

ACTION THOLOGY!



EMPIRE
COMICS LAB

ISSUE #1

\$4⁰⁰



Actionthology
Cover #1 by
Eric Bowen

A talking brain in
a jar?
We're in!

- Call Dan!!!
the brain escaped

- CALL ANDY
KICKSTARTER? GOFUNDME!
BAKE SALE?
ZOMBES A GO GO

- CALL JENNIFER

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Publish Pirate Mike 2x a week
WEBCOMICS CROSSOVER?
count Wands and Spells /
Collar Invasion crossover
teak the Internet!!!
Pirate Mike 2x a week
number to
webcomics

MISSING

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MANY
Last Seen: Black Friday
Where: Local Mall
Answers to: Stu, Stewart,
& "Hey, Jerk!"
Lately seen wearing...



BLOOD DRIVE
STARTING

What's coming soon!!!
Blood Drive?

ACTIONTHOLOGY 2??

WHO IS "CANCERDOLL"?

PARAGONS WILL MAKE

THE BIG 2 NERVOUS!

FINISH DOCTOR SEVEN!!!!

ACTIONTHOLOGY PRESENTS: ?

MUZZLE NEEDS HER OWN SERIES

IN EMPIRE CITY??

ACTIONTHOLOGY #1. FIRST PRINTING MAY 2017. ALL WORK IS THE SOLE PROPERTY OF THE INDIVIDUAL CREATORS. FOR SUBMISSION INFORMATION, CONTACT DAVE HEARN AT CREATORS@EMPIRECOMICSLAB.COM. FOR ADVERTISING RATES, CONTACT ANDY KORTY AT ECLEDITORS@GMAIL.COM. VISIT US AT WWW.EMPIRECOMICSLAB.COM AND TWITTER: @EMPIRECOMICSLAB. INSTAGRAM: @EMPIRECOMICSLAB

PRINTED IN TAIWAN

THE BUTCHER & THE HOUND

EARLY MORNING IN THE WINDY CITY--
THE LAZY DAYS OF SUMMER
GRADUALLY GIVING WAY TO COOLER
WEATHER JUST AROUND THE CORNER.

OUT FOR HER MORNING RUN, GAIL
ABERNATHY IS IN DANGER...

... OF BEING
LATE FOR
WORK.



SINCE MOVING TO THE
STATES, GAIL HAS
FOUND HER FOOTING,
MADE FRIENDS AND
MANAGED TO PUT HER
PAST BEHIND HER.

SO MUCH HAS
CHANGED SINCE
LEAVING THE U.K.,
BUT THINGS LOOK
PROMISING.

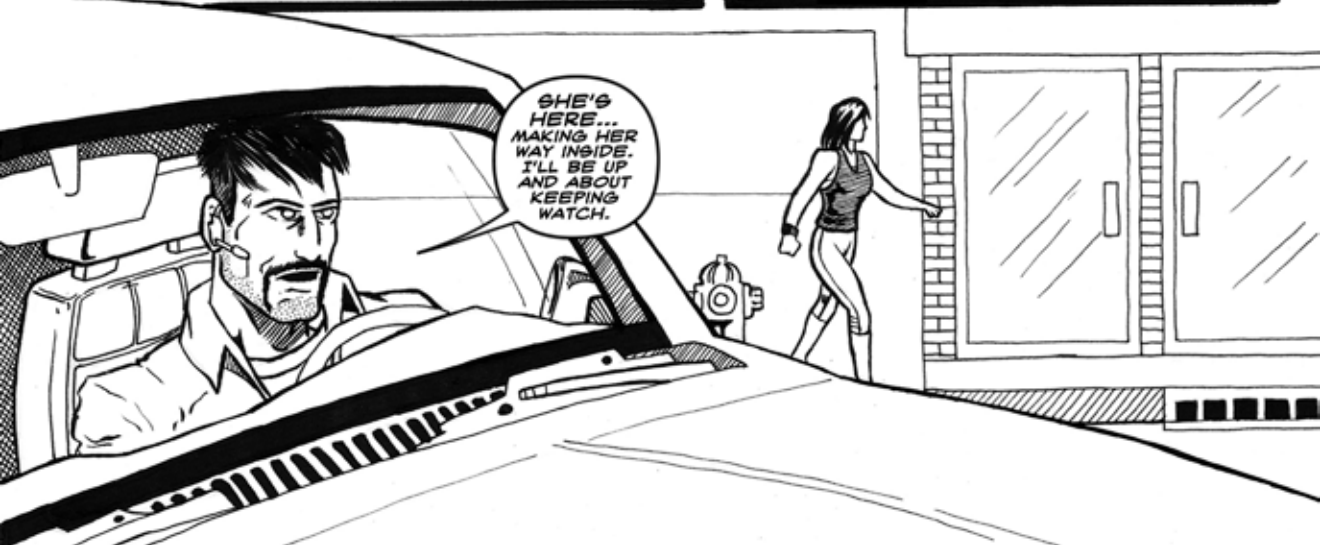


I'D BETTER
GET MOVING.
THE KIDS ARE
PROBABLY
ALREADY
WAITING
FOR ME.

