

ANTHONY  
HOROWITZ

RAVEN'S  
GATE



THE POWER OF FIVE



THE GRAPHIC NOVEL  
TONY LEE \* LEE O'CONNOR \* DOM REARDON

ANTHONY  
HOROWITZ

THE POWER OF FIVE: BOOK ONE

RAVEN'S  
GATE

THE GRAPHIC NOVEL

*adapted by* TONY LEE

*illustrated by*  
DOM REARDON &  
LEE O'CONNOR



WALKER  
BOOKS

Before the beginning  
was the gate  
And five gatekeepers  
our children

Four boys. One girl.

it has been written

The night of everlasting  
darkness is drawing in.

The gate is about to open.

The gatekeepers must return.

IPSWICH STATION



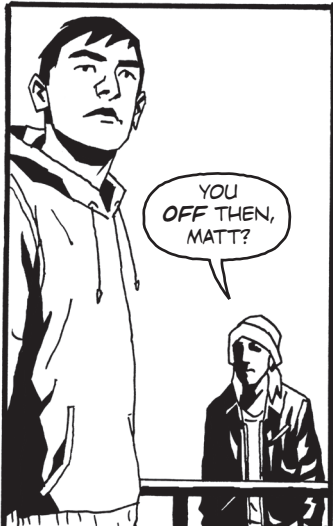
I'M MAKING A MISTAKE.



THREE POUNDS.  
NOT REALLY A FORTUNE, IS IT.



TEN PAST SIX.  
HE WAS SUPPOSED  
TO BE HERE AT  
QUARTER TO.



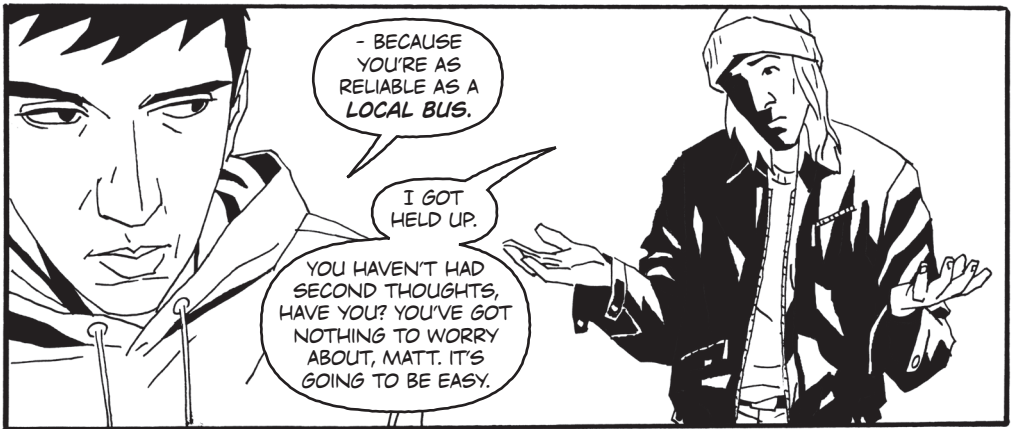
YOU  
OFF THEN,  
MATT?



I THOUGHT  
YOU WEREN'T  
COMING.

OH YES? AND  
WHY DID YOU  
THINK THAT?

BECAUSE  
YOU'RE TWENTY  
FIVE MINUTES  
LATE. BECAUSE  
I'M COLD -



- BECAUSE YOU'RE AS RELIABLE AS A LOCAL BUS.

I GOT HELD UP.

YOU HAVEN'T HAD SECOND THOUGHTS, HAVE YOU? YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, MATT. IT'S GOING TO BE EASY.



CHARLIE TOLD ME...

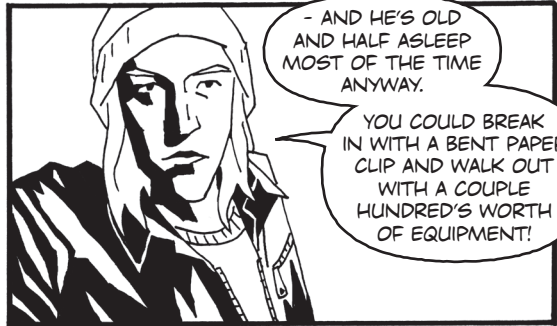
THIS IS CHARLIE, YOUR OLDER BROTHER, YES?

THE ONE IN PRISON?



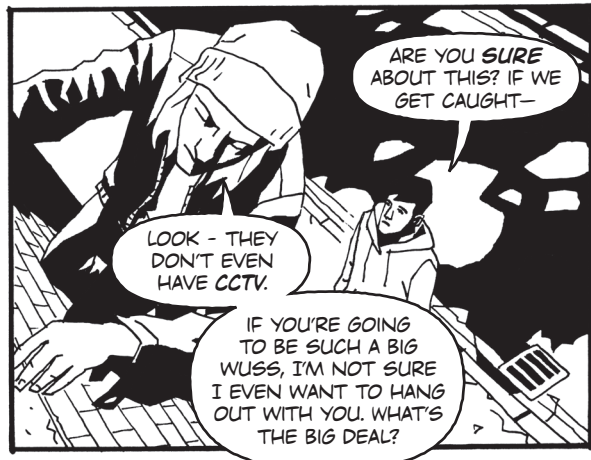
YOUNG OFFENDERS' INSTITUTION, YES.

LOOK, IT'S EASY. THE WAREHOUSE IS STACKED WITH CDS, DVDS AND VIDEO GAMES. THERE'S NO ALARM AND ONLY ONE SECURITY GUARD -



- AND HE'S OLD AND HALF ASLEEP MOST OF THE TIME ANYWAY.

YOU COULD BREAK IN WITH A BENT PAPER CLIP AND WALK OUT WITH A COUPLE HUNDRED'S WORTH OF EQUIPMENT!



ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS? IF WE GET CAUGHT-

LOOK - THEY DON'T EVEN HAVE CCTV.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE SUCH A BIG WUSS, I'M NOT SURE I EVEN WANT TO HANG OUT WITH YOU. WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

YOU'RE MY  
BEST FRIEND. YOU'RE  
MY *ONLY* FRIEND.

THERE'S NO  
BIG DEAL.

I'LL COME.

COOL - BECAUSE  
WE'RE THERE.

RELAX. IT'S  
AN ADVENTURE,  
ISN'T IT?

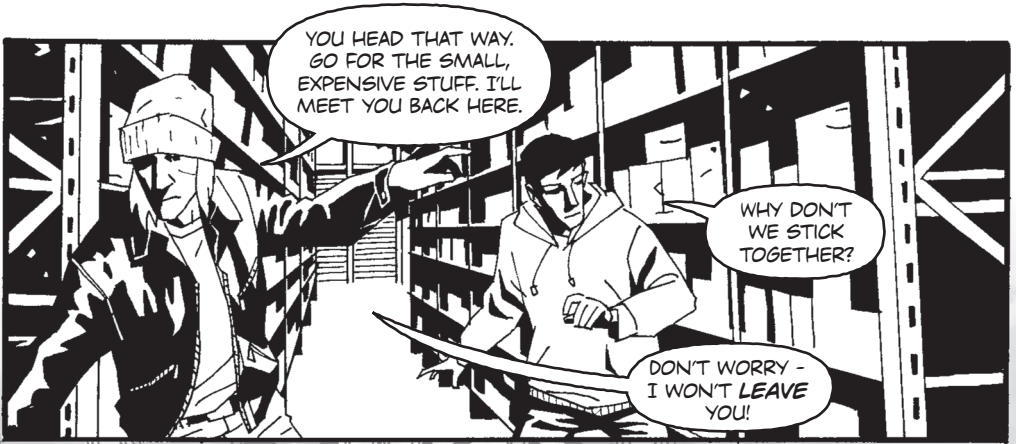
AN HOUR  
FROM NOW WE'LL  
BE LAUGHING, WITH  
POCKETS FULL  
OF CASH!

WHAT'S THAT  
KNIFE FOR?

DON'T WORRY -  
IT'S JUST TO GET US  
IN. STICK IT BETWEEN THE  
CRACK AND FRAME, FIDDLE  
WITH THE BOLT -

- AND  
WE'RE IN.

**CLINK**



YOU HEAD THAT WAY. GO FOR THE SMALL, EXPENSIVE STUFF. I'LL MEET YOU BACK HERE.

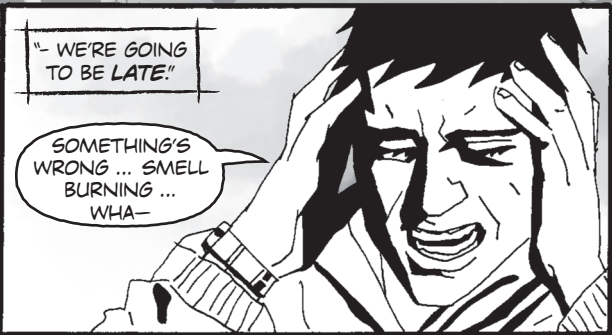
WHY DON'T WE STICK TOGETHER?

DON'T WORRY - I WON'T LEAVE YOU!



-HNF-

"COME ON, MATTHEW -"



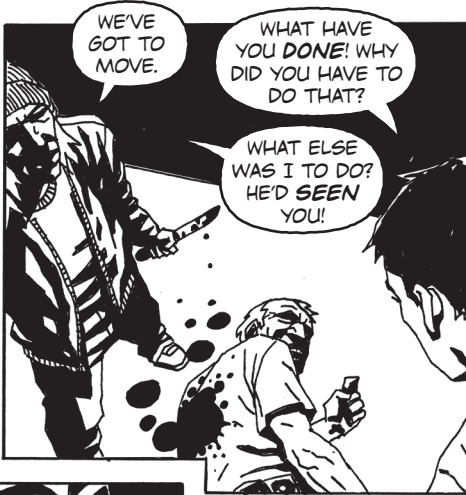
"- WE'RE GOING TO BE LATE!"

SOMETHING'S WRONG ... SMELL BURNING ... WHA-

WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!

DON'T TRY ANYTHING FUNNY - THE POLICE ARE ON THEIR WAY - YOU TRIPPED THE ALARM WHEN YOU OPENED THAT DOOR!







EEE WAA EEE WAA EEE WAA



DON'T MOVE.

I'M GOING TO GET HELP.

IT WASN'T ME!

IT WAS HIM!  
HE MADE ME  
COME!  
AND HE  
KILLED THE  
GUARD!



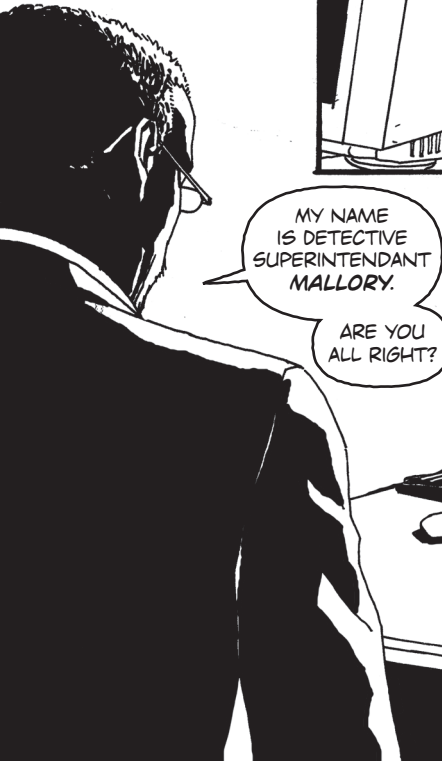
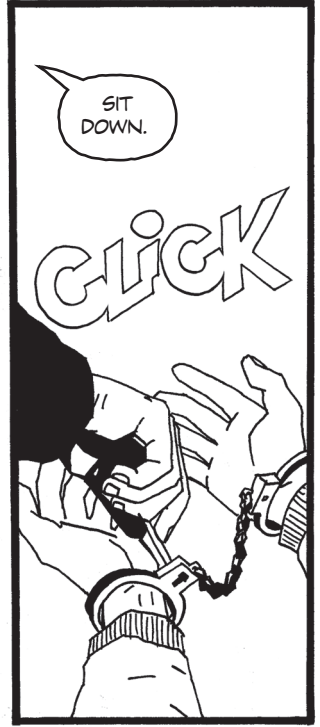
DON'T MOVE!

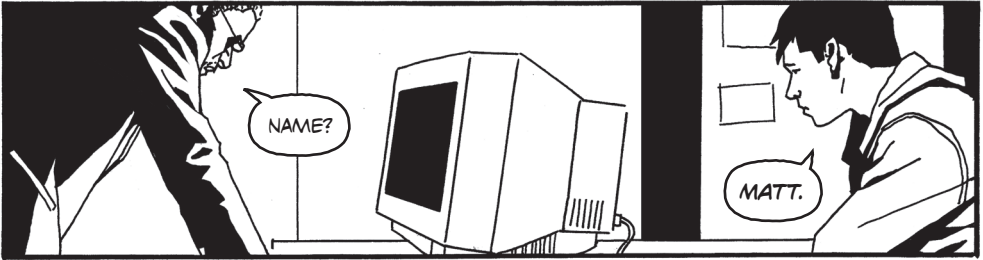


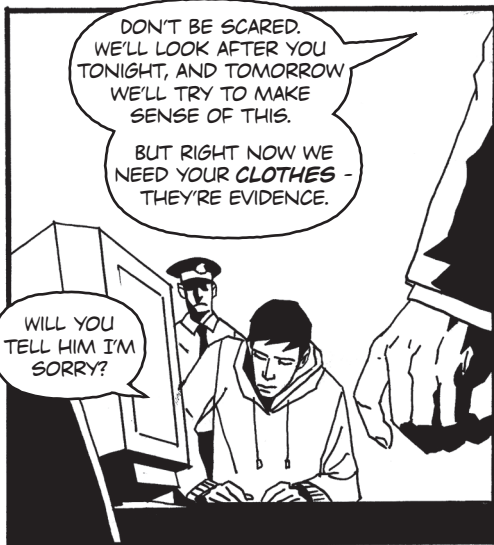
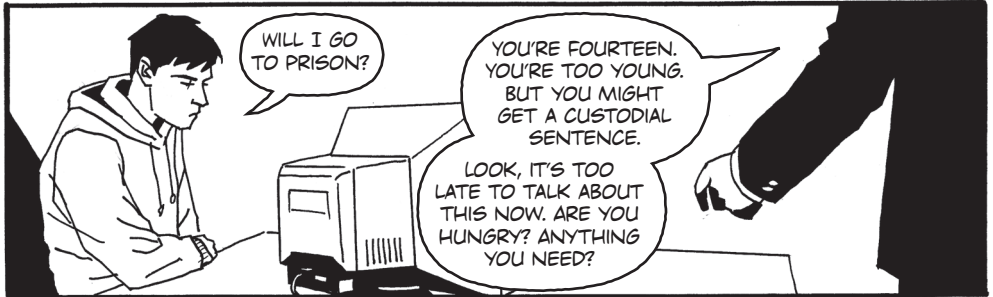
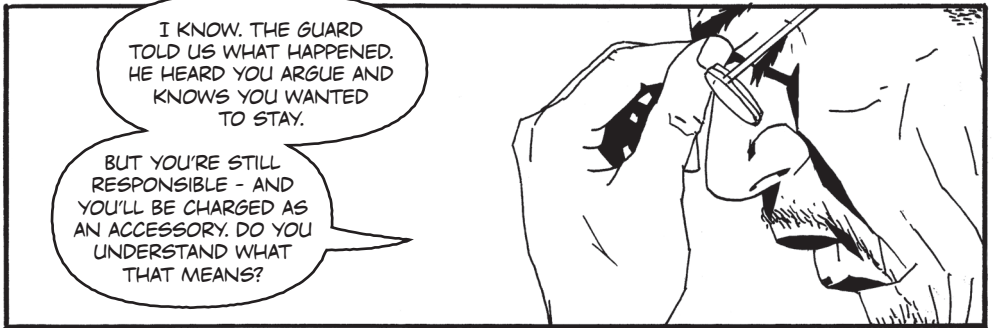
HE DID IT!  
HE DID IT!



"HE DID IT!"









"SO, WHERE IS HE?"

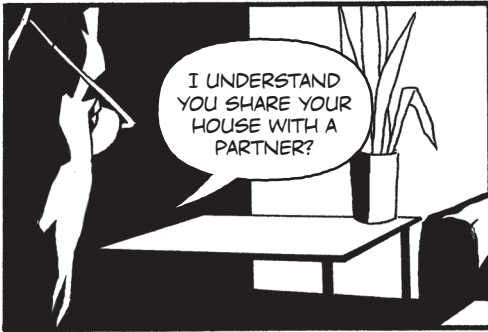




HE'S UPSTAIRS, ASLEEP. IT'S POSSIBLE HE MAY BE IN SHOCK. WE GAVE HIM A TRANQUILIZER.

HE'S IN SHOCK? I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE! GETTING A CALL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?

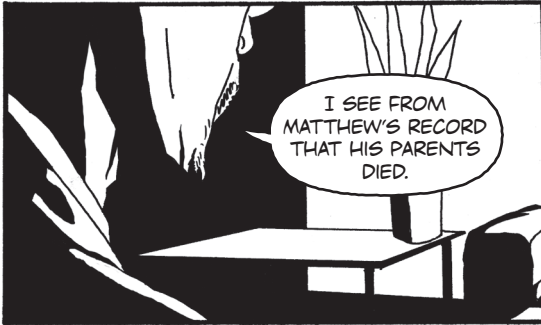
I'M A RESPECTABLE PERSON - ALL THIS BUSINESS WITH KNIVES AND BURGLARY...



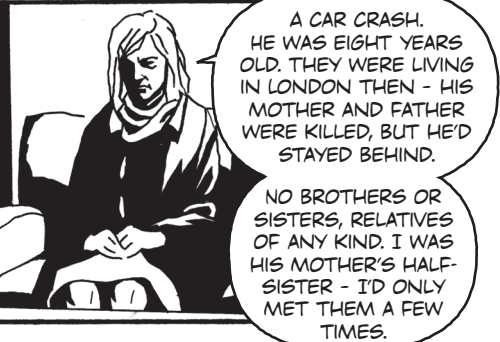
I UNDERSTAND YOU SHARE YOUR HOUSE WITH A PARTNER?



BRIAN CONRAN. HE'S IN BED, NOT ANY RELATION TO THE BOY. HE'S A MILKMAN, HAS TO BE UP FIRST THING IN THE MORNING.



I SEE FROM MATTHEW'S RECORD THAT HIS PARENTS DIED.



A CAR CRASH. HE WAS EIGHT YEARS OLD. THEY WERE LIVING IN LONDON THEN - HIS MOTHER AND FATHER WERE KILLED, BUT HE'D STAYED BEHIND.

NO BROTHERS OR SISTERS, RELATIVES OF ANY KIND. I WAS HIS MOTHER'S HALF-SISTER - I'D ONLY MET THEM A FEW TIMES.

IF YOU WANT THE TRUTH, THEY WERE **NEVER** VERY FRIENDLY. NEVER HAD TIME FOR ME, AND WHEN THEY DIED IN THAT STUPID ACCIDENT...  
WELL, IF IT WASN'T FOR ME AND BRIAN - WE TOOK HIM IN. BROUGHT HIM UP ON OUR OWN. AND WHAT DID WE GET FOR IT?



NOTHING BUT TROUBLE!



HE HAD NEVER BEEN IN TROUBLE BEFORE - HE STARTED MISSING SCHOOL A YEAR AFTER HE CAME TO IPSWICH.

ARE YOU **BLAMING** ME? IT WAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME! IT WAS THAT KELVIN JOHNSON, LIVES DOWN THE ROAD!





LOOK - IT'S ELEVEN AT NIGHT, AND IT'S BEEN A LONG DAY. THANK YOU FOR COMING IN, MS. DAVIS.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MATTHEW?

THERE'S HARDLY ANY POINT IF HE'S ASLEEP, IS THERE?



MAYBE YOU COULD COME BACK IN THE MORNING THEN. SOCIAL SERVICES WILL BE HERE, HE'LL ALSO NEED LEGAL REPRESENTATION. BUT IF YOU COME HERE AT NINE O'CLOCK-



I CAN'T COME AT NINE. I HAVE TO MAKE BRIAN HIS BREAKFAST WHEN HE COMES IN FROM HIS ROUNDS.



I'LL COME IN AFTER THAT.

RIGHT.



Matthew Freeman



SO HOT. THIRSTY. WATER. CAN'T MOVE.

FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN TRANQUILIZED.



COME ON ...  
JUST A FEW ...  
ALMOST THERE ...

... BURNING?



WHAT THE-



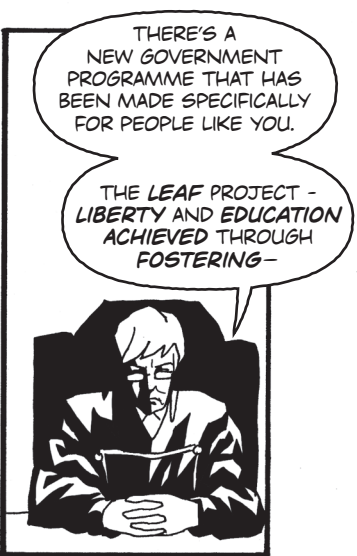
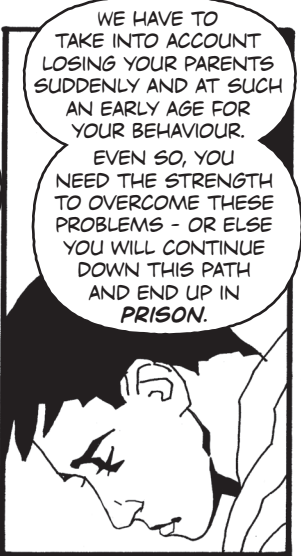
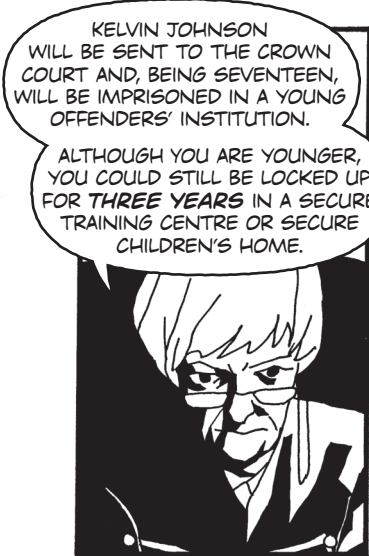
DID -  
DID I DO  
THAT?



JUST A WEIRD DREAM. SLEEP.



ONE WEEK LATER. LONDON.



LEAF IS A FOSTERING PROGRAMME. WE HAVE VOLUNTEERS LIVING IN REMOTE PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, ALL FAR FROM URBAN AREAS.

THE "L" STANDS FOR LIBERTY - BUT IT HAS TO BE **EARNED**. THEY MAY ASK YOU TO HELP WITH LIGHT MANUAL LABOUR.

YOU MEAN - I HAVE TO WORK?

MANY CHILDREN WOULD BE **DELIGHTED** TO WORK WITH ANIMALS AND CROPS ON A FARM.

BUT TO JOIN, YOU HAVE TO VOLUNTEER - AND THE ALTERNATIVE -

IT'S A MINIMUM OF ONE YEAR. AFTER THAT WE ASSESS THE SITUATION.

WHAT IF I DON'T LIKE IT?

WE'LL BE IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH THE FOSTER PARENT. THEY HAVE TO MAKE WEEKLY REPORTS TO THE POLICE - - AND YOUR AUNT WILL VISIT YOU AS SOON AS YOU FEEL READY.

- IS BEING LOCKED UP FOR THREE YEARS. HOW LONG WOULD I HAVE TO STAY THERE?

I DON'T KNOW HOW I'LL AFFORD IT - I MEAN, THERE ARE GOING TO BE TRAVELLING EXPENSES. AND WHO'S GOING TO LOOK AFTER BRIAN WHILE I'M AWAY?

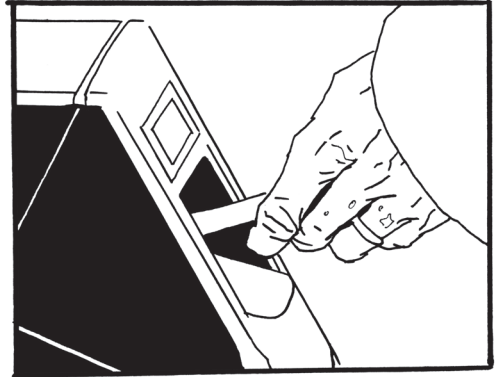
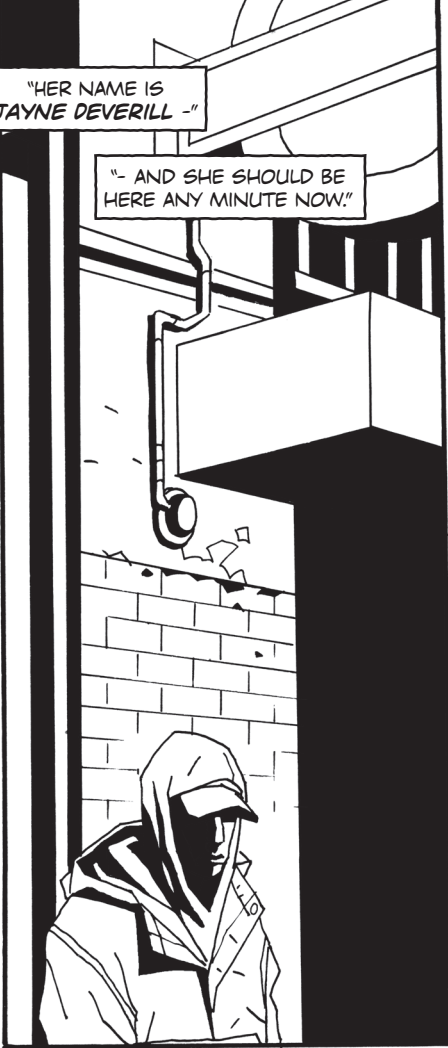
I HAVE **RESPONSIBILITIES**, YOU KNOW-

ALL RIGHT - YOU CAN SEND ME ANYWHERE YOU WANT TO. **ANYWHERE** WOULD BE BETTER THAN BEING WITH HER AND BRIAN.

SO WHEN DO I GET TO MEET MY FOSTER PARENT?

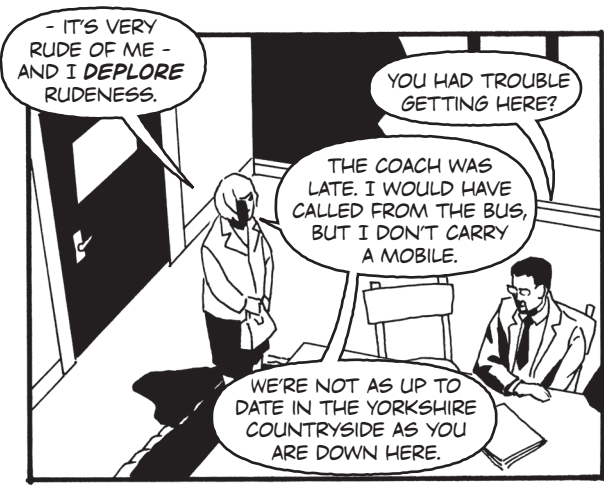
"HER NAME IS  
JAYNE DEVERILL -"

"- AND SHE SHOULD BE  
HERE ANY MINUTE NOW!"









- IT'S VERY RUDE OF ME - AND I DEPLORE RUDENESS.

YOU HAD TROUBLE GETTING HERE?

THE COACH WAS LATE. I WOULD HAVE CALLED FROM THE BUS, BUT I DON'T CARRY A MOBILE.

WE'RE NOT AS UP TO DATE IN THE YORKSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE AS YOU ARE DOWN HERE.



I'M VERY GLAD TO MEET YOU, MY DEAR. I HAVE OF COURSE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT YOU.

DO YOU KNOW YORKSHIRE AT ALL?

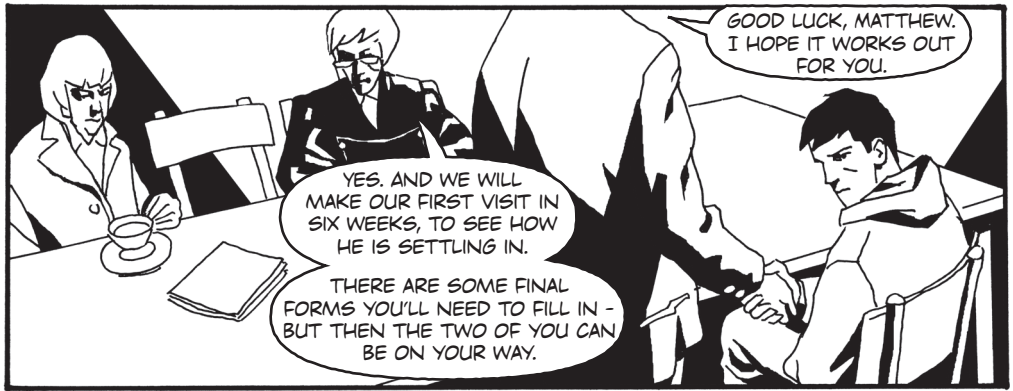
NO. I'VE NEVER BEEN THERE.



**LESSER MALLING** IS THE NAME OF THE VILLAGE. IT'S A BIT OUT OF THE WAY. THE NEAREST TOWN IS **GREATER MALLING** - AND NOBODY'S HEARD OF THAT EITHER.

IT'S VERY QUIET - BUT YOU'LL GET USED TO IT IN NO TIME.

CAN I REALLY TAKE HIM WITH ME TODAY?



GOOD LUCK, MATTHEW. I HOPE IT WORKS OUT FOR YOU.

YES. AND WE WILL MAKE OUR FIRST VISIT IN SIX WEEKS, TO SEE HOW HE IS SETTLING IN.

THERE ARE SOME FINAL FORMS YOU'LL NEED TO FILL IN - BUT THEN THE TWO OF YOU CAN BE ON YOUR WAY.



TIME TO GO -

- WE DON'T WANT TO MISS THE COACH!





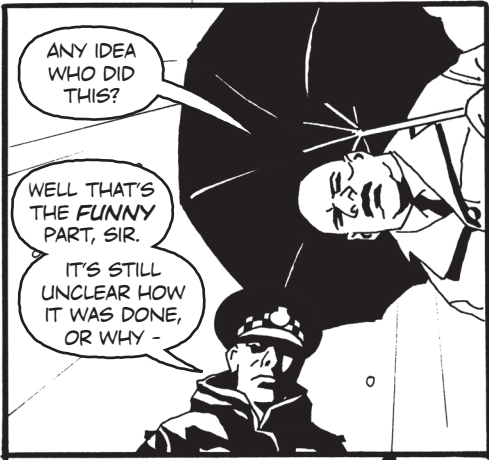
THAT'S OUR BUS.



IT'S A BODY, SIR.

LOCAL LAD - WILL SCOTT.

HE'S WELL KNOWN - A DRUG ADDICT, WHO'S BEEN INVOLVED IN A STRING OF MUGGINGS AROUND HERE.



ANY IDEA WHO DID THIS?

WELL THAT'S THE FUNNY PART, SIR.

IT'S STILL UNCLEAR HOW IT WAS DONE, OR WHY -



- BUT HE SEEMS TO HAVE KILLED HIMSELF.

PUSHED THAT KNIFE, INCH BY INCH -

"- INTO HIS OWN HEART."

ARE YOU HUNGRY, MATTHEW?

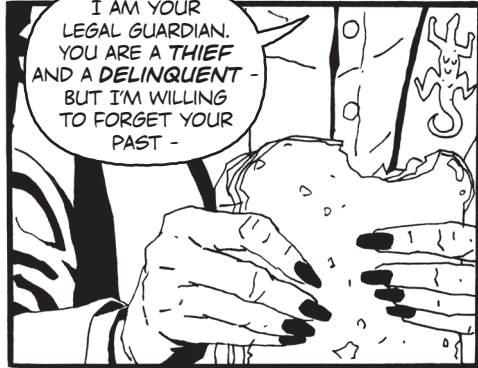
NO, THANK YOU.

IN YORKSHIRE I'LL EXPECT YOU TO EAT WHAT YOU'RE GIVEN. WE DON'T WASTE FOOD IN MY HOUSE.



I SUPPOSE YOU'RE WONDERING ABOUT ME.

I AM YOUR LEGAL GUARDIAN. YOU ARE A **THIEF** AND A **DELINQUENT** - BUT I'M WILLING TO FORGET YOUR PAST -



- IT'S YOUR **FUTURE** THAT IS MORE A CONCERN TO ME.

