

SHIFTER™



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Genesis 1: 20-22

And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth."

Remember, democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself. There never was a democracy yet that did not commit suicide.
- *John Adams*

We know better.
-*Mark Redding*
CEO, *Morning Star Industries*

SOMEWHERE IN THE
NORTHEAST ATLANTIC...



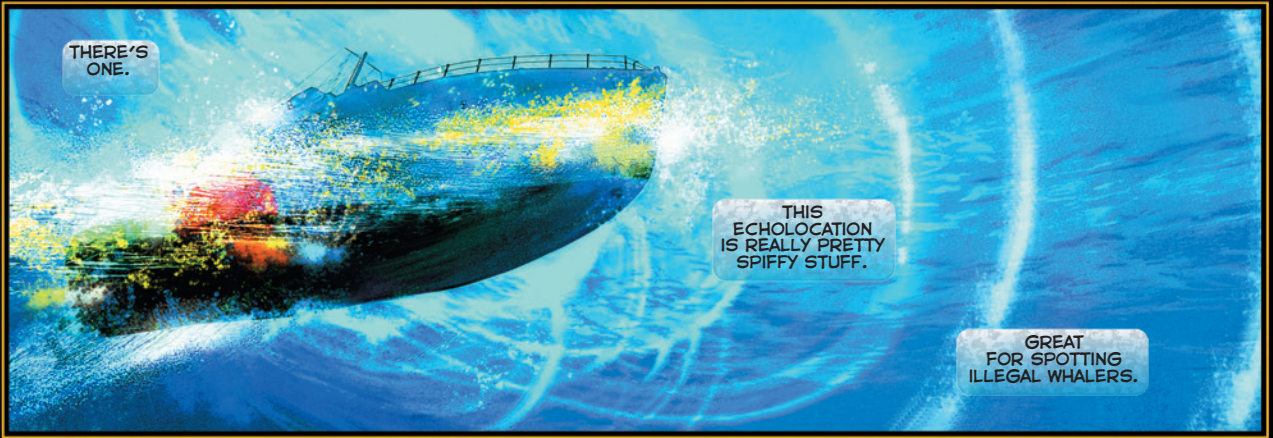
AH...
SUCH
A LOVELY
SIGHT.



THREE
BEAUTIES
AHEAD TO
STARBOARD.



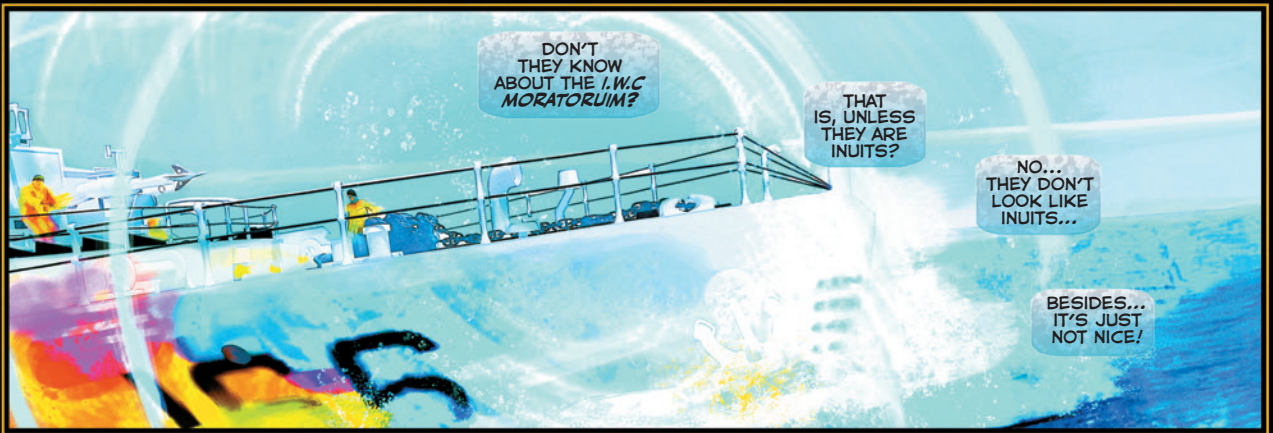
READY
THE
HARPOON.



THERE'S
ONE.

THIS
ECHOLOCATION
IS REALLY PRETTY
SPIFFY STUFF.

GREAT
FOR SPOTTING
ILLEGAL WHALERS.



DON'T
THEY KNOW
ABOUT THE I.W.C
MORATORIUM?

THAT
IS, UNLESS
THEY ARE
INUIITS?

NO...
THEY DON'T
LOOK LIKE
INUIITS...

BESIDES...
IT'S JUST
NOT NICE!



FIRE!



SNAP!

