



MARK LONDON

-

ALEJANDRO GIRALDO

# 1



# NIGHT<sup>®</sup>

T A S K F O R C E





**MIDNIGHT**  
TASK FORCE

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SOMALIA, EAST AFRICA  
NINE YEARS AGO

MAJOR  
McCORMICK,  
THE TARGET'S  
IN POSITION.

COPY,  
ALPHA  
ONE.

OPERATION  
WHITE GUARDIAN  
IS A GO.

WIND VELOCITY  
AND SPEED REMAIN  
CONSTANT. E.T.A. AT  
ZERO SIX HUNDRED  
HOURS.

I'VE CALCULATED 347  
DIFFERENT SCENARIOS  
ON HOW THIS WILL PLAY  
OUT. WE'LL END  
THIS IN LESS THAN  
TEN MINUTES.

HOOAH!

WHAT  
ARE YOUR  
PLANS WHEN  
THIS IS OVER,  
KEENAN?

LIE IN BED  
WITH TWO  
BEAUTIFUL  
WOMEN, SIR.

YOU  
FUCKING  
WITH ME,  
CAPTAIN?

HA HA HA. I'M  
TALKING ABOUT  
MY WIFE AND  
DAUGHTER,  
SIR.

THEY  
BETTER BE,  
TELL CHERRY  
AND NINA I'LL  
VISIT AS SOON  
AS I CAN.

WHAT  
ABOUT YOU,  
CABOT?





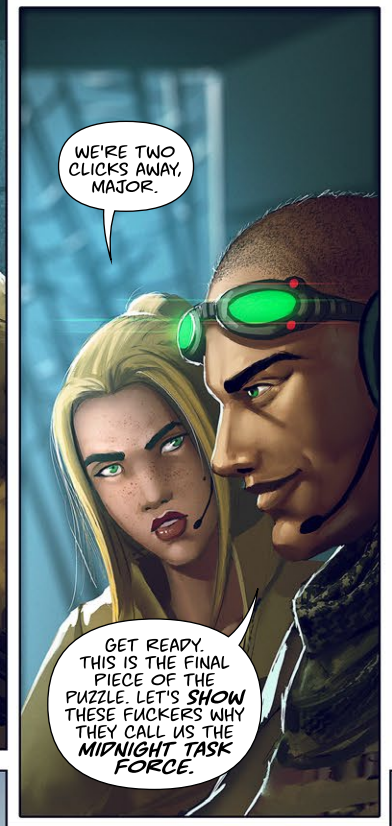
OH, YOU KNOW, STILL WORKING ON THAT OLD V8 ENGINE, THE ONE I TOLD YOU ABOUT. IT'S AN ENGINEER'S NIGHTMARE.

HEY, PULLMAN! LEND ME A HAND.



NOT MY JAM, CAPTAIN.

'SIDES, GOT STUDENTS TRAINING FOR UFC TRIALS. THEY'RE IN NEED OF A GOOD OL' FASHION ASS-KICKING IF THEY WANT IN.



WE'RE TWO CLICKS AWAY, MAJOR.

GET READY. THIS IS THE FINAL PIECE OF THE PUZZLE. LET'S SHOW THESE FUCKERS WHY THEY CALL US THE MIDNIGHT TASK FORCE.



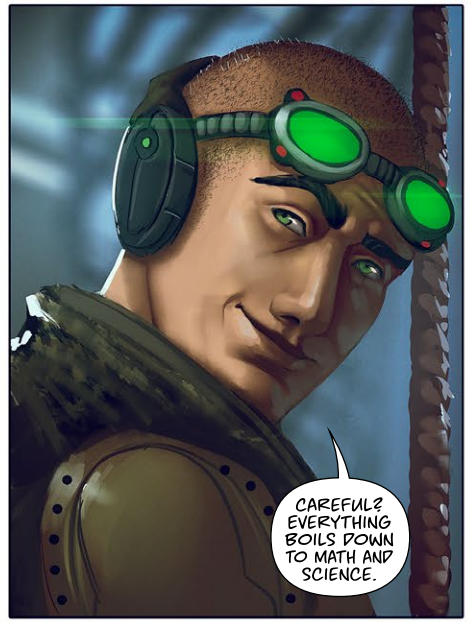
GO!

GO! GO!



AIDEN, WAIT!





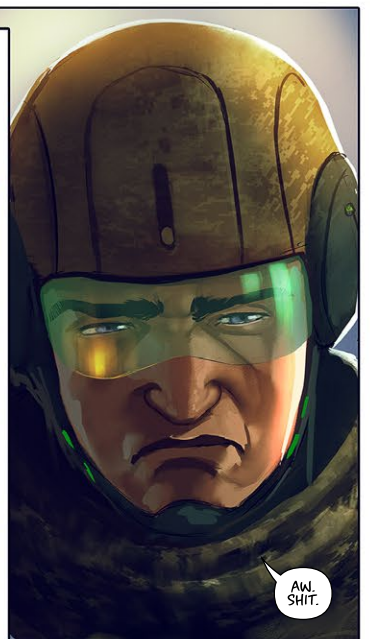
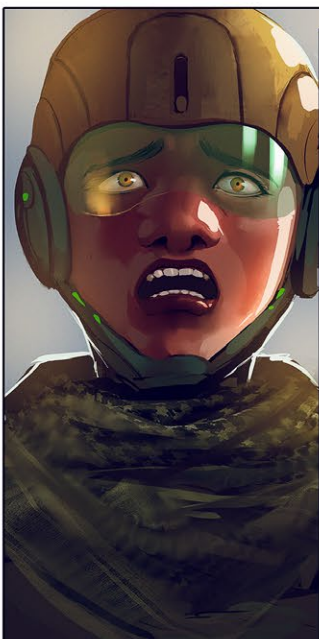




WE NEED THEM ALIVE. MOVE IN!

