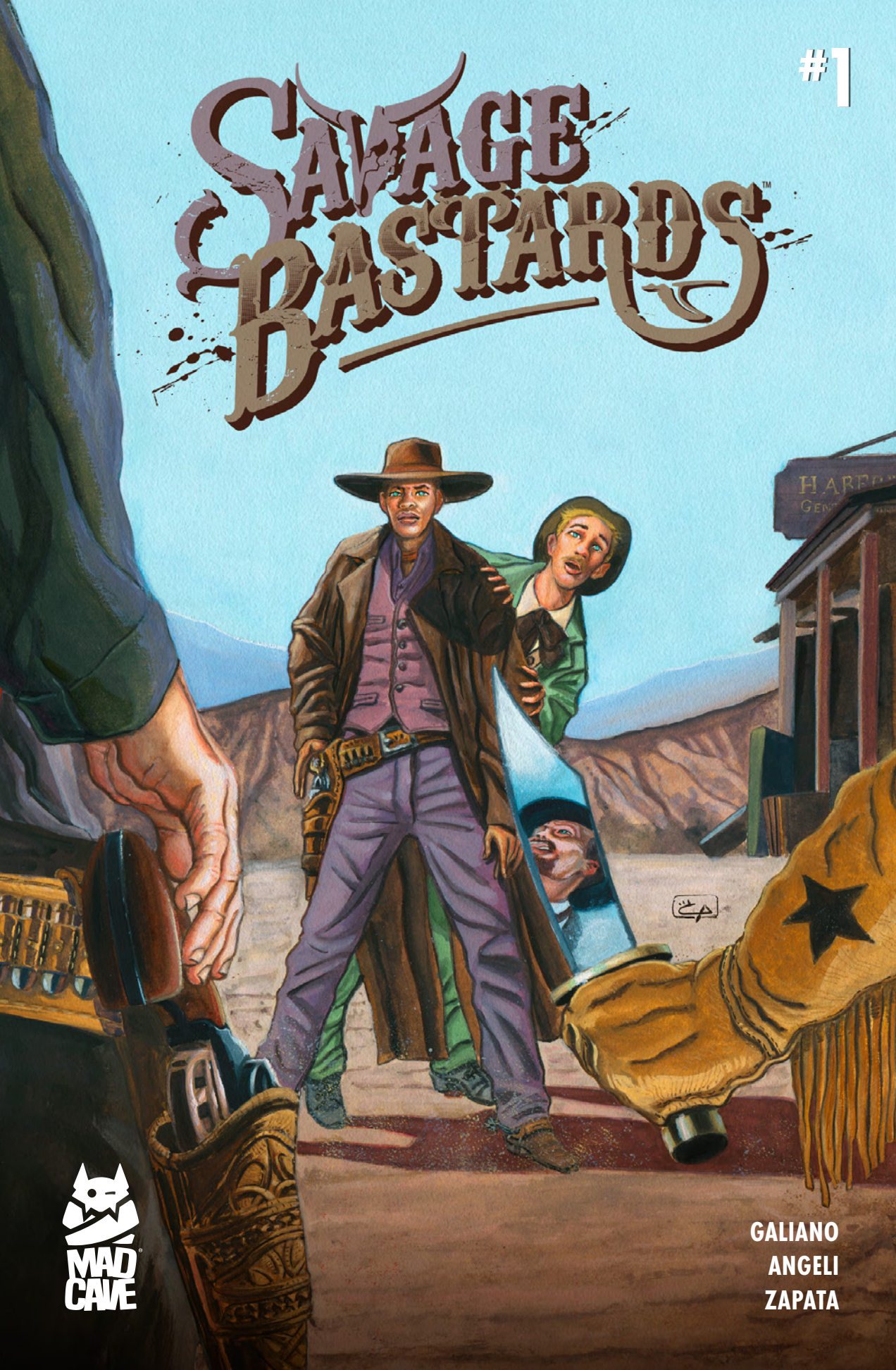


#1

SAVAGE BASTARDS™




MAD
CAVE

GALIANO
ANGELI
ZAPATA

Savage Bastards™



PART 1: SONS OF A GUN

DAVID GALIANO
WRITER

CARLOS ANGELI
ARTIST

MIGUEL ANGEL ZAPATA
LETTERER

GIOVANNA T. OROZCO
SENIOR EDITOR

CHRIS FERNANDEZ
EDITOR

BRIAN HAWKINS
EDITOR

Laura Chacón founder • Mark London CEO and Chief Creative Officer
Giovanna T. Orozco VP of Operations • Chris Fernandez Editor-in-Chief • Cecilia Medina Chief Financial Officer
Alexander Stensby Publisher • Manuel Castellanos Retailer Relations Manager • Chris Sanchez Managing Editor
Miguel Angel Zapata Design Director • Diana Bermúdez Graphic Designer • David Reyes Graphic Designer
Adriana T. Orozco Interactive Media Designer • Nicolás Zea Arias Audiovisual Production

GUANAJUATO, MEXICO. 1873.

The beautiful
Rose Franklin.

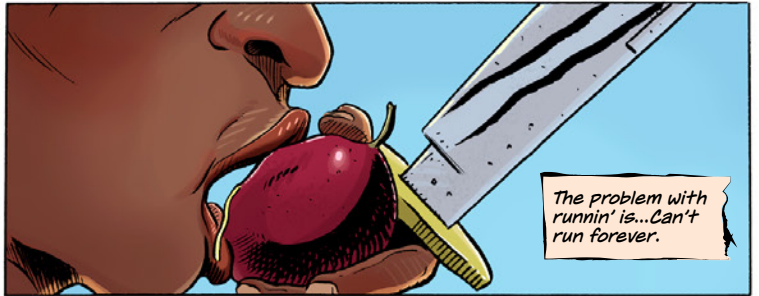
A woman who's been
runnin' for most her life.

Tryin' ta escape a past
that woulda' broke a
weaker person.