IF YOU DO AS YOU'RE TOLD, WE'LL GET ON. IF YOU DISOBEY ME, YOU TRY TO DEFY ME -



- LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT YOU WILL BE MORE MISERABLE THAN YOU CAN **IMAGINE**. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

YES.

YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT **Nobody** CARES ABOUT YOU. YOU HAVE NO PARENTS - NO FAMILY.



WITH LITTLE EDUCATION AND NO PROSPECTS - I'M REALLY ALL YOU HAVE LEFT.

"WHERE'S MATTHEW?!"







COME ON, MATTHEW - WE'RE GOING TO BE LATE!

I DON'T WANT TO GO.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU DON'T WANT TO GO?

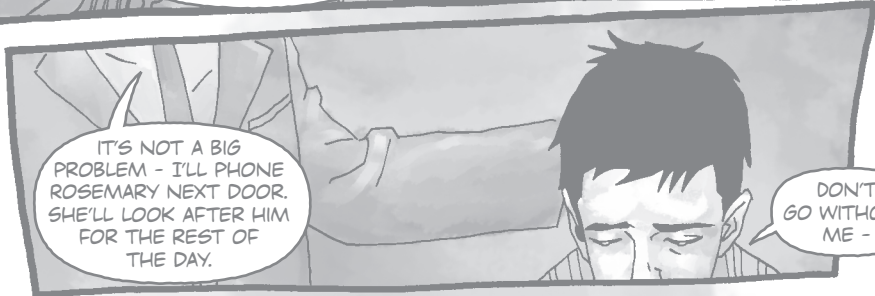
I DON'T FEEL WELL. I DON'T WANT TO GO.



BUT YOU'LL ENJOY THE WEDDING! THERE'LL BE OTHER CHILDREN THERE, AND THERE'S A SPECIAL MARQUEE WITH A MAGICIAN AND BALLOONS!

PLEASE DAD, DON'T MAKE ME...

WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE HIM HERE.



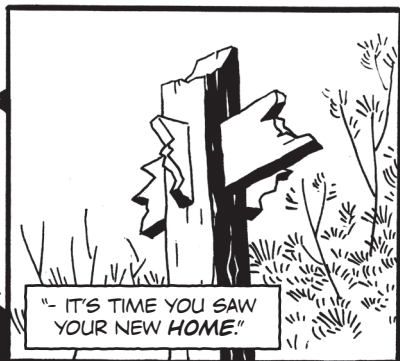
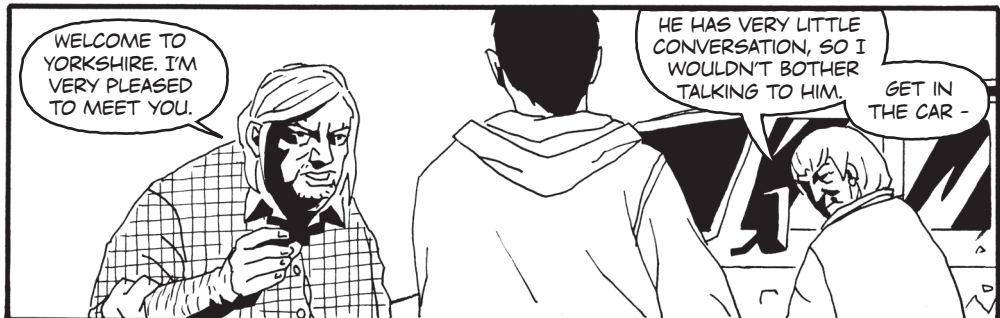
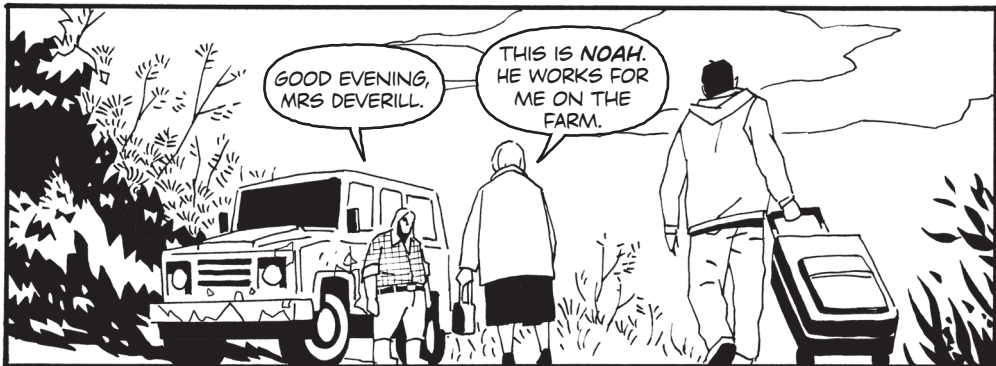
IT'S NOT A BIG PROBLEM - I'LL PHONE ROSEMARY NEXT DOOR. SHE'LL LOOK AFTER HIM FOR THE REST OF THE DAY.

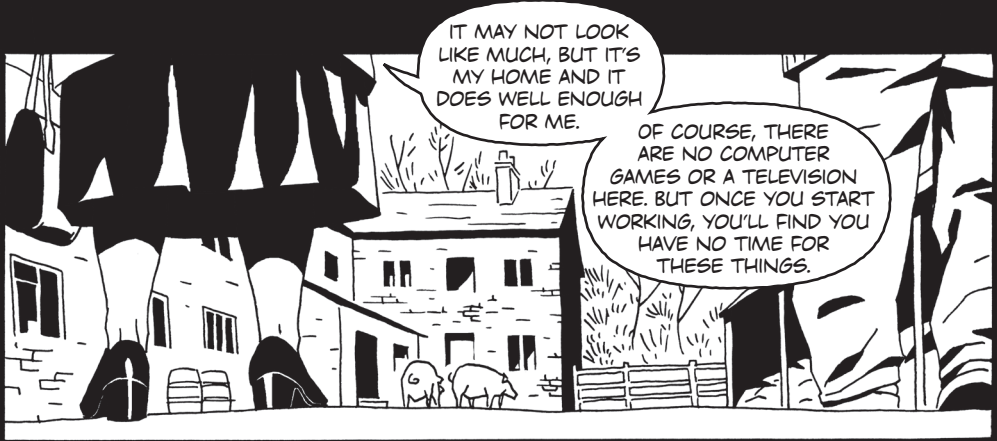
DON'T GO WITHOUT ME -



- IF YOU GO, YOU'LL NEVER COME BACK.

WE'RE HERE.





IT MAY NOT LOOK LIKE MUCH, BUT IT'S MY HOME AND IT DOES WELL ENOUGH FOR ME.

OF COURSE, THERE ARE NO COMPUTER GAMES OR A TELEVISION HERE. BUT ONCE YOU START WORKING, YOU'LL FIND YOU HAVE NO TIME FOR THESE THINGS.

WE GO TO BED EARLY IN THE COUNTRY.

YOU'LL GET USED TO OUR WAYS IN TIME.

MY ANCESTOR. SHE LOOKS LIKE ME, DOESN'T SHE? SHE WAS ALSO A DEVERILL.

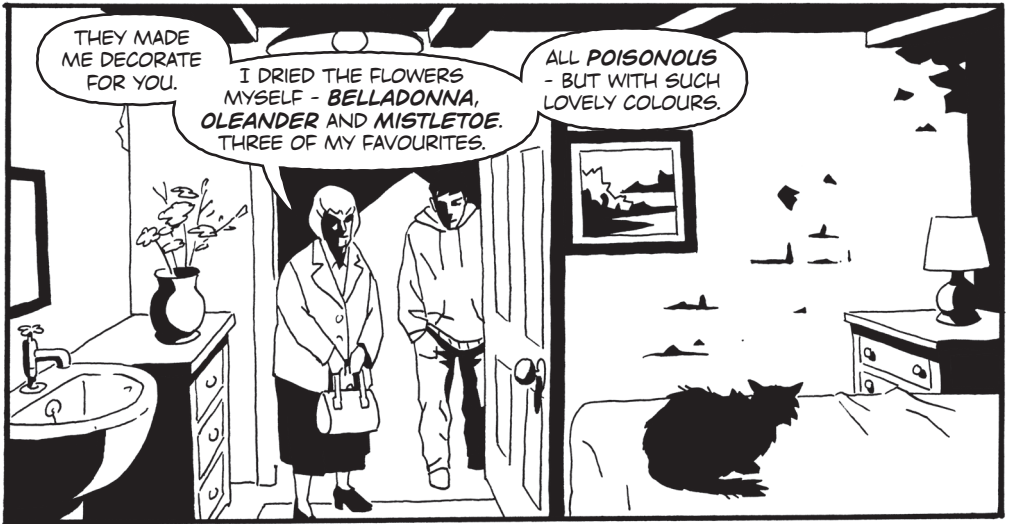
HER NAME WAS JAYNE, LIKE MINE. SHE BURNED TO DEATH.

THERE HAVE BEEN DEVERILLS IN THIS PART OF YORKSHIRE FOR THREE HUNDRED YEARS.

THEY SAY THAT WHEN THE WIND BLOWS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, YOU CAN STILL HEAR THE SCREAMS.

LET ME SHOW YOU UPSTAIRS.





AAHHH!





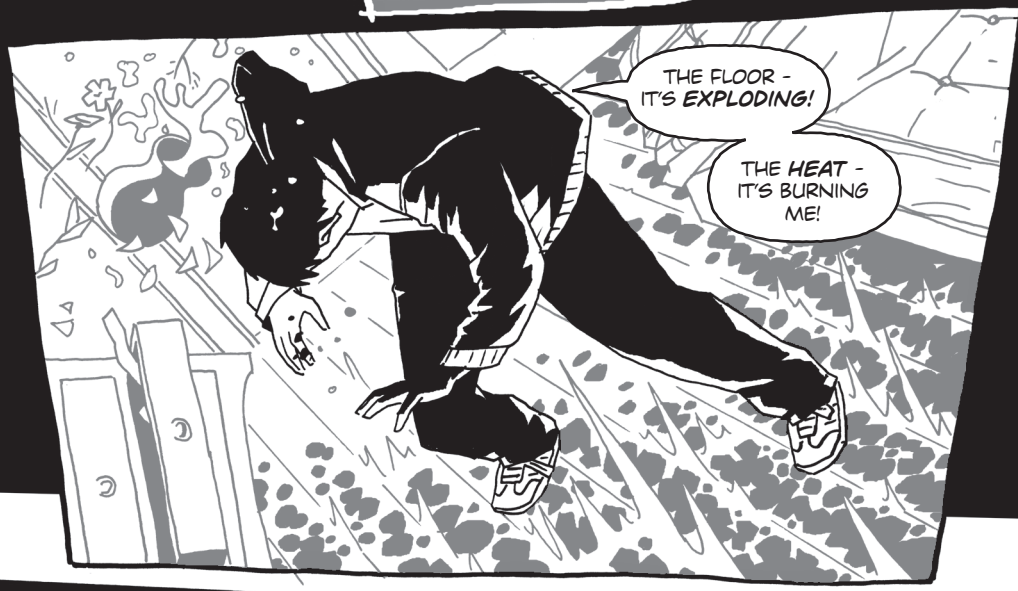
SLAM

WHAT? WHERE DID THAT DOOR...

STANDING STONES? IN A HOUSE?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND ...

... A KNIFE? WHO'S HOLDING IT?



THE FLOOR - IT'S EXPLODING!

THE HEAT - IT'S BURNING ME!



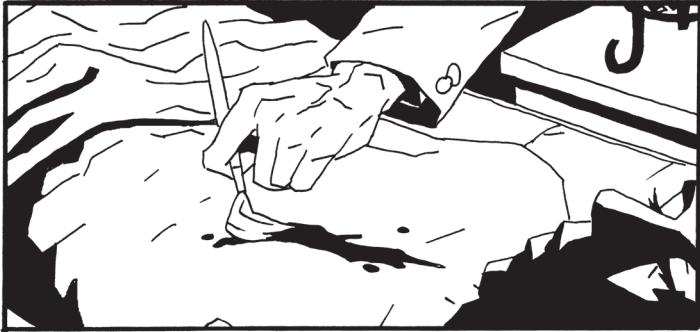
SLAM

WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?

HE HAS PNEUMONIA. HE MAY DIE.

HE CAN'T!

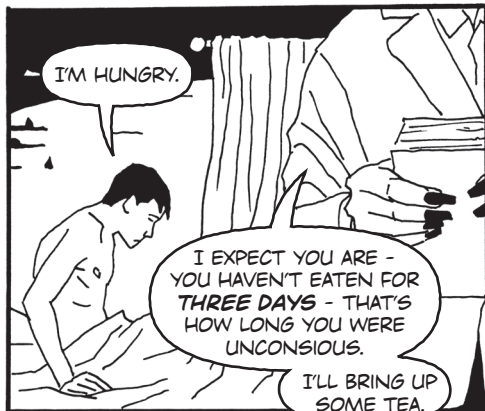
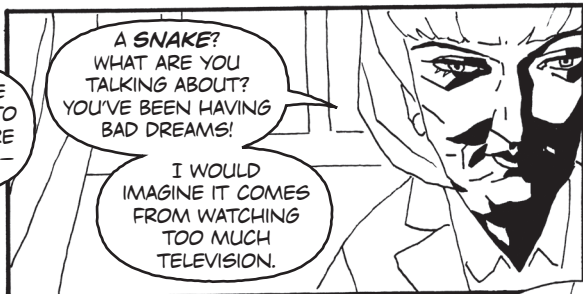
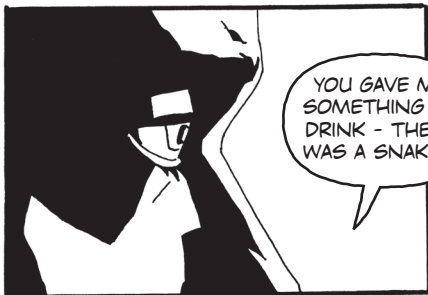
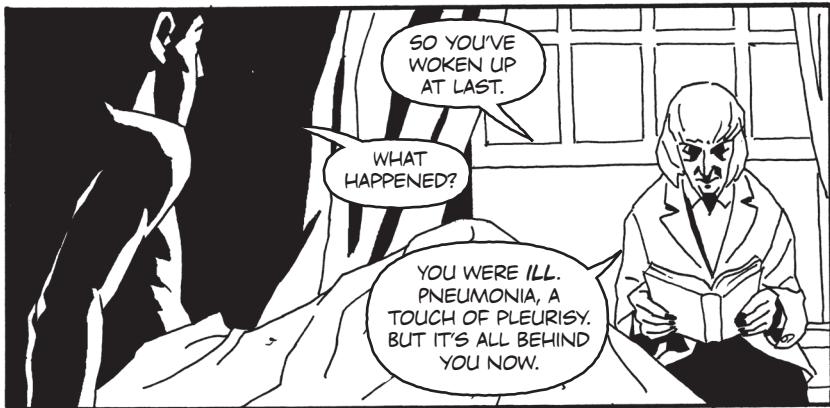
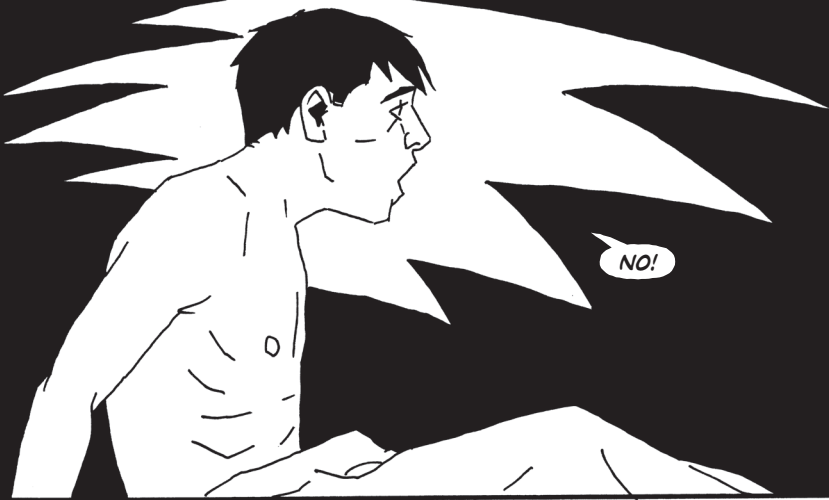
CURE HIM, MRS DEVERILL - IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY. SEE THAT HE LIVES!



DRINK THIS.

-GAH-

NO...



"- IT'S TIME YOU BEGAN WORK."

I REALLY CAN'T STAY HERE ANOTHER YEAR.

NOT EVEN ANOTHER WEEK!

-HNF-

I SHOULD HITCHHIKE TO LONDON. I COULD LOSE MYSELF THERE.

IN TWO YEARS I'LL BE SIXTEEN AND THEN...

MATTHEW! LUNCH!

OUT OF THE KITCHEN PLEASE, ASMODEUS.

THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO DO FOR ME THIS AFTERNOON, MATTHEW.

I'M CLEANING THE PIGS.

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING.

ONE DAY YOU'LL LEARN THAT BEING RUDE TO PEOPLE OLDER AND WISER THAN YOU WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD.

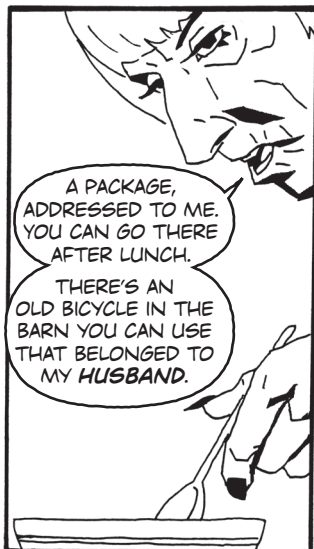
IN FACT, I HAVE A TASK FOR YOU THAT YOU MIGHT ENJOY.

I'D LIKE YOU TO COLLECT SOMETHING FOR ME FROM THE CHEMIST IN LESSER MALLING.



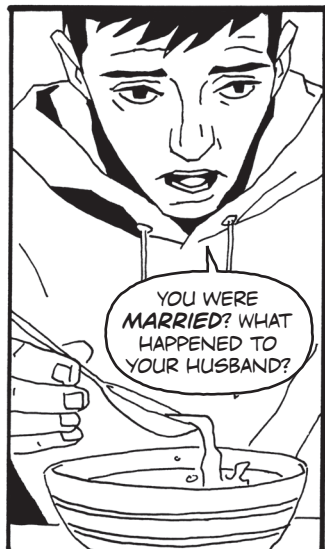


WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO PICK UP?



A PACKAGE, ADDRESSED TO ME. YOU CAN GO THERE AFTER LUNCH.

THERE'S AN OLD BICYCLE IN THE BARN YOU CAN USE THAT BELONGED TO MY **HUSBAND**.



YOU WERE **MARRIED**? WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HUSBAND?



HENRY DISAPPEARED. **HENRY LUTTERWORTH**.

WE'D ONLY BEEN MARRIED A FEW MONTHS WHEN HE WENT FOR A WALK IN THE WOODS AND NEVER CAME BACK.

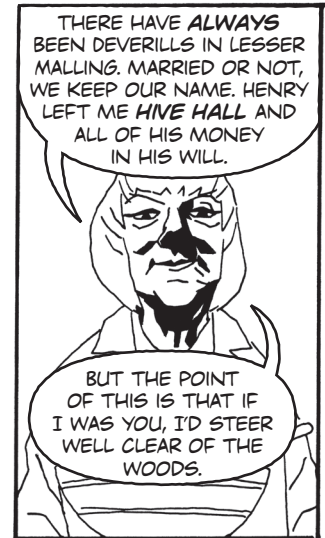


THE WOODS ARE VERY THICK AROUND HERE - YOU CAN EASILY GET SWALLOWED UP.

IT'S QUITE LIKELY HE STUMBLED ON A BOG AND DROWNED.



IF HIS NAME WAS LUTTERWORTH, WHY DO YOU CALL YOURSELF DEVERILL?

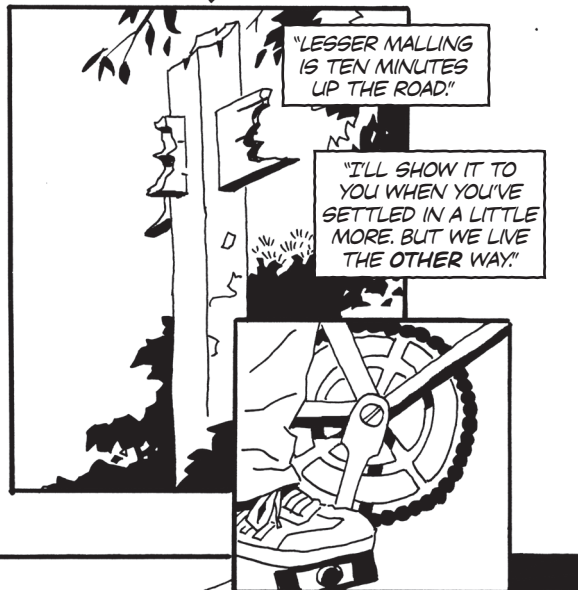
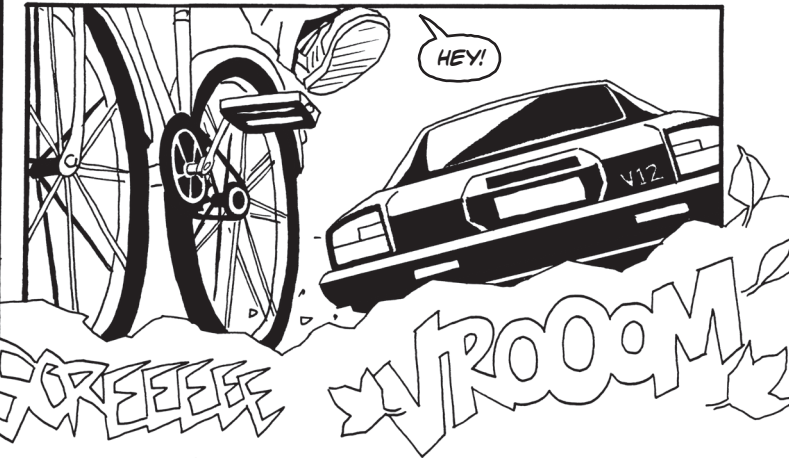


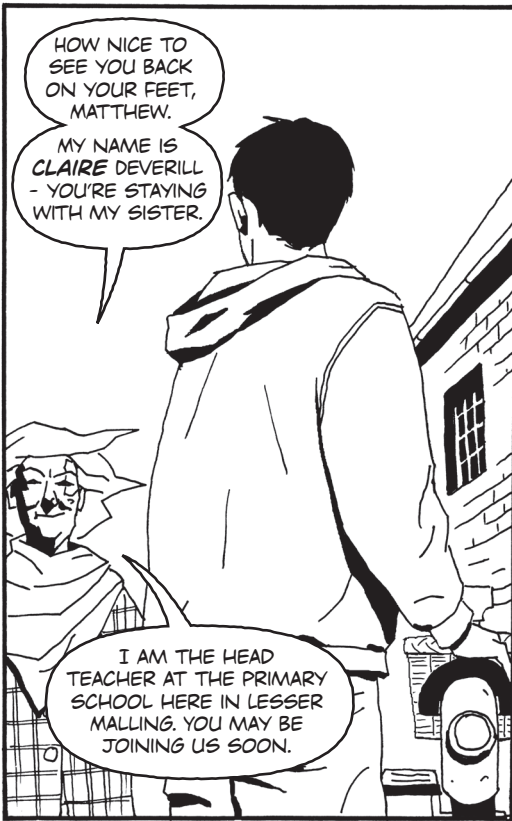
THERE HAVE **ALWAYS** BEEN DEVERILLS IN LESSER MALLING. MARRIED OR NOT, WE KEEP OUR NAME. HENRY LEFT ME **HIVE HALL** AND ALL OF HIS MONEY IN HIS WILL.

BUT THE POINT OF THIS IS THAT IF I WAS YOU, I'D STEER WELL CLEAR OF THE WOODS.



REMEMBER NOW. THE CHEMIST.





DING

-GAH-

IT'S AN EYE. THE VET REQUESTED IT FOR TESTS.

I'VE COME TO COLLECT SOMETHING FOR MRS DEVERILL.

WE'VE ALL BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO IT SO VERY MUCH.

MY NAME IS **BARKER**. I HOPE I'LL BE SEEING MORE OF YOU.

CAN I HELP YOU?

YOU MUST BE **MATTHEW** THEN. WE'VE ALL BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU.

IN A VILLAGE LIKE THIS - IT'S ALWAYS NICE TO HAVE **NEW BLOOD**.

JUST GET ON THE BIKE, GET OUT OF HERE -



- HEY!

YOU'RE MATTHEW FREEMAN, AREN'T YOU?  
THEY SENT YOU ON THIS PROJECT?



LISTEN TO ME, MATTHEW FREEMAN.  
YOU DON'T WANT TO BE HANGING AROUND THIS VILLAGE.  
YOU DON'T WANT TO BE ANYWHERE NEAR HERE. DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME?



IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU, YOU'LL GET AWAY.  
GO AWAY AS FAR AS YOU CAN AND DON'T COME BACK.



DO YOU HEAR ME? YOU NEED TO...



A DREAM?

# KRA KOW

MATTHEW!  
MATTHEW!

THEY'RE WAITING FOR ME.  
I HAVE TO REACH THEM.

RUNNING OUT OF TIME.

NO!



THERE'S  
SOMETHING DARK  
AND TERRIBLE  
OUT THERE -



- A DARK WING  
THAT IS FOLDING  
AROUND ME -

- AND  
TRAPPING  
THEM.



I'M COMING!  
WHOA-

**NOOO!**



WHOA!



AW, MAN - THAT DREAM AGAIN.

EVERY TIME I FALL A LITTLE LONGER.



I WONDER WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN I HIT THE...

IS THAT WHISPERING?



A SOFT ELECTRONIC HUM - AND DISTANT WHISPERS...

WHAT COULD BE GOING ON IN THE MIDDLE OF A WOOD?

"YOU DON'T WANT TO BE ANYWHERE NEAR HERE, UNDERSTAND ME?"

TEHOCMOO... EMANY... NEVAEH... NITRA

I WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON.





I WONDER  
WHAT'S GOING ON  
OUT THERE...



I STILL CAN'T  
MAKE OUT THE  
WORDS...

HOLD  
ON -

NO DEB...  
TEMOCMOD...  
EMANY...  
NEVAEH...  
NITRA



- MRS DEVERILL'S  
LANDROVER HAS  
GONE.



IS SHE IN  
THE WOODS, PART  
OF WHATEVER'S  
GOING ON?

AM I ALONE  
AT THE FARM?  
WHAT THE-



SHE WASN'T  
POINTING LAST TIME!  
NOW I KNOW THAT  
PICTURE'S ODD!

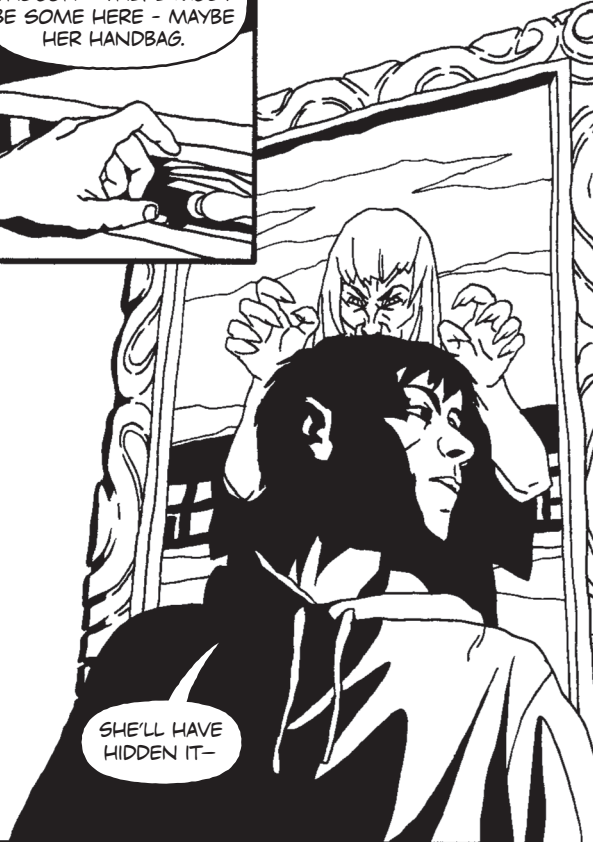


IF SHE'S NOT HERE  
- THAT MEANS I CAN  
GET OUT OF HERE!

I CAN GO TO LONDON.  
BY DAWN I'LL BE AT  
THE MOTORWAY, I CAN  
HITCHHIKE SOUTH.



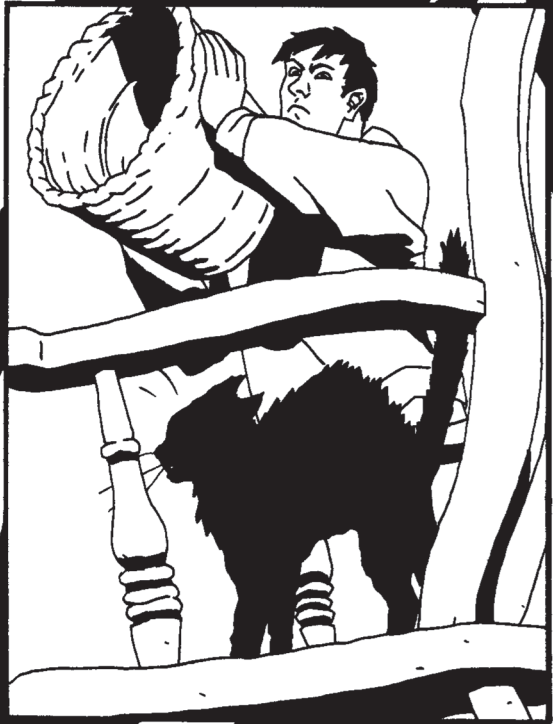
I'LL NEED MONEY  
THOUGH - THERE MUST  
BE SOME HERE - MAYBE  
HER HANDBAG.



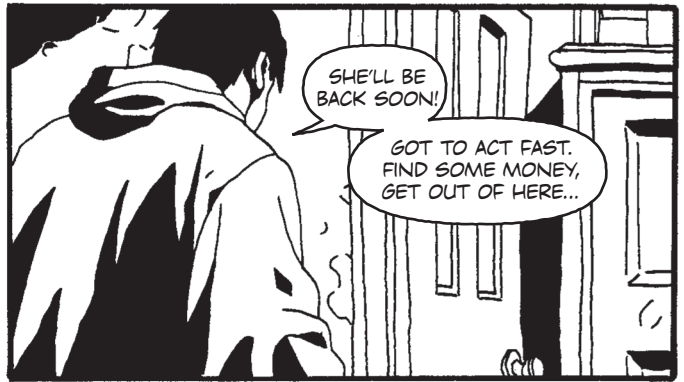
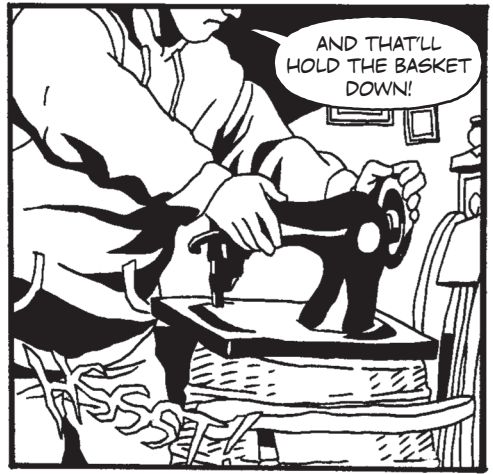
SHE'LL HAVE  
HIDDEN IT-



WOAH!

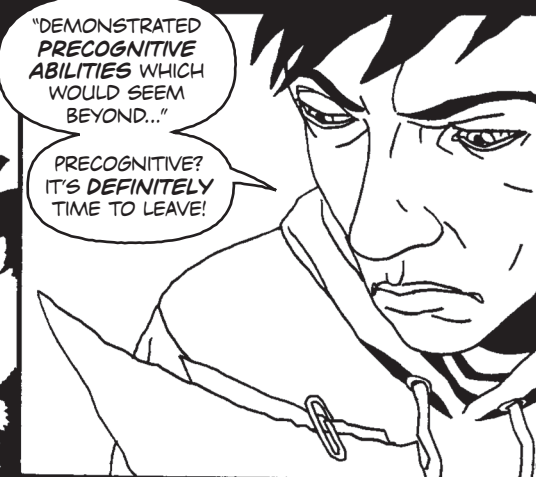


YOWL!





