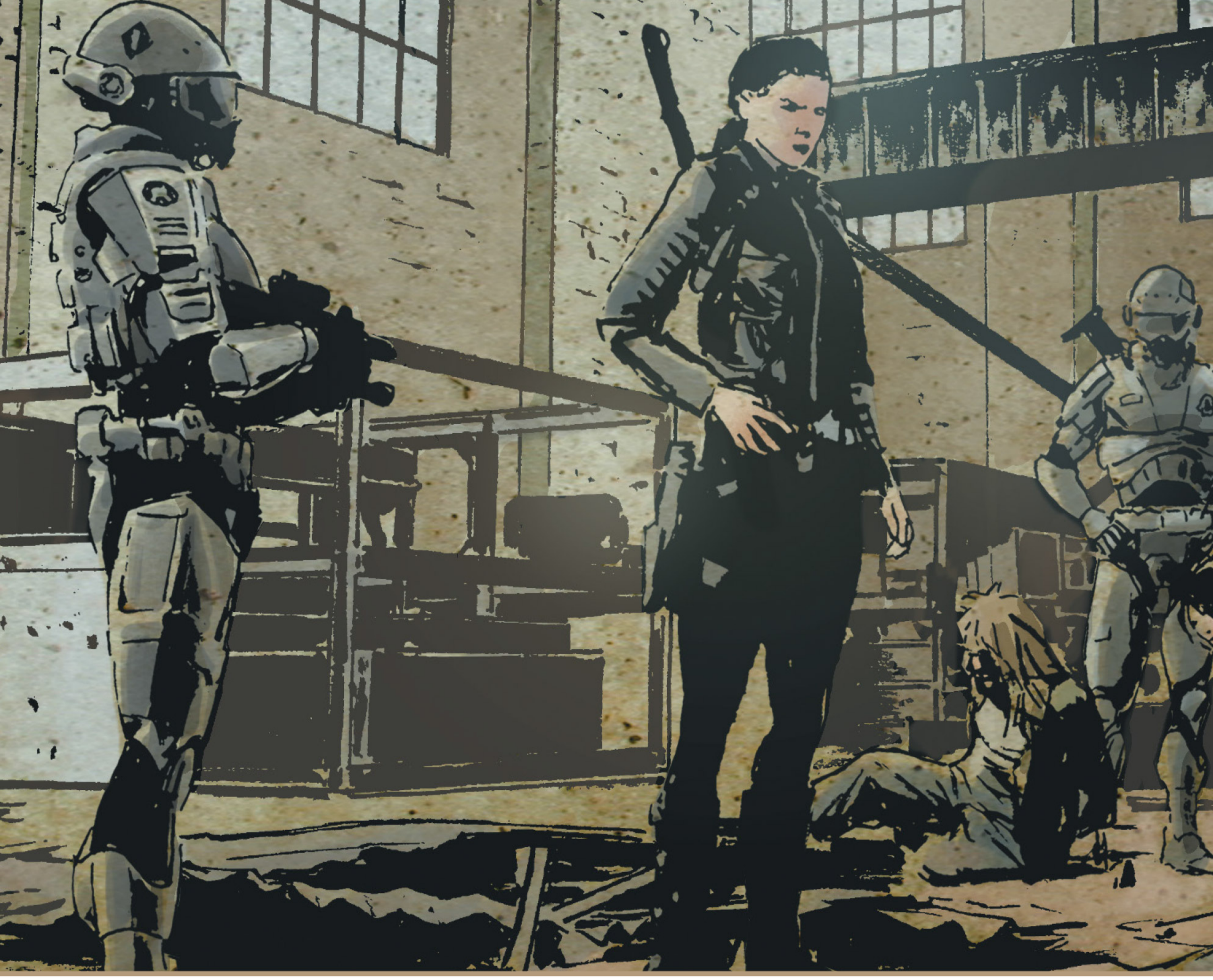
RUCKA
LARK
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LAZARUS™

TWO


CARLYLE
ODERINT DUM METUANT



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volume two

LIFT

written by **GREG RUCKA**

art by **MICHAEL LARK**
with **BRIAN LEVEL**

letters by **MICHAEL LARK & JODI WYNNE**

colors by **SANTI ARCAS**

cover by **OWEN FREEMAN**

publication design by **MICHAEL LARK & ERIC TRAUTMANN**

edited by **DAVID BROTHERS**



LIFT

CHAPTER ONE

Southern Sierra Nevadas
Facility: Compound Sequoia
Family: Carlyle

I'M TRYING TO *REMEMBER*...

Population [Family]: 2 [1 permanent]
Population [Serf]: 32

...WHEN WAS THE *LAST* TIME I SAW HER, JAMES?

ON HER BIRTHDAY, MISTER CARLYLE...

LABORATORY KAPPA
RESTRICTED AREA
UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS FORBIDDEN

...SO JUST OVER FIVE MONTHS AGO.

THEN THIS SHOULD BE A *PLEASANT* SURPRISE.

I'M SURE IT WILL.

FOREVER!

THERE'S **SOMEONE** HERE TO **SEE** YOU.

DADDY!

I'M **SO** HAPPY TO SEE YOU! NO ONE **TOLD** ME YOU WERE **COMING!**

AND IS THIS THE **PROPER** WAY TO GREET YOUR FATHER?

NO, SIR. SORRY, SIR.

IT'S A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU AGAIN, FATHER.

A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU, TOO, FOREVER.

MARISOL. IF YOU PLEASE?

CERTAINLY, SIR.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS, FOREVER?

YES, SIR. THAT'S ***MY*** SWORD, SIR. THE ONE YOU ***PROMISED*** ME.

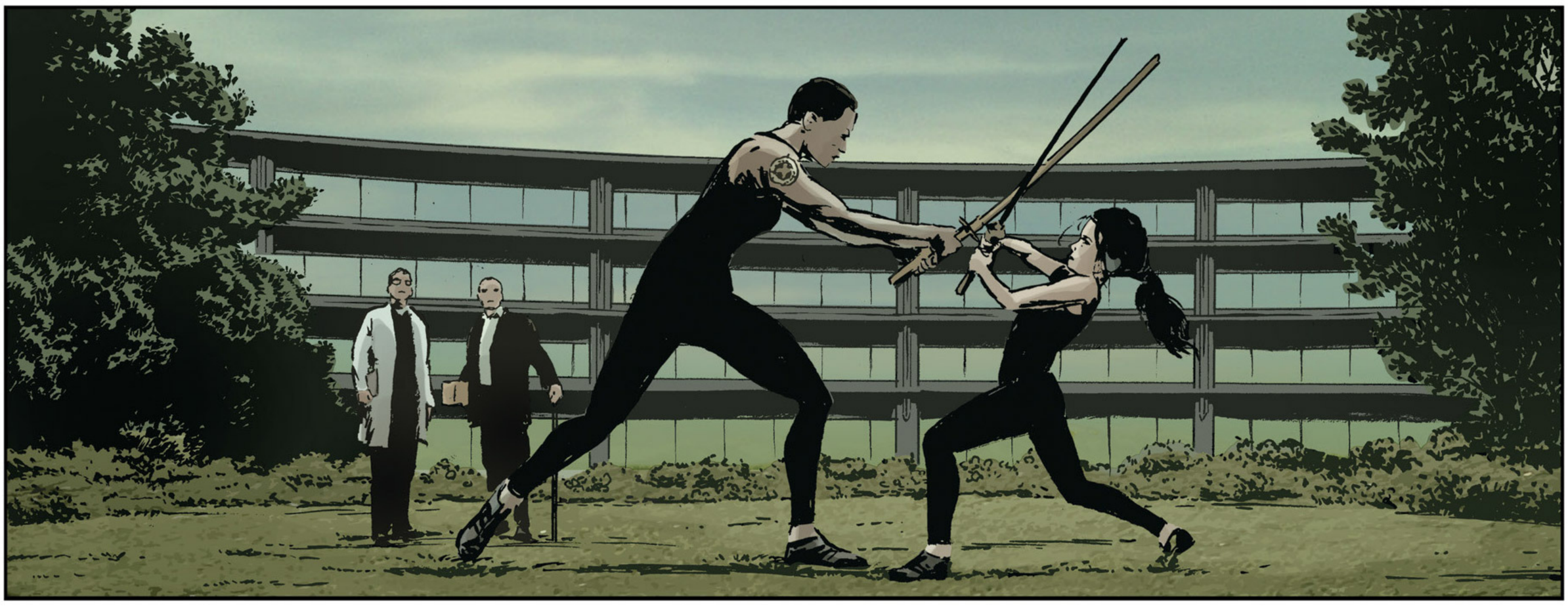
NO.

THAT IS THE ***FAMILY*** SWORD, THE ONE YOU MUST ***EARN***, AS I TOLD YOU.

DO YOU THINK YOU'RE ***READY*** TO ***CARRY*** IT?

I ***AM***, SIR.

PROVE IT TO ME.









I'M **DISAPPOINTED** IN YOU, FOREVER. I EXPECTED **BETTER.**

YES, SIR.

I'M SORRY, SIR.

I THINK WE BOTH KNOW YOUR APOLOGY IS MEANINGLESS.

OUR **ENEMIES** WOULD NOT **HEAR** IT, BECAUSE YOU WOULD BE **DEAD.**

YOUR MOTHER AND I AND YOUR SIBLINGS WOULD NOT **HEAR** IT, BECAUSE WE WOULD LIKELY BE DEAD, TOO.

YOU'RE **NOT** READY TO WEAR THE **SWORD.**

I WONDER, IN FACT, IF YOU SHOULD BE **ALLOWED** TO WEAR THE **NAME** CARLYLE AT ALL.

THE NEXT TIME I VISIT, YOU **WILL** DEFEAT MARISOL...

...OR YOU WILL NO LONGER BE PERMITTED TO CALL YOURSELF MY **DAUGHTER.**

Stanford University
Family: Carlyle
Population [Serf]: 19,793

I'M SORRY, *WHAT* DID YOU SAY?

MISS ROSALES... CADY... I SAID...

...ABOUT YOUR *FATHER*, ABOUT SAMUEL ROSALES...

...I'M... VERY SORRY.

IS THAT A *CONDOLENCE* OR AN *APOLOGY*, MISS CARLYLE?

I DON'T KNOW... I JUST...

...*BOTH.* IT'S BOTH.

YOU... YOU *TRACKED* ME DOWN HERE AND YOU COME AND YOU SAY YOU'RE *SORRY*...

...SORRY THAT MY *FATHER* IS *DEAD*...

...SORRY THAT YOU *EXECUTED* HIM.

SO... THAT MEANS YOU *KNOW* HE WAS *INNOCENT*...

...THAT **ALL** OF US AT HARVEST ONE WERE **INNOCENT**, THAT WE'D NEVER **DARE** BETRAY YOU, YOUR **FAMILY**.

WELL, I JUST WANT TO **THANK** YOU FOR COMING TO **SAY** THAT, MISS CARLYLE.

YOU HAVE **NO** IDEA WHAT IT **MEANS** TO ME, TO HEAR YOUR **APOLOGY**, TO--

da-deet da-deet

EXCUSE ME, I HAVE TO **TAKE** THIS.

...HAVE THE **IMAGERY** UPLOADED TO THE CENTER, AND SEND A DAGGER TEAM TO **SECURE** THE SITE.

ON MY **ORDERS**, THEY'RE NOT TO **ENGAGE** UNLESS FIRED UPON.

I'LL BE THERE AS SOON AS I CAN.

I HAVE TO GO.

Mississippi River, West Bank
Family: Carlyle
Population: 0 Permanent
Population [Serf]: 16
(Dagger Team A, temporary deployment)

COMMANDER, GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

SERGEANT. YOU ***CONFIRMED*** IT'S HIS?

WE MATCHED ***PART*** NUMBERS ON THE STARBOARD THRUSTER AND DORSAL PORT STABILIZER...

...THEY ***MATCH*** THE DRAGON YOUR ***BROTHER*** STOLE FROM THE PALISADES RESIDENCE FOUR DAYS AGO.

BEST I CAN TELL, HE ***DITCHED*** ON THIS SIDE OF THE RIVER...

...THEN BLEW IT ALL TO BITS.

DO WE KNOW IF HE ***CROSSED*** OR NOT?

DEFINITIVELY? NO, COMMANDER.

BUT I'M THINKING THE ***ODDS*** ARE PRETTY ***GOOD.***

HEY, SWEETMEAT!

YOU LOSE SOMETHING?

YOU MEAN LIKE A WAR? NO.

WE WON.

HOW'S THE FOOD OVER THERE IN THE LAND OF BITTNER AND HOCK, BY THE WAY?

YOU ALL HAVE FULL BELLIES, DO YOU?

FUCK YOU, BITCH.

YOU COME OVER HERE, I'LL GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO EAT.

AH, RAPE THREAT.

THAT DIDN'T TAKE THEM LONG, DID IT, SERGEANT?

NO, COMMANDER, IT SURELY DID NOT.

PERMISSION TO KILL THE SONS OF BITCHES?

DENIED.

I'VE SEEN ALL I NEED TO SEE--

KRAK

guh

DAGGERS!

WEAPONS FREE!

hnh-HOLD FIRE...

...DAGGER WILL HOLD FIRE.

ONE OF YOU JUST SHOT ME IN THE BACK.

ONE OF YOU WAS JUST VERY FUCKING STUPID.

SEVARA BITTNER AND OLD MAN HOCK HAVE AN ARMISTICE WITH MY FAMILY...

...IF THE PERSON WHO SHOT ME DID SO UNDER ORDERS, THAT MEANS THE ARMISTICE IS BROKEN, AND WE ARE NOW AT WAR.