--Ran from slavery,
abuse, exploitation,
corruption...

Runnin'...suvivin'...
That's all she's
ever known...



The problem with
runnin' is...Can't
run forever.

...and the past never tires...
never gives up...never stops
chasin' ya down.





WELL,
F@#\$!



These ugly cowpokes are
a parta Rose's past.

HEY, DARLIN',
LONG TIME.

BILL...

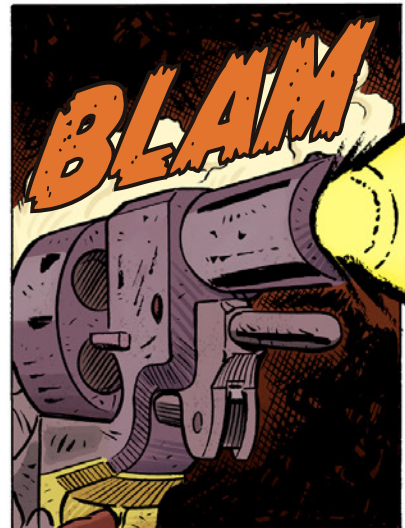
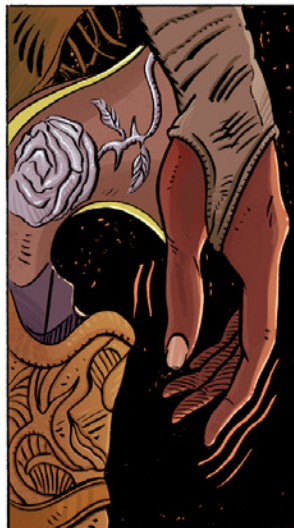
WHY DON'TCHA
COME HOME, ROSE?
WE DON'T WANNA
HURT YA, BUT WE
GOT ORDERS.

CAN'T DO
THAT...

YES,
YA CAN.
LET'S GO
HOME.



A past she ain't
keen ta revisit.



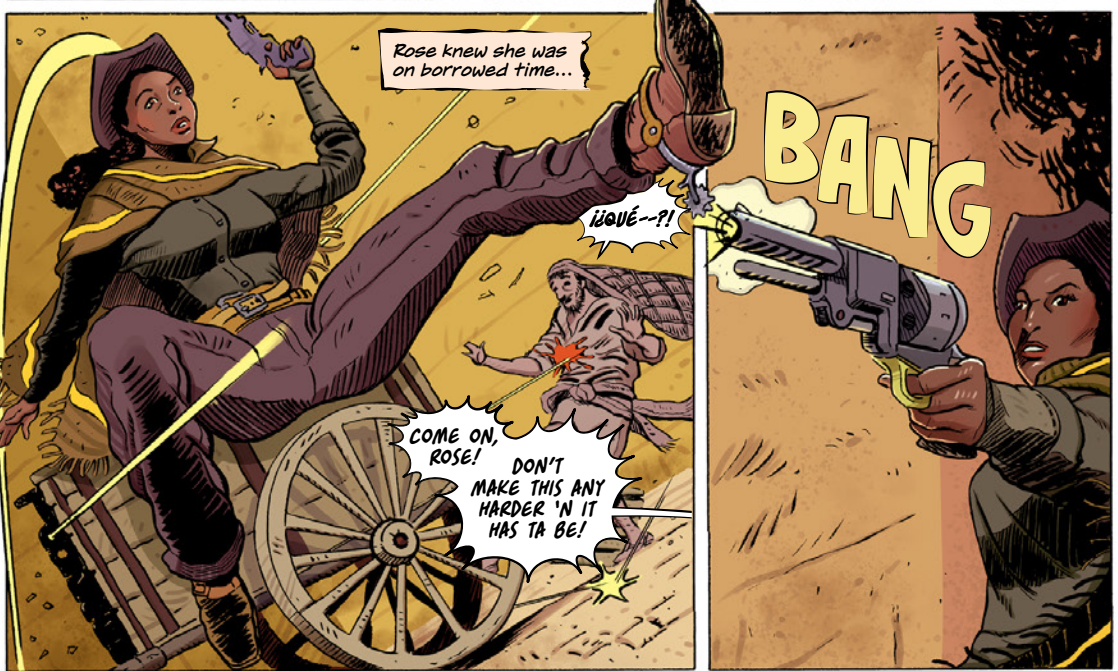


WHAT THE F--
GAAWN!

DON'T KILL 'ER BOYS!
JUST WING THE BITCH!

GOTTA TAKE 'ER ALIVE!

BANG BANG BANG



Rose knew she was on borrowed time...

LOUÉ--?!

COME ON, ROSE!
DON'T MAKE THIS ANY HARDER 'N IT HAS TA BE!

BANG



GIT HER, YA USELESS F@#SS!



WACK

UGHH!

...But it still surprises Rose when she looks into the eyes of The Spider and his posse.

**HARLAND AYERS AKA
THE SPIDER.**

JANE.

**BOBBI-JO
FLASK.**

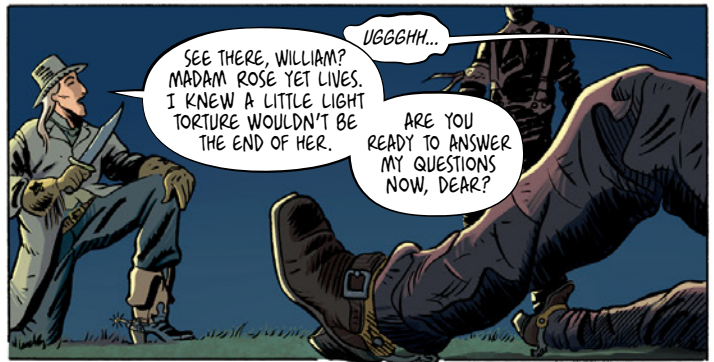
GOOD AFTERNOON,
MADAM
ROSE.

HOW
HAVE YOU
BEEN?

IT'S PAST
TIME WE HAD
A CONVERSATION
ABOUT YOUR
SON.

