A RURAL NOIR BY TIM SEELEY + MIKE NORTON

REVIVAL™

VOLUME 8: STAY JUST A LITTLE BIT LONGER

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CH.42

We stood up on two legs

And raised our heads above golden grass

He was there.

We sharpened stone and steel

Used tools to harvest grass, beast and brother

He was there.

We clustered together

In brick and mud, swarming with rats and plague

He was there.

We built nations and mistrust

Our fingers hovered over the red button

He smiled.

TATTOOS

NO GUNS HERE

Central Wisconsin Firearms

Still we build, to rise above the golden grass

Away from the reach of his scythe

For a day when he will harvest no more.

by Martha Cypress.
Creative Writing 201 class.
MWF. Professor Weimar.

6:02 P.M.

TWO DAYS AFTER THE EVENTS AT RIVERSIDE CARE FACILITY.

C'MON, BETTY. IT'S GONNA BE DARK SOON.

WHY CAN'T WE WALK ON THE ROAD?

THE ROAD'S GOT TROOPS... OR WORSE.

LET'S JUST LET THE ARMY TAKE US OUT OF HERE, DOUG.

MY BROTHER'S IN THE NAVY. I'LL TELL THEM. THEY'LL TREAT US RIGHT.

YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO TELL 'EM NOTHIN' IF THEY SHOOT US ON SIGHT LIKE THEY DID ALL THOSE PEOPLE AT THE BORDER.

WHAUP!

BETTY!

YOU DROPPED ME! I HATE YOU! I WANT GO BACK TO MY MOM AND DAD'S!

YOUR MA AND PA KICKED YOU OUT, REMEMBER?

AND I DIDN'T DROP YOU. I TRIPPED.

ON A DREAM CATCHER?

ALL THE BLACK FLAGS UNFURLED, MANKIND IS JUST A BLOODY STAIN...

DOUG.

OH.

YOU'RE ***LESTER MAJAK***, RIGHT? I'VE SEEN YOU ON T.V.

MY GIRLFRIEND AND I...

LOOK, EVERYTHING WENT TO SHIT IN THE LAST TWO DAYS. I'M TRYING, BUT--IT'S GONNA BE DARK SOON AND I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO GO.

IF THERE'S ANY WAY YOU COULD OFFER US A PLACE FOR THE NIGHT, WE'D BE REALLY GRATEFUL.

WE'D TAKE A GARAGE OR A SHED EVEN.

PLEASE. IT'S SO COLD FOR JUNE.

I'M NOT A RELIGIOUS MAN, BUT I KNOW WELL ENOUGH TO NEVER TURN AWAY A PREGNANT WOMAN IN NEED OF A SHELTER.

I'VE GOT ROOM, AND IT'LL BE NICE TO HAVE SOME YOUNG PEOPLE AROUND THE HOUSE.

YOU WERE OUT JOGGING? AFTER EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED?

THERE'S NEVER AN EXCUSE NOT TO EXERCISE, MY DEAR.

THE HOME OF THE BORCHARDTS.

KRONENWETTER.

6:23 P.M.

NO ONE'S COMING.

FFSSSSSHT

YOU'VE BEEN FUCKING WITH THAT RADIO FOR TWO DAYS AND THERE HASN'T BEEN A PEEP. THE WORLD ENDED.

STOP. MAYBE IF I GO UPSTAIRS, I CAN GET A BETTER SIGNAL.

NO. THIS IS PUNISHMENT.

THIS WHOLE TOWN HAS BEEN CAST INTO HELL FOR SENDING THE REVIVED TO A PRISON CAMP.

WE'VE BEEN ABANDONED BY GOD FOR ABANDONING OUR DAUGHTER, CAROL.

I DID WHAT I HAD TO FOR THIS FAMILY, LUKE.

I DID WHAT WAS NECESSARY FOR JORDAN.

THAT'S NOT HOW I SEE IT, MOMMY.

FFSSSSSHT

JORDAN?!

MY EYES FINALLY CLOSED.

IT WAS DARK JUST FOR A SECOND. AND I HEARD THEIR WHISPERS.

BUT I ALSO HEARD SOMEONE ELSE IN THE DARKNESS.

I HEARD ME.

HNGKH!

OH GOD.

I TOLD MYSELF SO MANY THINGS. SO MANY THINGS I FORGOT. ABOUT THE NIGHT OF THE RED DRESS.

ABOUT NEW YEAR'S.

JORDAN!

OH. HI DADDY.

DID MOMMY TELL YOU?

NO NO.

DON'T LEAVE. I JUST WANT TO KNOW IF YOU SAW WHAT GOD SAW?

DID YOU SEE THE BAD THINGS MOMMY DID?

SIR! CAN YOU HELP ME?!

WITH MY DAUGHTER?

SHE'S ONE OF THE ESCAPED REVIVERS!

SHE'S JUST A LITTLE GIRL. PLEASE TAKE HER SOMEWHERE SAFE WHERE SHE CAN'T HURT HERSELF OR US.

LIIIIITTTULLLL GRRRRRRRRL...

POOR DADDY. HE WAS NICE.

BUT YOU'VE ALL MADE THEM ANGRY.

NO--!

THWOK

BAKOOOM

Y-YOU'VE MADE US ALL SO-- HNK--

SO ANGRY.

SOUTHERN BORDER WALL.

CHECKPOINT NOVEMBER.

6:48 P.M.

PERMISSION TO ENTER, SIR?

COME IN, GENERAL CALE.

THANK YOU, GENERAL HAUSER, SIR.

LET ME JUST SAY THAT IT'S AN HONOR HAVING SUCH A DECORATED OFFICER TAKING OVER THIS OPERATION.

HEH. YOUR DIPLOMATIC SKILLS ARE WHY THEY SENT YOU TO HANDLE THIS OPERATION. INITIALLY.

MY LACK OF CONCERN FOR NICETIES IS WHY THEY SENT ME TO HANDLE IT NOW.

NOW, WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

I'VE LOOKED AT YOUR ORDERS, SIR, AND WELL...

WHILE I AGREE THAT CONTAINMENT REMAINS NECESSARY GIVEN THE ATTACKS BY THE :AHEM: "GHOSTS"--

YOU DON'T AGREE WITH MY TERMINOLOGY... OR MY ***SCORCHED EARTH POLICY.***

SIR, MY TESTS ON THE ***ENTITIES*** SHOWED A WEAKNESS TO SIMPLE SALT.

WITH MODIFIED EQUIPMENT I COULD LEAD A GROUP INTO THE ZONE AND MOUNT A RESCUE MISSION.

AND RISK FURTHER CONTAMINATION?

WE RISKED ENOUGH BY ALLOWING ***YOU*** OUTSIDE OF THE ZONE, GENERAL.

THESE ENTITIES ARE ABLE TO JUMP FROM ONE BODY TO THE NEXT, TURNING ***GOOD PEOPLE*** INTO ***MURDERERS.***

I AM AWARE THAT YOU HAVE A SON AND A... ***WIFE*** WITHIN THE QUARANTINE ZONE.

I DO NOT. IT SEEMS TO ME MY OWN LACK OF BIAS MAY BE ANOTHER REASON I WAS ASSIGNED THIS OPERATION.

UNLESS WE CAN TURN THIS WHOLE THING INTO A ***STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE***, WE NEED TO STOP THE SPREAD OF THESE "PASSENGERS" OUTSIDE THE QUARANTINE ZONE, AND GUARANTEE THEIR DESTRUCTION BY ROBBING THEM OF BODIES.

ALL BODIES.

EVEN GOOD PEOPLE.

EVEN SONS AND WIVES.

WHEN I WAS A KID, I'D ALWAYS SEE THESE T.V. COMMERCIALS ABOUT HOW YOU COULD WIN A ***TOYS 'R' US SHOPPING SPREE.***

THEY'D SHOW THESE KIDS JUST GOING HOG WILD IN THE AISLES, JUST THROWING EVERYTHING THEY COULD INTO A CART, HUGE FUCKING SMILES ON THEIR FACES.

THE THING IS, WE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A TOYS 'R' US IN WAUSAU. YOU HAD TO GO TO GREEN BAY FOR ONE. BUT IT DIDN'T MATTER. ALL I EVER WANTED WAS A SHOPPING SPREE.

ONCE WE GET IN THERE? THAT'S WHAT I'M GOING TO DO. I'M GOING TO FILL A CART AND SMILE MANIACALLY LIKE A KID IN A TOYS 'R' US.

ROTHSCHILD POLICE DEPARTMENT.

7:13 P.M.

I'M GOING TO FILL A FUCKING CART FULL OF GUNS AND BULLETS.

DO YOU HEAR THAT, ***SHERIFF CYPRESS?!***

I'M COMING IN!

THIS FACILITY AND ITS CONTENTS ARE THE PROPERTY OF THE VILLAGE OF ROTHSCHILD, INTENDED FOR PROTECTION AND THE ENFORCEMENT OF LAW.

POLICE

DON'T MAKE ME SHOW YOU WHAT I'LL DO TO PROTECT THAT PROPERTY.

SPOKEN JUST LIKE A ***FED***.

YOU TELL US YOU'RE PROTECTING US. YOU TELL US TO SURRENDER OUR ARMS.

AND THEN YOU SHOOT US DOWN.

DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE WERE GUNNED DOWN AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER?

BEFORE THE MILITARY TOOK AWAY OUR ELECTRICITY AND SHUT US OFF FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD, ***CLYDE BIRCH*** WAS SAYING ON THE NEWS THAT IT WAS AT LEAST THIRTY-FIVE.

THIRTY-FIVE MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN, SHERIFF.

AND NOW SOLDIERS KILL US ON SIGHT, INDISCRIMINATELY, JUST LIKE THEY DID TO THE PROTESTORS AT THE BORDER.

THIS IS ***WAR***. SO YOU CAN GIVE US THE GUNS AND AMMO PEACEFULLY...

...OR I PROMISE, WHEN I FINALLY GET IN THERE, MY PEOPLE AND I WILL BE FORCED TO BE JUST AS *INDISCRIMINATE* AS THOSE SOLDIERS.

OFFICER BRENT GUNDERSON

NIKKI SINGSTOCK

DR. IBRAHIM RAMIN

COOPER CYPRESS

BONNIE DROST

I HATE TO SAY THAT. I REALLY DO.

BUT CONVENTIONAL RULES HAVE COMPLETELY GONE OUT THE WINDOW.

IN A WORLD OF ZOMBIES, GHOSTS, AND A CIVIL WAR IN THE AMERICAN HEARTLAND...

...THERE JUST ISN'T A LOT OF ROOM FOR HEROES.

KRNCH

GET OUT! THIS ISN'T YOUR HOME ANYMORE!

I SAW WHAT *YOU PEOPLE* DID ON THE NEWS, *ROSS!*

PEOPLE DIED BECAUSE OF YOU! PEOPLE WHO AREN'T GOING TO COME BACK!

THE HOME OF EVELYN PATRICK.

7:18 P.M.

BUT MOM--

STOP CALLING ME MOM!

PLEASE JUST STOP.

I'M NOT YOUR MOTHER. MY SON DIED. I MOURNED HIM.

IT WAS HARD ENOUGH, I HAD TO MOURN MY SON ONCE.

NO ONE SHOULD HAVE TO MOURN THEIR SON *TWICE.*

WE'RE ALONE NOW. IT'S JUST US. I SUGGEST WE STICK TOGETHER.

WE CAN STAY AT MY CAR LOT.

WE'RE THE *REVIVED*.

WE DIED AND WE CAME BACK, AND NO ONE WANTS US.

NOT EVEN HEAVEN.

ESPECIALLY NOT HEAVEN.

OH GOD.

FREEEEEE...

NEAR COUNTY ROAD X.

MOSINEE.

7:21 P.M.

AHHHH!

WOOOOON'T STAAAYYYY BURRRRIEEED.

PREMIUM ROCK SALT

RASCH.

INNNN A HOOOOLE.

NUH--

HEY, ROAD RASH.

BA-KOOOM

EEEEEEE!

ROCK SALT LOADS.

YOU BEST GET YOUR ASS OUTTA HERE, HONEY.

THIS'LL ONLY KEEP HIM BUSY LONG ENOUGH FOR A RELOAD.

I--I KNOW WHO YOU ARE. CALE. GENERAL CALE.

HCCCH!

DON'T LIKE THE SALT, DO YOU, RASCH?

TAKE ME WITH YOU. OUT OF THE ZONE. PLEASE.

THERE ISN'T GOING TO BE A ZONE FOR MUCH LONGER.

I'M ONLY HERE TO TRY AND GET MY FAMILY BEFORE THIS WHOLE PLACE IS NOTHING BUT A SMOKING HOLE.

YESSS. HURRRRT MEEEEEE.

BLAM

SORRY, HONEY.

NO! PLEASE. MY NAME IS **DR. CAROL BORCHARDT**.

I KNOW WHAT DID THIS. I KNOW WHAT SEPARATED THE SOULS FROM THE **BODIES**.

I KNOW HOW TO DO IT AGAIN.

ASSUMING I EVEN BELIEVE YOU, I'M GOING TO NEED YOU TO DO SOMETHING THAT YOU AREN'T GOING TO LIKE.