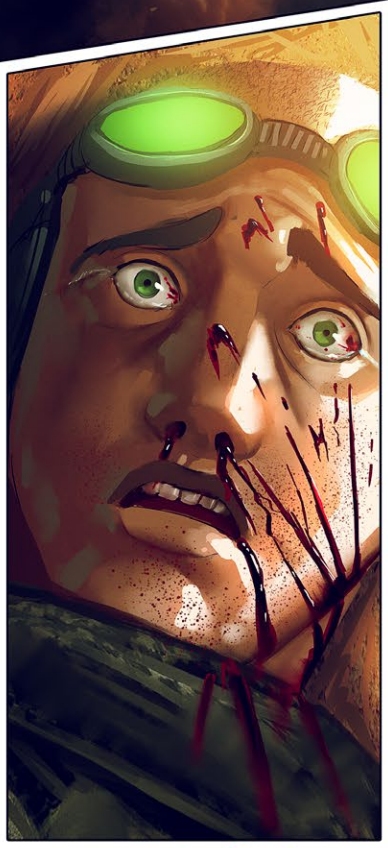
YOU HEARD THE MAN!

STAY BEHIND US, AND DON'T GET KILLED!



AW. SHIT.





THAT PAY  
BROKE ME...



**NOW**  
**DETROIT, 2055**

...IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY  
YESTERDAY, BUT, NINE YEARS  
HAVE PASSED SINCE I DECIDED  
TO COME TO THIS CITY.

AND FROM THE MOMENT I  
ARRIVED IT FELT LIKE **HOME**.  
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT  
THE **STENCH** HERE, SO  
FITTING TO MY CONDITION.

DESPITE EVERYTHING THAT  
HAPPENED AND EVERYTHING  
I WENT THROUGH THAT DAY,  
IT MADE ME WHO I AM.

I'VE TRIED TO PUT IT ALL BEHIND ME,  
SO I KEEP BUSY USING MY SKILLS TO  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE, BUT NO MATTER  
HOW HARD I TRY, THOSE MEMORIES  
ARE A PART OF ME.

MANY CLAIM DETROIT  
IS DAMNED, BUT ME?  
THIS CITY **SAVED** ME.

A PLACE THAT LETS  
ME TAKE ITS REALITY  
AND CARRY IT ON MY  
SHOULDERS...





...WITHOUT PRINCIPLES...



...WITHOUT VALUES...



...FULL OF HOPELESSNESS...

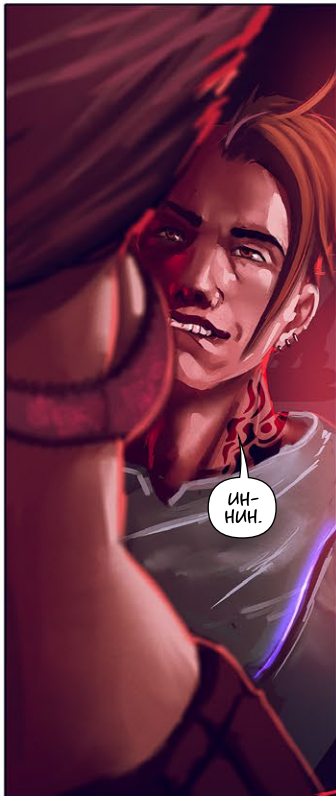
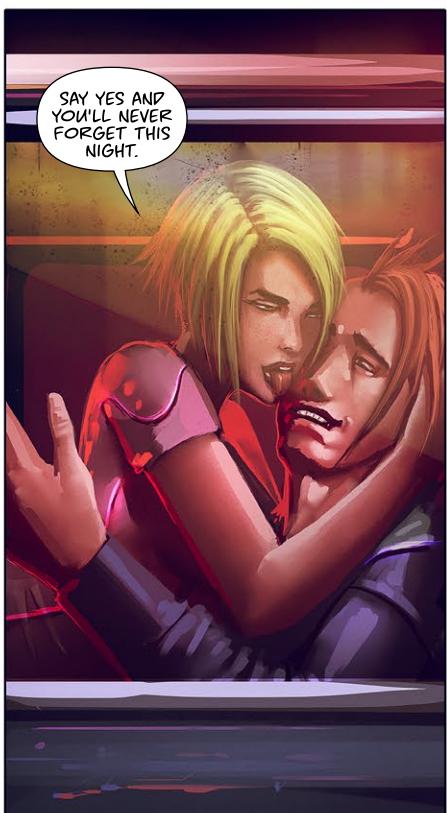


...AND CORRUPTION.

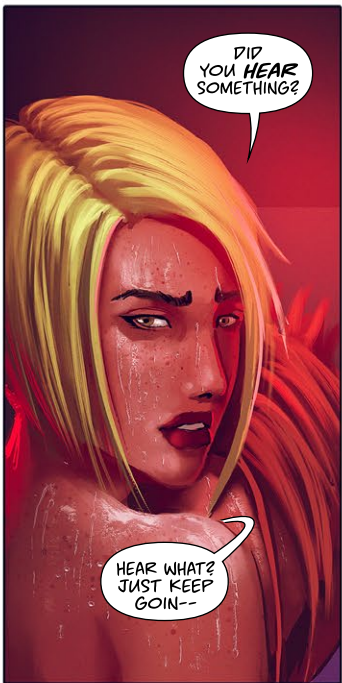


*WESTSIDE INDUSTRIAL*

ALL THIS MADNESS  
MAKES SENSE TO ME...