BASTARD...





TWO WEEKS LATER.

NO!!!

ELLIOT?
ARE YOU OKAY,
DEAR?

YES, MISS
BRENDEL.

JUST A
NIGHTMARE.

SORRY IF
I WORRIED
YOU.

NO WORRY,
DEAR. AS LONG AS
YOU'RE ALRIGHT,
BREAKFAST?

NO, THANK YOU.
I SHOULD GET TO
THE SHOP. FRIDAY'S
A BUSY DAY. FELLAS
GOTTA GET READY FOR
THE FESTIVAL THIS
WEEKEND.

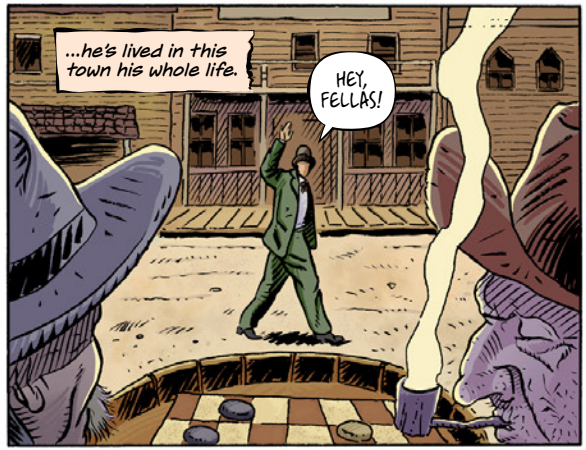
Meet Elliot Wright...

...a young barber from a small town in Texas.



LOOKING GOOD, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF.

A bit of a dandy...

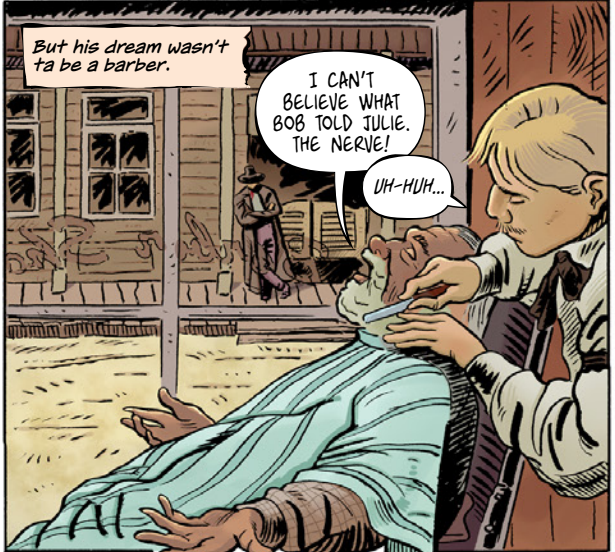


...he's lived in this town his whole life.

HEY, FELLAS!



Inherited the barber shop from his pa after he passed.



But his dream wasn't ta be a barber.

I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT BOB TOLD JULIE. THE NERVE!

UH-HUH...



Boy wanted ta be a writer...

NO! STOP IT!

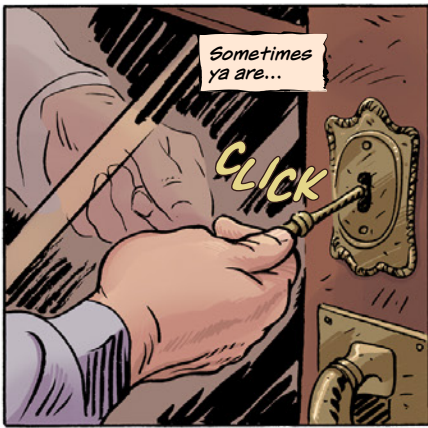
IT'S OKAY, JEDEDIAH.

HOLD STILL. ALMOST DONE.



...But instead a chasin' his dreams, Elliot spends his days in the shop...

...Starin' out the window as the world passes him by.





The whiskey helps Elliot decide.



LISTEN HERE, BOY... ARE YA GONNA BET OR FOLD? WE AIN'T GOT ALL NIGHT.

I'LL BET WHEN I'M READY, YOU IGNORANT NEANDERTHAL.

WHAT DID YA CALL ME?!

NEANDERTHAL. AN EARLY VERSION OF HUMAN EVOLUTION DISCOVERED A FEW YEARS BACK BY A SCIENTIST IN GERMANY...

...IDENTIFIED BY A LARGE OVAL SKULL WITH A RECEDING FOREHEAD, THICK BROW, AND SMALL BRAIN.



WHAT'S HIS STORY?

FREE COLORED FROM UP NORTH SOMEWHERE.

RODE IN LAST NIGHT.

THINK HE WAS WATCHING ME EARLIER TODAY. SAW HIM JUST STANDING OUTSIDE THE SALOON.



JUST STARTED PLAYIN' CARDS WITH RICHIE AND THE BOYS LITTLE BIT AGO.

THINKIN' HE'S TROUBLE?

DON'T KNOW...



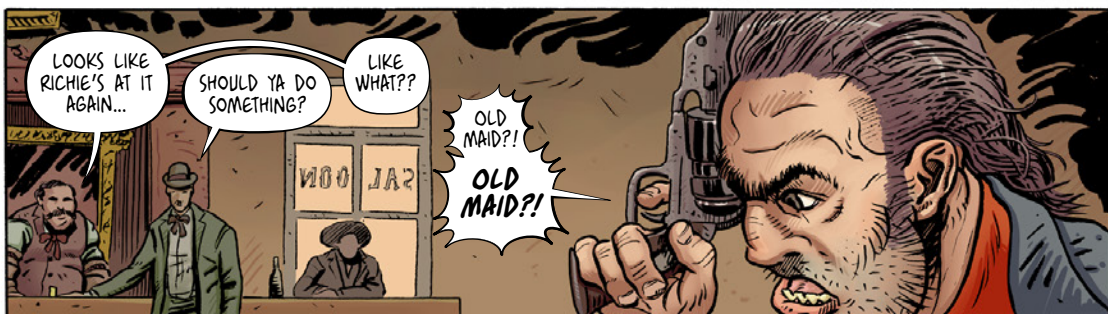
THIS IS HORSE SHIT!

