

# LAZARUS<sup>TM</sup>

RUCKA  
LARK  
ARCAS

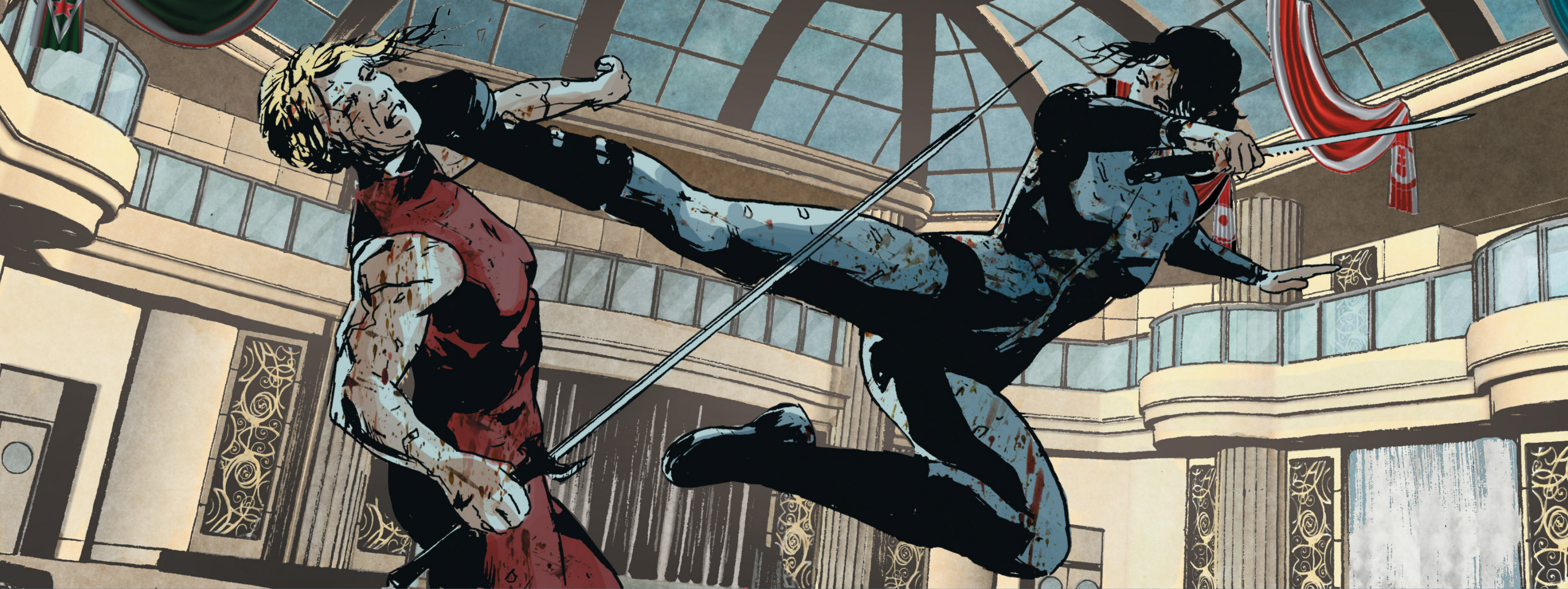


THREE









# LAZARUS



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## volume three **CONCLAVE**

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edited by **DAVID BROTHERS**

special thanks to **CHRISTOPHER PREECE**



# DRAMATIS PERSONAE

**FAMILY:** Armitage  
**DOMAIN:** United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland-made-One  
**Unallied; close ties to Carlyle.**  
**In conflict with Rausling and D’Souza.**



HRH THE DUKE OF LANCASTER  
EDWARD ARMITAGE  
Head of Family Armitage



SIR THOMAS HUSTON  
Family Armitage Lazarus

**FAMILY:** Bittner  
**DOMAIN:** Canada (former provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland & Labrador); Northern Europe/North Atlantic (Switzerland, Scandinavia), Germany.  
**Member of Hock coalition.**  
**In conflict with Carlyle.**



SEVARA BITTNER  
Head of Family Bittner



SONJA BITTNER  
Family Bittner Lazarus

**FAMILY:** Carlyle  
**DOMAIN:** Western United States (west coast of Alaska contested with Vassalovka); Western Canada; Northern Canada (contested with Bittner).  
**In conflict with Bittner, Hock, and Vassalovka.**  
**Strong ties with Carragher, Morray, and Nkosi.**



MALCOLM CARLYLE  
Head of Family Carlyle



CMDR. FOREVER CARLYLE  
Family Carlyle Lazarus



DR. BETHANY CARLYLE  
Daughter of Malcolm Carlyle



STEPHEN CARLYLE  
Son of Malcolm Carlyle



JOHANNA CARLYLE  
Daughter of Malcolm Carlyle



JONAH CARLYLE  
Son of Malcolm Carlyle,  
currently held by Jakob Hock

**FAMILY:** Carragher  
**DOMAIN:** Australia and Indonesia  
**Member of Carlyle Bloc.**  
**In conflict with Li and Minetta.**



LOCHLAN JAMES CARRAGHER VI  
Head of Family Carragher



WENING PERTIWI  
Family Carragher Lazarus

**FAMILY:** D’Souza  
**DOMAIN:** Unified South America (Argentina/Brazil/Peru/Chile); Contesting regions of former Venezuela and Colombia with Morray; Spain and Portugal.  
**Member of Hock Coalition.**  
**In conflict with Morray.**



ZEFERINO CARDOSO  
Family D’Souza Lazarus

**FAMILY:** Hock  
**DOMAIN:** United States, east of the Mississippi; portions of the Caribbean; portions of eastern Canada (shared with Bittner).  
**Allied with Bittner, Vassalovka, Rausling, and D’Souza.**  
**In conflict with Carlyle.**



JAKOB HOCK  
Head of Family Hock





LI JIAOLONG  
Family Li Lazarus.

**FAMILY:** Li  
**DOMAIN:** China (including Hong Kong and Macau); portions of the Korean Peninsula; Kazakhstan; Mongolia (in dispute with Vassalovka).  
**Allied with Inamura.**  
**In conflict with Minetta, Vassalovka.**



ALIMAH QASIMI  
Family Meyers-Qasimi Lazarus.

**FAMILY:** Meyers-Qasimi  
**DOMAIN:** Former State of Israel/ Palestine through much of the Levant, including former Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and the UAE; Cyprus; Crete.  
**Unallied, cordial ties with Carlyle.**  
**In conflict with rogue elements operating out of former Soleri (now-ungoverned) territory in North Africa.**



BIR CHIKKA MEHTA  
Lazarus of Family Minetta

**FAMILY:** Minetta  
**DOMAIN:** Indian subcontinent, Sri Lanka, former Pakistan; Bangladesh; Myanmar (contested with Li); Thailand and Malaysia (portions, contested with Carragher).  
**Nominal alliance with Carlyle.**  
**In conflict with Carragher and Li.**



EDGAR MORRAY  
Head of Family Morray



JOAQUIM MORRAY  
Family Morray Lazarus

**FAMILY:** Morray  
**DOMAIN:** Mexico and Central America, portions of the Caribbean.  
**Member of Carlyle Bloc.**  
**In conflict with D'Souza and Hock.**



XOLANI NKOSI  
Family Nkosi Lazarus

**FAMILY:** Nkosi  
**DOMAIN:** Sub-Saharan Africa below the equator (0°), and Madagascar.  
**Member of Carlyle Bloc.**  
**In conflict with Martins and rogue elements operating out of former Soleri (now-ungoverned) territory.**



LUKA & CLAUDIA  
RAUSLING  
Head of Family Rausling; spouse



CPT. CRISTOF MUELLER  
Family Rausling Lazarus

**FAMILY:** Rausling  
**DOMAIN:** Austria, Poland, portions of Central Europe, between Bittner-controlled Western Europe and Vassalovka-controlled Russia; Greece, excluding Meyers-Qasimi held Crete and Cyprus.  
**Member of Hock Coalition.**  
**In conflict with Armitage.**





MICHAEL LARK

INTERLUDE  
**EXTRACTION**



Four months ago

120 KM West of the Mississippi  
Family: Carlyle

BITCH.

YOU *BITCH*.

YOU  
BITCH YOU  
BITCH YOU  
BITCH--

--YOU BITCH BITCH BITCH  
JOHANNA--

I  
TRUSTED  
YOU.

YOU'RE  
MY *SISTER*.

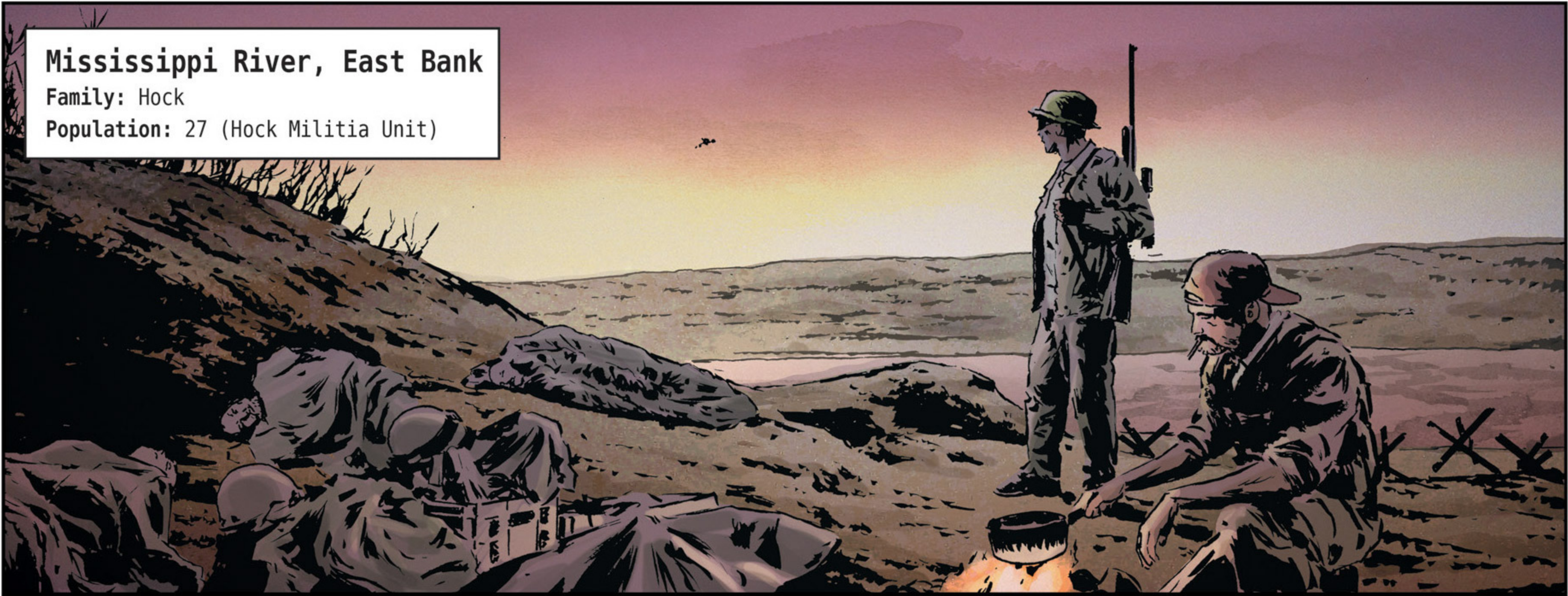
I LOVE YOU.

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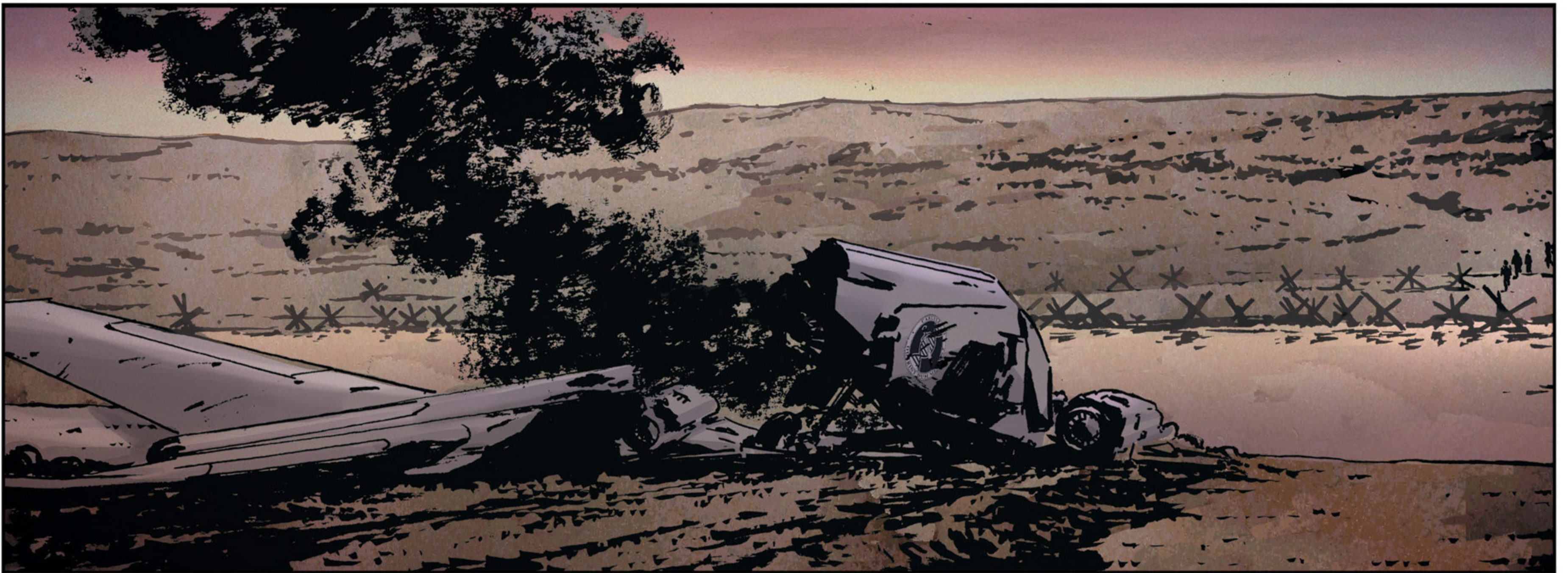
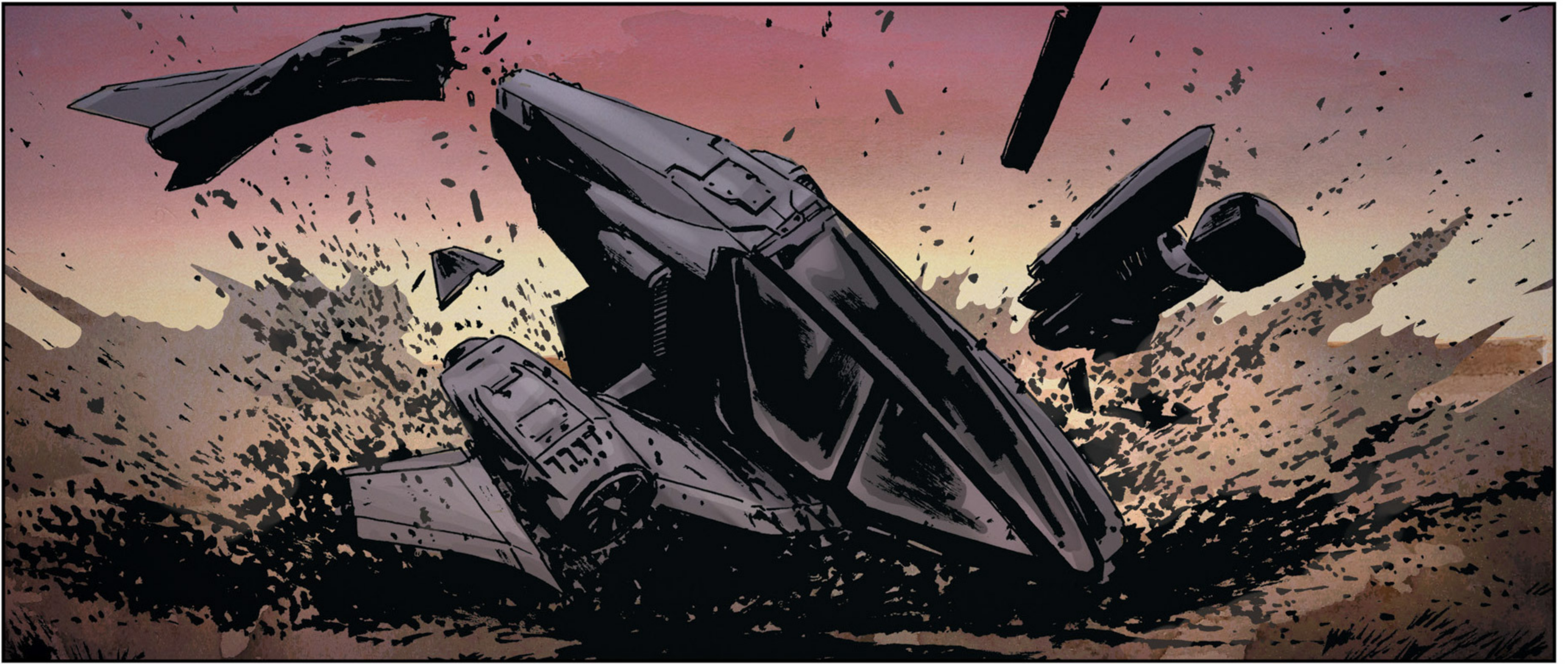
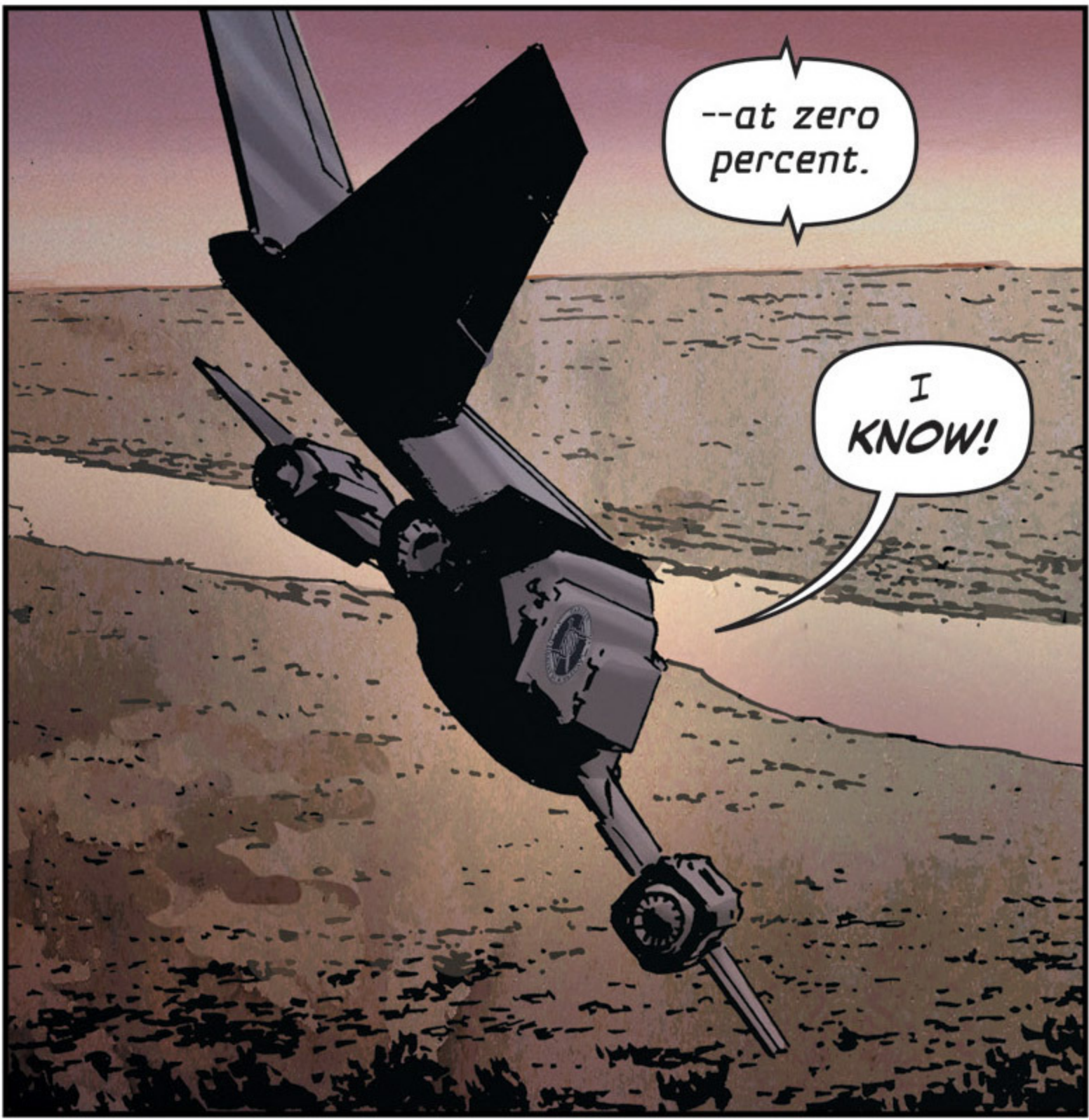
Fuel  
reserves at ten  
percent.



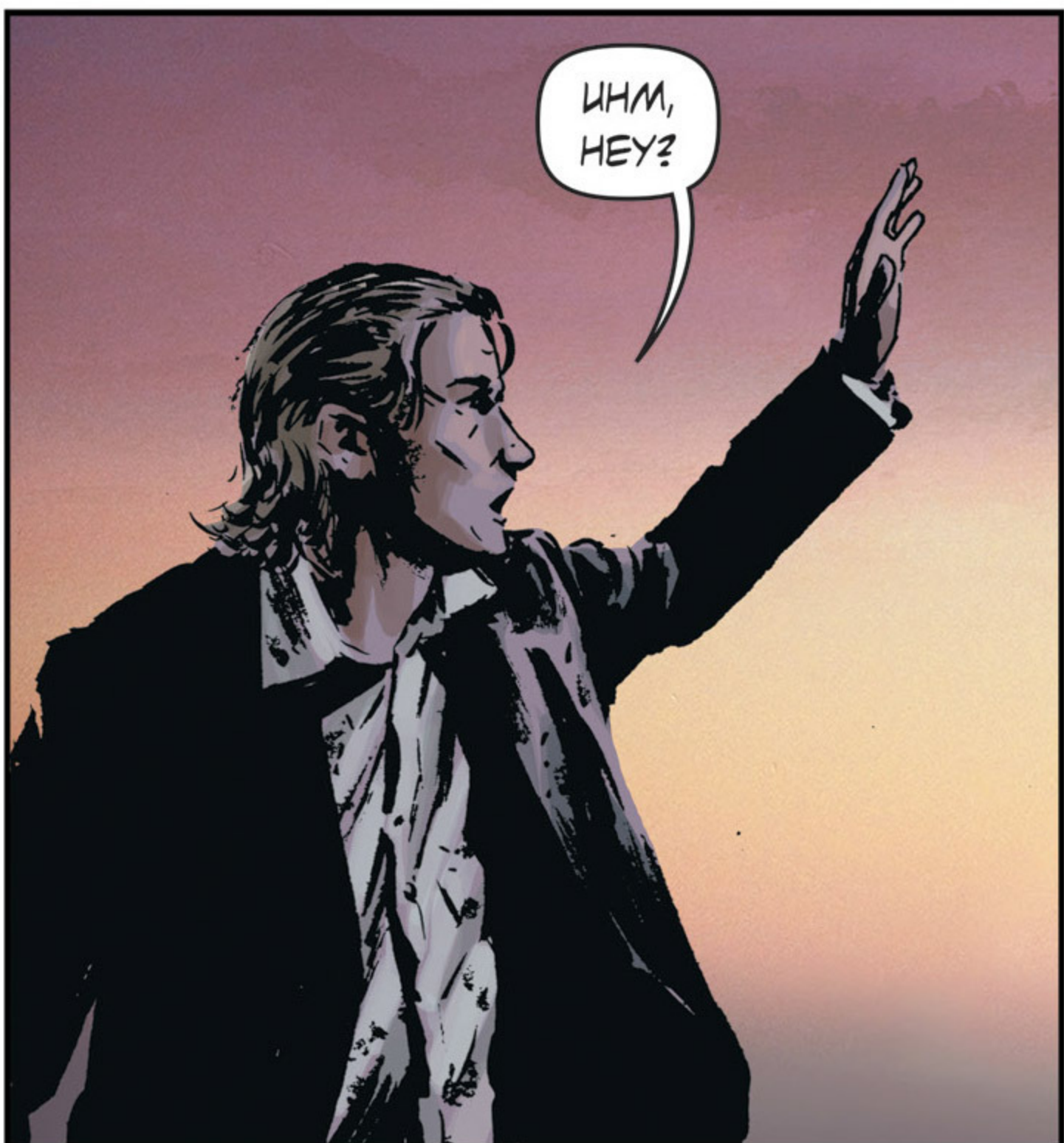
Mississippi River, East Bank  
Family: Hock  
Population: 27 (Hock Militia Unit)



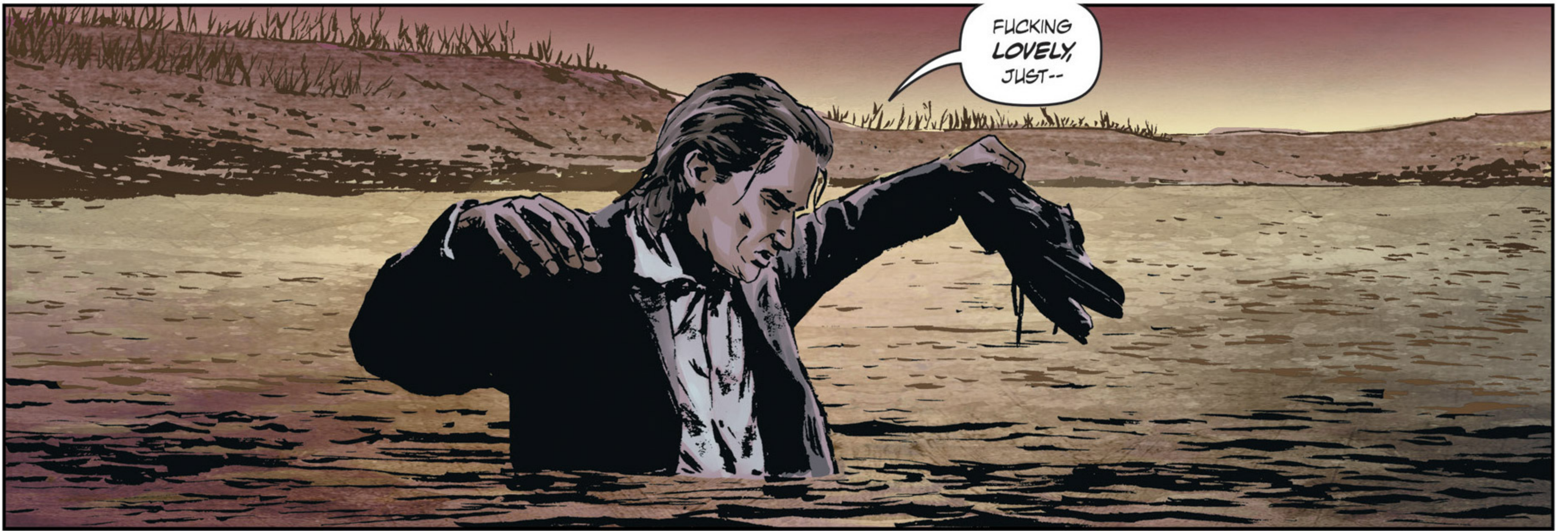




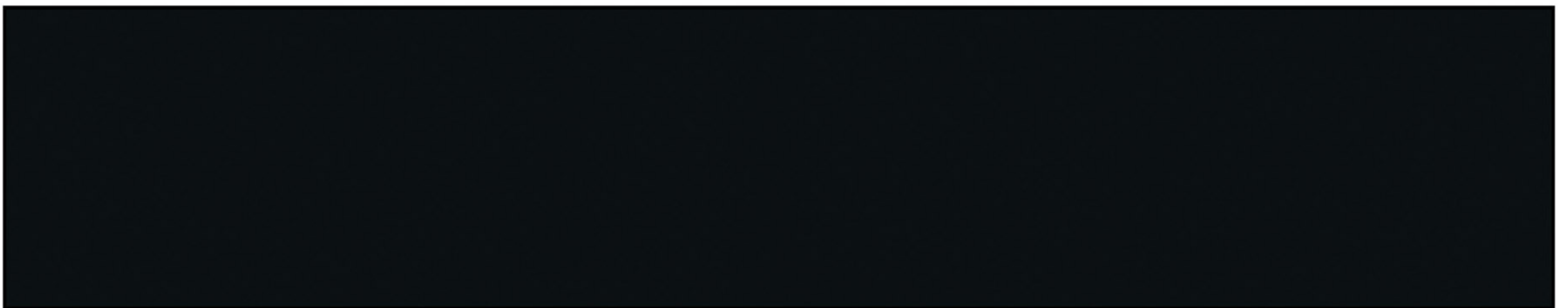
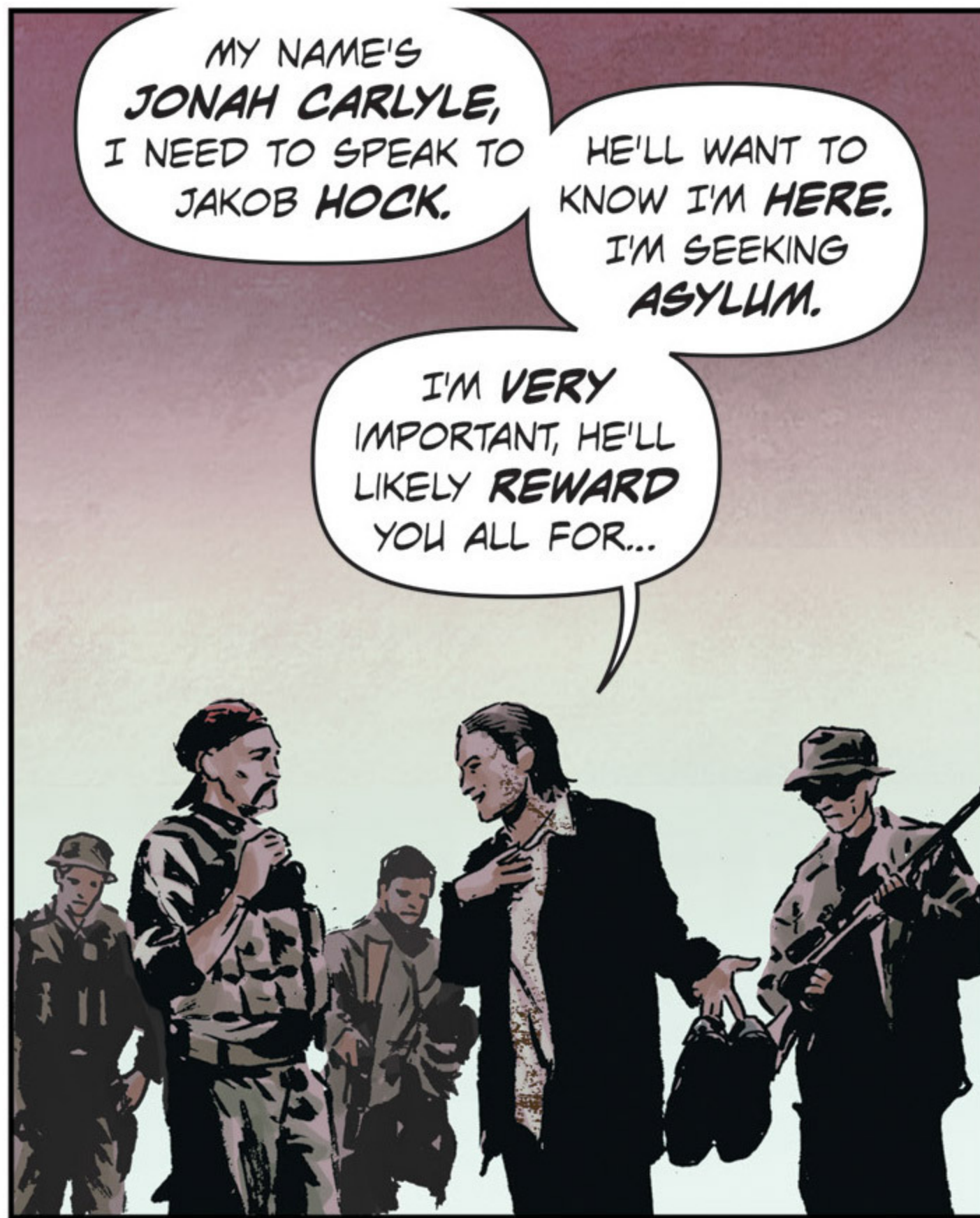








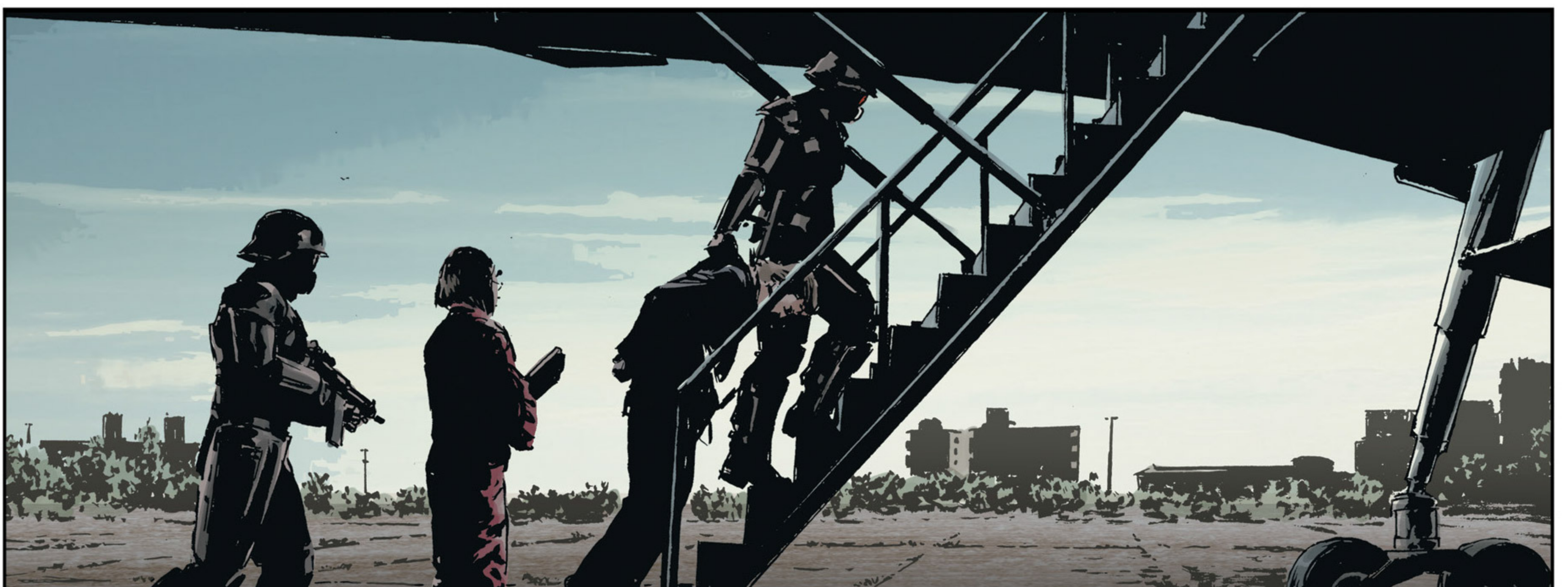
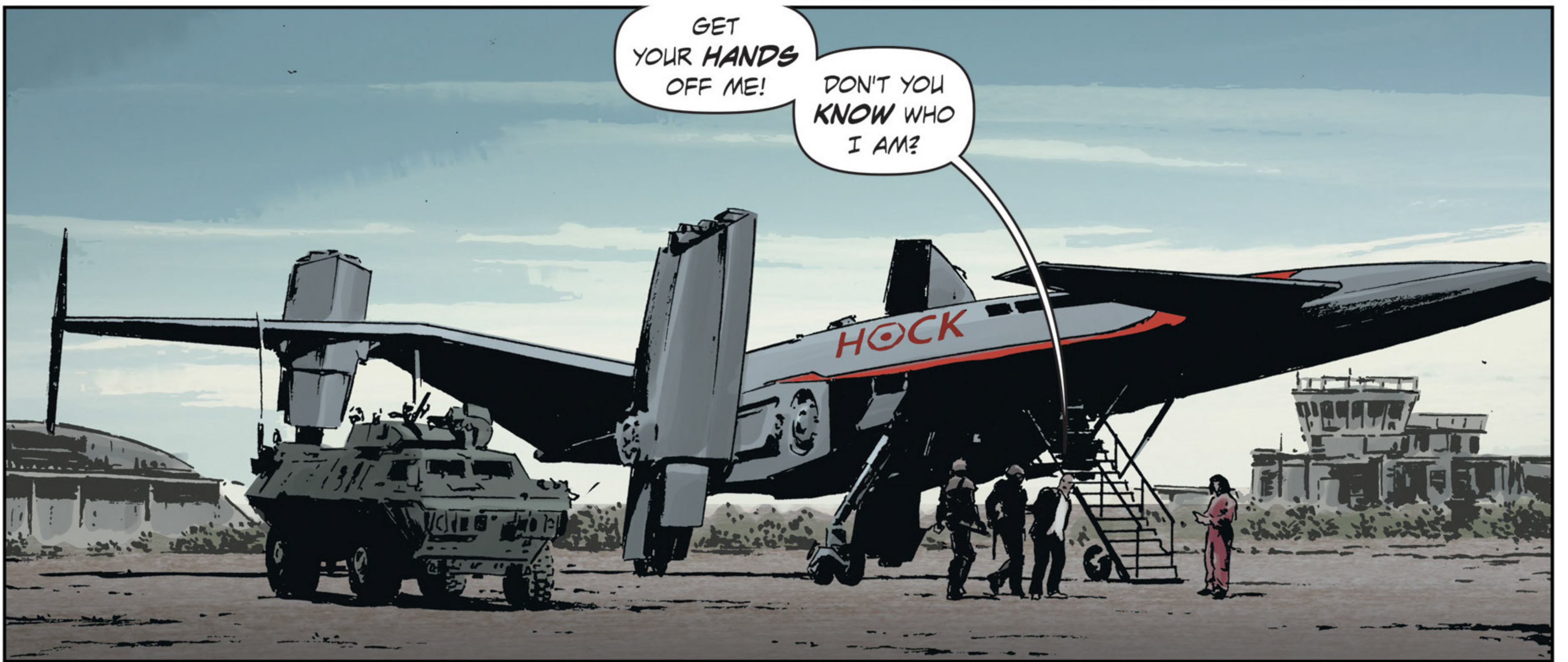














Manhattan  
Family: Hock  
Population [Family]: 1



Population [Citizens]: 750,000 (approx)  
Population [Non-Persons]: 1,375,500 (approx)



OH GOD  
THANK **GOD**...



...JUST...LISTEN  
TO ME. **LISTEN!**

I'M NOT--I'M  
**NOT SOME WASTE,**  
YOU UNDERSTAND? I'M  
AN **IMPORTANT--**

--WH-WHAT  
ARE YOU  
**DOING?**



















...DECISIVE  
GAINS BY VALIANT  
HOCK FAMILY FORCES  
IN THEIR WAR AGAINST  
MALCOLM CARLYLE.

HERE,  
MEMBERS OF THE  
17TH HOCK ELITES CAN  
BE SEEN ROUTING THE  
ENEMY OUTSIDE  
OF DENVER...

...LEADING  
TO THE DISCOVERY  
OF ANOTHER OF CARLYLE'S  
**SLAVE LABOR CAMPS**, WHERE  
TENS OF THOUSANDS HAVE  
BEEN FORCED TO TOIL  
UNTO DEATH.



WOMEN AND  
CHILDREN RESCUED FROM  
THE SITE DETAIL HORRIFIC  
FORCED-BREEDING  
PROGRAMS...



...AND  
GROTESQUE **SEXUAL  
ABUSES** PERPETRATED  
BY MEMBERS OF THE  
CARLYLE FAMILY.

THAT'S...  
THAT'S NOT  
TRUE.



THIS  
JUST IN:

THE FAMILY  
MORRAY DECLARES  
ALLEGIANCE TO HOCK  
AGAINST THE CARLYLE  
MENACE!

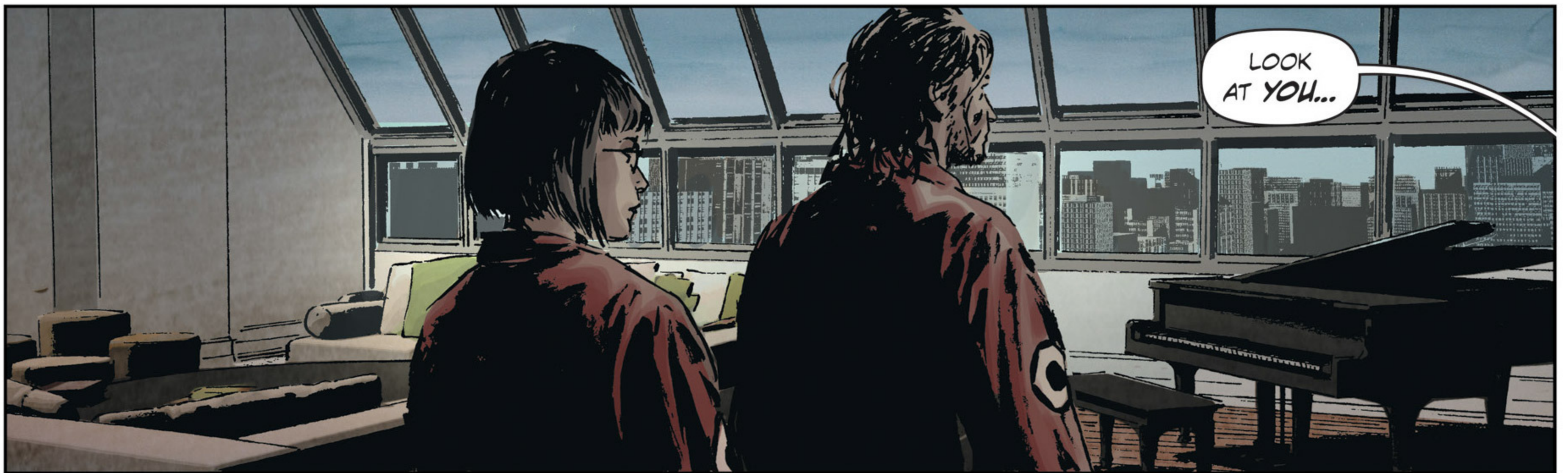
IN CELEBRATION,  
ALL CITIZENS WILL RECEIVE  
AN AUGMENTATION TO THEIR  
HEALTH ALLOTMENT...



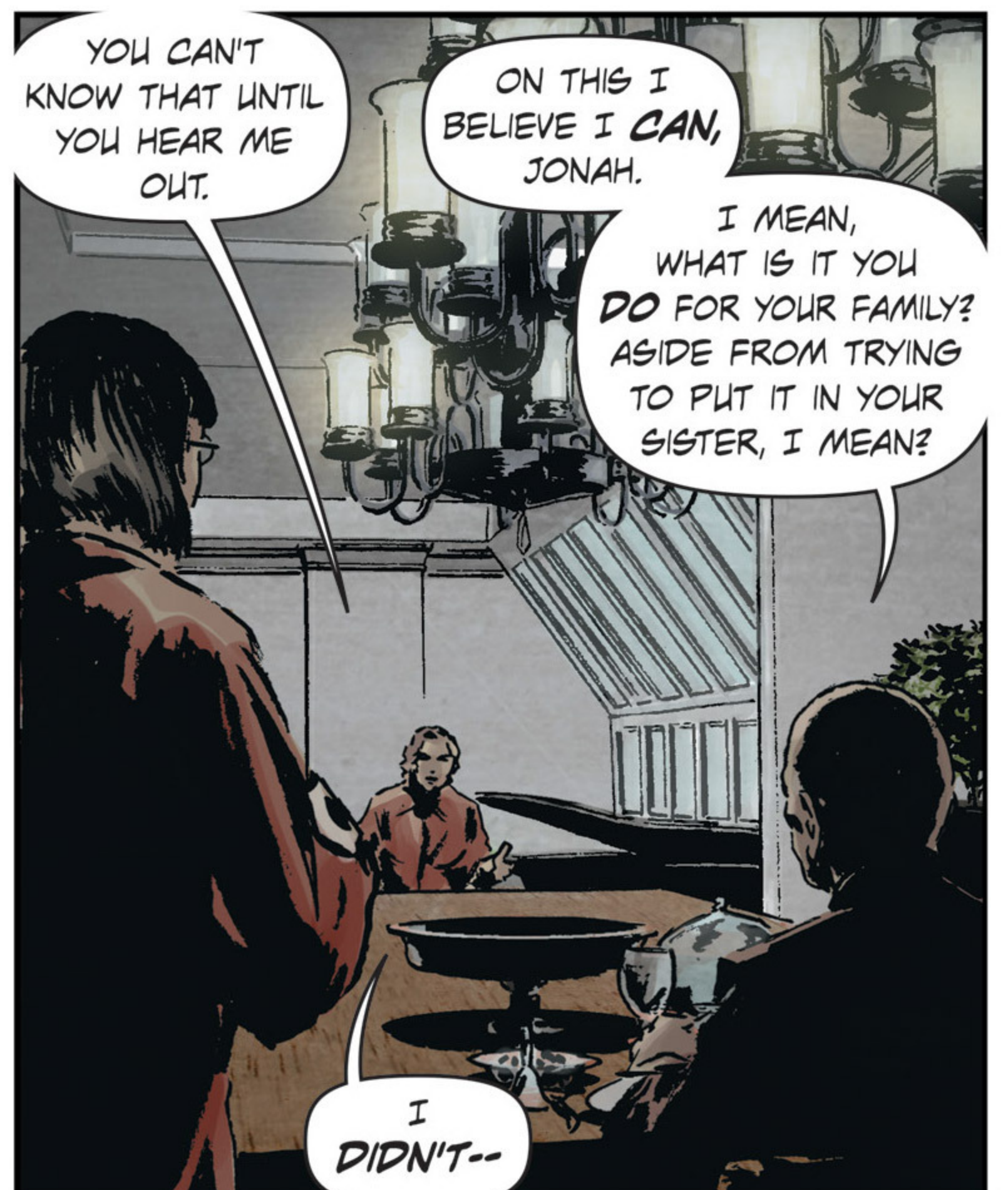
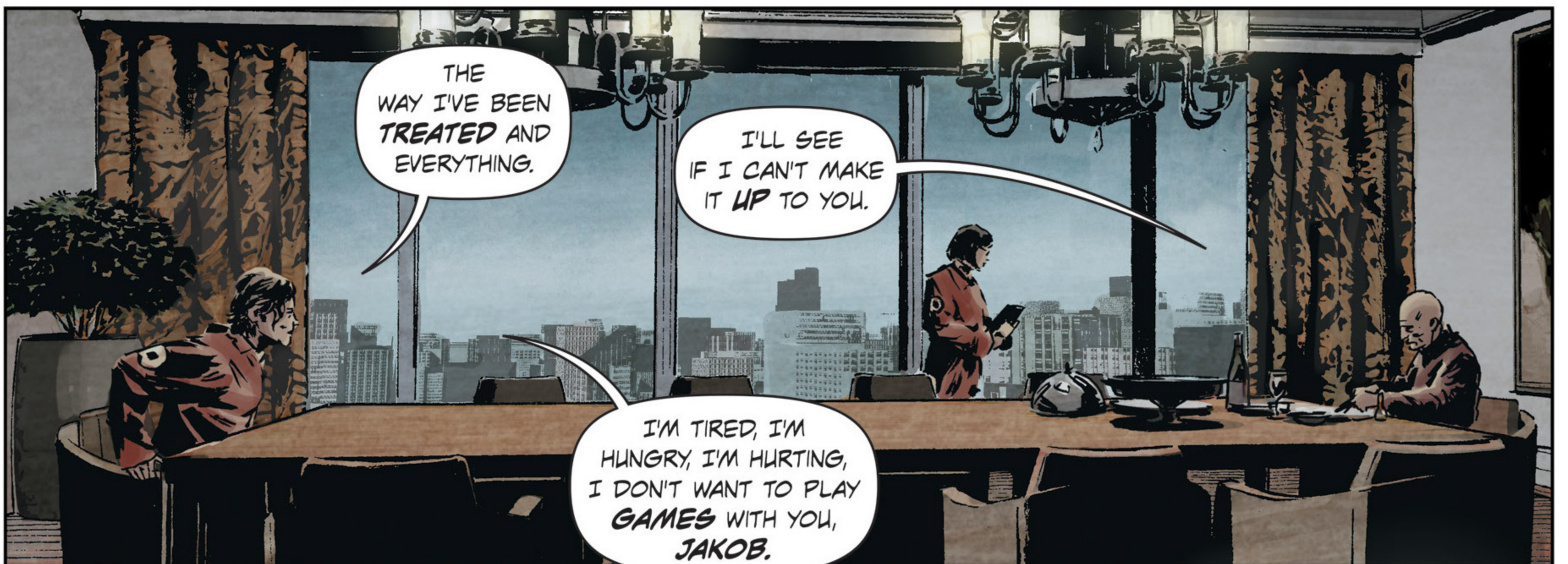
...WITH AN  
INCREASE OF TWO BLUES,  
THREE WHITES, AND SIX  
BLACK-AND-YELLOWS.

REMEMBER,  
CITIZENS: TAKE YOUR  
MEDICINE.













YOU DON'T DO **ANYTHING**, DO YOU?

GIVE HIM THIS.



I **RAN** THE LOS ANGELES DOMAIN FOR MY FAMILY!



**NOT** SOMETHING I WOULD PUT ON **MY** RESUMÉ.

SWALLOW THAT, PLEASE.



RIGHT, BECAUSE I'M AN **IDIOT**.

**NO** WAY.



YOU **ARE** AN **IDIOT**, JONAH.

YOU **HAVE** WORTH, JUST NOT THE WORTH YOU **THINK**.

WHAT YOU **KNOW** IS MEANINGLESS TO ME, BECAUSE YOU KNOW **NOTHING**.



WHAT YOU **ARE** IS **USEFUL**, HOWEVER.

NOW: TAKE YOUR **MEDICINE**.





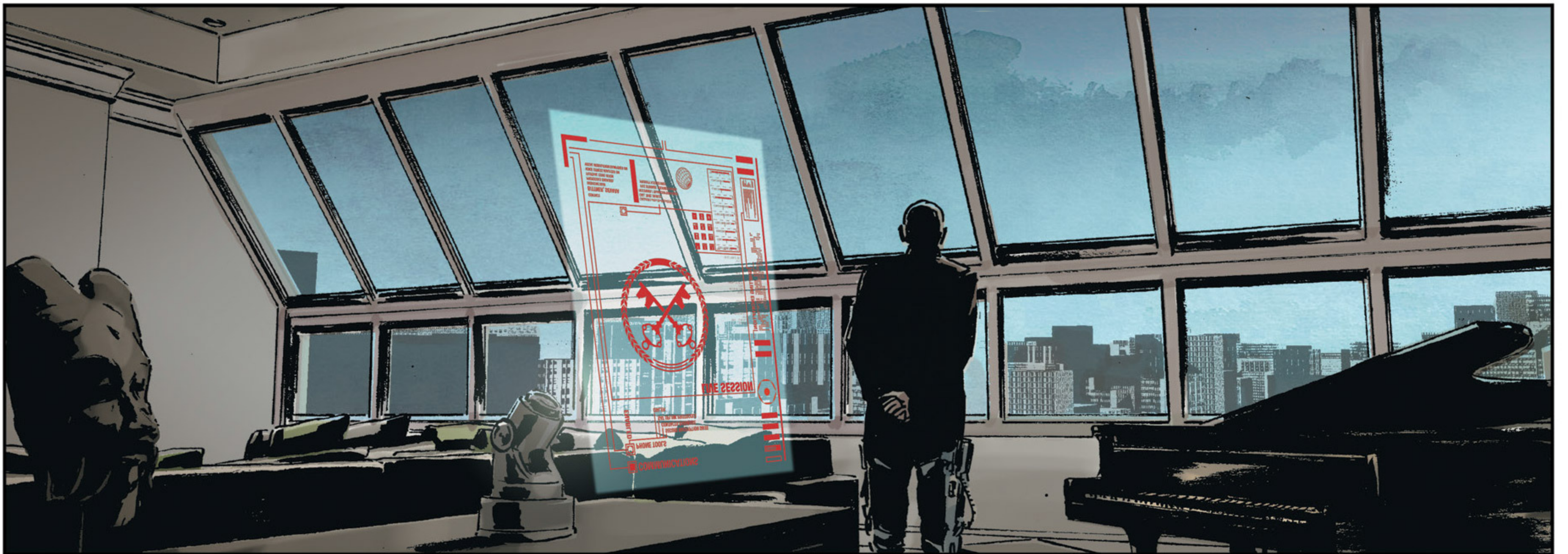
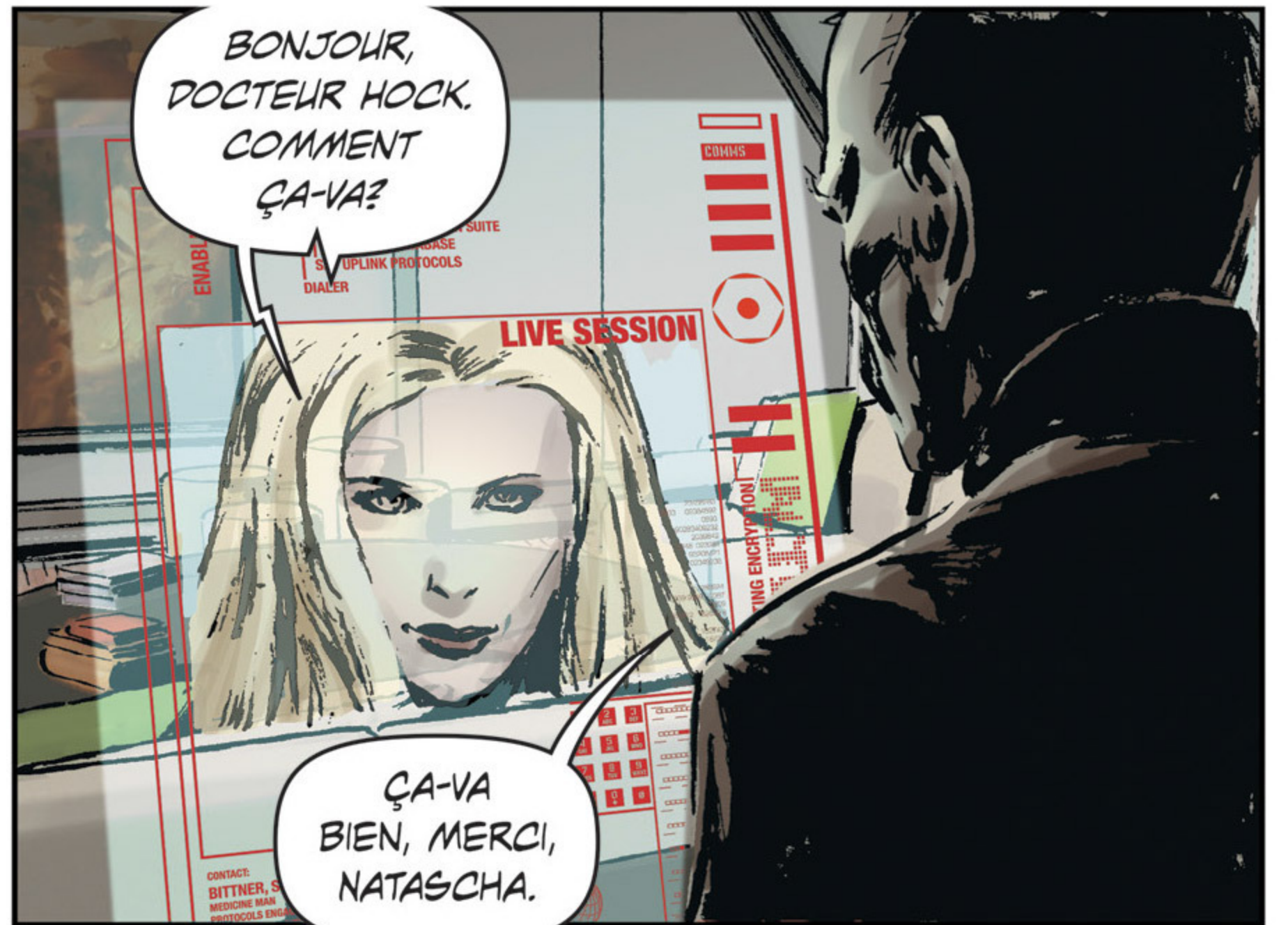




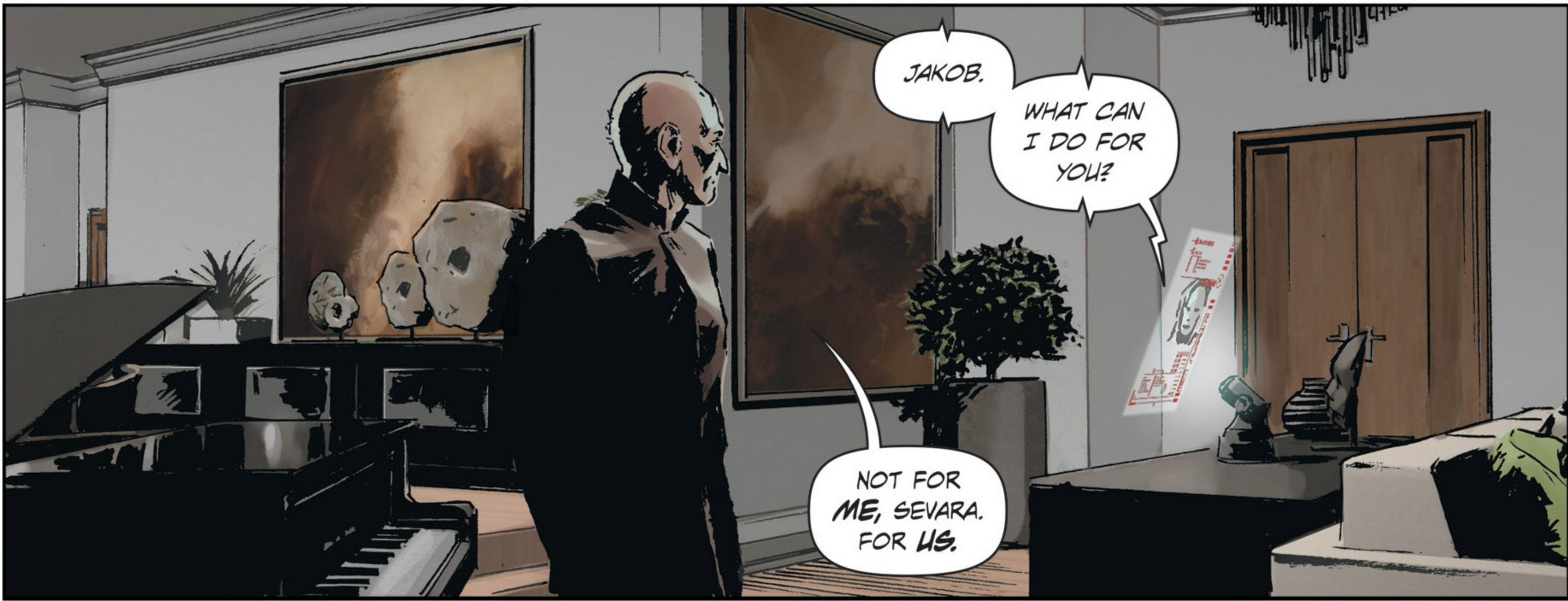








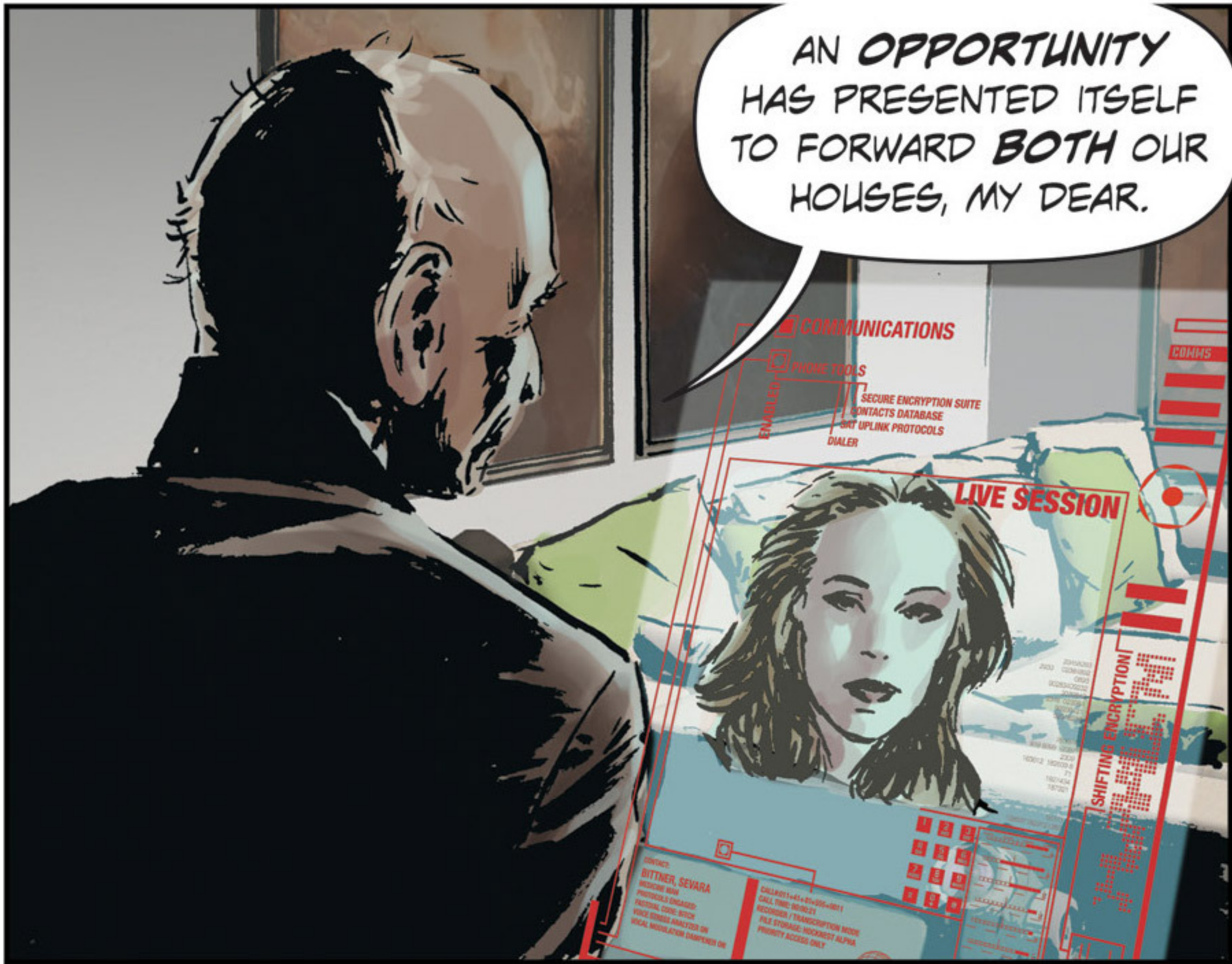




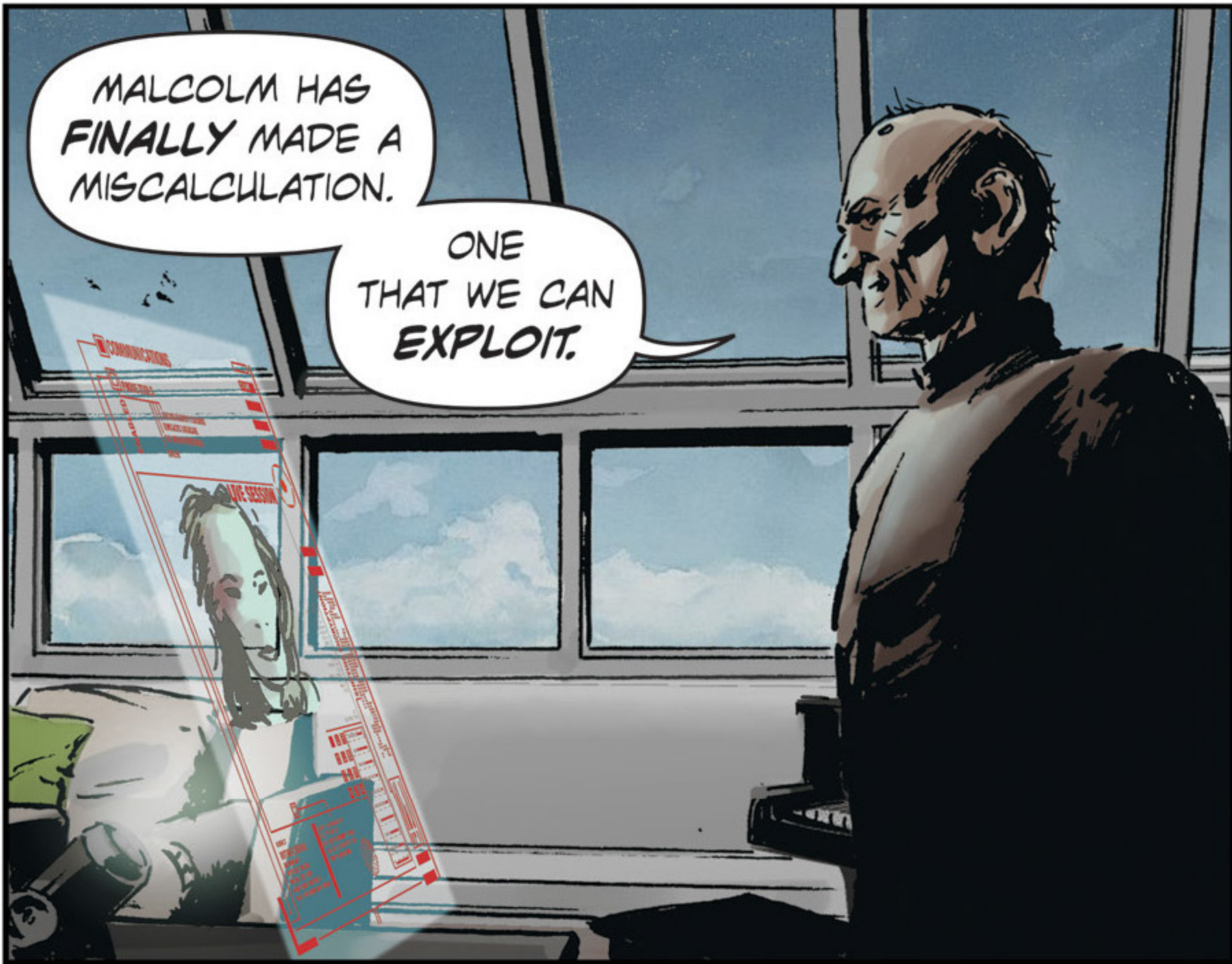
JAKOB.