WHAT'S THIS -  
A CLIPPING MARKED  
"CONFIDENTIAL"?  
WHAT'S CONFIDENTIAL  
ABOUT ME?



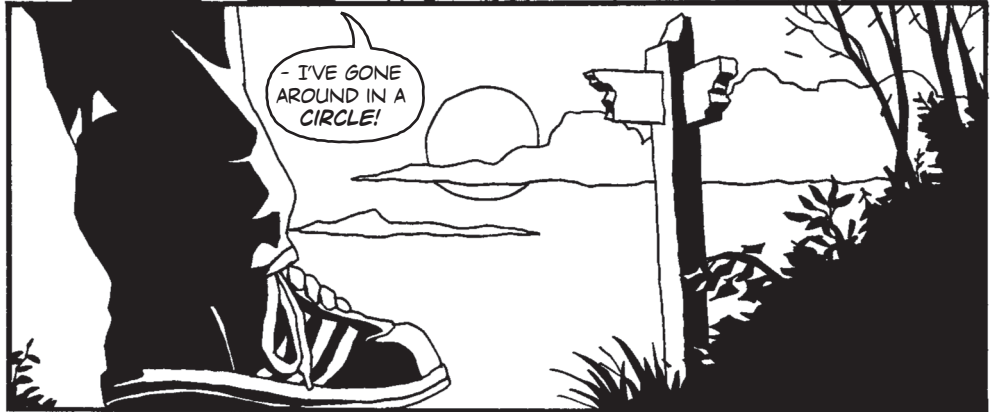
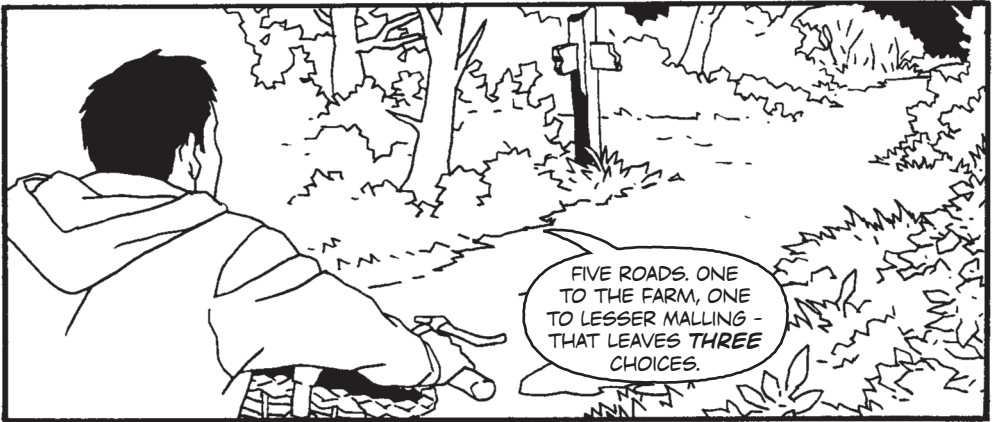
"DEMONSTRATED  
PRECOGNITIVE  
ABILITIES WHICH  
WOULD SEEM  
BEYOND..."

PRECOGNITIVE?  
IT'S DEFINITELY  
TIME TO LEAVE!

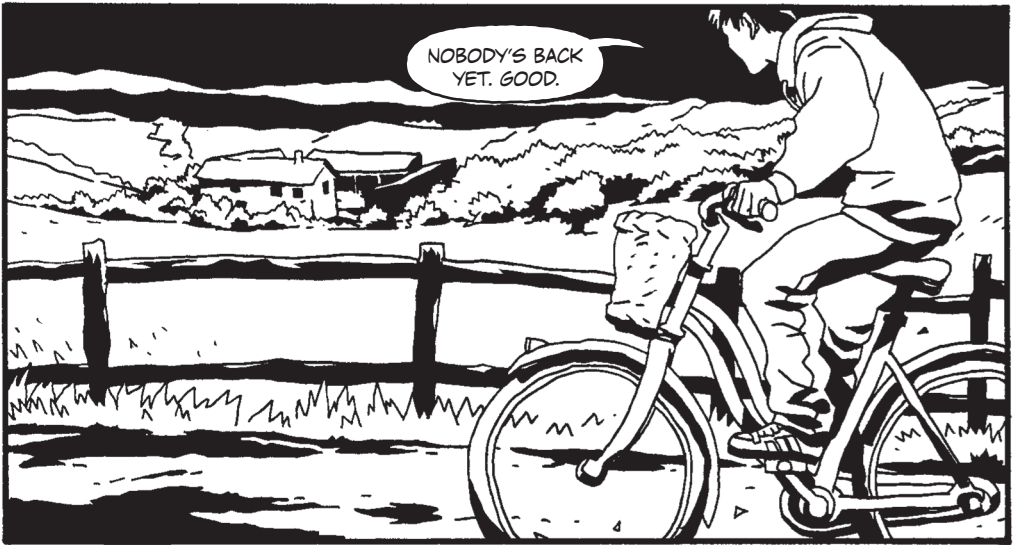


NO MORE -HNF-  
READING!









NOBODY'S BACK YET. GOOD.



HILLS ARE -HNF-GOOD. NOT -HNF-HAD TO CLIMB A HILL...



I DON'T UNDERSTAND. THIS CAN'T BE!



I WON'T GET ANYWHERE TONIGHT.



I'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE MY CHANCES WITH MRS DEVERILL.

"HE WAS IN MY ROOM LAST NIGHT."

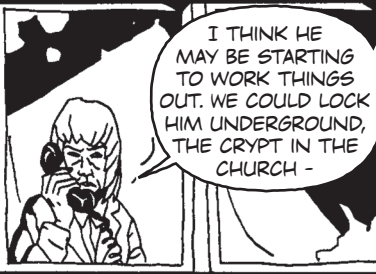
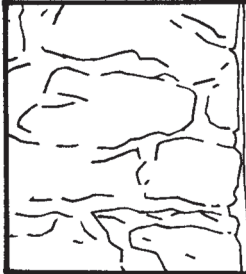
THE NEXT MORNING



I THINK HE FOUND THE PHOTOGRAPHS.

IT WAS A MISTAKE KEEPING THEM THERE.

PERHAPS. BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I'M WORRIED ABOUT. MATTHEW IS STRONGER THAN HE WAS WHEN HE FIRST CAME HERE.



I THINK HE MAY BE STARTING TO WORK THINGS OUT. WE COULD LOCK HIM UNDERGROUND, THE CRYPT IN THE CHURCH -

- IT'S ONLY FOR A FEW WEEKS AND THEN WE'LL BE DONE WITH HIM.

NO. RIGHT NOW THE BOY THINKS HE'S ORDINARY, WITH NO IDEA OF WHOM OR WHAT HE IS.



SUPPOSE HE ESCAPES?

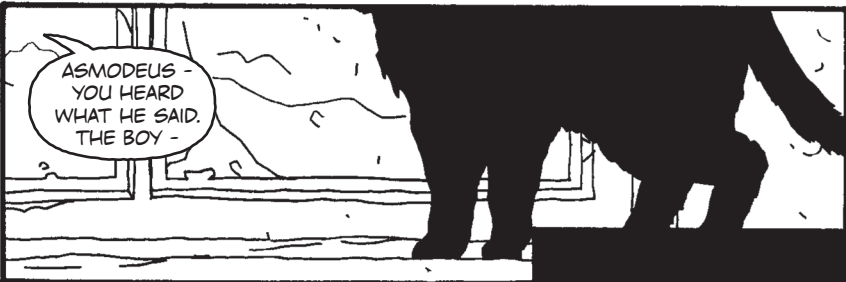
YOU KNOW HE CAN'T ESCAPE. WE HAVE HIM CONTAINED. AND SOON WE'LL BE READY FOR HIM.



WHERE IS HE NOW?

I DON'T KNOW. SOMEWHERE IN THE YARD.

WATCH HIM, MRS DEVERILL. DON'T LET HIM OUT OF YOUR SIGHT. -CLICK-



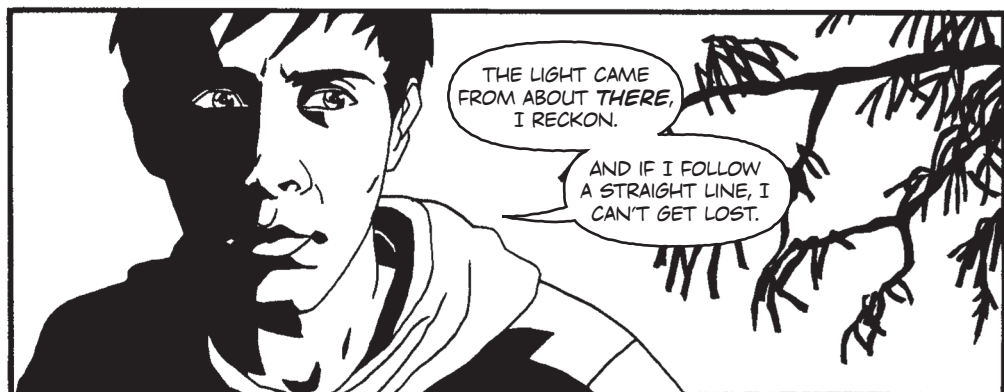
ASMODEUS - YOU HEARD WHAT HE SAID. THE BOY -

- FIND HIM.

HSSSSSS









I SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT A MARKER, OR A BALL OF TWINE.

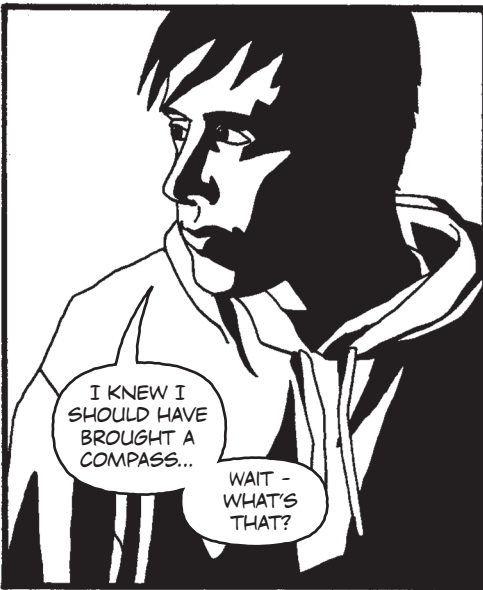
I'LL GO BACK AND...

HOLD ON A MINUTE! I ONLY WALKED ABOUT A DOZEN STEPS!

I SHOULD STILL SEE THE ROAD FROM HERE!



GREAT.

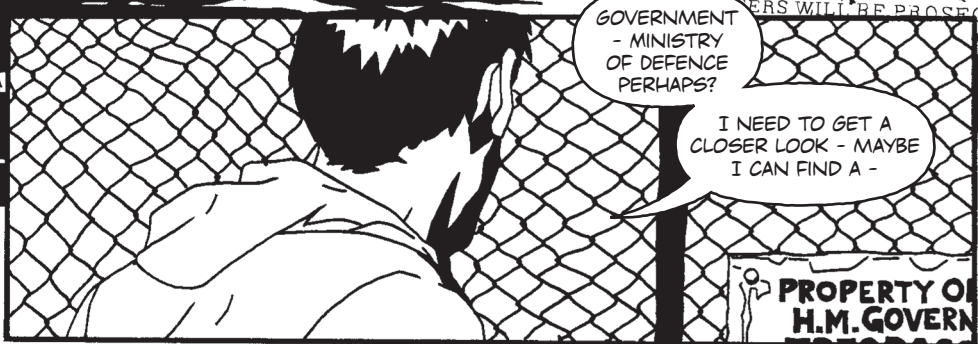
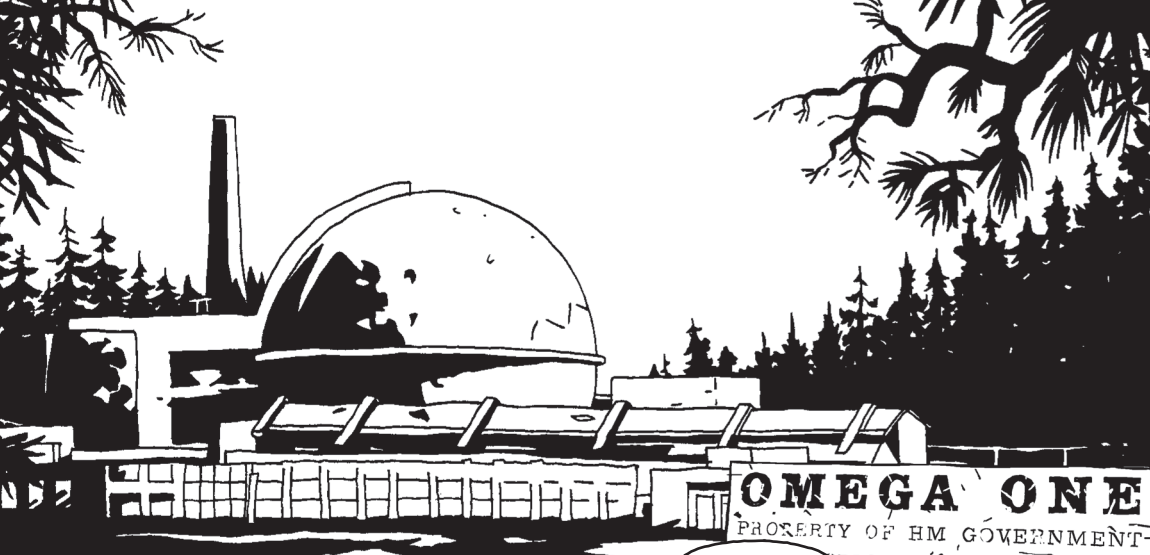


I KNEW I SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT A COMPASS...

WAIT - WHAT'S THAT?



SOME KIND OF BUILDING?

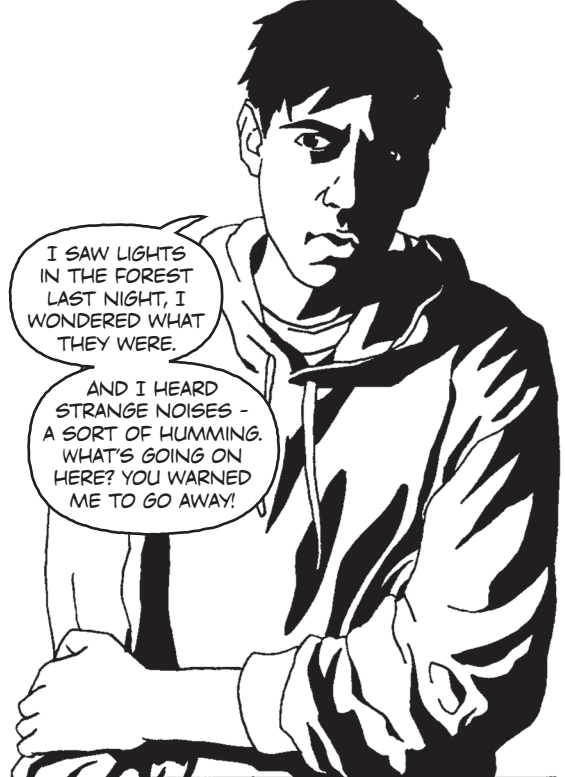




I GOT LOST.  
WHAT IS THIS  
PLACE?

A POWER  
STATION - YOU  
SHOULDN'T  
BE HERE.

WHAT WERE  
YOU LOOKING  
FOR?



I SAW LIGHTS  
IN THE FOREST  
LAST NIGHT, I  
WONDERED WHAT  
THEY WERE.

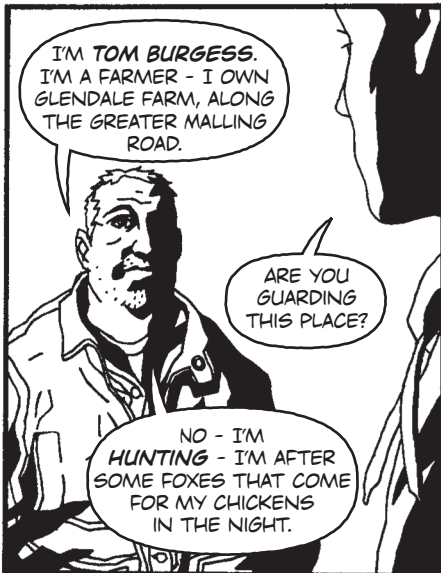
AND I HEARD  
STRANGE NOISES -  
A SORT OF HUMMING.  
WHAT'S GOING ON  
HERE? YOU WARNED  
ME TO GO AWAY!



WHY DIDN'T  
YOU?

I TRIED.

WHAT WERE  
YOU WARNING  
ME ABOUT? WHY  
IS EVERYONE IN  
LESSER MALLING  
SO WEIRD? WHO  
ARE YOU?



I'M TOM BURGESS.  
I'M A FARMER - I OWN  
GLENDALE FARM, ALONG  
THE GREATER MALLING  
ROAD.

ARE YOU  
GUARDING  
THIS PLACE?

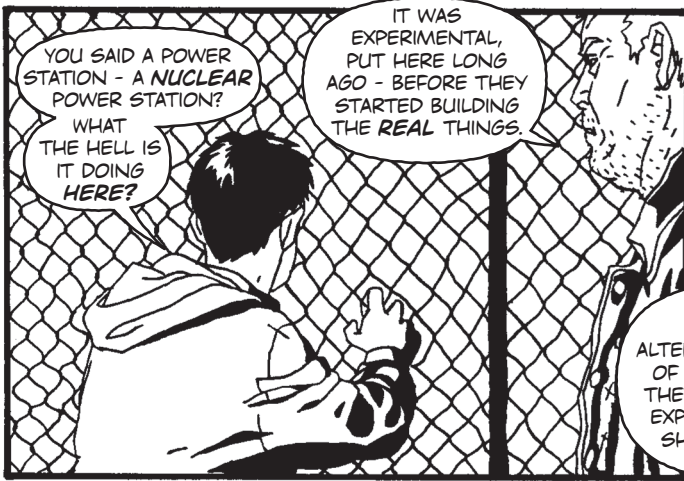
NO - I'M  
HUNTING - I'M AFTER  
SOME FOXES THAT COME  
FOR MY CHICKENS  
IN THE NIGHT.



I DIDN'T  
HEAR ANY  
SHOTS.



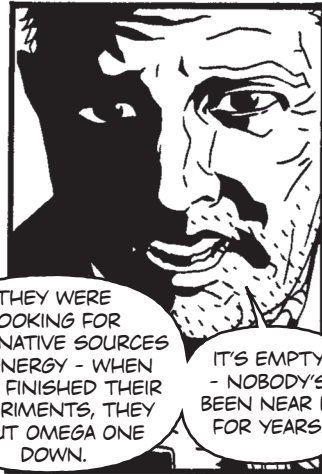
I DIDN'T  
SEE ANY  
FOXES.



YOU SAID A POWER STATION - A NUCLEAR POWER STATION?

WHAT THE HELL IS IT DOING HERE?

IT WAS EXPERIMENTAL, PUT HERE LONG AGO - BEFORE THEY STARTED BUILDING THE REAL THINGS.



THEY WERE LOOKING FOR ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY - WHEN THEY FINISHED THEIR EXPERIMENTS, THEY SHUT OMEGA ONE DOWN.

IT'S EMPTY - NOBODY'S BEEN NEAR IT FOR YEARS.



THEY WERE HERE LAST NIGHT - I HEARD THEM AND SAW LIGHTS.

MAYBE YOU WERE IMAGINING THINGS.

I DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH IMAGINATION.



LOOK, WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW? IT'S SAFE HERE!



HOW COULD YOU BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND? IF I'D KNOWN -

- IF I'D EVEN HAD THE FAINTEST IDEA...



IF ONLY YOU'D KNOWN WHAT?

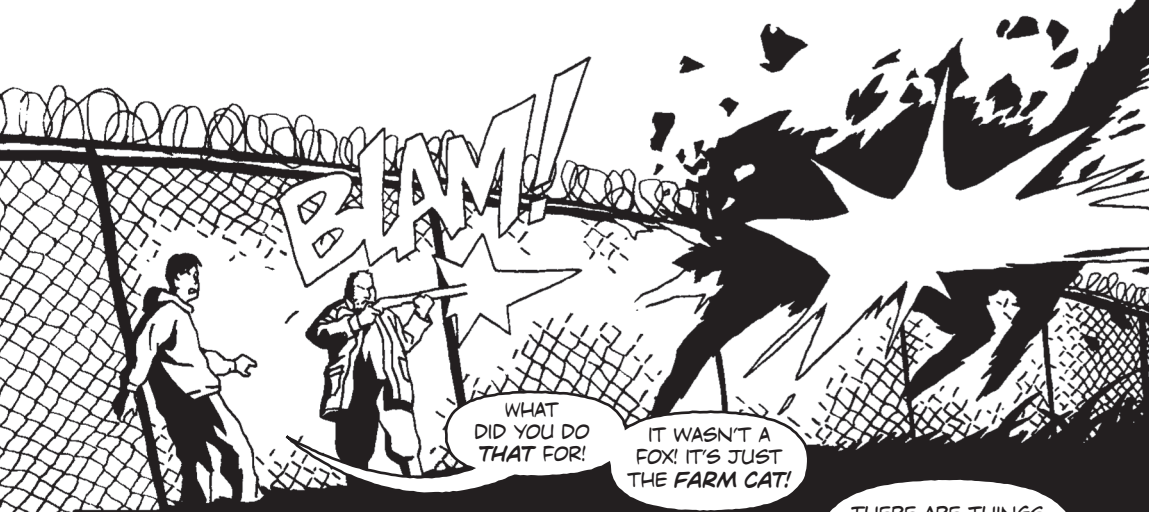


MRS DEVERILL AND THE REST OF THEM -



WHAT ABOUT THEM? WHAT ARE THEY DOING?

IT'S ALL RIGHT, IT'S JUST THE CAT. HE MUST HAVE FOLLOWED ME HERE.



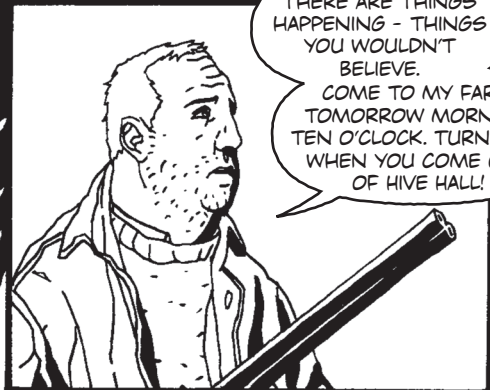
WHAT DID YOU DO THAT FOR!

IT WASN'T A FOX! IT'S JUST THE FARM CAT!



JUST A CAT? IT WAS ASMODEUS! MRS DEVERILL'S CAT!

WE CAN'T TALK HERE! NOT NOW!



THERE ARE THINGS HAPPENING - THINGS YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE.

COME TO MY FARM TOMORROW MORNING, TEN O'CLOCK. TURN LEFT WHEN YOU COME OUT OF HIVE HALL!



I'VE TRIED FINDING MY WAY AROUND THESE LANES - THEY JUST END UP WHERE I BEGAN.

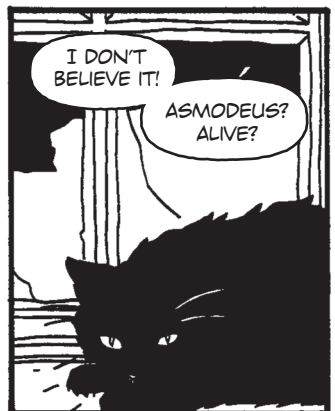
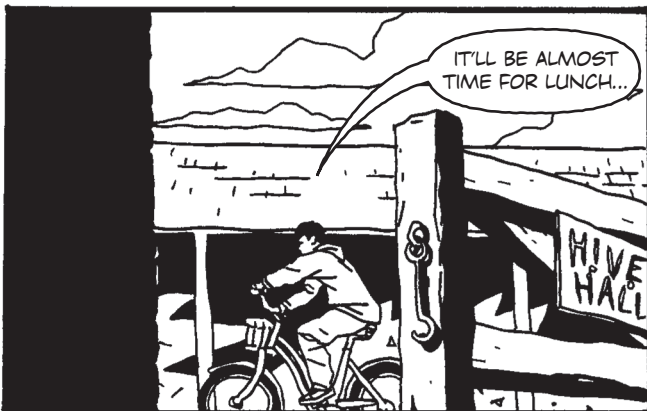
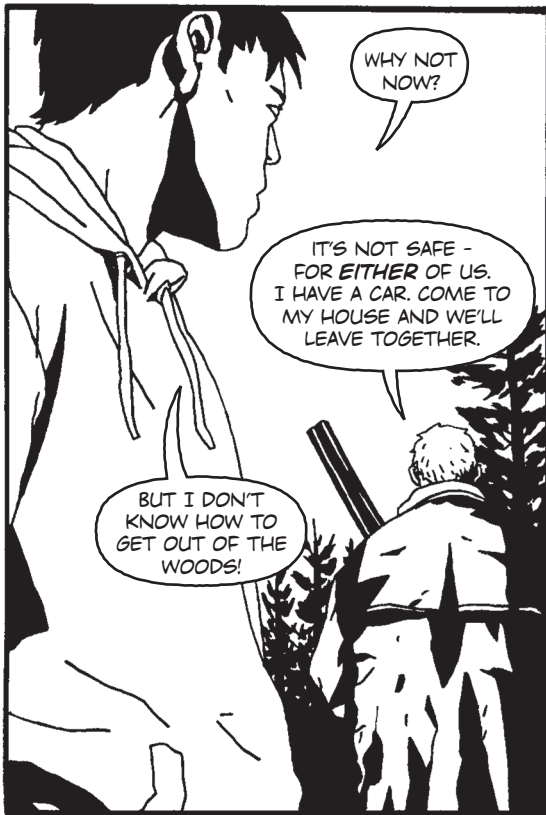
THAT'S RIGHT - YOU CAN ONLY GO WHERE THEY WANT YOU TO.

IT'S TOO DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN...



WEAR THIS. YOU WON'T GET LOST IF YOU'RE WEARING IT.

COME TO MY HOUSE TOMORROW AND I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING YOU WANT TO KNOW.





SO WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU YESTERDAY MORNING?

I WENT FOR A WALK.

A WALK? WHERE?

JUST AROUND.

**THE NEXT MORNING.**



I DON'T REMEMBER YOU ASKING PERMISSION.

I DON'T REMEMBER YOU TELLING ME I HAD TO.



I CAN'T SAY I'M USED TO BEING SPOKEN TO IN THAT WAY. I WAS ONLY THINKING OF YOU.

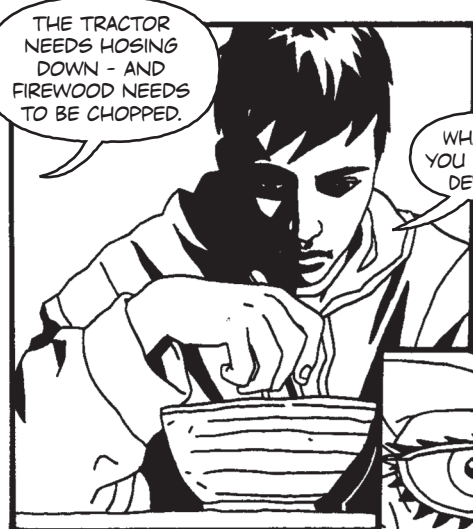
IT SAYS IN THE LEAF BOOKLET THAT I'M SUPPOSED TO KNOW YOUR WHEREABOUTS AT ALL TIMES.



I'D HATE TO REPORT THAT YOU BROKE THE RULES.

YOU CAN REPORT WHAT YOU WANT.

THERE'S A LOT OF WORK TO BE DONE TODAY.



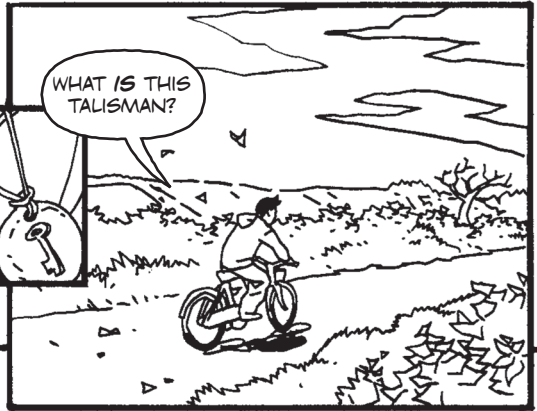
THE TRACTOR NEEDS HOISING DOWN - AND FIREWOOD NEEDS TO BE CHOPPED.

WHATEVER YOU SAY, MRS DEVERILL.



EXACTLY. WHATEVER I SAY.







GET OUT.  
MAYBE TOM'S  
STILL ASLEEP.

YEAH,  
RIGHT.



-HHNN-





RUN.  
GET OUT  
OF HERE.





YOU ALL RIGHT?

SHOULDN'T YOU BE IN SCHOOL?

THERE'S BEEN A MURDER!



A MAN NAMED TOM BURGESS! HE'S A FARMER - LIVES AT GLENDALE FARM!



YOU SAW HIM? WHAT WERE YOU DOING THERE? WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

I'M MATTHEW FREEMAN - I'M STAYING WITH MRS DEVERILL.

I MET TOM BURGESS. HE ASKED ME TO VISIT HIM. I WAS THERE JUST NOW. AND HE'S DEAD.



ALL RIGHT - YOU'D BETTER COME WITH US.



I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK THERE!

YOU CAN WAIT IN THE CAR. YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT.



WHERE DID YOU SEE HIM?

UPSTAIRS - IN THE BEDROOM!



THERE'S SOMEONE HERE.



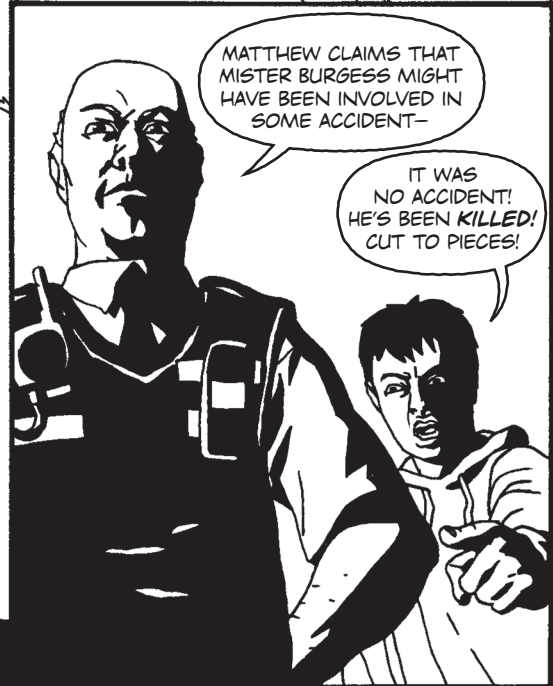
CAN I HELP YOU?

I'M SERGEANT RIVERS, THIS IS POLICE CONSTABLE REED. WHO ARE YOU?

JOANNA CREEVY. I HELP TOM BURGESS WITH HIS HOUSEWORK. WHAT'S WRONG?

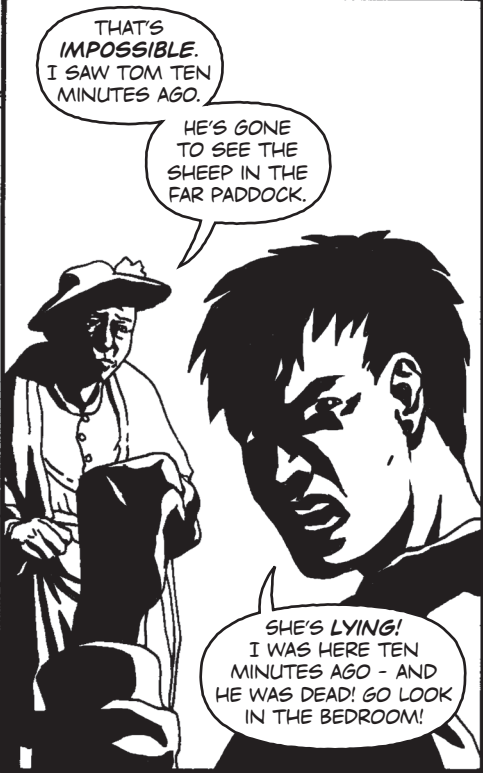
MATTHEW? YOU HAVEN'T GOT YOURSELF INTO TROUBLE, HAVE YOU?