HOW THE HELL DO YOU KEEP WINNIN', YA CHEATIN' SUMBITCH?!

I'VE HAD JUST ABOUT ENOUGH OF YOU, HILLBILLIES. IS POKER TOO MUCH FOR YOU, PEA BRAINS?!

HOW ABOUT OLD MAID?

THAT MORE YOUR SPEED?



LOOKS LIKE RICHIE'S AT IT AGAIN...

SHOULD YA DO SOMETHING?

LIKE WHAT??

OLD MAID?!
OLD MAID?!



YA GONE TOO FAR! TIME I TAUGHT YA A LESSON, BOY!

PUT IT AWAY, RICHIE!

LISTEN TO YOUR FRIEND.

NO NEED TO LOSE YOUR LIFE TONIGHT.



CLICK

AIN'T YOUR FRIEND, DUDE!



CRASH

IN THAT CASE...



...THERE'S NO NEED TO BE CIVIL.

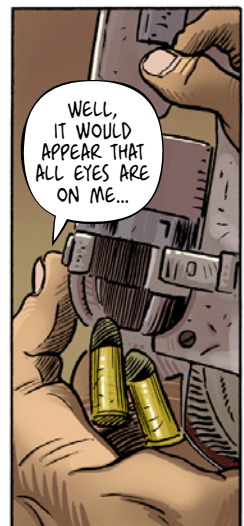


SMACK

UUNGH!



CRASH



WELL, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT ALL EYES ARE ON ME...



...I MUST BE THE BELLE OF THE BALL.



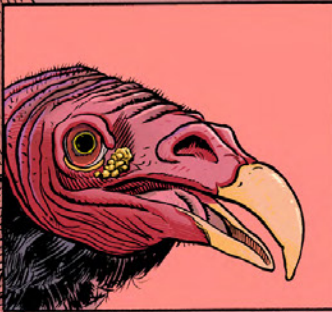
SONORAN DESERT. ARIZONA.

THE TOWER OF
ETERNITY IN THE
CENTER OF THE
RED SANDS.

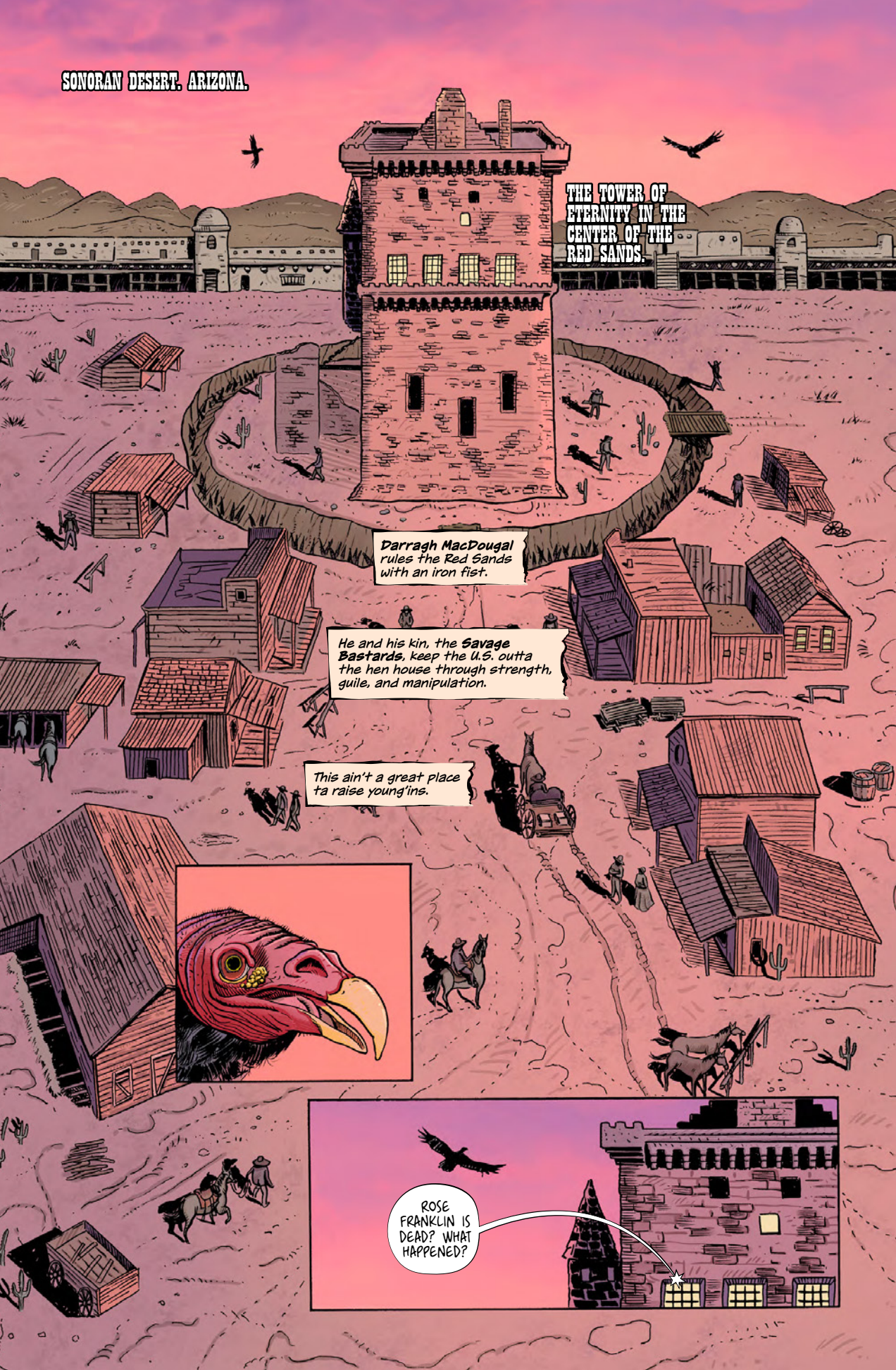
Darragh MacDougal
rules the Red Sands
with an iron fist.