I'M GOING TO NEED A **STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE**.

DR. CAROL BORCHARDT? PLEASE, OPEN YOUR MOUTH.

I NEED YOU TO TAKE ON **A PASSENGER**.

WOW. YOU'VE SURE GOT A LOT OF NICE THINGS, MR. MAJAK.

LESTER MAJAK STRONG & WEALTHY

FIT CUT YOUR BODY FAT! STRONG CENTURY

YES, WELL, AT MY AGE, OF ALL THE THINGS I HAVE, I'M MOST THANKFUL FOR MY HEALTH.

CHERISH YOUR YOUTH. OF ALL OF THE THINGS I'VE LOST, IT'S THE ONE I MISS THE MOST.

IT BURNS HOT AND FAST.

LIKE THIS FIRE. I'M GOING TO GET SOME MORE WOOD FROM THE GARAGE.

SIT TIGHT, AND WARM YOURSELVES.

ROTHSCHILD POLICE DEPARTMENT.

7:24 P.M.

ALL RIGHT, SHERIFF. I'VE BEEN NICE, BUT IT'S GETTING DARK, AND COLD.

I'D RATHER SPEND MY NIGHT IN A JAIL CELL THEN OUT HERE WITH THE ARMY AND THE GHOSTS.

ON THE COUNT OF--

JACKSON! WAIT!

LOOK WHAT I FOUND IN A WOODPILE. HE HAD HIS PEASHOOTER TRAINED RIGHT ON YOUR HEAD.

COULDN'T GET HIMSELF TO PULL THE TRIGGER.

HEY. I KNOW YOU. WE WENT TO HIGH SCHOOL TOGETHER, RIGHT?

YEAH, *DERRICK HINCH!* YOU WERE IN MY ART CLASS JUNIOR YEAR. YOU USED TO DATE DANA.

DANA CYPRESS.

HEY, SHERIFF! I'VE GOT A NEW DEAL FOR YOU!

YOU LET ME COME IN THERE AND TAKE WHATEVER I WANT...

...AND MAYBE I WON'T SHOOT THE *FATHER* OF YOUR *GRANDSON* IN THE HEAD!

NO NEED TO HELP.

I CAN STILL PRESS MY BODY WEIGHT AFTER ALL--

KRAK

I'M SORRY, MR. MAJAK. YOU WERE REAL NICE AND SUCH, BUT YOU'VE LIVED SO LONG ALREADY AND WE'RE SO YOUNG IN THIS FUCKED-UP WORLD--

NNF!

DON'T TALK TO HIM. IT'LL JUST MAKE IT HARDER.

YOU JUST GOTTA SHUT YOUR EYES AND THINK OF THE BABY.

AND THEN YOU HIT AND HIT UNTIL HE STOPS MOVING.

DON'T.

YOU'RE GOING TO DROP THOSE LOGS.

THEN YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE THAT CAR, AND YOU'RE GOING TO DRIVE SOMEWHERE WARM AND SAFE AND FAR FROM HERE.

MOVE, GODDAMN IT!

WE'RE GOING!

OFFICER CYPRESS... DANA. THANK GOD YOU WERE HERE--

GIVE ME THE TIRE IRON, LESTER.

YES, OF COURSE, I--

FUCKING GIVE IT TO ME!

THIS IS THE MURDER WEAPON.

AND YOU, LESTER...

...YOU'RE THE MAN WHO MURDERED MY SISTER.

CH. 43

HNNGH...

T-THAT WAS SOME GOOOOD SHIT, YOU HAD ME ON.

I DREAMT I WAS STUCK IN A ***PEPPERONI HOT POCKET***. HAD TO EAT MY WAY OUT.

YOU HEAR THAT, ***CALE?***

ALL YOU DID WAS GET ME HIIIIIGH AND GIVE ME THE MUNCHIES.

I KNOW YOU'RE WATCHING ME, YOU DIRTY GIRL.

YOU LIKE TO WATCH, ***DON'T YOU?!***

DON'T YOU?!

C'MON, BABY. WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO FOR YOU?! YOU WANNA PUT SOME MORE BULLETS IN ME?!

THIS IS SUBJECT: ***RASCH, RHODEY.***

HE'S A ***REVIVER***, A MAN WHO SOMEHOW DENIED DEATH, AND CONTINUES TO RESIST IT.

WE HAD HIM DETAINED ALONG WITH THE OTHERS AT THE ***RIVERSIDE CARE FACILITY*** UNTIL THE BREAKOUT.

HE'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF AT LEAST EIGHT PEOPLE.

FORTUNATELY WE WERE ABLE TO ***REACQUIRE*** THIS PARTICULAR ASSET.

SOUTHERN BORDER WALL. CHECKPOINT NOVEMBER.

11:48 P.M.

SO, WHAT NOW, *GENERAL CALE?* WE STAND HERE AND WATCH HIM ATTEMPT TO PLEASURE HIMSELF.

IT'S A LITTLE EARLY IN THE MORNING FOR THAT, THANK YOU.

WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE REVIVERS TO CENTRAL WISCONSIN WE WERE FORCED TO CONFRONT SOME WIDELY HELD ASSUMPTIONS.

WE HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT WE HAD NO POWER OVER DEATH.

MY JOB AT RIVERSIDE WAS TO MONITOR AND PROVIDE AN ATMOSPHERE OF STUDY ON THE REVIVERS.

TO DETERMINE HOW IT WAS THAT THEY WERE ABLE TO COME BACK TO LIFE. TO HEAL FROM ANY WOUND.

TO ESTABLISH THEIR CONNECTION TO THE SO-CALLED "GLOWING MEN."

AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO MAKE THEIR DEATHS MORE ***PERMANENT*** SHOULD THE NEED ARISE.

WHAT WE DISCOVERED WAS THAT THESE "GLOWING MEN" WERE BINARY COMPONENTS TO THE REVIVERS... PARTS OF THEM THAT HAD BEEN SHED.

FOR THE RELIGIOUS, PERHAPS THE BEST EXPLANATION IS THAT THE REVIVERS ARE SOULLESS BODIES, THESE "PASSENGERS"... BODILESS SOULS.

RHODEY? THIS IS LOUISE.

I'M GLAD YOU HAD A GOOD TRIP.

YOU DESERVE IT.

I KNOW YOU AND I HAVE HAD OUR DIFFERENCES, BUT... WELL, I REALLY WANTED TO MAKE IT UP TO YOU.

I INVITED A FRIEND OF YOURS.

A CLOSE FRIEND.

YOU... YOU BITCH.

I'LL KILL YOU. I'LL VIOLATE YOU IN WAYS NO LIVING MIND HAS EVER FUCKING DREAMED OF--!

I'LL--

BRAAADP

HNNGH.

NO. PLEASE. THERE'S SO MUCH LEFT TO SEE.

SO MUCH LEFT TO FEEL.

SSOOO MUUUCH TO FEEEEEL.

AIIEEGH!!

AAIIGH!

OH... JESUS.

THE REVIVERS CAN BE DESTROYED. THE GLOWING MEN CAN BE DESTROYED.

NOW *WE* HAVE POWER OVER *DEATH*.

IMPRESSIVE, GENERAL CALE, BUT--

THAT'S NOT ALL, GENERAL HAUSER.

DOCTOR? COME IN.

THIS IS DR. CAROL BORCHARDT. SHE HAS INFORMATION... POWERFUL INFORMATION.

IF WE CAN UTILIZE WHAT SHE'S ABOUT TO TELL YOU, WE'LL HAVE MORE THAN POWER OVER DEATH...

...WE'LL HAVE POWER OVER *LIFE* ITSELF.

12:11 A.M.

THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING.

PEACEFUL CITIZENS GATHERING

We can end this with love and compassion!

Meet at UWMC 6/02 MIDNIGHT

MY NAME, AS I'M SURE MANY OF YOU KNOW, IS **LAURA BOGS**. I'M THE MANAGING EDITOR OF THE **WAUSAU DAILY LEDGER**.

OR AT LEAST I WAS UNTIL THE PRESSES SHUT DOWN.

FORTUNATELY, THE GENERATORS MADE THE COPY MACHINES WORK LONG ENOUGH TO GET THE MESSAGE OUT.

POWER OF THE PRESS. HEH.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING IS TO GATHER LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE, WHO WANT TO WORK TOWARDS A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO THE SITUATION WE FIND OURSELVES IN.

WE'RE THE SILENT PEOPLE CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF A WAR WE DIDN'T START.

THE LEFT BEHIND. THE INNOCENT.

WE'RE THE ONES WHO DIDN'T TAKE UP ARMS IN FEAR OF OUR NEIGHBORS.

BETTER THAN A THOUSAND HOLLOW WORDS IS ONE WORD THAT BRINGS PEACE.

UH. YAH. THANKS **MR. DECKER**.

YOU CAN CALL ME THE **ZEN BOWLER**. OR **RANDY**. WHATEVER'S COOL.

CRUMPSCH

HANDS UP, PUSSIES!

NOBODY MAKES A MOVE!

WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?! THIS IS STILL AMERICA! THE FREEDOM TO ASSEMBLE IS STILL IN EFFECT LAST TIME I CHECKED!

ALL WE SEEK IS TO OFFER AN ALTERNATIVE TO VIOLENCE AND SUFFERING.

SHUT UP.

KRAK

MY FATHER TOLD ME. EDMUND HOLT TOLD ME. AND NOW THEY'RE DEAD.

THEY WOULD HAVE KILLED ME TOO. THEY WOULD HAVE KILLED US ALL.

SO WE'RE NOT GOING TO GIVE THEM ***ANYTHING***. NOT SURRENDER. NOT PEACE.

THE ONLY THING WE'RE GOING TO OFFER...

...IS A CHANCE TO *TAKE OUR COUNTRY BACK.*

HAMMOND FISCHL
KILLED BY THE
GOVERNMENT

ROTHSCHILD POLICE DEPARTMENT.

12:43 A.M.

FUCKING DERRICK HINCH.

ARE YOU SERIOUS?

YOU'RE BEING HELD HOSTAGE, AND WHILE YOU WAIT FOR NEGOTIATIONS YOU TAKE A NAP?

HEY, IT'S REAL LATE, Y'KNOW?

YAH, AND YOU HAD TO SMOKE A WHOLE SHIT TON OF **POT** TO GET THE BALLS TO COME AFTER ME AND MY BOYS, DIDN'T YOU?

I HAVE AN ANXIETY DISORDER.

WELL, I HAVE AN ANXIETY **MAKER** AIMED AT YOUR SKULL, SO GET MOVING. I'M GIVING YOU TO THE SHERIFF...

...AND SHERIFF CYPRESS IS GOING TO GIVE ME A **WHOLE LOT MORE** ANXIETY MAKERS.

I'M SO WORRIED, WAYNE.

DERRICK, HE'S--

AN IDIOT. I KNOW.

I'VE KNOWN SINCE THE FIRST DAY *DANA* BROUGHT HIM INTO MY HOUSE.

FIRST THING HE SAID WAS, "I'M NOT JUST HER BOYFRIEND. I'M ALSO HER TATTOO ARTIST."

SHE WAS FOURTEEN.

HERE. IN CASE THINGS GO BAD.

BONNIE, YOU KNOW HOW TO USE IT?

YES, SIR.

READY, RAMIN?

FULL DISCLOSURE, SHERIFF. I'M NOT WHO YOU THINK I AM. I WASN'T SENT HERE JUST AS A C.D.C. DOCTOR. I--

IBRAHAIM. STOP.

POLICE

YOU'VE BEEN GOING OUT OF YOUR WAY TO PROTECT MY FAMILY SINCE YOU CAME TO THIS FUCKED-UP TOWN.

I KNOW YOU'LL KEEP DOING JUST THAT.

COOP? I'M GONNA ASK YOU TO GO WITH NIKKI, BACK TO THE CELLS, OKAY?

WE'RE GONNA GET YOUR DAD BACK.

YES, GRANDPA.

OKAY. LET'S DO THIS REAL SLOW-LIKE.

JACKSON?! WE'RE LETTING YOU IN. JUST YOU AND DERRICK. YOU DO ANYTHING FUNNY AND--

POLICE

POLICE

POK POK

AGH!

FUCK!!

SHERIFF! LET ME IN! PLEASE!

THE HELL?!

I-IT COULD BE A TRAP!

HE SOUNDS TERRIFIED.

GODDAMN IT.

AHHH! JESUS!

:KOFF:

:KOFF:

:KOFF:

C-CUT THROUGH US... LIKE WHEAT.

"LIKE A *SICKLE.*"

PLEASE--

IF WE COULD JUST TALK ABOUT THIS. WHATEVER YOU THINK I DID, I'M SURE IT'S ALL A TERRIBLE MISUNDERSTANDING. PLEASE.

I SAID...

WALK.

OFFICER CYPRESS--DANA. THIS IS CRAZY. WE'RE FRIENDS... AREN'T WE?

WE ALWAYS SEE EACH OTHER AT THE STATION. WE LAUGH BECAUSE I'M A SILLY OLD MAN WITH A LEAD FOOT.

WE--WE SANG KARAOKE! REMEMBER?