BUT IF THE SHITSTAIN COWARD WHO SHOT ME IN THE BACK ACTED AGAINST ORDERS...

...CARLYLE WILL BE SATISFIED BY SEEING THE SOLDIER IN QUESTION PUNISHED...

...AND WE WILL CONSIDER THE MATTER **SETTLED.**

GUYS...

...**GUYS**, C'MON--

--DON'T **DON'T** DO IT **DON'T**--I'M ONE OF **YOU** I'M--

KRAK KRAK KRAK KRAK KRAK

I THINK WE'RE **DONE** HERE, SERGEANT.

Montana, Musselshell CDP

Family: Carlyle
Population [Family]: 0

Population [Serf]: 0
Population [Waste]: 17

STILL *RISING*?

TWO *FEET* IN THE LAST *HOUR*.

DAD AND LEIGH ARE STILL WITH THE SOLOMONS. TAYLOR AND GOMEZ CAME BY, THEY'RE ALREADY HEADING FOR HIGHER GROUND.

THE RIVER COULD *BREAK* ITS *BANKS* BY MORNING.

YOU WANT ME TO GO GIVE THEM A *HAND*?

GOD, I DON'T **KNOW**. IT'LL BE **DARK** SOON, MICHAEL, IT'S GOING TO GET EVEN **MORE** DANGEROUS.

DID YOU CHECK THE **POST?** DID WE GET A **RESPONSE** FROM MUNROE?

IT'S JUST BEEN THE **NORMAL** FEED, MOM.

WE'RE GOING TO LOSE **EVERYTHING**, AREN'T WE?

NOT FOR LACK OF **FIGHT**, SON.

GET ZOOT FED AND DRY.

I'M GONNA CHECK THE POST AGAIN, OKAY?

OKAY.

YOU KNOW THEY'RE **NOT** GOING TO **HELP** US.

MAYBE NOT. MAYBE SO...

...GUESS IT DEPENDS ON IF THEY SEE A **PROFIT** IN IT.

MUSSELSHELL - 17:03 – 8 MARCH 64 - HVY RAIN

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CONTACTS
> AREA DIRECTORY
V FAVORITES
BARKER, Sam & Paula
CHARLES, Lucas & Zeke
GOMEZ, Jesus
SAMMICK, Helena
SOLOMON, Dennis
TAYLOR, Melinda and Virginia
ZUNIGA, Diana
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VOTE!

MESSAGE CENTER
Voiceprint
Login
Options
Inbox
Outbox
Drafts
LOGIN
USERNAME:
PASSWORD:

CARLYLE
ODERINT DUM METUANT

NEWS TRACKER
...CES LIFT SELECTION, DENVER DOMAIN, 20-23 MARCH • MORRAY/CARLYLE NEGO

da-deet

ONE MESSAGE.

da-deet

ONE MESSAGE.

da-deet

ONE MESSAGE.

da-deet

PLAY MESSAGE.

HEY, BOBBIE.

THE **AMENDMENT** TO YOUR LAND-USE AGREEMENT'S BEEN **PROCESSED**, SO YOU AND JOE ARE IN THE QUEUE FOR **SUPPORT**...

...BUT WE'VE GOT **FLOODING** THROUGHOUT THE **REGION**. SOONEST I CAN GET A **HEAVY** DOWN YOUR WAY WILL BE FRIDAY...

...WISH I HAD BETTER NEWS FOR YOU.

YOU AND JOE AND THE KIDS, Y'ALL STAY **DRY.**

CALL: REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR.

YOU HAVE REACHED THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATOR DUNCAN MUNROE.

NO ONE IS ABLE TO TAKE YOUR CALL. LEAVE A MESSAGE, AND YOUR INQUIRY WILL BE ANSWERED IN THE ORDER RECEIVED.

IT'S BOBBIE BARRET IN MUSSELSHELL. GOD **DAMN** YOU, DUNCAN!

WE NEED THAT ***HEAVY*** DOWN HERE ***TONIGHT***, YOU UNDERSTAND ME? GOMEZ AND TAYLOR HAVE ALREADY ***LOST*** THEIR FIELDS...

...THE RIVER BREAKS ITS BANKS HERE, WE'RE GONNA LOSE ***EVERYTHING!***

YOU'VE ***PROCESSED*** THE FUCKING ***CONTRACT***, YOU ***KNOW*** WE'RE GOOD FOR IT ...

...JUST GIVE US WHAT WE'VE ***PAID*** FOR, DUNCAN, ***PLEASE***...

...THIS IS ***ALL*** WE ***HAVE***....

South Central Los Angeles
Family: Carlyle
Population [Family]: 2 (1 permanent)
Population [Serf]: 322,315
Population [Waste]: 2,874,500 (estimated)

...WAITING ALL DAY...
--FOR OUR PATIENCE, PLEASE HAVE YOUR ID AND LRP READY--
...DONE THIRTY-SEVEN MENIALS ALREADY, HOPING TO MOVE UP...
--LOOKING FOR SIX PEOPLE WITH CONFIRMED POINTS IN WORKING WITH CONCRETE...
NO, NO...
PARDON OUR APPEARANCE DURING CONSTRUCTION
NTRAL O SEWAGE NT FACILITY OJECT

...POWER CAN WAIT, I WANT WATER RUNNING AGAIN AND I WANT THE SEWAGE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL...
FAMIL

...HOW WE'VE AVOIDED A CHOLERA EPIDEMIC I DON'T EVEN WANT TO GUESS.
RUNNING WATER, WORKING SANITATION BY THE END OF THE WEEK, TOMAS.
WE'LL NEED MORE MANPOWER TO DO IT, MISS CARLYLE.
TAKE A LOOK OUTSIDE, THEY'RE LINED UP FOR MORE THAN A MILE...

...HEY! THERE YOU ARE!

I WAS STARTING TO WORRY SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED TO YOU!

NO, I'M FINE, JO.

THIS DOESN'T LOOK LIKE FINE.

DARE I ASK WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHER GUY? OR WHERE YOU WERE?

WE LOCATED THE DRAGON THAT JONAH STOLE WHEN HE FLED.

HE'D DITCHED IT ON OUR SIDE OF BITTNER-HOCK.

I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'D GO TO EITHER OF THEM.

I'M NOT SURE HE DID. BUT IT'S HOW IT LOOKS.

WELL, I'M GLAD YOU'RE BACK SAFE.

HEY, TAKE A LOOK AT THIS...

...IT'S **STILL** A MESS, BUT THE RECONSTRUCTION IS ALREADY **UNDERWAY**.

THERE'S A **FUCKTON** STILL TO DO, BUT IT'S A GOOD START.

I'M IMPRESSED.

NOT BAD FOR THE **WASTREL** SISTER, HUH?

I **NEVER** CALLED YOU THAT.

NO, BUT YOU **THOUGHT** IT, AND FATHER STILL **DOES**.

THAT'S WHY HE'S GOT YOU **BABYSITTING** ME, ISN'T IT?

HE THINKS I WAS IN ON IT **WITH** JONAH. HE DOESN'T **TRUST** ME.

FATHER DOESN'T TELL ME WHAT HE THINKS, JO.

BUT IF YOU WANT HIS TRUST **BACK**, YOU'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK.

HE'LL BE HAPPY TO SEE THAT YOU'RE TAKING **RESPONSIBILITY** FOR YOUR **DOMAIN**.

COME ON...

Facility: Twins Palisades (Residence)
Population [Family]: 2

"...I'LL TAKE YOU BACK TO THE RESIDENCE."

TO: CARLYLE_FOREVER
FROM: %#%UNKNOWN¤(&%ERROR

HE IS NOT YOUR FATHER.

THIS IS NOT YOUR FAMILY.

YOU GOT THE ***FIRST AID*** KIT?

YES, MOM.

AND MAKE SURE YOU GET THE ***BLANKETS***, THE WOOL ONES.

ALREADY GOT THEM.

WE'VE GOT TO GO ***NOW.***

MICHAEL, YOU AND LEIGH OPEN THE ***BARN***, GET THE ***HORSES*** AND TURN THE ANIMALS LOOSE.

WE HEAR FROM MUNROE?

YES, WE DID...

...HE SAYS WE'LL HAVE A **HEAVY** FOR **SANDBAGGING** BY FRIDAY.

ALL THE **BOOKS**...

I CLEARED THE **LOWEST** SHELVES.

THERE JUST WASN'T **TIME,** JOE.

WE'RE GOING FOR THE **HIGH** GROUND, TRY TO **WAIT** IT OUT.

MUSSELSHELL - 02:19 – 9 MARCH 64 - HVY RAIN

CONTACTS
AREA DIRECTORY
FAVORITES
BARKER, Sam & Paula
CHARLES, Lucas & Zeke
GOMEZ, Jesus
SAMMICK, Helena
SOLOMON, Dennis
TAYLOR, Melinda and Virginia
ZUNIGA, Diana
CALL

SHARE
PERFORMER BIO
STREAM TO DEVICE
VOTE!

MESSAGE CENTER
Voiceprint
Login
Options
Inbox
Outbox
Drafts
LOGIN
USERNAME:
PASSWORD:

CARLYLE
ODERINT DUM METUANT

NEWS TRACKER
NGE POINTS PROGRAM • STEPHEN CARLYLE ANNOUNCES LIFT SELECTION, DENVER DO

da-deet

ONE MESSAGE.

MUSSELSHELL - 10:09 – 9 MARCH 64 - CLEAR & SUNNY

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CONTACTS
> AREA DIRECTORY
V FAVORITES
BARKER, Sam & Paula
CHARLES, Luxos & Zeke
GOMEZ, Jesus
SAMMICK, Helena
SOLOMON, Dennis
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USERNAME:
PASSWORD:

CARLYLE
ODERINT DUM METUANT

NEWS TRACKER
NCES LIFT SELECTION, DENVER DOMAIN, 20-23 MARCH • CARLYLE GRANTS PARDON

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ONE MESSAGE.

da-deet

ONE MESSAGE.

da-deet

ONE MESSAGE.

da-deet

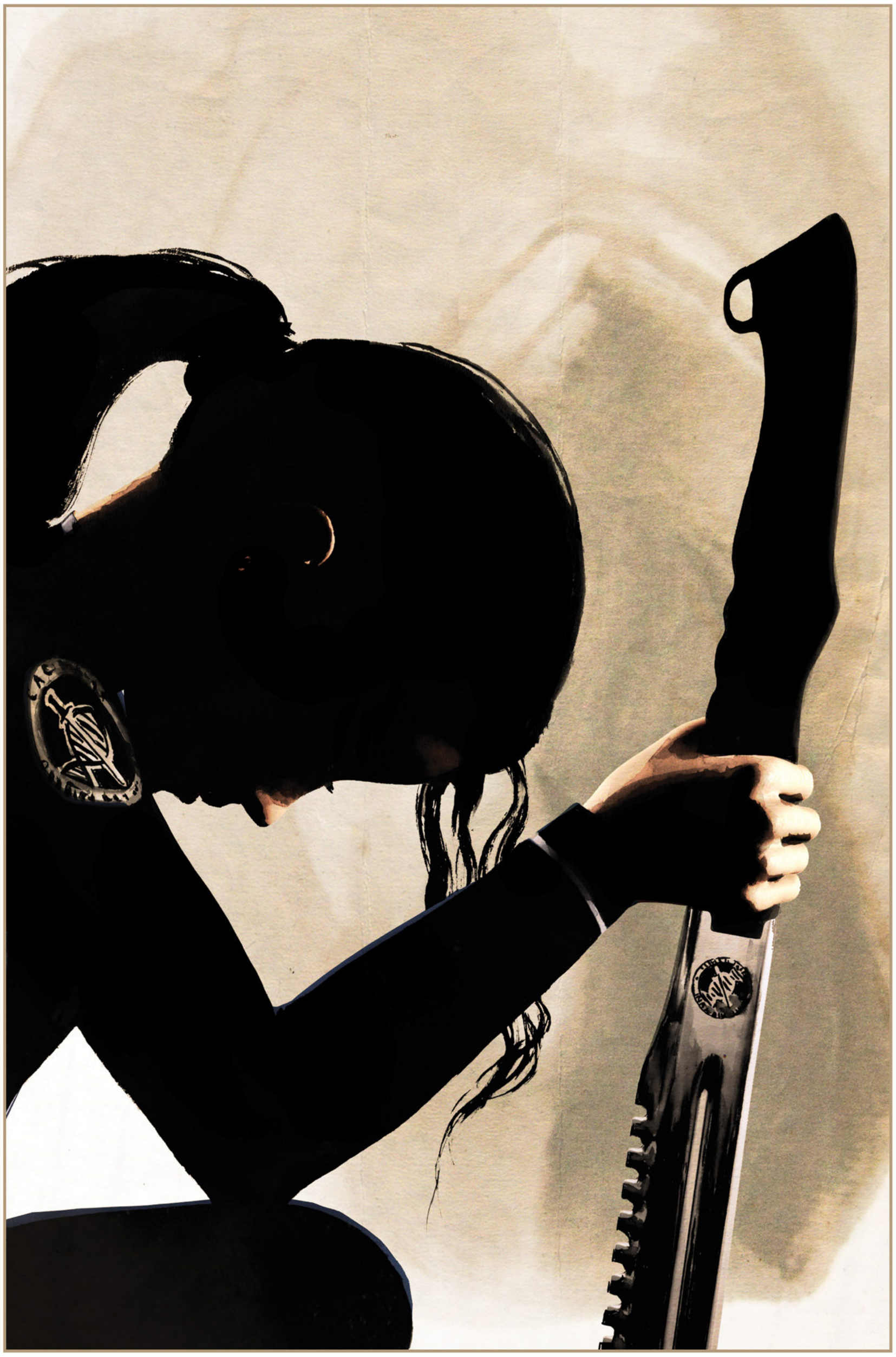
ONE MESSAGE.