WHAT CAN  
I DO FOR  
YOU?

NOT FOR  
ME, SEVARA.  
FOR US.

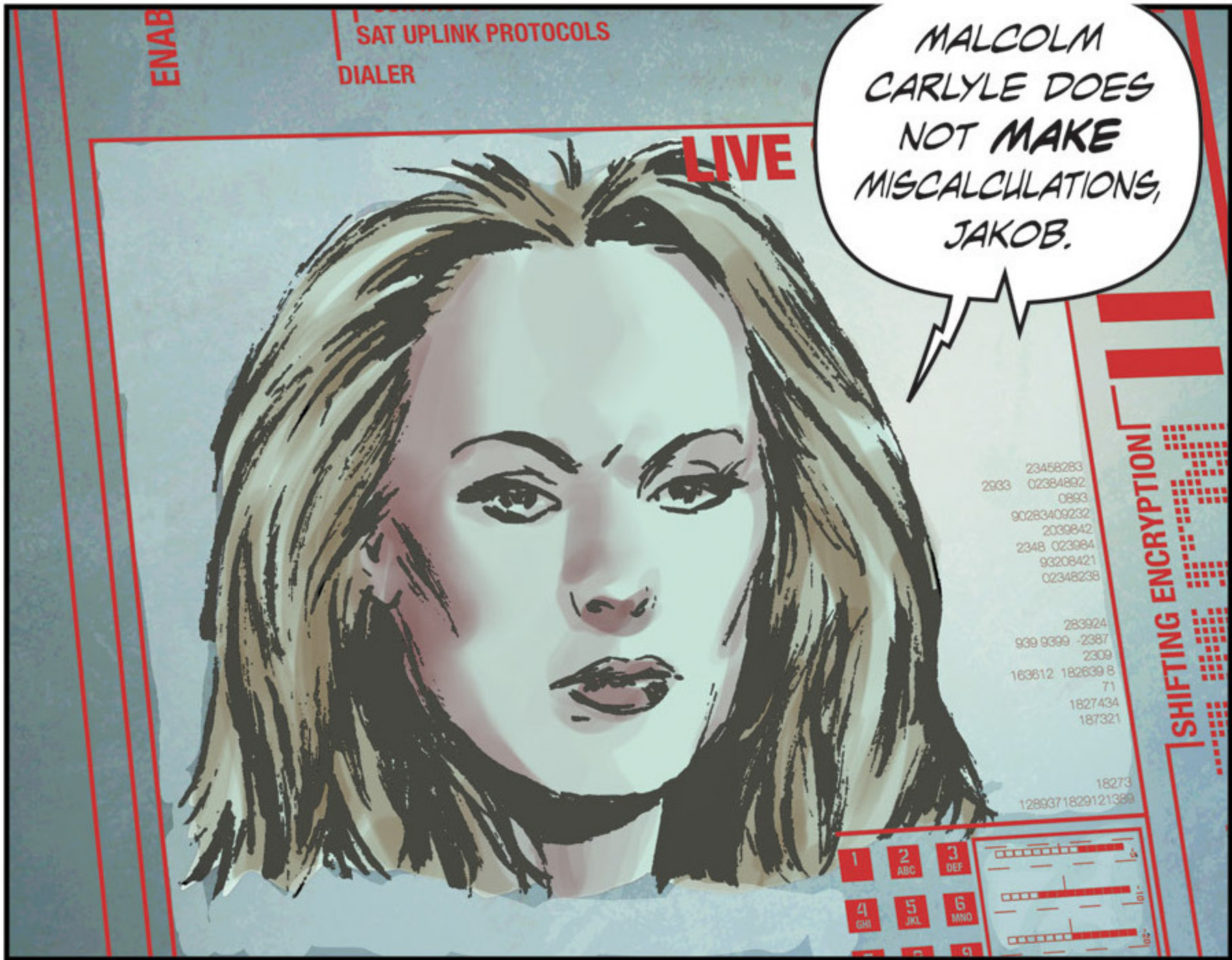


AN OPPORTUNITY  
HAS PRESENTED ITSELF  
TO FORWARD **BOTH** OUR  
HOUSES, MY DEAR.

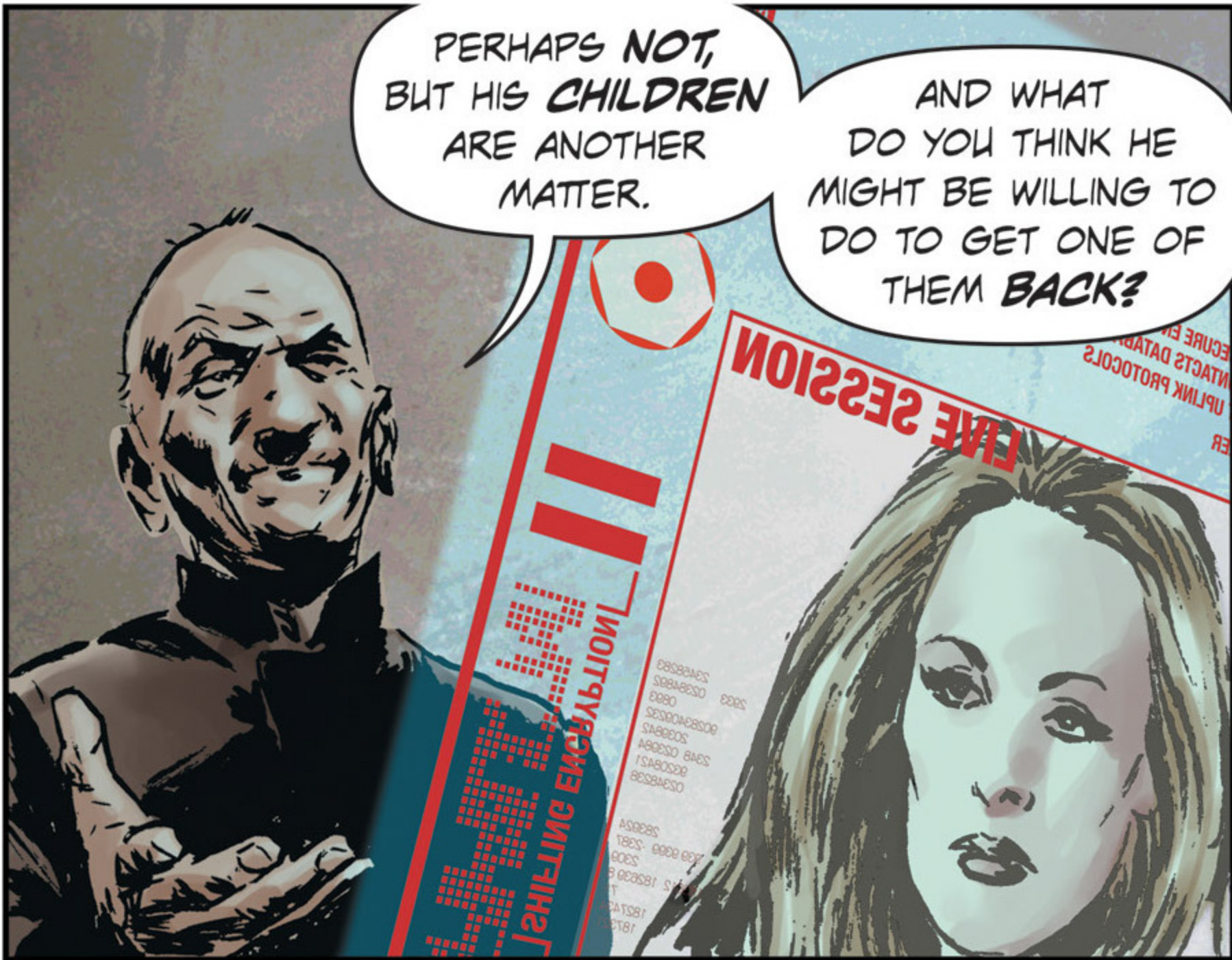


MALCOLM HAS  
**FINALLY** MADE A  
MISCALCULATION.

ONE  
THAT WE CAN  
**EXPLOIT.**

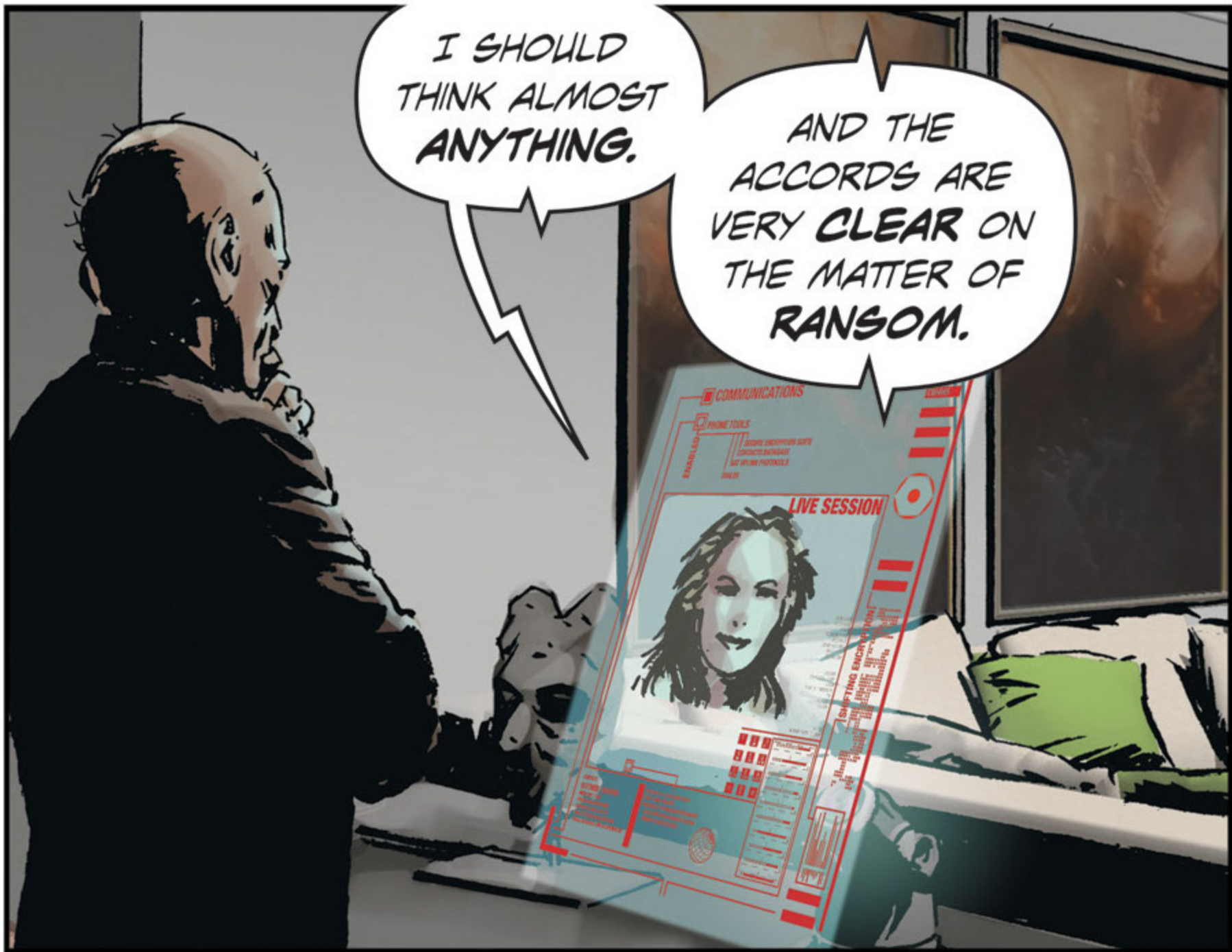


MALCOLM  
CARLYLE DOES  
NOT **MAKE**  
MISCALCULATIONS,  
JAKOB.



PERHAPS **NOT**,  
BUT HIS **CHILDREN**  
ARE ANOTHER  
MATTER.

AND WHAT  
DO YOU THINK HE  
MIGHT BE WILLING TO  
DO TO GET ONE OF  
THEM **BACK?**



I SHOULD  
THINK ALMOST  
**ANYTHING.**

AND THE  
ACCORDS ARE  
VERY **CLEAR** ON  
THE MATTER OF  
**RANSOM.**



**YES,**  
THEY ARE.  
**YES,** THEY  
ARE...





"...I THINK THE TIME HAS COME FOR A **CONCLAVE**, SEVARA DEAR...



"...AND ONCE **ALL** THE FAMILIES HAVE GATHERED TOGETHER...



"...WE SHALL HAVE THE MEANS TO **DESTROY** CARLYLE ONCE AND FOR **ALL....**"







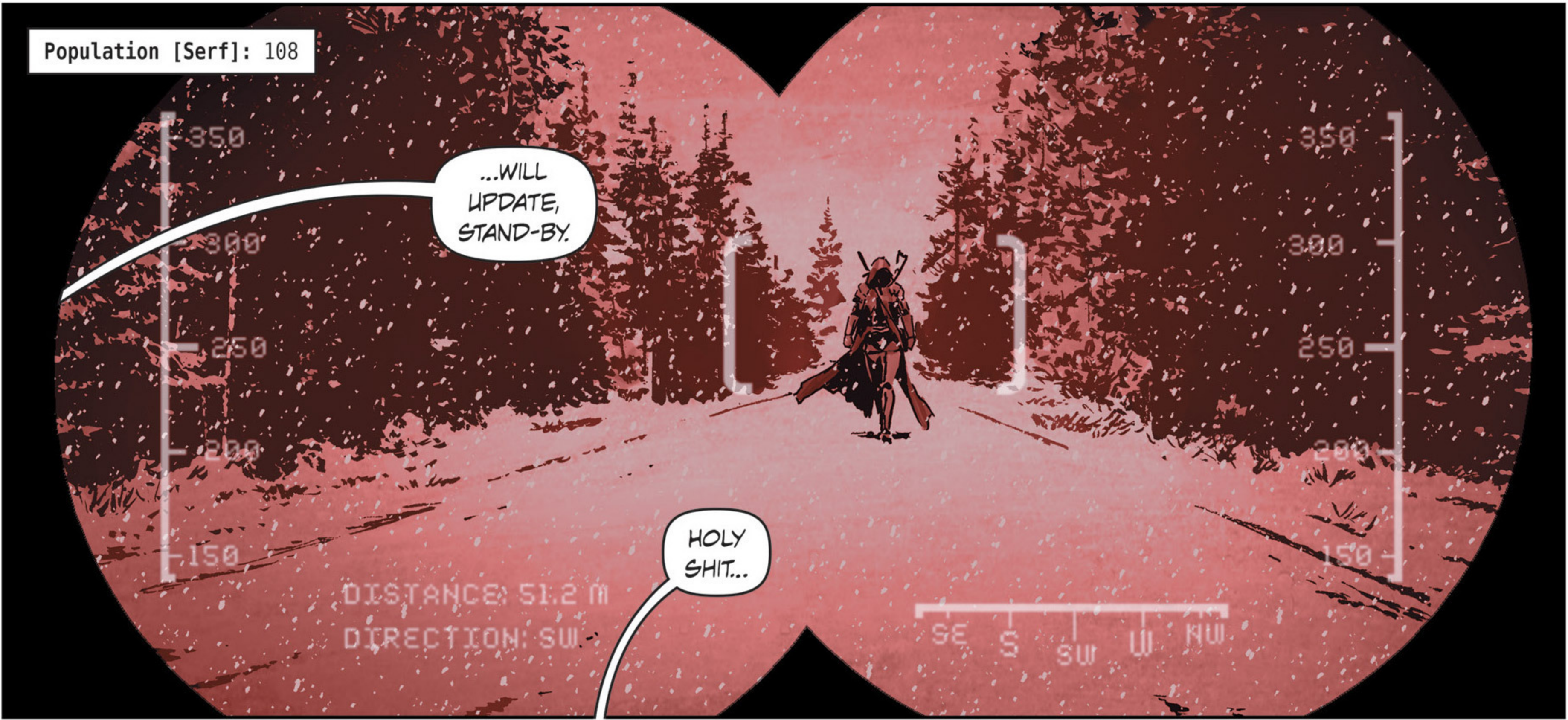


OWEN FREEMAN

# CONCLAVE

CHAPTER ONE















Southern Sierra Nevadas  
Facility: Compound Sequoia  
Family: Carlyle

"OKAY, FOREVER, HERE'S  
WHAT WE'VE GOT..."

Population [Family]: 3 [1 permanent]

"...YOUR SISTER AND I HAVE FINISHED  
CRUNCHING THE NUMBERS ON YOUR  
PERFORMANCE REVIEW..."

Population [Serf]: 32

"...AND I HAVE TO TELL YOU, WE'RE  
**VERY** PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS.

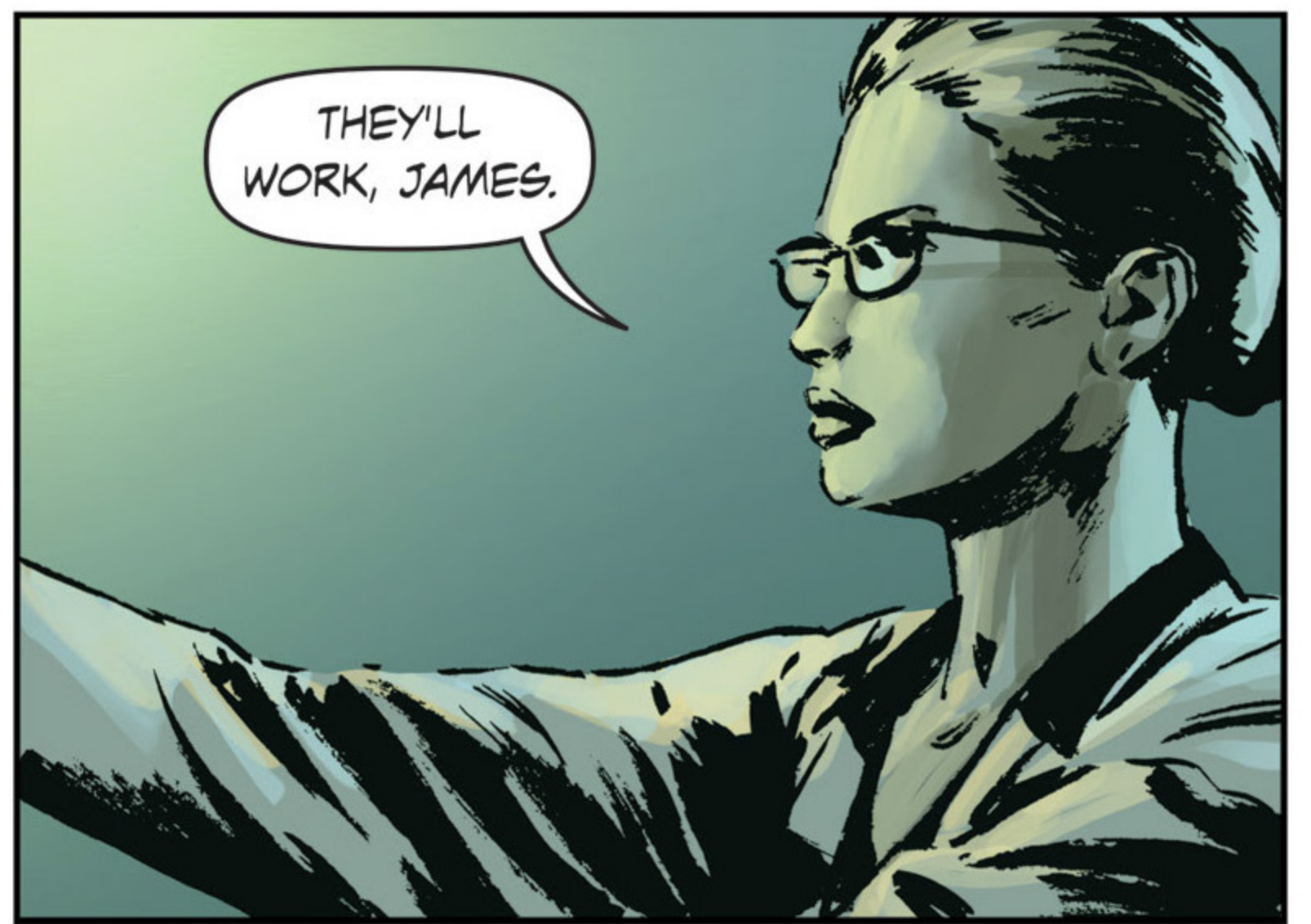
"YOU'RE CONTINUING TO PERFORM  
**ABOVE** ALL OF OUR PROJECTIONS,  
AND IN FACT THE GROWTH CURVE  
ON YOUR ABILITIES SEEMS TO BE  
**ACCELERATING...**"





...SO MUCH SO THAT BETHANY AND I ARE THINKING IT'S TIME TO ACTIVATE ONE OR TWO OF THE **DORMANT** GENETIC PACKAGES YOU'VE BEEN CARRYING.

IF THEY WORK, AND WE'VE NO REASON TO THINK THEY WON'T--



THEY'LL WORK, JAMES.



YOUR CONFIDENCE IS OVERWHELMING AS **ALWAYS**, BETH.

WHAT WAS I SAYING?



THE NEW PACKAGES.

RIGHT, YES, THEY'LL **BOOST** YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL RESISTANCES. COLD, HEAT, RADIATION, TOXINS.

A FEW OTHER SURPRISES, TOO.



YOU'RE NOT EVEN **LISTENING** TO ME, ARE YOU?



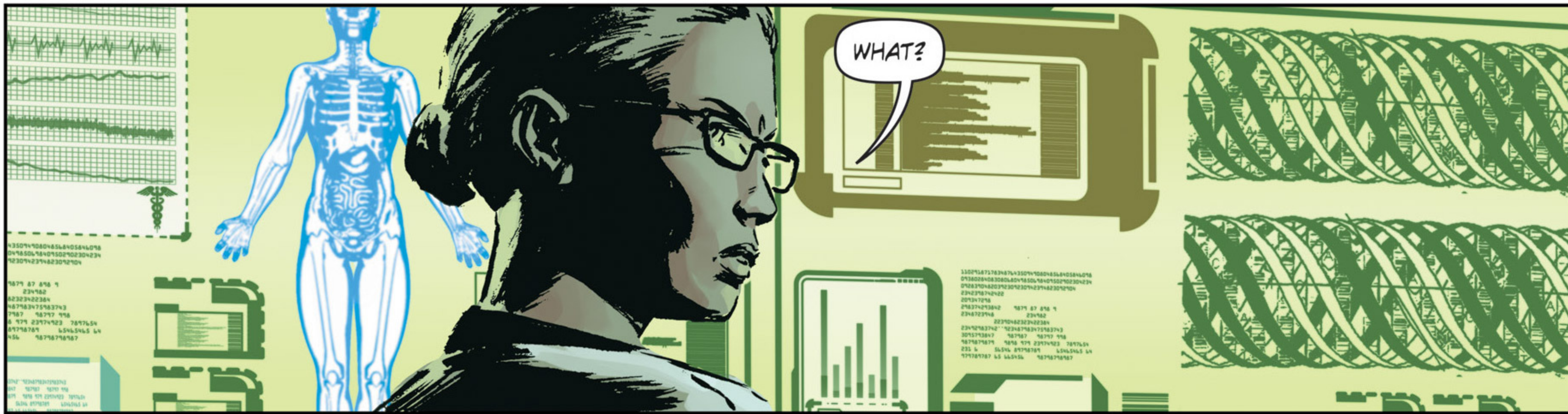
CAN I ASK YOU, SOMETHING, JAMES?

ALWAYS, EVE.



AM I A **CARLYLE**?

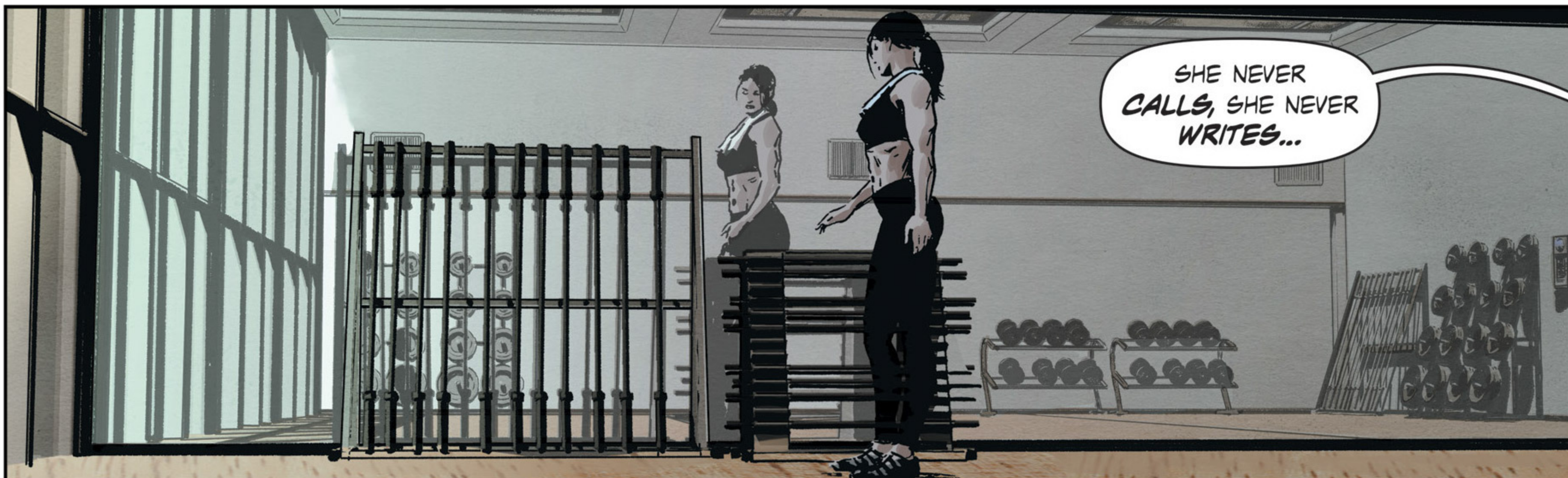
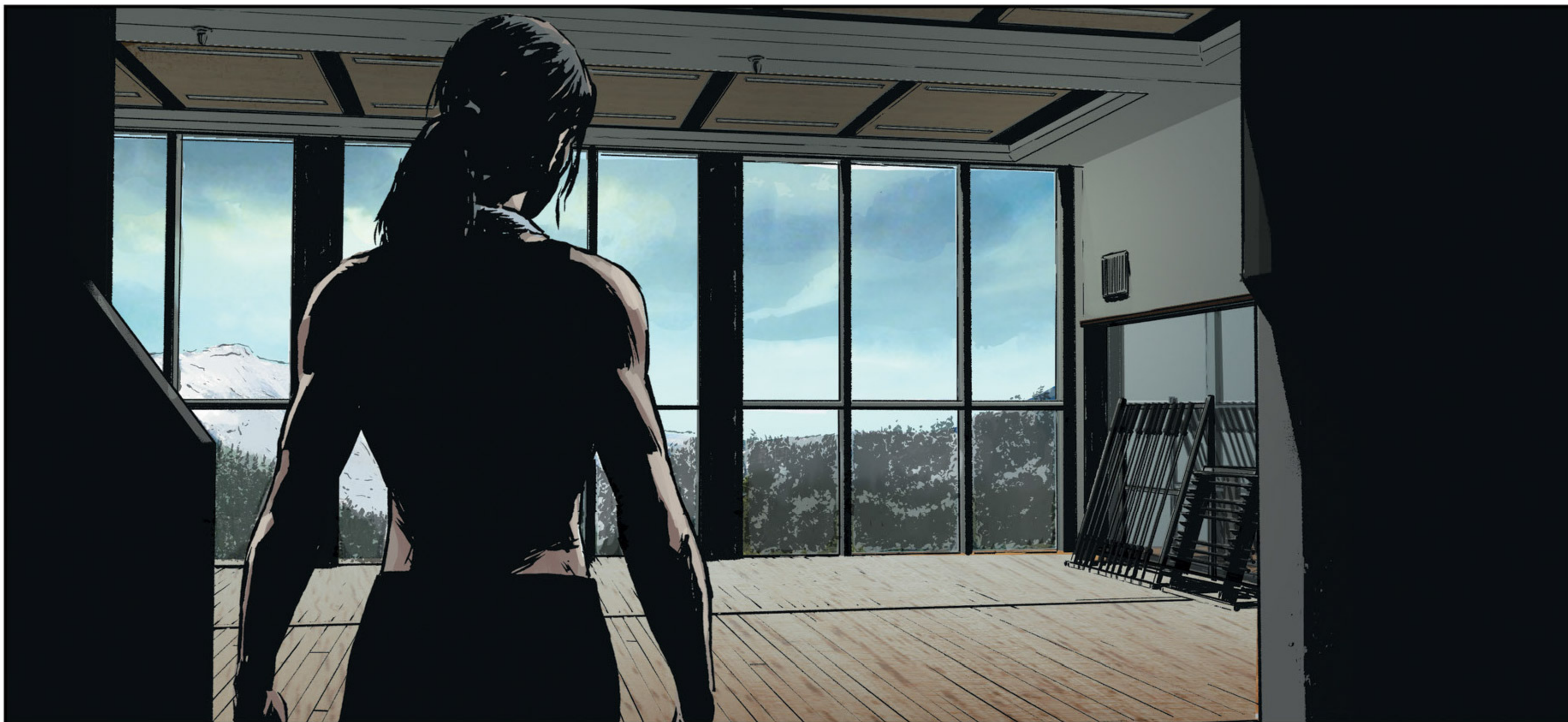








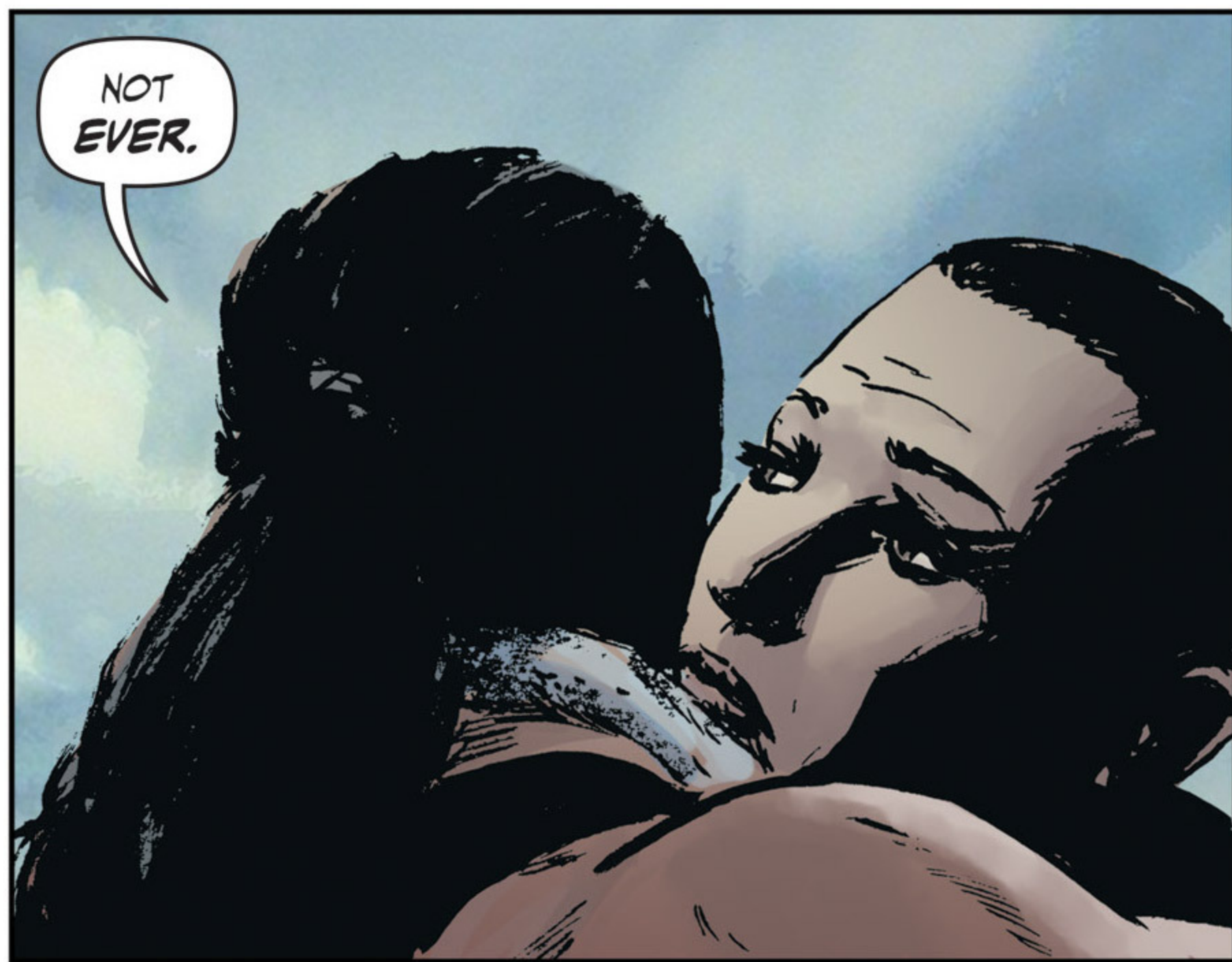




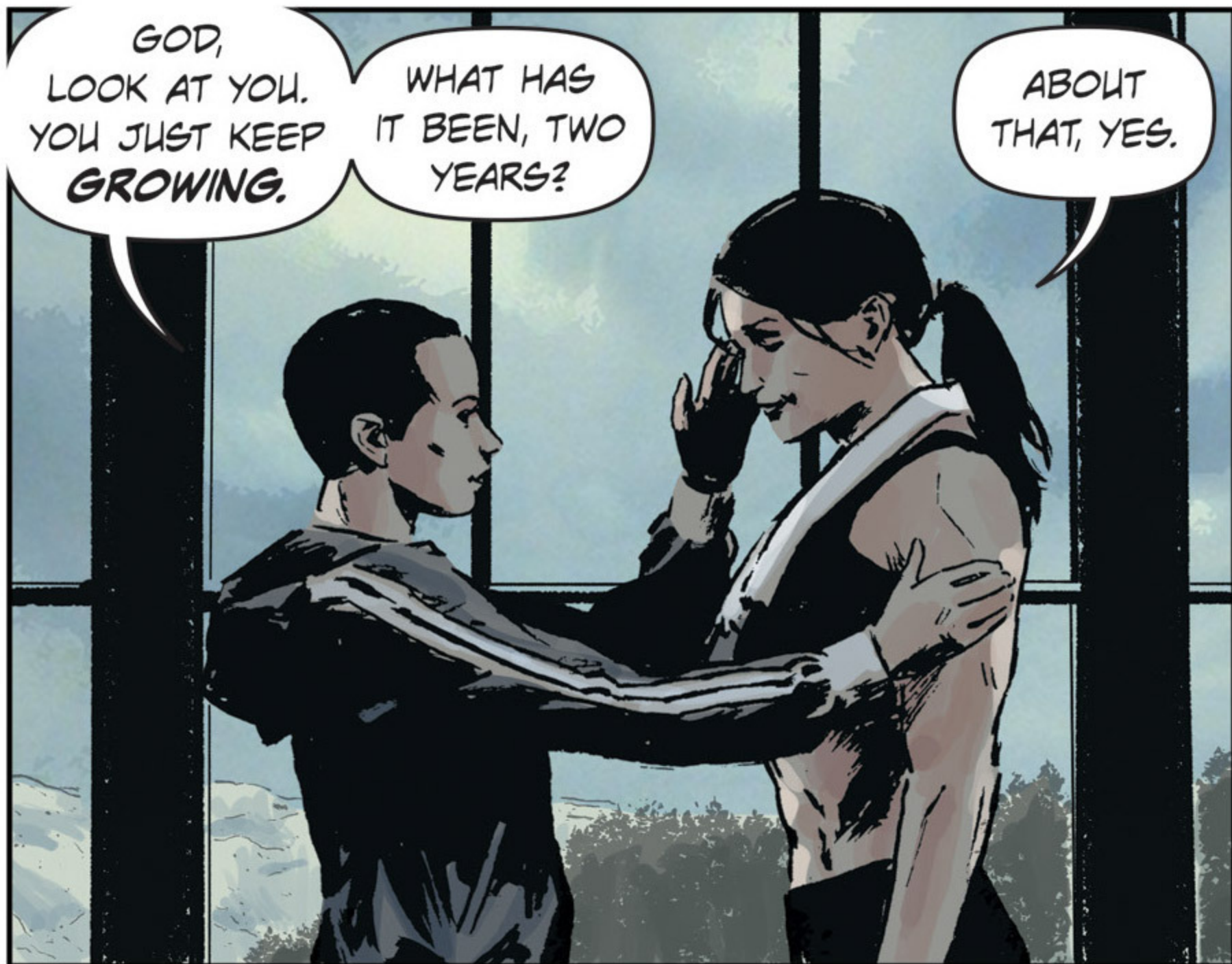




NEVER  
NOT **EVER**,  
MARISOL.



NOT  
**EVER**.



GOD,  
LOOK AT YOU.  
YOU JUST KEEP  
**GROWING**.

WHAT HAS  
IT BEEN, TWO  
YEARS?

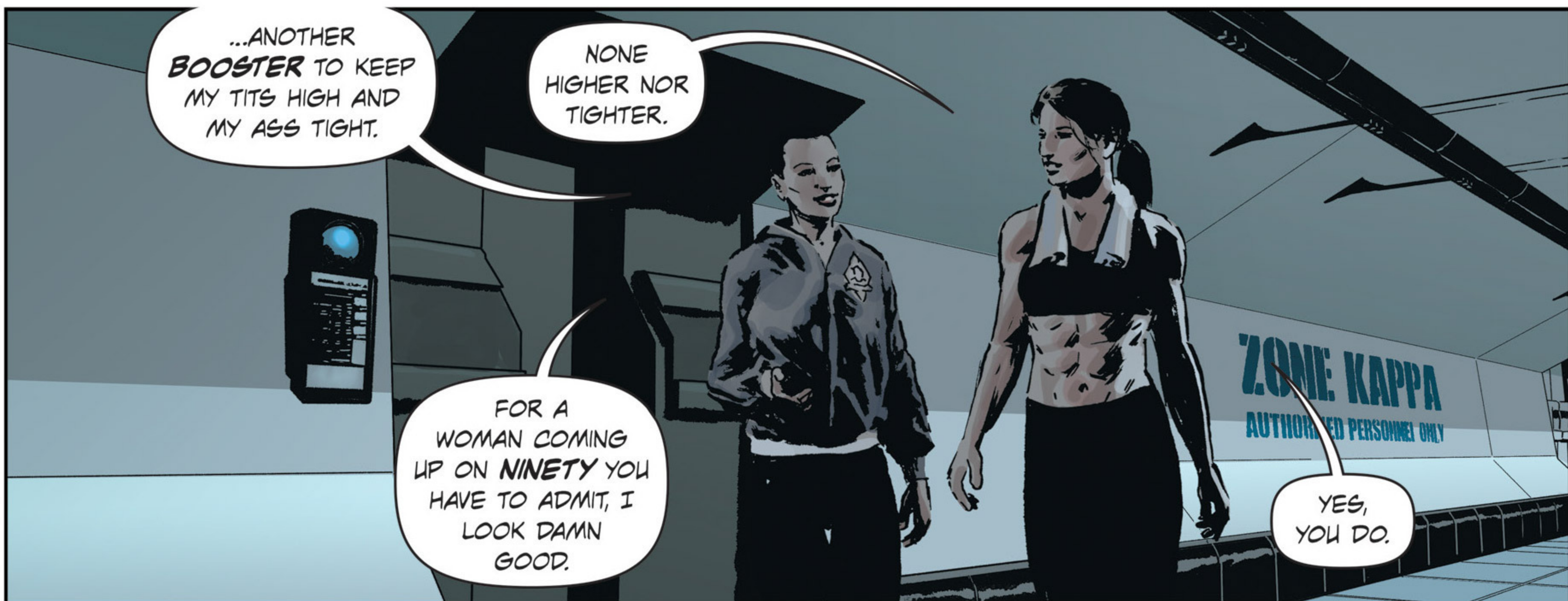
ABOUT  
THAT, YES.



I DIDN'T  
KNOW YOU WERE  
HERE. I THOUGHT  
YOU WERE AT  
PENDLETON.

AND LAST I  
**HEARD**, YOU WERE  
BABYSITTING JO IN  
LOS ANGELES.

NAH, I'M  
BACK HERE FOR  
**TREATMENT...**



...ANOTHER  
**BOOSTER** TO KEEP  
MY TITS HIGH AND  
MY ASS TIGHT.

NONE  
HIGHER NOR  
TIGHTER.

FOR A  
WOMAN COMING  
UP ON **NINETY** YOU  
HAVE TO ADMIT, I  
LOOK DAMN  
GOOD.

YES,  
YOU DO.



YOU'RE NOT  
EVEN SUPPOSED  
TO BE IN THIS  
WING.

TAKING A  
WALK DOWN  
MEMORY  
LANE?

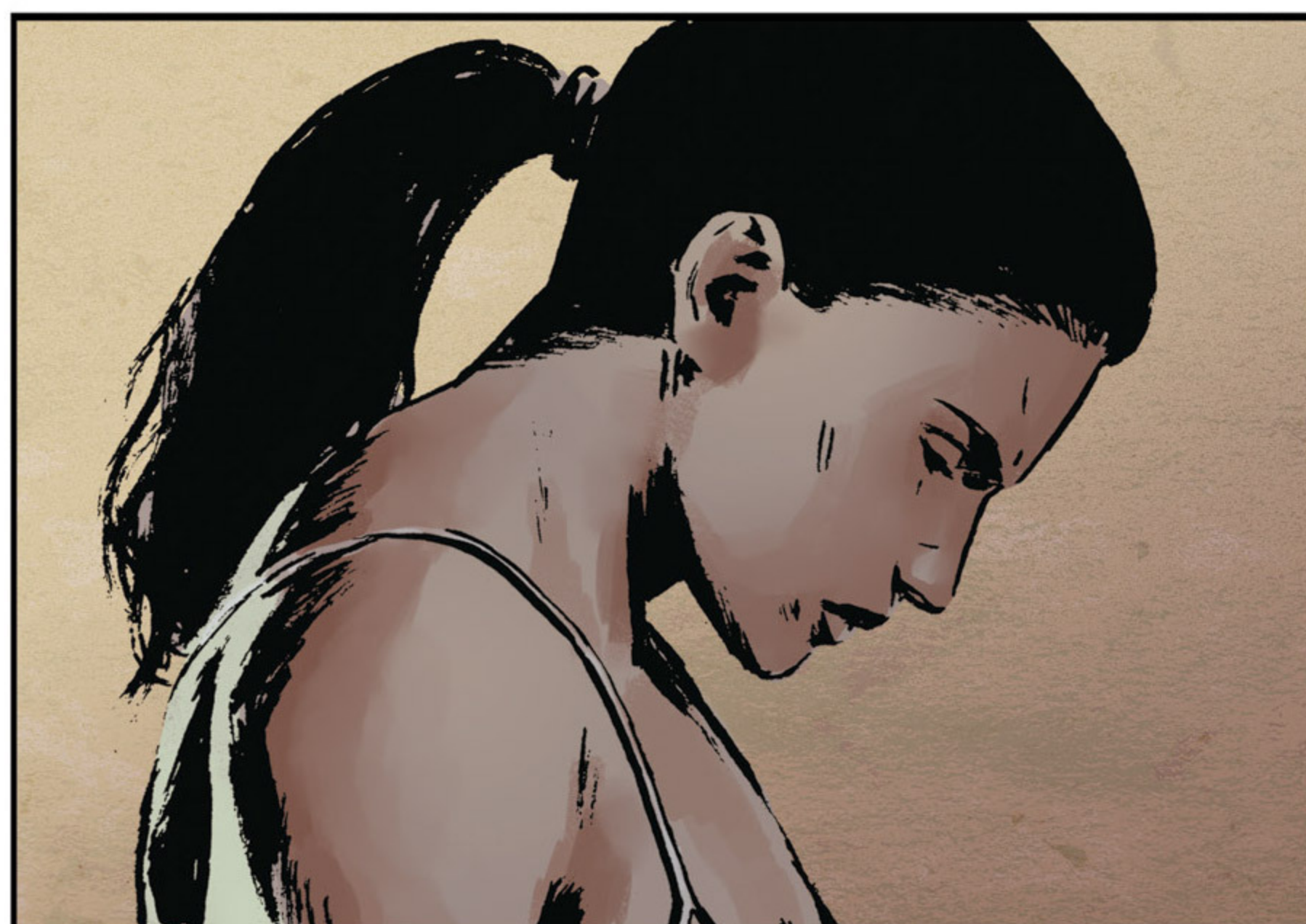
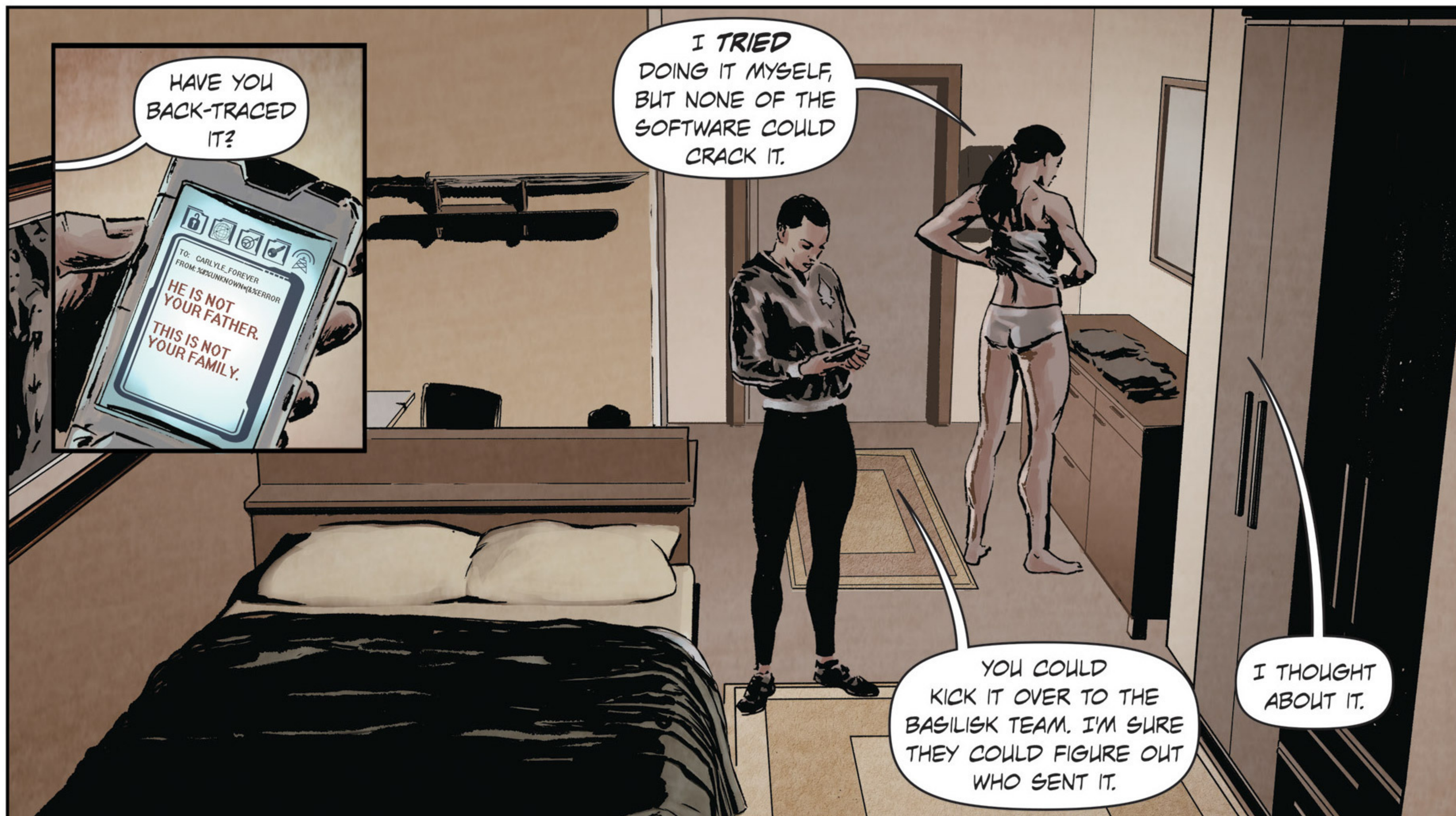
I GUESS  
SO.

HAD A  
LOT ON MY  
**MIND**.



I'M HAPPY  
TO **TALK**, HAPPY  
TO **LISTEN...**

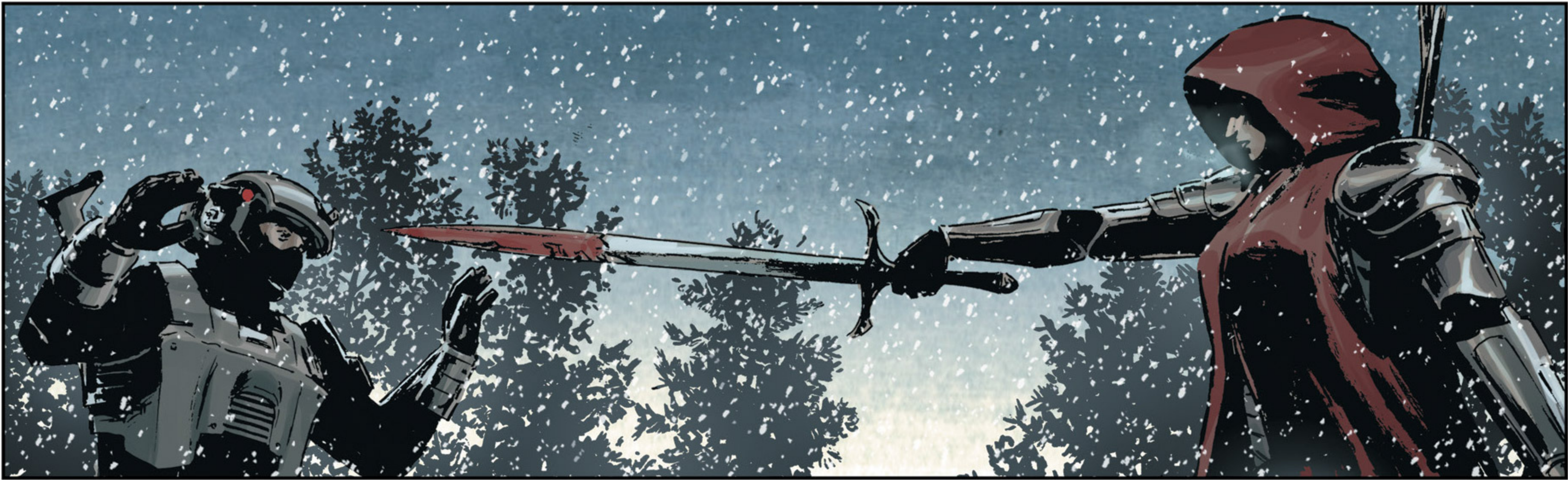




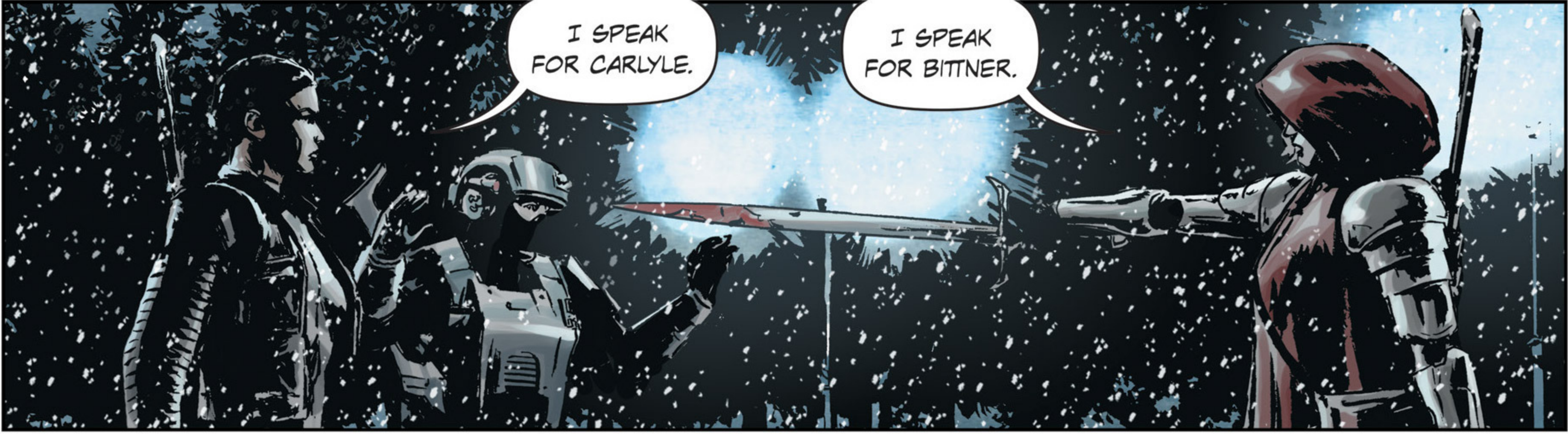




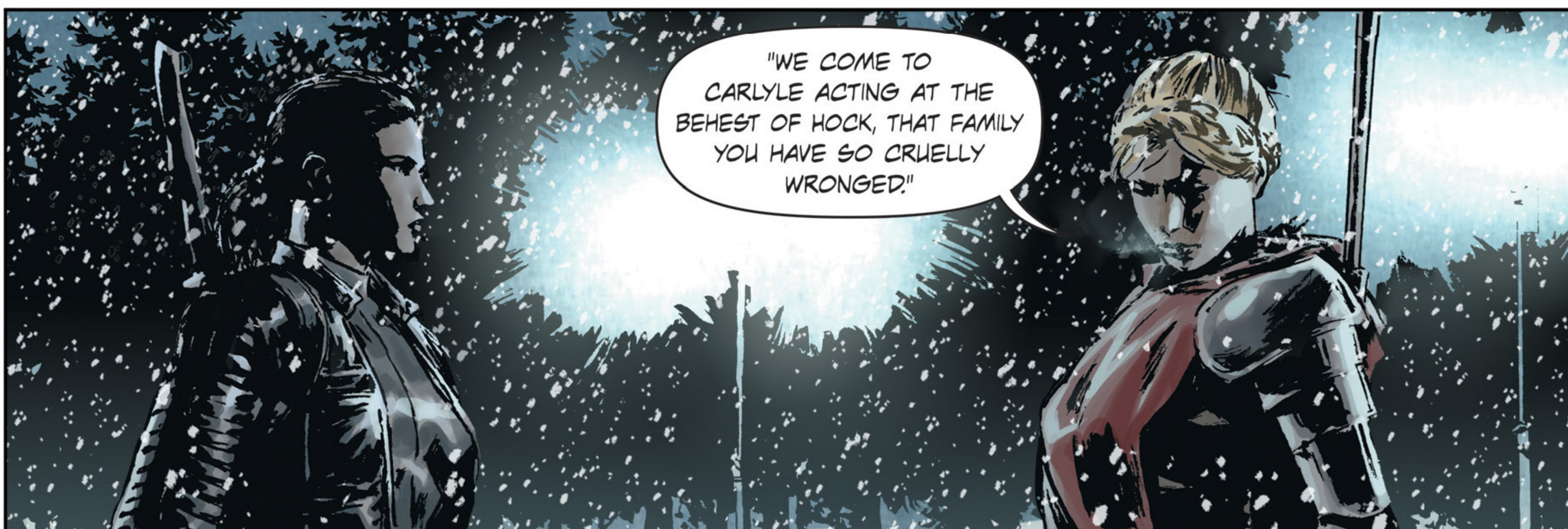








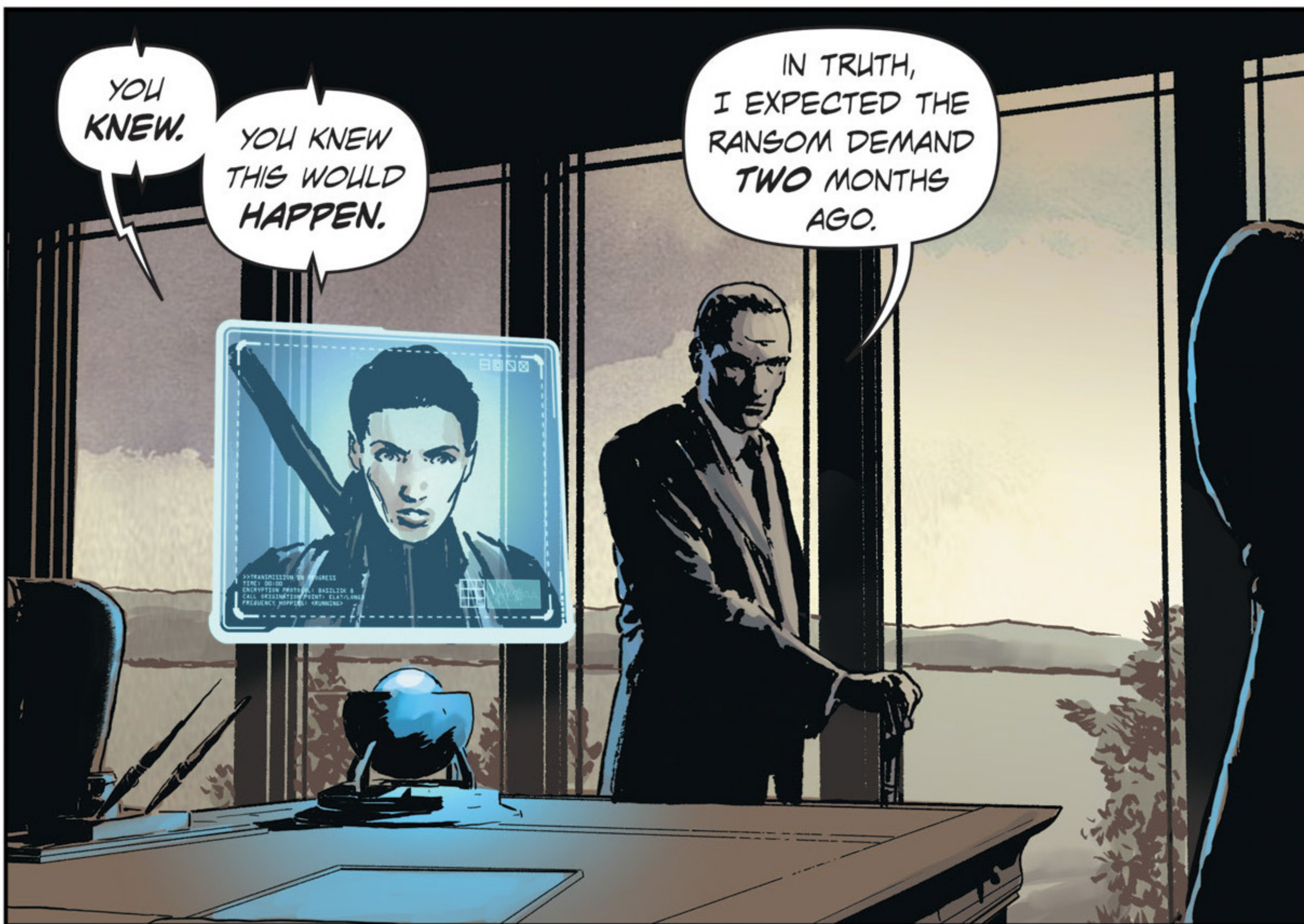
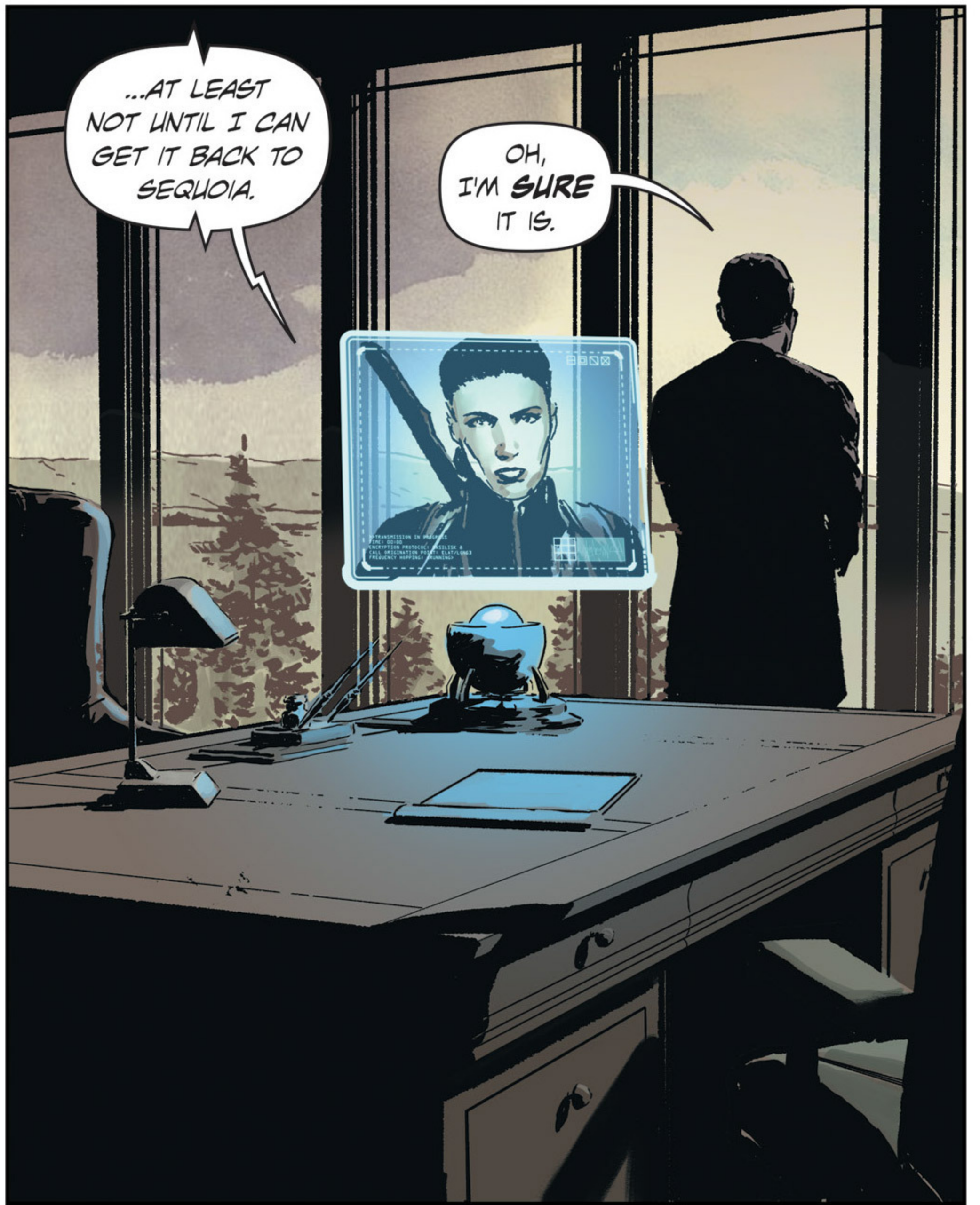