I SURPRISED YOU WITH THAT BLACK METAL NUMBER.

"GRRR! METALLLLL--"

KRAK

HNH!

WHY DO YOU THINK I BECAME A COP, LESTER?

NNH. I DON'T--

ANSWER, LESTER!

B-BECAUSE... BECAUSE OF YOUR DAD. BECAUSE OF SHERIFF CYPRESS.

EVERYONE THINKS THAT. BUT... THE TRUTH IS, I USED TO LOVE MYSTERIES. THE FICTIONAL KIND.

I STARTED OUT WITH MY MOM'S OLD **HARDY BOYS** BOOKS. **THE THREE INVESTIGATORS**.

AND THEN **SHERLOCK HOLMES**. BASIL RATHBONE IN THE MOVIES.

I USED TO PRETEND I WAS A DETECTIVE. I WAS A BORED, LONELY KID. MOM DEAD. DAD ALWAYS WORKING.

I FANTASIZED ABOUT GETTING SOME BIG CASE. SOMETHING I'D HAVE TO SOLVE. A MURDER CASE.

AND THEN I GREW UP, AND BECAME A COP. BUT THERE WERE NO MYSTERIES.

JUST SPEEDING TICKETS. PAPERWORK. RUNAWAY KIDS. HUSBANDS HITTING WIVES.

I MUDDLED THROUGH. BUT IN THE BACK OF MY HEAD, I'D ALWAYS WISH IT WAS MORE LIKE THE BOOKS.

THEN ONE DAY, I GOT THE MYSTERIOUS MURDER CASE I'D FANTASIZED ABOUT.

I GOT A BODY. A YOUNG GIRL. BEATEN TO DEATH. LEFT IN A RIVER.

A BODY BELONGING TO MY SISTER, ***MARTHA***. LITTLE, QUIET, SAD EM.

MY OWN FUCKING ***LITTLE SISTER***, LESTER!

I ASKED FOR IT. ***I*** ASKED FOR SOMEONE TO DIE, AND THE WORLD OFFERED UP MY SISTER.

SO IT WAS UP TO ***ME*** TO SOLVE IT.

I DID IT, LESTER.

WAYNE CYPRESS

I KNOW WHO KILLED HER WITH A CROWBAR THAT HAS MY DAD'S NAME ETCHED ON IT.

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW ***HOW?!***

Y-YES!

I FOLLOWED THE ***LOOSE ENDS***, LESTER.

THE LITTLE ***RED***, FRAYING ***THREADS***.

"AT FIRST, I COULDN'T SEE THE PATTERN, AS HARD AS I TRIED. A SUSPICIOUS EX-BOYFRIEND. A GRISTMILL BY THE RIVER. AN IMPOSSIBLE MIRACLE.

"EVERY TIME I GOT CLOSE TO AN ANSWER, MY SUSPECT DISAPPEARED.

"AARON WEIMAR.

"BLAINE ABEL.

"JESSE BLACKDEER.

"KYLE KRIEGER. WE WERE SO CLOSE TO GETTING AN ANSWER FROM HIM. FINDING OUT WHO WAS JUST A FEW STEPS AHEAD OF US. BUT HE DIED TOO, IN HIS HOSPITAL BED, AWAITING A TRANSFER.

"IT WASN'T UNTIL I SAW THE SIGNATURE ON THE NURSE'S REPORT THAT IT STARTED TO COME TOGETHER. DR. BORCHARDT. CAROL BORCHARDT.

"THE MOTHER OF JORDAN. ONE OF THE REVIVERS.

"YOU'VE KNOWN HER FOR A LONG TIME, LESTER. YOU THANKED HER IN THE LATEST EDITION OF YOUR BOOK. FOR 'SOUND MEDICAL ADVICE.'

"YOU GAVE ME A COPY ONCE. SIGNED. TRYING TO GET OUT OF A SPEEDING TICKET.

"WITH THE HOSPITAL EVACUATED, I HAD ENOUGH TIME TO LOOK THROUGH CAROL'S RECORDS.

"SHE'S HELPED YOU OUT WITH THINGS IN THE PAST. GOT YOU ACCESS TO MEDICAL STUDIES.

"ORDERED YOU ONE HUNDRED TEETH. TEETH THAT I FOUND IN THE GRISTMILL BY THE SILVER CREEK.

"BUT THAT WASN'T EVEN THE WEIRDEST THING I FOUND, LESTER.

"THAT WOULD BE THE HALF-FINISHED CORONER'S REPORT DR. BORCHARDT FILLED OUT DESCRIBING TWO DEAD BODIES: JESSE BLACKDEER AND MARTHA CYPRESS. ONE POISONED, ONE BLUDGEONED IN A 'MURDER-SUICIDE.'"

IT WAS FILLED OUT JANUARY FIRST. THE DAY BEFORE REVIVAL DAY.

THE DAY BEFORE YOUR TWO MURDER VICTIMS CAME BACK TO LIFE.

SOMEONE KNEW THEY WERE GOING TO DIE BECAUSE THEY KNEW TOO MUCH.

SOMEONE WHO WAS ALWAYS THERE, WATCHING, MANIPULATING EVENTS FROM THE SIDELINES.

SOMEONE WHO WAS CHARMING... SEEMINGLY TOO FRAIL AND KIND TO BASH A YOUNG GIRL'S BRAINS IN WITH A CROWBAR, THEN KEEP IT AS A TROPHY, LIKE ONE MORE FITNESS MEDAL.

DANA. I--

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME? THE POLICE STATION?

NO, LESTER. I'M GOING TO TAKE YOU TO THE BRIDGE.

WHERE YOU KILLED MY SISTER.

AND THEN I'M GOING TO KILL YOU.

ROTHSCHILD POLICE DEPARTMENT.

9:12 A.M.

YOU STUPID, DUMB, MORONIC, DUMB ASSHOLE.

I KNOW. BUT... I HAD TO... WHAT YOU DID FOR ME AND COOPER.

I OWED YOU. I OWED YOU EVERYTHING, NIKKI.

I DON'T THINK YOU'RE A DUMB, STUPID ASSHOLE, DAD.

I THINK YOU'RE A SUPERHERO.

POLICE

UM. HI. I'M **COOPER CYPRESS.**

I'M **ATLEE.**

COOL SWORD. I HAVE A **JAGUAR GUN** AT HOME, BUT I DIDN'T BRING IT WITH ME.

IT FIRES **ANGRY JAGUARS.**

OH...

KEEP IT QUIET IN HERE AND I'LL GET YA SOME BLANKETS.

POLICE

HELL, IF YOU'RE LUCKY, I MIGHT LET YOU DO A ***SHOPPING SPREE*** AT THE VENDING MACHINE.

WHATEVER. JUST KEEP ME THE FUCK AWAY FROM ***HER***.

SHE'S A FUCKING MONSTER. SHE'S ONE OF ***THEM***.

I--I NEED TO LIE DOWN.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, ***MARTHA?***

YEAH. YEAH, I'M FINE, ***FANNIE***. JUST THE BABY. IT'S KICKING.

SHE. IT'S A "SHE."

HOW CAN YOU TELL?

I'VE SOME EXPERIENCE WITH ***MIRACULOUS DAUGHTERS***.

HNUGH...

HNUGH...

THERE'S NOWHERE TO GO, LESTER!

YOU CAN'T RUN FOREVER, OLD MAN!

HNG!

I DID IT, DANA. I MURDERED THOSE PEOPLE. YOUR SISTER.

I DID IT BECAUSE I WAS AFRAID TO DIE.

ALL MY LIFE, I'VE BEEN SO AFRAID OF DEATH.

I FOUGHT IT EVERY WAY I COULD.

I THOUGHT I DEFEATED IT, DANA. I THOUGHT ALL THE SACRIFICES I'D MADE DESTROYED DEATH.

BUT NOW I SEE I ONLY DAMMED THE RIVER.

AND NOW THE FLOOD GATES ARE OPEN.

THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON WHO CAN STOP THIS, DANA.

BEFORE IT EATS THIS TOWN. ITS PEOPLE.

THE *WHOLE* WORLD.

YOUR SISTER.

CH.44

WAUSAU, WISCONSIN.

INSIDE THE QUARANTINE ZONE.

2:12 A.M.

THIS IS HAYES TO CHECKPOINT NOVEMBER.

I AM ATTEMPTING TO LAND NEAR THE TARGET AND SECURE THE AREA NOW.

VISIBILITY IS FUBAR. ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS AND GROUND TEMPERATURE ARE MIXING FOR A HOAR FROST AND A BITCH OF AN ATMOSPHERIC WIND.

THIS AREA IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT ASSET, LIEUTENANT.

PASSAL

I UNDERSTAND THAT, GENERAL, MA'AM. I'M JUST--

SHRNCH

MAYDAY! MAYDAY! TAIL ROTOR IS--GODDAMN IT--I CAN'T SEE IN THIS SOUPY SHIT.

OH. GOD.

2:24 A.M.

JESUS. HE'S JUST A KID.

OUTSIDE OF THE ***QUARANTINE ZONE*** AND A FEW HUNDRED FEET UP, IT'S A WARM JUNE NIGHT.

BUT HERE ON THE GROUND WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A LONG WISCONSIN WINTER.

CLEARLY SUCH WEATHER MAKES FOR TREACHEROUS FLYING CONDITIONS.

WHAT WERE THEY TRYING TO DO?

YOU SAW IT FOR YOURSELF, ***OFFICER CYPRESS.***

THIS CREEK BRIDGES THE WORLDS OF LIFE AND DEATH--

THE U.S. MILITARY WANTS IT FOR THEMSELVES.

IT HAS TO BE ***GENERAL CALE.***

SHE'S BEEN ONE STEP AHEAD OF THIS SINCE RIVERSIDE, AND SHE DOESN'T GIVE A SHIT ABOUT WHO GETS IN HER WAY.

WE'RE ALL EXPENDABLE TO HER.

YOU TWO WOULD GET ALONG.

I UNDERSTAND YOUR ANGER AT ME. I TOOK THE LIFE OF SOMEONE YOU LOVE TO SAVE MYSELF.

I AM A MURDERER. A MONSTER AMONG MEN.

TELL ME AGAIN. WHY SHOULDN'T I JUST KILL YOU?!

I JUST ASKED MYSELF THE SAME THING OF YOU.

THERE WAS A GUN YOU DIDN'T SEE. I COULD HAVE GRABBED IT. I COULD HAVE SHOT YOU.

BUT YOU SAW WHAT I SAW. PUTRESCENCE POURING OUT OF THE GROUND.

WATER TURNED TO BLOOD.

BODIES FALLING AND ASSEMBLING INTO CAIRNS OF FLESH.

WHEN I SACRIFICED YOUR SISTER TO THE INVOCATION, I DID SO NOT KNOWING SHE WAS PREGNANT.

I GAVE TOO MUCH ***LIFE*** AND WAS REWARDED WITH...

...TOO MUCH ***IMMORTALITY***.

I WANTED TO LIVE FOREVER, DANA. BUT NOT IN HELL ON EARTH.

MARTHA IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DAM THE DEATH THAT FLOWS FROM THE ***SILVER CREEK***.

WE MUST RETRIEVE HER, AND BRING HER HERE.

YOU HAVE TO TRUST ME NOW.

OR CALE WILL TAKE CONTROL OF THIS.

SHE'LL GO TO WAR TO OWN THIS POWER.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

AND THAT'LL BE MORE BODIES YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR.

NOW MOVE, BEFORE I DECIDE I LIKE JUSTICE MORE THAN I LIKE STOPPING THE SPREAD OF YOUR GODDAMN CANCER.

"WE HAVE A LOT OF MILES BEFORE WE GET TO THE POLICE STATION."

DON'T WORRY. SHE'LL BE HERE SOON.

YAH? WELL, YOU'LL NOTICE I DIDN'T ASK WHY YOUR SISTER WASN'T WITH YOU AND YOUR NEW FRIENDS.

I KNOW MY DANA, MARTHA.

SHE'S A PROTECTIVE MOMMA-BEAR LIKE HER MOTHER WAS.

THE ONLY THING THAT WOULD BE MORE IMPORTANT TO HER THAN YOU GETTING HERE SAFELY...

...IS FINDING THE PERSON WHO KILLED YOU.

MARTHA...

WHEN IT HAPPENED. WHEN YOU... DIED... DID YOU SEE A LIGHT? DID YOU SEE YOUR MOM?

DAD, I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING FROM THAT NIGHT...

I REMEMBER LIGHT.

I REMEMBER FEELING LOVED.

"I REMEMBER FEELING PULLED BACK BY SOME FORCE. SOMETHING OUTSIDE OF MYSELF."

MY TURN ON SENTINEL DUTY, SHERIFF.

GET SOME SLEEP, DAD.

LET SOMEONE ELSE WATCH OVER US FOR A LITTLE BIT.

...PLEASE WATCH OVER US ALL, DEAR LORD, ESPECIALLY THESE PEOPLE WHO HAVE GIVEN US SHELTER FOR THE NIGHT.

"SHOULD EVIL COME UPON US, THE SWORD, OR JUDGMENT, OR PESTILENCE, OR FAMINE...

