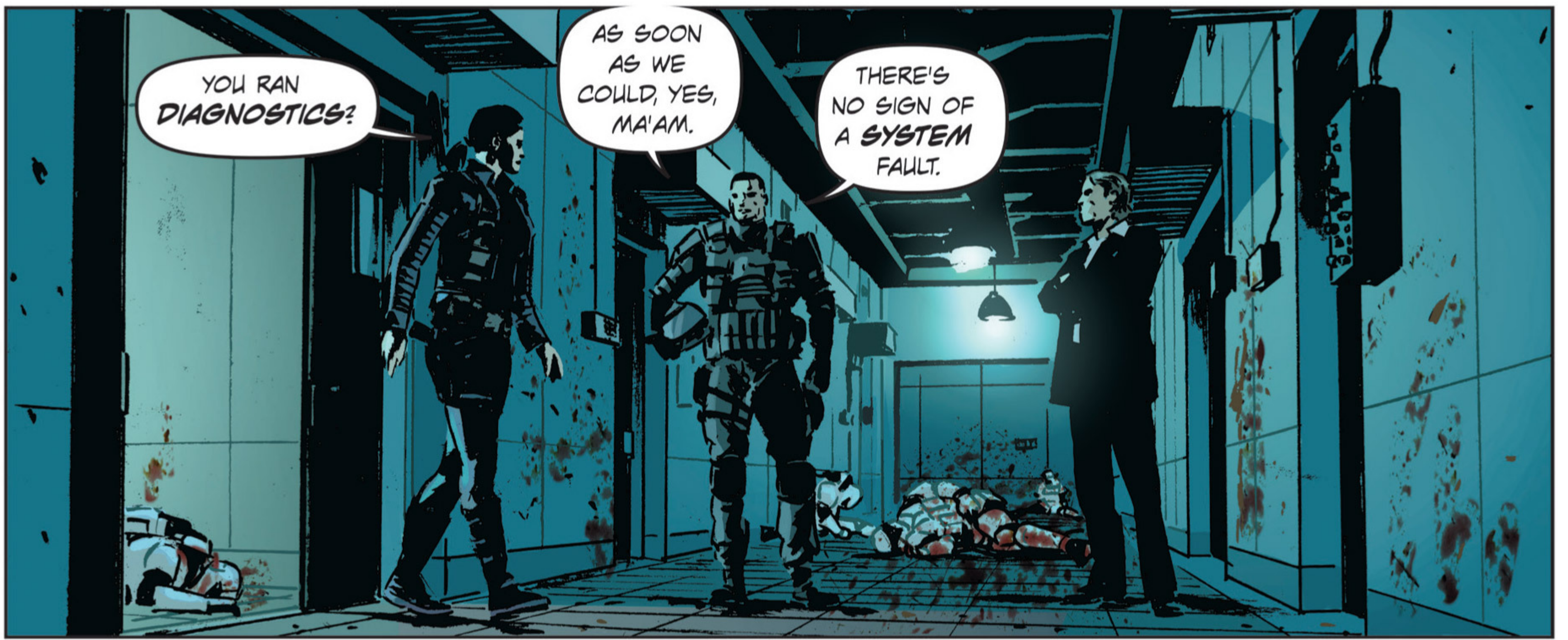
"AT OH-THREE-TWENTY-TWO THIS MORNING, MORRAY FAMILY FORCES LAUNCHED AN ASSAULT ON THIS FACILITY."

"WE HAD **NO** WARNING, NOTHING PRIOR ON **RADAR** OR **THERMAL**. NO IDEA HOW THEY GOT SO CLOSE TO THE WALLS **UNDETECTED**."

"THE **ENTIRE** GRID WENT **DARK** DURING THE ATTACK, THE WHOLE SECURITY NETWORK SIMPLY **COLLAPSED**..."

"...THEY PUSHED **STRAIGHT** FOR THE COLD STORAGE, STRAIGHT FOR THE **SEED VAULTS**."

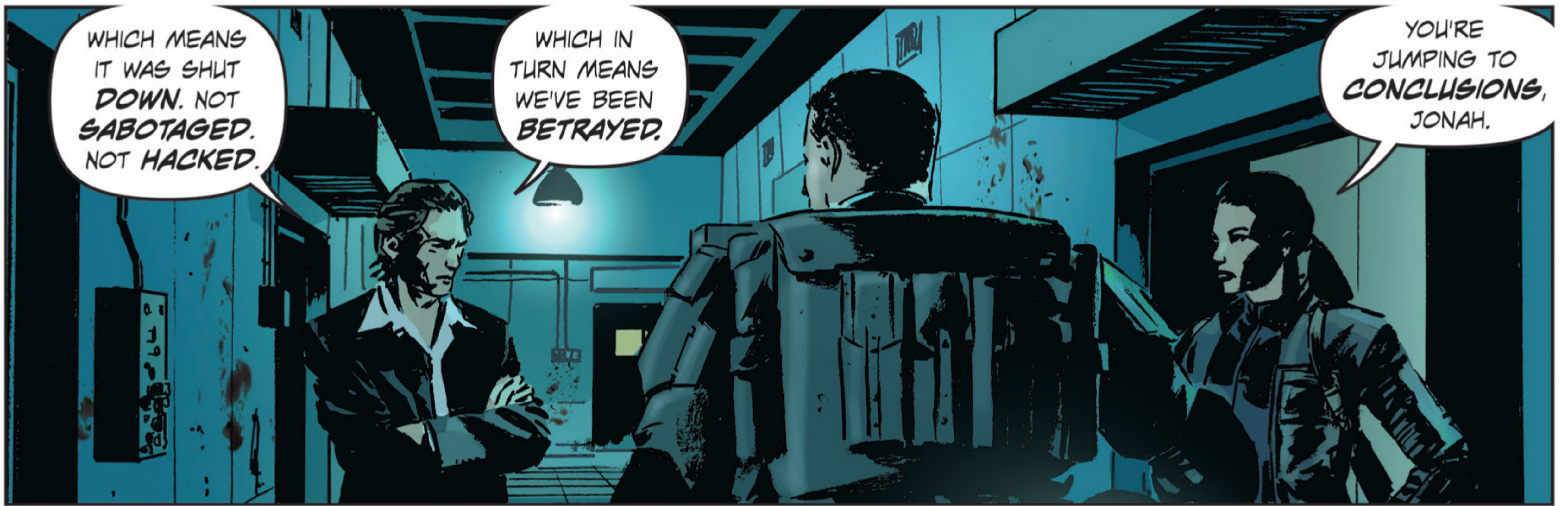
"WE BARELY STOPPED THEM IN **TIME**."



YOU RAN
DIAGNOSTICS?

AS SOON
AS WE
COULD, YES,
MA'AM.

THERE'S
NO SIGN OF
A **SYSTEM**
FAULT.



WHICH MEANS
IT WAS SHUT
DOWN. NOT
SABOTAGED.
NOT **HACKED**.

WHICH IN
TURN MEANS
WE'VE BEEN
BETRAYED.

YOU'RE
JUMPING TO
CONCLUSIONS,
JONAH.



MA'AM, FOR-
GIVE ME FOR
ASKING THIS, BUT
WE **HEARD** ABOUT
WHAT HAPPENED
TO YOU...

...DO YOU
THINK THE
ASSAULT
ON YOU--

I DON'T. I
WAS ATTACKED
BY WASTE, **NOT**
SOLDIERS.



WE'RE
POSITIVE
IT WAS
MORRAY?

WE
TOOK ONE
ALIVE.

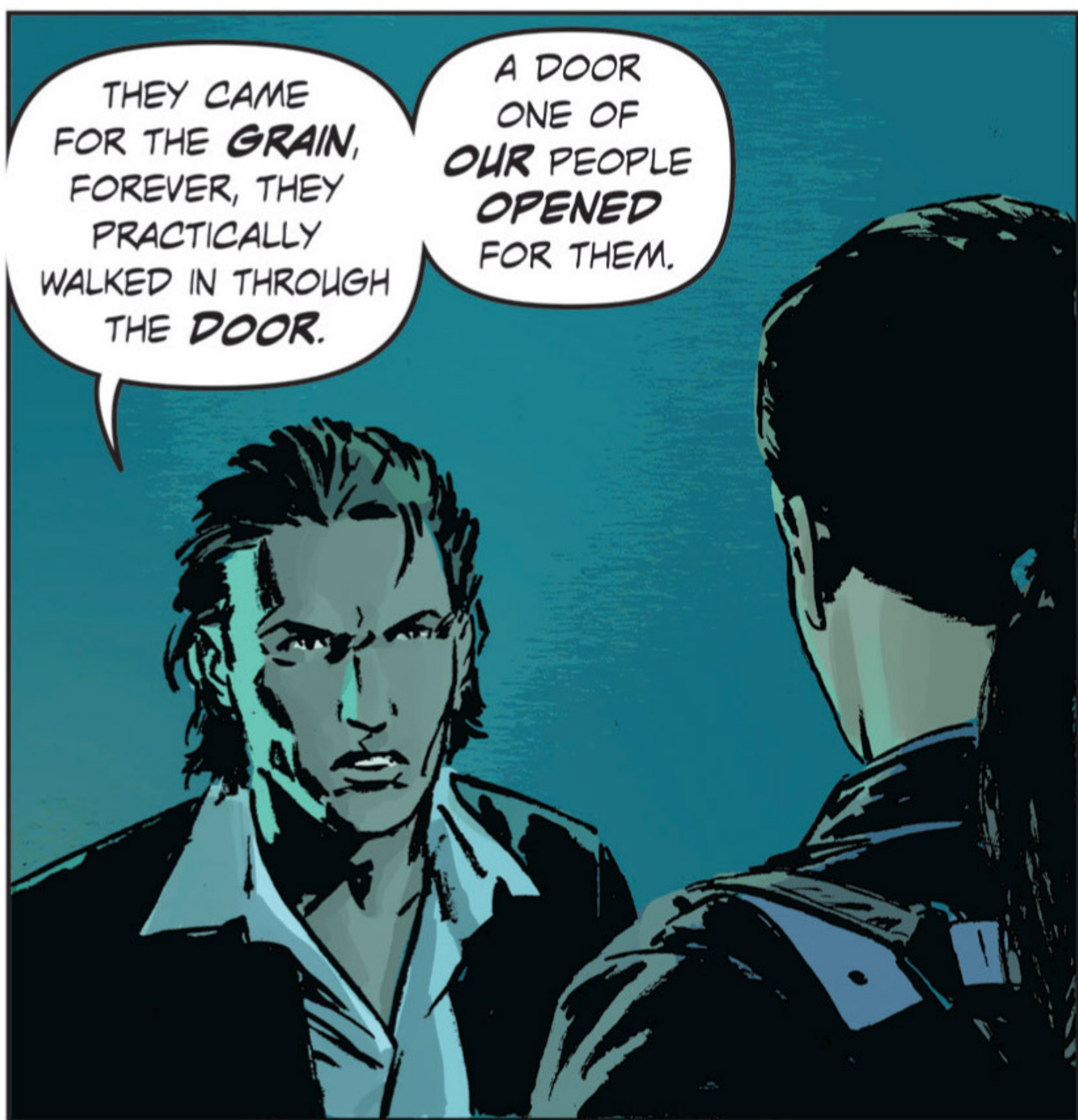


I WANT
TO TALK
TO HIM.

HER,
ACTUALLY,
AND YOU
CAN'T.



SHE DIDN'T
SURVIVE
INTERROGATION.



THEY CAME FOR THE **GRAIN**, FOREVER, THEY PRACTICALLY WALKED IN THROUGH THE **DOOR**.

A **DOOR** ONE OF **OUR** PEOPLE **OPENED** FOR THEM.



THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO COULD'VE OPENED THE **VAULT** ARE **SENIOR** TECHNICAL STAFF.

OR ONE OF **US**.

YOU'RE NOT **SERIOUSLY** ACCUSING ONE OF OUR **FAMILY**?



OF COURSE NOT! I JUST DON'T WANT TO **JUMP** TO ANY **CONCLUSIONS**--

WE HAVE BEEN **BETRAYED**, FOREVER!



AND YOU KNOW WHAT **FATHER** WOULD **DEMAND** OF YOU IF HE WAS **HERE**.

WE HAVE TO SEND A **MESSAGE**.



YOUR SOLDIERS **DIED** HERE.

YOU KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE TO **DO**. YOU KNOW WHAT'S **EXPECTED** OF YOU.



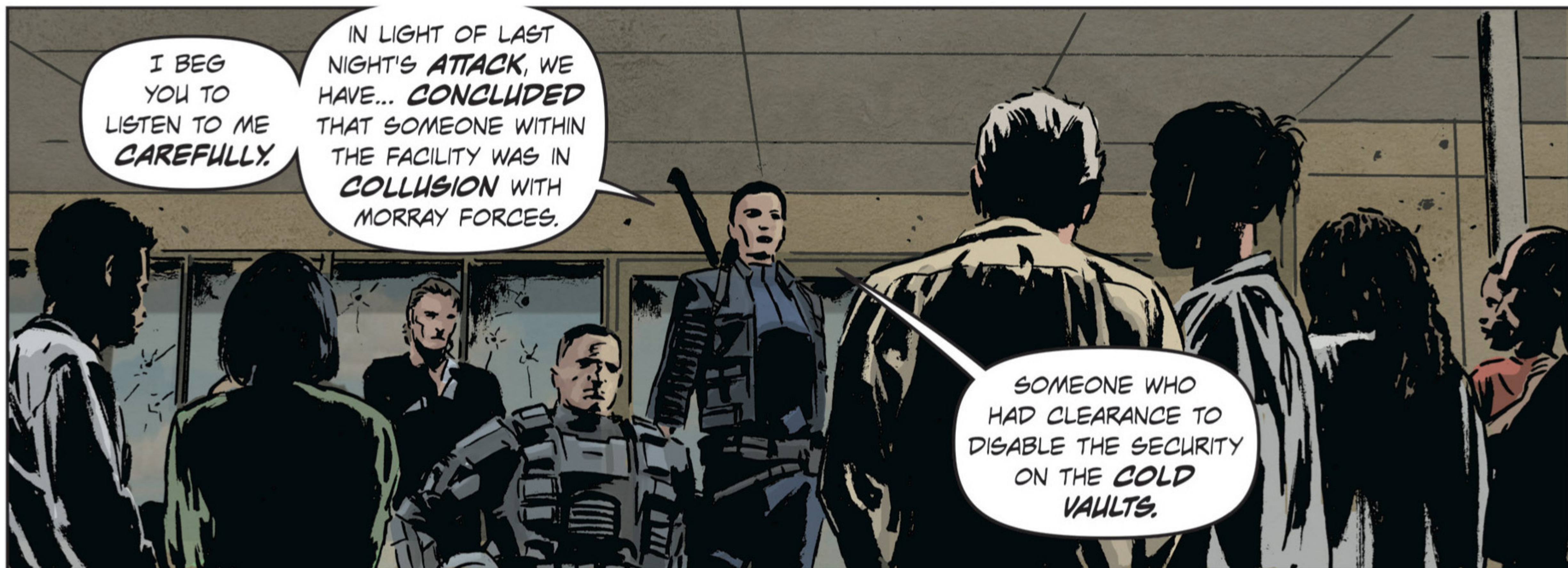
SERGEANT **ORIOSO**, PLEASE ASSEMBLE THE **SENIOR** TECHNICAL STAFF IN THE **COURTYARD**...



"...AS WELL AS THEIR **FAMILIES**..."

ALL PRESENT AND ACCOUNTED FOR, MA'AM.

THANK YOU, SERGEANT.



I BEG YOU TO LISTEN TO ME **CAREFULLY**.

IN LIGHT OF LAST NIGHT'S **ATTACK**, WE HAVE... **CONCLUDED** THAT SOMEONE WITHIN THE FACILITY WAS IN **COLLUSION** WITH MORRAY FORCES.

SOMEONE WHO HAD CLEARANCE TO DISABLE THE SECURITY ON THE **COLD VAULTS**.



ONE OF YOU.



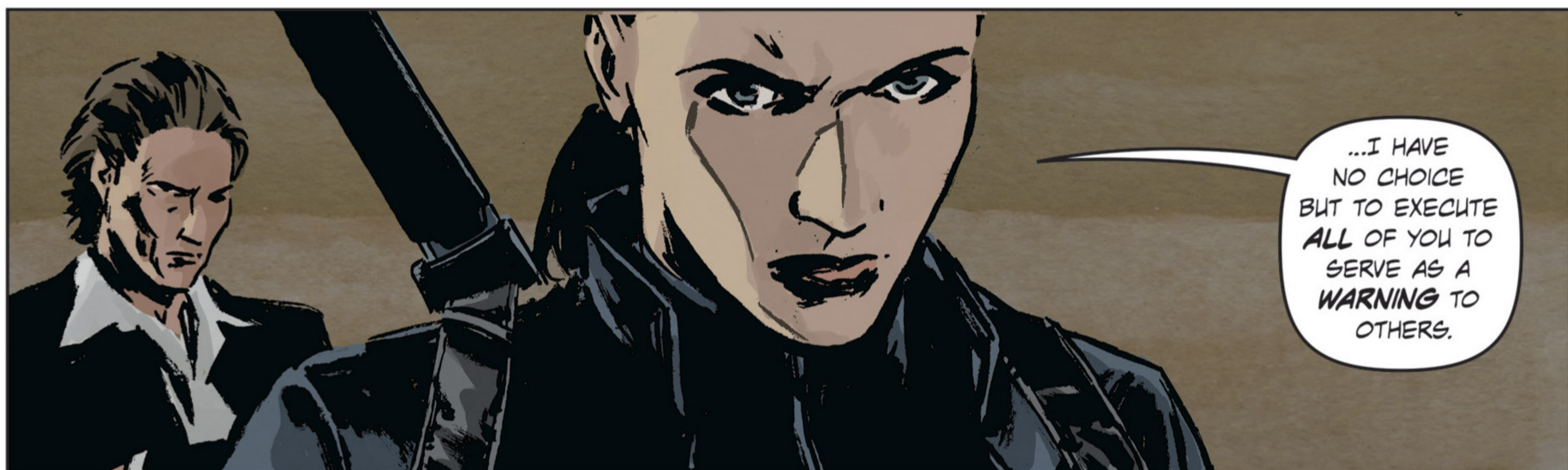
MY FATHER'S POLICY REGARDING **BETRAYAL** IS UNEQUIVOCAL ON THIS MATTER, AS YOU KNOW.

HE REQUIRES AN **EXAMPLE** MUST BE MADE.

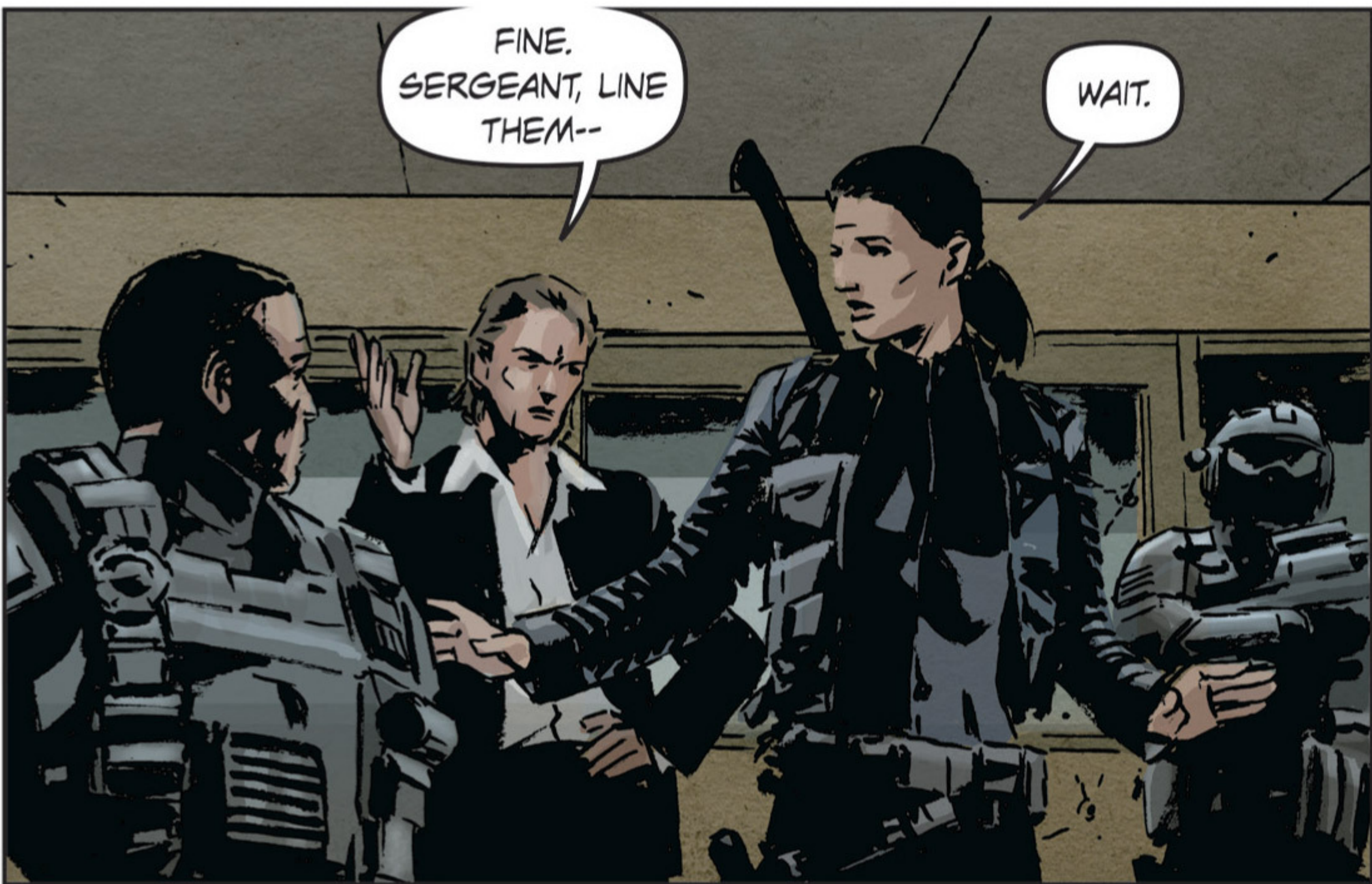


A **CONFESSION** WILL SPARE YOUR **FAMILIES** AND YOUR **COLLEAGUES**.

BUT IF NO ONE CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS... ACT OF **TREASON**...



...I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO EXECUTE **ALL** OF YOU TO SERVE AS A **WARNING** TO OTHERS.





I DID IT,
YOU UNDER-
STAND? IT
WAS ME.

YOU'VE DONE
THE **RIGHT**
THING IN COMING
FORWARD.

FOREVER...



...YOU
KNOW WHAT
TO DO.

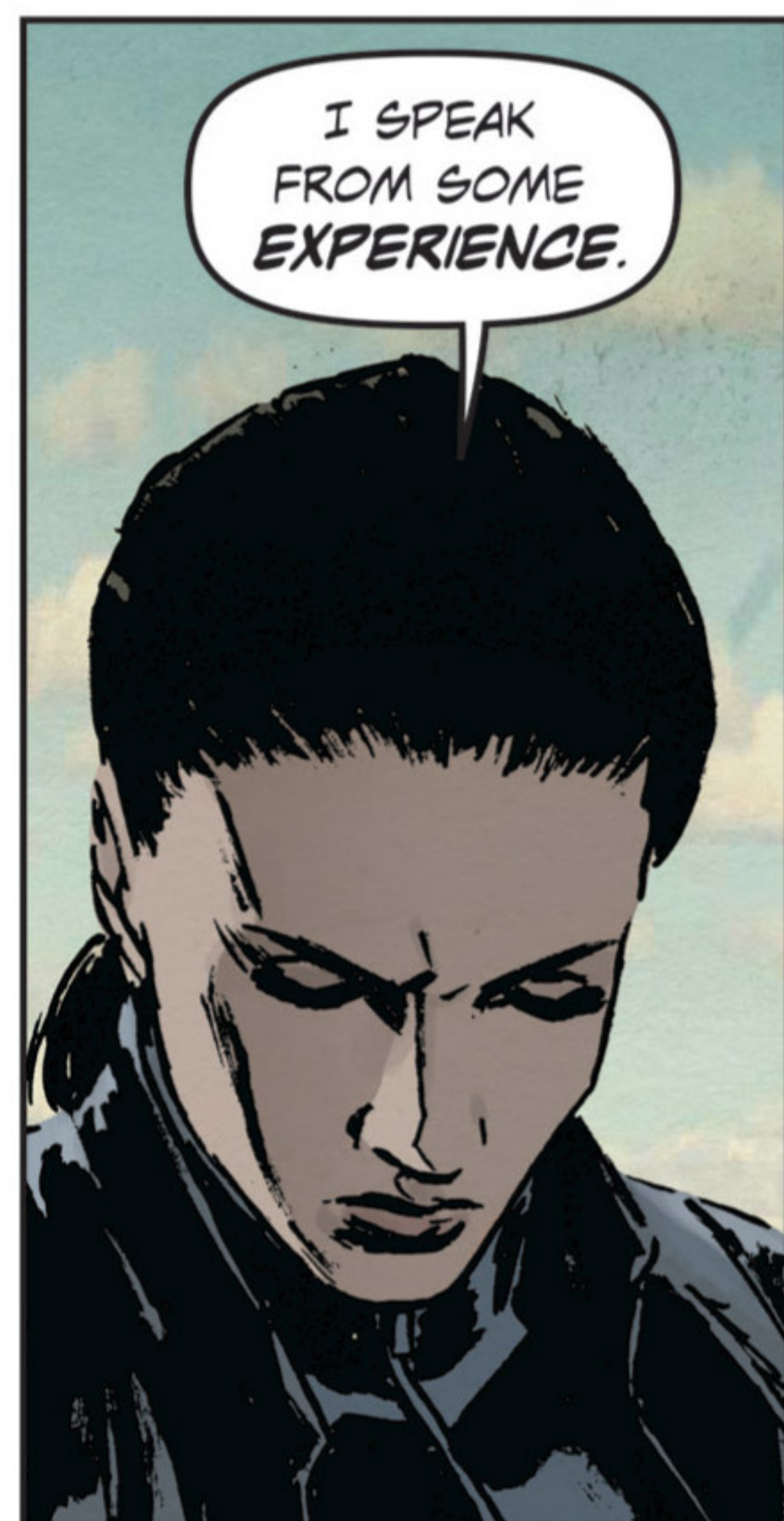


ONE IN
THE BACK OF
THE **HEAD**, I
THINK...



...QUICK AND
PAINLESS. OR
SO I HEAR.

I'M
SORRY, IT
ISN'T.



I SPEAK
FROM SOME
EXPERIENCE.



SO IT'S **TRUE** WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT YOU? FOREVER CARLYLE? THE LAZARUS?

I THINK YOU'RE **LYING**, SIR.

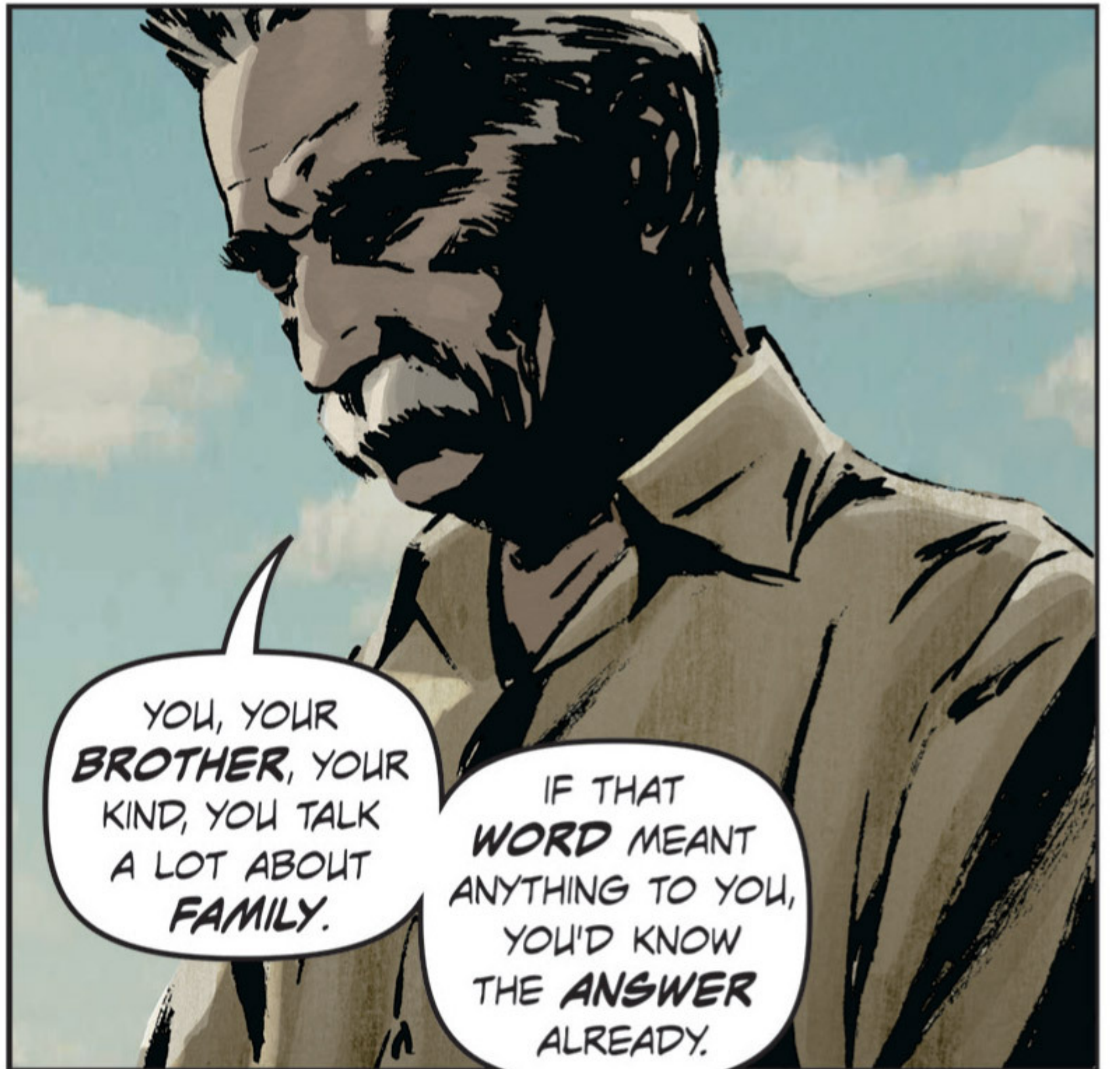
WELL, THEN, I SUPPOSE YOU **WOULD**, AT THAT.

DOES IT **MATTER**?



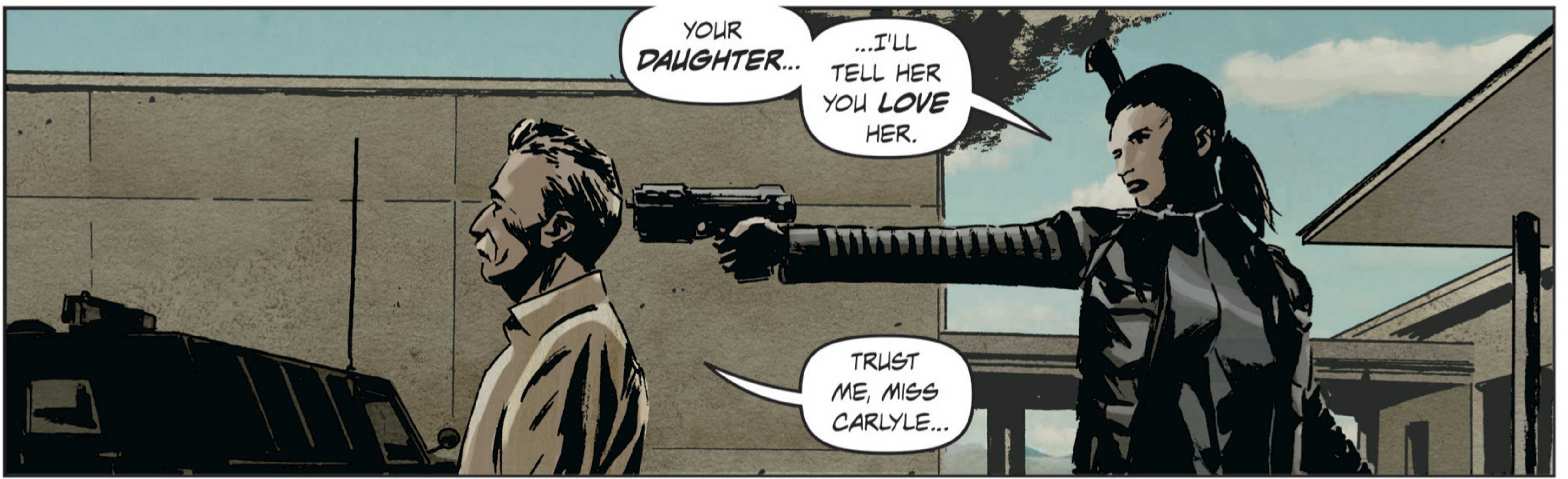
OF COURSE IT **MATTERS**! IT **MATTERS** IF YOU'RE **INNOCENT**! IT **MATTERS** IF THERE'S STILL A **TRAITOR** IN OUR HOUSE!

WHY WOULD YOU THROW YOUR LIFE **AWAY**?



YOU, YOUR **BROTHER**, YOUR KIND, YOU TALK A LOT ABOUT **FAMILY**.

IF THAT **WORD** MEANT ANYTHING TO YOU, YOU'D KNOW THE **ANSWER** ALREADY.



YOUR **DAUGHTER**...

...I'LL TELL HER YOU **LOVE** HER.

TRUST ME, MISS **CARLYLE**...



...SHE **KNOWS**.



...THERE WE GO, DONE...



...YOU'LL HAVE SOME **TINGLING** FOR THE NEXT HOUR OR SO, NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.



I HEARD ABOUT THE... **UNPLEASANTNESS** AT HARVEST ONE.

YOU DID WHAT YOU HAD TO DO FOR YOUR FAMILY, YOU KNOW THAT, OF COURSE.

BUT IN LIGHT OF OUR TALK THIS MORNING, I HAVE TO ASK, EVE...



...HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

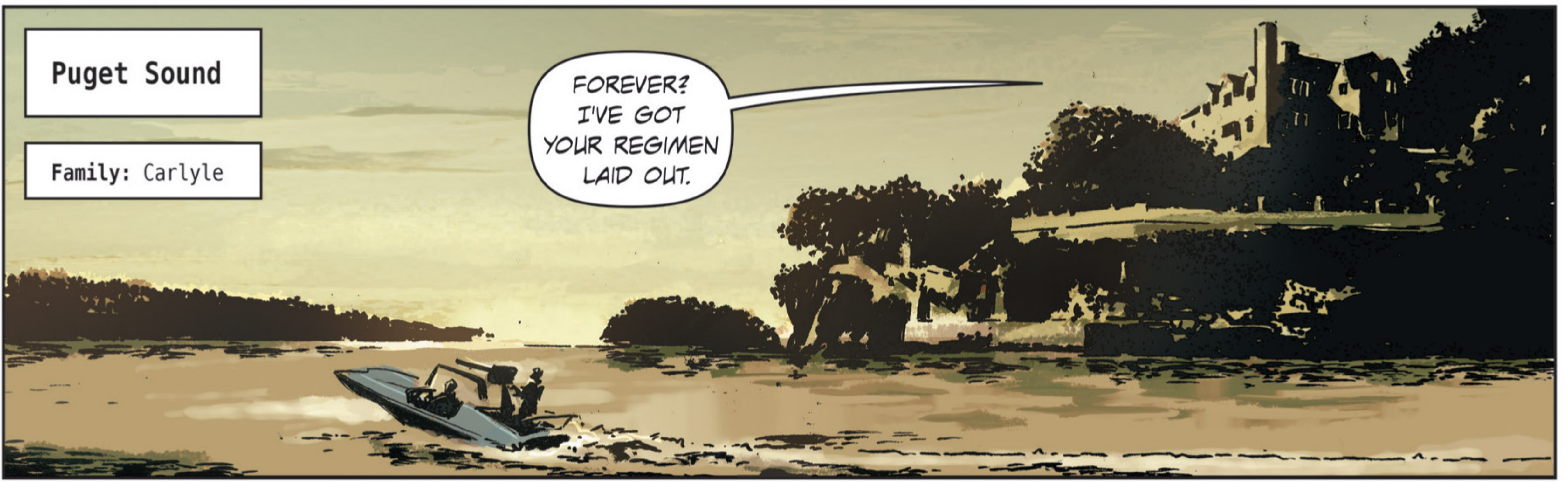
FINE, JAMES...



...I FEEL FINE...



FAMILY
CHAPTER TWO



Puget Sound

Family: Carlyle

FOREVER?
I'VE GOT
YOUR REGIMEN
LAID OUT.



Population [Family]: 6
(2 permanent)

I'LL
TAKE THEM
LATER.

NO...



...YOU'LL
TAKE THEM
NOW, LITTLE
SISTER.