He and his kin, the **Savage
Bastards**, keep the U.S. outta
the hen house through strength,
guile, and manipulation.

This ain't a great place
ta raise young'ins.



ROSE
FRANKLIN IS
DEAD? WHAT
HAPPENED?





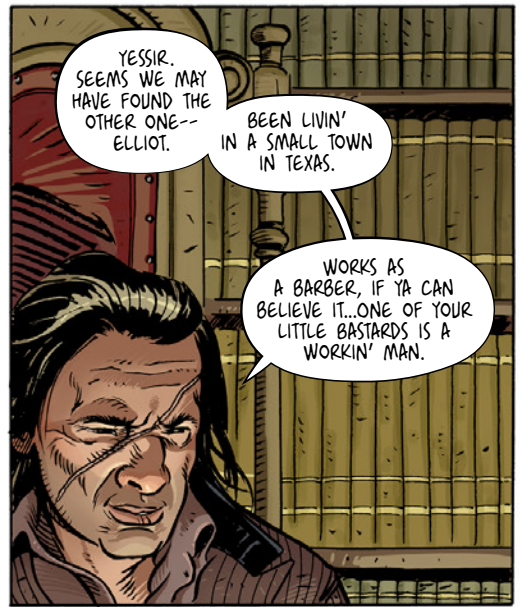
THE SPIDER AND HIS GANG JUST GOT BACK. HE SAYS SHE REFUSED TA COME PEACEFULLY. SAYS SHE WENT OUT IN A BLAZE O' GLORY, BOSS.

SOUNDS LIKE HER. WHAT OF HER SON? SAMUEL WAS IT?

NO WORD YET, SIR.

WAS DUMB LUCK WE FOUND ROSE IN THE FIRST PLACE. NOT SURE WE CAN GET THAT LUCKY TWICE.

ANY GOOD NEWS, BLACK BART?



YESSIR. SEEMS WE MAY HAVE FOUND THE OTHER ONE-- ELLIOT.

BEEN LIVIN' IN A SMALL TOWN IN TEXAS.

WORKS AS A BARBER, IF YA CAN BELIEVE IT...ONE OF YOUR LITTLE BASTARDS IS A WORKIN' MAN.



JESSICA'S LITTLE WHELP GREW UP TO BE A BARBER?

HMM...

SEEMS TO ME THAT ELLIOT'S LONG OVERDUE FOR A HEART TO HEART WITH HIS FATHER.

WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?

WELL AHEAD OF YA, BOSS.

I'VE ALREADY SENT A POSSE TO COLLECT THE PUP.

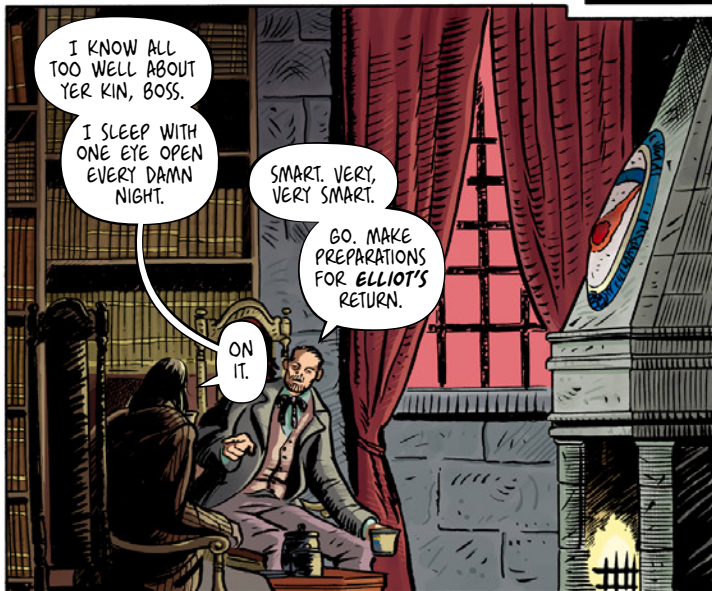


THAT IS WHY I CHOSE YOU OVER ANY OF MY CHILDREN TO BE MY RIGHT HAND.

YOU KNOW HOW TO GET A JOB DONE.

I APPRECIATE THAT, SIR.

JUST REMEMBER TO LOOK OVER YOUR SHOULDER. MY CHILDREN HAVE A HUNGER FOR POWER.



I KNOW ALL TOO WELL ABOUT YER KIN, BOSS.

I SLEEP WITH ONE EYE OPEN EVERY DAMN NIGHT.

SMART. VERY, VERY SMART.

GO. MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR ELLIOT'S RETURN.

ON IT.



ELLIOT?



Jane got the hell outta dodge as her father and his lap dog made their way to the door.

I'LL MAKE ALL THE ARRANGEMENTS, BOSS.

SEE THAT YOU DO. MY CHILDREN ARE NOT MEANT TO WASTE THEIR LIVES LIVING AMONGST THE RABBLE.



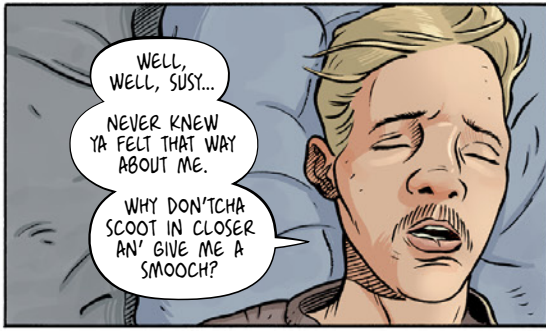
DO NOT FAIL ME, BLACK BART. I DON'T SUFFER DISAPPOINTMENT WELL.