"...WE WILL STAND BEFORE THIS HOUSE AND BEFORE YOU AND CRY TO YOU IN OUR DISTRESS, AND YOU WILL HEAR AND DELIVER US."

GOOD GIRL, ATLEE.

MAY I ASK THIS BOY ABOUT *THE CARTOONS* BEFORE I SLEEP?

I--IF HE'S OKAY WITH IT... I'LL ALLOW IT.

I'LL TELL YOU WHATEVER YOU NEED TO KNOW. I'M AN EXPERT.

UM... MA'AM?

ARE YOU GUYS *NINJAS?*

NO, HONEY.

WE'RE *AMISH.*

DOWNTOWN WASAU.

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING US?

YOU AND ALL THE OTHER PACIFIST PUSSIES ARE GONNA COME WITH US TO BASE CAMP, WHERE YOU'LL BE OFFERED THE OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN US.

YOU'LL BE OFFERED THE CHANCE TO TAKE UP ARMS TO OVERTHROW TYRANNY.

YOU'RE SCARIN' 'EM, ROGER.

IT'S OKAY HONEY...

"...WE'RE JUST GOING TO THE MALL."

GOT A BUNCH OF NEW RECRUITS.

EVERYBODY BEEN CHECKED FOR THE GLOW?

YAH. NO GLOW.

REAL GOOD THEN.

NEW CITIZENS COMING!

NEW CITIZENS!

NEW CITIZENS!

NEW CITIZENS!

SEE ANYTHING YA LIKE, DES?

THEY'RE ALL KINDA BOOKISH. BUT A FEW OF 'EM KNOW HOW TO HANDLE A RIFLE.

I DON'T THINK WE'LL NEED TO LOCK ANYBODY UP IN THE **HOT TOPIC DUNGEON** IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE ASKING, **DUCKY**.

EXCUSE ME...

MOM!

I'VE JUST GOTTA TALK TO YOUR MOM, KID.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

JANAE.

THAT'S A COOL NAME, JANAE.

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE, JANAE. YOU'RE THE WIFE OF **GENERAL CALE**. AND THAT KID OVER THERE IS YOUR SON WITH SAID GENERAL.

YOU'RE HER FAMILY.

WELCOME. IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU.

YOU'LL FIND THAT WE **VALUE FAMILY** AROUND HERE.

COOPER SEEMS LIKE A GOOD BOY. I REGRET ENGAGING YOUR SISTER THE WAY I DID.

DANA IS THE BEST MOM THERE IS.

I USED TO GET ANNOYED WITH HER... ABOUT HOW MUCH TIME SHE SPENT WITH COOPER. HOW MUCH TIME SHE SPENT TALKING ABOUT HIM.

BUT THE MORE TIME I SPEND BEING PREGNANT, THE MORE I UNDERSTAND.

BEING A MOTHER MAKES YOU SUDDENLY AWARE OF YOUR OWN MORTALITY.

HA.

KIND OF FUNNY, COMING FROM YOU.

IT'S A ***CONTRADICTION***, I KNOW.

BUT IT'S ***ALL*** A CONTRADICTION.

BEING A MOTHER, BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR A LIFE IS SUPPOSED TO BE ONE OF THE BEST THINGS ABOUT BEING HUMAN.

BUT, AS POWERFUL AND MAJESTIC AS A STAR IS, IT DOESN'T KNOW IT'S GOING TO DIE.

A STAR DOESN'T THINK IT SHOULD USE ITS TIME BETTER. IT DOESN'T WORRY ABOUT SHINING BRIGHTER OR GETTING MORE PLANETS.

KNOWING OUR LIVES ARE FINITE... BEING AWARE OF OUR OWN MORTALITY, THAT'S THE WORST THING ABOUT BEING HUMAN.

IT MAKES US SCARED. IT MAKES US FIGHT FOR RESOURCES.

IT'S WHAT MAKES US DO EVERYTHING WE DO THAT'S SHITTY.

NOT ME.

KNOWING I WOULD DIE IS WHAT MADE ME FINALLY START LIVING.

CALE HIRED YOU TO BRING US IN. BUT WHEN SHE SCREWED YOU OVER, YOU COULD HAVE JUST BEEN DONE WITH ALL OF THIS. YOU COULD HAVE JUST RUN.

BUT YOU DIDN'T.

WHY?

I'VE NEVER BEEN GOOD WITH... WORDS.

YOUR SISTER SAID YOU WERE GIVEN A GIFT WHEN YOU RESURRECTED. THAT YOU COULD TAKE THE WORDS FROM SOMEONE'S LIPS.

KISS ME.

TRUTH.

EVERYBODY GET SOME HEAT FROM GUILLERMO?

Timberlake

ONE WAY

GUILLERMO GAVE ME THIS PIECE. AND ONCE WE RUN THESE LOW-RENT SLINGERS OFF HIS TURF, HE'S GONNA GIVE US SOMETHIN' SPECIAL.

LIKE, I'M NOT GONNA SAY NO TO GETTING SERIOUSLY FUCKING ***GLASSED***...

...BUT GUILLERMO ALREADY GAVE ***ME*** SOMETHING ***SPECIAL***.

SO, *FANNIE*, IF YOUR KID'S HALF-AMISH, IS HE ONLY GONNA BE ABLE TO WATCH HALF A T.V.?

HAHA.

THAT'S NOT HOW IT WORKS.

AND IT'S *A GIRL*. I CAN TELL.

ALL RIGHT, YA BUNCH OF SCABS.

TALK LESS AND SHOOT MORE.

KRAK

WHAT THE FUCK?

DON'T LOOK LIKE NO SLINGER'S HOUSE I EVER SEEN.

YOU! BITCH! WHERE'RE THE FUCKIN' HOP-HEADS WHO OWN THIS PLACE?

COME ON! *DI DI MAO!*

TH-THERE.

THERE'RE SO MANY OF THESE ABANDONED HOUSES IN DETROIT.

BIG, BEAUTIFUL OLD MANSIONS, BIGGER THAN ANY BARN BACK HOME.

MAYBE, SOMEDAY, ME N' GUILLERMO WILL JUST PICK ONE AND MOVE IN WITH OUR BABY.

GUILLERMO WILL FIX IT UP ALL NICE AND I'LL PLAY HIDE AND SEEK WITH MY DAUGHTER. IT'LL BE SO FUN BECAUSE THE HOUSE IS SO BIG.

THEN MY DAD WILL COME VISIT US AND SEE HOW BIG OUR HOUSE IS. AND HE'LL SEE HIS BEAUTIFUL GRANDDAUGHTER.

HGK!

WHA--?

GUYS?

OH GOD.

SHUNK

KTT!

UHH.

GUH.

HM. SHE'S PREGNANT.

HOW SAD.

FINISH HER OFF AND TAKE HER HAND TO SEND BACK TO MR. PACHECO.

I WILL PREPARE THE ACID FOR THE OTHERS.

I--

I AM SORRY.

NNGH!

I... FELT IT. YOUR PAIN.

THE PAIN WAS GREAT. BUT I LIVED. SAVED BY THE MAN WHO STABBED ME.

ATLEE IS A MIRACLE. A CHILD BORN TO A WOMAN WHO SHOULD HAVE BEEN DEAD.

I'VE SPENT ALMOST EVERY MOMENT SINCE TRYING TO PAY GOD BACK FOR HIS GIFT.

LOOKING FOR AN ACT THAT WILL MAKE ME WORTHY OF RETURNING TO MY FAMILY AFTER MY GREAT AND MANY SINS.

WHEN THE GENERAL CAME TO ME, I THOUGHT I COULD SAVE YOU.

BUT I THINK IT'S YOU WHO SAVED ME.

YOU'RE UP EARLY.

UP? HELL, I HAVEN'T BEEN TO SLEEP.

WORRYING ABOUT MY DAUGHTER ALWAYS DID ME BETTER THAN ANY CAFFEINE.

AND DANA WAS ALWAYS A CASE OF RED BULLS, HUH?

I REMEMBER THIS ONE TIME SHE CALLED AT FOUR IN THE MORNING TOO DRUNK TO DRIVE. SHE DIDN'T KNOW WHERE SHE WAS.

I DROVE AROUND THIS TOWN FOR THREE HOURS IN MY CRUISER.

IT WASN'T UNTIL I FOUND HER, I REALIZED I WAS JUST WEARING MY BOXERS AND SOCKS.

PEOPLE'LL DO CRAZY THINGS FOR THEIR FAMILIES.

WAYNE. EARLIER... I STARTED TO TELL YOU. SINCE I CAME HERE, I'VE HAD ANOTHER JOB.

GOD... I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M SAYING THIS. I'M A FUCKING C.I.A. SLEEPER.

THEY THREATENED MY BROTHER. TOLD ME THEY'D MAKE SURE HE NEVER GOT OUT OF PRISON UNLESS I DID WHAT THEY NEEDED.

WATCH "TROUBLEMAKERS" LIKE ***EDMUND HOLT***.

OTHERS.

BUT WITH COMMUNICATIONS DOWN, I'M FREE. I'M--

SHERIFF. LOOK.

"DANA'S BACK."

SHE'S GOT... LESTER MAJAK?

LESTER... MAJAK.

SHERIFF!!

YOU SON OF A FUCKING BITCH!

MARATHON C.

SHERIFF!

DAD! NO!

I'LL FUCKING KILL YOU!!

HNGH!

STOP! WE NEED HIM!!

OH GOD.

LESTER?

HE'S...

...HE'S DEAD.

CH. 45

GODDAMN IT!

TONIGHT, OF ALL NIGHTS--

WHAT'S WRONG?!

THE CAR. IT DIED AGAIN.

I SHOULD HAVE LET MY DAD BUY ME A NEW ONE. BUT... I GET ATTACHED.

I KNOW, EM. THAT'S WHY I KNOW WE CAN WORK THIS OUT.

WORK THIS OUT?! AARON, YOU WERE GOING TO **SACRIFICE A CHILD.**

JESUS, THAT LITTLE **BORCHARDT** GIRL.

IT WASN'T A SACRIFICE, EM. IT WAS... LOOK, IT DOESN'T MATTER NOW. THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT. IT'S ALL OVER. DON'T GO TO YOUR DAD OR DANA.

COME BACK TO ME.

THIS ISN'T JUST ABOUT YOU AND ME. I--I NEED TO THINK, AARON.

OH GOD.

HE--HE WOULDN'T DO IT. **BLACKDEER.**

SAID YOU REMINDED HIM OF HIS OWN DAUGHTER.

HE SAID IF I WANTED TO DO IT...

...I HAD TO DO IT MYSELF.

ANH. OH. GOD. OH FUCK.

MUHN.

IGK.

SHERIFF'S DAUGHTER.

BUT... I HAD TO-- SHE WOULD HAVE RUINED IT ALL.

WAYNE CYPRESS

AARON FOUND IT. THE PATH BETWEEN BODIES AND SOULS. WE WERE GOING TO CHANGE EVERYTHING.

WE WERE GOING TO DESTROY DEATH...

THE PATH IS CLEAR.

THE PATH BETWEEN BODIES AND SOULS.

"THE BROKEN CREEK."

KLIK

RRUN RRUNN RRRUNN

THERE WE GO.

JANUARY 2 1:18 AM

BACK TO LIFE.

"BACK TO *LIFE*."

NNGH!

Y-YOU SAVED ME.

I SAW IT. ALL OF IT. *THE TRUTH.*

DANA, I KNOW WHY I DIED.

I KNOW WHY THE REVIVERS CAME BACK.

AND I KNOW WE HAVE TO GET TO THE *SILVER CREEK.*

WAUSAU, WISCONSIN.

INSIDE THE QUARANTINE ZONE.

7:06 A.M.

NOW WHY WOULD THE ARMY WANT A LITTLE STREAM SO BAD...

...THAT THEY'D RISK AN EXPENSIVE GODDAMN HELICOPTER LIKE THE ONE WE FOUND BACK THERE?

I DUNNO, BUT WE'D BETTER CALL IT IN TO THE BOSS LADY.

SHE WANTS TO KNOW EVERY MOVE ***GENERAL CALE*** MAKES.

I'M GONNA FILL UP. MIGHT BE A WHILE BEFORE WE SEE RUNNING WATER AGAIN.

ARE YOU SURE? I HEARD THAT STUFF IS RADIOACTIVE. MIGHT MAKE YA INTO A TOXIC MUTANT.

=AHEM= THIS IS ***PATRIOT EIGHT***. OUR 10-20 IS NEAR WHERE THE CHOPPER WENT DOWN LAST NIGHT.

BUNCH OF SUPERSTITIOUS SHIT. AIN'T NOTHIN'--

IN THE WATER.

IT LOOKS LIKE THEY TRIED TO MAKE A LANDING IN A CLEARING, BUT THE SURFACE WINDS GOT THE BEST OF 'EM.

IN THE STREAM. IT'S... IT'S FULL...

IT'S FULL OF *GHOSTS.*

YA GOTTA TELL **DESIREE**. THERE'RE SPIRITS.

THEY CAME FOR--

GHK.

BRAAADP

BRAAADP

S-SILVERRR...