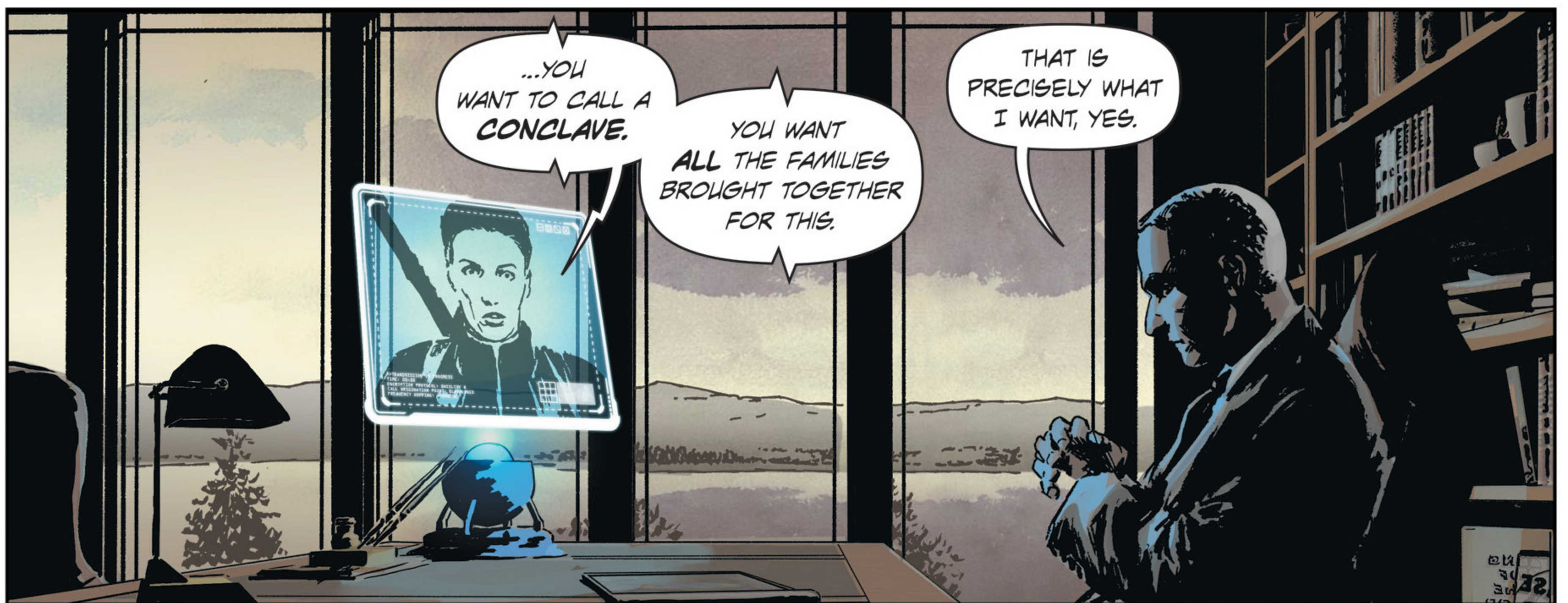
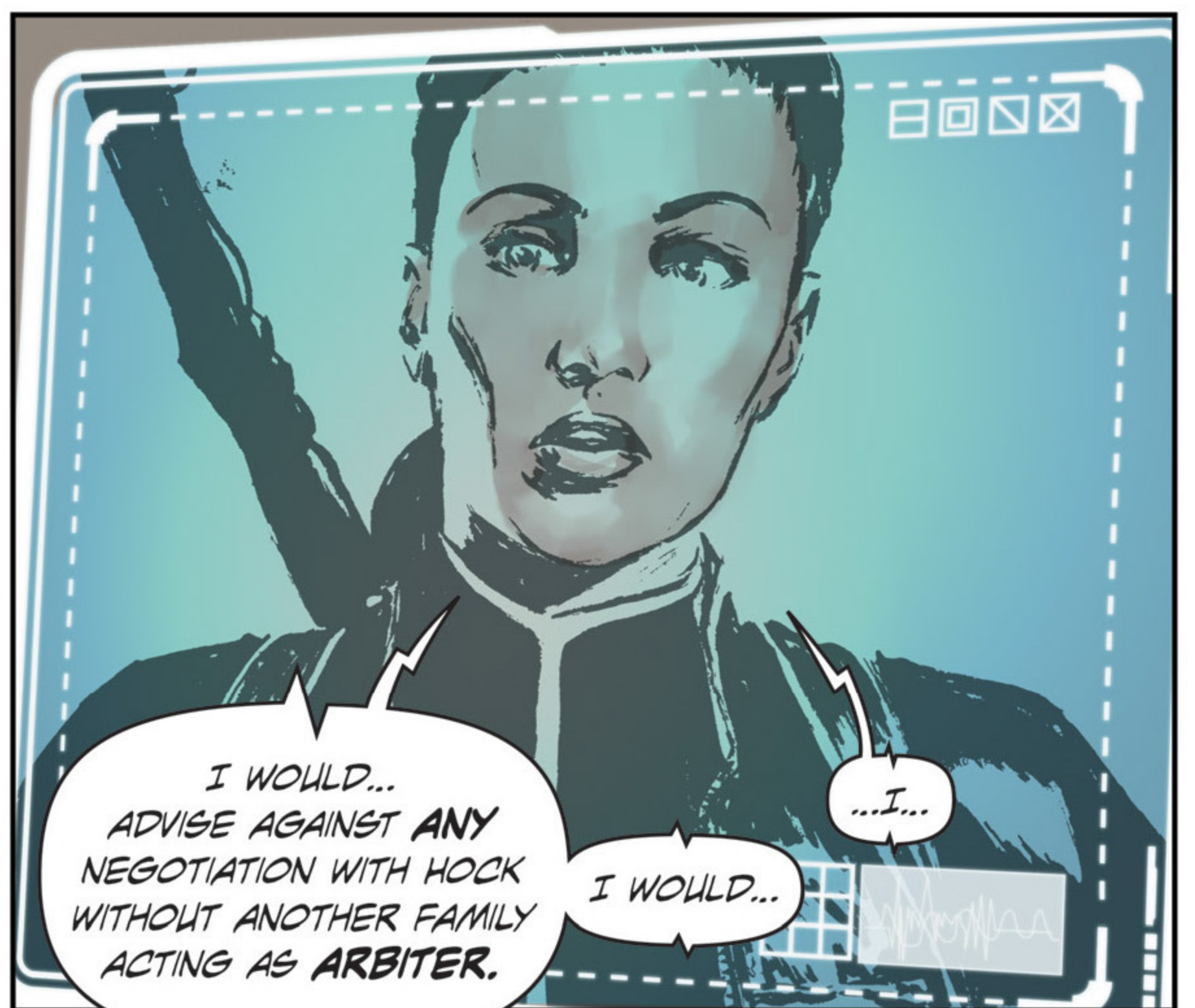
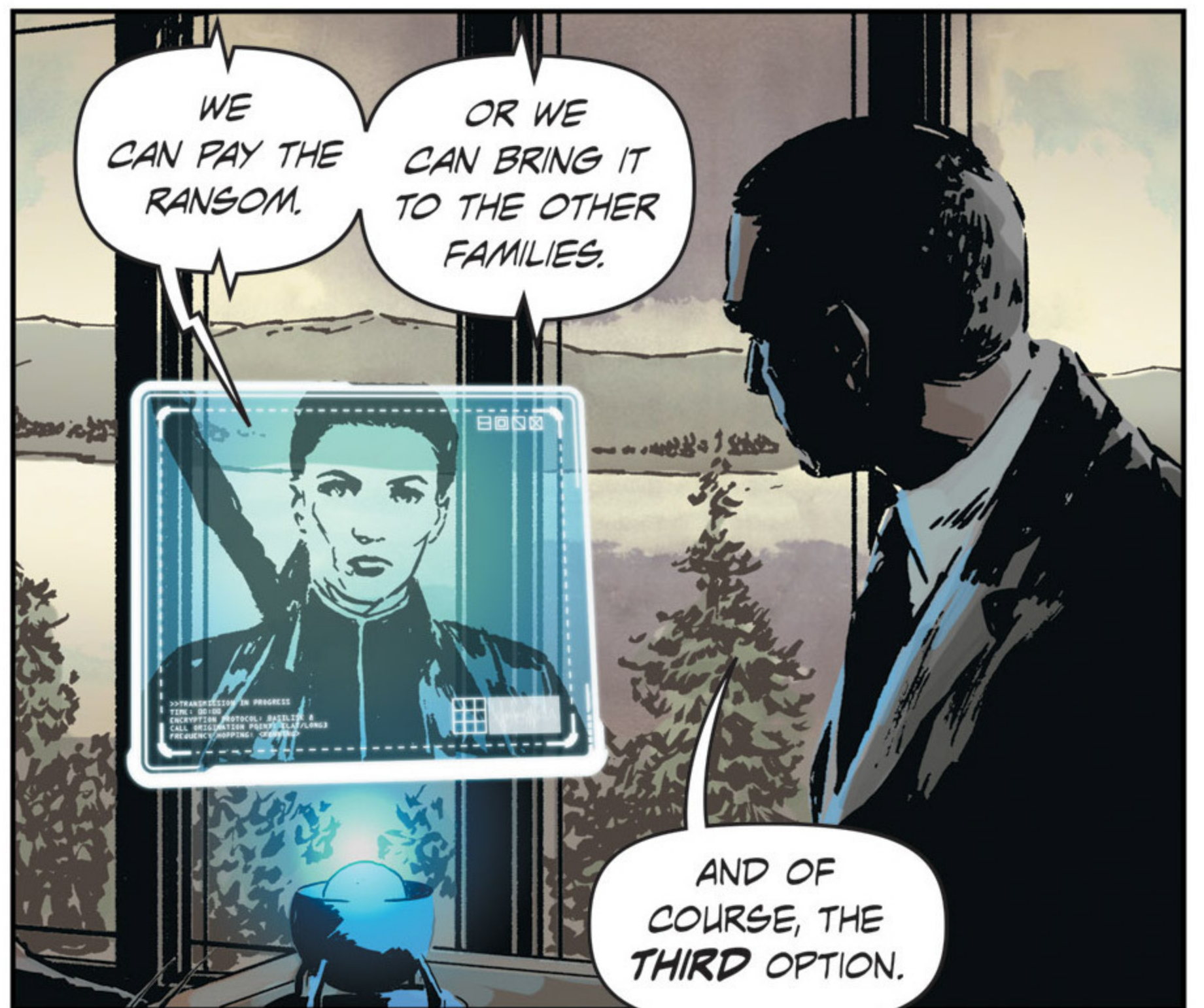
















"...THAT I DEMAND A **CONCLAVE**, AS ALLOWED BY THE ACCORDS OF MACAU IN ARTICLE FOUR, SUBSECTION THREE.

"SHE WILL EXPECT THIS, FOREVER. SHE WILL AGREE, THEN PROPOSE THE HOST BE EITHER VASSALOVKA OR D'SOUZA.



"TELL HER NEITHER IS ACCEPTABLE, THAT VASSALOVKA IS IN CONFLICT WITH OUR ALLY CARRAGHER, AND D'SOUZA WITH OUR ALLY MORRAY.

"SHE WILL EXPECT YOU TO OFFER AN ALTERNATIVE. DON'T. LET HER SPEAK NEXT.



"HOCK WON'T WANT THE CONCLAVE HOSTED BY ANY OF THE ASIANS, NOR MINETTA, AND BITNER WON'T WANT TO GO TO AFRICA.

"THE PAUSE WILL BE AWKWARD. BE PATIENT.

"EVENTUALLY, SHE WILL PROPOSE EITHER MEYERS OR ARMITAGE. LET HER THINK YOU ARE CONSIDERING THE CHOICE BEFORE RELUCTANTLY AGREEING TO ARMITAGE.



"SET THE DATE OF THE CONCLAVE FOR A WEEK FROM TODAY.

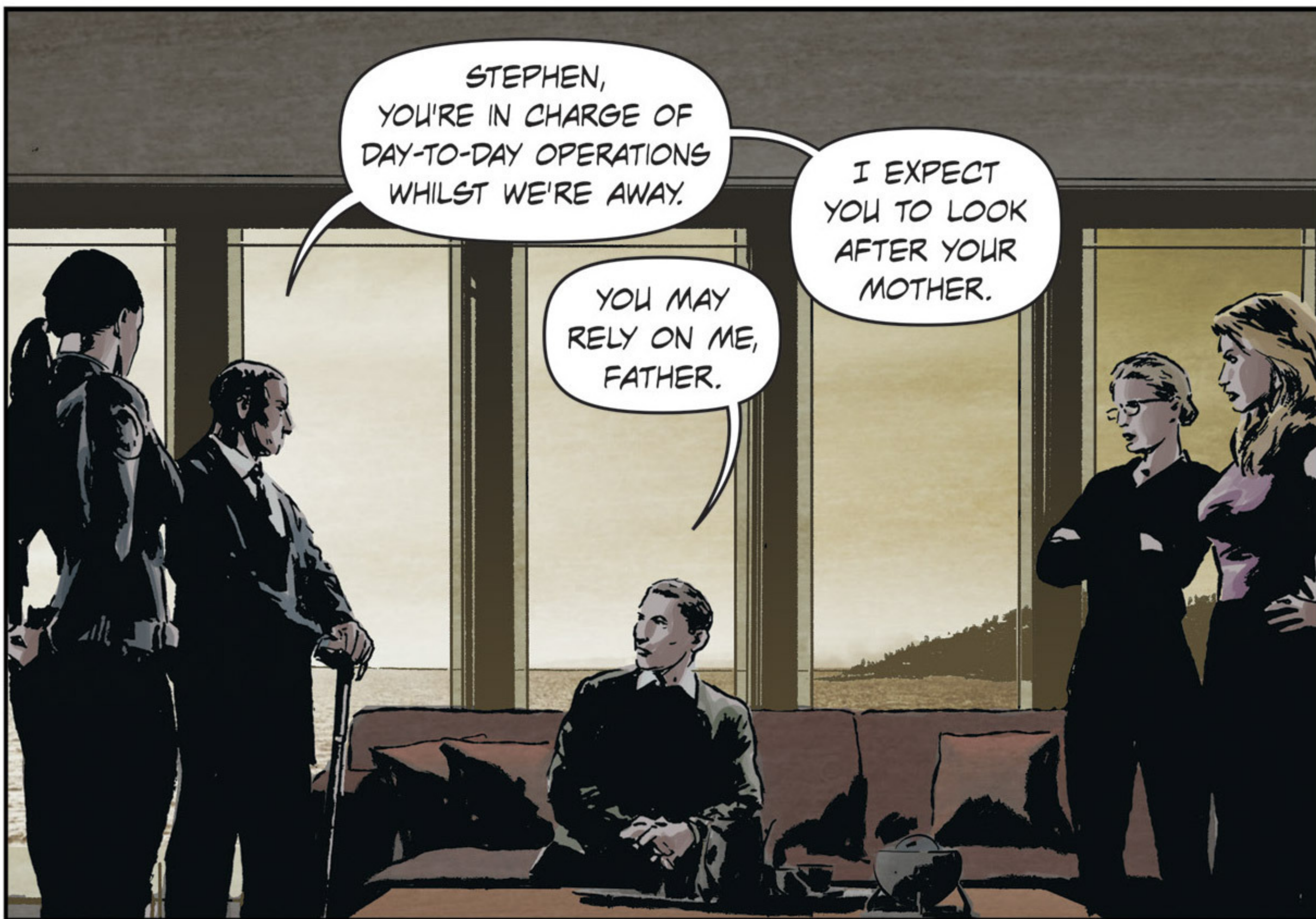
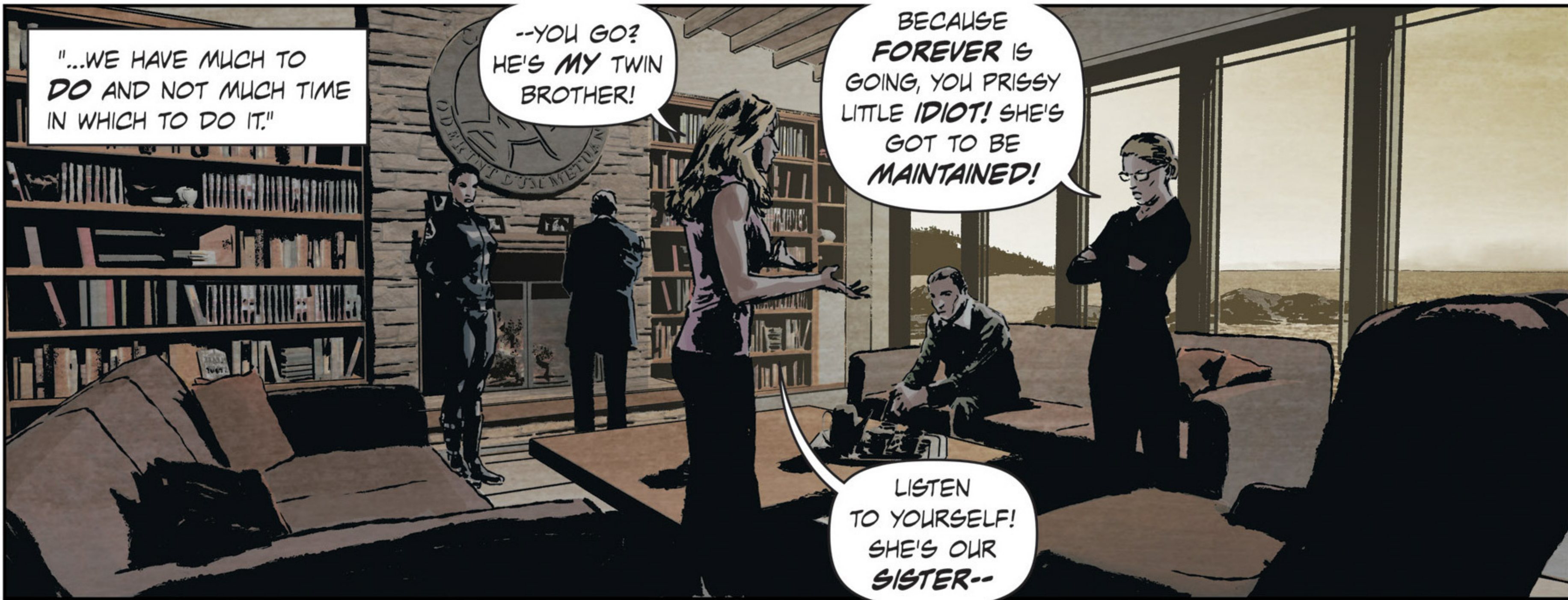
"INSIST ON SMALL DELEGATIONS, NO MORE THAN FIVE MEMBERS FROM EACH FAMILY INCLUDING PERSONAL SECURITY AND ADVISORS.



"THAT SHOULD CONCLUDE YOUR DIALOGUE.

"GRANT HER SAFE PASSAGE AND THEN RETURN TO THE CENTER...



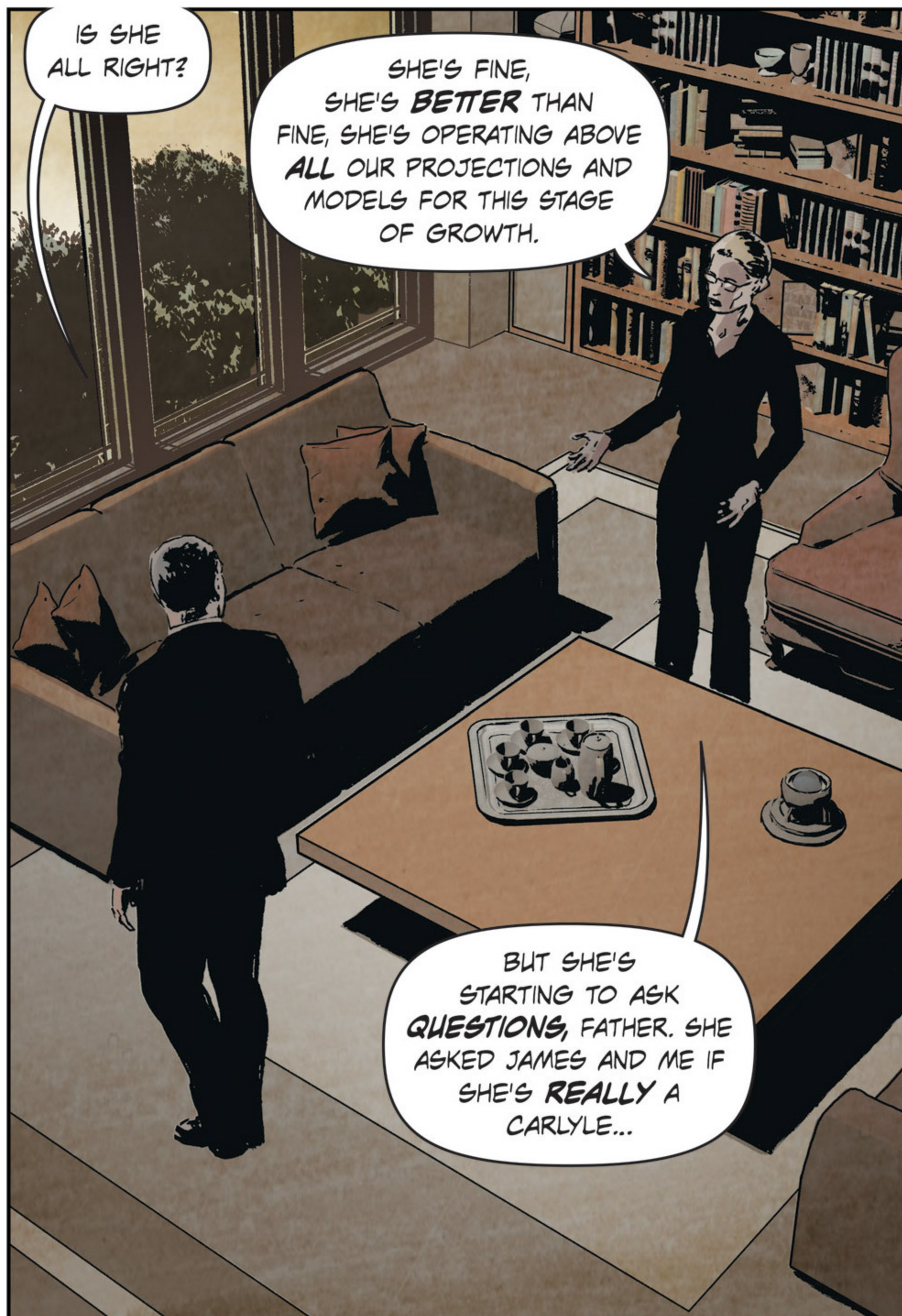






SHOULDN'T YOU BE GETTING READY?

I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT FOREVER.



IS SHE ALL RIGHT?

SHE'S FINE, SHE'S **BETTER** THAN FINE, SHE'S OPERATING ABOVE **ALL** OUR PROJECTIONS AND MODELS FOR THIS STAGE OF GROWTH.

BUT SHE'S STARTING TO ASK **QUESTIONS**, FATHER. SHE ASKED JAMES AND ME IF SHE'S **REALLY** A CARLYLE...



...IF SHE'S REALLY YOUR **DAUGHTER**.



DID SHE?

DID SHE SAY **WHY?**

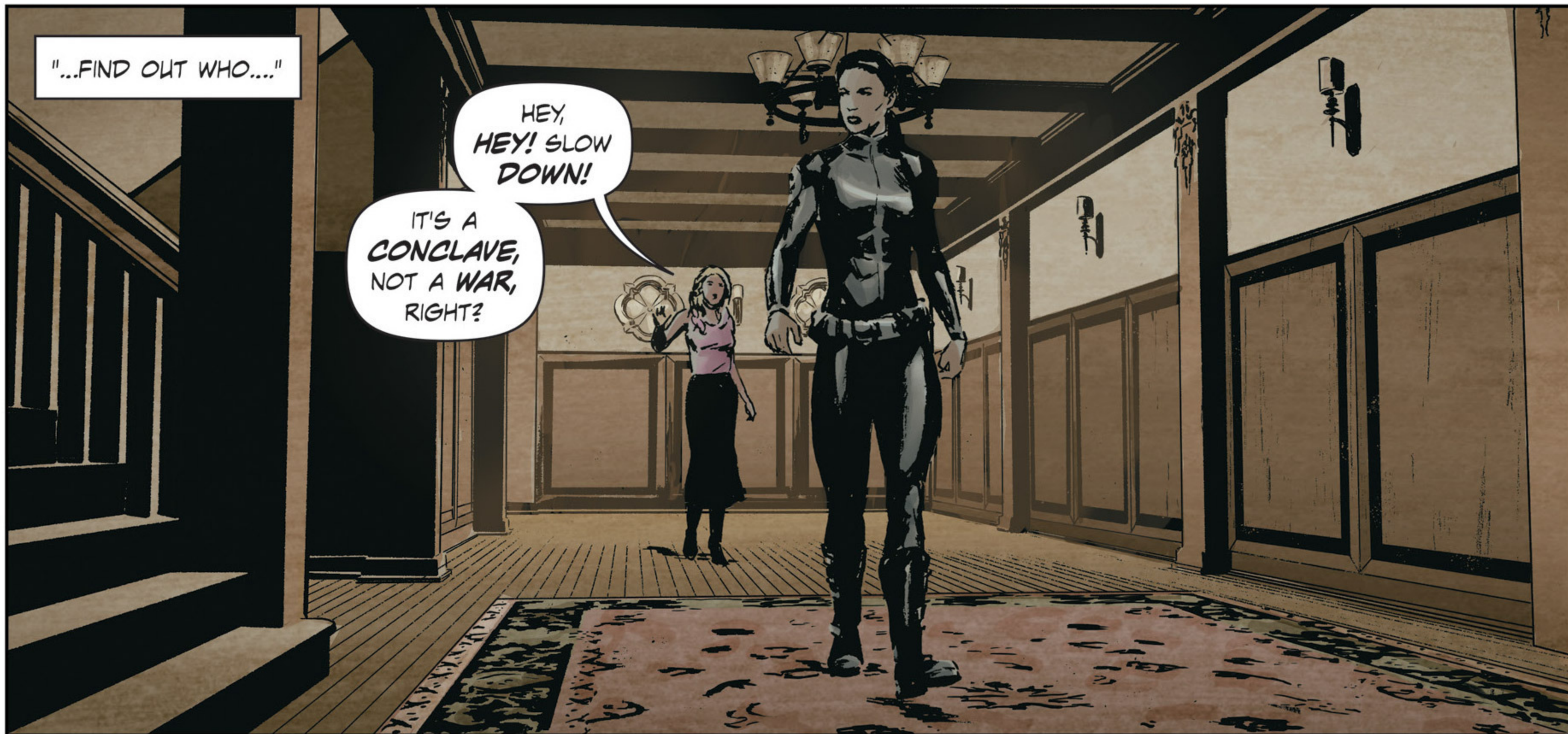


NO, SHE WAS EVASIVE. SAID SHE'D BEEN THINKING ABOUT THE **GENETICS**, THE WORK DONE TO HER.

I SEE.

**SOMEONE** PUT THAT QUESTION IN HER **HEAD**, BETH. SOMEONE IS MAKING **TROUBLE...**

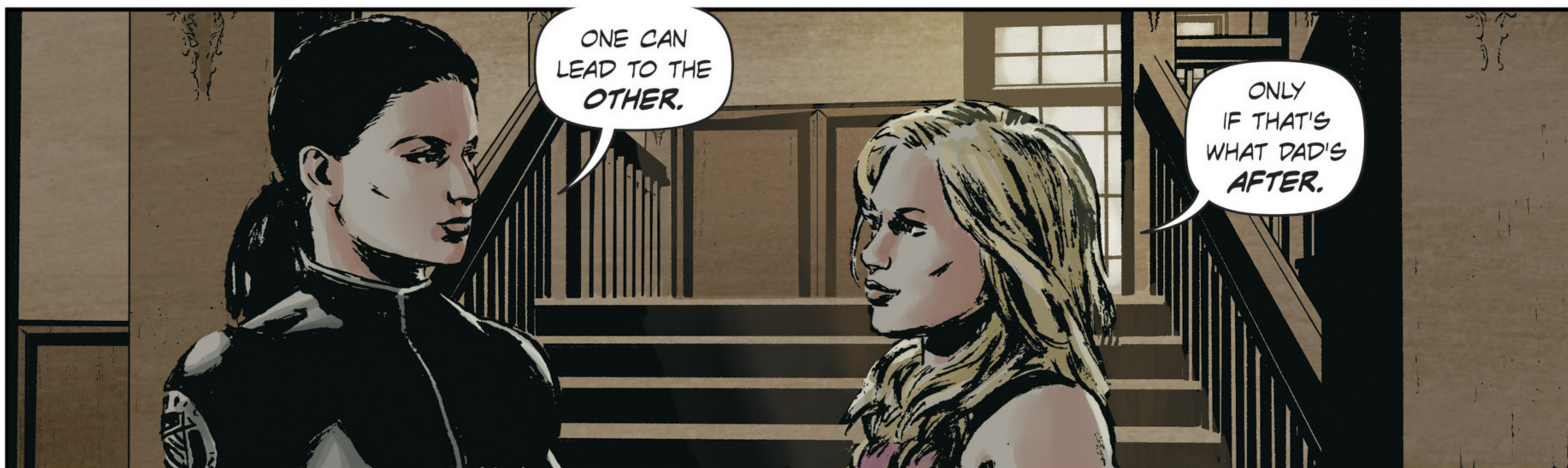




"...FIND OUT WHO...."

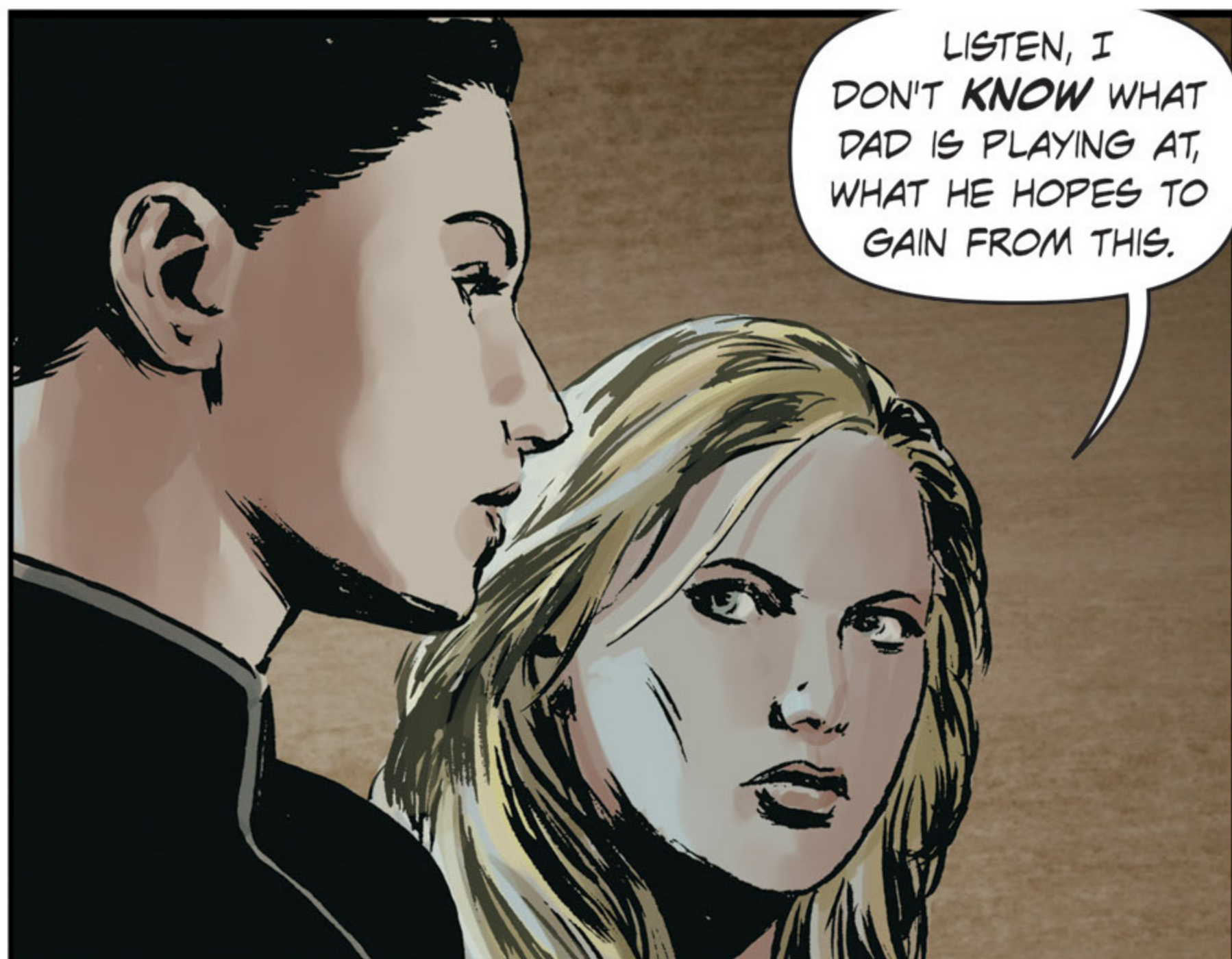
HEY,  
HEY! SLOW  
DOWN!

IT'S A  
**CONCLAVE**,  
NOT A **WAR**,  
RIGHT?



ONE CAN  
LEAD TO THE  
**OTHER**.

ONLY  
IF THAT'S  
WHAT DAD'S  
**AFTER**.



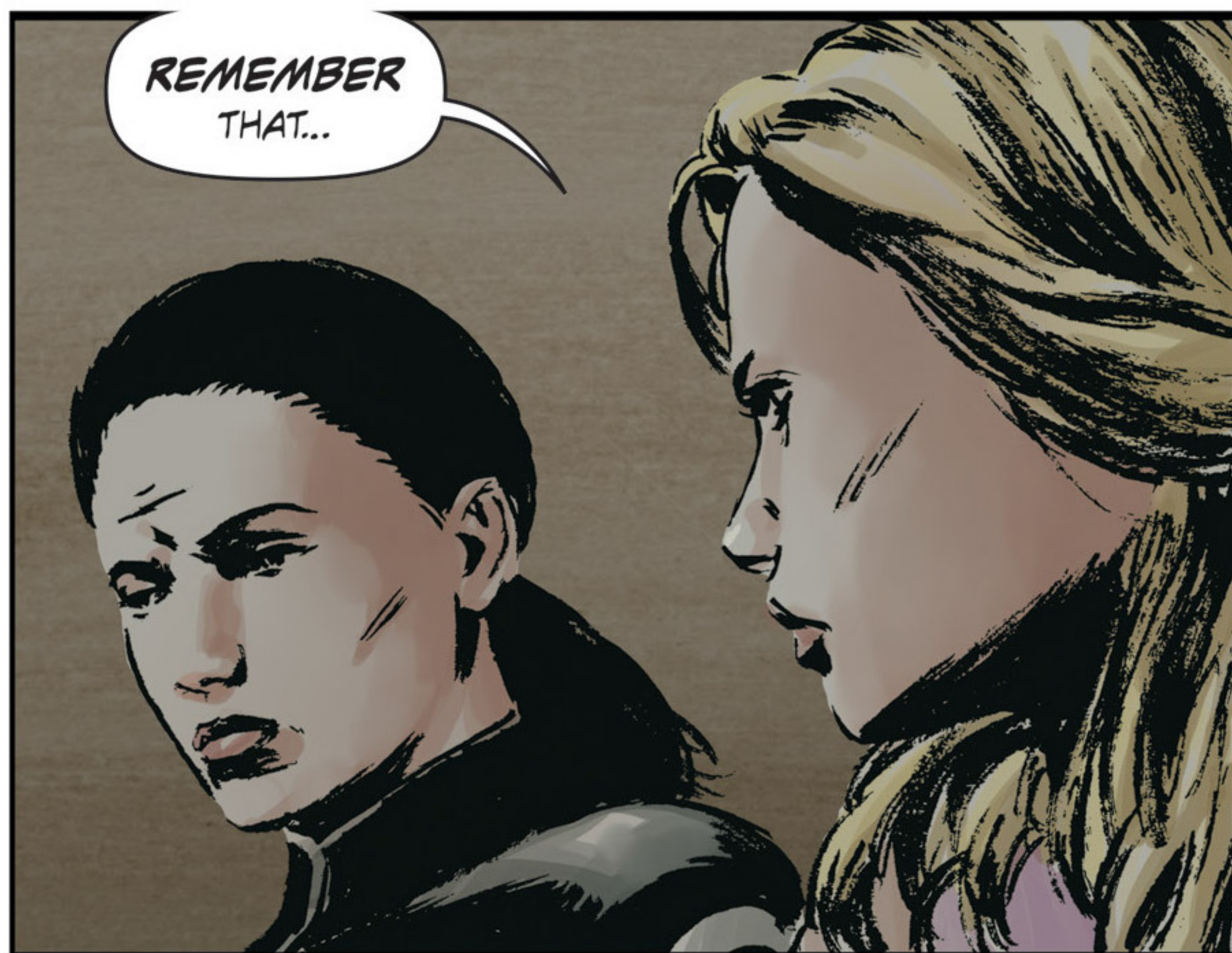
LISTEN, I  
DON'T **KNOW** WHAT  
DAD IS PLAYING AT,  
WHAT HE HOPES TO  
GAIN FROM THIS.



BUT  
JONAH **USED**  
US, FOREVER. HE  
**LIED** TO US.



HE  
**BEAT**  
ME.



**REMEMBER**  
THAT...



57°03'57N, 0°54'51E – The North Sea

Facility: Triton One

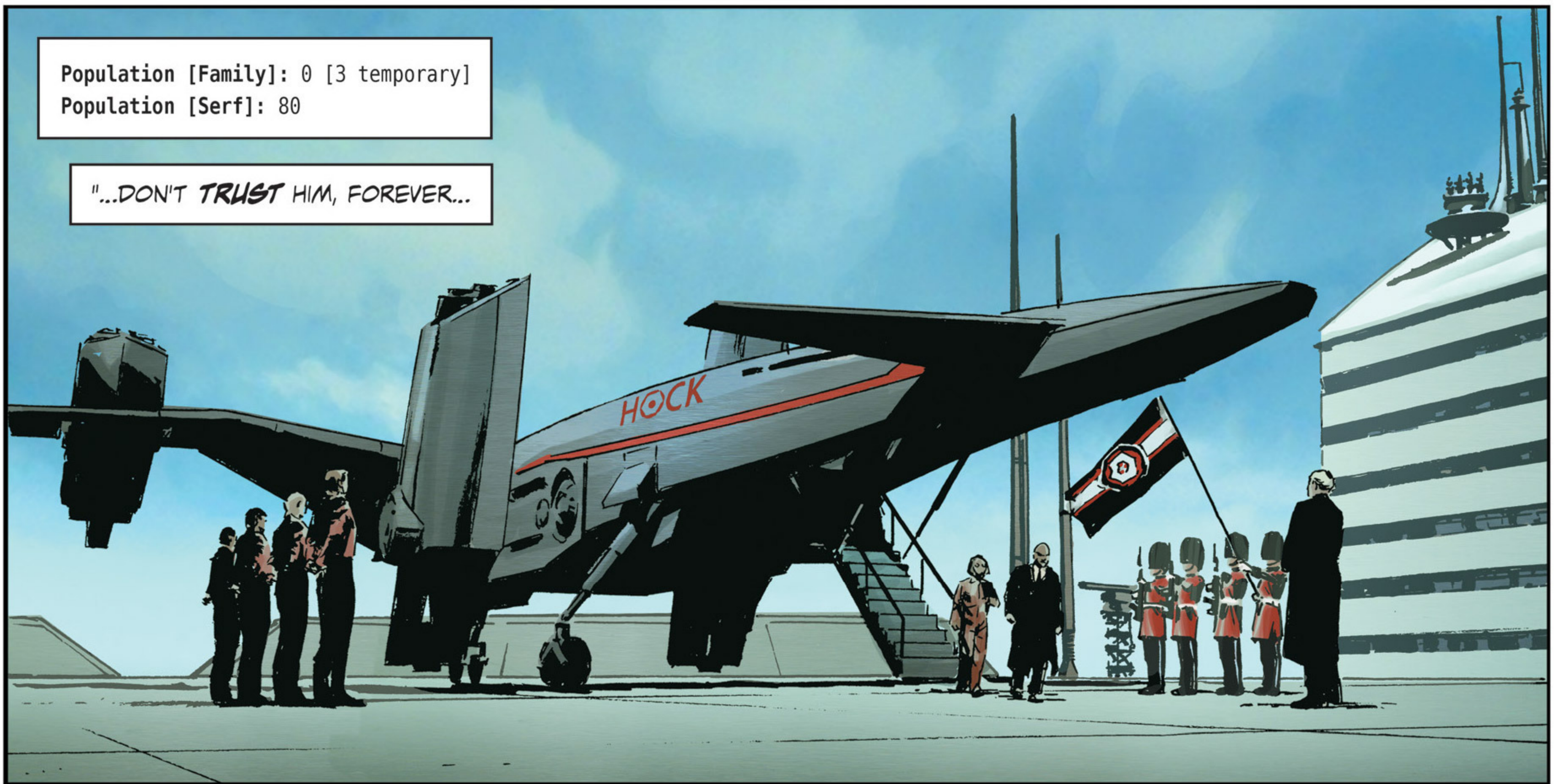
Family: Armitage

"...REMEMBER THAT  
HE **BETRAYED** US..."

Population [Family]: 0 [3 temporary]

Population [Serf]: 80

"...DON'T **TRUST** HIM, FOREVER..."



Population [Waste]: 420

"...DON'T BELIEVE A **WORD** HE SAYS..."



"...DON'T FORGET  
WHAT HE DID TO  
**BOTH** OF US..."

"...HE'S NOT OUR  
BROTHER ANYMORE...."









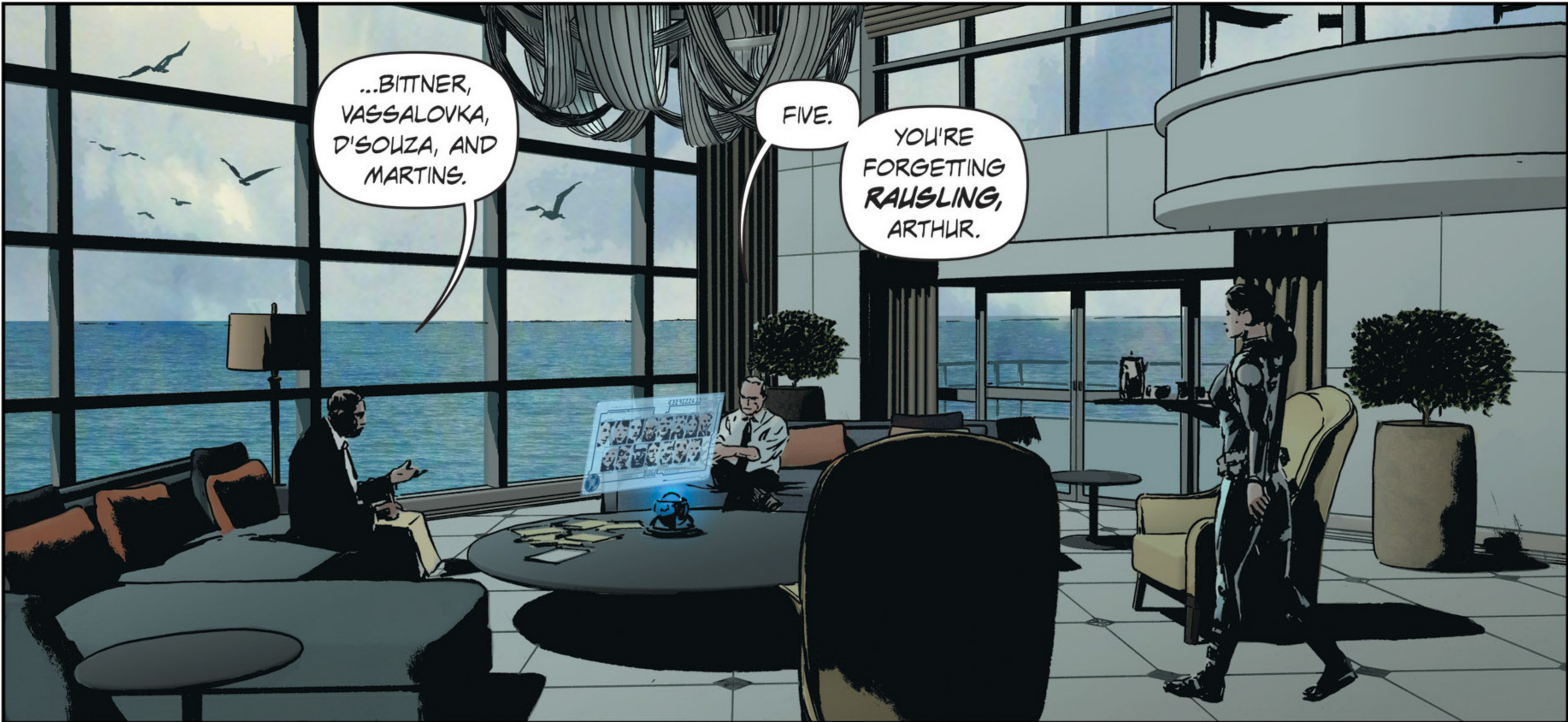
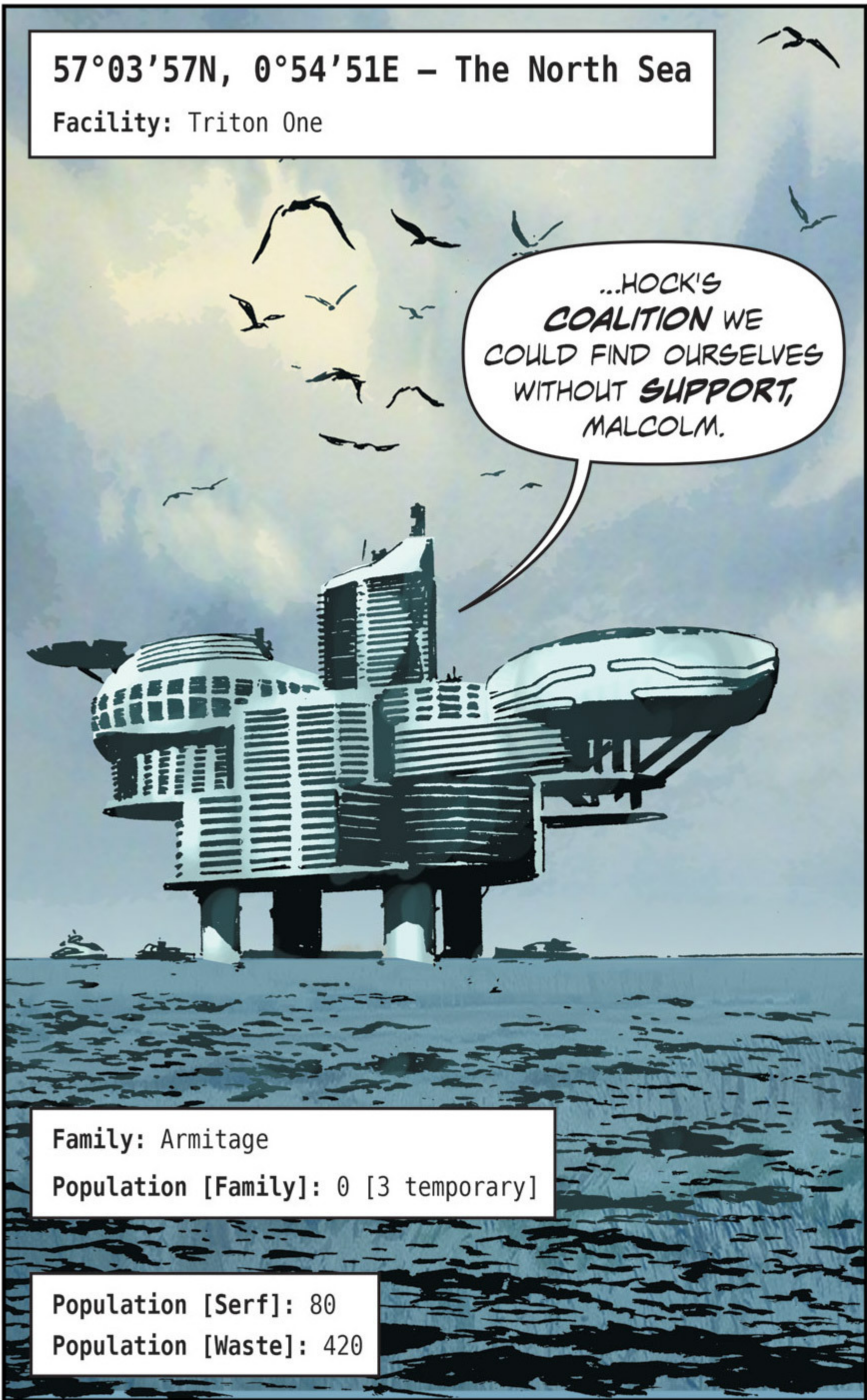


MICHAEL LARK & OWEN FREEMAN

# CONCLAVE

CHAPTER TWO



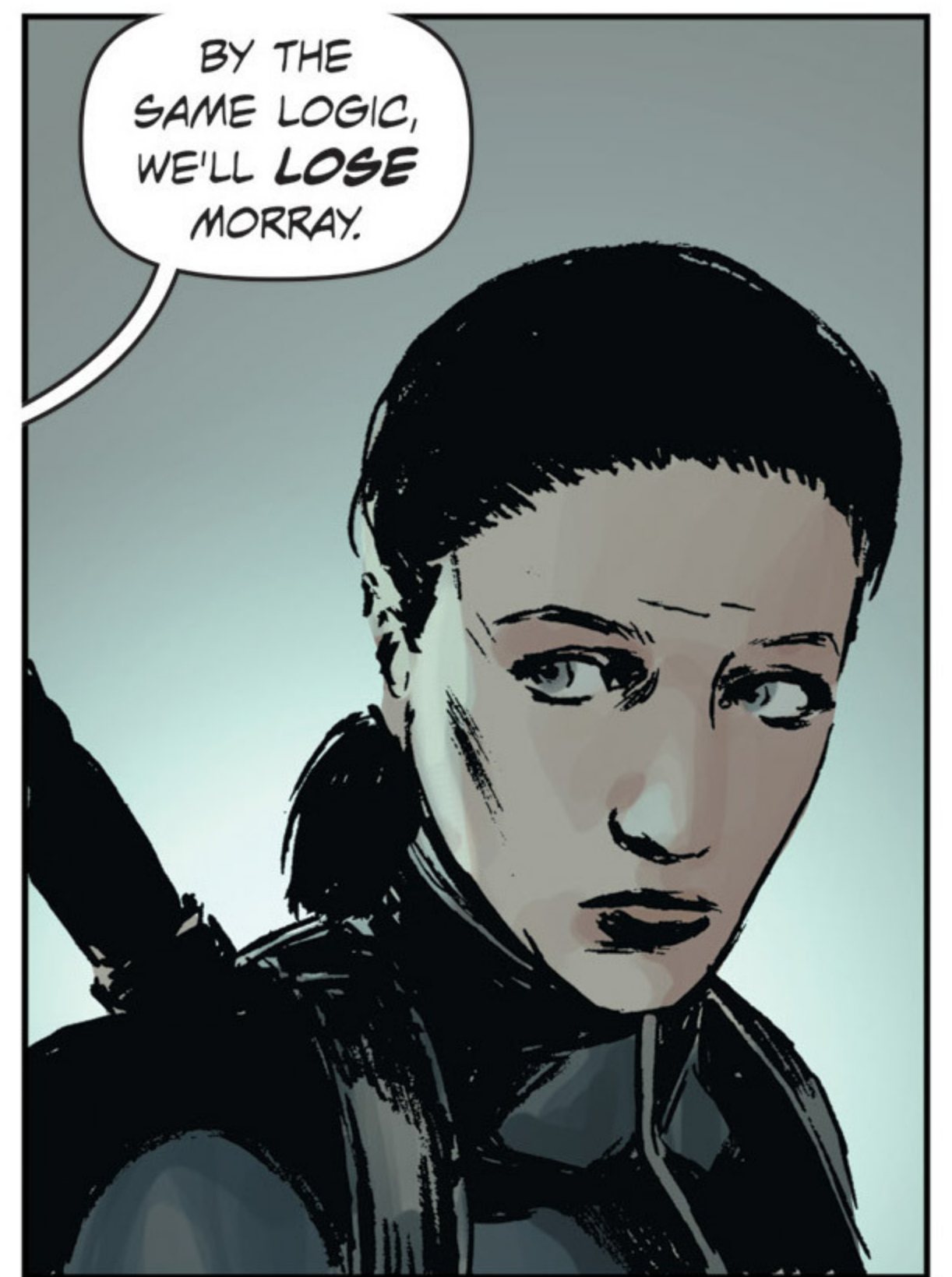




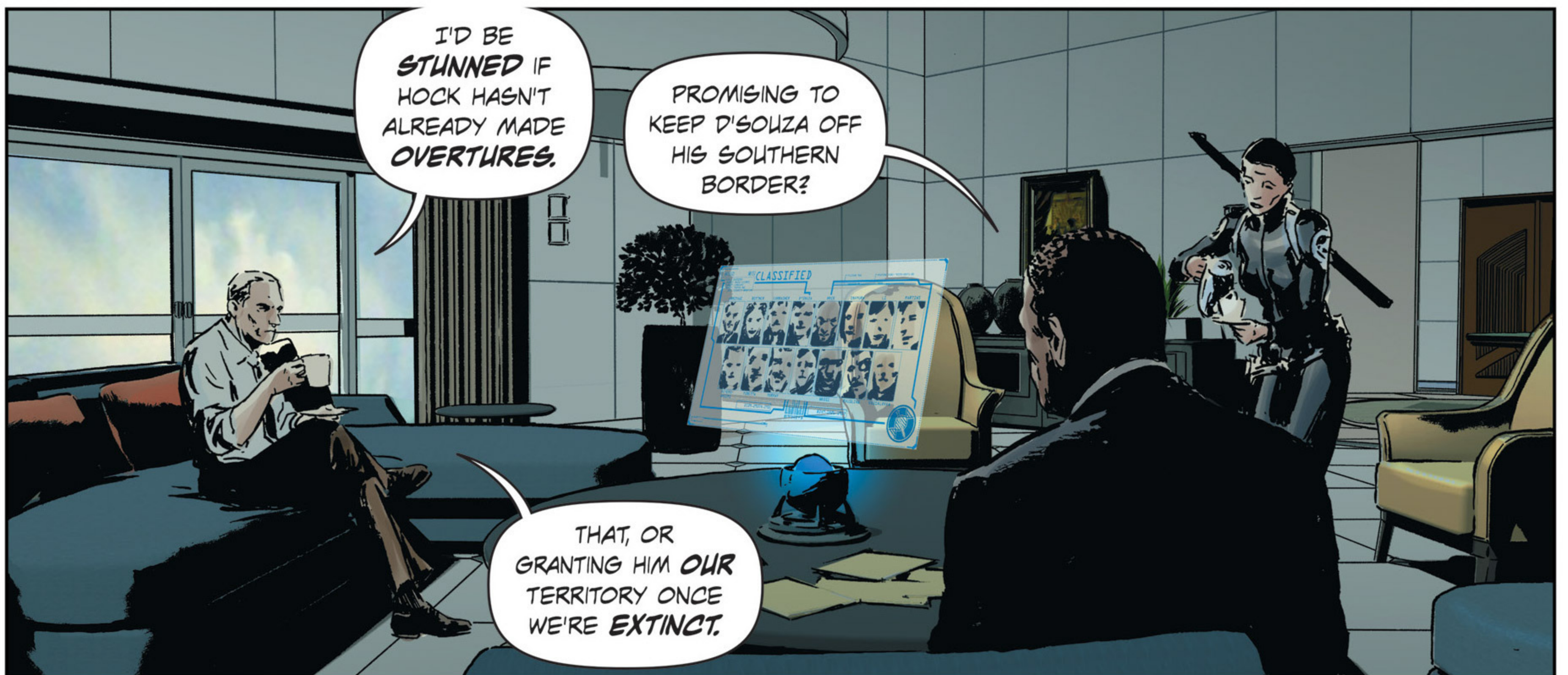


...RAUSLING'S EXPOSED ON ALL FRONTS OTHERWISE.

THANK YOU, FOREVER.



BY THE SAME LOGIC, WE'LL **LOSE** MORRAY.



I'D BE **STUNNED** IF HOCK HASN'T ALREADY MADE **OVERTURES**.

PROMISING TO KEEP D'SOUZA OFF HIS SOUTHERN BORDER?

THAT, OR GRANTING HIM **OUR** TERRITORY ONCE WE'RE **EXTINCT**.



THANK YOU, FOREVER.

YOU'RE VERY WELCOME, MISTER COHN.

FOREVER...