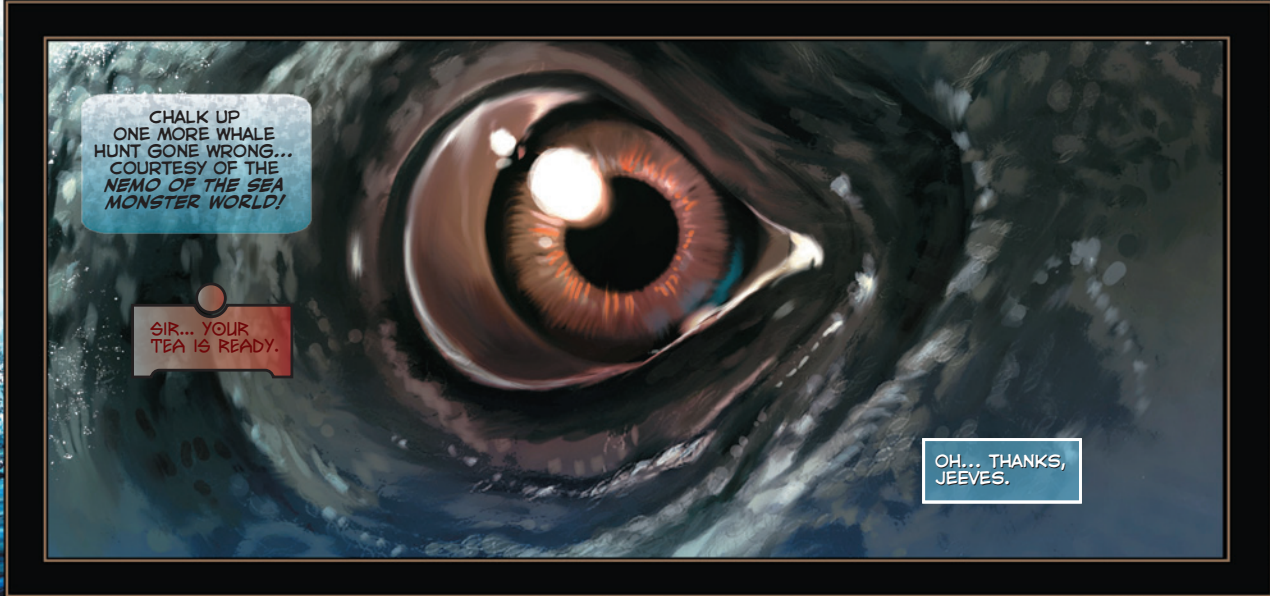


FULL REVERSE...
GET US THE HELL OUT OF
HERE!



RRROOARR!

I
THINK THAT
PUT A GOOD
SCARE IN
THEM.

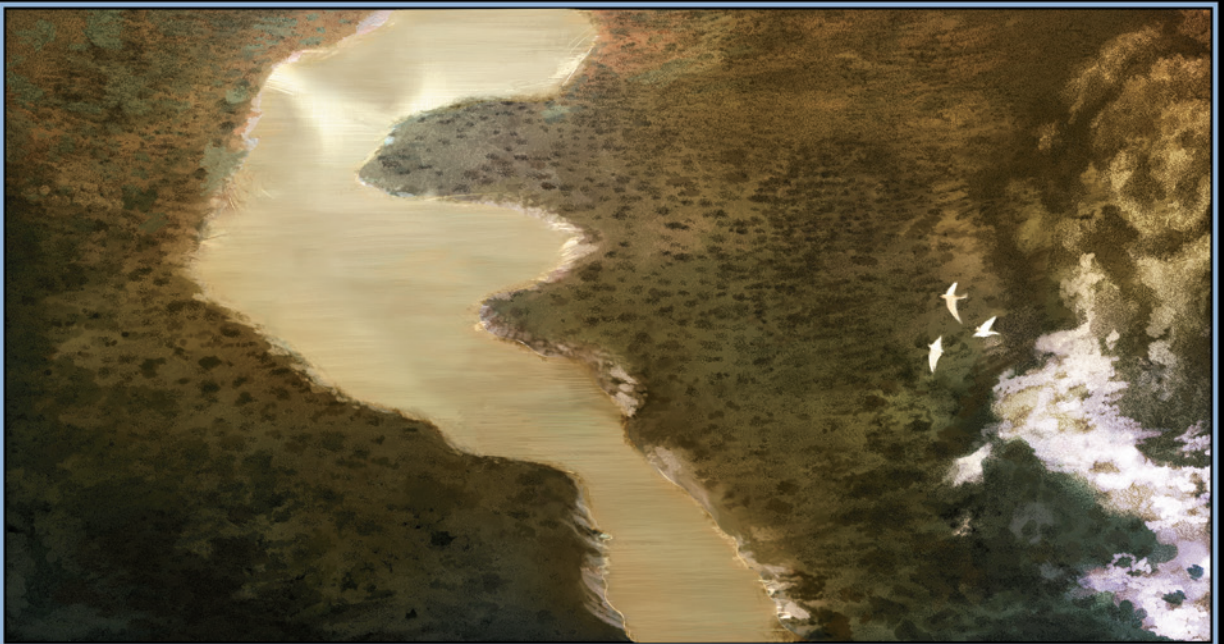
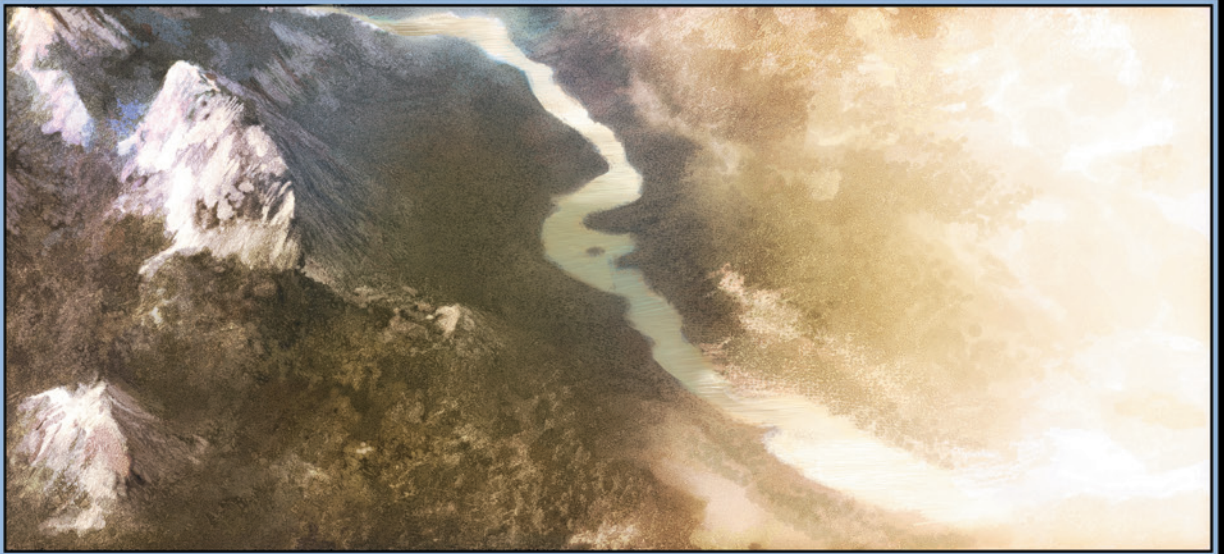