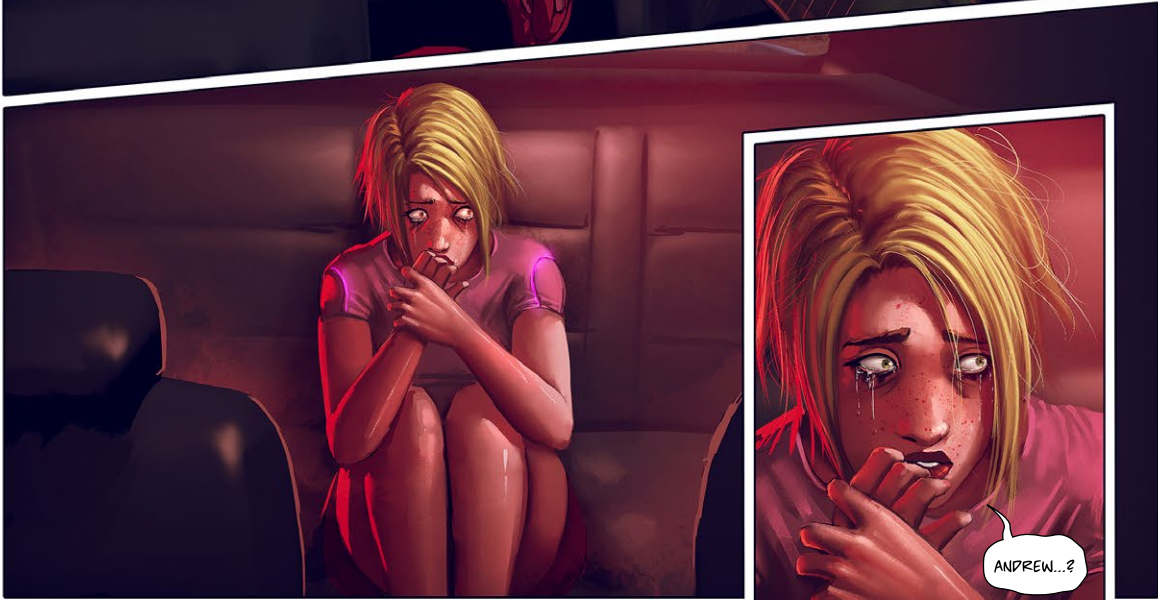


FUCK IT.  
LET'S GET  
OUTTA  
HERE!



CRASH

AAHHH!



ANDREW...?



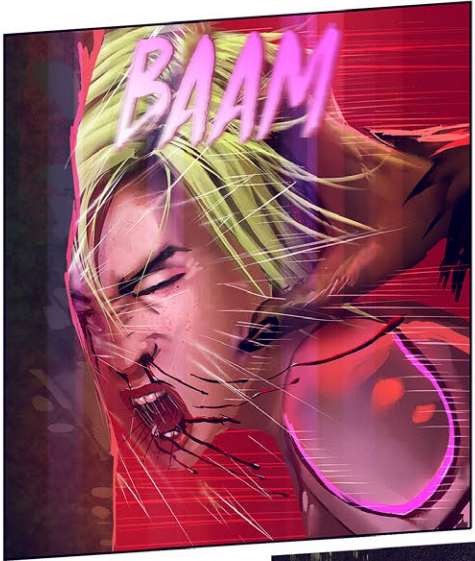
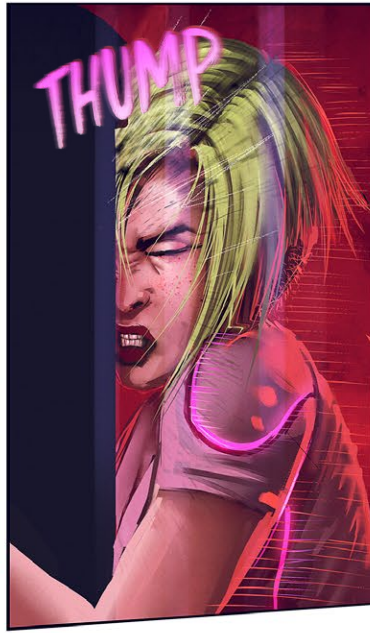
CRACK



AAHHHHH!





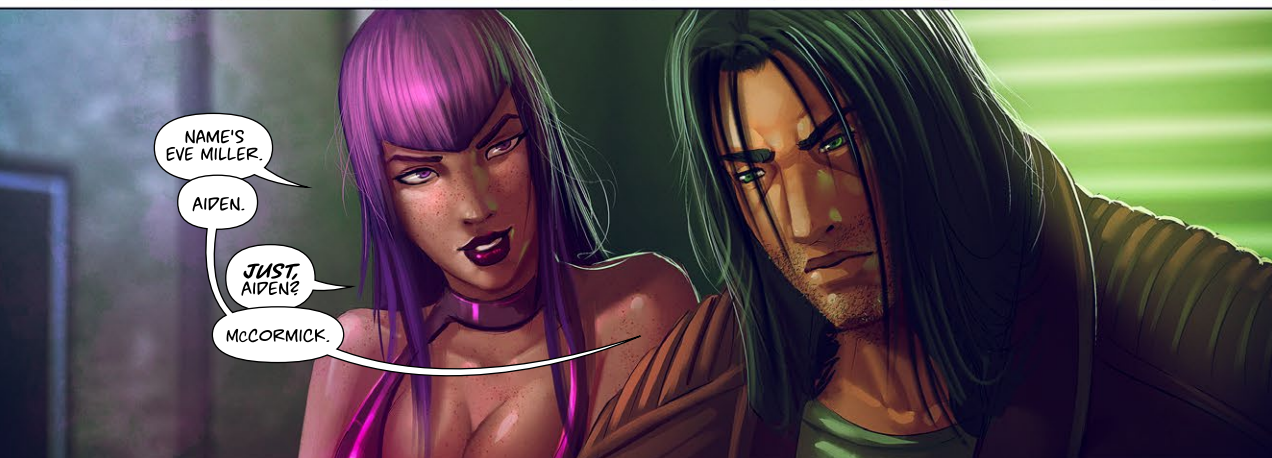
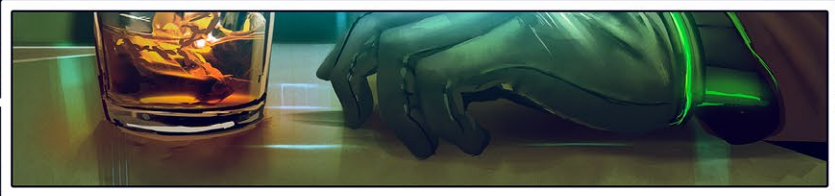






**MORTY'S BAR**

...AND I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN FIGURE ALL THIS SHIT OUT.