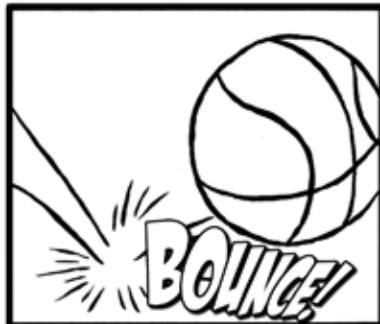


OF COURSE, SOMETIMES
OUR PAST HAS A WAY OF
CATCHING UP TO US.

PIGEON'S
ON THE WING...
COMING IN TO
ROOST WITH THE
KIDDIES AT
THE CENTER.

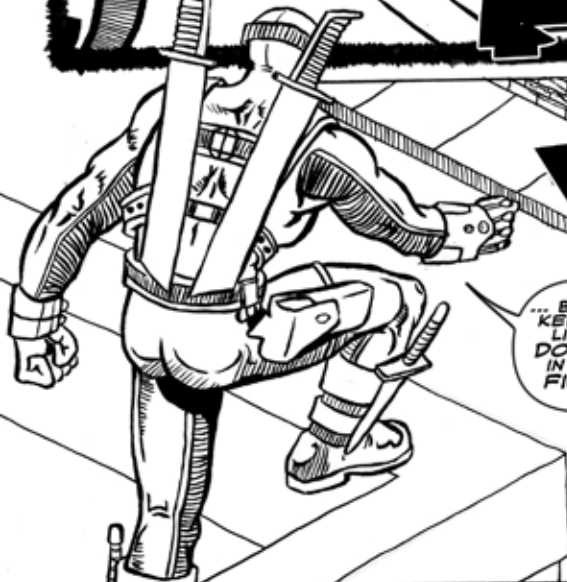


SHE'S
HERE...
MAKING HER
WAY INSIDE.
I'LL BE UP
AND ABOUT
KEEPING
WATCH.

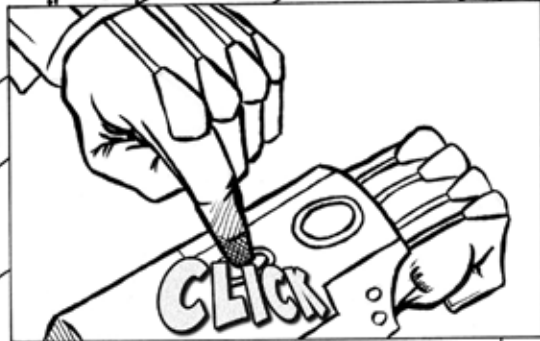






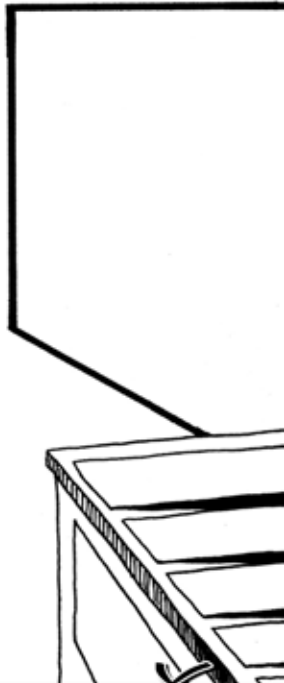
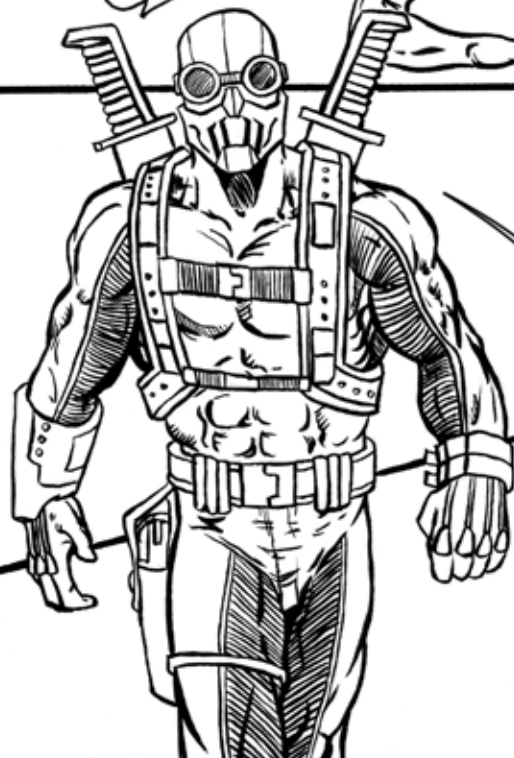
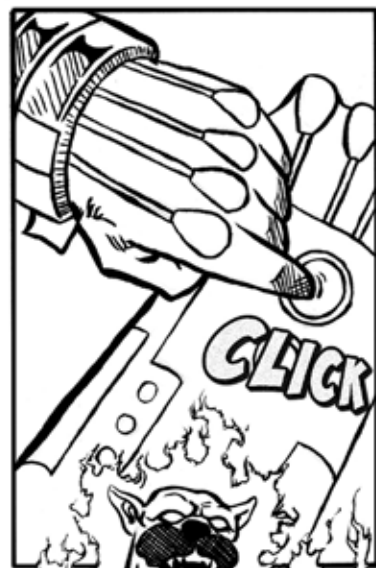