BOBBIE, GOT **GOOD** NEWS FOR YOU.

GOT A HEAVY **FREED** UP AND HEADED YOUR WAY...

...SHOULD BE THERE BY **MORNING**....





LIFT

CHAPTER TWO

"WHEN'S HE COMING BACK?"

"MARISOL. HE TELLS **ME** AS MUCH ABOUT HIS SCHEDULE AS HE DOES **YOU**...

"...IF I HAD TO **GUESS**, I'D SAY YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER MONTH, MAYBE **TWO**.

"YOU DON'T THINK EVE WILL BE **READY?**"

"I DON'T **KNOW**. I REALLY **DON'T.**"

"HER **PHYSICAL** DEVELOPMENT IS ALMOST 60% ABOVE PROJECTION FOR **THIS** STAGE OF **GROWTH**...

"...REACTION TIME, RECOVERY TIME, SPEED, STRENGTH... SHE'S WORKING **BETTER** THAN DESIGNED."

"OH, TRUST ME, I **KNOW.** THAT'S **NOT** WHAT WORRIES ME."

"SO WHAT WORRIES YOU?"

"SHE **BELIEVED** HIM, JAMES...

"...EVE'S CONVINCED HER FATHER WILL **DISOWN** HER IF SHE DOESN'T **DEFEAT** ME."

"THAT'S **NOT** GOING TO **HAPPEN**...

Southern Sierra Nevadas
Facility: Compound Sequoia
Family: Carlyle

...WE'VE SEEN THIS KIND OF THING FROM HIM ***BEFORE.***

WE ***BOTH*** KNOW MALCOLM WAS JUST ***PUSHING*** HER BUTTONS, MARISOL.

Population [Family]: 2
[1 permanent]
Population [Serf]: 32

WE KNOW THAT. EVE ***DOESN'T.***

YOU'VE SEEN HOW ***HARD*** SHE'S PUSHING HERSELF.

IT'S NO WAY TO TREAT A ***CHILD.***

AND IF SHE WAS A ***NORMAL*** CHILD, I'D AGREE.

HOW ARE ***YOU*** FEELING?

NO ILL-EFFECTS FROM THE LAST ROUND OF ***THERAPY?***

PHYSICALLY, I FEEL IN MY TWENTIES ***AGAIN.***

IT'S MY ***HEAD*** AND ***HEART*** THAT ARE ***WEARY.***

EVE AND I HAVE AN ***EIGHT MILE*** RUN FOR THE MORNING.

I SHOULD HEAD TO ***BED.***

GOOD NIGHT, JAMES.

GOOD NIGHT, MARISOL.

hff
REGO hff
REGIS hff
REGIT...

...hff
REGIMIS hff
REGITIS hff
REGUNT...

...hff
CUSTODIO hff
CUSTODIS hff
CUSTODIT...

...hff
CUSTODIMUS
hff CUSTODITIS hff
HELLO, JAMES
hff

FOREVER...

...WHY
AREN'T YOU IN
BED?

I WAS
STUDYING
MY LATIN.

OH, LATIN, IS IT?

RIGHT, SMART GIRL, HOW ABOUT YOU CONJUGATE THE VERB 'TO SLEEP?'

DORMIRE, TO SLEEP. FOURTH FORM.

DORMIO, DORMIS, DORMIT, DORMIMUS, DORMITIS, DORMIUNT.

OKAY, **ENOUGH.** TIME TO REST, YOUNG LADY.

WHY DON'T THEY EVER **VISIT** ME, JAMES?

FATHER IS THE **ONLY** ONE WHO VISITS, AND **SOMETIMES** BETHANY.

I CAN'T **REMEMBER** EVER MEETING THE TWINS OR STEPHEN OR **MOTHER.**

IS IT BECAUSE I'M **NOT** GOOD ENOUGH?

NO, THEY'RE JUST **VERY** BUSY, EVE.

IT'S A **BIG** DOMAIN, AND RUNNING IT IS A **BIG** RESPONSIBILITY.

WHEN YOU'RE **OLDER**, IT'LL BE **YOUR** RESPONSIBILITY, TOO.

NOW, CLOSE YOUR EYES...

Facility: Twins Palisades (Residence)
Population [Family]: 2

"...GET SOME SLEEP."

ZZZZTZZZZZZTZZZZZTZZZ

TO: CARLYLE_FOREVER
FROM: %#%UNKNOWN%!&%ERROR

HE IS NOT YOUR FATHER.

THIS IS NOT YOUR FAMILY.

WHOEVER YOU ARE, YOU'RE ***WRONG***.

YOU'RE ***WRONG***.

South Central Los Angeles
Population [Serf]: 322,315
Population [Waste]: 2,874,500 (estimated)

...APPROVALS MAY PROCEED TO YOUR ASSIGNMENTS...

--IN AN ORDERLY FASHION, ANY DISRUPTIONS WILL BE DEALT--

...NEED TWO WITH 45 POINTS OR MORE IN WELDING...

WHERE'S THE CREW FROM THE POST?

PARDON OUR APPEARANCE DURING CONSTRUCTION

SHOOTING B-ROLL NOW, MISS CARLYLE.

WE'RE GOING TO DO IT IN HERE?

WE THOUGHT OUTSIDE WOULD BE THE BETTER VISUAL. HAIR AND MAKE-UP ARE READY WHENEVER YOU ARE.

AND WILL YOUR SISTER BE JOINING YOU?

NO, OUR FATHER DOESN'T LIKE FOREVER'S PICTURE TO BE BROADCAST, ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

THAT'S RIGHT.

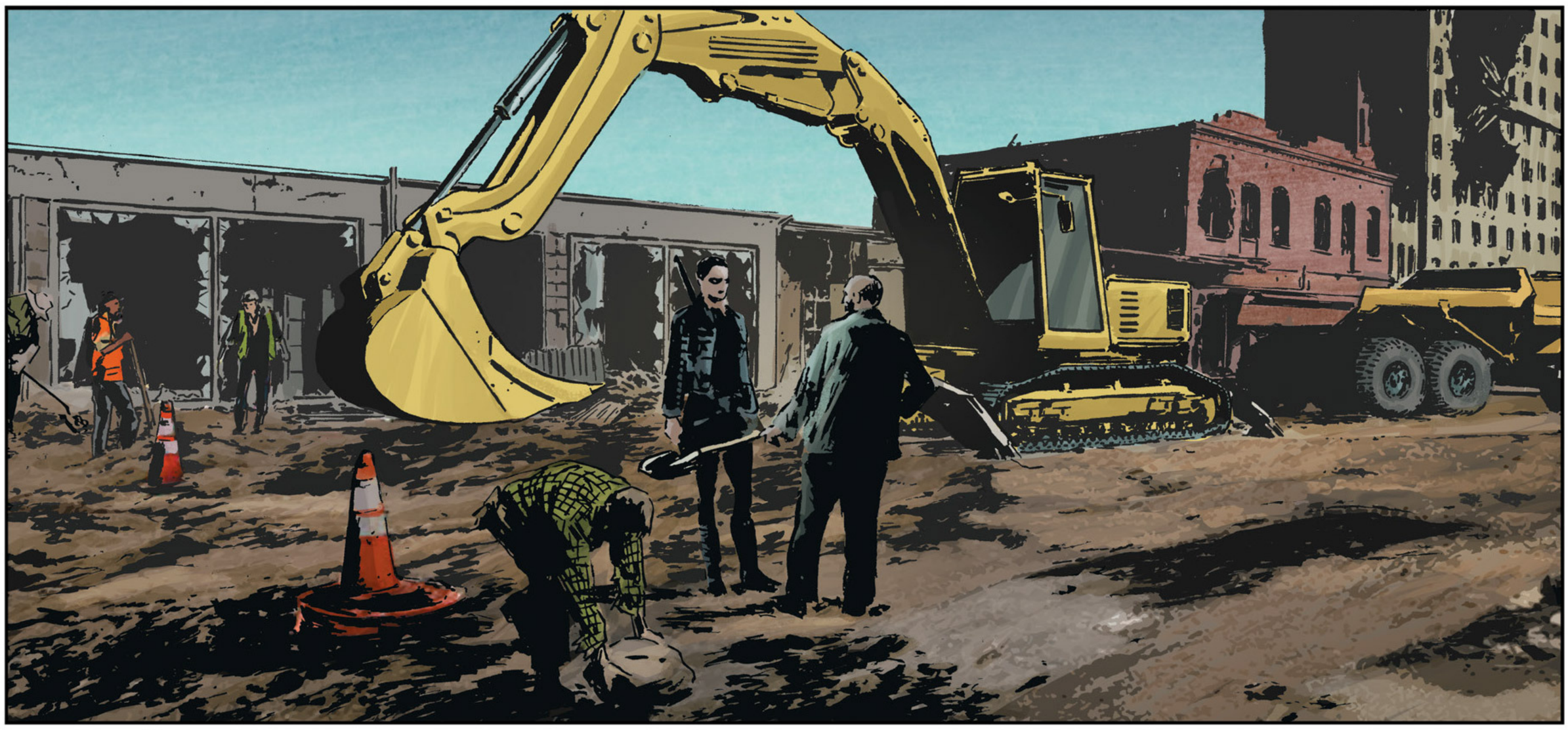
I THINK IT'S A STUPID RULE. MAKES IT SEEM LIKE YOU'RE NOT FAMILY.

YOU ARE STICKING AROUND THOUGH, RIGHT?

THOUGHT I'D TAKE A LOOK AT THE SECURITY.

WELL DON'T GO FAR, OKAY...?


"...I FEEL SAFER WHEN YOU'RE NEARBY..."






BURN
CABLES
BURN



Montana, Musselshell CDP
Family: Carlyle

...BUT THERE'S ***GOOD*** NEWS. I'VE HEARD FROM REGIONAL OVERSIGHT, AND THE FAMILY IS WILLING TO PROVIDE ***ASSISTANCE.***

Population [Family]: 0

WE CAN HAVE ***SUPPLIES*** ROLLING IN BY MONDAY, EVERYTHING FROM RAW MATERIAL TO CONSTRUCTION HELP.

THAT'S ***VERY*** GENEROUS OF THEM.

AND DID REGIONAL OVERSIGHT HAPPEN TO SAY HOW ***MUCH*** THIS HELP IS GONNA ***COST,*** DUNCAN?

Population [Serf]: 1 (temporary)

LAND-USE AGREEMENTS WILL BE MODIFIED ACCORDINGLY, BOBBIE.

YOU'RE LOOKING AT ANYWHERE FROM A 10-TO-20-PERCENT ***INCREASE*** TO YOUR ***ANNUAL ASSESSMENT.***

Population [Waste]: 17

DUNCAN, THAT'S--

ARE YOU FUCKING KIDDING?!?

THEY ALREADY TAKE HALF, DUNCAN!

MAYBE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO GIVE THEM!

BOBBIE, BELIEVE ME, I UNDERSTAND--

WE'RE ALREADY IN DEBT BECAUSE OF THAT DAMN HEAVY!

HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO LIVE WITH THAT TAX? HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO FEED OUR CHILDREN?

WE TAKE THIS, IT'S NOT JUST US TO CARRY IT!

THE KIDS WILL BE PAYING IT OFF TO THE GRAVE!

I KNOW, BOBBIE.

THEY'RE CRUSHING US, JOE.

THEY'RE KILLING US.

CAN YOU GIVE US A LITTLE TIME TO DISCUSS OUR OPTIONS?

I CAN COME BACK TOMORROW.

I CAN'T TELL WHAT'S GOING ON.

YOUR **EYES** ARE JUST GETTING WORSE AND WORSE, MIKE.

LONG AS I CAN STILL SEE YOU, CASEY, I'M HAPPY.

YOU TWO WANT TO BE **ALONE?** GO **MAKE-OUT** IN WHAT'S LEFT OF THE BARN, MAYBE?

NOT LIKE THERE'S A **SITUATION** HERE OR ANYTHING.

HEY, LEIGH? HOW 'BOUT YOU SHUT **UP?**

HEY, MIKE? HOW 'BOUT YOU **MAKE** ME?

MY GRANDDAD SAYS WE'LL HAVE TO MOVE TO A **CITY** IF WE CAN'T REBUILD.

MAYBE BOISE, MAYBE FURTHER **WEST.**

WE'LL BE CITY WASTE.

YOU CAN'T LEAVE. YOU LEAVE, YOU **LOSE** YOUR LAND.

I KNOW.

ASSHOLE, GO **AFTER** HER.

BLIND IN MORE WAYS THAN **ONE.**

...ALREADY TALKED TO GOMEZ ABOUT IT. IF WE LINK OUR LOTS, IT'LL CUT THE ***ASSESSMENT.***

WE'RE TOO FAR ***OUT,*** MEL. IT'S NOT AN OPTION FOR US.

I'M ***SORRY,*** BOBBIE. BUT WE'VE ***GOT*** TO TAKE CARE OF OUR ***OWN.***

YOU'RE IN WITH THIS, DENNIS?

I GOTTA DO WHAT'S BEST FOR ***CASEY,*** JOE. I GOTTA THINK ABOUT MY ***GRANDDAUGHTER...***

...I DON'T HAVE MANY ***YEARS*** LEFT.

NO, I UNDERSTAND. YOU DO WHAT YOU GOTTA DO...