YOU LEFT YOUR BICYCLE HERE - I **THOUGHT** YOU MUST HAVE BEEN VISITING.



MATTHEW CLAIMS THAT MISTER BURGESS MIGHT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN SOME ACCIDENT-

IT WAS NO ACCIDENT! HE'S BEEN KILLED! CUT TO PIECES!



THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. I SAW TOM TEN MINUTES AGO.

HE'S GONE TO SEE THE SHEEP IN THE FAR PADDOCK.

SHE'S LYING! I WAS HERE TEN MINUTES AGO - AND HE WAS DEAD! GO LOOK IN THE BEDROOM!



YES - YOU DO THAT.

YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE THE MESS - TOM'S BEEN REDECORATING AND I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO START WORK YET...

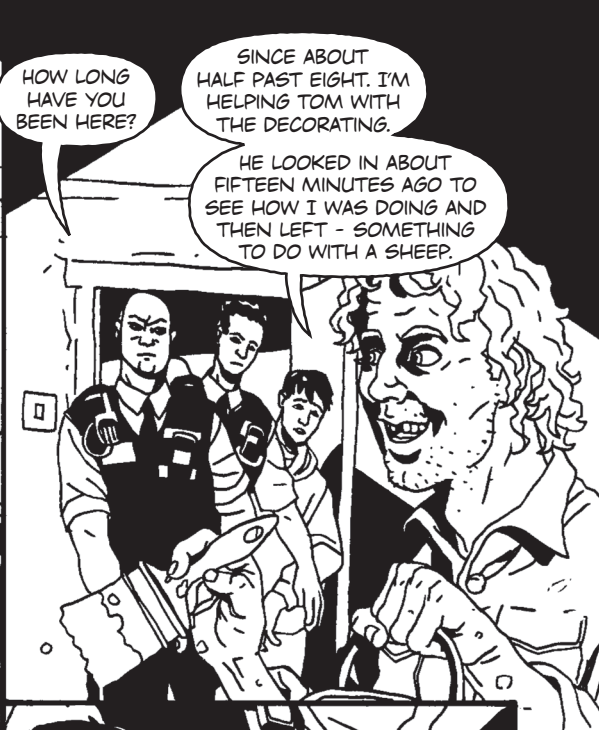


WHAT THE-



GOOD MORNING. I'M KEN, KEN RAMPTON.

CAN I HELP YOU?



HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN HERE?

SINCE ABOUT HALF PAST EIGHT. I'M HELPING TOM WITH THE DECORATING.

HE LOOKED IN ABOUT FIFTEEN MINUTES AGO TO SEE HOW I WAS DOING AND THEN LEFT - SOMETHING TO DO WITH A SHEEP.



HE'S LYING! AND THEY'VE PAINTED OVER THE MESSAGE!



WE WON'T WASTE ANY MORE OF YOUR TIME, SIR.

AND AS FOR YOU - I THINK WE SHOULD HAVE A WORD OUTSIDE.

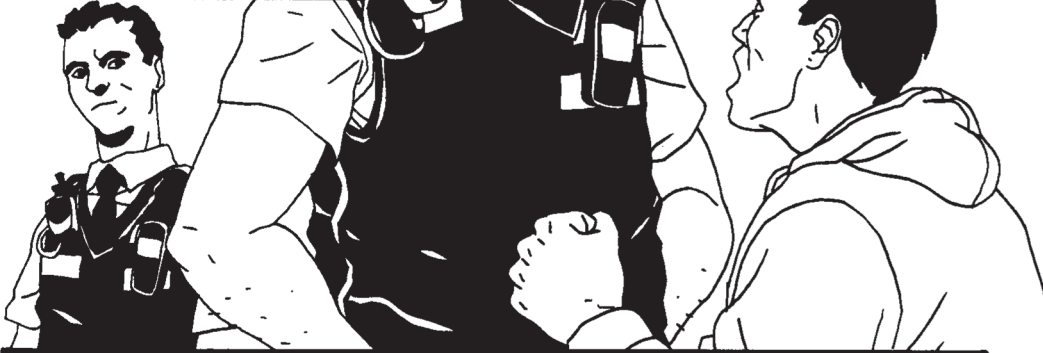


COULD I HAVE A PRIVATE WORD WITH YOU, OFFICER?



YOU OUGHT TO KNOW THAT WASTING POLICE TIME IS A VERY SERIOUS BUSINESS.

I'M TELLING THE TRUTH.



I UNDERSTAND YOU'VE BEEN IN TROUBLE A FEW TIMES BEFORE. YOU'RE WITH THE LEAF PROJECT.



IF YOU HAD ANY SENSE, YOU'D BE GRATEFUL AND STOP TRYING TO DRAW ATTENTION TO YOURSELF.

I DON'T WANT TO SEE OR HEAR FROM YOU AGAIN.



GO BACK TO HIVE HALL. MRS DEVERILL IS WAITING FOR YOU.

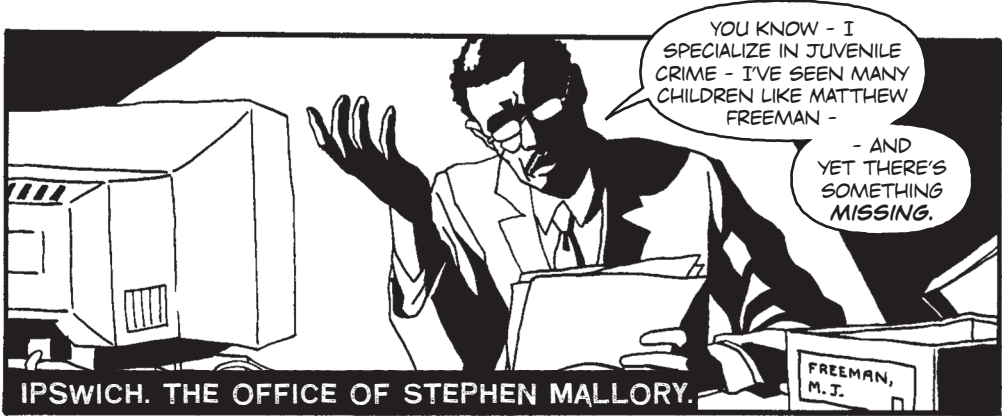


TO HELL WITH HER!

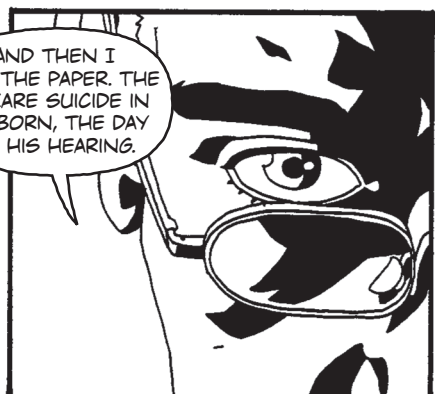
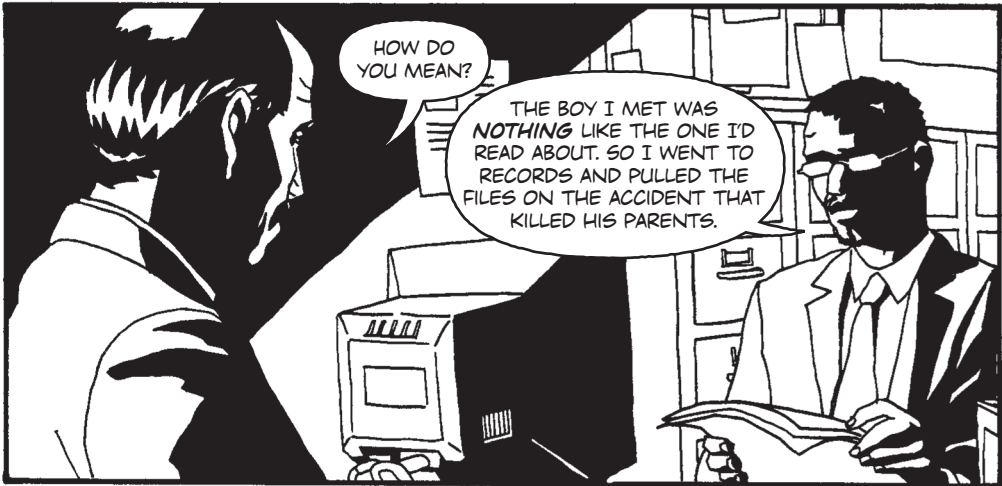


YOU CAN'T ESCAPE FROM US, MATTHEW - THERE'S NOWHERE YOU CAN GO!

"NOWHERE!"



IPSWICH. THE OFFICE OF STEPHEN MALLORY.







WILL SCOTT?  
HE WAS A THIEF AND  
A MUGGER. WHAT HAS  
HE GOT TO DO  
WITH THIS?



WITNESSES  
SAW HIM FOLLOW  
A MIDDLE-AGED  
WOMAN - GREY SUIT,  
SILVER LIZARD-SHAPED  
BROOCH - BEFORE  
HIS DEATH.

MRS DEVERILL  
WORE THE EXACT  
SAME SUIT AND  
BROOCH - AND  
WAS LATE TO THE  
HEARING.

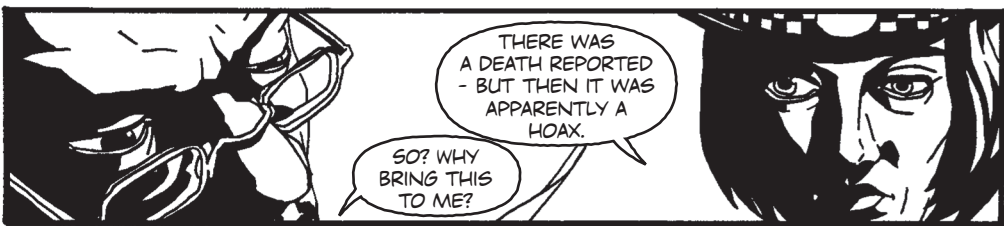


IT COULD  
HAVE BEEN HER,  
IT MAY NOT  
HAVE BEEN -



- BUT THE MORE  
I THINK OF IT, THE  
MORE I WONDER  
WHETHER MATTHEW  
FREEMAN *SHOULD*  
BE IN HER CARE.

MALLORY -  
WE'VE PICKED  
UP A ROUTINE  
TRANSMISSION  
FROM YORK YOU'LL  
BE INTERESTED  
IN.



THERE WAS  
A DEATH REPORTED  
- BUT THEN IT WAS  
APPARENTLY A  
HOAX.

SO? WHY  
BRING THIS  
TO ME?



BECAUSE IT'S  
FROM *LESSER*  
MALLING.

AND THE CALL WAS  
FROM A FOURTEEN-  
YEAR-OLD BOY FROM  
THE LEAF PROJECT.

GREATER MALLING.

THREE HOURS  
TO KILL UNTIL THE  
NEXT BUS...

MAYBE I CAN WORK  
OUT WHAT'S GOING ON  
AROUND HERE.



Reference

THERE HAS TO  
BE SOMETHING  
THAT CAN  
HELP ME.



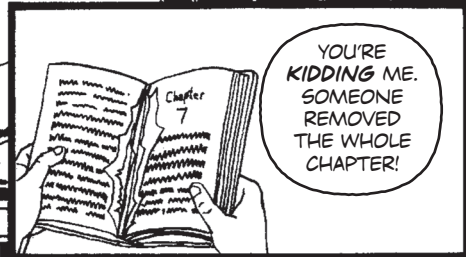
"RAMBLES AROUND  
GREATER MALLING"  
BY ELIZABETH  
ASHWOOD.



CHAPTER SIX  
- RAVEN'S ...  
GATE.



YOU'RE  
KIDDING ME.  
SOMEONE  
REMOVED  
THE WHOLE  
CHAPTER!

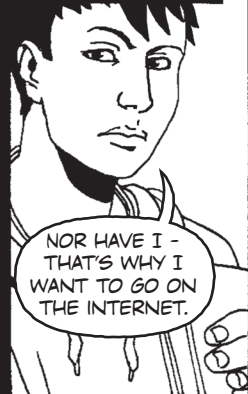


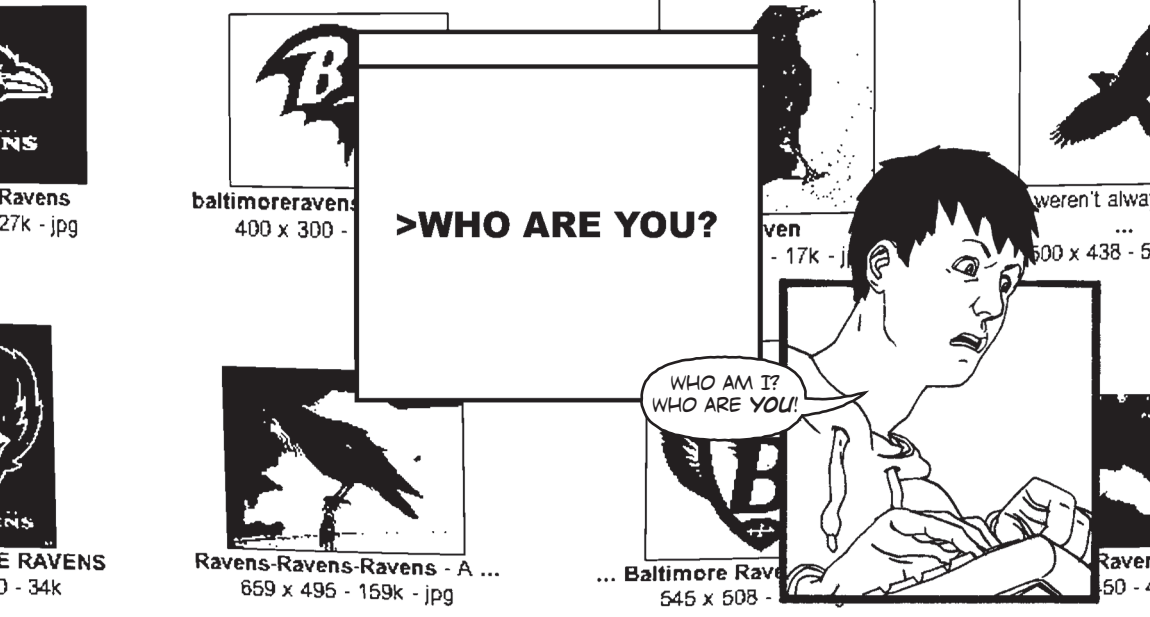
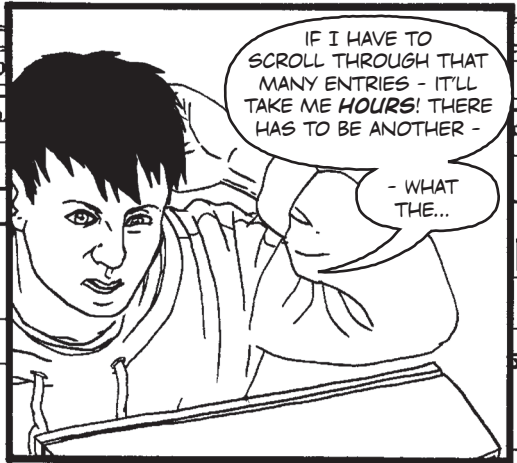
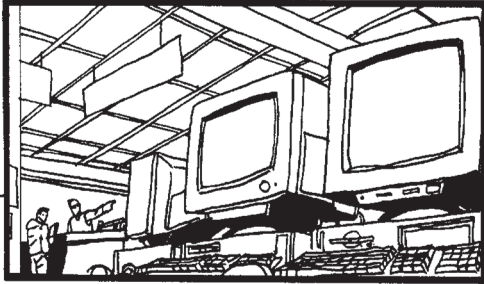
EXCUSE ME, I NEED  
TO USE THE INTERNET  
FOR A SCHOOL PROJECT,  
TO FIND OUT SOMETHING  
ABOUT RAVEN'S GATE.

NEVER HEARD  
OF IT.

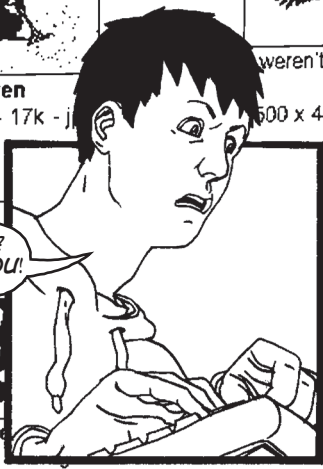


NOR HAVE I -  
THAT'S WHY I  
WANT TO GO ON  
THE INTERNET.





**>WHO ARE YOU?**



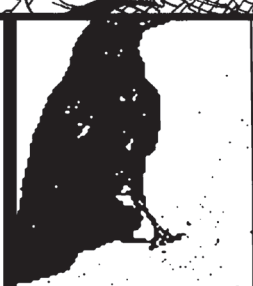
>WHO ARE YOU?  
 >WHO R U?  
 >SANJAY DRAVID  
 >YOU HAVE MADE  
 AN ENQUIRY ABOUT  
 RAVEN'S GATE. WHAT  
 IS YOUR FIELD OF  
 RESEARCH?



baltimore Ravens  
 400 x 300 - 1  
 thischicksviewonespor

RAVEN'S GATE. WHAT  
 IS YOUR FIELD OF  
 RESEARCH?

>I WANT TO KNOW  
 WHAT IT IS.  
 >WHO ARE YOU?  
 >MY NAME IS MATT.  
 >MATT WHO?  
 >CAN YOU HELP ME?



Raven  
 x 360 - 17k - jpg  
 kaweahoaks.com



Ravens-Ravens-Ravens - A ...  
 659 x 495 - 159k - jpg

... Baltimore Ravens page on ...  
 545 x 508 - 16k - gif  
 www.sportslogos.net

www.ravensravensravens.

>GOODBYE



GOODBYE?  
NOTHING  
MORE?



IS THERE A  
NEWSPAPER IN  
GREATER MALLING?

A  
NEWSPAPER?



THERE'S THE  
**GAZETTE** - I'D HARDLY  
CALL IT A NEWSPAPER.  
OTHERWISE THERE'S  
THE YORKSHIRE POST.



WHERE'S  
THE YORKSHIRE  
POST?

IT'S IN YORK.  
IF YOU WANT A LOCAL  
NEWSPAPER OFFICE,  
YOU'LL HAVE TO TRY  
THE GAZETTE.

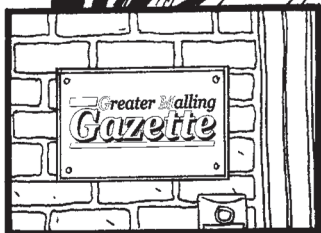


THEY'RE IN  
FARROW STREET  
- BUT I DOUBT  
THEY'LL BE ABLE  
TO HELP YOU WITH  
YOUR PROJECT.



I CAN TRY.





CAN I HELP YOU?

YEAH - I WANT TO TALK TO SOMEONE WHO KNOWS ABOUT LOCAL AFFAIRS. LESSER MALLING.



RICHARD! THERE'S SOMEONE HERE TO SEE YOU! THIS KID!



WHAT? YEAH - ALL RIGHT.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

HELP. I'M TRYING TO FIND OUT ABOUT SOMETHING. IT'S - IT'S FOR A SCHOOL PROJECT.

TRY THE LIBRARY. I'M BUSY.



YOU DON'T LOOK BUSY!

WELL I WAS. BUSY BEING BUSY.



OK - YOU'RE A JOURNALIST - MAYBE I'VE GOT A STORY.



A STORY?  
ALL RIGHT. COME UPSTAIRS.





YOU SAID LESSER MALLING?

YES. YOU KNOW IT?

I'VE BEEN THROUGH. I'M MEANT TO COVER IT. WE ALL HAVE OUR OWN TERRITORIES.

I GOT LESSER MALLING. LUCKY ME!



NOTHING EVER HAPPENS THERE. I'M TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OLD. I'VE BEEN WORKING IN THIS DUMP FOR EIGHTEEN MONTHS.

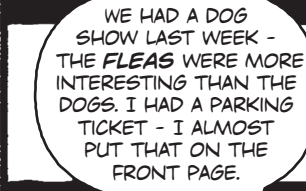
AND THE BIGGEST NEWS EVENT I'VE COVERED SO FAR? "BAD EYESIGHT KILLS OLD LADY".



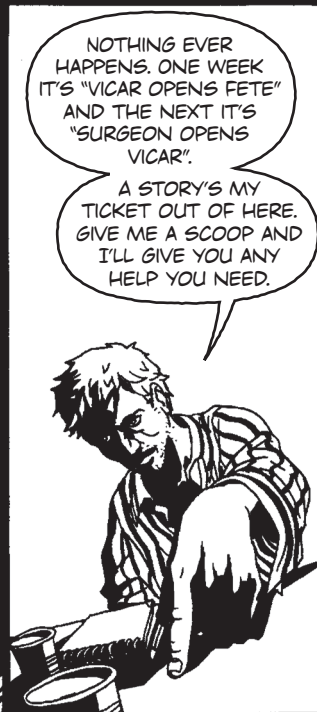
HOW CAN BAD EYESIGHT KILL YOU?



SHE FELL IN THE RIVER.



WE HAD A DOG SHOW LAST WEEK - THE FLEAS WERE MORE INTERESTING THAN THE DOGS. I HAD A PARKING TICKET - I ALMOST PUT THAT ON THE FRONT PAGE.



NOTHING EVER HAPPENS. ONE WEEK IT'S "VICAR OPENS FETE" AND THE NEXT IT'S "SURGEON OPENS VICAR".

A STORY'S MY TICKET OUT OF HERE. GIVE ME A SCOOP AND I'LL GIVE YOU ANY HELP YOU NEED.



I'M NOT SURE YOU'LL BELIEVE ME.

TRY ME.



TWENTY MINUTES LATER.



... IT'S OBVIOUSLY IMPORTANT - TOM BURGESS DIED TRYING TO WARN ME.

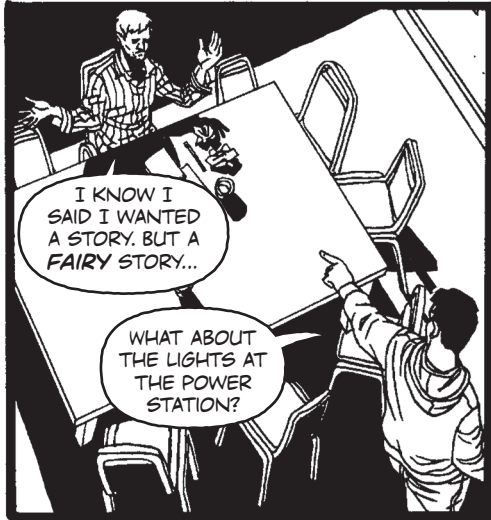
HE DIED - BUT HIS BODY DISAPPEARED.



LOOK - I'M SORRY MATTHEW, BUT EVERYTHING YOU'VE TOLD ME -

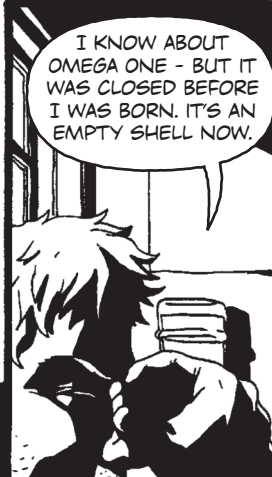


- IS COMPLETE CRAP! LANES THAT LOOP IN CIRCLES! FARMERS THAT DIE AND THEN DISAPPEAR!

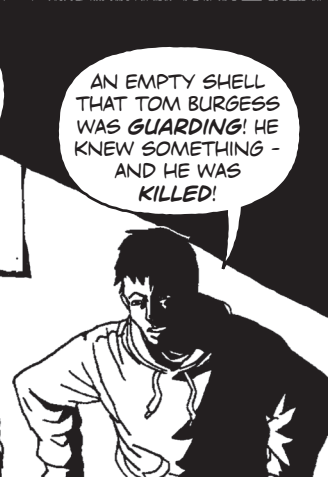


I KNOW I SAID I WANTED A STORY. BUT A FAIRY STORY...

WHAT ABOUT THE LIGHTS AT THE POWER STATION?



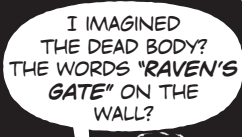
I KNOW ABOUT OMEGA ONE - BUT IT WAS CLOSED BEFORE I WAS BORN. IT'S AN EMPTY SHELL NOW.



AN EMPTY SHELL THAT TOM BURGESS WAS GUARDING! HE KNEW SOMETHING - AND HE WAS KILLED!



YOU SEEM LIKE A NICE KID, BUT MAYBE YOU IMAGINED THE WHOLE THING?



I IMAGINED THE DEAD BODY? THE WORDS "RAVEN'S GATE" ON THE WALL?



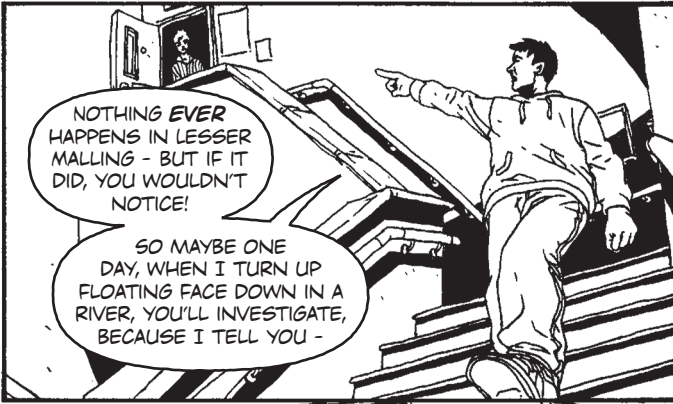
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF RAVEN'S GATE-



WELL, THEN IT OBVIOUSLY CAN'T EXIST!

I'VE WASTED MY TIME COMING HERE.



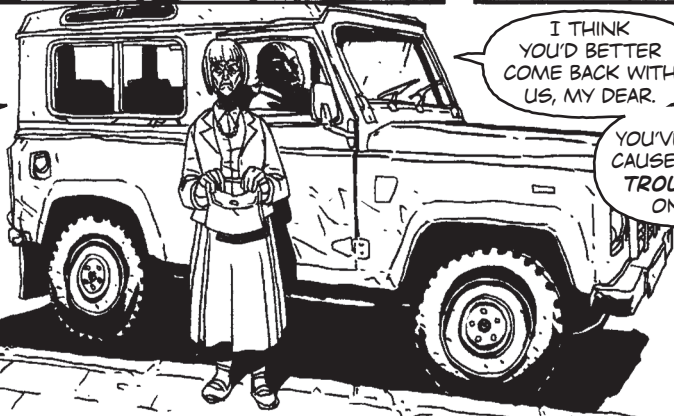


NOTHING EVER HAPPENS IN LESSER MALLING - BUT IF IT DID, YOU WOULDN'T NOTICE!

SO MAYBE ONE DAY, WHEN I TURN UP FLOATING FACE DOWN IN A RIVER, YOU'LL INVESTIGATE, BECAUSE I TELL YOU -



- I WON'T HAVE DIED OF BAD EYESIGHT...



WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MATTHEW?

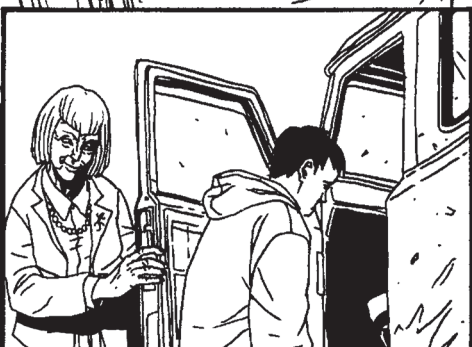
I THINK YOU'D BETTER COME BACK WITH US, MY DEAR.

YOU'VE ALREADY CAUSED ENOUGH TROUBLE FOR ONE DAY.



I DON'T WANT TO COME WITH YOU!

I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE ANY CHOICE.



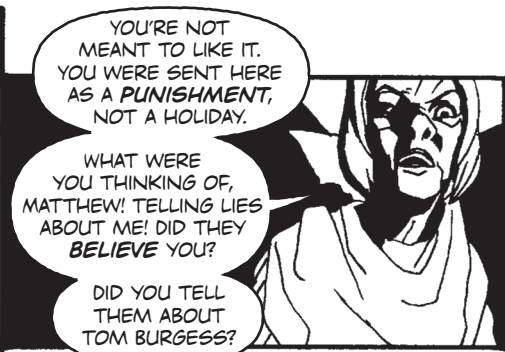
"I THINK YOU AND I NEED TO HAVE A TALK, MATTHEW!"



YOU AND I DON'T SEEM TO QUITE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER. I GET THE FEELING YOU'RE AGAINST ME.

I DON'T KNOW WHY - I HAVEN'T HURT YOU. WHAT EXACTLY IS WRONG?

I DON'T LIKE IT HERE.



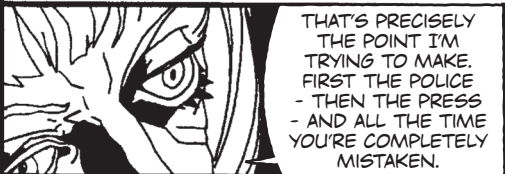
YOU'RE NOT MEANT TO LIKE IT. YOU WERE SENT HERE AS A PUNISHMENT, NOT A HOLIDAY.

WHAT WERE YOU THINKING OF, MATTHEW! TELLING LIES ABOUT ME! DID THEY BELIEVE YOU?

DID YOU TELL THEM ABOUT TOM BURGESS?



YES.



THAT'S PRECISELY THE POINT I'M TRYING TO MAKE. FIRST THE POLICE - THEN THE PRESS - AND ALL THE TIME YOU'RE COMPLETELY MISTAKEN.

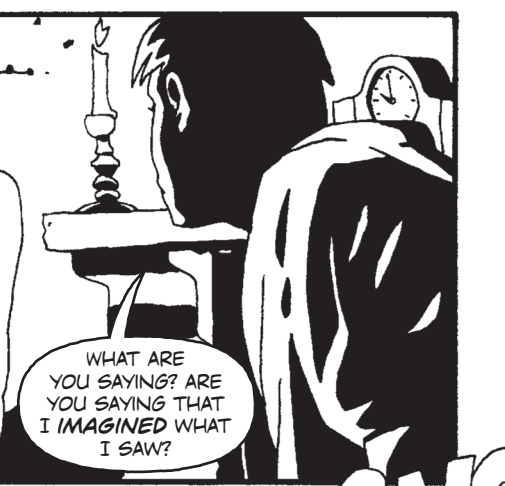


I KNOW WHAT I SAW!



I DON'T THINK YOU DO. IT'S MY OWN FAULT - I GOT YOU TO CLEAN OUT THE PIGS AND SOME OF THE CHEMICALS ARE VERY STRONG.

THEY GET INTO YOUR BRAIN.



WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? ARE YOU SAYING THAT I IMAGINED WHAT I SAW?



THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M SAYING. I THINK YOU'VE PROBABLY IMAGINED ALL SORTS OF THINGS SINCE YOU ARRIVED HERE.





EXACTLY ON TIME.

I THINK YOU'LL FIND IT'S FOR YOU.

WHY DON'T YOU ANSWER IT?

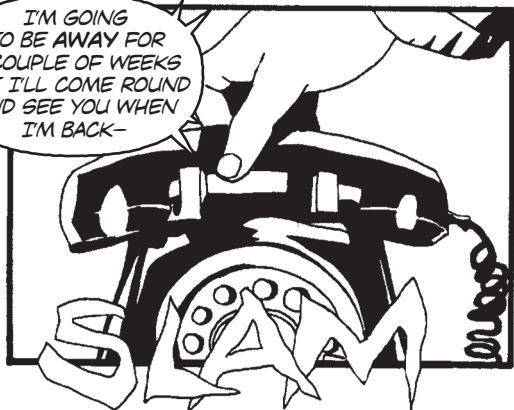


HELLO?

MATTHEW - IS THAT YOU? IT'S TOM.

I WANTED TO SAY I WAS SORRY I MISSED YOU THIS MORNING - I HAD TO GO DOWN TO A MARKET IN CIRENCESTER.

I'M GOING TO BE AWAY FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS BUT I'LL COME ROUND AND SEE YOU WHEN I'M BACK--



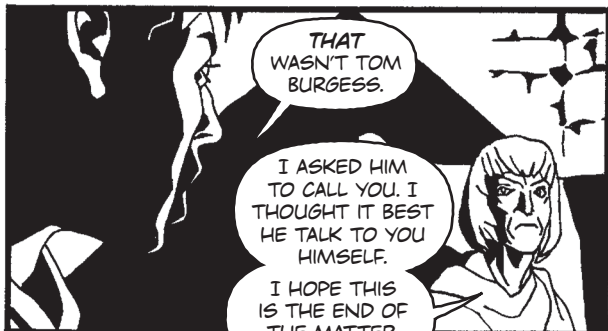
THAT WASN'T VERY FRIENDLY.