CITY CENTER MALL.

BASECAMP OF THE RESISTANCE.

SUMMER SAVINGS
30% off beddin

...CREEK.

Discount Code

Discount Code

WAKE THE FUCK UP, *JANAE*.

OH GOD.

DES! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? THEY'RE NEWLY PLEDGED CITIZENS!

THEY'RE THE WIFE AND THE DAUGHTER OF THE ***EVIL BITCH*** WHO OCCUPIED OUR CITY AND KILLED OUR PEOPLE.

GATHER THE TROOPS, DUCKY.

WE RIDE IN AN HOUR.

I NOW KNOW ***THREE*** OF THE THINGS CALE WANTS.

WE ONLY HAVE ***TWO*** OF THEM.

ROTHSCHILD POLICE DEPARTMENT.

7:24 A.M.

DIDN'T WE GO TO HIGH SCHOOL WITH THIS GUY?

YEAH, HE WAS A DOUCHEBAG THEN TOO. YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN IT.

I KEPT HIM BUSY--

UNTIL *EM* AND *FANNIE* KICKED HIS ASS.

PRETTY MUCH.

I SHOULD BE GOING WITH YOU.

NO. YOU STAY WITH *OUR SON*... AND *NIKKI*.

BUT, WE'RE A TEAM. I DON'T KNOW HOW OR WHY... BUT IT'S ALWAYS ABOUT *US*.

NO, *DERRICK*. IT WAS ALWAYS ABOUT *ME*.

ABOUT MAKING MYSELF FEEL BETTER ABOUT PEOPLE I'D HURT.

BUT I FOUND MY SISTER'S KILLER.

AND NOW I CAN STOP LIVING IN THE PAST.

I LOVE YOU, DERRICK. I ALWAYS WILL. YOU GAVE ME *COOPER*.

BUT I HAVE TO MOVE FORWARD.

BETTER?

I DON'T HEAL AS WELL AS YOU NOWADAYS. BUT IT'LL DO.

NO, I MEAN, DO YOU FEEL BETTER THAT YOU ALMOST KILLED LESTER?

NO. I'D LET THIS TOWN--THE WHOLE WORLD--DIE TO BEAT HIM TO A BLOODY FUCKING PULP, KNOWING IT WOULDN'T FIX A GODDAMN THING.

HE TOOK AWAY MY LITTLE GIRL.

I'LL NEVER, EVER FORGIVE HIM.

HE TOOK ME AWAY.

BUT HE ALSO GAVE ME BACK.

MARATHON CO. WIS. U.S.A. SHERIFF'S DEPT.

DAD... WHAT WERE WE BEFORE ***REVIVAL DAY?*** YOU AND ME? ME AND DANA? YOU AND DANA?

WHAT? WE... WERE A FAMILY.

WE WERE RELATED. BUT WE WERE STRANGERS.

I THINK WE FORGOT. WE ALL GOT TOO FAR ABOVE THE GOLDEN GRASS.

BUT AFTER REVIVAL DAY, WE ALL WENT BACK TO BEING WITHIN REACH OF THE SCYTHE.

IT MADE US REMEMBER HOW LITTLE TIME WE GET TOGETHER.

IT MADE US HONEST. IT MADE US HUMAN.

THAT SHOULD HOLD FOR NOW, *LESTER*.

KEEPING THINGS TOGETHER "FOR NOW" IS HOW I'VE SPENT THE LAST TWENTY YEARS, *DR. RAMIN*.

IBRAHAIM. I'D LIKE TO TALK TO LESTER... ALONE.

IS THAT A GOOD IDEA? HE'S--

I CAN HANDLE MYSELF.

HM. NOW IS NOT THE BEST TIME FOR A ROMANTIC DATE, BONNIE...

YOU *USED* ME, LESTER.

YOU PLAYED WITH MY EMOTIONS SO YOU HAD A REASON TO CHECK ON DANA. TO FIND OUT IF SHE KNEW ABOUT EM.

WHEN YOU FINALLY DIE, YOU SAD, OLD MAN, I HOPE YOU BURN IN HELL.

HA. HAHAHAHA. HELL.

I NEVER UNDERSTOOD THE NOTION OF HELL.

SO, YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT OUR PUNISHMENT FOR A LIFE POORLY LIVED IS GOING ON FOR ALL ETERNITY IN PAIN?

I HAVE LIVED WITH PAIN. PAIN, I CAN WORK THROUGH. PAIN, I CAN IGNORE.

BUT TO LIVE A LIFE ONLY TO HAVE IT END IN OBLIVION?

TO ACCRUE EXPERIENCES AND KNOWLEDGE ONLY TO HAVE IT ALL ROT WITH MY FLESH?

THAT'S AN OPTION I CAN'T ABIDE. THAT'S AN OPTION THAT HAS LED ME TO CONSPIRE AND MURDER AND USE WHOMEVER I PLEASE.

I AM ***LESTER MAJAK***. I HAVE LIVED, AND I HAVE LOVED, AND I WILL DRAG US ***ALL*** THROUGH HELL, ***BONNIE DROST***...

...BEFORE I LET DEATH WIN.

SO I WILL BE TRAILING BEHIND, TO LEND MY SWORD WHEN NEEDED AS USUAL?

NO, ATLEE. YOU ARE TO GUARD THESE PEOPLE.

YOU ARE TO STAY HERE. DO YOU HEAR ME?

YOU WILL BE PUNISHED IF YOU DISOBEY.

OH.

I'LL BE SHUNNED.

THEN I PROMISE NOT TO FOLLOW.

IT'S HARD ENOUGH TO BE IGNORED BY GRANDPA AND GRANDMA AND AUNT BETTE AND--

ATLEE. NO ONE SHUNNED US.

IT WAS ME. I SHUNNED ***THEM***. ***I*** KEPT YOU FROM YOUR FAMILY.

I WAS WAITING... UNTIL I WAS REDEEMED.

GOD. THEY WOULD LOVE YOU SO MUCH IF ONLY THEY KNEW YOU.

I DON'T DESERVE YOU.

YOU TOLD ME ONLY GOD CAN JUDGE THE UNWORTHY.

BUT I THINK YOU'RE THE BEST MOMMY EVER.

IT'S TIME FOR MOMMY TO GO. I'M GOING TO EARN MY MIRACLE.

HEY, LOOK WHAT MY MOM FOUND US. IT'S ONLY AN OLD SAFETY VIDEO WITH A POLICE OFFICER COW... BUT IT'S A CARTOON!

OH MY!!

DANA. I'M SORRY THAT I SAID YOU WERE... A BAD MOTHER.

SAVE IT.

OUR KIDS THINK WE'RE *SUPERHEROES.*

SO LET'S SAVE THE WORLD.

SOUTHERN BORDER WALL.

CHECKPOINT NOVEMBER.

8:10 A.M.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING IN SUCH A HURRY, GENERAL CALE?

LOOKING FOR A POT AT THE END OF THE RAINBOW TO REPLACE THE SIX MILLION DOLLAR BIRD THAT WENT DOWN ON YOUR LITTLE FOOL'S ERRAND?

YOU WEREN'T KIDDING ABOUT YOUR LACK OF CONCERN FOR NICETIES, GENERAL HAUSER.

I'M IN A HURRY BECAUSE I KNOW YOU INTEND TO ASK FOR AN AIRSTRIKE TO LAY THIS TOWN FLAT.

AND I DON'T WANT TO KEEP THE BOYS WAITING.

THE BOYS?

YEAH. I HAD DR. BORCHARDT EXPLAIN TO SOME OF THE SOLDIERS WHAT THE MILITARY WAS WILLING TO DESTROY BECAUSE IT WAS TOO EXPENSIVE TO SAVE.

THEY WERE DISAPPOINTED THAT YOU'D SCORCH THE EARTH INSTEAD OF SECURING A CURE FOR DEATH. SOMETHING THAT COULD HELP THEIR GRANDMAMAS AND THEIR FELLOW ENLISTED MEN.

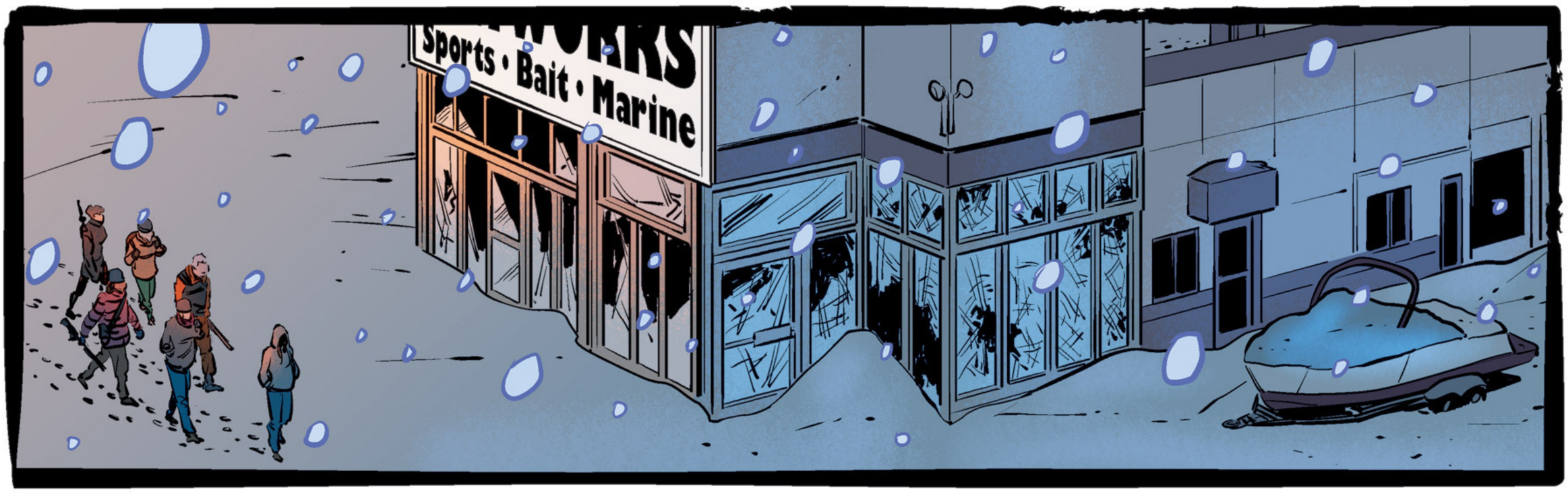
WHEN WE FIRST MET, YOU COMPLIMENTED MY DIPLOMATIC SKILLS, GENERAL.

WELL, HOW CAN I SAY THIS DIPLOMATICALLY?

THAT YOU'D SACRIFICE SONS AND WIVES TO ELIMINATE SUCH A THING.

GO FUCK YOURSELF.

GO TO CITY CENTER
SHERIFF
TARGET
Pizza Ranch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I GOTTA PEE.

URGH. C'MON, BABY. JUST LET MOMMY GET COMFORTABLE ENOUGH TO SQUAT...

WHUP!

HA.

HAH HAHAHA HAHA!

WHAAARRREZ... THUH... BAYYYYBEEE?

AAAAH!

ISSSSIKUUL TEEEEEERS. BLOOOOO CHEEKZZZ.

EM!

NO! WE HAVE TOO MUCH TO DO! NOT YET!

IF IT GETS INSIDE HER, SHE'LL BURN!

STOP! PLEASE! DON'T TAKE MY SISTER!

NOO--!

KRAK

UNGH.

EM.

EM...

IT'S OKAY, DANA. IT'S OKAY.

HI, MARTHA.

YOU TOOK **MINE** AWAY FROM ME...

...SO I TOOK **YOURS**.

I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND.

CH. 46

THERE. YOU GET A GOOD VIEW OF IT HERE.

THIS IS WHAT AUTHORITIES ARE CALLING AN *ATMOSPHERIC ANOMALY* OVER THE *WAUSAU QUARANTINE ZONE.*

METEOROLOGISTS ARE SAYING IT'S CAUSED BY AN EXTREME TEMPERATURE DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN THE AREA WITHIN THE QUARANTINE AND THE AREA OUTSIDE.

ARE OFFICIALS COMMENTING ON WHETHER THIS IS RELATED TO **REVIVAL DAY,** BILL?

BILL?

--ORRY. THAT'S BEEN HAPPENING TO US A LOT HERE. THEY'VE SAID IT'S CAUSED BY THE ANOMALY ITSELF.

OFFICIALS SPECULATE THERE IS A COMPLETE LACK OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION WITHIN THE AREA.

SO, IS THERE ANY INDICATION HOW THE **PEOPLE** ARE DOING **INSIDE THE ANOMALY?**

RISIS IN
CONSIN

CNN

NONE THAT WE'RE PRIVY TO. BUT THE AMERICAN WEATHER SOCIETY DID RELEASE THIS **SATELLITE PHOTO...**

...TAKEN DURING A BREAK IN THE CLOUD COVER.

THAT... THAT APPEARS TO BE... I DON'T WANT TO--

I'LL SAY IT. IT LOOKS LIKE A **RIVER OF BLOOD**. A CREEK OF BLOOD IN THIS CASE.