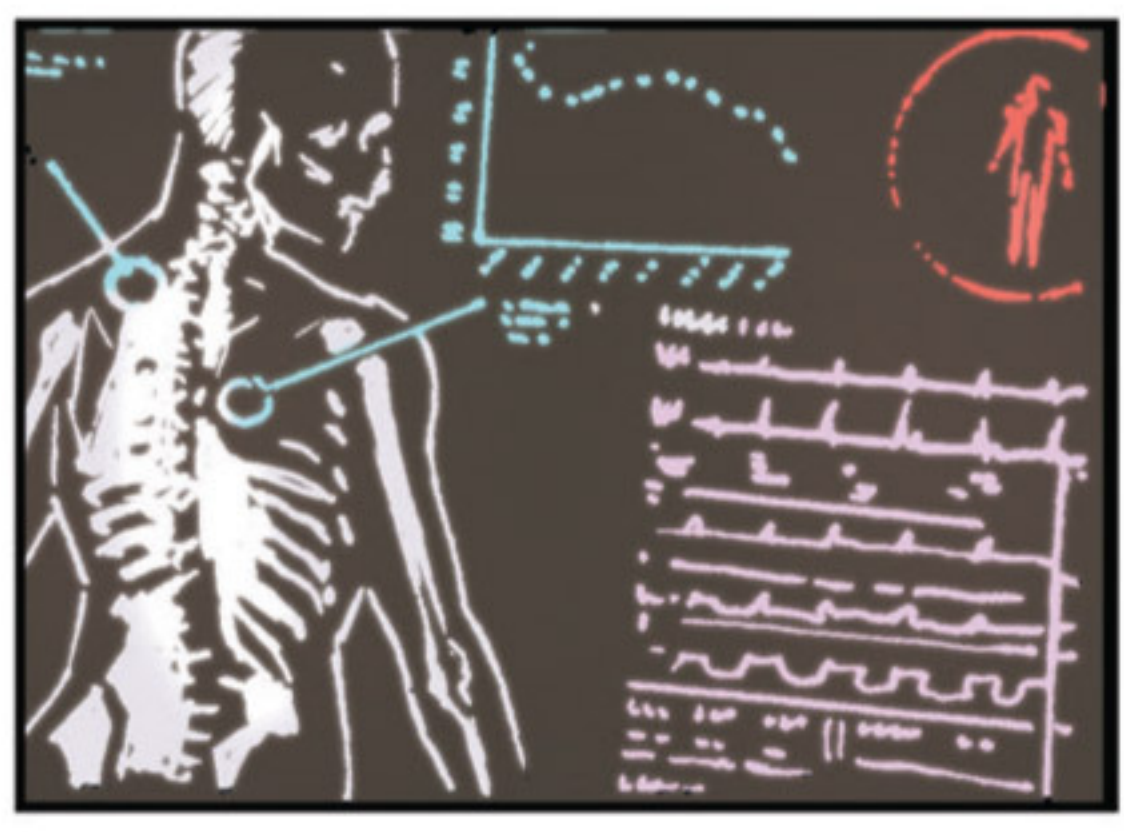
WHAT HAVE
JAMES AND I
TOLD YOU ABOUT
MESSING WITH YOUR
MAINTENANCE
SCHEDULE?

I HATE
IT WHEN
YOU CALL IT
THAT...



...MAKES
ME FEEL LIKE A
MACHINE.

COME
HERE, LET'S
TAKE A LOOK
AT YOU.



NO RESIDUAL PAIN?

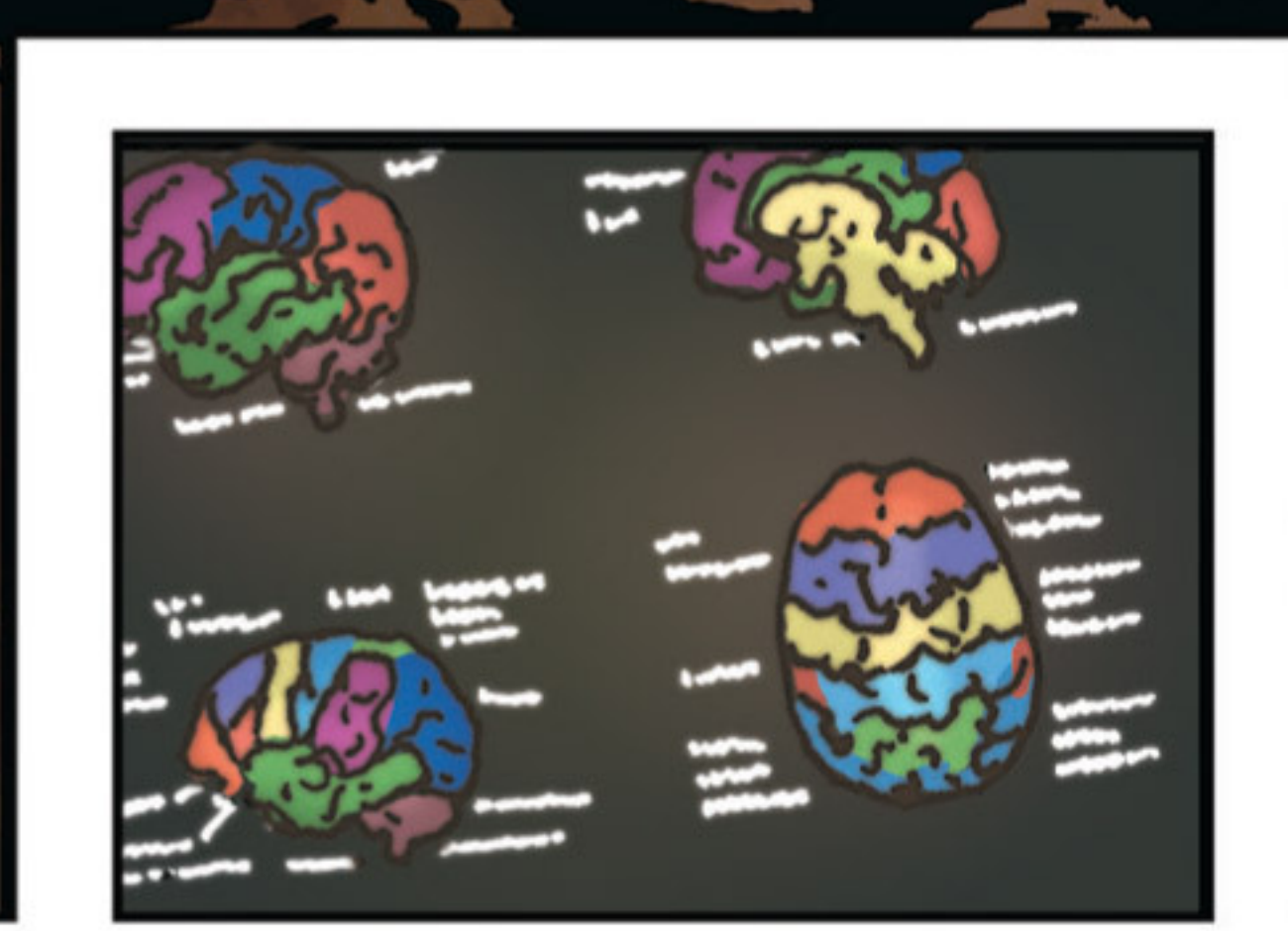
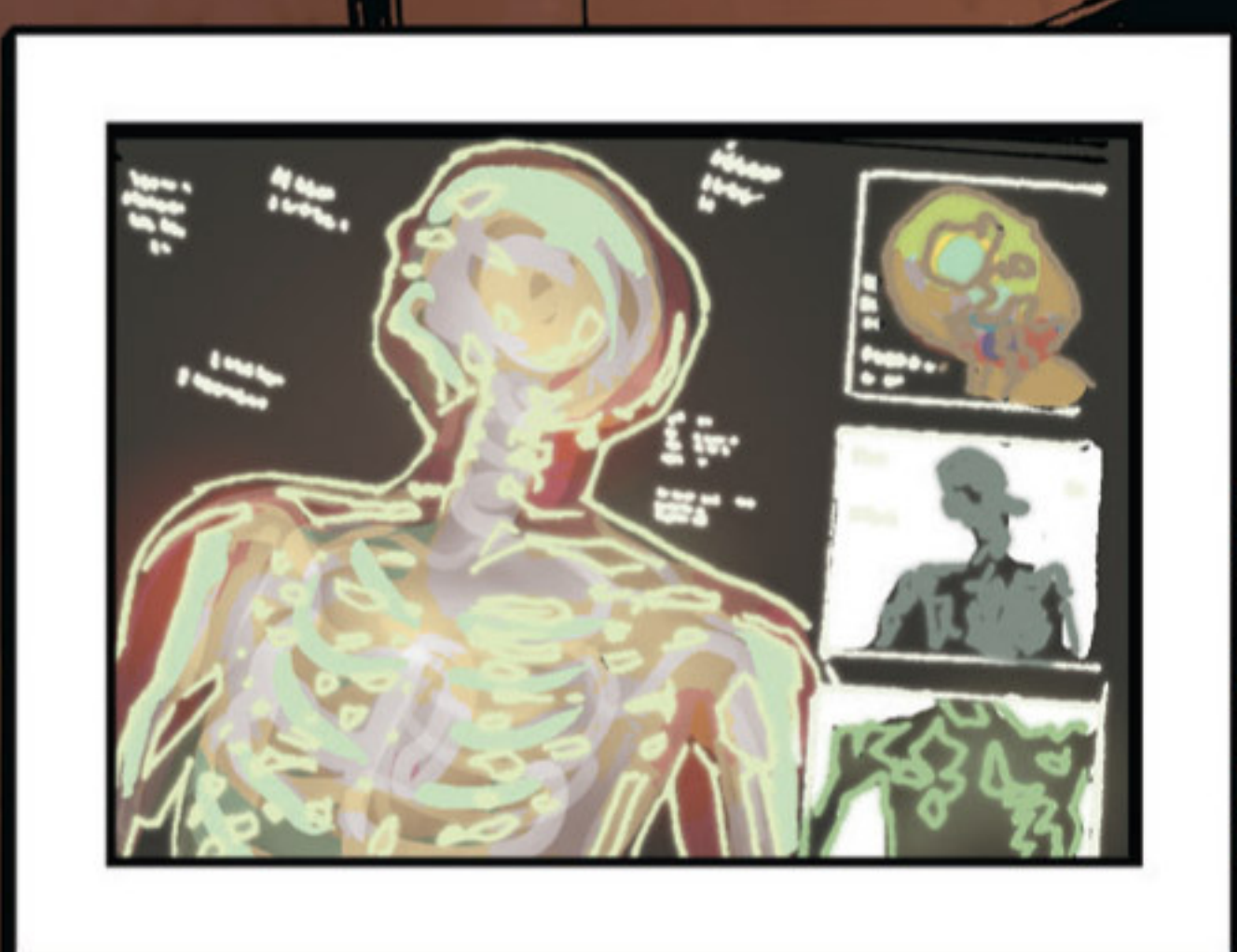
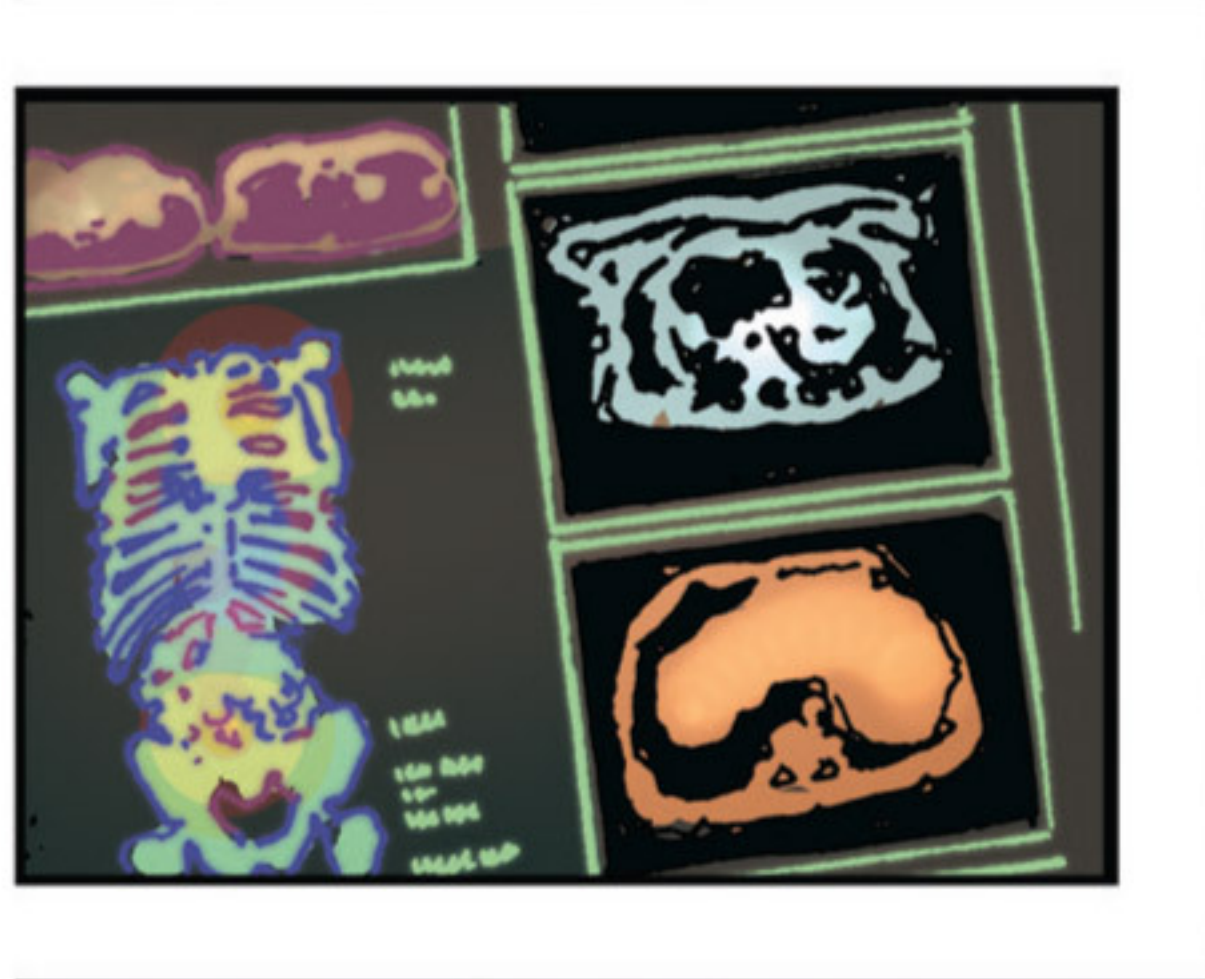
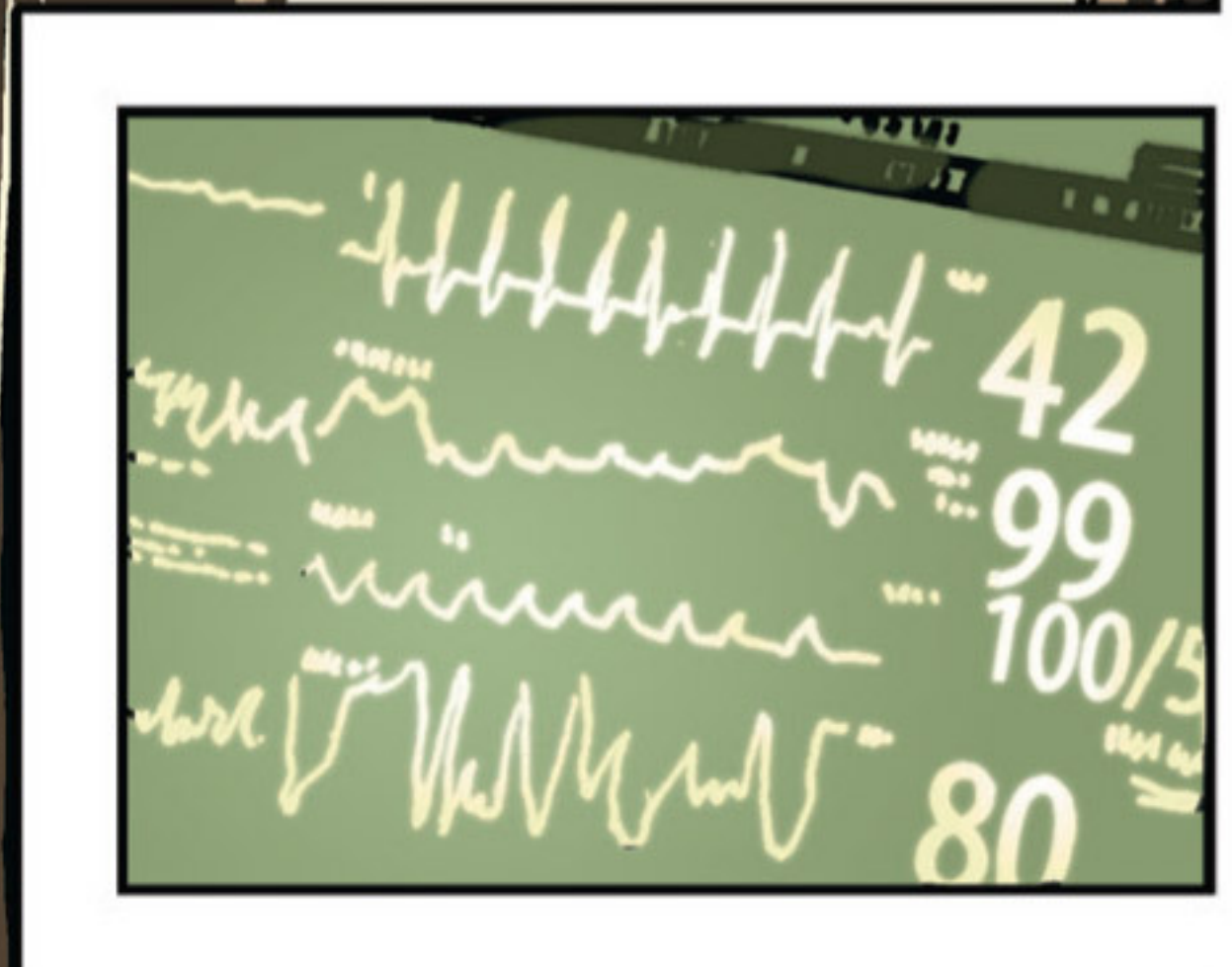
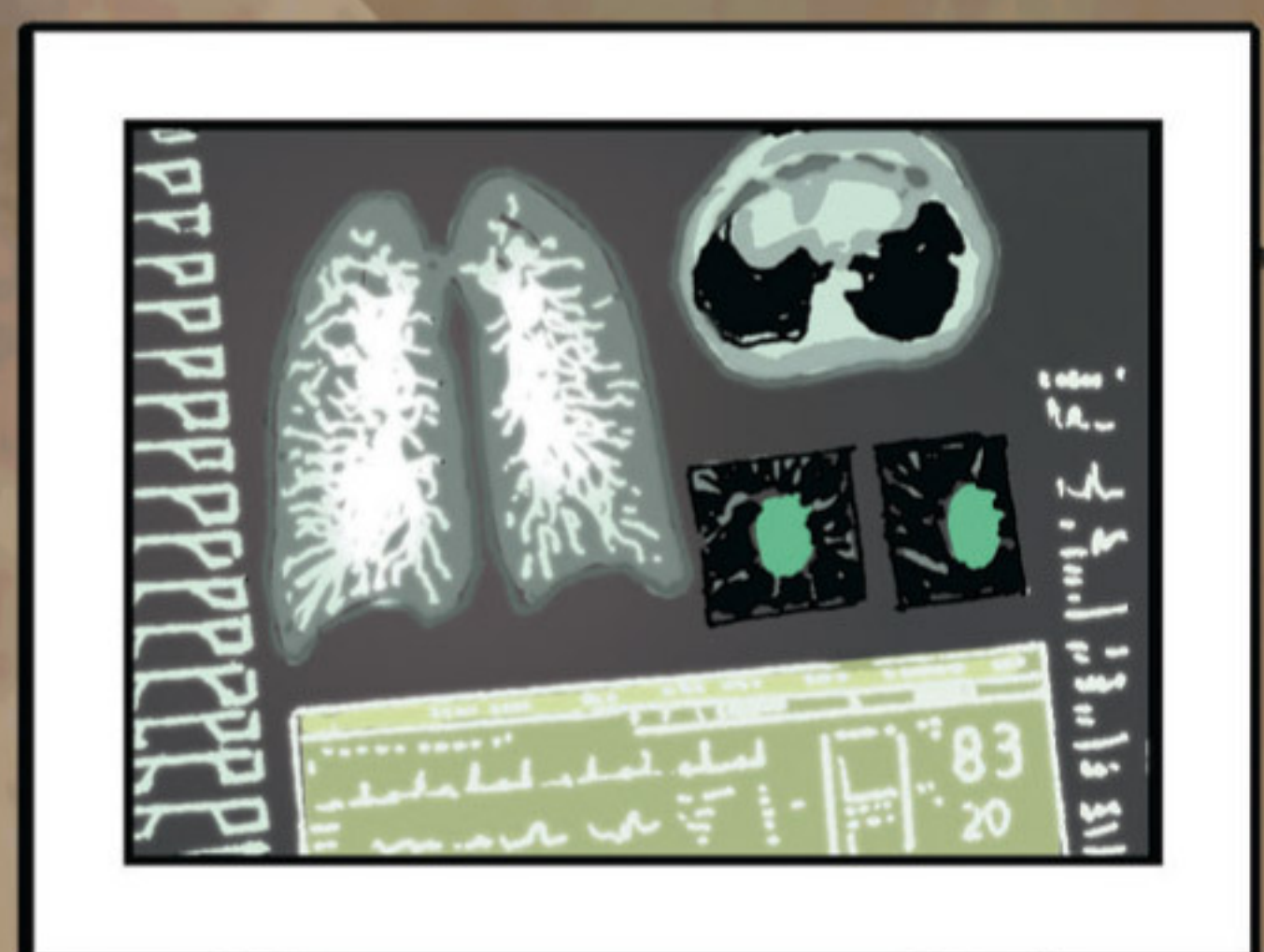
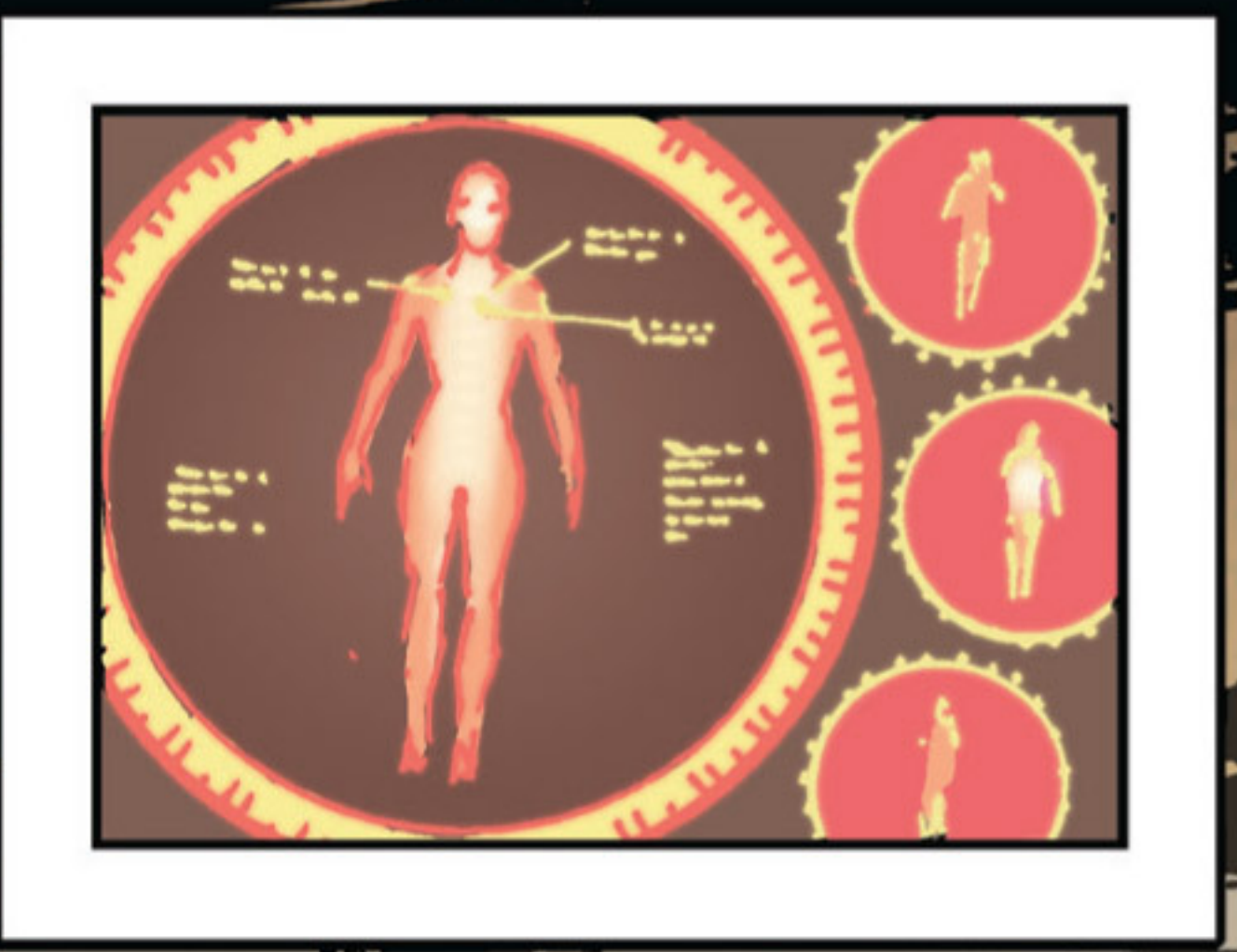
NO, BETH.

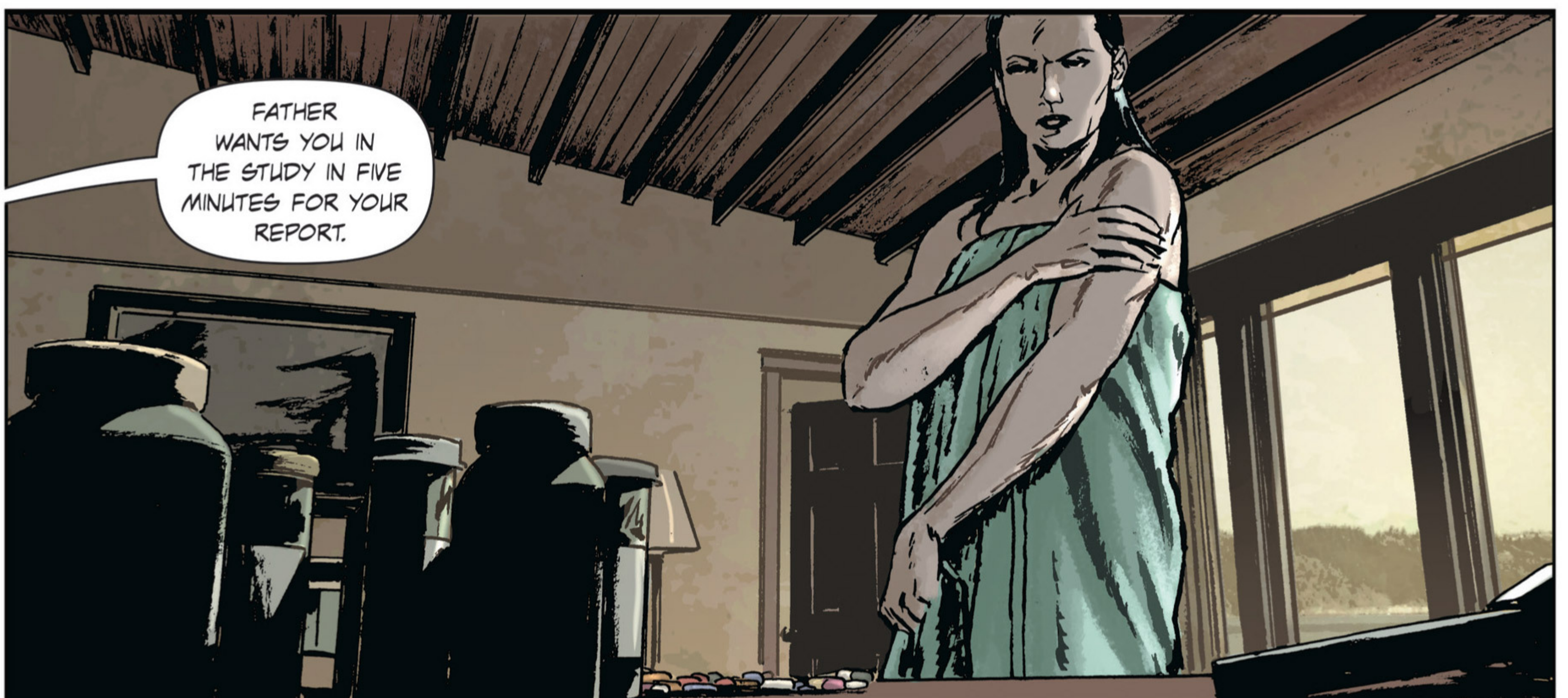
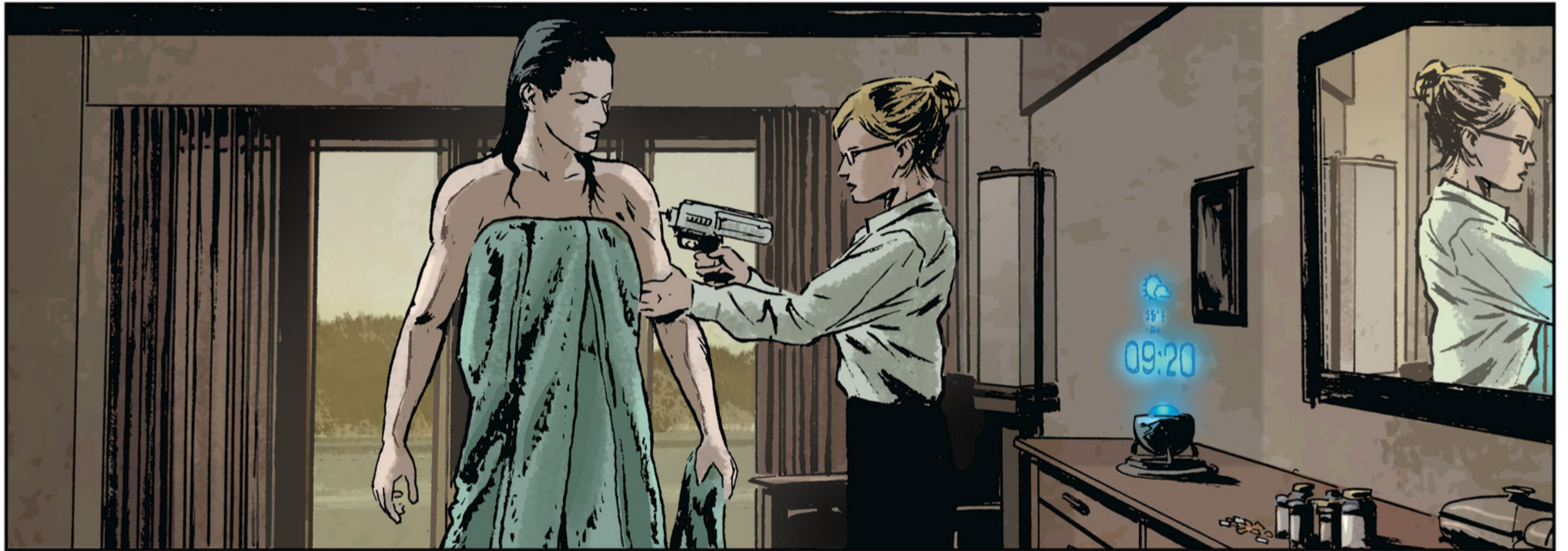
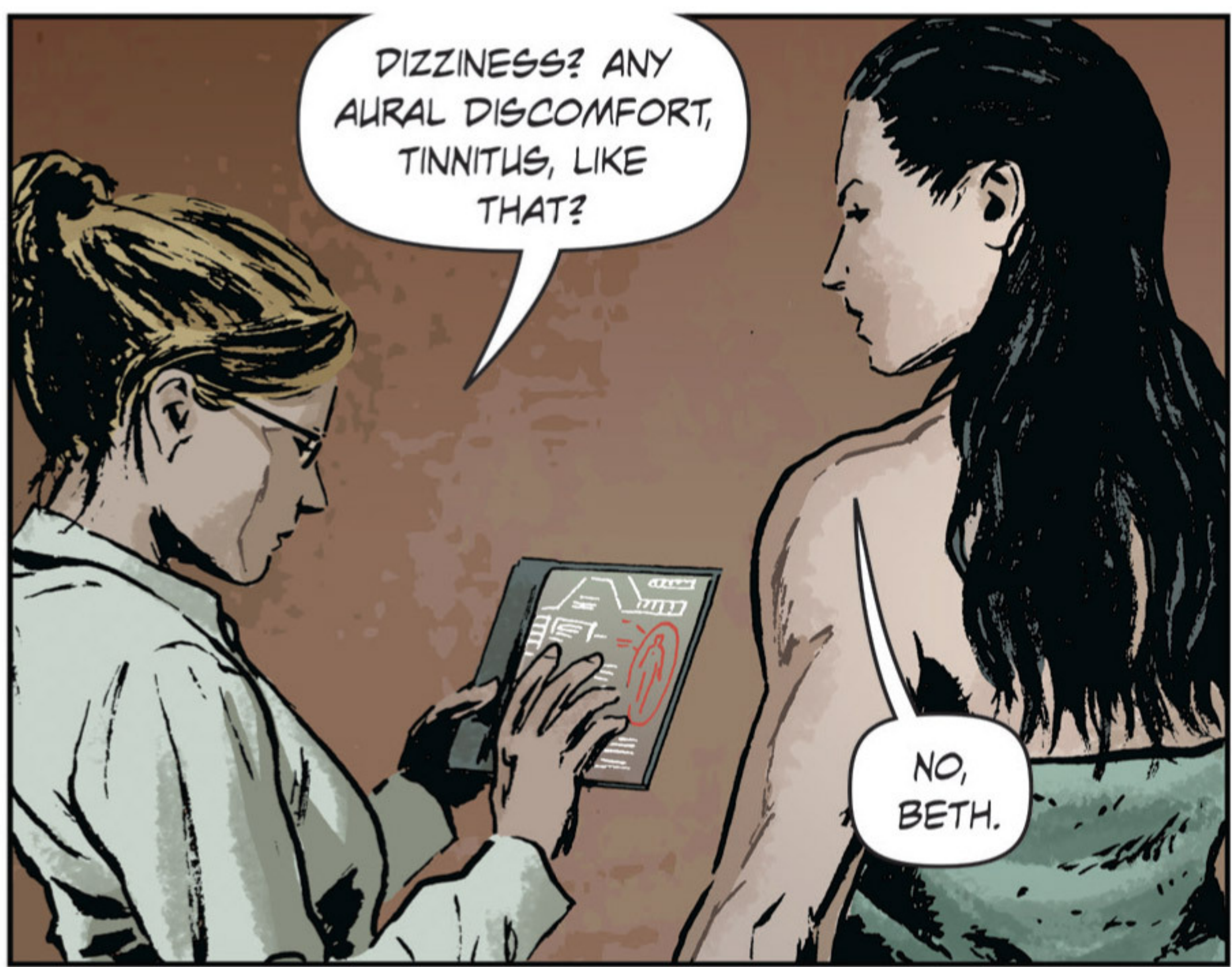
PROBLEMS BREATHING? SORENESS?

NO, BETH.

PAIN IN MOTION?

NO, BETH.







THERE'S NOTHING TO DISCUSS, STEPHEN!



MORRAY ATTACKED US, IN OUR TERRITORY!

WE'RE ALREADY AT WAR WITH THEM, WHETHER FATHER WANTS TO ACKNOWLEDGE IT OR NOT!

WE'LL SEE WHAT HE SAYS.



YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE A THOUGHT IN YOUR HEAD YOU HAVEN'T RUN PAST THE OLD MAN FIRST, DO YOU, STEVE?



FUCK YOU, JONAH.

YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU AND JOHANNA ARE UP TO IN L.A.?

AND I MEAN EVERYTHING YOU TWO ARE UP TO?

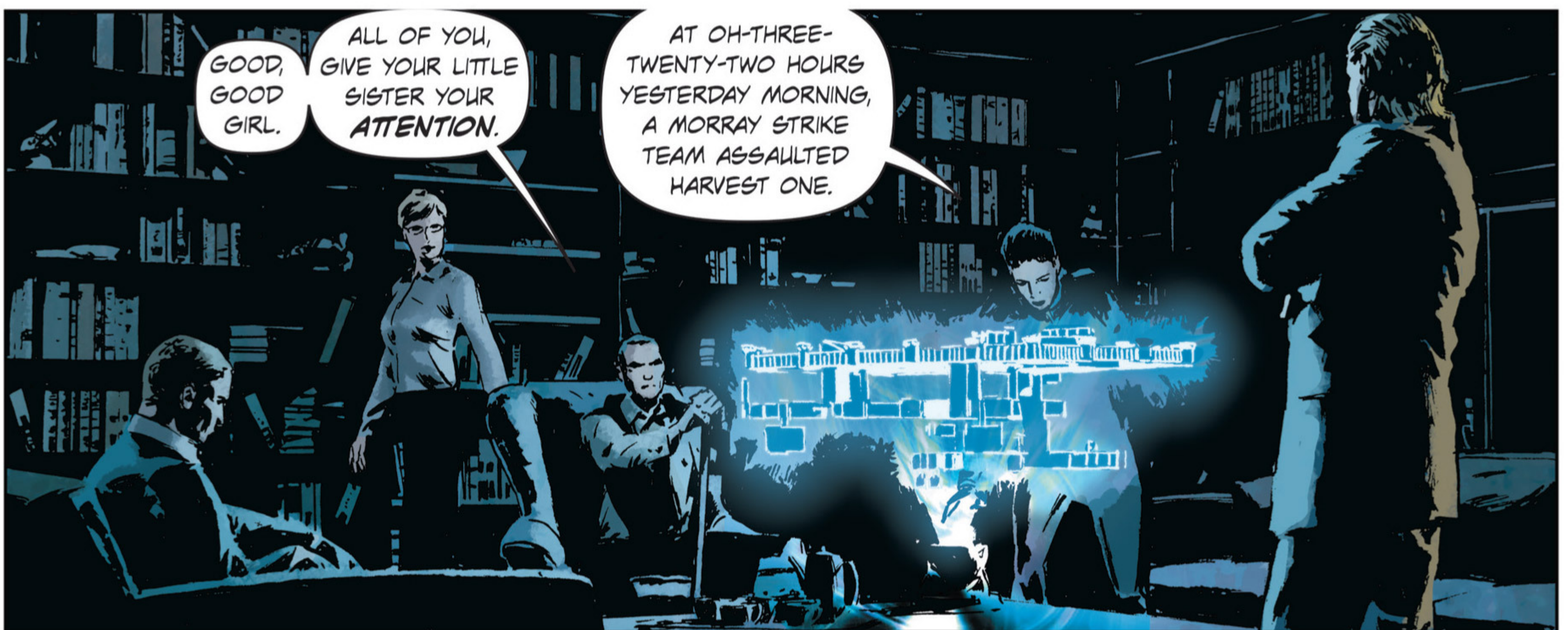
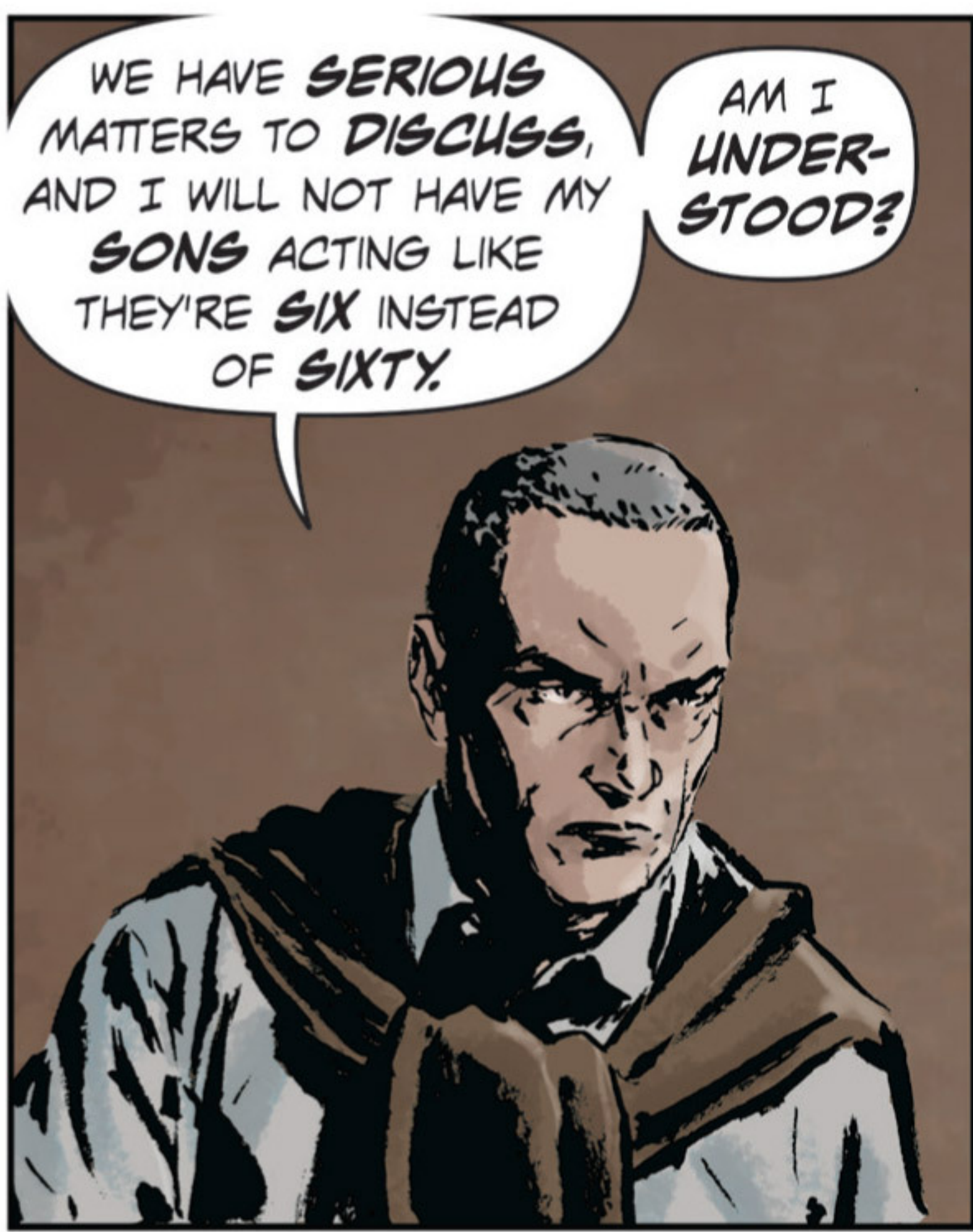


YOU SAY ANOTHER WORD AND I WILL BREAK YOUR FUCKING NECK--

THAT'S ENOUGH.