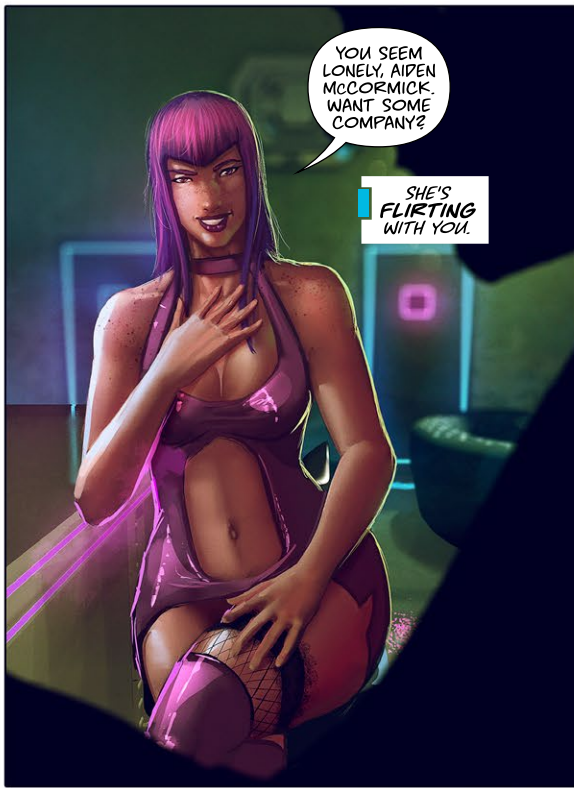
NAME'S EVE MILLER.

AIDEN.

JUST AIDEN?

MCCORMICK.





YOU SEEM LONELY, AIDEN MCCORMICK. WANT SOME COMPANY?

**SHE'S FLIRTING WITH YOU.**



I'M NOT ALONE.

THEN HOW COME YOU'RE DRINKING BY YOURSELF?

**CONSIDER CAREFULLY WHAT YOU'RE GONNA SAY NEXT.**



MY WORK. IT'S DEMANDING. SOMETIMES I JUST WANT TO FORGET.

**C'MON. THIS SHIT AGAIN?**



WHY FORGET? EVERYTHING YOU DO SHAPES THE PERSON YOU ARE NOW.

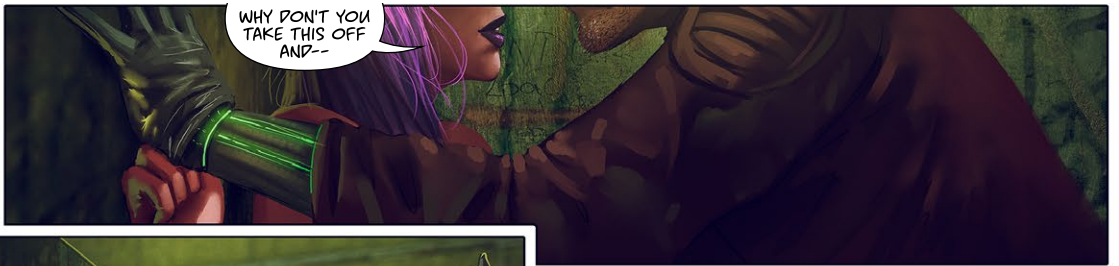
HMMM. GUESS YOU HAVE ME ALL FIGURED OUT.



NOT YET, BUT I'D LIKE TO. WANNA GET OUTTA HERE?

I GOT A BETTER IDEA.









YOU'RE DOING A FANTASTIC JOB AT SABOTAGING ANY REAL HUMAN CONNECTION.

YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO THE DOC.

DON'T WASTE YOUR BREATH. HE'S NEVER CARED ABOUT MY DOCTORATE IN BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE GOOD OL' DAYS?



STAY OUT OF IT.



YOU KEEP THIS UP AND YOU'RE NEVER GETTING LAID.

KEEP YAPPING AND I'LL SHUT YOU OUT FOR GOOD.

AND FOR THE RECORD... I CAN GET LAID WHENEVER THE FUCK I WANT.

BZZT BZZT



AIDEN, TWO BODIES, WESTSIDE INDUSTRIAL.



WE HAVE ANOTHER CASE.





AS SOON AS I ARRIVE,  
THE STENCH TAKES ME  
BACK TO THAT DAY...

GASOLINE AND BLOOD  
COME TOGETHER AS PART  
OF A BRUTAL EQUATION.



SHE'S SO  
YOUNG. WHO'D  
DO SOMETHING  
LIKE THIS?

WELCOME  
TO DETROIT.

NO, THIS IS  
DIFFERENT.

MCCORMICK!



NICE  
TO SEE  
YOU, TOO,  
CHIEF.

APOLOGIES  
FOR SUMMONIN'  
YOU AT THIS HOUR.  
COULDN'T WAIT  
TILL MORNIN'.