MUSSELSHELL - 5 March 64 - 09:58 - PARTLY CLOUDY - 56°F

NEWS

SHARE

NEWS INFOCUS

STREAM TO DEVICE

LATEST UPDATES

PHEN CARLYLE ANNOUNCES LIFT SELECTION, DENVER DOMAIN, 20–23 MARCH • MORRAY TRA

FILTER

QUEUE TO INFOCUS

SEARCH TOOLS

LAUNCH INFOCUS

SEARCH, DENVER LIFT SELECTION.

da-deet

MOM?

HEY, MOM--

PARTLY CLOUDY - 56°F

CEEtv

MOUNTAIN *REGION*- LIFT SELECTION ANNOUNCED MARCH 20-23*

Carlyle Lift Selection comes to the Mountain Region under the auspices of Regional Director Stephen Carlyle, eldest son of Malcolm Carlyle. All citizens in good standing are invited to submit for evaluation and testing at no charge.

Carlyle

Famil

Carly

reloc

uals for elevation to direct service to the

es, military service, arts, or education.

family benefits, including residential allowance,

nical training, health care, and more.

a CEEtv service

--HAVE YOU SEEN THE ***POST?***

I'M HUNGRY.

YOU GUYS MAYBE WANT TO DO A TRADE?

THE FAMILY PROVIDES **FOOD** FOR ALL **DOCUMENTED** RESIDENTS OF THE DOMAIN.

IF YOU'VE BEEN **CHIPPED**, IF YOU'RE IN THE LRP.

I STOOD IN LINE FOR **SIXTEEN** HOURS TODAY TO GET A JOB, NEVER MADE IT TO THE **FRONT** OF THE LINE.

I'M **CLEAN**, YOU CAN CHECK. I JUST GOT **SCREENED**.

JUST FOR SOME **FOOD**, A COUPLE BOTTLES OF **WATER?**

BOTH OF US.

NOT... NOT **TOGETHER.**

AND **NOT** OUT HERE....

...UNDER COVER, OKAY?

GO GO GO.

CARLYLE

CARLYLE

CORRINTIUM METUANT

THIS IS THE ONE...

...EMMA'LL HAVE THE GUARDS BUSY FOR A WHILE. DOSE, GET A HAND TRUCK.

BIT, START WORKING ON THE LOCKS...

...I'LL KEEP WATCH.

KEYPAD.

GREASING THE HINGES.

GOT IT COVERED...

...BEGINNING *HACK*...

...ALMOST... ALMOST THERE...

...THAT'S IT, DONE, **CUT** THE LOCK.

JUST TWO **ACETYLENE** CANISTERS, DON'T TOUCH **NOTHING** ELSE...

...WE DON'T WANT THEM KNOWING IT'S **GONE**....

YEAH, BUT THEY'LL SEE THE **LOCK** WAS **CUT**, ANGEL.

THEN TAKE IT **WITH** US. IT'LL LOOK LIKE SOMEONE JUST **FORGOT** TO LOCK IT.

WE GOTTA MOVE, BIT.

EMMA'LL BE **FINE**, I **PROMISE**.

unff HOW'S unnh THAT FOR hghh DINNER nfff

ALL RIGHT, MAN, ENOUGH, LET ME HAVE A GO--

GET OFF OF HER.

NOW.

WHO THE FUCK--

GET OFF OF HER.

COMMANDER!

COMMANDER, IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK SHE--

--WE WERE ON POST AND THIS WASTE JUST--

SHUT **UP.** DO **NOT** SPEAK.

YOU'RE **ALREADY** DONE FOR **DERELICTION**, YOU SAY ANOTHER FUCKING WORD, IT'S **INSUBORDINATION,** AS WELL.

THIS IS HOW YOU **REPRESENT** MY FAMILY?

I SHOULD **TAKE** YOUR **HEADS** AND SEE EACH OF **YOUR** FAMILIES SENT **DOWN**--

LET **GO** LET ME GO I DIDN'T **DO** ANYTHING--

EMMA.

IT'S **EMMA**, RIGHT?

I KNOW WHAT BIT AND ANGEL AND DOSE DID, I KNOW WHAT THEY **STOLE.**

YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME **WHERE** THEY TOOK IT AND **WHAT** THEY PLAN TO DO WITH IT.

IT'S FIVE **HUNDRED** MILES FROM HERE TO DENVER, JOE.

YOU'RE SURE YOU WANT TO **DO** THIS?

NOT LIKE WE'VE MUCH **CHOICE,** DUNCAN.

AND YOU **UNDERSTAND**, YOU DO THIS, **EVERYTHING** REVERTS TO THE FAMILY?

ANYTHING YOU LEAVE BEHIND, THE LAND, **ALL** OF IT GOES BACK TO CARLYLE.

AND THEY'RE **WELCOME** TO IT AS LONG AS IT **BALANCES** THE BOOKS.

YOU SIGN OFF, IT'LL ALL BE **SETTLED.** YOU'LL **OWE** NOTHING, AND YOU'LL **HAVE** NOTHING BUT WHAT YOU CARRY.

YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE GETTING INTO?

WE DO.

I'M NOT SO **SURE**. IT GETS **ROUGH** TO THE SOUTH. NOT MANY **PATROLS.**

THERE'S **BANDITS** AND WORSE IN THE WYOMING **SCRUB**, AND YOU'LL HAVE TO GO THAT ROUTE TO MAKE IT TO DENVER IN TIME.

EVEN SUPPOSING YOU GET **THERE**, THERE'S ALMOST **NO** CHANCE YOU'LL BE **SELECTED.**

HATE TO **SAY** IT, BUT YOU'RE **TOO** OLD. THE FAMILY **WON'T** TAKE YOU, EVEN WITH YOUR **SKILLS.**

NOT **US**, DUNCAN...

...THE **KIDS.**

GONNA NEED **BOTH** YOUR SIGNATURES. I'VE **CLEARED** YOU AND YOUR FAMILY FOR **TRAVEL.**

AFRAID YOU HAVE TO BE **OFF** THE LAND IN THE NEXT HOUR.

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, DUNCAN.

YOU, TOO, BOBBIE.

RIDERS COMING IN...

...IT'S DENNIS AND HIS GRAND-DAUGHTER.

THANK GOD, WAS **AFRAID** I'D MISS YOU.

JUST IN TIME, YEAH. COME TO SAY GOOD-BYE?

I NEED A **FAVOR** FROM YOU, JOE.

I WANT YOU TO TAKE MY GRANDDAUGHTER WITH YOU.

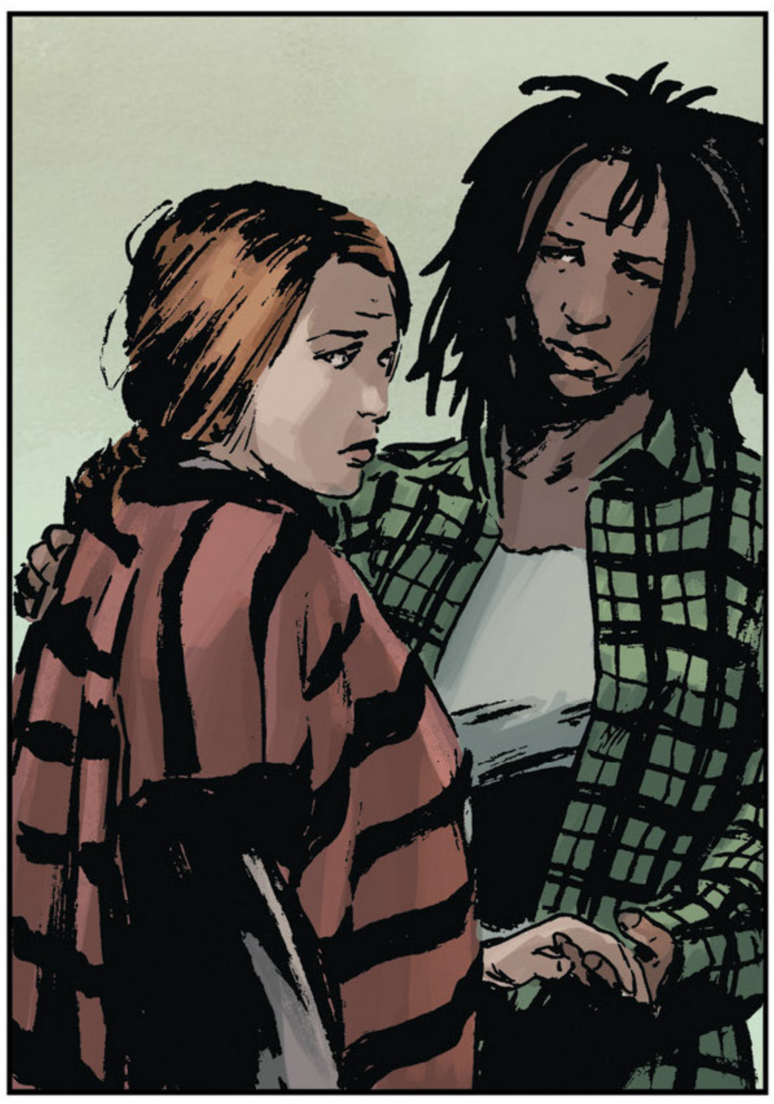
I'M GOIN' IN WITH TAYLOR AND GOMEZ, THERE'S NO **FUTURE** FOR HER IN THAT, ONLY **DEBT.**

BUT MAYBE WITH YOU...

...MAYBE SHE'S GOT A **FUTURE.**




YOU TAKE GOOD CARE OF MY GIRL.
LIKE OUR OWN.




FIFTEEN DAYS AND FIVE HUNDRED MILES...


...TIME TO GET STARTED.


CARLYLE
ODERINT DUM METUANT



LIFT

CHAPTER THREE

Southern Sierra Nevadas
Facility: Compound Sequoia
Family: Carlyle

"MARISOL? HAVE YOU EVER BEEN IN A ***WAR?***"

Population [Family]: 2
[1 permanent]
Population [Serf]: 32

"I'VE FOUGHT IN ***THREE*** WARS, EVE...

"...ONE OF THEM BEFORE I JOINED YOUR FAMILY'S ***SERVICE,*** THEN IN THE ***DISSOLUTION WAR*** AND THE ***BITTNER-HOCK*** CONFLICT."

"WERE YOU ***SCARED?***"

"***BEFORE*** THE FIGHTING, I WAS ***SCARED***, ALWAYS. AND, MAYBE SURPRISINGLY, SOMETIMES ***AFTER.***

"BUT ***NEVER*** DURING.

"THAT IS WHY WE ***TRAIN,*** EVE...

...WE TRAIN TO **MASTER** OURSELVES IN THE **MOMENT.**

WE TRAIN SO THAT, WHEN THE MOMENT **COMES,** WE DO NOT **HESITATE,** AND WE DO **NOT** FEAR.

I'M **AFRAID.**

I KNOW YOU ARE.

YOU ARE AFRAID BECAUSE IT IS **UNKNOWN.** YOU ARE AFRAID BECAUSE IT WILL **HURT.**

BUT THAT'S THE **POINT,** EVE.

YOU ARE A **WARRIOR** FOR YOUR **FAMILY.**

PAIN WILL ALWAYS BE PART OF YOUR **LIFE.**

YOUR ABILITY TO **ENDURE** IT, TO **CONTROL** IT, AND TO **OVERCOME** IT...

...THAT IS WHAT WILL MAKE YOU **GREAT.**

PAIN IS TEMPORARY.

YOU ARE **STRONG.** PUSH **THROUGH** IT.

REMEMBER TO **BREATHE.**

YOU DID **VERY** WELL.

YOU DID **GREAT,** FOREVER.

I DIDN'T MAKE A **SOUND.**

I KNOW.

MARISOL?

IF FATHER ORDERS ME TO **KILL** YOU WHEN WE **FIGHT,** WHAT DO I **DO?**

YOU DO AS YOUR FATHER **ORDERS.**

IF FATHER ORDERS YOU TO KILL **ME,** WOULD YOU DO IT?

YES.

DON'T TELL HIM I **CRIED.**

I PROMISE.

Facility: Twins Palisades (Residence)

Population [Family]: 2

Population [Serf]: 73

ANYTHING?

Population [Waste]: 1

NO, COMMANDER. WE HELD OFF ON A **FULL** PHYSICAL EXAM, AS YOU ORDERED...

...BUT THERE'S NO **CHIP,** AND NOTHING IN THE ARCHIVE FOR HER **SEQUENCE.**

WE'RE STILL RUNNING THE **BIOMETRICS,** IF SHE'S ON CAMERA **ANYWHERE** IN THE DOMAIN, WE'LL KNOW IN A FEW MORE HOURS.

I COMPILED THE **REPORT** AS YOU ASKED.

THIS IS VERY GOOD WORK.

THANK YOU.

I'M GOING TO TALK TO HER.

YOU'RE NOT IN THE **SYSTEM,** EMMA.

THERE ARE A COUPLE OF POSSIBLE **EXPLANATIONS** FOR THIS.

YOU COULD BE AN **ILLEGAL.** FROM MORRAY, MAYBE, OR BITTNER, OR HOCK. MAYBE SOMEWHERE **ELSE.**

IT **COULD** BE THAT YOU WERE NEVER CHIPPED, NEVER SEQUENCED. THAT'S **UNLIKELY.**

I COULD ACCEPT ONE OR THE OTHER, MAYBE, BUT **NOT** BOTH.

WHICH LEADS ME TO CONCLUDE THAT YOU'VE INTENTIONALLY **BLANKED.**

PAID TO BE **ERASED** FROM THE ARCHIVE. PAID TO HAVE YOUR **CHIP** REMOVED.