I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S ABOUT, AND I DON'T CARE.





THEY EVADED EARLY-WARNING SYSTEMS AND **BREACHED** THE COMPOUND BEFORE AN ALARM COULD BE RAISED.

SERGEANT ORIOSO MUSTERED A DEFENSE AND REPELLED THE ASSAULT. THEIR OBJECTIVE WAS THE SEED VAULTS.



CARLYLE LOSSES--
OUR LOSSES--
WERE...

...THEY WERE...



...SUBSTANTIAL....



PLEASE CONTINUE, FOREVER.

YES, SIR.

THIS MAN...



...SAMUEL ROSALES, **CONFESSED** TO DISABLING SECURITY AND CLAIMED HE WAS AN AGENT OF FAMILY MORRAY.



FOLLOWING HIS **EXECUTION** FOR **TREASON**, HIS BELONGINGS WERE CONFISCATED AND THE LODGINGS WHERE HE LIVED WITH HIS **DAUGHTER**, ONE OF THE STAFF RESEARCHERS, **SEARCHED**.



I CAN FIND NO EVIDENCE AS TO HOW HE WAS **RECRUITED** BY MORRAY, NOR HOW HE COMMUNICATED WITH THEM.



THANK YOU, FOREVER. THOUGHTS?

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE DAUGHTER?

CADY ROSALES. BORN EARLY '30S, TESTED IN '42, SCORED HIGH FOR TECHNICAL APTITUDE AND MEAN INTELLIGENCE.



SUBSEQUENTLY LIFTED AND SENT FOR EDUCATION AT STANFORD.

TRAINED IN BIOTECHNOLOGY, SPECIFICALLY AGRICULTURAL GENETICS...

...ASSIGNED TO HARVEST ONE LAST YEAR.

NOTHING ELSE OF NOTE, NO REPRIMANDS, NO CAUTIONS, AND NO INDICATIONS OF SUBVERSIVE LEANINGS.



STANFORD, THAT'S WHY I KNOW THE NAME....



WE BROKE OFF TRADE WITH MORRAY FIVE YEARS AGO, AND THE WORD IS THEIR HARVESTS HAVE **SUFFERED** EVER SINCE, AND THAT THEY'RE HAVING TROUBLE CONTROLLING THEIR WASTE.

IT'S CERTAINLY PLAUSIBLE THEY WOULD GO AFTER OUR SEEDS.

IT'S NOT PLAUSIBLE, STEVE, IT'S CERTAIN!



THEIR SOIL IS **FALLOW**, IT'S **FUCKING DEAD** WITHOUT OUR STRAINS TO GROW IN IT!

LOOK, WE KNOW WHO DID IT, WE KNOW **WHY** THEY DID IT. THE ONLY **QUESTION** IS WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO IN **RESPONSE**.



AND WHAT DO YOU THINK WE **SHOULD** DO, JONAH?



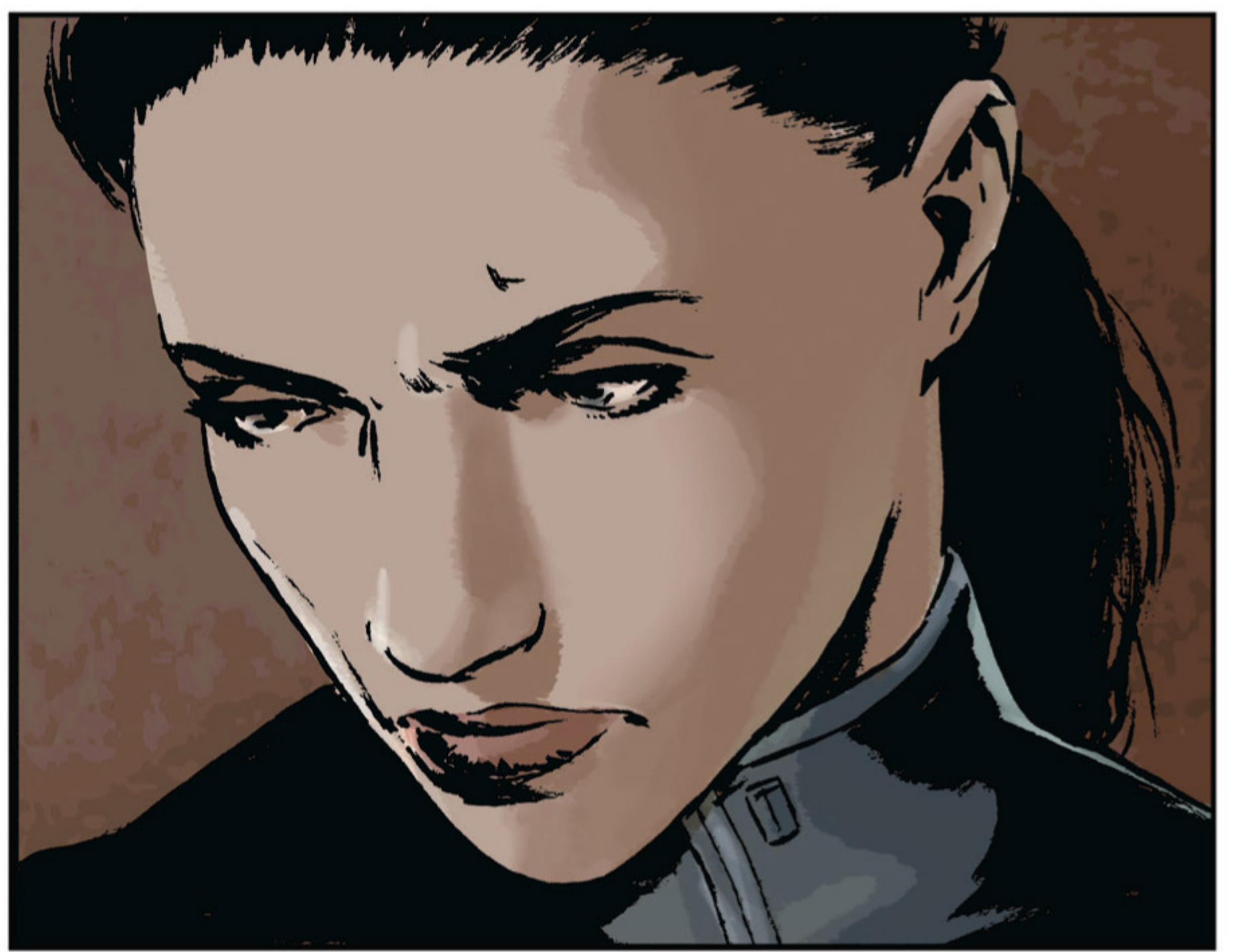
GO TO WAR.





YET YOU EXECUTED HIM FOR TREASON.

WHY DID YOU DO THAT?



FOREVER.

I ASKED YOU A QUESTION, YOUNG LADY.



I... I DIDN'T WANT TO...

BUT YOU DID IT, AND I WANT TO KNOW WHY.



DID IT FEEL GOOD? DID YOU LIKE IT?

DID YOU WANT TO SEE HIM BLEED?

DID IT MAKE YOU FEEL STRONG, KILLING AN UNARMED OLD MAN--

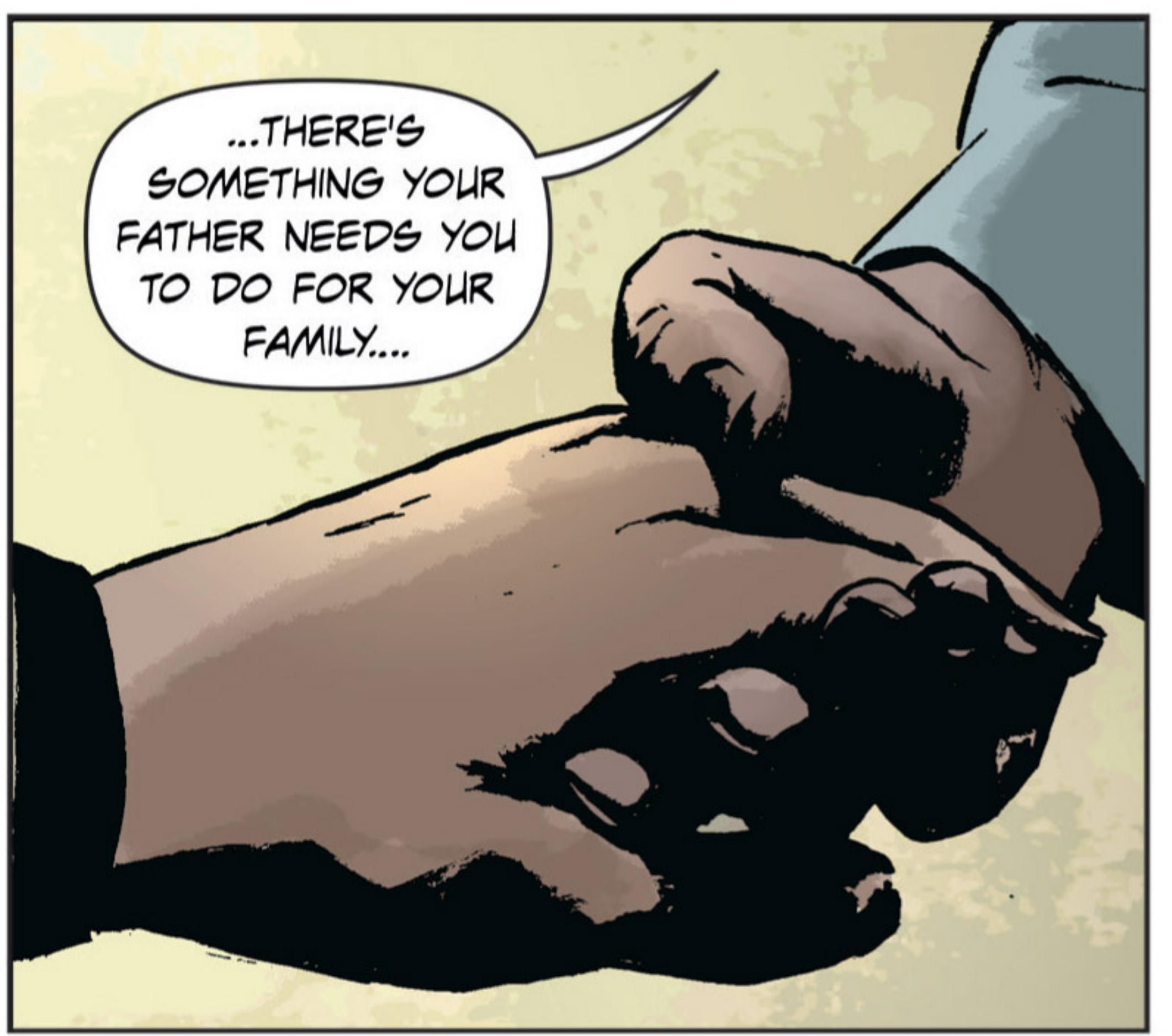
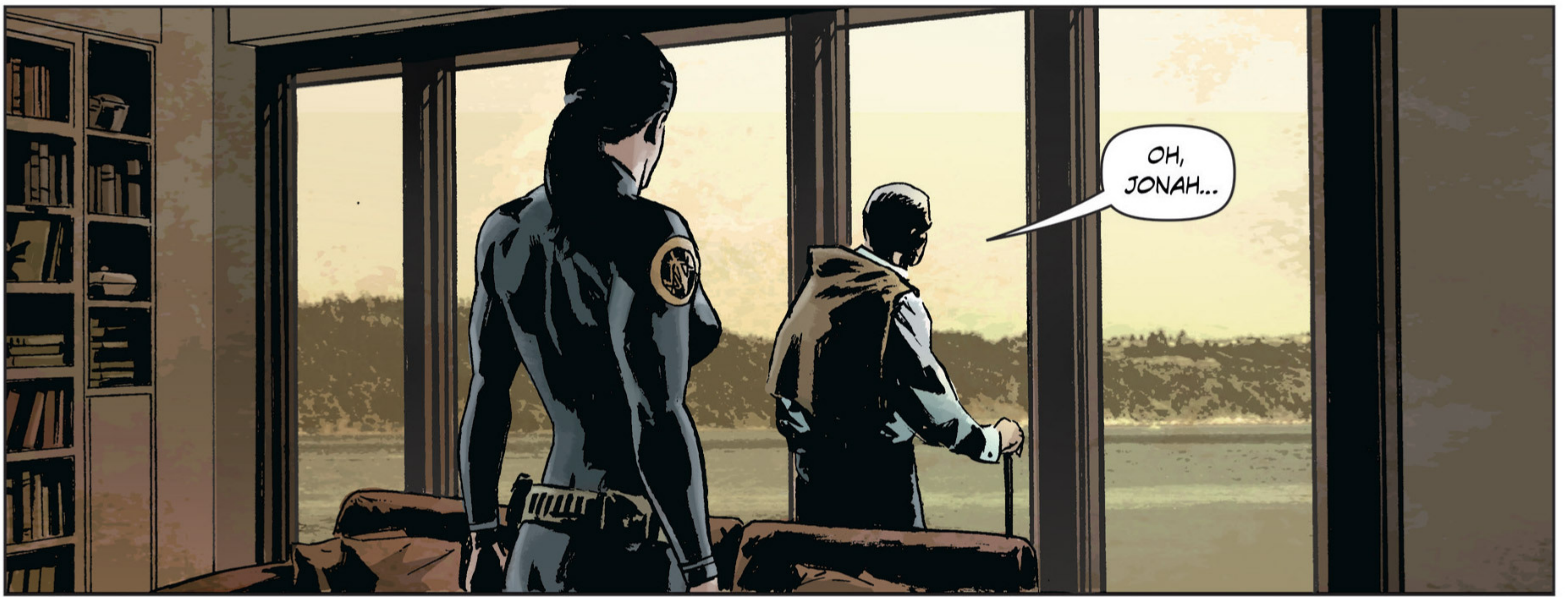


I HAD TO! TREASON MEANS DEATH, JONAH MADE ME--



--HE WAS GOING TO EXECUTE EVERYONE IF HE DIDN'T GET A CONFESSION!





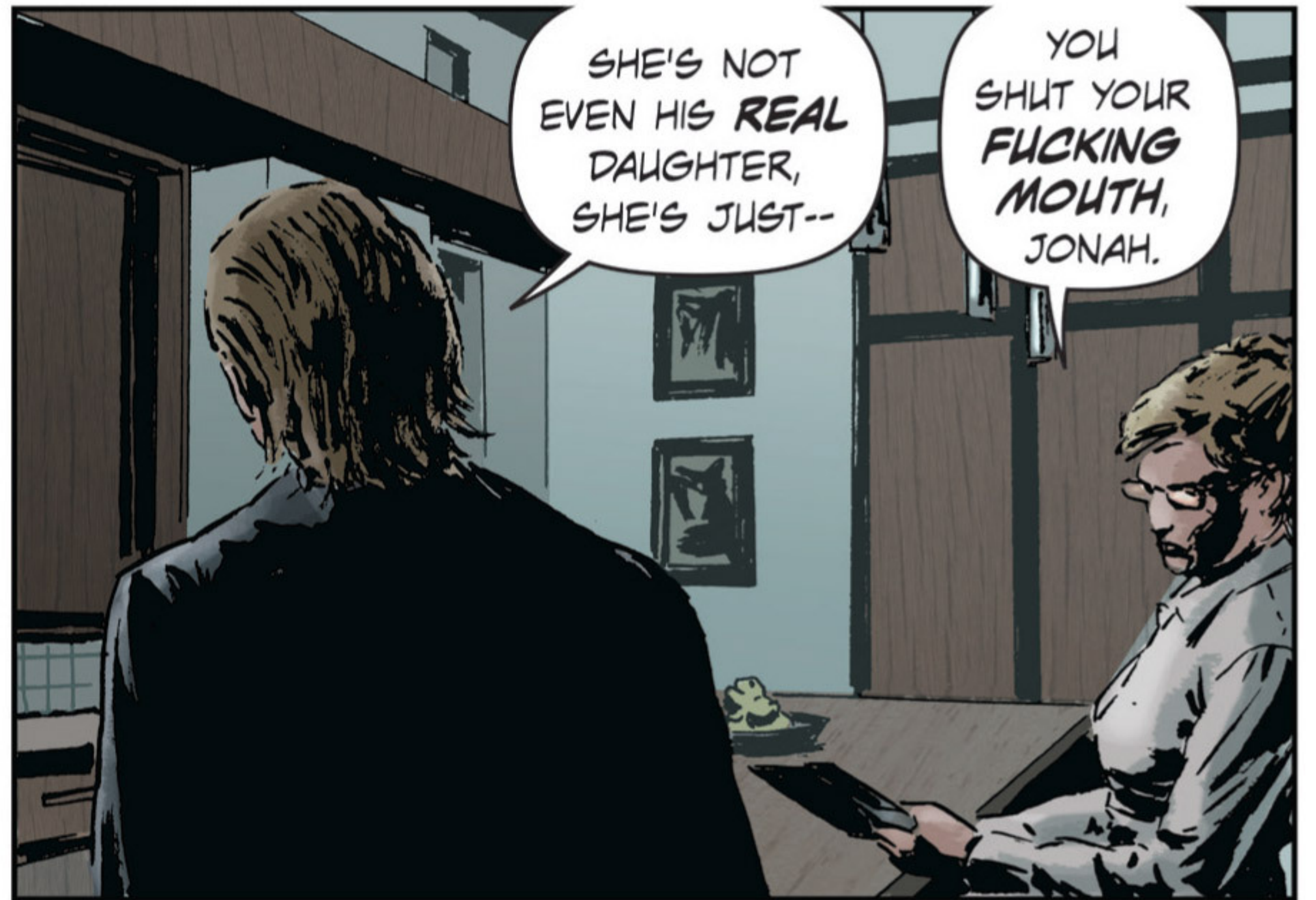


HOW LONG IS SHE GOING TO BE IN THERE WITH HIM?

JEALOUS?



THIS IS FAMILY BUSINESS! SHE SHOULDN'T EVEN BE IN THERE!



SHE'S NOT EVEN HIS REAL DAUGHTER, SHE'S JUST--

YOU SHUT YOUR FUCKING MOUTH, JONAH.



YOU DON'T SAY IT, YOU DON'T EVEN THINK IT ANYWHERE SHE COULD POSSIBLY HEAR.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS IF SHE LEARNS WHAT SHE REALLY IS? THE QUESTIONS SHE'LL START TO ASK?



SO SHE LEARNS THE TRUTH AND SHE GOES BUGFUCK CRAZY, BIG DEAL.

WE PUT HER DOWN...



...AND THEN YOU AND JAMES PLAY HIDE-THE-PIPETTE FOR A WHILE AND MAKE US ANOTHER ONE.



I'LL FUCKING KILL YOU--

UGHH



--YOU MISERABLE LITTLE ABORTION, YOU MALIGNANT PIECE OF SHIT--

ahh!
AHHH!!
CRAZY BITCH
LET GO--



--I WILL FLAY YOU OPEN, I WILL--

--LET ME UP LET--



--DRAIN EVERY WORTHLESS DROP OF YOUR BLOOD--

BETH!!



KNOCK IT OFF!

CRAZY LITTLE--





TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME, STEPHEN.



I TOLD YOU TO **GET OUT**, YOU FETID--



FATHER WANTS TO SPEAK WITH YOU IN THE STUDY, STEPHEN.

BETHANY, HE SAYS YOU'RE FREE TO GET BACK TO YOUR WORK WITH DR. MANN, OR IF YOU'RE NEEDED AT THE UNIVERSITY, WHICHEVER YOU DESIRE.



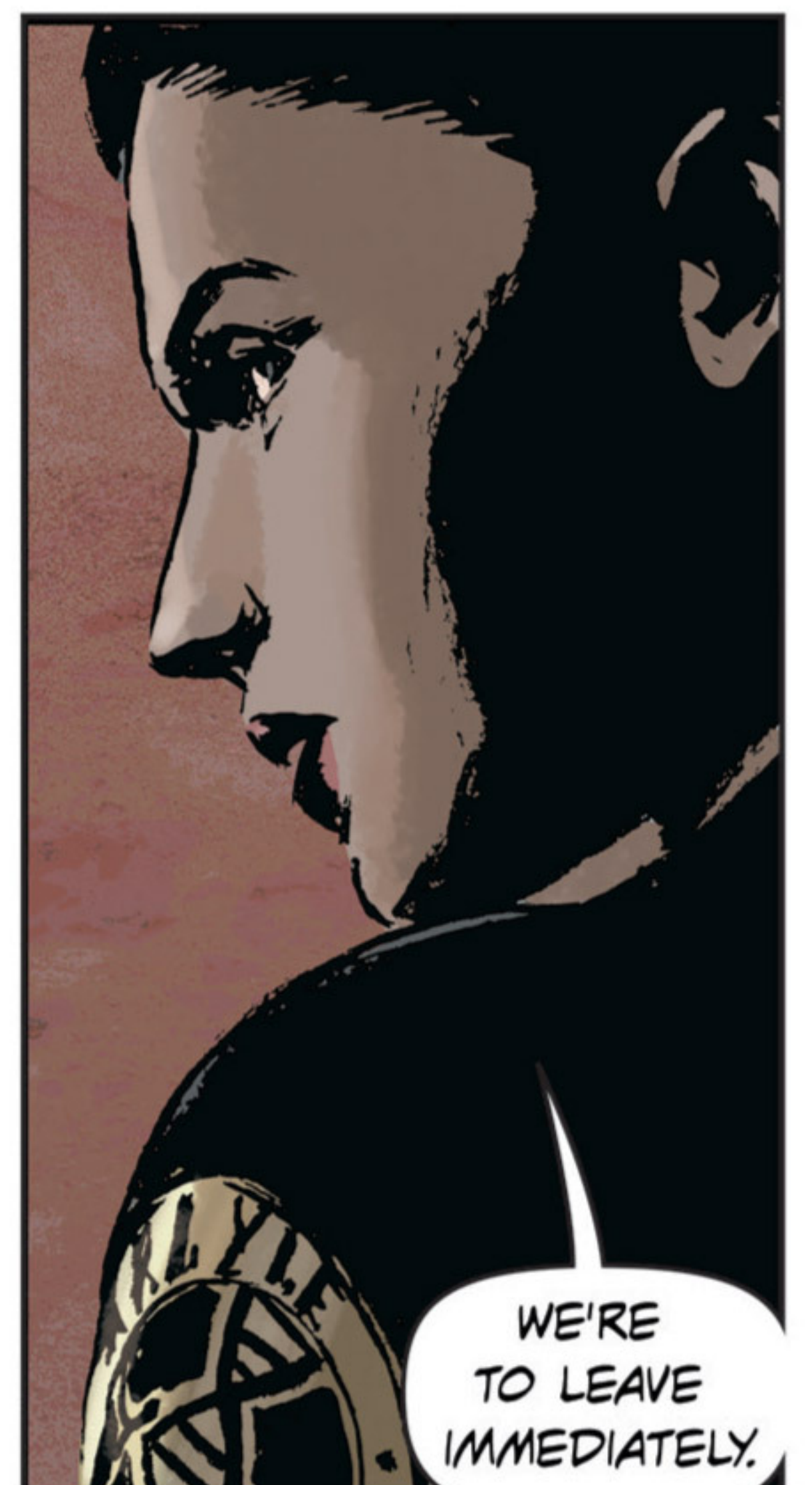
I'M TO ACCOMPANY YOU BACK TO LOS ANGELES.

WE'RE TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.



WAIT, WITH ME?

DOES THIS MEAN HE'S **DECIDED**? WE'RE GOING TO WAR AGAINST MORRAY?



WE'RE TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.

Los Angeles
Family: Carlyle

Population [Family]: 3 (2 permanent)

"YOU SHOULD HAVE REPAIRED *MORE* AFTER THE *EARTHQUAKE*..."

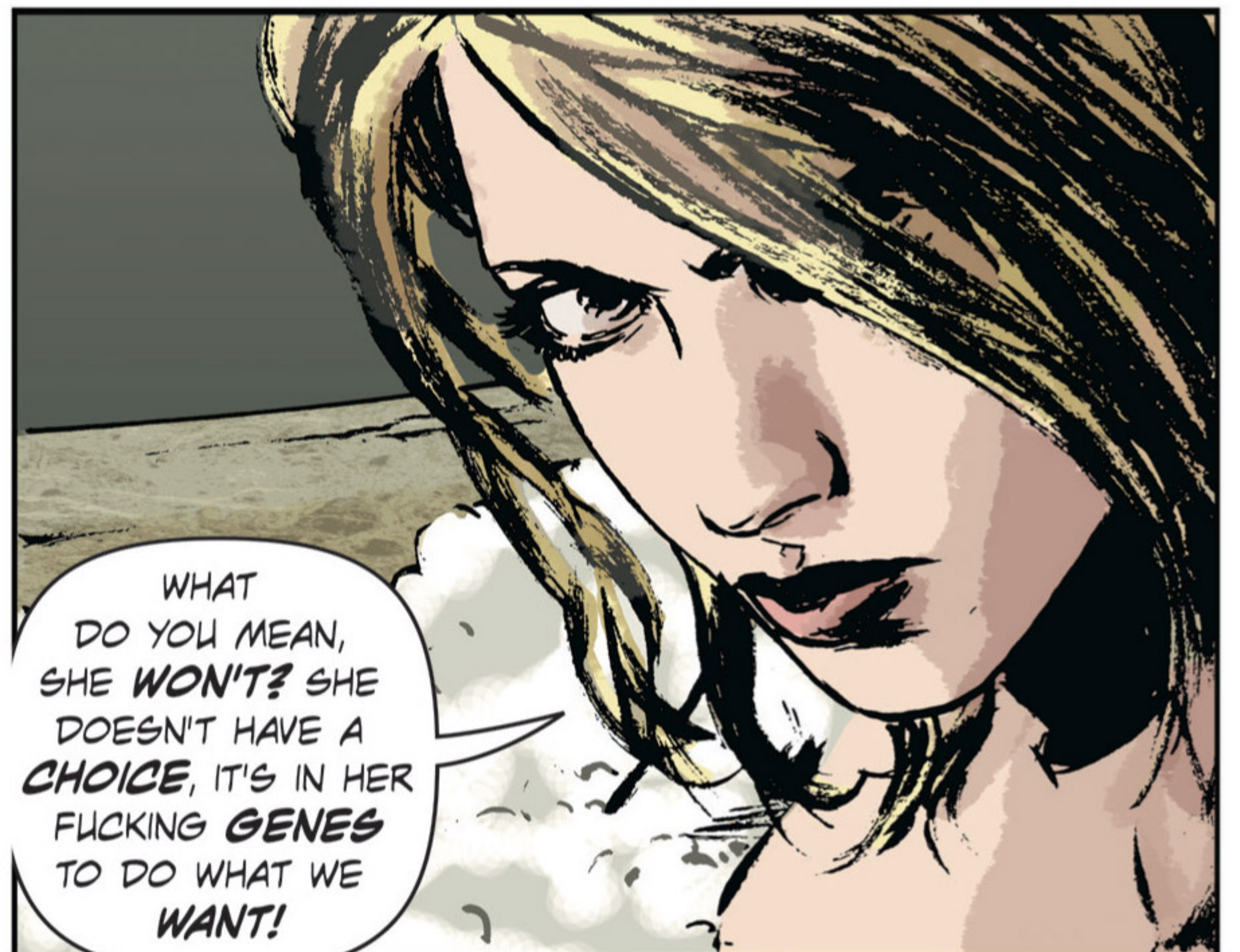
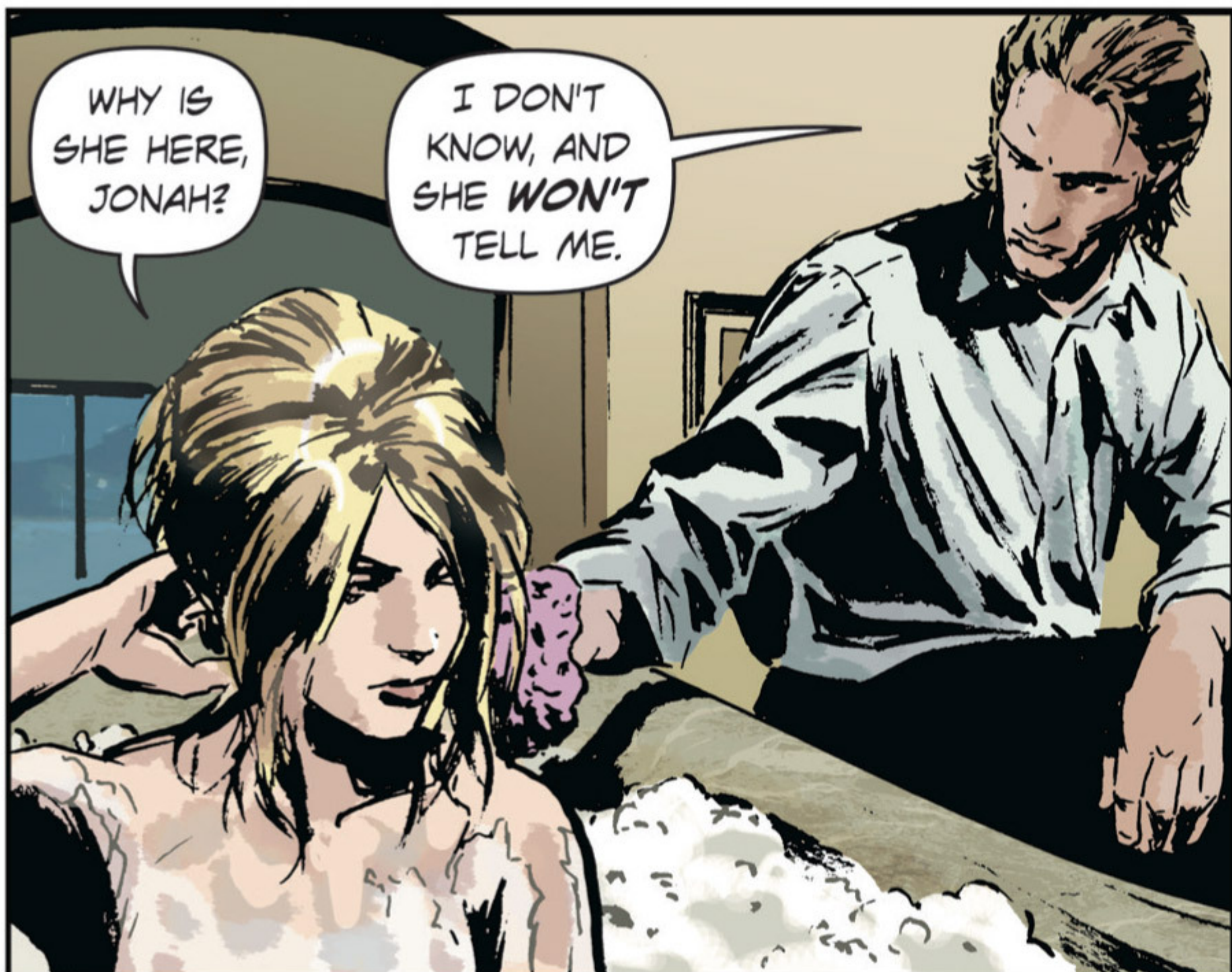
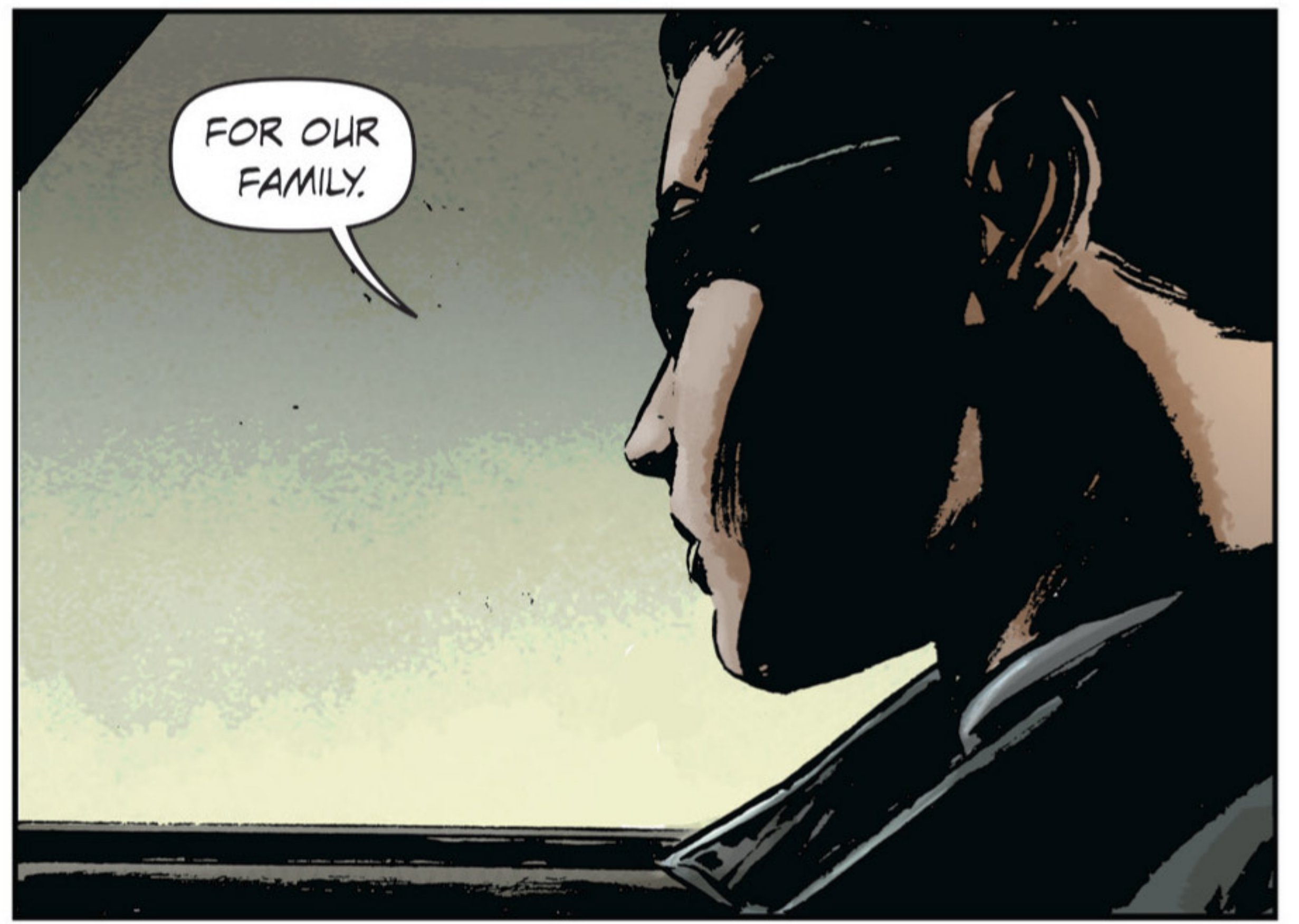
Population [Serf]: 322,274