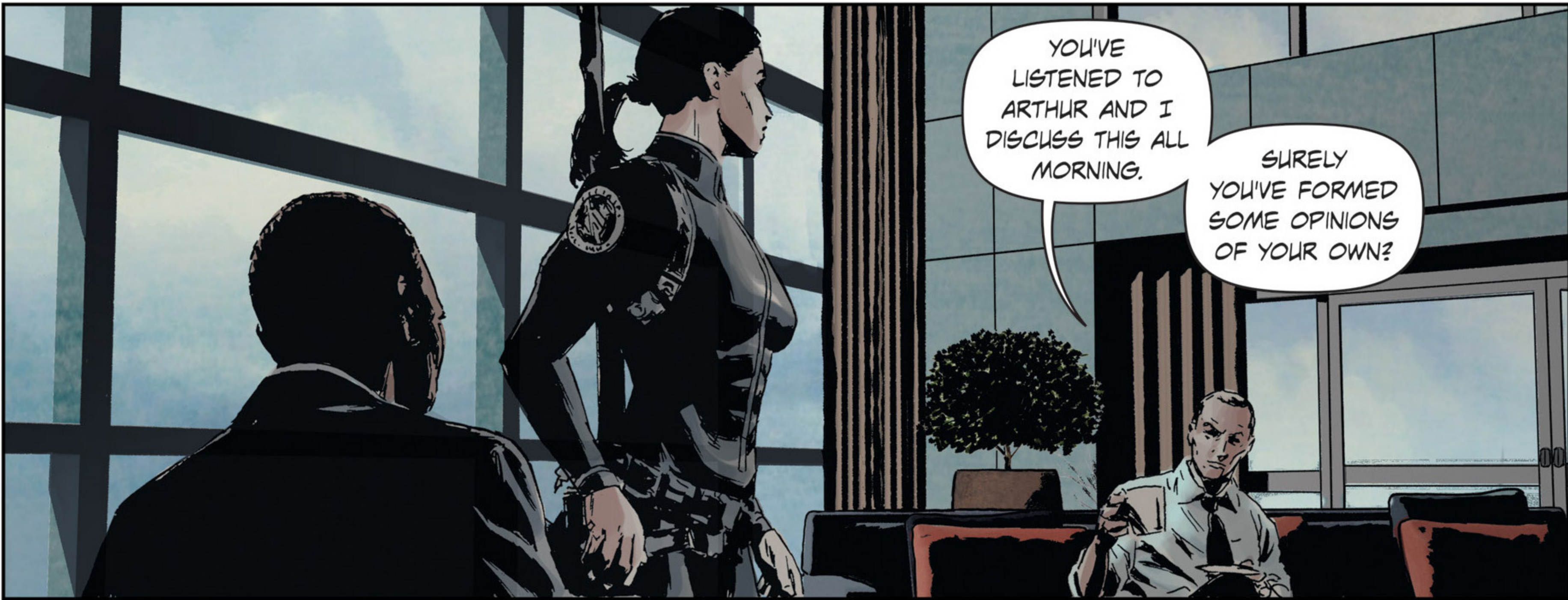


...WHAT DO YOU THINK?



FATHER?





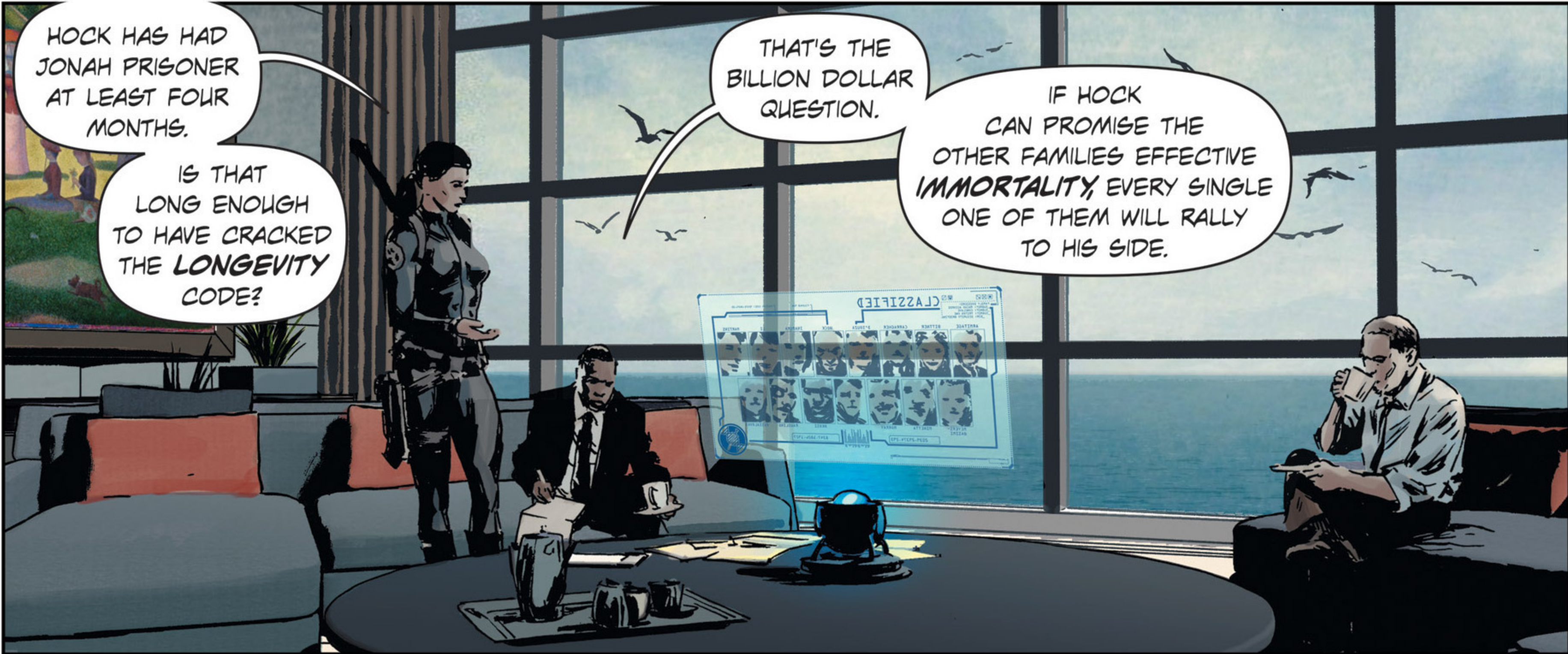
YOU'VE LISTENED TO ARTHUR AND I DISCUSS THIS ALL MORNING.

SURELY YOU'VE FORMED SOME OPINIONS OF YOUR OWN?



CARRAGHER AND NKOSI CAN BE COUNTED ON TO **STAND** WITH US NO MATTER WHAT.

BUT MUCH AS I HATE TO ADMIT IT, I THINK MISTER COHN'S ASSESSMENT ON **MORRAY** IS CORRECT.

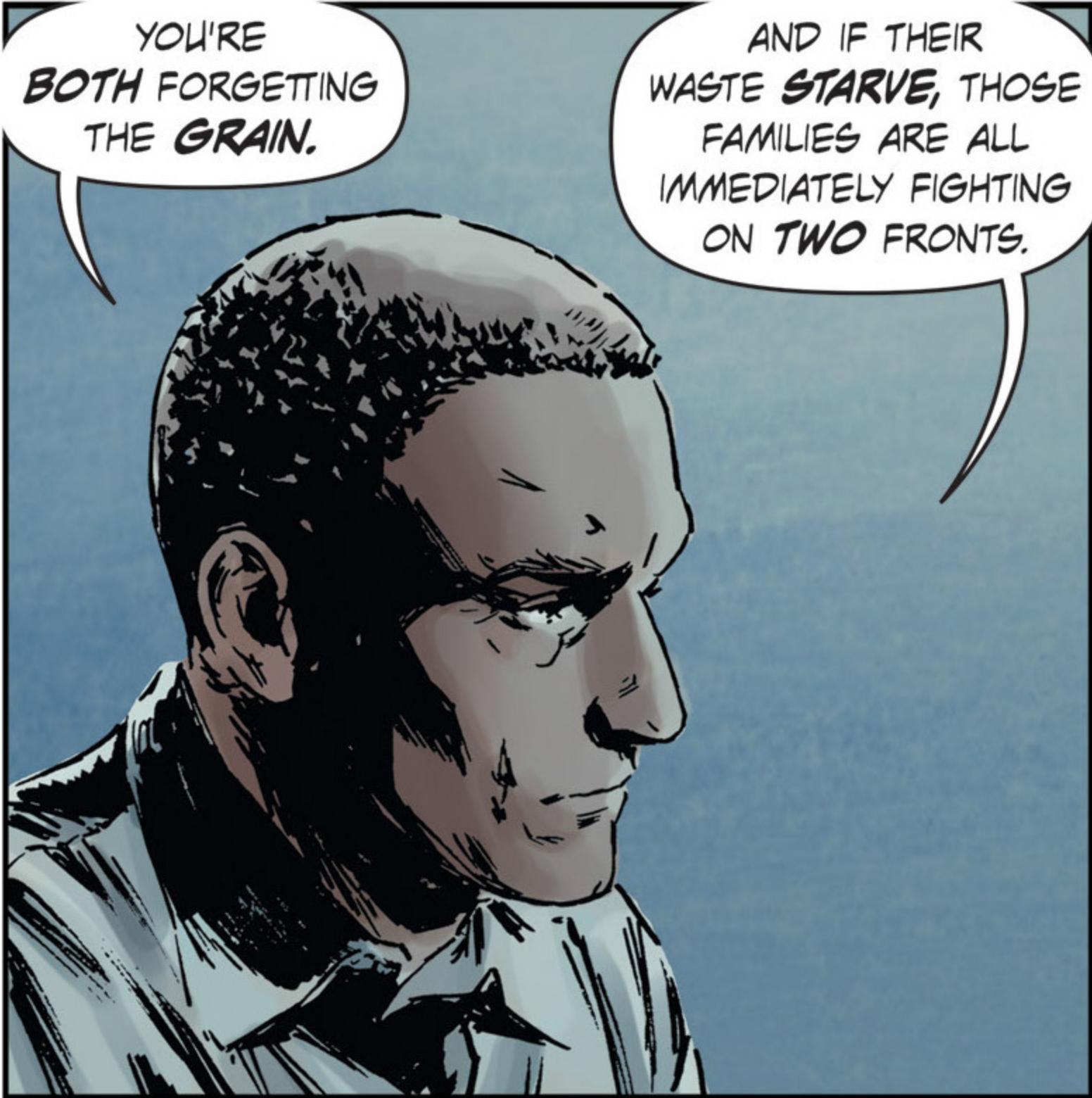


HOCK HAS HAD JONAH PRISONER AT LEAST FOUR MONTHS.

IS THAT LONG ENOUGH TO HAVE CRACKED THE **LONGEVITY** CODE?

THAT'S THE BILLION DOLLAR QUESTION.

IF HOCK CAN PROMISE THE OTHER FAMILIES EFFECTIVE **IMMORTALITY**, EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM WILL RALLY TO HIS SIDE.



YOU'RE **BOTH** FORGETTING THE **GRAIN**.

AND IF THEIR WASTE **STARVE**, THOSE FAMILIES ARE ALL IMMEDIATELY FIGHTING ON **TWO** FRONTS.



I'M **NOT** FORGETTING THAT, MALCOLM.

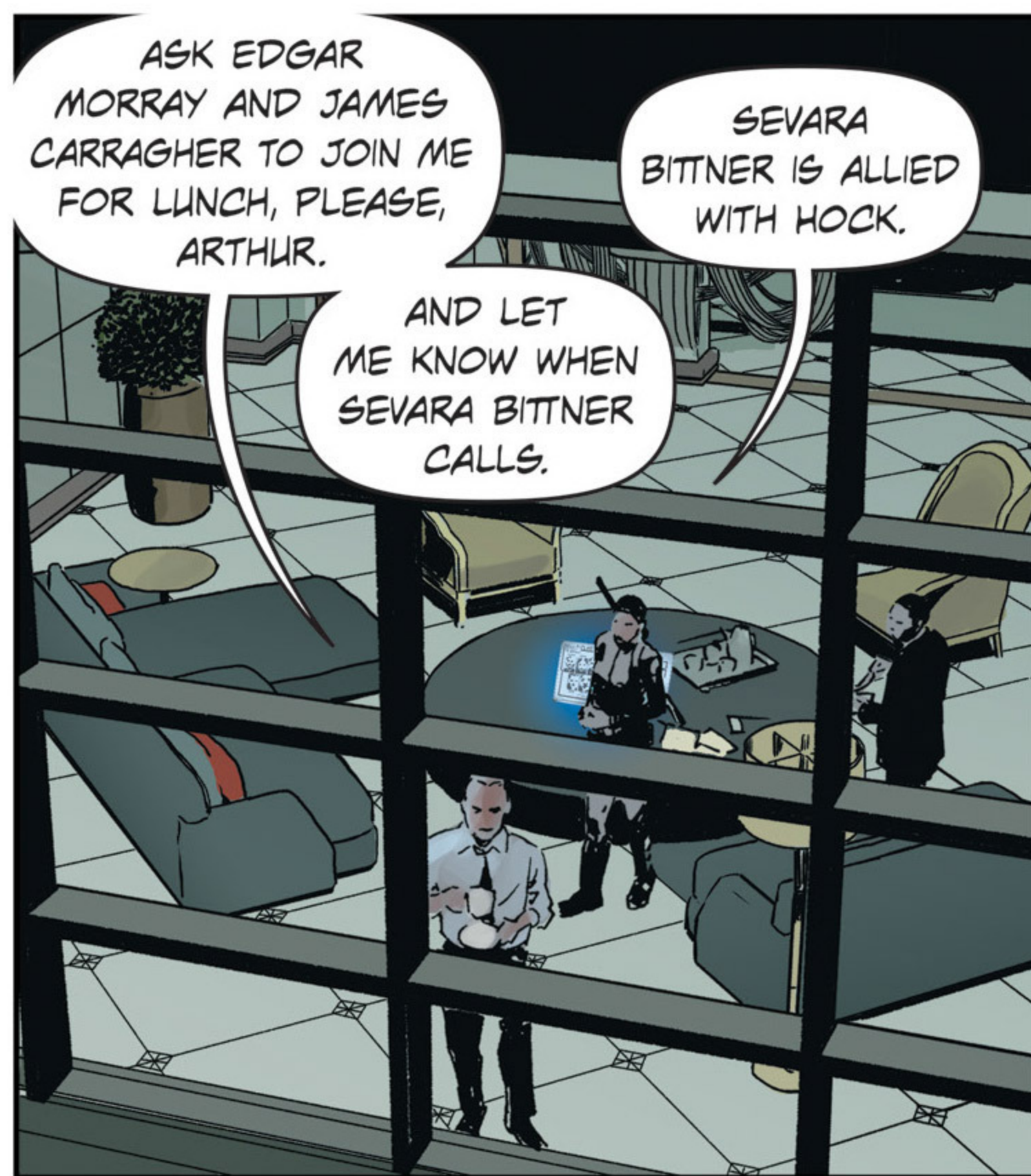
I'M JUST NOT CERTAIN THAT WOULD **STOP** THEM.





HOCK WILL HAVE TO **CONVINCE** THE OTHER FAMILIES HE NOW **HAS** WHAT THEY **WANT**.

IT HAS TO BE **PUBLIC**. HE'LL DO IT **TONIGHT**, HE'LL DO IT AT THE OPENING **GALA**.



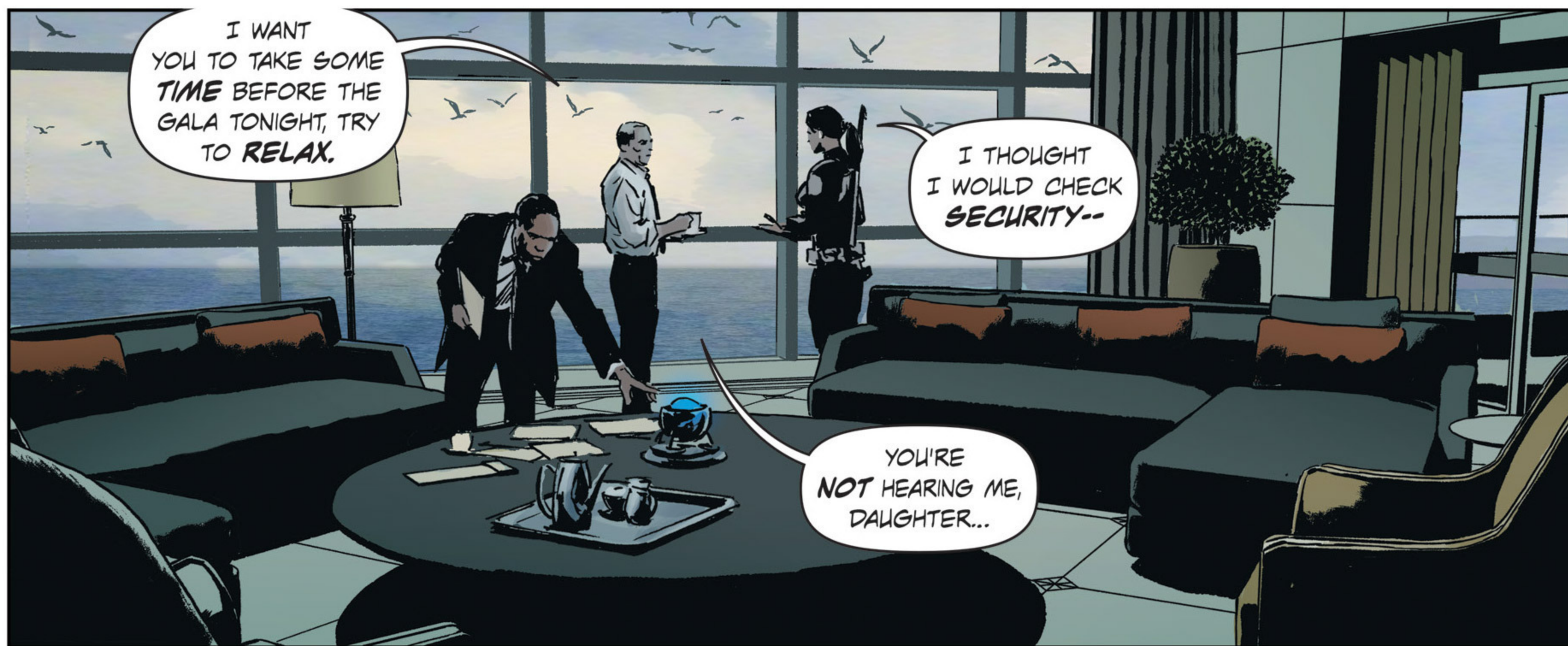
ASK EDGAR MORRAY AND JAMES CARRAGHER TO JOIN ME FOR LUNCH, PLEASE, ARTHUR.

SEVARA BITNER IS ALLIED WITH HOCK.

AND LET ME KNOW WHEN SEVARA BITNER CALLS.



AT PRESENT, YES.



I WANT YOU TO TAKE SOME **TIME** BEFORE THE GALA TONIGHT, TRY TO **RELAX**.

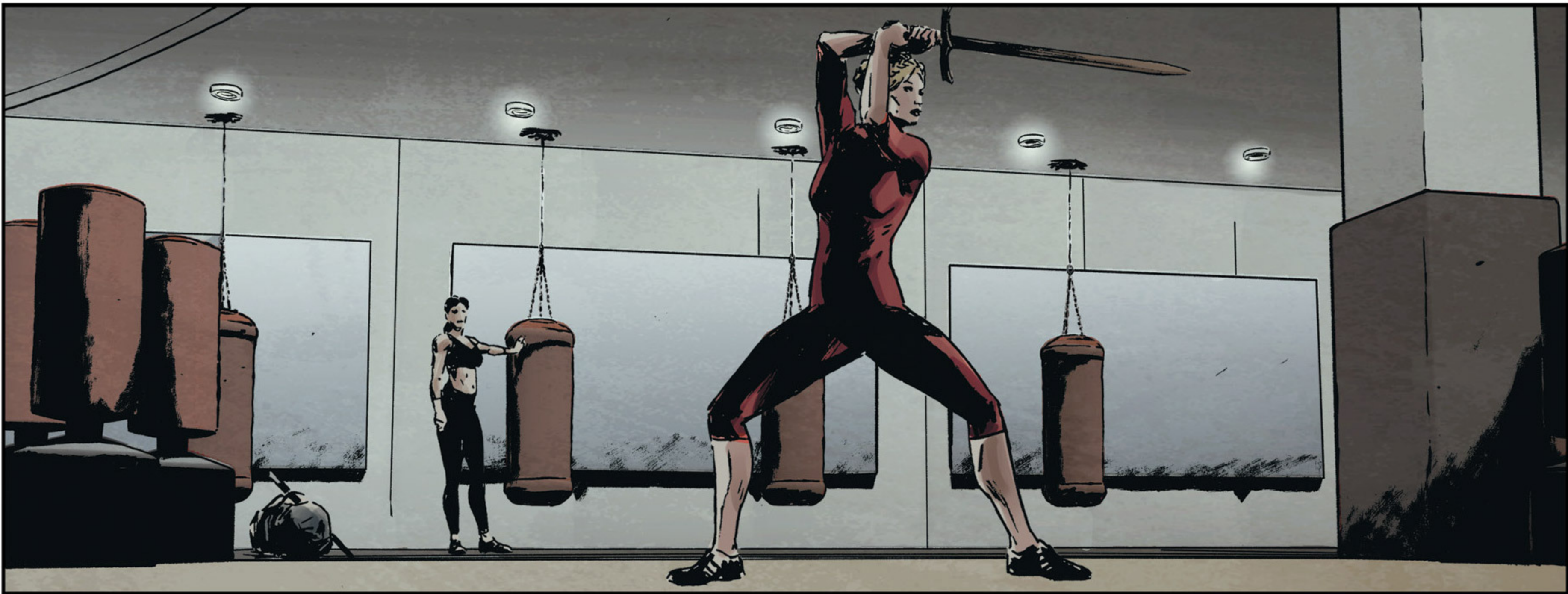
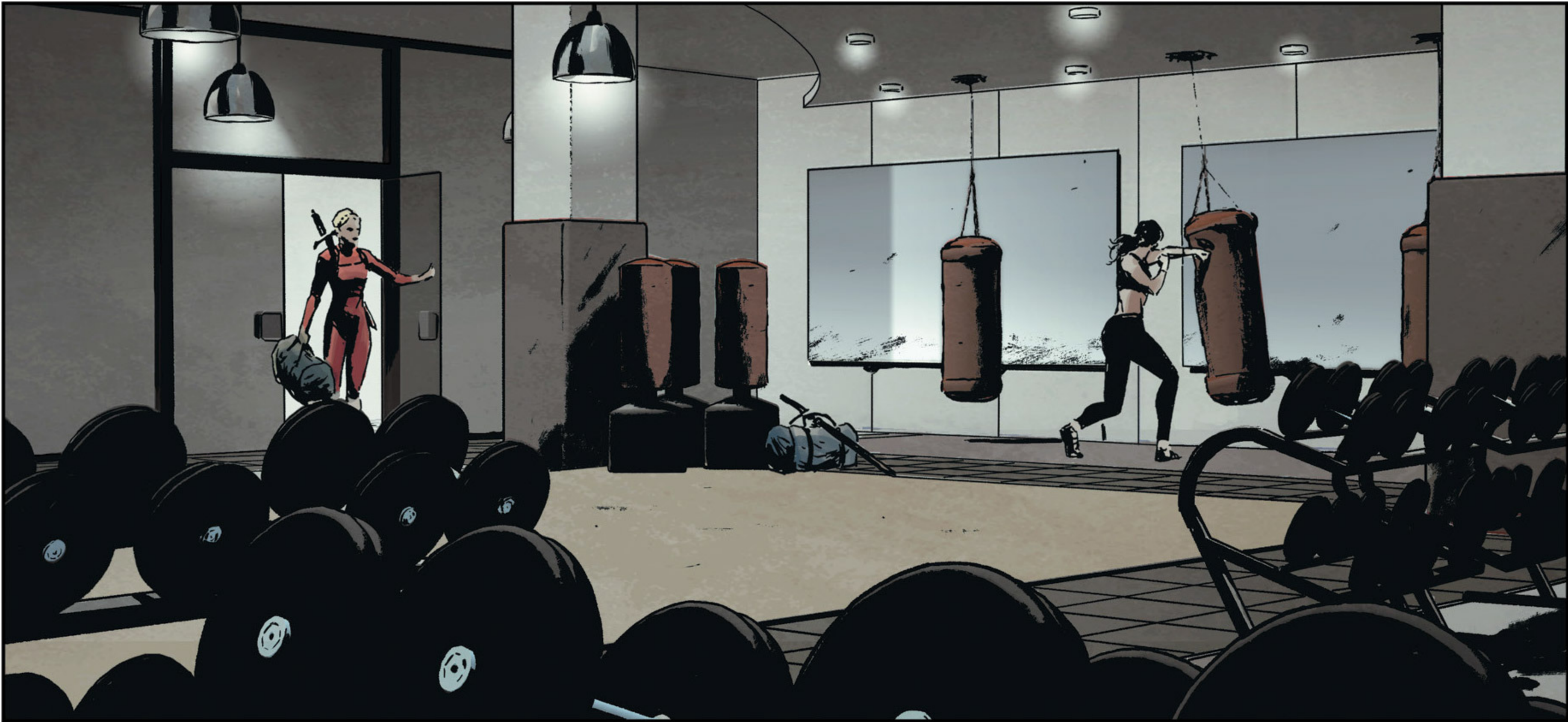
I THOUGHT I WOULD CHECK **SECURITY--**

YOU'RE **NOT** HEARING ME, DAUGHTER...



...ARMITAGE'S PEOPLE HAVE THAT **WELL** IN HAND. TAKE SOME TIME FOR **YOURSELF...**

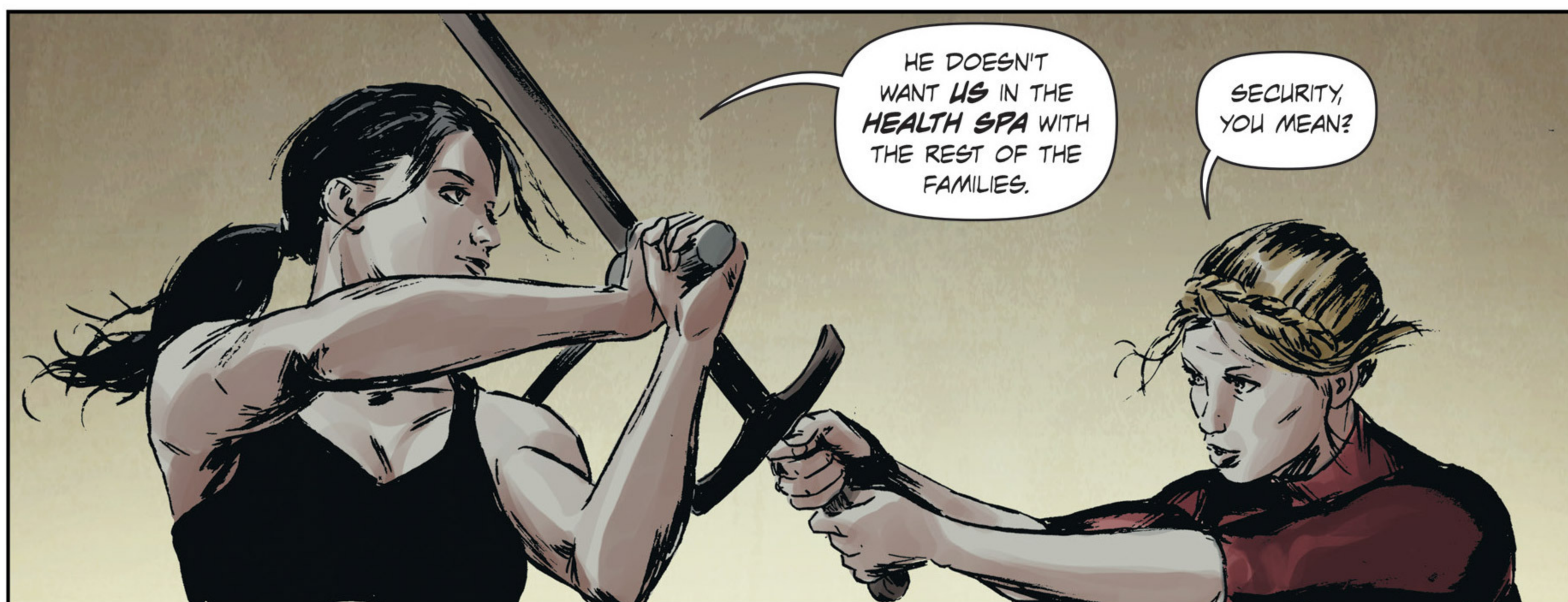
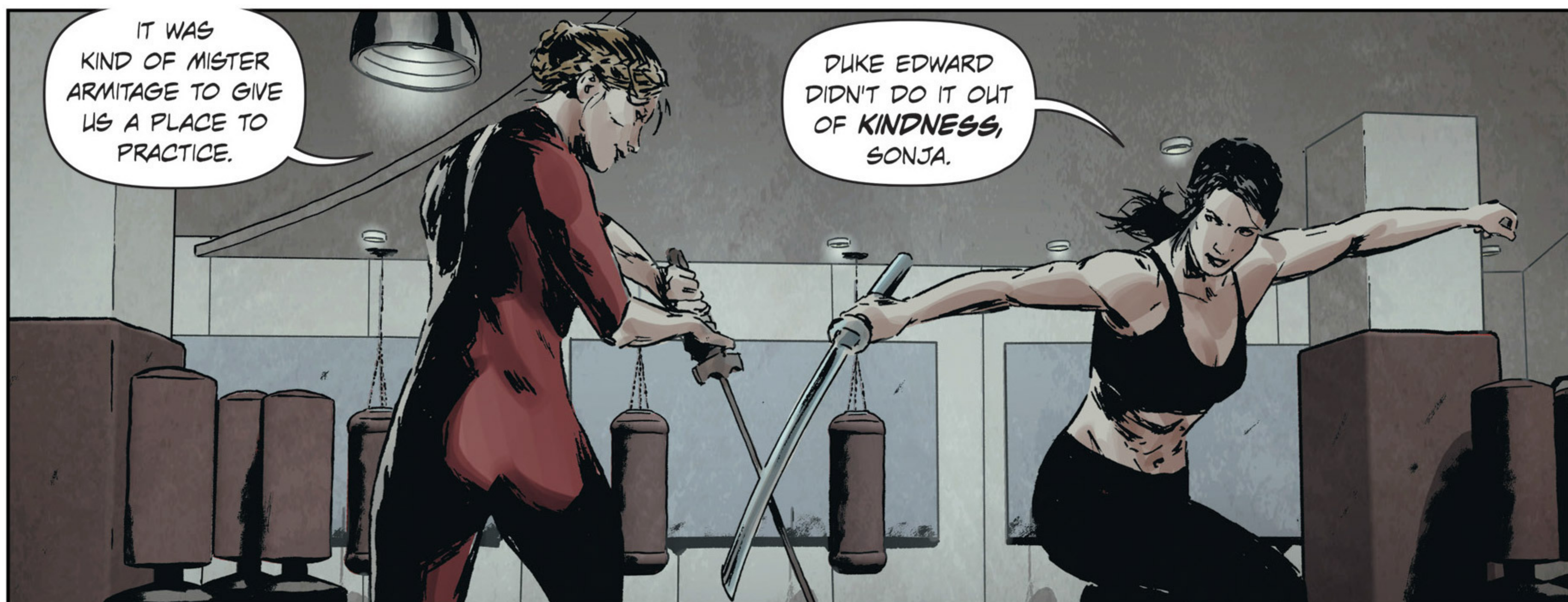








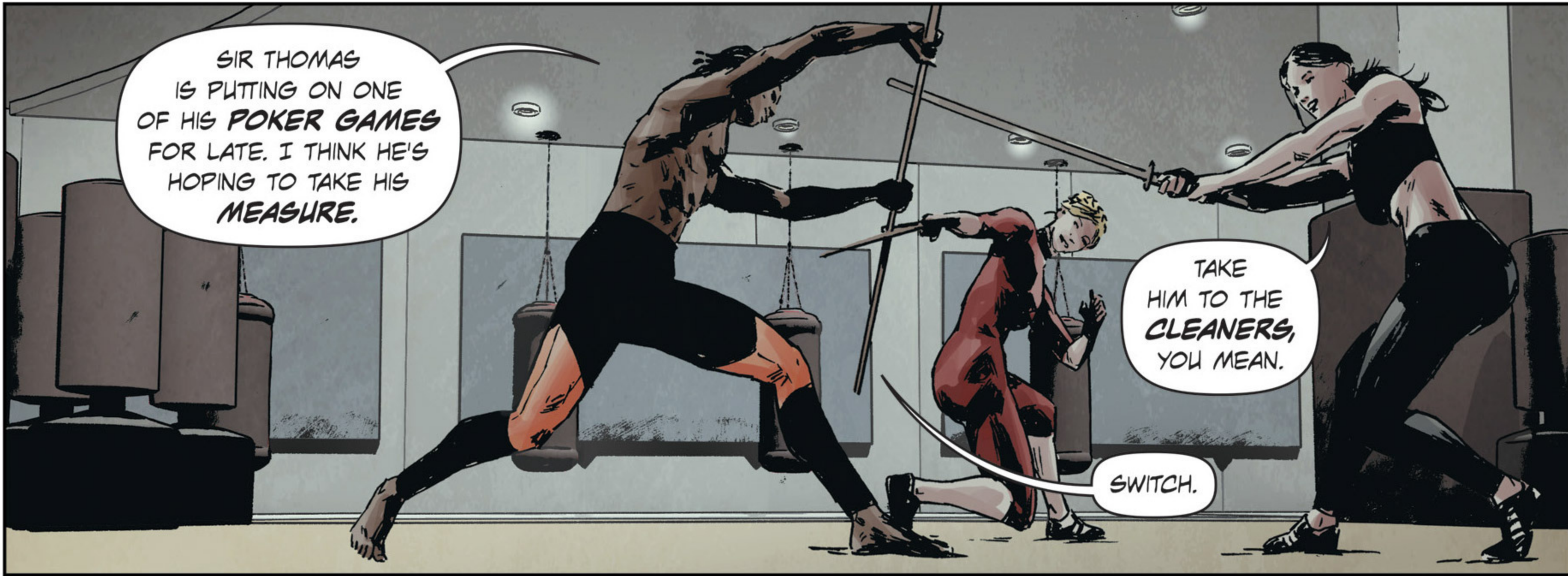
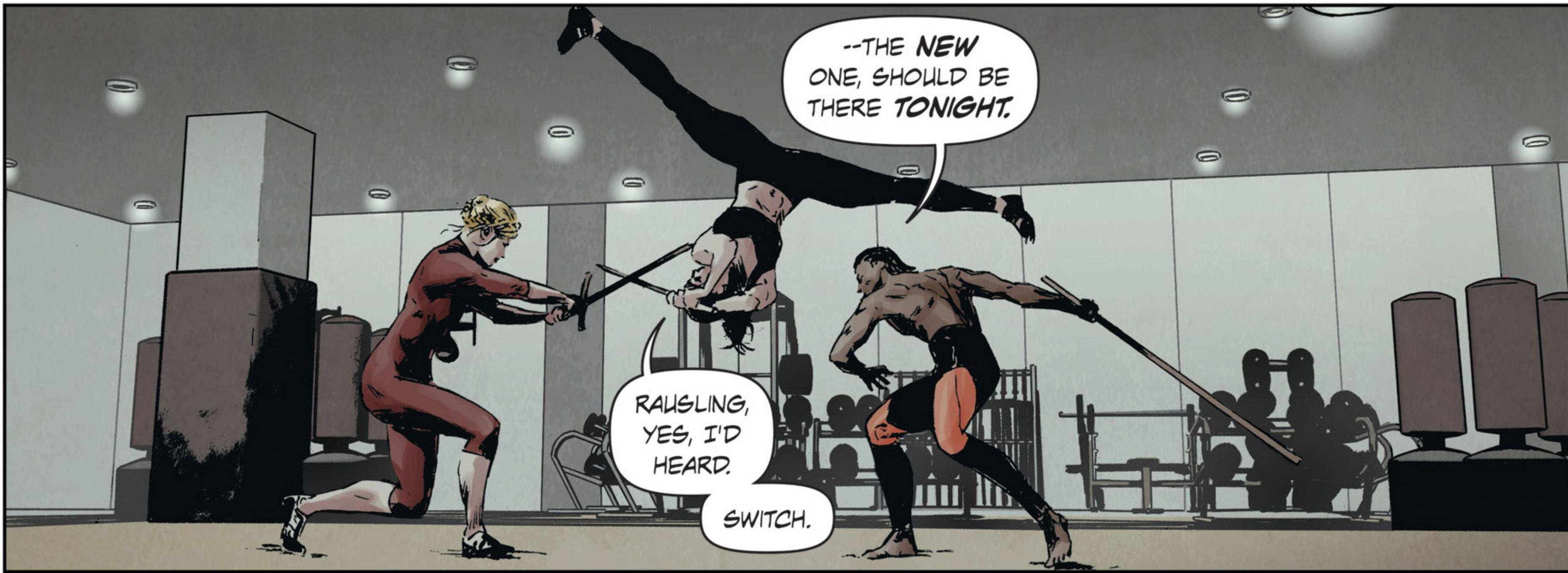














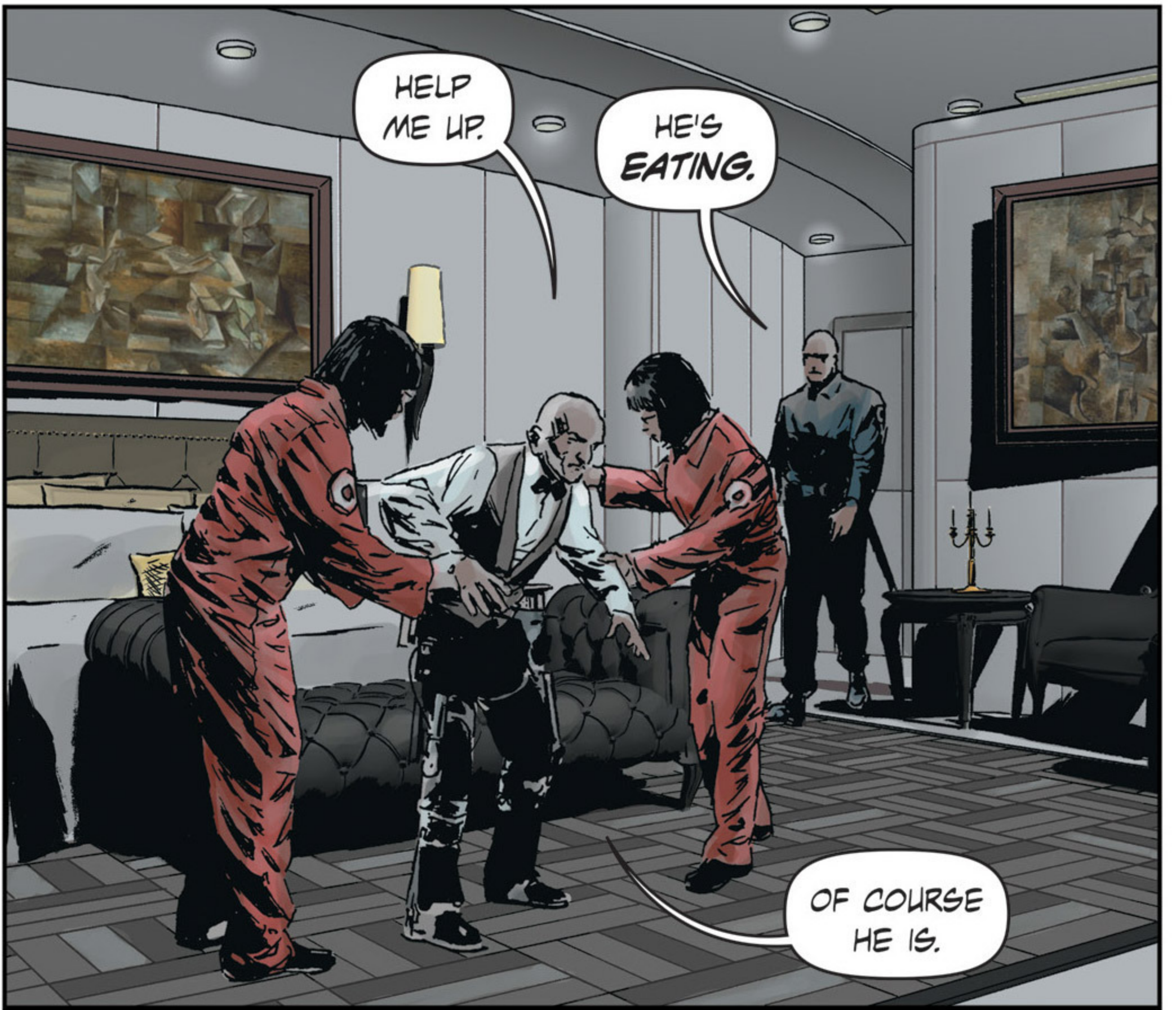






CAREFUL.  
CAREFUL.

NOT TOO  
TIGHT.



HELP  
ME UP.

HE'S  
EATING.

OF COURSE  
HE IS.



THANK  
YOU, DEARS.

GO GET  
READY FOR **DINNER**.  
WEAR THE DRESSES  
I PICKED OUT.



YOU'RE  
STAYING HERE  
TONIGHT.

I DOUBT HE  
HAS THE **WHEREWITHAL**,  
BUT SHOULD YOUNG MASTER  
CARLYLE GET ANY **IDEAS**,  
I EXPECT YOU TO PUT  
A **STOP** TO THEM.

YES,  
SIR.

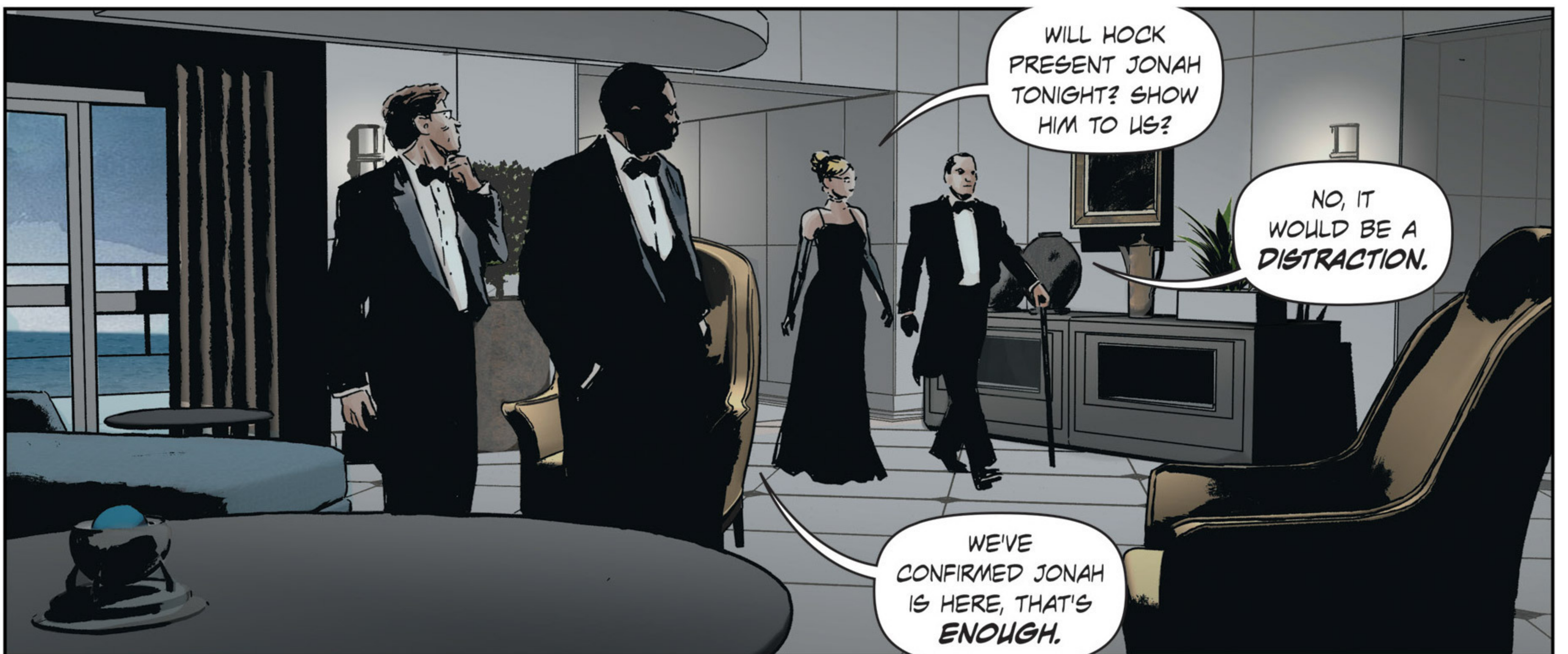
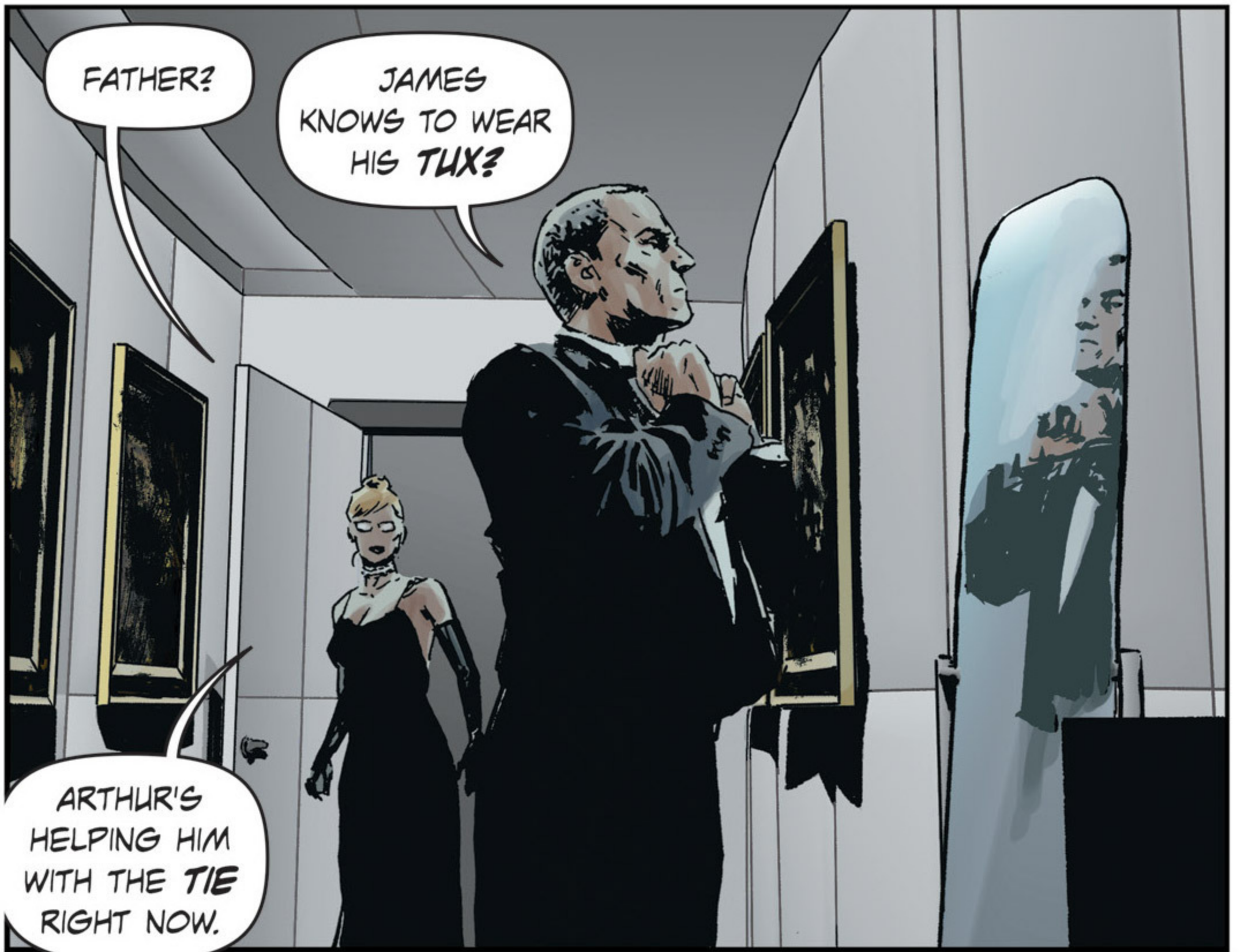


GOOD BOY.  
TIME FOR YOUR  
MEDICINE.



CHKSS









...I CAN'T...

...I'M HAVING TROUBLE WITH THIS DAMN DRESS.



MAY I JUST WEAR MY UNIFORM INSTEAD, FATHER?

PLEASE?

THIS IS A BLACK-TIE GALA, FOREVER...



...THE DRESS IS APPROPRIATE.

I'M GOING TO LOOK **STUPID**. I WON'T BE ABLE TO WEAR MY **SWORD**.



YOU'RE GOING TO LOOK **BRILLIANT**, AND THE ONLY WEAPONS TONIGHT ARE **CEREMONIAL**, SO YOU DON'T NEED IT.



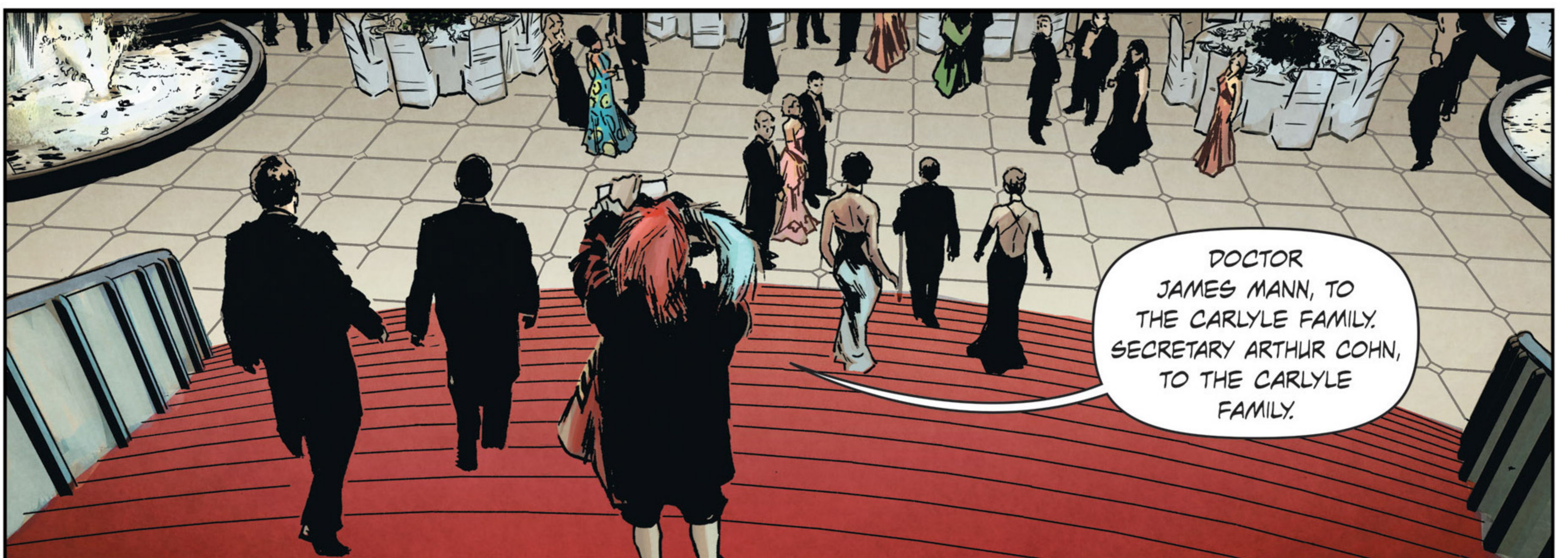
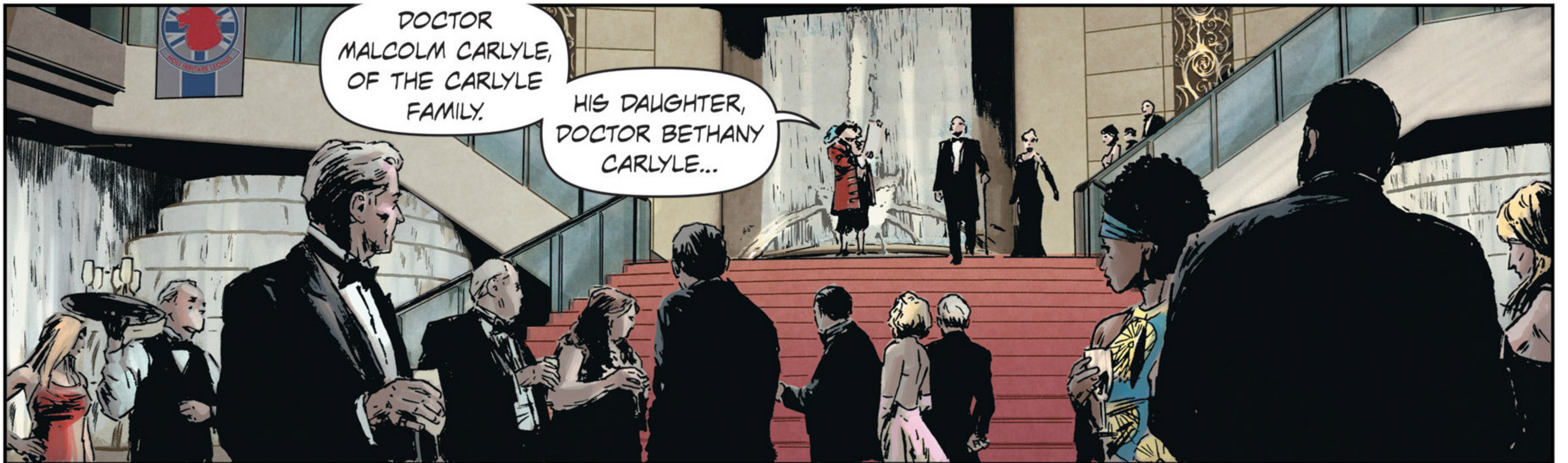
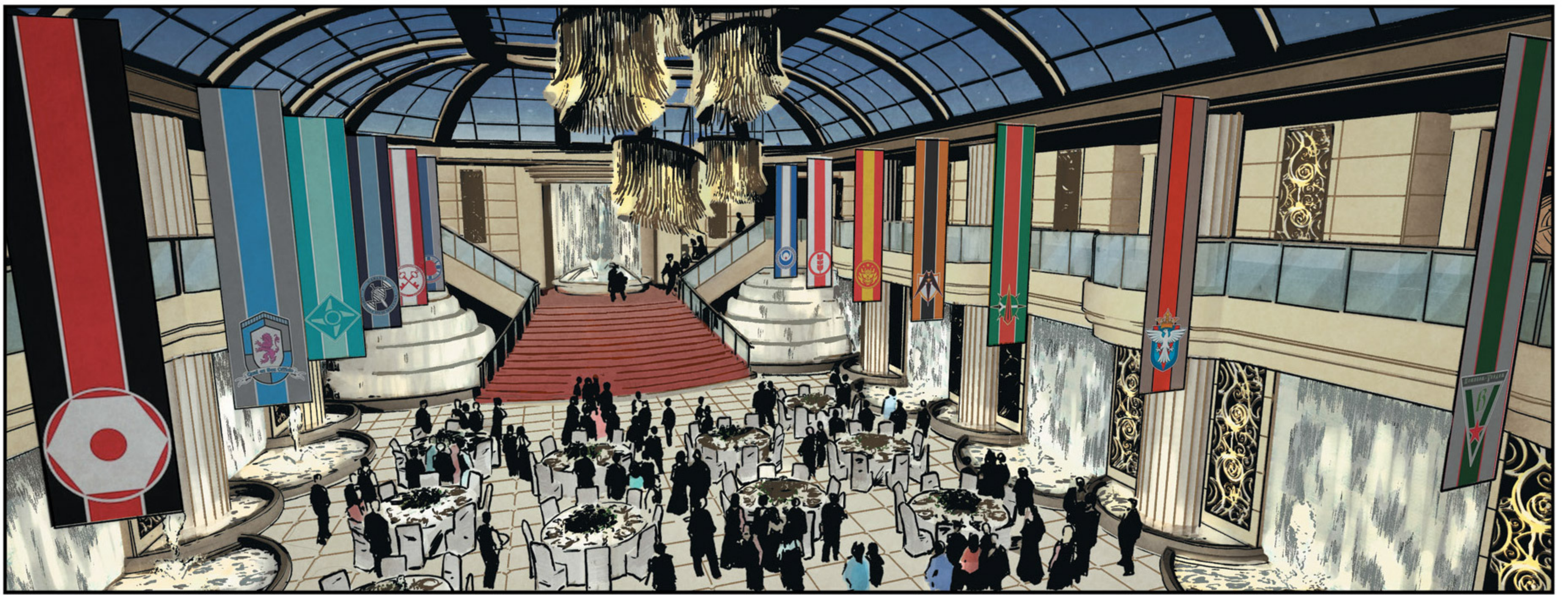
BETH, WOULD YOU PLEASE HELP YOUR SISTER?

COME ON, SILLY. SERIOUSLY...

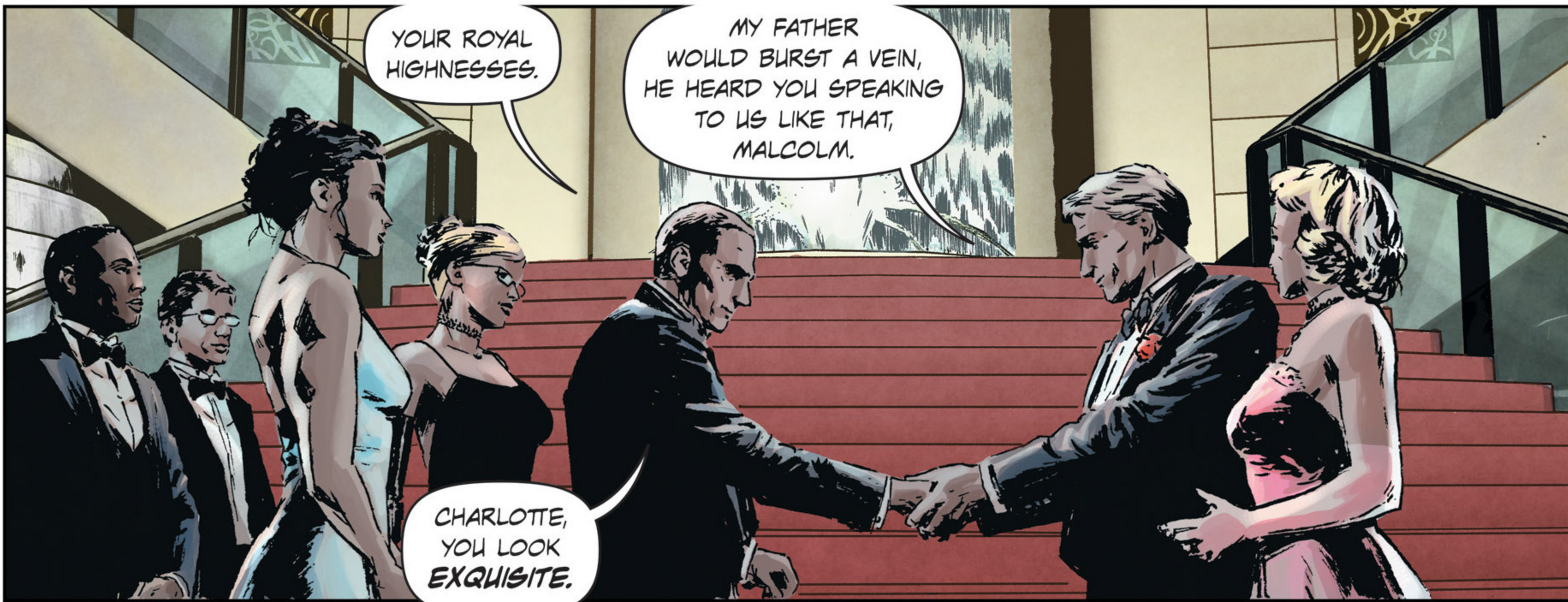


...YOU CAN SURVIVE KNIVES, GUNS, POISONS, BUT YOU **CAN'T** MANAGE AN EVENING GOWN...?