CHALK UP
ONE MORE WHALE
HUNT GONE WRONG...
COURTESY OF THE
NEMO OF THE SEA
MONSTER WORLD!

SIR... YOUR
TEA IS READY.

OH... THANKS,
JEEVES.

SIX MONTHS EARLIER...





brrrp
brrrp



NOAH
FREEMAN.

YOUR
DAYS ARE
NUMBERED,
NOAH FREEMAN...



STILL
TIME TO
RUN.

STILL
TIME TO
SAVE
YOURSELF!

HEY,
TERRY...

HOW
LONG TILL
THE FUNERAL?

THREE
WEEKS.



I'M
GETTING
MARRIED,
TERRY.

NOT
DYING.

YOU
SAY
"TOMATO..."



IS THERE A POINT TO THIS CALL, TERRY? I'M TRYING REALLY HARD NOT TO CRASH A MILLION-DOLLAR PIECE OF GOVERNMENT HARDWARE HERE.

MILLION DOLLARS? ARE YOU KIDDING? THAT THING COSTS TEN TIMES THAT, AT LEAST.



WOW... REALLY? SHOULDN'T BE TRYING THOSE LOOP-DE-LOOPS THEN...

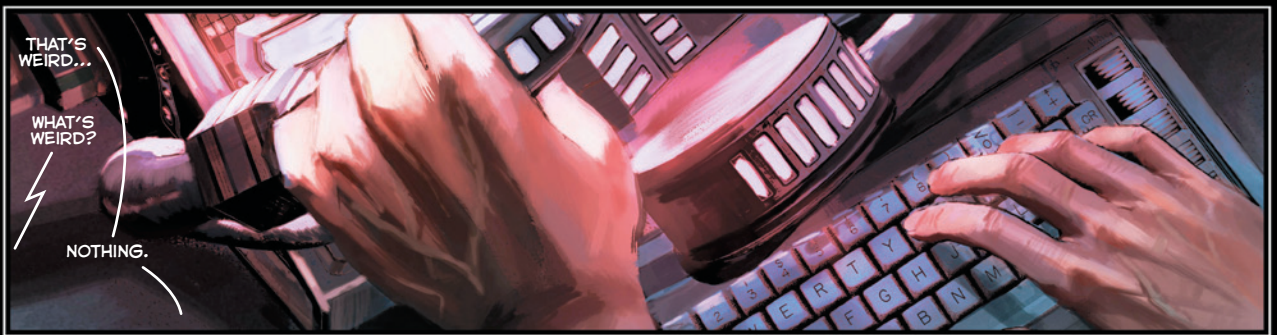
RIGHT.

ANYWAY, I THOUGHT YOU'D WANT TO GO OUT FOR A BEER AFTER WORK. WE STILL NEED TO PLAN YOUR WAKE... I MEAN BACHELOR PARTY.

I TOLD YOU I DON'T WANT...



HANG ON...



THAT'S WEIRD...

WHAT'S WEIRD?

NOTHING.



I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T WANT A WAKE...

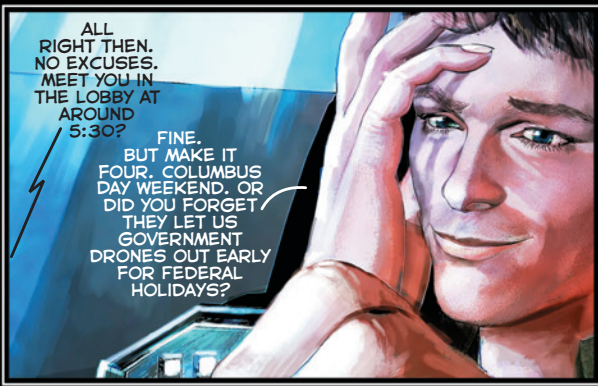
HA! SO IT IS A FUNERAL!

OKAY, BACHELOR PARTY. WHATEVER. I DON'T NEED ONE.

SHE IS.

YEAH, BUT YOUR FRIENDS DO. EITHER WAY, LET'S GRAB A BEER. HELEN'S STILL IN ENGLAND, RIGHT?





ALL RIGHT THEN. NO EXCUSES. MEET YOU IN THE LOBBY AT AROUND 5:30?

FINE. BUT MAKE IT FOUR. COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND. OR DID YOU FORGET THEY LET US GOVERNMENT DRONES OUT EARLY FOR FEDERAL HOLIDAYS?



GOT TO LOVE THE CIVIL SERVICE!

INDEED.

BYE.