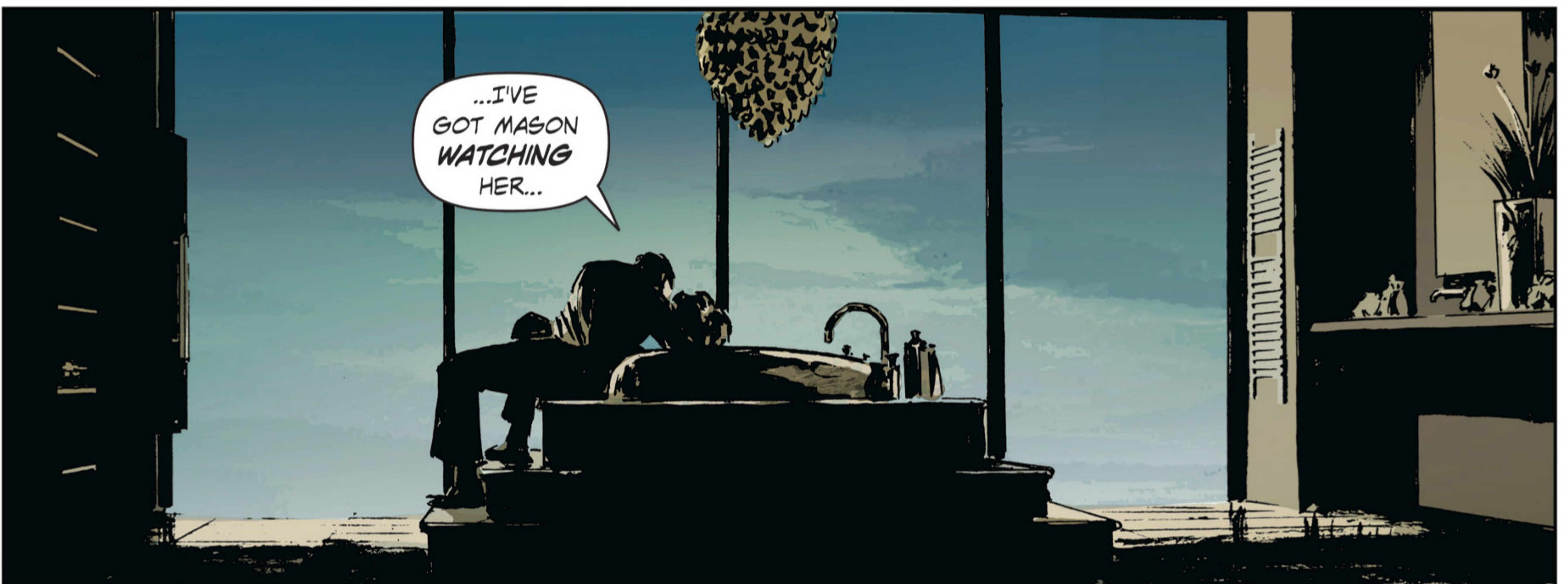
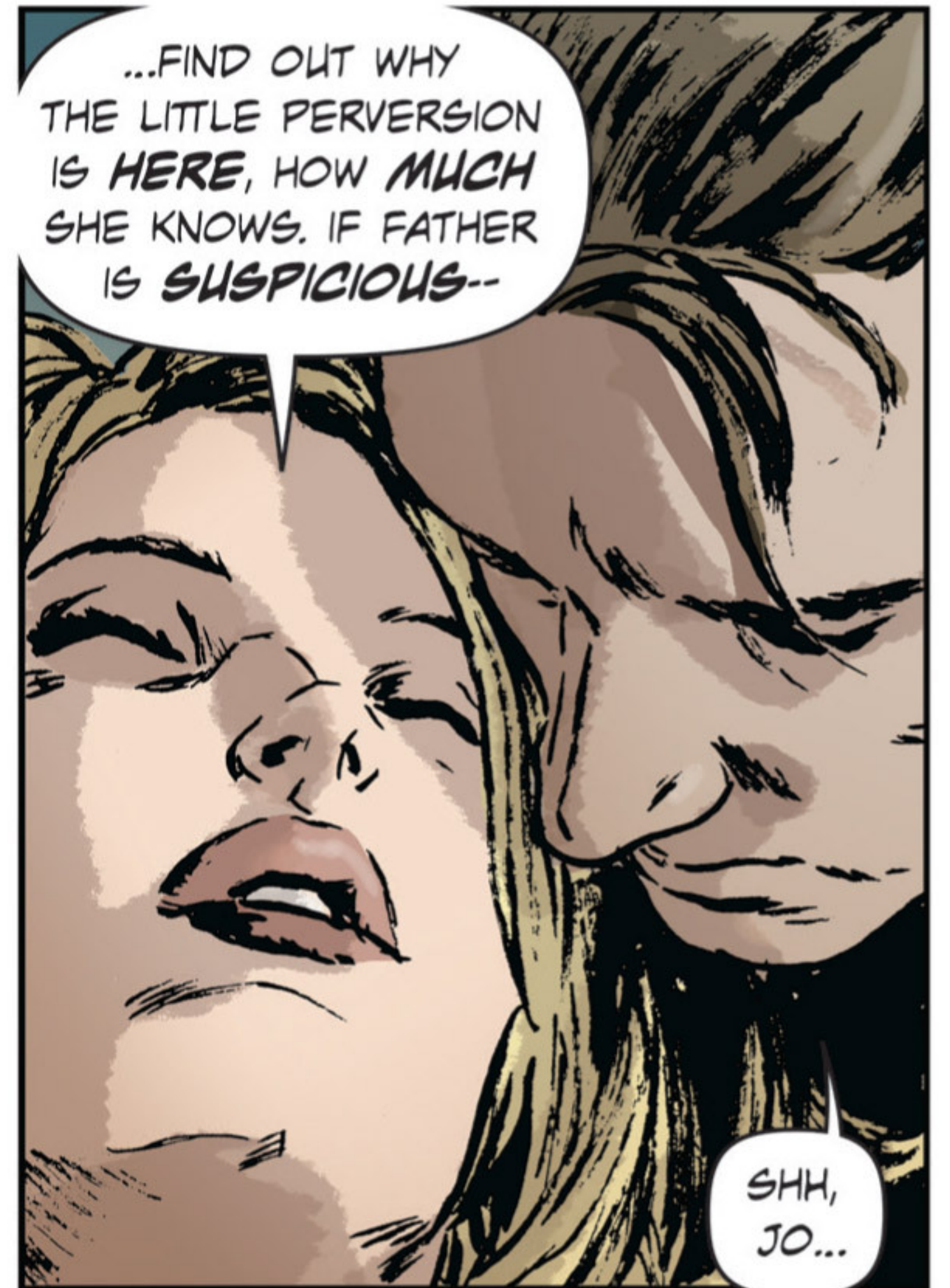
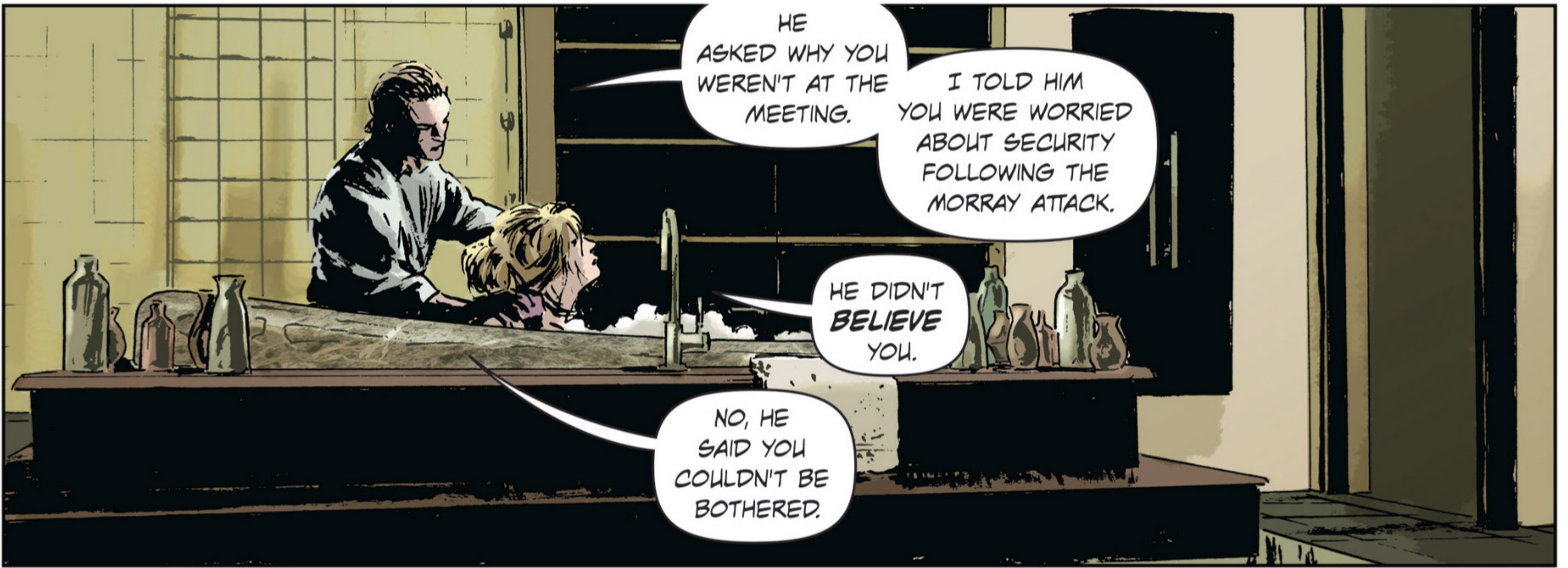
Population [Waste]: 2,874,500 (estimated)

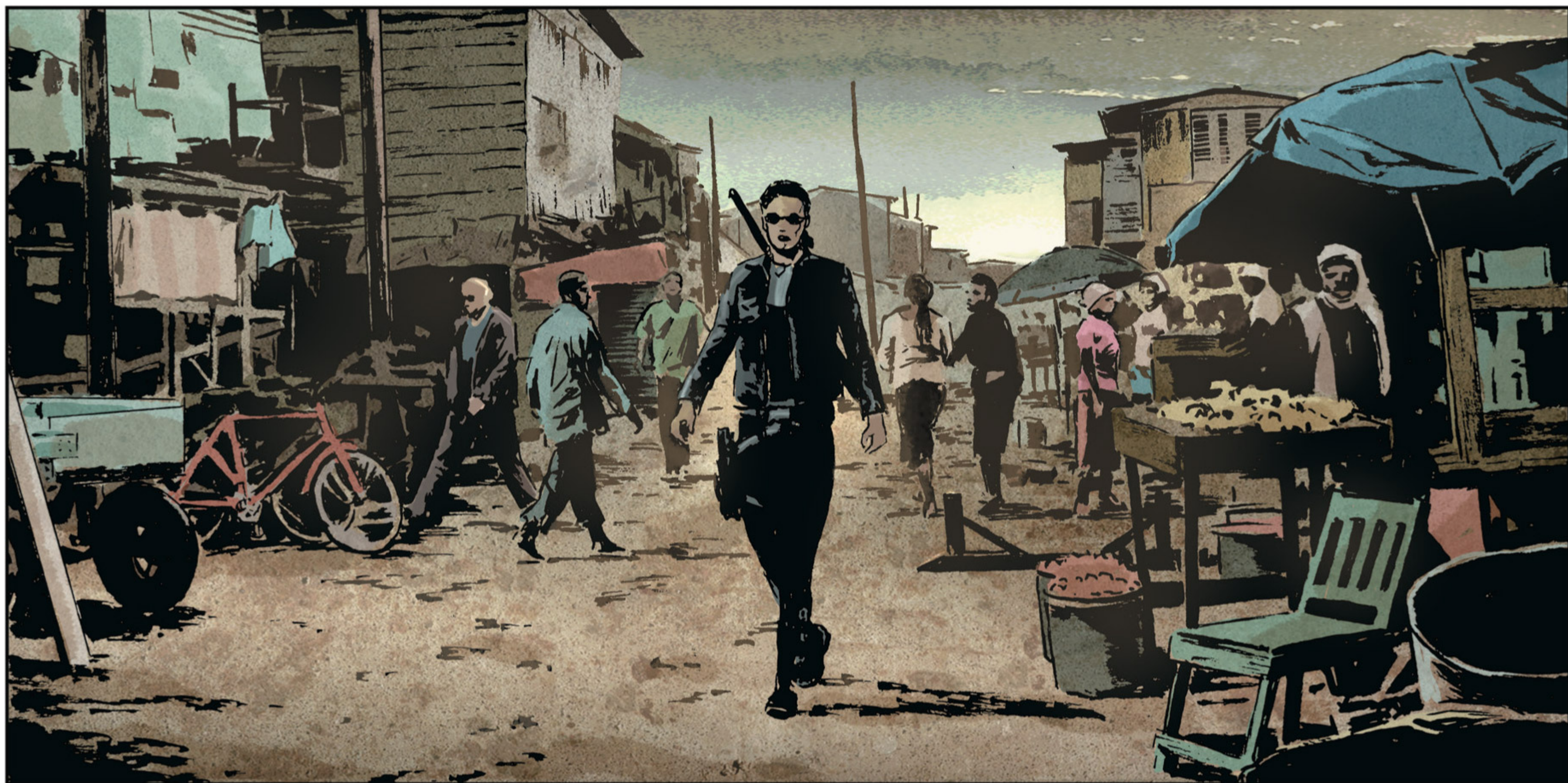
...YOUR *DOMAIN* LOOKS LIKE A *WAR ZONE*, JONAH.

WE REBUILT WHAT THE FAMILY *NEEDS*. THERE'S *NO POINT* IN WASTING RESOURCES ON WASTE WHO *CAN'T* APPRECIATE IT.

WHAT DID YOU AND FATHER TALK ABOUT?





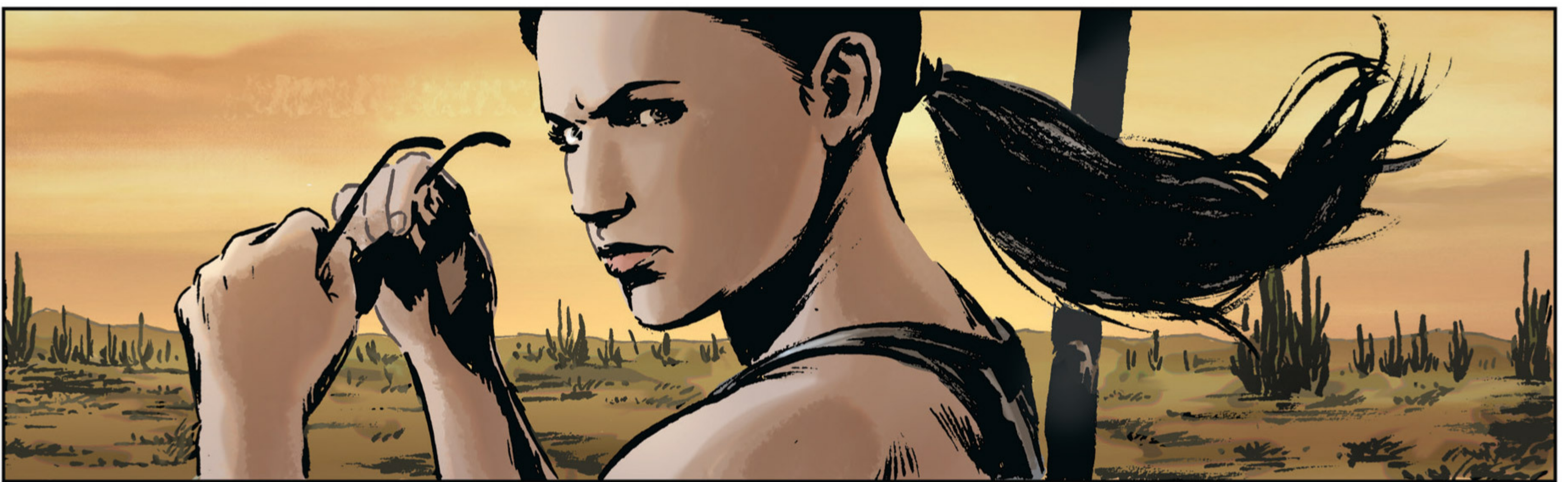
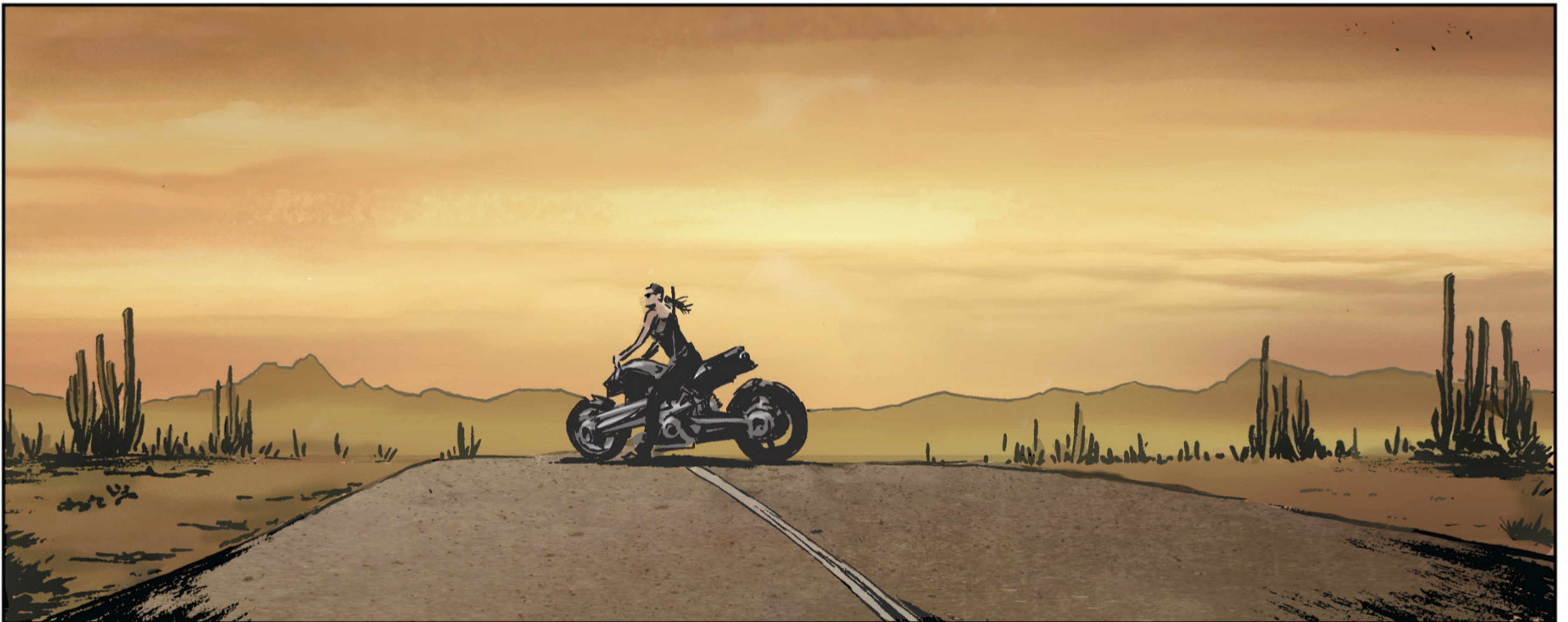






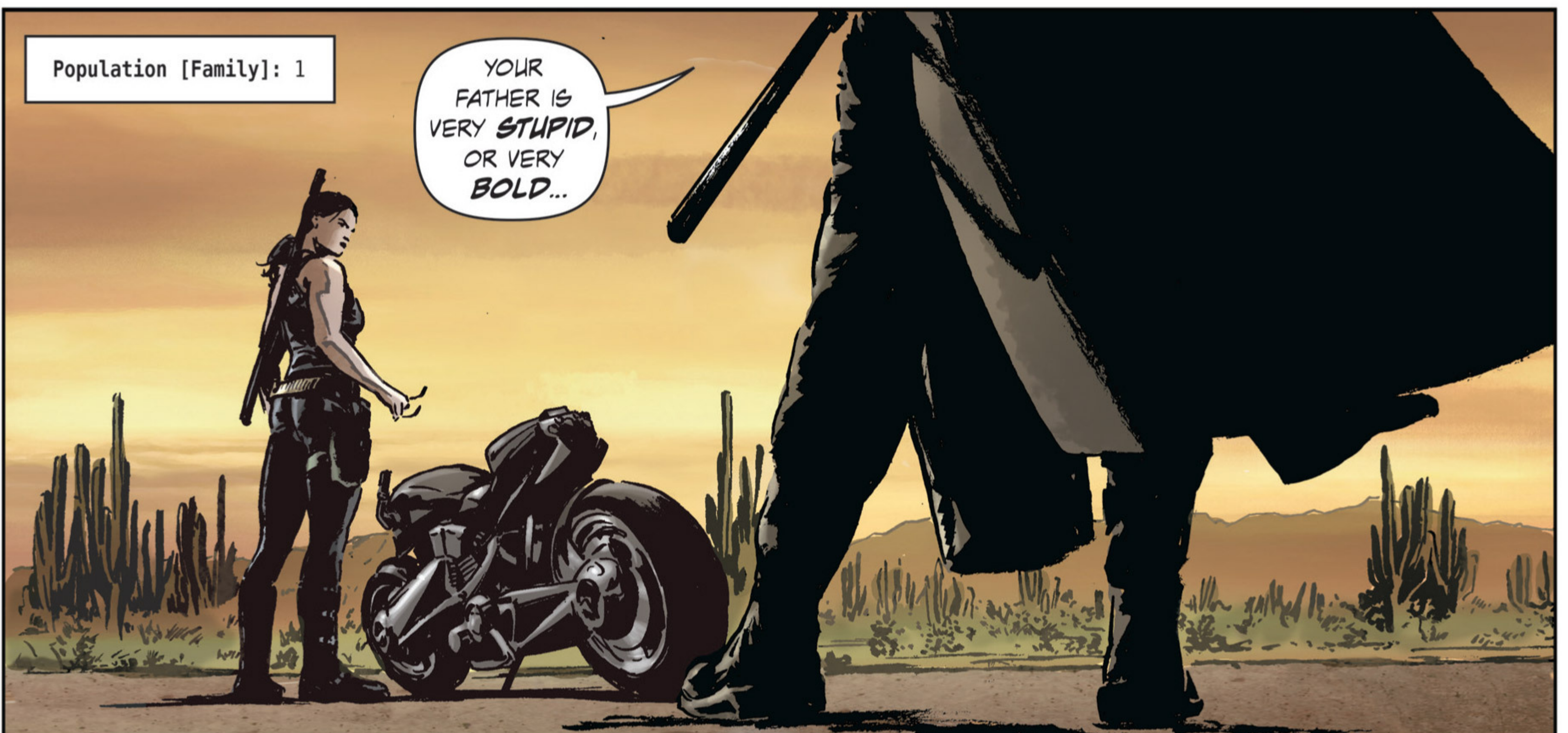
Sonoran Desert, Mexico

Family: Morray



Population [Family]: 1

YOUR FATHER IS VERY **STUPID**, OR VERY **BOLD**...



Population [Serf]: 36

...TO SEND HIS LAZARUS TO US LIKE THIS.

IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER. YOU ARE NOW A PRISONER OF FAMILY MORRAY...

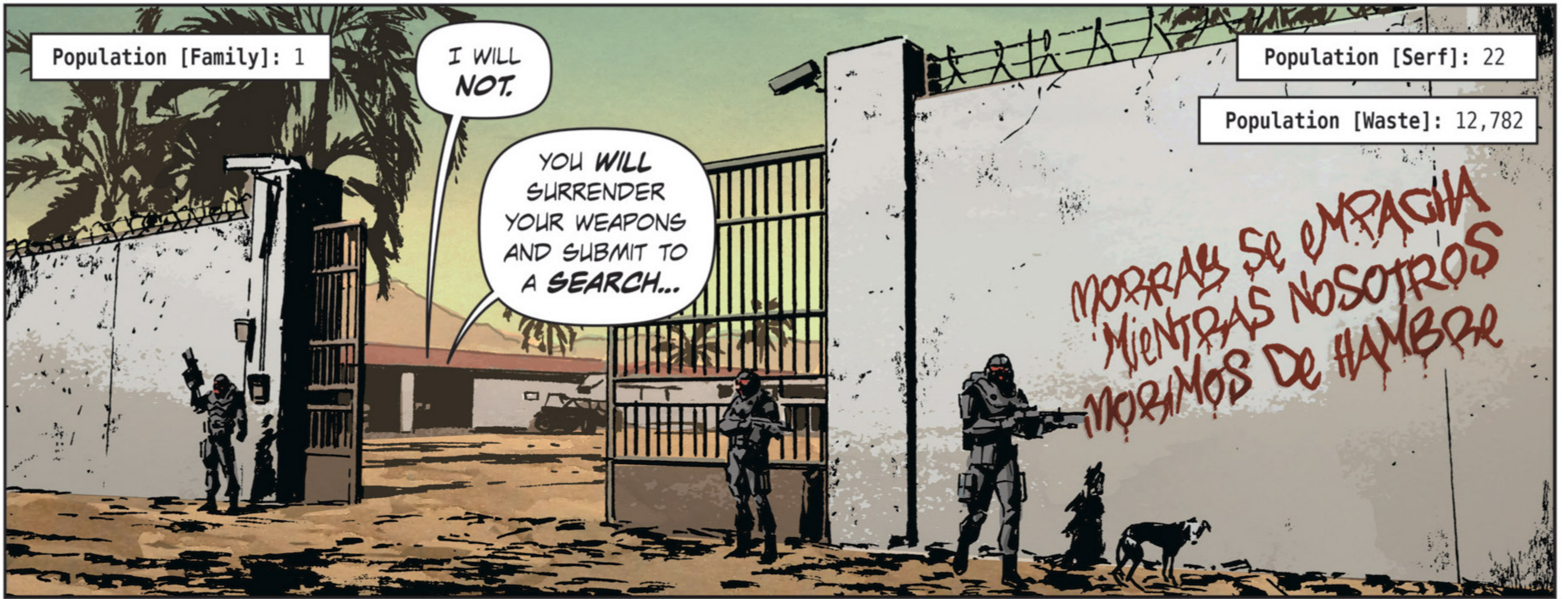


...FOREVER.





FAMILY
CHAPTER THREE





<HOLD HER, AND DON'T BE GENTLE ABOUT IT-->

<MUCH AS IT WOULD AMUSE ME TO SEE THE ATTEMPT...>



<...I WOULD ADVISE AGAINST TRYING TO PLACE AN UNINVITED HAND ON MISS CARLYLE.>

<SHE IS OUR GUEST HERE, FOR NOW...>



<...AND WE WILL ACCORD HER THE COURTESY SHE IS DUE.>

<MISTER MORRAY, YOUR UNCLE'S ORDERS ARE VERY CLEAR ON THIS MATTER...>



<...THE CAPTURE OF AN IDENTIFIED ENEMY LAZARUS IS OF THE HIGHEST PRIORITY.>

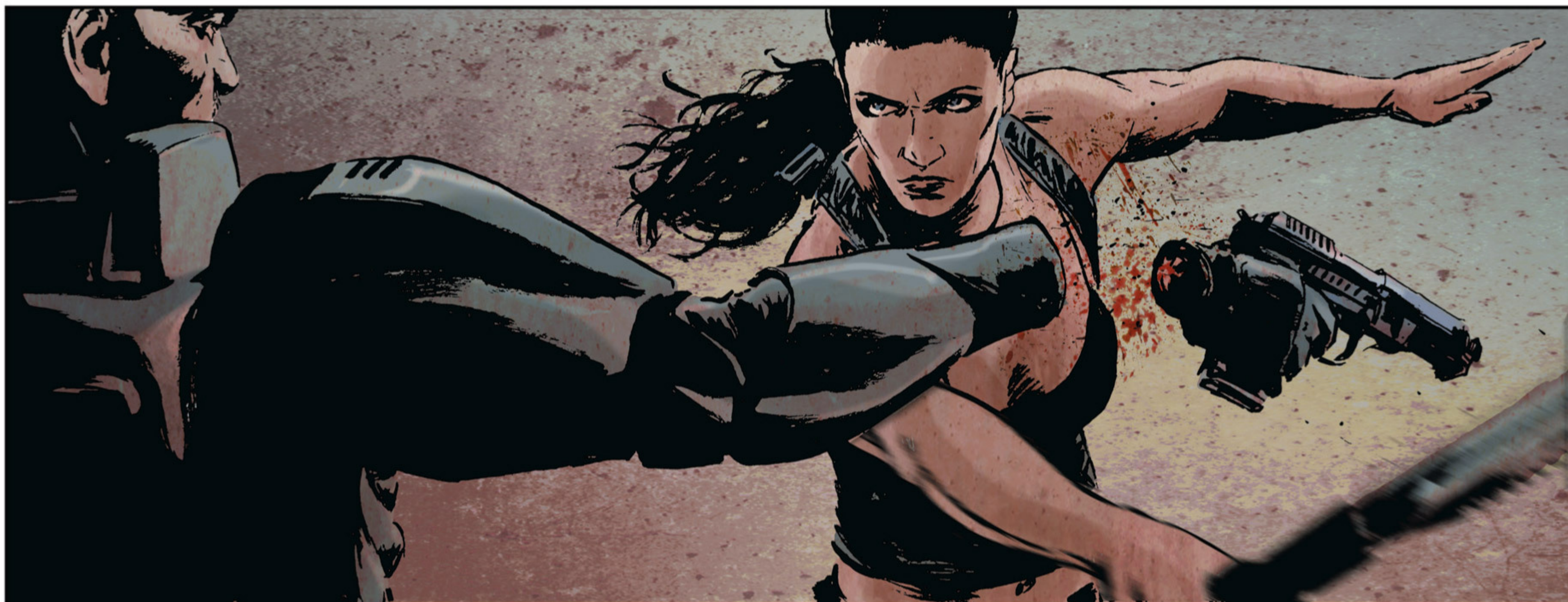
<SHE IS A PRISONER, NOT A GUEST.>



HE'S ARGUING WITH ME.

YES, HE IS.





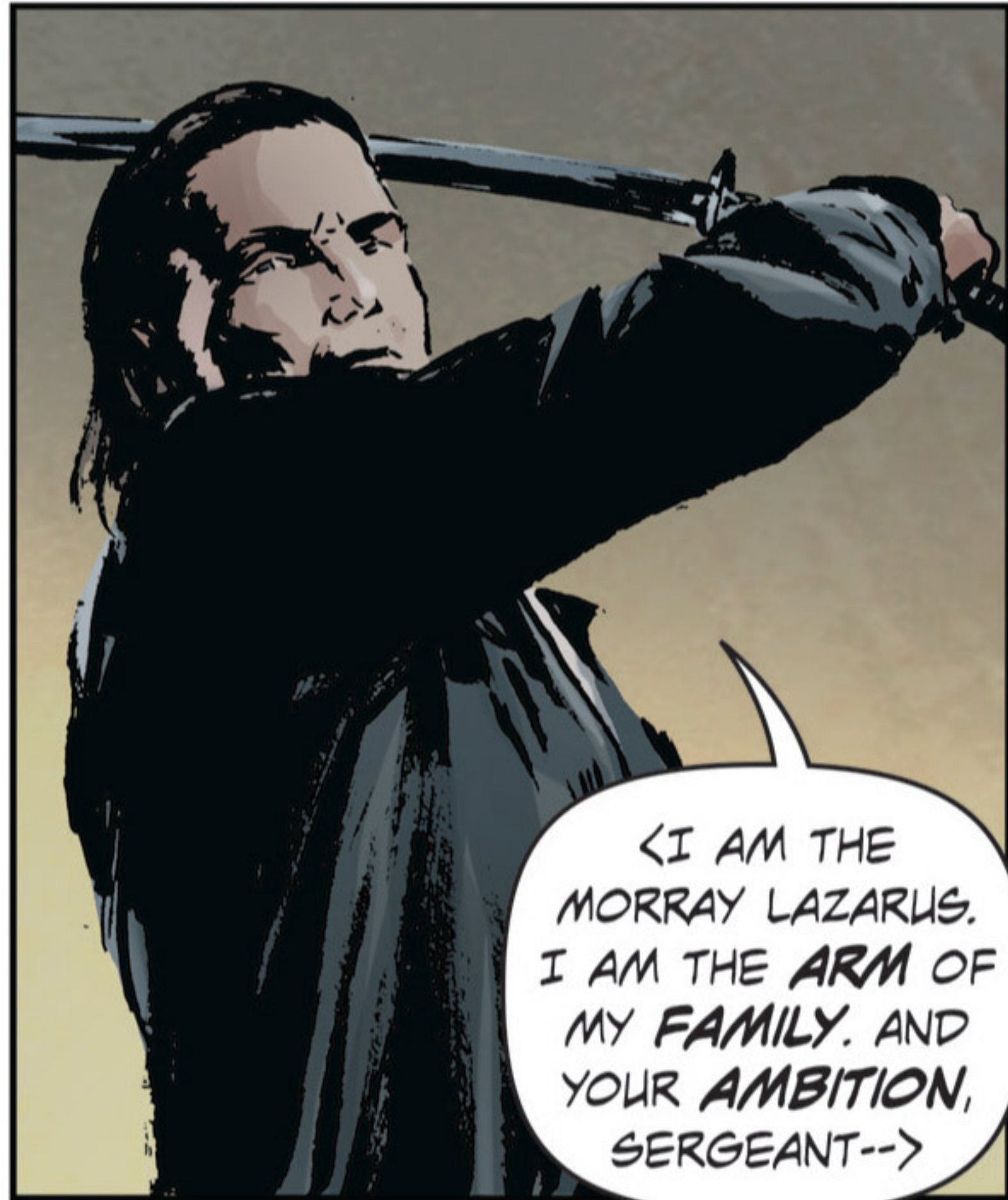


<--MOTHER OF GOD MY ARM OH GOD-->

<YOU ARE WASTE RAISED TO SERVICE...>



<...BUT YOU CHALLENGE MY AUTHORITY IN FRONT OF YOUR MEN?>



<I AM THE MORRAY LAZARUS. I AM THE ARM OF MY FAMILY. AND YOUR AMBITION, SERGEANT-->



<--OUTWEIGHED YOUR SENSE.>



<YOU.>

<YOU ARE NOW ELEVATED TO THE RANK OF SERGEANT.>

<GET THIS CLEANED UP, AND PREPARE FOR INSPECTION.>

<MY UNCLE WILL BE ARRIVING SOON.>



FOREVER? MIGHT I OFFER YOU SOME REFRESHMENT?

THAT WOULD BE LOVELY, THANK YOU, JOAQUIM.

Compound Sequoia
Family: Carlyle

DON'T
GIVE ME
THAT BULLSHIT,
JAMES!

Population [Family]: 1
Population [Serf]: 24

YOU
TRACK HER
ALL THE
TIME!

JESUS, YOU AND
BETH NEVER SHUT-UP
ABOUT FOREVER'S
TELEMETRY AND
SHIT LIKE THAT!

I DIDN'T
SAY I'M **NOT**
TRACKING HER,
JONAH.

I SAID,
"I CAN'T TELL
YOU WHERE
SHE IS."

YOU **CAN'T**
TELL ME? YOU
FUCKING **WORK**
FOR ME!

I WORK
FOR THE
FAMILY,
JONAH.

IT WAS
MY **FATHER**,
WASN'T IT? HE TOLD
YOU **NOT** TO
TELL ME.

I HAVE
WORK TO
DO--

MISSION IN PROGRESS
00:00
TION PROTOCOL: BASILISK &
ORIGINATOR POINT: ELAT/LONG
INCY HOPPING: <RUNNING>

THE OLD
MAN'S **NOT**
GOING TO BE
AROUND FOREVER,
JAMES.

YOU
MIGHT WANT
TO THINK
ABOUT
THAT.

TRANSMISSION
ENDED



CALL:
MALCOLM
CARLYLE.

dee-deet dee-deet dee-deet.



YES,
JAMES?

HELLO, SIR.
I HAVE THE
TELEMETRY
UPDATE
FOR YOU.

EVE'S BEEN
TAKEN TO THE
MORRAY OUTPOST
IN MAGDALENA.
VITALS ARE
NOMINAL.

VERY
GOOD.



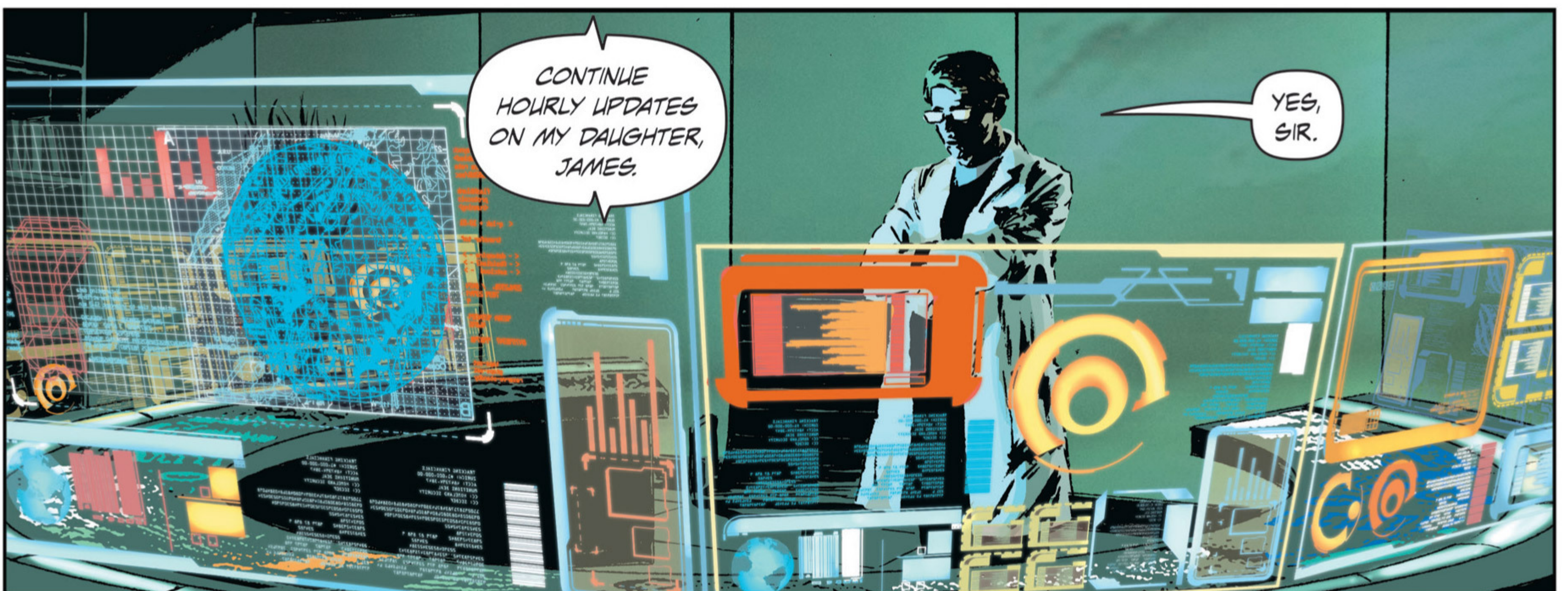
SIR?
JONAH JUST
CONTACTED ME.
HE WANTS TO
KNOW WHERE
SHE IS.