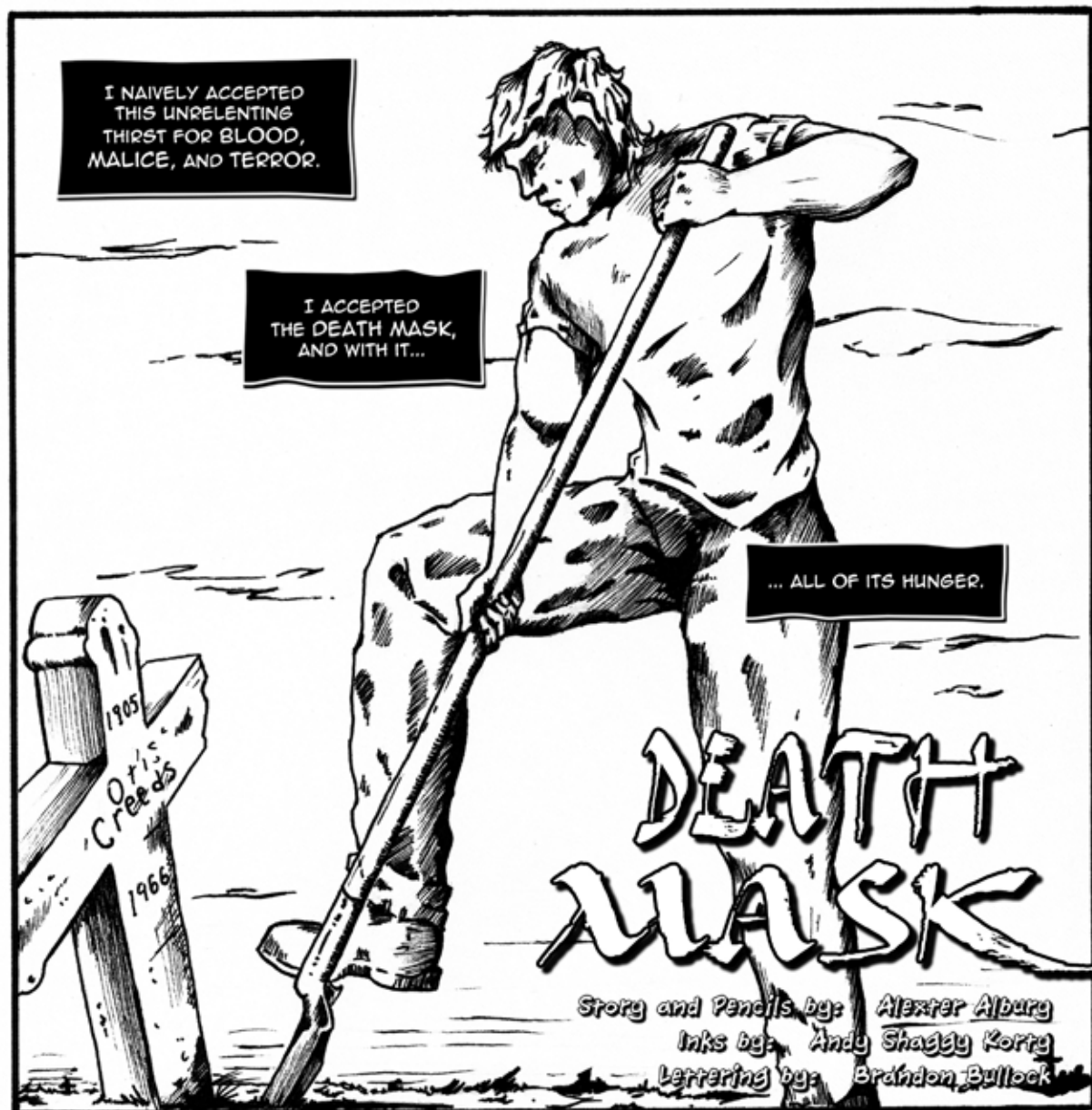
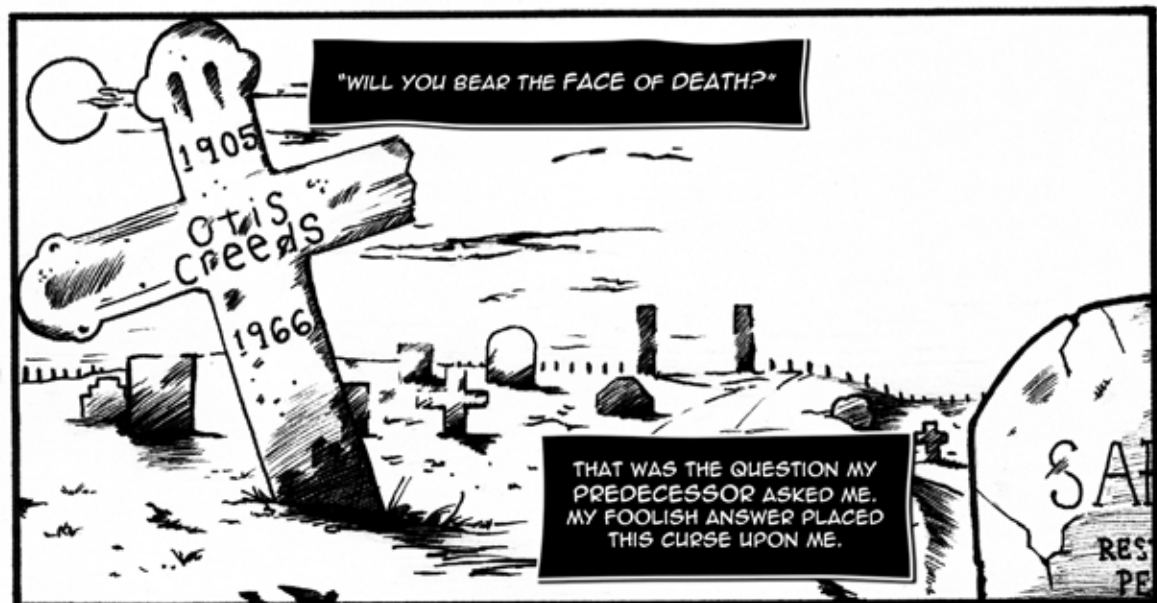
... BETTER KEEP MY LITTLE DOGGIE IN THE FIGHT.