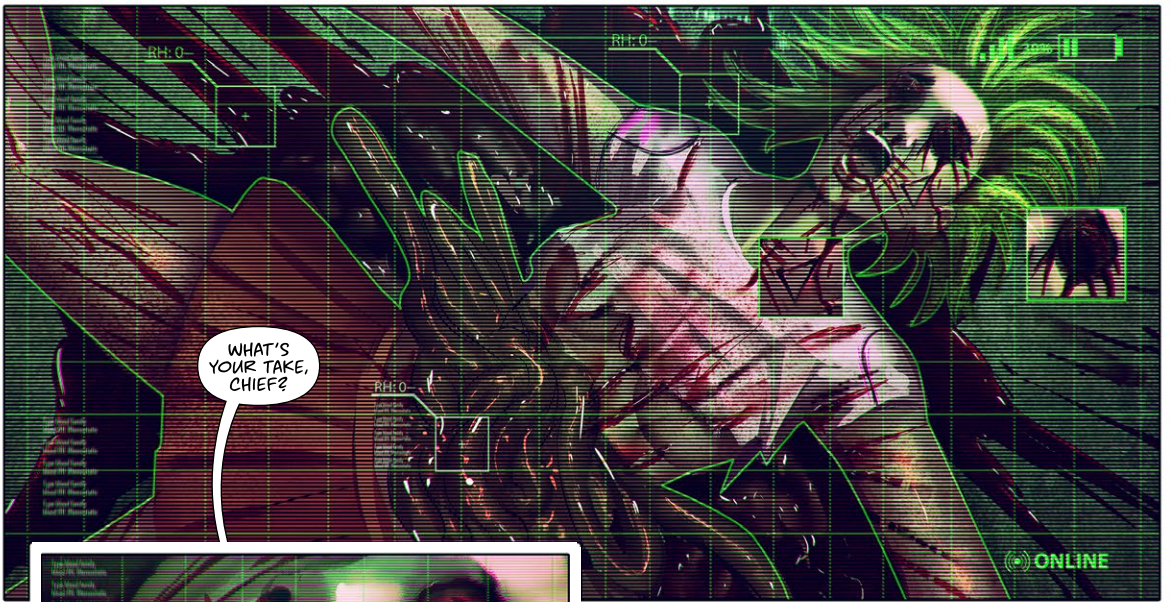
WHO  
FOUND  
THEM?

A BUS DRIVER  
CALLED IT IN A  
FEW HOURS  
AGO.

AND HE  
DIDN'T SEE  
ANYTHING,  
RIGHT?

THEY  
NEVER  
DO.





WHAT'S YOUR TAKE, CHIEF?

ONLINE



WE BELIEVE THE TRIANGLE IS THE KILLER'S CALLIN' CARD.



TWO OTHER IDENTICAL CASES HAVE BEEN REPORTED BOTH VICTIMS HAD THE SAME MARKIN' CARVED ON THEIR FACE WITH THEIR EYES GOUGED OUT.



WE'VE GOT NO OTHER FINGERPRINTS OR DNA.



WHAT DOES STAND OUT ARE THESE METAL SHARDS SCATTERED EVERYWHERE, SAME AS THE OTHER CRIME SCENES.

AND THE SECOND VICTIM?





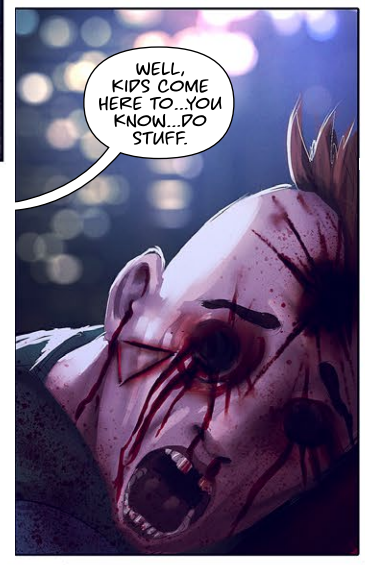
LEAST THE GUY HAD GOOD TASTE IN CARS. WHAT DO YOU THINK IS UNDER THE HOOD? A MODIFIED V8?

...BOTH WERE STUDENTS OVER AT MARY GROVE COLLEGE. THEIR FAMILIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED TO ID THE BODIES.

THEY REMIND ME OF MY STUDENTS...

WONDER WHAT THEY WERE DOING ALL THE WAY OUT HERE?

WHAT YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN DOING IN MORTY'S BATHROOM.



WELL, KIDS COME HERE TO... YOU KNOW... DO STUFF.



THERE ANYTHIN' ELSE YOU NEED?

THE METAL SHARPS. I NEED TO KNOW WHERE THEY CAME FROM.

AND I ALSO NEED TO RUN THIS CASE.



ATTENTION, Y'ALL!

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, DETECTIVE AIDEN MCCORMICK IS IN CHARGE.

WHATEVER HE WANTS, YOU GIVE TO HIM. UNDERSTOOD?



THIS IS YOUR PROBLEM NOW, AIDEN.



**POLICE PRECINCT**  
**TWO DAYS LATER**

**YOU LOOK LIKE SHIT.**

**WHEN'S THE LAST TIME YOU SLEPT?**

**DIDN'T I SAY THIS CASE WAS GOING TO BE DIFFERENT?**



**I NEED TO FIGURE THIS OUT.**

**BUT WITH SO MANY MISSING PIECES... IT'S HARD TO SEE THE WHOLE PICTURE.**

**YOU DON'T OWE THESE PEOPLE SHIT. YOU'VE DONE YOUR PART.**

**LET SOMEBODY ELSE WORK ON THIS AND TAKE SOME TIME OFF. THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF CASES WHEN YOU GET BACK.**



**YOU KNOW I CAN'T DO THAT.**

**'CAUSE JUNE WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO GIVE UP?**



**SHE ALWAYS SAID THERE WAS MORE THAN ONE WAY TO SOLVE A PUZZLE.**

**SHE ALSO TOLD YOU TO RELY ON OTHERS IF YOU NEED HELP.**



**WHAT DO YOU THINK I'M DOING?**



**IS EVERYTHING OKAY, SIR? CAN I GET YOU ANYTHING?**

**NO, I'M FINE, ALICIA. JUST GET OUT AND SHUT THE DOOR.**



**SIR, ARE YOU SURE YOU--**

**LEAVE. ME. ALONE!!**





AH, WHAT NOW?