I'D HATE TO HAVE TO FIND A NEW RIGHT-HAND.

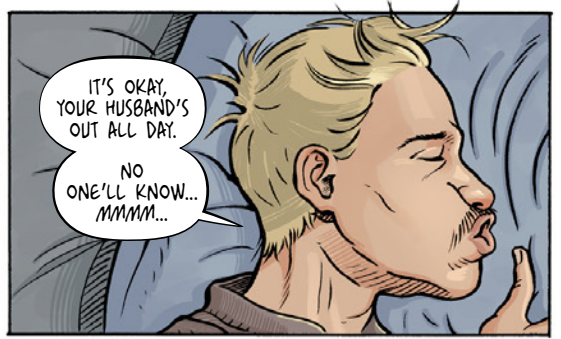
ME TOO, BOSS...



...ME TOO.



WELL, WELL, SUSY... NEVER KNEW YA FELT THAT WAY ABOUT ME. WHY DON'TCHA SCOOT IN CLOSER AN' GIVE ME A SMOOCH?



IT'S OKAY, YOUR HUSBAND'S OUT ALL DAY. NO ONE'LL KNOW... MMMM...



WELL, THIS IS MORE THAN A LITTLE DISTURBING.

IS SUSY A TRAMP? OR ARE YOU JUST A HORRIBLE PERSON?

WHA--?!



GOOD MORNING. HOW'D YOU SLEEP?

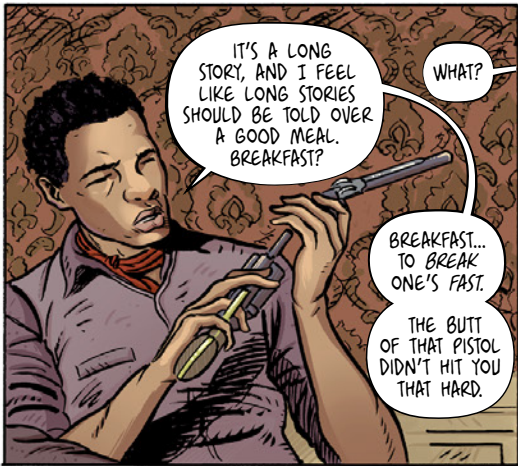
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING IN MY ROOM?!

I'M SAMUEL FRANKLIN, AND I'M DOING MAINTENANCE ON ONE OF MY GUNS.

I WAS HOPING YOU'D BE MORE OBSERVANT THAN THAT, ELLIOT.

HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?

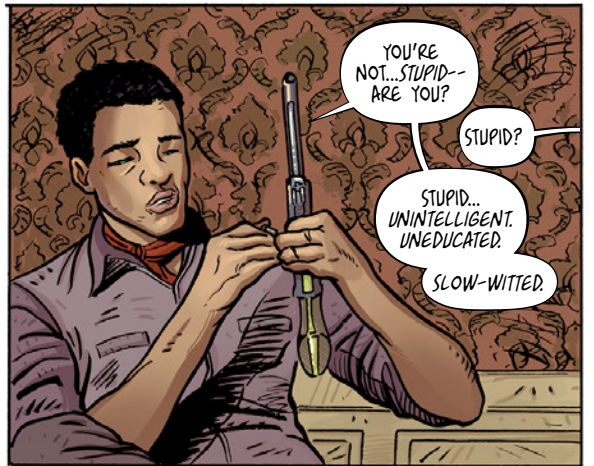


IT'S A LONG STORY, AND I FEEL LIKE LONG STORIES SHOULD BE TOLD OVER A GOOD MEAL. BREAKFAST?

WHAT?

BREAKFAST... TO BREAK ONE'S FAST.

THE BUTT OF THAT PISTOL DIDN'T HIT YOU THAT HARD.



YOU'RE NOT...STUPID--ARE YOU?

STUPID?

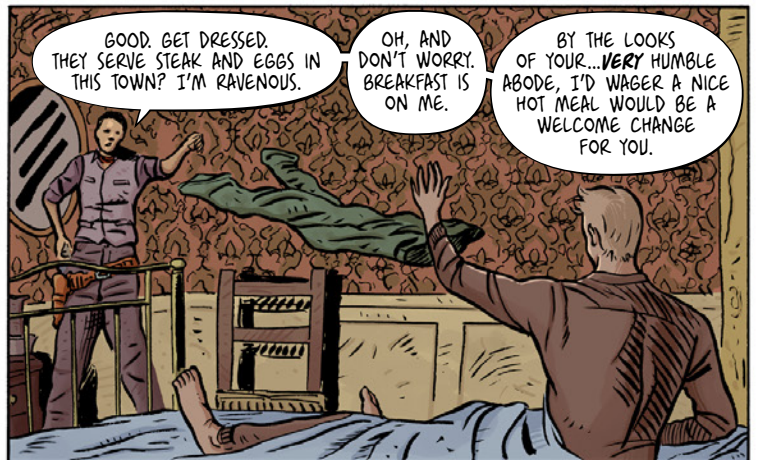
STUPID... UNINTELLIGENT. UNEDUCATED.

SLOW-WITTED.



I'M NOT STUPID, JACKASS! JUST...

CONFUSED...



GOOD. GET DRESSED. THEY SERVE STEAK AND EGGS IN THIS TOWN? I'M RAVENOUS.

OH, AND DON'T WORRY. BREAKFAST IS ON ME.

BY THE LOOKS OF YOUR...VERY HUMBLE ABODE, I'D WAGER A NICE HOT MEAL WOULD BE A WELCOME CHANGE FOR YOU.