THAT WASN'T TOM BURGESS.

I ASKED HIM TO CALL YOU. I THOUGHT IT BEST HE TALK TO YOU HIMSELF.

I HOPE THIS IS THE END OF THE MATTER, MATTHEW.



YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL BEFORE YOU TELL ANY MORE OF THESE STORIES.

ANYONE WHO KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT YOU IS UNLIKELY TO BELIEVE YOU. AND THE LAST THING YOU NEED -

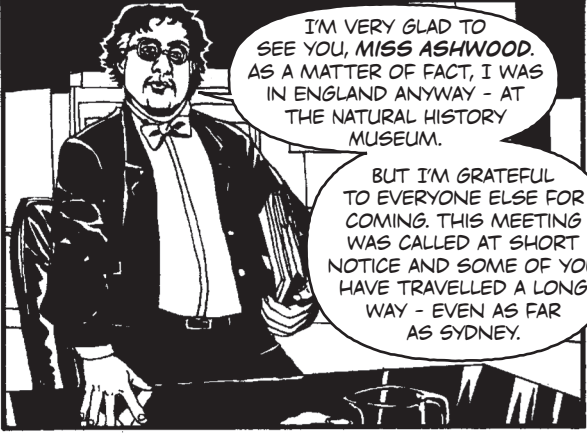


"- IS TO GET INTO ANY MORE TROUBLE WITH THE POLICE."

THANK YOU FOR COMING, PROFESSOR DAVID.



LONDON. THE NEXUS.



I'M VERY GLAD TO SEE YOU, MISS ASHWOOD. AS A MATTER OF FACT, I WAS IN ENGLAND ANYWAY - AT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM.

BUT I'M GRATEFUL TO EVERYONE ELSE FOR COMING. THIS MEETING WAS CALLED AT SHORT NOTICE AND SOME OF YOU HAVE TRAVELLED A LONG WAY - EVEN AS FAR AS SYDNEY.



AS YOU ARE ALL AWARE, MISS ASHWOOD CALLED AN EMERGENCY SESSION OF THE NEXUS THREE NIGHTS AGO.



LONDON

SEVEN MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE WE LAST MET - AT THAT TIME, I TOLD YOU I WAS AWARE OF A GROWING DANGER.

WE AGREED THAT WE SHOULD MONITOR THE SITUATION. WE ARE THE EYES OF THE WORLD - ALTHOUGH I, OF COURSE, HAVE OTHER WAYS OF SEEING.



BEIJING



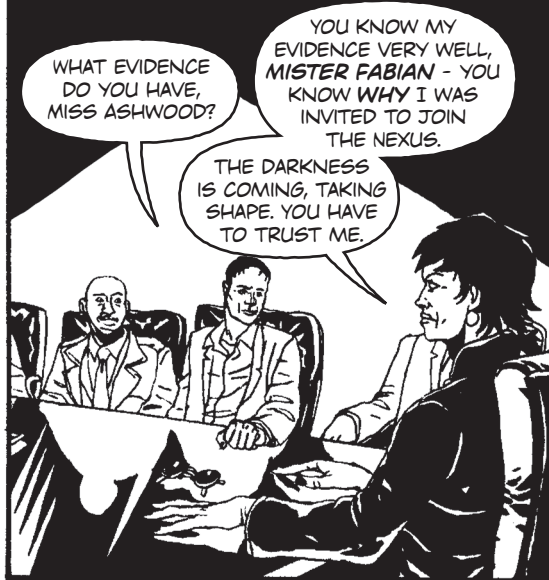
LIMA





THE DANGER HAS BECOME MORE ACUTE - AND I CAN'T LEAVE IT ANY LONGER. I AM CERTAIN IN MY HEART THAT OUR WORST FEARS ARE TO BE REALIZED.

RAVEN'S GATE IS ABOUT TO OPEN.



WHAT EVIDENCE DO YOU HAVE, MISS ASHWOOD?

YOU KNOW MY EVIDENCE VERY WELL, MISTER FABIAN - YOU KNOW WHY I WAS INVITED TO JOIN THE NEXUS.

THE DARKNESS IS COMING, TAKING SHAPE. YOU HAVE TO TRUST ME.



I'M VERY AWARE OF YOUR ABILITIES, AND HAVE GREAT RESPECT FOR THEM.

BUT TO ACCEPT THAT SOMETHING IS THE CASE BECAUSE YOU TELL US SO?



I THOUGHT THAT WAS WHAT FAITH WAS ALL ABOUT.

THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IS WRITTEN DOWN. **NOBODY** HAS EVER WRITTEN A HISTORY ABOUT THE **OLD ONES**.



THAT'S NOT TRUE - YOU'RE FORGETTING THE SPANISH MONK.



**ST JOSEPH OF CORDOBA?** HIS BOOK HAS BEEN LOST - AND HE WAS DISCREDITED CENTURIES AGO!

YOU MUST REMEMBER THAT **OFFICIALLY** THE CHURCH DOES NOT BELIEVE IN YOUR **OLD ONES**.



IF IT WAS KNOWN THAT I WAS PART OF THE NEXUS, I WOULD HAVE TO RESIGN.

WE BOTH HAVE THE SAME AIMS, AFRAID OF THE SAME THING - NO MATTER WHAT YOU CALL IT. BUT WE NEED MORE EVIDENCE!



MAYBE I CAN BE OF ASSISTANCE.

I DID NOTICE SOMETHING VERY RECENTLY - IT WAS VERY MINOR, SO I DIDN'T REPORT IT TO YOU, BUT IN LIGHT OF WHAT YOU ARE SAYING...



A DRUG ADDICT CALLED WILL SCOTT WAS FOLLOWING A WOMAN INTO AN ALLEYWAY NEAR HOLBORN. HE HAD A KNIFE, AND A RECORD OF ARMED VIOLENCE -

- BUT IT WAS SCOTT WHO WAS FOUND DEAD. HE PUSHED THE KNIFE INTO HIS OWN HEART.



WHAT'S SO STRANGE ABOUT THAT?

I SAW HIS FACE. THE LOOK OF TERROR.

HE'D TRIED TO FIGHT IT. HE DIDN'T WANT TO DIE.



WHY SHOULD ONE DEATH IN HOLBORN HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE OLD ONES?

I AGREE. BUT THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE, AND IT HAPPENED ONLY THIS MORNING.

I WAS ONLINE AT THE MUSEUM - AND MY COMPUTER PICKED UP AN ENQUIRY INTO RAVEN'S GATE.

I HAVE A PROGRAM -  
WHENEVER SOMEBODY  
PUTS THOSE WORDS  
INTO A SEARCH ENGINE,  
I HEAR ABOUT IT.

TWICE BEFORE  
IT'S HAPPENED -  
ACADEMICS - BUT  
THIS TIME IT WAS A  
TEENAGER - HE USED  
"R" AND "U" - CALLED  
MATT.

AND MORE  
IMPORTANTLY -

- THE ENQUIRY CAME  
FROM THE LIBRARY OF  
GREATER MALLING.

MAYBE WE SHOULD  
TRY TO FIND THIS "MATT" -  
AND DISCOVER WHAT  
HE KNOWS.

WE SAID FROM THE  
START THAT WE *COULDN'T*  
GET INVOLVED - THAT'S NOT  
OUR ROLE. WE EXIST  
TO WATCH -

- AND IF AND *WHEN*  
THE TIME COMES -  
TO FIGHT BACK.

HE WILL FIND  
HIS WAY TO US.

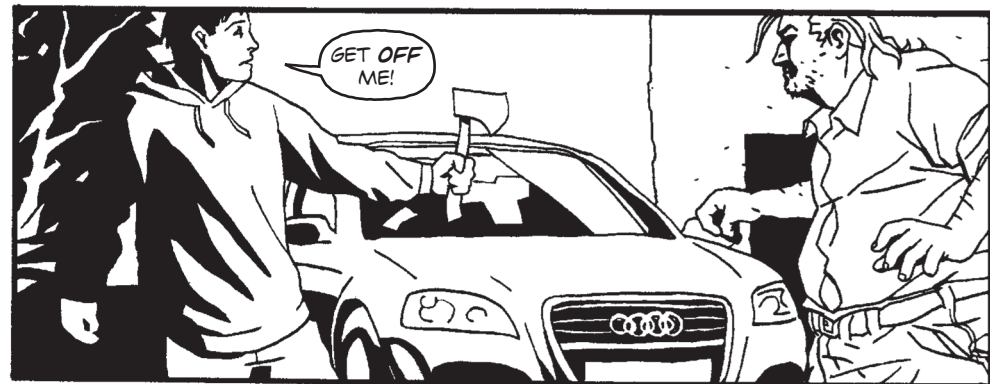
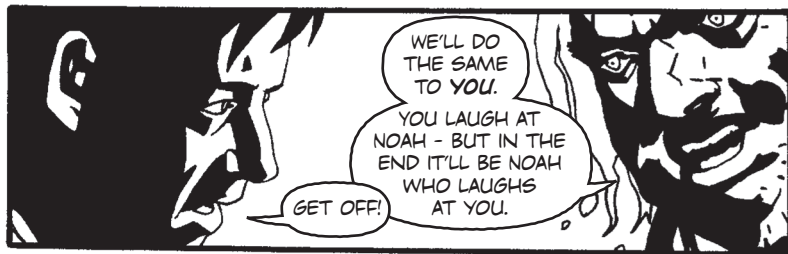
IT IS MEANT TO  
HAPPEN. EVERYTHING  
IS PREPARED FOR THIS  
MOMENT - FOR THE  
RETURN OF THE FIVE  
AND THE FINAL  
STRUGGLE.

IF WE DON'T SEE  
THAT, WE LOSE ONE  
OF OUR *GREATEST*  
WEAPONS.

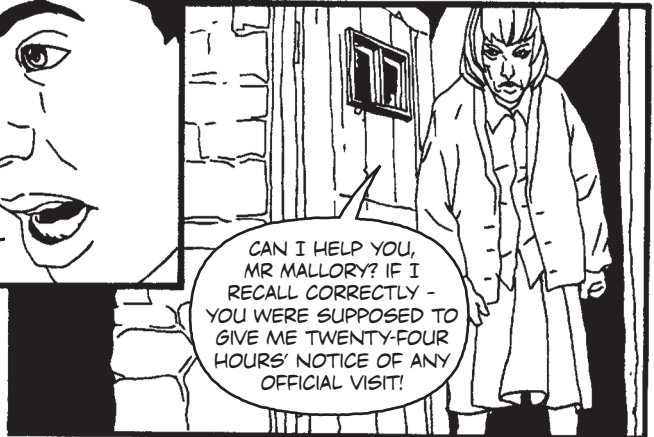
MATT.

LET'S JUST  
PRAY HE FINDS  
US SOON.

# CHOP



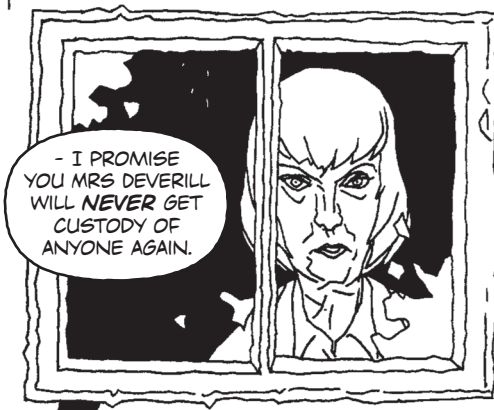
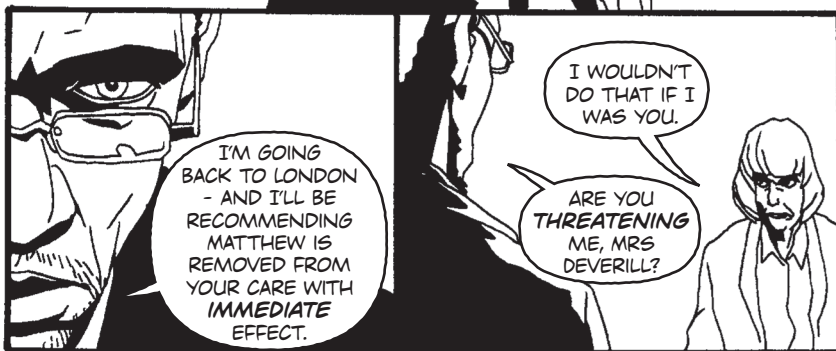






I HAVEN'T SEEN VERY MUCH - BUT IT'S OBVIOUS THAT THE LIVING CONDITIONS HERE ARE ENTIRELY **INADEQUATE** FOR MATTHEW'S NEEDS.

HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S BEEN WORKED TO THE BONE. YOU'VE ACTUALLY BROKEN THE LAW BY KEEPING HIM OUT OF SCHOOL.



Peterborough  
A1  
Ipswich  
A11  
31

...YOU'RE LISTENING TO CLASSIC FM.



NEXT UP ... RECITAL  
BY ... SKKKRRSSHH  
... EMANY ... NEVAEH  
... NITRA ... OH ...  
WREHTAF ...

WHAT THE HELL?



EMANY ...  
NEVAEH ...  
NITRA ... OH ...  
WREHTAF ...

I'M SPEEDING  
UP?

THE BRAKES -  
WHY AREN'T  
MY BRAKES  
WORKING?!

EMANY ...  
NEVAEH ...  
NITRA ... OH ...  
WREHTAF ...

EMANY ...  
NEVAEH ... NITRA ...  
OH ... WREHTAF ...

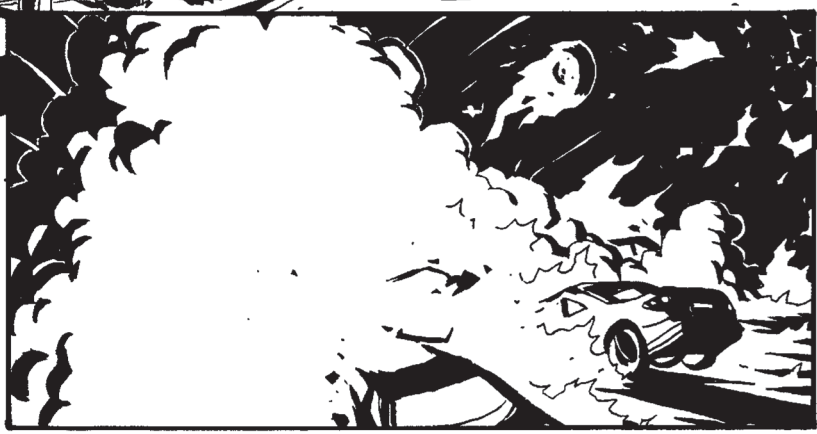
SCREECH!

CRASH!





Noooo!!!



"MATTHEW, WAKE UP!"



MATTHEW -  
WAKE UP.

WHU -



- WHAT  
IS IT?

I JUST HEARD  
IT ON THE RADIO  
- I THOUGHT YOU  
OUGHT TO KNOW.



I'M AFRAID IT'S **BAD**  
NEWS, MATTHEW.

IT SEEMS THERE  
WAS A MULTIPLE PILE  
UP ON THE MOTORWAY  
LAST NIGHT. SIX PEOPLE  
WERE KILLED.

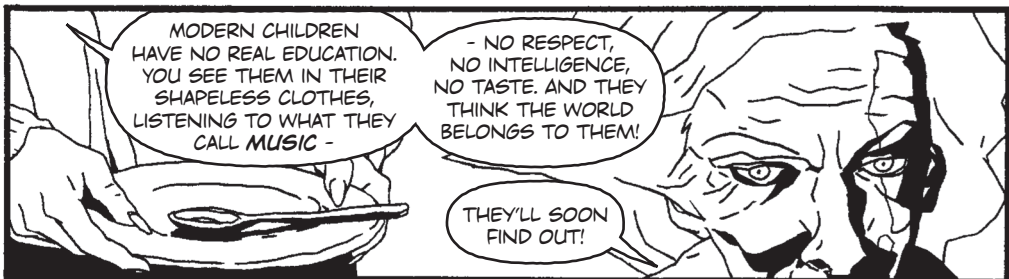


DETECTIVE  
SUPERINTENDENT  
MALLORY WAS **ONE**  
OF THEM.

IT'S A TERRIBLE  
SHAME, REALLY  
TERRIBLE -



- BUT IT LOOKS  
LIKE YOU **WON'T**  
BE LEAVING  
AFTER ALL.





NOT FOR ME, THANKS.



YOU'RE NOT LEAVING THE TABLE UNTIL YOU DO.



WELL, IF YOU INSIST.



I DO-



ASMODEUS!



TIRED, MATTHEW? WHY DON'T YOU GO TO BED?

-YAWN- I THINK I'LL DO THAT.



HE'LL SLEEP TWELVE HOURS AND WAKE UP WITH A CHAINSAW OF A HEADACHE. ARE YOU READY?

YES.



THEN LET'S GO.







LOOKS LIKE THE WHOLE VILLAGE IS HERE.

I WONDER WHAT'S IN THE BOX—



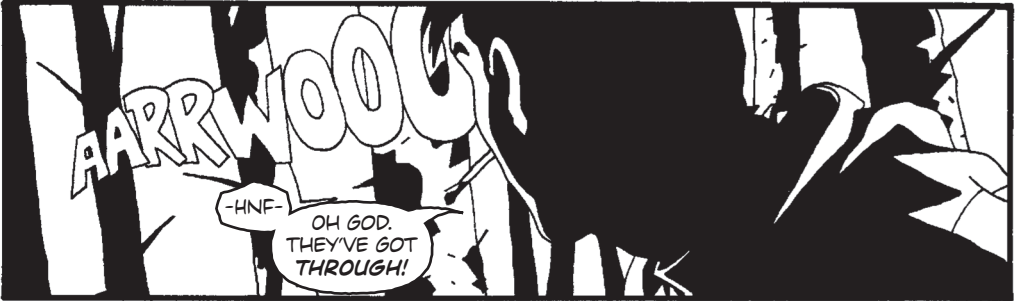
EEEE OOO WEEEE OOO WEEEE

EEEEOOOWEEEEOOOWEEEO



OH CRAP.











LOOK OUT!  
THERE.

GRRRR



NICE DOGS!  
STAY!

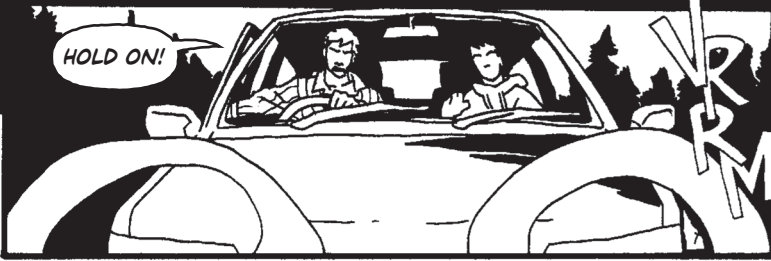


GET IN  
THE CAR.

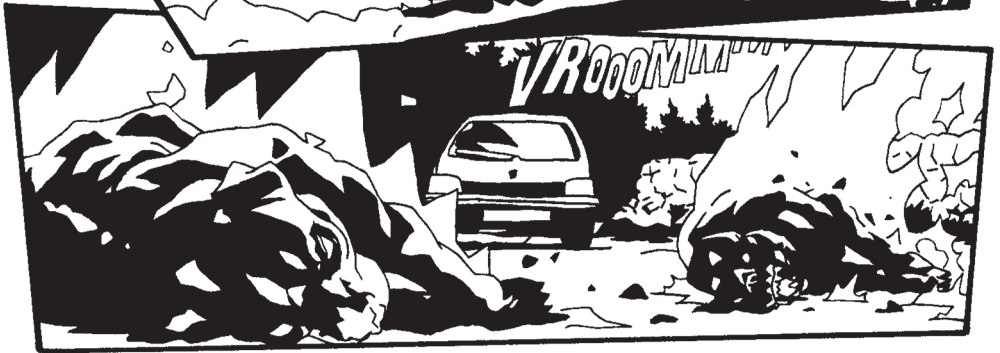
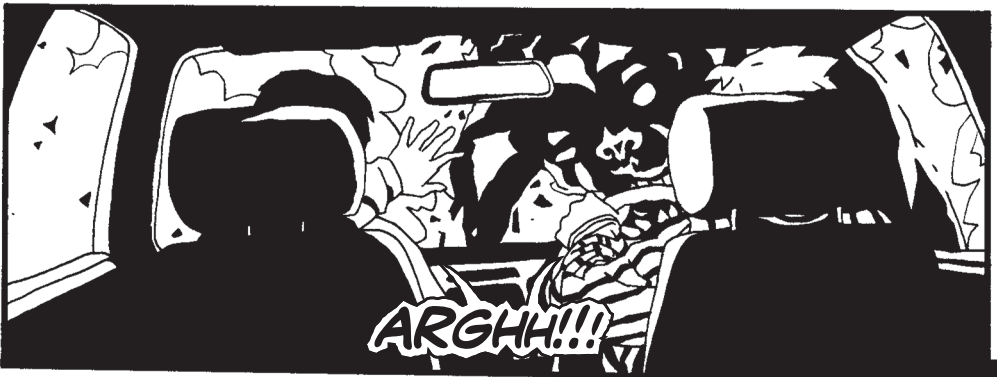
WHAT ARE  
YOU GOING  
TO DO?



I'M GOING  
TO PUT THEM  
DOWN.







**RICHARD'S FLAT.  
THE SHAMBLES, YORK.**



I WAS LUCKY TO GET IT. IT'S VERY CHEAP.

NICE PLACE.

NOT THAT I'M HERE MUCH, I USUALLY EAT DOWN THE PUB.

YOU LIVE ON YOUR OWN?

I HAD A GIRLFRIEND UNTIL ABOUT A WEEK AGO. UNFORTUNATELY SHE TOOK A LIKING TO CLASSICAL MUSIC.

NOW SHE'S GOING OUT WITH AN OPERA SINGER.

WANT ANYTHING TO DRINK?

WHAT'S SO WRONG WITH THAT?

HOW DID YOU FIND ME TONIGHT?

WELL - AFTER YOU LEFT, I THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT YOU'D SAID. IT SOUNDED PRETTY STUPID, BUT THERE WERE PARTS OF YOUR STORY...

AND I HAD NOTHING BETTER TO DO.

LET'S JUST SAY I HAPPENED TO BE PASSING OMEGA ONE.

THE MAN WHO BUILT IT STILL LIVES IN YORK. HE WAS A SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR TO THE GOVERNMENT BACK IN THE SIXTIES, BUT HE'S RETIRED NOW.

MAN BY THE NAME OF SIR MICHAEL MARSH.





DID YOU MEET HIM?

I DID A STORY ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO. UNBELIEVABLY BORING MAN. LIVES IN A BIG HOUSE BY THE RIVER AND COLLECTS MATCHBOOK LABELS.

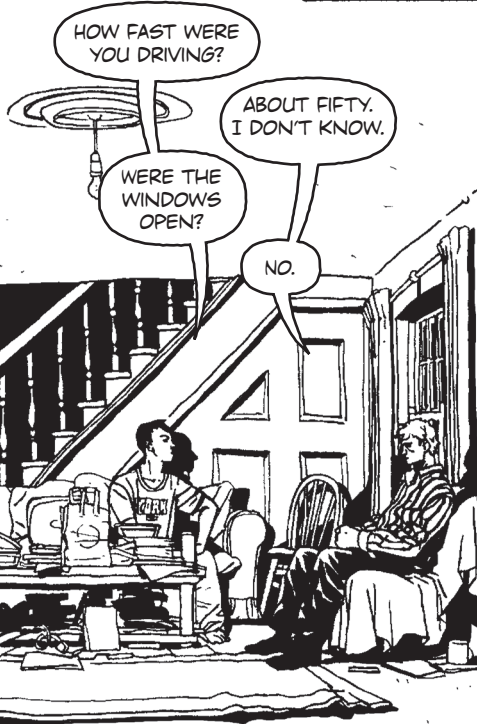
WORST COMES TO THE WORST, I MAY GIVE HIM A CALL. HE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP.

SO YOU DECIDED TO VISIT OMEGA ONE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?

I WAS RETURNING FROM THE PUB. I HEARD SOMEONE SHOUTING AND FOUND YOU.

THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE - I DIDN'T SHOUT FOR HELP.

I DIDN'T EVEN HEAR YOUR CAR. YOU WERE SUDDENLY JUST THERE.



HOW FAST WERE YOU DRIVING?

ABOUT FIFTY. I DON'T KNOW.

WERE THE WINDOWS OPEN?


NO.

THEN EVEN IF I HAD SHOUTED - HOW COULD YOU HAVE HEARD ME?

IT'S NOT POSSIBLE.


SO HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN HOW I SWERVED OFF THE ROAD AT EXACTLY THE RIGHT POINT TO FIND YOU?

I CAN'T.



WELL, ANYWAY - NOW YOU'RE HERE, MAYBE YOU SHOULD TELL ME A BIT MORE ABOUT YOURSELF. IT MIGHT HELP ME WORK OUT WHAT TO DO.

START AT THE BEGINNING - WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR PARENTS?




I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH ABOUT MY PARENTS. THEY DIED SIX YEARS AGO.

MY DAD WAS A DOCTOR. I DON'T THINK MY MUM WORKED. WE HAD A NICE HOUSE AND A BIT OF MONEY, BUT WE WEREN'T RICH.

BROTHERS?  
SISTERS?

NO. MY DAD WAS BORN IN NEW ZEALAND AND HIS FAMILY'S STILL OVER THERE. MUM HAD A HALF-SISTER - GWENDA.

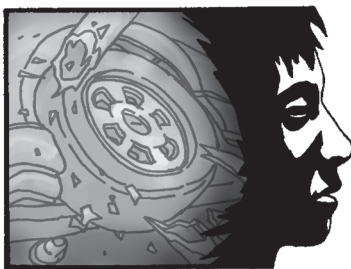
ANYWAY - MY MUM AND DAD WERE KILLED. THEY WERE DRIVING TO A WEDDING IN OXFORD. I WAS SUPPOSED TO GO BUT AT THE LAST MINUTE I DIDN'T FEEL WELL.



THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT. A TYRE BURST AS THEY WERE CROSSING A BRIDGE. MY DAD LOST CONTROL AND THEY WENT OVER THE SIDE.

THEY DROWNED.


I WAS THEN SENT TO LIVE WITH GWENDA AND BRIAN.



YOU'RE NOT GOING TO WRITE ABOUT THIS, ARE YOU?

I WON'T WRITE ABOUT ANYTHING UNLESS YOU LET ME.






THEY LEFT ME EVERYTHING - SO GWENDA GOT HOLD OF THE MONEY. THEY SPENT IT ON CARS AND HOLIDAYS.

AND WHEN IT RAN OUT THEY TURNED NASTY.

ANYWAY YOU KNOW THE REST - HOW I MET KELVIN, THE SECURITY GUARD, THE LEAF PROJECT, MRS DEVERILL -

- AND WHAT I TOLD YOU AT THE PAPER? IT'S ALL TRUE.



WHY DO YOU THINK SHE WANTS YOU?

I DON'T KNOW - BUT I THINK I KNOW WHAT THEY ALL ARE.



I THINK THEY'RE WITCHES.




WITCHES!

YOU SAW THE DOGS! I SAW HOW SHE CREATED THEM - THEY CAME OUT OF THE FIRE!



AND WHAT ABOUT THIS?



YEAH. ALL RIGHT - YORKSHIRE USED TO BE FULL OF THEM - BUT THAT WAS FIVE HUNDRED YEARS AGO!

IF THERE WERE WITCHES FIVE HUNDRED YEARS AGO - WHY CAN'T THERE BE WITCHES NOW?

THE CAT WAS KILLED AND CAME BACK. TOM BURGESS DIED, BUT I HEARD HIS VOICE ON THE PHONE.

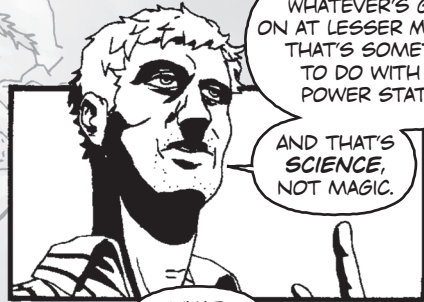
AND DETECTIVE MALLORY WAS KILLED ON THE MOTORWAY.

THEY MIGHT *THINK* THEY'RE WITCHES - BUT THEY'RE NOT, MATTHEW.

WHATEVER'S GOING ON AT LESSER MALLING - THAT'S SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE POWER STATION.

AND THAT'S *SCIENCE*, NOT MAGIC.

WHAT ABOUT THE DOGS?



GENETICALLY MODIFIED. I DON'T KNOW.

I ENJOY MAGIC. BUT DO I BELIEVE IN IT? NO.

YOU CAN HAVE THE SPARE ROOM UPSTAIRS FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS.

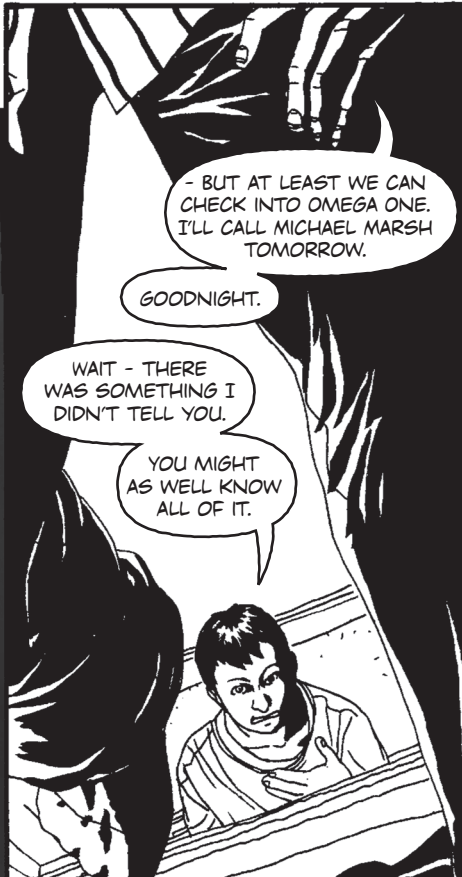
I MUST BE CRAZY, BECAUSE THE LAST TWO PEOPLE WHO TRIED TO HELP SEEM TO HAVE ENDED UP DEAD -

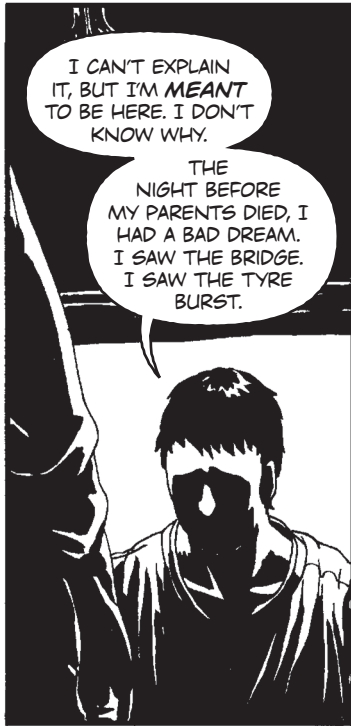
- BUT AT LEAST WE CAN CHECK INTO OMEGA ONE. I'LL CALL MICHAEL MARSH TOMORROW.

GOODNIGHT.

WAIT - THERE WAS SOMETHING I DIDN'T TELL YOU.

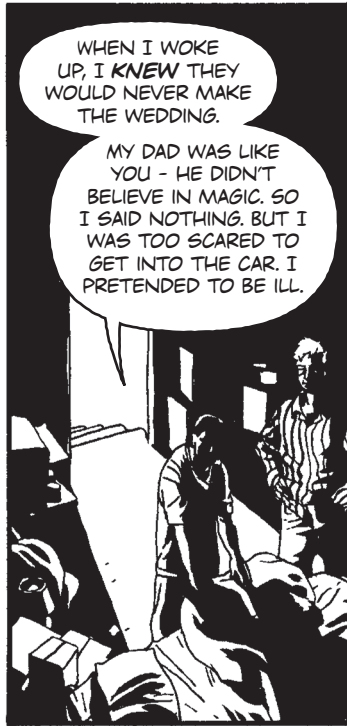
YOU MIGHT AS WELL KNOW ALL OF IT.