G. STRAND
B SUPERVISOR

knock knock

ENTER.



MR. FREEMAN. KNOCKING OFF EARLY?

I WAS, ACTUALLY. BUT I FOUND SOMETHING IN THE AFTERNOON UPDATES. SOMETHING'S OFF.



I WAS CHECKING THE EROSION LEVELS ON THE FLOOD EMBANKMENTS ALONG SHENANDOAH FEEDERS. EVERYTHING CHECKED OUT OKAY.

BUT THEN I HAPPENED TO ZIP BY THE CROSS-FERRY DAM, AND I NOTICED THE WATERLINE WAS ALMOST AT THE TOP. I MEAN, WE'VE HAD LOWER THAN AVERAGE RAINFALL BUT THIS THING'S UP IN THE TREELINE.



YOU'RE WORRIED THAT DAM WON'T HOLD?

DON'T THE FARMERS DOWNSTREAM NEED IT?

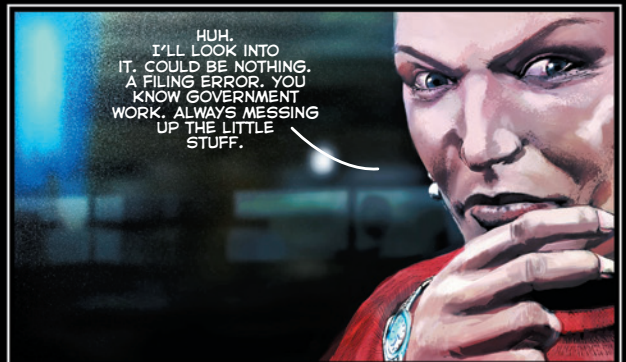
I DON'T KNOW, BUT THAT'S LOCAL JURISDICTION. NOT OUR PROBLEM.

NO, I WAS JUST WONDERING. I MEAN, WHY AREN'T THEY RELEASING MORE WATER?

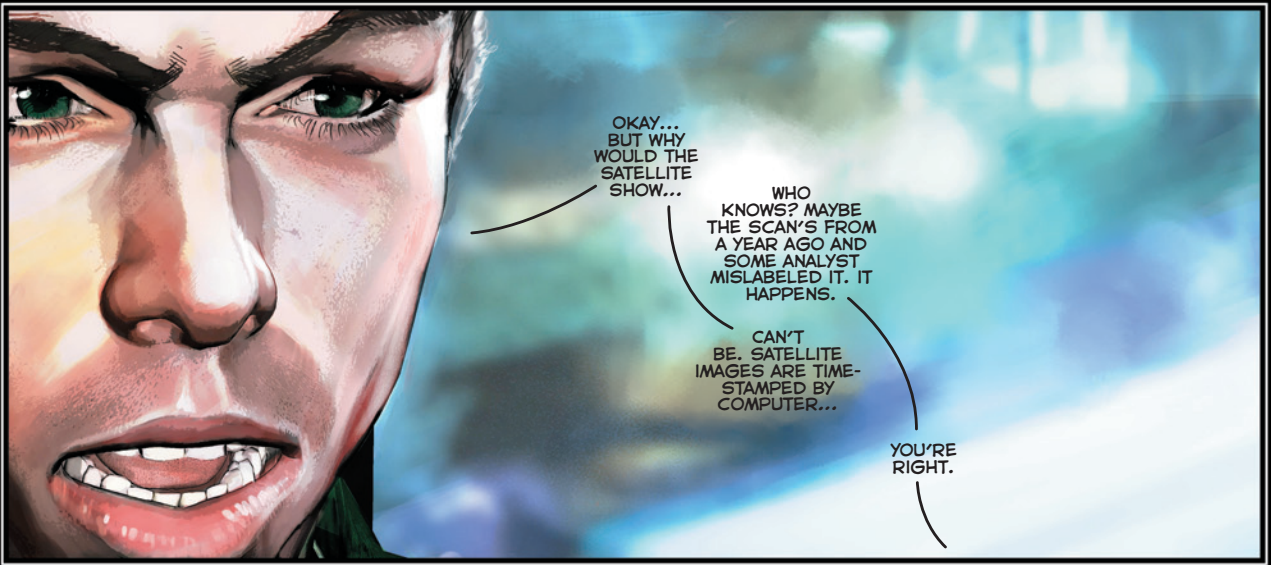


I KNOW. BUT HERE'S THE WEIRD THING. I CROSS-CHECKED WITH SATELLITE IMAGING. THE LAST UPDATE WAS THREE MONTHS AGO. WATER LEVEL WAS LESS THAN HALF.

NO WAY COULD IT FILL UP THAT QUICK.



HUH. I'LL LOOK INTO IT. COULD BE NOTHING. A FILING ERROR. YOU KNOW GOVERNMENT WORK. ALWAYS MESSING UP THE LITTLE STUFF.

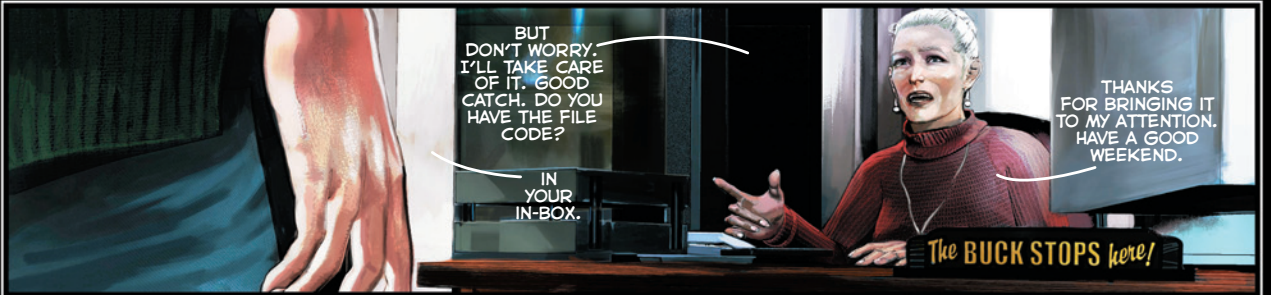


OKAY... BUT WHY WOULD THE SATELLITE SHOW...