I NAIVELY ACCEPTED
THIS UNRELENTING
THIRST FOR BLOOD,
MALICE, AND TERROR.

I ACCEPTED
THE DEATH MASK,
AND WITH IT...

... ALL OF ITS HUNGER.

DEATH MASK

Story and Pencils by: Alexter Alburg
Inks by: Andy Shaggy Kory
Lettering by: Brandon Bullock



AND IT'S
AN INSATIABLE
HUNGER!

I NOURISHED IT FOR CENTURIES BY THE
WRATH OF MY OWN TWO HANDS. IT DRANK
THE RESIDUE OF EVIL AND IT BECAME
STRONGER, AND I ALONG WITH IT.



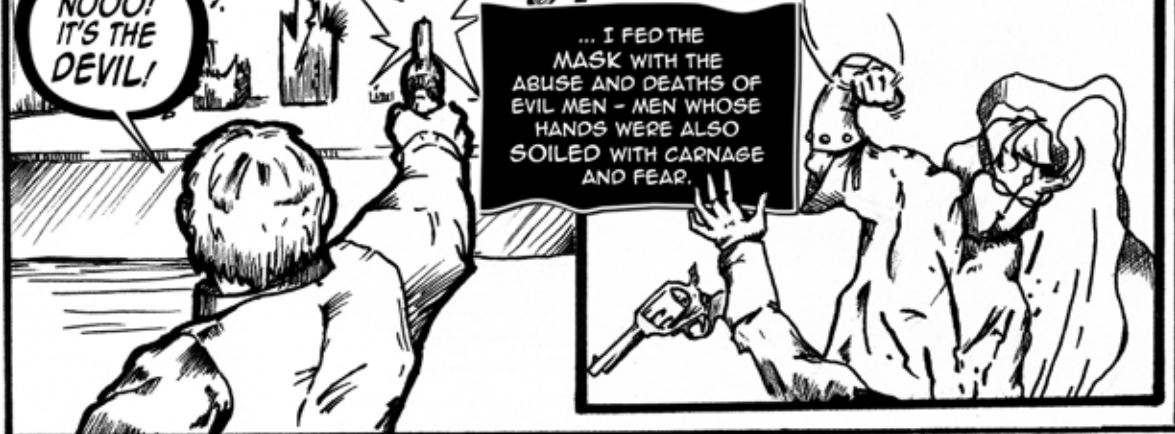
DUKE'S
SALOON


HELP!

INTENDING TO SILENCE THE
SORROW OF MY OWN TROUBLED SOUL,
CAUSED BY MY BLOOD-SOAKED HANDS...

NOOO!
IT'S THE
DEVIL!

... I FED THE
MASK WITH THE
ABUSE AND DEATHS OF
EVIL MEN - MEN WHOSE
HANDS WERE ALSO
SOILED WITH CARNAGE
AND FEAR.






BUT HOW PRECARIOUS THE ROAD TO REDEMPTION! WHO CAN TRULY REMAIN VIRTUOUS WHEN THEY BECOME JUDGE, JURY AND EXECUTIONER?

AARRGGH!

WHAT DEFINES EVIL?