THAT MAKES YOU EITHER A **SPY** OR A **TERRORIST.**

I DIDN'T **DO** ANYTHING **WRONG!**

I MADE A **TRADE,** IT WAS **YOUR** SOLDIERS WHO--

AND WHILE YOU WERE **OCCUPYING** THOSE SOLDIERS, THREE OF YOUR ASSOCIATES **ROBBED** MY FAMILY.

IT WAS WELL DONE. IF I HADN'T **SEEN** THEM DO IT, I MIGHT BELIEVE THE MISSING ITEMS WERE SIMPLY **BREAKAGE** OR **LOSS.**

I JUST SAW A **REPORT** PREPARED AT MY REQUEST, EMMA.

SINCE **RECONSTRUCTION** BEGAN, THERE'VE BEEN **SEVEN** SIMILAR INSTANCES OF MATERIEL GOING MISSING.

SOME OF THAT COULD BE JUST AS IT **APPEARS.** LOSS, **NOT** THEFT.

BUT WHAT MAKES YOU **WORTH** MY **TIME,** EMMA, IS THAT WHEN I PUT **EVERYTHING** ON THIS LIST TOGETHER...

...I CAN MAKE A VERY **POWERFUL** IED.

I CAN MAKE A **BOMB.**

YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME WHERE I CAN FIND YOUR **FRIENDS.**

YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME WHERE I CAN FIND THE **BOMB** THEY'RE MAKING.

YOU DON'T **OWN** ME.

AND YOU CAN GO **FUCK** YOURSELF.

AS A SUSPECTED TERRORIST, I AM **AUTHORIZED--**

I **KNOW** WHAT YOU CAN DO TO ME. YOU THINK I **DON'T?**

I KNOW YOU CAN **HURT** ME, I **KNOW** WHAT YOU CAN DO.

YOU THINK YOU CAN DO **WORSE** TO ME THAN WHAT'S ALREADY BEEN **DONE?**

YOU THINK I HAVE **ANYTHING** TO LOSE?

THERE'S **NOTHING** YOU CAN DO **TO** OR TAKE **FROM** ME THAT YOUR **FAMILY** DOESN'T ALREADY HAVE.


CARLYLE
MOUNTAIN DOMAIN
AUTHORIZED TRANSIT ONLY
DRONE SURVEILLANCE IS IN EFFECT
CASPER 198 MI
DENVER 400 MI

Wyoming "Badlands,"
182 miles NNW Denver
Days Until Lift Selection: 8

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I THINK IT'S AS GOOD A PLACE AS ANY.

I THINK THAT, IF THERE'S BANDITS, IT'S **SOMEWHAT** DEFENSIBLE.

I THINK WE'RE **EXHAUSTED.**

AND I THINK **BEGGARS** CAN'T BE **CHOOSERS.**

HELL, I KNEW THAT. WHY ELSE WOULD YOU'VE AGREED TO MARRY ME?

BECAUSE YOU'VE GOT AN **ASS** THAT DOESN'T **QUIT,** JOE BARRET.

WE'LL MAKE **CAMP** OVER **THERE.**

CASEY, MIKE, YOU TWO TEND THE **HORSES.** LEIGH, SEE IF YOU CAN'T FIND SOME **FUEL** FOR A **FIRE....**

I'LL TAKE THE FIRST **WATCH,** MISTER BARRET, I DON'T MIND.

I'VE GOT IT, CASEY, THANK YOU. YOU GET SOME REST.

AND WE'RE LONG PAST FORMAL. YOU CAN CALL ME JOE, OR YOU CAN CALL ME DAD.

BOBBIE AND I PROMISED YOUR GRANDFATHER WE'D TREAT YOU AS OUR **OWN,** AND WE'RE GOING TO KEEP THAT. YOU'RE **FAMILY,** NOW.

WHYN'T YOU SEE IF MICHAEL NEEDS A HAND WITH THE **TENT?**

"DAD," HUH?

NOT LIKE YOU'RE **MATCHMAKING** OR ANYTHING.

IF SHE LIKES.

NOT AT ALL.

NOT THAT THEY NEED IT.

FEELS A LITTLE **STRANGE** IS ALL.

FOR YOU AND ME, YOU MEAN?

HELL NO, IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE **REALLY** RELATED, MIKE.

IT'S JUST... I CAN BARELY REMEMBER MY MOM AND DAD...

...I WAS REAL SMALL WHEN THEY GOT SICK.

YOU KNOW THEY'D WANT WHAT YOUR GRANDPA WANTS, FOR YOU TO BE **HAPPY.**

NOBODY **GETS** TO BE HAPPY. YOU GOTTA **EARN** IT.

I DUNNO. YOU MAKE **ME** HAPPY, AND I DON'T THINK I EARNED IT AT **ALL.**

WELL MAYBE LATER I'LL GIVE YOU ANOTHER CHANCE, SEE IF WE CAN'T **FIX** THAT.

LEIGH? WHERE YOU GOING?

GONNA CHECK THE HORSES...

...THAT WAY YOU TWO CAN GET ALL LOVEY-DOVEY IN **PRIVATE.**

LEIGH?
CHECKING.
THE.
HORSES.
AND HOW Y'ALL DOING?
DREAMING OF SWEET CLOVER? MAYBE FOR SOMEONE TO LOVE?
I MEAN, I KNOW IT'S CUTE AND ALL, BUT SOMETIMES--
--WHOA, ZOOT, EASY!
DIDN'T MEAN TO SPOOK...
...YOU DAD
DAD--

--DAD--

GRAB HER!!

KRAK

LEIGH!!!

KRAK

KRAK

KRAK

MOTHERFUCKER! FOOL--

--NOT THE *WOMEN*--

--WORTH MORE THAN THE *HORSES*--

KRAK

KRAK

KRAK
JESUS GOD NO LEIGH--
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
ghNhh
DAD!
DANGER
OH BABY OH BABY OH LEIGH...
m-mommanh mommeenuh
uuh h-hurtsnghnn
THERE WAS ANOTHER ONE--
R-rifle...
--SEE YOU--
--STAMP YOU WITH LEAD--
...MOMMA'S HERE, MOMMA'S HERE...

KRAK

ch-chak

KRAK

...OUR BABY, OUR BABY...

...THEY KILLED OUR BEAUTIFUL GIRL, JOE....

COMMANDER?

SERGEANT ORIOSO, REPORTING AS ORDERED.

MY APOLOGIES FOR BEING LATE, MA'AM.

I DIDN'T GET YOUR ORDER UNTIL ***LATE*** LAST NIGHT AND FINDING TRANSPORT--

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, SERGEANT.

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU, TOO, MA'AM.

I'M RELIEVING YOU OF YOUR COMMAND AT HARVEST ONE.

MA'AM, I...I MEAN, WHATEVER I ***DID***--

I WANT YOU TO ASSUME COMMAND OF THE LOS ANGELES GARRISON. YOU WILL RELOCATE YOUR FAMILY IMMEDIATELY.

I'M ALSO ***PROMOTING*** YOU TO THE RANK OF CAPTAIN AS BEFITS YOUR NEW COMMAND.

...Y-YES, MA'AM.

THANK YOU, COMMANDER!

...TWO ISSUES FOR YOU TO ADDRESS IMMEDIATELY.

THE FIRST IS THE CORRUPTION WITHIN THE GUARD CORPS.

I'VE SEEN IT EVERYWHERE, EVEN WITNESSED IT FIRST-HAND LAST NIGHT.

I WANT IT STOPPED.

YES, MA'AM. AND THE SECOND?

THERE'S AT LEAST ONE ACTIVE TERROR CELL WITHIN THIS DOMAIN.

I HAVE A MEMBER IN CUSTODY, NOW. BUT SHE REFUSES TO TALK ABOUT THEIR PLANS, AND I'VE NO DOUBT THAT THEY ARE PLANNING SOMETHING.

FOREVER? YOU GOING TO INTRODUCE ME?

CAPTAIN ORIOSO, THIS IS MY SISTER, JOHANNA.

AN HONOR, MISS CARLYLE.

IS IT? THAT'S A SURPRISE.

I DIDN'T MEAN TO INTERRUPT. PLEASE, CONTINUE.

I WAS JUST SAYING THAT I DON'T WANT TO USE COERCION. IT'S FUNDAMENTALLY UNRELIABLE IF NOTHING ELSE.

BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW ELSE TO GET THIS WOMAN TO TALK.

CAN I TRY?

WONDERED WHEN YOU'D COME BACK.

YOU GONNA TORTURE ME, NOW?

HELLO, EMMA.

DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

YOU'RE JOHANNA CARLYLE.

THAT'S RIGHT.

MY SISTER HAS TOLD ME A LOT ABOUT YOU.

MY SISTER SAYS YOU WON'T HELP US.

I'D RATHER DIE.

NO, YOU WOULDN'T. **NO ONE** WANTS TO DIE.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I WANT.

OF COURSE I DO, EMMA. DON'T BE SILLY.

YOU WANT IT TO GET BETTER.

YOU'RE VERY PRETTY, YOU KNOW THAT, I'M SURE.

I UNDERSTAND YOU'VE BEEN TRADING ON THAT, IN FACT.

DON'T GET ME WRONG, YOU'RE ***FILTHY***, AND THOSE CLOTHES DO ***NOTHING*** FOR YOU.

AND YOUR HAIR IS A TRAGEDY.

BUT THAT'S NOTHING THAT CAN'T BE FIXED.

HOW OLD ARE YOU? TWENTY? TWENTY-TWO?

...NINETEEN.

EVEN BETTER. NINETEEN, THAT'S THE START OF A CAREER.

WHAT DO YOU THINK, FOREVER? START HER AS A DANCER FOR T-RIXY OR SOMEONE ELSE WHO'S ON THE POST?

MAYBE AS AN ACTRESS, INSTEAD? SHE DEFINITELY KNOWS HOW TO ACT.

SOME VOICE LESSONS, SOME MOVEMENT LESSONS.

THE LEAD IN ONE OF THE ACTION-ADVENTURES, MAYBE.

OF COURSE, WE'D HAVE TO ***LIFT*** YOU TO ***SERF*** STATUS, FIRST. YOU ***AND*** YOUR FAMILY. IF YOU HAVE FAMILY.

AND ONCE YOU'RE A ***SERF,*** WELL... OUR FAMILY TAKES VERY GOOD CARE OF THOSE WHO HAVE SOMETHING THEY CAN ***OFFER.***

WHAT CAN YOU OFFER, EMMA?










MICHAEL!
YOUR DAD!

DAD!
SORRY.
GONNA CHANGE HIS BANDAGES.
THERE'S A ***RISE*** UP AHEAD, GOOD PLACE TO TAKE A LOOK AROUND.
BE CAREFUL.
JUST SIT HERE FOR A SECOND, OKAY, DAD?
THINK YOU'RE STILL BLEEDING, MAYBE.
SORRY.
IT'S OKAY.
I SHOULD'VE SEEN IT.
I KEEP THINKING...
...I KEEP THINKING HOW IT WAS LEIGH'S IDEA TO TRY FOR LIFT....
THIS WAS A BAD IDEA.
MIKE!
COME SEE!

WHAT, WHAT IS IT?

YOU'LL SEE!

THERE'S **NO** SETTLEMENTS OUT HERE, CARLYLE HAS NOTHING OUT HERE.

JUST **LOOK,** MIKE!

YOU EVER SEE ANYTHING LIKE IT?

THERE'S **SO** MANY OF THEM, ALL LIKE **US**...

...ALL OF THEM GOING TO LIFT.

CARLYLE
MOUNTAIN DOMAIN
AUTHORIZED TRANSIT ONLY
DRONE SURVEILLANCE IS IN EFFECT

DENVER - 102 mi





LIFT

CHAPTER FOUR

"WHAT LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT, MARISOL?"

"CURRENTLY FIVE...

"...BUT THAT WILL **ESCALATE** TO NINE AS SOON AS SHE'S **DETECTED**."

"PRESUMING SHE **IS** DETECTED, YOU MEAN."

"IT'S A FOREGONE CONCLUSION, SIR...

"...SECURITY DEEPENS THE FURTHER SHE PROGRESSES...

Southern Sierra Nevadas
Facility: Compound Sequoia
Family: Carlyle

Population [Family]: 3 [2 permanent]
Population [Serf]: 32

...UNTIL SHE'S OVERWHELMED. THE OBJECT OF THE EXERCISE IS FOR HER TO ACHIEVE THE TARGET OBJECTIVE AND THEN EXFIL.

SHE'S DONE THIS SCENARIO BEFORE?

NO, MISTER CARLYLE.

THIS WAS HER REQUEST, ACTUALLY.

10
Happy Birthday Forever

FOR HER BIRTHDAY.

THAT'S... SOMEWHAT SURPRISING, ACTUALLY.

I'M SORRY, SIR, IS THIS AN **OFFICIAL** VISIT?

YOU'RE ASKING IF I EXPECT YOU TWO TO **DUEL** TODAY.

YOU SAID THE NEXT TIME YOU SAW HER--

I KNOW WHAT I SAID, MARISOL.

CAN SHE BEAT YOU?

"NO, SIR."

"YOU'RE NOT JUST SAYING THAT TO BUY HER MORE TIME?"

"SHE'S NOT READY, SIR."

THEN I AM **NOT** HERE, AND YOU ARE NOT TO TELL HER THAT I **WAS.**

PITY.

Happy Birthday, Forever Love, Father

I SHOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE BEEN WITH HER TODAY.