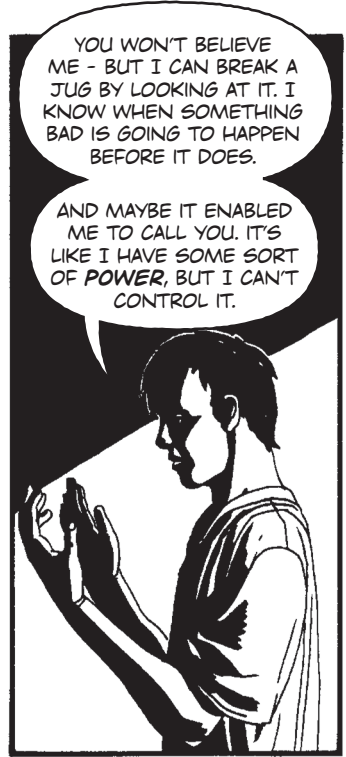
I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT, BUT I'M **MEANT** TO BE HERE. I DON'T KNOW WHY.

THE NIGHT BEFORE MY PARENTS DIED, I HAD A BAD DREAM. I SAW THE BRIDGE. I SAW THE TYRE BURST.



WHEN I WOKE UP, I **KNEW** THEY WOULD NEVER MAKE THE WEDDING.

MY DAD WAS LIKE YOU - HE DIDN'T BELIEVE IN MAGIC. SO I SAID NOTHING. BUT I WAS TOO SCARED TO GET INTO THE CAR. I PRETENDED TO BE ILL.



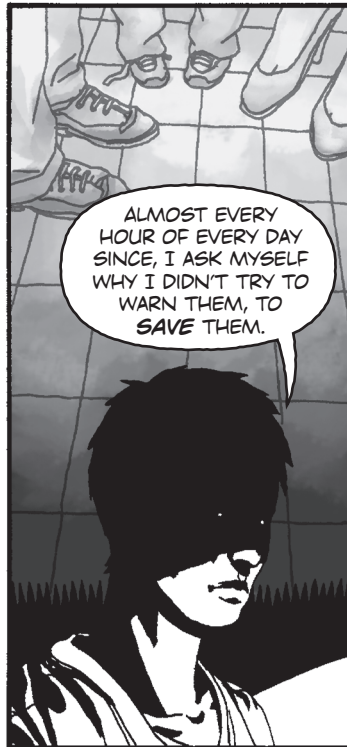
YOU WON'T BELIEVE ME - BUT I CAN BREAK A JUG BY LOOKING AT IT. I KNOW WHEN SOMETHING BAD IS GOING TO HAPPEN BEFORE IT DOES.

AND MAYBE IT ENABLED ME TO CALL YOU. IT'S LIKE I HAVE SOME SORT OF **POWER**, BUT I CAN'T CONTROL IT.



I TOLD MRS GREEN ABOUT MY PARENTS - BUT SHE WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME. SHE DIDN'T WANT TO.

I WAS THERE WHEN THE POLICE ARRIVED TO TELL HER - SHE WAS ACTUALLY SICK. HORRIFIED AND SICK BECAUSE OF ME.



ALMOST EVERY HOUR OF EVERY DAY SINCE, I ASK MYSELF WHY I DIDN'T TRY TO WARN THEM, TO **SAVE** THEM.



EACH DAY I WAKE UP KNOWING I'M TO BLAME -

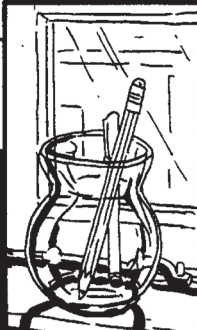
"IT'S MY FAULT THEY'RE NO LONGER HERE."



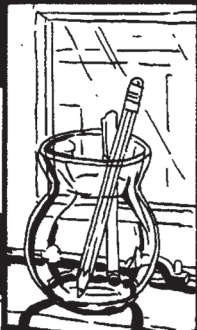
-YAWN-



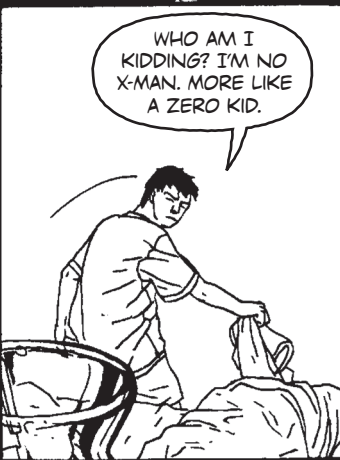
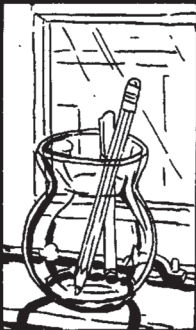
HMM.



COME ON, VASE - BREAK.



COME - ON...  
DAMN YOU ... BREAK!



WHO AM I KIDDING? I'M NO X-MAN. MORE LIKE A ZERO KID.



I WAS WONDERING WHEN YOU'D GET UP. SLEEP OK?



YES, THANKS. WHERE DID YOU GET THE CLOTHES?

SHOP DOWN THE ROAD. I HAD TO GUESS YOUR SIZE.



WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL. MRS DEVERILL AND HER FRIENDS WILL BE LOOKING FOR YOU.

WHILE YOU WERE ASLEEP, I MADE SOME CALLS - THE FIRST WAS TO SIR MICHAEL MARSH. HE'S AGREED TO SEE US AT ELEVEN THIRTY.

AFTER THAT - WE TRAVEL TO MANCHESTER.



WHY?

WHEN YOU CAME TO THE NEWSPAPER YOU MENTIONED A BOOK BY ELIZABETH ASHWOOD.

SHE'S QUITE WELL KNOWN - SHE WRITES ABOUT BLACK MAGIC AND WITCHCRAFT.

I CALLED A RESEARCHER WHO GAVE ME AN ADDRESS FOR HER.

NO PHONE NUMBER, UNFORTUNATELY - BUT WE CAN DRIVE OVER AND SEE WHAT SHE SAYS.

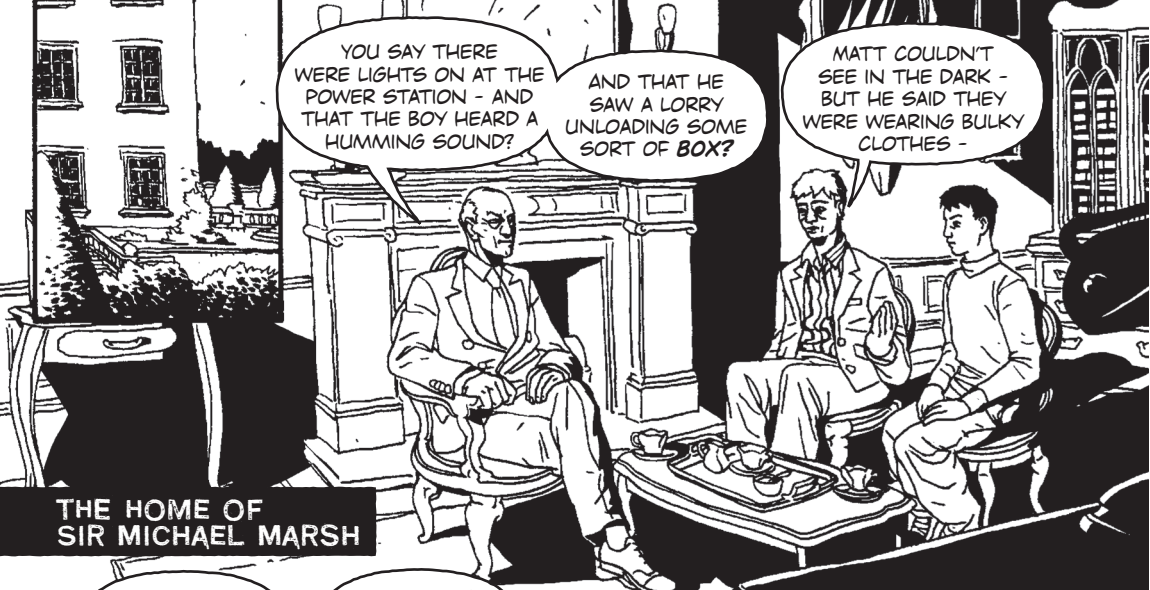
THANK YOU.

DON'T THANK ME - IF THIS LEADS TO A STORY, I'LL BE THE ONE THANKING YOU.

I'LL THROW YOU BACK IN THE BOG.

AND IF IT DOESN'T?





YOU SAY THERE WERE LIGHTS ON AT THE POWER STATION - AND THAT THE BOY HEARD A HUMMING SOUND?

AND THAT HE SAW A LORRY UNLOADING SOME SORT OF BOX?

MATT COULDN'T SEE IN THE DARK - BUT HE SAID THEY WERE WEARING BULKY CLOTHES -

**THE HOME OF SIR MICHAEL MARSH**



- I WONDERED IF THEY MAY HAVE BEEN RADIATION SUITS.

YOU THINK THAT SOMEBODY IS TRYING TO START UP OMEGA ONE? IMPOSSIBLE, I'M AFRAID.

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT NUCLEAR POWER?

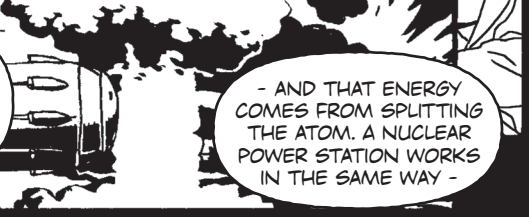


NOT A LOT.

THEN LET ME TELL YOU A LITTLE ABOUT IT.



A NUCLEAR BOMB CONTAINS DEVASTATING POWER. IT CAN DESTROY AN ENTIRE CITY. THE POWER OF THE BOMB IS THE ENERGY RELEASED IN THE EXPLOSION -

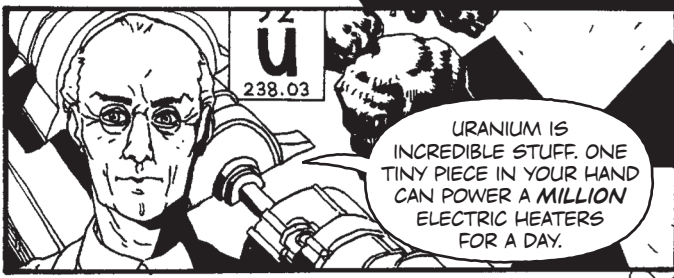


- AND THAT ENERGY COMES FROM SPLITTING THE ATOM. A NUCLEAR POWER STATION WORKS IN THE SAME WAY -



- BUT INSTEAD OF PRODUCING AN UNCONTROLLED EXPLOSION, THE ENERGY IS GRADUALLY RELEASED IN THE FORM OF HEAT.

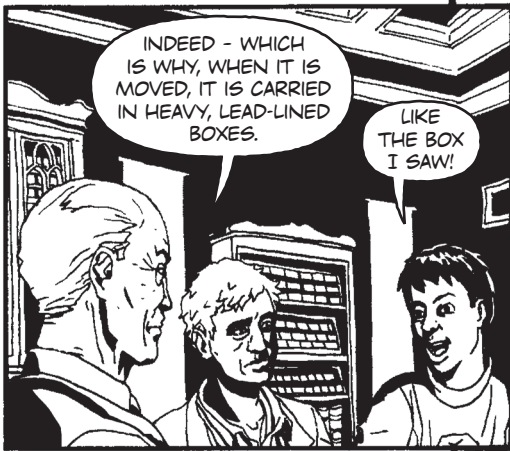
THE HEAT TURNS WATER TO STEAM, WHICH DRIVES THE TURBINE OF AN ELECTRICITY GENERATOR.



URANIUM IS INCREDIBLE STUFF. ONE TINY PIECE IN YOUR HAND CAN POWER A MILLION ELECTRIC HEATERS FOR A DAY.



EXCEPT IT WOULD KILL YOU - IF YOU HELD IT IN YOUR HAND.

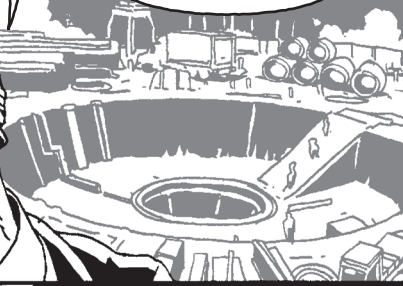


INDEED - WHICH IS WHY, WHEN IT IS MOVED, IT IS CARRIED IN HEAVY, LEAD-LINED BOXES.

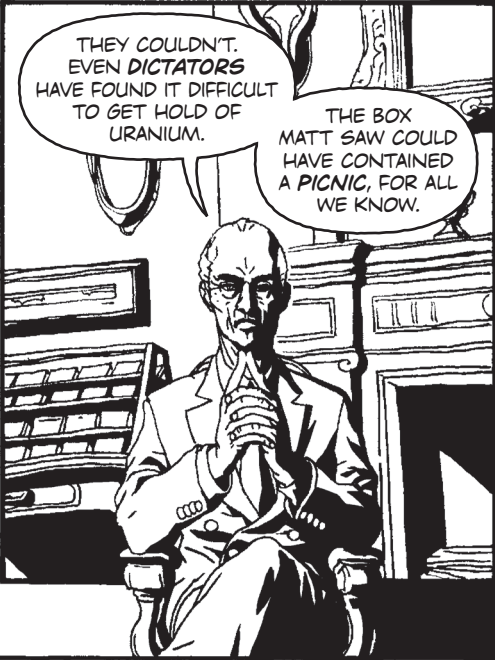
LIKE THE BOX I SAW!

FIFTY YEARS AGO, THE GOVERNMENT SET UP A NUMBER OF EXPERIMENTAL STATIONS. **OMEGA ONE** WAS ONE OF THESE STATIONS.

I HELPED DESIGN AND BUILD IT. AFTER EIGHTEEN MONTHS WE SHUT IT DOWN AND LEFT IT TO ROT IN THE PINE FOREST THAT SURROUNDS IT.



MAYBE SOMEONE WANTS TO GET IT **RUNNING** AGAIN?



THEY COULDN'T. EVEN **DICTATORS** HAVE FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO GET HOLD OF URANIUM.

THE BOX MATT SAW COULD HAVE CONTAINED A PICNIC, FOR ALL WE KNOW.



I LAST VISITED **OMEGA ONE** TWENTY YEARS AGO - AND WE DISMANTLED **EVERYTHING**.

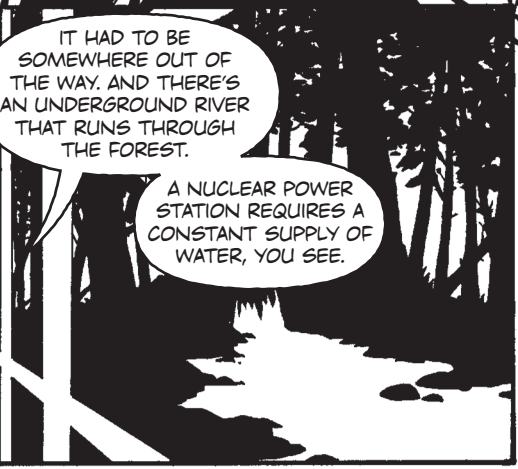


WHY DID YOU BUILD IT IN THE **WOODS**?



IT HAD TO BE SOMEWHERE OUT OF THE WAY. AND THERE'S AN UNDERGROUND RIVER THAT RUNS THROUGH THE **FOREST**.

A NUCLEAR POWER STATION REQUIRES A CONSTANT SUPPLY OF WATER, YOU SEE.





I'M SORRY, SIR MICHAEL - WE SEEM TO BE WASTING YOUR TIME.

NOT AT ALL - I'VE FOUND WHAT YOU AND YOUR YOUNG FRIEND HAVE TOLD ME QUITE DISTURBING.

AT THE VERY LEAST, IT WOULD SEEM SOMEONE IS **TRESPASSING** - AND I SHALL CERTAINLY CONTACT THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES.

HOWEVER, LET ME ASSURE YOU - YOU COULDN'T SPARK A FIRE IN THAT DAMP PLACE - LET ALONE A NUCLEAR REACTION.

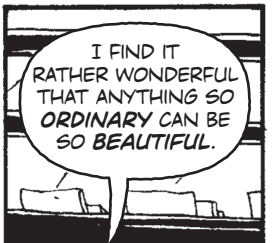


ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PHILLUMENY?

IN WHAT?



THE COLLECTION OF MATCHBOOK LABELS.

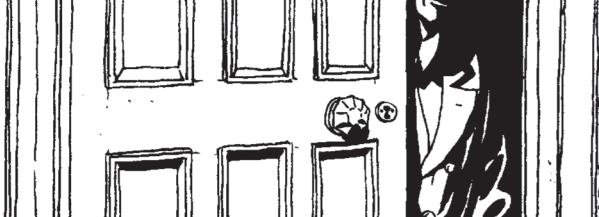


I FIND IT RATHER WONDERFUL THAT ANYTHING SO ORDINARY CAN BE SO BEAUTIFUL.



DO LET ME KNOW HOW YOU GET ON.

AND I'LL CALL WHEN I'VE SPOKEN TO THE POLICE. I'LL TELL YOU IF THERE'S ANY NEWS.



DIDSBURY, MANCHESTER.

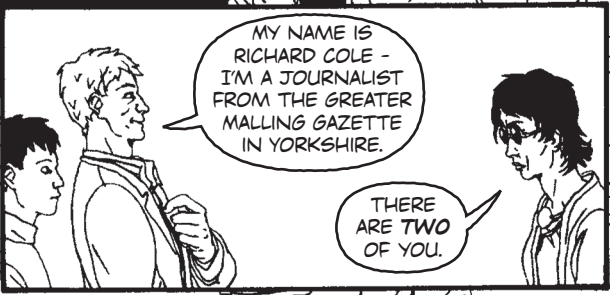
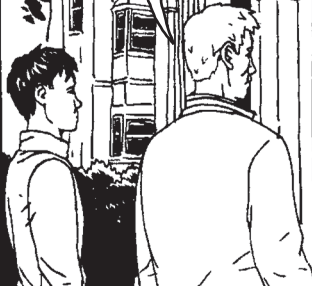


YES?

ARE YOU ELIZABETH ASHWOOD?

I AM SUSAN ASHWOOD. ELIZABETH WAS MY MOTHER -

- SHE DIED A YEAR AGO. WHO ARE YOU?



MY NAME IS RICHARD COLE - I'M A JOURNALIST FROM THE GREATER MALLING GAZETTE IN YORKSHIRE.

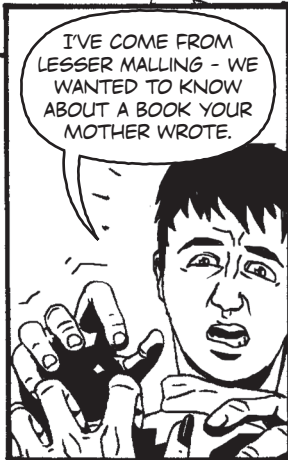
THERE ARE TWO OF YOU.



A BOY...



WHERE HAVE YOU COME FROM! WHY ARE YOU HERE!



I'VE COME FROM LESSER MALLING - WE WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT A BOOK YOUR MOTHER WROTE.

COME INTO THE HOUSE.

I CAN HELP YOU - BUT FIRST YOU MUST COME IN.





WHICH OF MY MOTHER'S BOOKS BROUGHT YOU ALL THIS WAY?

IT WAS A BOOK ABOUT LESSER MALLING.



WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT RAVEN'S GATE.



SO YOU'VE FOUND ME.



IS YOUR NAME ... MATT?

YES - HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?



I KNEW YOU WOULD COME. I KNEW YOU WOULD FIND ME.



IT WAS MEANT TO HAPPEN THIS WAY. I'M GLAD YOU'VE ARRIVED IN TIME.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WE CAME TO SEE YOUR MOTHER!

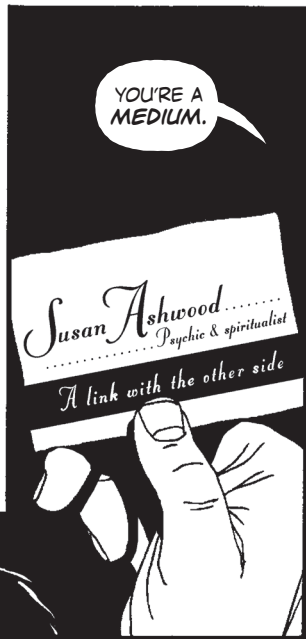


I KNOW. SHE TOLD ME YOU'D SEEN HER BOOK.



I THOUGHT YOU SAID SHE WAS DEAD?

YOU DON'T KNOW WHO I AM? YOU HAVEN'T HEARD OF ME?



YOU'RE A MEDIUM.



A WHAT?

MISS ASHWOOD TALKS TO GHOSTS. OR THAT'S WHAT SHE BELIEVES.



I SPEAK TO THE DEAD IN THE SAME WAY I AM TALKING TO YOU. AND IF YOU COULD HEAR THEM, YOU WOULD KNOW THERE IS A GREAT UPHEAVAL IN THE SPIRIT WORLD.

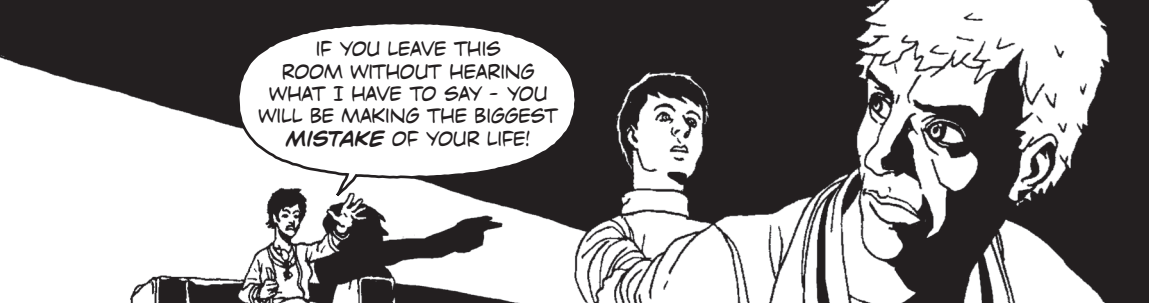
TERRIBLE THINGS ARE ALREADY HAPPENING.

THAT IS WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO MY HOUSE.




WHAT BROUGHT US TO YOUR HOUSE WAS THE M62 MOTORWAY FROM LEEDS.

LET'S GO, MATT.




IF YOU LEAVE THIS ROOM WITHOUT HEARING WHAT I HAVE TO SAY - YOU WILL BE MAKING THE BIGGEST MISTAKE OF YOUR LIFE!



YOU'RE INVOLVED IN SOMETHING BIGGER AND MORE INCREDIBLE THAN ANYTHING YOU CAN IMAGINE.

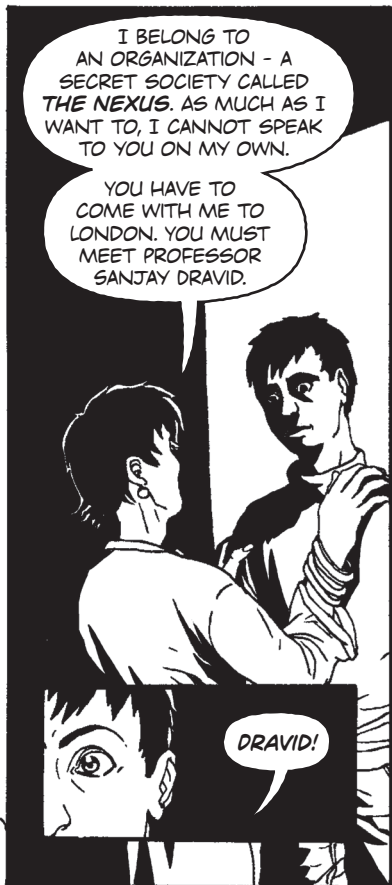
YOU HAVE BEGUN A JOURNEY - AND THERE IS NO GOING BACK.

I'M GOING BACK RIGHT NOW.




YOU CAN MAKE LIGHT OF IT, BUT YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IS HAPPENING. IT IS LIKE LOOKING AT A MIRROR - THAT SUDDENLY BECOMES TRANSPARENT.

NOTHING WILL BE THE SAME FOR YOU.



I BELONG TO AN ORGANIZATION - A SECRET SOCIETY CALLED **THE NEXUS**. AS MUCH AS I WANT TO, I CANNOT SPEAK TO YOU ON MY OWN.

YOU HAVE TO COME WITH ME TO LONDON. YOU MUST MEET PROFESSOR SANJAY DRAVID.



IF YOU MEET THE NEXUS, WE CAN HELP YOU.

YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT RAVEN'S GATE? WE'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING YOU WANT TO KNOW - AND MORE.



DRAVID!





YOU BELIEVE ME  
DON'T YOU, MATT?  
I FELT YOUR POWER  
THE MOMENT YOU  
CAME HERE.

I'VE NEVER  
FELT SUCH  
**STRENGTH**  
BEFORE.

WHERE IS  
PROFESSOR  
DRAVID?

WE'LL  
SEND YOU A  
POSTCARD.

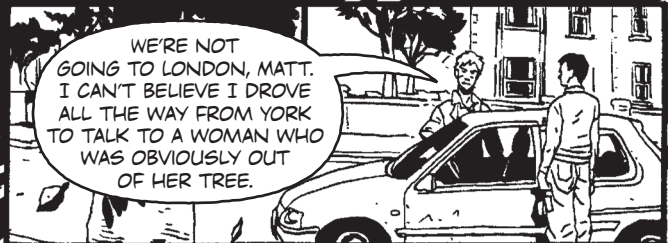
HE IS AT THE  
NATURAL HISTORY  
MUSEUM IN SOUTH  
KENSINGTON.



ACTUALLY, A  
MAN CALLED DRAVID  
CONTACTED ME WHEN  
I WAS IN THE  
LIBRARY.

A MESSAGE  
POPPED UP ON THE  
SCREEN - I WAS DOING A  
SEARCH ON RAVEN'S GATE  
AND HE WANTED TO  
KNOW WHY.

WELL, YOU CAN  
FORGET ABOUT  
SEEING HIM.



WE'RE NOT  
GOING TO LONDON, MATT.  
I CAN'T BELIEVE I DROVE  
ALL THE WAY FROM YORK  
TO TALK TO A WOMAN WHO  
WAS OBVIOUSLY OUT  
OF HER TREE.



YOU'RE NOT  
GOING TO TELL  
ME YOU **BELIEVED**  
HER, ARE YOU?



I WONDER...

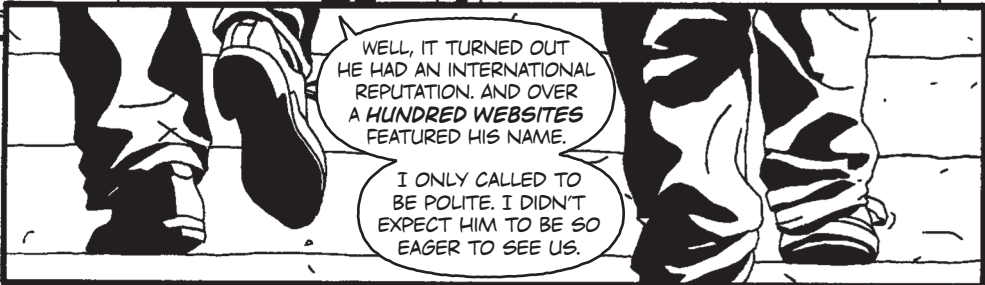


I DON'T KNOW HOW I LET YOU TALK ME INTO THIS.

I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING.

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO WANTED TO SEE DAVID.

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO CALLED HIM.



WELL, IT TURNED OUT HE HAD AN INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION. AND OVER A HUNDRED WEBSITES FEATURED HIS NAME.

I ONLY CALLED TO BE POLITE. I DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO BE SO EAGER TO SEE US.

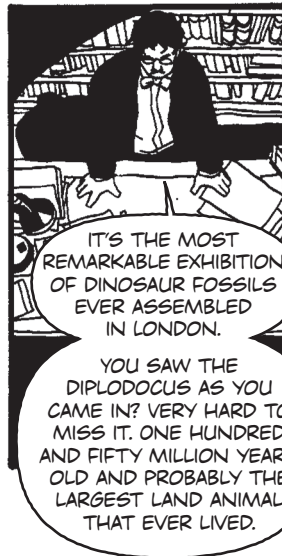
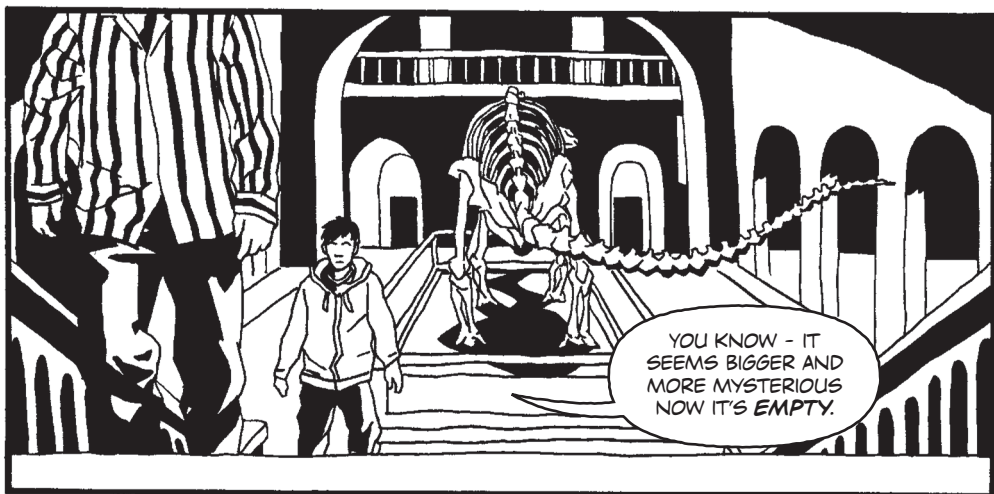


I'M SORRY - BUT YOU'RE TOO LATE. WE CLOSED AT SIX.

WE HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH PROFESSOR DRAVID.

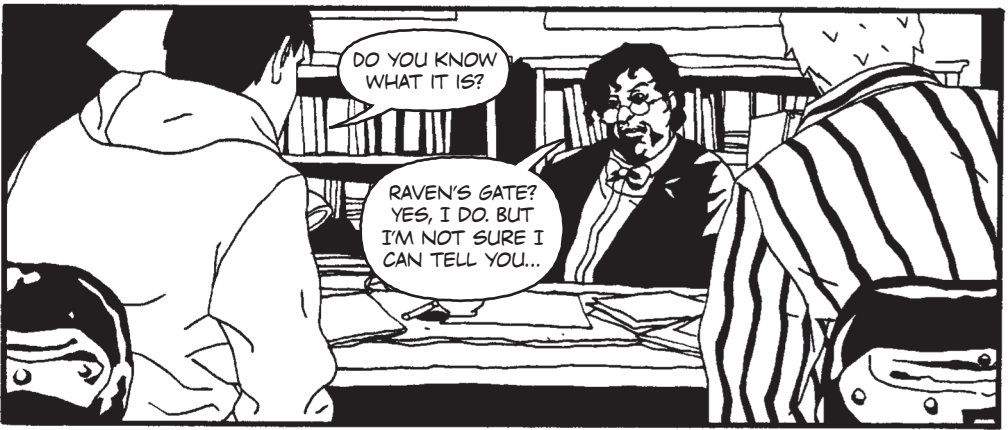


AH YES, THE PROFESSOR IS EXPECTING YOU. HIS OFFICE IS ON THE FIRST FLOOR.



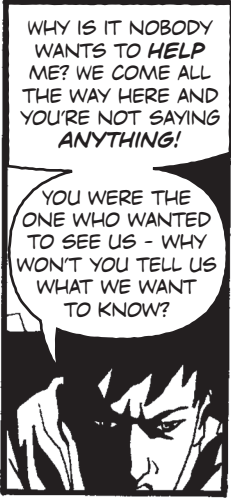
IT WOULD TEAR YOU APART IN *SECONDS*.

BUT OF COURSE THAT'S NOT WHY YOU'RE HERE. YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT *RAVEN'S GATE*.



DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS?

RAVEN'S GATE? YES, I DO. BUT I'M NOT SURE I CAN TELL YOU...



WHY IS IT NOBODY WANTS TO *HELP* ME? WE COME ALL THE WAY HERE AND YOU'RE NOT SAYING *ANYTHING!*

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO WANTED TO SEE US - WHY WON'T YOU TELL US WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW?



MATT - I TAKE IT YOU WERE THE BOY ON THE INTERNET?



IN THE LIBRARY AT GREATER MALLING? YES.