NOW, WE DON'T WANT TO JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS, AND METEOROLOGISTS SAY THAT A WHOLE HOST OF NATURAL OR INDUSTRIAL PHENOMENA COULD CAUSE THIS APPEARANCE.

BUT, WITH TEMPERATURES DROPPING OUTSIDE THE QUARANTINE ZONE AND COMMUNICATIONS BEING AFFECTED IN AN INCREASINGLY WIDE CIRCLE...

...WELL, IT MAY NOT BE LONG...

...UNTIL WE'RE ALL TREATED TO A **REVELATION.**

IS THIS-- IS IT--THE END?

SILVER CREEK.

1:36 P.M.

HNNH. PLEASE. H-HELP ME.

I'M SO SORRY. I-I DIDN'T KNOW THERE'D BE A WAR.

Banks of the Broken Creek by Aaron Weimar

WE LOST THREE MEN TO THE INSURGENTS SECURING THIS BANK, *GENERAL CALE*. FOUR IF--

IF WHAT *DR. BORCHARDT* IS DOING DOESN'T WORK. NOTHING LIKE A FIELD TEST.

WHAT--WHAT LANGUAGE IS THAT? *HINDI?*

GOOD EARS. IT'S SIMILAR. BUT, I THINK IT'S OLDER THAN THAT.

IT'S FROM A DAY WHEN THE GODS SEEMED SO FAR AWAY.

BUT THE RIGHT PERSON COULD ASK THE RIGHT QUESTION. AND GET AN ANSWER.

HUNNH. PL-PLEASE. H--

Banks of the Broken Creek by Aaron Weimar

TT--!

NO! DON'T LISTEN TO IT! FIGHT THE CURRENT!

PLEASE! WE NEED YOU. BE THE ***BRIDGE***. DON'T...

ENNNNND.

...DIE IN VAIN.

PLEEEEZZZ.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. WE'RE IN ***THE LOCUS***, LIKE AARON SAID.

MAYBE... MAYBE HIS LIFE WASN'T ENOUGH TO FIX THE IMBALANCE.

SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, DR. BORCHARDT...

...IS THAT THE LIFE OF ONE OF MY SOLDIERS, WHO DIED TO GIVE US ALL A CHANCE TO LIVE FOREVER...

...WASN'T ***WORTH*** AS MUCH AS YOUR ***SUICIDAL BRAT?!***

YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE THERE. THAT YOU COULD CURE DEATH AGAIN. THAT WE COULD CONTROL IT.

I'M STARTING TO THINK YOU WERE JUST SAYING WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR...

...TO SAVE YOUR OWN ASS.

GENERAL! WE SPOTTED PEOPLE ON THE OPPOSITE BANK.

NOT MILITIA. WE THINK IT WAS THE ***CYPRESS GIRLS***. THE REVIVER AND THE COP.

AND THE OLD GUY FROM THE ***EXERCISE COMMERCIALS***.

LESTER! IT'S ***LESTER MAJAK***. AND THE CYPRESS GIRL, EM. SHE MUST BE PART OF THIS.

WE TAKE THEM. ALIVE.

YOU'D BETTER HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, CAROL.

OR WE'LL TRY THIS AGAIN, BUT THIS TIME...

"...YOU'LL BE CLINGING TO YOUR **OWN GHOST.**"

THAT **MASK.**

OCTOPOCALYPSE. EDMUND HOLT'S MOVIE.

DEAD SON OF A BITCH INSPIRED A MILITIA WITH A FLICK THAT BARELY EARNED A RIFFTRAX.

THIS IS NO COINCIDENCE. THEY KNOW ABOUT THE CREEK.

THEN WHO KILLED THEM?

GENERAL CALE AND HER ARMY GUYS, OF COURSE.

SHE WANTS WHAT SHE'S WANTED EVER SINCE I'VE KNOWN HER, AND THAT'S A LONG TIME.

LIKE, THREE MONTHS ALMOST.

SHE WANTS CONTROL. OF US.

UK-- KOFF KOFF

EEEEEEEGGGH!

WE'RE IN DANGER. IT SPEAKS TO ME! SOMEONE'S...

...HERE--

PKOW

DON'T EVERYBODY GET ALL EXCITED.

I SAW HER ON THE NEWS.

THE KID'S A REVIVER. THAT WAS JUST A WARNING SHOT.

SO EVERYBODY WANTS WHAT THE SHERIFF WANTS.

AAAOW.

THE STREAM THAT POPPED OUT THE GHOSTS, WHICH IN TURN MADE THIS TOWN INTO A PRISON. INTO A ***CONCENTRATION CAMP***.

WE'RE NOT TRYING TO CONTROL IT. WE'RE TRYING TO STOP IT. THIS GIRL--

SHUT UP, SHERIFF CYPRESS.

THE NEWS SAID EDMUND HOLT AND MY DAD KILLED THEMSELVES. A ***SUICIDE PACT***, THEY SAID. BECAUSE OF THEIR PART IN THE ***CITY HALL BOMBING***.

BUT MY DAD WOULD ***NEVER*** KILL ANYONE AND HE WOULD NEVER KILL HIMSELF. HE WOULD ***NEVER*** LEAVE ME AND MY MOM ***ALONE*** WHEN THINGS WERE SO FUCKED UP.

THE GOVERNMENT ***FRAMED*** HIM. AND THEN ***MURDERED*** HIM.

ONE OF ***YOU*** MURDERED HIM.

IF I KILL THE SHERIFF, YOU'LL KNOW HOW I FEEL, WON'T YOU, OFFICER?

DON'T YOU FUCKING--

NO. YOU CAN'T RISK THE BABY. NOT NOW.

EDMUND HOLT SHOT YOUR DAD.

HE WANTED TO CONTROL THE STORY.

HE WANTED TO LOOK LIKE THE VICTIM.

SHUT UP YOU FUCKING A-RAB!

KRAK

HNG. L-LISTEN TO ME. YOUR DAD DIDN'T **KNOW** ABOUT THE BOMB. HE WAS CONVINCED HE WAS **HELPING** HIS FAMILY.

I UNDERSTAND THAT.

SHUT UP YOU FUCKING MUSLIM BASTARD!

FWAK

IBRAHAIM. GOD. STOP.

B-BUT EDMUND HOLT WANTED TO TURN EVERYONE IN THIS CITY INTO **HIM.**

TO SPREAD **HATE.** TO MAKE EVERYONE **MISTRUST** EVERYONE ELSE.

IF YOU SHOOT WAYNE--

YOU'VE LET EDMUND HOLT CONTROL THE STORY. YOU'VE LET HIM CONTROL **YOUR STORY.**

YOU'VE LET HIM TURN YOU INTO **HIM.**

HNUGH!

POK

PKOW PKOW

GET DOWN!

SHERIFF

POK POK POK

HNG!

GO! GET TO WHAT'S LEFT OF THE MILL.

AW. DES. DES?

POK POK POK

LESTER! PLEASE! WAIT! I DID SO MUCH FOR YOU. WHATEVER POWER YOU'RE GOING TO USE TO CONTROL THE LOCUS. GIVE IT TO THE GENERAL!

NO! I'VE KILLED TOO MANY, CAROL. I WON'T KILL THE WORLD.

GENERAL CALE SHOWED SHE CAN'T BE TRUSTED WITH THAT KIND OF POWER. SHE LIES.

JUST LIKE YOU, MOMMY.

HNF!

HNT.

YOU JACKBOOT FASCIST MOTHERFUCKERS! I'LL KILL YOU!

POK POK

I'LL KILL--

POK

HNH. HNH HNH...

HAHAHAHA!

I'VE BEEN TO AFGHANISTAN. IRAQ. SYRIA. I'VE SEEN A LOT OF PEOPLE WATCHING THEIR BLOOD SEEP OUT INTO IN THE SAND OR SNOW.

NEVER HAD ONE LAUGH BEFORE, THOUGH. WHAT'S SO FUNNY, GIRL?

HNT. I-IT'S JUST FUNNY. B-BACK AT THE BORDER. YOU...

...YOU LET SOLDIERS KILL THE PEOPLE YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO PROTECT. HNK.

N-N-NOW, YOU DID IT AGAIN. EXCEPT THIS TIME...

...YOU DIDN'T JUST DO IT TO *OTHER PEOPLE'S* FAMILIES.

AW, NO. NO NO.

JANAE!! OH MY BABY!

HMP.

NO NO NO.

HM.

M-- MOM.

AWWWUUUUHN!!

PKOW PKOW PKOW PKOW

THEY-- THEY'RE GOING TO CLOSE **THE LOCUS.**

THEY'RE GOING TO PUT IT ALL BACK TO THE WAY IT WAS. BEFORE **REVIVAL DAY.**

PRIVATE. I WANT YOU TO GUARD MY SON AND MY WIFE, PLEASE.

IF SO MUCH AS A SQUIRREL GETS NEAR THEM, I WANT YOU TO BLOW IT IN HALF.

I PROMISED MY SON HE'D LIVE TO SEE A BETTER WORLD, CAROL.

ONE WHERE ALL THE IGNORANCE AND HATE HAS DIED OFF.

THAT'S GOING TO TAKE A LONG TIME, YOU SAY? I AGREE.

BUT I SAY IT WON'T MATTER. BECAUSE MY SON IS GOING TO BE IMMORTAL.

GOD. IT'S FREEZING.

BUT THE CREEK IS HOT. LIKE BLOOD. SMELLS ELECTRIC.

THE SACRED RIVERS FREE THE SOULS. LIBERATE THEM FROM ANOTHER CAGE OF FLESH AND HAIR.

BUT THIS IS *TUTI KRIKA*.

THE WATER WON'T LET THE SOULS ESCAPE.

IT SPITS THEM OUT SO THE FLESH AND HAIR CAN KEEP GOING.

REVIVED FROM DEATH. THE AMNESIAC SOULS WANDERING CONFUSED.

AHN! FCK!

BUT THE LONGER THEY STAY AWAY...

...THE MORE ENERGY THEY NEED TO STAY ANGRY AND AFRAID...

ANGH!

...THE MORE **DEATH** COMES FROM THE OTHER SIDE.

SHERIFF

PLLLLLLZZZZZ

PLLLLZZ

ZZZZZZ

ZZZZZZZ

ZZZZZZZZ

JESUS.

I HEAR THEM NOW. THEY WANT BODIES. ANY BODIES.

BODIES THAT *WILL* *DIE*.

I'M HERE TO FREE YOU.

PLLLZZZZ

I'LL LET YOU GO, BACK TO WHERE YOU BELONG.

PLLLLZ

YES. THIS IS THE PLACE. THEY KNOW IT. WHERE THE MEMBRANE IS THINNEST. BETWEEN ***OBLIVION*** AND ***AWARENESS***.

WE NEED TO REACH ACROSS. THE TEETH.

TEETH ARE THE PIECES OF MAN THAT ARE CLOSEST TO ETERNAL.

TEETH DEFY DECAY. THEY SURVIVE BURNING.

TEETH LITTER THE BOTTOM OF THE ***RIVER GANGES***.

MARTHA! ENTER THE WATER AT THE WELL!

IT WILL BE THE SAFEST.

PLSH PLSH

FROM THEM.

YOU AND THE CYPRESS GIRL ARE THE ONLY ONES I NEED ALIVE, MAJAK.

BACK THE FUCK OFF, AND I'LL LET THE OTHERS LIVE.

IF WE MAKE IT THROUGH THIS, RAMIN...

YEAH?

I'M GONNA TAKE YOU UP ON THAT FISH FRY AT *THE LOADING ZONE*.

SHERIFF

I'M THE *SHERIFF* OF THIS TOWN! I PROTECT ITS INTERESTS AND ITS PEOPLE. AND I SAY--

DROP YOUR FUCKING WEAPONS!

BLAM BLAM BLAM

ANGH!

SPURCH

I'VE TAMED THE LIVING DEAD. LOCKED UP GODDAMN GHOSTS.

NONE OF 'EM HAVE BEEN AS BIG A PAIN IN MY ASS...

...AS THE FUCKING *CYPRESS FAMILY.*

BRAAAPP

HNK!

WAYNE!

OH GOD. DAD. OUR DAD...

I'M GOING!

NO.

I'M GOING.

WHEN WE MET, GENERAL CALE, WE SPOKE OF SHUNNING. OF GOD'S WORD.

SPAK

SPAK

SPAK

SHLIK

SINCE THAT TIME, I HAVE LEARNED OF MY PURPOSE.

I HAVE LEARNED OF MY MISSION.

AND I HAVE LEARNED THAT THERE IS ONE THING SHARPER THAN GOD'S WORD.

GOD'S SWORD.

AND I AM UNSHEATHED.

THEY'RE EXCITED. THEY FEEL THEIR HOME IS NEAR.

IT'S TIME, EM. YOU HAVE TO GET INTO THE WELL.

IN THE WELL IS WHERE THEY'LL BE ABLE TO HEAR YOU.

DANA. MY BABY. MY-- I'M... I'M SCARED.

IT'S OKAY. EM. IT'S OKAY.

DO YOU REMEMBER? WHEN WE WERE LITTLE. DAD USED TO TAKE US TO SWIM LESSONS.