WHO KNOWS? MAYBE THE SCAN'S FROM A YEAR AGO AND SOME ANALYST MISLABELED IT. IT HAPPENS.

CAN'T BE. SATELLITE IMAGES ARE TIME-STAMPED BY COMPUTER...

YOU'RE RIGHT.



BUT DON'T WORRY. I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT. GOOD CATCH. DO YOU HAVE THE FILE CODE?

IN YOUR IN-BOX.

THANKS FOR BRINGING IT TO MY ATTENTION. HAVE A GOOD WEEKEND.

The BUCK STOPS here!



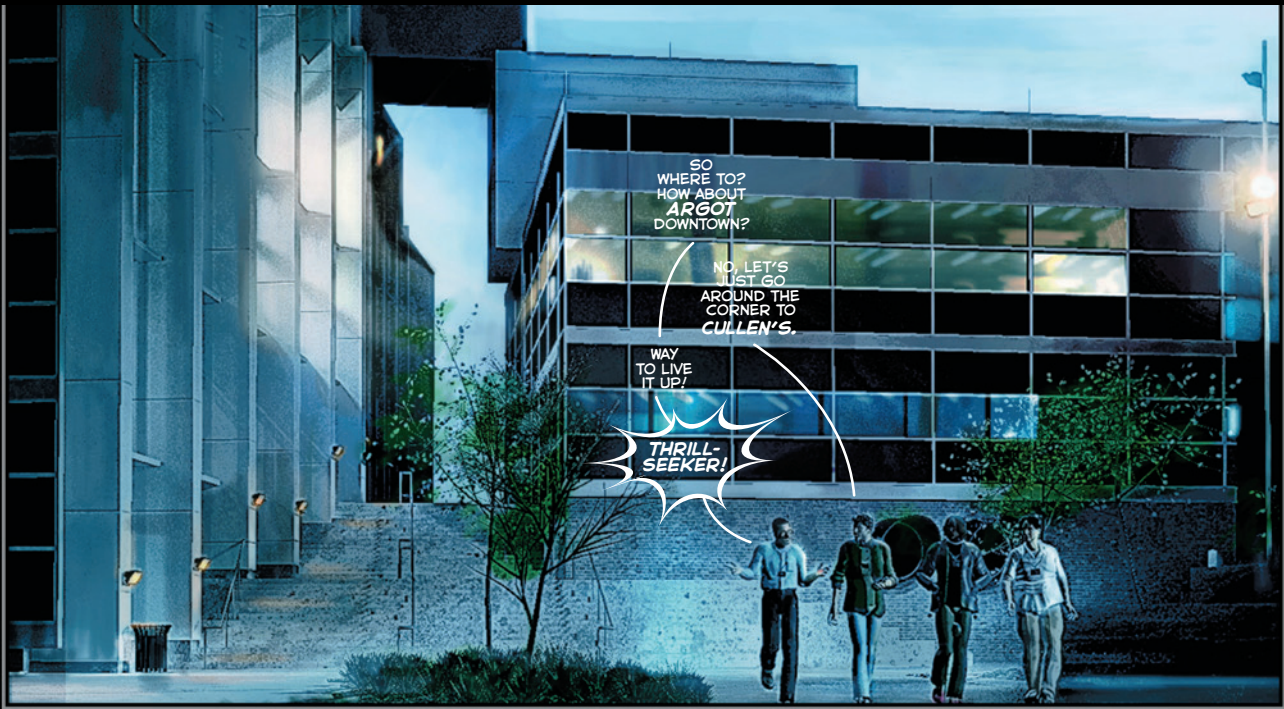
THANKS. YOU, TOO.

DON'T DRINK TOO MUCH... MR. BACHELOR...

NO PROMISES.



HWWW.



SO WHERE TO? HOW ABOUT ARGOT DOWNTOWN?

NO, LET'S JUST GO AROUND THE CORNER TO CULLEN'S.

WAY TO LIVE IT UP!

THRILL-SEEKER!



♪ DON'T HAVE HOPES AND DREAMS...



♪ AN' I DON'T HAVE PLANS AND SCHEMES...



I-I-I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING.



♪♪ SINCE I DON'T HAVE YOU-
-o°-
-oOo!
♪♪



HAVE A GOOD WEEKEND, NOAH.

YOU TOO, CLIVE.

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?

THAT WAS JUST EMBARRASSING.



WHAT? I LOVE THAT SONG.

SAD... JUST SAD.

GUNS N' ROSES COVERED IT.

IT'S TRUE.

BULLSHIT.



SERIOUSLY, NOAH, HOW DID YOU EVER MANAGE TO GET A WOMAN TO AGREE TO MARRY YOU?

YEAH! ARE YOU SURE SHE'S NOT JUST AFTER THE GREEN CARD?

I KNEW IT!

NOT ENTIRELY.

INGER stores



SO... HOW DRUNK ARE YOU?



NOT AT ALL. I SLIPPED OUT EARLY. THEY'RE STILL AT IT, THOUGH.