I APOLOGIZE FOR MISTRUSTING YOU, MATT. WE LIVE IN A WORLD WHERE WE MUST BE CAREFUL WHO TO TRUST. YOU LIVE IN GREATER MALLING -



*LESSER* MALLING. IT'S A VILLAGE. I'VE BEEN THERE TWO, THREE WEEKS.

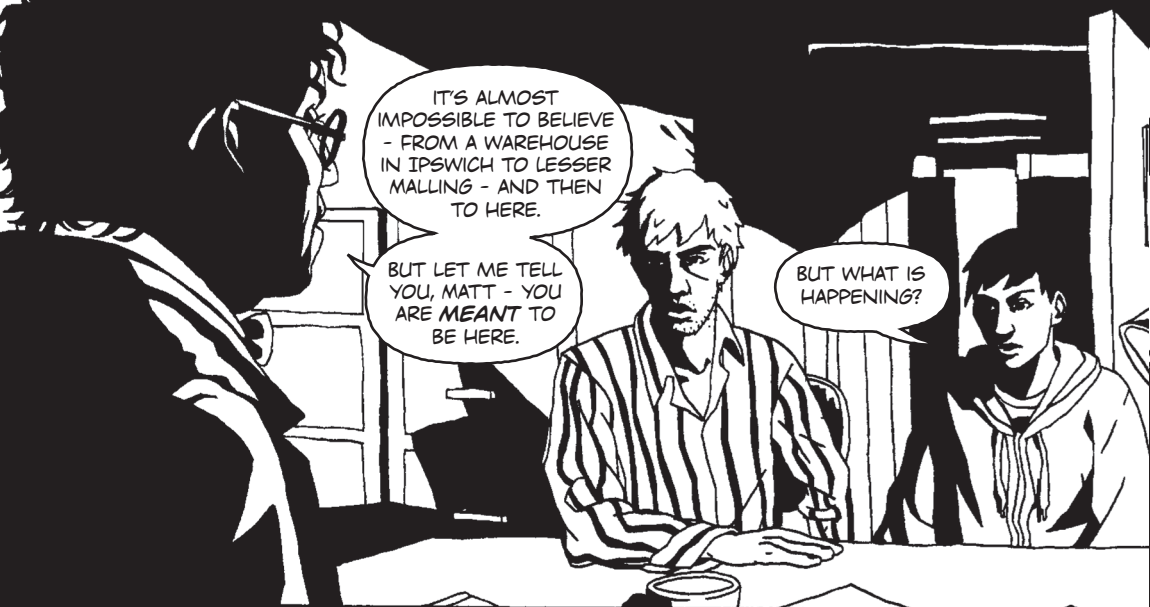


YOU MUST TELL ME EVERYTHING.

I WANT TO KNOW *EVERYTHING* THAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU, EXACTLY WHAT BROUGHT YOU HERE TODAY. BEGIN AT THE BEGINNING -

"- AND DON'T LEAVE ANYTHING OUT!"

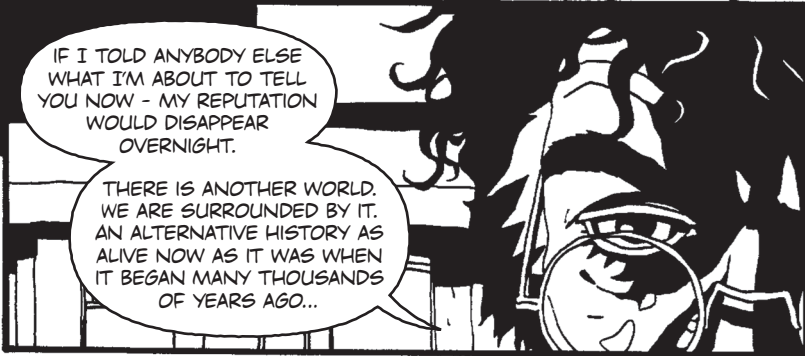




IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO BELIEVE - FROM A WAREHOUSE IN IPSWICH TO LESSER MALLING - AND THEN TO HERE.

BUT LET ME TELL YOU, MATT - YOU ARE MEANT TO BE HERE.

BUT WHAT IS HAPPENING?



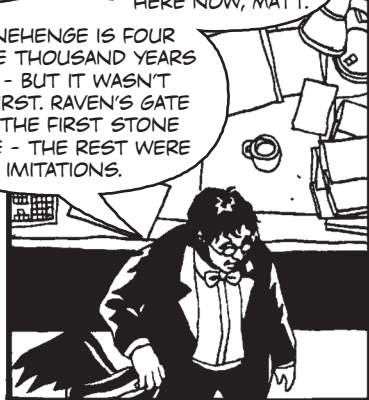
IF I TOLD ANYBODY ELSE WHAT I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU NOW - MY REPUTATION WOULD DISAPPEAR OVERNIGHT.

THERE IS ANOTHER WORLD. WE ARE SURROUNDED BY IT. AN ALTERNATIVE HISTORY AS ALIVE NOW AS IT WAS WHEN IT BEGAN MANY THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO...



RAVEN'S GATE IS AT THE VERY HEART OF THAT ALTERNATIVE HISTORY. IT'S THE REASON YOU ARE HERE NOW, MATT.

STONEHENGE IS FOUR OR FIVE THOUSAND YEARS OLD - BUT IT WASN'T THE FIRST. RAVEN'S GATE WAS THE FIRST STONE CIRCLE - THE REST WERE IMITATIONS.



THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE A GREAT CIVILIZATION EXISTED BEFORE THE GREEKS - BEFORE THE EGYPTIANS - I'M TALKING ABOUT THE TIME OF ATLANTIS, PERHAPS TEN THOUSAND YEARS AGO...

"...AND THERE WAS  
A GREAT WAR."



"THE FIRST CIVILIZATION WAS DESTROYED - SLOWLY AND  
DELIBERATELY. CREATURES OF UNIMAGINABLE POWER AND EVIL  
ARRIVED IN THE WORLD. THEY WERE CALLED THE OLD ONES."

"THE CHURCH TALKS OF LUCIFER, SATAN - BUT THEY'RE JUST MEMORIES OF THE OLD ONES. THEY THRIVED ON CHAOS - SPREADING MASS DESTRUCTION WHEREVER THEY WENT..."

"...AND THEY HAD A KING."

THE POWER  
OF THE FIVE  
HAS BEEN  
DEFEATED.

YOU CANNOT WIN.  
LAY DOWN YOUR ARMS  
AND I WILL BE GENEROUS.  
I WILL GIVE YOU A QUICK  
DEATH. SOME OF YOU I WILL  
ALLOW TO SERVE ME. THIS  
BATTLE HAS ALREADY  
BEEN WON.

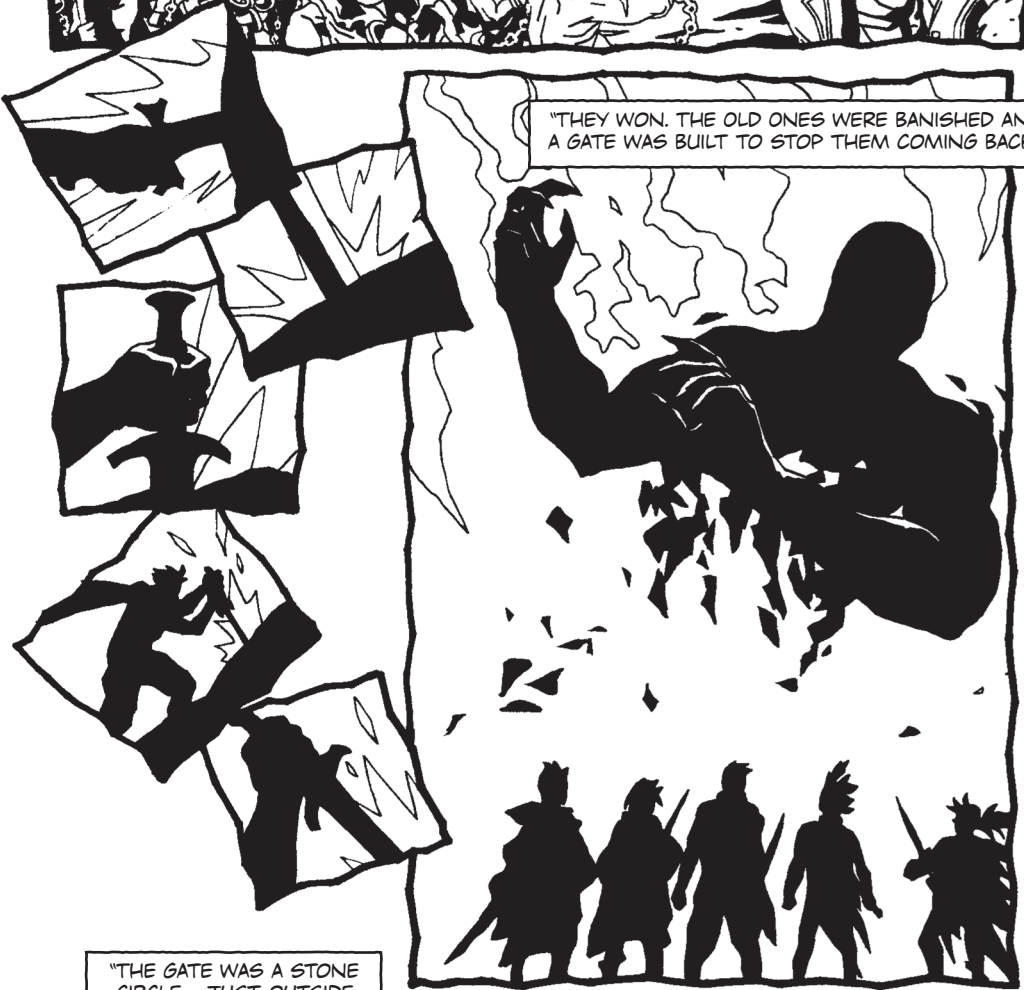
"BUT THERE WAS A  
MIRACLE - FOUR YOUNG  
BOYS AND A GIRL!"



"NOBODY KNOWS WHERE THEY CAME FROM - BUT TOGETHER THEY ORGANIZED THE REMAINS OF HUMANITY AND THERE WAS A SINGLE, FINAL BATTLE."



"THEY WON. THE OLD ONES WERE BANISHED AND A GATE WAS BUILT TO STOP THEM COMING BACK."



"THE GATE WAS A STONE CIRCLE - JUST OUTSIDE OF WHERE IS NOW CALLED LESSER MALLING..."



"...CALLED RAVEN'S GATE."

"AT SOME TIME IN THE MIDDLE AGES, IT WAS DELIBERATELY TAKEN DOWN AND SMASHED."

"MORE THAN THAT - EACH STONE WAS GROUND TO POWDER."

"AND THEN THE POWDER WAS LOADED INTO CARTS AND CARRIED TO THE FOUR CORNERS OF BRITAIN - NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, WEST..."

"...AND THEN POURED INTO THE SEA. IT WAS NEVER MENTIONED AGAIN - IT WAS LIKE IT NEVER EXISTED."

"THE STONES WERE DESTROYED - BUT NOT THE GATE."

CLINK

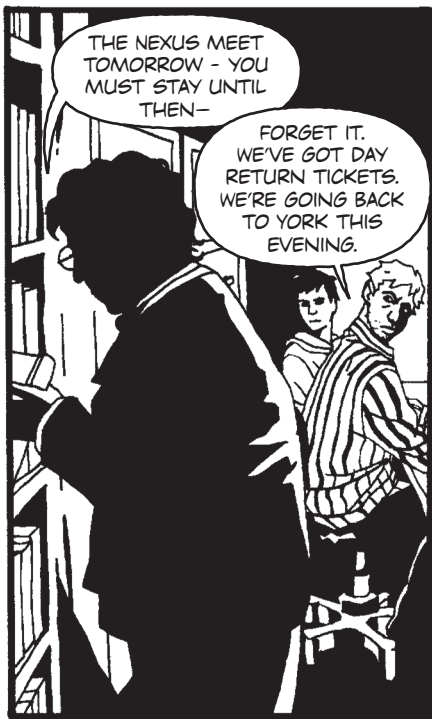
"AND THE OLD ONES WERE NOT DEAD - JUST WAITING..."

SO HOW DID YOU HEAR OF IT?

THERE HAVE BEEN SOME WRITTEN RECORDS. THE DIARY OF A SPANISH MONK. CARVINGS ON A TEMPLE.

AND HOW DID I HEAR OF IT? I BELONG TO THE NEXUS. TWELVE OF US, INCLUDING SUSAN ASHWOOD.

THE WHOLE PURPOSE OF THE NEXUS - THE REASON IT EXISTS - IS TO HELP YOU WITH WHAT YOU MUST DO.



THE NEXUS MEET TOMORROW - YOU MUST STAY UNTIL THEN-

FORGET IT. WE'VE GOT DAY RETURN TICKETS. WE'RE GOING BACK TO YORK THIS EVENING.



THAT'S THE LAST THING YOU MUST DO! YOU CANNOT GO BACK TO LESSER MALLING!

WHY?

SINCE THE BARRIER WAS BUILT, THERE HAVE BEEN PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN TRYING TO OPEN IT AGAIN. THEY'VE HAD TO DEVELOP ... SPECIAL POWERS.



YOU MEAN MAGIC.

WE ARE TWO DAYS FROM THE START OF ROODMAS - THE MOST IMPORTANT DAY IN THEIR CALENDAR.

A DAY WHEN DARK POWERS ARE AT THEIR STRONGEST.



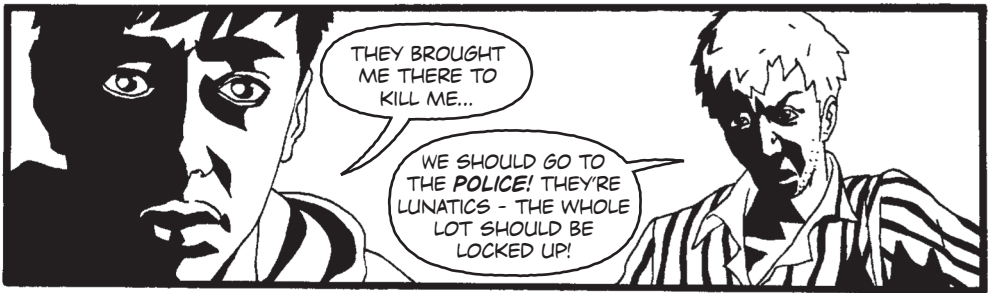
THERE ARE THREE THINGS THEY WILL NEED FOR A BLACK SABBATH ON ROODMAS.

RITUAL - WHICH YOU'VE DESCRIBED AS THE WHISPERS. THE SECOND IS FIRE - WHICH YOU SAW. THE THIRD -



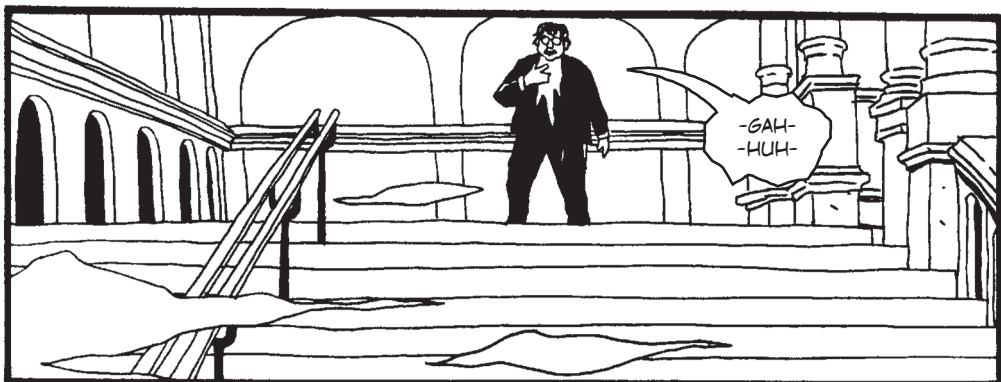
- IS BLOOD.

THERE MUST BE A SACRIFICE. AND THE BEST TYPE IS THAT OF A CHILD.

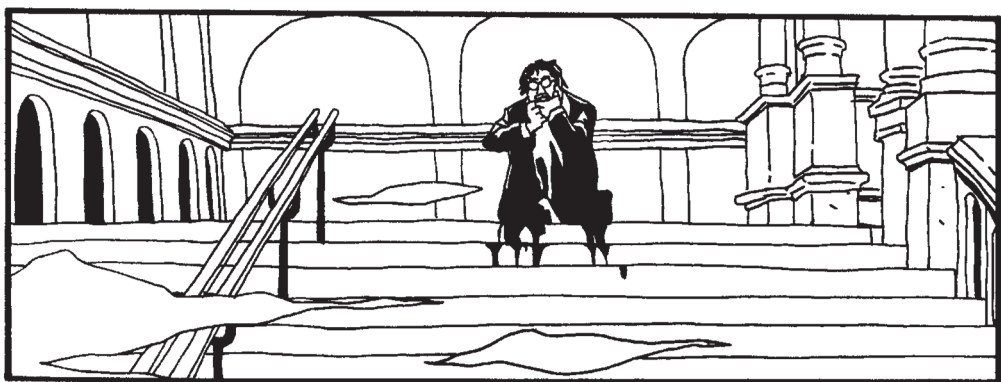




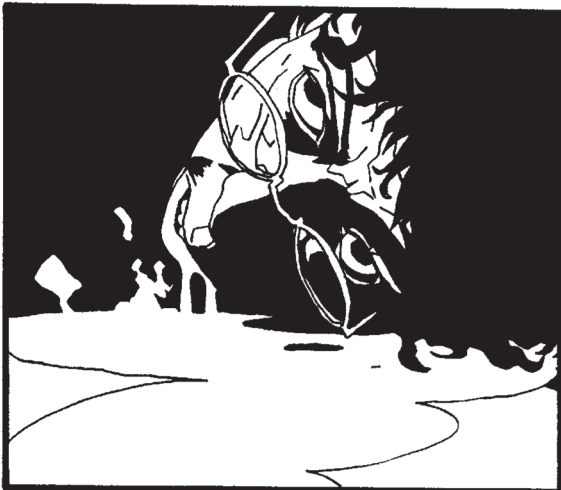
- I'M ONE OF THEM.



-GAH-  
-HUH-



PROFESSOR  
DRAVID!



SWOOOSH



WHAT KILLED HIM?

I DON'T KNOW - LET'S NOT STAY TO FIND OUT!



ARGH!



SOMETHING FLEW PAST MY HEAD!

DID YOU SEE WHAT IT WAS?

NO - BUT I FELT IT GO PAST...

NO - IT CAN'T BE!



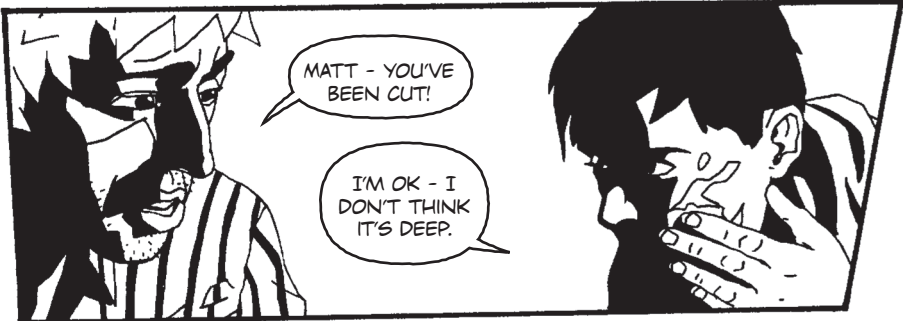
IT'S A TRICK!  
IT CAN'T BE REAL!



LOOK OUT!

ARGH!

SWOOSH



MATT - YOU'VE BEEN CUT!

I'M OK - I DON'T THINK IT'S DEEP.



I THINK IT'S GONE.

YEAH - BUT WHAT OF THE OTHERS?  
DRAVID CALLED THIS THE MOST REMARKABLE EXHIBITION OF FOSSILS IN LONDON -



- WE COULD BE STANDING IN AN X-RAY VERSION OF JURASSIC PARK!

ping

ping

ping







OH NO. THE DIPLODOCUS.



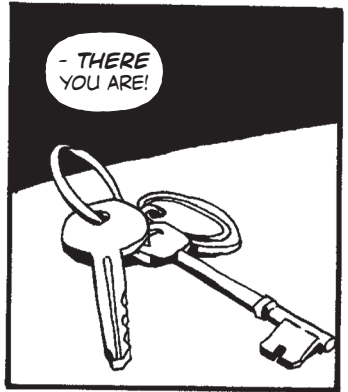
THE DOOR!  
WE NEED...



-HNF-

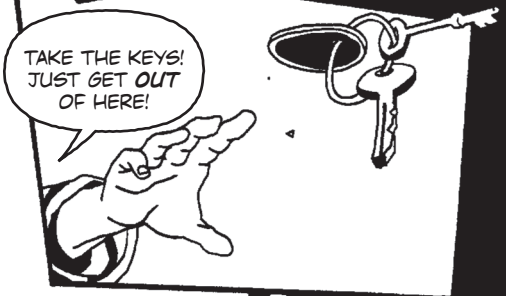


WHOA!

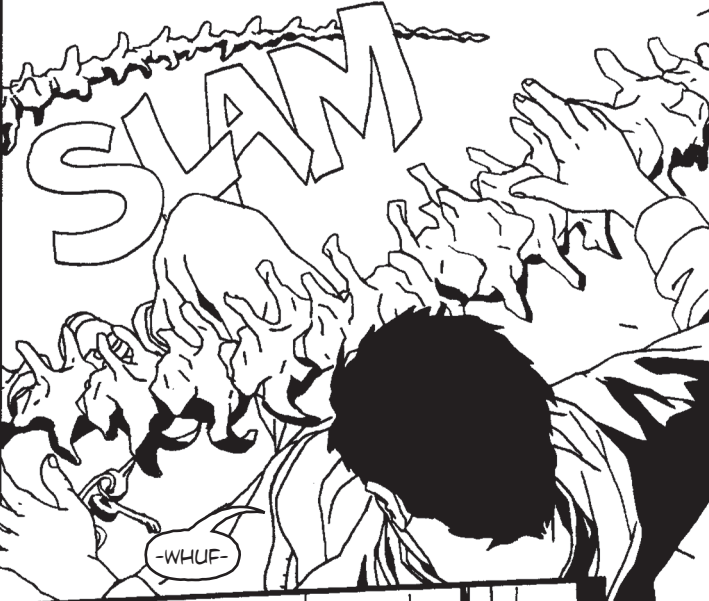




CRAP.



I'M NOT LEAVING WITHOUT YOU!





YOU CAN MAKE IT!



NO.

OH NO.

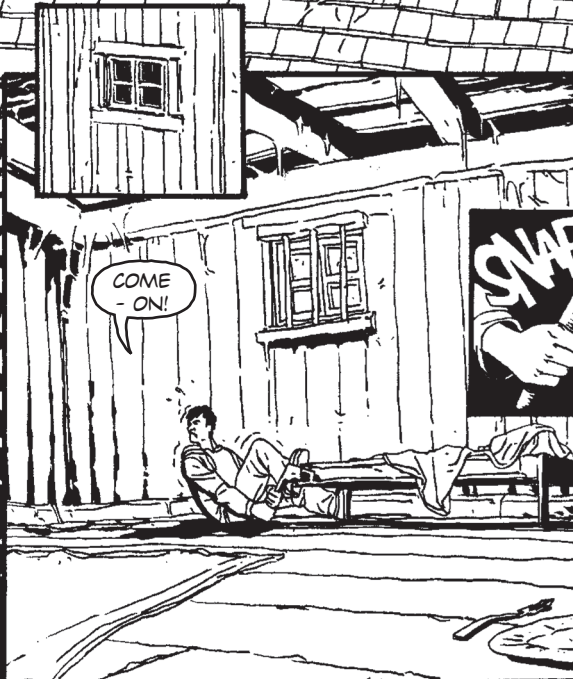


RICHARD!  
I'M...

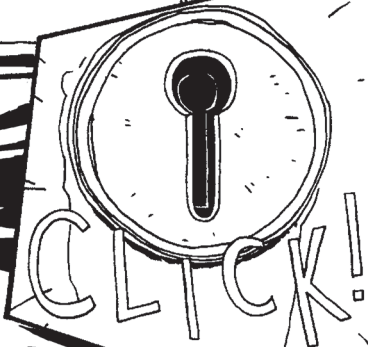
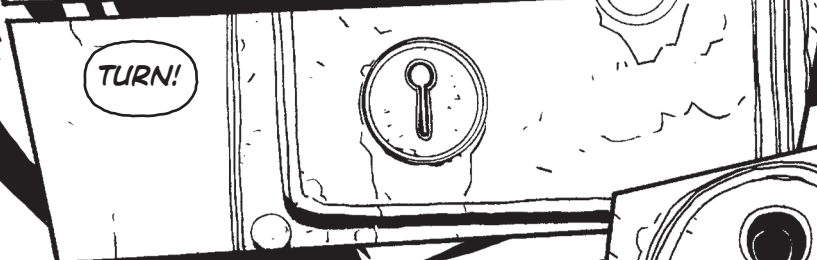
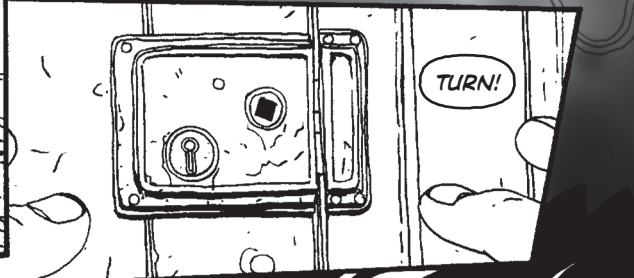
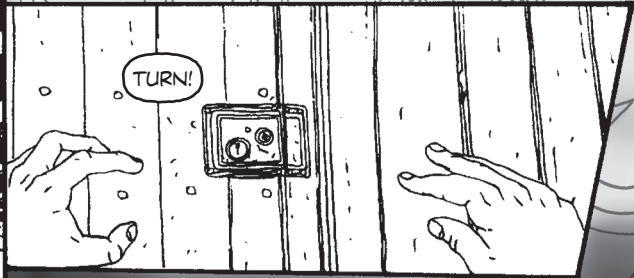
WHAT-



THE BARN, HIVE HALL. ROODMAS.









BREAKFAST.



I'D LIKE  
A BATH.

NO BATH.



WHAT ABOUT  
A SHOWER? OR  
DON'T YOU KNOW  
WHAT ONE IS?

FROM THE SMELL  
OF YOU, I'D SAY  
YOU'VE NEVER HAD  
ONE EITHER.

I'LL ENJOY WATCHING  
YOU DIE. YOU'LL SCREAM  
LIKE A PIG AND CRY.

AND I'LL  
BE THERE.



NO  
MORE FOOD  
TODAY.

YOU CAN DIE  
HUNGRY.



NO LUNCH?  
THAT JUST GIVES  
ME MORE TIME  
TO REMOVE  
FLOORBOARDS.

EVENING.







GOOD HEAVENS!  
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?





DON'T WORRY -  
EVERYTHING'S  
GOING TO BE ALL  
RIGHT NOW.

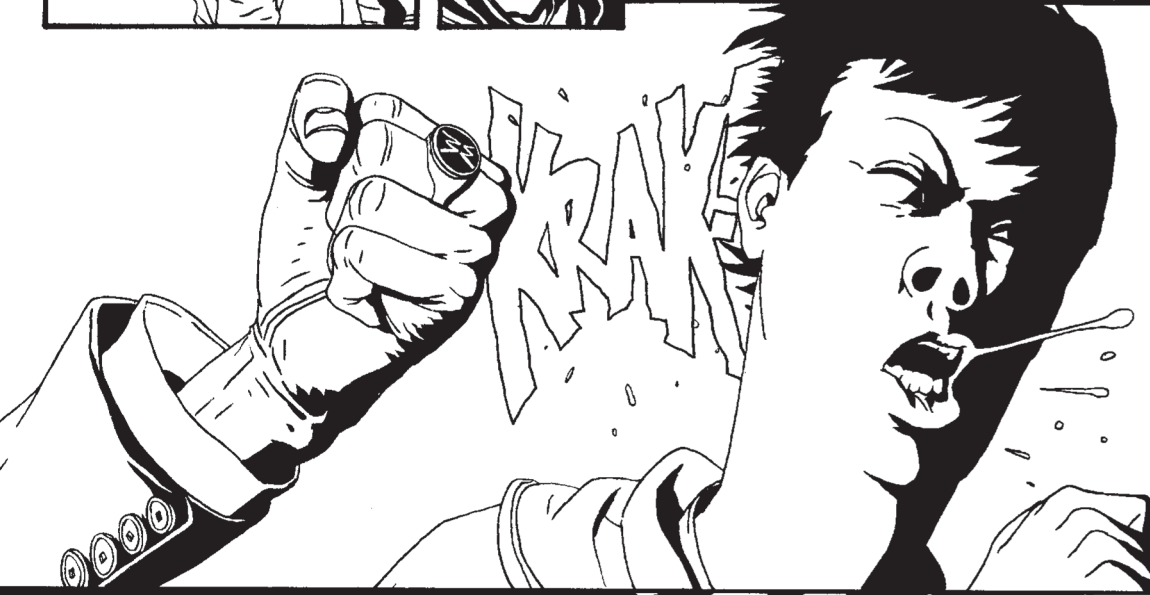


HOLD ON -  
WHEN WE  
MET YOU -



- I NEVER  
TOLD YOU MY  
SURNAME...

LET ME  
OUT!



CRASH



PLEASE DON'T  
TRY TO MOVE. THE  
DOORS ARE LOCKED AND  
THERE'S NOWHERE  
YOU CAN GO.



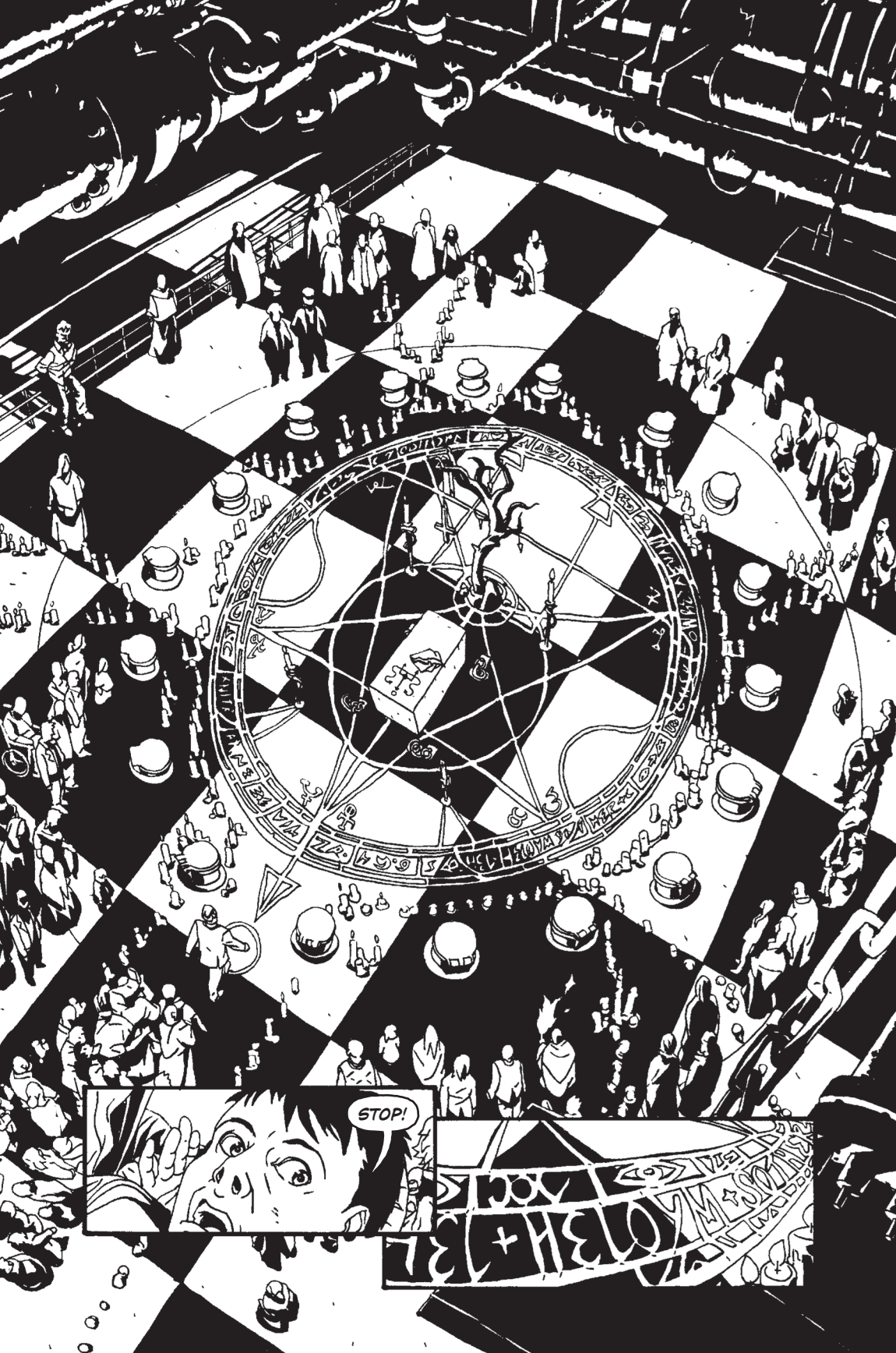
WE'LL BE THERE  
SOON. IT WON'T  
TAKE LONG.