I'LL BE BACK IN 30 DAYS.

SEE THAT SHE'S READY BY THEN.

YES, SIR.

ION INDEX: AAA

ECORDERS:

ED>>

XPENDED: 81 rds

ASUALTIES: +8 KIA

--BUT I WENT FOR MY WEAPON THEN LIKE MARISOL TAUGHT ME--

10

--AND I KNOW I GOT MHFF ***THREE*** OF THEM AND THEN--

CHEW AND SWALLOW, FOREVER.

--YES, MS. KWAN, BUT ***THREE*** OF THEM, JAMES, ANDOHMYGODISTHATFROMDADDY--

LETHALITY MATRIX: INDEXING...

--IT ***IS!*** HE ***REMEMBERED,*** HE REMEMBERED MY BIRTHDAY!

HE REMEMBERED...

...DID HE...DID HE VISIT, WAS HE HERE? WAS HE HERE?

IF HE WAS HERE, IF HE--

NO.

NO, HE'S IN SYDNEY, HE HAD IT SENT BY ***MESSENGER...***

...FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY...

THE ONCE & FUTURE KING T. H. WHITE

...WITH HIS LOVE.

South Central Los Angeles
Population [Serf]: 322,315
Population [Waste]: 2,874,500 (estimated)

JUST BUSTED THROUGH TO THE INCIDENT REPORTS...

...ALL I NEED IS FIVE ***MORE*** MINUTES, DOSE.

JUST FIVE MORE MINUTES.

NO GO, BIT. TIME TO ***SCRUB*** AND ***SCOOT***...

...ANGEL WANTED US OUT OF HERE ***HOURS*** AGO.

PLEASE, DOSE, WE GOTTA FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO EMMA.

SHE GOT ***SCOOPED*** OR SHE'S LAYING ***LOW***, BIT, AND EITHER WAY, THAT MEANS WE'RE ***COMPROMISED.***

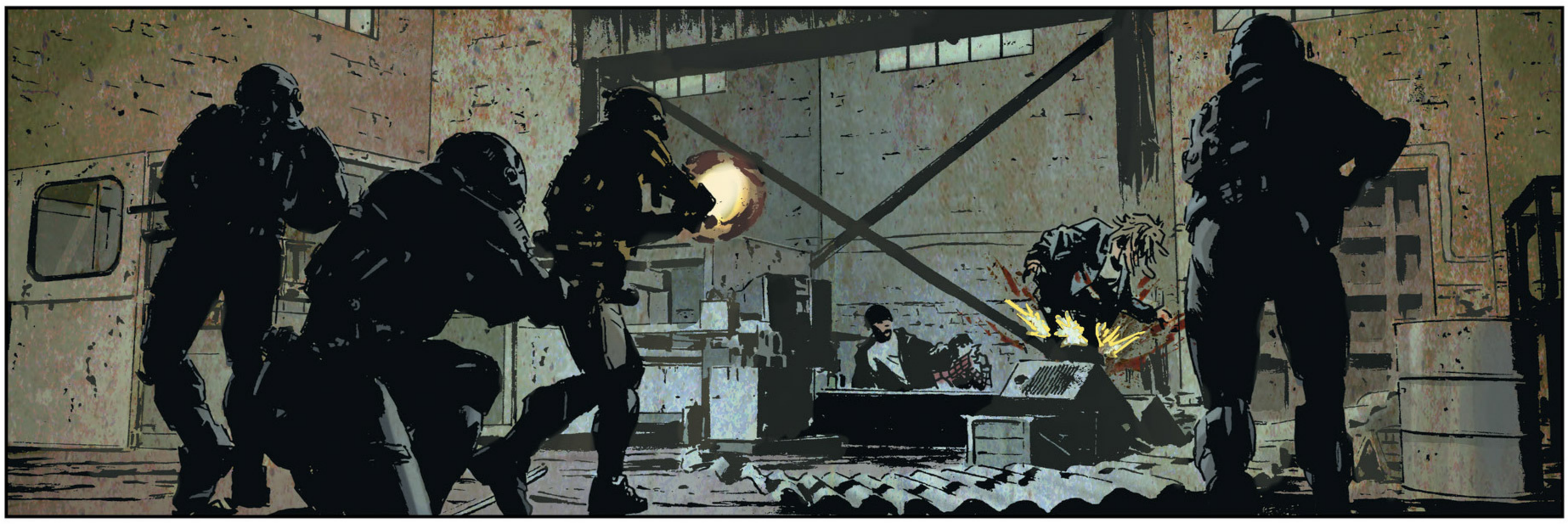
EMMA WOULD ***NEVER*** ROLL ON US, DOSE.

HEY?

HEY, DOSE, I--









DOSE! DOSE--

--GNFFF AHH AHHH FU-FUCKER--

BLUE WOLF, ALL DAGGERS, SECURE.

--MOTHER-**FUCKERS** I'LL **KILL** YOU I'LL KILL YOU--

nhh hhu hnn nnn

SECURE.

SECURE.

SHUT UP.

SECURE.

I SEE DOSE. I SEE YOU.

I DON'T SEE **ANGEL.**

WHERE IS HE, BIT?

WHERE IS ANGEL TAKING THE **BOMB?**

TELL ME.

EMMA TOLD US WHERE TO FIND YOU.

SHE TOLD US **EVERYTHING,** BIT.

NOW IT'S **YOUR** TURN....

Interstate 25, 74 miles north of Denver
Days Until Lift Selection: 4

I DON'T KNOW WHAT *HAPPENED*, I DON'T...

...WE WERE UP BY ONE OF THOSE **CARTS** BEING PULLED ALONG, ONE OF THE **FOOD** ONES, TRYING TO TRADE FOR SOMETHING TO **EAT**...

...AND I LOOK AWAY AND I LOOK **BACK** AND ABBY IS RIGHT IN **FRONT**...

...AND I GRAB HER TO GET HER OUT OF THE WAY AND I FELT SOMETHING...

...LIKE SOMETHING **POPPED** IN HER **ARM** AND SHE STARTED **CRYING** AND SHE HASN'T **STOPPED**....

YEAH, I SEE.

I'D GO TO THE SISTERS AT THE **AMBULANCE** BUT THERE'S A **LINE,** IT'S A REAL LONG LINE...

...AND FOLKS ARE SAYING THAT YOU KNOW SOME **MEDICINE.** I'VE GOT A **KNIFE** I CAN TRADE, OR--

NO, THAT'S NOT **NECESSARY.**

HEY, ABBY, MY NAME'S MICHAEL.

THAT'S MY MOM RIDING THE HORSE UP FRONT, HER NAME'S BOBBIE.

AND THAT'S MY DAD WALKING ALONGSIDE, HIS NAME'S JOE.

I THINK I KNOW WHY YOU'RE **HURTING...**

...AND I CAN **FIX** IT REAL QUICK, IF YOU'LL LET ME?

SNIFF O-OKAY--

--OW OWW!!!

ALL DONE. THAT FEEL **BETTER?**

YES! YES, IT'S **BETTER!**

IT'S BETTER, DADDY!

I CAN TELL, BABY!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU **SO** MUCH!

PROUD OF YOU.

IT WASN'T ANYTHING, JUST A **DISLOCATION.** NURSEMAID'S ELBOW.

DID I MISS DOCTOR MIKE SEEING ANOTHER PATIENT?

WORD SPREADS. SAW ANOTHER **FOUR** THIS MORNING.

YOU WERE GONE LONGER THAN WE'D THOUGHT, CASEY.

YOU RUN INTO **TROUBLE** BY THE **BUSES?**

I CAN HANDLE THE PIMPS. MOSTLY WAS RUNNING MESSAGES UP AND DOWN THE LINE IN EXCHANGE FOR CLEAN WATER.

THERE **IS** SOMETHING ELSE, THOUGH.

WORD ABOUT **MIKE** HAS SPREAD UP TO THE RIGS...

...THE SISTERS WANT TO MEET HIM.

WELCOME. PLEASE, SIT. I'M SISTER BERNARD.

DO YOU PREFER MIKE OR MICHAEL?

EITHER IS... YOU KNOW MY NAME?

EVERYONE WHO ENTERS THE RIG HAS THEIR CHIP SCANNED AND LOGGED.

IT MAKES RETRIEVING THEIR MEDICAL HISTORY, THEIR GENETIC SCREEN, THAT MUCH EASIER. IT'S VERY EFFICIENT.

ID CONFIRMED: BARRET, MICHAEL JOSEPH

RETINA READ

CARDIAC MONITOR

FINGERPRINT READ

RFID

LOG

PURGE

ENABLE

FILE

MAKES IT EASIER TO KEEP TRACK OF EVERYONE, TOO.

YES.

CERTAIN... CONCESSIONS HAD TO BE MADE TO THE FAMILY BEFORE THEY ALLOWED US OUR MINISTRY.

I UNDERSTAND YOU JOINED THE PROCESSION ONLY A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO. YOU'RE GOING TO THE LIFT?

YEAH.

AND THERE ARE ***FIVE*** OF YOU IN YOUR GROUP.

NO, FOUR.

REGIONAL OVERSIGHT RECORDED FIVE OF YOU SETTING OUT FROM MUSSELSHELL.

MY SISTER DIED IN THE BADLANDS.

SHE WAS ***MURDERED.***

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY TO HEAR THAT, MICHAEL.

I SHALL REMEMBER HER IN MY PRAYERS.

I'M SORRY, WAS THERE A ***REASON*** YOU WANTED TO SEE ME?

YES, I'VE HEARD THAT YOU'RE PRACTICING ***MEDICINE.*** IS THAT CORRECT?

NO, I... I WOULDN'T SAY 'MEDICINE,' IT'S JUST BASIC ***FIRST AID.***

COMMON SENSE STUFF, I'VE JUST DONE MORE ***READING*** THAN MOST, I GUESS. THAT'S ALL.

YOU CAN READ. SELF-TAUGHT?

MY PARENTS TAUGHT US.

LOOK, MY DAD GOT SHOT WHEN MY SISTER DIED, I'VE BEEN TREATING HIM.

PEOPLE SAW ME TENDING HIM AFTER WE JOINED THE CONVOY. THEY ASKED IF I COULD TAKE A LOOK AT THEM, TOO.

WHAT WAS I GOING TO SAY? WAS I GOING TO SAY, "NO?"

IT JUST... IT WENT FROM THERE. I **NEVER** SAID I WAS A DOCTOR...

...I DON'T HAVE MEDICINE, DON'T HAVE **BANDAGES,** I MEAN, I'M USING **HONEY** AND **GARLIC** AND **GINGER** IF I CAN FIND IT.

I'M JUST DOING WHAT I **CAN--**

MICHAEL. YOU'RE **NOT** IN TROUBLE.

THERE'S ONLY **FOUR** OF US IN THE RIGS, AND YOU SAW HOW LONG THE **LINE** IS.

I COULD USE SOME HELP. AND I'D BE HAPPY TO **TEACH** YOU WHAT I CAN, AT LEAST UNTIL WE REACH DENVER.

YOUR WHOLE FAMILY CAN RIDE WITH US. THIS IS THE **SAFEST** PART OF THE CONVOY.

ONE CONDITION.

WHAT'S THAT?

I GET A **NEW** PAIR OF **GLASSES.**

Facility: Twins Palisades (Residence)

Population [Family]: 2
Population [Serf]: 73

PLANNING TO **CUT** SOMEONE?

NOT **YOURSELF**, I HOPE.

NO. JUST...

...JUST **THINKING.**

OOOH, THINKING.

BETTER BE **CAREFUL**, THAT WAY LIES **IDEAS.**

AND WE CAN'T HAVE **THAT.**

ANYTHING YOU WANT TO SHARE WITH **ME?**

SURE WE CAN. WE JUST HAVE TO BE **CAREFUL** WHO WE **SHARE** THEM WITH.

EMMA GAVE US GOOD INTEL.

WE RAIDED THE CELL THIS MORNING. FOUND EVIDENCE OF IED CONSTRUCTION, SOME OTHER THINGS.

THEN SHE'S EARNED HER PLACE AS THE POST'S NEXT SUPERSTAR.

SO WHY DON'T YOU LOOK ***PLEASED?***

ONE OF THE CELL WAS ***UNACCOUNTED*** FOR.

PRESUMABLY THE ONE WITH THE ***DEVICE,*** BECAUSE IT WASN'T THERE.

WE TOOK TWO OF THEM ALIVE, HAD TO INTERROGATE THEM. NOT... NOT LIKE WITH EMMA...

...ONE OF THEM, YOU COULD TELL BY THE WAY SHE REACTED TO THE ***DRUGS,*** SHE DIDN'T KNOW ***ANYTHING.***

THE ***OTHER*** ONE...

WE ***BROKE*** HER, JO.

SHE TOLD US ***EVERYTHING.***

THE TARGET IS DENVER.

AND FIRST THING IN THE MORNING I HAVE TO CALL FATHER AND STEPHEN...

"...AND TELL THEM TO **CANCEL** THE **LIFT**...."

NO.

ABSOLUTELY **NOT.**

>>TRANSMISSION IN PROGRESS

I BELIEVE THIS IS A **LEGITIMATE** THREAT, SIR.

I BELIEVE THIS INDIVIDUAL, ANGEL, INTENDS TO DETONATE THE DEVICE IN THE CROWD DURING LIFT SELECTION.

I DON'T **DOUBT** IT.

YOUR JOB -- YOUR **PURPOSE** -- IS TO PROTECT THIS FAMILY. THEREFORE, YOUR **JOB,** YOUR **PURPOSE,** IS TO KEEP THAT FROM **HAPPENING.**

UNLESS YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU **CANNOT.**

NO, SIR, I'M **NOT** SAYING THAT.