KNOCK KNOCK



ALICIA, I TOLD YOU--!



MCCORMICK! CHIEF NEEDS YOU.



THERE'S A HIGH-PROFILE CASE AND HE WANTS YOU TO TAKE A LOOK.

I'M BUSY.

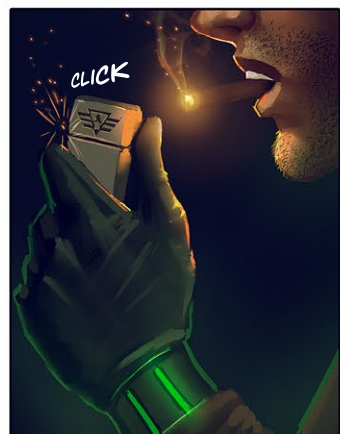


IT INVOLVES THE CEO OF THE VIRIDIAN CORPORATION WHO'S A GOOD FRIEND OF THE MAYOR.



AND WHAT DOES SHE HAVE TO DO WITH ME?





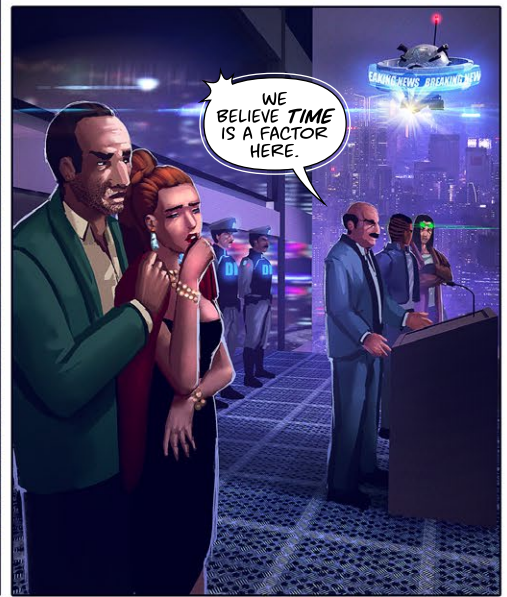


**POLICE PRECINCT  
OUTSIDE**



SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT, JOHN EVANS WAS ABDUCTED FROM HIS HOME. WE ARE CURRENTLY LEADIN' A SEARCH PARTY IN THE AREA.

WE ASK THAT YOU CALL THE NUMBER AT THE BOTTOM OF YOUR SCREENS IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION.





SHE COMES FROM MONEY. OLD MONEY. A WOMAN OF **POWER** IN DETROIT'S SOCIETY.

YOU SEE, FAMILY MEMBERS COMMIT ALMOST HALF OF ALL KIDNAPPINGS...

ON THE OTHER HAND, HER HUSBAND DOESN'T SHARE HER SENSE OF STYLE.

...AND THEY USUALLY HAVE VERY CLEAR MOTIVES...

HE'S NERVOUS, HIS INTEGRITY MARKERS ARE OFF, HIS BODY LANGUAGE, HIS POSTURE...

...MOTIVES THAT LEAD TO BAD DECISIONS AND EVEN WORSE CONSEQUENCES.

...HE'S HIDING SOMETHING.

MR. EVANS!

YOU ARE CONSTANTLY OVERSHADOWED BY YOUR WIFE. SO YOU GO AHEAD AND KIDNAP YOUR SON, FOR WHAT? STATUS? FINANCIAL GAIN?

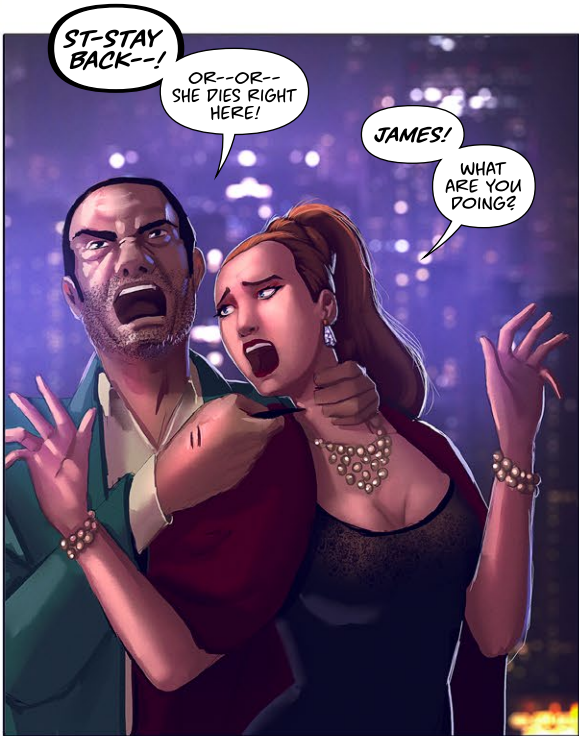




EXCUSE ME?

GIVE IT UP, MR. EVANS. THE EVIDENCE IS ALL THERE. THE GASH ON YOUR HAND, THE MUD ON YOUR SHOES...

LET ME GUESS-- THERE'S A **LADDER** UNDER YOUR SON'S WINDOW. AM I RIGHT?



**ST-STAY BACK--!**

OR--OR-- SHE DIES RIGHT HERE!

**JAMES!**

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?



EASY... EASY...