IT WILL ALL  
BE OVER VERY  
QUICKLY -



- AND IT WON'T  
HURT AS MUCH  
AS YOU THINK.

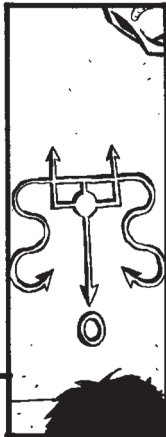




STOP!







MATT?

RICHARD!



TELL ME I'M DREAMING.

I'M AFRAID NOT. I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!



NOT QUITE. IT LOOKS LIKE SIR MICHAEL IS PART OF THIS.

NEVER TRUST ANYONE WHO WORKS FOR THE GOVERNMENT.



MY LEFT HAND IS ALMOST FREE. HANG IN THERE.



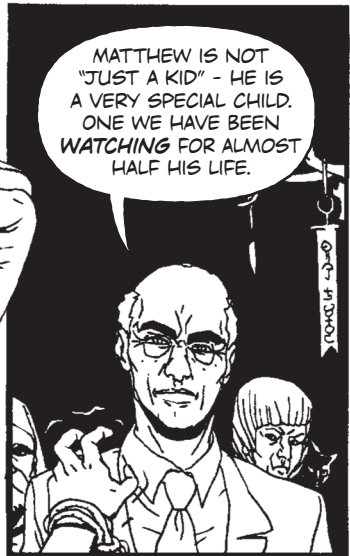
SO HERE WE ALL ARE TOGETHER! SHALL WE TAKE OUR PLACES?

THE END OF THE WORLD IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!





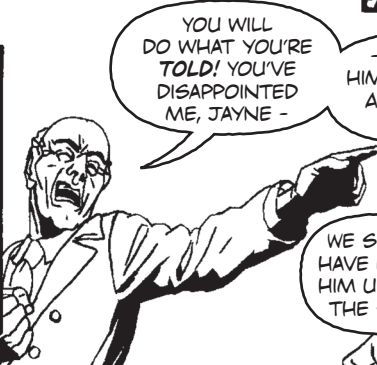
LEAVE HIM ALONE!  
HE'S JUST A KID!  
LET HIM GO!



MATTHEW IS NOT  
"JUST A KID" - HE IS  
A VERY SPECIAL CHILD.  
ONE WE HAVE BEEN  
WATCHING FOR ALMOST  
HALF HIS LIFE.



I WANT TO  
BE THE ONE  
WHO CUTS HIS  
THROAT.



YOU WILL  
DO WHAT YOU'RE  
TOLD! YOU'VE  
DISAPPOINTED  
ME, JAYNE -

- YOU LET  
HIM GET AWAY!  
A SECOND  
TIME!

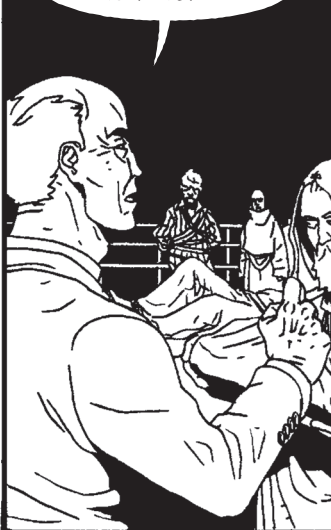
WE SHOULD  
HAVE LOCKED  
HIM UP FROM  
THE START!



I HAVE DEDICATED MY  
ENTIRE LIFE TO THIS MOMENT -  
THE PREPARATIONS ALONE HAVE  
TAKEN MORE THAN TWENTY  
YEARS.



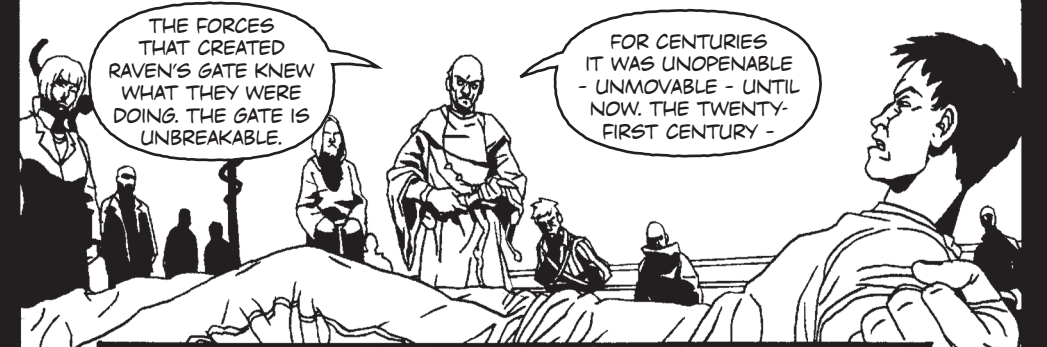
AT ONE TIME THE  
OLD ONES RULED THE  
WORLD - UNTIL THEY WERE  
BANISHED. EVER SINCE  
THEN THEY HAVE WAITED  
TO RETURN -



- YOUR FRIEND  
MATTHEW IS TIED UP  
ON THE VERY MOUTH  
OF RAVEN'S GATE -


- AND IT  
IS ABOUT TO  
OPEN.






THE FORCES THAT CREATED RAVEN'S GATE KNEW WHAT THEY WERE DOING. THE GATE IS UNBREAKABLE.

FOR CENTURIES IT WAS UNOPENABLE - UNMOVABLE - UNTIL NOW. THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY -



- THE ERA OF NUCLEAR POWER.


THE POWER OF THE ATOM.



DO YOU REALLY THINK IT RIDICULOUS TO DRAW PARALLELS BETWEEN A NUCLEAR BOMB AND BLACK MAGIC?

THAT A WEAPON CAPABLE OF KILLING MILLIONS IN A FEW SECONDS IS SO REMOVED FROM THE DEVIL'S WORK?

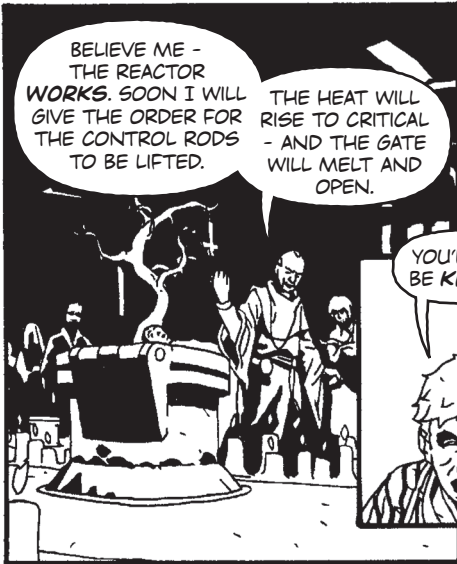
I ENSURED THAT OMEGA ONE WAS BUILT HERE. AND WHEN IT WAS CLOSED I QUIETLY REBUILT IT - TAKING ME TWENTY YEARS.



BUT HOW DID YOU GET THE URANIUM?

THE WORLD HAS CHANGED - WARS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THE COLLAPSE OF THE SOVIET UNION...

FINDING THE RIGHT TERRORIST TO DO BUSINESS WITH WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME.



BELIEVE ME -  
THE REACTOR  
WORKS. SOON I WILL  
GIVE THE ORDER FOR  
THE CONTROL RODS  
TO BE LIFTED.

THE HEAT WILL  
RISE TO CRITICAL  
- AND THE GATE  
WILL MELT AND  
OPEN.



YOU'LL ALL  
BE KILLED!



ONLY YOU WILL  
BE - BECAUSE ONLY  
YOU WILL BE OUTSIDE  
THE CIRCLE.

FOR CENTURIES  
MAGICIANS HAVE  
PAINTED CIRCLES LIKE  
THESE FOR PROTECTION.  
THE HEAT, NO MATTER  
HOW FANTASTIC, WON'T  
TOUCH US.



THE THREE  
INGREDIENTS OF  
THE BLACK SABBATH.  
RITUAL, FIRE -  
AND BLOOD.



WE INHERITED  
THE RITUALS.  
WE CREATED  
THE FIRE.

NOW  
MATTHEW  
WILL SUPPLY  
US WITH THE  
BLOOD.





BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE HIM! HE'S A NOBODY! JUST A CHILD!

IT'S BECAUSE OF WHO HE IS. IT HAS TO BE HIS BLOOD. THIS IS THE MOMENT HE WAS BORN FOR.



THAT'S ENOUGH! LET'S GET ON WITH IT!

YOU'RE RIGHT - IT'S TIME.



MIDNIGHT ON THE NIGHT OF ROODMAS.

TIME TO OPEN THE GATE.





CONCENTRATE ON THE KNIFE. MAKE IT STOP.

EIGHTEEN CONTROL RODS ... EIGHTEEN ORIGINAL STONES!

BUT HOW CAN THEY EXIST? THEY WERE DESTROYED!



THERE'S SOMETHING UNDERNEATH. A GIANT HAND!

AND I CAN SMELL BURNING -

BURNING...

"COME ON, MATTHEW - WE'RE GOING TO BE LATE!"

- THE SMELL OF MY MOTHER. BURNING TOAST.

DIE!

BURNT TOAST IN THE BOG. BURNT TOAST WITH THE JUG. THE GUARD...

BURNT TOAST IS THE TRIGGER.



YOU CAN'T STOP ME NOW!

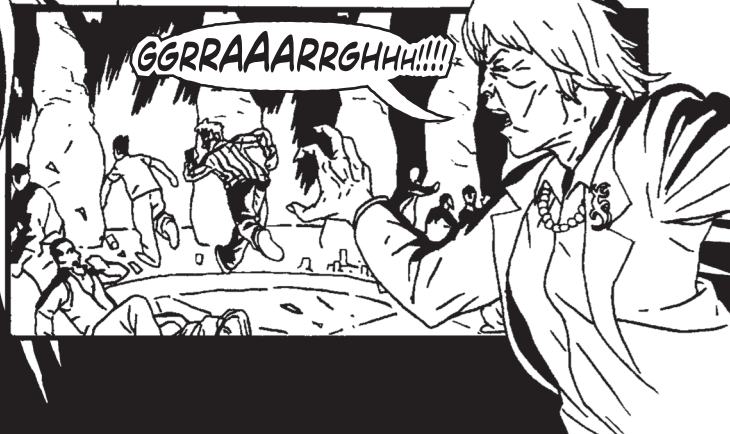


ARGHHH!

NO! YOU CAN'T - NOT NOW!



FOLLOW ME.



GGRRRAARRGHHH!!!!





THE RADIATION WARNING!

STAY IN THE CIRCLE! THE RADIATION HAS ESCAPED - BUT WE'RE PROTECTED IN THE CIRCLE!



EEEEEEEE!



STAY IN THE CIRCLE!



AAEEEEEE!!!!



THUMP



THE OLD ONE  
CANNOT ESCAPE! IT  
DOESN'T HAVE THE  
ONE INGREDIENT IT  
NEEDS...



...MATTHEW  
FREEMAN'S  
BLOOD.



YES!



THEY'RE  
LOCKED!  
WE CAN'T GET  
THROUGH -



- OH.

OH, MY GOD - THESE ARE  
THE ACID VATS THEY PUT THE  
RADIOACTIVE WASTE IN -





HE DIDN'T LISTEN TO ME. WE SHOULD HAVE LOCKED YOU UP, STARVED YOU, KEPT YOU WEAK.



BUT IT'S OVER NOW, ISN'T IT? YOUR POWER'S GONE AGAIN - YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO CONTROL IT -



- NOW I CAN KILL YOU AND TAKE YOU BACK!

-HNF-



YOU'RE STILL MINE!



I'LL HAVE YOUR BLOOD! I'LL TEAR OUT YOUR HEART AND TAKE IT BACK WITH ME!



I'LL - ARGH!

SLAM!!



AAAAAAAAAAAA!

ARGHH!!!

DON'T LOOK, MATT.



THIS WAY.



CAN YOU HEAR THAT?  
RUNNING  
WATER!



WHOA!



NO  
BANKS - NO  
TOWPATH TO  
WALK ON.

THERE'S  
NO OTHER  
WAY OUT.



YES, THERE IS.  
HOLD ON TO ME.



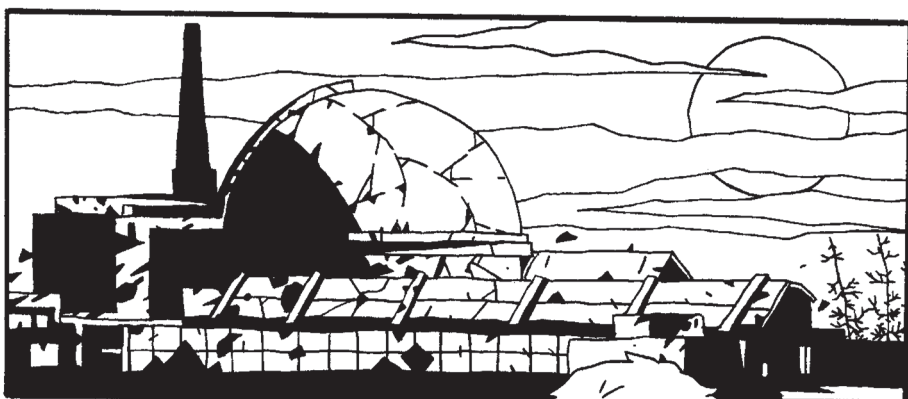
JUST  
HOLD ON!



# BOOM







IT'S OVER.

TWO WEEKS LATER

THE TIMES?  
TELEGRAPH? THE  
DAILY MAIL?

NOTHING.

THE  
INDEPENDENT?  
LE MONDE?



I DON'T KNOW.  
IT'S IN FRENCH.



THERE HAS TO  
BE SOMETHING,  
SOMEWHERE!

YOU CAN'T  
HAVE A NUCLEAR  
EXPLOSION IN THE  
MIDDLE OF YORKSHIRE  
WITHOUT **SOMEBODY**  
NOTICING!

THERE'S THAT  
CLIPPING  
FROM THE  
YORKSHIRE  
POST.

SURE! TWO COLUMN  
INCHES ABOUT A BRIGHT  
LIGHT SEEN OVER THE  
WOODS NEAR LESSER  
MALLING.

AND THEY  
STICK IT ON  
PAGE THREE  
- NEXT TO  
THE WEATHER  
REPORTS.



NO MENTION  
OF SANJAY DRAVID  
- OR SIR MICHAEL!

I MEAN - HE RECIEVED  
A **KNIGHTHOOD!** NO  
OBITUARIES, NO COMMENT  
- HE MIGHT AS WELL  
HAVE NEVER EXISTED!

WELL, THERE'S  
STILL THE STORY  
YOU WROTE?

TEN PAGES  
SENT TO EVERY PAPER  
IN LONDON - AND NOT  
ONE OF THEM WANTS  
TO KNOW!



THERE'S A CRATER WHERE OMEGA ONE STOOD! LESSER MALLING IS NOW DESERTED!

I PROVIDE AT LEAST SOME OF THE ANSWERS - WHY DOES NOBODY WANT TO PUBLISH IT?

THIS IS THE MOST PRESS WE RECEIVED THIS WEEK!



SOMEONE'S PUT A D-NOTICE ON THE STORY.

IT'S A GOVERNMENT THING. CENSORSHIP. WHEN THEY DON'T WANT A STORY TO GET INTO THE PAPERS.



BZZZZT!

POSTMAN?

PROBABLY ANOTHER LOST TOURIST. I'LL GET RID OF HIM.



GOOD MORNING, RICHARD - MY NAME IS MR FABIAN.

I'VE READ YOUR ARTICLE.

I'M FROM THE NEXUS.



GOOD MORNING, MATT. I'M VERY PLEASSED TO MEET YOU.

I HOPE YOU ARE FULLY RECOVERED?

YOU WERE OF COURSE AT THE MUSEUM WHEN PROFESSOR DRAVID WAS KILLED - HOW DID YOU SURVIVE?

IT WAS THE DIPLODOCUS'S RIB CAGE. IT PROTECTED ME FROM THE BRICKS - AND MRS DEVERILL DUG ME OUT.

YOU'VE READ MY ARTICLE, SO TELL ME SOMETHING -

- HOW COME NOBODY WANTS IT?

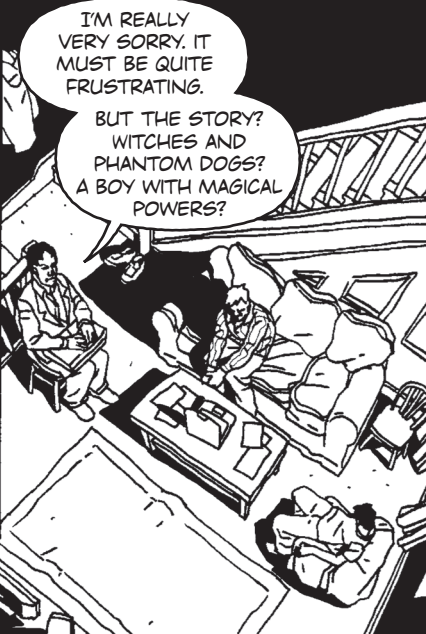
AS A MATTER OF FACT, THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.

WE HAVE PREVENTED YOUR STORY FROM BEING PUBLISHED. IT MUST NEVER SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY.

WHAT?

I'M REALLY VERY SORRY. IT MUST BE QUITE FRUSTRATING.


BUT THE STORY? WITCHES AND PHANTOM DOGS? A BOY WITH MAGICAL POWERS?





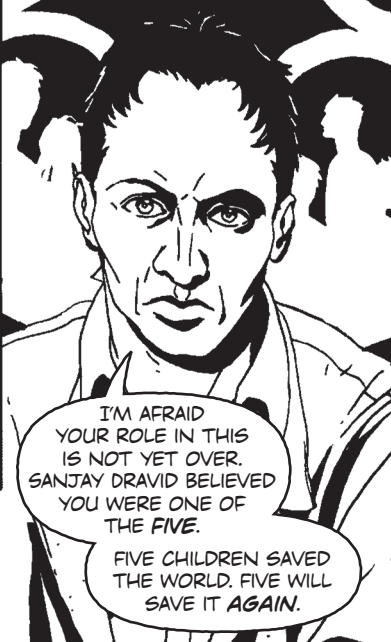
IT HAPPENED  
**EXACTLY**  
HOW RICHARD  
DESCRIBED IT.

IF THERE  
**REALLY** HAD BEEN  
AN EXPLOSION - HOW  
IS IT THAT NO SIGN OF  
RADIOACTIVE FALLOUT  
HAS BEEN FOUND  
ANYWHERE IN  
THE AREA?




OF COURSE I BELIEVE  
YOU. BUT THIS IS THE  
TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY  
AND THE ONE THING  
PEOPLE CANNOT DEAL  
WITH IS **UNCERTAINTY**.

WE LIVE IN AN  
AGE WHERE THERE  
IS NO ROOM FOR  
THE IMPOSSIBLE.




I'M AFRAID  
YOUR ROLE IN THIS  
IS NOT YET OVER.  
SANJAY DRAVID BELIEVED  
YOU WERE ONE OF  
THE **FIVE**.

FIVE CHILDREN SAVED  
THE WORLD. FIVE WILL  
SAVE IT AGAIN.



ANYTHING  
YOU NEED OR  
WANT, WE CAN GET  
IT FOR YOU.



THAT'S **FIVE**  
**THOUSAND POUNDS**,  
MR COLE - WHEN YOU  
NEED MORE, YOU ONLY  
NEED TO ASK.



WE HAVE ARRANGED  
FOR MATT TO STAY WITH  
YOU. WE CAN ARRANGE  
A LOCAL SCHOOL FOR  
MATT TOO.

I CANNOT TELL YOU WHAT A GREAT PLEASURE IT HAS BEEN TO MEET YOU.

WE WILL MEET IN LONDON VERY SOON.

PERHAPS I SHOULDN'T TELL YOU THIS - BUT I THINK PROFESSOR DRAVID WOULD HAVE WANTED ME TO TELL YOU.

WE BELIEVE THERE MAY BE A **SECOND GATE**.



I LIVE IN LIMA, IN PERU. THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT ANOTHER GATE EXISTS IN MY COUNTRY.

IT MAY BE THAT I WILL HAVE TO INVITE YOU THERE.

YOU MUST BE JOKING.

I'VE DONE MY BIT. I DON'T WANT TO KNOW ANY MORE.

I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT. JUST REMEMBER THE NEXUS IS ON YOUR SIDE. WE EXIST ONLY TO BE YOUR **FRIENDS**.

PLEASE DON'T GET UP, MR COLE - I CAN SHOW MYSELF OUT.





WELL - AT LEAST THAT SOLVES THE MONEY PROBLEM.

A SECOND GATE...



IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.



IT'S GOT EVERYTHING TO DO WITH ME, I KNOW THAT NOW.

I THOUGHT IT WAS ALL OVER WHEN THE POWER STATION WAS DESTROYED - BUT IT WAS JUST THE START.



HE'S TALKING ABOUT SOUTH AMERICA! THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY!

AND THEY CAN'T MAKE YOU DO ANYTHING - IF THEY TRY, THEY'LL HAVE TO GET PAST ME!



WELL - NOW IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE STUCK WITH ME.

I SUPPOSE SO. BUT, I HAVEN'T GOT A JOB - I MIGHT AS WELL PLAY BABYSITTER TO YOU.

AND I STILL NEED A STORY - SO WE'RE STUCK WITH EACH OTHER.



A SECOND GATE...

I HAVEN'T GOT THE FAINTEST IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON ANY MORE BUT I WILL TELL YOU ONE THING FOR CERTAIN -

"WE'RE *NOT* GOING TO PERU!"







END OF BOOK ONE

**ANTHONY HOROWITZ** is one of the most popular contemporary children's writers. Both *The Power of Five* and *Alex Rider* are number one bestselling series enjoyed by millions of readers worldwide.

When Anthony launched the *Alex Rider* series in 2000, he created a phenomenon in children's books, spurring a new trend of junior spy books and inspiring thousands of previously reluctant readers. Hailed as a reading hero, Anthony has also won many major awards including The Bookseller Association/Nielsen Author of the Year Award, the Children's Book of the Year Award at the British Book Awards, and the Red House Children's Book Award. The first *Alex Rider* adventure, *STORMBREAKER*, was made into a blockbuster movie in 2006.

Anthony's other titles for Walker Books include the Diamond Brothers mysteries; *GROOSHAM GRANGE* and its sequel, *RETURN TO GROOSHAM GRANGE*; *THE DEVIL AND HIS BOY*, *GRANNY*, *THE SWITCH*, and a new collection of horror stories, *MORE BLOODY HOROWITZ*. Anthony also writes extensively for TV, with programmes including *FOYLE'S WAR*, *MIDSOMER MURDERS*, *POIROT*, and most recently *COLLISION*. He is married to television producer Jill Green and lives in London with his sons, Nicholas and Cassian, and their dog, Limpy.

You can find out more about Anthony and his books at:

[www.anthonhorowitz.com](http://www.anthonhorowitz.com)

[www.alexrider.com](http://www.alexrider.com)

[www.powerof5.co.uk](http://www.powerof5.co.uk)

**TONY LEE**, who wrote the script for this book, has been a writer for over twenty years. He started his career mainly in games journalism, but in the early nineties moved into writing for radio, TV and magazines. Tony spent over ten years working as a feature and scriptwriter, for which he was nominated for and won several awards.

In 2004 Tony turned his attention to comics writing and has since worked for a variety of publishers, including Marvel Comics, IDW Publishing, Markosia, Rebellion, Panini and Titan. He has contributed to many popular and high-profile properties such as X-MEN, DOCTOR WHO, SPIDER-MAN, STARSHIP TROOPERS, WALLACE & GROMIT and SHREK.

In 2008 Tony was nominated in the category for “Best Newcomer Writer” at the prestigious Eagle Awards.

With artist Dan Boulton, Tony created THE PRINCE OF BAGHDAD, which was serialized in the David Fickling / Random House weekly children’s comic THE DFC. He is the author of the highly-acclaimed graphic novel OUTLAW: THE LEGEND OF ROBIN HOOD also published by Walker Books. His next book EXCALIBUR: THE LEGEND OF KING ARTHUR will be published by Walker Books in 2010.

[www.tonylee.co.uk](http://www.tonylee.co.uk)

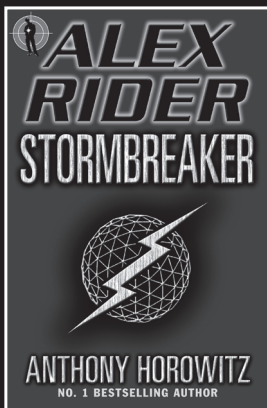
**DOM REARDON** is a British comics artist whose work appears mainly in the British anthology comic 2000AD. He is best-known as the illustrator of the fantasy horror series CABALLISTICS, INC. which he collaborated on with writer Gordon Rennie.

**LEE O’CONNOR’S** work has appeared in the cult European comics magazine HEAVY METAL, the popular PHONOGRAM series from Image Comics and numerous small press and indie comics on both sides of the Atlantic. The last graphic novel he illustrated, IRAQ, concerned the reconstruction of the post-war Iraqi republic and was published by the international humanitarian organization War on Want. Lee’s artwork has been exhibited in London, he has lectured on illustration in Australia, painted murals in New Zealand and is currently illustrating the second book of THE POWER OF FIVE series, EVIL STAR. Lee lives on an organic farm in Devon with forty-one cows, twelve chickens and a cat.

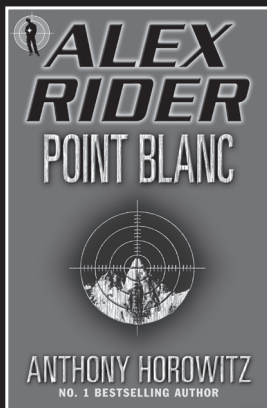
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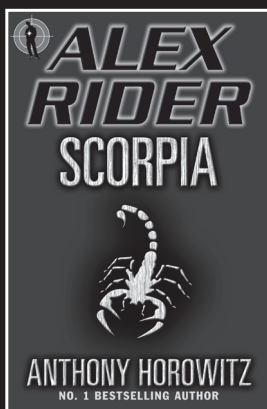
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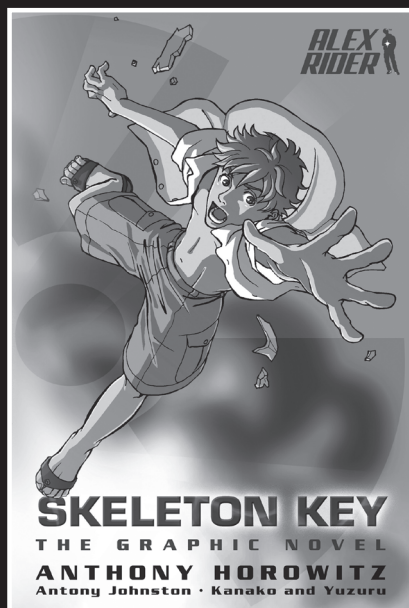
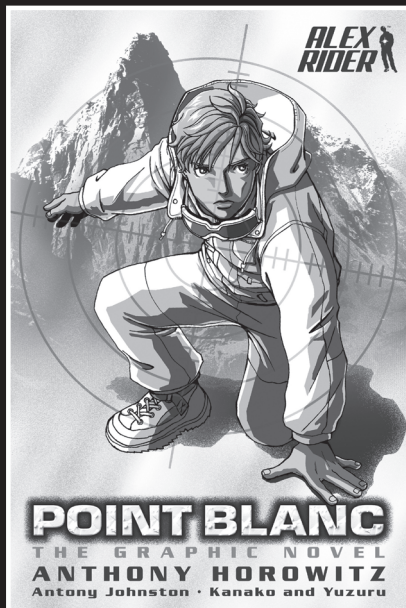
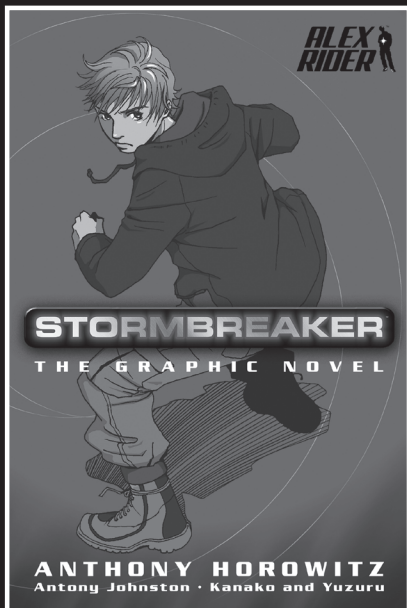
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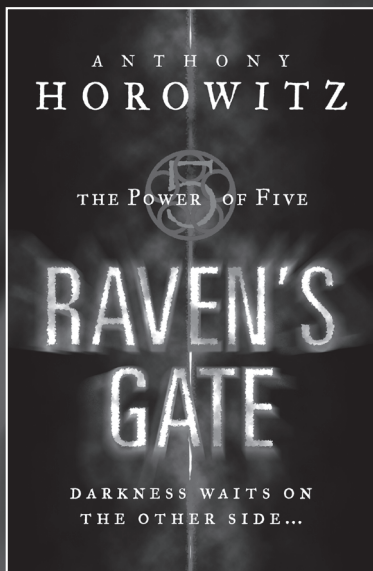
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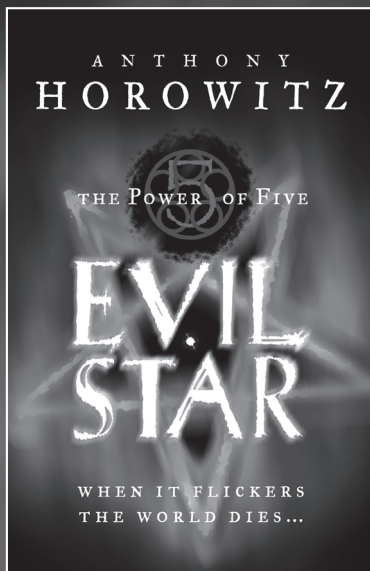
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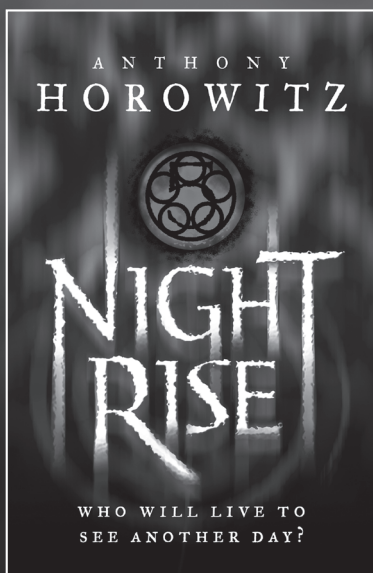
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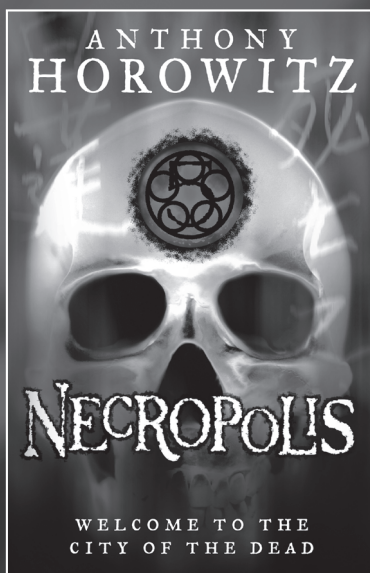
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First published 2010 by Walker Books Ltd  
87 Vauxhall Walk, London SE11 5HJ

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data:  
a catalogue record for this book is available from the  
British Library

ISBN 978-1-4063-3234-6 (e-PDF)

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