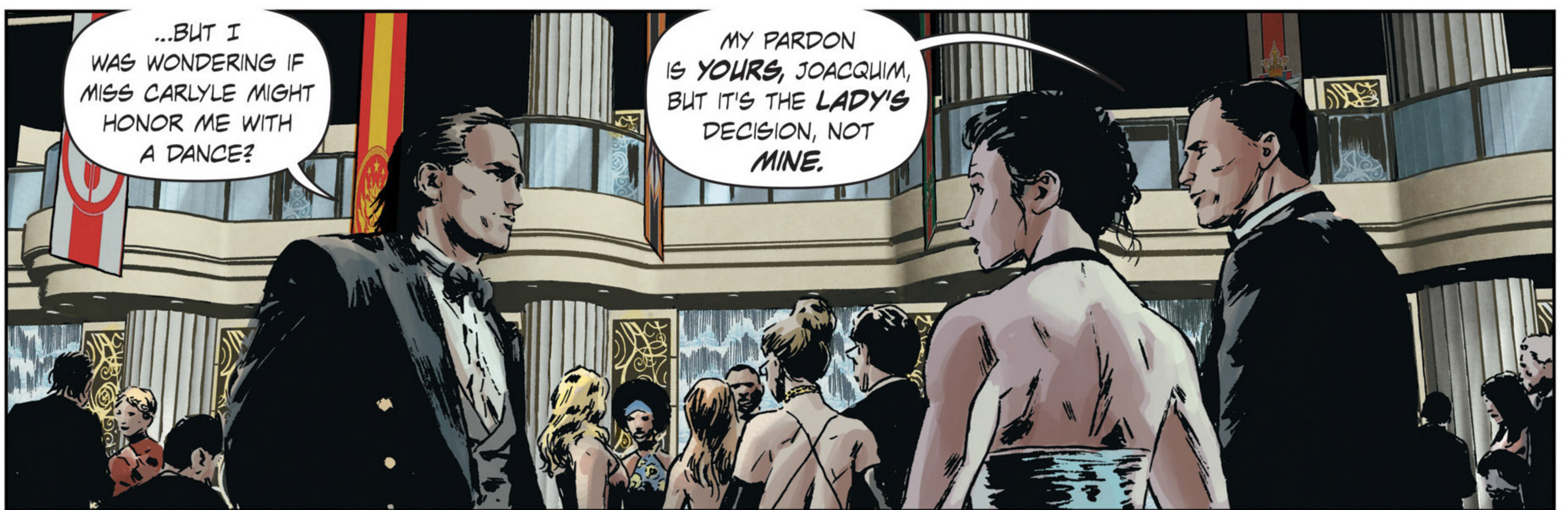
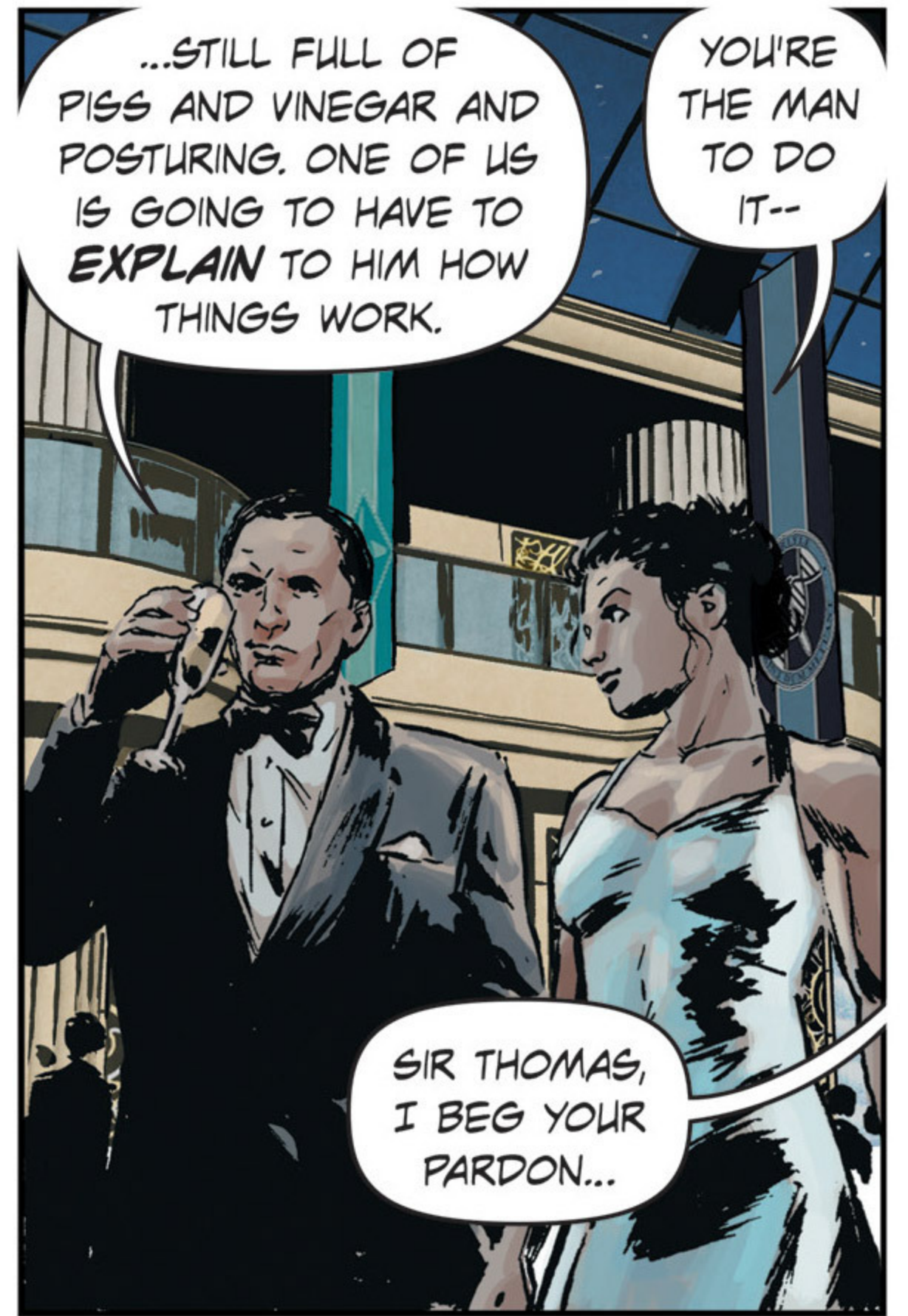




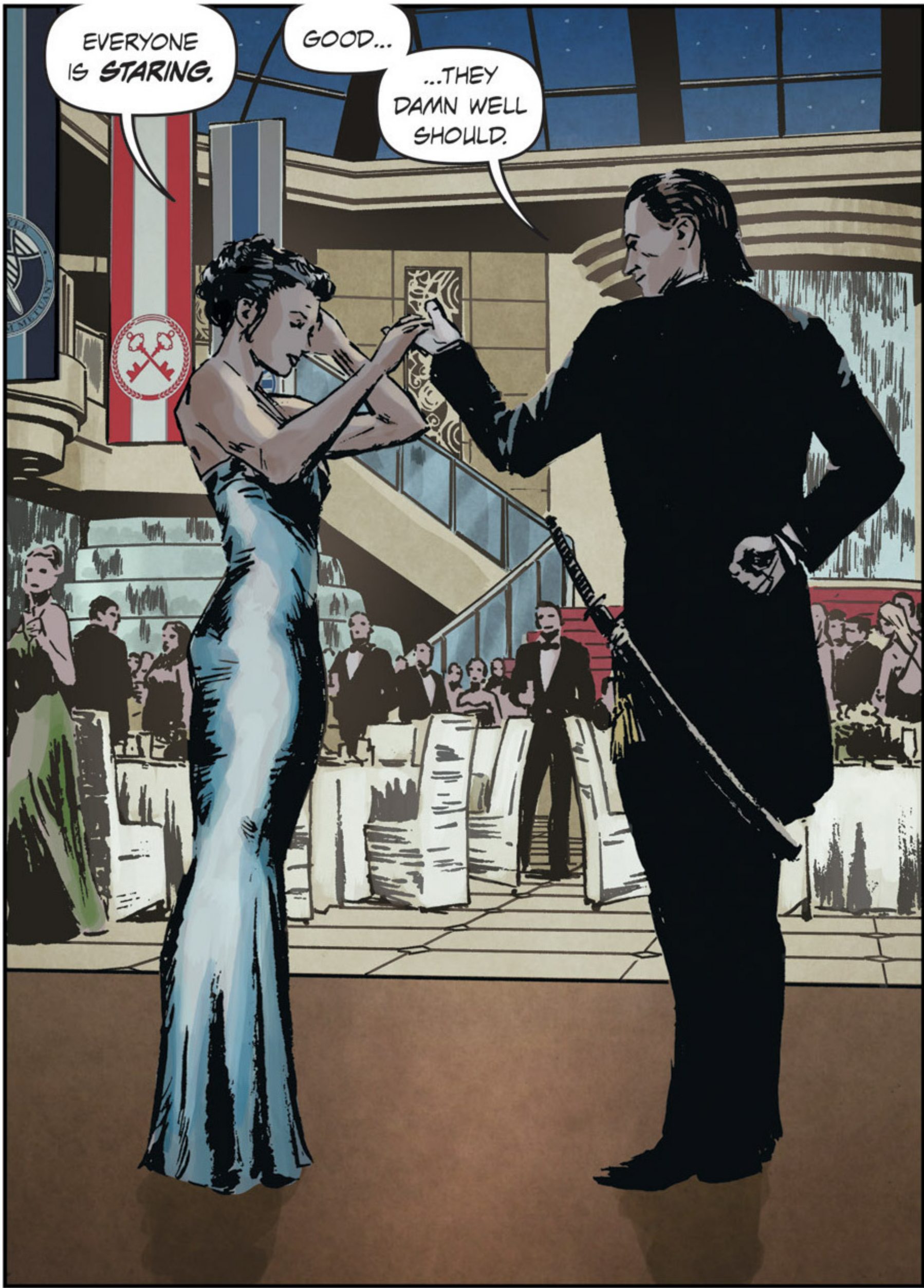












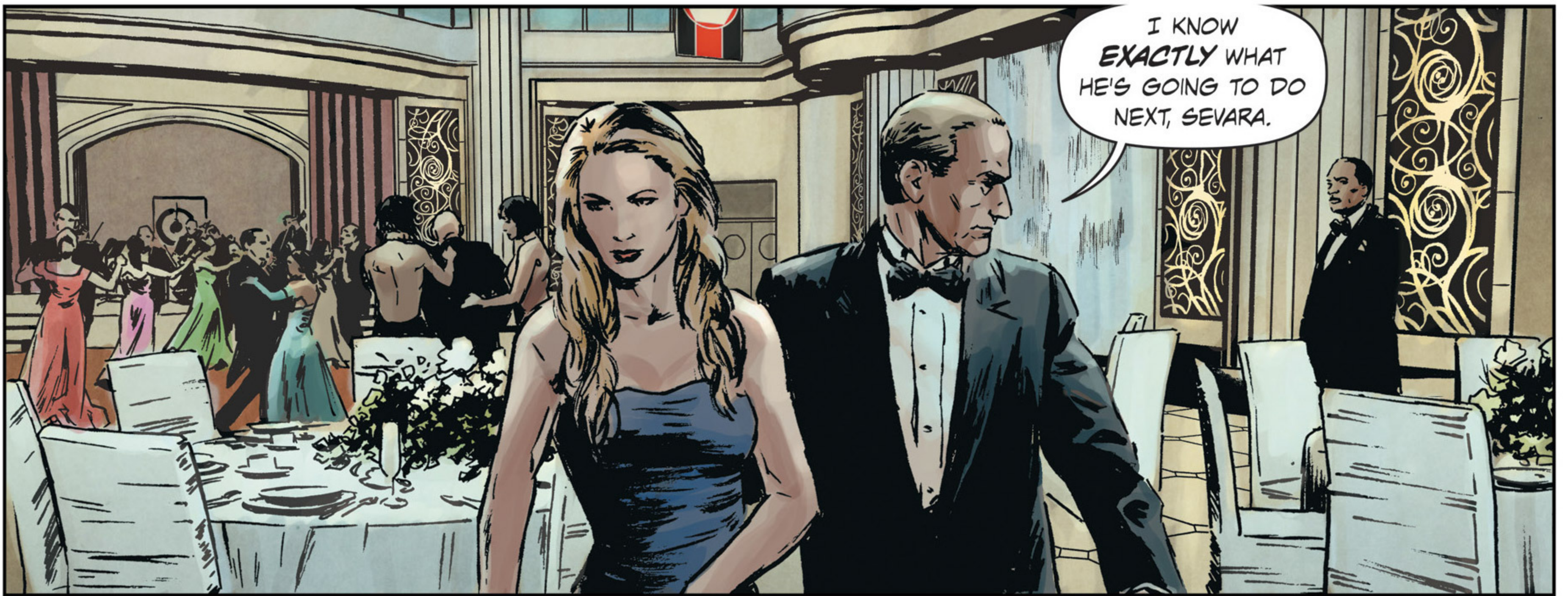
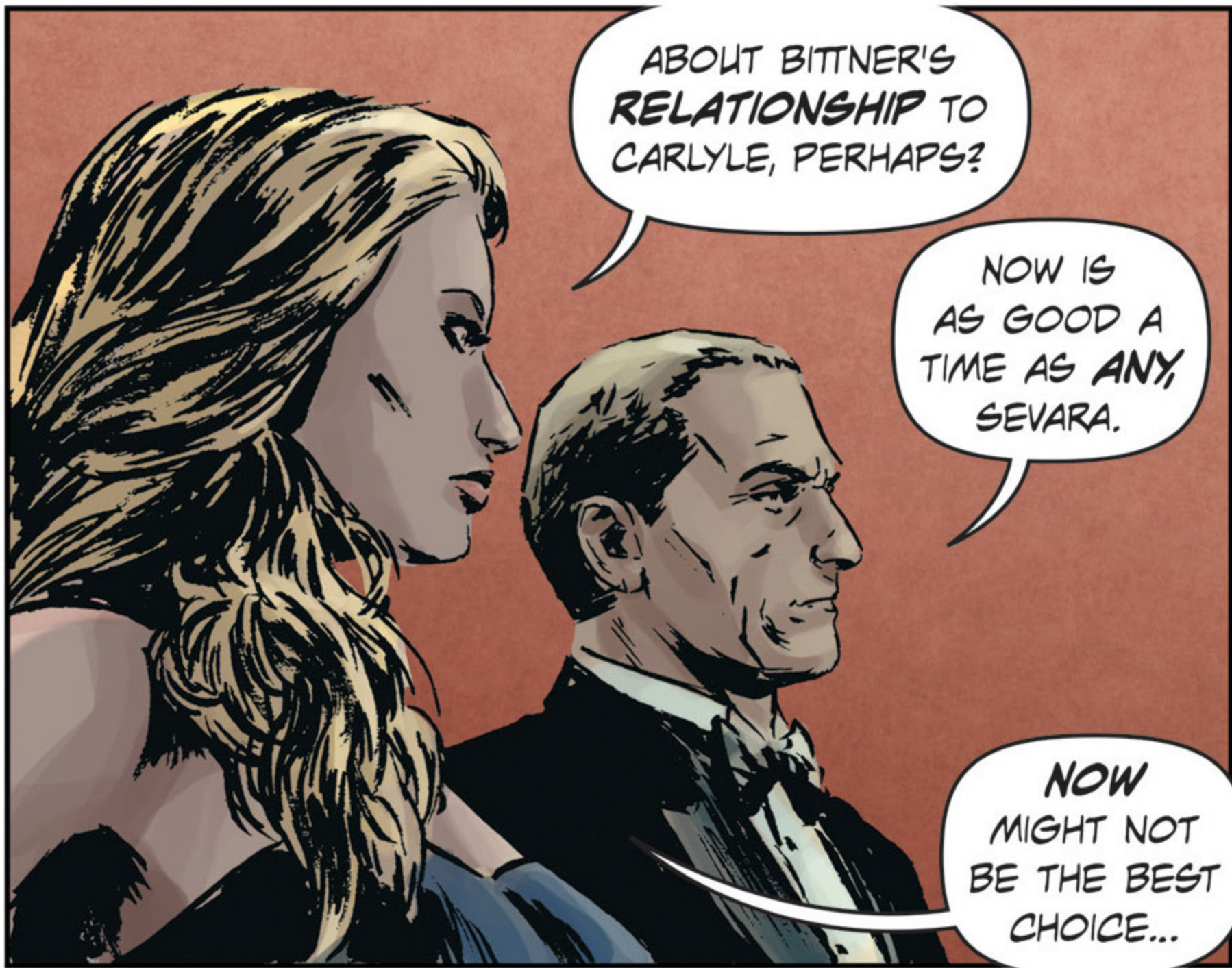
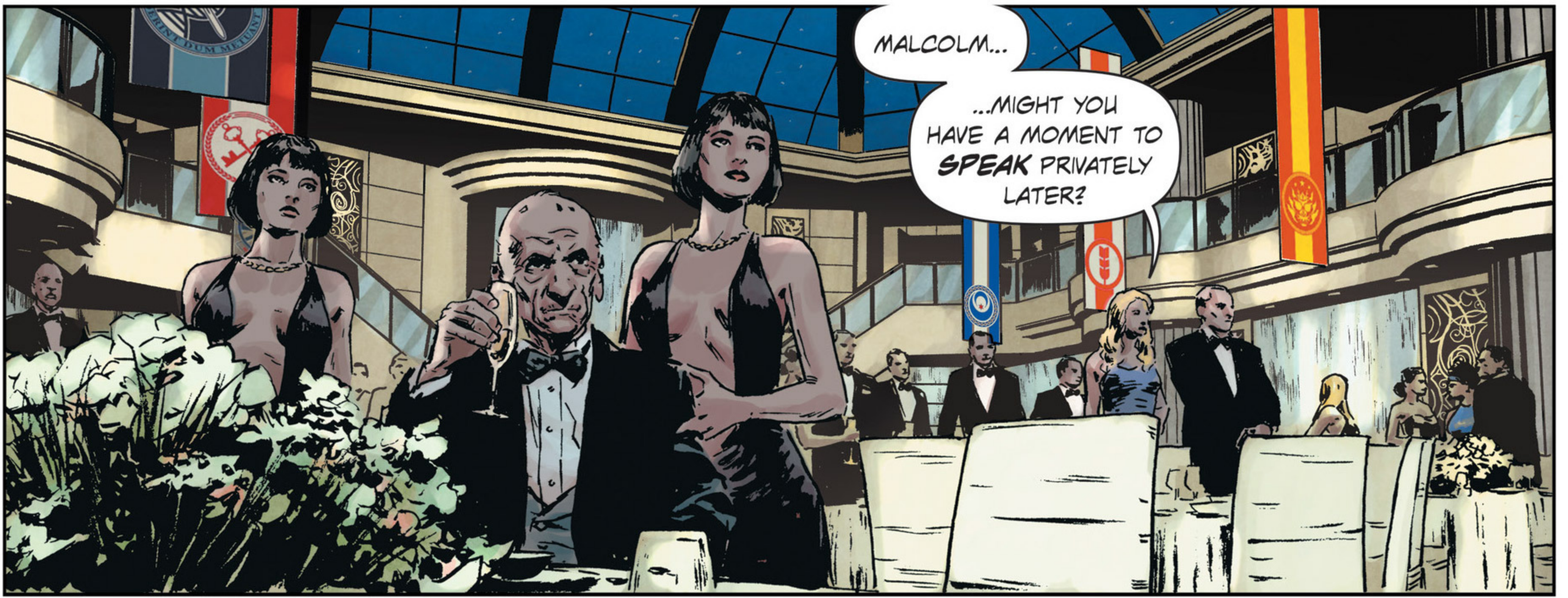








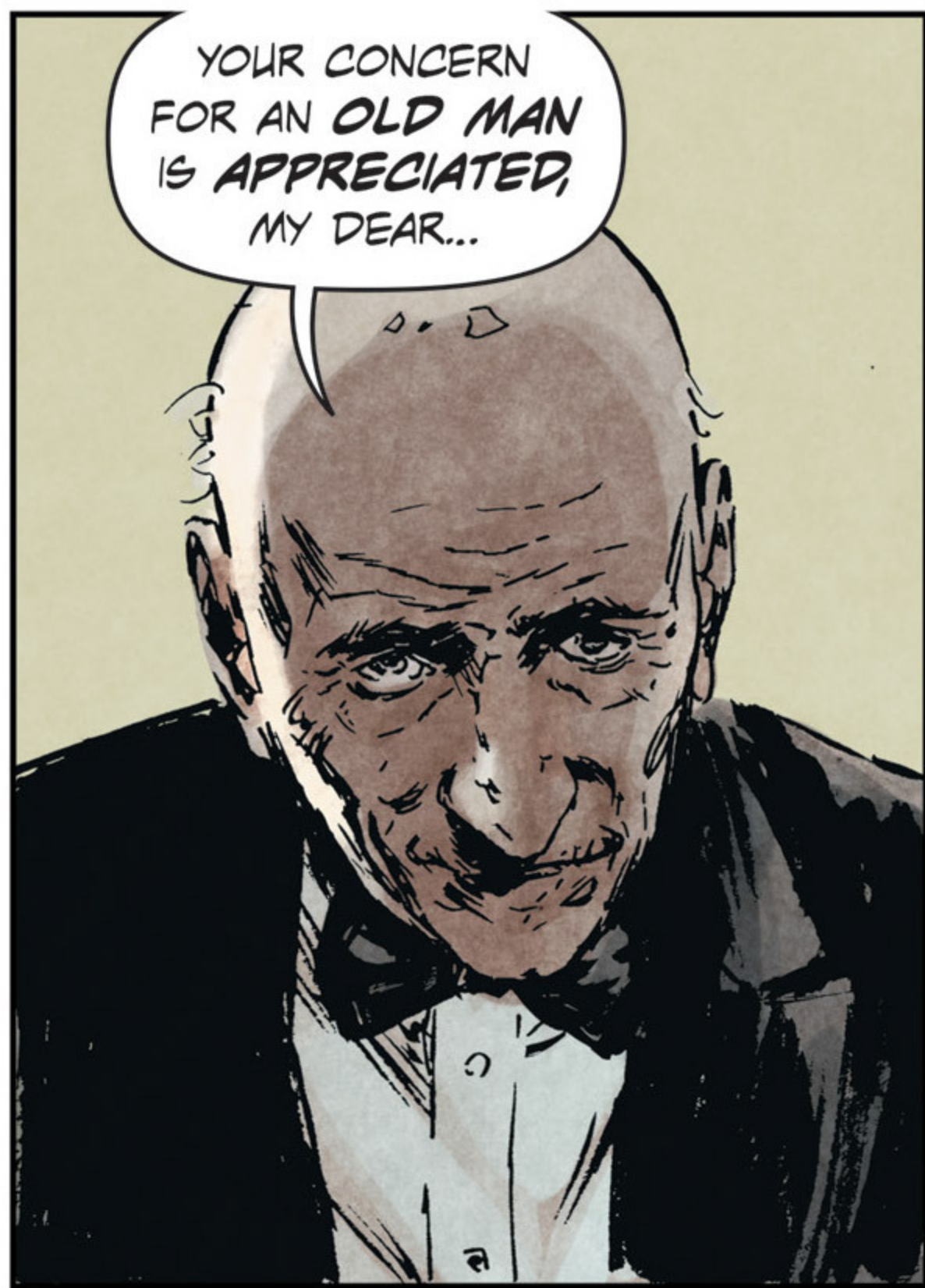


















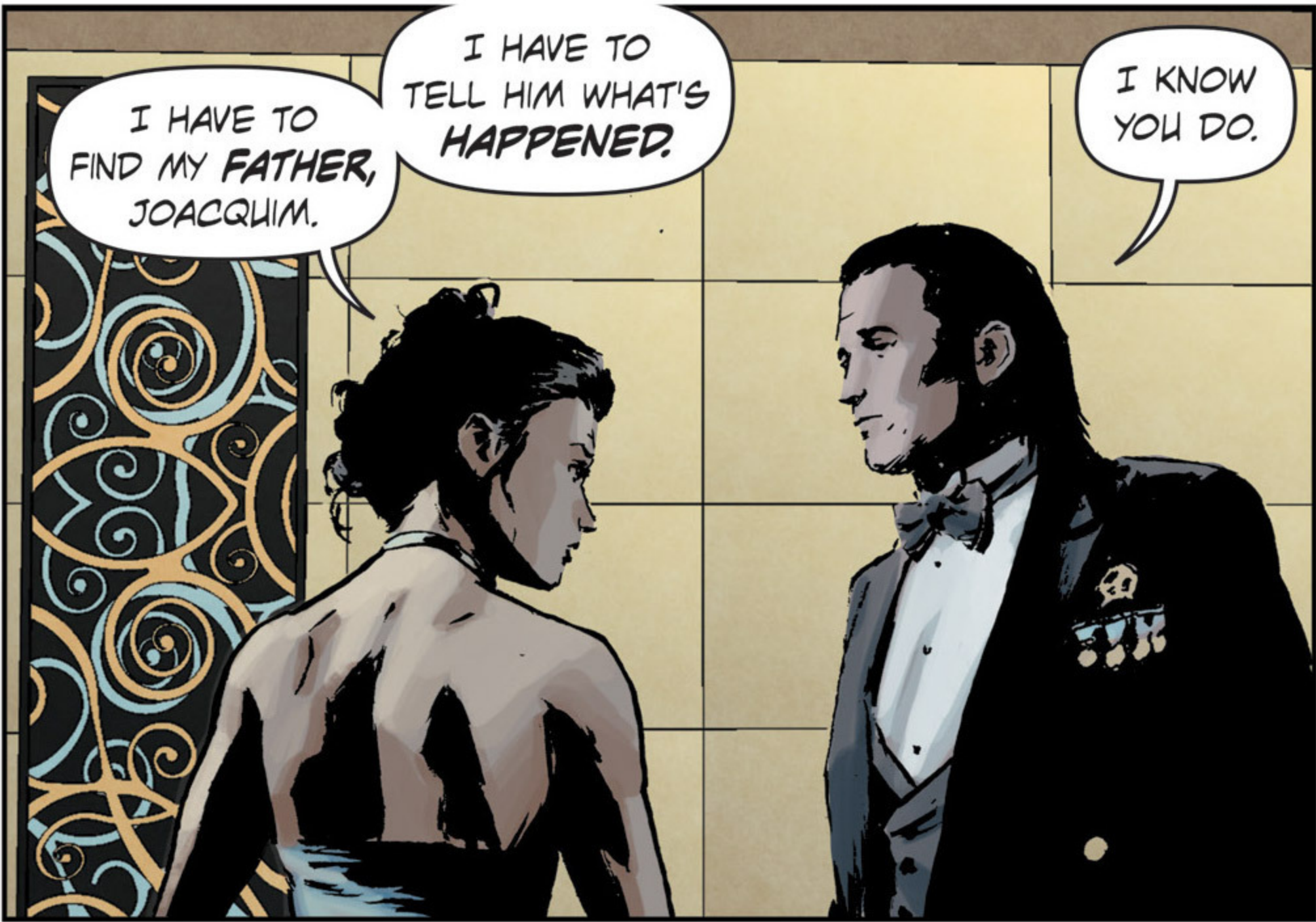
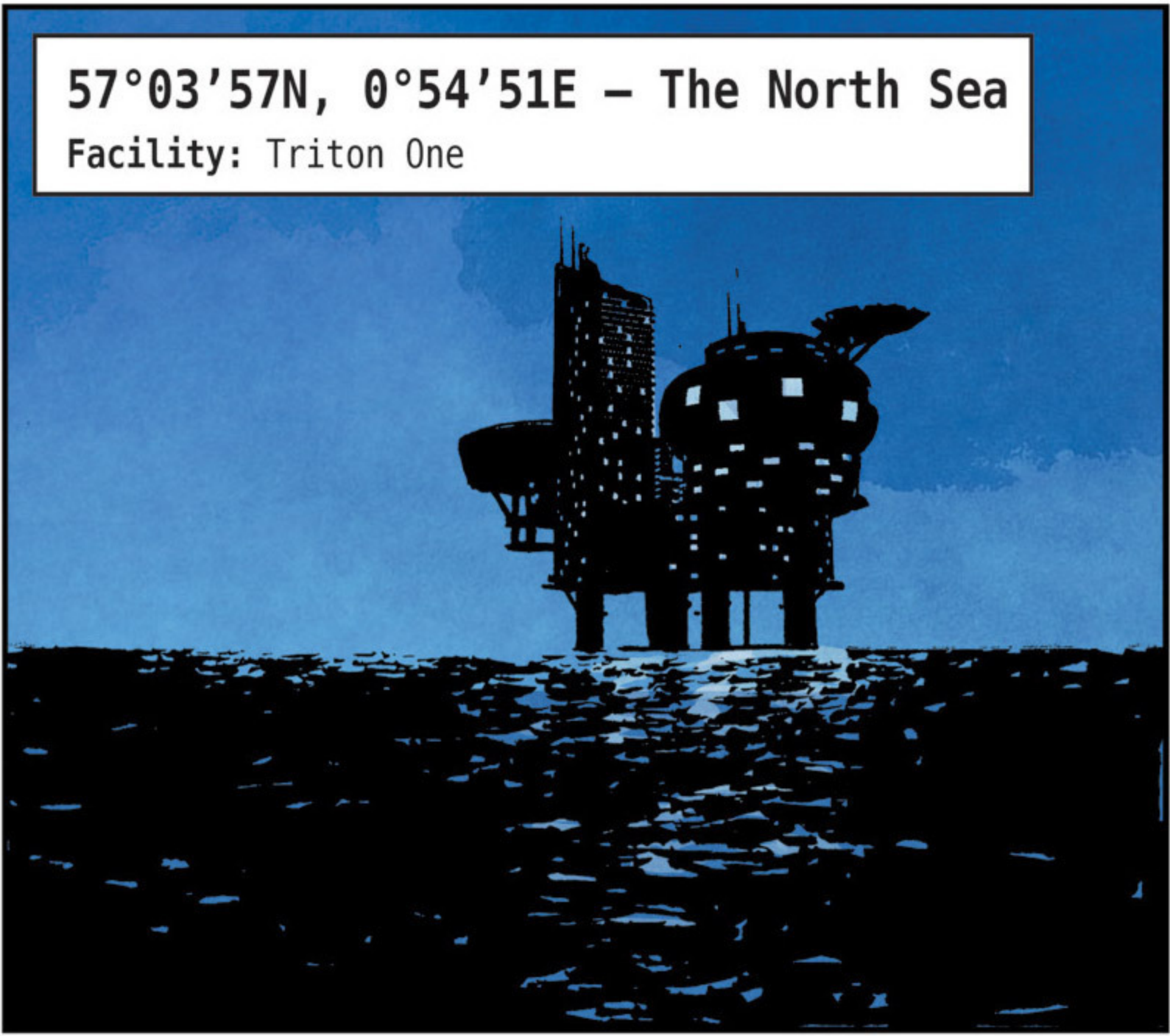


OWEN FREEMAN

# CONCLAVE

CHAPTER THREE









...YOUR  
TALK WITH SEVARA  
BITTNER GO?

THERE ARE  
SOME MINOR ISSUES  
OUTSTANDING...



...MOSTLY  
REGARDING **TRADE**  
AND **PROPRIETARY**  
TECH.

BUT SHE  
**WILL** COME OVER  
TO US?

PENDING  
THE OUTCOME OF  
THE CONCLAVE,  
YES.

JAMES  
AND BETHANY  
ARE ON THEIR  
WAY?

**HERE,**  
FATHER.



THIS  
COULDN'T  
WAIT UNTIL  
**TOMORROW?**

NO.

I NEED A  
CONFIRMATION BEFORE  
DELIBERATIONS **BEGIN**  
IN THE MORNING.

PROVIDED  
WE CAN DRAW A  
**CLEAR** SAMPLE THAT  
SHOULDN'T BE A  
**PROBLEM.**

THANK YOU,  
JAMES.

ARTHUR?



HOCK'S  
GOING TO KNOW THE  
**GLASS** WAS TAKEN,  
MALCOLM.

HE WON'T  
BE SURE, HE'LL THINK  
ONE OF THE WAITSTAFF  
CLEARED IT.

EVEN IF  
HE **DOES**,  
WHAT ARE HIS  
OPTIONS?



IF HE'S **TRULY**  
CAUGHT UP WITH US  
ON THE **GENETICS**,  
THIS WILL SIMPLY  
**CONFIRM** IT.

IF IT'S  
PHARMACEUTICAL  
MIMICRY, HE'LL SAY  
WE'RE TRYING TO  
DISCREDIT HIM.

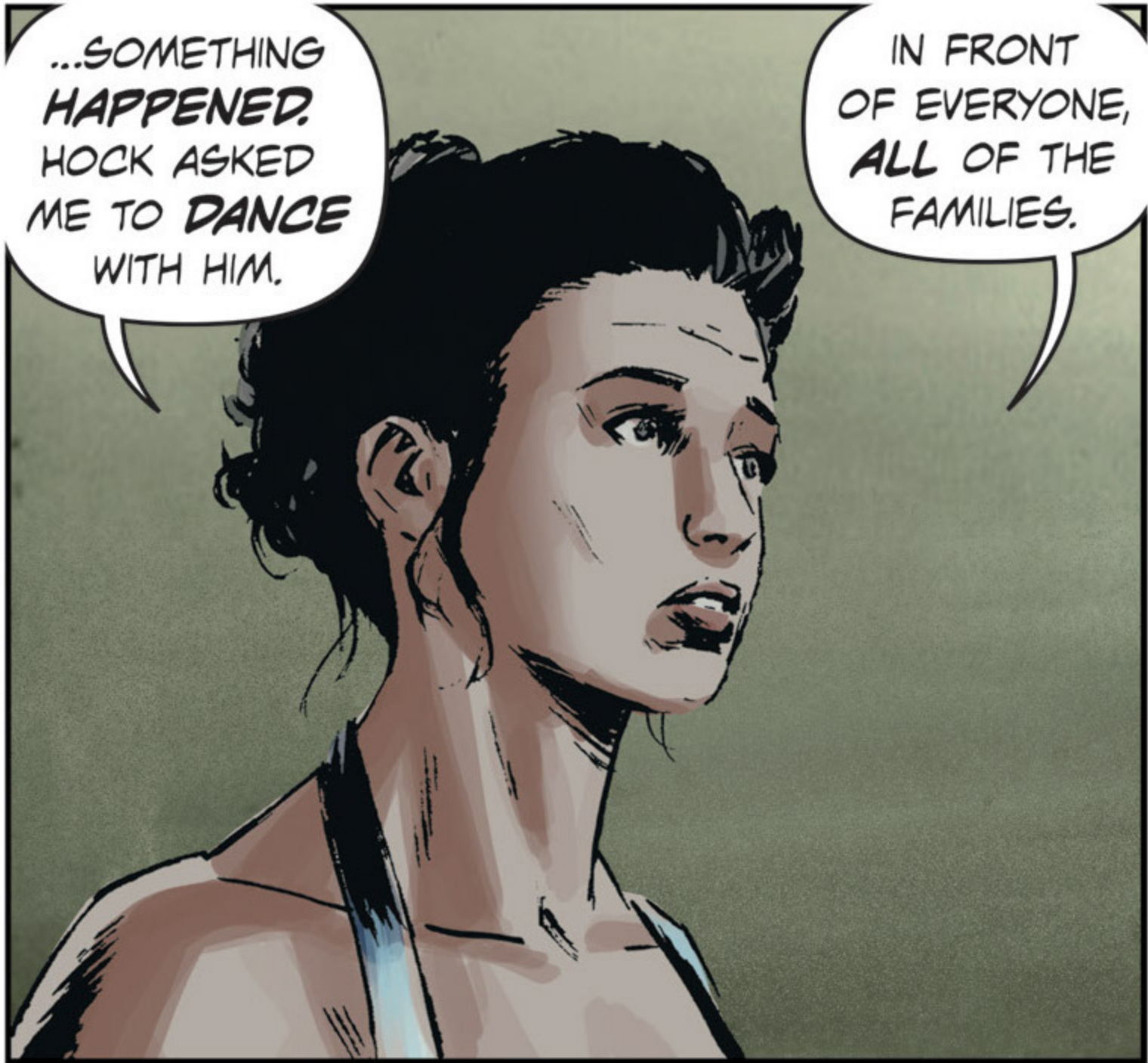


I'VE BEEN  
WAITING **YEARS**  
FOR THIS,  
ARTHUR.

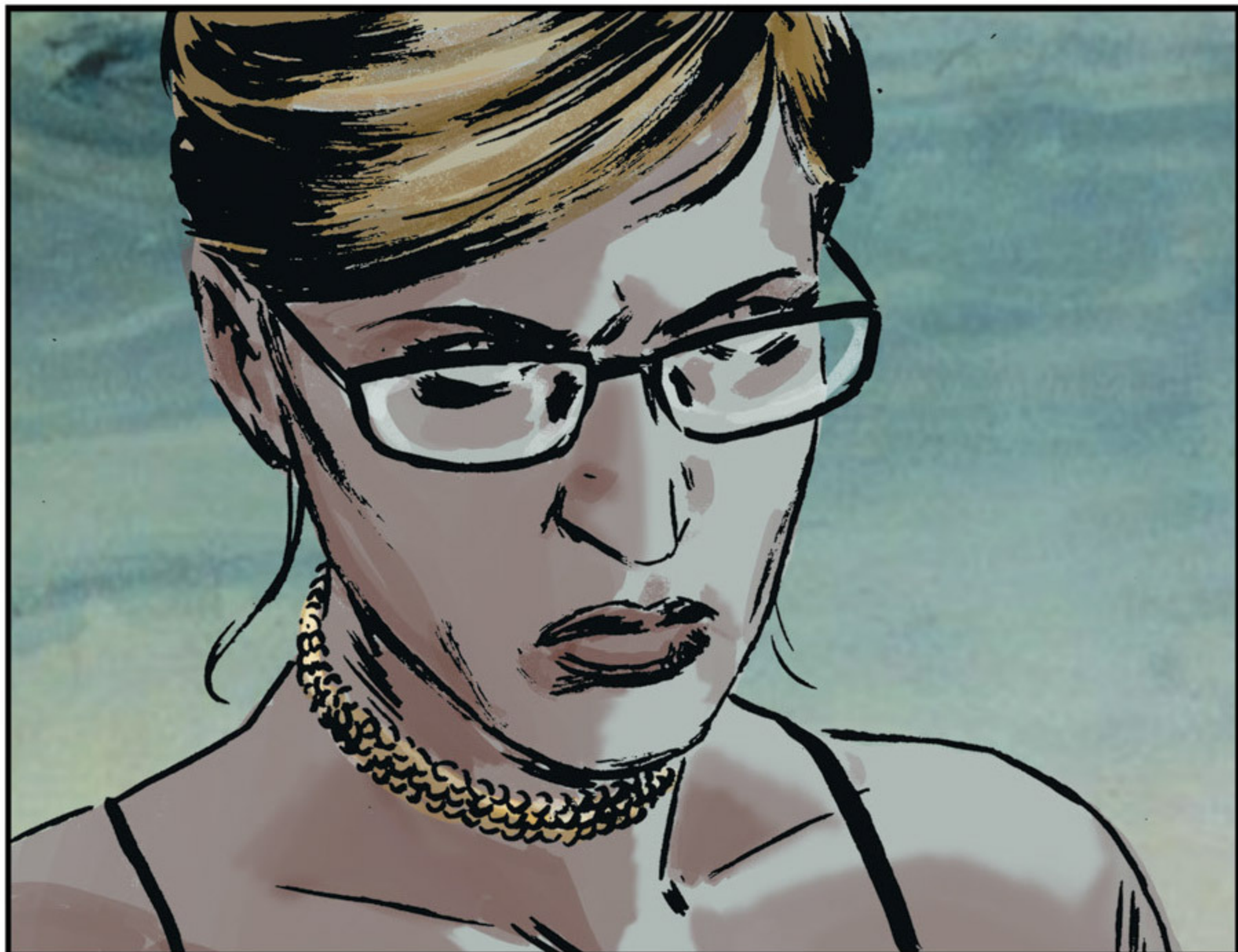
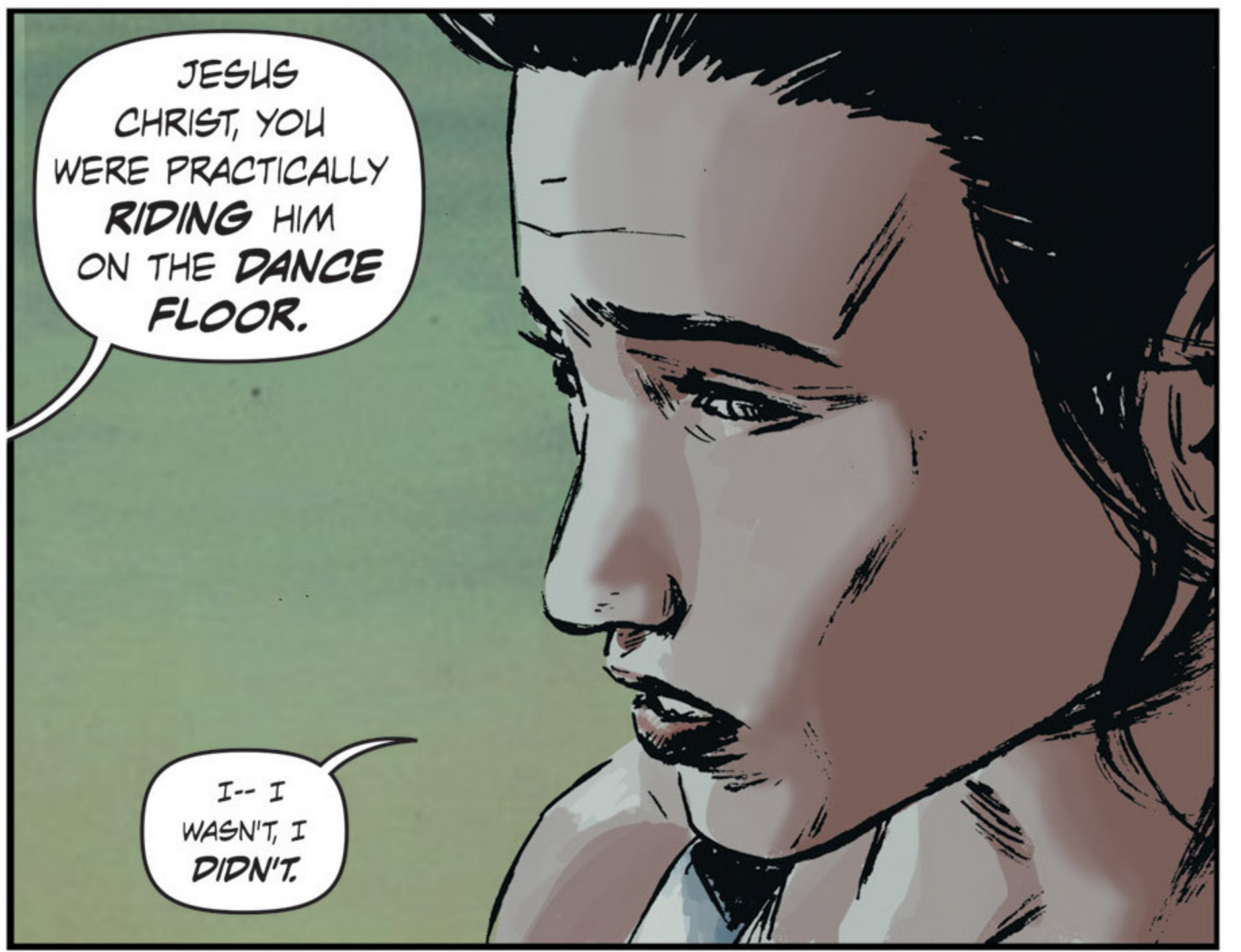
BELIEVE  
ME, I'VE  
ACCOUNTED FOR  
**EVERYTHING.**

FATHER!













DON'T  
LISTEN TO  
HER.

SHE'S  
ANGRY BECAUSE  
SHE HAS TO **WORK**  
TONIGHT.



WE KNEW  
HOCK WOULD  
HAVE TO MAKE THE  
GAMBIT IN PUBLIC,  
FOREVER.

I THOUGHT  
YOU UNDERSTOOD  
THAT WOULD MEAN HE  
WOULD MAKE IT AS  
GRAND A GESTURE  
AS POSSIBLE.



IT'S *MY*  
FAULT, I SHOULD  
HAVE **WARNED**  
YOU.

I AM  
**VERY**  
SORRY.

IT'S... IT'S  
ALL RIGHT,  
FATHER.



THE NIGHT  
IS STILL **YOUNG**  
AND WE'VE WORK  
TO DO HERE.

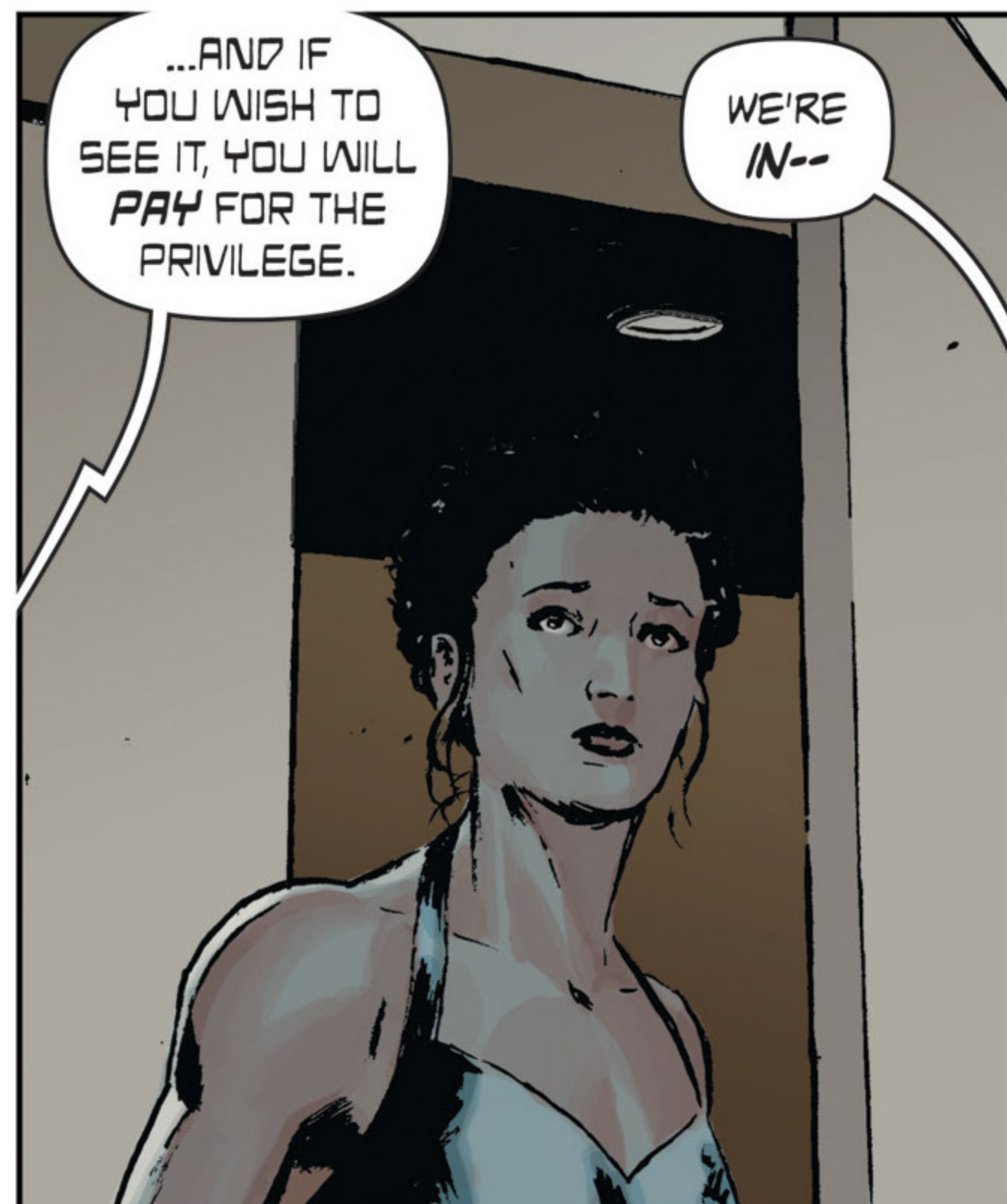
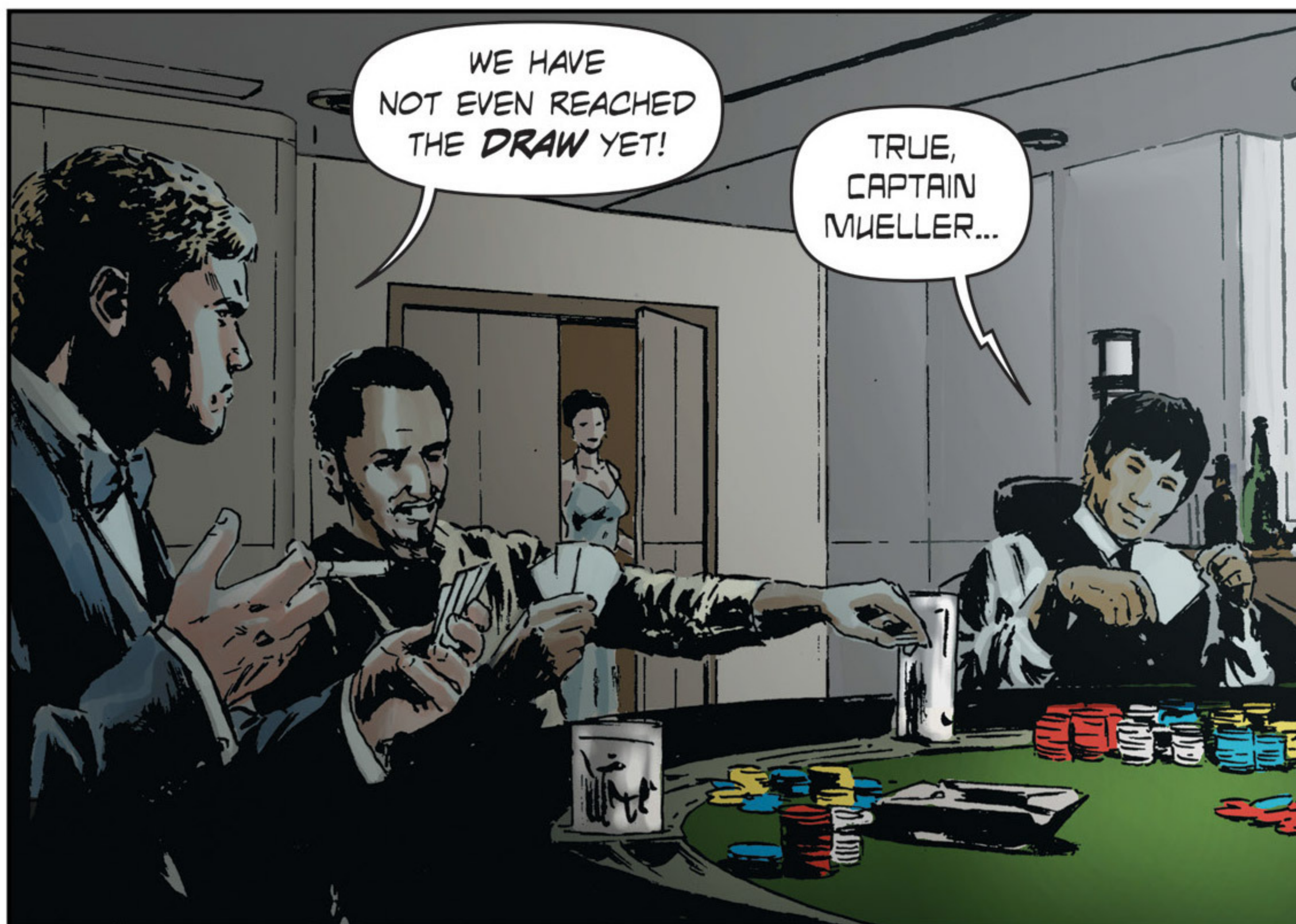
YOU SHOULD  
GO OUT, ENJOY  
THE EVENING. I BELIEVE  
THERE'S A **POKER** GAME,  
SOMETHING LIKE  
THAT?

AT SIR  
THOMAS'S.

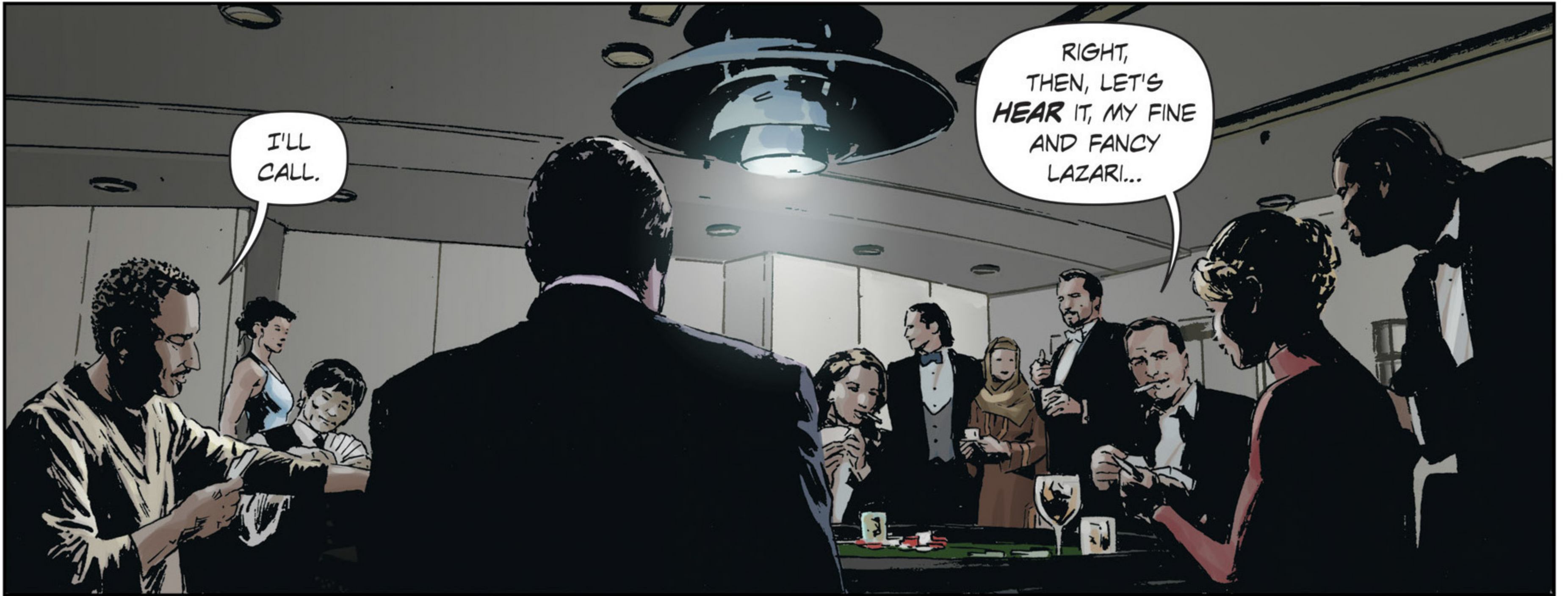


DON'T  
STAY OUT TOO  
LATE.













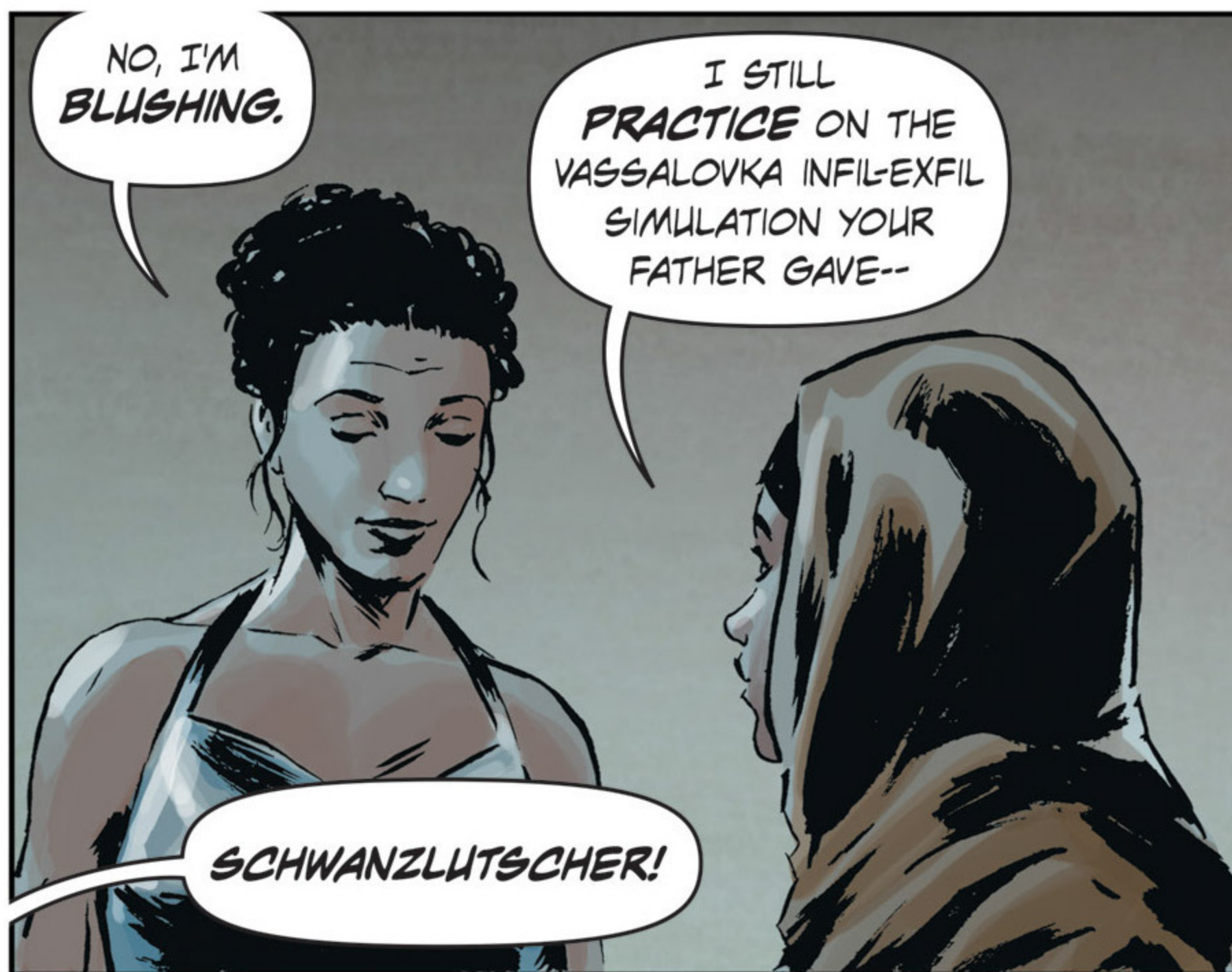
IT IS A GREAT HONOR TO MEET YOU, COMMANDER CARLYLE.

PLEASE, JUST FOREVER. I'M NOT **SURE** HONOR IS THE WO--



BUT IT **IS!** I STUDIED **EVERY** LAZARUS FOR MY TRAINING, **ALL** OF THEM.

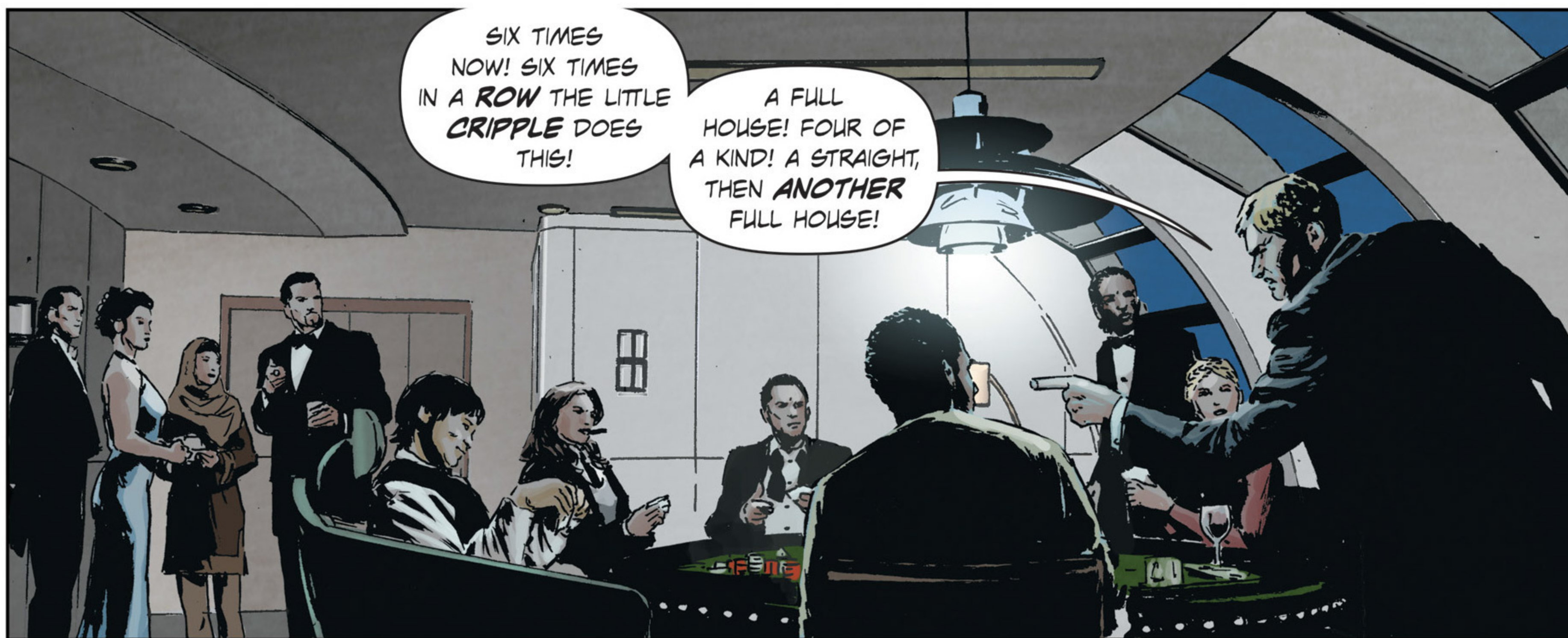
YOU ARE **AMAZING!**



NO, I'M **BLUSHING.**

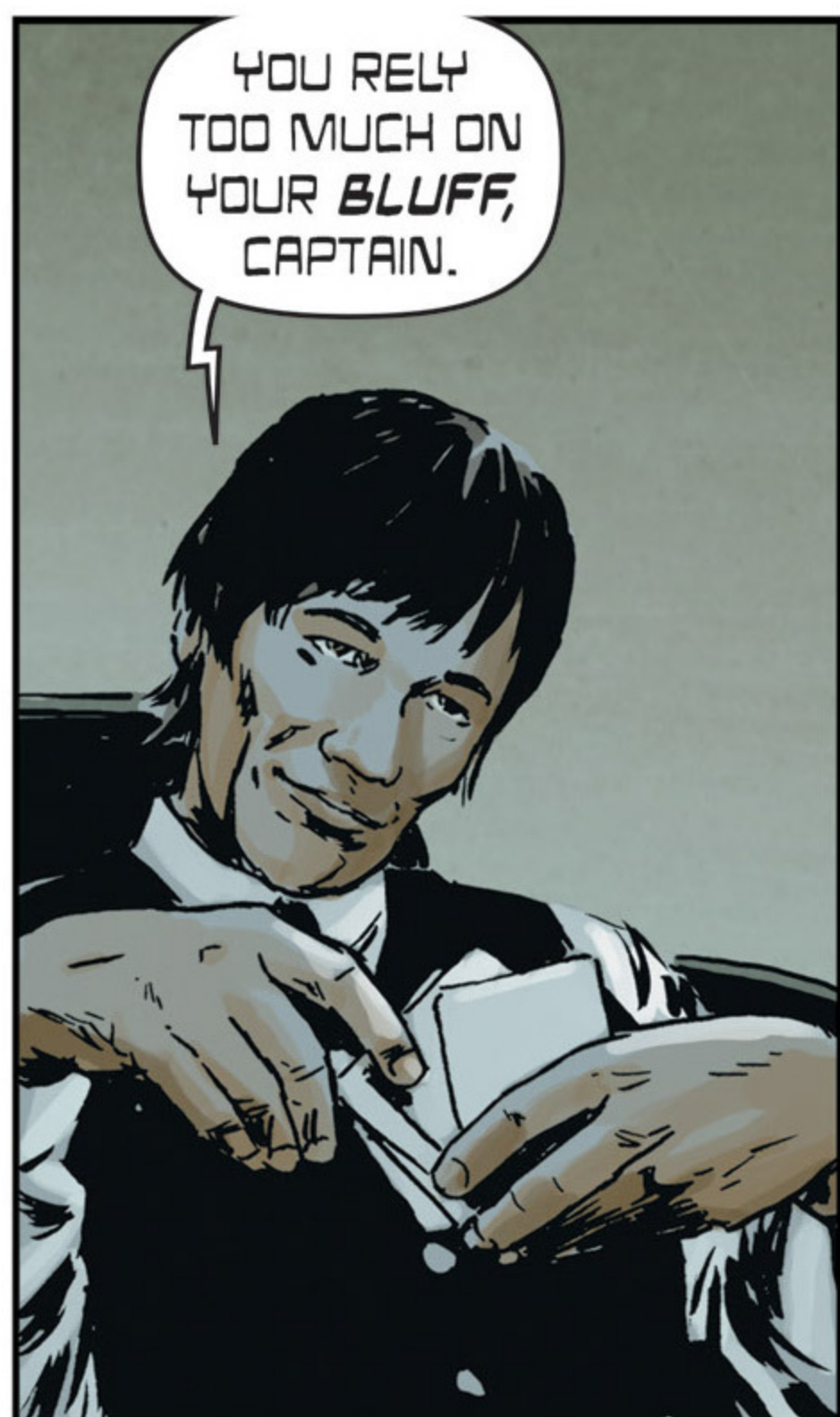
I STILL **PRACTICE** ON THE VASSALOVKA INFIL-EXFIL SIMULATION YOUR FATHER GAVE--

**SCHWANZLUTSCHER!**



SIX TIMES NOW! SIX TIMES IN A **ROW** THE LITTLE **CRIPPLE** DOES THIS!