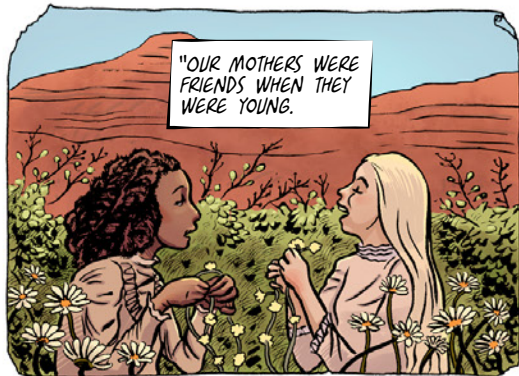
SO, WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW HOW I KNOW YOUR NAME?

YES.

THE SHORT ANSWER IS, MY MOTHER TOLD ME.

YOUR MOTHER?

HOW DOES SHE--



"OUR MOTHERS WERE FRIENDS WHEN THEY WERE YOUNG."



"THEY FOUND FRIENDSHIP IN A DARK TIME AND PLACE IN THEIR LIVES."

"AS MY MOTHER TELLS IT, DARRAGH WAS BORN IN SCOTLAND MANY YEARS AGO."

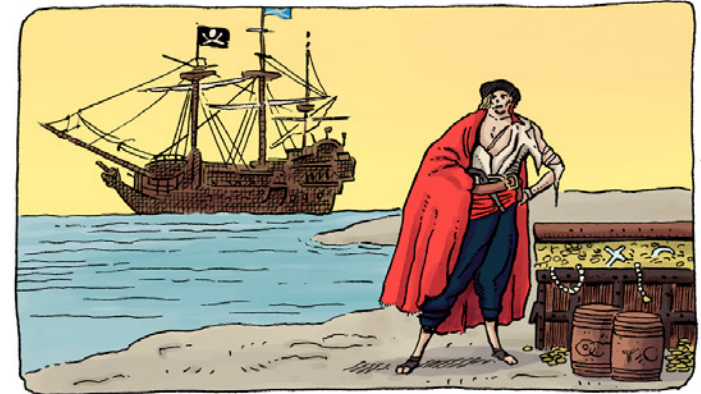
"SOMEHOW, HE ACHIEVED IMMORTALITY, AND LIKE ANY OTHER MANIACAL EGOMANIAC, HE GREW POWER HUNGRY."



"UNFORTUNATELY FOR HIM, POWER IS NOT EASILY OBTAINED."

"DARRAGH WAS EXILED FROM HIS HOME IN SCOTLAND, FORCED TO LIVE AS A SCOUNDREL."

"HIS THIRST FOR POWER LED HIM TO THE NEW WORLD, AMERICA. A LAND OF OPPORTUNITY."



"THEY WERE CAPTIVES IN A PLACE CALLED THE RED SANDS, A SMALL KINGDOM IN ARIZONA."



"SUBSERVIENT TO A SOCIOPATH."



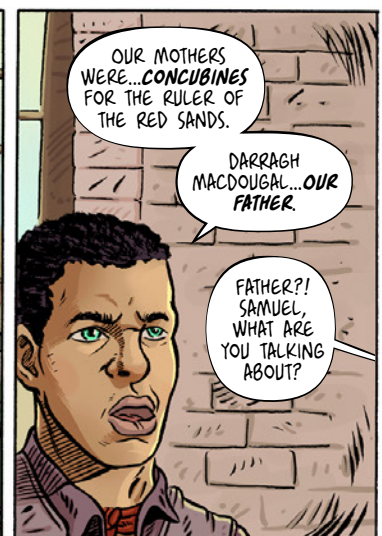
SOCIO-WHAT?



SOCIOPATH... A MADMAN... A RAPIST...

OUR MOTHERS WERE--WERE RAPED?!

YES.



OUR MOTHERS WERE...CONCUBINES FOR THE RULER OF THE RED SANDS.

DARRAGH MACDOUGAL...OUR FATHER.

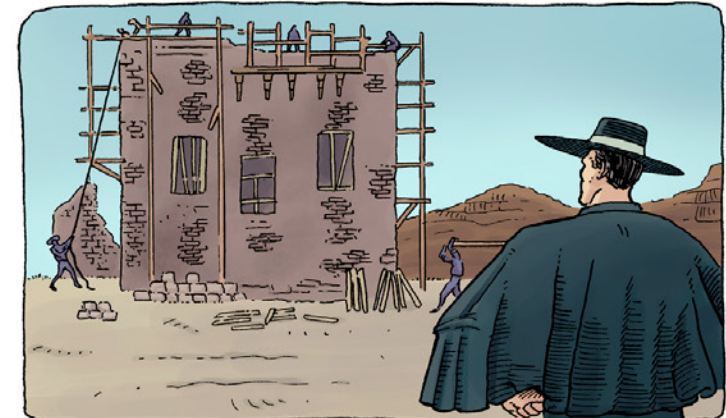
FATHER?! SAMUEL, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?



ELLIOT...I'M YOUR BROTHER. LOOK AT MY EYES. BRIGHT GREEN. SAME AS YOURS.

BUT YOU'RE--

BLACK? YES, ELLIOT. PLEASE KEEP UP.



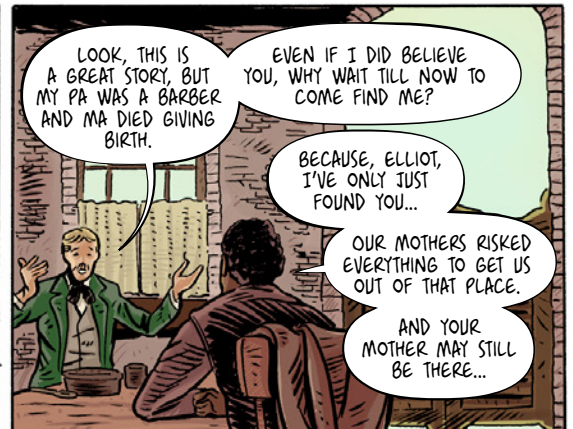
"HE STAKED OUT AN AREA IN ARIZONA AND BUILT THE TOWER OF ETERNITY."

"HE PLACED SATELLITE TOWNS AROUND ITS BORDERS AND CHARGED HIS CHILDREN, KNOWN AS THE SAVAGE BASTARDS."