I JUST...

...THERE ARE GOING TO BE A HUNDRED THOUSAND PEOPLE AT THIS SELECTION, MAYBE **MORE...**

...THAT'S, THAT'S NOT EVEN COUNTING DOMAIN **RESIDENTS,** OR **STAFF,** OR...

THESE SOUND REMARKABLY LIKE **EXCUSES** FOR **FAILURE.**

ARE YOU NOW TELLING ME YOU **INTEND** TO **FAIL?**

ON IN PROGRESS

ROTOCOL: BASILISK 8

NO, SIR.

THEN YOU SHOULD BE ON YOUR WAY TO **DENVER** AND NOT WASTING MY TIME.

I'LL EXPECT TO HEAR FROM YOU WHEN YOU HAVE THIS TERRORIST EITHER DEAD OR IN CUSTODY.

ION IN PROGRESS

PROTOCOL: BASILISK 8

FOREVER.

I HAVE TO GET GOING, YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.

TRANSMISSION ENDED

SURE.

GOOD, NOW STEP UP THE ***RESOLUTION...***

...YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A ***SUBTLE*** CHANGE IN THE GRADATION.

AND THAT WOULD BE THE OCCLUSION?

DOCSMART MED-DATA READER V 12.8

READ CHIP DATA

PASSIVE

LOG

PURGE

ENABLE

FILE

IT'S NOT NECESSARILY DEFINITIVE, NO...

...BUT IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE INDICATIVE.

HOW YOU HOLDING UP?

I MISS HER, JOE.

I MISS HER LIKE I CAN'T ***BREATHE.***

I MISS HER, TOO, BABE.

IT'S NOT MUCH **GOOD** IT AIN'T GOT **BATTERIES,** MAN.

I GET BATTERIES, YOU'LL CONSIDER TRADING FOR IT?

LEMME THINK ABOUT IT.

FUCK BUS

HEY, RED RIDER!

WHY DON'T YOU COME ON OVER HERE AND WORK FOR **ME?**

C'MON, WHAT YOU GOT **HIDING** UNDER THAT **PONCHO?**

BEST PUSSY N MOUNTIAN TERRITORY

FOUR INCHES OF **SHARPENED** STEEL WITH YOUR **NAME** ON IT, MOTHERFUCKER.

AND I'M **WAITING** FOR YOU TO GIVE ME A REASON TO **USE** IT, YOU--

WATCH IT--

SHIT!

SHIT, I'M **SORRY,** I'M SO **SORRY...**

...GOT DISTRACTED BY THOSE ASSHOLES ON THE **FUCK BUS,** I'M **SO** SORRY.

YOU OKAY? YOU ALL RIGHT?

LET ME HELP.

IT'S OKAY, I GOT IT.

HERE--

I **SAID** I GOT IT.

I'M NOT GONNA **ROB** YOU, MAN.

JUST TRYING TO MAKE **RIGHT.**

I'M... IT'S JUST ALL MY **STUFF.** CAN'T BE TOO **CAREFUL,** YOU KNOW?

NO, YOU CANNOT.

LET'S TRY IT AGAIN. I'M CASEY. I'M REAL SORRY I RAN **INTO** YOU LIKE THAT.

CASEY. NICE TO MEET YOU...

...I'M ANGEL....


CARLYLE
ODERINT DUM METUANT



LIFT

CHAPTER FIVE

Southern Sierra Nevadas
Facility: Compound Sequoia
Family: Carlyle

Population [Family]: 2 [2 permanent]
Population [Serf]: 32

LABORATORY KAPPA
RESTRICTED AREA
UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS FORBID

FOREVER.
ARE YOU READY?

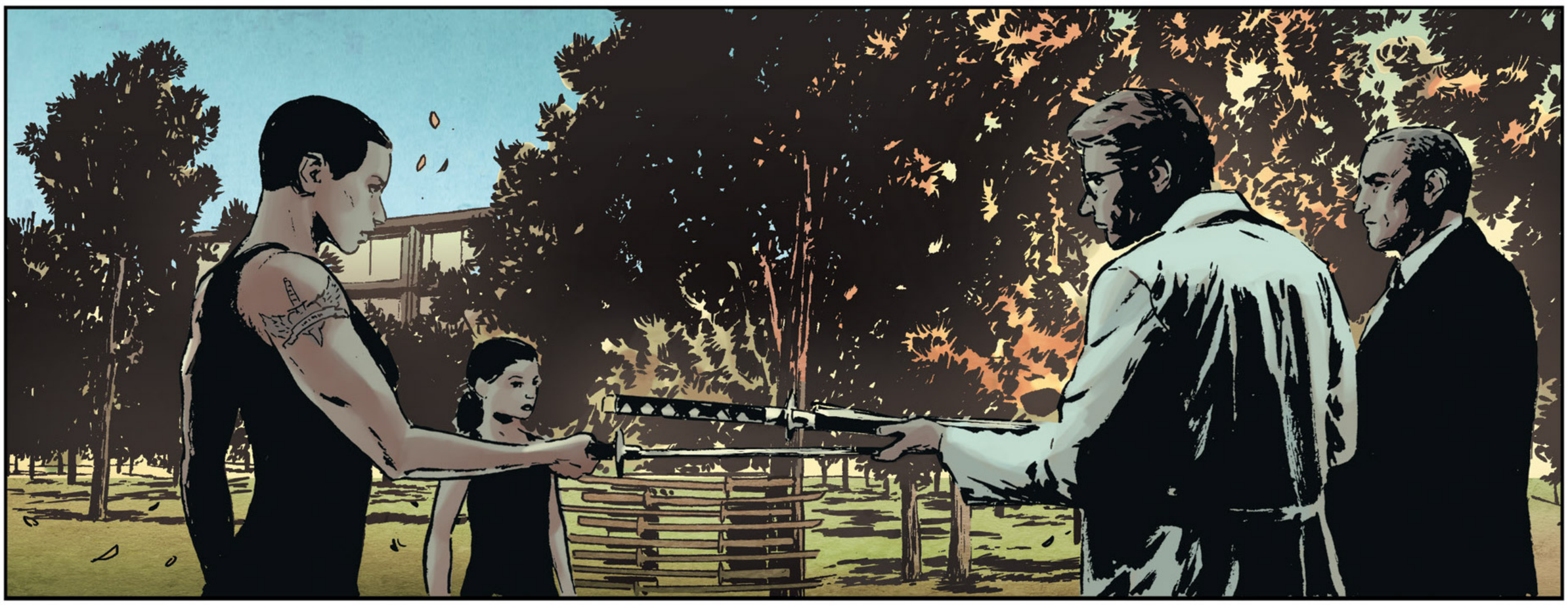
I AM, FATHER.

SHOW ME.

YES, SIR.

NO, NOT WITH THOSE...

...WITH THESE.

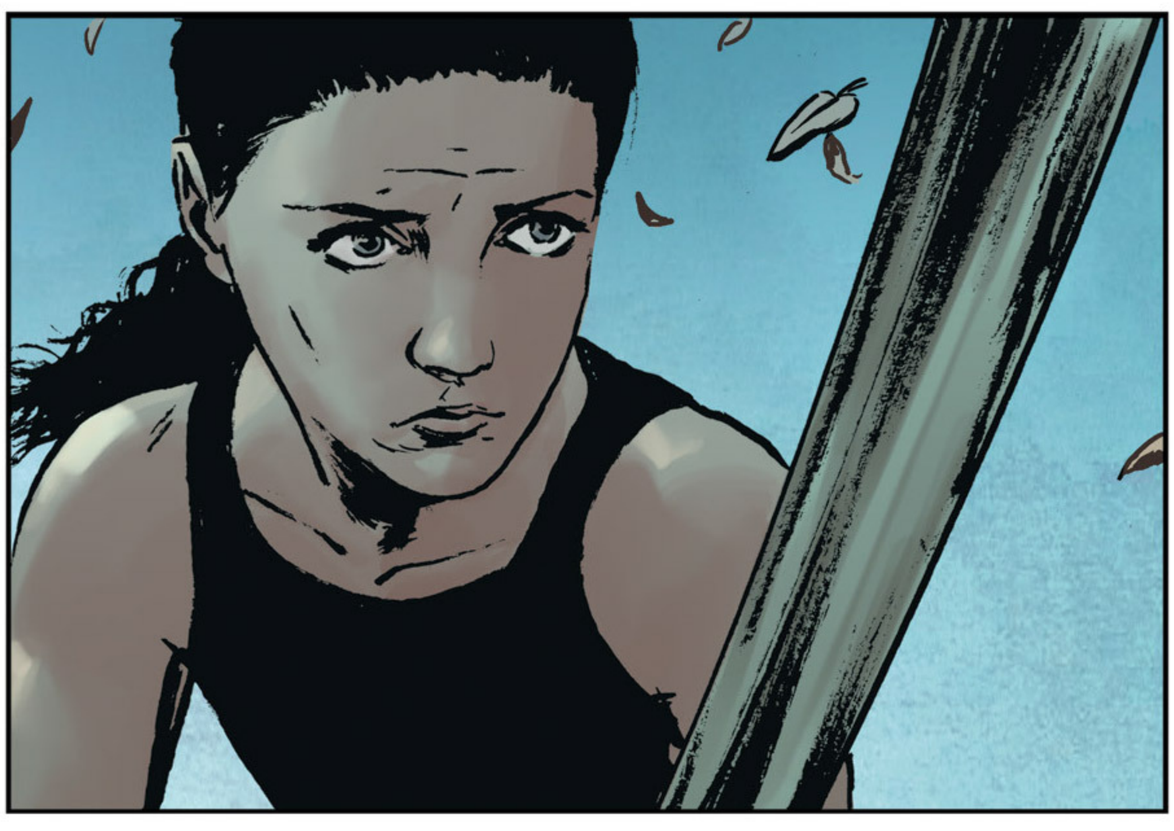







YES, SIR.






REMEMBER TO BREATHE.

YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN *THAT.*



JAMES.

MARISOL'S **HURT.**

PLEASE HELP HER.

SIR?

BY ALL MEANS.

WHY DIDN'T YOU **KILL** HER?

YOU SAID THE NEXT TIME WE FOUGHT, I HAD TO **DEFEAT** HER.

YOU DID **NOT** SAY I HAD TO **KILL** HER.

I DID WHAT YOU TOLD ME, FATHER.

YES.

YES, YOU DID.

I BELIEVE THIS IS **YOURS,** MY DAUGHTER...

"...MAY IT ALWAYS REMIND YOU OF THE PRIDE AND FAITH YOUR FAMILY PLACES IN YOU."

RECALIBRATING. QUAD THREE, SECTOR TWO, ENHANCE.

--ON THE CONVOY THAT JUST ARRIVED. DISPATCH, FOUR TEAMS, VERIFY STATUS...

COMMANDER...?

QUAD SEVEN, SECTOR ONE, MALE CAUCASIAN, TRANSMITTING CHIP ID...

...WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I THINK HE'S **ONTO** US, SERGEANT PARK.

I THINK HE KNOWS HOW TO **SPOOF** THE SOFTWARE.

SMEARING MUD ON HIS **FACE** OR PUTTING PEBBLES IN HIS **SHOES**...

...ANYTHING TO **BEAT** THE RECOGNITION ALGORITHMS.

...TEAM SEVEN, SWEEP INDUCTION, HALL A...

...ALL HALL TEAMS, SET CHANNEL ONE-EIGHT AT BASILISK FIVE...

...REQUEST SUPPLEMENTAL SEARCH TEAM TO TRIBUTE TENT...

CROWD MONITORING...ENGAGED
PROJECTED DESTINATION: DENVER
ALPHA TARGET PACKAGE
UPLOADED TO SERVER CLOUD
SEARCHING...

ALPHA TARGET

DRONE SORTIE 291

LET'S GO SEE MY **BROTHER.**

...NEGATIVE MATCH...

...ALL UNITS, BE ADVISED...

ALPHA TARGET

...PRIORITY SUSPECT GARCIA, ANGEL, STILL AT LARGE....

Mountain Domain, Denver
Facility: Stonebridge,
Home of Stephen Carlyle

STEPHEN, ***LISTEN*** TO WHAT YOUR SISTER IS SAYING!

Population [Family]: 2 (1 Permanent)
Population [Serf]: 23,190

I ***AM*** LISTENING, RIHAN. THERE'S A TERRORIST WITH A ***BOMB*** AND HE INTENDS TO DETONATE IT AT SOME POINT DURING THE LIFT.

YOU AND FOREVER THINK I'M HIS MOST-LIKELY ***TARGET.***

I THINK YOU AND FOREVER ***OVERSTATE*** MY ***IMPORTANCE.***

Population [Waste]: 367,890 (approx)

GOD, I ***HATE*** IT WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT YOURSELF LIKE THAT.

YOUR TIE'S CROOKED.

YOU KNOW THE REGARD IN WHICH MY FATHER HOLDS ME.

THIS IS ***MY*** DOMAIN. I CAN'T ***HIDE*** TODAY, I HAVE A ***DUTY*** TO PERFORM FOR MY FAMILY.

IF I ASSIGN A DAGGER TEAM AS YOUR CLOSE PROTECTION DETAIL, WILL YOU ***PROMISE*** YOU'LL DO WHAT THEY SAY?

I PROMISE.

MAKE SURE HE KEEPS HIS WORD, MISTER FISHER.

IT'S ALREADY A MADHOUSE OUT THERE....

"...AND IT'S ONLY GOING TO GET **WORSE...**"

ARE YOU THE ONE WE'RE LOOKING FOR?