WHAT
DID YOU
SAY?



THAT
I COULDN'T
TELL HIM.

HE WASN'T
HAPPY.



CONTINUE
HOURLY UPDATES
ON MY DAUGHTER,
JAMES.

YES,
SIR.



CAN YOU EAT THIS?



I ASK BECAUSE I ASSUME YOUR DIET IS RESTRICTIVE, YES?

I CAN, THANK YOU.



GUAVA?

ARE YOU HAVING ANY?



I'M NOT POISONING YOU, YOU HAVE MY WORD.

I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE, JOAQUIM.

I CAN'T EAT THEM...



...THE ENZYMES INTERFERE WITH MY IMPLANTS.



I'M TRYING TO REMEMBER THE **LAST** TIME WE MET.

WHEN THE TALKS BROKE DOWN. FIVE YEARS AGO.

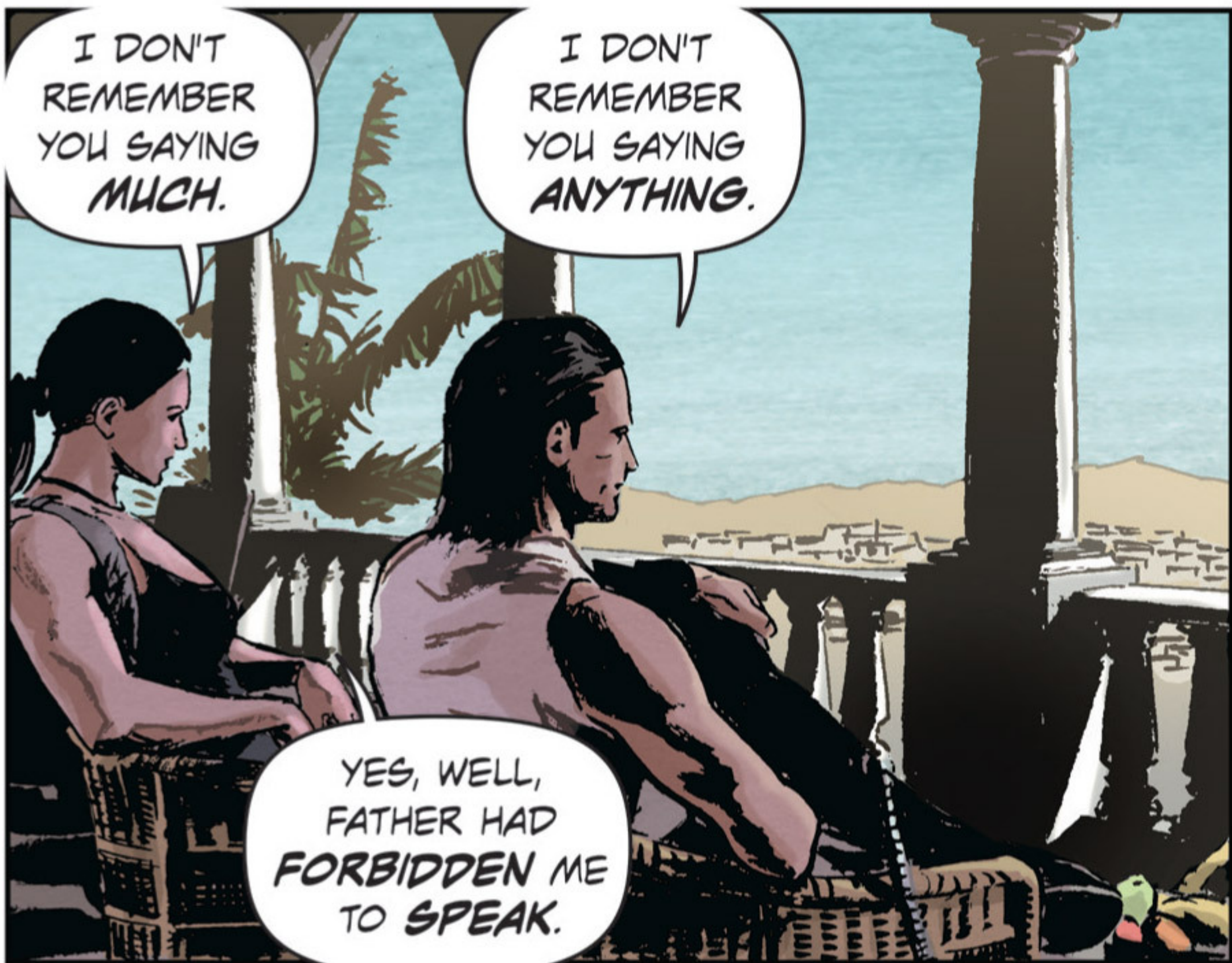


AH, YES. YOU WERE BARELY **BIG** ENOUGH TO CARRY YOUR **SWORD**.

I WAS FOURTEEN.

TRULY? I'D IMAGINED YOU **OLDER**.

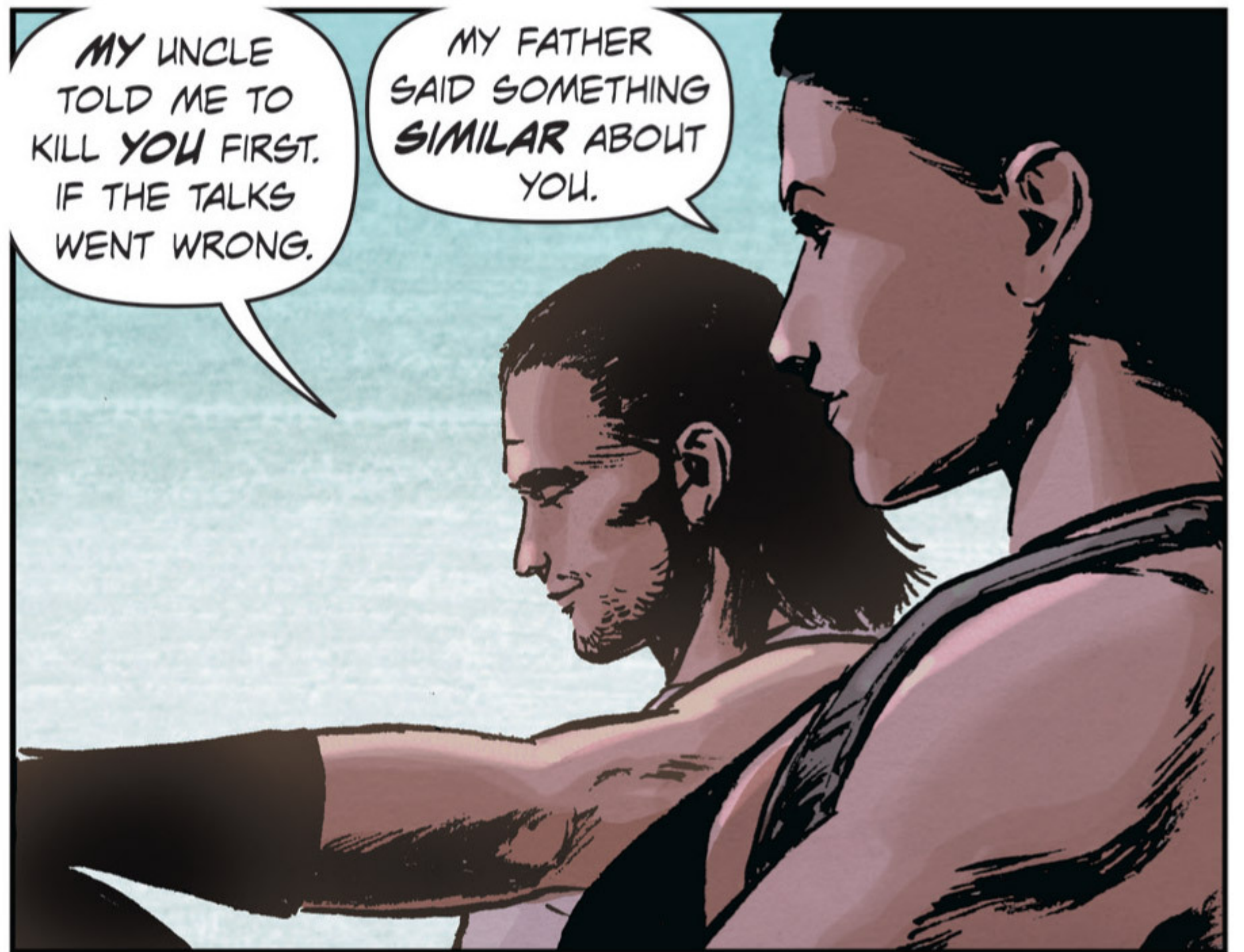
I WAS VERY **MATURE** FOR MY AGE.



I DON'T REMEMBER YOU SAYING **MUCH**.

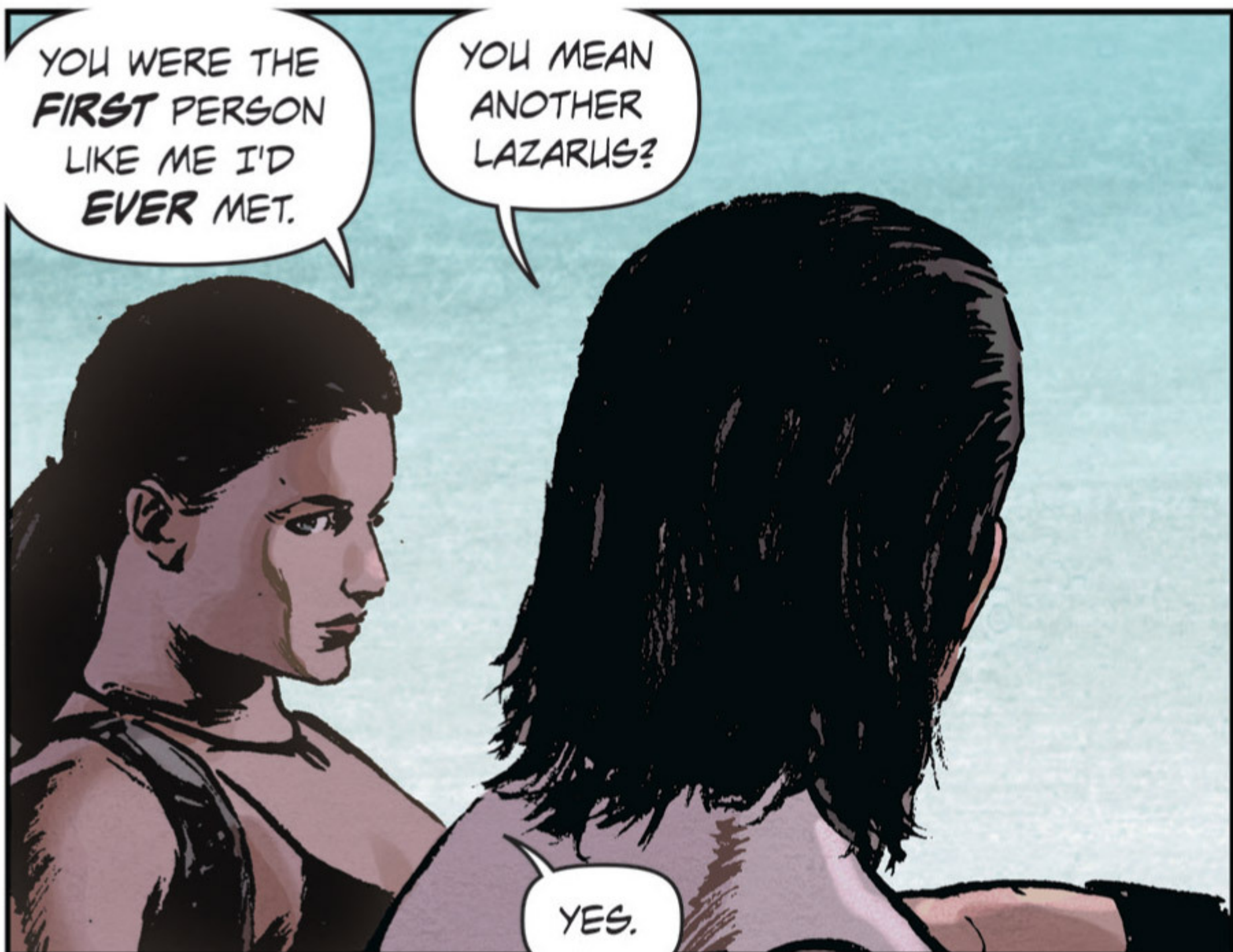
I DON'T REMEMBER YOU SAYING **ANYTHING**.

YES, WELL, FATHER HAD FORBIDDEN ME TO **SPEAK**.



MY UNCLE TOLD ME TO KILL **YOU** FIRST. IF THE TALKS WENT WRONG.

MY FATHER SAID SOMETHING **SIMILAR** ABOUT YOU.



YOU WERE THE **FIRST** PERSON LIKE ME I'D **EVER** MET.

YOU MEAN ANOTHER LAZARUS?

YES.

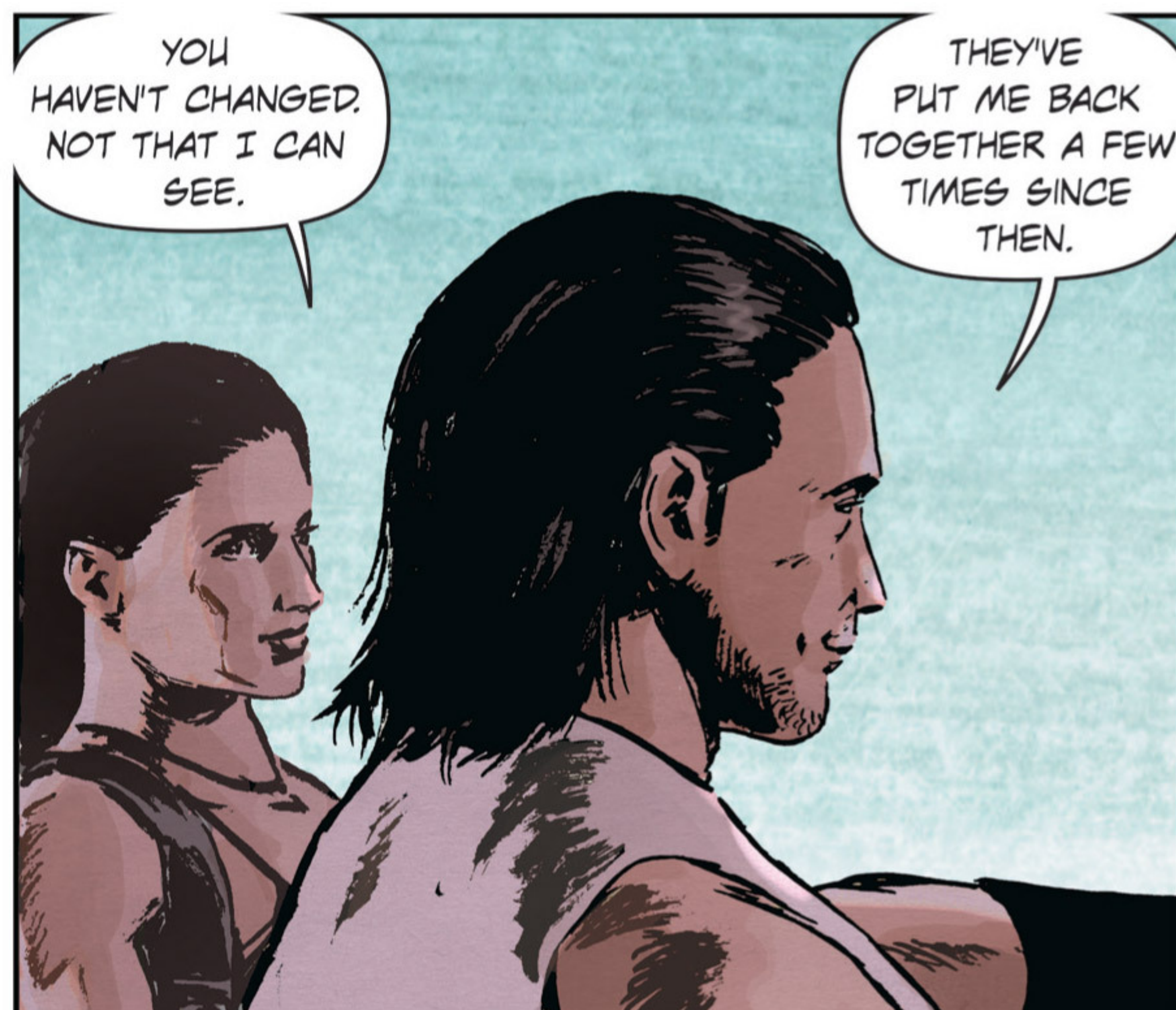




YOU'VE TURNED INTO A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN.

STOP.

I MEAN IT.



YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED. NOT THAT I CAN SEE.

THEY'VE PUT ME BACK TOGETHER A FEW TIMES SINCE THEN.



I THINK THEY MAKE *US* FIGHT SO *THEY* DON'T HAVE TO.



I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU.

I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU.



OUR FAMILIES DON'T UNDERSTAND.

NO.

THEY DON'T.



Los Angeles
Family: Carlyle

I'M
TELLING YOU HE
KNOWS.

HE DOES
NOT, JONAH. HE
SUSPECTS.

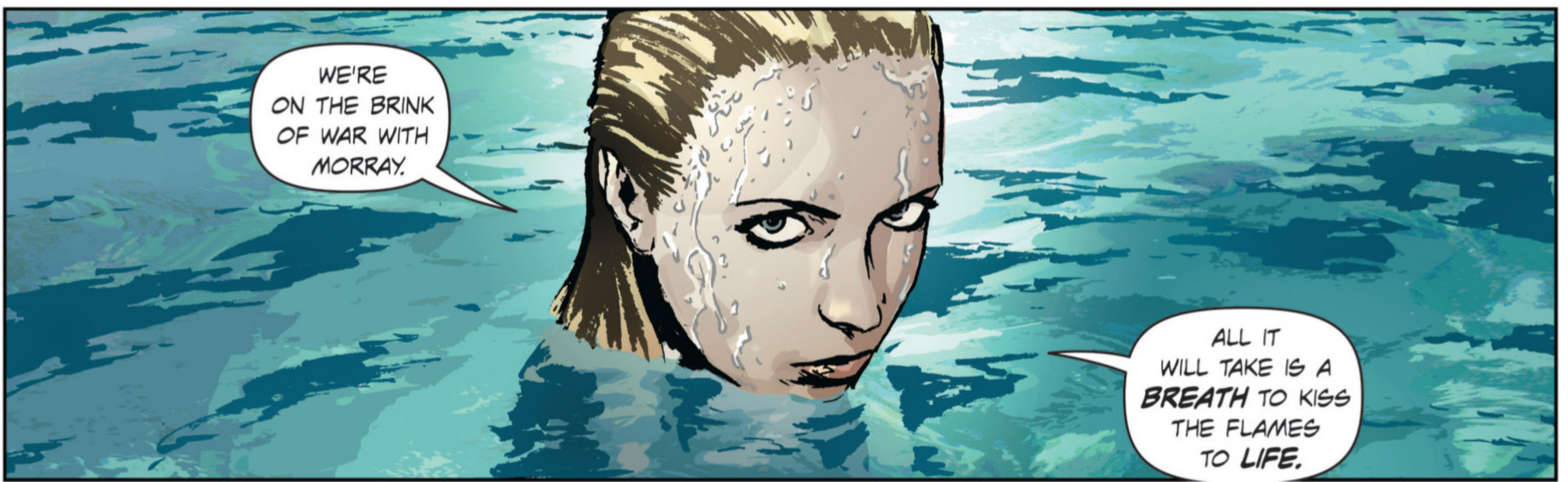
NO, JO,
HE FUCKING WELL
KNOWS AND HE'S
USING THE LAZARUS
TO BE SURE!

SHE WAS
SEEN RIDING
SOUTH.

IF FATHER WAS
SENDING HER TO
ATTACK, SHE'D HAVE
TAKEN TROOPS
WITH HER.

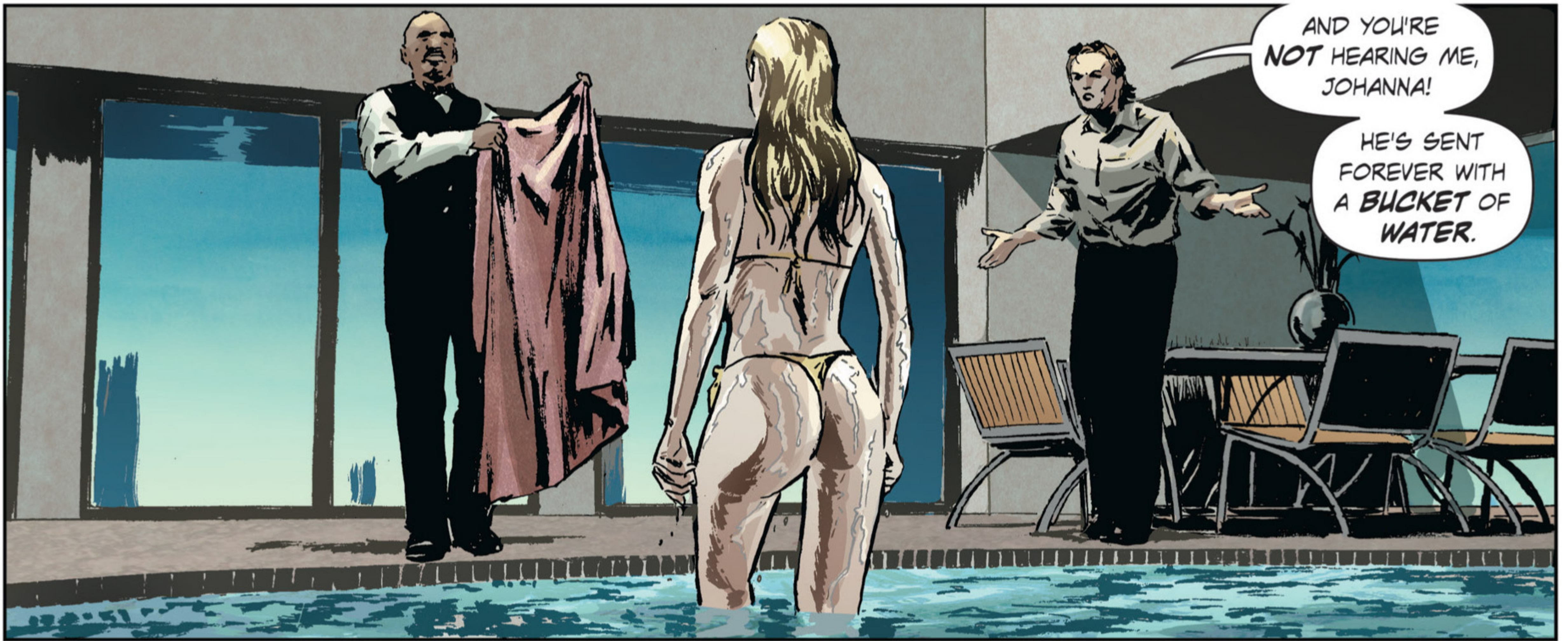
THE ONLY
REASON TO SEND
HER ALONE IS
TO PARLAY--

JONAH,
CALM
DOWN!



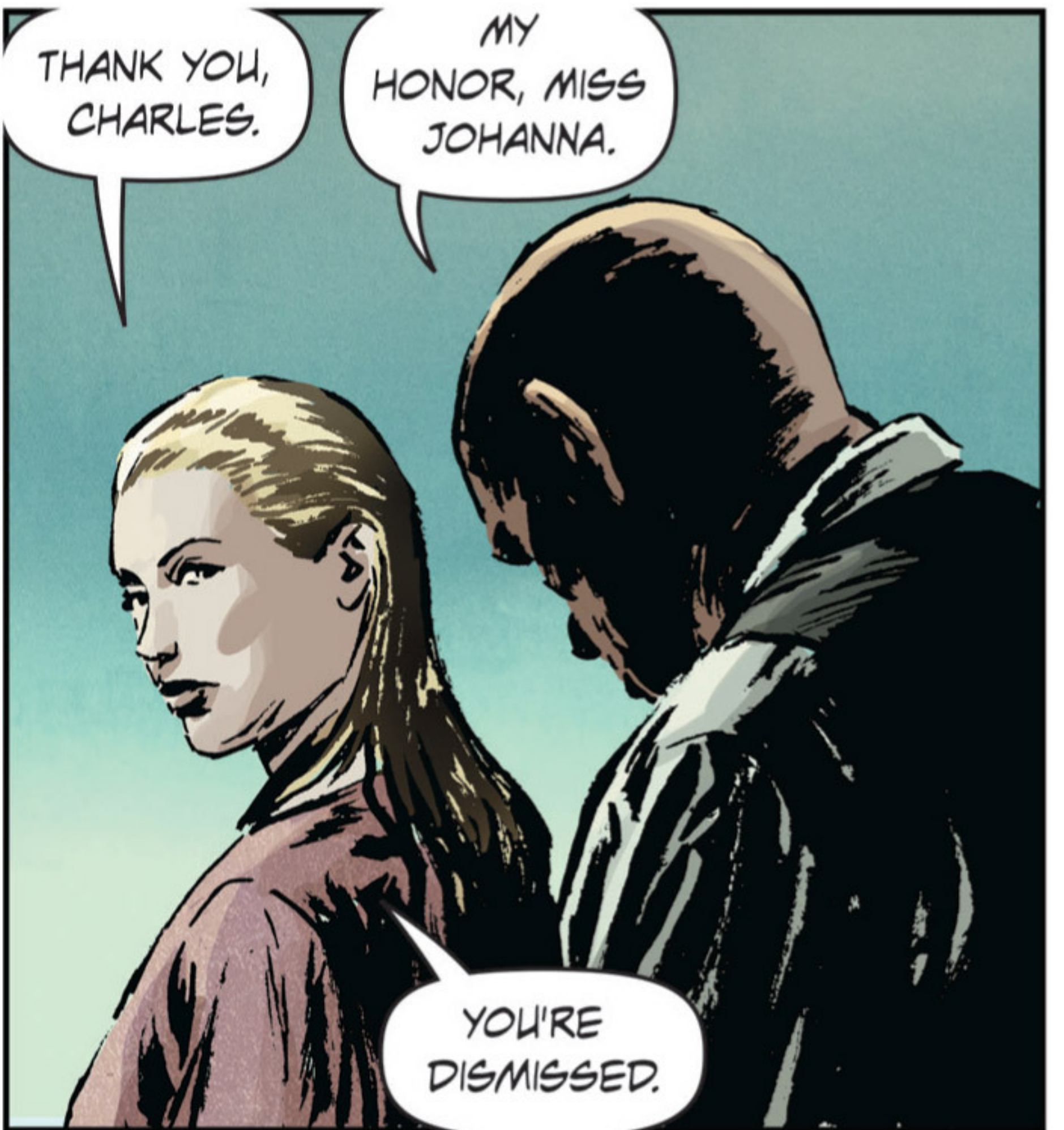
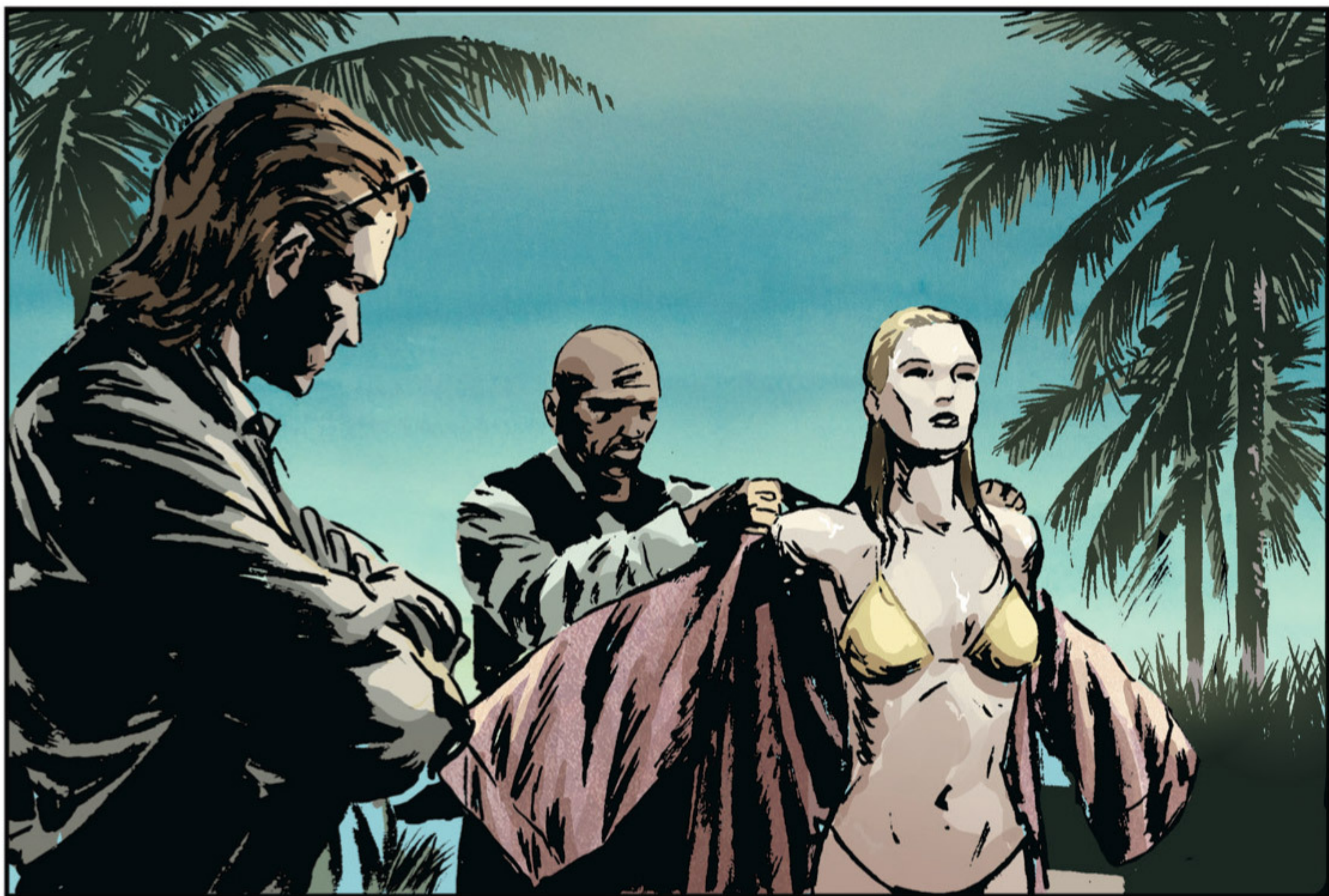
WE'RE ON THE BRINK OF WAR WITH MORRAY.

ALL IT WILL TAKE IS A BREATH TO KISS THE FLAMES TO LIFE.



AND YOU'RE NOT HEARING ME, JOHANNA!

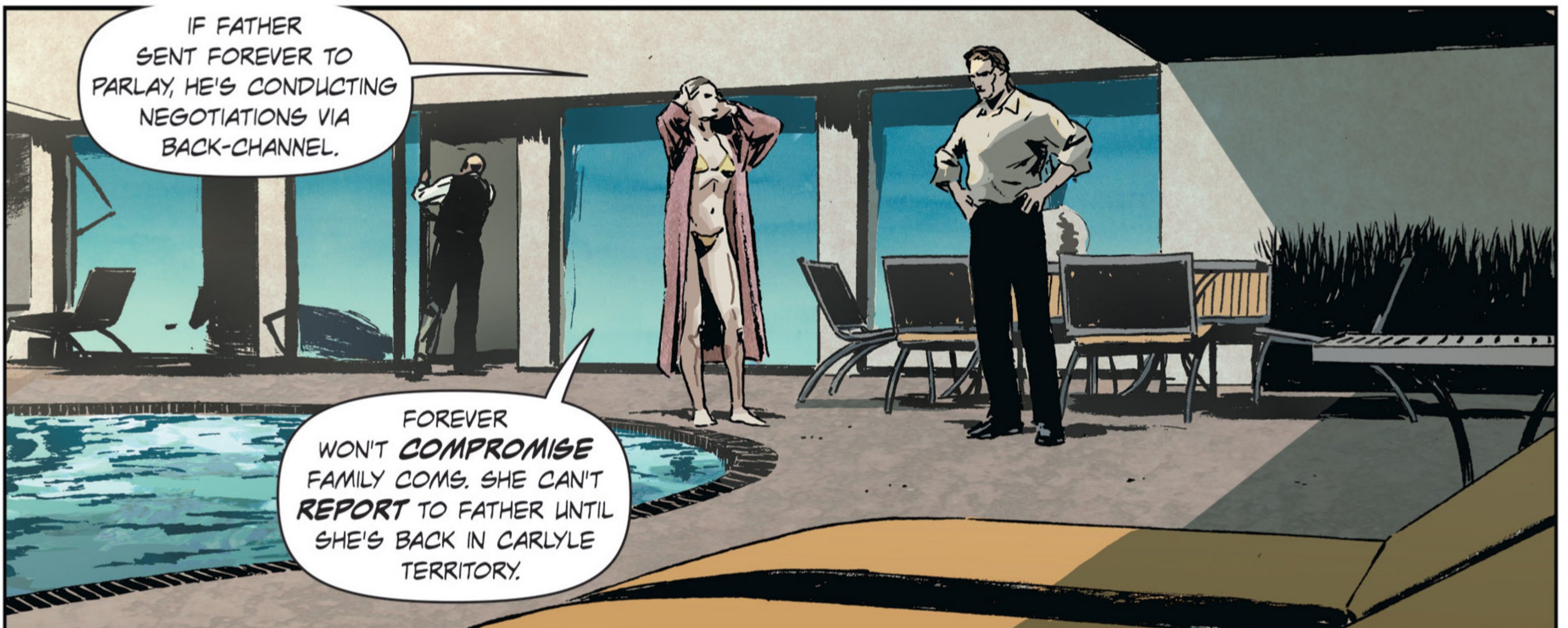
HE'S SENT FOREVER WITH A BUCKET OF WATER.



THANK YOU, CHARLES.

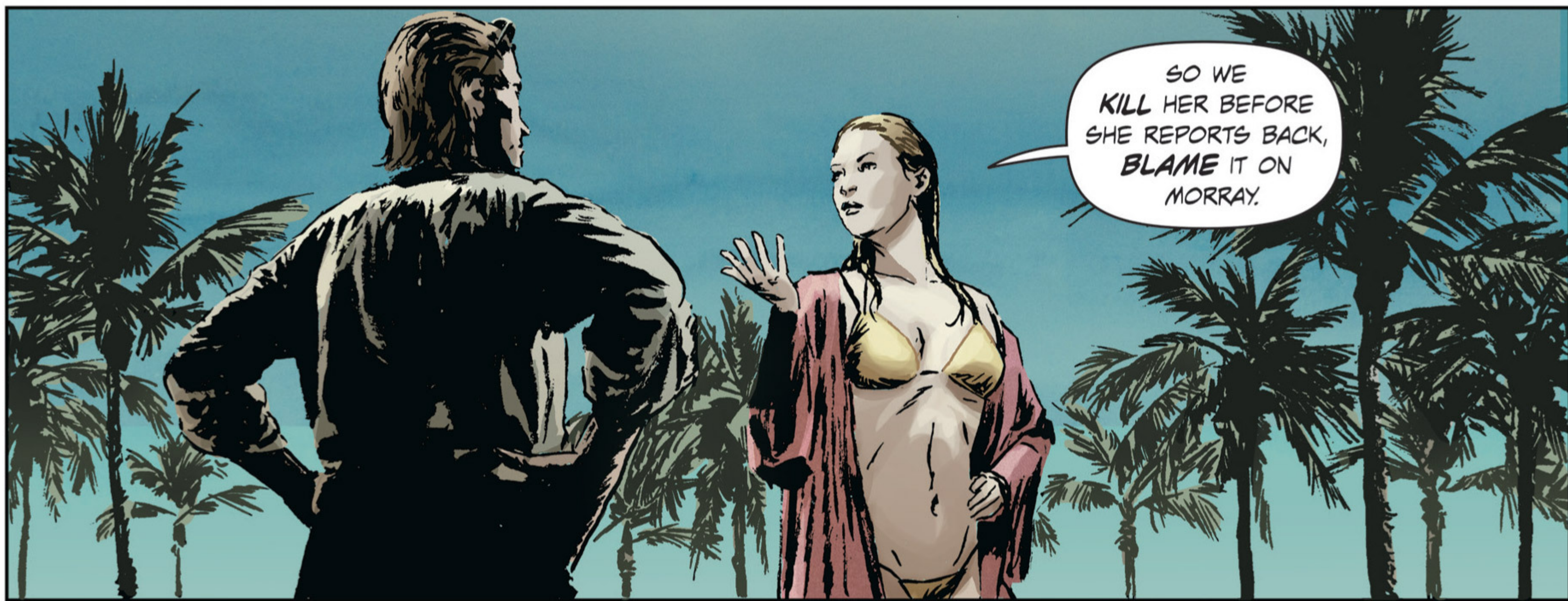
MY HONOR, MISS JOHANNA.

YOU'RE DISMISSED.

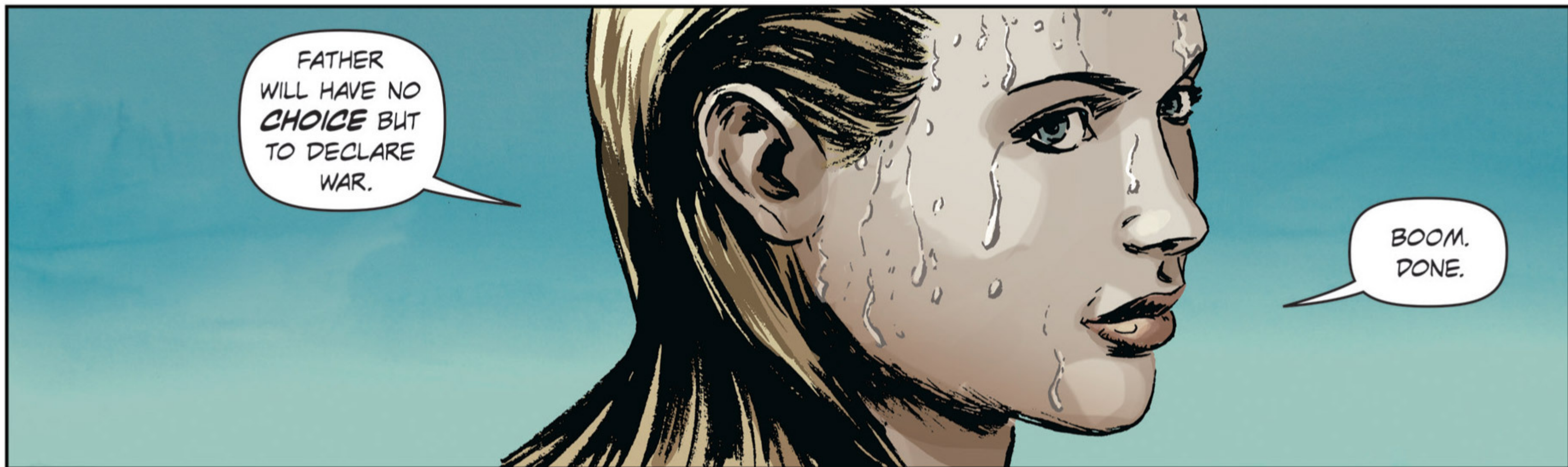


IF FATHER SENT FOREVER TO PARLAY, HE'S CONDUCTING NEGOTIATIONS VIA BACK-CHANNEL.