THEY'RE THE ONES KEEPING THE U.S. AT BAY.

THIS IS SOME KINDA JOKE, RIGHT?



LOOK, THIS IS A GREAT STORY, BUT MY PA WAS A BARBER AND MA DIED GIVING BIRTH.

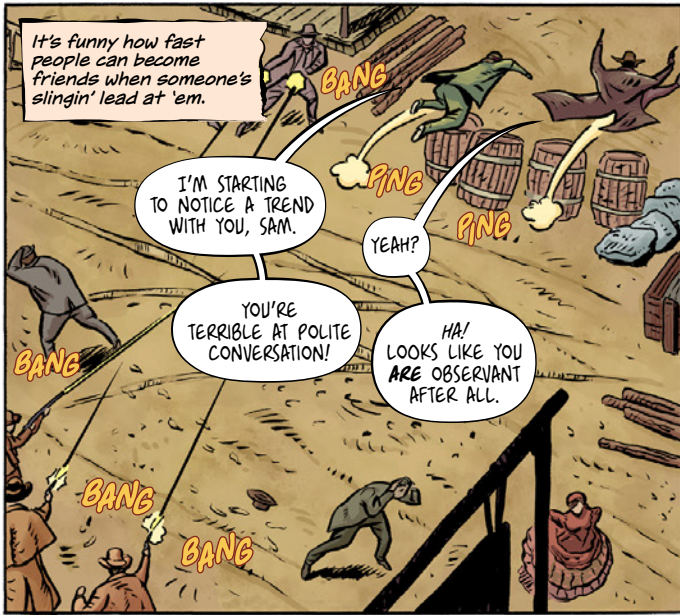
EVEN IF I DID BELIEVE YOU, WHY WAIT TILL NOW TO COME FIND ME?

BECAUSE, ELLIOT, I'VE ONLY JUST FOUND YOU...

OUR MOTHERS RISKED EVERYTHING TO GET US OUT OF THAT PLACE.

AND YOUR MOTHER MAY STILL BE THERE...





It's funny how fast people can become friends when someone's slingin' lead at 'em.

I'M STARTING TO NOTICE A TREND WITH YOU, SAM.

YEAH?

YOU'RE TERRIBLE AT POLITE CONVERSATION!

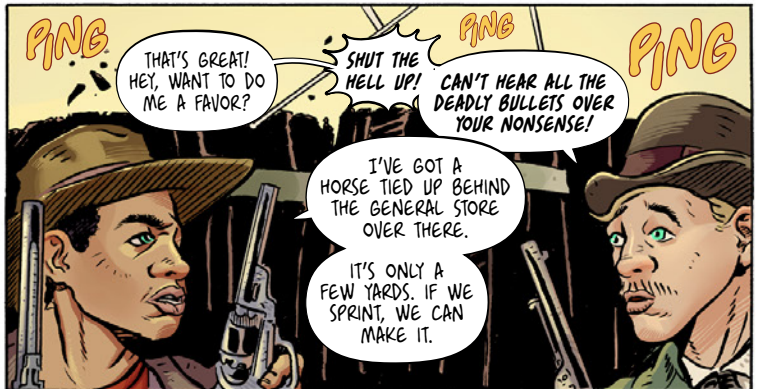
HA! LOOKS LIKE YOU ARE OBSERVANT AFTER ALL.



WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

PRAYING TO GOD THAT I DON'T DIE IN THE STREET WITH A PSYCHO CALLING HIMSELF MY BROTHER!

MY MOTHER SAYS, "GOD HELPS THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES."



PING

THAT'S GREAT! HEY, WANT TO DO ME A FAVOR?

SHUT THE HELL UP!

CAN'T HEAR ALL THE DEADLY BULLETS OVER YOUR NONSENSE!

PING

I'VE GOT A HORSE TIED UP BEHIND THE GENERAL STORE OVER THERE.

IT'S ONLY A FEW YARDS. IF WE SPRINT, WE CAN MAKE IT.



ARE YOU SERIOUS?!

YOU WANT ME TO RUN OUT IN THE OPEN?! WHERE THE BULLETS ARE FLYING?

YES.

YOU REALLY ARE CRAZY, AREN'T YOU?!

I'VE BEEN CALLED WORSE.

NOT SURPRISED!

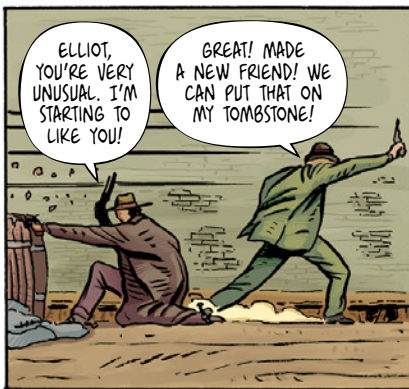


WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE?

MY OPTIONS ARE STAY HERE TILL I GET KILLED OR RUN OUT IN THE OPEN, WHERE I CAN GET KILLED...?!

BASICALLY, YES.

THIS IS GONNA BE A SHORT LIVED FAMILY REUNION...



ELLIOT, YOU'RE VERY UNUSUAL. I'M STARTING TO LIKE YOU!

GREAT! MADE A NEW FRIEND! WE CAN PUT THAT ON MY TOMBSTONE!



LET'S MOVE!

Unfortunately, some friendships die just as quickly.



AGGGHH!!!



NEXT ISSUE: VISION QUEST!

GALIANO
ANGELI
ZAPATA

#2

SAVAGE BASTARDS™



AVAILABLE MARCH 2020

WANTED

SAMUEL FRANKLIN

Savage
BASTARDS

ELLIOT WRIGHT



DEAD OR ALIVE

Two lawless bastards on the run for their savage crimes.
Contact the Town Sheriff should any drifters resembling
the men in the above sketches be seen.

 **REWARD** 

\$5,000 PER HEAD

**MAD
CAVE**

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