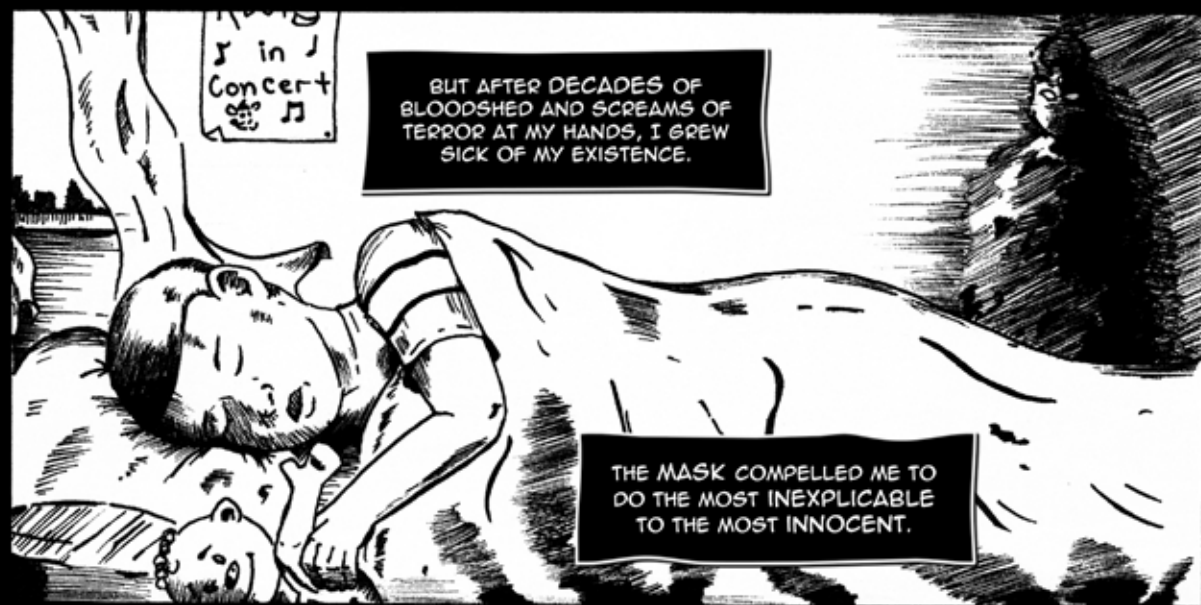
WHO DESERVES TO DIE?



EVIL PERMEATES THIS WORLD LIKE THE PERFUME OF A LONG-LOST LOVER. IT BECKONS WITH A SCENT THAT CAN'T BE RESISTED.

THE NEED FOR VIOLENCE AND MAYHEM WINS. ALL MEN ARE PREY AND I AM THE PREDATOR.

THE DEATH MASK, MY MASTER.



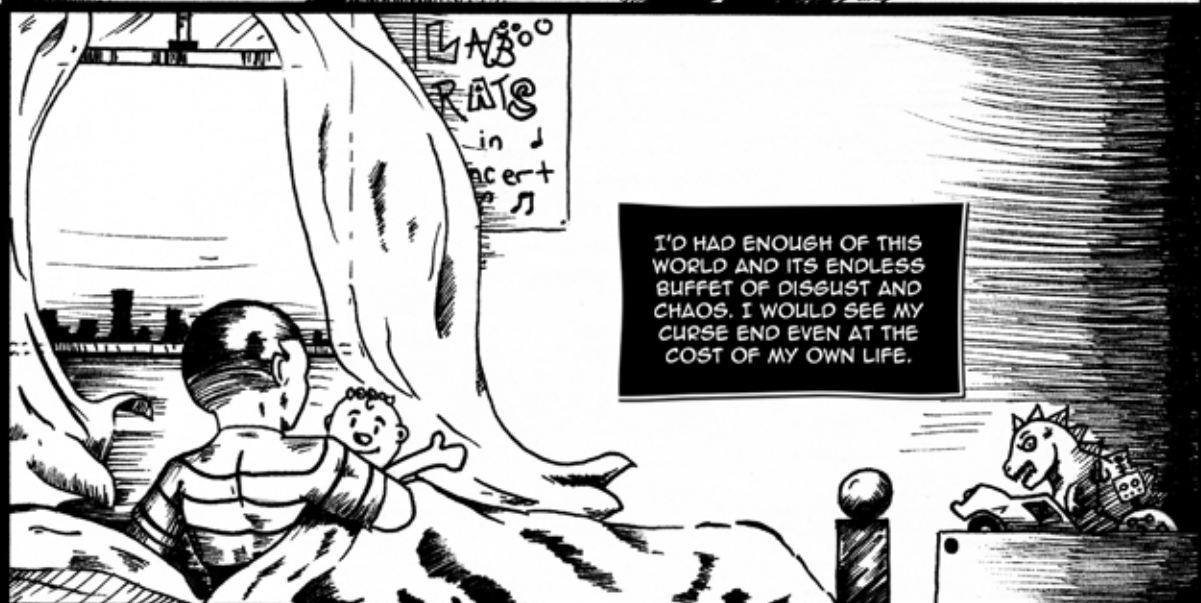
BUT AFTER DECADES OF BLOODSHED AND SCREAMS OF TERROR AT MY HANDS, I GREW SICK OF MY EXISTENCE.

THE MASK COMPELLED ME TO DO THE MOST INEXPLICABLE TO THE MOST INNOCENT.



I INHERITED ALL THE MEMORIES OF EVERY PREDECESSOR OF THE DEATH MASK BEFORE ME, AND I KNEW THAT USING ITS MORBID POWER FOR GOOD WAS NEVER ACCOMPLISHED.

IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO DENY ITS YEARNING FOR INEXCUSABLE MURDER.



I'D HAD ENOUGH OF THIS WORLD AND ITS ENDLESS BUFFET OF DISGUST AND CHAOS. I WOULD SEE MY CURSE END EVEN AT THE COST OF MY OWN LIFE.



WITHOUT MY CEASELESS ACTS OF FEEDING THE DEATH MASK WITH MY BRUTAL ACTIONS, IT WOULD BEGIN TO FEAST ON ME.