AND YOU. YOU WOULD ALWAYS LEAVE YOUR GROUP FOR LITTLE KIDS TO COME INTO MINE.

YOU WERE TOO SCARED OF THE WATER TO BE BY YOURSELF. WITHOUT ME.

THIS WAS WHEN WE WERE YOUNGER. BEFORE I WAS... TOO COOL TO BE SEEN WITH YOU.

AND THE TEACHER, HE JUST DECIDED TO LET IT GO.

SO, I WAS LIKE YOUR TEACHER, ALMOST.

AND EVERY TIME YOU GOT INTO THE POOL, I'D HOLD YOUR HAND AND LOWER YOU DOWN.

EVERY TIME I'D TELL YOU, "IT'S OKAY, MARTHA."

"I'LL NEVER LET YOU GO."

CH. 47

HUNH!

WAYNE. IT'S OKAY, HONEY. I'M HERE.

OH GOD. PATTY. I--

I'M SO SORRY.

FOR WHAT?

FOR THE ACCIDENT. FOR BEING DRUNK, AND STUPID, AND FOR CRASHING THE BIKE. I COULD HAVE--

PATTY, I COULD HAVE GOTTEN YOU KILLED.

NO, WAYNE, HONEY. I'M SORRY.

I'M SO SORRY...

"...THAT YOU CAN'T *STAY HERE.*"

HUNH. W-WHERE?

IT'S OKAY, SHER--WAYNE. I'VE GOT YOU.

DON'T MOVE TOO MUCH. THE BULLET IS LODGED IN YOUR SKULL.

W-WHERE? WHERE ARE WE?

SILVER CREEK.

IN THE MIDDLE OF A WAR.

OLD CYPRESS SISTER! OFFICER DANA! THE ***PASSENGERS***... THEY--

MRF!

WHAAREEZZZ THUH BAAAAABYYY

THEY'RE ANGRY. THEY WANT BODIES. THEIR BODIES. IF NOT THOSE, THEN ANY BODIES. BODIES THEY CAN PUNISH.

I DUNNO IF I CAN KEEP IT IN MUCH LONGER...

JUST HOLD ON TO ***EM'S*** SOUL, JORDAN!

HOLD ON FOR JUST A LITTLE BIT LONGER!

YOU'RE HER. MY BABY.

MY DAUGHTER.

YOU'RE THE BRIDGE.

I WOULD HAVE NAMED YOU PATRICIA.

AFTER MY MOM.

I HAD SUCH FAITH IN YOU, WEAVER. I THOUGHT YOU COULD DO THE JOB.

BUT I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN. YOU'RE OUTDATED. OUT OF TOUCH.

SHANG

HNF!

YOU TALK.

ALL YOU DO IS TALK.

I'VE STILL GOT A CLIP. LET'S JUST MOW THE GODDAMN FIELD, MAN!

YEAH? AND HIT THE GENERAL, YOU FUCKING IDIOT?

"YOU WANNA BE THE ONE TO EXPLAIN TO HER THAT YOU DIDN'T THINK SHE COULD HANDLE AN AMISH NINJA SO YOU SHOT HER IN THE ASS?"

THE WORLD MOVED PAST YOU A LONG TIME AGO, FANNIE.

YOU NEED TO GET THE FUCK OUT OF THE WAY OF PROGRESS. STAND DOWN.

PKOW

N-NO.

DON'T MAKE ME KILL YOU.

I--I'VE HAD TO KILL WHEN I DIDN'T WANT TO BEFORE.

BUT I DID IT. I--

GODDAMN YOU!

PKOW

WHAT ARE YOU EVEN FIGHTING FOR?! IF YOU LET ME, I'LL KEEP THIS CREEK RUNNING BETWEEN THE WORLDS OF LIFE AND DEATH!

DON'T YOU WANT YOUR DAUGHTER TO LIVE FOREVER?!

DON'T YOU WANT HER TO ***BE HERE*** WHEN A BETTER WORLD COMES?!

NO. I WANT MY CHILD TO LIVE A ***LIFE OF VIRTUE.***

HNF!

I WANT HER TO ***EARN*** IMMORTALITY... IN ***HEAVEN.***

HRNGH!

B-BY THE HAND OF G-GOD, NOT MAN.

GODDAMN YOU, WEAVER FANNIE. YOU SHOULD HAVE STUCK...

...TO MAKING ***FUCKING BASKETS.***

GHK!

TT--!

YOU--

YOU--

KILLED US.

K-KILLED US BOTH.

FUCK THIS, MAN. IT'S ALL *FUBAR*. I'M DOING MY JOB.

THE BRASS WANTS THIS CREEK...

...LET'S GIVE THEM THIS FUCKING CREEK.

BRAAAPP BRAAAPP BRAAAPP

BRAAAPP

OH GOD.

WE DON'T FIT HERE ANYMORE. WE DON'T FIT ANYWHERE.

OUR LOVED ONES ALREADY MOURNED US. EVERY BREATH WE TAKE STEALS FROM THE EARTH.

BUT THERE'S ONE THING WE CAN DO.

WE CAN BLEED AND NOT FALL DOWN.

PATTY. YOU WERE THE GIFT OF LIFE THAT OPENED THE FLOOD-GATES. THEN LESTER TOOK YOU AND SENT TO THE OTHER SIDE.

YOU'RE UNIQUE. BORN IN DEATH. TRAPPED IN LIFE. ONE LITTLE FOOT IN EACH WORLD. YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DAM THE BROKEN CREEK.

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TRADE WITH ME. MY LIFE FOR YOURS. YOU'RE BORN, AND I DIE. AND THEN THE WORLD WILL BE BALANCED AGAIN.

NO.

POOR PATTY. YOU DON'T WANT TO LOSE ME. YOU'VE ALREADY LOST YOUR DAD YOU DON'T WANT TO LIVE A LIFE WITHOUT YOUR MOM. I UNDERSTAND. IT'S HARD. IT WAS HARD... FOR ME.

BUT THERE WILL BE OTHERS TO LOVE YOU.

I FOUND OTHERS TO LOVE ME. I HAD MY SISTER, DANA.

NO.

PLEASE. I--OKAY. SEE, I-- I WONDER SOMETIMES. WHAT MY LIFE WOULD HAVE BEEN WITH MY MOM IN IT. IF I HAD NEVER HAD TO LET GO.

I WAS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR TRUTH. WHEN I CAME BACK, I COULD TAKE IT FROM PEOPLE. BUT, I CAN GIVE IT TOO.

I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN.

STOP

I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU OUR LIFE TOGETHER.

GOODBYE, MOMMY.

YES. YOU DID IT.

YEZZZZZ...

YEZZZZZZ...

EM?!

EM!

KRAK

ENF!

AARON AND I MISUNDERSTOOD WHAT HE'D EXPERIENCED IN INDIA. HE ADMITTED AS MUCH WHEN THE WATER FILLED HIS LUNGS.

EMMMUH.

THE PATH TO IMMORTALITY WASN'T TUTI KRIKA ALONE.

WE FAILED IN THAT WE REVIVED ONLY THE DEAD.

THE KEY TO TRUE DEATHLESSNESS WASN'T TO OPEN THE LOCUS AND SEPARATE THE BODY FROM THE SOUL...

WAAAAAAAAAUU...

...IT WAS TO *BECOME* THE LOCUS. THANK YOUR SISTER FOR ME, *OFFICER CYPRESS*.

SHE GAVE BIRTH. TO *ME*.

"LEAD ME FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT; FROM DEATH TO IMMORTALITY."

WAUUUUA!

ENGH...

EM.

SPLSH

EM. I'M... I'M SORRY.

OH. EM. LOOK WHAT HE DID TO YOU...

LOOK WHAT HE DID TO YOU!!

I SHOULD HAVE KILLED HIM IN THE GARAGE! I SHOULD HAVE--!

NO. DANA. IT'S TOO LATE. YOU'LL ONLY HURT PATTY.

PATTY?

YOUR NIECE, DANA.

WHAT DO I DO, EM?

YOU ALREADY DID SO MUCH. EVERYTHING YOU SAID YOU'D DO. LIKE ALWAYS. YOU JUST NEED TO DO ONE MORE THING...

WHAT?

LET ME GO.

WHAT-- WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

EVERYONE ELSE HAS MOVED ON, DANA. ALL THE OTHER REVIVERS...

"THEIR FAMILIES HAVE MOURNED THEM, AND ACCEPTED THAT THEY DIED. THEY'VE SHARED THEIR LOVE. SAID THEIR GOODBYES.

"EVEN DAD. HE THINKS I'LL SEE MOM. THAT WE'LL ALL BE TOGETHER SOMEWHERE ELSE."

BUT NOT ***YOU***. YOU'RE HOLDING ON.

STOPPING ME FROM TRADING WITH MY BABY SO ***SHE*** CAN LIVE.

BUT I JUST GOT YOU BACK, EM!

WHEN WE WERE KIDS, I RESENTED YOU. TREATED YOU BAD. I--I HURT YOU. I WISHED YOU WERE DEAD.

IN THE LAST FEW YEARS, WE HARDLY EVER SAW EACH OTHER.

I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU WERE DOING. THAT YOU WERE IN LOVE. WHAT YOU WANTED.

WHO YOU WERE.

AND WHEN YOU DIED, EM... I WASN'T THERE. I DIDN'T PROTECT YOU.

I DIDN'T SAVE MY LITTLE SISTER.

I WAS SUCH A BAD BIG SISTER TO YOU, EM. SELFISH AND CRUEL. I DIDN'T LOVE YOU THE WAY I SHOULD HAVE.

HOW CAN I BE A GOOD MOM IF I COULDN'T EVEN BE A GOOD SISTER?!

LET ME GO. WHEN I'M NOT HERE...

...YOU'LL HAVE TO **BE BOTH.**

NO!

HNUH!

PLLLZZZZ.

PLLLZZZ.

YES. I WILL SING. WITH THE ANGELS.

OH, GOD.

THEY'RE ALL... GONE.

JORDAN. MY BABY. I'M SO SORRY.

DON'T BE SORRY.

I UNDERSTAND NOW, MOMMY. YOU WANTED ME TO LOVE ME...

...AS MUCH AS YOU DID-->:(

UNGHK.

NO. NUH. ALL I WANTED...

...WAS LIFE.

BLUE CHEEKS. ICICLE TEARS. WHERE'S THE BABY?

HERE.

WAAAAAAAAAUU...

Two years later...

ROTHSCHILD, WISCONSIN.

--TODAY ON **AIR WISCONSIN**, WE'LL BE TALKING TO FORMER GENERAL **LOUISE CALE**, CURRENTLY SERVING A LIFE SENTENCE AT **FORT LEAVENWORTH**...

SHERIFF

Cypress

U.S.MAIL

...ABOUT HER EXPERIENCES IN CENTRAL WISCONSIN DURING THE "**REVIVAL EVENT**," AND HOW IT HELPED HER FIND SPIRITUALITY.

"WHAT I REALIZED IS THAT THE CREEK WAS A PHYSICAL MANIFESTATION OF THE PATH WE ALL MOVE ON... FROM CONSCIOUSNESS TO OBLIVION."

COOOOPER!

TIME TO GO TO YOUR DAD'S!

GET YOUR BUTT IN HERE...

...AND BRING YOUR COUSIN!

NO, SEE, YOU'RE DOING IT WRONG, **PATTY**. ADMIRAL ADMIRAL PEPPERCORN ALREADY HAS THE JAGUAR GUN--

JAGWA!

MINISTRY SAINT CLARE'S HOSPITAL.

WESTON.

MINISTRY

GOOD MORNING, OFFICER. IS DR. RAMIN HERE?

HE IS, SHERIFF CYPRESS. YOU CAN GO RIGHT ON IN.

RAMIN

HEY. I DIDN'T HEAR YOU GET UP. I HATE MISSING MY MORNING KISS.

I GOT AN EARLY CALL. THOUGHT I'D MEET YOU HERE TO SEE HIM.

DR. MCKAY. HOW'S HE DOING?

IT WON'T BE LONG NOW.

MCKAY

HEY, LESTER. LESTER?

LESTER. IT'S ME.

HNAHN?

OH DANA. DANA CYPRESS. SO NICE TO SEE YOU. SUCH A PRETTY GIRL.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I JUST CAME TO SEE YOU. HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

A LOT BETTER NOW. I THOUGHT YOU WERE HERE ABOUT A SPEEDING TICKET.

NO. YOU'RE OFF THE HOOK.

GOOD. I DON'T THINK I COULD FIGHT IT THIS TIME. I DON'T... I DON'T THINK I CAN FIGHT...

...ANYMORE.

DANA. WHEN I WROTE MY BOOK, *STRONG CENTURY*, I PROMISED I KNEW THE FITNESS SECRETS TO LIVING FOR ONE HUNDRED YEARS.

HOW TO BEST LIVE THEM.

60

"AND SO I LIVED. OH, HOW I LIVED. ENOUGH LIFE FOR ONE HUNDRED YEARS."

HEY, ATLEE.

"AS I GOT OLDER, THOUGH, ONE HUNDRED YEARS JUST DIDN'T SEEM LIKE ENOUGH."

HI, COOP.