TERRY'S QUITE WASTED, IF THAT'S ANY COMFORT.

DID HE PLAN YOUR ESCAPE ROUTE FOR WHEN YOU JILT ME AT THE ALTAR?



NO. NOT AT ALL.

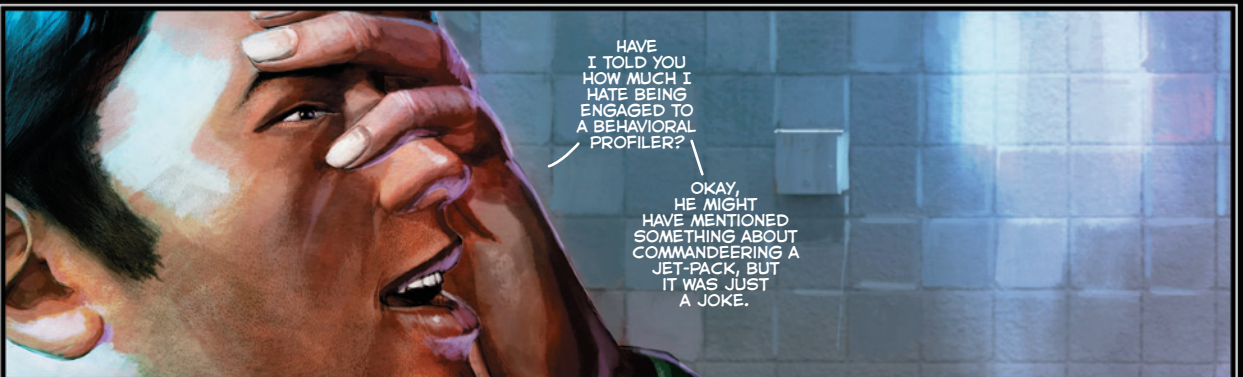
PLANNING THE BACHELOR PARTY WAS HIS IDEA. HE'S HAPPY FOR US.

YOU'RE LYING.

NO. SERIOUSLY.

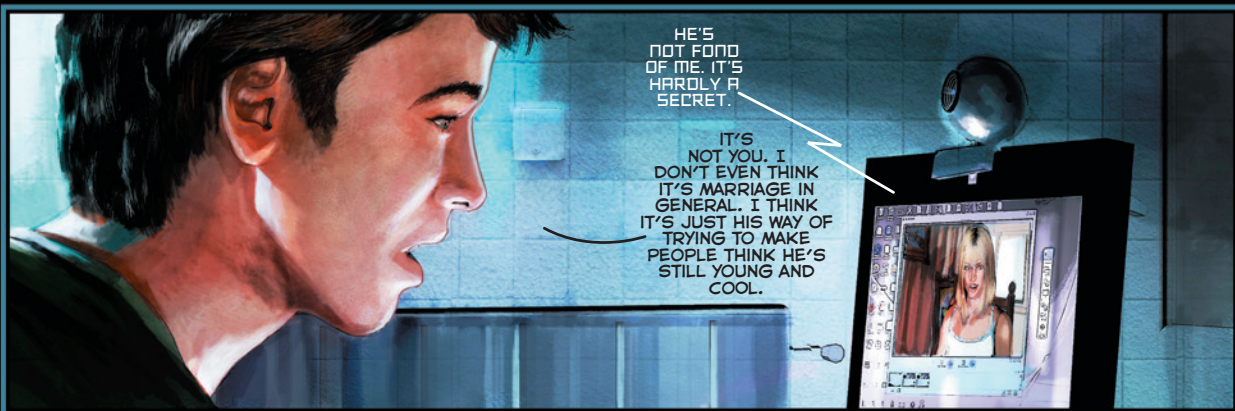


HEAD TILT... EYES DARTED TO RIGHT... VOICE DROPPED HALF AN OCTAVE... YOU'RE LYING.



HAVE I TOLD YOU HOW MUCH I HATE BEING ENGAGED TO A BEHAVIORAL PROFILER?

OKAY, HE MIGHT HAVE MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT COMMANDEERING A JET-PACK, BUT IT WAS JUST A JOKE.



HE'S NOT FOND OF ME. IT'S HARDLY A SECRET.

IT'S NOT YOU. I DON'T EVEN THINK IT'S MARRIAGE IN GENERAL. I THINK IT'S JUST HIS WAY OF TRYING TO MAKE PEOPLE THINK HE'S STILL YOUNG AND COOL.



WELL, I THINK IT'S HIS WAY OF MAKING PEOPLE THINK HE'S NOT GAY.

OR THAT.



ANYWAY, I'VE NEARLY GOT EVERYTHING TIED UP ON THIS END. I'LL BE IN FRIDAY NEXT. THE 6:30 PM AT DULLES. YOU'LL PICK ME UP?

YOU'LL E-MAIL ME A REMINDER?

OF COURSE.

THEN I'LL BE THERE WITH ROSES.