A FULL HOUSE! FOUR OF A KIND! A STRAIGHT, THEN **ANOTHER** FULL HOUSE!



YOU RELY TOO MUCH ON YOUR **BLUFF**, CAPTAIN.



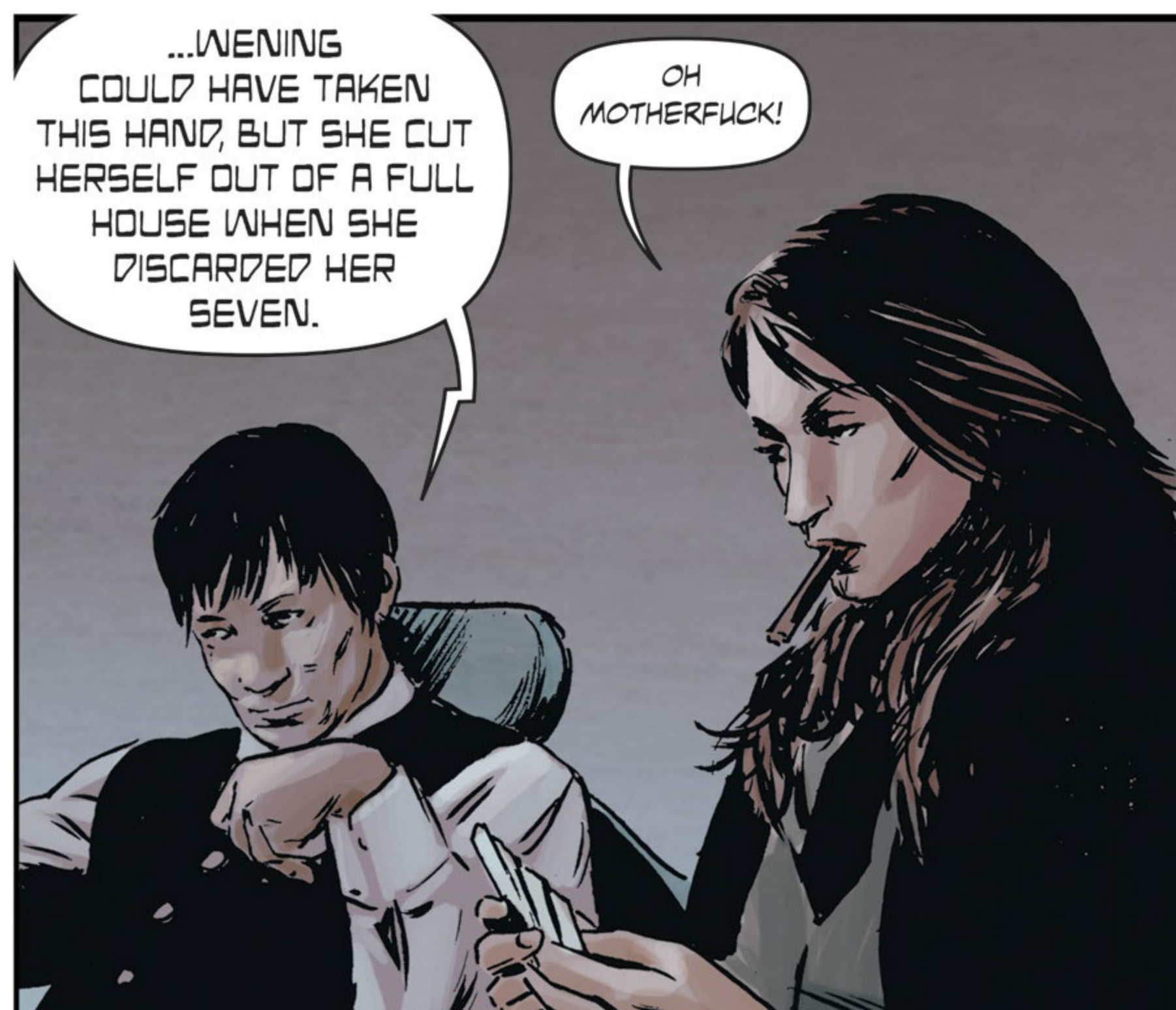
YOU THINK I AM **BLUFFING?** FICK DICH, YOU PLATE OF **SHIT!**



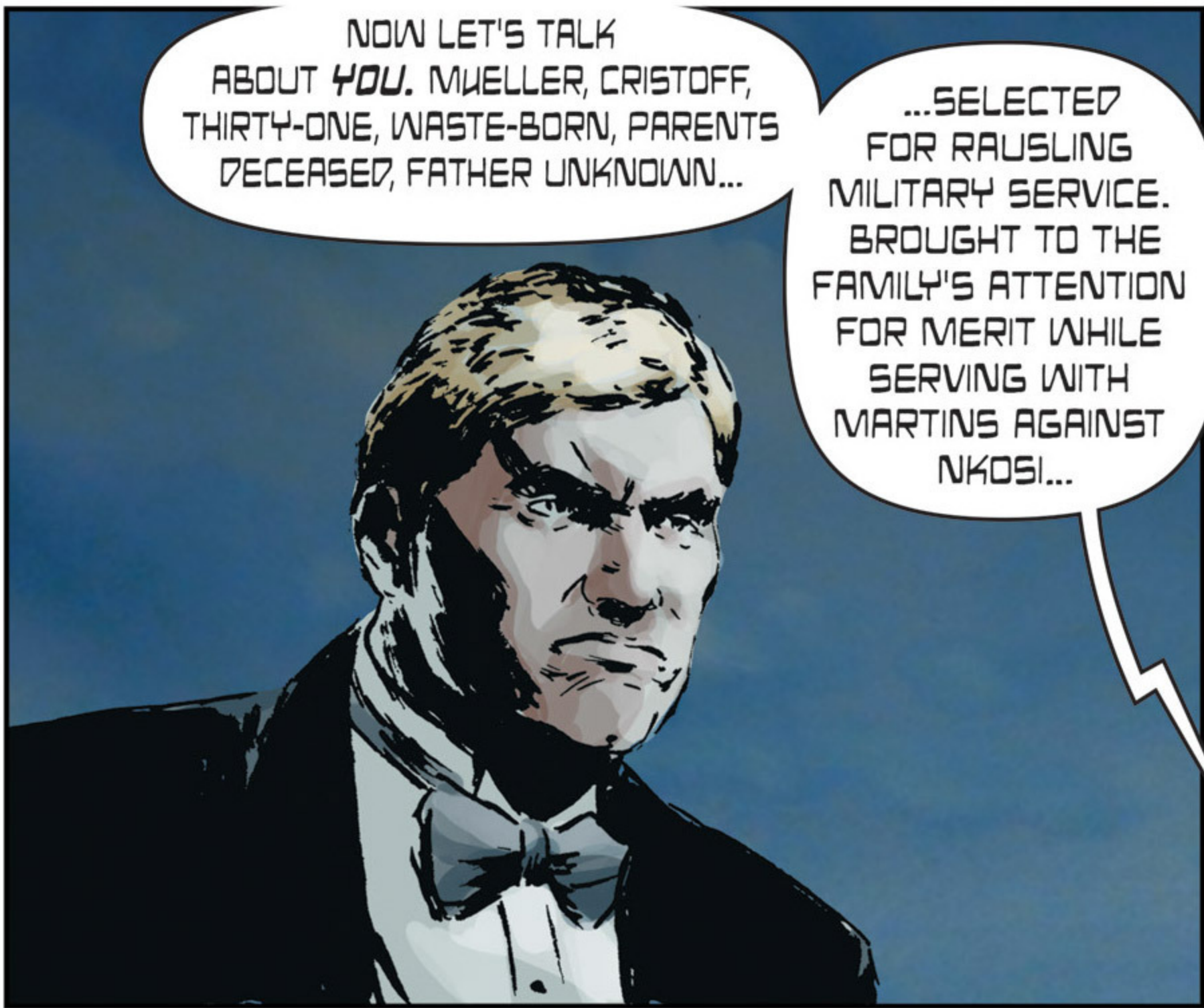
**EASY**, MEU CAPITÃO, WE'RE ALL **FRIENDS** HERE.

WE ARE **NOT!**









NOW LET'S TALK ABOUT **YOU**. MUELLER, CRISTOFF, THIRTY-ONE, WASTE-BORN, PARENTS DECEASED, FATHER UNKNOWN...

...SELECTED FOR RAUSLING MILITARY SERVICE. BROUGHT TO THE FAMILY'S ATTENTION FOR MERIT WHILE SERVING WITH MARTINS AGAINST NKOSI...



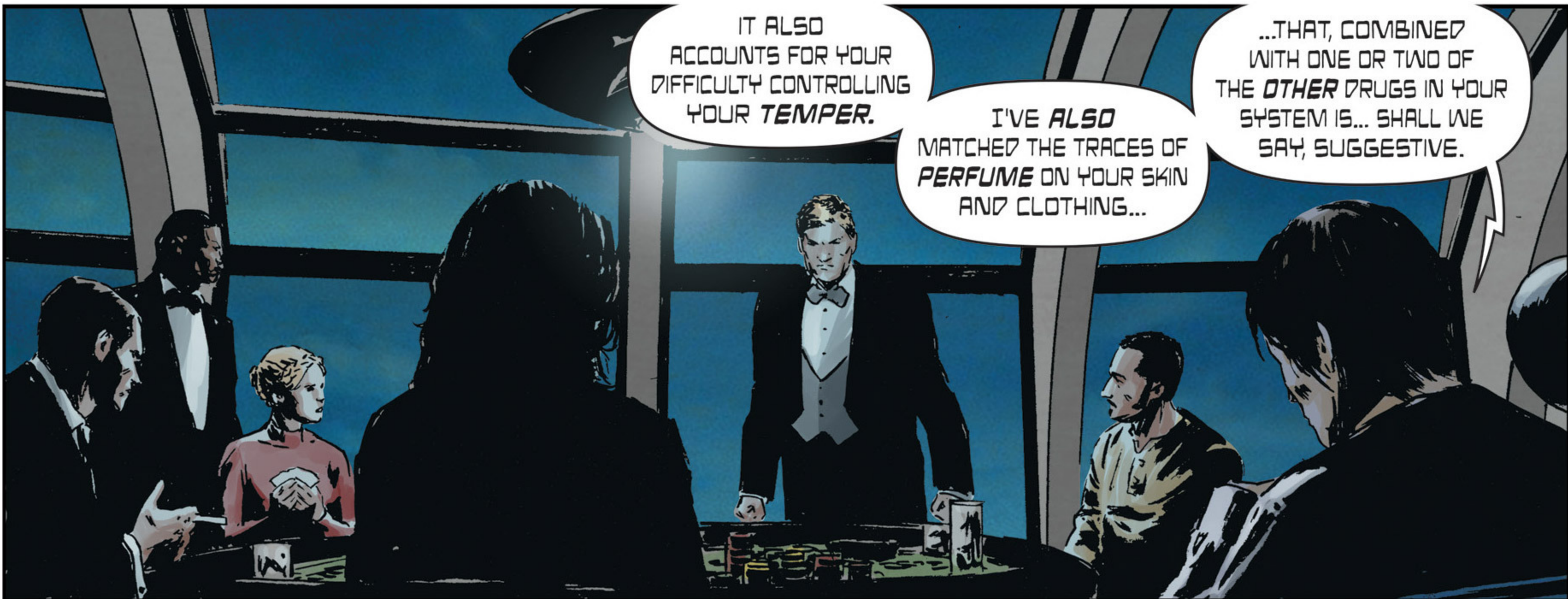
...SELECTED LAZARUS AFTER SIX-MONTH TRIAL FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF YOUR PREDECESSOR, CASPAR WOLF.



I COMPLETED A SPECTROGRAPHIC ANALYSIS OF YOUR PERSPIRATION AND RESPIRATION OVER AN **HOUR** AGO.

YOU'RE SWIMMING IN A **SOUP**. THREE TOCOPHEROLS, TWO TOCOTRIENOLS, TWO SARMS, **ALL** COURTESY OF DOCTOR HOCK'S **BENEVOLENCE**...

...IT'S A **LOT** OF ENHANCEMENT, AT LEAST FOR **ONE** KIND OF **PERFORMANCE**.



IT ALSO ACCOUNTS FOR YOUR DIFFICULTY CONTROLLING YOUR **TEMPER**.

I'VE **ALSO** MATCHED THE TRACES OF **PERFUME** ON YOUR SKIN AND CLOTHING...

...THAT, COMBINED WITH ONE OR TWO OF THE **OTHER** DRUGS IN YOUR SYSTEM IS... SHALL WE SAY, **SUGGESTIVE**.



SHALL I **NAME** THE LADY IN QUESTION? OR WOULD YOU RATHER **APOLOGIZE** FOR CALLING ME A PLATE OF SHIT?



I APOLOGIZE FOR MY ACCUSATIONS AND BEHAVIOR, MISTER LI.











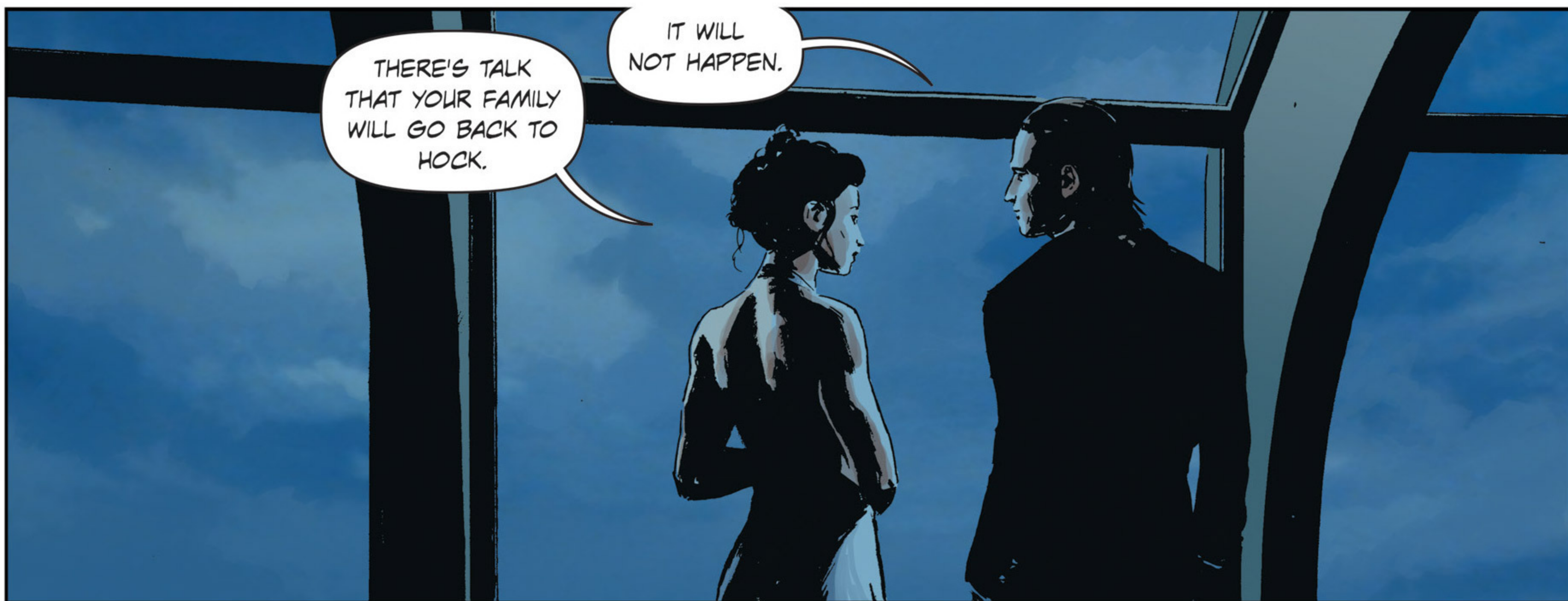


THE WEATHER'S  
*TURNING.*



IT LOOKS  
LIKE A STORM.

IS THAT  
WHY YOU'RE  
NERVOUS?



THERE'S TALK  
THAT YOUR FAMILY  
WILL GO BACK TO  
HOCK.

IT WILL  
NOT HAPPEN.



I WOULD  
VERY MUCH LIKE  
TO KISS YOU.

WOULD  
YOU PERMIT ME  
TO KISS YOU,  
FOREVER?



PLEASE.















THERE  
YOU ARE!



HELLO,  
SONJA.

I LOOKED  
FOR YOU IN THE  
GYM BUT YOU WERE  
NOT THERE.

MAY I...  
AM I INTERRUPTING?  
YOU WISHED TO  
BE **ALONE**?

NOT AT ALL.  
PLEASE, SIT.



I JUST  
SAW XOLANI,  
HE SAYS THEY  
ARE **STILL** IN  
CONFERENCE.

**FIVE HOURS**  
NOW, NO ONE HAS  
COME IN **OR** OUT  
OF THE ROOM.



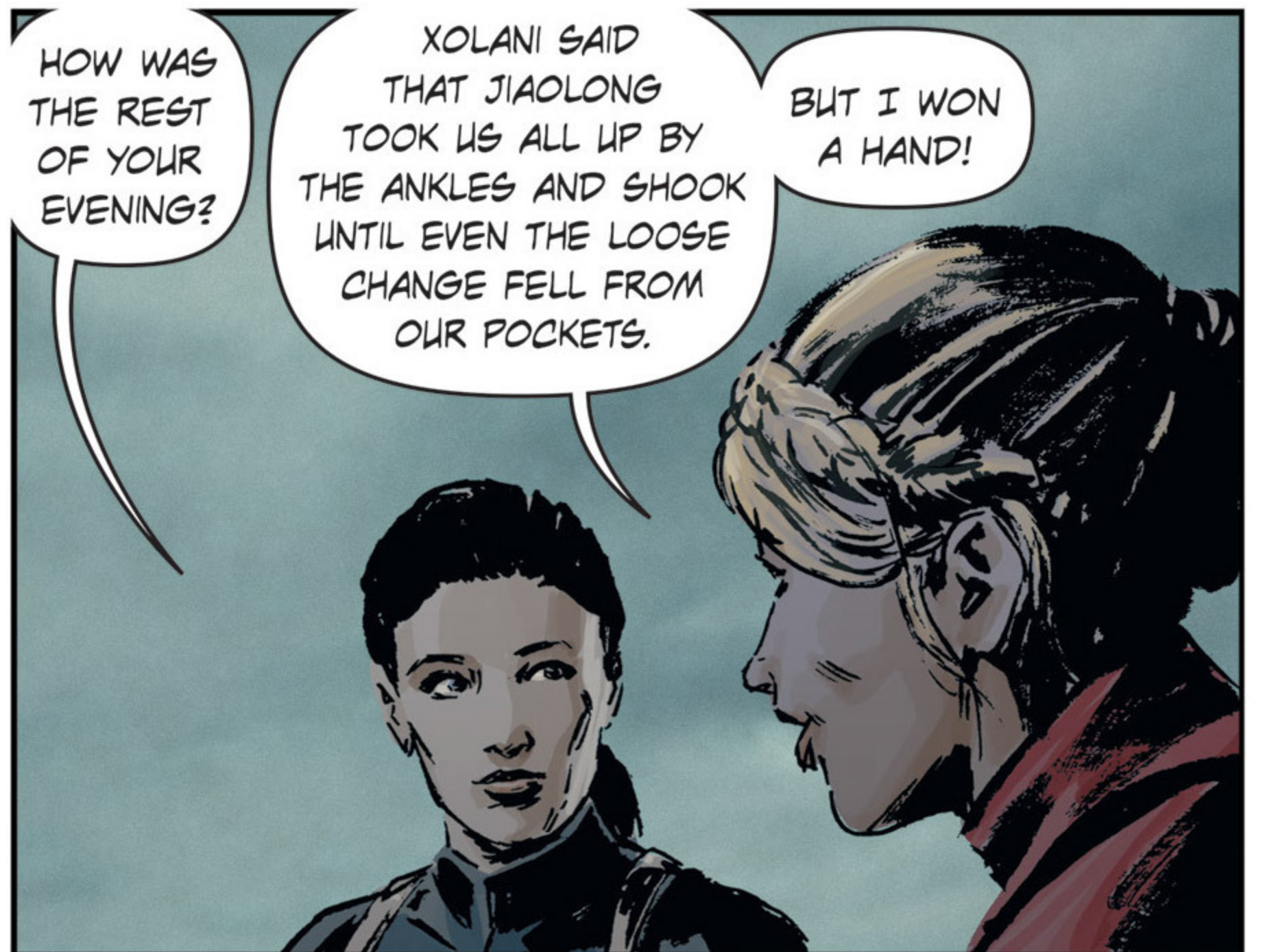
IT'S ONLY  
THE FIRST  
DAY.

I'M SURE  
IT TOOK FIVE HOURS  
JUST TO GET THROUGH  
EVERYONE'S OPENING  
**STATEMENTS...**



...MIGHT WE  
GET A **FRESH POT**  
OF TEA, AND A **CUP**  
FOR MY FRIEND,  
PLEASE?

CERTAINLY,  
COMMANDER.

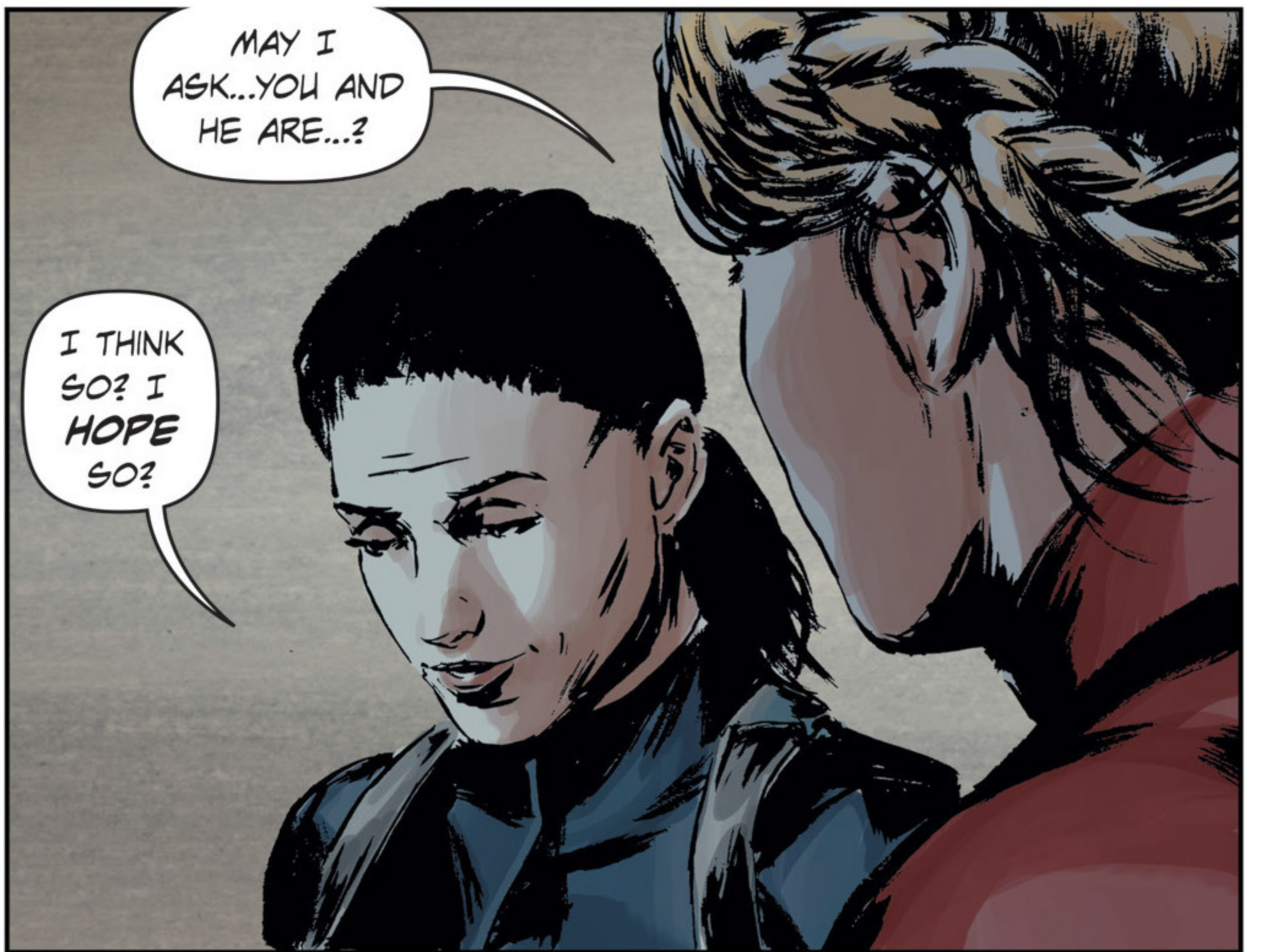


HOW WAS  
THE REST  
OF YOUR  
EVENING?

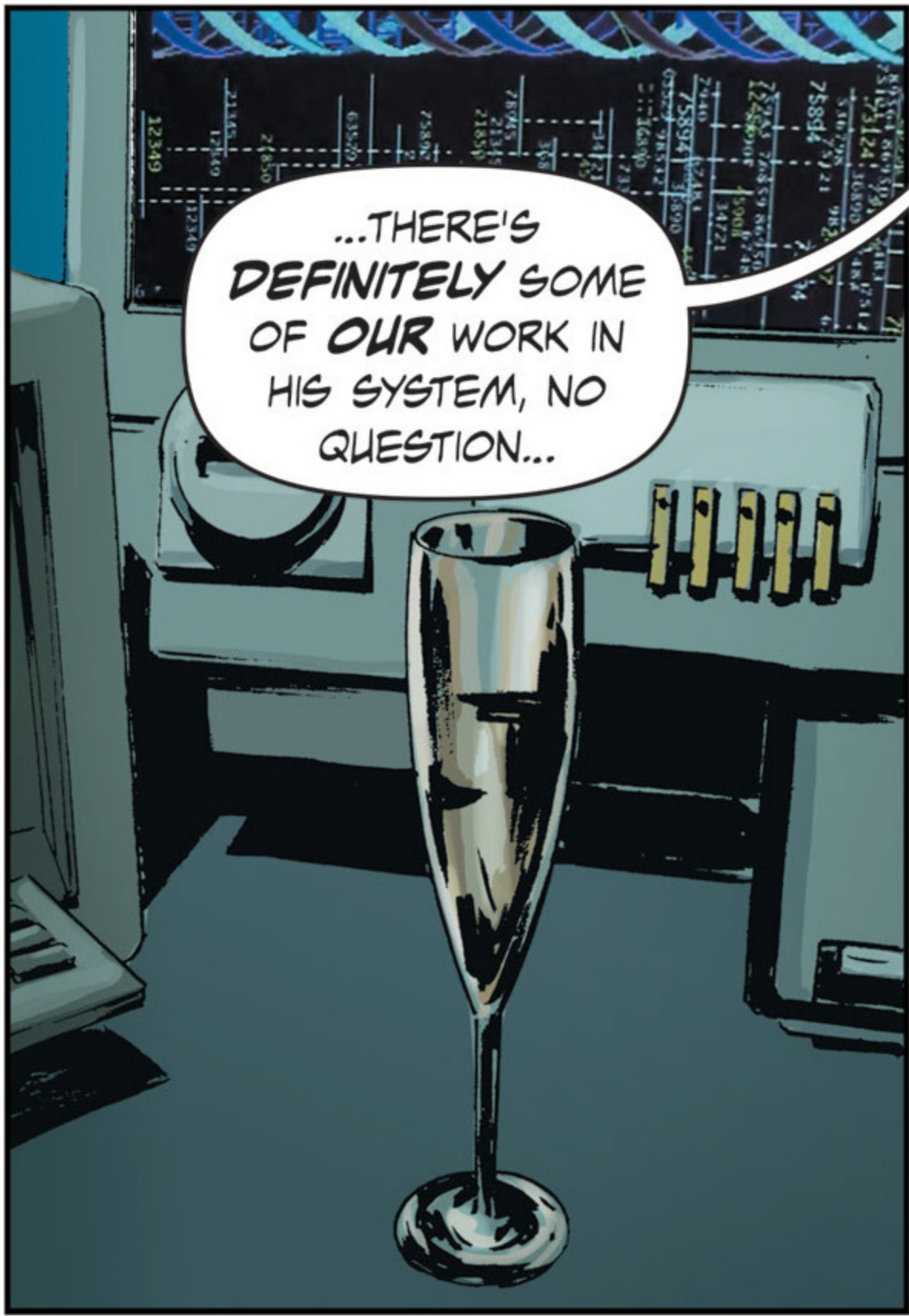
XOLANI SAID  
THAT JIAOLONG  
TOOK US ALL UP BY  
THE ANKLES AND SHOOK  
UNTIL EVEN THE LOOSE  
CHANGE FELL FROM  
OUR POCKETS.

BUT I WON  
A HAND!









...THERE'S **DEFINITELY** SOME OF **OUR** WORK IN HIS SYSTEM, NO QUESTION...



...BUT IT'S GOING TO BE **VERY** DIFFICULT TO PROVE WHAT'S **PROPRIETARY** AND WHAT **ISN'T**.

WITHOUT A SMOKING DNA STRAND IT WON'T **STICK**, MALCOLM.

HOCK'LL RESPOND BY REMINDING **EVERYONE** THAT HE WAS PART OF THE LONGEVITY PROJECT BACK IN THE BEGINNING, THAT HE CODED SOME OF THE **ORIGINAL SEQUENCES** WORKING WITH ABBY.

HE'LL **CLAIM** THIS IS THE BY-PRODUCT OF **THAT** WORK...



...THAT IT'S NOT STOLEN BUT **EARNED**.



NOT IDEAL, BUT **EXPECTED**.



FOREVER, COME WITH ME, PLEASE.



YES, FATHER.





CLOSE  
THE DOOR.



SIT  
WITH ME.



FATHER?  
IS EVERYTHING  
ALL RIGHT?

I NEED YOU  
TO DO SOMETHING,  
SOMETHING ONLY  
**YOU** CAN DO.

IT'S GOING  
TO BE **DIFFICULT**.  
IT'S GOING TO BE  
**DANGEROUS**.

AND YOU  
MUST DO IT  
**FLAWLESSLY**,  
DAUGHTER.



I CANNOT  
EMPHASIZE THAT  
**ENOUGH**, FOREVER.  
THERE IS **NO** ROOM  
FOR ERROR **OR**  
HESITATION.

BELIEVE ME  
WHEN I SAY EITHER  
WILL BRING **RUIN**  
TO OUR FAMILY.



TELL ME  
AND I SHALL  
DO IT.



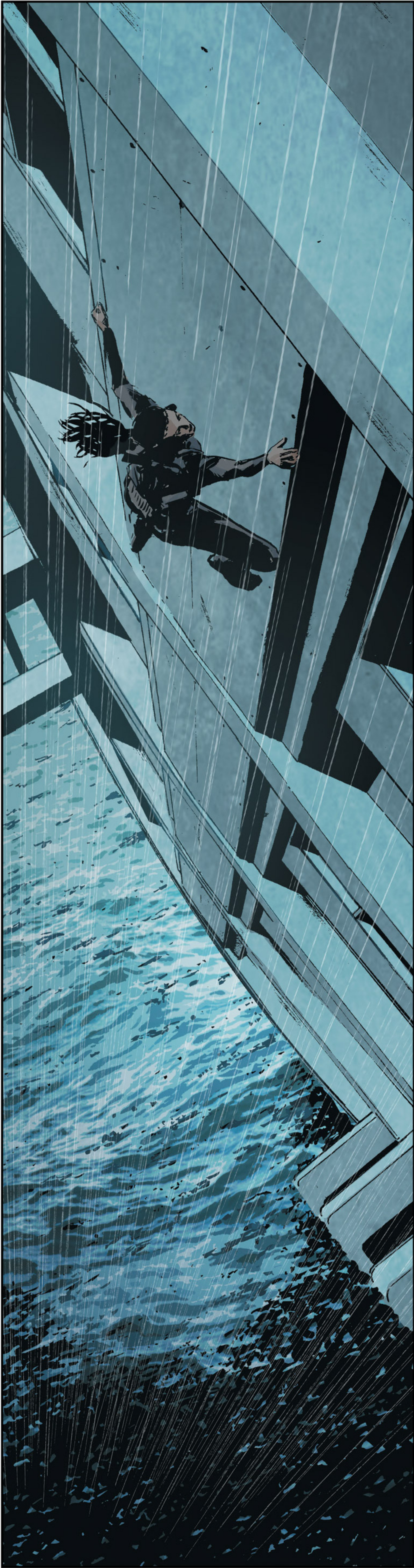
THAT'S  
MY GIRL.

ONCE ALL  
THE FAMILIES ARE  
BACK IN SESSION  
**TOMORROW...**





















OWEN FREEMAN

# CONCLAVE

CHAPTER FOUR



57°03'57N, 0°54'51E – The North Sea  
Facility: Triton One











...HE DIDN'T  
SEND YOU TO  
**RESCUE** ME...

...HE SENT  
YOU TO  
**KILL** ME.



FATHER  
SENT YOU TO  
KILL ME.



YES.



I DON'T  
WANT TO  
DIE.

PLEASE,  
FOREVER, I  
DON'T WANT TO  
DIE, I D--



--AH!

**FUCK  
YOU!**





WHAT  
YOU WANT?

YOU THINK  
I CARE WHAT  
YOU FUCKING  
WANT?



I SHOULD'VE  
KILLED YOU ALREADY,  
YOU'RE ALIVE BECAUSE  
OF WHAT I WANT!

ANY SECOND  
NOW HOCK'S  
DRUG-MONKEY  
IS GOING TO  
DISCOVER YOU'RE  
GONE--



--AND THE  
MOMENT HE HITS  
THE ALARM, THAT'S  
IT, IT'S OVER  
FOR YOU.

FOREVER,  
PLEASE--

I PUT  
A BULLET IN  
YOU AND DUMP YOU  
TO THE OCEAN  
FLOOR.



YOU'RE ALIVE  
RIGHT NOW ONLY BECAUSE  
I WANT ANSWERS,  
JONAH.

YOU  
BETRAYED  
YOUR FAMILY--

I KNOW,  
PLEASE--

--PLOTTED  
TO MURDER  
OUR FATHER, TO  
MURDER ME--



--I'M SORRY,  
I'M SO SORRY  
FOREVER--

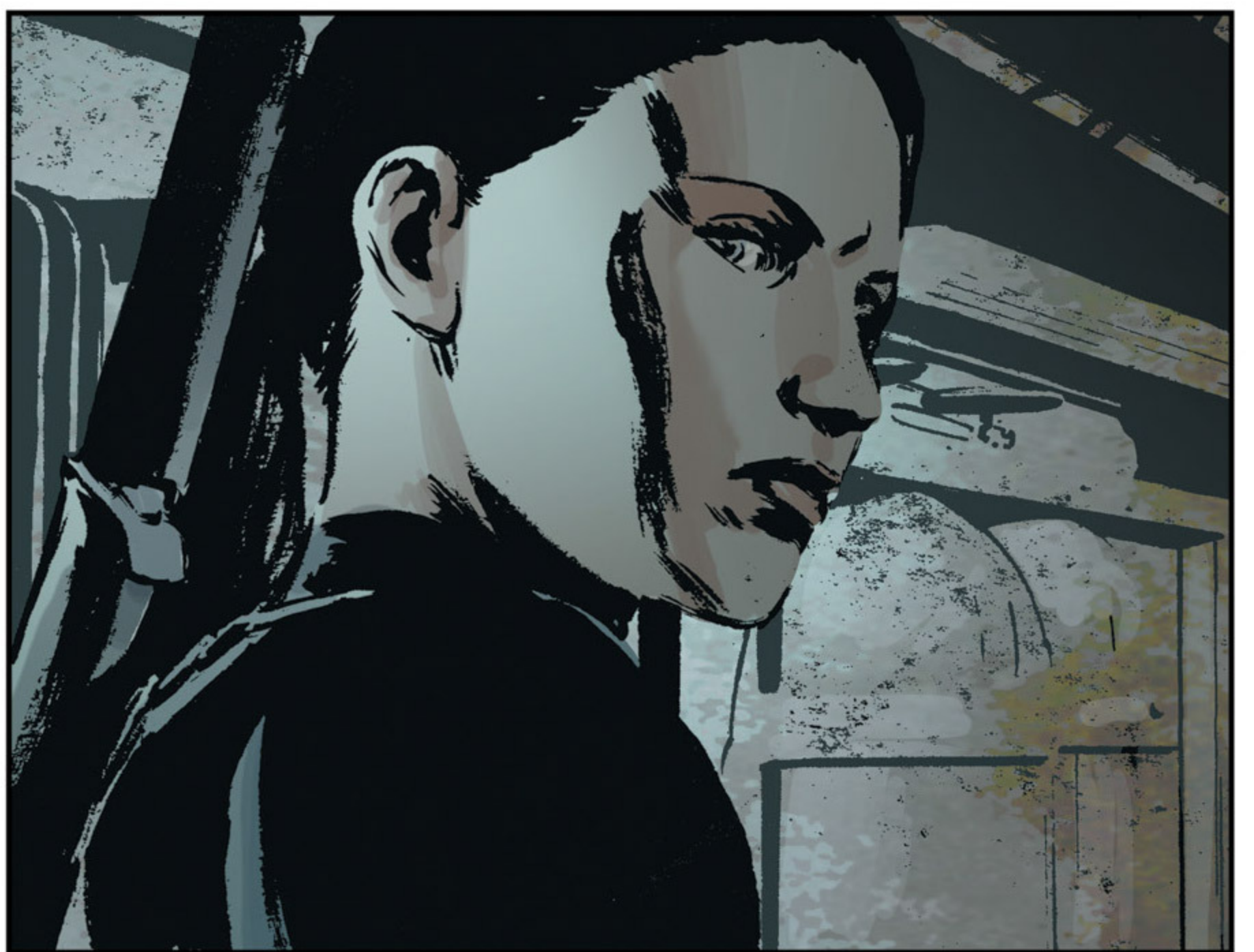
--BEAT  
JOHANNA HALF  
TO DEATH--

--I'M SO--



--WH-WHAT?  
WAIT--

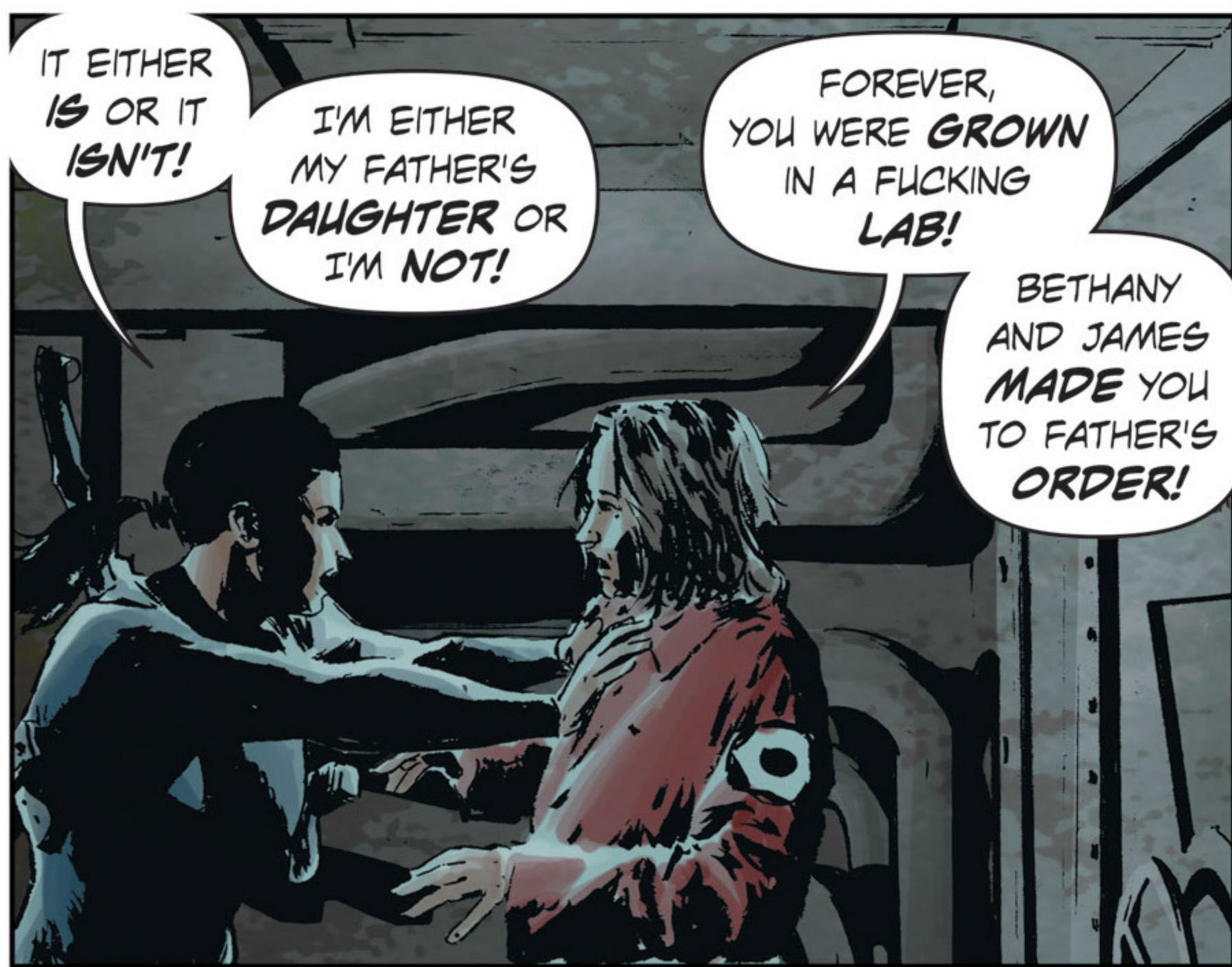








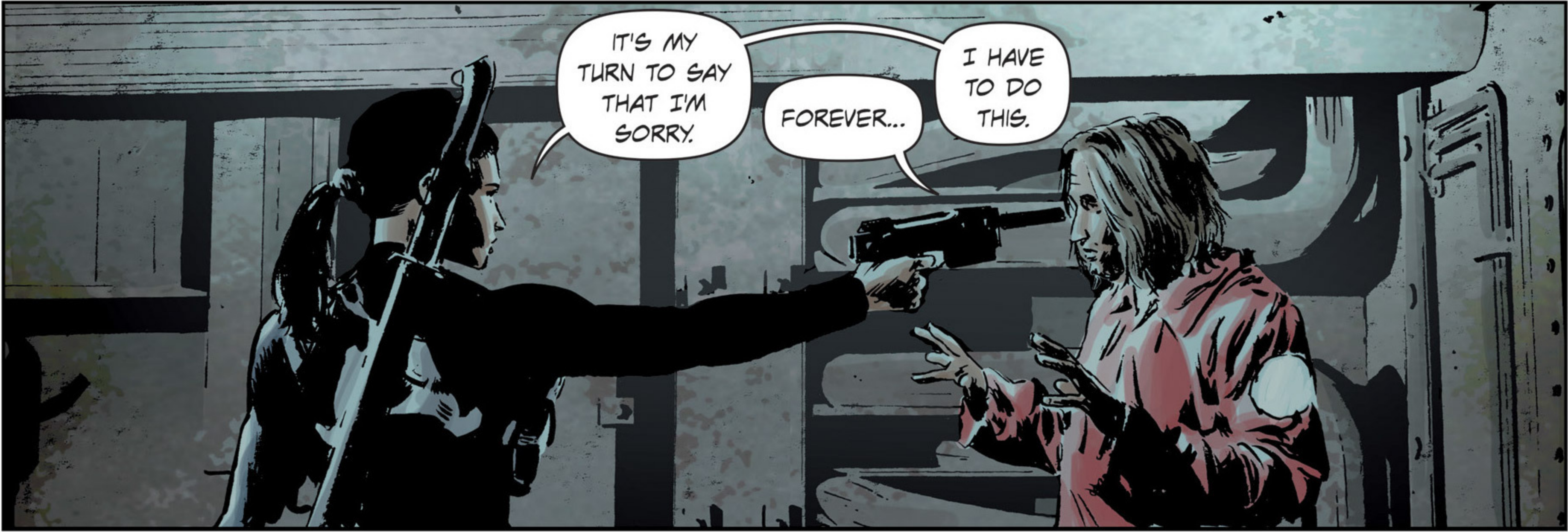








THANK YOU  
FOR TELLING ME  
THE TRUTH,  
JONAH.



IT'S MY  
TURN TO SAY  
THAT I'M  
SORRY.

FOREVER...

I HAVE  
TO DO  
THIS.



YOU  
**DON'T**.

YOU **DON'T**  
HAVE TO DO WHAT  
HE TELLS YOU.



I DO.

IT... **HURTS**  
WHEN I **DON'T**,  
JONAH.



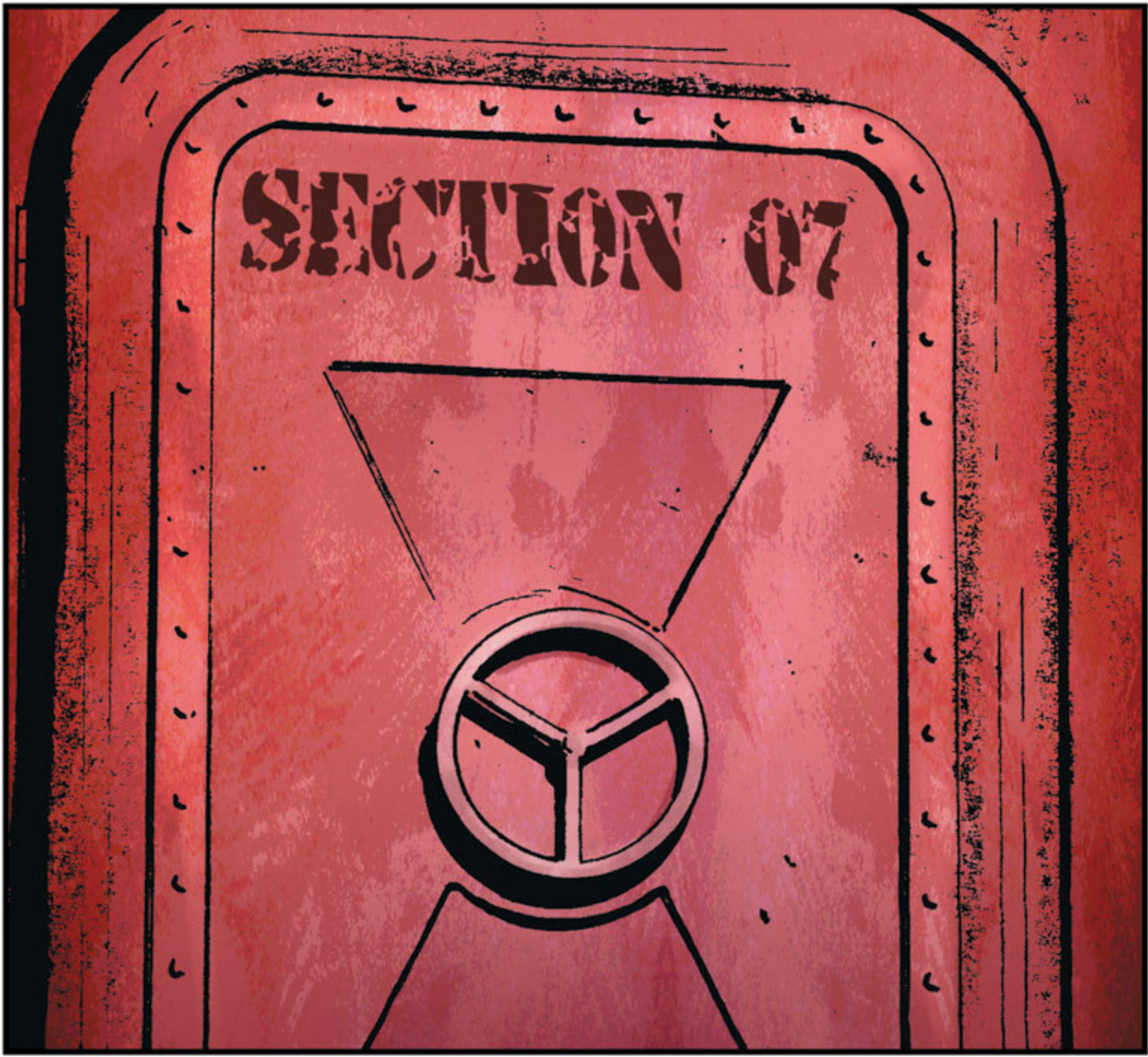
IT'S THE  
**DRUGS, THE MEDICINE**  
THEY GIVE YOU. OXYTOCIN, OTHER  
THINGS, I DON'T EVEN KNOW  
WHAT THEY ARE.

TO MAKE  
YOU **LOVE** US. TO  
MAKE YOU **LOYAL**  
TO US.





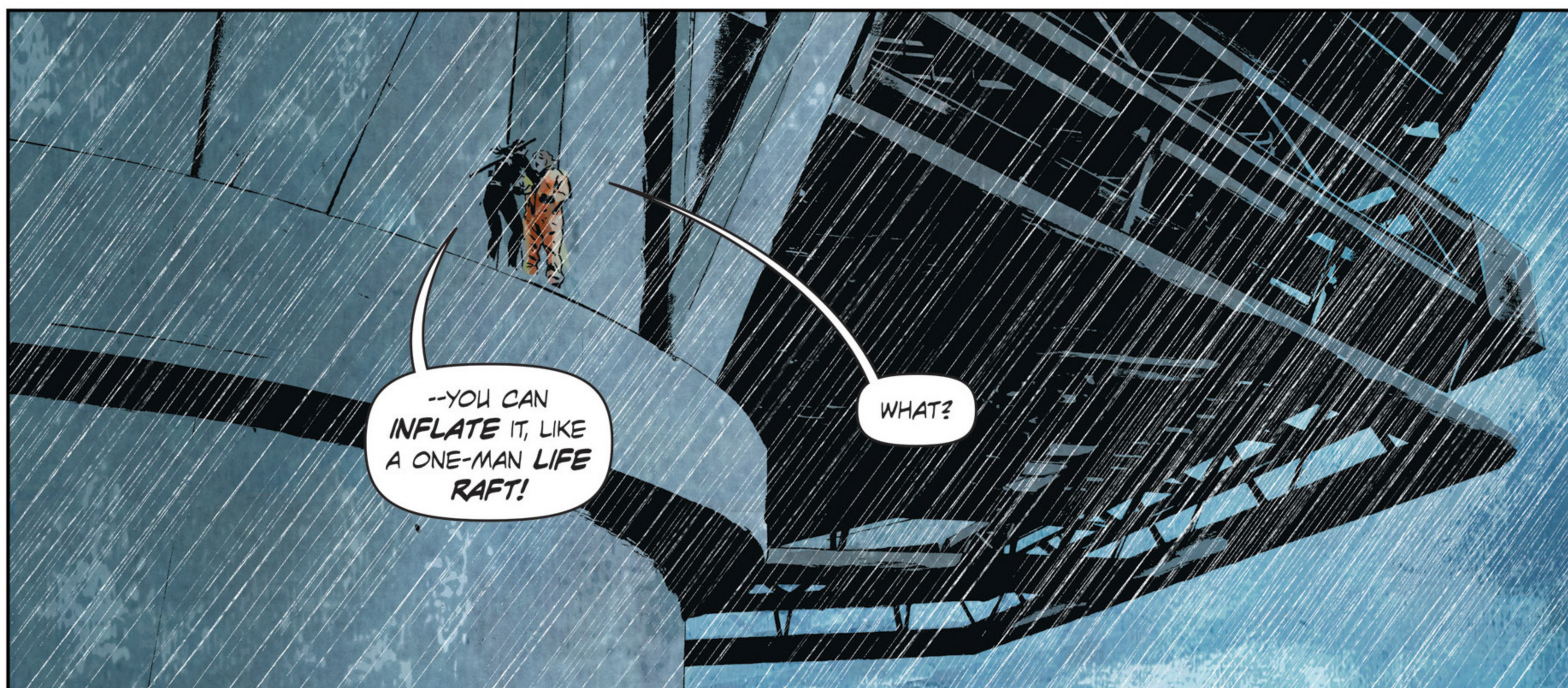












--YOU CAN  
**INFLATE** IT, LIKE  
A ONE-MAN **LIFE**  
**RAFT!**

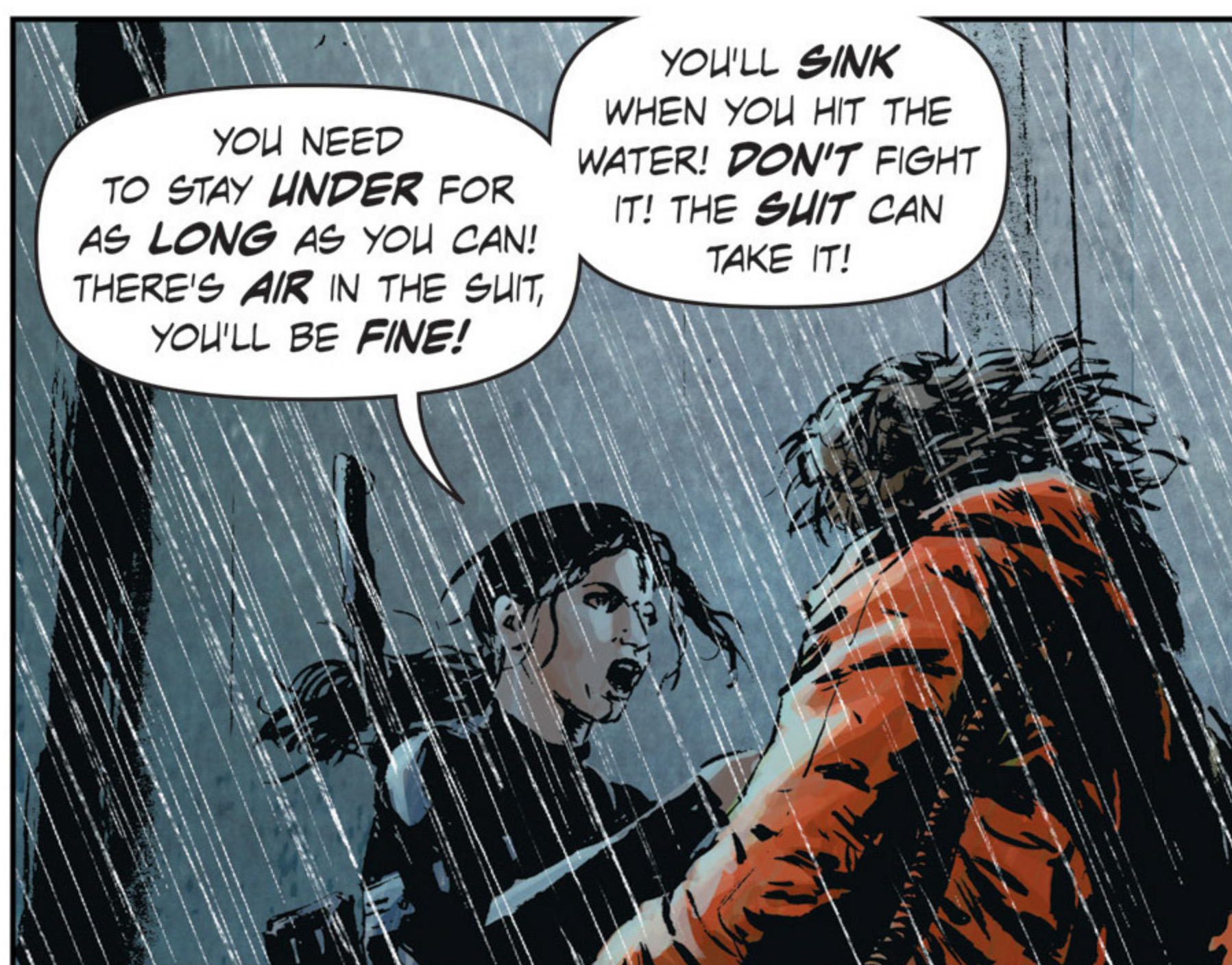
WHAT?



THERE'S  
A **TAB**, YOU PULL  
IT AND THE **SUIT**  
WILL **INFLATE!**

YOU'LL  
BE ABLE TO  
**FLOAT!**

OKAY!

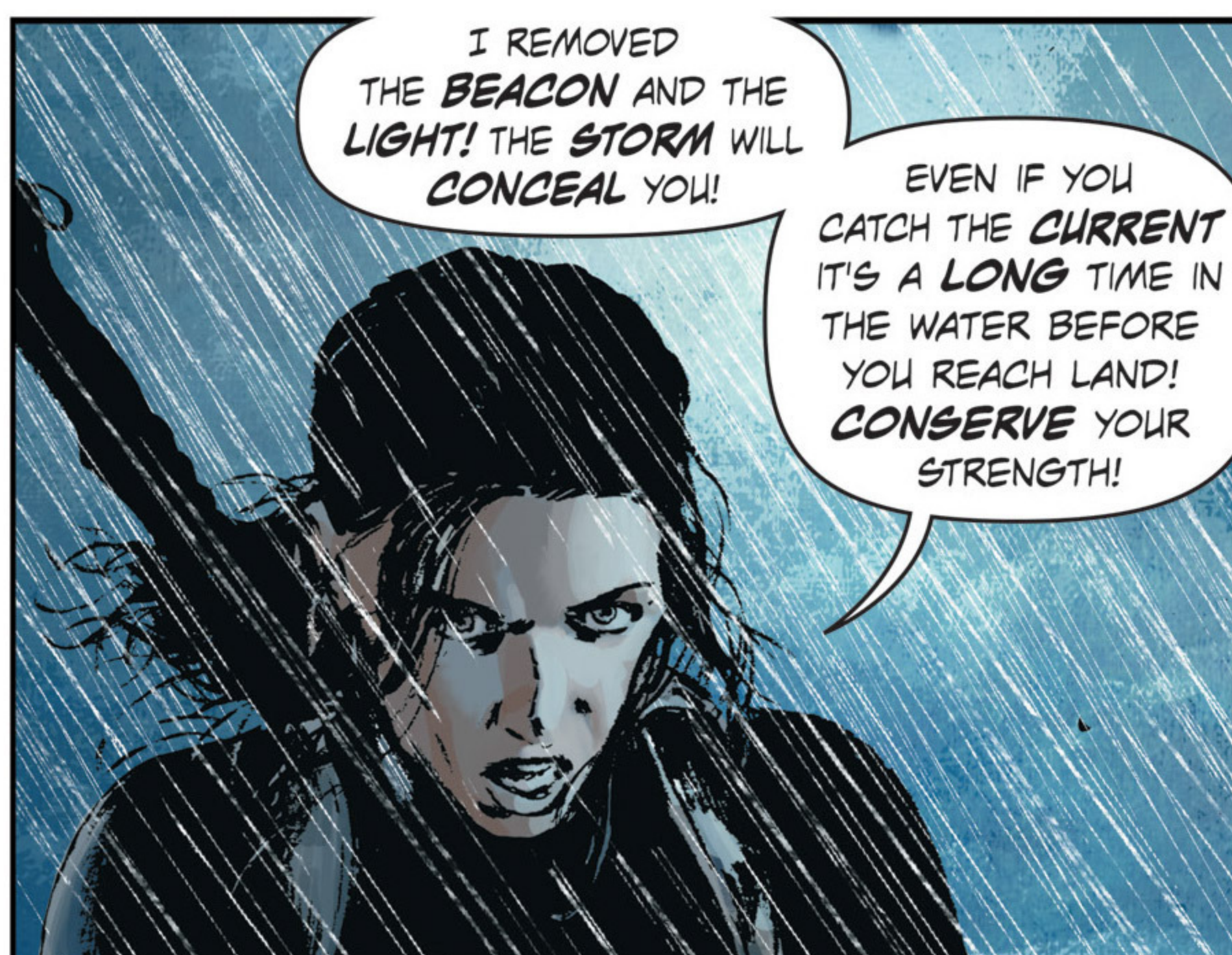


YOU NEED  
TO STAY **UNDER** FOR  
AS **LONG** AS YOU CAN!  
THERE'S **AIR** IN THE **SUIT**,  
YOU'LL BE **FINE!**

YOU'LL **SINK**  
WHEN YOU HIT THE  
WATER! **DON'T** FIGHT  
IT! THE **SUIT** CAN  
TAKE IT!



I UNDERSTAND!



I REMOVED  
THE **BEACON** AND THE  
**LIGHT!** THE **STORM** WILL  
**CONCEAL** YOU!

EVEN IF YOU  
CATCH THE **CURRENT**  
IT'S A **LONG** TIME IN  
THE WATER BEFORE  
YOU REACH LAND!  
**CONSERVE** YOUR  
STRENGTH!



ARE YOU  
GOING TO BE  
ALL RIGHT?





THE WHOLE FACILITY  
IS GOING INTO **LOCKDOWN!**  
STANDARD SECURITY PRECAUTION,  
THEY'LL HAVE CONFINED **ALL** FAMILIES  
AND STAFF TO THEIR **QUARTERS**  
WHILE THEY CONDUCT  
THE SEARCH!

I'LL BE  
**FINE!**



YOU  
COULD **DROWN,**  
JONAH!

THIS  
MAY NOT EVEN  
**WORK!**



IS IT  
**SCARY,**  
FOREVER?

WHEN  
YOU **DIE?**



ONLY  
THE **FIRST**  
TIME.



THANK YOU,  
FOREVER.