FOREVER WON'T COMPROMISE FAMILY COMS. SHE CAN'T REPORT TO FATHER UNTIL SHE'S BACK IN CARLYLE TERRITORY.

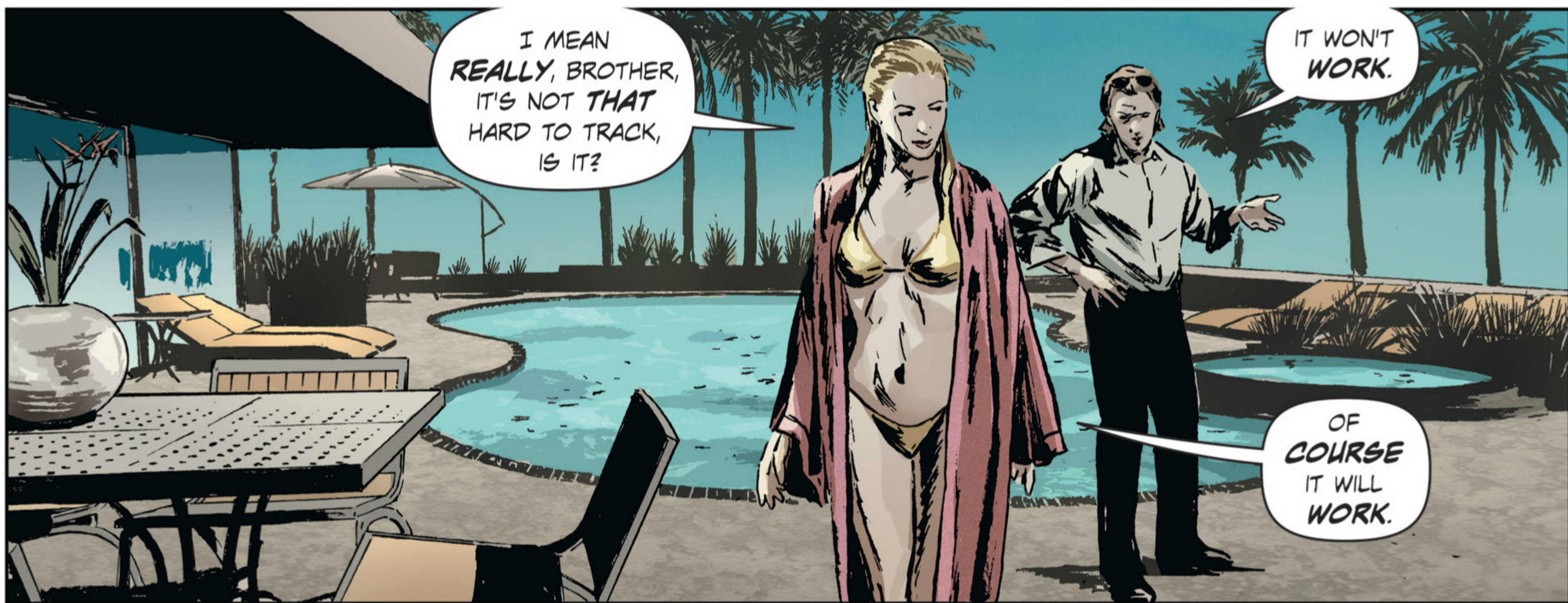


SO WE
KILL HER BEFORE
SHE REPORTS BACK,
BLAME IT ON
MORRAY.



FATHER
WILL HAVE NO
CHOICE BUT
TO DECLARE
WAR.

BOOM.
DONE.



I MEAN
REALLY, BROTHER,
IT'S NOT **THAT**
HARD TO TRACK,
IS IT?

IT WON'T
WORK.

OF
COURSE
IT WILL
WORK.



SHE'S OUR
FUCKING LAZARUS,
SHE **CAN'T** BE
KILLED,
REMEMBER?



OF COURSE
SHE CAN. SHE
DIES LIKE THEY **ALL**
DO, IT'S WHY THEY
WEAR THOSE SILLY
SWORDS.

JUST MAKE
THE PIECES **SMALL**
ENOUGH AND THERE'S
NOTHING
LEFT
TO REBUILD.

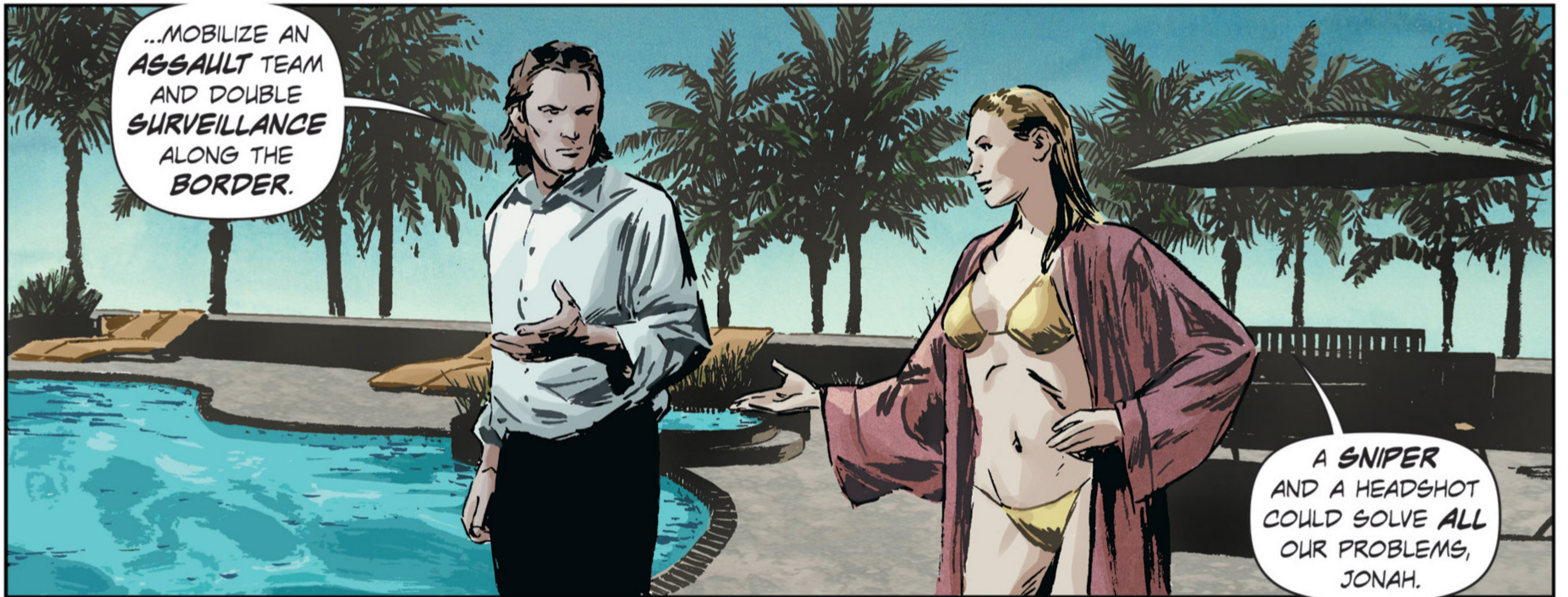


BOOM,
LIKE I
SAID.



WE'D HAVE TO HIT HER THE **MOMENT** SHE'S BACK IN OUR TERRITORY.

I'LL PUT MASON ON IT...

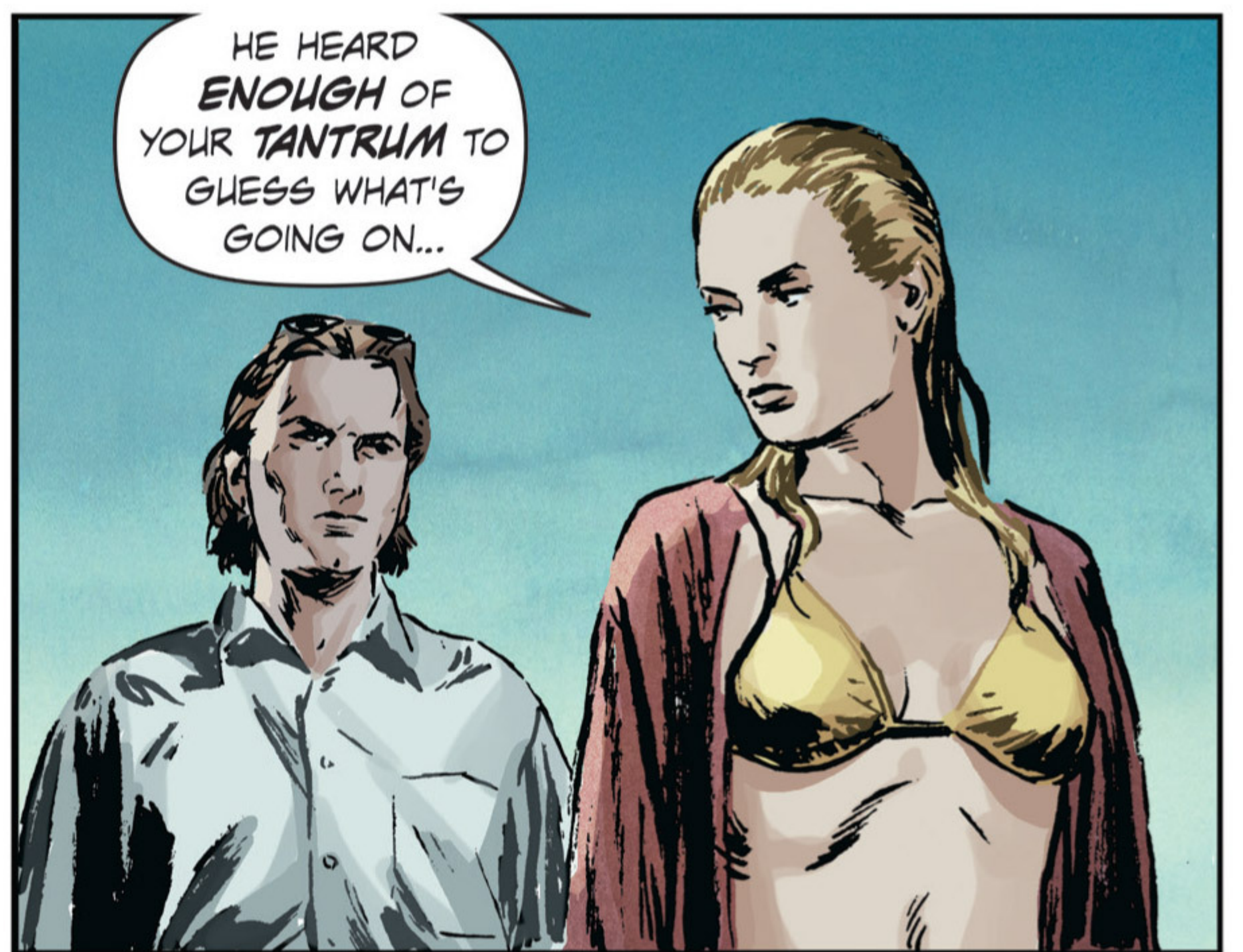


...MOBILIZE AN **ASSAULT TEAM** AND DOUBLE **SURVEILLANCE** ALONG THE **BORDER**.

A **SNIPER** AND A **HEADSHOT** COULD SOLVE ALL OUR PROBLEMS, **JONAH**.



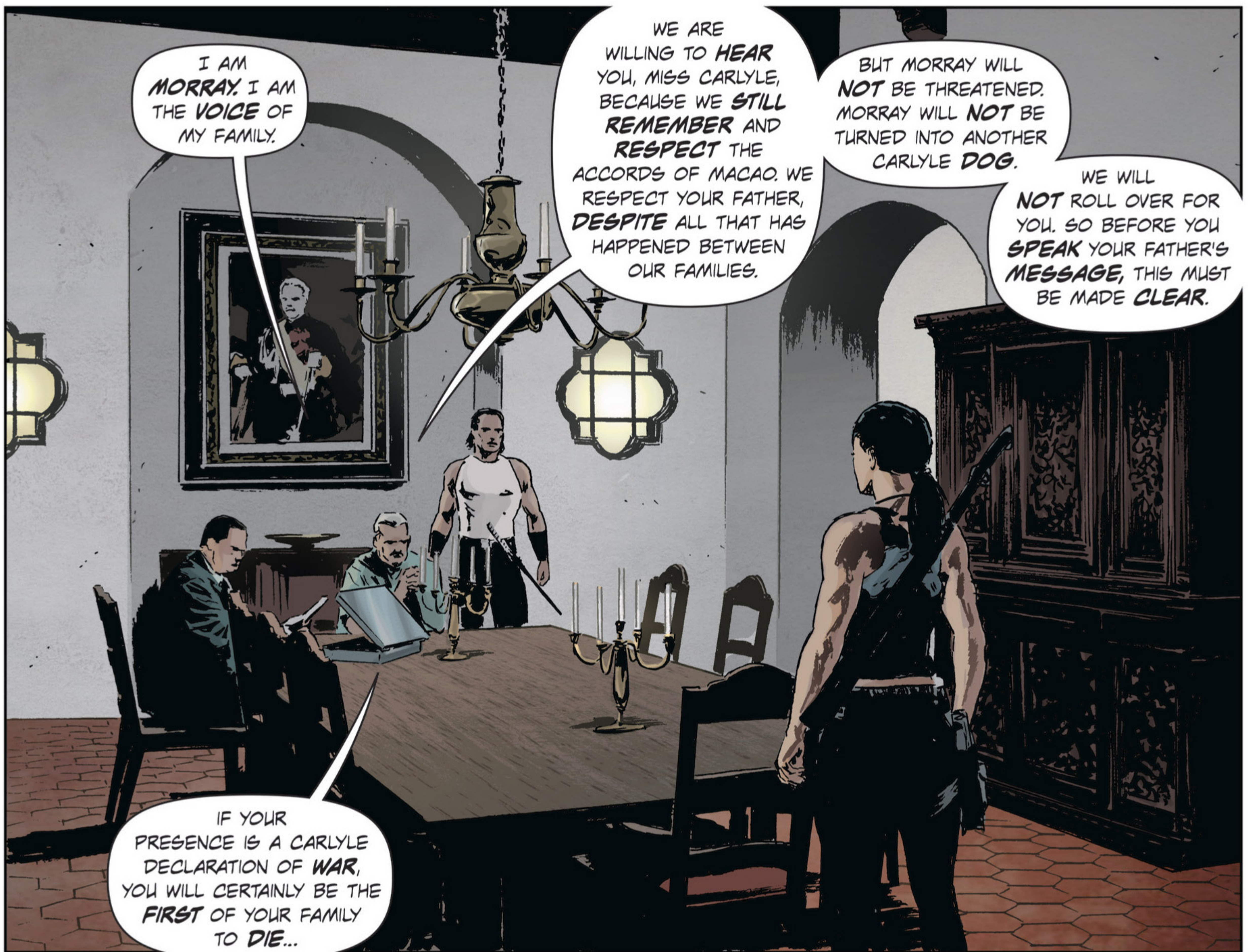
AND ASK **MASON** TO PAY **CHARLES** A VISIT.



HE HEARD **ENOUGH** OF YOUR **TANTRUM** TO GUESS WHAT'S GOING ON...



...AND WE DON'T WANT THE WASTE **TATTLING** TO **DADDY**, DO WE?



I AM MORRAY. I AM THE VOICE OF MY FAMILY.

WE ARE WILLING TO HEAR YOU, MISS CARLYLE, BECAUSE WE STILL REMEMBER AND RESPECT THE ACCORDS OF MACAO. WE RESPECT YOUR FATHER, DESPITE ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED BETWEEN OUR FAMILIES.

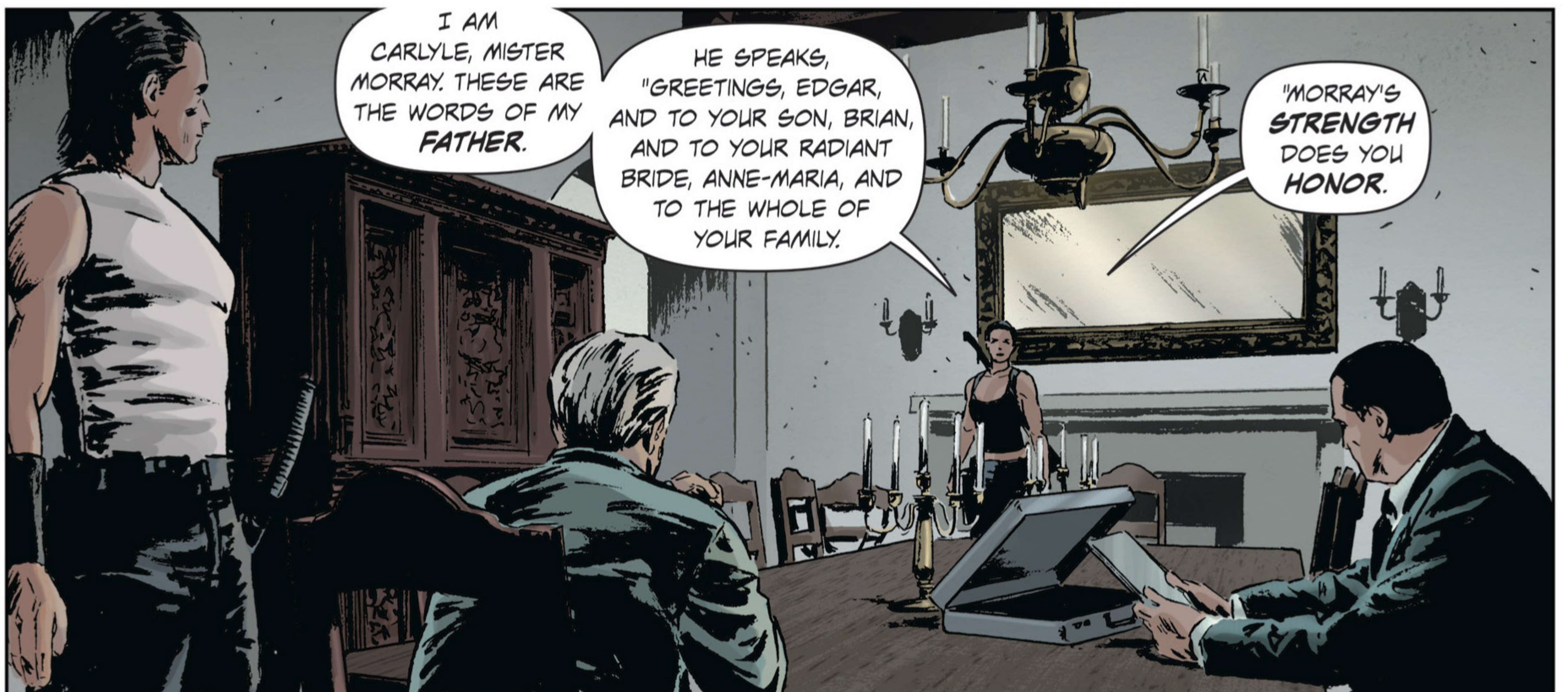
BUT MORRAY WILL NOT BE THREATENED. MORRAY WILL NOT BE TURNED INTO ANOTHER CARLYLE DOG.

WE WILL NOT ROLL OVER FOR YOU. SO BEFORE YOU SPEAK YOUR FATHER'S MESSAGE, THIS MUST BE MADE CLEAR.

IF YOUR PRESENCE IS A CARLYLE DECLARATION OF WAR, YOU WILL CERTAINLY BE THE FIRST OF YOUR FAMILY TO DIE...



...BUT NOT, BY FAR, THE LAST.



I AM CARLYLE, MISTER MORRAY. THESE ARE THE WORDS OF MY FATHER.

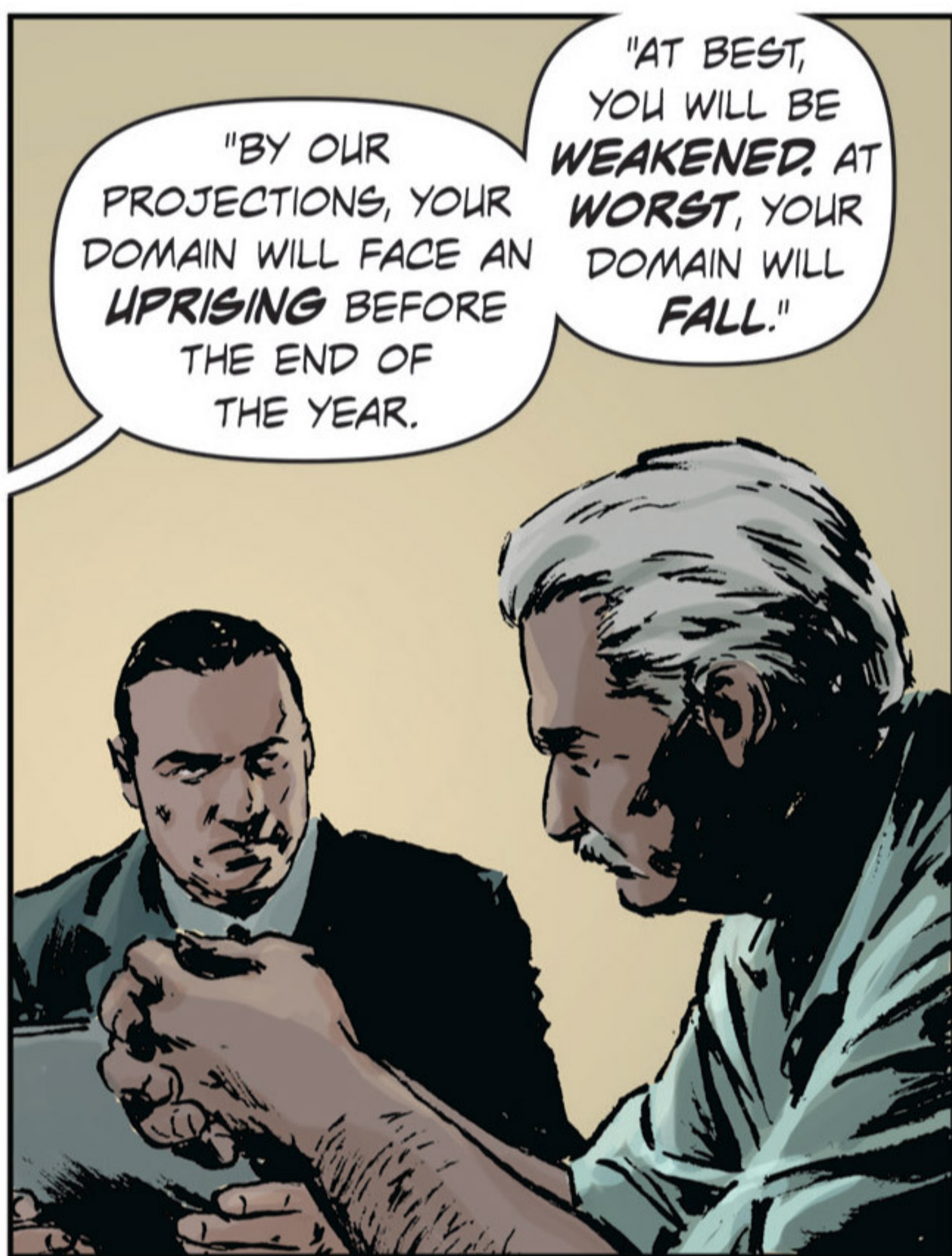
HE SPEAKS, "GREETINGS, EDGAR, AND TO YOUR SON, BRIAN, AND TO YOUR RADIANT BRIDE, ANNE-MARIA, AND TO THE WHOLE OF YOUR FAMILY.

"MORRAY'S STRENGTH DOES YOU HONOR.



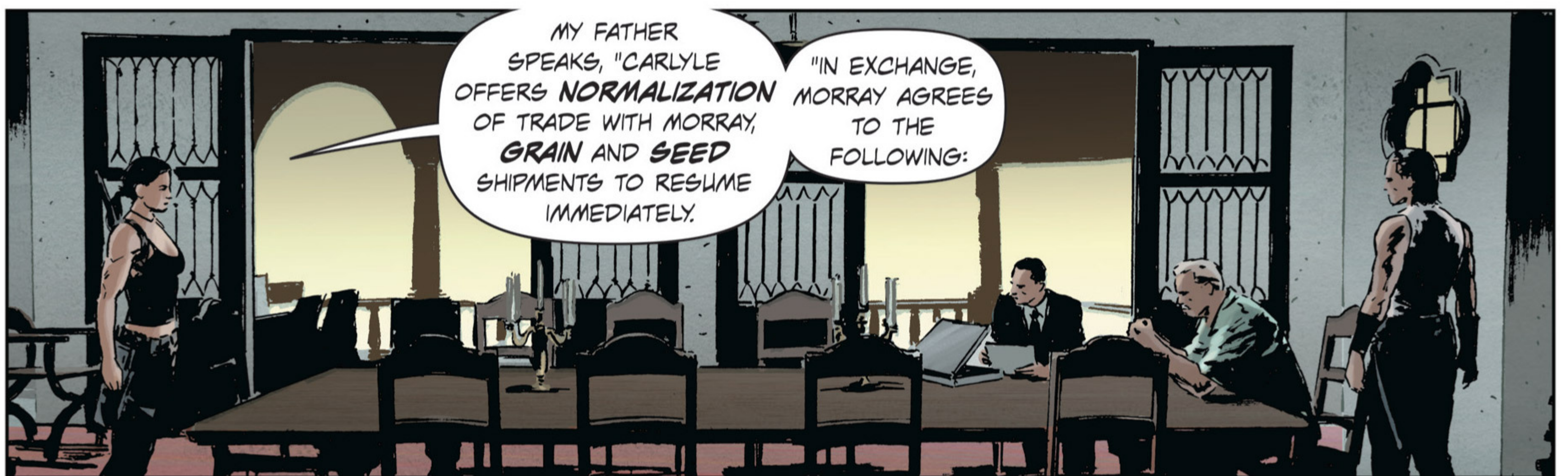
"BUT YOU CANNOT DINE ON **STRENGTH**," HE SAYS. "YOUR PEOPLE **STARVE**."

"**UNREST** IS ON THE RISE FROM DURANGO TO MEXICO CITY, AND EVEN FURTHER **SOUTH**."



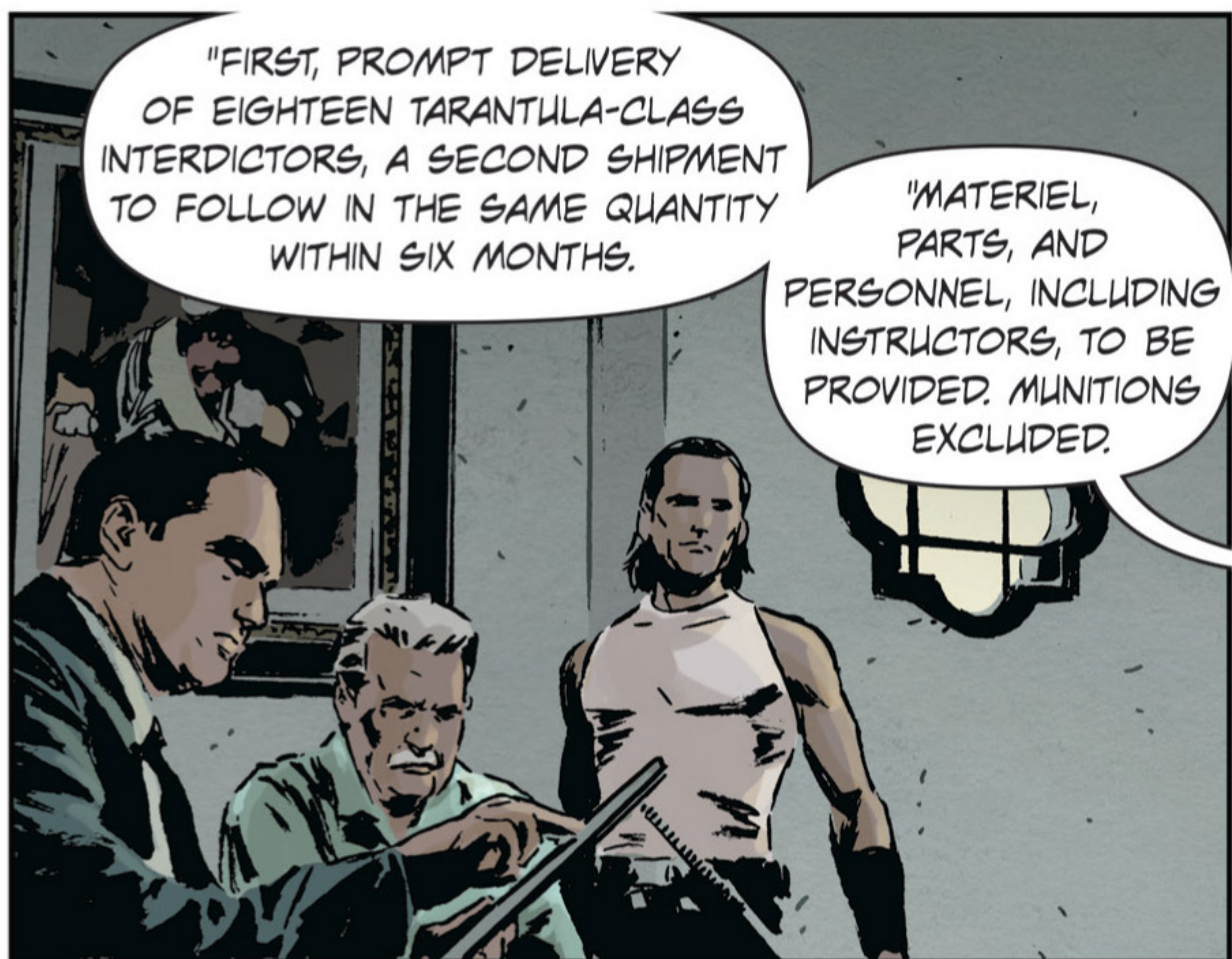
"BY OUR PROJECTIONS, YOUR DOMAIN WILL FACE AN **UPRISING** BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR."

"AT BEST, YOU WILL BE **WEAKENED**. AT **WORST**, YOUR DOMAIN WILL **FALL**."



MY FATHER SPEAKS, "CARLYLE OFFERS **NORMALIZATION** OF TRADE WITH MORRAY, **GRAIN AND SEED** SHIPMENTS TO RESUME IMMEDIATELY."

"IN EXCHANGE, MORRAY AGREES TO THE FOLLOWING:"



"FIRST, PROMPT DELIVERY OF EIGHTEEN TARANTULA-CLASS INTERDICTORS, A SECOND SHIPMENT TO FOLLOW IN THE SAME QUANTITY WITHIN SIX MONTHS."

"MATERIEL, PARTS, AND PERSONNEL, INCLUDING INSTRUCTORS, TO BE PROVIDED. MUNITIONS EXCLUDED."



"SECOND, AND LAST," MY FATHER SPEAKS, "YOU AGREE TO IMMEDIATELY **CEASE** ANY AND **ALL** COMMUNICATION WITH OUR YOUNGEST SON, JONAH..."



"...WHOSE **TREACHERY** IS KNOWN TO US, AS IS YOUR **COLLUSION** WITH HIM."



THIS IS THE CARLYLE **MESSAGE** TO MORRAY.

I AM TO RELAY YOUR **REPLY**."



FOR THE INTERDICTORS, SIX MONTHS IS **NOT** ENOUGH. WITHIN THE YEAR, POSSIBLY. THESE WOULD BE THE MARK IVs.

ALSO, YOUR **LOW-HYDRATION** STRAINS FOR THE GRAINS, INCLUDING THE J-73 AND J-74 VARIANTS.

THE MARK Vs, DELIVERY AS STATED.

IN RETURN FOR WHICH WE **GRANT J-73 AND K-17.**



PENDING TESTING TO PROVE THE STRAINS VIABLE, THIS IS SATISFACTORY.

AND TO THE SECOND POINT?

YOUR BROTHER IS AS DEAD TO **US** AS HE IS NOW TO **YOU.**

MORRAY AGREES.

CARLYLE AGREES.

GOOD.

THEN THIS BUSINESS IS **CONCLUDED...**



...CAN WE **PERSUADE** YOU TO STAY FOR **DINNER**, MISS CARLYLE?

AT LEAST TO SHARE A DRINK WITH ME AND MY SON?

THAT IS **VERY GRACIOUS** OF YOU, MISTER MORRAY...



...BUT I'M **SURE** YOU UNDERSTAND THAT I MUST RETURN HOME AS SOON AS **POSSIBLE**.

OF COURSE, A PITY, BUT OF **COURSE**.

YOUR FATHER WILL WANT TO HEAR ABOUT THIS IN **PERSON**, NO DOUBT...



...YOU NEVER KNOW WHO MIGHT BE **LISTENING**.

LAZARUS.

YES, UNCLE?



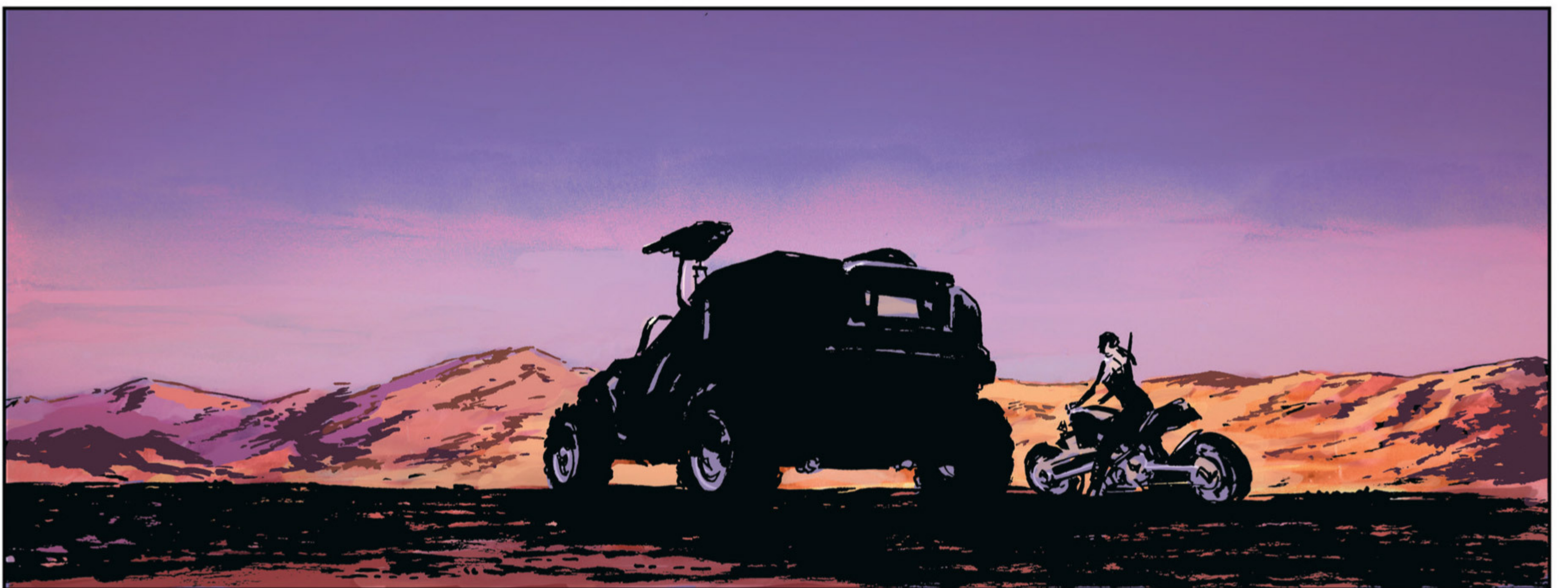
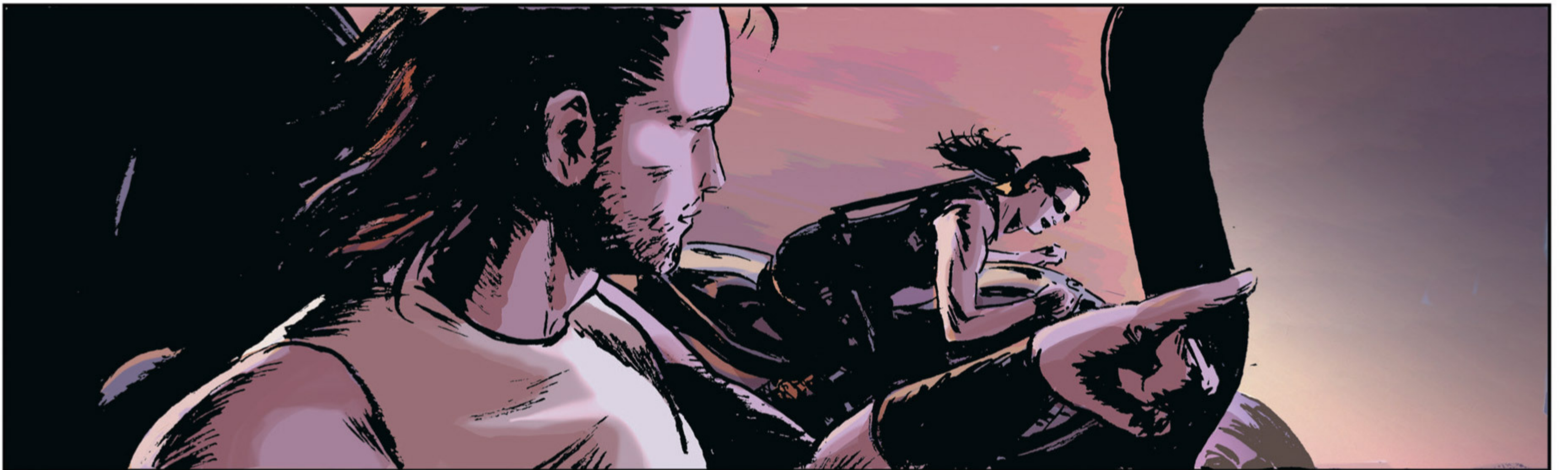
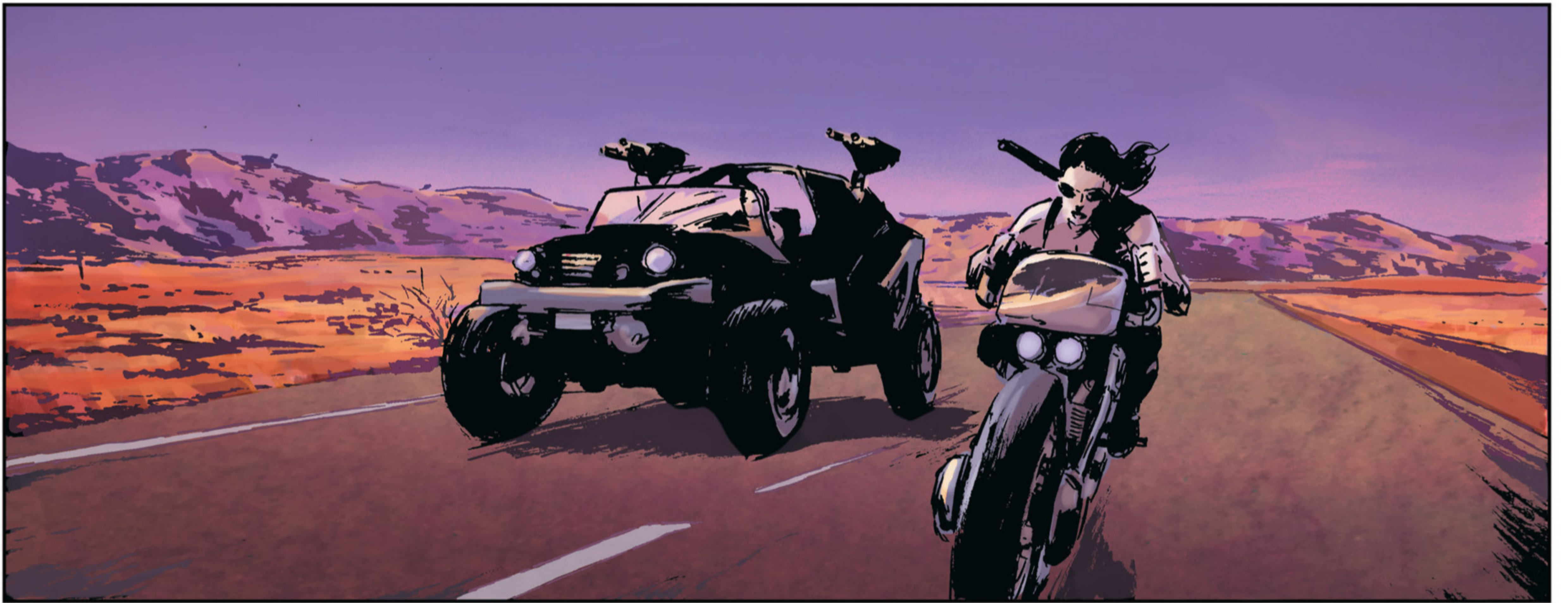
YOU WILL SEE THE CARLYLE LAZARUS SAFELY OUT OF OUR **DOMAIN**.