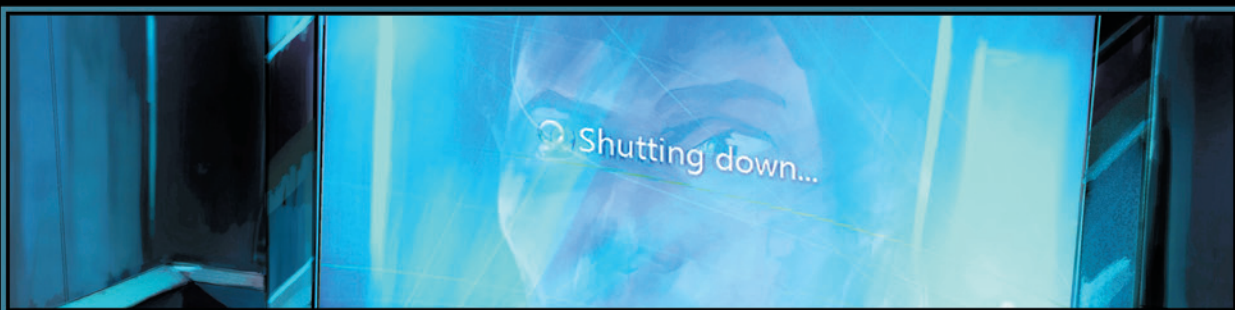


SERIOUSLY, I HAVE TO GET UP REAL EARLY. LAST HIKE OF THE SEASON.

FINE. I'LL LET YOU GO.

SEE YOU NEXT FRIDAY. LOVE YOU.

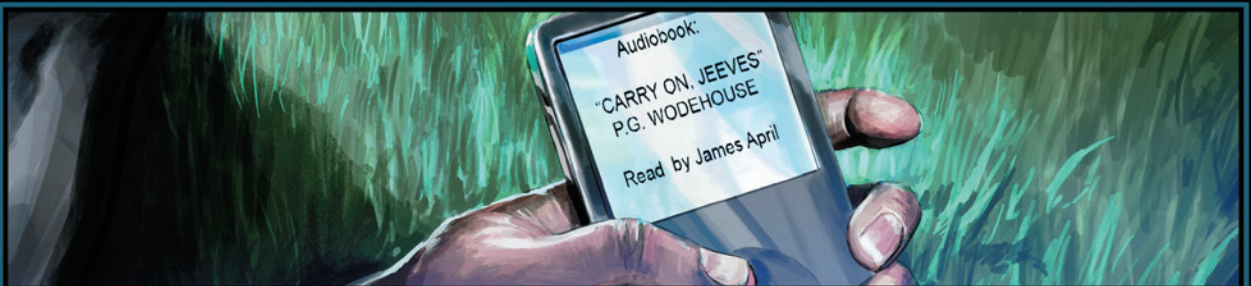
LOVE YOU TOO. BE SAFE.



BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS.
SATURDAY.

A Well-Earned Vacation







...LOST.
I'M
TELLING
YOU.

WE'RE
NOT LOST.
WE'RE JUST...
DETOURED.



OKAY.
THIS "X" IS
WHERE WE
STARTED,
RIGHT?

OKAY.

SO
WE SHOULD
BE HEADING
EAST.



WHICH
WAY IS
EAST?

CHECK
THE
SUN.

WHAT
SUN? IT'S
CLOUDY, YOU
MORON.

I
SEE RAYS...
YOU COULD
USE RAYS...

NO.
YOU
CAN'T--

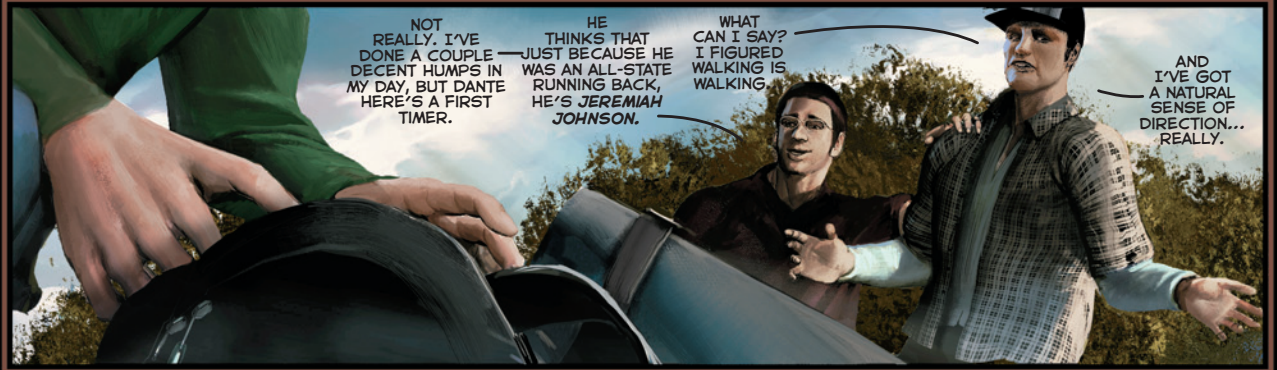
MORNING.
YOU GUYS
NEED HELP?



HEY!

THANKS. THAT'D BE GREAT.

YOU GUYS ARE PRETTY FAR OFF THE BEATEN TRACK. ARE YOU EXPERIENCED HIKERS?