IT'S BEST IF WE GET MOVING NOW...

...THE EARLIER WE GET MICHAEL AND CASEY INTO THE QUEUE THE BETTER.

I'LL STAY HERE, KEEP WATCH ON THE HORSES AND OUR THINGS.

JOE? YOU SURE?

EASIER ON MY ARM IF I AVOID THE CROWDS, RIGHT?

YOU TWO JUST DO YOUR **BEST.**

YOU DO THAT, THEY'LL SEE HOW **SPECIAL** YOU BOTH ARE, NO DOUBT.

TRY TO STAY CLOSE, PLEASE, AND LET ME DO THE *TALKING*...

EXCUSE ME. I'M SISTER BERNARD. I'D LIKE THESE TWO YOUNG PEOPLE PLACED FOR ***PRIORITY*** SELECTION.

THEY'RE WITH ME.

TAGS, PLEASE, SISTER.

HOW LONG WERE YOU IN HOCK COUNTRY?

MOST OF THE WINTER. WE TREATED THE EPIDEMIC IN BOSTON.

AND BITTNER TERRITORY BEFORE THAT...

...SOMEONE FROM THE FAMILY WILL WANT TO ***DEBRIEF*** YOU.

OF COURSE.

BARRET, MICHAEL, AND SOLOMON, CASEY, BOTH CONFIRMED FOR PRIORITY SELECTION...

YOU WANT THE 'A' ENTRANCE, GO TO THE FRONT OF THE LINE.

THE ***FRONT*** OF THE LINE? HOW'S THAT WORK?

ARE YOU THE ONE WE'RE LOOKING FOR?

BETTER YOURSELF BETTER CAR

IN EXCHANGE FOR FREE MOVEMENT THROUGH CARLYLE TERRITORY, WE'RE EXPECTED TO ***TALENT SPOT*** FOR THEM.

HOW VERY ALTRUISTIC OF YOU.

AND THAT'S NOT ALL YOU DO FOR CARLYLE, IS IT?

IF YOU FIND MY MOTIVES ***SUSPECT,*** MRS. BARRET, YOU'RE FREE TO TAKE YOUR CHANCES WITHOUT ME.

BUT IT IS A ***VERY*** LONG LINE.

IT'S ALL THE ***SAME*** CORRUPTION, JUST WEARS DIFFERENT ***CLOTHES.***

WE SHOULD JUST GO BACK TO YOUR ***FATHER,*** GET THE HELL ***OUT*** OF HERE.

MRS. BARRET -- BOBBIE -- I'M OFFERING ***HELP,*** NOTHING MORE. MY INFLUENCE GUARANTEES THAT MICHAEL AND CASEY WILL BE TESTED.

ANYTHING ***BEYOND*** THAT IS UP TO THEM AND THE WILL OF THE ALMIGHTY.

WE'VE COME ***THIS*** FAR, MOM....

ALL RIGHT.

VERY WELL.

NOW, BOTH OF YOU, LISTEN ***CAREFULLY.***

ER CONVENTION CENTER

APPLICANTS CAN BE DISMISSED AT ANY TIME WITHOUT CAUSE

NO WEAPONS

FAILURE TO IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS OF FAMILY REPRESENTATIVES IS GROUNDS FOR DISMISSA

NO EXCEPTIONS

"...SELECTION BEGINS ONCE YOU'VE PASSED SECURITY AND REGISTERED WITH THE PROCTORS.

"IF YOU HEED NOTHING ELSE I SAY, REMEMBER THIS: ONCE INSIDE, ***EVERYTHING*** YOU DO, EVERYTHING YOU ***SAY,*** IS BEING MONITORED AND EVALUATED.

SECURITY CHECK

"THEY'LL BEGIN WITH A CURSORY MEDICAL EXAM AND LIMITED GENETIC SCREEN.

"AT THIS POINT, THEY'RE PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH POSSIBLE INFECTION AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASE, ANYTHING THAT WOULD POSE A ***DANGER*** TO OTHERS.

"THAT SAID, THEY'RE ALSO EXAMINING FOR ANY PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENTS THAT COULD ***BIAS*** TEST RESULTS.

"THE FAMILY WANTS THE ***BEST*** IN THEIR SERVICE, AND WHILE THEY ARE VERY, VERY PICKY, THEY ARE ALSO, AS YOU KNOW, ***GREEDY.***

"THEY WOULDN'T WANT TO ***LOSE*** A POTENTIAL RESOURCE OVER AN EASILY CORRECTED ***DEFECT,*** AFTER ALL.

"FROM THE MEDICAL SCREEN YOU'LL PROCEED TO INITIAL SELECTION. IT'S LIKELY YOU'LL BE SEPARATED AT THIS POINT FOR SECURITY REASONS.

"YOU'LL EACH BE EVALUATED ON COGNITIVE FUNCTION, LOGIC, MEMORY, PATTERN RECOGNITION.

"THESE ARE INTELLIGENCE TESTS, OBVIOUSLY. THEY'RE ADMINISTERED VIA POST, BOTH TO ACCOUNT FOR ANY ILLITERACY IN THE TESTING GROUP...

"...BUT ALSO TO ADAPT TO YOUR PERFORMANCE. THE BETTER YOU DO, THE HARDER IT WILL GET.

"UNLESS YOU'RE TOLD OTHERWISE BY A PROCTOR, ASSUME EVERY TEST IS ***TIMED***, AND THAT YOU HAVE ***LESS*** OF IT THAN YOU'D LIKE.

"A PHYSICAL EVALUATION WILL FOLLOW. YOU'LL BE TESTED FOR STRENGTH, STAMINA, PHYSICAL DEXTERITY, EYE-HAND COORDINATION...

"...BUT YOU ARE ALSO BEING ***WATCHED*** FOR YOUR ABILITY TO COMPREHEND AND FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS QUICKLY AND PROPERLY.

"THAT WILL COMPLETE THE INITIAL ROUND OF SELECTION. YOU'LL LIKELY START SEEING A LARGE NUMBER OF DISMISSALS AT THAT POINT.

"PROVIDED YOU ARE NOT DISMISSED, YOU WILL THEN BE ADVANCED TO ***SPECIALIZED*** TESTING, TAILORED TO YOUR SCORES THUS FAR.

"DO NOT SPEAK TO THE OTHER APPLICANTS UNDER ***ANY*** CIRCUMSTANCES.

"ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS FROM THE PROCTORS HONESTLY. DO NOT SPEAK TO THEM UNLESS SPOKEN TO.

"REMEMBER, THE PROCTORS CAN DISMISS AT ***ANY*** TIME...

"...AND WITHOUT **CAUSE.**"

MOTHER**FUCKERS.**

--GODDAMN **SMUG** STUCK-**UP** ARROGANT--

--JUMPED-UP **ASSHOLES** YOU--

--YEAH, **YOU,** THIS WHOLE **LIFT** IS **BULLSHIT!** TOTAL FUCKING **BULLSHIT!**

I'M SORRY?

I PASS **ALL** YOUR FUCKING TESTS AND THEY KICK ME, YOU KNOW **WHY?** YOU WANT TO GUESS **WHY?**

MISS, I'M VERY--

BECAUSE I **MIGHT** MAYBE ONE DAY GET **BREAST CANCER,** THAT'S FUCKING **WHY!**

BECAUSE I'VE GOT "GENETIC MARKERS" THAT "INDICATE A PREDISPOSITION" THAT'S FUCKING **WHY!**

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHO I AM, DO YOU?

ANOTHER CARLYLE BOOTLICKER FOR ALL I--

COMMANDER? BLUE WOLF. WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM.

GO.

SOME IDIOT SET OFFICIAL RECEPTION **OUTSIDE** THE HALL, AT THE BIG **TENT** IN QUAD ONE.

YOUR BROTHER **REFUSES** TO LET US MOVE HIM TO SOMEWHERE MORE SECURE AND--

SECURE THE **PERIMETER.** I'M ON MY WAY.

HEY?

ANGEL?

LOWER LEVEL

ANGEL, THAT YOU?

CASEY.

WHAT'RE YOU **DOING** BACK HERE?

DID YOU GET **TESTED?**

THE MOTHERFUCKERS **BOUNCED** ME...

...ARE YOU WEARING **MAKEUP,** HOLY SHIT--

I'M SORRY.

HUH?

WH...

...Y...

I REALLY *AM* SORRY.

I CAN'T RISK YOU RAISING AN *ALARM.*

THERE CAN BE NO COLLABORATION, CASEY.

NO CAPITULATION.

WE WILL MAKE THE FAMILIES *PAY* WITH THEIR OWN *BLOOD...*

...WE WILL BE *FREE.*

THIS IS LIKE...THE *THIRD* TIME I'VE BEEN SEARCHED.

SECURITY NOTICE
NO ADMITTANCE WITHOUT SECURITY PASS

MAYBE, BUT IT'S THE *FIRST* TIME BY US.

CLEAN.

YOU CAN GO INSIDE.

HELLO, COME ON IN, DON'T BE *NERVOUS*...

...YOU MUST BE MICHAEL BARRET, IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.

CARLYLE

I'M STEPHEN CARLYLE. CONGRATULATIONS...

...AND WELCOME TO MY FAMILY'S *SERVICE.*

OVERWATCH.

COMMANDER?

MAKE ME **HAPPY.**

WISH I COULD, MA'AM. WE'RE GETTING **NOTHING** ON BIOMETRICS...

"...NOTHING ON **GAIT RECOGNITION...**"

"...NOTHING ON FACIAL ANALYSIS."

UNDERSTOOD. STAND-BY.

...GIVEN THAT ANY THOUGHT? BASED ON YOUR RESULTS, YOU'D CLEARLY EXCEL IN THE **SCIENCES.**

I THINK THAT'S AN **EXCELLENT** IDEA.

I WAS... I WAS HOPING FOR SOMETHING IN **MEDICINE,** MISTER CARLYLE.

I'M SORRY, I DON'T WANT TO BE RUDE, I'M JUST... I SHOULD FIND MY MOM AND DAD.

DO WE HAVE AN ETA FOR MICHAEL'S FAMILY YET?

I BELIEVE THEY'RE BEING ESCORTED OVER RIGHT **NOW--**

SERGEANT PARK, WE ARE ***MOVING*** MISTER CARLYLE.

FOREVER--

NO ***ARGUMENTS*** STEPHEN--

"--THIS LOCATION ISN'T ***SECURE!***"

"YOU CAN CONTINUE THE ***MEET AND GREET*** ONCE YOU'RE LOCKED ***DOWN.***"

STOP
WAIT UNTIL CALLED FORWARD

SECURITY NOTICE
NO ADMITTANCE WITHOUT SECURITY PASS

SECURITY NOTICE
ALL BAGS, PACKAGES AND PERSONAL ITEMS WILL BE INSPECTED HERE

REYES, AGUDO, ***KEEP*** THESE PEOPLE ***BACK.***

DAMMIT, NOW LISTEN--

--LET ***GO*** OF ME!

STEPHEN, YOU'RE MY ***BROTHER*** AND I LOVE YOU BUT

POWER IS NOT A MEANS, IT IS AN ***END.*** THE OBJECT OF PERSECUTION ***IS*** PERSECUTION--

--THE OBJECT OF TORTURE--

--IS TORTURE--

DEADMAN'S SWITCH!

--THE OBJECT OF POWER--

DAGGERS, CLEAR THE **AREA!** CLEAR THE AREA **NOW!**

--NU-NO C-COLLABORATION...

ALL UNITS, **HOLD** FIRE!

...NUH-NO CA-CAPITULATION...

NHNN

...WILL MAKE THE F-FAMILIES **PAY** IN THEIR OWN--

--OWN BUH...

...BLU...

...BLUH...

...BLOOD....

PAY WITH YOUR OWN...

...MOTHERFUCKER....

...BOOTLICKER...

Carlyle Health Systems

...BITCH SON OF A **BITCH** THAT **HURTS--**

EASY! TAKE IT EASY, YOU'LL TEAR YOURSELF **OPEN** AGAIN.

MICHAEL?

RIGHT HERE. NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

YOU GOT **IN,** DIDN'T YOU? THEY **LIFTED** YOU.

16:03 – 25 MARCH 64 – C

MMA
COMPROMISES"
om the album "LIFTED UP"

YEAH.

THEY DIDN'T TAKE ME, MICHAEL.

THEY DIDN'T WANT ME.

YES, THEY DID.

SELECTED ON **MERIT,** THEY SAID.

THEY TOOK US **BOTH,** CASEY...

CARLYLE

ODERINT DUM METUANT

METABOLIC LEVELS

EEG

EKG

PULMINARY FUNCTION

...WE WORK FOR THE FAMILY, NOW....


CARLYLE
ODERINT DUM METUANT



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

Wealth is power,
and that power rests with only a handful of **FAMILIES**.
Those few who provide a service for their ruling Family are cared for,
LIFTED to the status of Serf, guaranteed a level of comfort and care for
themselves and their loved ones.

All others are **Waste**.



JOE and BOBBIE BARRET are Waste,
who have struggled for years to raise their children under the eyes of the Carlyle Family.
When their home is destroyed, their only hope of survival lies with **LIFT SELECTION**,
five hundred miles away in the city of Denver.

And in Los Angeles, **FOREVER CARLYLE**,
the genetically-engineered Lazarus of her Family.
struggles with deception, betrayal, and acts of terror
perpetrated by a group known as
THE FREE.

Prepare to be tested.



"...Forever Carlyle is poised to become one of the comic book character greats."
— Kelly Thompson, Comic Book Resources

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