HI, GRANDPA AND GRANDMA KING.

FANNIE KING

Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

"SO I LOOKED FOR ANYTHING... ANY CHANCE TO LIVE FOR ONE HUNDRED MORE. A THOUSAND MORE. TO LIVE UNTIL ALL THE LIGHTS WENT OUT IN THE SKY.

"I LOOKED SO HARD, I FORGOT ABOUT EVERYTHING ELSE. ABOUT THE THINGS THAT MAKE LIFE WORTH LIVING. FRIENDS. FAMILY. I LOST PEOPLE.

"AND THEN... THEN... I HURT PEOPLE. SO MANY PEOPLE. SO MANY WONDERFUL PEOPLE.

"I HURT YOUR FAMILY."

MARTHA ANN CYPRESS
Beloved Daughter, Sister, Mother.
"Why does the night end and bring the mourning?"

AND FOR WHAT? SO I COULD STOP THIS.

THIS MOMENT.

BUT DO YOU KNOW WHAT, DANA? THIS MOMENT. IT'S--

IT'S SO... SO...

EPILOGUE.

SPENCER, TENNESEE.

I THINK YOU'LL FIND THE PRICE IS HARD TO BEAT.

THE PLACE HAS BEEN EMPTY SINCE THE OWNER FORECLOSED.

SOLD ALL OF THEIR THINGS TO GO CAMP OUT OUTSIDE WAUSAU DURING THAT ***REVIVAL*** CRAZINESS.

CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT, ***MRS. WEIMAR?***

PLEASE, CALL ME ***NITHIYA.***

TO ME, THIS IS THE REAL SELLING POINT. YOU CAN'T BEAT THIS VIEW FROM ANYWHERE BESIDES THE STATE PARK.

NOW TELL ME, IS THAT NOT A BEAUTIFUL VIEW OF CANEY CREEK?

YES. LOVELY. I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT. THIS MIGHT JUST BE THE PERFECT PLACE...

...TO START OVER.

Banks of the Broken Creek

by Aaron Weimar

AFTERWORD

It's over. A life is over.

That's what it felt like working on ***Revival***. A lifetime.

And sure, it was only five years that myself, Mike Norton, Mark Englert, Crank and Jenny Frison spent working on this series, each and every month. But it felt like a lifetime. Maybe that's because so much of what's in ***Revival*** is pulled from the 20 years I spent living in and around the very real town of Wausau, the actual lives and deaths of real people providing the bones of the story.

Maybe it's because, more than any other project I've worked on, this book was an immense amount of work, especially for Mike Norton, who seemed to be drawing every waking moment for each of those five years, missing only one deadline, and only because of the loss of his mom. Maybe it’s because managing a town's worth of characters, and figuring out their hopes and wants and weird character ticks surely contributed to this thinning hairline. These crow's feet. These minutes and hours gone forever.

But probably it's because, in its own way, ***Revival*** was alive. It had those bones made of the real man who shot a sheriff in his barn over a goose. Of a actual angry woman who poisoned a zorse. Of my grandparents and parents. Of a town that lived and still lives. It had the soft, warm flesh of the passionate ideas of four of the finest collaborators I could have ever worked with.

And it had blood. Blood that pumped though it in veins. In the red thread in Em's hoodie. In the red creek that cut through the pale, snowy hills.

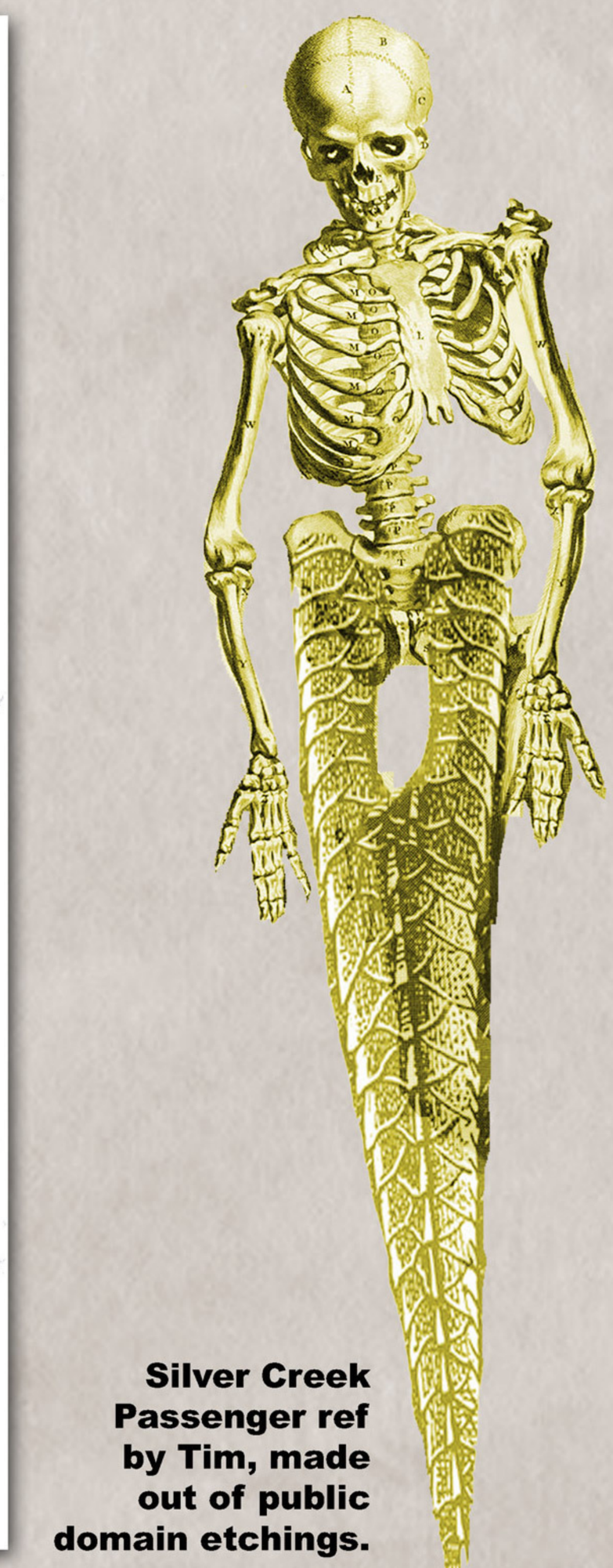
And it died. The last red thread, the heart monitor that told us that Lester Majak's heart had stopped, reminding us that no one escapes death's grasps.

But it's some comfort to know that ***Revival*** might live on long after I'm gone. In each time you read it. Whoever you are. Wherever you live. However you shared this story with me, and Mike, and Mark, and Crank! and Jenny.

Maybe in that way it's immortal. Maybe in that way, it's never over.

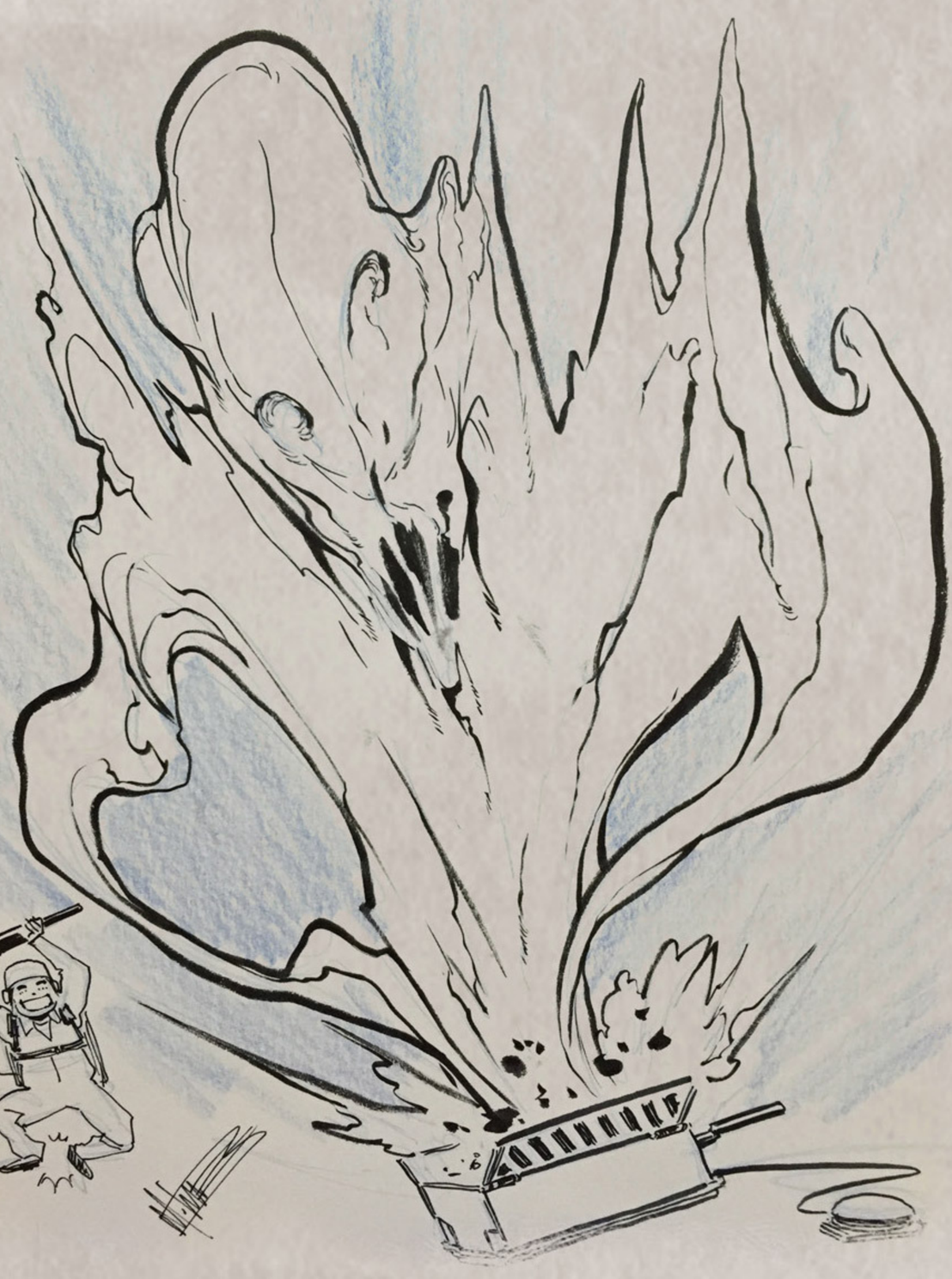
Sincerely,
TIM SEELEY

SKETCHBOOK



Silver Creek Passenger ref by Tim, made out of public domain etchings.

'Chibi' Em, Passenger, and Dana by Tim Seeley



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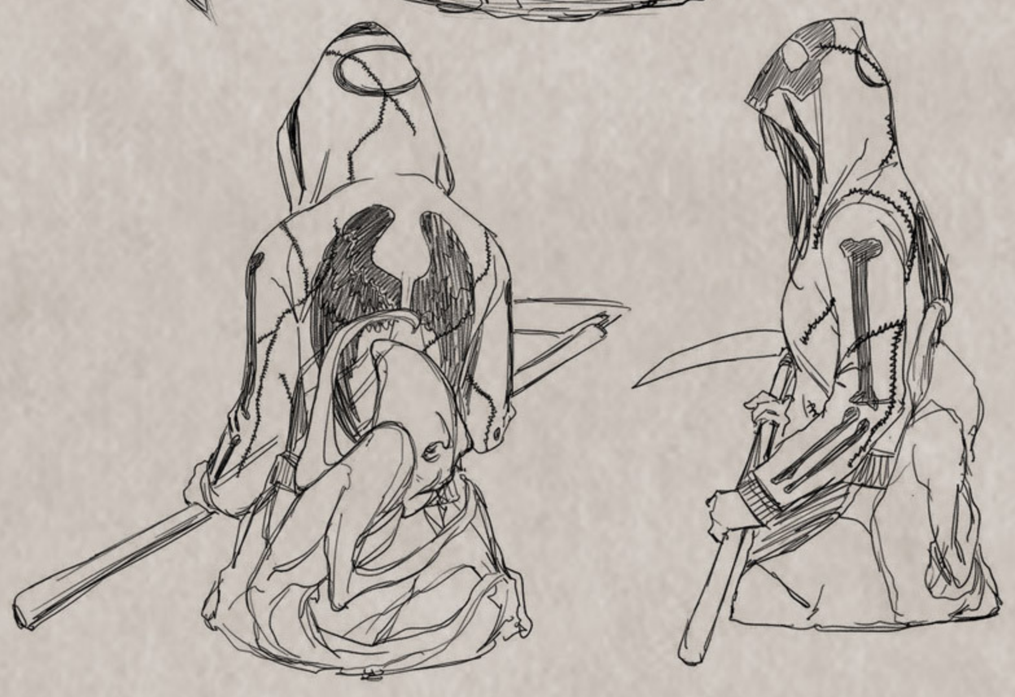
TURNAROUNDS
for EM statue



BASED ON DESIGNS
BY MIKE NORTON.

SKETCHBOOK

Awesome custom Em doll created by Revival fan Kara O'Connor!