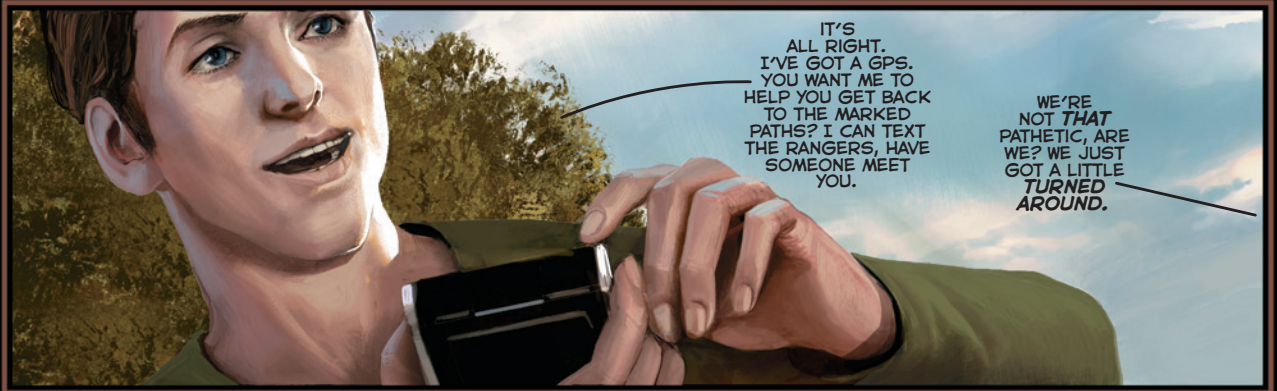


NOT REALLY. I'VE DONE A COUPLE DECENT HUMPS IN MY DAY, BUT DANTE HERE'S A FIRST TIMER.

HE THINKS THAT JUST BECAUSE HE WAS AN ALL-STATE RUNNING BACK, HE'S JEREMIAH JOHNSON.

WHAT CAN I SAY? I FIGURED WALKING IS WALKING

AND I'VE GOT A NATURAL SENSE OF DIRECTION... REALLY.



IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'VE GOT A GPS. YOU WANT ME TO HELP YOU GET BACK TO THE MARKED PATHS? I CAN TEXT THE RANGERS, HAVE SOMEONE MEET YOU.

WE'RE NOT THAT PATHETIC, ARE WE? WE JUST GOT A LITTLE TURNED AROUND.



HAPPENS TO US ALL. COULD BE THE SPIRITS.

THE WHAT?

NOTHING. JUST A JOKE.

THERE'S AN ANCIENT INDIAN LEGEND ABOUT GHOSTS AND STUFF IN THIS AREA. MYSTERIOUS POWERS. ANIMALS, PEOPLE DISAPPEARING.

THAT KIND OF THING.

OH YEAH?



YEAH.

SOMETHING ABOUT THE WHITE LODGE. SOME KIND OF OTHER-WORLDLY GATEWAY OR SOMETHING.

ANYWAY, WE'RE TRYING TO HEAD TOWARDS THESE FALLS, SEE?



OKAY, SO YOU'RE NOT REALLY LOST AT ALL.



YOU JUST WANT TO HEAD EAST. I'D SKIRT AROUND THAT RIDGE LINE, AND YOU SHOULD BE THERE IN, I DON'T KNOW, HALF AN HOUR OR SO.

SEE? HE DIDN'T NEED THE SUN.



RIGHT... LISTEN, WOULD YOU MIND SHOWING US?

I HAVE A FEELING WE'D BE LOST AGAIN EVEN WITH MY PARTNER'S INFALLIBLE SENSE OF DIRECTION.

HEY!



IT'S A BIT OUT OF MY WAY, BUT SURE. WHY NOT?

THE FALLS ARE WORTH A LITTLE DETOUR.



THANKS, MAN.

NOAH.

I'M BLAKE.

DANTE.

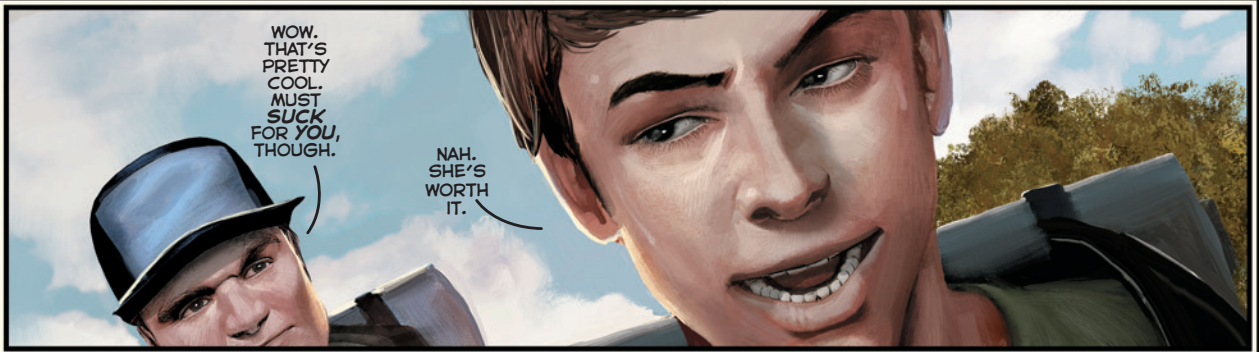




KIND OF. BUT INSTEAD OF CRIMINALS, SHE WATCHES POLITICIANS, DIPLOMATS, BUSINESSMEN.

DECIDES IF THEY'RE NERVOUS OR LYING OR SENDING ANY UNCONSCIOUS SIGNALS. IT'S REALLY JUST READING PEOPLE.

SHE CAN TELL IF MARKETS ARE GOING TO FALL IN ASIA OR IF CHINA'S GETTING ITCHY ABOUT TAIWAN JUST BY WATCHING THEIR LEADERS SPEAK.



WOW. THAT'S PRETTY COOL. MUST SUCK FOR YOU, THOUGH.

NAH. SHE'S WORTH IT.



SO WHAT ABOUT YOU? WHAT DO YOU DO?



ME? NOT MUCH. I'M JUST TRYING TO SAVE THE WORLD...

WHAT?

ACTUALLY, I JUST MONITOR THE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE GOVERNMENT... BUT I LIKE TO THINK THAT IN MY OWN LITTLE WAY--



WOW.