I HAD GROWN HEALTHY ON THE ENERGIES OF DARKNESS OVER THE CENTURIES. BEING DRAINED OF LIFE WOULD TAKE SOME TIME.

IT WOULD BE SLOW AND PAINFUL.



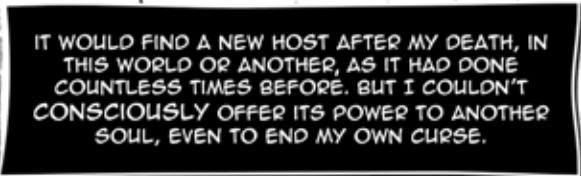
SO I TOOK THE RESTING PLACE OF A MAN WHO STILL REEKED OF THE CRIMES THAT HAD GRANTED HIM GREAT WEALTH. HE AND HIS TRINKETS WERE MEANINGLESS TO ME, BUT HIS BED BENEATH THE EARTH WAS WELCOME.



I REMOVED THE COLD AND PUSTULAR OCCUPANT IN A MANNER BEFITTING A MAN ALREADY IN HELL.



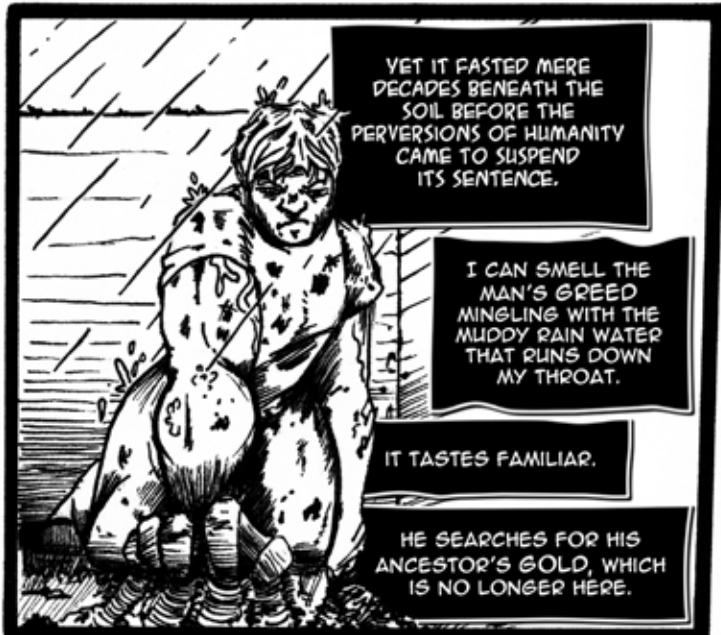
I SOUGHT TO END THE WRATH OF THE DEATH MASK. I SOUGHT TO STARVE IT AND FORCE IT TO LEAVE ME TO DIE.



IT WOULD FIND A NEW HOST AFTER MY DEATH, IN THIS WORLD OR ANOTHER, AS IT HAD DONE COUNTLESS TIMES BEFORE. BUT I COULDN'T CONSCIOUSLY OFFER ITS POWER TO ANOTHER SOUL, EVEN TO END MY OWN CURSE.



IT HAD TO STARVE.



YET IT FASTED HERE
DECADES BENEATH THE
SOIL BEFORE THE
PERVERSIONS OF HUMANITY
CAME TO SUSPEND
ITS SENTENCE.

I CAN SMELL THE
MAN'S GREED
MINGLING WITH THE
MUDDY RAIN WATER
THAT RUNS DOWN
MY THROAT.

IT TASTES FAMILIAR.

HE SEARCHES FOR HIS
ANCESTOR'S GOLD, WHICH
IS NO LONGER HERE.



IGNORANT HUMAN!

DAMN HIM!

HIS TREACHEROUS DEED
PROVES THAT THERE IS NO
HOPE IN THIS WORLD, NOT
EVEN FOR THE DEAD.

HE DESERVES DEATH.



HE DESERVES A SEAT AT THE
FEAST OF THE DEATH MASK. I
CAN NO LONGER RESIST.

AAAGGGG!!!

SILENCE!

FEAR CANNOT
SAVE YOU!



PLEASE
DON'T
KILL ME!

PLEASE!

DEATH
CAN'T BE
DENIED. YOU
SET THIS
PLAY IN
MOTION.

I SWEAR,
I ONLY CAME
HERE FOR MY
GRANDFATHER'S
JEWELRY!
NOTHING
ELSE.



I HAVE A
DAUGHTER.
SHE'S STARVING.
WE LIVE IN THE
STREETS!

I WAS
GOING TO TAKE
THE JEWELRY AND
SELL IT.

I JUST
WANT TO TAKE
CARE OF MY
LITTLE
GIRL!



HIS PLEAS SOUND SINCERE, HIS AMBITIONS SO WORTHY. BUT HOW CAN I DENY THE MASK THE SUSTENANCE IT CRAVES? IT'S BEEN SO LONG. I DID NOT ASK FOR THIS.

HE CAME TO ME!



PLEASE...
DON'T DO
THIS.