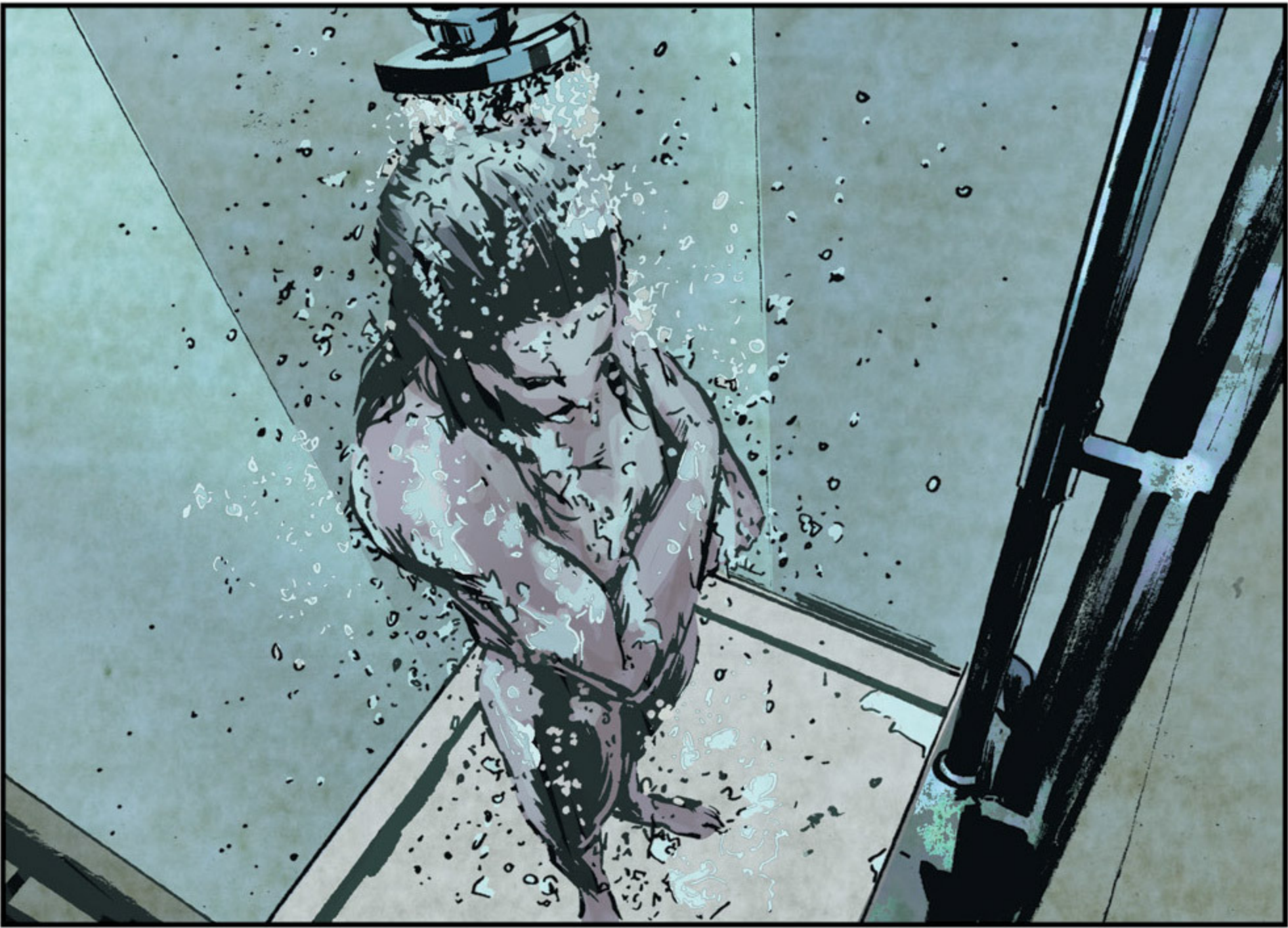




















"...AND I **KNOW** YOU WON'T LET ME **DOWN**...."

I WANT TO BEGIN BY FIRST APOLOGIZING FOR THE **INCONVENIENCE** OF THE **LOCK DOWN** AND TO **THANK** EVERYONE FOR THEIR PATIENCE WHILE SECURITY **INVESTIGATED** THIS MATTER.

AS YOU ARE ALL AWARE, JONAH CARLYLE HAS **DISAPPEARED**. SECURITY HAS NOW COMPLETED THEIR **REVIEW** OF SURVEILLANCE FOOTAGE AND THEIR **SEARCH** OF THE STATION.

AS **ARBITER** AND **HOST** TO THIS CONCLAVE, I AM NOW PREPARED TO RELAY THEIR FINDINGS:

FIRST, THAT A **SEARCH** OF THE HOCK SUITE REVEALED **BLOOD TRACES MATCHING** MISTER CARLYLE.

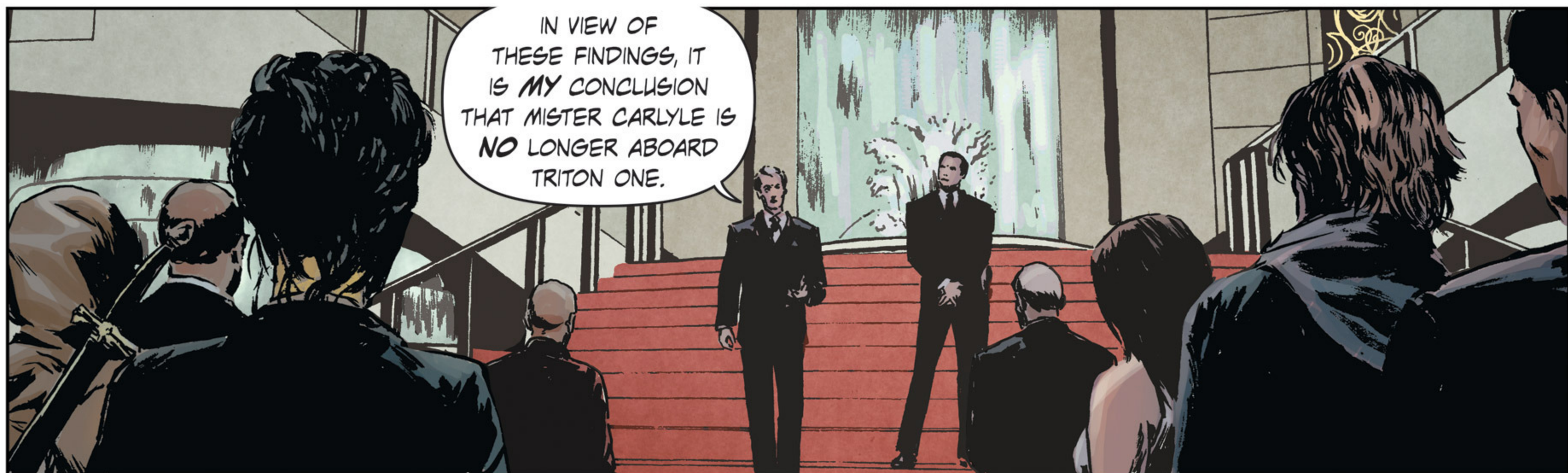
SECOND, THAT THE MAINTENANCE ACCESS IN THE HOCK SUITE SHOWED SIGNS OF **TAMPERING** BOTH **WITHIN** AND TO THE **EXTERIOR** OF THIS FACILITY.

THIRD, THAT DURING THE SEARCH ONE OF THE EMERGENCY IMMERSION SUITS USED FOR EVACUATION WAS FOUND TO BE **MISSING**.

AND FOURTH, THAT NO SIGN OF MISTER CARLYLE APPEARS ON **ANY** SURVEILLANCE FOOTAGE.

THIS LAST BEING QUALIFIED BY THE FACT THAT FAMILY SUITES ARE **NOT** SUBJECT TO SURVEILLANCE, BUT ONLY THE **COMMON AREAS**.

IN VIEW OF THESE FINDINGS, IT IS **MY** CONCLUSION THAT MISTER CARLYLE IS **NO** LONGER ABOARD TRITON ONE.



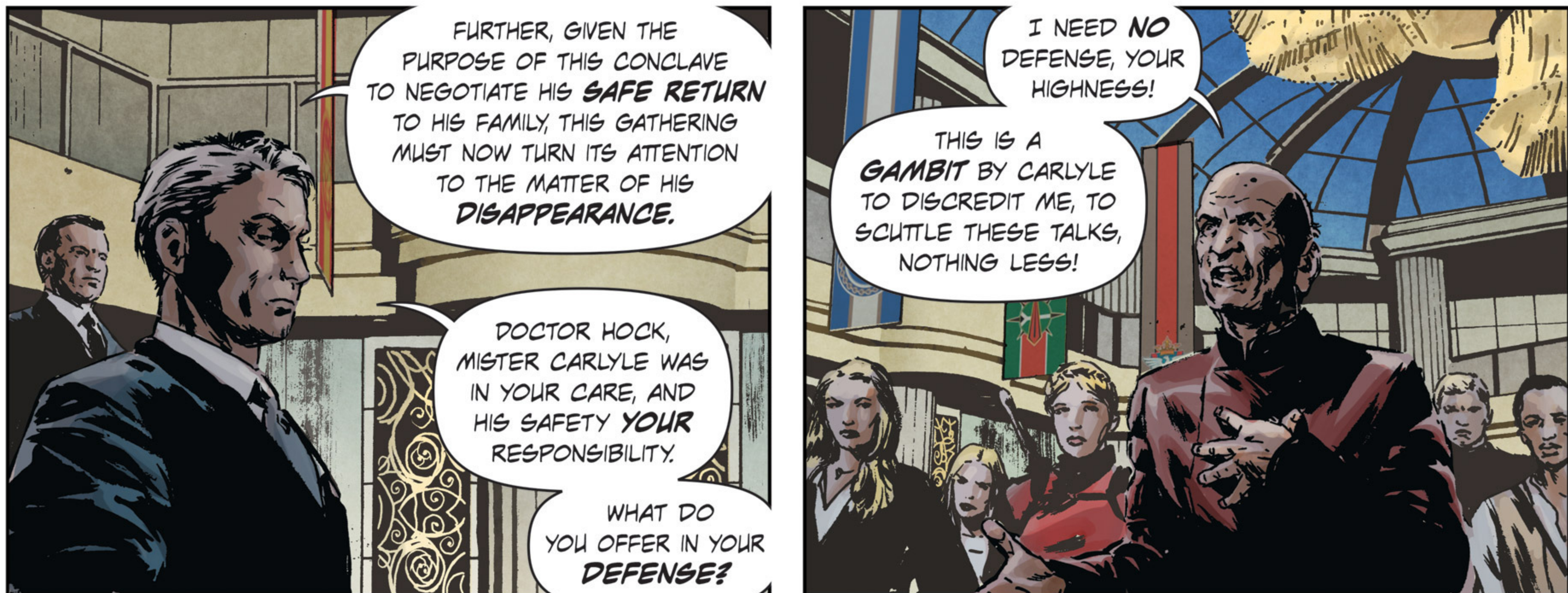
FURTHER, GIVEN THE PURPOSE OF THIS CONCLAVE TO NEGOTIATE HIS **SAFE RETURN** TO HIS FAMILY, THIS GATHERING MUST NOW TURN ITS ATTENTION TO THE MATTER OF HIS **DISAPPEARANCE**.

DOCTOR HOCK, MISTER CARLYLE WAS IN YOUR CARE, AND HIS SAFETY **YOUR** RESPONSIBILITY.

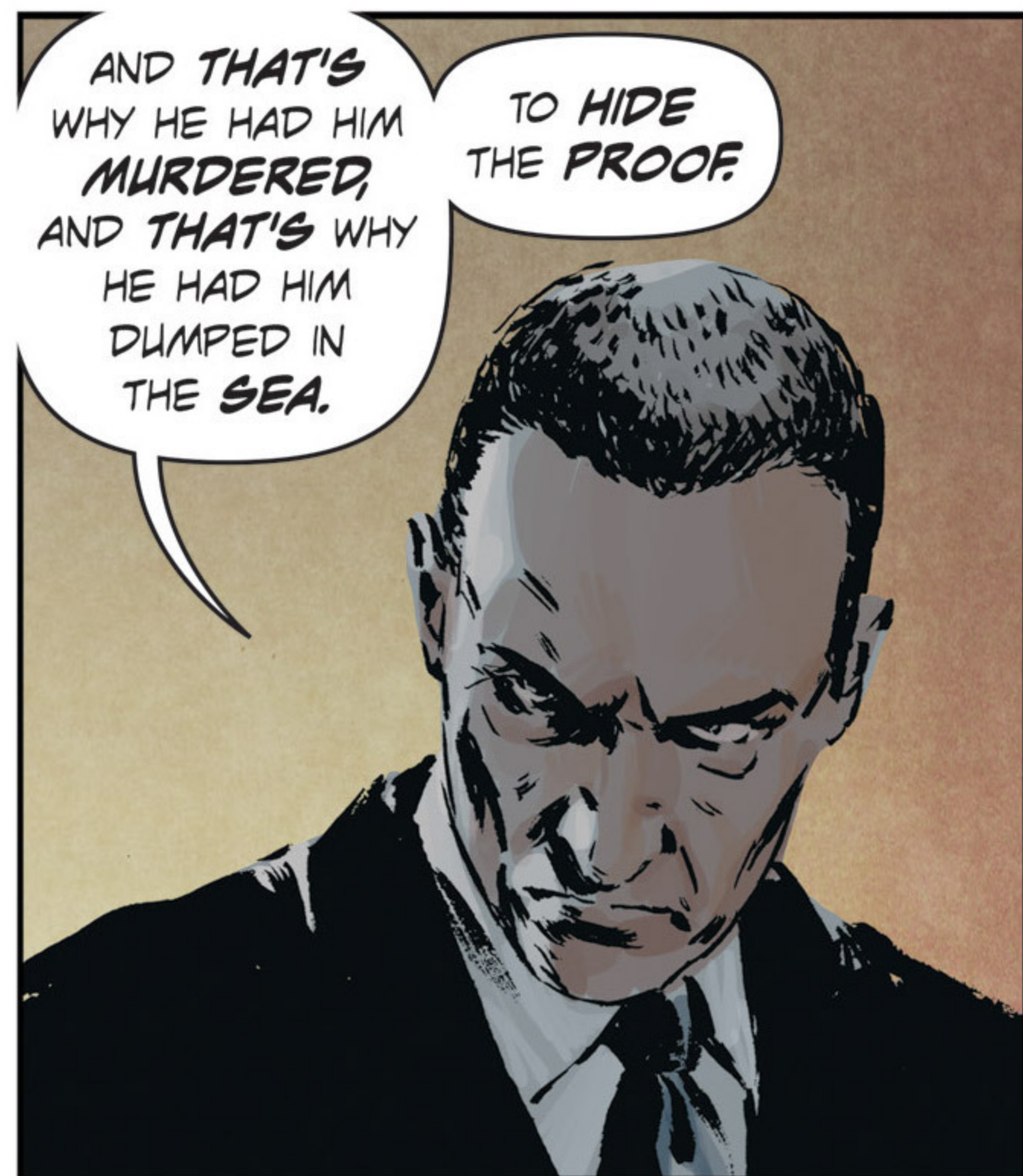
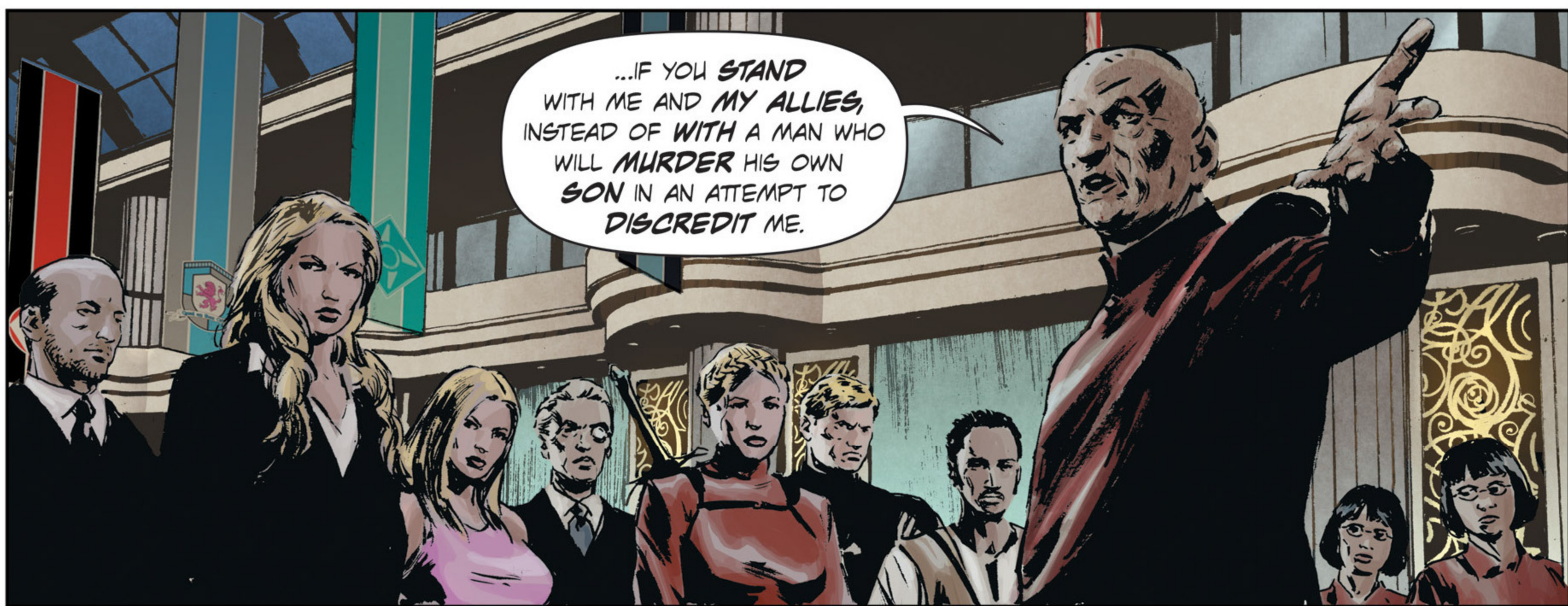
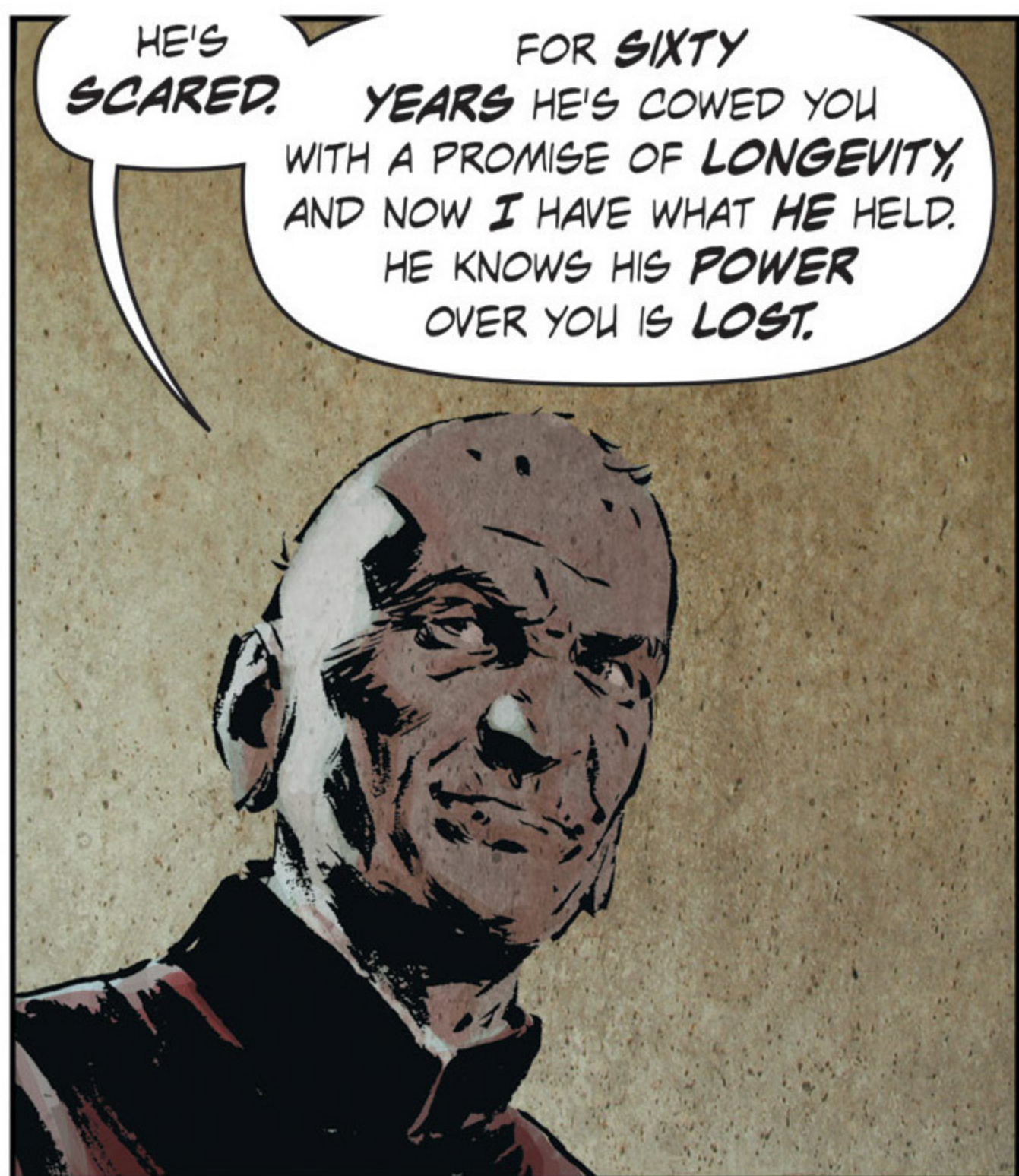
WHAT DO YOU OFFER IN YOUR **DEFENSE**?

I NEED **NO** DEFENSE, YOUR HIGHNESS!

THIS IS A **GAMBIT** BY CARLYLE TO DISCREDIT ME, TO SCUTTLE THESE TALKS, NOTHING LESS!





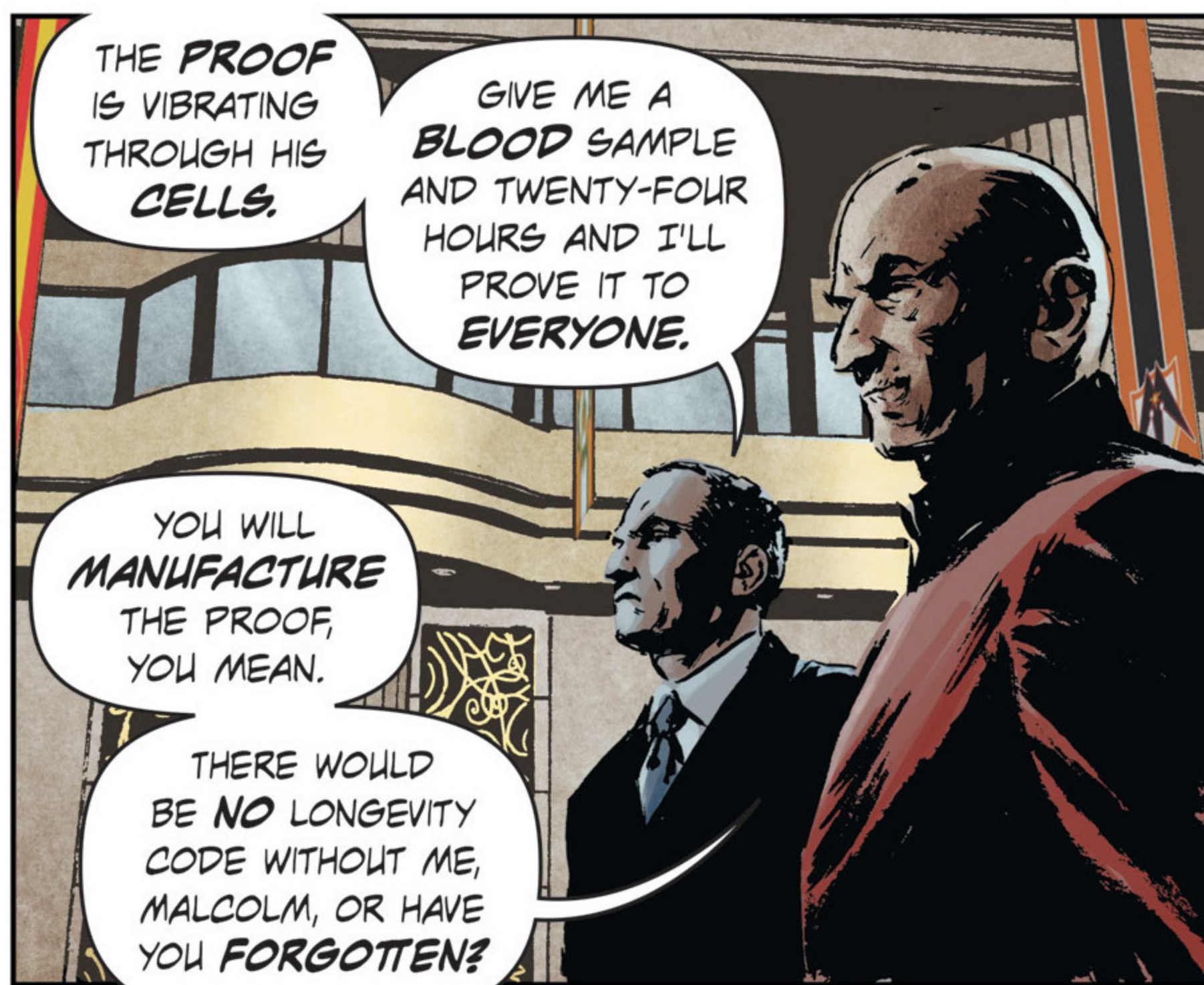






MALCOLM,  
INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE  
IS ONE OF OUR **GRAVEST**  
CRIMES AS DEFINED  
BY THE ACCORDS.

THE THEFT  
OF A FAMILY'S  
SOURCE OF **WEALTH**,  
IF SUBSTANTIATED,  
IS GROUNDS  
FOR **WAR**.



THE **PROOF**  
IS VIBRATING  
THROUGH HIS  
**CELLS**.

GIVE ME A  
**BLOOD** SAMPLE  
AND TWENTY-FOUR  
HOURS AND I'LL  
PROVE IT TO  
**EVERYONE**.

YOU WILL  
**MANUFACTURE**  
THE PROOF,  
YOU MEAN.

THERE WOULD  
BE **NO** LONGEVITY  
CODE WITHOUT ME,  
MALCOLM, OR HAVE  
YOU **FORGOTTEN?**



WITNESS  
HIS **ARROGANCE!** HE  
REFUSES TO ACKNOWLEDGE  
THAT **MY** WORK COULD  
HAVE REPLICATED  
HIS OWN.

ANY TEST  
WOULD BE  
**INCONCLUSIVE...**



...SO I  
WOULD OFFER  
**ANOTHER** MEANS  
OF RESOLVING  
THIS MATTER.



THE MACAU  
ACCORDS  
ALLOW IT.

**YOUR**  
CHAMPION  
AGAINST  
MY OWN.

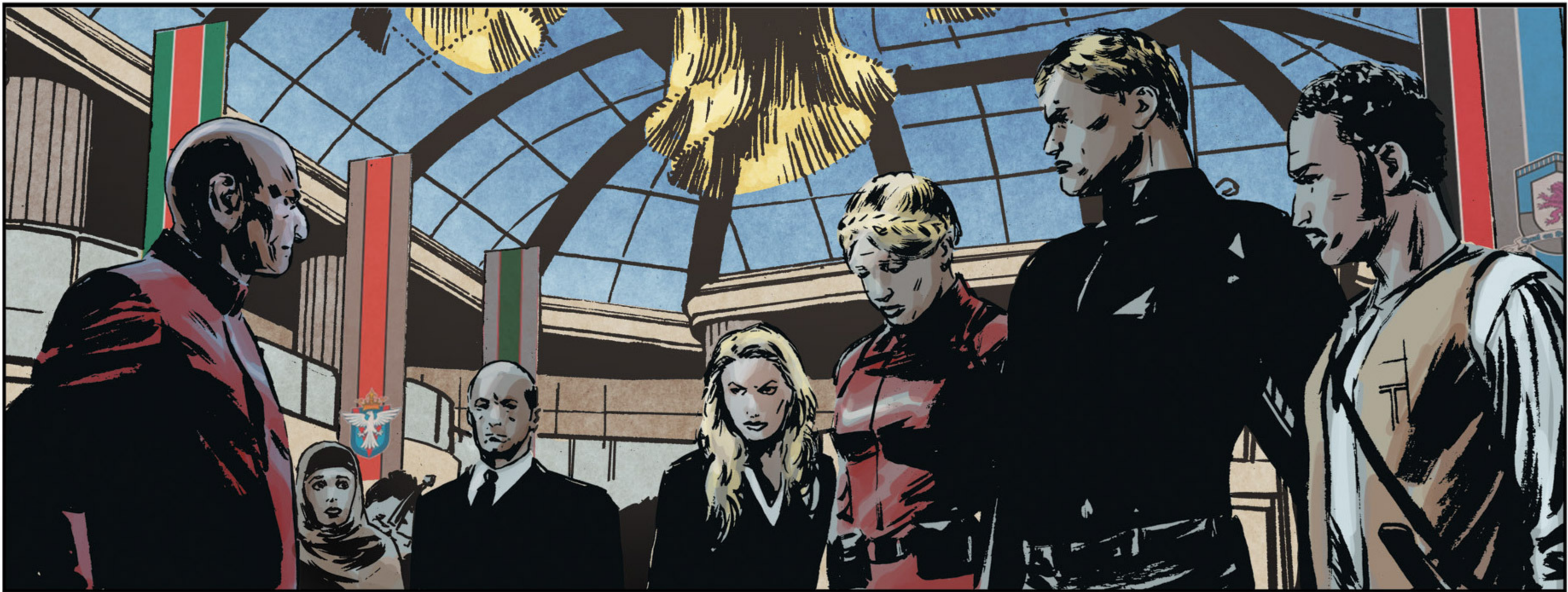
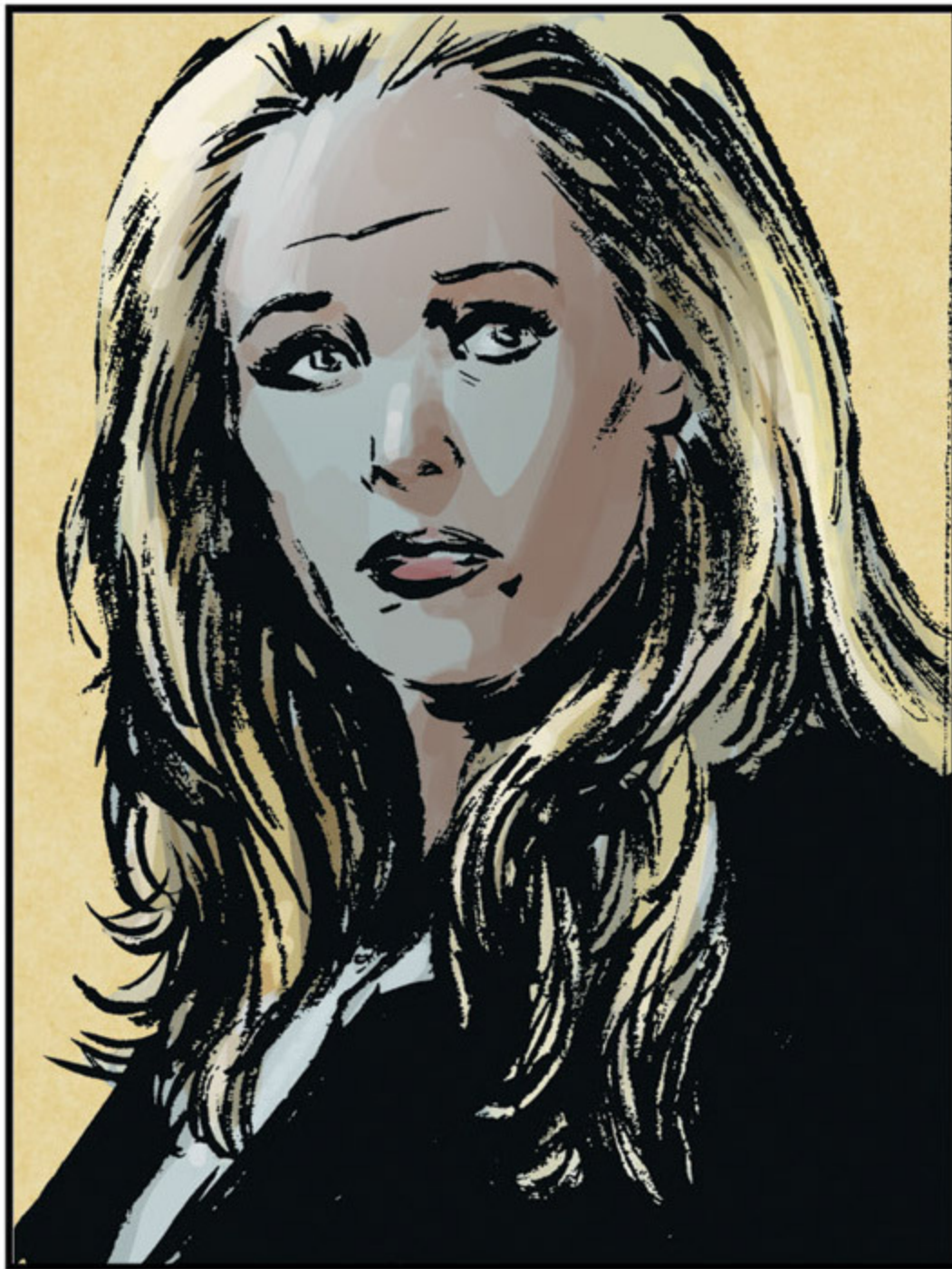


YOU  
HAVE **NO**  
LAZARUS.

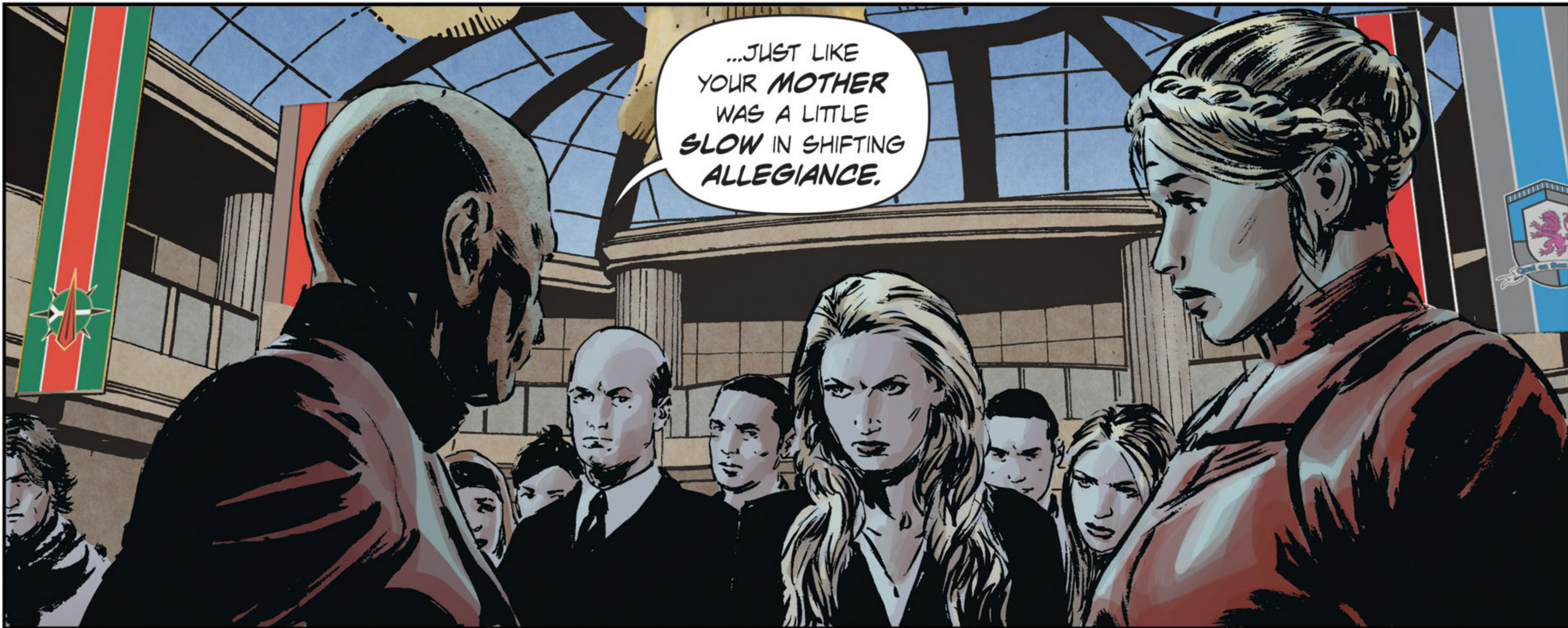


TRUE.  
BUT  
I HAVE  
**ALLIES**.

















OWEN FREEMAN

# CONCLAVE

CHAPTER FIVE





HERE FOLLOW THE CHARGES:

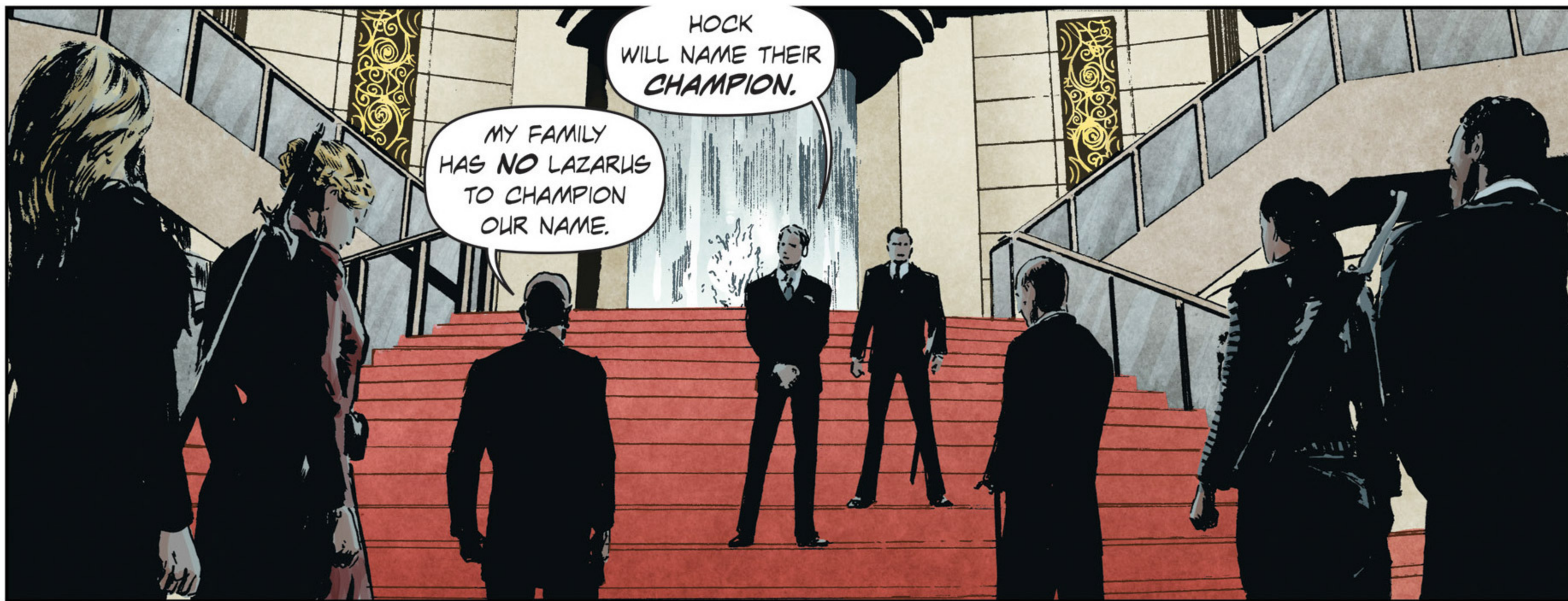


THAT HOCK DID ENGAGE IN **INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE**.

THAT HOCK DID **STEAL** TECHNOLOGY PROPRIETARY TO CARLYLE.

THAT HOCK THEN DID **MURDER** JONAH CARLYLE IN AN ATTEMPT TO CONCEAL THEIR CRIME.

TO DEFEND THEIR NAME, HOCK HAS DEMANDED **TRIAL BY COMBAT**.



HOCK WILL NAME THEIR **CHAMPION**.

MY FAMILY HAS **NO LAZARUS** TO CHAMPION OUR NAME.



OUR **CLOSEST** ALLY HAS EVER BEEN THE FAMILY **BITNER**.

THEIR LAZARUS, SONJA BITNER, WILL FIGHT FOR HOCK'S **NAME...**

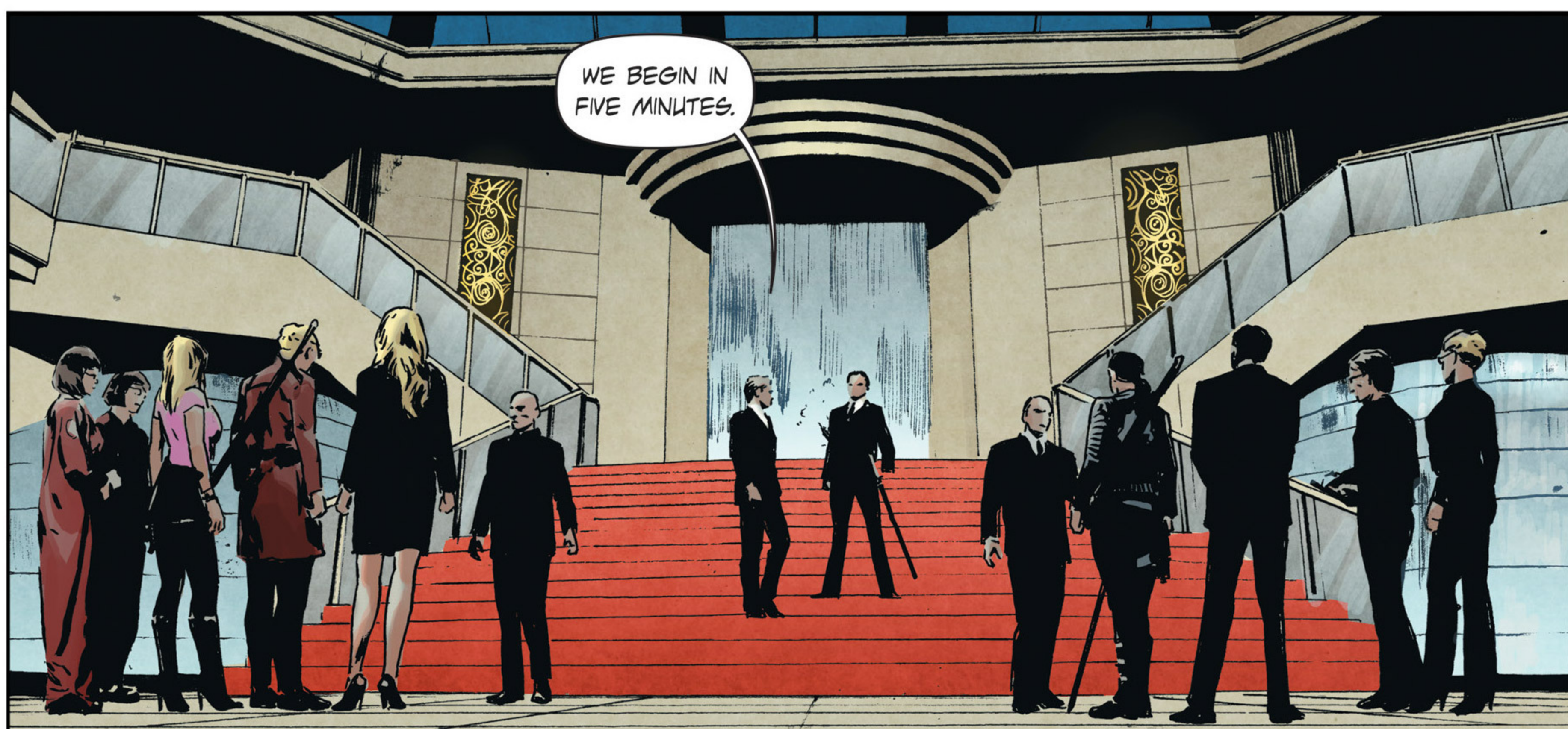


...AND IN THE **DEFEAT** OF CARLYLE'S CHAMPION, WILL PROVE OUR **INNOCENCE**.

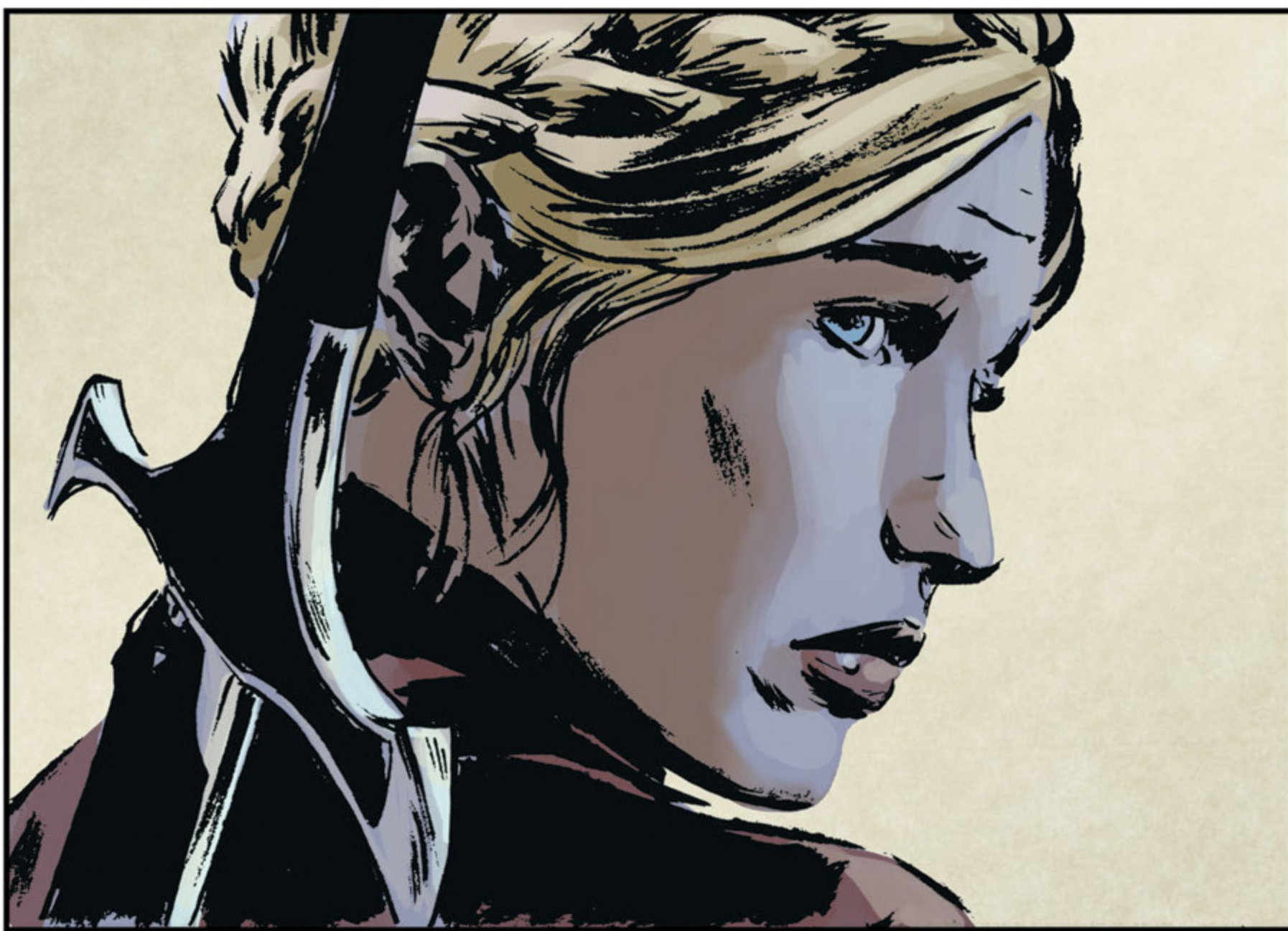
CARLYLE ANSWERS THIS **CHALLENGE**.

OUR DAUGHTER, FOREVER, STANDS IN OUR NAME.

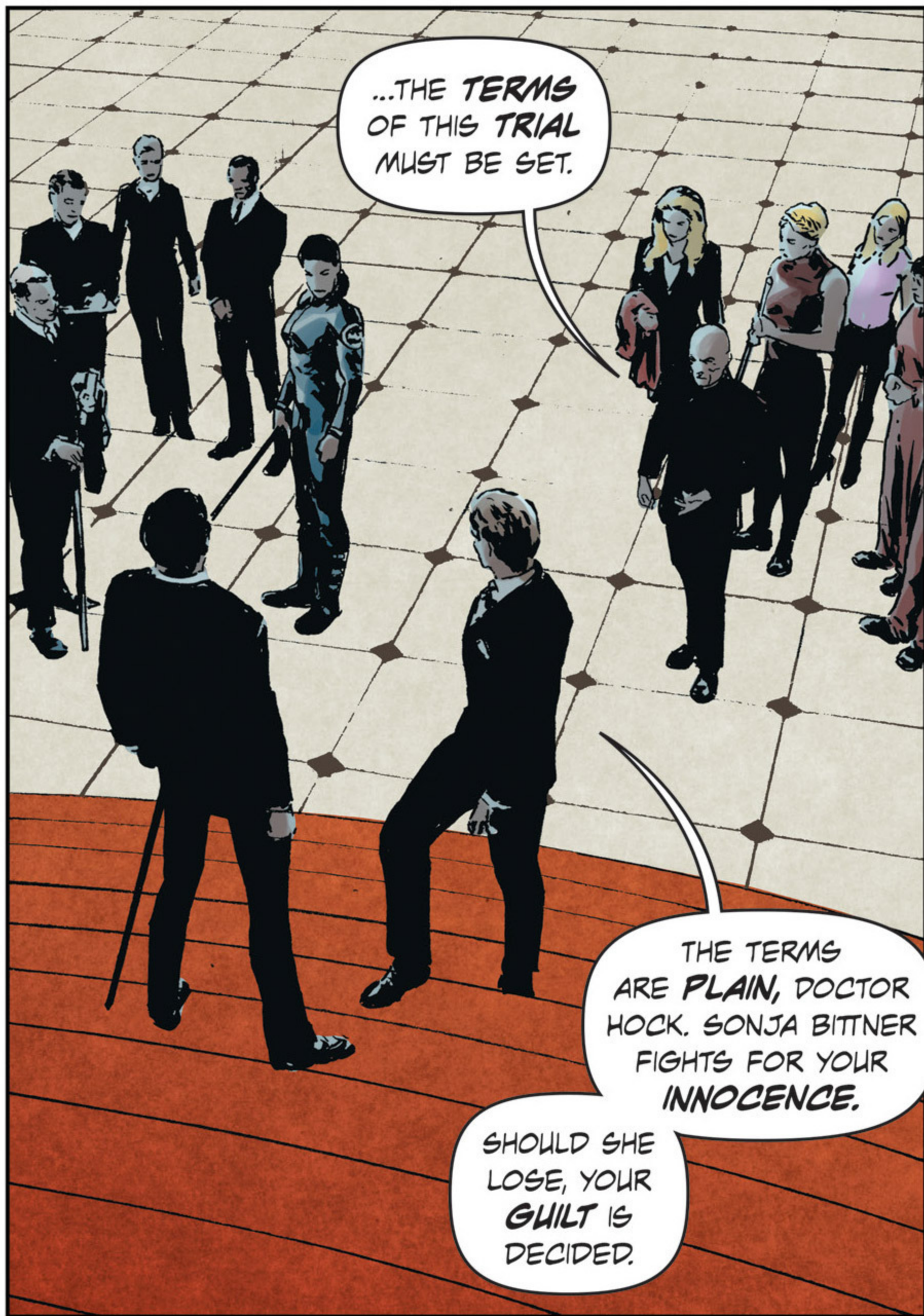








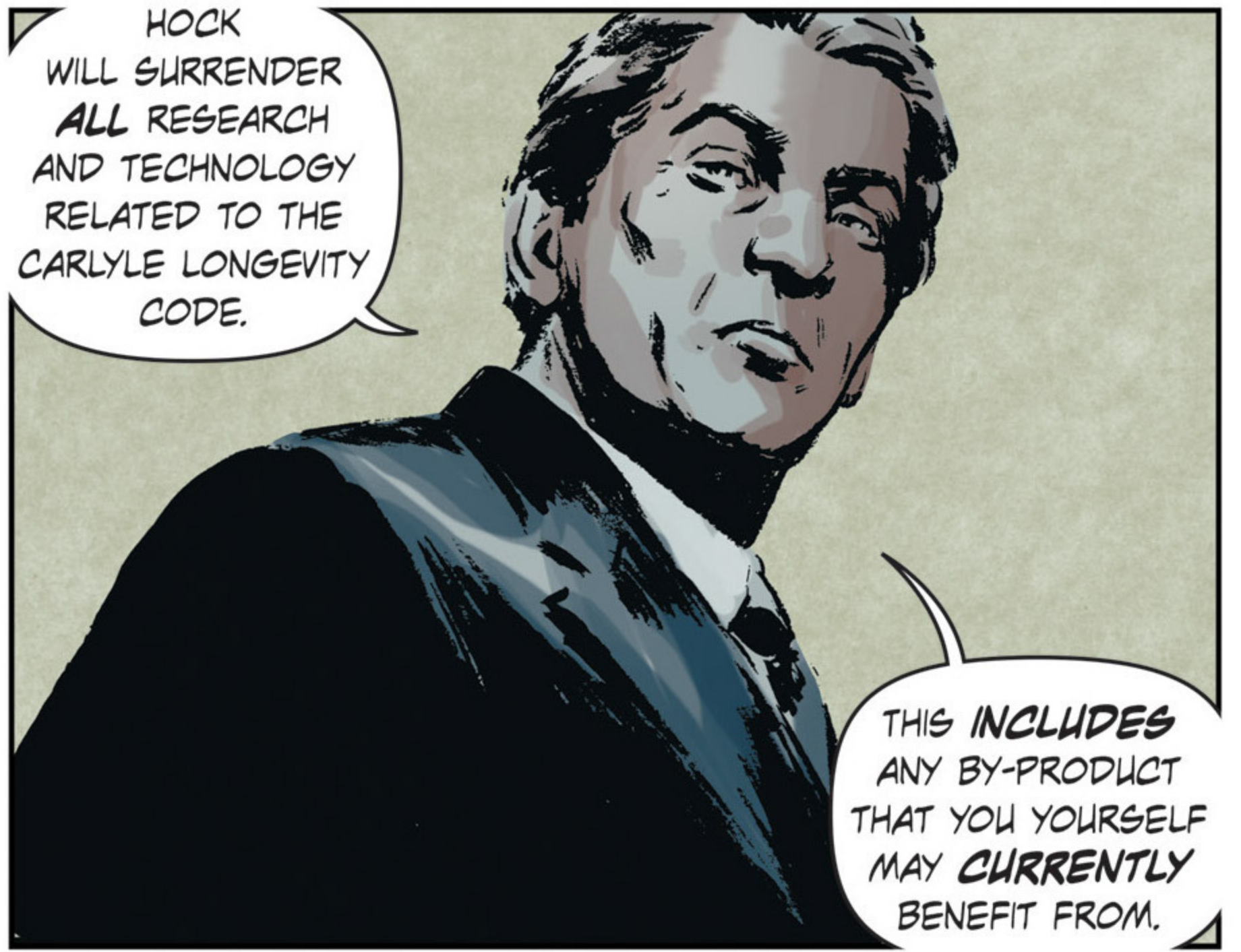




...THE **TERMS**  
OF THIS **TRIAL**  
MUST BE SET.

THE **TERMS**  
ARE **PLAIN**, DOCTOR  
HOCK. SONJA BITTNER  
FIGHTS FOR YOUR  
**INNOCENCE**.

SHOULD SHE  
LOSE, YOUR  
**GUILT** IS  
DECIDED.



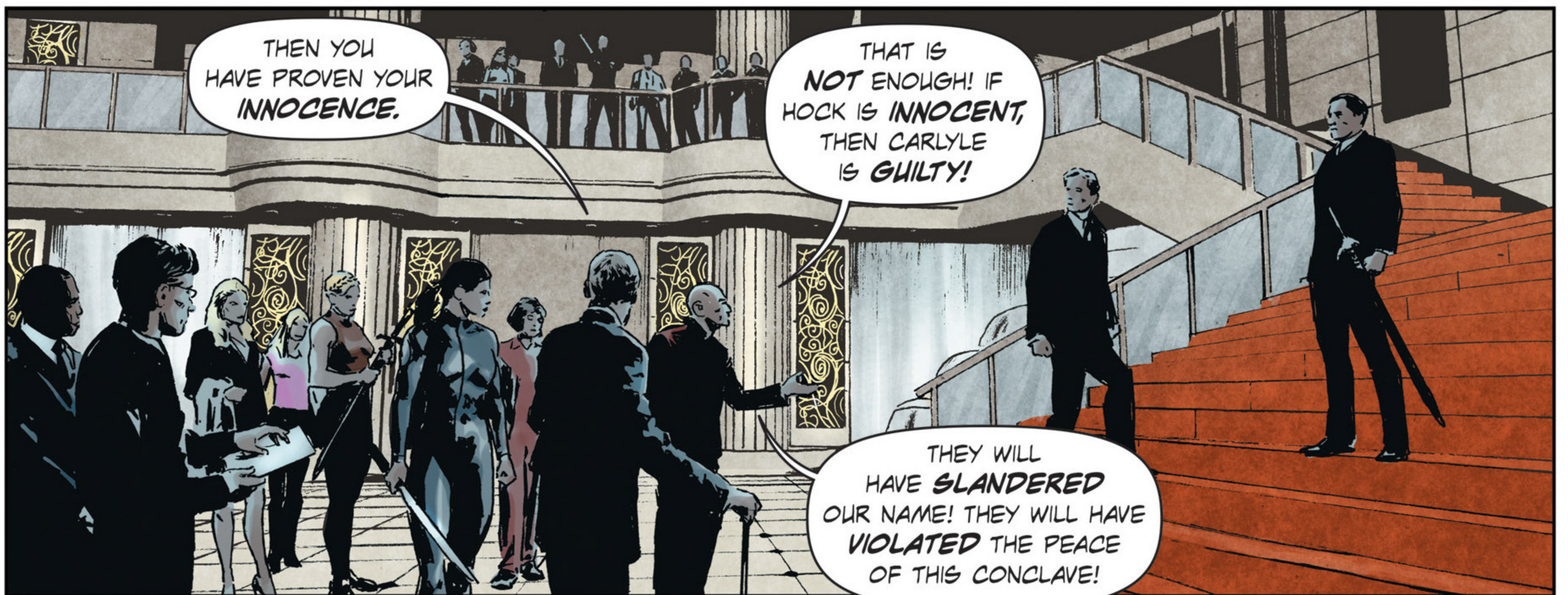
HOCK  
WILL SURRENDER  
**ALL** RESEARCH  
AND TECHNOLOGY  
RELATED TO THE  
CARLYLE LONGEVITY  
CODE.

THIS **INCLUDES**  
ANY BY-PRODUCT  
THAT YOU YOURSELF  
MAY **CURRENTLY**  
BENEFIT FROM.



THAT IS  
**UNDERSTOOD**.

BUT WHAT  
IF WE **WIN**?



THEN YOU  
HAVE PROVEN YOUR  
**INNOCENCE**.

THAT IS  
**NOT** ENOUGH! IF  
HOCK IS **INNOCENT**,  
THEN CARLYLE  
IS **GUILTY**!

THEY WILL  
HAVE **SLANDERED**  
OUR NAME! THEY WILL HAVE  
**VIOLATED** THE PEACE  
OF THIS CONCLAVE!



IN VICTORY,  
WHAT WOULD HOCK  
**DEMAND**?



**HER**.





TO THE  
VICTOR, THE  
SPOILS.

YOUR  
DAUGHTER WILL  
BECOME OURS. IN  
DEATH, WE CLAIM  
HER BODY...



...IF ALIVE,  
WE CLAIM HER  
SERVICE.



THE DEMAND  
IS **ABSURD**, YOUR  
HIGHNESS.

ABSURD IT  
MAY BE, MALCOLM,  
BUT HE HAS A  
POINT.

BY THE TERMS  
OF THE TRIAL,  
**EACH** OF YOU  
FIGHTS FOR YOUR  
**INNOCENCE**. GUILT  
LAYS WITH THE  
**DEFEATED**.



THE TERMS  
ARE SET.

LET THE  
TRIAL BEGIN.