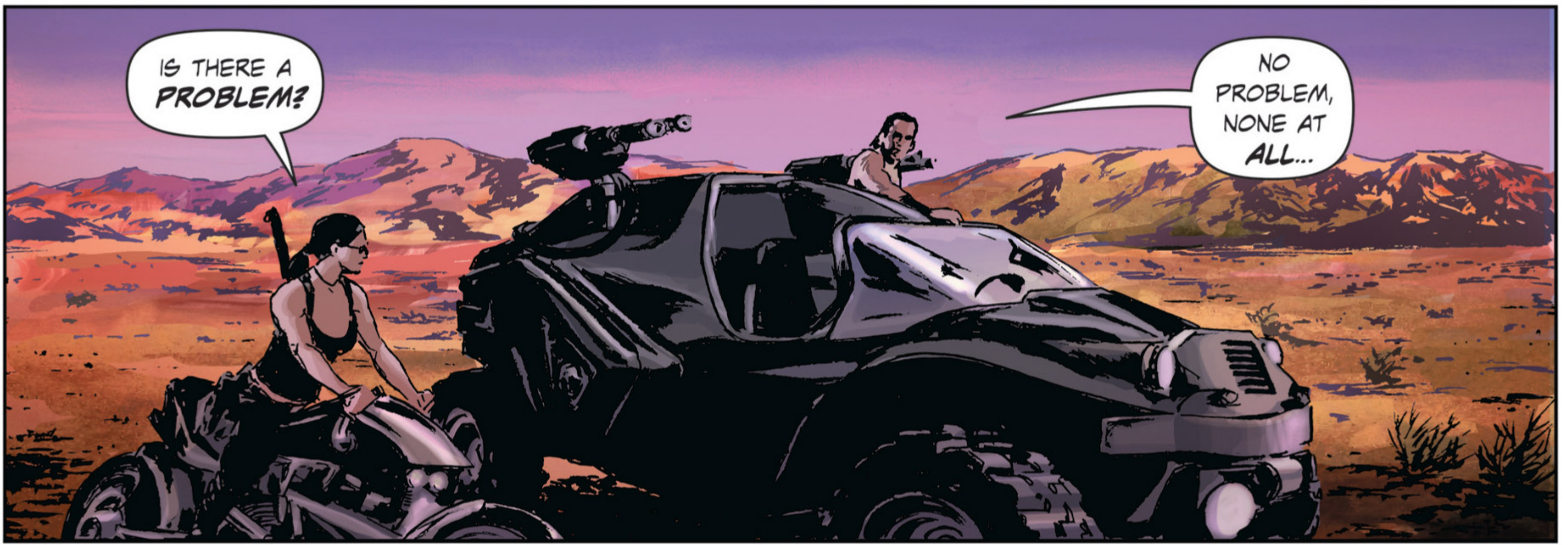
YOU WILL LEAVE AT ONCE.

OF COURSE, UNCLE...



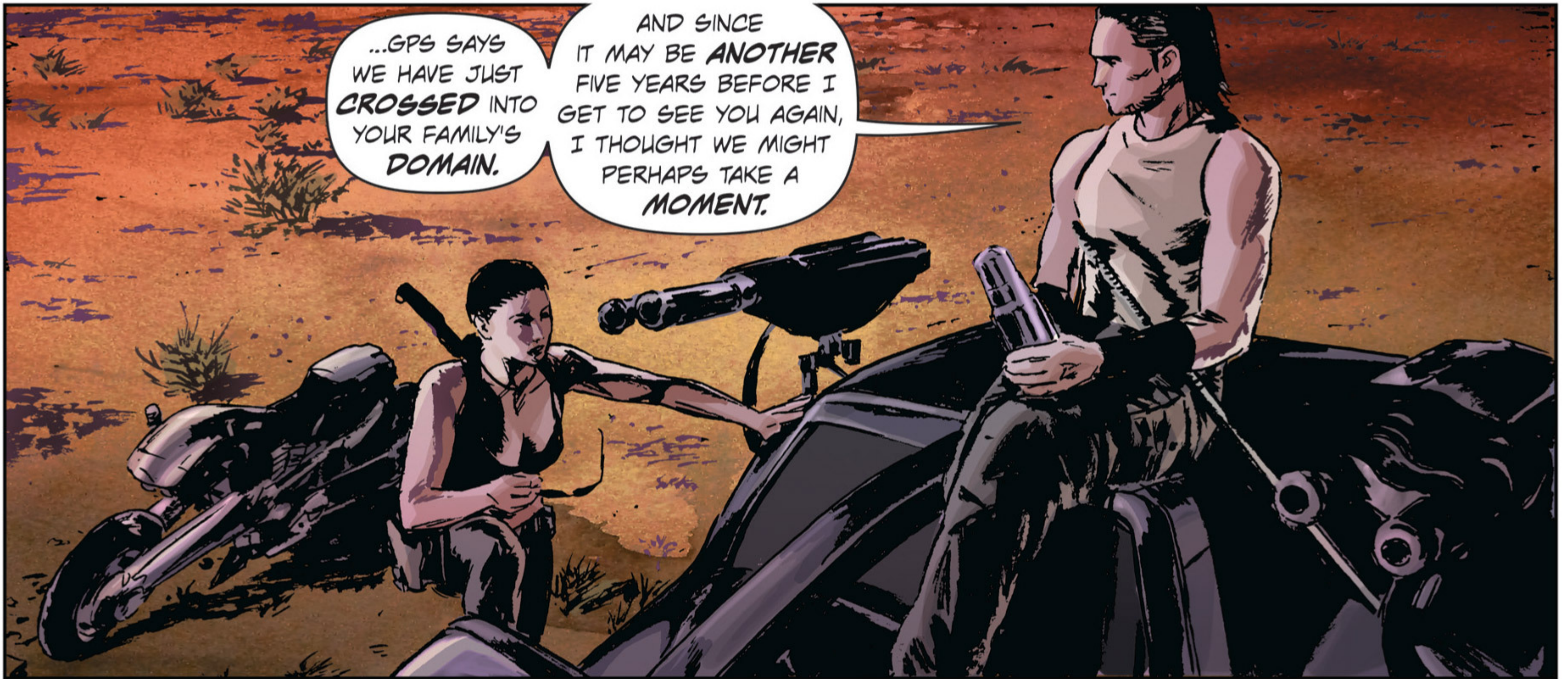
...IT WILL BE MY **PLEASURE**.





IS THERE A PROBLEM?

NO PROBLEM, NONE AT ALL...



...GPS SAYS WE HAVE JUST **CROSSED** INTO YOUR FAMILY'S DOMAIN.

AND SINCE IT MAY BE **ANOTHER** FIVE YEARS BEFORE I GET TO SEE YOU AGAIN, I THOUGHT WE MIGHT PERHAPS TAKE A **MOMENT**.



A MOMENT FOR WHAT?

FOR SHARING A DRINK OF WATER AND A **SUNSET**.



FOR SAYING GOOD-BYE.



I'D LIKE THAT.



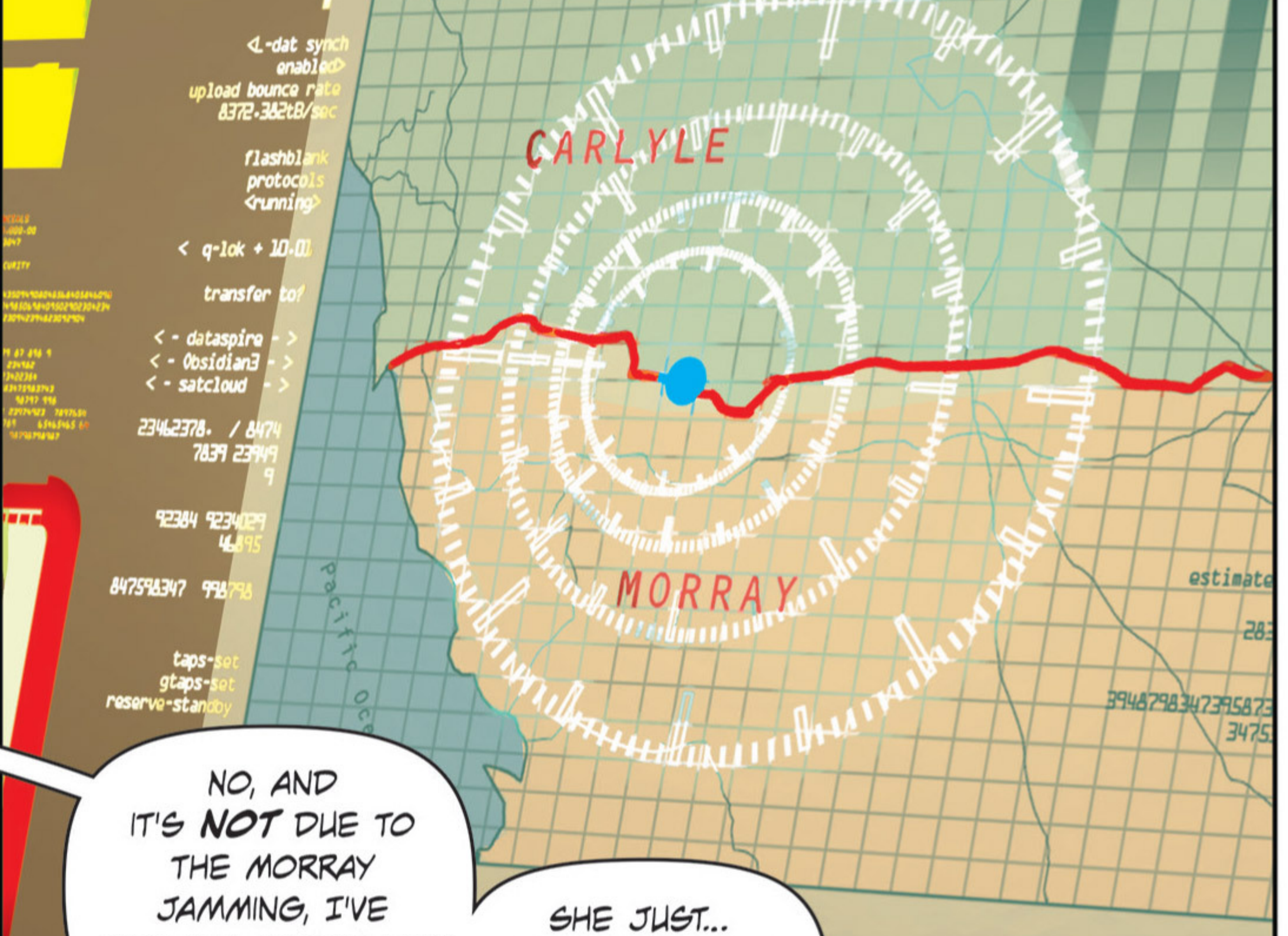


FAMILY
CHAPTER FOUR

Southern Sierra Nevada
Facility: Compound Sequoia
Family: Carlyle

STILL
HASN'T
MOVED?

Population [Family]: 3 [2 permanent]



NO, AND
IT'S **NOT** DUE TO
THE MORRAY
JAMMING, I'VE
ALREADY ACCOUNTED
FOR THAT.

SHE JUST...
STOPPED ABOUT
THREE MINUTES
AGO, RIGHT ON
THE BORDER...

Population [Serf]: 28
Population [Waste]: 0

...WONDER
WHY.

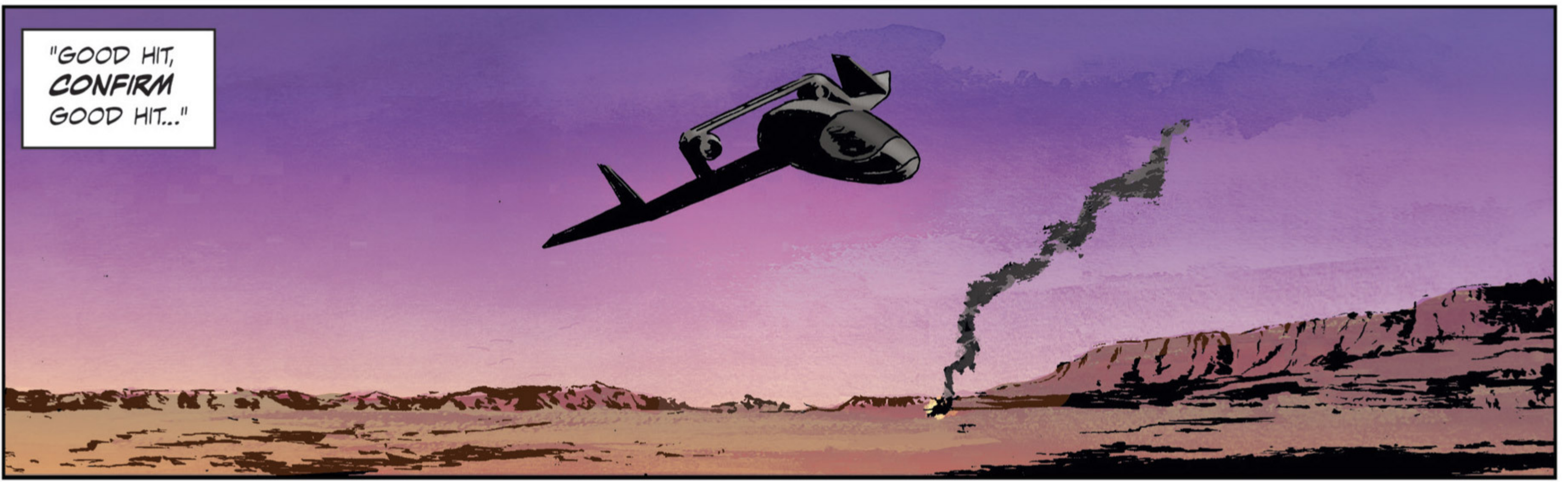
PERHAPS
SHE'S ENJOYING
THE **SUNSET**,
JAMES.

PERHAPS
YOU SHOULD,
TOO.

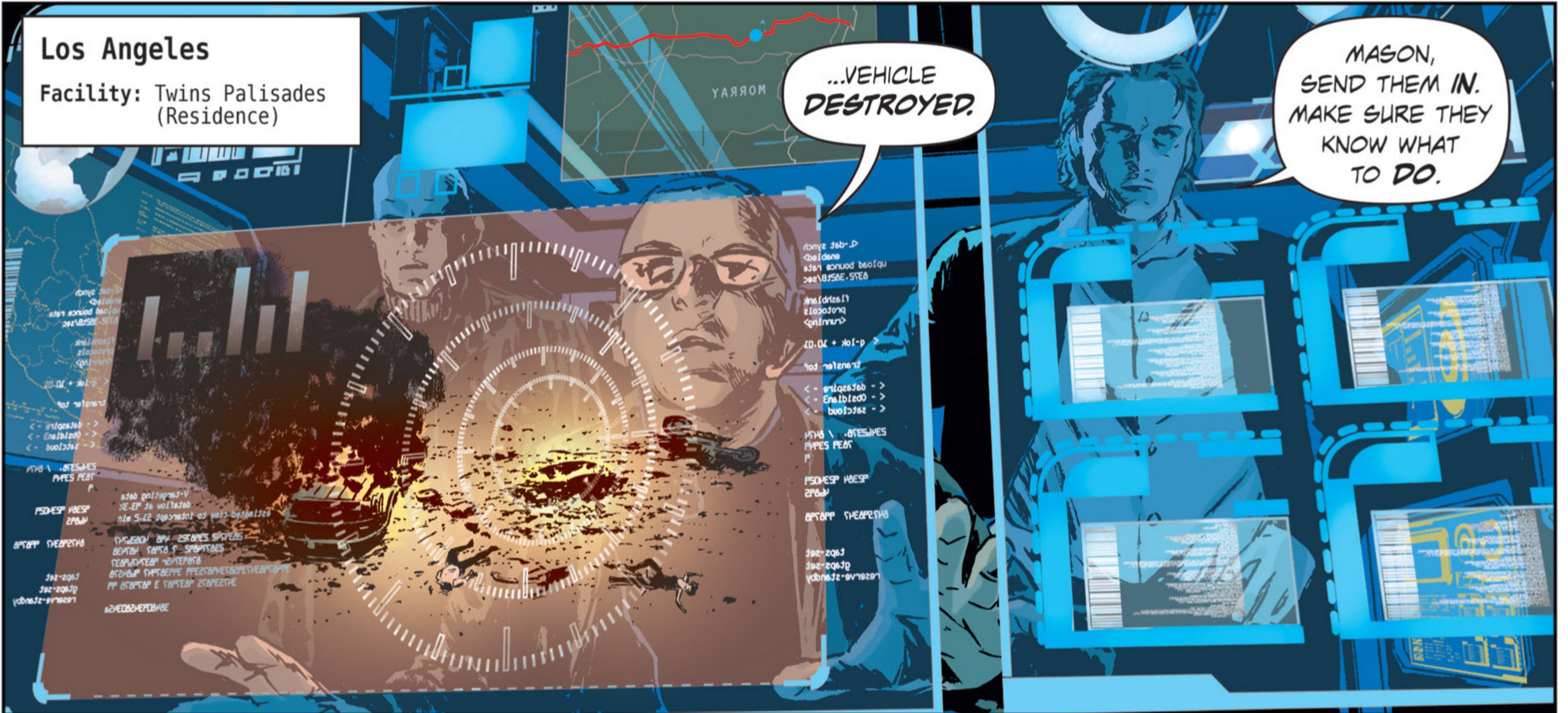
IS THAT AN
ORDER FROM
THE **FAMILY**,
BETHANY?

THINK
OF IT AS
FRIENDLY
ADVICE,
DOCTOR--

dreeetdreeetdreeetdre



"GOOD HIT,
CONFIRM
GOOD HIT..."



Los Angeles
Facility: Twins Palisades
(Residence)

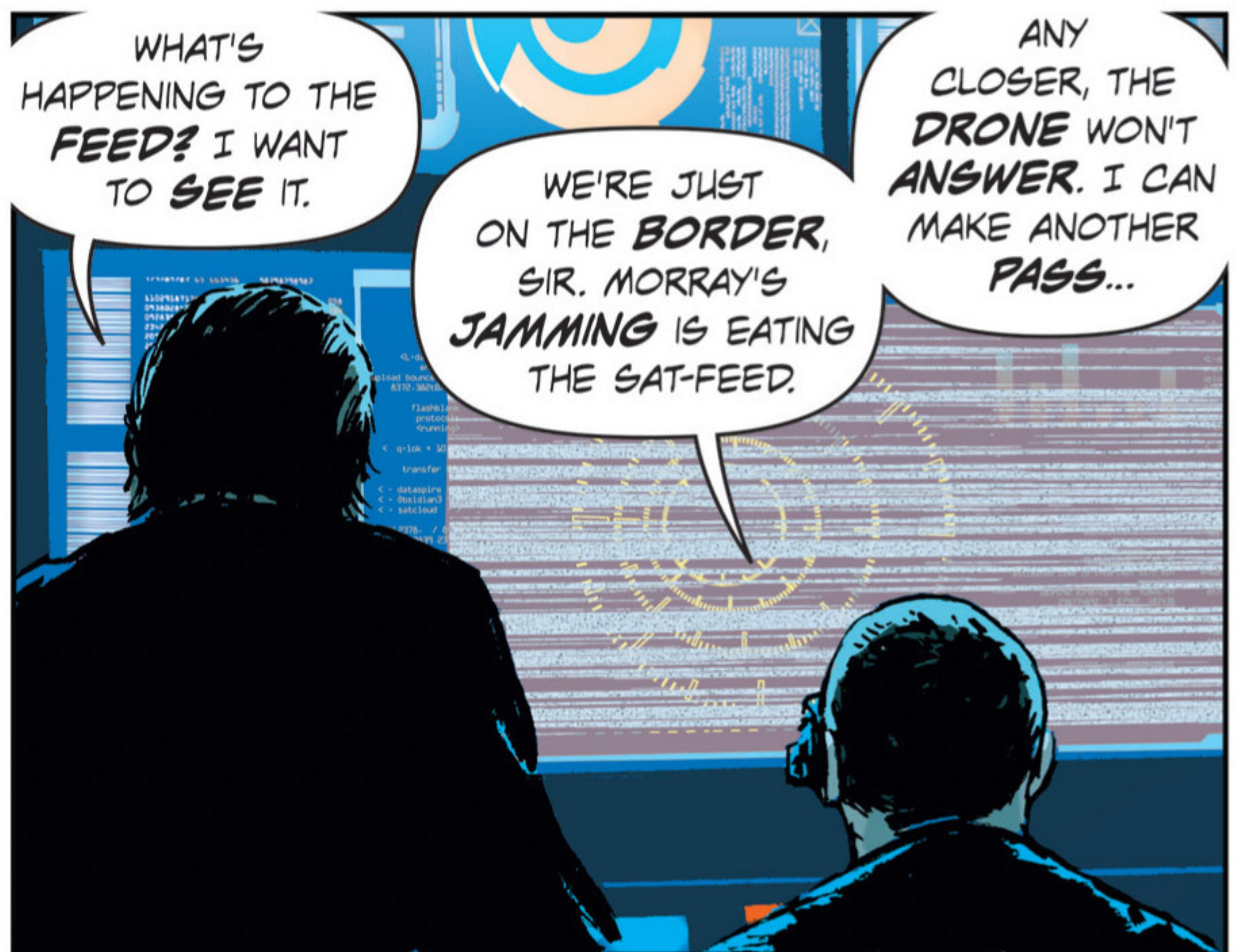
...VEHICLE
DESTROYED.

MASON,
SEND THEM IN.
MAKE SURE THEY
KNOW WHAT
TO DO.



Family: Carlyle
Population [Family]: 2
Population [Serf]: 76

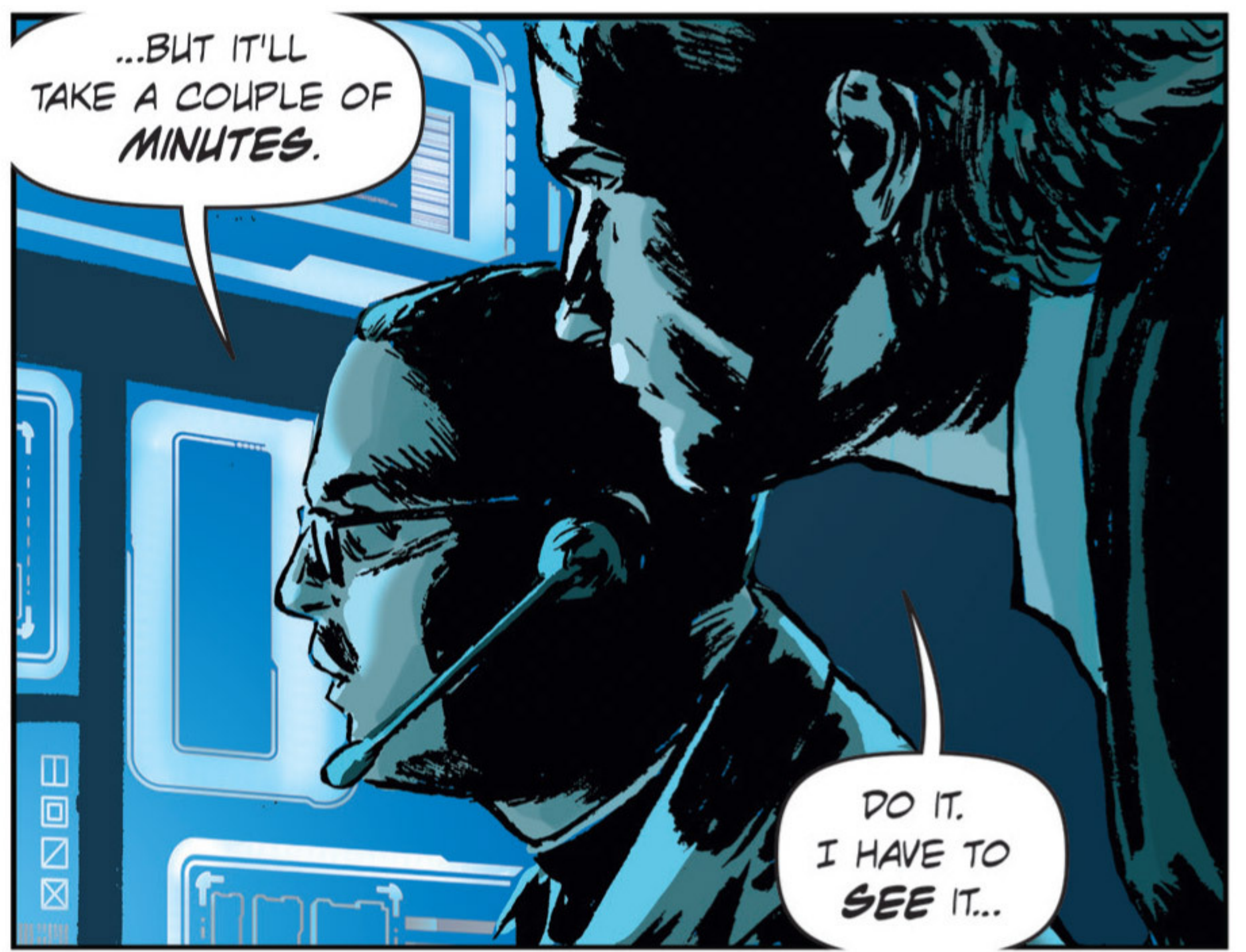
YES, SIR,
MISTER
CARLYLE.



WHAT'S
HAPPENING TO THE
FEED? I WANT
TO **SEE** IT.

WE'RE JUST
ON THE **BORDER**,
SIR. MORRAY'S
JAMMING IS EATING
THE SAT-FEED.

ANY
CLOSER, THE
DRONE WON'T
ANSWER. I CAN
MAKE ANOTHER
PASS...

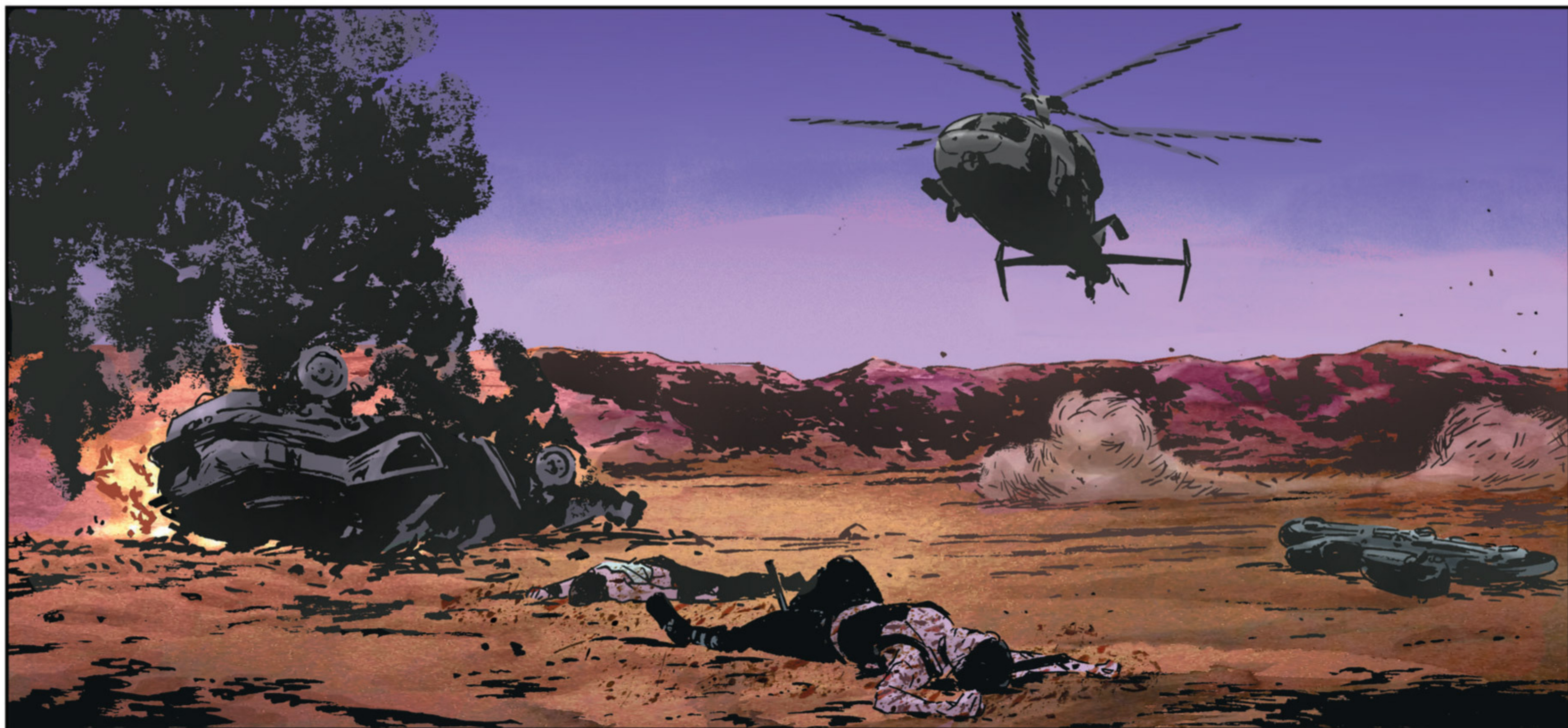


...BUT IT'LL
TAKE A COUPLE OF
MINUTES.

DO IT.
I HAVE TO
SEE IT...

Sonoran Desert, Mexico
Family: Morray/Carlyle Border
[contested]

"...I HAVE TO
BE SURE...!"





RIBS HAVE
FUSED, SCI REGEN
97%, NERVE SIGNAL
PROPAGATION RESTORED...
SHE'S GOT HER
EXTREMITIES
BACK...



hnggh
nnhhhhh--



...SHE'LL
NEED TO **RESET**
THE WRIST HERSELF
BEFORE IT CAN
TAKE.

SECONDARY
CATECHOLAMINE
RELEASE...



"...MUST BE **REACTING**
TO SOME STIMULI..."



...SOME
THREAT...

YOUR
FATHER,
WHAT DID
HE SAY?

MHM? OH,
HE SAID, AND
I QUOTE...





...DON'T DO THIS...

HOLD HER STILL...



JOHANNA-MISS CARLYLE, I MEAN- THE FEED WENT DOWN.

I TOLD YOU I'D TAKE CARE OF IT, MASON.



...I AM... GIVING YOU AN ORDER...

...I AM COMMANDER FOREVER CARLYLE... OF THE FAMILY CARLYLE...



NOW HIT ME.

MA'AM?

DON'T BE A PUSSY, MASON...



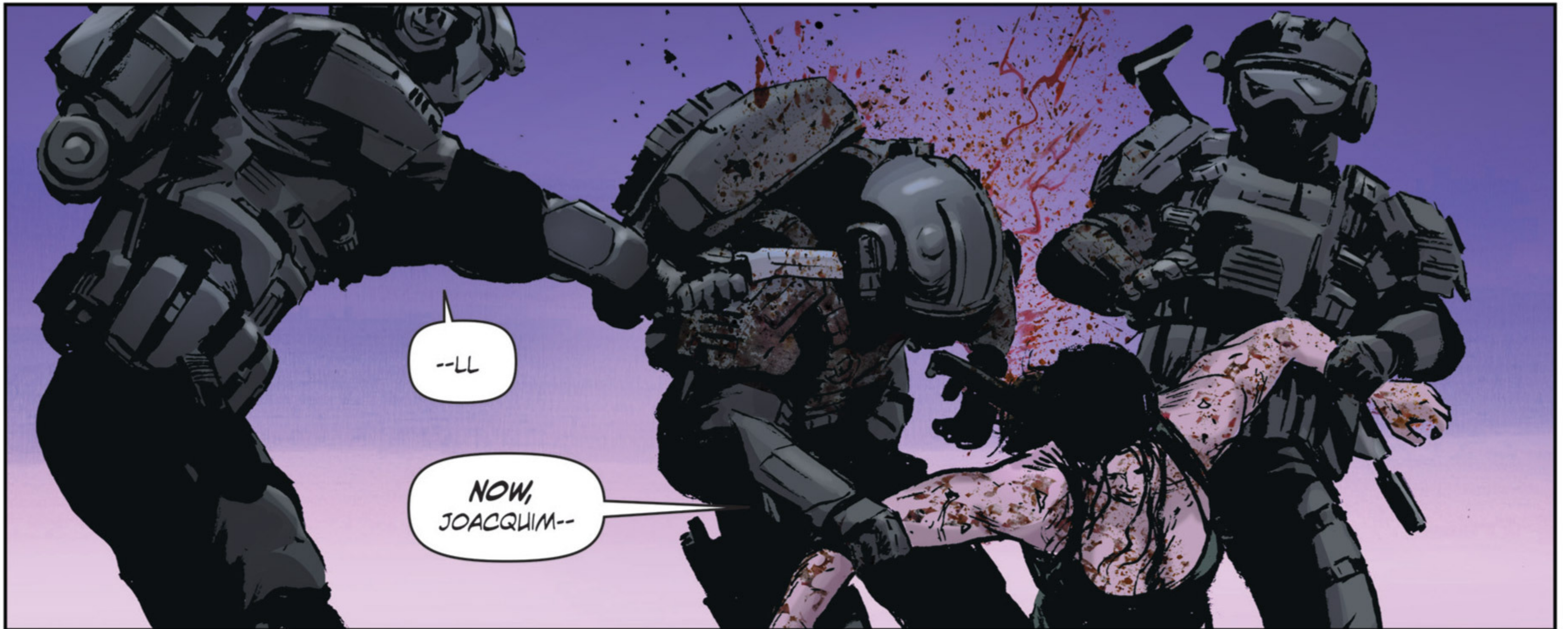
...TO DISOBEY ME IS TO DIE.

TO STRIKE ME IS TO DIE.

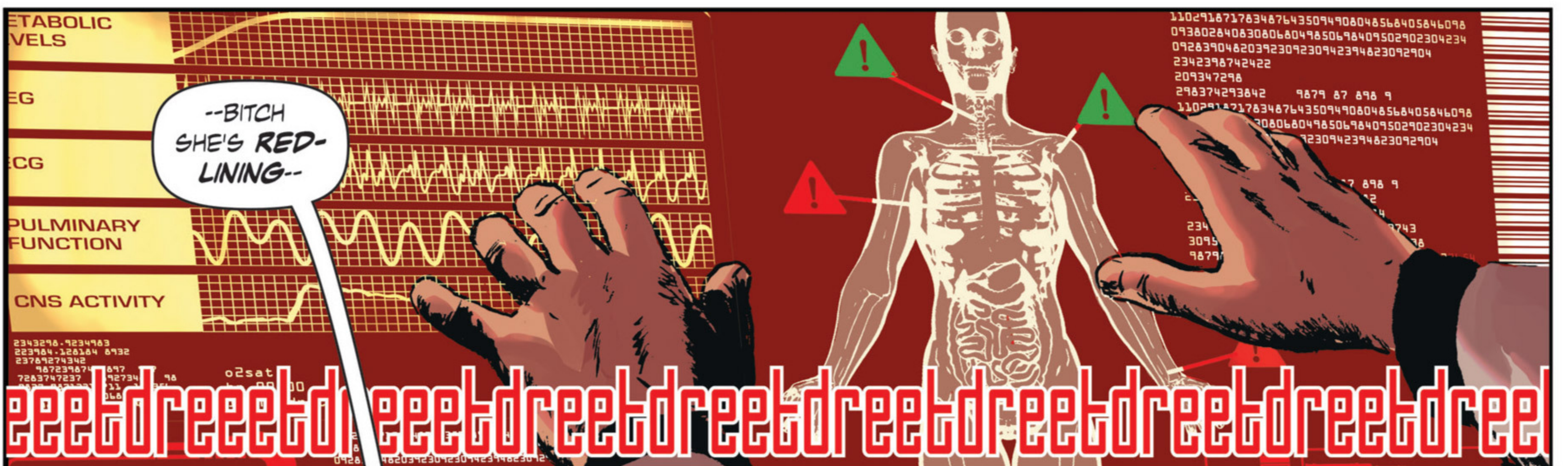
YOU WILL RELEASE ME AT ONCE...