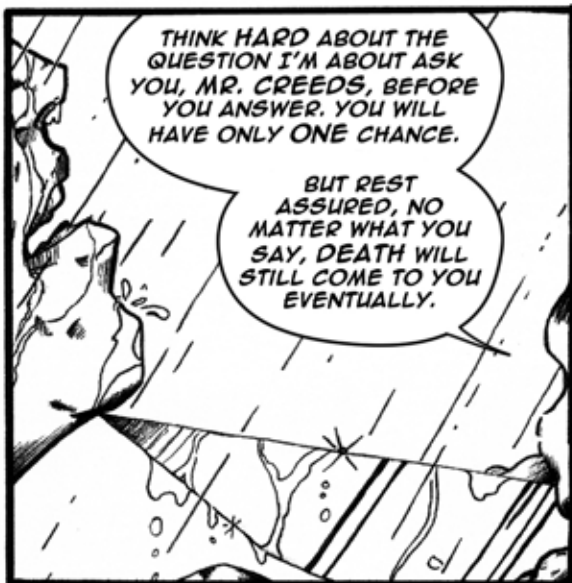
PLEASE
DON'T.



I CAN OFFER ONE FINAL
SACRIFICE TO THE DEATH
MASK. I CAN FINALLY FREE
MYSELF FROM THIS CURSE.

NOW COMES THE QUESTION
POSED BY MY PREDECESSOR.

DON N





DEATH HAS
COME TO YOU AS
I WARNED YOU IT
WOULD.

IT BURNS!
IT BURNS!

TAKE IT
OFF!



THE
PAIN WILL
SUBSIDE AND THE
HUNGER WILL
BEGIN.

YOU WILL...
KNOW MY PAST,
MR. CREEDS.
YOU WILL KNOW
THE LONG
HISTORY OF THE
MASK.



HOW LONG
WILL YOU
ENDURE, MR.
CREEDS?

HOW LONG WILL YOU
ENDURE AS... THE
DEATH MASK?

MAN MUST EVER SEARCH FOR ADVENTURE! HE MUST SEEK IT OUT. IT IS IN HIS VERY NATURE.

HEY, BABY, WANNA SANDWICH? HAW HAW!!

OH! PTOO!

SO, WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THRILLS PRESENTS ITSELF, MAN MUST NOT BE COMPLACENT! HE MUST POUNCE!!

THIS MAN KNOWS WHEN TO STRIKE! HE KNOWS WHEN IT'S TIME TO MOVE, FOR HE IS ...

BARRY BAXION: MAN OF ACTION!

WRITTEN BY DAVID NOE LAYOUTS BY ANDY SHAGGS ART BY KORTY STAN LETTERED BY TIMMONS WILL BOYER

BACK! YOU VILLAIN!

YOU OKAY, NORBERT?

THANK YOU, BUT YOU REALLY DIDN'T HAVE TO ...

NONSENSE!

I SEEK OUT INJUSTICE AND CALLIGRAPHY, FOR I AM ...

BARRY BAXION, MAN OF ACTION!!

WHENEVER THE CHANCE ARISES ...!

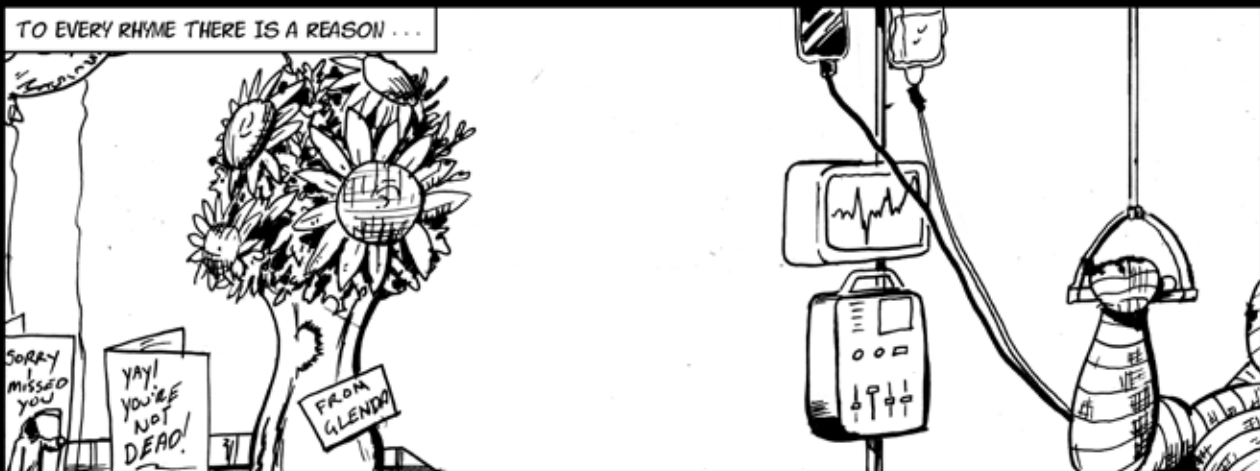




TO EVERY THING THERE IS A SEASON ...



TO EVERY RHYME THERE IS A REASON ...



LOOKS LIKE HE
WILL BE OUT OF ACTION
FOR QUITE A WHILE.

THAT'S
OKAY ...



I'LL TAKE CARE OF ...

BARRY BAXION,
MAN IN TRACTION!



END.