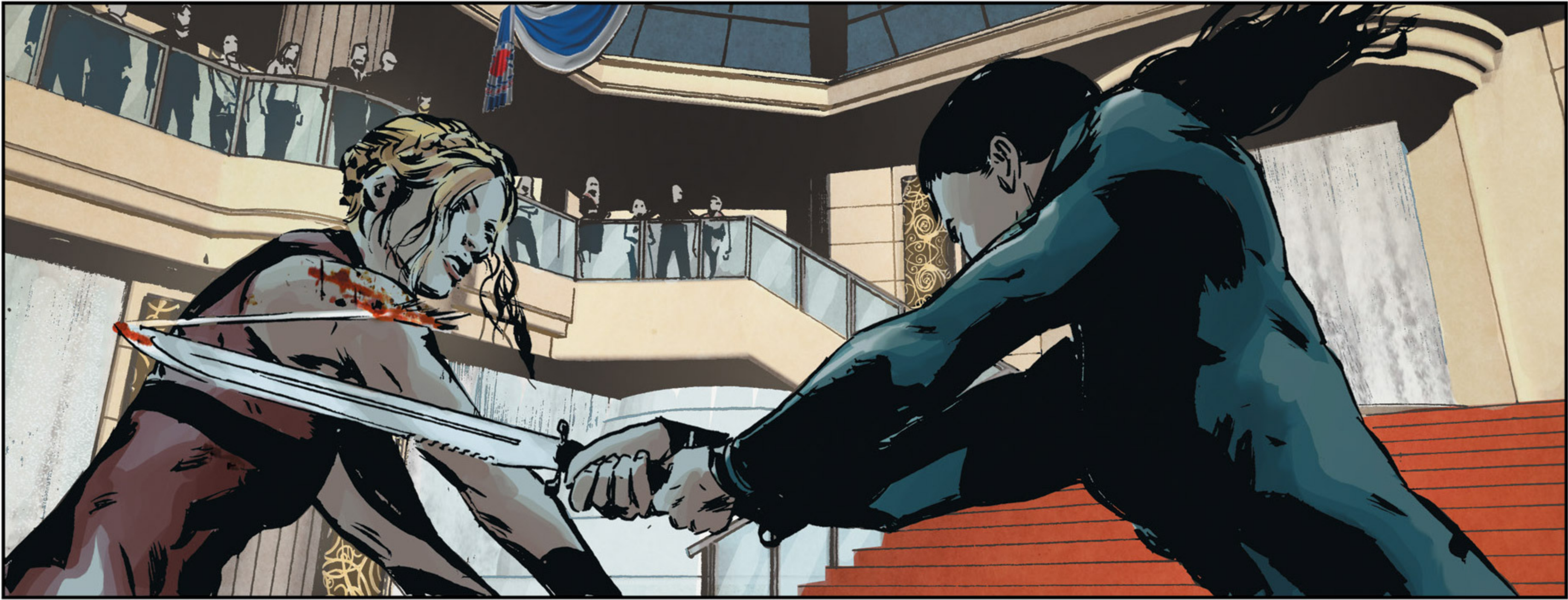
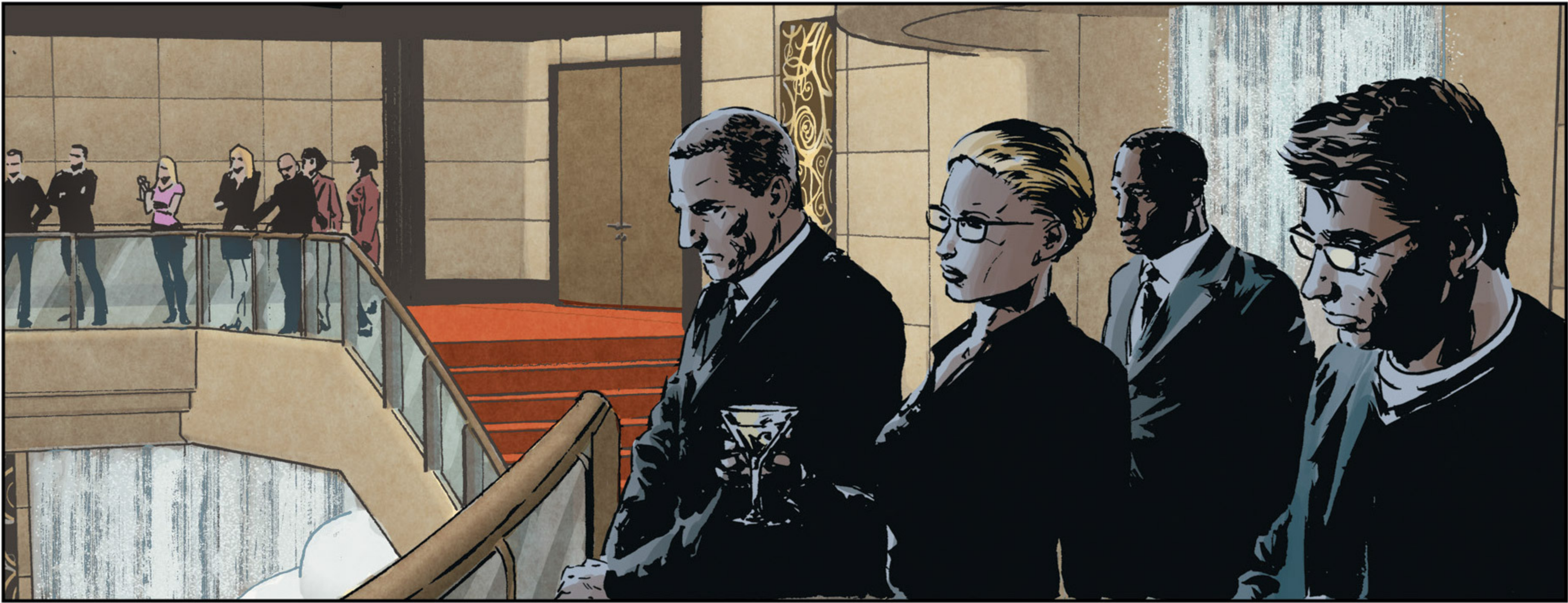
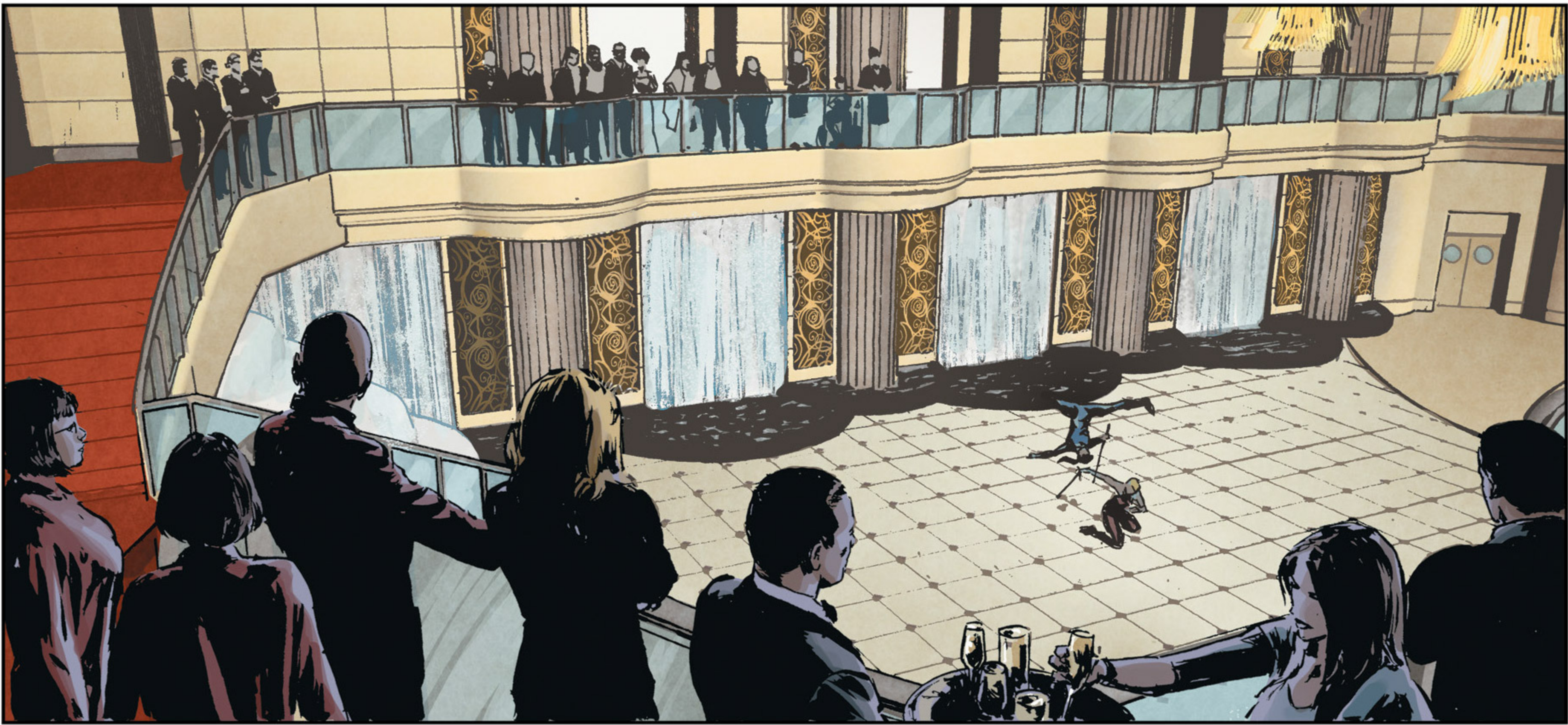




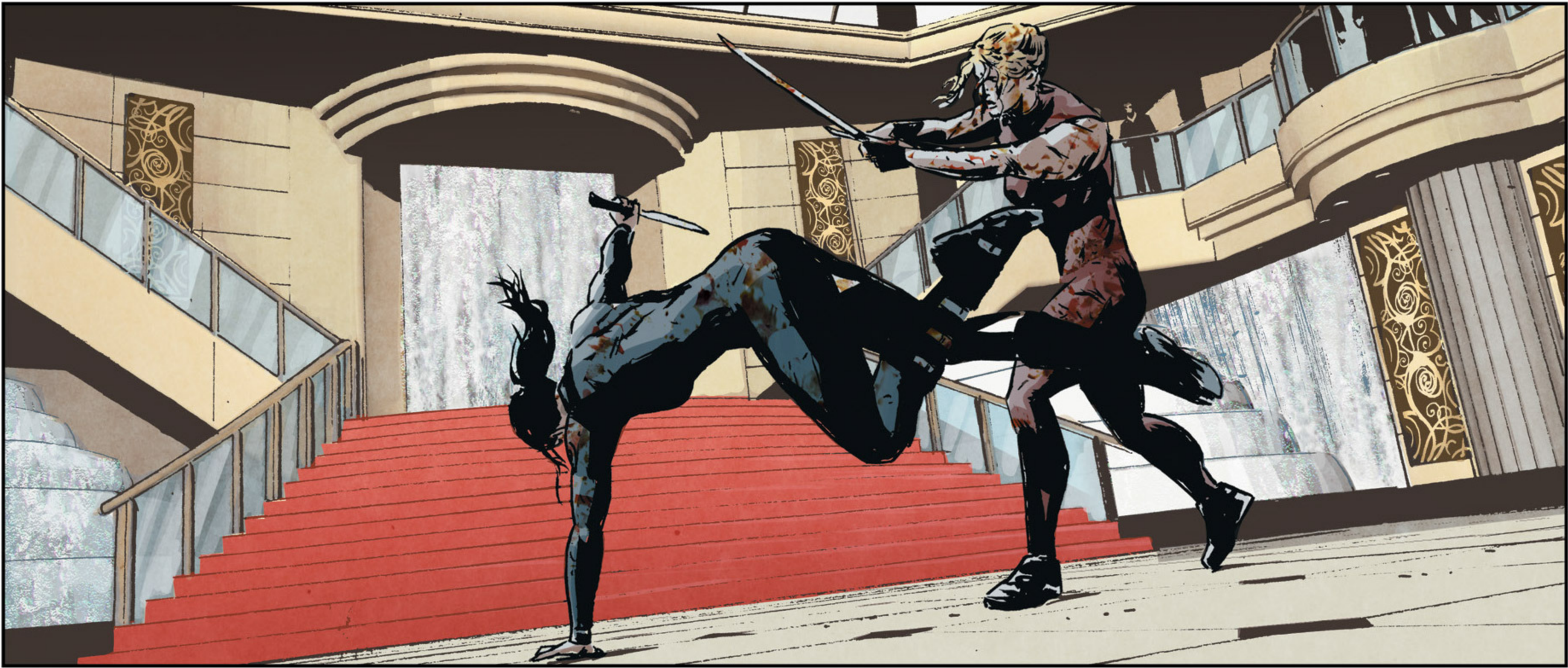




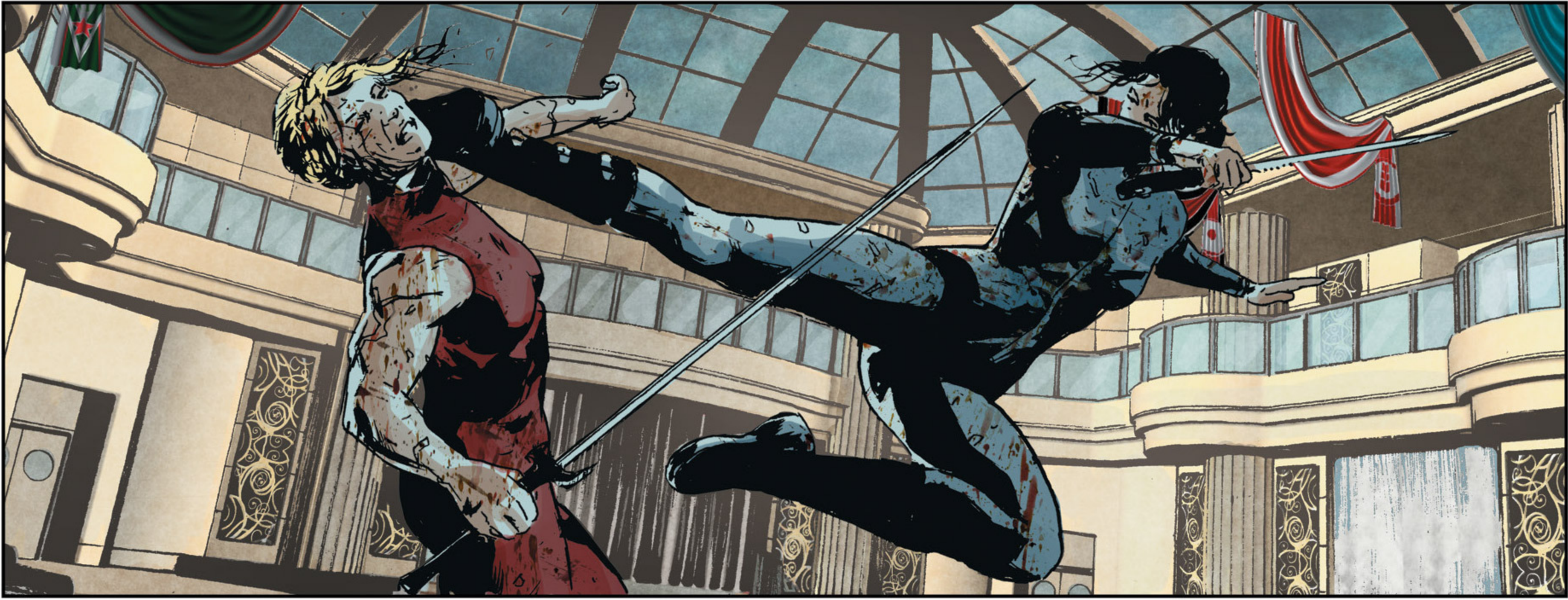








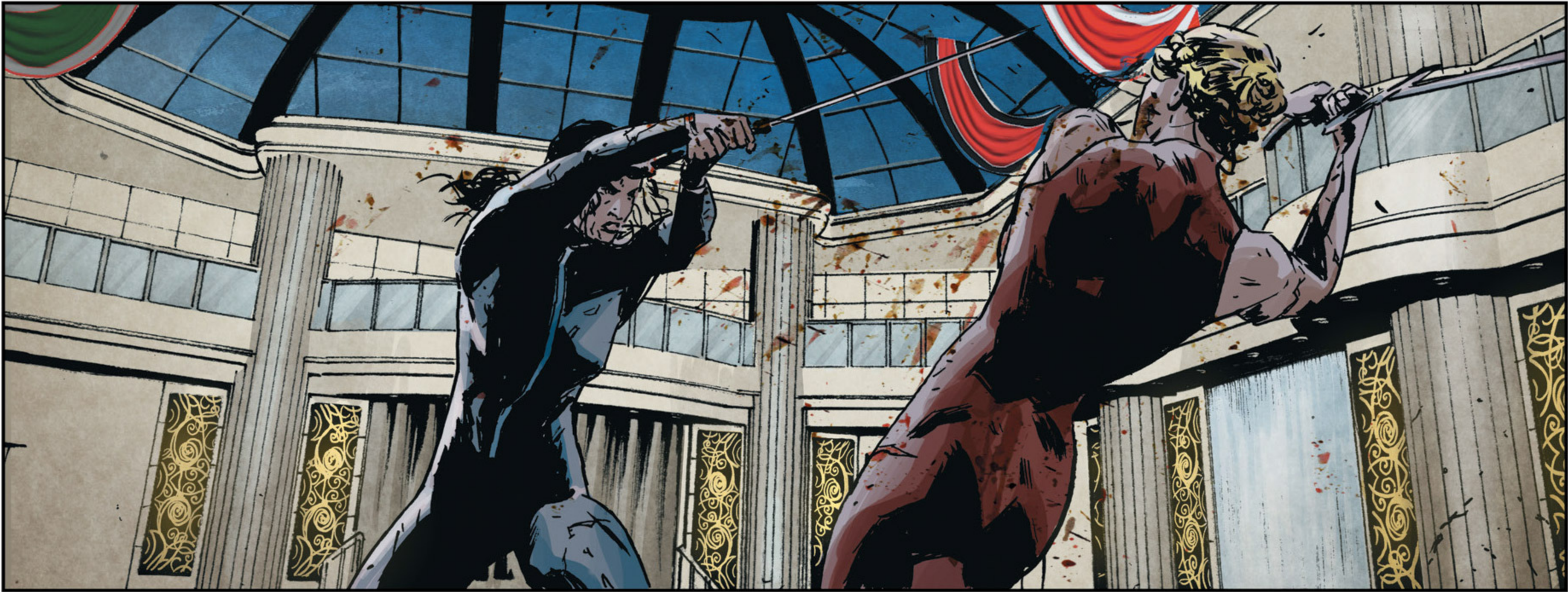
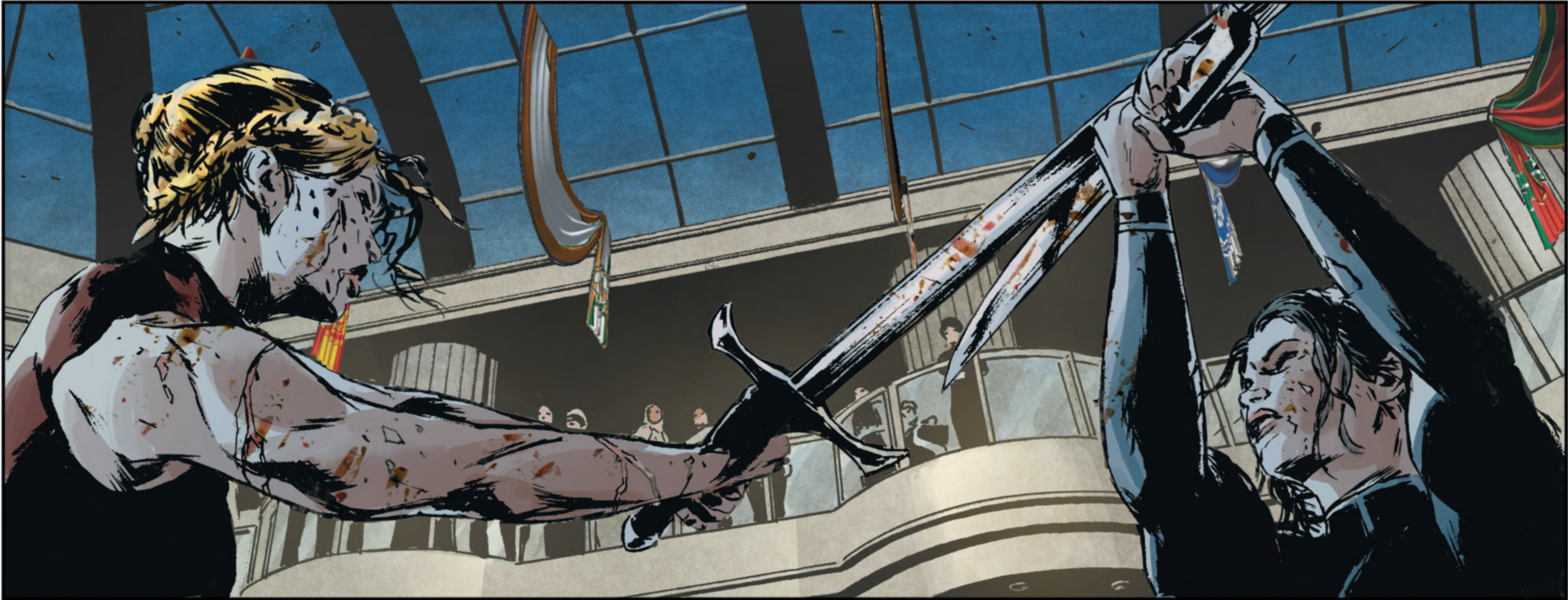












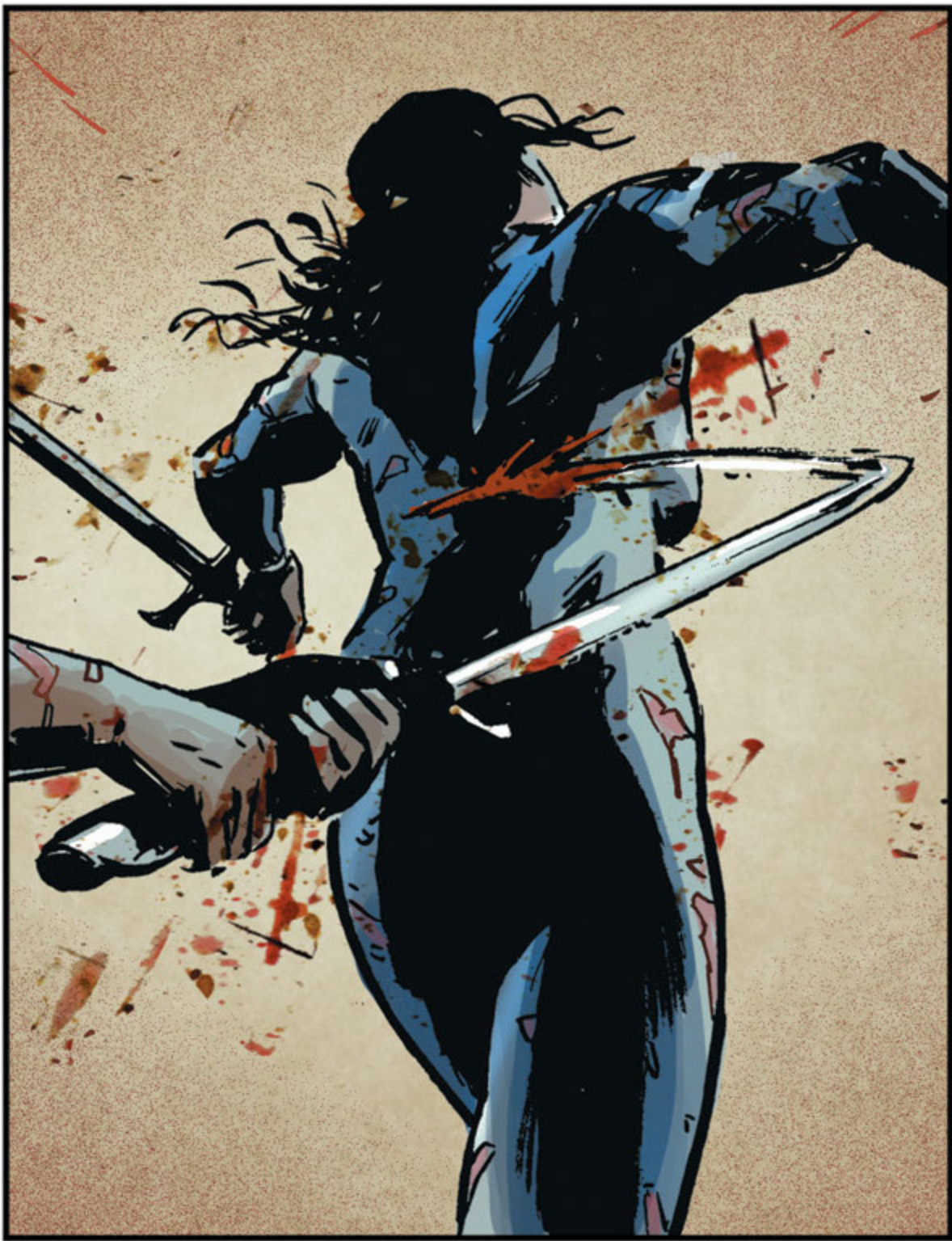
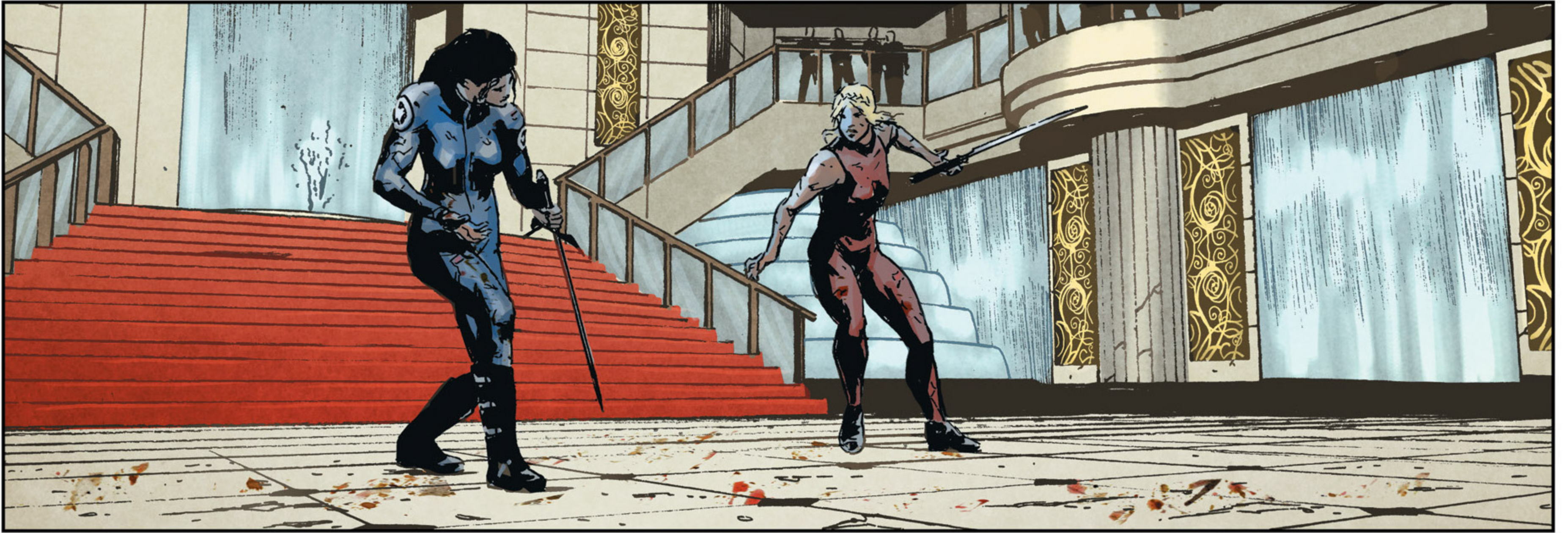




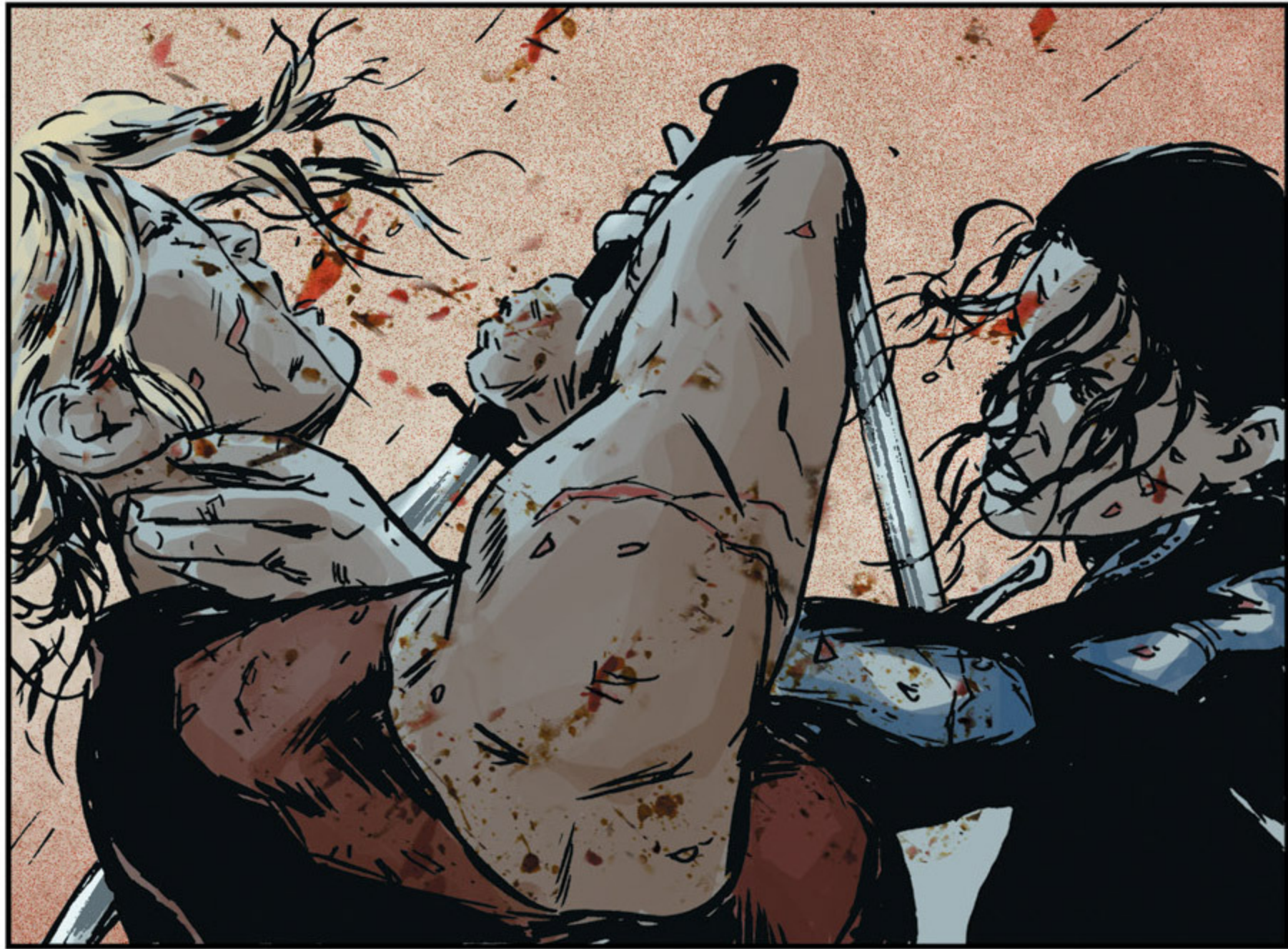




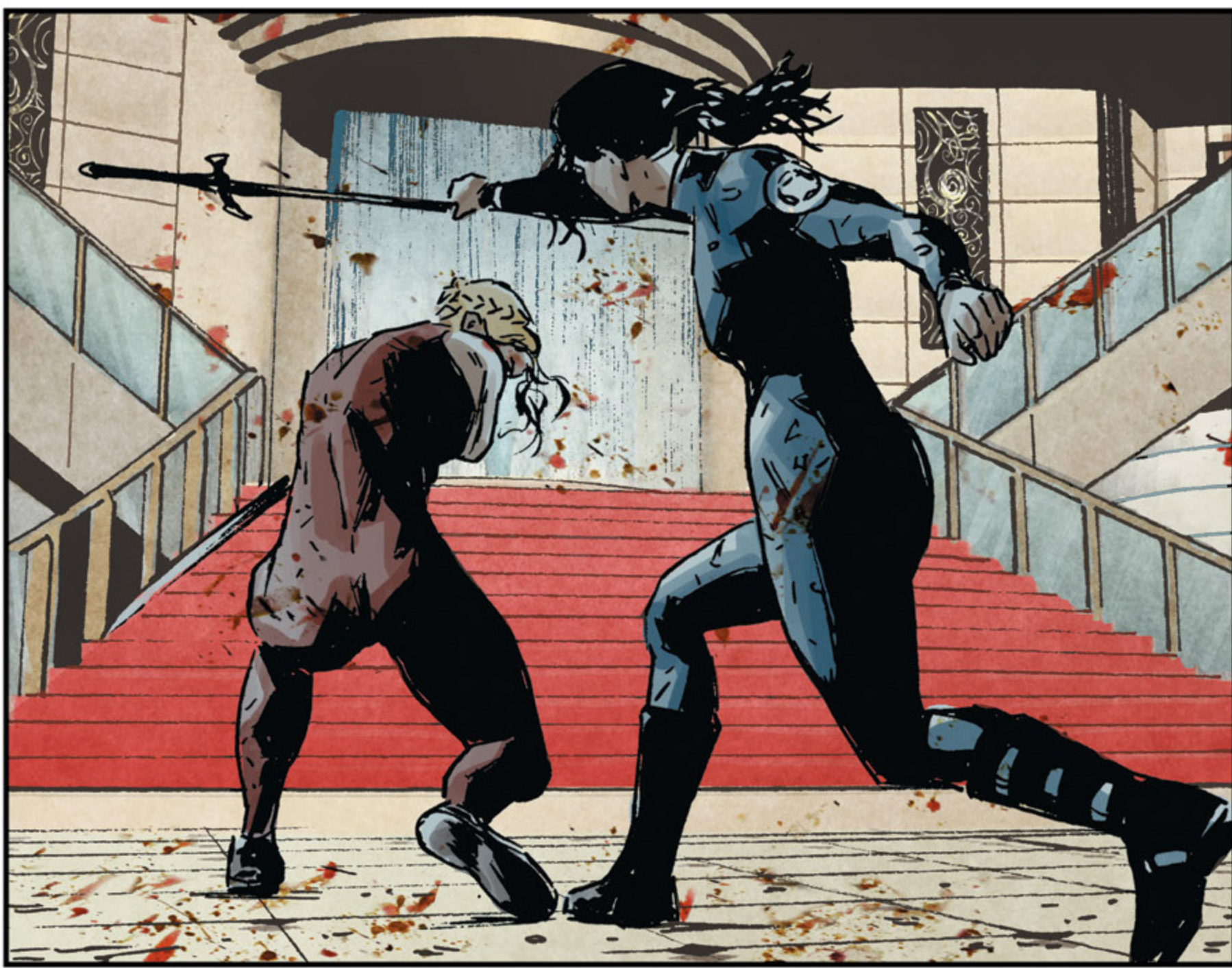
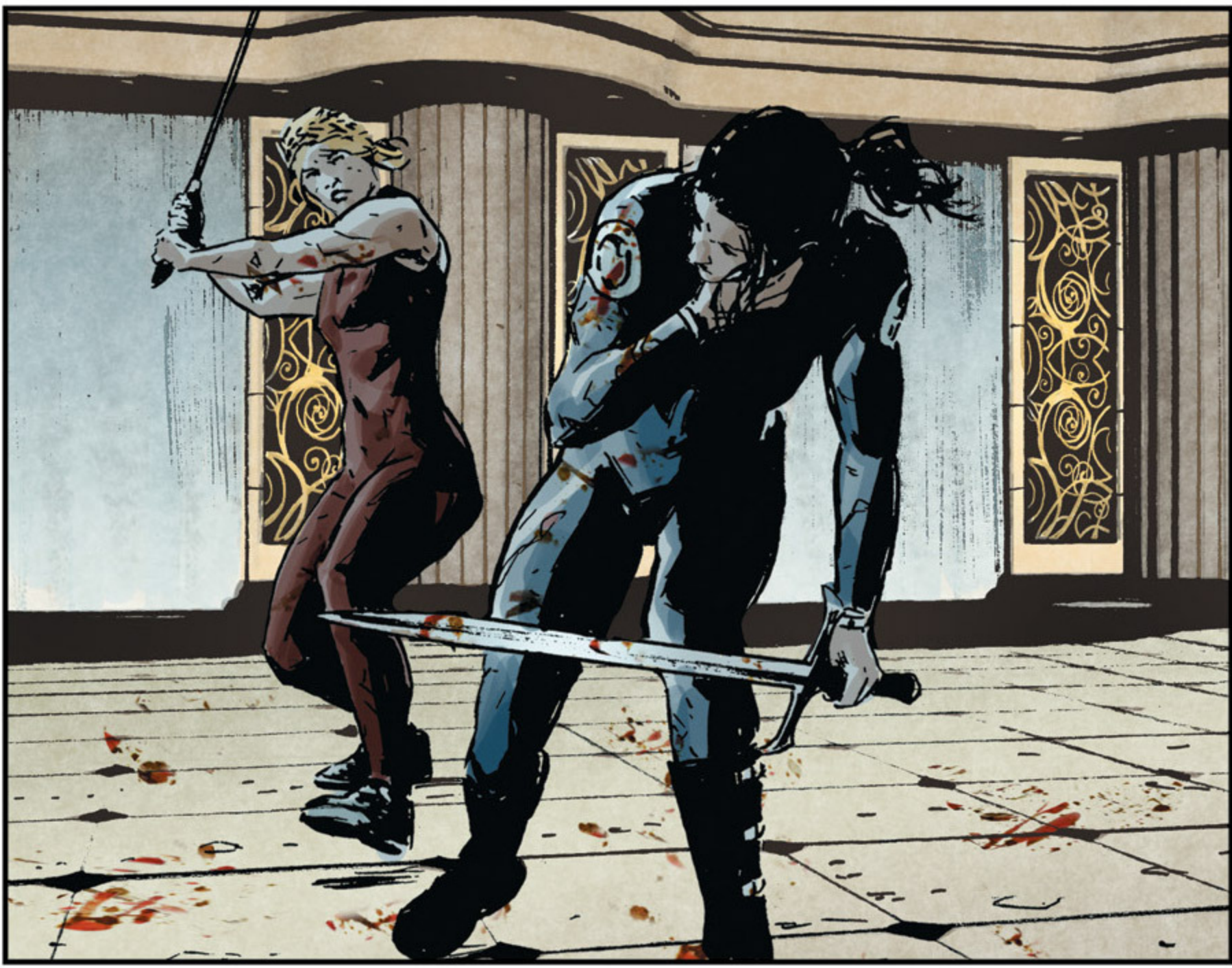








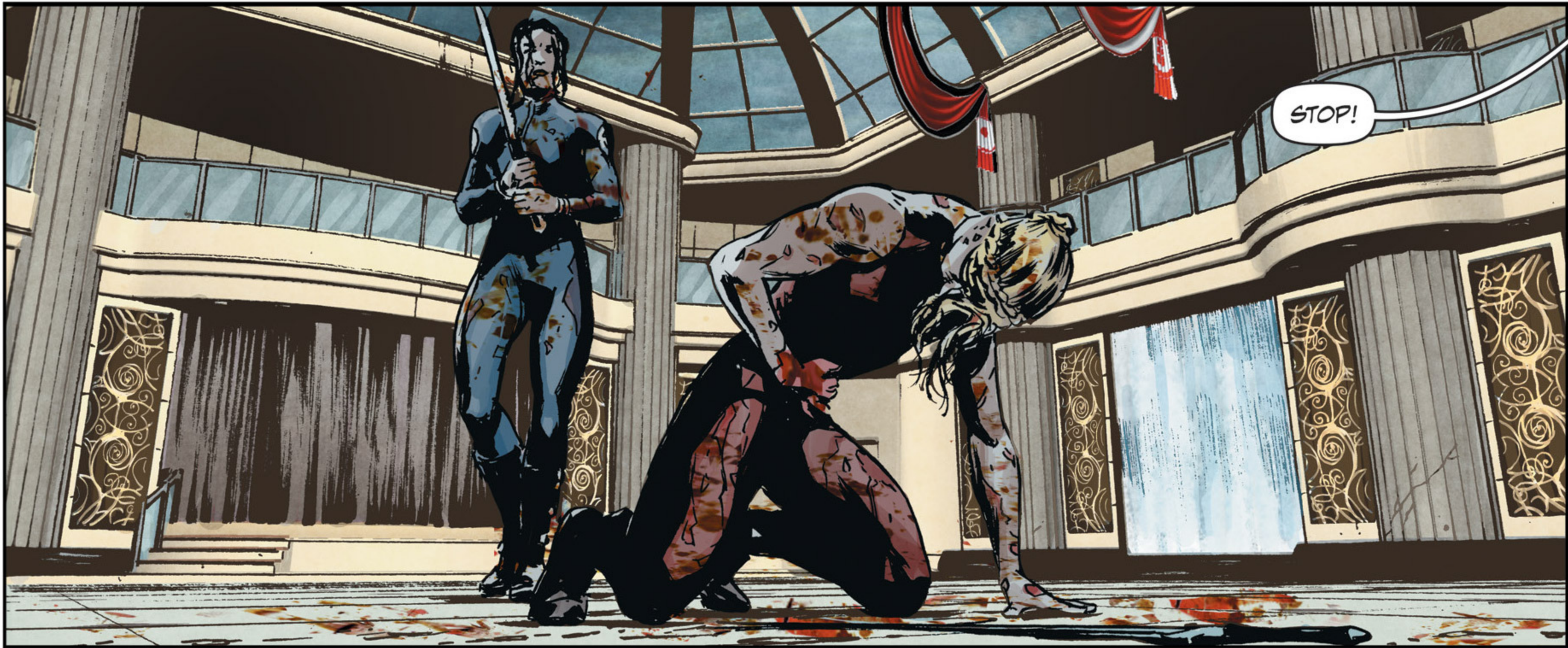
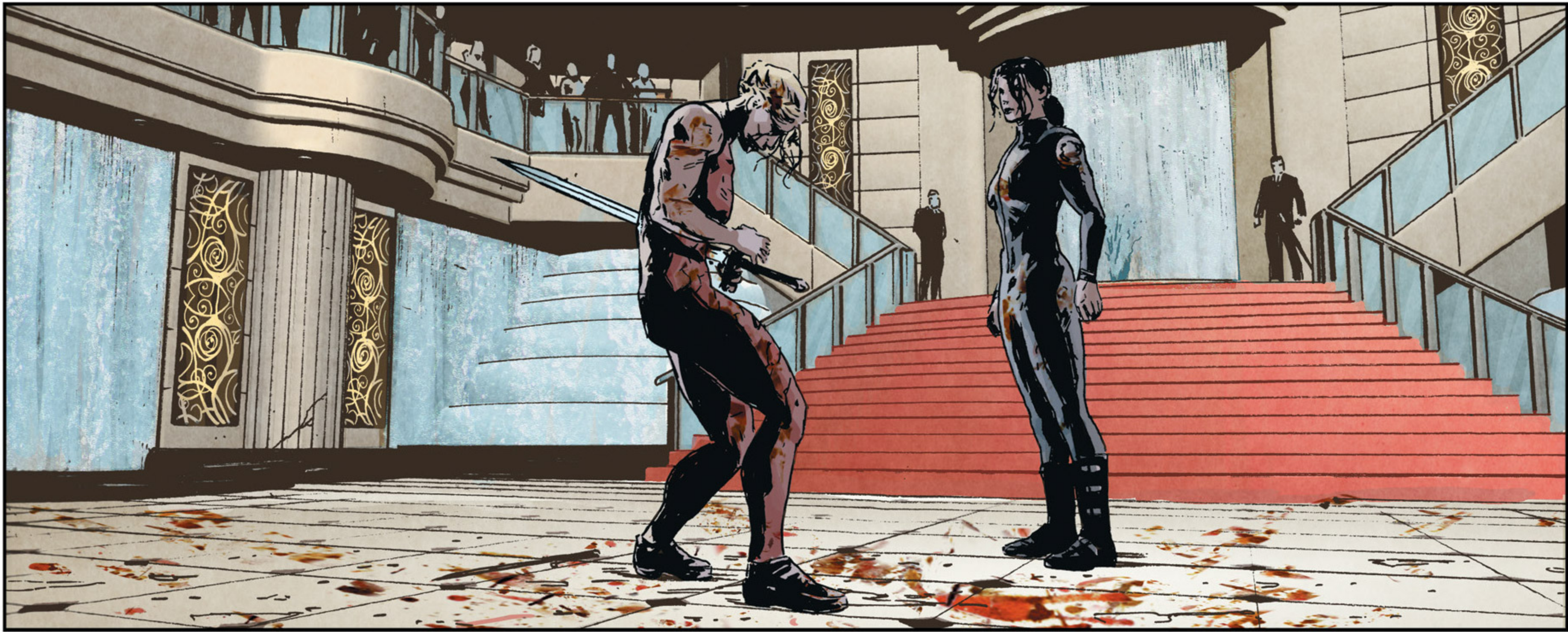








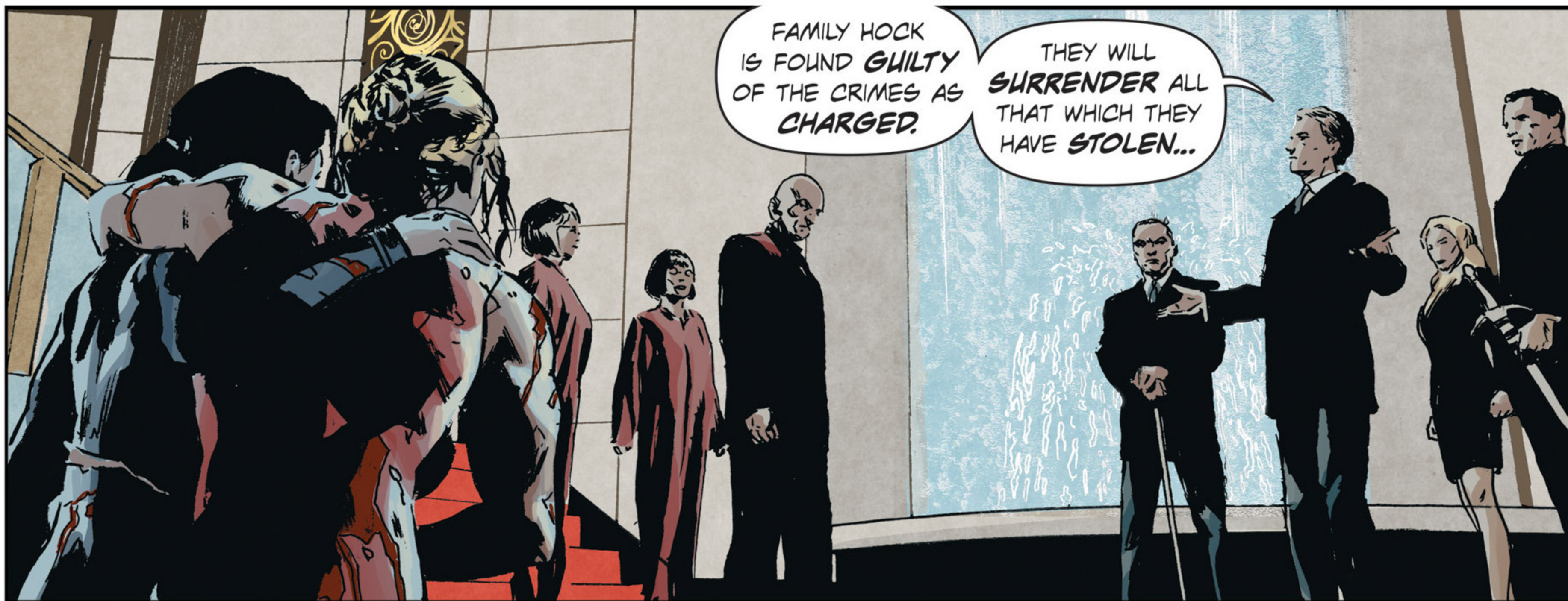
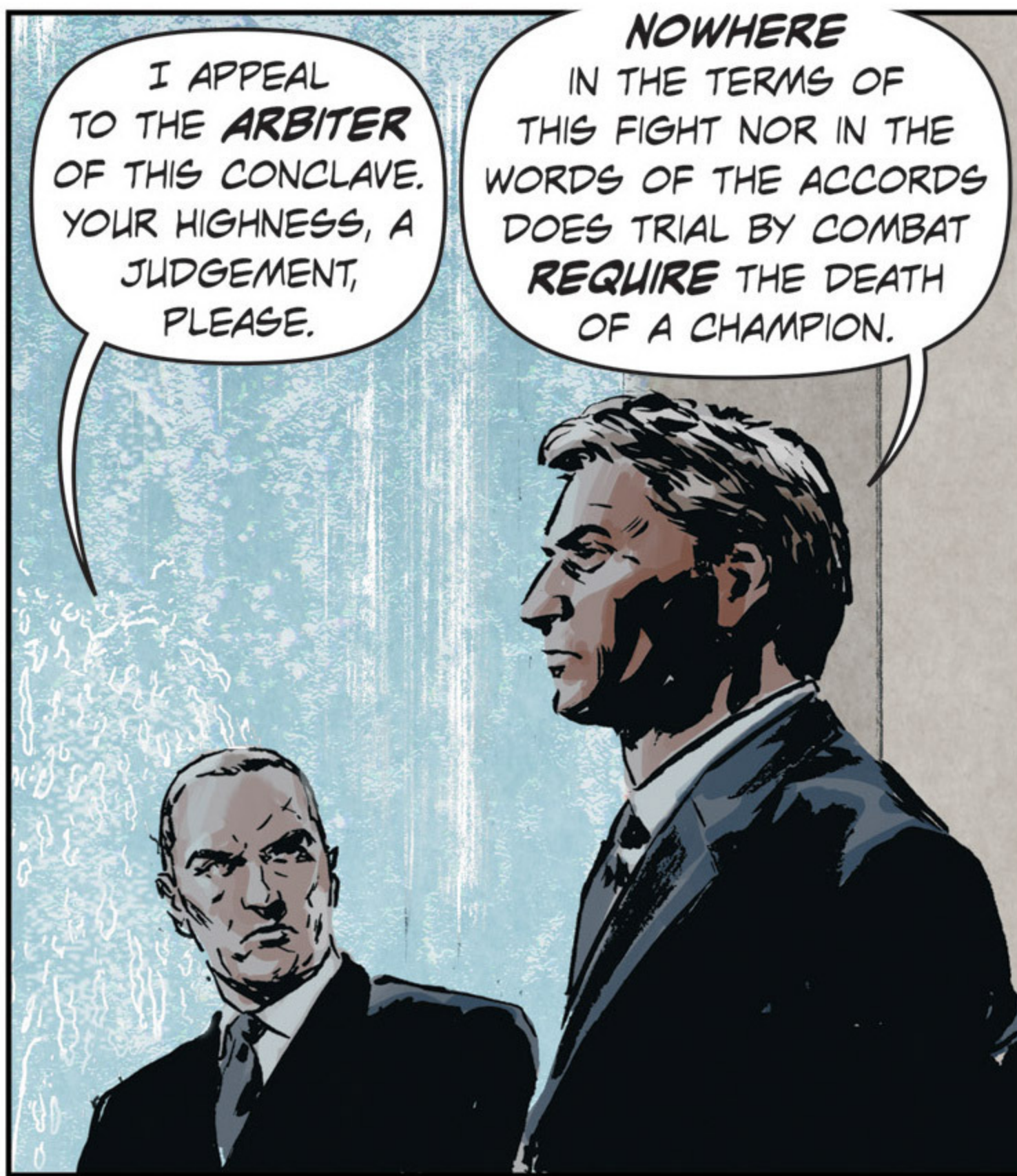
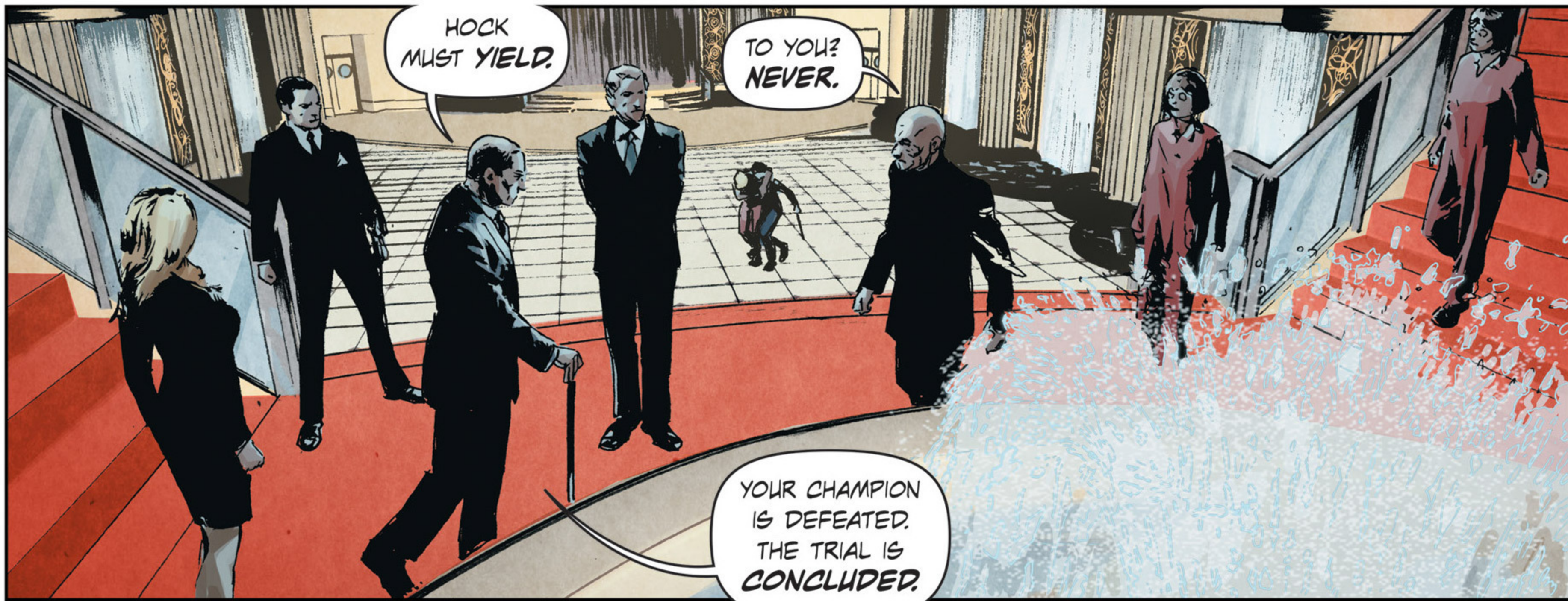




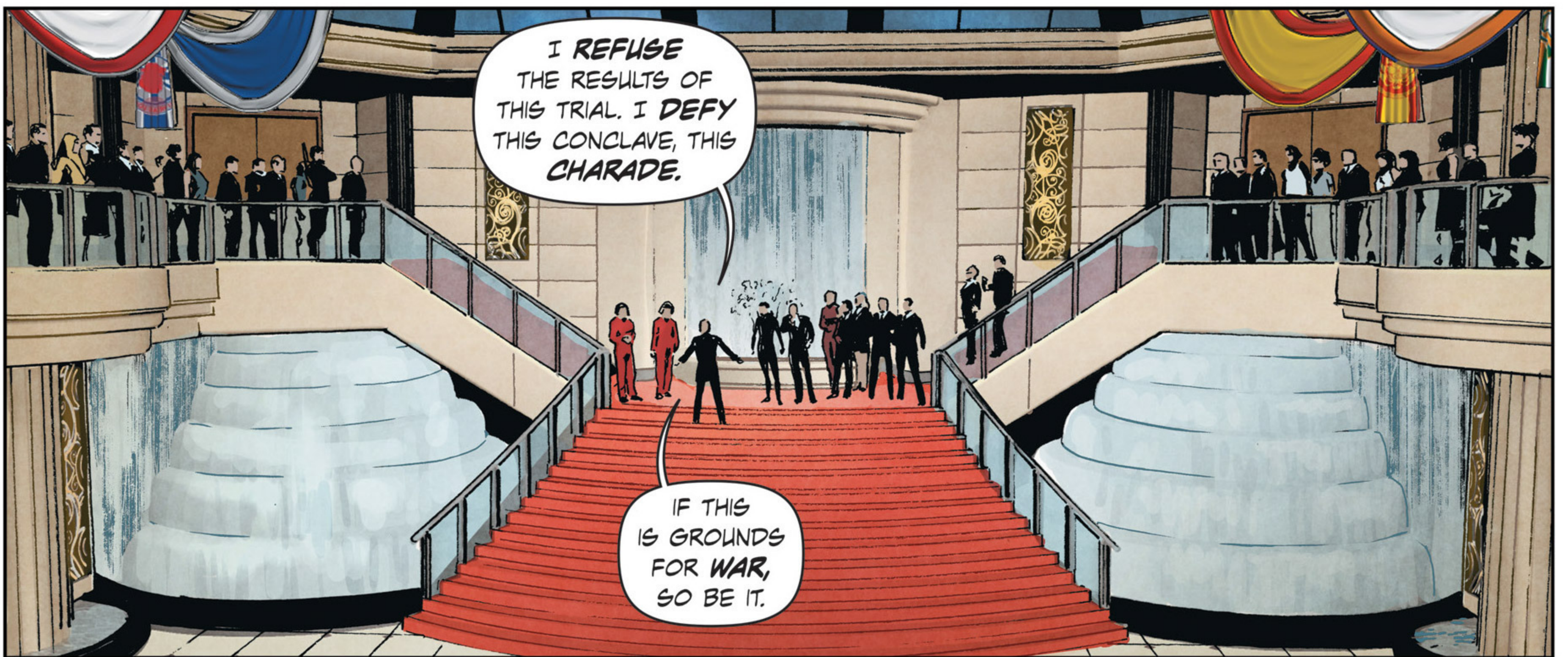














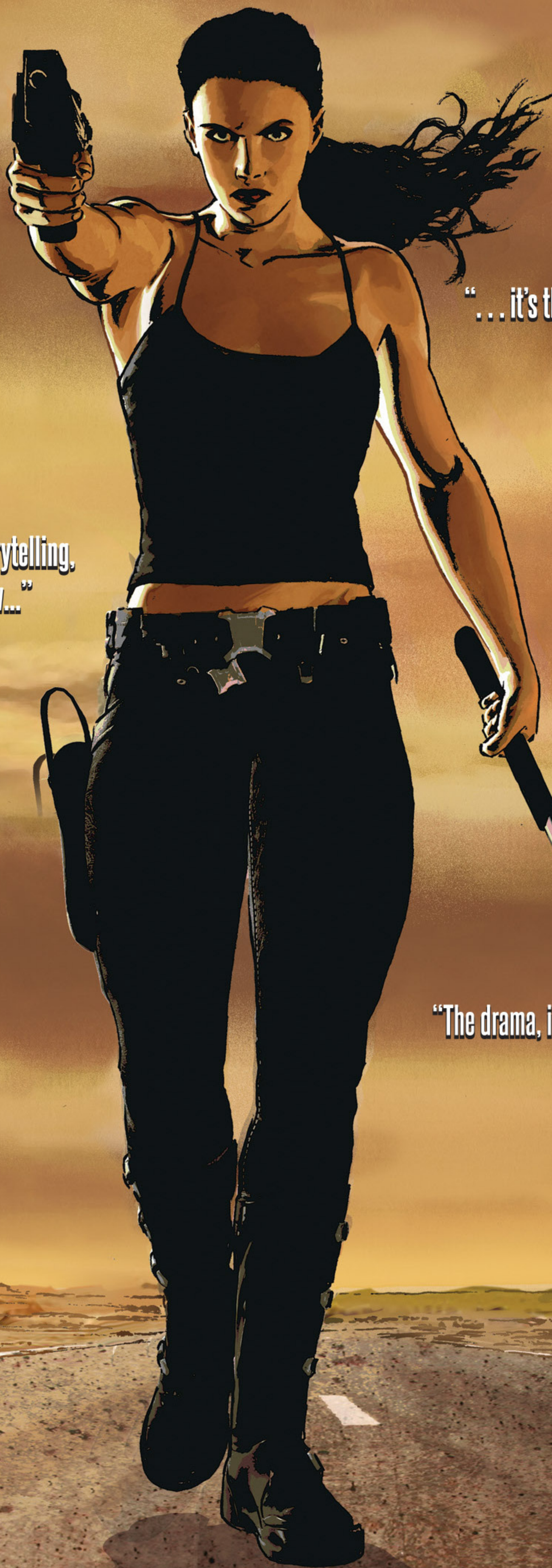








FOR FOREVER CARLYLE, THERE IS ONLY ONE LAW:



“...a model of clean, clear, engaging storytelling,  
about a frighteningly plausible tomorrow...”  
— *Newsarama*

“... it’s the kind of book that reminds fans just what great  
comics are capable of.”  
— *Comic Book Resources*

“The drama, intrigue and action that flows through LAZARUS is  
the best stuff going on in comics today.”  
— *Unleash The Fanboy*

FAMILY ABOVE ALL.



**THE WORLD** now lies divided not amongst political or geographic boundaries but amongst *financial* ones. Wealth is power, and that power rests with only a handful of **FAMILIES**.

As alliances fray and allegiances are tested, these rulers of the world have gathered once more. A **CONCLAVE** has been called, bringing together the leaders, their advisors, and most perilously, their **LAZARI**—the superhuman champions bound to the Families that created them—in one place.

While a delicate dance of formality and politics takes place, the stakes are nothing less than world domination.

Two factions have emerged:

Those who follow **Jakob Hock**, and those who follow **Malcolm Carlyle**.



**FOREVER CARLYLE** is the Lazarus of her Family.

She has been raised believing she is a Carlyle.

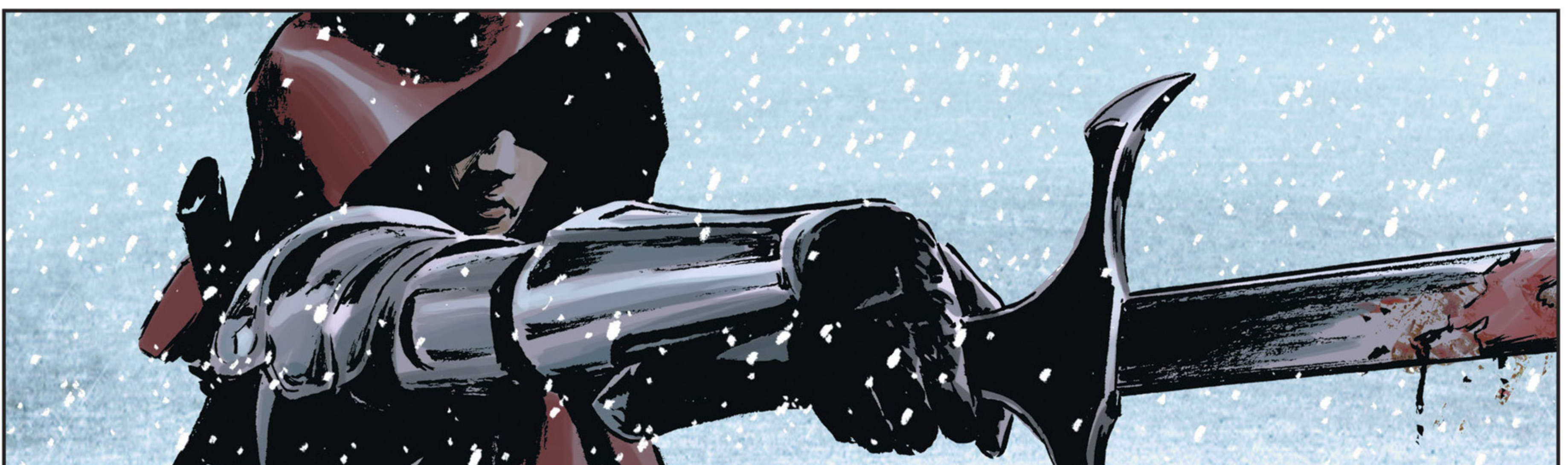
She has been raised believing Family Above All.

She has been raised to be loyal.

She has been raised to obey.

She has never had any reason to question it.

Until now.



*"The story-telling in LAZARUS is almost unparalleled..."*  
—Vanessa Gabriel, Newsarama

*"LAZARUS is layered and smart, and with every issue Rucka and Lark deepen and strengthen everything that came before..."*  
—Kelly Thompson, Comic Book Resources



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