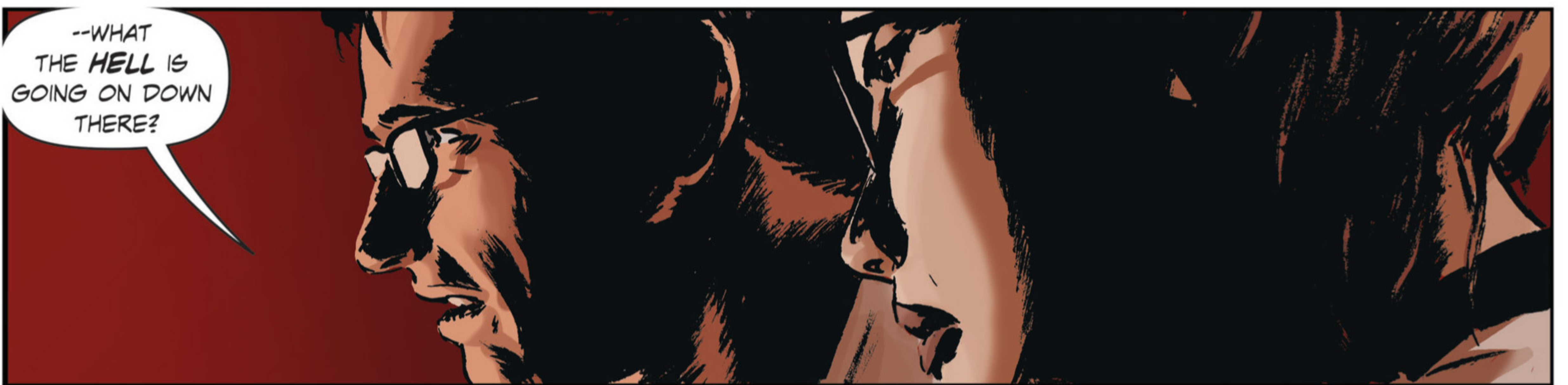


...I'M GIVING YOU AN ORDER.











SHE'S DEFENDING HERSELF, JAMES.

LOOK AT HER SACCADIC REACTION TIME, IT'S OFF THE CHART...



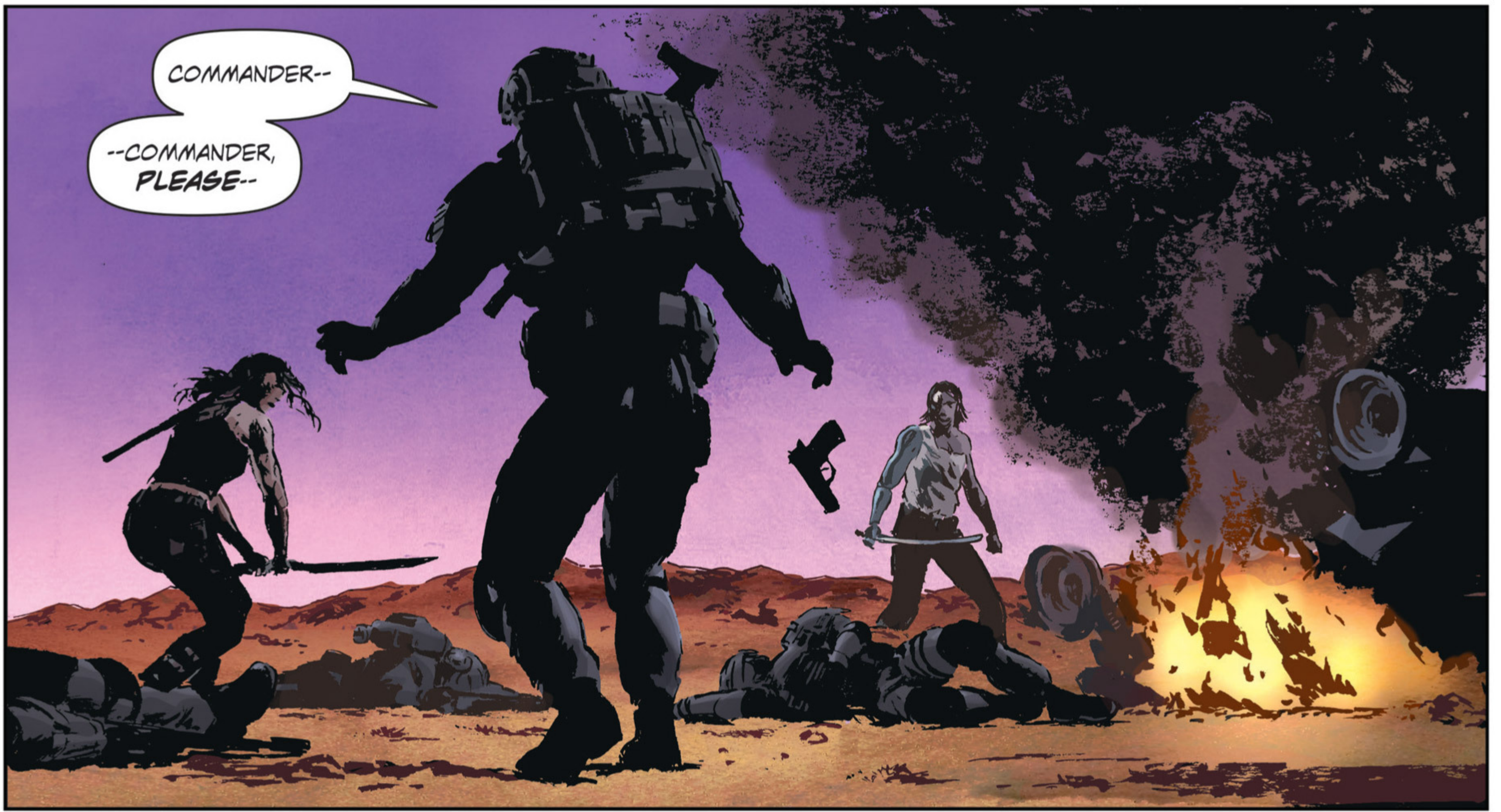
...JUST BEAUTIFUL.

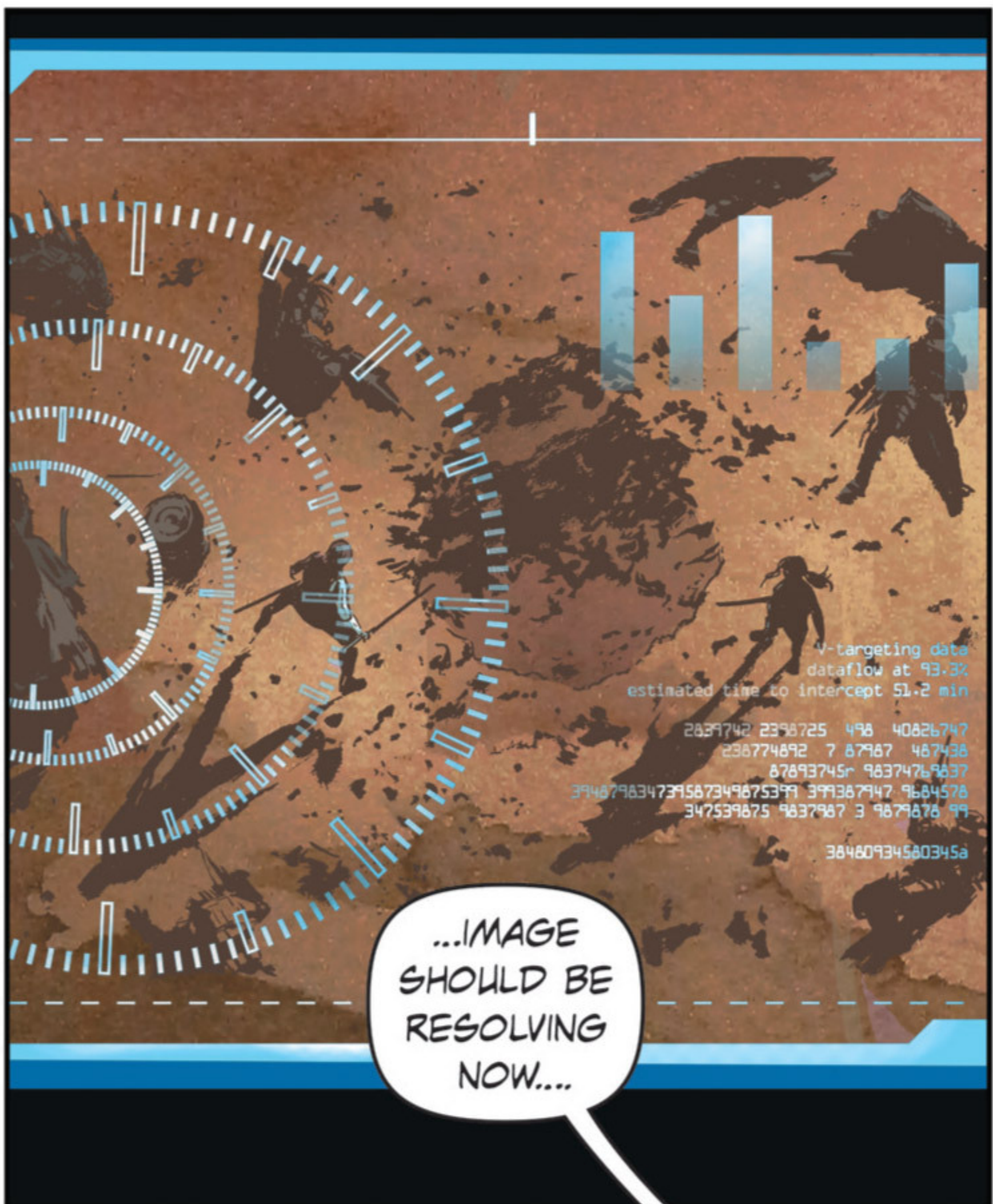
THE ADENOSINE BLOCKER THERAPY IS WORKING BETTER THAN I HOPED.

FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, BETHANY! SOMEONE'S TRYING TO KILL YOUR SISTER!



SHE ONLY THINKS SHE'S MY SISTER, JAMES.







JOHANNA!

JO!



IT FAILED!
IT FUCKING
FAILED!

IS SHE IN
THERE? LET
ME THROUGH,
MASON!



NO.



WH-WHAT
DID YOU
JUST--

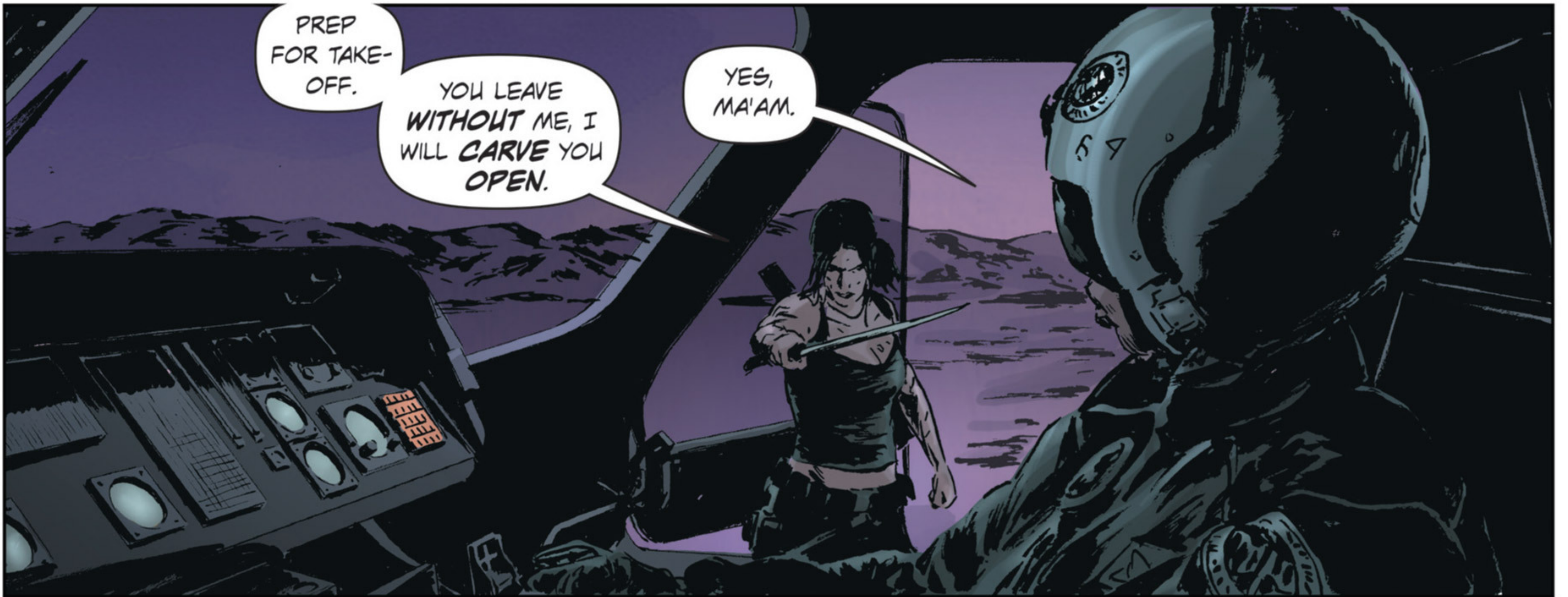
--DAMMIT,
MOVE!



YOUR SISTER
SAYS TO TELL
YOU THAT IF YOU
START RUNNING
RIGHT NOW...



...SHE'LL **SLOW**
THE LAZARUS
DOWN LONG
ENOUGH FOR YOU
TO **ESCAPE**.



PREP FOR TAKE-OFF.

YOU LEAVE WITHOUT ME, I WILL **CARVE** YOU OPEN.

YES, MA'AM.



THIS WAS **NOT** AN ATTACK ON MORRAY, JOACQUIM, YOU KNOW THAT, YOU **KNOW** MY FATHER WOULD NEVER--

OF COURSE.





PITY
ABOUT THE
ROVER.



YOU CAN
TAKE MY
BIKE.



THANK
YOU.



GO WELL,
FOREVER
CARLYLE.



GO WELL,
JOAQUIM
MORRAY.





"...HE HURT HER, COMMANDER..."

JO?

JOHANNA, IT'S ME.

...I...I TRIED, YOU KNOW...?



...BUT I'M NOT STRONG LIKE YOU... AND HE...

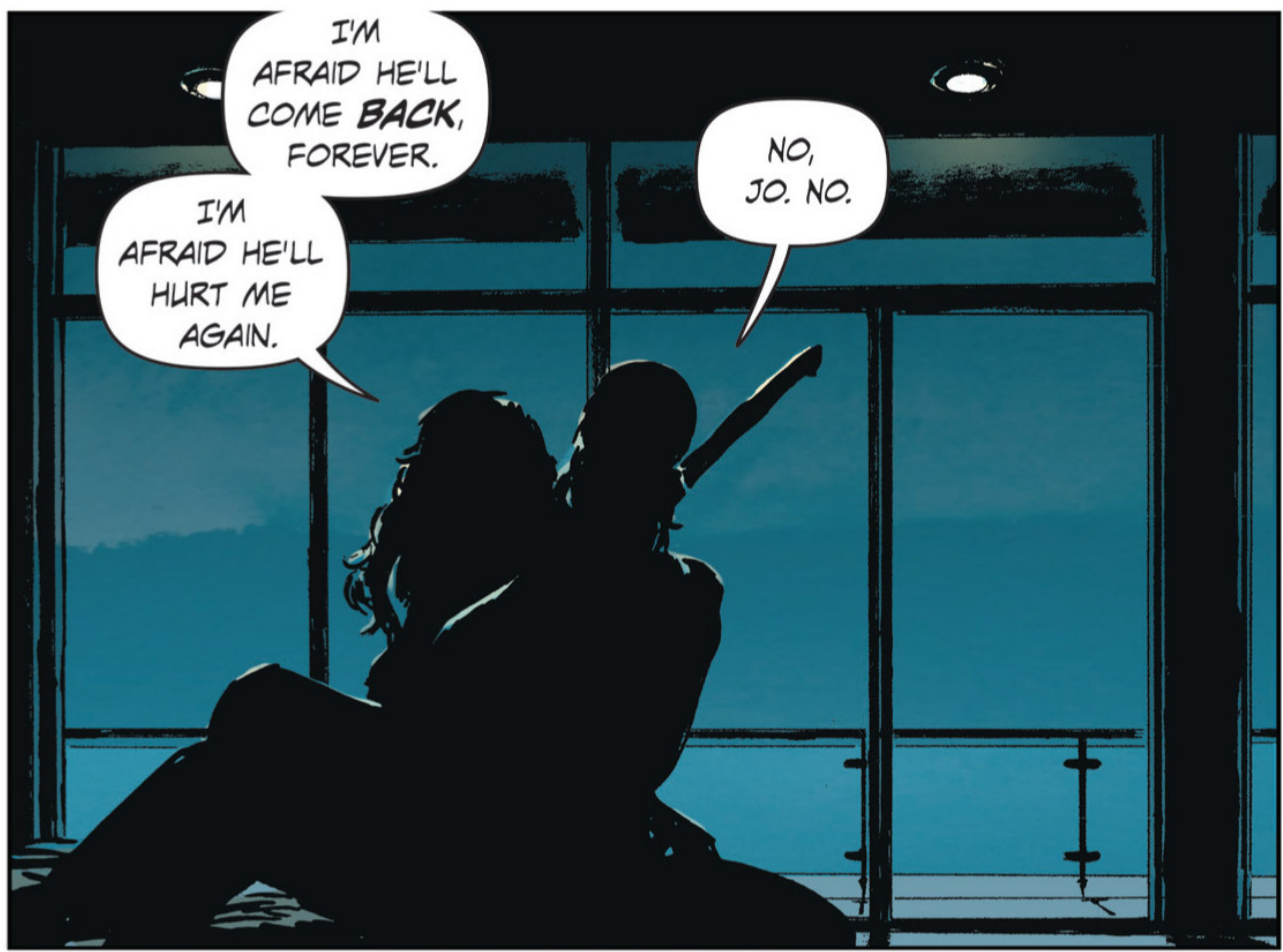
...HE WOULDN'T STOP HITTING ME...

...AND THEN MASON CAME AND HE RAN...



...HE'S BETRAYED US, HASN'T HE?

HE BETRAYED THE FAMILY.



I'M AFRAID HE'LL COME BACK, FOREVER.

I'M AFRAID HE'LL HURT ME AGAIN.

NO, JO. NO.



I WON'T LET HIM.

Puget Sound
Family: Carlyle

...SHE SHOULD
ARRIVE THERE BY
MORNING.



APPARENTLY
MASON TOLD HER THAT
JONAH HAD DEPLOYED
SOLDIERS TO THE
SOUTHERN BORDER.

JOHANNA
WENT TO CONFRONT
HIM, SHE SAYS HE
PANICKED...

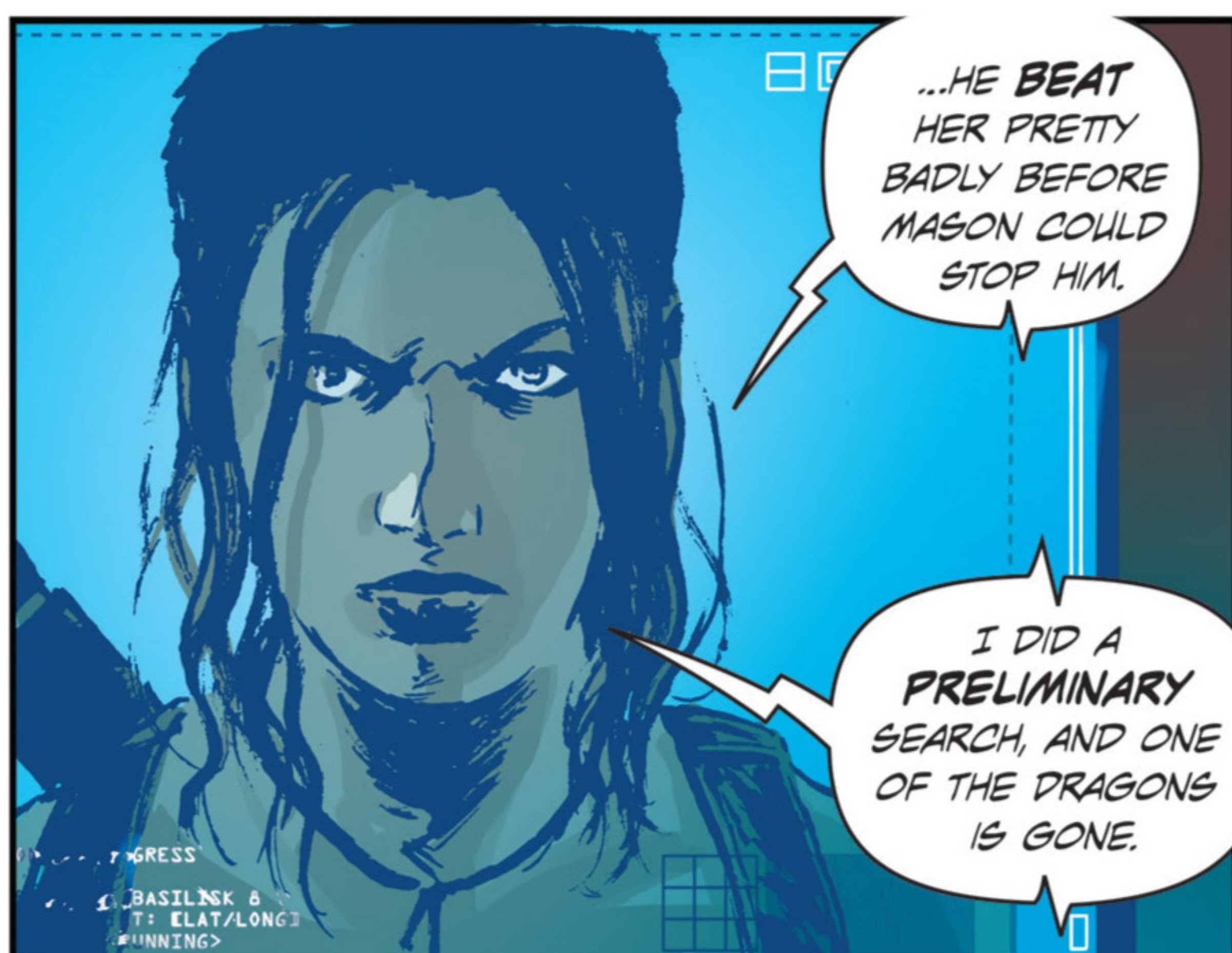


...WAS TALKING
ABOUT KILLING
ME, KILLING YOU,
TAKING OVER
THE FAMILY...



...HE BEAT
HER PRETTY
BADLY BEFORE
MASON COULD
STOP HIM.

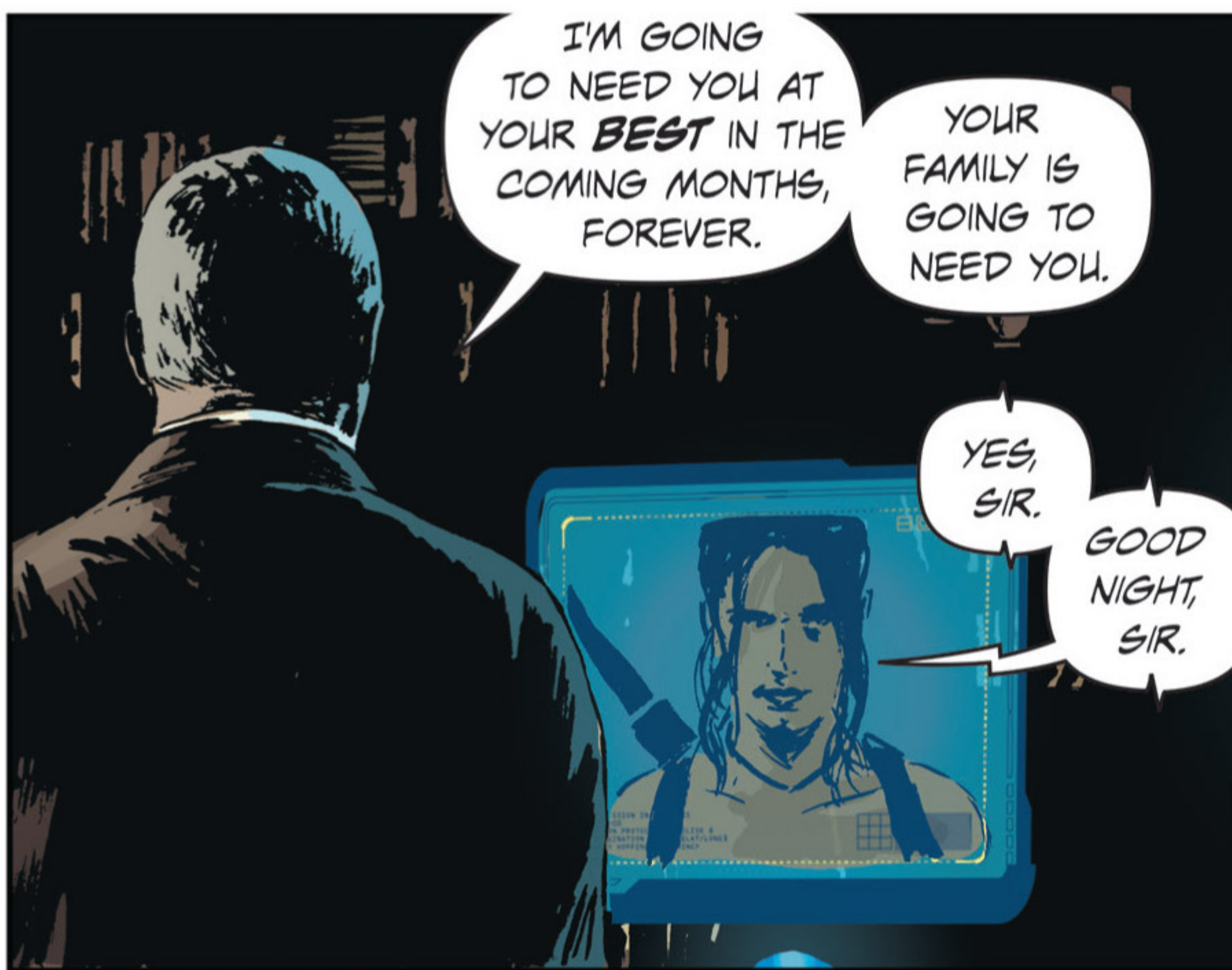
I DID A
PRELIMINARY
SEARCH, AND ONE
OF THE DRAGONS
IS GONE.



HE WAS
TRACKED FLYING
EAST BEFORE
THEY LOST THE
SIGNAL.

HE'S
RUNNING TO
HOCK.



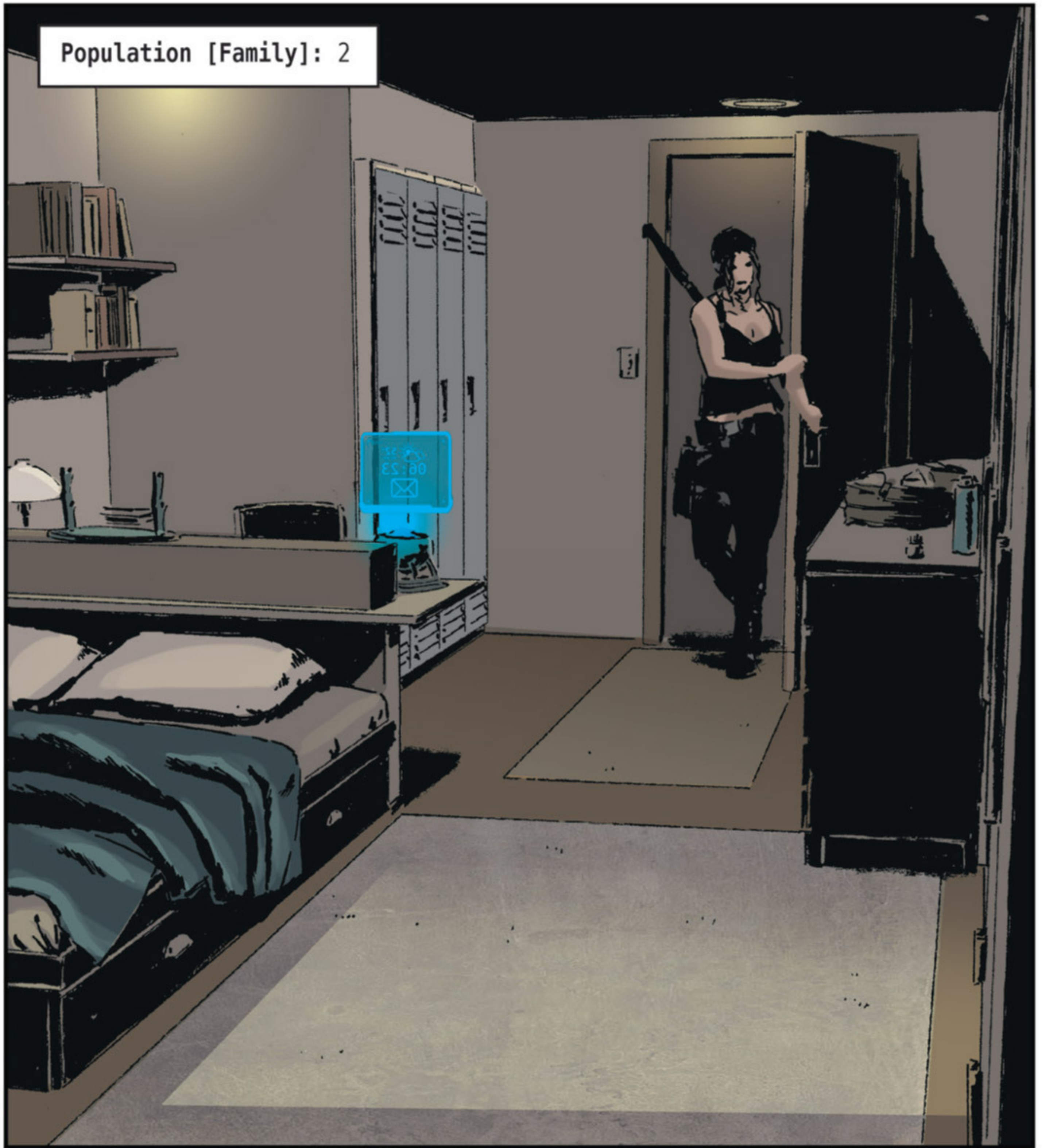


Southern Sierra Nevadas

Facility: Compound Sequoia
Family: Carlyle



Population [Family]: 2



TO: CARLYLE FOREVER
FROM: %##UNKNOWN* (&%ERROR

HE IS NOT YOUR FATHER.
THIS IS NOT YOUR FAMILY



This four-page short story was written as an introduction to the world of *Lazarus*, and to illustrate the relationship between Forever and her father, Malcolm. First printed in *Previews* as part of the initial solicitation for issue 1, it was made available online as a downloadable PDF. This was the first instance of Michael, Santi, and Greg all working together.

FAMILY
PRELUDE

Puget Sound
Family: Carlyle
Population (Family): 2 (permanent)

SHE'S
DUE HOME
SOON?

YES.

I HAVE
TWO SONS AND
THREE DAUGHTERS,
AND ONLY ONE OF
THEM IS WORTH
A DAMN...

THE
ONE I HAD
BUILT.

THE ONE
I HAD YOU
BUILD FOR
ME, MORE
PRECISELY.

"I FIND THAT *IRONIC*."

DO YOU
FIND THAT
IRONIC,
JAMES?

HONESTLY,
MISTER
CARLYLE? NO,
I DON'T...

"...YOU AND YOUR WIFE CON-
CEIVED **FOUR** CHILDREN.
THAT'S FOUR TIMES YOU
THREW THE **GENETIC** DICE.

"YOU ASKED ME TO MAKE
YOU A **FIFTH**, YOU TOLD
ME **PRECISELY** WHAT YOU
WANTED HER TO **BE**...



"...AND IN FOREVER, YOU GOT
EXACTLY WHAT YOU ASKED FOR."



"IN **EVERY** REGARD!"





"...MY ARMIES ARE OUR **SHIELD** AGAINST OUR ENEMIES, AGAINST THE OTHER **FAMILIES**...

"...BUT FOREVER IS THE TIP OF MY **SWORD**...



"...AND LIKE THE FINEST BLADE...



"...SHE IS **BEAUTIFUL**...



"...AND SHE IS **LETHAL**...



"...AND SHE IS **PRECISE**...

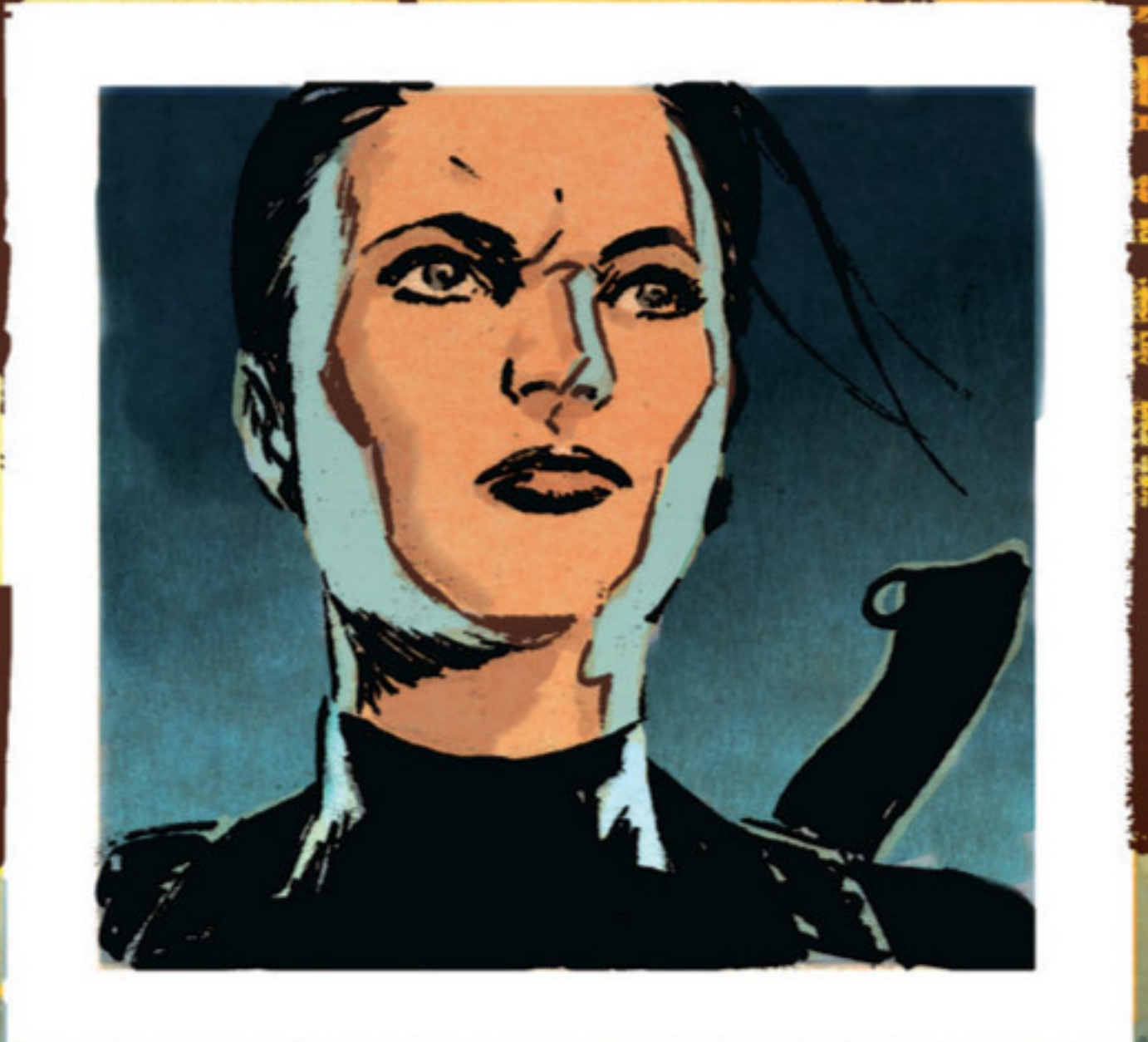


"...AND I **APPRECIATE** HER FOR **ALL** OF THOSE THINGS.



"BUT ONE CANNOT LOVE AN **OBJECT** AS ONE LOVES A **PERSON**, JAMES.

"ONE DOES NOT LOVE A **PET** THE WAY ONE LOVES A **CHILD**.





THE WORLD
now lies divided not amongst political or geographic
boundaries but amongst financial ones.

Wealth is power,
and that power rests now with only a handful of FAMILIES.
The few who provide a service for their ruling Family are cared for.

All others are Waste.

In each Family, there is one person given the best they can offer,
training and technology and assets, every scientific advantage.
This person is named their Family's sword and shield,
their protector, their Lazarus.

In the Family Carlyle, the Lazarus is called Forever.
This is the beginning of her story.



"Lazarus is the quintessential Greg Rucka experience. World-class world building, intricate and thoughtful characterization. A must buy for people who love good things!!"
Brian Michael Bendis (*Uncanny X-Men, Powers, Daredevil*)

*"Lazarus is clearly yet another example why Greg Rucka and Michael Lark are such highly revered creators. As to be expected, their A game is on full display in this powerful new concept.
Not to read it is a crime."*
J.H. Williams III (*Batwoman, Promethea*)

"Lazarus" is an absolutely riveting, complex and stunning new series."
Meagan Damore, *Comic Book Resources*

"9.3 AMAZING! Rucka and Lark put a clever spin on dystopian fiction in Lazarus!"
Melissa Grey, *IGN*