YOU'VE ALREADY LOST OUT ON THE MONEY. YOU WANT YOUR SON TO LOSE HIS MOTHER, TOO?

JUST LET HER GO.



**NO! STAY BACK!**

I--I'LL DO IT!

NO, YOU WON'T. JUST LET HER GO AND TELL US WHERE THE BOY IS.



GOD! WHAT HAVE I DONE?

**WHERE IS HE?!**



HE'S-- HE'S TIED UP IN THE POOL HOUSE.



ELSEWHERE

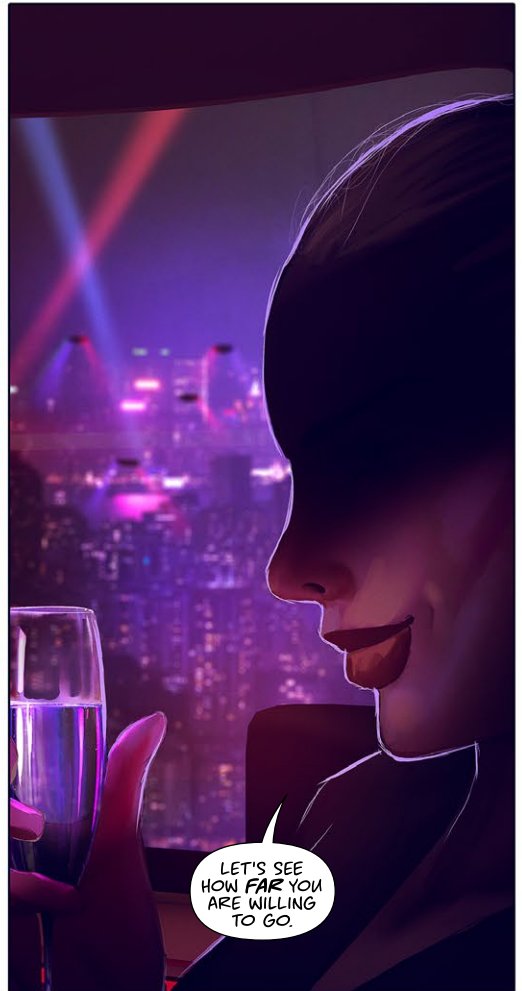
...IN A SHOCKING TURN OF EVENTS, THE KIDNAPPING OF JOHN EVANS, HEIR TO THE VERIDIAN CORPORATION, REACHED AN UNEXPECTED CONCLUSION.

DETECTIVE AIDEN MCCORMICK SOLVED THE CASE, REVEALING THAT THE BOY'S FATHER, JAMES EVANS, WAS BEHIND THE ABDUCTION.



IMPRESSIVE. NOT EVEN 24 HOURS AND YOU FIGURED IT OUT.

YOU ARE PROVING TO BE A WORTHY ADVERSARY AFTER ALL.



LET'S SEE HOW FAR YOU ARE WILLING TO GO.



**MAYOR RONAN'S OFFICE  
THE NEXT DAY**

IT STINKS IN HERE.  
SMOKE N' FARTS DON'T  
GO WELL TOGETHER.

YOU  
WANTED  
TO SEE ME,  
SIR?

GOOD,  
YOU'RE HERE.  
CHIEF COOPER  
JUST TOLD ME  
ALL ABOUT THE  
EVANS FIASCO.



I'LL BE  
DEALING WITH A  
SHIT STORM FOR  
A WHILE. =>SIGH=>  
JAMES WAS A  
FRIEND.



DON'T  
WORRY, RONAN.  
WE CAN SPIN  
THIS IN YOUR  
FAVOR.



THAT IS  
THE LEAST OF  
MY WORRIES.

WHAT ARE  
WE DOING ABOUT  
THOSE KILLINGS,  
DETECTIVE?



GOOD LUCK EXPLAINING TO  
THESE NEANDERTHALS THAT  
THERE'S MORE TO THIS CASE.

SIR, THESE  
MURDERS ARE  
BRUTAL YET PRECISE.  
WE'RE NOT DEALING  
WITH AN ORDINARY  
KILLER HERE.



THE WOUNDS  
FOUND IN ALL THREE  
CASES WERE MADE WITH  
SUCH PRECISION THAT  
NOT EVEN A QUALIFIED  
SURGEON COULD PULL  
THAT OFF.

ALSO, THE EVIDENCE  
INVOLVED SEEMS TOO  
OBVIOUS, ESPECIALLY AT  
THE LOCATIONS WHERE  
THE VICTIMS WERE  
FOUND.





CUTS ON THEIR FACES, METAL SHARPS, AND NO LEAFS? NONE OF IT ADDS UP, MAYOR. I NEED MORE TIME.



YOU'RE A **HOTSHOT** DETECTIVE WITH AN IMPECCABLE RECORD OF GETTING RESULTS.

BUT THE OPTICS ON THIS ARE **TERRIBLE**. PEOPLE LOOK TO ME FOR ANSWERS AND I NEED TO MAKE A STATEMENT.

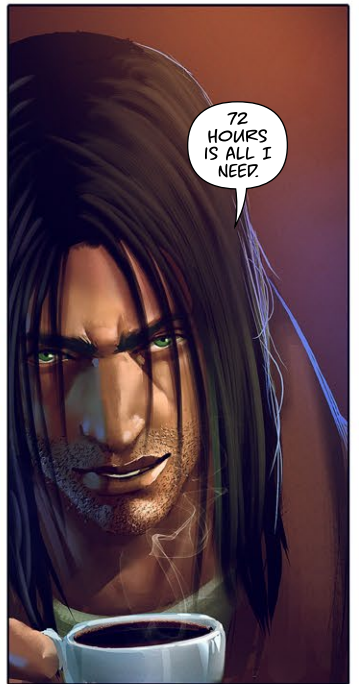
WE SHOULD CALL IN THE F.B.I. AND ENFORCE A CURFEW **IMMEDIATELY**.