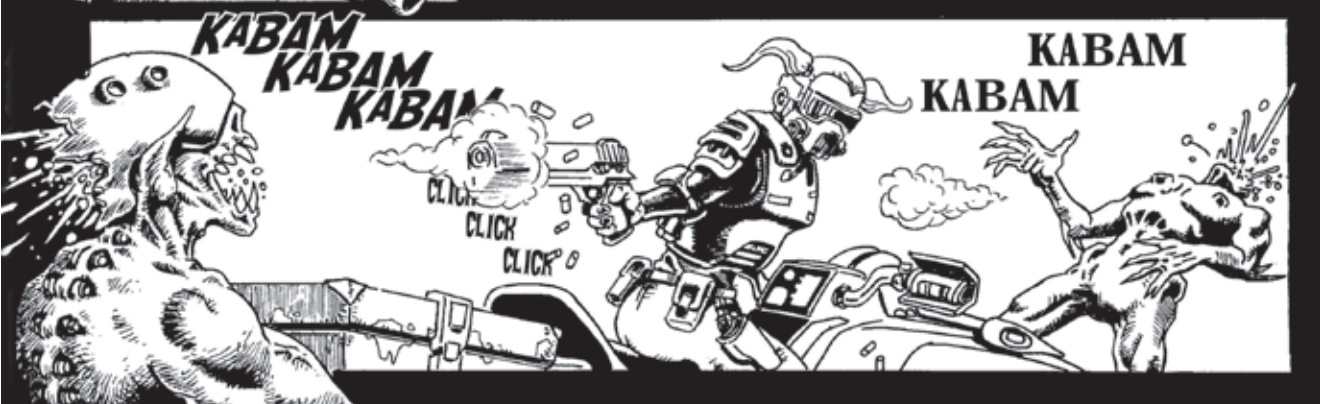
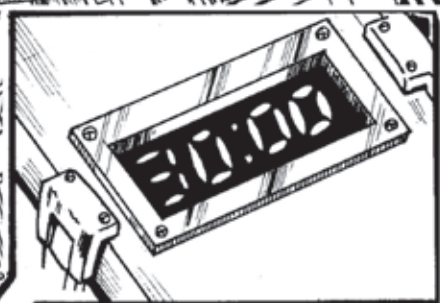
THE AKRON KNIGHT

BASED ON CHARACTERS CREATED BY DAN GORMAN & J. ALAN MILLER



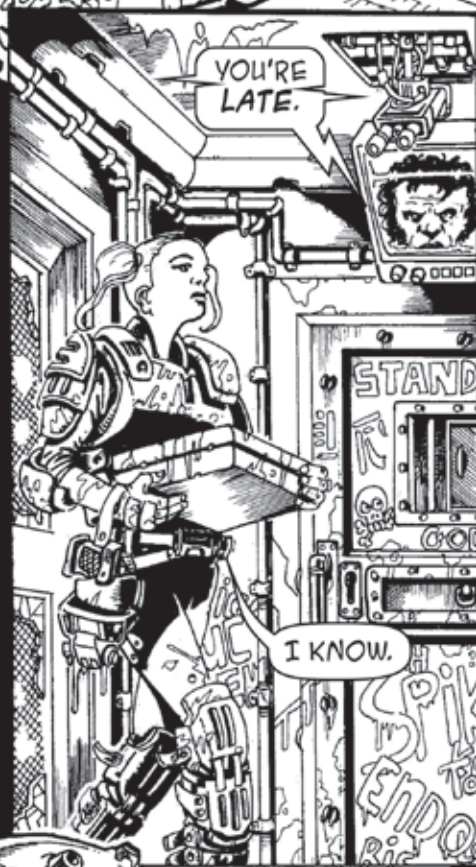
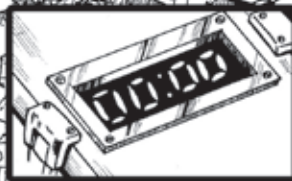
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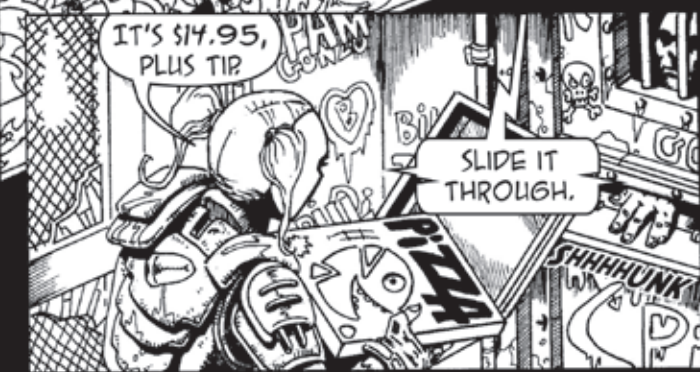






YOU'RE LATE.

I KNOW.



IT'S \$14.95, PLUS TIP.

SLIDE IT THROUGH.



SHHHHHUNK

VERY THIN CRUST



IF YOU'RE LATE, IT'S FREE...

...AND YOU CAN FORGET ABOUT A TIP



30:00

writer: DAVE HEARN
artist: GARY O'DONNELL
letterer: ANDY "SHAGGY" KURTZ

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Book One of the Reefsong



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or is it a false alarm?*

Should he speak up or just let it happen?

*Because either way he will be destroyed
—that's how it works in 2104,
when your father was an Incon
and you live in the New Age of Mind.*

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