PANIC WILL SPREAD LIKE SPARKS ON HAY. BEFORE YOU DO THAT, ROMAN, YOU SHOULD GIVE 'IM A CHANCE.



AND WHAT IF HE **FAILS**, COOPER? IT'LL BE MY ASS ON THE LINE!



72 HOURS IS ALL I NEED.



WELL, HE HASN'T FAILED **YET**.



**AIDEN'S APARTMENT**

"FINE, DETECTIVE. 72 HOURS, AND NOT A MINUTE MORE."



THEY MUST THINK I'M A COMPLETE NUT JOB...

...BUT THEY DON'T SEE THE WORLD LIKE WE DO.

IF THEY KNEW THE TRUTH, THEY WOULD TAKE AWAY MY GUN AND BADGE.

DON'T WORRY, THEY DON'T HAVE THE SLIGHTEST CLUE.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP. JUST LIKE WE USED TO.

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, WE'LL DELIVER THIS FUCKER ON A SILVER PLATTER.





HOOAH!

HOOAH!

HOOAH!

*TO BE CONTINUED...*





MARK LONDON

-

ALEJANDRO GIRALDO

#2



# NIGHT!™

T A S K F O R C E



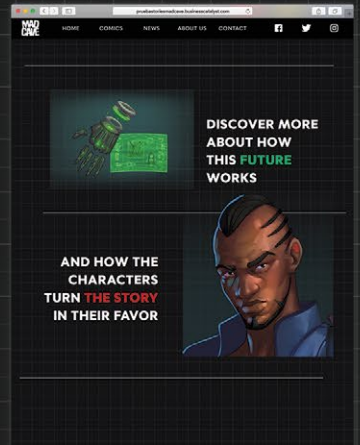
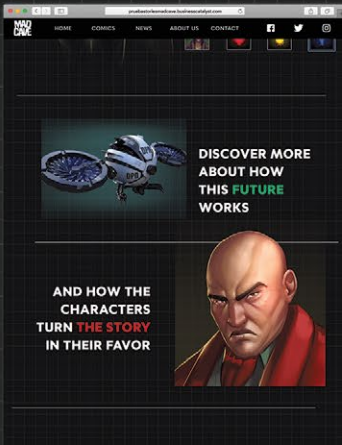
IN STORES  
AUGUST 2018



BE A PART OF AIDEN'S MIND  
**MIDNIGHTTASKFORCE.COM**



BROWSE THROUGH THE PROFILES OF EACH CHARACTER AND GET TO KNOW MORE ABOUT DETROIT'S FUTURISTIC HIGH-TECH.





# MIDNIGHT TASK FORCE

# LETTERS PAGE



We want to hear from you! Send your emails to [midnight@madcavestudios.com](mailto:midnight@madcavestudios.com) and please mark "OKAY TO PRINT."

Welcome to *Midnight Task Force*, the first solo series to star one of Mad Cave Studios's most controversial characters, Aiden McCormick, a detective whose sole purpose is to solve the mysteries closing in around him with an obsession that's turned into a compulsion. Is this his coping mechanism? His atonement for past sins? Or is he just another mad man with a badge and gun running around the streets of Detroit?

I couldn't be more thrilled to share this chapter showcasing the life of a character from a screenplay I wrote almost seven years ago. It was supposed to be some B-movie, with tons of gore and horror, as an homage to slasher films from the 80s which involved a stereotypical detective hunting a supernatural killer. When Mad Cave Studios became a reality, so did Aiden, and like the company, the idea had a mind of its own and became the book you're holding now. Our story is a crazy, beautiful ride full of color and darkness that will keep you on the edge of your seat as we explore a dystopian future housing complex relationships. Aiden McCormick may seem like your typical dark anti-hero, but for me, he's closer to Wolverine than the Punisher.

Now, let me tell you about the creative force behind *Midnight*:

Alejandro Giraldo is an artist I have tremendous respect for and it's a privilege to be working with him. He's fast, fluid, and develops dynamic pages that are drawn beautifully with mind-blowing colors and effects. I'm always stunned when he sends back a page for review, and *Midnight Task Force* is the perfect title to showcase his talent. Did I mention he's the colorist, too? That's how lucky I am to have this beast of an artist on the title, and he's only scratching the surface of his amazing potential.

Giovanna T. Orozco, Mad Cave Studios's Editor-in-Chief, has shared my love for storytelling ever since we started this project. Gio is our gatekeeper, and her mission is like that of solving a mathematical equation as she ensures the words and art come together with only one exceptional result: to make a beautiful and endearing comic book.

Christian Ospina, our graphic designer, has been working on the designs for many of Mad Cave Studios's books and is responsible for most of the phenomenal looking pieces you see on our website and social media platforms. He has an exquisite taste and eagle eye for detail that is now in charge of lettering this very book. I'm grateful that he has endured my endless reworking of pages and finicky notes, and has continued to stick with this project.

Kris Swanson, assistant editor and the newest member of the team. His mad skills have not only made this book better but also his sincere love for writing keeps me focused.

And a very special thanks to Andrey Zea, who's graphic design work has invigorated the dress design for series. You gave us your best and the results speak for themselves.

Now comes your part: We need your questions and comments! I believe letters and mail of all sorts are an integral part of communicating and understanding what others see and seek in a piece of art. It is also a format in which you can discover people with similar interests and tastes. As such, our letters section is a place to vocalize and project the voices in other people's heads.

See you soon,

**Mark London**  
🐦 [@MarkLondonMCS](https://twitter.com/MarkLondonMCS)

*P.S.* If you have an idea for the title of the letters page, send them our way—the winner will get something special just for them!





# MAD CAVE™



@MADCAVESTUDIOS



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